

Regional District of Central Kootenay Town of Creston and Electoral Areas A, B & C

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Photo Credit: Andrew Bibby

Welcome!

Please review the panels to learn about the Master Plan. Once done we encourage you to share your thoughts by completing a feedback form and leaving it with a member of the project team.

You can also review these panels and provide feedback by visiting the RDCK's website (www.rdck.ca). Please limit your feedback to a single submission. Thank you.

About the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.


- Assesses the current state of parks and recreation in the region.
- Identifies priorities and recommendations regarding the provision of parks and recreation opportunities and services to meet community need.
- Was developed based on a thorough program of research.


 **Inventory and
Utilization**

 **Trends and
Issues**

 **Population and
Demographics**

 **Plan Review**

 **Comparative
Analysis**

 **Household and
Public Web
Survey**

 **Stakeholder/
Community
Group Survey**

 **Stakeholder
Interviews**

Introduction

1

Benefits of Parks and Recreation

Is essential to personal health and wellbeing



Reduces health care, social service, and police/justice costs



Builds strong and healthy communities



Is a significant economic generator



Green spaces are essential to wellbeing



Provides a foundation for quality of life



Provides the key to balanced human development

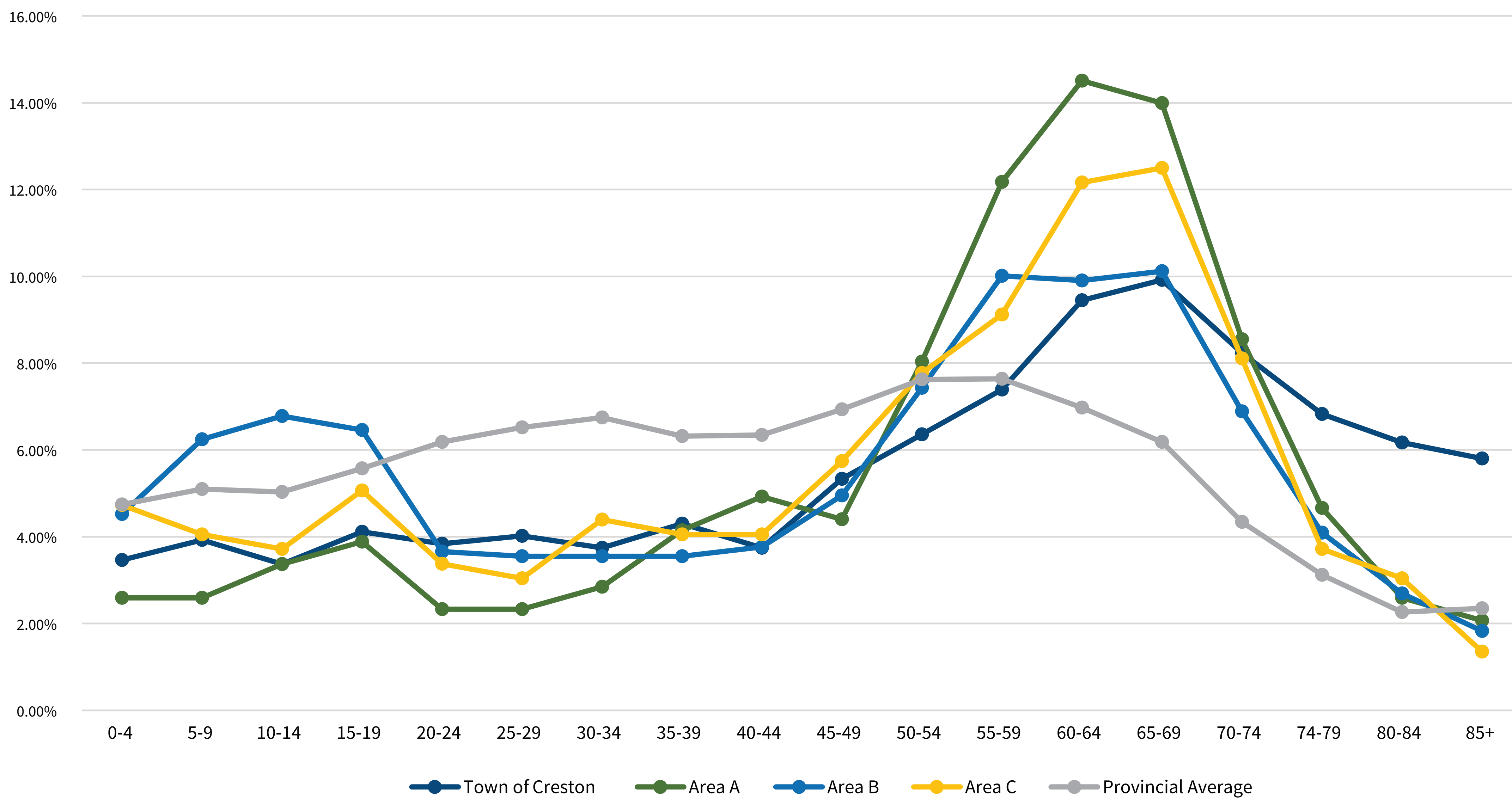


Reduces self-destructive and anti-social behaviours



Demographics

Age Distribution within the Town of Creston and Electoral Areas A, B & 6, 2016




Research

Infrastructure Trends

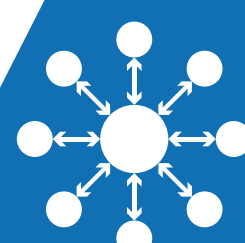
Aging Infrastructure

- 68% of B.C.'s indoor rec facilities are 25 years or older




Multi-Use Spaces and Social Amenities

- Accommodate multiple activities and users
- Social gathering hubs



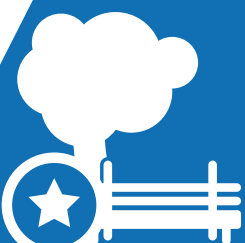
Revenue Generating Spaces

- Leasing out space in facilities




High Quality Outdoor Environments

- Increasing expectations for enhanced functionality and aesthetics of parks



Active Transportation

- Human powered transportation is becoming more important

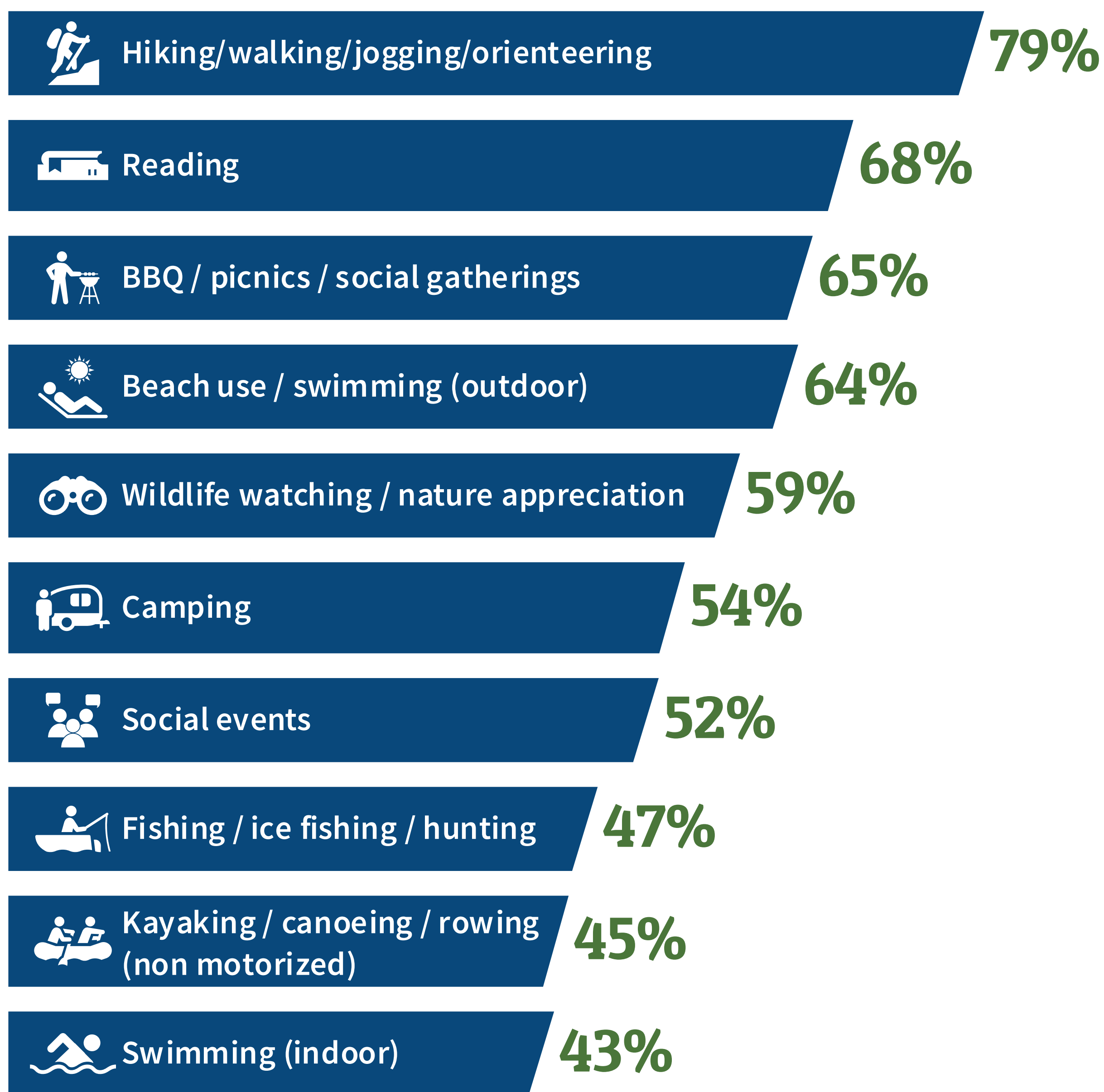


Household Survey

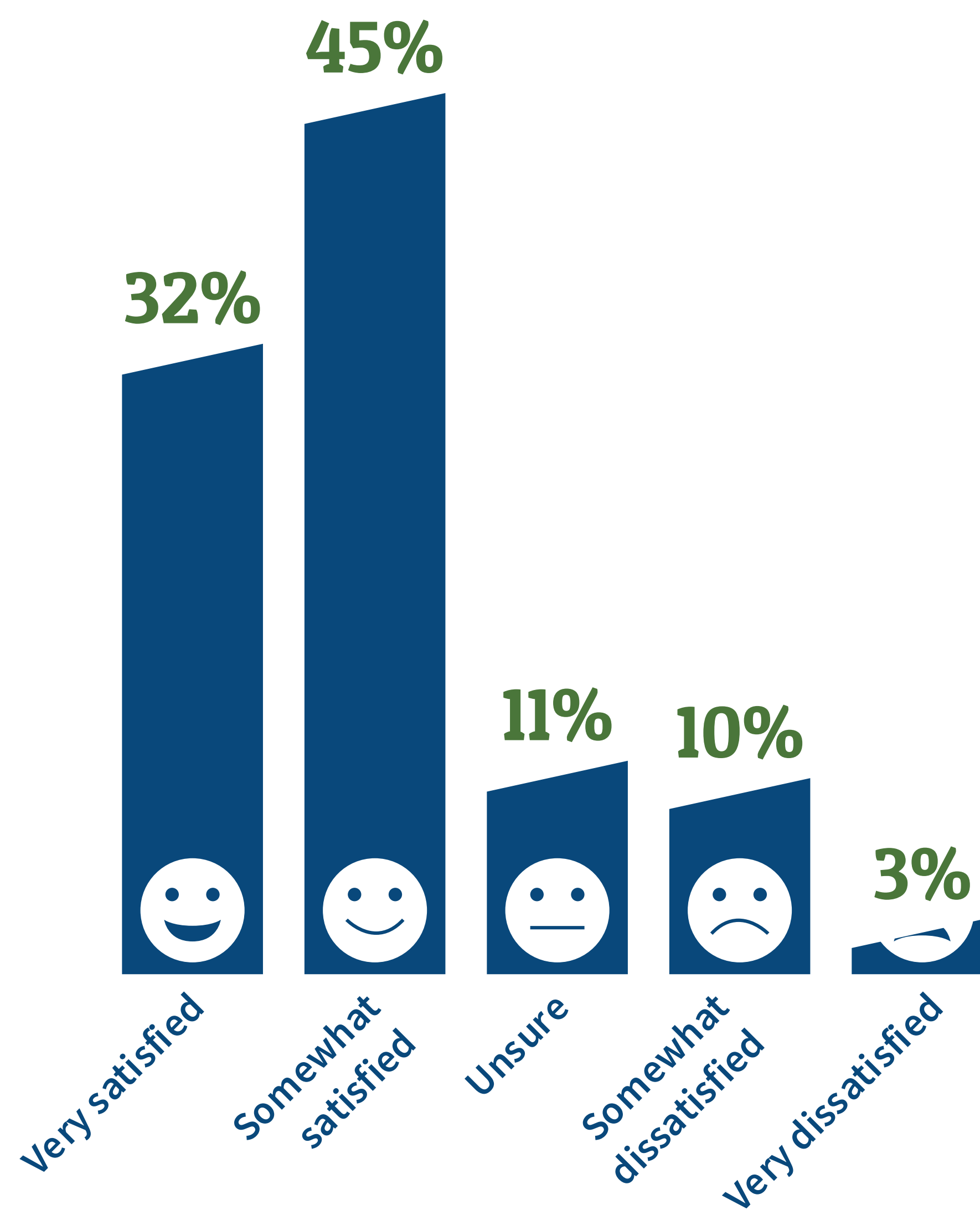
- 1,255 households participated in the regional survey.

Residency	Population Distribution	Distribution of Survey Respondents
Town of Creston	39%	31%
Electoral Area A	15%	27%
Electoral Area B	35%	30%
Electoral Area C	11%	12%

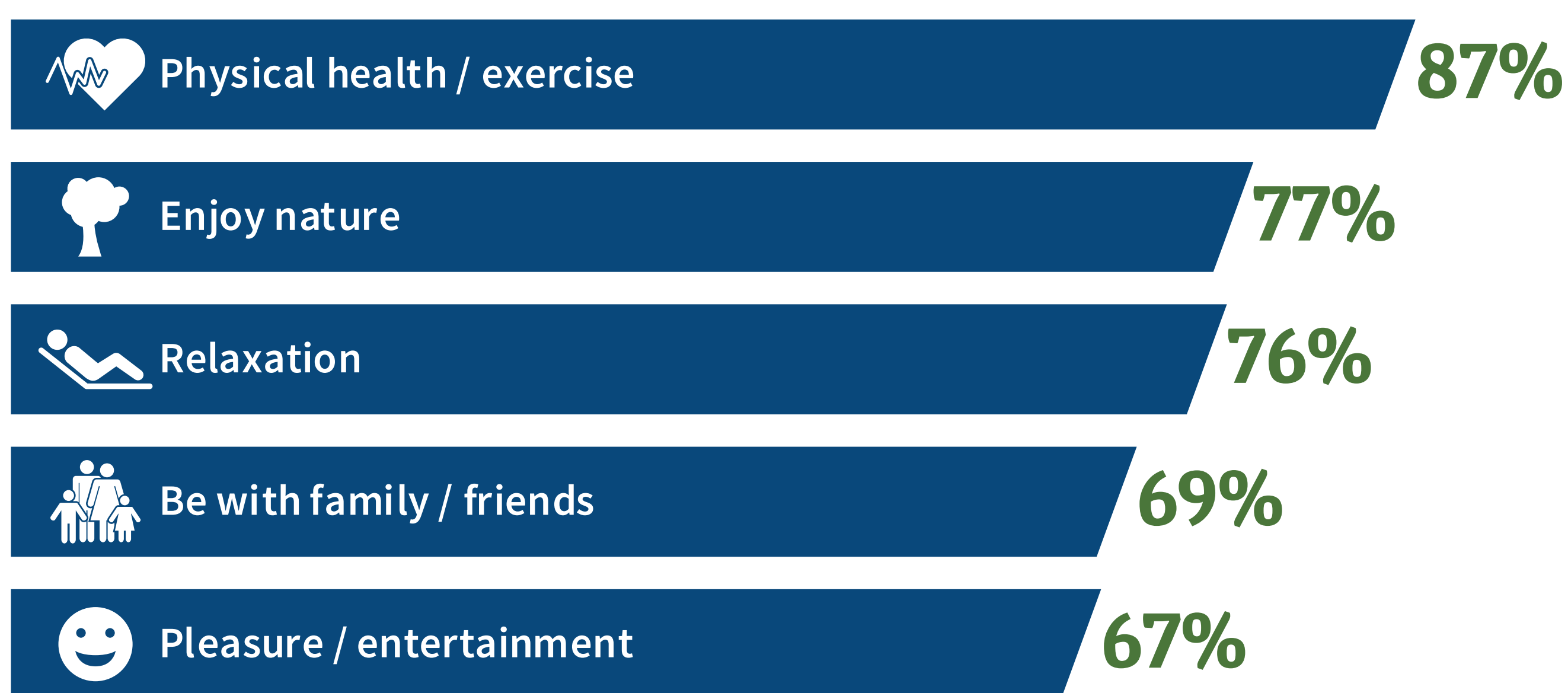
Activities Participated in By Household Members



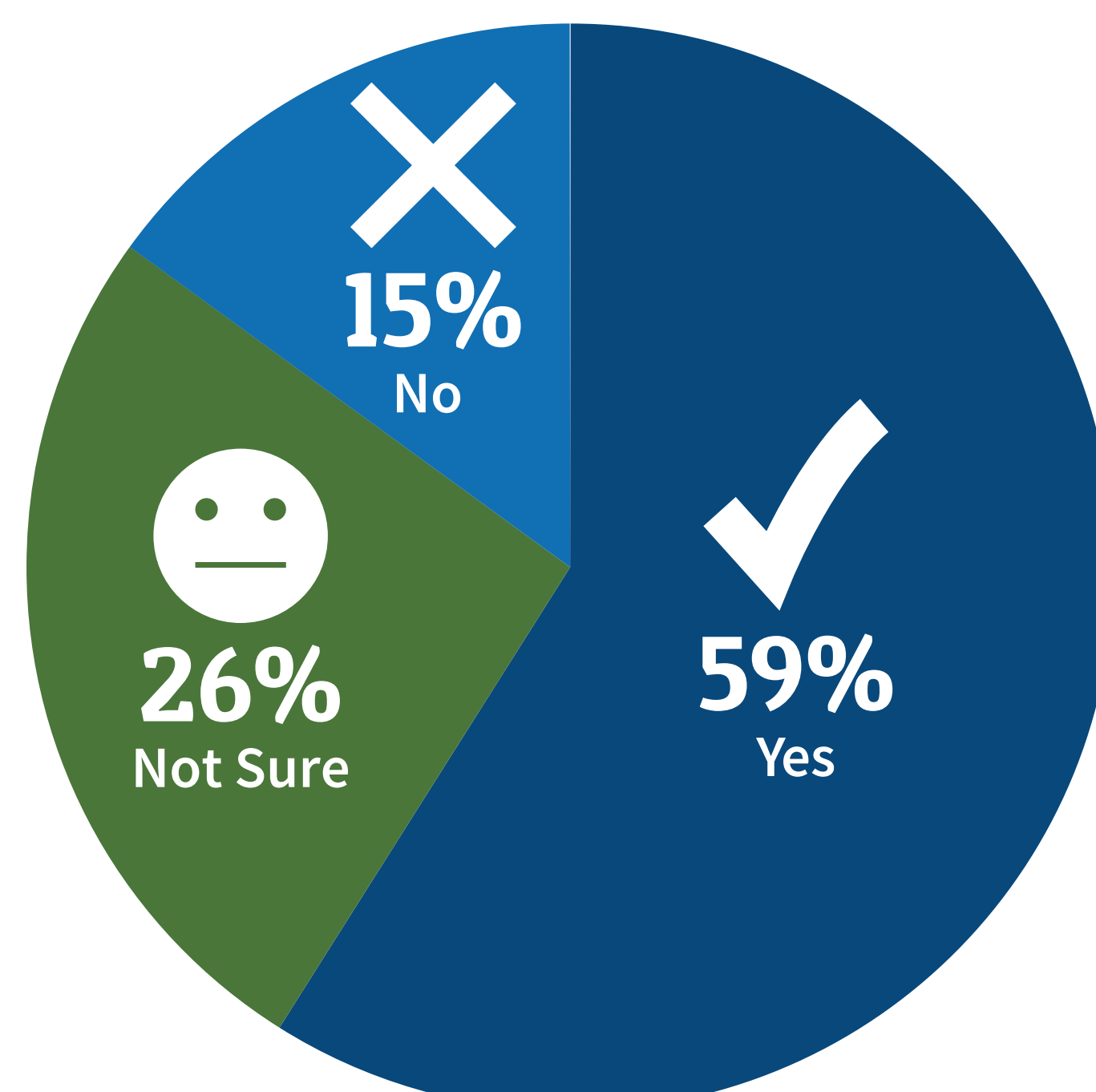
Satisfaction With the Availability of Recreation Opportunities / Services in Creston and Areas A, B, & C



Main Reasons For Participating in Recreation



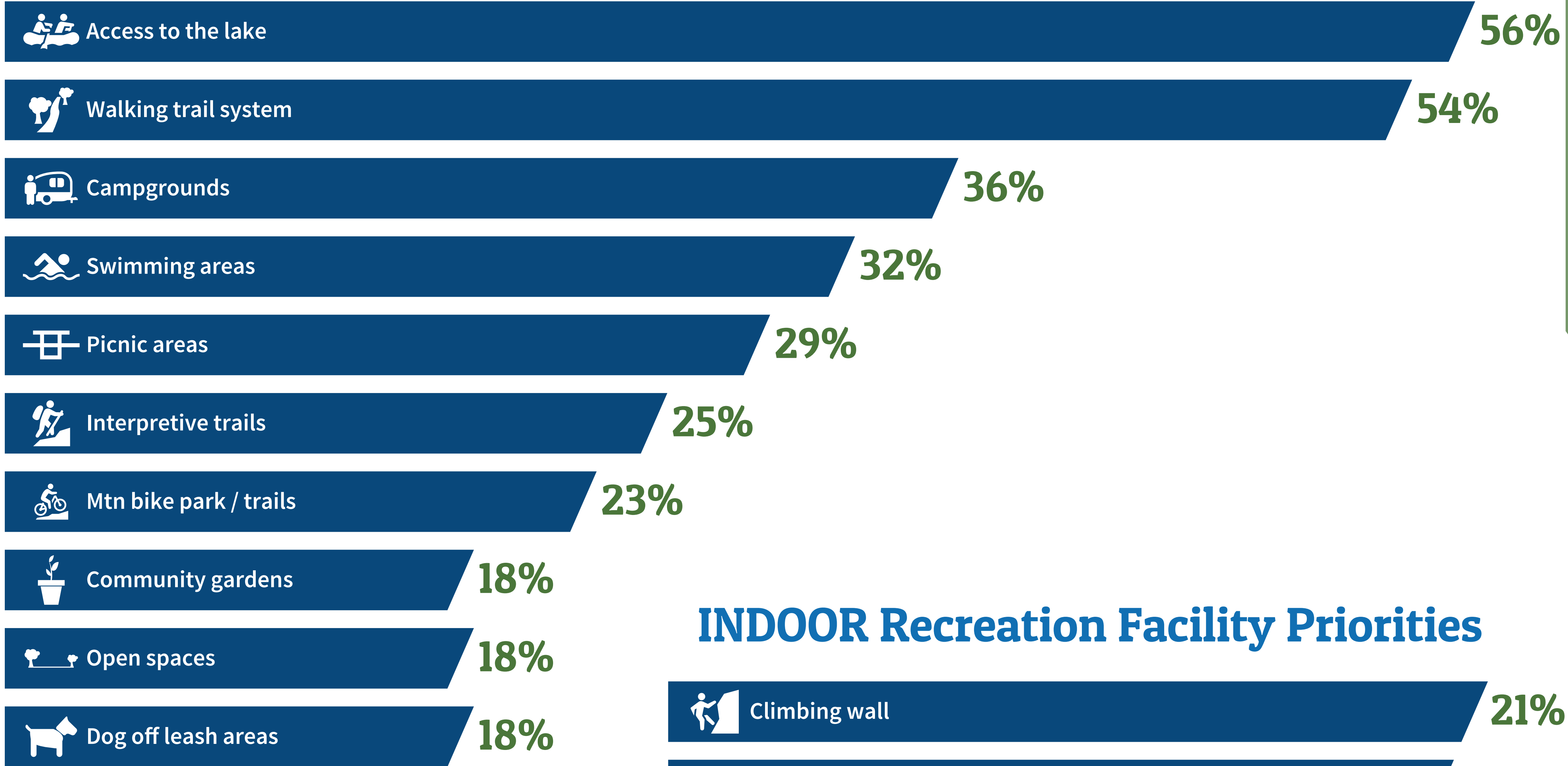
Is there a need for new / upgraded parks & recreation facilities to be developed?



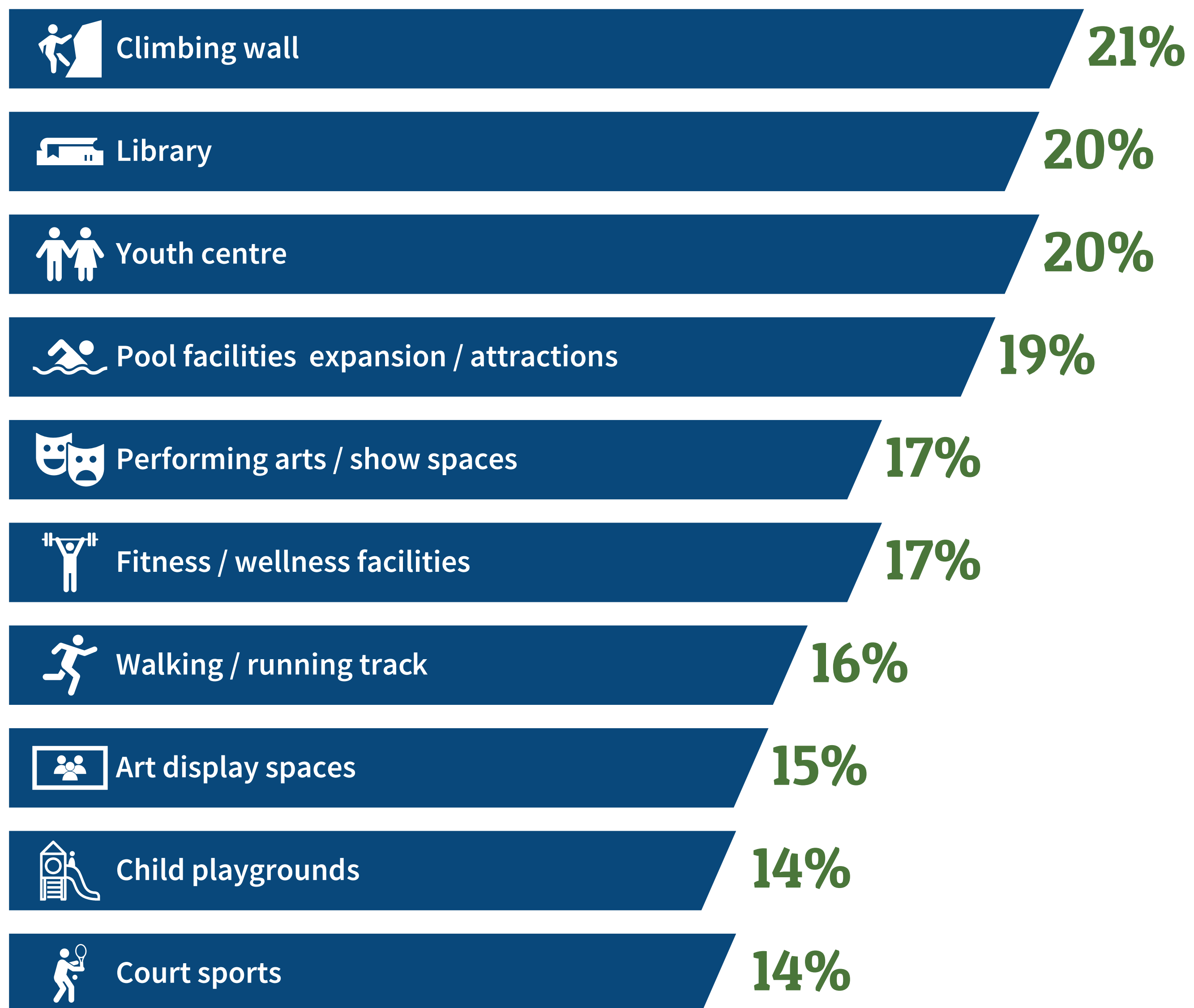
Research

Household Survey

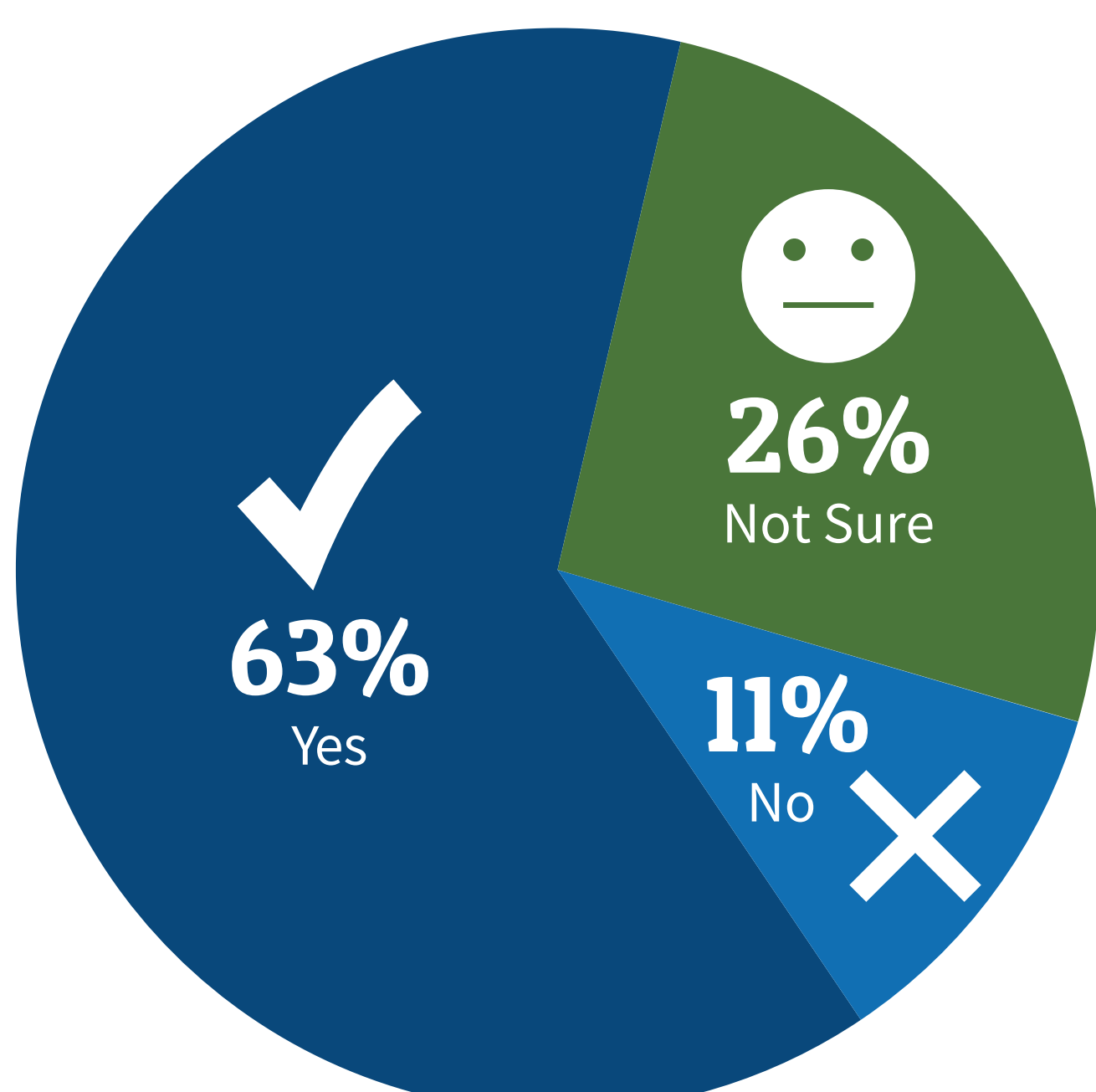
OUTDOOR Recreation Facility Priorities



INDOOR Recreation Facility Priorities



Do you support the RDCK acquiring, developing, and operating new parks in the area?



Plan Foundations

Vision

Residents live active and creative lifestyles through quality parks and recreation opportunities.

Mission

To support the provision of parks and recreation opportunities for the residents of Creston and Electoral Areas A, B & C through the Regional District of Central Kootenay, partner organizations, and community activities.

Guiding Principles

- The physical and financial sustainability of the natural and built environments is an important consideration.
- Services are responsive to changing community needs and service expectations.
- Partnerships with the RDCK are integral to building healthy and thriving communities.
- Well planned and maintained open spaces and quality recreation facilities improve a sense of wellbeing where people live. As a focal point for community activities, recreation provides opportunities for social interaction and connections with nature.
- Recreation and parks has a vital role to play in promoting healthy living and preventing illness and in the social development of children through play, sports and interaction with others.
- Decision making is conducted using fair and open processes.

Desired Outcomes

1  Residents are living healthy lifestyles.

2  Residents have access to and participate in recreational and parks activities both indoors and outdoors.

3  Communities are strong and caring.

There are 19 recommendations organized into three themes:

- **Programming and Events** (Recommendations 1-5)
- **Parks and Recreation Infrastructure** (Recommendations 6- 10)
- **Service Delivery** (Recommendations 11-19)

Each recommendation is accompanied by “Implementation Considerations”. These are suggestions and steps that could be used to help begin implementation of each recommendation.

Programming & Events Recommendations

1. Provide and promote low cost and free programming opportunity options.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Identify a schedule for the free programming day.
- » Track participation levels and numbers of newcomers to the programs and events.

2. Recognize the impact of parks and recreation opportunities on tourism.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Develop a list / inventory of top tourism draws amongst the parks and recreation opportunities.
- » Develop collateral material to promote and encourage use of these opportunities.

3. Ensure programming is in place to address the needs of the sizeable and growing population of older adults.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Create an inventory of organizations that work with seniors regarding health and recreation.
- » Facilitate a “congress” of associations to discuss the supply and demand of opportunities and look for opportunities to collaborate and gaps in services.

4. Continue to develop and offer nature and outdoor programming particularly for the community’s youth.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Develop an inventory of outdoor programs aimed at youth.
- » Develop some new program ideas and continue to offer successful programs.
- » Promote to youth.

5. Support the development of significant community wide events.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Convene a committee to look for opportunities to collaborate between existing events as well as the development or redevelopment of a significant “signature” event for the valley.
 - The committee should include representatives from the Town of Creston, Electoral Areas A,B& C, the business community, as well as some members of the public.

6. The concept of sustainability needs to be applied to decision making about the development, operation, and utilization of facilities and spaces both indoors and outdoors.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Use the questions posed in this Master Plan to help guide decision making related to indoor and outdoor parks and recreation investment in existing or new infrastructure.

Parks and Recreation Infrastructure

7. Acquire land for the development of park sites include access to water (e.g. rivers and lakes).

Implementation Considerations:

- » Develop a site selection tool to prioritize the list of potential sites.
- » Consider establishing a reserve fund dedicated to land acquisition.

8. Implement an asset management approach to facilities.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Develop a prioritized list of RDCK facilities that require assessments completed.
- » Consider establishing a life cycle reserve budget for indoor and outdoor recreation and parks infrastructure.

9. Utilize a project / amenity prioritization framework when contemplating numerous projects that are competing for RDCK support.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Adopt and use the prioritization tool.
- » Identify potential projects that need to be prioritized in the region.
- » Use the ranking to help guide decision making and revisit scoring as new information becomes available.

Criteria	Metrics	Weight
General public demand indicators	Points depend on ranking in household survey findings	5
User group and stakeholder demand indicators	Points depend on level of support from the majority of user groups and stakeholders	5
Community accessibility	Rating of financial and physical accessibility to all residents	4
Financial impact	Points of overall cost impact	4
Alignment with expected trends and demographic/population shift	Ratings related to ability to respond to more than two observed trends and expected shifts in demographics/population	3
Alignment with Master Plan foundations	Ratings for achievement of intended outcomes	2
Current provision in the Region	Ratings for space that would add new activities to recreation in the Region	3
Cost savings through partnerships or grants	Ratings for partnership and/or grant opportunities in development and/or operating costs	3
Economic impact	Ratings for ability to draw significant non-local spending into the Region and catalyze provincial, national and/or international exposure	2

Parks and Recreation Infrastructure

Priority Rankings

Indoor Facilities / Amenities

- 1 Gymnasium type spaces
- 2 Fitness / wellness facilities
- 2 Indoor climbing wall
- 4 Walking / running track
- 4 Indoor field facilities
- 6 Library space
- 7 Indoor child playgrounds
- 8 Art display spaces
- 9 Youth centre
- 10 Pool facilities expansion / attractions
- 11 Community meeting rooms
- 12 Leisure ice surfaces (non-hockey)
- 12 Museum / interpretive facilities
- 14 Performing arts / show spaces
- 15 Court sports (e.g. racquetball)
- 16 Community hall / banquet facilities
- 17 Dance / program / martial arts rooms
- 17 Classroom / training space
- 19 Ice arena facilities
- 20 Curling rinks

Outdoor Facilities / Amenities

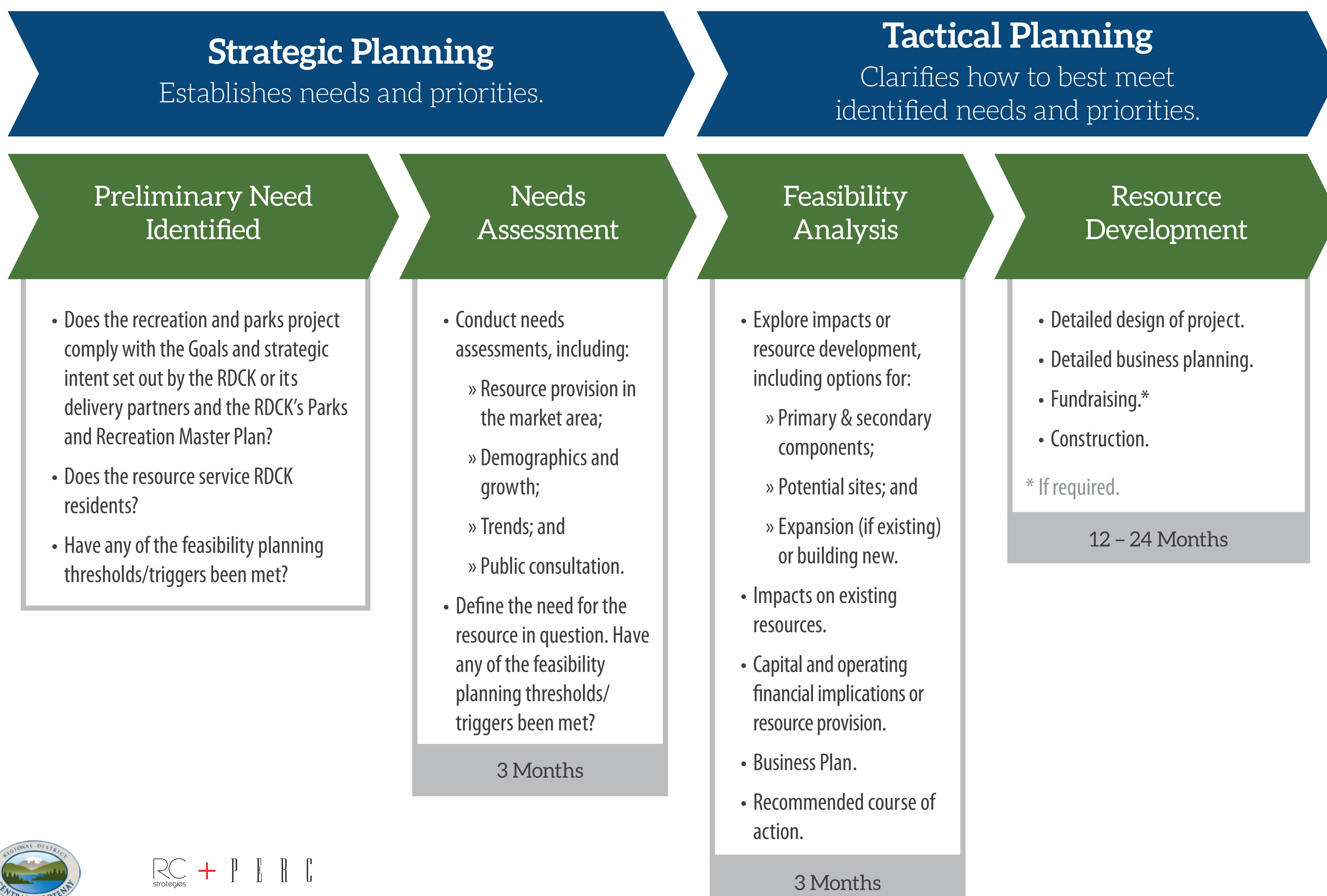
- 1 Walking trail system
- 2 Access to the lake
- 3 Interpretive trails
- 4 Dog off leash areas
- 5 Mountain bike park and trails
- 6 Community gardens
- 6 Amphitheatres / event spaces / band shelters
- 8 Outdoor swimming areas
- 9 Campgrounds
- 10 Picnic areas
- 11 Open spaces (e.g. parks, greenfields)
- 12 Track & field spaces
- 13 Water spray parks
- 13 BMX bicycle parks
- 15 Pickleball courts
- 15 Basketball courts
- 17 Skateboard parks
- 17 Tennis courts
- 17 ATV / dirt bike trails
- 20 Child playgrounds
- 20 Outdoor boarded skating rinks
- 20 Sports fields
- 23 Ball diamonds

10. When considering the development of facilities, follow a defined project development framework.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Determine where potential projects or projects of consideration would fit in the framework and apply subsequent steps.

Project Development Process



Parks and Recreation Infrastructure

11. Enhance the existing trail network in the area.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Utilizing community feedback identify the priority areas that need enhancing. This could mean gaps in existing trail connections in town, from town to rural, from community to community, or in the wilderness.
- » Develop a priority list for addressing the needs and solicit partners to help.

12. Continue and enhance communication and promotion efforts related to parks and recreation opportunities and benefits.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Develop a process that identifies communication channels, audiences for messaging, and any timing. Opportunities for the community to infiltrate the process should be identified and shared with the community.

13. Provide outreach services to enhance programming and support community delivery efforts.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Identify a short list of locations in which to pilot outreach programming. Criteria to consider include distance from Creston, facility availability, and population concentration.

14. Develop capacity within community organizations by providing support and training.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Consulting with community organizations identify specific topics of training and specific support needed.
- » Make the provision of support to groups part of service delivery.

15. Establish and implement a formal process for community organizations to liaise with the RDCK.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Consider the most suitable department and / or position to situate this role.
- » Formulate process and communicate to community organizations so that groups know when, why, and how to engage.

16. Implement a consolidated parks and trails service for Creston and Electoral Areas A, B & C.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Identify the steps necessary to implement the Service.
 - This may involve governance and structural review of RDCK.

Service Delivery

17. Deliver parks and recreation services through partnership with other agencies and sectors.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Develop a partnership framework (possibly shared throughout the entire RDCK) that identifies the different types of partnerships including facility management through to service collaboration.
 - Framework would consider numerous attributes including partnerships, contributions, cost benefits of partnerships, and accountabilities of each partner

18. Implement an ongoing process for data collection to inform decision making.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Develop an approach to address gaps in implementation information collected.
- » Develop a program or schedule for data collection.

19. Continue efforts to reduce barriers to participation.

Implementation Considerations:

- » Review list of identified barriers and identify and mitigating efforts for each.
- » Identify mitigation strategies to help address the barriers (if possible).

Next Steps

- Thank you very much for your interest in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Please take a moment and provide your feedback using the form.
- The panels and the feedback form are available on the RDCK's website (www.rdck.ca) for a couple of weeks.
- All feedback will be reviewed with the Project Committee and the Master Plan will be modified (if necessary).
- The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is expected to be finalized by the end of June.