

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN
Community Services Committee
REGULAR AGENDA



Thursday, July 17, 2025
12:30 pm

Pages

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Agenda for the Community Services Committee Meeting of July 17, 2025 be adopted.

B. DELEGATE

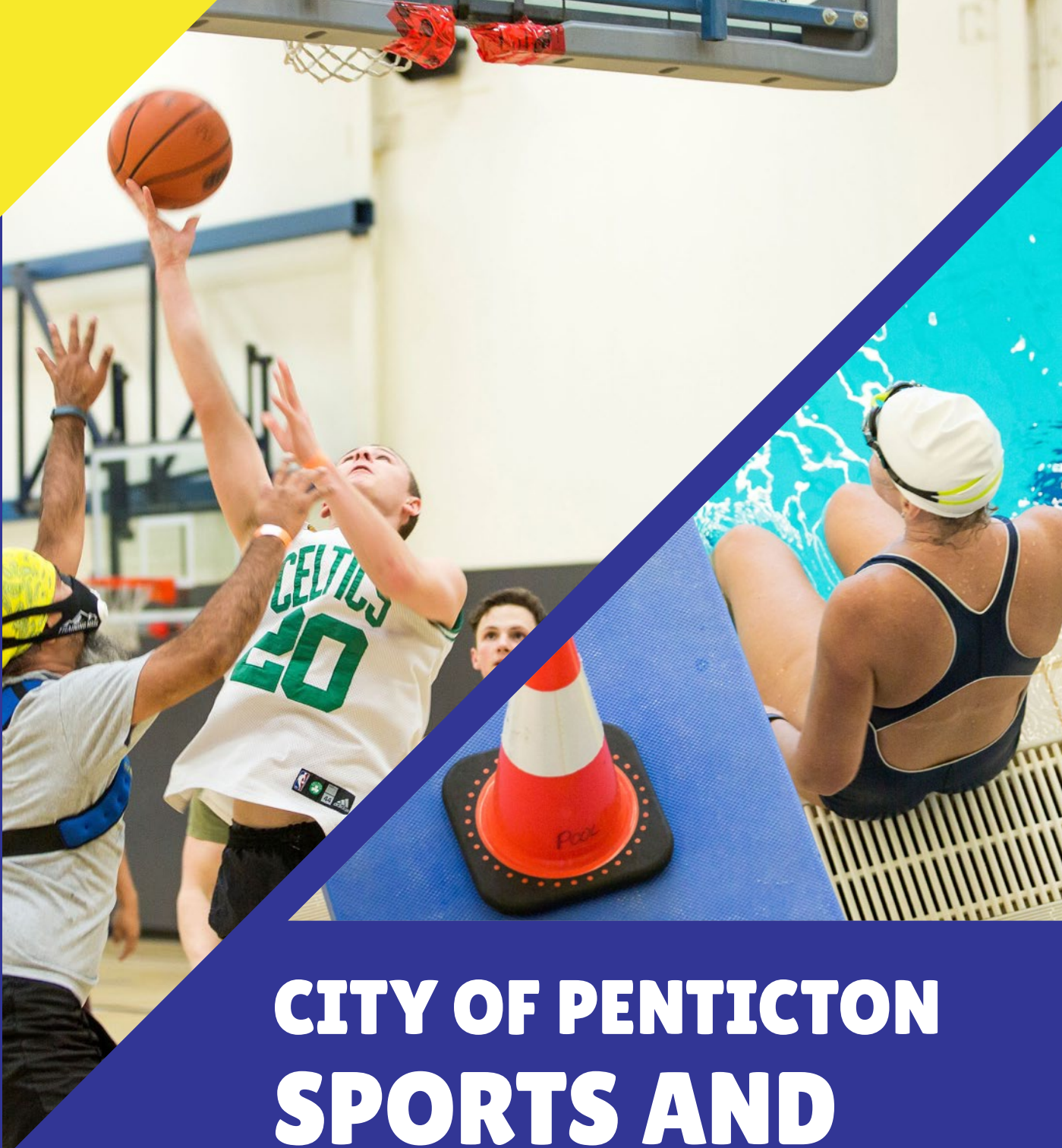
2

Kelsey Johnson, General Manager of Community Services, City of Penticton, will provide Committee with a Sports & Recreation Needs Assessment.

C. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the meeting adjourn.



CITY OF PENTICTON SPORTS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

APRIL 2025



Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
1. Introduction.	4
1.1. Study Purpose	5
1.2. Research and Engagement Inputs	6
1.3. Planning References	7
2. Community Population and Demographics Profile	9
2.1. Community Context & Key Characteristics	10
2.2. Projected Growth	17
2.3. Spatial Characteristics of the Population	19
3. Overview and Analysis of Current Sport and Recreation Infrastructure	25
3.1. Inventory Overview	26
3.2. Spatial Characteristics of the Sport and Recreation Infrastructure	28
3.3. Condition and Reinvestment Considerations	37
3.4. Amenity Service Levels	42
4. Amenity Utilization Indicators	45
4.1. Indoor Facility and Amenity Utilization	46
4.2. Outdoor Amenity Utilization	65
4.3. Programming and Events	74
5. Trends and Leading Practices	79
5.1. The Importance of Trends Monitoring	80
5.2. Summary of Key Trends and Leading Practices	80

6. Community Engagement	82
6.1. Engagement Overview and Tactics	83
6.2. Resident Survey	84
6.3. Discussion Sessions	110
6.4. User Group Survey	112
6.5. Youth Focused Engagement	121
6.6. Pop– Up Engagement at Community Events	127
7. Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Priorities.	131
7.1. Context and Approach	132
7.2. Sport and Recreation Amenity Strategies	139
7.3. Additional Recommendations	149
Appendices	151
Appendix A: Facility Visits and Observations	152
Appendix B: Trends and Leading Practices	168
Appendix C: Community Groups Engaged	179
Appendix D: Prioritization Framework Metric and Scoring Results	182

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Penticton has developed the Sports and Recreation Needs Assessment contained herein to support future planning and decision making for facilities and amenities that support these highly valued activities. The study was initiated in the summer of 2024 and completed in May 2025 using a three step process as illustrated by the following graphic.



The community engagement undertaken for the Needs Assessment garnered feedback from residents and organizations using a variety of tactics – resulting in over 1,500 touchpoints with the community. The findings generated through the engagement and other research undertaken (including analysis of facility utilization, population and demographics, trends, and a review of current sports and recreation infrastructure) provided a strong basis from which to further analyze potential needs and priorities. **The detailed findings from the research are found in Sections 2 – 5 and the community engagement finding are presented in Section 6.**

Section 7 of the Needs Assessment identifies Strategies for 12 categories of sports and recreation amenities. These Strategies were informed by a Prioritization Framework that synthesized the research and engagement using a series of weighted criteria that resulted in an extensive scored and ranked list of sport and recreation amenity types. The Strategies were developed in consideration of this ranking exercise while also applying other practical considerations to provide the City with recommended guidance on future actions and service levels.

Strategies identified for each amenity category are summarized as follows (see Table 40 on pages 141 – 148 for the complete Strategies and recommended future service level guidance). **Presented alphabetically and not in order of priority.*

- **Aquatics Facilities:** One pool is a sufficient overall service level for the short to medium term, but may require revisiting in the long-term.
- **Arenas:** Establish a plan in the short term to renew or replace end of life arenas (McLaren Arena and Memorial Arena) and add at least one incremental ice sheet over the next 5 – 10 years.
- **Courts (Outdoor):** Continue to monitor needs, work with user groups, and identify court specific projects as part of future planning.
- **Curling:** Explore options (site, synergies with other amenities, etc.) for the replacement of the curling club and how a new facility can maximize off-season use and benefit.
- **Indoor Large Span, Multi-Use Sports and Recreation Facilities:** Explore options to enhance or replace the Sportsplex and identify ways to increase gymnasium capacity (through increased assessed to school gyms and potentially a new community gymnasium in the long-term).
- **Park Spaces and Amenities:** Explore needs and priorities as part of an update to the City's Parks and Trails Master Plan and /or other park system strategic planning.
- **Program and Activity Spaces:** Continue to maximize use of existing spaces and as new facilities are planned and designed, ensure community group, youth, and seniors space needs are further examined and integrated (where possible) into these facilities.
- **Sports Fields and Ball Diamonds:** Identify options to add more high-quality rectangular sport field supply to the inventory, continue to invest in existing ball diamonds and identify options for a longer term "hub" site, and work with emerging sport field user groups to identify options and opportunities to meet their needs.
- **Specialty Amenities (Indoor):** Consider including an indoor climbing facility, walking / running track, and other new types of spaces and features as part of future new facility projects (e.g. arena or multi-sport facility).
- **Specialty Amenities (Outdoor):** Continue to evaluate, monitor and work with user groups to address emerging space needs and opportunities for activities like disc golf, wheeled sports, paddling / on-water sports, and archery.
- **Track and Field / Athletics Facilities:** Collaborate with School District No. 67 and the Penticton Track and Field Club to develop a plan for renewal of the track at Penticton Secondary School and other potential enhancements.
- **Trail Based Recreation and Sport Activities:** Undertake a Natural Trails Strategy to inform future trails priorities and investments.

1. INTRODUCTION



1.1. Study Purpose

The City of Penticton undertook a Sports and Recreation Needs Assessment to help identify current and future needs for infrastructure that can support these highly valued and important activities. This study will provide the City with a point of reference resource that helps ensure future decision making, budgeting, and planning is based on a sound foundation of data that provides insights into key focus areas for investment and potential priorities.

The following graphic illustrates the process used to develop the study. As illustrated by the graphic, the research and engagement undertaken during the initial stage of the project was analyzed and used to inform the identification of potential priorities. It is important to note that the potential priorities identified in this study will require further validation and refinement through subsequent planning (e.g. a refreshed Parks and Recreation Master Plan and other facility focused strategic planning) and will also need to be considered and prioritized with other City infrastructure outside the scope of this study.



1.2. Research and Engagement Inputs

Sports and recreation activities and opportunities benefit the community in both direct and indirect ways.

- **Direct benefits:** Those experienced by the participant themselves (e.g. improved physical and mental health, social connections, etc.).
- **Indirect benefits:** Those experienced by all residents, regardless of whether they are participants themselves (e.g. lower crime because more residents are engaged in positive activities, increase appeal of the community, etc.).

Because the benefits of sport and recreation are broad and experienced in many different ways (through participant in both organized and unstructured activities), the assessment of current and future needs requires several different research and engagement tactics to be used in order to understand the unique needs/desires of residents, user groups, and visitors to the community. Summarized below are the research and engagement tactics used by the project team and reflected in subsequent sections of this study.

In total, the engagement undertaken for the study had over 1,500 touchpoints with city residents and community organization representatives.

Engagement Inputs



Resident Survey
(including a statistically representative sample)



Discussion sessions
with user groups and
other sport and
recreation stakeholders



Youth feedback
through surveys



Open house and
pop-up events



User Group
Survey

Research Inputs



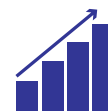
Review of facility
condition assessment
reports



Analysis of
bookings and
utilization data



Service level
analysis



Benchmarking



Review of key
population and
demographics
characteristics



Trends and best
practices
identification



Inventory and spatial
analysis of sports and
recreation infrastructure

1.3. Planning References

Planning is most effective when it reviews previous work that has been completed. Doing so provides an opportunity to review and re-assess previously identified priorities and, where relevant, integrate previous analysis into the updated planning work. Summarized below are relevant City led plans and strategies that have been reviewed by the project team for their insights and consideration during the development of this study.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan (2018)

The Parks and Recreation (PR) Master Plan offers long-term guidance for the City of Penticton on delivering parks and recreation services to residents and visitors. This plan aims to help the City achieve its objectives of enhancing sustainability and livability. Included within the Master Plan is a Vision, Values, Key Themes, and key priorities.

Strategy For Outdoor Sports Fields (2010)

The City of Penticton's Strategy for Outdoor Sports Fields addresses field sports and facilities in the city and identifies options to accommodate the needs of residents and field users. The paper provided recommendations for future upgrades and acquisitions and identified the needs and priorities for the following 10 years.

Penticton Sport Tourism Plan (2010)

Penticton's five-year sport tourism plan was developed in collaboration with the sport tourism working group through Tourism BC and 2010 Legacies Now. The plan outlines objectives for Penticton's sport tourism sector, strategies and tactics to achieve these objectives, evaluation methods, and an estimated budget. It's designed to be flexible, allowing for new opportunities during its implementation.

Event Hosting Framework (2024)

Penticton is an appealing event hosting destination with significant demand for a wide range of events. The purpose of this document is to outline the role of the City and its staff in the event sector and describe their strategic work. The Hosting Framework aims to:

- Build on the efforts of the 2010 Sport Tourism Strategy.
- Define the extent of the City's involvement in event hosting.
- Offer a comprehensive municipal perspective on event hosting.
- Highlight the opportunities that event hosting presents.
- Recognize event opportunities beyond sports.
- Justify investments in events.
- Develop a framework to guide the City's event portfolio curation.

The Framework provides tools and guidance on how to optimize event hosting for maximum community benefit. The document additionally:

- Identifies strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for event hosting based on current facilities.
- Focus Areas for Event Hosting section identifies 6 strategic initiatives some of which includes enhancing community assets.
- Reviews key recommendations from the 2010 Sport Tourism Strategy and provided a status update as of 2023.

City of Penticton Accessibility Plan 2023 – 2026

On May 3, 2023, the City of Penticton formed the Accessibility Task Force, led by Trisha Kaplan and supported by City staff and Councillor Ryan Graham. The Task Force identified over 30 barriers and suggested more than 40 actions to address them, focusing on priority areas such as employment, service delivery, the built environment, and information and communication.

In addition to adhering to the guiding principles established by the Government of British Columbia, the Accessibility Task Force developed its own principles to address the unique needs and conditions of the City of Penticton. These principles include:

- All-season accessibility
- Independence and dignity
- Safety and security
- Lived experience
- User-centered approach
- Meaningful engagement

Urban Forest Management Plan: Our Official CommuniTree Plan (2024)

Penticton's Urban Forest Management Plan focuses on conserving and enhancing the urban forest, which includes all trees within the city's boundaries. These trees provide essential ecosystem services like shade, cooling, clean air, water, and carbon storage. However, they face challenges such as climate change, development-related tree loss, and impacts from events in City parks. This plan outlines strategies for the next 20 years to address these challenges and promote the benefits of the urban forest. Goal 3 below specifically relates to recreational use within the urban tree canopy.

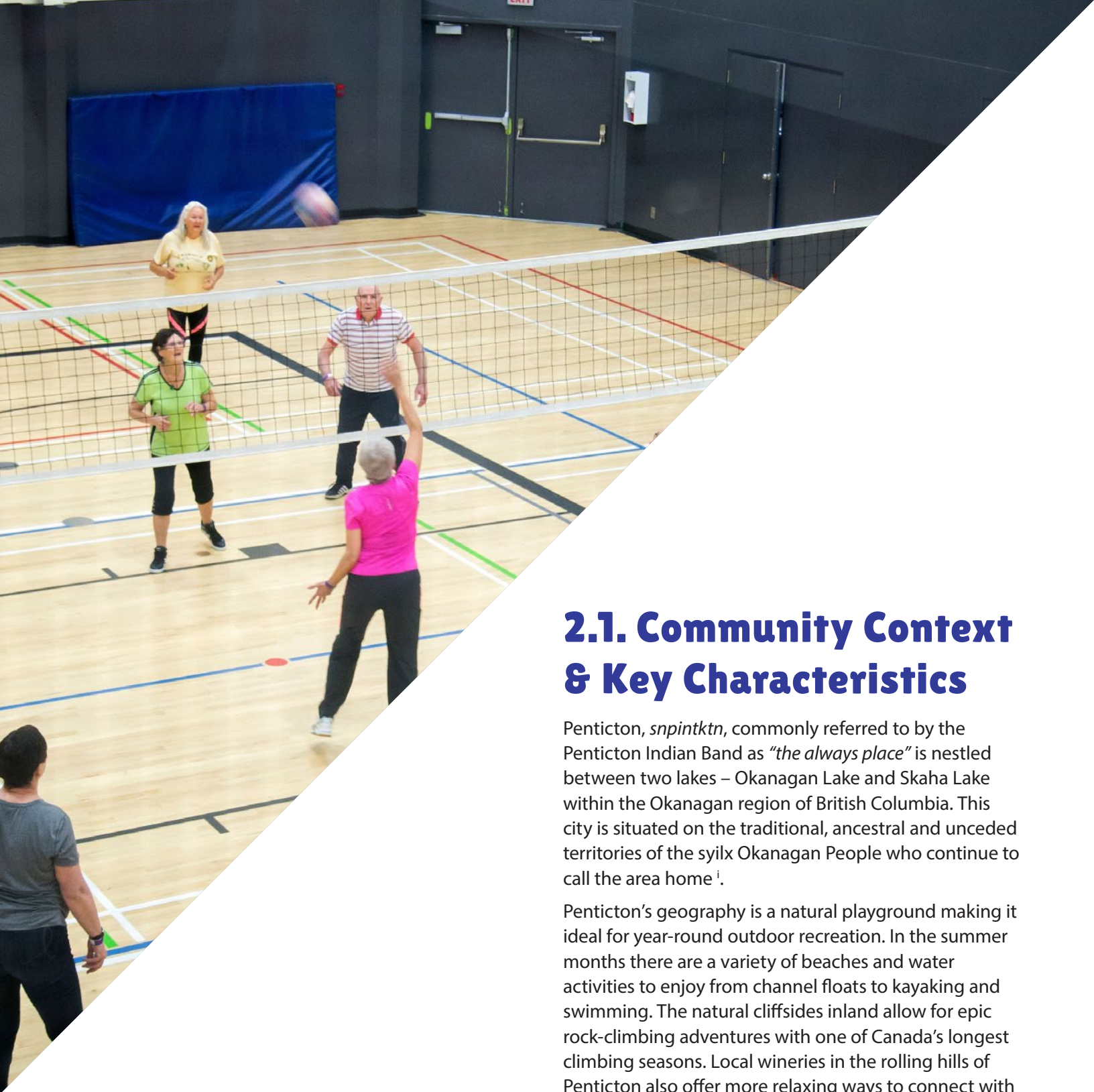
Goal 3: Enhance partnerships and public outreach to increase awareness and capacity for urban forest management and Strategy 10. Explore partnerships with the community to enhance urban forest management, outlines several actions that fall within the responsibility of parks and recreation, specifically around educating the public and park users about avoiding damaging trees when recreating in urban forests.

Penticton Community Climate Action Plan (2021)

The City of Penticton Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) aims for a low carbon future. It envisions a connected, healthy, and prosperous community that actively addresses climate change and adapts to its impacts. The plan focuses on creating a sustainable and resilient environment for all residents.

2. COMMUNITY POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS PROFILE





2.1. Community Context & Key Characteristics

Penticton, *snpintktn*, commonly referred to by the Penticton Indian Band as “*the always place*” is nestled between two lakes – Okanagan Lake and Skaha Lake within the Okanagan region of British Columbia. This city is situated on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the syilx Okanagan People who continue to call the area home ⁱ.

Penticton’s geography is a natural playground making it ideal for year-round outdoor recreation. In the summer months there are a variety of beaches and water activities to enjoy from channel floats to kayaking and swimming. The natural cliffsides inland allow for epic rock-climbing adventures with one of Canada’s longest climbing seasons. Local wineries in the rolling hills of Penticton also offer more relaxing ways to connect with the place’s heritage and scenery ⁱⁱ. As wintertime rolls in, there are numerous opportunities to continue to spend time outdoors through activities such as Nordic skiing, snowshoeing and downhill skiing. Penticton embodies the nature of sport, recreation and the outdoors all year long while simultaneously blending it with its rich agricultural roots ⁱⁱⁱ.

Historical Growth

Over a twenty-year period from 2001 to 2021 the population within Penticton increased steadily. The most significant population change occurred between 2016 to 2021 with a 9% increase from 33,761 residents to 36,885. Compared to previous years over the same period, the population change remained constant at 3%. Overall, Penticton’s population went from 30,985 residents (2001) to 36,885 (2021). Alongside the stable population growth, the median age has continued to increase from 44.3 years in 2001 to 52.0 years in 2021. Table 1 illustrates the historical growth data in more detail by census year from 2001 to 2021 including median age. Penticton’s population by age range is comparable to British Columbia’s (B.C), highlighted in Table 2. However, age ranges to note when comparing the city to the province include those 20-29 years of age and 65+. Penticton has a lower proportion of twenty-year olds (9%) compared to B.C (13%). On the other hand, the city has more people 65+ (30%) versus the province (20%).

Table 1. Proportion of the Population by Age Range (2021)

Year	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021
Population	30,985	31,909	32,877	33,761	36,885
Population Change	<1%	3%	3%	3%	9%
Median Age	44.3	47.3	50.1	52.4	52.0

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

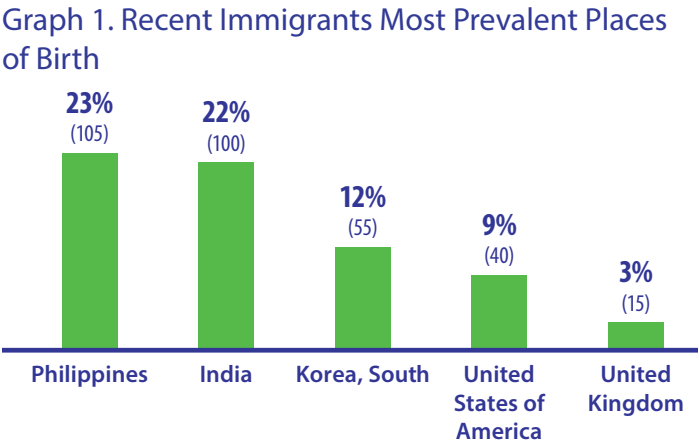
Table 2. Proportion of the Population by Age Range (2021)

Age Range (years)	City of Penticton	British Columbia
0-14	12%	14%
15-19	4%	5%
20-29	9%	13%
30-39	12%	14%
40-49	11%	13%
50-64	22%	21%
65+	30%	20%
85+	5%	2%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Immigration

13.4% of Penticton residents are immigrants. The graph on the right illustrates the most prevalent places of birth for recent immigrants living in Penticton. Recent immigrant refers to an immigrant who first obtained their landed immigrant or permanent resident status between 2016 and 2021 ^{iv}. The most prevalent (top five) places of birth for recent immigrants to Penticton includes the Philippines (23%), India (22%), and South Korea (12%). The actual counts are provided in brackets under the percentages.



Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

Education, Occupation and Income Data

When looking at education obtained by Penticton residents compared to the province, Penticton residents have a lower level of post-secondary qualifications. Much of the population has obtained a high school diploma (or equivalent) along with a college level diploma. There is a lower percentage of residents in Penticton who have obtained a bachelor's degree or higher (18%) when compared to British Columbia (29%). Table 3 compares educational levels obtained for both the city and the province.

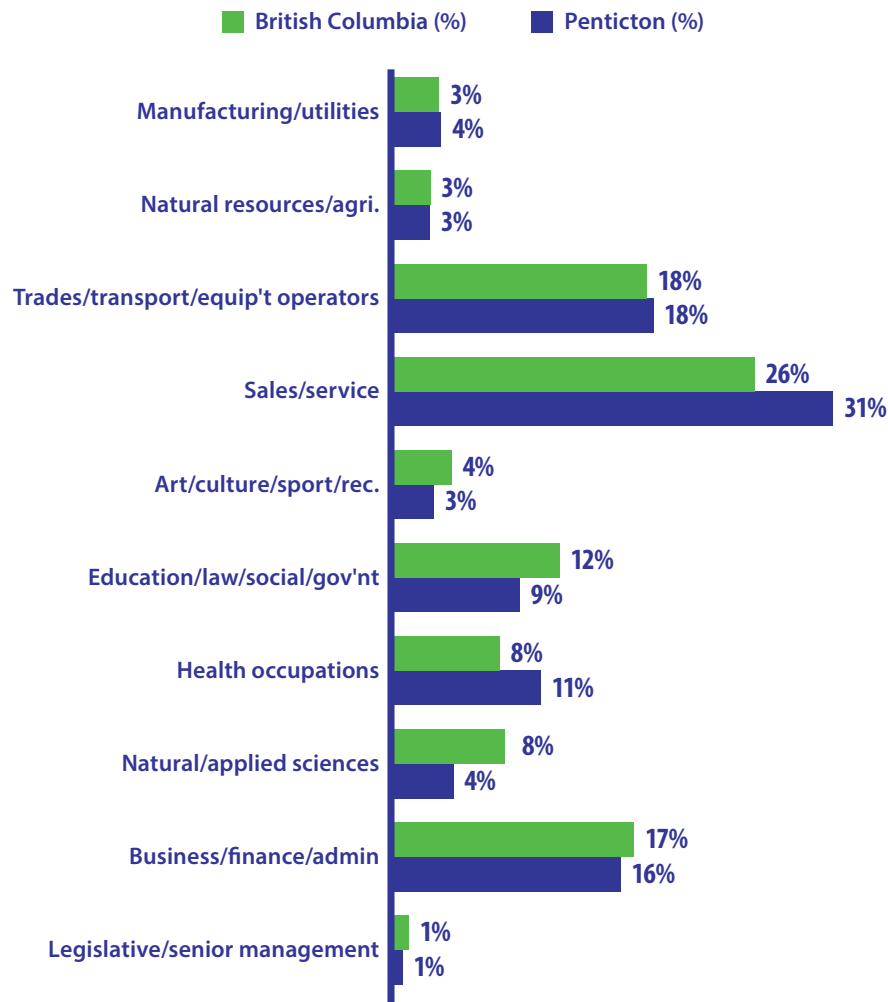
Table 3. Education Obtained (aged 15+) for the City of Penticton and British Columbia

Education Obtained (aged 15+)	City of Penticton	British Columbia
No Certificate, diploma or degree	15%	13%
High school diploma or equivalency certificate	33%	29%
Apprenticeship Certificate	6%	5%
College, CEGEP or non-university certificate or diploma	21%	17%
Bachelor's Degree or higher	18%	29%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

In terms of occupations, Penticton has a stronger sales and service labour force (31%) compared to British Columbia (26%). The second highest labour force for both the city and the province is the trades, transportation and equipment operators (18%). Next, there is business, finance and administrative occupations (16%). Penticton also has a slightly higher proportion of health occupations (11%) when compared to British Columbia (8%). Graph 2 illustrates occupations by labour force in more detail comparing Penticton to the province.

Graph 2. Occupations by Labours Force for Penticton and British Columbia



Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of Population

When compared to the province, households in Penticton have both a lower average and median household income (before-tax) according to the Statistics Canada 2021 Census and the Housing Needs Assessment Report (2023). The average household income before tax in Penticton was \$86,100 and the median was \$68,000. British Columbia’s average household income before tax was \$108,600 and the median was \$85,000 (2021). The average Penticton household income is closer to the median, than the province. This would suggest a more even distribution of household income in the City of Penticton. In 2006, the provincial median income was 29% higher than that of Penticton, this gap decreased to 25% higher in 2021. As was shown earlier in this section, in Table 4. Proportion of the Population by Age Range (2021), Penticton has a higher proportion of residents aged 65 years and older compared to the province (35% compared to 22%). Many residents over the age of 65 are retired and living on a fixed income, which likely has an impact on average and median income levels in the community. Table 4 details household average and median income for Penticton and British Columbia (B.C).

Table 4. Household Average and Median Income for Penticton and British Columbia

Year	Penticton Average	Penticton Median	B.C. Average	B.C Median
2006	No Data	\$48,900	No Data	\$63,000
2011	\$60,585	\$45,516	\$77,378	\$60,333
2016	\$73,599	\$54,219	\$90,354	\$69,995
2021	\$86,100	\$68,000	\$108,600	\$85,000

Source: Statistics Canada and The City of Penticton Housing Needs Assessment Report

Statistics Canada’s low-income cut-off after-tax (LICO-AT) measurement shows that the City of Penticton has a lower percentage of its population spending a higher-than-average proportion of their income on basic needs; compared to the wider province. This is supportive of a more even distribution to household incomes in the City of Penticton, compared to province.

Table 5. Low-Income Cut-Offs (after-tax) for Penticton and the Province

Low-Income Cut-Offs (after-tax)	City of Penticton	British Columbia
LICO-AT	3%	6%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2021 census

MDi Report for Okanagan Skaha – SD 67

The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDi) is a comprehensive self-reporting questionnaire that offers the unique opportunity to collect insight on how children are doing between grades 4-8. It addresses children's thoughts, feelings, and experiences within school and community. The MDi report supports policies and informs practices through learning more about children's socio-emotional health and wellbeing ^v.

MDi focuses on five areas: physical health and wellbeing, connectedness, social and emotional development, school experiences, and use of after-school time. Key findings from the MDI 2023-24 Grade 5 School District Report and MDI 2023-24 Grade 8 School District Report for School District 67 Okanagan Skaha include ^{vi vii}:

- Grade 5 and 8 students report above-average overall well-being, with Grade 5 scoring 39% (vs. 36% average) and Grade 8 at 33% (vs. 25%), showing improvement with age in the Okanagan Skaha school district.
- Within a normal week, 28% of Grade 5 students and 31% of Grade 8 students report getting 60 minutes of physical activity per day. Grade 5 students fall below the average whereas grade 8's are above the average.
- 18% of grade 5 students play sports or exercise for fun, which is below the average, but as the years progress grade 8's are on par to the average of moving their bodies for fun at 17%.
- Nearly half of both grade 5 and 8 students never participate in individually coached or team coached sports out of school. However, for those that do daily, both grades are on par with the average.
- More than 75% of both grade 5 and 8 students are already doing activities they want to be doing outside of school. For those wanting additional activities (Grade 5, 29% and grade 8, 26%) the highest ranked category for both grades is physical and/or outdoor activities.

Gini Coefficient

The Gini coefficient (Gini index) is a tool provided by Statistics Canada to assess income inequality within a population. The Gini index metric shows the extent to which income distribution deviates from perfect equality. A score of 0 indicates perfect equality for all whereas 1 represents perfect inequality. Below are the Gini Index scores, on adjusted household after-tax income, for Penticton, its neighbours, and the Province of British Columbia.

- City of Penticton Gini Index Score: 0.282
- Town of Oliver Gini Index Score: 0.254
- District Municipality of Peachland Gini Index Score: 0.286
- City of West Kelowna Gini Index Score: 0.276
- The Province of British Columbia Gini Index Score: 0.306

Insights from Data Analytics

Recreation services need to provide the appropriate programs and facilities for its residents. Having a deep understanding of the market demand for recreation services is important, through gaining insight on demographic indicators and characteristics of communities. Emerging analytic tools are allowing for service providers, such as the recreation sector, to better understand their dynamic communities needs and wants for programs, facilities, and events.

Environics Analytics PRIZM is one of many tools that can be useful for recreation through its in-depth demographic segmentation system. It classifies Canada's neighbourhoods into 67 unique lifestyle types through incorporating data from over a dozen demographic, marketing, and media sources. This tool helps to analyze and understand people behaviours, interests, spending habits and much more.

Summarized below are key attributes and characteristics with potential relevancy to recreation activities and interests from the top 3 most prevalent segments found in Penticton.

"Suburban Recliners" (21%)

- These households can be found within a collection of suburban areas and contain empty-nesting couples, older singles, often widows, with 40% being over the age of 65 years old.
- These active folks can be found expressing their artistic and cultural sides attending community theatre events, craft shows, and music festivals.
- They enjoy hitting the road and travelling across Canada to experience provincial parks where they can be found enjoying the great outdoors. You might hear them riding around the trails on an ATV as when it comes to leisure there is no slowing the suburban recliners down.

"Just Getting By" (12%)

- This demographic consists of younger, low-income singles or single-parent families who face economic challenges. Nearly 45% are under the age of 45 years old.
- They enjoy a youthful lifestyle on a budget and can be found in local parks or city gardens when they would like some outdoor leisure time.
- When they wish to experience some arts and culture, you may find them at craft shows.

"Slow-Lane Suburbs" (12%)

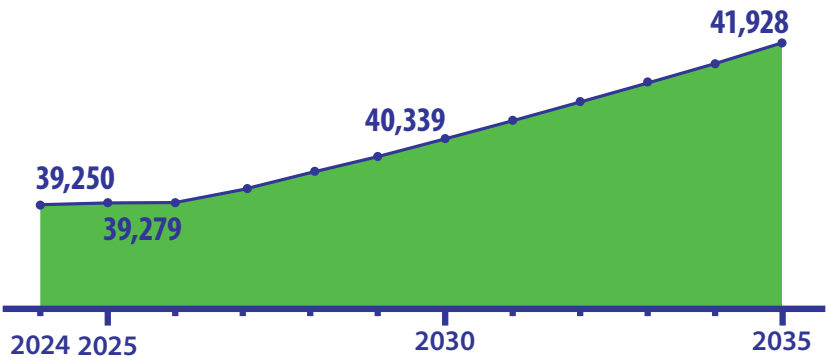
- These households are often a mix of older and mature singles or couples who are 55+ and third-plus-generation Canadians.
- These folks enjoy active and leisure-intensive lifestyles and can be found fishing, hunting and camping in the great outdoors.
- When they want to experience some more laid-back leisure activities slow-lane suburbs will often attend community theatre events or food and drink festivals.

2.2. Projected Growth

Population

There are a number of available sources of data for Penticton’s population growth. The authors of the City of Penticton Housing Needs Assessment Report (HNA) estimated various population growth scenarios for Penticton using data from Canada Census (2021). From a reported population of 36,885 a low growth rate projection of 1.1% annually, yields an estimated 48,207 residents by 2046. With a medium projected growth rate of 1.5% annually, there would be 52,953 residents. Lastly, under a high growth rate scenario 1.8% annually, there could be as many as 56,752 residents by 2046. The most recent data from BC Stats, records a population of 39,250 in 2024, with a projection of growth at 0.7% annually to a population of 41,928 by 2035 (17% increase). This projected growth rate, is significantly lower than the three modelled rates presented by the HNA. However, there is a lag phase through to 2027, before the population steadily climbs. Graph 3 illustrates Penticton’s population projections from 2024 to 2035 with data from BC Stats.

Graph 3. Population Projections (2024-2035)

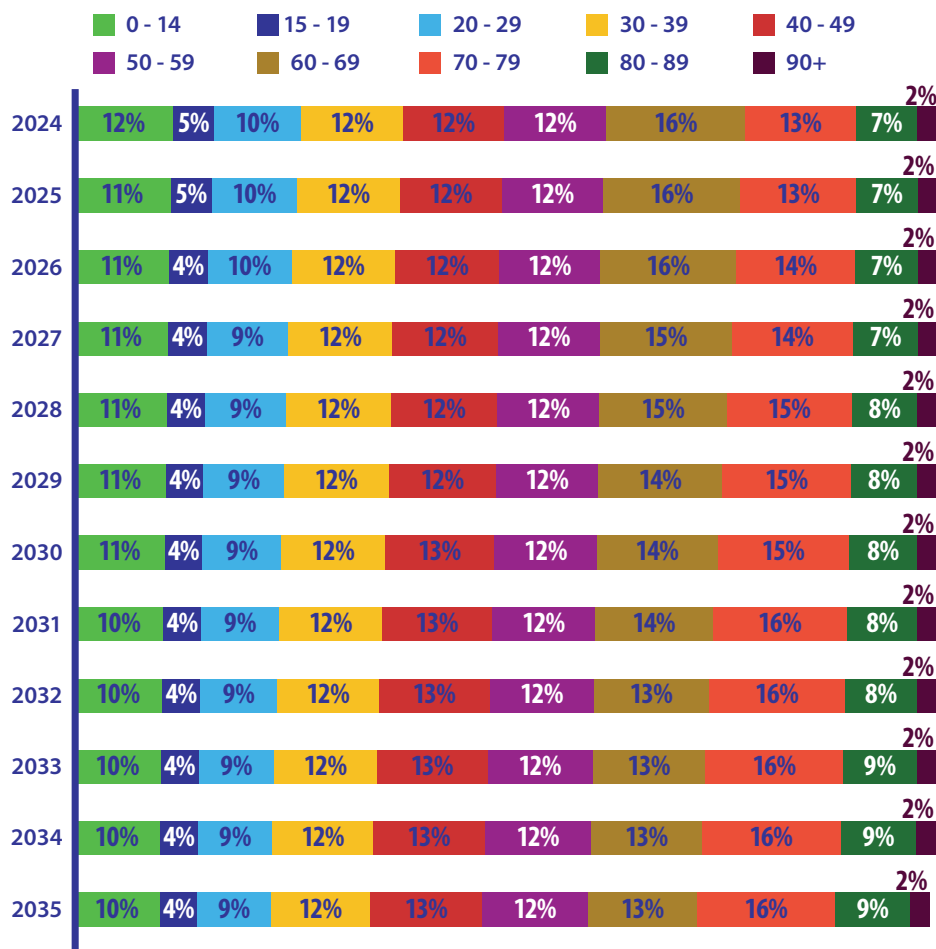


Source: BC Stats Population Estimates & Projections for British Columbia.

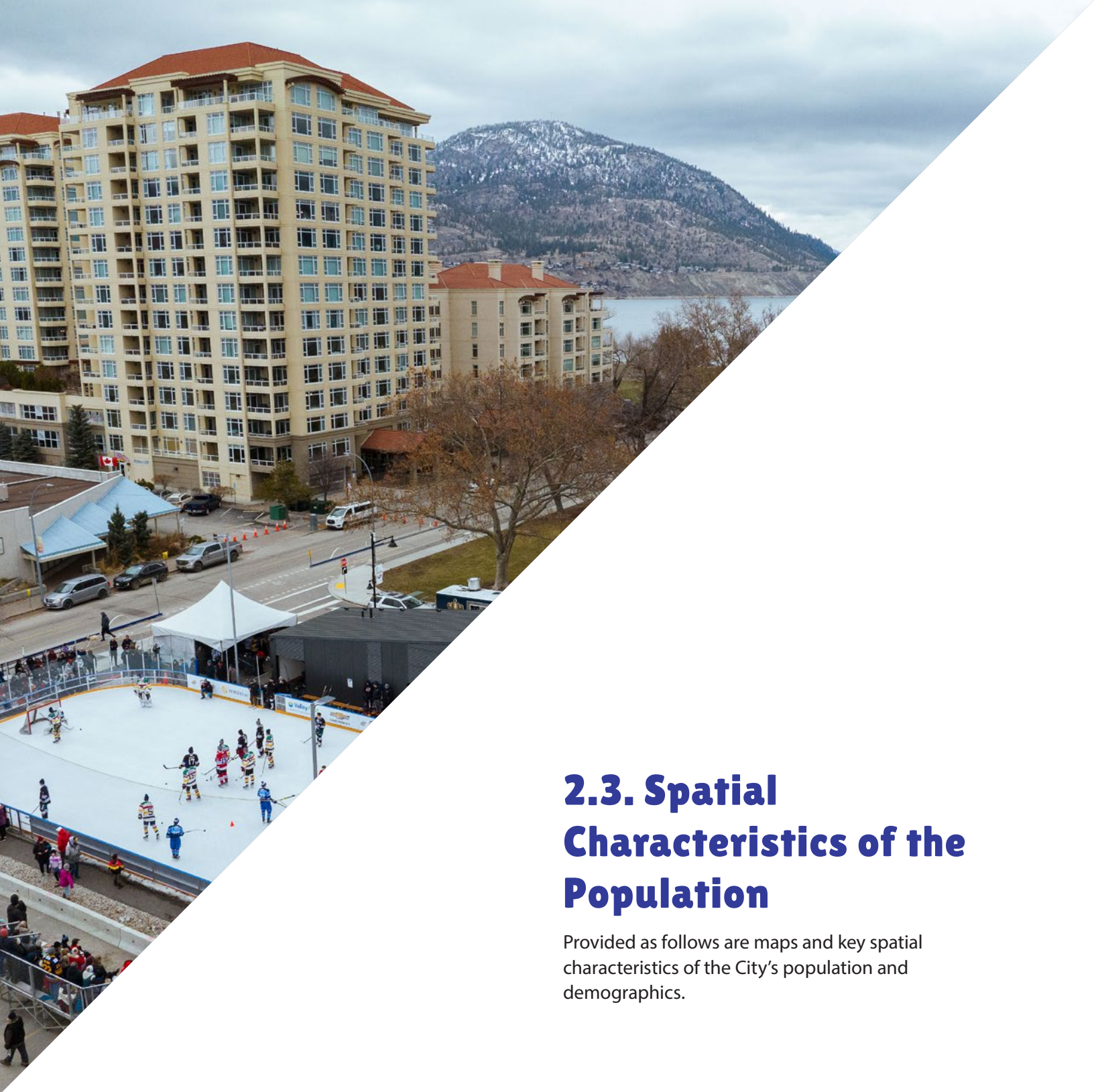
Age

The City of Penticton is expected to experience a shift in its demographics over the next decade. The proportion of the population ages 19 and under (currently 16.3%) is anticipated to decline to 14.3%. Additionally, the working age population (25-64) is expected to decline as a proportion of the total city population from 48.6% to 47.9%. Meanwhile, the proportion of the population who have reached retirement age (65+) is projected to grow from approximately 30.3% to 33.7% by 2035. The HNA predicts a stable household size of 2.1 from 2006 onwards until 2041 when there could be a decrease to 1.9. However, the net number of households has increased annually (2.1%) from 2016 to 2021. Under the high growth rate scenario (1.8% annually) there could be an additional 3,200 houses by 2031.

Graph 4. Estimated and Projected Age Distribution 2024-2035



Source: BC Stats Population Estimates & Projections for British Columbia.

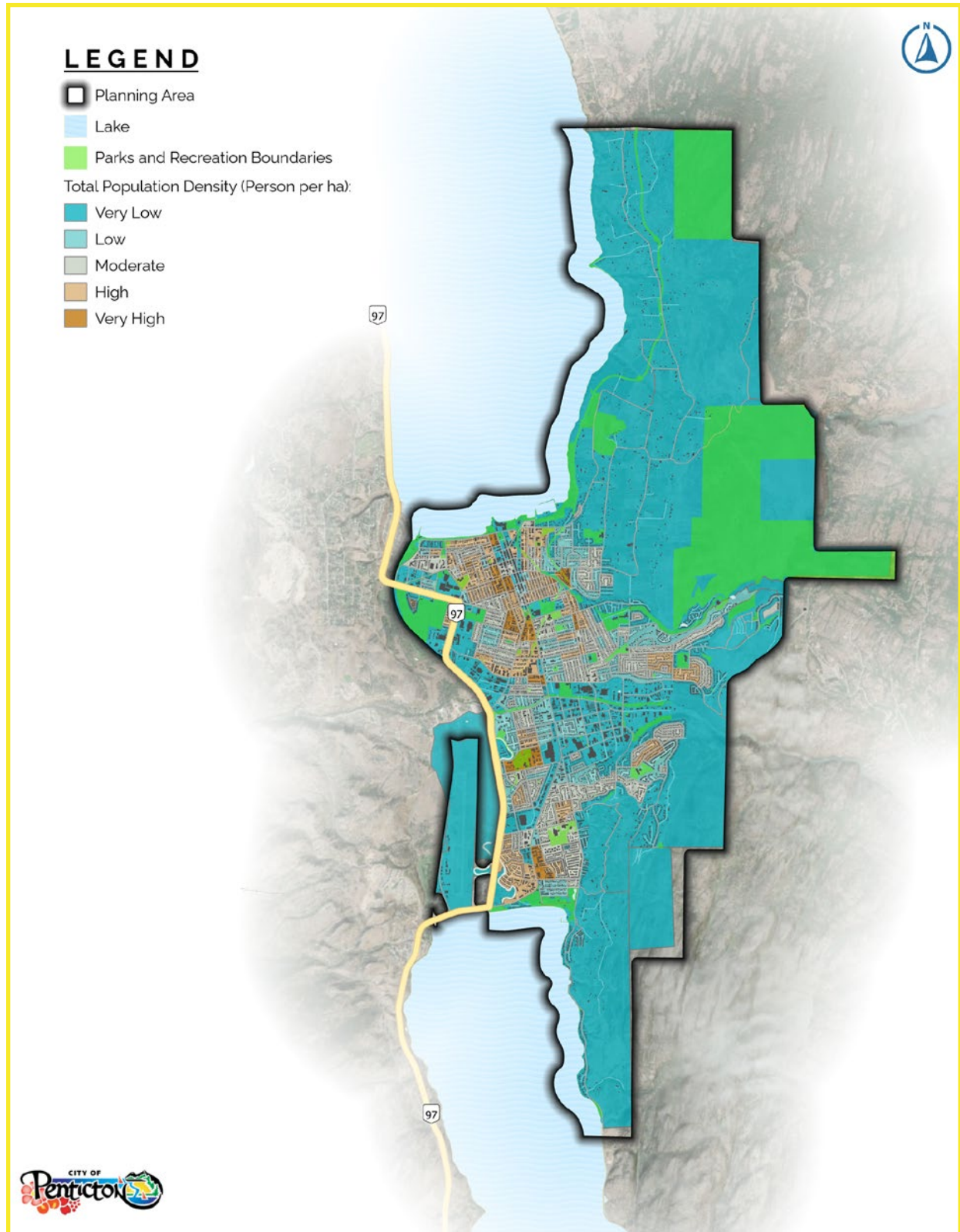


2.3. Spatial Characteristics of the Population

Provided as follows are maps and key spatial characteristics of the City's population and demographics.

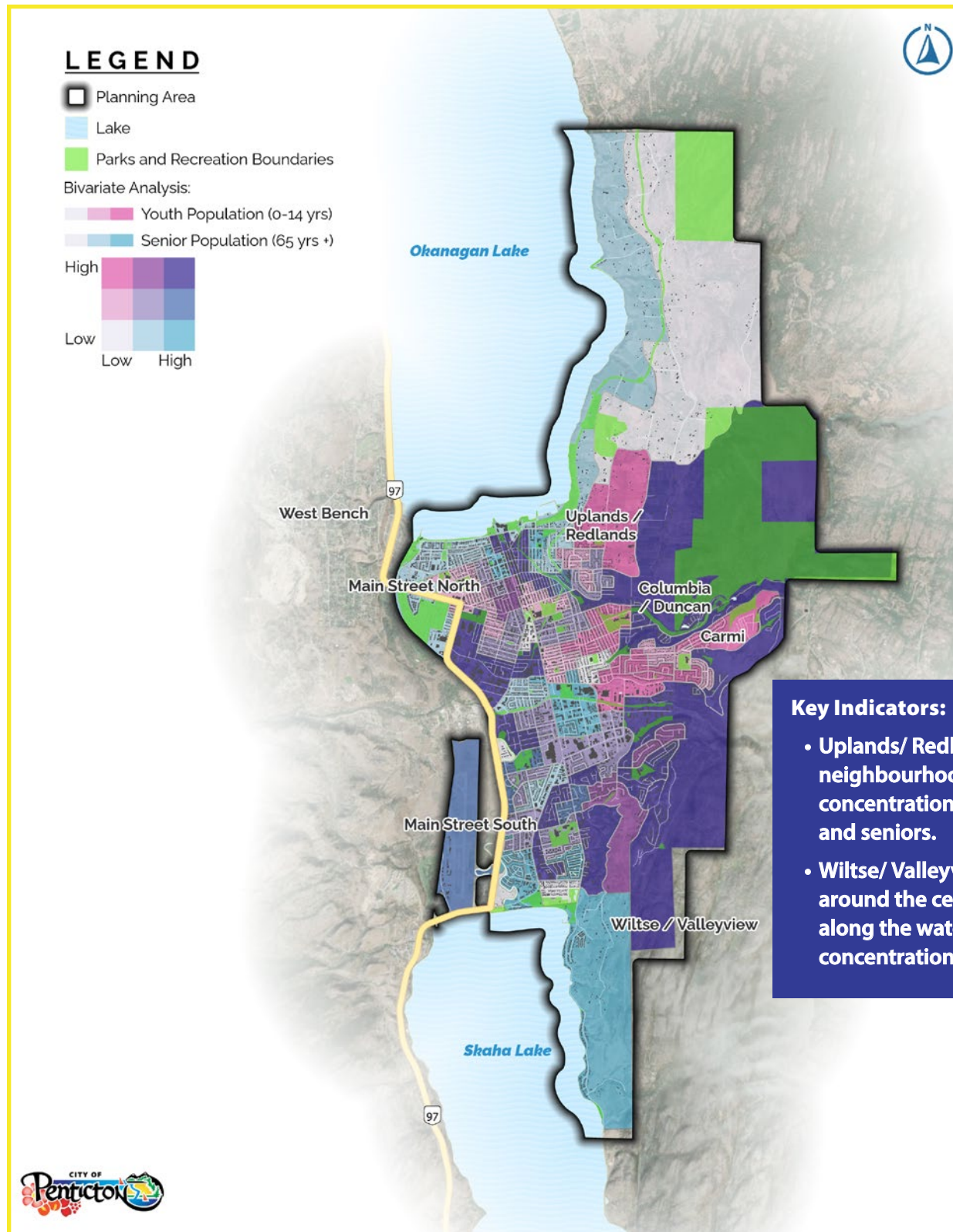
Population Density

The following map illustrates where population density is higher or lower in the community. As with most communities, population density decreases the further away from the City's core. **This analysis can help identify areas where a higher proportion of residents have less living and personal leisure space and may have a higher need for community facilities in which to gather and participate in active living pursuits.**



Senior and Youth Population Density

The following map illustrates where there are higher concentrations of youth and seniors. Shaded in pink are areas with more youth, shaded in blue are areas where more seniors live and shaded in purple are areas where higher concentrations both seniors and youth live. **These two age cohorts are significant to consider in the broader content of providing recreation services given the potential for transportation limitations, social isolation, and health and wellness benefits of targeting opportunities to these age groups.**



Canadian Multiple Deprivation Index Map of Penticton

The map on the following page was created using The Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation (CIMD). The CIMD utilizes various measures of social well-being, including health, education and justice to help understand inequalities. It is created using microdata from the 2021 Census of Population to derive indicators at the DA level. The CIMD considers four dimensions of deprivation; ethno-cultural composition, situational vulnerability, economic dependency and residential instability, characterized by 22 indicators (Statistics Canada, 2023). The following figure outlines the dimensions and their corresponding indicators. **This purpose of this analysis is to help identify areas of the city that have a higher proportion of residents that may face barriers to participation in recreation and sport.**

THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION AND THEIR CORRESPONDING INDICATORS, BRITISH COLUMBIA, 2021

ETHNOCULTURAL COMPOSITION	ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY	SITUATIONAL VULNERABILITY	RESIDENTIAL INSTABILITY
Proportion of the population self-identified as visible minority	Proportion of population who are aged 65 and older	Proportion of the population identified as indigenous	Proportion of dwellings that are apartment buildings
Proportion of population that is foreign-born	Proportion of population participating in the labour force (aged 15 and older) ¹	Proportion of the population aged 25-64 without a high-school diploma	Proportion of persons living alone
Proportion of population with no knowledge of either official language (linguistic isolation)	Ratio of employment to population ¹	Proportion of homes needing major repairs	Proportion of dwellings that are owned ¹
Average number of persons per room	Dependency ratio (population aged 0-12 and population aged 65 and older divided by population aged 15-64)	Proportion of single parent families	Persons per square kilometer
Proportion of population with no religious affiliation	Proportion of children younger than age 6	Median income ¹	Proportion of movers within the past 5 years
		Median dollar value of dwelling ¹	
		Proportion of the population that is self-employed	

1. This indicator was reverse-coded, meaning it was coded opposite of the measure. For example, proportion of the population that is married or common-law becomes proportion of population that is single, divorced, separated or widowed.
Note: The dimensions are ordered such that the dimension on the left explains the highest percentage of the variance of the data and the dimension on the right explains the lowest percentage.
Source: Canadian Index of Multiple Deprivation 2021, based on the 2021 Census of Population Long-Form.

LEGEND

-  Planning Area
-  Lake
-  Parks and Recreation Boundaries
- Multiple Deprivation Index Rating:
 -  Very Low
 -  Low
 -  Moderate
 -  High
 -  Very High



Key Indicators:

The scale of very low to very high is used to categorize how DAs were scored. Very High indicates that there is a high prevalence of deprivation, and very low indicates that there is low prevalence of deprivation based on the indicators presented on the previous page.

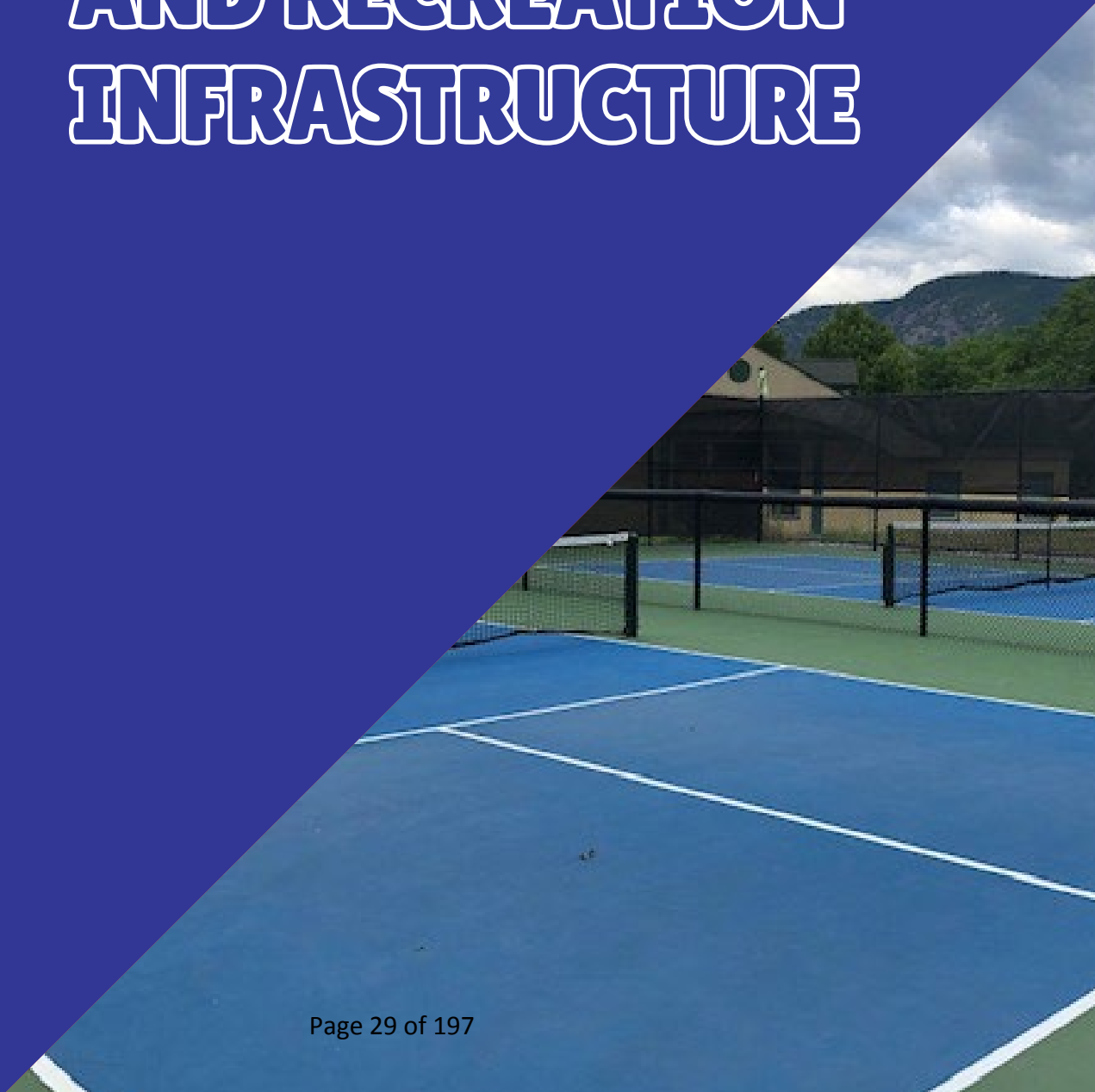
- 41% of the service area is considered Very Low or Low on the deprivation Index.
- 32% of the service area is considered Moderate on the deprivation Index.
- 27% of the service area is considered High or Very High on the deprivation Index.



Key Findings: Demographics Indicators and Projected Growth

- Penticton's population grew by 19% from 2001 to 2021. During this period, the median age rose from 44.3 years (2001) to 52.0 years (2021). The 2021 census reveals Penticton has fewer residents aged 20-29 and a higher proportion of those aged 65+ compared to the province. This demographic shift emphasizes the need for accessible and sustainable recreation facilities and programming to cater to an aging population. The aging population has diverse needs, catering to their needs can be anything from timing of programs, ensuring facilities have accessibility features such as wide entries, to providing a wider range of program options for a variety of skill levels (e.g. pickleball, walking soccer, etc.).
- Population projections indicate a stable but slower increase until 2026, followed by a steady climb to 41,928 residents by 2035, up 6.8% from 39,250 in 2024 (BC Stats). To support this growth, both indoor and outdoor recreation facilities will need to plan ahead. This includes enhancing outdoor recreation amenities such as bathrooms, parking spaces, bike racks and trail signage. Ensuring these facilities can accommodate increased visitors will help maintain long-term enjoyment and protect Penticton's unique geographic playground.
- The MDi reports for Grade 5 and 8 students in Penticton reports overall well-being above the provincial average, with 75% participating in activities they enjoy outside of school. Those seeking more options prefer sports and outdoor recreation. About half of the children do not engage in coached sports, but for those who do, it is meaningful. Grade 5 students fall below the average for 60 minutes of daily physical activity and fun movement. With stable population projections for youth aged 0-14 into 2035, it would be important to offer accessible and fun indoor and outdoor activities to encourage daily physical activity in a non-competitive environment.
- Penticton's top PRIZM profiles of 'suburban recliners' and 'slow lane suburbs' emphasize the need for sport and recreation for an aging population (55+) that values movement and the outdoors. This must be balanced with the 'just getting by' segment, which includes younger households with less income for activities. Offering accessible programming for households with limited discretionary income will be vital for future access to sport and recreation opportunities.
- Being aware of recent immigration trends to Penticton will be helpful in understanding and planning for additional communication needs and potentially different sport and recreation interests of the population.
- Both youth and seniors' population density is higher outside of the city's core. Families and seniors are typically more likely to reside in detached homes than working age adults without children.

3. OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SPORT AND RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE



3.1. Inventory Overview

By the Numbers

The City and its partners provide and manage a significant portfolio of sport and recreation infrastructure with a replacement value well into the hundreds of millions. Summarized as follows is an overview of these facilities by typology.

Indoor Recreation and Sports Infrastructure



4 Arena Ice Sheets
(2 at SOEC, 1 at McLaren Arena, 1 at Memorial Arena)



1 Indoor Artificial Turf
(Sportsplex)



1 Curling Rink
(6 sheets of ice)



1 Community Recreation Centre
(Penticton Community Centre)



1 Gymnasium
(Penticton Community Centre)



1 Fitness Centre
(Penticton Community Centre)



1 Aquatic Facility
(Penticton Community Centre)



2 Indoor Walking Tracks
(SOEC & Sportsplex)



10 SD 67 Gymnasiums
(Part of the Joint Use Agreement)



1 Seniors Centre
(The Centre -Penticton Seniors' Drop-In Centre)

Outdoor Recreation and Sports Infrastructure



5 Rectangular Sport Fields



6 Ball Diamonds



9 Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts



1 Oval / Track Facilities



1 Skatepark



1 Pump Track

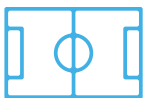


1 BMX Track



13 Tennis Courts*

**4 tennis courts are leased by the Penticton Tennis Club*



4 Sport Courts



1 Full Size Basketball Courts



4 Basketball half courts



13 Pickleball Courts



1 Outdoor Ice Rink



2 Boat Launches



1 Fitness Station



4 Horseshoe Pits



1 Lawn Bowling



2 Disc Golf Courses



6 SD 67 Ball Diamonds



11 SD 67 Rectangular Fields



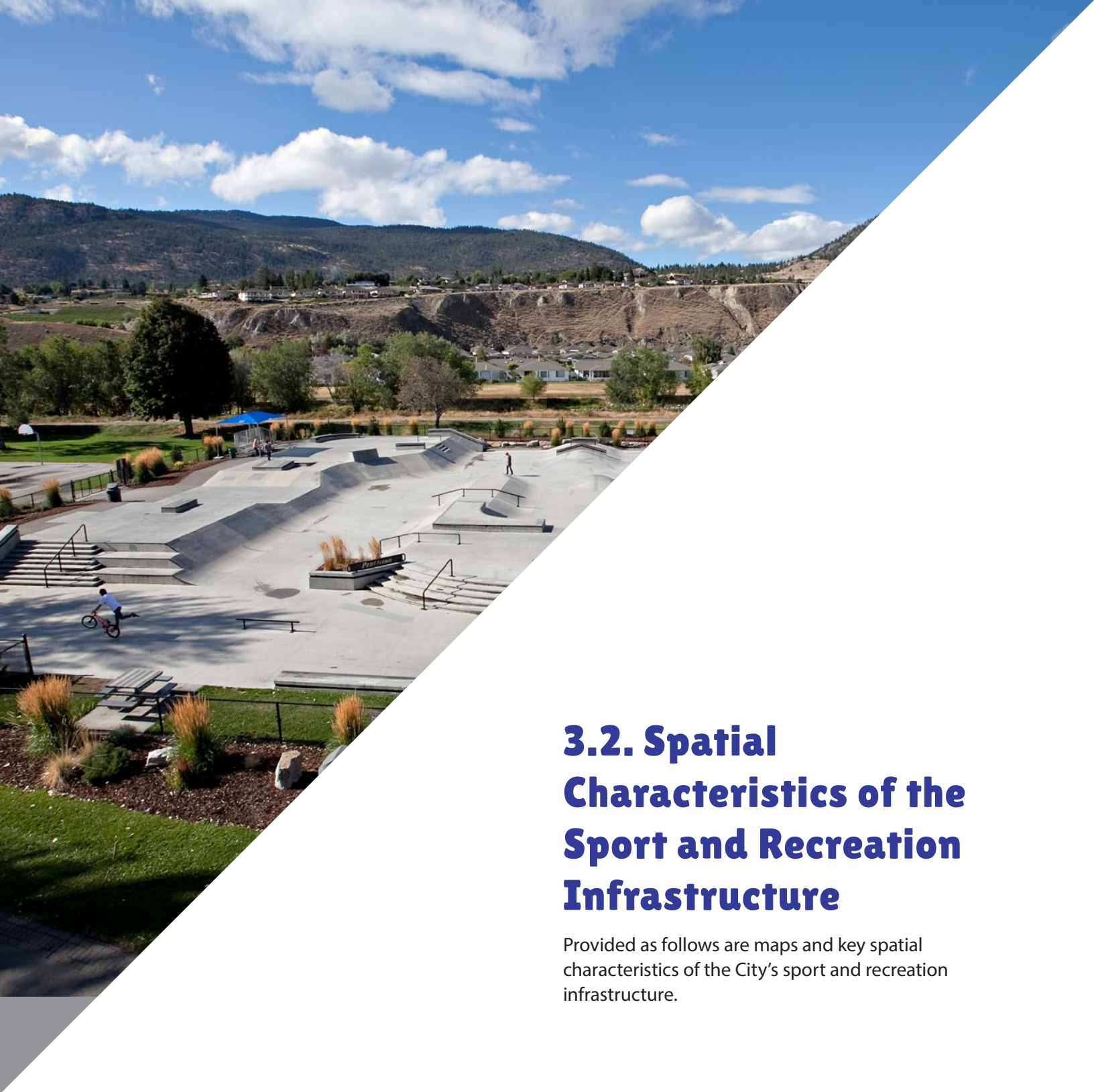
10 SD 67 Tennis Courts



1 SD 67 Track (8 lanes)



5 SD 67 Sport Courts

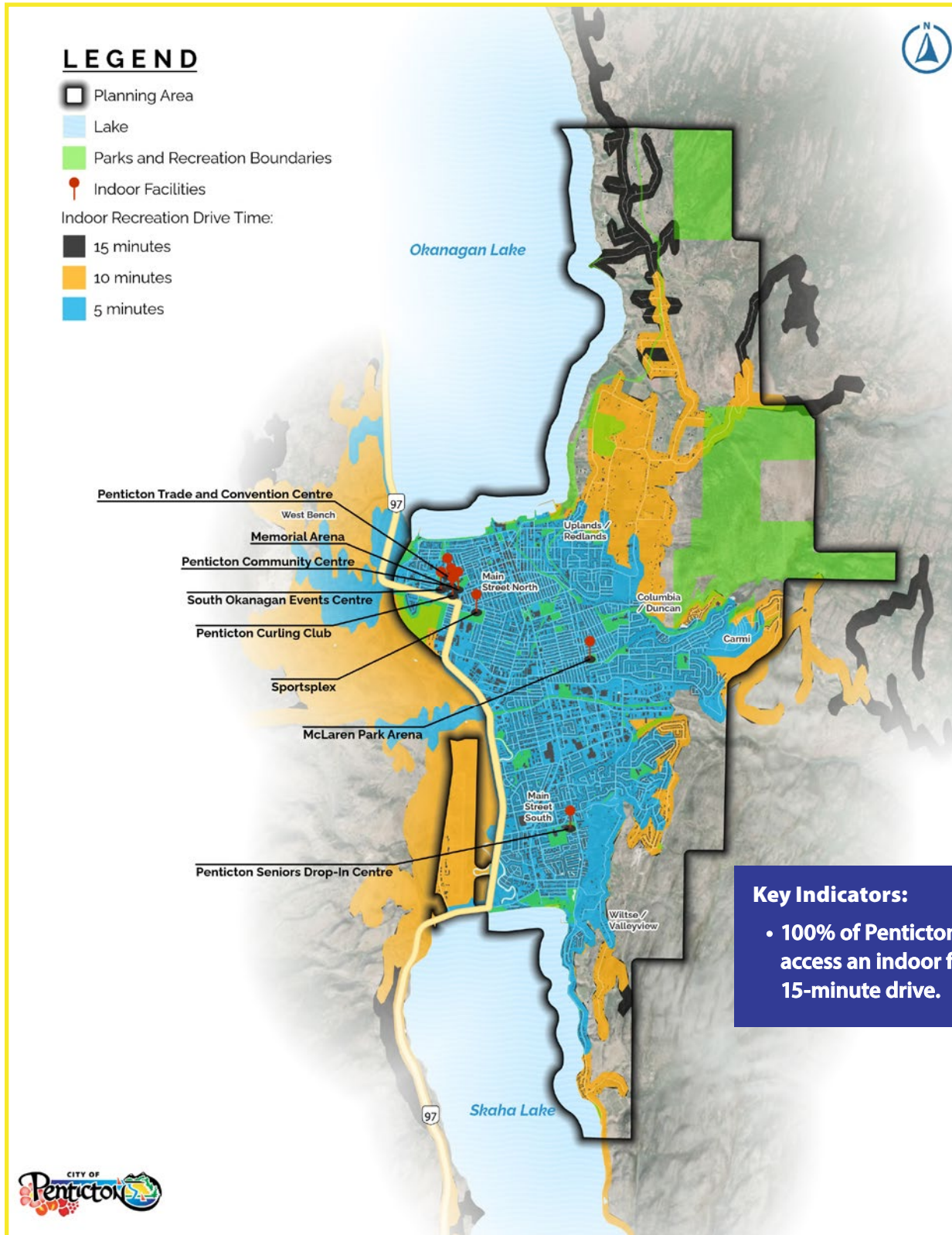


3.2. Spatial Characteristics of the Sport and Recreation Infrastructure

Provided as follows are maps and key spatial characteristics of the City's sport and recreation infrastructure.

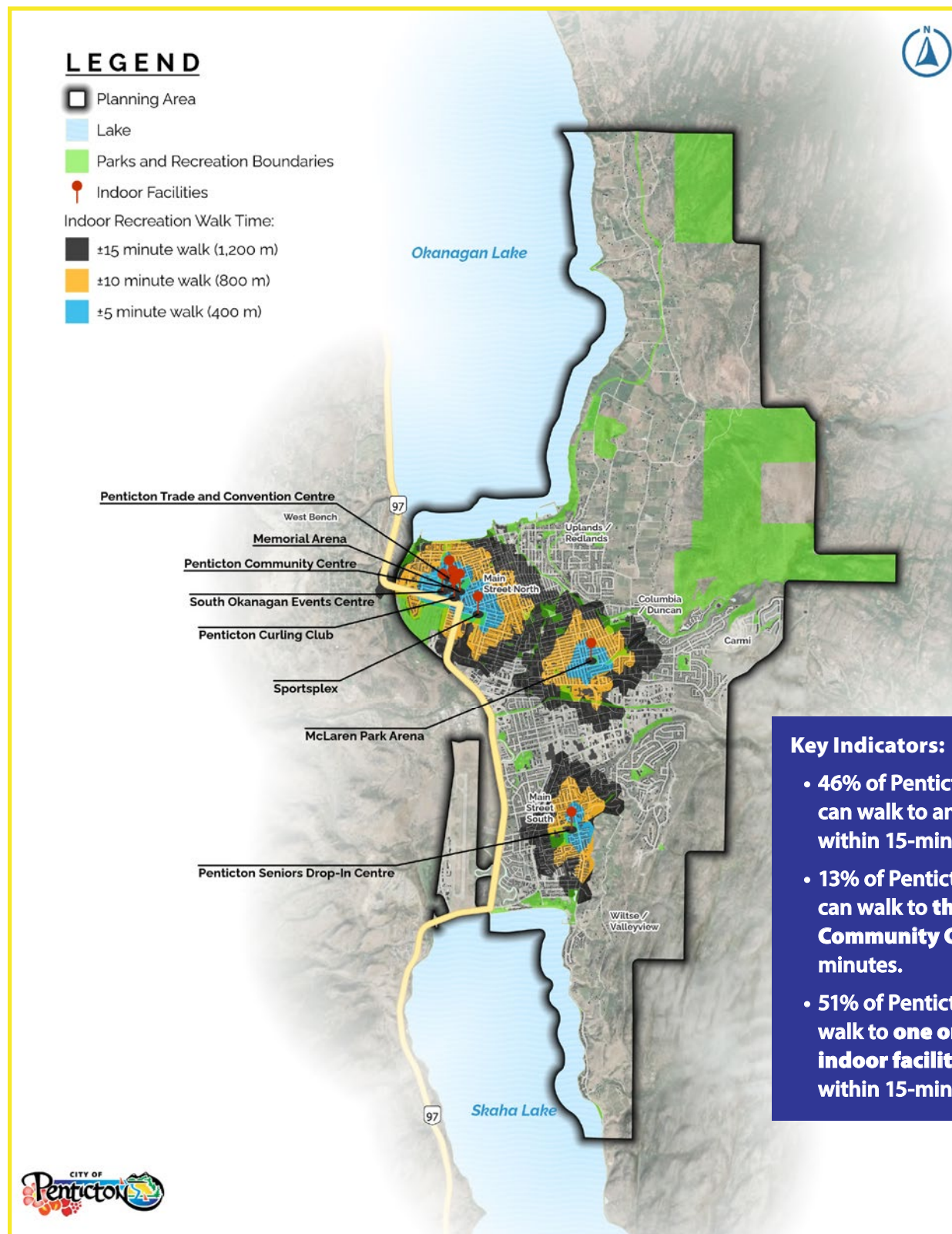
Indoor Facility Infrastructure (Drive)

The following map illustrates spatially where key indoor facilities are located in Penticton. It also provides drive catchment analysis to show 5-, 10-, and 15-minutes radius of these facilities.



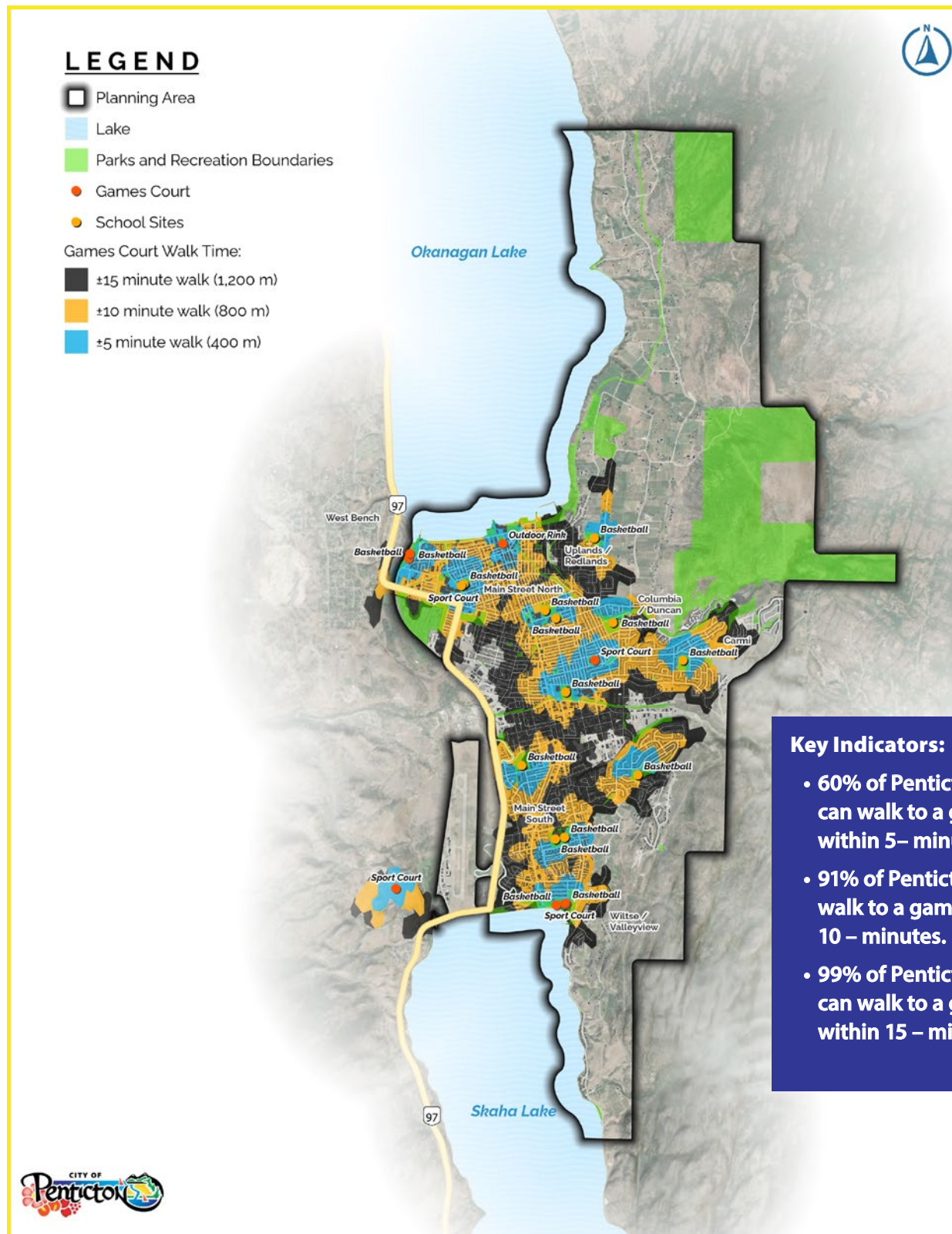
Indoor Facility Infrastructure (Walk)

The following map illustrates spatially where key indoor facilities are located in Penticton. It also provides walk catchment analysis to show 5-, 10-, and 15-minutes radius of these facilities.



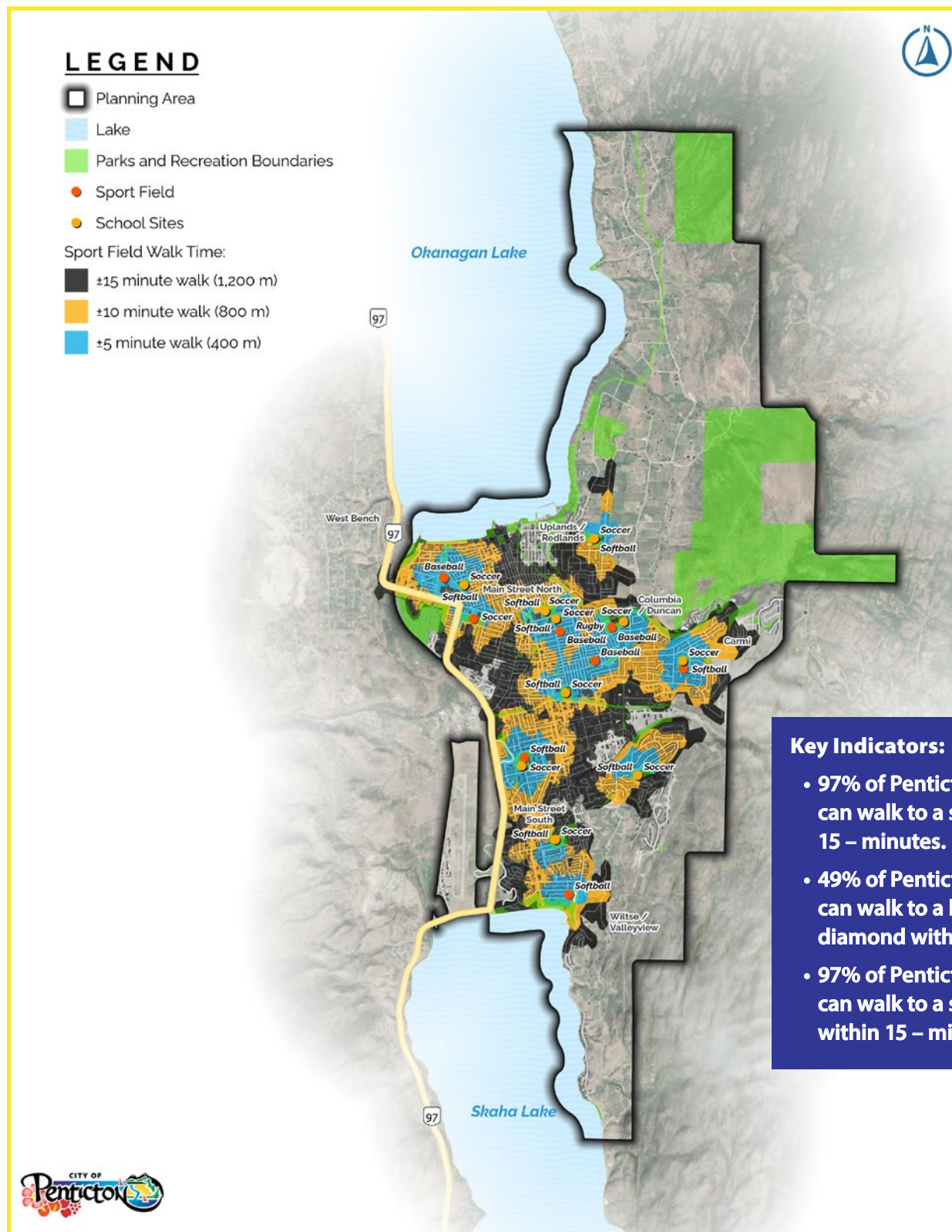
Outdoor Amenity Infrastructure (Games Courts)

The following map illustrates spatially where basketball, sport courts, and outdoor rinks (games courts) are located. It also provides walk catchment analysis to show 5-, 10-, and 15-minutes radius of these amenities. School District amenities are labeled in orange dots and City facilities are labeled by a red dot.



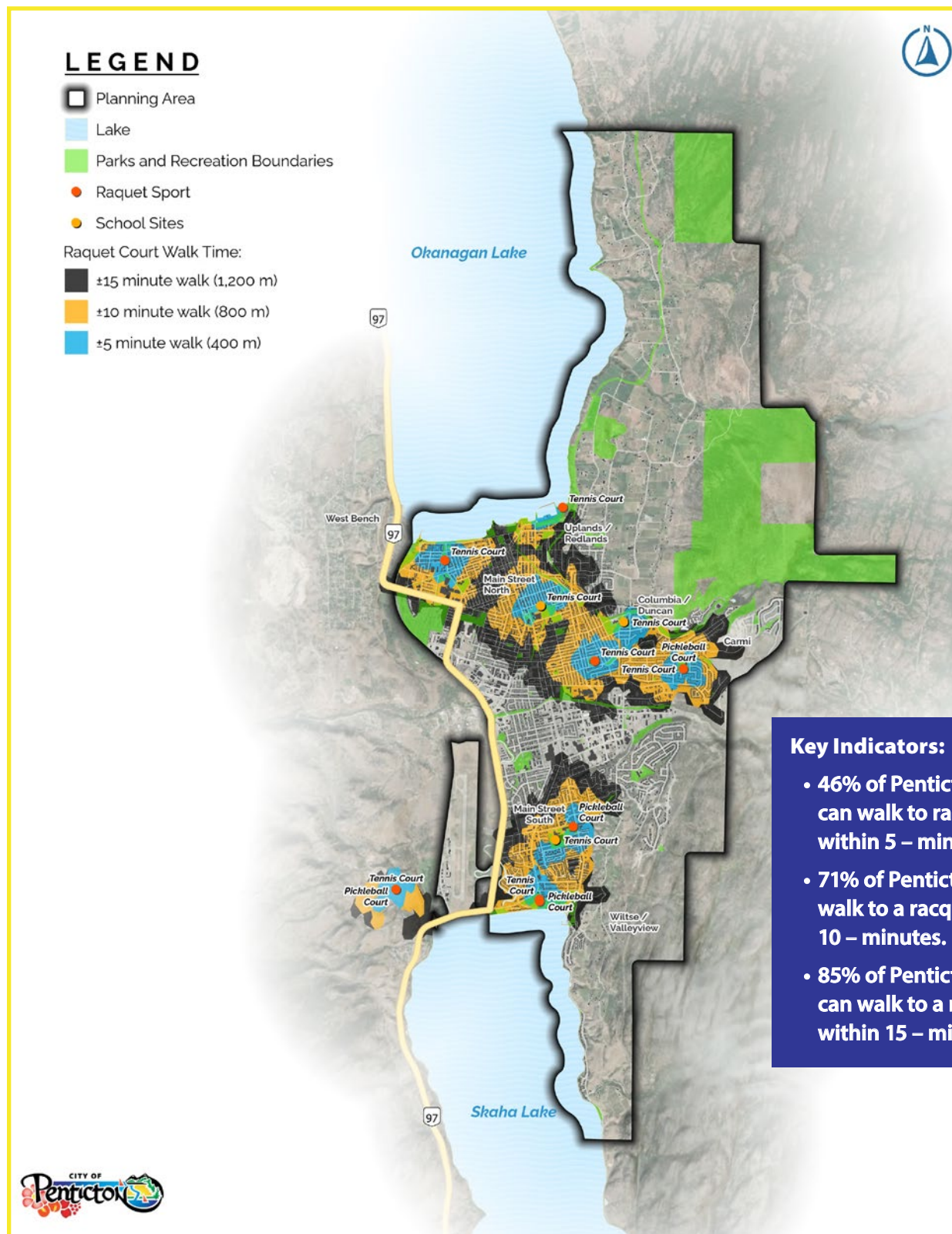
Outdoor Amenity Infrastructure (Sport Fields)

The following map illustrates spatially where diamonds and sport fields are located. It also provides walk catchment analysis to show 5-, 10-, and 15-minutes radius of these amenities. School District amenities are labeled in orange dots and City facilities are labeled by a red dot.



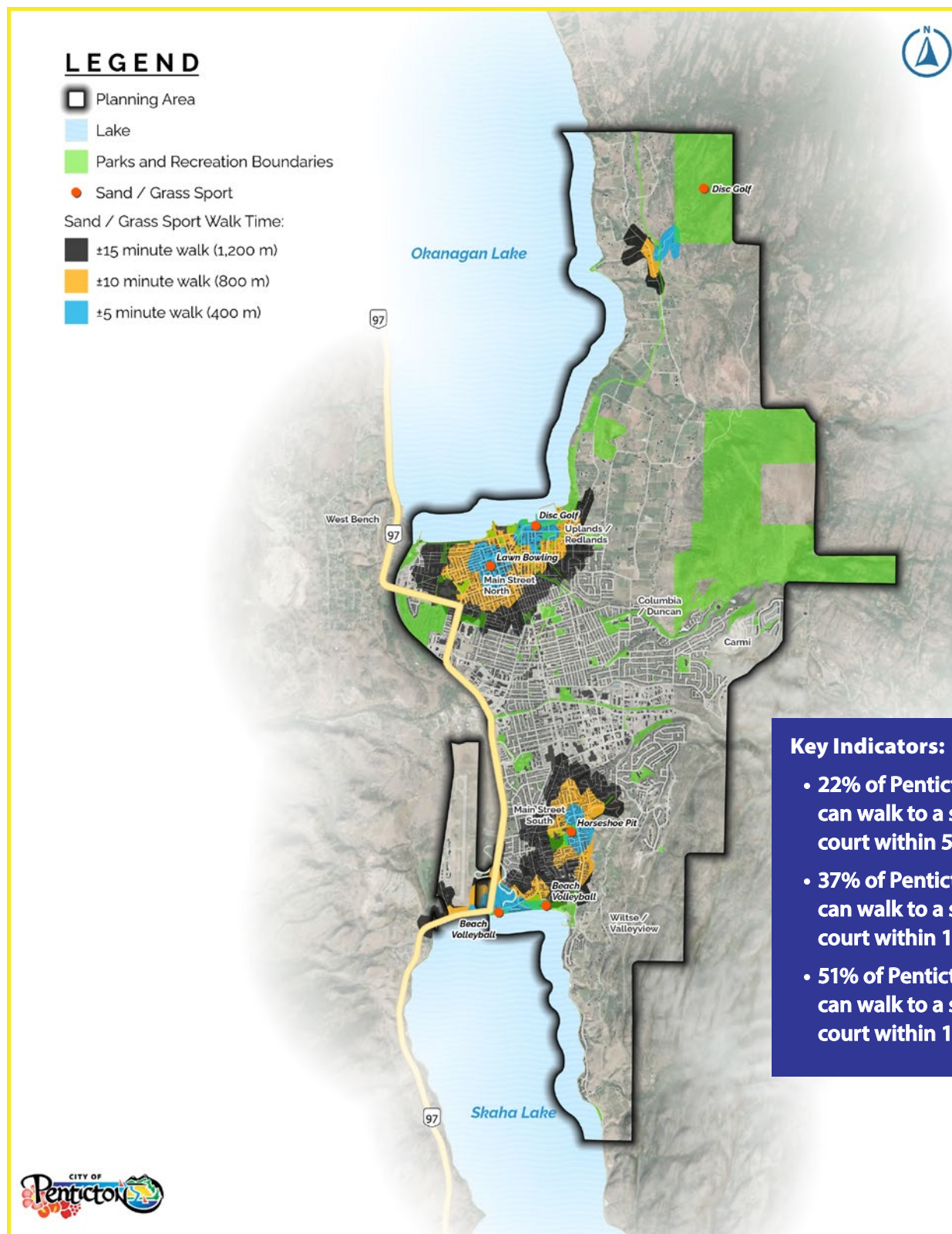
Outdoor Amenity Infrastructure (Raquet Sport Courts)

The following map illustrates spatially where pickleball and tennis courts are located. It also provides walk catchment analysis to show 5-, 10-, and 15-minutes radius of these amenities. School District amenities are labeled in orange dots and City facilities are labeled by a red dot.



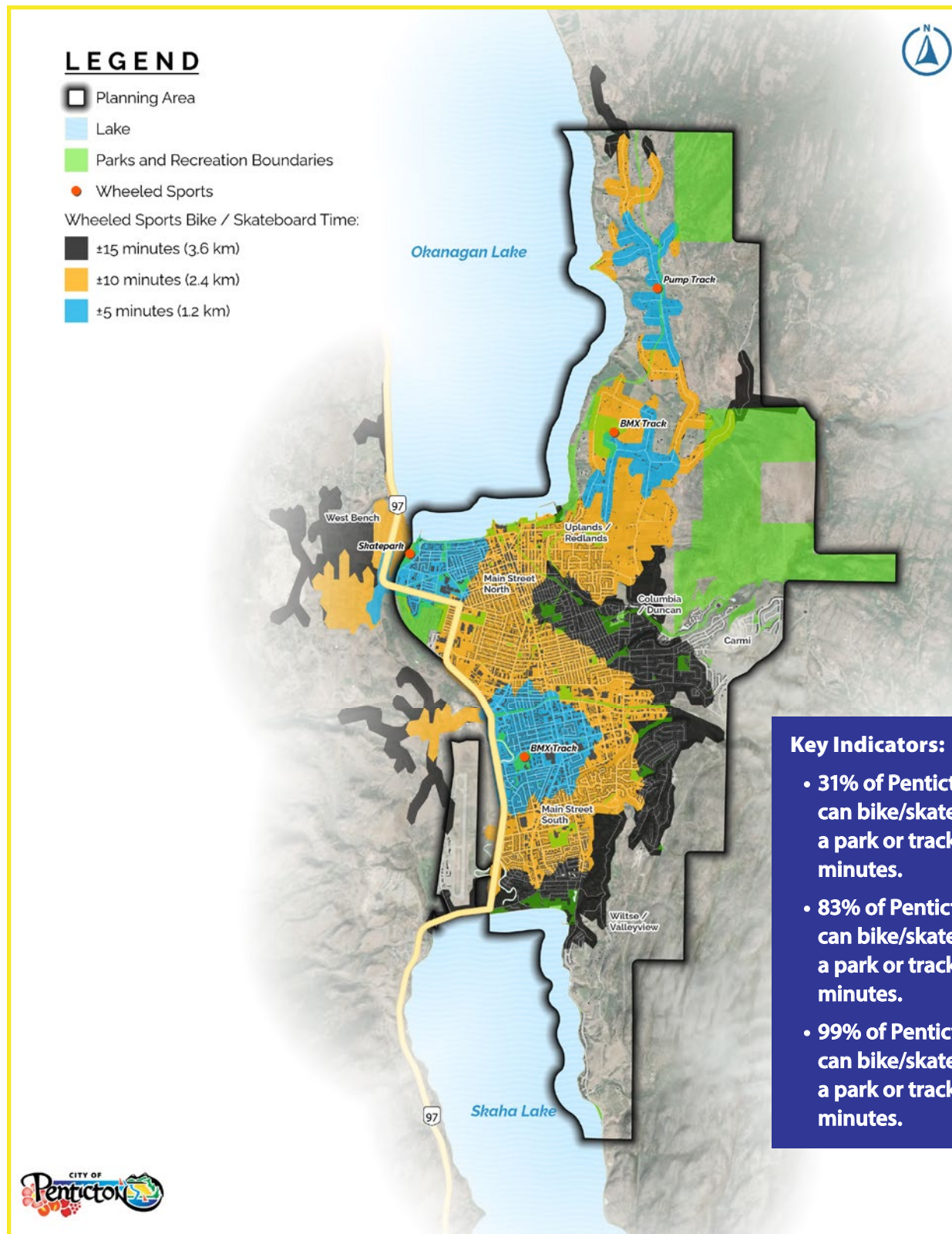
Outdoor Amenity Infrastructure (Sand/ Grass Sports)

The following map illustrates spatially where beach volleyball courts, lawn bowling and disc golf courses (sand/grass sports) are located. It also provides walk catchment analysis to show 5-, 10-, and 15-minutes radius of these amenities.



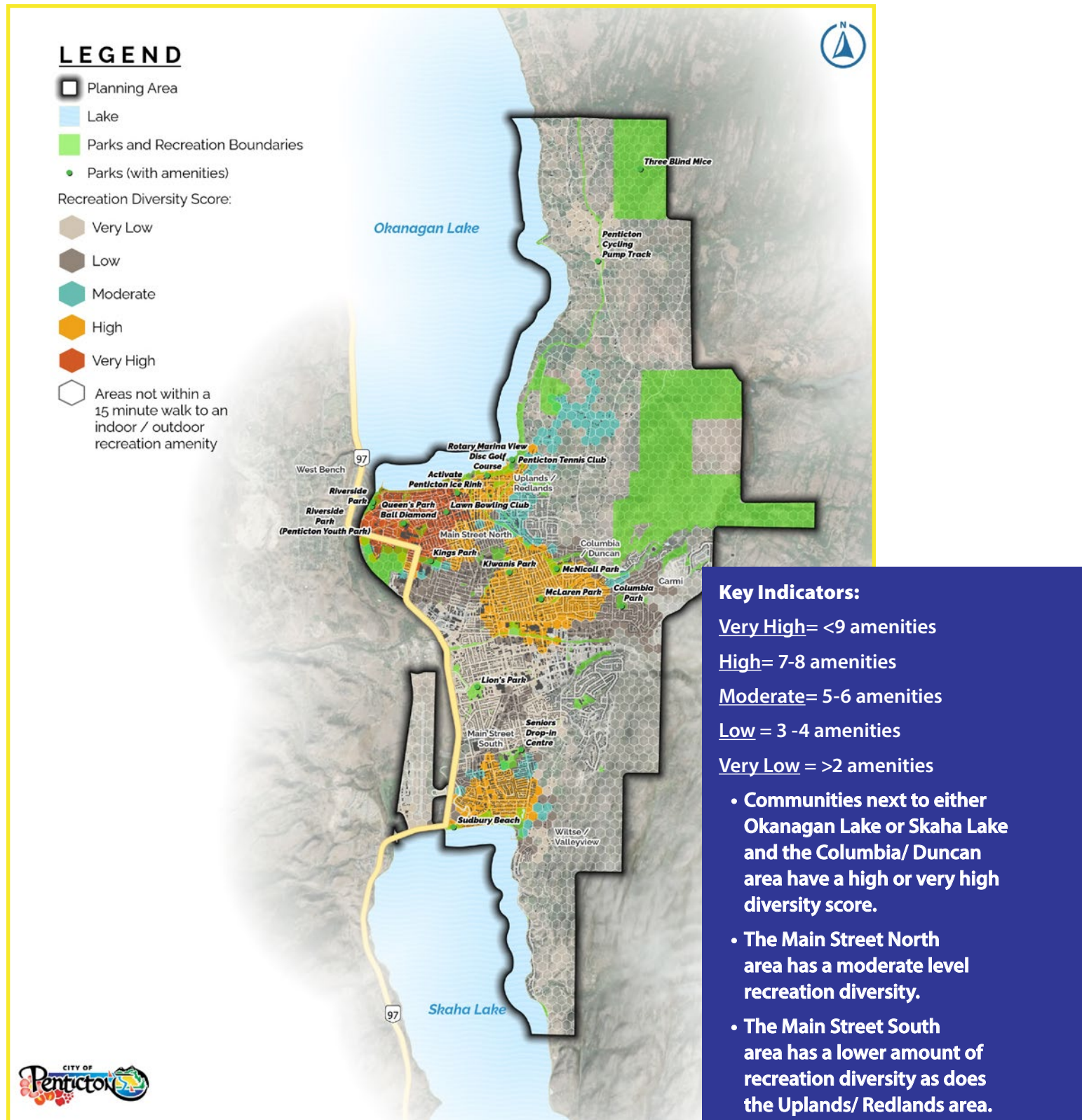
Outdoor Amenity Infrastructure (Wheeled Sports)

The following map illustrates spatially where wheeled sports (skatepark, pump track, BMX track) are located. It also provides bike/skateboard catchment analysis to show 5-, 10-, and 15-minutes radius of these amenities.



Amenity Diversity

The following map provides an overview of the diversity of outdoor and indoor amenities provided in Penticton by assigning a score based on the number of different recreation amenities available within a 15-minute walk. It does not take into account School District amenities. The purpose of this map is to illustrate areas where there are less opportunities to participate in recreation and sport provided by City.





3.3. Condition and Reinvestment Considerations

The consulting team visited key in scope facilities to conduct a high-level functional assessment of existing infrastructure. These facility visits focused on reviewing alignment with best practice and provided an opportunity for the study team to become familiar with the sport and recreation infrastructure in Penticton. Available condition and lifecycle reports were also reviewed in advance of the visits and were used to generally get a sense of remaining facility lifespan and reinvestment requirements. Provided as follows is a synopsis of the reviews.

Indoor Sport and Recreation Infrastructure

The study team architect from FaulknerBrowns visited the following facilities in July 2024.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. SOEC & OHS Training Centre | 5. Penticton Community Centre |
| 2. Memorial Arena | 6. Penticton Curling Rink |
| 3. Sportsplex | |
| 4. McLaren Arena | |

The table below provides an overview of key findings, recommended renovation considerations, and improvements that would be required to align with best practices. The complete assessment report from FaulknerBrowns is provided in Appendix A. Life Cycle Stages are also provided in the table; these stages relate to the age of the facility and the typical level of maintenance associated with the stage (or range) with Stage 1 being a new building.

Table 6. Key Findings, Considerations and Recommended Best Practice Improvements

Community Facility	Year of Construction	Key Findings/Considerations	Recommended Renovation Considerations and Best Practice Improvements
SOEC & OHS Training Centre 853 Eckhardt Ave West <i>multi-purpose arena facility with two NHL regulation-sized ice sheets</i>	2008 Life Cycle Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-use sport and entertainment facility hosts world-class concerts and major stadium events, hockey games, rentals Home to the Penticton Vees ice hockey team OHS Training Centre home to Okanagan Hockey School and Okanagan Hockey Academy (400 seats) Capacity: Ice hockey: 4,701; Concerts: 6,432 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review opportunities for additional energy efficiency opportunities/GHG improvements. As equipment ages and energy costs change (long term), e.g. heat recovery to be shared with Aquatic Centre, Interior loading dock/vestibule to mitigate energy loss through overhead doors. Comprehensive accessibility review, including opportunities to provide accessible access to ice surfaces.
Memorial Arena 399 Power Street 2,212 seat <i>multi-purpose arena with single community ice sheet</i>	1951, 1994-1996 (Major renovations for functionality and structural stability) Life Cycle Stage 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80'x180' ice surface, change rooms, concession, admin spaces and spectator seating for approximately 2000. Rentals, hockey, figure skating events, training camps as well as a variety of dry floor sporting and entertainment events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2017 study looked at upgrades required to expand the ice surface and dasher boards to a 200' x 85' regulation size surface, with associated upgrades to players, penalty and timekeepers' boxes and reduced spectator seating capacity to accommodate increased ice area. Currently, snow dumping requires zambonis to drive across parking areas to access the pit at SOEC. Renovation/reconfiguration should give consideration to shared snow pit melt access.

Community Facility	Year of Construction	Key Findings/Considerations	Recommended Renovation Considerations and Best Practice Improvements
Sportsplex 550 Eckhardt Ave West <i>Indoor multi-sport artificial turf facility</i>	2009 Life Cycle Stage 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can accommodate many sports and activity groups such as soccer, field hockey, ultimate frisbee • Rentals, home to Pinnacles Football Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility is underutilized in the summer due to overheating and available lower-cost outdoor fields. Consider mechanical improvements indoor comfort and conditions where economically feasible (air flow and cooling; heating). • Current storage needs are being met with the use of two sea can shipping containers. Consider renovation/addition for dedicated storage. • The City is planning a renovation of the Sportsplex to add washrooms, change rooms, a concession, and meeting space.
McLaren Arena 350 King Street <i>300 seat community single-sheet arena</i>	1967/1972, Renovated 2018 Life Cycle Stage 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80ftx180ft ice surface, change rooms, concession, admin spaces and spectator seating for approximately 300 • Public skating, sports games, lesson programs, party rentals and other ice activities • Hosts some dry floor activities in the spring , however the low ceiling height restricts some use. • Home to the Glengarry Skating Club. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previously identified life safety/ maintenance upgrades are required, along with modernizations. • As proposed in 2017 study, through expansion and renovation a new lobby and additional changerooms could be added to extend utilization. Additional dressing rooms would allow for optimized efficiency of ice time and programming. There is room for modest expansion on site, with potential impacts to parking and adjacent park. • Renovation to relocate player's benches to a location that doesn't require crossing the ice and that includes an exit door from the benches. • Modify bleachers to provide code conforming stairs and handrails, and code-compliant minimum egress route widths between the bleachers and the dasher boards. • Accessibility improvements, including automatic door openers. • Given the age of the facility, the capital cost of upgrades should be reviewed against replacement value.

Community Facility	Year of Construction	Key Findings/Considerations	Recommended Renovation Considerations and Best Practice Improvements
Penticton Community Centre 325 Power St <i>Large Aquatics, health, fitness, social and recreation facility</i>	1981, Renovation of Aquatics Centre 2011 Life Cycle Stage 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 lane, 25 meter square lap pool, leisure pool, waterslide, large whirlpool, sauna and steam room, 2nd floor fitness centre (cardio and strength training, free weights and open floor space for mat exercises), Multi-purpose program rooms, Fitness and recreational classes, Gymnasium, Dance studio 443-seat Cleland Theatre (Penticton's premiere performing arts venue) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility Improvements, including reception counter and administration millwork improvements, adjusted general mounting heights for controls, fixtures and fittings, tactile and braille room signage and improved wayfinding. • Extended changeroom/shower partitions to address privacy issues • Acoustic mitigation between upper-level fitness and administration spaces below
Penticton Curling Rink 505 Veas Drive <i>6 sheet curling rink with lounge</i>	1985 Life Cycle Stage 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 sheet rink with lobby/viewing area, kitchen and bar and lounge • Daytime and evening leagues for all skill levels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility improvements to stairs, washrooms and entrances.

Outdoor Sport and Recreation Infrastructure

Selected outdoor sport and recreation sites and facilities were visited by a member of the study team in July 2024. While the indoor facility visits were focused on specific infrastructure, the outdoor visits focused on identifying overarching strengths and gaps of the inventory and potential planning considerations. The following table provides a synopsis of key themes and observations from the visits. The City’s 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan additionally included a more comprehensive review of outdoor assets, including parks and trails.

<div>Strengths<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of sports fields and diamonds, reflecting strong maintenance practices and building specs.• Accessibility via the active transportation network and roadways.• Diversity of ball diamond typologies with a strong mix of diamond types to support progressive ball programming throughout the ages and types of ball.• Strong diversity of sport court types. Many courts, including the pickleball courts located adjacent to the Seniors’ Drop-In Centre, are highly used.• For a relatively contained community, Penticton offers numerous open green spaces for casual and spontaneous use.• The park system is strongly connected to natural assets, most notably the two lakes that bookend the community. This provides significant recreation and sport potential, including for events (as numerous other studies have noted).</div>	<div>Potential Gaps<ul style="list-style-type: none">• While the ball diamond inventory is generally in excellent condition, most diamonds exist in 1-2 diamond configurations. The city lacks ball diamond hubs which may limit tournament hosting and the ability to program multiple age groups on the same site.• The lack of artificial turf provision in the city likely impacts shoulder season capacity and increases use of (and stress on) natural surface fields.• Most existing sites have minimal expansion potential due to adjacent structures and configuration. The lack of flat land in the city additionally presents a challenge when looking at potential sites for outdoor recreation and sport use.• The track and athletics facilities located at Penticton Secondary School require renewal and the addition of amenities to meet event hosting requirements.</div>
<div>Planning Considerations<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skaha Lake Park is a signature recreation asset in the community. Opportunities exist to renew and re-imagine aspects of the park to meet existing and emerging recreation needs.• Trending activities like pickleball, mountain biking and BMX have good but relatively limited space in Penticton.• While the site visits indicate that the City has strong maintenance practices, surface and amenity renewal of these sites will need to occur over time to sustain quality and functional conditions.• Future planning will need to further identify if renewal (in the current use) or retrofit is the options for several outdoor amenities and spaces. The track at McNicholl Park is one example of an observed amenity that requires renewal or retrofit. Outdoor courts that are underutilized may also be strong candidates for retrofit to meet trending activities.• Conducting asset management analysis to identify opportunities for park upgrades in parallel with future city developments/upcoming projects and their timelines.• Exploring grants and partnerships with user groups to help fund projects.</div>	

3.4. Amenity Service Levels

The following tables identify the following service level characteristics of key indoor and outdoor amenity types in Penticton:

- The current service level based on the number of residents per unit of provision.
- Benchmarking comparison of service levels based on the average number of residents per unit of provision in the comparator communities (Mission, Campbell River, Courtenay, Vernon, Cranbrook, Port Moody, Langford).
**These comparator communities were selected based on having a similar population to Penticton and the availability of verifiable data.*
- The potential impacts of anticipated growth over the next 10 years on service levels (how they will change / expand if no new facilities are developed).

Table 7. Outdoor Sport and Recreation Facility Service Levels in Penticton

Facility Type	Current Service Level	Benchmarking Comparison (2024) ¹	Potential Impacts of Growth on Service Levels ² (10-year)
Community Ice Sheets	1:12,295	1:18,874	1:13,893.
Event Ice Sheet	1:36,885	-	1:41,680
Indoor Aquatic Facilities	1:36,885	1:33,070	1:41,680
Fitness Centre (municipally operated)	1:36,885	1:27,571	1:41,680
Gymnasiums (municipally operated, not including schools)	1:36,885	1:25,879	1:41,680
Indoor Turf	1:36,885	1:26,109	1:41,680
Curling (overall facilities; not based on sheets of ice)	1:36,885	1:34,038	1:41,680

1

Benchmarking comparison uses the municipalities of Mission, Campbell River, Courtenay, Vernon, Cranbrook, Port Moody, Langford

2

Uses growth projections from BC Stats to reflect how service levels would be impacted if the number of each facility type remains the same as growth occurs.

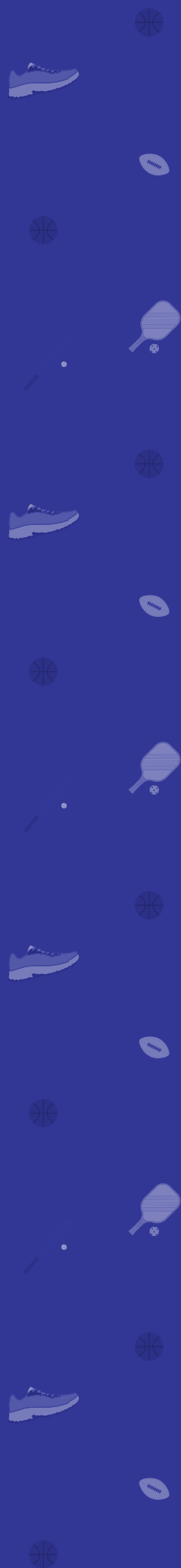
Table 8. Outdoor Sport and Recreation Facility Service Levels in Penticton

Facility Type	Current Service Level	Benchmarking Comparison (2024)	Potential Impacts of Growth on Service Levels (10-year)
Natural Turf Rectangular Fields	1:9,221	1:7,169	1:10,420
Artificial Turf Fields	-	1: 25,700	-
Ball Diamonds	1:4,098	1:3,898	1:4,631
Pickleball Courts	1:2,837	1:9,685	1:4,631
Tennis Courts	1:2,837	1:6,369	1:4,168
Sports Box	1:9,221	1:35,531	1:10,420
Sand Volleyball Court	1:4,098	1:10,291	1:4,631
Basketball Courts	1:7,377	1:12,680	1:8,336
Disc Golf	1:18,443	1:35,514	1:20,840
Skatepark	1:36,885	1:35,831	1:41,680
Pump Track	1:36,885	1:30,740	1:41,680
BMX Track	1:36,885	-	1:41,680

Key Findings: Amenity Service Levels Analysis

- Penticton provides the majority of amenities at similar service levels to the comparator communities. Amenities provided at a better service level in Penticton compared to the other communities are arenas and pickleball and tennis courts. **The arena context in Penticton is unique relative to many other communities with a similar or slightly lower level of ice provision due to the existence of a junior team and the Okanagan Hockey Academy in Penticton.*
- Penticton's provision of a significant spectator arena and event facility (South Okanagan Event Centre) is unique amongst the comparator communities. Typically, this type of venue is found in larger jurisdictions.
- 5 of the 7 comparator communities provide artificial turf, with two of these communities having multiple artificial turf fields.
- Service levels generally expand (worsen) as communities grow. Penticton is expected to grow by approximately 5,000 residents over the next decade; this level of growth is likely to impact demand for existing facilities, however no amenity types in the previous tables are at a current service level "tipping point" that requires additional supply to be added in 10 years to maintain existing service levels. As such, amenity priorities will need to be rationalized based on other inputs (e.g. utilization suggesting that amenities are at capacity, benefits rationale, etc.).

4. AMENITY UTILIZATION INDICATORS



4.1. Indoor Facility and Amenity Utilization

The following section outlines the booked use of City owned and operated sports and recreation spaces and outlines the key elements of agreements in place for external organizations to support community sports and recreation.



School District 67 Facilities & Joint Use Agreement

A Joint Use Agreement between the City and the School District is in place. This agreement is meant to share and maximize the facilities throughout the City and School District and to make bookings and use of facilities as efficient as possible. The most recent agreement was signed in December of 2009 and is set to be modernized in 2025/2026.

Key Elements of the Agreement

- The City and the School District will work together as much as possible to plan and organize the use of their facilities for school and community activities. This includes both City facilities and School District facilities listed below.
- The City can schedule community recreation and cultural activities in school district buildings from 6:00 PM to either one hour before the custodial shift ends or 10:00 PM, Monday to Friday on school days. For field facilities, the City can schedule these activities from 6:00 PM to either one hour before the custodial shift ends or 10:00 PM, Monday to Friday, and from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM on non-instructional days.
- After receiving the schedules for City use, the School District may carry out school-sanctioned curricular and extracurricular activities in City facilities between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM on instructional days. However, these school activities cannot include for-profit programs such as hockey academies unless agreed upon in writing by the City.
- The City and the School District agree to charge each other only for the direct costs of staff, materials, instructors and program administration for use of the facilities/ activities.
- The administrative staff of the City and the School District will periodically consult on the development and funding of school and recreation facilities. When suitable, they will also collaborate on planning and developing recreation and culture programs and opportunities.
- The City and the School District agree to consider joint participation in capital projects and to propose joint projects on a case-by-case basis. For any proposed joint project, a planning committee will be set up with agreed terms and authority.

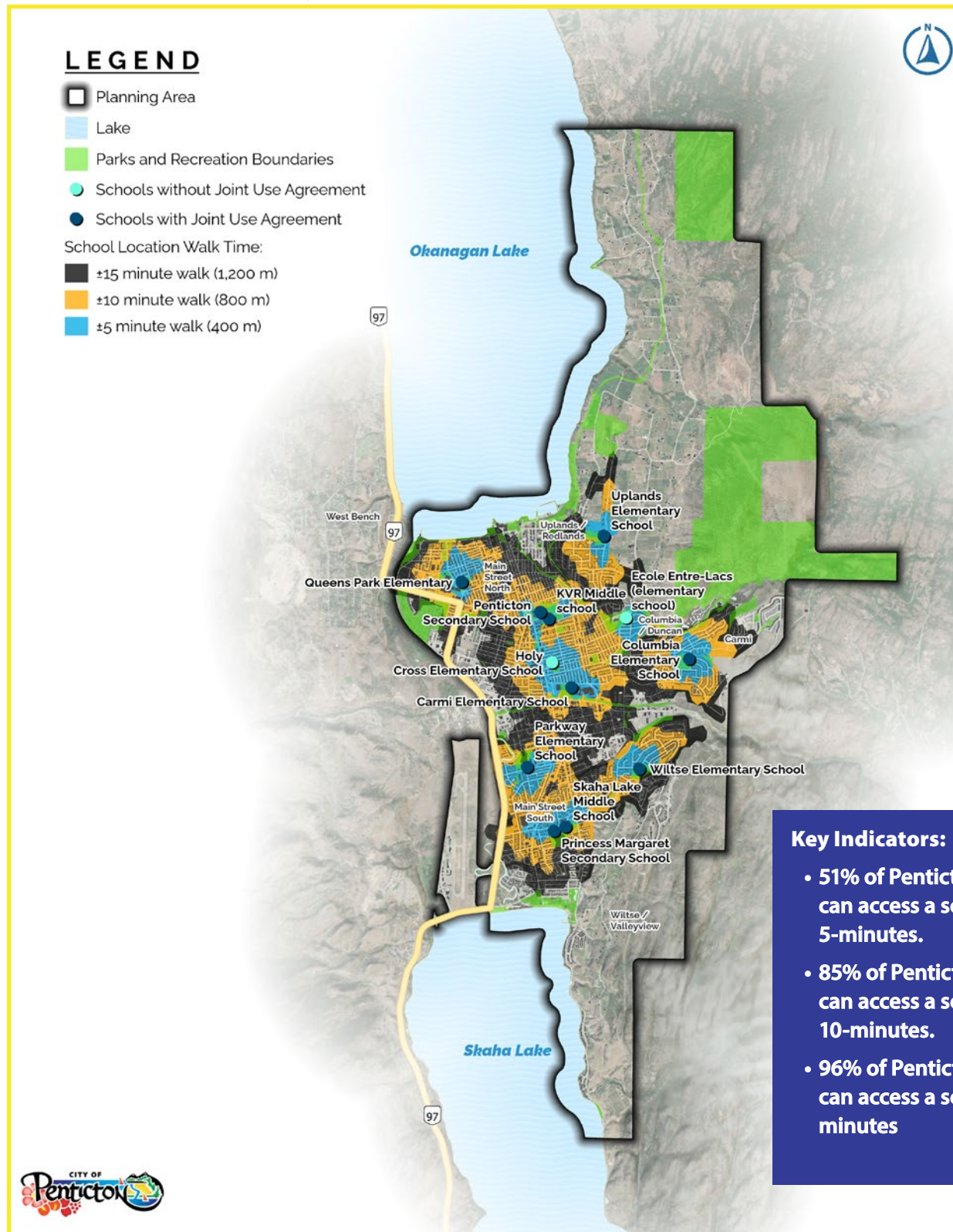
Amenities Included in the Agreement

Amenities included in the agreement are listed below.

City Facilities		School District 67 Facilities	
Indoor	Outdoor	Indoor	Outdoor
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• McLaren Park Arena• Community Centre<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Pool◦ Gymnasium◦ Fitness Room◦ Meeting Rooms• Cleland Community Theatre• Library/ Museum Auditorium• Sportsplex	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outdoor tennis courts• Playing fields• City Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gymnasiums• Classrooms• Multi-purpose rooms• Home Ec Rooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Playing fields• Track and field facilities• Tennis courts• Sports courts

Map of Schools in Penticton




The following map illustrate where schools are located in Penticton. Schools that are part of the Joint Use Agreement are indicated with a navy dot and those not within the agreement are indicated with a turquoise dot. It also provides walk catchment analysis to show 5-, 10-, and 15-minutes radius of school facilities. **This map is meant to illustrate how the schools inventory maximizes geographic access to recreation amenities. Most schools have a gymnasium, sport field and/or diamond and a playground.** *As of June 2025, Carmi and Parkway Elementary will not be included within the Joint Use Agreement.



Aquatics Use Analysis

When analyzing utilization of indoor aquatics facilities, one key benchmark is to look at annual swims per capita. Annual swims per capita reflect every individual visit to an aquatics facility as tracked by the facility. 6 annual swims per capita is often used as a benchmark to reflect an optimal level of aquatics utilization – at this level of utilization an aquatics facility (or a system of aquatics facilities) are recovering as much cost as possible without typically exceeding capacity. Table 9. below shows annual swim visits to the Penticton Community Centre pool from 2019 – 2023, excluding 2020 and 2021 because of the public health mandated closures for COVID -19. The total swim visits were calculated by adding the number of visits to the pools that emanated from membership scans, drop-in or casual admissions, lessons and programs provided at the pool, and an estimation of the visits emanating from rentals. Table 9 shows that swim visits have increased by 8% from 2022 – 2023. A more drastic change from 2019 – 2023 (30%) is also shown below but in 2019 the facility, registration and membership management software changed, it is possible there may have been some data transfer gaps.

Table 9. Swim Visits 2019 - 2023

Swimming Visits	2019	2022	2023	Trend Line
Total Swims	137,491	163,713	177,630	
Population Penticton	33,761	36,885	36,885	
Swims Per Capita	4.1	4.4	4.8	

Population Source: Statistics Canada 2021 Census of the Population

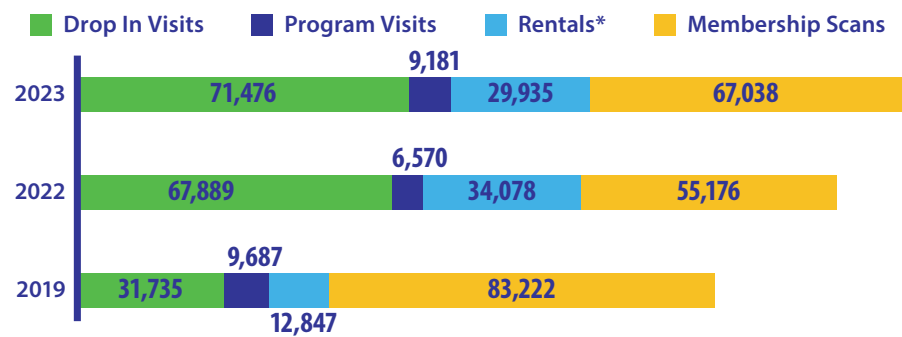
At just under 5 swims per capita, the available data reflects that Penticton is operating at fairly close to an optimal level of aquatics use with room to accommodate increased population growth. It is important to note that this statement is not implying that the pool isn’t experiencing some challenges with programming wait lists or water space capacity during specific peak times. Rather, the available data suggests that these challenges may be related more to other factors (e.g. ability to find staff, operating hours, and managing the allocation of pool time across different demands / activities) and that more water space (e.g. a pool expansion or second pool) is not needed in the short to medium term to meet overall needs and would likely result in an oversupply of this costly amenity.

A few indicators could indicate that more indoor aquatics supply is needed in the future and trigger and more detailed investigation by the city.

- Swim visits experience decline over multiple years, suggesting that “frustrated swims” are occurring. The term “frustrated swims” reflects demand that cannot be accommodated because the pool is perceived to be too busy (e.g. an individual that wants to regularly lane swim cannot do so because there are not sufficient times or lanes).
- Swims visits exceed well beyond 6 or 7 swims per capita, suggesting that the pool is on the pathway to being maxed out for capacity.
- Wait lists continue to grow for core programming such as children and youth swim lessons and cannot be primarily attributed to staffing challenges or operating hours.

Graph 5 below shows the break down of the type of facility visits in 2019, 2022 and 2023. As is common for aquatic facilities, the majority of swims in 2023 emanate from drop-in visits (40%) and membership scans (38%). What has changed is the proportion of visits emanating from membership scans vs drop-in swims. In 2019, 61% of visits came from memberships scans and 23% came from drop-in visits, while in 2023 38% came from membership scans and 40% came from drop-in visits.

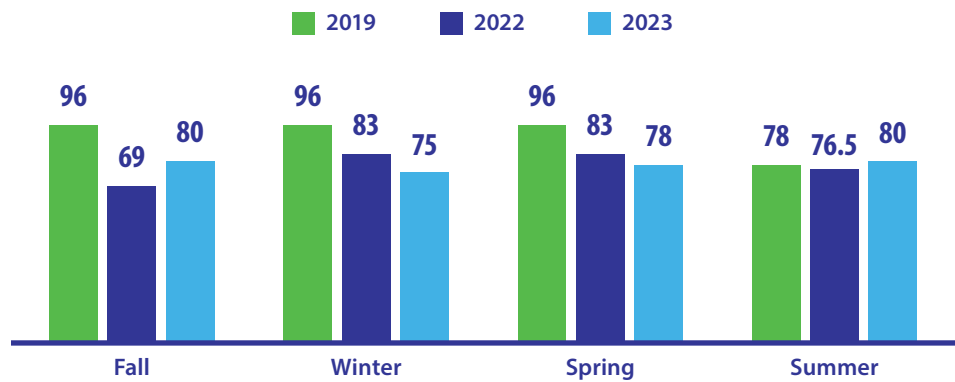
Graph 5. Proportion of Total Swim Visits



**Assumed that rentals included approx. 5 people per lane per 1.5 hrs booked.*

Another notable finding from the aquatics analysis was the decrease in operating hours from 2019 to 2023 as illustrated by Graph 6. Despite this decrease in hours, swim visits have increased which suggests that demand for aquatics is high.

Graph 6. Operating Hours Per Week (2019, 2022 & 2023)



Arena – Ice Use

Most ice user groups in Penticton are well established. Since 2023 is the most recent full year of use following the COVID-19 Pandemic for most of those user groups, we will focus on that year for this analysis, rather than providing a comparison of the last three years of booking data (e.g. what we will do for the amenities when data is available). Additionally, the focus will be on the OHS Training Centre Arena (OHS TC), Memorial Arena, and the McLaren Arena. While the South Okanagan Event Centre arena provides additional ice to the community, it is primarily an event facility and is not counted as a dedicated ice surface available for community sport.

The following tables outlines the assumptions that were made when analyzing the data provided.

Table 10. Data Assumptions Used for the Analysis

Assumptions	Description
Prime Ice	After 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM on weekdays and all day on weekends
Non- Prime Ice	Daytime bookings 6:30 AM – 3:00 PM on weekdays
Ice Out	Whenever the booking data noted that ice was taken out, that booking of 'no ice' was removed
Maintenance	Ice maintenance that took place during the ice in period was kept in as a booked use. Flooding the ice was not booked separately, for each booking another 15 minutes of use was added to account for time between bookings that flooding likely occurs in.
Peak Ice Season	Bookings from October – February are considered peak season ice bookings. Key sports begin to host games, and competitions are beginning to take place.
Non – Peak Ice Season	Ice use during the non – peak time periods (March – September depending on if/ when ice is taken out for maintenance or dry floor use).

Table 11. Ice In and Out Dates

Arena	Ice Out	Ice In
Memorial Arena	March 18, 2023	May 29, 2023
OHS Training Centre	May 30th, 2023	July 2, 2023
McLaren Arena*	April 1, 2023	July 1, 2023

The following table indicates the hours booked during Peak Ice Use Season (October – February) in 2023. During prime hours 92% of total prime capacity is booked across all three community use arenas. 74% of the total available ice time is booked and 50% of non-prime ice time is booked.

Table 12. Peak Ice Season

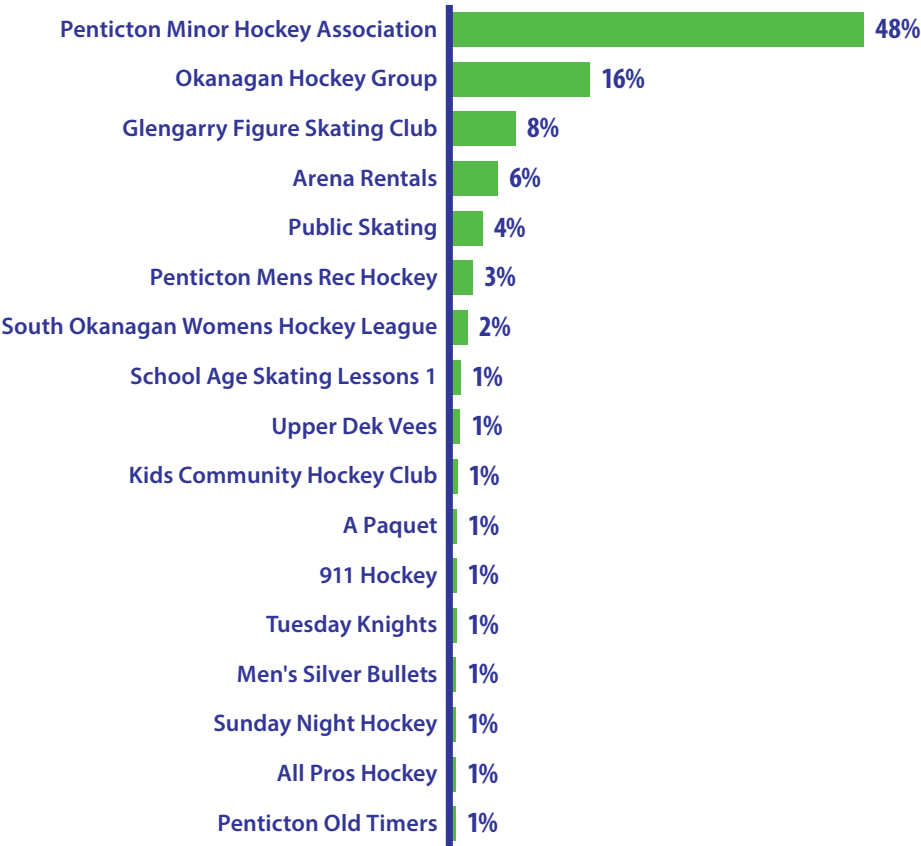
Peak Ice Use Season	OHS TC	Memorial	McLaren*	Total
Total Hours Booked	1,655	1,531	1,766	4,952
Hours Booked Prime	1,213	1,172	1,152	3,537
Hours Booked Non- Prime	441	359	615	1,415
Total Hours Available	2,216	2,216	2,216	6,648
Prime Hours Available	1,280	1,280	1,280	3,840
Non-Prime Hours Available	936	936	936	2,808
% Booked of Prime Capacity	95%	92%	90%	92%
% Booked of Non-Prime Capacity	47%	38%	66%	50%
% Booked of Total Capacity	75%	69%	80%	74%

*McLaren used 2022-2023 season

Types of Use During Prime

During prime hours Penticton Minor Hockey (PMHA) (48%), the Okanagan Hockey Group (OHG)(16%), and the Glengarry Figure Skating Club (8%), book the highest proportion of the time booked.

Graph 7. Proportion of Booked Use during Prime Time



South Okanagan Event Centre (SOEC)

The SOEC accommodated approximately 650 hours of community bookings during prime hours and the peak ice season in 2023. The PMHA accounts for 66% of those additional bookings, and the OHG accounts for 20%. This does not represent all ice bookings (i.e. excludes Penticton Vees).

The ice time booked for community use is not guaranteed to be available years after year. The ice time booked at SOEC for community use is also more than the left over/ un-booked prime time ice outlined in the Table 12 Peak Season Ice. This suggests that if less hours were available, current ice users would not be allocated the same ice time for there programs. Notably, in 2025/2026 the Penticton Vees will join the WHL; this could mean more games and practices and potentially less availability for community use.

The following table indicates the hours booked in the three arenas during the Non- Peak Ice Use Season (March – September). 55% of prime capacity is booked, and 58% of non-prime capacity is booked.

Table 13. Non- Peak Ice Season

Non - Peak Demand Scenario	OHS TC	Memorial	McLaren*	Total
Total Hours Booked	1,462	970	879	3,311
Hours Booked Prime	804	577	378	1,760
Hours Booked Non- Prime	658	291	500	1,449
Total Hours Available	2,220	1,665	1,860	5,745
Prime Hours Available	1,257	936	1,008	3,201
Non-Prime Hours Available	963	729	852	2,544
% Booked of Prime Capacity	64%	62%	38%	55%
% Booked of Non-Prime Capacity	68%	40%	59%	57%
% Booked of Total Capacity	66%	58%	47%	58%

*McLaren used 2022-2023 season

Projecting Peak Ice Season Use

The population of Penticton is anticipated to grow by 17% by 2035. If we assume that the demand will remain the same and that all three arenas availability will not change, demand will exceed the capacity during peak season prime hours. The table below provides the projected demand by 2034 and calculates the prime hours available assuming that all three community use arena spaces are operational.

Table 14. Projection of Peak Ice Season Demand with Anticipated Population Growth

	Total Use in 2023	Projected Use by 2034
Total Hours Booked	4,952	5,794
Hours Booked Prime	3,537	4,138
Hours Booked Non- Prime	1,415	1,656
Total Hours Available	6,648	6,648
Prime Hours Available	3,840	3,840
Non-Prime Hours Available	2,808	2,808
% Booked of Prime Capacity	92%	108%
% Booked of Non-Prime Capacity	50%	59%
% Booked of Total Capacity	74%	87%

Arena – Dry Floor Use

Table 15 outlines when the spaces are available for dry floor sport use from 2021 - 2023. Tables 15-18 indicate the number of hours booked during those time periods and provides a capacity analysis based the hours available during peak demand. Availability of arena dry floor space has been inconsistent but generally, Memorial Arena provides the most availability. There is capacity for more bookings during the available floor time during peak demand. Total bookings decreased from 2022 to 2023, although access to facility time increased, the number of days available did not (April – June).

Table 15. Dry Floor Availability

Number of Weeks	Memorial	McLaren	OHS Training	SOEC
2021	0	12 (April – June)	0	0
2022	12 (April – June)	12 (April – June)	0	0
2023	8 (April - May)	12 (April – June)	3 (June)	1 (June)*
Peak Demand	Peak Demand being 10 hrs on weekends and 6 hours weekdays			

*This week overlapped with the availability at the OHS Training Arena.

Table 16. Dry Floor Use 2021

Hours Booked 2022	McLaren
Total Hours Booked	74
Peak Hours Available	584
% Booked of Total Capacity	13%

Table 17. Dry Floor Use 2022

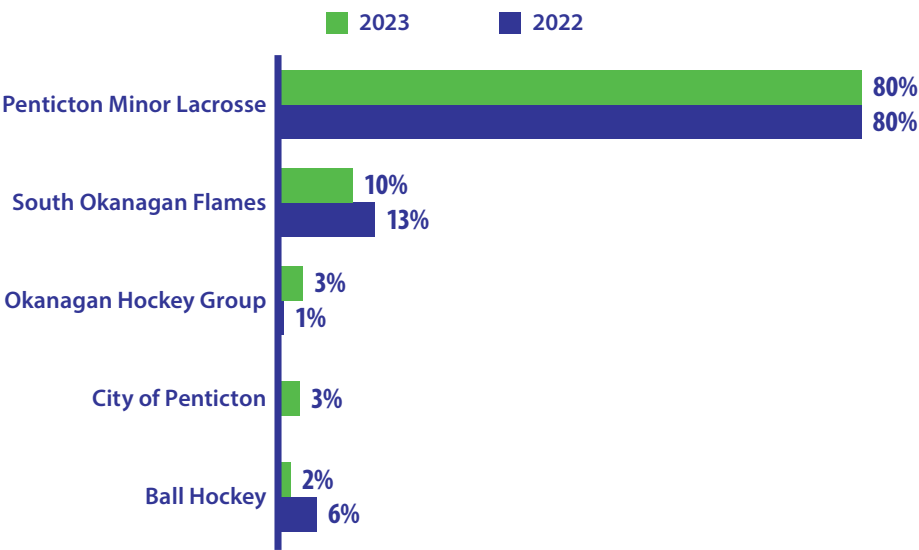
Hours Booked 2022	Memorial	McLaren	Total
Total Hours Booked	250	134	384
Peak Hours Available	584	584	1,168
% Booked of Total Capacity	43%	23%	33%

Table 18. Dry Floor Use 2023

Hours Booked 2023	OHS TC	Memorial	McLaren	SOEC	Total
Total Hours Booked	26	72	131	6	235
Peak Hours Available	222	410	584	62	1,216
% Booked of Peak Capacity	12%	18%	12%	9%	19%

The following graph illustrates the proportion of dry floor bookings by user groups. Penticton Minor Lacrosse and South Okanagan Lacrosse have booked the most dry floor time over the last two years.

Graph 8. Proportions of Bookings by User Group



Indoor Program and Activity Space Use Analysis

The Penticton Community Centre has several indoor spaces that are used for programs and activities. The Dance Studio, program rooms and gymnasium provide space for programming and community use.

Gymnasium Use

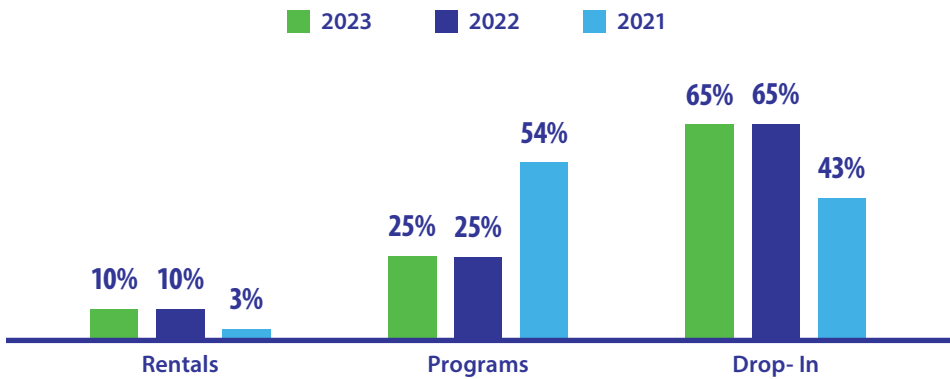
The gymnasium is booked for community and program use. To analyze use of the facility, peak demand was used as capacity (10 hrs daily). The table below provides the hours booked and the percentage of peak demand hours that are booked. Limited additional capacity exists during peak hours as the last couple of years >90% of peak time capacity has been booked.

Table 19. Gymnasium Use 2021- 2023

Gymnasium Bookings	2021	2022	2023	Trend Line
Hours Booked	1,703	3,285	3,424	
Total Hours Available	4,754	4,754	4,754	
Peak Hours Available	3,530	3,530	3,530	
Booked of Total Capacity	36%	69%	72%	
Booked of Peak Capacity	48%	93%	97%	

Drop- in program use is a predominate use of the gymnasium space (more than 50% of bookings over the last two years), followed by program use of the space.



Graph 9. Types of Gymnasium Use



Dance Studio and Multipurpose Room Use

Multipurpose rooms and the Dance Studio are booked for both programming and drop-in use (e.g. table tennis). A capacity analysis for the spaces was not provided as there is ample room to accommodate more bookings. Bookings peaked in 2022 compared to 2021 and 2023.

Table 20. Other Activity Space Bookings in the Penticton Community Centre

Gymnasium Bookings	2021	2022	2023	Trend Line
Dance Studio	278	801	431	
Multipurpose Room Bookings (Rooms 2, 3 4, & 7)	1,646	3,512	3,150	

Sportsplex Use Analysis

The Sportsplex is booked for community and program use year-round. To analyze use of the facility, peak demand was used as capacity (10 hrs on weekends and 6 hours weekdays). In 2022, the City took over booking and operating the facility from a contractor. The tables below provides the hours booked and the percentage of peak demand hours that are booked during two use scenarios (January – December and October – March. Capacity exists for more bookings in both scenarios, however it is important to note that the lack of air conditioning and heat within the structure significantly impacts use during periods of high heat and lower temperatures.

Table 21. Sportsplex Booking January - December

Sportsplex	2021/2022*	2022/2023
Hours Booked	825	850
Peak Demand Hours Available	2,480	2,480
% of Capacity Booked	33%	34%

*Contractor operated

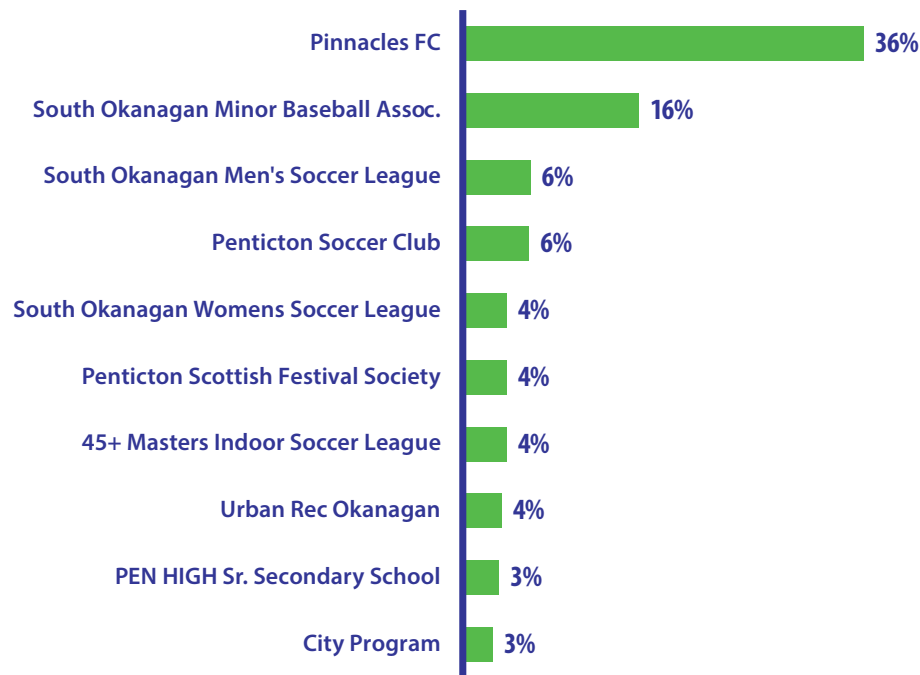
Table 22. Sportsplex Booking October – March

Sportsplex	2021/2022*	2022/2023
Hours Booked	813	749
Peak Hours Available	1,531	1,531
% of Capacity Booked	53%	49%

*Contractor operated

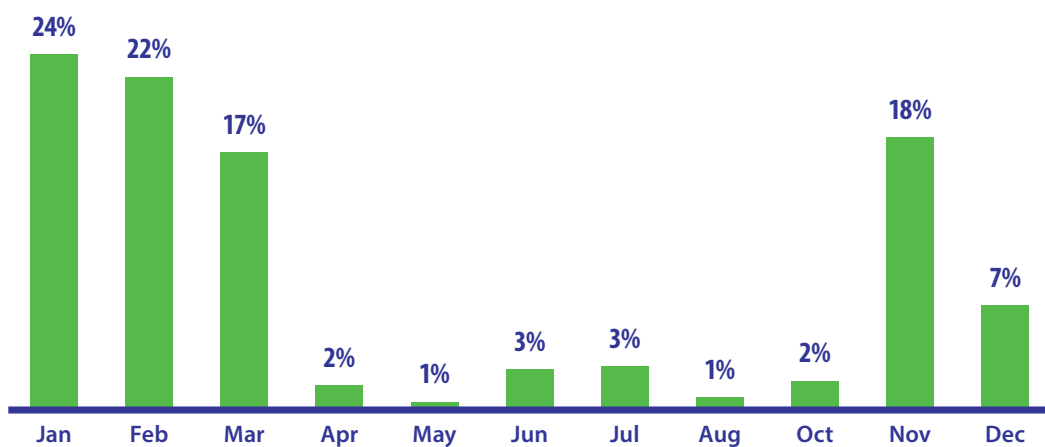
Pinnacle FC uses the most time in the facility (36%), followed by South Okanagan Minor Baseball (16%), and the South Okanagan Men’s Soccer Leagues (6%).

Graph 10. Top 10 User Groups of the Sportsplex in 2022/2023



Most bookings take place during the colder months (November – March) – as previously noted, the facility is deemed too hot by many groups to use during summer months. Graph 11 illustrates when the bookings take place by month, by proportion of total bookings.

Graph 11. When Bookings Occur



The Penticton Curling Club

The Penticton Curling Facility is owned by the City of Penticton; a lease agreement with the Penticton Curling Club has been in place most recently since 2010. The Curling Club is responsible for all improvements and for operating the Curling Facility. In the off season, the Curling Club is allowed to sublease the facility for the purpose of a hockey school.

Table 23. Curling Centre Operating Hours

	Dates	Operating Hours
Curling Season	October 1 – March 21	8:00 am – 11:00 pm
Dry Floor Season	April 1 – September 22	8:00 am - 9:00 pm

Curling Season Use

During the curling season the Curling Club is the main user of the facility. The following table shows the hours booked of the hours available and presents a calculation of capacity booked for the last two years. Two scenarios are presented; total hours available and peak hours available. Peak hours represents hours that are most desirable hours to book (4pm – 11pm on weekdays and 9am – 7pm on weekends).

Table 24. Booked Hours During the Curling Season

Curling Centre (Curling Season)	2022-2023	2023-2024
Hours Booked	1292	1272
Hours Available	2,880	2,880
Peak Hours Available	1,361	1,361
% of Capacity of Total Hours	45%	44%
% of Capacity of Peak Hours	95%	93%

The Curling Club operates leagues, lessons and events during the curling season. Some participants choose to become members, others participate more casually. The following table breaks down the types of membership/users of the facility.

Table 25. Membership Breakdown by Type of Participant

Membership Breakdown	2022-2023	2023-2024
Curling Members: Adult	91%	92%
Curling Members: Youth	5%	4%
Adult Non- Members (e.g. those who sign up for events, or lessons but are not considered members)	4%	4%

The following table looks at the breakdown of where members live; the majority residing in Penticton (82%) but some members commute from other locations.

Table 26. Membership Place of Residence

Membership Breakdown: Place of Residence	2022-2023	2023-2024
% of Membership from Penticton	82%	82%
% of Membership from Summerland	3%	3%
% of Membership from Naramata	5%	5%
% of Membership from Oliver	0.1%	0.1%
% of Membership from Other	10%	10%

Dry Floor Use

The following table shows the hours booked of the hours available and presents a calculation of capacity booked for the last two years during the dry floor season. The Okanagan Hockey Group accounts for 65% of the dry floor bookings, while events and roller derby account for the rest.

Table 27. Dry Floor Bookings

Curling Centre (Dry Floor Season)	2022-2023	2023-2024
Hours Booked	617	617
Hours Available	850	850
% of Capacity Booked	73%	73%

Key Findings: Summary of Indoor Spaces Utilization

The following table provides an overall assessment of the level of use for each analyzed space.

Highly Utilized – at or nearing capacity with minimal ability to accommodate growth or increased demand.

Well Utilized – receives a strong level of utilization but has capacity to accommodate growth over the next 10 years. Some capacity challenges may exist during peak times and seasons, but the overall amount of capacity available does not suggest that more supply is immediately required.

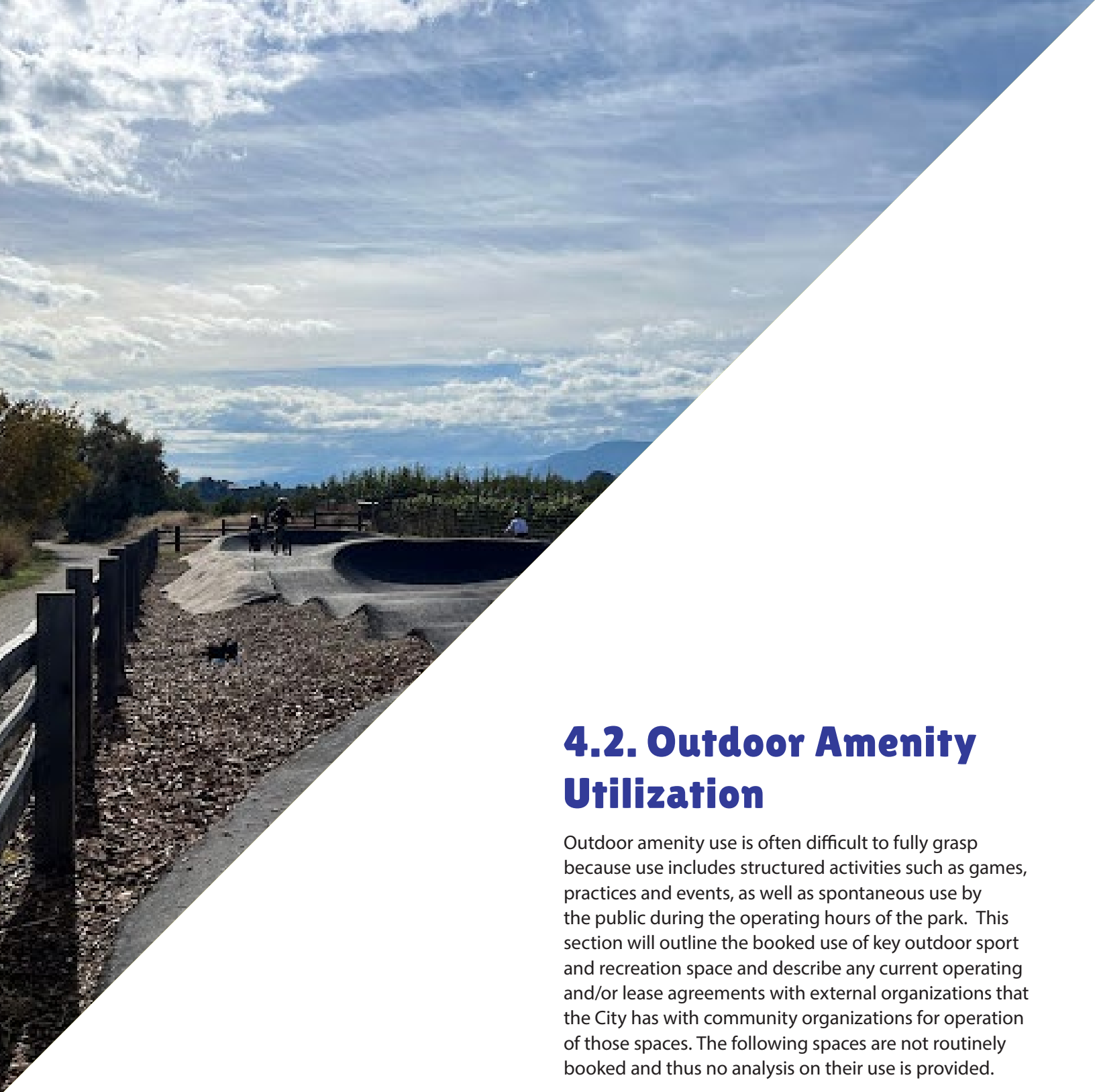
Moderately Utilized – valued facility with enough utilization to justify continued provision, however significant capacity exists.

Low Utilization – facility is underutilized, suggesting that the space is not suitable to meet current user needs and/or the activity is trending downwards.

Table 28. Indoor Facility Use Assessment

Type of Space	Use Indicator	Rationale
Aquatic	Well Utilized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2023, there were 4.8 swims per capita. While optimal swims is 6-7 annual swims per capita, swim visits have increased 30% from 2019 and the facility was closed for 7 weeks compared to 4 weeks in 2019.
Arena – Ice	Highly Utilized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During Peak Ice Season (October – March), ice is used to 92% of prime capacity across the three community rinks. The SOEC accommodates community use over and above the prime capacity available at the other three community rinks. This space is also key for sport event hosting/ tournament capacity.
Arena Dry Floor	Low – Moderate Utilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the last two years dry floor use has declined. In 2022, dry floor use was booked primarily in Memorial arena (43% of capacity was booked), and McLaren arena (23%) while in 2023 it was spread out among the three arena spaces (16% of capacity was booked). McLaren arena has a mandatory ice-out due to the slab, therefore it has the best dry floor availability; however, feedback from user groups has indicated that the lower ceiling height impacts the level of play facilitated in the space. Penticton Minor Lacrosse and South Okanagan Lacrosse book the facilities the most often.

Type of Space	Use Indicator	Rationale
Indoor Activity Spaces, Penticton Community Centre	Moderate Utilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multipurpose rooms and the Dance Studio are booked for both programming and drop-in use (e.g. table tennis and rentals). • Considering these spaces are available while the facility is open, there is room to book more activities in these spaces.
Gymnasium	Highly Utilized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gymnasium is highly used. In 2023, up to 97% of peak demand capacity was booked. • Drop-in use of the space is the biggest use bookable time (e.g. drop-in pickleball, drop-in basketball, etc.). • Rentals of the gymnasium were a relatively small amount of the booked use, which indicates that bookings are likely taking place in other community facilities (e.g. school gymnasiums, post secondary gymnasium use, etc.).
Indoor Turf	Moderately Utilized*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 34% of peak capacity was booked during 2023 (January – December). • The bulk of bookings take place November – March. During peak months (October – March), the facility is booked to approximately 50% of its peak capacity. <p><i>*It is reasonable to assume that heat is a significant reason why utilization is only 34% of annual capacity as minimal bookings occur from April – October. As such, a moderately utilized indicator was given. Additionally, during the spring/ summer months, booking an outdoor field is more affordable.</i></p>
Curling Rink	Well Utilized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curling club manages the bookings of the facility and their league. • When looking at peak demand, over 90% of ice time is booked during the curling season. • During dry floor season, some capacity exists for more bookings but the facility is generally well used (73% of total capacity). • The Okanagan Hockey Group accounts for 65% of the dry floor bookings, while events and roller derby account for the rest.



4.2. Outdoor Amenity Utilization

Outdoor amenity use is often difficult to fully grasp because use includes structured activities such as games, practices and events, as well as spontaneous use by the public during the operating hours of the park. This section will outline the booked use of key outdoor sport and recreation space and describe any current operating and/or lease agreements with external organizations that the City has with community organizations for operation of those spaces. The following spaces are not routinely booked and thus no analysis on their use is provided.

- Penticton Pump Track
- Penticton Skateboard Park
- Three Blind Mice Disc Golf Course
- Rotary Marina View Disc Golf Course

There are agreements in place for use of outdoor amenities that are not included in the booking data. The following table outlines those use agreements.

Table 29. Outdoor Facilities with Operating Agreements with External Organizations

Facility	User Group	Description of Agreement
Penticton Tennis Club (PTC) – Outdoor Courts (4 courts)	Penticton Tennis Society (PTS)	PTS is responsible for operating the tennis club including all cleaning, repairs, and maintenance required, as well as any costs associated.
Penticton Seniors Drop-In Centre – Outdoor Pickleball Courts (8 courts)	Penticton Pickleball Club	From May – October , the PPC has use of the court space during designated days and times (approximately 88 hours per week).
Penticton Lawn Bowling Facility	Penticton Lakeview Lawn Bowling Club	A 20-year agreement with the Penticton Lakeview Lawn Bowling Club commenced in the year 2000. The club is responsible for all necessary improvements and maintenance for operating the Lawn Bowling Facility and Clubhouse and ancillary activities.
BMX Track at Munson Mountain Road	Penticton BMX Society	An agreement is in place with the Penticton BMX society to maintain and operate the track.
Rotary Marina View Disc Golf Course	Penticton Disc Golf Club	An agreement is in place with the Penticton Disc Golf Club to maintain and operate the course.
Three Blind Mice Disc Golf Course	Penticton Disc Golf Club & Penticton and Area Cycling Association (PACA)	An agreement is in place with the Penticton and Area Cycling Association (PACA) to maintain the the trail and with Penticton Disc Golf Club to maintain the course.

Outdoor Courts (City Operated)

Several court facilities in Penticton are operated through lease agreements with not for profit groups as per the previous Table 29. The following analysis reflects analysis of bookings data for various types of City-operated courts. It is important to note that the majority of use across many of these courts is spontaneous (e.g. drop-in/ casual use) and therefore this data only captures partial usage of these spaces.

Sand Volleyball Courts

The following table illustrate the booked use of these courts spaces not included in any lease agreements with community organizations. A 600-hour capacity is applied per court space, this represents reasonable use of the space during prime hours in the playable season. There is considerable capacity for more court bookings, although doing so could impact casual and spontaneous activity which is likely the primary form of use.

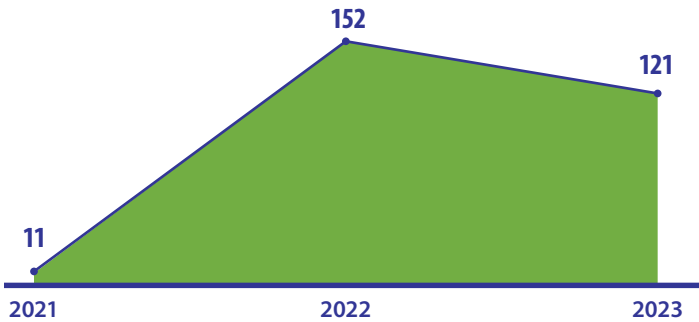
Table 30. Outdoor Volleyball Court Use

Volleyball Courts	2021	2022	2023	Trend Line
Hours Booked at Courts	118	100	447	
Number of Fields	9	9	9	
Bookable hours	5,400	5,400	5,400	
% Booked of Capacity	2%	2%	8%	

Skaha Play Court

The Skaha Play Court bookings have increased since 2021 but have fluctuated a bit year to year. The following graph illustrates the booking trend from 2021- 2023. The majority of use is attributed to event (non court sport use), for example the Penticton Dragon Boat Festival accounts for around a third of the hours booked, while lacrosse accounts for 15 hours in 2023.

Graph 12. Hours Booked at the Skaha Play Court



Sport Fields

Five sport fields are regularly booked for community use in Penticton. None of these facilities are school sites. A 600-hour capacity assumption is applied per field – this figure reflects a best practice for natural surface sports turf with use above this volume potentially risking field damage / deterioration. However, several variables exist which impact capacity on a field by field basis (e.g. base type, irrigation equipment and practices, types of use, etc.) and the figure could be higher or lower in actuality.

As per Table 31, field use has continually trended upwards and in 2023 were booked beyond their capacity using the 600 hour per field assumption. The majority of that use occurring on the fields at Kings Park where four of the five fields are located. The fifth field, the McNicoll Park Oval, is primarily used by the Penticton Rugby Football Association and has capacity for more use. As of 2024, the Mavericks Youth Football Association is also a key user group.

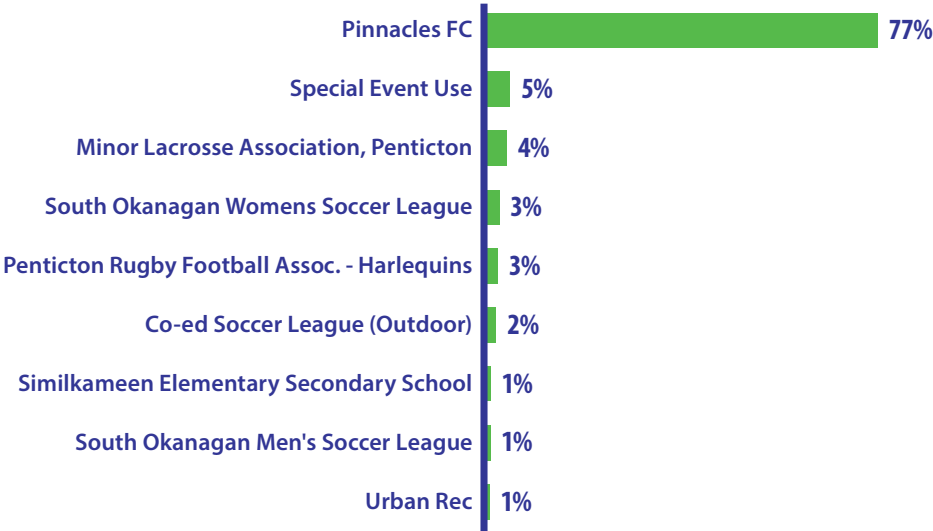
Table 31. Sport Field Booked Use 2021- 2023

Sport Fields	2021	2022	2023	Trend Line
Hours Booked at Fields	1,986	2,562	3,368	
Number of Fields	5	5	5	
Bookable Hours	3,000	3,000	3,000	
% Booked of Capacity	66%	85%	112%	

Types of Use of the Fields

In 2023, Pinnacles FC accounted for the majority of booked use on the fields (77%). Special events use accounted for 5% of field bookings, and Minor Lacrosse accounted for 4% of the total bookings (4%).

Graph 13. Sport Field Booked Use by User Groups 2023







Ball Diamonds

The City books twelve ball diamonds for community use, five of which are school diamonds. Similar to sport fields a capacity of 600 hours per year per diamond is applied as a capacity assumption; this is based on field maintenance best practices. The table below indicates the hours booked at those diamonds from 2021 – 2023 and provides an overall snapshot of use. Since 2021, an increase in bookings has occurred, however there is capacity for more bookings. 46% of bookings took place at three diamond locations (Lions Park, McLaren Park Diamond, and McNicoll Park Diamond and Batting Cage). 30% of the bookings took place on a school diamond (5 diamonds).

While the table below provides a good overall snapshot of use, it is recognized that different types and age groups of ball have different requirements for field dimensions (e.g. outfield fence distance, basepaths, mounds, etc.). These demands tend to ebb and flow based on trends within the various types of ball, group strength and capacity to deliver programming, and demographics.

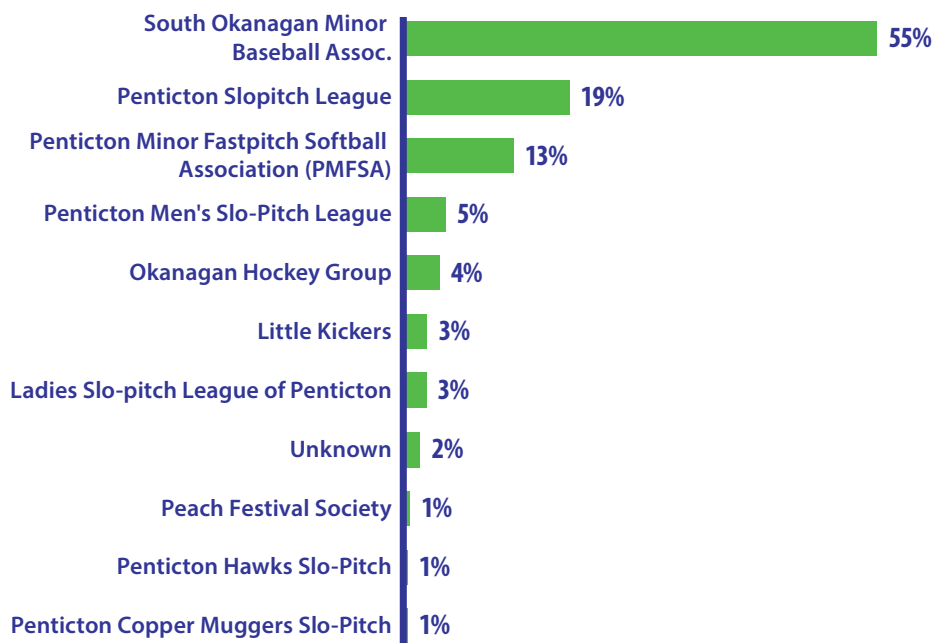
Table 32. Ball Diamond Booked Use 2021- 2023

Ball Diamonds	2021	2022	2023	Trend Line
Hours Booked at Diamonds	2,698	4,143	4,386	
Number of Diamonds	12	12	12	
Bookable Hours	7,200	7,200	7,200	
% Booked of Capacity	37%	58%	61%	

Types of Use of the Diamonds

South Okanagan Minor Baseball Association (SOMBA), books the most time at diamonds in Penticton (55%), followed by Penticton Slo-pitch League (19%) and Penticton Minor Fastpitch Softball Association (13%).

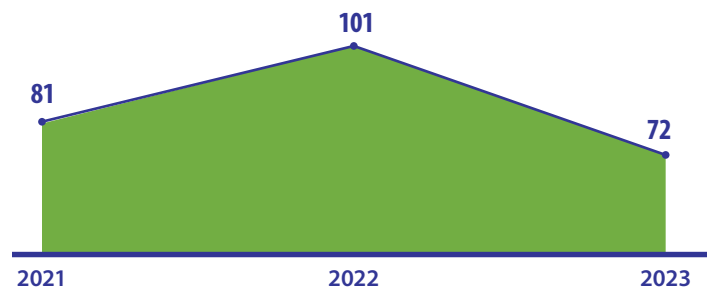
Graph 14. Ball Diamond Booked Use by User Group 2023



Track Facilities

There are two track facilities in Penticton; McNicoll Park Track and the Penticton Highschool Track. Penticton Track and Field Club is the primary user group of these facilities, with the majority of their use taking place at the Penticton Highschool Track. The high school track is a rubberized 8 lane track with other track and field amenities co-located, while McNicoll is a gravel track. The following graph illustrates the booking for use of the track from 2021- 2023. Use of these facilities is dictated by weather conditions and lighting provided. The school facility is only bookable after 6:00 PM on weekdays until 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM on weekends.

Graph 15. Hours Booked at Track Facilities



Key Findings: Outdoor Space Utilization

The following table provides an assessment of the level of use of each type of amenity.

Highly Utilized – at or nearing capacity with minimal ability to accommodate growth or increased demand.
Well Utilized – receives a strong level of utilization but has capacity to accommodate growth over the next 10 years. Some capacity challenges may exist during peak times and seasons, but the overall amount of capacity available does not suggest that more supply is immediately required.
Moderately Utilized – valued facility with enough utilization to justify continued provision, however significant capacity exists.
Low Utilization – facility is underutilized, suggesting that the space is not suitable to meet current user needs and/or the activity is trending downwards.
Primarily a Drop-In Use Amenity – while some time may be booked at the amenity, the vast majority of use occurs through casual and unstructured forms. As such, data may be lacking to fully evaluate capacity.

Table 33. Outdoor Amenity Use Assessment

Type of Space	Use Indicator	Rationale
Sand Volleyball Courts	Primarily a Drop – In Use Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is some booked use of the courts, however there is capacity for more bookings. • Spontaneous use of the courts is not known.
Tennis Courts	Primarily a Drop – In Use Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PTC manages the booked use of the courts at the Tennis centre. • There are public courts available for spontaneous use.
Pickleball Courts	Well – Highly Utilized Primarily a Drop – In Use Amenity (with some guidelines and structure provided to manage semi-casual use)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From May – October , the PPC has use of the court space during designated days and times (approximately 88 hours per week). • The Pickleball Club agrees to accommodate public drop-in players who attend the courts during scheduled Association drop-in times (if space permits). • Its unclear what the drop-in use outside of the PPC window is, it is likely safe to assume that it is still highly used .
Sports Courts	Primarily a Drop – In Use Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sports boxes are mostly drop-in spontaneous use amenities. • There is some booked use at the Skaha sports box but due to its location, most of its booked use can be attributed to non-sport court use for events.
Sport Fields	Highly Utilized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sports fields at Kings Park are highly utilized, in 2023 they were booked beyond capacity even with blocked time for maintenance and field rest. • The McNicoll Park Oval is used primarily by rugby organizations. There is time available for more booked use . • When the Joint Use Agreement is updated with the school board, future access and booking of the stadium lights at Pen High track and field will be considered to open up more evening use for the fields.
Ball Diamonds	Moderate – Well Utilized	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School diamonds account for several of the bookable diamonds in the community. Those diamonds were booked the least often. • Three diamonds out of the 12 bookable are booked beyond or nearing capacity and account for 46% of all bookings in 2023.

Type of Space	Use Indicator	Rationale
Track Facilities	Moderately Utilized Primarily a Drop – In Use Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority of use takes place on the high school track. The school track is a rubberized 8 lane track with other track and field amenities co-located, while McNicoll Park has a gravel track with a large field co located. • There is capacity for more booked use of these amenities, however, age, quality and safety of these facilities plays a role in how often they are booked.
Lawn Bowling Facility	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lawn Bowling Club manages the booked use of the facility.
Disc Golf Course	Primarily a Drop – In Use Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two-disc golf courses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ One is nine holes and located near the marina (Rotary Marina View). ◦ The other is 18 holes and is co located with mountain biking trails (Three Blind Mice). • This amenity is primarily spontaneous use.
Wheeled Sports Amenities	Primarily a Drop – In Use Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheeled sports amenities (e.g. youth park , pump track, BMX parks) are primarily spontaneous use . • Some scheduled use does occur for Recreation Department programming.



4.3. Programming and Events

The City offers a variety of programs and events for residents and visitors of all ages. The following section provides a brief description of what is currently offered.

Programs

Programs are categorized by the following activity types:



Accessible Recreation



Adult Fitness



Adult Recreation



Children



Day Camps



Skating



Tots & Tykes

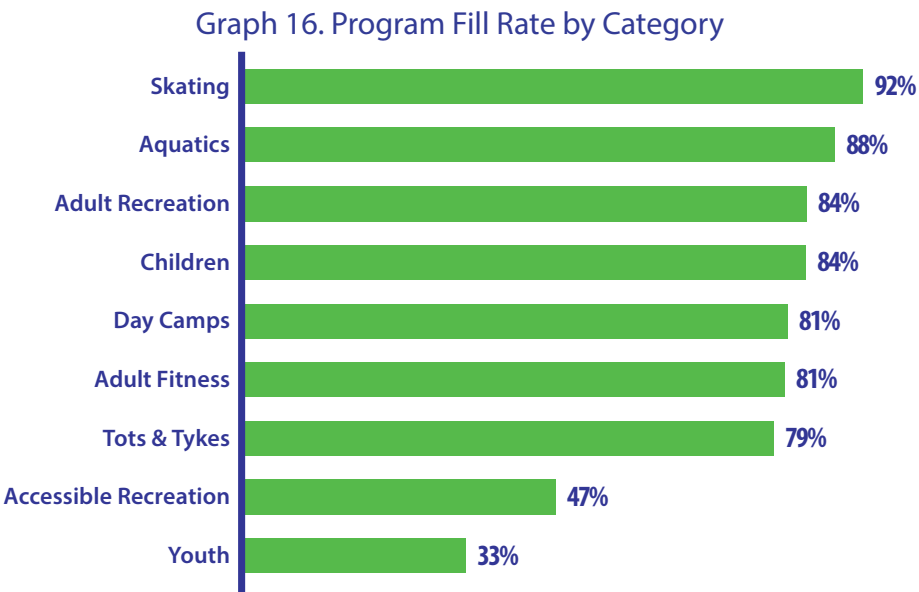


Youth



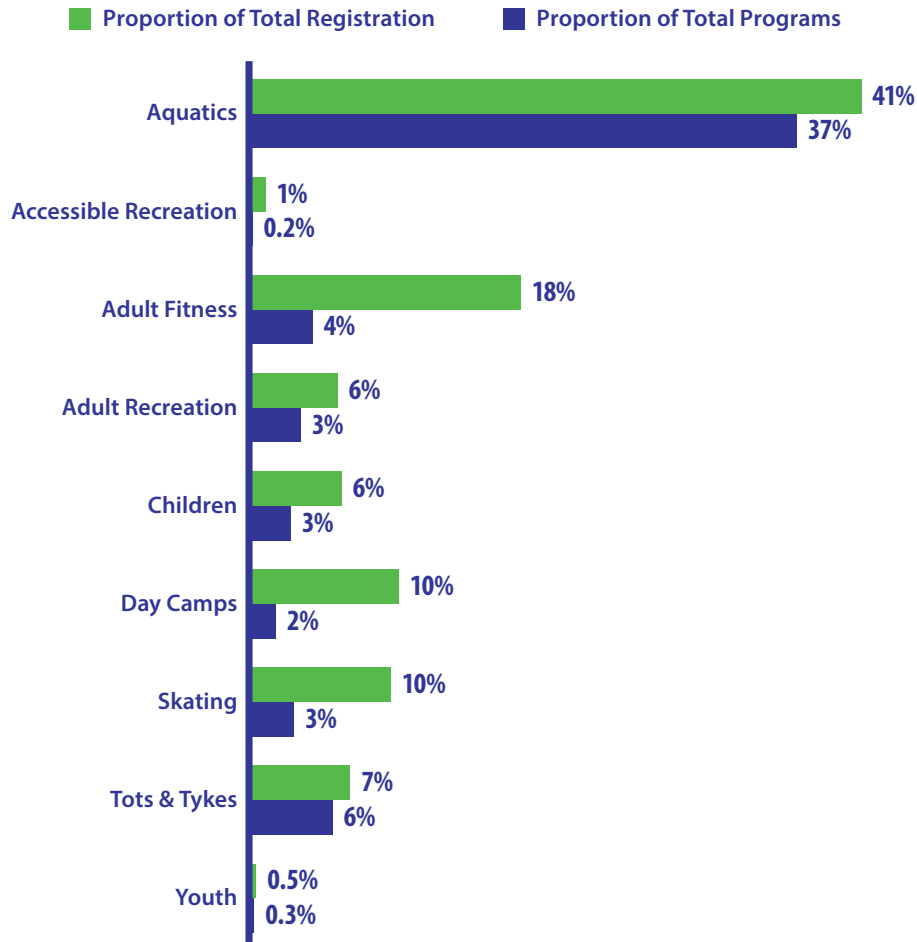
Aquatic

The majority of programs offered within those categories are well attended. The following graph illustrates the fill rate for each category in 2023. The fill rate was calculated by taking the registrant maximum and dividing by the total number of registrants in the program category. The programs with the highest fill rate were skating (92%), aquatics (88%), and Adult and Children’s programs (84%). Skill development programming for children are popular activities. 88% of aquatic programs had a waitlist, all of which were for children’s lessons and 74% of skating programs had a waitlist. Youth programs are the lowest performing category with a 33% fill rate. Childminding programs were not included in this analysis.



The following graph shows the proportion of the total programs offered by category and the respective proportion of total registration. Aquatics represents a high proportion of programs and registration. Adult fitness (18%), day camps (10%), and skating (10%) programs make up the next highest proportion of registrations. This does not include drop-in program participation such as drop-in pickleball, basketball, etc. that occurs in the gymnasium during designated times.

Graph 17. Proportion of Programs Offered vs Proportion of Total Registration



Events

The City of Penticton’s Event Hosting Framework 2024 identified the following events and event types represent the City of Penticton current event hosting related to sports and recreation.

Sporting Events (Spectator) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IRONMAN Canada*• Penticton Vees• Canucks Young Stars	Sports Competitions and Tournaments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dragon Boat Festival.• CSSHL• Peach Classic Triathlon• Bridge Tournament• Golf, hockey, slo-pitch, soccer, lacrosse, basketball, volleyball games and tournaments	Charity and Fundraising Events <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charity Runs and Walks: Alzheimer’s Society, South Okanagan Women in Need Society• CMHA Pickleball Tournament
---	--	--

*IRONMAN will not be scheduled in Penticton2025 onwards.

In the past, the City has also hosted the following high level events:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| • ITU Multisport World Championships (2017) | • BC Winter Games (2016) | • Scotties Tournament of Hearts (2018) |
| | • World Junior A Challenge (2010) | |

Key Findings: Programs and Events

- The City provides a variety of programs for all ages. The majority of those programs are well attended. Programming focused on skill development (aquatics, and skating) have the highest waitlist of registered programs. The majority of skill development programs had a waitlist; aquatics (88%) and skating (76%).
- There are not many programs directed at youth 13 years and older. Programs that have been offered were also not well attended. Often this demographic is drawn to more spontaneous recreation opportunities (drop-in activities) and can be challenging to engage in program development.
- The City has experience hosting large scale spectator events. The Event Hosting Framework 2024 outlines the strengths and weaknesses of sports by their hosting capacity by category. During the winter professional level hockey is currently hosted, and in the summer months outdoor aerobic sports (e.g. Okanagan Granfondo) are held at an international level. Outdoor sporting events such as baseball, slo-pitch, and soccer games are limited by current infrastructure, as are gymnasium sports such as basketball and volleyball but community organizations do host more regional games and tournaments.
- The City of Penticton's CommuniTree Plan outlines guidelines for tree protection during events held on City property. It's essential to allow for recovery time and implement measures to protect the trees, reducing soil compaction around their roots to ensure their long-term health.

A decorative vertical bar on the left side of the page, featuring a repeating pattern of sports-related icons: a running shoe, a basketball, a football, a tennis racket, and a badminton racket. The icons are arranged in a vertical sequence, alternating between the top and bottom of the bar.

5. TRENDS AND LEADING PRACTICES

5.1. The Importance of Trends Monitoring

Having an understanding of the emerging trends and best practices (and their potential implications) is fundamental to informing sport and recreation planning and service delivery. Perhaps more so than any other typical service provided by local government, resident demands, expectations, and preferences for sport and recreation activities are fluid and continually evolving. Trends and leading practices can be identified in several ways, including:

- Academic and sectoral publications.
- Increasing use of data and analytics within the sector.
- Dialogue with colleagues, other service providers, and sector organizations.

While every community is unique, monitoring provincial and national trends and leading practices can help local service providers identify ways to improve practices and identify type of activity demands that may be emerging soon in their community.

5.2. Summary of Key Trends and Leading Practices

Summarized as follows are key trends and leading practices. Please refer to Appendix B for additional detail and content on notable trends and leading practices in activity participation, sport and recreation infrastructure, and service delivery.

Activity Participation

- **There is growing demand for more spontaneous recreation pursuits.** This trend does not eliminate the need for structured activities but suggests that planning for the general population is as important as planning for more traditional structured-use environments. Spontaneous recreation is broadly characterized as physical activities in which the activities, nature of participation and timing of participation are freely chosen and do not require registration for programs or leagues.
- **Participation in sport among girls aged 6 -18 is increasing.** The Rally Report 2024, published by Canadian Women & Sport, provides a comprehensive analysis of girls' participation and experiences in sport across Canada. It highlights both progress and persistent barriers while proposing actionable recommendations to create a more inclusive and equitable sporting environment. In hockey specifically, female participation has driven the increase of new players to the sport.
- **The older adult demographic has different activity interests than previous generations.** The many "traditional" activities such as swimming, fitness classes and low-impact activities are still very popular amongst the older adult population. However, there has been an increase in demand for moderately vigorous forms of physical activity and multi-generational programs. The emergence of pickleball and adapted fitness classes are examples of activities whose popularity is driven by older adult populations.

Service Delivery

- **Measuring the impact of sport, physical activity and recreation (SPAR) is of utmost importance.** Data collection is crucial to supporting linkages between SPAR investment and social, health, economic and environmental impacts, as it provides opportunities to advocate for increased SPAR budget allocations and make a case for investment.

- **Sport tourism is the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry.** Sport tourism provides an opportunity for destination to improve their overall tourism infrastructure, attracts visitors, can generate media coverage and promote the destination on a national and international level. v
- **Safe Sport is essential to create inclusive and welcoming sporting communities.** Safe sport can be described as creating an environment that is free from all types of maltreatment including physical and/or emotional harm, by anyone in the sporting environment. v

Sport and Recreation Infrastructure

- **More extreme weather means that people will seek out climate-controlled environments more often.** This can result in increasing demand for indoor recreation facilities so that people can continue their outdoor activities indoors. This has implications for the design and capacity of indoor recreation facilities as they face pressure to accommodate a wider range of activities, sports and community events.
- **Blending indoor and outdoor environments in facility design.** A growing trend in recreation infrastructure planning is to ensure that there is a seamless interface between indoor and outdoor environments. Integrating indoor and outdoor environments can be as simple as ensuring interiors have good opportunities to view or directly access the outdoors, creating a sense of freshness and connection with nature.
- **Community facilities designed with an Indigenous perspective foster reconciliation, decolonization, and greater understanding.** Indigenous culture is being integrated into community spaces through art, cultural practice areas, facility naming, traditional building strategies, and respectful consultations with local Indigenous communities.
- **There is a growing desire for multi-use facilities that stems from their ability to meet the high demand for ice time, serve as community hubs, and provide economic benefits by attracting events and visitors.** These facilities offer operational efficiencies, versatility for various activities, support the development of local talent, and incorporate sustainable design elements. They also prioritize accessibility and inclusivity, accommodating diverse user needs and fostering community engagement.
- **Demand for multi-use facilities with a variety of programming spaces is increasing.** Providing opportunities for all family members to take part in different activities simultaneously at the same location can increase participation levels, as well as a sense of convenience and satisfaction for residents.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



6.1. Engagement Overview and Tactics

Engagement with the community was a critical aspect of developing this study. Through engagement, the project team was able to complement the other research (as presented in Sections 2 – 5) and explore key topics, including:

- Resident and user group perspectives on current facilities and service levels.
- Trends, changes, and emerging space needs.
- Potential priorities for capital investment (renewed, replaced, and new facility needs).
- The overall benefits and importance of continuing to invest in sport and recreation.

To ensure multiple viewpoints on sport and recreation were given voice, a diverse array of engagement tactics were used and identified at the outset of the project through the development of a detailed Communications and Engagement Plan.

The table below identifies the engagement tactics and levels of response/participation for each.

Table 34. Engagement Tactics Summary

Tactic	Responses / Participation
Resident Survey (coded) ¹	674
Open Access Resident Survey (non-coded)	258
User Group and Stakeholder Discussion Sessions	32 participating groups
User Group Survey	35 participating groups
Youth Engagement	401
Pop-Up Activities and Community Events	3 events attended (Penticton Vees Game, Penticton Farmers Market, and Council Open House)

¹ The methodology used to field the coded version of the resident survey provides a margin of error of +/- 3.7% 19 times out of 20.

6.2. Resident Survey

Methodology

A survey was conducted among households in Penticton to gather their perspectives on sports and recreation facilities in the City. Participation in the coded access version of the survey required an access code that was unique to each household. The access codes were distributed to households utilizing Canada Post's neighbourhood mail in the form of a postcard. In total 20,309 postcards were distributed. The survey was primarily fielded online, however residents were able to request paper copies of the questionnaire. The coded survey provides statistically valid responses, as households were only provided with one code and they were not able to provide multiple responses.

The coded access version of the survey was available for approximately one month and garnered 674 responses, equating to a margin of error of +/- 3.7%.² A duplicate open access (non-coded) version of the survey was also made available for residents that no longer had their postcard or wanted to have multiple household members provide responses (as only one code was provided per household, respondents to the coded version of the survey were asked to answer questions considering the perspectives of all household members). 258 responses were provided to the open access (non-coded) version of the survey.

A variety of tactics were utilized to promote the survey. Aside from the distribution of the postcards, other tactics included the following:

- Promotion on the City of Penticton's Website
- Promotion on the City's social media
- Advertising in the Penticton Herald
- Advertising through posters in sports and recreation facilities (e.g. the Penticton Community Centre)

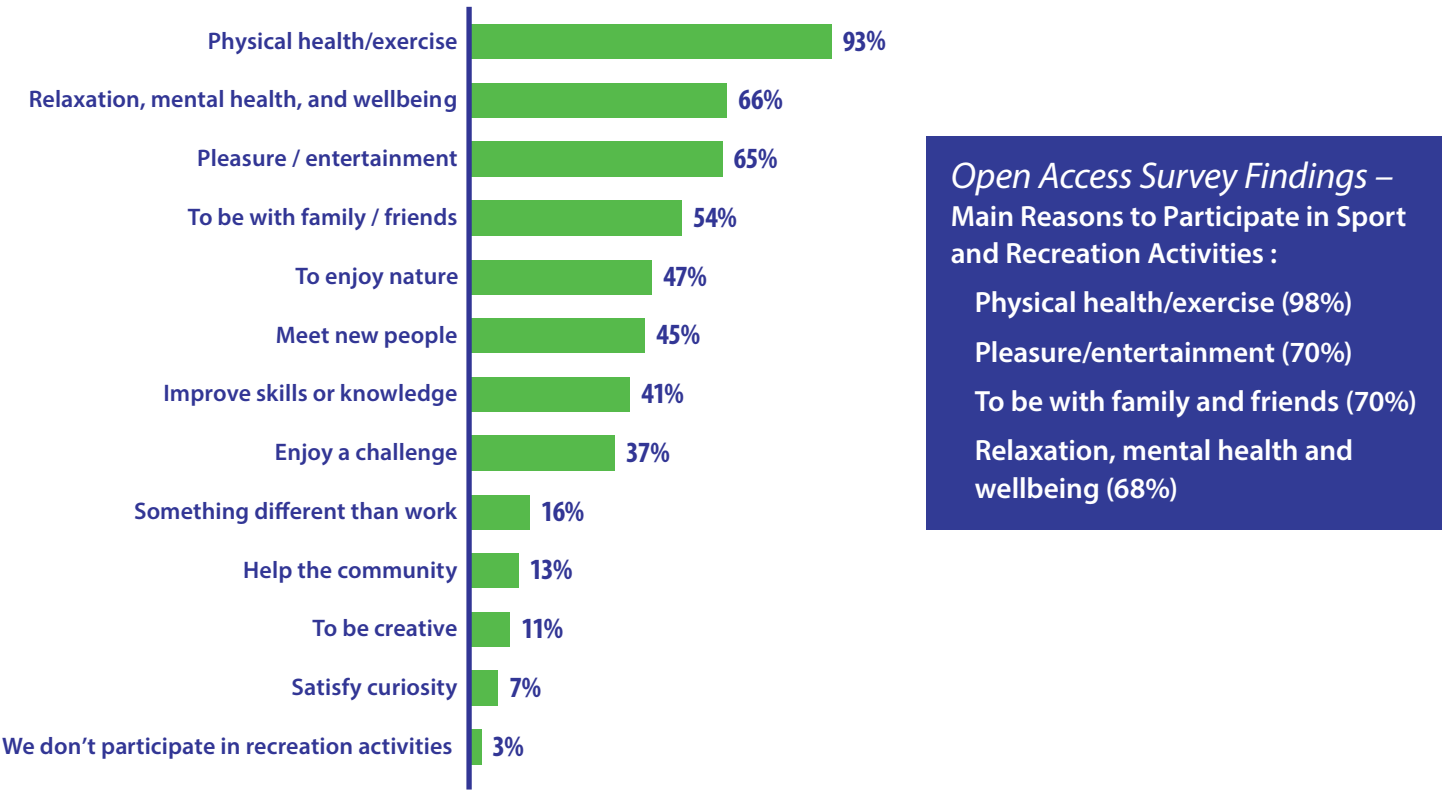
2 If the survey was fielded again using the same parameters, responses are deemed to be within +/- 3.7% 19 times out of 20.

Findings

Section 1: Sports, Recreation and You

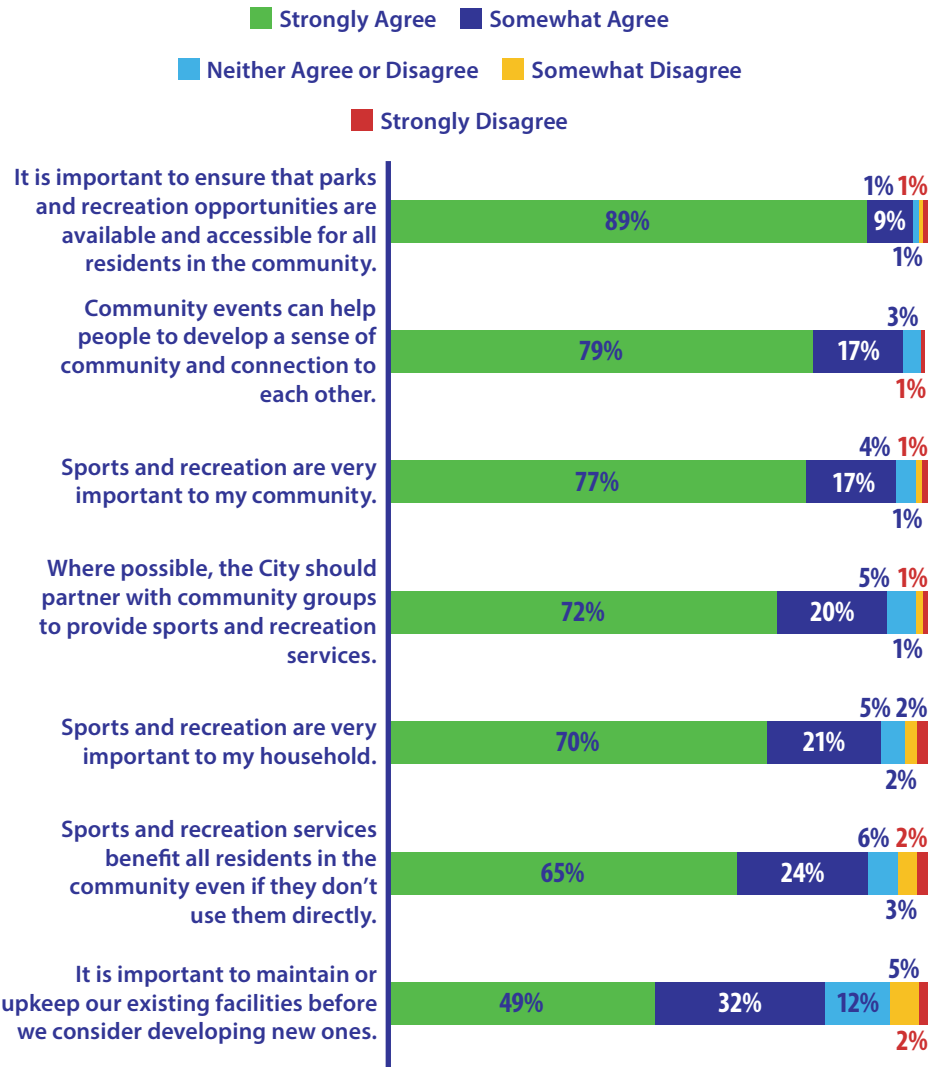
To begin, survey respondents were asked to identify the main reasons members of their household participate in sport and recreation activities. Almost all (93%) indicated they participate for physical health and exercise. Approximately two-thirds participate for relaxation and mental health (66%) and for pleasure and entertainment (65%).

Graph 18. Main Reasons to Participate in Sports and Recreation Activities



A series of statements regarding the provision of sports and recreation facilities, amenities and programs in Penticton were presented to respondents. For each statement they were asked to identify the extent to which they agree. Almost all (89%) indicated that they strongly agree that parks and recreation opportunities should be available and accessible for all residents. Notably, at least 81% agree (strongly agree and somewhat agree) with all statements.

Graph 19. Values and Considerations



Open Access Survey Findings – Values and Considerations:

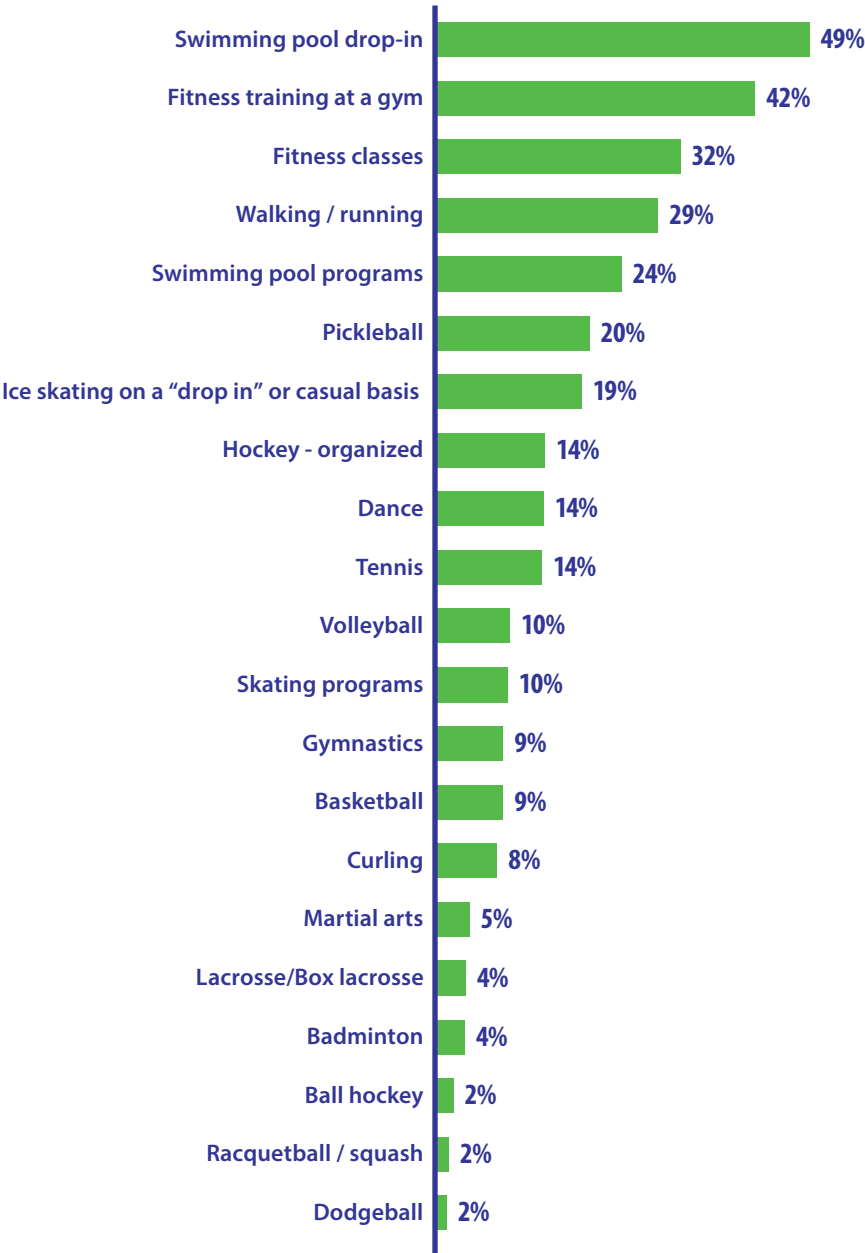
Strongly Agree

- It is important to ensure that parks and recreation opportunities are available and accessible for all residents in the community (88%)
- Sports and recreation are very important to my household (87%)
- Sports and recreation are very important to my community (85%)

Section 2: Current Usage

Respondents were presented with lists of indoor and outdoor sports and recreation activities and were asked to identify which ones their households regularly participate in. Regarding indoor activities, approximately half (49%) indicated that they participate in drop-in swimming activities on a regular basis with 42% identifying that they participate in fitness training at the gym.

Graph 20. Activities Participated in on a Regular Basis Indoor



Open Access Survey Findings –
Indoor Activities Participated in on a Regular Basis:

- Swimming pool drop-in (49%)
- Fitness training at a gym (45%)
- Fitness classes (26%)
- Walking/running (22%)
- Swimming pool programs (21%)

Subsegment Analysis

- Households with children are more likely to say they participate in swimming pool programs (44%) on a regular basis than households with no children (25%).

Respondents were able to share additional **indoor activities** their household participates in on a regular basis. The responses are presented according to themes:

Fitness and Wellness

- Rock Climbing
- Yoga
- Tai Chi

Recreational Activities

- Soccer
- Roller Skating/Roller Derby
- Table Tennis

Social and Community Activities

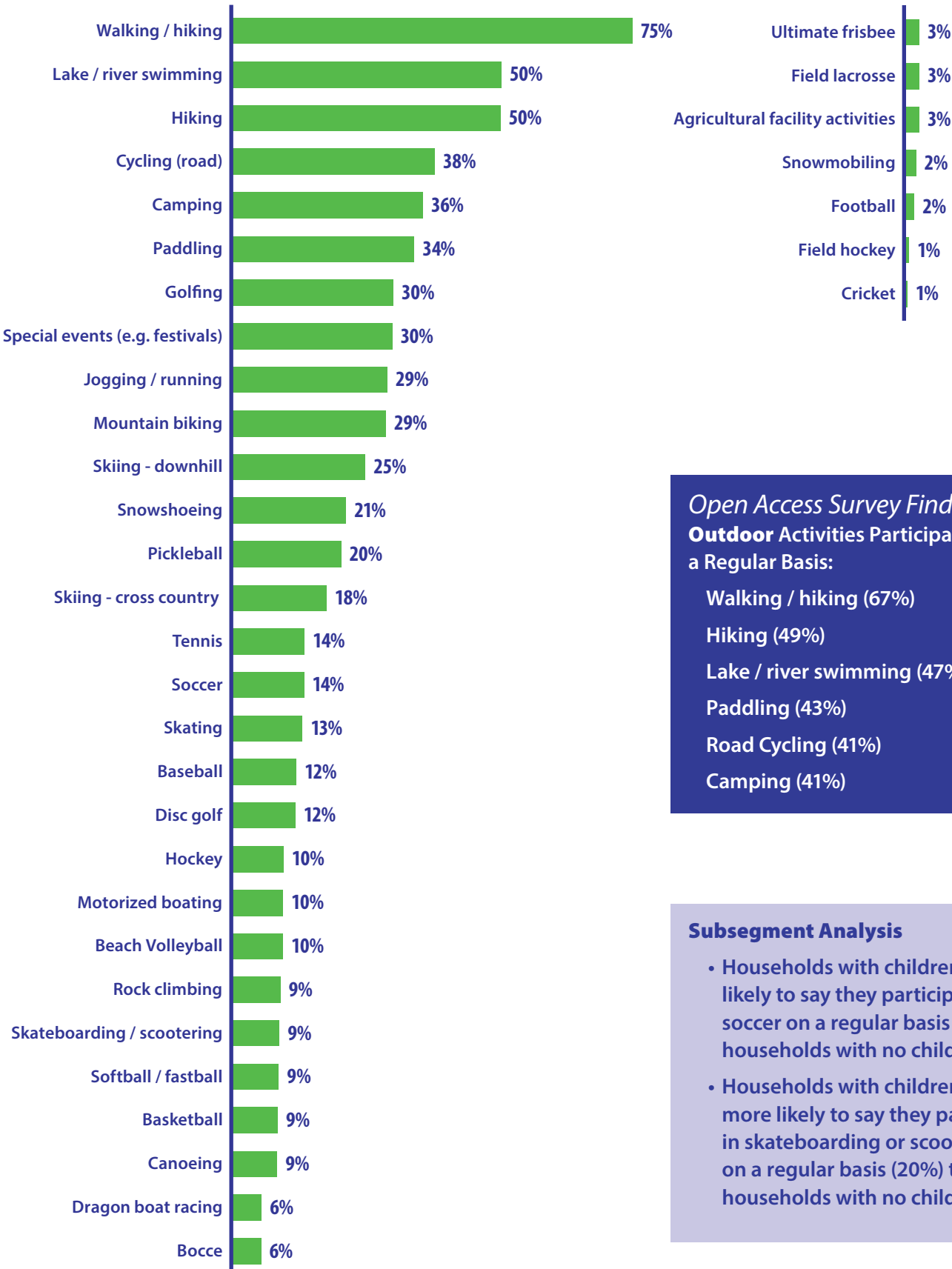
- Playing bridge
- Music (mention of Ukulele)
- Arts and crafts

No Participation

- Some respondents indicated no participation in activities, often due to financial constraints or lack of access to facilities.

Regarding outdoor sports and recreation activities, three-quarters (75%) of respondents participate in walking or hiking on a regular basis. Half of respondents (50%) participate in lake or river swimming and hiking on a regular basis.

Graph 21. Activities Participated in on a Regular Basis Outdoor



Open Access Survey Findings –
Outdoor Activities Participated in on a Regular Basis:

- Walking / hiking (67%)
- Hiking (49%)
- Lake / river swimming (47%)
- Paddling (43%)
- Road Cycling (41%)
- Camping (41%)

Subsegment Analysis

- Households with children are more likely to say they participate in soccer on a regular basis (39%) than households with no children (14%).
- Households with children are more likely to say they participate in skateboarding or scooting on a regular basis (20%) than households with no children (9%).

Respondents were able to share additional outdoor activities they participate in on a regular basis. The responses are

presented according to some themes:

Water Activities

- Kayaking
- Sailing (small craft sailing, rowing)
- Outrigger paddling
- Windsurfing

Cycling and Biking

- Gravel Biking
- Road Biking
- E-biking on local trails
- Cycling on trails (KVR, etc.)

Fitness and Exercise

- Gym exercises
- Outdoor boot camps
- Yoga
- Multi-Sport activities
- Track and Field Club
- Triathlon

Recreational Activities

- Roller Skating/Roller Blading (including roller derby)
- Rugby
- Curling
- Lawn Bowling
- Horseback Riding
- Dog Sports (agility, tricks, canicross, parkour)
- Arts activities.

Nature and Outdoor Activities

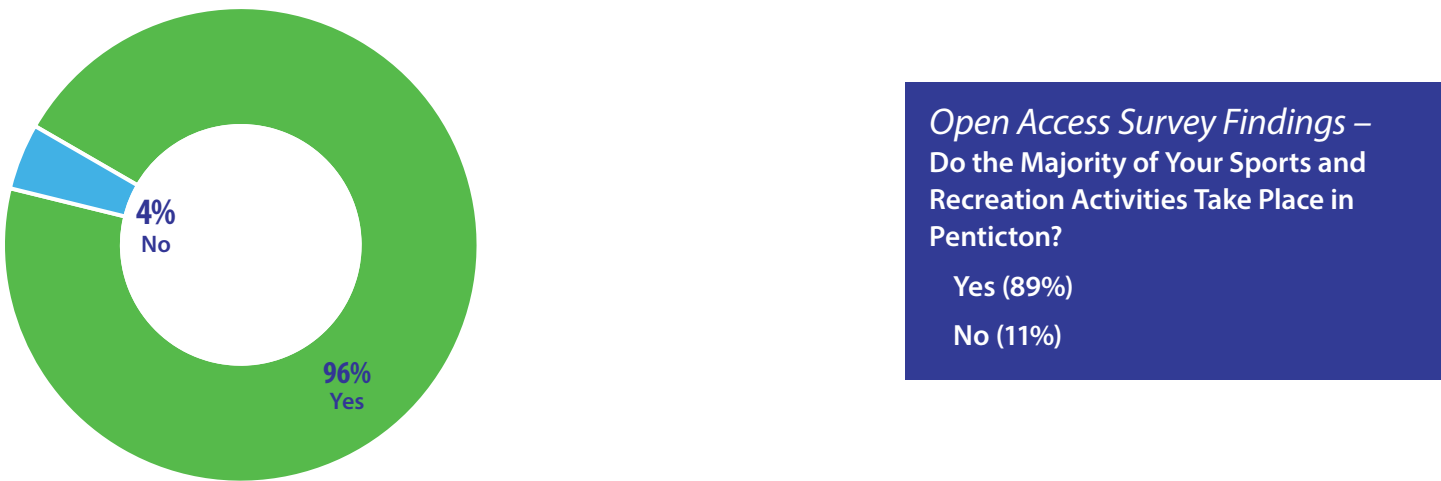
- Bird/nature Watching
- Geocaching
- Using parks for picnics and relaxation
- Metal detecting

Gardening and Landscaping

- Gardening
- Landscaping

When asked if the majority of their households regular sports and recreation activities take place in Penticton, almost all (96%) indicated they do.

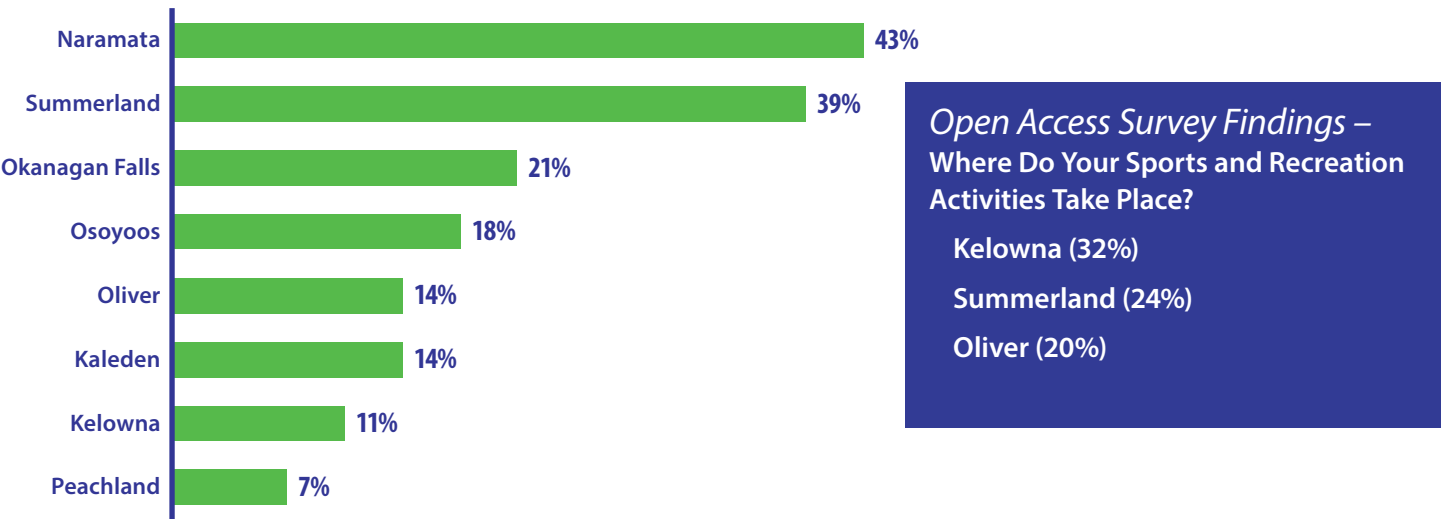
Graph 22. Do the Majority of Your Sports and Recreation Activities Take Place in Penticton?



The small proportion of respondents (4%) that indicated most of their sport and recreation activities take place outside of Penticton were then asked to identify the location of these activities. As reflected by the graph, Naramata and Summerland were the top two external locations identified.

Graph 23. Where Do Your Sports and Recreation Activities Take Place?

*Respondents that indicated most activities occur outside of Penticton

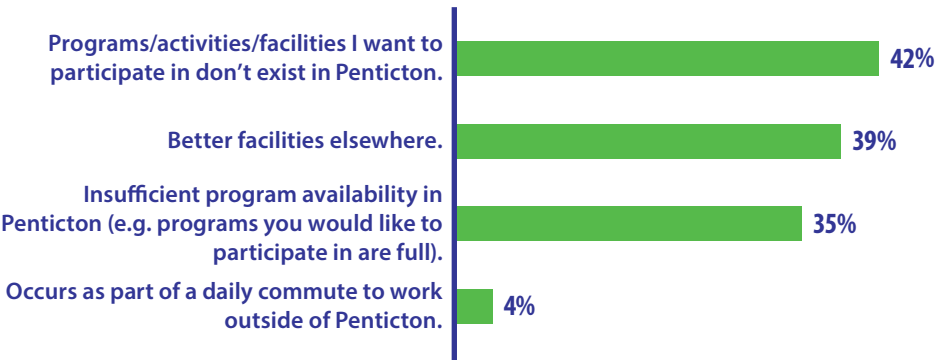


Respondents shared additional places they participate in sport and recreation activities:

- Apex
- Keremeos
- Langley
- North Vancouver
- Similkameen
- Okanagan backcountry

Programs and activities I want to participate in don't exist in Penticton (42%), better facilities elsewhere (39%) and insufficient program availability are the top reasons households are participating in sports and recreation activities outside of the City.

Graph 24. Why Do Your Sports and Recreation Activities Take Place Outside of Penticton?



Open Access Survey Findings –
Why Do Your Sports and Recreation Activities Take Place Outside of Penticton?

Programs/activities/facilities I want to participate in don't exist in Penticton (18%)

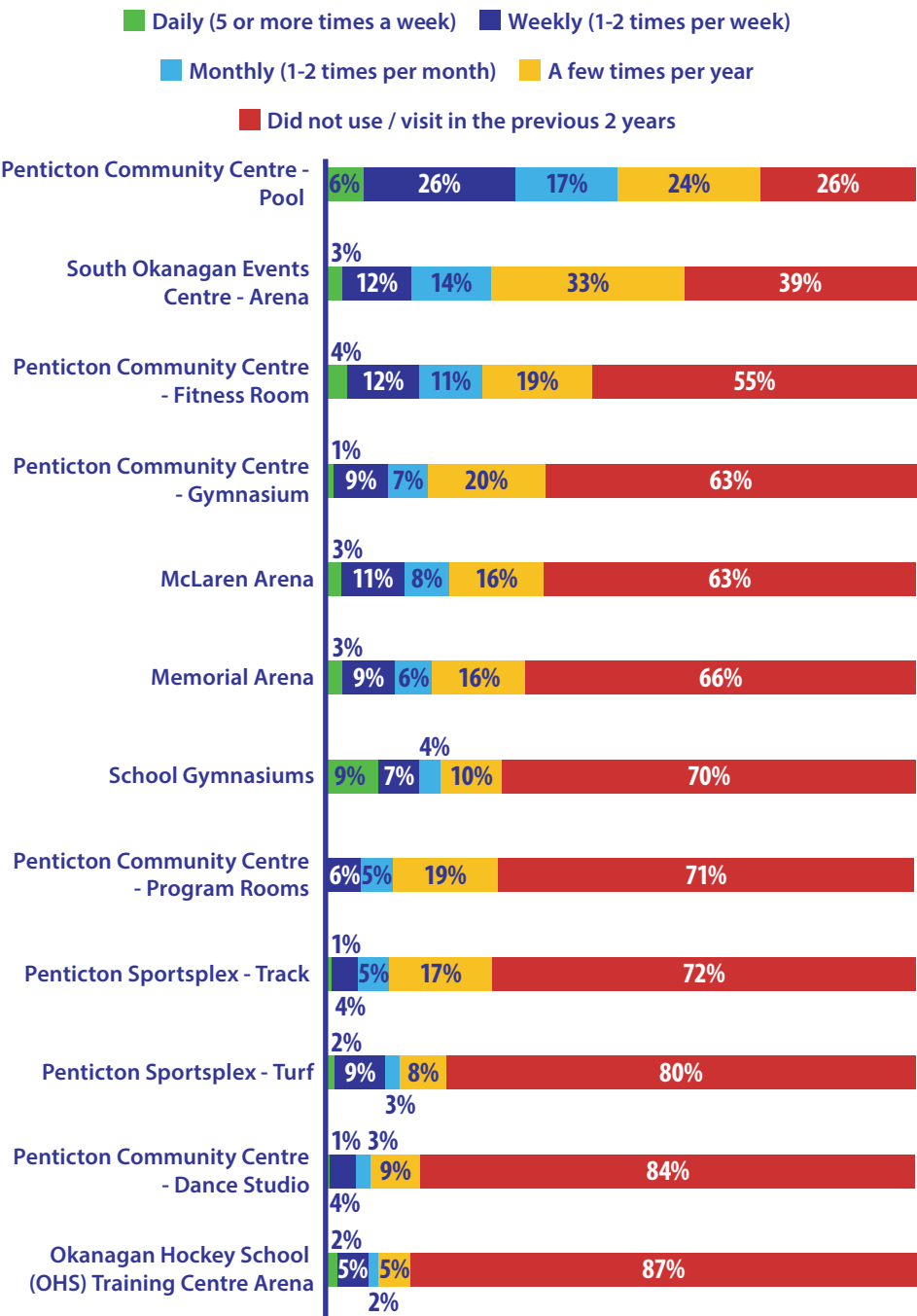
Better facilities elsewhere (14%)

Subsegment Analysis

- Households with children are more likely to say they participate in sport and recreation activities outside of Penticton because there are better facilities elsewhere (64%) than households with no children (40%).
- Households with children are more likely to say they participate in sport and recreation activities outside of Penticton because there is insufficient programming in the City (54%) than households with no children (36%).

Next, respondents were presented with a list of outdoor facilities and amenities in Penticton and were asked to indicate how frequently they visited each. As illustrated by the graph, the Penticton Community Centre pool is the most frequently used amenity in the town, with three-quarters (75%) of respondents indicating they used it in the past year. Of those that have used the pool, approximately one-third (34%) do so on a weekly basis (26% of the 75% that use the pool). The South Okanagan Arena is also highly utilized, with approximately two-thirds (61%) using this facility in the last year.

Graph 25. Frequency of Use: Indoor Facilities and Amenities



Open Access Survey Findings – Frequency of Use (Indoor Facilities/Amenities):

Daily (5 or more times)

- Penticton Community Centre – Pool (5%)

Weekly (1-2 times per week)

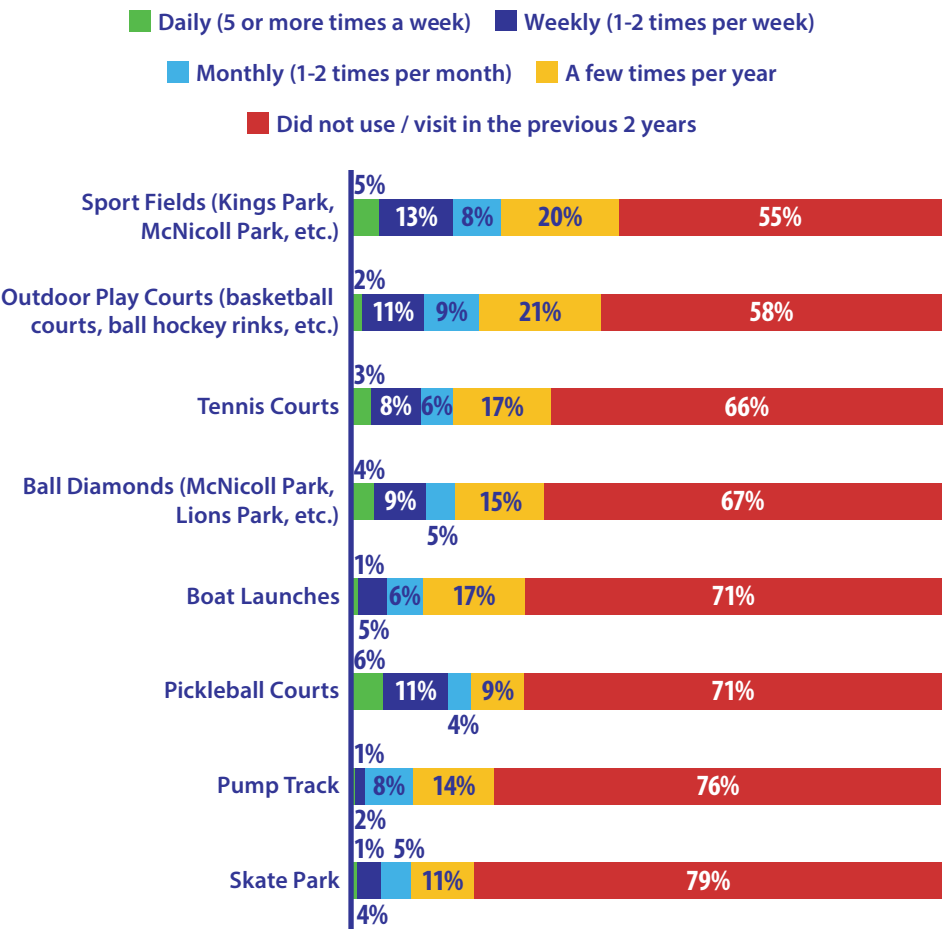
- Penticton Community Centre – Pool (24%)
- Penticton Community Centre – Fitness Room (19%)

Monthly (1-2 times per month)

- South Okanagan Events Centre – Arena (35%)
- Penticton Community Centre – Pool (24%)

Considering outdoor facilities and spaces, sports fields, sports courts, and ball diamonds were used by at least one-third of respondents in the previous year. Notably, over 20% of respondents indicated relatively frequent use (daily, weekly, or monthly) of sport fields and outdoor play courts.

Graph 26. Frequency of Use: Outdoor Facilities and Amenities



Open Access Survey Findings –
Frequency of Use (Outdoor Facilities/Amenities)

Daily (5 or more times)

- Tennis courts (6%)
- Boat launches (4%)

Weekly (1-2 times per week)

- Sport fields (19%)
- Tennis courts (10%)

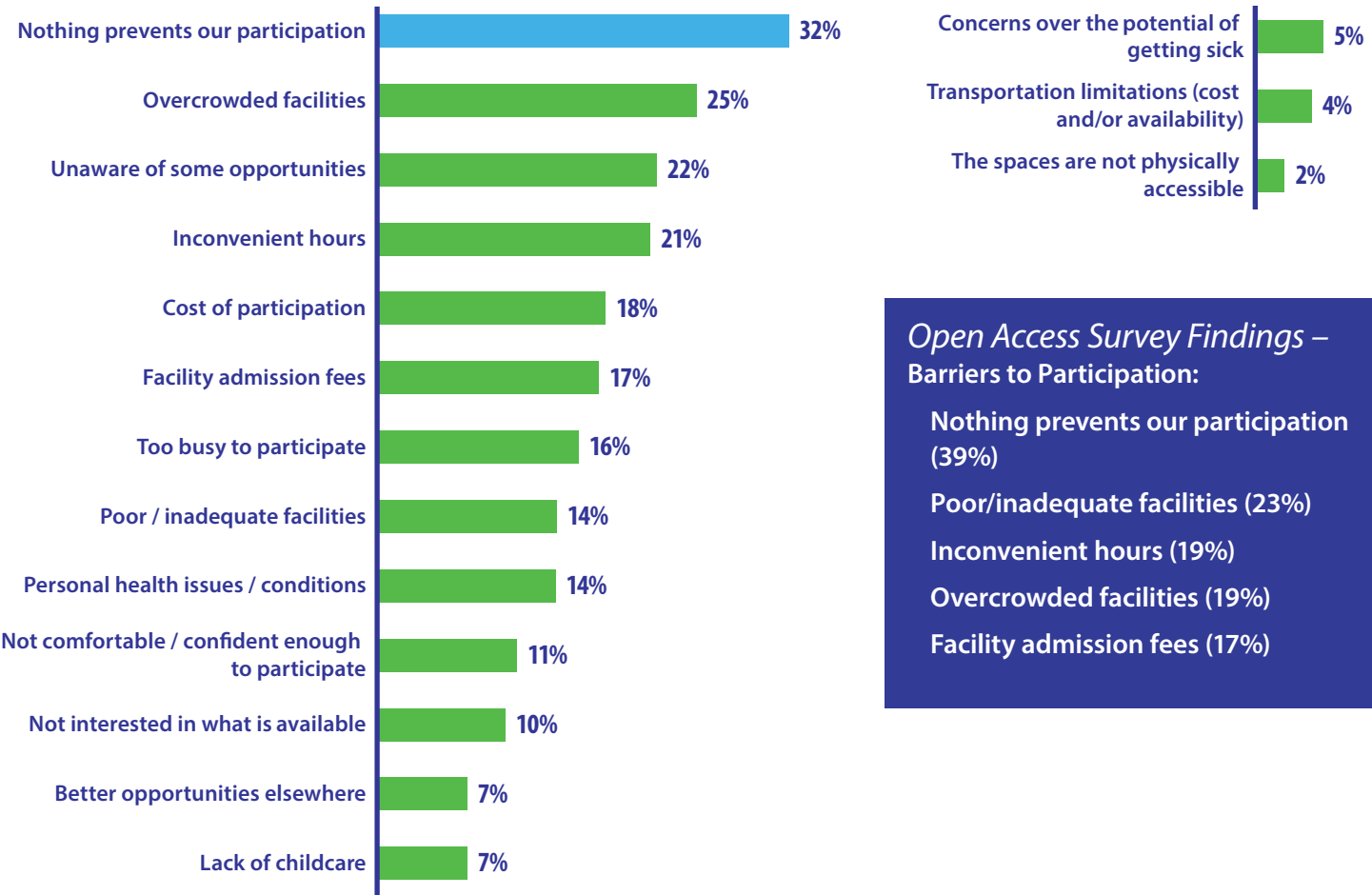
Monthly (1-2 times per month)

- Outdoor play courts (11%)
- Sport fields (10%)
- Pump track (10%)

Section 3: Sports and Recreation Services Assessment

Respondents were next asked to identify barriers that prevent household members from participating in sport and recreation opportunities. As illustrated in the accompanying graph, the top barriers households in Penticton are facing include: overcrowded facilities (25%), being unaware of opportunities (22%) and inconvenient hours (21%). Affordability challenges as a barrier are also notable with 17% and 18% respectively identifying one or both of cost of participation and facility admission fees as a barrier.

Graph 27. Barriers to Participation



Subsegment Analysis

- Households with no children are more likely to say nothing prevents participation in sport and recreation opportunities (31%) than households with children (23%).
- Those who are dissatisfied with the overall availability of sport and recreation opportunities in the City are more likely to say that inconvenient hours (42%) is a barrier they face than those who are satisfied (16%).
- Those who are dissatisfied with the overall availability of sport and recreation opportunities in the City are more likely to say that poor and inadequate facilities is a barrier they face (41%) than households that are satisfied (9%).
- Those who are satisfied with the overall availability of sport and recreation opportunities in the City are more likely to say that nothing prevents their participation in sport and recreation opportunities (38%) than households that are dissatisfied (14%).

Respondents were able to share any additional barriers their household faces when trying to access sport and recreation opportunities. The responses are presented according to some themes:

Financial Constraints

- Many respondents indicated that they are unable to participate in activities due to financial limitations, even for discounted rates. This barrier significantly affects access to recreational opportunities.

Accessibility Issues

- Respondents mentioned challenges related to physical disabilities or the need for facilities that accommodate various abilities, such as wheelchair access. This limits participation in many activities.

Limited Availability of Activities

- Some respondents expressed frustration with the limited scheduling of activities, such as swimming lessons and gym availability, particularly during evenings when working individuals can participate.

Seasonal Limitations

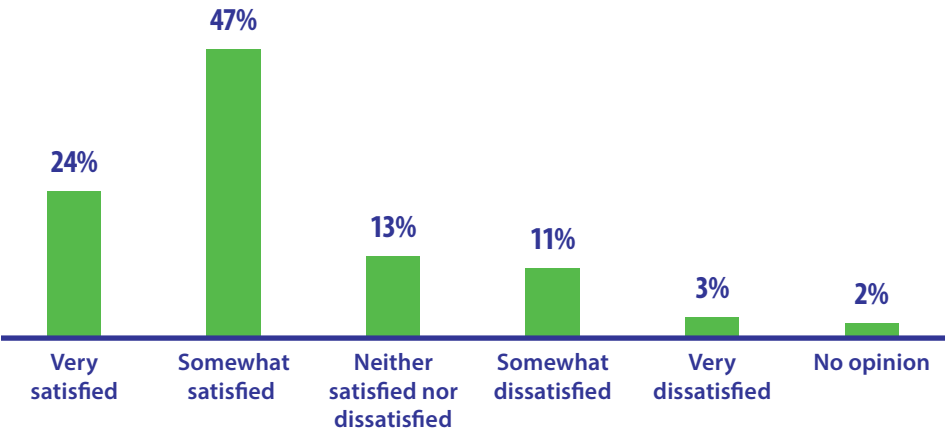
- Certain activities are only available during specific seasons, which can restrict participation year-round.

Social and Community Engagement

- Some individuals feel isolated or disconnected from community activities, which can deter participation.

Respondents were next asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with the **overall availability of recreation opportunities** in Penticton. Approximately three-quarters (71%) indicated they are satisfied (very satisfied and somewhat satisfied) with the availability of recreation opportunities.

Graph 28. Satisfaction with the Overall Availability of Sports and Recreation Opportunities



Open Access Survey Findings –
Satisfaction with the Overall Availability of Sports and Recreation Opportunities

Very satisfied (19%)
Somewhat satisfied (47%)
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (14%)
Somewhat dissatisfied (4%)
No opinion (3%)

Respondents were able to explain their satisfaction rating. The responses are presented according to some themes:

Positive Feedback on Specific Sports and Activities

- Activities like roller skating, rock climbing, and dragon boating received positive mentions, indicating that respondents find these activities enjoyable and valuable.
- Many respondents expressed enjoyment in outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and walking.

Desire for More Variety and Availability

- There is a desire for more opportunities, such as additional swimming lessons, pickleball availability, and indoor facilities for various sports.

Concerns About Accessibility and Inclusivity

- There are barriers related to accessibility, particularly for individuals with disabilities.

Mixed Feelings About Community Resources

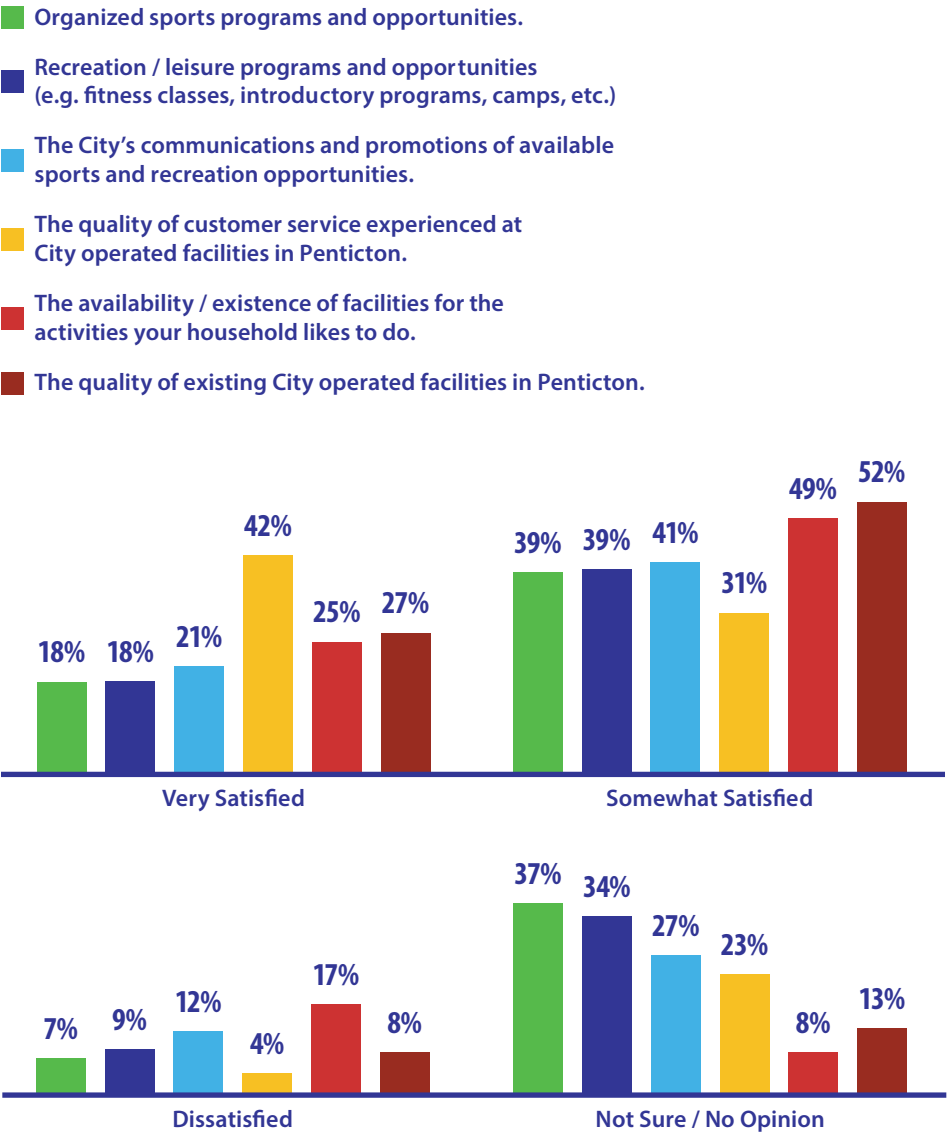
- Respondents expressed mixed feelings about the availability of community resources, with some feeling that certain activities are underrepresented or not adequately supported, such as arts and crafts.

Limited Participation Due to Barriers

- A number of respondents indicated that they would participate more if barriers such as financial constraints or limited scheduling were addressed.

Considering different aspects of sports and recreation services, approximately half (42%) are very satisfied with the quality of customer service experienced at City facilities. Notably, at least 83% of respondents are satisfied (very satisfied and somewhat satisfied) with all aspects presented.

Graph 29. Satisfaction with Different Aspects of Sports and Recreation Services



Open Access Survey Findings –
Satisfaction with Different Aspects of Sports and Recreation Services:

Very satisfied

- The quality of customer service experienced at City operated facilities in Penticton (39%)
- The quality of existing City operated facilities in Penticton (20%)
- Organized sports programs and opportunities (19%)

Somewhat satisfied

- The availability/existence of facilities for the activities your household likes to do (58%)
- The quality of existing City operated facilities in Penticton (53%)
- The City's communication and promotions of available sports and recreation opportunities (49%)

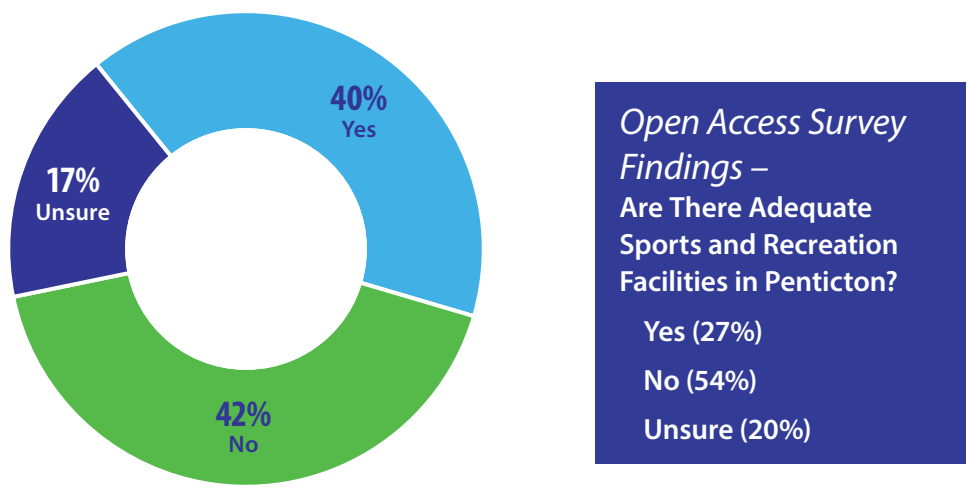
Subsegment Analysis

- Those who are satisfied with the overall availability of sport and recreation opportunities are more likely to say that they are very satisfied with the City's communication and promotion of opportunities (26%) than those who are dissatisfied.
- Those who are satisfied with the overall availability of sport and recreation opportunities in the City are more likely to say that they are very satisfied with the availability of facilities (35%) than those households that are dissatisfied (3%).

Section 4: Future Priorities and Focus Areas

The next series of questions focused on facilities and amenities. When asked if sport and recreation facilities in Penticton are adequate, less than half (40%) indicated there are sufficient facilities, while very similar proportions indicated there are not sufficient facilities.

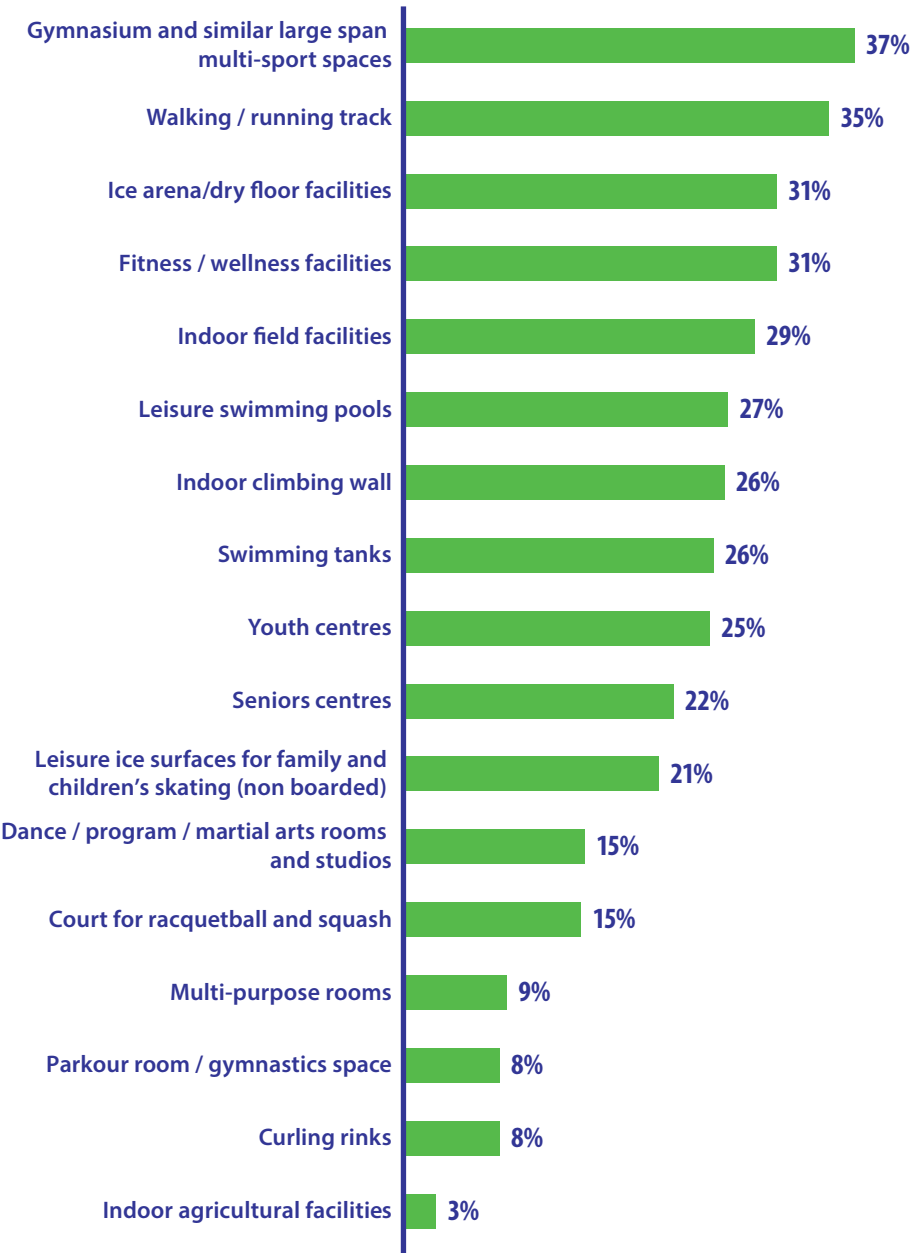
Graph 30. Are There Adequate Sports and Recreation Facilities in Penticton?



Those who **indicated there are not adequate sport and recreation facilities** in Penticton or those who were unsure were presented with a list of indoor and outdoor sport and recreation facilities and were asked to identify **five (5)** that should be more readily available or enhanced.

The **top five (5) indoor** facilities and amenities identified include: gymnasium and similar large span multi-sport (37%), walking/running track (35%), ice arena/dry floor facilities (31%), fitness and wellness facilities (31%) and indoor field facilities (29%). Refer to the graph for additional findings.

Graph 31. Indoor Sports and Recreation Amenity Priorities



Open Access Survey Findings – Sports and Recreation Facilities / Amenities for Investment (Indoor)

Indoor climbing wall (34%)
Indoor field facilities (30%)
Walking/running track (29%)
Ice arena/dry floor facilities (27%)

Subsegment Analysis

- Households with children are more likely to say that leisure swimming pools should be a priority for investment (40%) than households with no children (26%).
- Households with children are more likely to say that indoor field facilities should be a priority for investment (40%) than households with no children (29%).

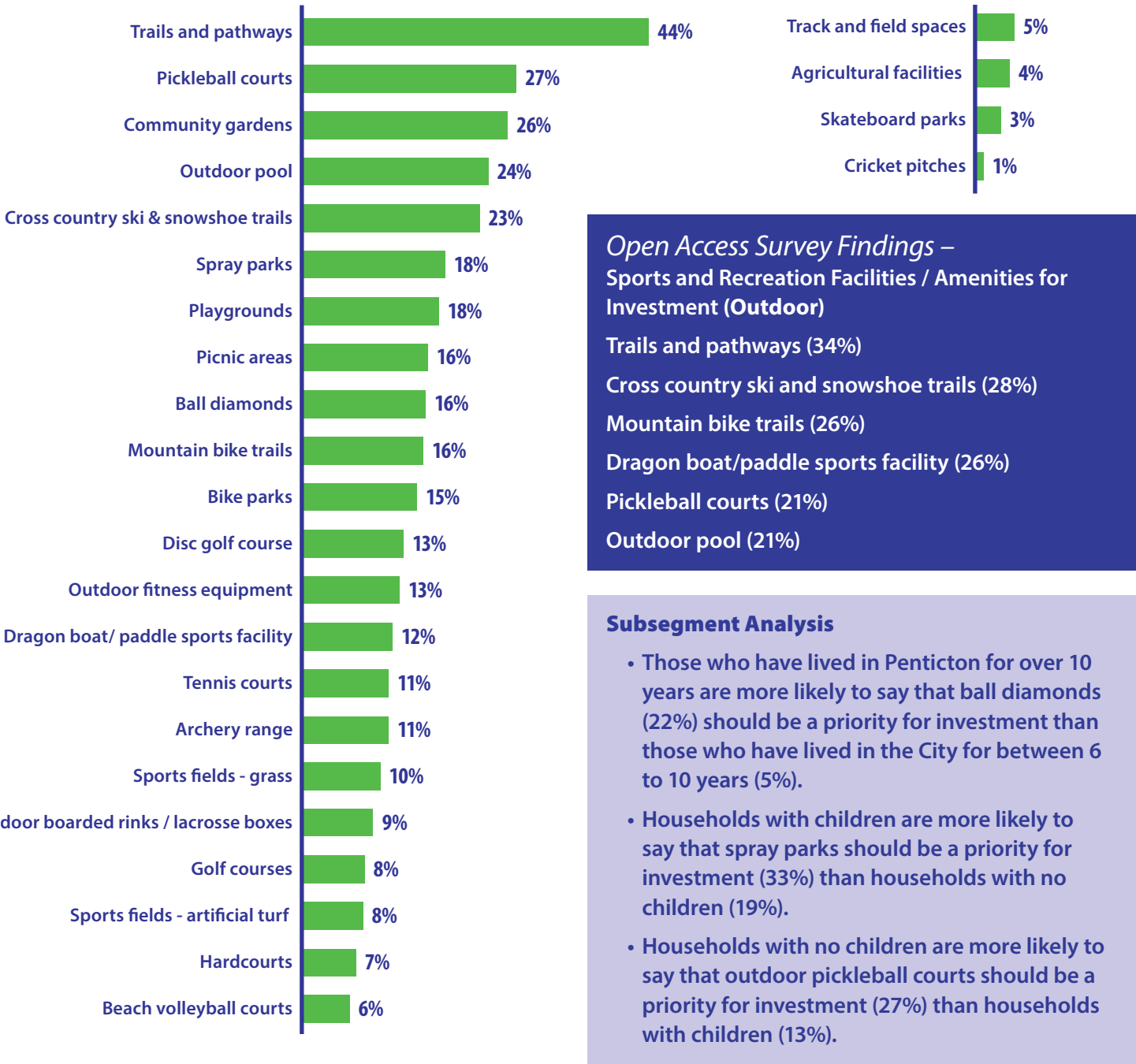
Respondents were able to share additional indoor sports and recreation facilities and amenities that should be considered for investment. The responses are presented below:

- Rock climbing gym
 - Indoor soccer fields
 - Paddle rooms for dragon boating
- Pickleball facilities
 - Table tennis
 - Indoor bouldering

In addition to the mention of new facilities, respondents iterated the importance of making indoor facilities accessible for those with disabilities and ensuring that current facilities have regular upkeep to ensure they are safe for users.

Regarding **outdoor facilities, the top five (5)** identified for investment include: trails and pathways (44%), pickleball courts (27%), community gardens (26%), outdoor pool (24%) and cross-country ski and snowshoe trails (23%). Refer to the graph for additional findings.

Graph 32. Outdoor Sports and Recreation Amenity Priorities



Respondents were able to share additional outdoor facilities and amenities the City should consider for investment.

- Multi-use outdoor spaces
- Re-iterated the need for pickleball courts
- Spaces for dragon boating.

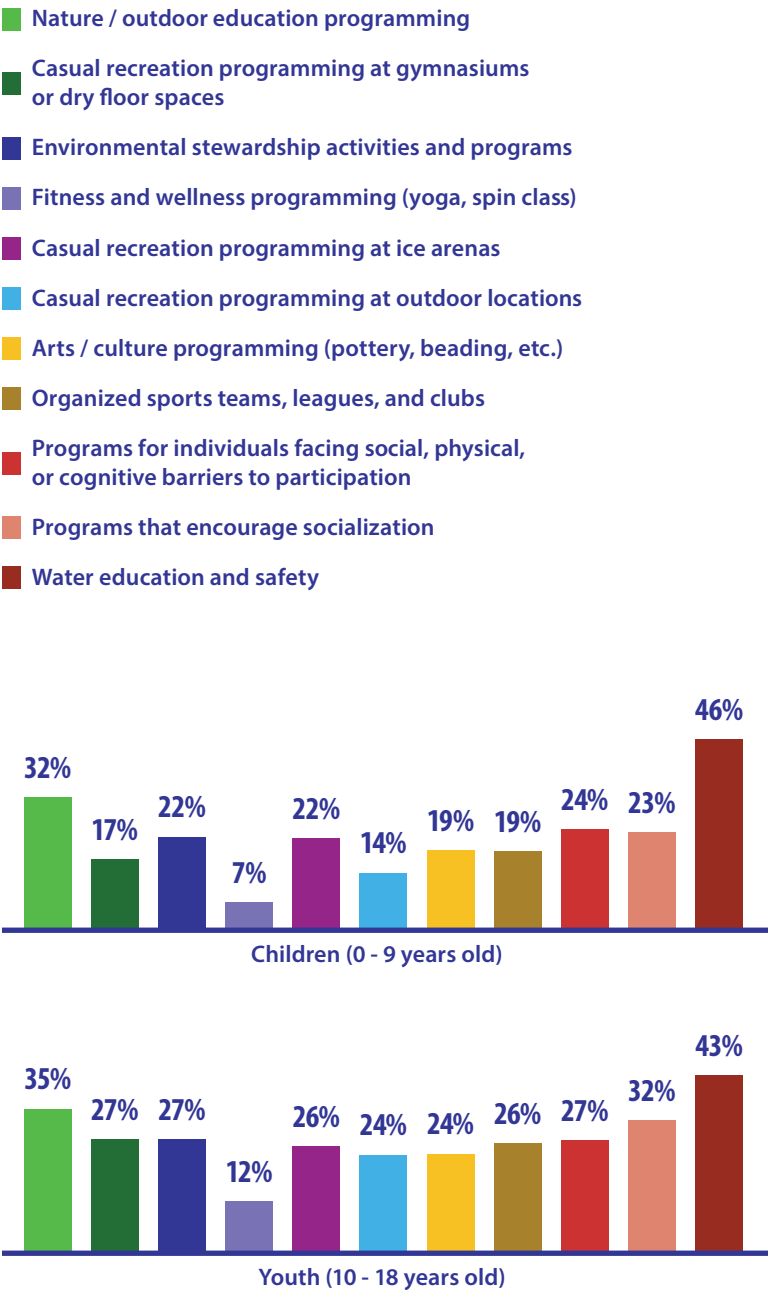
In addition to the additional facilities mentioned, respondents indicated the need to ensure outdoor spaces are better maintained and accessible for users with disabilities.

Section 5: Programming

To gain an understanding of programming need, respondents were asked to identify the types of programming that should be more available in Penticton based on age groups.

- For children and youth: water education safety (46%) emerged as a top priority with 46% of respondents highlighting its importance for children and 43% for youth aged 10-18 years. Nature and education programming also emerged as a top priority for children and youth.

Graph 33. Programming Need (Children and Youth)

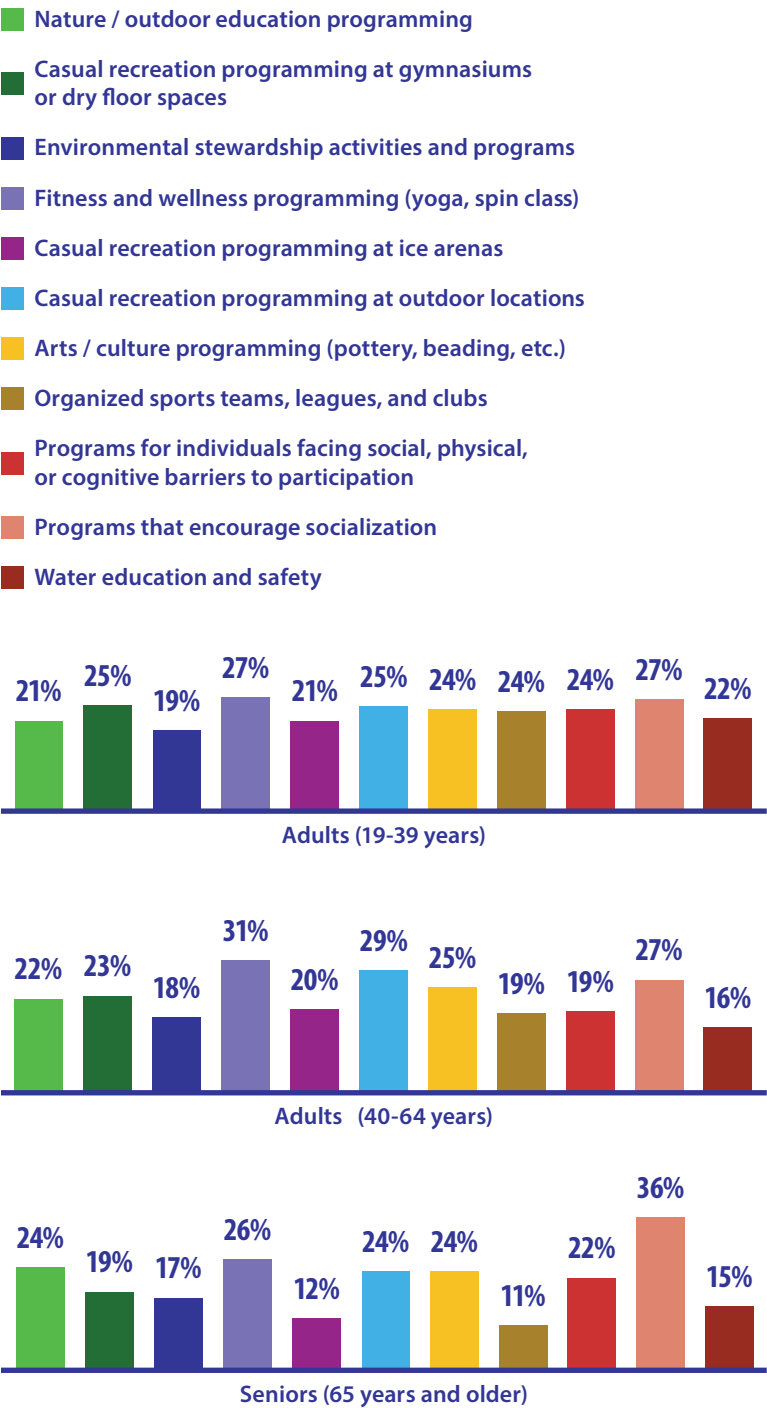


Open Access Survey Findings – Programming Need (Children and Youth):

- **Water education and safety (Children 39%, Youth 37%)**
- **Nature / outdoor education programs (Children 25%, Youth 32%)**
- **Programs that encourage socialization (Children 23%, Children 32%)**

- For young adults (19-39): fitness and wellness programming (27%) and programs that encourage socialization were identified as key programs needed.
- For adults (40-64): Fitness and wellness programming (31%) and casual recreation programming at outdoor locations (29%) were cited as important program needs.
- For seniors (64 years and older): programs that encourage socialization (36%) were indicated as a priority, underscoring the value of socialization for older adults.

Graph 34. Programming Need (Adults and Seniors)



Open Access Survey Findings – Programming Need (Adults and Seniors):

Adults (19-39 years)

- **Casual recreation programming at outdoor locations (31%)**
- **Organized sports teams, leagues and clubs (27%)**

Adults (40-64 years)

- **Casual recreation programming at outdoor locations (34%)**
- **Programs that encourage socialization (29%)**
- **Fitness and wellness programming (29%)**

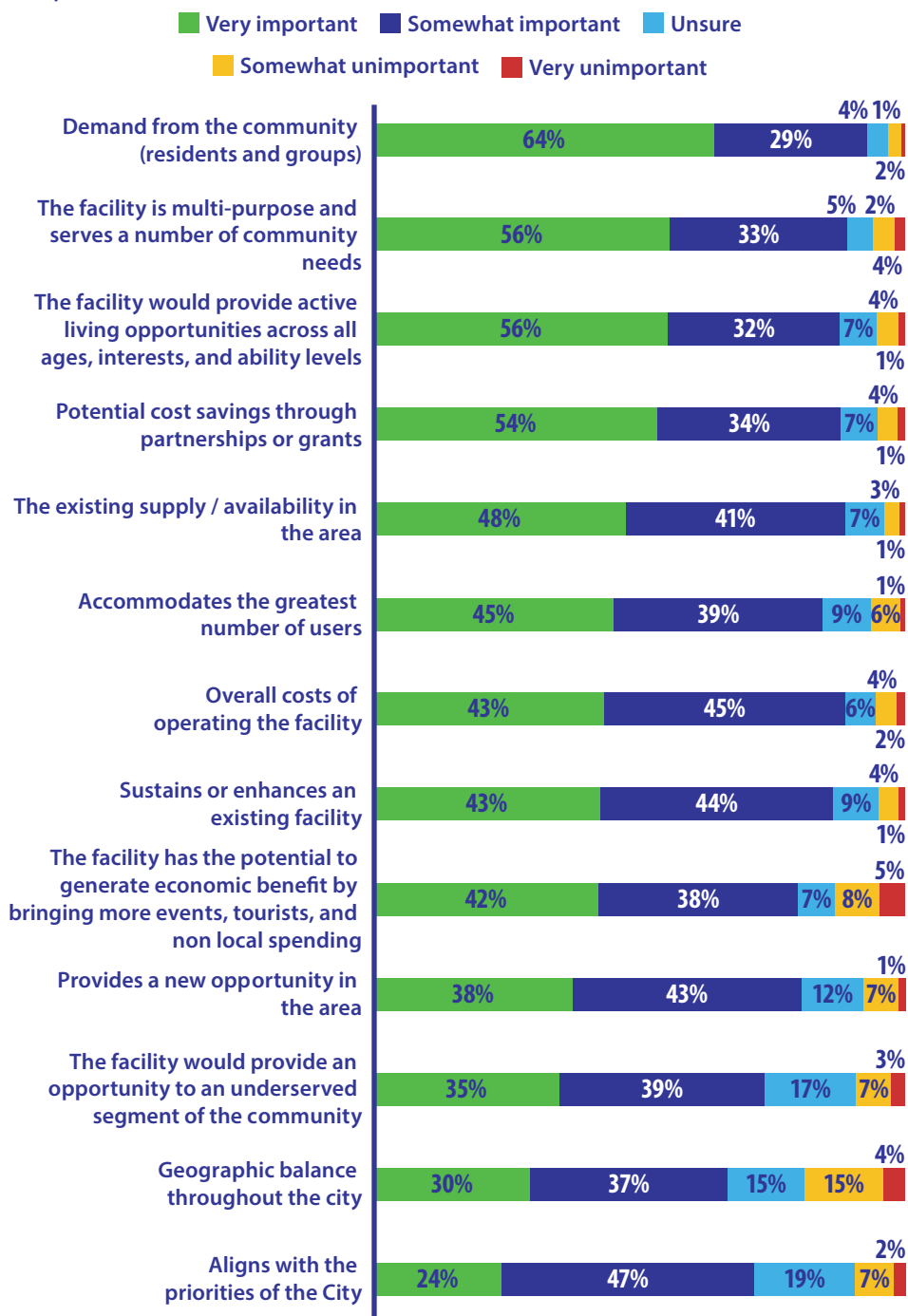
Seniors (65 years and older)

- **Programs that encourage socialization (30%)**
- **Casual recreation programming at outdoor locations (26%)**

Section 6: Prioritization Criteria

When considering public investment in recreation and sport amenities and facilities there are limited resources available, and priorities need to be set based on maximizing public benefit, priorities for future investment into sport and recreation infrastructure. Respondents were provided with a list of factors that the City could use to prioritize investment in recreation in Penticton. For each factor they were asked to identify how important it should be when the City sets priorities for potential sport and recreation projects. Approximately two-thirds (64%) indicated that demand from the community, including residents and groups is a very important criteria for the City when prioritizing investment. Over half of respondents also identified a facility being multi-purpose, able to serve a broad range of users, and cost saving opportunities through partnerships as very important criteria.

Graph 35. Prioritization Criteria



Open Access Survey Findings – Prioritization Criteria:

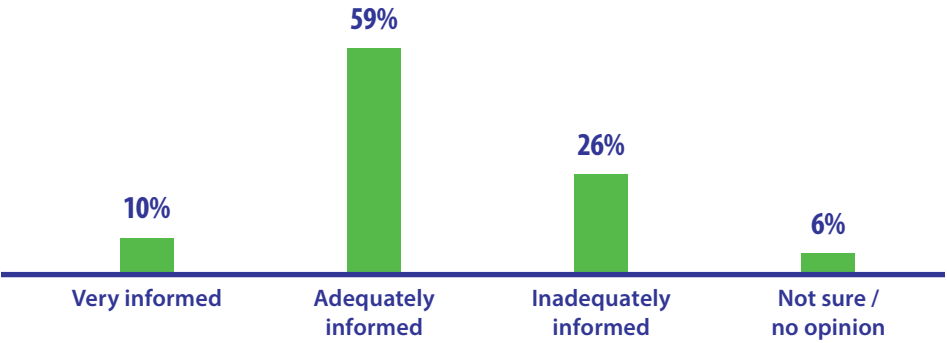
Very Important

- Demand from the community (64%)
- Potential cost savings through partnerships and grants (48%)
- The facility would provide active living opportunities across all ages, interests and abilities (45%)

Section 7: Communications

When asked how informed they are about sports and recreation in the City, approximately two-thirds (59%) indicated they are adequately informed. Approximately one-quarter (26%) indicated they are inadequately informed.

Graph 36. How Informed Do You Feel About Sports and Recreation in Penticton?



Open Access Survey Findings –
How Informed Do You Feel About Sports and Recreation in Penticton?

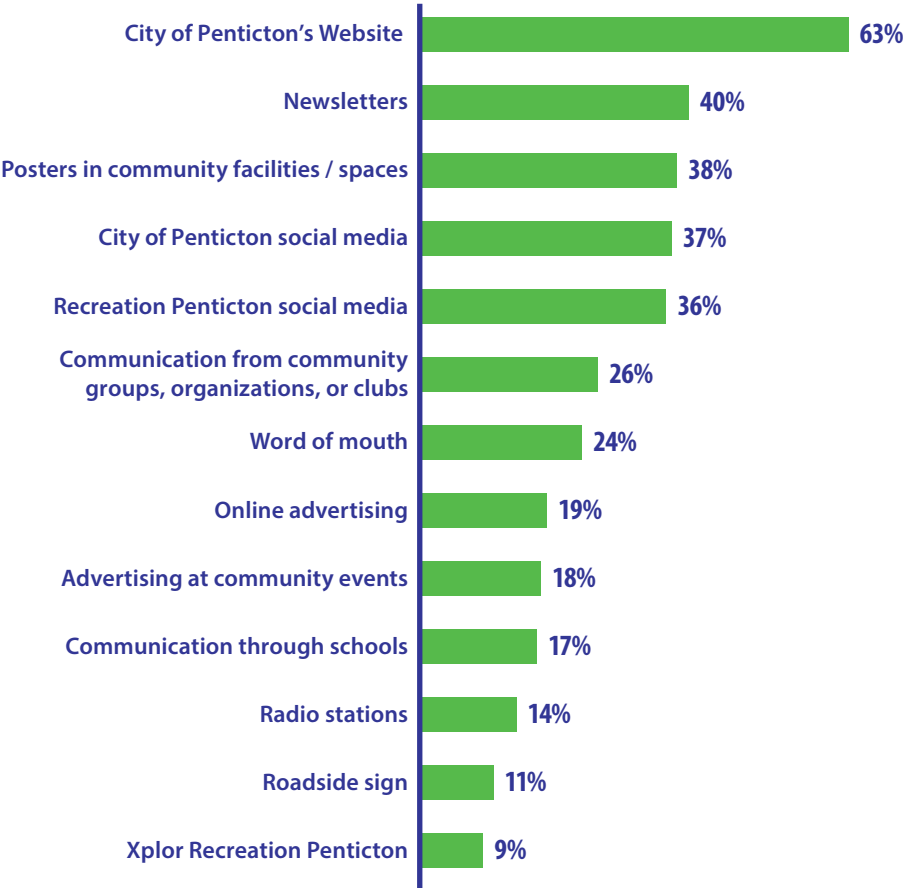
- Very informed (13%)
- Adequately informed (60%)
- Inadequately informed (16%)
- Not sure/no opinion (12%)

Subsegment Analysis

- Those who are dissatisfied with the overall availability of sport and recreation opportunities in the City are more likely to say that they are inadequately informed (34%) than those who are satisfied (20%).

In terms of communicational channels, respondents were presented with a list and asked to identify their top three preferences. As illustrated in the accompanying graph, approximately two-thirds (63%) prefer to learn about sport and recreation opportunities through the City’s website. Respondents also prefer to use newsletters (40%), posters in community facilities (38%) and through the City’s social media channels (37%).

Graph 37. Communication Preferences



Open Access Survey Findings –
Communication Preferences

- **City of Penticton Website (58%)**
- **City of Penticton Social Media (44%)**
- **Recreation Penticton Social Media (38%)**

Subsegment Analysis

- Households with children are more likely to say they prefer to learn about sports and recreation opportunities through the schools (36%) than households without children (17%).

Section 8: Other Comments

Respondents were able to share additional thoughts regarding the provision of sports and recreation in Penticton. The responses are presented according to some themes.

Diversity of Activities

- Community members participate in a variety of activities, including team sports (e.g., soccer, rugby), individual sports (e.g., running, cycling), and recreational pursuits (e.g., hiking, bird watching). This diversity indicates a vibrant community with varied interests.
- Activities like geocaching, outdoor boot camps, and multi-sport events reflect evolving interests in the community.

Barriers to Participation

- Many respondents cited financial limitations as a significant barrier, making it difficult to afford participation in certain activities, even when discounts are available.
- Physical disabilities and the lack of accessible facilities hinder participation for some community members. This includes the need for wheelchair-accessible paths and spaces.
- Respondents noted the absence of specific facilities, such as indoor climbing gyms and adequate swimming pools, which limits options for engagement in various sports.
- Scheduling conflicts, particularly for evening activities, and the limited number of classes or sessions available for popular activities (like swimming lessons) restrict participation.
- Certain activities are only available during specific seasons, which can deter participation year-round, particularly for outdoor sports.

Satisfaction with Current Offerings

- Positive Experiences: Many respondents reported high satisfaction with outdoor activities like hiking and biking, as well as specific sports such as roller skating and rock climbing.
- Desire for More Options: There is a strong desire for more variety in activities, particularly in areas like swimming, indoor sports, and community events.
- Concerns About Accessibility: Satisfaction is tempered by concerns regarding the accessibility of activities for individuals with disabilities.

Need for Infrastructure Investment

- Investment in Facilities: Respondents emphasized the need for dedicated facilities for various activities, such as indoor climbing gyms, paddle rooms for dragon boating, and spaces for pickleball.
- Enhancement of Existing Infrastructure: A number of comments identified improvements to current outdoor facilities, including better-maintained walking and biking trails, public parks, and recreational spaces.
- Multi-Use Spaces: The community desires the development of multi-use outdoor spaces that can accommodate various activities, allowing for greater flexibility.

Community Engagement and Feedback

- Involvement in Planning: Respondents expressed a desire for more community involvement in the planning and development of recreational facilities. They want their feedback to be considered in decisions regarding new infrastructure and improvements.
- Feedback Mechanisms: Establishing clear channels for community input can help ensure that the facilities developed meet the needs and preferences of residents.

Focus on Accessibility and Inclusivity

- Design Considerations: Ensuring that outdoor and indoor facilities are accessible to all community members, including those with disabilities, is a recurring theme. This includes the need for well-maintained paths, ramps, and recreational areas that accommodate various abilities.
- Inclusive Programming: There is a call for programming that caters to diverse populations, ensuring that all community members can participate in recreational activities.

Seasonal Considerations

- Year-Round Options: The community recognizes the importance of providing year-round options for activities, ensuring that facilities can support both summer and winter sports.
- Adaptability of Facilities: Facilities should be designed to be adaptable for different seasons, allowing for a variety of activities to take place throughout the year.

Section 9: Household Profile

Respondents were asked a variety of questions about their household. The findings are presented in the accompanying chart.

Do you live in Penticton?	
Yes	97%
No (West Bench, Summerland, North Vancouver, PIB Skaha Hills, Vancouver, RDOS Area E, Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, Saga Mesa)	3%
What neighbourhood do you live in?	
Main Street North	7%
Uplands/Redlands	7%
Columbia/ Duncan	16%
Cherryland/Windsor Ave	6%
Carmi	4%
Main Street South	8%
Downtown	9%
Wiltse/ Valleyview	10%
North Gateway	4%
Penticton South – Skaha	17%
Other:	12%
Tenure in Penticton	
Less than 1 year	4%
1 - 5 years	22%
6 – 10 years	19%
More than 10 years	56%
Household Composition	
Couple with children	29%
Couple without children	39%
Lone parent family	4%
One-person household	14%
Multigenerational household (at least 3 generations)	4%
Two or more adults not a couple (e.g., roommates, siblings living together)	5%
Prefer not to answer	5%

Another key reference point for the survey data is the age composition of respondent households (as self reported by respondents) in comparison to actual figures (as per Statistics Canada, 2021 Census of the Population). As reflected by the following table, both versions of the survey had strong alignment with Census data which further reflects the reliability of the findings.

Age Range	Coded (Postcard)	Open Access (Non-Coded)	Stats Canada Census Profile 2021
0-4 years	6%	3%	4%
5-9 years	6%	7%	4%
10-14 years	7%	7%	4%
15-19 years	5%	5%	4%
20 -29 years	6%	5%	9%
30-39 years	13%	10%	12%
40-49 years	13%	15%	11%
50-59 years	10%	15%	13%
60-69 years	19%	22%	17%
70-79 years	12%	9%	13%
80 years and older	2%	2%	10%

6.3. Discussion Sessions

Methodology

Discussions were conducted with individuals representing approximately 32 organization or activity interests in the community (21 discussion sessions with 33 participating organizations). Please refer to Appendix C for a list of organizations and community interests represented in these discussion sessions.

The discussion sessions were conducted virtually and provided an opportunity for the project team to learn more about the specific organizations that deliver programming, events and community services in the area and explore their perspectives on current facilities/amenities, trends, and future needs. While the discussions were wide-ranging and unique to every type of group, some common themes emerged. These themes and other notable points of interest are summarized as follows. These bullets are not intended to reflect the entirety of the conversations, but rather capture viewpoints expressed by multiple stakeholders and other notable points of interest from the wide-ranging discussions.

Findings

Growth and Trends

- Most groups expect growth.
- Significant challenges include the cost of providing programs, increased competition for participants, and lack of space during peak times and seasons.
- Tournaments and sporting events are seen as opportunities to raise funds and attract tourism to Penticton.
- The social aspect of sports is crucial for creating a sense of community among both newcomers and long-term residents.
- Concerns were raised about the perceived influence of elite groups on public resources.

Facility Needs and Investments

- Many groups advocate for facility investments related to their sports.
- Identified gaps include the need for more arenas and large-span multi-sport spaces (gymnasiums and indoor turf).
- Calls for the City or its partners to invest in infrastructure for emerging and growing sports like rock climbing and trail-based activities.
- Potential for regional solutions to facility development, particularly for outdoor sports complexes was highlighted.
- Concerns about organizations managing their own facilities without City support, specifically regarding maintenance costs, operational expenses, and income generation were raised.
- Emphasis was placed on the need for communal areas in new facilities to foster social connections among participants and spectators.
- Some 'easy win' solutions to improve access to outdoor facilities include the addition of lighting, and washroom/ changeroom facilities to existing park locations.

Accessibility and Scheduling

- Poor outdoor facility conditions have led to organizations losing members, particularly when organization booked outdoor amenities at schools.
- City planning processes have impacted organizations' investment decisions. Determinations regarding available land and previously condemned buildings are needed for groups to proceed with their plans.
- Calls for better scheduling systems and equitable allocation of sports facilities, considering hockey's dominance in scheduling priorities.
- Demand for dedicated pickleball facilities was expressed.
- A common challenge faced by youth programs was limited gym access and rising rental costs for programming spaces.
- Need for improved accessibility in park facilities.
- Suggestions for better lighting at soccer fields and at Mullins ball diamond (Parkway) were made in hopes that this would enhance scheduling and usage.
- Inadequate availability and suitability of diamonds for fast pitch and slow pitch games, impacting gameplay and tournament hosting.
- Groups fear the potential loss of existing diamonds due to the closure of a local school, threatening the slow pitch league's viability.

Ice Time and Arena Development

- PMHA struggles to secure adequate ice time due to competition with other groups.
- Growth in player numbers hasn't resulted in additional ice time, complicating scheduling.
- Concerns about a proposed borderless hockey system that could disadvantage local players and raise costs.
- New ice sports face difficulties securing ice time due to established groups occupying most slots.
- Advocacy for community-oriented designs in new arena developments, with multiple ice sheets, improved accessibility, and year-round availability.

Community Engagement and Broader Implications

- Emphasis on community engagement and feedback to shape future sports facilities.
- Some participants find it challenging to participate in City engagement activities due to a lack of computer literacy.
- Use agreements are essential for clubs to secure grants and fundraise for their activities. Some expressed a need for a written commitment from the City.
- Organizations highlighted their history in the community and potential for growth, hoping this would be considered in assessing the City's sport and recreation needs.
- Importance of tourism impact, sport accessibility, inclusivity, and park beautification were emphasized.
- Discussion of the broader economic implications of climbing tourism occurred, with a suggestion for a modern climbing gym to enhance local economic activity and attract more visitors.

6.4. User Group Survey

Methodology

Facility user groups (indoor and outdoor) in Penticton were asked to participate in a survey in order to better understand their perspectives on the current state of sport and recreation, anticipated future amenity and space needs, growth trends, and other factors that may impact the City's future investment in sports and recreation infrastructure. In total 35 groups provided a response – please refer to Appendix C for a list of participating groups.

Findings

Provided as follows are findings from the User Group Survey. The survey (web and hard copy completion options) was sent to a primary contact for each group with a request that they answer on behalf of their organization by considering all viewpoints and future needs. As such, the following findings reflect the survey responses as provided by the primary group contacts.

Section 1: About Your Organization

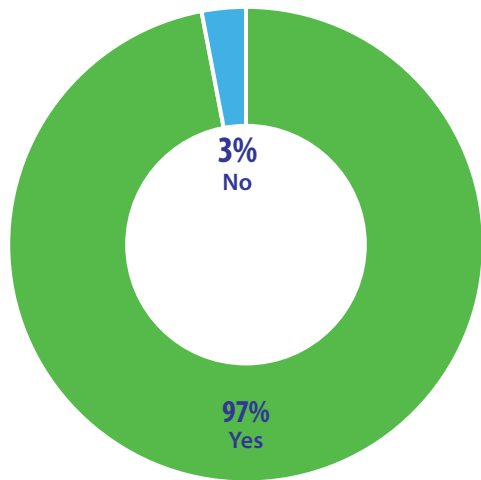
The survey began by gathering information about the organizations. A synopsis is presented in the following graphic:



Section 2: Facility Usage

Respondents were next asked if they use facilities or spaces in Penticton for their programs or activities. Almost all (97%) indicated they do use facility and spaces in the City.

Graph 38. Does Your Organization Use Facilities or Spaces in Penticton for Programs or Activities?

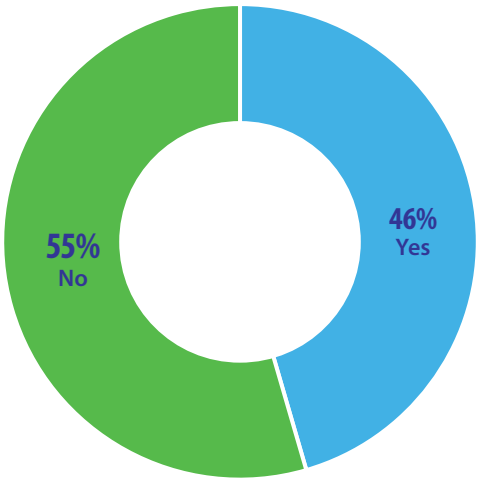


Organizations indicated a variety of facilities and spaces they use for their programming. The facilities and space identified include:

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| McLaren Arena | Penticton Trade & Convention Centre | Campus |
| SOEC (South Okanagan Events Centre) | Skaha Beach Volleyball Courts | Public Tennis Courts |
| OHTC (Okanagan Hockey Training Centre) | Rotary Marina View Disc Golf Course | Pen Hi Track |
| Memorial Arena | Three Blind Mice Disc Golf Course | Sportsplex |
| Kings Park Fields | Boathouse Skaha | Campbell Mountain Trail Network |
| Sportsplex Indoor Field | Penticton Secondary | Lake to Lake Bike Lane |
| | Okanagan College - Penticton | Okanagan Lake Park |

Group representatives were asked if their organization uses facilities outside of Penticton. As reflected in the graph, approximately half (46%) indicated that they do use facilities outside of Penticton.

Graph 39. Does Your Organization Use Facilities Outside of Penticton on a Regular Basis?



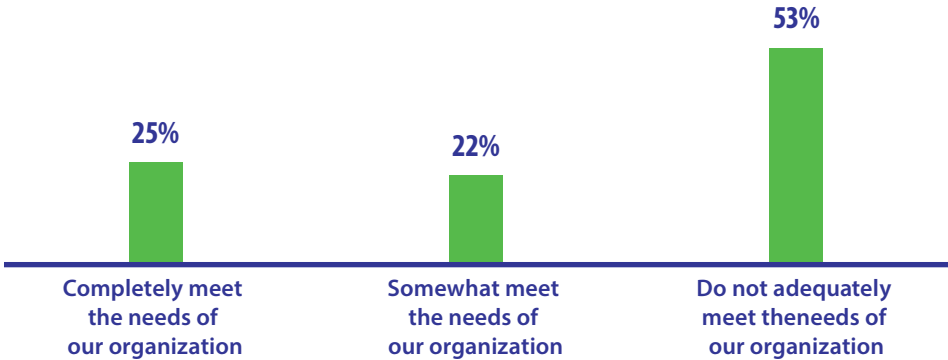
When asked why they use facilities outside of Penticton, respondents indicated that limited facility capacity (especially arenas) force their organizations to use venues in nearby communities. Additionally, comments were provided on how accessing facilities and spaces in neighbouring communities can both alleviate space challenges and expand geographic reach into other smaller communities.

Facilities and places organizations are using outside of Penticton include:

- Facilities in Summerland
- Facilities in SD53
- Kelowna
- Oliver
- Gneiss Climbing
- Dale Meadows

Next, respondents were asked to indicate the degree to which the current sport and recreation facilities in Penticton meet the needs of their organization. Over half (53%) indicated the spaces do not adequately meet the needs of their organization, while a quarter indicated they do completely meet their needs.

Graph 40. Do the Current Sports and Recreation Facilities and Spaces Meet the Needs of Your Organization?



Respondents were able to explain their response to the previous question. The responses are presented according to themes:

Facility Availability

- Ice time is limited and highly controlled by certain groups, creating challenges for other users.
- Gym, indoor fields, and dry floor space are in high demand but unavailable or insufficient, hindering growth and programming expansion.
- Outdoor spaces are weather-dependent, limiting consistent use for sports and events.

Facility Limitations

- Facilities lack modern standards or amenities (e.g., small ice pads, lack of dryland training areas, outdated structures).
- Inadequate indoor training facilities for year-round programs like running, volleyball, football, and pickleball.
- Spaces like the Skaha Lake Boathouse and disc golf courses are undersized or lack essentials like parking and bathrooms.

Cost and Access Challenges

- High rental costs make some facilities unaffordable.
- Access is restricted by venue policies, such as school gym closures or blackout dates at city facilities.
- Expansion and Growth Barriers
- Lack of adequate spaces prevents hosting tournaments and expanding programs.
- Insufficient resources limit sport tourism opportunities.

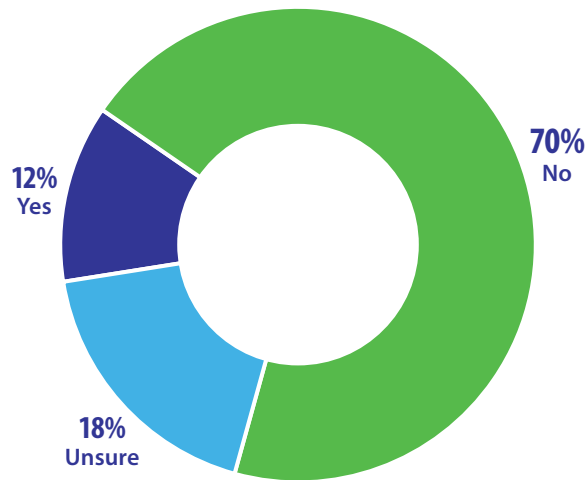
Future Opportunities

- Developing modern, multi-use facilities (ice rinks, gyms, fields, trails) could address current gaps and drive participation.
- Upgraded and new venues could attract tourism, support larger events, and better serve local organizations.

Section 3: Future Priorities and Focus Areas

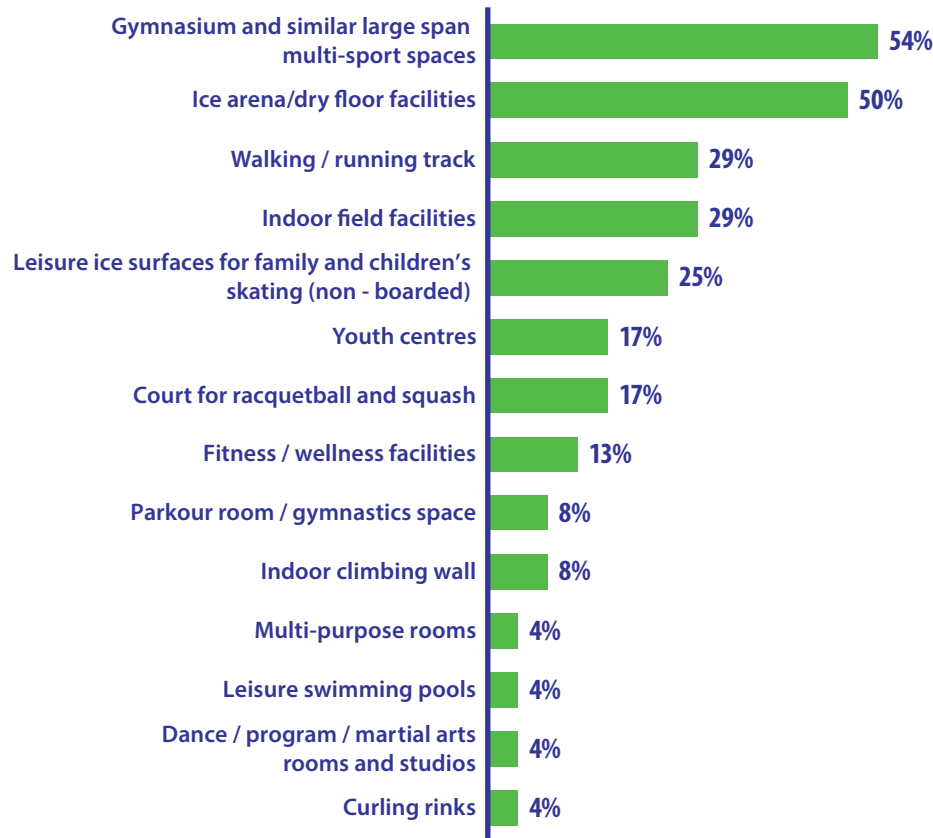
Respondents were then asked if there are adequate sport and recreation facilities in Penticton. The majority of group representatives (70%) indicated that there are not sufficient facilities.

Graph 41. Are There Adequate Sports and Recreation Facilities in Penticton?



Group representatives that indicated there are not adequate sport and recreation facilities in the City were asked to identify five (5) indoor and outdoor facilities and or amenities that the City should consider for investment. The top five indoor facility priorities identified by the group survey representatives were: gymnasium and similar large span multi-sport spaces (54%), ice arena/dry floor facilities (50%), walking/running tracks (29%), indoor field facilities (29%) and leisure ice surfaces for family and children’s skating (25%).

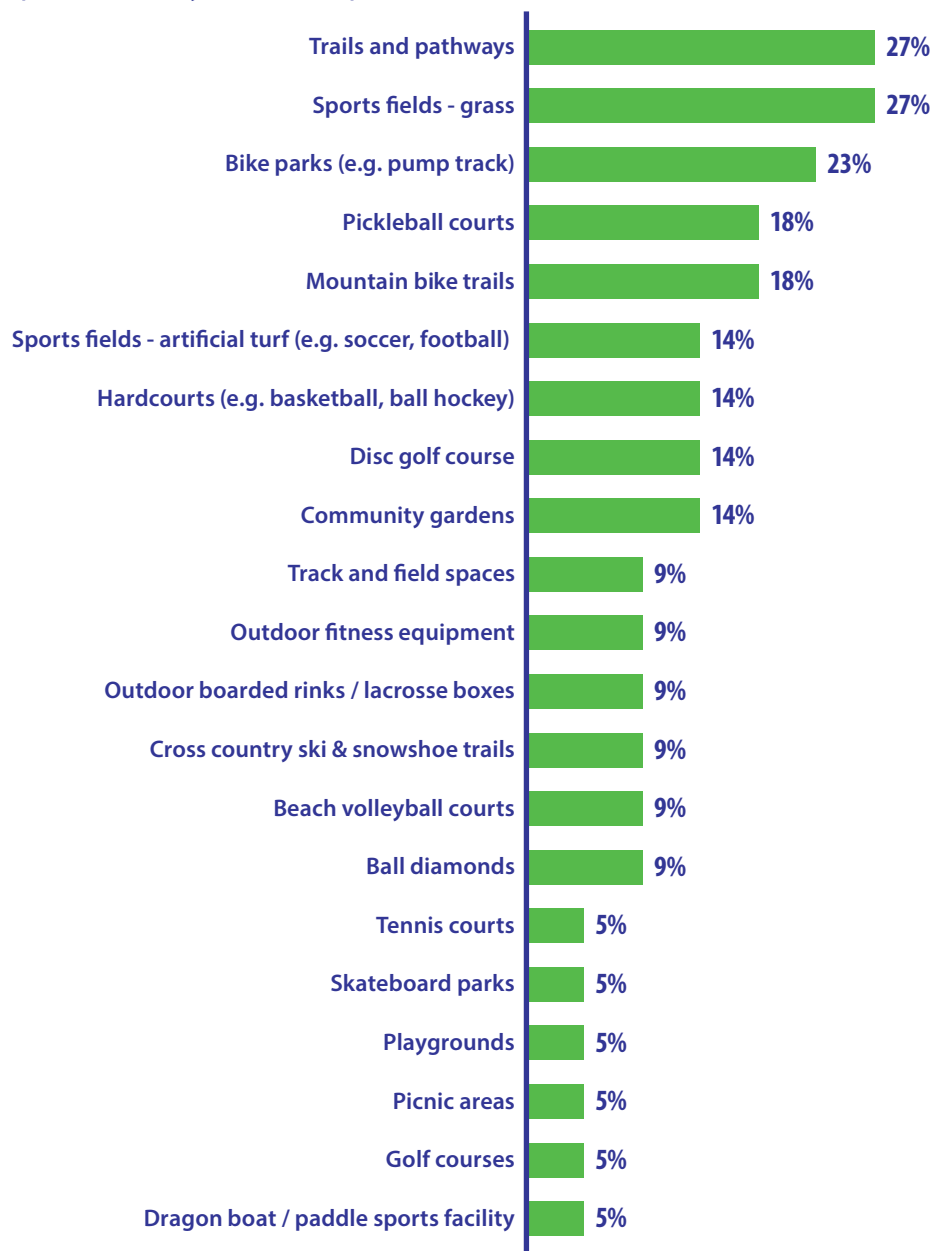
Graph 42. Priority Indoor Sports and Recreation Amenities for Investment



Group representatives were able to share additional indoor facilities or amenities the City should consider for investment. Priorities mentioned included an indoor field house with flexible spaces for multiple sports (e.g., running, pickleball, tennis, volleyball, lacrosse) and specialized facilities like an indoor running track, wheelchair-accessible disc golf course, and dedicated dryland training spaces for skating.

The top five outdoor facility priorities identified the group survey respondents were: trails and pathways (27%), grass sport fields (27%), bike parks (23%), pickleball courts (18%) and mountain bike trails (18%).

Graph 43. Priority Outdoor Sports and Recreation Amenities for Investment

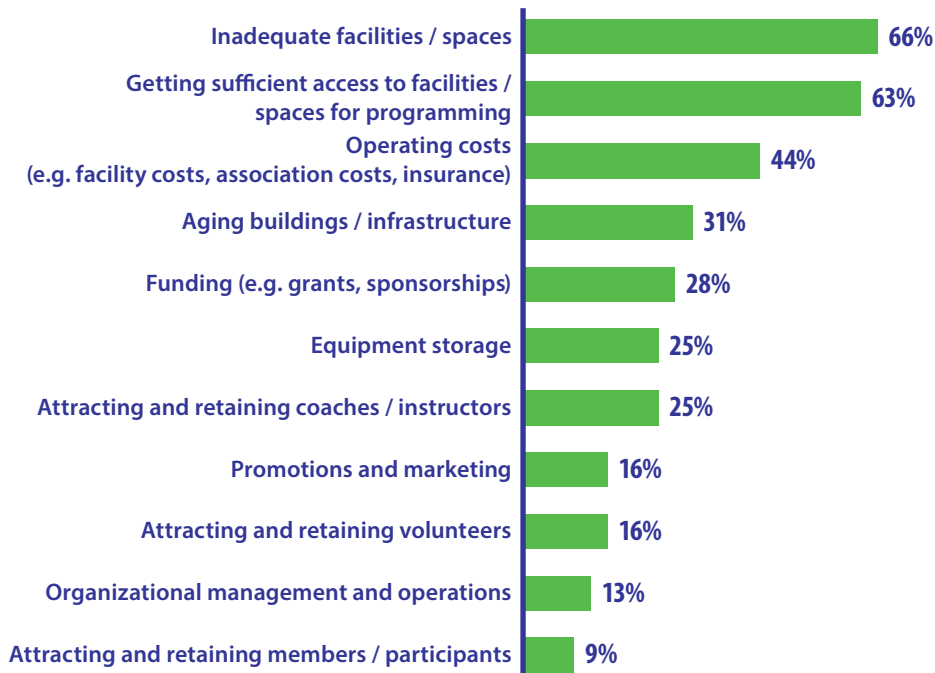


Respondents were able to share additional outdoor facilities or amenities the City should consider for investment. Priorities include leveling and expanding outdoor courts for organized events, repairing and roofing the Skaha Lacrosse Box, and adding more bodyweight exercise areas. Suggestions also include paving the KVR Trail for skating, creating protected bike lanes, upgrading tennis courts with dedicated spaces for tennis and pickleball, and enhancing running trails at Munson and Campbell Mountains. Improved facilities for disc golf, beach volleyball, and climbing, along with a resurfaced track at Pen Hi for the 2028 BC Summer Games, are also highly recommended.

Section 4: Current State of Your Organization

Group representatives were then asked to identify the main challenges their organization faces. As illustrated in the accompanying graph, challenges include inadequate facilities and spaces (66%), getting sufficient access to facilities and spaces for their programming (63%) and operating costs (44%) such as insurance and facility fees.

Graph 44. Organizational Challenges



Group representatives were then asked how the City could support alleviating or addressing the identified challenges. As reflected by the graph, developing and enhancing facilities and amenities (adding supply) was identified by the majority of responding groups.

Graph 45. Support the City Could Provide to Address Organizations Challenges



Group representatives were also able to share any other thoughts regarding the provision of sports and recreation spaces in Penticton. The responses are presented according to some themes:

Need for More Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities

- The lack of suitable indoor and outdoor facilities was highlighted. Specifically, there is demand for more rinks, courts, climbing, track and field and multi-sport spaces.

Facility Quality and Maintenance

- There was mention that some facilities are outdated or not up to standards, with calls for upgrades (e.g., lighting at Kings Park, better climate control in venues like the Curling Club).
- There were also calls for enhancements to existing spaces like the Skaha Beach volleyball courts and Memorial Arena.

Accessibility and Inclusion

- There's a desire to create more accessible spaces for people with mobility limitations or other special needs, including wheelchair accessible sports amenities and inclusive sports like disc golf for all ages and abilities.

Growth of Sports Programs and Events

- Many organizations note the growing demand and the potential for additional growth with better facilities. Hosting larger events like tournaments, races, or national championships is also a recurring theme.

Community Engagement and Support

- Groups expressed their dedication to helping their community thrive by providing sports programming and events. Collaboration with the city and securing long-term agreements for facilities are priorities for these groups to help ensure future growth and success.

Limited Venue Availability

- There are challenges in securing venues for practices, events, and tournaments due to limited space. There is a desire for more flexible, year-round access to sports facilities.

Economic Impact and Tourism

- There are calls for improved and enhanced facilities to promote tourism in Penticton and benefit the local economy.

6.5. Youth Focused Engagement

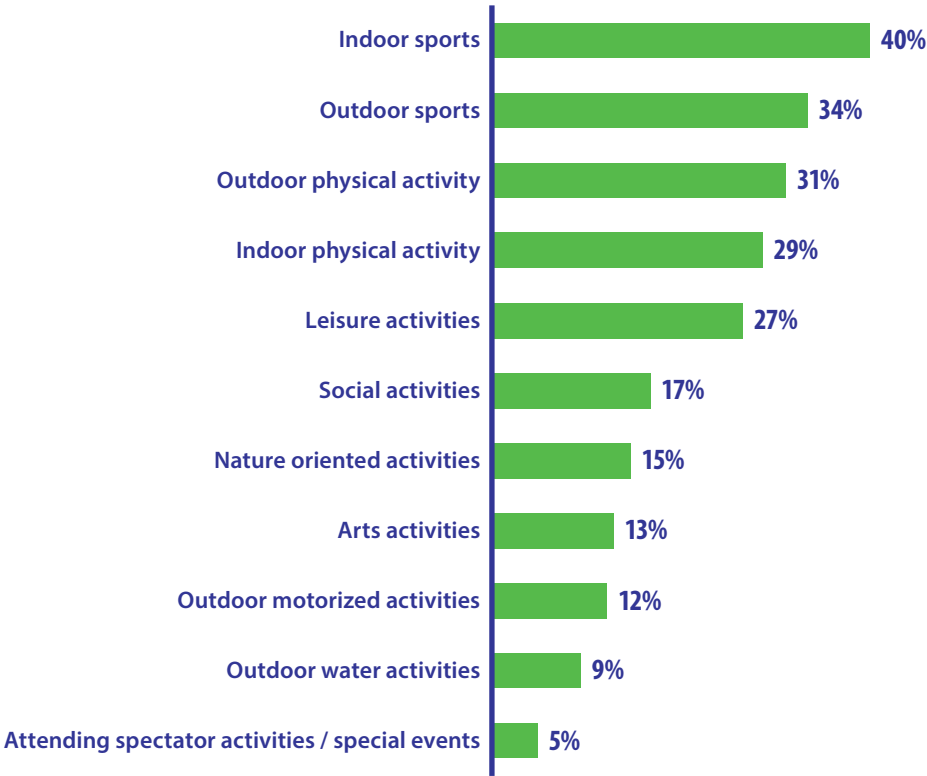
Methodology

To get an understanding of youth perspectives, a brief survey was made available to middle and high school aged youth in Penticton through a collaboration with the School District. In total, 401 youth provided responses. Findings from the survey are presented as follows.

Findings

To begin, youth were asked what types of sports and recreation activities they participate in on a regular basis. As reflected in the following graph, youth identified a wide array of activity types / categories which reflect the diverse interests among the survey respondents.

Graph 46. Sports and Recreation Activities

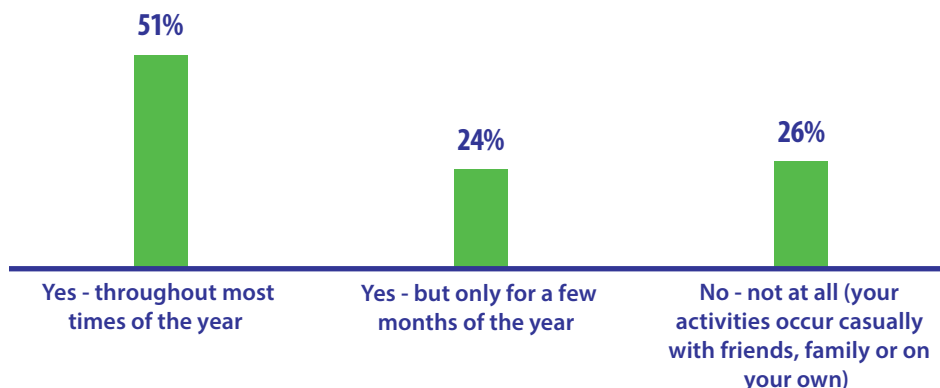


Other sports and recreation activities identified included:

- **Team Sports:** Volleyball, lacrosse, roller hockey, turf sports (soccer and lacrosse).
- **Martial Arts:** Taekwondo, jiu-jitsu, and boxing.
- **Racing and Extreme Sports:** Driving race cars, mountain biking, snowboarding, skiing, rock climbing.
- **Equestrian Activities:** Horseback riding.
- **Music:** Jazz band, piano.
- **Dance:** Dance activities.
- **Other Sports and Activities:** Pickleball, golf, robotics and climbing.

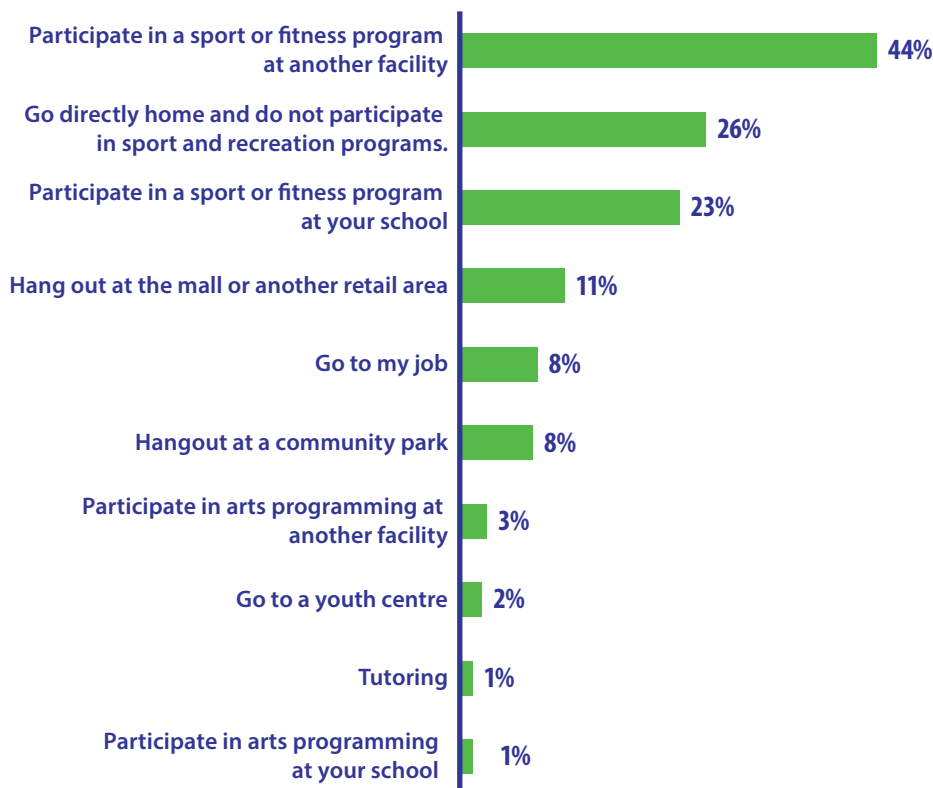
Next, the youth survey respondents were asked about their involvement in organized sports. Half (51%) indicated they participate in organized sports throughout most of the year. One-quarter indicated they participate in organized sports for only a few months a year, while a similar proportion, 26%, stated that their participation is typically casual.

Graph 47. Do You Play Organized Sports?



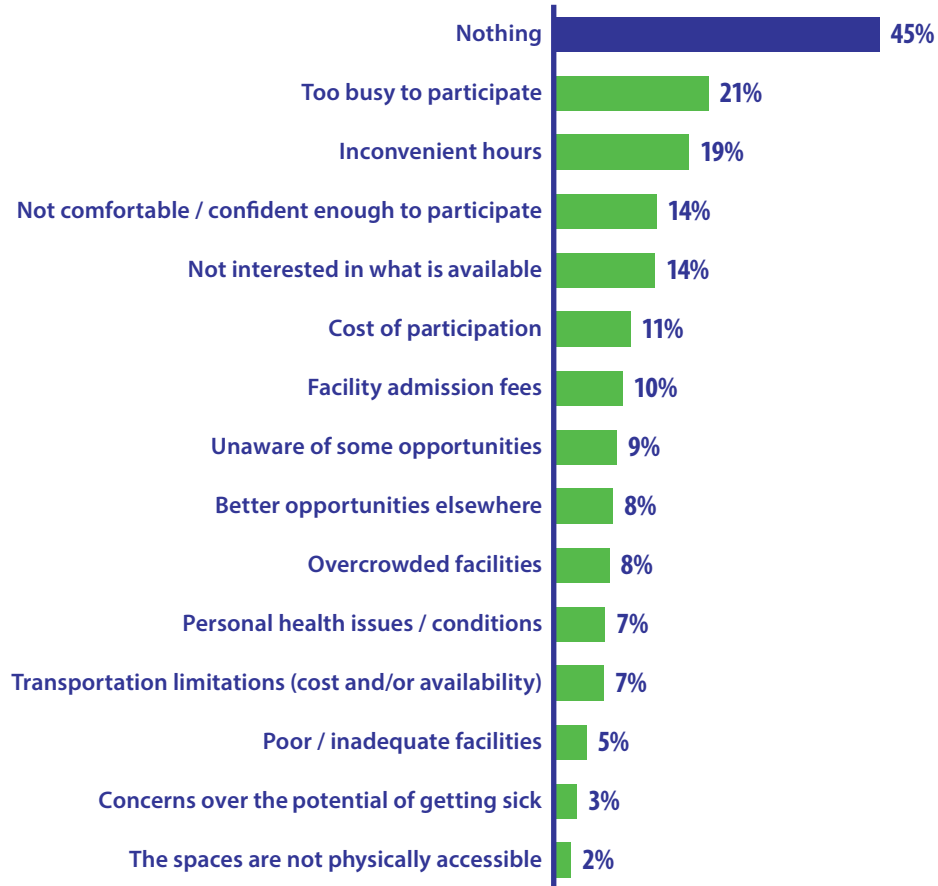
The youth survey respondents were then asked to identify the activities they engage in after school. Nearly half (44%) indicated they participate in a sport or fitness program at another (non-school) facility. Around one-quarter indicated they either go straight home without participating in any sport or recreation programs (26%) or take part in sport or recreation activities offered at their school (23%).

Graph 48. What Do You Do After School?



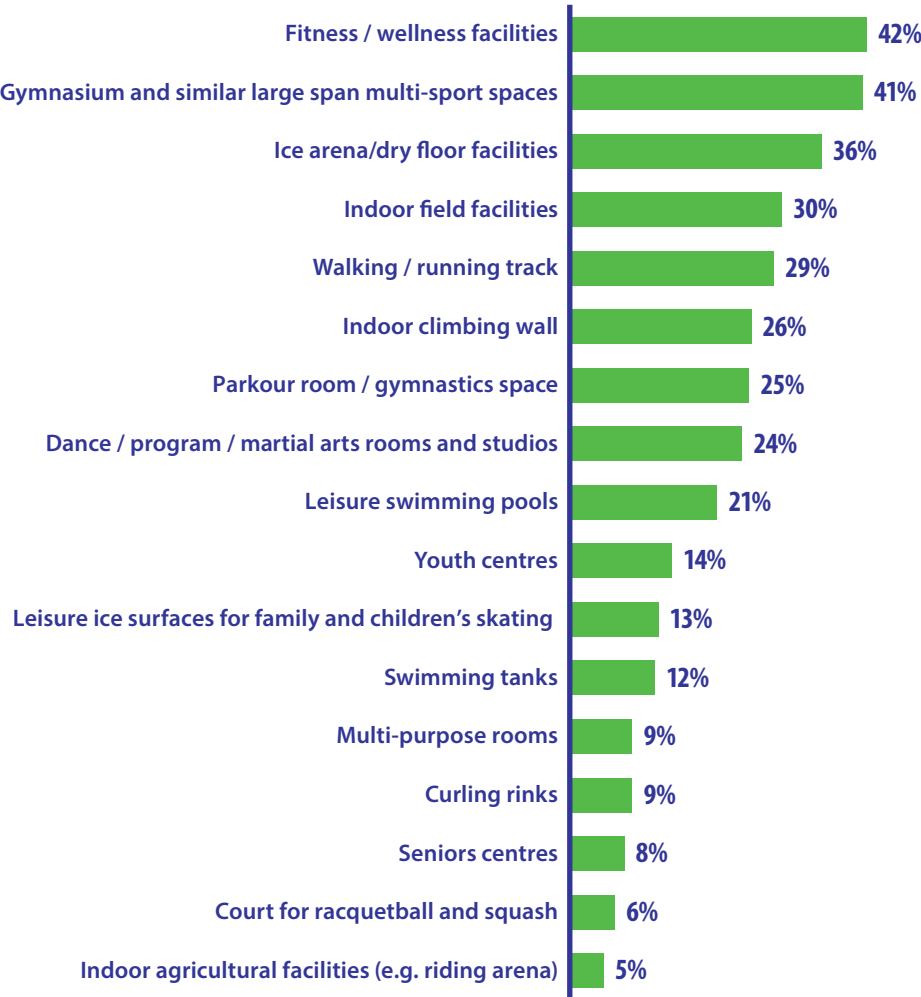
Next, the youth survey respondents were asked to identify barriers that prevent them from participating in sport and recreation opportunities. Approximately one-quarter indicated they are too busy to participate (21%) or the programs or facility have inconvenient hours (19%). Notably, approximately half (45%) indicated that nothing impacts their ability to participate in sports or recreation opportunities.

Graph 49. Barriers to Participation



The youth survey respondents were presented with a list of indoor facilities and amenities and were asked to indicate five (5) that the City should prioritize for investment. The top indoor facilities and amenities identified by the youth survey respondents were fitness and wellness facilities (42%), gymnasium and large span multi-sport spaces (41%), ice arena and dry floor facilities (36%), indoor field facilities (30%) and walking and running tracks (29%).

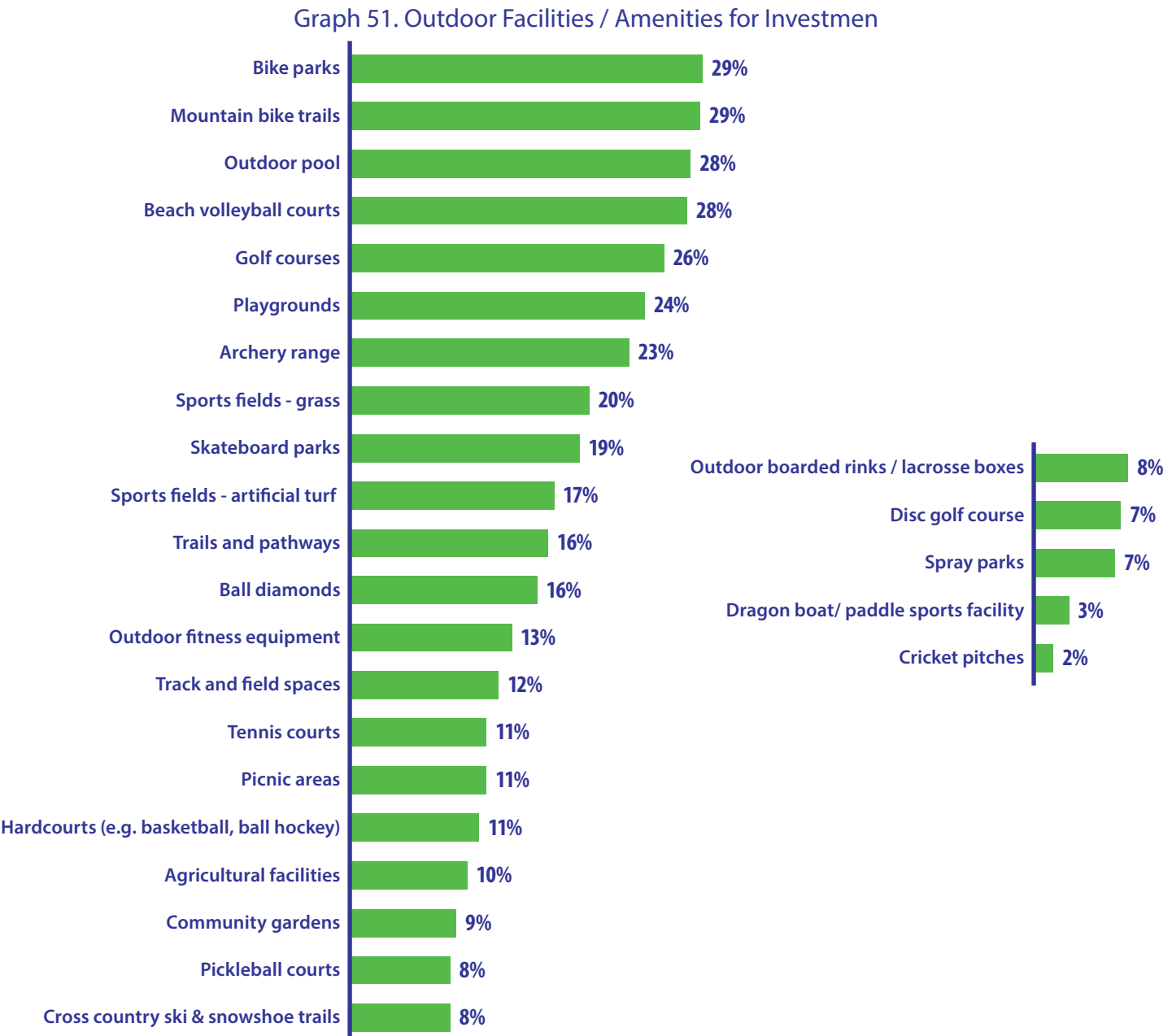
Graph 50. Indoor Facilities / Amenities for Investment



Youth respondents shared additional indoor facilities that the City should consider:

- Golf simulators
- Indoor soccer fields
- Indoor tennis courts
- Softball and baseball training facilities
- Trampoline parks
- Indoor BMX/Skate Parks
- Indoor skiing/snowboard
- Arts spaces
- Improve aquatic facilities
- Roller rinks
- Large parkour areas
- Indoor go kart tracks
- Flight simulators
- Laser tag and paintball arenas
- Arcades

Regarding outdoor facilities and amenities, bike parks (29%), mountain bike trails (29%), outdoor pools (28%), beach volleyball courts (28%) and golf courses (26%) were identified as priorities by the youth survey respondents that the City should consider for investment.



Youth respondents were then asked to indicate any other sports or recreation programs and events they would like to see more of in Penticton.

- Sports leagues and training programs:
 - Expanded lacrosse, football, and volleyball programs.
 - More basketball camps, especially for youth and girls.
 - Competitive swimming teams and better swimming facilities.
 - Cheerleading, rugby, and disc golf clubs.
 - Youth-focused pickleball programs.
- Archery lessons.
 - Ballet and dance.
 - Arts and crafts workshops.
 - Coding and tech learning.

Lastly, youth respondents were able to share any additional thoughts they have regarding sports and recreation in Penticton. The responses are presented according to themes:

Facilities and Infrastructure

- Build more basketball courts, volleyball courts, and soccer fields.
- Improve lacrosse boxes, baseball fields, and hockey rinks.
- Add new facilities such as a trampoline park, escape room, amusement park, parkour gyms, and indoor soccer turf.
- Enhance nature spaces: walking trails, mountain biking tracks, and outdoor pools.
- Provide specialized areas: figure skating rink, better climbing gym mats, and outdoor park spaces with trees and rocks.
- Provide unique spaces like escape rooms, flight simulators, and race tracks.

Programs and Accessibility

- Expand sports programs such as martial arts, volleyball, gymnastics, soccer, and golf.
- Offer beginner-friendly classes for gymnastics, ballet, and other activities.
- Focus on affordability and accessibility for sports programs, especially for girls' teams and youth sports.

Maintenance and Enhancements

- Better maintain existing facilities, including baseball fields, hockey rinks, and vending machines.
- Upgrade amenities, like adding turf fields, modernizing gyms, and fixing outdoor rinks.

Recreation Diversity

- Introduce activities like mini-golf, hang gliding, ziplining, and roller rinks.
- Include creative outlets such as art clubs.

6.6. Pop- Up Engagement at Community Events

Methodology

City of Penticton staff and consultants set up a booth to inform the public about the Needs Assessment and provide an opportunity for individuals to provide input directly to the project team at the following community events.

- The Penticton Vees Hockey Game on Friday, October 4th, 2024
- The Penticton Farmers Markets on Saturday, October 5th, 2024
- The Council Open House on Tuesday, October 29th, 2024

Other opportunities to provide input (e.g. resident survey) were promoted at these events as well. Panels were set-up with information on the project, and with questions regarding what types of indoor and outdoor sport and recreation spaces residents would like to see more of or improved. A panel targeted at understanding what types of spaces children like most was also available for children to write or draw their favourite spaces.



Sports & Recreation Needs Assessment

About the Project

The City is conducting a Sports and Recreation Needs Assessment to help identify current and future needs for sport and recreation infrastructure in the city.

What important things do we want to learn through the research and engagement?

- How and why the public and community organizations use sports and recreation facilities and spaces.
- Changes in facility and amenity demands and needs.
- Barriers and challenges that limit or prevent participation for some residents.
- Satisfaction levels with current facilities and programs.
- How well current facilities are meeting community needs.
- Perceived gaps and opportunities for improvement.

What methods and inputs will be used to learn about sports and recreation needs in Penticton?

- Population and Demographic Information
- Benchmarking
- Infrastructure and Programming Inventory
- Resident Survey
- Community Group Survey
- Community Group Discussion & Meetings
- Pop-Up Events Feedback
- Utilization and Participation Figures & Trend
- Review of Previous City Planning and Engagement

Project Timeline

Project Start Up June - July 2024

Research and Engagement We can hear from you! August - September 2024

Draft Needs Assessment December 2024

Community Review Winter 2025

Final Needs Assessment Spring 2025



We Want to Hear from You!

Community input is an important aspect of developing the Needs Assessment. Here's how you can participate:

- 1. Come to a Pop-Up Event! (You are here!)**
Give your feedback today by using the post-it notes to share your thoughts and perspectives.
- 2. Complete the online Resident Survey.**
Look for a postcard in your mailbox that includes a unique access code. Please visit shapeyourcitypenticton.ca/sports-and-rec or scan the QR code on the bottom right of this panel and complete the survey before **November 3rd, 2024**. If you no longer have your postcard (or did not receive one) you can still participate by completing the non-coded version of the survey.
You can also complete a survey here tonight!

Pop-Up Events:

- The Penticton Vees Home Opener on Friday, October 4th, 2024 (South Okanagan Events Centre)
- The Penticton Farmers Market on Saturday, October 5th, 2024 (100 block of Main Street)
- The Council Open House Event on Friday, October 29th, 2024 (Penticton Trade and Convention Centre)

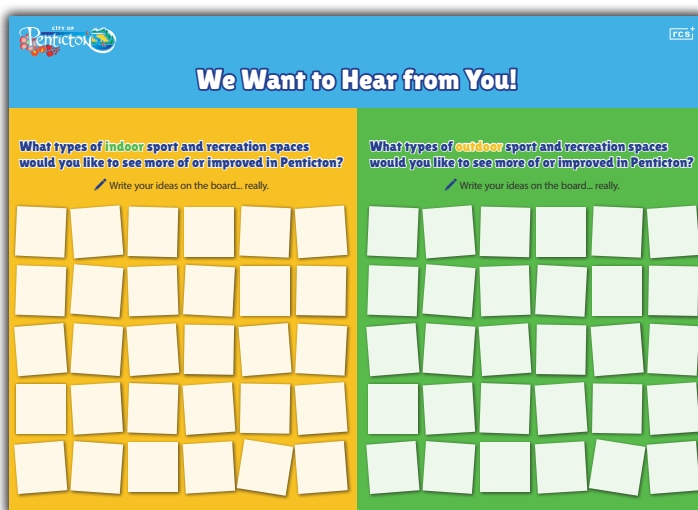
Sports & Recreation Needs Assessment Survey

Help guide the city's vision and future for sports and recreation infrastructure.

Access Code: XXXXXXXX

Survey deadline: November 3, 2024

[SHAPEYOURCITYPENTICTON.CA/SPORTS-AND-REC](https://shapeyourcitypenticton.ca/sports-and-rec)



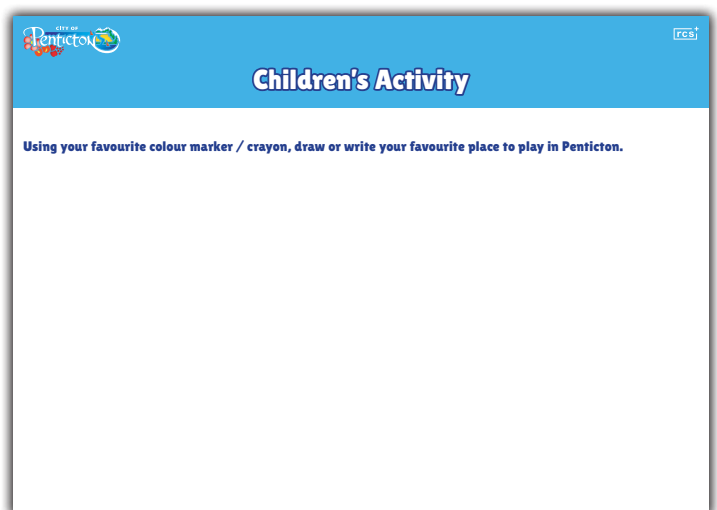
We Want to Hear from You!

What types of indoor sport and recreation spaces would you like to see more of or improved in Penticton?

Write your ideas on the board... really.

What types of outdoor sport and recreation spaces would you like to see more of or improved in Penticton?

Write your ideas on the board... really.



Children's Activity

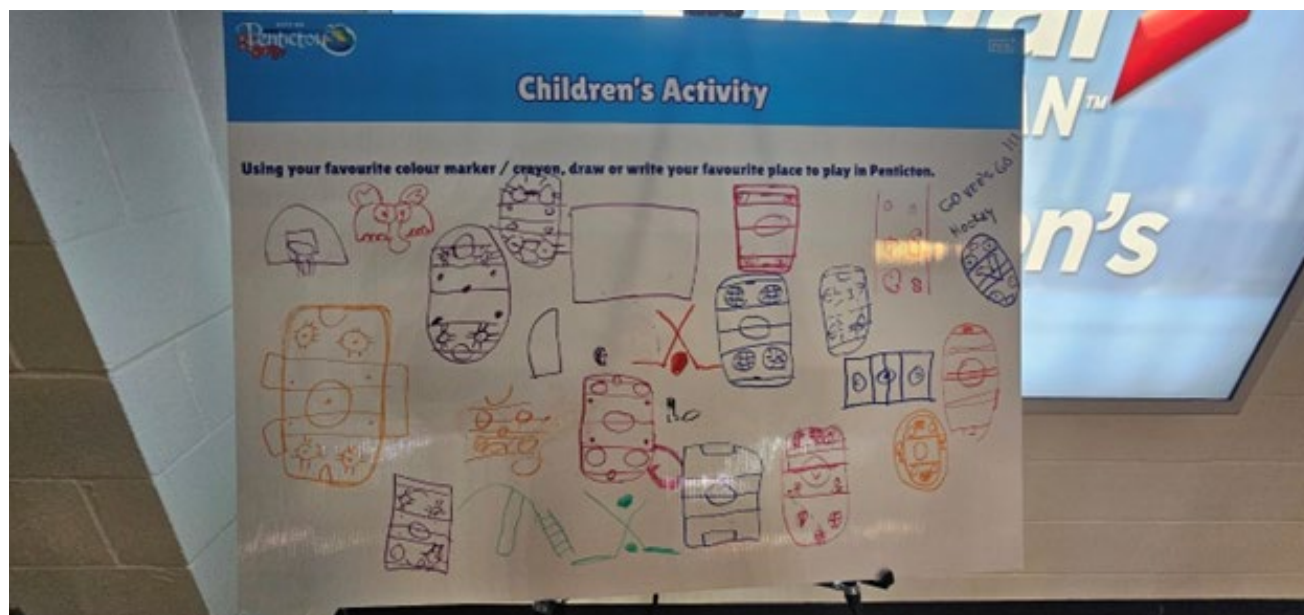
Using your favourite colour marker / crayon, draw or write your favourite place to play in Penticton.

Findings

The pop-up panels gathered 113 comments from the public. The following key themes emerged from the comments provided.

- **Enhance sports facilities** (e.g. add water slides, trampoline park, indoor playground, roller derby rink/flat track skating)
- **Expanded Recreation Opportunities** (e.g. add more programming for youth, expand swimming programs and reduce waitlists, provide family subsidies)
- **Upgrade Outdoor and Nature-Based Amenities** (e.g. dog agility parks, outdoor fitness areas, upgrade bike trails)
- **Community-Centered Spaces** (e.g. expand fitness centre, need better wifi, integrate arts and culture spaces)
- **Specialized Events and Accessibility** (e.g. host unique event, capitalize on the geography of Penticton, ensure facilities cater to diverse groups)

The children's drawing activity was able to spark some conversation with children in the community about what activities they enjoy participating in and what spaces they like to visit. Hockey, basketball, soccer and lacrosse and playing at the playground were noted as activities that they enjoy, what they drew typically depended on where the pop-up took place (e.g. lots of ice rinks drawn at the Veer game). Children and their parents discussed facilities that they would like to see enhanced or improved upon in the community when answering questions presented on the panels designed to engage adults.



Key Findings: Community Engagement

Resident Survey Key Findings

- A variety of factors motivate participation in sport and recreation.
- Residents place a high value on sport and recreation opportunities.
- Satisfaction levels are relatively strong, and mixed perspectives exist on the current supply of sports and recreation facilities.
- Resident priorities for sport and recreation amenity investment reflect a wide array of amenity types. See Table 35 for a comparison among all three surveys.
- Most residents generally feel well informed about sports and recreation opportunities; however, room for improvements to promotions and communications exists.

Community Organization Engagement Key Findings (Questionnaire and Discussion Sessions)

- Most groups anticipate growth in their activities and programs.
- Key challenges include the cost of providing programs, competition for participants, and limited facility space during peak times.
- Tournaments and sporting events are seen as opportunities to raise funds and attract tourism.
- The social aspect of sports is crucial for creating a sense of community. Emphasis was placed on the need for communal areas in new facilities to foster social connections.
- There are concerns about the influence of elite groups on public resources.
- Many groups advocate for investments in facilities specific to their sports.
 - Several groups would like to see the City (directly or through partnerships) invest to expand infrastructure and opportunities for emerging / growing sports like rock climbing and trail based activities.
 - The need for increased arena supply and large span multi-sport space (gymnasiums and indoor turf) were commonly identified as gaps.
- Potential for regional solutions to facility development, especially for outdoor sports complexes was noted a few times.
- Organizations managing their own facilities without City support face challenges related to maintenance, operational expenses, and income generation.

Youth Survey Key Findings

- Almost half of responding youth go directly from school to a sports and recreation facility (approximately 25% indicated that they stay at school for extra curricular activities).
- Being “too busy to participate” was the most prevalent barrier to sports and recreation participation identified by youth.
- There is desire for a variety of recreational/ beginner level sport activities such volleyball, gymnastics, soccer and golf.

Table 35. Summary of Top Facility and Amenity Types Identified Across All 3 Surveys

Survey	Top Indoor Facility and Amenity Priorities		Top Outdoor Facility and Amenity Priorities	
Resident Survey	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gymnasium / large span multisport spaces (37%) 2. Walking / running track (35%) 3. Arena (ice and dry floor) (31%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Fitness / wellness facilities (31%) 5. Indoor field facilities (29%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trails and pathways (44%) 2. Pickleball courts (27%) 3. Community gardens (26%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Outdoor pool (24%) 5. Cross- country ski and snowshoe trails (23%)
Community Group Survey	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Multi-sport spaces (54%) 2. Ice arena/dry floor facilities (50%) 3. Walking/running tracks (29%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Indoor field facilities (29%) 5. Leisure ice surfaces for family and children skating (25%). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trails and pathways (27%) 2. Grass sport fields (27%) 3. Bike parks (23%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Pickleball courts (18%) 5. Mountain bike trails (18%)
Youth Survey*	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fitness and wellness facilities (42%) 2. Gymnasium and large span multi-sport spaces (41%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Ice arena and dry floor facilities (36%) 4. Indoor field facilities (30%) 5. Walking and running tracks (29%). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bike parks (29%), 2. Mountain bike trails (29%) 3. Outdoor pools (28%) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Beach volleyball courts (28%) 5. Golf courses (26%)

*Options were worded slightly differently for the youth survey to ensure participant understanding across younger age groups.

7. SPORT AND RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES



7.1. Context and Approach

The research and engagement presented in the previous sections of this study provide important insights in sport and recreation demands, trends, gaps, community characteristics and other factors that should influence future City and partner investment to support these valued activities. While it would be ideal to meet all demands for sport and recreation infrastructure, the City has limited resources and must set priorities. Fundamentally, these priorities need to be set in such a manner that derives the greatest possible amount of benefit from the resources available.

Provided later in this section (Section 7.2.) are recommended future sport and recreation Amenity Strategies and other related service level considerations that are intended to provide the City with high-level guidance. This guidance will help inform future system wide planning (e.g. an update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan or other city-wide planning) as well as more facility specific and tactical level planning (e.g. feasibility, design, and business planning for a specific project or amenity type).

The following graphic illustrates the 3-step process used to develop the Amenity Strategies. This approach helps ensure that the identification of the Amenity Strategies (recommendations) is logical, transparent, and data driven.



The **Prioritization Framework (Step 2)** utilized 9 weighted criteria to score and rank individual amenity types. The criteria reflect a range of key considerations that include indicators of demand, potential benefits, and impacts analysis. These criteria were identified and weighted using findings from the engagement, staff review and input, and alignment with overarching City strategic planning and priorities. The weighting of the criteria reflects that while all are important (and thus included as one of the nine), some are more significant than others when scoring and ranking amenity types.

It is important to note that the scoring and ranking is not intended to reflect the overall importance of the amenity type, but rather the relative future value and benefits of investment into the amenity type. An amenity type may be very important to residents and score / rank lower because it is already sufficiently provided.

What is the different between an “amenity” and a “facility”?

In this context, “amenity” reflects the specific, individual spaces that facilitate the activities for which they are designed. A gymnasium, sports field, arena, multi-purpose room, etc. are all examples of individuals amenity types. “Facilities” typically contain a grouping of multiple amenities. For example, the Penticton Community Centre includes a pool, gymnasium, fitness centre, and program rooms.

The following table summarizes the 9 criteria and their weighting value. Each in-scope amenity type was scored using the criteria. The weighting value is applied to each score for each criteria, which results in a total score for that amenity type. The detailed scoring metric can be found in Appendix D.

Table 36. Most Important Criteria (Maximum Weigting Value of “3”)

Criteria	Rationale for Including this Criteria	Overview of How the Criteria Was Scored
Resident Identified Priorities (Resident Demand)	At a fundamental level, local government exists to serve residents and make decisions that provide the greatest possible benefit. As such, resident perspectives explored the community engagement undertaken for the study should be highly valued.	Utilized findings from the Resident Survey and Youth Survey questions on future needs and priorities.
Renewal Need	The City has a responsibility to provide existing infrastructure at a safe and functional level. Investments focused on meeting this baseline responsibility should be highly weighted as priorities are set.	Utilized existing condition assessment and lifecycle data that reflects the urgency of need for renewal and/or replacement for the various amenities (where applicable).
Financial Impacts on the City and Taxpayer	The City has finite resources and must carefully consider the capital and operating cost impacts of projects on the taxpayer and borrowing capacity.	Scoring metric to reflects typical capital and operating costs (order of magnitude) for each type of amenity.

Table 37. Very Important Criteria (Weighting Value of “2”)

Criteria	Rationale for Including this Criteria	Overview of How the Criteria Was Scored
Community and User Group Preferences	Community organizations and user groups are important providers of active living opportunities for residents and will require suitable spaces to accommodate growth and trends.	Reflects findings and themes from the Community Group Survey and discussion sessions (frequently identified space preferences, needs, and demands).
Financial Equity and Accessibility	Public sector sport and recreation investment leverages the greatest social return when it is affordable and low barrier. Different amenity types have varying levels of cost / affordability associated with them which should be reflected in the prioritization process.	Scoring based on an assessment of whether the amenity (and its associated programming) typically have a high, medium, or low cost to use/access.
Multi-Use Capability and Adaptability	Spaces that can accommodate multiple activities make the best use of available public resources. Additionally, spaces with a high-degree of flexibility and multi-use capability have the lowest level of risk to the City (and taxpayers) as they can evolve as trends and needs change.	Scoring metric is based on the typical multi-use capability and adaptability of each amenity space.
Utilization and Capacity Indicators	Facilities that are currently at or anticipated to reach capacity within the next 10 years risk no longer being able to meet community needs for sport and recreation as Penticton grows.	Scoring of each amenity reflects (where available) the data from the utilization and capacity analysis.

Table 38. Important Criteria (Weighting Value of “1”)

Criteria	Rationale for Including this Criteria	Overview of How the Criteria Was Scored
Amenity Uniqueness	Providing a diversity of experiences helps expand the reach and appeal of recreation services. Recreation and sport activity demands and preferences are also extremely dynamic, constantly evolving over time. Considering opportunities to offer new types of amenities should be considered as part of the prioritization process.	Scoring metric reflects whether the addition of the amenity would diversify recreation opportunities in the Penticton region.
Sports Tourism Opportunities	Sport and recreation event hosting can bring non-local visitation and associated spending, providing benefits to local businesses, community pride, and potentially the opportunity to leverage grants and external funding sources.	Scoring metric reflects whether the amenity space can facilitate tournaments, competitions, and other events (thus creating economic benefit through visitation and non-local spending).

Table 39. Prioritization Framework Scoring Results

Amenity	Weighted Score	Relative Rank*
Trails and pathways	42	1
Ice arena/dry floor facilities (e.g. hockey, figure skating, ball hockey, box lacrosse, etc.)	41.5	2
Gymnasium and similar large span multi-sport spaces (e.g. facilities that can be used for indoor court activities such as volleyball, basketball as well as social gatherings, events, and other programs that require significant floor space)	40	3
Indoor field facilities (covered turf facilities for soccer, football, and other field sports)	38	4
Sports fields - grass (e.g. soccer, football)	37.5	5
Mountain bike trails	35	6
Cross country ski & snowshoe trails	33	7
Pickleball courts	32.5	8
Community gardens	30	T9
Ball diamonds	30	T9
Fitness / wellness facilities (e.g. exercise / weight room)	29.5	10
Bike parks (e.g. pump track)	29	T11
Track and field spaces	29	T11
Youth centres	28.5	12
Sports fields – artificial turf (e.g. soccer, football)	27.5	13
Disc golf course	27	T14
Cricket pitches	27	T14
Indoor Walking / running track	26	T15

Amenity	Weighted Score	Relative Rank*
Indoor climbing wall	26	T15
Playgrounds	26	T15
Curling rinks	25	16
Beach volleyball courts	24.5	17
Leisure ice surfaces for family and children's skating (non-boarded)	24	T18
Tennis courts	24	T18
Outdoor boarded rinks / lacrosse boxes	24	T18
Seniors centres	23.5	19
Leisure swimming pools (e.g. shallow water pools for fun and water orientation with water play features and toys)	23	T20
Picnic areas	23	T20
Hardcourts (e.g. basketball, ball hockey)	23	T20
Dragon boat/ paddle sports facility	22.5	21
Multi-purpose rooms (including classrooms, meeting rooms, etc.).	22	22
Swimming tanks (e.g. for lane swimming, lessons, aquafit)	20	T23
Archery range	20	T23
Dance / program / martial arts rooms and studios	19.5	24
Outdoor pool	19	T25
Spray parks	19	T25
Outdoor fitness equipment	19	T25
Parkour room / gymnastics space	19	T25

Amenity	Weighted Score	Relative Rank*
Skateboard parks	19	T25
Agricultural facilities (e.g. rodeo grounds, horse riding, equestrian)	19	T25
Court for racquetball and squash	18	26
Indoor agricultural facilities (e.g. riding arena)	16	27
Golf courses	11.5	28

*T indicates a tie.

7.2. Sport and Recreation Amenity Strategies

Provided as follows in this section are recommended Amenity Strategies (Step 3 of the process as outlined in Section 7.1 on page 132). The identification of the Strategies, and the potential priorities for investment that they suggest, are informed by the Prioritization Framework results. While the Prioritization Framework provides an initial baseline for identifying potential amenity priorities and focus areas, other practical factors also need to be layered in to ensure that the Strategies are practical and best able to support future planning and decision making. These practical factors include:

- Availability of land
- Opportunities to leverage and optimize existing civic infrastructure
- Sequencing of potential projects
- Amenity synergies (e.g. which amenities co-exist well with or support other amenities of facilities)
- Value-add opportunities (e.g. opportunities to add secondary amenities that can maximize the benefit of future projects)
- In-stream / ongoing projects and planning
- Facility specific considerations (e.g. urgency of renewal need)



It is also important to reiterate that the direction provided by this study will require subsequent system wide and project specific planning that further clarifies costs, potential partnerships, and design / siting considerations. These Strategies, and the process used to identify them, should therefore be considered an important yet preliminary point of reference that informs long-term sport and recreation infrastructure capital planning. The following table additionally recommends service levels relative to current. In other words, whether overall supply should be increased, sustained, decreased or requires further exploration or monitoring.


The following table additionally recommends service levels relative to current. In other words, whether overall supply should be increased, sustained, decreased or requires further exploration or monitoring.





<p>Increase Service Levels</p> 	<p>Suggests that the quantity of the amenity should be increased above current to accommodate future growth, meet validated need, and ensure that amenity is provided in sufficient supply to leverage maximum community benefit.</p>
<p>Sustain Service Levels</p> 	<p>Suggests that the City should invest to sustain provision at similar quantities to existing service levels. It is important to note that sustaining existing service levels (e.g. the number of residents per amenity type) will require ongoing capital investment into the amenity type that could include significant capital maintenance and repair, renewal, or replacement (and potential relocation) of existing facilities. Additionally, it is also important to recognize that for many types of amenities a “like for like” renewal or replacement is not possible given different building standards, amenity and support space needs and expectations, and trends and best practices in sport and recreation infrastructure. As such, sustaining service levels comes at a significant cost but does provide an opportunity to position amenities for the future and undertake good value enhancements.</p>
<p>Decrease Service Levels</p> 	<p>Suggests that there is an oversupply and the level of service may warrant consideration for a decrease, based on the overarching rationale that there are better uses of public funds for sport and recreation infrastructure.</p>
<p>Further Explore / Monitor</p> 	<p>More analysis is needed to clarify long-term service levels and/or the City should continue to monitor trends over the short to medium term and use this information to make future capital investment decisions.</p>


Table 40. Sport and Recreation Amenity Recommended Service Levels and Strategies


*Note: Table presents amenities in alphabetical order and not level of priority.



Sport and Recreation Amenity Category	Prioritization Framework Ranking(s)	Recommended Service Level Relative to Current	Strategies
Aquatics Facilities	Leisure swimming pool (T20) Swimming tanks (T23) Outdoor pool (T25)		A. Continue to undertake the required capital reinvestments into the pool at the Penticton Community Centre. A second or expanded primary pool does not appear to be needed in the short to medium term. If data reflects a significant increase or decrease in annual swims per capita (above 6 or below 4) an aquatics specific study to explore whether water space is sufficient to meet long-term needs may be warranted.
Arenas	Ice arena/dry floor facilities (2)		A. Establish a plan in the short term to renew or replace end of life arenas (McLaren Arena and Memorial Arena). Both facilities have been assessed at being at the end of life and are at-risk of going off-line due to aging building systems and structures. This situation would exacerbate existing ice capacity challenges during peak times and seasons with little ability locally or regionally to backfill this demand. B. Explore options to add at least one incremental ice sheet to the inventory over the next 5 – 10 years. In addition to the capital investment required to simply sustain existing arena service levels at 3 (not including the SOEC), additional ice arena capacity will likely be required to meet future growth assuming ice use trends and demand remain similar. Ongoing and future planning conducted by the City should explore potential partnerships, operating models, and prioritize (wherever possible) developing new ice sheets as part of multi-sheet facilities / sites to maximize tournament hosting, programmatic, and operational synergies.




Sport and Recreation Amenity Category	Prioritization Framework Ranking(s)	Recommended Service Level Relative to Current	Strategies
Courts (Outdoor)	Pickleball courts (8) *Includes courts under construction Beach volleyball courts (17) Tennis courts (T18) Hardcourts (T20)		<p>A. Continue to monitor pickleball, tennis , and outdoor volleyball trends and participation. The City has responded to the demand for pickleball courts by partnering to construct the courts adjacent to the Seniors’ Drop-In Centre and construction of new courts at Robinson Park and Skaha Lake Park (retrofit of one tennis court). This investment will bring the City’s total inventory to 13 courts. Additionally, the City recently added a new tennis court in Ridge Park at Deer Lake in late 2024. Better understanding actual use of the city’s outdoor court inventory (including pickleball, tennis, sand, and hard courts) will be important to informing future investment into these amenities, including new courts, retrofits, and expansions. It is suggested that City prioritize collecting better data to ensure these decisions are based on a sound understanding of capacity and usage trends.</p> <p>B. Continue to work with the Penticton Pickleball Club to explore long-term opportunities and approaches to meeting court space needs. Trends suggest that pickleball will continue to grow in popularity based on age demographics and emerging popularity by younger age groups. It is likely that more pickleball court supply will be required, however the type of supply required further exploration considering specific types of use (e.g. casual vs program use), tournament hosting potential, and the impacts of other potential recreation investments (e.g. impacts of outdoor court needs if more suitable indoor space is added).</p> <p>C. A future update to the City Parks and Recreation Master Plan or system wide Sport Court Strategy should identify specific outdoor court renewal and retrofit projects. Several outdoor multi-purpose and basketball courts are in poor condition and require resurfacing in the short to medium term. The popularity of outdoor basketball (especially amongst youth and newcomers) was identified through the Needs Assessment engagement and previous City planning (including the 2018 Parks and Recreation Master Plan). A more detailed and court specific strategy or focus within the City’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan update can help guide priorities for court renewal projects (e.g. resurfacing, net and fencing replacement, amenity enhancements, etc.).</p>

Sport and Recreation Amenity Category	Prioritization Framework Ranking(s)	Recommended Service Level Relative to Current	Strategies
Curling	Curling rinks (16)		A. Explore options for replacement of the Curling Club. Like other ice facilities in Penticton, the Curling Club facility is aging and will require replacement in the short to medium term. A six-sheet facility appears to meet the needs of the community based on available data and broader trends in curling. In conjunction with other major facility planning, the City will need to determine the best future location for a new curling facility that considers potential amenity and operational synergies, costs, and available land supply. The exploration of future curling facility options should also place a priority on identifying how design, location, and amenity synergies can make optimal year-round use of the facility (e.g. through designing and fitting the facility to accommodate a wide arrange of dry-floor uses during non-curling months).
Indoor Large Span, Multi-Use Sports and Recreation Facilities	Gymnasium and similar large span multi-sport spaces (3) Indoor field facilities (3)	 	A. Explore options to enhance or replace the Sportsplex. The Sportsplex is an important space for year-round training but is not being used to its full potential. The City should explore the options available to address issues that limit use and the cost – benefit of reinvestment into the existing facility vs replacement. B. Identify ways to increase gymnasium capacity in the city. The existing city-operated gymnasium at the Penticton Community Centre is highly used with minimal capacity to support increased bookable or spontaneous use. Collaborating with the school system to identify ways to mitigate challenges that limit community access to school gyms during non-school hours is a logical first step. Longer term, the City should explore options and costs to add gymnasium supply as part of a second community centre or in conjunction with a multi-sport facility.
Park Spaces and Amenities	Community gardens (T9) Playgrounds (T15) Picnic areas (T20) Spray parks (T25)		A. Explore needs and priorities as part of an update to the City's Parks and Trails Master Plan and /or other park system strategic planning. Data on demand and satisfaction with these assets was gathered during the engagement process, however future direction and priorities is out of scope of this study and requires exploration through future City planning. <i>*The City is developing a Strategy for the Kettle Valley Rail Trail in 2025 that will provide guidance on trails within the urban interface.</i>

Sport and Recreation Amenity Category	Prioritization Framework Ranking(s)	Recommended Service Level Relative to Current	Strategies
Program and Activity Spaces	Fitness / wellness facilities (10) Youth centre (12) Seniors centre (19) Multi-purpose rooms (22) Dance / program / martial arts rooms and studios (24)		<p>A. Continue to maximize use of existing spaces. Analysis of the existing inventory does reflect that additional supply is needed in the short to medium term. The City should continue to make the best use of available spaces at the Community Centre and other facilities.</p> <p>B. Engage with user groups as new facilities are planned. New or expanded facilities often include multi-purpose rooms to accommodate meetings, tournaments, programming, clinics, etc. As new facilities are planned it is suggested that the City engage with groups on how to best design and fit these spaces.</p> <p>C. Continue to consider youth and seniors activity needs as part of overall space planning. Youth and seniors activity needs are highly dynamic – continually evolving with trends and as new activity opportunities emerge. All future space planning should consider opportunities for space that can accommodate flexible and appealing programming across all groups and ensure that infrastructure design and animation create comfortable, accessible, and adaptable spaces for youth and seniors.</p>

Sport and Recreation Amenity Category	Prioritization Framework Ranking(s)	Recommended Service Level Relative to Current	Strategies
Sports Fields and Ball Diamonds	Sports fields – grass (5) Sports fields – artificial turf (13) Cricket pitches (T14)		<p>A. Identify options to add high quality rectangular sport field supply to the system. Analysis of bookings data indicates that the current supply of rectangular sport fields in the city is at or over capacity. While some further exploration of the data may be required to clarify actual use vs block or overbookings (to accommodate for weather), it is reasonable to assume that the inventory has minimal ability to accommodate growth. Many sport field user groups prefer high quality grass fields, however the most significant approach to adding capacity (especially during shoulder seasons) would be to add an artificial turf field to the inventory (an artificial turf field can provide 3-5x the functional capacity as a natural surface field). It is suggested that the City further engage with user groups on the desirability of an artificial turf field and related considerations (e.g. ability to pay a fee that would fund surface replacement in 10-12 years, allocations priority of this type of surface, etc.).</p> <p>B. Continue to invest in existing ball diamonds and identify longer term options for a “hub” site. The City’s ball diamond inventory is well maintained and system-wide analysis of bookings data indicates that on an overall basis capacity exists to support growth. However, it is also recognized that different types and age groups within ball have different requirements for outfield and basepath dimensions and other support amenities. These demands tend to ebb and flow based on trends within ball, strength and capacity of ball groups, and demographics. The lack of a ball “hub” also limits tournament hosting capabilities and the ability of ball groups to offer programming across the spectrum of age and ability levels on a single site. Recognizing that the City faces land supply challenges and using available land for a purpose built amenity like ball may not ultimately be the best use of available resources, it is suggested that the City remain open to exploring longer term options for a premium ball diamond site with at least 3-4 diamonds with a progression of dimensions (especially if designed for baseball).</p> <p>C. Continue to work with emerging sport field user groups to identify options and opportunities to meet their needs. The popularity of fields sports like cricket, ultimate, rugby, and flag football is highly regional within British Columbia and across Canada based on the key variables of passionate local champions to promote the sport and suitable field supply. While it is important for the City to support larger groups, the needs of growing and emerging groups is also important. As such, it is recommended that the City continue to dialog with these groups and strongly consider their needs as field projects are considered and undertaken.</p>

Sport and Recreation Amenity Category	Prioritization Framework Ranking(s)	Recommended Service Level Relative to Current	Strategies
Specialty Amenities (Indoor)	Indoor climbing wall (T15) Indoor walking / running track (T15)	 	<p>A. Evaluate the viability of an indoor climbing amenity as part of a future facility project. The addition of new arena and / or multi-sport infrastructure may provide the opportunity to include other amenities that can expand recreation opportunities in Penticton. The demand for and viability of (e.g. review of operating and lifecycle costs) including an indoor climbing wall is reasonable to study as new facility development occurs. Including this type of amenity in a larger recreation facility provides the opportunity to meet emerging demands in a cost effective way that leverages shared support spaces, building envelopes, and staffing.</p> <p>B. Include an indoor walking / running track as part of potential new facility development. The City currently provides two indoor walking spaces (concourse at the SOEC and indoor track at the Sportsplex). However, these spaces are limited due to other facility uses and access/operating hours at these facilities. The addition of an indoor walking / running track to an arena or other future large span space that is likely to be available throughout the daytime and early evening is a high value add that can maximize non-peak hour facility use and the overall benefits of the facility.</p> <p>C. Remain open, flexible, and creative to new types of spaces and features as facility development and renewal occurs. Capital investment in sport and recreation facilities presents opportunities to create new activity opportunities and maximize the benefit of facilities beyond primary and traditional uses. In addition to the identified indoor climbing wall, amenities such as indoor play spaces, mini-stick rinks, leisure ice, and unique types of social / lobby space should be explored wherever possible. Relative to the overall project cost, these types of spaces are relatively small value adds that can have provide long-term benefit and positively position the overall benefits of a facility project within the community.</p>

Sport and Recreation Amenity Category	Prioritization Framework Ranking(s)	Recommended Service Level Relative to Current	Strategies
Specialty Amenities (Outdoor)	Bike parks and pump tracks (T11) Disc golf (T14) Skateboard park (T25) Dragon boat / paddle sports facilities (T21) Archery range (T23)		<p>A. Continue to monitor disc golf trends and use of the existing Rotary Marina and Three Blind Mice courses. Disc golf is trending in many communities and the Penticton Disc Golf Club has been successful at operating and maintaining the two existing Penticton courses. Additionally, apps like UDisc have helped create an initial baseline of data that facilities use, captures feedback, and helps track levels of use. It is recommended that the City continue to dialog with the Club on future trends and opportunities.</p> <p>B. Re-evaluate demand, use of current supply, and opportunities to include wheeled sports amenities and features as part of park renewal projects. The demand for incremental pumps tracks, skate parks, and other wheeled sports amenities requires better collection of data and continued trends monitoring. Future master planning for major park sites (e.g. Skaha Lake Park) should consider these types of amenities and evaluate the benefits of inclusion compared to other types of spaces and amenities.</p> <p>C. Continue to work with emerging user groups to determine future approaches to meeting for specialized amenities and facilities. Activities such as archery and paddling based sports (kayaking, dragon boat, etc.) have signs of growth in the region but require specialized infrastructure and human assets to support development and safety. The City should continue to work with groups to identify long-term needs, resourcing responsibilities and opportunities, and ways to ensure that future amenity investment meets the needs of both experienced and entry level participants.</p>
Track and Field / Athletics Facilities	Track and field spaces (T11)	 	<p>A. Collaborate with School District No. 67 and the Penticton Track and Field Club to develop a plan for renewal of the track at Penticton Secondary School and other potential enhancements. The track at Penticton Secondary School requires replacement to support both athletics program use, school use, and casual / spontaneous community use. Renewal of the track should be a collaborative venture between the three primary stakeholder groups. Additionally, these discussions should also consider potential support amenity and field upgrades that can make the site more functional for program and competition hosting.</p>

Sport and Recreation Amenity Category	Prioritization Framework Ranking(s)	Recommended Service Level Relative to Current	Strategies
Trail Based Recreation and Sport Activities	Trails and pathways (1) Mountain bike trails (6) Cross country ski & snowshoe trails (7)	 	<p>A. Undertake a Natural Trails Strategy to inform future trails priorities and investments. The engagement supports that there is a high level of demand for a variety of recreational, sport, and leisure based trail activities. Additionally, the Prioritization Framework exercise ranked the three overarching categories of trail types in the top 10 – supporting that there is strong benefits rationale for investing in trails. A more thorough investigation of specific trails projects, opportunities, land use limitations, classifications, and partnerships is required to guide future trails investment and prioritization. <i>*The City is developing a Strategy for the Kettle Valley Rail Trail in 2025 that will provide guidance on trails within the urban interface.</i></p>

7.3. Additional Recommendations

Provided as follows are additional recommendations provided by the consulting team based on the research and engagement conducted during the Needs Assessment process. These recommendations are not specific to a particular type of sport and recreation amenity (as provided in Section 7.2) but are rather intended to highlight potential areas of service delivery optimization that may also warrant further exploration during the City's next update to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Recommendation: Invest in data collection to support future capital and operational decision making.

The City does a good job of managing data for its own internal (directly delivered) programming and bookings of City-operated facilities. However, like many municipalities, the City lacks comprehensive data for spaces operated by external groups and those spaces that are primarily spontaneous and drop-in use in nature. Tactics that may warrant further exploration in the coming years include:

- Increased use of motion sensors ("counters") at select outdoor amenities (e.g. courts and fields).
- Use of emerging technologies (e.g. purchase of movement and mobility data).
- Development of a spot count program (e.g. City operations staff include spot counts as part of their maintenance duties).

Having access to more thorough data will help support future prioritization and site specific investments (e.g. need for support amenities, surfaces need to support emerging or evolving space uses, etc.).

Recommendation: Regularly review sport and recreation related policies and update where necessary.

Sport and recreation activity demands and preferences are highly dynamic and continually evolving. Given the current construction cost landscape and increasing growth in Penticton it is highly probable that the City will need to continue making optimal use of existing facilities and amenities while exploring innovative ways of partnering to meet longer-term needs. Having strong policy direction across facility allocations, rates and fees, and partnerships will help ensure that service delivery is optimized and best position the City to make long-term decisions on potential projects.

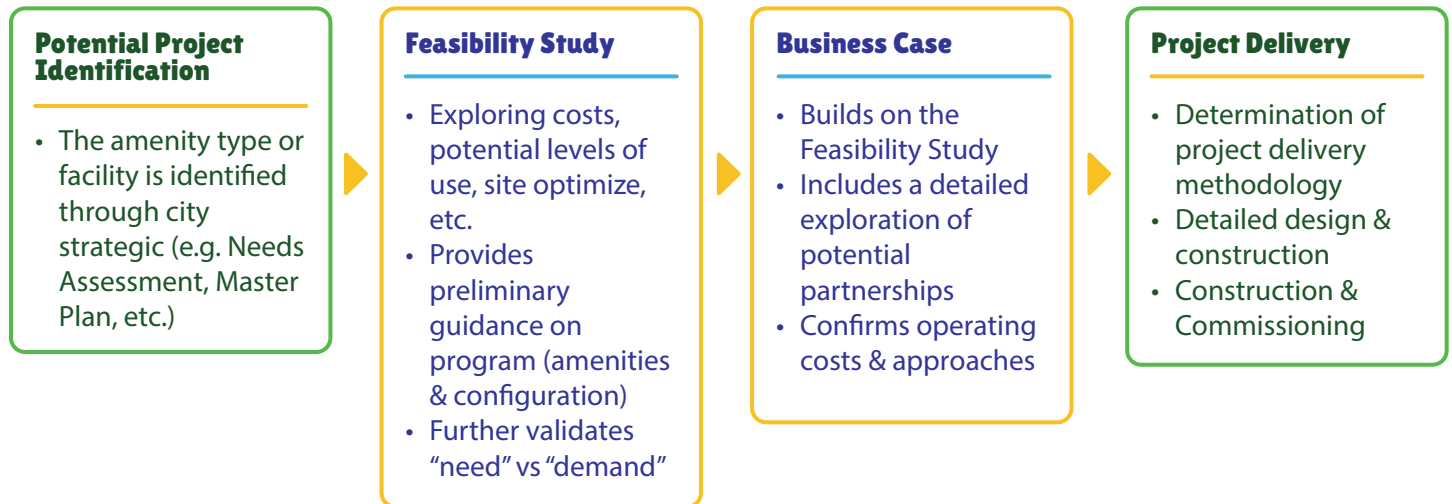
Recommendation: Ensure clarity internally and externally on the City's process and steps for validating major capital projects.

As previously noted, the City will need to carefully examine potential major capital sport and recreation projects to ensure that these projects:

- Address high priority space needs;
- Make the best use of available land.
- Are financially viable; and

Additionally, the City will need to explore project delivery approaches, potential partnerships, amenity synergies, and a host of other practical considerations pertaining to various facility development, retrofit, or expansion projects that could be undertaken in the future. Putting in place and communicating a sound process for validating major capital projects can help ensure the above noted considerations are sufficiently explored and ultimately reflects that final decision making is sounds and makes appropriate use of public funds.

The graphic below provides an example of a process that could be implemented to validate major sport and recreation facility projects.

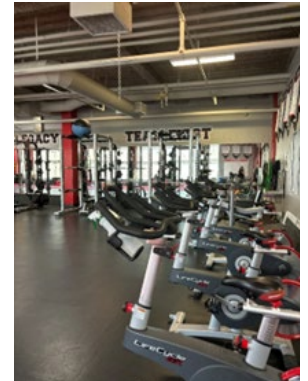


APPENDICES

Appendix A: Facility Visits and Observations

Summary of relevant Planning Work to date

- City of Penticton Arena Feasibility Study (2017) reviewed options for addition of a multi-use arena (single or twin pad) at South Okanagan Events Centre.
- The City of Penticton Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2018) notes:
 - Memorial Arena is at the end of its useful life. McLaren Arena is also in need of significant capital investment. There is an opportunity to improve the arena/ice facilities with the replacement of Memorial Arena as part of the SOEC complex.
 - The Curling Facility could be better utilized in the off season (resulting in greater revenues) with some upgrades. Enhance the Curling Centre to improve accessibility, energy efficiency, and off-season use.
- The Official Community Plan (2019) targets maximizing use of existing assets and infrastructure with a priority of investment in strategic areas, including intensifying development around the SOEC/Community Centre/Memorial Arena campus.
- Civic Places and Spaces Asset & Amenity Management Plan (2021) includes a Recommendation for Twin Arena. Engagement noted: current arenas not meeting all group needs, facilities are aging and in need of repair/poor condition of Memorial and McLaren arenas, importance: multi-function/dry floor use, affordability, community feel. Noted potential consideration for small ice-surface for Learn-to-Skate sessions and party rentals, without conflicts with larger ice surface.
- The Asset & Amenity Management Project (2021) discusses the construction of a new 2-Ice facility replace the decommissioned surfaces of Memorial and McLaren.
- The Reimagine the North Gateway (2022) neighbourhood plan includes recommendation to consolidate the City's ice surfaces on the SOEC complex with the construction of a new twin arena and the demolition of McLaren and Memorial Arenas is intended to support both community recreation needs and drive further economic impact to our community. As part of this recommendation, the conversion of the Memorial Arena site to parking was identified to support this future investment in the North Gateway lands. The plan also includes planned investment at the SOEC Campus ensuring a mix of delivery / larger event vehicles can access the facility loading bays and provide safe access from the north side of the highway to the south side, including upgrades to Alberni Street and Eckhardt Avenue intersections.



1. South Okanagan events centre (SOEC) & OHS Training Centre (OHTC)

Existing Facility Infrastructure observations

The 229,575ft² South Okanagan Events Centre (SOEC) and Okanagan Hockey School (OHS) Training Centre were completed in 2008. A steel structure, the building is physically linked to the Penticton Trade and Convention Centre. Access and onsite parking are shared with the wider SOEC campus venues. Improvements to vehicular and pedestrian access are planned under the North Gateway neighbourhood plan.

One of the City's premier sites and a revenue generating facility, the City is dedicated to ongoing maintenance and lifecycle upgrades to preserve and strengthen its condition and value.

Facility Condition and Summary of Significant Investments to Date

Constructed in 2008, the facility is in excellent condition.

Recently completed upgrades:

- Upgraded fall protection equipment for snow removal, as required to meet weight load requirements for some concerts/events.
- Lighting and Security upgrades
- New marquee signage
- Locker room/dressing room flooring replacements
- Kitchen equipment upgrades
- Renovation to add inclusive female changeroom
- Cooling Tower Heat Exchanger Replacement

City of Penticton planned future improvements include OHTC and SOEC Heat Pump Replacements, Vault Lounge Remodel Box Office HVAC Upgrade, and additional lifecycle replacement and operational maintenance items. Generally, access control is good, but the box office's location requires the full main entrance lobby to be open to public, which presents operational/security challenges. A planned remodel of Gate 1 to increase security and functionality is planned to address these issues.

Life Cycle Stage

Life Cycle Stage 3 (16 years old). During this stage, standard operating and maintenance budgets may not be adequate to address depreciation items and additional expenditures for major refurbishment or replacement of the building elements may be required.

SUMMARY FUNCTIONAL REVIEW

A multi-use sport and entertainment facility, SOEC and OHS Training Centre hosts world-class concerts and performances as well as hockey games. It is home to the Penticton Vees ice hockey team. Originally designed for the NHL regulation-size arena (85' x 200') to be converted to Olympic size (100' by 200') with retractable seating system, the SOEC sheet has not yet been used for these purposes. SOEC capacity for hockey events is 4,700 and 6,432 for concerts. The SOEC includes 26 private suites, and hosts events such as the Vancouver Canucks Young Stars Classic, Pow Wow Between the Lakes and the CSHL Western Championships. Level 2 of the SOEC hosts the BC Hockey Hall of Fame memorabilia.

The NHL regulation-size (85' x 200') ice sheet with 400 spectator seats at the OHS Training Centre is home to Okanagan Hockey School and Okanagan Hockey Academy. The Okanagan Hockey Group/Okanagan Hockey Academy are internationally recognized training facilities. The facility is operated year-round under a management agreement by the Oak View Group.

The facilities additionally host minor hockey, figure skating, private bookings. Lease spaces include Team Store, Penticton Dragon Boat Festival Office and Interior Health Heart Health Clinic.

- The upper concourse walkway is well-used as a no cost walking track by members of the public.
- The facility is operated under a management agreement by the Oak View Group.
- Shared ice plant has separate brine pumps allowing for separate use, but both ice sheets need to go offline for annual maintenance shutdowns.
- 14 dressing rooms are shared between the facilities. Ice covers are used on both sheets for dry use. Existing energy conservation measures include heat pump loops and waste heat used to melt snow-dump pits.

Recommended Best Practice Improvements

- Review opportunities for additional energy efficiency opportunities/GHG improvements. as equipment ages and energy costs change (long term), e.g. heat recovery to be shared with Aquatic Centre, Interior loading dock/ vestibule to mitigate energy loss through overhead doors.
- Comprehensive accessibility review, including opportunities to provide accessible access to ice surfaces.



2. Memorial Arena

Existing Facility Infrastructure observations

The 60,601ft² facility includes 80'x180' ice surface, five dressing rooms, referee room, concession with full kitchen, storage, mechanical and workshop spaces, training room and administration spaces, and spectator seating for approximately 2,200. The structure is concrete masonry with a distinctive half barrel-shaped metal roof on timber decking on timber purlins supported on nine laminated arches that span 43.9 m, which made them the largest of their kind in North America at the time of construction. The glulam arches are supported on concrete foundations. The gable end walls consist of vertical timber columns. Access and Parking is shared with South Okanagan Events Centre/ Community Centre campus.

A Penticton icon, the facility holds historic and social value for its role as a war memorial and for its role in Penticton's

legacy of sports, as the original home of the Penticton Vees hockey team. It hosts a large collection of hockey memorabilia housed in the building and the original 1951 score clock.

Facility Condition and Summary of Significant Investments to Date

The Penticton Memorial Arena was constructed in 1951 with significant up-grades in 1997 and 2004. The facility has been maintained and well used, with the following significant upgrades:

- Replaced ice chiller at Memorial Arena (noted per City of Penticton Corporate Energy & Emissions Plan May 2022 By Community Energy Association)
- 1993 - structural upgrades undertaken at the arena, due to concerns about wind vibration
- 1996-1997 - new arena slab and under floor heating system, new two-storey front entrance addition/office addition and a small single-story addition to the north side of the building, dressing room renovations, electrical and mechanical upgrades
- 2001 - replaced chiller and brine pump
- 2004 - dressing room addition
- 2012 - new condenser coil
- 2018 - roof replacement and structural upgrades completed (added high strength shear panels at base of laminated arches, applied gap filling epoxy adhesive and shear panels)

Outside of critical life safety improvements, the City is currently limiting maintenance and life cycle upgrade investment in the arena.

Life Cycle Stage

Life Cycle Stage 5 (73 years old). During Stage 5, facilities typically become costly to operate and maintain. As well, large scale rehabilitation or replacement may be required in order to continue to serve the community.

Recommended Renovations

Significant maintenance and modernization upgrades including mechanical HVAC, plumbing and fire protection work are required to ensure continued operations. Structural upgrades would be required to allow for removal of current wind and snow limitations. The capital cost of required upgrades, including additional structural work, would need to be balanced against replacement value. Given the extent of required upgrades, replacement of the facility may be considered.

SUMMARY FUNCTIONAL REVIEW

- At 80'x180' ice surface is not regulation size, but for minor hockey use, NHL size is not a requirement. The arena is home to the Penticton Minor Hockey Association, which has administration space in the facility.
- The arena's in-slab heating system allows facility to sustain ice year-round without risk of permafrost buildup.
- It is the main arena for the South Okanagan Flames Junior B Lacrosse team and Penticton Minor Lacrosse. The ceiling height is desirable for lacrosse. The ice is removed from Memorial for the Spring months to serve these groups from April to mid-June.
- The main arena is under a wind limit (when winds exceed 80km/hr or gusts up to 110km/hr, and all roofs are under snow load limits requiring snow removal).
- Significant envelope, code and modernization improvements have been recommended to keep the facility operational. The facility is nearing the end of useful life without significant investment.
- Given the height of facility, even if ice use was decommissioned, there may be value in the community for dryland use.
- The facility is operated under a management agreement by the Oak View Group.

Recommended Best Practice Improvements

- A 2017 study looked at upgrades required to expand the ice surface and dasher boards to a 200' x 85' regulation size surface, with associated upgrades to players, penalty and timekeepers' boxes and reduced spectator seating capacity to accommodate increased ice area.
- Currently, snow dumping requires zambonis to drive across parking areas to access the pit at SOEC. Renovation/reconfiguration should give consideration to shared snow pit melt access.



3. Sportsplex

Existing Facility Infrastructure observations

Constructed in 2009, the 29,277 ft² indoor multi-sport facility is a combination of 2-storey masonry structure with metal roof deck supported by steel joists and a long-span pre-engineered steel structure with fabric roof covering. The two-storey structure is served by hydraulic car elevator. Access and Parking is shared with Kings Park, with no dedicated lot but ample parking. Since 2022, the facility is operated by City of Penticton.

Spaces include 183'x117' artificial turf field, a field-level 10' wide rubber track, two change rooms, administrative and storage spaces (leased to the Pinnacles FC) and upper level multi-use space.

Facility Condition and Summary of Significant Investments to Date

The facility is well used and maintained. Condensation and overheating challenges were noted.

The most significant upgrade to date was the artificial grass turf replacement in 2023.

Planned future upgrades in 2025 include:

- Replacement of the facility roof covering and addition of thermal insulation (\$880K), which should assist in addressing condensation and thermal comfort issues. of condensation issues and mitigation of noise from lighting .
- Renovation of existing spaces to add exterior access public washrooms.

Life Cycle Stage

As the Sportsplex enters Life Cycle Stage 3 (15 years old). During this stage, standard operating and maintenance budgets may not be adequate to address depreciation items and additional capital investments may be required.

SUMMARY FUNCTIONAL REVIEW

The Sportsplex accommodates sports and activity groups such as soccer, field hockey, ultimate frisbee as well as private rentals. The facility is home to Pinnacles Football Club Association. Other regular uses include recreational soccer leagues, fly fishing, rugby, track and field and Ultimate.

- The small number of changerooms limit ability of the facility to host events/tournaments.
- The upper level multi-use space, recently leased for childcare use, presents an opportunity for additional recreation use.
- Original plan for the Sportsplex included a renovation to the soccer clubhouse and 3-court hard surface tennis facility to the south, requiring soccer field 2 to be moved Southwest 3.5m to accommodate the expansion.

Recommended Best Practice Improvements

- Facility is underutilized in the summer due to overheating and available lower-cost outdoor fields. Consider mechanical improvements indoor comfort and conditions where economically feasible (air flow and cooling; heating).
- Current storage needs are being met with the use of two sea can shipping containers. Consider renovation/ addition for dedicated storage.
- The City is planning a renovation of the Sportsplex to add washrooms, change rooms, a concession, and meeting space to the facility.



4. McLaren Arena

Existing Facility Infrastructure observations

Built in 1972, the facility is very well maintained. The 23,950 ft² facility includes a 80ftx180ft ice surface, five change rooms, 15' x 23' meeting room, small staff room, skate rental room, kitchenette-style concession, admin spaces and spectator seating for approximately 300. A single storey concrete masonry structure with slow-slope membrane at metal roof deck supported by long-span flat glulam and wood joist structure. Dedicated parking includes 36 total spaces all in open lots; 2 of which are accessible. Parking is shared with McLaren Park sports fields (basketball, tennis and baseball diamonds).

Facility Condition and Summary of Significant Investments to Date

The Arena underwent the following upgrades:

1973 - Zamboni Room/Storage addition

1994 - Change Room Renovations and Meeting Room/Office Addition

2021 – Roof Replacements (both metal and membrane roofs (\$388,695), chiller replacement, freon conversion to ammonia (non-CFC) refrigerant, and various mechanical, electrical, lighting and fire alarm system upgrades

Planned future upgrades, include replacement of unit heaters and replacement of concrete slab on grade (not currently funded).

Recommended Renovations

- Previously identified life safety/maintenance upgrades: replace roofing including fascia and rainwater leaders, grout cracks in perimeter walls and grade beams to be grouted, replace compressors and brine chiller, and add fire alarm system trouble notification device.
- Modernizations: repair Zamboni slab and maintenance ice access, replace ventilation and plumbing systems; lighting, controls and emergency lighting upgrades, replace concrete ice slab including lower brine headers

Life Cycle Stage

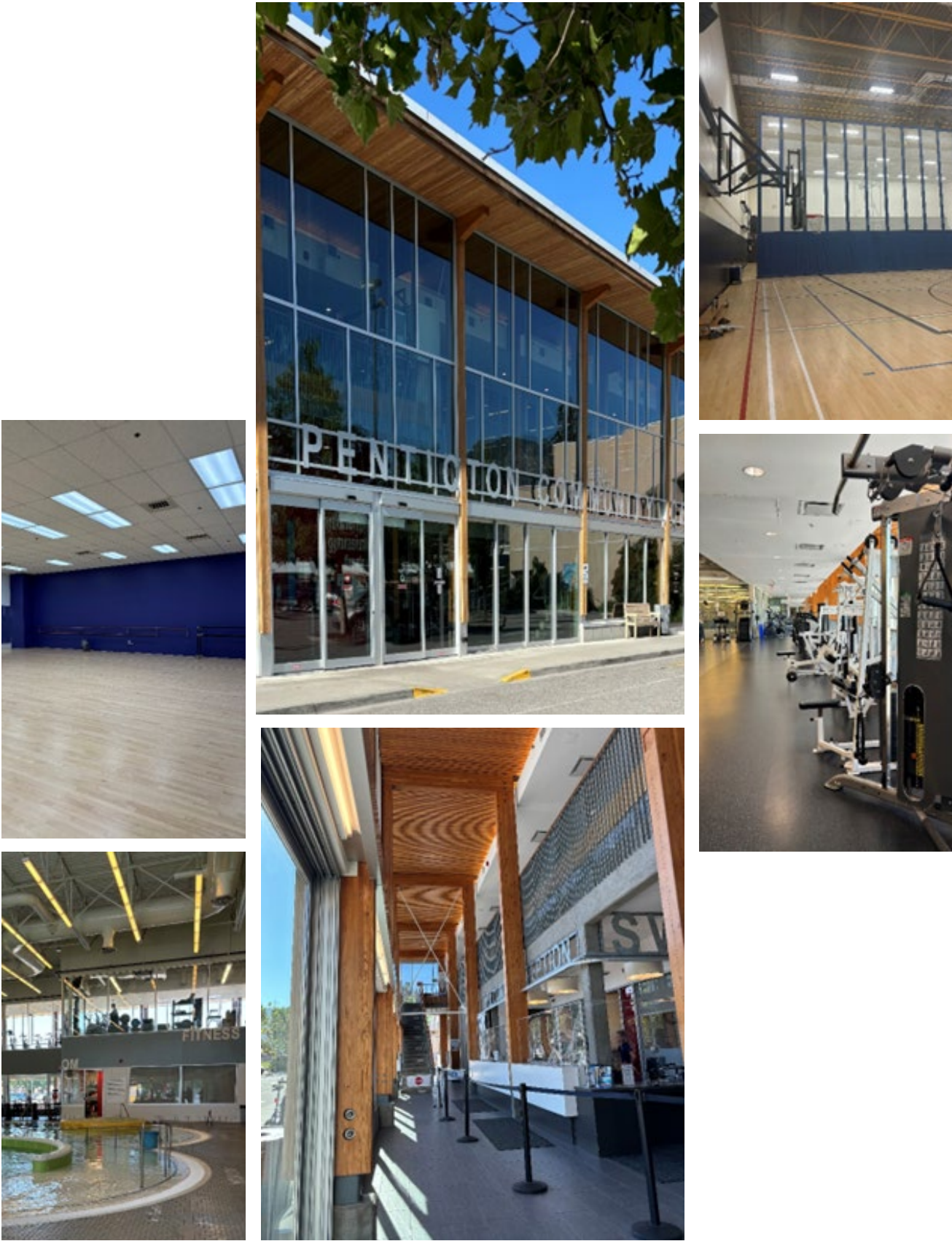
- Life Cycle Stage 5 (52 years old). During this stage, facilities typically become more costly to operate and maintain. As well, large scale rehabilitation or replacement may be required in order to continue to serve the community. Given the quality of maintenance to date, as noted in previous assessment reports, the facility is well-positioned to continue serving the community with ongoing maintenance upgrades.

SUMMARY FUNCTIONAL REVIEW

- While McLaren arena does not provide the adequate ice surface for all users (80'x180' ice surface is not regulation size) but for figure skating use and recreation use. Ice sheet size, location of players benches and dressing rooms are a limiting factor for hockey games.
- No underslab or in-slab heating to prevent the buildup of permafrost and risk of slab heave. To mitigate this risk, the ice is removed from the arena and it is used as a dry floor facility from April to mid-June. Maintenance is conducted during dry-floor conversion.
- The facility offers public programming, skate lessons and private rentals out of this arena. Meeting room is used for dryland training and private party rentals.
- This arena is home to the Glengarry Figure Skating Club, who have a dedicated office space has dedicated no-cost storage at benefit to users.
- The low roof structure (16' to underside of glulam beams) limits dry floor use, as ceiling height not adequate for hosting intermediate or senior lacrosse play.
- Limited number of dressing rooms is a limiting factor utilization and event hosting.
- Operated by the City of Penticton Recreation Department

Recommended Best Practice Improvements

- As proposed in 2017 study, through expansion and renovation a new lobby and additional changerooms could be added to extend utilization. Additional dressing rooms would allow for optimized efficiency of ice time and programming. There is room for modest expansion on site, with potential impacts to parking and adjacent park.
- Renovation to relocate player's benches to a location that doesn't require crossing the ice and that includes an exit door from the benches.
- Modify bleachers to provide code conforming stairs and handrails, and code-compliant minimum egress route widths between the bleachers and the dasher boards.
- Accessibility improvements, including automatic door openers.
- Given the age of the facility, the capital cost of upgrades should be reviewed against replacement value.



5. Penticton Community Centre

Existing Facility Infrastructure observations

Penticton Community Centre was constructed in 1981, with major renovations and an expansion to the aquatic centre in 2010-2011. The 100,331 ft² multi-use facility includes aquatic centre, 80' x 120' gymnasium with divider curtain, meeting rooms, dance studio, 440 seat community theatre, child minding and youth spaces, 80 space licensed childcare, fitness centre, lease spaces and administrative areas.

The Aquatic Centre has a 10 lane, 25 metre square lap pool, a leisure pool with a lazy river, waterslide and spray features, family-sized hot pool, a sauna and steam room, gendered, universal and accessible change rooms.

The building is a three-storey concrete structure with concrete masonry unit infill walls, steel roof framing with a glulam post and beam entrance atrium. The Community Centre has 250 total parking spaces with 16 accessible stalls, within the larger South Okanagan Events Centre/Community Centre campus.

Facility Condition and Summary of Significant Investments to Date

The mechanical systems were fully retrofitted in 2011 as part of the addition project. The facility is well maintained with regular maintenance and lifecycle improvements.

Significant renovation works are currently underway (2024) to address inadequate ventilation at the mechanical room and corroded ductwork and poor geotechnical conditions, including new water source heat pump system to preheat DHW as part of chiller replacement, and power distribution system replacement.

Planned Renovations

Planned Upgrades 2024:

- Ongoing investigations to address water loss at pool basins (radar scan completed)
- Rebuild of regenerative filter replacements (\$90K)
- Waterslide refurbishment (\$65K), concrete repairs/handrail replacements at waterslide stair (\$75K).
- Renovation of existing daycare space and addition of two storey standalone building for additional daycare spaces (\$4M)
- Boiler Replacement (\$600K)
- Addition of make up air unit for basement mechanical ventilation (\$200K)_
- Replacement of basement mechanical electrical panels (\$200K)_
- Replacement of basement mechanical pipe hangers and portions of sprinkler piping (\$65K)
- Repairs to structural concrete of pool slide stairs and replacement of all handrails (\$75K)
- Replacement of basketball nets in gymnasium (\$20K)
- Refinishing of gymnasium flooring (\$35K)
- Replacement of coil in AHU 7 (\$150K)

Planned 2025-2028 Projects:

- Roof inspection (\$25K)
- Complete lifecycle refurbishment of fire suppression system (\$600K)
- BAS controls upgrade (\$750K)
- Front counter redesign (accessibility upgrades) (\$150K)
- Elevator control replacement (\$200K)

Life Cycle Stage

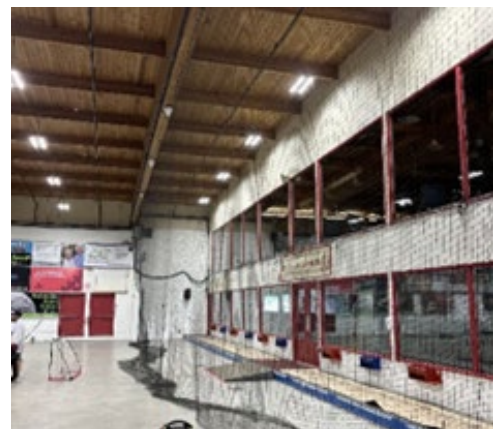
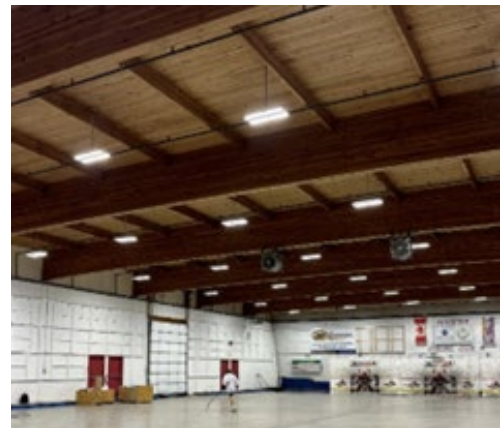
While the original community centre at Life Cycle Stage 5 (43 years), the recent expansion and renovation to the aquatics/recreation components puts the majority of the facility in Life Cycle Stage 2, where capital operating and maintenance budgets are typically adequate to operate the facility.

SUMMARY FUNCTIONAL REVIEW

- Operated by the City of Penticton Recreation Department
- Following 2011 expansion the Community Centre is well-positioned to serve the community need with no major upgrades or improvements.

Recommended Best Practice Improvements

- Accessibility Improvements, including reception counter and administration millwork improvements, adjusted general mounting heights for controls, fixtures and fittings, tactile and braille room signage and improved wayfinding
- Extended changeroom/shower partitions to address privacy issues
- Acoustic mitigation between upper-level fitness and administration spaces below



6. Penticton Curling Rink

Existing Facility Infrastructure observations

Located at the SOEC Complex, the Curling Rink includes six curling sheets, a lobby/viewing area, gendered locker rooms, kitchen, and a second level bar and lounge, (occupancy of approximately 150), overlooking the rink. The building is a two-storey concrete structure with concrete masonry unit infill walls and glulam roof beams.

Facility Condition and Summary of Significant Investments to Date

Penticton Curling Rink was constructed around 1980. The facility is well kept, with the following significant recent upgrades:

- 2020 - Roof replacement (\$115,000)
- 2028 – Plant upgrades including chiller, pressure relief valves, and refrigeration compressor replacement in 2018 (\$90,000).
- Streaming equipment setup for events (by Penticton Curling Club)

The Penticton Curling Club organizes and covers the cost of maintenance and upgrades when possible.

Previous reports note water leakage issues, accessibility/energy and code compliance issues that would require significant investment to address. The SOEC Complex is located challenging geotechnical conditions with soil conditions prone to settlement, which is less than ideal for maintaining level ice surface.

Life Cycle Stage

At approximately 44 years old, the Curling Rink is in Life Cycle Stage 5. At this point facilities typically become more costly to operate and maintain. Large scale rehabilitation or replacement may be required.

SUMMARY FUNCTIONAL REVIEW

- The facility is home to and operated by the 480 member Penticton Curling Club.
- From October to March, the facility hosts daytime and evening leagues for all skill levels, learn to curl clinics and private rentals. The Club hosts competitive bonspiels, including the Nufloors Penticton Curling Classic international mens event and the Penticton Mixed Doubles.
- In the off-season, the facility hosts dryland activities, including and OHA summer camps roller derby. For dryland hockey training, netting to allow for quick conversion between floor/ball hockey use. The Penticton Roller Skate (PRS), part of the South Okanagan Roller Derby Association, use the Curling Rink between mid April or May until September.
- In the shoulder seasons, the rink hosts public events such as Ski Swap and Penticton Gun Antique Show & Sale.

Recommended Best Practice Improvements

- Accessibility improvements to stairs, washrooms and entrances.

Appendix B: Trends and Leading Practices

Activity and Participation Trends

Spontaneous Recreation

There is growing demand for more flexibility in timing and activity for leisure pursuits. People are now seeking individualized informal pursuits that can be done alone or in small groups, at flexible times, often near or at home. This trend does not eliminate the need for structured activities but suggests that planning for the general population is as important as planning for more traditional structured-use environments. Spontaneous recreation is broadly characterized as physical activities in which the activities, nature of participation and timing of participation are freely chosen and do not require registration for programs or leagues.

The following two tables illustrate how children and adults participate in unorganized or unstructured activity or sports. This data is from the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute (CFLRI). The CFLRI monitors changes in rates of physical activity and sport participation among the Canadian population. This is achieved through the Physical Activity and Sport Monitoring Program.

Table 41. Degree of structure and level of competition of sport participation for children aged 5 to 17 (Data from 2022)

Age Group	Primarily Structured	Primarily Unstructured	Both Equally
Children aged 5 to 17	61%	14%	25%
Children living in a household that brings in <\$60,000/ year	51%	21%	27%
Children living in a household that brings in \$60,000 - \$99,999/ year	61%	16%	23%
Children living in a household that brings in >\$100,000 year	64%	10%	25%

Source: Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute

Table 42. Percentage of adults participating in unorganized physical activity/sport and their level of satisfaction with the amount of opportunities available (Canada) (Data from 2016 – 2018)

Age Group	Participated in unorganized physical activity or sport	Participated in organized physical activity or sport	Very satisfied with amount of unorganized activities	Somewhat satisfied with amount of unorganized activities
Total, 18 years and older	68%	26%	51%	41%
18-24 years		33%	52%	44%
25-44 years	75%	31%	52%	39%
45-64 years	68%	24%	51%	42%
65 years and older	49%	19%	49%	43%

Source: Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute



Rally Report 2024

The Rally Report 2024, published by Canadian Women & Sport, provides a comprehensive analysis of girls' participation and experiences in sport across Canada. It highlights both progress and persistent barriers while proposing actionable recommendations to create a more inclusive and equitable sporting environment.

Key Findings:

Increased Participation but Persistent Gaps:

- 63% of girls aged 6–18 participate in weekly organized sports, reflecting steady growth since 2016.
- However, girls still participate less than boys (68%), and nearly half drop out of sports by age 16.
- Girls from lower-income households, with disabilities, or from racialized communities face compounded barriers.

Motivations and Barriers:

- Girls are motivated by fun, friendships, and fitness, but common barriers include cost, time commitment, and confidence.
- Gender-specific challenges include body confidence issues and discomfort with uniforms.
- The menstrual cycle significantly affects participation for nearly half of adolescent girls. The report highlights the importance of private and accessible changing rooms as a critical factor in creating a positive environment for girls in sports and physical activity. Lack of adequate changing facilities can deter girls from participating in sports altogether.

Role of Schools and Families:

- Schools are crucial in promoting physical activity but show a gender gap in organized sports participation.
- Family support is pivotal, but socio-economic factors often limit access for some girls.

Opportunities for Improvement:

- Girls express growing interest in sports leadership and participation, but systemic biases hinder progress.
- Representation of women as coaches and role models remains limited, impacting girls' sense of belonging.

Intersectional Barriers:

- Racialized girls, girls with disabilities, and those from marginalized groups often feel excluded due to systemic biases and lack of cultural sensitivity in programming.

Youth Sport Participation

In April 2024, the Jumpstart State of Play Youth Report was released. The report includes results from the Jumpstart Canadian Tire State of Play Youth Survey, and enrollment data that highlights characteristics of sport organizations that participated in the survey. The following bullets some key findings from the report related to youth sport participation.

- 38% of youth indicated that they participate the same as before COVID-19 and 27% indicated that they play sport more than before the Pandemic.
- For those youth that indicated that they participated more than prior to the Pandemic. 30% of those do so by participated in a sport club, 26% participate through their school, 23% do so as part of an afterschool program, 21% participate at a recreation centre and 25% do so through other means.
- The top 3 reasons that youth are motivated to participate in sport was playing with friends (55%), having fun (38%), and exercising to stay healthy (33%).
- The top 3 reasons that youth do not play sports included that sports are too expensive (47%), no time to play due to schoolwork (28%) and that they do not feel good enough to play (18%). The top reason among high school students was no time to play due to school work, for middle school students and elementary school students it was that sports are too expensive. When looking at where the students live (west coast, prairie or central), youth from the west coast indicated that sports were too expensive the most often of three regions. West coast youth also indicated not being good enough as a reason not to play more than the other regions.

The following table outlines the sport that youth indicated that they played more than once in the last three years.

Table 43. Sports Youth Play More Than Once in the Last Three Years

Primarily Indoor		Primarily Outdoor	
Swimming	44%	Soccer	62%
Basketball	43%	Swimming	44%
Hockey	30%	Basketball	43%
Volleyball	26%	Volleyball	26%
Badminton	24%	Football	22%
Skating	24%	Athletics	17%
Bowling	17%	Tennis	16%
Tennis	16%	Baseball	16%
Climbing	15%	Climbing	15%

Primarily Indoor		Primarily Outdoor	
Floor/Ball Hockey	14%	Downhill Skiing	15%
Dance	13%	Golf	13%
Martial Arts	12%	Canoe/Kayak	12%
Gymnastics	9%	Cross Country Skiing	6%
Boxing	3%	Snowboarding	6%
Curling	3%	Lacrosse	5%
Figure Skating	2%	Softball	5%
Cheerleading	2%	Equestrian	5%
Ringette	2%	Para Alpine Skiing	1%
Wheelchair Basketball	2%	Para Canoe / Kayak	0.90%
Sitting Volleyball	0.8%	Para Snowboard	0.50%
Para Ice Hockey	0.60%	Wheelchair Tennis	0.40%
Wheelchair Curling	0.20%	Para Athletics	0.40%
		Para Golf	0.40%
		Para Rowing	0.30%

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

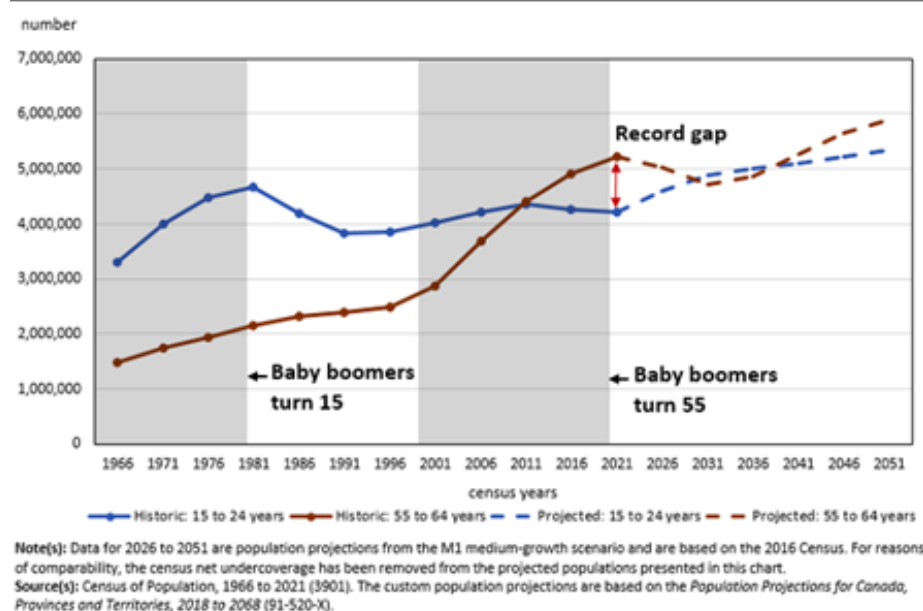
Following the pandemic in Canada there was an increase in outdoor and unstructured activities compared to pre-pandemic levels. This presents an opportunity for the outdoor recreation sector to capitalize and harness this enthusiasm for outdoor activities. Opportunities include programming to foster sustained interest in outdoor spaces and viewing parks and green spaces as public health assets v. There are many benefits to spending time in nature, but there are also issues related to increased outdoor participation including impact on the environment, equitable access, availability and cost of equipment and training, as well as managing relations between veteran and new users, tourism involvement and indigenous land-use rights ^{viii}.

Trends in Older Adult Recreation and Leisure Participation

There is an increase in the aging population who are retiring and thus, we are seeing longer periods of retirement. The chart below, People Nearing Retirement Outnumber People Old Enough to Enter the Labour MarketInvalid source

specified., illustrates that increase. The many “traditional” activities such as swimming, fitness classes and low-impact activities are still very popular amongst the older adult population. However, there has been an increase in demand for moderately vigorous forms of physical activity and multi-generational programs. The emergence of pickleball and adapted fitness classes are examples of activities whose popularity is driven by older adult populations. The following trends highlight some specific activities and trends that have gained popularity with older adults in recent years.

People Nearing Retirement Outnumber People Old Enough to Enter the Labour Market



Physical Literacy and Skill Development as Program Drivers

The ability and confidence of an individual is a strong indicator on whether or not that individual will participate in an activity, especially in older adults. Research has shown that individuals who do not feel comfortable, competent, or confident while participating with others will withdraw from physical activity^{ix}. Programs that address gaps in an individual's ability and confidence are becoming more prevalent for sports and activities that have gained popularity for older adults. Sports like pickleball have seen success in gaining popularity by offering learn to play programming and clinics to increase skill and attract new players to the sport. Programs that are led by older adults have been especially successful at attracting new participants of that same demographic.

Fitness Trends

Fitness activity trends are always evolving. Canfitpro offers some insights into some projected trends in Canada based on input from industry experts. The Canfitpro Top 5 Health and Fitness Trends for 2024 are as follows^x:

- Active Aging/ Older Adults Programs
- Functional Fitness
- Mental Health & Stress Management Programs



- Active Recovery & Regeneration
- Group Fitness Classes/ Programs

As indicated in the Mindbody Fitness Trends Report 2023 as well as the Canfitpro predictions for 2024, exercise to live a long and healthy life is a motivation for both younger generations (Gen Z) and older adults (Baby Boomers). Low impact workout classes such as pilates, barre and yoga were also noted as having seen an increase in participation in 2023 ^{xi} (ClassPass, 2023).

Pickleball

Pickleball is quickly becoming one of the most popular outdoor recreation activities in North America. Membership in Pickleball Canada has grown from 5,000 to 22,000 players in just five years, and a pre-pandemic Ipsos poll put the number of Canadians playing pickleball at 350,000. The sport seems to be growing so much that many people are migrating from tennis to pickleball. While pickleball still provides a way for people to stay active and enjoy the competitive nature of racket sports, it's not as intense as tennis. Pickleball is also relatively easy to pick up, the underhand serve is less technical than tennis and the smaller court makes it less strenuous.

Many players also comment on the very open and inclusive community that is known for being very welcoming to new players. While people do play at a very competitive level with national tournaments, brand sponsors and prize money- you can easily join a local league or club and pick up the game in a very casual atmosphere. Pickleball is also a great way to stay active with several health benefits and fewer injuries than some other sports.

Service Delivery

Measuring Impact

The Price of Inactivity, a newly released report produced by the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association and the Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Research Institute is intended to quantify the benefits of sport, physical activity and recreation (SPAR) sector. The report concludes that in total, SPAR generates \$14B in social impact, \$4B in health and \$37B in economic impact (over \$55B in total) annually across Canada (measuring-impact.ca). Data collection is of utmost importance to supporting linkages between SPAR investment and social, health, economic and environmental impacts, as it provides opportunities to advocate for increased SPAR budget allocations and make a case for investment.

Event Hosting and Tourism

Events are once again increasing in popularity following the impact of the pandemic. Events present an opportunity for community organizations to network, contribute to the community and recruit. As a result of the pandemic there are also more virtual options available when attending events, creating opportunities for people to be there in-person or online ^{xii}. The event sector is also closely linked to tourism and sport. Sport tourism is the fastest growing segment of the tourism industry ^{xiii}. Sport tourism provides an opportunity for destination to improve their overall tourism infrastructure, attracts visitors, can generate media coverage and promote the destination on a national and international level ^v.

Safe Sport

Safe sport can be described as creating an environment that is free from all types of maltreatment including physical and/or emotional harm, by anyone in the sporting environment ^v. Safe Sport is the responsibility of everyone ^{xiv}. There are many resources available in Canada to support Safe Sport practices such as the Sport Integrity Framework by the Government of Canada, and Safe Sport training through the Coaching Association of Canada. Safe Sport is essential to create inclusive and welcoming sporting communities, it is imperative to be proactive through training, policies and practices.

Regional Collaboration and Partnership

Regional collaboration and partnerships during the planning process allow for voices to be heard from all regional stakeholders to create a plan with a unified vision^{xv}. There are many benefits to engaging in regional collaboration and partnership such as shared costed, potentially increased risk but also rewards, less duplication resulting in less survey fatigue, and it allows for heightened coordination. Regional planning allows for all stakeholders to working towards a shared vision that can be defined by all^{xvi}.

Use of data

Data is an essential tool that supports the operations of Parks and Recreation providers from master planning and measuring facility usage, to informing programming and supporting funding initiatives^{xvii}. Tracking data and creating the subsequent reports allows the sector to prove its impact^{xviii}. Incorporating data can also be used as a tool to identify improvement and optimize processes allow for management to make informed decisions^{xix}. Ultimately, data can assist to demonstrate impact of services, inform decision making processes, and support funding asks, to create a more inclusive, and engaging sport and recreation experience for all.

Managing Aging Infrastructure

Sport and recreation infrastructure is aging and needs replacement, in Canada the estimated replacement value for such infrastructure would cost \$42.5 billion. In 2022, \$2 billion was invested by the Canadian government in infrastructure along with \$1.5 billion from municipalities^{xx}. However, the investments have not been adequate to address the needs of aging infrastructure. There needs to be a continued coordinated effort by all levels of government and the private sector to develop sustained investment strategies to support sport and recreation infrastructure to maximize the positive effects of sport and recreation participation.

Volunteerism

Volunteerism is purposeful engagement in helping the fulfillment of activities without expectation of monetary compensation^{xxi}. In the sport and recreation field, volunteers are motivated by community contribution, social networking and a passion for sport and recreation^{xxii}. In 2018, there was a large study done to gain insight into volunteering in Canada. As a result of the study, it was found that almost all Canadians (79%) over the age of 15 took part in some form of volunteering, amounting to 2.5 billion hours annually^{xxiii}. In Canada, 27% of Canadian adults actively volunteer in sport and recreation related activities. Volunteers are essential to the operation and prosperity of the sport and recreation field, as organizations rely on dedicated volunteers. It is important to lift up volunteers and foster their sense of belonging and recognize their value to the sport and recreation sector^{xxiv}.

Infrastructure Trends

Managing aging infrastructure

Sport and recreation infrastructure is aging and needs replacement, in Canada the estimated replacement value for such infrastructure would cost \$42.5 billion. In 2022, \$2 billion was invested by the Canadian government in infrastructure along with \$1.5 billion from municipalities^{xxiv}. However, the investments have not been adequate to address the needs of aging infrastructure. There needs to be a continued coordinated effort by all levels of government and the private sector to develop sustained investment strategies to support sport and recreation infrastructure to maximize the positive effects of sport and recreation participation.

Accessibility

To ensure that public spaces and facilities are accessible for all, communities are now developing and adopting holistic design guidelines. The City of Edmonton has created a design guide, called the Access Design Guide, that is referenced during planning, design, and construction stages of infrastructure development. This Guide helps to clearly identify important accessibility features and is helpful in having all design consideration noted in one place.

Accessibility is an ongoing concern for service providers within the sector. Ensuring accessibility in recreation and culture facilities is essential for promoting equity, enhancing health and well-being, fostering community connections,

and comply with standards. It creates an inclusive environment where all individuals can enjoy the benefits of recreation, leading to healthier and more connected communities.

Air Pollution and Major Weather Events

Climate change is altering the way that people access and utilize the outdoors. Increased temperatures mean people are more likely to recreate in the early or late hours of the day outside of peak temperature hours. Furthermore, air pollution due to wildfire smoke is increasingly inhibiting people's ability to safely recreate outdoors. Due to increasingly poor air quality, municipalities and sport organisations are having to restrict access to outdoor recreation spaces. Furthermore, more extreme weather means that people will seek out climate-controlled environments more often. This can result in increasing demand for indoor recreation facilities so that people can continue their outdoor activities indoors. This has implications for the design and capacity of indoor recreation facilities as they face pressure to accommodate a wider range of activities, sports and community events.

Demand for Synthetic Turf

A significant trend impacting the provision of sport fields is the growing user preference and demand for synthetic turf fields. In many urban centres a broader array of user groups is increasingly looking to access synthetic turf fields in order to expand their season of use, limit rain-outs and field condition related cancellations, and enhance overall participant experience. Advancements in synthetic turf technologies have also fuelled this trend. In several communities, converting gravel or all – weather fields to synthetic turf have become a popular upgrade. While in optimal circumstances many user groups may still prefer premium quality natural surfaces, advances in synthetic grass types of synthetic turf have narrowed the gap between how synthetic and natural surfaces feel when playing sports on.

Sports Hub Facilities

There is a growing trend to develop sports fields as multi-field “hubs” that can host larger events and tournaments. This approach offers benefits like operational efficiencies, increased hosting capacity, and shared amenities (e.g., washrooms, change facilities, concessions). Key design considerations for these sites include minimizing activity conflicts between fields, proximity to arterial routes with transit access, buffering from residential areas, providing sufficient parking, and allowing for future growth and repurposing.

Indoor Facility Trends

As user expectations for indoor recreation facilities have increased over time, some trends have also emerged specific to amenities such as aquatics, arenas, and gymnasium in the areas of service delivery and programming, as well as facility design. Other trends are more general in terms of experiences that visitors expecting.

General Trends

- Providing opportunities for all family members to take part in different activities simultaneously at the same location can increase participation levels, as well as a sense of convenience and satisfaction for residents. For example, while children participate in swim lessons, guardians may wish to grab a coffee and visit in social areas in sight of pool tanks or work out in the fitness centre or even enjoy a climbing wall activity such as bouldering.
- Modern facilities are being designed to be multiuse, blend indoor and outdoor environments, and capitalize on surrounding services. Benefits of designing multi-use spaces include the opportunity to create operational efficiencies, attract various users and procure multiple sources of revenue.
- New community centers are revolutionizing inclusivity in their facility designs to better serve people of all identities, age groups, and abilities. The top designs go beyond standard barrier-free principles, addressing comprehensive concerns related to safety, access, and comfort for everyone.
- The increasing trend of universal washrooms and change rooms is challenging traditional gender-segregated practices in community facilities. These new flexible, inclusive models better support diversity and inclusiveness for everyone. Inclusive facilities improve circulation, offer choices, enhance passive security, and encourage social interaction.

- Community facilities designed with an Indigenous perspective foster reconciliation, decolonization, and greater understanding. Indigenous culture is being integrated into community spaces through art, cultural practice areas, facility naming, traditional building strategies, and respectful consultations with local Indigenous communities.

Aquatic Trends

- Recreational swimmers are increasingly looking for exciting aquatic experiences such as aquatic playgrounds for those of all ages and abilities, lazy rivers, wave pools, surf machines, waterslides, etc.
- Swimming lessons are also growing in popularity, resulting in greater demand for lessons for those of all ages, particularly as such lessons are viewed as integral to physical literacy, skill development, and preventing injury/drowning. Municipalities across Canada have struggled to meet the community demand for these programs largely due to staffing shortages.
- Wellness and therapy pool users are one of the fastest growing user segments for aquatic services, particularly in communities with aging populations. These users tend to require warmer water (e.g. 32 degrees Celsius) but can also benefit from access to cold water plunge tanks as well.
- Competitive swimmers have high expectations for facility design and governing bodies, too, have certain standards for tank configurations, spectator seating areas, timing systems, and so forth. Modern training facilities should include amenities such as dive tanks, warm up pools, starting blocks, advanced timing systems, and scoreboards.
- Aquatic exercise, including swimming, water-based resistance training, or water aerobics, are increasingly popular activities among those looking for a low impact workout in a fun environment. Accessible community pools and therapeutic tanks are necessary amenities to support these types of activities.
- Pools are being designed to have multiple tanks and 'zones', such as quiet areas for rehabilitation and therapy, as well as for users with sensitivities to sound and/or light, training areas with one or more 50 m tanks, separate 25 m warm up tanks, 25 m leisure and recreation pools, hot tubs, and saunas. Increasingly, users expect multiuse spaces as the norm and service providers need to quickly adapt to meet community needs.

Arena Trends

- Incorporating dryland training areas into facility design is a great way to create versatile spaces that cater to athletes off-ice training needs.
- Investing in better sound systems can significantly improve the overall experience for both event organizers and attendees, making arenas more versatile and enjoyable for everyone. Modern sound systems help manage and contain noise, minimizing sound leakage to surrounding area ^{xxv}.
- Locker room spaces play a vital role in the overall functionality and user experience of sports arenas, providing a comfortable and secure space for athletes and other users. Some locker rooms are designed with team areas that include whiteboards or screens for pre-game strategy sessions and discussions.
- There is a growing desire for multi-ice facilities that stems from their ability to meet the high demand for ice time, serve as community hubs, and provide economic benefits by attracting events and visitors. These facilities offer operational efficiencies, versatility for various activities, support the development of local talent, and incorporate sustainable design elements. They also prioritize accessibility and inclusivity, accommodating diverse user needs and fostering community engagement.

Gymnasium/ Field House Trends

- Indoor turf fields are increasingly popular due to their versatility and ability to provide a high-quality playing surface year-round. They can accommodate a wide range of sports and activities, including soccer, football, lacrosse, field hockey, and more. This versatility makes them valuable assets for community centers and sports complexes.
- Indoor courts are being designed to be versatile, allowing for multiple sports such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, and indoor soccer to be played on the same surface. This flexibility maximizes the use of space and accommodates various activities.

Climbing Walls

Incorporating climbing walls into community facilities offers numerous benefits, such as promoting physical fitness, fostering community engagement, and developing problem-solving skills. Modern climbing walls are designed to be inclusive, accommodating various skill levels and abilities. These walls enhance the versatility of multipurpose facilities and serve as unique attractions that draw more visitors. Safety measures are a top priority, and climbing walls can also be used for educational and team-building activities. Considering that Penticton is a hot spot for the outdoor climbing community, providing an option/ incentive for visitors and locals alike to utilize during inclement weather/during the winter season may draw in a new crowd of community facility users.

Appendix C: Community Groups Engaged

Group Name	Survey Response	Discussion Session
65+ Noon Hockey		✓
Accessible Disc Golf	✓	✓
BC Volleyball	✓	
Beer league hockey	✓	
Fraser Athletic Performance - Hockey	✓	
Friday Nights Men's Hockey	✓	
Glengarry Skating Club	✓	✓
Harlequins Rugby	✓	✓
High School Field Hockey Club		✓
Incubator Youth Hockey Skills	✓	
Kelowna City FC - Penticton Chapter	✓	✓
Kelowna Men's Soccer League 35+ Division	✓	
Kisu Swim Club		✓
Ladies Slo-Pitch League		✓
Lake City Basketball	✓	
Little Kickers Soccer	✓	
Noon Hour Hockey League	✓	
Okanagan Hockey Group	✓	
Outdoor Mens' 55+ League		✓

Group Name	Survey Response	Discussion Session
Peach City Indoor Pickle Ball Club		✓
Penticton Area Cycling Association		✓
Penticton Curling Club		✓
Penticton Disc Golf Club		✓
Penticton Grizzlies Hockey	✓	✓
Penticton Minor Fastball Softball Assoc.	✓	
Penticton Minor Football Assoc.		✓
Penticton Minor Hockey Assoc.	✓	
Penticton Minor Lacrosse Association		✓
Penticton Old Timers	✓	✓
Penticton Paddle Sports Association	✓	
Penticton Pickleball Club	✓	✓
Penticton Pounders Running Club	✓	✓
Penticton Roller Skate	✓	✓
Penticton Slopitch co-ed		✓
Penticton Tennis Club	✓	✓
Penticton Track & Field Club		✓
Penticton Track and Field	✓	✓
Pinnacles Soccer Club	✓	

Group Name	Survey Response	Discussion Session
Red Wings	✓	
Skaha Climbers Association	✓	✓
Skaha Climbing Cooperative		✓
Skate With Power	✓	✓
South Okanagan Field Hockey Club		✓
South Okanagan Flames (lacrosse)		✓
South Okanagan Roller Derby Assoc.		✓
South Okanagan Volleyball Association	✓	
South Okanagan Women's Soccer League	✓	
T2 Volleyball - Beach	✓	
Taneda Karate Dojo	✓	✓
Thurs Night Hockey		✓
Urban Rec, Partnership with CoP		✓
Total Groups Engaged in Each Method	35	33

Appendix D: Prioritization Framework Metric and Scoring Results

Scoring Metric

CRITERIA	3 PTS	2 PTS	1 PT	0 PTS	WEIGHTING VALUE
Resident Identified Priorities (Resident Demand)	Combined average score of 25% or more from the Resident Survey and Youth Survey	Combined average score of 20 - 24% from the Resident Survey and Youth Survey	Combined average score of 15 - 19% from the Resident Survey and Youth Survey	Combined average score of <15% from the Resident Survey and Youth Survey	3
Renewal Need	Texisting amenities in the system (or facilities in which the amenities exists) are at or nearing end of life (life cycle stage 4 or 5)	Amenities within the system (or facilities in which the amenities exists) are at a life cycle stage in which standard operating and maintenance budgets may not be adequate to address depreciation items and additional expenditures for major refurbishment or replacement of the building elements may be required (life cycle stage 3)	Amenities within the system require ongoing assessment and re-investment as per asset management best practices (life cycle stage 1 or 2). <i>*Amenity types without available assessment data or that don't currently exist are also assigned a "1" score to reflect that they may require long-term investment if developed.</i>	N/A	3

CRITERIA	3 PTS	2 PTS	1 PT	0 PTS	WEIGHTING VALUE
Financial Impacts on the City and Taxpayer	The amenity does not require an ongoing subsidy (or may generate revenue to offset other amenities of services) and has a relatively low capital cost (<\$5M per project)	The relative impact of providing the amenity type is "low" to "moderate" (requires a relatively low to moderate ongoing subsidy to operate; capital cost to construct the amenity typically is in the range of \$1 - 5 M per project)	The relative impact of providing the amenity type is "moderate" to "high" (requires a significant ongoing subsidy to operate and/or the capital cost to construct the amenity typically is typically in the range of \$5 - 20 M per project)	The relative impact of providing the amenity type is "high" (requires a significant ongoing subsidy to operate and/or the capital cost to construct the amenity typically exceeds \$20 M per project)	3
Community and User Group Preferences	Top 5 identified priority in the Community Group Survey and mentioned as a common theme during the user group and stakeholder discussions.	N/A	Identified by multiple (>2 more more) responding groups to the Community Group Survey and mentioned by multiple groups during the user group and stakeholder discussions.	Not identified by multiple responding groups to the Community Group survey or a common theme during the user group and discussion sessions.	2

CRITERIA	3 PTS	2 PTS	1 PT	0 PTS	WEIGHTING VALUE
Financial Equity and Accessibility	The amenity is typically available to use / access at no admission cost and does not require registration in a paid program. <i>*Lowest level of barrier to access.</i>	The amenity is typically available to use/access at a minimal cost without having to register in a program (e.g. single admission, drop-in and casual use opportunities)	"The amenity requires registration in a program to use/access, however these costs are typically minimal to moderate (<\$50 per month) or City supported subsidy programs exist to help offset cost.	The amenity is exclusively program or registration based with a high cost to access.	2
Multi-Use Capability and Adaptability	The amenity is able to accommodate multiple types of activities across a wide array of ages and ability levels. The space is also highly adaptable for potential future uses.	The amenity type is built for a primary user group/activity, but has a relatively high level of adaptability to serve secondary uses/users.	The amenity type is purpose built for a specific activity with minimal secondary use capability in its current form, but is relatively easy and low cost to retrofit if needed in the future.	The amenity type is purpose built for a specific activity with a high cost to retrofit for other uses if the current activity is no longer viable.	2
Utilization and Capacity Indicators	Available data suggests that the amenity is "highly utilized" with minimal capacity to support future growth.	Available data suggests that the amenity is "well utilized". At this level of utilization, the facility is regularly used and may have some capacity challenges during select peak times and seasons, however overall capacity exists to support growth.	Available data suggests that the amenity is "moderately utilized". At this level of utilization, the facility is valued with enough utilization to justify continued provision but has significant capacity to support growth.	Available data suggests that the amenity is underutilized, suggesting that the space is not suitable to meet current user needs and/or the activity is trending downwards.	2

CRITERIA	3 PTS	2 PTS	1 PT	0 PTS	WEIGHTING VALUE
Amenity Uniqueness	Developing the amenity would provide a completely new sport and recreation opportunity in the region.	Developing the amenity would provide a completely new sport and recreation opportunity in the city.	Developing the amenity would significant enhance / expand existing provision.	Developing the amenity would duplicate what already exists (provide multiple of an existing amenity).	1
Sports Tourism Opportunities	The amenity type supports major regional or provincial event hosting that draws significant levels of non-local spending.	N/A	The amenity type supports local and sub-regional event hosting that could some moderate levels of non-local spending.	The amenity type has minimal event hosting application (primarily a local use amenity)	1

Scoring of Amenity Types

Amenity	Resident Identified Priorities	Renewal Need	Financial Impacts on the City and Taxpayer	Community and User Group Preferences	Financial Equity and Accessibility	Multi-Use Capability and Adaptability	Utilization and Capacity Indicators	Amenity Uniqueness	Sports Tourism Opportunities	Weighted Score
Trails and pathways	3	1	2	3	3	3	1	1	3	42
Gymnasium and similar large span multi-sport spaces (e.g. facilities that can be used for indoor court activities such as volleyball, basketball as well as social gatherings, events, and other programs that require significant floor space)	3	1	1	3	2	3	3	0	3	40
Indoor Walking / running track	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	26
Fitness / wellness facilities (e.g. exercise / weight room)	3	1	2.5	0	2	2	1	0	0	29.5
Ice arena/dry floor facilities (e.g. hockey, figure skating, ball hockey, box lacrosse, etc.)	3	3	0.5	3	1.5	2	3	0	3	41.5

Amenity	Resident Identified Priorities	Renewal Need	Financial Impacts on the City and Taxpayer	Community and User Group Preferences	Financial Equity and Accessibility	Multi-Use Capability and Adaptability	Utilization and Capacity Indicators	Amenity Uniqueness	Sports Tourism Opportunities	Weighted Score
Indoor field facilities (covered turf facilities for soccer, football, and other field sports)	3	2	1	3	1	3	1	1	3	38
Indoor climbing wall	3	1	1	1	2	0	1	2	1	26
Outdoor pool	2	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	19
Leisure swimming pools (e.g. shallow water pools for fun and water orientation with water play features and toys)	2	1	0	3	2	0	2	0	0	23
Mountain bike trails	2	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	3	35
Swimming tanks (e.g. for lane swimming, lessons, aquafit)	2	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	3	20
Pickleball courts	2	1	2	1	2.5	2	2.5	0	1.5	32.5
Youth centres	2	1	1.5	1	3	2	1	1	0	28.5
Cross country ski & snowshoe trails	2	1	2	1	3	3	1	1	1	33

Amenity	Resident Identified Priorities	Renewal Need	Financial Impacts on the City and Taxpayer	Community and User Group Preferences	Financial Equity and Accessibility	Multi-Use Capability and Adaptability	Utilization and Capacity Indicators	Amenity Uniqueness	Sports Tourism Opportunities	Weighted Score
Community gardens	2	1	2	1	2.5	3	1	0	0	30
Bike parks (e.g. pump track)	1	1	2	3	3	1	1	0	1	29
Leisure ice surfaces for family and children's skating (non-boarded)	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	0	24
Playgrounds	1	1	2	0	3	3	1	0	0	26
Seniors centres	1	1	1.5	1	2.5	2	1	0	0	23.5
Dance / program / martial arts rooms and studios	1	1	1.5	0	1	2	1	0	1	19.5
Ball diamonds	1	1	2	1	3	2	1.5	0	3	30
Archery range	0	1	2	1	1	1.5	1	1	1	20
Picnic areas	0	1	2	0	3	3	1	0	0	23
Spray parks	0	1	2	0	3	1	1	0	0	19
Dragon boat/ paddle sports facility	0	2	1.5	1	1	1	1	1	3	22.5
Golf courses	0	1	1.5	0	0.5	0	1	0	1	11.5

Amenity	Resident Identified Priorities	Renewal Need	Financial Impacts on the City and Taxpayer	Community and User Group Preferences	Financial Equity and Accessibility	Multi-Use Capability and Adaptability	Utilization and Capacity Indicators	Amenity Uniqueness	Sports Tourism Opportunities	Weighted Score
Sports fields - grass (e.g. soccer, football)	0	1.5	2	3	3	3	3	0	3	37.5
Court for racquetball and squash	0	1	2	0	1.5	2	1	0	0	18
Tennis courts	0	1	2	1	3	2	1	0	1	24
Outdoor fitness equipment	0	1	2	0	3	1	1	0	0	19
Beach volleyball courts	0	1	2	1	3	2	1	0	1.5	24.5
Parkour room / gymnastics space	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	19
Sports fields – artificial turf (e.g. soccer, football)	0	1	2.5	1	1.5	3	1	1	3	27.5
Disc golf course	0	1	2	1	3	3	1	1	1	27
Outdoor boarded rinks / lacrosse boxes	0	1	2	0	3	3	1	0	1	24
Curling rinks	0	3	1	1	1	2	1	0	3	25

Amenity	Resident Identified Priorities	Renewal Need	Financial Impacts on the City and Taxpayer	Community and User Group Preferences	Financial Equity and Accessibility	Multi-Use Capability and Adaptability	Utilization and Capacity Indicators	Amenity Uniqueness	Sports Tourism Opportunities	Weighted Score
Multi-purpose rooms (including classrooms, meeting rooms, etc.).	0	1	2	1	1.5	3	1	0	0	22
Hardcourts (e.g. basketball, ball hockey)	0	1	2	0	3	3	1	0	0	23
Track and field spaces	0	2	2	1	3	2	1	0	3	29
Skateboard parks	0	1	2	0	3	1	1	0	0	19
Agricultural facilities (e.g. rodeo grounds, horse riding, equestrian)	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	3	19
Indoor agricultural facilities (e.g. riding arena)	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	16
Cricket pitches	0	1	2	1	3	3	1	1	1	27

Endnotes

- i Visit Penticton. (2024). The Syilx Okanagan People. <https://www.visitpenticton.com/the-okanagans-syilx-people/>
- ii Visit Penticton. (2024). Arts and Culture. <https://www.visitpenticton.com/experience/arts-culture/>
- iii Visit Penticton. (2024). Welcome to Penticton. <https://www.visitpenticton.com/>
- iv Statistics Canada. 2023. (table). Census Profile. 2021 Census of Population. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2021001. Ottawa. Released November 15, 2023. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2021/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed January 16, 2025).
- v Human Early Learning Partnership. (2024). MDI The Middle Years Development Instrument: Overview. [https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoringsystem/mdi/mdioverview/#:~:text=The%20Middle%20Years%20Development%20Instrument%20\(MDI\)%20is%20designed%20to%20provide,of%2DSchool%20Time%2C%20and%20School](https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoringsystem/mdi/mdioverview/#:~:text=The%20Middle%20Years%20Development%20Instrument%20(MDI)%20is%20designed%20to%20provide,of%2DSchool%20Time%2C%20and%20School)
- vi Human Early Learning Partnership. (2024). MDI 2023-24 Grade 5 School District Report- SD 67 Okanagan Skaha. <https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/app/uploads/2024/04/MDI-SDReport-2023-24-SD67-g5-en.pdf>
- vii Human Early Learning Partnership. (2024). MDI 2023-24 Grade 8 School District Report- SD 67 Okanagan Skaha. <https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/school-district/okanagan-skaha/>
- viii Parks+ Collective, 2024, <https://parks-parcs.ca/collective/sharing-resources/resource-pages/outdoor-recreation-resource-page/>
- ix Sport For Life, 2019, Developing Physical Literacy: Building a New Normal for all Canadians. <https://physicalliteracy.ca/>
- x Hagan, M. (2024). Embracing a New Era of Fitness Top 10 Health & Fitness Trends for 2024. Canfitpro Official Magazine. Retrieved from Embracing a New Era of Fitness Top 10 Health & Fitness Trends for 2024
- xi ClassPass, 2023, Look Back at 2023, <https://classpass.com/blog/2023-classpass-look-back-report/>
- xii Silberstein, 2024, <https://corporatemeetingsnetwork.ca/2024/02/23/the-future-of-events-trends-and-factors/>
- xiii Sport Tourism Canada, <https://www.sporttourismcanada.com/about-stc/>
- xiv Coaching Association of Canada, <https://coach.ca/sport-safety/safe-sport-training>
- xv O'Shea, n.d., <https://www.msa-ps.com/collaborative-regional-recreation-planning/>
- xvi Calgary Metropolitan Region Board, https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eb3220bf77e9b62db665c54/t/5ed6fb1d9ef9011534c7aaaf/1591147300045/2020-02-26%2BFNL%2BApproved_RecTAG%2BReport.pdf
- xvii National Recreation and Parks Association, 2016, <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/f768428a39aa4035ae55b2aaff372617/data-analysis-park-and-recreation.pdf>
- xviii NPOInfo, 2023, <https://npoinfo.com/using-data-to-track-your-recreation-programs-effectiveness/>

xix Torres, 2023, <https://datasmart.hks.harvard.edu/harnessing-data-metrics-parks-and-recreation-advancement>

xx Measuring Impact, Economic Impact, 2023, <https://measuring-impact.ca/impact/economic-impact/>

xxi Hahmann, 2021, <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/75-006-x/2021001/article/00002-eng.htm>

xxii Measuring Impact, Social Impact, 2023, <https://measuring-impact.ca/impact/social-impact/>

xxiii Bush, 2025, <https://madeinca.ca/volunteer-work-statistics-canada/#:~:text=In%202018%2C%2079%25%20of%20Canadians,was%20worth%20approximately%20%2455%20billion>

xxiv Measuring Impact, Economic Impact, 2023, <https://measuring-impact.ca/impact/economic-impact/>

xxv Daley, 2020, <https://www.sportsvideo.org/2020/04/02/tech-focus-stadium-sound-av-systems-are-increasingly-sophisticated/?form=MG0AV3>

