

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

MASTER PLAN



plan FOR 200K

ABBOTSFORD

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
MASTER PLAN

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A new Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan for Abbotsford

The City of Abbotsford has created a new Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) Master Plan, that will address the needs of the Abbotsford community as it grows from its current population to 200,000. The new PRC Plan represents a comprehensive and strategic program of investments over the next 25 years and positions the City to be proactive and responsive to the diverse needs of an equally diverse population, while continuing to help build a prosperous and vibrant city, today and into the future.

When the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared in 2005, the City's focus was on the delivery of basic services through partnerships with private groups, not-for-profit organizations, and faith-based organizations using a community development model. There was no formal arts and culture programming mandate and the role of the City in this area was still in its infancy. To put this into context, most comparable communities in British Columbia have been providing direct services in parks, recreation and culture amenities and programs since the 1970s. In 2007-2008, Abbotsford's flagship facilities - the addition to the Abbotsford Recreation Centre, The Reach Gallery Museum, and the Abbotsford Centre - were newly built. Around the same time, the current program offerings for recreation and culture were initiated in collaboration with many public and private partners. This amounted to tremendous growth and development in just 10 years.

Since then the City has experienced significant changes, including global economic impacts, increasing numbers of private fitness operations, increasing homelessness, weather changes, refugee settlement, and growth trends. The new PRC Plan provides a framework for guiding the development, delivery and continuous improvement of parks, recreation and culture's services and facilities to meet current and future demands.

Purpose of the PRC Master Plan

At its core, parks, recreation and culture is a cornerstone, not only of healthy individuals, but also of vibrant and complete communities. Parks, recreation and culture services positively influence community cohesiveness, strengthen family bonds, and mitigate social issues. A community with an abundance of these quality-of-life services can encourage and help residents to be happy, healthy, and vibrant. Likewise, these services can assist in attracting and retaining residents and businesses in Abbotsford. Parks, recreation and culture benefits contribute to the economic prosperity of our city,

and foster environmental appreciation and responsibility. Benefits resulting from parks, recreation and culture build and nurture cultural vitality in our city by bringing together diverse interests, experiences and traditions from across the cultural landscape.

Community recreation, active and passive parks, natural outdoor spaces, arts, culture, and heritage contribute to the overall health, well-being and quality of life of a community's residents. Extensive research shows the physical, social, and mental well-being benefits of access to the types of programs, services, and resources the City offers is critical to the success of a community.

Plan Alignment - Abbotsforward

The PRC Master Plan presents an opportunity for the City to align with the directions of the new Official community Plan (Abbotsforward) and to present a refreshed vision for parks, recreation and culture in Abbotsford.

In 2016, Council adopted "Abbotsforward", its new Official Community Plan (OCP). The OCP takes an innovative approach and plans for a specific population—200,000—rather than a defined timeline. Abbotsforward sets out policy directions organized around "7 Big Ideas" to support quality of life and social and economic vitality. The PRC Master Plan supports achieving each of these "7 Big Ideas", as described below.



Create a City Centre—Parks, recreation, and culture facilities are fundamental to creating a sense of place and community identity and key to developing the City Centre as a community and cultural hub and destination. In particular, Mill Lake Park and the civic precinct are defining components of the City Centre**.**



Establish Distinct and Complete Neighbourhoods— Facilities, programs, and events are essential to creating complete neighbourhoods. A complete neighbourhood includes places for celebration, play, learning, and relaxation, and contributes to the overall quality of life for residents.



Making Walking, Biking, and Transit Delightful—Beautiful and connected parks and trails support active transportation and active living; they also make active transportation a more enjoyable experience.



Make Places for People—Parks, recreation, and culture foster community connections, social well-being, and mental and physical health. The OCP aspires to greater "life in the city" with more street life, more night life, and more public life as Abbotsford grows. Parks, recreation, and culture are vitally important in creating more options for entertainment, culture, recreation, and gathering with others.

Improve Natural and Built Systems—Parks and open spaces help to protect and maintain ecosystems, habitat corridors, and environmental quality. The OCP envisions enhancing and restoring ecological links between natural and public open spaces, expanding the urban forest and tree canopy, setting urban forest targets, requiring tree conservation strategies, and supporting green and sustainable building.

Enhance Agricultural Integrity—Parks, recreation and culture can help to support agriculture by managing the environment so that healthy land, water, and air can be maintained, and by providing public education and awareness opportunities.

Make the Plan Work—The integration of the PRC Master Plan, other Plan 200K plans, and the OCP sets the stage for an aligned, collaborative, and efficient progression to 200,000 residents.



Plan 200K

In 2017, following the adoption of the award-winning Abbotsforward (Abbotsford's Official Community Plan), the City of Abbotsford embarked on a unique process branded as Plan 200K. The process build upon Abbotsforward's "7 Big Ideas", and brings together 20 master plans, strategies, and neighbourhood plans to develop a framework and capital funding plan as the City of Abbotsford grows to 200,000 residents.

The Plan 200K process was developed around 4 stages: Background Research; Analysis, Draft Plan, and Final Plan. The focus of the process was to ensure integration, efficiency, and alignment through the 20 plans and collaborative public consultation.



Stage 1 – Background Research included an inventory of the department's parks, indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and programs, and arts, heritage, and cultural facilities and programs. This inventory provided a baseline for the projection of needs as the City grows to a population of 200,000. Stage 1 included a summary of community input.



Stage 2 – Analysis reviewed existing services, community input, comparisons with other communities, trends and best practices, and spatial distribution of facilities. Based on this analysis, Stage 2 identified options for meeting parks, recreation, and culture needs in Abbotsford.



Stage 3 – Draft Master Plan included possible directions for the master plan priorities and capital planning strategy. Stage 3 included community review to garner public feedback on the proposed priorities and capital funding strategy.



Stage 4 – Final Master Plan includes final recommendations and implementation strategies through the strategic directions, action themes, and priorities. These have been tested and affirmed through public review and Council input.

PRC Master Plan Process

Community engagement is at the heart of the PRC Master Plan process. The engagement program was designed to provide residents and user groups with multiple opportunities to participate throughout the process. Significant engagement occurred in Stages 1 and 3. Stage 1 identified community priorities and aspirations with over 38 touchpoints including an online survey, focus groups, world café, and pop up booths that resulted in feedback from 2062 participants.

At a high level, participants were most interested in the following topics:

Quality and Quantity of Parks • Connected Trails • Improved Park Features • More Outdoor Recreation Opportunities • Tournament Facilities • Environmental Protection Accessibility and Inclusion • Competitive Sport Opportunities • Variety of Programming • Facility Capacity • Affordability Rehearsal and Performance Space • Exhibition Space • Support for Local Artists • Support for Local Heritage • Special Events with Live Music and Sports

The purpose of Stage 3 engagement was to test the vision and guiding principles, proposed draft priorities, and capital funding strategy. The engagement process included an online survey, pop up and open house events and community and stakeholder meetings totaling 20 opportunities for participation, with 1,116 touch points with participants.

The input collected through this process affirmed the vision and guiding principles, and agreement with the proposed priorities and capital funding strategy. Survey results showed that the draft priorities were accepted by a majority of respondents, with positive responses ranging from 76 to 93 percent, depending on the question.

Overall, there is public support for PRC Master Plan including general support for the Capital Priorities, and general support to balance new capital projects with debt retirement. Ideally, many stakeholders would like to see projects happen sooner, so the City will continue to seek partnership and grant opportunities.

Vision and Guiding Principles

The overall vision and guiding principles for the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan were developed as a result of the findings of the Stage 1 community engagement, and align with the City's strategic plans.

Vision

Abbotsford is a complete and vibrant community with diverse parks, recreation, and culture services that support a high quality of life for all residents and celebrate Abbotsford's uniqueness.

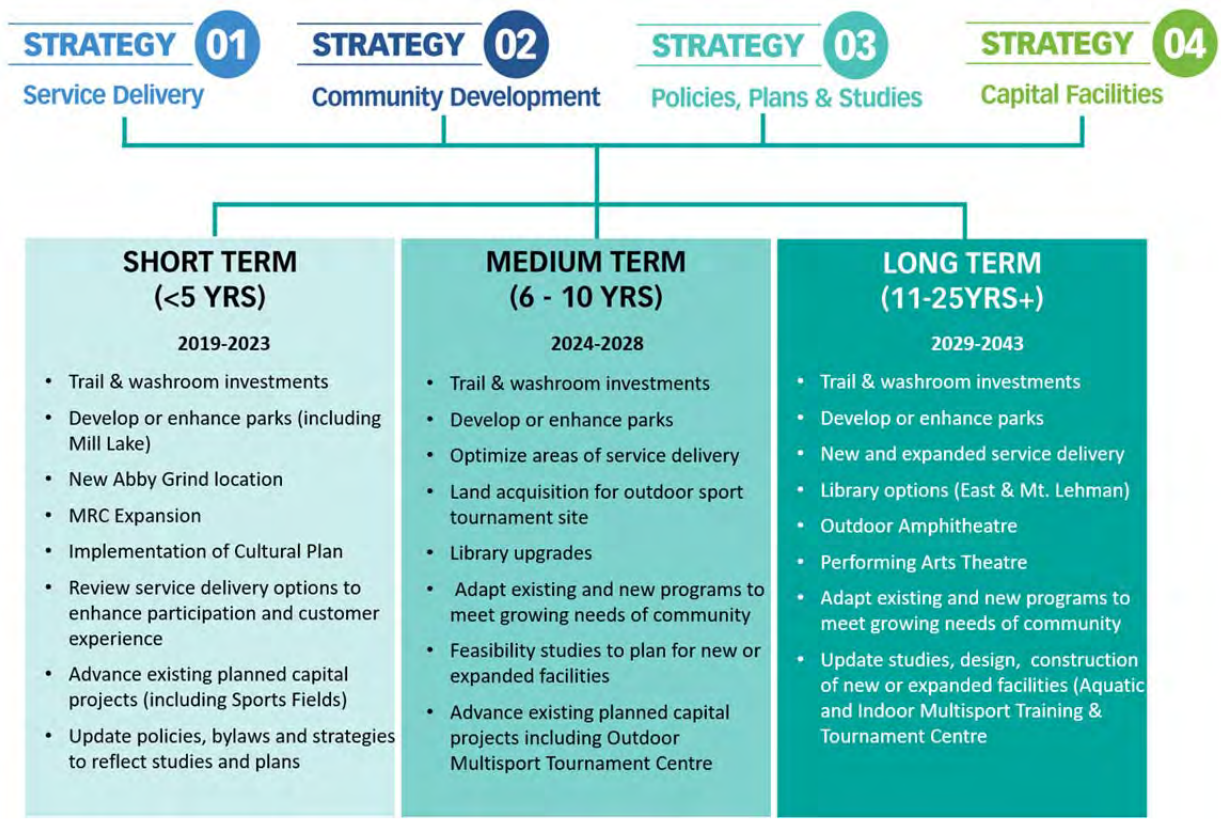
Guiding Principles

- Parks, recreation, and culture spaces, programs, and services are comfortable, safe, and welcoming to all members of the community, including all ages, abilities, and cultures.
- Abbotsford's parks and facilities are multi-use, flexible, multi-seasonal, inclusive, accessible, and adaptable to changing community needs.
- The City supports excellence in sports, arts, and culture, as well as unstructured, self-scheduled and drop-in forms of participation.
- Opportunities in recreation, sports and culture are nurtured at all levels and life stages.

- Parks, recreation, and culture facilities, programs and services support healthy environments and mental, social, and physical well-being.
- Parks, Recreation, and Culture is creative and collaborative and works with other service providers to maximize the service delivery of parks, recreation, and culture experiences and opportunities in Abbotsford.
- Parks, facilities, programs, and services are implemented in a strategic and fiscally responsible manner, considering community needs, geography, operational sustainability, environmental longevity, and positioning the City to be grant- and shovel-ready.

Implementation and Phasing

Strategies and supporting actions identified in the PRC Master Plan are summarized in the graphic below. These are based on the master plan process which included significant community engagement and analysis of current and future needs. The actions that are identified as priorities are based on community aspirations and financial feasibility.



Recommendations related to the enhancement and or development of facilities and re-purposing of existing ones will require further design and concept planning and an assessment of the technical feasibility of location, build new and or re-purposing. As recommended, the City of Abbotsford will need to further evaluate and investigate the feasibility of implementing individual recommendations/actions through formal study (as required) and on an annual basis, as part of the municipal planning and budgetary process. As such a number of studies are included as part of the recommendations.

The PRC Master Plan provides a blueprint placed in the broader context of all obligations of the City of Abbotsford as a provider of services, facilities, and infrastructure. Changes in the wider municipal environment in terms of priorities in fiscal capacity can be expected to result in changes to the priorities contained in the PRC Master Plan. Recognizing the long term scope of this Plan, it is recommended that it be subject to a review every 5 years to determine, and recalibrate as necessary, the timing of recommendations and capital investments in light of potential shifts and priorities for the City.

Funding

The PRC Master Plan outlines a significant capital investment for the City of Abbotsford. The PRC Master Plan provides a long-term financial plan that is phase-able, affordable, sustainable, incremental, flexible and grantable. The following table summarizes the proposed capital plan:

	Value
Short Term (< 5 years)	$24M
Medium Term (6-10 years)	$29M
Long Term (11-25 years)	$193M
Total	**$246M**

Costs for the PRC Master Plan are distributed over 25 years with the intention to balance debt retirement with the addition of capital assets and maintenance of existing infrastructure. The City will be looking to senior levels of government for one-third grant funding as well as working with the community and other interested parties to develop creative and collaborative opportunities to achieve these capital goals. To ensure the City is well-positioned and shovel-ready when grants or other opportunities become available, during the short-term, PRC will be completing a number of key strategic plans and studies, including Culture, Urban Forestry, Trails, and Integrated Facility Feasibility

studies. These studies and plans will rely on further public and stakeholder consultation and will further inform the City's Financial Plans.

At the same time as the City makes new investments, it acknowledges its existing commitments to debt servicing over the next 15 years (fully retired in 2033).

There are a number of ways to design, fund, build, and operate parks, recreation, and culture assets, including capital reserves, community works fund, property taxation, user fees, Development Cost Charges, senior government grant, and partnerships (public-public and public-private). The choice of approach will reflect a range of hybrid solutions to ensure that we can deliver both new and upgraded parks, recreation, and culture facilities in a cost-effective manner.

Closing

The PRC Plan for the City of Abbotsford represents a comprehensive and ambitious program of investments over the next 25 years along four key strategies – service delivery; community development; policies, plans and studies; and capital facilities. The plan will be integrated with other master plans as part of *Plan 200K*, and delivered in a collaborative manner in order to achieve the "7 Big Ideas" identified in *Abbotsforward*, the City of Abbotsford Official Community Plan.

Throughout the development of the PRC Master Plan, there were significant opportunities for public consultation and stakeholder engagement. Overall, there is public support for PRC Master Plan including general support for the Capital Priorities, and general support to balance new capital projects with debt retirement. Ideally, many stakeholders would like to see projects happen faster, so the City will continue to seek partnership and grant opportunities.

The short-term investments will be incorporated into the City's 5-year Financial Plan, and a new long-term (25 year) investment strategy will be developed for all of the master plans as part of Plan 200K. Finally, there will be an annual review as part of the financial planning and municipal budgeting process, with a full review of the PRC Master Plan recommended every 5 years.

The implementation of the PRC Master Plan will provide an ongoing opportunity to highlight and demonstrate the public value created by the parks, recreation and culture services and facilities the City offers the residents of Abbotsford every day – through collaboration, partnerships and direct delivery.

INTRODUCTION



PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
MASTER PLAN

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Abbotsford Context

The City of Abbotsford is embarking on a new Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) Master Plan to address the needs of our community as we grow from our current population of approximately 140,000 to 200,000. Since the last master plan was completed in 2005, the City has undergone significant changes, faces new challenges and opportunities, and continues to evolve as the population grows and the urban form densifies and becomes more diverse.

The intent of the PRC Master Plan is to provide an innovative and comprehensive long-term vision and plan for the delivery of parks, recreation, and culture facilities and services. The PRC Master Plan will help to grant all city residents and visitors access to affordable and diverse opportunities, and to support them in pursuing healthy, active, and engaged lifestyles. Further, the PRC Master Plan will contribute to making Abbotsford the hub of the Fraser Valley and continually improving the quality of life for the residents of Abbotsford, today and future generations to come.

The PRC Master Plan will have the following outcomes:

- reflect the community's values and goals for parks, recreation, and culture in Abbotsford
- tell the story of PRC in Abbotsford—our current state, what we do well, where we can improve, and the direction to provide the best balance of public services
- support and enhance the Official Community Plan's (OCP) vision with a plan for a healthy, vibrant, and connected community
- align with other City plans and strategies that inter-relate with parks, recreation, and culture
- define the role of the City and other service providers who deliver parks, recreation, and culture programs and services
- provide a policy framework for future decision-making that allows staff and Council to be responsive to changing needs, trends, and opportunities

The PRC Master Plan is a key initiative of Council's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, which is based on the four cornerstones of "Building a Complete Community", "Building a Vibrant Economy", "Achieving Fiscal Discipline", and "Maintaining Organizational Alignment".

2.2 Abbotsforward (OCP)

In 2016, Council adopted “Abbotsforward”, its new Official Community Plan (OCP). The OCP takes an innovative approach and plans for a specific population—200,000—rather than a defined timeline. Abbotsforward sets out policy directions organized around “7 Big Ideas” for the future that will be considered throughout the PRC Master Plan:



Create a City Centre—Parks, recreation, and culture facilities are fundamental to creating a sense of place and community identity and are **integral** to developing the City Centre as a community and cultural hub and destination. In particular, Mill Lake Park and the civic precinct are defining components of the City Centre.



Establish Distinct and Complete Neighbourhoods— Facilities, programs, and events are essential to creating complete neighbourhoods. A complete neighbourhood includes places for celebration, play, learning, and relaxation, and contributes to the overall quality of life for residents.



Making Walking, Biking, and Transit Delightful—Beautiful and connected parks and trails support active transportation and active living; they also make active transportation a more enjoyable experience.



Make Places for People—Parks, recreation, and culture foster community connections, social well-being, and mental and physical health. The OCP aspires to greater “life in the city” with more street life, more night life, and more public life as Abbotsford grows. Parks, recreation and culture will be vitally important in creating more options for entertainment, culture, recreation, and gathering with others.



Improve Natural and Built Systems—Parks and open spaces will help to protect and maintain ecosystems, habitat corridors, and environmental quality. The OCP envisions enhancing and restoring ecological links between natural and public open spaces, expanding the urban forest and tree canopy, setting urban forest targets, requiring tree conservation strategies, and supporting green and sustainable building.



Enhance Agricultural Integrity—Parks, recreation and culture can help to support agriculture by managing the environment so that healthy land, water and air can be maintained, and by providing public education and awareness opportunities.



Make the Plan Work—The integration of the PRC Master Plan, other Plan 200K plans, and the OCP will set the stage for an aligned, collaborative, and efficient progression to 200,000 residents.

2.3 Plan 200K Alignment

The PRC Master Plan is part of an umbrella project called Plan 200K that will implement the vision of the OCP through a series of plans and studies. Plan 200K also serves as an organizing structure to ensure that there is alignment and coordination among all of the City's plans and studies. Parks, recreation, and culture staff regularly collaborate with other City departments to ensure alignment and coordination in the delivery of services. As part of the Plan 200K process, the PRC Master Plan is being coordinated with the following interrelated projects:

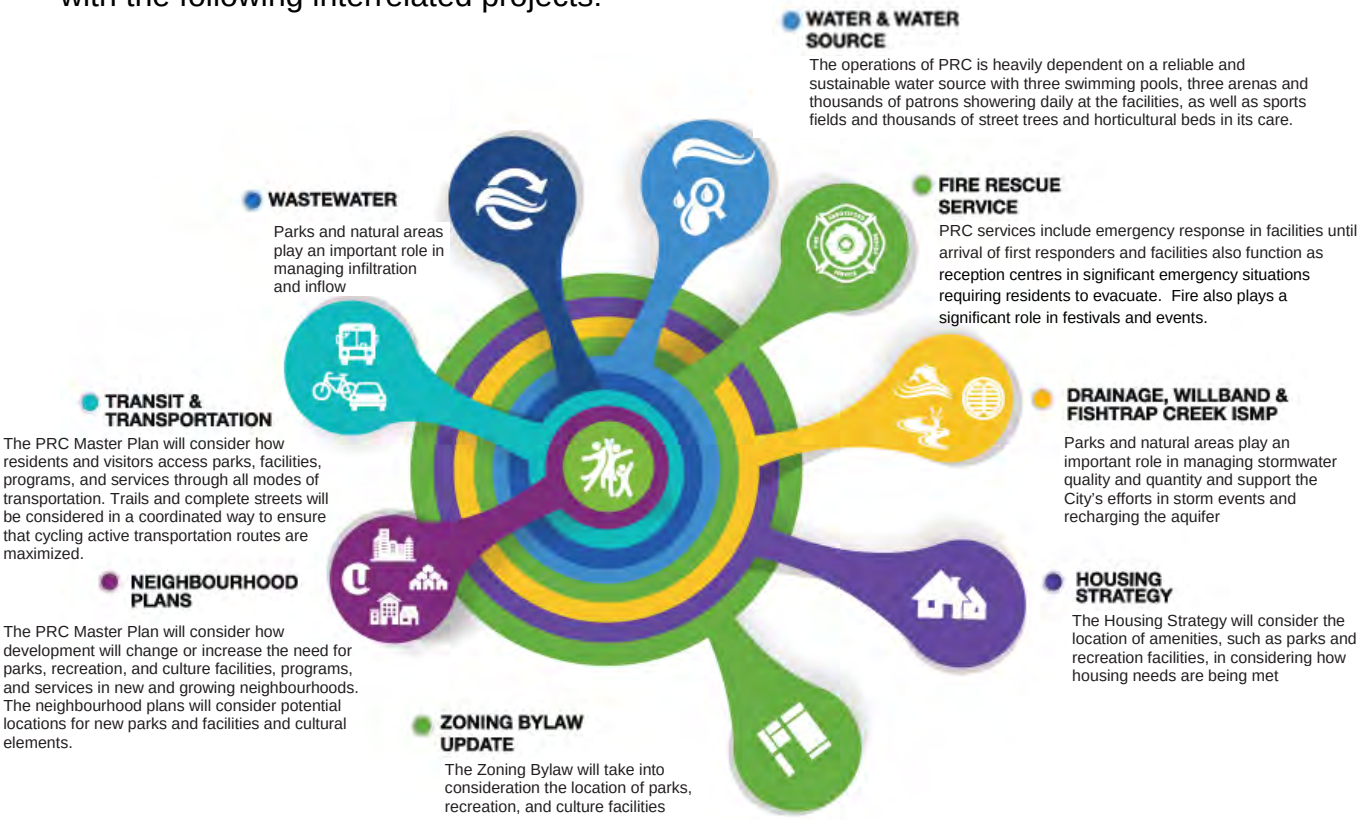


Figure 1: Plan 200K Alignment

Some of the Plan 200K initiatives have a particularly strong inter-relationship with PRC:

Neighbourhood Plans

There are four neighbourhood plans being developed:

- UDistrict Neighbourhood Plan
- City Centre Neighbourhood Plan
- Historic Downtown Neighbourhood Plan
- McKee Neighbourhood Plan

Parks, Recreation and Culture actively works with these plans to consider the needs for parks and facilities in each of the neighbourhoods. Alignment between the plans and the PRC Master Plan ensures that recommendations are consistent.

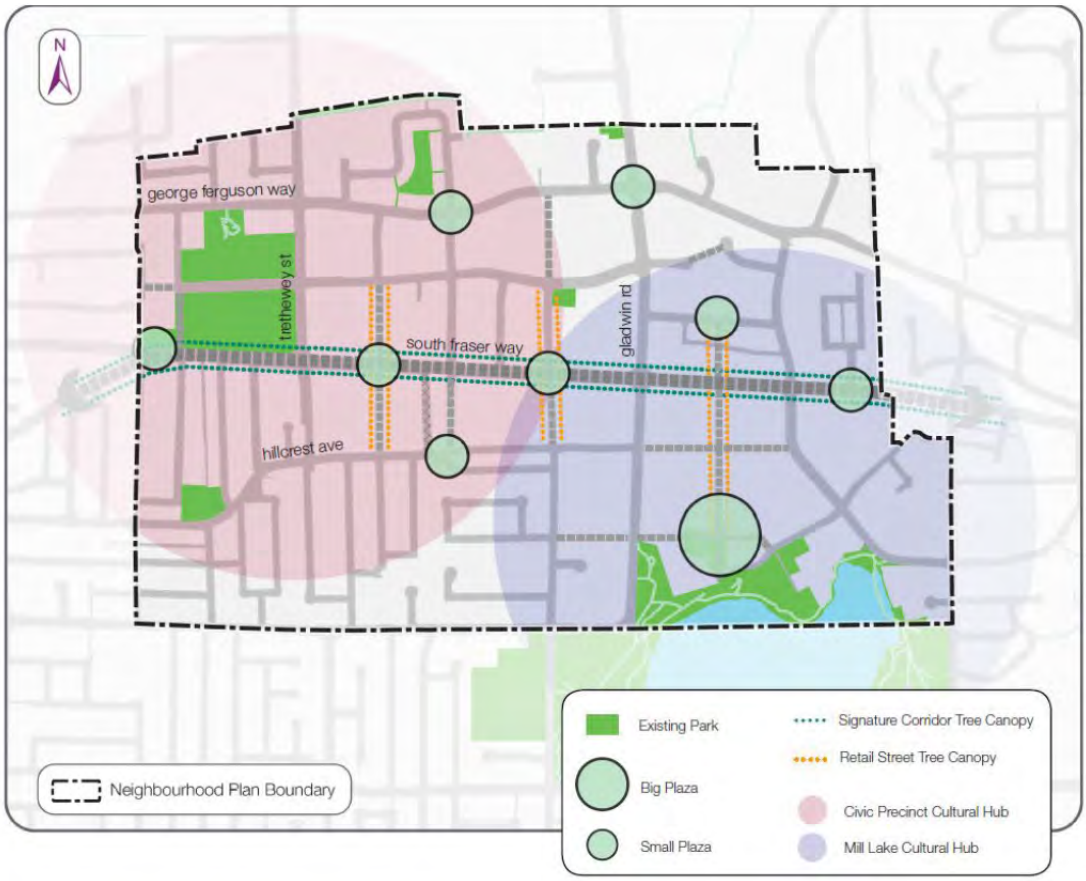


Figure 2: City Centre Neighbourhood Plan

An example of this is the City Centre Neighbourhood Plan where PRC is actively working with the City Centre Neighbourhood Plan to integrate destination cultural hubs and public spaces at the Civic Precinct and Mill Lake Park, and destination nodes in parks and along trails, to make walking, cycling, and transit delightful, and to make the City Centre experience vibrant.

Integrated Stormwater Management Plans

Two integrated stormwater management plans (ISMPs) are being prepared - Willband Creek ISMP and Fishtrap Creek ISMP. Both of these plans contain detention ponds which play important roles in the management of stormwater and are also used as park spaces. The ISMPs will support watershed management planning and infrastructure investment to minimize climate change and natural hazard risks. It will be important to

coordinate the ISMPs with the PRC Master Plan so that any changes to the parks respect their values and opportunities to the community for recreation, leisure and nature appreciation, while ensuring they perform their primary function for stormwater management.

Transportation Plans

The City is currently preparing a Transit Master Plan and a Transportation Master Plan. Parks, Recreation and Culture's coordination with these two plans will be important for two reasons:

- Accessibility to parks and recreation facilities by all modes of transportation is an important part of providing residents both access and active transportation options. There may be opportunities to improve walking, cycling, and public transit access to parks and facilities.
- The trail system is part of the City's overall transportation network. Residents report greater satisfaction with trails and are more likely to use active transportation when trails are well-connected with the general transportation network, particularly sidewalks and on-road bike facilities.

Walking and cycling for daily transportation are important physical activities. Investing transportation funds in sidewalks, traffic-calming devices, greenways, trails, and public transit make it easier for people to walk within their own neighbourhood and to other destinations. Active transportation networks support recreation opportunities and promote health, which can lower health care costs.

Following the adoption of the PRC Master Plan and Transportation and Transit Master Plans, it is recommended that a trail strategy be completed to further align and identify gaps and provide linkages in the existing trail, transportation and neighbourhood plans.

2.4 Plan 200K Process

Like the other Plan 200K Master Plans, the preparation of the PRC Master Plan involved four stages that are described below. This document represents Stage 4.



Council Approval PRC Master Plan

Develop Financial Plan

1. **Stage 1—Background Research** provided a baseline overview of the City's parks, recreation, and culture facilities, programs, and services; it also includes a summary of community input.

2. **Stage 2—Analysis** reviewed existing services, community input, comparisons with other communities, trends and best practices, and spatial distribution of facilities. Based on this analysis, Stage 2 identified options for meeting parks, recreation, and culture needs in Abbotsford.

3. **Stage 3—Draft Plan** includes draft recommendations and implementation strategies based on input received on the options. This stage included community review to garner public feedback on the proposed priorities and capital funding plan.

4. **Stage 4—Final Plan** includes final recommendations and implementation strategies based on input received from the public and Council.

2.5 PRC Master Plan Process

Parks, recreation, and culture facilities, services and amenities were analyzed at multiple levels in the process of identifying possible directions:

Alignment - The OCP and the City of Abbotsford Strategic Plan 2015-2018 are the key guiding documents for this plan, and community outreach in the City also informs parks, recreation, and culture.

Vision and Guiding Principles - The vision and guiding principles are based on community input, alignment, the unique aspects of Abbotsford, and trends and best practice.

Background Research - This is a summary of the City's current service delivery, community development, plans, policies and studies, achievements since the 2005 Master Plan, and asset inventory and programming.

Analysis - The analysis was conducted for each division and for every service area. The tools used in the analysis included the following:

- Community engagement and aspirations
- Neighbouring communities
- Trends and best practices
- Spatial analysis (mapping)
- Issues and opportunities

Long-Term Directions — The directions provide the options for future recommendations. They are organized under the following headings that relate to the way they will be implemented. The topics below are included where applicable to each section:

- **Service Delivery** – the way the City delivers PRC services; these are ongoing tasks that occur in all stages of implementation
- **Community Development** – the way the City delivers PRC services through its work with partners; these are ongoing tasks that occur in all stages of implementation
- **Capital Projects** – projects including new and upgraded facilities and park features; these projects are allocated to stages in the PRC Master Plan
- **Land Acquisition** – acquisition of land for park and facilities; the timing of this can be determined by development processes and opportunities that may arise

- **Plans, Policies and Studies** – updating existing and preparing new plans, policies and studies; these are allocated to stages in the PRC Master Plan

The graphic below shows an overview of the PRC Master Plan process and is explained in more detail in Section 6.

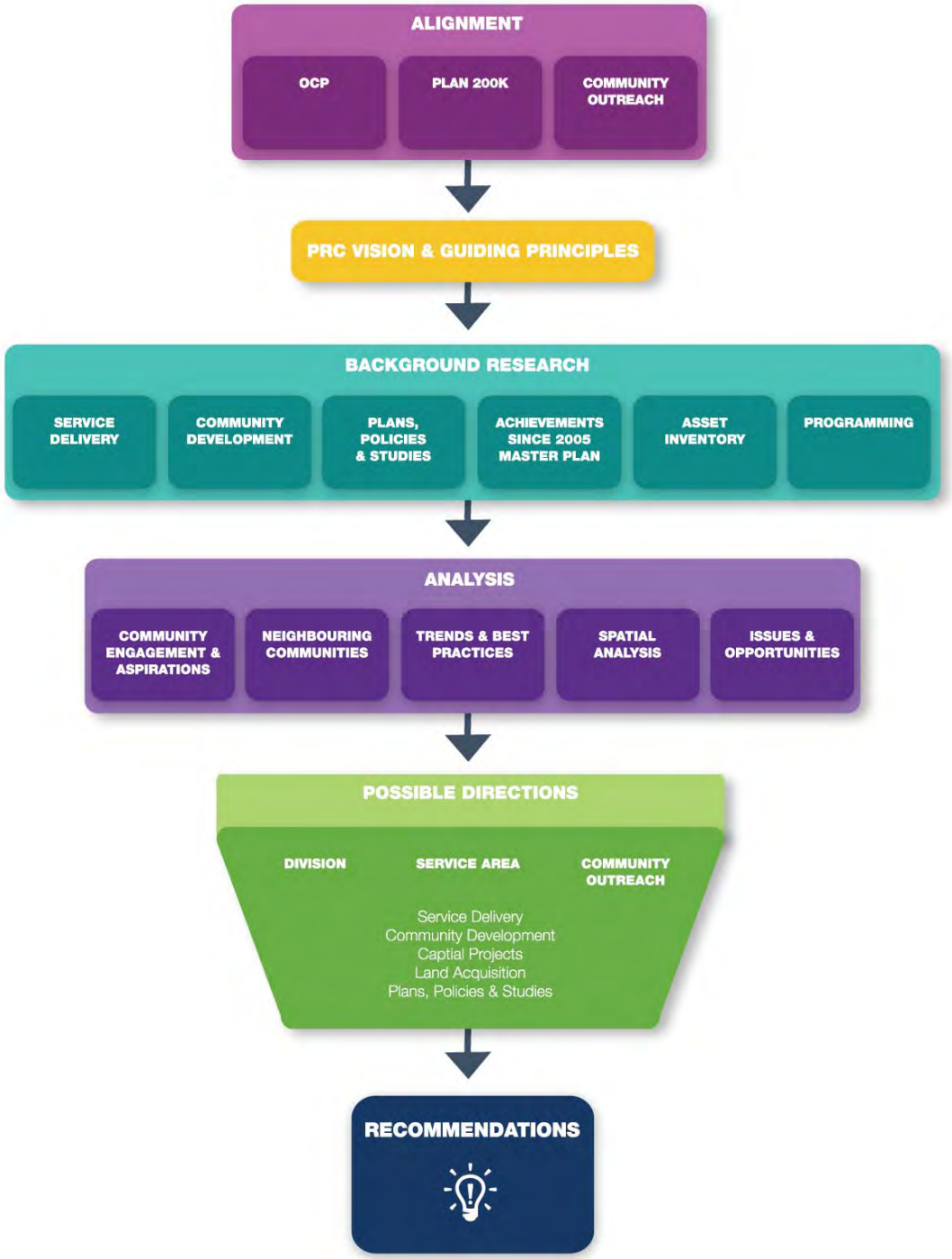


Figure 3: PRC Master Plan Process

2.6 Community Engagement

Community engagement is at the heart of the PRC Master Plan. The engagement plan was designed to provide residents and user groups with multiple opportunities to participate.

Stage 1- May – July 2017

Stage 1 included 38 opportunities for participation, with over 2,000 touch points with participants. The input collected through this process formed a key part of the needs analysis for each of the services provided by PRC.

Focus group workshops were offered to groups based on specific interest in parks, recreation or culture. Most of these sessions were open to the public. There were also two focus groups of a general nature open to everyone. Pop-up booths were set up at special events and other locations where people were gathered to target those who do not typically attend meetings or complete surveys. The booths were set up at Taste of Abbotsford, MRC, ARC, Mill Lake Park, High Street, Kalgidhar Park, Canada Day, and Jam in Jubilee.

Activity	Number of Opportunities	Participants
Focus group workshops including Plan 200K World Café	31	189
Community surveys completed	1	1,270
Pop-Up Booths	8	603
Total touch points	**38**	**2,062**

Table 1: Community Engagement Summary - Stage 1

The input collected through this process provided information on the community's satisfaction with existing parks, facilities, and services; gaps and opportunities; and community priorities for parks, recreation, and culture. All engagement activities were considered in the needs analysis.

At a high level, participants were most interested in the following topics:

Parks Quality and Quantity of Parks • Connected Trails • Improved Park Features • More Outdoor Recreation Opportunities • Tournament Facilities • Environmental Protection

Recreation Accessibility and Inclusion • Competitive Sport Opportunities • Variety of Programming • Facility Capacity • Affordability

Culture Rehearsal and Performance Space • Exhibition Space • Support for Local Artists • Support for Local Heritage • Special Events with Live Music and Sports

Focus Group Recommendations

Participants of focus groups were generally interest groups and stakeholders advocating for specific areas of parks, recreation, and culture. Participants in each focus group identified recommendations they would like to see considered in the PRC Master Plan.



This word cloud represents the combined recommendations of all focus group workshops.

Figure 4: Focus Group Recommendations - Stage 1

Stage 1 - Community Survey Priorities and Aspirations

Between May 28 and July 7, 2017, Abbotsford residents were encouraged to participate in a MetroQuest online survey that asked the residents to identity which activities in Abbotsford they participated in during the past year; how satisfied they were with parks,

recreation and culture facilities and services; and to rank their top five priorities for parks, recreation and culture. Parks and trails were identified as a 'top five' priority by the most number of survey respondents (60 percent of all survey respondents). The next highest priorities were pools and sports/fitness programs. Though parks and trails stood out, all options were selected as priorities by a significant number of respondents.

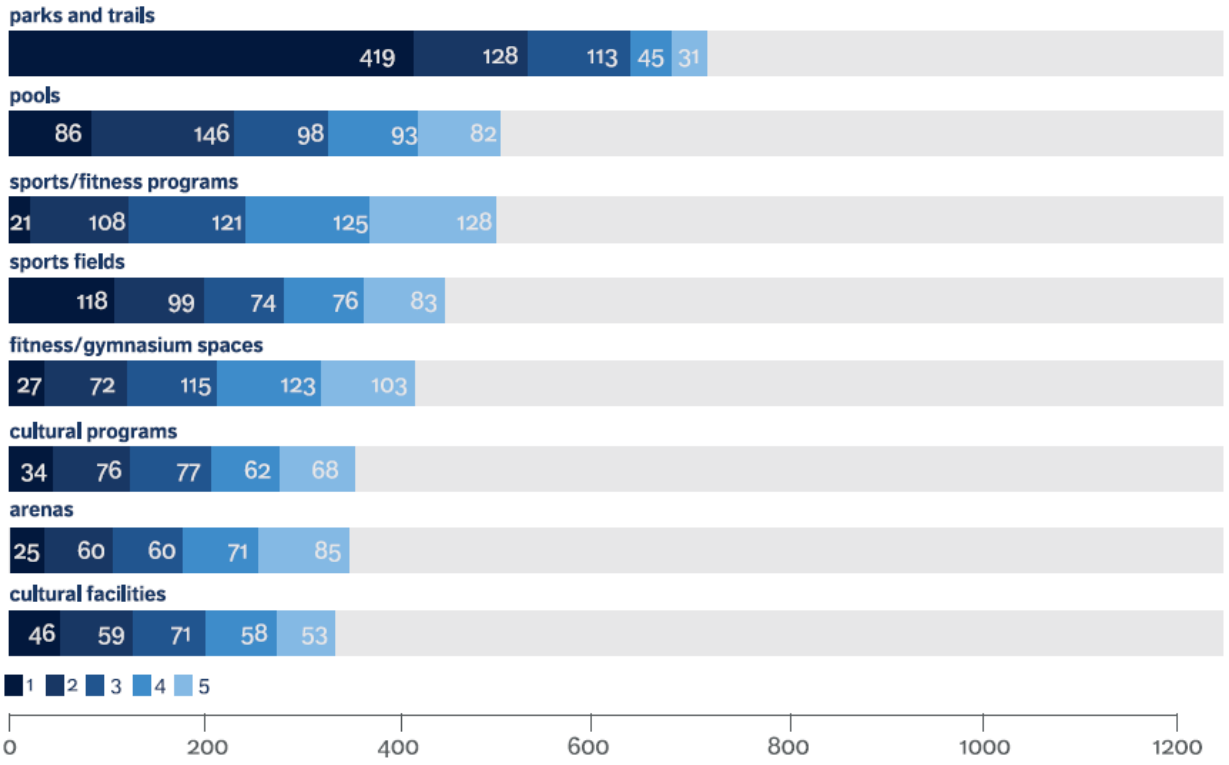


Figure 5: Community Survey Priorities - Stage 1

Priorities can also be considered by how many people ranked them as 'number one' priorities:

- **Parks and trails (419)**
- **Sports fields (118)**
- **Pools (86)**
- **Cultural facilities (46)**
- **Cultural programs (34)**
- Fitness/gymnasium spaces (27)
- Arenas (25)
- Sports/fitness programs (21)

This way of looking at the data reflects the people who are passionate about a particular topic.

Stage 3- May 2018

The focus for the Stage 3 community consultation was to test the proposed draft priorities and capital funding strategy, and to hear if the community felt anything was

missed in the plan. Stage 3 included 20 opportunities for participation, with over 1100 touch points with participants. The input collected through this process affirmed the proposed priorities and capital funding strategy, and offered further feedback on issues and opportunities that are top of mind for the respondents.

Workshops were offered to stakeholder groups based on specific interest in parks, recreation or culture. Most of these sessions were open to the public. Pop-up booths were set up at the Farmers' Market on May 5th and 12th and Open Houses were held at ARC, MRC, Clearbrook Library and University of the Fraser Valley.

Activity	Number of Opportunities	Participants
Workshops	14	266
Community surveys completed	1	530
Pop-Up Booths	2	140
Open Houses	4	180
Total touch points	**21**	**1,116**

Table 2: Community Engagement Summary - Stage 3

The input collected through this process indicated that the proposed plan was accepted by the majority of the participants of the survey ranging from 76 percent to 93 percent, depending on the question.

When asked to elaborate on their approval/disapproval choice, participants provided over 1500 responses, of which, 91 percent represented responses from those who approved of the Plan. Further analysis revealed that most of the comments pertained to:

- Facilities — indoor multisport training and tournament centre; outdoor multisport tournament centre
- Trails — hiking and biking trails
- Parks
- Libraries
- Amphitheatre

Other themes included emphasis on diversity, environmental issues, social issues, urgency of building facilities sooner, rather than later, and amenities and safety.

Workshop Recommendations

Participants of workshops included interest groups and stakeholders advocating for specific areas of parks, recreation, and culture, as well as University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford School District, Abbotsford Youth Council, Fraser Valley Conservancy, Inter-municipal group including: Langley Township; Langley City; Mission; Chilliwack, and Maple Ridge, the boards of the Reach Gallery Museum, Abbotsford Heritage Society, Abbotsford Arts Council, Sumas Nation, Abbotsford Sports Council, City of Abbotsford staff groups, and Agrifair. Participants in the workshops generally supported the vision and guiding principles, priorities and funding approach. All of the special interest groups concurred they would like to see the built facilities advanced in the PRC Master Plan.

Stage 3 - Community Survey Priorities Confirmation and Capital Plan

From May 3 to 18, 2018, Abbotsford residents were encouraged to participate in an online survey that asked the residents to identity their level of agreement with the PRC Master Plan draft vision and principles, short, medium and long-term priorities for parks, recreation and culture, and capital funding strategy. Parks and trails were identified as a 'top five' priority by the most number of survey respondents (60 percent of all survey respondents). The next highest priorities were pools and sports/fitness programs. Though parks and trails stood out, all options were selected as priorities by a significant number of respondents.

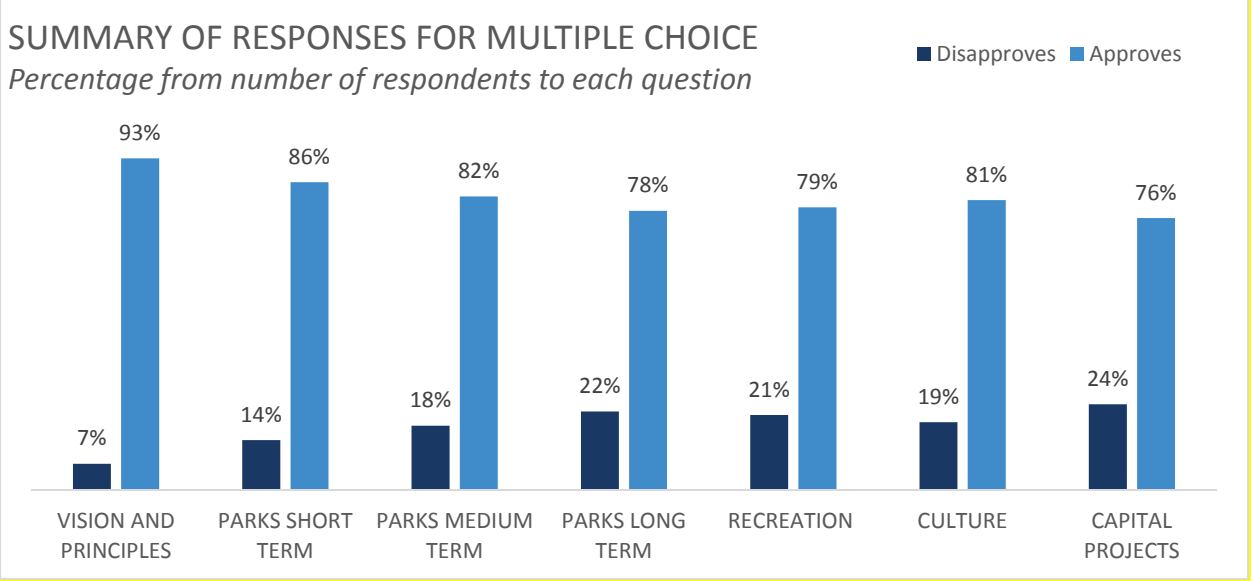


Figure 6: Summary of Community Survey Responses - Stage 3

Overall, the participants provided informed and well thought out opinions regarding the Plan. Each question received a significant number of generally positive statements.

The strong messages from this survey is that Abbotsford can benefit from investing more into hiking and biking trails, and that the multisport facilities are highly desired and are preferred sooner rather than later in the Plan.

Consistently what we heard from the community through the **QUALITY OF LIFE** background/baseline research is that recreation opportunities, access to parks and green space, as well as cultural opportunities rates as important or very important to survey respondents living in Abbotsford.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
MASTER PLAN

3 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The City of Abbotsford's history and unique characteristics are key considerations to the PRC Master Plan and present challenges and opportunities that form the basis for this plan.

3.1 History

Respect and celebrate all phases of the City's history

Abbotsford has a rich and varied history. Long before Abbotsford existed as community and Canada was established as a country, the Stó:lō (People of the River) occupied the land called S'olh Temexw in the Fraser Valley. They lived in the large geographic area from Yale to Langley and spoke Halq'emeylem, also known as the upriver dialect. The Fraser River, its tributaries and fertile lands were essential to the Stó:lō way of life. In 1808, the gold rush brought miners to the area. European and Sikh settlers followed with the establishment of the Clayburn Brick plant. The Gur Sikh Temple (built in 1911), recognised as a National Heritage Site, is the oldest existing Sikh temple in North America. The next immigrants were Dutch Mennonites who settled to farm the fertile and prolific lands. This rich legacy lays a strong foundation for Abbotsford today.

Abbotsford's history is polarizing as it is both old and young. In 1905, the Clayburn Company built Clayburn Village to provide employee housing and services, and Abbotsford became the first "company town" in BC. Ninety years later, following amalgamation of Abbotsford and Matsqui in 1995, Abbotsford became the third youngest incorporated municipality in the province. Thereby, Abbotsford became one of the oldest and youngest municipalities in BC.

3.2 Geography

Recognise long distances to travel, agriculture, and neighbouring community services

Abbotsford is the largest municipality by land area in BC at 376 square kilometres, though it only has the fifth highest population at 141,000[1]. With nearly 75 percent of its land mass in the Agriculture Land Reserve, Abbotsford has the largest agriculture production in British Columbia, twice that of the next highest communities of Chilliwack

[1] Community Planning, 2017

and Langley. Measured in production value per hectare, the City of Abbotsford far exceeds any other jurisdiction in Canada, making it the "Agriculture Capital of Canada".[2]

This is significant for Abbotsford as farm land is taxed at a substantially lower rate than residential, commercial, or industrial land uses. The lower tax base may contribute to greater challenges funding services, amenities, and walkability, as well as maintaining parks and trails during seasonal conditions such as drought, floods or snow.

Abbotsford is located east of Metro Vancouver, bordered by the Fraser River, Sumas, United States border, and municipalities of Chilliwack to the east, Township of Langley to the west, and Mission to the north. Abbotsford and Mission share water and wastewater services. The close proximity of the neighbouring municipalities and potential shared patronage provides some challenges with facility planning and investment and offers opportunities for major event and sport hosting on a regional, national, and international scale.

Abbotsford provides a gateway to the United States, as well as the world, with its international airport, perfectly situating it to be the “Hub of the Fraser Valley” to attract business, residential growth, and activities. Abbotsford has one of the longest municipally-controlled waterfronts on the Fraser River and the longest sections on the Trans Canada Trail (recently rebranded as the “Great Trail”). This offers tremendous outdoor recreation and tourism opportunities, as well as trail connectivity to community amenities. However, the geographic expanse of the city means that maintaining these areas can be a challenge.

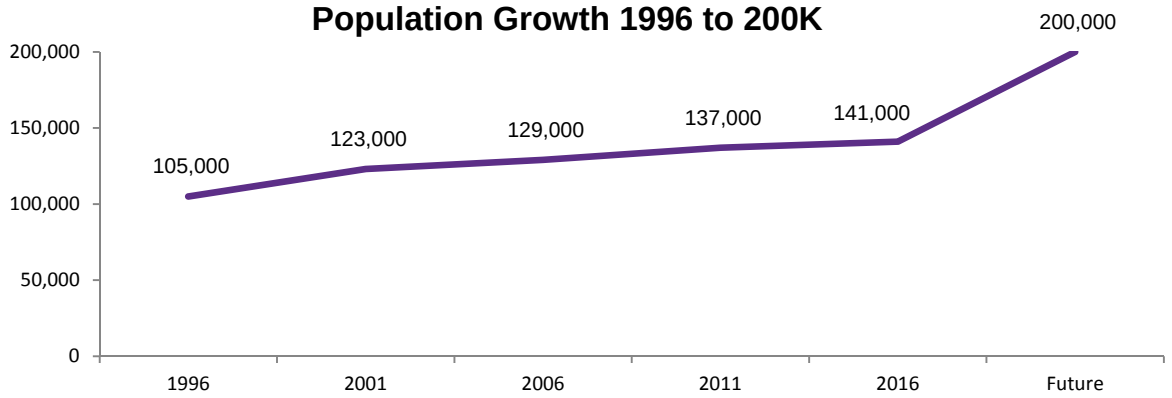
3.3 Demographics

3.3.1 Population Growth

Provide additional services where they will be needed

Abbotsford has experienced steady growth since it became a municipality in 1995. The growth rate is in line with provincial trends, although slightly lower than overall regional growth in the FVRD and Metro Vancouver. The average household size is in keeping with the other municipalities in the FVRD, but much higher than Metro Vancouver and BC in general.

2 Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce, 2008, "Economic Impact of Agriculture in Abbotsford.”



Source: Statistics Canada

Figure 7: Population Growth to 200K

	Abbotsford	FVRD	Metro Vancouver	BC
Population	141,397	295,934	2,463,431	4,648,055
Change from 2011	5.9 percent	6.6 percent	6.5 percent	5.6 percent
Population Density	376.5	22.2	854.6	5.0
Average Household Size	2.8	2.7	2.5	2.4

Source: Statistics Canada

Table 3: Abbotsford Population, Density and Household Size Comparison

As the community grows, PRC services will need to expand to meet the increased need.

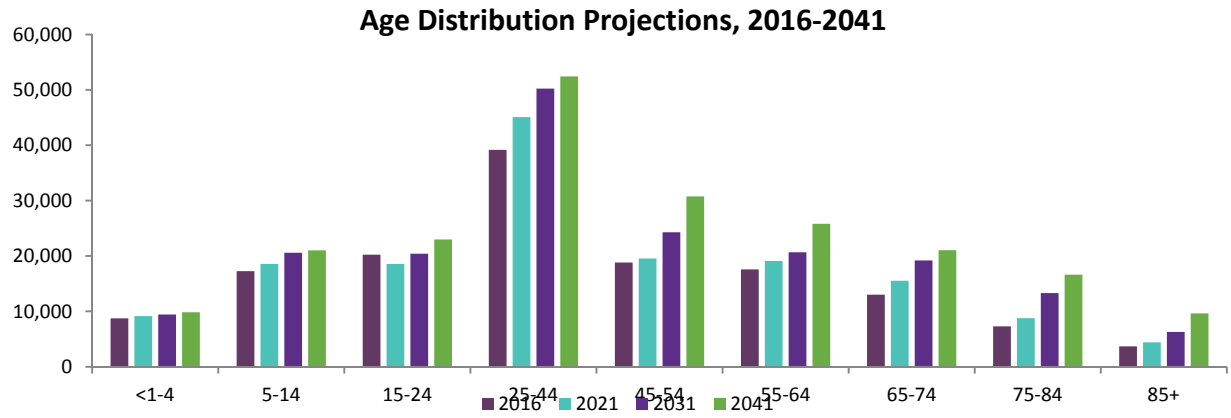
3.3.2 Young Population and Aging Population

Address the needs of the very young, families, older adults, and diverse cultures

Although Abbotsford is aging just like most cities, it has a younger population than in the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) overall at 39.6 years old. Median ages in communities range from 32.7 years in West Townline to 48.1 years in Mill Lake Park (Community Planning, 2016). Abbotsford has a slightly higher proportion of children and youth ages 19 and under than FVRD, Metro Vancouver, and BC. Over the lifetime of the

PRC Master Plan, Abbotsford's population is expected to age, with the number of adults and seniors rising faster than the number of children and youth.

The City will need to focus services on the full spectrum of ages and abilities, providing opportunities where all ages can participate at the same time, and increasing accessibility, inclusion, efficiency, collaboration and diversity in facilities and programs.



Source: Statistics Canada, BC Stats

Figure 8: Age Distribution Trends, 2016-2041

3.4 Increasing Cultural Diversity

Abbotsford is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in Canada. Thirty-two percent of residents speak a language other than English or French at home (Statistics Canada, 2016). The most common languages other than English or French are Punjabi, German, and Chinese. By 2030, BC Vital Statistics population projections indicate that there will be a steady decrease in the natural growth of the population as the death rate will exceed the birth rate. This means population growth will be dependent on immigration. Even more emphasis on practice and policy will be needed to integrate unique recreation and cultural interests, which will help to celebrate and enhance the ethnic richness of the community. There will be more opportunity for diversity outreach and understanding cultural perspectives on park amenities, trees, and traditional use of space in parks and cemeteries.

Abbotsford's Newcomers 2015 – Snapshot

They are young – **38 percent** of recent immigrants were between the ages of 25 to 44 years (core working age) when they arrive in Canada.

They are well educated – In 2011, of the age group 25 to 64, approximately **32 percent** of recent immigrants had a bachelor's degree or higher. This percentage was significantly higher than the **17 percent** for Canadian-born residents.

3.4.1 Changing Lifestyles

Keep up with changing needs and interests

Statistics Canada shows that Canadian lifestyles are changing. Technology is having a greater influence in our lives, many aging seniors are leading more active lifestyles with a quest for "aging well". Some of the key changes that affect PRC services are interests in more flexibility and a focus on health. To accommodate flexible and busy schedules, people are drawn to use trails and other outdoor amenities in parks, and there is a preference for drop-in opportunities in facilities. To support health, residents are interested in fitness facilities with a wide range of hours, and features such as varying levels of trail difficulty with marked distances, volunteer opportunities for older adults, and facilities, parks and programs that can be easily adapted to changing demands.

3.4.2 Income Inequality and People Experiencing Homelessness

Provide affordable and accessible programs and services for all residents, strive for early intervention for youth at risk and those facing or at risk of social isolation, and ensure safe and welcoming access to facilities

Abbotsford has been experiencing increasing income inequality and homelessness. Approximately 39 percent of households are spending over 30 percent of their income on shelter costs (CMHC, 2016). Point-in-Time Counts of individuals experiencing homelessness included 274 individuals in 2017 compared to 151 in 2014. The City is seeing an increase in youth, seniors and families who are at risk of homelessness or who are newly homeless, due to a variety of factors, but definitely limited income and lack of access to suitable, affordable housing are primary factors.

Community Development

Is a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems. Community development seeks to:

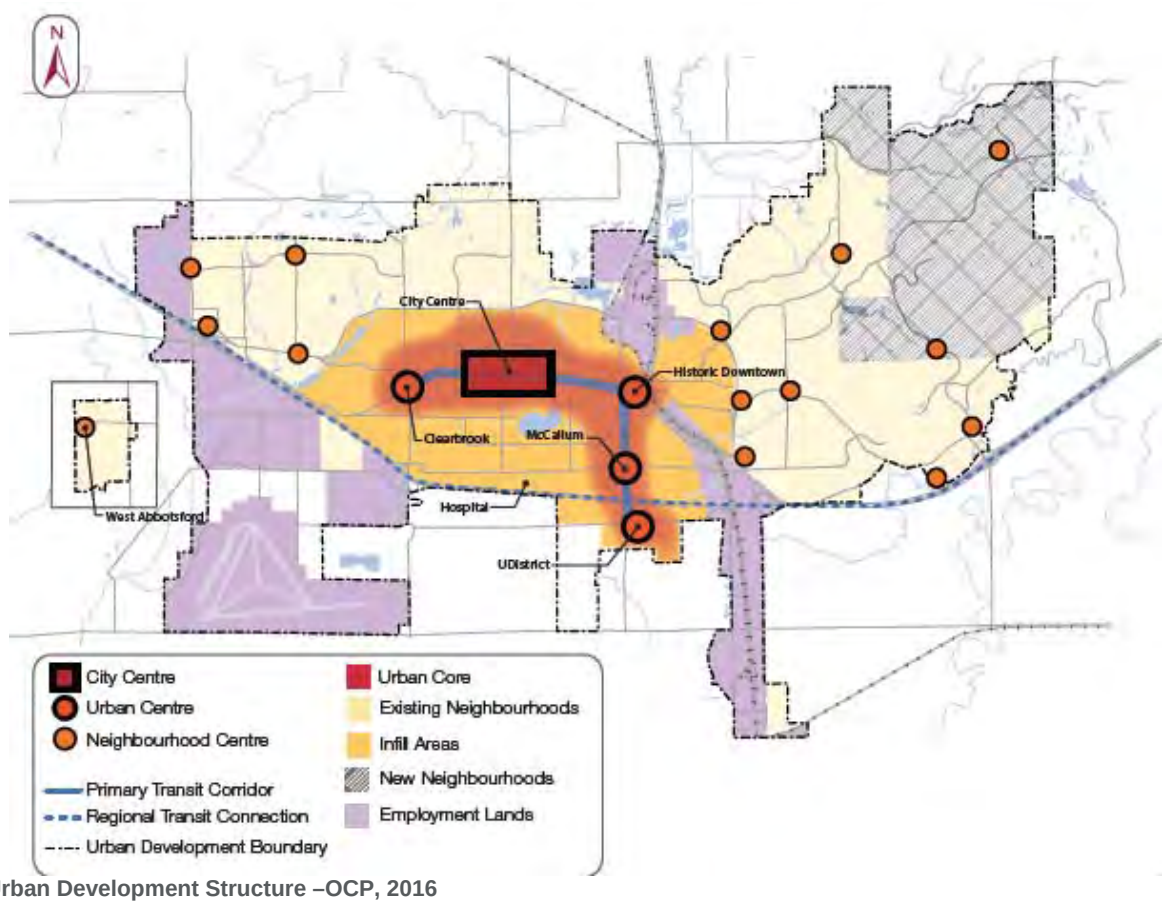
- *improve quality of life for its residents*
- *build community capacity in order to address issues and take advantage of opportunities and*
- *find common ground and balance competing interests. (Smith & Frank, 1999)*

For PRC, these trends have resulted in people sheltering in parks, requiring the use of washrooms and showers in recreation facilities, and rising numbers of residents who cannot afford to access recreation services. PRC will need to continue to use a community development model, in the provision of services, working with other organizations to collectively meet the needs of all residents. This work will entail balancing the needs of those experiencing homelessness with maintaining safe and accessible parks for everyone and seeking opportunities to provide inclusive programs and fees that welcome all residents. To accommodate the complex needs of those experiencing homelessness, there will be increased demands and financial pressures for current and new service expectations including, but not limited to, enhanced park clean up, and provision of sanitary services.

3.4.3 Densification and Population Distribution

Align amenities with growth.

Abbotsforward (OCP) anticipates future growth to be accommodated within the Urban Development Boundary as shown in Figure 1. Densification is concentrated within this area. Sixty percent of future residential growth—approximately 33,600 new residents—is anticipated within the Urban Core, which includes the City Centre and four urban centres. Fifteen percent of future residential growth—approximately 8,400 new residents—will occur in existing neighbourhoods and neighbourhood centres. The remaining 25 percent of residential growth—approximately 14,000 new residents—will be located in new neighbourhoods.



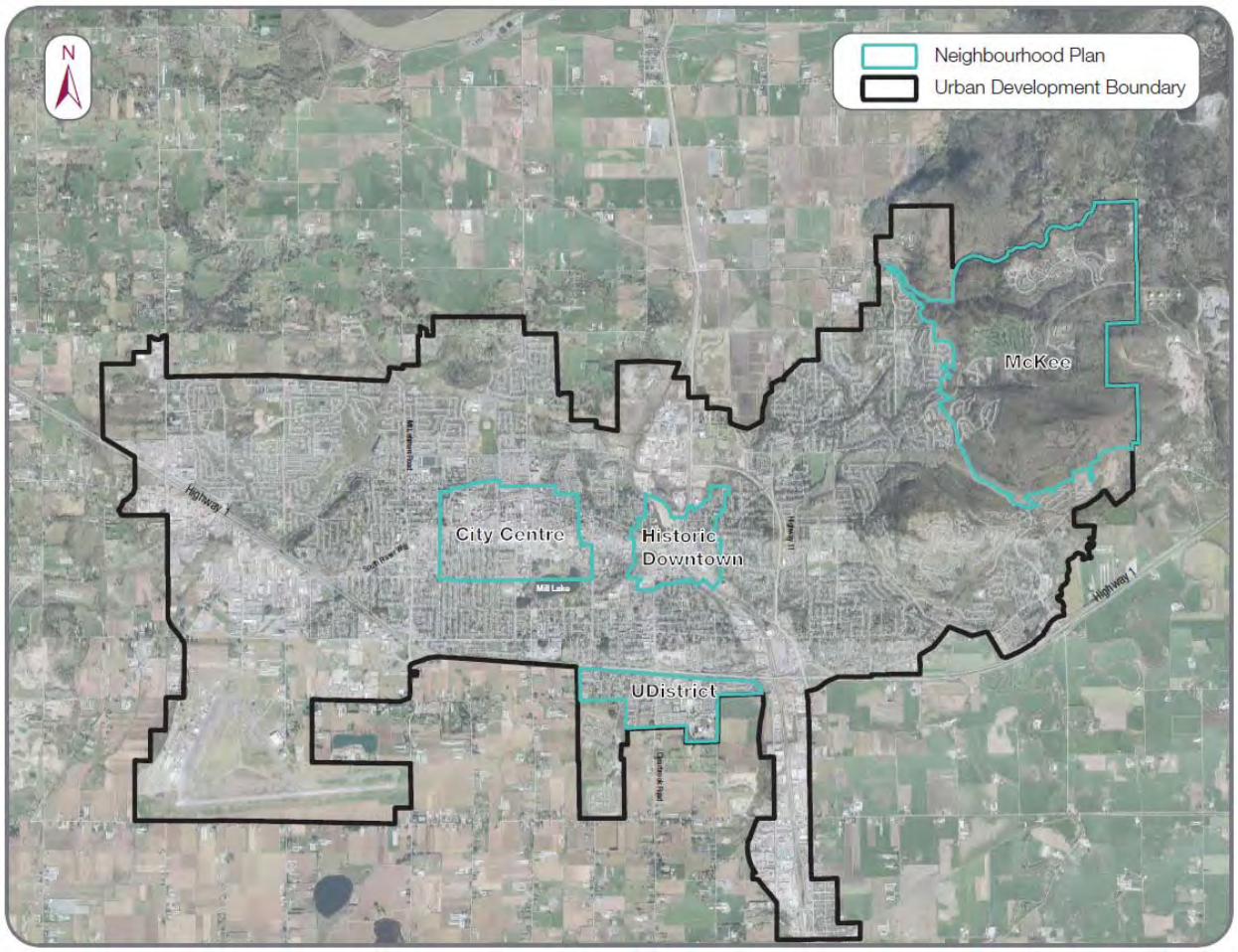
Urban Development Structure –OCP, 2016

Map 1: OCP Urban Development Structure

The figure below shows the location of the current neighbourhood plans, which have the following key characteristics:

- **City Centre**—connection to Mill Lake Park, cultural hub
- **Historic Downtown**—people places, cultural hub, trail connections, highest proportion of single, aged 20-29 households and residents 80 and over
- **UDistrict**—bring the "Community + Campus" together to create a vibrant and identifiable university village, design great places for people and learning everywhere
- **McKee**—new neighbourhood on a mountain with a large park on top and connected green spaces and trails

Neighbourhood Plan Areas



Map 2: OCP Neighbourhood Plan Areas

3.4.4 Demographics and PRC

The demographic profile provides context on who the PRC Master Plan will need to serve over the coming years. The following is an overview of the implications of demographic trends on PRC:

- Population growth will remain strong and increase demands beyond what existing park, recreation, and culture resources can support
- As new residential growth will be concentrated in the Urban Core and existing neighbourhoods, there will need to be enhanced or expanded amenities and services in those areas
- There will continue to be demands for facilities, programs and services that support families and youth
- The demands enhanced or expanded services and amenities will increase for older age cohorts
- Meeting the needs of new immigrants and diverse cultural groups will continue to be a priority

3.5 PRC Characteristics

3.5.1 Unique Facilities and Features

Abbotsford has some unique facilities and features that draw regional and national participants and visitors. In sports, these include the BMX track, Ledgeview Golf Course, street-style skate park, sports field complex, cricket wickets, and ARC ice arena. Outdoor opportunities include Experience the Fraser, wakeboard and water ski facilities, the Discovery Trail, Sumas Mountain, and large nature parks. The culture scene has the Reach Gallery Museum, Kariton Gallery and Boutique, Trethewey House and Historical Site, Abbotsford Centre, the Heritage Clayburn Village, agriculture facilities, prominent public art, and many special events.

3.5.2 Interconnected Parks and Trails

Trail uses have the highest participation of any outdoor or indoor activity (82 percent participation as indicated in the Stage 1 - Community Survey), and residents commented frequently in focus group workshops and pop-up booths on how much they

appreciate the City's interconnected parks and trails. Parks and trails also received the highest priority for attention in the community survey, see Figure 5.

3.5.3 Environmental Awareness

Abbotsford has many citizens who care deeply about protection and enhancement of the natural environment. Over half (51 percent) of community survey respondents have a household member who participates in nature/wildlife viewing, and 42 respondents said that Abbotsford should protect its natural recreation assets from being lost to development.

3.5.4 Aging Infrastructure

The primary recreation facilities in Abbotsford were built in the 1970, 80s and 90s. The only newer facilities are the Reach Gallery Museum, Abbotsford Centre and Abbotsford Recreation Centre addition built in 2007, and the MRC artificial turf sports fields added in 2016. Like many municipalities, Abbotsford has a number of aging facilities that will require continued asset enhancements and/or refurbishments. A Facilities Condition Inventory Assessment has been completed for the PRC facilities and is included in Appendix E.



3.5.5 Expectations and Fiscal Reality

Abbotsford's tax base is relatively low due to a significant amount of land in the Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) and will require innovative solutions unique to Abbotsford that are creative, effective, and fiscally responsible.



VALUE OF PRC IN ABBOTSFORD

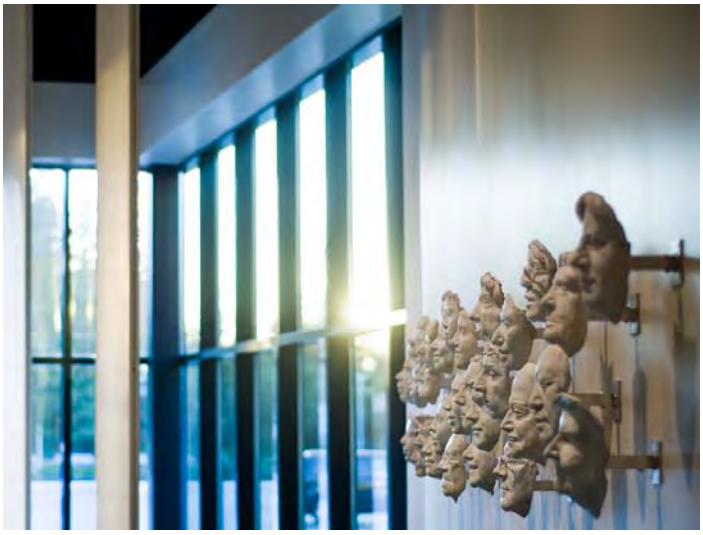
PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
MASTER PLAN

4 VALUE OF PRC IN ABBOTSFORD

Parks, recreation, and culture programs and services are delivered through investments in public assets, including staffing, partnership agreements, culture and recreation facilities, and park infrastructure. The PRC Master Plan will provide a recommended implementation and costing plan based on collaboration with other City initiatives, grant opportunities, and partnerships in order to achieve a sustainable service delivery and funding mode.

The PRC Master Plan will have the following outcomes:

- Provide an innovative and comprehensive long-term vision and plan for the delivery of parks, recreation, and culture facilities and services
- Tell the story of PRC in Abbotsford—our current state, what we do well, what we need to do better, and the direction needed to provide the best balance of public services



- Reflect the community's values and goals for Abbotsford's parks, recreation, and culture
- Demonstrate how parks, recreation, and culture will support and enhance the OCP's vision with a plan for a healthy, vibrant, and connected community
- Align with other City plans and strategies that have reciprocal impact or influence parks, recreation, and culture
- Review the role of the City and other service providers who deliver PRC programs and services
- Provide a policy framework for future decision-making that allows staff and Council to be responsive to changing needs, trends, and opportunities

PRC Value Proposition

The overarching goal of PRC is to improve our residents' quality of life. Community recreation, active (developed) and passive (environmentally sensitive) parks, natural outdoor spaces, arts, culture, and heritage contribute to the overall health, well-being, and quality of life of a community's residents. Extensive research shows the physical, social, and mental well-being benefits of access to the types of programs, services, and resources provided by Abbotsford's PRC department.

A **value proposition** *is the promise of value to be given in return for investment. The phrase originates in business marketing and has become a general tool for framing the benefits of a particular set of actions, specifically how the benefits may outweigh the cost or risk associated with an action.*

Parks and recreation have three values that make them essential to communities:

1. Economic value
2. Health and Environmental benefits
3. Social importance

Just as water, sewer, and public safety are essential public services, parks, recreation and culture are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in a community, ensuring the health of families and youth, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and a region[3].

Parks, recreation, and culture services positively influence community cohesiveness, strengthen family bonds, and mitigate social issues. A community with an abundance of these quality of life services can encourage and help residents to be happy, healthy, and vibrant. Likewise, these services can assist in attracting and retaining residents and businesses in Abbotsford.

4.1 Frameworks for PRC

This section provides two frameworks for considering the benefits of PRC - the Human Capital Model and the National Framework for Recreation in Canada. This is followed by research on the benefits of PRC from other sources.

[3] National Recreation and Park Association. "Why Parks and Recreation are Essential Public Services", NRPA, accessed May 23, 2018, from: https://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Advocacy/Resources/.

4.1.1 Human Capital Model: Connecting Health, Physical Activity, and the Environment

The Human Capital Model frames health and wellness as a type of "capital", that is something that can be invested in and which offers a return on investment.[4] It is based on research showing how physical activity can be considered a form of investment, producing value that is realized through a better quality of life, improved educational achievement, and even economic value through increased productivity.

The Human Capital Model was developed through research showing that improving health through sport and other forms of physical activity could dramatically reduce health care costs. According to the Provincial Health Services Authority's 2015 study, the annual economic burden in British Columbia of physical inactivity was estimated to be $1.1 billion dollars in 2012 (with $335 million dollars in direct healthcare costs and $780 million dollars in indirect costs associated with short-and long-term disability and premature death)[5].

Renewed Definition of Recreation

"Recreation is the experience that results from freely chosen participation in physical, social, intellectual, creative and spiritual pursuits that enhance individual and community wellbeing."

4.1.2 National Framework for Recreation in Canada

The National Framework for Recreation developed by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association is the guiding document for public recreation providers in Canada. The framework was developed by parks and recreation experts in collaboration with academics, aboriginal leaders, young professionals and municipal volunteers, and shows that recreation is a fundamental human need in all ages and stages of life. It is the pursuit of physical, social, intellectual creative and spiritual experiences that enhance individual and community wellbeing.

[4] Bailey et al, "Physical Activity: An Underestimated Investment in Human Capital", Journal of Physical Activity and Health, 2013, 10, 289-308.

[5] Krueger et al, "The Economic Benefits of Risk Factor Reduction in British Columbia: Excess Weight, Physical Inactivity and Tobacco Smoking", Provincial Health Service Authority, 2015, p. 2.

Affordable facilities and programs can help to level the playing field for children across socioeconomic levels, supporting the development of healthy habits, self-esteem, social connections, and a sense of inclusion. High quality parks can protect the environment and provide the physical and psychological benefits of access to nature.

Three key messages emerge from the framework:

- "High quality, accessible recreation opportunities are integral to a well-functioning society
- The recreation sector can be a collaborative leader in addressing major issues of the day
- All people and communities deserve equitable access to recreational experiences. Recreation must be accessible and welcoming to all"[6]

This Framework is being implemented through parks and recreation master plans in municipalities across Canada.

4.2 Benefits of PRC

The following summarizes key benefits of parks, recreation, and culture. A compilation of research on PRC benefits can be found in Appendix B.

4.2.1 Culture and Social Inclusion

Evidence suggests that there are positive associations among participation in arts and health, social capital, crime reduction, and education. Studies demonstrate that participation in cultural activities can contribute to social relationships, community cohesion, and/or make communities feel safer and stronger. Positive links between arts participation and social inclusion suggest that cultural participation results in an improved capacity for cultural citizenship, reduced crime, boosting confidence, and developing social skills, which lead to more effective engagement with the community at large.[7]

[6]Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, "A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Well-being" 2015, 8.

[7] Taylor, Peter et al, p. 136.

4.2.2 Economic Development

Tournaments, festivals, major facilities, and nature-based tourism draw significant dollars to the community, as they generate overnight stays, as well as patronage for restaurants, retail stores, gas stations, and other businesses. These attractions include special events, art showings, theatre productions, and sports tournaments. There are also major economic benefits increasingly being derived from tourism, particularly active, outdoor, nature-oriented tourism in BC. Parks Canada reports that in 2014, park visits alone generated 64,000 full-time jobs for Canadians, $2.9 billion in labour income, and $337 million in tax revenue for governments.

4.2.3 Mental and Physical Health and Well-Being

Families, who play together, stay together. Community gardens, trails, and outdoor running clubs are ways to bring families and neighbours together. Nature brings out more social feelings, more value for community, and nurtures close relationships among neighbours. Playing in natural environments is essential to our children's development of core skills, including observation, problem-solving, reasoning, categorization, creativity, imagination, risk-identification, and emotional and intellectual development. Children's biological affiliation with nature gives them a better sense of what they can do and control, makes them happier, and makes learning fun. Children who are allowed to experience risk have more ability to identify and manage risks and become more resilient as they age.

> Happiness in cities is related to strong positive social relationships. People who are socially connected are more productive at work, less likely to get sick, and more likely to recover from cancer; they live on average 15 years longer than people who do not have strong social connections."
>
> Charles Montgomery, Happy City, 2013.

Numerous studies link the improved brain function due to exercise in both growing children and adults with cognitive benefits lasting for decades. A 2014 research study by the Alzheimer Association found that people who are active in their middle years and

even those who begin exercising after hitting midlife have lower risk of developing dementia and Alzheimer's disease in their old age than those who do not exercise[8]. The cognitive benefits of Leisure-Time -Physical-Activity in midlife were most prominent in overweight and obese persons who led sedentary lives until then.

4.2.4 Environment

Environmental protection of riparian areas, green space and the urban forest offer innumerable benefits. For example, over the course of 50 years, one tree generates $31,250 worth of oxygen, $62,000 of pollution control, recycles $37,500 worth of water, and controls $31,250 worth of soil erosion[9]. Open space, parks, and recreation areas are ideal places for encouraging and developing stewardship of the land. People who enjoy outdoor recreation become more familiar with natural resources and the environment. This increased knowledge helps them understand how their personal actions can affect the environment.



[8]Baumart, M, et al. "Summary of the Evidence on Modifiable Risk Factors for Cognitive Decline and Dementia: A Population-Based Perspective", *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association, June 2015; Vol. 11(6): 718-726.*

[9] US Forest Service



PLANNING FRAMEWORK

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
MASTER PLAN

5 PLANNING FRAMEWORK

5.1 Corporate Vision and Mission

Abbotsford's corporate mission and vision guide all practices and decisions of the City.

5.1.1 Vision

The City of Abbotsford is the Hub of the Fraser Valley.

Abbotsford will be the regional centre for communities in the Fraser Valley. The City will be home to regionally centralized services and agencies including health care, courts, transportation, university, airport, provincial and federal government, entertainment and cultural facilities, and commerce.

5.1.2 Mission

We strive to continually improve the quality of life within our community by delivering key services for current and future generations.

5.2 Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2005

The previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared in 2005. At the time, the City's focus was on basic services and relied on private groups, not-for-profit agencies, and faith-based organizations to deliver the basic recreational needs of the City. This philosophical approach provided limited success for the City to achieve its community goals. The City had no formal arts and culture programming mandate and the role of the City in this area was still in its infancy. To put this into context, most cities in British Columbia have been providing direct services in parks, recreation and culture amenities and programs since the 1970s. Abbotsford's flagship facilities were only newly built in 20077-2008, and current program offerings for parks, recreation and culture were initiated--this is tremendous growth and development in just 10 years.

In 2010, staff completed a status review of the master plan to identify the recommendations that were implemented and completed, and the priorities of the ones that remained. Since then, the City has experienced significant changes, including global economic impacts, increasing numbers of private fitness operations, increasing homelessness, weather changes, refugee settlement, and growth trends. As a result, some priorities have changed, and other previous recommendations are no longer

relevant. This plan will fulfill the City's need to reconsider the role of the PRC department and its initiatives and priorities.

The table below identifies the recommendations from the 2005 Master Plan that are still relevant and not yet implemented:

Recommendation	Status
Recreation and Culture	
• Renovate and upgrade the recreation facilities with additional cultural space, gymnasium, accessibility features, outside fieldhouse and meeting rooms	• Preliminary concept design completed for MRC • Business Plan completed for MRC • Waiting on grant opportunities
• Build a Wellness Centre through partnership with Auguston Development	• On hold – population and demand insufficient
• Adopt a definition of community development and develop a common understanding of its implications	• Incorporated into new PRC Master Plan
• Develop a policy on gender equity to ensure that girls and women have opportunities and equity as participants, competitors, and leaders	• Allocation meetings facilitated • Allocation concepts discussed with stakeholders • To be completed as outcome from PRC Master Plan
Parks	
• Develop an integrated sign system for directional, regulatory, and interpretive signs	• Sign Strategy will be an implementation outcome from the PRC Master Plan
• Monitor demand for indoor tennis and consider new facility if demand increases significantly	• Stakeholder meetings for tennis and emerging sport of pickleball have occurred as part of allocation discussions • Integrated Feasibility Study will be an implementation outcome from the PRC Master Plan

Recommendation	Status
• Expand the size of Grant, Nadeau, and Oriole Parks	• Park expansion for Grant reviewed in new PRC Master Plan
• Develop boat launch and camping facility at Barrowtown/Sinclair Park	• Discussions have been held with Metro Vancouver Parks, FVRD, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and First Nations • Considered in PRC Master Plan
• Redesign and upgrade Ravine Park (daylight creek)	• Through the redevelopment of Jubilee Park, the connectivity to Ravine Park and Mill Lake Park will be considered in the PRC Master Plan
• Develop community park at the Old Valley Landfill	• Concepts have been considered; however, there are issues with bog-like soil conditions
• Develop community parks at Atkinson and East Sumas Mountain	• Considered in PRC Master Plan
• Develop two new community parks in East Abbotsford and Upper McMillan	• Considered in PRC Master Plan

The provision analysis for each of the section uses the 2005 provision rate calculated based on the population and supply identified in the 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

5.3 Impending and Planned Projects

Specific capital projects that are underway, for completion in 2017-2018, include the following:

- Jubilee Park redesign
- Ledgeview Clubhouse Construction
- Expand ballfields from one to three at Grant Park

Five-year budgets are approved annually. The following are the key capital projects ($100,000 or more) proposed for the 2018- 2022 budget; these are in addition to many small renovation and improvement projects:

- Sports field development (Grant Park)
- Mill Lake Park development
- Washroom development
- Community park planning and design
- Mill Lake Park land acquisition
- Clayburn Village Heritage Park
- Longboarding park development
- Abbotsford Exhibition Park Twisters Gym roof replacement
- Abbotsford Exhibition Park Ag Rec Building roof and elevator
- Abbotsford Exhibition Park Air Cadet Building roof
- Abbotsford Exhibition Park Arena roof
- ARC roof
- MRC roof
- MSA Arena roof
- ARC security system, weight room equipment
- MRC expansion (grant dependent)
- Centennial Pool safety shut-down

5.4 Enabling Frameworks, Plans, and Legislation

5.4.1 Frameworks

There is a long tradition of governments providing local parks and playgrounds in established areas. Following Canada's centennial in 1967 and an associated influx of funding, local governments in British Columbia became active in the 1970s in providing a variety of recreation facilities and programs on the premise that they contribute to the public good and well-being of a community.

Local parks, trails and playgrounds that are available to all citizens without restrictions are considered a benefit to public good. Recreation programs, typically funded in part by user fees, provide benefits to the individual and play an important role in the overall physical and social health of a community. Community vibrancy is often credited to

cultural amenities such as libraries, cultural facilities, services, and events. Public libraries offer a significant public good as they provide free services and access to resources, and can be a welcome and important hub for newcomers. Cultural programs and events that celebrate community diversity and heritage help create shared collective experiences that are inherent to building community spirt and unity.

In 1973, the provincial government implemented the Community Recreational Facilities fund to encourage local governments to invest in recreation infrastructure, including swimming pools, ice arenas, curling rinks, community centres, tennis courts, camps, and sports fields. That resulted in a tremendous influx of new recreation facilities. Since then, some funding has been made available through the Province; however, there is little legislation to support funding for recreation.

BC's Policy on Sport and Physical Activity – Sport Branch Policy Framework provides a position statement, and all sport organizations that are recognised under Sport Canada and BC Sport have an approved governance structure, including policies and regulations for their sport. This has a significant role in how facilities are designed, allocated and used to deliver "Learn-to" programs that support sport in general. Abbotsford has been a leader in the development and piloting of the Canadian Sport for Life model for municipalities that focuses on incorporating physical literacy into recreation programming and providing a continuum of lifelong physical activity.

5.4.2 Plans and Strategies

In addition to the high-level plans and policies previously described, Abbotsford has multiple plans, strategies and bylaws that interrelate with parks, recreation and culture. These are summarized in Appendix A. Some of the more relevant ones are the following:

- Public Art Policy and Public Art Capital Reserve Fund Bylaw
- Arts and Heritage Master Plan
- Urban Forestry
- Trail Strategy
- Active Abbotsford Plan

5.4.3 Legislation

The following legislation is relevant to providing services in PRC:

- The *Health Act* is a key piece of legislation for operating pools and spray parks
- BC Technical Safety (formerly BC Safety Authority) is the regulating body for the operation of refrigeration plants in ice arenas. They provide legislated staffing requirements and operational safety standards
- The *Riparian Areas Protection Act* governs park development associated with riparian areas
- The Consumer Protection Act and the Cremation, Interment and Funeral Services Act guide cemetery operation and requirements
- The *Library Act* is administered by the Ministry of Education's Public Library Services Branch and outlines the basic public library services that must be provided free of charge. These services include admission to public library buildings and use of library material on the library premises, and free access for residents to borrow library material and use reference and information services. Libraries may charge fees for library fines and services not covered by the legislation
- The *BC Heritage Conservation Act* regulates heritage designation and protection. The purpose of this Act is to encourage and facilitate the protection and conservation of heritage property in British Columbia. The act also regulates Museums

5.4.4 Fraser Valley Regional District Strategies and Plans

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) is currently in the process of updating its Regional Growth Strategy (RGS). A first draft was released in 2014 and reviewed for policy directions relevant to PRC in Abbotsford.

The Draft Regional Growth Strategy sets the following vision:

> "The Fraser Valley Regional District will be a network of vibrant, distinct, and sustainable communities that accept responsibly managed growth while being committed to protecting the land resource and the natural environment to ensure that a high quality of life is accessible to all."

PRC services will play a direct or indirect role in supporting the goals of the RGS.[10]

[10] The only RGS role where PRC has no clear role is in reducing infrastructure and servicing costs as this goal is focused on utilities and waste management.

RGS Goal	PRC Role
Economic strength	• PRC creates employment opportunities and works to expand tourism in the region
Living well	• PRC is a primary actor in promoting healthy living, protecting and enhancing parks and recreation, and supporting arts and culture initiatives
Community building	• The distribution of new facilities and parks will be part of focusing growth in urban centres and maintaining the character of rural areas
Ecosystem health	• Parks and natural areas are critical to protecting air quality, watershed health, and biodiversity
Transportation	• The availability and connectivity of trails promote active transportation
Energy and climate change	• PRC facilities will be part of efforts in increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions • Parks and urban forests play an important role in climate change mitigation and adaptation
Collaboration	• PRC often involves engaging different levels of government to coordinate or fund projects • PRC may also play a role building and strengthening relationships with First Nations through working with First Nations on cultural and heritage preservation and programming, and supporting local Indigenous residents through PRC services

SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL



PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
MASTER PLAN

6 SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL

PRC services can be delivered in a variety of ways. The following are the possible roles of the City in providing services:

- Direct provider—City owns land and facility, runs programs and services, and hires all staff
- Arm's length—Various models possible, but typically City owns the land and the facility and contracts a third party (private or non-profit) to run programs and services, e.g., Recreation Excellence operates Centennial Outdoor Pool
- Enabling/coordinating—City may provide land, could coordinate programs and services, and has an agreement with a third party (private or non-profit) to run programs and services (and sometimes build the facility), e.g., community halls, community gardens, lawn bowling, golf courses, racquet facilities
- Patron—A benefactor funds the development of major facilities, most typically for arts and culture, and not often in Canada
- Legislator/regulator—Governing body that reviews proposals and applications covered by their jurisdiction

Abbotsford's uses a blended approach, combining traditional direct provider, arm's length, and enabling/coordinating roles. The latter two are examples of a community development model, in which the City works with other partners to provide services. In this model, the City acts as a facilitator, leveraging opportunities that may be provided by the City or other providers.

Abbotsford has a large and vibrant not-for-profit and volunteer sector in sport, recreation, nature conservation, and culture that includes many groups. These are facilitated by the City through partnerships and/or financial support. The City also has a history of reaching out to diverse groups who face barriers to participation and offers various subsidy programs and initiatives, e.g., UPASS for University of the Fraser Valley students, Grade 5 activity pass, and PRC Special Needs and Subsidy programs.

Increasingly in the City, innovative public-private partnerships are supporting park renewal efforts, sponsorships for special events, service innovation in the operation of community recreation programming, cooperative access to facilities through partnerships with health providers, and the delivery of sport tourism with Abbotsford Tourism.

The City is currently engaged in many cross-sectoral collaborative efforts, such as Healthy Abbotsford, the Collaborative Working Group, Active Abbotsford, Local

Immigration Partnership Table, Abbotsford Harm Reduction, Emergency Social Services (such as Extreme Weather Shelters), and many partnerships with the Abbotsford School District and Fraser Health Authority, as well as cultural organizations such as the Reach Gallery Museum, Heritage Abbotsford Society, Abbotsford Arts Council, and the Fraser Valley Regional Library.

These cross-sectoral relationships strengthen the role of parks, recreation and culture as essential services and also lead to programs and initiatives aimed at preventative "upstream" solutions to social justice issues, a healthy built environment, and improved health outcomes, as opposed to "downstream" reactive measures resulting in policing. These cross-sectoral collaborations also provide expanded opportunities to readily react to government grant applications and provincial initiatives.

6.1 Strategic Partnerships

The City recognises the importance of its community partners and supports them in meeting respective program goals in multiple ways, e.g., fee-for service agreements, contracted service agreements, program delivery, grant distribution agreements, and leasing arrangements. These agreements vary in nature and scope and are an effective and innovative approach to delivering park, recreation, and culture opportunities to residents based on a community development approach.

A key contributor to the successful implementation of park, recreation, and culture service delivery partnerships is building relationships, e.g., City representatives attending partner meetings or operating partner representatives formally reporting annual progress to the City. City Council, through its financial planning process, distributes financial allocations based on priorities relevant to their strategic goals. The City appreciates that the services to residents supported by public funding would not be achievable without the help of its delivery partners.

6.2 Community Development

Abbotsford offers parks, recreation, and culture services through a partial community development model. Community development involves working with the community, individuals, and groups to create partnerships and collaboration to leverage resources and opportunities. The City acts as a facilitator to bring groups together and build community capacity. The City is working on strategies and initiatives such as the Age-Friendly Strategy, Communities in Bloom, volunteering, and Accessibility Assessments that will support future opportunities for community development.

The City works with community groups to support many initiatives, including environmental stewardship, neighbourhood dialogues, and community events. City teams promote community development initiatives through communication methods that include the PRC program guide, City of Abbotsford website, and brochures. Some materials are translated. Many faith-based organizations in Abbotsford also support community development in building community capacity in the City.

The following are examples of the City's community development programs that support community building, social connections, and methods for responding to local challenges. The numerous volunteering opportunities are listed in the Parks, Recreation, and Culture divisions.

Delivery of parks, recreation, and culture facilities and services is dependent on partnerships and community outreach. This includes access to fields and facilities through the Joint Use Agreement with Abbotsford School District; regional initiatives with the Fraser Valley Regional District and Metro Vancouver Parks; and working with schools, not-for-profit organizations, and local businesses on recreation, culture, and parks projects.

6.2.1 Neighbourhoods

Several programs are available to assist community members working together in building strong and connected neighbourhoods:

- Neighbourhood Spirit Small Grants Funds Partnership
- Neighbourhood Spirit Toolkit Program
- Neighbourhood Dialogues and Neighbourhood Event Assistance
- Local Immigration Partnership Table
- Collaborative Working Table
- Literary Matters Abbotsford and Vibrant Abbotsford, both of which welcome all residents and help them learn necessary skills and become part of the community
- Communities in Bloom – connecting neighbours and community and instilling community pride
- TD Streets initiative – connecting neighbours through tree and street stewardship
- Arbor Day – celebrating trees in the community

- Volunteer Services

6.2.2 Inclusion

6.2.2.1 Immigration

The Abbotsford Local Immigration Partnership, a collaborative funded by Immigration and Citizenship Canada, helps newcomers integrate easily into the community. Volunteers and recreation programs adopt inclusion practices and opportunities.

6.2.2.2 Financial Access

BC Stats Socio-Economic Profile shows that Abbotsford has a higher percentage of families living on low income and receiving income assistance than the BC average. PRC works with community partners to assist families and individuals living on low incomes, in accessing community recreation programs and services.

6.2.2.3 Accessibility

PRC works with community organizations to facilitate staff and volunteers working with participants who require 1-1 support to take part in recreation and culture programs at the City facilities. In 2017, Matsqui and Abbotsford Recreation Centres completed an accessibility review of the facilities under the Rick Hansen Foundation. The reports will assist staff in addressing deficits to access and prioritizing upgrades and enhancements. New facilities will ensure accessible access.

6.2.3 Crime Prevention

The consequences of social issues, including gang activities—and their drain on law enforcement and public health systems—are significant. A study in Sweden found young people who have higher participation rates in structured recreational activities have reduced rates of criminal arrest (by as much as 71%) and antisocial behaviour and increased success at post-secondary education (Mahoney, Stattin, & Magnusson, 2001) Crime prevention research conducted by the National Parks and Recreation Association[11], Centres for Disease Control and Prevention[12], and recent studies by the

[11] National Parks and Recreation Association. "Parks and Recreation are Essential Services". January 2010.

[12] Mercy, J.A. & Vivolo-Kantor, A.M. J Primary Prevent (2016) 37: 209. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10935-016-0433-8.

City of Winnipeg[13] show there is significant correlation between crime and gang prevention and supervised programs in recreation, culture or parks. Preventing young people from joining gangs in the first place is essential to reducing youth gang activity. Several PRC (and partner) programs work to prevent youth from joining gangs and to support positive lifestyles:

- In It Together Program
- Restorative Justice Program (in parks)
- After School Programming
- ARC & MRC Youth Centres
- Abbotsford Youth Commission

6.2.4 Supporting All Ages

Two programs currently advocate for and support those on both ends of the age spectrum, and spearhead initiatives to help these groups:

- Age-Friendly Abbotsford Working Group
- Child and Youth Committee

6.2.5 Healthy Abbotsford

Healthy Abbotsford is a city-wide initiative to promote healthy lifestyle choices and to encourage overall improvements in the health and well-being of residents of Abbotsford. The partners include Fraser Health Authority, Abbotsford School District, University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford News, Abbotsford Community Services, Pacific Sport Fraser Valley, and the Division of Family Practice, who work together to promote healthy behaviours and messaging. Some of the projects in this initiative include Walk Abbotsford, Live 5-2-1-0, and the Involve Symposium that supports and fosters the robust and innovative arts, non-profit sector, and local sports organizations by providing relevant information and training. These programs build on the foundation of service, improving the quality of life for all residents of Abbotsford.

[13] Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Manitoba Office. "Recreation and Crime Prevention: We can do so much better". March 16, 2009.

6.3 Trends in Service Delivery

6.3.1 Government, Community Organizations, and Citizen Partnerships in Trail Development

There is an ongoing trend, which has become common practice in many communities, for the use of partnerships in the development of trails. This can include extensive trail networks as well as local community trails.

Examples include the Trans Canada Trail Network, recently rebranded as “The Great Trail”, which extends from coast to coast and is the result of participation by all levels of government as well as many local parks and trail associations. Another example is the conversion of a former CN rail line in the Okanagan into nearly 50 km of trail. This development, known as the Okanagan Rail Trail, consists of numerous partnerships including the Community Foundation of North Okanagan and the Central Okanagan Foundation, federal, provincial, local and First Nation governments, businesses and local trail associations.

6.3.2 Public/Public and Public/Private Partnerships

Partnerships with the private sector and with not-for-profit organizations continue to grow as revenue from tax dollars often does not keep up with escalating expenses. While parks and recreation have typically fallen under the municipal umbrella, since the 1970s a larger portion of responsibility for all public infrastructure has shifted to municipalities. Provincial and federal budgets are increasingly being consumed by health care and education costs, reducing their contribution to services like parks and recreation.

There are numerous examples of public/public and public/private partnerships in BC and across Canada. An example of a public/public partnership is between municipal government and the School District, or the Health Authority.

There has been a trend in municipal partnerships extending to a variety of agencies in health, justice, education, community and social services.

Municipal facilities such as heritage and/or arts and culture buildings are commonly being managed by non-profit societies through leases or partnership arrangements.

Municipally owned fitness and wellness centres can also be operated through a partnership with the public or private sector; however, these types of facilities usually generate a positive revenue stream and have become an important component of municipally-run multi-use facilities.

6.3.3 Technology

Technology is affecting how people enjoy parks and participate in recreation programs and events. More agencies are going online to reach patrons and purchase registration systems, perform automatic monitoring of buildings and the environment, monitor public safety and employ technology to complete missions.

Parks and recreation is being dramatically affected by leaps in technology. Technology supports many physical recreation activities including Geocaching, walking, running (through pedometers, accelerometers, and heart monitors, etc.), interactive physical video games and exercises. Many kids turn to technology wherever possible. Our programs and services will need to continue to adapt to keep current and to help residents become and stay active.

6.3.4 Facilities in Urban Areas

Following the general reinvestment and focus on downtown and inner-city areas, parks, recreation and culture have been mimicking the trend by locating facilities and parks in denser neighbourhoods as well as the lower density suburban areas. A number of multipurpose public spaces, for instance, are integrated within significant, high-density projects in order to be close to where people live.

Recreation and culture are more often becoming “Tenant Improvements” to shell spaces at the base of towers. This is sometimes funded through a community amenity contribution arrangement and can be delivered in either turn-key or shell building arrangements from the developer. In urban communities, more parks and playgrounds are finding homes on the roofs of buildings.

6.3.5 Physical Literacy

A trend over the past five years or so has been to embrace the concept of “physical literacy” in programs for children and youth. Physical Literacy has been defined and promoted by Canadian Sport for Life as critical for the development of children and youth so that they can participate in lifelong sports and recreation activities. The private sector has become engaged, offering grants in support of building physical literacy, e.g., Royal Bank of Canada.

6.3.6 Arts and Culture - Performance Spaces

While traditional galleries and performing arts spaces continue to meet important needs, municipalities around the world are experimenting with flexible and non-traditional

exhibition and performance spaces. One example is the Roundhouse Community Centre in Vancouver. Located in downtown Vancouver's Yaletown neighbourhood, the Roundhouse is a historic railway complex with arts, crafts, and leisure spaces. The facility includes: after-school child care; dance, pottery, and woodworking studios; a gymnasium; multi-purpose rooms; exhibition space; a 200-seat theatre; and is also home to Engine 374, a locomotive that pulled the first trans-continental passenger train across Canada and into Vancouver in 1887. Another example is using buildings as canvasses, such as Surrey's Art Gallery UrbanScreen that provides an advertising-free, outdoor public art venue for digital media art projections at night. Pop-up concerts in public spaces are another venue for performances that occur in a variety of urban centres such as Kelowna, Portland, Seattle, and Montreal, to name a few.

6.3.7 Arts and Culture - Partnerships

The provision of free concerts by visiting and local artists is often supported by community associations and corporate sponsors. Kelowna's Parks Alive concerts are put on by Festivals Kelowna (a non-profit organization) and supported by corporate sponsors including ReMax. Festivals Kelowna receives some financial support from the City.

Collaborations with local school boards and post-secondary institutions provide opportunities for young artists to create and showcase work. Calgary and Edmonton are two cities that support this type of partnership.



There are numerous community-led, collaborative events throughout the City, such as Jam in Jubilee, Abbotsford's long-standing concert series, is a community-led initiative, put on largely by volunteers and creates a venue for families and young people to participate in the local indie music culture.



ASSESSMENT OF SERVICE AREAS

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
MASTER PLAN

7 ASSESSMENT OF SERVICE AREAS

7.1 PRC Master Plan Process

The purpose of the Plan 200K initiative is to ensure an integrated approach to community planning, to ensure that the PRC Master Plan, other Plan 200K plans, and the OCP will set the stage for an aligned, collaborative, and efficient progression to 200,000 residents. The PRC Master Plan Process graphic below illustrates the process used to analyse services, facilities and amenities within the Plan 200K context and identify possible directions and recommendations:

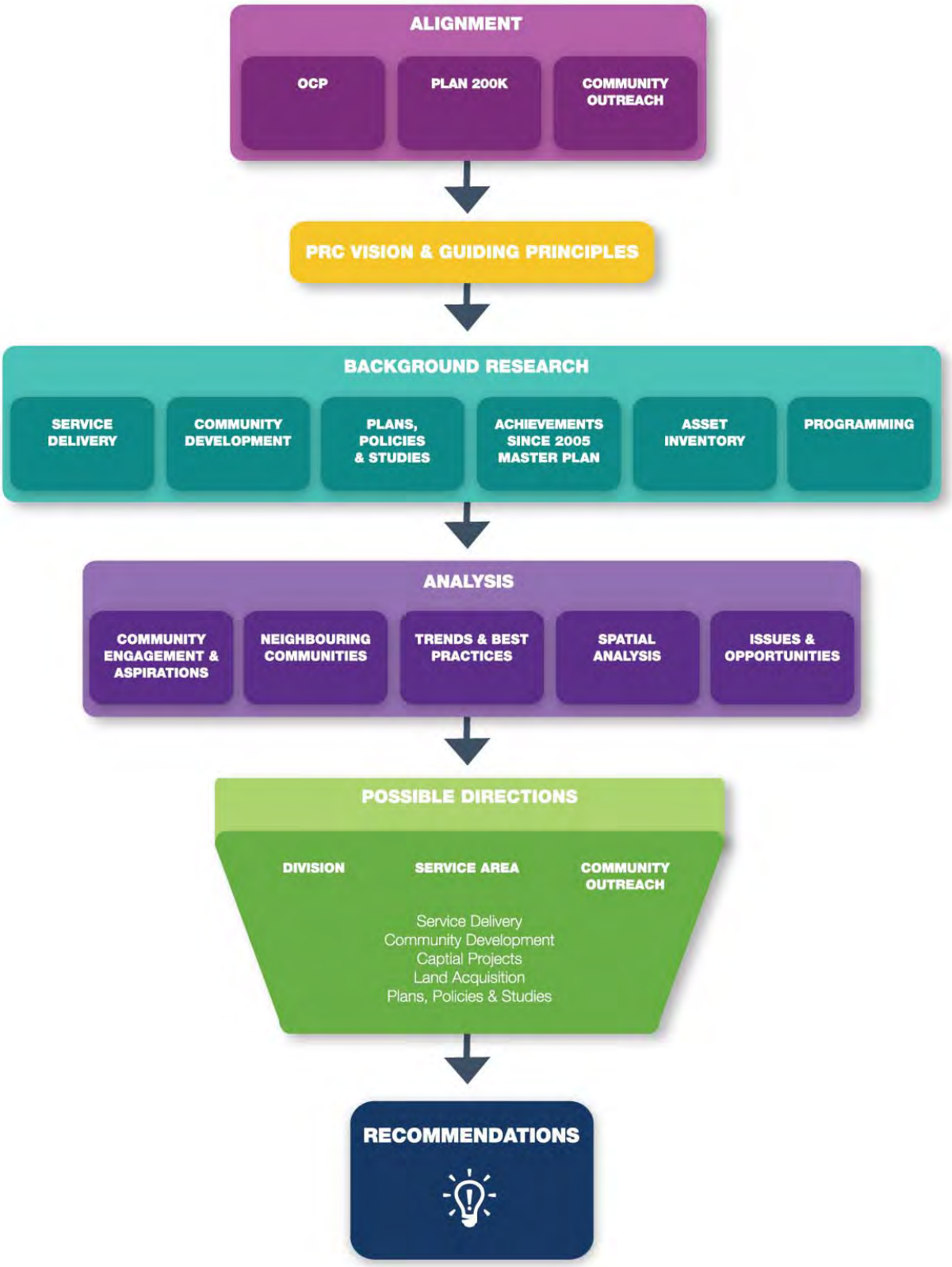


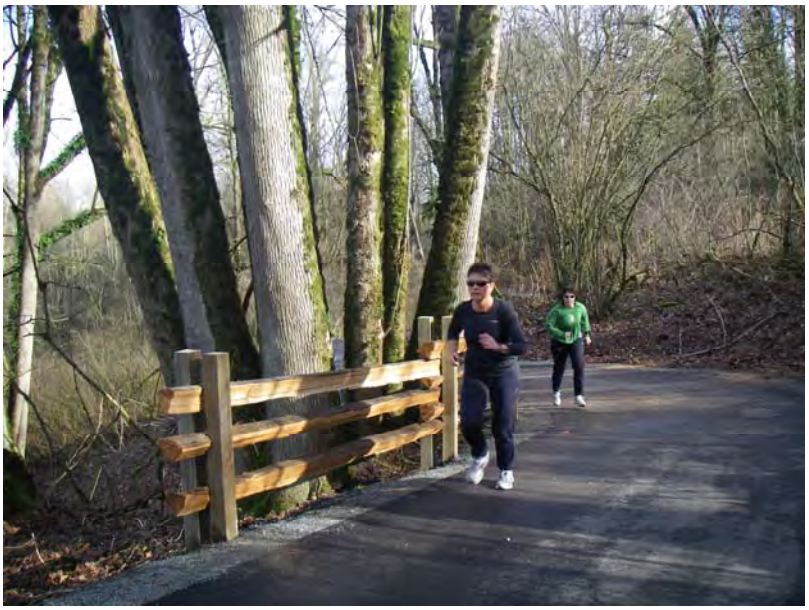
Figure 9: PRC Masters Plan Process

7.2 Vision for PRC in Abbotsford

Abbotsford is a complete and vibrant community with diverse parks, recreation, and culture services that support a high quality of life for all residents and celebrates Abbotsford's uniqueness.

7.3 Guiding Principles

- Parks, recreation, and culture spaces, programs, and services are comfortable, safe, and welcoming to all members of the community, including all ages, abilities, and cultures.
- Abbotsford's parks and facilities are multi-use, flexible, multi-seasonal, inclusive, accessible, and adaptable to changing community needs.



- The City supports excellence in sports, arts and culture, as well as unstructured, self-scheduled and drop-in forms of participation.
- Opportunities in recreation, sports and culture are nurtured at all levels and life stages.
- Parks, recreation, and culture facilities, programs and services support healthy environments and mental, social, and physical well-being.
- Parks, Recreation, and Culture is creative and collaborative and works with other service providers to maximize the service delivery of parks, recreation, and culture experiences and opportunities in Abbotsford.
- Parks, facilities, programs, and services are implemented in a strategic and fiscally responsible manner, considering community needs, geography, operational sustainability, environmental longevity, and positioning the City to be grant and shovel-ready.

7.4 Service Areas Overview

The City's facilities, programs, and services are grouped under the following service areas:

Parks	Recreation	Culture
Parks and Horticulture	Aquatics	Visual Arts
Park Features	Arenas	Public Art
Trails	Fitness and Wellness	Heritage
Sports Fields	Indoor Sports	Performing Arts
Sports Courts	Community Recreation	Entertainment and Festivals
Outdoor Recreation		Libraries
Natural Areas and Urban Forestry		
Cemeteries		

Figure 10: Service Areas



PARKS

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
MASTER PLAN

8 PARKS

8.1 Parks

Abbotsford's park services include parkland, recreation features in parks, natural areas, outdoor recreation, cemeteries, and a diverse range of horticulture and urban forestry activities. The City's parks are among Abbotsford's defining features and are highly valued by its residents. Parks support the environmental, physical, social, and visual aspects of Abbotsford and contribute to a wide range of opportunities for casual and organized recreation activities that are accessible for the entire community. The enjoyment of nature considerably increases community health and civic pride. Inviting public spaces and a well-designed and maintained park program contribute to the City's economic vivacity, create a sense of place, and can considerably increase the health of the residents and community.

A recent study confirms that exercising outdoors and in green surroundings improves both physical and mental health by reducing the impacts of stress and illnesses such as depression (The Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, 2011). Urban forests and natural areas provide environmental benefits such as weather protection, stormwater control, habitat for native vegetation, and greenhouse-gas reduction.

8.1.1 Service Areas

- Parks and Horticulture
- Park Features
- Trails
- Sports Fields
- Sports Courts
- Outdoor Recreation
- Natural Areas and Urban Forestry
- Cemeteries



8.1.2 Service Delivery

The City owns and maintains 192 parks covering 842.8 hectares, which is a unique challenge in BC's largest municipality by land area. City parks such as Mill Lake Park,

Abbotsford Exhibition Park, and Albert Dyck Memorial Park attract many recreation and sport users and spectators, contributing to tourism, economic development, and quality-of-life experiences.

The City is directly involved in a wide range of service delivery activities related to parks, trails, and outdoor amenities, including planning, budgeting, design, maintenance, operations, booking, programming, and permitting. The City liaises with interest groups and park users, including community groups, sport groups, and special event organizers. Park design may be completed by City staff or in consultation with external consultants.

Increasingly, innovative public-private partnerships are supporting park renewal efforts, sponsorships for special events, and sport tourism with Abbotsford Tourism. Private operators partner with the City to provide outdoor sports and recreation activities such as wakeboarding and a private outdoor preschool. A not-for-profit society operates the Ledgeview Golf Club, an 18-hole championship course owned by the City. The City works closely with the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) as Sumas Mountain Interregional Park is managed by the FVRD.

8.1.2.1 Strategic Partnerships

Parks and the many activities that take place within them are delivered or supported through numerous partnerships, which include formal agreements, coordination, and collaboration on specific projects. The following are some of the strategic partners that Abbotsford currently works with:

- Abbotsford Community Foundation
- Abbotsford School District
- Abbotsford-Mission Nature Club
- Abbotsford Community Services
- Gurmat Centre
- Communities in Bloom Working Group
- Metro Vancouver Parks
- Nature groups
- Sports groups
- Vancouver Community Foundation
- Fraser Health Authority

- Abbotsford News
- Abbotsford Division of Family Practice
- Pacific Sport Fraser Valley
- University of the Fraser Valley
- Abbotsford Sport Council

8.1.3 Community Development

The City conducts a significant amount of outreach with community organizations, sports organizations, and user groups. The support services provided by the City include allocation, booking, access to facilities, and addressing the unique needs of each group. The City also supports local groups involved in conservation and education projects. Some marketing is devoted to these initiatives.

Collaboration with recreation and sport community partners supports opportunities in parks for soccer, baseball, track and field, BMX, waterskiing, and wakeboarding, to name only a few. The City's partnership with Abbotsford School District allows access to school sports fields after the school day and the majority of school vacation days.

Abbotsford has a number of successful community development initiatives delivered through partnerships, including the TD Streets and Tree program, environmental stewardship initiatives with organizations such as Willband Nature Club and Salmon Enhancement Society, and Little Free Libraries.

Community development opportunities are communicated to the public through the seasonal PRC program guide and supplemented with information on the City App, City of Abbotsford website, and park brochures and trail maps.

8.1.3.1 Parks Volunteer Programs

In 2017, nearly 3,000 volunteers, some representing clubs, groups, organizations, and local businesses, contributed to the following programs:

- Adopt a Park/Trail
- Adopt a Street
- One-time guided beautifications
- Corporate volunteering and clean-ups
- Community Clean-Up Week
- Partnerships with Abbotsford School District

8.1.4 Plans, Policies, and Studies

The City has several foundational plans in place that serve to support the Parks Division. The key plans, policies, and studies related to the delivery of parks services are the following:

- Trail Strategy
- Urban Forest Strategy
- Cemetery Plan
- Park Features Policy
- Fees and Charges Bylaw
- Development Cost Charges Bylaw
- Allocation Policy
- Zoning Bylaw
- Tree Protection Bylaw
- Development Bylaw
- Cemetery Bylaw
- Parks Bylaw

The City is also included in the Fraser Valley Regional District's regional park planning services.

8.1.5 Issues and Opportunities

Patrons often look for a number of convenience and comfort amenities in parks and along trails, such as treed areas, benches, picnic tables, shade structures, waste receptacles, change rooms, and washrooms (either permanent or temporary). There is also significant interest in improving signage throughout the park and trail system, including wayfinding, regulatory, and interpretive signs. Consideration for municipal investment may be strategically directed to parks that are intended to function as premier destinations for gatherings and events, and to major multi-use trail routes.

- **Park Updating**—Parks continually require updating to serve the growing population and changing expectations. Park spaces that are flexible in design and well maintained support diverse uses. Public spaces should be inviting, accessible, bright, safe, and designed on a human scale

- **Maintenance Levels**—Upholding consistent maintenance levels and response times is a challenge due to the extensive park system and large geographic area. While staff strives to meet these needs, resources are sometimes insufficient. It is essential that funding for maintenance be established when new parks are developed. There may also be opportunities to improve monitoring in parks to improve safety and compliance with bylaws
- **Operating Agreements and Collaboration**—Abbotsford's residents benefit from a number of quality parks, fields and natural areas, and other properties where strategic partnerships advance park interests. In the future, the City may wish to explore partnerships and renewal of agreements to ensure that capital and/or operating costs are shared, given the importance placed by residents on parks. The Joint Use Agreement between the City of Abbotsford and Abbotsford School District is an example of an agreement that needs to be reviewed and updated to reflect current and future use
- **Volunteer Changes**—Many communities are facing changing volunteer dynamics, including more volunteering by youth and young adults rather than older adults, and preferences for shorter-term commitments. This increases volunteer coordination work as more frequent training is required due to volunteer turnover
- **Outreach Funding**—Many of the City's outreach programs are supported by grant funding. This affects program stability and puts pressures on staff to pursue grants
- **People Experiencing Homelessness**—As the housing and homelessness crisis intensifies in the Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley Regions, parks in Abbotsford have become an option for people seeking shelter. City staff engages with those experiencing homelessness and partner with community organizations to assist with issues of safety and security; it requires services to maintain safety and cleanliness in parks and to ensure the Parks Bylaw is enforced, balancing the needs for shelter and community recreation
- **Plans, Policies, and Studies**—Several Plans, Policies and Studies require updating to align with current practices

8.2 Parks and Horticulture

Parks provide innumerable opportunities for residents to gather and socialize, play games and sports, and be close to nature. The distribution, quantity and design of parks play a critical role in offering quality of life to residents. This service area also includes a diverse range of horticultural activities, including maintaining boulevards, medians, and plant beds. The City works in partnerships on initiatives such as Communities in Bloom and hanging baskets in the Historic Downtown neighbourhood. Parkland also supports the Engineering Department with stormwater quality and quantity and the economic vitality of the community, especially during the rainy seasons.

8.2.1 Background Research

8.2.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- New parks—Albert Dyck Memorial Park, Simon Park, Shadbolt Park, and others
- Park enhancements—International Friendship Garden, Civic Centre, Berry Park, Ten Broek Park, and others
- Completion of inventory of watercourses and other environmentally sensitive areas
- Installation of viewing facilities for astronomers at McDonald Park
- Improved collaboration among Parks, Engineering, and Planning departments

8.2.1.2 Asset Inventory

The City uses the parks and open space classification system defined in the 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This system has been reviewed and updated to meet present needs.

Park Classification	Standard	Description
City-wide Parks	1 ha per 1,000 population	• Draw visitors from the entire city
Major Destination Parks		• Centred around features that are unique in the city o May be natural features such as Mill Lake Park o May be built features such as historic

Park Classification	Standard	Description
		artifacts or buildings, specialized activities, etc. • Offer a range of facilities and activities • Draw the general public who travel specifically to spend time in the park
Athletic Parks		• Have major athletic facilities that draw players from the entire city, region, province or nation • Regularly used for tournaments and other sports-related events
Urban Parks		• Located in the urban centres • Provide seating and gathering spaces • Include features such as ornamental plantings and art that establish a landscape character for the core area • Distinct from neighbourhood and community parks in that play equipment is not typically included
Community Parks	1 ha per 1,000 population	• Optimal size between 4 and 8 ha • Generally serve the catchment area of a secondary school, or about three to five neighbourhoods • Typically include sports fields and/or ball diamonds, fieldhouse/washroom building, playground(s), walkways or trails, and parking lot(s) • Meant to form the visual, physical, and social focus of the community
Neighbourhood Parks	1.4 ha per 1,000 population	• Optimal size between 2 and 4 ha • Generally serve the catchment area of an elementary school, or a population between 2,000 and 4,000 • Typically include play equipment, hard court, pathways, open grass, and seating • Meant to form the visual, physical, and social focus of the neighbourhood

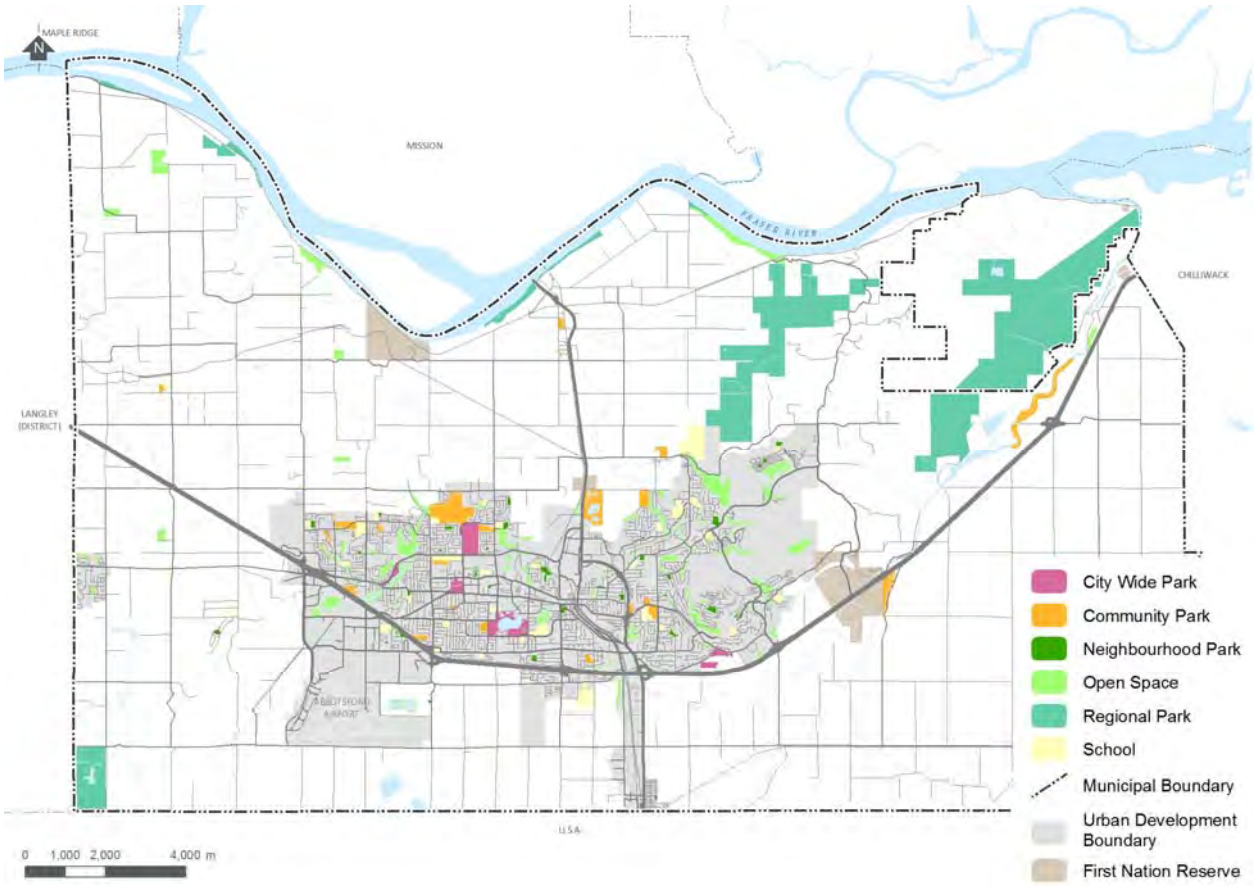
Park Classification	Standard	Description
		• In many cases, portions of secondary or elementary school sites serve as neighbourhood parks
Open Space/ Plaza	No numeric standard	• Several types of property are included in this category: o Small maintained properties that do not meet the criteria for neighbourhood parks (e.g., small open grass area) o Public cemeteries o Public golf course o Public plazas o Urban centres

Table 4- Abbotsford Park Classifications

Abbotsford owns and maintains 192 parks and open spaces totalling 842.8 ha. In 2016, the City's successful street tree planting program resulted in 1,421 new trees. Within the city, there are also 47 public school and post-secondary open spaces occupying over 100 ha and four regional parks totally 1,660 ha.

PARK OR OPEN SPACE TYPE	NUMBER	TOTAL HECTARES
City-wide Parks	6	103.9
Community Parks	22	227.1
Neighbourhood Parks	48	38.2
Open Space (incl. cemeteries)	116	473.6
Total City Parkland	**192**	**842.8**

Table 5: Number of Park Types in Abbotsford



Map 3: Abbotsford Park Distribution

8.2.1.3 Programming

Parks host many informal activities. The City offers park programs such as day camps, and private groups can acquire permits to run outdoor fitness classes or to film in parks. Unsanctioned uses, such as commercial dog walking and private fitness classes without permits, also occur. In 2017, the City competed in the Communities in Bloom competition and was awarded the '4 Blooms' rating with special mention for the International Friendship Garden from the British Columbia Communities in Bloom program, as well as a Criteria Award for outstanding effort in the special Communities in Bloom Canada 150 category. The Communities in Bloom program inspires communities, including municipal government, residents and businesses to enhance and sustain the visual appeal of neighbourhoods, public spaces, parks and streetscapes through the imaginative use of regionally-appropriate plants and landscaping, with attention to environmental stewardship, and to preserve heritage and cultural assets.

8.2.1.4 Community Development

The City offers volunteering opportunities in parks and engages many not- for-profit and corporate partners in park stewardship and Communities in Bloom. The volunteers who contribute to parks make a positive impact in the community.

8.2.2 Analysis

8.2.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

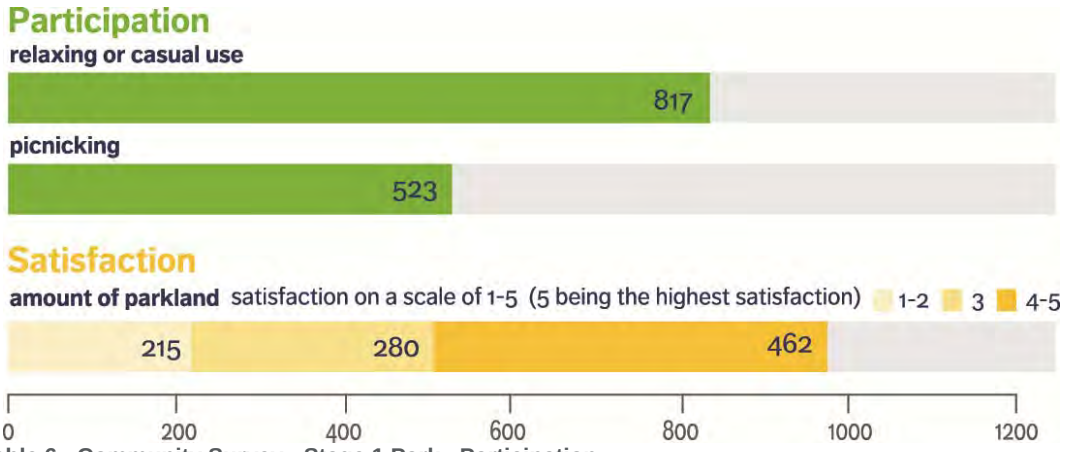


Table 6 - Community Survey - Stage 1 Park - Participation

Community input showed that parks are a source of pride for residents and a valuable resource to the community. A significant proportion of survey respondents visited parks for relaxing or casual use and there was high satisfaction with the amount of parkland available in Abbotsford.

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- More parks to support population growth
- Improved safety and response to socioeconomic issues
- Improved accessibility in parks
- Appreciation for the extensive and diverse parks

8.2.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's supply of active parkland was compared with other communities. Abbotsford has a lower ratio of city-wide and community parkland, and higher

neighbourhood parkland compared to other communities. Developed parkland is less than that of neighbouring communities. School grounds are not included in the analysis as they are not controlled by the City and do not provide access during all hours.

PARK TYPE	ABBOTSFORD STANDARD	2005	2017	200K**	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Community –wide (103.9 ha)	1.0	0.72	0.74	0.52	1.21*
Community (227.1 ha)	1.0	1.10	1.61	1.14	0.80*
Neighbourhood (38.2 ha)	1.4	0.24	0.27	0.19	0.67*
Total (369.2)	3.4	2.07	2.62	1.85	2.68 (3.10 if Chilliwack is used

*Note that Chilliwack does not use the same park classifications as Abbotsford and other neighbouring communitiea; because of this, Chilliwack was not included in the provision rates for each park type.
**If supply stays the same

Table 7 - Park Type - Community Comparison

8.2.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Research shows that proximity to parks is key to quality of life, health, and longevity
- Population-based parkland supply standards (the number of hectares per 1,000 population) are decreasing in some communities because these standards are harder to achieve with higher population densities
- Quality and functionality of parks are more important than supply standards in dense areas
- Underutilized sites and brownfields (previously developed sites) in urban areas are being redeveloped to public open spaces
- Natural areas with trails are highly valued and are excluded from active parkland counts
- Public engagement is increasingly important to park planning
- Park maintenance and operations is increasingly eco-friendly

8.2.2.4 Spatial Analysis

The spatial analysis is based on target walking distances from parks—five minutes from neighbourhood parks and 10 minutes from community parks. There is a good distribution of parks throughout the urban areas of Abbotsford; almost all areas are within a 10-minute walk of a community parks, and most areas are within a 5-minute walk of a neighbourhood park. There are some gaps in the availability of neighbourhood parks in the east and central parts of the city. Rural areas generally do not have access to parks within walking distance, reflective of large property sizes and agricultural uses in these areas.

8.2.3 Issues and Opportunities

8.2.3.1 Accessibility

Accessibility to and within parks is very important to the community. Through coordinating the Trail Strategy with transportation planning, there are opportunities to improve access to parks. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Universal Design Principles, and inclusive and flexible features in parks can make everyone feel more welcome and comfortable.

8.2.4 Long-Term Directions

8.2.4.1 Service Delivery

- Work with Transportation Department to improve access to parks, specifically walking, biking and transit
- Use CPTED and Universal Design Principles for park design and development
- Design parks to be inclusive and to respond to emerging needs
- Design flexible, multi-use and multi-dimensional facilities that can be used for different activities throughout the year to maximize the limited park space available (e.g. multi-use courts can serve as ice pads and incorporate public art into splash parks)

8.2.4.2 Community Development

- Involve the community in the planning and design of new parks, and in major park upgrading projects

8.2.4.3 Policies, Plans & Studies

- Update population-based parkland supply standards for active parks, i.e., city, community and neighbourhood parks into plans and studies resulting from the PRC Master Plan and Plan 200K

8.2.4.4 Capital Projects

- Consider the following option: developing new parks as they are established, potentially with contributions from developers
- The Mill Lake Park acquisition and development plan is based on the 2013 Mill Lake Park Master Plan with properties and functions identified for future development
- Civic Precinct Park redesign will occur to enhance pedestrian traffic, special events, and wayfinding
- East-side Parks and Youth Park developments will occur to meet the needs of the McKee Neighbourhood Plan and will include sport courts, skate parks, etc.
- Neighbourhood Plan and will include sport courts, skate parks, etc.
- 2 new neighbourhood parks, Erratic Park (west) and Timberlane (east)
- 7 open space plazas – 2 City Centre, 2 Historic Downtown, 1 UDistrict, 2 East Abbotsford
- 15 Neighbourhood Parks – 8 in established areas (Erratic, South Clearbrook, Timberlane/Boley, Whatcom N, 3 Viccaro Ranch, and Dawson in East Abbotsford,) 7 in new neighbourhoods (2 at Straiton, 2 South Auguston, East Ledgeview, Ledgeview Slope, Bassani South)
- 2 Community Parks – 1 Upper McMillan, 1 Auguston
- 3 City-Wide Parks – 1 McKee, 1 Special Study, 1 Matsqui

8.2.4.5 Land Acquisition

- Work with Planning Department to have city, community and neighbourhood parks designated in neighbourhood plans.

8.2.4.6 Plans, Policies and Studies

- Update population-based parkland supply standards for active parks, i.e., city, community and neighbourhood parks.

8.3 Park Features

Park features are the amenities and structures in parks that make them enjoyable to use, expanding opportunities for sports, play and leisure. The following amenities are considered in this section:

- Playgrounds
- Spray parks
- Picnic shelters
- Play Boxes
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Washrooms
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Free Little Libraries
- Community gardens

8.3.1 Background Research

8.3.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- New playgrounds built and play areas upgraded, including accessible features
- New spray parks at Mill Lake Park and Shadbolt Park plus a small water feature at J.A. Spud Murphy Park
- More picnic shelters
- Relocation of horseshoes to Mill Lake Park

8.3.1.2 Asset Inventory

The City has many park amenities and has a process to respond to community interests, e.g., providing many picnic shelters based on demand, and introducing creative Play Boxes and Free Little Libraries. The City's park features are distributed throughout Abbotsford.

PARK FEATURE	AMOUNT
Playgrounds	71
Picnic Shelters	27
Free Little Libraries	4
Live 5210 Play Boxes	3
Spray Parks	2
Water Features	1

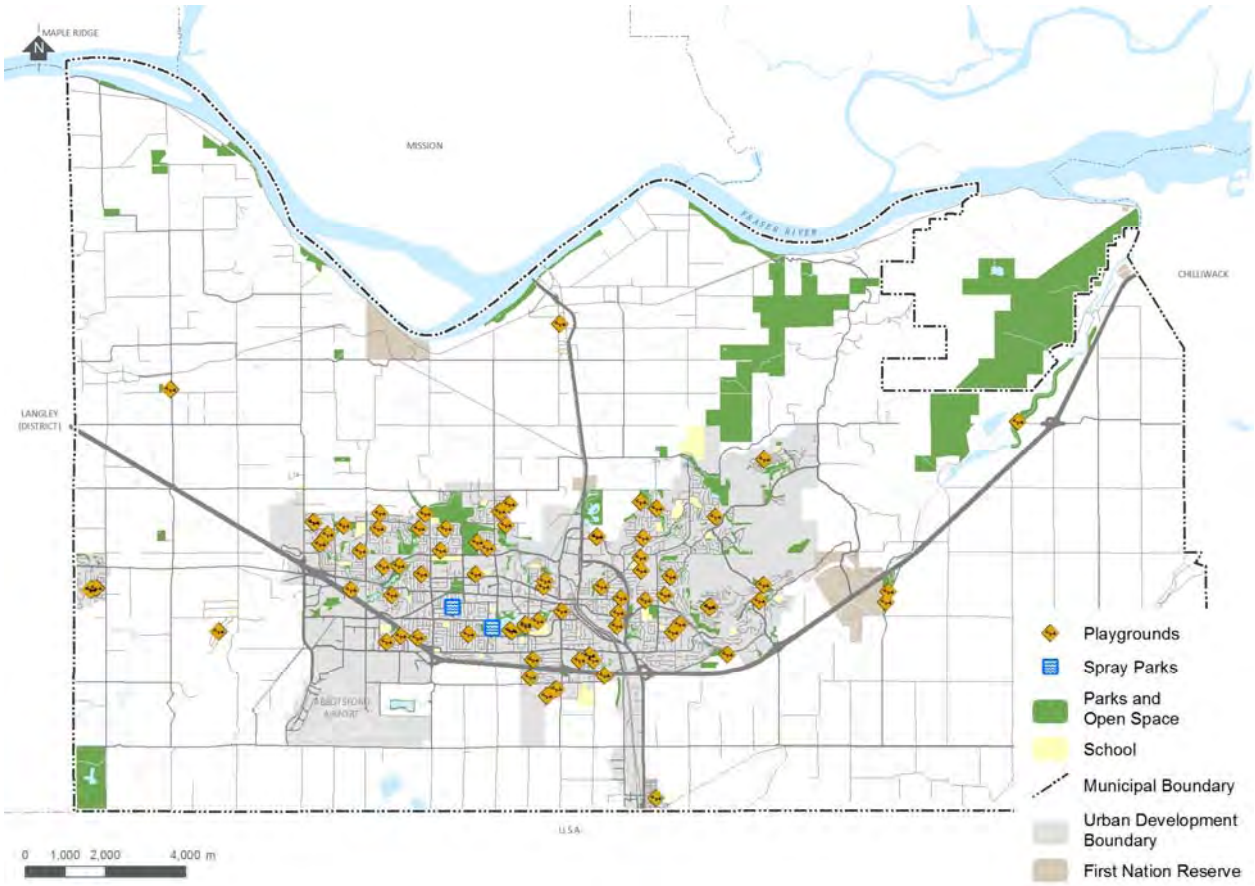
Table 8 -Asset Inventory - Park Features

Playgrounds and Spray Parks

There are 71 playgrounds maintained by the City throughout Abbotsford. There are also two spray parks located at J.A. Spud Murphy Park and Mill Lake Park.

Playground Classification	Description	Playgrounds
Type A	• Installed in last 5 years • Compliant to 2007 CSA standards • No safety hazards	31
Type B	• Older than 5 years • Compliant to 2007 CSA standards • Showing some wear • Minor repairs needed	16
Type C	• Older than 10 years • Compliant to 2007 CSA standards	15
Type D	• Older than 10 years • Non-complaint to 2007 CSA standards • Many hazards and safety concerns • Beyond repair and need to be removed and replaced	9
	Total	**71**

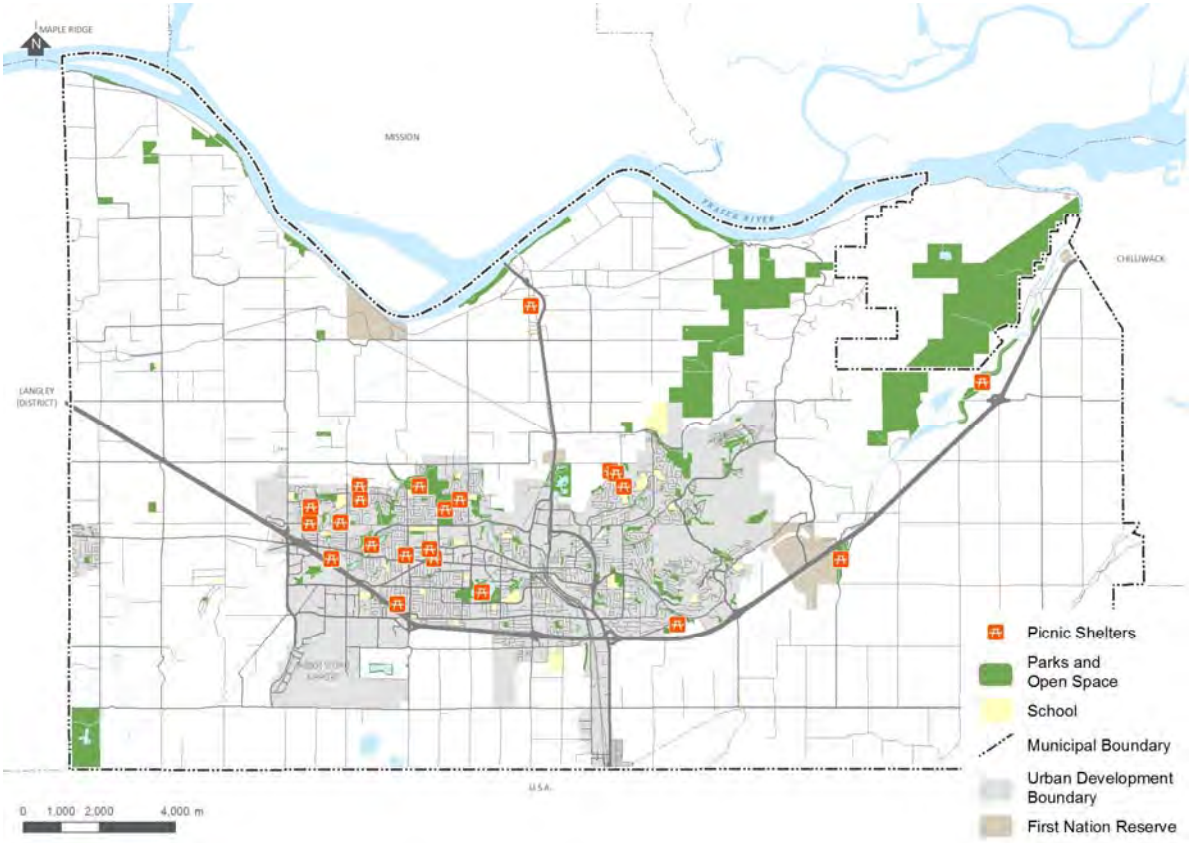
Table 9 - Playground Classification



Map 4: Playground Distribution

Picnic Shelters

There are 27 picnic shelters throughout the City, including seven that can be booked. Picnic shelters are concentrated in the west side of the City where the demand is greatest. They are extremely popular among South Asian community members, who like to gather for socialization during the day at these sites. This is a growing trend in west Abbotsford community and neighbourhood parks and there are demands for more park features in the area.



Map 5: Picnic Shelter Distribution

Live 5210 Play Boxes

In 2014, the City installed Live 5210 Play Boxes at Grant Park, Berry Park, and Pepin Brook Park. These lockable boxes hold toys and sports equipment that local children can borrow free of charge once their care-givers request the codes.

Free Little Libraries

The City also maintains “free little libraries” in the following four parks:

- Dave Kandal Park
- DeLair Park
- Mill Lake Park
- Saddle Park

8.3.1.3 Programming

Most park features are available to the public at all times and, to-date, the requests for programming are minimal. Non-profits partner with the City to manage the community garden. There may be opportunities to program some group use of outdoor fitness equipment, but this would need to be balanced with free public access.

Park space and picnic shelters are available to book. The City also rents volleyball, bocce ball, and croquet equipment for the public to use in parks.

8.3.2 Analysis

8.3.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

Visiting a playground was the most common use of a park feature by survey respondents. There was high satisfaction with park and play amenities.

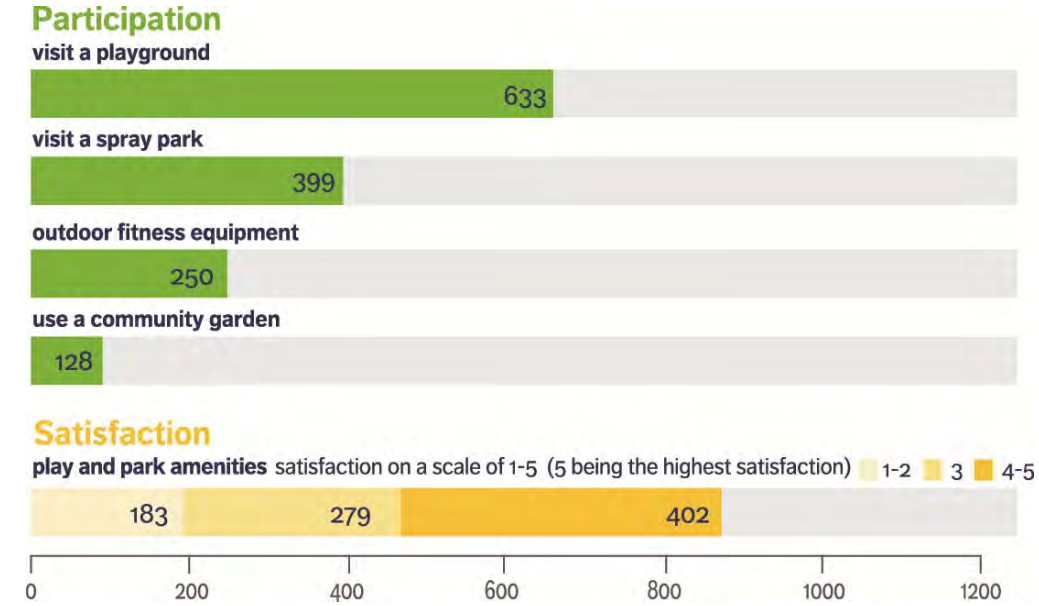


Figure 11: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Participation & Satisfaction - Park Features

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- More spray parks and community gardens
- Update playgrounds with innovative creative and/or natural elements during lifecycling
- Appreciation for the many opportunities in Mill Lake Park and other parks
- More supporting amenities, such as washrooms
- New playgrounds in Mill Lake Park and in eastern part of Abbotsford
- More Free Little Libraries in parks

8.3.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's provision of playgrounds, spray parks and picnic shelters were compared with other communities.

Provision Rate

FEATURE TYPE	2005	2017	200K*	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Playgrounds (71)	1 per 2,000	1 per 2,000	1 per 3,000	1 per 3,000
Spray Parks (2)	none	1 per 71,000	1 per 100,000	1 per 31,000
Picnic Shelters (27)	1 per 11,000**	1 per 5,000	1 per 7,000	1 per 37,000

*If supply stays the same

**2005 had 11 picnic shelters.

Table 10: Park Features Provision Rate

Abbotsford provides higher rates of playgrounds and picnic shelters than the average among neighbouring communities, and a much lower provision rate of spray parks. The higher provision rates for playgrounds and picnic shelters are reflective of high community demand.

8.3.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- There is emerging interest in natural and more creative playgrounds, play areas and spray parks, as well as new equipment such as parkour courses
- Community gardens and other forms of urban agriculture are increasingly popular for promoting local food production and social connections
- Communities are investing in higher quality washrooms, site furniture and park amenities

- Outdoor table tennis, foosball, and table games are appearing in parks
- Shade structures and roofs are being placed over outdoor spaces and play features
- Public art is being integrated into the design of park features
- Sports and play equipment boxes or lending systems, which can make it easier for children to be active and play sports, are being placed in or near parks

8.3.2.4 Spatial Analysis

Abbotsford provides a distribution of playgrounds throughout the urban areas of the city, and some in the rural areas as well. Playground supply is insufficient in the east side of the city. As this area grows, it will be important to provide more playgrounds as these are a basic amenity. The City's two spray parks are close to each other and future development will look consider broader distribution. Picnic shelters are concentrated in the west side of the city based on demand.

8.3.3 Issues and Opportunities

8.3.3.1 Supply of Park Features

There are a number of park features either in low supply or lacking in specific locations. There is a low supply of spray parks compared to other communities. There is a low distribution of playgrounds in downtown Abbotsford and on the east side of the city. Other features desired by residents include more community gardens, more support amenities such as washrooms and bike racks, new playgrounds in Mill Lake Park, and more Little Free Libraries.

8.3.3.2 Playground Design

There have been many new trends in playground design that are not reflected in the current inventory, such as innovative play features and natural elements.

8.3.4 Long-Term Directions

8.3.4.1 Service Delivery

- Review needs annually for park features based on evolving community demand, and new and trending amenities
- Integrate innovative and/or natural elements in new and updated playgrounds
- Review addition and placement of more spray parks

8.3.4.2 Community Development

- Work with community partners to expand provision of community gardens and Little Free Libraries

8.3.4.3 Capital Projects

- 7 washrooms to be constructed over 5 years
- Consider the following options for additional park features to fill gaps and meet needs as part of park development and life-cycling
- playgrounds downtown and in east Abbotsford
- additional spray parks
- support amenities such as benches, picnic tables, shade structures, waste receptacles, toilets, bike racks, and change rooms at parks and along trails based on use and needs



8.4 Trails

Trails are one of the most popular outdoor amenities in Abbotsford per community input. They offer numerous opportunities for informal activities and are well used by people walking, hiking, running, and cycling. People enjoy trails because they can be used for no cost at any time, and because they offer diverse experiences of the natural environment. Many residents also use trails for active transportation.

8.4.1 Background Research

8.4.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- Development of Discovery Trail
- Improved connections between paths, trails, and designated roadways
- Expansion of trail maps
- Collaboration among Parks, Engineering, and Planning departments to improve active transportation routes
- Environmental and heritage protection at Straiton and Clayburn Creek trails

The City of Abbotsford maintains 276 km of trails, ranging from paved multi-use trails through the urban area to rustic nature trails in natural areas.

The tables below summarize the types of trails managed by the City and the supply of each type.

Trail Type	Description
Multi-use	Asphalt paved or gravel paths that are 3.0 m to 5.0 m wide; accommodate a range of activities and users, including wheelchairs, strollers, bicycles, skateboards, and rollerblades
Recreation	Gravel surfaced trails that are 1.0 m to 4.0 m wide, with grades between flat to 15 percent; designed for pedestrians and cyclists
Nature	Rustic trails through natural areas that are on average less than 1.5 m wide; suitable for hikers, trail runners and low-speed off-road cycling

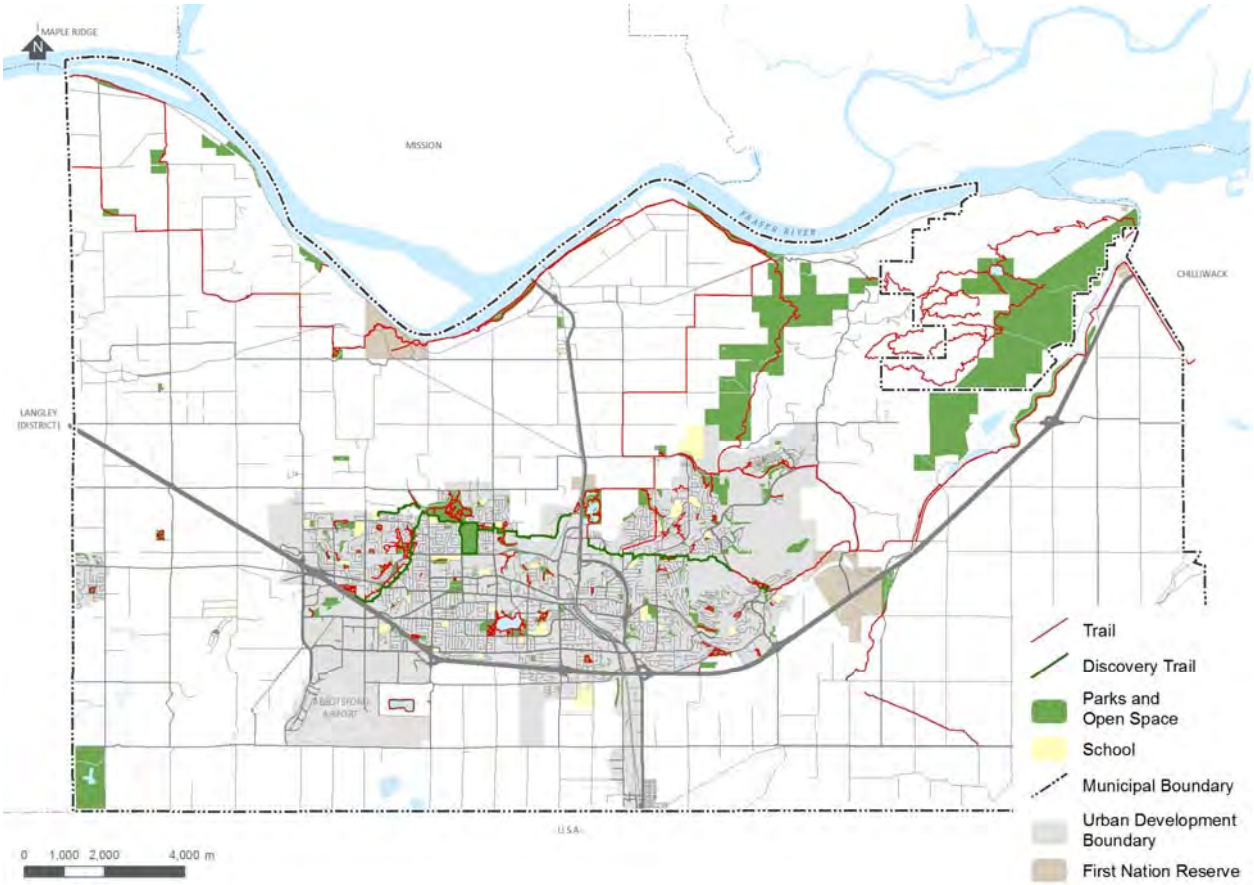
Table 11: Trail Type Descriptions

TYPE	KM
Multi-use Paved	31.4
Multi-use Gravel	53.5
Nature	12.3
Recreation	102.1
Unclassified	76.7
Total	**276**

Table 12: Trail Type Supply

In addition, there are 138 km of regional trails as follows:

- Trans Canada Trail (the Great Trail) (~85km)
- Matsqui Dyke Trail (~9.4km)
- Sumas Mountain Trails (~31km)
- Regional Park (~7km)
- Other (~6km)



Map 6: Trail Distribution

The Transportation Master Plan identifies that promoting walking is one of the top priorities for Abbotsford's transportation future. Recreational opportunities such as the Discovery Trail, Mill Lake Park and other parks and green spaces attract people walking for relaxation or exercise. Mixed land uses and high densities planned for the City Centre and other centres identified in the OCP will encourage walking for social and business purposes. Walking accounts for just over 4% of all trips made by Abbotsford residents and approximately 2.7% of all commute trips to work or school. Working with Transportation, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan aims to support trails and connectivity to ensure walking is an attractive option for travel to major community facilities by enhancing the pedestrian character near key destinations including School, Park, and Recreation Centre Pedestrian Priority Areas.

8.4.1.2 Programming

Programming of trails includes volunteer stewardship, education partnerships with Abbotsford School District, and special events. Some private or non-profit groups may organize group walks, hikes, and runs. There are opportunities for increasing the use of trails for fitness programs and events, and for active transportation through the integration of bike routes, sidewalks, and multi-use pathways.

8.4.1.3 Community Development

The City has had some productive partnerships in the development of trails, exemplified in Discovery Trail. Various community groups also help to support trails through stewardship initiatives.

8.4.2 Analysis

8.4.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

Walking, hiking, and jogging had the highest participation of any outdoor or indoor activity among survey respondents. Walking and biking paths had the highest satisfaction among outdoor amenities. The City's development of the Discovery Trail was praised by many engagement participants.

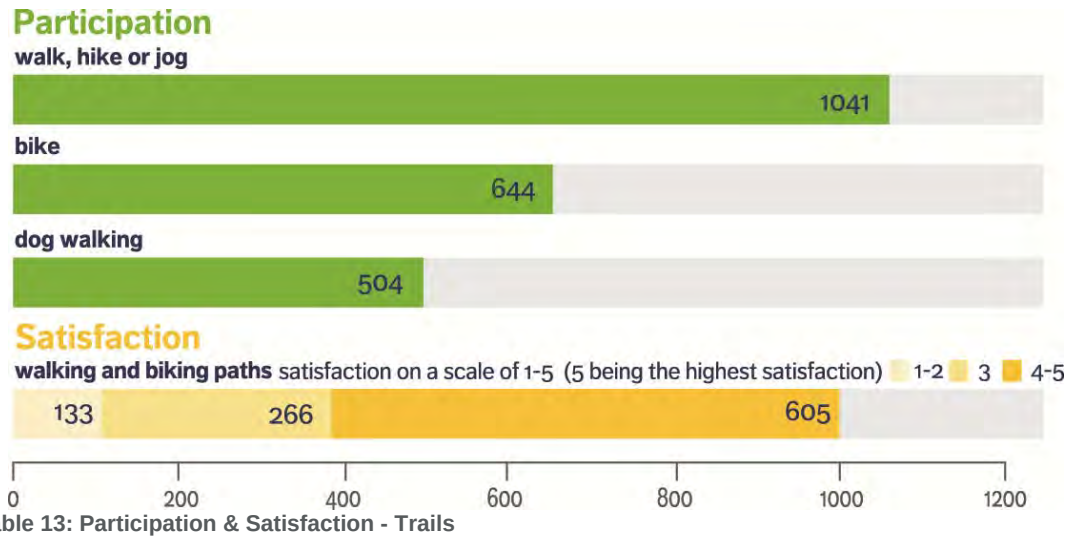


Table 13: Participation & Satisfaction - Trails

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- High praise for the trail system, particularly Discovery Trail
- More trail connections
- More bike paths
- Improved maintenance of paths and trails
- More amenities such as garbage cans, lighting, and signage on trails
- Improved safety of trails and bike paths
- Concerns regarding encroachment by residents on natural areas
- More dogs off-leash access on trails and concerns regarding dog off-leash enforcement

8.4.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

The neighbouring communities did not include a comparison of trail networks because of how dependent this amenity is on land area and geography within each municipality.

8.4.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Communities are prioritizing active transportation, multi-use trails, and trail connections between neighbourhoods, civic facilities, retail areas, and parks
- Wider trails and paving improve opportunities for pedestrians with mobility challenges and cyclists

- Supportive amenities such as benches, directional and interpretive signs, garbage cans, water fountains, and washrooms are being provided in larger quantities

8.4.2.4 Spatial Analysis

Abbotsford has a range of trail options, including shorter urban trails and longer trails in rural and natural areas. There is a lack of connectivity among some of the urban trails.

8.4.3 Issues and Opportunities

8.4.3.1 Trail Connectivity

There is a lack of connectivity between trails, and between some of the trails and on-road bike routes, making it difficult to travel throughout the city using the trail system. Adding some key links is an outstanding opportunity to improve connectivity. Residents would also like to see more amenities along trails, such as washrooms, waste receptacles, and benches.

8.4.3.2 Dog Management

Dog management along trails is a challenge. There is demand for designated dog off-leash trails, and some dog owners are already using trails for this purpose, though this is not sanctioned. With more opportunities for everyone, and more monitoring, these challenges can be addressed.

8.4.3.3 Trail Condition

Some trails are aging and show signs of deterioration. Improving these conditions can enhance participation and safety.

8.4.3.4 Future Trails

Various trails in the city pass through private land, and residents are concerned about losing these connections when development occurs. If all trails are mapped as part of development planning, and their values recognized, it should be possible to maintain connectivity through new neighbourhoods.

8.4.4 Long-Term Directions

8.4.4.1 Service Delivery

- Consider designating additional trails or portions of a trail for off-leash dogs, and dog-free trail areas

- Explore ways to improve compliance with dog regulations and dog waste disposal, potentially as part of a Dog Management Strategy in partnership with the Dog Park Working Group
- Work with the Planning and Engineering Departments on the review of trail inventories and route trails through new developments to retain connectivity

8.4.4.2 Policies, Plans & Studies

- Align additional trails and trail connectivity with the updated Transportation Master Plan and Neighbourhood Plans
- Review opportunities to address demand and increasing priority for dog parks in the community, including the need for various types of dog off-leash parks, trails, water access, and agility options within walking distance of most residents
- Update the 2007 Trail Strategy to include improvements to urban trail connections such as Mill Lake Park to Ravine Park; Ravine Park to Jubilee Park; and Jubilee Park to Discovery Trail

8.4.4.3 Capital Projects

- Enhance connectivity to and on the Discovery Trail and continue work to complete the Discovery Trail network
- Construct a Dog off-leash trail on the east-side of Abbotsford
- Annual trail development capital allocation
- Consider the following options:
- adding more trails and linking these with the bicycle network to in collaboration with active transportation plan
- adding amenities along trails such as benches, waste receptacles, washrooms, and lighting (on high use trails)
- upgrading aging trails

8.5 Sports Fields

Quality sports fields are an important amenity for sport and athletic development at all levels. This section summarizes the inventory of sports fields and related amenities in Abbotsford, including the following:

- Ball diamonds
- Soccer fields
- Lacrosse pitches
- Cricket pitches
- Outdoor tracks
- Batting cages
- Rugby pitches
- Football fields
- Lawn Bowling

8.5.1 Background Research

8.5.1.1 Community Development

The City works closely with sports groups and provides support through allocation, booking, providing access to facilities, and addressing user group needs. There is strong ongoing demand from user groups for sports field facilities and the City will continue working to ensure that access is equitable and consistent with the Sport for Life framework.

8.5.1.2 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

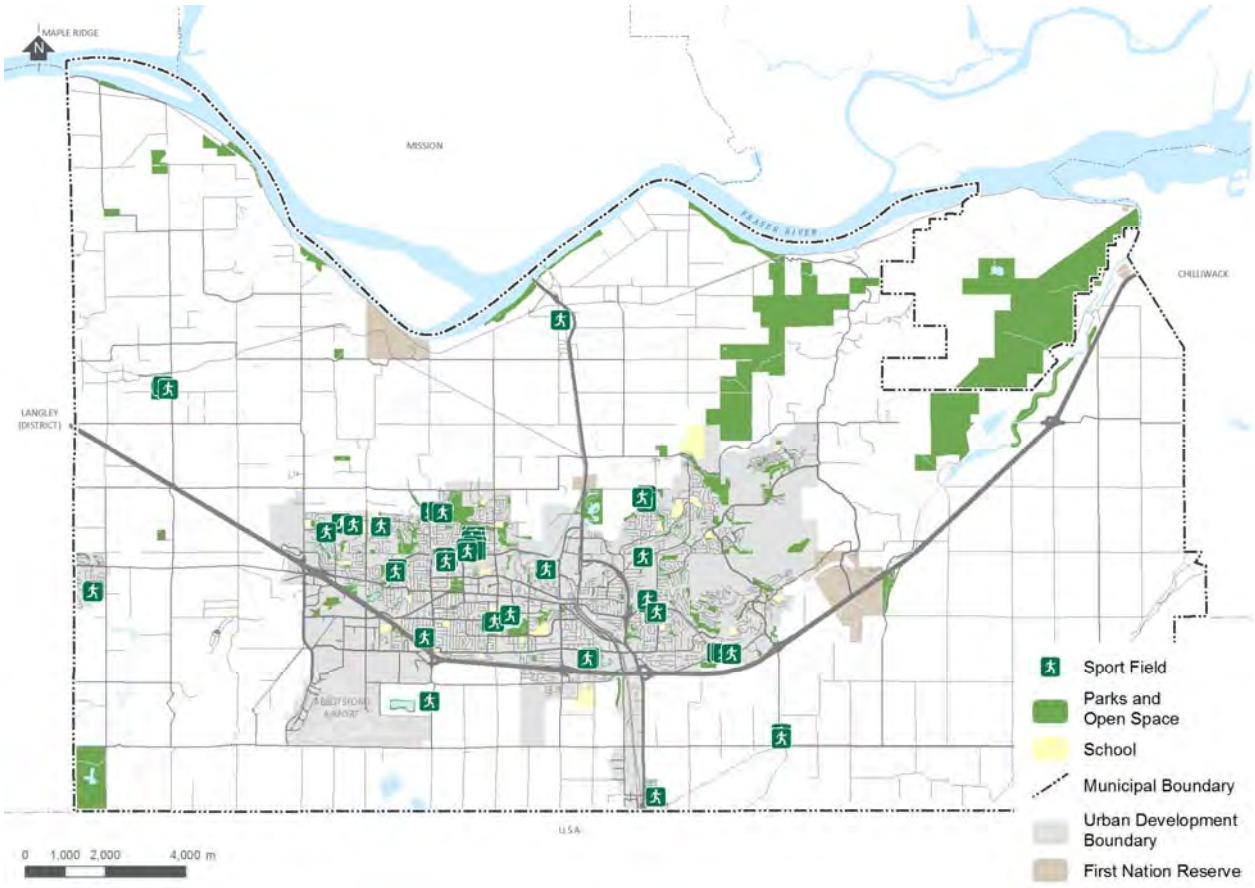
- New artificial turf fields at Matsqui Recreation Centre and Mouat and Abbotsford Senior Secondary Schools
- New sports fields at Berry, Swensson, and Upper Sumas Parks
- New cricket pitch at Bakerview Park

8.5.1.3 Asset Inventory

The City has 52 sports fields that support competitive and casual use. There are two batting cages in City parks, both operated by sports clubs. The City also offers amenities such as spaces for field events and a high-quality track facility. There are also two club-operated batting cages: one in McMillan Park and one in DeLair Park.

SPORTS FIELD TYPE	TOTAL	LIGHTS
Artificial Turf	5	5
Grass	18	7
Slo-pitch/Fastball	12	10
Baseball	8	5
Hybrid	8	0
Total	51	27

Table 14: Asset Inventory - Sports fields



Map 7: Sports Field Distribution

8.5.1.4 Programming

Sports leagues and clubs offer sports programs and training. The City maintains a strong relationship with these groups, provides allocation and booking services, stays informed about programs and trends, and provides high-level guidance and support, e.g., Sport for Life. The City also offers some direct outdoor sports programming.

Over 111,000 players use sports fields in Abbotsford, with soccer being the most prominent, followed by ball sports, rugby, cricket, and field hockey/lacrosse.

8.5.2 Analysis

8.5.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

The community survey showed significant use of sports fields, and somewhat lower use of ball diamonds. Satisfaction with sports fields was lower than for other outdoor recreation amenities, though there were many comments of appreciation for the artificial turf fields.

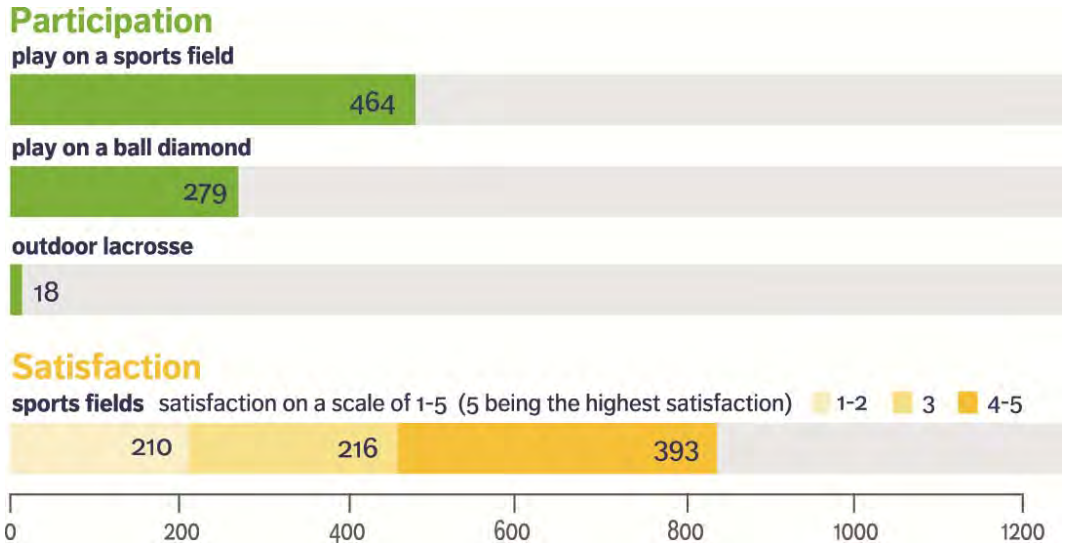


Figure 15: Participation & Satisfaction - Sports Fields

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- High praise for artificial turf fields
- Additional multi-sport tournament facilities
- More and clustered ball diamonds
- More sports fields for population growth, including soccer, rugby, and football
- Improved maintenance of sports fields

8.5.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's supply of sports fields was compared with other communities.

FIELD TYPE	2005	2017	200K*	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Multi-purpose outdoor stadium with spectator seating	1 per 123,000	1 per 141,000	1 per 200,000	1 per 124,000
Artificial Turf Fields (5)	None	1 per 28,000	1 per 40,000	1 per 31,000
Batting Cages (2)	None	1 per 71,000	1 per 100,000	1 per 67,000
Locations for field events (1)	None	1 per 141,000	1 per 200,000	1 per 135,000
Sports Fields (30)**	1 per 6,000***	1 per 5,000	1 per 7,000	1 per 4,000
Ball Diamonds (19)	1 per 7,000****	1 per 7,000	1 per 11,000	1 per 3,000

*If supply remains the same

**This total includes grass soccer fields, all-weather fields, and hybrid fields

***In 2005 there were 20 sports fields

**** In 2005 there were 18 ball diamonds

Table 16: Comparative Communities - Sports Fields

Abbotsford's provision of sports fields and related amenities is generally lower than the average among neighbouring communities. However, the City provides a high supply and quality of artificial turf fields.

8.5.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Sport for Life is being incorporated into outdoor sports programming
- Artificial turf is in high demand and soccer is very popular
- Communities are improving amenities, such as washrooms and seating, that enhance spectators' experience.
- Some communities are investing in tournament hosting opportunities as part of economic development.
- Some communities are working to retain informal opportunities on fields

- Field and box lacrosse are increasing in popularity
- Slo-pitch continues to be popular among adults
- Cricket and Ultimate Frisbee are gaining popularity in some areas, and pop culture is influencing interest in sports and activities, e.g., Quidditch

8.5.2.4 Spatial Analysis

Sports fields are located throughout the urban area; however, there are few in the east part of Abbotsford where residential growth is planned. Residents will travel some distance to high-performance sports fields and tracks, but basic sports fields should be well-distributed throughout the city, ideally within walking distance or a short drive from all residents.

Residents from neighbourhood communities likely travel to Abbotsford to use premium sports fields, to participate in sports leagues, and for competitions. Abbotsford residents may travel to neighbouring communities for similar purposes.

8.5.3 Issues and Opportunities

8.5.3.1 Supply of Sports Fields

The demand for sports fields is high and as the City grows, booking demands will increase, especially for prime-time access (after school, summer holidays, statutory holidays and weekends). There are relatively few sports fields on the east side of Abbotsford, which will need to be addressed as the population in this area grows. Options for new fields are being explored as there are insufficient baseball fields to meet demand and limited in sufficient clusters to host tournaments.

8.5.3.2 Multi-sport Centre

Abbotsford's sports groups would like to see a multi-sport tournament centre with multiple co-located sports fields and baseball diamonds, to increase the opportunity for tournaments to be hosted in Abbotsford. The feasibility of this is dependent on what facilities are provided in neighbouring communities.

8.5.3.3 Maintenance of Sports Fields

Various comments were received from the public related to maintenance levels on sports fields. It is possible that these comments are related to school fields that receive lower levels of maintenance than city fields.

8.5.4 Long-Term Directions

8.5.4.1 Community Development

- Explore funding options to support a multi-sport outdoor tournament facility

8.5.4.2 Policies, Plans & Studies

An analysis of Abbotsford's sports field provision shows a growing demand for improving number, types, and amenities including field houses, to meet the City's needs. An outcome of this plan will be to explore the supply, location, maintenance, and potential clustering in order to meet needs and growing interests of the sporting community and economic impacts from a multi-sport tournament centre

- Update the 2012 Sports Field Development Strategy

8.5.4.3 Capital Projects

- Ballfield reconfiguration to meet growing demand
- multi-sport outdoor tournament facility includes sports field, fieldhouse and concession
- Consider the following options:
- more and configured ball diamonds, including clustered fields to meet current and future demands, and regulation changes
- more sports fields to support population growth on the east side, with opportunities for more tournament hosting
- a major multi-sport tournament centre
- additional amenities near sports fields, such as washrooms



8.6 Sport Courts

There are several types of court sports played outdoors in Abbotsford. With easy access to courts, the public can play informally on their own time, or courts can be booked for club or competitive play. Outdoor courts offer people the opportunity to be active while experiencing fresh air and exposure to nature. The following sports courts are discussed in this section:

- Tennis courts
- Pickleball courts
- Basketball courts
- Volleyball courts
- Lacrosse and ball hockey
- Multi-purpose sports courts

8.6.1 Background Research

8.6.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- Implemented process to monitor supply and types of outdoor sport courts
- New volleyball courts in Mill Lake Park and Albert Dyck Memorial Parks
- New pickleball courts in Jubilee Park
- Partner with Bradner Community Group to install Pickleball courts

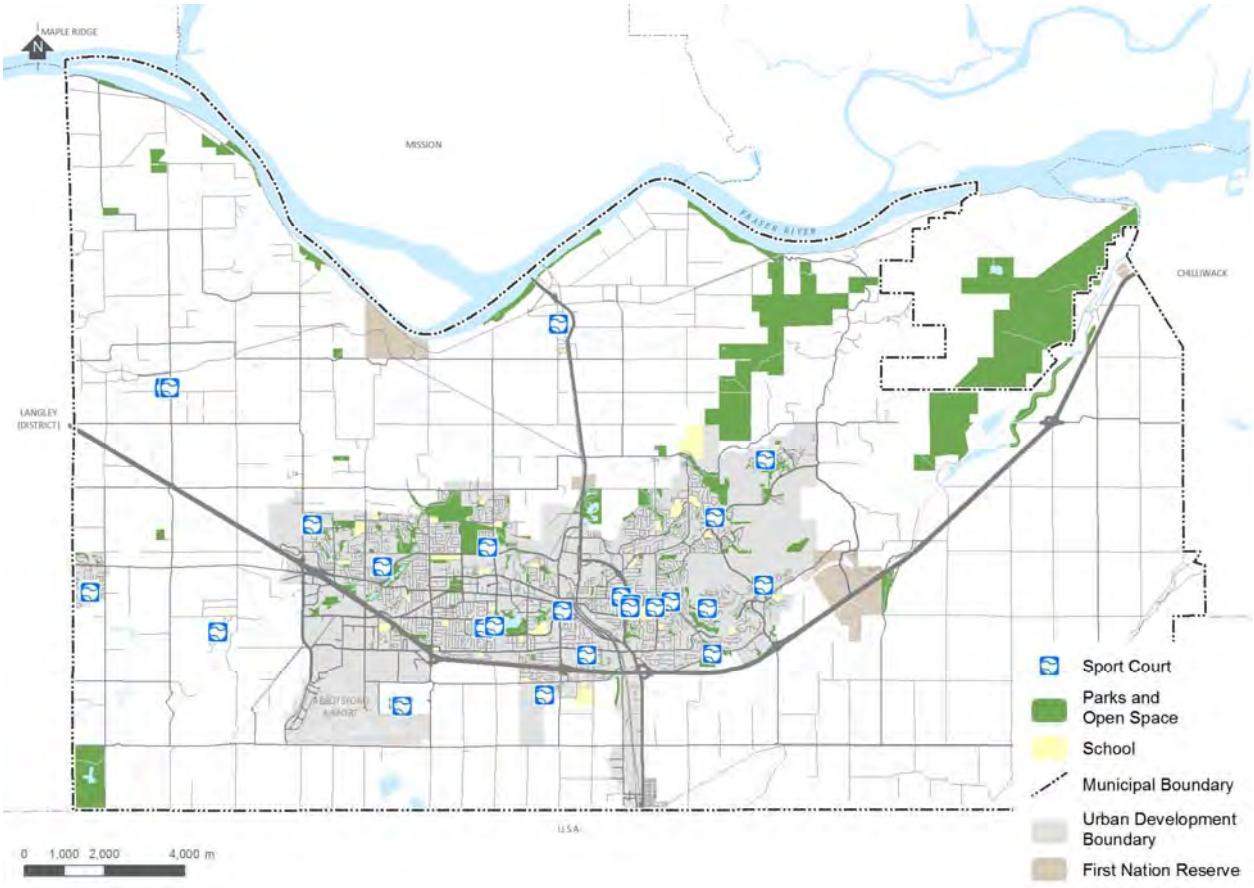
8.6.1.2 Asset Inventory

The City provides outdoor courts that support tennis, pickleball, basketball, beach volleyball, and other activities such as ball hockey, roller hockey, and tricycle/bicycle learning for young children.

TYPE	NUMBER
Tennis	18
Pickleball	8
Basketball	13
Multi-use	11
Beach Volleyball	4

Table 17: Asset Inventory - Sport Courts

There are 6 lit tennis courts.



Map 8: Sport Court Distribution

Sports courts are generally self-programmed or organized through non-profit user groups. Tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts are first-come, first-served. Volleyball courts are first-come, first-served, but can also be reserved for events and regular use.

Based on community engagement input, it appears that the existing supply generally meets the needs of users.

8.6.1.3 Community Development

City maintains contact with key court user groups and these relationships are used to coordinate programs and address concerns.

8.6.2 Analysis

8.6.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

Tennis, pickleball, and basketball are more popular than beach volleyball and roller hockey. The survey did not allow separation of these sports.

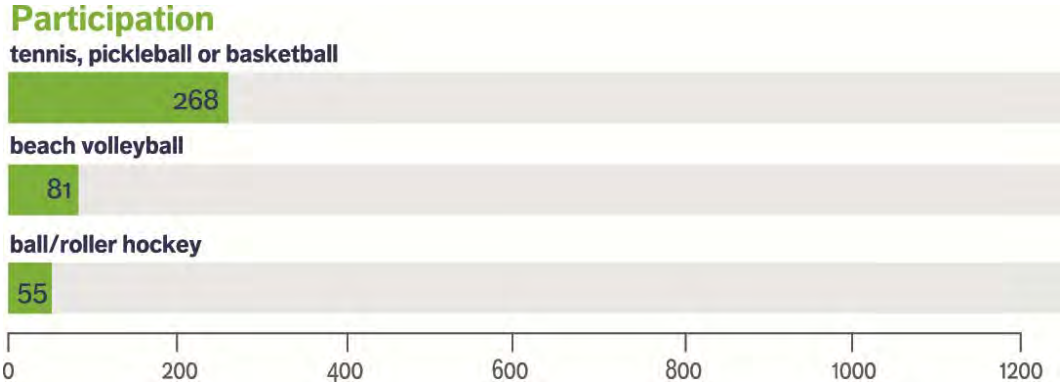


Figure 12: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Participation - Sport Courts

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Few comments received about courts

8.6.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's supply of tennis, pickleball, basketball, and sand volleyball courts was compared with other communities.

FEATURE	2005	2017	200K*	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Tennis courts (18)	1 per 8,000	1 per 8,000	11,000	1 per 5,000
Pickleball courts (8)	None	1 per 18,000	1 per 25,000	1 per 21,000
Basketball courts/sport courts (24)	None	1 per 6,000	1 per 8,000	1 per 8,000
Sand volleyball courts (4)	1 per 33,000	1 per 35,000	1 per 50,000	1 per 44,000

*If supply stays the same
**In 2005, there were 16 tennis courts

Table 18: Comparable Communities - Sport Courts

Abbotsford generally provides a variety of sports courts at a rate that is comparable to the average among neighbouring communities.

8.6.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Pickleball has exploded in popularity across North America
- The popularity of tennis is rebounding after a previous decline
- Intermural volleyball is popular among youth and young adults, as are sand or "beach" volleyball courts
- Multi-use sports courts that accommodate basketball, roller hockey, ball hockey, wheeled activities for toddlers, and sometimes even lacrosse, are being built in many communities, including the addition of covers to allow use in more weather conditions

8.6.2.4 Spatial Analysis

Sports courts are distributed throughout the city. The City's supply is supplemented by courts at Abbotsford School District schools. Tennis courts are also available for public use at a private facility where there are four indoor and five outdoor tennis courts.

8.6.3 Issues and Opportunities

8.6.3.1 Multi-Purpose Courts

Abbotsford's supply of courts is meeting demand. More courts will be needed as the population grows and these will be of the greatest service if they are designed for basketball and other sports. The ability to host sports clubs and tournaments is currently limited due to a lack of clustered courts, so some clustered courts in city or community parks is a future opportunity

8.6.4 Long-Term Directions

8.6.4.1 Capital Projects

- Consider the following options:
- multi-purpose courts (basketball, ball hockey, lacrosse, etc.) in new and upgraded parks, focusing on a good distribution of courts in city and community parks, with one clustered court facility
- tennis, sand volleyball and pickleball courts as needed, with some clustering of courts to support clubs and tournaments

8.7 Outdoor Recreation

Abbotsford is well positioned as a centre for outdoor recreation with its unique natural features and amenities. Outdoor recreation relies on nature as a key component of the activity. Lakes, streams and rivers provide places to fish, canoe, or kayak and mountains and hillsides provide opportunities for hiking, climbing and mountain biking. Abbotsford offers many outdoor recreation activities that enable residents to enjoy the outdoors while participating in a variety of pursuits and learning about nature preservation and environmental stewardship.

The activities discussed in this section include the following:

- Bike parks
- Skateboard parks
- Hiking and mountain biking
- Dog off-leash parks and areas
- Golf course
- Water activities, such as canoeing, wakeboarding, and water-skiing

Some of Abbotsford's amenities are unique, including the large BMX track, Ledgeview Golf Course, and water activities. The City is also endowed with excellent natural assets to capitalize on growing interest in outdoor recreation and adventure and eco-tourism.

8.7.1 Background Research

8.7.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- Developed MRC skateboard park
- Built three new dog off-leash areas and established a dog-park working group
- Upgraded and added new dog off-leash trails
- Implemented standards for dog off-leash areas

8.7.1.2 Asset Inventory

Bike and Skateboard Parks and Trails

The City owns two skateboard parks that are used by skateboards and bikes, McMillian and MRC. McMillan Youth Park is larger, with multiple features, making it highly popular among youth and other skateboarders.

The city has a BMX course in Abbotsford Exhibition Park that is operated by Abbotsford BMX. This is a large, high-quality course that can host national tournaments.

LOCATION	MAIN COMPONENTS	TYPE OF PARK
MRC Sports Complex	4,000 ft^2	Skateboard
McMillan Youth Park	25,000 ft^2 Streetscape-style	Skateboard
Abbotsford Exhibition Park	BMX course	BMX

Table 19: Asset Inventory - Outdoor Recreation

Abbotsford has no typical bike skills parks that are used for learning bike and mountain biking skills.

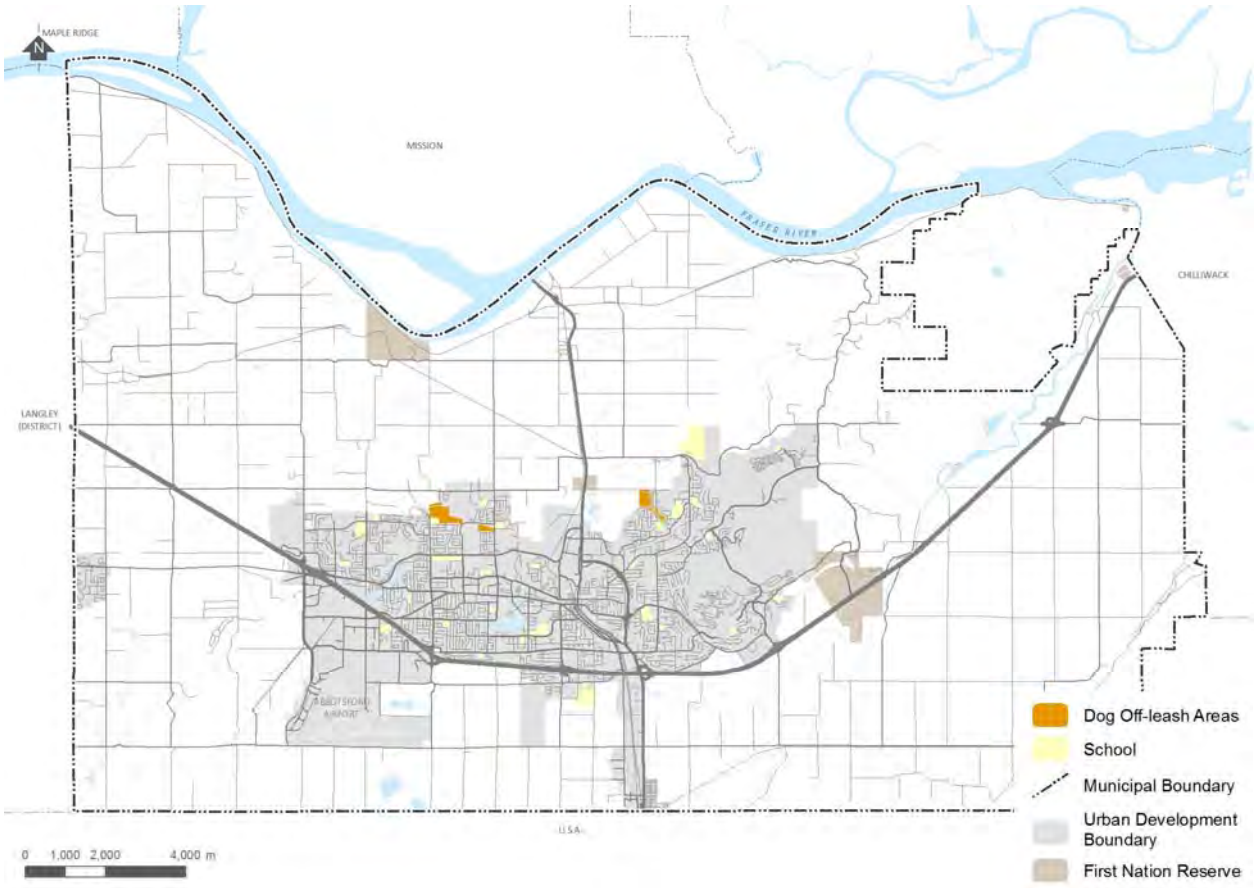
Hiking and Mountain Biking

The City has no designated trails for mountain biking, although local enthusiasts access Sumas Mountain Interregional Park. Community engagement participants often spoke about popular hiking spots. One of the most popular, the “Abby Grind” (also known as Glen Ryder Trail), is located primarily on private property and on environmentally sensitive land. The City has been looking for ways to accommodate this type of hiking/ outdoor fitness experience in another location.

Dog Off-Leash Areas

Abbotsford has dog off-leash areas in four parks, all located in the northern part of the City:

- Gladwin Park, which includes open space and parts of Discovery Trail. This was originally considered a temporary facility but has been used as a dog off-leash area for a number of years. It contains fenced areas for small and large dogs and is adjacent to the Discovery Trail
- Bateman Park/Stoney Creek, which includes a separated dog off-leash area> Fenced and open space areas are provided and site is adjacent to the Trans Canada Trail
- McKay Creek Park/Sumas Dyke, which is an off-leash trail on both sides of the Sumas River
- Clearbrook Park, which contains fenced areas for small and large dogs and is adjacent to the Discovery Trail



Map 9: Dog Off-Leash Park Distribution

Water Activities

Albert Dyck Memorial Park's Walmsley Lake is used by Abbotsford residents for various water activities such as waterskiing, swimming, and cable wakeboarding. The park hosts triathlons and national and regional competitions for waterskiing and wakeboarding.

8.7.1.3 Programming

The activities described in this section are generally self-directed or organized by community user groups. Though uncommon in municipal recreation, a private user group operates a cable wakeboard facility at Albert Dyck Memorial Park.

The City has partnerships with private and not-for-profit providers and user groups such as Ledgeview Golf and Country Club Society, Valley Wake Park, and the Fraser Valley Water Ski Club.

8.7.2 Analysis

8.7.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

Outdoor swimming/paddling was the most popular outdoor recreation activity, followed by golf and the BMX bike skills track.

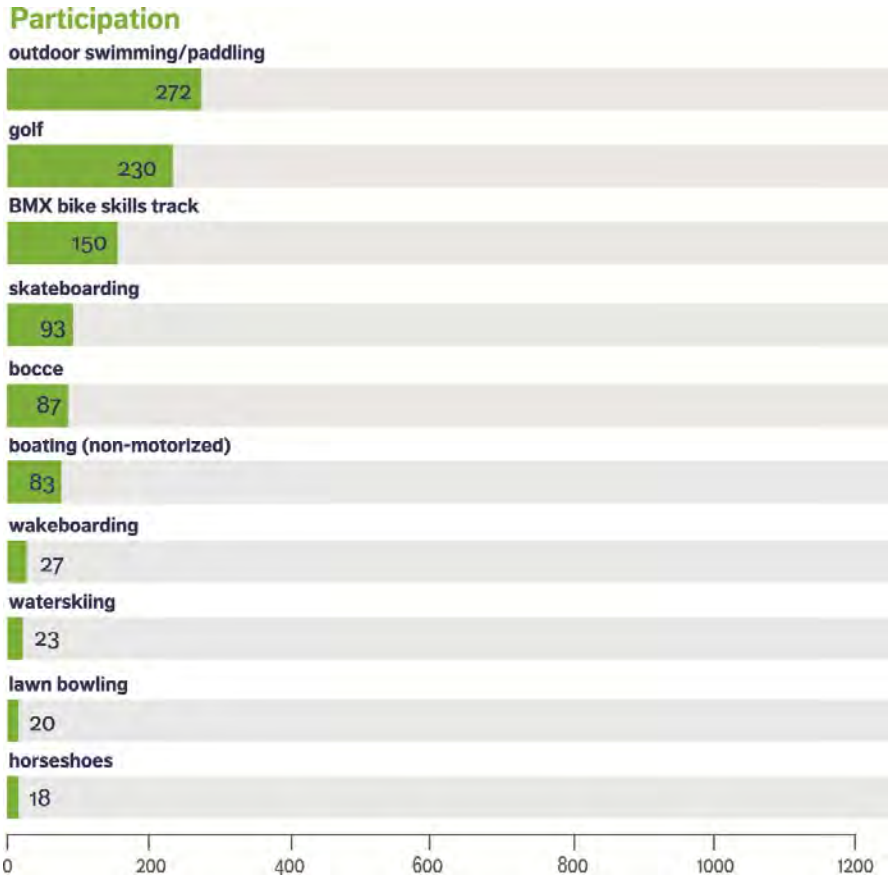


Figure 13: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Participation - Outdoor Recreation

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- More and upgraded dog off-leash areas, with amenities such as waste bins
- More youth parks with different features
- Interest in new opportunities, such as a dedicated longboarding facility, swimming area in Mill Lake Park, and a disc golf course
- Additional fitness equipment
- Resolution to issues with the “Abby Grind”, private land, and environment

8.7.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's supply of BMX/bike parks, skateboard parks, and dog off-leash areas was compared with other communities.

FEATURE	2005	2017	200K*	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
BMX/Bike parks (1)	None	1 per 141,000	1 per 200,000	1 per 103,000
Skate parks (2)	None	1 per 71,000	1 per 100,000	1 per 46,000
Dog off-leash areas (4)	1 per 44,000**	1 per 35,000	1 per 50,000	1 per 28,000

*If supply stays the same

**in 2005 there were 3 dog off-leash areas

Table 20: Comparable Communities - Outdoor Recreation

Abbotsford provides a lower provision of BMX/bike parks, skateboard parks, and dog off-leash areas than the average among neighbouring communities.

8.7.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Dog off-leash areas are an increasing priority in urban areas and municipalities are meeting this need through various types of dog off-leash parks, areas, trails and water access points; these amenities have become a mainstay of municipal recreation with some communities providing dog off-leash areas within walking distance of most residents
- Outdoor fitness equipment has evolved to be higher quality supporting more diverse exercise and rehabilitation uses
- Many outdoor activities are increasing in popularity, e.g., disc golf, longboarding, bike and skateboard parks, parkour, and nature activities such as hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, and stand-up paddle boarding
- Skateboarding has moved from a niche sport to a mainstay of municipal recreation and will be introduced as an Olympic sport starting in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics
- Skateboard parks are often designed to also accommodate bikes and scooters; these activities cause different levels of wear and need to be considered in design
- BMX and mountain biking are experiencing growth in many communities because they are relatively affordable, can be pursued in an unstructured

manner, and can be accommodated in existing parks and trails (though this can often lead to conflict with other users)

8.7.2.4 Spatial Analysis

- There are skateboard parks on the west and east sides of the city partnered with recreation centres. Most users have to bike or drive to reach them
- Dog off-leash areas are not well distributed, with all of them on the north edge of the urban area. The availability of dog off-leash areas is more important in dense areas where residents may not have access to yards
- Specialized or unique amenities such as the golf course and water activities are not analysed spatially because it is generally acknowledged that residents will drive to these types of activities

8.7.3 Issues and Opportunities

8.7.3.1 Dog Off-Leash Areas

According to neighbouring communities and community interest, there is a shortfall of off-leash dog parks, and these are not well distributed throughout the City. There is an opportunity to provide varied types of dog off-leash areas, this being a relatively low-cost feature with multiple benefits.

A dog off-leash area is a place where pet owners can take their dogs to run free without a leash. Off leash does not mean “out of control” and only applies to the specific, designated area. Pet owners must ensure that their dogs are controlled and not violent or aggressive. Pet owners must also be onsite for the duration of the visit and abide by the off-leash area etiquette. Some parks are designed just for dogs off-leash and other off-leash areas are located within parks.

8.7.3.2 New Types of Facilities

Some park features such as destination longboarding facility or BMX park, often serve a wider regional audience. Coordinating with other Fraser Valley communities in the planning of these features will be important to meet needs while minimizing duplication.

Currently, there is no disc golf course in the city. This is a low-cost feature often accomplished and maintained through user groups.

8.7.3.3 Skateboard / Bike Parks

Abbotsford has a lower provision of BMX / bike parks and skateboard parks than the average among neighbouring communities. There are opportunities to provide more of

these facilities and to make sure that they meet the needs of youth, especially in developing neighbourhoods.

8.7.3.4 Hiking

Hiking in Abbotsford occurs on the City's trails and within regional parks. An unsanctioned trail, referred to as the Abby Grind, passes through private property and an area of rare and ecologically sensitive habitat. Despite signs, use of this trail continues and the City is working on establishing an alternate steep trail.

8.7.3.5 Mountain Biking

There are no sanctioned mountain-biking opportunities in Abbotsford parks; however, many multi-use trails that can accommodate mountain-biking are available in the regional parks (Glenn Valley, Aldergrove, Matsqui Regional and Sumas Mountain). These trails appear to be meeting the demand.

8.7.3.6 Water Activities

Albert Dyck Memorial Park includes Walmsley Lake that is used by Abbotsford residents for various water activities, such as waterskiing, swimming and cable wakeboarding. The park is used to host national and regional competitions for waterskiing and wakeboarding, special events like triathlons, and has been considered for a future dog off-leash area to include swimming.

8.7.4 Long-Term Directions

8.7.4.1 Service Delivery

- Designate and sign dog-free areas

8.7.4.2 Community Development

- Collaborate with other Fraser Valley communities in the planning of major park features such as longboarding facility, BMX park, and other destination attractions
- Determine interest and funding options for a disc golf course, and if there is a group interested, partner with them to identify an appropriate location
- Collaborate with youth and community groups to identify their interests in features such as skate parks, biking/BMX, and longboarding, and plan and develop these accordingly, potentially combined with courts

8.7.4.3 Policies, Plans & Studies

- Prepare a Dog Management Strategy

8.7.4.4 Capital Projects

- Long Boarding Park anticipated location at McKee Peak area in 2021. Not in original McKee Peak Study. Opportunity identified in 2016
- Abby Grind alternative location in the McKee Peak/Sumas Mountain area
- Consider the following options:
- more dog off-leash areas of varied types, distributing these throughout the city
- longboarding facility, BMX park, disc golf, and skate parks
- replacing the Abby Grind by establishing a new location for this type of experience
- mountain-biking trails and an associated skills area, potentially in a new neighbourhood



8.8 Natural Areas and Urban Forestry

Natural areas include the streams, bluffs, mountains, forests, lakes, rivers, and wetlands that make Abbotsford such a beautiful place. Many of these support environmentally sensitive ecosystems and others have been protected because they are steep slopes or otherwise difficult to develop. Abbotsford residents place high values on these natural areas and many are concerned about losing more of these features to development.

The urban forest refers to the trees located within the developed areas of the city. These trees add character to streets and neighbourhoods and have many other benefits. Abbotsford's natural areas and the urban forest keep the city beautiful, help to clean the air, absorb pollution and greenhouse gases, maintain cooler temperatures for the comfort of people and the survival of fish and wildlife, and they reduce erosion and help to mitigate climate change. These natural features also protect residents' access to nature, which is proven to improve mental health and well-being.

8.8.1 Background Research

8.8.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- The 2005 Master Plan contained no recommendations related to natural areas or the urban forest

8.8.1.2 Asset Inventory

The City maintains many hectares of natural areas. These include large parks, features within parks, and remnant natural areas that were acquired through the development process. A specific map of natural areas is not currently possible because the natural areas are combined with other types of open spaces.

In 2016, an Urban Forest Canopy Technical Analysis was completed for Abbotsford in response to a significant number of trees being removed in recent years. It showed that, in 2015, the tree canopy was 30.6 percent of the Urban Containment Boundary; this was a decline since 2005 when it was 33.2 percent.

The City planted 1,421 trees in 2016. On average, over 1,000 trees are planted each year through reforestation and new park development.

8.8.1.3 Programming

The primary programs offered in natural areas are interpretive programs led by schools and other organizations. The City encourages and supports these, working with partners who deliver outdoor education experiences.

Recent years have seen significant progress in integrating climate change and sustainability considerations into the protection and management of natural areas and urban forests. For example, due to the major wind storm in August 2017, the Urban Forestry team was activated to assess more than 300 trees for risk and they mitigated identified hazards.

8.8.2 Analysis

8.8.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

Over half of survey respondents reported participation in nature/ wildlife viewing in the past year. Satisfaction with natural areas and trees was high. There was also interest in greater protection of these features.

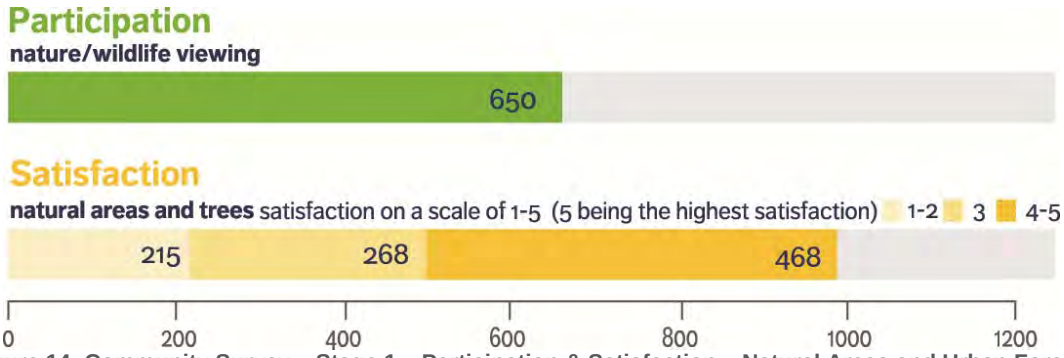


Figure 14: Community Survey – Stage 1 – Participation & Satisfaction – Natural Areas and Urban Forestry

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Protection of environmental assets
- More natural areas and trees in the city
- Improved maintenance of natural areas, e.g., invasive species
- Update of the Tree Protection Bylaw

8.8.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

The work on neighbouring communities did not include a comparison of natural areas and urban forestry because of how dependent these are on the land area and geography within each municipality.

8.8.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Protecting and enhancing natural areas is a priority for wildlife, ecological diversity, and supporting climate change mitigation efforts, and requires coordination with other municipal departments and planning processes
- Many communities with intensifying development are facing challenges in protecting natural areas and urban forests and are implementing natural area protection guidelines and tree protection bylaws in response
- Protection of tree canopies and urban forests are an increasing priority and many communities are preparing urban forest management strategies

8.8.2.4 Spatial Analysis

Abbotsford's Urban Forest Canopy Technical Analysis showed that the tree canopy is declining within the Urban Containment Boundary, particularly in areas that are being developed and redeveloped.

8.8.3 Issues and Opportunities

8.8.3.1 Protecting Natural Areas

Natural areas in parks are not covered by parkland acquisition standards or development cost charges. As development occurs, natural areas can be impacted. The opportunity is to identify and protect natural areas within urban areas for environmental and quality-of-life reasons.

8.8.3.2 Managing Natural Areas

Natural areas and trees in cities are affected by urban conditions and climate change. The health of forests, species and wildlife can be threatened. The City should continue to keep up with trends and adapt best management practices as needed. Opportunities include low-impact development, increasing efforts to manage invasive species, and partnership with Indigenous peoples. Communications about the importance of protecting natural areas is also critical.

8.8.3.3 Protecting the Tree Canopy

The tree canopy is declining with development. The City does not have an Urban Forest Management Strategy that could establish targets, strategies and policies for protecting existing trees and enhancing the urban forest.

8.8.4 Long-Term Directions

8.8.4.1 Service Delivery

- Work with the Planning and Engineering Departments to identify and protect natural areas in new developments as parkland that can support ecosystems, wildlife and connected trails
- Work on improving the health of natural areas, including the management of invasive species, through Parks staff and involving stewardship groups
- Protect and maintain ecosystems, habitat corridors, and environmental values by embracing integrated stormwater management practices, and creating new greenways throughout the City
- Take efforts to increase the extent, health and diversity of the tree canopy to improve air quality, capture carbon dioxide, reduce heat island effects, support public health and quality of life, and support beauty
- Communicate to the public ongoing efforts to protect and enhance natural areas and urban forests

8.8.4.2 Policies, Plans & Studies

- The Urban Forestry Plan will align with environmental sustainability, urban forestry management, including Tree Protection Bylaw for the 367.9 ha of parkland the City
- Prepare an Urban Forest Management Strategy
- Update the Tree Protection Bylaw to reflect Abbotsford's needs

8.8.4.3 Land Acquisition

- Identify, acquire, designate and protect natural areas as parks

8.9 Cemeteries

The City of Abbotsford owns and operates four cemeteries. Abbotsford's cemeteries are landscaped and maintained in park-like settings with views of the nearby mountains and the Fraser Valley. These historic places are cultural resources and community assets that provide an ongoing legacy for generations of Fraser Valley residents. The four cemeteries are the final resting place for many of the Fraser Valley's early settlers and continue to reflect the ongoing growth and diversity of the community.

Veterans from the First and Second World Wars are honoured in Hazelwood Cemetery. Aberdeen Cemetery is included in Canada's national war graves Maple Leaf Legacy Project. Mt. Lehman and Musselwhite are historic to long-term families in the City.

8.9.1 Background Research

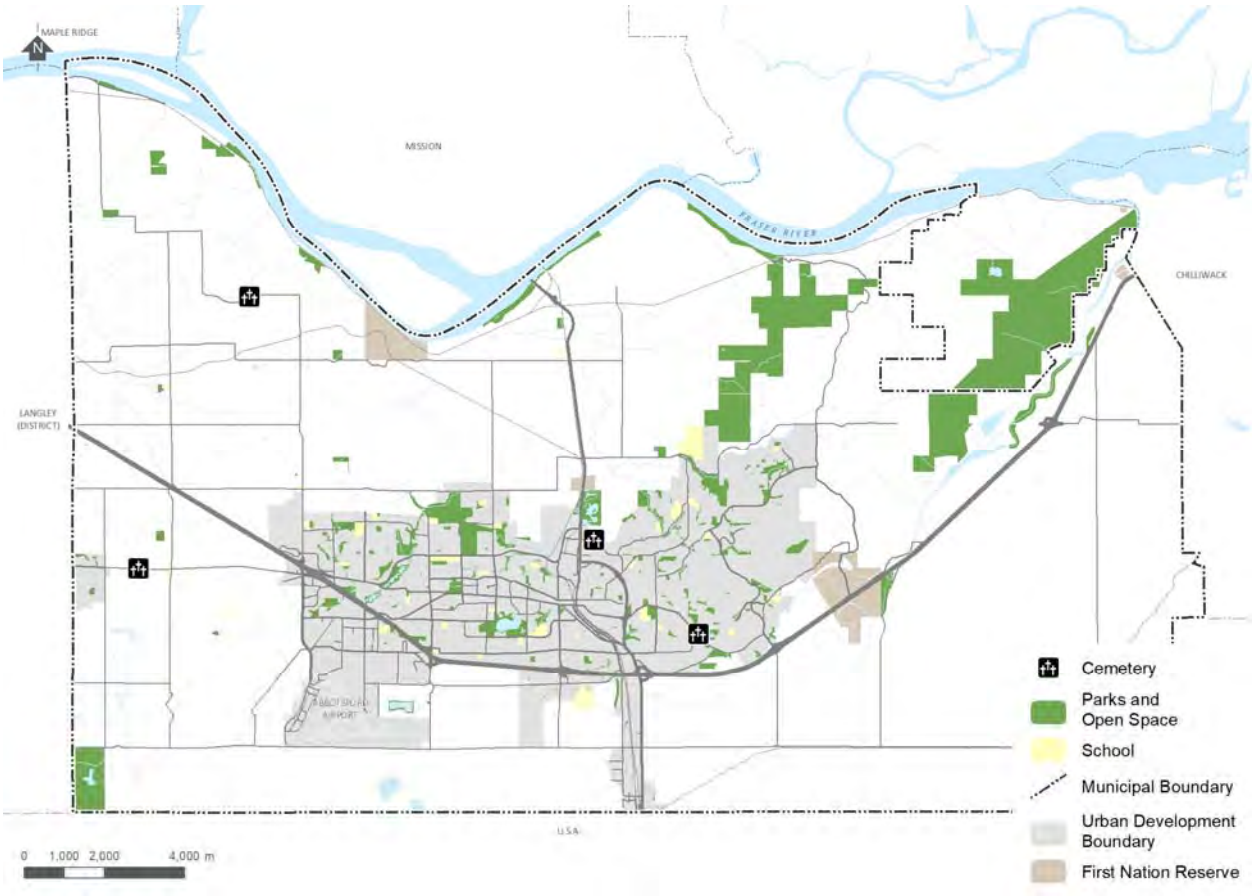
8.9.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- Hazelwood Cemetery and Mt. Lehman Cemetery renovated and expanded to include more interment options
- New management software in 2016/2017 to manage the cemetery operations
- Prepared a Cemeteries Master Plan in 2008 that includes recommendations for improving the cemeteries and their operations, including heritage services and financial considerations



8.9.1.2 Asset Inventory

There are four municipally-owned cemeteries in Abbotsford: Aberdeen, Hazelwood, Mt. Lehman, and Musselwhite. The total land area of these four cemeteries is 18.2 hectares. Improvements to two of the cemeteries have allowed an expansion of services. The Discovery Trail passes through Hazelwood Cemetery.



Map 10: Cemetery Distribution

8.9.1.3 Programming

There are currently few programs beyond cemetery services. Some cemeteries offer programs that attract the public to their cemeteries for experiences that honour and reflect the spirit of the setting, e.g., cultural history tours, All-Souls Night, Mother's / Father's Day Teas

8.9.1.4 Community Development

Volunteer stewardship through community and corporate groups and veterans enhances the historic value, cleanliness and ongoing maintenance of graves.

8.9.2 Analysis

8.9.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Questions about cemeteries were not asked as part of the Stage 1community engagement process.

8.9.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Quantitative information on cemeteries was not collected for neighbouring communities as it is not relevant to Abbotsford's cemetery planning.

8.9.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Some municipalities share individual and community histories at their cemeteries
- Many cemeteries are designed to offer similar benefits to parks, with beautiful landscapes and walking paths
- Cemeteries are broadening services to meet demands, offering multiple types of interment of cremated remains and green (or natural) burial areas
- Some communities are expanding cemetery features and services to include gathering spaces, more memorialization options, and engraving

8.9.2.4 Spatial Analysis

The distribution of cemeteries was not analyzed because new cemeteries are not anticipated, and residents often drive to cemeteries.

8.9.3 Issues and Opportunities

The Cemetery Plan has not been updated recently. There may be opportunities to provide more cemetery services, to increase the capacity of the cemeteries, to provide more culturally appropriate services for some groups in Abbotsford, and to increase the involvement of the community in honouring and interpreting the legacy of the cemeteries.

8.9.4 Long-Term Directions

8.9.4.1 Service Delivery

- Integrate heritage and cultural programming into cemetery tours and events

8.9.4.2 Community Development

- Expand volunteer opportunities for stewardship partnerships in cemeteries

8.9.4.3 Policies, Plans & Studies

- City owns and operates four municipal cemeteries in park-like settings that are also significant heritage sites. This plan will explore opportunities to provide

additional cemetery services, increasing capacity, provide culturally-appropriate services, and explore opportunities to honour and interpret the legacy of the cemeteries

- Update the 2008 Cemetery Plan, exploring potential new interment services, designs and programs
- Update the Cemetery Bylaw

8.9.4.4 Capital Projects

- Additional options to reflect the City's growing and diverse needs are required to meet the growing demand identified in 2007 Cemetery Master Plan



RECREATION



PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
MASTER PLAN

9 RECREATION

9.1 Recreation

The Recreation Division aims to provide a balanced offering of programs, services, and spaces accessible to residents of all ages, abilities, interests, genders, income levels, and cultural beliefs and backgrounds. Recreation is recognized as a key contributor to the overall health of the community. Abbotsford's recreation opportunities help residents to improve their physical and mental well-being, they are essential to social and cultural inclusion, and they contribute to economic development and community cohesion. The recreation services include aquatics, arenas, fitness and wellness, indoor sports, and community recreation facilities, programs and services.

9.1.1 Service Areas

- Aquatics
- Arenas
- Fitness and wellness
- Indoor sports
- Community recreation

9.1.2 Service Delivery

Abbotsford uses a blended approach to recreation service delivery, including the following:

- Direct service provision, e.g., City provides recreation facilities and services and the programs within them
- Arm's length, e.g., the City owns Centennial Outdoor Pool, but contracts to a private third party to operate it
- Enabling/coordinating, e.g., the City works with service providers to offer programming within City facilities

The City provides a variety of recreation programming and has partnerships with the private providers and community partners that support the delivery of recreation in Abbotsford.

9.1.2.1 Strategic Partnerships

Abbotsford works with strategic partners that deliver or support recreation activities. Partnerships may include formal agreements, the use of City facilities by third-party organizations, coordination of activities and initiatives, and collaboration on specific projects. Some of the City's strategic partners are listed below:

- Abbotsford Community Foundation
- Abbotsford Community Services
- Abbotsford School District
- Abbotsford Youth Commission
- Age Friendly Working Group
- Agrifair
- Child and Youth Committee
- Collective Impact Group
- First Nations
- Fraser Health Authority
- Seniors Centres
- Sports organizations
- University of the Fraser Valley (UFV)
- Vancouver Community Foundation

9.1.3 Community Development

The City conducts a significant amount of outreach with community organizations, sports organizations, and user groups, which are mostly run by volunteers. The support services provided by the City include allocation, booking, providing access to facilities, and addressing the unique needs of each group.

Initiatives are in place to engage a variety of stakeholders, e.g., outreach to South Asian communities and collaborative working tables that include First Nations, Abbotsford Community Services, the Child and Youth Committee, United Way, Abbotsford School District, UFV, and Fraser Health Authority. There may be opportunities to partner with Abbotsford School District and UFV to increase general participation in recreation and provide more opportunities for student practicums to apply technical job skills and

community recreation leadership. These initiatives are an important component of the Recreation Division's role in supporting healthy and connected communities.

The City's PRC Program Guide is the primary vehicle for marketing recreation opportunities, in addition to the City of Abbotsford website, social media, brochures, and advertising at City facilities.

Recreation Volunteer Programs

The City's volunteer opportunities benefit the offerings at City facilities by providing volunteers that range in ages, backgrounds, and experience levels. The volunteers benefit by obtaining opportunities to make friends, learn new skills, and contribute to the Abbotsford community. Approved volunteers support recreation programming by working alongside recreation staff to support the facilitation of City programs. The opportunities include day camps, programs, lessons, and inclusion support at facilities.

9.1.4 Plans, Policies, and Studies

Abbotsford has a policy foundation for the delivery of recreation services. The key plans, policies, and studies related to the delivery of recreation services are the following:

- Marketing Plan
- Fees and Charges Bylaw
- Health, safety, and facility operation legislation
- Fee for Service and Operating Agreements
- Allocation Policy

9.1.5 Issues and Opportunities

9.1.5.1 Inclusion

As Abbotsford grows, interests and needs are becoming more diverse and meeting the needs of everyone can be a challenge. There is a need to improve accessibility and adaptive facilities, programs, and support services to ensure that facilities and programs are inclusive to all ages, abilities, incomes, genders, orientation, faith-based and ethnic backgrounds.

9.1.5.2 Barriers

Based on industry research, the most common barriers to participation include lack of time, programs offered at inconvenient times, lack of childcare, no interest in programs

offered, lack of transportation, lack of belonging or feeling welcome, and cost[14]. Continued efforts working with internal and external partners to remove barriers to increased participation are needed.

9.1.5.3 Services by Other Providers

Recreation needs in Abbotsford are filled by the City, smaller not-for-profit organizations, or the private sector as there is no major non-profit recreation-based provider such as YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Salvation Army, etc. Programs offered by the private sector tend to focus on specific activities or demographics, which potentially leaves a larger role for the City. There are opportunities to work with others to explore more options for programming.

9.1.5.4 Operating Agreements

Operating agreements will continue to need to be reflective of changes to service delivery, changes in user preferences, increased facility use, and emerging activities.

9.1.5.5 Fraser Valley Coordination

Some major recreation facilities have a regional audience. Coordination in planning new major facilities between the City and other Fraser Valley municipalities would serve to minimize gaps or duplication, and ensure that the Fraser Valley community is well-served for a range of activities.

9.1.5.6 Outreach and Volunteering

There is an opportunity to improve outreach programs to better meet the needs of the community through partnership with schools and other organizations to expand off-site services. Afterschool and evening programming in underserved areas allows children, youth and families to access recreation programs and services in their neighbourhoods, which furthers connections and sense of belonging.

Volunteer opportunities to support high school graduation requirements are in high demand. As demographics change, there is more interest in weekend and cause or project-based volunteer opportunities with fewer residents able to commit to on-going volunteer placements.

[14] American Heart Association. 2014. Breaking Down Barriers to Fitness.

9.1.5.7 Communications

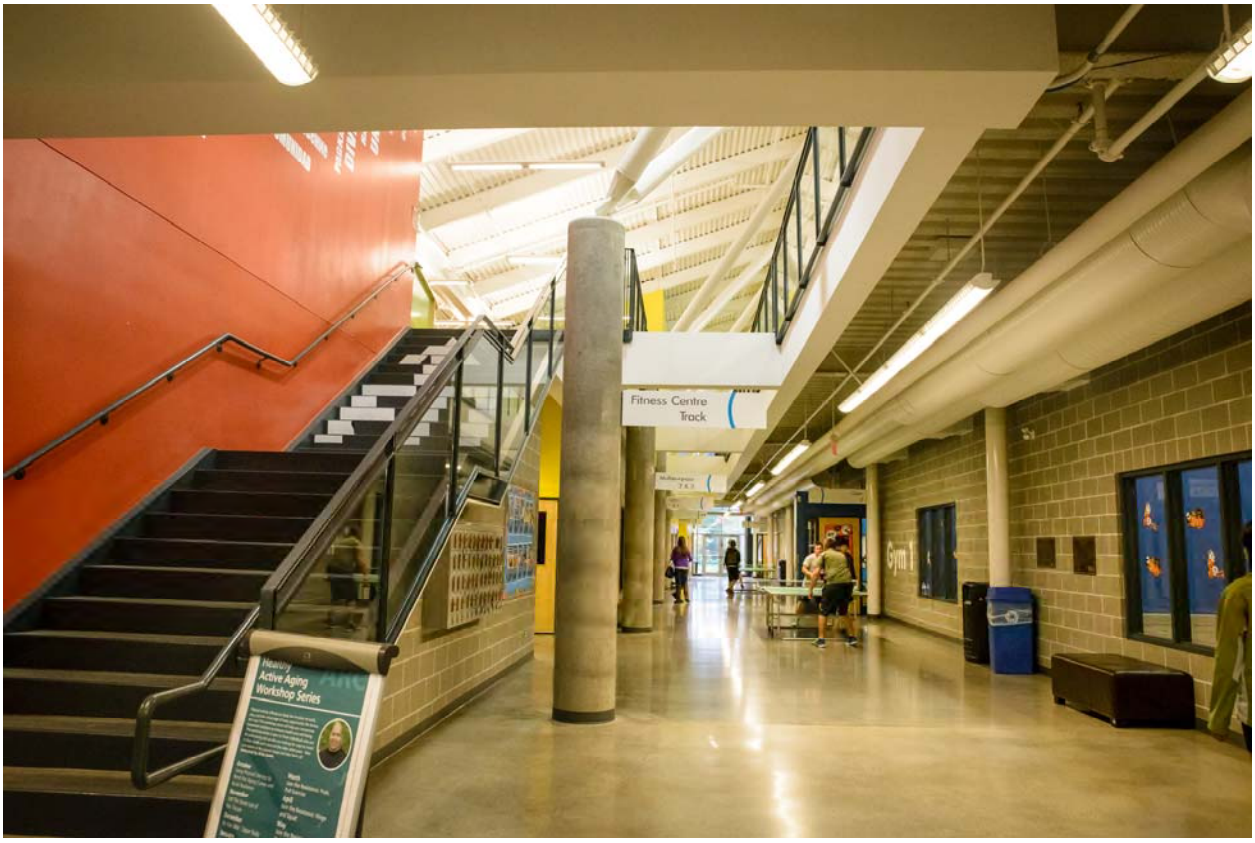
Some residents are unaware of the array of recreation services provided by the City. The City has used traditional marketing and promotional campaigns for several years. The City needs to review, and possibly update, how it educates the community on the benefits of recreation and active living, and how it markets programs and services to the general public and specific user groups.

9.1.5.8 Plans, Policies, and Studies

Several plans, policies and studies require updating to align with current practices. These are identified in the possible directions.

9.1.5.9 Land Acquisition and Financing Major Facilities

The City may wish to consider what revenue options are available to support the land acquisition and construction of new facilities.



9.2 Aquatics

Aquatic facilities and programs are among the most popular parks, recreation, and culture services offered in Abbotsford per community input. They provide an opportunity for adults and children to learn to swim—a basic life skill—as well as to relax, socialize, and be active. The City offers numerous opportunities for residents and visitors to participate in aquatics, including drop-in swims, registered lessons, aquatic fitness programs, special swim events, and water therapy. Community groups and athletic organizations can also rent pool space from the City to offer a range of activities and services, including high-performance training.

9.2.1 Background Research

9.2.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- MRC pool features enhancement and new play features at ARC
- Leases to physiotherapy, athletic development at recreation facilities to complement services
- Centennial Pool upgrade
- Accessibility improvements

9.2.1.2 Asset Inventory

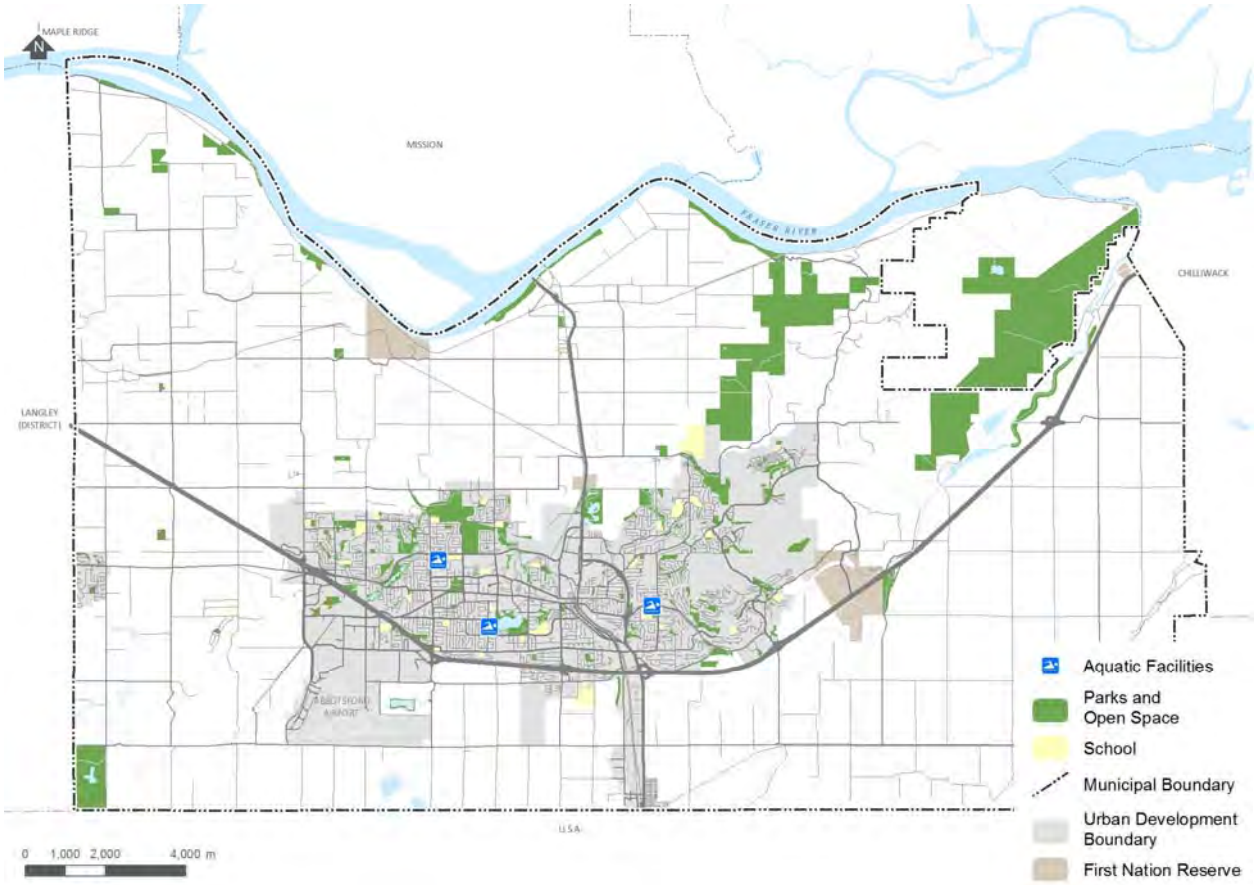
There are two indoor aquatic facilities in Abbotsford, both featuring 25-metre lanes. The City also owns the 25-metre Centennial Outdoor Pool, and there is access to outdoor swimming at Albert Dyck Memorial Park.

Based on the age and condition of the indoor aquatic facilities, it is likely that replacement or reinvestment will be needed within the next 10 to 20 years. The outdoor pool is unlikely to need replacement within the timeframe of this master plan.

Location	Main Components	Condition
Abbotsford Recreation Centre	• 25-metre swimming pool • Hot tub • Sauna • Tots pool	Pool structure was constructed in 1972.
Matsqui Recreation Centre	• 25-metre swimming pool with zero beach entry • Wave machine • Tots pool with platform	Pool structure was constructed in 1991.

Location	Main Components	Condition
	• Water slides • Hot tub • Steam room • Sauna	
Centennial Outdoor Pool	• 8-lane swimming pool	Facility was built in 1958 and upgraded in 2006.

Table 21: Asset Inventory - Aquatics



Map 11: Aquatics Distribution

9.2.1.3 Programming

The City offers year-round swim lessons for all ages at the indoor pools with high participation. Advanced aquatic training programs are offered at ARC and MRC. Many of these programs lead to certification as an Aquatic Professional. A number of aquatic health and fitness swim programs are offered for adults including Aqua Fit, Aqua

Cardio, Aqua Circuit, Aqua Zumba, and Aqua Spinning. Private aquatic sports groups regularly rent pool space to offer competitive training.

9.2.2 Analysis

9.2.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

Aquatic facilities and programs had the highest participation levels in the community survey among recreation services. Drop-in use of indoor pools was by far the most frequently cited aquatic activity, followed by indoor pool lessons.

Almost half of respondents to this question were highly satisfied with pool programs and activities. The number of those highly satisfied was significantly lower for aquatic facilities. Competitive aquatic groups did not feel that existing facilities met their needs. Parents of children with special needs said that they travel to Mission to access the pool features that they need.



Figure 15: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Participation & Satisfaction - Aquatics

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Improved inclusion and accessibility
- Improved maintenance
- Variety in program times and more special events

- Appreciation for the two pools
- Competition-level aquatic facilities
- New leisure pool and therapy pool

9.2.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's supply of indoor and outdoor pools was compared with other communities.

FEATURE	2005	2017	200K*	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Indoor Pools (2)	1 per 62,000	1 per 71,000	1 per 100,000	1 per 59,000
Outdoor Pools (1)	1 per 62,000**	1 per 141,000	1 per 200,000	1 per 78,000

*If supply stays the same

** Matsqui Village Pool was decommissioned following the 2005 Master Plan

Table 22: Comparable Communities - Aquatics

Abbotsford provides fewer indoor and outdoor pools than the average among neighbouring communities. Three out of the five neighbouring communities have a 50-metre pool. Langley's Aldergrove Credit Union Community Centre will open in 2018 and provide additional amenities. Residents from neighbouring communities may visit Abbotsford's pools, including Centennial Outdoor Pool, ARC and MRC.

9.2.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Universal Design Principles are guiding new facility development
- Some communities are offering therapeutic aquatic facilities and programs
- New aquatic fitness classes are blending dryland activities with an aquatic environment, e.g., stand-up paddleboard yoga and underwater spin class
- Parents are seeking adult programming aligned with children's programs
- Design for new pools, generally in multi-use facilities, is focused on creating a beautiful and welcoming environment with opportunities to socialize

9.2.2.4 Spatial Analysis

- Two indoor aquatic facilities are located centrally in the City

9.2.3 Issues and Opportunities

9.2.3.1 Aquatic Facility Supply

The City's supply of pools is low compared to the average among neighbouring communities, and based on demand. The existing pools, though they support many needs, have some service gaps: demand for family change rooms exceeds supply, limited accessibility features, few flexible amenity features, and inability to host women-only swim times. Competitive sports groups, such as water polo, diving, and swimming, are unable to meet their needs in Abbotsford as there is no 50-metre pool or appropriate deep-water tanks.

9.2.3.2 Aquatic Facility Condition

The aquatic facilities are aging similar to many communities, and major components will need to be renovated in coming years.

9.2.4 Long-Term Directions

9.2.4.1 Service Delivery

- Review resources for additional support for people with disabilities
- Continue assessing and enhancing aquatics opportunities and features based on evolving community demand and trends

9.2.4.2 Community Development

- Explore opportunities for public-private partnerships in the development of aquatic facilities

9.2.4.3 Policies, Plans & Studies

- Prepare an Aquatics Strategy (or an Integrated Facilities Feasibility Study that includes aquatics). Include the following:
- aquatic facilities and services in neighbouring communities
- user groups patterns and demands in Abbotsford, including public and interest group needs
- the specific features to be included, such as accessible, inclusive, therapeutic, competitive, and destination features
- the condition and life-cycling options for existing aquatic facilities

- the options for an additional pool and ways to meet many diverse needs, including competitive water polo, swimming, and diving, and features that support accessibility, inclusion, and family participation
- plans to renovate and eventually replace the ARC and MRC, and/or build a new aquatic facility

9.2.4.4 Capital Projects

- Additional aquatic facility on an existing site to accommodate growing population
- Consider the following options:
- development of new aquatic facilities per the Aquatics Strategy, which could include renovated, rebuilt and/or new facilities
- interim supports at existing facilities to support the participation of people with disabilities



9.3 Arenas

City arenas serve the general community through drop-in skating opportunities and through rentals to community groups that offer competitive training in ice sports, such as hockey, ringette, figure skating, and speed skating. The Abbotsford Centre's New Game Strategy provides community access to the NHL-size arena and entertainment centre. Recent trends show participation in ice sports is declining, with the exception of female hockey, and groups are more selective about the ice times they are willing to book.

9.3.1 Background Research

9.3.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- Expansion of ice season into spring at ARC and MRC
- Abbotsford Sport and Entertainment Centre (Abbotsford Centre) opened 2009

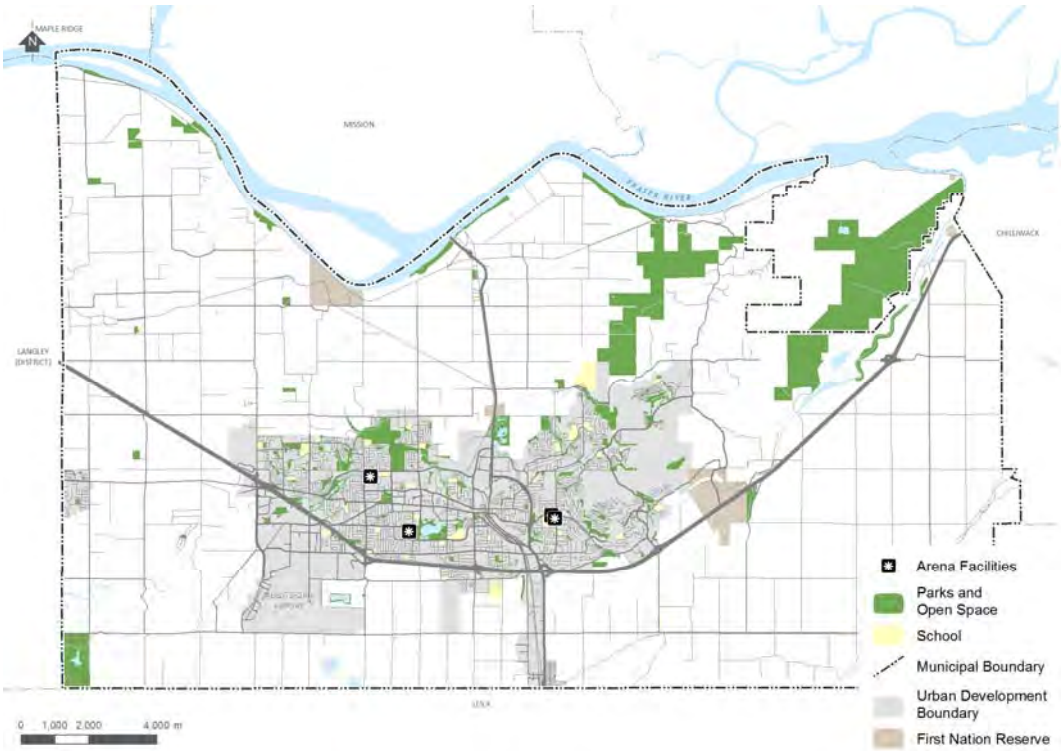
9.3.1.2 Asset Inventory

The City of Abbotsford operates three ice rinks and one of six leisure ice experiences in BC. The City owns the Abbotsford Curling Club, which is operated by the Abbotsford Curling Club. The City also owns the Abbotsford Centre, where community ice groups and an adult hockey league are frequent users.

Location	Main Components	Spectator Seating	Condition
Abbotsford Recreation Centre	• 1 Olympic-size ice rink • Leisure skating pond	375	The arena structure and rink were built in 1995.
Matsqui Recreation Centre	• 1 NHL-size ice rink	350	The arena structure and rink were built in 1975.
MSA Arena	• 1 NHL-size ice rink	1,000	The arena structure and rink were built in 1969.
Abbotsford Curling Club and Event Centre	• 6 sheets of curling ice • Lounge and bar	n/a	The facility was built in 1978.
Abbotsford Centre	• 1 NHL-size ice rink • Lounge and bar • Food concourse	7,000+	The facility was built in 2009.

	• Tenant offices • Dressing rooms • Green room		

Table 23: Asset Inventory - Arenas



Map 12: Arena Distribution

9.3.1.3 Programming

The City offers pre-school skate lessons for ages 3 to 5 years, and school-age skate lessons for ages 6 to 13 at MRC and ARC. There are also drop-in opportunities for Stick and Puck, Adult and Senior Skate, Parent and Child Hockey, and Parent and Tot Skate, as well as public skating times. Although registered programs run by the City and by community associations are on the rise and demand is high, drop-in participation is declining. This is likely due to a reduction in ice time for drop-in activities.

The arenas are well used during prime times, but unless there is a school booking during school hours on weekdays, it is often empty. The opportunities to provide expanded or new ice programs during prime times are limited by the capacity of the ice facilities in Abbotsford. Participation in women's and girls' hockey, as well as ringette, is increasing in most BC communities. Speed skating has also grown in popularity. The lack of a twin pad arena limits the ability to host hockey tournaments or figure skating competitions. These types of activities help to grow these sports.

9.3.2 Analysis

9.3.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Engagement

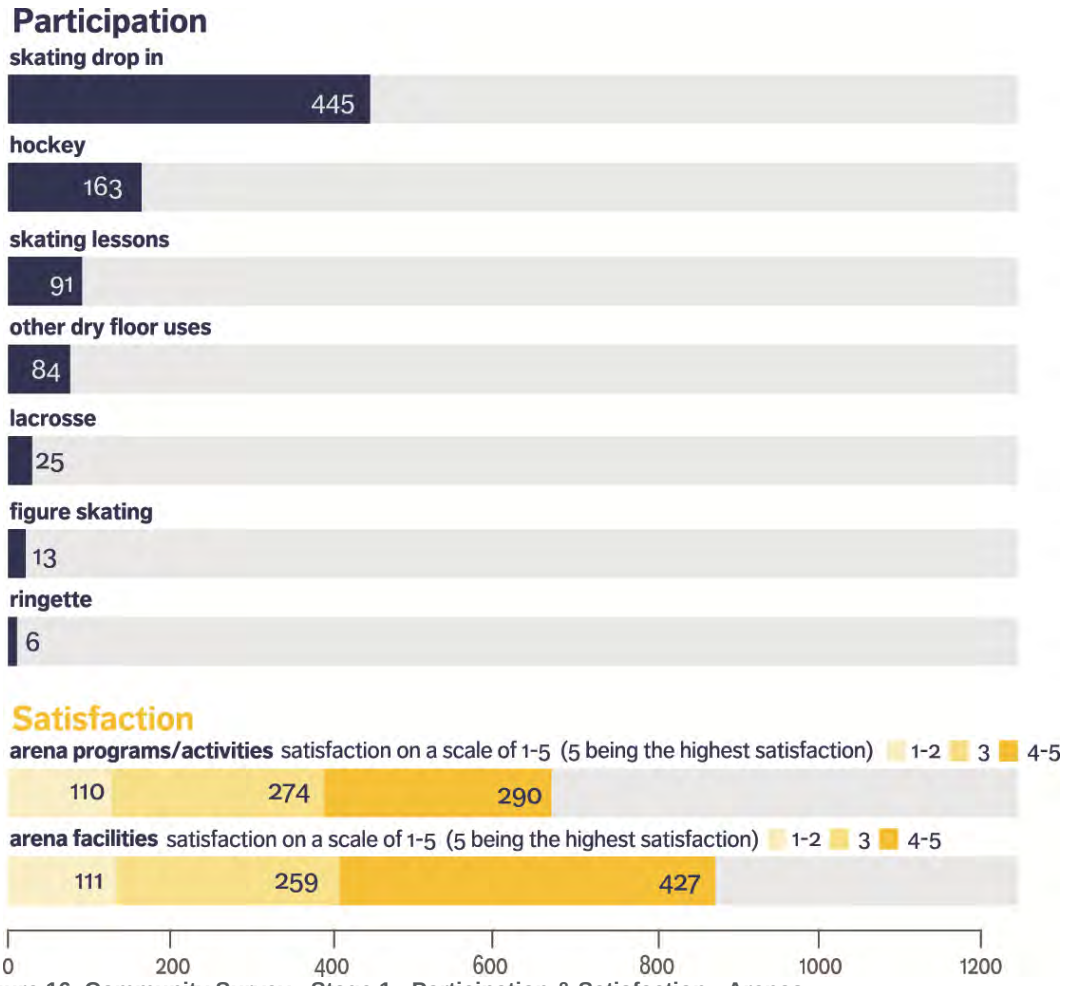


Figure 16: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Participation & Satisfaction - Arenas

Skating drop-in had the most participation of arena activities by community survey respondents. Most survey respondents were significantly more satisfied with arena facilities than with programs and activities.

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Upgrading or replacing existing arenas
- Increased time for skating drop-in and hockey
- Access to ice time for a ringette program

- Desire for twin pad arena to host figure skating competitions and hockey tournaments

9.3.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's supply of arenas and ice sheets was compared with other communities.

FEATURE	2005	2017**	200K***	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Arenas (4*)	1 per 41,000	1 per 35,000	1 per 67,000	1 per 58,000
Indoor ice sheets (4*)	1 per 41,000	1 per 35,000	1 per 67,000	1 per 25,000
Leisure Ice (1)	1 per 123,000	1 per 141,000	1 per 200,000	none

*The Abbotsford Centre is included in this table

**Like many municipalities, Abbotsford purchases ice from private suppliers to supplement demand. This is a cost effective means to provide access to ice without building a new facility before it is required.

***If supply stays the same

Table 24: Comparable Communities - Arena

Though Abbotsford provides a higher number of arena facilities than the average among neighbouring communities, the City provides fewer indoor ice sheets. The Ice Experience (Pond) at ARC is one of six leisure ice facilities in the province. The pond is well-used for drop-in skating opportunities and is available all day. It supplements the supply of ice and reduces some of the demand on the supply of competition-size rinks.

Abbotsford residents use arena and tournament hosting options in Chilliwack, Langley, and Surrey. Residents from neighbouring communities may also use Abbotsford's facilities.

9.3.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Participation in hockey is declining due to factors such as cost, changing interests, and concerns over the level of competitiveness
- More arenas are providing seating with adequate heating to include more spectator participation
- Creating opportunities for tournament hosting is an increasing priority in some communities
- Some communities are expanding ice offerings, particularly with increasing numbers of hockey academies, while others are investing in dry floor facilities to support year-round opportunities for lacrosse, soccer, ball hockey, and other sports

- Many communities are facing challenges in meeting rising expectations for rental time and facility quality
- Many communities are dealing with aging facilities and seeking opportunities to upgrade or repurpose

9.3.2.4 Spatial Analysis

The arena facilities are all centrally located, resulting in more challenging access for those on the east side. There are also several private arenas that can be rented and that offer programming, including two ice sheets at Centre Ice and a small rink at the Abbotsford Training Rink (also known as the National Training Rink and Abbotsford Ice Rink).

9.3.3 Issues and Opportunities

9.3.3.1 Arena Supply

Abbotsford has a low supply of municipal ice sheets compared to the average among neighbouring communities, and it has no twin pad arena. Facility capacity is limiting opportunities for more drop-in use and for growing sports, such as girls' hockey and ringette. The City has been successful in hosting competitions and tournaments despite not having a twin pad arena. While there are some private arenas in Abbotsford, they primarily serve clubs and leagues.

9.3.3.2 Aging Arenas

ARC, MRC and MSA arenas are aging similar to many communities and if they are to continue serving the community, they will need to be renovated in the near future. This requires a review of their future, as the facilities are outdated in terms of their functioning as well as their condition.

9.3.3.3 Arena Use

The arenas are full to capacity at prime times, but during mid-day on weekdays, if there is no school rental, they are often empty. This is inefficient in terms of operating costs and loss of activity options for the community. There is an opportunity to consider programs that could serve populations who are available during non-prime hours.

9.3.4 Long-Term Directions

9.3.4.1 Service Delivery

- Continue assessing and enhancing arena opportunities and features based on evolving community demand and trends

9.3.4.2 Community Development

- Explore opportunities for public-private partnerships in the development of arena facilities

9.3.4.3 Policies, Plans & Studies

- Prepare an Arenas Strategy (or an Integrated Facilities Feasibility Study that includes arenas). Include the following:
- arena facilities and services in Abbotsford and neighbouring communities
- user groups patterns and demands in Abbotsford, including competitive sport and public needs
- the condition and life-cycling options for renovating or replacing existing arena facilities
- opportunities for increasing the use of arenas during non-prime times with ice and dry floor uses, depending on the season
- options and the need for an additional ice sheet to meet the demands of growing sports such as girls' hockey and ringette as well as increased public access
- options to replace the MSA with a twin pad once it reaches the end of its useful life to support tournament and competition hosting, and to increase efficiencies in service provision, management and operations

9.3.4.4 Capital Projects

- Consider the following options: new arena facilities per the Arenas Strategy / Integrated Feasibility Facilities Study, which could include renovated, rebuilt and/or new facilities
- Interim supports at existing facilities to support the participation of people with disabilities

9.4 Fitness and Wellness

Indoor fitness and wellness includes a variety of facilities, activities, and services that promote active living opportunities, with the main focus being fitness centres and programs.

9.4.1 Background Research

9.4.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

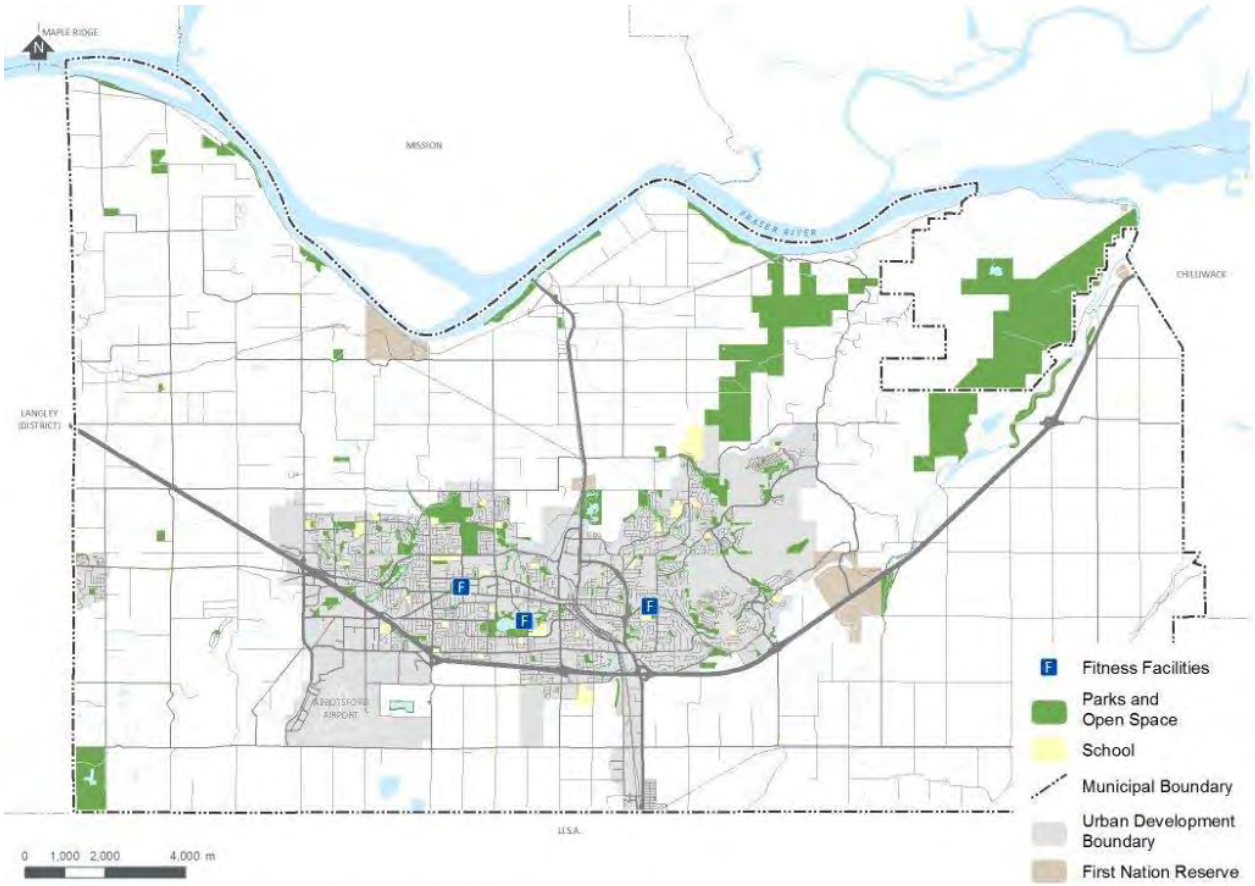
- Increased size of weight room and added women's only fitness area at Matsqui Recreation Centre (MRC)
- New fitness addition to Abbotsford Recreation Centre (ARC)

9.4.1.2 Asset Inventory

ARC and MRC offer fitness and wellness facilities. The ARC offers a larger weight room than the MRC, more specialized equipment, and an indoor walking/running track. MRC has a women's only fitness area.

Location	Main Components
Abbotsford Recreation Centre	• 10,000 ft^2 weight room • Synrgy 360 • Wood sprung aerobic studio • Indoor walking/running track
Matsqui Recreation Centre	• Aerobics room • 5,300 ft^2 weight room, including dedicated women only section

Table 25: Asset Inventory - Fitness & Wellness



Map 13: Fitness & Wellness Distribution

9.4.1.3 Programming

The City's two fitness centres offer opportunities for families, youth, adults, and seniors to support active lifestyles. There are drop-in fitness and aqua-fitness programs, including cycling, HIIT (high-intensity, interval training), Zumba, Stretch and Abs, Circuit, TRX, Yoga, Pilates, Aqua Spinning, Aqua Fit, and Aqua Cardio. Registered classes are also available under the categories of Cross Training, Fitness Training, Preventative Health, Pre-Post Natal, Yoga and Pilates, and Zumba. "Express classes" offer opportunities for those with busy schedules. The ARC and MRC offer "All Access" memberships that provide access to the facilities, programs, and drop-in opportunities.

Abbotsford is lacking some typical amenities, such as racquet sports and climbing wall, and there may be demands for indoor sports that cannot be met due to a lack of dry floor facilities.

There has been a dramatic decline in fitness/active living participation in registered programs, consistent with the trend in municipal fitness in large cities. Participant feedback in the facilities indicated that there is an increasing demand for drop-in fitness

opportunities. This trend will need to be closely monitored as community fitness and wellness programming is a significant revenue offset.

9.4.2 Analysis

9.4.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

The most popular fitness activity of survey respondents was fitness drop-in classes. Approximately 44 percent of survey respondents who participated in fitness drop-in classes were under the age of 19, with the second largest demographic group being those between 50 and 59.

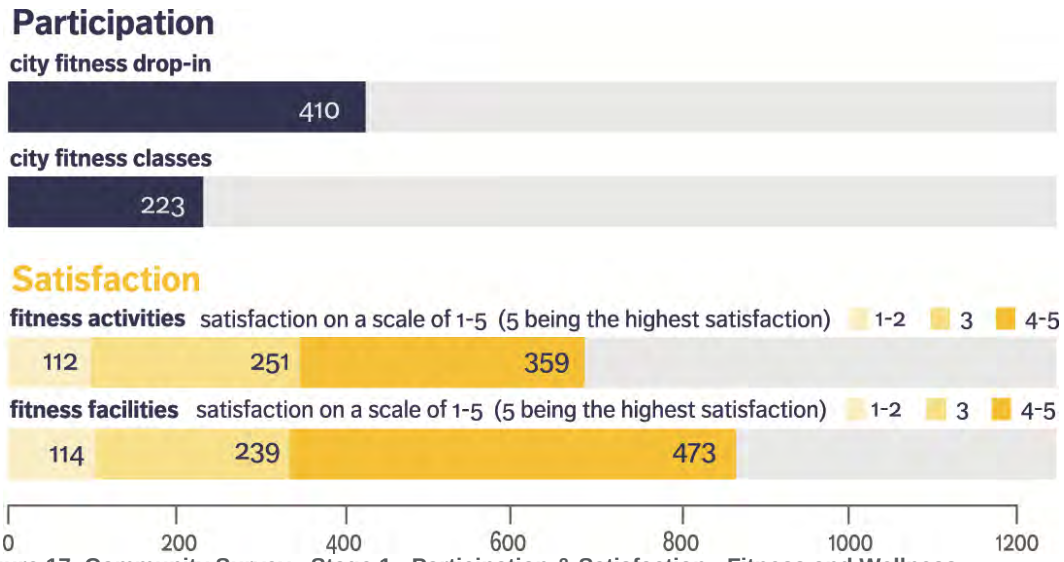


Figure 17: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Participation & Satisfaction - Fitness and Wellness

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Appreciation for the fitness facilities and the indoor track
- Larger fitness facility at MRC
- More variety and more time/location options for fitness classes
- More affordable fitness classes and facilities

9.4.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

FEATURE	2005	2017	200K*	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Indoor running tracks (1)	None	1 per 141,000	1 per 200,000	1 per 139,000
Fitness centres (2)	1 per 62,000	1 per 71,000	1 per 100,000	1 per 41,000
Fitness studios (2)	1 per 62,000	1 per 71,000	1 per 100,000	1 per 67,000

*If supply stays the same

Table 26: Comparable Communities - Fitness & Wellness

Abbotsford's supply of indoor tracks, fitness centres, and fitness studios was compared with other communities.

Abbotsford provides a similar rate of indoor running tracks and fitness studios as the average among neighbouring communities, but a lower rate of fitness centres. There are many affordable private facilities that help to meet community demands.

9.4.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Fitness classes are continuously evolving as participants look for new and innovative classes to keep them interested
- Indoor walking/running tracks are becoming more popular, especially in winter months, offering opportunities for people with mobility issues to stay active
- Many municipalities are finding that private fitness providers and their competitive rates are affecting the use of public fitness facilities
- Increasing interest in unstructured, drop-in, and short-term programs

9.4.2.4 Spatial Analysis

Indoor fitness and recreation facilities are within the City's major recreation centres. For fitness facilities, this is a concern as many residents prefer to meet their daily fitness needs close to home. The numerous private fitness providers throughout Abbotsford accommodate this demand. These providers generally focus on adult fitness opportunities and/or specialized programming.

9.4.3 Issues and Opportunities

9.4.3.1 Facility Size

MRC's fitness facility is approximately half the size of ARC's and has no walking track. This limits its capacity, especially at prime times. MRC leases space to Oasis Physiotherapy, whose clients use the fitness and aquatic spaces for therapy and rehabilitation. When MRC undergoes renovation and expansion, increasing fitness amenities unique to MRC should be considered.

9.4.3.2 Fitness Equipment

Some community members would like more accessible equipment in the fitness centres. Residents also requested more frequent updating of equipment. The City already has a comprehensive replacement program and will need to continue to assess the needs of the residents to manage demands.

9.4.3.3 Fitness Programming

Fitness and wellness trends change rapidly as participants are constantly looking for new experiences; many emerging activities can be accommodated in flexible spaces such as the City's fitness studios. The City will need to monitor trends and private sector offerings, and adapt programming based on demands.

9.4.4 Long-Term Directions

9.4.4.1 Service Delivery

- Continue assessing and enhancing fitness and wellness opportunities and features based on evolving community demand and trends

9.4.4.2 Capital Projects

- Consider the following options:
- fitness facility upgrades at MRC and ARC when planning for life-cycling renovation, including the interest by some community members in a larger facility at MRC
- adding accessible equipment to the fitness facilities

9.5 Indoor Sports

Indoor sports facilities and programs offer opportunities for participation in drop-in and registered sports programs. Facilities may also be rented by private sports groups. At the community centres, the indoor sport facilities are the two gymnasiums at ARC. Indoor sporting events and programs are also held at the Ag Rec building at Abbotsford Exhibition Park.

9.5.1 Background Research

9.5.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- Expansion to ARC included two full size gymnasiums
- City facilitation role in KidSport Program

9.5.1.2 Asset Inventory

The City offers a number of indoor sport spaces. Abbotsford's inventory is unique in that it offers large-scale spectator facilities at Abbotsford Exhibition Park for sports, agricultural events, and other special events.

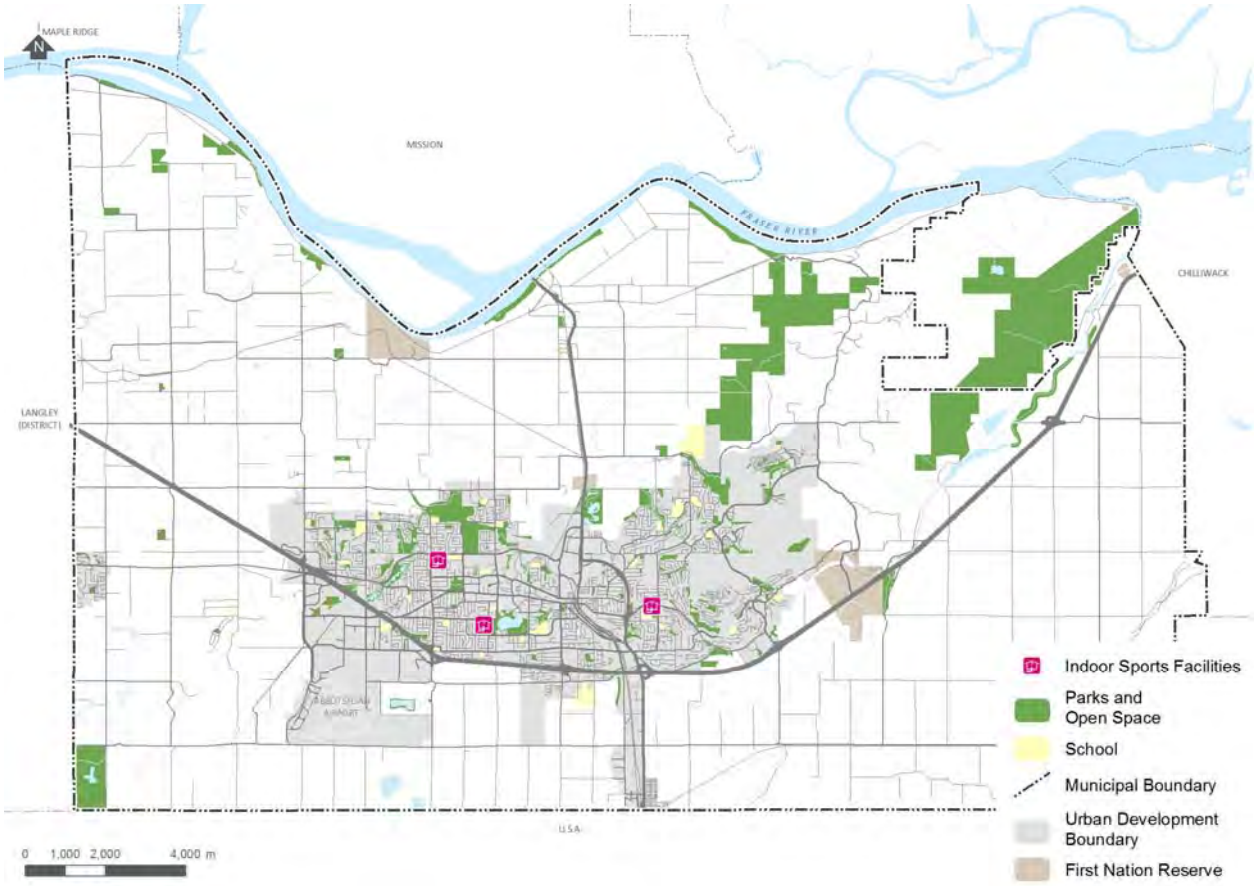
The City's indoor recreation facilities are summarized in the table below. At the community centres, the indoor sport facilities are the two gymnasiums at ARC. The City also offers a number of spaces at Abbotsford Exhibition Park that are used for sports as well as agricultural events.

Location	Main Components
Abbotsford Recreation Centre	• Two full-size gymnasiums • 1 Olympic-size ice arena that can be used as a concrete floor (Spring/Summer)
Agrifair Arena	• Dirt floor with bleacher seating for up to 500 - suitable for a variety of activities, including livestock shows, auctions, barrel racing, dog agility practices and competitions, and other types of sporting events
Show Barn	• 2,224.1 m^2 asphalt floor with a capacity for 1,995 • Separate washrooms • Covered and non-covered wash racks
Pole Barn	• Open-air barn with gravel floor - suitable for cattle and horse events
Ag Rec	• 327 m^2 gallery with a capacity of 293 and a commercial

Location	Main Components
	kitchen • 2,140.5 m^2 with polished concrete floor, change rooms, and showers
Curling Rink (spring summer)	• 306.6 m^2 lounge and bar • 1152 m^2 dry floor curling area
MSA (spring summer)	• NHL size arena that can be used as a concrete floor • Spectator seating for 1,000

Table 27: Asset Inventory - Indoor Sports

Among comparable communities, Abbotsford's inventory is unique in that it offers large-scale spectator facilities at Abbotsford Exhibition Park for sports, agricultural events, and other special events.



Map 14: Indoor Sport Distribution

9.5.1.3 Programming

Indoor sports opportunities are very popular based on community input. There are many options for drop-in sports for adults and seniors at ARC. These include basketball, pickleball, soccer, badminton, ball hockey, volleyball, and adapted sports. There are also time slots in the gymnasiums for youth and late evening “toonie” drop-in sports. Registered sports programs are available for pre-schoolers, children, and youth.

The City offers a unique opportunity in its Adult and Senior Pairing programs on weekends, evenings, and mornings. These enable adults to participate in programs while their children or grandchildren (preschoolers to teenagers) participate in activities during the same time slot.

9.5.2 Analysis

9.5.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

Participation in indoor sports was lower than for most other indoor activities among community survey respondents. In this focus area, youth recreation programs and drop-in sports had the highest participation.

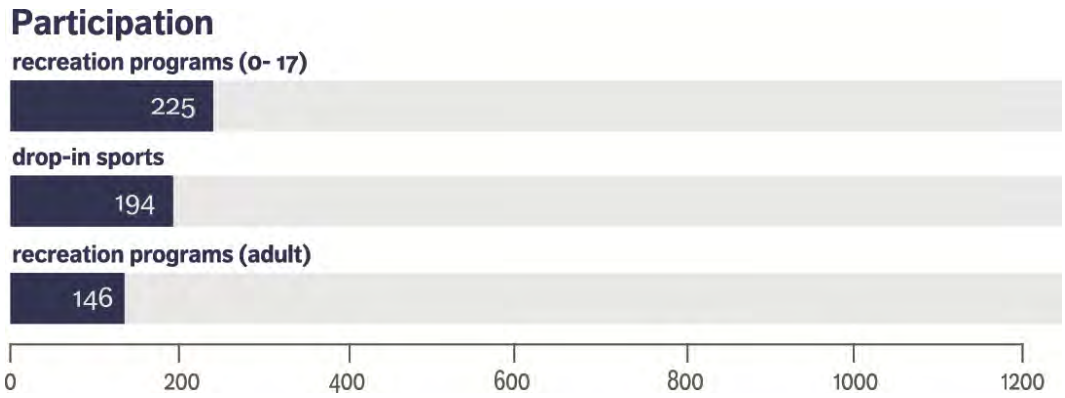


Figure 18: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Participation - Indoor Sports

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Appreciation for the indoor facilities and programs
- Need more indoor space for multiple sports, e.g., gymnasium, dry floor
- Increased drop-in access for recreational sports
- Family and accessible change rooms at the indoor recreation facilities

9.5.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's supply of racquet courts and gymnasiums was compared with other communities.

FEATURE	2005	2017	200K*	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Indoor racquet courts (0)	None	None	None	1 per 30,000
Gymnasiums (2)	None	1 per 71,000	1 per 100,000	1 per 29,000

*If supply stays the same

Table 28: Comparable Communities - Indoor Sport

Abbotsford provides a lower rate of gymnasiums compare to the average among neighbouring communities and no indoor racquet courts, although racquet courts are available through private providers. Abbotsford School District offers gymnasiums that can be rented or programmed, but availability of these spaces is restricted based on school hours and after-school use.

9.5.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Pickleball is extremely popular, and badminton has increased in popularity
- Drop-in sports offer the greatest flexibility for busy people
- Some municipalities are offering basic or introductory indoor climbing walls or indoor adventure playgrounds
- Indoor artificial turf fields that offer year-round opportunities are becoming more common

9.5.2.4 Spatial Analysis

Indoor sports facilities are all centrally located and are not easy to reach for those on the east side of Abbotsford.

9.5.3 Issues and Opportunities

9.5.3.1 Facility Supply

Abbotsford's supply of gymnasiums is low in relation to the average among neighbouring communities. While other facilities at Abbotsford Exhibition Park may help to address this, there is community demand for additional indoor drop-in and sports activities. School gyms have limited availability to meet this need, and the existing facilities, being centrally located, are unable to accommodate everyday needs.

9.5.3.2 Other Indoor Opportunities

The City lacks some amenities typically offered by the public sector, such as racquet courts and a beginner climbing wall. Some of these activities may be accommodated by the private sector, but it is unclear if those are meeting all potential demands.

9.5.4 Long-Term Directions

9.5.4.1 Service Delivery

- Review competitive sport and public needs when developing new facilities
- Review demand for indoor racquet facilities (e.g., tennis, pickleball, badminton, racquetball, squash)
- Explore options for the addition of a climbing wall/area and other amenities that serve children, youth and adults

9.5.4.2 Community Development

- Explore partnership options to provide more gymnasiums to meet community needs
- Review and update operating agreements with groups who use indoor sports facilities
- Explore opportunities for public-private partnerships in the development of gymnasium facilities

9.5.4.3 Capital Projects

- Indoor Multisport Training and Tournament Centre includes:
- 2 synthetic turf fields
- indoor sports courts,
- track and additional ice pad
- Consider the following options:
- life-cycling needs of the gymnasiums at ARC when planning for maintenance and renovation
- additional gymnasiums, racquet facilities, climbing wall, and other amenities

9.6 Community Recreation

The City offers various facilities, programs, and services that are used to meet the needs of specific user groups or to provide supportive services. The services include drop-in and registered programming located at the following community recreation facilities:

- Multi-purpose rooms
- Seniors' spaces
- Youth spaces
- Childminding and playschool rooms

9.6.1 Background Research

9.6.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

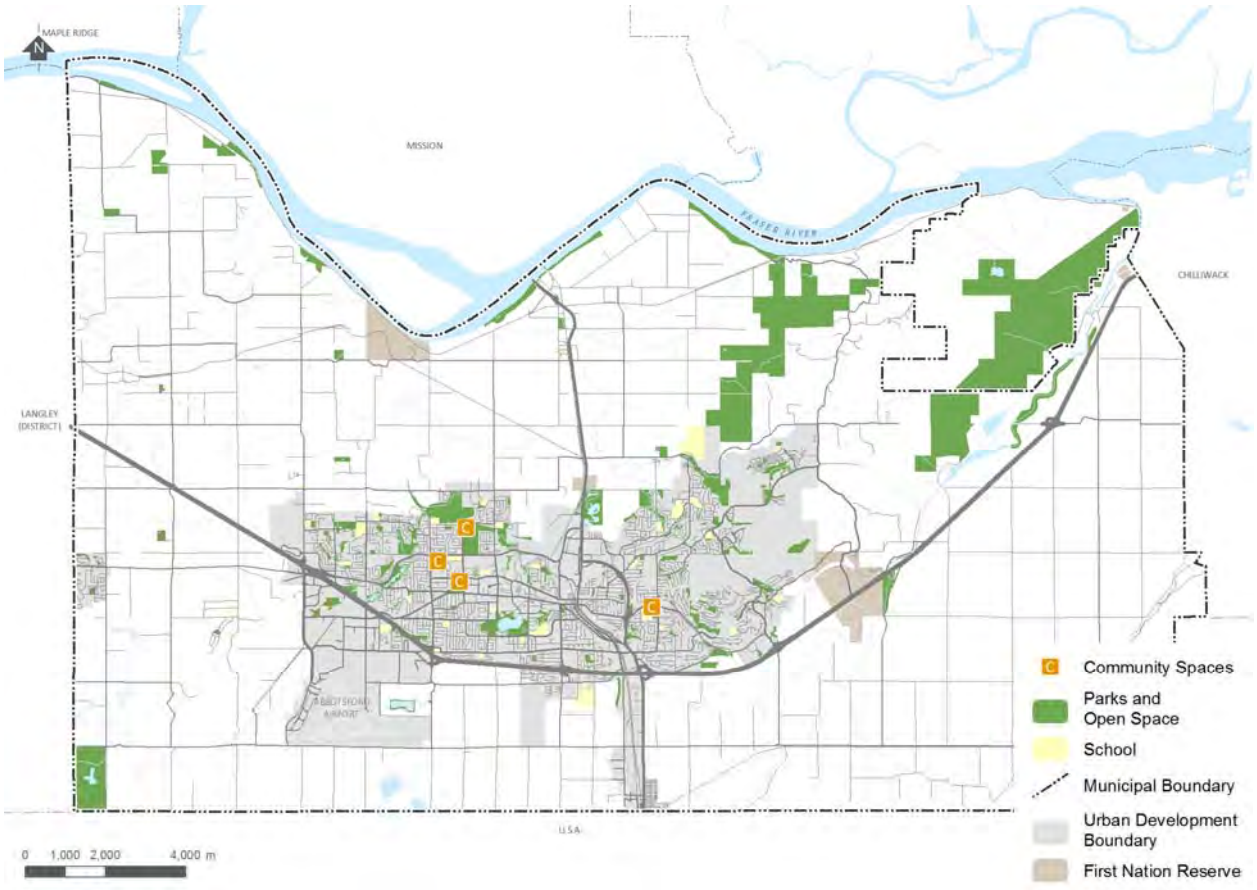
- City-delivered community recreation programming
- Community school partnerships at Sweeney Neighbourhood Centre and Harry Sayers
- Diversity hub at Eugene Reimer School and MRC
- Youth centres at MRC and ARC
- Expansion of inclusion programs for children and youth

9.6.1.2 Asset Inventory

There are a number of community spaces throughout Abbotsford.

FACILITY TYPE	COMMUNITY SPACES
ARC	6
Abbotsford Exhibition Park	8
MRC	5
Matsqui Centennial Auditorium	2

Table 29: Asset Inventory - Community Spaces



Map 15: Community Spaces Distribution

9.6.1.3 Programming

The City provides a wide range of recreation programs for all age groups: Pre Natal, Parent Participation, Early Years and Preschool (ages 2 to 5), Children (ages 6 to 12), Youth (ages 13 to 17), Adult (18+), and Older Adults (ages 60+). Adult bus tours are offered through the PRC Department and include trips to Vancouver and other parts of Metro Vancouver, Vancouver Island, and Seattle.

The City provides drop-in and registered opportunities for all age groups at ARC, MRC, Centennial Pool, and MSA Arena, including summer, spring break, and Pro-D day camps. There are also City-run drop-in programs at Abbotsford Exhibition Park and the Ten-Broeck Elementary School. The available facility space limits program offerings.

9.6.2 Analysis

9.6.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

Participation was only measured for youth centre drop-in. More respondents were satisfied with multi-purpose spaces than dissatisfied.

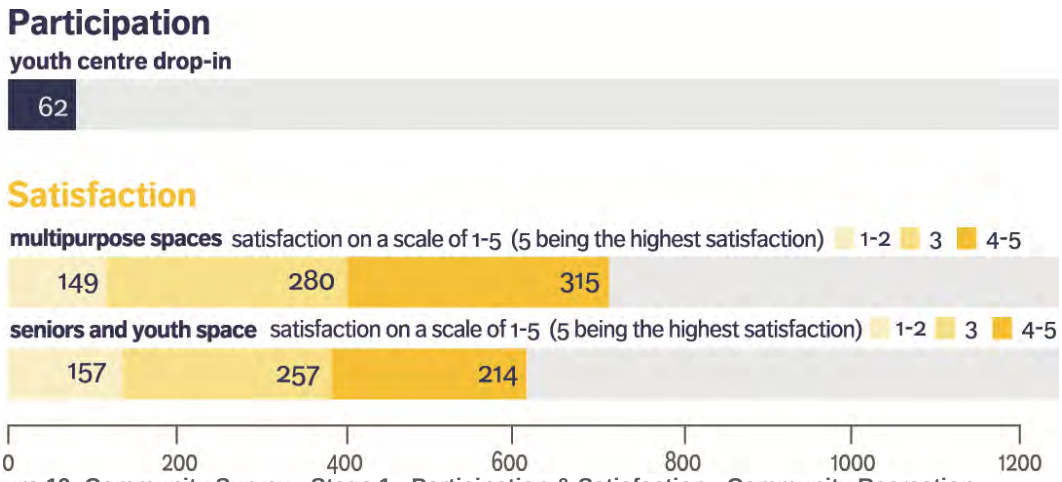


Figure 19: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Participation & Satisfaction - Community Recreation

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Appreciation for the multi-purpose spaces that are available
- Multi-purpose spaces available to rent
- Larger youth centres with gym access
- More strategically located seniors' centres that are accessible by transit
- Universal design inclusive of all ages and abilities

9.6.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's supply of multi-purpose, seniors' and youth spaces was compared with other communities.

FEATURE	2005	2017	200K*	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Multi-purpose rooms (11)	1 per 62,000	1 per 13,000	1 per 18,000	1 per 8,000
Seniors' Spaces (2)	1 per 123,000	1 per 71,000	1 per 100,000	1 per 102,000
Youth Spaces (2)	None	1 per 71,000	1 per 100,000	1 per 65,000

*If supply stays the same

**In 2005, there were 2 multipurpose spaces at MRC and 1 seniors' space

Table 30: Comparable Communities - Community Recreation

Abbotsford provides a lower provision rate of multi-purpose rooms than the average among neighbouring communities, but a higher provision rate of seniors' spaces and youth spaces.

9.6.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Municipalities are prioritizing reconciliation, collaborating with First Nations, and consideration of the unique needs of Indigenous residents in community recreation
- Inclusion and accessibility are priorities
- New facilities are being designed as welcoming spaces for community gathering and use.
- New facilities are incorporating adaptable, "loose fit" components to allow modification and adaptation as needs change
- Seniors' spaces continue to be important; however, opportunities for seniors in all facilities and program types help to support accessibility, connection, and intergenerational learning
- Some communities are shifting away from providing dedicated youth and seniors' spaces and working to accommodate specific needs within multi-use facilities; multi-purpose rooms may prioritize certain age groups at specific times, and then allow other groups to book them during other times
- Housing and homelessness challenges are facing communities across the region; outreach programs and spaces for youth are priorities

9.6.2.4 Spatial Analysis

Most of the community spaces are centrally located in the major recreation centres.

9.6.3 Issues and Opportunities

9.6.3.1 Facility Supply

With the exception of youth and senior centres, the number of community recreation and multi-purpose spaces to support meetings, rentals and programs is insufficient to meet the needs of the current population and will increasingly be a challenge as the population grows. When the City renovates or replaces its recreation facilities, there are opportunities to consider community hubs and flexible spaces that can adapt to multiple user needs.

9.6.3.2 Facility Condition

Abbotsford's community facilities are aging, and they have a number of limitations. Some of the barriers include: the Youth Centre at MRC has accessibility challenges due to its location on the second floor that lacks an elevator, youth centres are small, and the locations of the seniors' centres at the facilities are difficult to access by transit for those with mobility challenges.

9.6.4 Long-Term Directions

9.6.4.1 Service Delivery

- Consider the needs of special populations, including seniors, youth, persons with disabilities, and newcomers, in the development of community recreation spaces and programs

9.6.4.2 Community Development

- Seek opportunities to partner with not-for-profit and private providers to provide more multi-purpose spaces
- Review and update operating agreements with groups who access community recreation facilities

9.6.4.3 Policies, Plans & Studies

- Marketing and Communications Plan will support PRC in utilizing a variety of mediums to communicate with residents and promote programs and services. PRC also provides preventative service in the community and plays an important role in building community resilience and contributing to the quality of life. This plan will assist the City in an updated social and community development framework
- The Integrated Facility Feasibility Study will address the diverse needs of our residents and stakeholders will be a challenge as the City grows. There is a need improve accessibility

9.6.4.4 Capital Projects

- The MRC Facility Expansion concept plan includes cultural spaces, gymnasium, accessibility adaptations, change rooms, fieldhouse, interior renovations to accommodate community meeting spaces and additional community recreation and cultural programming
- Consider the following options:

- additional multi-purpose spaces throughout Abbotsford to create opportunities for programs and community rentals
- multi-purpose spaces achieved through life-cycling renovation and updates of community spaces at MRC and ARC
- interim opportunities to improve accessibility at the Youth Centre at MRC



CULTURE



PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
MASTER PLAN

10 CULTURE

10.1 Culture

Arts, culture and community heritage programs and services play a vital role in the social, emotional, spiritual and economic well-being of the community. Culture enriches people's day-to-day lives, supporting enjoyment and appreciation of creative endeavours, enabling the community to share its stories and history, and fostering community identity and pride. Abbotsford's cultural services include visual arts, public art, heritage, performing arts, entertainment and festivals, and libraries.

Culture had limited mention in the 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The department title was changed to include Culture following the 2005 Master Plan.

10.1.1 Service Areas

- Visual arts
- Public art
- Heritage
- Performing arts
- Entertainment and festivals
- Libraries

10.1.2 Service Delivery

Abbotsford uses a blended approach to culture service delivery, including the following:

- Direct service provision, e.g., City offers arts and culture programs
- Arm's length, e.g., The Reach Gallery Museum is owned by the City, but operated by a dedicated board of directors, staff, and volunteers
- Enabling/coordinating, e.g., provision of grants

Recent investments in The Reach Gallery Museum demonstrate the City's commitment to expanding visual arts and heritage opportunities in Abbotsford. Partnerships with non-profit boards and other community partners are an important component of service delivery in Abbotsford.

Cultural production, programming, exhibitions, and performances are organized primarily by not-for-profit groups and private providers. This is common in most

communities. Expanding cultural opportunities generally requires support from the municipality through the provision of facilities, learning programs, and assistance in hosting events and programs.

10.1.2.1 Strategic Partnerships

Culture services are primarily delivered through partnerships. The major culture facilities are owned by the City and operated by the following key organizations:

- Abbotsford Cultural Centre Board (Reach Gallery Museum)
- Fraser Valley Regional Libraries (Mt Lehman, Abbotsford Community and Clearbrook Libraries)
- Heritage Abbotsford Society (Trethewey House Heritage Site)
- Spectra Venue Management (Abbotsford Centre)
- Abbotsford Arts Council (Kariton Art Gallery and Boutique)

Other partner providers of culture programs or services:

- Abbotsford Community Foundation
- University of the Fraser Valley
- Vancouver Foundation
- Abbotsford Community Services
- Abbotsford School District

10.1.3 Community Development

The City conducts a significant amount of outreach with community arts and culture organizations. The City's support services include providing spaces that can be rented for events and programs, providing access to facilities, and working with stakeholder groups to identify opportunities to address their specific needs. Culture opportunities are communicated through the PRC Program Guide, City website and City App. The major culture facilities also host their own websites and have in-house marketing resources.

Abbotsford hosts numerous events and festivals that are important to creating a sense of community. Though many of these events are organized by not-for-profit groups or private providers, the City provides space and support, while volunteers are vital to their organization and operation.

10.1.3.1 Culture Volunteer Programs

Volunteers are vital to supporting special events through administrative tasks, host duties, assisting with games and activities, food service, set-up, clean-up, traffic, and parking support. The opportunities include many special events, Communities in Bloom, and Culture Days.

10.1.3.2 Outreach and Volunteering

Outreach and volunteering are fundamental to the success of culture, especially for events and festivals. One opportunity is more collaboration with local First Nations and urban Indigenous organizations to support reconciliation and promote Indigenous art, culture, and heritage.

10.1.4 Plans, Policies and Studies

The City has not yet prepared a Culture Plan. If Abbotsford wishes to become a regional hub, a Culture Plan would provide clear objectives, explore long-term service delivery options, set the direction for investment, and identify sources of funding and revenue. The Heritage Plan, which is outdated, could be incorporated within the Culture Plan.

10.1.5 Issues and Opportunities

10.1.5.1 Staff Resources

Culture is still a burgeoning service at the City. The major cultural facilities are run through operating agreements. Continued engagement and outreach to culture organizations and user groups is needed to understand how culture facilities and programs can better serve their needs, and how to expand culture opportunities.

10.1.5.2 Facility Capacity

Culture development begins with education and opportunities to practice or produce, and although programs can be offered by the private sector, Abbotsford has limited space currently available and suitable for these opportunities.

10.1.5.3 Integration

The integration of culture services with recreation and parks is limited, even though significant opportunities exist. Planning and time are needed to achieve this.

10.1.5.4 Fraser Valley Coordination

Some major culture facilities have a regional audience. To minimize gaps or duplication, and to ensure that the Fraser Valley community is well-served for a range of activities, the City and other Fraser Valley municipalities should coordinate in planning major new culture facilities.

10.1.5.5 Communications

Culture is a newer service in Abbotsford. Many facilities were recently built, and are operated by third parties. There is a lack of public awareness of culture opportunities compared to recreation and parks.

10.1.5.6 Plans, Policies and Studies

A Culture Plan would provide clear objectives, explore long-term service delivery options, set the direction for investment, and identify sources of funding and revenue. The Heritage Plan, which is outdated, should be incorporated within the Culture Plan.

10.1.5.7 Financing Culture Facilities

As development increases, the City may wish to consider what revenue options are available to support the construction or acquisition of new culture facilities.



10.2 Visual Arts

Visual arts include a wide variety of art forms, such as painting, print-making, drawing, sculpture, crafts, pottery and ceramics, photography, film, and video. Visual arts form an important part of cultural offerings, from recreational programs, to exhibits of local, national, and international artists. The City of Abbotsford provides these services both directly, through arts and crafts programs at its community centres, and indirectly at City-owned facilities operated by non-profit organizations.

10.2.1 Background Research

10.2.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- There are no specific recommendations for culture in the 2005 Master Plan; however, the Arts and Heritage Master Plan is referenced
- City- Incorporation of culture in PRC department
- Construction and operation of the REACH Gallery Museum

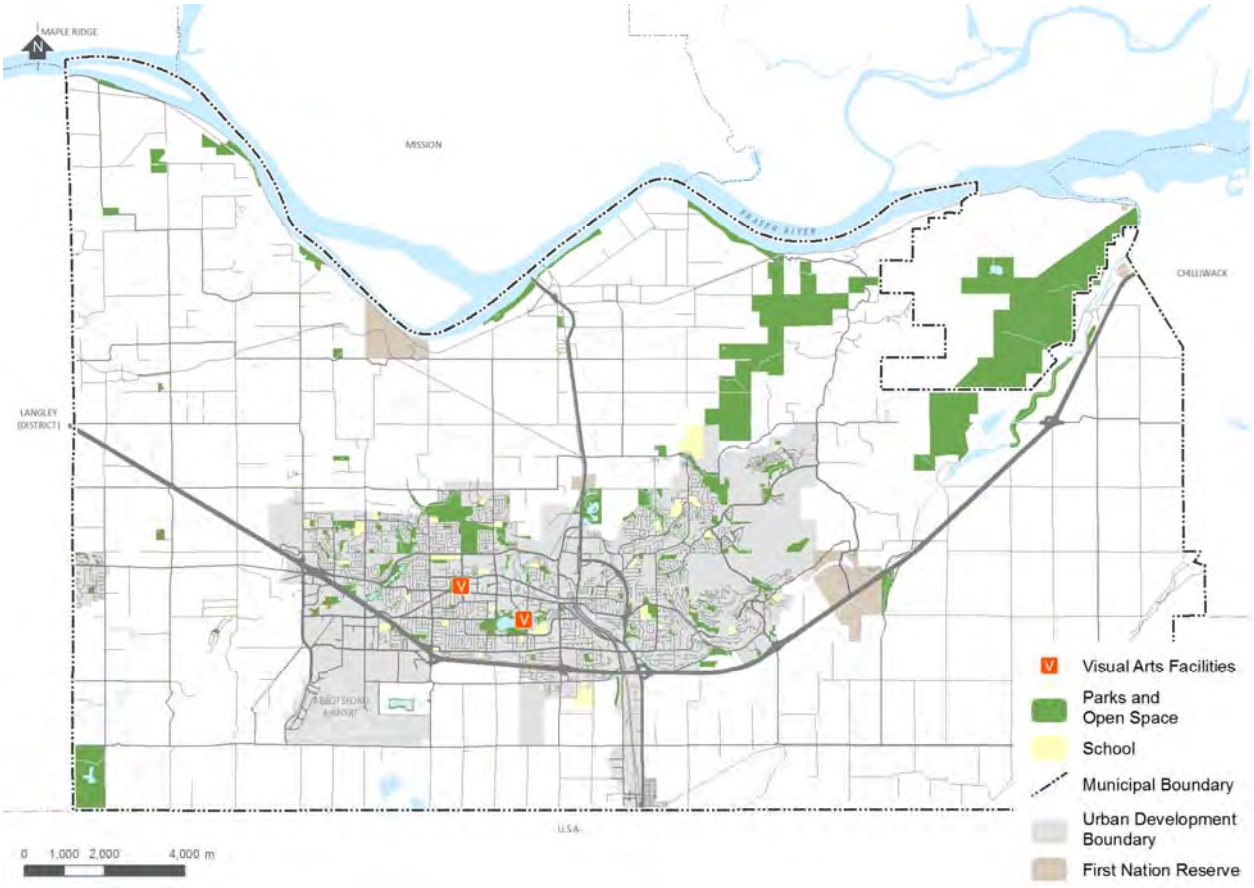
10.2.1.2 Asset Inventory

Abbotsford has two visual arts facilities - Reach Gallery Museum and Kariton Art Gallery and Boutique. The Reach Gallery Museum, completed in 2008, is primarily a visual arts facility that contains two community exhibition spaces and a large entertainment space. It is a 20,000-square foot LEED building managed by the Reach Gallery Museum Board of Directors. The gallery's high quality allows traveling exhibitions from other regional, provincial, national, and international cultural institutions to be exhibited. The facility includes an exhibition hall, large reception area that is suitable for entertaining, archives, multi-purpose studio, two community exhibitions spaces, art collection storage, and museum artifact collection storage. The facility is a hub for art, history, and culture in the Fraser Valley and was awarded a Governor General Award for its "Voices of the Valley" exhibition in 2016.

Kariton Art Gallery and Boutique, an initiative of the Abbotsford Arts Council, provides a place where local artists can exhibit and sell their work. It includes an art gallery and boutique gift shop. Each year, Kariton Art Gallery and Boutique features 10 to 12 exhibits showcasing the work of over 100 local emerging and professional artists. All exhibits are juried. The work of local artisans can be purchased at the gift shop year-round. The Gallery has showcased the work of over 3,000 artists since Abbotsford Arts Council began operating it in 1995.

Location	Main Components
Reach Gallery Museum	• 566.7 m^2 exhibition hall • Large reception area (suitable for entertaining) • Archives • Multi-purpose studio • 2 community exhibition spaces • Art collection storage • Museum artifact collection storage
Kariton Art Gallery and Boutique	• Exhibition space • Art boutique

Table 31: Asset Inventory: Visual Arts



Map 16: Visual Arts Distribution

10.2.1.3 Programming

The Reach Gallery Museum and Kariton Art Gallery and Boutique host exhibits, offer special events and programs, and offer tours. Outside of the city core, there are few

dedicated learning spaces for visual arts and no known arts programs. Opportunities for offering multi-media programs are limited.

Some visual arts programming is offered at the ARC and MRC. Participation has fluctuated over the past years, but shows continued interest.

Arts programming takes place in a variety of multi-purpose spaces:

- The Reach Gallery Museum
- Clearbrook Library
- ARC
- Kariton Art Gallery
- Matsqui Centennial Auditorium
- MRC

10.2.2 Analysis

10.2.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

While participation in visual arts is lower than other activities, this is not unusual in a context like Abbotsford where visual arts opportunities have only been introduced recently. Satisfaction was higher for display facilities than for visual arts programs.



Figure 20: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Participation & Satisfaction - Visual Arts

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Appreciation for The Reach Gallery Museum
- Multi-purpose visual and performing arts facility in the city centre
- Investigate more opportunities to nurture and promote local artists
- More spaces available for visual arts teaching and production
- Investigate partnerships for additional cultural facilities (e.g., performance centre), infrastructure, and equipment

10.2.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's supply of exhibition space and dedicated arts learning space was compared with other communities.

FEATURE	2005	2017	200K*	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Exhibition space (2)	1 per 123,000	1 per 71,000	1 per 100,000	1 per 69,000
Dedicated arts learning space (0)**	None	None	None	1 per 63,000

**If supply stays the same*
***Abbotsford has 6 facilities that can host arts programming: The Reach Gallery Museum, Kariton Art Gallery, Clearbrook Library, MCA, ARC, and MRC.*

Table 32: Comparable Communities - Visual Arts

Abbotsford offers a similar provision of exhibition space as the average among neighbouring communities, and a significantly lower rate of dedicated arts learning space.

Some Abbotsford residents travel to Chilliwack to use the instructional facilities at the O'Connor Group Art Gallery. For major displays, residents will travel to other larger municipalities. The Reach Gallery Museum attracts visitors from the region, as does the Surrey Art Gallery, which offers theatre and visual arts viewing opportunities.

10.2.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- There is increasing interest in showcasing visual art that reflects community diversity
- Residents are interested in unstructured, drop-in, and short-term programs
- Some communities are seeing greater participation in children's arts education
- Production space for larger artworks is difficult to find and an ongoing issue

- Visual arts exhibits are moving beyond the four walls of the gallery and into unconventional public spaces
- Cultural development is extending beyond the city core and cultural districts/areas are being developed and formalize
- Cultural plans and projects occur through collaboration among arts and culture stakeholders, and municipalities are providing funding and other support for arts and culture entrepreneurs to invigorate communities
- Municipalities are enhancing communications on arts and culture activities and opportunities

10.2.2.4 Spatial Analysis

As destination facilities that people are expected to travel to, the spatial distribution of major visual arts facilities is not as important as it is for neighbourhood parks or basic recreation facilities. Both of the City's visual arts facilities are centrally located.

The City lacks visual arts spaces in neighbourhoods. It is possible that some schools and faith-based organizations offer some studio spaces, and access to these will need to be explored.

10.2.3 Issues and Opportunities

10.2.3.1 Diverse Venues

Abbotsford has limited venues for nurturing and promoting local artists and displaying their works. Some of the requests and trends include accessible space downtown, flexible exhibition space that can accommodate different technologies and types of visual art, and a multi-purpose visual and performing arts facility. These types of facilities could enhance opportunities for the City's artists and residents.

10.2.3.2 Learning Opportunities

There are limited visual arts learning opportunities provided by the City, apart from major destination facilities and some arts programming offered at recreation facilities. This is partly due to the lack of dedicated arts learning spaces or multi-purpose spaces. Increasing opportunities in the visual arts will require more learning facilities that will allow for more programs, which could be delivered by partners.

10.2.4 Long-Term Directions

10.2.4.1 Service Delivery

- Prepare a Cultural Plan to include heritage, community cultural asset mapping, marketing and education plan, and public art inventory and review

10.2.4.2 Community Development

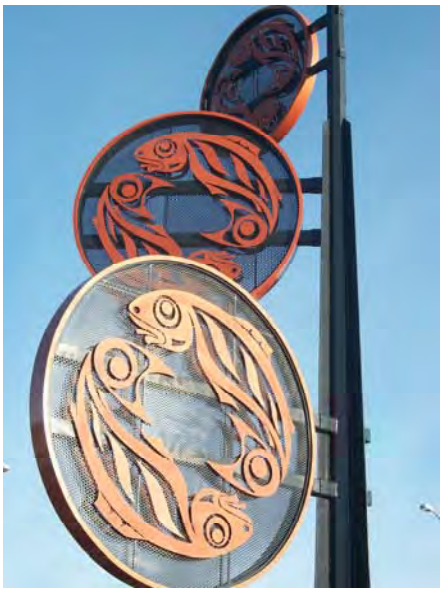
- Explore partnership opportunities in the development of visual arts and multi-purpose facilities
- Explore partnership opportunities in programming additional visual arts teaching, production and display spaces in community facilities

10.2.4.3 Capital Projects

- Consider the following options:
- diverse visual arts venues, ranging from small display spaces to a multi-purpose visual and performing arts centre
- visual arts teaching, production and display spaces during renovation of community facilities and in spaces that may be available



10.3 Public Art



Public art can be a source of community pride and a contribution to the aesthetic quality of civic facilities and parks. By placing artwork in our everyday environment, the Public Art Program sparks community participation in public spaces, offers public access to ideas generated by contemporary art, encourages citizens to take pride in public cultural expression, and creates a forum for addressing relevant themes and issues.

The benefits of public art are numerous. It has the power to energize public spaces, arouse our thinking, and transform the places where we live, work, and play into more welcoming and beautiful environments that invite interaction. Public art can inspire strangers to talk to each other, children to ask questions, and calm a hurried life. Beyond its enriching personal benefits, public art is a symbol of a city's maturity.

10.3.1 Background Research

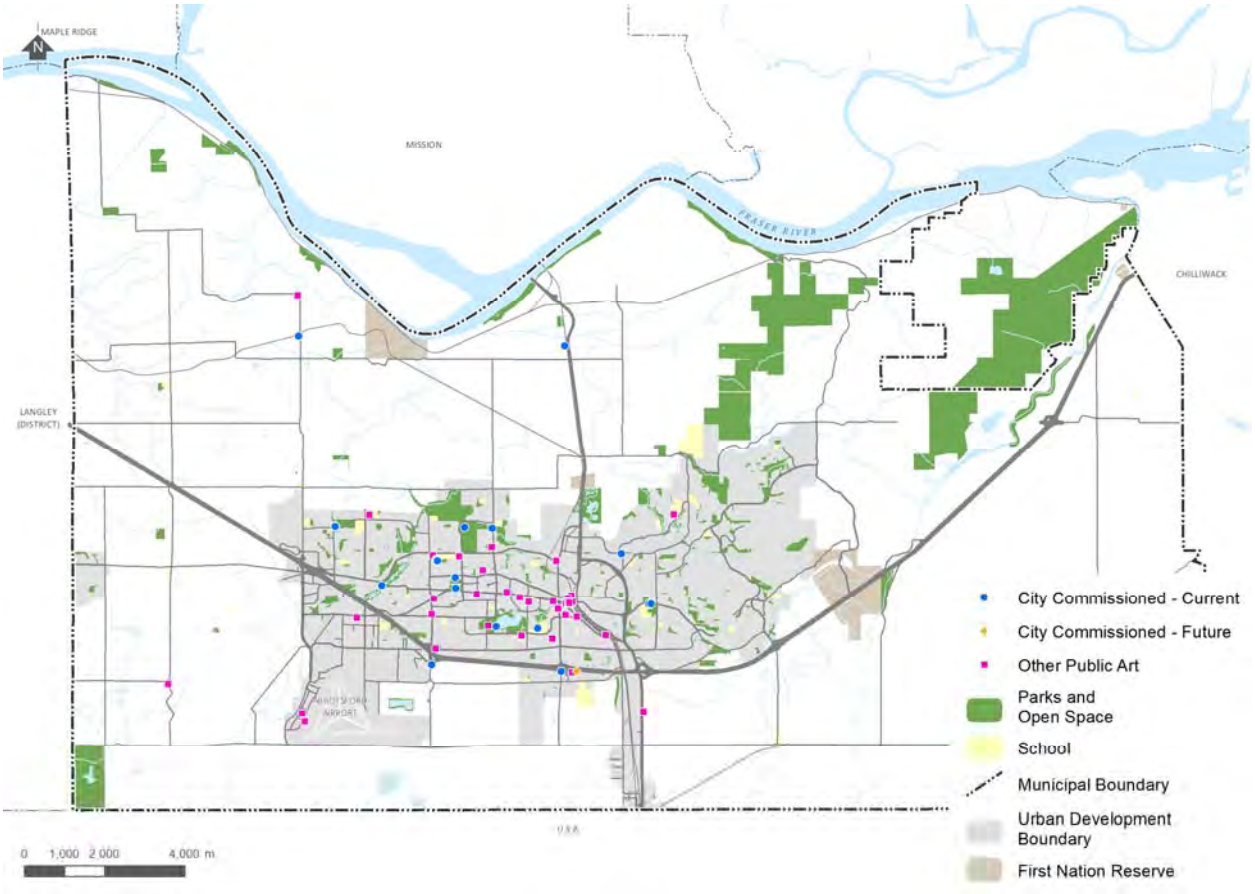
10.3.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- Established Public Art Policy
- Established Reserve Fund for Public Art (replaced by the Reserve Funds Establishment Bylaw, 2811-2018)
- Added 20+ public art works including iconic Golden Tree, Salmon, and Raspberries

10.3.1.2 Asset Inventory

From 1990 to today, numerous pieces of public art have been installed in Abbotsford. The City has a reasonable number of public art works, and some are of high quality. From benches to murals and sculptures, the public art reflects the city's past and present, and celebrates ideas, events, cultures, and heritage. In 2011, Council adopted the Public Art Policy that provided the framework for acquiring civic, community and developer public art and also established a Public Art Reserve Fund Bylaw. The Public Art Reserve Fund created a vehicle for cash donation by the private sector, which was previously not possible. Council also approved a one percent, per year, public art budget for all civic developments to a maximum of

$300,000 per project. In addition, through the development permit process, private developers are encouraged, on a voluntary basis, to include public art on new construction in the City.



Map 17: Public Art Distribution

City Commissioned/Donated Public Art				
The Raspberry Clearbrook South Roundabout At Hwy 1	Café Wall Mural Abbotsford Recreation Centre	The Wave Matsqui Recreation Centre	The Golden Tree International Friendship Garden	The Wave Wall Mural Abbotsford Recreation Centre
Life Cycle Of A Salmon **McC**allum Interchange South Roundabout	The Wood Mural Abbotsford Recreation Centre	Under Water Experience Awning Matsqui Recreation Centre	Matsqui Fire Hall Monument Fire Hall 4	We Share The Same Moon Matsqui Recreation Centre
Phoenix Rising Fire Hall No. 8	Inspirational Community Wall Abbotsford Recreation Centre	Arena Entrance Matsqui Recreation Centre	Mt Lehman Historic Mural Fire Hall 5	Harmonious Energy Discovery Trail Section 2
The Page Turner Aka Word Play Abbotsford Collegiate Public Library	Red Brick & Glass Mosaic Salmon Sculpture Fish Trap Creek	Wave Pool Entrance Matsqui Recreation Centre	TBA Salton Pedestrian/Cycling Bridge, Hwy 1	Birds Discovery Trail Section
Tree Of Life Fire Hall No. 8	Murals On Walls Of Ag Rec Building And Agrifair Arena Buildings Abbotsford Exhibition Park	Canada 150 Mosaic Matsqui Centennial Auditorium	Water-wise Community Public Art Mill Lake Park	Hand Prints Abbotsford Recreation Centre

Table 33: City Commissioned/Donated Public Art

10.3.1.3 Programming

The City has a Public Art Policy and funding mechanism. An interdepartmental staff team identifies the sites for artwork and reviews submissions.

10.3.2 Analysis

10.3.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Increased opportunities for local artists to display their talent through public art
- More public art in parks and along trails
- Artwork that reflects the social trends and opinions associated with younger demographics
- Developer contributions to public art

10.3.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

For a community of its size, Abbotsford has a significant number of public artworks. Data on artworks in neighbouring communities was not collected, but it varies widely. For example, Surrey has 71 pieces of public art, Richmond has 130, and North Vancouver has 150 pieces.

10.3.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Permanent and temporary public art can regenerate ordinary or neglected outdoor spaces
- Public art can be functional, e.g., unique seating arrangements, play structures, and natural features, and it can beautify neighbourhoods
- Public art can attract viewers from throughout the community and beyond, with major public art pieces in high traffic areas drawing the most attention
- Richmond and North Vancouver have private development public art programs that encourage public art on a volunteer basis in all developments above a certain density
- Many cities with public art programs have dedicated staff

10.3.2.4 Spatial Analysis

Public art can be found throughout Abbotsford, with the highest concentration in central locations.

10.3.3 Issues and Opportunities

10.3.3.1 Quality of Public Art

There is a range in the quality of Abbotsford's public art and the maintenance required. It will be important to the long-term success of the public art program for the City to establish standards of quality and funding for ongoing maintenance.

10.3.3.2 Programming

City staff currently reviews and selects public art works. There is community interest in more public involvement in public art selection, and more volunteer opportunities related to public art.

Include public art in areas that will have the most exposure and support the OCP in creating a vibrant city centre and a distinct urban core.

10.3.3.3 Funding for Public Art

The City contributes one percent of new civic facilities to public art, and developers contribute on a voluntary basis. While this has led to some great successes, it is difficult to plan for expanding the City's inventory of public art or to guide where it is located.

10.3.4 Long-Term Directions

10.3.4.1 Service Delivery

- Prepare a Cultural Plan to include heritage, community cultural asset mapping, marketing and education plan, and public art inventory and review.
- Review resource allocation and funding requirements to maintain public art.
- Enhance marketing to attract viewers from within Abbotsford, as well as tourists.
- Explore opportunities to include public art in recreation, parks, and trails projects, potentially integrated with site furniture or urban design features.
- Explore options to increase developer contributions to public art.

10.3.4.2 Policies, Plans & Studies

- Review and update the Public Art Policy and program plan to address funding and acquiring public art, inventory protocol and maintenance, locations for public art, and standards for the quality of public art.

10.4 Heritage

Heritage sites and buildings can have a positive influence on community development. Regeneration, housing, education, economic growth, and community engagement are examples of the ways in which heritage can contribute to community life, as follows:

- The historic environment is a proven source of benefit to local economies, particularly through tourism
- An attractive heritage environment assists in attracting external investment as well as maintaining existing businesses of all types, not just tourism-related
- People are very proud of their local history because it adds character and distinctiveness to an area, and heritage can be fundamental to creating a 'sense of place' for a community
- Adaptive reuse of heritage buildings is an important factor in creating sustainable communities
- Heritage buildings add value to regeneration projects through the economic and environmental advantages of reuse over new build and in adding character to a precinct
- Heritage places can be a potent driver for community action
- Increased community values and greater social inclusion can be achieved through a focus on heritage matters

The Stó:lō people have lived in the Fraser Valley for at least 9,000 years. The traditional stories of Stó:lō elders are the basis for how Stó:lō people understand the world. This Indigenous knowledge is an oral tradition and its history, culture, teachings, and spirituality are passed down orally. Traditional stories of the Stó:lō people tell us of a time prior to 10,000 years ago; many elders refer to this as 'since time immemorial'. Carbon dating of archaeological evidence at Hatzic Rock (or Xa:ytem) in Mission shows artifacts to be 9,000 years old.

The Sumas and Matsqui First Nations are located in the City of Abbotsford. The Sumas First Nation, located within the Stó:lō Traditional Territory, is part of the Greater Coast Salish People known as the Sema:th people. Their population is 578 on 235 hectares. Their traditional territory extends south across the (present day) border, northward taking in the Stó:lō (Fraser) bank at Sumas Mountain southeast of Mission, and across the river into the Coastal Mountains. The Matsqui First Nation of 565 members is located on the Fraser River, on three reserves totaling approximately 419 hectares.

Partnering with First Nations on cultural heritage projects can be a step towards reconciliation and relationship-building.

Abbotsford's historical development began at Matsqui Prairie along the Fraser River with a historic rural village surrounded by agricultural. Today, landmarks include the Chapel on Riverside Road, Matsqui Hall, and Matsqui Trail Regional Park, a walking and cycling trail along the Fraser River dyke.

Abbotsford has a rich and diverse history. Heritage services are an important part of sharing this history and enhancing community identity. From the First Nations that originally inhabited the lands, to early settlers and Abbotsford's diverse population, there are significant opportunities to preserve heritage and to tell the stories of the community.

The current Official Community Plan (OCP) supports heritage through the creation of the Clayburn Heritage Conservation Area, and through conservation guidelines. Through significant planning efforts, Abbotsford now also has a Community Heritage Register. The City supports the Reach Gallery Museum which houses both a heritage gallery and significant archival references, the Heritage Abbotsford Society (formerly MSA Museum Society) responsible for the Trethewey House heritage site, and the Abbotsford Sports Hall of Fame which houses the community's sport history and memorabilia artifacts

10.4.1 Background Research

10.4.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- 8 heritage sites added to Abbotsford's statements of Heritage in the Community Heritage Registry

10.4.1.2 Inventory

The City still has many structures and sites that reflect the history of early settlers, which are discussed in more detail below. One of the highlights is Clayburn Village, which is a designated Heritage Conservation Area.

A rich heritage continues to evolve with those who have settled in Abbotsford and others who are still arriving. The Mennonites, Sikhs, and the current wave of immigrants from diverse countries will all be able to contribute to Abbotsford's ongoing heritage with their stories.

Trethewey House

Constructed in 1920, the Trethewey House is significant as the most substantial historic house in the Mill Lake Park area, and for its sophisticated Craftsman-style architecture, which retains a high degree of original integrity. The house was constructed by Joseph Ogle Trethewey (died 1928), proprietor of the large, local lumber mill, the Abbotsford Lumber Company, and his family. The Trethewey family was instrumental in the early development of Abbotsford; the mill was a major employer in the area and its activities changed the landscape from forest to field. The house has been restored to c. 1925. Furnishings and artifacts have been collected from local families with assistance from the Province of BC. The house documents the key industries upon which the settlement of Abbotsford was founded. The house and its property are home to the Heritage Abbotsford Society (formerly the MSA Museum Society).

Clayburn Heritage Conservation Area

In 1995, the Clayburn Heritage Area Revitalization Bylaw was adopted to protect Clayburn Village. Located near the centre of Abbotsford, the village contains many structures, including houses, a schoolhouse, church and general store from the time of the Clayburn Brick Company and the Maclures. The MSA Museum Society prepared an inventory of past and existing heritage buildings. This inventory represented a start towards proper heritage management but has no legal status and needs updating.

Built in 1907-1908, Clayburn School was originally built as a one-room schoolhouse. It was enlarged in 1925 with a basement and plumbed washrooms. The last year of classes was 1983. Clayburn School has always played a major role in the community, serving as a meeting place for celebrations, youth concerts, whist drives, and Saturday night dances in the 1930s. After purchase by the Clayburn Village Community Society in 1991, it continues to be used by the community and also houses artifacts and photos, acting as an informal museum that interprets local history and the nature of early education in the village. Major restorative work was done in 2000 and 2007, and continues with the dedication of volunteers and the generosity of donors. The old school is located in the village of Clayburn, on the west side of Sumas Mountain, in relative proximity to the other early principal structures in the village.

Clayburn Church was built in 1912 as a Presbyterian Church. Its first minister was the Reverend Millar. With two services each Sunday, it served the spiritual needs of the community until 1958 when the congregation joined with St. Andrews United in Abbotsford. In 1969, the building was sold to the Clayburn Village Community Society. In 1978, Clayburn Church was restored by the MSA Heritage Society and is now a protected provincial heritage site.

Gur Sikh Temple

Gur Sikh Temple was built in 1911. It is the oldest Gurdwara in North America. The building and legal lot were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 2002. It was built in 1911 by early Sikh pioneers with lumber donated by the Trethewey family. This simple, rectangular, gable-roofed building is of wood-frame construction clad in wood siding. The false fronted façade that faces the street is typical of Canadian commercial vernacular architecture of the period. A verandah runs along three sides of the building on the second floor.

Old South Poplar School

Old South Poplar School was listed on the City's Heritage Registry in 2006. The school served the early Mennonite settlers of Abbotsford.

New Westminster Hope Wagon Road

A historic portion of Old Yale Road to Vye Road.

Former Abbotsford Lumber Company Log Dump

The former Abbotsford Lumber Company Log Dump, on 2310 Emerson Street (Mill Lake Park), was designated as a historic site on September 15, 2014. The Trethewey family owned the lumber company and their family home (Trethewey House) still sits on Mill Lake Park.

Additional heritage sites include:

Turner House

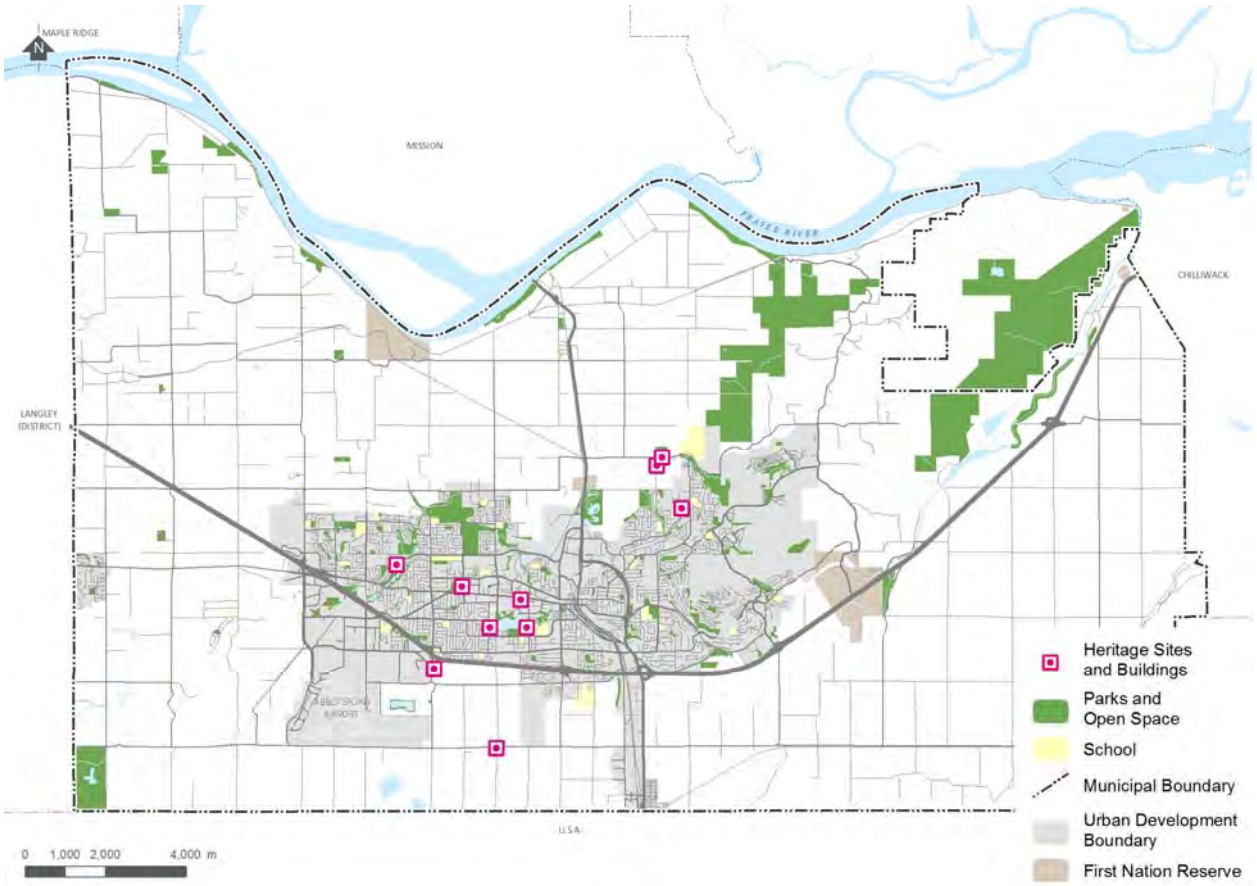
The Turner House, located at 33786 Clayburn Road (near Hwy 11 and near the junction between CP and Southern Railway, was built by Royal Engineer George Turner circa 1875. The house is significant as the only surviving house from the first phase of European settlement on the Matsqui Prairie. It remains an example of the area's oldest vernacular architecture. Mr. Turner himself surveyed one of Abbotsford's main arteries to run from the steamboat landing to this property. The building is highly representative of a very early farming property, and between 1886 and 1888, the farm was the home of Maple Grove Dairy Company, one of the area's first cooperatively run farms, owned by some of the community's pioneers, including the Downes and Sims families. The man who built the home, Alben Hawkins – the first settler to live on Mt. Lehman – wrote about the house's construction in his daily journal in 1875. Turner House is unique for its age, condition, builder and resident, and the plethora of documents surrounding its construction.

Hawkins and Turner were among many early Abbotsford settlers who were Royal Engineers brought to B.C. to help survey the U.S./Canada border and plan for the development of the Lower Mainland. Many engineers settled in the area and have given names to prominent landmarks around town. Turner himself is known for producing the original survey of Stanley Park, mapping the Dewdney Trail and helping plan roads and town sites around the Lower Mainland, including Yale Road from New Westminster to Hope.

Although it is not directly connected to the historic Clayburn Village, it is valuable as a historic structure to the City and the location to Clayburn Park. The relocation and establishment of the site at Clayburn Park will be a multi-year process with the aim to facilitate a revival of the historic property including the brick ovens; currently fenced off to the general public.

Abbotsford Sports Hall of Fame

The Abbotsford Sports Hall of Fame Legacy Sports Centre is located at Abbotsford Exhibition Park and was established by the Western Canada Summer Games Society after the successful 1995 Western Canada Summer Games in Abbotsford. The Legacy Sports Centre exhibits the diverse history of outstanding athletic achievement in the community featuring Paralympic legend Eugene Reimer, Dave Murray, a member of the famed ‘Crazy Canucks’ alpine ski team, and Alanna Kraus, speed skater and two-time medallist at the Winter Olympics and over 50 inductees.



Map 18: Heritage Sites Distribution

10.4.1.3 Programming

The protection of heritage sites and community stories involves a variety of local organizations, such as the Clayburn Village Community Society, Khalsa Diwan Society, and Heritage Abbotsford Society, to name only a few. The City offers heritage programs at the Trethewey House Museum. The City also maintains the Community Heritage Register.

The City has programming spaces in the following heritage and museum facilities:

- The Reach Gallery Museum
- Trethewey House
- Heritage Gallery
- Sports Hall of Fame

10.4.2 Analysis

10.4.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

Twenty-three percent of survey respondents indicated visits to a heritage building or site. Community survey respondents were more satisfied with heritage buildings than with heritage programs.

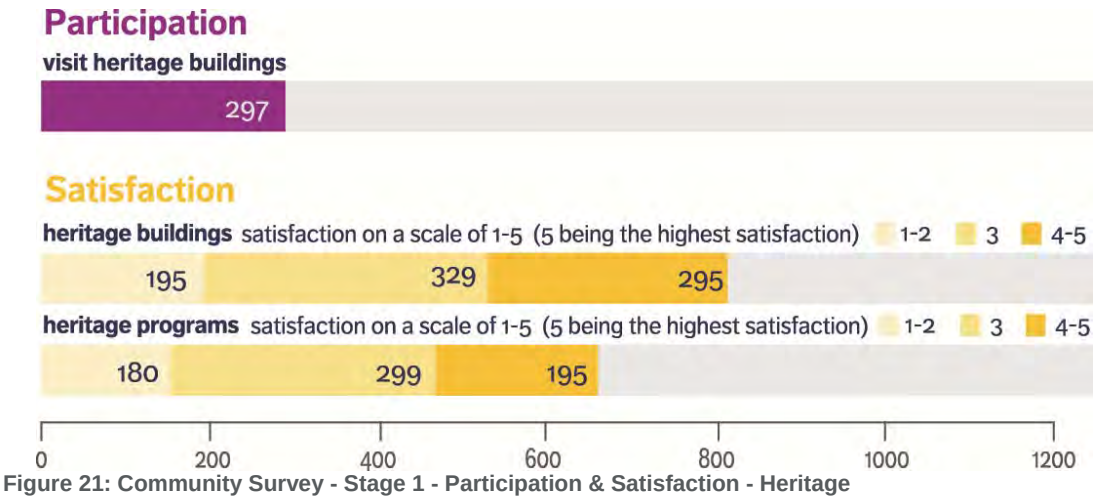


Figure 21: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Participation & Satisfaction - Heritage

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Appreciation for Abbotsford's heritage sites
- Update the 2005 Heritage Plan
- Involvement and promotion of local Indigenous and multicultural communities
- More celebratory programs related to the city's history and heritage
- Better protection of and education about Abbotsford heritage sites
- Modern approach to interpretation using technology

10.4.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's supply of museums, heritage sites, exhibitions, and programming space was compared with other communities.

FEATURE	2005	2017	200K*	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Municipal museums (2)	1 per 123,000	1 per 71,000	1 per 100,000	1 per 82,000
City-managed heritage sites (2)	1 per 123,000	1 per 71,000	1 per 100,000	1 per 74,000
Heritage exhibition space outside museums (1)	None	1 per 141,000	1 per 200,000	1 per 107,000
Museums and heritage programming space (4)	1 per 123,00	1 per 35,000	1 per 50,000	1 per 51,000

**If supply stays the same*

Table 34: Comparable Communities - Heritage

10.4.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Protecting Indigenous heritage and collaborating with local Indigenous communities is an increasing priority
- In some cases, keeping heritage alive is accomplished through repurposing to meet modern needs, such as artist-in-residence, restaurants or businesses in old houses
- Heritage artifacts are integrated into other civic facilities as part of sharing community history
- Mobile apps, interactive displays, online exhibits, and local history podcasts are some of the ways that technology can be used to share local history and capture intangible cultural assets
- Reaching a wide audience is accomplished through diverse opportunities, including special events, tours, and programming throughout the community
- Local history and heritage are shared on interpretive signs in public spaces
- Heritage goes beyond buildings and locations to include music, culinary traditions, textile arts, and stories

10.4.2.4 Spatial Analysis

The distribution of heritage facilities is connected to historical sites. Most residents are willing to travel some distance to reach these facilities.

10.4.3 Issues and Opportunities

10.4.3.1 Indigenous Culture and Heritage

The Stó:lō Nations were the first peoples in the area, and their history and culture are critical parts of Abbotsford's history. There is a need to work with local Indigenous communities to identify opportunities for collaboration and ways the City can support the promotion of Stó:lō culture and heritage.

10.4.3.2 Heritage Programming

Abbotsford does not have an overarching program for heritage protection and interpretation. The current interpretation approaches are traditional compared to what is possible with new technology and concepts. There are opportunities for the City to expand the ways that heritage is recognized, protected, and promoted, integrating new technologies and techniques into heritage promotion and programs.

10.4.3.3 Heritage Conservation Area

The Clayburn Heritage Conservation Area is the only area identified through the OCP and is subject to Heritage Alteration Permits to conserve this significant piece of Abbotsford history. Heritage Conservation Areas are a tool that enables the City to preserve notable heritage assets. With significant land constraints it is becoming increasingly important in our city to protect heritage properties and ensure neighbouring properties respect the historical character of their surroundings. As the city grows towards 200,000 residents, these Heritage Conservation Guidelines can help retain the value of historically important properties and buildings.

10.4.4 Long-Term Directions

10.4.4.1 Service Delivery

- Expand and update heritage services as proposed in the updated Heritage Plan (to be included in the Cultural Plan)
- Integrate more heritage components into displays and public features
- Ensure alignment with the OCP and integration with plans and departments

10.4.4.2 Community Development

- Explore opportunities to collaborate with local First Nations, and potentially other Indigenous organizations, to protect and interpret Indigenous sites, stories, and artifacts

- Collaborate with local not-for-profit organizations on heritage and culture opportunities
- Establish a working group on heritage, reporting to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Advisory Committee

10.4.4.3 Policies, Plans & Studies

- Abbotsford's inventory of parks and evolution from amalgamation to current City logo necessitates a rejuvenation and consistent branding for signage that takes into consideration technology, wayfinding, and interpretive signage
- Through the update of the 2005 Heritage Plan (potentially within a Culture Plan), expand heritage recognition, protection, programs, and promotion, considering the following as potential examples:
- heritage inventory of culturally significant features, buildings, and places
- heritage plaques or markers
- additions to the Community Heritage Register
- historic cultural interpretive trails with wayfinding signs and maps
- integrating more heritage throughout the City in displays and design of public features
- partnering with post-secondary institutions on local heritage projects
- heritage skills classes
- walking tours
- integrating heritage into special events
- heritage App, possibly through My City
- virtual reality apps, e.g., use of archival photos to show historical sites as users pass different locations

10.4.4.4 Capital Projects

- Turner House relocation and Clayburn park development will occur over a 3-year period and includes house relocation, services connection, and park upgrades

10.5 Performing Arts

Performing arts are highly varied and include vocal and instrumental music, dance, theatre, pantomime, and sung verse. They include numerous cultural expressions that reflect creativity and that are also found, to some extent, in many other intangible cultural heritage domains.

Performing arts are an important cultural offering, involving the teaching of youth all the way up to major performances that inspire and bring people together. The City of Abbotsford provides some of these services directly through programs at its community centres. Performing arts are also provided by schools, community organizations, churches, and private studios.

Volunteers play an important role in supporting performing arts in Abbotsford.

10.5.1 Background Research

10.5.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- Construction and operation of Abbotsford Centre
- Construction of Abbotsford Arts Centre in collaboration with Abbotsford School District

10.5.1.2 Asset Inventory

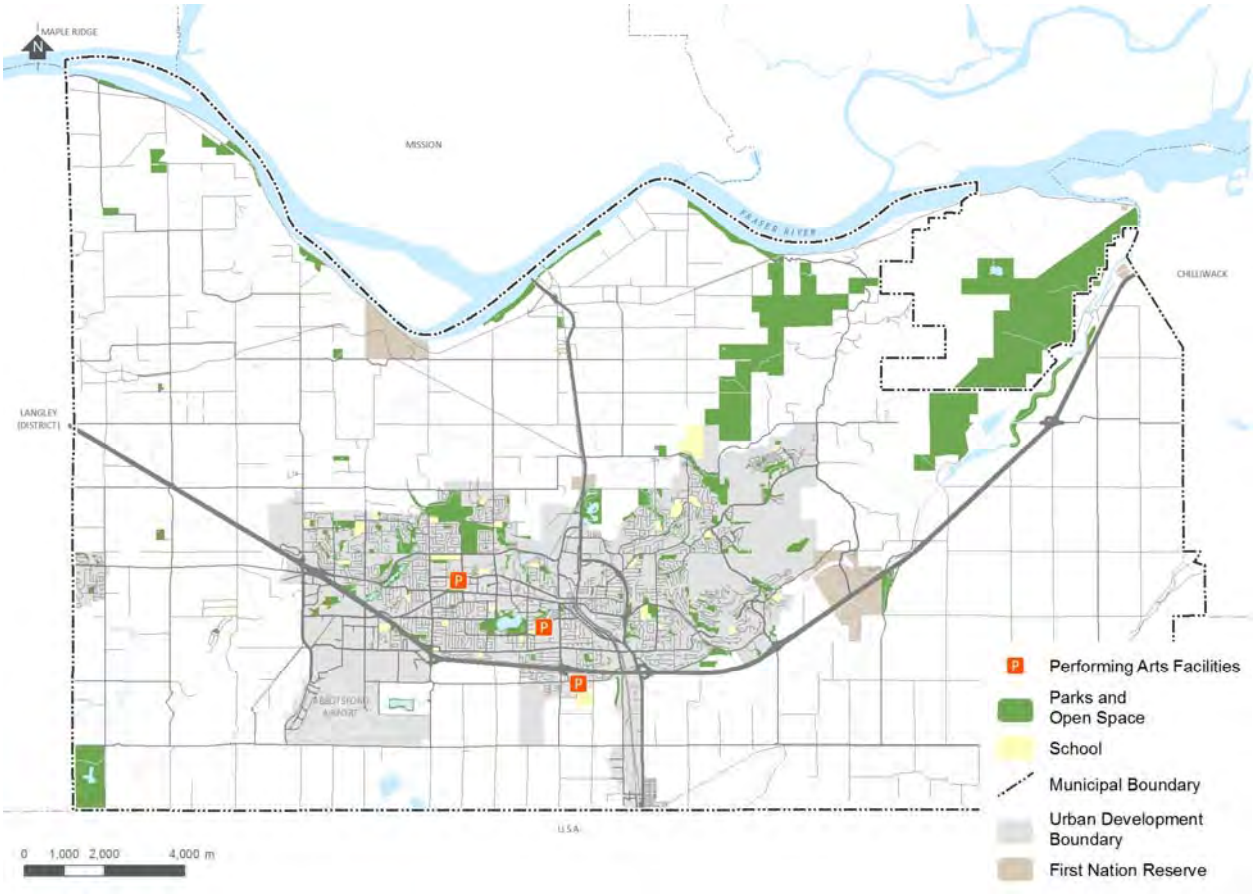
Abbotsford has three major performing arts facilities. There is also a theatre space at Fraser Valley University, seven auditoriums at public high schools, and two auditoriums at local colleges. There are also spaces that can host performances at faith-based facilities and gathering spaces.



Performing Arts Facilities	Main Components
Matsqui Centennial Auditorium	• 386-seat theatre-style venue • 9.1 m by 11.0 m stage with large on-stage screen available • Two dressing rooms with showers • Green room • State of the art sound and lighting systems • PA and multi-media services • Grand piano • Fountain area and courtyard that can be transformed into a stage
Abbotsford Centre	• 7,000-seat multi-purpose arena (8,500 concert capacity) • Built in 2007 • Hosts numerous music and other cultural events throughout the year
Abbotsford Arts Centre	• 700-seat performing arts centre • Full concert lighting, sound, and fly system

Table 35: Asset Inventory - Performing Arts

Abbotsford Centre is a good for major events like concerts, sporting events, and large-scale trade shows, drawing spectators from afar. The Matsqui Centennial Auditorium only allows for traditional performances, as does the Abbotsford Arts Centre, which is used mostly for school events, musical productions, and celebrations. Abbotsford's existing performing arts facilities do not meet all local needs; however, there would be substantial costs involved in converting them to meet all the needs of today's art and cultural activities.



Map 19: Performing Arts Distribution

10.5.1.3 Programming

There are 48 regular groups using the MCA that offer theatre, symphony, and concert performances, meetings, and workshops. This facility has hosted performances and events from community groups, local and international artists, schools, dance schools, businesses, and governments. However, the MCA is challenging from a programming perspective as it needs to be converted for use by Council on a regular basis.

The Abbotsford Centre is a major regional facility and attracts international performers. It is operated by a private provider.

The Abbotsford Arts Centre is operated by Abbotsford School District and hosts a wide range of performances and events.

A few performing arts programs are run by the City in community centres for young children. The lack of dedicated learning space limits the growth of performing arts programming.

10.5.2 Analysis

10.5.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

Attending a concert or live musical event were the two most common activities among survey respondents in this focus area. There were more respondents highly satisfied with performing arts venues than with performing arts.

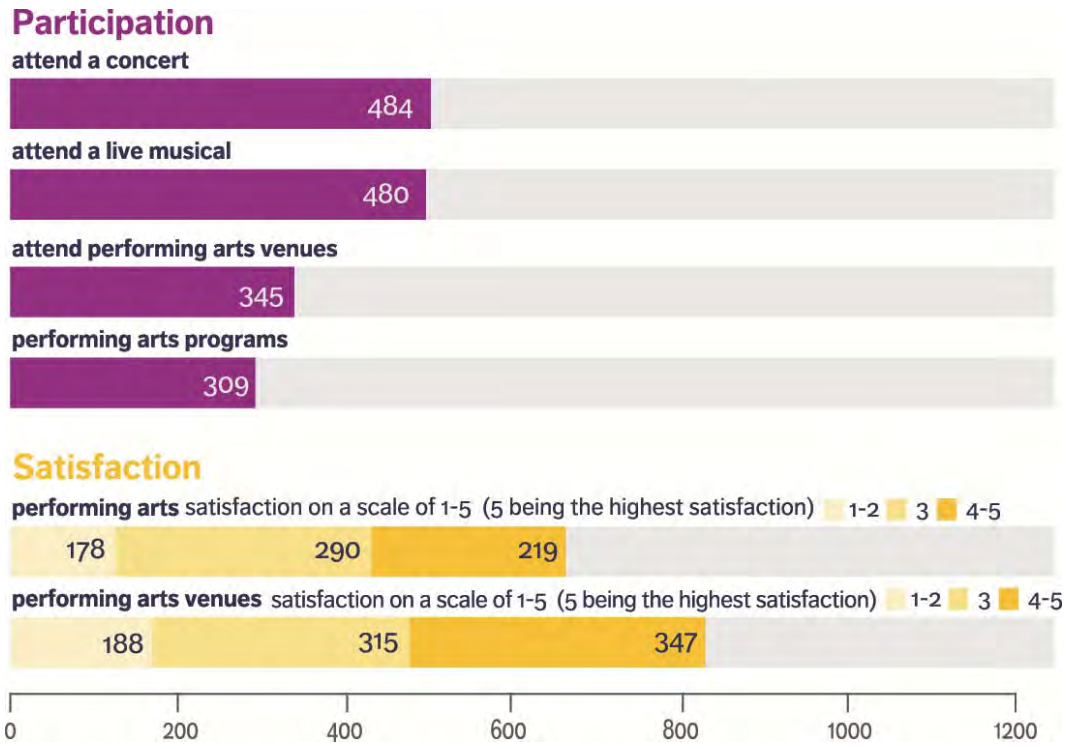


Figure 22: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Participation & Satisfaction - Performing Arts

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Appreciation for the City's performing arts venues
- Affordable and flexible rehearsal space and performance venues
- Multi-purpose visual and performing arts facility
- A permanent outdoor performance space

10.5.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's supply of performance spaces was compared with other communities.

FEATURE	2005	2017	200K*	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Performance spaces (3)	1 per 123,000	1 per 47,000	1 per 67,000	1 per 62,000

**If supply stays the same*

Table 36: Comparable Communities - Performing Arts

The City offers a higher provision rate of performance spaces than the average among neighbouring communities.

10.5.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Communities support local performing arts in many ways, such as rehearsal space, instrument/equipment libraries, educational programming, and capacity-building for local leaders
- Performing arts space design is evolving to be more flexible and adaptable
- Temporary performance spaces bring music and theatre to new audiences and pop-up concerts enliven public spaces

10.5.2.4 Spatial Analysis

As destination facilities that people typically travel to, the spatial distribution of major performing arts facilities is not as important as it is for neighbourhood parks or basic recreation facilities. The City's performing arts facilities are centrally located.

10.5.3 Issues and Opportunities

10.5.3.1 Types of Facilities

Although Abbotsford has a reasonable supply of performing arts venues, they are not meeting all needs. The Matsqui Centennial Auditorium needs to be converted for Council, Abbotsford Centre is too large for many local uses even though it can be converted for smaller productions, and the Abbotsford Arts Centre is extremely popular with limited availability. The City's culture community has expressed a desire for an affordable, flexible performance space that can accommodate rehearsals and different types of productions. This is commonly referred to as a black box theatre.

There is no one-ideal size for a theatre. The scale of performance spaces depends on the size of the staging required by the type of performance and the size of audience to

be accommodated, with each variable in influencing the other as they change. No one-size-fits-all formula works with that kind of nuance. A theatre is not simply a space for looking at or listening to a performance. A successful theatre for live performance supports the emotional exchange between the performer and the audience, and among members of the audience. The typical theatre performs for different performance types.

Today, black box theatres are in demand in many communities. A black box theatre by definition is a small theatre with moveable parts and black walls. This theatre, all in black, is intended for educational purposes as well as small student performances, guest lectures, and audio/visual movies and presentations. The walls are covered with acoustic diffuser panels painted black. The front curtains to the stage are a black heavyweight material with the seats upholstered in a dark grey fabric. The ceiling contains acoustically reflective ceiling clouds made of plywood, also painted black, to reflect the sound effectively within the space. A catwalk runs around the ceiling for theatre lighting equipment, ceiling adjustments, and maintenance.

10.5.3.2 Learning Opportunities

There are limited performing arts learning opportunities provided by the City, apart from some programming offered at recreation facilities. This is partly due to the lack of dedicated performing arts learning spaces or multi-purpose spaces. Increasing opportunities in the performing arts may require more learning facilities that will allow for more programs, which could be delivered by partners.

10.5.3.3 Permanent Outdoor Stage

Abbotsford hosts a large number of events, many of which take place outdoors. As there is no permanent outdoor performance space, significant effort is required to set up and take down event facilities. Mill Lake Park has been suggested by many as an appropriate location for a permanent outdoor stage.

10.5.4 Long-Term Directions

10.5.4.1 Community Development

- Prepare a Cultural Plan to include heritage, community cultural asset mapping, marketing and education plan, and public art inventory and review.
- Explore opportunities for partnerships in the development of performing arts facilities.

10.5.4.2 Capital Projects

- Outdoor permanent stage/amphitheatre to facilitate activities and events
- Performance arts facility including a flexible black box theatre with rehearsal space and wood-sprung floor
- Consider the following options
- performing arts teaching, rehearsal and performance spaces, incorporating flexible and multi-use options
- a multi-purpose visual and performing arts centre
- adding performing arts rehearsal and performance spaces to community facilities and to other spaces that may be available
- a permanent outdoor stage, potentially in Mill Lake Park or the Civic Plaza



10.6 Entertainment and Festivals

Festivals and entertainment are a source of community pride. The City of Abbotsford hosts over 200 entertainment shows and special events throughout the year and PRC works in collaboration with Economic Development, Communications and Marketing and other departments. Many communities are discovering strategies for reaching broader and more diverse audiences. Recent research shows that more people attend arts and cultural events in community venues – such as open-air spaces, schools, and places of worship – than in conventional arts venues, such as concert halls, theatres, museums, and art galleries (Walker, 2003). For instance, the City's sidewalks and streets support festivities and special events such as parades, farmers' markets, and festivals that contribute to the vibrancy of the City. Abbotsford Centre also plays a significant role in entertainment and festivals as it hosts many well-attended cultural and live music performances.

10.6.1 Background Research

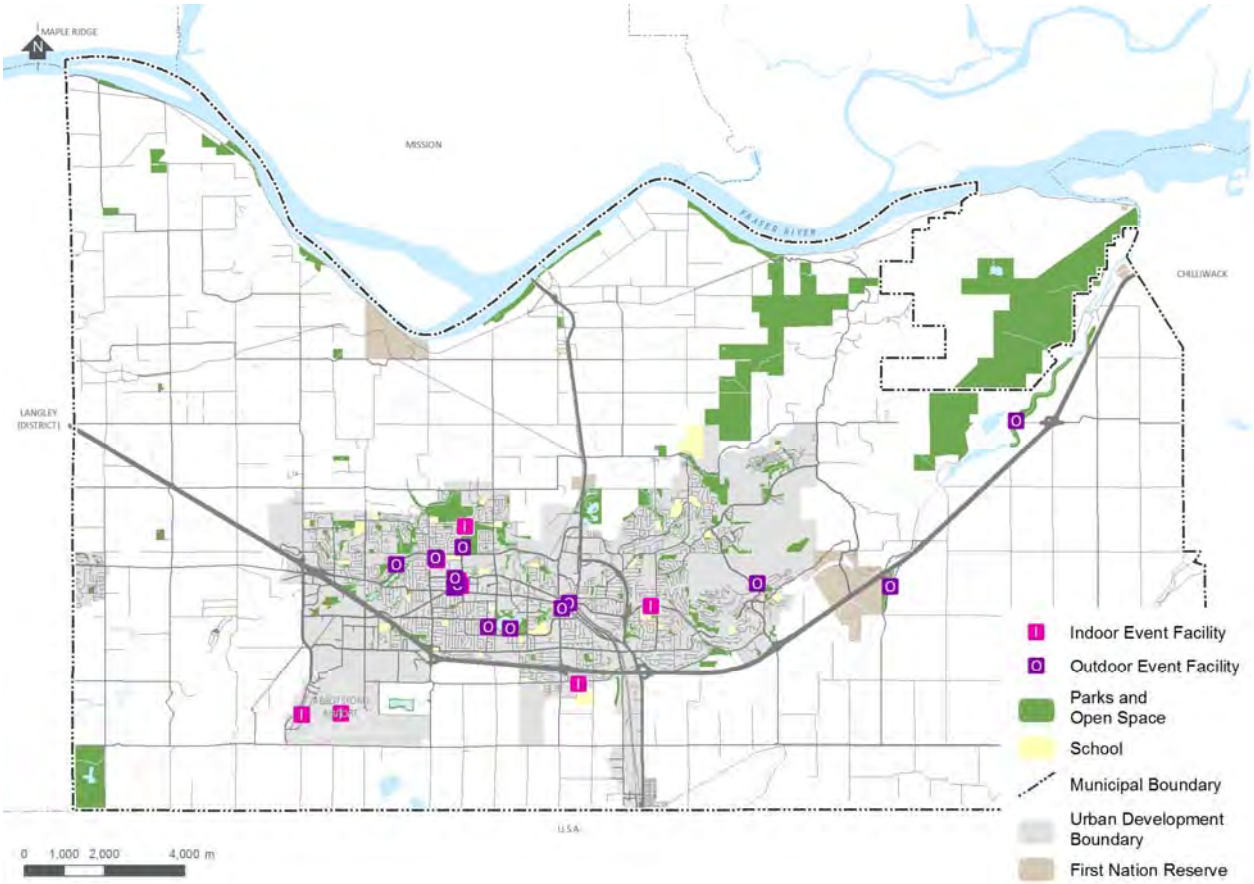
10.6.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- Hosted 2010 Olympic Torch Run
- Hosted 2016 BC Summer Games
- Grown Canada Day to over 15,000 participants
- City hosts over 40 special events and festivals annually

10.6.1.2 Asset Inventory

Abbotsford has many locations where special events are held.

Indoor Event Facilities	Outdoor Event Sites	
• Abbotsford Centre • Matsqui Centennial Auditorium • Legacy and Cadet building • AgRec Gallery and Main Floor • Recreation Centres • The Reach Gallery Museum • Tradex • Agrifair Arena • Show Barn	• Abbotsford Airport • Mill Lake Park • Abbotsford Exhibition Park • Rotary Stadium • Civic Plaza • Hougen Park • Downtown Abbotsford • Thunderbird Square	• Sumas Mountain Trails • Centennial Pool • International Friendship Garden • Jubilee Park • McDonald Park • Skate parks • Ellwood Park



Map 20: Entertainment & Festivals Distribution

10.6.1.3 Programming

Events are programmed by numerous stakeholders, including the City, businesses, and community groups. The wide range of events includes music, performances, booths, children's activities, recreation activities or sports, and food and cultural festivals.

10.6.2 Analysis

10.6.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

Attending festivals or events was the most common cultural activity among survey respondents. Satisfaction with festivals and events was more than double dissatisfaction.

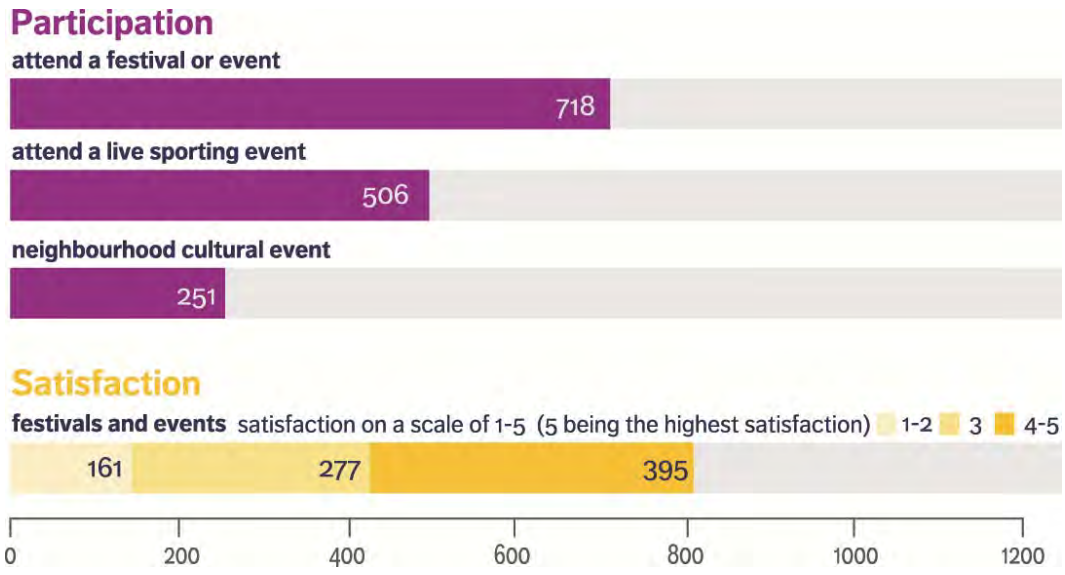


Figure 23: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Entertainment & Festivals

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Enthusiasm for the City's entertainment and festivals
- Additional art markets, concerts, and theatre events
- Improved promotion of special events
- Additional and improved events for families

10.6.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Abbotsford's number of events and event venues was compared with other communities.

FEATURE	2005	2017	200K*	NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES
Major Events annually (11)	Unavailable	1 per 13,000	1 per 18,000	1 per 26,000
Venues for major indoor events (1)	1 per 123,000	1 per 141,000	1 per 200,000	1 per 75,000
Venues for major outdoor events (1)	1 per 123,000	1 per 141,000	1 per 200,000	1 per 75,000

*If supply stays the same

Table 37: Comparable Communities - Entertainment & Festivals

The City appears to host many more major events than the average among neighbouring communities. However, this may be due to different definitions of "major

events", or the different roles of neighbouring communities in the region. Abbotsford offers fewer indoor and outdoor venues for major events than the average among neighbouring communities.

Residents from surrounding communities are likely travel to Abbotsford's major events. Chilliwack and Langley also have major event facilities.

10.6.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Community festivals and cultural events are popular with residents and an important part of tourism.
- Cultural events and festivals are a key component of community pride and quality of life.
- Pop-up events, concerts, and performances in temporary locations are popular and can enliven neighbourhoods and activate underused spaces.
- Fans expect more choices and more personalized experiences.
- Hybrid festivals attract bigger audiences and bring in more revenue.

10.6.2.4 Spatial Analysis

The city's main indoor event facilities are located at major PRC facilities that are centrally located. As destination facilities that people are expected to travel to, the spatial distribution of these venues is appropriate. There are many smaller events hosted in parks throughout the community

10.6.3 Issues and Opportunities

10.6.3.1 Venues

Some of Abbotsford's entertainment and festival venues and spaces have challenges that limit the timing and size of events that can take place. Certain venues lack supporting infrastructure, such as sufficient power or parking. At times, events can conflict with the needs of regular site users and facility maintenance. There are complex factors to consider in the organizing and hosting of festivals and events.

10.6.3.2 Promotion

There appears to be community interest in expanding the number and types of entertainment and events. There is an opportunity to improve marketing and promotion of these events, which could attract more cultural tourism and contribute to Abbotsford's role as a hub.

10.6.4 Long-Term Directions

10.6.4.1 Service Delivery

- Consider the resources required for hosting and promoting events
- Host, encourage and promote more cultural events for the community
- Explore parking solutions to meet growing attendance at events

10.6.4.2 Community Development

- Improve marketing and promotion of entertainment, festivals and cultural tourism activities in collaboration with partners

10.6.4.3 Capital Projects

- Consider the following options:
- improved event infrastructure at smaller outdoor venues
- a permanent outdoor stage (amphitheatre)
- more event space as the population grows

10.7 Libraries



Abbotsford has three libraries that are operated by the Fraser Valley Regional Library Board. Libraries help communities flourish, especially in the areas of community revitalization, and crime prevention through literacy. They serve as natural magnets for people of all ages.

Thirty-four percent of Abbotsford residents have an active library card, reflecting the primary role of libraries in the community. Beyond their role in supporting and promoting literacy, libraries serve as community hubs and provide vital resources to residents of all ages.

10.7.1 Background Research

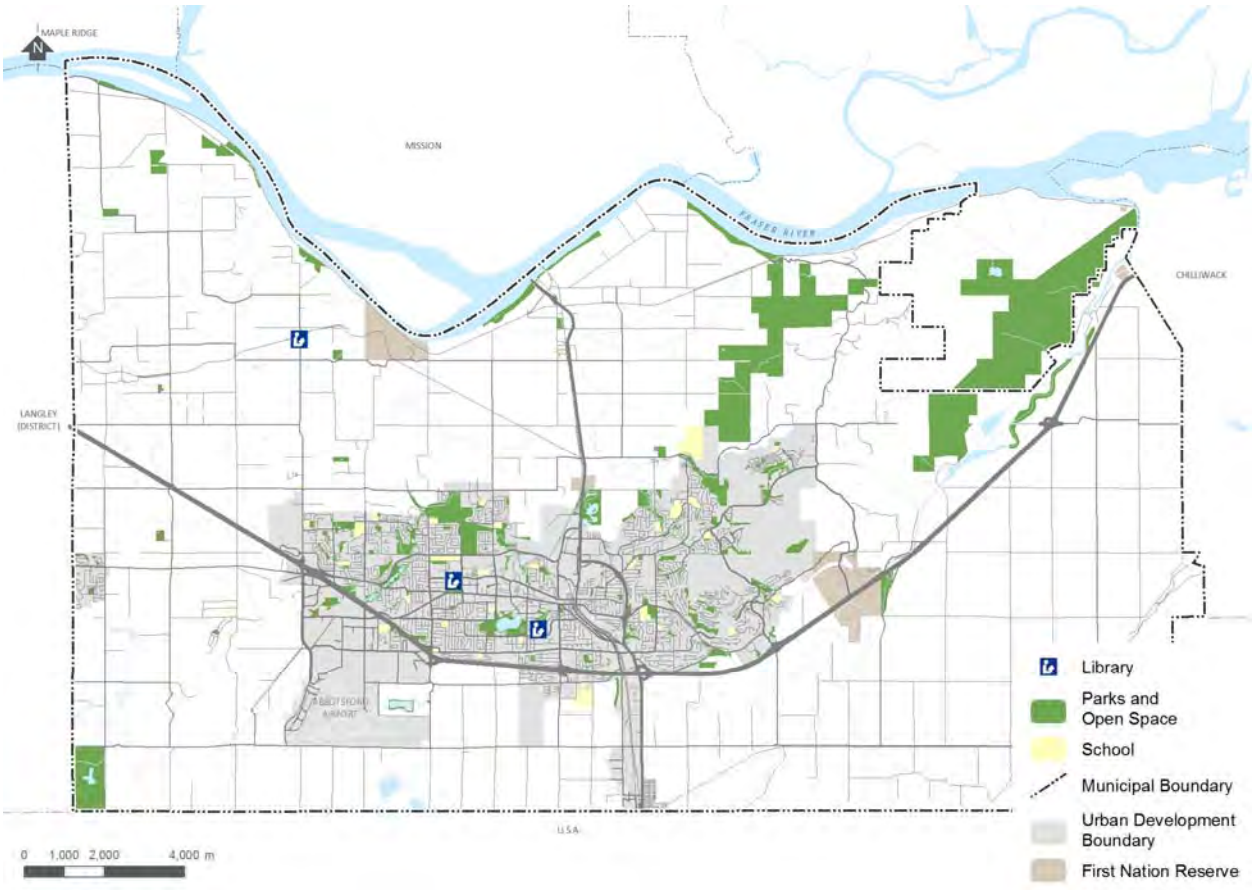
10.7.1.1 Achievements Since the 2005 Master Plan

- Constructed Abbotsford Community Library in collaboration with Abbotsford School District

10.7.1.2 Inventory

There are three libraries in Abbotsford:

- Clearbrook Library (6096 m^2) in the civic precinct
- Abbotsford Community Library (3352.8 m^2) in Sweeney Neighbourhood Centre at Abbotsford Senior Secondary School
- Mt. Lehman Library (149.7 m^2)



Map 21: Library Distribution

10.7.1.3 Programming

Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) Board operates Abbotsford's libraries through a partnership with the City of Abbotsford. Libraries are open to everyone in the community at no cost. Programs focus on seniors, newcomers and immigrants, Indigenous peoples, children, youth, and families. The libraries also offer tours and visits groups and other facilities to promote the library resources.

Clearbrook Library has the highest circulation of all of the Fraser Valley libraries. Community outreach and events extend library services beyond the physical walls of the library, e.g., the FVRL Library Live and On Tour vehicle attends the food bank and other locations to bring library service to marginalized community members.

10.7.2 Analysis

10.7.2.1 Community Engagement and Aspirations

Community Survey

Libraries have the highest satisfaction rating of all of the culture facilities. Literary arts programs received the second lowest score in terms of participation in cultural activities. Respondents likely consider many library programs as part of general library attendance, with literary arts programs seen as more specialized activities such as author readings and writing courses.

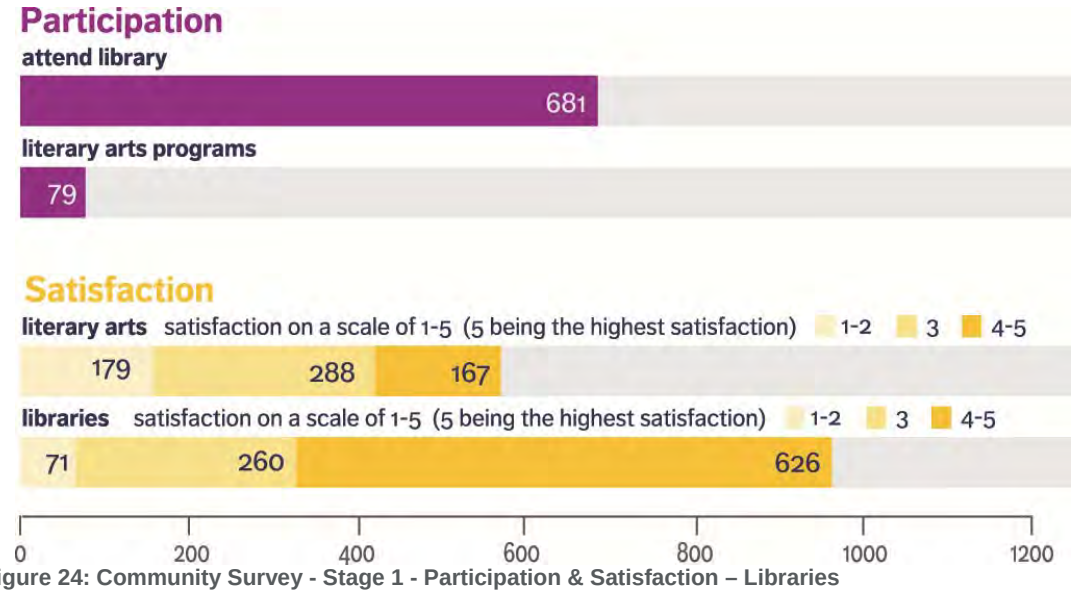


Figure 24: Community Survey - Stage 1 - Participation & Satisfaction – Libraries

Themes from Community Survey and Focus Groups

- Very high praise for the City's libraries
- Desire for additional libraries
- Improved accessibility to library resources and increased hours of operation

10.7.2.2 Neighbouring Communities

Libraries were not a part of research on neighbouring communities.

10.7.2.3 Trends and Best Practices

- Libraries are incorporating changing technologies and increasing access to online books and resources

- Libraries offer important access to computers and the internet, especially for youth and people with lower incomes
- Libraries offer programs to enhance literacy

10.7.2.4 Spatial Analysis

All of the city's libraries are located centrally, with difficult access for those on the east.

Issues and Opportunities

10.7.2.5 Library Capacity

The libraries are very busy and have limited facility capacity to expand programming. There is no library on the east side of Abbotsford, an area that is expected to experience significant growth. The Mount Lehman library is very small and cannot offer a wide range of books or services on site; however, users can access the full range of FVRL services online.

10.7.3 Long-Term Directions

10.7.3.1 Service Delivery

- Review innovative opportunities to meet library demands in Abbotsford through programs and services

10.7.3.2 Capital Projects

- Clearbrook Library interior renovation was identified in Library Master Plan for technological upgrades
- Explore options for library service with the FVRL to address needs of growing population on the east side of Abbotsford
- Mount Lehman library renovation
- Consider the following option:
- an additional library on the east side of Abbotsford as the population grows

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS



PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE
MASTER PLAN

11 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Key Strengths and Opportunities

The previous sections provide a detailed overview of the various components that make up the Parks, Recreation and Cultural programs and facilities within the City of Abbotsford.

As an outcome of the background analysis, and through the community engagement process, a number of key strengths of the current parks, recreation and culture system within the City of Abbotsford were identified, as follows:



Figure 25: Parks, Recreation and Culture Strengths

It is clear that the community values the many PRC programs and facilities within the City of Abbotsford, including the diversity of parks and natural areas, fitness and wellness facilities, and public art and heritage sites. With any plan, however, there are always opportunities to reach further. Looking ahead, the community identified a number of opportunities and areas to grow and improve, including the following:



Figure 26: Parks, Recreation and Culture Opportunities

The key to the PRC Master Plan is to provide an integrated service approach, by making strategic investments and establishing sound policy frameworks for future investments in parks, recreation and culture in the City of Abbotsford.

11.2 Core PRC Strategies and Action Themes

The foundation of the PRC Master Plan has been based on a number of strategic directions, which support the overall vision and guiding principles of the plan. These core strategic directions are listed as follows:

- Strategy 1 – Service Delivery
- Strategy 2 – Community Development
- Strategy 3 – Policies, Plans and studies
- Strategy 4 – Capital Facilities

Each strategic direction is discussed in the corresponding sections below, and contains an over-arching Goal supported by key Action Themes. The action items form the basis of the Implementation Plan, which is prioritized on a short (<5 years, 2019 to 2023),

medium (6 to 10 years, 2024 to 2028) and long-term (11 to 25 years+, 2029 to 2043) timeframe.

11.2.1 Service Delivery

The goal of the Service Delivery strategic direction is as follows:

Optimize key service areas to support people of all ages, abilities, cultures, socio-economic groups and interests, to increase participation and use of parks, recreation and culture facilities, and programs.

To achieve this strategic direction, a number of Action Themes have been established and described in detail below:

A. Enhance integration of services and programs within Parks, Recreation and Culture.

- Optimize service delivery options to enhance participation and customer experience.
- Optimize resources for marketing, education and communications.
- Upgrade technology to improve efficiencies and communications.
- Integrate cultural, recreation and parks features and programs when renovating, enhancing or building facilities.
- Collaborate and integrate plans and facility designs with community planning and development, transportation, engineering as well as planning initiatives.

B. Improve inclusion and accessibility to Parks, Recreation and Culture facilities, programs and events.

- Improve access and safety through CPTED and Universal Design Principles.
- Address social needs through networks, spaces, and opportunities for engagement.
- Continue to integrate new and innovative adaptable amenities for people of all ages.
- Participate in social policy development.

C. Enrich services and optimize opportunities for participation in Parks, Recreation and Culture.

- Strengthen parks, recreation, and culture facility development and program provision through public, private, and not-for-profit partnerships.
- Explore partnership toward indoor and outdoor multi-sport training and/or tournament centre facilities.
- Expand partner opportunities to provide community gardens.
- Explore interest, funding, and partnership opportunities for emerging sports in Abbotsford such as disc golf.

11.2.2 Community Development

The goal of the Community Development strategic direction is as follows:

Collaborate with existing and new community partners to enhance sense of belonging and the quality of life for Abbotsford residents through PRC-related programs, facilities, initiatives and events.

To achieve this strategic direction, a number of Action Themes have been established and described in detail below:

A. Increase collaboration and working relationships with key community groups and neighbouring municipalities.

- Collaborate with stakeholders and neighbouring municipalities regarding major facilities.
- Establish Heritage, Diversity, and Accessibility Working Groups reporting to PRC Advisory Committee.
- Optimize community outreach initiatives.
- Encourage and support more cultural events.
- Collaborate with First Nations on design and provision of PRC facilities and programs.

B. Refresh existing and explore new partnerships to enhance quality of life for Abbotsford residents.

- Grow working relationships with sports user groups and the Sports Council.
- Collaborate with local non-profit organizations on heritage and culture opportunities.
- Work with the School District to increase access to schools for community programs.
- Work with community and corporate partners in environmental, park and trail stewardship.

C. Increase engagement of community through parks, recreation and culture programs and initiatives.

- Expand volunteer opportunities.
- Explore opportunities for establishing a collaborative forum for community development activities and organizations.
- Optimize operating agreements with community partners.

11.2.3 Policies, Plans and Studies

The goal of the Policies, Plans and Studies strategic direction is as follows:

Prepare new and refreshed policies and plans to optimize delivery, provision and funding of parks, recreation and culture facilities, amenities, programs and services.

To achieve this strategic direction, a number of Action Themes have been established and described in detail below:

A. Undertake updates to key policies and bylaws to support actions in the Master Plan.
Key documents include, but are not limited to the following:

- Culture Plan including Heritage and Public Art.
- Fees and Charges including Allocation Policy.

- Development Cost Charges Bylaw.
- Park Provision Standards & Classification to designate parks in Neighbourhood Plans.
- Communications and Marketing Plan.
- Integrated Facilities Feasibility Plan.
- Signage Strategy.
- Dog Management Strategy.

B. Complete feasibility and needs assessment studies needed to advance planning and design of major capital projects.

- Undertake feasibility studies and business case analysis for major capital projects well in advance, in order to be "shovel ready" to take advantage of funding and partnership opportunities as they arise.
- Enhance infrastructure renewal plans for parks, recreation and culture.
- Establish a variety of parks in neighbourhood plan areas as growth occurs.

C. Explore opportunities for additional and more reliable and sustainable funding sources for City parks, recreation and culture programs and facilities.

- Review funding structure and related policies and bylaws.
- Prepare service delivery strategy.

11.2.4 Capital Facilities

The goal of the Capital Facilities strategic direction is as follows:

Advance the planning, design and implementation of integrated facilities for parks, recreation and culture.

While the previous three strategic directions discussed are critical in establishing a strong foundation for a long-term, integrated PRC Master Plan, it is often the list of capital projects that garners the most attention from the community. This master plan identifies a significant future investment in parks, recreation and culture facilities, which

needs to be balanced amongst community priorities, partnership and grant opportunities, and financial realities.

11.2.5 Parks Facilities

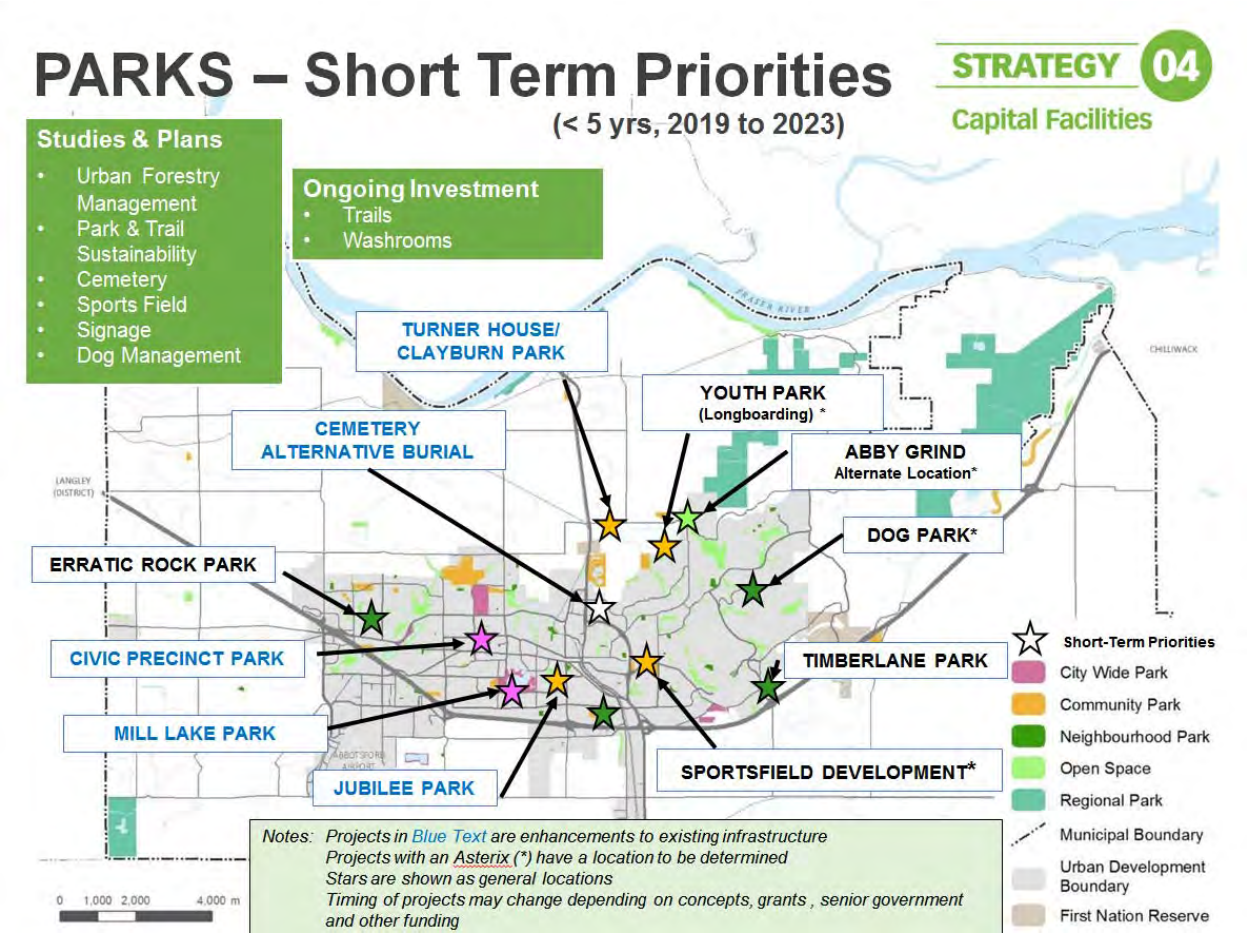
The City owns and maintains 192 parks and open spaces totalling 842.8 hectares in area. Within Abbotsford, there are also 47 public school and post-secondary open spaces occupying an additional 111 hectares. Finally, there are 16 regional parks totalling over 1,660 hectares in size. This is a significant inventory of existing parks and open spaces within the community; however, this master plan will help the City to prepare for growth and changing community needs with respect to future parks facilities.

The City uses the parks and open space classification system that was defined in the 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, namely: City-Wide Parks, Community Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, and Open Space. This system has been reviewed and updated to meet present needs.

The Plan strives to meet the park needs of the community as a whole; however the Eastside has been historically underserved from a parks perspective, and as such investments into new parks in that part of the City have been provide for accordingly. In addition, while a significant amount of new growth has been targeted towards Downtown and other infill areas, new park opportunities here may look different than in other more suburban neighbourhoods, and may include urban plazas, shared park types and shared public-private facilities.

Trails are a priority within the PRC Master Plan, and have been “hard-coded” into the plan as annual investments. There is currently 276 km of trails ranging from paved multiuse trails through the urban area, to rustic nature trails in natural areas. In addition, there are 138 km of regional trails including the Trans Canada Trail, Matsqui Dyke, and Sumas Mountain.

In general, short term priorities for park facilities will include: annual investments in trails and washrooms; ongoing investments in upgrading parks to meet current and growing demands; and a focus on retrofitting and upgrading existing infrastructure. Medium and long-term park priorities include: planning, designing and building from current infrastructure, and building new parks, trails and washroom facilities throughout the City. The following maps describe the park priorities:

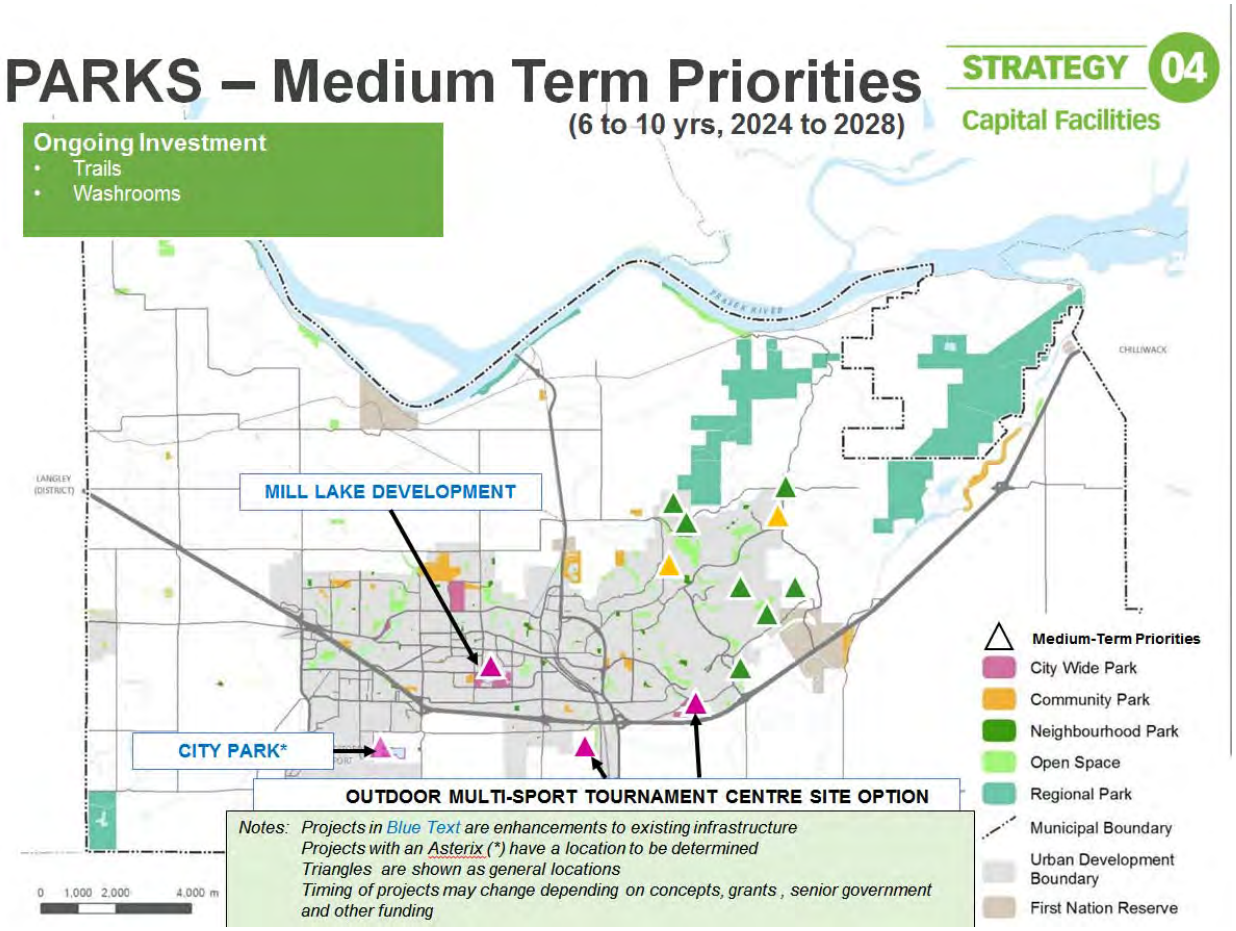


Map 22: Short Term Priorities - Parks

A brief summary of the short-term park priorities is provided below:

- Annual trail investments
- 7 new washrooms constructed over 5 years
- Mill Lake Park – the historic jewel of the City's park system, providing a mix of active, passive, natural and historic features across a range of activities. Park development to retain both passive and active recreational opportunities and retain its original multi-use functions.
- Civic Precinct Park – redesign will enhance pedestrian traffic, accommodate special events and improve wayfinding to tie into the new court house to the existing Reach Gallery Museum.
- Dog Off-Leash Park – location to be determined

- Abby Grind Replacement – as an alternative to protect fragile environments and prevent trespass on private lands
- Turner House relocation and Clayburn Park development – development over a 3year period including house relocation, service connections, and park upgrades
- Cemetery Alternative Burial – at Hazelwood, to meet the diverse needs of the community (e.g. columbarium)
- Youth Park – longboarding, skateboarding, basketball
- 2 new neighbourhood parks, Erratic Park (west) and Timberlane (east)

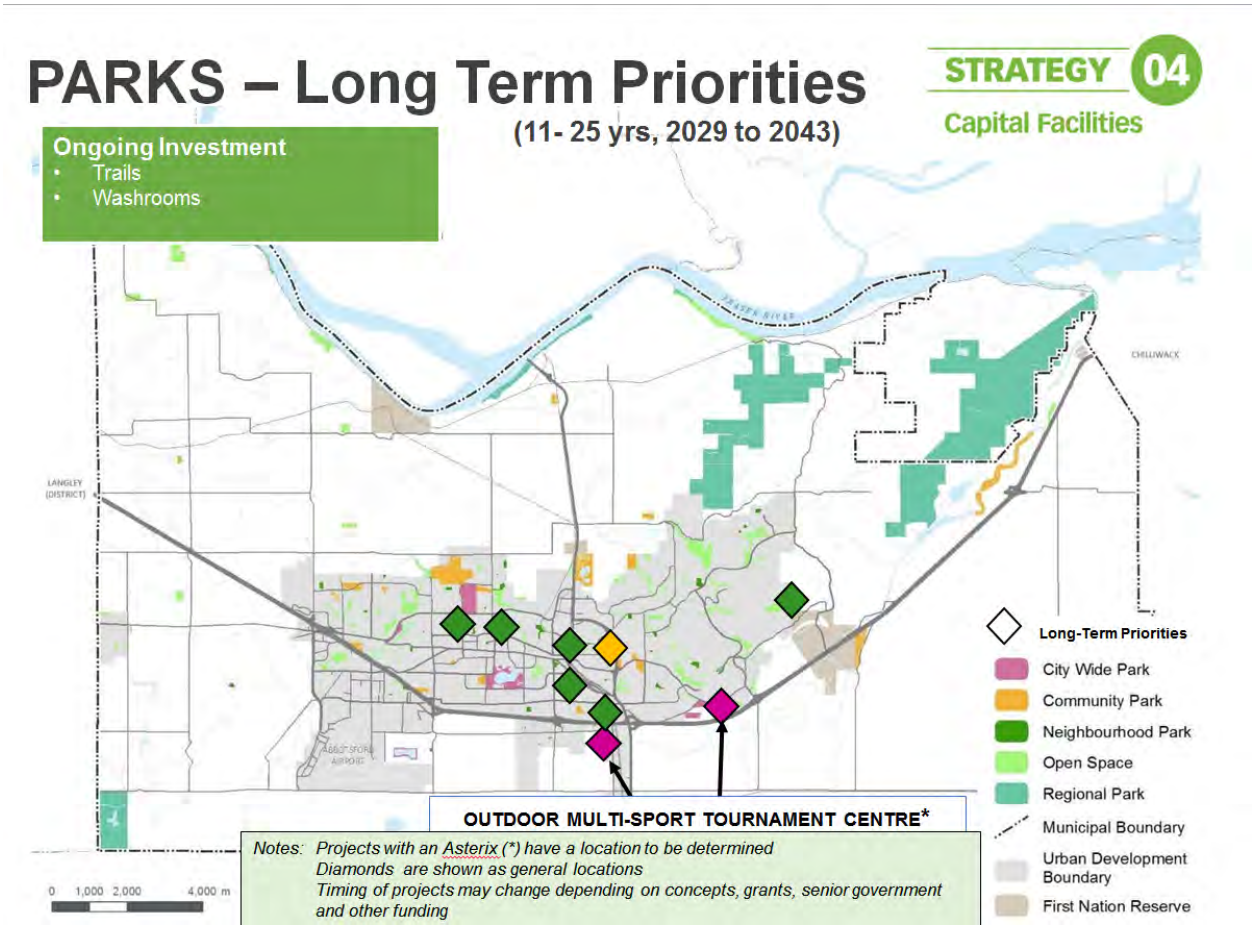


Map 23: Medium-Term Priorities - Parks

A brief summary of the medium term park priorities is provided below:

- Annual investments in trails and washrooms
- Continued investments into Mill Lake Park development
- Potential siting options for outdoor multi-sport tournament centre

- Future community and neighbourhood parks – especially East side parks and Youth park developments

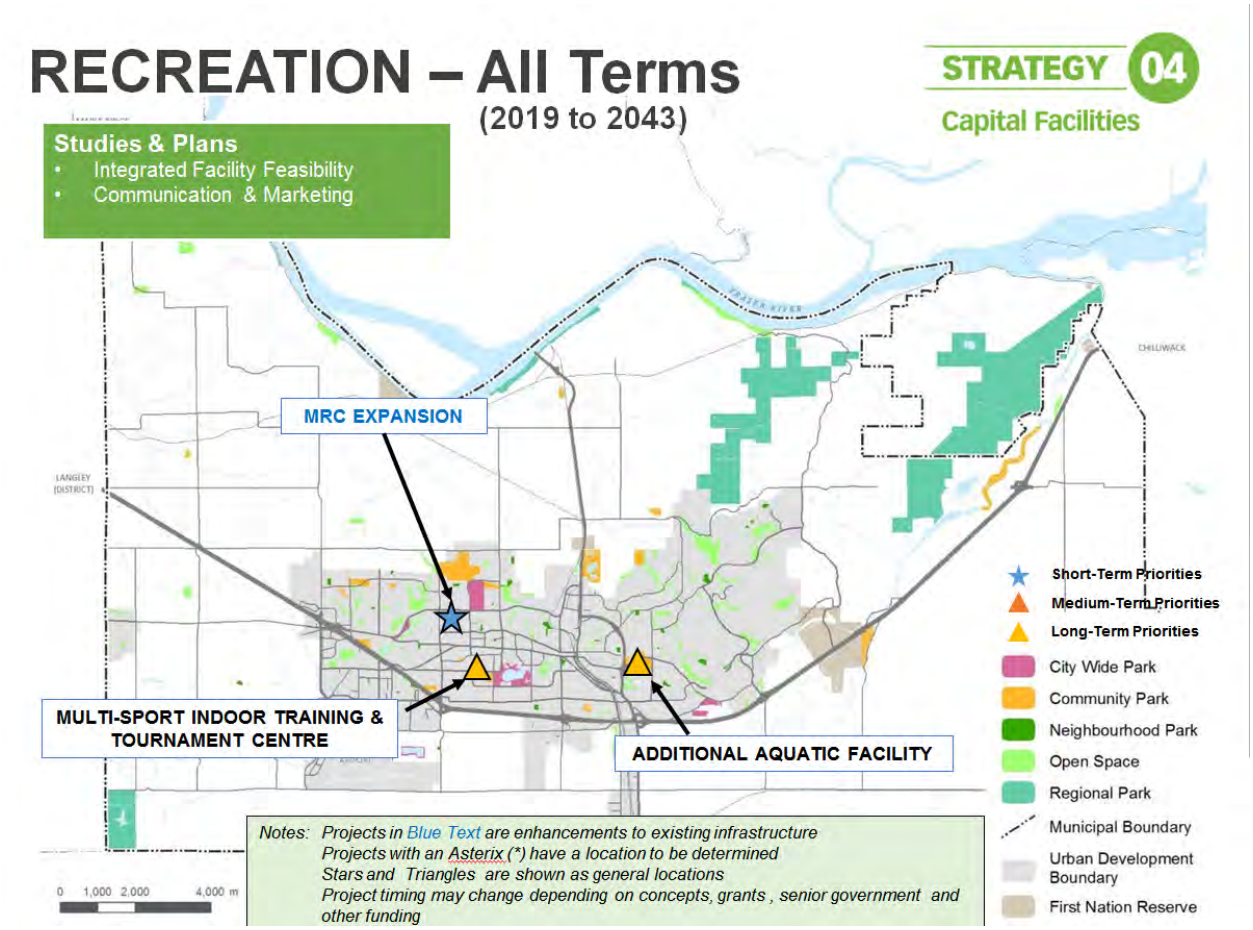


Map 24: Long-Term Priorities - Parks

A brief summary of the long-term park priorities is provided below:

- Annual investments in trails and washrooms
- Future community and neighbourhood parks
- Outdoor Multi-Sport Tournament Centre – a complex of 3 or 4 artificial turf fields for competitive and practice use.

11.2.6 Recreation Facilities



Map 25: Priorities - Recreation

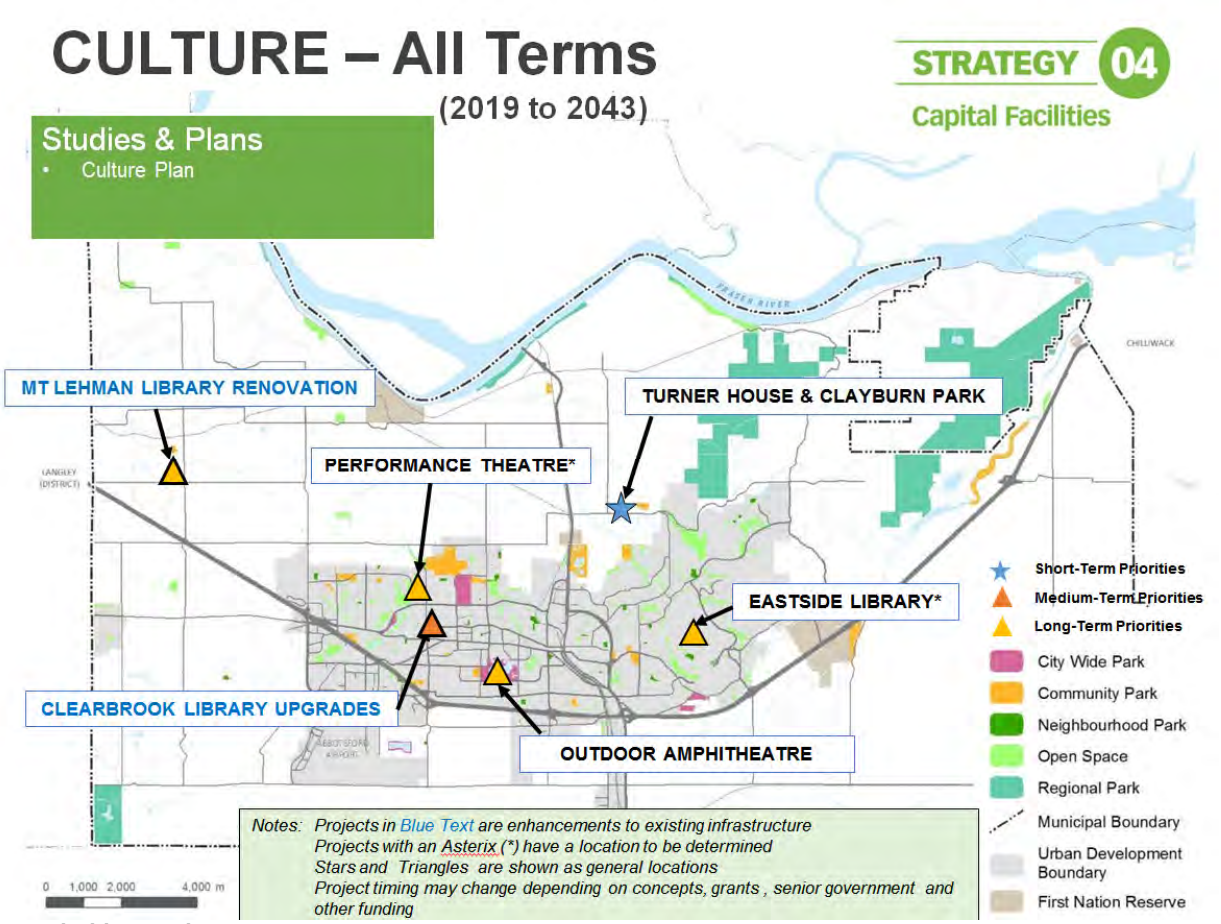
Future recreation facilities are presented in the above map over the term of the PRC Master Plan. In addition to undertaking a number of studies and plans noted above, a brief summary of the recreation facility priorities is provided below:

- MRC Facility Expansion (short term) – concept plan includes cultural spaces, gymnasium, accessibility adaptations, change rooms, fieldhouse, and interior renovations to accommodate community meeting spaces and additional community recreation and cultural programming. Part of the proposed building would comprise of an investment in new community space in the form of a large new format recreation centre. Site development plans would result in a complex of interconnected recreation, cultural and civic uses for community enjoyment.
- Aquatic Facility (long term) – The City is reasonably served for aquatic services at the recreational and learning levels but will need to give consideration on a

longer term basis to another aquatic facility. There have been multiple identifications through the Abbotsford Tourism Sport Tourism Strategy, the Master Plan and other forums, for the need for a larger aquatics complex to support sport tourism and competitive clubs involving swimming, diving, synchronized swimming and other uses. However, these audiences can come from a regional perspective. Potential alignment with any university initiatives will be considered in order to ensure there is no duplication of facilities, and the facility designs align with the quality and capacity needs and preferences of each of the various levels of users involved in aquatics programming.

- Multi-Sport Indoor Tournament Centre (long term) – Growth continues to occur in regards to ice demand, particularly due to population increase and growth in girls' hockey and related uses, with anticipated significant growth in the future related to women's hockey. The Plan recommends continued investment in and the future twinning of the MSA Arena as part of a broader master planning exercise to develop this area as a key community sport campus. There are merits to investment in Indoor Sport Tournament facility particularly when considering the climate (rain and fluctuating winter season), the relative affordability of soccer and ability to cater to the needs of multiple groups (e.g. soccer, lacrosse). This is in addition to the evident growth in local demand for soccer based on registrations and current field use. The City, working with the Abbotsford Sports Council has developed an Active Abbotsford Plan and evaluated the need for investment in an Indoor sports complex including soccer, sports court and athletic indoor training. A Feasibility Study and Site Location Analysis for this facility including evaluating successful models for the development of operation would be included. The MSA facility site should be evaluated as an opportunity; Plans for an addition would address the rationale for involvement of the City as a partner, as well as confirm the capital funding model, operational plan and performance metrics for the Centre.

11.2.7 Culture Facilities



Map 26: Priorities - Culture

Future culture facilities are presented in the above map over the term of the PRC Master Plan. In addition to undertaking a Culture Plan in the short term, a brief summary of the culture facility priorities is provided below:

- Turner House and Clayburn Park (short term) – development over a 3-year period including house relocation, service connections, and park upgrades
- Clearbrook Library Upgrades (medium term) – Clearbrook Library interior renovation was identified in Library Master Plan for technological upgrades
- Performance Theatre (long term) – the City's culture community has expressed a desire for an affordable, flexible performance space that can accommodate rehearsals and different types of productions. This is commonly referred to as a black box theatre
- Mt. Lehman Library Renovation (long term)

- New Eastside Library (long term) – location to be determined
- Outdoor Amphitheatre (long term) – potentially located at Mill Lake Park

11.3 Implementation and Phasing

The overall summary of strategies and supporting actions is provided in the figure below:

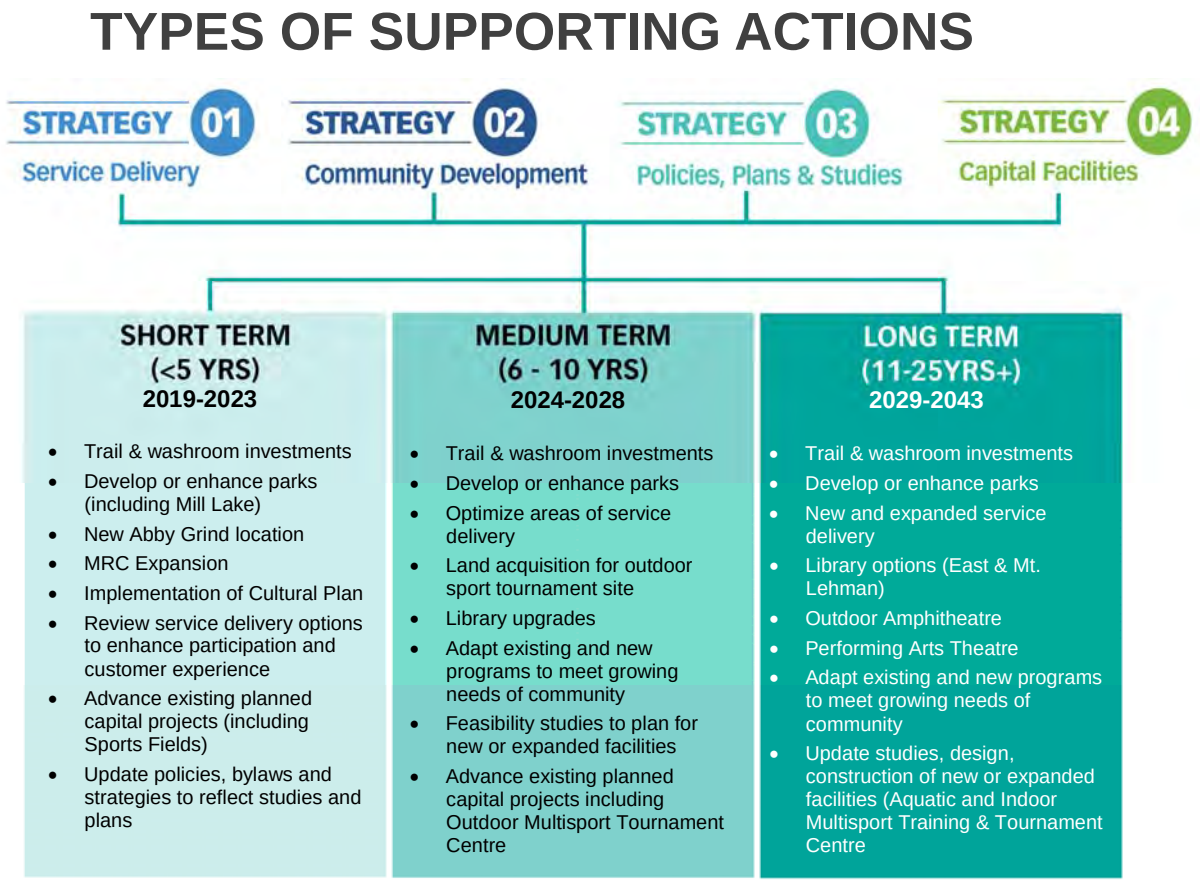


Figure 27: Priorities Supporting Actions

Recommendations related to the enhancement and or development of facilities and re-purposing of existing ones will require further design and concept planning and an assessment of the technical feasibility of location, build new and or re-purposing. As recommended, the City of Abbotsford will need to further evaluate and investigate the feasibility of implementing individual recommendations/actions through formal study (as required) and on an annual basis, as part of the municipal planning and budgetary process. As such a number of studies are included as part of the recommendations.

The PRC Master Plan provides a blueprint placed in the broader context of all obligations of the City of Abbotsford as a provider of services, facilities and infrastructure. Changes in the wider municipal environment in terms of priorities in fiscal capacity can be expected to result in changes to the priorities contained in this Master Plan. Recognizing the long-term scope of this Plan, it is recommended that it be subject to a review every 5 years to determine, and re-calibrate as necessary, the timing of recommendations and capital investments in light of potential shifts and priorities for the City.

11.4 Funding the Plan

The PRC Master Plan outlines a significant capital investment for the City of Abbotsford, estimated at $245 million over the short ($23.6 million), medium ($28.8 million) and long-term ($192.9 million) horizon. At the same time as the City makes new investments, it acknowledges its existing commitments to debt servicing over the next 15 years (fully retired in 2033). Based on this, a number of financial principles are built into the Capital Cost Summary (see figure below), as follows:

AFFORDABILITY

- Short Term (< 5 year) projects are factored into the current 5 Year Financial Plan
- Service existing PRC debt servicing (~$6.6 million annually) through to 2027 and beyond
- Consider significant investments after 2028 (& 2034 when PRC debt fully retires)

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- Managing short-term & medium-term investments to approved capital plan expenditure levels
- Develop “shovel-ready” initiatives to capitalize on potential funding opportunities that align within both community priorities and financial considerations

ASSET MANAGEMENT

- Maintain current assets at appropriate levels of service and consider life-cycle costs when constructing new assets
- Incorporate all assets (existing and new) into a Long Term Financial Plan

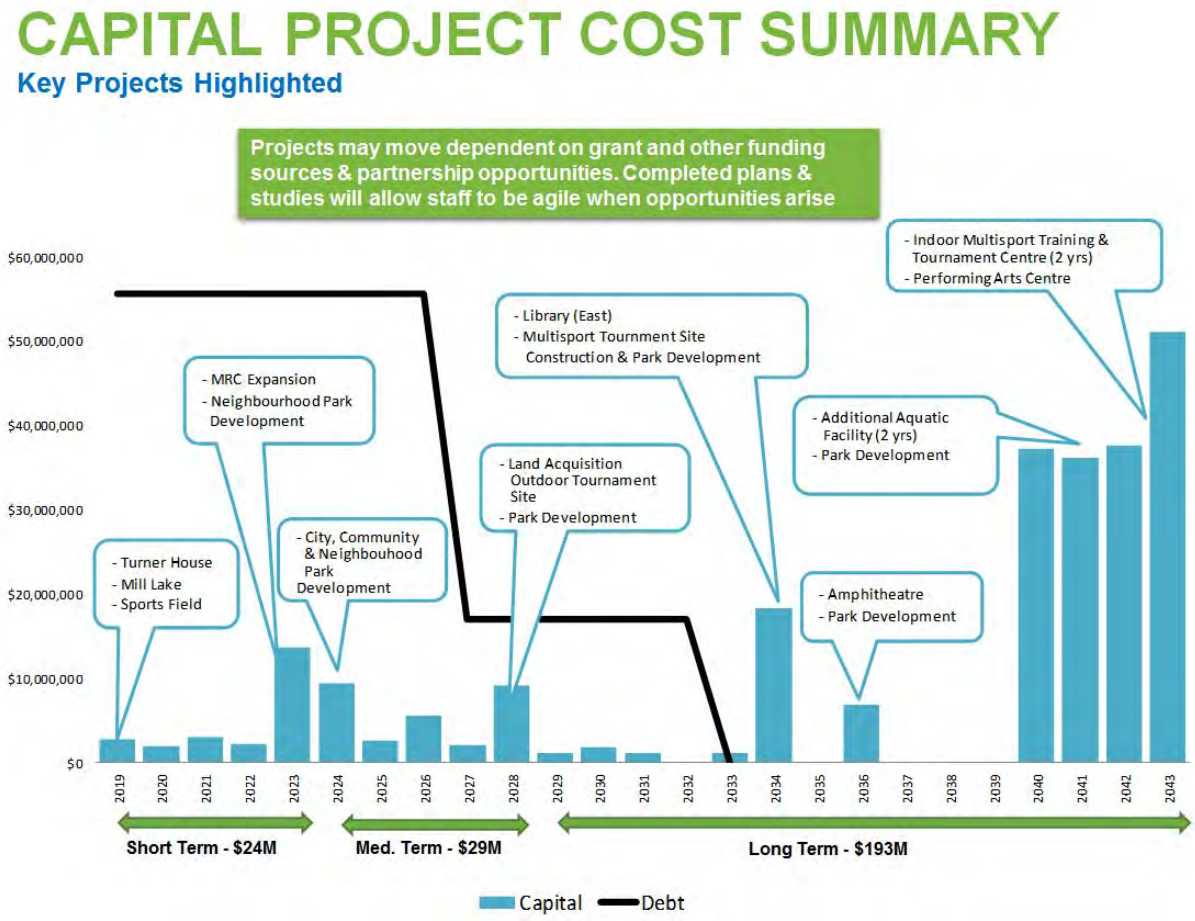


Figure 28: Capital Projects Cost Summary

There are a number of ways to design, fund, build and operate parks, recreation, culture assets, including: property taxation, user fees, capital reserves, Development Cost Charges, senior government grant, partnerships (public-public and public-private). See table below for a matrix of funding opportunities. The choice of approach can reflect a range of hybrid solutions to ensure that we can deliver both new and upgraded parks, recreation, and culture facilities in a cost-effective manner.

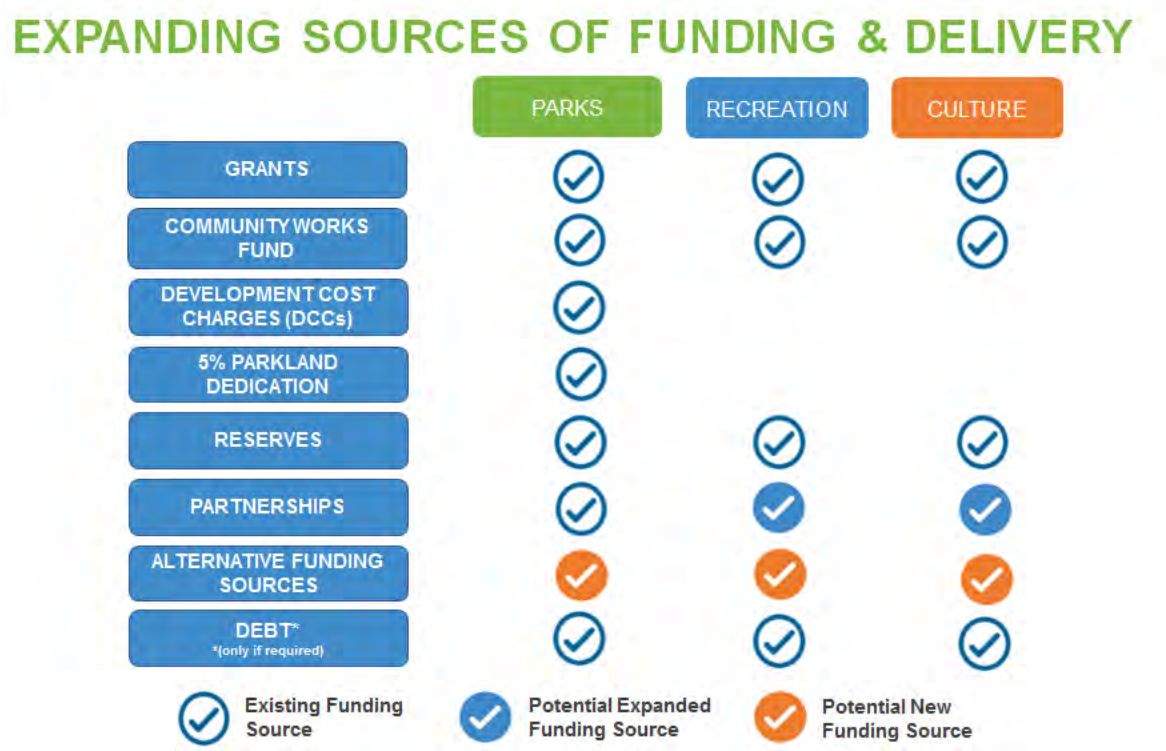


Figure 29: Funding Source & Delivery Summary

APPENDIX A—RELATED PLANS AND POLICIES

The numerous plans and policies relevant to the PRC Master Plan are summarized in this section by type of plan. These documents provide important context for understanding the City's past and current practices related to parks, recreation, and culture facilities, programs, and services. They also provide information on the visions and directions that have been set to meet a variety of City-wide and PRC-specific objectives.

Major Plans

"Abbotsforward"—Official Community Plan

Year: 2016

Description: "Abbotsforward" was prepared to provide an innovative vision for the city based on growth projections to 200,000 residents. Parks, recreation, and culture play a prominent role in this vision:

> *Abbotsford is a city of distinct and increasingly complete neighbourhoods rich with public life. Our compact urban area is anchored by a thriving City Centre and surrounded by remarkable natural areas and flourishing agricultural lands. We are diverse, inclusive, and connected. We are green, prosperous, and healthy. We are a vibrant and beautiful community.*

The Official Community Plan (OCP) sets out policy directions to be considered throughout the PRC Master Plan and is organized around "7 Big Ideas" for the future:

Create a City Centre—Parks, recreation, and culture facilities are fundamental to creating a sense of place and community identity and are integral to developing the City Centre as a community and cultural hub and destination. In particular, Mill Lake Park and the civic precinct are defining components of the City Centre.

Establish Distinct and Complete Neighbourhoods— Facilities, programs, and events are essential to creating complete neighbourhoods. A complete neighbourhood includes places for celebration, play, learning, and relaxation, and contributes to the overall quality of life for residents.

Making Walking, Biking, and Transit Delightful—Beautiful and connected parks and trails support active transportation and active living; they also make active transportation a more enjoyable experience.

Make Places for People—Parks, recreation, and culture foster community connections, social well-being, and mental and physical health. The OCP aspires to greater "life in the city" with more street life, more night life, and more public life as Abbotsford grows. Parks, recreation and culture will be vitally important in creating more options for entertainment, culture, recreation, and gathering with others.

Improve Natural and Built Systems—Parks and open spaces will help to protect and maintain ecosystems, habitat corridors, and environmental quality. The OCP envisions enhancing and restoring ecological links between natural and public open spaces, expanding the urban forest and tree canopy, setting urban forest targets, requiring tree conservation strategies, and supporting green and sustainable building.

Enhance Agricultural Integrity—Parks, recreation and culture can help to support agriculture by managing the environment so that healthy land, water and air can be maintained, and by providing public education and awareness opportunities.

Make the Plan Work—The integration of the PRC Master Plan, other Plan 200K plans, and the OCP will set the stage for an aligned, collaborative, and efficient progression to 200,000 residents.

Policies	
• Create a comprehensive plan for Mill Lake Park • Improve park and open space distribution • Improve access to recreation programs and services • Acquire parkland through dedication • Cluster parks and open spaces that accommodate institutions and social facilities, recreation facilities, retail, restaurants, and other amenities. Discourage small, isolated parks • Support CPTED principles • Manage parks in an	• Ensure cultural resources and activities are inclusive • Provide places for artistic expression and public art • Protect cultural and physical heritage • Encourage cultural diversity and cross-cultural awareness • Meet the needs of children, youth, and families • Meet the needs of older adults • Create spaces for social connectedness • Support community safety through collaboration with

environmentally sensitive manner • Connect neighbourhoods to pathways and trails	public safety agencies and public awareness

Figure 30: 'Make Places for People' Policies

The PRC Master Plan aligns with “Abbotsforward” and provides more detail and depth in relation to the vision and policies.

Interrelationship with Plan200K Studies and Plans

The PRC Master Plan is part of an umbrella project called Plan 200K that will implement the vision of the OCP through a series of plans and studies. Plan 200K also serves as an organizing structure to ensure that there is alignment and coordination among all the City's plans and studies. The PRC department regularly collaborates with other City departments to ensure alignment and coordination in the delivery of services. As part of the Plan 200K process, the PRC Master Plan is being coordinated with the following interrelated projects:

Projects	Relevance to PRC
Transit Master Plan **Transportation Master Plan**	• The PRC Master Plan will consider how residents and visitors access parks, facilities, programs, and services through all modes of transportation. Trails and complete streets will be considered in a coordinated way to ensure that cycling routes are maximized.
Fire Rescue Services Master Plan	• PRC services include emergency response in facilities until arrival of first responders and facilities also function as reception centres in significant emergency situations requiring residents to evacuate. Fire Services plays as significant role in Festivals and Events.
UDistrict Neighbourhood Plan **City Centre Neighbourhood Plan** **Historic Downtown Neighbourhood Plan** **McKee Neighbourhood Plan**	• The PRC Master Plan will consider how development will change or increase the need for parks, recreation, and culture facilities, programs, and services in new and growing neighbourhoods. • The neighbourhood plans will consider potential locations for new parks and facilities and culture integration.
Housing Strategy	• The Housing Strategy will consider the location of amenities, such as parks and recreation facilities, in determining how housing needs are being met.
City Water and Wastewater Master Plans	• The operations of PRC are heavily dependent on a reliable and sustainable water source with three swimming pools, three arenas, and thousands of patrons showering daily at the facilities as well as

Projects	Relevance to PRC
	sports fields and thousands of street trees and horticultural beds in its care.
City Stormwater Master Plan	• Parks and natural areas play an important role in managing stormwater quality and quantity and support the City's efforts in storm events and recharging the aquifer.
Willband Creek ISMP	• Parks are an important part of stormwater management, particularly when waterways are wholly or partly in parks.

Strategic Plan 2015-2018

Year: **2015**

Description: The Strategic Plan guides all City activities, provides direction for departmental business plans and budgets, and is used to monitor progress toward desired outcomes. The plan sets out a vision, a mission, and four cornerstones to guide municipal decision-making.

Vision: The City of Abbotsford is the Hub of the Fraser Valley.

Mission: We strive to continually improve the quality of life within our community by delivering key services for current and future generations.

Cornerstone #1: Vibrant Economy: The City of Abbotsford is a regional hub of creativity and innovation where talent, investment, and business thrive.

Cornerstone #2: Complete Community: The City of Abbotsford is a community of inclusive, safe, and green neighbourhoods, connected to convenient and affordable transportation and vibrant commercial centres, built on the foundation of our cultural heritage and natural beauty.

Cornerstone #3: Fiscal Discipline: The City of Abbotsford is transparent and accountable to citizens, information is easy accessible, and residents are well informed on Council priorities.

Cornerstone #4: Organizational Alignment: The City of Abbotsford has strong consistent governance and aligned operations.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Year: 2005

Description: The 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan provided an innovative and community-based plan for delivering parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services over the ten-year life of the plan. This plan responded to the City's rapid growth and desire to maintain a high quality of life for residents through the provision of parks and recreation. The key objectives in the master plan included the following:

- Develop a diverse and interesting system of parks and open space
- Provide a network of paths, trails, walkways, and bike lanes that link the City's parks, facilities, schools, and business areas
- Develop new and improved recreation facilities that support everyday leisure needs, as well as provide opportunities for hosting tournaments and special events
- Provide recreation programming that offers opportunities for people to participate, socialize, develop skills, and build a better sense of community
- Cultivate partnerships with community organizations, the private sector, and the public
- Encourage community development through the parks and recreation system
- Employ creative use of partnerships, innovative land use, and phasing of projects to ensure the parks and recreation system is cost effective and affordable

Arts and Heritage Master Plan

Year: 2004

Description: The Arts and Heritage Master Plan was prepared to support long-range arts and heritage policies and initiatives in Abbotsford. At the time this plan was written, arts and heritage initiatives by the City were just beginning. One of the key recommendations of this plan was the incorporation of a cultural mandate into the Parks and Recreation Department. Recognizing the limited cultural initiatives in Abbotsford, the plan provides a framework for supporting modest community cultural activities and improving communication among organizations.

Community Sustainability Plan

Year: 2013

Description: The Community Sustainability Plan (CSP) forms part of the City's Community Sustainability Planning Initiative (CSPI). Sustainability is defined as 'supporting the community's fiscal, economic, environmental, and social needs today and in the future'. The plan provides a vision for sustainability that informs other City plans, policies, and strategies, including the PRC Master Plan. The vision for sustainability in Abbotsford includes a number of components that are relevant to the PRC Master Plan, including the following:

- Our community is healthy and enjoys a good quality of life
- Our community's resources and assets are managed effectively and efficiently
- Our natural environment thrives
- Our community is compact, connected, and complete

Financial Plan 2017-2021

Year: 2016

Description: The five-year Financial Plan outlines the City's allocation of resources for services and projects that are expected to be delivered. The plan is guided by the four cornerstones of the Strategic Plan.

The Financial Plan's guiding principles of vibrant economy, complete community, fiscal discipline, and organizational alignment are all relevant to the PRC Master Plan. The plan includes information pertinent to the PRC Master Plan, including the following:

- Of the City's total 2017 service expenditures (including operating, capital, and debt servicing), 2 percent is spent on culture, 8 percent on recreation, and 6 percent on parks.

Project	2017	2018
Renewal and Replacement		
MCA sound system upgrades	$42,000	
Playground replacements	$120,000	
City-wide Park Sustainability	$35,000	$35,000

Project	2017	2018
Community park sustainability	$35,000	$35,000
Trail sustainability	$0	$50,000
Parks buildings renewal and replacement	$43,000	$265,000
Strategic Initiatives and Opportunities		
Sponsorship program	$90,000	$0
Status update on PRC Master Plan	$50,000	$0
DCC Bylaw Update – parks	$20,000	$0
Assistant Manager Park Operations and Maintenance	$108,000	$111,000
Washroom development	$100,000	$100,000
Community park development	$0	$900,000
Trail development and planning	$0	$100,00

Project	2017	2018
Renewal and Replacement		
ARC security system upgrade	$15,000	$0
MRC diving boards, senior centre, club house	$135,000	$0
Centennial Pool safety shut down	$125,000	$0
Recreation buildings renewal and replacement	$339,000	$154,000
Strategic Initiatives and Opportunities		
ARC Gymnasium Divider Curtain	$45,000	$0
ARC ultra-violet (UV) disinfection	$0	$116,400
MRC expansion project	$0	$9,831,000

Heritage Strategic Plan

Year: 2005

Description: The Heritage Strategic Plan grew out of the 2004 Arts and Heritage Master Plan. It was prepared to provide direction for managing heritage in Abbotsford. Heritage helps instill community identity and resident pride while promoting a sense of stability and continuity.

Abbotsford Cemeteries Master Plan

Year: 2007

Description: The Abbotsford Civic Cemeteries Master Plan provides a comprehensive review of the City's four cemeteries: Aberdeen, Mt. Lehman, Musselwhite, and Hazelwood. The master plan was prepared to ensure sustainable management, operation, and maintenance of the City's cemeteries; ensure internment options for future residents; and preserve, protect, and celebrate community history contained within the cemeteries.

Mill Lake Park Action Plan Update

Year: 2003

Description: This document was prepared as an update to the 1996 Mill Lake Park Action Plan (draft), which reviewed and updated the park acquisition plan, and prepared an overall park schematic plan for future work. The Mill Lake Park Action Plan Update prepared action items for the City to implement towards the goal of building upon the reputation of Mill Lake Park as the "jewel" of the City. Future work on Mill Lake Park will likely continue to build on the direction set by the original Mill Lake Park Action Plan and Update.

Trail Development Strategy

Year: 2004

Description: The Trail Development Strategy includes a trail concept plan and a Fundraising Strategy to enhance Abbotsford's trails and open space system. The strategy also identifies the economic benefits of a City trail system, a greenway vision for the City, and a blueway vision for the Fraser, Sumas, and Vedder Rivers.

The trail concept plan envisions an accessible trail network that facilitates outdoor recreation and tourism. The Fishtrap Trail, Matsqui Trail, Sumas Trail, and Fraser Waterway are the focus of the concept plan.

The fundraising strategy outlines opportunities to increase awareness of the trail project, raise private funding, encourage local trail stewardship, and support general community involvement in the project.

Other City Reports and Initiatives

Abbotsford Age-Friendly Assessment Report

Year: 2017

Description: The Abbotsford Age-Friendly Assessment Report is part of the City's efforts to help meet the needs of older residents and to work towards being recognised by the Province of British Columbia and BC Healthy Communities as Age-Friendly. The report uses the World Health Organization's framework of eight domains of community life to guide the conversation about age-friendly strategies.

Abbotsford Cares Agenda for Social Planning

Year: 2006

Description: The City hired its first Social Planner in 2005. This document reports on the first six months of this position and summarizes research on the role of social planning in the City. In preparation for the Abbotsford Cares Agenda, an engagement process with community groups, social agencies, social advocates, and City staff was completed. The following priority areas of action touch on themes addressed in the PRC Master Plan:

- Children's issues, such as early childhood initiatives and programs that support physical health and well-being
- Community networks, particularly improving collaboration between community organizations and the City
- Diversity and inclusion, such as providing programs that are responsive to the needs of First Nations, immigrants, people with disabilities, people who identify as LGBTQ, and people facing poverty
- Seniors' issues, including incorporating seniors' centres into larger community recreation facilities and promoting cross-generational programming
- Youth issues, including the need for recreational programs and supports for youth at risk

Active Abbotsford

Year: 2015

Description: The City prepared Active Abbotsford in 2015 to support lifelong participation in sport and physical activity. Through research and engagement, Active Abbotsford identified a number of goals, including the following:

- Review accessibility and education issues faced by vulnerable or marginalized residents in accessing the Subsidy and Special Needs programs
- Investigate opportunities for a social media campaign aimed at introducing youth ages 18 to 25 to City facilities, programs, and services
- Continue support for the work of Sport Abbotsford
- Establish an incentive program to build capacity at local sports organizations
- Assembly an inventory of publicly accessible facilities
- Work with all user groups to reduce any non-utilized rental bookings
- Share Canadian Sport for Life emerging practices and successful case studies with local sports organizations
- Provide local sports organizations with free or low-cost access to facilities to host introductory sessions
- Create synergies between organizations, teams, and athletes

Child and Youth Friendly Community Strategy

Year: 2009

Description: The Child and Youth Friendly Strategy grew out of the Child Friendly Forum for Community Leaders, an event that attracted community leaders and more than 300 young people to discuss concerns in their community. This strategy provides an assessment of the current state of Abbotsford in relation to children and youth, ideas for child and youth friendly design guidelines and policy, and an action plan for making Abbotsford more child and youth friendly.

Citizen Satisfaction Survey

Year: 2010

Description: In 2010, the City retained Ipsos Reid, a market research company, to conduct a random-sample telephone survey of 300 residents ages 18 and older. The survey asked questions on a number of topics related to citizen satisfaction with local government, including top-of-mind issues, quality of life, satisfaction with services, financial planning, communication, priorities and expectations, and infrastructure. Some key findings relevant to the PRC Master Plan include the following:

- Ninety-five percent of respondents reported their quality of life was good or very good. Twenty-five percent reported that their quality of life had improved in the past three years because of good amenities and services, as well as good parks, green space, and recreation facilities.
- Sixty-three percent of respondents were very satisfied with parks, trails, and other green space, while 26 percent were somewhat satisfied.
- Fifty-seven percent of respondents were very satisfied by recreation and culture facilities, while 31 percent were somewhat satisfied.
- Fifty percent of respondents were very satisfied with sports fields, while 37 percent were somewhat satisfied.
- Community recreation programs were ranked as the third highest municipal priority.
- Forty-seven percent of respondents felt the City did a good job managing recreation facility infrastructure, while 39 percent felt the City did a somewhat good job.
- Eighty-seven percent of respondents felt that recreation facility infrastructure was in good or excellent condition.

DCC Background Report

Year: 2010

Description: The Development Cost Charge (DCC) Background Report provides information to support the preparation of a DCC Bylaw. It examines the infrastructure and servicing needs that will accompany new development in the City, including parks. DCCs for parkland were set based on the 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Parks, Recreation & Culture 2011 Master Plan Status Report. Both the Master Plan and Status Report project a shortage of parkland usable for active recreation over time.

Policies and Bylaws

Fees and Charges Bylaw

Year: 2006, most recently amended in 2017

Description: The Fees and Charges Bylaw sets out the fees and charges payable for services provided by the City. The Bylaw covers all aspects of parks, recreation, and culture with fees for all types of services, including drop-in rates, programs, rentals, permits, donation program rates, and other fees.

Grant Application Policy

Year: 2016

Description: This document outlines the application process for non-profits to receive City grants. The grants covered by this policy are intended to offset City costs associated with hosting events, festivals, and tournaments that attract at least one thousand plus residents. The maximum grant available is $4,000 per calendar year.

Park Features Policy

Year: 2016

Description: The Park Features Policy was prepared to provide direction for requests from the public for park features above and beyond those included in the Parks and Open Spaces Classification System, which was developed as part of the 2005 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The goal of this policy is to provide opportunities for the public to request features to address changing community and neighbourhood needs, while ensuring the equitable distribution of features throughout the City. The policy reiterates the park features guidelines based on the type of park classification, while setting a formal request process for new features.

Public Art Policy

Year: 2011

Description: Recognizing that public art is important in creating a sense of place, increasing civic pride, and improving community spaces, among many other benefits, the Public Art Policy was prepared to increase public art in Abbotsford. The financial component of this policy requires a commitment

of 1 percent of future capital facility projects to public art. The policy was approved by Council, in principle, in 2010.

FINAL DRAFT

APPENDIX B—BENEFITS OF PRC

This appendix is a compilation of materials from www.benefitshub.ca, a resource on the benefits of recreation, arts, culture, heritage, environment, parks, and sports.

Personal Benefits

Health

Recreation helps extend life expectancy (active living, fitness, sport)

Effects of aerobic exercise on brain metabolism & grey matter in older adults (Germany)

Stable choline concentrations in the intervention group over the 3-month period might indicate a neuroprotective effect of aerobic exercise. Choline might constitute a valid marker for an effect of aerobic exercise on cerebral metabolism in healthy aging

Source: Matura, S. et al. (2017). Effects of aerobic exercise on brain metabolism and grey matter volume in older adults: results of the randomised controlled SMART trial. *Translational Psychiatry.* 7, e1172; doi:10.1038/tp.2017.135. Published online 18 July 2017.

Purpose: The present study used magnetic resonance spectroscopy and quantitative MRI to systematically explore the effects of physical activity on human brain metabolism and grey matter (GM) volume in healthy aging. This is a randomised controlled assessor-blinded two-armed trial (n=53) to explore exercise-induced neuroprotective and metabolic effects on the brain in cognitively healthy older adults. Participants (age >65) were allocated to a 12-week individualised aerobic exercise programme intervention (n=29) or a 12-week waiting control group (n=24).

Evidence: The main outcomes were the change in cerebral metabolism and its association to brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) levels as well as changes in GM volume. Cerebral choline concentrations remained stable after 12 weeks of aerobic exercise in the intervention group, whereas they increased in the waiting control group. No effect of training was seen on cerebral N-acetyl-aspartate concentrations, or on markers of neuronal energy reserve or BDNF levels or in cortical GM volume. As choline is a marker of neurodegeneration, this finding suggests a neuroprotective effect of aerobic exercise. Overall, our findings indicate that cerebral tCho might constitute a valid marker for an effect of aerobic exercise on the brain in healthy aging.

Environmental Facilitators and Physical Activity of Older Adults (Finland)

High walkability of the living environment provides opportunities for physical activity in old age.

Source: Portegijs, Erja et al. (2017). Physical Limitations, Walkability, Perceived Environmental Facilitators and Physical Activity of Older Adults in Finland. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.* 14(3): 333. doi:10.3390/ijerph14030333

Purpose: The aim was to study objectively assessed walkability of the environment and participant perceived environmental facilitators for outdoor mobility as predictors of physical activity in older adults with and without physical limitations.

Evidence: 75–90-year-old adults living independently in Central Finland were interviewed (n = 839) and reassessed for self-reported physical activity one or two years later (n = 787). Lower-extremity physical limitations were defined as Short Physical Performance Battery score ≤9. Number of perceived environmental facilitators was calculated from a 16-item checklist. Walkability index (land use mix, street connectivity, population density) of the home environment was calculated from geographic information and categorized into tertiles. Accelerometer-based step counts were registered for one week (n = 174).

Better walkability was associated with higher numbers of perceived environmental facilitators ($p < 0.001$) and higher physical activity (self-reported $p = 0.021$, step count $p = 0.010$). Especially among those with physical limitations, reporting more environmental facilitators was associated with higher odds for reporting at least moderate physical activity ($p < 0.001$), but not step counts. Perceived environmental facilitators only predicted self-reported physical activity at follow-up. To conclude, high walkability of the living environment provides opportunities for physical activity in old age, but among those with physical limitations especially, awareness of environmental facilitators may be needed to promote physical activity.

Human Development

Leisure activities and parks are essential to the holistic development of children and youth: - they gain physical fitness and enhance overall health/well-being - they learn motor skills (physical) through play and sport.

Sport Participation and Academic Performance in Higher Education (Spain)

Participation in formal sporting activities is associated with higher grades among university students

Source: Muñoz-Bullón, Fernando, Sanchez-Bueno, Maria J. and Vos-Saz, Antonio. (2017). The influence of sports participation on academic performance among students in higher education. *Sport Management Review*. Available online 19 January 2017. doi.org/10.1016/j.smr.2016.10.006

Purpose: This paper examines the effect that participation in extracurricular sporting activities has on academic performance among students in higher education.

Evidence: The empirical evidence is provided by a panel dataset of undergraduate students who studied at a Spanish University over the period 2008–2014. The academic performance of sports participants are compared with those of non-participants in terms of their outcomes in the form of grades.

Results reveal that participation in formal sporting activities is associated with higher grades among students at this university. The analysis reinforces the idea that apart from their health benefits for practitioners, sporting activities lead to the attainment of the performance goals to which higher education institutions aspire.

Neighbourhood Environments, Children's Physical Activity, and Sedentary time (Australia)

Mixed land use and many playgrounds and sport venues were associated with less television viewing on weekends. (Australia)

Source: Timperio. Anna et al. (2016). Typologies of neighbourhood environments and children's physical activity, sedentary time and television viewing. *Health & Place*. 43(121–127). doi.org/10.1016/j.healthplace.2016.10.004

Purpose: This study examined cross-sectional and prospective associations between clusters of neighbourhood attributes (typologies) and non-school moderate-to-vigorous physical activity, sedentary time (objectively measured) and proxy-reported television viewing among children aged 5–6 and 10–12 years.

Evidence: Four distinct clusters were identified from seven objectively-measured neighbourhood attributes (land use mix, traffic exposure, playgrounds, sports venues, intersections and cul-de-sacs within 800 m, crime/postcode). Some cross-sectional associations with behaviour were found. Longitudinally, the cluster characterized by mixed land use and many playgrounds and sport venues was associated with less

television viewing on weekends three years later. Considering the aggregate effects of urban form elements may help understand how combinations of neighbourhood attributes influence behaviour.

Are Canadian kids too tired to move?

The report urges Canadians to create policies, strategies, and facilities and re-establish year-round outdoor play, transportation, recreation and sport as norms.

Source: ParticipACTION. *Are Canadian kids too tired to move? The 2016 ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth.* Toronto: ParticipACTION, 2016

Purpose: The ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth is the most comprehensive assessment of child and youth physical activity in Canada. The Report Card synthesizes data from multiple sources, including the best available peer- reviewed research, to assign evidence-informed grades across 12 indicators. Over the years, the Report Card has been replicated in numerous cities, provinces and countries, where it has served as a blueprint for collecting and sharing knowledge about the physical activity of young people around the world. This Report Card includes new Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines for Children and Youth: An Integration of Physical Activity, Sedentary Behaviour, and Sleep – the first of their kind in the world – and, for the first time, assigns a Sleep grade.

Evidence: Emerging research highlights the importance of physical activity for healthy brain development, which can lead to improved learning and academic outcomes. For example, researchers have shown that children who are physically active for as little as 20 minutes daily have more active brains, better standardized test scores, and improved attention in the classroom. Additionally, grades 2 and 3 students who participated in math and spelling lessons that involved physical activity for two years made greater gains in mathematics and spelling compared to their peers who did not participate in physically active academic lessons. Preliminary evidence also suggests that physical activity may benefit cognitive development in early childhood (birth to 5 years of age). As well, researchers are beginning to recognise that excessive sedentary time negatively influences brain health and may even counteract the benefits of activity. Preliminary evidence from a recent systematic review suggests that reading is beneficial to cognitive development in early childhood (birth to 5 years of age), while screen time is not beneficial and may even be detrimental. These findings stress the importance of sufficient physical activity and limited sedentary time for healthy brain development.

On the other hand, only 9 percent of Canadian kids aged 5 to 17 get the 60 minutes of heart-pumping activity they need each day. Only 24 percent of 5- to 17-year-olds meet

the Canadian Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines recommendation of no more than 2 hours of recreational screen time per day. In recent decades, children's sleep duration has decreased by about 30 to 60 minutes. Every hour kids spend in sedentary activities delays their bedtime by 3 minutes. And the average 5- to 17-year-old Canadian spends 8.5 hours being sedentary each day at least some of the time. 33 percent of Canadian children aged 5 to 13, and 45 percent of youth aged 14 to 17, have trouble falling asleep or staying asleep at least some of the time. 36 percent of 14- to 17-year-olds find it difficult to stay awake during the day at least sometimes. 31 percent of school-aged kids and 26 percent of adolescents in Canada are sleep-deprived.

Individual Quality of Life

Leisure activities and parks enhance personal life satisfaction**.** (recreation, fitness, sport, arts, culture, parks, and greenspace)

Social Impacts of Culture and Sport (United Kingdom)

The review concludes that existing evidence demonstrates a diverse range of social benefits are derived from engagement with sport and culture, both for society generally and when used within interventions targeted at particular groups in society.

Source: Taylor, Peter et al. (2015). *A review of the Social Impacts of Culture and Sport*. Department for Culture, Media, and Sport CASE program: UK. 136 pp

Purpose: This systematic review draws together the existing international literature on the range, nature and extent of social impacts resulting from engagement and participation with sport and culture.

This research, funded from the Culture and Sport Evidence (CASE) programme, reviews the current evidence base on the social impacts of sport and culture. Using a systematic review of relevant literature, this research focuses principally on four main types of social impact: (i) improved health, (ii) reduced crime, (iii) increased social capital and (iv) improved education outcomes.

Evidence:

Sport

The most convincing evidence concerns health benefits, which prevent or reduce physical and mental health problems and save on health care costs.

There is also strong evidence that sports participation improves pro-social behaviour and reduces crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly for young men. This includes evidence of lower levels, for sports participants compared with non-participants, of

recidivism, drunk driving, use of illegal drugs, crime and suspensions at school, property crime, shoplifting and juvenile crime.

In terms of the social capital impacts from sport, there is evidence that sport is a type of 'social glue', i.e. contributing 'bonding' capital by increasing social connectedness and a sense of belonging. Positive outcomes in studies include reduced social and ethnic tensions, and more collective action and community involvement through sport, particularly volunteering.

Arts

The evidence points to positive associations between participation in arts and health, social capital, crime and education.

The evidence of beneficial effects of the arts on health extends to clinical and non-clinical populations, and physical and mental health. A number of studies evidence the health benefits of music, both for the general population and for stroke victims.

Most of the research into the relationship between the arts and crime focuses on the effects of arts programmes for offenders. The evidence in such studies testifies to beneficial effects on intermediate outcomes such as communication skills, teamwork and self-concepts, which are important antecedents for a reduced likelihood of re-offending.

Studies in general testify that cultural participation can contribute to social relationships, community cohesion, and/or make communities feel safer and stronger. A majority of studies also supports positive links between arts participation and social inclusion, suggesting that cultural participation results in an improved capacity for cultural citizenship, boosting confidence and developing social skills which lead to more effective engagement with the community at large.

Evidence of the relationship between arts participation and education impacts shows positive effects on intermediate outcomes (e.g. self-concepts, improved relationships between staff, students and parents).

11.5 Social Benefits

Community Quality of Life

Leisure activities and parks enhance perceived/actual quality of life and place for individuals, families, and communities. (recreation, sport, arts, culture, parks and greenspace)

Designed to Move: Active Cities (USA)

The report shows that cities with physically active populations are not only more economically competitive – they also benefit from increased productivity, improved school performance, higher property values, and improved health and well-being.

Source: Active Living Research. (2015). *Designed to Move: Active Cities. A Guide for City Leaders.* San Diego, CA: ALR. 80 pp.

Purpose: The Active Cities report prominently features an extensive literature review that ALR conducted to understand the co-benefits of activity-friendly environments on physical health, mental health, social benefits, safety/injury prevention, environmental sustainability, and economics.

Evidence:

<u>Economic Benefits</u>

- Research shows that designing cities to be active can have a significant impact on the bottom line. From increased investment and higher property values to greater tax revenue, everyone does better when people move more.
- WALKING IS GREAT FOR BUSINESS AND SO IS CYCLING: Multiple studies have shown that making places better for walking can boost footfall and trading by up to 40 percent and raise retail rents by 20 percent. Projects in the United Kingdom were shown to increase employment and the number of visitors—each by 300 percent. In another study, a higher Walk Score® ranking was associated with a 42 percent increase in net operating income. A conservative estimate of the annual economic impact of cycling in one metropolitan area was $60 million. The annual economic impact of cyclists is almost nine times as much as the one-time expenditure of public funds used to construct special bicycle facilities. Among 20 different studies on the economic benefits of walking and bicycling interventions, the average benefit-to-cost ratio was 13:1.10.

- ACTIVE DESIGN BOOSTS PROPERTY VALUES: In one study, retail properties with a Walk Score® ranking of 80 were valued 54 percent higher than properties with a Walk Score® ranking of 20. 13 similar findings have been observed across all types of properties. Those with a Walk Score® of 80 were worth 29 percent to 49 percent more than properties with a score of 20. A study of 15 U.S. cities found homes in more walkable neighborhoods to be worth $4,000 to $34,000 more than those in less walkable neighborhoods.
- LOCATING SCHOOLS IN NEIGHBORHOODS DELIVERS MASSIVE RETURNS: The list of economic benefits associated with locating schools in local neighborhoods is exhaustive. For example, the presence of a local school supports higher property values and saves on construction and operating costs. In addition, using the public school as the location for community health centers, swimming pools, libraries or other public services can reduce overall cost of public land assets, capital funds and total operating expenses required.
- HEALTHY, ACTIVE WORKPLACES ARE BETTER FOR THE BOTTOM LINE: A review of workplace health programs shows that such programs saved at least $3 for every $1 invested. Employees who participate in workplace health programs have lower absentee rates, improved productivity and fewer health-related work limitations. Employers would also be well advised to support active transportation options such as walking and cycling given their relationship to improved productivity. For example, time spent in traffic in Australia's eight capital cities cost nearly US$ 2.8 billion in lost "business time" or productivity.
- CYCLING FACILITIES LOWER HEALTH CARE COSTS: A modeling study of Portland, Oregon (USA) estimated that by 2040, investments in bike facilities (costing from $138 to $605 million) will result in health care cost savings of $388 million to $594 million, fuel savings of $143 million to $218 million, and savings in the value of statistical lives of $7 million to $12 billion.

<u>Environmental Benefits</u>

- Public transportation options have a significant impact on the environment, as do parks and open spaces.
- URBAN TREES REMOVE POLLUTION AND REDUCE ENERGY DEPENDENCE: In the United States, trees in urban areas have been estimated to remove 783,000 tons of pollutants every year. Another study estimated that increasing tree cover by 10 percent may reduce the total energy needed for heating and cooling by 5 to 10 percent.

- MIXED USE, HIGH-DENSITY DEVELOPMENT CUTS DRIVE TIMES, REDUCING POLLUTION AND FUEL CONSUMPTION: More compact development can reduce drive times by as much as 40 percent. One study estimated that this could reduce carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 10 percent.
- WALKABILITY AND BIKEABILITY DRASTICALLY REDUCE DRIVING AND RELATED POLLUTANTS: In one study, a 5 percent increase in walkability was associated with a 6.5 percent decrease in vehicle miles traveled. This equates to a 5.6 percent decrease in emissions of oxides of nitrogen.35 In a study of a county in the United States, it was determined that the addition of sidewalks to all roadways would lead to a reduction of vehicle miles traveled equal to 183 million miles, resulting in an annual air pollution cost saving of $8 million.
- PUBLIC TRANSPORT IS GREENER TRANSPORT: Public transportation has been found to produce 95 percent less carbon monoxide, 90 percent less volatile organic compounds, and about half as much carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide per passenger mile as private vehicles.
- ACTIVE TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL IS BETTER FOR KIDS AND BETTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: Neighborhood schools produce fewer emissions than schools located on the outskirts of town. In fact, they can produce a 13 percent increase in walking and biking, and lead to a reduction of at least 15 percent in emissions. A Safe Routes to School program resulted in a 13 percentage point reduction in vehicle drop-offs, and an annual reduction of roughly 1,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions and 70 tons of other environmental pollutants.

<u>Physical and Mental Health Benefits</u>

- It should come as little surprise that physical activity is good for people's overall physical health. The bigger revelation is the fact that the ways our cities are designed have an enormous impact on people's overall mental health as well.
- PEOPLE WHO LIVE CLOSER TO PARKS ARE HEALTHIER: In the case of access to parks and open spaces, the strongest evidence is related to the simple presence of parks and people's proximity to them. Residents who live closer to green space feel healthier, less stressed and less lonely. They also experience less anxiety and children diagnosed with ADHD receive as much benefit from walking in a park as they do from leading medication therapies. Living closer to green space is also associated with decreased cardiovascular and respiratory disease mortality in men. Considering the human and economic costs of these diseases, parks begin to look like a particularly attractive investment.

- WALKABLE/BIKEABLE/GREEN URBAN COMMUNITIES MAKE FOR HEALTHIER, SAFER CITIZENS: Walkability is associated with a decrease in body mass index (BMI), while urban greenery is associated with less stress, speedier hospital recoveries and improved mental health.
- ACCESS TO SCHOOL GROUNDS GIVES PEOPLE A CHANCE TO BE MORE ACTIVE: One of the most impactful things that cities can do to get people moving is to open up existing spaces. Schools present a great opportunity, but only if people can access the grounds. One study found that schools represented 44 percent of potential neighborhood sites for physical activity. However, the number of locked schools was associated with significantly higher BMI.

Social Benefits

- Active environments strengthen communities. They give people a greater sense of cohesion and lead people to have more positive attitudes about their cities.
- PARKS AND PLAYSPACES STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY TIES AND GIVE KIDS A PLACE TO PLAY: Parks and play spaces offer enormous social benefits, including decreased feelings of loneliness and a stronger sense of social integration. Moreover, when New York City reconstructed its playgrounds, a 25 percent increase in structured play and a 240 percent increase in unstructured play were observed in children. Given decreasing physical activity levels among young people, this is an especially significant finding.
- PEOPLE LIKE THEIR CITIES MORE WHEN THEY HAVE ACTIVE TRANSPORT OPTIONS: Ciclovias (cycling events that close streets to cars for a full day) are great community builders. In fact, nearly 9 out of 10 people agree that the events cause them to look more favorably on their city. Public transport options also impact how people feel about their cities. One survey found that half of residents who lack access to mass transit are dissatisfied with the lack of availability.
- SHARED USE AGREEMENTS MAKE SCHOOLS A NATURAL PLACE TO PLAY AND MOVE: After a Hawaii (USA) school implemented far-reaching shared use agreements— agreements that allow outside organizations to use school facilities—faculty unanimously reported that it was beneficial to students. They reported that the program provided needed opportunities for physical activity, incurred social benefits (e.g., making new friends), kept students out of trouble and promoted healthy lifestyles.
- CRIME DROPS ON CAR-FREE STREETS: In one city, crime decreased by 74 percent when a street running through a park was converted into a car-free space on

weekends. This is consistent with a separate finding that 6 of the first 7 reasons burglars stated for selecting a particular property were related to access routes.

- GARDENS AND GREEN SPACES DETER CRIME: In one urban area, apartment buildings with more vegetation were associated with lower rates of homicide, assault, robbery, theft, burglary and arson. Buildings with high levels of vegetation had 52 percent fewer total crimes than buildings with low levels of vegetation. Similarly, eight separate studies found that community gardens increase community cohesion, and reduce graffiti and violence.

IT'S WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT: It turns out that people want to live in cities that are walkable, bikeable and playable. From the surveys and consumer research available, it appears the public is already very much in favor of activity-friendly options. For example:
Many people are "mismatched" and do not live in their preferred neighborhood type—specifically, people who do not live in walkable neighborhoods would prefer to.
Nine of ten people prefer that more local government funds be devoted to walking/jogging trails, recreation centers and bike paths.
If bicycling were made safer from motor vehicle traffic, bicycle riding at least once per week could increase from 8 percent to 40 percent of adults.
In the United States, 59 percent of people surveyed support walkable communities.
More than half of Americans prefer neighborhoods that are close to shops, have a mix of incomes and provide public transportation

Connecting Canadians with Nature

Research confirms that deepening our relationship with the natural world has tremendous personal benefits that ripple positively out to every facet of society.

Source: Parks Canada. (2014). *Connecting Canadians with Nature — An Investment in the Well-Being of our Citizens*. Ottawa, ON: Parks Canada. 36 pp.

Purpose: This document synthesizes the growing body of international scientific research that suggests personal contact with nature can mitigate many of the ill effects of modern life. It explains the changes in the country's social fabric that are leading Canadians away from the outdoors. It also outlines the personal and societal benefits of connecting with the natural environment, from local green spaces to protected public lands.

This document adds a coordinated and strategic voice to a growing constituency of organizations from around the world calling on action to connect people with nature.

Connecting Canadians with nature requires a fundamental shift in how nature is perceived in our modern world. We hope that this document inspires practitioners and professionals to see the power of nature in their respective disciplines and sectors, and to take action to reverse current trends.

Evidence:

Benefit of connecting with nature:

For our economy

A key driver for domestic and international tourism in Canada is the natural environment, generating economic activity in rural and urban communities from coast to coast to coast. Nature-based tourism creates a diversity of jobs for a range of sectors (e.g., transportation, accommodations, retail, attractions, and guiding), generates tax revenues for governments at all levels, and contributes to the health of local and regional economies, and the national economy as a whole. Visitors to parks for example make a direct contribution to Canada's economy. A recent study found they supported more than 64,000 full-time jobs, generated $2.9 billion in labour income, and $337 million in tax revenue for governments.

For our health

A growing base of empirical evidence demonstrates that contact with nature offers powerful benefits for people's health. There have been a number of important findings proving that natural experiences help heal us. People exposed to nature recover from surgery faster, require fewer medications, and have shorter overall hospital stays. A two-hour walk in the woods is enough to improve sleep quality and help mitigate sleep problems. Prison inmates whose cells look out onto natural features rather than into a courtyard are sick less often.

Contact with nature has been found to lower blood pressure, strengthen the immune system, help mitigate disease, and reduce stress levels. Viewing natural images while exercising has been shown to reduce blood pressure by nine per cent compared to viewing images of the built environment. Blood pressure, pulse rates, and stress hormone levels have been shown to improve after walks in outdoor environments, including forests, parks and other green spaces, and viewing natural elements rather than built features. Time spent outdoors may also help mitigate cancer. Emerging work from Japan found that a three-day stay in a large intact forest increased participants' natural cancer-fighting proteins and cell activity linked to tumour reduction.

For our spirit and identity

Modern studies in a range of disciplines have all come to the same conclusion: nature offers something spiritual that is good for the soul. In nature, we can experience wonder, joy, thrill, and satisfaction all in a single hike in the woods. Aesthetics of the natural world, particularly those provided by mountains, deserts, waterfalls, forests and oceans have been shown to inspire episodes of ultimate happiness and spiritual fulfillment. The more natural the environment the more restorative power it has. The heightened sensory awareness acquired through contact with nature, especially wilderness, is associated with 'peak experiences' — where people lose themselves in the wonder and awe of the moment.

For our personal development

A multitude of studies have shown that playing in natural environments is essential to our children's development of core skills, including observation, problem-solving and reasoning, categorization, creativity, imagination, risk-identification, along with emotional and intellectual development. Our current screen-dependent culture is interfering with natural human development. Children's biological affiliation with nature gives them a better sense of what they can do and control, makes them happier, and makes learning fun. Children that are not allowed to experience risk will, in turn, have less ability to identify and manage risks in every aspect of their life as they age.

For our communities

Nature plays a pivotal role in nurturing relationships by bringing people together. Many studies have demonstrated that nature makes us happy and more generous. It improves our mood and elicits feelings of pleasure. The 'feel-good' factor facilitated by nature influences our relationships with others. Urban residents living near natural environments tend to know more of their neighbours, feel a stronger sense of belonging to the community, and have a more positive view of their neighbourhood. Neighbourhoods with parks in a major US city reported higher levels of mutual trust and willingness to help one another than their counterparts living in neighbourhoods without parks. Community gardens, trails, outdoor running clubs are emerging in communities as a way to bring families and neighbours together. Nature brings out more social feelings, more value for community and nurtures close relationships among neighbours.

For our environment

Research confirms that a meaningful adult connection with the natural world develops in early childhood. Interviews with thousands of adults concluded that their environmental attitudes and relationship with nature were developed as a child, usually by age

11. Children who engage in nature-based activities such as gardening, visiting parks, outdoor learning, and unstructured outdoor play were more likely to appreciate and protect nature as they get older. Children with this upbringing are more likely to seek ways to overcome barriers that prevent them from engaging with nature as an adult.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Leisure activities reduce self-destructive behaviour in youth by serving as an antidote to smoking, substance abuse, suicide, and depression. (recreation, sports, arts, culture

11.5.1.1 Co-benefits of Designing Communities for Active Living (USA)

Designing communities that support physical activity is likely to produce a wide variety of additional benefits, ranging from mental health to environmental sustainability and economics.

Source: Sallis, et al. (2015). Co-benefits of designing communities for active living: an exploration of literature. *International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity*. 12:30 doi:10.1186/s12966-015-0188-2

Purpose: To reverse the global epidemic of physical inactivity that is responsible for more than 5 million deaths per year, many groups recommend creating “activity-friendly environments.” Such environments may have other benefits, beyond facilitating physical activity, but these potential co-benefits have not been well described. The purpose of the present paper is to explore a wide range of literature and conduct an initial summary of evidence on co-benefits of activity-friendly environments.

Evidence: Five physical activity settings were defined: parks/open space/trails, urban design, transportation, schools, and workplaces/buildings. Several evidence-based activity-friendly features were identified for each setting. Six potential outcomes/co-benefits were searched: physical health, mental health, social benefits, safety/injury prevention, environmental sustainability, and economics. A total of 418 higher-quality findings were summarized. The overall summary indicated 22 of 30 setting by outcome combinations showed “strong” evidence of co-benefits. Each setting had strong evidence of at least three co-benefits, with only one occurrence of a net negative effect. All settings showed the potential to contribute to environmental sustainability and economic benefits. Specific environmental features with the strongest evidence of multiple co-benefits were park proximity, mixed land use, trees/greenery, accessibility and street connectivity, building design, and workplace physical activity policies/programs. The exploration revealed substantial evidence that designing community environments that make physical activity attractive and convenient is likely

to produce additional important benefits. The extent of the evidence justifies systematic reviews and additional research to fill gaps.

One notable finding was that economic benefits of activity-friendly designs were documented for all five physical activity settings. Based on the specific studies identified, many groups could enjoy economic benefits of activity-friendly environments, including governments (due to reduced spending on infrastructure), homeowners, real estate developers, health insurance companies, employers, retailers, commercial property owners, and taxpayers. This is an extremely broad range of beneficiaries, and some of them may not be aware of the economic benefits of activity-friendly environments.

Families/Communities

Families and couples that share play and leisure are more likely to stay together.

The Role of Sport in Community Capacity Building (USA)

Sport has demonstrated efficacy in building local skills, knowledge, and resources, increasing social cohesion, facilitating community dialog, leadership development, and encouraging civic participation.

Source: Edwards, Michael B. (2015). The role of sport in community capacity building: An examination of sport for development research and practice. *Sport Management Revie*w. 18(1): 6-19. doi.org/10.1016/j.smr.2013.08.008

Purpose: The purpose of this review is to examine the efficacy of sport to contribute to the process of community capacity building.

Evidence: Using seven established dimensions of community capacity, there is evidence that many SFD (sport for development) practices can effectively facilitate dimensions of community capacity when conducted in intentional, culturally relevant ways. Specifically, sport has demonstrated efficacy in building local skills, knowledge, and resources, increasing social cohesion, facilitating structures and mechanisms for community dialog, leadership development, and encouraging civic participation.

Sport-based development often generates high interest from residents, funders, and policy makers. By applying principles of community capacity building, sport may be uniquely positioned to enhance sustainable community health development initiatives.

Recreation and the Quality of Life in Saskatchewan Survey

Personal and community benefits of parks and recreation are leading factors by which people in Saskatchewan measure and assess their happiness and quality of life.

Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association. (2016). *Recreation and the Quality of Life in Saskatchewan: Detailed Report.* Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association: Regina, SK. 114 pp.

Purpose: To study the impact of recreation environments (parks, paths, trails, playgrounds, facilities, etc.) and programs on quality of life for Saskatchewan individuals and communities.

Evidence: Recreation is important to quality of life in Saskatchewan. In this study, the impact of recreation environments (parks, paths, trails, playgrounds, facilities, etc.) and programs on quality of life for Saskatchewan individuals and communities is surveyed. 917 adults from across the province were asked to rate various statements on a 5-point scale or answer various demographic questions such as age or income. Overall, it was found that respondents feel that people in Saskatchewan have a very good quality of life and that recreation plays an important role in maintaining quality of life. Outdoor parks, playgrounds, and paths, indoor recreation facilities and organized recreation programs are rated widely available, valuable and of good quality. The benefits to the individual and the community are known and valued, in particular benefits to health and connecting to nature.

Economic Benefits

Prevention

Fitness and well-being reduce the incidence and severity of illness and disability – lowering healthcare costs. Leisure activities contribute to stronger families – reducing social service costs.

The Effect of Trees on Crime in Portland, Oregon

The authors speculate that trees may reduce crime by signaling to potential criminals that a house is better cared for and, therefore, subject to more effective authority than a comparable house with fewer trees.

Donovan, Geoffrey H., Prestemon, Jeffrey P. (2010). The Effect of Trees on Crime in Portland, Oregon. *Environment & Behaviour.*24 (1): 3-30. doi: 10.1177/0013916510383238

Purpose: During the study period (2005-2007), 431 crimes were reported at the 2,813 single-family homes in the sample.

Evidence: Trees in the public right of way were associated with lower crime rates. The relationship between crime and trees on a house's lot is mixed. Smaller, view-obstructing trees were associated with increased crime, whereas larger trees were associated with reduced crime. The authors speculate that trees may reduce crime by signaling to potential criminals that a house is better cared for and, therefore, subject to more effective authority than a comparable house with fewer trees

The economic benefits of Plano's park and recreation system

This study illustrates that parks, trails, recreation centers, and sports fields in Plano are key economic drivers that contribute millions in economic benefits annually to the city as a whole.

Source: The Trust for Public Land. The economic benefits of Plano's park and recreation system. City of Plano (Project Number 6736): The Trust for Public Land, 2017

Purpose: This report analyzes the Texas City of Plano's parks, trails, recreation centers, and sports fields and documents a selection of the significant economic benefits that the park and recreation system provides to area residents.

Evidence: Specifically, the parks and recreation system produces the following economic benefits:

- Parks, trails, and open spaces increase the value of nearby homes because people enjoy living close to these amenities and are willing to pay for the proximity.
- The City's Department of Parks and Recreation is critical to the local tourism economy because it provides numerous recreation facilities, sports fields, parks, trails, and programming that attract visitors to the city. Sports- and tournament-related tourism alone generates $39.2 million annually in direct visitor spending.
- Each year residents of Plano receive a benefit of $31.8 million for the recreational use of these parks and facilities.
- Independent research shows that park use translates into increased physical activity, resulting in medical care cost savings. Approximately 16,500 adult residents use the City of Plano's park and recreation system to engage in physical activity at a level sufficient to generate measurable health benefits, yielding an annual medical cost savings of $21.2 million.
- Parks, trails, recreation centers, and sports fields contribute to the high quality of life in Plano, which plays an important role in attracting businesses and employees to the city and enhancing Plano's recreation economy. Residents spend $32.7 million annually on sports, recreation, and exercise equipment. This spending, along with tourist spending, supports 54 sporting goods stores that generate $109 million in sales and provide 605 jobs.

Local Economy

Public Lands Are Crucial to Small Businesses and Local Economies (USA)

Public lands are essential to local economies in the US West and are the catalyst to creating new jobs, attracting entrepreneurs and visitors and boosting consumer spending.

Source: Small Business Majority. (2015). *A Small Business Voice for Public Lands in the West Economic Report*. Washington, DC: Small Business Majority. 11 pp.

Purpose: This paper will examine the benefits of protecting public lands to small businesses and local economies in the West, and how public lands attract entrepreneurs and tourists who contribute to the success of Western states. This paper will look specifically at the importance of public lands in California, Colorado, Montana and New Mexico. It will also provide recommendations policymakers can use to take further steps to ensure the protection of public lands that are crucial to the success of small businesses and economies in the West.

Evidence: Public lands are essential to local economies in the West and are the catalyst to creating new jobs, attracting entrepreneurs and visitors and boosting consumer spending. According to the U.S. Department of Interior, public lands under the Department's protection hosted more than 400 million visitors who contributed $41 billion to the economy and supported 355,000 jobs across the country. In order to ensure outdoor recreation and the revenue it generates continues to thrive; we need to make protection of America's public lands a priority.

Research shows small business owners overwhelmingly support creating new public lands. It's good for local economies and small businesses and is an important step to protecting our nation's natural assets that attract visitors from all over the world. What's more, the Center for American Progress poll found by a margin of more than 3-to-1, voters believe that leaders in Washington should be creating new parks and expanding opportunities for Americans to get outdoors. Policymakers should take note and move forward with creating and protecting national parks and monuments, which will continue to boost economies in the West, and our nation as a whole.

Environmental Benefits

Green space protects habitat, biodiversity, and environmental integrity

It is About Being Outside

Canadian youth involved in this ethnographic study defined and visualized good health as "being outside" in a safe, clean, green and livable space.

Source: Woodgate, Roberta L., and Skarlato, Olga. (2015). "It is about being outside": Canadian youth's perspectives of good health and the environment. *Health & Place.* 31:100-110. doi:10.1016/j.healthplace.2014.11.008

Purpose: Drawing on qualitative data generated from an ethnographic study exploring Canadian youth's understanding of health, this paper examines youth's perspectives of the relationships between health and environment. Seventy-one youth (12 to 19 years of age) took part in individual and focus group interviews, as well as in photovoice interviews.

Evidence: Although initial discourse about health mainly focused on healthy eating and exercise, youth were more enthused and able to share their thoughts and feelings about the relationships between health and environment during the photovoice interviews. For these youth, good health was defined and visualized as "being outside" in a safe, clean, green, and livable space. Youth talked about conditions contributing to healthy environments and how healthy environments contributed to a strong sense of place. Overall, the conversations about the environment evoked many feelings in the youth.

Results are discussed in the context of current research and in relation to youth, but also more broadly in relation to research on health and environment.

Highlights:

- Youth shared deep and unique perspectives of links between health and environment.
- For youth, the outside natural environment can be therapeutic and healing.
- The outside natural environment can also be uncomfortable and threatening for youth.
- We need to provide safe, clean and green natural and built environments for youth.

Benefits of Restoring Ecosystem Services in Urban Areas (Sweden)

Investing in restoring, protecting, and enhancing green infrastructure and ecosystem services in cities is not only ecologically and socially desirable, but also economically viable.

Source: Elmqvist, T et al. (2015). Benefits of restoring ecosystem services in urban areas. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*. 14:101-108. doi:10.1016/j.cosust.2015.05.001

Purpose: Cities are a key nexus of the relationship between people and nature and are huge centers of demand for ecosystem services and also generate extremely large environmental impacts. Current projections of rapid expansion of urban areas present fundamental challenges and also opportunities to design more livable, healthy and resilient cities (e.g. adaptation to climate change effects). We present the results of an analysis of benefits of ecosystem services in urban areas.

Evidence: Empirical analyses included estimates of monetary benefits from urban ecosystem services based on data from 25 urban areas in the USA, Canada, and China. Our results show that investing in ecological infrastructure in cities, and the ecological restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems such as rivers, lakes, and woodlands occurring in urban areas, may not only be ecologically and socially desirable, but also quite often, economically advantageous, even based on the most traditional economic approaches.

We present an analysis of monetary benefits of ecosystem services provided by urban forests/woodlands based on 25 studies done in urban regions (20 in the USA, 4 in China and 1 in Canada) (Table 1). We restricted the literature search to include only

studies, in which estimates of monetary values of benefits were calculated, based on quantification in biophysical terms (e.g. amounts of C stored/sequestered by trees per hectare per year).

The data from the above-cited studies support the finding that the analyzed ecosystems provide between US$ 3212 and 17 772 of benefits per ha per year. These estimates exclude some very important benefits, such as positive health effects and social welfare related to non-use values, and consequently should be treated as very conservative estimates. To put the values of the above-mentioned monetary benefits in perspective, we present data on costs of urban ecological restoration interventions, which includes costs for planning, preparation, soil restoration, plant propagation, planting, and management.

Investing in restoring, protecting, and enhancing green infrastructure and ecosystem services in cities is not only ecologically and socially desirable. It is also very often economically viable, even under prevailing economic models, provided that the multiple services and all their associated benefits for the large number of beneficiaries in cities are properly quantified and recognised. Such information is essential to include in decision-making processes related to land use and management in urban landscapes, and to help guide urban and landscape planners, architects, restoration practitioners, and public policy makers, as well as private and institutional stakeholders.

Even though economic calculations provide useful arguments for environmental improvements, they are insufficient to fully capture, measure or monitor the scope of benefits related to restoring ecosystem services in cities. Indeed, many important ecosystem services were not taken into account in the few published studies featuring economic assessments of urban green infrastructure benefits considered here, including multiple health effects, provisioning services, and social well-being related to non-use values.

APPENDIX C—COMMUNITY INPUT

Appendix C includes summaries of the following community engagement opportunities:

- Community Survey - Stage 1
- World Café Workshops
- Focus Group Workshops
- Pop-Up Booths
- Community Survey – Stage 3

Community Survey Summary

Introduction

The City of Abbotsford is preparing a Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) Master Plan. Once compete, the plan will identify the parks, recreation and culture facilities and services needed for a population of 200K.

An important part of the process is to understand the interests and preferences of residents. Multiple methods were used to engage community members. The results of a major community survey conducted in Stage 1 of the process are the focus of this report.

The survey invited participants to share their opinions about parks, recreation and culture facilities and services available in the City of Abbotsford. MetroQuest was used for administering the survey. It is an online engagement tool that provides a user-friendly format and easy access to the survey on computers and mobile devices.

In total, 1,270 surveys were submitted, and cross-tabulations were performed to compare responses among different groups of respondents.

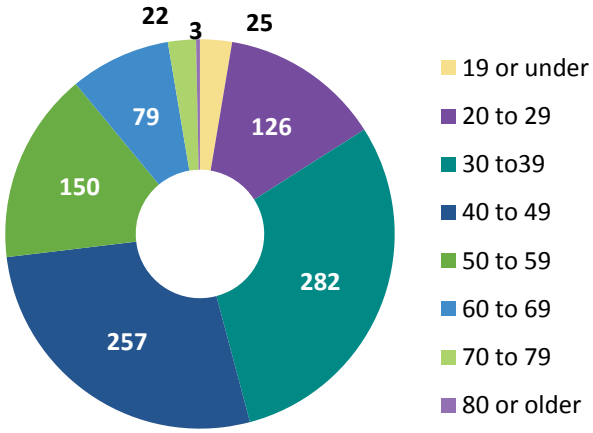
This report summarizes the demographic profile of survey participants, and responses on participation, satisfaction and priorities.

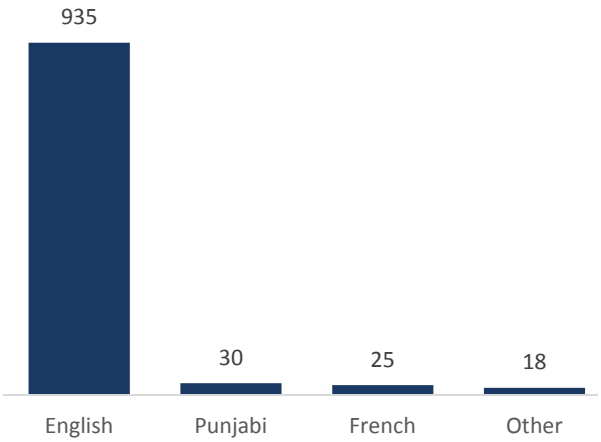
Survey Participants

Of Abbotsford's approximately 141,000 residents, 1,270 participated in the online survey. The participants were encouraged to provide some basic demographic information. This provides an understanding of who participated and to what extent participants represent the broader community. Demographic information also allows for the comparison of responses of different segments of the population.

Age

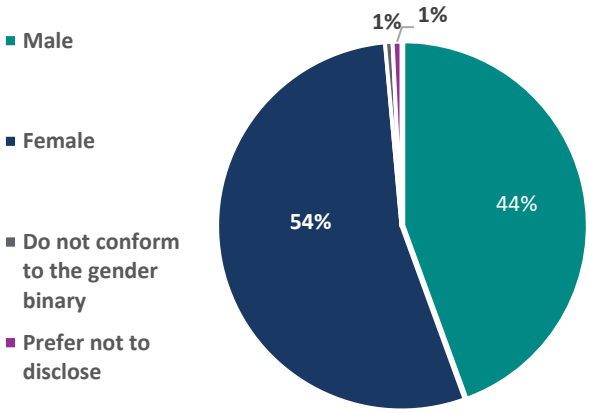
The most represented cohort was the 30 to 39-year old's (282), closely followed by the 40 to 49-year old's (257). The age cohorts that saw the fewest participation numbers were the 70 to 79-year old's (22) and the 80 and older cohort (3).





Language

The vast majority of participants were English speaking (935), with Punjabi and French also being reported (30 and 25 respectively).

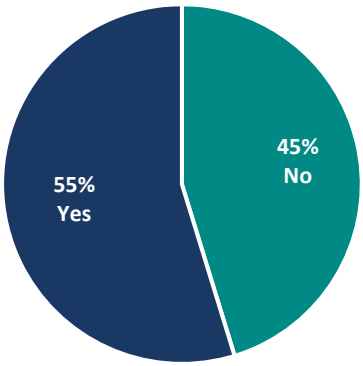


Gender

Of those who answered this question, 491 (54 percent) participants were female, compared to 403 (44 percent) males. There were 13 participants (2 percent) indicating that they either do not conform to the gender binary or that they would prefer not to answer, and another 359 participants did not answer the question.

With and Without Children at Home

Survey participants were asked to indicate whether or not they have children living at home. Of those who answered the question, 497 participants (55 percent) responded that they do have children living at home while 396 participants (45 percent) said they do not. There were 391 participants who did not respond.



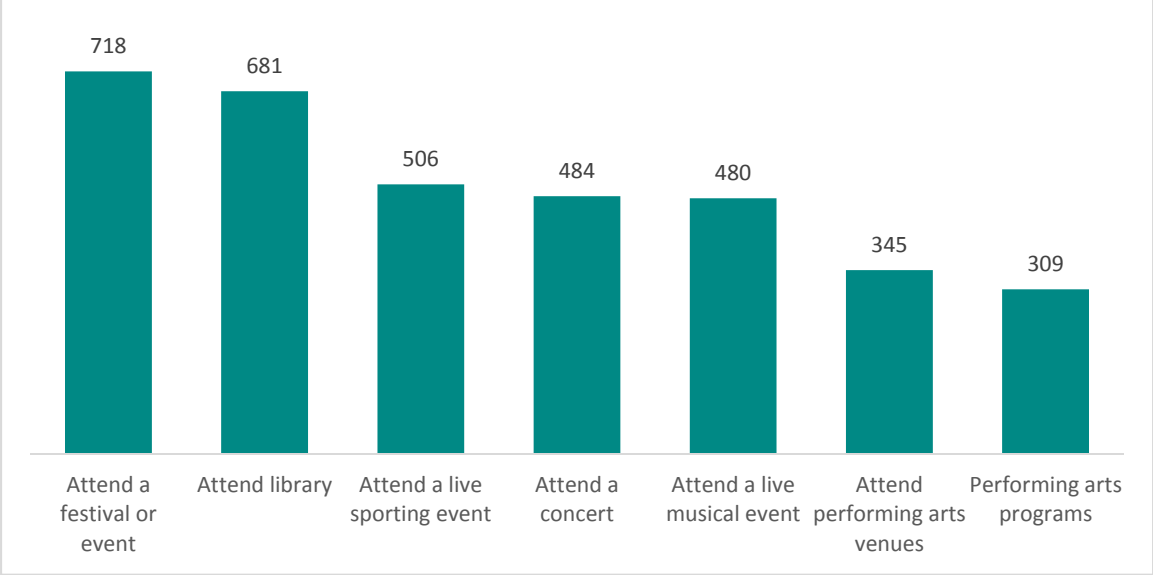
Participation

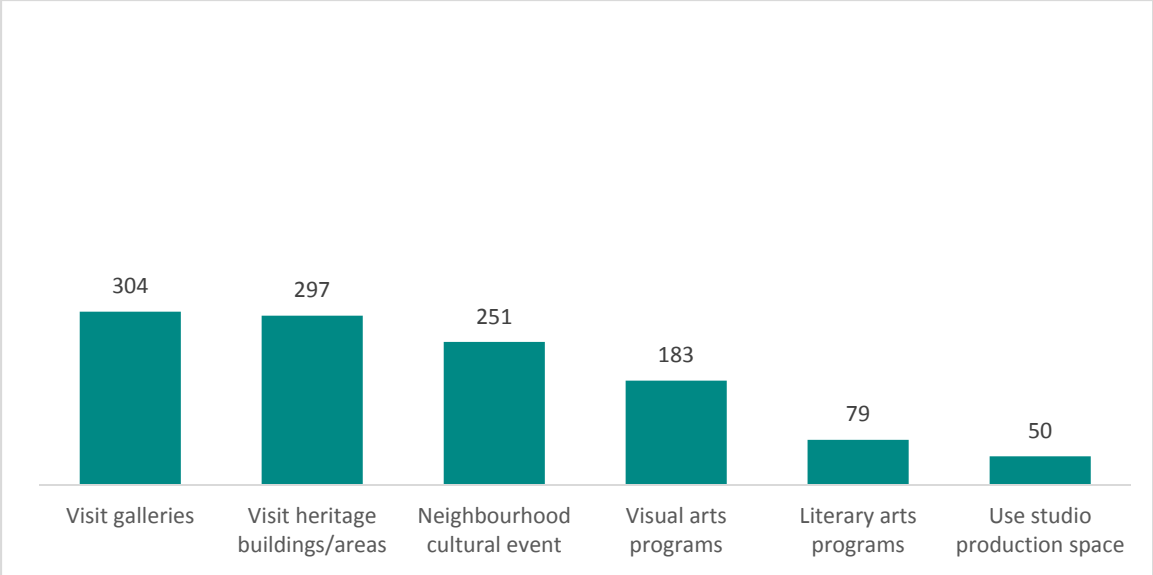
Survey participants were asked to provide insight into which parks, recreation and culture facilities, programs and amenities they use most. The results are separated into the following categories:

1. Cultural Activities
2. Aquatics and Indoor Arenas
3. Indoor Recreation
4. Outdoor Recreation
5. Parks and Trails

Cultural Activities

Which of the following activities did you or anyone in your household participate in within Abbotsford during the past year?

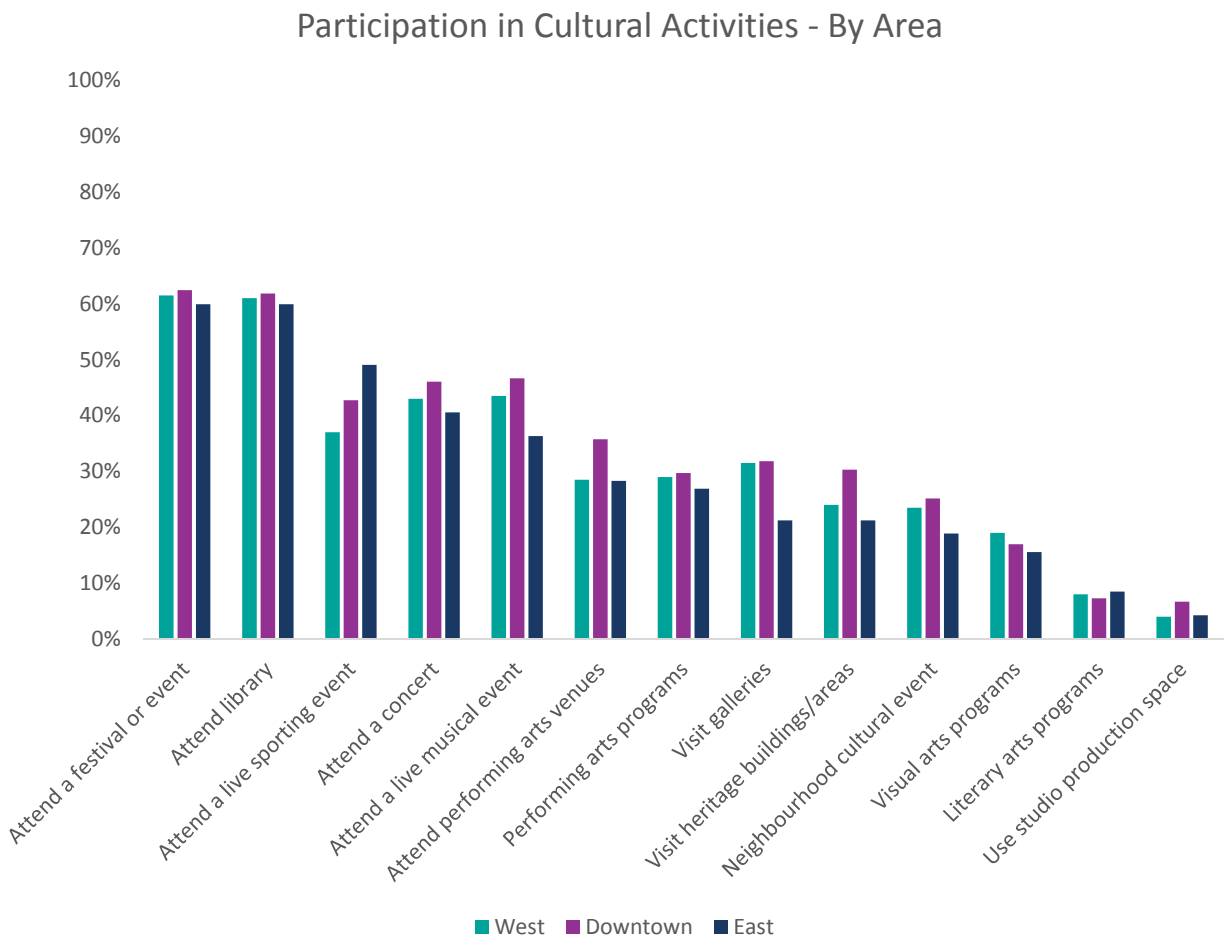




In terms of cultural activities in Abbotsford, attending festivals and events and visiting libraries are the most frequented by survey participants, with 57 percent and 54 percent of total respondents, respectively. Literary arts programs and studio production space see the least activity, with 6 percent and 4 percent respectively.

Key differences between groups:

1. Survey participants with children living at home report **lower** household participation rates for all of the options in this category other than visiting libraries and attending live sporting events. Some of the more significant differences include visiting galleries (18 percent vs. 36 percent); and visiting heritage sites (19 percent vs. 31 percent).
2. Survey participants aged 70-79 report the **lowest** household participation rates for visiting galleries at only 14 percent. All other age cohorts are between 25 percent and 30 percent.
3. Punjabi-speaking survey participants are **more** likely to visit heritage buildings/areas (40 percent), than English-speaking participants (25 percent) and French-speaking participants (16 percent).

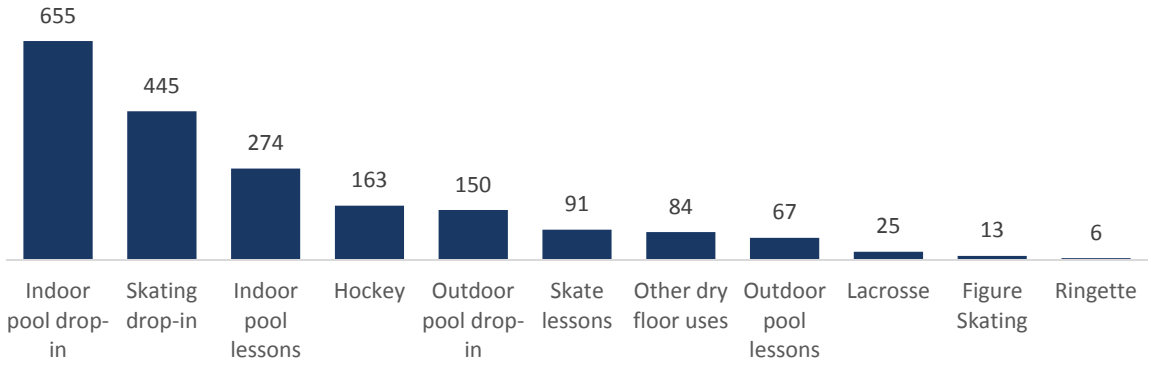


Key differences between groups:

1. Survey participants from downtown Abbotsford are **more** likely to visit heritage buildings/areas (30 percent) than residents from east Abbotsford (21 percent) and west Abbotsford (24 percent).
2. Survey participants from downtown Abbotsford are **more** likely to attend performing arts venues (36 percent) than residents from east Abbotsford (28 percent) and west Abbotsford (29 percent).
3. Survey participants from east Abbotsford are **less** likely to visit galleries (21 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (32 percent) and west Abbotsford (32 percent).
4. Survey participants from east Abbotsford are **more** likely to attend a live sporting event (49 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (43 percent) and west Abbotsford (37 percent).

Aquatics and Indoor Arenas

Which of the following activities did you or anyone in your household participate in within Abbotsford during the past year?

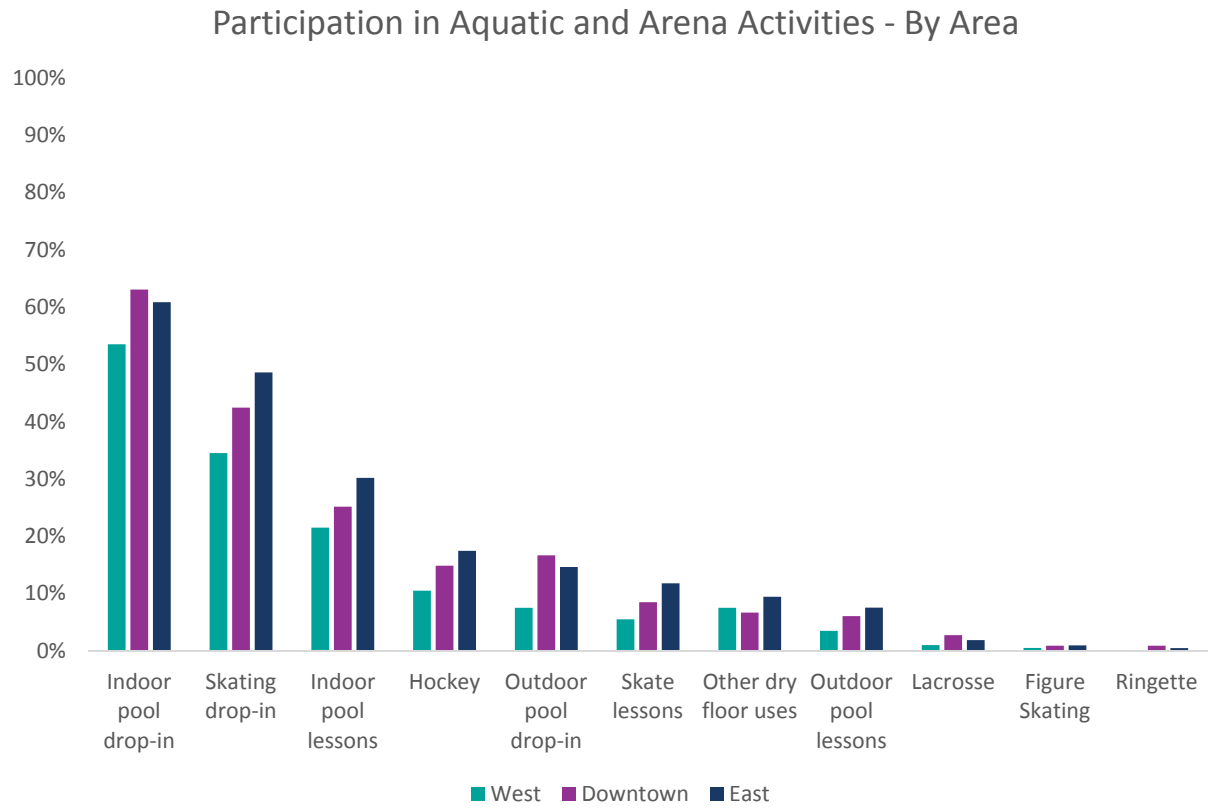


Indoor pool drop-in and skating drop-in have the highest participation rates among survey respondents, with 52 percent and 35 percent, respectively. Figure skating and ringette have the least participation in this category, with 1 percent and less than 1 percent respectively.

Key differences between groups:

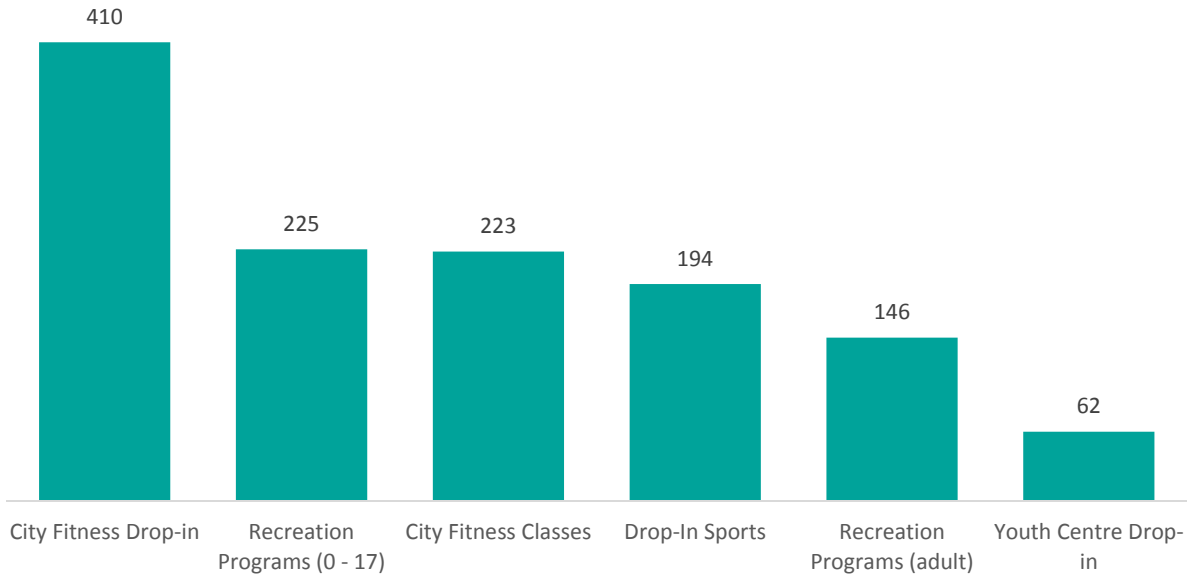
1. Survey participants with children living at home report a **higher** household participation rate for all of the aquatics and indoor arenas options. Some of the more significant differences include indoor pool classes (40 percent vs. 4 percent), skating drop-in (55 percent vs. 22 percent); and indoor pool drop-in (71 percent vs. 41 percent).
2. Female survey participants report a **higher** household participation rate for outdoor pool lessons than male participants (9 percent vs. 3 percent).
3. English-speaking survey participants are **more** likely to attend indoor and outdoor pool drop-in (56 percent, 13 percent) than Punjabi-speaking residents (50 percent, 3 percent) and French-speaking residents (44 percent, 8 percent).
4. Punjabi-speaking participants are **more** likely to participate in indoor pool lessons (33 percent) than English-speaking residents (23 percent) and French-speaking residents (28 percent).
5. French-speaking participants are **more** likely to play hockey (20 percent) than English-speaking residents (13 percent) and Punjabi-speaking residents (7 percent).

6. Punjabi-speaking participants are **more** likely to participate in other dry floor uses (27 percent) than English-speaking residents (7 percent) and French-speaking residents (4 percent).



Key differences between groups:

1. Survey participants from east Abbotsford are **more** likely to participate in indoor pool lessons (30 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (25 percent) and west Abbotsford (22 percent).
2. Survey participants from west Abbotsford are **less** likely to participate in outdoor pool drop-in (8 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (17 percent) and east Abbotsford (15 percent).
3. Survey participants from west Abbotsford are **less** likely to participate in skating drop-in (35 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (42 percent) and east Abbotsford (49 percent).
4. Survey participants from east Abbotsford are **more** likely to participate in skating lessons (12 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (8 percent) and west Abbotsford (6 percent).



Indoor Recreation

Which of the following activities did you or someone in your household participate in within Abbotsford during the past year?

City fitness drop-in has the highest participation rate among survey respondents, with 32 percent of total respondents indicating participation. Youth centre drop-in receives the lowest participation, with 5 percent of the respondents.

Key differences between groups:

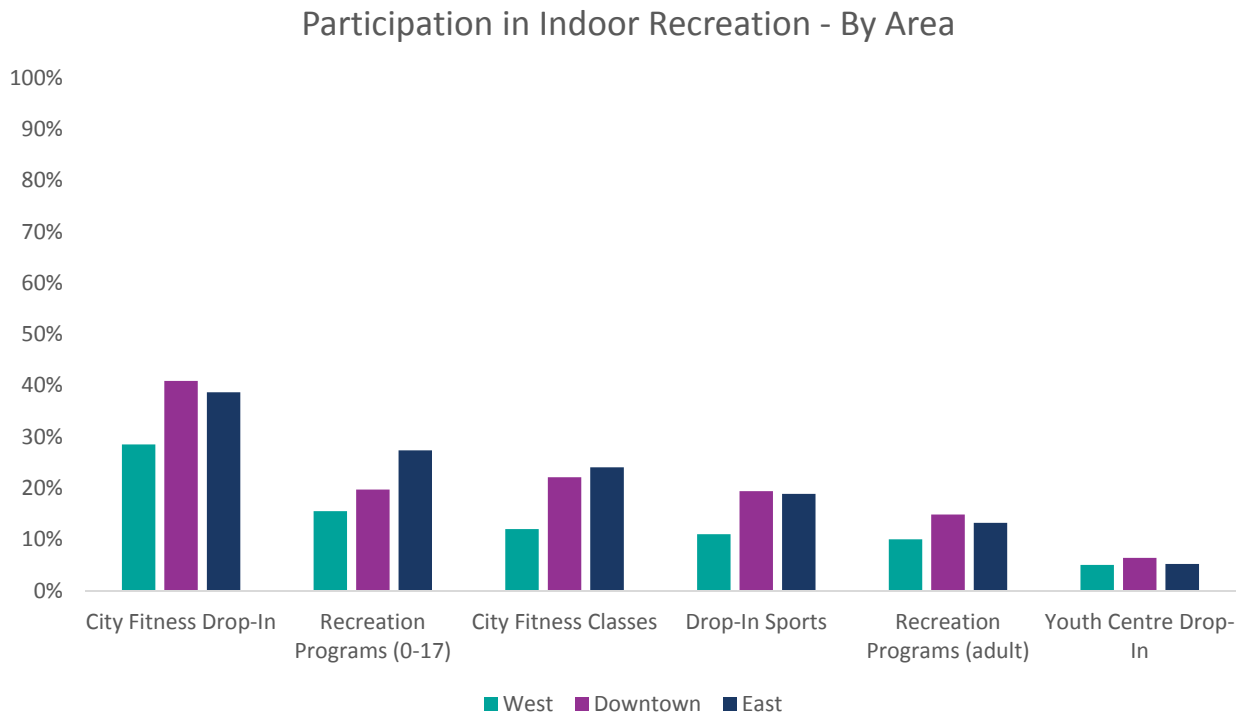
1. Survey participants aged 50 to 59 report **higher** household participation rates for drop-in sports (23 percent) than either the 40 to 49 cohort (12 percent) or the 60 to 69 cohort (9 percent).
2. Survey participants aged 19 and under report a **higher** household participation rate for city fitness drop-in (44 percent) than any other age cohort. The next highest cohort in this category is 50 to 59 (37 percent).
3. Male participants report a slightly **higher** household participation rate for drop-in sports than females (19 percent vs. 15 percent).

4. Punjabi-speaking participants are **more** likely to participate in city fitness drop-in (47 percent) than English-speaking participants (34 percent) and French-speaking participants (32 percent).
5. French-speaking participants are **less** likely to participate in city fitness classes (8 percent) than English-speaking participants (19 percent) and Punjabi-speaking residents (17 percent).

- Punjabi-speaking participants are **more** likely to participate in drop-in sports (30 percent) than English-speaking participants (16 percent) and French-speaking participants (16 percent)

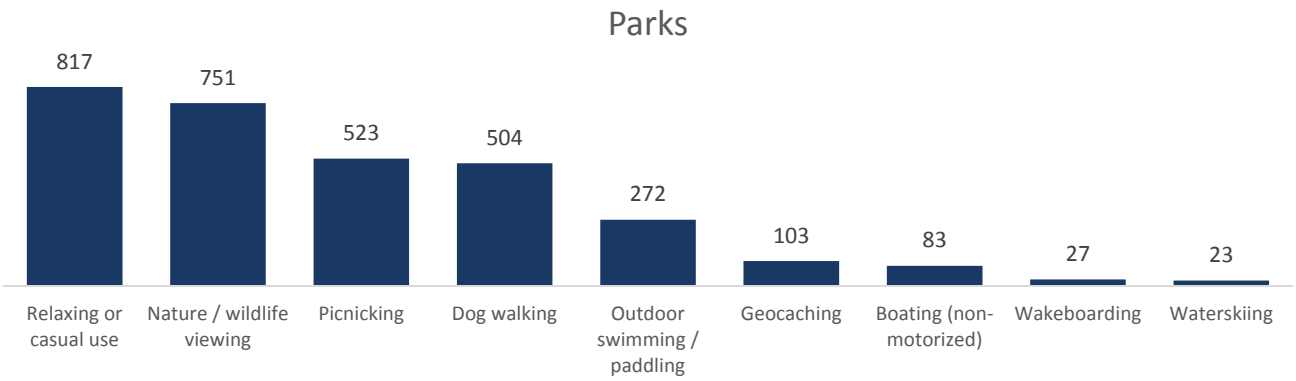
Key differences between groups:

1. Survey participants from west Abbotsford are **less** likely to participate in city fitness classes (12 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (22 percent) and east Abbotsford (24 percent).
2. Survey participants from west Abbotsford are **less** likely to participate in drop-in sports (11 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (19 percent) and east Abbotsford (19 percent)
3. Survey participants from west Abbotsford are **less** likely to participate in drop-in sports (11 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (19 percent) and east Abbotsford (19 percent).
4. Survey participants from east Abbotsford are **more** likely to participate in recreation programs for 0 to 17-year old's (27 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (20 percent) and west Abbotsford (16 percent).

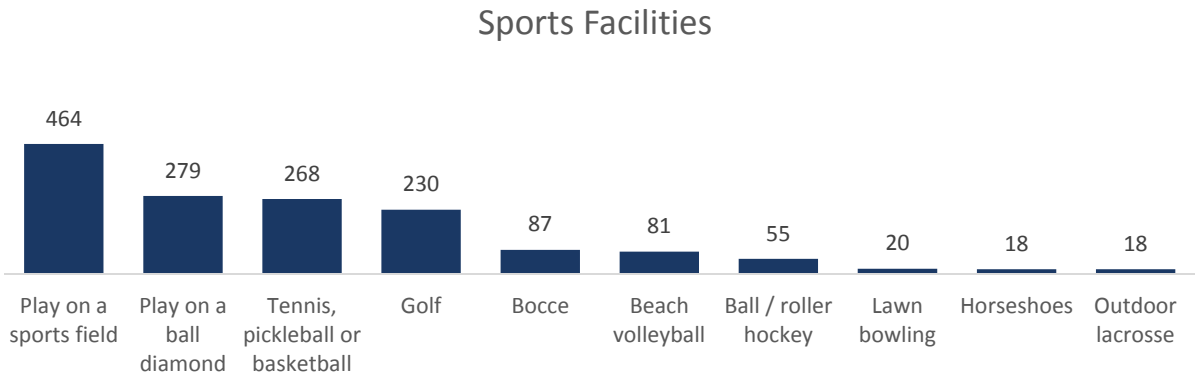

Participation in Indoor Recreation - By Area
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
City Fitness Drop-In
Recreation Programs (0-17)
City Fitness Classes
Drop-In Sports
Recreation Programs (adult)
Youth Centre Drop-In
West
Downtown
East

Outdoor Recreation – Parks

Which of the following activities did you or someone in your household participate in within Abbotsford during the past year?



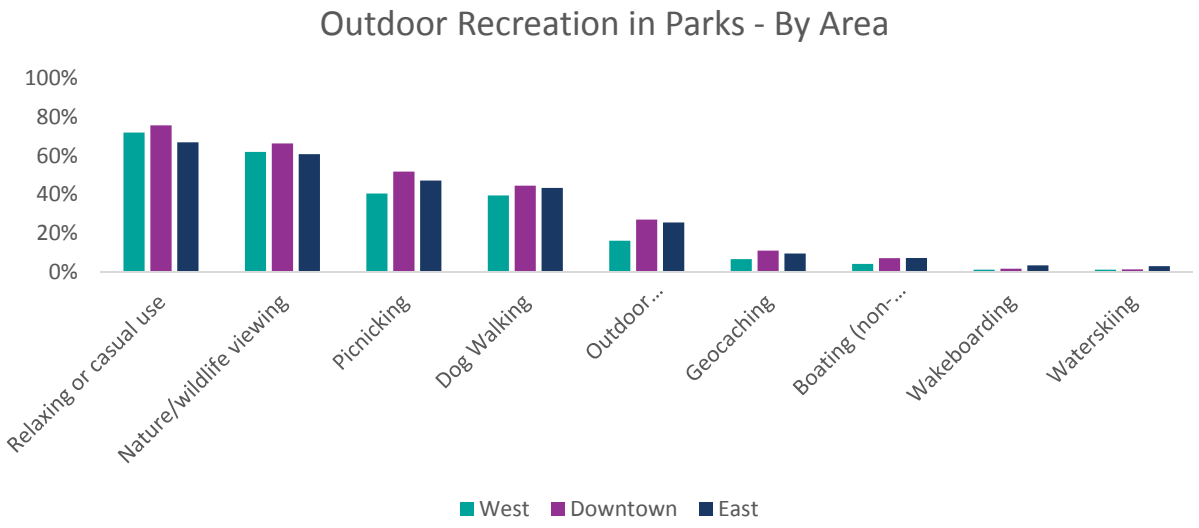
Relaxing or casual use and nature/wildlife viewing have the highest participation with 65 percent and 59 percent, respectively. Wakeboarding and water skiing receive the lowest rates at 2 percent each.



Playing on a sports field receives the highest participation rate, with 37 percent positive responses, significantly more than other sports facilities. Lawn bowling, horseshoes and outdoor lacrosse have the lowest participation rates, each with 2 percent or less of total survey respondents.

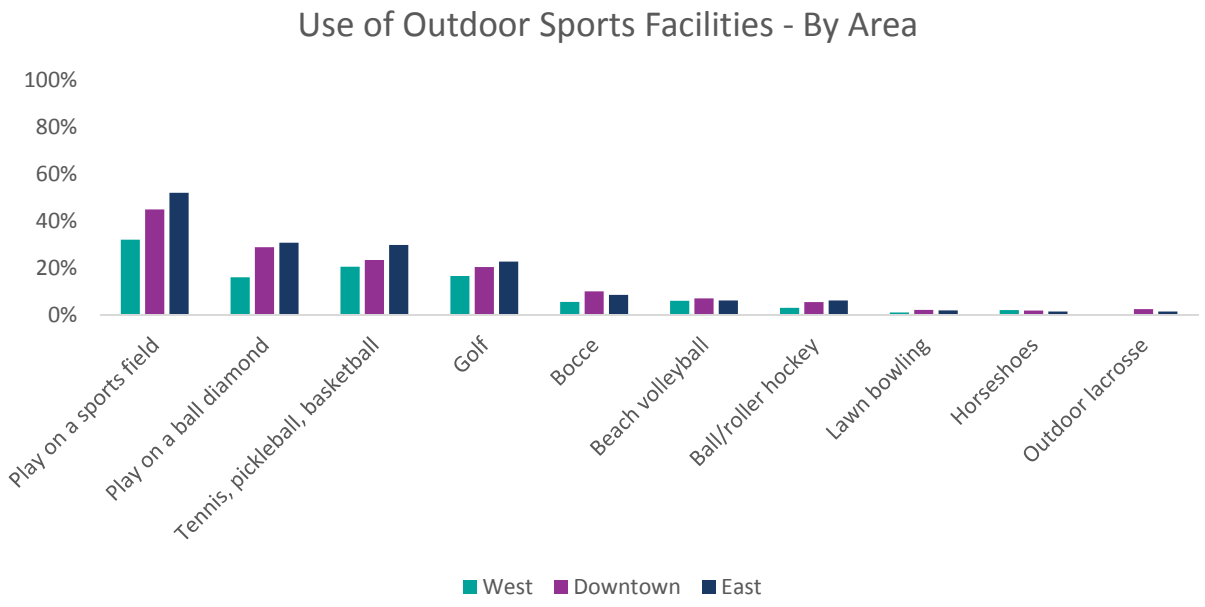
Key differences between groups:

1. Survey participants with children at home report a 23 percent **higher** household participation rate for playing sports on a sports field than those without children at home (52 percent vs. 29 percent).
2. Survey participants with children at home report a 9 percent **lower** household participation rate in nature/wildlife viewing than those without children at home (59 percent vs. 68 percent).
3. Survey participants aged 60 to 69 report the **highest** household participation rate for picnicking in parks (54 percent). The next highest cohort in this category is 19 and under (48 percent).
4. Punjabi-speaking participants are **less** likely to walk a dog through a park (27 percent) than English-speaking participants (42 percent) and French-speaking participants (44 percent).
5. Punjabi-speaking participants are **more** likely play tennis, pickleball or basketball (43 percent) than English-speaking participants (23 percent) and French-speaking participants (16 percent).
6. French-speaking participants are **more** likely to play on a ball diamond (32 percent) than English-speaking participants (24 percent) and Punjabi-speaking participants (20 percent).



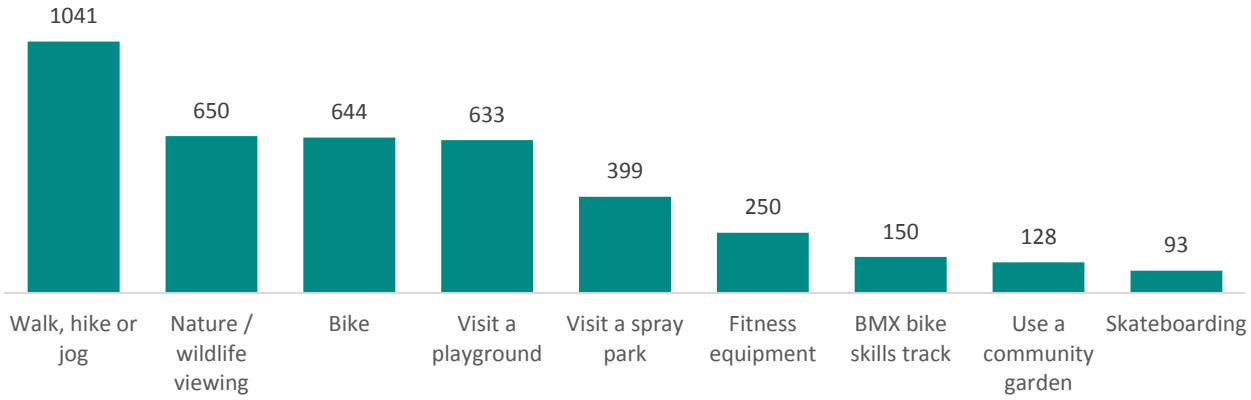
Key differences between groups:

1. Survey participants from west Abbotsford are **less** likely to participate in outdoor swimming/paddling (16 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (27 percent) and east Abbotsford (25 percent).
2. Survey participants from west Abbotsford are **less** likely to play on a ball diamond (16 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (29 percent) and east Abbotsford (31 percent).
3. Residents from east Abbotsford are **more** likely to play tennis, pickleball or basketball (30 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (23 percent) and west Abbotsford (21 percent).



Trails Uses and Park Features

Which of the following activities did you or someone in your household participate in within Abbotsford during the past year?



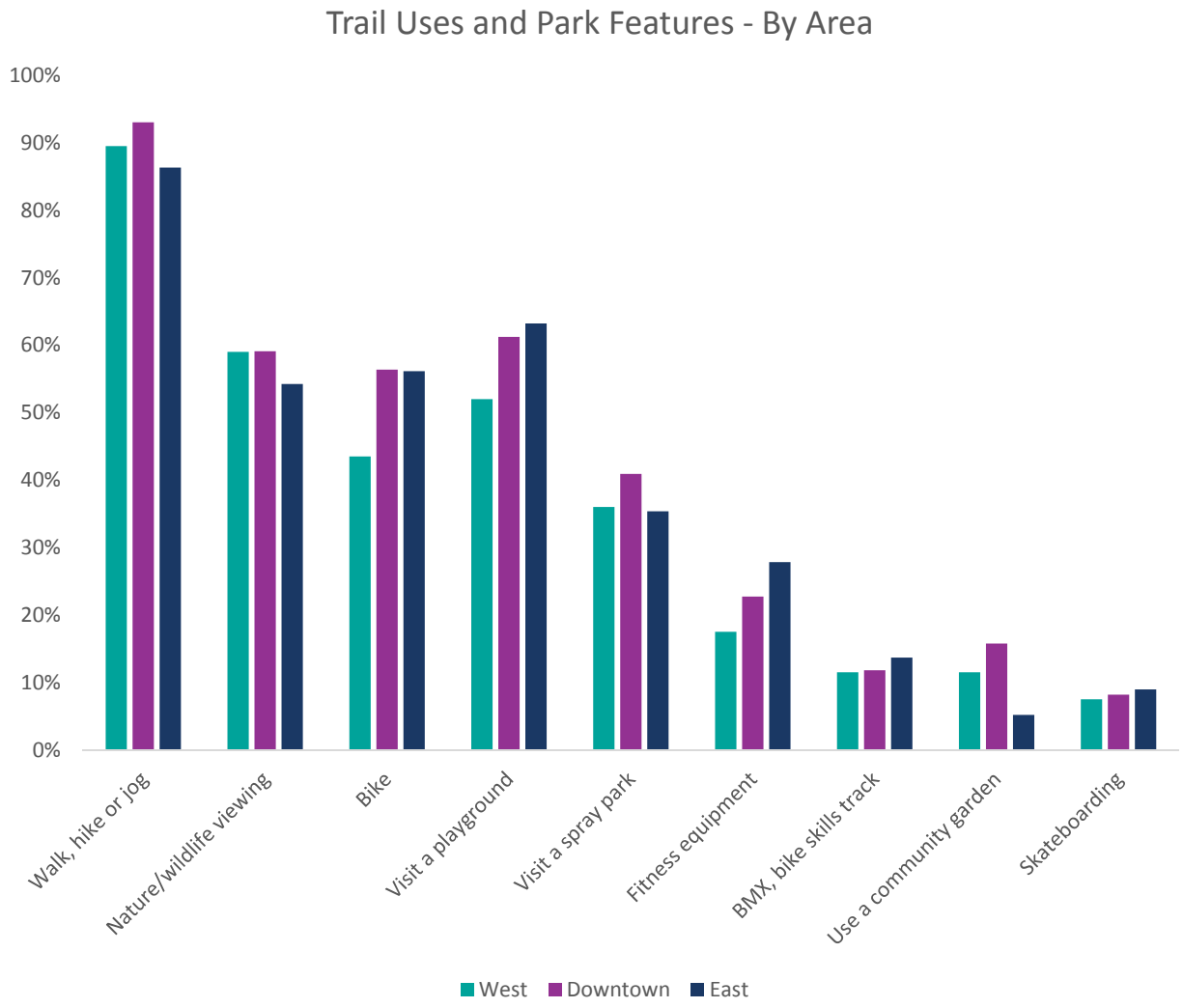
Walking, hiking or jogging on trails has the highest participation of any activity, with 82 percent positive responses. Nature/wildlife viewing, biking, and visiting a playground all have participation rates of 50 percent or higher (51 percent, 51 percent and 50 percent respectively). Skateboarding has the lowest participation rate at 7 percent of respondents, and using a community garden is at 10 percent.

Key differences between groups:

1. Survey participants aged 19 and under report the **highest** household participation rate for walking, hiking or jogging through a park (88 percent), and the **lowest** household participation rate for using a community garden (4 percent).
2. Survey participants with children at home report a 23 percent **higher** household participation rate for biking than those without children at home (58 percent vs. 35 percent).
3. Survey participation aged 70 to 79 report the **highest** household participation rate for nature/wildlife viewing (64 percent). The next highest cohorts in this category are the 40 to 49-year old's and the 60 to 69-year old's, both at 56 percent.
4. Punjabi-speaking participants are **more** likely to visit a playground (80 percent) than English-speaking participants (55 percent) and French-speaking participants (52 percent).
5. French-speaking participants are **more** likely to use a BMX or bike skills track (20 percent) than English-speaking participants (13 percent) and Punjabi-speaking participants (7 percent).

Key differences between groups:

1. Survey participants from west Abbotsford are **less** likely to bike (44 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (56 percent) and east Abbotsford (56 percent).
2. Survey participants from west Abbotsford are **less** likely to visit a playground (52 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (61 percent) and east Abbotsford (63 percent).
3. Survey participants from downtown Abbotsford are **more** likely to visit a spray park (41 percent) than residents from west Abbotsford (36 percent) and east Abbotsford (35 percent).
4. Survey participants from west Abbotsford are **less** likely to use park fitness equipment (18 percent) than residents from downtown Abbotsford (23 percent) and east Abbotsford (28 percent).



Satisfaction

Survey participants were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with different park, recreation and culture amenities in the City of Abbotsford. Satisfaction ratings were obtained for the following categories:

- Culture Facilities
- Culture Activities
- Recreation Facilities
- Recreation Programs
- Parks

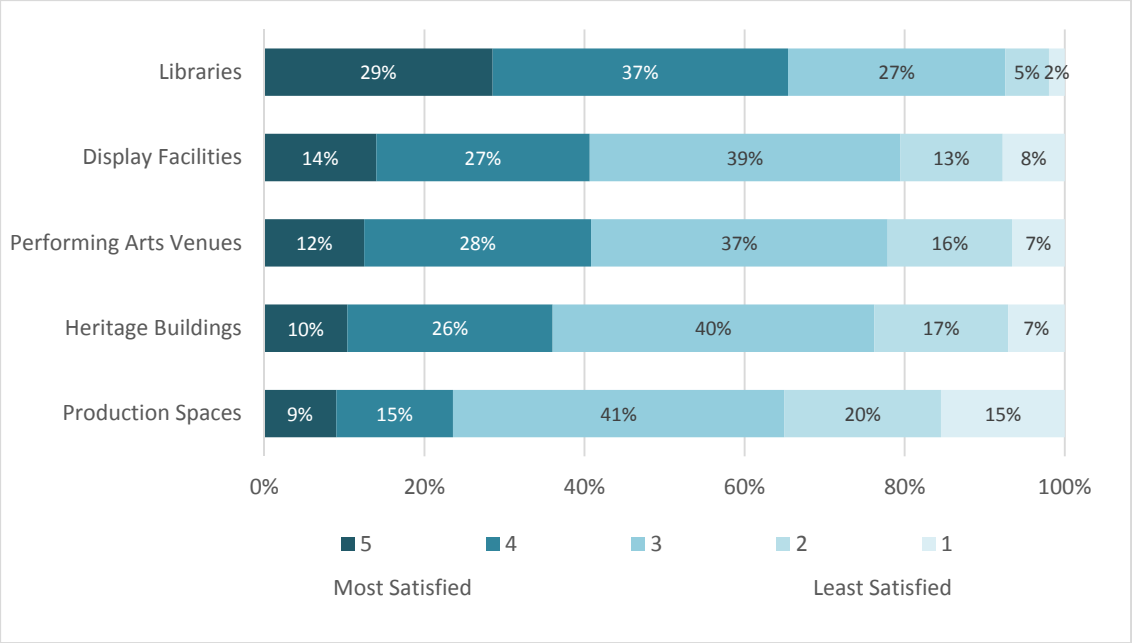
For each of the categories, satisfaction ratings were provided on a scale of 1 to 5 stars, with 1 being the lowest rating and 5 the highest. Participants were asked to provide their postal code, though this was optional. Postal codes were used to analyze satisfaction by area. Participants were not required to answer every question. Percentages

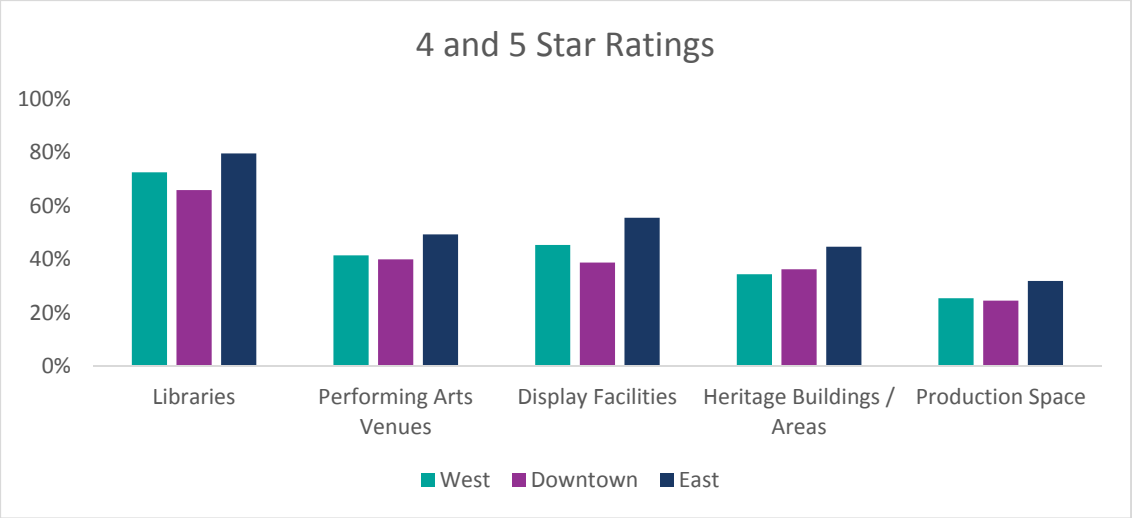
presented are based on the number of people who answered each question to allow for comparison.

Culture Facilities

Libraries have the highest overall satisfaction ratings with 65 percent of participants giving them a rating of 4 or 5 stars. Production spaces have the lowest satisfaction ratings with 24 percent of participants rating them a 1 or 2.

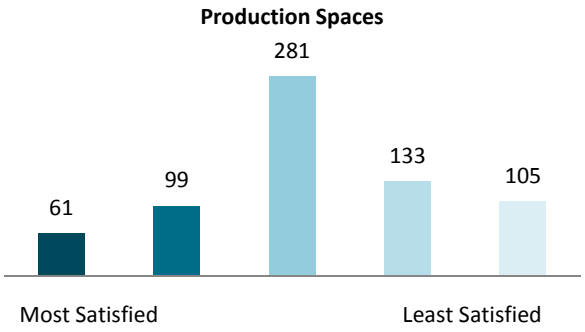
The chart below illustrates the variation in satisfaction by area by showing the percentage of participants from each area who rated each activity as 4 or 5 stars.

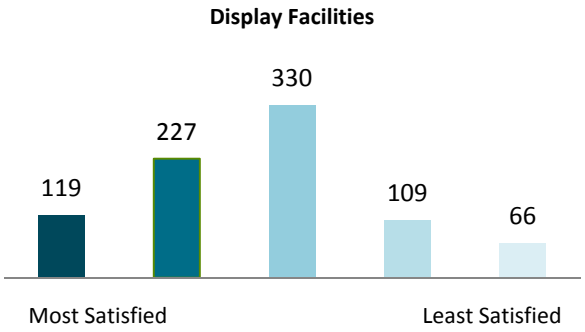


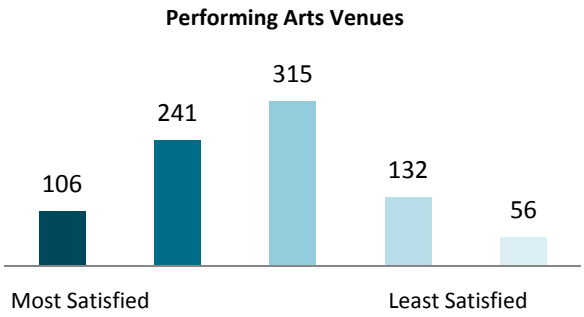


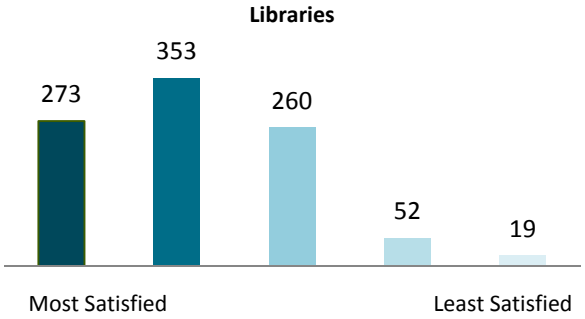
Read as: of the survey participants who identified as living in the west side of Abbotsford, and who completed the question on satisfaction with libraries, just over 70 percent rated libraries as 4 or 5 stars.

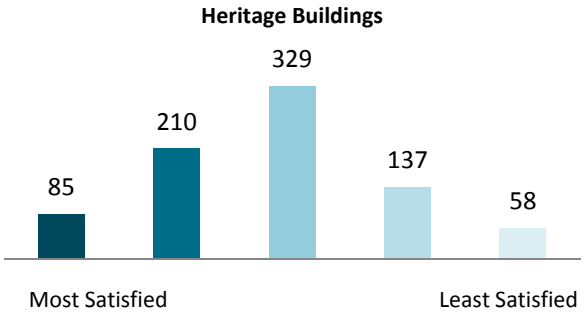
The following charts show the number of responses for the satisfaction ratings for each of the culture facility categories. Ratings are from 1 to 5, with 5 representing most satisfied and 1 representing least satisfied.






Performing Arts Venues
106
241
315
132
56
Most Satisfied
Least Satisfied


Libraries
273
353
260
52
19
Most Satisfied
Least Satisfied


Heritage Buildings
85
210
329
137
58
Most Satisfied
Least Satisfied

Representative Comments:

'The libraries have been a great favourite space of mine since childhood. It's great to see creative programming and community outreach opportunities.'

'Our current facilities are great; however, it would be great to have art more integrated into our planning and engineering departments.'

'We need more venues, of various sizes and styles. Cities need culture, and at the stage we're at, we need to invest in these sorts of things NOW, to attract productions and artists in the future. It's quite possible that we won't see the payoff for these types of investments for many years – but they're ESSENTIAL. Culture is what makes a City live and breathe.'

'Abbotsford has lots of great heritage buildings and areas and I think that adds a lot of character and interest to the city. Perhaps more could be done to promote the stories behind some of the heritage buildings by having educational plaques on/near them.'

'If this exists, I'm not aware of it – however, I would be in full support of it. I would love to see this type of venue on visual display/located at major shopping centres, like 7 Oaks and Highstreets. This would inspire usage.'

Survey participants were encouraged to provide additional comments regarding satisfaction for each of the cultural facilities identified above. Below is a summary of the themes that were mentioned at least three times (the number of respondents making a similar comment is in brackets):

Display Facilities

- Abbotsford could use more community gallery space that nurture and promote local artists (11)
- The City needs more variety, e.g., there is lots of visual arts space but not enough performing arts space (9)
- The Reach and Kariton Gallery are great facilities (7)
- Need better advertising so that people know what is going on (6)
- Arts and culture should be better integrated into City planning and engineering departments, e.g., they receive better funding (6)
- It would be great to have better arts programming for seniors (3)

Other feedback that arose more than once includes: the need for art galleries to become financially independent from the City; provide better and more consistent hours of operation; and improve visibility at some of the facilities, including Kariton Art Gallery.

Libraries

- Very appreciative of Abbotsford's libraries (14)
- There is a need for a new library in East Abbotsford (11)
- Clearbrook library is fabulous (5)
- Abbotsford would benefit from several smaller libraries spread around the City (4)
- Opening a library in a public school was not a good idea (3)
- The libraries should have longer hours of operation (3)

Other themes that arose more than once include: wishing the libraries were larger with more resources; appreciative of the online library service; need to be more accessible to people with special needs; bigger collections; great for children; free little libraries would be nice; Fraser Valley Regional Library is great.

Performing Arts Venues

- Abbotsford should prioritize arts by introducing new venues as well as better supporting the ones it has (13)
- There should be more spaces available for local musicians and artists (7)
- The facilities in Abbotsford, such as the Abby Arts Centre, could use a facelift (5)
- The City needs a new state of the art theatre to attract bigger acts (4)
- Should focus on accommodating a variety of different users by considering costs, size of facilities and content (3)
- Many of the venues are not in great locations. Inaccessible by transit, in areas without options for before and after the event (3)
- Abbotsford needs a black box theatre (3)

Other themes that emerged more than once include: the government should not be subsidizing these venues; Gallery 7 is fantastic; it would be nice to have an outdoor performance space somewhere, perhaps at Mill Lake Park.

Heritage Buildings / Areas

- It would be great if there were more heritage sites in Abbotsford (6)

- We need to protect and refurbish our heritage sites (5)
- There should be better advertising for heritage sites (4)
- We need to support indigenous art and heritage (3)
- Should create a better experience by incorporating education into heritage sites (3)
- City Hall needs to support heritage preservation through funding and a comprehensive heritage plan (3)

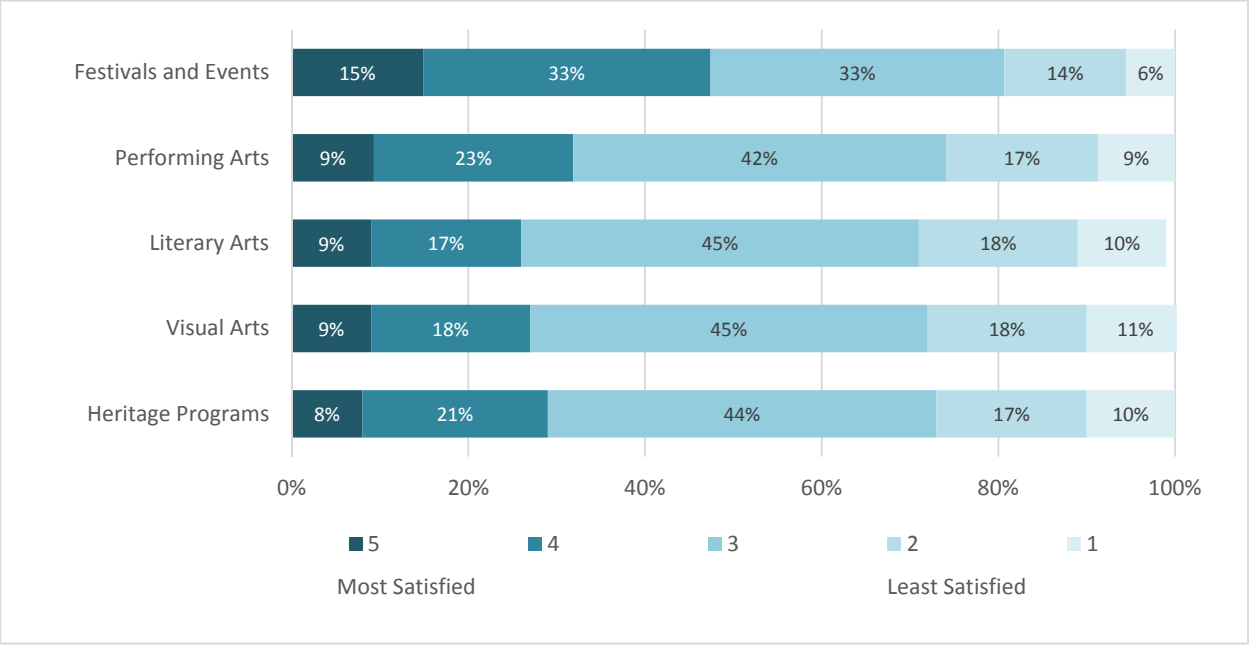
Another theme that emerged more than once includes the need for a comprehensive heritage guide.

Production Spaces

- The vast majority of comments for this option were that people simply are not aware of what these spaces are and if Abbotsford even has any (19)
- There is a need for more spaces to support local artists (3)

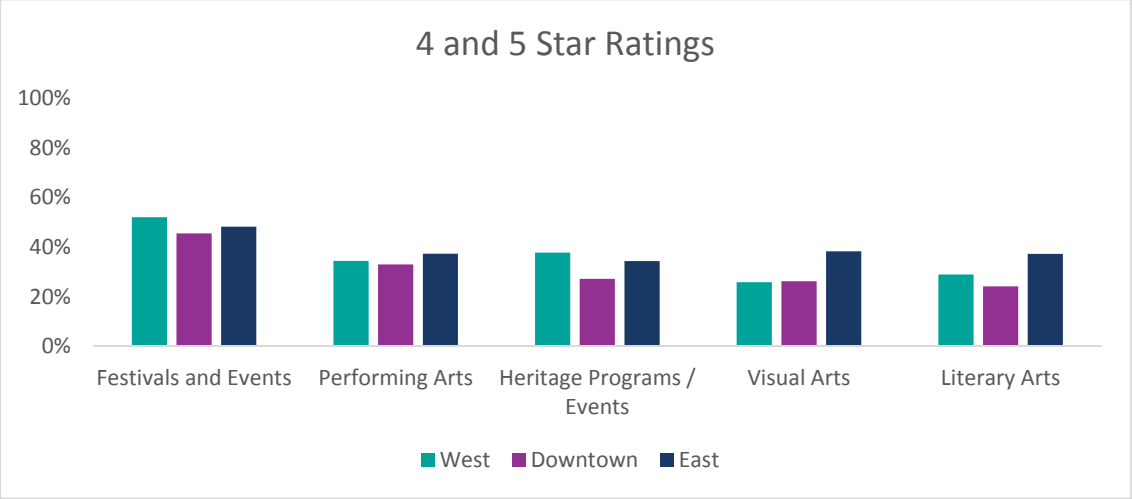
Two survey participants indicated that these types of facilities should be private and paid for by users, not tax payers.

Culture Activities



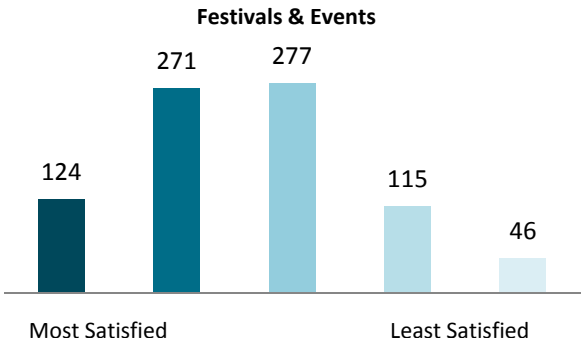
Festivals and events have the highest satisfaction ratings with 47 percent of participants giving them a rating of 4 or 5 stars. *Literary arts* and *visual arts* have relatively low satisfaction ratings, with only 26 percent and 27 percent, respectively, of survey respondents rating these as a 4 or 5.

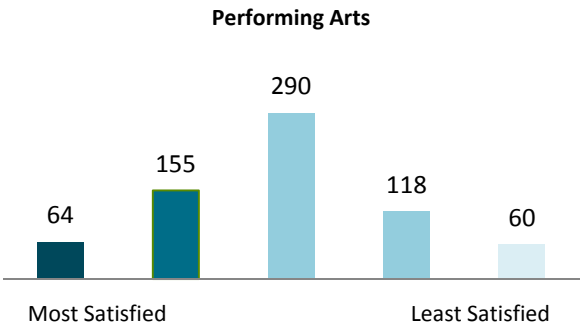
The chart below illustrates the variation in satisfaction by area by showing the percentage of participants from each area who rated each activity as 4 or 5 stars.

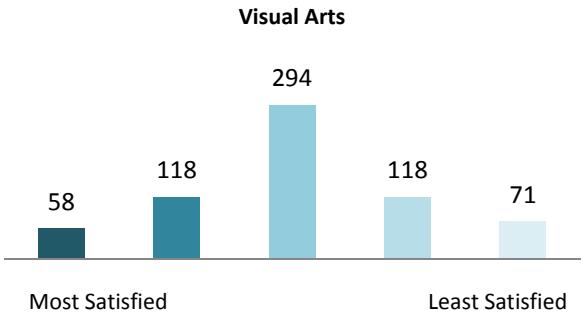


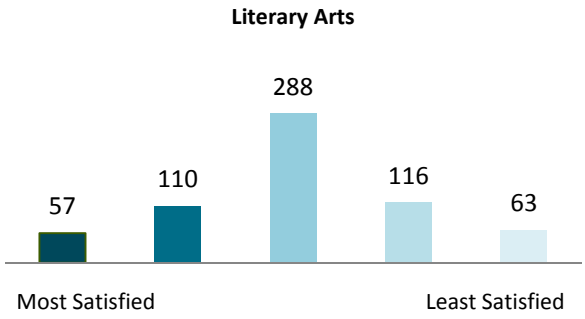
Read as: of the survey participants who identified as living in the west side of Abbotsford, and who completed the question on satisfaction with festivals and events, just over 50 percent rated festivals and events as 4 or 5 stars.

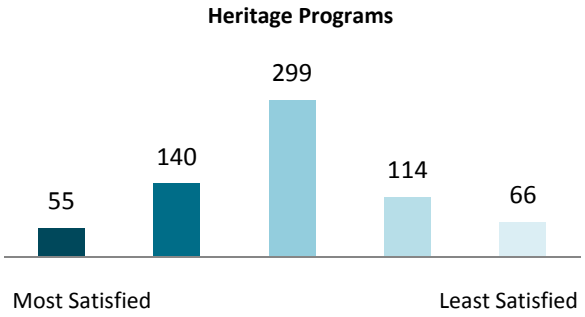
The following charts show the number of responses for the satisfaction ratings for each of the culture activity categories. Ratings are from 1 to 5, with 5 representing most satisfied and 1 representing least satisfied.











Survey participants were encouraged to provide additional comments regarding satisfaction for each of the cultural activities identified above. Below is a summary of the themes that were mentioned at least three times (the number of respondents making a similar comment is in brackets):

Visual Arts

- Abbotsford needs more visual arts programming (8)
- City Hall should provide more support, including funding, to visual arts (4)

The other theme that received more than one comment was that there should be better scheduling for these programs so that people can participate outside of regular business hours.

Performing Arts

- Performing arts programs are sorely lacking in Abbotsford (7)
- This is clearly not a priority for the City, they should provide more support to this important sector (5)
- We need more affordable opportunities for people of all ages (4)

The other theme that received more than one comment was the need for an outdoor performance space, such as a band shell at Mill Lake Park.

Literary Arts

- Most respondents in this category are not aware of what is provided in terms of literary arts programming in Abbotsford (5)

The other comment that arose more than once is that the timing of programs could be better to accommodate those eager to participate.

Heritage Programs / Events

- The only theme that received more than two (2) comments was that there is not enough of this provided in Abbotsford, particularly when compared to neighbourhood communities like Mission (11)

The other theme that received more than one comment is that the City should provide more funding in this area.

Festivals and Events

- The festivals currently on offer in Abbotsford, including Jam in Jubilee, Berry Fest, and Canada Day are great (16)
- Abbotsford needs more festivals and events, such as art markets, concerts and theatre events (15)
- Abbotsford should have more city-wide events that bring the community together (6)
- The existing events in Abbotsford are sub-par (4)
- The City is slowly improving in this area, keep it up! (3)
- Events and festivals require more and better advertising (3)
- The City needs more and better events for families (3)

Other themes that were mentioned more than once include: the City needs to show support for First Nations events and festivals; there need to be more events catered towards youth and young adults; and there need to be more affordable event spaces.

Representative Comments:

'Abbotsford has been doing well. I think of Jam in Jubilee as one of the best. But festivals really bring the community to life…so I'm a supporter of them all.'

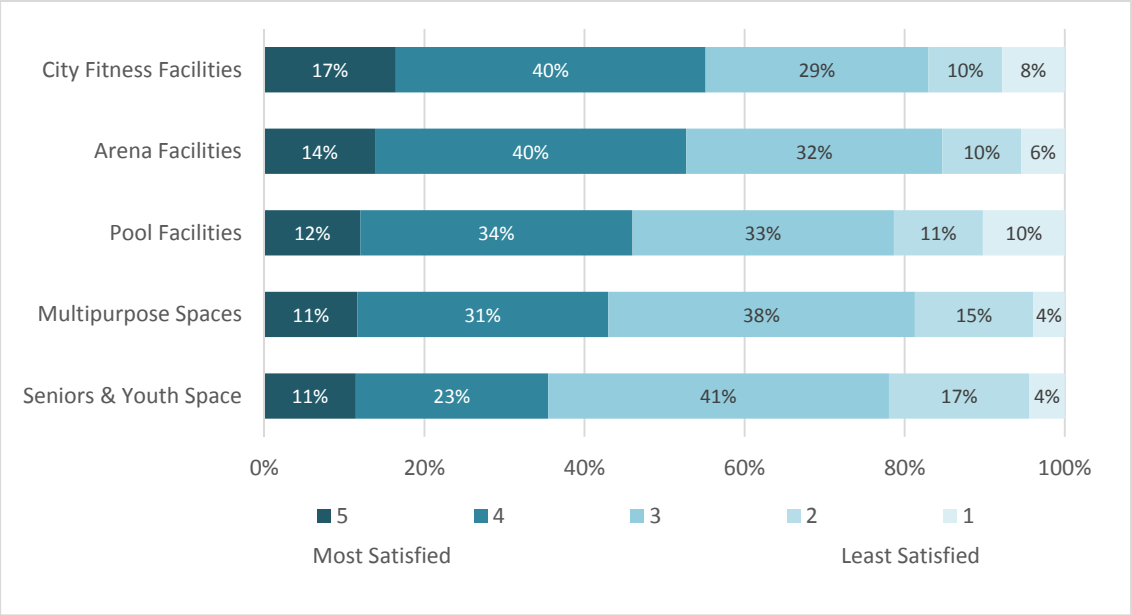
'Performing arts do not seem to be the city's focus. Sports seem to be the focus and strength of Abbotsford Recreation. This is reflected in the qualifications required by the city to teach performing arts. The value does not seem to be there to hire qualified creatives.'

'We have enjoyed the early literary program at the Abbotsford and Clearbrook libraries – Baby time is a wonderful program that could use better advertisement and more timing options.'

'Small offerings through Trethewey? Poor marketing and offerings through museum gallery – seems limited capacity leads to scaling marketing to limit interest.'

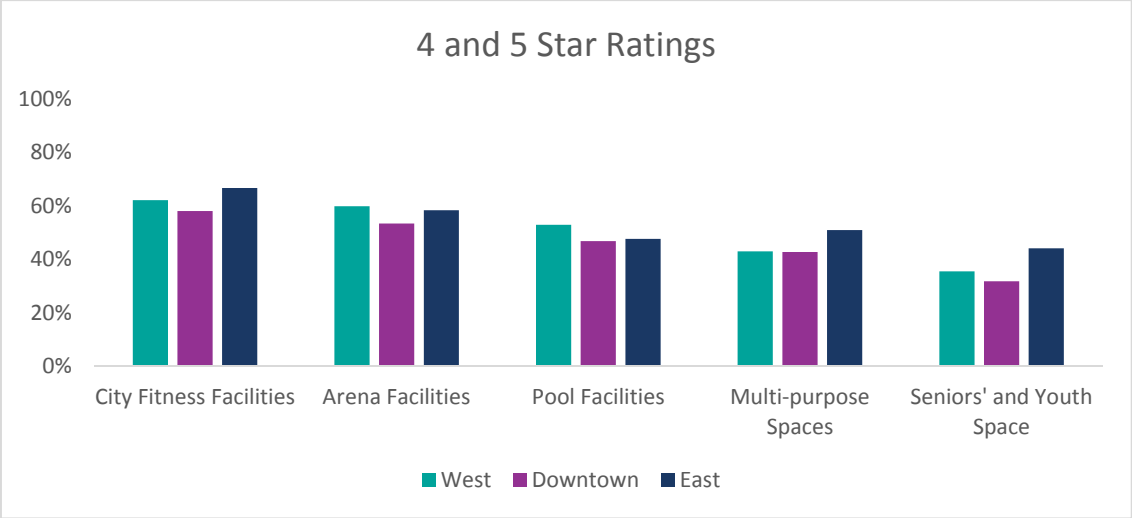
'There are no affordable kid's art classes in Abbotsford. The Reach and 4 Cats are too expensive. HOFA used to have a good kids club but no longer runs it. Look to Mission Arts Council. Their summer kid's classes are $8!'

Recreation Facilities



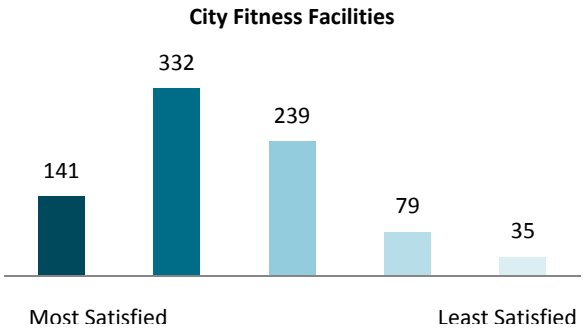
City fitness facilities have the highest satisfaction ratings with 57 percent of participants giving them a rating of 4 or 5. Seniors and youth space received the lowest satisfaction rating with 21 percent of respondents giving them a rating of 1 or 2.

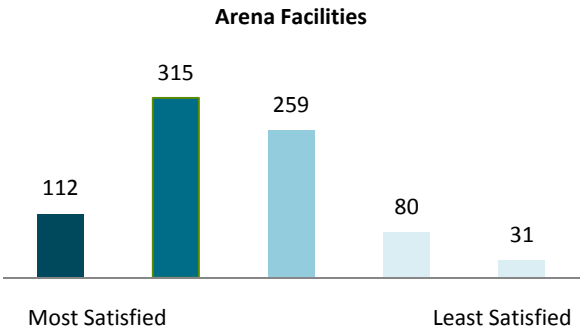
The chart below illustrates the variation in satisfaction by area by showing the percentage of participants from each area who rated each activity as 4 or 5 stars.

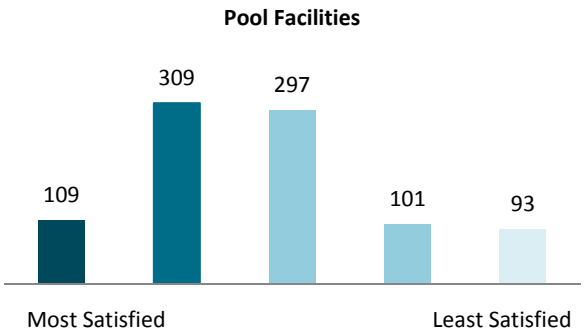


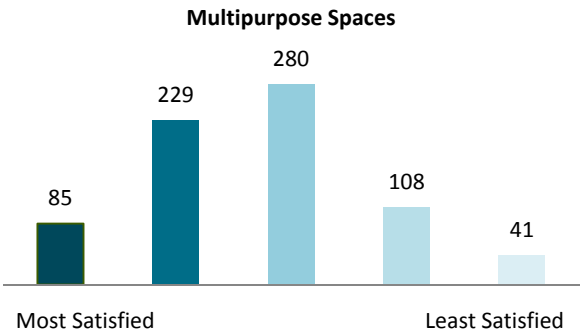
Read as: of the survey participants who identified as living in the west side of Abbotsford, and who completed the question on satisfaction with City fitness facilities, just over 60 percent rated City fitness facilities as 4 or 5 stars.

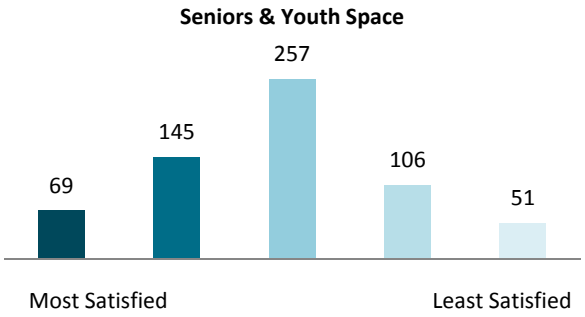
The following charts show the number of responses for the satisfaction ratings for each of the recreation facility categories. Ratings are from 1 to 5, with 5 representing most satisfied and 1 representing least satisfied.











Representative Comments:

'The city needs to work with the ice sports associations to ensure everyone gets fair and equal access to ice surfaces. The 6 rinks in the city should be utilized to their full potential.'

'Kids aged 9-12 are not interested in taking classes or hanging out with 5-year old's. Tweets need space and classes for themselves.'

'We need more pool space as a parent of a child who swims everyday she has nowhere to go to play water polo all winter and in the summer, we are fighting for room in any pool - hope this helps!'

'Not enough spaces. When we are denied access to rehearsal venue we have difficulty finding another venue. No help from City to find alternative space. We end up at Highstreets using unrented retail space. We are grateful that they can help us. School access on weekends problematic because of costs.'

'City Fitness classes are expensive compared to private clubs not sure why as tax dollars already paid?'

Survey participants were encouraged to provide additional comments regarding satisfaction for each of the recreation facilities identified above. Below is a summary of the themes that were mentioned at least three times (the number of respondents making a similar comment is in brackets):

Pool Facilities

- Abbotsford needs a new aquatic facility that can accommodate the growing community and support competitive swimming, e.g., 50m length, seating for parents, dive tank and water polo facilities (53)

- Existing facilities require upgrades, better cleaning and maintenance (25)
- Abbotsford needs a new outdoor pool(s) (14)
- There is a need for more child friendly options, e.g., leisure pool, warmer water (8)
- Drop-in swimming should be more affordable (5)
- Better scheduling to accommodate different users, e.g., schedule so that parents can swim laps while kids are in lessons (4)
- Abbotsford's pool facilities are satisfactory as they are now (4)
- Pool facilities need to be more accessible to accommodate people with special needs (3)

Other themes that received more than one comment include: there is too much chlorine in the pools; and safety is a concern with very little control over who is doing what in the pools.

Arena Facilities

- Abbotsford needs to improve its existing arenas and/or develop new ones (11)
- There should be more time allocated for leisure skating (4)
- There should be more stick / puck time (3)

Other themes that were mentioned more than once include: it is too expensive; there should be a facility with more than one ice sheet that can host tournaments; and satisfaction with public skating at ARC.

City Fitness Facilities

- The City-owned fitness facilities are too expensive (13)
- ARC is a great facility with a nice variety of equipment and fitness options (10)
- The facilities are too small and cramped (4)
- There is likely not enough fitness space to accommodate 200k (3)
- Fitness equipment needs to be updated (3)

Other themes that were mentioned more than once include: the City should partner with a reputable operator, such as YMCA, rather than run the facilities themselves; there should be more open gym times; there needs to be better cleanliness and maintenance; and it would be great to have another small facility in east Abbotsford.

Multi-purpose Spaces

- There are not enough affordable, City-owned multi-purpose spaces in Abbotsford (7)

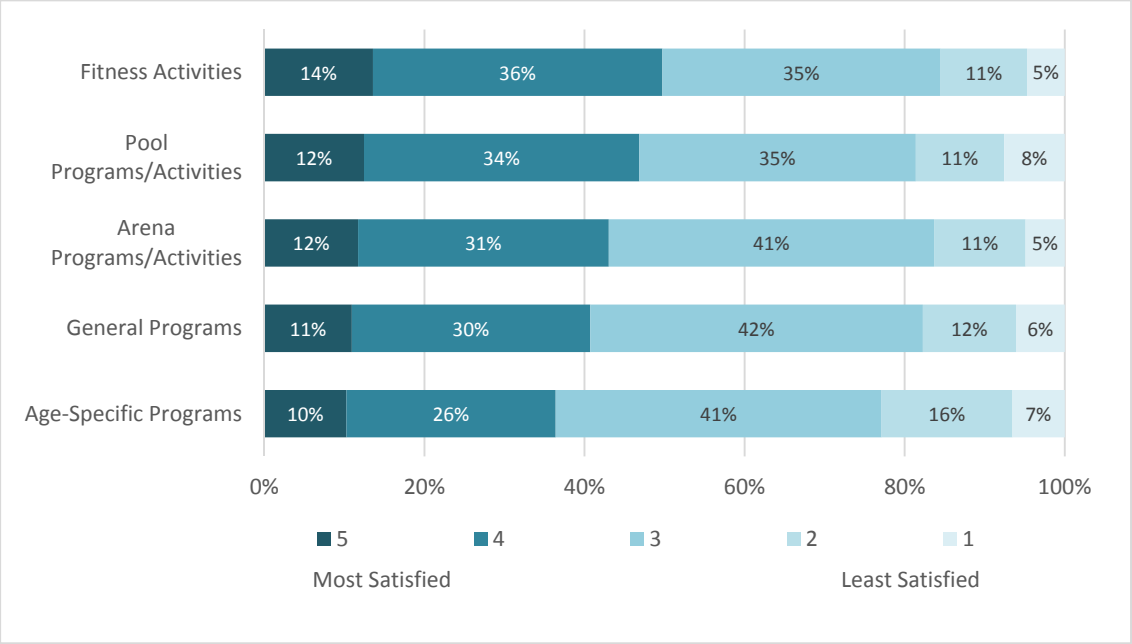
The other theme that occurred more than once was that the multi-use spaces that do exist in Abbotsford are great for children's birthday parties.

Seniors' and Youth Space

- Abbotsford needs more safe and inclusive spaces for youth (7)
- Abbotsford needs more accessible spaces for seniors, located close to where they live or accessible by public transit (6)

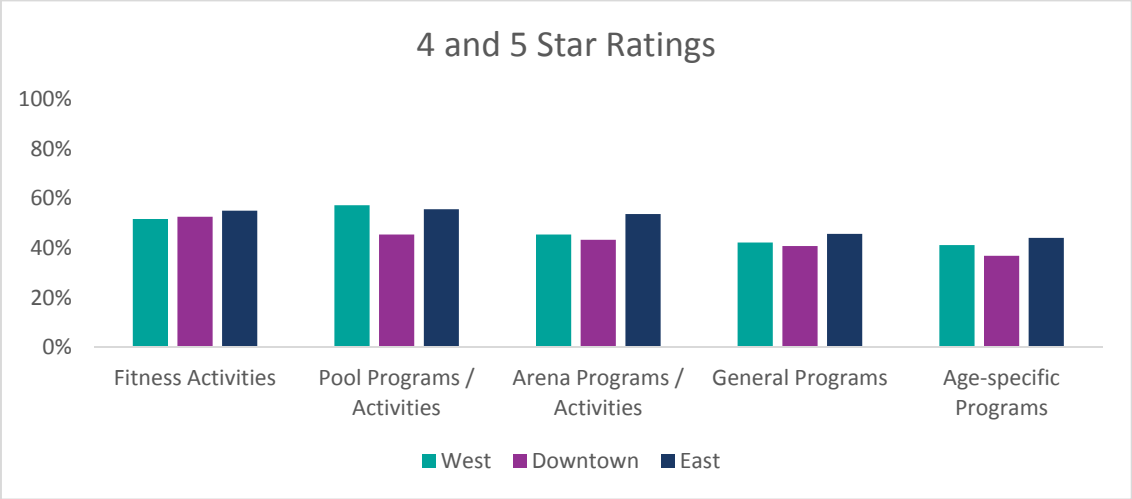
The other theme that arose more than once was the need for better use of the seniors' area at ARC.

Recreation Programs



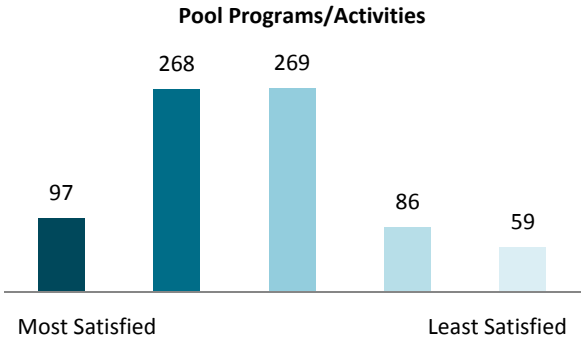
Fitness activities have the highest satisfaction ratings with 50 percent of respondents giving them a rating of 4 or 5. *Age-specific programs* have the lowest satisfaction rating with 23 percent of respondents giving them a rating of 1 or 2.

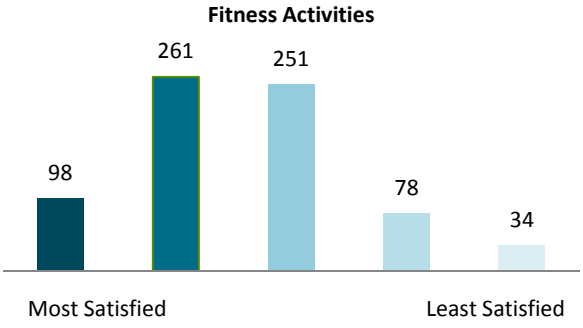
The chart below illustrates the variation in satisfaction by area by showing the percentage of participants from each area who rated each activity as 4 or 5 stars.

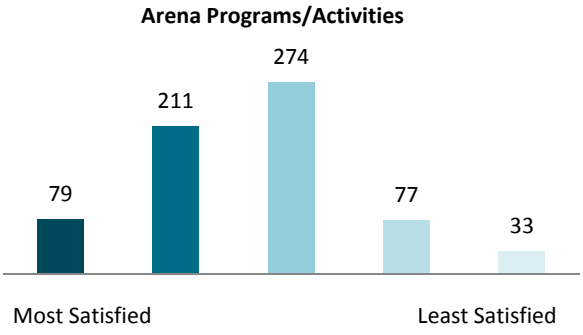


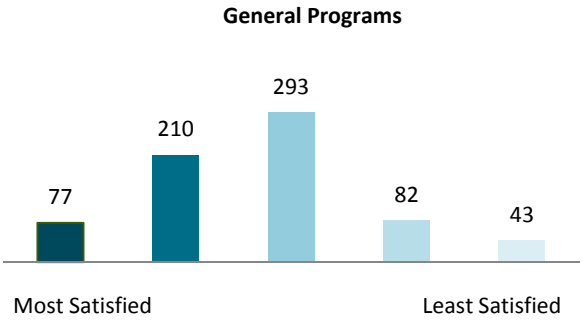
Read as: of the survey participants who identified as living in the west side of Abbotsford, and who completed the question on satisfaction with fitness activities, just over 50 percent rated fitness activities as 4 or 5 stars.

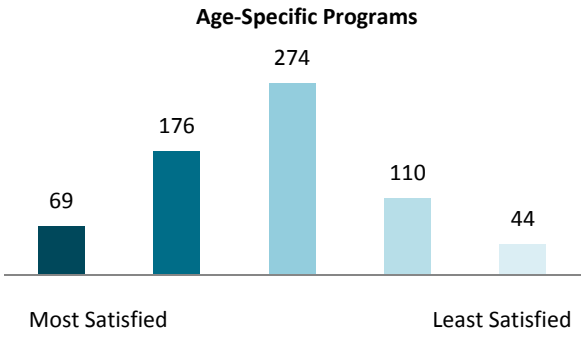
The following charts show the number of responses for the satisfaction ratings for each of the recreation program categories. Ratings are from 1 to 5, with 5 representing most satisfied and 1 representing least satisfied.











Representative Comments:

'Great programs. I found that sometimes kids are put in classes with far too many differences of levels and it's hard for teachers to teach that wide of a range.'

'While great for working families, I have noticed a lot of activities are in the evening which is hard for young children with early bedtimes.'

'Need more at different times. A lot of people work through the day and can only attend at night or weekends.'

'Swim lesson sets so busy if you don't book immediately you are waitlisted, then class sizes are too large or they combine two classes and higher-level kids do not work on their skills.'

'Would love to see one or more of the following, a Spring/Summer softball, ball hockey and Ultimate Frisbee leagues.'

Survey participants were encouraged to provide additional comments regarding satisfaction for each of the recreation programs identified above. Below is a summary of the themes that were mentioned at least three times (the number of respondents making a similar comment is in brackets):

Pool Programs / Activities

- Better scheduling is needed to ensure that it fits with participants needs. For example, adult classes outside of business hours, classes for moms during the day, classes for infants/toddlers scheduled around nap and meal times (12)
- Need more swimming lessons offered, current offerings are too big and over-crowded (10)
- Would like a competition level aquatic facility with, e.g., 50m lanes, a dive tank and water polo facility (6)
- The swimming lessons are great (4)
- Prices are too high, particularly for families (4)
- Need better instructors. Some are great, but not all, e.g., instructors who know how to work with children (4)
- Better use of space in the pools and better communication between clubs and staff, e.g., during lane swim times there are often children splashing nearby (4)
- Abbotsford needs swim classes for people with special needs (3)

Other themes that arose more than once include: the desire for more pool program options; the need for new and improved outdoor swimming pool(s); acknowledgement of the fantastic and energetic instructors.

Arena Programs / Activities

- Would like to see more opportunities to play hockey, e.g., more facilities, more available ice time (4)
- Need more drop-in skate times and better lessons, e.g., instructors are too young, Mission's classes are better (3)

Other feedback that was mentioned more than once includes: the desire to have ringette offered in Abbotsford; and general satisfaction with the arena programs and activities in Abbotsford.

Fitness Activities

- Would like better scheduling for fitness classes so they do not mostly occur during business hours, e.g., early morning before work, evenings after work (7)
- More affordable fitness classes with less focus on cost recovery (4)
- More adult dance classes (3)
- We have a great selection and fantastic instructors (3)
- Would like better strength and stretching classes (3)

Other themes that occurred more than once include: spread the classes around to different facilities rather than having them all at ARC; and Abbotsford is lucky to have such great fitness instructors.

General Programs

- Would love to see more spring/summer sports facilities and leagues, e.g., softball, baseball, ball hockey, ultimate frisbee (6)
- Need more facility space for the growing community (3)

Other feedback that was provided more than once includes: the need for an indoor track and field facility; and greater focus on aquatic sports and programming.

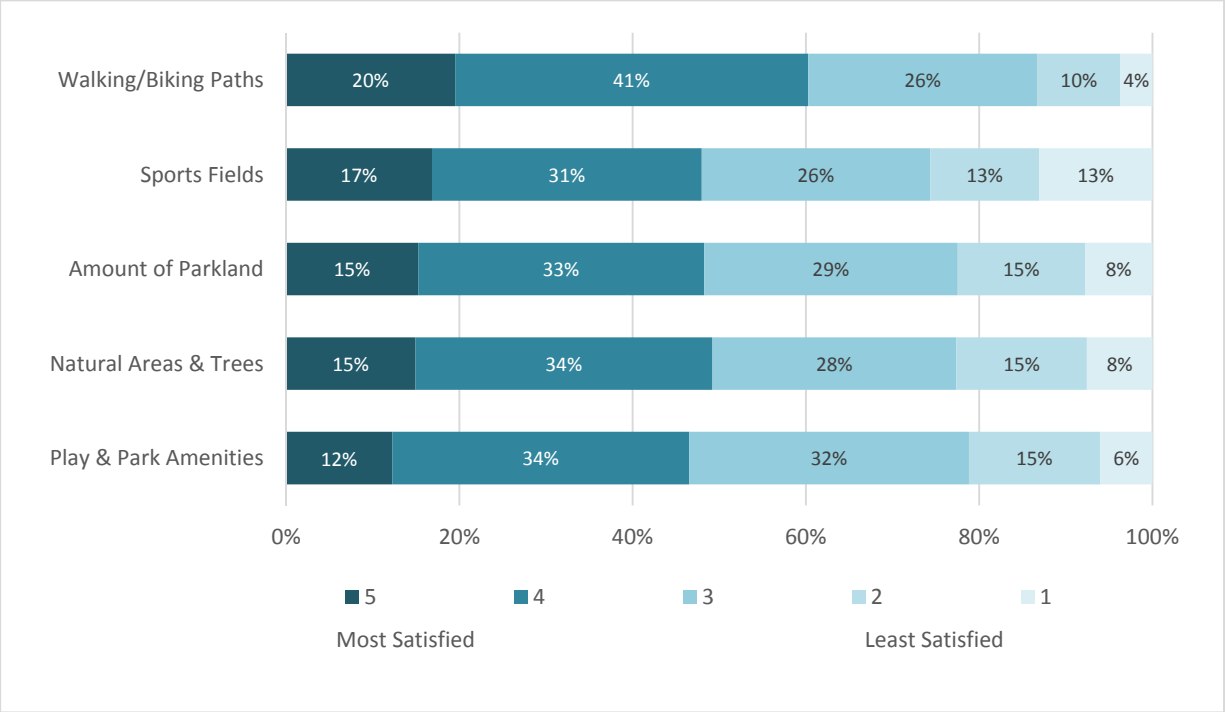
Age-specific Programs

- Need to improve programming for seniors, e.g., bus tours need to be revamped, more and better fitness classes, more educational programs (10)
- Need better programming for adolescents and teenagers, including after school activities (4)

- Should have better scheduling for young children. Many activities are too late in the day for those with early bedtimes. Activities for this age group should be scheduled around healthy nap, meal and bed times (4)

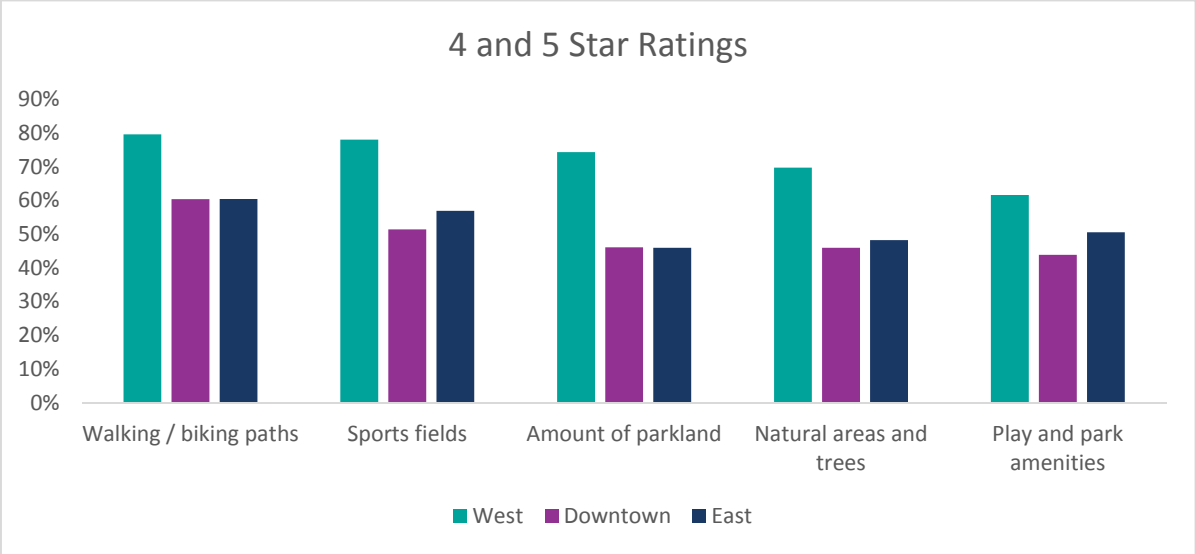
Other feedback that was provided more than once includes: satisfactory programming for seniors; and not enough programming for those with special needs.

Parks



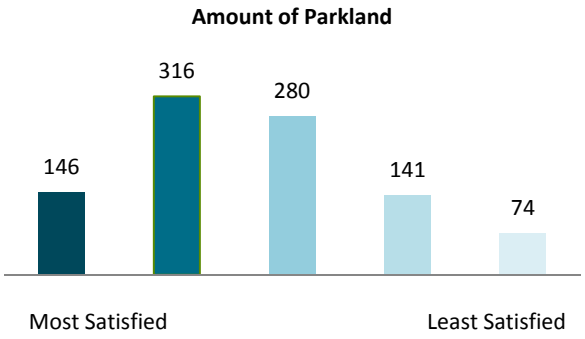
Walking and biking paths have the highest rate of satisfaction, with 61 percent of participants giving them a rating of 4 or 5. *Sports fields* have the lowest satisfaction ratings with 26 percent of respondents giving them a rating of 1 or 2.

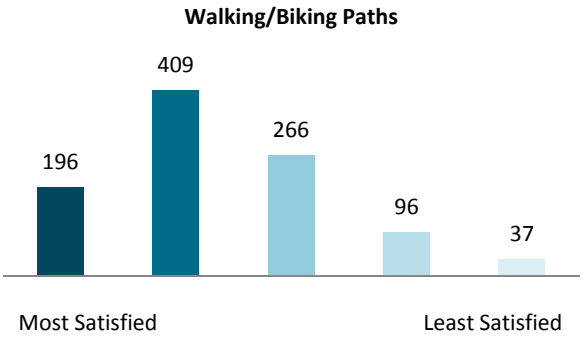
The chart below illustrates the variation in satisfaction by area by showing the percentage of participants from each area who rated each activity as 4 or 5 stars.

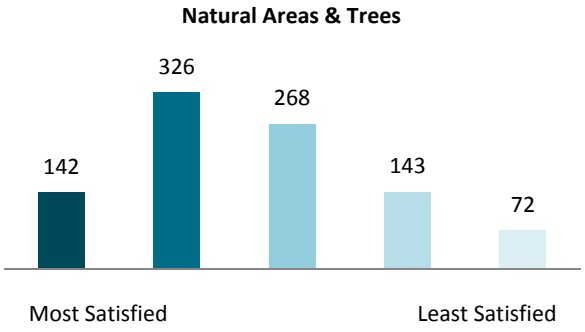


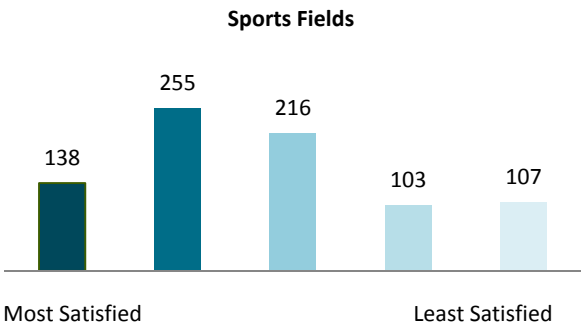
Read as: of the survey participants who identified as living in the west side of Abbotsford, and who completed the question on satisfaction with walking / biking paths, 80 percent rated walking / biking paths as 4 or 5 stars.

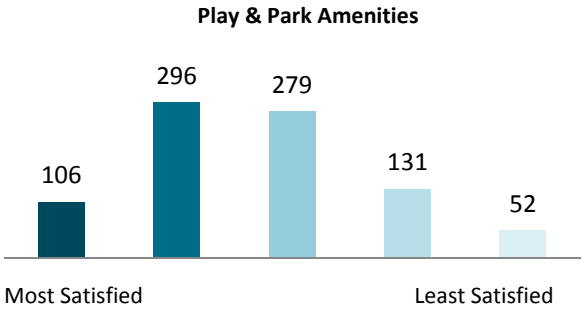
The following charts show the number of responses for the satisfaction ratings for each of the park categories. Ratings are from 1 to 5, with 5 representing most satisfied and 1 representing least satisfied.











Representative Comments:

'This has always been a huge draw for our family but as development reduces the amount of parkland we are concerned that the atmosphere and culture of this city is changing from one with a respect and concern for green space and the need for people to have connection with nature to one focused only on large homes and lots devoid of character and respect for the land.'

'Discovery trail is really great. Connecting more trails to this network would be very cool.'

'Obviously, this is something that is being challenged by development, but it would be great to make sure we have designated nature reserves in amongst the development. This is one of the main reasons why living in Abbotsford is as enjoyable as it is.'

'Only one spray park and could use some updating. Would be nice to have one more option somewhere else in the city to go on a hot day.'

'Baseball lacks a single location to host multiple games simultaneously for tournaments at any level. This would allow for growing the game within the community and raise funds to keep fees down for local youth.'

Survey participants were encouraged to provide additional comments regarding satisfaction for each of the park categories identified above. Below is a summary of the themes that were mentioned at least three times (the number of respondents making a similar comment is in brackets):

Walking / biking paths

- Create a more connected multi-use trail network, including connecting Discovery Trail over Highway 11 (27)
- The City should support the growing sports of mountain biking and trail running by developing areas to participate in these activities (17)
- Abbotsford needs more and safer bike lanes throughout the City, including Vye Rd. and George Ferguson Way (16)
- There is a need for better maintenance of Abbotsford's paths and trails, e.g., clean up garbage, issues with Geese, cracks and uneven terrain, roots coming up through the asphalt, re-gravel certain areas (14)
- There should be better lighting on many of the paths and trails so that they can be enjoyed safely in the evenings and throughout the winter (8)
- There are development pressures threatening to encroach on green spaces and trails, e.g., Viccaro Ranch and Sumas Mtn. areas. These are should be retained for recreation (4)

- Discovery Trail is a great access for the City (4)
- Safety is a concern, e.g., wildlife, criminal activities (4)
- Paths and trails need better signage and wayfinding (3)
- There is always room for more paths and trails (3)
- There are too many off-leash dogs on the trails (3)

Other themes that were mentioned more than once include: Abbotsford has great trails; there is a need for more hiking trails; there is a need for more horse riding trails; and there are too many trails that travel under power lines.

Amount of parkland

- Abbotsford must work to retain its valuable natural recreation assets, e.g., Abby Grind, Ledgeview, McKee Peak, Sumas Mountain, Auguston. These areas are being threatened by development (25)
- The City could always use more parkland, especially as it continues to grow (16)
- East Abbotsford needs more walking paths, parks and playgrounds (5)
- There is a need for a better network of parks and trails that safely connect different neighbourhoods (5)
- There is a lack of greenspace in the downtown core (4)
- There is a need for more, and nicer, small neighbourhood parks (4)
- Abbotsford's parks are a great asset to the City (3)

Other themes that were mentioned more than once include: parking issues at certain parks; the need for more dog parks; more consideration needed for parkland in peripheral areas; and Jubilee Park needs a facelift.

Natural areas and trees

- Abbotsford needs to protect its natural recreation assets from being lost to development, logging and mining. E.g., Ledgeview and Sumas Mountain (42)
- There is always a need for more natural areas and trees in the city (16)
- Better maintenance is needed of natural areas, particularly in terms of invasive species (8)
- Abbotsford needs to do a better job of protected its trees, e.g., make parks treed areas rather than open green space (5)

Play and park amenities

- Abbotsford needs more spray parks in areas like east Abbotsford (19)
- There is a need for more community gardens (13)
- There is a need for more youth parks, e.g., a longboarding park, a dirt jump park, bike skills park (7)
- Abbotsford needs more area to play basketball / tennis / ball hockey, e.g., a covered ball hockey box like in Langley would be great (6)
- Some of the older playgrounds need updating (5)
- Abbotsford could use more dog parks (4)
- More creativity in playground design. They all look the same, unique features at different playgrounds would be great, e.g., natural play elements, different colours, climbing wall (4)
- There is a need for more washrooms, with soap, at many of the parks (3)
- Mill Lake Park should be cleaned up with a new playground, swimming area, and maintained trails (3)

Other themes that emerged more than once include: the need for more areas for youth to explore; better baseball facilities; and making parks more accessible to those with special needs.

Sports fields

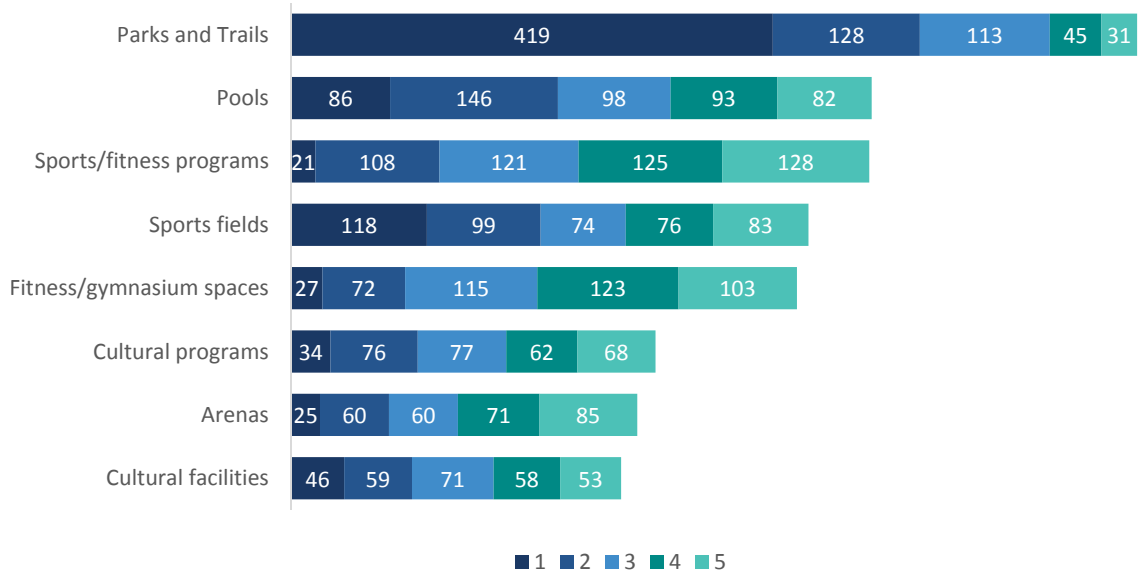
- Abbotsford's baseball facilities are inadequate given how popular the sport is in the community. The City should develop better baseball facilities that can host tournaments and bring revenue to the city (58)
- There is a need for more sports fields around the city (10)
- Better maintenance of the existing sports fields is needed (10)
- It would be great to have a centralized, multi-sport complex (5)
- There is no need for more sports fields (4)
- Abbotsford needs a rugby facility (3)
- Artificial fields are not good value, should focus on maintaining grass fields (3)

Other themes that were mentioned more than once include: they are too expensive to use; and some of the fields need lights.

Priorities

Survey participants were asked to rank their top priorities for parks, recreation and culture in the City of Abbotsford. Below are the results for each of the eight (8) options. *Parks and trails* have significantly more top priority votes than any of the other options, while *Sports and fitness programs* have the fewest top priority votes.

Overall, "Parks and Trails" has the most top 5 votes with 736, while cultural facilities have the fewest with 287.



Key differences between groups:

- 92 percent of survey participants aged 70 and above identify parks and trails as their top priority, while only 36 percent of those aged 19 and below list it as their top priority.
- Parks and trails receive the highest rate of top priority votes in every age cohort except for 19 and below. In this cohort, cultural facilities receive the most top priority votes at 43 percent.
- Sports fields receive 28 percent of the top priority votes in the 40 – 49 cohort, while in no other cohort do they receive more than 18 percent of top priority votes.
- 57 percent of English-speaking residents indicated parks and trails as their top priority, while this number decreases to 44 percent for French-speaking residents and 27 percent for Punjabi-speaking residents.
- In East Abbotsford, parks and trails received fewer top priority votes (49 percent) than in downtown Abbotsford (54 percent) and west Abbotsford (58 percent), while sports fields and pools (17 percent and 15 percent respectively) received more top priority votes than in downtown Abbotsford (15 percent and 10 percent) and west Abbotsford (10 percent and 10 percent).

Survey participants were asked to provide additional feedback regarding each of the priority areas identified above. Below is a summary of the themes that were mentioned at least three times (the number of respondents making a similar comment is in brackets):

Arenas

Two survey participants mentioned the need for additional ice sheets and one mentioned that the City should focus on using the ones they have rather than building new ones.

Cultural Facilities

- There is a need for performing arts space in Abbotsford (3)

Other priorities mentioned include: a dedicated cultural centre; an artist co-op space; and the need to use what exists rather than building new, e.g., underused Abbotsford Centre.

Cultural Programs

- Abbotsford needs more cultural programs and events that celebrate the City's diversity (4)

Other priorities mentioned include: the need for an outdoor stage; funding for existing arts groups; and more of a connection between parks and culture.

Fitness / Gymnasium Spaces

Priorities mentioned in this category include: the need for a ball hockey facility; spaces located closer to where seniors live; and better maintenance of the washrooms at ARC.

Parks and Trails

- Abbotsford needs more support for mountain biking/hiking/trail running trails in the mountains around town. This could be a huge draw for tourists (19)
- There is a need for better maintenance at several parks and trails, e.g., Fishtrap Creek, Discovery Trail (3)

Other priorities mentioned include: develop Albert Dyck Memorial Park; build a disc golf course; introduce new dog parks.

Pools

- Abbotsford needs a better aquatic centre that can host tournaments, with 10x50m lanes, a dive tank and water polo facilities. It should also be more accessible to those with special needs (4)

Other priorities mentioned include: a chlorine free pool; and better maintenance in the washrooms.

Sports Fields

- Abbotsford needs more and better baseball facilities (9)
- There is a need for more soccer/rugby/cricket fields (3)

Other priorities mentioned include: the need for washrooms at sports fields; and better maintenance of the fields.

Sports / Fitness Programs

- Abbotsford needs an indoor track and field facility so that residents can train during the winter (3)

Other priorities mentioned include more programs for children; and new gymnastics space needed.

Other

Survey participants were given the opportunity to suggest additional priorities that were not included in the options. Below is a summary of the themes that were mentioned at least three times (the number of respondents making a similar comment is in brackets):

- Improve arts and culture programming, e.g., better funding, more options, accessible to all groups (7)
- Create more multi-use trails for activities like mountain biking, equestrian and hiking (7)
- Provide more off-leash dog parks including areas for dogs to swim (6)
- Develop an indoor track and field / gymnastics facility that gives residents the opportunity to continue training throughout the winter (6)
- Provide more library space (3)
- Improve cycling infrastructure, including bike lanes and bike racks throughout Abbotsford (3)
- Build new skate / BMX parks (3)

Other comments that were mentioned more than once include: build a waterpark; better youth programming; outdoor event space; and wildlife / natural recreation areas.

World Café Workshops Summary

As part of the Plan200K process, Mayor, Council, and members of the City's advisory committees were invited to provide input on the various plans underway through a world café event on May 25, 2017. Poster boards provided participants with information on each of the plans, and consultants and staff were on hand to answer any questions. Each plan had a dedicated table asking a set of questions, with two tables for the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, facilitated by City staff and consultants. Participants rotated among the tables to discuss each set of questions. The input received from this event is summarized below.

Table #1

What is your vision for parks, recreation, and culture in Abbotsford?

- Opportunities for the entire population
- Central multi-purpose complexes
- Focus on youth
- Promote and communicate opportunities through a centralized source of information
- Accommodate growing sports, e.g., beach volleyball, disc golf, cricket, rugby (for women)
- Meet cultural needs, e.g., covered shelters separate for men and women
- More culture infrastructure for all levels
- Connecting trails through City
- Safety in parks
- Culture as part of economic development
- Make Abbotsford a destination
- Beautification
- Make neighbourhood parks more integrated with the neighbourhood – amenities that reflect local needs
- Natural parks – accessible, outdoor education
- Green spaces in City Centre, connected to Mill Lake Park and university

What does the City need to address its unique population?

- More recreation facilities, e.g., field hockey fields, pickleball courts, wrestling facility

- Cultural opportunities, e.g., small black box theatre, performing arts centre
- More competition opportunities, e.g., tournament park for baseball
- Improve park spaces, e.g., Albert Dyck Park, neighbourhood parks, washrooms
- Improve park safety
- Protect important recreation and environmentally sensitive areas on Sumas Mountain
- Amenities on the east side, e.g., public library, track, and walking trails
- Indigenous names in parks
- Ledgeview Golf Course – new clubhouse is a major opportunity for a banquet facility/restaurant
- Use Pokémon to inform people about the City with more "hubs"

Whose role is it to meet those needs?

- City needs to pursue partnerships for all types of facilities
- Potential partners
    - Cultural groups
    - Private sector and developers
    - Foundation, donations
    - Neighbourhood associations
    - Experience the Fraser Group
    - UFV
    - Multiple partnerships for major projects
- City needs a centralized database for donations
- Collaboration to address Sumas Mountain – for connectivity of trails, wildlife corridors

Table #2

What are Abbotsford's needs in relation to parks, recreation and culture?

- Keeping up with growth
- Destination parks, e.g., improve accessibility at Mill Lake Park and add amenities such as coffee shops and more uses; potential to make Albert Dyck Memorial Park a destination park

- Think of leisure/recreation through a wider lens of how people their lives – integration between residential, retail, and recreational areas
- Improve sports field capacity and protect space for intended use, e.g., artificial turf for older youth and competition
- More facilities, e.g., pools, ball diamonds, ice, field hockey, wrestling, park amenities
- Protecting the environment, e.g., pollinator habitats, banning City use of certain pesticides
- Meeting resident needs, e.g., responding to busy schedules, multiple activities in the same place to allow whole family to participate, maintaining affordability while recovering costs
- Rethink small neighbourhood parks, e.g., more uses in parks, more partnerships with schools, sharing responsibilities with local residents
- Consolidate PRC opportunities into hubs
- Culture infrastructure for all levels, e.g., beginner/learning, all ages music venues for local bands, black box theatre
- Meeting needs of different cultural groups
- Nature education
- Dog parks and off leash areas with supporting amenities such as waste bins
- Managing unsanctioned uses, e.g., Abby Grind
- Lack of facilities in McKee – library, outdoor walking track, lack of walking distance facilities
- Greenspace in city centre, connected to walking and bike paths
- Improved walking connections, e.g., between Mill Lake Park, City Centre, and university area, river walk from Mill Lake Park to Seven Oaks with coffee shops and retail along the way
- Performing arts facility to meet community needs

Which of those are the top priorities?

- Better utilizing school facilities
- Multi-use facilities for parks, recreation, and culture
- Keeping up with growth
- Improving sports field capacity
- Rethinking small neighbourhood parks

- More facilities
- Making Albert Dyck Memorial Park a destination park
- Performing arts facility
- Greenspace in City Centre
- Nature education

What funding strategies can the City use to meet the various needs?

- Potential partners
    - School district
    - Private sector
    - Community foundation
    - Post-secondary institutions
- Low taxes in Abbotsford – little appetite for paying for facilities
- Need mixture of strategies
- Transparency over where City money is going

Focus Group Workshops Summary

Introduction

In May and June, 2017, workshops were held regarding the City of Abbotsford's Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan (PRCMP). The purpose of this community engagement was to inform participants about the project, and to request their perceptions about the strengths and challenges, a vision, and potential objectives and recommendations for the PRCMP.

The following is the input from the workshops, with each bullet representing an idea put forth during brainstorming for each question. The numbered sections are listed in order of priority, as determined either by "voting" using audience response technology.

The lists for the Vision, Objectives/Opportunities and Recommendations were prepared by each group. For workshops using the voting technology, participants selected their top five choices in order of priority. The final order is a compilation of the priorities of all group members. For workshops not using clickers, the items are not in order of priority. Items listed below the numbered lists are additional suggestions or elaborations from the brainstorming process. Numbers in brackets indicate the number of similar comments, even though participants were told they did not need to repeat comments already made.

The workshop input is listed verbatim per the following order:

TOPIC	FOCUS GROUPS	DATES AND TIMES
Staff	2	• May 25, 2017—8:30am, 10:15am
General Parks, Recreation and Culture	2	• June 8, 2017—5pm • June 13, 2017—7pm
Parks	6	• June 8, 2017—1pm, 3pm, 7pm • June 13, 2017—1pm, 3pm, 5pm
Recreation	8	• June 6, 2017—1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm • June 7, 2017—1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm
Culture	5	• June 12, 2017—1pm, 3pm (no attendees at 5 & 7 pm) • June 13, 2017—1pm, 3pm, 5pm

Staff

Staff Workshop #1

Date: May 25, 2017

Time: 8:30am

Number of participants: 25

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.2 Parks and Trails

- Quality all-weather turf sports fields/tournament sites (4)
- Urban parks more than other cities
- Parks – various experiences in many locations
- We still have nature in our city
- Parks designed for many uses
- Mill Lake at the centre of the city
- 4 shelters
- Variety of parks, by size and location
- Continuity of trails
- Water access – Blueways

11.5.1.3 Recreation

- ARC (new facility)
- Two main recreation centres – MRC, ARC
- Accessibility
- Recreation centres are ideally located
- The staff we have
- Stadium
- Lesson registration for aquatics is steadily rising

11.5.1.4 Culture

- Blend of city and agriculture

- Variety of special events for the city/public parks/recreation
- Downtown Abby (History)
- Flea market downtown

11.5.1.5 Other

- Airport
- Large land base and geographic diversity = opportunity for partnerships

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.6 Parks and Trails

- Lack of baseball diamonds (2)
- Shortage of playing fields to meet future demand
- Mill Lake Park is not maximized in its options for use
- Parks with vandalism/graffiti
- We don't respond well enough to social issues / unsanctioned uses in parks
- Outdated dog parks
- Lack of wilderness trails
- Lack of food
- Lack of fitness trails
- Connection of Discovery Trail over Highway 11
- No trail map system on phone/app
- Need continual improvement/adding amenities to existing park/trails
- Composting, recycling lacking

11.5.1.7 Recreation

- Need continual improvement/adding amenities to existing facilities
- Not enough multipurpose space in Recreation Centres
- Need another swimming pool
- Staffing

- Resources
- Maintaining cleanliness of facilities is a challenge
- More involvement from users group instead of expecting help
- Accessibility
- Future programs more available during daytime
- Seniors' needs

11.5.1.8 Culture

- Opportunities for local artists for public art (2)
- Opportunity to celebrate our community's rich heritage (founders)
- Town Square
- Multicultural Centre
- Missed opportunity with historic sites – Clayburn Brick Factory, historic routes

Vision for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

1. Walkable City
2. Innovation
3. Build neighbourhood amenities
4. Environmental consideration
5. Safety and security
6. Protect and enhance what we have
7. Gathering, vibrant spaces for people
8. Accessibility
9. Promote City and history to visitors

- Expand existing facilities and off leash areas but also build smaller neighbourhood ones to reduce driving
- Green landscape and tall trees forever
- Differentiate between new neighbourhoods and infill growth

Objectives to Consider in the PRCMP

1. High quality spaces
2. More indoor and outdoor experiences
3. More nature in the City
4. More robust engagement with public to communicate expectations
5. Streets that are more usable for people
6. Clarify and update targets for open spaces
7. Renewable energy
8. More opportunities with schools
9. City vs private provision

- Acquire sufficient land for preservation in its natural state
- Use airport as a draw to our community and create experiences to make it a destination
- Partnering with SD34 re new schools/parks (joint facilities)
- More opportunities at existing Recreation Centres
- For 30 percent population increase, require: more facilities, resources, staff

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

1. More amenities in parks - food trucks, Wi-Fi, dog parks, signage, lit sports fields
2. More outdoor spaces for events, gathering, cultural opportunities
3. Wilderness hiking trails
4. Connect parks to people
5. More multi-purpose spaces
6. Hours of operation
7. More parking
8. Create an App of amenities
9. Help to enhance cultural (private) tourism
10. Creative use of hydro corridor

- Info kiosk re PRC at Mill Lake occasionally at shopping centres
- Mountain bike trails
- Talk about “citizens” not taxpayers
- Staff as leaders
- Culture = engage “Shady Grove” private museum
- Unconventional spaces, e.g., green ways, leisure pools (2)
- Solar lighting in parks
- Address therapeutic needs
- Benches with table and plugs in parks
- Park rangers
- Moveable furniture in parks

Staff Workshop #2

Date: May 25, 2017

Time: 10:15am

Number of participants: 24

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.9 Parks and Trails

- Good green space/ parks/natural areas (2)
- Amount of parks (2)
- Playgrounds (2)
- Stick bug water toy
- Sports fields – 5 synthetics
- Discovery trail
- IPM
- Walking trails

- International Friendship Garden

11.5.1.10 Recreation

- Senior activity pass (2)
- Swim lessons (2)
- Public swims
- Special needs access
- Adapted programs
- PRC subsidy
- Drop-in family events
- Summer camps
- Program guide
- HIIT classes
- Multi-purpose facilities
- Recreation programs
- Volunteer program
- Online registration
- Staff team

11.5.1.11 Culture

- Special events
- Jamming in Jubilee (2)
- Abbotsford Tulip Festival
- Arbour Day
- Communities in Bloom
- Canada Day
- Food truck festival
- Public art at Clearbrook and McCallum

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs,

and services?

11.5.1.12 Parks and Trails

- Aging infrastructure on all trails
- More park staff needed
- Parks aren't safe after dark
- Homeless/park camping
- Teams blanket book even though they pay for it – grass fields are cheap
- Ultimate uses Rotary a lot without booking
- Invasive species management program
- Goose management conflicts
- Unsolicited urban graphic artwork at ARC
- E coli – Albert Dyck Memorial Park

11.5.1.13 Recreation

- Aging facilities
- Lack of programs on west side
- Room space
- Parking at MRC when fields in use
- Security of ARC parkade
- Cancelled programs due to low registration
- Pickleball - not enough indoor space
- Not enough community ice times
- Seniors want more social time with staff
- Fields over booked
- Kids taking senior times
- Fees and charges
- Too many disabled parking spaces at ARC
- Community use of Recreation centre lobby – e.g., registration day (need more)

- Badminton
- Gymnasium demand
- Rotary stadium usage
- Theft in Recreation centres

Vision for the PRCMP

1. Promote healthy active lifestyles
2. Serve all people, affordable PRC
3. Clean enjoyable recreation space
4. Protect natural environment
5. Accessible green space
6. Inclusive community celebrating diversity
7. National/international sports capital
8. Integrate parks, recreation and culture
9. Developer funded community centre integrated into planning
10. Diverse programs

Objectives to Consider in the PRCMP

1. Increase staff with population growth
2. More and better and more diverse facilities and parks
3. Secure developable parkland
4. Free space for free play
5. Accommodate more outdoor recreation activities – hiking, biking, boating
6. Revenue generation through sponsorship
7. More city-wide cultural events – east/west together
8. Smaller community centres
9. Safe, lit, pedestrian friendly sidewalks and trails
10. Dog-friendly

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

1. Upgrade equipment and facilities – Ag Rec, park washrooms, fitness equipment, park structures and buildings, MRC
2. More indoor facilities – pool, multi-use, gyms, recreation facility with 50m pool, open office community centre
3. More/new outdoor amenities – skills/bike park, dog parks, gathering spaces, natural play areas, spray parks, fitness equipment
4. More staff resources – community police, park wardens, janitor at MRC
5. Improve accessibility at facilities – ARC pool and change rooms, MRC change rooms, family change rooms
6. More sports fields – rugby, hardball
7. More diverse programs – family activities, pool and arena activities, theme swim days, more swim time, youth programs
8. Update bylaws, trees, fees and charges
9. Volunteer training program

- Need more staff for parks/sports fields (2)
- Add more parkland and trails along the river
- Partnerships with corporations
- Solutions to challenges with evening sports field booking
- Cater more to cultural needs – e.g., women only swims
- Better communication with cultural communities about their needs
- Therapeutic facilities
- Teams are going to Fort Mac 3 times per year
- Speed skating wants an oval, multiple rinks (track on top) (like Fort Mac)
- Develop relationship between city and mountain biking community
- Fenced in parks for kids
- Gymnasium on west side
- Turn Ledgeview into a golf academy

- Get rid of turnstiles at ARC
- Field closures are in July – worst time to grow grass
- AT field always busy
- Should consider payment plans – some people can't afford to pay for a year of swimming lessons up front, also hard to consistently staff lessons
- Need more swim lessons – are quite full currently
- School fields are unsafe for community use, not enough funding
- Need another football field with Canadian lines
- Fitness specific membership
- Customer service hubs/ info station
- Profit organizations removed from subsidized programming
- Call centre for registration questions

General Parks, Recreation and Culture

Public Workshop #1

Date: June 8, 2017

Time: 5:00pm

Participants: 2

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.14 Parks and Trails

- Douglas Taylor Park trails for horses
- Track and field kids only pay for tournaments, not regular play
- Lots of horses “in the back yard” – people trailer to a place to ride

11.5.1.15 General

- Lots going on here, things to do
- Better place to visit will also be a better place to live
- Community is beginning to think more holistically, growing up
- Success bringing people to the community
- Sports tourism
- Multiple benefits from events, e.g., concerts, sports
- Great blend of urban and rural
- Sport Abbotsford – 7-8 regular groups, 50-60 on contact list

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.16 Parks and Trails

- Lacking a major park on the east side of town
- Rotary stadium is no longer state of the art

11.5.1.17 Recreation

- ARC getting old, indoor track is mediocre

- Equestrian group is not using Agrifair facilities at Abbotsford Exhibition Park

11.5.1.18 General

- Abbotsford needs to decide what it is, e.g., Kamloops model – Tournament Capital, Coquitlam has a modern track
- No amenities near Robert Bateman Secondary

Vision for the PRCMP

- Consider elite athletes in new facilities and they will benefit everyone
- Build the biggest and the best and everyone will come – “complete” facilities
- Walkable to amenities
- Infrastructure keeping pace with growth

Objectives to Consider in the PRCMP

- Lit place to walk at night
- Combine shopping and recreation centre

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

- Environmentally sustainable neighbourhoods
- More horse trails

Public Workshop #2

Date: June 13, 2017

Time: 7:00pm

Participants: 13

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.19 Parks and Trails

- Trails (3)
- Parks (2)
- Dog parks and off-leash areas (2)

- Well maintained parks
- Discovery Trail
- Amount of hiking trails
- Easy access to parks
- Use of green space for trails and parks
- Accessibility
- Mill Lake Park is beautiful – love the trails connecting playgrounds and spaces

11.5.1.20 Recreation

- Variety of recreational activities/programs available (2)
- Lots of variety in programs for children
- Well-maintained facilities (ARC)
- Cross section of facilities for the community – city positive for growth
- Rotary Stadium Track and Grandstand well maintained and well used

11.5.1.21 Culture

- Number of events, e.g. art walk
- Canada Day celebration is really well done and well attended
- Cultural events
- Recognition of different cultures and good representation in activities

11.5.1.22 General

- Low cost options (2)
- Joint partnership between the city and school district
- This process
- Staff
- Basic services being met

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.23 Parks and Trails

- Lack of free lakes/swim spots
- Dog parks don't have water for dogs

11.5.1.24 Recreation

- Lack of pools. There was a 30 percent growth in swimmers and not enough access (2)
- Lack of dedicated softball fields for youth
- Lack of public access to Abbotsford Centre
- Pools lacking on east side – not enough space or time for number of kids, or for public access
- Support of low barrier exercise
- Baseball fields
- Not enough sports fields
- Competitive softball – embarrassing that we can't host tournaments in one spot
- We count Centennial Pool as national guidelines re: pools/capita 1-2 pools short

11.5.1.25 Culture

- Lack of structural art within the community
- Lack of Abbotsford history around city compared to other municipalities
- Cultural sensitivity

11.5.1.26 General

- Accessibility for seniors – transportation and locations

Vision for the PRCMP

1. Follow growth of city east
2. Planning based on use/demand
3. Healthy families and neighbourhoods

4. Innovative and futuristic, young, vibrant community
5. Mixed use
6. Facilitate cooperation and coordination of groups
7. Realistic and based on budget
8. Walkable access to parks and facilities
9. Maximize use of existing community facilities
10. Leveraging of sports groups, institutions, stakeholders

- Public safety
- Utilize Ledgeview – rebuild to build sports complex and reduce overall costs

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

1. New pool
2. Centralized source of information/branding/communication
3. Permanent stage in park
4. More sports fields
5. More accessible playgrounds
6. More language programs, more diverse summer camps, and modern programs for youth
7. More public art in parks
8. Indoor training facility with rubberized floor – multi-sport
9. Decentralize libraries
10. More water parks

- Safety
- Use of spikes on shoes (required for athletes such as high jump, pole vault, throws, hurdles (floor works for regular shoes)
- Need for age integrated spaces

- Equipment storage box for throwing equipment at the throwing cage in Clearbrook Park – needs to be secure by lock and key or combo
- Park rangers
- Purchase existing facilities (centre ice) and renovate to increase capacity
- Renovate MSA Arena to include additional facilities

Parks Focus Groups

Parks Workshop #1

Date: June 8, 2017

Time: 1:00pm

Participants: 2

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.27 Parks and Trails

- Activities in parks
- Lovely flowers in parks
- Bicycle trails
- Swings and play areas
- Mill Lake Park – water fountains, giant chess board, Horseshoe Club, “Edwards” bench
- Playboxes in parks – Pepinbrook, Grant, Mill Lake Park (people get the code online)

11.5.1.28 Culture

- Music in the Park

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.29 Parks and Trails

- Not enough activities in Mill Lake Park
- Not enough people engaged in physical activities
- Underutilized amenities – Horseshoe Club, giant chess board
- Not enough benches as the giant chess board and fitness equipment
- Chess pieces are locked up, difficult to get key – staff not on duty, not aware of key
- Bike lanes on streets

11.5.1.30 Culture

- Fraser Valley Library closing
- Not enough variety in the types of music in Music in the Park

Vision for the PRCMP

- More activities in parks
- Opportunities to get elders together to talk
- Accessible amenities
- Affordable recreation
- All ages together

Objectives to Consider in the PRCMP

- Seating at all amenities

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

- Mill Lake Park – large putting green or mini golf, bocce (with bleachers, bocce is an up and coming activity), ping pong tables (with benches), seating at both ends of giant chess board, benches at fitness area, move storage to a more central location and rent equipment for a low price (rent horseshoes too), lawn bowling (artificial turf, could support bocce too), band shell, café, paid staff for equipment rental
- Permanent bicycle skills/safety teaching area with roads, stop signs, etc.
- More variety of music at Music in the Park

Parks Workshop #2

Date: June 8, 2017

Time: 3:00pm

Participants: 2

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.31 Parks and Trails

- Parks are beautiful, flow well with each other
- Abbotsford Exhibition Park – play area is great for siblings, great for track and field
- Fishtrap Creek Park trail loop
- Mill Lake Park great for running
- Clearbrook Park good for cross-country, trails are well maintained, throwing cage is used three times/week, good location separate from other uses – throwers have done really well
- Vaisakhi track meet

11.5.1.32 Recreation

- Low cost recreation

11.5.1.33 Culture

- City does a good job portraying different cultures
- Good work with featuring South Asian culture

11.5.1.34 General

- Engagement opportunities such as this process

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.35 Parks and Trails

- Walkability of the City is not good
- Trail maps are not good
- Cycle lanes are not all connected, there are barriers on paths and sidewalks, cars go too fast
- Clearbrook Park – limited parking for cross-country event, narrow entry road is also a bottleneck

Vision for the PRCMP

- Help people feel connected
- Culturally inclusive
- Safer for walking and cycling
- Parks and recreation as a leader in building resilience
- Affordable for everyone
- Eye for beauty and design – outdoor spaces, gardens, structures, etc.

Objectives to Consider in the PRCMP

- Opportunities to engage with First Nations

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

- Higher visibility of bike lanes
- Multiple languages on signs
- Education signs re health and benefits
- Lights in parks
- Printed map of trails
- More playboxes
- Give homeless people access to showers and washrooms

Parks Workshop #3

Date: June 8, 2017

Time: 7:00pm

Participants: 6

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.36 Parks and Trails

- Lots of places to walk
- Lots of tress, ponds/water, natural areas

- Development of trails
- Maintained well
- Partner with larger region for land/parks acquisition
- Parks wants to hear feedback and improve
- Mill Lake Park “our Stanley Park” – like the way it’s going
- Mill Lake Park – swing is good re accessibility

11.5.1.37 Recreation

- Large new turf area for sporting

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.38 Parks and Trails

- Parks getting smaller, losing biodiversity
- Lack of connectivity of parks
- Accessibility to parks for individuals with physical and developmental disabilities
- Most parks are not accessible
- Accessibility – Matthews Park is good. High Street
- Playgrounds lacking creativity and perceived risk
- “Abby Grind” Glen Ryder Trail – not designed for that

Vision for the PRCMP

- Long-term sustainability
- True inclusion
- Barrier-free communities that allow opportunities for all members to actively participate
- Recognize ecological goods and services

Objectives to Consider in the PRCMP

- ‘Inclusive’ (ability for everyone to participate and socialize side by side) for play spaces

- More creative natural playgrounds
- Accessibility to playgrounds – access to area as well as surface area material (rubber) (for all abilities and ages)

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

- Discovery Trail needs continuity
- A destination inclusive playground
- Inclusive pieces in all playgrounds
- Play Box in Crossey Park
- Challenger Baseball needs an accessible dugout – working on this at Grant Park
- More toilets
- We need parking spaces that allow larger (wider/longer) vehicles to access
- Outdoor classrooms
- "Nature" Outdoor Parks and Rec programs (not school based)
- Creating family space at Albert Dyck Lake – walking trails, playground, picnic areas (great to see)

Parks Workshop #4

Date: June 13, 2017

Time: 1:00pm

Number of participants: 2

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.39 Parks and Trails

- Well maintained
- City wants community involvement and ownership
- Mill Lake Park benches, picnic tables, covered shelters, good access
- The number of parks
- Youth go to parks with the Youth Resource Centre – have BBQs, invite the police; youth workers bring food to the youth in the park and check up on them

- Marble Hill Park – community clean-up day/BBQ last year has led to ongoing stewardship and fewer problems such as dog poo, loud music, graffiti
- Baseball rents Agrifair arena for batting practice in winter – big revenue

11.5.1.40 General

- Foundry grant for building with 14 organizations

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.41 Parks and Trails

- Lots of homeless youth in parks (not necessarily a challenge)
- Tenting in parks
- Unsafe longboarding on roads – no established space for them
- Agrifair location on an old dump – bad footing in outdoor and indoor arenas, uneven parking lot
- Agrifair has challenges sharing the park with sports due to space limitations
- Renting Agrifair buildings is expensive in relation to Chilliwack

11.5.1.42 General

- No drive-in theatre in Abbotsford

Vision for the PRCMP

- Youth engagement, youth feedback, youth involvement in planning

Objectives to Consider in the PRCMP

- Groups sharing spaces need to work together
- Use facilities differently – more types of uses, e.g., Agrifair, AgRec
- Places where youth can take ownership

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

- Paths around parks, washrooms, lots of garbage cans, charging stations in park shelters
- Spray park on east side of town

- Improve outdoor ring at Agrifair with lots of sand so it can be rented more often
- Use Tradex parking lot as a drive-in movie theatre
- Roll-out flooring on dry floors to accommodate more uses
- Walls to spray paint at skate parks (whitewash monthly)

Parks Workshop #5

Date: June 13, 2017

Time: 3:00pm

Number of participants: 3

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.43 Parks and Trails

- City is aware of community's needs
- Picnic shelters
- Ball facility with 4 diamonds
- Paved sections of Discovery Trail – for bikes, skateboards, longboards, walks, etc.
- Youth like to hang out at Mill Lake Park
- Lacrosse box

11.5.1.44 Recreation

- After school activities for kids at ARC and MRC
- Programs

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.45 Parks and Trails

- Nowhere to practice lacrosse in early season so sport cannot grow
- Lacking large destination facilities for tournaments, etc.
- No deep-water pools for water polo and other activities

- Ball diamonds spread out for mixed ages, no tournament site for youth
- Aging infrastructure at ball diamonds
- Allocation once a year is a challenge – may need to do it more frequently

Vision for the PRCMP

- Need to plan ahead

Objectives to Consider in the PRCMP

- More collaboration among user groups

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

- Need more information on trails, e.g., signs with map directory, brochures, App, information in Recreation Centres, clubs, neighbourhoods
- Covered lacrosse box, could also have refrigeration for a rink in winter
- Longboard facility (with paved downhill paths like Kamloops)
- Need a “tool kit” on how to deal with other executive teams, who to talk to in the city
- At the Reach, have child-friendly hands-on exhibits in addition to specific programs
- Would be nice for hockey to share space more

Parks Workshop #6

Date: June 13, 2017

Time: 5:00pm

Number of participants: 6

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.46 Parks and Trails

- Trails
- Lighting in Mill Lake Park
- City seems to be working towards more baseball facilities

- Communication with City about future development with Abby Baseball and response to requests

11.5.1.47 Recreation

- Good booking system for AgRec building

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.48 Parks and Trails

- Goose droppings in parks, and aggressive geese
- Too many pop-up sports performance companies using parks and not booking/paying for them, e.g., boot camps – unfair advantage over those who pay
- Townline Park uses bantam field, but there is gang/drug deal hangout activity
- Gladwin dog park has poor access, need to cross road
- Baseball fields are too far apart. We need fields where multiple age groups can all play in one place. Parents struggle to drive siblings all over the City, often missing games
- The last city to build a complex for youth baseball – Chilliwack/Abbotsford are way ahead of us – not right! Too much slo-pitch!
- Comments being made on a regular basis from surrounding cities about the conditions of our fields – not good other than DeLair
- Didn't get infield mix/supplies
- Field maintenance on Abby Minor fields
- Only one 60/90 field and too many teams are sharing it - DeLair

Vision for the PRCMP

- Safety in parks
- Facilities that say WOW, like the Cardinals uniforms
- One complex we can all be proud of, where our youth can aspire to plan ball at the highest levels by watching all age divisions
- Youth sports help to build great future citizens!

Objectives to Consider in the PRCMP

- With so many young families moving in, we need to have great sports (baseball) facilities
- Siting facilities to respect neighbours

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

- Enhance parking for access to parks
- Multi-sport indoor facility with baseball, softball, soccer, tennis, daycare
- Would like see pop-up movies
- West Coast League Team – baseball at a higher level
- Multiple baseball diamonds all in one place so Abbotsford can host tournaments, bringing in people from other cities
- Spaces that can accommodate multi-purpose events, e.g., dog sport, car event fundraiser
- Sport Academy growth with Yale Secondary – work together to fund better facilities
- Turf field at DeLair

Recreation

Recreation Focus Group #1

Date: June 6, 2017

Time: 1:00pm

Participants: 4

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.49 Facilities

- MRC and ARC open long hours
- Good variety of equipment at ARC and MRC

- Rotary Stadium - great facility, good place for walking

11.5.1.50 Programs and Services

- Variety of programs available
- Lots of swim lessons - good options
- Good variety of fitness programs at MRC and ARC
- Variety of scheduled programs at the rec centres
- Toonie adult swims
- All-inclusive fee at ARC
- Creative events for families
- Early swim hours at ARC
- Connections and integration
- Special needs programs, adapted sports

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.51 Facilities

- Need larger youth centres - with gyms
- Poor accessibility for persons with disabilities
- Need higher toilets with bars
- Need gathering places for middle aged kids (6-12 year olds)
- No Cafes for gathering places for people to connect before and after activities, including in MSA

11.5.1.52 Programs and Services

- Provide more fitness services at MRC
- Lack of affordable programs for families during summer and spring break
- Provide outdoor recreation - drop-in classes
- Lack of programs close to UFV
- Hold activities during Air Show week to promote health and attendance, e.g., sunrise Yoga on the tarmac

- Not enough ice time for hockey programs
- Lack of enough ice time for emerging sports e.g. Ringette
- More drop-in times for recreational sport e.g. badminton, volleyball, basketball; longer time slots, earlier evening slots for families

11.5.1.53 Parks and Trails

- Need washroom facilities on trials - more older people using trails
- Concern regarding safety on trails
- Insufficient bins for dog feces
- Need improved outdoor fitness equipment (stretch and strength) for seniors
- Conflicts on trails - boomers and seniors
- Mill Lake Park - greater accessibility for persons with disabilities
- Lack of trail signage including level of difficulty

11.5.1.54 Other

- Need transit to Mt. Lehman

Vision for the PRCMP

1. Accessible for all ages, abilities and income levels.
2. Innovation - STEM (R)
3. Allows for fun, solitude, play, and diversity
4. Supports Quality of Life for individuals and community.
5. Parks with water play and fun.
6. Flexibility

Objectives to Consider in the PRCMP

1. Cost/affordability for programs
2. Programs for “middle-age” kids
3. Support innovation, bridge the digital divide
4. Promotion of opportunities for volunteers and availability of volunteer support

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

1. Develop a three-year plan with a five year goal
2. Provide healthy food in facilities
3. Engage community “movers and shakers”
4. Build relationships with all age groups
5. Review benefits of public versus private use in recreation facilities
6. Create more outdoor waterparks around city
7. Enhance Albert Dyck waterpark - more services, parking, washrooms
8. More outdoor music concerts, sit on grass, Jam and Jubilee

Recreation Focus Group #2

Date: June 6, 2017

Time: 3:00pm

Participants: 2

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.55 Programs and Services

- Drop-in adult programs - opportunity to try different programs
- Accommodating for busy schedules - e.g. Lots of choices for dates and times for swim lessons
- After school soccer programs - at schools

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.56 Programs and Services

- Need more promotion on programs and health benefits to immigrants
- Need more programs for middle school aged children - much of what is available is full or cancelled

- Fees can be prohibitive; City needs to work with community agencies to coordinate the provision of low income subsidies; need referral program for low income families
- Need to use more visuals to provide information
- More information is needed in other languages e.g. Punjabi, Arabic, Korean, Chinese, Spanish

Vision for the PRCMP

1. Active Communities
2. Participation Opportunities for Everyone
3. Barrier Free
4. Partnerships
5. Celebrate our successes

Objectives to Consider

1. Attract “active people” to Abbotsford
2. Develop multi-use indoor training facilities
3. Enhance/increase recreation participation
4. Compete with technology
5. Increase multi-cultural involvement

Recommendations

1. Stimulate physical activity through passes to fitness, pair with sports associations
2. Provide rotating recreation opportunities (try a sport per week)
3. Teach recreation skills; navigating the system
4. Communicate successes and partnerships
5. Show pride in community accomplishments
6. Showcase “Healthy Abbotsford”
7. Engage multicultural Service Agencies to enhance recreation information, access, participation

Recreation Focus Group #3

Date: June 6, 2017

Time: 5:00pm

Participants: 1

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.57 Facilities and programs

- Outdoor pool, 8 lanes, good deck space
- Indoor Pool
- Good Water Polo program - attracts kids from all over

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.58 Facilities

- Pool cannot accommodate higher level diving program
- Accessibility issues in change room at Centennial Pool
- Need offices at Centennial pool
- ARC - change rooms not completely equipped for disabilities
- Need a therapy pool

11.5.1.59 Programs and Services

- Not enough pool time for swim club
- Not enough pool time for Water Polo
- Diving needs more time

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

1. Develop a 50 Metre pool, with a dive tank and boards plus diving tower
2. Include a leisure component (in separate tank)
3. Work with the University to develop a sports venue

Recreation Focus Group #4

Date: June 6, 2017

Time: 7:00pm

Participants: 3

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.60 Facilities and programs

- Swim lessons - ability to choose group or private
- ARC and MRC are both beautiful facilities
- Great programs for people of all ages

11.5.1.61 Parks

- Mill Lake Park - great park for cycling, walking and fitness equipment

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.62 Programs and Services

- Adult lengths swim - children in lanes
- No programs for persons with intellectual disabilities - such as life skills
- Lack of information on programs or volunteers for special needs
- Fitness pricing is too high

11.5.1.63 Parks

- No large accessible swings

Vision for the PRCMP

1. Partnerships for new facilities
2. Fully accessible facilities to serve needs of special populations
3. Keep Community Feeling

Objectives to Consider

1. Explore partnerships with organizations such as the YMCA
2. Continue and expand concerts and events in the parks

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

1. Build new facilities - Pool and gymnasiums
2. Renovate existing facilities for better accessibility e.g. hand-held showers, better controls
3. Provide family change rooms
4. Offer more accessible programs

Recreation Focus Group #5

Date: June 7, 2017

Time: 1:00pm

Participants: 6

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.64 Facilities

- Proximity of facilities
- ARC - great facility
- Rotary Park track facility is excellent (newly resurfaces rubberized track), grass infield

11.5.1.65 Programs and Services

- Lots of choice of activities

- Good choice of fitness classes
- Always something to do
- Booking for events works well - City is very responsive
- Cooperation between School District and City
- Sport Tourism is a priority
- Community is engaged
- Good communication between City and user groups
- Parks and Rec department understands community needs
- Fair approach to field allocation
- City responds quickly to questions or ideas

11.5.1.66 Parks and Trails

- Wonderful trail system
- Great walking trails
- “rested” grass fields in great shape
- City willing to work with groups to improve parks

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.67 Facilities

- Out of date facilities (aquatic)
- Accessibility issues at some facilities e.g. Abbotsford Exhibition Park
- No change table/family change rooms at Ex Park
- No accommodation (camping in park)
- Facilities that meet Sport Tourism goals may not meet criteria for hosting
- No indoor facilities for track and field training
- No mobile storage for equipment for track and field

11.5.1.68 Programs and Services

- Cost is prohibitive for some families

- Concern re current method of accessing subsidies for programs
- No overall physical literacy plan
- Better connections between sport and recreation communities
- Facility booking for private events too pricey
- Inadequate promotion of events

11.5.1.69 Parks and Trails

- Parking issues at Mill Lake Park
- Need more lit grass fields
- Want shorter time frame for field cancellations
- Homeless in Mill Park

Vision for the PRCMP

1. Inspired and enabled to participate, play, and perform.
2. A lifetime of activity.
3. Multi-sport community
4. Positive experience for all in physical activity, recreation and sport.
5. Get “lost” in our parks.
6. We Upped our activity - Up Yours.
7. Programs with all ranges of costs - free to $$$ for specialized service
8. Programming for all ages - littles, middles, youth, adults, senior
9. National Training Centre
10. Indoor Training Facility for Track & Field

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

1. Partnerships
2. Tax donations for facility improvements
3. Balance provision of service to low income residents and others, for all ages.
4. Consider development of a regional sports centre
5. Develop more lit grass fields.

6. Develop an indoor soccer facility.
7. Create an overall Physical Literacy Plan for the community.
8. Using a strategic approach, implement long-term athlete development - Active Abbotsford
9. Reduce fees for use of turf fields in the Spring (to reduce unauthorized use)
10. Expand the MRC - change rooms and youth centre
11. Develop an indoor track and field training facility with rubberized floor, pole vault box and netting. Provide equipment storage space - mobile or permanent.

Recreation Focus Group #6

Date: June 7, 2017

Time: 3:00pm

Participants: 2

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.70 Facilities, Programs and Services

- ARC is a first-class facility
- Good programs, great fitness centre
- Some good events like “Run for Water” and Foam Fest
- Splash pads are great
- Community support for events
- Concession at Elwood ball diamonds is run by AMFA (fastball) volunteers

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.71 Facilities, Programs and Services

- Hours at ARC - need longer fitness hours
- Lack of multi-lingual signage and information

11.5.1.72 Parks

- Elwood Park needs upgrading - rundown facilities, poor lighting, no change rooms; no pitching/catching warm-up area
- Need more park employees
- Fields open too late in the season
- Need better signage for events e.g. Rugby Championship
- Not enough ball diamonds
- MRC Skate park too small and difficult

Vision for the PRCMP

1. Support Diversity
2. Spirit of the Game - ball tournaments
3. Desirable community to raise a family

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

1. Enhance technology in ARC and MRC - touch info screens that are multi-lingual
2. Develop new baseball diamonds to free up current softball diamonds for softball use
3. Provide “learn to play” facilities for the U6 to U9 age groups.
4. Establish overall purpose of the current 20 City Plans.
5. Leverage “like” strategies - consider big ideas.
6. Engage in Intentional Communication - to ensure right people are consulted and right decisions are made.
7. Create an “atmosphere of community”

Recreation Focus Group #7

Date: June 7, 2017

Time: 5:00pm

Participants: 4

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities,

programs, and services?

11.5.1.73 Facilities

- Proximity of facilities to homes, centrally located
- Good maintenance of facilities (ARC & MRC) (2)
- Hubs for multi-sports

11.5.1.74 Programs and Services

- Basic intro programs for all ages
- Promotion of programs in guides, on billboards and signs
- Drop-in wheelchair basketball
- Lots of opportunities for young kids (6 and under)
- Liaison with community groups and schools
- Booking process is easy, flexible and efficient

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.75 Facilities

- Accessibility to facilities
- Broken equipment
- Need a gym on the west side
- Cannot host skating competitions as a double rink is mandatory
- No suitable venue for indoor swim meets
- Lack of diving facility to host meets
- Lack of deep water pool
- Community has outgrown the facilities
- Not keeping up with growth - glass ceiling
- Space for summer Lacrosse and Ball hockey limited
- Sports are limited by the facilities - can’t grow
- Need more than “paddle pools” to meet needs

- Not enough space for all kids to have access to pools, ice and gyms

11.5.1.76 Programs and Services

- Not meeting diverse needs of community - we are more than hockey and baseball
- Should be recognizing athletic achievements of local athletes
- Water polo - impossible to get enough time

11.5.1.77 Other

- Need for organized transit to get people to adapted programs

Vision for the PRCMP

1. City's role is the provision of facilities
2. Sports are an economic generator.
3. A multi-functional facility with a 56-metre pool, 2 ice rinks, plus indoor soccer and a food court.
4. Corporate support for facilities.

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

- Think "Bigger" - the Hub (airport, rail, health services, sport facilities)
- Pursue better access to School facilities, particularly gyms.

Recreation Focus Group #8

Date: June 7, 2017

Time: 7:00pm

Participants: 5

What do you think is working well in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.78 Facilities

- Fabulous football field
- Rotary Stadium
- Rotary Track as a central hub

- Ag Rec facility

11.5.1.79 Programs and Services

- Excellent program guide
- Lifeguards and staff
- The consultation meetings

11.5.1.80 Parks

- Lots of neighbourhood parks (but lack accessibility
- Mill Lake park - great for families, for walks and runs, picnic area

What challenges do we face in terms of City of Abbotsford facilities, programs, and services?

11.5.1.81 Facilities

- Need 50-metre, 10-lane pool with dive tank, moveable bottom for water polo and recreational space
- Need better spectator viewing ability to enable hosting of swim meets
- Need larger pools
- Swim club needs storage space for equipment
- Need more tracks like Rotary stadium
- Recreation Centres need to be fully accessible for individuals with developmental disabilities and physical disabilities
- Accessible change rooms (4)
- Hot tub accessibility with ramp and ample space
- Pool area entry - wheel entry, gradual to mid-height
- Pool to be a degree or two warmer
- Swim shop with equipment
- Concession with healthy food options
- Underwater cameras and technology for assessment of swimmers
- Ability for teams to cross-train/socialize and connect
- Cleanliness at facilities needs improvement

11.5.1.82 Programs and Services

- Programs need to be truly adaptable to those with disabilities
- Need more programs and services for children and adults with developmental disabilities including sports, yoga, riding, paddleboard
- Day programs should have lots of options
- Summer drop-in (in parks) for families - parachute games etc.
- Physio, massage, chiro, yoga, sports nutritionist - integrated into facilities
- City staff need to be better trained to work with all abilities/diverse abilities in their Centres(2)
- Provide information regarding available program support for persons with disabilities - for inclusion. Need better communication on this issue.
- Have a central contact number in the program guide - that includes information on programs for those with disabilities
- Encourage/support non-profit community swim clubs rather than private
- Swim Academy to work with school swim clubs
- Integrate with school and university swim clubs
- Use technology to notify public of events (texting); and to identify special interest groups
- Need a business centre in the recreation centres

11.5.1.83 Other

- Child minding and transportation to and from sports facilities - a kind of Uber for kids

Vision for the PRCMP

1. A Completely Inclusive Community
2. A Community that subsidizes at-risk youth to participate in sports (regardless of economic situation)
3. A Community that encourages sports teams to team in an integrated way and build connections

4. All-inclusive recreation centre that includes Adult Day Programs, Child Development Centre in a facility with a central café, library etc.
5. Universal Design inclusive to all ages and abilities
6. A Community that attracts all levels of athletes to live, train and represent our community
7. A Community that develops swimmers of all levels with a n elite facility to train and host meets
8. A Community that builds and hosts a “summer games like” event - to build community pride and healthy competition
9. Cohesive communication with all involved.

Recommendations to Consider in the PRCMP

1. Create awareness in the community, educating the public on diverse abilities
2. Have working committees to address communication concern
3. Provide more training for staff to work with diverse needs
4. Create a higher standard in cleanliness in the facilities
5. Create a working group on accessibility and inclusion in facilities and programs.
6. Investigate technology that can identify special interest groups, so that City can provide better communication

Culture

Culture Workshop #1

Date: June 12, 2017

Time: 1:00pm

Participants:

What is working well in arts and culture in the City of Abbotsford?

- Many community groups working at various arts/culture – Swing dance, FV watercolour
- There are a variety of arts/culture programs to suite all ages
- There are a lot of free or low cost events people can attend
- The reach
- REACH partnered with MSA Museum
- Free events
- Abbotsford Arts Council doing as well as they can with what they are given
- The city is increasing recognition of the importance of arts and culture – public art
- Sponsored music events
- Survey proving culture produces more money and attendance than sports
- $1 in culture produces $16 into the community
- Many cultural groups and faith groups who do arts/culture for their groups
- Good theatre groups in the city – AET – even though no main theatre facility
- Partnerships among groups
- Inclusiveness and diversity

What is not working as well as it could in arts and culture?

- Libraries and other Arts/Rec facilities – planned rather than places by opportunity
- Poor recognition of heritage, history, including Aboriginal – policies/money for heritage buildings/places, MSA Library building
- Abbotsford Arts Council – not enough funding

- More opportunities for art markets – parks, suburb locations
- Business license cost for small business craftspeople and artists
- Disconnect between farmers and city
- Historically poor funding and consideration of arts and culture
- Need better promotions on all events
- Bad P.R. on funding groups/organization to general public

What is your vision for arts and culture in Abbotsford?

- To see Abbotsford and F.V. become a destination
- New phrase needed instead of city = the county
- Abbotsford in a city that sees the arts and heritage as equally valuable as business and agriculture

What are the biggest opportunities related to arts and culture in Abbotsford?

- Support history of land wildlife – geological and human history of area
- Funding for coordination of opportunities and publicity
- City policies bylaws that support heritage arts and culture
- Partnerships – arts groups, agriculture; theatre at the wineries? mime at berry picking?
- Agrifair
- Flea Market
- Farmer's Market
- Closer planning around sites for recreating library and city centres – civic facilities
- Civic plaza – city centre for events etc.
- Berry Festival
- More outdoor art markets

What is required to advance these opportunities in Abbotsford?

- Seed funding for new events

- Small and medium venues – accessible by small groups; coffee houses, pubs
- Finding effective communication to all groups
- City coordination
- Higher profile for Arts Advisory Committee - $ etc.
- Good policies at city level to enhance businesses and personal supports to arts/heritage etc.
- Go to schools – start at youth
- Partner with regional events

Culture Workshop #2

Date: June 12, 2017

Time: 3:00pm

Participants:

What is working well in arts and culture in the City of Abbotsford?

- Heritage site – the Old Sikh Temple with museum
- Book stores – Cole
- The Golden Tree Monument
- Dance in Motion group
- Community chairs
- Canada Day celebration
- Agricultural Fair
- Air Show
- Berry Festival
- Church chairs
- National Aboriginal Day – 2nd Partnership
- The REACH
- Public libraries
- Clubs

- Arts/culture council
- Christian Music Concert headlined by Toby Man sold out the Abbotsford Centre. This was a huge draw bringing in interested people from all over BC
- Local newspaper – Abbotsford news, Punjabi Patrika
- People who want to create Live Theatre – adults, children, schools
- New Cultural Track meet bring put on annually by the Valley Royals Track and Field Club – "Vaisakhi Meet" incorporates food, dance, and athletic demos of Punjabi culture
- Abbotsford Art Centre and Entertainment Centre
- Diwali celebration
- Lo caution for filming ADBA
- Ethnically diverse commercial centres like Cedar Park Place

What is not working as well as it could in arts and culture?

- Lack of public event around Diwali of Vaisakhi
- ADHOC nature of some events like Diwali
- Difficulty booking theatre space at Abbotsford Arts Centre due to having to work around school bookings
- Difficulty using the Matsqui Auditorium as a theatre space due to having to move everything out each week for council meetings. Not enough wing space nor backstage
- Lack of common pedestrian friendly public spaces
- Public library in East
- Performance space

What is your vision for arts and culture in Abbotsford?

- Buzzing, humming, inclusive and safe public spaces
- Inclusivity
- A blending of cultures
- Visit the world – in Abbotsford

- Inclusive culture, diverse

What are the biggest opportunities related to arts and culture in Abbotsford?

- More events which draw a wide cross section of community to ethno cultural events
- Idea – Theatre space in Downtown with shops incorporated around the exterior of the space
- We need a community calendar kept and published by the city – to find out about events and to schedule events
- Culture coordination
- Folk Rhythm 10-12 years ago

What is required to advance these opportunities in Abbotsford?

- Organic spaces like street fest, malls where youth and other ages can hang out and fell comfortable and enjoy
- Town square
- East – new development e.g. Viccaro Ranch?
- The city to spearhead and coordinate building of a 500-seat performance space

Culture Workshop #3

Date: June 13, 2017

Time: 1:00pm

Participants:

What is working well in arts and culture in the City of Abbotsford?

- The number of exhibitions offered by The Reach and Kariton Gallery and Trethewey
- The opportunities for members of community
- More voices being heard, the many perspectives
- The availability of information regarding the history of settlers in the Abbotsford, Matsqui, Sumas areas through a permanent exhibit at The Reach

- Public Art – fire hall, Palifey mural, Golden Tree at friendship garden, berry art in round about
- MCA – our only municipally owned theatre, but it works for many groups
- Increase in fee for service (Service Agreement funding) – increase stability increase activity
- Increased public art
- Improved support for heritage from city officials
- Increased visibility= engagement on the rise
- The increased focus on arts and culture
- The Reach is well funded and supported by city of Abbotsford
- Visitor and program engagement at Trethewey House
- If you “build” it they will come – community members want arts and culture
- Abbotsford tourism and some supportive community businesses – supportive live performances
- Local resources, artists and cultural events
- Programs presented by The Reach (Variety, depth)
- City support of The Ranch, financially and recognition of the value of arts and heritage services
- Emerging awareness of the importance of arts and cultural in our community at city level
- Increase the public knowledge of local history/heritage
- Multiple opportunities for residents to be involved in arts and culture
- The Reach – a success story that is growing and developing
- We have 3 theatre companies working and producing
- Increased arts infrastructure i.e. The Reach
- Strong community arts/heritage facilities with regional interest – Trethewey House, Sikh Temple (National historic site), The Reach

What is not working as well as it could in arts and culture?

- Awareness of what’s here

- Funding for arts and culture per person: Mission $1, Abbotsford $0.12
- Convincing private and corporations that sponsoring/donating to support arts and culture is good for corporate and community responsibility
- Cultural connections to other townships if lacking
- Lack of a city staffer who is solely responsible for arts and heritage programs
- Council thinks the amount of non-Reach funding is sufficient – for 20 years they continue to approve same amounts
- The arts and culture lack a united voice
- Lack of funding access to non-profit arts groups
- Currently losing irreplaceable built heritage
- Increase acknowledgement of Stó:lō Territory at city level (this is lacking)
- Telling the narratives of our immigrated population – Abbotsford stories go beyond the classic pioneer story
- Marketing (20 years ago) – Marquis signage at civic plaza (big) that helps market events
- Lack of access to Pattison signs for marketing arts and cultural events
- 3 pages of a 104 page guide dedicated to arts, heritage and culture
- Arts and culture sector in city is larger than the big 3 – arts council, The Reach, Trethewey House/MSA Museum
- Limited, affordable rehearsal/performance space
- Difficulty engaging and connecting with new audiences
- Public engagement needs to be on-going – not just in planning process
- Diversity
- Advisory board for arts and rec
- Opportunities to build more: public art, fine art, performing art
- Performance space for mid-size audience – 500 seats. Well appointed, affordable
- Cross cultural exploration/visibility (considering the number of immigrants)
- More affordable space for making art (performing and visual)

- 87 percent of culture funding goes to The Reach – the balance for Trethewey House, Kariton etc. = .54 percent
- Not enough virtual accessibility (Apps, websites, etc.)
- More financial support for Abbotsford Arts Council
- There isn't enough involvement in the community through community art projects. We need to find a way to reach out to these younger audiences i.e. Through social media as a tool
- More financial support
- More money. A larger percentage of PRC budget should go toward the culture
- More money so we can do more
- More public art
- Partnering with parks facilities to also share with arts and culture programming
- Requirement for clear, timely communication between city departments
- Lack of a heritage planer in engineering and permits
- Lack of civic funding
- Lack of interconnectivity of arts and culture – needs funding

What is your vision for arts and culture in Abbotsford?

- True integration of parks within recreation within culture and vice versa (Rec in parks, art in parks etc.)
- To see a community that is excited about the arts and wants to share that with everyone they meet/on their social channels
- Strongly branded to unite diverse communities and attract new demographics
- Culture, Parks, Recreation
- Integrate A+C with sports and business
- Marketing – have city take on some of the costs of advertising of cultural groups, organizations etc.
- Well-funded, vibrant, engaged organizations providing programs and activities
- Increased number of dedicated staff wholly engaged with art and culture
- Become a destination location for arts and culture

- Arts and culture funded, accessible, affordable
- Stronger, more robust heritage sector that doesn't fade into the background
- Well-resourced, highly visible, integral to civic life and community identity, diverse, accessible

What are the biggest opportunities related to arts and culture in Abbotsford?

- Public art in our parks (have panels that can be rotated) and playgrounds and Discovery Trail
- Include stories – literacy promotion for kids
- Public art that reflects the younger generation that are living and moving in to Abbotsford
- Increase visibility for all cultural offerings – this is how we brand Abbotsford as a city of culture
- To build on neighbourhood development – create space for HA and AAC to expand programming
- Real theatre at civic plaza
- Community is growing – this is the time to develop a culture in Abbotsford
- Create a determined city identity that values and acknowledges the cultural identity of the city region
- What's up with Centennial Library? Diamond in the rough
- Summertime schools – hire youth through employment grants
- Rotating opportunities for families to engage in artistic opportunities- storytelling, art in a box
- City to partner/support non-profit performing arts groups instead of competing with them in program and infrastructure delivery
- Look at South African local governments and how they facilitate multi-use
- Use results of initial scan (of business licenses) to start developing a database that will form the basis of a technology platform for marketing
- Engage murals that people will want to take photos of/with i.e. Vancouver mural fest for Instagram

- Collaboration between artists and business – e.g. create business community area or hub display/performance space
- Contemporary mural projects i.e. taking after the art gallery of Greater Victoria's monthly mural project that brought a new artist in each month and involved the community
- Ensure IT are fully partnered with all PRC strategies and plans/projects

What is required to advance these opportunities in Abbotsford?

- Relevant Advertising for cultural programs and institutions – testimonies, more outreach activities, collaboration with schools and other places of learning
- Brand Abbotsford as a city of culture – signage (Pattison), consistent messaging from the city
- Dedicated city staff working in culture
- Leadership – heritage planning, public art
- Signage showing name and opening hours much more clearly
- Branded signage where Abbotsford is the brand
- Provide funding to arts council to be an umbrella organization for arts in our community
- More money for culture – double the budget
- Arts and culture groups should be more united of a voice – this can be accomplished by meeting like the one today (but where could we meet?)
- Arts and cultural investment in connection with development
- Art/culture inside local businesses – walking tours, increase exposure to art/culture for patrons
- Integrate IT with all meetings including marketing (preferably dedicated business analysts)
- Need clear direction and objectives so we can build the business case for the resources we need for the opportunities
- Double the percentage of the PRC budget dedicated to culture
- Info graphics included with e.g. hydro bill or tax bill monthly to illustrate where taxpayers money is being spent

- Start to focus on educating the community about culture/art/nature
- Let's meet again during arts and culture days
- Need transparency for everything, especially for things to do with money
- Implemental work plans – create policy = what can be done immediately
- Arts and culture – external consultants
- Time to look at developers and pubic art
- Use local influencers to get the word out i.e. bloggers/instagrammers with large followings
- Public/private partnerships e.g. have developers contribute to or build green spaces or facilities
- Revitalize projects – surveys on building colours road colours
- Micro-grants/incubator grants – for individual artists and start up arts organizations and initiatives (those not already funded)
- Make developers' voluntary 1 percent for public art a mandatory 1 percent for arts, heritage and culture
- Each social media platform is different and your posts need to adopt it to each platform
- Target donors for councillors and mayor and school board
- Culture tour

Culture Workshop #4

Date: June 13, 2017

Time: 3:00pm

Participants: 21

What is working well in arts and culture in the City of Abbotsford?

- Increasing understanding between how art and culture benefit our community
- Indigenous engagement and leadership
- Proximity to Vancouver draws more Valley residents west than bringing city folk east

- Lack of unified communication means
- Having a better way to increase collaboration of everybody
- The arts policy where developers need to put a percentage toward public art
- Tourism Abbotsford promoting events
- Growth in number of events and variety
- Closer partnerships with city and art providers
- Nice library facilities
- Canada Day events
- Abbotsford develops a lot of strong musicians

What is not working as well as it could in arts and culture?

- Lack of public media facilities
- Sometimes no clarity about what culture means and what should be supported
- Abbotsford's socially conservative reputation deters artists or supporters from engaging/visiting/thinking of Abbotsford
- Funding for arts organizers
- Lack of connectivity between community and cultural initiatives
- Funding
- Barriers to service organizations accessing institutional resources
- No consistent venues for diverse music
- General indifference/apathy to arts form many community leaders and administrators
- Local transit is insufficient to support low barrier engagement
- New initiatives tend to compete with existing ones and breed delusion of support

What is your vision for arts and culture in Abbotsford?

- Need outdoor amphitheatre (would be great)
- A city of diverse artistic offerings in discipline, cultural backgrounds etc.
- Heart of FURD Arts

- Abbotsford becomes a destination for arts and culture events and experiences
- Abbotsford has the support, facilities, and the reputation of a great place for adults and innovation
- Cultural Hub of the Fraser Valley
- A place of experimentation and innovation

What are the biggest opportunities related to arts and culture in Abbotsford?

- All could be engaged better - Have great libraries; OCP – public area; Great local radio show station; Have international airport; University
- Great International airport
- University students
- Ethnic diversity opportunities – develop new appreciation for new cultures
- We have diverse community with many artists and have many local F.N. artists as well
- Communication engagement at the grass roots level
- So many youth
- Strong campus radio with rising national profile and high local arts engagement
- Great young minds engaging in volunteerism and arts organizing
- Lots of diversity
- Growing tax base
- Housing prices and westbound traffic is causing people to want more cultural opportunities here
- So much talent
- We have many parks and areas that could support an outdoor cultural facility
- So many families
- When things are done right – there is strong public support

What is required to advance these opportunities in Abbotsford?

- Overseeing umbrella organization or collaboration: arts, heritage, culture events, economic development, partnerships

- New and expanded public art policy
- Fund/provide space/work with CIVL/AAC to host weekly/mothy free public music events that pay artists and are promoted widely
- Enhancing Discovery Trail with more art or other urban trails/walks
- Assist artists and arts organization in monetizing work, spaces, opportunities and events
- Comprehensive marketing strategy that is accessible to arts groups at a minimal cost or free
- Community neighbourhood art policy for neighbourhood recognition
- Using unused spaces for art re: more pop up shops
- Expanded the mandate for the arts council to organize
- Support local artists/art organizations to make Be Music fun – application to receive matching funds for projects/events (subsidize them)
- Solidify Abbotsford as the official FVRD Arts hub via developing relationship with Fraser Valley music awards
- Increase funding and resources available to arts organizations
- Lower the barriers and costs to put on cultural events – encourage it through subsidies or other incentives
- Subsidizing costs to citizens for arts patronage
- Assist in connecting groups like ACS, UFV with more arts engagement more consistently
- Encourage private citizens and businesses to support artists and arts organizations financially
- Create more all ages/accessible/arts venues
- Utilizing unused or under used spaces for arts
- Institutional promotion of local artists, events, initiatives, accomplishments
- Let service organizations (AAC/CIVL/AAC members) do the programming, but widely promote and facilitate promotion of their work
- Commission artists to produce beautiful/functional city needs i.e. manhole covers
- Develop a community engagement link through a variety of means

- Enhanced downtown bench project

Culture Workshop #5

Date: June 13, 2017

Time: 5:00pm

Participants:

What is working well in arts and culture in the City of Abbotsford?

- Public art policy
- Reach
- Nature
- Current public art
- City growth

What is not working as well as it could in arts and culture?

- Funding
- Traffic
- Programming and coordinating arts community

What is your vision for arts and culture in Abbotsford?

- Make Abbotsford a destination

What are the biggest opportunities related to arts and culture in Abbotsford?

- Instagramming art
- Park spaces for cultural interest
- Private sector
- Agricultural opportunity for arts and culture
- Political will
- Partnerships with the city

What is required to advance these opportunities in Abbotsford?

- Political will
- Work with City, REACH, Abbotsford Arts Comm., galleries
- City funding
- Developer funding
- Major funding

Pop-Up Booths Summary

Introduction

In June and early July 2017, pop-up booths were held at six locations throughout the City of Abbotsford to gain citizen input that will guide the direction of the City's Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) Master Plan. The purpose of these events was to determine overall resident satisfaction with the City's current provision of parks, recreation and culture facilities and activities, and to obtain input on priorities for future improvement. Input was obtained through participants placing dots and notes on poster boards.

The pop-up booths were hosted at the following locations:

LOCATION	DATE
Highstreet	• June 17, 2017
Matsqui Recreation Centre	• June 20, 2017
Abbotsford Recreation Centre	• June 23, 2017
Rotary Stadium	• July 1, 2017
Kalgidhar Park	• July 2, 2017
Jam in Jubilee	• July 6, 2017

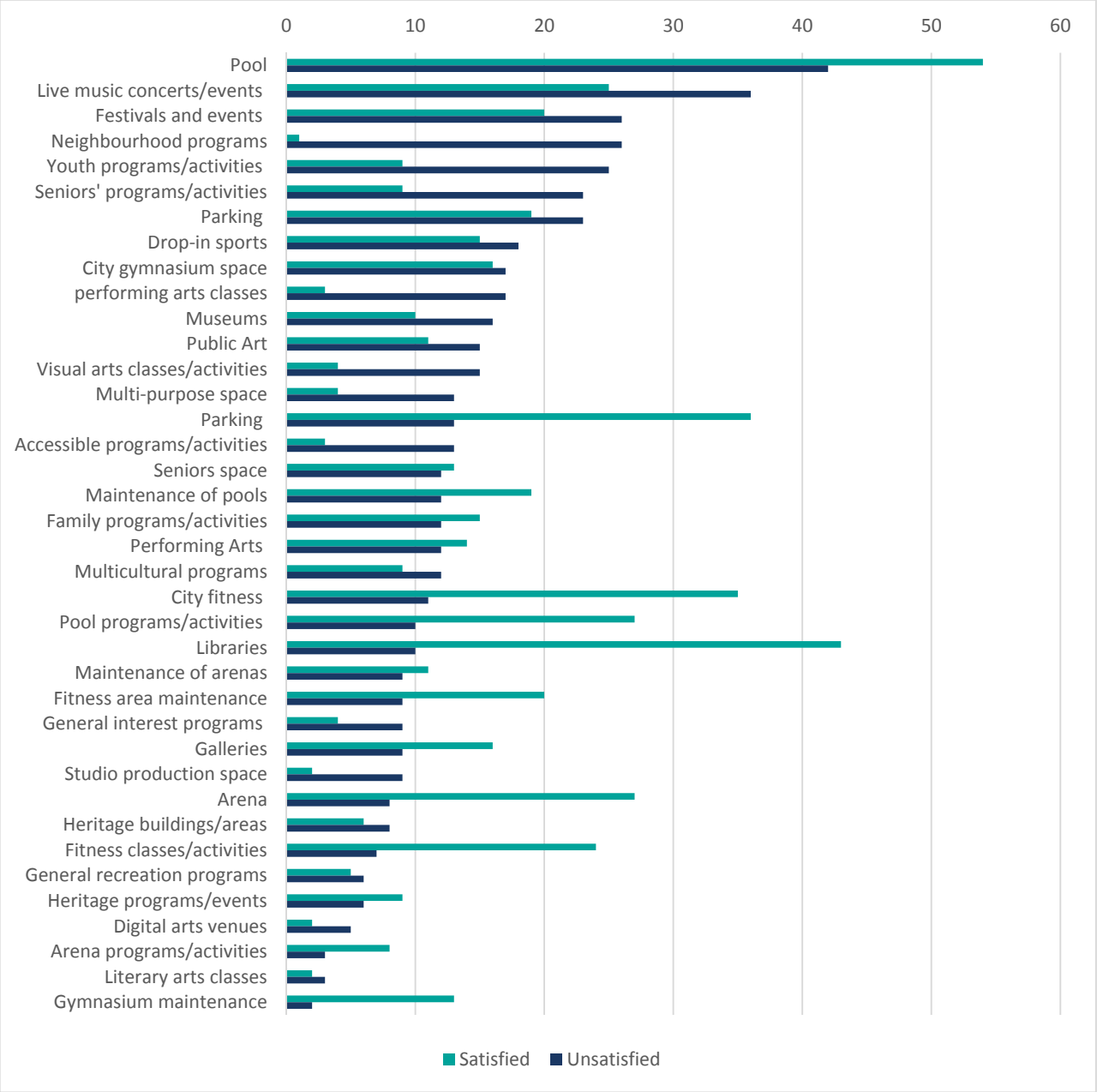
The following is the input received. Because of the relatively low number of participants at some of the booths, the tables below combine input from all of the pop-up events. The tables are organized by level of dissatisfaction with the current provision of parks and recreation services in the City. Specific comments received at the pop-ups are recorded separately for each event.

Summary of results

Pop-up booth participants were asked to determine their level of satisfaction with recreation and culture facilities/programs and parks.

Recreation & Culture

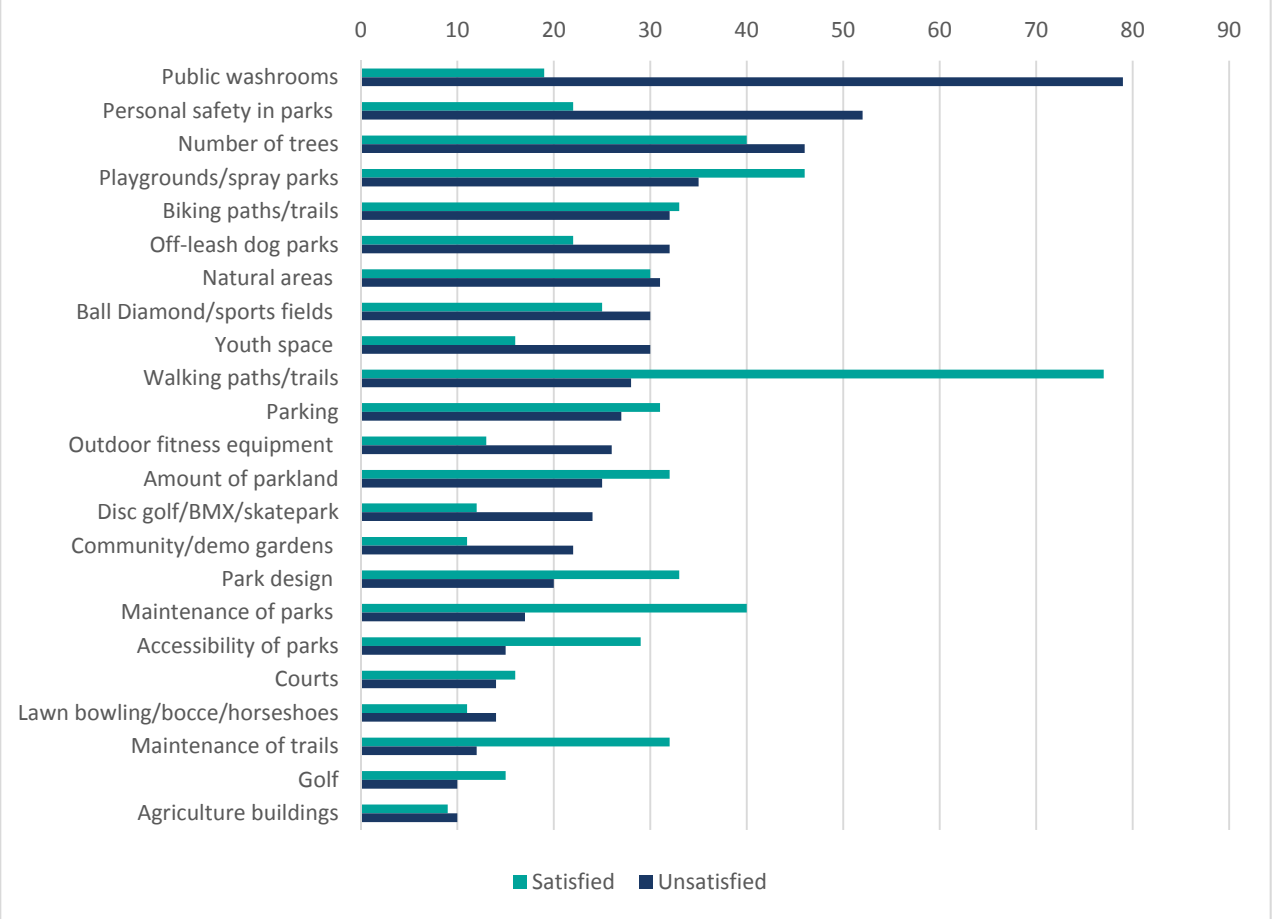
Residents identified that they are most unsatisfied with pools, live music concerts/events, festivals and events, neighbourhood programs, and youth programs/activities in terms of recreation and culture programs. Satisfaction is highest



for pools, libraries, parking, City fitness, and pool programs/activities.

Parks

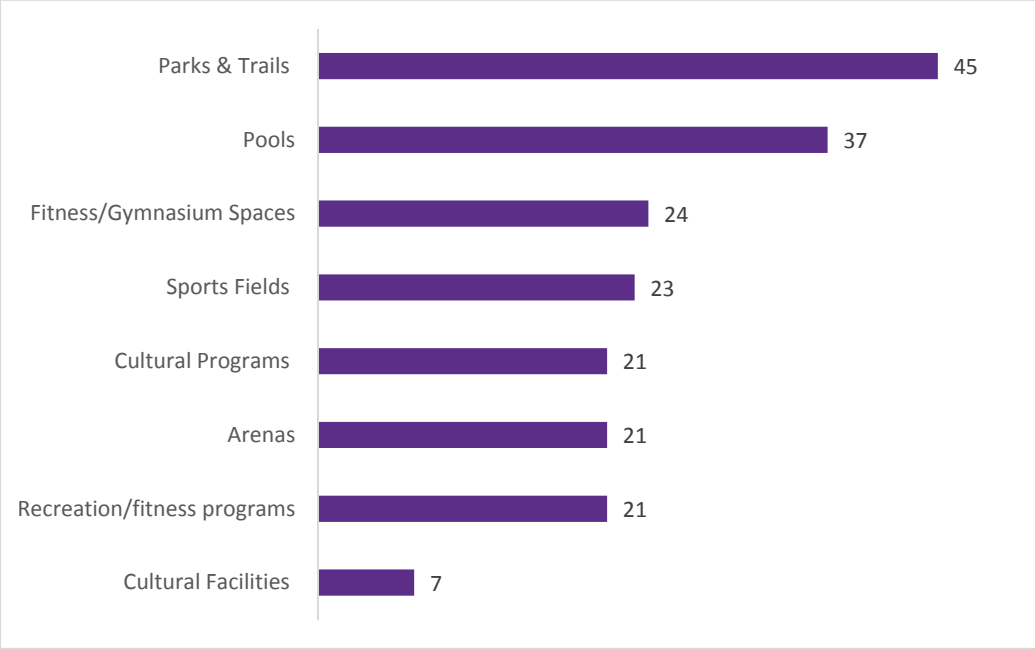
In terms of parks, pop-up booth participants are most unsatisfied with public washrooms, personal safety, the number of trees, playgrounds/spray parks, biking paths/trails, and off-leash dog parks. Participants are most satisfied with walking paths/trails, playgrounds/spray parks, the number of trees, maintenance of parks, park



design, bike paths/trails, and the maintenance of trails.

Priority Ranking

Pop-up booth participants were also asked to indicate their priorities for municipal investment in the future. The top areas identified are parks and trails, and pools.



COMMENTS

The comments largely identify additional amenities that residents would look to see in Abbotsford. Of particular mention were more off-leash dog parks, spray parks, fitness classes, cyclist and pedestrian trails or paths, and an additional indoor or outdoor pool.

June 17, 2017 – Highstreet

- We need TransLink
- Improve bike paths and walkability
- More parks Aboriginal education programs
- Beach volleyball courts
- Small library branch in East Abbotsford
- More dog off leash parks
- Trails to be able to move about Abbotsford without a vehicle
- Beach volleyball courts

- More places to have dances and events
- Mountain bike trails
- More hockey rinks
- Waterparks in east Abbotsford
- Spray park right beside the recreation centres
- MRC - more fitness classes (Zumba and yoga especially)
- MRC - more public skate times
- More dog off leash parks
- People prefer the Mission pool for swim lessons because it is much warmer
- Make showers warmer please
- Go train (high-speed) between HWY 1 & FV
- Facility like Chilliwack - bigger than Abbotsford Arts centre
- More outdoor swim pools
- Put the homeless to work via a work program
- Cleaner pools/less chlorine/ salt pool instead
- More free drop in programs for Youth (current ones cost too much)
- Close South Fraser Way for cars - have it be pedestrian only
- Wider sidewalks
- Better snow removal (learn from this last year)
- MRC - More daytime aquafit classes
- Security in park parking lots
- More art programs
- Porta-pottie at Eagle Mountain often unusable

June 20, 2017 – Matsqui Recreation Centre

- More parks in East Abbotsford
- More off-leash dog parks
- Water park in East Abby
- Twin rinks in one location

June 23, 2017 – Abbotsford Recreation Centre

- Interfaith collaboration & celebration
- Spray park in Easy Abby
- ARC should be warmer
- Lifeguards are excellent
- Multi-Cultural fair celebration
- Disc Golf!!
- More softball facilities for minor sports
- Affordable housing for new grads
- Hot tub - hotter at ARC please
- For the size of our city and amount of new families and popularity of baseball and hockey, we have a significant need of baseball diamonds for youth use as well as at least one more rink
- Fish trap creek trails - UNSAFE! - due to tree roots, tarmac breaks
- Inconsistent pool temperatures
- Pool water not satisfied - never consistent
- Increased music - in the parks - Mission has music from 7-8pm Wed & Fri from June - September!
- Please re open pool check in & security at pool end of ARC
- Computer classes for seniors
- change rooms in the winter are far too cold - ARC
- ARC pool needs to have a full overhaul

July 1, 2017 – Rotary Stadium

- Work with APD to create vibrant night life
- More adult entertainment that is seen in a positive light - what is here for adults?
- More programmed park space
- Need more playgrounds in neighbourhoods (not school grounds)
- Teach kids to be Canadian - national pride - stand up for one another -

community building

- Share sidewalks with cyclists instead of making car drivers angry with us
- Dog parks with water
- Clean Mill Lake Park for swimmers - no more geese
- Another indoor pool
- Adult art based programs
- off leash parks
- Great job on trails - link better at highway
- Ex park playground - Fantastic!
- More resources - emergency housing for men
- spray parks for dogs
- Another pool on west-side with gender only swimming drop in times
- Basketball centre near Rick Hansen - $2.00 drop in youth
- Clean sidewalks at Mill Lake (geese poop)
- Move smaller parks closer to densification
- Pick up our compost at our strata please!
- City is doing a great job for the most part
- More library space
- Need more cultural events and performing arts
- Need to develop more neighbourhood events
- If you are looking at walkways with no cars, consider how you will provide access to disabled for parking access to building to parkways
- Walking paths - roots under portions make it rough for wheelchairs to pass.
- Maintenance of trails - very rough areas, hard for walkers and never fixed
- Please decorate South Fraser Way with hanging baskets and flower planters to beautify our dear main street!!!!
- On discovery trail have a sign that indicates "keep right" above at Mill Lake Park
- An arts centre like Maple ridge and Chilliwack - ACT

July 2, 2017 – Kalgidhar Park

No comments.

July 6, 2017 – Jubilee Park

- Better bike lanes on Clearbrook Rd between Peardonville & King Rd.
- More homeless shelters with care
- More passive parks
- Clean litter in the park and ravines
- Want more winter events & multicultural events (Chinese New Year etc.)
- More paved paths for bike/roller blades in park/natural areas

APPENDIX D - COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY – STAGE 3

Findings Summary

Survey active dates: May 3-18, 2018

Number of participants: 530

The proposed plan was accepted by majority of participants of the survey, ranging from 76%-93% approval rate depending on the question. Vision and Principles received the highest approval rate (93%) at 100% response rate. The lowest approval rate was received by Capital Project section (76%) at 82% response rate.

When asked to elaborate on their approval/disapproval choice participants provided over 1500 responses, out of which 91% presented responses from those who approved the plan. Further analysis revealed that most of the comments pertained to FACILITIES, with most demand for new indoor/outdoor multisport facility, HIKING AND BIKING TRAIL, and PARKS and LIBRAIRES AND AMPHITHEATER, and variety of themes such as more emphasis on diversity, environmental issues, urgency of building facilities sooner rather than later, and amenities and safety.

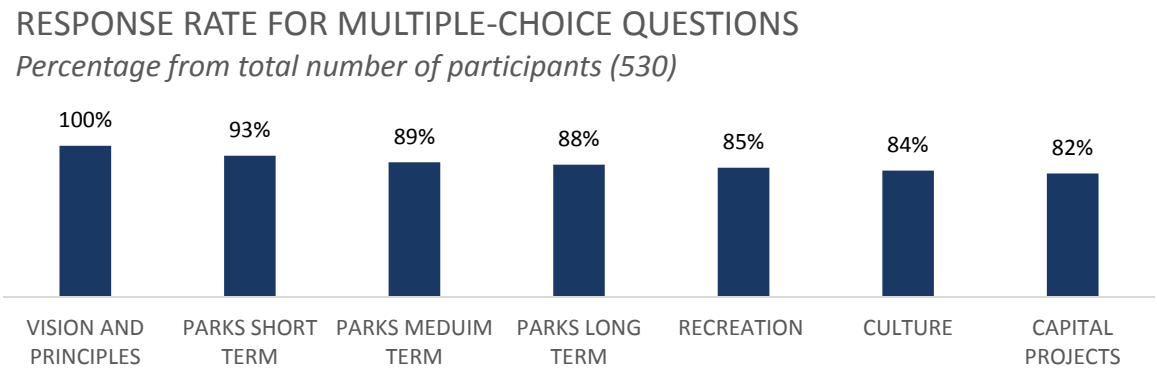
Since participants were repeating their statements from one question to another, the actual number of response repeated to each theme is better viewed per individual question, where the number of responses represents the number of participants with a possible 1-2% repetition.

Each question received a significant number of general positive statements.

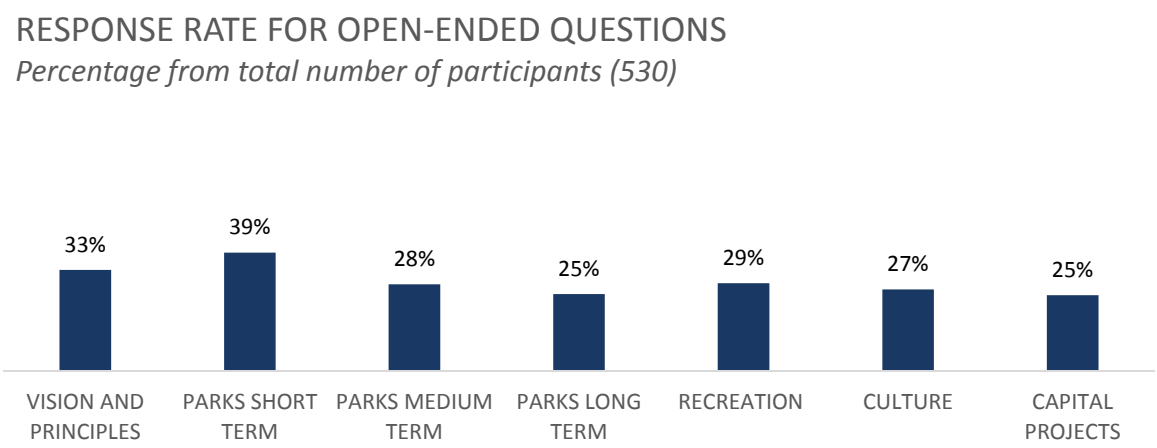
Overall, the participants provided rich and well thought out opinions regarding the plan. The general impression is that multisport facility is highly desired, and sooner rather than later, as well as that Abbotsford can benefit from investing more into hiking and biking trails.

RESPONSE RATE

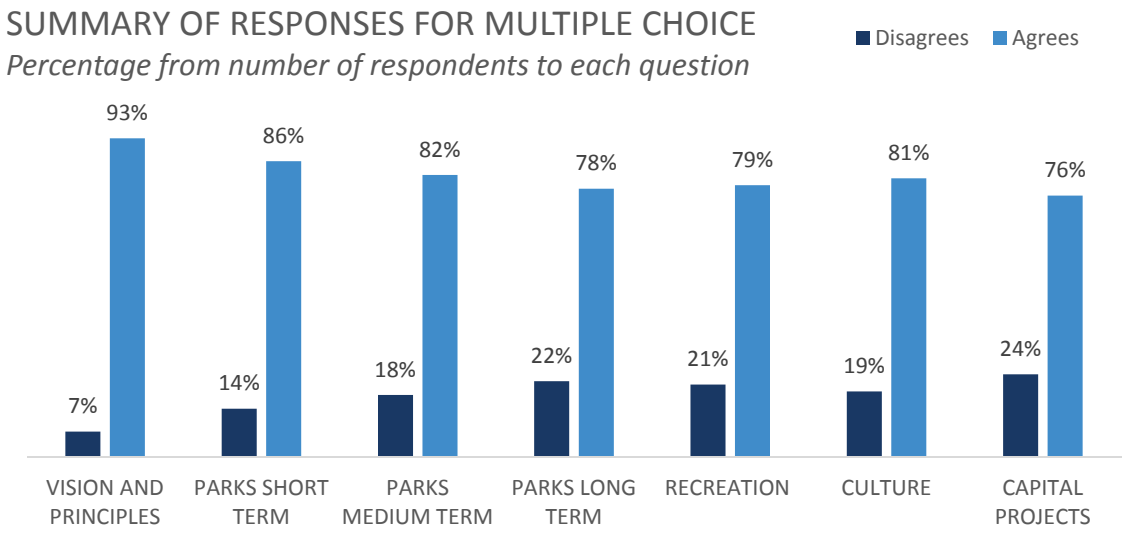
For multiple-choice questions average response rate: 89%

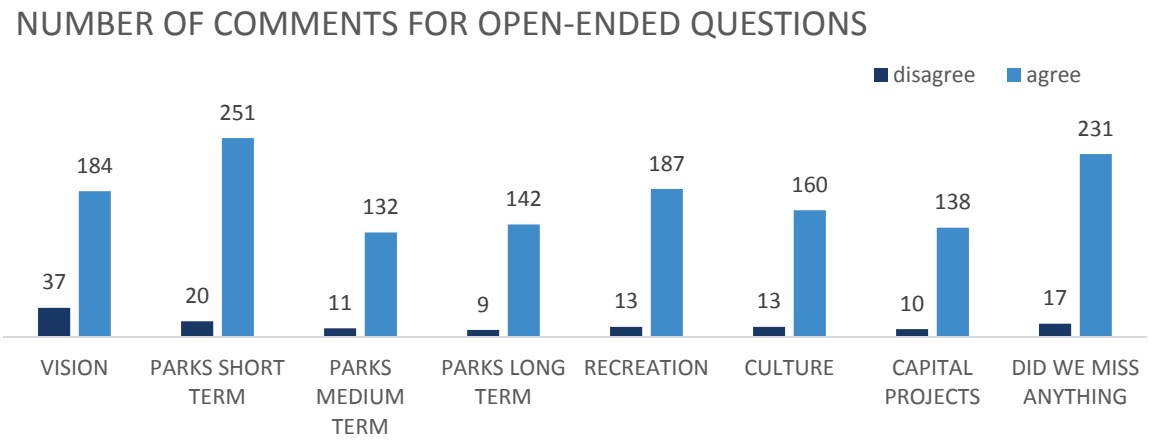


For open-ended questions average response rate: 29% (between 120 and 170 participants)



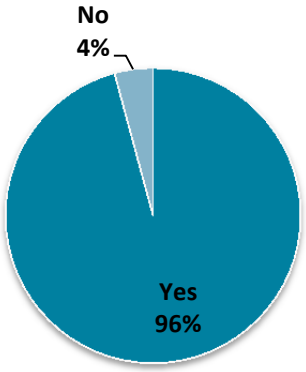
OVERALL APPROVAL RATE OF THE PLAN



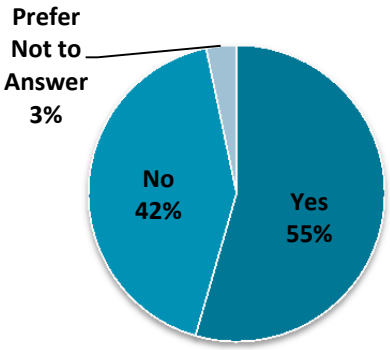


DEMOGRAPHICS

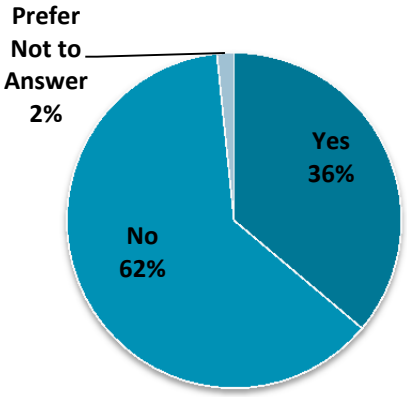
Do You Live in Abbotsford?



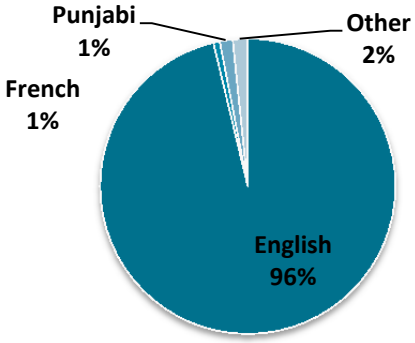
Do You Have Children (0-19) Living at Home?



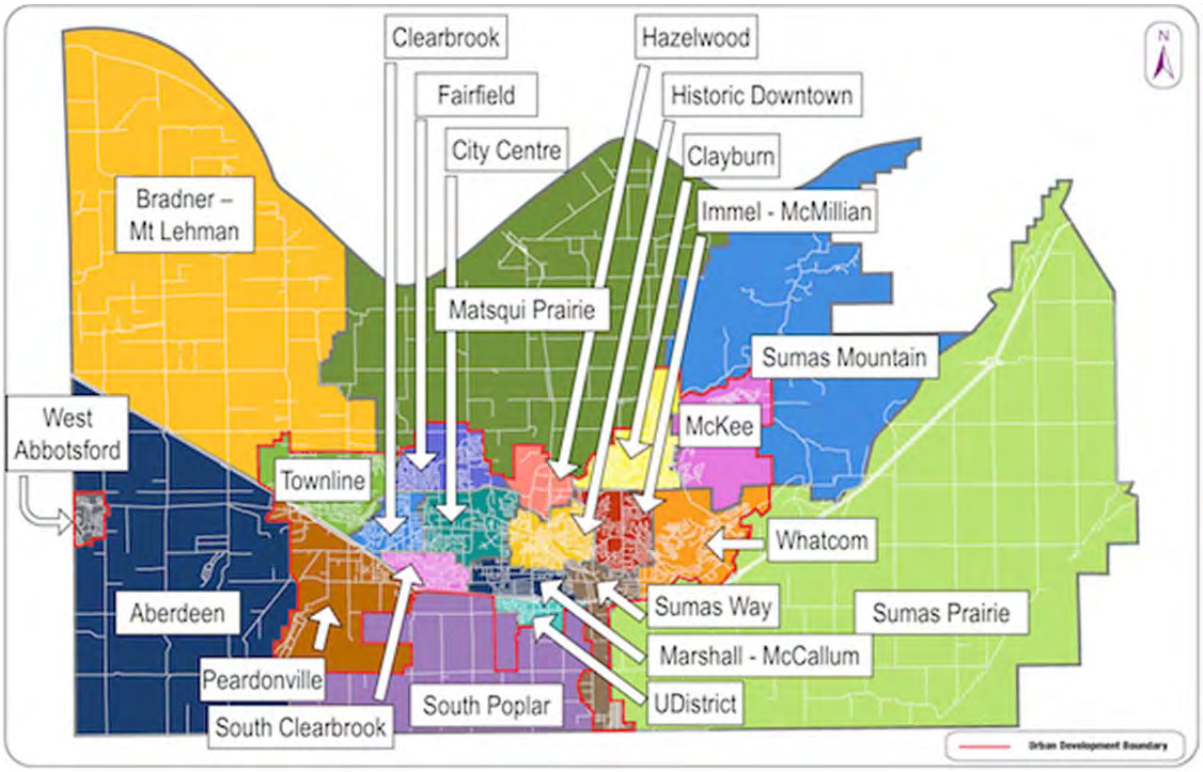
Do You Own a Dog?



What Language Do You Speak Most Often at Home?

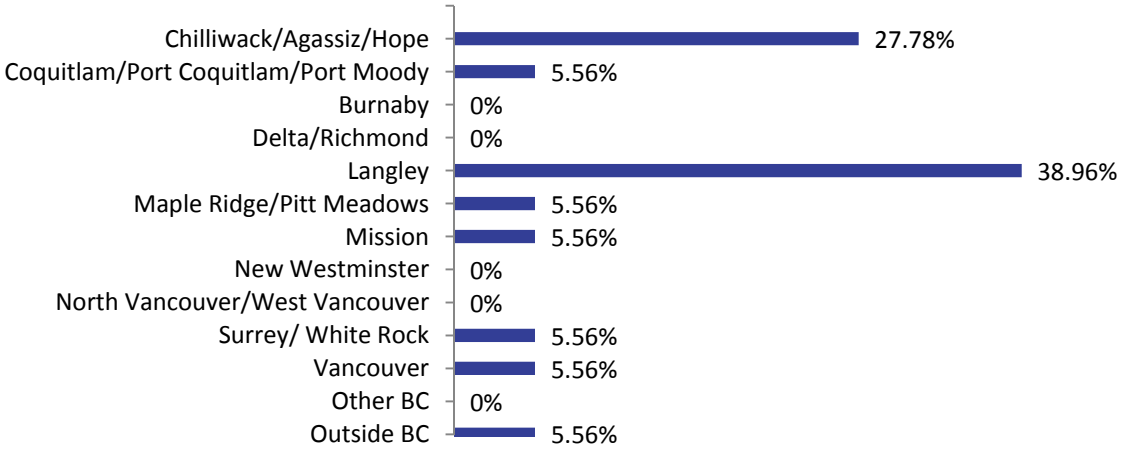


In Which Abbotsford Neighbourhood Do You Live?

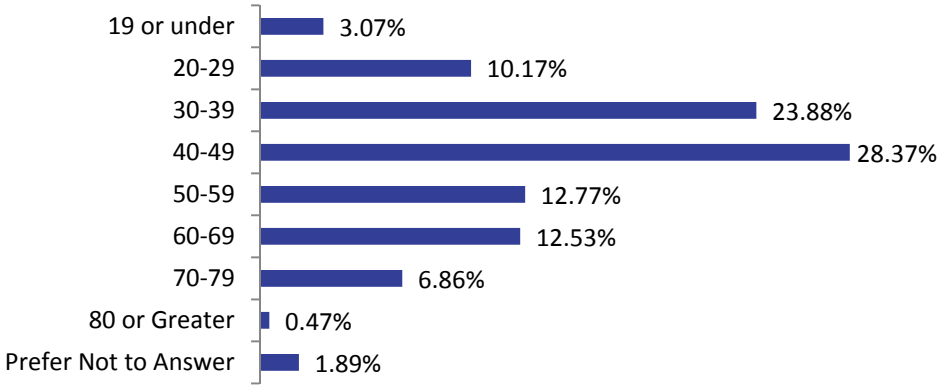


Aberdeen	0.74%	Peardonville	1.98%
Bradner-Mt Lehman	1.98%	South Clearbrook	0.99%
City Centre	9.38%	South Poplar	1.23%
Clayburn	6.42%	Sumas Mountain	2.72%
Clearbrook	7.16%	Sumas Prairie	2.22%
Fairfield	2.22%	Sumas Way	3.46%
Hazelwood	1.48%	Townline	5.19%
Historic Downtown	6.91%	UDistrict	1.73%
Immel-McMillan	13.58%	West Abbotsford	2.96%
Marshall-McCallum	5.43%	Whatcom	12.10%
Unsure	2.22%		

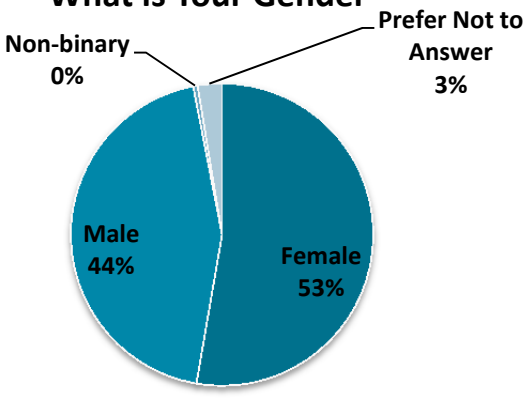
Where Do You Live? 18 respondents



Which One of the Following Best Describes Your Age?

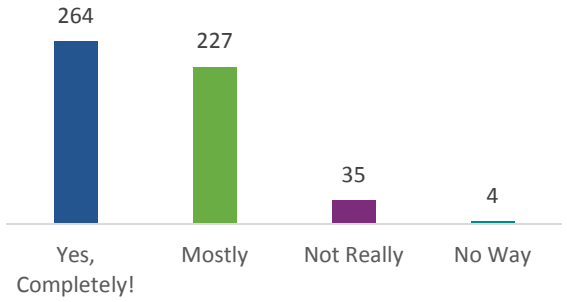


What is Your Gender

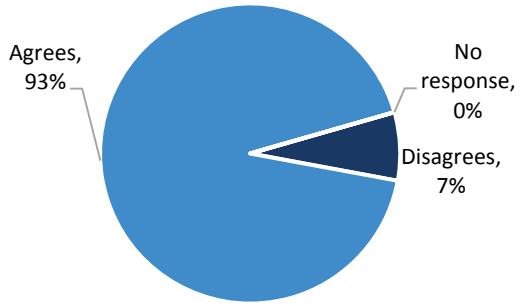


FINDINGS BY PLAN SECTION: MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

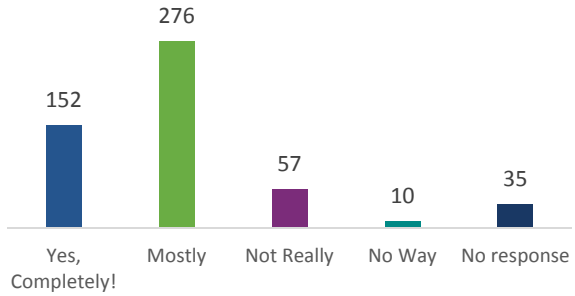
VISION AND PRINCIPLES



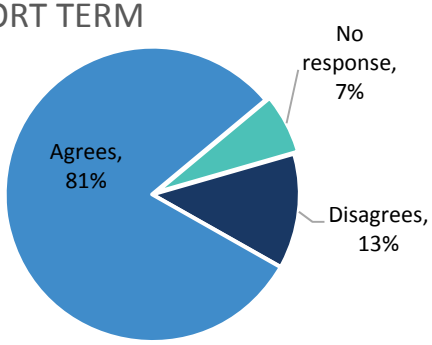
VISION AND PRINCIPLES



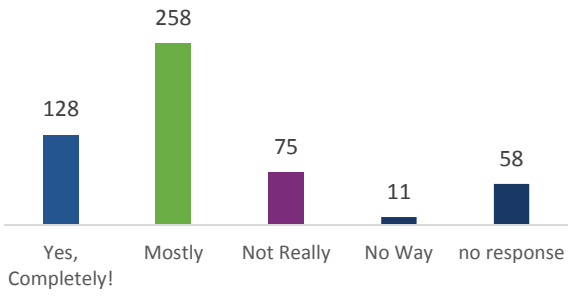
PARKS SHORT TERM



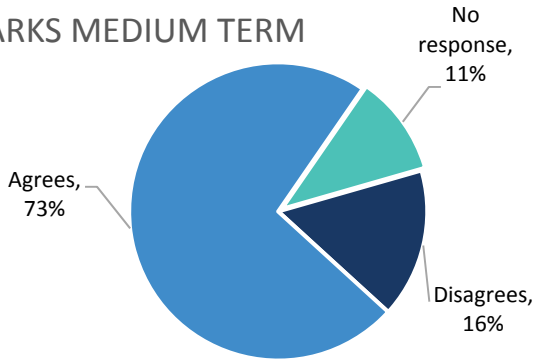
PARKS SHORT TERM



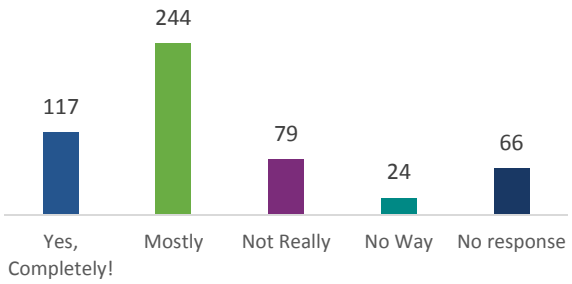
PARKS MEDIUM TERM



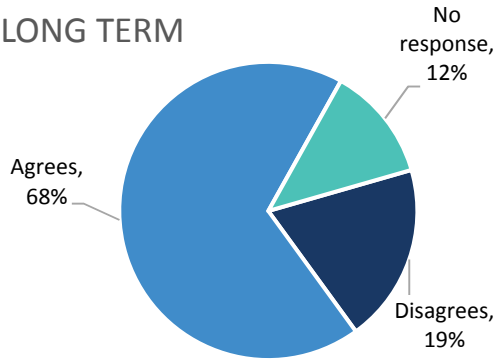
PARKS MEDIUM TERM



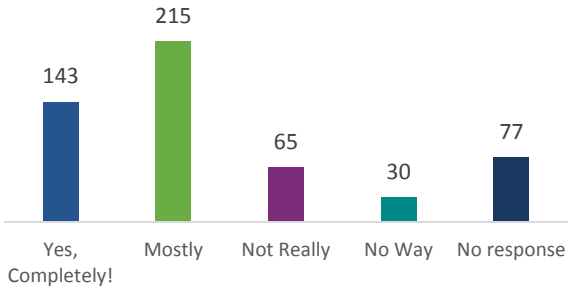
PARKS LONG TERM



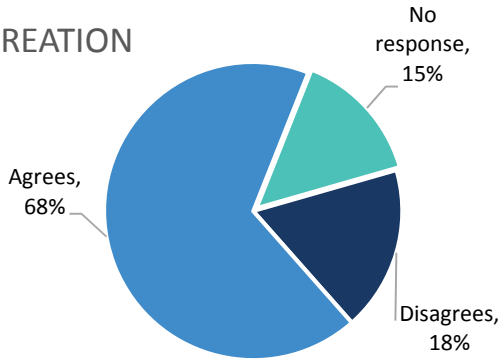
PARKS LONG TERM



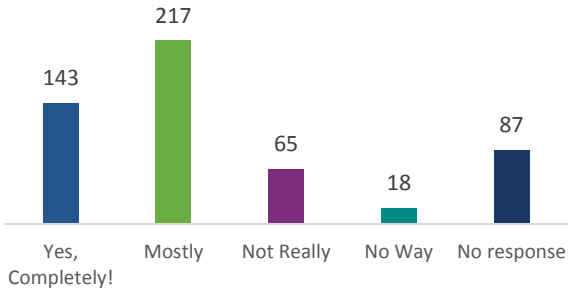
RECREATION



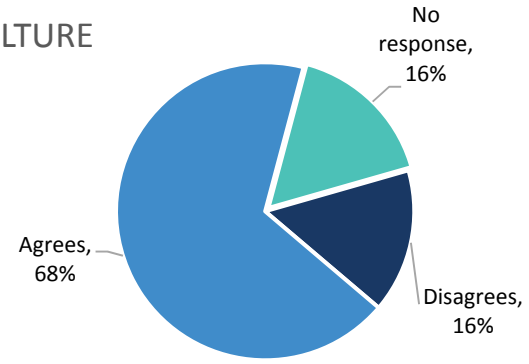
RECREATION

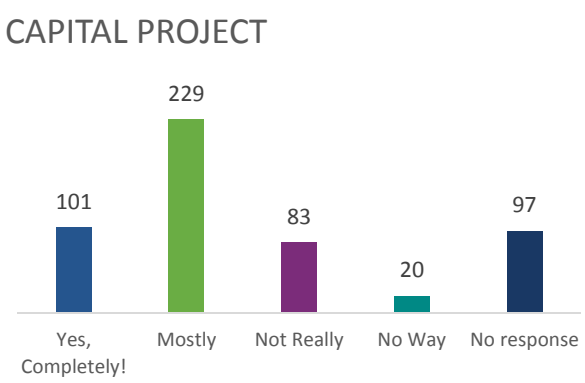


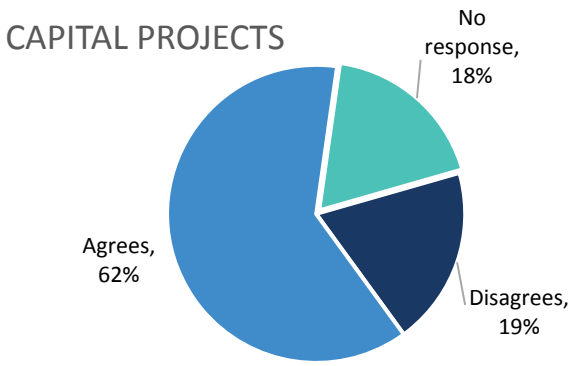
CULTURE



CULTURE







FINDINGS BY PLAN SECTION: OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

VISION AND PRINCIPLES

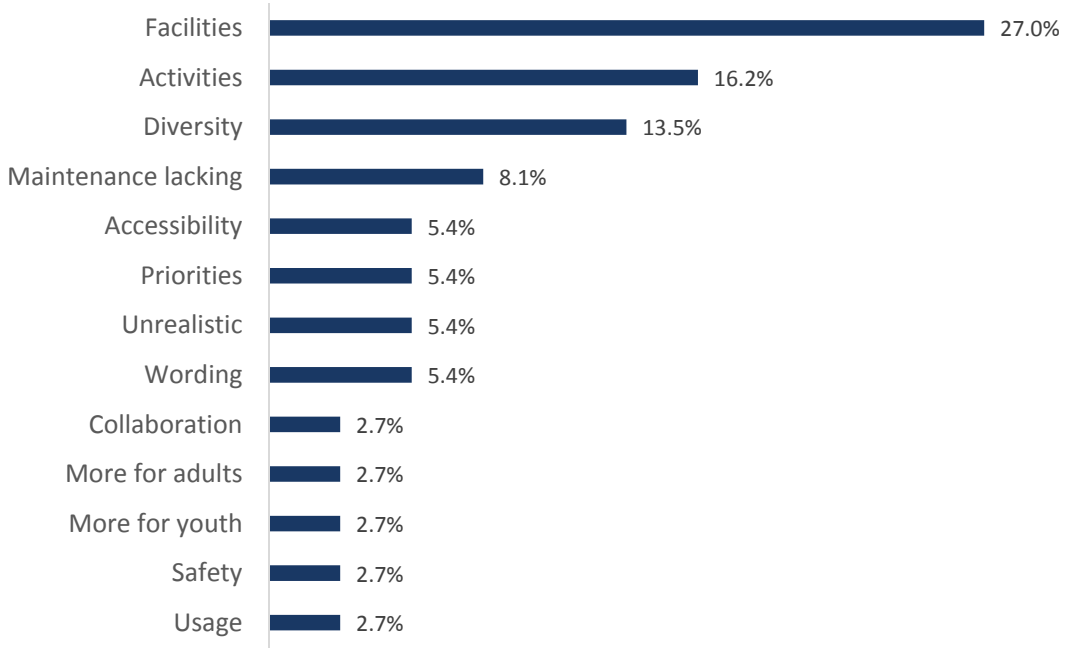
RESPONDENTS WHO DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN VISION AND PRINCIPLES (37 comments):

Most common theme was the need for various types of facilities, with a notion that current facilities do not cater to all members of the community (more diversity needed). Baseball was mentioned the most regarding both facilities and activities which need to be introduced. Arts and culture were also mentioned often as neglected on behalf of recreation.

The other comments were more or less close in numbers and ranged in their topics:

- the facilities need more maintenance,
- the priorities should focus on infrastructure and houses rather than recreation
- the plan sounds good, but it is unrealistic
- the facilities need to be more accessible
- safety needs to increase

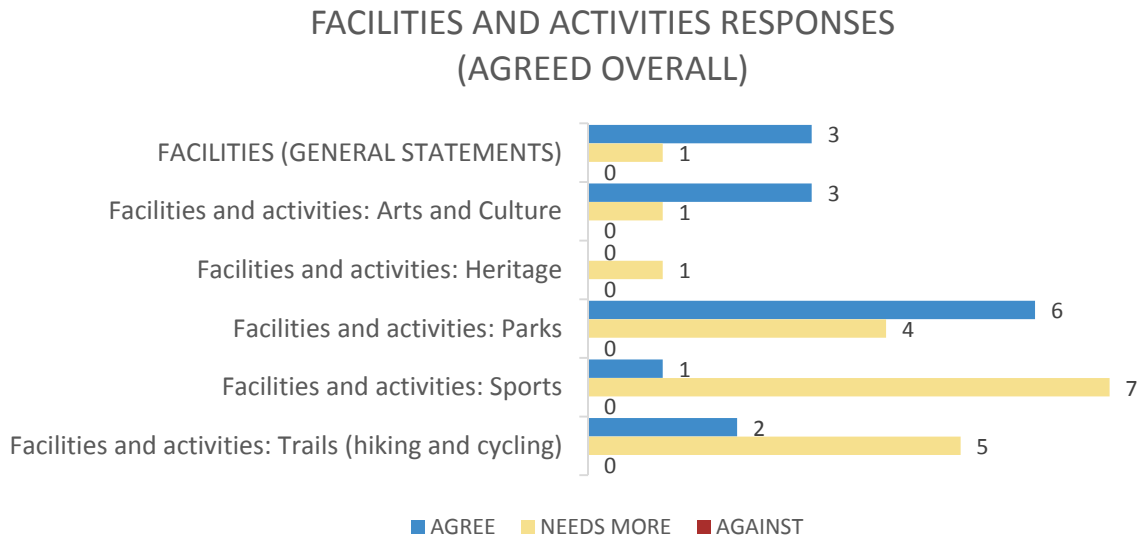
VISION AND PRINCIPLES:
DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL:
% of total number of responses



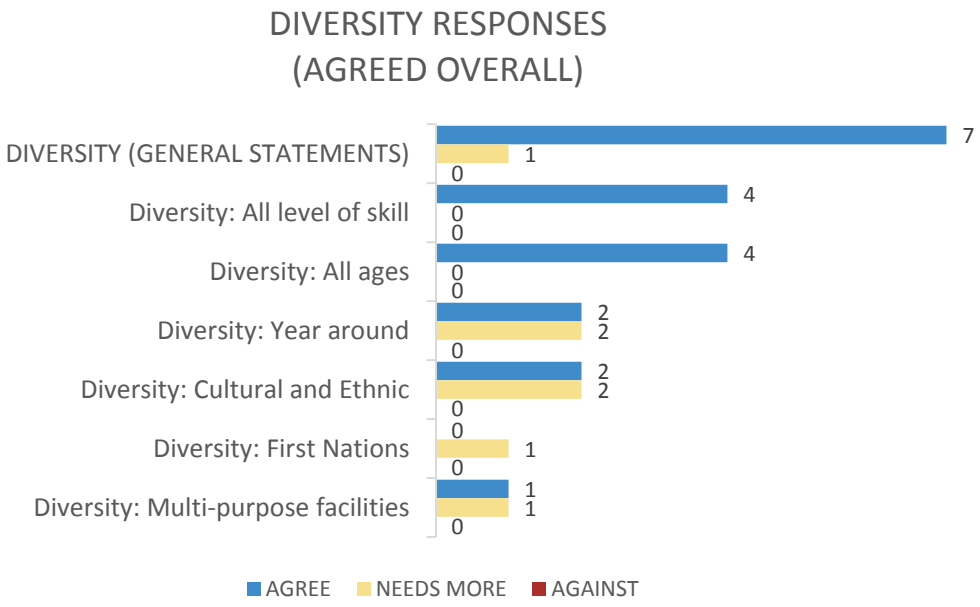
RESPONDENTS WHO AGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN VISION AND PRINCIPLES (184 comments):

The most common themes generated from the open-ended questions were:

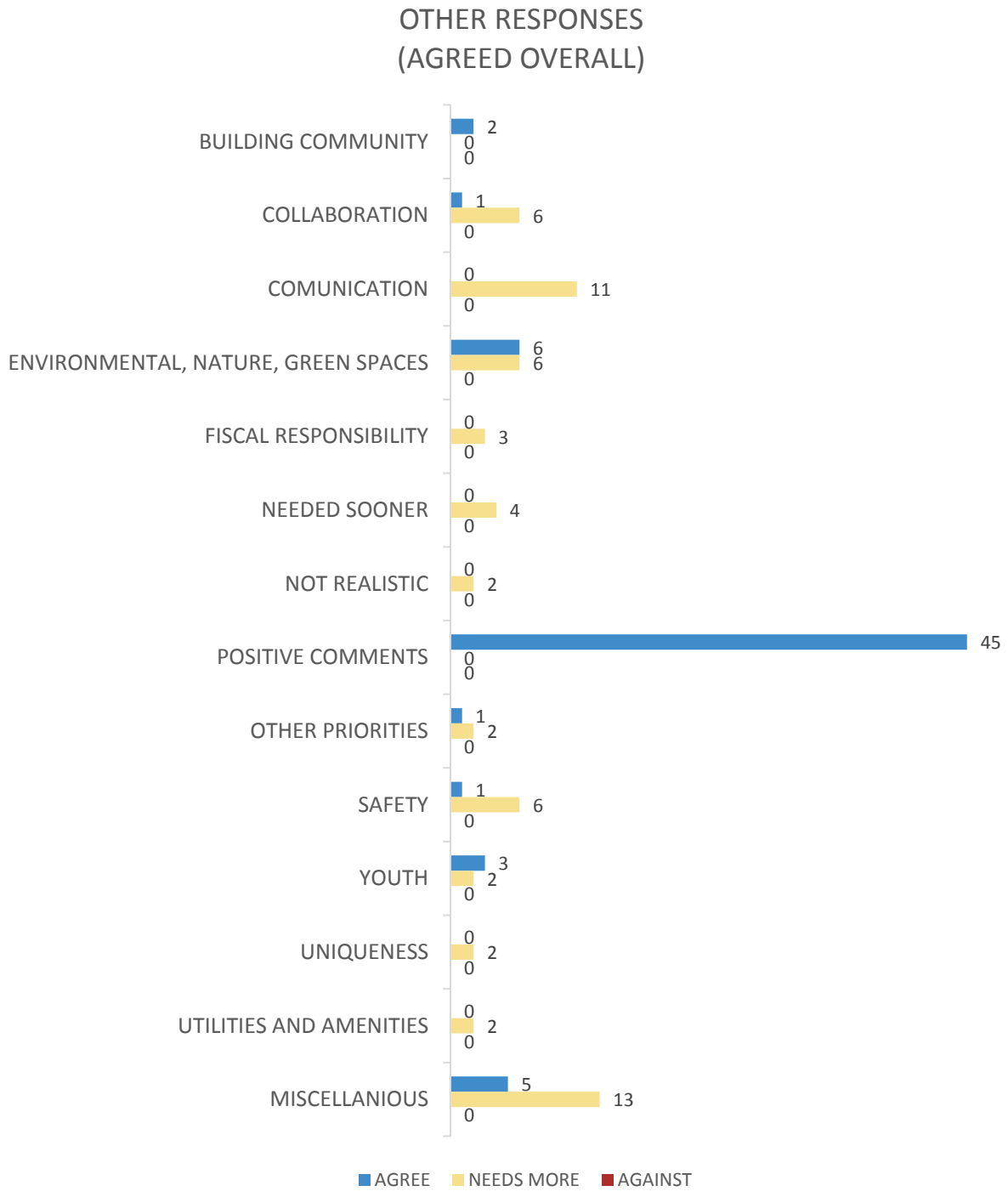
1) Comments about facilities which need to be included in the plan (18% of all comments in this section). The most prominent was the request for multisport facility, either indoor or outdoor, and hiking and biking trails.



2) Diversity, pertaining to age, ethnicity and all levels of skill (15% of all comments in this section).



3) The remaining comments ranged through variety of themes, most common being positive comments about visions and principles.

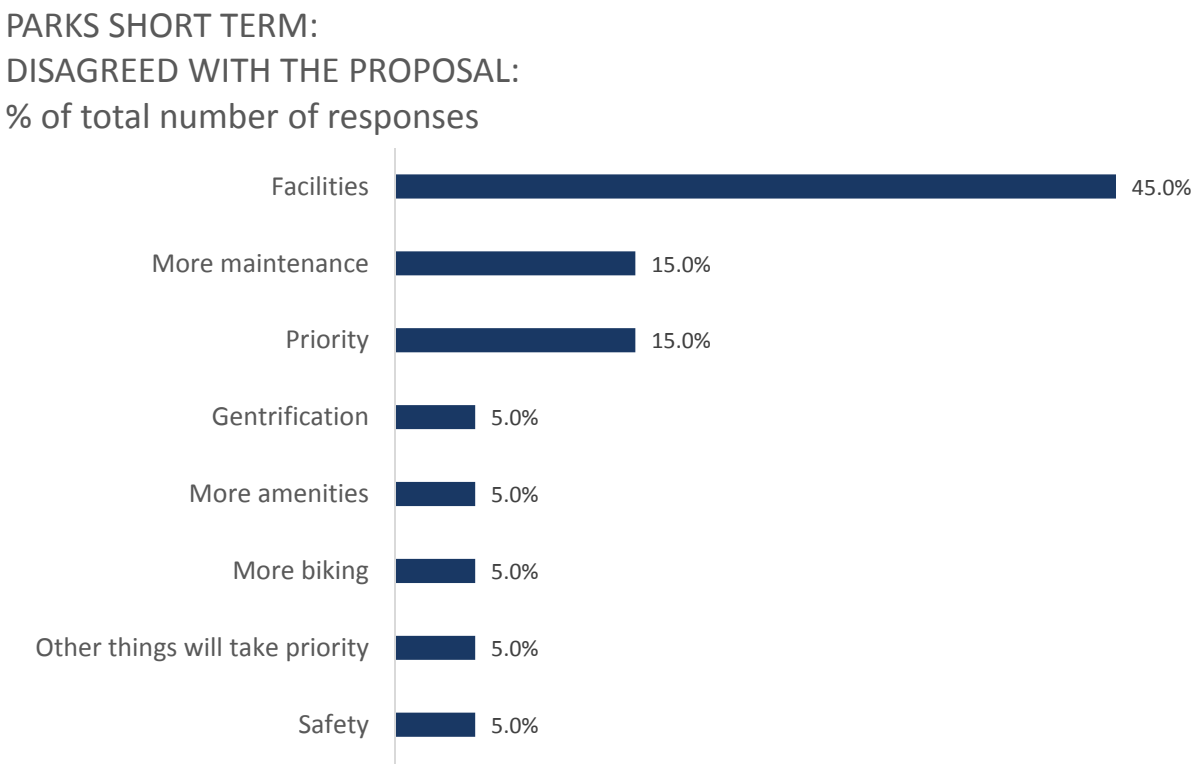

OTHER RESPONSES
(AGREED OVERALL)
BUILDING COMMUNITY
2
0
0
COLLABORATION
1
6
0
COMUNICATION
0
11
0
ENVIRONMENTAL, NATURE, GREEN SPACES
6
6
0
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
0
3
0
NEEDED SOONER
0
4
0
NOT REALISTIC
0
2
0
POSITIVE COMMENTS
45
0
0
OTHER PRIORITIES
1
2
0
SAFETY
1
6
0
YOUTH
3
2
0
UNIQUENESS
0
2
0
UTILITIES AND AMENITIES
0
2
0
MISCELLANIOUS
5
13
0
AGREE
NEEDS MORE
AGAINST

PARKS SHORT TERM

RESPONDENTS WHO DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN PARKS SHORT TERM (20 comments):

Participants mostly discuss the need for sport facilities (arenas for tournaments, as well as fields), and biking and hiking trails. Maintenance of parks is another topic that repeats, either through recipients commenting that current parks need more maintenance emphasizing safety) or that the proposed plan did not discuss maintenance in future.

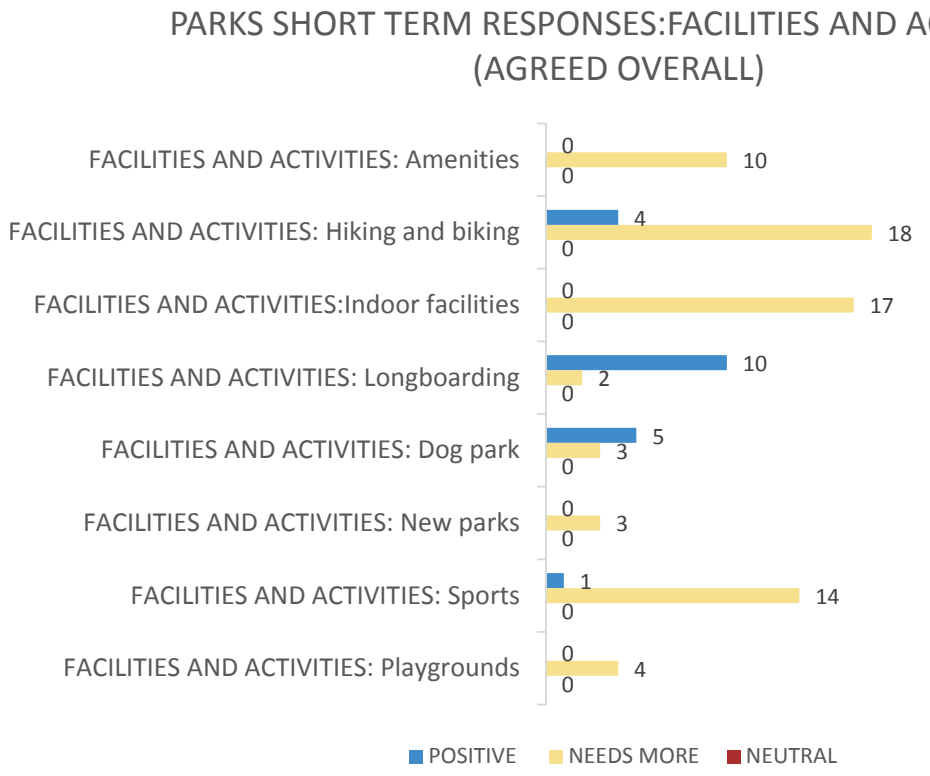
Other topics include concerns about gentrifications, commercialization, as well as the need that the facilities need to be built sooner.



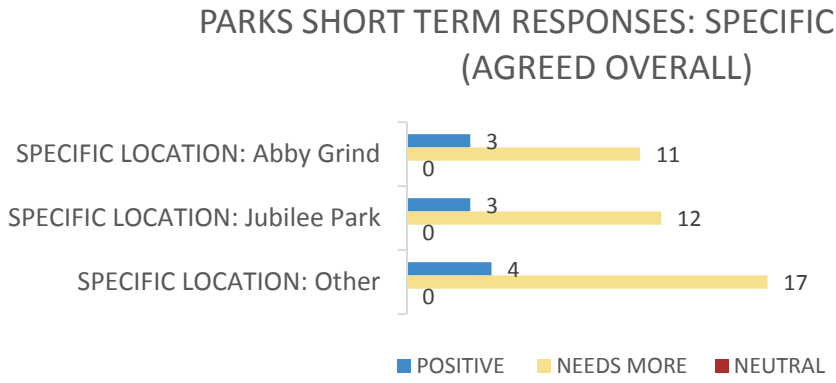
RESPONDENTS WHO AGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN PARKS SHORT TERM (251 comments):

The most common themes generated from the open-ended questions were:

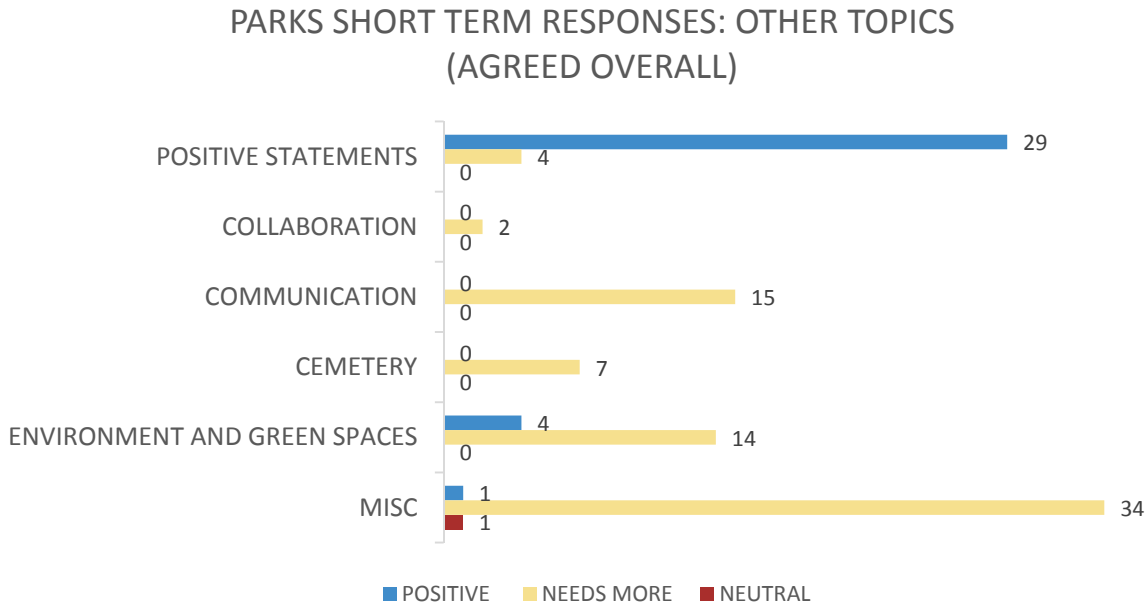
1) Comments about facilities which need to be included in the plan (36% of all comments in this section). The most prominent was the request for hiking and biking trails, multisport facility, either indoor or outdoor, and amenities (washrooms and parking)



Comments pertaining to a specific location were second most common (20% of comments in this section).



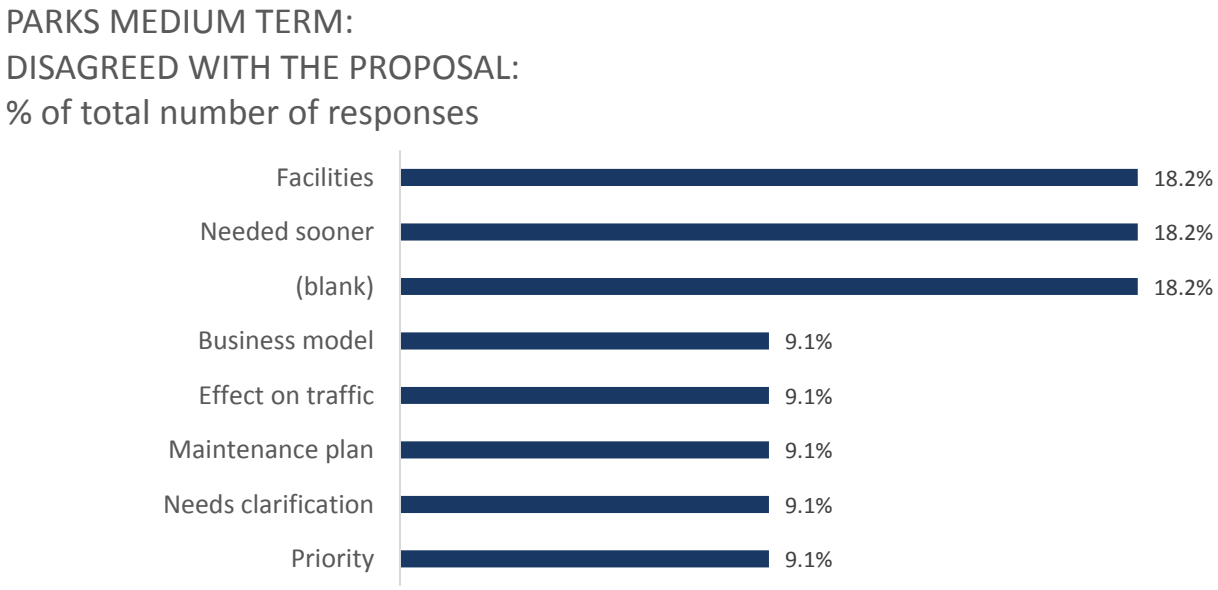
Various themes:



PARKS MEDIUM TERM

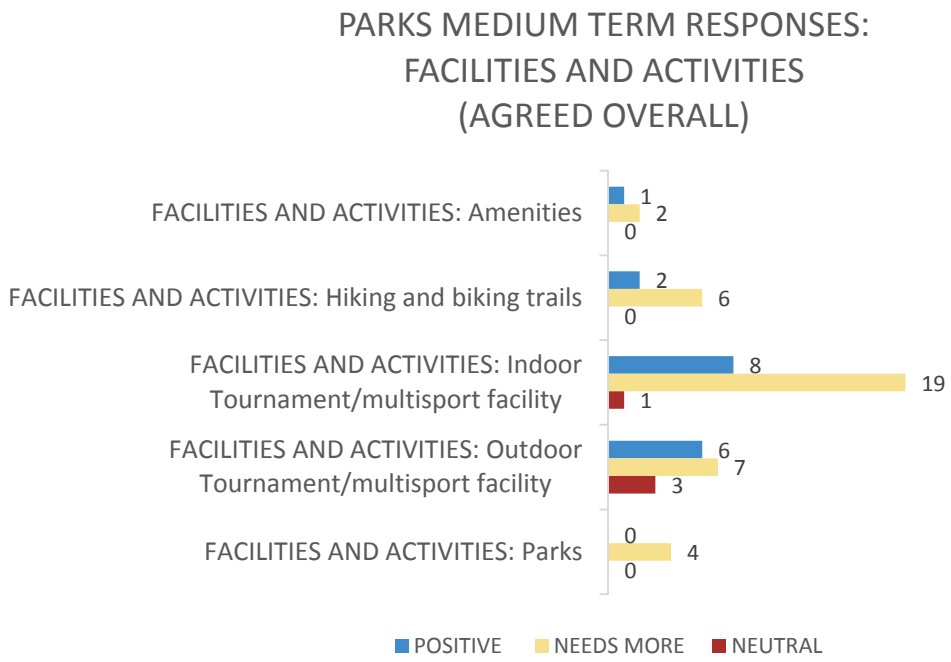
RESPONDENTS WHO DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN PARKS MEDUM TERM (11 comments):

In the medium-term planning for parks, the responses are evened out between asking for more sport facilities, needing them sooner, concerns about maintenance and future effects on traffic congestions.

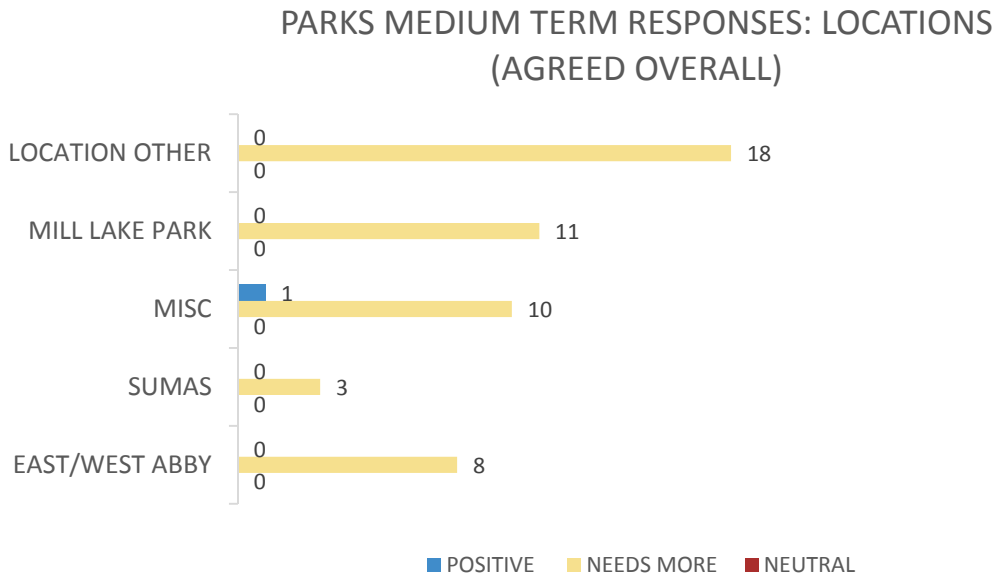


RESPONDENTS WHO AGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN PARKS MEDUM TERM (132 comments):

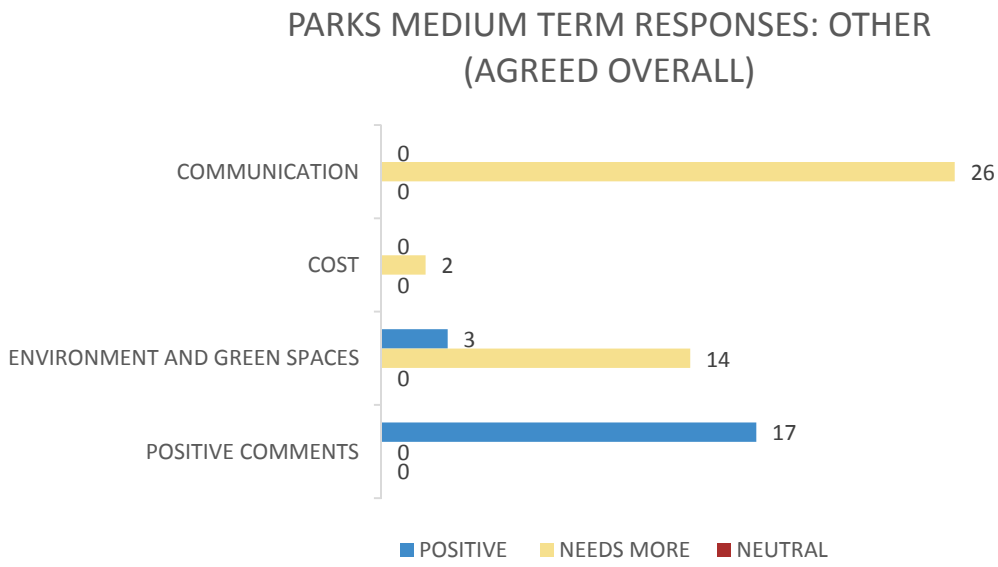
1) The most prevalent theme was the priorities in facilities (44% of all comments in this section), requesting indoor/outdoor multisport facilities most often, followed by hiking and biking trails and amenities (washrooms).



Another prominent topic (8% of all comments in this section) was discussing locations such as the future of Mill Lake Park, and a concern that most planning is pertaining to East Abbotsford.



Various themes:

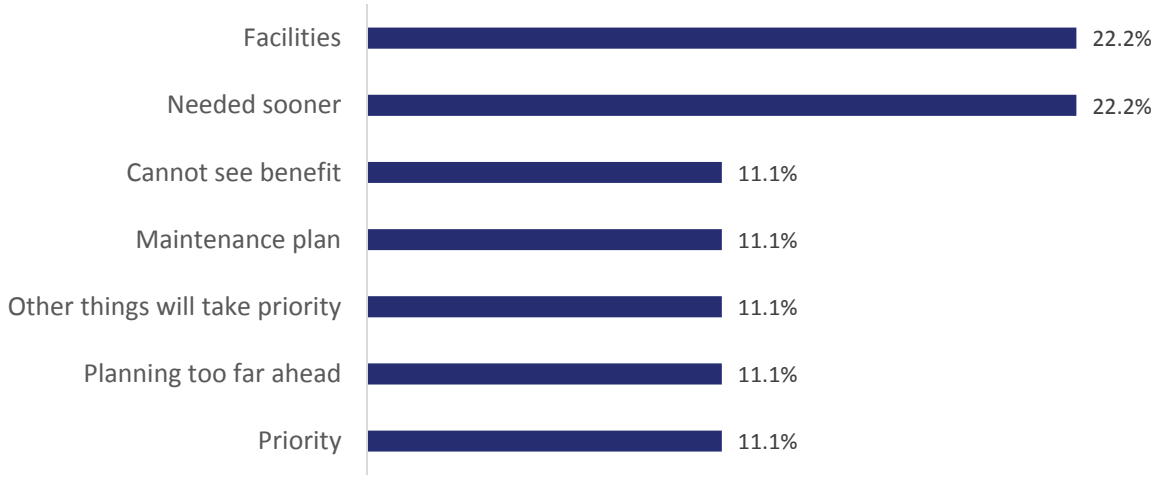


PARKS LONG TERM

RESPONDENTS WHO DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN PARKS LONG TERM (9 comments):

In the long-term planning, the need for multisport facilities is still mentioned, with a sense of urgency, as well as the maintenance plan, and hiking trails.

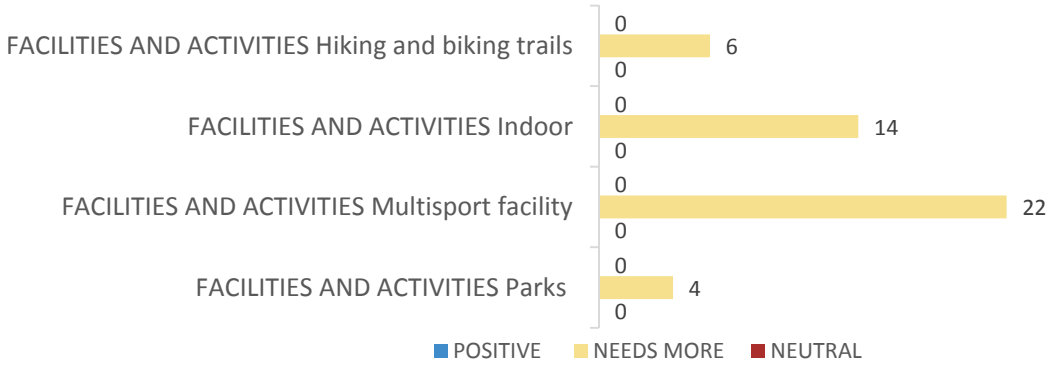
PARKS LONG TERM:
DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL:
% of total number of responses



RESPONDENTS WHO AGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN PARKS LONG TERM (142 comments):

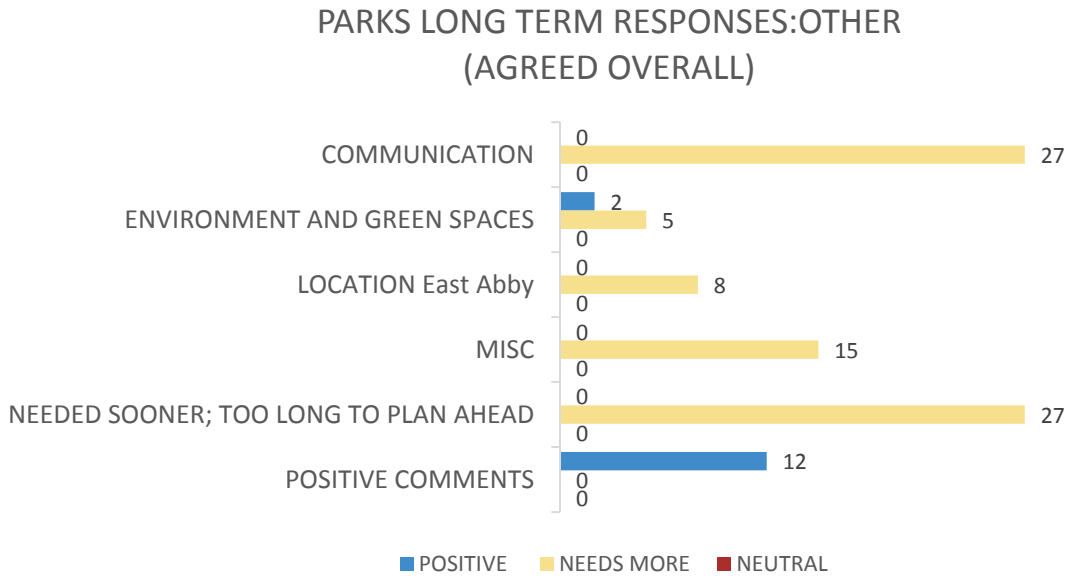
Facilities made 30% of all comments in this section, again with mostly requests for an indoor/outdoor sport facility, and hiking and biking trails.

PARKS LONG TERM RESPONSES:
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES
(AGREED OVERALL)



It appears that the most prominent theme represented the participants' inability to relate to this topic, as they repeatedly asked for more information or for more details (Communication category was the most frequent). Another very frequent comment was

that the long-term plan is too far in the future, which makes the goals either difficult to imagine, or it would be too late to postpone the necessary facilities.

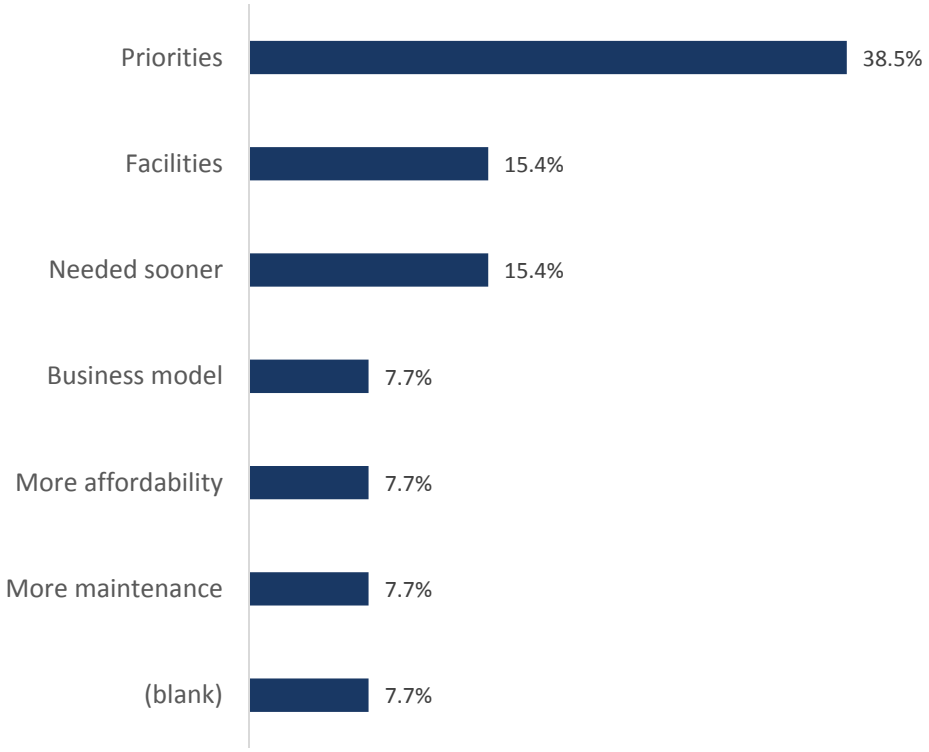


RECREATION

RESPONDENTS WHO DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN RECREATION (13 comments):

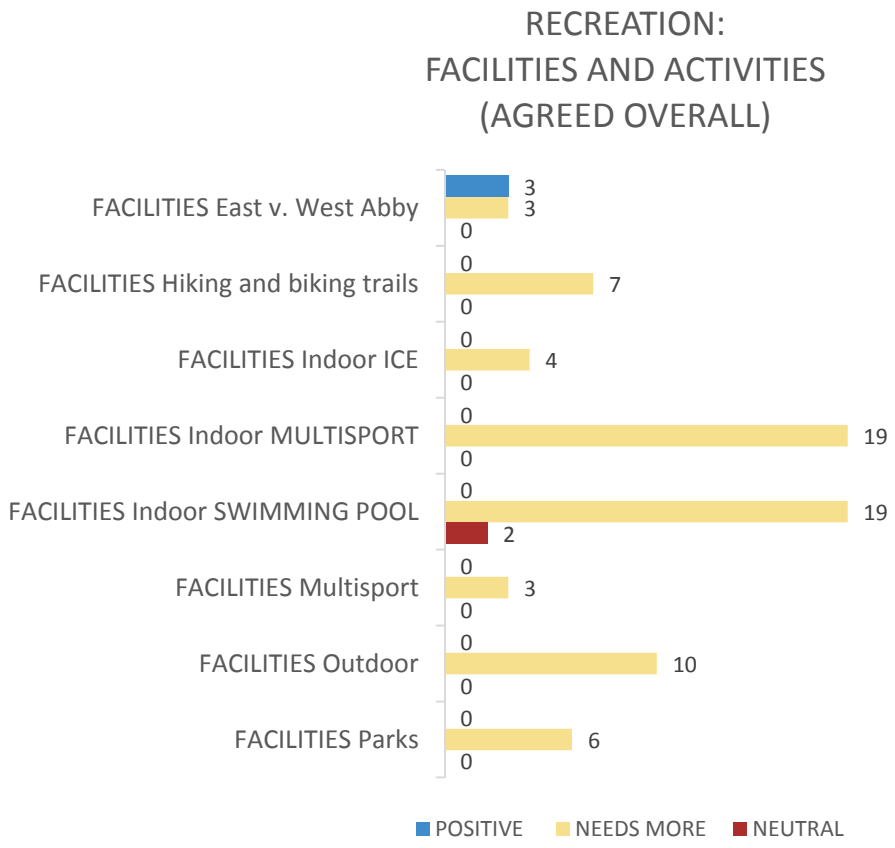
Priorities include sport facilities, aquatic centre, taking care of homeless and arts. There are votes against new aquatic facility as not necessary. More for baseball and arts is suggested.

RECREATION OPEN:
DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL:
% of total number of responses

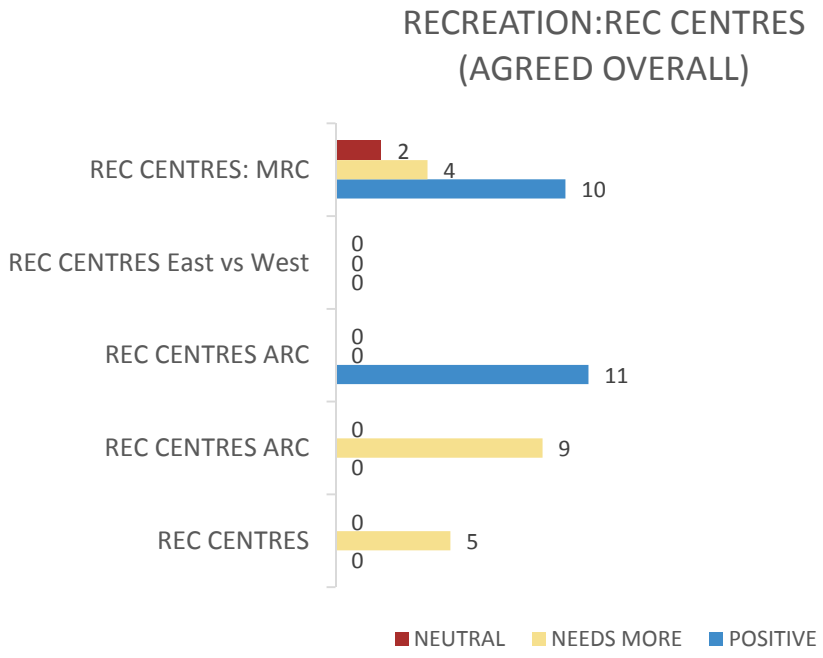


RESPONDENTS WHO AGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN RECREATION (187 comments):

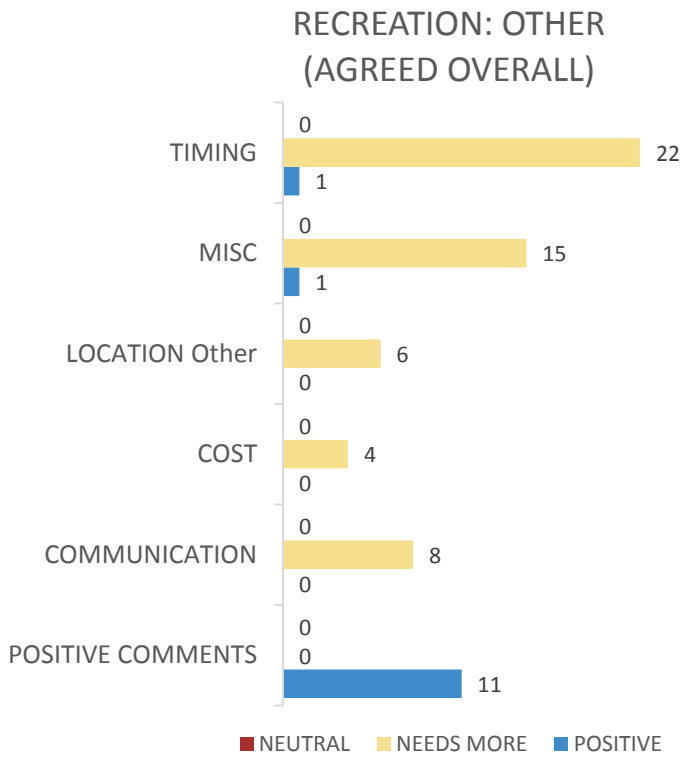
Facilities made up 43% of all the comments in this section, with the same requests for indoor/outdoor multisport facilities and hiking and biking trails.



Almost 25% of comments in this section related to one of the existing facilities, ARC and MRC. A number of comments requested that ARC be retrofitted and is in a need of a swimming pool; MRC proposed expansion was mostly positively commented upon.



Other responses

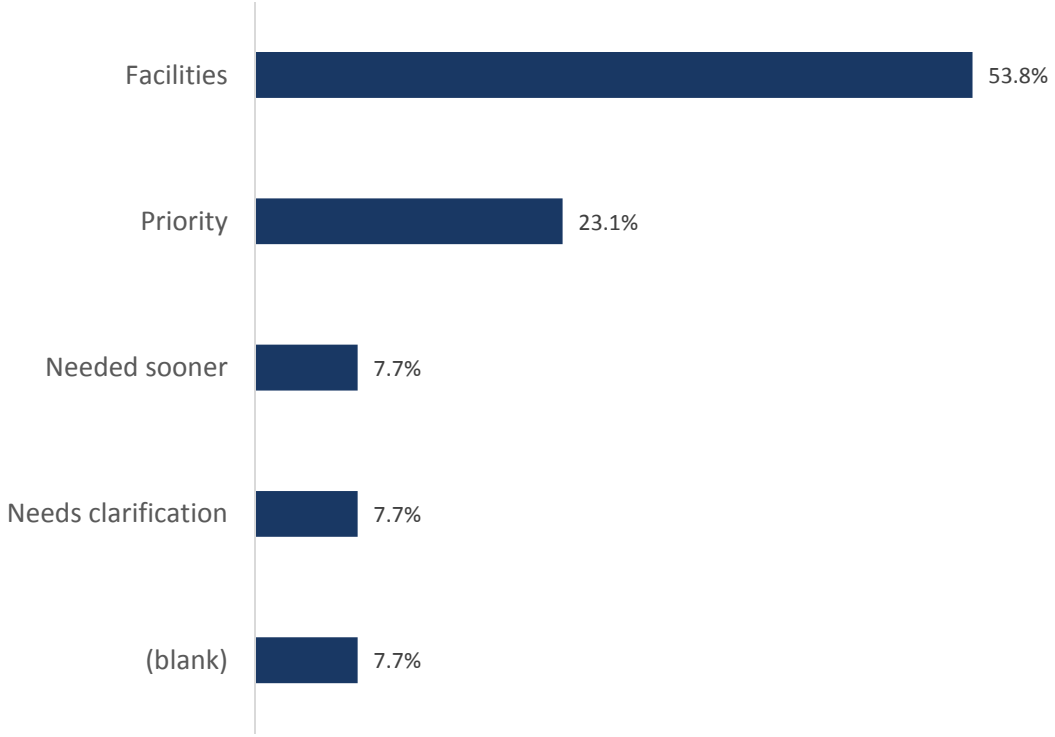


CULTURE

RESPONDENTS WHO DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN CULTURE (13 comments):

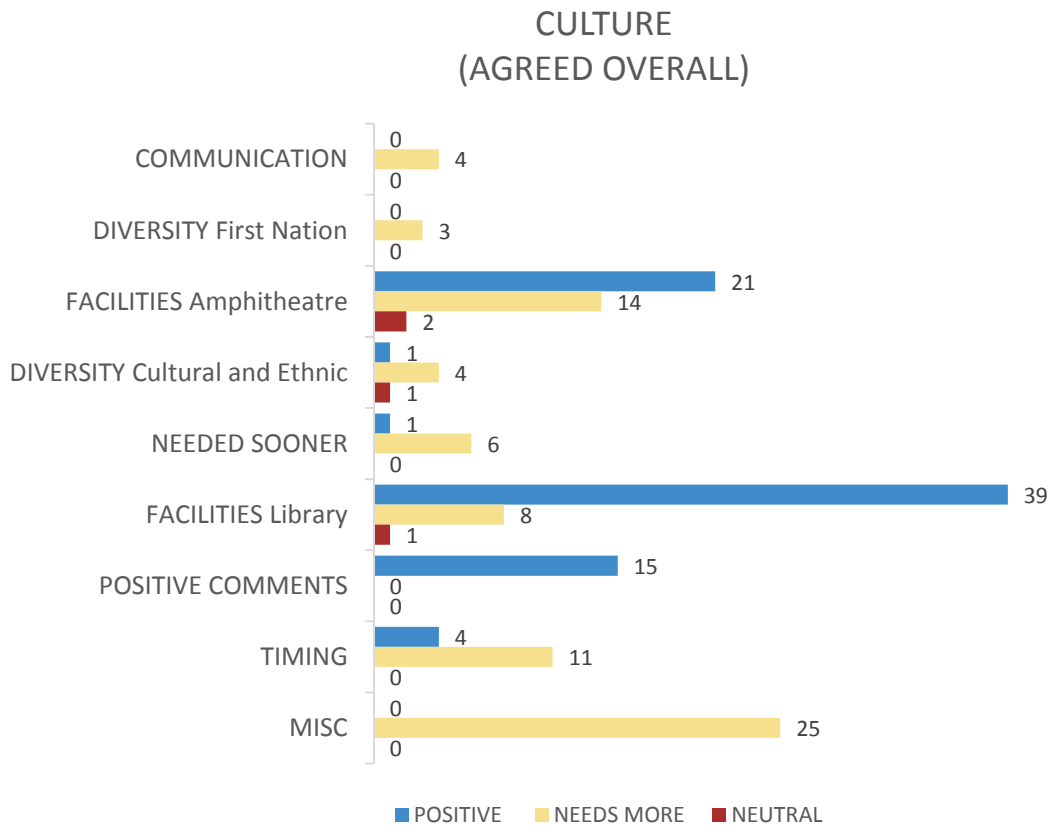
The participants felt that some facilities are not needed: amphitheatre, due to our climate, or issues of maintenance, and new library, as an outdated mode of operation in digital era. Others felt the plan is good, but it would take too long to implement it.

CULTURE OPEN:
DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL:
% of total number of responses



RESPONDENTS WHO AGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN CULTURE (160 comments):

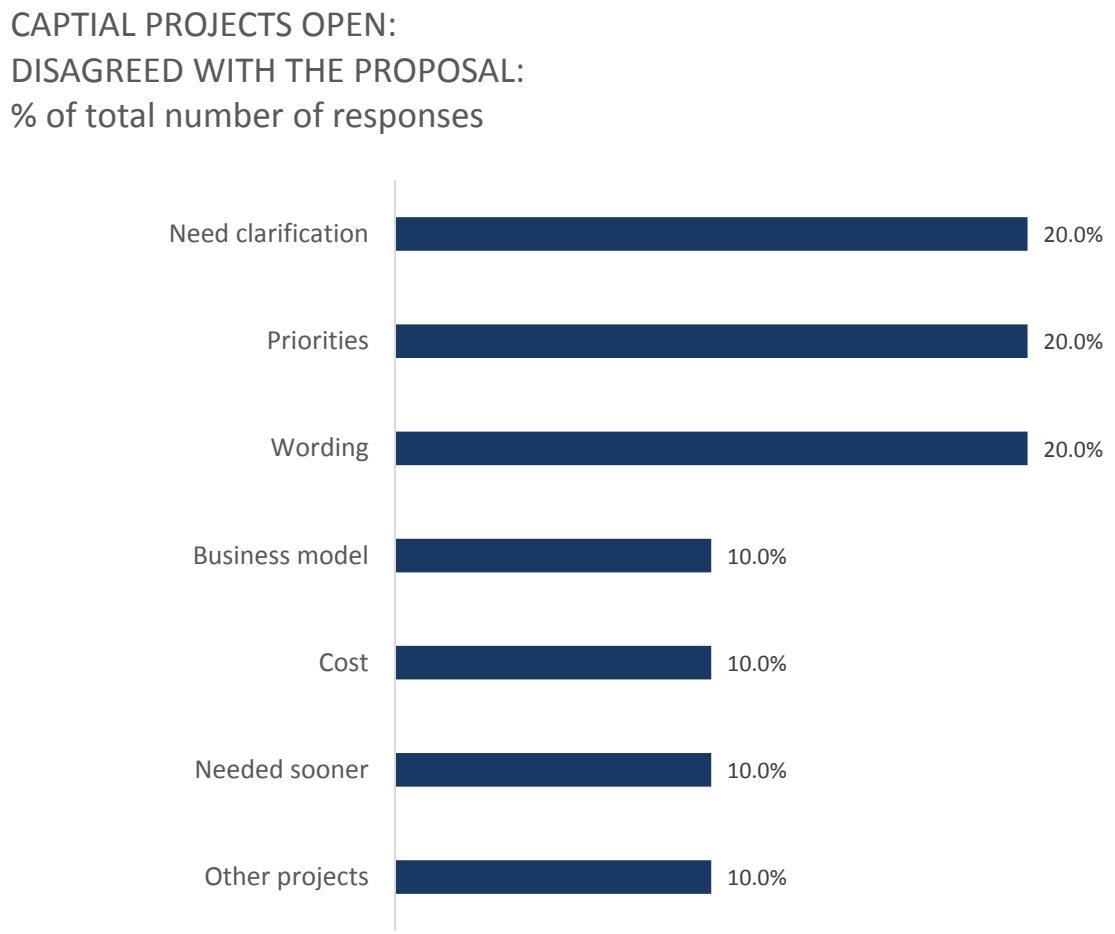
There was a significant support for the libraries (24% of all comments in this section) and new amphitheatre (14%).



CAPITAL PROJECT

RESPONDENTS WHO DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS (10 comments):

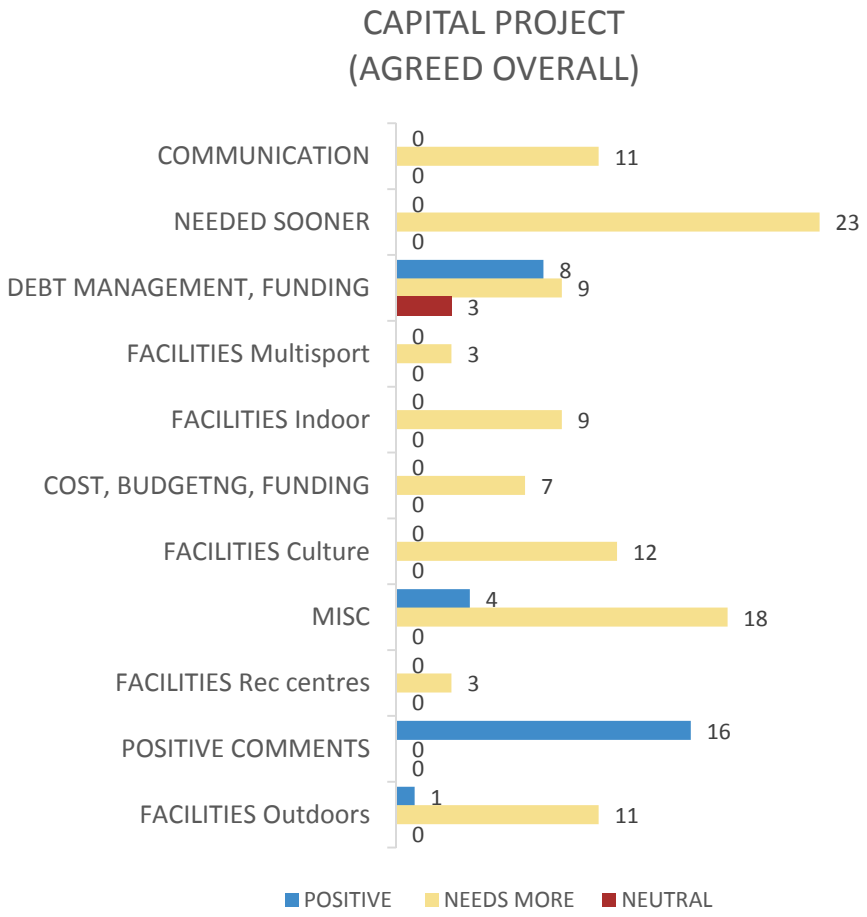
There were only 10 participants who disagreed with the plan and made comments at the same time. Some of them did not understand the intricacies of finances, while others felt there are other priorities, advocating sport facilities as main priorities.



RESPONDENTS WHO AGREED WITH THE PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTS (138 comments):

The most prevalent theme was the one of the urgency of building facilities for today, rather than in the future (17%).

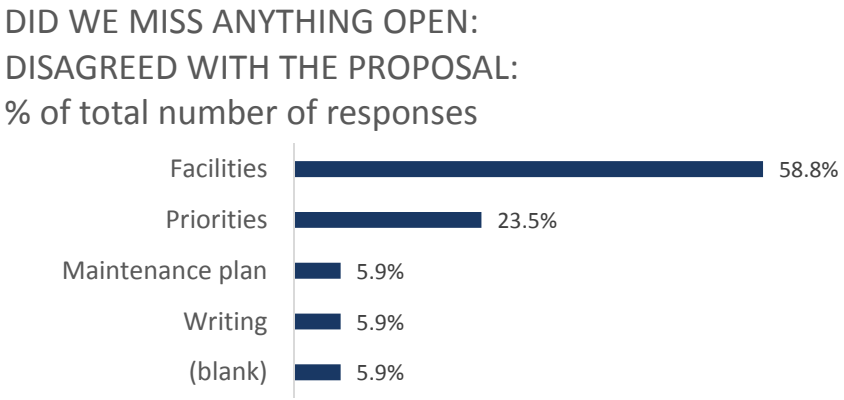
1) Culture facilities were mentioned more prominently than in other sections. In comparison with sports facilities.



DID WE MISS ANYTHING

RESPONDENTS WHO DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN (17 comments):

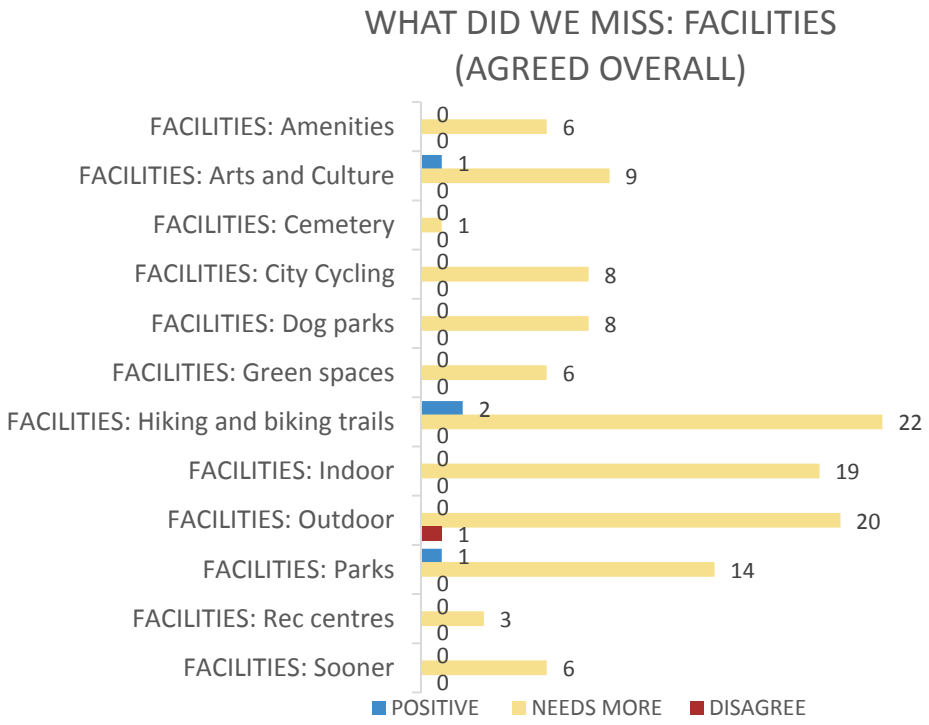
Most responses were concerned with facilities, requesting baseball fields, hiking and biking trails or other outdoor facilities.

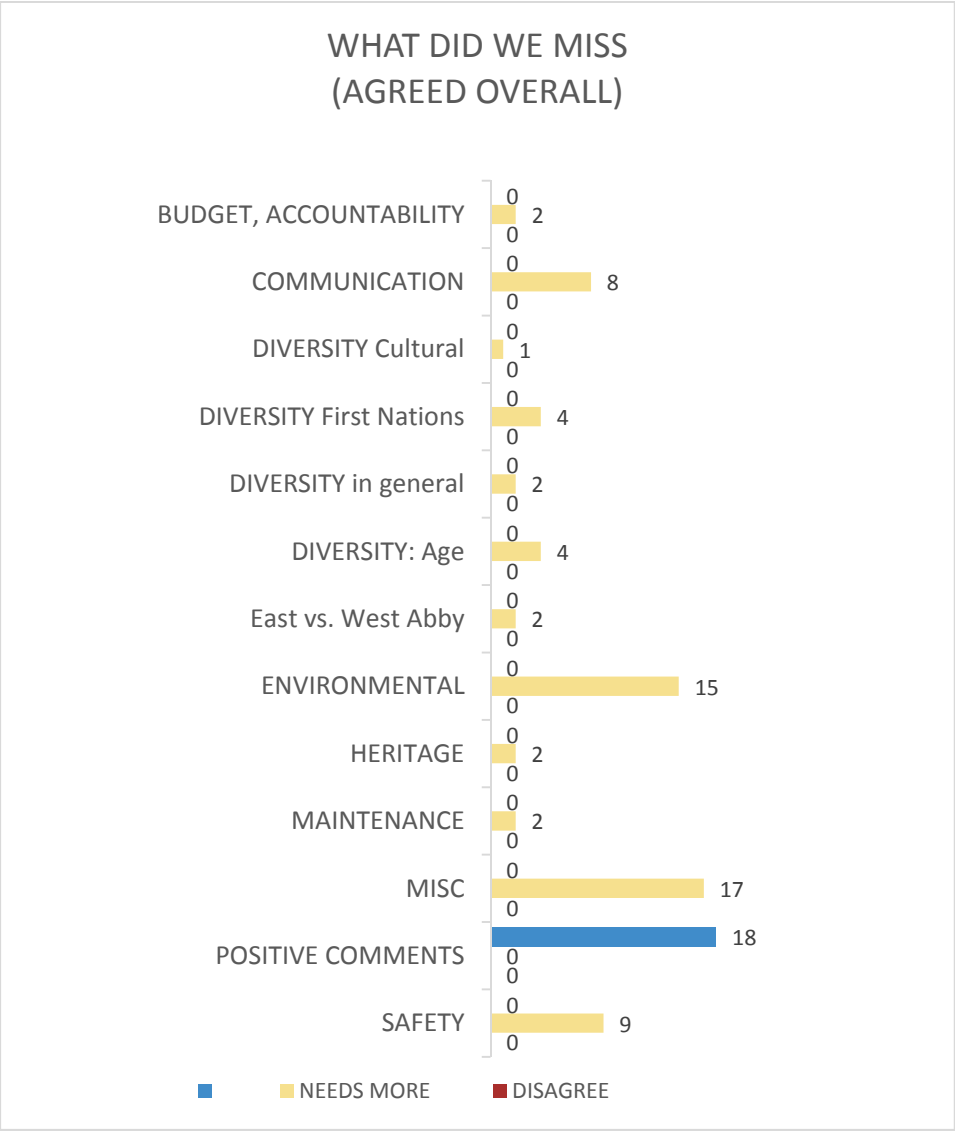


RESPONDENTS WHO AGREED WITH THE PROPOSED PLAN (213 comments):

Almost 60% of the responses in this section were concerned with facilities and their priorities. With hiking/biking and indoor/outdoor facilities being advocated for most frequently.

Other comments had a variety of themes, but environmental stands out the most.


WHAT DID WE MISS: FACILITIES
(AGREED OVERALL)
FACILITIES: Amenities
FACILITIES: Arts and Culture
FACILITIES: Cemetery
FACILITIES: City Cycling
FACILITIES: Dog parks
FACILITIES: Green spaces
FACILITIES: Hiking and biking trails
FACILITIES: Indoor
FACILITIES: Outdoor
FACILITIES: Parks
FACILITIES: Rec centres
FACILITIES: Sooner
0 6
1 9
0 1
0 8
0 8
0 6
2 22
0 19
0 20
1 1
1 14
0 3
0 6
POSITIVE
NEEDS MORE
DISAGREE


WHAT DID WE MISS
(AGREED OVERALL)
BUDGET, ACCOUNTABILITY
COMMUNICATION
DIVERSITY Cultural
DIVERSITY First Nations
DIVERSITY in general
DIVERSITY: Age
East vs. West Abby
ENVIRONMENTAL
HERITAGE
MAINTENANCE
MISC
POSITIVE COMMENTS
SAFETY
0
2
0
0
8
0
0
1
0
0
4
0
0
2
0
0
4
0
0
2
0
0
15
0
0
2
0
0
2
0
0
17
0
18
0
0
9
0
NEEDS MORE
DISAGREE

Comments Vision

1.2. VISION AND PRINCIPLES: responses of RESPONDENTS WHO agreed (open-e questions)

VISION AND PRINCIPLES	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Diversity: General statements	7	1	0	8
Diversity: All level of skill	4	0	0	4
Diversity: All ages	4	0	0	4
Indoor/Outdoor multisport facility	2	2	0	4
Diversity: Cultural and Ethnic	2	2	0	4
Diversity: First Nations	0	1	0	1
Diversity: Multi-purpose facilities	1	1	0	2
Facilities: General statements	3	1	0	4
Facilities and activities: Arts and Culture	3	1	0	4
Facilities and activities: Heritage	0	1	0	1
Facilities and activities: Parks	6	4	0	10
Facilities and activities: Sports	1	7	0	8
Facilities and activities: Trails (hiking and cycling)	2	5	0	7
Building community	2	0	0	2
Collaboration	1	6	0	7
Communication	0	11	0	11
Environmental, nature, green	6	6	0	12
Fiscal responsibility	0	3	0	3
Needed sooner	0	4	0	4
Not realistic	0	2	0	2
Positive comments	45	0	0	45
Other Priorities	1	2	0	3
Safety	1	6	0	7
Youth	3	2	0	5
Uniqueness	0	2	0	2
Utilities and amenities	0	2	0	2
Miscellaneous	5	13	0	18
				184

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Diversity: General statements	7	1	0	8
I love the inclusion and support for all people.	1			
Abbotsford is more diverse now then few years ago.	1			
I love the idea of providing a variety of activities for all ages and abilities within Abbotsford. No need to travel far when everything is here.	1			
It is important to recognize our diverse community and be accessible to all folks.	1			
Plans seem to cover citizens of all ages, abilities and ethnicities. Well done.	1			
The principles seem to consider diversity and variables.	1			
Uniqueness and are cultural diversity are good but not primary drivers - what about being "Canadian". There should not be a celebration of differences, elitism or		1		

pandering of special interests that excludes others from participation.				
Welcoming and inclusivity should be a paramount concern & therefore I am in agreement of that being a top principle of priority.	1			
	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Diversity: All level of skill	4	0	0	4
Also that the principles include all ages and stages.	1			
I agree that both child and adult sports should have and be able to share facilities. Participation is important at all ages not just the young.	1			
It covers all age groups and ethnicities and all areas of Abbotsford.	1			
It has benefits for all age groups.	1			
	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Diversity: All ages	4	0	0	4
Also that the principles include all ages and stages.	1			
I agree that both child and adult sports should have and be able to share facilities. Participation is important at all ages not just the young.	1			
It covers all age groups and ethnicities and all areas of Abbotsford.	1			
It has benefits for all age groups.	1			
	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Indoor/Outdoor multisport facility	2	2	0	4
Finding ways to encourage people to get out of their houses in the winter months can be a challenge, so all-weather activities would be a nice addition.		1		
I agree the outdoor and indoor spaces/facilities are multi-functional and multi-seasonal. I like the diverse opportunities.	1			
I believe that the needs of our athletes have not been considered or prioritized with regards to creating an indoor training facility for them--they have been practicing in the winter outdoors in the snow (shoveling snow to make sure they train on pavement)--these are dedicated young people with promising athletic potential that their city needs to recognize and support!		1		
I think sports are really important can be a great outlet for many teens so in my opinion it would incredibly helpful to have an indoor facility so that athletes can train and work hard all winter to get in shape and ready for the summer track meet and other competitions	1			
There are not enough multi-seasonal facilities and there are none that are lined for Canadian Football. The city needs more skating arenas and ball diamonds. A sports complex could bring in extra money with clubs being able to host tournaments.		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Diversity: Cultural and Ethnic	2	2	0	4
It covers all age groups and ethnicities and all areas of Abbotsford.	1			
The picture beside the Vision statement does not represent human diversity.		1		
There are 3 people....two are apparently Caucasian. This is an important omission, if all the people in Abbotsford are to feel included in the PRC Vision and Principles.		1		
We are growing & must embrace urban needs in a diverse community which is multi-cultural.	1			

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Diversity: First Nations	2	4	0	6
As a Metis person I don't see my culture in community. As a Member of the Metis Nation of BC I participate in events around the Fraser valley. Beyond that I see no place for Aboriginal people		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Diversity: Multi-purpose facilities	1	1	0	0
I agree the outdoor and indoor spaces/facilities are multi-functional and multi-seasonal. I like the diverse opportunities.	1			
The vision needs is good but it needs to put more emphasis on creating the new Outdoor Multi-Sport facility with baseball diamonds within the first couple of years. This needs to be a much larger priority.		1		
There are not enough multi-seasonal facilities and there are none that are lined for Canadian Football. The city needs more skating arenas and ball diamonds. A sports complex could bring in extra money with clubs being able to host tournaments.		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Facilities: General statements	3	1	0	4
Facilities for all ages will lead to a balanced neighbourhood and 200k community.	1			
I agree that Abbotsford has diverse parks, recreation & culture that support a high quality of life.	1			
I like the idea of making upgrades to arenas and through skate parks, ball diamonds and fields.	1			
Varying sizes of recreational areas would be welcome.		1		
We need these facilities in our city to support physical, emotional and mental health.	1			
With the population growth our city has experienced in the past 40 years our recreational facilities have not kept up with demand.	1			

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Facilities and activities: Arts and Culture	3	1	0	4
For the size of our City we are remarkably devoid of distinctive arts and culture, except of course for the Reach (which is a gem in our community). I would love to see investment in the arts. I think the principals listed are great goals for a rich community and certainly include things that we need to work on.	1			
I love Abbotsford and have been longing for more culture and the like for a while. I think this is long overdue	1			
Increasing culture in our community is a must!	1			
Opportunities especially in the lively arts need a dedicated theatre and I don't see a plan for that here.		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Facilities and activities: Heritage	0	1	0	1
While I believe in being fiscally responsible and prudent with regard to spending, some of our local heritage groups and heritage buildings/lands need significant investment in order to ensure that they can be enjoyed by Abbotsfordians into the future. Groups operating within Heritage buildings, such as Heritage Abbotsford Society at Trethewey House Heritage Site, should receive additional funding in order to be able to increase their ability to share Abbotsford's history with Abbotsfordians and with visitors to our great City. While I am in support of the City's initiative to boost culture within the City, a specific focus needs to be placed on preserving our history and heritage and allowing groups that specialize in remembering who we are and where we come from to have adequate support and the right tools to help them present exhibits and create programming. Recognition and the promise of adequate support for Heritage organizations within the City should be explicitly formalized within the guiding principles of the PRC Master Plan. Additionally, point 4 makes reference to "arts and culture" - isn't art an integral part of culture? Why is it listed separately? Listing "Arts and Heritage" would make more sense.		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Facilities and activities: Parks	6	4	0	10
Abbotsford needs to be mindful of retaining and maintaining greenspace...that is currently has, and that it will eventually acquire. Greenspace costs money.	1			
Also would like to see the water park open on weekends when the weather gets nice (before opening season).		1		
I like the idea of more parks in the city, especially bodies of water		1		

Parks and recreation would be a major drawing card for families moving to Abbotsford. I want to know that there are green spaces for my family to get out in nature that isn't a two hour drive away!	1			
Perhaps not economically feasible, but if possible more parks would be a positive.	1			
Striving to develop the parks, for a variety of uses but also for the environment as a whole, is what will keep Abbotsford a nice place to live and not a city of cement like other major urban developments.	1			
The city's goal is to have parks that are safe and comfortable, so of course I agree with it.	1			
We have a lot of great parks and facilities. This needs to be sustained.	1			
We need more park activities in the parks during the summer. This should be a free activity for all children 12 and under. When I was growing up in the 50's there was a club house where kids could go and make crafts after school and on weekends.		1		
While plain, green, outdoor spaces are lovely to look at, we see so many in neighbourhoods that go unutilized.		1		
	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Facilities and activities: Sports	1	7	0	8
Longboard Park - Location: the location of the proposed longboard park seems a little out of the place/hard to access for youth (and others) Adding reasonable access such as a bus route or consider relocation. A longboard park will get used!! People ranging vastly in age will use this; people will come from neighboring cities to visit this park! This also creates opportunities for riders/skates to meet & share knowledge/teach other important skills regarding safety and maneuvering.		1		
Every May we bring 180 football players from all over BC to practice in Abbotsford - we are short on fields.		1		
Some competitive sports (Twisters Gymnastics + the Whalers Swim Club) are seriously lacking space. We need to help the already existing programs become more successful. For example, swimming - one of the best physical/sports - and the Whalers Swim Club fights for pool space cannot accommodate the growing demand/swimmers. They need their own pool space, with a proper dive tank and space for water polo. Twisters is SERIOUSLY lacking necessary space to and are turning away potentially Olympic athletes because of it. We shouldn't have to travel to Langley for better sports opportunities.		1		
The city of Abbotsford needs new complexes. Kids are playing on the same fields that my coaches played on. It's ridiculous. My dad used to coach me, and he and the other coaches had to go pick needles off the field so we could play...		1		
The timeline is a bit long for developing a ball diamond facility. We desperately need a proper facility like Aldergrove and Chilliwack with multiple fields in one place. We have fewer fields per capita than any of our neighbouring communities. Please consider speeding up the timeline for this project. It would enable families with multiple kids on different teams like me to take in		1		

more games and see all my kids in one place without so much carpooling and driving. I have 3 boys on 3 different teams and fields are a constant shortage				
The vision needs is good but it needs to put more emphasis on creating the new Outdoor Multi-Sport facility with baseball diamonds within the first couple of years. This needs to be a much larger priority.		1		
We need baseball fields now! Not 10 years from now. The baseball world has been overlooked for years in this community...even Aldergrove, Chilliwack and Mission have top notch facilities with a fraction of the population. You're placing 10 years olds in the middle of one of the biggest 'drug' parks in Abbotsford. Our bantams play on a facility, that although is decent, it too has drug deals going down every single day in the parking lot. Is this the best you can give our kids given the fact they are one of the top baseball associations in this province? Come on Abby! Parents and kids deserve better		1		
When it comes to sports programs, we do not need to reinvent the wheel. There are successful programs throughout the world that allows investment in youth through social clubs. These formats need to be adopted to reduce the burden on the city and families for youth sports.	1			
While I agree with the vision and principles I do not feel that the PRC planning is moving fast enough particularly in regard to the building of an indoor training facility. Track & Field athletes are training outdoors all winter in rain and snow for lack of an indoor training space with the appropriate rubber flooring. Soccer, football and rugby have also identified a need for such an indoor space and all of these groups could be served by such an indoor facility. The Plan's current estimated 2040's completion date of such a facility is unacceptable when the need has already existed for many years. I urge the planners to schedule the completion date so that this generation of athletes can train in a safe, warm, dry environment in the winter.		1		
	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Facilities and activities: Trails (hiking and cycling)	2	5	0	7
It would be equally great if commitment from all departments reflected them as well, particularly since trails/parks are our #1 priority for citizens.	1			
Designated trail systems for hiking, biking, recreation that can be reliable and have areas to grow. Vedder Mountain and their system of maintenance and trail designation is fantastic.	1			
I like the ideas of encouraging active life styles. As a mountain biker and hiker, I would like to see more support for hiking and mountain biking trails (not multi use gravel paths).		1		
I'd also like to see more investment in the trail system for mountain biking and hiking.				
No mention of the trail networks on Sumas MT and McKee Peak. Mission and Chilliwack are heavily involved with the FVMBA to maintain and improve the trail networks for mountain bikers, trail runners and		1		

hikers. No mention of this in Abbotsford OCP				
PRC needs to expand support for development, maintenance and access to single-track mountain bike trails on Sumas MT, McKee Peak, and elsewhere.		1		
There is room in here for outdoor biking and hiking trails, in this vision		1		
We have a large community of mountain biking and trail running people. We need to preserve these rustic trail areas with parking and washroom facilities. Areas like Ledgeview and Sumas Mountain need to be preserved. They won't be accessible to all skill levels, but they are a huge draw to us who use them.		1		
	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Building community	3	8	0	11
I appreciate the emphasis on community and creating spaces for everyone to enjoy that bring people together. I also like the focus on green spaces.	1			
Working together to create community....	1			
	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Collaboration	1	6	0	7
6. My experience is that PRC is not always collaborative or creative in its approaches.		1		
I want to see more not for profit city owned water centers, dry and ice rinks, halls & multipurpose facilities, etc. I don't want to see more tax funded places like the Abbotsford Center that is only viable for use by commercial entities.		1		
I was curious what supports/projects would be run by the city and which would be supporting other service providers– that's the only area of concern that I would like more clarification on.		1		
I would like to see an effort defined to work with schools and FH to make sure that our community benefits from these perspectives as part of planning - especially on the recreation side.		1		
I'd like to see more emphasis on forging partnerships and support for existing organizations that provide arts and culture services already. By investing in these groups, the city is able to lower financial burdens and forge positive and mutually beneficial partnerships where the community is the ultimate winner.		1		
Number 6 is also a great area of focus for there is a need for more collaboration between facilities and service providers in order to provide the most effective, holistic spaces for all peoples.	1			
These are great but reality is that there are people in need like homeless people and if we are serious about the vision, we would also think how to reach out to them. Perhaps partnering with communities who have a burden for these people (e.g. churches, social groups, etc.)?		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Communication	0	11	0	11
->social media		1		
Adapt to younger generations		1		
do not like the word 'inclusive', try to avoid buzz words that will fall out of vogue		1		
I don't like the word complete in the mission statement. I don't think that anything can be complete - change occurs and there are things that we don't even know exist or may be a challenge that arises due to say a natural or man-made disaster.		1		
It all sounds really good! I would have picked "completely," but I didn't completely understand all the wording, so I picked "mostly," because I agree with what I understand.		1		
Please proofread again -- there are typos.		1		
Please proofread surveys prior to releasing them. Spelling mistakes and poor grammar reduce the credibility of the initiative.		1		
safe “online" place to gather		1		
share thoughts & locations that are highly sought out		1		
Simply FYI: Spelling error no. 3 “ins.”		1		
That was way too much reading for me.		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Environmental, nature, green spaces	6	6	0	12
I also like the focus on green spaces.	1			
.I am concerned whether the vision can be met through the realization of the principles due to the highly dense housing that is being constructed with an absence of green space. Also, an appalling number of large trees are already lost. I love the vision, but fear that it may not be realized.		1		
Abbotsford definitely needs more places to accommodate people and less accommodation of cars.	1			
Green space has been proven to create better mental, social and physical health.	1			
Healthy people and healthy environments go hand in hand. I hope environmental stewardship will sit as the top priority.	1			
I agree that as Abbotsford grows, the need for community and green space will be key to citizens living a balanced life. Ensuring that the densely populated areas of the city centre also include green space and/or easy access to it will be important.	1			
I want the green spaces to be easily accessible by all....especially those in highly dense living areas.	1			
Need to add principle that asserts the "innumerable benefits" of preserved natural areas that have intrinsic value as intact ecosystems, ones which do not derive their value from use by people.		1		

Need to include environmental stewardship as this is important in the choices made in developing and maintaining parks and encouraging recreation. Without a vision that supports a healthy environment we are allowing 4 wheelers to decimate trails, we are putting in trails where endangered species are living, we are chopping down eagle perching trees to get a better view etc. etc. You have it slightly in principles but it needs to be part of vision.		1		
The mention of and insurance for committed very low-impact green space with an ecological priority is not well covered or entrenched. For example, in the summary presented to Council, natural areas, which currently appear to comprise more area than all other park types combined, are "lost" in the designation "Open space/plaza." The acquisition of Metro Vancouver Parks, which has happened since this planning process began, has created a new function and priority that now need to be brought into this plan. It is true that Section 7.8 of the draft plan does discuss natural areas, but acknowledges "A specific map of natural areas is not currently possible because the natural areas are combined with other types of open spaces." It is unclear whether this would include the Regional District Parks. As a follow up to the comment in Section 7.8.2, under "Neighboring Communities", I think Section 7.8.4 under “Policies, Plans & Studies” should state an intention or recommendation to do a natural areas mapping and classification exercise appropriate for our geography, similar to those done by Surrey, Delta, N. Van and probably other Metro municipalities.		1		
The only thing I would love to see emphasized a little more than in the last point (7) would be the element of sustainability and environmentalism.		1		
We need to add a principle that asserts the "innumerable benefits" of natural areas that have intrinsic value as preserved intact ecosystems, and the importance of adding those areas to our parks. . .		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Fiscal responsibility	0	3	0	3
If they're being fiscally responsible with any projects to create a better city then I'm on board! When taxpayers’ money is spent on needless things the people suffer.		1		
Not sure if number 7 covers my point, "fiscally responsible manner, considering community needs."		1		
Very expensive to implement, maintain and facilitate! Who is paying for it?		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Needed sooner	0	4	0	4
Abbotsford is clearly going through strong growing pains. We hope PRC takes the time to research and improve what needs to be done now. PLEASE READ OUR ATTACHED LETTER.		1		
The timeline is a bit long for developing a ball diamond facility. We desperately need a proper facility like Aldergrove and Chilliwack with multiple fields in one place. We have fewer fields per capita than any of our neighbouring communities. Please consider speeding up the timeline for this project. It would enable families with multiple kids on different teams like me to take in more games and see all my kids in one place without so much carpooling and driving. I have 3 boys on 3 different teams and fields are a constant shortage		1		
We need baseball fields now! Not 10 years from now. The baseball world has been overlooked for years in this community...even Aldergrove, Chilliwack and Mission have top notch facilities with a fraction of the population. You're placing 10 years olds in the middle of one of the biggest 'drug' parks in Abbotsford. Our bantams play on a facility, that although is decent, it too has drug deals going down every single day in the parking lot. Is this the best you can give our kids given the fact they are one of the top baseball associations in this province? Come on Abby! Parents and kids deserve better		1		
While I agree with the vision and principles I do not feel that the PRC planning is moving fast enough particularly in regard to the building of an indoor training facility. Track & Field athletes are training outdoors all winter in rain and snow for lack of an indoor training space with the appropriate rubber flooring. Soccer, football and rugby have also identified a need for such an indoor space and all of these groups could be served by such an indoor facility. The Plan's current estimated 2040's completion date of such a facility is unacceptable when the need has already existed for many years. I urge the planners to schedule the completion date so that this generation of athletes can train in a safe, warm, dry environment in the winter.		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Not realistic	0	2	0	2
It would be nice but it's not realistic. How will the challenges be policed?		1		
The proposals are positive, yet somewhat idealistic. Everything comes at a cost		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Positive comments	45	0	0	45
Abbotsford is growing city in need of various upgrades and additions such as parks/recreation/activity/cultural developments. This would engage the community and bring in people from neighboring communities.	1			
Abbotsford is growing rapidly; therefore to serve the community better with the change in mind (space, technology, season, etc.) we have to consider changing the current programs, spaces, and plans to accommodate for the current population.	1			
All of these are positive community factors that anyone would hope to see implemented in their town/city, why wouldn't I?	1			
Anytime you take the time to think about the future and make plans that everyone will be happy with, you're sure to make the right choice.	1			
As nearly as I can tell, most aspects of the diverse vision are well addressed;	1			
Everyone can enjoy the benefits of this.	1			
Everything is taken care of.	1			
Everything seems geared towards improving the quality of life for the general population. I don't see a reason to take issue with any of these principles.	1			
Forward thinking and inclusive! Let's make our community more livable, but with an eye on fiscal responsibility.	1			
I followed the OCP and felt it was thorough, and this appears thoughtful and thorough as well.	1			
I have lived in Abbotsford for 25+ years and the changes that have been made so far seem positive.	1			
If this is something the city can strive for, I completely agree with it. A vision is something you plan for, it may not be what we currently have.	1			
It appears to be well thought out, and well planned I love how you have made it easy to have the residents to be included. It is mostly and not completely because it is not executed.	1			
It is inspiring and describes a place I will be proud to live	1			
It just seems too good to be true as it relies on so many other people & institutions to have it work out the way we want...but we need to aim for the stars to get anything done, so we will!	1			
It seems to benefit all of our community members with creating active options and yet still caring about our environment.	1			
It seems to include everything I would look for.	1			
It sounds like a well thought out plan that includes all age groups	1			
It will overall help benefit and aid the community to growing in a healthy environment.	1			
It's time we crept into the twenty-first century	1			
logical, makes sense	1			
Mostly agree if the facilities are to be targeted for community use instead of targeted for commercial facilities use.	1			

Overall I agree with the vision to create a vibrant and balanced community with high quality options for parks, recreation and culture. I also agree overall with the principles.	1			
Parks, recreation areas, community programs are what builds and drives a thriving community	1			
PRC is invaluable to the community, increasing quality of life and desirability for those wanting to live in the City. Seeing the focus on providing services for all members of the community is vital.	1			
Really Beneficial!	1			
Seems logical	1			
Sounds fine.	1			
Sounds good to me	1			
Sounds like a good idea,	1			
Sounds ok, good work by your wordsmiths. They hit all the magic words.	1			
The goals are great	1			
The Ideas sound good. Very General wellbeing approach.	1			
The PRC vision and principles are great!	1			
The rest seems pretty good. Principles seem to cover well.	1			
The vision is much needed! We definitely need to recognize the economic benefits of facilities, knowing they are ready and able to host large-scale events, which bring in money for the local economy.	1			
These principles are great for the sustainability of the city's property and encourage the population to live healthy lives.	1			
These principles are inclusive and flexible, allowing all members of the community to benefit.	1			
They seem reasonable and attainable.	1			
This is a good vision, however not currently practiced	1			
very comprehensive	1			
Visions and programs have been developed to cover all ages, mental, social and physical abilities.	1			
We are a diverse community and a plan that involves all of us is fabulous. The wellbeing of our community, our people and our resources has all been addressed.	1			
Yes, Abbotsford parks are always get maintained and kept safe	1			
You are trying to improve the quality of life for a wide variety of people. You have put a lot of work into it, and are doing great things.	1			

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Other Priorities	1	2	0	3
I love Parks but I would like to see more Affordable Housing		1		
It depends on the priorities	1			
These are great but reality is that there are people in need like homeless people and if we are serious about the vision, we would also think how to reach out to them. Perhaps partnering with communities who have a burden for these people (e.g. churches, social groups, etc.)?		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Safety	1	6	0	7
I agree that it's important to state 'safety' as a core principle.	1			
1. I have not always experienced safety in local parks.		1		
I don't feel comfortable and safe in all PRC spaces.		1		
In my opinion while the parks are generally alright There have been a number of times when certain groups or individuals are present and make regular members of the general public feel reluctant to use the park(s)...vagrants, pan handlers, drug users etc.		1		
Is there going to be bicycle police at Mill lake and all the other parks and walkways to deal with pot smokers, for one. It feels like a plan for one		1		
Occasional police patrols (bike patrols or walk throughs) might discourage the unwanted groups and make others (parents, children and elderly) feel more welcome and safer.		1		
The only thing is, if you miscalculate time and are walking around parks either mill lake or fish trap for example it gets dark very quick and then isn't safe. Even Bateman dog park would be nice to have some lights		1		

	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Youth	3	2	0	5
Advance planning for recreational space is vital to a youthful growing population with 65% under the age of 25!	1			
For myself personally I was a kid who played hockey and know the power of group sports and the teamwork that comes with it.	1			
I believe youth need the space to play their sports and having the facilities multi use ensures that there is a sport played there all season long. It seems Abbotsford's sports fields haven't kept up with its growth.		1		
I just question how much it would affect me (in a positive way) as my kids are teen aged and aren't very interested in any of the community things I suggest. When they were younger I just took them even if they did not want to go...		1		

I think keeping youth active is very important.	1			
	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Uniqueness	0	2	0	2
I thank that Abbotsford's uniqueness needs to be preserved and is in danger of losing this uniqueness as it moved forward with the development. I think if we lose our land and parks to development they are gone forever.		1		
How are we celebrating Abbotsford's uniqueness?		1		
	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Utilities and amenities	0	2	0	2
Concerns: parking at trailheads if they exist not marked on maps.		1		
Washrooms are not open in winter months @ Fishtrap/Ellwood Park		1		
	AGREE	NEEDS MORE	AGAINST	TOTAL
Miscellaneous	5	13	0	18
I understand that this is a work in progress....but thought it was further along than this...		1		
Abbotsford is a city of distinct and increasingly complete neighbourhoods rich with public life. Our compact urban area is anchored by a thriving City Centre and surrounded by remarkable natural areas and flourishing agricultural lands. We are diverse, inclusive, and connected. We are green, prosperous, and healthy. We are a vibrant and beautiful community.	1			
Fear that Abbotsford will fall further behind other communities in providing recreational facilities.		1		
I believe there is still much to desire in order to get to the state described in the Vision statement as well as the principles.		1		
If everything stated in the vision and principals was working this Community wouldn't feel so divided.	1			
It is important the city moves in the direction the community wants and needs	1			
Much of what is illustrated in the plan overview looks like copy paste from other community plans. There is a potential lack of creativity. Moreover the pyramid type plans tend to dictate from the top down. This often leaves valid ideas on the floor because management simply does not get it or they have their own agenda. .		1		
Parks , general recreation, neighbourhoods	1			
Plans may have to be changed as we move forward. Is there some flexibility?		1		
Principles great, present practice does not match. Preserve trees, stop developers from cutting down all trees. Need more green space in high density areas. Need more one story townhouses for seniors. All developers are building narrow, three story homes. Please help reinforce ALR infractions.		1		

Right it's a mess as our housing and population increases		1		
The city does support excellence in sports, arts and culture.		1		
The ideas are ok, but in reality some of those things are more in demand than others. People may say they value them, but their practice doesn't always agree		1		
The plan has been well thought out, but none of the threats or risks are presented		1		
The vision does not really speak to the numbers, specifics etc.		1		
There seems to be a big emphasis on growing the population by densifying the city but not enough services all those coming in		1		
Using a unified vision statement for the City is best. Seems that every dept. uses a version of the OCP statement:	1			
When you see what other cities have done and are doing, I ask why not in Abbotsford?		1		

1.3 VISIONS AND PRINCIPLES: responses of Participants who disagree (open-ended questions)

responded	176
not responded	354
	530
response rate	67%

DISAGREED WITH THE VISION

	Number of responses	% of total responses
Facilities	10	27.0%
Activities	6	16.2%
Diversity	5	13.5%
Maintenance lacking	3	8.1%
Accessibility	2	5.4%
Priorities	2	5.4%
Unrealistic	2	5.4%
Wording	2	5.4%
Collaboration	1	2.7%
More for adults	1	2.7%
More for youth	1	2.7%
Safety	1	2.7%
Usage	1	2.7%
	37	100.0%

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail	
Accessibility	**2**
Low income or no income	1
More for wheelchair	1
Activities	**6**
More arts	2
More baseball	2
More culture	2
Collaboration	**1**
Diversity	**5**
Demographics	1
Ethnic	4
Facilities	**10**
Art centre	1
Bike paths	1
Football	2
More baseball	2
More sports facilities	1
Not multiuse	1
Outdoor pool	1
Stadium	1
Maintenance lacking	**3**
More for adults	**1**
More for youth	**1**
Priorities	**2**
Infrastructure, housing	2
Safety	**1**
Unrealistic	**2**
Usage	**1**
All seasons	1
Wording	**2**
Definition of terms	2

DISAGREE: full comments	CODE	sub CODE
Access to services and space for the homeless is poor	Accessibility	Low income or no income
limited recreation services for community members with varying mobility (wheelchair accessible)	Accessibility	More for wheelchair
Abbotsford does not support the arts. There is likely more than 500 times more support for sports than the arts. The Reach is the only city support of visual art compared to many, many parks, ball diamonds, soccer fields, etc. Furthermore The Reach is underfunded with almost no increase in funding since conception.	Activities	More arts
We are fooling ourselves if we think Abbotsford supports "excellence" in arts. We compare poorly with say, Quebec, many countries in South America (and they are much poorer than us) and Europe. I speak from experience because I have traveled extensively in those parts of the world.	Activities	More arts
I think we don't need to waste any more money on cultural or the arts. We do need to upgrade Abby arts it's very dated and small. We need better Baseball fields for the house teams they have all been let go.	Activities	More baseball
More baseball parks	Activities	More baseball
The focus of PRC appears to be a little rec heavy. Culture is not a priority out of the three and I believe it should be. Gen X and millennials have a stronger appreciation for culturally rich and intellectually stimulating experiences than you would think. These opportunities aren't available for them to learn about and experience because the city isn't prioritizing it. People WANT to learn about their history. Our community is rich with heritage and culture and somehow the majority of our community is uneducated it Abbotsford's roots. Young adults are starting businesses, creating families and investing in our city and I think they deserve and want more than better multipurpose rooms. Abbotsford is overflowing with culture, both in our history and current events, and that needs to be represented appropriately to the community. We are more than Abbotsford, the city in the country, we aren't a bunch of farms and churches and nice hikes. We have a lot of raw culture here and we should be opening that door to the community rather than closing it by making culture a smaller and smaller priority of PRC	Activities	More culture
When looking at the plan for the short and long-term goals that you are proposing to make happen it is clear that there is a definite uneven balance between recreation/parks plans and "culture". The only aspect of "culture" that has been taken into account is a few library upgrades when in reality a focus should be placed on enhancing and strengthening one of the main cultural hubs that we already have here in the city (The Reach Gallery and Museum). Communities do not become communities without a development and appreciation for culture and with a clear plan to disregard any advancement in this area from now till 2043 I don't see how Abbotsford will be able to properly grow. I agree that recreation is just as important to our city, but the clear imbalance of plans is troubling to me given how much a non-profit like The Reach gives to the community without taking nearly as much away as other projects like the Sports and Entertainment center!	Activities	More culture
Need to do something to join with Vancouver area	Collaboration	
#1 "All members". I strongly disagree with this statement, and since this in the vision and the principle is first stated, this should be the framework from which every other principle is built upon. Many of Abbotsford's parks and rec are only accessible to limited demographic of community members.	Diversity	Demographics
Giving money for cultural event is ok. It should not belong to the same one every year. Let's have them with different ethnic and culture. Not only the one that like to lead the community by their group's pressure.	Diversity	Ethnic

Let's have and make a diversity of culture shine in our community."		
Culture and inclusiveness...how about some events celebrating different cultures.	Diversity	Ethnic
People in Abbotsford don't celebrate Abbotsford or Canada. The children do. As an example when Canada plays at my child's school all the kids sing but no adults.	Diversity	Ethnic
Limited cultural opportunities.	Diversity	Ethnic
I don't believe we put enough emphasis on our outdoor spaces, developing the things we can use as tourism and community draws. Mountain biking is a growing sport in the Abbotsford area (look up the #SaveSumas campaign) and it's not mentioned in the strategic plan. Why is it missing?	Facilities	Art centre
I feel we should have access all over Abbotsford with cycling road. When I use my bike more in the older part of Abbotsford I can't cross safely the Hwy 7 with my bike. If we like to have a better air condition and safety community it should start by cycling road from all part of Abbotsford.	Facilities	Bike paths
I don't believe it supports all residents as there are a few things missing such as a good, main field for community football.	Facilities	Football
I haven't been to the Abby Arts Centre in a while so I don't have comments on that.	Facilities	Football
Ball parks are not multi-use. Softball and slow-pitch do not share with baseball. We should be working together to use all fields. I don't understand why exhibition park is not used for baseball tournaments. We need to work as a ball community to make sure all parks are shared and are up to all leagues standards. Hosting a baseball tournament in Abbotsford is a complete joke right now. I'd suggest reviewing Aldergrove, Tsawwassen and even Richmond's baseball facilities and compare them to what we have to offer in Abbotsford. Their baseball/softball/slow pitch communities work together in order to provide top notch facilities to their players and when hosting other communities.	Facilities	More baseball
Too much soccer already. The time line takes too long. Baseball fields need to be better. Could be multiuse turf field but design has to be good. So many excellent examples but Abbotsford fails. Seemingly doesn't want input from people who know.	Facilities	More baseball
Too many steps and will take too long to implement and collect data. Amateur sports facilities are severely lacking in the community in all sports. Invest in well-designed facilities and the community will flock to these locations and will want their families to participate in these sports because of the facilities that the city created. Simply solution. From these created facilities they may act as a piece of the community hub to build around.	Facilities	More sports facilities
Facilities in Abbotsford are not actually multi-use as they often cater to one type of sport. While multi-use is nice in theory, it often means one group takes over and uses the facility often, while other groups scrounge to find time. Facilities for sport would be better off being sport specific and better maintained.	Facilities	Not multiuse
The public outdoor pool also needs to be upgraded to hold more people and be a better place for swim competitions to be held.	Facilities	Outdoor pool
Rotary Stadium needs a complete overhaul.	Facilities	Stadium
The problem is that the maintenance and care afterward is NOT there... The attempts to have follow up is met with anger and condescending attitude and the end result is the in person care is less than satisfactory in fact it is worse due to the lack of care put into fixing the problem. The city cannot even mow a green space with any due attention leaving the half uncut space in worse shape.	Maintenance lacking	
We have an ageing pool that is in desperate need of repair and expansion…	Maintenance lacking	

Your principles are good baseline; however, you need to focus on visual and beauty of Abbotsford. When the community sees how beautiful their city is, then pride takes over...this is what drives the motivation. Volunteers are very important to the city, but the everyday tasks start with the City. Simple things like cleaning our streets, pulling or pruning the weeds that grow between the sidewalk and road cracks, making sure the graffiti is removed as it happens, unwanted random signage taken down, litter kept at bay, more public dog waste canisters made available, cutting all foliage that protrudes through city fences i.e. Blackberry bushes, trees, especially, the ornamental ones like magnolias need to be pruned or shaped. These are just a few items that should be kept up consistently by the city, so volunteers (like my husband and me) shouldn't feel like they're doing the jobs that our taxes should be going towards. As Volunteers for the past ten years, we do notice how basic gardening is maintained by several employees that include "the supervisors". I would love to see the Abbotsford I remember.	Maintenance lacking	
It is already very costly to use the REC center. It is also very unwelcoming for mature adults because a) the pool is exposed to the dining area where many youths hang out b) most yoga classes are offered during the day when most adults are at work c) the gym/track area at ARC is overpopulated with teens and barely 20's and I feel too intimidated to go up there d) the employees up in the gym/track area ignore older people and act like we don't belong there. I don't want to pay higher taxes so the REC centers can make older adults feel like we are wasting their time and using their facilities.	More for adults	
I would like to see more money put to the Arts for our youth. I would like to see a theatre space dedicated to community theatre. My kids take part in Abbotsford Children's Theatre and we have to pay for a space at City Hall--it costs about $6000 to rent. We have to move all the props, sets and costumes from storage at another location. Performing arts provides such valuable communication and life skills for our youth--more money and future planning needs to be involved to keep local performing arts alive and thriving in our city.	More for youth	
I am in agreement with the majority of what has been outlined in the said project, however, I question the "want versus need" In my opinion the need is more relevant, we need parking, we need retail, we need affordable housing, we need outreach accommodation, we need resources to assist our homeless. I question the monetary value on a new park or bike trail versus sustainable housing for the families in need.	Priorities	Infrastructure, housing
With the projection to a population of 200,000 the focus should be on improving the roads and schools. With the influx of multi-density housing there will be definite strains on the roads and schools, signs of both are already showing. The need to improve those areas is more important than adding more parks and rec facilities. With students being bussed all over the city just to accommodate the overcapacity the schools are already at and constant congestion on Hwy 1 proves it.	Priorities	Infrastructure, housing
And safety, in our recreation centers, has become an issue. The washrooms and change rooms are often frequented by members of the community not utilizing the facility (homeless, petty thieves, etc.).	Safety	
The vision and principles are idyllic however not the current reality. We have an ageing pool that is in desperate need of repair and expansion....limited recreation services for community members with varying mobility (wheelchair accessible) and limited cultural opportunities. And safety, in our recreation centers, has become an issue. The washrooms and change rooms are often frequented by members of the community not utilizing the facility (homeless, petty thieves, etc.).	Unrealistic	
This gives me a lot of dreams but nothing conclusive to follow.	Unrealistic	
Multi-seasonal uses....at Mill Lake, only one set of bathrooms are open in winter.	Usage	All seasons
Define culture?	Wording	Definition of terms

I believe you are using miss guiding wording when you refer to PARK, or PARKS. Growing up this meant an area where you could take your child to a playground and you the grownup could watch them entertain themselves. It appears to me that what the PRC vision really is about is green space and walking areas. We need FACILITIES where people can go with things to do.	Wording	Definition of terms

2.2. PARKS SHORT TERM AGREED (open-ended questions)

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Amenities	0	10	0	10
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Hiking and biking	4	18	0	22
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Indoor facilities	0	17	0	17
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Longboarding	10	2	0	11
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Dog park	4	3	1	8
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: New parks	0	3	0	3
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Sports	1	14	0	15
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Playgrounds	0	4	0	4
SPECIFIC LOCATION: Abby Grind	3	11	0	14
SPECIFIC LOCATION: Jubilee Park	3	12	0	15
SPECIFIC LOCATION: Other	4	17	0	21
POSITIVE STATEMENTS	29	4	0	33
COLLABORATION	0	2	0	2
COMMUNICATION	0	15	0	15
CEMETERY	0	7	0	7
ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES	4	14	0	18
MISC	1	34	1	36
MAINTANANCE	0	2	0	2

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
COLLABORATION	0	2	0	2
I'm concerned that Rotary/Clearbrook park are not in this. They are both highly used and fall short of the amenities that large sports complexes in other communities have. This is an area where Abbotsford hosts other communities for sports and cultural events. The stands and spaces at Rotary need upgrading. The new playground and bike track was a good start, but to be a sports hub, more is needed.		1		
Please embrace the expertise of the FVMBA in your planning and execution processes.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
COMMUNICATION	0	15	0	15
And if you re-do this survey, could you please make the maps expandable, and have a link on each site that I can click on so I can go to the specifics of that area, i.e. link to google street view/satellite view, so I can better understand where it is in relation to the city. This map is so small I have to try to figure out where each place is located.		1		
As for the others, I don't know what the plan is, I went through the OCP and I can't find the specifics of the plans for each site. Refers to project estimates. Where do I find this stuff? Do you have a link?		1		
Bring more social media sharing thee up to date info that people can see more readily. IE face eBook, Instagram and each part can kind of be used to better prepare the people on trail conditions, week to week and provide safety precautions, IE. Bears, cougars seen in the area.		1		
How can you say if you agree or not with them if you do not outline exactly what those priorities are. Having a map and listing items with no explanation as to what is being done there and why it is a priority is useless.		1		
I can see no appreciable differences between short and medium term priorities.		1		
I put "not really" because I don't know what the plans ARE.		1		
It's really unclear from just the poster above as to what exactly is being done at these sites.		1		
Not enough information here. What is an erratic rock park?		1		
Not enough information in the illustration to move past general agreement		1		
Not sure of definitions - e.g. Community Park / Neighbourhood Park		1		
The concern would be funding. These are nice improvements, but we wouldn't want an increase in taxes or funding to be removed from an already funded area for these improvements.		1		
The descriptions of the short term priorities are too vague.		1		
There is one undesignated neighborhood park near the bottom, just so you know		1		
This brief info does not really help me understand the priorities. I think I agree... but it's hard to tell		1		
Very difficult to read, hard to comment		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Dog park	4	3	1	8
Also, dog park doesn't seem necessary. There are lots of places to take dogs for walks. I'm a dog owner and am NOT a fan of off leash parks. People need to be able to walk their dogs, not let them loose in a contained area and then park their butts on a bench.			1	
Dog parks in all sections of the city for large and small dogs would be a nice addition.		1		
I love the amount of walking trails that Abbotsford has and continued areas for dogs to be a part of the community as well.	1			
I think having another dog park is a good thing, because as the human population grows so will the dog population	1			
In general, hiking trails and good dog parks are important to us.	1			
Real need for dog management. This must include some 'crackdown' on misuse of parks by dog owners. Too many off leash in bird parks, too much dog droppings on trails, etc.		1		
There are a significant number of dog owners without areas to let the dogs do dog things. More dog parks/areas would be welcomed.		1		
There are currently 3 dog parks that I am aware of....at Bateman, on Gladwin near Haida and at Clearbrook Park. I see only one here....are the others going to disappear?	1			

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
CEMETERY	0	7	0	7
What is the cemetery alternative burial site? The first thing that sprang to mind for me is sites where people can be wrapped in sheets and buried in a forest. Is that what this alternative burial is about? I am guessing not.		1		
Also important to have traditional burial options. Limited burial plots exist in the city and are pricey.		1		
My confusion is with the cemeteries, is there a need for more?		1		
Not sure about city investment in a cemetery? In many cities these are private		1		
The re-design of Hazelwood cemetery area along with the new master transportation plan with roads connecting Hazelwood through to the McCallum intersection and Maclure road through to Elmwood will not only create a beautiful accessible park-like area in the cemetery grounds but will also eventually connect discovery trail across Highway #11 and add to the bike lane corridor as well as accessible pathways to the Immel-McMillan Neighbourhood centre. As well it will alleviate the bottle neck of traffic at the overpass next to Clayburn Plaza and allowing for better flow of traffic in and out of the Immel-McMillan and adjoining Hazelwood areas. The staff in the Engineering and Parks departments most notably Rob Isaac and James Arden should be commended for recognizing a deficiency in their master plans and for their subsequent collaboration and dedication in determining a viable solution for the future ultimate unrestricted access route for the section of Maclure road bordered to the West by Highway #11 and to the East by the Ten Oaks townhouse development. Well done!		1		

Why more cemetery.		1		
With regard to Short Term Priority, Cemetery Alternative Burial site. There is a need for a cemetery where trees can be planted atop of buried ashes. As that cemetery looks now it is as artistic as it is uninviting. People love trees and gather beneath them. Trees are elegant, beautiful, timeless and inviting. Burying ashes and planting a tree on top is also ecological, add a bench and it's a park. The adjacent traditional bury ground, with its flat on the ground tombstones is barren looking and devoid of trees except for the perimeter.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES	4	14	0	18
I am personally concerned with the loss of forested areas and shade with all the new developments around Sumas mountain so I would like to see a more urgent focus on that with the park developments.		1		
I appreciate more open space allowing for trails that connect communities. I appreciate trees that support clean air. I think more or larger community parks make sense over neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks are just a place for people to go smoke pot. Schools provide most communities with a park like atmosphere and a playground.		1		
I don't have anything against these plans, but I do want more focus on rebuilding habitats. Projects like the bird sanctuary are great. I think we need more green space– and at least more commitments to protecting green space. The loss of trees and wetlands at Gardner Park was tragic (though I know the land had sold years ago). We need to treasure every inch we have left. I do think hiking trails are important and really support the work done there. All the projects seem valuable. Rock wall and longboard park seem important for youth.		1		
I think the city must embrace preservation of the resources we have that are natural - such as wet lands & loops. This is not featured. We need to think green not just develop.		1		
I want to give it "completely" and likely deserving of it... if in those diagrams and words I could be assured of all existing parks remain and the mountain remain that with trees (that is without more development)! I would give it completely.		1		
I would love more information about the projects; however the main concepts appear a good balance between logistical and practical initiative and encouraging community involvement and activities.	1			
Keeping more flowers, fruit trees could make more smiles on the community that enjoys the outdoors.	1			
Need a lot of work in existing green spaces. Volunteers & stewards in community to help take care of green spaces in their own neighborhoods.		1		
Please make sure that there is a significant increase in the urban (city) forest and that there are fewer trees removed because it's convenient for a developer.		1		
Please save as much of Ledgeview as possible. Does the city have an in-house arborist to check if the arborist reports are legitimate or can the contracted Arborist be paid off by the developers to sign off on projects that shouldn't be permitted		1		
The city needs to allocate funds for the acquisition of sensitive areas and critical habitat so it is able to proactively acquire those.		1		

The sooner the better. With all the new housing and increased (cough cough) traffic we need more green space	1			
We need a firm commitment to establishing, enforcing and maintaining a housing/development acres ratio to green space acres - both short term and long term. I.e. not bending to developers or staff or council members whims.		1		
We need more green space not million $ homes. We need more parks in high density areas.		1		
We would like to see community gardens added to the park system, start with Mill Lake.		1		
Will there be green spaces around the new high density town homes that are going up??? I had thought that was part of the plan....but don't see how it can happen.		1		
With the amount of positive feedback, we should grow with more flowers, bulbs we could share with the community when we pull the bulbs.		1		
Yes, as long as existing natural areas are not eroded either in the process of developing these, or because losses slip in while the City's attention is diverted by these priorities away from natural area priorities.	1			
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Amenities	0	10	0	10
I do, however strongly agree with the provision of proper flush toilets, especially in parks (such as Berry) which hosts numerous events with out of town participants. One or two port-a-potties just don't cut it.		1		
Mouat fields no washrooms , change rooms		1		
Ensuring there are accessible washrooms during all seasons is important.		1		
I am disabled and feel access should be improved and maintenance also		1		
Signage is important...my wife and I just moved to Abbotsford and initially had difficulty locating the Discovery Trail. We still have difficulty locating access points in areas we are not yet familiar with. The trail is in need of attention (bumps, dips, safe navigation) and washrooms (i.e. not port-a-potties) which are clean, maintained and safe. Seating areas along the trail would be appreciated.		1		
The park on Eagle MT could really use washrooms.		1		
There are no parks in the Highlands/Whatcom Rd area other than a walking path.		1		
Washrooms are very important		1		
Washrooms at parks and sports fields are really needed.		1		
Yes I do believe that washrooms facilities need to be considered along a lot of the trails as well.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Hiking and biking	4	18	0	22
Also, info & guided trail walks more accessible for knowledge passed on to youngers generations		1		
In general, hiking trails and good dog parks are important to us.	1			

Apart from alternate location for the Abby Grind, I don't see any mention of hiking trails, example McKee, Downes Bowl, Lower and Upper Sumas Mtn. Also, better looping of long walking trails, such as Discovery, with other trails. Walking and hiking seems to take a backseat to sports field and community park development.		1		
Bicycle trails developed and maintained from one end of the city to the other are an important feature that make this an attractive place for younger families to settle in.	1			
Chilliwack has encouraged FVMBA to expand trail networks. Chilliwack financed Chilliwack Community Forest trail network. Built primarily by volunteers from FVMBA.		1		
How does the pathways and cycling plans fit in with this? For instance, I would expect non-vehicular ways for youth to get to the longboarding area safely. They are unlikely to use busses and parents so sidewalks and bicycle routes need to be coordinated. Similarly transit is important for people without cars or unable to drive and needs to be coordinated with these priorities.		1		
I don't see a clear overview where bike trails will be built.		1		
I love the amount of walking trails that Abbotsford has	1			
I see no investment in mountain biking which is one of the leading activities between Whistler and Chilliwack, Abbotsford is the only major municipality not embracing the benefits the sport has to offer and has no infrastructure to support it.		1		
I see no mention of trails for mountain biking.		1		
I would also like to see some money set aside for building new mountain bike trails and for paying people to maintain the trails we already have. I know municipalities like Kamloops and Squamish have paid trail workers.		1		
I would like to see a dedicated Mountain bike trail park.		1		
I would like to see resources go into mountain bike trails as well		1		
I would really love to see the development of a mountain bike skills park, similar to the one in Hope, built. I am not sure that a youth park is and what that entails.		1		
It would be nice to see a plan for a walk/ bike path connecting east to west		1		
LOVE the alternate Abby Grind project!! Abbotsford definitely needs more hikes!	1			
Metro Vancouver has transferred responsibility of land to Abbotsford on Sumas MT and this is not reflected in this survey; land which could be developed for mountain biking.		1		
PRC needs to expand support for development, maintenance and access to single-track mountain bike trails on Sumas MT, McKee Peak, and elsewhere.		1		
Safer access to trails (i.e. safer, wider city sidewalks).		1		
Would like to see a trail system being preserved in the McKee /Ledgeview area especially as it appears to be queued for development. Right now we can easily run 6 to 8 km without seeing a house and I hope trails are being kept in the plan.		1		
Would like to see more support for hiking and biking		1		
Would like to see the map include more activities such as Abby Grind on Sumas mountain and outside of the urban core to include cycling, mountain biking and other activities.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Indoor facilities	0	17	0	17
-A multi use indoor training facility to accommodate track and field, soccer, rugby, baseball football etc. - - This would be major bang for our buck and would be used by countless athletes of all levels and ages in our city		1		
-a tournament-suitable baseball complex		1		
Again, I believe an indoor training facility for track and field athletes and soccer etc. is a priority over and above the rest.		1		
Also need to include ice arenas!		1		
An indoor winter training facility should be included in the short term priorities. Such a facility is long overdue in a city of this size and importance. This facility should be a part of the short term goals.		1		
I feel like and indoor facility should be built as soon as possible		1		
I think funds available would be better spent short term in improving and adding to our indoor recreational facilities.		1		
I would like to see the tournament venue happen sooner.		1		
-more sheets of ice		1		
Need an Indoor field house facility.		1		
There should be more public areas or just more areas for sports specific parks. For example, a facility for a proper indoor track would highly be in use during the rough weather.		1		
This is very much "in the future" which, for the current generation of young people, it is really not soon enough to benefit, particularly from indoor facilities for things like athletic training. In the fall months, which are when preparation for the season ahead begins, there can be rain, cold and even snow. My sons have trained at Rotary in the snow and I remember hearing that the Olympian Mike Mason had to train there out in the snow too! We now have athletes such as Django Lovett who are competing at a very high standard - potential Olympiad and other young people in high school who have been to Worlds. 2043 is a long way off for the young people we have right now.		1		
-Updated aquatic centre (for both competition and rec) to replace the aging pool at ARC		1		
We are desperately in need of indoor facilities that will house multiple sports. Soccer, track, gymnastics, swimming, tournament destination. We can't wait 20 years to get it.		1		
We need an indoor training facility. Especially an indoor track. Waiting until 2040 is far too long.		1		
While I totally agree with all of the projects moving ahead for the short term, it would be great to see more commitment to larger facilities -- even if it were development of a plan to secure additional funding for the needed facilities.		1		
Would like to see better East Abbotsford aquatic facilities sooner than later.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Longboarding	10	2	0	12
I also like the idea to have a long boarder place so they can be safer than using the road.	1			
I would like to see the proposed long board park find a new location and as much of McKee peak saved for mountain biking.	1			
Abbotsford has a surprisingly large community of people who longboard (amateur and professional, young and old), and naturally, as the population goes up in general, the number of longboarders will go up too. This means the demand for such a park will only increase as well. This also means, if a park were to be built, it will get years and years of use from JUST our community. Not to mention the attraction this will bring to our city! People will come from near and far to utilize what could be Canada's 2nd longboard park! By offering a designated zone for this activity (among other gravity oriented sports), you also offer reasonable safety and security to those using the zone, access to like-minded individuals and the opportunity for beginners to learn with/from those who are more advanced (proper maneuvering, safety signals, how to stop in various ways, instilling the importance of safety gear such as helmets and gloves, etc.), allow family/friends/parents a way to be more involved due to a 'controlled' / centralized environment, and encourage more people to utilize the designated zone rather than somewhere inappropriate and/or dangerous. With the right design and city/community support, this could also open doors to programs that help troubled youth, such as providing skate classes that involve them in positive physical activity while encouraging safety (helmets, skate etiquette, etc.).	1			
I look forward to providing a place for long boarders in the city. There are a few roads or parks that allow for the space that's needed. Mill Lake can be good however it is usually much too crowded to longboard without interruptions.	1			
Longboard Park - Location (same concern as above) Discovery trail sections serve as a great example of the types of pathways that could be utilized. Perhaps twinning or double a pathway for the use of longboarding could be an option. Giving youth (& everyone) a safe place to learn longboarding is a must! This is a growing community and popular sport. Safety for riders & other should be treated with high priority.	1			
Longboarding park is a complete waste of money. Not thinking long term on that - similar to a huge BMX track that is rarely used and takes up a massive amount of space. Hard to agree to the other parks when I don't know what they are.		1		
Love the longboarding park idea	1			
Not sure about the Longboarding park priority. That seems very limited for community use. I'm impression of skate parks is that they need more supervision.		1		
The propose dog park at the top of Westview seems like a poor location. There is an existing forest so I assume you would be clearing trees. We need to preserve as much of that forest as we can. Also, most people would have to drive up there to access the park. Finally, how would this integrate with the existing mountain bike and hiking trail network?				

The proposed longboard park is without a doubt, a FANTASTIC idea!! There are so many reasons why the community of Abbotsford NEEDS this, or something like this. Abbotsford has had at least 2 fatalities and other serious injuries involving youth who were longboarding. This is a horrific reality. And it could have been avoided if there was reasonable access to a safe 'zone' that longboarders are welcome to use. I often hear complaints from individuals (strangers, comments on news stories, parents, authorities, etc.) complain that longboarders should not be on streets or road ways, as it is dangerous. I also hear the same complaint when someone utilizes a public pathway/trail for recreational longboarding; Pathways that are intended for the SHARED use by all peoples. Pathways that seem the safest place to avoid traffic interference and stay safe while enjoying a recreational activity. So, I ask, "where are these people to go, where they can be safe and not interfere with traffic?" Cyclists have designated lanes, skateboarders have a skate parks, even dogs get parks to run free and not worry that they will be hit by a car. But when it comes to those who choose to longboard, they are left to deal with unfair prejudice, zero community resources/ support, and NO viable alternative.	1			
The sportsfield development and the youth park for longboarding should be ones to be more priority	1			
I question the longboard park purely because the youngsters that currently use the roads for this may not have access to a park without better public transport.	1			
With exception of the longboard park, it just looks like a lot of the same old same old	1			
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Dog park	5	3	0	8
Also, dog park doesn't seem necessary. There are lots of places to take dogs for walks. I'm a dog owner and am NOT a fan of off leash parks. People need to be able to walk their dogs, not let them loose in a contained area and then park their butts on a bench.	1			
Dog parks in all sections of the city for large and small dogs would be a nice addition.	1			
I love the amount of walking trails that Abbotsford has and continued areas for dogs to be a part of the community as well.	1			
I think having another dog park is a good thing, because as the human population grows so will the dog population	1			
In general, hiking trails and good dog parks are important to us.	1			
Real need for dog management. This must include some 'crackdown' on misuse of parks by dog owners. Too many off leash in bird parks, too much dog droppings on trails, etc.		1		
There are a significant number of dog owners without areas to let the dogs do dog things. More dog parks/areas would be welcomed.		1		
There are currently 3 dog parks that I am aware of....at Bateman, on Gladwin near Haida and at Clearbrook park. I see only one here....are the others going to disappear?		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
MISC	1	34	1	36
If Abbotsford proceeded with the aforementioned plan who will enforce the safety and cleanliness of these parks and facilities? Prime example is jubilee, drug users have taken over the park and it is no longer safe for children and productive members of society!		1		
Provide safety precautions i.e. bears, cougars, seen in area		1		
Keeping us off trail in fire season, what you think those that do the grind smoke! Leave it alone.		1		
Bring seasonal park attendants, wages, more adequate with trying to build growth to be able to provide food and shelter for their families.		1		
Covered hard surface areas are urgently needed for sports such as lacrosse ball hockey and individual yes		1		
Culture needs to be integrated into the development of the new parks		1		
Currently the City of Abbotsford hosts multiple provincial level rugby finals, from club to high school to private enterprise 7s tournaments. Rugby is a sport that allows many different people to play, of varying skill and participation, from traditional 15s to sevens and touch rugby. One thing that many other communities have got behind is having a clubhouse at a local field, usually financed by the local club and now these communities are reaping the benefits of such a facility: Kamloops, Surrey, West Vancouver, Vancouver, and Chilliwack. These clubs and cities worked together to make this a reality. Exhibition Park in Abbotsford has world class playing surfaces and it makes the most sense to have a rugby-specific venue to host functions for the benefit of the local rugby and community at large. Currently the Abbotsford Rugby Football Club has produced 4 national level athletes that will represent our country in the Olympics in 2020 should Canada qualify, with many more in the pipeline that could potentially play and it would be nice that the city recognizes the sport of rugby rather than just looking at numbers for soccer and comparing apples to oranges. You have a world class club in your city that has to fight with Park staff to get fields for second games when field and time conflict arise. You have a Parks department and city management/council unwilling for the past 30 years to work with ARFC on Pinegrove, a piece of land worth millions in lost tax revenue. Please come to the table and make our dream a reality to have a clubhouse honouring the sport of rugby pitch-side, like many other communities have got behind. You are the ones that will be put on the map by the fastest growing sport which is now an Olympic sport.				
Difficult to say. Would need more detail than the vague map gives.		1		
Everything bring enhanced and made I think will be great! Especially the longboard park.	1			
I don't see any specifics , in terms of development priorities ?		1		
I don't see any project beyond the city limits. What about the country folk?		1		
I think these are all good parks that need to be updated. 8 think there's a couple missing, however, that may be more heavily utilized currently than the ones listed here. Maybe they should be more of a priority?		1		

I would just love to see this city become more walkable. I have to avoid many areas thanks to lack of sidewalks and or safe crosswalks		1		
I would like to see more connectivity in parks. Also integrate more with access to shopping and commercial areas, so that people can get around more without vehicles.		1		
I'm not sure of the difference btw a Community, City wide and Neighbourhood Park. I would like to see every developer give up something for a Park. I assume Timberlane falls into that category.....but there are several developments going in on the Whatcom hill area. They could all be compelled to develop a small neighbourhood park??		1		
I'm new to the City and do not know all the parks - difficult to agree completely			1	
It's feasible & the grant money is available - we need urban choices of recreation, not always having to drive for hours outside our city to play.		1		
It's hard to comment when I don't know the specific plans for development or the alternatives that were rejected in favour of these priorities.		1		
Just concerned about the 1/3 being raised through grants. This is extremely challenging.		1		
Little to no improvement on the referenced lack of culture in the 2005 plan, no limited capital planning for culture expense in comparison to parks and rec, none in the city centre, no concrete plans for culture whatsoever.		1		
More expansion of Community Recreation Capacity sooner		11		
Other than the General terms listed				
Short term should be 1 year		1		
Sooner		1		
The plan works In theory- I would hate for the plan to get to highly involved with and stuck in the research part. I have worked in many levels of government; the funds are poorly managed and over budget. I understand things change, but I hope the City can be better at staying on task, conducting valuable research and sticking close to a budget so this very vital community project can develop		1		
The youth park may be a difficult location for kids to get to. Rock park sounds exciting.		1		
This survey is great on theory and fluff, but short on specifics when it comes to the actual plan. I feel like I'd be building a house without knowing floor plans, specs, or cost. Blank slate is not my kind of approval.		1		
Without forethought and research that would have revealed that the use of the park was a pipe dream. The result in some cases was a waste of concrete for a skateboard park that was underutilized other than for graffiti or a quiet park setting that was mostly for drug trade. Jumping to a solution may be fine if one is lucky but to be good requires that work must prevail. Get it right under the criteria that dictates it will work as designed in the location selected, or do not do it.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: New parks	0	3	0	3
Community parks seem to be fairly spread out. I think it would be nice to see another city wide park in East Abbotsford, and perhaps some more community parks in West Abbotsford.		1		
I would also love to see a dog free park area like in Alberta. A play area, walking area, picnic area where it's simply for people - no dogs. Our neighbourhood is filled with barking dogs; every park has dogs running about on and off leash. I hear many folks wishing they could go for a walk where there are simply no dogs. Families where dogs approach their small children and owners stating - our dog is friendly - sometimes that's not true. And the children are afraid. I agree with having spaces for dogs and thanks for including these dog spaces. Sure would be wonderful to have dog free zones too.		1		
Would like to see more city wide parks and community parks.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Sports	1	14	0	15
Baseball parks should be a higher priority and also indoor track.		1		
I believe we need more various sports field development immediately, keeping youth sports readily available to all keeps youth out of trouble & helps get them involved within their community.		1		
I would love to see disc golf included in this short term proposal.		1		
Need more Sports Facility parks. Well researched and thought out	1			
Please bump up priority of a baseball diamond facility		1		
Put a turf field and lights at Yale or Bateman		1		
Sportsfield Development is long overdue. Enhancements to parks would not be a priority for me.		1		
The sportsfield development and the youth park for longboarding should be ones to be more priority		1		
There is a need for baseball fields in this time frame and not later.		1		
Things like baseball diamonds are in short supply given the amount of kids enrolled in organized sports.		1		
Think the city needs more sport fields quicker		1		
We have a desperate need for more fields for people of all ages to play organized sports.		1		
We need new baseball diamonds now, not several years down the road.		1		
We need the Outdoor Multi-Sport facility sooner than listed in the plans... preferably within the next year or two. Our baseball fields and training facilities have been inadequate for years, particularly with Abbotsford's growing population.		1		
Would be good to see opportunities for more than just soccer fields at parks. EG Mill Lake has Beach Volleyball, but the geese make it so gross to play there that most people would opt to go to MEI. Would be great if the city invested in another park where geese are not overtaking the area for		1		

beach volleyball, as well as maybe nicer outdoor basketball options.				
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Playgrounds	0	4	0	4
I would like to see a children's park that is made of wooden beams and natural components that really challenge children to climb and hang on. Kids brains require this challenge and our regular standard pop up parks do not have enough climbing spaces.		1		
Improved neighborhood park playgrounds should be added for some areas.		1		
My neighbourhood does not have a playground within a five minute walk. I would really want to see one installed within the next 5 years.		1		
Would be nice to see more neighborhood playgrounds		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
MAINTANANCE	0	2	0	2
I would worry that having location after location would limit the ability for up keep and maintenance. Currently my husband and I Coach Soccer our primary location is at the Mouat fields water is important the fountains need to be working and it's almost impossible to fill your water bottles in the bathroom sinks. Maintenance of these locations needs to be a manageable priority.		1		
The parks need regular upkeep and updating. They are well used by the public.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
SPECIFIC LOCATION: Abby Grind	3	11	0	14
Abby Grind needs a better location.	1			
Abby grind, sure a washroom but leave it alone, don't make it more public than it is, it will get too busy and it's not a wide trail.		1		
Don't move the Abby grind		1		
Interested in Abby grind movement, will it be 1. Safer 2. Easier to get to 3> Hand rails and steps to make it more like the Grouse Grind.	1			
Like, try building a different Grouse Grind. People are about the "legend" of climbing the real thing.		1		
Looks like an imbalance to central and east Abby, is west Abby getting enough thought?!		1		
Not sure about the Abby getting relocation. I'd want more info on what they're thinking that will look like...		1		
People who use the Abby Grind like it where it is. Build another trail and call it that if you want, but I doubt you'll get the die-hards to stop using the one they use now...		1		
The Abby Grind is actually called the Glen Ryder Trail. We should not forget his contributions to our city.		1		
The Abby grind is where it is because of the terrain. While having something close to town would be great, it would have to be comparable.		1		

Where is the permanent Abby Grind located? Is there no community park in east Abbotsford? It seems that there no city wide parks in east Abbotsford. Are there plans to develop a park on McKee Peak?		1		
While I'm not familiar with the majority of these projects, I am in full support of moving the Abbotsford grind as well as investing in the Clayburn village community and heritage sites. I also believe that mill lake plays an important role in our city as a whole and that jubilee park can provide a great gathering space if it is made more welcoming to all members of our community	1			
Why does the Abby Grind need re locating?		1		
Why is the Abby grind moving? Again, I would like to see more done to support the FVMBA and mountain biking.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
SPECIFIC LOCATION: Jubilee Park	3	12	0	15
I do not agree with spending money on Jubilee Park. It is always going to have homeless/druggies due to its proximity to the downtown core.		1		
I do not agree with upgrading the Jubilee park area. What family would want to take their kids to a place that is currently housing homeless people and acting as a place for people to use drugs?		1		
I know Jubilee has started, but it's so much money for the homeless and drug addicted to take over again. It looked so nice when the playground was redone a couple years ago but was ruined right away.		1		
I think the homeless people will be displaced from Jubilee Park		1		
I think the work being done on jubilee park is a big waste of time money and resources.		1		
I think you've chosen the most popular places that will have the most impact. Jubilee Park especially, as it is right beside the historic downtown where so many events are held.	1			
I'm concerned that the money being put into Jubilee Park will be a waste. The playground area was already redone and it didn't deter drug/alcohol use in the park. You weren't able to take children there because you could find pipes, needles and witness open drug and alcohol consumption.		1		
It looks pretty good. As someone who lives closest to Jubilee Park, it's nice to see that one slated for further upgrades.	1			
Jubilee park had been an ongoing issue with drug use in open areas. Adding more structures to an existing problem, I feel, will not fix its current issues. It would be just dumping more money into a wasted project. I feel the city needs to address one problem at a time before just throwing money at it and hope it will fix it. It didn't the last time I can't see it helping this time.		1		
Jubilee part is a waste of money. As long as there are bums and drug addicts that frequent the park no one will or should take their kids there no matter how amazing you try to make it.		1		
Now, in an unrelated question, what is being done about the homelessness within Abbotsford in the next 5 years to prevent them from making these enhancements to our parks pointless? Jubilee park is a park literally no one will go to due to the amount of needles found there. Even Mill Lake has seen an increase. As long as these problems are tended to during the enhancements I think you'll have a very happy		1		

city.				
Prime example is Jubilee, drug users have taken over the park and it is no longer safe for children and productive members of society!		1		
Very happy something is being done with Jubilee and Mill Lake.	1			
Way too much effort and money is being devoted to Jubilee Park. Until the neighbourhood to the southeast is cleaned up the park will continue to be a "camping area" for persons with no-fixed-address and will continue to have safety concerns. Not a place I will spend time with my family....		1		
Whether you fix Jubilee Park or not, I still would not take my children there b/c of the very real threat of used needles.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
SPECIFIC LOCATION: Other	4	17	0	21
desperately need gathering places in parks, an amphitheatre for instance, at Mill Lake park would be amazing		1		
Ag Rec Building; Multi use but small and NO Spectator seating.		1		
Also concerned that the short term vision does not recognize the potential need for additional resources to maintain or improve Trethewey House given it is a significant heritage asset.		1		
Connection across Mission Connector Hwy for Discovery Trail to Willband		1		
Exhibition Park needs redevelopment big time! The area north of Cadet and Twisters Gym. When will something be done with the upper parking lot? What about replacing the 'tunnel' with a pedestrian overpass?		1		
Highly concerned about the future use of The Turner house and that its restoration meets the standards of accepted heritage management practices.		1		
I agree that we need attention paid to Turner House, Mill Lake and Sports Fields. MRC does need to be expanded as do neighbourhood parks. Not specific enough about the possibility of acquiring new land for parks	1			
I would like to see Huntingdon included in this plan. Right now, it seems to be ignored. Over the past decade Huntingdon has grown considerably, and the soccer field "Huntingdon Park" between 3rd and 4th Ave. needs major upgrading and should be included in the PRC Master Plan.		1		
I'd be interested to hear the thinking behind proposed improvements to the "Civic Precinct Park". I'll spend some time reviewing the draft plan.		1		
It would be nice if there was more on the outside areas away from the downtown, 7 oaks area		1		
Lack of park space and rec facilities for eagle mountain and vicinity. Major growth but seemingly no park space?		1		
More investment into preserving McKee Peak mountain biking and hiking trails		1		
Overall really good- the Bateman Dog Park needs to be re-thought.	1			
The fields, Mill Lake & Turner House priorities are very sound, but do forecast also reflect need for another expansion to MRC? It seems very well used at present. What is the plan for acquiring more park land? There seems to be conflict between this and housing. Who will win? I hope it is PRC.		1		

The map seems to provide park development for central and east Abbotsford. West Abbotsford (Mt. Lehman - Aldergrove border) has an increasing population and seems to get largely forgotten.		1		
There is nothing for the citizens in the western and northern portion of Abbotsford		1		
When it comes to Erratic Rock Park...it's almost in Langley. I don't see a lot of people in the geographic boundaries of Abby using it. So, I see funding that as funding for Langley. Again, I'd like to have a link to specific plans before I could say if I agree.		1		
Would love to see Ravine Park become more of an extension of Mill Lake Park with better security and connections. It could be part of a vibrant pedestrian and bike link between Historic Downtown and City Centre.		1		
A new trail up the west portion of the Sumas Range is a great idea. It should be hiker and biker accessible. These groups can share a trail network.	1			
City needs to do everything possible to protect and preserve Sumas Mountain. McKee Peak should be preserved as a natural green space for animals and people. It should not be ruined like Eagle Mt.	1			
No. There is currently no plan to develop trails for biking and running and hiking on Sumas mountain. A lot of work was done by many groups and people in Abbotsford to save Sumas from mining. This location and the areas around Ledgeview mountain are used and loved by many, many people		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
POSITIVE STATEMENTS	29	4	0	33
A park for all walks of life.	1			
All areas of the city are represented with upgraded or new facility designs. I like the fact that the whole city is considered in this design process.	1			
Appears to offer something for everybody.	1			
As the population grows we need to plan space for parks and recreation or the opportunity will be lost for future generations. The city is growing rapidly in all directions and these areas would quickly be eaten up by developers.	1			
aside from sports field development I rarely hear any complaints about or demand for those other focuses (cemetery is probably the exception, I'm not in a place to comment on that)	1			
Awesome	1			
because it will be good for my school	1			
From what I've interpreted from the map above the proposals look very interesting and would likely benefit the community in positive ways.	1			
Further implementation towards community goals...	1			
Happy to see new parks and dog parks, but make sure improvements to existing parks are still funded and prioritized as needed.	1			
I agree in principle but I do not know a lot about each specific park and location.	1			

I agree in terms of the suggestion for development; however, the location of the majority of these developments are in the east area limiting the west area so would need to be equal in terms of geographical so both east and west communities could benefit from the development/expansion equally.	1			
I feel the improvements and developments will benefit our community greatly.	1			
I think the projects that are planned are good.	1			
I think these are all good parks that need to be updated.	1			
I travel to other cities for their parks and I'd rather stay local.	1			
More parks are always good thing, cherish the nature around you. Don't destroy it!	1			
Necessary considerations are taken.	1			
Overall I agree with this direction, however, I feel further investment in to arts and culture should happen before any further major investments in to sport fields.	1	1		
Overall really good- the Bateman Dog Park needs to be re-thought.	1	1		
Parks need to be upgraded from time to time	1			
Parks should actually be higher on priority...	1	1		
Pleased with what is here but medium term priorities should be moved into this category.	1	1		
So many people are out and active, it would be great to get that up and running sooner.	1			
The sooner the better. With all the new housing and increased (cough cough) traffic we need more green space	1			
there is a wide range of needs met in the parks developments	1			
They all seem important	1			
They include plans for everyone across the city. I especially like the focus on youth opportunities.	1			
They will help Abbotsford be a desirable place to live	1			

2.3 PARKS SHORT TERM: answers of Participants who disagreed (open-ended questions)

responses	206
not responded	324
	530
response rate	61%

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail

	Number of responses	% of total responses
Facilities	9	45.0%
More maintenance	3	15.0%
Priority	3	15.0%

Gentrification	1	5.0%
More amenities	1	5.0%
More biking	1	5.0%
Other things will take priority	1	5.0%
Safety	1	5.0%
	20	100.0%

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail

Facilities	**9**
Biking path	2
Hiking trails	1
More baseball	1
More sports fields	2
Mountain biking	2
Sport fields	1
Gentrification	**1**
Jubilee Park	1
More amenities	**1**
More biking	**1**
More maintenance	**3**
Other things will take priority	**1**
Priority	**3**
Homelessness	1
More arts	1
Open spaces	1
Safety	**1**
Jubilee Park	1
Grand Total	**20**

DISAGREE: full comments	CODE	sub CODE
Longboarding, but no actual sanctioned MTB & hiking trails in the McKee peak area is misguided priorities. Not to suggest a longboarding park is a bad idea, but it services a much smaller portion of the community while avoiding the more challenging issue of compromising with developers with the existing and popular network already in place on the hill.	Facilities	
Longboarding, but no actual sanctioned MTB & hiking trails in the McKee peak area is misguided priorities. Not to suggest a longboarding park is a bad idea, but it services a much smaller portion of the community while avoiding the more challenging issue of compromising with developers with the existing and popular network already in place on the hill.	Facilities	

More priority in sports fields as this will encourage the younger generation to play team sports and stay out of trouble. I'd like to bring to your attention this report on building a thriving community through sport: http://communityfoundations.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Vital_Signs_Sport_and_Belonging.pdf	Facilities	Sport fields
Mostly if they can connect by cycling road. To make it access for all not just the part of community that belong there.	Facilities	Biking path
Sports field needs to be a priority.	Facilities	More sports fields
This is a waste of money. Build infrastructure for sporting facilities. Rebuilding jubilee park is essentially giving the homeless people an updated camp.	Facilities	More sports fields
We need better ball parks in town. The ones we use now are dangerous. Infield's rock hard never raked or lined and in poor shape	Facilities	More baseball
Would like to see the incorporation of some type of mountain bike facility and indoor bike.	Facilities	Mountain biking
A safe 100k road bike route would take bikers of main roads and provide a safe environment for all.	Facilities	Biking path
Gentrification of jubilee is a detriment to long-time residents and others of lower social status.	Gentrification	Jubilee Park
I would like to see expanded washroom facilities at East Side Parks (e.g.: Eagle MT)	More amenities	
I would like to see expanded washroom facilities at East Side Parks (e.g.: Eagle MT) and more opportunities for "family biking."	More biking	
How often do these parks get used should be a deciding factor. Investing in the parks by adding new equipment can be costly. Keeping the parks clean should be a priority. Having lived in Abbotsford for 28 years you know there are certain parks you can't go to anymore because of the condition of the park, the garbage and other stuff left behind.	More maintenance	
There is no plan being presented to provide long term maintenance and care of these "priorities"	More maintenance	
Lastly most of the parks I visit are not maintained well enough so adding more would drag the upkeep down, further I have seen playgrounds taken out. Add to that someone in planning thinks overloading public areas with shrubs and such are a benefit when that space could be more effectively used for playground or open area	More maintenance	
I agree with the plan but every time there is a review in 5 years plans get stopped by government agendas. The biggest example is the Georgia viaduct in Vancouver. It was meant to be an exit to north Vancouver. Lots of money was spent and now it is being taken apart due to new government agenda.	Other things will take priority	
As much as I would appreciate a washroom on my walk through a well-manicured park, I am hard pressed to believe that a beautification process is worth tax payer's hard earned coin as we step around or over a homeless individual or family. I would support the allocation of dollars spent on programs and rehabilitation for the disadvantaged. Come on Abby officials, let's make a difference!	Priority	Homelessness

Parks are very important and I wholehearted endorse them and green spaces, but we have a lot of parkland and very little for visual art. How about taking 5% of what we world spend on more parks and using it for the visual arts?	Priority	More arts
There are no priorities being made to our open spaces.	Priority	Open spaces
Except a Jubilee park it's a waste of money it's a broken junkie hang out I don't think families will want to go there	Safety	Jubilee Park

3.2. PARKS MEDIUM TERM: responses of Participants who agreed

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
ACCESSIBILTY	0	2	0	2
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Amenities	1	2	0	3
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Indoor Tournament/multisport facility	8	19	1	28
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Outdoor Tournament/multisport facility	6	7	3	16
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Parks	0	4	0	3
LOCATION OTHER	0	18	0	0
MILL LAKE PARK	0	11	0	0
MISC	1	10	0	10
SUMAS	0	3	0	0
EAST/WEST ABBY	0	8	0	0
COMMUNICATION	0	26	0	26
COST	0	2	0	2
ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES	3	14	0	17
POSITIVE COMMENTS	17	0	0	17
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Hiking and biking trails	2	6	0	8

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
ACCESSIBILTY	0	2	0	2
Comprehensive maps and connecting trails could be created to join all the city parks into a centralized grid making them more accessible for seniors and disabled people.		1		
Kind of hard to forecast that far in advance. Would like to see more dog friendly areas and trails plus areas that are accessible to seniors using walkers, scooters		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Amenities	1	2	0	3
washrooms are important to maintain		1		

Washrooms need to be open year round and need to be safe.		1		
washrooms are important to maintain	1			
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL

COMMUNICATION	0	26	0	26
An interpretative heritage signage program should be developed with local heritage partners.		1		
Cannot understand the map image, parts missing		1		
hard to agree to these plans when I don't know what they are		1		
Hard to tell from this map		1		
I can't agree with a plan which is so vague. All I really can understand from this graphic is that you'll invest in 4 parks, maybe with trails and washrooms. It doesn't tell me whether that's investing $1000 for an outhouse, or $10 000 for a washroom facility, or whether you'll create a whole new park.		1		
I read through the OCP. I can't find where it says specifically what you're doing.		1		
I would rather do this survey when you can link me to the specifics of what you're planning.		1		
If I'm reading it correctly then I'd say it contradicts itself. City Park is in blue text as an enhancement project to what exists but has an asterix and a triangle indicating that it is not an already existing infrastructure. I'm confused.		1		
I'm not sure. Are we just talking about parks or does it include recreation and cultural facilities?		1		
It's hard to see what these triangles mean. What is meant by community park? We have tons of playgrounds (I have 3 kids). We need to maintain the wild trails that are not manicured, but that our volunteers are currently maintaining.		1		
Map is not visible, but it looks like it is lacking anything significant		1		
Need more information.		1		
not enough info on this page to see what is actually being thought about		1		
Not sure...this one doesn't seem clear on what the plans and vision include.		1		
Once again, just a map with no specifics but a name and an arrow. Useless.		1		
Plus 2 of the 4 points on this map are covered by the 'notes'		1		
Same as the last comment. Now this survey is wasting my time.		1		
see answer to # 2		1		
See answer to previous question		1		
see previous comment about hiking and walking		1		
The above map is not that clear to read.		1		
There is really very little information provide above.		1		
This doesn't actually give any information.... what exactly is being developed at these locations?		1		
This just lists parks... not what will actually be done...?		1		

Very challenging to read the map...		1		
You are not offering enough information to make an educated decision,,,,		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
COST	0	2	0	2
Again, your medium term priorities are far too vague. How much will be invested?		1		
Details or clarification about what is involved with the proposed "Mill Lake Development" and "Outdoor Multi-Sport Tournament Centre"? Who will bear the costs? "Mill Lake...tax base? "Outdoor Multi-Sport Centre"...user-pay or tax base?		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES	3	14	0	17
And also the value of heritage tress. An inventory of heritage trees should be undertaken and a process put in place to safeguard them through designation.		1		
Healthy Living with a focus on parks keeping the country feel with wooded paths etc. is important		1		
I think it is important to proceed with these plans, but again I am concerned about the loss of forest and shade with the new developments so would like to see some changes/improvements focusing on that too.	1	1		
I would like to see a tiny bit more, though this doesn't indicate the scale of the projects. If they're substantial and include planting new trees and have room for local flora and fauna then I am happy. I love the commitment to densify Abbotsford and with that comes the need to increase the green space so it isn't overrun. I would love more work done at mill lake to replant trees, increase the riparian zones and habitats for the creatures living there.		1		
I'm a little disappointed that a massive forested area, McKee Peak, that is covered in user/volunteer built and maintained trails appears to be replaced with a couple "neighbourhood parks". Remember outside is free and it doesn't need to be fancy.		1		
Like I said in my previous reply, and it applies here, a reasonable ratio of development to green space needs to be firm. Too many times it looks like the development of land takes higher priority than green space.		1		
Lots of neighbourhood parks in the East end of Abbotsford. Bits of neighbourhood parks scattered here and there....I am still thinking about the people in new high density housing. We need to see green, feel connected to the natural world to be our best selves.		1		
Lots of updating sounds like a lot of construction. Is there any reference to saving some green space & historical trees within the city? Worried about habitat loss of our small & large creatures living here with us.		1		
More green is good	1			
More larger parks for children 5 to 10 in East Abby	1			
More work needs to be done to preserve the forest and trails on Ledgeview.		1		

My concern in #2 carries over. I hope we can maintain the ALR and take back lands that we have taken out in the OCP in error and return any wetlands back to ALR or other form of natural preservation.		1		
There are beautiful trees throughout Abbotsford that are over 100 years old that also need protection. Work on that too.		1		
Where will the Mill Lake Development take place? Are you planning on cutting down the large old trees to make room for this?		1		
With the increase in population multi-family dwellings it is important to ensure that more park space is provided since most have a yard of their own to run around in.		1		
Yes, as long as existing natural areas are not eroded either in the process of developing these, or because losses slip in while the City's attention is diverted by these priorities away from natural area priorities.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Hiking and biking trails	2	6	0	8
A small investment in trail building can yield big results in tourism and local enjoyment.	1			
Ballfields and trails should be the main priorities.		1		
More work needs to be done to preserve the forest and trails on Ledgeview.		1		
The priority should be on building non-motorized trails for our huge user groups.		1		
The trails in Abbotsford should be the #1 priority so that the land isn't lost to development.		1		
These are good but there still need to be dirt trails built for bikers and hikers and runners in and around Ledgeview and Sumas.	1	1		
Would like to see the map expanded to include trails outside of the municipal urban boundaries into the rural and Sumas Regional Park areas		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Outdoor Tournament/multisport facility	6	7	3	16
A tournament-suitable baseball complex	1			
Abbotsford already has many outdoor facilities, such as Exhibition Park, to host sports tournaments. I don't see a significant need for an "outdoor multi-sport tournament centre".		1		
Adding more sports facilities is probably one of the biggest gains in this plan.	1			
And again with keeping youth active in the large outdoor areas for sport.	1			
Curious to learn more about the outdoor multi-sport centre site options...			1	
Details or clarification about what is involved with the proposed "Mill Lake Development" and "Outdoor Multi-Sport Tournament Centre"?			1	
I agree with the need for multi-sport venues and the locations being proposed	1			

Not sure. need more information on the outdoor multi-sport tournament centres			1	
Outdoor multi-sport tournament site needed more urgently and to include hard surface covered options		1		
Outdoor Multi-sport needs to be moved up in the timeline		1		
This needs to happen asap. The baseball field conditions are laughable.		1		
We do not need to spend more money on sports centres	1			
We need the Outdoor Multi-Sport facility sooner than listed in the plans... preferably within the next year or two. Our baseball fields and training facilities have been inadequate for years, particularly with Abbotsford's growing population.		1		
Why do we need to create a new outdoor tournament centre when Exhibition park already exists?		1		
The Outdoor Multi-Sport tournament centre is much needed, but it would be nice if it came sooner than 6-10 years.		1		
Really like the addition of another outdoor multi-sport tournament centre - huge need in Abbotsford	1			
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Indoor Tournament/multisport facility	8	19	1	28
A 6 to 10 year wait for a tournament centre in a community like Abbotsford is a joke		1		
Abbotsford fields competitive hockey, baseball softball and many other sports team every year. Year over year these teams compete with larger communities with a larger draw of players. The sporting community requires a tournament center to be in the forefront of the plan to increase funds for the local teams by being able to be a host annually not only during special situations like the BC Games		1		
-A multi-use indoor training facility to accommodate track and field, soccer, rugby, baseball football etc. - - This would be major bang for our buck and would be used by countless athletes of all levels and ages in our city		1		
Abby is already way behind other similar communities.	1			
Again, I am NOT seeing Sport facility development.		1		
Abby Entertainment Centre: Not as multi use user friendly as LEC. Parking , location		1		
An indoor track facility/field house should be much more important, as it would be useful to all sports groups for fitness training and indoor practices on a year-round basis. The running and track and field communities would benefit, but they would be far from the only beneficiaries of access to such a facility.		1		
ARC is a good start. Need other similar facilities.	1			
Because athletes right now are going to miss out on so many opportunities and it's really a need because we spend hours training in freezing and wet conditions even snow and need an indoor facility		1		
I really agree with the sport tournament centre. We should be doing everything we can to support competitive sports!	1			

I think the multi-sport tournament centre should be a 5 year priority		1		
I totally agree we need a multisport facility but I strongly believe we need it very soon. Please make this facility a priority for the city of Abbotsford. Our community needs it in the next 1-2 years. It would allow our city to host more tournaments and would be great for the economy as well.	1	1		
If an indoor training facility can't be included in the short term goals it should at the very least be included in the Medium Term Priorities.	1	1		
Love parks, the more the better. Tournament Centre? Fabulous!	1			
Missing some major sporting facilities in the medium term priorities- like a new aquatic center		1		
-more sheets of ice		1		
Multi-sport tournament centers don't apply to me personally, but they are important to younger families.	1			
Please, Please, Please - A Non-Chlorinated Pool facility!!! A salt water or oxygenated public pool. To give folks a healthier swim alternative.		1		
Pool , Field house , Multi use facilities Like Langley Events Centre LEC		1		
The multi-purpose sports complex keeps athletes in our city definitely should be medium term.	1			
The multi-sport centre needs to be sooner. Keeps people healthy, involved in positive activities, and brings revenue back into the city with tournaments and keeps young people busy and out of making poor decisions.		1		
The multi-sport tournament centre would need to be heavily funded in an ongoing basis and that is concerning. If they could be built debt free and without increasing taxes, they would be great assets to those involved in those sports, but that would be a smaller percentage of the Abbotsford population.			1	
This should be done earlier than after 6 years. The need for a multi-sport facility focused on youth athletics is remarkably high given the demographics of the city.		1		
Tournament center sounds good. I support as long as this be available for all sports.		1		
Tournaments should be more of a priority for the city and the schedule be moved up. It is a good investment for the city.		1		
-Updated aquatic centre (for both competition and rec) to replace the aging pool at ARC		1		

		POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
3.2.f	FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES: Parks	0	4	0	4
	A new park or pathway north of Historic Downtown where the old Clayburn brick factory used to be should be short or medium-term, not long-term as it appears to be.		1		
	More sports fields and neighborhood playgrounds in East Abby		1		
	Need to move timing up for park development in East Abbotsford		1		
	Add in a Park or type park like Langley Penzer Park to you/longboard Park		1		

		POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
3.2.i	MISC	1	10	0	11
	Agree as long as the Multi-Sport facility's main target focus is for use by community groups, not for-profit sports activities. It should be multi-purpose so that a for profit outdoor sport activity could be hosted there without concern, just not built, designed, and managed with a focus for commercial activity.	1	1		
	Would like to see more dog friendly areas		1		
	Consider Recreation Trend of outdoor Education, Nature Schools, Natural Play spaces		1		
	I think as the city expands more parks and green spaces will be needed. Will there be any thought to connect these green spaces with an interconnecting trail networks?		1		
	I'm not sure the demographic research in west Abby, but from these maps it looks like they don't participate in recreation, based on where the enhancements are planned. I know there are already great assets in W Abby, like school grounds, MRC, Rotary, Fishtrap, section of discovery trail, etc. Nor am I certain of the development/density plans for that part of town.		1		
	Is the 6-10 year time frame one that meshes well with city growth? We seem to see endless housing projects but no parks/trail plan that matches them.		1		
	More options for concessions for places that have higher visitors to provide a place that people don't need to bring everything on a bus to be able to have a family picnic. Or if they forget sunscreen or Frisbees etc.		1		
	The accessories could have city of Abbotsford logos on it to bring the feel of community.		1		
	This plan seems conservative compared to the 5-year plan. I wonder if city resources are being spread over the 10-year span appropriately, or if the plans are too front-loaded to spend more in the first 5 years.		1		
	Sports are huge in youth development. Needs to be sooner		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
POSITIVE COMMENTS	17	0	0	17
A bit vague, but reasonable.	1			
Again, from my viewing of the map above it appears that the projects are positive.	1			
Awesome	1			
Can't do everything at once	1			
Enough thought is given.	1			
Good visions.	1			
I don't use them but perhaps we need more.	1			
I guess it makes sense	1			
I like the development ideas, but they should be done sooner	1			

I mostly agree although, as per my previous comments, significant short, medium and long-term investment in arts and culture should happen before investment in a tournament centre.	1			
Love parks, the more the better. Tournament Centre? Fabulous!	1			
Parks is a place where people go to	1			
Sounds good...	1			
Sounds like a great plan!	1			
Sports is huge in youth development	1			
The city can't wait for these.	1			
The more outdoor activities the better	1			
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
MILL LAKE PARK	0	11	0	0
Concerned about the future development of Mill Lake Park and the recognition of heritage asserts such as the Trethewey House Heritage Site(how the maintenance and operation can be enhanced)		1		
Details, or clarification about what is involved with the proposed "Mill Lake Development"		1		
don't mess with the beauty of Mill Lake		1		
I don't think it's necessary to spend more money on Mill Lake Park		1		
I love the live music and sports events that occur at Mill Lake, and finding a way to continue this would make for a vibrant hub of activity. Additionally managing the goose population would improve the cleanliness of Mill Lake.		1		
I would like to see Mill Lake Development happen sooner.		1		
Mill Lake has become a hot spot for crimes and delinquency; therefore I support it being a focused priority for development.		1		
Mill lake is a high traffic and well used area. Upgrades in this area are always money well spent.		1		
Mill Lake should be kept natural, not turned into a sports arena venue.		1		
Mill Lake's north parking lot needs to go. The runoff from cars pollutes the lake. Move the parking lot somewhere else. Replace the washrooms on the north side. Build a proper Replace the ugly picnic shelter on the north side. Build a covered outdoor stage / bandstand on the south side of the lake with power outlets for the many events that take place there.		1		
Where will the Mill Lake Development take place?		1		

		POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
3.2.r	LOCATIONS OTHER	0	7	0	0
	Again, Huntingdon (Abbotsford taxpayers I might add) seem to be ignored.	0	1		
	by purchasing lands with intent to link east and west parts of park with a habitat corridor	0	1		
	DeLair Park south expansion needs to be planned for with removal (city purchase) of agricultural land and designated as a park. The cost of the agricultural land removal (purchase) between DeLair and freeway will continue to escalate and should be purchased now with leaseback to farmer until approved for city parkland. Current agricultural use with multi manure spreads annually shot out of cannons is unacceptable within city limits. Not to mention the high methane content that poisons our city and people. All cattle agricultural related enterprises within city limits should be grandfathered against any expansion unless new technology is used (i.e. methane capture)	0	1		
	Love the Albert Dyck expansion idea.	0	1		
	Metro Vancouver has transferred responsibility of land to Abbotsford on Sumas MT and this is not reflected in this survey; land which could be developed for mountain biking.	0	1		
	One of the optional sites for the sports facility looks to be DeLair park. I think placing a sports facility that will have very bright lights so close to residential area is shortsighted.	0	1		
	Still no parks planned for Highlands/Whatcom area	0	1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
SUMAS	0	3	0	0
No mention made of enhancing habitat value of Sumas Mountain Regional Park		1		
No trail development plan for McKee Peak it Sumas min.		1		
PRC needs to expand support for development, maintenance and access to single-track mountain bike trails on Sumas MT, McKee Peak, and elsewhere.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
WEST ABBY	0	8	0	0
Is there only focus on East Abby? Is West limited by space or finished in development? This visual appears somewhat lopsided to me.		1		
Lots of neighbourhood parks in the East end of Abbotsford. Bits of neighbourhood parks scattered here and there....I am still thinking about the people in new high density housing. We need to see green, feel connected to the natural world to be our best selves.		1		
Neighborhood park improvements are exclusively in the east, West and central Abbotsford should be considered as well		1		

Same as previous page, majority of the suggestions are for the east community. There should be some consideration for development suggestion for the west community as the growth is equal for east and west Abbotsford so the development opportunities should be for both areas as well.		1		
Seems like West side (West of Gladwin Road) of Abbotsford and more specifically the South West side is lacking in any future planning of park areas, but is an area that's population is growing fast.		1		
There seems to be a lack of emphasis on neighbourhood parks in West Abbotsford and south of Hwy 1.		1		
This is too East Abbotsford focused. Not one new Community or Neighborhood park for West Abbotsford? That is not a balanced plan. Please keep in mind that all of us pay taxes and the distribution back to community should be reflected. Yes East Abbotsford it where more of your wealthy people live, but don't close out the middle and lower incomes that live in central and West Abbotsford.		1		
With future development it seems that there are few plans for recreational centres in east Abbotsford.		1		

3.3. PARKS MEDIUM TERM: responses of Participants who disagreed

responded	151
not responded	378
	529
response rate	71%

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail

	Number of responses	% of total responses
Facilities	2	18.2%
Needed sooner	2	18.2%
(blank)	2	18.2%
Business model	1	9.1%
Effect on traffic	1	9.1%
Maintenance plan	1	9.1%
Needs clarification	1	9.1%
Priority	1	9.1%
Grand Total	11	100.0%

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail

Business model	**1**

Less commercialization	1
Effect on traffic	**1**
(blank)	1
Facilities	**2**
More baseball	1
Sports arena	1
Maintenance plan	**1**
(blank)	1
Needed sooner	**2**
Multisport arena	1
Sport facilities	1
Needs clarification	**1**
(blank)	1
Priority	**1**
More arts	1
(blank)	**2**
(blank)	2
Grand Total	**11**

DISAGREE: full comments	CODE	sub CODE
6 to 10 years is too late. By the time you build these facilities they will not even be close to what the city needs at that time. New sports facilities should be built within 2 to 3 years. 6 to 10 is way too long	Needed sooner	Sport facilities
Doubt it will happen. Baseball will keep waiting for little support.	Facilities	More baseball
I am concerned you intend to link up with the new owners of Seven Oaks and commercialize the park. Mill lake is a breath of fresh air in the middle of the city. It is a wonderful stress reducer and to bring in commercial ideas will ruin the effect of our wonderful park	Business model	Less commercialization
I fully support the concept of the multisport tournament area as a means of creating a stronger multisport environment in Abbotsford as well as making Abbotsford more of a hub for all levels of sport.	Facilities	Sports arena
I think more money needs to be put into creating performing arts spaces. Perhaps create a theatre space in Mill Lake Park.	Priority	More arts
I'm not sure when you say ... to be developed like mill lake? What do you mean? What is the plan? It's not fair to do it and ask more tax money.	Needs clarification	

It doesn't seem like you are considering the traffic flow affected by major events in the areas outlined. All I see is a bottle neck put pressure on the regular flow of traffic. PLACE these area events AWAY from the freeway with MORE than 1 exit.	Effect on traffic	
not certain		
same as previous		
The outdoor multi-sport tournament centre option needed to happen sooner. I guess better late than never.	Needed sooner	Multisport arena
There is no plan being presented to provide long term maintenance and care of these "priorities"	Maintenance plan	

4.2 PARKS LONG TERM responses of participants who agreed (open-ended questions)

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
COMMUNICATION	0	27	0	27
ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES	2	5	0	7
LOCATION East Abby	0	8	0	8
MISC	0	15	0	15
NEEDED SOONER; TOO LONG TO PLAN AHEAD	0	27	0	27
POSITIVE COMMENTS	12	0	0	12
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES Hiking and biking trails	0	6	0	6
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES Indoor	0	14	0	14
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES Multisport facility	0	22	0	22
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES Parks	0	4	0	4

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
COMMUNICATION	0	27	0	27
Again not enough information!		1		
Again would like to see and know more detail		1		
Again, need details to be able to comment.		1		
again, this map doesn't really tell me enough to say if I agree or not		1		

Again, your long term priorities are far too vague. How much will be invested? Exactly here will the development take place? Are you planning on cutting down the large old trees to make room for this?		1		
agree with the ongoing investment but need more information on the OMSTC		1		
Hard to tell from this map.		1		
I'm not that familiar with the need for tournament space so I can't really make an assessment.		1		
Is hard to tell from the map provided what plans are, improvements should consider areas beyond trails and washrooms -- playgrounds, picnic areas etc.		1		
It's not really providing any information.		1		
It's vague and doesn't tell me a lot about what an outdoor sports center is...		1		
Looks ok but don't know enough about it.		1		
Map is too small and should show exactly where these sites are to help decide whether or not one agrees.		1		
Need more information.		1		
No visible notes in the map in Twitter, needs updating please!		1		
not enough info		1		
Not enough information		1		
Not sure what this page is about.		1		
This map is difficult to analyze in detail where the focus areas are and for what purpose, therefore it was difficult to assess if I am in agreement with the priority areas in the long term strategy.		1		
This map is so small, and not expandable, I can't tell where these are. The "diamonds" are bigger than entire blocks.		1		
Too little information to provide comment.		1		
Too vague to be able to agree or disagree with!		1		
Too vague to say I agree with this.		1		
What are these projects?		1		
What is the difference between a community park and a neighbourhood park? They sound like one and the same.		1		
Without specific details, it is difficult to get an idea of what these projects are.		1		
Wow this is the least concise survey I may have ever taken. Wait, no that was one sponsored by the government of Canada. If you plan on doing what you want anyways, just do it and save my money from being spent on such a bogus survey.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN SPACES	2	5	0	7
More effort and money seems to be targeted to taking green space for development - which is not the right way to go.		1		
More green is great	1			
No serious talk about protecting any large scale green space from development and/or agriculture. Especially since McKee		1		

peak is being developed.				
Same as previous. Plan should be changed to be more inclusive of all the areas.		1		
Sustainability?????		1		
Yes, as long as existing natural areas are not eroded either in the process of developing these, or because losses slip in while the City's attention is diverted by these priorities away from natural area priorities	1	1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES Hiking and biking trails	0	6	0	6
A new park or pathway north of Historic Downtown where the old Clayburn brick factory used to be should be short or medium-term, not long-term as it appears to be.		1		
Again, more investment in rural park areas and trails such as Vedder Mountain, Sumas Mountain, Fraser River, and farmland trails and amenities.		1		
Again, nothing really for people who like long walks or hikes (or bike rides away from traffic)		1		
Mountain biking trails that are useful for riding and running are most valuable to me		1		
Not addressing the needs of the mountain bike, trail runner and hikers tax payers. Mission and Chilliwack are miles ahead. Progressive if you do.		1		
Would like to see more paths and bikeways that can also be used for transportation, for example, along low-use rail lines or ravines.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES Indoor	0	14	0	14
Abbotsford already has many outdoor facilities, such as Exhibition Park, to host sports tournaments. I don't see a significant need for an "outdoor multi-sport tournament centre".		1		
25 years is too long to wait for the completion of an indoor training facility which is already needed and has been needed for years.		1		
Again the indoor facility should be created as soon as possible like in 6 months they should start		1		
An indoor track facility/field house should be much more important, as it would be useful to all sports groups for fitness training and indoor practices on a year-round basis. The running and track and field communities would benefit, but they would be far from the only beneficiaries of access to such a facility.		1		
An indoor training facility is not even labeled on the long term priority map.		1		
I have NOT seen any mention for meeting Ice Arena demands.		1		
-more sheets of ice		1		
Need Indoor field house facility. (Edmonton Sherwood Park)		1		
Need a pool / multi sport facility		1		

The long term priorities such as an aquatic center and other updates are slated for too far down the road- our facilities will be antiquated (old and outdated) by 25 years down the road. We are falling behind the needs of our growing community and behind the facilities available in other cities.		1		
The priorities in this are the facilities we NEED most: Indoor field and outdoor multi-sport tournament centre. Those two facilities alone could bring in world class events to our cities; as well the indoor field alone could establish Abbotsford as a hub in the Fraser Valley for training. There needs to be a plan in place to look to secure private funding or additional funds elsewhere in order to bump up these projects in the timeline. At the very latest, they need to be complete within 10 years, or else we will lose to Langley and our surrounding communities. We will be so late to the game if we don't get these facilities built in a timely manner.		1		
The sporting groups in our city have been screaming for better aquatic facilities and an indoor training facility for decades already. Putting them off until the early 2040s is beyond ludicrous, and shows complete disregard for the will of the citizens.		1		
This city needs a multi-sport INDOOR training facility SOONER rather than later--20+ years is TOO LONG! That's another generation away and the need is here and now and real. Our Track and Field athletes and coaches dedicate their time and so much effort to represent our city and province and our country well--they need an indoor training facility to help them reach their potential.		1		
-Updated aquatic centre (for both competition and rec) to replace the aging pool at ARC		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES Multisport facility	0	22	0	22
..there should also be fields within the multi-tournament centers that should always be available for anyone to just get together play and not necessarily on a designated team....like it used to be years ago before everyone had to play for a team. We need to encourage pick-up games and Play for fun again.		1		
I think the multiuse tournament center should be walking park greenspace		1		
Is the proposed multi tournament site south of freeway by UFV?		1		
Like the idea for sports areas to bring larger sports events		1		
A multi-use indoor training facility to accommodate track and field, soccer, rugby, baseball football etc. - - This would be major bang for our buck and would be used by countless athletes of all levels and ages in our city		1		
Again, the multi-sport facility should be more of a priority. It is needed now and not ten years from now.		1		
I believe the multi-sport center is a more immediate requirement.		1		
I do like the concept of this "outdoor multisport tournament centre" but I like it as I guess the concept to be intended. What I interpret and what you mean could be very different! I require more vision for these possible new parks before I can give intelligent comment.		1		

I don't see the benefits of a tournament centre. Langley has an amazing outdoor skate park and parkour park that we drive to because our parks don't cut it. Mission has an amazing water park because ours doesn't cut it. Focus on the small stuff before worrying about tournament centres because honestly, is there a need for it?		1		
Multi-sport needs to be sooner for our growing population to just keep up with demand.		1		
Multisport facilities should be completed sooner		1		
Not that I don't agree but there's no middle option for someone that has no interest in a multi-sport complex.		1		
Outdoor Multi-Sport Tournament Centre is long overdue		1		
Should be sooner. Especially the Multi-sport tournament centre. Tournaments create income for everyone involved in the city.		1		
The multi-sport tournament centre should be fast-tracked. Currently, it feels as though we are poorly equipped to host tournaments and showcase the city...Kamloops as a fantastic example of what can be gained from excellent infrastructure of this sort		1		
The priorities in this are the facilities we NEED most: Indoor field and outdoor multi-sport tournament centre. Those two facilities alone could bring in world class events to our cities; as well the indoor field alone could establish Abbotsford as a hub in the Fraser Valley for training. There needs to be a plan in place to look to secure private funding or additional funds elsewhere in order to bump up these projects in the timeline. At the very latest, they need to be complete within 10 years, or else we will lose to Langley and our surrounding communities. We will be so late to the game if we don't get these facilities built in a timely manner.		1		
This is needed much sooner than 15-25 years. There are already issues with not enough sports parks and ice arenas to hold tournaments. Most other cities of our size have these facilities in place already.		1		
Tournament priority should be moved up.		1		
Additional high quality sports fields might be the biggest current need so it's good to see this addressed.		1		
-a tournament-suitable baseball complex		1		
-a tournament-suitable baseball complex		1		
Not enough fields for Baseball. Needs to start project earlier		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES Parks	0	4	0	4
Again need more City Wide Parks for the West side of Abbotsford!		1		
More parks for the city centre but my neighbourhood is still left out. p.s. there is land for a playground at Munroe Park, just need the equipment.		1		
Plan needs to place more emphasis on "high quality parks that can protect the environment and provide the physical and psychological benefits of access to nature." (from: National framework for recreation in Canada)		1		

The long term plan for neighbourhood parks in the downtown core will make Abbotsford very unique for its size.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
LOCATION East Abby	0	8	0	8
Again very little as far as recreation is planned for east Abbotsford.		1		
Is that where the population will live? Isn't it more in East Abbotsford?		1		
It would be nice to see some more community and neighbourhood parks south of Hwy 1.		1		
It's good to see more neighbourhood parks springing up in the West end of Abbotsford. Question: could there be an east/west mix of parks going up simultaneously in years 6-10 and then in 11-25? This seems fairer that each part of the city would be receiving new parks over the same time frame.		1		
More East Abby parks required		1		
Neighbourhood parks are missing from the lower left area. Not sure why. For youth and seniors especially, stay at home parents, people without vehicles having somewhere to go close to home is important. Also need to make sure transportation plans coordinate with this.		1		
Seems like East Abbotsford got left out		1		
Again need more City Wide Parks for the West side of Abbotsford!		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
MISC	0	15	0	15
I don't see how neighbourhoods centres are being developed; most people would need to drive to access most parks as planned		1		
I'm not that hung up on washrooms, but other people seem to feel this is very important...and my kids are grown up now so I don't use them as often as some - I can understand why they're so interested. It is important to me that the wonderful parks and trails we have now are kept and maintained as is in the long term. I absolutely see the need for another dog off leash area, and it would be nice if one were located on the water, so that dogs can swim or cool off. This would encourage people to stop using the creek by Bateman Park for that purpose (that park badly needs a water source in the dog park, btw, please and thank you...that's why everyone takes dogs into the creek in the first place). Our parks and trails are one of the main reasons why I want to live in Abby now and in the future. My only concern here is that many of them lack parking facilities, and it is unsafe to leave vehicles parked at trail heads etc. to access them.		1		
Is Abbotsford focusing on becoming a sports hub like Kamloops or Surrey? Will this work? How are we going to fund this project? Are we starting to tax and save now? What can we do to help use our current indoor sports/entertainment Center to fund the outdoor center		1		

It's difficult to toggle back and forth between screens, so can't compare various stages of development side-by-side. Park/Green space is vital. How will multi-modal transportation permit large groups of people to access these spaces without clogging up parking or polluting the atmosphere? Do the proposed bus transportation routes service these parks?		1		
Natural heritage value needs to be recognized in all park spaces.		1		
Our facilities are great especially for children and you have excellent staff! Do you have plans for maintaining that excellence as retirements arrive? And consider the parkland currently in other cities are we preserving it for future generations?		1		
Replace public washrooms located near the water spray park. Those washrooms were built prior to the establishment of the water spray park. What is needed are washrooms with change facilities for the people to use as users of the water spray park. Relocate the washrooms to a better location.		1		
These are pretty stupid questions. Who doesn't want parks? Only people that want lower taxes at any cost would disagree with any of this.		1		
We need more cultural places. I would like to see the Reach expand with more services such as gift area and restored to complement its service.		1		
While I appreciate the need for an outdoor sport centre, we need to invest first in arts and culture. We have a ton of sport facilities and laughable arts and culture infrastructure and support.		1		
Yes, we have excellent facilities, but we need to prioritize acquiring and saving land before it's gone.		1		
Again there should be a little more on the outer areas. There are a number of people that do not have the ability to travel any distance. So either more in these areas or a much better transit system in order to allow people to get around		1		
I would hope that more farm land areas wouldn't be used for a new site. If it was close to UFV and ET centre than it seems ok.		1		
Again, as stated earlier, I feel the priorities are in the wrong order.		1		
This is not a new recommendation. It has been voiced in earlier stages of the development of Plan2K. Are you paying attention to what people are saying?		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
NEEDED SOONER; TOO LONG TO PLAN AHEAD	0	27	0	27
25 years is too far away for some of these facilities		1		
Again hard to forecast needs infrastructure should be a priority throughout your plans - some can be developed/built earlier with completion these years. Please think through previous year's plans so for example, you are not tearing up roads over and over again. If you know sewer lines are needed in the future and you are tearing the road up anyway for something else can you do this at the same time? Think through and don't waste taxpayer money.		1		
Again, I'm sure the city has thorough knowledge of where the population growth will evoke so you understand where the PRC assets need to be.		1		

Again, should be done much sooner.		1		
As a taxpayer in the community for 35 years there has not been enough infrastructure built to support the increased population - get more done sooner!		1		
Good; however, am thinking that the wait for these plans means waiting too long.		1		
I think it should be no longer than12 years.		1		
Interesting proposals...it is hard to make a firm decision when the time frame is that far off and without more information about these "bigger" projects.		1		
It is too long and is needed now.		1		
Just attend the Field location schedule meeting. Each year the fields are already in short supply in 2018.		1		
Long TERM 25 years.		1		
Long term planning is nearly impossible to do. Mt Baker could blow up and destroy the entire area.		1		
Long term priorities are just that. They are much too far ahead. How can they be termed priorities? Perhaps hopes, wishes, ideas, dreams would be more apt. Land acquisition for parks and recreation centres should be happening now.		1		
Multi Sport Facilities Finally. Abbotsford will be so far behind by then.		1		
Needs to be completed sooner. Athletics are extremely important to youth in Abbotsford.		1		
OK for now, but likely to change before implementation		1		
Sooner		1		
These facilities will not be enough to support our local growth needs.		1		
These are long term projects so they're subject to change		1		
They are great ideas. How likely are they to stay priorities in 15 years from now?		1		
This should happen faster		1		
Timeline is too far out you can't know what the City will need 25 years		1		
Too far ahead for me - probably won't be in Abbotsford by then and difficult to plan that far ahead		1		
Up to 11 years, then will have to be rehashed to see what's needed - 25 years is too far forward to plan; maybe we can have the ground work done by then, though		1		
Waiting until 2043? Are you kidding??		1		
Why plan 25 yrs. Things/plans change all the time.		1		
Will have to reevaluate in the coming years...planning in nice but the reality is that the city scape may look way different in 2029 no matter how much planning you do.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
POSITIVE COMMENTS	12	0	0	12
Future plans are good.	1			
Great	1			
However, I am in support of park development and green	1			

spaces.				
I don't know all the areas well but I certainly enjoy the parks I have access to and I'm sure others will love it as well	1			
I like that (it looks like) including park space near the UDistrict.	1			
Its makes sense	1			
Keep going....	1			
Stay on track hopefully.	1			
Sure	1			
These kinds of projects keep the city healthy by planning projects for families to all be able to enjoy the activities.	1			
Would love to see even more. Just need more details though.	1			
The long term plan for neighbourhood parks in the downtown core will make Abbotsford very unique for its size.	1			

4.3 PARKS LONG TERM responses of participants who disagreed (open-ended questions)

responded	134
not responded	396
	530

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail		
	Number of responses	% of total responses
Facilities	2	22.2%
Needed sooner	2	22.2%
Cannot see benefit	1	11.1%
Maintenance plan	1	11.1%
Other things will take priority	1	11.1%
Planning too far ahead	1	11.1%
Priority	1	11.1%
	9	100.0%

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail	
Cannot see benefit	**1**
(blank)	1
Facilities	**2**
Hiking trails	1
Multisport arena	1
Maintenance plan	**1**

(blank)	1
Needed sooner	**2**
Multisport arena	1
Sport facilities	1
Other things will take priority	**1**
(blank)	1
Planning too far ahead	**1**
(blank)	1
Priority	**1**
Open spaces	1

DISAGREE: full comments	CODE	sub CODE
I don't see how it will improve my life or the life of my family, friends and neighbours.	Cannot see benefit	
Look at cities like Kamloops and Kelowna with great multi sport facilities. Both just major national and international tournaments	Facilities	Multisport arena
That sounds good! Lots people use trail.	Facilities	Hiking trails
There is no plan being presented to provide long term maintenance and care of these "priorities"	Maintenance plan	
11-25 years to build sporting facilities. This has to be a joke	Needed sooner	Sport facilities
Multi-sport tournament centre needs to happen now. How can we host tournaments in facilities we have now. If you want investors, businesses and families to consider Abbotsford as a place to do business and raise families - we need to better review how we are represented in the sports communities.	Needed sooner	Multisport arena
Every Council is going to change these plans, let's execute for today.	Other things will take priority	
Useless to plan this far ahead because no idea what the population will demand. Land for parks etc. will be so expensive and Abbotsford City is land poor already.	Planning too far ahead	
No long term priorities for open spaces?	Priority	Open spaces
Same as previous		

5.2. RECREATION: responses of participants who agreed (open-ended questions)

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
REC CENTRES	0	5	0	5
REC CENTRES ARC	0	9	0	9

REC CENTRES ARC	11	0	0	11
REC CENTRES East vs West	0	2	0	2
REC CENTRES: MRC	10	4	2	16
FACILITIES East v. West Abby	3	3	0	6
FACILITIES Hiking and biking trails	0	7	0	7
FACILITIES Indoor ICE	0	4	0	4
FACILITIES Indoor MULTISPORT	0	19	0	19
FACILITIES Indoor SWIMMING POOL	0	19	2	21
FACILITIES Multisport	0	3	0	3
FACILITIES Outdoor	0	10	0	10
FACILITIES Parks	0	6	0	6
				0

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
POSITIVE COMMENTS	11	0	0	11
COMMUNICATION	0	8	0	8
COST	0	4	0	4
LOCATION Other	0	6	0	6
MISC	1	15	0	16
TIMING	1	22	0	23

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
COMMUNICATION	0	8	0	8
Again. Map size. Specifics. And I don't know the specifics are on any of these items.		1		
I have some difficulty with locations on the map because it is too small. I would like to know where this additional aquatic facility is being built specifically.		1		
Link me to the plans.		1		
Need more information.		1		
The information provided is this survey in no way gives anybody enough detail to make any valid decision. This process is flawed in that if management uses nominal answers from this survey to support a finding that they desire, they have wasted taxpayer money and the time of		1		

everybody that participated.				
There's very little information provided.		1		
These diagrams are hard to understand. What am I looking at?		1		
Where is the information or can we not view these correctly on an I pad		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
COST	0	4	0	4
All "sounds" good, but at what cost? Who pays? It is nice to have all of this, but if some of these spaces do not benefit individuals, why should they be required to contribute to the cost of building and maintaining them? The non-park/green space centres/facilities must be self-supporting.		1		
As long as we don't go spending way too much money sometimes it's best to keep things simple		1		
These improvements should only be considered with all expenses from the expansion being covered by savings for these projects specifically and funding. We would hate to have another Plan A!		1		
While I have no issue with the creation of new recreation facilities per se, adding an additional expansion to MRC, a new aquatic facility, a new multi-sport indoor training and tournament centre, in addition to upkeep of pre-existing facilities may be a bit too much focus towards sports. The City has many recreational facilities, trails and outdoor exercise opportunities already, in addition to a sports complex that can be converted for tournament use (depending on the sport). Investing finances into the preservation of heritage buildings (which cannot be created at a later date and have to be actively preserved) would be a much better use of City finances		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES Hiking and biking trails	0	7	0	7
I would like to see more emphasis on more neighbourhood outdoor spaces for walking, biking, etc. rather than large sport and tournament facilities that require people to drive to attend.		1		
It looks like only a tiny strip is left if the Ledgeview /McKee Peak trails. This would be devastating. So many beautiful, scenic trails, wildflowers and native plants flourish in these spaces. Our family has enjoyed years of mental, spiritual		1		

and physical well-being from hiking, running and biking these trails.				
Mountain biking trails that are useful for riding and running are most valuable to me. I don't use the proposed facilities.		1		
No trails. Will we become a city of 200000 citizens who sit around and watch ball games and hockey games?		1		
We have unique topography that could be developed for mountain biking like in Squamish BC. Cost would be far less than the proposed facilities		1		
We need a trail network for mountain bikes, not other upgrades		1		
We need more park facilities in the Bateman/Sandy Hill/Clayburn areas, especially hiking & cycling trails.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES Multisport	0	3	0	3
- we need a very serious multi sport facility to replace MSA area		1		
The multi-sport center ought to be expedited due to the number of people living in apartments, condos, and basement suites with no real yard or activity area.		1		
The multi-sport indoor training and tournament center is needed now!		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES East v. West Abby	3	3	0	6
For those of us living in West Abbotsford, ARC is a long way to go (and I often find this is where many of the programs/more developed facilities are)	1			
I see very little for east Abbotsford.		1		
I think it would be great if an additional aquatic facility was built in East Abbotsford.		1		
This finally looks like West Abbotsford is getting some improvement and getting some part of the funding allotted towards them otherwise looks like East Abbotsford is considered the priority area, but why? Please take this into consideration.	1			
West side to Aldergrove is again left out of future planning.		1		
Yes, I am in agreement and it will be beneficial to have an additional aquatic center on the east side of the city.	1			

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES Outdoor	0	10	0	10
-a tournament-suitable baseball complex		1		
Abbotsford already has many outdoor facilities, such as Exhibition Park, to host sports tournaments. I don't see a significant need for an "outdoor multi-sport tournament centre".		1		
Also would like to see an excellent public track facility on east side of city		1		
And my understanding is that we're short on soccer/ball fields.		1		
Bigger focus on outdoor recreation		1		
I would like to see or I hope some weighting is given to initiatives like a multi-sport indoor training center or some of the new outdoor initiatives.		1		
Outdoor pools would be incredible for more youth friendly places for sport.		1		
Redevelop Exhibition Park buildings into the Multi-sport Indoor Training & Tournament Centre. The location of Exhibition Park is unlike no other & should be a real centre piece of competitive excellence for training and tournaments. We can't compete with Richmond's Olympic Oval but we need something here to properly & proudly host sporting events. Agrifair used to be 5 days long & is now 3 days long. That event can still be accommodated but in a different way. We don't need another aquatic facility but the ones we have should be redeveloped. MRC aquatic facility looks extremely outdated. ARC pool is outdated & that side of town needs 'Walnut Grove' award winning kind of pool. How about a new recreation centre in the Seven Oaks Shopping Mall in the current space occupied by Independent Foods? That food retailer will be gone this year & would be an excellent place for a rec centre.		1		
There needs to be additional outdoor aquatic facilities.		1		
Would love a few high quality water slides and some Olympic sized high dives. The first for fun, the second because it's a beautiful sport and I would love if people could come here to train. I think a new aquatic centre should have these!		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES Indoor ICE	0	4	0	4
-more sheets of ice		1		

Need more ice arenas and gym spaces.		1		
Very big on the twin ice idea.		1		
What does an additional aquatic facility mean? With the growing population in east Abbotsford would it not be more beneficial to build another facility on the east side of town with a pool, library, gym etc. It doesn't need to be big, but some type of community services within their area.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES Indoor MULTISPORT	0	19	0	19
There is no multiplex sports arena that can accommodate tournaments and big events. For the fifth biggest city we certainly lack in infrastructure for this athletic community.		1		
25 years is too long to wait for the completion of an indoor training facility. There has been is a real need for such a facility for many years already. This needs to be given a higher priority and have a completion date that serves this generation.		1		
-A multi-use indoor training facility to accommodate track and field, soccer, rugby, baseball football etc. - - This would be major bang for our buck and would be used by countless athletes of all levels and ages in our city		1		
A multi-sport indoor training and tournament centre should be a short term priority.		1		
An indoor track facility/field house should be much more important, as it would be useful to all sports groups for fitness training and indoor practices on a year-round basis. The running and track and field communities would benefit, but they would be far from the only beneficiaries of access to such a facility.		1		
Hope it includes more gymnastic programs for kids and teens; versatility in other options e.g. hip hop dancing, or other dance styles other than the community ones that offer the yearly program with a full scale theater production plus costume purchases which rack up the tab at the end of the season! Keep it simple; they need the ongoing exercise, not necessarily the show for everyone.		1		
I can't stress enough the priority of an indoor multi-sport training facility.		1		
Ideally the Multi-sport indoor training and tournament centre is built in the next 10 years.		1		
Need more ice arenas and gym spaces.		1		
Need more multi sport training and tournament centres		1		

The indoor training facility needs to be moved much further up the priority list. There are private monies available to assist in this type of facility construction as is happening in other municipalities currently. We are producing world class athletes already but the sky is truly the limit if we support our youth properly. The numbers of children registering and continuing to play soccer and other typical outdoor sports will grow exponentially if they are introduced to these sports in a dry and comfortable setting.		1		
The multi-sport indoor centre should be the priority		1		
The multi-sport indoor training and tournament center is needed now!		1		
The new Multi-Sport indoor training facility needs to be built now and large enough for multiple user groups at the same time.		1		
We definitely need a multi-sport indoor training facility... especially in our rainy climate.		1		
We need an indoor training and tournament centre sooner than twenty years.		1		
We need more aquatic facilities now. It is so hard to book swimming lessons at the ARC, as it is always full, and the pool so small. Watch a swimming class and you'll see.		1		
We would love an additional aquatic facility. My family loves to go swimming on the weekend and love the affordable prices.		1		
Will need more indoor facilities as community grows.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL

FACILITIES Indoor SWIMMING POOL	0	19	2	21
Having another swimming facility will be fantastic as lessons fill up so fast.		1		
- we need a serious aquatic/Olympic grade training/competition centre		1		
Additional aquatic facility should be a nearer-term priority.		1		
Another aquatic facility would be needed with a city of 200k. Indoor training and tournament centre much needed for those long wet winters!		1		
Can't tell where the additional aquatic facility is generally located but definitely need another one.		1		
Definitely think aquatic facilities need to be expanded and enhanced!		1		
Don't see the need for a new pool			1	
I don't know how underused or over used the current pools			1	

are				
I like the expansion of MRC and a new aquatic facility.		1		
I like the idea of another swimming facility		1		
I think it would be great if an additional aquatic facility was built in East Abbotsford.		1		
I would prefer the additional aquatic facilities to be built sooner rather than later. With a bigger emphasis on a kiddie pool like the Walnut Grove pool in Langley which seems to be lacking at the moment.		1		
I'm not sure why we need additional aquatic space if the plan is for MRC expansion put the space there. I appreciate all the open space this plan allots for. Air quality is a priority for my family.			1	
My apologies as I have not been to the meetings and do not know the detail, but I support the above if it includes a much needed 50 m pool		1		
Pools, indoor facilities etc. need to be given the highest priority... Waiting until the early 2040s robs this current generation of young people of what other cities have found ways to provide. We must do better.		1		
Rather than thinking of it as an additional aquatic facility, re-doing the pool at ARC would make more sense. Perhaps this is what is intended but it is not clear since it's not listed as an enhancement to existing infrastructure.			1	
the additional aquatic facility is rather close to the one already existing		1		
The aquatic center needs to be developed capable of ALL sports, throughout the year, and not just be a play area. There is no facility in Abbotsford capable for participating in sports such as: diving, synchro swimming, competitive swimming, water polo in the winter time. An aquatic center capable of hosting tournaments would be of substantial benefit to the community.		1		
The arc aquatic needs to be more family friendly or bigger.		1		
Updated aquatic centre (for both competition and rec) to replace the aging pool at ARC		1		
We don't need another aquatic facility. We don't need more skate parks and soccer fields. We need to look at what other places are doing, and take what makes them successful and implement that into our community.			1	
We super need an indoor facility right now.		1		
We'll need another ice rink. Winter sports are incredibly popular.		1		

Yes, I am in agreement and it will be beneficial to have an additional aquatic center on the east side of the city.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
MISC	1	15	0	16
Abbotsford is growing, yes. But not with a population that has much interest in blending with greater society. You can plan for much less participation.		1		
Also, private facilities should be invited to provide the additional square footage in advance of the City providing it.		1		
Although I'm not a regular user (so take this with a grain of salt and confront a soccer mom for a backup opinion), I feel like ARC could use more loving than MRC		1		
Enough thought is given, but more could have done.		1		
I leave it up to the next generation		1		
I think more options for Community entry level Recreation should be included. There is overwhelming evidence/research for getting children/youth out of the house and being active		1		
Long term ok	1			
More energy needs to be directed to providing appropriate and affordable assisted living space for the increasing numbers of seniors. These facilities would have appropriate recreation resources.		1		
More washrooms are always, important I think for next 10 years we should complete what is important now. Too much into the future is not good		1		
Please prioritize a non-chlorinated pool facility for Abbotsford. Lots of families no longer wish to have chlorine pools. I think having chlorine free pool option would be a welcome addition by so many people in Abbotsford and would attract swimmers from other regions too.		1		
Short term wastes money on the wrong parks		1		
That's critical to value of park to flora and fauna and to stated "nature appreciation" value.		1		
These are two far away for the growth of our city.		1		
We need another swimming pool in the community? Perhaps. But first, let's invest in arts and culture to help build a more vibrant night life as well as increase the intellectual, spiritual and emotional health of the community. I would support some expansion of MRC but we have a ton of sporting infrastructure being looked at		1		

and minimal arts and culture support.				
we would all like more		1		
With expansion of some of the facilities (MSA & MRC) how will parking be addressed especially MRC with 2 schools within close proximity?		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
TIMING	1	22	0	23
I would like to see them sooner than 25 years		1		
25 years is too long to wait for the completion of an indoor training facility.		1		
25 years will take too long		1		
A multi-sport indoor training and tournament centre should be a short term priority.		1		
Again, the timeline is too far down the road for some services...		1		
hard to imagine 25 years from now		1		
I don't feel that the real sporting needs are being addressed in a timely manner. Abbotsford is a young city and needs to provide better facilities for our athletes.		1		
I feel like the 6-10 year should be moved to the 1-5 year, and this moved to the 6-10 slot, and the 1-5 year focus moved to this slot. The priorities are mixed up.		1		
I suspect our needs will have changed completely in 25 years; more than a generation will have passed - 11 years is the maximum that I can see our being successful in implementing the groundwork		1		
I would like to see them happen much sooner, especially the multi-sport indoor centre and the additional aquatic facility.		1		
It is hard for me to forecast this far in the future, the city will probably be very different, population wise, economically etc.		1		
Just speed up the process!		1		
Not sure we can project that far ahead knowing actual needs		1		
Should be prioritized & done sooner		1		
Sooner than later please		1		
Sounds great.	1			
These need to happen way quicker than 25 years from now		1		
This time frame is way too far out for facilities that we need now!		1		
Time line is absurdly long. No additional aquatic centre until 2041, REALLY? Just 2 for the next 25 years? Pretty crowded! Langley (smaller than Abbotsford) will soon have 3 aquatic centres once Aldergrove Rec Centre is finished.		1		
Want sooner than later		1		
WAY too FAR DOWN THE ROAD for development of these critical recreation / sport infrastructures. These PROJECTS NEED IMMEDIATE ACTION & ATTENTION. Prioritize and build		1		

one at a time over the 25 years				
We would like it to be built sooner for the current generation		1		
With the city growing as quickly as it is, every effort should be made to move the timeline up for these long term goals. There are more and more children living here and 25 year goals seem so far off.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES Parks	0	6	0	6
Babich Park needs to be remodeled		1		
Focus on green and walking space		1		
For gatherings, festivities, sports or fund raisers, ...		1		
May be some approved vendors, may be art shows on the lawns, may be craft shows, why not		1		
New parks considered? Green space and parks should be expanded as higher density housing increases to improve livability		1		
Parks are important to a city for many reasons.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
LOCATION Other	0	6	0	6
I would advocate for increasing opportunities in more areas of Abbotsford, e.g. add something community-oriented in the MT. Lehman or South Abbotsford area. It needn't be big, but a pool, outdoor sport courts, etc. I would also strongly encourage the city to support non-profit sport programs - make facilities available to them, perhaps provide city grants for athletes who can't afford to participate in programs.		1		
City also needs to add habitat enhancement to ISMP park like Willband.		1		
I would like to see more infrastructure towards Sumas mountain, where a large portion of the family population is moving.		1		
Include Sumas Mountain, Vedder Mountain, Fraser River, rural areas, farmland, lakes, etc. Many, many people like recreating outside the municipal boundaries. Also please remain open to areas like maintaining and developing more open space on McKee / Sumas		1		
No mention of plans for regional parks, especially Sumas Mountain Park recently transferred from Metro Vancouver Regional Parks.		1		
The concentration of the Multi-Sports Centres is too far West (or North) for Sumas Mountain, Whatcom, Huntingdon, etc. Why not have a Sports Centre built in the old Rona building (still for sale) right next to Costco on Sumas Way (Hwy 11)? Save money, and this could then be included in the 5 Year plan.		1		
	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
REC CENTRES East / West	0	2	0	2
East Abbotsford will need another rec center if development to allowed to proceed at the current rate.		1		

Fully agree - East Abby needs more/improved aquatic facilities.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
REC CENTRES	0	5	0	5
Also would like to see some focus given to updating/renovating our existing facilities in the plan.		1		
Central Abbotsford needs a rec facility.		1		
Clayburn Village, Bateman, Sandy Hill could use equal treatment with other areas regarding major park and linked trail development. Now is a great time to start.		1		
I think as the population increases the City might want an additional rec centre		1		
It would be nice to have smaller rec centres in different communities, 1: well. Places like community halls that are utilized more by the city to offer different programs to the people in said communities. (e.g., PRC run yoga classes at Straiton hall)		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
REC CENTRES ARC	0	9	0	9
ARC needs to be expanded and built up if u need to		1		
ARC pool facility is old and small and that building should be the first to be upgraded or expanded.		1		
ARC pool is already out dated, small and needs to be redesigned to meet the needs of the community		1		
ARC/East Abbotsford desperately needs an additional aquatic facility.		1		
I don't see ARC in the picture. I go there 6 days/week now. I would be mortified to not have it. I would NOT want to have to go to MRC.		1		
The ARC needs a larger area for ~ 4 to 6-year-olds. There should also be more toonie swim times.		1		
The ARC pool should have been updated during the last renovation.		1		
Thoughts to expanding the ARC also?		1		
You want to add an aquatic facility to ARC? Does that mean another pool? What does an expansion mean? It's hard to provide comment.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
REC CENTRES: MRC	10	4	2	16
Also, MRC is a good facility and it will also be good to expand on the facility. It is a good, central location for both the Bible College and high school.	1			
I absolutely agree with the MRC Expansion and really look forward to it.	1			
I am glad to see that MRC will be expanded as well as adding an aquatic facility. These are nicely spaced around the city.	1			
I like the expansion of MRC and a new aquatic facility.	1			

I'd love to see MRC improvements. Right now because it offers a bit less than arc I do not go there as much. If there were more public skates in the evenings I'd be inclined to go but I understand that is not always a scheduling possibility. I also think that an additional rec Center would be good as we grow as a city and spread out even more	1			
MRC Expansion to be similar but improved design to ARC. Always keeping in mind the Multi Sport Multi use flexibility	1			
MRC expansion needs to happen in the next 1-2 years. The other proposed facilities should also be a priority with a 3-5 yr. timeline		1		
MRC is amazing but needs renovations badly.	1			
MRC was re-freshed not long ago. Before you spend more money on MRC,		1		
Not sure MRC needs expanding until many of the other excellent projects are complete. I don't believe you can look at one type of facility to the exclusion of others and determine a larger facility is required. I.e. Typically a requirement of square footage of facility space is determined based on population and projected population to the exclusion of the impact of other facilities being built or planned.		1		
The MRC pool is great though it's always monopolized by lessons with not enough free-swim time.	1			
The multi-sport indoor centre should be the priority not the MRC expansion we really need an indoor track facility		1		
What is wrong with MRC in its current condition?			1	
Would love to see expansion of MRC	1			
Would need more information but yes an expansion on MRC is needed.			1	
Yes being that we live near MRC and have four teenage children, it would have been awesome to have a gym like ARC where kids can go and play basketball, soccer, etc., I think if there was a gym in that area, it would get a lot of use. An indoor training facility and additional aquatic facility in the city would be excellent as well.	1			

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
POSITIVE COMMENTS	11	0	0	11
Good that we "aim high"	1			
Great	1			
I agree that they are needed	1			
I like that we are growing to meet the needs of the population.	1			
I probably wouldn't use these facilities, but they are important for the community.	1			
It looks good! Excited about this additional aquatic facility.	1			
Love the whole project. Would love to see it started within The next year	1			
Similar of Question #4. We will grow and we need to be green.	1			
The projects look fantastic,	1			
This is something I can get behind!	1			

This needs to be a much bigger priority even if it means going into debt in the short term to pay off later. Our recreation facilities are poor.	1			

5.3. RECREATION: responses of participants who disagreed (open-ended questions)

responded	153
not responded	377
	530
response rate	71%

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail		
	Number of responses	% of total responses
Priorities	5	38.5%
Facilities	2	15.4%
Needed sooner	2	15.4%
Business model	1	7.7%
More affordability	1	7.7%
More maintenance	1	7.7%
(blank)	1	7.7%
	13	

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail	
Business model	**1**
More privatization	1
Facilities	**2**
More arts	1
More baseball	1
More affordability	**1**
(blank)	1
More maintenance	**1**
Needed sooner	**2**
Priorities	**5**
Arts	1
Homelessness	1
Less aquatic facility	1
More aquatic facility	1
Sport facilities	1
(blank)	**1**

DISAGREE: full comments	CODE	sub CODE
Some of these could be private facilities and happen way sooner. City doesn't need indoor training centre etc.	Business model	More privatization
Baseball complex	Facilities	More baseball
I would like to see money put into creating a permanent and dedicated community theatre space.	Facilities	More arts
Even the multi-sport is expensive. I don't know why?	More affordability	
Use the money to repair renovate and maintain existing pools and facilities	More maintenance	
It's hard to vote on something that I won't be around to see. My grandchildren are my motivation, but it needs to start with the basics...now.	Needed sooner	
Upgrades to facilities needs to happen sooner than later. Our entire infrastructure is aging. Our rinks, pools and ballparks all need upgrades.	Needed sooner	
Again, I believe recreation is very important, but the arts are also very important. We have numerous opportunities for sports and very little for the arts. How about if we cut back, say 5%. On sports facilities in put that into the arts. I don't think that is an unreasonable request.	Priorities	Arts
I agree with a new Aquatic facility, our current facilities do not have the proper requirement to hold proper swim or game events. A pool with 50 meter lanes and capacity to host Indoor Water Polo Tourney's would be attractive	Priorities	More aquatic facility
I feel that an additional aquatic facility may not be necessary; however, depending on the success of the multisport area, it could benefit the city. Maybe it would fit better as an addition to the MRC facility upgrades? I can't really make a firm decision on it until I know what and who will be the main user of the facility.	Priorities	Less aquatic facility
Priorities need to be sporting facilities now not parks first.	Priorities	Sport facilities
These facilities should be part of our community development, but we need resources to get those suffering in this community to access these services - I do not agree with short/med term goals, yet mostly agree with the long term	Priorities	Homelessness
repeating myself		

6.2. CULTURE: responses of participants who agreed (open-ended questions)

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
COMMUNICATION	0	4	0	4
DIVERSITY First Nation	0	3	0	3
FACILITIES Amphitheatre	21	14	2	37
DIVERSITY Cultural and Ethnic	1	4	1	6
NEEDED SOONER	1	6	0	7
FACILITIES Library	39	8	1	48

POSITIVE COMMENTS	15	0	0	15
TIMING	4	11	0	15
MISC	0	25	0	25

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
COMMUNICATION	0	4	0	4
#5 pretty vague. would be nice to see short term goals and how things are being planned to meet current asks & needs		1		
Again, maps and proposals are far too vague. How much will be invested? Exactly where will these developments take place? Are you planning on cutting down the large old trees to make room for this?		1		
There's a disconnect in this question, i.e. culture needs land but the development department won't issue building permits for certain cultural religious purposes.		1		
Who knows without details?		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
DIVERSITY First Nation	0	3	0	3
First Nations not adequately addressed.		1		
You need to add First Nation Culture Gallery or tours, events embrace current events and fund them.		1		
Indigenous community spaces / spaces that are multiuser and address the needs of a multitude of cultural uses		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES Amphitheatre	20	15	2	37
I don't know why we need an Outdoor Amphitheater this is a farming community not a nature seekers destination.		1		
A performance theatre and outdoor amphitheater are long overdue and would be wonderful assets to the community	1			
Agree with outdoor amphitheatre and performance theatre.	1			
Also, I think we are missing an opportunity to partner with the university in building a theatre space that can be used by both the theatre program at UFV and the City.		1		
Amphitheatre (if homeless do not move back in) is a great idea for outdoor concerts , plays etc.	1			
An Eastside Library should have been established when ARC was built. It is late in coming. We need it before an amphitheatre.		1		
An outdoor amphitheatre in our wet climate might not be a very good use of our dollars		1		
-big one is quality amphitheatre at mill lake	1			

Do you mean taking away the farmland to build mansions? I do think that the outdoor amphitheatre is nice; again the proper location is important because we live in a farm area and there are a lot of flies. At the same time we want a semi-permanent structure for many events.		1		
Glad to see another performance theatre	1			
We have a fabulous small theatre with the Matsqui Centennial Auditorium, yet it is prohibitive to use by non-profit theatre companies. The Abbotsford Children's Theatre can only (barely) afford to use it for one season each year as the rent is so high. ACT has used the Arts Addition, which is a challenging facility for sound, lighting, and seating. Audiences do not get the same theatre experience as they do in the MCA facility. The Arts Addition meets the budget needs, but perhaps in the short-term future, Abby Senior will need the space for their own needs. If this happens, where will a group like Abbotsford Children's Theatre go? They have operated for 30 years in our community but may not be able to continue without an affordable theatre. Here is a group who teaches & delights children in the arts of drama & stage! Here is a fantastic theatre facility (MCA), which is inaccessible! Is there any possibility of giving a reduced rate so that culture can continue for a fantastic group of children & teens?		1		
Having a larger outdoor gathering space would be welcome. The Amphitheatre appears to accomplish this.	1			
I don't think an outdoor amphitheatre is good with the weather we have in		1		
I like the idea of an outdoor amphitheatre... placing them in parks could encourage more involvement of community groups	1			
I like these ideas. But where is the music space for teens to play their bands? That has been a huge issue!	1			
I love Abbotsford's involvement with theatre and the focus on a performance theatre would be great	1			
I love the library upgrades and renovation and the new potential for theatre of all kinds.	1			
I would be curious of the plan for Clayburn park and will look into that more and an outdoor amphitheatre will be interesting to see how it will fit into the community and its popularity will be revealed in time. I believe there will be great interest in an outdoor amphitheatre though.	1			
I'm not entirely sure that we need both an indoor and an outdoor performance facility.		1		
It would be fantastic to have a place like the Surrey Arts centre where we could have regular Theatre shows like the Arts Club Theatre they have at Granville Island.	1			
Keeping clean, it's going to be hard.		1		
Let's move the outdoor amphitheater to a shorter term goal. This benefits every member of society and would be a welcome addition to this city.	1			
Outdoor amphitheatre should be expedited. If there is prioritization, we should look at delaying library infrastructure. While it too needs improvement, there are many library options that already exist. We have a dearth of outdoor spaces to gather around and an outdoor amphitheatre is a fantastic idea whose time has come...a long time ago actually.	1			
Outdoor amphitheatre would be a popular gathering spot	1			
Performance theatre is only capital suggestion to add to the city centre and it's not for 20 years			1	
-performance theatre will be good as well	1			

Rather than a performance theatre, have you considered a flexible community hall type venue that could be used for performances as well as other events?		1		
We are in an odd position in Abbotsford, a good event centre but the only performing Arts Centre is at Abby Senior. Any plans?		1		
We have great local theatre, would be nice to have a new facility.	1			
We need a decent Performing Arts Centre. Bringing in either a Hockey Rink or school auditoriums is not good enough. There is not enough to do (plays, music concerts) & we tend to go to Maple Ridge for local performances. Mission also has a thriving arts community.		1		
We need a performance space for local groups sooner rather than later, a black box theater is long overdue in Abbotsford.	1			
What is the "Performance Theatre"? Plays & concerts?			1	
Why another theatre?		1		
Why do we not have that here in Abbotsford now?		1		
'Would love to see the performance theatre at a higher priority.	1			
Would we get much use out of an outdoor amphitheater? Maybe 2 months out of the year		1		
Yes yes yes	1			

		POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
6.2.d	DIVERSITY Cultural and Ethnic	1	4	1	6
But I wonder if we should have a cultural centre included as part of plan - meaning a place for multicultural activities, festivals, etc. Perhaps the amphitheater or other developments may incorporate that?			1		
Cultural diversity needs to be acknowledged and appreciated however we live in Canada, they choose to live in Canada! Why are we creating environments “zones” for individual groups are we not all equal and deserving of the same? Why segregate which provides an atmosphere of difference			1		
Cultural events should reflect the demographics and greater diversity is necessary.			1		
I do agree with “cultural” community support/infrastructure that supports the community as a whole vs a culture within the community. For example, I don’t see value in a facility that is targeted to a particular cultures interest, but rather a facility that gets used by any and all members of the community. This also serves to draw multiple cultures to a common area/facility. I think I see this in the plan. Looks good.		1			
I might if the term "culture" was actually defined. Who's culture? Is one culture better than some other culture? Is this culture worth presenting or displaying? Canada is a country of many diverse cultures. Who is included and are you leaving out? Or is this about working culture, or perhaps agriculture? Hopefully not some bacteria culture!				1	
The growing Punjab population will be looking to the city for increased community exposure to their history and culture. Appropriate library and museum and arts will need to adequately represent their growing contribution to this city.			1		

6.2.e		POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
	NEEDED SOONER	1	6	0	7
	Again, 25 years is too far away. We need these improvements now.		1		
	indoor performance/multi-purpose venue needed sooner than 25 years from now		1		
	Overall, I agree with this direction, though I'm surprised to see that any capital investment is delayed for 20+ years out. Solving the city's problems will not come about simply by increasing park and recreational facilities and investments. Many studies suggest that arts and culture not only has large economic benefits, but also social benefits. Time to make arts and culture a priority!	1	1		
	Should happen way sooner		1		
	Sooner than later!		1		
	Want sooner than later.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES Library	39	8	1	48
I strongly support the library reno and creation of a library in the eastern parts of Abbotsford. Can the "take a book, leave a book"/Little Red Library program be expanded?	1			
Libraries are tough calls; with most information available online, I wonder if a 'super library' might be better rather than multiple locations?		1		
A system of Community Multi use Centres (Libraries)	1			
An east side library sooner rather than later would be good.	1			
An Eastside library is a great idea and would like to see it sooner than a long term priority. Clayburn Park development would be good, but not sure what the plan is. A proper sidewalk and bike lane is desperately needed on Clayburn Road, especially if you want to develop the park with facilities. It currently has NO facilities, so no reason to go there except for an open field.	1			
An Eastside Library should have been established when ARC was built. It is late in coming. We need it before an amphitheatre.	1			
East library is needed badly.	1			
East side library. Fantastic!	1			
Eastside library addition more beneficial than upgrading Clearbrook or Mt Lehman	1			
Gathering , learning , shared Technology centre	1			
Glad to see another performance theatre and an eastside library.	1			
How utilized are the current facilities???		1		
I like the emphasis on libraries, though more could/should be done with museums and theatre.	1	1		
I love the library upgrades and renovation	1			
I wonder how many citizens the Mt. Lehman library serves and whether it is a priority.			1	
I would love a library within walking distance. I would go regularly if it was closer to me	1			

I'd love for there to be a library in east Abbotsford	1			
I'm disappointed a library won't be coming to the east side until the long-term, but I suppose it takes time to build. I'm really looking forward to having a library closer to where I live	1			
I'm excited to see what you guys do with the libraries, there is so much potential to turn them in social, cultural hubs!	1			
It's been disappointing to no longer have a library within reasonable walking distance of our home. Not sure how far way this "eastside library" is going to end up being, but more libraries are generally a good thing.	1			
Libraries are becoming a thing of the past as more people turn to digital books. I personally love a good "real" book, like the kind you find at a library, but if we consider "dollars and cents", it doesn't make the investment seem worth-while to spend money in libraries. Again, hard to truly comment because your renovations or upgrades could be as simple as fresh paint, or could be as extensive as an expansion. Without knowing, I can't make a valid assessment. I wouldn't want to see the city spend money on adding another library building when our libraries are already underused and will continue to see a decline in use over the next 10-15 years. Let's focus on getting kids active, since the need for that won't change even as technology changes.		1		
Libraries are going out of style. Waste of money.		1		
Library priorities need to be upgraded immediately not within 25 years	1			
Love the idea of a library on east side!	1			
Love the idea of an east side library- the sooner the better.	1			
Love the libraries!	1			
New libraries don't make sense as a long-term priority (will likely become obsolete given shifts in technology). Resources should be re-allocated to support or advance other listed priorities.		1		
Perfect all libraries need some updates; therefore, coming generation can take advantage of these updates.	1			
Should already have a community library on the East side of town, 25 years is too long to wait for that.	1			
So happy to see plans for an Eastside Library. We really need a library on the east side. Libraries are very popular and necessary and East Abbotsford has been underserved in that department for too long. Libraries are so important for communities!	1			
The addition of a library/study space in Easy Abbotsford would be great. Perhaps another outdoor space/ amphitheater in Downtown Abbotsford would be beneficial.	1			
The concentration of the Cultural Centres are too far North and West for Huntingdon. Why not have a Cultural Centre built in or near the old Rona building (still for sale) right next to Costco on Sumas Way (Hwy 11)? Save money, and this could then be included in the 5 Year plan.	1			
The library is such an asset to the city	1			
The Mt Lehman Library reno is LONG overdue! Make it more accessible!	1			
The Mt. Lehman and Clearbrook library improvements are long overdue and will be very welcomed.	1			
The old Abbotsford Community Library building next to Jubilee Park should be a short-term priority. It would go well with the upgrades to the park. It could have a performance stage integrated with the back of the building to go with the amphitheater. I think it would make more sense to put more into that park's Amphitheater rather than build a new one at Mill Lake so close by. That way, it wouldn't just be for Jam	1			

in Jubilee.				
The parking at Abbotsford Community Library is terrible and East Abbotsford needs a library!	1			
WE do need an Eastside library.	1			
we have enough libraries and theatres	1			
We need a Library branch on the east side now, move this up as a priority.	1			
We need a library on the east side!	1			
We would love a library on the east side.	1			
We would love an east side library, but in 25 years we might not still be here.	1			
Why in this age of technology are we building libraries. Multipurpose building with a small area for library would make more sense		1		
Why would my Lehman need an added library?		1		
Will be nice to have a library in East Abbotsford.	1			
With latest technologies libraries need to meet modern standards.... they could likely be downsized.	1			

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
POSITIVE COMMENTS	15	0	0	15
Culture has always taken a back seat to sports and parks in Abbotsford. A performance centre, purpose-built, that works for local theatre companies (not council chambers or Abby Arts Centre) is long overdue.	1			
Free the mind, inspire	1			
Good goal to work towards though by 25 years in the future it may look very different.	1			
Great to see culture initiatives as this part of the community continues to grow and get represented.	1			
I am quite satisfied	1			
I am very excited the City has recognized the unparalleled heritage value of the Turner house and has taken steps to preserve it.	1			
I think that all these are great priorities.	1			
I think these are all much needed projects	1			
Including culture in the OCP is excellent	1			
it seems ok	1			
Looks good.	1			
seem like all good ideas	1			
Seems correct	1			
Sounds good, suits me fine.	1			
Sounds Good.	1			

6.2.h

TIMING	POSITIVE 4	NEEDS MORE 11	NEUTRAL 0	TOTAL 15
As with recreation priorities the time line is excusably long. We came to Abbotsford in 1972. There were 3 FRVL Branches we amalgamated with Matsqui in 1996, we still had 3 branches. The population and growth of this area has not stopped. But we have no additional libraries and apparently will not have any more until 20134, which is over 100 years since the first book mobile visited M. Lehman. Langley has 7 FRVL Branches, why are we so library deficient?		1		
The timeline is too delayed for a performing arts facility. On another document, it is scheduled for ~2043.		1		
I am in favor of the facilities and plans but let's now wait 25 years!	1	1		
I wish these changes would happen sooner than 25 years so my child could enjoy them now!!	1	1		
In 25 years we will be using libraries? Seems like a heavy emphasis. I doubt it.		1		
indoor performance/multi-purpose venue needed sooner than 25 years from now		1		
Long range projects are hard to envision without additional information. The concepts appear to be positive!	1	1		
Overall, I agree with this direction, though I'm surprised to see that any capital investment is delayed for 20+ years out. Solving the city's problems will not come about simply by increasing park and recreational facilities and investments. Many studies suggest that arts and culture not only has large economic benefits, but also social benefits. Time to make arts and culture a priority!	1	1		
The need will exceed the timeline excessively		1		
Too long of a timeframe		1		
Want sooner than later.		1		

6.2.i

MISC	POSITIVE 0	NEEDS MORE 25	NEUTRAL 0	TOTAL 25
But the other items, especially the Turner House, seem very expensive and not as far reaching in use to the majority of Abbotsford residents.		1		
1 short term priority 1 medium term priority and 4 long term priorities seems to be an imbalance which to me means something is going to fall to the way side.		1		
As well, I would like to see more upgrades to the MRC or ARC for art/culture community classes like Chilliwack has. Could be partnered with UFV or just through the city.		1		
Chilliwack, Mission, Surrey have way more cultural events then Abbotsford - music, theatre, art shows. I really wish whoever plans and books events for the Chilliwack theatre would work for Abbotsford and bring in more children, family and adult (meaning age but not X-rated stuff) entertainment. We are sadly lacking in this area. We go 3-4 times a year minimum to events in Chilliwack as not much is offered in Abbotsford. We also go to events in Vancouver and Surrey. Events are scarce in Abbotsford.		1		

Ditto what I've said on all the previous pages.		1		
For future, we also need to take into consideration the need for upgrading the current drinking water system at each facilities so the upgrading could be less expansive if in future there is a need to upgrade the current water system such as water fountains, etc.		1		
I don't see anything for the visual arts here?		1		
I would like to see additional focus on Heritage preservation within the City and the promotion of Heritage/history education listed within the Culture priorities. Additional upgrades and investment in pre-existing City-owned, municipally designated Heritage properties like Trethewey House Heritage Site should be listed to raise the profile of the history of Abbotsford.		1		
I would like to see more in terms of support for Art. Art is a reflection of Culture		1		
More opportunities for local artists to display their work would be appreciated. Perhaps taking after other cities and having promos in various parks & downtown streets.		1		
More spaces that can be rented out to local groups to help provide their own additions to the culture. Such an example would be more small theatre for theatre companies to rent out and put on productions. I'm thinking small like seating around 50 audience members, and having a flexible space to work with		1		
More things built in East Abby. The most growth going		1		
My comment about the Reach fits here. Increase its ability to be part of a HUB of Culture with extended theatre.		1		
Need to be built up there. Another rec center up on Whatcom		1		
Need to look at additional options that do not require physical infrastructures.		1		
No changes to ARC?		1		
No more venue construction. Put money into green walking shaded areas. The last night		1		
Not really priority projects compared to sports fields and facilities which are needed by so many local athletes.		1		
One is in East Abby so more library's parks playgrounds		1		
There is not enough commitment to building up current stakeholders while procuring more city lead initiatives. There needs to be more investment into culture.		1		
Too much development in West Abbotsford, not enough in east!		1		
Turner House and Clayburn park redevelopment needs to be well funded and supported by the work of outside heritage / park planning/ museums consultants who have the expertise to establish a significant heritage area. The significance of the industrial ruins remaining is provincial. Careful attention and resources need to be allocated to the design and interpretation and long term maintenance and interpretation of this area. The City should work with provincial heritage departments to best develop this site. The City has a responsibility to view this safeguard this site beyond local expectations.		1		
We need more facilities for teaching and workshops/courses in arts/crafts.		1		
What is the city's relationship with CIVIL (UFV's radio station) like? Perhaps closer he can be made with them to better support local artists.		1		
$500,000 to relocate the Turner house seems rather expensive.		1		

6.3. CULTURE: responses of participants who disagreed (open-ended questions)

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail		
	Number of responses	% of total responses
Facilities	7	53.8%
Priority	3	23.1%
Needed sooner	1	7.7%
Needs clarification	1	7.7%
(blank)	1	7.7%
	13	1

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail	
Facilities	**7**
Library exists	1
Library needed	1
Library not needed	3
Theatre needed	2
Needed sooner	**1**
Needs clarification	**1**
Priority	**3**
Culture not needed	2
More arts	1

DISAGREE: full comments	CODE	sub CODE
A performance theatre is needed long term, an outdoor amphitheater is not. Invest, promote, and push the arts and culture programs you already have instead of spending money on commercial venues and new buildings. On another note, if you want to create something to bring tourism to Abbotsford, I would suggest an Arboretum of native plants along with first nation's medicinal plants etc. That is Abbotsford, and if you make it beautiful I guarantee you it will be busy all through the year. It's educational in our culture, it captures our outdoor roots and wild life and it will be fire on social media in terms of photography and tourism BC.	Facilities	Theatre needed
A very important part of culture is the arts, which Abbotsford under supports.	Priority	More arts
Bravo!!! I am in total agreement with the following action plan! Unfortunately that would make me 76 years of age before I would be able to enjoy the aforementioned, please excuse my sarcasm as I am happy that my children and grandchildren will partake.	Needed sooner	
good ideas		
I like the amphitheatre	Facilities	Theatre needed
Having an east side library would be nice.	Facilities	Library needed
Libraries are becoming a thing of the past with the access to digital info	Facilities	Library not needed
Libraries are extinct.	Facilities	Library not needed
Libraries are becoming extinct. Does the city honestly think in 25 years libraries will be even relevant?	Facilities	Library not needed
Money can be spent on other things	Priority	Culture not needed
Same as before use money for renovating or maintaining	Priority	Culture not needed
There is a cultural hub already in Abbotsford that you have not even taken into account. The Reach has the opportunity to do far more culturally than libraries (although they are still extremely necessary parts of the community) yet I feel that with this limited plan its potential will be lost!	Facilities	Library exists
We have a Mt Lehman library? Did not know? Where is the performance theatre? At the city hall? This is mostly for whom? Never when there?	Needs clarification	

7.2. CAPITAL PROJECTS: responses of participants who agreed (open-ended questions)

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
COMMUNICATION	0	11	0	11
NEEDED SOONER	0	23	0	23
DEBT MANAGEMENT, FUNDING	8	9	3	20
FACILITIES Multisport	0	3	0	3
FACILITIES Indoor	0	9	0	9
COST, BUDGETNG, FUNDING	0	7	0	7
FACILITIES Culture	0	12	0	12
MISC	4	18	0	22

	FACILITIES Rec centres	0	3	0	3
7.2.j	POSITIVE COMMENTS	16	0	0	16
7.2.k	FACILITIES Outdoors	1	11	0	12

7.2.a	COMMUNICATION	0	11	0	11
	Could this be much more vague? Over $50m for 3 different facilities in 2019. Break that down for me for each one of the three, and give me some idea of what the specifics are for each so I can have input on whether the usage plans for the facility are worthwhile. Links to more details would be good.		1		
	Graphs are lovely, but need more detailed supporting information to be able to understand what they are illustrating (i.e. costs of development/improvement, timelines for each project, life expectancy of venue, purpose of venue, user pay/sponsored/tax base, etc.)		1		
	I don't know much about money and budgets and politics.		1		
	I don't understand what "debt retirement" means.		1		
	I find this survey hard to follow and understand. Maybe it's because I'm on my phone? These should make more sense for people who don't see these maps and discuss this topic all day. I think if this is your job it would make sense.		1		
	Information		1		
	The bar graph is fine for a general overview of these proposals but more in depth cost breakdowns and descriptions would be helpful in order to comment further.		1		
	The graphic does not really represent this plan accurately, I think. If we spread some of the proposed 5 year plans out over the 10-year span, perhaps we can "retire" some of the debt, which I assume comes from our entertainment centre and the other improvements made possible through Plan A.		1		
	This is a ridiculous question. Who is going to disagree with fiscal responsibility?		1		
	Want specifics!!!		1		
	Would this also mean that if the funding and opportunities are not available the proposed projects will be pushed back?		1		

7.2.b	NEEDED SOONER	POSITIVE 0	NEEDS MORE 23	NEUTRAL 0	TOTAL 23
	A balanced financial plan sounds like a great idea, but it seems that the longer things get put off, the more they cost, and new funding options haven't surfaced yet so why would they then? Just get things done now that should be done.		1		
	Big ticket facilities, that are currently being put off until the early 2040s (aquatic centre, indoor training facility) as I mentioned earlier if planned and operated well can and will act as economic generators for cities - attracting events, injecting money into the local economy.		1		
	I believe that "now" investments in Parks & Culture should not be limited by immediate financial constraints. It is investment now as loud developed will not ever be used again.		1		

I think it makes more sense to do the stuff now and pay later. The community is growing exponentially and the facilities simply don't measure up. Do more now. Particularly a new aquatic centre. Also get televisions out of the pools - it is appalling to see screens in pool areas (and frankly, as a former lifeguard I can tell you that your lifeguards are watching them more than the consumers).		1		
I understand we must move forward and plan for our future but going as far as the year 2033 is beyond my life line. I would like to see high tax brackets for those mansions on farm land so I can appreciate what the future brings.		1		
If the City is serious about upgrading the community to meet the needs .		1		
In a time of rapid growth, new and enhances facilities should be prioritized above debt retirement.		1		
Increased & growing Population will see the demands explode. Abbotsford is so far behind (Sport & recreation Facilities) in what is needed.		1		
Increased population, demand, housing & commercial developments are exploding in Abbotsford. City Tax revenues will be greatly enhanced. Build it they will come!!! Some City Debt now will save 100's of Millions in creating what is in the plan and is needed , to accomplish the vision.		1		
Indoor Multisport Training & Tournament Centre is way too late on the time line. This facility is already needed and should be given priority. I urge the city to move it forward in the time line and plan to build it sooner.		1		
Let's get on with the major projects.		1		
Long wait for spending on the major items. Need to look at ways to move finding ahead.		1		
Our city's thinking is backwards, overly conservative, and "small town". We keep missing out on opportunities because we've been too scared to take a risk. Other cities have done this, and it's paid off. Let's find ways to get things done.		1		
Our population is increasing steadily. Land is becoming more expensive. Spend now, build now. We can afford not to!		1		
seems that many projects are pushed out to 10+ yrs.		1		
That's too long.		1		
Waiting for new required infrastructure (Outdoor Baseball Facility) is not a good plan. It is a huge requirement now. Waiting for several years because of our current debt load is not a good plan. We are already way behind our neighbouring cities and we do not want to turn away kids who want to play baseball because they have nowhere to play.		1		
We need to find a solution to catch up. We are grossly behind in recreation facilities.		1		
While I understand the budget constraint, the economic benefits of having these facilities built should be considered. With a proper plan in place to ensure outside groups are using the facilities regularly through various regional, provincial and national events, that economic impact will spill over to the community and aid in bringing down the debt incurred from these facilities.		1		
With the growth in Abbotsford and the property taxes collected I'm hoping we can move these dates forward a little.		1		
Would love to see some of those projects bumped up sooner. Certainly park projects. Would like to learn more about the MRC expansion - if inadequate then the new facility might be needed sooner than in 20 years		1		
You need multisport fields WITH lights ASAP. Land is only going to get more expensive. Sell the Albatross that is AESC to someone, take your bath and lose that money and move on.		1		

	The Eastside Library is needed long before some of the neighbourhood park development.		1		

		POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
7.2.c	DEBT MANAGEMENT, FUNDING	8	9	3	20
	Definitely, no additional debt	1			
	Disagree with adding any additional debt.	1			
	Do you mean like the debt for the last new arena was managed?			1	
	Everybody should agree with debt retirement; a no-brainier. Nonetheless, the method under which debt is retired does not result in the taxes that retired said debt to also be retired. In effect, those taxes become a new source of money for general revenue. Therefore, the net effect of retiring the debt is based upon a false premise, unless the tax pipeline is also closed. It is like paying off a credit card and celebrating that day but the very next day racking up the credit card for a whole new purchase. The debt really never retired. There is really no debt relief. It was only transferred. There in "lies" the slippery slope in government finance. When taxpayer money is involved it is not real money anyway, or so that is how it is treated. The devil is in the details.	1	1		
	Funding needs to be obtained to keep our facilities viable.		1		
	good, partner with businesses and other investors to balance costs	1			
	I am not a finance person - so as long as folks stay on budget and funds are there.			1	
	I don't fully understand debt retirement. I feel we shouldn't go into a lot more debt without a plan to pay it off within 10-15 years.		1		
	I would be curious to receive more detail on the debt reduction strategy and it should be flexible to alter as the plan mentions.			1	
	If City puts into practice what we as citizens are required, ie.10% for savings, 20% for debt, 10% for charity, 60% for living expenses then there should be enough at the end of the month or year.		1		
	It would be nice to see a financial line on the timeline that shows how the projects are projected to be funded. You could use your commitment to seeking 30% grant funding, and indicate potential property tax revenue support. Whether it comes from the existing property tax base transferred to reserves to fund the project on the timeline, new property tax revenue (i.e. tax increase) to be transferred to reserves or new property tax revenue (I.e. tax increase) to fund potential debt requirements. It does feel unrealistic to get buy in on such a long term plan without at least providing some financial picture running in tandem.		1		
	Mixture of short term plans and paying down debt is very logical.	1			
	Need a plan and budget, though also look at other funding opportunities and sources and take advantage of them if and when available.		1		
	The amount of debt that the tax payers will have to repay via property taxes I'm assuming is huge over the next 9 years. We have just seen our property taxes jump in the last 2 years. I personally don't want to see another huge increase, it's becoming harder and harder to financially keep the roof over your head.		1		
	The city has allowed and is allowing residential development to outpace PRC facilities and parks. You need to play catch-up. That means incurring debt and putting more pressure on developers to pay.		1		

What is the 15 year plan to pay down the debt by 2033? Then how is the long term debt of $193M financed?		1		
Yes to debt retirement but funding should come from an increase in taxation.	1			
Yes, get out of debt	1			
Yes, we must be careful about debt as more debt leads to higher taxes which discourage growth of our city.	1			

		POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
7.2.d	FACILITIES Multisport	0	3	0	3
	- I think the multi-sport and aquatic center are too far out, they should be advanced into the 2020s, or be done in conjunction partnership with UFV		1		
	I do not think the Multi sport Training and Tournament site should wait this long.		1		
	Rather see the tournament complex not be determined by debt retirement		1		

		POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
7.2.e	FACILITIES Indoor	0	9	0	9
	Again we should really focus on building the indoor facility cost not MRC		1		
	Although, I have to agree with much being planned and the vision of getting Abbotsford into feeling like a city, but the focus is generally on athletics. Performance arts won't get any attention until all the athletic facilities are completed. A bit lopsided.		1		
	An indoor track facility/field house should be much more important, as it would be useful to all sports groups for fitness training and indoor practices on a year-round basis. The running and track and field communities would benefit, but they would be far from the only beneficiaries of access to such a facility.		1		
	I understand the funding has to be considered in planning the new and updating the current programs/locations/buildings/facilities, etc. However, Abbotsford population is increasing rapidly, and there is a need for another Aquatic facility quickly rather than proposed time.		1		
	I would like to see the additional Aquatic Facility move way up in the timeline.		1		
	Indoor facility should be sooner		1		
	This should be a MUCH HIGHER PRIORITY than 25 years from now.		1		
	We have pitiful swimming options on the east side. I'd rather see a pool etc. sooner than a major sports complex that wouldn't benefit the average person.		1		
	While I agree with the methods used to balance out the budget, I don't agree with adding an additional aquatic facility or an indoor multisport training centre. This money should instead be used to better maintain and enhance the sports facilities we already have and should be used to preserve heritage buildings within the City.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
COST, BUDGETNG, FUNDING	0	7	0	7
200 million? Are you crazy?		1		
I don't fully understand what this means. I do not want to see the city (tax payers) go into large debts. Projects must be managed VERY effectively to keep costs down		1		
I have some concerns about Abbotsford needing a $50 million Performing Arts Centre.		1		
Not sure how exactly we will pay for this. We already pay enough taxes as an individual in this city, province and country.		1		
On new facilities could it be possible to add a small % as a type of toll to help eliminate the debt incurred from construction?		1		
Secondly, the cost graph is heavily skewed to the end of the timeline. It seems like the proposed projects are unrealistic to fund so they are pushed to the 2040s so it can be the next generations problem		1		
The costs for so many government projects are far, far too high. The private sector would be able to do these things for far less. Cut the red tape and politics so that the tax burden on the people is far less.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES Culture	0	12	0	12
Amphitheatre, depending on location will probably be ruined by homeless squatting there		1		
An amphitheatre has limited use in our climate. It would be lovely on a warm summer evening, but during our 9 months of rain, it will be of little use and should be the last structure to be built.		1		
Eastside library needs to be sooner.		1		
Given the continued growth in the eastern end of Abbotsford, the eastern library should be prioritized more and be built sooner.		1		
I think the performing arts centre is required way before 2042. Abby Arts Centre is great but it's the only centre in all of Abbotsford and is being used by most district schools, dance schools, theatre groups as well as community groups and performers. Trying to rent it for specific dates is very hard.		1		
It would have a more significant cultural impact if the amphitheatre could be given a higher priority in the funding plan.		1		
Limited focus on culture		1		
Maybe we need to reconsider the purposes of public libraries.		1		
Somewhat sad to see the eastside library only in the long-term section. That will probably be long after my kids are fully grown.		1		
The costs for Turner House and the continued maintenance of the heritage interpretation of the site should have long term fiscal objectives. It is not a one of operation but can become a significantly recognized place of heritage in the Province with committed stewardship that follows recognized heritage resource practices.		1		
There is a huge emphasis on sports / park / tournament development while libraries, amphitheatre and performance theatre are relegated to 2034, 2036 and 2043. We have a hockey rink which brings in big name, expensive acts from around the world but if we want to see a reasonably priced show with local talented people we have to go to Chilliwack or Langley or Mission. While companies putting on shows in Abbotsford have to book their venue(s) years ahead to be assured		1		

	of a workable schedule for advertising and show times.				
	What about the arts and culture? Live theater etc.		1		

7.2.h

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
MISC	4	18	0	22
Additional land acquisition, priority to incorporate additional Sumas Mountain property as city owned and managed forest for recreation		1		
Anything is expensive- maintenance, development etc. and the existing parks are beautiful. However a priority should be land acquisition as long as it is available.		1		
As long as the astronomical property taxes that we currently pay in Abby do not continue to rise and rise!	1	1		
flexibility to advance projects as funding and partnership opportunities become available		1		
I like the concept, build and pay off debt, but some of the proposed "new" facilities are not ones I would support; some of the "new" facilities are ones I think the city should not spend money on as I don't think they're smart long-term investments.	1	1		
I see $ amounts and projects listed, but how much $ will be coming from local taxes, will the mill rate be higher than it is now? Individuals and families are already struggling with higher costs.		1		
I struggle with budget commitment when transit is underfunded		1		
I would rather pay more taxes because the City / Citizens always net loose in any P3 adventure because it is always setup to favour those P3 partners by our city officials through collusion or incompetence.		1		
It looks unrealistic to achieve those long-term goals where we all of a sudden start spending money. Those look like they were tacked on at the end to make some people happy. In order to get real traction, we should start spending on those soon, especially if we can see debt reduction that quickly		1		
Land acquisitions should happen during a downturn in real estate and not set on a specific year. This gives tax payers best bang for buck and historically real estate has gone up long term so within 5 years rather than the 10 proposed.		1		
My concern is that some of the things that will draw doctors and other professionals to our community are a long way down the road. It is so far away, that I cannot imagine even being alive when many of the cultural plans materialize (or not). I am happy to see that some of the initial funding will go towards more green spaces, but wonder, given the number of large trees currently being felled, whether we can count on this happening.		1		
No Public Private Partnerships.		1		
Seems to be very oriented towards structured activities. I would like to see a better balance between unstructured activities and structured activities.		1		
Thank you for taking the time to start this plan and put it in action.	1			
There needs to be continued balances development. Between mid-term and long term no investment while dumping the biggest investment in our city 20 years from now.		1		
These all look like projects that will need to be renovated/updated within this time period regardless of community input. It is obvious.		1		
Tired of only productive members of society paying for ones who refuse to work or take advantage of the system!! The ones paying for all these projects are busy working and don t ha e the tome to		1		

actually enjoy them				
We will see how this is played out. I have my doubt. I have an understanding the complex nature of public project. I really hope it works.		1		
Yes, as long as existing natural areas are not eroded either in the process of developing these, or because losses slip in while the City's attention is diverted by these priorities away from natural area priorities.	1	1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
FACILITIES Rec centres	0	3	0	3
Don't need MRC expansion, need similar in Central Abbotsford.		1		
The facility on Townline needs to be improved		1		
With declining average health and aging population, there is a priority to develop facilities.		1		

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
POSITIVE COMMENTS	16	0	0	16
Avoiding too much debt is prudent. This seems a good, balanced approach.	1			
Debt elimination should be the first priority for any new spending.	1			
Everything is ok.	1			
I like the concept, build and pay off debt	1			
I think it's easy to say we want these facilities and amenities, but it's equally important that they be developed in a fiscally responsible manner, especially considering the cost projections will inevitably be over budget. I support a conservative approach to implementation of these projects.	1			
In theory yes, but not seeing a complete financial statement for the city doesn't allow me to speak fully to the investment.	1			
It takes a lot of money and as long as it's being allotted properly there is nothing to be upset about	1			
Looks good.	1			
Looks like a good balance	1			
Not sure $0 debt is realistic, but a good goal to work towards.	1			
Seems like a responsible approach.	1			
Smart business planning; anything to not affect taxes.	1			
The balance seems good, and you have a 2017 surplus!	1			
The financial aspect, sure, you guys know what you're doing (I hope)	1			
There will also be people who find a reason to criticize the government for spending money. However if Abbotsford is going to keep up with the pace of population, this money must be spent. Ensuring that all these new activities are also affordable for low income residents is the only way the full benefit of these new facilities will be met. Please keep whatever cost to the consumer as reasonable as possible.	1			

This is a fiscal no brainer.	1			

	POSITIVE	NEEDS MORE	NEUTRAL	TOTAL
Facilities: Outdoor	1	11	0	12
Work with the Abbotsford rugby club to come to an agreement to have a proper field and clubhouse on the same property. A growing trend sport at all levels in schools and hopeful transitioning into a great future for a club already 40 years in Abbotsford.				
Abbotsford already has many outdoor facilities, such as Exhibition Park, to host sports tournaments. I don't see a significant need for an "outdoor multi-sport tournament centre".		1		
Any chance of investing in in acquiring more land for parks and trail?		1		
Good not to over extend ourselves. Though it would be cheaper to develop dirt trails for user groups than to build lots of buildings	1			
I don't see any budget at all for rural activities and trails such as the Abby Grind and other mountain biking or running trails. Please establish a budget line which allows Parks and Council to support mountain biking, road and gravel cycling and running trails on Sumas Mountain, Vedder Mountain, along the Fraser River, through our farmland, around rural lakes, canals and waterways, etc.		1		
More outdoor stuff less indoor stuff		1		
No money for trails. In your previous survey the trails were the number 1 attraction. Abbotsford is getting them for free. Taking advantage of the volunteers who build and maintain them.		1		
No new facilities except for green space and walking areas		1		
Please stop bailing out Ledgeview golf course. In my opinion golf is outdated and the massive tracts of land and poisons required could be more inclusively used by everyone in a more natural way. I would like to see what percentage of resident utilize this resource.		1		
The outdoor multi-sport facility is far more important than many of the other projects proposed for completion in the first few years. All parks are good, but some are more necessary than others.		1		
There is benefit to this approach though I'm not sure why an Outdoor Tournament site is purchased before the debt is retired. We should be fair and equitable to all components of the PRC.		1		
We need some money to go towards trail building and trail maintenance for Mountain Biking.		1		
Work with the Abbotsford rugby club to come to an agreement to have a proper field and clubhouse on the same property. A growing trend sport at all levels in schools and hopeful transitioning into a great future for a club already 40 years in Abbotsford. Their members are always donating their time to school clubs and have shown positive leadership.		1		

7.3. CULTURE: responses of participants who disagreed (open-ended questions)

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail		
	Number of responses	% of total responses
Need clarification	2	20.0%
Priorities	2	20.0%
Wording	2	20.0%

Business model	1	10.0%
Cost	1	10.0%
Needed sooner	1	10.0%
Other projects	1	10.0%
	10	1

DISAGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL: detail	
Business model	**1**
Privatization	1
Cost	**1**
Need clarification	**2**
Needed sooner	**1**
Other projects	**1**
Priorities	**2**
More outdoor facilities	1
More sport facilities	1
Wording	**2**

DISAGREE: full comments	**CODE**	**sub CODE**
Cost will be high...?	Cost	
Do not know what debt retirement is	Need clarification	
Do not understand the finance terms	Need clarification	
I don't agree with the statement "some projects MAY have the ability". This just sounds too 'iffy' to agree to.	Wording	
I feel there is lots of money spend on facilities that are indoor and we should do look at the big picture with outdoor enhancement.	Priorities	More outdoor facilities
So many projects are not really for the city. Private funding should build things like indoor training and Performing arts centre.	Business model	Privatization
Sports facilities are not prioritized. This plan is focusing on the wrong areas	Priorities	More sport facilities
The writing is quite small and you have not presented it in a way that's easy and quick to process. I have not read all the details so can't agree without reserve.	Wording	
Too much money Abbotsford is already paying for other costly building like the Reach. Money wasted	Other projects	
We should have already been planning and developing for sports tournament sites 5 years ago.	Needed sooner	

APPENDIX E—COMPARABLE COMMUNITIES

Introduction

The City of Abbotsford is preparing a Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) Master Plan to guide the growth of these important sectors as Abbotsford approaches a population of 200K. To support the needs analysis component of the project, the City sought to collect information on comparable communities in the Lower Mainland. Five communities were selected based on similarities in population size and growth, proximity to Abbotsford, layout, and reputation for innovation.

There were two main reasons for conducting this analysis:

- To compare Abbotsford's provision of facilities, programs and services, i.e., quantitative comparison
- To collect ideas for innovative facilities, programs and services, i.e., qualitative data

A list of questions reflecting the PRC Master Plan's priority areas was prepared (Appendix A). For basic information on population and land area, Statistics Canada data was used. Information on the municipal facilities, programs and services was collected online to the degree possible, and municipal staff was contacted for the remaining data (Appendix B).

This report begins with some community information to provide context. Data is presented for three main categories: culture, parks and outdoor recreation, and sports and recreation. A section on trends and best practices follows, highlighting the experiences of the five comparable communities. The report concludes with a section on financing and service delivery, in which the comparable communities share some insight into their respective situations and how Abbotsford might be able to learn from them.

Community Summaries

All five of the comparison communities are in the Lower Mainland: Chilliwack, Coquitlam, Township of Langley, Mission, and Richmond. Comparable communities were selected for the following reasons:

- Chilliwack – As the furthest from Vancouver and the most isolated of the comparable communities, Chilliwack needs to be the most self-sufficient in terms of its PRC offerings. Like Abbotsford, the community is experiencing growth as people move away from the increasingly unaffordable Vancouver area. Many of these migrants bring high expectations for PRC services.
- Coquitlam – The second fastest growing population among comparable communities, Coquitlam is faced with immense development pressures as a result of the new Evergreen line extension and development of Burke Mountain. As a result, they are rapidly adding to their PRC provisions in order to keep up with demand.
- Township of Langley – The Township has the fastest growing population of the comparable communities with a density very similar to Abbotsford's. It is considered quite innovative, with some of the best PRC facilities in the Fraser Valley.[15]
- Mission – Though substantially smaller, Mission is Abbotsford's closest neighbour. Residents of both municipalities use the parks, recreation and culture amenities of the other, so comparing services between the two is relevant.
- Richmond – Richmond is denser than Abbotsford and provides a comparable community with the population to which Abbotsford aspires. Richmond serves as a valuable comparison because of the amount of development occurring, the need to ensure that PRC provisions keep pace, and a reputation for innovation.

Community Info	Chilliwack	Coquitlam	Langley	Mission	Richmond	Comparable Communities Average*	Abbotsford
Population (2016)	83,788	139,284	117,285	38,833	198,309	115,500	141,397
Population (2011)	77,936	126,804	104,177	36,426	190,473	107,163	133,497
percent Growth (2011-2016)	7.5	9.8	12.6	6.6	4.1	8	5.9
Land Area (sq. km.)	261.65	122.3	308.3	227.65	129.27	210	375.55
Density (pop/sq. km.)	320.2	1,138.90	380.8	170.6	1,534.1	709	376.5

[15] We were unable to make contact with the recreation representative at the Township of Langley. Information was collected from online sources and publicly available documents.

Parks, Recreation and/or Culture Plan	2014-2023 Parks, Recreation and Culture Strategic Plan	'Our Story' Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan	Recreation, Culture and Parks Master Plan	Parks, Recreation and Culture Plan (in process)	Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Master Plan		

***Averages do not include City of Abbotsford**

Facility Data

The following three tables compare the service provisions between Abbotsford and the five comparable communities.

For each of the data tables, "x" indicates that the value is not applicable, i.e., the community does not have that amenity, "n/a" indicates that no information was available.

How many of the following cultural facilities do you have?

Facility Type	Chilliwack	Coquitlam	Langley	Mission	Richmond	Comparable Communities Average	Abbotsford
City-owned or managed dedicated performance space	1	5	x	1	2	1.8	3
Dedicated exhibition space*	1	2	1	1	6	2.2	2
Dedicated learning spaces**	1	4	1	0	11	3.4	6***
Municipal museums	1	2	1	1	2	1.4	2
City-managed heritage sites	1	1	2	1	4	1.8	2
Heritage exhibition space outside museums	1	1	x	x	2	0.8	1
Museums and heritage programming space	1	2	n/a	2	6	2.2	4
Number of major events annually	x	4	n/a	2	8	2.8	11****
Total	**7**	**21**	**5**	**8**	**41**	**16.40**	**31**

***Facilities were only counted once, even if they have multiple exhibition spaces within (e.g., Place des Arts in Coquitlam)**

****All spaces in a facility are counted (e.g., Richmond Arts Centre has nine different studios and rooms).**

******Note that Abbotsford does not have any dedicated arts learning spaces. There are 6 facilities that can host arts programming: The Reach Gallery Museum, Kariton Art Gallery, Clearbrook Library, MCA, ARC, and MRC.**

****** Out of 150 total outdoor events, 11 were City lead, 17 were supported by the City, and 122 were community-driven but went through the City's special event process or were hosted at PRC facilities.**

How many hectares (ha) of each type of parkland do you have?

Park Type	Chilliwack	Coquitlam	Langley	Mission	Richmond	Comparable Communities Average	Abbotsford
City-wide or Destination Parks (ha)	n/a*	206.0	239.0	16.8	180.0	160.4**	102.6
Community Parks (ha)	n/a*	119.0	112.0	36.5	87.2	88.7**	227.1
Neighbourhood Parks (ha)	n/a*	25.5	91.00	22.4	229.4	92.1**	38.2
Total Parkland (ha)*	**400.0**	**350.5**	**442.0**	**75.6**	**496.6**	**352.94*****	**367.9**

***Park land area for Chilliwack is not included here as the park classification system is different from Abbotsford and not directly comparable.**

****This figure excludes Chilliwack because hectares per park type are not directly comparable.**

*****This figure includes Chilliwack.**

How many of the following amenities do you have?

Park of Facility Type	Chilliwack	Coquitlam	Langley	Mission	Richmond	Comparable Communities Average	Abbotsford
Dog off-leash areas*	4	6	3	1	10	4.8	4
BMX/bike parks	1	2	2	x	1	1.2	1
Skate parks	5	3	4	1	2	3.0	2
Multipurpose outdoor stadium with spectator seating	2	1	1	x	1	1.0	1
Sports fields (grass)	20	36	61	7	83	41.4	30***
Sports fields (artificial turf)	3	6	7	1	4	4.2	5
Ball diamonds	36	35	75	13	118	55.4	19
Batting cages	x	2.0	2	1	2	1.4	2
Specific areas for field events	1	1.0	1	x	1	0.8	1
Tennis courts	21	34	32	5	52	28.8	18
Outdoor tracks	1	1	2	x	1	1.0	1
Pickleball courts**	16	3	10	x	n/a	7.3	8
Basketball/sport courts	30	18	15	2	43	21.6	24
Sand volleyball courts	x	6	8	1	2	3.4	4

Park of Facility Type	Chilliwack	Coquitlam	Langley	Mission	Richmond	Comparable Communities Average	Abbotsford
Playgrounds	75	44	39	14	58	46.0	71
Spray parks	3	8	5	1	4	4.2	2
Picnic shelters	3	6	9	2	2	4.4	27
Venues for major outdoor events, such as plazas and amphitheatres	3	1	1	1	4	2.0	1
Total	**224**	**213**	**277**	**50**	**388**	**230.4**	**221**

***All communities reported dog off-leash areas. No stand-alone dog parks were reported.**

****No dedicated pickleball facilities were reported by comparable communities, only dual-purpose tennis/pickleball courts.**

*****Includes 20 grass sports fields, 2 all-weather fields, and 8 hybrid fields.**

How many of the following facility types do you have that are owned and/or managed by your municipality?

Facility Type	Chilliwack	Coquitlam	Langley	Mission	Richmond	Comparable Communities Average	Abbotsford
Community centres	5	8	6	3	9	6.2	3
Indoor pool locations	3	2	2	1	2	2.0	2
25-metre pools	1	2	1	1	2	1.4	2
50-metre pools	x	1	1	x	1	0.6	x
Therapy pool facilities	2	2	2	1	2	1.8	x
Leisure pools	1	2	2	1	1	1.4	1
Outdoor swimming pools	1	2	2	x	2	1.4	1
Arenas	2	2	3	1	2	2.0	4
Indoor ice sheets	4	7	3	2	8	4.8	4
Venues for major indoor events	3	1	2	n/a	n/a	2.0	1
Fieldhouses/indoor sports fields	x	1	1	x	x	0.4	x
Indoor running tracks	x	1	1	x	x	0.4	1
Fitness centres	1	4	5	1	8	3.8	2
Fitness studios	1	n/a	1	1	7	2.5	2
Senior's centres	x	2	x	1	1	1.0	2
Youth spaces/centres	x	2	1	1	6	2.0	2

Facility Type	Chilliwack	Coquitlam	Langley	Mission	Richmond	Comparable Communities Average	Abbotsford
Preschool centres	x	x	3	x	10	2.6	x
Indoor rock climbing	x	x	n/a	x	x	0.0	x
Indoor adventure	x	x	x	x	x	0.0	x
Indoor racquet courts	4	9	x	2	3	3.6	x
Gymnasiums	2	5	4	2	7	4.0	2
Multi-purpose rooms	n/a	27	6	12	40	21.3	11
Total	**34**	**84**	**50**	**31**	**115**	**62.8**	**44**

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13 TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES

What trends are you experiencing with cultural facilities and programs?

Chilliwack

- Public art is gathering some roots, although still weak, in Chilliwack. There is still significant resistance to how it is funded, which is currently very conservatively. However, there is growing interest.

Coquitlam

- Historically, culture has not been as openly valued or understood. This is changing however and Coquitlam is starting to see more pressure to deliver culture services.
- There is a heavy mixture of cultures, some of whom prefer more structured learning and skill development than others.

Langley

- The Township has very few cultural facilities, though they are hoping to expand cultural offerings.
- A cultural division was created in May 2017 and is working to set the tone for arts and culture to be a priority at the Township.

Mission

- Mission is observing a trend towards increased interest in multiculturalism. The community is becoming increasingly multicultural and the demand for cultural programming reflects this.
- There is a high uptake on program participation as well as the desire for drop-in opportunities. People don't want to commit an entire year (for example); they

want to drop-in when it is convenient for them.

Richmond

- Richmond defines culture as community-engaged art practices that invite public interactions.
- There has been increasing interest in arts education for children (especially classical ballet) in keeping with the City's growing population, particularly in the city centre.
- The City identifies a need for collaboration among different departments, e.g., public art and public works/infrastructure, and art and heritage.
- Being able to offer frontline services in Cantonese and Mandarin was also seen as important to overall culture in Richmond.

How do you define culture in your community (e.g., arts and heritage, immigration and multiculturalism, religion, nightlife, sports) and who provides what service and why?

Chilliwack

- Chilliwack defines culture in a fairly traditional sense. It includes visual and performing arts, sports, and multiculturalism.
- Heritage is somewhat separated from culture in Chilliwack. There is a new museum curator who is actively trying to grow heritage preservation and programming, though this is recent.

Coquitlam

- Culture in Coquitlam refers to arts and heritage, immigration and culturalism, religion, nightlife and sports. Coquitlam is experiencing a surge in multiculturalism that is resulting in a need for the PRC department to consider a diverse array of user groups and needs.

Langley

- Culture is defined broadly as arts, heritage, multiculturalism, and the things that contribute to community identity, including things like special events, community characteristics and sports.

Mission

- Culture in Mission focuses on arts and heritage in an attempt to take pride in and celebrate the community's heritage and diversity, and develop an artist-friendly community that is known for its community involvement, partnerships and sharing.

Richmond

- Arts include community-based, professionally created/presented and education-based art, craft, media and performance experiences (as maker, participant and/or audience). Heritage includes places and material culture that tell the story of Richmond. Immigration, multiculturalism, religion and other areas are part of the Diversity portfolio under Community Social Development.

What trends are you experiencing with parks and natural areas?

Chilliwack

- The current trend is for more nature parks and passive green spaces. With this in mind the City has recently expanded the Community Forest Trail.

Coquitlam

- With a surge in interest for individual activities such as walking, running and biking, there is increased demand for paths and trails.
- With so much development taking place there is also a need to find a balance between servicing new development and refurbishing existing parks and amenities in established areas.

Langley

- More people are walking for recreation and as a mode of transportation. The Township is seeing more requests for trails and paths. Investments in trails and paths have led to higher participation.
- Cycling is also popular, especially recreational cycling.
- Pickleball has grown in popularity in recent years. The Township currently has 11 pickleball-tennis courts but is planning to build six dedicated pickleball courts.

Mission

- The trend is for a more connected community, through parks and trails.
- People are interested in natural environments rather than manicured parks.

Richmond

- Rain gardens are being integrated into urban parks and plazas.
- There is increased emphasis on natural play that incorporates different land forms, water, and sensory experiences, as well as custom play elements made of natural materials.
- There is greater emphasis on strengthening ecological corridors that connect important ecological hubs.
- The importance of pollinators is becoming increasingly well-known and there is interest in pollinator gardens. The City has worked with Emily Carr University to create two pollinator pastures.

What trends are you experiencing with sports and recreation?

Chilliwack

- The dominant trend in this area is for active seniors' recreation. Pickleball is a force of nature, driven by this demographic.
- There is also a shift towards sports tourism. Somewhat unique to Chilliwack is that the tourism department is a branch of the municipality, rather than a separate organization as is typically the case. The tourism department is actively marketing Chilliwack as a destination for sports tourism.

Coquitlam

- The City is seeing a push from residents for more access to less structured activities, such as drop-in programs.
- There is increasing interest in individual recreational activities, such as walking, running, and biking.
- Fitness is increasingly a priority for residents, despite common time constraints, and the City is feeling the need to respond to meet this demand.

Langley

- No information collected.

Mission

- As with arts programs, people want more drop-in sports and recreation opportunities. Annual memberships are too restrictive for some, whereas drop-in opportunities provide flexibility.
- Mission is seeing increased popularity in their low-income programming. For example, residents who fall within a certain bracket are eligible for a free Leisure Centre pass. This has been very well received.

Richmond

- The growing seniors' population and large age range is challenging for programming.
- Technology is impacting activity levels.
- Richmond has adopted a new LEED gold standard for new buildings.
- New buildings have space for community gathering, e.g., community living rooms.
- New buildings are designed with significant focus on accessibility, and also encourage active transportation to facilities and within facilities by making staircases prominent.

Are participation rates in fitness programs or at fitness centres increasing, decreasing, or staying the same?

Chilliwack

- Participation is staying more or less the same. Chilliwack observes shifts depending on the program and the time of year, but overall participation is consistent.

Coquitlam

- Fitness centres are swamped and continue to increase their programming.

Langley

- No information collected.

Mission

- Attendance is pretty steady. The City is holding its own with the emergence of new private facilities. The Mission Leisure Centre is a one-stop shop whereas the private facilities offer more specific services, so MLC has the advantage in this regard.

Richmond

- Overall attendance is increasing. While there may have been some decreases at individual facilities over the last number of years, Richmond has added or expanded existing facilities which brings in new users.

What new cultural facilities have you recently built, or are planning to build?

Chilliwack

- The new Chilliwack Cultural Centre opened in September 2010. It is located downtown, on City owned land. It houses a large performance theatre, a smaller studio theatre, two performance studios, an art gallery, a boardroom, an arts and crafts studio, a clay studio, a choral studio, a computer lab, a toddler studio, a painting and drawing studio. It is located near other community centres/amenities resulting in a vibrant area.

Coquitlam

- Coquitlam is currently undertaking a cultural facility assessment. Facilities are at capacity but staff have failed as of yet to make a convincing enough argument to Council.
- So far there is just a new City Centre library.

Langley

- In recent years, Langley completed the lelem' Arts and Cultural Café, which is leased to Kwantlen First Nation, and the performing arts amphitheatre at Willoughby Community Park.
- No new cultural facilities are currently planned.

Mission

- None reported.

Richmond

- No new cultural facilities have been built in the past 5 (or 20) years, and nothing is officially planned over the next 10 or 20 years either. However, the upcoming Cultural Facilities Needs Assessment and provision of development amenity opportunities in City Centre may change that.

What new park types and amenities have you recently introduced or are planning to introduce?

Chilliwack

- The City recently extended the Community Forest Trail with a new loop. They have also upgraded many playgrounds over the past few years. Otherwise there are no immediate plans for new parks / park amenities.

Coquitlam

- Burke Mountain in the North East is undergoing lots of development. The DCC program for the area is generating revenue for new parks to service this growing community. These parks are being phased in accordance with development.
- There was backlash from established neighbourhoods who were upset that their parks were aging while new developments received shiny new parks. Council had to help the community understand that DCC's cannot be taken from one area and applied to another. Instead they developed a framework for strategic reinvestments in established parks. They called it the 'Park Blitz' and refurbished 4 parks last year, 4 this year, and plan to do 4 more next year.
- The Evergreen Line extension led to a new Master Plan for Town Centre Park which is the last stop on the line. This has resulted in new festival grounds and beach volleyball courts.
- There is discussion around a new destination park near the Burke Mountain development, possibly providing waterfront access, which is something that the community does not currently have.

Langley

- The Township is planning to build a dedicated pickleball park with six courts.
- The Township is also planning to install a new outdoor fitness area. A small one was installed last year.
- Community gardens are very popular, especially in higher density areas.

Mission

- Stave West is a 5,000ha area consisting of interpretive forest land, streams, lakes and waterfalls that provides the ideal setting for an outdoor recreation hub in Mission. A recreation master plan is currently being developed for the area with the aim of turning it into a major regional draw.

Richmond

- **Recently Built**
  - Garden City Lands – 136.5ac property in the ALR, within City boundaries, has 35,000 residents within walking distance and is a remnant of the Greater Lulu Island Bog. Park development will be occurring in phases over the next 5 years with perimeter trails, a central dyke and farm fields completed to date. The City has completed an agreement with Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Sustainable Agriculture School, which will run their education and research programs on 20ac of the park.
  - Terra Nova Adventure Play Environment – a 2ac area located on historic farmland with custom play equipment including a log jam, a 10m high tree house with spiral slide, 3m high big swings, ropes course, farm inspired water and sand play area, spinning elements, small swings, a pivot swing, a hill slide, and zip line.
  - Richmond Olympic Oval Beach – 2 beach volleyball courts with seat walls, Adirondack chairs, and a small "log jam" play structure.
  - Railway Greenway – a multi-use 5km greenway on former interurban tram/rail corridor that includes a 4m wide, 2-way asphalt, a series of 1.5m wide gravel side trails, interurban tram interpretive elements, site furnishings, picnic and seating areas, ecological corridor enhancements (approximately 1500 trees and associated native understory planting).
  - Thompson Youth Park – designed to be multi-purpose and family oriented, with the design being inspired by the creative ideas of the Burnett Secondary School and Blair Elementary School students. It includes a skate plaza with street style elements, a parkour course and lots of seating edges, grass slopes and custom elements for sitting and hanging out.
  - Lang Park – a significant upgrade to an existing 0.3ac urban park. The new elements include an interactive spray feature integrated within a new plaza, a reflexology path and public art piece, seating walls and picnic/games tables.

- **Future**
  - Garden City Lands – Further development will include entry nodes, internal trails, boardwalks, community gardens, 20ac of farm fields for community groups, a barn, a Farm and Ecology Centre, parking areas, washrooms, interpretive elements and public art.
  - Hollybridge Pier – Just east of the Richmond Olympic Oval and in the rapidly developing Oval Village, this large viewing pier and floats will provide access to the Middle Arm of the Fraser River for viewing, water based recreation, and potentially will accommodate an aqua-bus service.
  - Lansdowne Linear Park – will connect the Garden City Lands with the Middle Arm of the Fraser and the Olympic Oval passing through the centre of downtown. The linear park will transform Lansdowne Rd. so that it will function as a civic, ceremonial route where celebrations and events can take place. It will also service local residents for daily recreational and social activities. It is also an "Art Walk" for both permanent and temporary installations, with the first being the "Street as Canvas" installation. The first block of this linear park has been constructed as part of a servicing agreement with an adjacent development.

What new sports and recreation facilities have you recently built or are planning to build?

Chilliwack

- Construction is underway on a new curling facility with an anticipated opening date of fall 2018. There will be 8 curling sheets, as well as a concrete sheet available for use in the summer.
- A new ice sheet (3rd) is added to Twin Rinks Arena.
- There is talk of replacing the outdoor Rotary Pool. It is old and in need of upgrades. This has been noted in the strategic master plan, but there has been no firm decision yet.

Coquitlam

- The Poirier Forum is a new 25,000 square foot facility that can be used for lacrosse, ball hockey and soccer. Also provides ideal space for community events such as craft markets.
- The Poirier Sport and Leisure Complex received a full arena renovation in 2010. They kept the bones of the rink but added additional seating by creating a full bowl around the rink. The Coquitlam curling club merged with the Port Moody club and they will be using the Port Moody facility. This has freed up an additional NHL-sized ice sheet because the curling rink was designed with exactly this foresight in mind.
- The City is working on a joint use agreement with the school district at Burke

Mountain to build a community centre and artificial turf field. The City will build the field while the school district will provide gymnasium space. The joint use agreement will allow for the school to use the field and for the community to use the gymnasium.

- There will be a new Place Maillardville Community Centre in the next 5 years or so that will be bigger than the current one (approx. 20,000 sq. ft.)
- Anticipating a big new recreation complex in Coquitlam's Northeast in the next 5 to 10 years.
- Through a clever density bonusing scheme, there will a new YMCA facility built. The developer is building the facility for the City, and the City is then handing it over to the YMCA. The developer is also giving the City $15 million to cover the cost of rebuilding at the end of the new facility's lifespan. The somewhat complicated structure is ensuring a state-of-the-art facility in the area for many years to come.

Langley

- No information collected.

Mission

- There is a currently discussion with Council around a new seniors and youth centre. This may end up being a joint facility, or possibly two independent facilities. The seniors' community, in particular, has been vocal about the need for a new facility.
- Mission has recently finished its first artificial turf field.

Richmond

- Recently built facilities include the Interurban Tram Building, expansion to the Hamilton Community Centre, and City Centre Community Centre.
- Upcoming facilities include the Minoru Centre for Active Living (opening in 2018), and currently conducting feasibility studies for animal shelter, lawn bowling clubhouse, a community centre in the north end of the City Centre, a replacement for Steveston Community Centre & Library and completion of several projects at Britannia Heritage Shipyard.

What innovative cultural facilities and programs do you have?

Chilliwack

- See Chilliwack Cultural Centre, above.

Coquitlam

- Facilities are pretty standard.

Langley

- Langley prides itself on its collaboration with First Nations. Recent examples include joint art shows and an exhibit at the Centennial Museum about First Nations territory, with funding provided by the Township. Langley is hoping to partner with the Coast Salish Arts Society in the future. The Township has also worked with local Indigenous organizations, with funding from Fraser Health Authority, to integrate First Nations' culture throughout the community, including providing sensitivity training for staff.

Mission

- None reported.

Richmond

- Richmond has over 130 public artworks installed throughout the City.
- Media Lab offers innovative programs, particularly for youth, including mentorship/volunteer programs.
- Art at Work and Gallery's Artist Salon series of professional development opportunities for visual artists.
- Ongoing capacity-building support for non-profit arts groups through Arts & Culture Grant program, staff support and professional development workshops. Introducing the Lifecycles Program to grant clients this fall.
- Richmond's Culture Days is the largest in BC and provide promotional support/profile to local artists and involves the Arts, Culture and Heritage department, as well as other city departments.
- Writer-in-Residence (free programs for two months in fall) and Branscombe House Artist-in-Residence (monthly free programs and more).
- Richmond Artists Directory e-list bulletin to promote artist calls, events, etc.
- Public Art calls for established artists as well as those specifically for local and emerging artists. Most recent call for No.3 Road Art Columns is an opportunity for emerging artists to work with professional artists in a mentorship relationship. Also have a roster of visual artists to call upon for utility box wraps.
- Gallery has extensive public events, activities and educational programming including artist mentorship program, Family Sunday and workshops.
- Public Art partnered with other departments, especially Major Events to animate City Hall Plaza for a month by having UBC landscape architecture students design temporary installations using native plants and programming lunch time music, talks and other events.
- Richmond Maritime Festival and World Festival both showcase local visual artists and performers, including contemporary media arts, poetry and hands-on demos of pottery.
- Art Truck is a community outreach program hosted at three elementary schools.

It provides after-school activities, healthy snack and physical literacy components in partnership with School District 38, Arts Centre and Richmond Public Health.
- Children's Arts Festival offers accessible and fun interactive art-making experiences lead by professional artists.

What innovative park types and amenities do you have?

Chilliwack

- Vedder Rotary Trail is a gem. It is an 8km trail that runs along the Vedder River. It is a mixed-use trail that is great for running, biking, walking, horseback riding. The City introduced a new 'virtual' tour of the Vedder and Peach Creek Trail systems. Utilizing smart phone technology to 'read' simple QR code signs, trail users simply locate and scan the QR codes on the signage along the trails and an educational video will play on their smartphone. The virtual tour is intended to enhance trail users experience by providing an interesting and informative self-guided tour.
- The Great Blue Heron Nature Reserve is formerly the Department of National Defense 'Wet Gap Training Area'. It is 130 hectares of un-dyked floodplain that is home to over ninety Great Blue Heron nests and a wide variety of rare wildlife and vegetation. Inside the Rotary Interpretive Centre there is a variety of programs, services and various informative displays including an online, web based Heron Camera allowing direct viewing into the activity of a Great Blue Heron Nest.

Coquitlam

- Coquitlam is starting to try food trucks in parks, as well as Wi-Fi. They currently have Wi-Fi in Town Centre Park and are hoping to offer this in other parks soon. Not only is it nice for park users but it provides the City with a whole new way of accessing data.
- They experiment with pop-up parks and little toy libraries. They are interested in how the toys seem to only go missing in the more affluent neighbourhoods, while the toy libraries grow in the less affluent areas.
- City is considering a partnership with Tennis BC to provide access to free tennis equipment at City owned courts.
- All new parks are being developed to a very high standard and designed to reflect the particular neighbourhoods they are in.

Langley

- The nature play area in Williams Park.
- The Township offers a good quality disc golf course. It is also currently exploring the possibility of a new link-style disc golf course.

Mission

- Mission has a nine-hole disc golf course located in Centennial Park. They also have 'Play Boxes' located in several parks. These boxes are filled with family-friendly play equipment that is unlocked with a code obtained by registering.

Richmond

- Terra Nova Rural Park is a 63-acre City-wide nature park in the Thompson area with historic buildings, a community garden and a picnic area. It provides excellent habitat for birds and other wildlife in the area. Boardwalks, slough and viewing platforms are available for enhanced park visibility and access. Various agriculturally oriented activities take place at the park including: a Waterwise Demonstration Garden and a Community Garden, and is home to user groups such as The Sharing Farm and the Terra Nova School Yard Society.
- Terra Nova Adventure Play Environment is a play experience unique to the Lower Mainland. It is the result of a highly successful community planning process, and reflects the agricultural traditions of the area and complements the City's growing collection of innovative parks. The play environment represents a major departure from other contemporary playgrounds in that most of the features are custom designed and manufactured using British Columbia sourced Yellow Cedar and sustainable design practices, rather than conventional, 'off the shelf' metal and plastic products. The design responds to concerns that children and adults are increasingly becoming disconnected from nature.
- Garden City Community Park receives stormwater from the surrounding high and mid-density urban neighbourhood that is filtered through a bioswale and pond system before re-entering the City's underground stormwater drainage system. The play environment at the park was the City's first playground based on natural play and use of natural materials combined with manufactured elements.
- Middle Arm Waterfront Greenway combines civic infrastructure and foreshore habitat enhancements with a multi-use greenway. The 1.3km section of greenway incorporates the flood protection dyke, provides access to the water via lookouts, piers with floats and at UBC's M.S. Lecky Boathouse from which rowing programs are run. In partnership with 2010 Legacies Now and the Rick Hansen Foundation, three universally accessible play areas were constructed to provide sensory, social and creative/discovery play opportunities. It is also home to "Water #10" by Chinese artist Ren Jun.
- Terra Nova Adventure Play Environment adopted an innovative community engagement process, design and construction methodology. The play environment represents a major departure from other contemporary playgrounds in that most of the features are custom designed and manufactured using BC sourced Yellow Cedar and sustainable design practices, rather than conventional "off the shelf" metal and plastic products.

- South Arm Off-leash Dog Park is a fenced off-leash park that includes a log agility area, landforms and seating.
- Public Wi-Fi offered at various City locations such as Britannia Ship Yard, Richmond Nature Park, and Minoru Park. Future Wi-Fi sites will be King George/Cambie Community Centre Park, Steveston Community Park, Hugh Boyd Community Park and South Arm Community Park.
- RichmondBC App includes iBeacon Technology which provides individuals with Apple products with a unique experience which currently focuses on the Britannia Shipyards National Historic Site and Stories of Nikkei of Steveston. Britannia Shipyards is an authentic representation of a once thriving community of canneries, boat yards, residences and stores. Nikkei Stories of Steveston pays tribute to the struggles and successes of Japanese Canadian pioneers and their descendants. Simply walk through the site using the RichmondBC App as your guide. As you approach different buildings, signs or artefacts, the app will provide you with information about each artefact automatically using Bluetooth iBeacons. The app also allows the user to search for Parks and activities occurring throughout the City and amenities provided. Users will be able to search the address, history, hours of operation and GPS coordinates of each location and access directions to get there. The app offers a calendar view of all events, programs and services.
- Thompson Youth Park (see newly built parks, above)
- Richmond Olympic Oval Beach (see newly built parks, above)
- Lansdowne Linear Park (see newly built parks, above)
- City of Richmond GeoTour is a series of 50 hidden geocaches in Richmond parks, on trails, and at community facilities. Users explore the City and discover Richmond's unique natural and cultural heritage.

What innovate sports and recreation services do you have?

Chilliwack

- Nothing comes to mind.

Coquitlam

- The Poirier Forum is definitely unique but other municipalities have similar facilities.
- Developing the curling sheets on an NHL sized rink was innovative because it allowed them to adapt to different uses over time.

Langley

- No information collected.

Mission

- None reported.

Richmond

- Hugh Boyd Soccer Development Centre, spanning 6 acres, is one of Canada's premier soccer facilities and the largest single continuous synthetic turf-playing surface in North America.
- Terra Nova Nature Preschool connects young children with their community and outdoor landscape by offering direct experiences with nature and gardening on the Terra Nova Rural Parklands.
- Minoru Centre for Active Living (2018) will be a combination of pool, seniors centre and field to support active lifestyles among the ageing population.

What are biggest challenges you face with cultural facilities and programs, and what recommendations do you have for dealing with these?

Chilliwack

- The key to Chilliwack's service delivery model is to have strong communication with partners. It is important to sit down with partners from time to time and ensure that all parties understand the implications of certain decisions. There is often a trickle-down effect that may not be fully understood during the initial decision-making process.

Coquitlam

- Just keeping up with all of the growth is challenging. There is so much uncertainty around future demand. Predicting whether new immigrants will want access to services and programs that they had back home or if they will want to adapt to Canadian sports and recreation (etc.) is a big challenge. In response to this Coquitlam is growing their team and hoping to stay out in front of needs.

Langley

- The biggest challenge is that the Township does not have many facilities.

Mission

- There is a lack of space to meet demand. The Arts Council does not have enough room to provide the type/amount of programming that they would like. Finding creative ways to schedule spaces can help with this but ultimately there comes a need to just build more.

Richmond

- A lack of performance and rehearsal space for community performing arts

groups. City staff hears this from the groups and they expect this to be a key recommendation in the upcoming Cultural Facilities Needs Assessment.

- Local visual artists who do not have a "contemporary art practice" often feel disenfranchised by the Richmond Art Gallery. The City needs another gallery space dedicated to them. That said the gallery has recently had success with new programming that provides resources and training to visual artists, especially the Artists Salon series and accompanying Facebook page where there is an ongoing exchange of ideas and news.
- Arts education programs at the Arts Centre have space challenges, partly because there is very limited space and partly due to sharing the space with community arts groups. It is important to maintain and nurture positive relationships with the groups in order to understand and respond to each other's needs and challenges.
- The museum and gallery both have space challenges for exhibitions and programming. The museum and heritage services staff, especially, has insufficient administrative and programming space. Artefact storage is spread over 8 sites in the community, only one being adequately environmentally controlled. All are full to capacity.
- There is a language barrier with non-English speaking residents so it is important to have front line staff that can converse. They are working on getting more promotional materials translated. This is a key recommendation of the upcoming Community Services Marketing Plan.
- There is political misunderstanding (and occasional interference or even outright hostility) in relation to professional, contemporary art practices, and especially to Public Art. It is important to nurture relationships among councillors who can be advocates. Community feedback to Council is most effective.
- In general, the arts community is fairly unorganized and fractured and is in the nascent stages of finding its voice via the Richmond Arts Coalition.

What are biggest challenges you face with sports and recreation facilities and programs, and what recommendations do you have for dealing with these?

Chilliwack

- Chilliwack relies on partnerships and service agreements, which makes staff reactive. The challenge is that this can result in some disconnect and some lost accountability.
- Chilliwack is facing a shortage of outdoor sports facilities and is therefore unable to meet demand. This is particularly true for baseball facilities and is the result of not having enough land to develop more facilities.
- The City partners with the school board to offer public sports fields. This can be challenging because the school board can remove a particular field from the inventory at any time if they feel it is not usable. This results in displaced user

groups and the City being unable to accommodate them.

Coquitlam

- It is a challenge getting sports groups to understand when there is a need out there that there is an unmet need. The City will work with groups to support changing the allocation structure to be based on needs, and schedule accordingly. For example, Hockey Canada recommends that kids play for 30 minutes twice per week and that they only need to play cross-wise on the rink. That means that in one hour you can get four groups through. Scheduling accordingly would free up time for other user groups such as pick-up hockey or free skate times.

Langley

- No information collected.

Mission

- There tends to be an expectation or demand for more with existing resources. There is never enough money to satisfy all interests. The key is to keep an open line of communication with Council, and of course develop a good master plan! It is also critical to understand priorities because you cannot do it all.

14 FINANCING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

What approach is used for the service delivery model of parks, recreation and culture? Do you have direct or indirect delivery of services? What is the balance of the provision of services (facilities and programs) among public, private and non-profit sectors?

Chilliwack

- Chilliwack uses a partnership-based service delivery model. The City has very few staff involved in service delivery, and manages the services through grants and service agreements with private and not-for-profit organizations that deliver the services based on behalf of the City. The City does operate and maintain its parks using City staff.
- Sports and recreation facilities, like cultural facilities and programs, are managed through partners. Recreation Excellence is the company that manages both of the large sports and recreation facilities in Chilliwack.

Coquitlam

- The City is an arms-length operator of much of the arts and culture services. Their focus is on maintaining clarity between what is for the public good and what should be provided by the private sector.
- The parks are operated by the City. There are some Metro parks within the City, which creates a need for balance.
- Sports and recreation services and programming are mostly provided directly by the City, but they do have some partnerships in place. For example, there is a private tennis facility that is undergoing a new partnership agreement that includes providing public access to indoor tennis. There is also an agreement in place between the City and Planet Ice. The City gets the ice time to meet needs and Planet Ice uses the rest of the time for their own programming.

Langley

- Cultural programming is provided through many organizations and groups in the community. The Township provides funding for local groups and pays artist fees for exhibits.
- Langley is currently working on a new public art policy for developer contributions, specifically working to establish a public art review panel.

Mission

- Much of the arts and culture programming is provided indirectly, through the Mission Arts Council. The Arts Council is a not-for-profit that runs the Rock

Family Gallery, the Mission Arts Centre and several community events and festivals.

- The District works closely with community groups, commissions and advisory committees who all act as advocates for arts and culture and relay information to Council. For example, the Cultural Resources Commission is established by Council and provides expertise to make recommendations that shape infrastructure and serves as a support for regional cultural activities, services and organizations.
- Mission provides direct delivery for its parks and natural areas. They also have an advisory committee that is appointed by Council to provide expertise and make recommendations for shaping the District's parks, trails, recreational activities, services and organizations.
- The District is currently considering the idea of developing a 'Friends of the Park' committee for the Fraser River Heritage Park. They recently took this park over from a not-for-profit whose lease was not renewed. The park has heritage significance and is getting its own park plan.
- Mission has a predominantly direct service delivery for recreation. City staff manages the facilities, provide programming and oversee the whole process. They do however contract out some services, for example the figure skating club has a contract to provide learn-to-skate classes. They also have a Sports Council that provides expertise and recommendations to Council.
- The City contracts a special events coordinator who arranges many of the community events on behalf of the City.

Richmond

- Some parks programs are delivered directly by the City, and others are indirectly delivered in partnership with community associations, volunteer groups and others.
- In Richmond, the Community Services department includes Parks, Recreation, Arts, Culture, Heritage and Community Social Development. The City owns the recreation facilities, funds and staffs the base supervisory staff as well as the frontline administrative staff and janitorial staff. They also provide capital maintenance.
- The actual programs and services are delivered in partnership with community associations, volunteer organizations, sports groups and others to ensure the provision of innovative, affordable and inclusive sport and recreation programs. Aquatic programs and services are delivered directly by the City.

What are the criteria for budget allocation between parks, recreation and culture? Are there priorities? Is there equitable disbursement? Does it rotate?

Chilliwack

- Budget allocation is based on the 10-year financial plan, community demands, and Council priorities. The parks budget is pretty stagnant, whereas recreation is going into two big capital projects, so they are receiving the priority at the moment. In this regard, budgeting rotates based on current needs.

Coquitlam

- The Master Plan sets the roadmap, with the first five years being the most detailed. Otherwise, assessments are performed for each of the areas (culture, arts, sports, etc.) and the recommendations are provided based on these.

Langley

- Culture division is very new, but the CAO supported its establishment. The division works with the Director of Finance to come up with a budget and they are currently trying to establish what a future budget might look like. The scope and budget of culture at the Township has expanded since it because its own division (instead of a department under recreation).
- Unlike the budget for recreation, which comes from general revenue (as well as user fees), the parks budget is supported through a parks utility fee paid through property taxes.
- There have been recent shifts in departmental organization to improve the equitable distribution of resources. For example, all facilities are currently managed in one department to make sure that they all get equal attention in the operating budget and capital repair allocation.

Mission

- This is somewhat historical in Mission. It doesn't necessarily rotate annually but rather as dictated by staffing levels, Council priorities and the Capital Plan. Currently there is more of a focus on facilities and facility upgrade work. Ultimately it comes down to identifying the priorities and doing what you can.

Richmond

- Budget allocation for parks, recreation and culture is performed based on community needs and Council priorities. New requests go through a ranking process in which the City decides what the priorities are.

What is your approach to partnerships?

Chilliwack

- Chilliwack uses partnerships and service agreements for the majority of their parks, recreation and culture services.

Coquitlam

- Chilliwack is open to partnerships, with the understanding that they are all very different depending on the context. The City generally chooses a partnership approach in situations where expertise is lacking or it makes economic sense. With the tennis facility, a public-private partnership was adopted because the facility borders three municipalities, and it did not make sense for Coquitlam to operate in independently.

Langley

- The Township actively seeks partnerships in the community but does not sign formal agreements.
- For example, to offer theatre programming in the community, the Township partnered with the theatre and music department at Trinity Western University to produce a show. As part of this, the Township also sought a partnership with a local arts council to connect performers to the university.
- The Township regularly works with partners in parks at a variety of scales.

Mission

- Mission does not have a formal, documented approach to partnerships. They so encourage it internally within their own operational framework and externally among community organizations.

Richmond

- Richmond, as described above, owns their recreation facilities, but programming and servicing delivery is conducted in partnership. They provide supervisory staff, administration staff, janitorial staff and capital maintenance. The partners deliver servicing and programming.

With what agreements are you having the most success and the most challenges?

Chilliwack

- There are very strong partnerships with Tourism Chilliwack and Recreation Excellence. Tourism Chilliwack is a branch of the City that operates, among other

things, Chilliwack Heritage Park. Recreation Excellence is a recreation facilities management company that operates the Cheam Leisure Centre and Chilliwack Landing Leisure Centre.

Coquitlam

- The previous tennis facility agreement required more time available for public access. It is anticipated the new agreement will address this.
- The City and the School District are currently working on a master joint use agreement which will hopefully make things much clearer by determining who is responsible for what.

Langley

Langley does not use formal agreements for culture.

- A recent successful partnership is the ongoing work the Township is doing with the Arboretum and Botanical Society of Langley to build the Derek Double Day Arboretum and Sustainable Horticulture Centre. The Society has been key to fundraising and supporting the building process with volunteers.

Mission

- The various commissions and committees provide a great advisory role. Partnering with the school board has allowed for better after-school programming, but the schools are shared with other community organizations, resulting in a lack of space.

Richmond

- Richmond is currently in the process of updating their partner operating agreements. Some of them have been in place for a very long time. The approach up until now has been to maintain what's in place. So, the partnership agreements have been successful for the most part. The challenge they are observing in updating the agreements is ensuring that they get the wording correct and generate agreements that are mutually beneficial.

How do you determine the need for new capital projects including land acquisition?

Chilliwack

- This is done through the strategic master planning process, guided by community and Council priorities.

Coquitlam

- This is dictated by studies and tied back to the Master Plan. They also conduct an annual Ipsos Reid survey to better understand community priorities.

Langley

- No information collected.

Mission

- This is generally the result of Council priorities, in relation to the Capital Plan.

Richmond

- This is conducted first through a departmental ranking process, followed by a City ranking process. For example, the community services department will identify a number of needs, and rank them internally based on a number of criteria. They will submit their preferred selections to the City who, in turn, rank them against other City needs (e.g., pump station or fire hall). Council ultimately decides which capital projects to move forward with.

How do you determine if you build new, repurpose, decommission, or rethink older facilities?

Chilliwack

- This is determined based on the infrastructure and whether it is too compromised, as well as budget and cost. For example, after seeing the initial cost estimate for the new curling facility, Council instructed staff to explore less expensive options, such as retrofitting the existing facility. It was ultimately determined that retrofitting the existing facility would have been more expensive than building new, so they decided to build new.

Coquitlam

- This depends on the age and condition of the facility as well as the needs of the community. Studies provide the estimated lifespan and capital replacement costs. The City tries to extend the lifespan as much as possible.

Langley

- No information collected.

Mission

- This is accomplished by considering life cycles alongside the Capital Plan. The District has an ‘unfunded’ Capital Plan and a ‘funded’ Capital Plan. Items from

the unfunded plan are reviewed and if deemed important enough they are moved over the funded plan.

- The District also has an asset manager who assesses facilities and incorporates them into the District plan as needed.

Richmond

- This is determined in partnership with the Facility Services department that oversees the maintenance of all City buildings. Community Services works with Facility Services, who have a model for evaluating facilities, to identify needs and ultimately determine what the best approach is.

How are you adapting aging facilities to new customer requests?

Chilliwack

- The strategic master plan deals with any capital investments. If a particular facility needs to be adapted, they would explore the options based on budget and cost.

Coquitlam

- This is definitely one of the biggest challenges. There are many aging buildings that were built for a smaller community with different programming in mind. For example, many seniors' facilities in the past were built as stand-alone. Now it makes more sense to schedule these spaces strategically and to use them as much as possible. At the same time, the seniors' community wants to maintain exclusive use of the space so this creates conflict. New facilities need to be built much more strategically.

Langley

- No information collected.

Mission

- Mission has had some success with repurposing aging facilities. For example, the old fire hall was built as a temporary hall while a more permanent facility was being built. When the fire department moved into their permanent location, the PRC department repurposed the temporary hall to meet the demand for a new seniors' centre. Similarly, the existing youth lounge is a converted racquetball court.

Richmond

- If the City identifies a particular need or the inability to provide sufficient service at a particular facility, they explore options for adapting. For example, the South Arm Community Centre had some under-utilized racquet courts and a fitness centre that was routinely too full. With the help of a Federal Infrastructure Grant and lots of community engagement, they are in the process of renovating the courts into additional fitness centre space.

How entwined is your department or area in planning for the future of the City?

Chilliwack

- The strategic master planning process was conducted alongside the new OCP, so they came out fairly well aligned. The two different planning processes used the same engagement efforts to ensure that the community's objectives were consistently reflected throughout both plans.

Coquitlam

- This is coordinated. PRC is trying to collaborate more with community planning. It could always be better but there is definitely a pretty good link. They work closely with school districts, social workers, and others to ensure community needs are being met.

Langley

- Community planning comes to culture to discuss topics related to liveability, such as public art.
- Both recreation and culture divisions provide arts and culture programs so they still meet on a regular basis. It was also decided that the Recreation, Culture, and Parks Advisory Committee would stay together, rather than be divided into separate committees.
- Parks is very integrated with planning. Technical teams are established for neighbourhood and community plans with representation from the park design and development staff, who are involved through the whole planning process.

Mission

- There could be better connections. Nonetheless, departments do pass drafts back and forth for comment. The lead planner on Mission's new OCP sits on the committee for the PRC plan to ensure that the two documents are consistent with one another.

Richmond

- Richmond's OCP has been in place for a long time; however the planning department would certainly work with Community Services when it comes time to updating it. Community Services works closely with the planning department on development applications regarding community amenity contributions to ensure the provision of enough recreation amenities. They have also developed a Wellness Strategy that incorporates planning and transportation, because these sectors all influence one another, and everyone benefits when they all work together.

To what extent and with what frequency do you consult with neighbouring municipalities on projects, issues and infrastructure?

Chilliwack

- This depends on the particular needs. Because Chilliwack is a little bit isolated from other communities in the area they don't often consult on leisure projects and infrastructure. They do sometimes consult with different municipalities on services and programming.

Coquitlam

- There is a lot of back and forth discussion among the Tri-Cities. They conducted a Tri-Cities user study to try and understand how much cross-over exists between residents and facilities from neighbouring communities. They determined that there is a lot, but concluded that this is okay. Some residents from Coquitlam may go to Port Moody to swim while some from Port Moody may come to Coquitlam to play hockey. As long as it all balances itself out and the communities are well served, then it's okay.

Langley

- Langley does research on neighbouring communities as prat of the process for making decisions about new facilities.
- No regular meetings with neighbouring communities. Conversations are held as needed if there is a planning initiative underway or the Township is planning major facility.

Mission

- Mission somewhat regularly performs comparable research to learn what others are doing. They consult other communities to learn about fees, service delivery, programming and facilities.

Richmond

- Richmond often reaches out to colleagues in neighbouring municipalities, formally and informally, when in need of advice.

Are fees and charges based on the type of service provided, e.g., are they weighted differently for basic learning, typical resident, and high performance?

Chilliwack

- Fees are generally determined by the service providers (partners), so the City does not normally have a role.

Coquitlam

- The City does not get too involved in high performance service provisions and prefers instead to focus on basic services. Personal training is charged out at almost market cost, definitely full recovery plus a little bit. Things like Yoga and Pilates are cash cows while others are loss leaders. Children's programs are at a lower cost while adult programs are full cost. The key is to balance it out. Coquitlam discovered that they made the same amount of money from toonie skate times as they do at regular price skates simply because of how many people turn up. So providing it cheaper can actually be a better benefit for all.
- Fees and charges are approved by Council each year so it does fluctuate a little bit. They survey five surrounding communities each year to learn about fees and charges and then adopt the average. If in a particular year that means a big increase or decrease then they go back to Council to discuss further.

Langley

- No information collected.

Mission

- Mission reviews their parks and recreation fees and charges annually, which then goes to Council to be incorporated into the fees and charges bylaw. In some cases, there are non-resident rates, e.g., the cemetery.

Richmond

- Richmond does not have a fees and charges policy because for the most part, the associations and societies who deliver the services are responsible for this.

What is the municipal expectation for cost recovery of PRC programs? Is it program-specific or is there a formula or breakdown for each section?

Chilliwack

- Not applicable.

Coquitlam

- Recreation will always be subsidized to some extent. Each programmer is expected to operate within their budget. They are welcome to spend extra as long as they can bring in the extra revenue. The key is to look at the bigger picture and strike a balance.

Langley

- Not defined.
- A large part of the operating budget for culture is funded by senior government grants.

Mission

- The general expectation for cost recovery is plus 20 percent.

Richmond

- Because the revenues flow to the associations, there is not a lot of pressure for cost recovery, unlike in many other municipalities.

How are you balancing social programming and recreation? Are you finding any challenges?

Chilliwack

- The focus is just on making sure that something is being offered for everyone. This involves tailoring services for the specific demographic and area. This is mostly the responsibility of the operating partners in Chilliwack.

Coquitlam

- There is lots of interest in after-school programming and daycare because there is such a shortage. The City does provide after school programming but is steering clear of daycares.

Langley

- No information collected.

14.1.1.1 Mission

- The District operates after-school programs in every school in Mission.

Richmond

- This is one advantage Richmond has by having social development incorporated with parks, recreation and culture. They are more in tune with community social development needs than would otherwise be the case.
- Meeting the needs of Richmond's growing senior population is an ongoing challenge. In Richmond, the minimum age for seniors is 55. The 55-year olds and 90-year olds have extremely different needs and yet they are lumped into the same category. Service delivery and programming that meets everyone's needs is difficult.
- Encouraging people to be physically active is an ongoing challenge. Community Services developed the Wellness Strategy to help achieve the City's vision of Richmond being the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada.
- There is also an impending challenge of losing space in schools for programming. Reinstatement of smaller class sizes as well as a number of schools being slated for seismic upgrades is likely to result in excess space being lost.

Do you provide outreach services? If so, which ones?

Chilliwack

- No, these are provided through partners.

Coquitlam

- They have a park play program where they go out to neighbourhood parks and get kids active and comfortable with the parks. There are many after-school programs and youth outreach initiatives.

Langley

- No outreach services reported.
- The Township has a number of advisory groups that provide feedback on different park uses. These groups meet regularly, and some are council appointed. Public feedback is collected engagement opportunities for specific design projects, and the Leisure Guide encourages the public to send ideas and feedback.

14.1.1.2 Mission

- None reported.

Richmond

- Richmond offers outreach services such as a shopping program for seniors, free events in low income areas, low-cost programming, new immigrant tours, an arts truck that visits elementary schools and offers after school activities, and artists-in-residence initiatives.

1 QUESTIONNAIRE

Community Info

Municipality name: Contact name(s):

Population: Land area:

Parks, Recreation and/or Culture Plan: *[insert title and date]*

Data

Culture Facilities

1. How many of the following facility types do you have?

Facility Type (City owned and/or managed)	#	Comments
Performance space		
Exhibition space		
Dedicated learning spaces (e.g., pottery/dance studios)		
Municipal museums		
City-managed heritage sites (e.g., archives, farmstead)		
Heritage exhibition space outside museums (e.g., satellite facilities)		
Museum and heritage programming space		

Facility Type (City owned and/or managed)	#	Comments
Number of major events annually		
Other (amenities not mentioned, esp. those planned for the future)		

Parks and Outdoor Recreation Amenities

2. How much area (for park types) or how many of the following amenities do you have?

Park or Facility Type (City owned and/or managed)	#	Size (ha)	Comments
City-wide or Destination Parks (ha)			
Community parks (ha)			
Neighbourhood parks (ha)			
Dog off-leash parks (please define)			
Dog off-leash areas (please define)			
BMX/ bike parks			
Skate parks			
Multipurpose outdoor stadium with spectator seating (+/- 1000 capacity)			
Sports fields - grass			
Sports fields – artificial turf			
Ball diamonds			
Batting Cages			
Specific Areas for Field Events, e.g., Shotput, discus, javelin, etc.			
Tennis courts			
Outdoor Tracks (include surface type)			
Pickleball courts (dedicates or lines			

Park or Facility Type (City owned and/or managed)	#	Size (ha)	Comments
only)			
Basketball/sports courts			
Sand volleyball courts			
Playgrounds			
Spray parks			
Picnic shelters			
Venues for major outdoor festivals & events			
Other (amenities not mentioned, e.g., parkour)			

Sports and Recreation Facilities

3. How many of the following facility types do you have that are owned and/or managed by your municipality?

Facility Type	Number	Comments (note if separate or in Community Centre)
Community centre - Building that houses more than one type of activity – arena, pool, gym, senior centre, etc.		
25-metre indoor pools		
50-metre indoor pools		
Therapy pool facilities		
Leisure pools (with features such as slides, lazy river, flow riders, hot tubs)		
Outdoor swimming pools		
Arenas (Note capacity for spectator seating and		

Facility Type	Number	Comments (note if separate or in Community Centre)
how many facilities have multiple sheets of ice)		
Indoor ice sheets		
Venues for major indoor events		
Fieldhouses/indoor sports fields (note surface type)		
Indoor running tracks (ovals) (note surface type)		
Fitness centres (with equipment / weights)		
Fitness studios (for yoga, aerobics, etc.)		
Seniors' centres		
Youth spaces/centres		
Preschool centres		
Indoor rock climbing		
Indoor adventure (parkour, playground)		
Indoor racquet courts (which ones?)		
Gymnasiums		
Multi-purpose rooms		
Other amenities (e.g., sport shop, Juice bar, café, cafeteria, ice cream, waffle shop)		
Other services (e.g., physio, massage, sport medicine, nail salon, community policing, public health, etc.)		
Other (amenities not mentioned, esp. those planned for the future)		

Trends and Best Practices

1. What **trends** has your municipality experienced? (e.g., changing needs; organization/workplace trends; new activities; sustainability; design of facilities; service delivery).

- **Cultural facilities and programs**?
- How do you define culture in your community (e.g., arts and heritage, immigration and multiculturalism, religion, nightlife, sports) and who provides what service and why?
- **Parks and natural areas?**
- **Sports and recreation?**
- Are participation rates in fitness programs or at fitness centres increasing, decreasing, or staying the same?

2. What facilities have you **recently built** (in past 5 years or so) and are **planning to build** (over next 10 to 20 years)? (note past vs future)
   - **Cultural facilities**?
   - **Park types and amenities?**
   - **Sports and recreation facilities?**
3. What **innovative** facilities, programs or services do you have (City-owned)?
   - **Cultural facilities and programs**? (e.g., efforts to attract or create new artists and art groups; unique public art installations/initiatives; opportunities for emerging/established artists and performers; funding strategies for new civic arts facilities; strategies to attract people to local arts facilities, programs, and events, unique partnerships)
   - **Park types and amenities?** (e.g., multi-age playgrounds (adult/child); nature playgrounds; Parkour parks; nature centre; dog off-leash trails/beaches; outdoor fitness equipment; longboarding parks; beach volleyball facility (urban beach); unique food services in parks; Wi-Fi in parks; cricket fields; field hockey fields; pop-up parks; board games in parks – life-size, kitchens (pizza oven) in parks, adult playgrounds, etc.)
   - **Sports and recreation?** (e.g., new types of facilities, new combinations of facilities; new programs)
4. What are the biggest **challenges** you face in the following areas? Do you have any lessons to share about responding to these challenges?
   - **Cultural facilities and programs**?
   - **Parks and natural areas?**
   - **Sports and recreation?**

Financing and Service Delivery

1. What approach is used for the service delivery model of parks, recreation and culture? Do you have direct or indirect delivery of services? What is the balance of the provision of services (facilities and programs) among public, private and non0profit sectors?
   - **Cultural facilities and programs**?
   - **Parks and natural areas?**
   - **Sports and recreation?**
2. What are the criteria for budget allocation between parks, recreation and culture? Are there priorities? Is there equitable disbursement? Does it rotate?

3. What is your approach to partnerships?
4. With what agreements are you having the most success and the most challenges?
5. How do you determine the need for new capital projects including land acquisition?
6. How do you determine if you build new, repurpose, decommission, or rethink older facilities?
7. How are you adapting aging facilities to new customer requests? (e.g., covered outdoor sports facilities; recreation and health services in one centre; unique aquatic centres; unique ice features; therapeutic recreation services; high endurance sports facilities or programs)
8. How entwined is your department or area in planning for the future of the City (land use, OCP, city-wide strategies, mitigating social issues including homelessness, crime prevention)?
9. To what extent and with what frequency do you consult with neighbouring municipalities on projects, issues and infrastructure?
10. Are fees and charges based on the type of service provided, e.g., are they weighted differently for basic learning, typical resident, and high performance?
11. What is the municipal expectation for cost recovery of PRC programs? Is it program-specific or is there a formula or breakdown for each section?
12. Are you offering social programming, e.g., gang prevention, outreach for seniors? If so, are you offering through recreation or other department? Are you finding any challenges (especially with seniors, health authorities, after school programming)?
13. Do you provide outreach services – if so, which ones?

APPENDIX F - FACILITY CONDITION INVENTORY

Facility Name	Occupancy	Construction Type	Construction Class	Construction Year	Life Expectancy (Years)	Current Building Age	Observed Estimated Remaining Useful Life (Years)	Effective Age (Years)
Abbotsford Curling Club	Community Recreation Centre	Steel framed	Class S	1978	40	40	10	30
Abbotsford Recreation Centre (ARC)	Recreation (Pool) Enclosure	Wood framed and load bearings walls	Class D	1972	40	46	5	35
Centennial Park - Pool Storage Building	Storage Shed	Wood frame	Class D	2009	30	9	29	1
Centennial Park Pool	Recreation (Pool) Enclosure	Reinforced concrete with wood roof frame	Class D	1970	40	48	5	35
Exhibition Park - Storage Building #1	Prefabricated Storage Sheds	Wood frame	Class D	1988	30	30	8	22
Exhibition Park 4-H Barn	Storage Shed	Wood framed	Class D	1985	20	33	4	16
Exhibition Park AG-Rec Building	Skating Rink	Pre-engineered steel frame construction	Class S	1989	40	29	21	19
Exhibition Park Air Cadet Building	Community Recreation Centre	Pre-engineered steel frame construction	Class S	1990	40	28	22	18
Exhibition Park Antique Barn	Prefabricated Storage Sheds	Wood framed	Class D	1985	20	33	4	16
Exhibition Park Arena	Skating Rink	Pre-engineered steel frame construction	Class S	1989	40	29	21	19
Exhibition Park Caretakers Residence	Residence	Wood frame	Class D	1985	50	33	27	23
Exhibition Park Concession Building	Snack Bar	Wood frame	Class D	1991	30	27	13	17
Exhibition Park Fieldhouse	Pavilions	Conc. Masonry with wood roof trusses	Class C	1992	40	26	24	16
Exhibition Park Grandstand	Pavilions	Steel framed	Class S	1993	35	25	20	15

Facility Name	Occupancy	Construction Type	Construction Class	Construction Year	Life Expectancy (Years)	Current Building Age	Observed Estimated Remaining Useful Life (Years)	Effective Age (Years)
Exhibition Park Legacy Sports Centre	Community Recreation Centre	wood frame	Class D	2001	40	17	33	7
Exhibition Park Pole Barn	Prefabricated Storage Sheds	wood frame	Class D	1985	20	33	4	16
Exhibition Park Show Barn	Prefabricated Storage Sheds	wood frame	Class D	1981	20	37	4	16
Exhibition Park Tom Rubin Pavilion	Pavilions	Reinforced concrete with wood roof frame	Class C	1990	40	28	22	18
Exhibition Park Twisters Gym	Community Recreation Centre	Conc. Masonry with wood roof trusses	Class C	1986	45	32	23	22
Matsqui Recreation Centre (MRC)	Community Recreation Centre	Steel framed	Class S	1975	40	43	7	33
MSA Arena	Skating Rink	wood frame	Class D	1970	40	48	4	36

Roth Integrated Asset Management Strategies Ltd., 2018

APPENDIX G – PARKS & FACILITIES INVENTORY

Parkland Supply

The City maintains 192 parks and open spaces totalling 842.8 ha. Within Abbotsford, there are also 47 public school and post-secondary open spaces occupying 111.1 ha. There are 16 regional parks totalling 1,660.8 ha of parks space.

Figure 14.1 provides an overview of the supply of parkland and open space in Abbotsford. A map of all parks in Abbotsford can be found in Appendix A.

Park or Open Space Type	Number of Sites	Total Area (ha)
City-wide Parks	6	103.9
Community Parks	22	227.1
Neighbourhood Parks	49	38.2
School Site Open Space (approximate)	47	111.1
Open Space	116	473.6
Regional Parks	16	1,660.8
Total	**256**	**2,614.7**

Figure 14.1: Overall Supply of Parks and Open Space in Abbotsford
*School site open space is estimated by subtracting the space occupied by buildings and parking lots on public school and post-secondary sites from the total site size

City-wide Parks

Major Destination Parks

Mill Lake Park and Abbotsford Exhibition Parks are considered a major destination parks in the City. Mill Lake Park is 43.79 ha, offers numerous recreation opportunities and is a scenic destination for residents and visitors alike. Exhibition Park is 32.35 ha and includes track and field facilities with spectator seating, BMX track, and multiple high- level sports fields.

Athletic Parks

Abbotsford Exhibition Park and DeLair Park are athletic parks. Exhibition Park is 32.35 ha and includes track-and-field facilities with spectator seating, a BMX

track, and multiple high-level sports fields. DeLair Park is 12.24 ha and includes ball diamonds, soccer fields, and tennis courts.

Urban Parks

Civic Centre is an 8.54 ha urban park.

Community Parks

Figure 14.2 provides a list and sizes of the City's 22 community parks.

Park Name	Area (ha)
Bateman Park	9.43
Berry Park	2.73
Bradner Park	2.1
Clayburn Park	6.54
Clearbrook Park	23.91
Crossley Park	2.02
Downes Bowl Park	31.92
Gardner Park	6.96
Gladwin Park	4.87
Grant Park	4.33
Hougen Park	17.08
J. A. Spud Murphy Park	0.84
Kalgidhar Park	2.11
MSA Arena Park	4.19
Macdonald Park	39.15
Matsqui Prairie Park	3.67
McMillan Park	5.83
MRC/Park	3.73
Ridgeview Park	1.88
Townline Hill Park	9.82
Willband Creek Park	41.34
Yale Court Park	2.61
Total	**227.06**

Figure 14.2: Community Parks

Neighbourhood Parks

Figure 14.3 provides a list and sizes of the City's 49 neighbourhood parks.

Park Name	Area (ha)
Aero Park	0.16
Amblewood Park	0.17
Ascott Park	0.15
Aspen Park	1.50
Austin Park	0.25
Babich Park	2.73
Balsam Park	0.09
Bevan Park	0.19
Callaghan Park	0.76
Charlotte Park	0.15
Conway Park	0.82
Dave Kandal Park	1.36
Eagle Mountain Park	2.43
Everett Park	1.58
Fairfield Park	1.26
Glenridge Park	0.93
Grosvenor Park	0.06
Homestead Park	0.47
Hoon Park	1.58
Hughes Park	0.40
Huntingdon Park	0.35
Inspiration Park	0.25
Jubilee Park	1.43
Juniper Park	0.23
Kaslo Park	0.28
Keats Park	0.16
Ketch Park	0.22
Larch Park	1.29

Park Name	Area (ha)
Marble Hill West Park	0.27
Mathers Park	1.38
McKinley Park	3.08
Mountain Village Park	1.41
N. Old Riverside Park	2.09
Oakridge Park	1.42
Oriole Park	1.32
Pepin Brook Park	1.34
Renton/Sentinel Park	0.23
Rockhill Park	0.52
Saddle Park	1.22
Shadbolt Park	0.45
Shore Park	0.04
Silvertree Park	0.03
Tenbroek Park	0.72
Uplands Park	0.19
Walnut Park	0.60
Webster Park	0.30
Williams Park	0.25
Woodstock Park	0.07
Total	**38.18**

Figure 14.3: Neighbourhood Parks

Open Space

There are 473.6 ha of publicly accessible open spaces in Abbotsford. Open space includes the following:

- Parks dominated by natural features, many of which include trails and supporting infrastructure
- small maintained properties that do not meet the criteria for neighbourhood parks, such as open grass areas that are unable to support active recreation opportunities

- Four publicly-owned cemeteries - Aberdeen, Hazelwood, Mt. Lehman, and Musselwhite
- Ledgeview Golf Course

Trails and Pathways

The City of Abbotsford maintains 276 km of trails, ranging from paved multi-use trails through the urban area to rustic nature trails in natural areas. Figure 14.4 and Figure 14.5 summarize the types of trails managed by the City and the supply of each type. There are also approximately 77 km of non-municipal trails within the City's boundaries.

Trail Type	Description
Multi-use	Asphalt paved or gravel corridors that are 3.0 m to 5.0 m wide; accommodate a range of activities and users, including wheelchairs, strollers, bicycles, skateboards, and rollerblades
Recreation	Gravel surfaced trails that are 1.0 m to 4.0 m wide, with grades between flat to 15%; designed for pedestrians and cyclists
Nature	Rustic trails through natural areas that are on average less than 1.5 m wide; suitable for hikers and low-speed off-road cycling

Figure 14.4: Trail Types

TYPE	Length (Km)
Multi-use paved	31.4
Multi-use gravel	53.5
Nature	12.3

Recreation	102.1
Total	**276**

Figure 14.5: Trail Supply

Major Trails

Discovery Trail

Discovery Trail is the City's most extensive trail system, connecting the east and west sides of Abbotsford. The trail is paved and offers opportunities for walking, running, rollerblading, and cycling. Amenities such as parking, picnic tables, benches, and public washrooms are available along the trail.

Other Major Trails

Figure 14.6 provides an overview of other major trails in Abbotsford.

Trail	Type	Amenities	Length (km)
Albert Dyck Trail	Multi-use gravel	• Parking • Benches • Beach and swimming area	1.70
Bassani Trail	Recreation	• View platform • Bench	0.125
Clayburn Creek Trail	Multi-use gravel	• Parking	1.95
Arnold Dyck Trail	Multi-use gravel	• Parking	7.36
McKay Creek Dyke Trail	Multi-use gravel	• Parking	1.58
Sumas River Dyke Trail	Multi-use gravel	• Parking	8.10
Barrowtown and Vedder Dyke Trails	Multi-use gravel	• Parking	4.48
Downes Bowl Trail	Natural	• Parking	3.7
DeLair Trail	Multi-use gravel and paved	• Parking • Picnic tables • Public washrooms	1.16
Fishtrap Creek Park	Multi-use paved	• Parking • Public washrooms • Playground • Picnic shelters • Benches • Lookout points	3.43
Horn Creek Park	Multi-use gravel	• Bridges • Benches	1.09
McKee Park	Multi-use gravel	• Parking	0.953

Trail	Type	Amenities	Length (km)
		• Bridges • Benches	
Mill Lake Park Trail	Multi-use paved	• Parking • Public washrooms • Picnic shelters • Fishing areas • Floating boardwalk • Benches • Outdoor fitness equipment • Playground • Spray park • Outdoor pool • MSA Museum and Kariton House	2.30
Old Riverside Trail	Multi-use gravel	• Parking • Boardwalk	2.71
Stoney Creek Trail	Multi-use gravel	• Parking • Public washrooms • Playground • Bridges • Dog off-leash areas	1.10
Willband Creek Park Trails	Multi-use gravel	• Parking • Porta-washrooms • Benches	3.38
Douglas Taylor Park	Horse trail	• Horse Trail	0.75

Figure 14.6: Major Trails

Outdoor Recreation Amenities

Sports Fields and Ball Diamonds

Ball Diamonds

Locations	Lights	# of Fields
Slo-pitch/Fastball		
Abbotsford Exhibition Park	Yes	4
Clearbrook Park	No	2
Ellwood Park	Yes	2
Matsqui Village Park	Yes	1
Mill Lake Park	Yes	3
Total Slo-Pitch/Fastball Diamonds		**12**
Baseball		
Berry Park	Yes	1
Crossley Park	Yes	1
DeLair Park	Yes	2
Hughes Park	No	1
Lions Diamond	No	1
McMillan Park	No	1
Townline Hill Park	Yes	1
Total Baseball Diamonds		**8**
Total Diamonds		**20**

Figure 14.1: Major Ball Diamonds

Soccer Fields

Locations	# of Fields	Lights
Soccer		
Abbotsford Exhibition Park	4	No
Bateman Park	3	No
Clearbrook Road Park	1	Yes

Locations	# of Fields	Lights
Crossley Park	1	Yes
DeLair Park	2	Yes
Kalgidhar Park	1	Yes
McMillan Park	3	No
Rotary Stadium Field	1	Yes
Saddle Park	1	Yes
Townline Hill Park	1	Yes
Total Soccer Fields	**18**	
Artificial Turf		
Abby Senior	1	Yes
Mouat Park	1	Yes
MRC Complex	3	Yes
Total Artificial Turf Fields	**5**	
Total Sports Fields	**23**	

Figure 2.2: Major Sports Fields

Hybrid Fields

Figure 2.3 summarizes fields that support both field and ball sports.

Locations	# of Fields
Babich Park	1
Berry Park	1
Bradner Park	1
Grant Park	1
Mathers Pl. (maintained by SD No. 34)	1
Ridgeview Park	1
Swensson	1
Upper Sumas School	1
Total	**8**

Figure 2.3: Hybrid Fields

Lacrosse

The City has one year-round lacrosse box located at Yale Court Park. During summer months, it is possible to rent the arena dry floors at Abbotsford Centre, ARC, and MSA Arena.

Cricket

The City maintains cricket wickets at two locations. Abbotsford Exhibition Park has a natural and an artificial turf wicket. Bakerview Learning Centre has an artificial turf wicket.

Track and Field

Rotary Stadium in Abbotsford Exhibition Park includes an 8-lane rubberized track with grass in-field. The stadium includes bleacher seating for 4,000 and a concession stand. An additional 1,000 spectators can be accommodated on grass. There are 789 parking stalls available in the park.

Other Park Amenities

The City offers numerous other amenities within its parks, most of which are available anytime for public use and enjoyment. This section summarizes the City's inventory of playgrounds, picnic shelters, courts, and other outdoor amenities.

Playgrounds and Spray Parks

There are 70 playgrounds maintained by the City throughout Abbotsford (Figure 2.4). There are also spray parks located at J.A. Spud Murphy Park and Mill Lake Park.

Playgrounds Classification	Description	Playgrounds
Type A	• Installed in last 5 years • Compliant to 2007 CSA standards • No safety hazards	31
Type B	• Older than 5 years • Compliant to 2007 CSA standards • Showing some wear	16

Playgrounds Classification	Description	Playgrounds
	• Minor repairs needed	
Type C	• Older than 10 years • Compliant to 2007 CSA standards	15
Type D	• Older than 10 years • Non-complaint to 2007 CSA standards • Many hazards and safety concerns • Beyond repair and need to be removed and replaced	9
	Total	**71**

Figure 2.4: Playgrounds

Picnic Shelters

There are 27 picnic shelters throughout the city, including seven that can be booked (Figure 2.5).

Picnic Shelters	Number	Comment
Abbotsford Exhibition Park	1	Non-bookable
Bateman Park	1	Non-bookable
Bateman Park – Dog Off-leash Area	1	Non-bookable
Clearbrook Park	1	Non-bookable
City Hall Gazebo	1	Non-bookable
Clearbrook Park – Dog Off-leash Area	1	Non-bookable
DeLair Park	1	Bookable
Discovery Trail	2	Non-bookable
Ellwood/Fishtrap Creek Park	3	Non-bookable
Friendship Gardens	1	Non-bookable
Garden Park	2	Non-bookable
Gardner Park	1	Bookable
Gladwin Park – Dog Off-leash Area	1	Non-bookable

Picnic Shelters	Number	Comment
Gobind Park	3	Non-bookable
Grant Park	1	Bookable
Homestead	1	Non-bookable
Hougen Park	1	Bookable
Kalgidhar Park	1	Non-bookable
Matsqui Village Park	1	Bookable
Matsqui Village Park	1	Non-bookable
McDonald Park	1	Bookable
Mill Lake Park	4	Bookable
Ridgeview Park	1	Non-bookable
Rockhill Park	1	Non-bookable
Stoney Creek Park	1	Non-bookable
Total	**27**	

Figure 2.5: Picnic Shelters

Tennis and Pickleball Courts

The City offers 21 tennis courts throughout the Abbotsford (Figure 2.6). There are eight dedicated outdoor pickleball courts in Jubilee Park.

Location	# of Courts	Lights	Surface	Condition
Bradner Park	2	No		Good
DeLair Park	2	Yes		Good
Eagle Mt. Park	1	No		Good
Jubilee Park	2	Yes		Good
Larch Park	1	No		Fair
Lower Sumas Mountain Park	1	No		Good
Matsqui Village Park	1	No		Good
Mt. Lehman Community Park	2	No		Good
MSA Arena	4	Yes		Good
Swensson Park	1	No		Good
Upper Sumas Fields	2	No		Fair
Yale Courts	1	No		Good

Location	# of Courts	Lights	Surface	Condition
Total	20	8		Good

Figure 2.6: Tennis Courts

Basketball and Sports Courts

There are 13 basketball courts and 11 sports courts throughout Abbotsford Parks (Figure 2.7).

Location	Basketball Courts	Sports Courts	Condition
ARC	1	1	Good
Bateman Park	1	0	Good
Calaghan Park	1	1	Good
Dave Kendal Park	0	2	Good
Eagle Mt. Park	1	1	Good
Glen Park	1	0	Fair
Grant Park	1	0	Fair
Kaslo	1	0	Fair
McKinley Park	1	1	Fair
MSA Arena	1	0	Fair
Southern Park	1	1	Fair
Swensson Park	1	2	Good
Williams Park	1	1	Fair
Yale Courts	1	1	Good
Total	13	11	

Figure 2.7: Basketball and Sports Courts

Volleyball Courts

There are four sand volleyball courts in City parks (Figure 2.8).

Locations	# of Courts	Type	Condition
Mill Lake Park	2	Sand	Poor
Albert Dyck Memorial Park	2	Sand	Fair
Total	4		

Figure 2.8: Volleyball Courts

Youth Parks

The City has two skateboard parks and a BMX course (Figure 2.9). Of the two, McMillan Youth Park is the larger skateboard park, with more features, making it highly popular among youth and other skateboarders. There is also a BMX course in Abbotsford Exhibition Park that is operated by Abbotsford BMX. This is a very high-quality course that can host national tournaments.

Location	Type of Park	Main Components
Mouat High School/Colleen and Gordie Howe Middle School	Skateboard	• 4,000 ft^2
McMillan Youth Park	Skateboard	• 25,000 ft^2 • Streetscape-style
Abbotsford Exhibition Park	BMX	• BMX course

Figure 2.9: Youth Parks

Dog Off-leash Parks

A dog-off leash area is a place where pet owners can take their dogs to run free without a leash. Off leash does not mean "out of control" and only applies to the specific, designated area. Pet owners must ensure that their dogs are controlled and not violent or aggressive. Pet owners must also be onsite for the duration of the visit and abide by the off-leash area etiquette.

Abbotsford has dog off-leash areas in the following four parks:

- Gladwin Park which includes open space and parts of Discovery Trail. This was originally considered a temporary facility but has been used as a dog off-leash area for a number of years.
- Bateman Park/Stoney Creek which includes a separated dog off-leash area and is adjacent to the Trans Canada Trail.
- McKay Creek Park/Sumas Dyke
- Clearbrook Park

Golf

The City owns the Ledgeview Golf Course. It is operated by the Ledgeview Golf Society through a lease agreement and the City receives revenues through rent and profit sharing.

Live 5210 Play Boxes

The City recently installed Live 5210 Play Boxes at Grant Park, Berry Park, and Pepin Brook Park. These lockable boxes hold toys and sports equipment that local children can borrow free of charge once their care-givers request the codes. The City plans to add three more Live 5210 Play Boxes in 2018.

Little Free Libraries

The City maintains “little free libraries” in the following four parks:

- Dave Kandal Park
- DeLair Park
- Mill Lake Park
- Saddle Park

Recreation facilities

Overview of Indoor Facilities

The City's indoor recreation amenities are concentrated in a few multi-purpose facilities. The Matsqui Recreation Centre (MRC) and Abbotsford Recreation Centre (ARC) are destination facilities offering a wide variety of sports and recreation opportunities. In addition to these two recreation centres, the MSA Arena is the third municipal arena. Figure 6.1 illustrates how many of the indoor amenities the City has. A map of all recreation facilities is provided in Appendix A.

Indoor Facility	Provision
Aquatic Facilities	2
Community Recreation Centres	2
Fitness Centres	2
Gymnasiums	2
Ice Experience (Leisure ice)	1
Ice Sheets	3
Seniors Centres	2
Sports/Entertainment Centre	1
Stadium	1
Indoor Walking/Running Tracks	1
Martial Arts Room	1
Aerobics Room	1
Youth Centres	3
Meeting and Event Spaces	13
Multi-Purpose Rooms	1
Childcare/Preschool Rooms	1

Figure 2.10: Amenities in Indoor Recreation Facilities

Ice Facilities

The City of Abbotsford operates three ice rinks, including one Olympic size rink and two NHL size rinks (Figure 2.22). There is also a leisure skating pond at ARC, a unique ice feature that is particularly suitable for family skating. The City owns the Abbotsford Curling Club and Event Centre, which is operated by the Abbotsford Curling Club. The City also owns the Abbotsford Centre, which can host ice events. The Abbotsford Centre is operated by a private company.

Location	Main Components	Spectator Seating
Abbotsford Recreation Centre	• 1 Olympic size ice rink • Leisure skating pond	• 375
Matsqui Recreation Centre	• 1 NHL size ice rink	• 350
MSA Arena	• 1 NHL size ice rink • Home to PJHL's Abbotsford Pilots and Valley Rebels Lacrosse	• 1,000
Abbotsford Curling Club and Event Centre	• 6 sheets of curling ice • Lounge and bar	• n/a

Figure 2.2: Ice Facilities

Aquatic Facilities

There are two aquatic facilities in Abbotsford, both featuring 25-metre swimming pools (Figure 2.3). The City also owns the 8-lane outdoor pool, Centennial Outdoor Pool, where the operation and programming is delivered by a Recreation Excellence, a private contractor.

Location	Main Components
Abbotsford Recreation Centre	• 25-metre swimming pool • Hot tub • Sauna • Tots pool
Matsqui Recreation Centre	• 25-metre swimming pool • Zero beach • Indoor water slides • Tots pool with platform • Hot tub • Steam room • Sauna
Centennial Outdoor Pool	• 8-lane swimming pool

Figure 2.3: Aquatic Facilities

Seniors' Facilities

There are a number of opportunities for seniors at Abbotsford's recreation centres. The ARC includes a Seniors' Activity Centre, which offers a dedicated

seniors' space and numerous activities. The MRC includes a multi-purpose space that is reserved for seniors for a set number of hours each week.

Child and Youth Centres

The City has several dedicated child and youth spaces at the ARC and MRC (Figure 2.). Both recreation centres include youth centres operated by the Abbotsford Youth Commission.

The ARC includes a dedicated preschool space.

Location	Main Components
Abbotsford Recreation Centre	• Dedicated preschool space • Dedicated youth centre
Matsqui Recreation Centre	• Teen activity centre (operated by Abbotsford Youth Commission) • OAP(Old Age Pensioners) Centre

Figure 2.4: Child and Youth Spaces

Fitness and Wellness Facilities

Both the ARC and MRC offer fitness and wellness facilities (Figure 2.). The ARC offers a larger weight room, more specialized equipment, and an indoor walking/running track.

Location	Main Components
Abbotsford Recreation Centre	10,000 ft2 weight room Synrgy 360 Wood sprung aerobic studio Indoor walking/running track
Matsqui Recreation Centre	Aerobics room 5,300 ft2 weight room, including dedicated women only section

Figure 2.5: Fitness Facilities

Gymnasiums

The ARC has two full-size gymnasiums.

Multi-purpose and Meeting Rooms

There are numerous meeting rooms and multi-purpose spaces throughout Abbotsford (Figure 2.6).

Meeting Spaces	Capacity	Features
Abbotsford Recreation Centre		
Meeting room	12	18.6 m^2
Mezzanine	125	195.1 m^2 Air-conditioned Sink
Multipurpose rooms	75	83.0 – 185.8 m^2
Abbotsford Exhibition Park		
Ag-Rec Gallery	290	327.0 m^2 Air-conditioned Kitchen with stove, fridge, sink Tile floor PA system
Ag-Rec Main Floor	1,900	2,140.5 m^2 Staging Concrete floor PA system
Air Cadets Building	400	532.1 m^2 Kitchen with stove, fridge, sink Concrete floor PA system
Legacy Banquet Hall	210	297.3 m^2 Commercial kitchen Air-conditioned Resilient floor PA system
Legacy Conference Room	60	69.7 m^2 Sink, microwave, fridge Air-conditioned Resilient floor
Legacy Martial Arts Room	50	200.7 m^2
Legacy Boardroom	30	37.2 m^2 Sink, microwave, fridge Air-conditioned Carpet floor
Matsqui Recreation Centre		

Meeting Spaces	Capacity	Features
Aerobics Room	108	92.9 m^2 Rubberized floor PA system
Child Minding Room	10	Sink Carpeted floor PA system
Meeting Room	60	56.2 m^2 Carpeted floor
Seniors Centre	120	155.5 m^2 Kitchen with stove, fridge, sink Tile floor PA system
Matsqui Centennial Auditorium		
Auditorium	368	100.3 m^2 Stage, sound and light, piano PA system and multimedia
Foyer	80	Fridge, wet bar Carpeted floor Multimedia

Figure 2.6: Multi-purpose, Event, and Meeting Spaces

Spectator Facilities

The City offers several large-scale spectator facilities that host sports and other special events throughout the year. These host recreation as well as cultural events (see section 7).

Abbotsford Exhibition Park

Abbotsford Exhibition Park offers a number of facilities suitable for spectator events. In addition to the amenities identified previously in other categories, the park features the Agrifair Arena, Show Barn, and Pole Barn.

The Agrifair Arena has a dirt floor and bleacher seating for up to 500 spectators. It is suitable for a variety of activities, including livestock shows, auctions, barrel racing, dog agility practices and competitions, and other types of sporting events.

The Show Barn has a 2,224.1 m^2 asphalt floor with a capacity for 1,995. There are separate washrooms, as well as covered and non-covered wash racks. The Show Barn hosts the Abbotsford Flea Market, Agrifair, cattle events and auctions, sports group practices, and other activities.

The Pole Barn is an open-air barn with gravel floor suitable for cattle and horse events.

Recreation Programs and Services

Introduction

The City of Abbotsford offers a wide variety of recreation programs and services for all ages. These include programs that require registration as well as many drop-in opportunities. The information relating to Abbotsford's City-run recreation programs is listed in the Fall, Winter and Spring/Summer program guides. Current guides are available online and a listing of programs, drop-in schedules, registration information, booking information, memberships and other related information can all be found on the City's website. Organizations that offer programs in the City's parks and facilities are listed in the guides.

The following is a brief overview of the programs and services offered or supported by the City of Abbotsford.

Aquatics

Red Cross swim lessons for all ages from 4 months to adults are available year-round at the indoor pools and in the summer at the outdoor pool. Advanced aquatic training programs are offered at ARC and MRC. A number of aquatic health and fitness swim programs are offered for adults including Aqua Fit, Aqua Cardio, Aqua Circuit, Aqua Zumba, Aqua Spinning and Masters Swim.

The Whalers Summer Swim Club operates mainly out of the Centennial Pool, and the Abbotsford Olympians train at the Matsqui Recreation Centre pool.

Skating

The City offers pre-school skate lessons for ages 3 to 5 years, and school-age skate lessons for ages 6 to 13 at the Matsqui Recreation Centre and the Abbotsford Recreation Centre. There are also drop-in opportunities for Stick and Puck, Adult and Senior Skate, Parent and Child Hockey, and Parent and Tot Skate, as well as public skating times.

Fitness

The two fitness centres offer numerous drop-in fitness and aqua-fitness programs for members. The programs include cycling, HIIT, Zumba, Stretch & Abs, Circuit, TRX, Yoga, Pilates, Aqua Spinning, Aqua Fit, and Aqua Cardio.

Registered classes are also available under the categories of Cross Training, Fitness Training, Preventative Health, Pre-Post Natal, Yoga and Pilates, and Zumba.

General Programs

Parent Participation: These programs are for children under 2 years of age and their parents or care-givers. They include arts & crafts, physical activity, play and story time.

Early Years and Preschool (ages 2 – 5): These programs provide a variety of options for this age group. The activities include arts & crafts, dance & music, early education, fitness and sports.

Children (ages 6 – 12): The children in this age group can participate in a range of programs from "safe walk to school" to junior lifeguard to fitness and sports. There are also drop-in programs and a Friday "night out".

Youth (ages 13 – 17): The Youth Centres at ARC and MRC offer many different activities every day. They also offer registered programs such as the babysitting course and leadership training. Youth may also participate in drop-in basketball or floor hockey. Registered programs include advanced aquatic training and youth fitness programs.

Adult and Older Adults (ages 60+): The programs in this category generally fall under fitness and health. The Abbotsford Recreation Senior Activity Centre and the Matsqui Recreation Centre Seniors Centre serve the 60 + demographic, offering drop-in activities such as billiards, badminton, pickleball, bridge & euchre, singing and knitting.

Adult Bus tours are offered through the PRC Department and include trips to Vancouver and area, Vancouver Island and Seattle.

Drop-In Opportunities

Abbotsford provides drop-in opportunities for all age groups at ARC, MRC, the Youth Centre at Abbotsford Secondary and MSA Arena. There are also City-run drop-in programs at the Abbotsford Exhibition Park and the Ten-Broeck Elementary School.

Facilities that offer drop-in opportunities include the ARC indoor track, the indoor and outdoor swimming pools, the arenas, the Youth Centres, the ARC gymnasium, the ARC weight room, and the Seniors Centres.

14.2 Youth Resources

The Abbotsford Youth Commission hosts drop-in and registered programs at both the ARC and MRC. A drop-in program is also offered at the youth centre at Abbotsford Senior Secondary School.

The Youth Resource Centre also serves youth facing family issues, homelessness, poverty, and other challenges. The centre provides street outreach and support programs for youth in a variety of circumstances.

CULTURE FACILITIES

Arts Facilities

The City owns three major arts facilities (Figure 14.1). A map of cultural facilities is provided in Appendix A. The Matsqui Centennial Auditorium serves a dual purpose as a theatre and Council chambers. The facility is well-used throughout the year by theatre and music organizations, as well as for lectures and other special events. Reach Gallery Museum is the City's premier museum and art gallery space. The Abbotsford Centre is a large spectator facility. This venue was home to the hockey team Abbotsford Heat until 2014; now it is primarily used for concerts and other special events.

Arts Facilities	Main Components
Matsqui Centennial Auditorium	• 386-seat theatre-style venue • 9.1 m by 11.0 m stage with large on-stage screen available • Two dressing rooms with showers • Green room • State of the art sound and lighting systems • PA and multi-media services • Grand piano • Fountain area and courtyard that can be transformed into a beautiful stage
Abbotsford Centre	• 7,000-seat multi-purpose arena (8,500 concert capacity) • Built in 2007 • Hosts numerous music and other cultural events throughout the year
Reach Gallery Museum	• 566.7 m^2 exhibition hall • Large reception area (suitable for entertaining) • Archives • Multi-purpose studio • 2 community exhibition spaces • Art collection storage • Museum artifact collection storage
Abbotsford Arts Centre	• 700-seat performing arts centre • Full concert lighting, sound, and fly system
Kariton Gallery and Boutique	• 870 square feet of gallery space • Provides opportunities and spaces for Audio Recording, Exhibition, Studio Art, Meeting, Reading, Screening, Video/Film Shoot, Photo Shoot, Audition, Class, Special Event, Rehearsal, Performance

Figure 14.1: Arts Facilities

Heritage Sites

The City's heritage inventory includes two major sites Trethewey House Historic Site (Figure 2.2 located within Mill Lake Park and Turner House to be located at Clayburn Park.

Trethewey House is a historic home owned by the City of Abbotsford. It was built in 1919 in the Arts and Crafts style and has been restored to c. 1925. Furnishings and artifacts have been collected from local families with assistance from the Province of BC. The house documents the key industries upon which the settlement of Abbotsford was founded. The house and its property are home to the MSA Museum Society.

Turner House is the only surviving house from the first phase of European settlement owned by the City of Abbotsford. It was built in 1875 and is near original condition. The house is being relocated to Clayburn Park.

Clayburn Village is the only heritage designated conservation area in the OCP. Heritage Conservation Areas are a tool that enables the City to preserve notable heritage assets. With significant land constraints it is becoming increasingly important in our city to protect heritage properties and ensure neighbouring properties respect the historical character of their surroundings. As the city grows towards 200,000 residents, these Heritage Conservation Guidelines can help retain the value of historically important properties and buildings. The Local Government Act authorizes municipalities to designate Heritage Conservation Areas in the Official Community Plan for the purposes of heritage conservation. To realize the big idea 'Make Places for People', other Heritage Conservation Areas may be explored in the future, including Historic Downtown once the Historic Downtown Neighbourhood Plan is completed.[16]

Sites	Main Components
Trethewey House Historic Site	• Located in Mill Lake Park • Grand one and a half storey plus basement wood-frame Arts and Crafts-style house
Turner House	• To be relocated to Clayburn Park • c1875 and only surviving house from the first phase of European settlement

Figure 2.2: Heritage Sites

[16] City of Abbotsford. Official Community Plan, 2006

Special Events

Abbotsford hosts a very large number of special events year-round. Figure 2.3 lists events hosted in Abbotsford in 2016.

January (7)	
Event	**Location**
• Resolution Run	• Mill Lake Park
• Community Reading Challenge Kick off/Literacy Celebration - Pancake Breakfast	• Firehall #1/Clearbrook Library/The Reach
• BC Games Community Awareness Day	• ARC/MRC
• Community Reading Challenge	
• Hypothermic Half-Marathon	
• Staff Breakfast with Council	• Ellwood Park/Discovery Trail/Fishtrap
• Services Workshop	• AgRec
	• AEP Gallery
February (9)	
Event	**Location**
• World Religions Conference	• Columbia Bible College
• Firehall 4/5 opening	• 5775 Wallace St and 30373 Merryfield Ave
• Congenital Heart Warriors Walk	• Mill Lake Park
• Community Champion	• MCA
• Staff Hockey Challenge	• Thunderbird Square
• It's All About the Heart	• Mill Lake Park
• Hometown Hockey	• Abbotsford Exhibition Park
• Coldest Night Walk	• Sevenoaks Alliance Church
• Escape Velocity	• Hougen Park
March (13)	
Event	**Location**
• One Billion Rising	• Thunderbird Square
• Walk for PTSD - 5K Run/Walk	• Mill Lake Park
• Senior Prov Curling Spiel	• Abby Curling Rink
• Girls Fly Too!	• Abbotsford Airport
• Escape Velocity Ride	• Huntingdon/0 Ave
• BC Labour Farm Workers Mem	• International Friendship Garden
• BC Peewee championships	• Arenas
• MT View Home Rally	• boundary Road
• Escape Velocity Ride	• Bradner - various road routes
• Escape Velocity Ride	• Various road routes
• West Coast Amusement	• Sevenoaks Parking Lot/South Fraser Way
• Gladys Avenue Ground-breaking	• 2719 Gladys Avenue
• Abbotsford Tulip Festival	• 36737 North Parallel Road
April (15)	
Event	**Location**
• Escape Velocity Ride	• Bradner Road, Ross, Huntingdon Roads
• Helicopter Landing - Ball Tournament	• Exhibition Park

• MRC Field Opening • Vimy Ridge • BC Games Torch Lighting • Volunteer Appreciation • OCP - Pop Up Park Launch • Your Love Walk • BearCat Walk • Community Clean Up Day • Farmer's Market • Fraser Valley Food Truck Festival • Day of Mourning • Day of Mourning • Replay Skateboard Event	• MRC • Civic Plaza • Civic Plaza • AgRec • NW Corner of Sevenoaks Parking lot • Mill Lake Park • Rotary Stadium • Downtown Abbotsford • Exhibition Park • Civic Plaza • Friendship Garden • MRC Skatepark
May (22)	
Event	**Location**
• Hike for Hospice • Emergency Preparedness Week- Shake Zone • Big Bike Ride • Athletic India Football Club Soccer Tournament • Mother's Day Ride • Blue Jay Run • APD Spring BBQ • St James Walk A Thon • Run for Rest • MS Walk • Yard Breakfast • Bradner Days Parade • Fibromyalgia Walk • BC High school Rugby Provincials • RCOA Homeschool Sports Day • River Road Loop • Sumas MT Trail Run • Run for Water • Cultus Lake Triathlon • Escape Velocity Ride • Bike to Work Week • Police Torch Run	• Mill Lake Park • High Street Mall • Sevenoaks Parking Lot/South Fraser Way • Exhibition Park • Langley - Bradner Road • Neigbourhood - Creekside, Edgehill, Sidoni Ave • Police Department grounds • Gardner/Fishtrap/Ellwood Parks • Mill Lake Park • Mill Lake Park • Public Works Yard • Bradner Road/school area • Various routes • Exhibition Park • Matsqui Village Park • Langley - Bradner Road • Sumas Mountain Trails • Mill Lake Park • Interprovincial/No 1/4 Roads • Aldergrove Regional Park • Various routes • South Fraser Way/Trethewey
June (26)	
Event	**Location**
• Annual Community Fun Fair • Aboriginal Arts • Walk for Life • Gutsy Walk • FVMBA Mountain Bike Race	• Ross Elementary School • Mill Lake Park • Mill Lake Park • Mill Lake Park • Sumas Mountain Trails

• Volunteer Appreciation BBQ	• Mill Lake Park
• 5/10 Year Service Luncheon	• MCA Foyer
• ALS Walk	• Mill Lake Park
• Police Run	• Civic Plaza
• Relay for Life	• Rotary Stadium
• Tree Cutting Ceremony and Pioneer Tea	• AgRec
• MS Bike Tour	• Various routes
• JDRF Walk	• Mill Lake Park
• Cascade Wind Ensemble Concert	• Trethewey House
• Family Fishing Day	• Vye Road - Fisheries
• Walk for FVDSS	• Mill Lake Park
• GearUp4CF	• Various routes (South Abbotsford)
• Refugee Hope Walk	• Gladwin Road to Gladys Ave
• Celebrating Dads	• Mill Lake Park
• Aboriginal Day	• Civic Plaza
• Announcement	• MCA
• Taste of Abbotsford Chef Competition	• Save On Foods - South Parallel Rd
• Cabela's Grand Opening	• 1818 McCallum Road
• Amateur Radio Field Day	• Mill Lake Park
• Indo Canadian Youth Club Mela	• Rotary Stadium
• Mayor's breakfast	• Tradex
July (27)	
Event	**Location**
• Canada Day	• Exhibition Park
• Canada Day Run	• Mill Lake Park
• Mt Lehman Parade	• Mt Lehman Community
• Whalers Swim Meet	• Centennial Pool
• Fountain Tire Open Road Cinema	• Abbotsford Flying Club
• Ride for the Kids - Bike Ride	• Various routes (South Abbotsford)
• Abbotsford United Soccer Tournament	• Exhibition Park
• Annual Berrybeat Festival	• Downtown Abbotsford
• Black Pearl Rally	• tentative
• Runway Event	• Abbotsford Tradex/airport
• Greater Vancouver Orienteering Club Race	• Sumas Mountain Trails
• APD Helicopter Landing	• Godson Elementary (South Field)
• Fraser Valley Pride	• Jubilee Park
• BeerBQ	• 1893 Cole Road
• Envision Concert Series	• Mill Lake Park
• Water Polo	• MSA/Centennial Pool
• BC Games Reception	• The Reach
• OCP Reception	• MCA
• Canada 150 Mural Mosaic Project Reception	• The Reach
• 2016 BC Summer Games	• Various
• Hougen Park Show n shine	• Hougen Park
• CanIL Cycling Event	• Various road routes
• Valley GranFondo Race	• Various road routes
• Mayor's Meet N Greet with Fukagawa	• International Friendship Garden

Students • Agrifair • BCPBL Championships • Just Giver 4 PD	• Exhibition Park • DeLair Park • Hougen Park
August (19)	
Event	**Location**
• Wakeboard Championships • Jam in Jubilee • Prospera Cinema Under the Stars • Just Giver 4 PD • Basketball Tournament • Airshow • MSA Museum Summer Social • Hand Sport (Guli Danda) • FVHCF Car Show • WestGen Grand Opening - New building • Western Canadian Championships • Metis Family Day • ADBA Carshow • Early Ford V8 • Valley United Cultural Club Punjabi Mela • Teen Challenge • Yardwaste Downhill Memorial Race (Longboarders) • Bhagat Singh Kabaddi Cup • Mural Mosaic Unveiling	• Albert Dyck Memorial Park • Jubilee Park • Exhibition Park/Rotary Stadium • Hougen Park, • MSA Outdoor Court • Abbotsford Airport • MSA Museum • Rotary Stadium • Sevenoaks Shopping Centre • 1625 Angus Campbell Rd • Exhibition Park • McDonald Park • Downtown Abbotsford • Hougen Park • Rotary Stadium • Mill Lake Park • Straiton Rd (Willet Rd to Clayburn Rd) • Rotary Stadium • MCA
September (21)	
Event	**Location**
• Nagar Kirtan Procession • Back to Bradner Car Show • Staff BBQ • Kiwanis Family Fun Day for Literacy • Pioneer Farm & Harvest Celebration • Bicycle Trek for Life & Breath • FVDSS Family Picnic • Lok Virsa • British Motor Club Picnic - Car Show • BC Summer Games Reception • APD Ball Hockey Tournament • Mt Lehman Fall Fair • MCC Flatlander Bike Race • Skateboard Competition • Terry Fox Run • Battle of Britain • Cultus Lake Triathlon • Arbour Day • Yale Secondary Terry Fox Run	• Various routes / Blueridge Park • Bradner Sports Field • Exhibition Park - Rotary Stadium • Mill Lake Park - Bevan side • Birchwood Dairy & various road routes • Grant Park • Exhibition Park - Rotary Stadium • Hougen Park • MCA • Thunderbird Square • Mt Lehman Elementary • Various road routes • Mouat Skatepark • Tradex and Various Routes • Thunderbird Square • Various road routes • Bateman Park

• Kidney Walk • Cultural Days	• Yale Secondary School • Mill Lake Park - Shelter 2
October (7)	
Event	**Location**
• BC Hops Fest • Roadside Harvest Festival • Ride for a Cause India Kids • CIBC Run for the Cure • Cares Run • TD Tree Days • Haunted House Fundraiser for Canuck Place	• Kinloch Farms • North Parallel Road • McDonald Park • Rotary Stadium • Abbotsford Exhibition Park • Fairfield Park • Sandpiper
November (5)	
Event	**Location**
• Remembrance Day • Clayburn Heritage Days • Cyclocross • Quidditch Tournament • ADBA Tree Lighting	• Civic Plaza • Clayburn Village • Mill Lake Park • Abbotsford Exhibition Park • Downtown Abbotsford
December (2)	
Event	**Location**
• Santa Shuffle • Staff Christmas Party	• Discovery Trail

Figure 2.3: 2016 Special Events

NON-MUNICIPAL PROVIDERS

There are numerous providers throughout Abbotsford that offer space for recreation and cultural events and programs. While the City is not involved in programming these spaces, they are available to residents and user groups through their affiliation and/or as rentals. They hence form an important part of the community's overall inventory of facilities.

Due to the diversity of private providers, identifying and confirming facilities is challenging.



PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE

MASTER PLAN