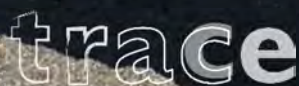


SOUTHWEST NEW BRUNSWICK
REGIONAL SERVICE COMMISSION

**SOUTHWEST NEW
BRUNSWICK
RECREATION MASTER
PLAN
FINAL REPORT
April 9, 2018**



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**SOUTHWEST NEW BRUNSWICK
RECREATION MASTER PLAN
DRAFT FINAL REPORT**

Final project report summarizing research and analysis completed to develop a full understanding of the trends and issues to be addressed by the Recreation Master Plan for the Southwest New Brunswick Regional Service Commission with recommendations for future action.



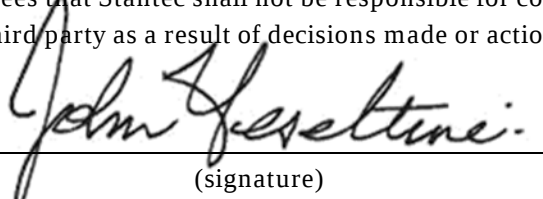
Prepared for:
Southwest New Brunswick
Regional Service Commission

Prepared by:
Stantec Consulting Ltd. with
Trace Planning and Design

April 9, 2018

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Executive Summary

Introduction

This Recreation Master Plan has been funded under the Province's investment program for recreation. Its objectives include inventorying and evaluating existing recreation infrastructure in the Southwest New Brunswick region; interviewing recreation service providers and volunteers concerning the challenges they face and the opportunities they would like to see pursued; and consulting with the public concerning their needs and expectations. We have also placed a strong emphasis on demographic analysis as population growth and its changing profile strongly influence recreation demand.

Demography and Recreation in Southwest New Brunswick

Recreation participation has been declining in Canada for an extended period. Aging population is a critical factor as older people are less engaged in sporting activities than youth; however, other factors are also contributing as participation has declined within age groups. The largest declines, in fact, have been within the youngest age groups. This may reflect a shift from competitive sports to individual non-competitive activities in all age groups but is nevertheless concerning.

The Southwest New Brunswick Region has experienced moderate but steady population decline in recent decades as well as overall aging of its population. This decline and aging can be expected to continue in the foreseeable future given the falling number of family-aged residents. The older population of the region is also reflected in current levels of recreational activity, which are lower than Canadian norms. Relatively low levels of recreation participation in the region are further reflected in lagging measures of personal health. Projections of future recreation participation based on continued aging of the region's population suggest increasing interest in outdoor activities like walking and hunting.

Recreation Facilities in Southwest New Brunswick

Based on inspection and reinforced by consultation summarized in the following chapter, facilities do not appear to be the leading issue in the Southwest New Brunswick Region. On the whole, facilities are in good condition and accommodate a wide range of activities. St. Stephen has made a much larger commitment to recreation than any other community in the region. The Town has substantially more recreation facilities and a much larger recreation staff than any other community.

The recently built Garcelon Centre, which is the town's flagship facility, stands out as the best recreation venue in the region. While the centre was built for an impressively low cost, its operating deficit is concerning. Reducing the deficit either by increasing use of the facility or by reducing operating costs is likely to be a major challenge for the Town of St. Stephen. The challenges faced by St. Stephen are a signal to the Town of St. George as it considers the possibility of developing a multipurpose recreation centre to serve the eastern portion of the region, which will provide an even smaller market.

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Consultation in Southwest New Brunswick

Stantec and Trace undertook three consultation initiatives in the first two phases of the Recreation Master Plan project. The consultants interviewed 20 stakeholders in the region, held two public meetings that attracted close to 100 participants between them, and conducted an online questionnaire survey that collected 332 responses. The RSC followed up the consultants' round of consultation with two additional meetings in Pennfield and St. Andrews that gave residents of those areas accessible opportunities to express their opinions on recreation needs and issues.

Consultation revealed a blend of ambition and fiscal conservatism in the region. Facilities development is clearly not the highest priority of residents. Outdoor recreation activities are favoured by many. The emphasis on individual outdoor pursuits like walking, hiking, bicycling, and running is likely to increase as the local population ages. This emphasis and the aging related trend to individual recreation pursuits reflect our experience in other jurisdictions with which we have worked. The related priority on trails development is relatively low cost and offers benefits for local eco-tourism.

Notwithstanding low support for construction of new facilities across the region as a whole, the strong interest of eastern residents in a multi-purpose facility to serve their area must be acknowledged. The Town of St. George has encouraged this interest throughout the consultation process for this study. A group from within the community has begun formal work on the development of a business plan. A physical concept plan will be needed to support effective business planning. An economical project similar to the Garcelon Centre may well be viable but the operating challenges with which the Town of St. Stephen is dealing at the Garcelon Centre should strike a note of caution.

The emphasis on upgrading programming also cannot be ignored. Given the fragmentation of recreation administration in the region and the absence of major recreation facilities aside from the Garcelon Centre, it is difficult to establish local program offerings. Recreation staffing in the region is limited outside of the Town of St. Stephen and several interviewees noted the reliance on volunteers for many programs. Respondents to the survey, however, did not strongly support the hiring of additional recreation employees.

Issues and Recommendations

The recommendations of this Master Plan are presented as a policy framework to guide the decisions of the Southwest New Brunswick Regional Service Commission over the next five years. They are modelled on the provisions of a municipal plan. If approved by the Commission, they represent commitments to take actions that will advance the region toward specified goals of this Master Plan (i.e., the advancement of individual, environmental, and community wellness). Some of these initiatives are stated clearly in the relevant policies (e.g., the creation of a regional recreation program directory), while others will involve approval of proposals from communities within the region and/or residents of regional communities that should be assessed in relation to Master Plan goals (e.g., the assessment of proposals for major recreation facilities). Recommendations address regional demography, facilities development, parks and trails development, regionalization, recreation programming, and recreation staffing.

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The ultimate goal of this Master Plan is to enhance the wellness of Southwest New Brunswick residents and their communities, the means is to build a regional approach through strengthening of the Regional Service Commission to overcome the barriers to collaboration that currently inhibit recreation development within the towns, villages, municipalities, and LSDs comprising the Southwest New Brunswick region.

Implementation of Master Plan recommendations should proceed over the five years from 2018 through 2022. Actions are, admittedly, front-loaded. The first two years of implementation will focus on creating a regional governance framework. Citizen input through consultation meetings and the online survey does not suggest a need to undertake substantial new projects. Residents support trails development and it is well underway with the Coastal Trail Feasibility Study, which appears likely to be completed simultaneous with this Master Plan. Interest in a recreation facility to serve Eastern Charlotte is equally clear. The recommended framework should be applied to respond to both issues.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Southwest New Brunswick region presents a considerable challenge for delivery of local services. Abutting the Canada-United States border marked by the St. Croix River, it encompasses several substantial and unique towns and villages. Its southeastern edge is the twisting Bay of Fundy coastline along which are located several substantial populated islands connected to the mainland by ferry services, some of which join to ports in the United States.

1.1 RECREATION DEFINED

The term “recreation” has a very broad meaning. Dictionary definitions tend to emphasize activities undertaken by choice for enjoyment. The definition put forward in the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association’s 2015 *Framework for Recreation in Canada* emphasizes this breadth:

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

While people commonly associate recreation with sports, it also incorporates leisure, arts, and cultural activities.

1.2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The provision of quality recreation facilities and services is a key issue for Southwest New Brunswick. Given its position on the US-Canada Border and status as a major entry point to Atlantic Canada, tourism is an important component of the local economy. Parks and recreation facilities are a leading attraction for visitors as well as a valued amenity for citizens. Commitment to provision of high quality recreation facilities and services is also vital for the health and quality of life of residents. Planning is critical in this context to ensure services are cost effectively targeted to meet public needs and interests, and promote community development.

The Southwest New Brunswick Regional Service Commission (SWNBRSC or RSC) is one of twelve regional service commissions created by the Province of New Brunswick in 2013. Planning for regional infrastructure projects in recreation, culture, and sports is part of the basic services provided by the RSC. In 2014, the Provincial government released a program for investment in recreation planning through the RSCs. The goal of this program is to provide financial support for studying the concept and potential projects involving regionalization of services, programs, and recreation infrastructure over the territory of each commission. For the Province, this type of planning initiative will facilitate strategic development and investments in recreation, ensuring support is directed to needed facilities and duplication is avoided.

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The Province created the RSC network to bring a regional approach to the provision of services such as solid waste management and community planning, as well as recreation, culture, and sports. The value of a regional approach to recreation development and management is clear. Communities within a region logically share facilities. Rural residents visit urban parks when they travel to towns to work, shop, or visit just as urban residents visit the countryside to walk on trails and visit nature reserves. Residents of all communities travel to arenas, pools, and recreation complexes to access unique experiences that may not be available in their particular community and, often, to team with and compete with each other in leagues and sporting events. In short, parks and open spaces, and recreation facilities are widely shared and are critical to social interaction.

This Recreation Master Plan has been funded under the Province's investment program for recreation. Its objectives include inventorying and evaluating existing recreation infrastructure in the Southwest New Brunswick region; interviewing recreation service providers and volunteers concerning the challenges they face and the opportunities they would like to see pursued; and consulting with the public concerning their needs and expectations. We have also placed a strong emphasis on demographic analysis as population growth and its changing profile strongly influence recreation demand.

The scope of this plan includes parks and open spaces, including trails, which are becoming an increasingly important component of recreation systems across Canada. Substantial attention has, of course, been given to major recreation facilities such as arenas and recreation centres. These built recreation facilities are normally iconic features of the communities in which they are located. Contemporary multi-purpose recreation facilities, in particular, are costly to build. They can also be challenging to operate as they normally involve a major user pay component and can be vulnerable to competition from similar facilities in other communities and/or private providers, as well as changing needs and wants in their primary service area.

Southwest New Brunswick also presents a major geographic challenge as noted. In addition to bordering the United States, which limits access to markets that are otherwise physically close, islands form an important component of the region. The challenges of coming and going via ferry from Grand Manan, Campobello, Deer Island and other populated islands in Passamaquoddy Bay and the Bay of Fundy create unique challenges for providing recreation facilities and services – challenges that are exacerbated by seasons and the need to access Campobello Island via a ferry originating in the United States. The islands and the coastal areas where inlets inhibit movement from place-to-place, furthermore, differ from inland areas in the northern part of the region, where communities like McAdam and Harvey have a very different character and are influenced by their proximity to the City of Fredericton.

Often, communities rely on outside residents as well as their own citizens to support expensive facilities. For all residents as well as for visitors, recreation amenities are critical features of the region. They are places where visitors are welcomed and can interact with the community. As such, they reflect the character of communities and have an important role in shaping experiences in each locale.

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1.3 PROJECT ORGANIZATION

Effective planning for recreation service delivery requires a good understanding of existing facilities and services. To ensure a structured review of Southwest New Brunswick's recreation needs, Stantec and Trace Planning and Design are conducting this study in three phases outlined in our proposal of July 4, 2017:

- **Phase 1 – Background**
- **Phase 2 – Community Engagement**
- **Phase 3 – Master Plan Delivery**

This Final Report adds a summary of issues as well as Master Plan policy recommendations to our overview of research and consultation completed in the first two phases of the project. It includes an outline of demographic trends in the region with an assessment of their implications for current and future recreation needs. The report also includes a summary and ratings of existing recreation facilities, parks, open spaces, and trails in the region prepared by Stantec and Trace staff, as well as an overview of the region's current recreation staffing. Finally, it summarizes input from multiple consultation initiatives including interviewing of local stakeholders, two public meetings, and an online survey.

Our demographic work, facilities inventory, and interviewing provided the foundation for public consultation events undertaken in Phase 2. The two public meetings and the online survey have provided important insight to the activities and aspirations of regional residents. In Phase 3 we have developed recommendations that seek to build a framework for regional recreation facility development and service delivery.

1.4 REPORT STRUCTURE

Following this chapter, this report provides an overview of Southwest New Brunswick's demography. Taking into account demographic trends in the region, the second half of **Chapter 2.0** discusses the influence of population aging on recreation activity arriving at estimates of future recreation interests in the region based on demographic projections prepared by Stantec.

Chapter 3.0 reviews Southwest New Brunswick staffing and recreation facilities. It provides detailed ratings of all recreation facilities in the region. **Chapter 4.0** summarizes input from recreation stakeholders in Southwest New Brunswick through interviewing, public meetings, and an online survey that obtained 332 useable responses. **Appendices A, B, and C**, respectively, support **Chapter 4.0** with mapping of all recreation facilities in the region, detailed summaries of our stakeholder interviewing, and a summary of responses to all questions posed by the online survey.

Chapter 5.0 summarizes key issues identified through foregoing research. Drawing on this summary of issues and the Province's framework for regional recreation service delivery, the chapter then outlines policy recommendations to define a path for the RSC and its members to coordinate and effectively deliver recreation services to residents of the region.

2.0 DEMOGRAPHY AND RECREATION IN SOUTHWEST NEW BRUNSWICK

Demography strongly influences recreation needs and wants. Tradition as well as physical and emotional capacities orient population segments to specific recreation activities and sports. For one example, participation in competitive sports in general and team sports in particular tends to peak in adolescent and young adult years. For a variety of reasons, younger children and older age groups tend toward individual non-competitive activities, although substantial differences characterize sub-age and gender groups within these broad categories. Understanding the composition of local population now and in the future is therefore critical to predicting future demands that will drive facility and program needs, while also appreciating the dynamic context in which leisure preferences constantly evolve.

2.1 RECREATION TRENDS

Recreation interests evolve constantly. Demographic change is critical but so also are new technologies and inventions. Skateboarding, BMX cycling, kite boarding, ultimate frisbee, and pickle ball are examples of new recreation activities that have been spawned by recent innovations. In addition, social change, which is a function of demographic shifts, technological advances, and evolving mores and tastes, can be very influential.

Recreation professionals tend to be avid researchers and there is no lack of information on current trends in leisure time pursuits and sports participation. A key trend, in fact, is a shift from competitive sport to more casual, individual pursuits. Canada's 2010 General Social Survey noted that:

... the national [sport] participation rate of Canadians age 15 years and older has been declining since 1992. In 2010, 7.2 million or 26% of Canadians age 15 and older participated regularly in sport. This represents a 17% decline over the past 18 years.¹

The main reason for this decline, according to the same report, is the aging of Canada's population and the tendency of sport participation to decline as people get older. Eastern Canada, where the population is generally older, has experienced more substantial declines. Nova Scotia led all provinces with a decline in sport participation of eleven percentage points from 32% to 21%, between 2005 and 2010. New Brunswick came closest to maintaining its participation rate among the six provinces east of Manitoba with a drop from 25.3% to 24.1%.²

Aging, however, is not the whole story. While aging has reduced participation, participation in recreation has also fallen within age groups. Declines, furthermore, have been greater among younger than older age groups. As **Figure 2-1** shows, although participation rates are substantially higher for younger age groups, the rate of decline since the early 1990s has been steeper for the young. Between 2005 and 2010, participation among 15 to 19-year olds and 20 to 24-year olds fell by 3.6 and 3.9 percentage points,

¹ Canada. Canadian Heritage, *Sport Participation 2010*, Research Paper, February 2013, p. 14.

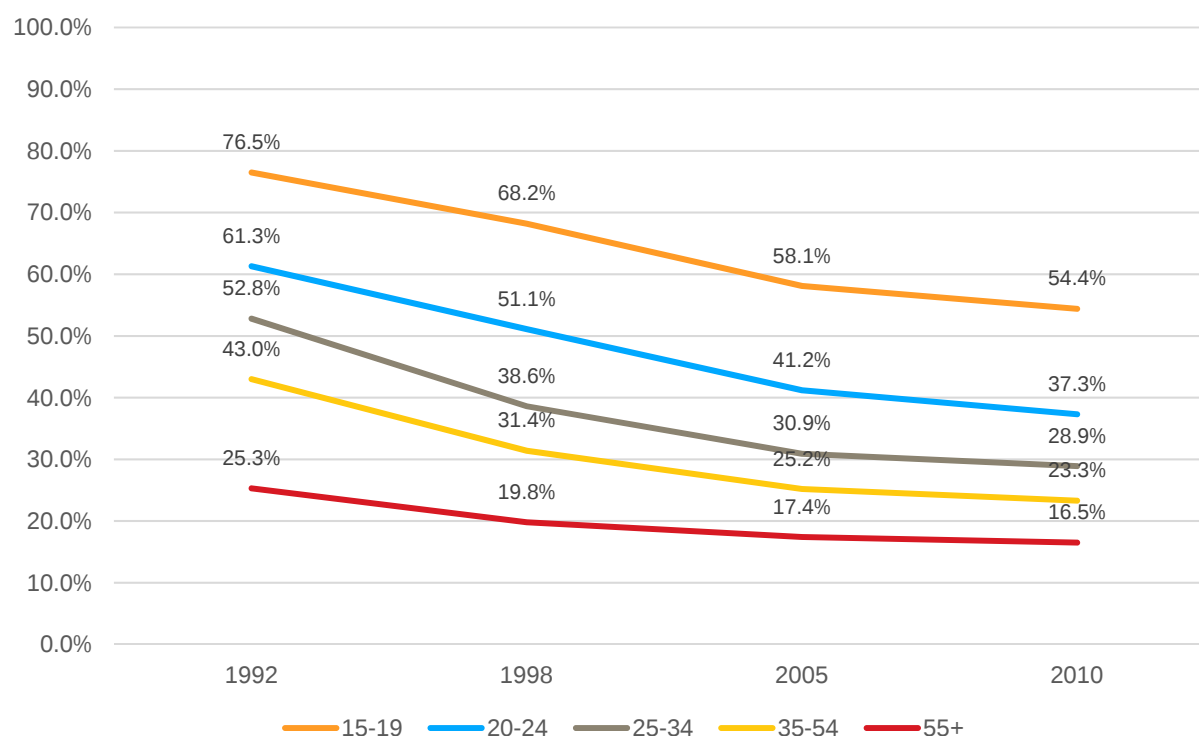
² Ibid., Table 3, p. 27.

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respectively. The three following groups all decreased by less, with the 55 years and over group down by only one percentage point. From 1992 to 2010 the decline is extreme: participation by all age groups fell from 45.1% to 25.8% or by 19.3 percentage points. The 15 to 19-year group dropped by 22.4 points. Although the over 55 group fell the least, it still lost 8.8 percentage points.

Figure 2-1 Population Shares by Age Group, Southwest New Brunswick Region, 2001-2031



Source Canadian Heritage, Sport Participation 2010, Table 4, p. 27.

While the decline in sport participation is concerning, it may be deceptive. It may simply indicate shifting to activity choices not classified as “sport”:

The downward trend in sport participation does not mean that Canadians do not engage in physical activities. Many engage in regular exercise through various physical programs or classes while others enjoy jogging, gardening, power walking, etc. According to the 2010 Canadian Community Health Survey, 14.8 million people, representing 52% of Canadians age 12 and older, were involved in leisure time physical activity; this represents a slight increase from 2006.³

³ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

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Older Canadians are more inclined to individual recreational pursuits that are frequently non-competitive such as the three activities noted in the quotation. As of 2010, the most popular active sport in Canada was golf, which moved past ice hockey, downhill skiing, and swimming between surveys in 1992 and 2010. The percentage of Canadians participating in golf, however, actually declined during the period from 5.9% to 5.2%. Of the ten most practiced sports in Canada, only soccer and cycling increased their participation rates over the period.⁴

While aging has clearly influenced the rise of golf relative to hockey and downhill skiing, our older population does not appear to be the primary reason for declining participation in sport. The most frequently cited reason for non-participation among respondents to the 2010 Social Survey was lack of time (32%). Age was cited by only 8% and cost by just 3%.⁵

The Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015 prepared by the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association is seeking to address current challenges for recreation providers across the country. It emphasizes lifelong participation in recreation with the ultimate goals of enhancing individual, environmental, and community well-being. Related goals shown in **Figure 2-2** complement the objective of encouraging Canadians to stay active throughout life. While the framework recognizes the value of organized sport, it equally endorses alternative recreational activities that are individual and non-competitive. Emphases on inclusion, the natural environment, and active transportation reflect awareness that recreation is integrated with everyday activities as exemplified in the phrase “active choices are the easy choices.”⁶

The framework fits with the trend to less structured recreational activities but it is unlikely to relieve recreation providers, particularly in smaller communities:

... there has been a growing appreciation of the important role that recreation plays in the health of Canadian communities and this has been reflected in the priorities assigned to municipal recreation expenditures. Outcomes associated with health and physical activity have contributed to a much stronger focus on informal and unorganized leisure pursuits and facilities and services that engage a broader sector of the community. This is evident in the expansion of trail systems and changes in policies and programming. Another major change has been the relative role of the municipality and the community. Twenty years ago, in many Canadian communities, and particularly those in rural areas, recreation was almost exclusively the responsibility of the community. Over time the municipality has adopted a more active role in providing recreation services directly and in supporting volunteer efforts indirectly. While recreation continues to be a shared responsibility between community volunteers and the municipality, most Canadian communities are seeing a shift in these roles with a larger municipal role in support of volunteers.⁷

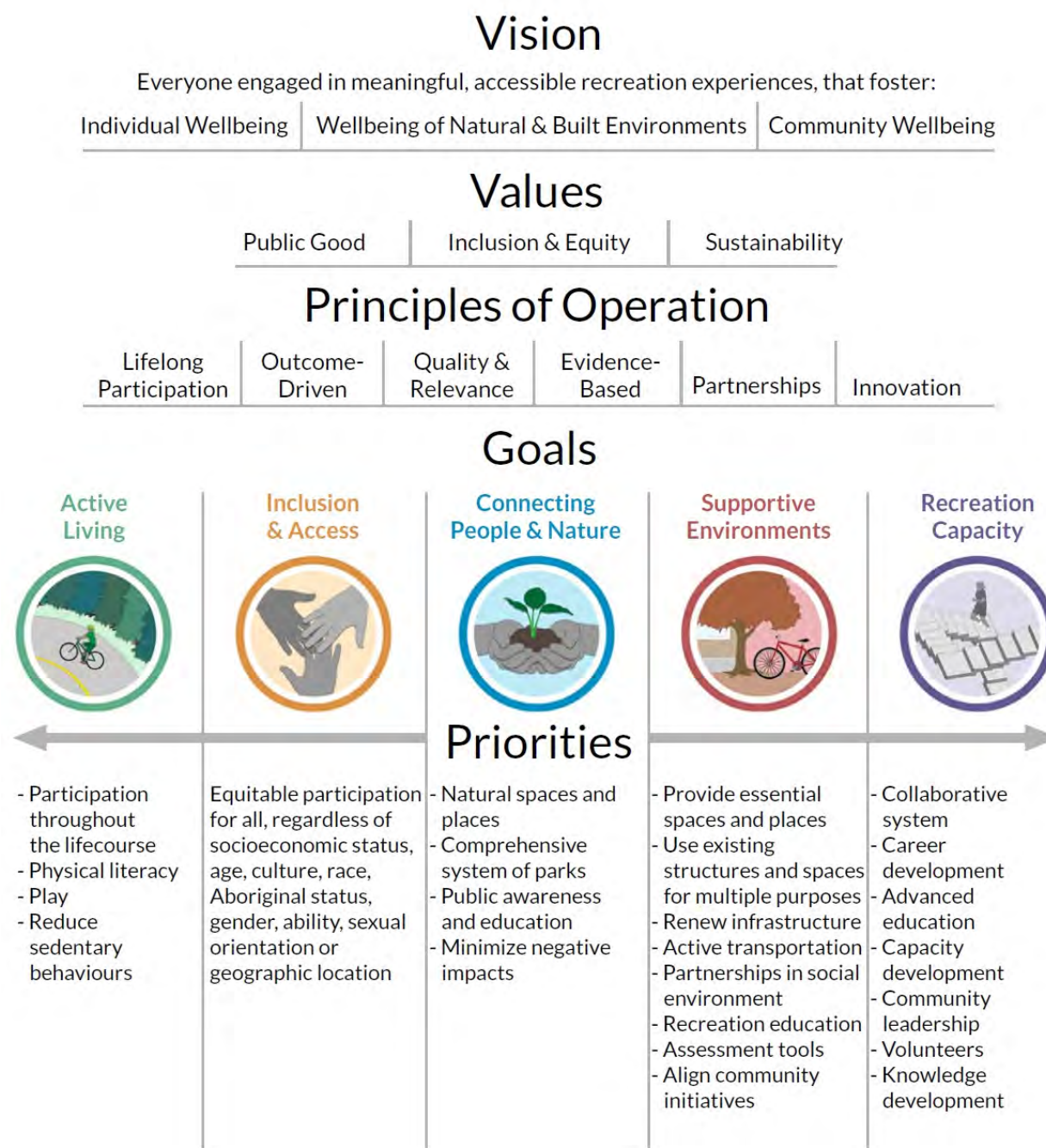
⁴ *Ibid.*, Table 7, p. 33 (the participation rate for soccer increased from 1.8% in 1992 to 3.5% in 2010 and cycling grew from 1.0% to 1.4%. By contrast, baseball dropped from 5.6% to 2.1%, ice hockey from 6.4% to 4.4%, and swimming from 6.2% to 1.4%.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 71.

⁶ National Recreation Framework Working Group, *A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing*, January 2015, p. 20.

⁷ dmA Planning and Management, *East Hants Recreation Needs Assessment: Final Report*, May 2012, p.3

Figure 2-2 A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015



Source National Recreation Framework Working Group, *A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing*, January 2015, p. 17

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Many recreation providers have embraced this responsibility. Programming has intensified with new attention to the needs of different age groups reflected in “generational programming” or programs targeted to specific age groups. In particular, given the traditional emphasis on youth in recreation services, attention has turned to delivering programs suited to adults and seniors. While this includes opportunities to extend traditional sports like ice hockey to older age groups, the faster growing segments are individual sports. This includes “life sports” such as cycling, kayaking, tennis, swimming, jogging, and walking that can be adopted in childhood and carried for many years. Recreation programmers have also sought to modify offerings to address time limitations and the need of participants for flexibility. Examples include modifications to popular sports such as soccer with smaller squads, shorter league seasons, and fun events like themed road races.⁸

The diversification of recreation options is notable. A study by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) in the United States notes that when the organization was created in 1965, it categorized only seven types of recreation facilities, which were baseball diamonds, bathing beaches, golf courses, swimming pools, tennis courts, recreation buildings, and indoor recreation centres.⁹ The association says it now tracks “dozens” of facility types, several of which are present in Southwest New Brunswick, including arenas, which undoubtedly would have been recognized on a Canadian list in the 1960s; trails; and skateparks.

In terms of demand for municipal recreation services, current trends have mixed consequences. On the one hand, growing interest in individual activities, many of which are pursued outdoors, relieves recreation providers, to some degree, of organizational duties. As well, facilities are often less expensive for individual pursuits – if municipally supplied facilities are required at all.

On the other hand, a much wider variety of facilities and programs must be provided, as the observation of the NRPA illuminates, and recreation departments must also provide for an increasingly diverse population. As vital as it is to recognize the growing importance of older age groups and the coming wave of seniors, which will clearly be an important consideration in Southwest New Brunswick, children remain a critical component of the population for whom recreation has a formative role to play. Increasing balance in gender participation is also important. Girls and women are unquestionably catching up to their male counterparts in sport participation, and programs and facilities need to be adapted accordingly. Finally, there is growing recognition of the benefits of recreation to previously marginalized groups, a trend reflected in Paralympic and Special Olympic events.

⁸ Carrie Madren, “A-Sporting-Shift,” *Parks & Recreation*, February 2014,

⁹ National Recreation and Park Association, *NRPA’s 2015 Field Report: A Parks and Recreation National Database Analysis*, 2015.

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Municipalities are also looking to recreation as a key tool for economic development. The NRPA recently completed a study of the economic impact of parks that found “America’s local and regional public park agencies generated nearly \$140 billion in economic activity and supported almost 1 million jobs from their operations and capital spending alone in 2013.”¹⁰ While there is no equivalent study for Canada, it is likely that relatively similar results would hold here (recognizing that Canada’s economy is about 9% of the American economy).

Parks also enhance community appearance and are important tourist attractions. Within communities, they have a positive impact on property values.¹¹ More generally, recreation facilities and programs have a role in shaping the image of a community, which is vital to attracting business, residents, and tourists.

2.2 DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

An obvious critical issue for this study is the demand for recreation facilities and services in Southwest New Brunswick. The size of the region’s population is obviously a key determinant of demand. A second critical consideration is its age composition as stage of life strongly influences recreation interests and participation levels. A third important consideration is the distribution of population among the region’s communities as some may gain population and maintain a younger population while others age and lose numbers. The future number of residents and the proportions of specific age groups in communities within the region combined with the apparent current participation of residents in recreation relative to their ages provide the basis for estimating long-term demands and needs for which the Master Plan should provide.

2.2.1 Geographic Framework

The Government of Canada takes a census every five years in years ending with 1 and 6 (e.g., 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016). The Census records populations in a hierarchical geographic framework at the apex of which is Canada as a whole. Canada, of course, is divided into ten provinces and the three northern territories. The provinces and territories, excepting the Yukon, are in turn divided into census divisions, which in the case of New Brunswick are the province’s traditional counties (e.g., Charlotte and York). The Census Divisions are then divided into census subdivisions, which are typically municipalities and Indian Reserves but may also include unorganized areas with boundaries defined by Statistics Canada. Statistics Canada also keeps track of economic regions in each province and territory, and dissemination areas within large census subdivisions, but those geographies are not relevant to the analysis of population in the SWNBRSC Area discussed below.

¹⁰ National Recreation and Park Association, *The Economic Impact of Local Parks: An Examination of the Economic Impacts of Operations and Capital Spending on the United States Economy*, 2015, p. iii.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

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The territory of Canada has been essentially fixed since the addition of Newfoundland and Labrador to Confederation in 1949. The boundaries of the provinces and territories have also been stable over that time other than the creation of Nunavut from the Northwest Territories in 1999. Census Divisions, likewise, are subject to only occasional changes. In many provinces, Census Divisions only exist for recording data, although, in some like Nova Scotia, they correspond to functioning municipal units (i.e., counties). Since the Byrne Commission disbanded New Brunswick's county municipalities in the 1960s, the province's census divisions fall in the former group as geographies maintained primarily to record and track data. In contrast to provinces where counties and their equivalents are functioning municipalities, boundaries in the territories and provinces like New Brunswick have been static for many years, which facilitates tracking of their historic change.

Population data is not available for New Brunswick's new regional service commission areas, although it can generally be determined by compiling the populations of census subdivisions. Census subdivisions within the jurisdiction of the Southwest New Brunswick RSC include towns, villages, local service districts (LSDs), and parishes. Technically, LSDs are not municipalities, although they provide local services like municipalities, including recreation services. Parishes, like counties, are a residual element of the province's older municipal system. They have no administrative structure, council, or board, and provide no services. They are only important as geographic areas for which data is recorded. They are nevertheless valuable to assess differences among sub-areas within the region. Given that most census subdivisions are municipalities, their boundaries are much more dynamic. Municipal units are regularly altered in most areas of Canada through annexation, dissolution, and amalgamation. Reorganization has affected New Brunswick municipalities regularly over the years but no municipal boundary changes of which we are aware have been approved in the area under the jurisdiction of the RSC during the past 20 years.

The area administered by the RSC includes all of Charlotte County except the lightly populated parish of Clarendon. The Commission also serves a portion of York County that abuts the northern boundary of Charlotte. The two areas are divided into 23 census subdivisions: 19 in Charlotte County and four in York County (the villages of Harvey and McAdam, and the parishes of Manners Sutton and McAdam). The 2016 Census recorded a population of 25,428 in Charlotte County, down from 26,549 in 2011. Although York County, which includes the City of Fredericton and has a population just short of 100,000, increased its population by 2.2% over the Census period, the four census subdivisions within the jurisdiction of the Southwest Service Commission lost 121 residents or 3.5% of their population. The total 2016 Census population within the RSC boundaries was 28,724. Population decreased from 29,977 in 2011 or by 1,253 (-4.2%).

2.2.2 Projection Methodology

Demographic change is a function of three features of population: births, deaths, and migration. In Canada, birth rates have declined significantly over the long-term, although there has been a very moderate increase in recent years. Death rates have declined steadily throughout the country's history. Migration rates, on the other hand, vary considerably from place to place. Canada is normally a destination for immigrants and they are a major factor in the country's steadily moderate increase in population. New Brunswick, on the other hand, attracts relatively few in-migrants either from other countries or from other provinces. Within New Brunswick, movement also tends to be from rural areas and small towns to the cities, particularly Fredericton, Saint John, and Moncton.

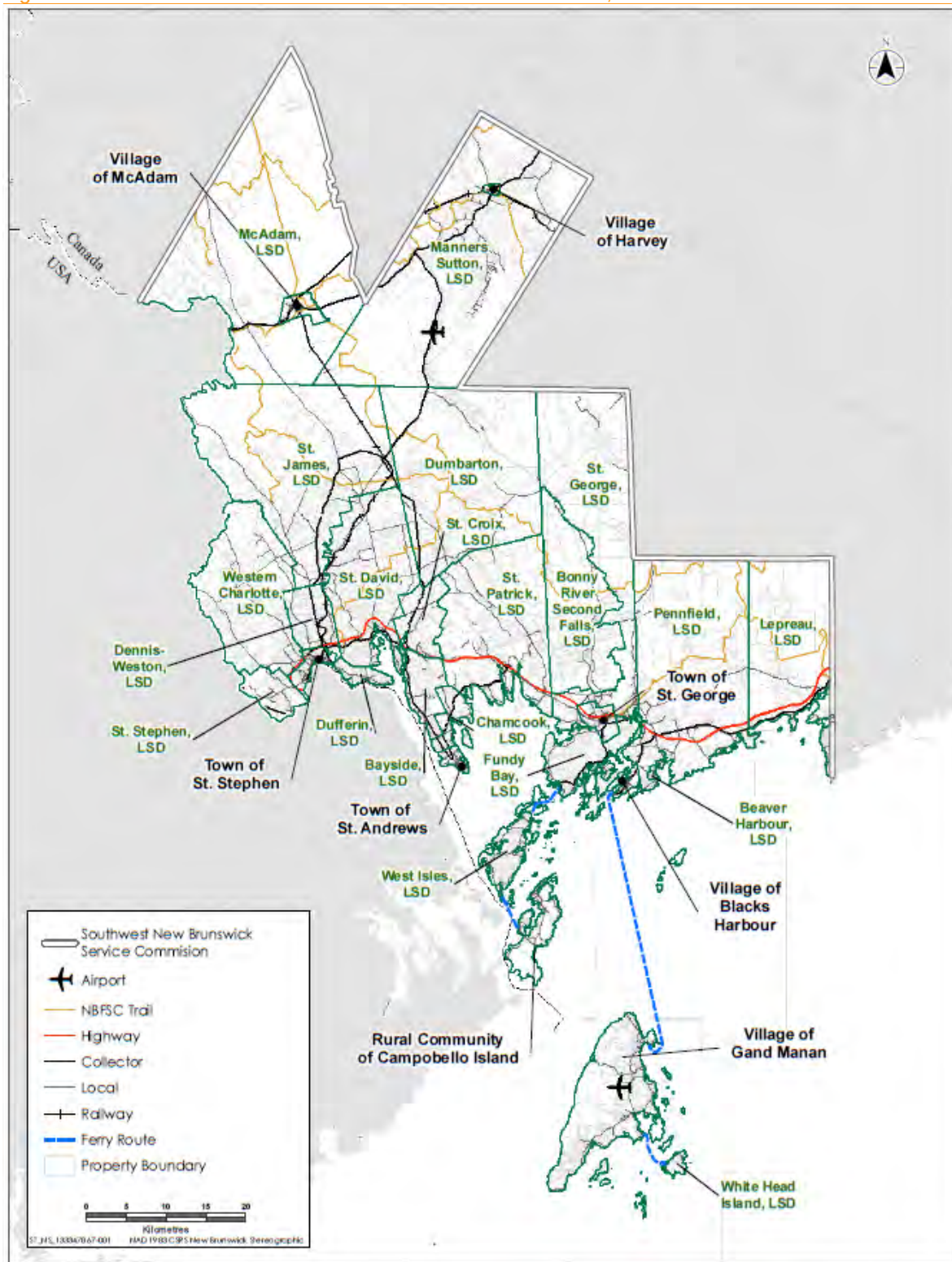
To assess the influence of these effects, Stantec prepared population projections for each census subdivision within the RSC service area based on the age-sex composition of the current population in each. Stantec staff applied the cohort-survival method, which generates detailed estimates of the future age-sex structure of the population. The model employed applies historic birth and death rates, and estimates recent migration rates, which are used with projections of future birth and death rates to calculate future population.

The projection is based on Statistics Canada population estimates as opposed to census counts. Statistics Canada produces population estimates annually for the provinces and territories, and for census divisions such as Charlotte and York Counties. For modelling we employ estimates that correspond to the census years 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016.

The estimates are an alternative to the census counts. They have two key advantages relative to census numbers. First, they are adjusted for undercount or the net proportion of the population that the census misses. As a rule of thumb, undercount is usually expected to be about 3%; however, various groups are more prone to miss the census, including youth, immigrants, mobile segments of the population, remote populations, and aboriginals. None of these factors strongly influence the populations in Charlotte County or the area of York County within the RSC boundary. The difference between the 2016 Census population served by the RSC and the available Statistic Canada estimates that we adjusted to the area was just 1.6%. The other feature of estimates that is favourable relative to census counts is that estimates are not randomly rounded (i.e., numbers are not randomly adjusted to the nearest 5). Rounding is done to ensure that census information cannot be traced to any specific census respondent but it can be particularly problematic when dealing with smaller communities in which many age-sex cohorts have fewer than 20 people. The issue of confidentiality is not relevant to estimates.

Statistics Canada does not create estimates for the census subdivisions. For the 23 subdivisions within the RSC's jurisdiction shown on **Figure 2-3**, we calculated our own estimates for past years by first adjusting the population in each five-year age-sex cohort based on the ratios between the Statistics Canada estimates for Charlotte and York Counties and the census populations for the counties in 2001, 2006, 2011, and 2016 and, then, prorating those estimates to the census division estimates for each age-sex group.

Figure 2-3 Southwest New Brunswick Census Subdivisions, 2016



Source: Census of Canada

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With the data properly adjusted, model projections can be created using any census period or combination of consecutive census periods between 2001 and 2016. The projection presented here is based on the full 2001 to 2016 period. Trends within the Southwest New Brunswick Region have been steady over the 15-year period, characterized by a consistent downward trend that has seen the region lose about 3% of its population over each five-year interval.

2.2.3 Population Projection

By applying estimates of migration with projected New Brunswick birth and survival rates for each age and sex group to the existing population profile, we can develop very detailed population projections. Our projection for the Southwest New Brunswick summarized in **Figure 2-4** is based on overall trends in the region from 2001 to 2016. It shows continued decline in total population extending the trend established from 2001 to 2016.

Like most rural areas in Atlantic Canada, Charlotte County experiences substantial outflow of young adults between 20 and 35 years of age. With Fredericton within its boundaries, York County does not experience the same youth out-migration. In fact, it gains substantial population in the 20 to 24-year age group, which is undoubtedly drawn by the University of New Brunswick and other educational institutions in the city. The four census subdivisions in York that are part of the RSC area, however, lose young adults at a pace similar to or faster than Charlotte County.

The consequence, which is common among rural communities across the Atlantic Region, is deepening population decline. Young adults from 20 to 35 are the most likely members of the population to form families. If they leave, as they have been doing from the SWNBRSC area, the number of children in the population declines accordingly. In the case of Charlotte County, our model indicates the area experiences out-migration in nearly every age cohort from 5 to 49 years of age. The only notable exception is the 0 to 4-year age cohort, which has shown strong net in-migration over the 2001 to 2016 period. Given the structure of our model, which derives migration from the difference between expected population based on natural increase alone and the actual population recorded, we are inclined to infer that this “immigration of infants” actually reflects local birth rates that are higher than the New Brunswick rates that we use in our model. Higher birth rates are typical of rural areas, notwithstanding the smaller number of prospective parents available.

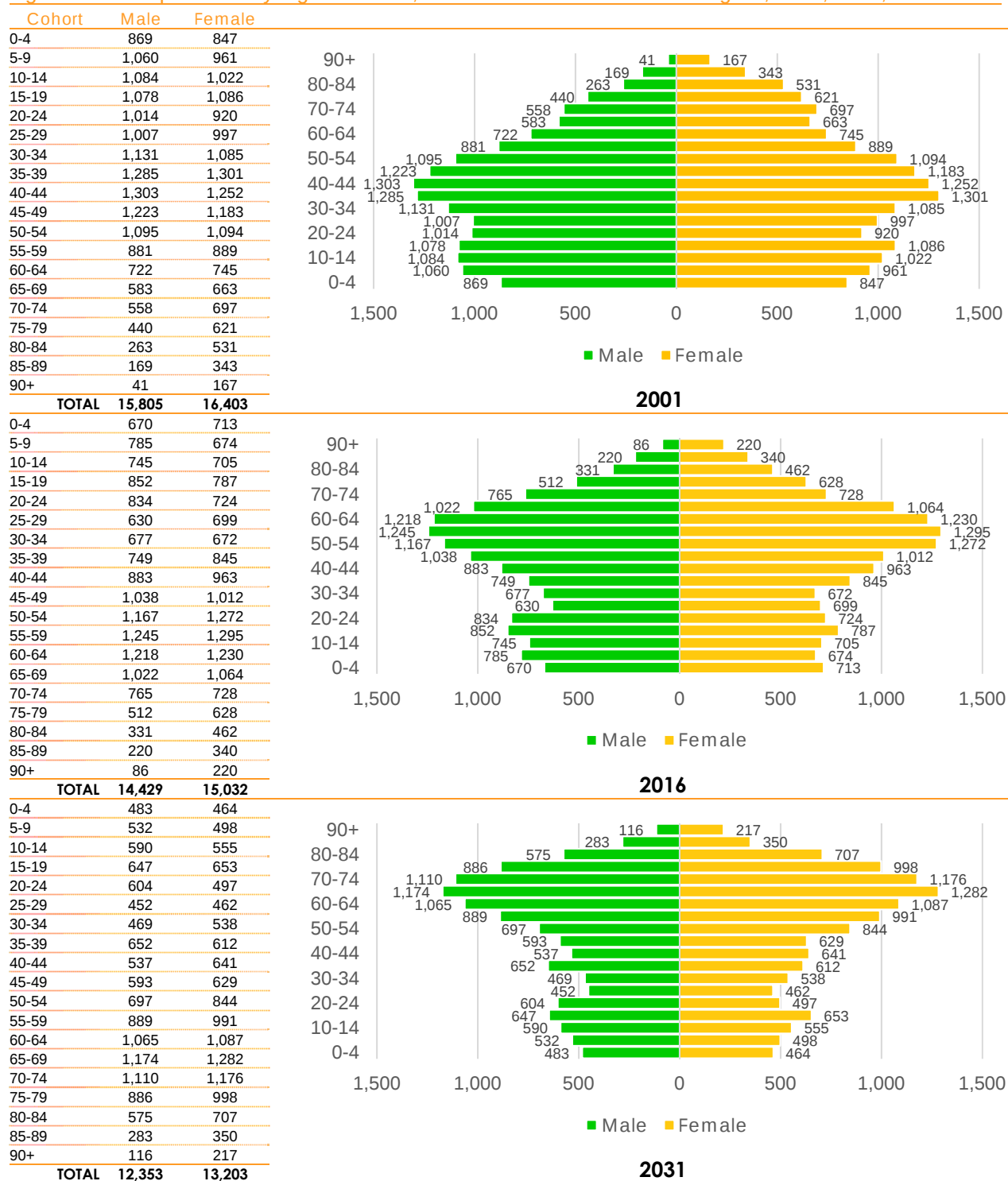
Our projections indicate continued decline to 2031. We, in fact, calculate that the rate of loss will increase from the -3.1% rate suggested by Statistics Canada estimates between 2011 and 2016 to -3.9% from 2016 to 2021, -4.6% from 2021 to 2026, and, finally, -5.8% between 2026 and 2031. The reason for the steepening decline is the ongoing reduction in the number of residents of family-forming age within the local population. As the number of people between 20 and 40 falls, the number of children born into the community inevitably declines with them.

Comparing the population pyramid for 2031 to the equivalent for 2001 in **Figure 2-4** illustrates the trend dramatically. By 2031, the majority of the population in the region will be over 50 and no longer realistically capable of natural reproduction. It is notable that each successive five-year age cohort from 0 to 19 years of age is smaller, reflecting the successive declines in family-aged adults in the population with each future census period. As the red regional trend line in **Figure 2-5** illustrates, the overall result is continuing population decline.

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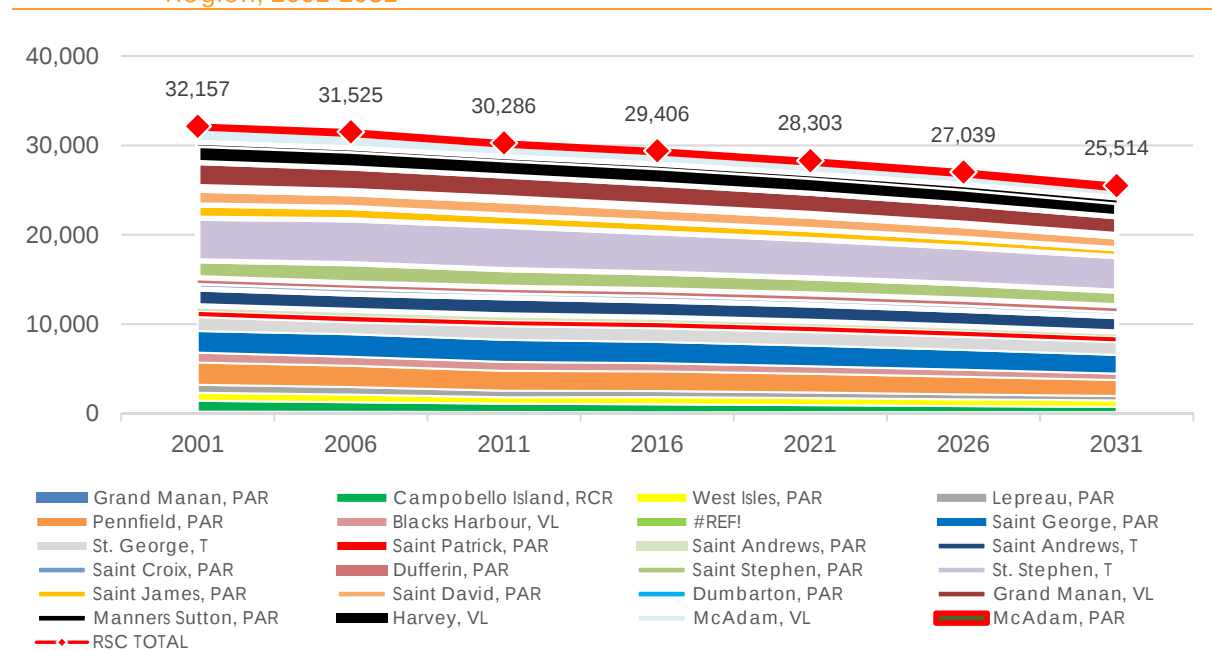
Figure 2-4 Population by Age and Sex, Southwest New Brunswick Region, 2001, 2016, and 2031



Source Statistics Canada Estimates (2001 and 2016), Stantec Consulting Ltd. (2031)

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Figure 2-5 Total Population and Population Shares by Age Group, Southwest New Brunswick Region, 2001-2031



Census Subdivision	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Change 2016-31
Grand Manan, PAR	206	201	175	150	154	150	155	3.3%
Campobello Island, RCR	1,225	1,068	924	888	790	692	598	-32.7%
West Isles, PAR	898	849	717	796	783	753	721	-9.4%
Lepreau, PAR	887	853	736	686	629	559	488	-28.9%
Pennfield, PAR	2,483	2,386	2,228	2,209	2,092	1,962	1,800	-18.5%
Blacks Harbour, VL	1,111	996	990	915	848	784	706	-22.8%
Saint George, PAR	2,423	2,521	2,469	2,367	2,309	2,218	2,102	-11.2%
St. George, T	1,555	1,333	1,540	1,534	1,507	1,458	1,405	-8.4%
Saint Patrick, PAR	699	729	676	684	691	687	661	-3.4%
Saint Andrews, PAR	580	607	591	546	529	511	488	-10.6%
Saint Andrews, T	1,882	1,830	1,910	1,826	1,809	1,774	1,729	-5.3%
Saint Croix, PAR	660	687	605	661	642	637	616	-6.8%
Dufferin, PAR	583	554	566	593	594	604	592	-0.2%
Saint Stephen, PAR	1,897	2,152	1,976	1,872	1,797	1,718	1,624	-13.2%
St. Stephen, T	4,766	4,898	4,848	4,492	4,302	4,093	3,870	-13.8%
Saint James, PAR	1,484	1,393	1,249	1,196	1,109	993	883	-26.2%
Saint David, PAR	1,641	1,537	1,597	1,535	1,481	1,407	1,319	-14.1%
Dumbarton, PAR	421	359	370	337	313	290	260	-22.8%
Grand Manan, VL	2,681	2,522	2,409	2,381	2,262	2,143	1,997	-16.1%
Manners Sutton, PAR	1,912	1,870	1,805	1,830	1,771	1,698	1,594	-12.9%
Harvey, VL	359	370	363	395	422	476	526	33.2%
McAdam, VL	1,618	1,509	1,287	1,276	1,185	1,102	1,010	-20.8%
McAdam, PAR	187	301	255	237	282	329	372	57.0%
RSC TOTAL	32,157	31,525	30,286	29,406	28,303	27,039	25,514	-13.2%

Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

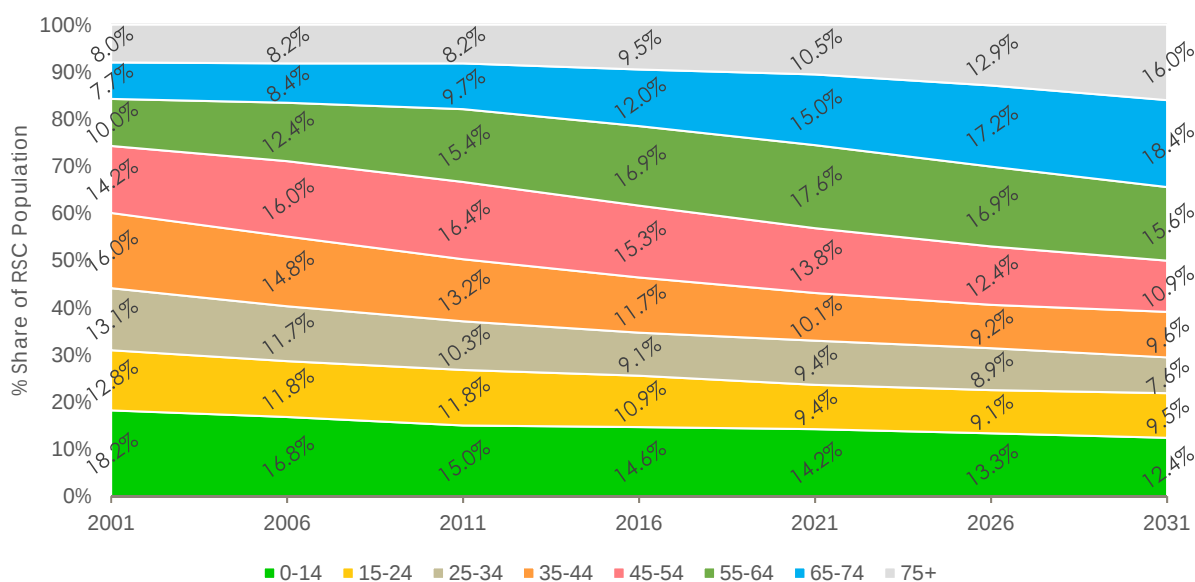
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The detailed projections by community incorporated in **Figure 2-5** and the accompanying table, furthermore, give little evidence of significant differences in local growth trends. For 23 census subdivisions comprising the region, we have calculated population increases in only two. In one case (Gran Manan Parish), the increase is very small (5 people) and, in the other (McAdam Parish), the more substantial increase seems attributable to erratic recent changes in the population of that particular area. The remaining communities or areas all show declines over the 15-years from 2016 ranging from moderate to substantial. Although some population losses may seem dramatic they are consistent with the trends established from 2001 to 2016 shown in **Figure 2-5**.

The factor that most strongly influences the projection over the 2016 to 2031 period, shown in **Figure 2-6**, is the ongoing aging of the population. As can be seen from the percentages in the figure which record the percentage of population in each age group at each census date, the proportion of Southwest New Brunswick residents over 65 is poised to nearly double. In contrast, the shares of population in all other age groups can be expected to fall from their current levels reflecting an overall decline in absolute numbers for each.

Figure 2-6 Population Shares by Age Group, Southwest New Brunswick Region, 2001-2031



Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

The implications of our projections for recreation planning are profound. The population of the Southwest Region has clearly aged over the past 15 years and can be expected to age further in the next 15. Since 2001, the proportion of population between 0 and 14 years of age has declined from 18.2% to 14.6%. The proportion over 75 has grown at the same time from 8.0% to 9.5%. We expect the proportion of children under 15 years old to continue to fall to 12.4% by 2031, while the share over 75 will grow to 16.0% (**Figure 2-6**).

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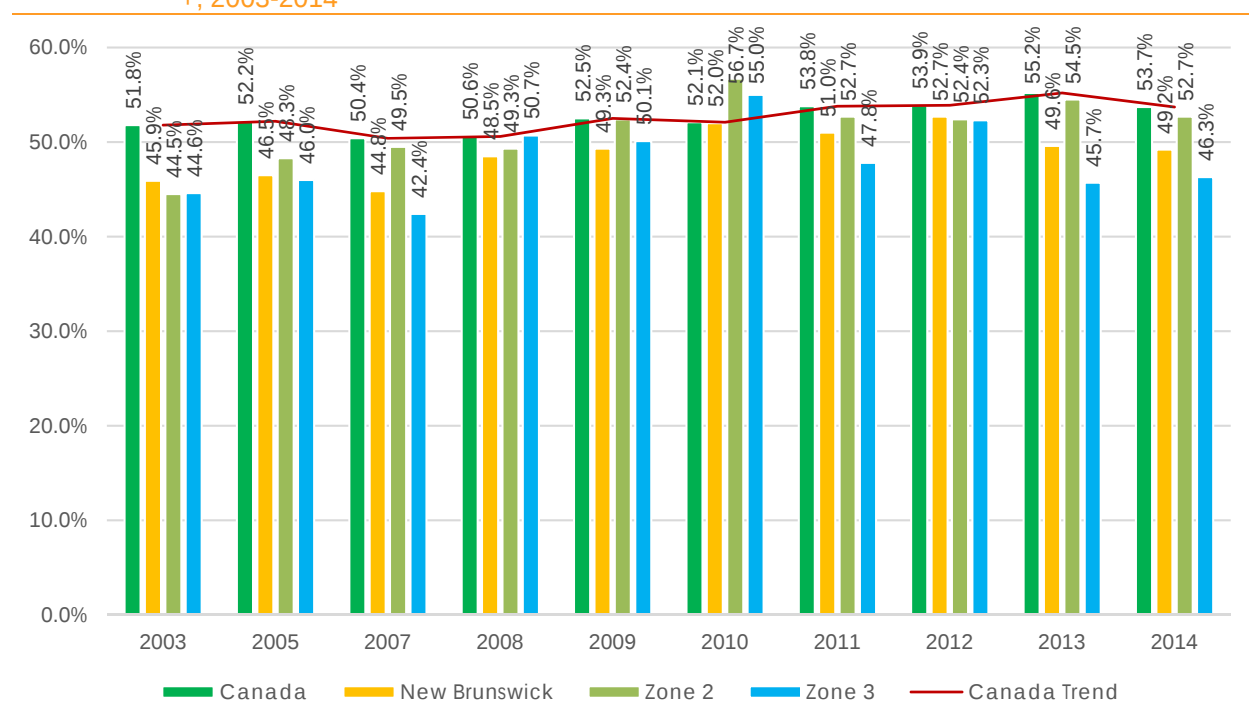
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In the next 15 years, our modelling indicates the proportions of population in each age group under 55 years of age will fall, while the shares of groups over 55 can be expected to increase markedly. By 2031, we calculate exactly half of the population in the region (50.0%) will be over 55 years, up from just 25.7% in 2001 (**Figure 2-6**). Tastes and expectations in these older groups are considerably different from youth and younger adults. While the younger groups will continue to be an important factor, emphasis will necessarily shift to addressing the needs of older population groups.

2.3 RECREATION PARTICIPATION

As noted in **Section 2.1** above, trends in recreation activity are an ongoing concern in Canada. Over the past decade barely half of Canadians aged 12 or more have indicated that they are “moderately active or active” during their leisure time.” While data collected semi-annually by Statistics Canada shows a marginal rise in participation, the level of involvement remains uncomfortably low. New Brunswickers, furthermore, fall well below the nation as a whole, normally registering participation levels about four percentage points below the national average between 2003 and 2014 (**Figure 2-7**). It is difficult to get an accurate fix on the Southwest Region but New Brunswick Health Zone 2, which includes Charlotte County with Saint John and other areas of the province on the Bay of Fundy, and Zone 3, which includes the small parts of York County that are within the Southwest Region along with Fredericton and other areas of central New Brunswick (see **Figure 2-8**), respectively, show rates above and below the provincial averages but below Canadian norms in both cases.

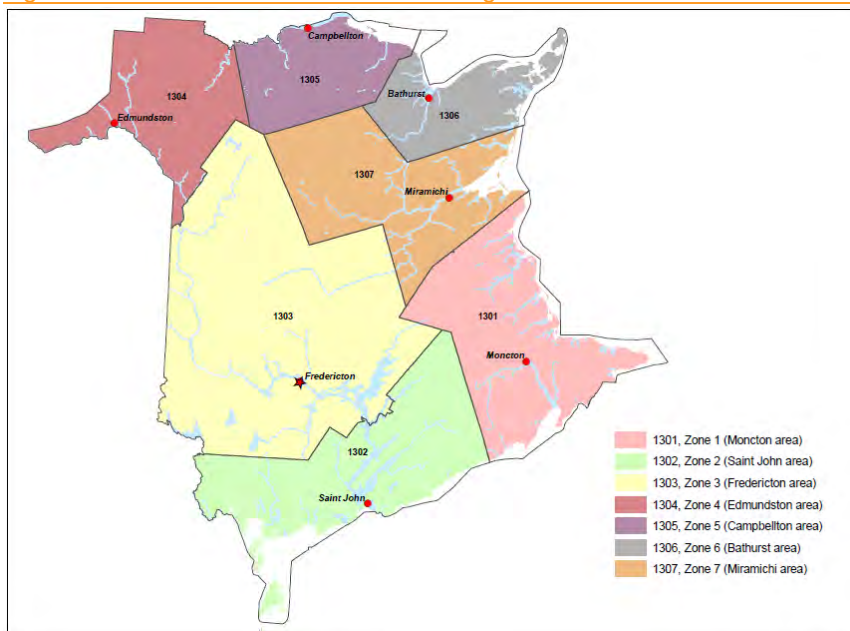
Figure 2-7 Physical Activity During Leisure Time, Moderately Active or Active, Canada, New Brunswick, and Zone 2 (Saint John) and Zone 3 (Fredericton), Population 12 years +, 2003-2014



Source Cansim Table 105-0501

The behaviors and consequences associated with low levels of recreation participation are apparent in **Table 2-1**, which presents a variety of indicators from the 2014 survey. On every indicator other than “Sense of belonging to [your] local community,” New Brunswick measured worse than Canada. Zone 2 tended to show better numbers than New Brunswick for most indicators but Zone 3 was generally worse. Zone 3 scored better on sense of community than Zone 2, which lagged behind Canada. On the other hand, Zone 2, scored better than Canada, the province, and Zone 2 on “life satisfaction.”¹²

Figure 2-8 New Brunswick Health Regions



Source Statistics Canada 2015

The region lags in recreational activity (Physical activity during leisure time, moderately active or active in **Table 2-1**) and in most related negative behaviors and outcomes. Residents in Zones 1 and 2 smoke more but are less likely to drink to excess. Residents of both zones, particularly children 12 to 17 years of age, are significantly more likely to be obese than typical Canadians, although they are roughly in line with other New Brunswickers. As a result, it is not surprising to find they are also more likely to suffer from poorer physical health and lower levels of mental health.

2.3.1 Age and Participation

One cause of New Brunswick's lagging position in many of the measures presented in **Table 2-1** is the relatively older age of the province's population. As **Table 2-2**, below, indicates, physical activity declines with age. It is also generally lower for females than males. Participation rates for teenagers can be very high. Across Canada, more than 70% of youth between 12 and 19 years participate in regular physical activity. In New Brunswick, and Zones 2 and 3, the rates for males are more than 80% and more than 70% overall. The local zones have moderately higher rates than the province as a whole.

¹² While **Table 2-1** shows 16 measures, “Physical activity during leisure-time, inactive” is simply the residual of “Physical activity during leisure-time, moderately active or active.” Data is also lacking to compare obesity for population 12 to 17 years.

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Table 2-1 Selected Indicators of Health, Population 12 years and over, Canada, New Brunswick, and Zones 2 (Saint John) and 3 (Fredericton), 2014

Indicator	Canada		New Brunswick		Zone 2 (Saint John)		Zone 3 (Fredericton)	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Perceived health, very good or excellent	17,757,392	59.2%	341,240	53.0%	82,811	55.2%	80,639	55.2%
Perceived health, fair or poor	3,384,137	11.3%	101,679	15.8%	22,522	15.0%	20,395	14.0%
Perceived mental health, very good or excellent	20,876,178	71.1%	410,609	65.5%	95,039	65.3%	96,872	67.9%
Perceived mental health, fair or poor	1,850,856	6.3%	45,350	7.2%	9,970	6.9%	8,301	5.8%
Life satisfaction, satisfied or very satisfied	26,887,279	92.0%	572,239	91.9%	134,834	93.2%	130,212	91.5%
Participation and activity limitation, sometimes or often	6,627,872	23.0%	124,944	20.3%	28,138	19.7%	26,521	19.2%
Current smoker, daily or occasional	9,612,256	32.1%	230,774	35.9%	57,717	38.6%	50,627	34.7%
Exposure to second-hand smoke at home	5,566,293	18.7%	136,110	21.3%	34,953	23.4%	30,335	20.8%
Exposure to second-hand smoke in the past month, in vehicles and/or public places	1,016,212	4.2%	25,147	5.0%	5,610	4.9%	4,698	4.1%
Heavy drinking	3,959,998	16.4%	74,743	14.9%	15,310	13.4%	17,799	15.4%
Fruit and vegetable consumption, 5 times or more per day	5,407,271	18.4%	147,764	23.3%	38,296	25.8%	32,498	22.5%
Physical activity during leisure-time, moderately active or active	11,320,506	40.2%	210,622	35.1%	45,704	32.4%	45,944	33.4%
Physical activity during leisure-time, inactive	15,996,718	54.4%	309,739	49.3%	78,126	53.7%	65,820	46.1%
Body mass index, self-reported, adult (18 years and over), overweight or obese	13,391,479	45.6%	318,194	50.7%	67,460	46.3%	77,071	53.9%
Body mass index, self-reported, youth (12 to 17 years old), overweight or obese	14,079,363	53.8%	357,165	64.0%	82,797	65.2%	82,598	65.4%
Sense of belonging to local community, somewhat strong or very strong	445,950	21.9%	11,102	25.3%	2,286	19.2%	2,829	26.6%

Source Cansim Table 105-0501

Recreation programs and facilities have traditionally been oriented to young people. Youth in the 12 to 19-age cohort not only have access to programs available through municipalities and related recreation organizations, they also have physical education classes in school and, often, opportunities to be involved in school-related recreation programs, including competitive teams. With population aging, some youth programs have become undersubscribed and demand for facilities has shifted.

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Balancing this trend is the apparent increase in recreation involvement among older adults, who are more active than in the past. From 2003 to 2013 involvement in leisure time activity among Canadian seniors rose from 41.4% to 47.7%. New Brunswick rates have risen by a similar amount although at a significantly lower level (28.6% to 40.2%). Zones 2 and 3 are similar to New Brunswick, although both zones have fluctuated above and below provincial averages over the years (**Table 2-2**).

It has been suggested that, whereas seniors once required separate recreation facilities, they are now more likely to want access to the same facilities and similar programs as younger groups. Only older senior groups appear to prefer segregated facilities where they can participate in less active pursuits.¹³

Table 2-2 Physical Activity During Leisure Time, Moderately Active or Active by Age Group, Canada, New Brunswick, and Zones 2 (Saint John) and 3 (Fredericton), 2014

Age Group	Canada			New Brunswick			Zone 2 (Saint John)			Zone 3 (Fredericton)		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
12-19	70.8%	76.1%	65.2%	74.8%	81.2%	68.2%	74.9%	82.5%	66.8%	73.3%	84.0%	62.4%
20-34	58.3%	61.5%	55.0%	54.2%	58.6%	49.9%	58.1%	60.3%	55.8%	56.1%	54.2%	57.8%
35-44	52.0%	53.6%	50.3%	52.1%	58.4%	46.2%	57.5%	55.2%	59.5%	39.8%	48.3%	31.5%
45-64	50.8%	50.6%	51.0%	44.0%	48.6%	39.6%	49.7%	55.4%	44.5%	40.1%	46.0%	34.5%
65 +	48.0%	53.8%	43.3%	38.6%	44.6%	33.9%	39.8%	46.6%	34.7%	36.0%	36.0%	36.0%
Total, 12+	54.4%	57.1%	51.9%	49.3%	54.9%	44.1%	53.7%	58.2%	49.5%	46.1%	50.7%	41.8%

Source Cansim Table 105-0501

Statistics Canada time series data on participation by age group from 2003 to 2014 suggests that youth participation has fallen slightly, while adult to middle aged groups have increased participation moderately and seniors have increased significantly. Each trend has progressed consistently over the past decade at the national level, although provincial and local data are more erratic, probably owing to the smaller samples involved (**Table 2-3**).

Percentage participation rates for the two zones within which parts of the RSC are located can be applied to past population estimates and future projections to estimate recreation participants. To do this, we used the estimates for each zone shown in **Table 2-3** broken out for males and females as well as for the age groups shown.

¹³ dMA Consulting, *Oromocto Future Sport, Recreation, and Cultural Facility Needs Assessment*, Final Report, October 2014, p. 22.

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Table 2-3 Physical Activity During Leisure Time, Moderately Active or Active, Canada, New Brunswick, and Zones 2 (Saint John) and 3 (Fredericton), 2003-2014

Age Group	2003	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Canada										
12-19	72.0%	71.1%	70.5%	69.2%	71.0%	70.6%	71.9%	71.3%	71.2%	70.4%
20-34	54.6%	55.5%	53.1%	52.9%	55.9%	55.5%	58.3%	56.5%	60.1%	56.5%
35-44	49.2%	48.8%	47.0%	47.1%	49.1%	49.8%	51.2%	51.9%	52.2%	51.8%
45-64	47.5%	48.2%	46.8%	47.6%	49.4%	49.0%	50.5%	51.0%	51.2%	50.5%
65 +	41.4%	43.0%	41.3%	42.6%	43.0%	41.9%	43.9%	46.1%	48.4%	47.7%
Total, 12 +	51.8%	52.2%	50.4%	50.6%	52.5%	52.1%	53.8%	53.9%	55.2%	53.7%
New Brunswick										
12-19	66.1%	68.4%	77.4%	68.2%	75.9%	68.9%	78.6%	66.9%	76.1%	73.7%
20-34	51.0%	51.6%	45.1%	52.7%	54.9%	57.3%	53.6%	61.3%	57.9%	51.1%
35-44	46.2%	44.1%	40.4%	55.0%	49.0%	57.2%	55.9%	56.7%	49.5%	54.6%
45-64	41.9%	43.0%	42.0%	43.8%	45.7%	47.8%	45.1%	46.4%	44.3%	43.7%
65 +	28.6%	32.1%	31.6%	33.2%	32.3%	38.4%	39.0%	43.5%	37.0%	40.2%
Total, 12 +	45.9%	46.5%	44.8%	48.5%	49.3%	52.0%	51.0%	52.7%	49.6%	49.2%
Zone 2 (Saint John)										
12-19	66.0%	68.8%	73.3%	66.8%	85.8%	73.0%	83.6%	60.7%	78.9%	70.9%
20-34	49.5%	53.0%	47.7%	51.8%	63.4%	60.3%	57.6%	57.7%	58.3%	57.7%
35-44	43.8%	52.4%	51.6%	55.0%	48.6%	57.0%	53.5%	56.9%	49.2%	66.3%
45-64	41.3%	40.2%	49.9%	47.5%	50.5%	55.9%	50.9%	48.9%	53.8%	45.7%
65 +	24.4%	35.3%	28.6%	30.2%	26.0%	40.5%	28.1%	43.7%	42.2%	37.3%
Total, 12 +	44.5%	48.3%	49.5%	49.3%	52.4%	56.7%	52.7%	52.4%	54.5%	52.7%
Zone 3 (Fredericton)										
12-19	64.2%	61.3%	87.7%	73.9%	79.0%	73.0%	75.5%	55.2%	70.4%	76.1%
20-34	58.8%	55.6%	48.2%	55.5%	58.2%	56.6%	58.6%	63.5%	62.6%	49.0%
35-44	42.4%	33.7%	40.3%	56.6%	52.2%	56.2%	38.9%	62.1%	40.2%	39.4%
45-64	36.5%	44.9%	31.7%	41.7%	42.6%	55.2%	44.0%	45.8%	38.9%	41.3%
65 +	22.8%	34.0%	23.9%	40.1%	29.2%	39.2%	32.1%	39.2%	29.9%	41.8%
Total, 12 +	44.6%	46.0%	42.4%	50.7%	50.1%	55.0%	47.8%	52.3%	45.7%	46.3%

Source Cansim Table 105-0501

2.3.2 Future Participation

Past and future recreation participation can be explored by applying rates based on the data in **Table 2-3**. We interpolated data for the past census years 2001 and 2006 based on the series shown in the table and projected the same data to obtain expected participation in 2016 and for future census years to 2031. We applied these rates to obtain estimates of participation in the Southwest New Brunswick Region from 2001 through 2031 displayed in **Table 2-4**.

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The numbers shown in the table were calculated by multiplying the number in each age group counted by the Census of Canada (2001 through 2016) or calculated by our modelling (2021, 2026, and 2031) by the percentage in each age group expected to be “Moderately Active or Active” according to Statistics Canada. The percentage rates for Zone 2 were applied to the portion of the Southwest New Brunswick population in Charlotte County and the rates for Zone 3 were applied to the remainder residing in York County. The estimates over time show the combined influence of declining population, generally rising participation, and advancing age.

Table 2-4 Estimated Moderately Active and Active Recreation Participants, Southwest New Brunswick, 2001-2031

Age Group	2001	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
12-19	3,650	3,566	3,605	3,045	2,801	2,530	2,230
20-34	2,044	1,968	2,178	1,941	1,669	1,564	1,553
35-44	1,566	1,900	1,816	1,504	1,535	1,429	1,176
45-64	2,216	2,284	2,364	2,156	1,724	1,485	1,428
65+	1,166	2,788	2,708	3,518	3,470	3,202	2,864
TOTAL	10,641	12,506	12,671	12,163	11,200	10,211	9,250
Change		17.5%	1.3%	-4.0%	-7.9%	-8.8%	-9.4%
Population	32,207	31,608	30,331	29,462	28,479	27,323	25,970
Participation	33.0%	39.6%	41.8%	41.3%	39.3%	37.4%	35.6%

Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Declining numbers do not mean that demand is static. As the age structure of the population changes, some activities preferred by older people can be expected to ascend relative to sports and recreation pursuits better suited to youth. Unfortunately, data on participation in individual recreation activities and sports is limited and is now getting very old. The best breakdown of which we are aware is the 2001 Statistics Canada Community Health Survey, which asked subjects what recreation activities they had participated in at least once during the preceding three months. **Table 2-5** summarizes the top twenty activities with the most participants, based on the percentage of people indicating they had participated in a particular activity within this time period. With some reservations, these percentages can be applied as probabilities to the current and future age-sex profile of the Southwest New Brunswick population to predict recreation interests in the past and for the future.

A current survey asking the same question as the 2001 Community Health Survey would be of tremendous value to assess shifts in tastes among the most popular sports and activities, and, in fact, to identify what now are the top sports and activities. That important issue aside, we are confident that basic relationships such as the greater popularity of non-competitive personal activities like walking and gardening among the elderly continue to hold.

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Table 2-5 Percentage Participation, Top 20 Recreation Activities by Overall Rank, Canada, 2001

Activity	M		F		Both Sexes					
	12-19	12-19	20+	20+	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-44	45-64	65+
Walking	48%	68%	59%	70%	58%	58%	61%	65%	68%	62%
Gardening	31%	21%	44%	38%	27%	26%	25%	42%	47%	35%
Home exercise	32%	34%	22%	26%	29%	35%	32%	25%	22%	20%
Bicycling	53%	38%	23%	15%	57%	39%	26%	24%	16%	6%
Swimming	41%	46%	18%	19%	53%	38%	27%	23%	15%	8%
Social dancing	22%	43%	14%	17%	32%	33%	32%	17%	13%	7%
Weight training	21%	15%	15%	9%	16%	30%	27%	15%	7%	2%
Golfing	19%	5%	17%	6%	12%	12%	13%	13%	11%	6%
Jogging, running	45%	42%	13%	8%	47%	42%	28%	14%	6%	1%
Fishing	16%	7%	13%	4%	14%	10%	10%	10%	8%	3%
Bowling	21%	21%	8%	7%	21%	20%	16%	9%	5%	5%
Exercise classes, aerobics	7%	15%	4%	10%	9%	12%	12%	9%	6%	4%
In-line skating	26%	26%	6%	4%	32%	23%	16%	6%	1%	0%
Skating	14%	13%	5%	4%	20%	11%	7%	7%	3%	1%
Baseball, softball	21%	13%	6%	2%	21%	15%	10%	6%	2%	0%
Hockey	22%	4%	7%	1%	15%	12%	9%	6%	2%	0%
Basketball	49%	34%	6%	2%	53%	35%	15%	5%	1%	0%
Downhill skiing	15%	11%	5%	3%	16%	11%	8%	5%	3%	1%
Tennis	13%	7%	4%	2%	12%	11%	8%	4%	2%	1%
Volleyball	23%	30%	4%	3%	36%	21%	9%	4%	1%	0%

Source Christine Cameron and Stephanie Paolin, *Increasing Physical Activity: Trends for Planning Effective Communication*, Canadian Fitness and Lifestyle Institute, 2003 Physical Activity Monitor, see Tables on pp. 131-134.

As the population ages in Southwest New Brunswick, we would in fact expect walking and gardening to be the most resilient recreation activities. Our calculations suggest a slight increase in the numbers participating in walking by 2031 and very small decreases in participation in gardening and home exercise. Our numbers suggest that participation in other more active pursuits favoured by the young will decline, particularly popular team sports (e.g., basketball, hockey, and baseball/softball).

We offer this assessment with strong reservations, however. While it is important to recognize the likely rise of passive recreation pursuits, the landscape among other sports is constantly shifting. Basketball, for example, has undoubtedly risen in popularity in Canada since 2001, although it clearly remains primarily a youth sport. Soccer, which is now probably the most popular participation team sport in the country was not even in the top 20 in 2001.¹⁴

¹⁴ See for example: Amanda Shendruk, "Soccer vs. hockey: Who plays what in Canada: A staggering number of Canadian kids play soccer," *McLean's*, July 14, 2014, <http://www.macleans.ca/society/the-good-ol-soccer-game>. Remarkably, a higher proportion of Canadians participate in soccer than Italians (1 in 39 v. 1 in 40).

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Table 2-6 Estimated Recreation Participation by Activity Type, 2001 to 2031

Activity	2001		2016		2031	
	Participants	% of Population	Participants	% of Population	Participants	% of Population
Walking	17,724	55.0%	16,851	57.2%	14,977	57.7%
Gardening	10,776	33.5%	10,352	35.1%	9,037	34.8%
Home exercise	6,821	21.2%	6,242	21.2%	5,457	21.0%
Bicycling	5,871	18.2%	4,934	16.7%	3,948	15.2%
Swimming	5,748	17.8%	4,869	16.5%	3,981	15.3%
Social dancing	4,702	14.6%	4,055	13.8%	3,322	12.8%
Jogging, running	3,875	12.0%	3,038	10.3%	2,364	9.1%
Weight training	3,427	10.6%	2,777	9.4%	2,168	8.3%
Golfing	3,045	9.5%	2,738	9.3%	2,268	8.7%
Bowling	2,495	7.7%	2,113	7.2%	1,800	6.9%
Fishing	2,301	7.1%	2,014	6.8%	1,614	6.2%
Basketball	2,263	7.0%	1,675	5.7%	1,326	5.1%
Exercise classes, aerobics	2,121	6.6%	1,846	6.3%	1,537	5.9%
In-line skating	1,851	5.7%	1,373	4.7%	1,068	4.1%
Skating	1,567	4.9%	1,247	4.2%	984	3.8%
Volleyball	1,536	4.8%	1,141	3.9%	898	3.5%
Baseball, softball	1,501	4.7%	1,148	3.9%	879	3.4%
Hockey	1,341	4.2%	1,031	3.5%	783	3.0%
Downhill skiing	1,349	4.2%	1,104	3.7%	876	3.4%
Tennis	1,126	3.5%	912	3.1%	734	2.8%

Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

In the 2001 to 2011 period, we calculate the total number of residents in the Service Commission's jurisdiction considered moderately active or active rose, markedly in the first five years (17.5%) and moderately (1.3%) in the next five years. From 2011 to 2016, however, we estimate that the number fell. From 2016 on, we expect it will continue to fall. Our calculations of the overall participation rate suggest that it rose to 2011 but has fallen since and will continue to decline to 2031. Decline in the total Southwest New Brunswick population is probably the key reason for the falling numbers but population aging is the primary reason for the declining proportion participating, which considerably exacerbates the downward trend. Overall, our calculations suggest that the number of people participating in recreation facilities will decline from a peak of 12,671 in 2011 to 9,250 in 2031 (3,421 or 27.0%).

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Table 2-7 Estimated Participants by Recreation Activity, Southwest New Brunswick, 2011-2031

Activity	Predominant Participants	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Change
Walking	Both	5,304	5,400	5,450	5,491	5,467	3.1%
Swimming	Both	1,139	1,123	1,102	1,068	1,012	-11.1%
Jogging/running	Both	870	871	867	856	832	-4.5%
Hockey	Both	744	730	714	689	648	-12.8%
Biking/cycling	Both	586	589	589	585	573	-2.1%
Gym	Both	586	584	579	570	551	-5.9%
Skating	Both	585	579	570	555	529	-9.6%
Skiing/ snowboarding	Both	570	569	565	557	539	-5.4%
Weightlifting	Adult	554	564	569	574	571	3.1%
Yoga	Adult	475	484	488	492	490	3.1%
Physical education/ fitness classes	Both	427	423	417	406	388	-9.2%
Exercise machines	Adult	396	403	407	410	408	3.1%
Video game/DVD/TV exercises (incl. Wii Fit)	Adult	396	403	407	410	408	3.1%
Golf	Adult	317	322	325	328	326	3.1%
Basketball	Child	316	302	288	267	238	-24.6%
Curling	Adult	237	242	244	246	245	3.1%
Housework/yardwork	Adult	237	242	244	246	245	3.1%
Soccer	Child	221	212	201	187	167	-24.6%
Playing/playing outside	Child	190	181	173	160	143	-24.6%
Dancing	Child	126	121	115	107	95	-24.6%
Gymnastics	Child	126	121	115	107	95	-24.6%
Martial arts	Child	79	76	72	67	60	-24.6%
Hiking	Child	63	60	58	53	48	-24.6%
Sledding	Child	63	60	58	53	48	-24.6%
None	Both	712	720	723	722	712	0.0%

Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

2.4 OVERVIEW

Recreation participation has been declining in Canada for an extended period. Aging population is a critical factor as older people are less engaged in sporting activities than youth; however, other factors are also contributing as participation has declined within age groups. The largest declines, in fact, have been within the youngest age groups. This may reflect a shift from competitive sports to individual non-competitive activities in all age groups but is nevertheless concerning.

The Southwest New Brunswick Region has experienced moderate but steady population decline in recent decades as well as overall aging of its population. This decline and aging can be expected to continue in the foreseeable future given the falling number of family-aged residents. The older population of the region is also reflected in current levels of recreational activity, which are lower than Canadian norms. Relatively low levels of recreation participation in the region are further reflected in lagging measures of personal health. Projections of future recreation participation based on the expected future aging of the region's population suggest likely increased interest in outdoor activities like walking and hunting.

3.0 RECREATION FACILITIES IN SOUTHWEST NEW BRUNSWICK

With nine municipal units in two counties and many other unincorporated communities, the Southwest New Brunswick region encompasses a wide array of recreation facilities and services. In total, inventory work for this assignment identified 109 facilities in the region including standard recreation buildings such as arenas, pools, and gymnasiums; other community structures such as schools that are used for recreation purposes; and both active and passive parks and open spaces; and recreation trails. All of these facilities have been inspected and assessed by Stantec and Trace staff.

3.1 RECREATION STAFFING

The Southwest New Brunswick region has few dedicated recreation staff. The Town of St. Stephen has a Parks and Recreation Department with staff consisting of a Director, a part-time horticulturalist, a part-time parks employee, and five to six students employed to mow and maintain parks in the summer. The Garcelon Centre operated by the Town has four management staff, ten unionized employees, and up to 20 part-time and casual student employees (see **Section 3.3**, below, for additional detail on the Garcelon Centre). The Villages of Grand Manan and McAdam have recreation coordinators, and St. Andrews and Blacks Harbour each have a staff person who maintains their arenas and sports fields.

The Town of Saint George and Village of Blacks Harbour shared a recreation coordinator for a time but the position was discontinued several years ago. Although the RSC has a mandate to coordinate recreation across the region, it does not yet employ any recreation staff.

3.2 RECREATION FACILITIES

Early in the project, Stantec catalogued and mapped recreation facilities in the Southwest New Brunswick Region based on data available from the Province of New Brunswick. Data sourced from the Province of New Brunswick provided location and type of facility (i.e., arena, public school, national historic site, golf course, playground, swimming pool, curling club, park, sports field, tennis court, and other). Stantec and Trace used this information as the basis for facilities inspection but added facilities identified from other sources, including observations during field visits. Mapping illustrating the locations of facilities identified from the Provincial database and by the consultants is included in **Appendix A** to this report.

Using this inventory, consultants from Stantec and Trace visited recreation facilities in all communities in the Southwest Region. During site visits, the consultants assessed recreation facilities, ranging in scale from neighbourhood to regional assets, for amenities, conditions, product offerings, and opportunities. Detailed ratings for each facility that has been inspected are included with the aforementioned mapping in **Appendix A**.

Recreation Facilities in Southwest New Brunswick

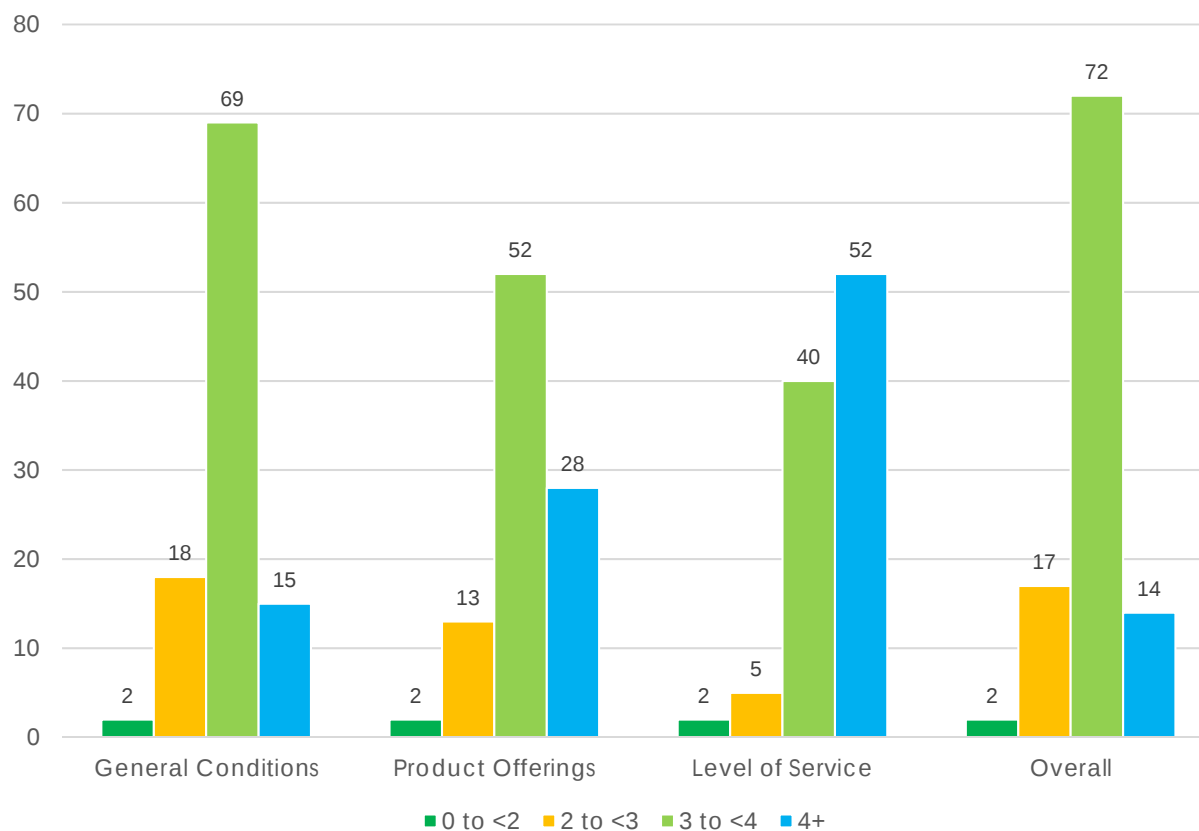
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Figure 3-1 summarizes the ratings for the region as a whole. The rating categories take into account the following:

- *General Conditions*: amenities (e.g., water, lights, washrooms, seating, canteen) and conditions as they relate to the site (e.g., supervision, security, drainage, fencing, vegetation, accessibility, gates, dogs allowed, level of use). The General Conditions score is an average of amenities and conditions scores
- *Product Offerings*: physical equipment/infrastructure that supports recreation and draws users to the facility (e.g., play structures, fields, boat launch, meeting space). The score is an average of scores for all such amenities available in the facility and/or on the site
- *Level of Service*: observations that relate to audience, significance, relevance, etc. (e.g., is it important at the neighbourhood level or community level? is it oriented toward seniors? is it under-utilized given the quality of its assets? is it overbuilt?).

The overall score is the average of general conditions, product offerings, and level of service.

Figure 3-1 Overall Recreation Facility Ratings, Southwest New Brunswick Region, 2017



Source Trace Planning and Design and Stantec Consulting Ltd.

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A score of 1 or 2 would be poor (should be abandoned or needs major upgrades), 3 is average, and 4 or 5 means that it is recently upgraded, new, or has been notably well-maintained. The score only reflects what is on each site. It does not reflect features that may be absent, so lack of amenities does not count against the score.

From a high-level perspective, recreation facilities in the region are generally well-maintained regardless of age. Many are also scenically located. The consultants rated most of the site amenities inspected as being in adequate to very good condition. Of 105 facilities rated, 68.6% scored more than 3.0 but less than 4.0 points. Only 14 (15.9%) rated 4.0 or better. Stantec's inspector rated both the Garcelon arena and pool at the maximum value of 5.0 in all categories. The skatepark in St. George was the third highest rated facility but it only scored a relatively distant 4.5. Of the remainder, 11 (12.5%) scored between 2 and less than 3, and one, the Kiwanis Park in St. Stephen, scored just 1.6.

Ratings were reasonably consistent across the sub-categories created by the consultants. The average rating for General Conditions was 3.3; for Product Offerings, 3.4; and for Level of Service, 3.6. The Overall average was 3.5. All scores suggest fair to good conditions or performance, although the distribution of scores illustrated in **Figure 3-1** indicates that the highest ratings (4 or more) were most often given for Level of Service. Overall scores, being a composite of three categories, rarely reach the highest level.

Ratings by community shown in **Table 3-1**, similarly, do not suggest a strong basis for differentiation. McAdam and Deer Island, which are the highest rated communities, have small numbers of facilities. In the case of Deer Island, the only facility recorded is the school operated by the Province. The three towns of St. George, St. Stephen, and St. Andrews, rank 3, 4, and 5, respectively, but are essentially tied with overall ratings that all round to 3.6. The towns account for 60.6% of all recreation facilities identified in the region. Lawrence Station and Campobello, which follow in sixth and seventh, rate 3.5. The lowest rated communities, like the top two, have small numbers of facilities that are not generally under their control. The consultants were not able to go to Whitehead Island to inspect the one facility there, Whitehead Elementary School. The school was rated based on photographs available on the Internet.

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Table 3-1 Average Recreation Facility Ratings, Southwest New Brunswick Region Communities, 2017

Community	No. of Facilities	% of Facilities	General Conditions	Product Offerings	Level of Service	Overall	Rank
Back Bay	1	0.9%	2.7	2.4	3.0	2.6	13
Blacks Harbour	10	9.2%	3.4	2.9	3.4	3.3	10
Campobello Is.	1	0.9%	3.1	2.8	4.0	3.5	8
Deer Is.	1	0.9%	3.1	3.8	4.0	3.6	2
Harvey Stn.	3	2.8%	3.4	3.8	3.3	3.4	9
Lake Utopia	2	1.8%	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.1	12
Lawrence Stn.	1	0.9%	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.5	7
McAdam	3	2.8%	3.8	3.7	4.0	3.8	1
Pennfield	1	0.9%	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.0	14
St. Andrews	22	20.2%	3.5	3.7	3.8	3.6	4
St. George	10	9.2%	3.6	3.4	3.7	3.6	3
St. Stephen	34	31.2%	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.6	5
Grand Manan	19	17.4%	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.1	11
Whitehead Is.	1	0.9%	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	6
All Facilities	107	100.0%	3.3	3.4	3.6	3.5	

Source Trace Planning and Design and Stantec Consulting Ltd.

3.3 GARCELON CENTRE

The Garcelon Civic Centre in St. Stephen stands out among facilities in the Southwest Region as the newest and – based on our inspector's rating – the best overall recreation facility. The centre includes Quartermain Arena, which seats 1,050 spectators for hockey games and is the home of the St. Stephen Aces Maritime Junior A hockey team. The complex also includes an aquatic centre with a 25-metre leisure pool and a therapy pool; a conference centre; a canteen; and a pro shop.

The Civic Centre is owned and operated by the Town of St. Stephen. The facility employs four managers, who report to the Town's Director of Parks and Recreation, and 14 additional employees working full- or part-time, as well as 16 to 20 student positions filled year-round. The Centre serves St. Stephen and the surrounding area, including some users from Calais in Maine. Users from outside the Town Limits pay the same fees as town residents.

Stantec has been carrying out a study for a municipal client for which we have completed a small study of four recently completed multi-purpose recreation centres in the Maritimes, one of which is the Garcelon Centre. The other three were Mariners Centre in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia; the Rath Eastlink Centre in Truro, Nova Scotia; and Credit Union Place in Summerside, PEI. All these facilities include at least one NHL-size ice surface that hosts a Maritime Jr. A franchise and all but Mariners Centre have an indoor swimming pool (**Table 3-2**).

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Table 3-2 Multi-purpose Recreation Facility Comparison, Garcelon Centre and Selected Maritime Canadian Facilities

	Mariners Centre, Yarmouth, NS	Rath Eastlink Centre, Truro, NS	Garcelon Civic Centre, St. Stephen, NB	Credit Union Place, Summerside, PEI
Opened	2001	2013	2013	2008
Owner(s)	Town of Yarmouth, District of Yarmouth, District of Argyle	Town of Truro, County of Colchester	Town of St. Stephen	City of Summerside
Catchment	60,000	60,000	15,000-20,000	65,000
Capital Cost	N/A (\$30 million expansion proposed)	\$47.5 million	\$19 million	\$43 million
Major Components	- One NHL-size ice surface, one non-regulation - Boardroom for 17 people - Large meeting space for 175 - Dining areas for 400 - Licensed lounge for 95 - Outdoor ball hockey arena - Barn with animal stalls and riding ring	- NHL-size ice surface - 8-lane, 25-metre competition pool - Leisure pool - Climbing Wall - Group Exercise Room and Fitness Centre - Walking/Running Track - Bar service - Bistro with catering services,	- NHL-size ice surface - Walking/jogging track - 25-metre leisure pool and therapy pool - Culture, community, and conference centre - Auxiliary canteen/catering and pro shop services	- Two NHL-size ice surfaces - Indoor 25-metre pool, leisure pool, sauna, steam room, and water slide - Indoor walking/running track - Fitness Centre - Two squash courts - Multi-purpose room/fitness centre - 5 and 10-pin bowling - Snack counter - Licensed bar - Hot food service - Convention centre for 500 - Meeting rooms - Tennis Courts - BMX and Skateboard Park - PEI Sports Hall of Fame - Outdoor turf field - Two restaurants
Capacity (Ice hockey)	2,000	3,100	1,050	4,228
Annual Operating Budget	\$1.2-\$1.3 million	\$3.5-\$4 million	\$1 million	N/A
Annual Deficit	\$200,000 (15%)	\$1.2 million (30%)	\$500,000 (50%)	N/A

Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

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The Garcelon Centre is notable among the four for serving the smallest market area and being the least expensive to build by a substantial margin. The other three facilities all claim market areas with populations of roughly 60,000, whereas the Garcelon Centre draws on just 20,000. The Rath Eastlink and Credit Union complexes each cost more than \$40 million and, while a construction cost could not be obtained for the older Mariners Centre (completed in 2001), a proposed expansion of the facility has been costed at \$30 million. The Garcelon Centre, by contrast, was built for just \$19 million in 2013.

While Mariners Centre and Credit Union Place have two ice surfaces versus one at the Garcelon Centre, and the Garcelon Centre has considerably less seating capacity for hockey, the built cost of the St. Stephen facility is impressive. Two other similar multi-purpose recreation centre projects proposed in Atlantic Canada with which we are familiar – in Labrador City, Newfoundland and Labrador, and Miramichi, New Brunswick – both have estimated price tags over \$40 million.

The size and configuration of the market served by the Garcelon facility creates significant challenges. Areas to the north have better access to the cities of Fredericton and Saint John. Areas to the south are in the United States and, while they form a component of the facility's market, the border inhibits interaction. Additional populations in the catchment area are located on islands from which travel to St. Stephen requires use of ferries, some of which land in the US and all of which add significantly to the time requirement and other challenges of travelling to St. Stephen. Even travel from the Town of St. Andrews, which the Garcelon Centre operators cite as an important component of their market, is affected by the coastline, which requires a substantial trip from the town's site at the end of a lengthy peninsula to reach the highway to St. Stephen.

Despite its much lower construction cost, the Garcelon Centre runs by far the largest deficit as a percentage of operating costs among the four facilities investigated. Garcelon's operators suggest that the pool presents the biggest challenge as it generates substantial costs relative to its level of use. The Centre has however done well with events and the operators have been surprised by the demand for meeting rooms. They are also satisfied with food service operations, although they are managing food services inhouse after an unsuccessful attempt to contract the operation out (the common approach among the other three facilities compared). While the operators consider the number of hotel and motel rooms in St. Stephen to be sufficient to support their facility, they are concerned with the quality of accommodation. The Algonquin Hotel in St. Andrews is an important supplement.

Town of St. Stephen officials feel the Garcelon Centre has had substantial benefits for local businesses as do the operators of the other three recreation facilities examined. Credit Union Place in Summerside, which has the widest range of amenities and is in a major tourist area, claimed the most substantial benefits. Mariners Centre has been negatively affected by the recent instability of the ferry service from Yarmouth to Maine, and Truro, although a prosperous community, is affected by the proximity of the much larger Halifax market and the range of competing facilities there. Augmenting facilities including the construction of hotel/motel accommodations on or near the facility sites has been considered in each case and has driven Yarmouth's current plan to expand Mariners Centre with an aquatic facility (competition, recreation, and therapy pools), walking track, cafe and food services, play area, gymnasium, and curling club.

While the challenges of operating the Garcelon Civic Centre are significant, the facility offers substantial benefits for the region. It provides modern amenities and entertainment that enhance the health and welfare of residents across the region and particularly in its western section. It contributes directly to the Town of St. Stephen economy by hosting events and drawing visitors to the community. Management of the operating deficit with an eye to its reduction will be an important objective for the future.

3.4 OVERVIEW

Based on inspection and reinforced by consultation summarized in the following chapter, facilities do not appear to be the leading issue in the Southwest New Brunswick Region. On the whole, facilities are in good condition and accommodate a wide range of activities. St. Stephen has made a much larger commitment to recreation than any of the region's other communities. The Town has substantially more recreation facilities and a much larger recreation staff than any other community.

The recently built Garcelon Centre, which is the town's flagship facility, stands out as the best recreation venue in the region. While the centre was built for an impressively low cost, its operating deficit is concerning. Reducing the deficit either by increasing use of the facility or by reducing operating costs is likely to be a major challenge for the Town of St. Stephen. The challenges faced by St. Stephen are a signal to the Town of St. George as it considers the possibility of developing a multipurpose recreation centre to serve the eastern portion of the region, which will provide an even smaller market.

4.0 CONSULTATION IN SOUTHWEST NEW BRUNSWICK

Stantec and Trace undertook three consultation initiatives in the first two phases of the Recreation Master Plan project. The consultants interviewed 20 stakeholders in the region, held two public meetings that attracted close to 100 participants between them, and conducted an online questionnaire survey that collected 332 responses. Trace supplemented the survey and consultations with a the 'Community Idea Wall,' an online page on their company website to which residents were invited to submit additional comments and feedback in their own time. The RSC followed up the consultants' round of consultation with two additional meetings in Pennfield and St. Andrews that gave residents of those areas accessible opportunities to express their opinions on recreation needs and issues.

4.1 STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Relatively limited information is available on recreation development in the Southwest New Brunswick Region. As specified in our proposal to undertake the preparation of a Recreation Master Plan for the region, Stantec staff conducted 20 interviews with key stakeholders in the region to understand the issues that must be addressed. Stakeholders were identified by the RSC and largely consist of members of the RSC's Recreation Committee, although some others were contacted at the request of municipal partners. Stakeholders included prominent municipal administrators and recreation staff and others involved in recreation service delivery as volunteers. All interviewees, therefore, were knowledgeable about at least some aspects of recreation facility availability and service delivery. Many were very well-informed and brought broad views to the interview process.

4.1.1 Interview Outline

The interview outline employed was loosely applied. After investigating the role of each interview subject in recreation in the region, it asked each individual to rate the provision of parks and open spaces, trail networks, built recreation facilities (arenas, gyms, etc.), recreation programming, professional recreation staff, volunteer contributions, and other features of the region's recreation delivery system in terms of quantity, quality, and operations and maintenance. It then followed with six questions dealing with recreation issues, recreation needs regionally and locally, recreation wants that should be avoided, expectations from the master plan project, and additional ideas that the subject was asked to introduce that we may not have provided an opportunity to raise through our questioning.

4.1.2 Key Issues

A summary of interview input is contained in **Appendix B** to this report. Several dominant themes emerged from the interviews:

- *Demography* – Many respondents are concerned with the evolving needs of the region's aging population. Many noted that key facilities serving the region are oriented to youth but the growing senior population has different interests.

- *St. Stephen Area* – St. Stephen has a generous supply of parks and indoor recreation facilities. Its historic facilities, which include 14 parks and an arena, have recently been augmented by the addition of the Garcelon Centre, which includes a new arena, an indoor pool, and a fitness centre in a modern multi-purpose structure. St. Stephen also has experienced professional staff in the Garcelon Centre and overseeing all of the Town's recreation operations.
- *Eastern Charlotte County* – In contrast to St. Stephen and associated areas in the west, the eastern part of Charlotte County has fewer facilities, scattered across more communities, with few professional staff involved in recreation service provision. Many respondents touted the construction of a Wellness Centre (also referred to as “the Dome”) in St. George as a needed response to provide the eastern area of the region with similar opportunities as have been developed in St. Stephen.
- *Grand Manan and the Islands* – While Grand Manan has good facilities for a population of 2,400, including a community centre with a gym and fitness centre built in 2011 and an older arena, the island is difficult to access via ferry, limiting the ability of residents to interact and compete with others. Although we did not interview residents of the other islands, which have smaller populations and are even more difficult to access, it is fair to assume that the challenges are at least as great for them.
- *Outdoor Recreation Needs* – Many respondents noted that the region has a rich and visually striking natural environment. They also noted that good trails have been established in many locations. Most, however, added that trails are not well-connected either within the region or to networks outside the region. Some directly connected trails to the recreation preferences of older community members.
- *Regionalization* – Most respondents recognize the need for a regional approach. Effective allocation of the limited funding available is critical to adapt to changing needs.

4.1.3 Detailed Responses

Responses to questions concerning the broad components of recreation services across the region revealed a variety of strengths and weaknesses:

- *Parks and Open Spaces* – Most respondents feel that parks and open space areas are adequately provided in the region. Contacts in St. Stephen, in fact, suggested that the Town might like to divest some of its parklands. Respondents in eastern areas of the region, on the other hand, suggested they had less without contending particularly strongly that more space is needed.
- *Trails Networks* – Many respondents noted local trails systems that they suggested are valued and well-used. As noted above, there was a clear consensus that these trail segments are not connected to each other and have considerably greater potential. The Coastal Trail, for which the RSC is currently securing a consultant to undertake a planning study, was mentioned by several individuals as a critical component to begin tying together trails in the region and connecting Southwest New Brunswick to trails elsewhere in the province.
- *Built Recreation Facilities* – Despite concerns with its operating deficit, all respondents who referenced the Garcelon Centre gave it a positive review. References to other recreation facilities in the region, however, emphasized their age and the need for upgrading. The initiative to create a Wellness Centre in St. George appears to be seeking to provide a similar level of service to the relatively underserved eastern portion of Charlotte County.

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- *Programming* – Few respondents commented on recreation programs in much depth. Responses, in any case, were mixed with some having few criticisms and others contending that programs are underdeveloped and not well targeted to evolving user groups (i.e., the aging population).
- *Professional Recreation Staff* – Communities outside of St. Stephen and Grand Manan lack municipal staff dedicated to recreation purposes. The Town of St. George has had a Recreation Coordinator in the past but the position was discontinued three years ago. The absence of professional staff engaged in recreation service provision was cited as a drawback by many interviewees from eastern Charlotte County.
- *Volunteer Contributions* – Nearly all stakeholders interviewed complimented volunteers and their contributions to recreation services. Some said that volunteers were easy to recruit and willing to work very hard but others suggested that most volunteer work was done by a core group. Some suggested that volunteer commitment related directly to the interests of volunteer's children and many would stop volunteering as their children aged out of activities.
- *Other* – Additional comments emphasized the need for a regional approach, although one respondent noted that the RFP for the Recreation Master Plan calls for the consultant to identify recreation needs within sub-areas of the region. Other respondents noted the opportunities to develop outdoor recreation opportunities. One respondent noted the potential of water-borne outdoor recreation.

When asked about the most significant facility needs in the region a large number of respondents mentioned the proposal for a Wellness Centre in St. George. Nearly every respondent from east Charlotte County referred to it with most expressing support. A few, including the Mayor of St. George, suggested that the concept needed to be studied but also supported the idea.

Respondents from Grand Manan suggested that their island would benefit from a Wellness Centre. Although the island has a good range of facilities, representatives of the Village noted that residents cannot easily get to facilities elsewhere. Other facilities mentioned by other interviewees included:

- Skate park in Blacks Harbour
- Meeting hall in St. Andrews
- Turf recreation/soccer field
- Dedicated space for arts and culture activities
- Develop outdoor recreation opportunities (St. Croix River)
- Coastal Trail (St. Stephen to Saint John)
- Southern ATV connections.

Several respondents also emphasized the need for coordinated evaluation of potential facility additions on a regional basis.

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Few respondents were wary of the additional facilities that have been proposed. At most, as noted, several suggested that the construction of a Wellness Centre in St. George will require due diligence study. One person recommended caution with respect to rehabilitation of the wharf in St. Stephen, which was not mentioned in any other context, and another expressed similar caution with respect to the addition of another swimming pool in the region.

The expectations of stakeholders for this study focused on the need for a regional approach to recreation service delivery. Respondents expressed an interest in developing a framework of future recreation facility development and service delivery across the region. A sound inventory of regional facilities, which is presented in the following chapter and benchmarking against recreation service provisions in other communities were also noted. Overall, respondents, re-emphasized the importance of establishing a regional approach with a vision and goals for the long-term development of facilities and services expressed in a regional action plan.

4.2 PUBLIC MEETINGS

With assistance from RSC staff, the consulting team arranged and hosted public meetings in Lawrence Station and St. George on consecutive evenings in late November. Trace staff were primarily responsible for meeting set-up and conduct, although Stantec's Project Manager also attended both. Both meetings used an open house format in which participants discussed issues of concern to them with the consultants in attendance. Trace prepared display boards to present key information gathered from the project research process to that point, and gather opinions from participants.

In response to the interest of participating municipalities, the RSC organized and hosted an additional pair of meetings in Pennfield and St. Andrews using a similar format and the same display materials as the original consultant-run sessions. Trace staff assisted at the second session in St. Andrews.

4.2.1 Lawrence Station Meeting

The Lawrence Station open house took place on the evening of November 28, 2017. The session drew roughly 15 members of the public, including residents from St. Stephen and St. George as well as the immediate area.

Participants who spoke with consulting team members focused on specific projects and activities of interest to them. A representative of the St. Croix Sportsman Club's Youth Air Gun Section, for example, advanced his organization's desire to develop a permanent indoor facility in St. Stephen for training their team, which has been very successful at the national level, and hosting tournaments. Another participant was involved in the promotion of tennis in St. Stephen where the Milltown Tennis Courts are located. They were also interested in an indoor venue in St. Stephen. Both individuals expressed interest in the Border Arena, which has been closed since the opening of the Garcelon Centre.

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Residents of the St. George area who attended the meeting introduced their interest in advancing the St. George Multipurpose Recreation Project. They envision the construction of an indoor field/gym space that may also include a YMCA fitness area. The issue was pressed more firmly by many more St. George residents at the meeting in the town the following evening. Other residents revealed strong interests in outdoor activities, particularly ATV riding and snowmobiling on local trails.

4.2.2 St. George Meeting

The St. George meeting followed the evening after the Lawrence Station session. Being a larger community and given strong promotion by the Town of St. George, attendance was much better with more than 80 residents participating. A large group of residents favouring the development of a new recreation complex in the town attended and ensured that the consultants were aware of their interest. Community members have begun work to formulate a concept and have enlisted experienced individuals in the community to begin work on a business plan. Conversation over the course of the open house included ideas for integrating other community needs like a daycare, and the challenges of staffing and funding. Participants from St. George feel the Garcelon Civic Centre is too far from the St. George and Blacks Harbour areas to meet the regular needs of those communities.

Some attendees interested in trail development in the region were aware of the RSC's Coastal Link Trail project, which the Commission initiated after the Recreation Master Plan but which now has an overlapping timeline. Participants reinforced the local interest in unstructured outdoor activities like swimming, walking, hiking, snowshoeing, and ATViing, which was also apparent from the online survey discussed following. Although attendees focused on indoor facilities, many acknowledged, when asked, that they undertook many outdoor activities from home. That being said, some expressed concern with the safety of walking on rural roads, particularly at night and in the winter, and the desire for an indoor alternative.

Most other issues discussed related to barriers to recreation participation. A couple of residents of Pocologan were concerned about the lack of after-school activities and sports available to rural children. The closure of the Pennfield Elementary School in 2015 meant that parents must be willing to transport children farther to participate. One woman recommended the rehabilitation of an old field in Pocologan on which children could play; however, transportation would still be a barrier depending on childrens' relative mobility and distance from the field, a challenge most likely common for many other rural families.

A young man living in the St. George area was interested in the development of a venue for indoor soccer. Several others expressed support for the development of a regional artificial turf field. Distance and cost were major factors; most citizens want accessible facilities and varied programming suited to their interests, but many are reluctant to pay more for these services. A group of LSD residents who spoke with one of the consultants felt strongly that they were currently underserved for the taxes they pay. Some residents of municipalities, on the other hand, contended that LSD residents were not contributing enough financially to the amenities they use. Equitable sharing of the costs of building and operating a multipurpose recreation complex in St. George is likely to be a major challenge to its realization.

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4.2.3 Pennfield Meeting

The Pennfield meeting was held at the Pennfield Lions Club on January 30, 2018. It attracted only four participants. The meeting took place after our assessment of online survey results revealed concerns in the region with recreation programming. Participants with whom the issue was discussed emphasized lack of communication and new volunteers as the two biggest weaknesses for programming in the region, considerations that were echoed in St. Andrews the following evening.

Pennfield residents are also concerned about the lack of facilities for recreation programs as the Fundy High School is apparently not available for resident use because the school uses most of afterschool time for its teams. Like St. George residents consulted in November, participants in the Pennfield meeting expressed concern with political disorganization that has created a long-standing deficiency in recreation initiatives/ programming in the eastern communities of Charlotte County.

4.2.4 St. Andrews Meeting

The session in St. Andrews was held at the W.C. O'Neil Arena on January 31, 2018. It attracted more than 25 citizens. St. Andrews is an older community. The median age in the town according to the 2016 Census was 52.8 compared to 45.7 for the province of New Brunswick and 41.2 for Canada. Residents are concerned about the effect the town's demographics on current recreation program participation and volunteer levels. In this context, they are also concerned about the ongoing cost of recreation facilities like the W.C. O'Neil Arena, which do not support the town's aging population. The Town and RSC should assess the repurposing of the complex for court-play, fitness programs, library lounges, and daily gathering spaces.

Residents noted that a lot of recreation activities in the area are self-organized. One notably successful recreation program in the town is the Spindrifters, a 50+ group that organizes recreation activities and social programming for members.¹⁵ Initiatives such as Spindrifters events and yoga for women in the Anglican church basement are largely communicated by word-of-mouth.

With a more mature population, interest in cultural activities is significant. Attendees called for revitalization of cultural facilities, particularly the market in Market Square. Concerts in the Square serve both residents and visitors and participants noted the importance of tourism benefits for the town's economy.

In this light, many attendees identified eco-tourism as a key opportunity for the town. They also noted the established importance of fee-based recreation/tourism services provided by private businesses. The success of boating and marine tour operations has, however, stressed waterfront facilities. Participants expressed concerns with inadequate investment in on-water recreation facilities/programming including lack of spaces/launch for small boats (i.e., dinghy, canoe, kayak) as more and more wharf space has been given to commercial tour boat operations.

¹⁵ See: "Spindrifters Inc. (50 plus group)," <https://sites.google.com/site/spindriftersinc/spindrifters-events>

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On land, residents would like to see a linked and looped system of trail and sidewalk routes throughout the town, including links to Katy's Cove and the Huntsman. For the short term, and to support long-term planning, the sidewalk that extends from the downtown to the Tim Hortons should be extended to the Bar Road. Also, the Katy's Cove Trail should extend to the Bar Road to create the first important linkage and loop. Other linkages include extensions to the highway and beyond on former rail beds and gravel roads.

4.2.5 Idea Wall

The Community Idea Wall, as noted, allowed interested residents to provide brief or extended comments on recreation issues at their leisure outside the confines of the public meetings and the restriction of the online survey. Ten individuals posted on the Wall. Comments overlapped much of the input obtained through the public sessions, although a bias toward outdoor recreation opportunities particularly walking and trails development was notable. Several posters also took the opportunity to offer their support to advance programs in which they were interested including organizing water-based activities such as scuba diving, beach walking, sea kayaking, wharf-based recreational fishing, and the expansion of tennis and pickle ball.

4.3 ONLINE SURVEY

To further investigate recreation participation and needs, as well as satisfaction with current service delivery, Stantec and Trace prepared a research questionnaire for posting online in November 2017. The survey closed on December 19, 2017. It overlapped the public sessions in Lawrence Station and St. George, providing an opportunity for residents who could not attend the meetings to express their opinions as well as allowing meeting participants to add detail to their input at the two sessions.

The consultants posted the survey online and linked it to the Southwest New Brunswick RSC website. Most of the municipal partners in the LSD, furthermore, linked to the survey, often with supporting text to encourage participation. Finally, Stantec purchased Facebook ads to promote the survey to Facebook users within the Southwest New Brunswick Region, an approach that we have successfully used to promote several past online surveys. **Appendix C** is a detailed summary of survey results including detailed tables and graphics summarizing responses to each survey question. The following sub-sections summarize highlights of survey responses pertinent to the issues discussed above in this report.

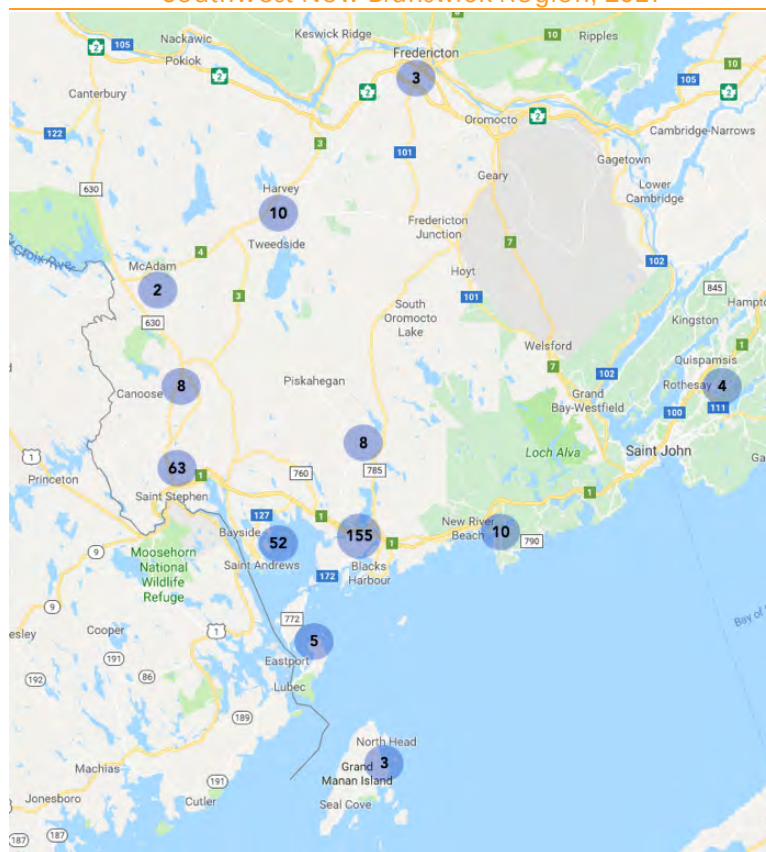
4.3.1 Survey Response

The survey ultimately drew 332 responses. Survey respondents were well distributed across the jurisdiction of the RSC; however, the St. George area was clearly over-represented. Response from St. George was stimulated by the community's interest in building its own recreation centre and encouraged through the public meeting in the town and a strong exhortation on the Town's web site for residents to make their opinions known. Whereas the Town of St. George accounted for 5.4% of the region's population in 2016 and inclusion of the immediately surrounding area might double that number, the postal code corresponding to the area accounted for 48.3% of 321 survey respondents who indicated where they live in the region (**Figure 4-1**).

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The age of survey respondents is skewed to the middle-aged group (35 to 54 years) who accounted for 47.0% of all respondents, although they constitute just 32.8% of the region's population over 18 years of age. Younger adults (18 to 34) and older adults (55+) were relatively underrepresented (**Table 4-1**). The family profiles of these respondents suggest their participation in the survey was likely motivated by interest in their children. Children under 18 years of age comprised 28.1% of households responding to the survey compared to just 17.9% of the general population in the region. The 35 to 54-year age group was only moderately over-represented in these households (29.5% vs. 32.8% of the general population). The representation of younger adults among survey respondents was exactly equivalent to their presence in the overall population (16.6%) but adults over 55 years of age were under-represented (25.8% of survey respondents vs. 38.6% of the regional population).

Figure 4-1 Online Survey Respondent Distribution, Southwest New Brunswick Region, 2017



Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Table 4-1 Survey Respondents and Household Members Compared to Regional Population

Age	Male	Female	Total	% by Age (18+)	% by Age (Total)	Respondents	% by Age (18+)	House-hold Members	% by Age (Total)
0-4	670	713	1,383		4.7%			54	9.1%
5-17	2,041	1,851	3,892		13.2%			113	19.0%
18-34	2,482	2,410	4,892	20.2%	16.6%	46	13.9%	99	16.6%
35-54	3,837	4,092	7,929	32.8%	26.9%	156	47.0%	176	29.5%
55+	5,399	5,967	11,366	47.0%	38.6%	130	39.2%	154	25.8%
TOTAL	14,429	15,033	29,462	100.0%	100.0%	332	100.0%	596	100.0%

Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Survey respondents equal 1.1% of the region's population. The total members in respondent households account for 2.0% of the population. Regardless of the size of the sample, it is not a random sample and cannot be used to infer the opinions of the wider population in the region. Respondents to an open online survey of this type are self-selected and can be assumed to have a stronger interest in the survey subject matter than those who were aware of the survey but did not respond. Many others, furthermore, may not have been aware of the survey if they did not visit a municipal web site over the period that it was open or did not encounter a Facebook advertisement promoting the survey.

It remains, however, that 332 responding individuals and the 596 people on whose behalf they answered our questions represent substantial numbers. It is unlikely that the same numbers could be drawn to public sessions and it would be very difficult to obtain similar detailed and quantifiable data through other consultative mechanisms. The survey, therefore, generated the strongest evidence of resident preferences on which to base our assessment of needs within the region.

4.3.2 Preferred Recreation Activities

Responses to Question 5 asking respondents to name the top three recreation activities in which household members participated in the Southwest Region showed a strong preference for team and competitive sports in the 5 to 17-year age group. In other age groups, however, responses reflected preferences for informal, less competitive activities often including outdoor activities.

As in most surveys of this type that we have conducted in the past, the most popular activity overall was walking. It was closely followed by the related but more ambitious activity of hiking. Walking and hiking were the top two activities for middle-aged and older adults and were in the top five for the 0 to 4 and 18 to 34 groups. They were not, however, highly rated for the 5 to 17-year cohort in which they respectively ranked 27th and 11th (**Table 4-2**).

Table 4-2 Top Three Recreation Activities Within the Southwest Region

Rank	0 to 4 years	5 to 17 years	18 to 34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years +	TOTAL
1	Soccer	Basketball	Gym/Fitness	Walking	Walking	Walking
2	Gymnastics	Soccer	Walking	Hiking	Hiking	Hiking
3	Skating	Hockey (Ice)	Hunting	Gym/Fitness	Cards	Gym/Fitness
4	Hiking	Swimming (Indoor)	Hiking	Boating (power)	Bird Watching	Cards
5	Swimming (Indoor) Walking	Skateboard/ Scooter Track & Field	Fishing	Golf	Yoga	Tai Chi

Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Youth tend to pursue activities that usually require purpose-designed facilities. Basketball, soccer, skating, and indoor swimming were ranked prominently for the 0 to 4 and 5 to 17-year age groups but did not make the top five for any of the older age groups. For adults, the same activities generally rank 20th or lower. The primary adult activities requiring specific facilities are gym or fitness training, which is the most popular activity for the 18 to 34 group and third for 35 to 54 year olds, and golf, which ranked fifth for the 35 to 54-year cohort. Top activities not included in the list provided with the question that were noted by respondents were Snowmobiling (10), Art/Art Classes (6), and Rugby (4).

Activities pursued outside the Southwest Region (Question 9) are similar across all age groups with some variation in emphasis. For the most part, residents travel outside the region for swimming and walking or hiking opportunities. The other notable activities are ice hockey and downhill skiing for 5 to 17-year olds, gym/fitness for the 18 to 34-year group, ATVing for the three groups over 35, and bird watching for the 55 and over group (**Table 4-3**).

Table 4-3 Top Three Recreation Activities Outside the Southwest Region

Rank	0 to 4 years	5 to 17 years	18 to 34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years +	TOTAL
1	Swimming (Indoor)	Swimming (Indoor)	Walking	Hiking	Walking	Walking
2	Walking	Swimming (Outdoor)	Hiking	Walking	Hiking	Hiking
3	Swimming (Outdoor)	Hockey (Ice)	Swimming (Indoor)	Swimming (Outdoor)	Swimming (Outdoor)	Swimming (Indoor)
4	Hiking	Skiing (Downhill)	Gym/Fitness	ATVing	ATVing	Swimming (Outdoor)
5	Skating	Walking	Swimming (Outdoor)	Swimming (Indoor)	Bird Watching	ATVing

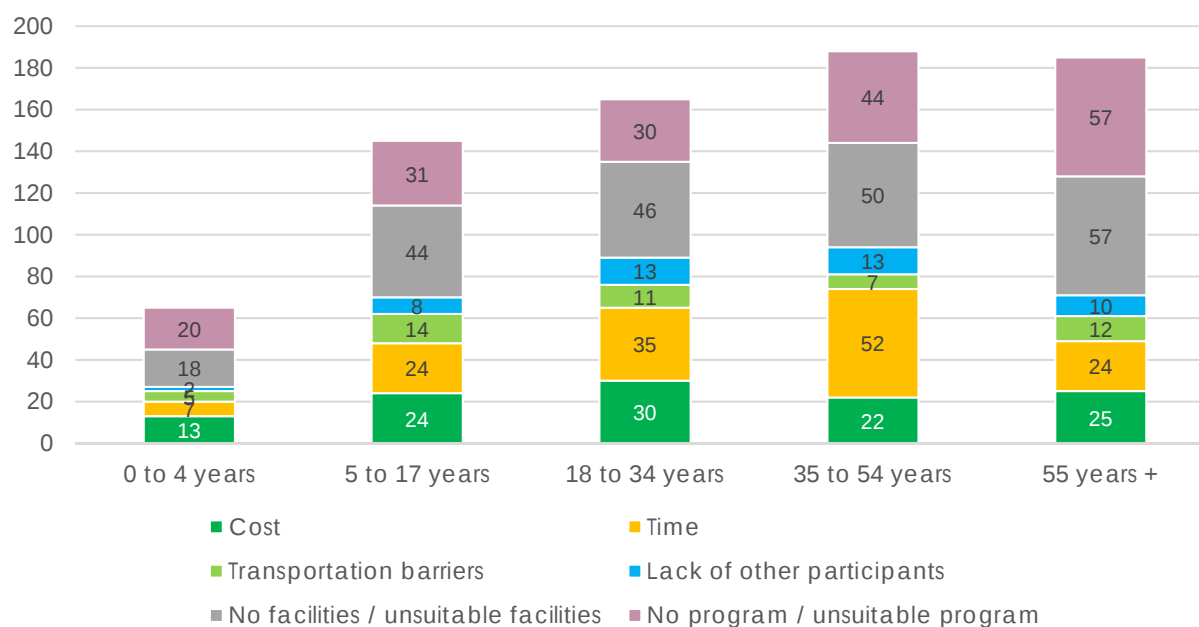
Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

4.3.3 Non-participation

The recreation activity in which most respondents said household members would like to participate in but cannot is swimming, which was identified 46 times. Swimming was followed by walking (31 respondents) and more distantly by gym (16) and fitness (15). If gym and fitness were combined as they were in our list of activities that residents might undertake (Questions 5 and 9), the total of 31 would tie walking for second place. Other notable activities on the list with five or more mentions were bowling (8 mentions) dance, hockey, soccer, and cross-country skiing (5 each) (**Figure 4-2**).

The leading reasons for not participating in recreation activities were lack of suitable facilities or programs. Secondary factors were time and cost. Facilities were generally cited more often than programs and time was usually identified more frequently than cost. Exceptions were the 0 to 4-year old group for which lack of programs was more important than lack of facilities by a narrow margin and for which cost was significantly more important than time. For the over 55 group facilities were more important than programs and cost was roughly equivalent to time. Transportation barriers and lack of other participants were noted by some respondents but much less frequently than the other four factors.

Figure 4-2 Reasons for Non-participation by Age Group, Southwest New Brunswick Region



Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

4.3.4 Transportation

Transportation does not appear to be a leading barrier to recreation participation in the Southwest New Brunswick Region; nevertheless, two survey questions probed the issue. Most participants in recreation activities (59.0%) drive to the site at which they recreate. Overall, recreation within or from the home accounts for 23.3% of recreation activities. Another 12.7% walk to activities, and 5.0% bicycle.

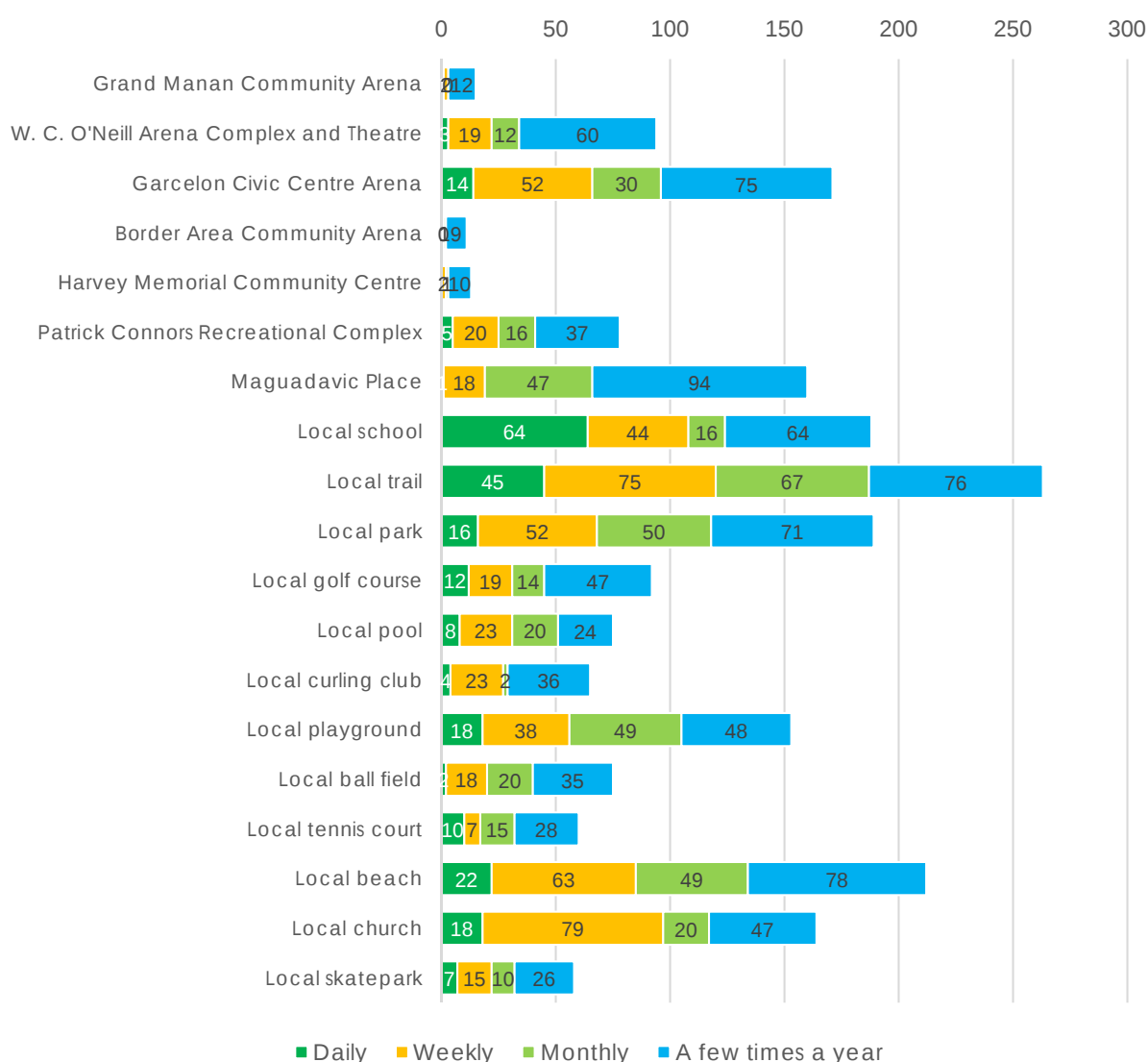
Respondents who pursue recreation activities in their homes or from their homes include large proportions of individuals pursuing outdoor activities such as walking (35.5%), driving ATVs (44.2%), road and trail bicycling (37.1% and 34.4%, respectively), road and trail running (52.6% and 36.6%, respectively), sailing (54.5%), cross-country skiing (39.3%), and snowshoeing (46.9%). Many of the more passive forms of individual recreation are also pursued within the home, with cards players standing out at 39.5%. Only road runners and sailors, however, top 50% of their participants using their home as the base for their activity.

The average travel time to initiate recreation activities was 19.2 minutes. Running, unsurprisingly, had the shortest average time at 8.7 minutes. Other activities often pursued from home, such as walking and different forms of bicycling also showed relatively short travel times. Walking ranked eighth and bicycling ranged from sixth for BMX, through eleventh and twelfth for road and trail, respectively, to 38th for fat tire bicycling. The activities ranking second through fourth, however, were somewhat surprising: pickleball (9.5 minutes), curling (10.0), and golf (11.1). The low numbers suggest a core of participants must live very close to the facility they use. Skateboarding, another activity that often originates from home, ranked fifth (11.8 minutes).

4.3.5 Facilities

The most heavily used facilities tend to be local facilities to which residents have relatively easy access. The most popular local facility type based on scoring of their overall use recorded in response to Question 4 (5 for daily, 4 for weekly, 2 for monthly, and 1 for a few times a year), was trails. Trails were followed in order by local schools, local beaches, local churches, and local parks. These facilities were listed in a general manner so as to encompass many locations in the region, which gave them an advantage over larger facilities that were specifically named. The most used of the larger recreation facilities was the Garcelon Centre in St. Stephen, which ranked sixth. Responses also suggested higher levels of use for Maguadavic Place in St. George, and the W. C. O'Neill Arena Complex and Theatre in St. Andrews, which ranked eighth and eleventh based on our admittedly crude scoring system (**Figure 4-3**).

Figure 4-3 Facility Use, Southwest New Brunswick Region



Source: Stantec Consulting Ltd.

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Among other facilities not listed in Question 4, respondents frequently referred to local facilities that they often use such as their local trail, school, or park. Many also referred to tennis courts in St. Stephen (Milltown), St. Andrews, and St. George, and to various facilities available at the Algonquin Hotel such as the hotel pool and golf course. Respondents also referred frequently to outdoor activities in general and trips to larger centres such as Saint John, Fredericton, Oromocto, and Calais to use pools and gymnasiums available in each location.

4.3.6 User Satisfaction

Two separate questions asked about respondent satisfaction with recreation facilities and programs. Responses to Question 12 indicated that while most users (53.8%) are satisfied with facilities in the region, the proportion not satisfied (27.1%) outweighed those who are very satisfied. Similarly, whereas the largest proportion of respondents (47.0%) stated they are satisfied with recreation programs, dissatisfied respondents (42.1%) substantially outnumbered those who were very satisfied (11.0%).

Question 14, asking respondents to prioritize initiatives to improve recreation services, reinforced these findings. Respondents gave the highest rating to “Improve recreation programs” (1.87 where the lowest numbers indicate the highest priority). The next four priorities “Improve existing trails” (2.14), “Build new trails” (2.36), “Renovate existing facilities” (2.40), and “Improve existing parks” (2.40) were closely clustered. They were followed by “Hire more recreation staff” (2.48) and “Build new facilities” (2.60). “Build new parks” (3.04) was lowest priority (see **Figure 4-4** in which potential improvements are sorted from by the importance placed on each initiative).

The ratings suggest to us reasonable satisfaction with facilities, particularly parklands. Residents appear much more concerned to see existing facilities of all types improved rather than augmented. Their highest priority, however, is not even to enhance facilities but to improve the programs offered within them.

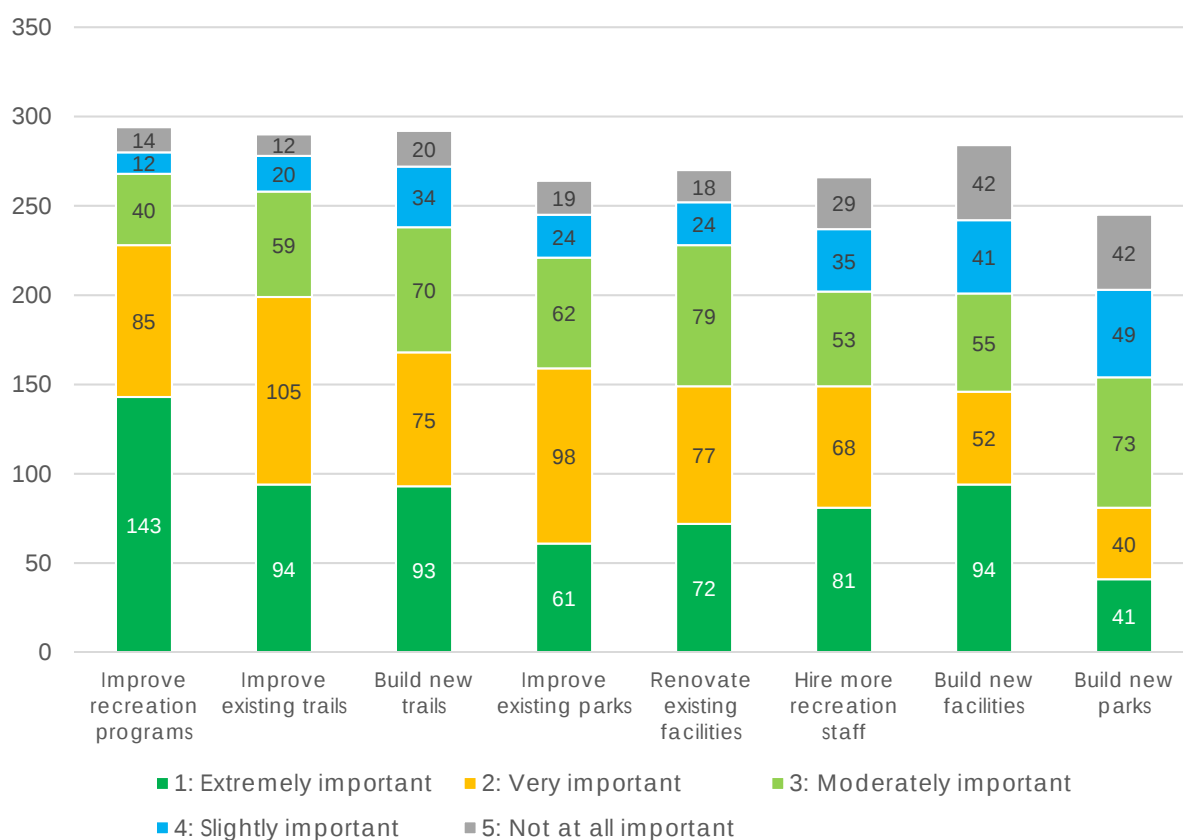
4.3.7 Supplementary Comments

A total of 123 survey respondents entered additional comments, which were invited at the end of the survey. Many used the opportunity to express and/or detail their support for specific facility additions or improvements. Many comments, for example, supported a new facility for St. George and/or noted the relative lack of indoor facilities in the eastern half of the region, including St. George. Others noted the lack of varied recreational options in the region.

On the other hand, many others expressed resistance to recreation development reinforcing the priority on improving existing facilities reflected in many survey comments. This clearly included a subset of respondents who emphasized outdoor activities that they appear to feel can be served through preservation of existing open space rather than formal dedication of parkland. Many comments that de-emphasized facility needs also expressed concern with the ability of taxpayers to afford the costs.

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Figure 4-4 Desirable Recreation Improvements, Southwest New Brunswick Region



	1: Extremely important		2: Very important		3: Moderately important		4: Slightly important		5: Not at all important		Avg. Rating
Improve recreation programs	143	48.6%	85	28.9%	40	13.6%	12	4.1%	14	4.8%	1.87
Improve existing trails	94	32.4%	105	36.2%	59	20.3%	20	6.9%	12	4.1%	2.14
Build new trails	93	31.8%	75	25.7%	70	24.0%	34	11.6%	20	6.8%	2.36
Improve existing parks	61	23.1%	98	37.1%	62	23.5%	24	9.1%	19	7.2%	2.40
Renovate existing facilities	72	26.7%	77	28.5%	79	29.3%	24	8.9%	18	6.7%	2.40
Hire more recreation staff	81	30.5%	68	25.6%	53	19.9%	35	13.2%	29	10.9%	2.48
Build new facilities	94	33.1%	52	18.3%	55	19.4%	41	14.4%	42	14.8%	2.60
Build new parks	41	16.7%	40	16.3%	73	29.8%	49	20.0%	42	17.1%	3.04
TOTAL	679	30.8%	600	27.2%	491	22.3%	239	10.8%	196	8.9%	2.40

Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

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4.4 OVERVIEW

Consultation revealed a blend of ambition and fiscal conservatism in the region. Facilities development is clearly not the highest priority of residents. Outdoor recreation activities are favoured by many. The emphasis on individual outdoor pursuits like walking, hiking, bicycling, and running is likely to increase as the local population ages. This emphasis and the aging related trend to individual recreation pursuits reflect our experience in other jurisdictions with which we have worked. The related priority on trails development is relatively low cost and offers benefits for local eco-tourism.

Notwithstanding low support for construction of new facilities across the region as a whole, the strong interest of eastern residents in a multi-purpose facility to serve their area must be acknowledged. The Town of St. George has encouraged this interest throughout the consultation process for this study. A group from within the community has begun formal work on the development of a business plan. A physical concept plan will be needed to support effective business planning. An economical project similar to the Garcelon Centre may well be viable but the operating challenges with which the Town of St. Stephen is dealing at the Garcelon Centre should strike a note of caution.

The emphasis on upgrading programming also cannot be ignored. Given the fragmentation of recreation administration in the region and the absence of major recreation facilities aside from the Garcelon Centre, it is difficult to establish local program offerings. Recreation staffing in the region is limited outside of the Town of St. Stephen and several interviewees noted the reliance on volunteers for many programs. Respondents to the survey, however, did not strongly support the hiring of additional recreation employees.

5.0 ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The recent summary of recreation development assistance incentives that the Province of New Brunswick has developed for its regional service commissions outlines expectations of recreation master planning:

Master plans are comprehensive and typically have a five to ten-year scope with recommendations based on demographics, service trends, public and stakeholder input, regional objectives, and financial resources.

Preceding chapters cover demographics, service trends, and public and stakeholder input for the Southwest New Brunswick Region. The following sections of this chapter address regional objectives derived from the issues identified by our research and initiatives to address them over the next five years.

5.1 RECREATION ISSUES

Our research outlined in foregoing chapters identified the following issues with recreation facilities and service delivery in Southwest New Brunswick:

1. **Population Decline** – Population in the region has fallen since 2001 and is expected to continue to decline at an accelerating rate into the future. Decreasing numbers of residents naturally results in fewer recreation participants and fewer taxpayers to financially support facilities and programs.
2. **Population Aging** – The population of New Brunswick is old relative to the national population and some communities in the region, most notably St. Andrews, are significantly older than the provincial average. Residents and stakeholders are very aware of the trend and communities are trying to adapt.

Aging residents participate in more passive individual recreation pursuits. They have less need for arenas, gyms, and similar facilities designed for team sports. They often prefer outdoor activities that require no facilities or relatively low cost facilities such as trails and parks. They can however participate in team sports (gentleman's hockey stands out) and often enjoy fitness activities and swimming. While an older population may have more capacity to support recreation services as taxpayers, they exacerbate the trend as recreation declining participation.

3. **Facility Needs** – Residents did not express strong concerns with existing facilities and inspection by consulting team members found most to be in good condition. Several issues were however raised that need to be considered in the context of the Master Plan:
 - *Eastern Charlotte Recreation Facility* – The foremost issue raised during public consultation was undoubtedly the interest of the Town and residents of St. George in building a multi-purpose recreation facility for their community and the surrounding areas in eastern Charlotte County. The initiative will be a considerable undertaking, but many steps have been

taken toward its achievement including the development of a preliminary concept plan and business plan.

The facility, if built, will address the general belief that eastern Charlotte is less well-served than the western areas of the county. The relatively small population of eastern Charlotte is however a significant challenge. The challenge is augmented by the presence of the Garcelon Centre and facilities in the nearby Saint John region, which many residents in eastern Charlotte told us they currently use. Recent discussions with proponents in St. George indicate that their focus for the facility is on indoor soccer and a gymnasium space, which will not overlap with Garcelon Centre offerings.

- *Grand Manan Facilities* – Representatives from the island of Grand Manan expressed a need for more facilities in their community, which is a considerably different context from Eastern Charlotte. While the island has good facilities out of proportion to its modest population, its isolation places absolute limits on the activities of its residents. Given the time required to travel by ferry to and from the mainland, Grand Manan residents are restricted to activities supported by facilities on the island.
 - *W. C. O'Neil Centre* – The Town of St. Andrews has expressed concern with the costs of maintaining the arena in its O'Neil complex because of its declining appeal to the aging population in the community. While the Town is refurbishing the facility, which was built in 1963, it would like to reposition the facility to broaden its appeal; perhaps by adding a walking track within the arena and/or by moving Town offices into the structure.
 - *Border Arena* – The older Border Arena in St. Stephen has been unused since completion of the Garcelon Centre in 2013. Archery, shooting, and other recreation groups have expressed interest in using the facility, but no plan has been formulated for its long-term future.
 - *Patrick Connors Recreational Complex* – The Patrick Connors Complex is the primary recreation facility in Blacks Harbour. It was built in 1967 and houses a standard ice surface with a two-sheet curling rink that is not currently in use. The facility would benefit from refurbishment as it is the primary arena for Eastern Charlotte, complementing the Garcelon Centre and W.C. O'Neil ice surfaces in the western half of the county.
- 4. Outdoor Recreation Facilities** – Residents of the region espouse a strong interest in outdoor activities but do not appear to see a need for additional parks spaces. There is however strong interest in trails development for which the region has considerable potential given its appealing landscapes. The RSC has funded a consultant study to plan the Coastal Trail to join the Trans Canada Trail in Saint John with the U.S. East Coast Greenway in Calais, Maine, that is proceeding simultaneous with the Recreation Master Plan process.

The Coastal Trail will pass through St. Stephen, Oak Bay, Saint Andrews, Pennfield, and St. George. A coordinated vision of regional trails development is needed to connect other centres in the Southwest New Brunswick Region to this spine. Connections to the Harvey/McAdam area

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inland and to the islands via trails to ferry landings would facilitate movement within the region and augment the experience of visitors on the Coastal Trail.

5. **Recreation Programming** – Programming is the leading recreation issue in the region according to survey results. The nature of the problem is not however well-defined. More detailed information from interviewing and the follow-up consultation suggests that the fragmentation of recreation administration, the declining supply of volunteers, and lack of communication across the region are all significant factors. It is, in fact, difficult to obtain sufficient information to assess effectively whether or not adequate programs are available as there is no comprehensive source of information.
6. **Regionalization** – While regionalization was not often directly mentioned in the consultation processes conducted for this assignment, it underlies many of the issues raised. Leading among them is certainly the ambition to build a recreation complex for Eastern Charlotte, which raised questions about competition with existing facilities (i.e., Garcelon Centre), cost-sharing with other communities, and feasibility.
7. **Recreation Staffing** – The number of dedicated recreation staff at the local level in the Southwest New Brunswick Region is small. As described in **Section 3.1** above, the Town of St. Stephen has as many staff involved in parks and recreation service delivery as the rest of the region combined. If staff at the Garcelon Centre are included, the Town has three to four times as many recreation staff as the balance of the region. The RSC currently has no recreation staff as such, although it has a potential role in service delivery and the Province will provide limited funding to support the cost of staff as discussed in the following section.

5.2 RECREATION SERVICE DELIVERY

New Brunswick is transforming the structure for recreation service delivery in the province. The Province's new Recreation and Sport Policy Framework makes regional service commissions a critical component of this transformation. RSCs across the province are expected to provide a forum in which local governments and service districts will discuss recreation issues and collaborate on solutions. Provincial assistance has helped to fund the preparation of this Master Plan, and additional funding is available to fund its implementation and the broader delivery of recreation services.

5.2.1 Provincial Framework

In 2017, New Brunswick adopted a new Recreation and Sport Policy Framework to guide the development of recreation services within the province. The new framework was explicitly developed within the national framework referenced in **Section 2.1** above. It accepts the definition of recreation put forward in the Framework for Canada and adds the following definition for sport:

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SPORT is a particular form of recreation requiring a combination of physical, technical, tactical and mental skills. Persons of all ages, stages and skill levels are welcomed to participate and are inspired to improve.¹⁶

The Provincial document also adopts well-being as its “over-arching goal.”¹⁷ Well-being is defined in the national framework as:

The presence of the highest possible quality of life in its full breadth of expression, focused on but not necessarily exclusive to: good living standards, robust health, a sustainable environment, vital communities, an educated populace, balanced time use, high levels of democratic participation, and access to and participation in recreation and culture.¹⁸

The New Brunswick framework notes that the advancement of well-being is a goal shared with many other policy initiatives.¹⁹ This does not narrow the impact of recreation; rather, it extends its importance to all facets of society giving it a place alongside education and healthcare.

New Brunswick’s framework, as a matter of fact, recognizes “participation in recreation and sport ... as fundamental human rights.” Pursuant to this, the document sets out the following principles:

1. Recreation and sport is for the public good.
2. Recreation and sport promote community development and social change.
3. The recreation and sport delivery system is accessible and inclusive.
4. The recreation and sport delivery system is technically sound.
5. The recreation and sport delivery system is sustained through collaboration and partnership.
6. The recreation and sport delivery system is environmentally sustainable.
7. Responsibility for funding is shared fairly.
8. The recreation and sport delivery system is committed to continuous improvement.²⁰

¹⁶ Province of New Brunswick, *New Brunswick’s Recreation and Sport Policy Framework: Building Relationships Today for Tomorrow*, August 2017, p. 7, <https://indd.adobe.com/view/c9a249ef-42d9-47cc-9a73-35cde1728266>. The new Recreation and Sport Policy Framework supersedes the 1994 Sport and Recreation Policy for New Brunswick.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 8, <https://indd.adobe.com/view/c9a249ef-42d9-47cc-9a73-35cde1728266>.

¹⁸ National Recreation Framework Working Group, *A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways to Wellbeing*, January 2015, p. 36.

¹⁹ Province of New Brunswick, *op cit.*, p. 8.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

All of these principles are relevant to the mandate of this Master Plan but we would place particular emphasis on Principles 5 and 7, which are critical to effective service delivery and provide the foundation for the involvement of the RSC in recreation, which we discuss further in the next two subsections.

5.2.2 Regional Service Commission

The Regional Service Commission, which is the direct client of Stantec and Trace for this Master Plan assignment, is a new structure. The Province of New Brunswick created the Commission in January 2013 as one of 12 commissions that comprehensively cover the province's area (**Figure 5-1**) pursuant to recommendations of the Finn Commission, which examined local government as a whole in New Brunswick.²¹ Commissions offer a regional structure that will facilitate collaboration without amalgamation while also avoiding a proliferation of special purpose organizations tailored to provide a single service or narrow range of services.

Figure 5-1 Regional Service Commissions, New Brunswick, 2015



Source Chaleur Regional Service Commission, <http://www.csrchaleurrsc.ca/en/about>

²¹ Jean-Guy Finn, Commissioner on the Future of Local Governance, *Building Stronger Local Governments and Regions - An Action Plan for the Future of Local Governance in New Brunswick*, November 2008.

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The RSC network strongly resembles the system of regional service districts that has been established in British Columbia since 1965. The BC districts can provide local services to the entire area of their region or can contract with one or more local governments directly to satisfy a specific need. For example, in the recreation field, a district might be responsible for regional recreation master planning and might also manage a recreation complex on behalf of several collaborating local governments, and an arena for single municipality that sees benefits in turning over operation to an entity with broader expertise in recreation management than they can maintain on staff. The New Brunswick RSCs are currently in their early establishment and going through some growing pains but it is anticipated that they will evolve into strong regional entities that can address the local service needs of New Brunswickers flexibly with varied solutions suited to the unique features of each locale as the BC districts have done.

The online description of the RSCs highlights the following key features:

- The Regional Service Commissions will be governed by communities and act as service delivery agents to ensure the communities receive the services they pay for. Commissions will not be another level or tier of government. The decisions taken on financial and service matters will be made by the communities themselves through representatives on the Commission Boards. The Commission will not have the authority to tax for services, but will invoice for the services provided.
- The new Regional Service Commissions will be established in legislation, administered by the provincial department responsible for Local Government. This legislation will set out the requirements for the Commissions, including mandate, structure and key operating guidelines.
- The Minister responsible for Local Government will not govern the day-to-day activities or decision-making of the new Commissions, but will be responsible to ensure that the Commissions are reporting to the people of New Brunswick on their activities.
- Each Regional Service Commission Board will be accountable to their member Municipal and Rural Community councils. Those councils are in turn, accountable to their taxpayers. For Local Service Districts, the Commission will be accountable to the Province which, as administrator of services in LSDs, is accountable to LSD taxpayers.
- Each Regional Service Commission will have a Board of community representation which sets direction and makes decisions for the overall Commission.
- Day-to-day decisions and responsibilities will be carried out by those employed by the Commission to manage services, either directly, or through external service-providers.²²

²² New Brunswick. Local Government and Environment, "Structure of the New Regional Service Commissions," http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/elg/local_government/content/promos/action_plan_local_governance/structure.html, accessed October 8, 2015.

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The 2012 *Regional Service Delivery Act* makes the commissions responsible for solid waste management, regional planning, and land use planning for local service districts within their jurisdiction. Prior to the creation of the RSCs, planning and development services were delivered through a different regional framework of planning district commissions, while regional solid waste commissions provided managed solid waste. The RSCs replaced both previous frameworks. Southwest New Brunswick RSC has hired staff to deal with both.

Section 5 of the Act encourages commissions to “provide its members with a forum in order to initiate cooperative action among its members” to deal with a variety of potential regional initiatives, one of which is “the development, planning and financing of regional initiatives, including common or regional sport, recreational and cultural facilities.” The current mandate of RSCs posted online by the Province of New Brunswick details a more specific role with respect to recreation related to “Regional Sport, Recreational, and Cultural Infrastructure Planning and Cost-Sharing”:

The Regional Service Commissions will be responsible for facilitating the planning and cost-sharing of major sport, recreational and cultural facilities within each of their respective regions.

The Commissions will be the entity through which Municipalities, Rural Communities and Local Service Districts come together to identify and reach consensus on the need, the scope and the financing required for such new facilities (could include the expansion / renovation of existing facilities). Such agreements could be developed by the Commissions on a fully regional or on a sub-regional basis and would cover both initial capital and ongoing operational costs. In order to secure provincial funding, the project proponents will be required to obtain support from those communities expected to benefit from the facilities.²³

The Province’s recent Recreation and Sport Policy Framework describes regional service commissions as “the entity through which Municipalities, Rural Communities and Local Service Districts come together to address recreation and sport matters of regional significance.” The document continues that commissions “can provide other services as agreed to by their member communities on either a regional (all commission members) or sub-regional basis (one or more interested members, depending on the service).”²⁴ Taken together, the pair of statements give the RSC the leading role in dealing with regional recreation issues and a potential role in local recreation service delivery where one or more RSC members may wish to draw on assistance from the Commission. The RSC, therefore, is mandated to serve the recreation needs of its members as a whole, and may take a role in the delivery of services to sub-groups of its member or to individual members as the situation demands. It may also handle components of service delivery or all aspects of recreation services dependent on the needs and wants of member communities.

²³ New Brunswick Environment and Local Government, “Mandated Services,” http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/elg/local_government/content/promos/action_plan_local_government/mandated_services.html.

²⁴ New Brunswick’s Recreation and Sport Policy Framework: Building Relationships Today for Tomorrow, August 2017, p. 22, <https://indd.adobe.com/view/c9a249ef-42d9-47cc-9a73-35cde1728266>.

5.2.3 Recreation Development Assistance

To help RSCs achieve their recreation mandate, the Province has created three funding assistance initiatives:

- **Component 1 – Planning Assistance** – Funding up to 75% of the eligible costs to a maximum of \$75,000 for regional or sub-regional planning studies including visioning and strategic planning, asset mapping, needs assessments, and recreation master planning.
- **Component 2 -- Plan Implementation Assistance** – Contribution of 75% of the full-time starting salary for a recreation professional charged to implement a “recognized planning document” (e.g., a recreation master plan or needs assessment) to a maximum contribution of \$45,000 per annum over the term of an agreement, which shall be in line with the duration of the action plan identified in a recognized planning document.
- **Component 3 – Professional Recreation Leadership Assistance** – Contribution of 50% towards a starting salary for a recreation director serving an RSC or two or municipalities within a RSC up to a maximum of \$25,000.²⁵

RSCs must apply for funding and the Province does not guarantee that all eligible applicants will receive all or any funding applied for as monetary support is obviously limited. The current Master Plan, however, received support under Component 1 of the program. The RSC will be eligible for funding for its implementation under Component 2 and/or could pursue funding for a regional recreation coordinator or director under Component 3 (as could collaborating municipal units).

5.3 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are presented as a policy framework to guide the decisions of the Southwest New Brunswick Regional Service Commission over the next five years. They are modelled on the provisions of a municipal plan. If approved by the Commission, they represent commitments to take actions that will advance the region toward specified goals of this Master Plan (i.e., the advancement of individual, environmental, and community wellness). Some of these initiatives are stated clearly in the relevant policies (e.g., the creation of a regional recreation program directory), while others will involve approval of proposals from communities within the region and/or residents of regional communities that should be assessed in relation to Master Plan goals (e.g., the assessment of proposals for major recreation facilities).

The Commission should refer to this policy framework regularly whenever contemplating recreation-related expenditures, and supporting and prioritizing recreation proposals. As with Municipal Planning documents, the preamble to each policy set should be read and given weight in conjunction with the policies themselves, as, to a lesser extent, should the preceding content of this document.

²⁵ Province of New Brunswick, “Regional Service Commission - Recreation Development Assistance,” undated handout.

5.3.1 Regional Demography

The decline in numbers of residents in the Southwest New Brunswick Region and the overall aging of the region's population present challenges and opportunities for recreation providers. Most certainly, fewer residents is a concern, as it suggests a diminished tax base and definitely means fewer potential participants to sustain recreation programs. On the other hand, fewer residents reduces pressures on existing facilities and the shift to older residents appears likely to move demand from costly indoor venues to less expensive outdoor facilities.

At the same time, it is important to remember that youth will remain an important component of the local population with a particularly strong interest in recreation facilities and programs as well as a critical role in the region's future. Declining youth participation should be addressed to maintain use of existing facilities and enhance physical skills and well-being just as participation by middle-aged and senior groups needs to be encouraged for the same reasons.

Like the national framework for recreation participation discussed in **Section 2.1** above, and the framework that the Province of New Brunswick has recently created within it (**Subsection 5.2.1**), this Recreation Master Plan should reinforce the enhancement of individual, environmental, and societal well-being as its primary goal.

In circumstances of decline, it is also important to contract services effectively. Declining numbers and the shifting age profile in the region will inevitably influence the need for some facilities and programs. Addressing these issues is always difficult; however, refusal to eliminate infrastructure and programs as needs change will compromise the broader range of needed services. To avoid this, the Commission and its members must be prepared to assess facilities and programs rationally, redeploy challenged options that still may meet a need, and close options that cannot be adapted or repositioned effectively.

- Policy 1-1 The Southwest Regional Service Commission and its members shall collaborate to provide recreation facilities and services that enhance the well-being of residents and the communities in which they live.
- Policy 1-2 The Commission shall monitor demographic change in Southwest New Brunswick with particular attention to the region's evolving age and gender profile, the needs of the mentally and physically challenged, and the distribution of population among communities in the region.
- Policy 1-2-1 The Commission shall encourage the development of recreation facilities and programs suitable to meet the needs of all age groups and persons with differing physical and mental capacities in Southwest New Brunswick.
- Policy 1-2-2 Where lack of use or participation may call into question the continuation of existing facilities and programs, the Commission and its members shall assess expected trends in participation, and work with providers to promote, adjust, or reposition facilities and programs before making decisions to close.

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Policy 1-2-3 Notwithstanding Policy 1-2-2, the Commission and its members shall reduce or eliminate facilities and programs that do not meet reasonable standards for use and participation in the interest of preserving and reallocating funds to alternative facilities and programs that better satisfy the needs of residents.

5.3.2 Facilities Development

While Southwest New Brunswick residents appear to be satisfied with the recreation facilities available within their region, maintenance, if not improvement, of current facility conditions remains critical. As well, notwithstanding general satisfaction with facilities, gaps do exist and may also appear as circumstances and interests evolve. The desire for a recreation complex in Eastern Charlotte County is an example of the former. The demand for skateparks in recent years would be an example of the latter. As new sports and activities emerge through new technologies or ingenuity, they may require new specialized facilities to support them.

The critical issues for facilities development are fundamentally market-based. Why is a proposed facility needed? Who will it serve? How much will it cost? Is funding available through support programs, taxpayers, or users that will not only pay for construction but also for ongoing operations and maintenance? Will the new facility affect the viability of similar existing facilities within the region?

It is important in these cases to answer these questions objectively. The framework for such assessment is provided by a feasibility study. An effective feasibility study will determine available market, develop costing at the conceptual level, identify funding, and compare expected revenues to costs. Proponents of major facility proposals should be required to clearly define the project they wish to pursue, identifying, at a minimum, major site and building components, and potential location or locations.

Ideally, a feasibility study should also confirm that a realistic arrangement can be achieved to ensure long-term viability identifying resources required to build, operate, and maintain the proposed facility, and revenue streams sufficient to pay for these requirements. The standard to proceed with a facility proposal should not necessarily be the ability to cover all costs. Many beneficial recreation facilities operate at a deficit (e.g., the Garcelon Centre). If communities in the Southwest New Brunswick RSC are to collaborate on the development and operation of shared facilities all participating units (municipalities and LSDs) within the district developing a facility should contribute equitably to its costs.

Policy 2-1 The Regional Service Commission with the support of its members shall maintain and annually update the recreation facility inventory contained in this Recreation Master Plan.

Policy 2-1-1 The Commission shall review its recreation facility inventory following each annual update to identify priorities for maintenance and upgrading, as well as emerging gaps in recreation facility provisions and facilities that may be deemed unnecessary that should be repositioned or decommissioned.

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- Policy 2-2 As a condition of support and funding assistance, the Commission shall require submission of a feasibility study of any recreation facility proposed within region that shall, among other matters, assess the following:
- The role of the proposed facility in terms of services to be offered and market(s) to be served.
 - The capital cost and ongoing operating costs of the facility
 - The availability of funding and revenue sufficient to cover capital and operating costs
 - The impact of the proposed facility on existing facilities within the region.
- Policy 2-2-1 When considering applications for funding to support feasibility assessment for any proposal, the Commission shall have regard to the consistency between the proposal and the priorities of this Recreation Master Plan.
- Policy 2-2-2 In addition to consistency with this Recreation Master Plan, the Commission shall have regard to the detail provided for any proposal submitted taking into account the definition of project elements, preliminary design work, and cost estimation.
- Policy 2-2-3 In keeping with Policy 2-1-1, the Commission shall not be obliged to provide or seek funding assistance for any proposal deemed not to be consistent with this Recreation Master Plan.
- Policy 2-2-4 Notwithstanding Policies 2-2-1, 2-2-2, and 2-2-3, the Commission shall receive and consider any properly prepared feasibility study from the proponent of a proposed recreation facility, although it shall not be obliged to support any such proposal wholly based on the study conclusions.
- Policy 2-2-4 The Commission shall work with its members, the Anglophone South and Anglophone West School Districts, and other organizations that own structures and facilities suitable for recreation use to maximize the availability of such assets for public recreation use.

5.3.3 Parks and Trails Development

Many community members consulted directly and through the online survey said they enjoy walking, bicycling, and ATV riding. Many also declared interests in hunting, fishing, and boating, which are important attractions within the region. While outdoor activities appeal to all age groups, they are particularly favoured by older adults and seniors, and are an important feature of local tourism. Residents appear satisfied with the supply of parks in their communities; however, many expressed a strong interest in trails.

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The Canadian Framework for Recreation prominently mentions trails as an important facility need to support healthy living and Active Transportation.²⁶ Trail development has been a high priority in nearly every recreation needs assessment and master plan that we have prepared over the past ten years. The Southwest New Brunswick Region has considerable potential for trails development given its appealing landscapes. Planning of the Coastal Trail is proceeding in parallel with this Master Plan, but a coordinated vision of regional trails development has not been developed. The Coastal Trail can form the spine of the regional network but needs to be augmented with spurs connecting to the Harvey/McAdam area and to the islands (via trails to ferry landings). The region could offer unique and attractive walking/hiking/bicycling/ATVing experiences combining coastal and inland trails with walk-on ferry use to connect to island-based trails networks such as the established trails network on Grand Manan.

Trails user groups are critical to the development and effective use of trails. We understand that there is currently no local ATV association within the region. ATV groups, in our experience, often play an important role in trail building and upkeep because their vehicles need more consistent grades and generous right-of-ways than hikers and bikers. The mixing and sharing of trails often must be reconciled between ATVers and others in the interest of safety for both groups. Effective associations to represent trail users will be very beneficial to the formulation of a regional trails plan and its effective implementation.

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Policy 3-1 | The Commission shall support and encourage the development of local trails networks in communities within the Southwest New Brunswick Region. |
| Policy 3-2 | The Commission shall support and encourage the development a regional trails network to connect major communities, ferry landings, and points of interest within the Southwest New Brunswick Region. |
| Policy 3-2-1 | Pursuant to Policy 3-2, the Commission shall prepare a regional trails plan that shall define a comprehensive system of trails connecting existing trails networks and providing safe and accessible trail options for a full range of trail users. |
| Policy 3-2-2 | The Commission shall encourage the formation of trail user groups and support their efforts to assist with the development of trails, the formulation of guidelines and regulations for trails operation and use, and the organization of trail activities and events. |

5.3.4 Regionalization

The mandate of the RSC is to promote and facilitate regional approaches to provision of local services. While the fabric of communities comprising Southwest New Brunswick reflects long-standing identities, the diverse and complex system of local service delivery in the Southwest New Brunswick region inhibits the coordinated development and management of recreation facilities.

²⁶ National Recreation Framework Working Group, *op cit.*, p. 26.

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With no community in Southwest New Brunswick having a population greater than 5,000 people, few have the capacity to build and maintain substantial recreation infrastructure on their own. As the biggest community in the region, St. Stephen has made the largest investment in recreation infrastructure and services. Others in the region avail themselves of these benefits but have not been willing to help St. Stephen cover the costs. Similarly, if the Town of St. George builds a recreation complex to serve Eastern Charlotte County, regional residents from outside the town will not be obliged to pay. Both communities have the option of levying higher fees for non-residents who make no contribution through their taxes but doing so will likely erode their user base and diminish use by residents of outside communities who are most economically challenged.

Multiple communities also increase the challenges of balancing the supply of facilities and services. If a new recreation complex is built in St. George, will it draw patrons away from the Garcelon Centre in St. Stephen with the potential outcome that both facilities will fail? From the opposite perspective, if St. Andrews were to close the W.C. O'Neil Arena because it is no longer required by the town's older population, would a new arena have to be built elsewhere in the region? While these are speculative questions for the purposes of illustration, they reflect real dilemmas that can only be resolved at the regional level. At the service level, multiple communities will inevitably duplicate each other's offerings, with similar consequences albeit at a smaller scale.

In support of their initiative to develop a recreation complex in St. George, the Eastern Charlotte Region Recreational Association prepared a well-considered summary of recreation governance issues in New Brunswick. The ultimate focus of the Association brief is cost-sharing:

There is a need to provide skilled and responsible governance and management of a recreation service to the residents and businesses regardless of boundaries. And to allow that governance based on serving subregions of the Southwest Region District: a collaborative and cooperative process between incorporated (towns, villages) and unincorporated areas (LSD's) that share a common region and history where it makes sense for all parties to participate because they all benefit directly.²⁷

The Association recommends forming "a not-for-profit recreation association which takes responsibility, for some or all, recreation facilities and is supported through property tax levies, community volunteerism, and private sponsorship applied to portions of the region." They suggest, in addition, that high school catchment areas, of which there are six (i.e., Harvey, McAdam, St. Stephen, Sir James Dunn in St. Andrews, Fundy in St. George, and Grand Manan), would provide a suitable framework for defining recreation catchment areas.

²⁷ Eastern Charlotte Region Recreational Association, "RE: Management and Governance of Recreation Facilities in Rural and Small Municipal Jurisdictions," March 1, 2018.

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A critical issue for the development of the Eastern Charlotte proposal and similar facilities intended to serve multiple local government areas is cost-sharing. A cost-sharing approach is outlined that will ensure equitable contributions from all municipalities and LSDs to facility construction and operating costs. The framework also takes into consideration use by RSC residents located outside the hosting district. Ideally, effective cost-sharing will minimize the need to charge facility users directly.

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| Policy 4-1 | The Commission shall provide a forum within which its members shall discuss, debate, and resolve regional recreation issues. |
| Policy 4-1-1 | With the support of its members, the Commission shall seek to build the capacity to provide regional recreation services to its membership as a whole. |
| Policy 4-1-2 | The Commission shall support collaborative initiatives between Commission members. |
| Policy 4-2 | The Commission and its members shall adopt or develop a framework of districts encompassing all areas of the Southwest New Brunswick Region that reflect communities of interest within which access to recreation facilities and programs is commonly shared. |
| Policy 4-2-1 | The Commission and its members in consultation with the Province of New Brunswick shall work to develop equitable methods of cost-sharing for recreation services within districts defined pursuant to Policy 4.2. |
| Policy 4-2-2 | The Commission and its members may establish district recreation sub-committees involving representatives of all incorporated and unincorporated areas within each district created pursuant to Policy 4.2. |
| Policy 4-3 | Any municipality or LSD seeking the involvement of other SWNBRSC members in the development and operation of a new recreation facility shall require the approval of the recreation sub-committee representing the district in which it is proposed to be located. |
| Policy 4-3-1 | Should a district recreation sub-committee approve a facility proposal to proceed, all participating units (municipalities and LSDs) within the district developing a facility shall contribute to its capital costs based on the proportion of the district's total property tax assessment in each unit at the close of the year preceding the year in which the facility is proposed. |
| Policy 4-3-2 | Should the operator of a facility approved under Policy 4-2 incur a deficit in any year of operation following its completion and commissioning, all taxpayers within the foregoing participating units shall share said deficit, less the share assignable to other units within the RSC pursuant to Policy 4-3-3, based on the proportion of the district's total property tax assessment measured at the close of the year preceding the year in which the deficit was incurred. |

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- Policy 4-3-3 The facility operator will be compensated by other participating units within the SWNBRSC based on the share of any operating deficit generated by a facility component or program corresponding to the proportion of all use attributable to each outside unit, based on records of use by outside residents to be maintained by the facility operator, recognizing that any users not duly recorded will be assumed to be residents of the hosting unit.
- Policy 4-3-3 Should an outside unit be unwilling to participate in the foregoing arrangement, the facility operator may impose different rates of its own choosing on residents of such a unit or, if the application of such rates is deemed unmanageable by the operator, may exclude such residents from access to the facility and/or programs provided by the operator within the facility.
- Policy 4-3-4 Any facility seeking to share costs through the foregoing mechanism shall create a facility board on which units agreeing to cost-share shall be permitted at least one member each or no more than 20% of board members, whichever is greater.
- Policy 4-4 Nothing in foregoing Policies 4-1 through 4-3 shall preclude the proponent of a facility from seeking the agreement of units outside its district to share capital costs or operating deficits.

5.3.5 Recreation Programming

Respondents to our online survey made the improvement of recreation programming their leading priority. Identifying available programs is certainly difficult. No municipality in the region posts information on programs online. Many communities list and describe available facilities, generally with booking options, but usually with no program information.

The provision of recreation programs is clearly the responsibility of Commission members as well as local not for profits and commercial recreation providers. The absence of program information is however an issue at the regional level. It has inhibited our ability to assess the distribution and adequacy of programs in the course of preparing this Master Plan. Information will also be essential if services are to be coordinated within the region. An obvious role for the RSC is to develop and maintain a catalogue of recreation programs available in the region for each season. Ideally, the Commission and its partners can work together to schedule offerings advantageously.

- Policy 5-1 The Commission and its members will work with recreation providers to document all recreation services and programs available in the Southwest New Brunswick Region.
- Policy 5-1-1 The Commission shall prepare a directory of available programs for annual or more frequent publication online and by other cost-effective means that will maximize its availability to residents of the Southwest New Brunswick Region.
- Policy 5-1-2 District recreation committees working with facility boards and other recreation providers shall assist the Commission to assemble and verify program information.

5.3.6 Recreation Staffing

The addition of recreation staff is not a high priority of residents, according to survey results presented in **Figure 4-4**, above, ranking just sixth of eight initiatives presented in the questionnaire. Small towns and rural areas such as comprise the Southwest New Brunswick Region, typically rely heavily on volunteers. The importance of volunteers is likely to continue, although changing demographics may shift the emphasis from volunteers supporting programs involving their children to older volunteers promoting activities in which they participate themselves.

The role of the RSC is to support and coordinate the recreation initiatives of its members including staffing of recreation services. The Commission can provide critical support to members by implementing this Master Plan. The Commission should apply for the support of the Province to fund this at 75% of its cost. The Commission should also be prepared to expand its recreation staff to provide support as needed by its members, taking advantage of the 50% funding available from the Province through its Professional Recreation Leadership Assistance program. Depending on member requirements, the Commission can assist with joint recreation developments and operations providing technical and administrative assistance, and coordinating volunteers at the regional level (e.g., maintaining a regional volunteer roster), or providing local recreation services on contract through district committees or directly to a local jurisdiction.

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| Policy 6-1 | The Commission with the support of its members shall apply for available funding to hire a Recreation Coordinator to implement the initiatives of this plan. |
| Policy 6-1-1 | The Commission will assist members to expand and enhance the efficiency of recreation service delivery through the engagement of recreation staff either within the Commission or as employees of collaborating members. |
| Policy 6-1-2 | Pursuant to Policy 6-1-1, the Commission shall work with its members to establish a Recreation Division with a long-term Recreation Director whose roles shall include the promotion of recreation participation, monitoring of recreation facilities and programs, facilitation of member collaboration, and coordination of program delivery. |
| Policy 6-1-3 | The Commission will work with its members to recruit, coordinate, and deploy volunteers willing to assist with the delivery of recreation services. |
| Policy 6-1-4 | Commission staff may be made available to member municipalities or LSDs on a fee for service basis sufficient to recover all direct staff costs and overheads incurred by the Commission for provision of said services. |

5.4 IMPLEMENTATION

The Southwest New Brunswick Regional Service Commission is a new organization. It is part of a new approach to local service delivery across the province. The service commission framework is expected to coordinate service delivery to encourage collaboration, reduce duplication, and harness economies of scale.

The *Regional Service Delivery Act* that established the regional service commission framework in New Brunswick permits commissions to take on a wide variety of local service delivery responsibilities with the support of their members. The commissions are new organizations that must grow into roles that their members will gradually define. The eventual scope of responsibility taken on by the SWNBRSC and other commissions will depend on performance.

5.4.1 Governance Framework

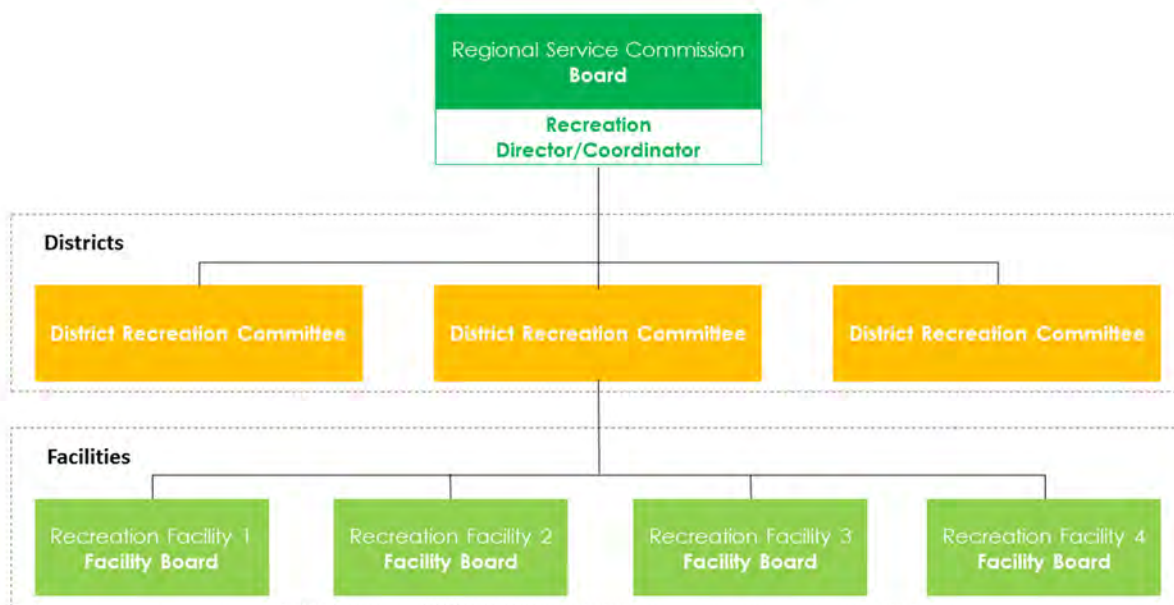
Foregoing policies recognize the current inexperience of the Commission in the recreation field. Their objective is to develop a coordinating framework in which the Commission will work with its members to establish and implement a regional approach to recreation service delivery. While the role of the Commission in overseeing this recreation master planning process is self-evident, the further involvement of the Commission in recreation service delivery will require additional resources and support from the Commission members, which is alluded to in many of the foregoing policy statements.

The Master Plan supports the engagement of a qualified recreation professional to implement this plan, taking advantage of the financial support currently being offered by the Province of New Brunswick. In time, policies anticipate that this position will transition to a long-term Recreation Coordinator or Director, who will oversee the delivery of recreation services. The immediate services we anticipate are management of recreation facilities development through continued maintenance of the recreation facilities inventory and oversight of future regional recreational facilities developments (e.g., trails plan and facility feasibility assessment), as well as coordination of recreational programming across the region through preparation of and ongoing maintenance of a regional recreation program directory.

The ultimate goal of this Master Plan is to enhance the wellness of Southwest New Brunswick residents and their communities. The means is to build a regional approach by strengthening the RSC to overcome the barriers to collaboration that currently inhibit recreation development within the towns, villages, municipalities, and LSDs comprising the Southwest New Brunswick region. **Figure 5-2** illustrates the governance structure we are proposing to promote cooperation under the SWNBRSC umbrella.

In addition to the engagement of a recreation director or coordinator by the RSC to handle recreation service responsibilities, we envision the formation of a district framework, represented hypothetically in the figure by three district committees. If the high school catchment model suggested by the Eastern Charlotte Region Recreational Association is adopted there would be six districts unless it is expedient to consolidate one or more catchments. The director/coordinator and his staff would support each district committee conducting research and analysis, maintaining records, and otherwise ensuring each committee functions effectively.

Figure 5-2 Proposed Regional Recreation Governance Structure, Southwest New Brunswick RSC



Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Whereas the RSC Board is restricted to municipal mayors and select representatives from LSDs, we would anticipate district committees to include at least one representative from each component local jurisdiction regardless of municipal status. In any case, a minimum of three members and a maximum of eight would be appropriate to ensure positive group and voting dynamics. Considering the RSC is comprised of 23 separate areas, four to six districts should have committee representatives from four to six areas. One representative per area should ensure suitable numbers on each district committee, although it would be reasonable to have two representatives from larger municipalities that manage substantial recreation infrastructure (i.e., St. Stephen, St. Andrews, St. George, Grand Manan, and, possibly, McAdam, although McAdam does not currently provide any substantial facilities).

Each committee, in turn, will provide a forum for discussing recreation needs within its area and will represent district interests to the RSC. The committees will also be responsible for regional facilities within their district. Regional facilities and parks can be defined as those “designed to serve a broad area that generally includes several local government jurisdictions.”²⁸ Current regional facilities include:

²⁸ Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan, Village of Waunakee, Wisconsin, adopted December 7, 2009, p. 7, <http://www.vil.waunakee.wi.us/documentcenter/view/512>

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- Garcelon Civic Centre Arena and Pool, St. Stephen
- W.C. O'Neill Arena Complex and Theater, St. Andrews
- Magaguadavic Place, St. George
- Patrick Connors Recreation Complex, Blacks Harbour
- Grand Manan Community Arena, Grand Manan.

The Border Arena would also have been a regional facility when it was in use. Other facilities and parks, particularly specialized facilities such as the St. Stephen Curling Club or the Algonquin Golf Course in St. Andrews, could, arguably, also be designated as regional facilities. On the other hand, it is equally arguable that the Grand Manan Arena is not a regional facility given its isolation on the island, although it is clearly the most significant recreation facility among the islands.

District committee's will bring together the primary communities that facilities of this type serve, recognizing that additional communities outside the districts will typically provide a secondary market. The district committees will formulate and approve policy, and coordinate cost-sharing for each facility with support from RSC recreation staff. They will also be the primary forum for vetting proposals for new regional facilities.

The facilities themselves can be built and managed using a variety of models. As the Eastern Charlotte Region Recreation Committee suggested, not for profit organizations have worked well in this role, particularly for large facilities. Not for profit operators can be purpose created organizations based in the region or national organizations like the Y that can be engaged as operators and will bring the benefits of experience gained through managing many facilities around the world. Organizations might also be formed within the region to operate one facility such as an arena or several facilities such as all arenas in the region. Alternatively, operation using municipal staff as St. Stephen is currently doing with the Garcelon Centre and other municipalities are doing with their facilities is a reasonable approach. In the proposed model, though, we would anticipate other municipalities and LSDs in the region will contribute to regional facility operations in proportion to their capacity and/or the level of use by their residents. Undoubtedly, recreation facility management in the region will continue to involve a mix of both municipal and not for profit management.

The board for each facility should meet similar parameters to the district committees with three to eight representatives drawn from jurisdictions sharing capital and operating costs. Each contributing entity should have one representative on the facility board. The hosting jurisdiction might be assigned additional representatives. If the hosting jurisdiction is also the operator, it might be represented by at least half of all representatives. Such questions would have to be addressed at the formation of each facility board in relation to the number of jurisdictions involved, and the nature of facility ownership and operation.

5.4.2 Five-year Plan

Implementation of Master Plan recommendations should proceed over the five years from 2018 through 2022 as set out in **Table 5-1**. Actions are, admittedly, front-loaded. The first two years of implementation will focus on creating the regional governance framework described above. Citizen input through consultation meetings and the online survey does not suggest a need to undertake substantial new projects. Residents support trails development and it is well underway with the Coastal Trail Feasibility Study, which appears likely to be completed simultaneous with this Master Plan. Interest in a recreation facility to serve Eastern Charlotte is equally clear. The recommended framework should be applied to respond to both issues.

Both potential projects should be evaluated within the proposed framework. Additional trails development is a regional challenge requiring engagement of the RSC as a whole. The Eastern Charlotte proposal will be implemented at the district level, although it can be expected to have implications beyond the limits of the Fundy High School catchment, if that is determined to be the suitable district for recreation service delivery. The framework will ensure appropriate evaluation of each initiative leading to a collective decision to proceed or not in each case. Decisions to proceed will require the development of project plans to be executed in the latter years of the five-year timeframe to which this Master Plan shall apply and beyond. Additional initiatives may also come forward during the period and the governance framework should likewise provide the mechanisms to evaluate proposals and determine the most appropriate course of action.

Successful implementation of Master Plan recommendations over the coming five years should lay the foundation for regional recreation service delivery in Southwest New Brunswick. We are conscious in making these recommendations that the regional service commission approach is intended to support flexibility. Many solutions may solve similar problems. The governance framework we are proposing details the regional structure. We encourage the members of the SWNBRSC to develop approaches that will work for them to develop and manage facilities and services that will meet the needs, satisfy the interests, and encourage the participation of their constituents to promote the health and well-being of citizens across the region.

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Table 5-1 Five-year Master Plan Initiatives

Year	Action	Comments
2018	Adopt this Recreation Master Plan	Establish framework for subsequent decision-making
	Complete Coastal Trails Plan	Completion expected February 2018
	Study and determine an appropriate framework for defining recreation districts within the Southwest New Brunswick Region.	High school catchment areas suggested
	Assist Eastern Charlotte Recreation Association to undertake a study to determine the feasibility of a recreation facility in Eastern Charlotte	Funding available to engage consulting support
2018-	Review and update the recreation facility inventory, including condition ratings	Ongoing annually
2019	Prepare Regional Trails Development Master Plan	
	Establish district recreation committees	Based on framework approved in 2018
	Hire Recreation Director/Coordinator	Contingent on funding
2019-	Create regional recreation program guide	Ongoing annually
2020	Establish representative facility boards for all regional recreation facilities within each district deemed to require cost-sharing	
	Initiate Regional Trails Development Master Plan	
	Implement recommendation concerning Eastern Charlotte Recreation Facility	Recommendation may be against proceeding. Positive recommendation will first entail fund-raising
2022	Review, revise, and update this Recreation Master Plan	

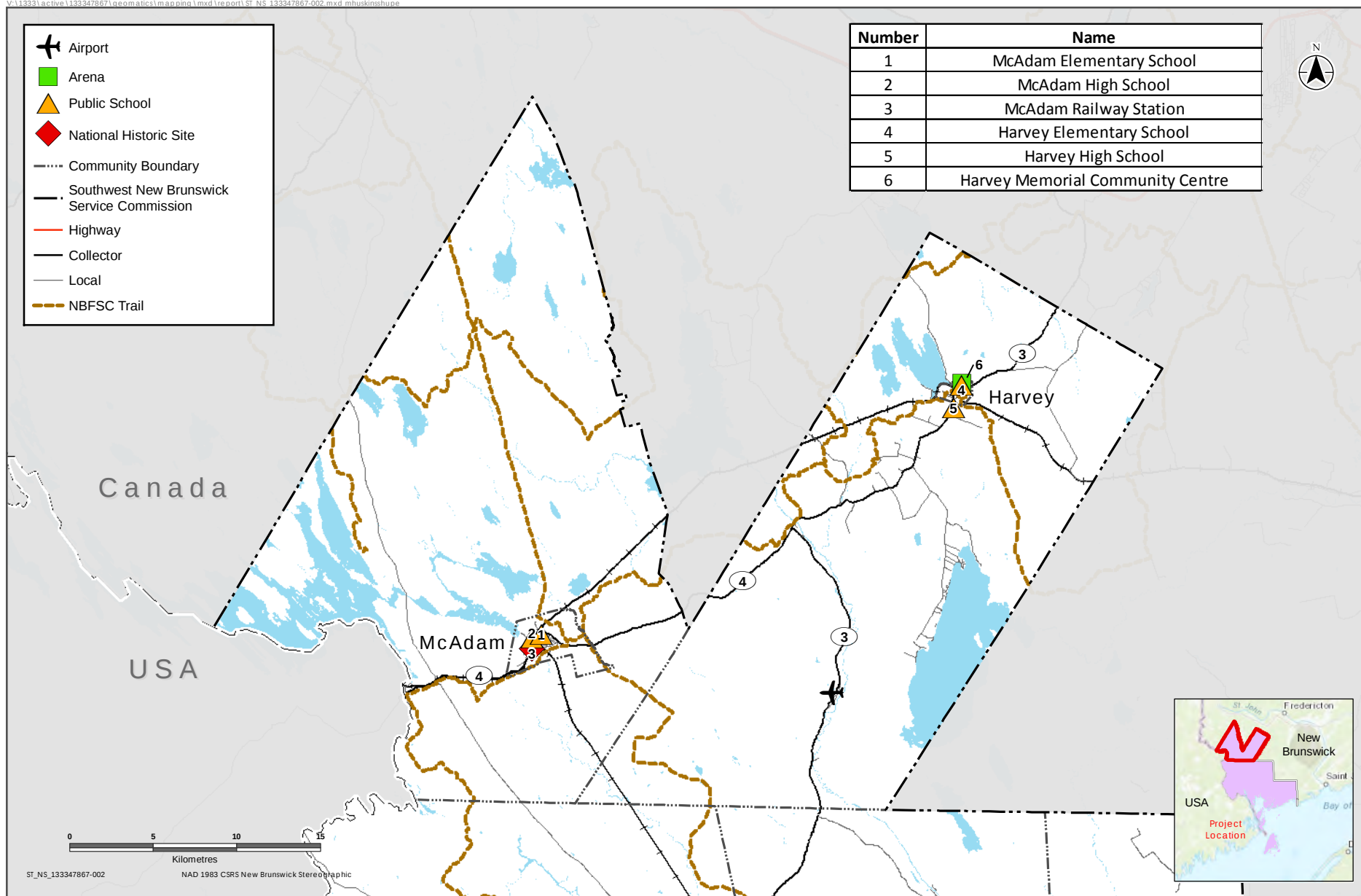
Source Stantec Consulting Ltd.

Appendix A FACILITIES MAPPING

ID	Place Name	Community	General Conditions	Product Offerings	Level of Service	Overall	Rank (Overall)
1-1	McAdam Elementary School	McAdam	3.6	3.3	3.5	3.5	61
1-2	McAdam High School	McAdam	3.7	3.8	4.0	3.8	24
1-3	McAdam Railway Station (Canadian Pacific)	McAdam	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.2	7
1-4	Harvey Elementary School	Harvey Station	3.5	3.9	3.5	3.6	48
1-5	Harvey High School	Harvey Station	3.3	3.7	3.5	3.5	63
1-6	Harvey Memorial Community Centre	Harvey Station	3.4		3.0	3.2	77
2-1	Lawrence Station Elementary School	Lawrence Station	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.5	60
2-2	St Stephen Golf Course	St. Stephen	3.1	4.3	3.5	3.6	49
2-3	Back Bay Elementary School	Back Bay	2.7	2.4	3.0	2.6	98
2-4	Canal Beach and Playground	Lake Utopia	3.3	3.3	3.5	2.8	95
2-6	St. George Golf Course	Lake Utopia	3.8	3.5	3.0	3.4	68
2-7	Pennfield Elementary School	Pennfield	2.3	1.7	2.0	2.0	104
3-1	Milltown Elementary School	St. Stephen	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.6	52
3-2	St. Stephen Elementary School	St. Stephen	3.3	3.8	3.5	3.5	54
3-3	St. Stephen Middle School	St. Stephen	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.8	22
3-4	St. Stephen High School	St. Stephen	3.4	3.6	4.0	3.7	43
3-5	St. Stephen Post Office	St. Stephen	4.0		4.0	4.0	13
3-6	Elm Park	St. Stephen	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.5	66
3-7	John E. "Jake" Donahue Memorial Park	St. Stephen	3.6	3.8	4.0	3.8	28
3-8	Tennis Courts	St. Stephen	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.7	40
3-9	Memorial Park	St. Stephen	3.0	3.9	4.0	3.6	44
3-10	Cotton Mill Basketball Court	St. Stephen	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	56
3-11	W.T. Booth Centennial Swimming Pool	St. Stephen	4.0	4.4	5.0	4.5	4
3-12	Milltown Ballfield and Soccer Pitch	St. Stephen	3.3	3.5	4.0	3.6	50
3-14	Cotton Mill Park	St. Stephen	3.8	4.3	4.0	4.0	11
3-15	Salmon Falls Park	St. Stephen	3.6	3.5	4.0	3.7	39
3-16	Cotton Mill Workers Monument	St. Stephen	3.8	4.3	4.0	4.0	11
3-17	Dover Hill Park	St. Stephen	3.6	3.4	4.0	3.7	41
3-18	Kiwanis Park	St. Stephen	1.9	1.9	1.0	1.6	106
3-19	Cove Park	St. Stephen	2.6	3.3	3.5	3.1	80
3-20	Elm Street Nature Park	St. Stephen	2.5	3.3	3.0	3.0	88
3-21	Gateway Park	St. Stephen	3.6		4.0	3.8	25
3-22	Cenotaph Park	St. Stephen	3.4			3.4	68
3-23	Rotary Playing Field	St. Stephen	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.3	70
3-24	PIP Ball Diamond	St. Stephen	3.6	4.0	3.5	3.7	36
3-25	St. Stephen Curling Club	St. Stephen	2.5		2.5	2.5	100
3-26	David Alison Ganong Chocolate Park	St. Stephen	3.4	4.0	4.0	3.8	26
3-27	McGeachy (FAN) Fields	St. Stephen	3.3	4.0	4.0	3.8	30
3-28	Tennis Courts	St. Stephen	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.1	82

3-29	Rod Wilson Field	St. Stephen	3.1	4.0	4.0	3.7	34
3-30	Border Area Community Arena	St. Stephen	2.6	4.0	2.5	3.0	83
3-31	Arena Field	St. Stephen	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	84
3-32	Time and Universe Sculpture and Waterfront Park	St. Stephen	3.4	3.8	4.5	3.9	18
3-33	Garcelon Civic Centre Arena	St. Stephen	5.0		5.0	5.0	1
3-34	Garcelon Civic Centre Pool	St. Stephen	5.0		5.0	5.0	1
4-1	Vincent Massey Elementary School	St. Andrews	3.5	3.8	4.0	3.8	29
4-2	Sir James Dunn Academy	St. Andrews	3.3	3.5	3.0	3.1	81
4-3	St. Andrews Blockhouse	St. Andrews	3.4	3.3	3.0	2.9	89
4-4	Greenock Church	St. Andrews	3.3		4.0	3.6	46
4-5	Charlotte County Court House	St. Andrews	2.7	2.0	4.0	2.9	92
4-7	Minister's Island	St. Andrews	3.0	3.4	4.0	3.5	65
4-9	Fundy Discovery Aquarium	St. Andrews	3.6	4.0	4.0	3.9	20
4-10	Algonquin Golf Course	St. Andrews	4.2	4.5	4.0	4.2	6
4-11	Centennial Park	St. Andrews	3.5	3.0		3.3	74
4-12	Heather Curling Club	St. Andrews	3.8	4.0	4.0	3.9	17
4-13	W.C. O'Neill Arena Complex and Theater	St. Andrews	3.7	3.7	4.0	3.8	21
4-14	St Andrews Youth Centre	St. Andrews	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.1	79
4-15	Public Tennis Courts	St. Andrews	4.1	4.5	4.0	3.9	15
4-16	Outdoor Pool	St. Andrews	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.4	67
4-18	Katy's Cove Saltwater Beach and Playground	St. Andrews	3.5	3.8	4.0	3.8	31
4-20	St Andrews Creative Playground	St. Andrews					#N/A
4-21	Park	St. Andrews	2.8	3.5	3.5	3.2	77
4-22	Picnic Park	St. Andrews	3.7	4.0	3.5	3.7	42
4-23	Pagan Point Nature Reserve	St. Andrews		4.0		4.0	13
4-24	Celtic Cross Picnic Area	St. Andrews	4.2	4.3	4.0	4.2	9
4-25	Harry Mallory Sport Field	St. Andrews	3.6	4.0		3.7	38
5-1	St. George Elementary School	St. George	4.2	3.2	4.0	3.8	23
5-2	Fundy High School	St. George	3.7	3.3		3.5	55
5-3	Victory Band Stand	St. George	3.6	4.0	3.5	3.7	35
5-4	Skate Park (Magaguadavic Place)	St. George	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.5	3
5-5	Thompson Field(Magaguadavic Place)	St. George	3.7	3.0	4.0	3.9	16
5-6	Playground (Magaguadavic Place)	St. George	4.0	4.5	4.0	4.2	7
5-7	Tennis Court	St. George	2.6	3.0	3.0	2.9	93
5-8	Eagle Nest	St. George	3.5	2.5	4.0	3.2	76
5-9	Picnic Park	St. George	3.4	2.5	4.0	3.5	64
5-10	Gypsy Rest Park	St. George	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.0	85
6-1	Blacks Harbour School and Playground	Blacks Harbour	4.3	3.1	4.0	3.7	33
6-2	Connors Bros. Nature Preserve at Pea Point	Blacks Harbour	3.5	3.0		3.3	74
6-4	Blacks Harbour Municipal Park	Blacks Harbour	4.4	3.5	4.5	4.1	10
6-5	Blacks Harbour Community Garden (former Tennis Court) and Playground	Blacks Harbour	3.6	2.3	4.0	3.3	71
6-6	Mill Brook Park	Blacks Harbour	3.8		3.0	3.6	52

6-7	Patrick Connors Recreation Complex	Blacks Harbour	3.2		4.0	3.7	32
6-8	Dr. A.M.A. McLean Memorial Field	Blacks Harbour	3.4	4.0	3.5	3.6	46
6-9	Wellington Road Playground	Blacks Harbour	2.4	3.0	3.0	2.6	99
6-10	Main Street Park	Blacks Harbour	2.3	2.3	3.0	2.6	97
7-1	Deer Island Community School	Deer Island	3.1	3.8	4.0	3.6	45
7-2	Campobello Island Consolidated School	Campobello Island	3.1	2.8	4.0	3.5	62
7-3	Grand Manan Community School	Grand Manan	3.5	2.5	4.0	3.3	72
7-4	Seal Cove Smoked Herring Stands	Grand Manan					N/A
7-5	White Head Cove Elementary School	Grand Manan	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.2	103
7-6	Swallowtail Lighthouse Trail	Grand Manan	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	86
7-7	Net Point Trail	Grand Manan	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.9	90
7-8	Whale to Whistle Lighthouse Trail Section	Grand Manan	3.0	3.0	4.0	3.3	72
7-9	Hole in the Wall Trail	Grand Manan	2.7	3.0	3.0	2.9	90
7-10	Flock of Sheep Trail	Grand Manan	2.6	5.0	3.0	3.5	57
7-11	Castalia Marsh Trail	Grand Manan	3.2	4.5	4.0	3.9	19
7-12	Anchorage Provincial Park	Grand Manan	3.5	3.0	4.0	3.5	57
7-13	Grand Manan Community Arena	Grand Manan	3.5	4.0	4.0	3.8	27
7-14	Brookside Golf Course	Grand Manan	2.3	3.0	3.0	2.8	94
7-15	Alexandria Park	Grand Manan	3.2	2.7	3.0	3.0	86
7-16	Stanley Beach	Grand Manan	4.0	3.0	4.0	3.7	36
7-17	Windsor Park	Grand Manan	3.0	2.0	3.0	2.7	96
7-18	Castalia Ball Diamond/Herb MacCauley Memorial Field	Grand Manan	2.3	2.0	3.0	2.4	101
7-19	Victoria Park / Grand Manan Swimming Pool	Grand Manan	3.7	3.0	4.0	3.6	51
7-20	Grand Manan Curling Club	Grand Manan	1.5	3.0	1.0	1.8	105
7-21	Whitehead Elementary School	Whitehead Island	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	57
Averages			3.3	3.4	3.6	3.5	



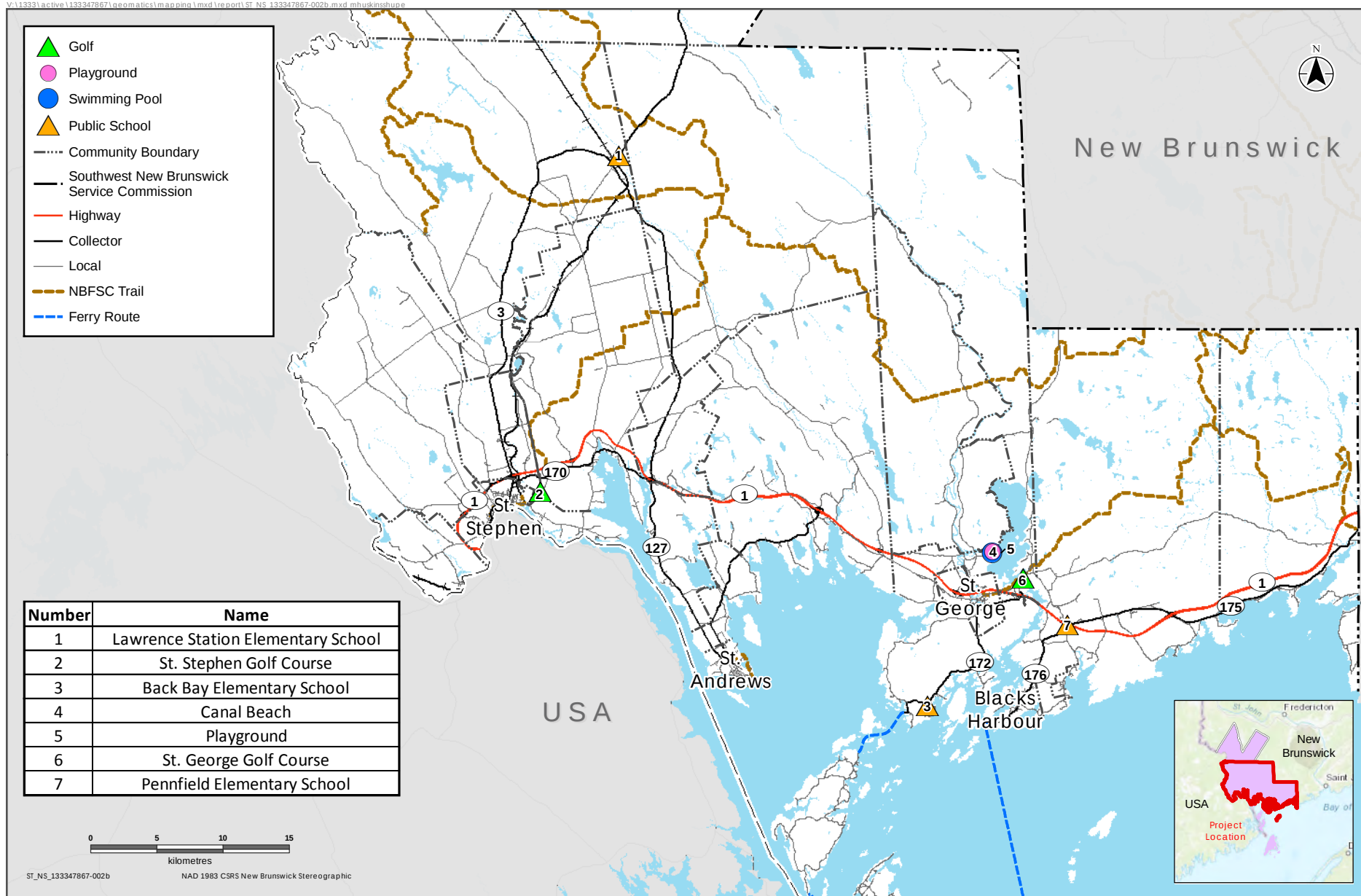
Sources: Government of New Brunswick

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McAdam - Manners Sutton



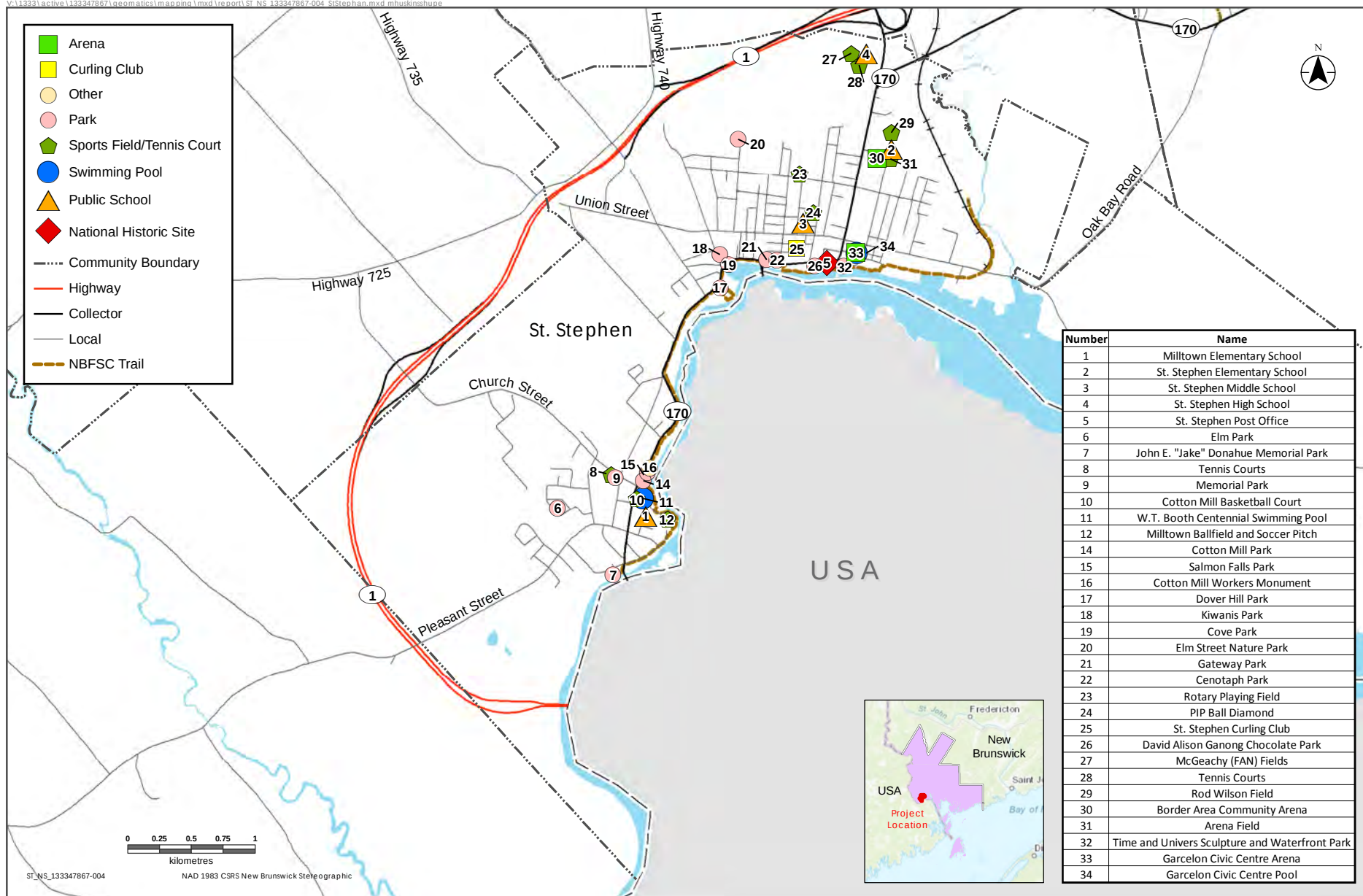


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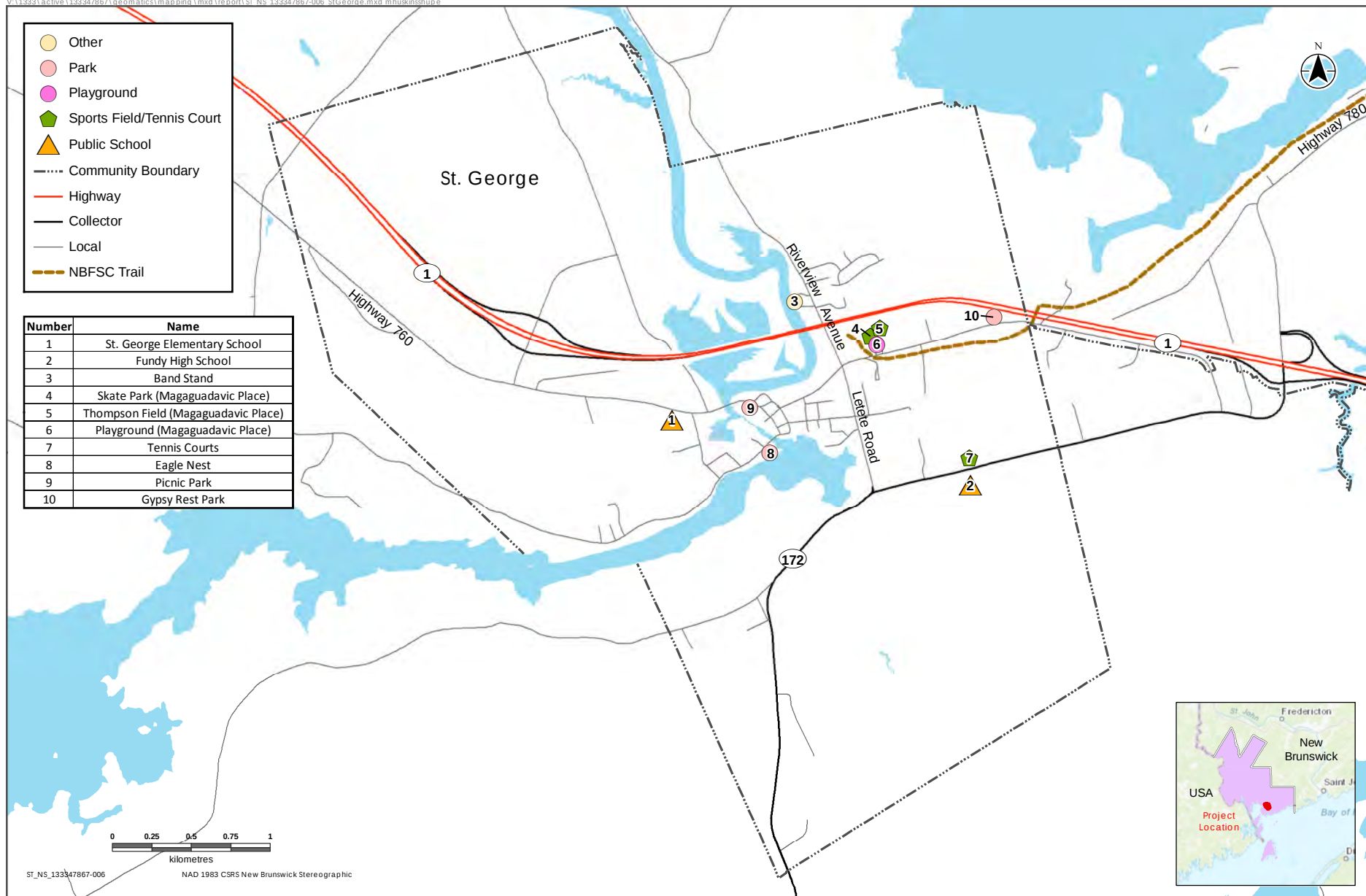


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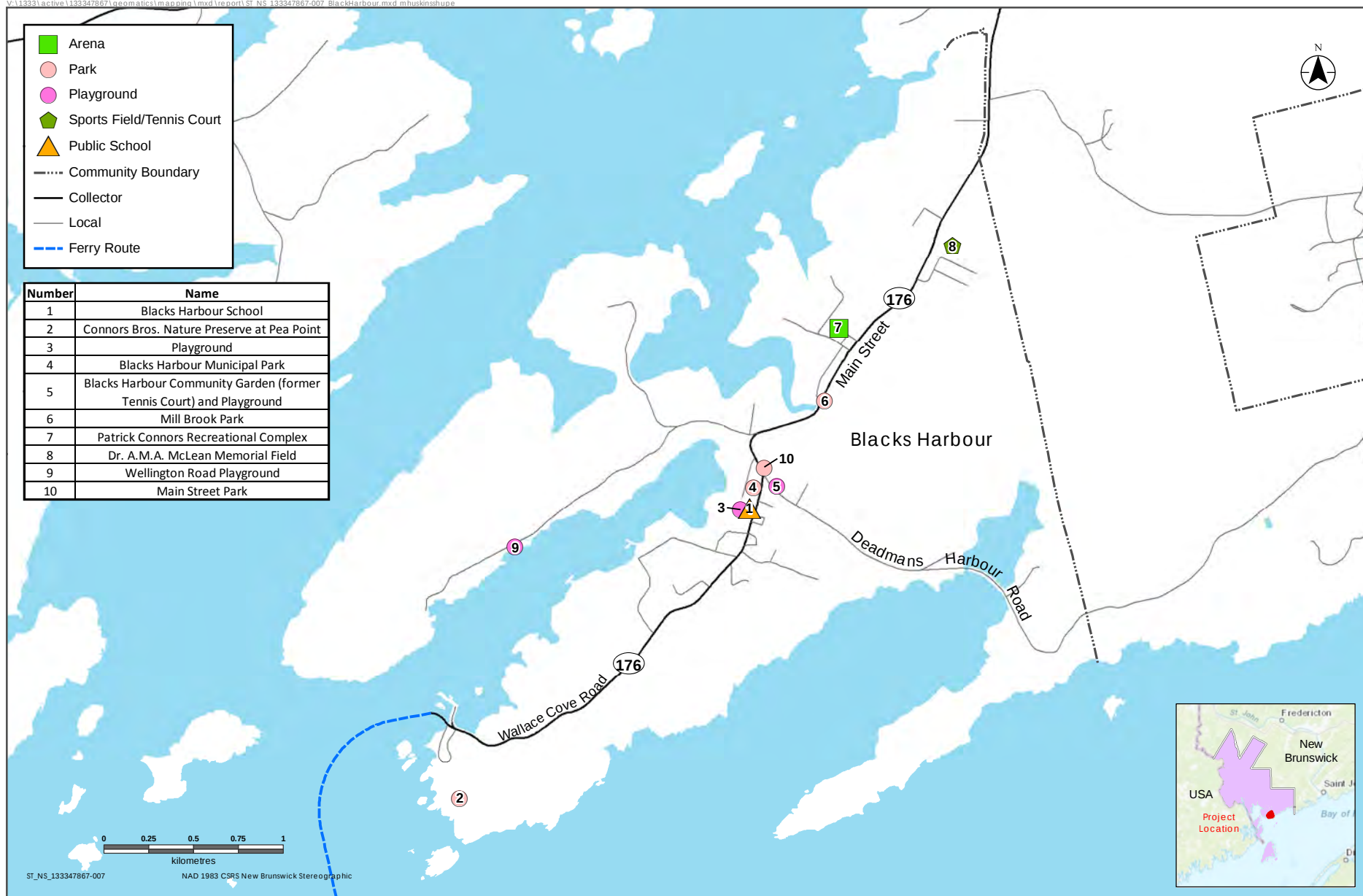


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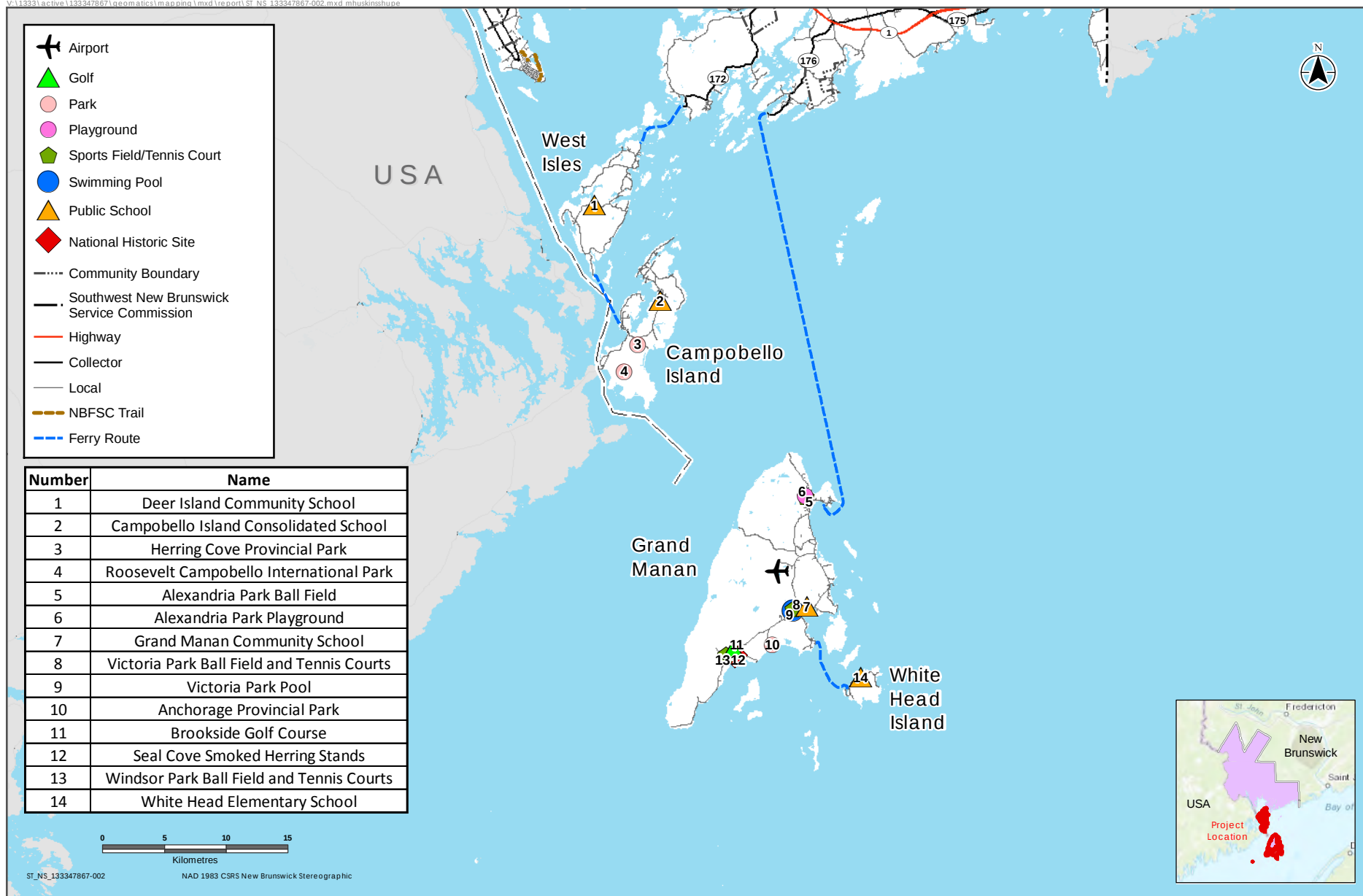


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West Isles- White Head Island

Appendix B INTERVIEW SUMMARY

INTERVIEW SUBJECTS

1. Adam Hatt, Councillor and Recreation Committee member, Village of Blacks Harbour
2. Angela McLean, CAO, Town of St. Andrews
3. Bill Conley, Owner, Martial Arts School, Blacks Harbour
4. Chris Rayner, Recreation Coordinator, Grand Manan
5. Crystal Cook, Mayor, Town of St. George
6. Doug Rowlands, Chair, SWNB Regional Commission Recreation Committee
7. Gary Christie, Resident, Charlotte County
8. Greg Evans, Chair, Recreation Committee, Village of Blacks Harbour
9. Heather Bell-Williams, Principal, Milltown Elementary
10. David Gray, CAO, Village of Blacks Harbour
11. Heather Hatt, Regional Service Commission member, Chair, Fundy Bay LSD
12. John Hough, Race Director, International Marathon
13. Keith Turner, Charlotte County Activity Centre
14. Kim Reeder, Seniors Advocate
15. Mike O'Connell, Director of Parks and Recreation, Town of St. Stephen
16. Phil Chisholm, Chair, Recreation Committee, Town of St. Stephen
17. Raymond Funk, Community Coordinator, Town of St. Stephen
18. Scott Boyd, Area Coordinator, Town of St. George
19. Shelly Scott, Manager, Gagnon Nature Park
20. Tracy Craig, Resident, Lake Utopia

Southwest New Brunswick Regional Recreation Master Plan Stakeholder Interview Summary

What is your role in recreation service provision in the Southwest New Brunswick Region?

Stantec completed twenty interviews. Subjects were largely drawn from the Regional Service Commission's Recreation Committee. Subjects included leading political representatives, municipal administrators, recreation staff members, and community volunteers. All interview subjects brought a measure of expertise. Many have deep knowledge of the Southwest New Brunswick region and the issues it faces.

The following provides consensus responses to interview questions posed by Stantec for the stakeholder interviewing process undertaken for this assignment. It does not reflect every response given. It generalizes many responses to reflect, in the opinion of responsible Stantec staff, the predominant view or, in some cases, interesting views that we referenced in developing our analysis and formulating recommendations from this project.

How would you rate the Region in terms of the following:

Feature	Quantity	Quality	Operations and Maintenance
Parks and open spaces	General satisfaction with number and quality of parks and open space areas. Interviewees from eastern Charlotte County suggested they have less. St. Stephen, on the other hand, is over-supplied and looking to reduce parks area.	No substantive criticisms	General satisfaction with O & M but some concerns with costs
Trails networks	Recognition of many trails	Lack of connection among trails and inconsistent quality	Clear concerns with inconsistent maintenance
Built recreation facilities (arenas, gyms, etc.)	Good facilities in schools but hard to access. St. Stephen is well-equipped but Border Arena needs to be re-positioned and adapted. St. Stephen is building a new skate park.	Vary from new, modern Garcelon Centre to old arenas like Blacks Harbour. Old arenas (Blacks Harbour, St. Andrews) need updating. Magaguadavic Centre in St. George is good for cultural events but limited for recreation. No pool in the east.	Running deficits to operate. Costs must be borne by taxpayers. Blacks Harbour has curling facility in rink that is inactive. Issues with cooperation from schools. All gyms are in schools. Limited access (can book on weekends for fees, nothing on holidays. Available in summer for fee, which is not cost effective).
Programming	Mixed responses. Acknowledged not to be a priority by St. Stephen staff. Elsewhere, it does not seem well-coordinated or professional.	Not well-targeted to user groups.	

Professional recreation staff	Capable recreation staff in St. Stephen but generally lacking elsewhere.	Recreation staff are good where they are in place but many areas lack personnel at all	
Volunteer contributions	General satisfaction with volunteer effort.	Some concern that volunteer motivation is attached to their children.	
Other	There are facilities but regional organization/coordination is lacking.	Many opportunities for water-borne recreation but little organization. Access is an issue.	Need to identify needs in sub-regions (RFP requirement)

What, from your perspective, are the main recreation issues in the Southwest New Brunswick Region?

- Recreation facilities are out of step with evolving demographics. The local population is aging and facilities like arenas do not meet their needs. The facilities themselves, furthermore, are old. The need refurbishment/upgrading, without which they are costly to run.
- Facilities are lacking in east Charlotte County.
- Sharing facilities (a regional approach) is critical. Lack of information on recreation opportunities across the region. Municipalities don't promote facilities.
- Availability of transportation and lack of funding diminish access to facilities.
- Need additional facilities, especially in the east. Funding required to meet these needs.
- Not innovative or imaginative. Not capitalizing on outdoor recreation opportunities.

Are there any projects that you consider critical to addressing the recreational needs of the Region? Why do you consider them important?

- Skate park in Blacks Harbour
- Large multi-purpose Wellness Centre in St. George
- Wellness Centre in Grand Manan
- Meeting hall in St. Andrews
- Coastal Trail (St. Stephen to Saint John)

-
- Southern ATV connections
 - Turf rec./soccer field
 - Dedicated space for arts and culture activities
 - Develop outdoor recreation opportunities (St. Croix River)
 - Coordination/regional evaluation of potential facility additions.

What about projects that primarily address the needs of specific communities within the Region?

- St. Andrews is seeking age friendly community designation from World Health Organization
- Lack of accommodations (hotel rooms, restaurants) on Grand Manan
- Lack of information on outdoor recreation opportunities
- Lack of arts and culture facilities

Are there any projects that have been discussed for the Region or a local community that you feel should be avoided? Why do you consider them unsuitable?

- St. George multi-purpose facility needs careful consideration
- Old marina in St. Stephen
- A second pool

What specific results would you like to see from the Recreation Master Plan process?

- Regional Committee to coordinate recreation development and service delivery
 - Inventory of facilities including their condition
 - Improved communication in the Region
 - Benchmarking against other communities
-

-
- Improved funding
 - Framework for/targeting of facility development/service development
 - Analysis of changing demographics
 - Vision/goals (attached to sound/broad definition of recreation)
 - Highlight, promote and develop outdoor recreation activities
 - Action Plan
 - Meet RFP specifications

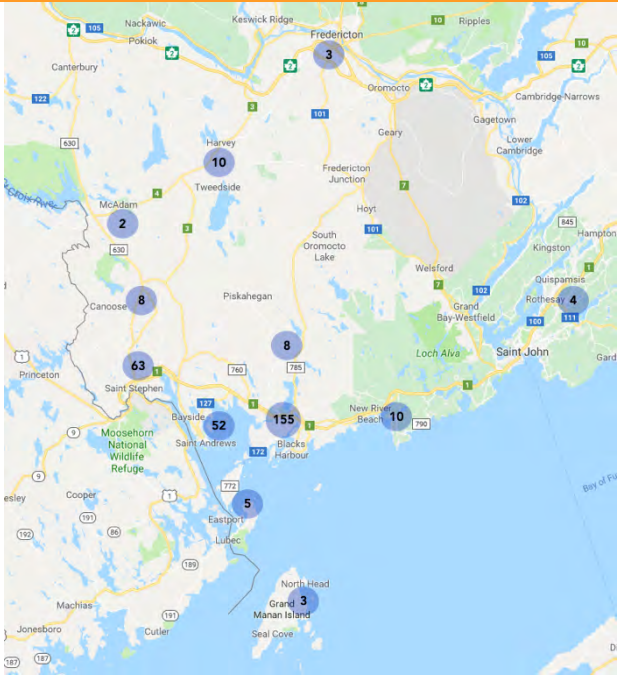
Do you have an additional thoughts or comments on recreation facilities and services in your community?

- A regional approach is needed (overcome geographic barriers, silos, iconoclasm)
 - Need an accurate needs assessment (consult with the public)
 - Need to increase communication/usage of existing facilities
-

Appendix C ONLINE SURVEY SUMMARY

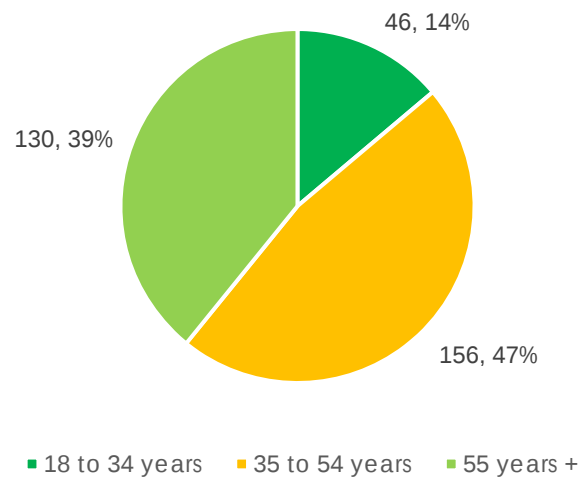
Q.1 What is your postal code?

	Count	%
Fredericton	3	0.9%
McAdam	2	0.6%
Canoose	8	2.5%
Saint Stephen	63	19.6%
Second Falls	8	2.5%
St. Andrews	52	16.2%
Campobello	5	1.6%
Grand Manan	3	0.9%
Lake Utopia	8	2.5%
St. George	155	48.3%
Blacks Harbour	10	3.1%
Saint John	4	1.2%
TOTAL	321	100.0%



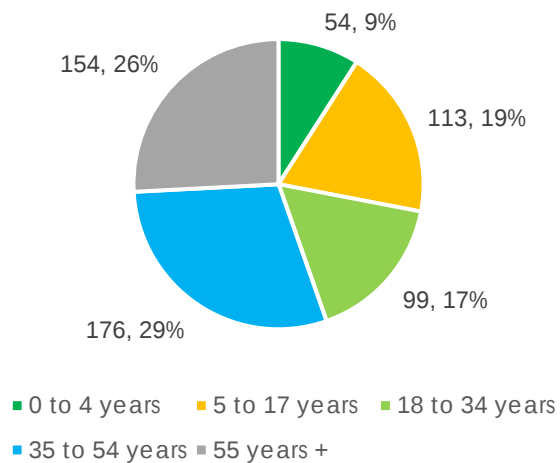
Q.2 To which age group do you belong?

	Count	%
18 to 34 years	46	13.9%
35 to 54 years	156	47.0%
55 years +	130	39.2%
TOTAL	332	100.0%

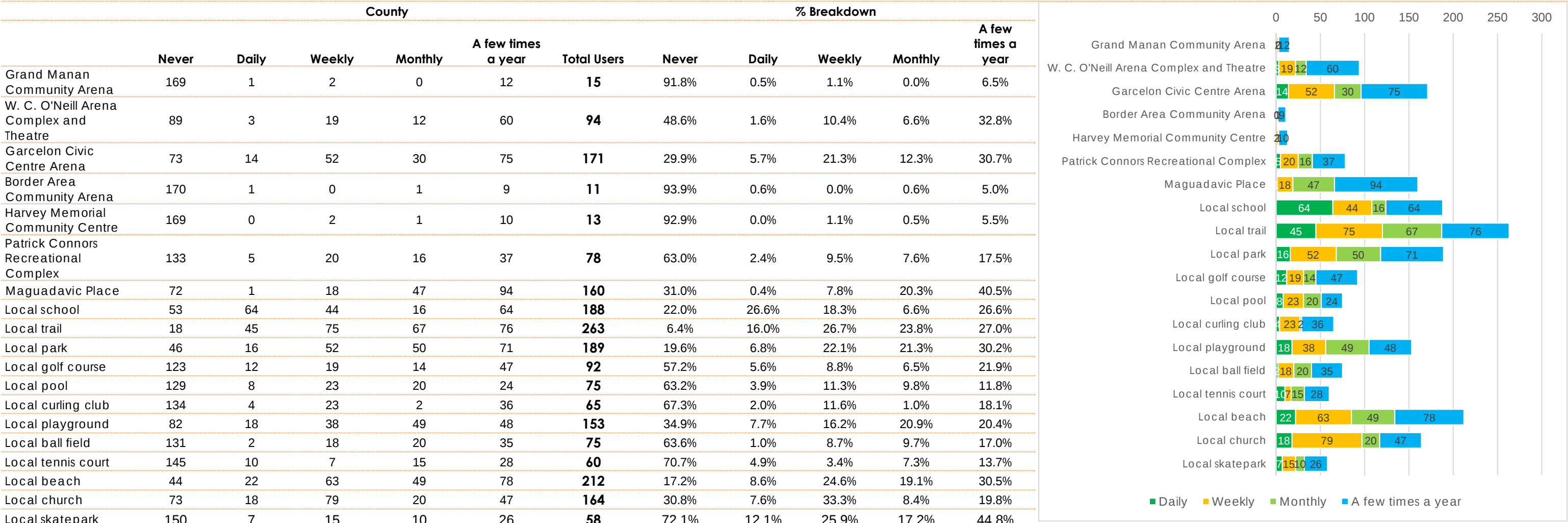


Q.3 How many people in your household are in each of the following age groups?

	Count	%
0 to 4 years	54	9.1%
5 to 17 years	113	19.0%
18 to 34 years	99	16.6%
35 to 54 years	176	29.5%
55 years +	154	25.8%
TOTAL	596	100.0%



Q.4 With what frequency do members of your household use the following recreation facilities?

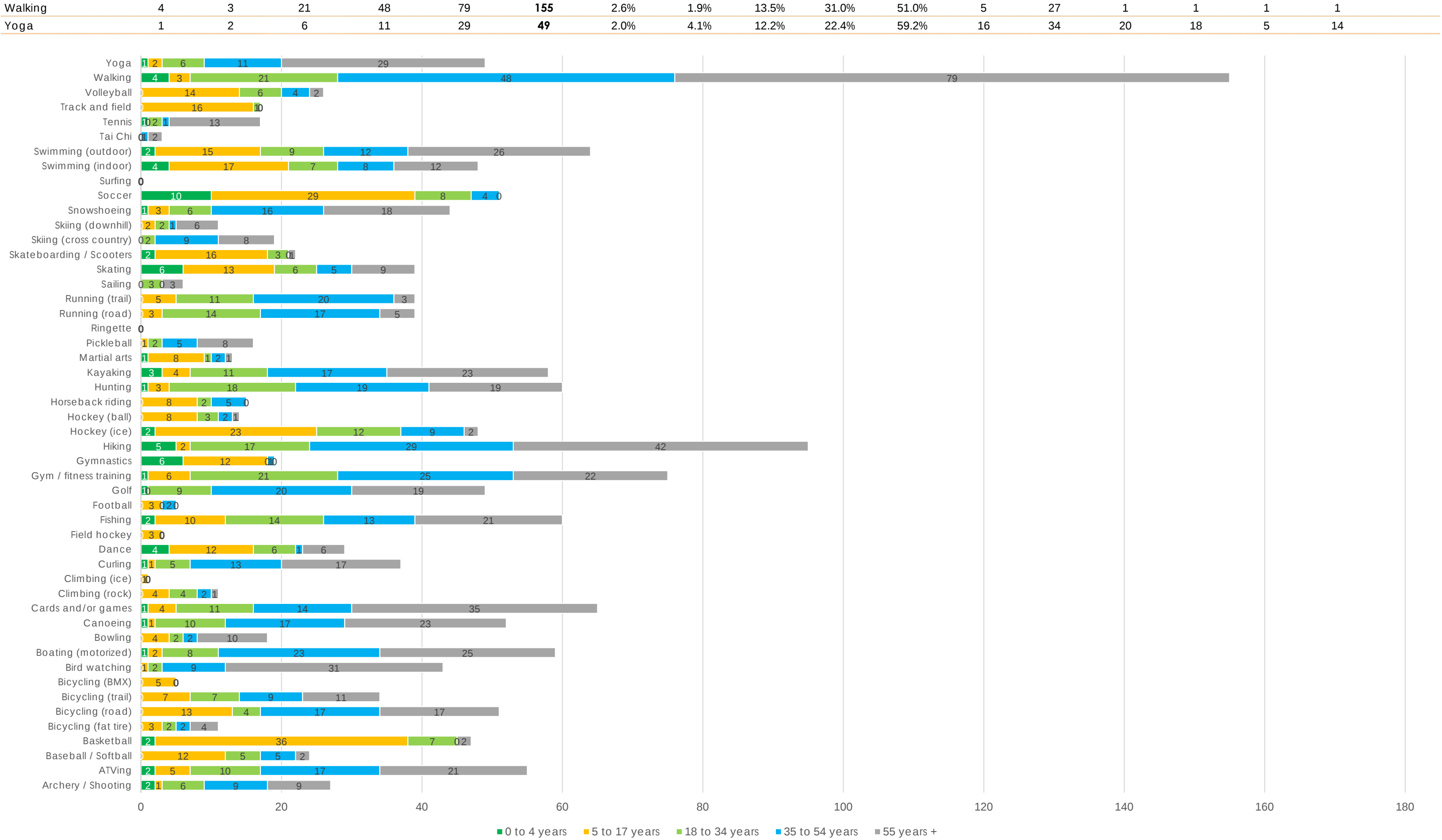


Please specify the names of the local facilities you use. – 200 responses

Please indicate any other recreation facilities not listed above that members of your household use. – 93 responses

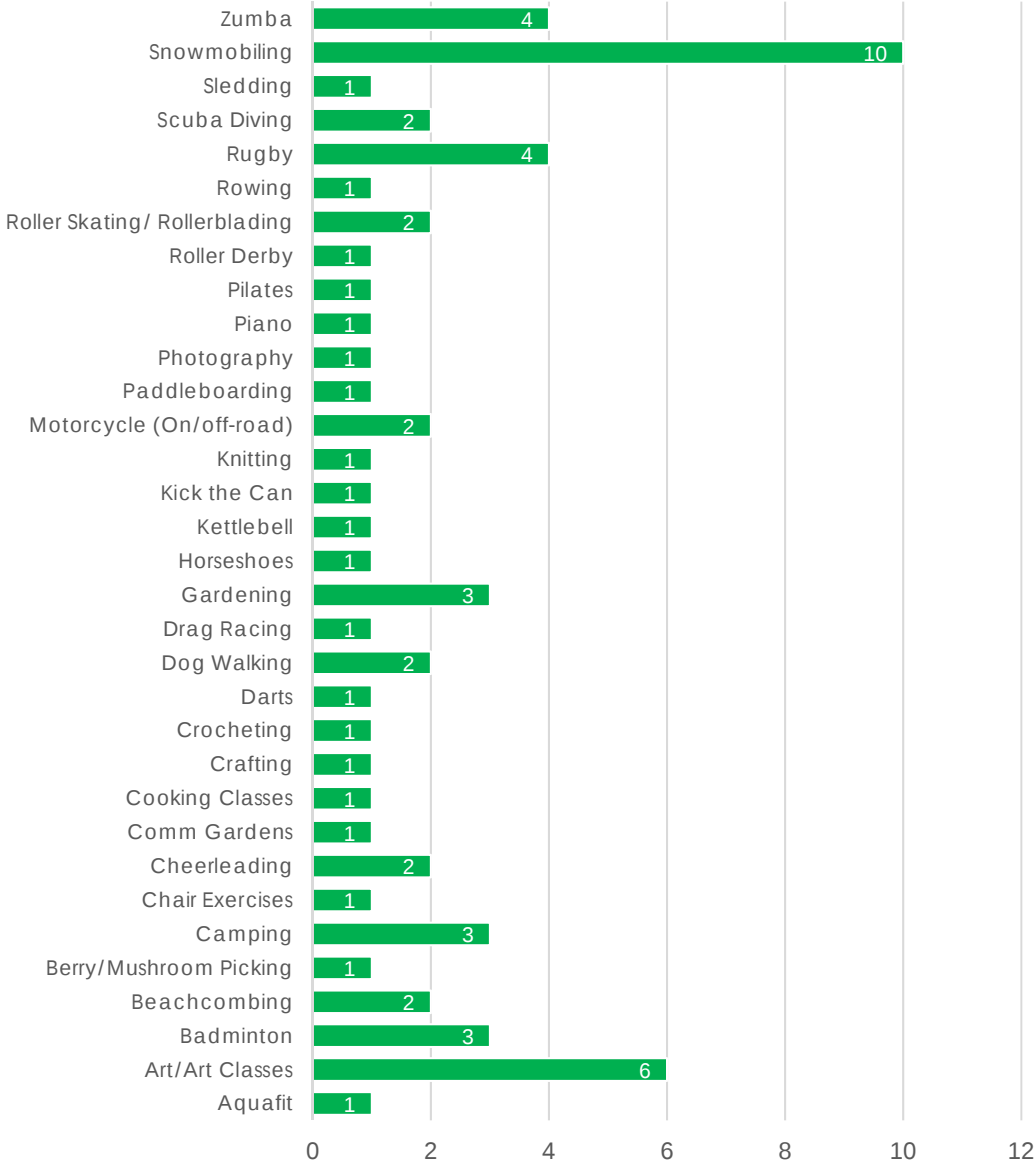
Q.5 Within the Southwest Region, what are the top three recreation activities that individuals in the following age groups in your household participated during the past year?

	Count						% Breakdown					Rank					
	0 to 4 years	5 to 17 years	18 to 34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years +	TOTAL	0 to 4 years	5 to 17 years	18 to 34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years +	0 to 4 years	5 to 17 years	18 to 34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years +	TOTAL
Archery / Shooting	2	1	6	9	9	27	7.4%	3.7%	22.2%	33.3%	33.3%	9	38	20	19	22	27
ATVing	2	5	10	17	21	55	3.6%	9.1%	18.2%	30.9%	38.2%	9	20	11	8	11	10
Baseball / Softball	0	12	5	5	2	24	0.0%	50.0%	20.8%	20.8%	8.3%	27	11	26	25	32	29
Basketball	2	36	7	0	2	47	4.3%	76.6%	14.9%	0.0%	4.3%	9	1	17	42	32	18
Bicycling (fat tire)	0	3	2	2	4	11	0.0%	27.3%	18.2%	18.2%	36.4%	27	27	33	31	29	40
Bicycling (road)	0	13	4	17	17	51	0.0%	25.5%	7.8%	33.3%	33.3%	27	9	28	8	16	12
Bicycling (trail)	0	7	7	9	11	34	0.0%	20.6%	20.6%	26.5%	32.4%	27	18	17	19	20	25
Bicycling (BMX)	0	5	0	0	0	5	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	27	20	43	42	41	44
Bird watching	0	1	2	9	31	43	0.0%	2.3%	4.7%	20.9%	72.1%	27	38	33	19	4	20
Boating (motorized)	1	2	8	23	25	59	1.7%	3.4%	13.6%	39.0%	42.4%	16	34	15	4	7	8
Bowling	0	4	2	2	10	18	0.0%	22.2%	11.1%	11.1%	55.6%	27	23	33	31	21	33
Canoeing	1	1	10	17	23	52	1.9%	1.9%	19.2%	32.7%	44.2%	16	38	11	8	8	11
Cards and/or games	1	4	11	14	35	65	1.5%	6.2%	16.9%	21.5%	53.8%	16	23	8	14	3	4
Climbing (rock)	0	4	4	2	1	11	0.0%	36.4%	36.4%	18.2%	9.1%	27	23	28	31	37	40
Climbing (ice)	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	27	38	43	42	41	48
Curling	1	1	5	13	17	37	2.7%	2.7%	13.5%	35.1%	45.9%	16	38	26	15	16	24
Dance	4	12	6	1	6	29	13.8%	41.4%	20.7%	3.4%	20.7%	5	11	20	37	26	26
Field hockey	0	3	0	0	0	3	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	27	27	43	42	41	46
Fishing	2	10	14	13	21	60	3.3%	16.7%	23.3%	21.7%	35.0%	9	14	5	15	11	6
Football	0	3	0	2	0	5	0.0%	60.0%	0.0%	40.0%	0.0%	27	27	43	31	41	44
Golf	1	0	9	20	19	49	2.0%	0.0%	18.4%	40.8%	38.8%	16	44	13	5	13	14
Gym / fitness training	1	6	21	25	22	75	1.3%	8.0%	28.0%	33.3%	29.3%	16	19	1	3	10	3
Gymnastics	6	12	0	1	0	19	31.6%	63.2%	0.0%	5.3%	0.0%	2	11	43	37	41	31
Hiking	5	2	17	29	42	95	5.3%	2.1%	17.9%	30.5%	44.2%	4	34	4	2	2	2
Hockey (ice)	2	23	12	9	2	48	4.2%	47.9%	25.0%	18.8%	4.2%	9	3	7	19	32	16
Hockey (ball)	0	8	3	2	1	14	0.0%	57.1%	21.4%	14.3%	7.1%	27	15	30	31	37	38
Horseback riding	0	8	2	5	0	15	0.0%	53.3%	13.3%	33.3%	0.0%	27	15	33	25	41	37
Hunting	1	3	18	19	19	60	1.7%	5.0%	30.0%	31.7%	31.7%	16	27	3	7	13	6
Kayaking	3	4	11	17	23	58	5.2%	6.9%	19.0%	29.3%	39.7%	8	23	8	8	8	9
Martial arts	1	8	1	2	1	13	7.7%	61.5%	7.7%	15.4%	7.7%	16	15	41	31	37	39
Pickleball	0	1	2	5	8	16	0.0%	6.3%	12.5%	31.3%	50.0%	27	38	33	25	24	36
Ringette	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	27	44	43	42	41	49
Running (road)	0	3	14	17	5	39	0.0%	7.7%	35.9%	43.6%	12.8%	27	27	5	8	28	21
Running (trail)	0	5	11	20	3	39	0.0%	12.8%	28.2%	51.3%	7.7%	27	20	8	5	30	21
Sailing	0	0	3	0	3	6	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	27	44	30	42	30	43
Skating	6	13	6	5	9	39	15.4%	33.3%	15.4%	12.8%	23.1%	2	9	20	25	22	21
Skateboarding / Scooters	2	16	3	0	1	22	9.1%	72.7%	13.6%	0.0%	4.5%	9	5	30	42	37	30
Skiing (cross country)	0	0	2	9	8	19	0.0%	0.0%	10.5%	47.4%	42.1%	27	44	33	19	24	31
Skiing (downhill)	0	2	2	1	6	11	0.0%	18.2%	18.2%	9.1%	54.5%	27	34	33	37	26	40
Snowshoeing	1	3	6	16	18	44	2.3%	6.8%	13.6%	36.4%	40.9%	16	27	20	13	15	19
Soccer	10	29	8	4	0	51	19.6%	56.9%	15.7%	7.8%	0.0%	1	2	15	29	41	12
Surfing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	27	44	43	42	41	49
Swimming (indoor)	4	17	7	8	12	48	8.3%	35.4%	14.6%	16.7%	25.0%	5	4	17	24	19	16
Swimming (outdoor)	2	15	9	12	26	64	3.1%	23.4%	14.1%	18.8%	40.6%	9	7	13	17	6	5
Tai Chi	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	27	44	43	37	32	46
Tennis	1	0	2	1	13	17	5.9%	0.0%	11.8%	5.9%	76.5%	16	44	33	37	18	34
Track and field	0	16	1	0	0	17	0.0%	94.1%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	27	5	41	42	41	34
Volleyball	0	14	6	4	2	26	0.0%	53.8%	23.1%	15.4%	7.7%	27	8	20	29	32	28



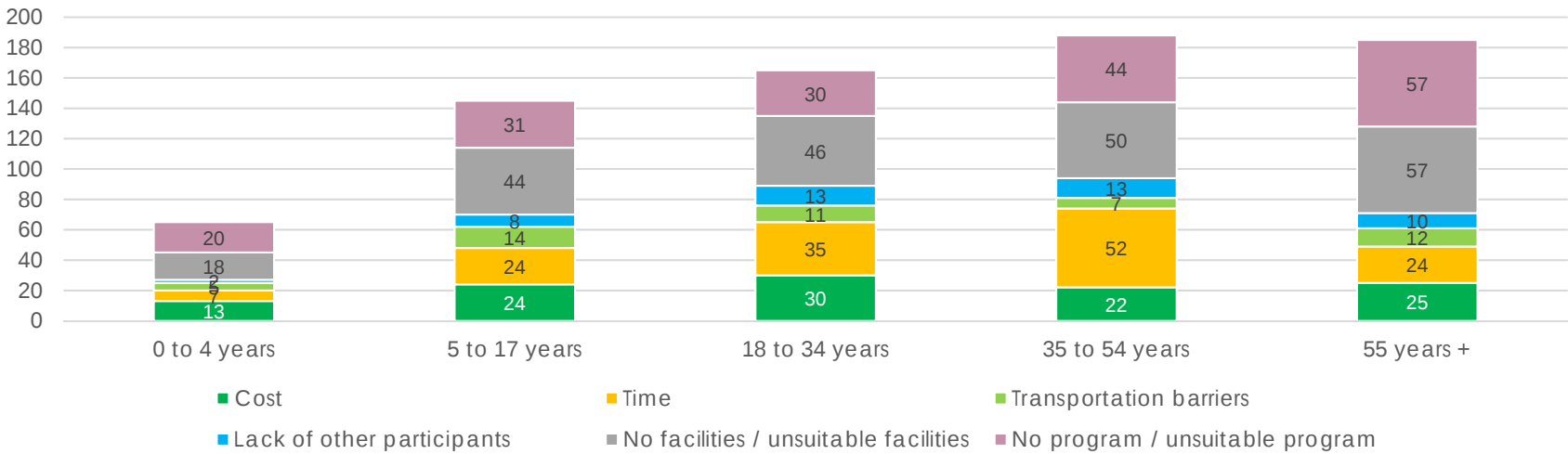
Q.6 Please share any other top recreation activities not listed in the previous question in which members of your household participate.

	Count	Rank
Aquafit	1	14
Art/Art Classes	6	2
Badminton	3	5
Beachcombing	2	8
Berry Picking and Mushroom Hunting	1	14
Camping	3	5
Chair Exercises	1	14
Cheerleading	2	8
Comm Gardens	1	14
Cooking Classes	1	14
Crafting	1	14
Crocheting	1	14
Darts	1	14
Dog Walking	2	8
Drag Racing	1	14
Gardening	3	5
Horseshoes	1	14
Kettlebell	1	14
Kick the Can	1	14
Knitting	1	14
Motorcycle (On/off-road)	2	8
Paddleboarding	1	14
Photography	1	14
Piano	1	14
Pilates	1	14
Roller Derby	1	14
Roller Skating/ Rollerblading	2	8
Rowing	1	14
Rugby	4	3
Scuba Diving	2	8
Sledding	1	14
Snowmobiling	10	1
Zumba	4	3



Q.7 If members of your household in the following age groups are not participating in recreation activities, what are the main reasons?

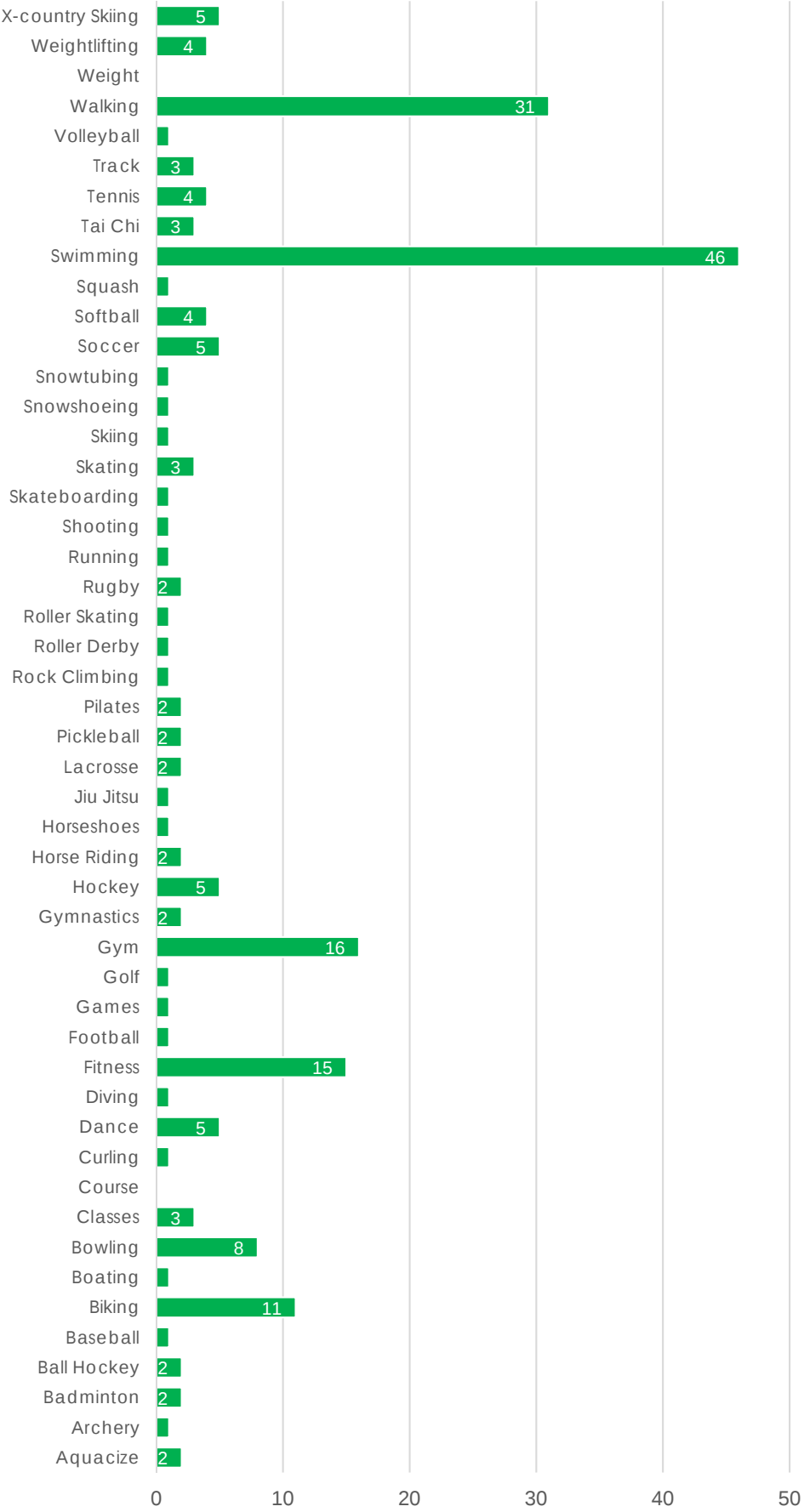
	Cost	Time	Transporta- tion barriers	Lack of other participants	No facilities / unsuitable facilities	No program / unsuitable program
0 to 4 years	13	7	5	2	18	20
5 to 17 years	24	24	14	8	44	31
18 to 34 years	30	35	11	13	46	30
35 to 54 years	22	52	7	13	50	44
55 years +	25	24	12	10	57	57
TOTAL	114	142	49	46	215	182



Q.8 In what recreation activities would members of your household like to participate, but do not now?

	Count	Rank
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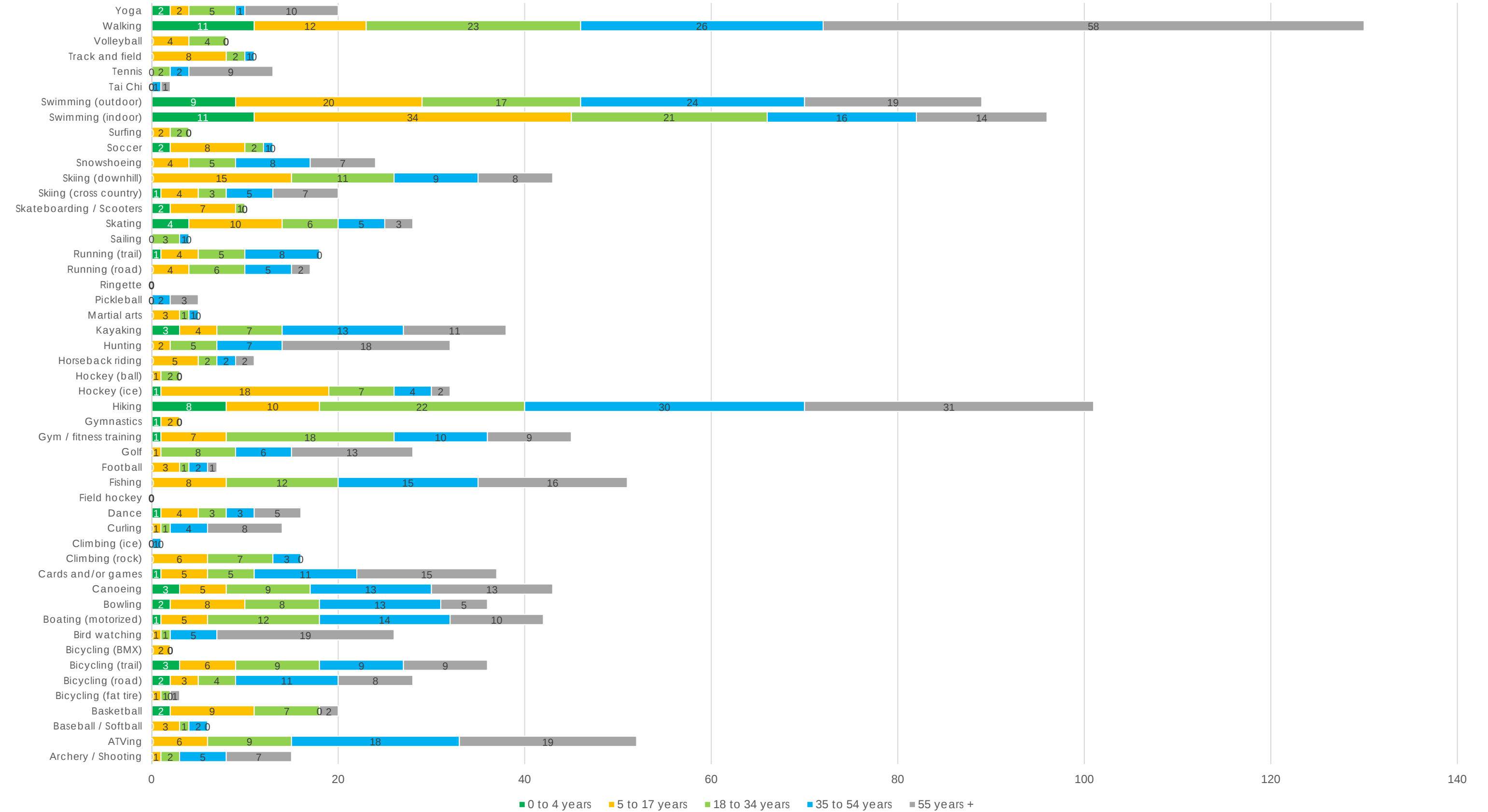
Aquacize	2	18
Archery	1	27
Badminton	2	18
Ball Hockey	2	18
Baseball	1	27
Biking	11	5
Boating	1	27
Bowling	8	6
Classes	3	14
Course	0	48
Curling	1	27
Dance	5	7
Diving	1	27
Fitness	15	4
Football	1	27
Games	1	27
Golf	1	27
Gym	16	3
Gymnastics	2	18
Hockey	5	7
Horse Riding	2	18
Horseshoes	1	27
Jiu Jitsu	1	27
Lacrosse	2	18
Pickleball	2	18
Pilates	2	18
Rock Climbing	1	27
Roller Derby	1	27
Roller Skating	1	27
Rugby	2	18
Running	1	27
Shooting	1	27
Skateboarding	1	27
Skating	3	14
Skiing	1	27
Snowshoeing	1	27
Snowtubing	1	27
Soccer	5	7
Softball	4	11
Squash	1	27
Swimming	46	1
Tai Chi	3	14
Tennis	4	11
Track	3	14
Volleyball	1	27
Walking	31	2
Weightlifting	4	11
X-country Skiing	5	7



Q.9 Outside of the Southwest Region, what are the top three recreation activities in which individuals in the following age groups in your household participated during the past year?

	County						% Breakdown					Rank					
	0 to 4 years	5 to 17 years	18 to 34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years +	TOTAL	0 to 4 years	5 to 17 years	18 to 34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years +	0 to 4 years	5 to 17 years	18 to 34 years	35 to 54 years	55 years +	TOTAL
Archery / Shooting	0	1	2	5	7	15	0.0%	6.7%	13.3%	33.3%	46.7%	23	38	30	20	21	29
ATVing	0	6	9	18	19	52	0.0%	11.5%	17.3%	34.6%	36.5%	23	15	9	4	3	5
Baseball / Softball	0	3	1	2	0	6	0.0%	50.0%	16.7%	33.3%	0.0%	23	29	37	29	35	38
Basketball	2	9	7	0	2	20	10.0%	45.0%	35.0%	0.0%	10.0%	9	8	14	41	28	22
Bicycling (fat tire)	0	1	1	0	1	3	0.0%	33.3%	33.3%	0.0%	33.3%	23	38	37	41	32	43
Bicycling (road)	2	3	4	11	8	28	7.1%	10.7%	14.3%	39.3%	28.6%	9	29	25	11	18	17
Bicycling (trail)	3	6	9	9	9	36	8.3%	16.7%	25.0%	25.0%	25.0%	6	15	9	14	15	13
Bicycling (BMX)	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23	33	44	41	35	46
Bird watching	0	1	1	5	19	26	0.0%	3.8%	3.8%	19.2%	73.1%	23	38	37	20	3	20
Boating (motorized)	1	5	12	14	10	42	2.4%	11.9%	28.6%	33.3%	23.8%	15	18	6	7	13	10
Bowling	2	8	8	13	5	36	5.6%	22.2%	22.2%	36.1%	13.9%	9	9	12	8	24	13
Canoeing	3	5	9	13	13	43	7.0%	11.6%	20.9%	30.2%	30.2%	6	18	9	8	10	8
Cards and/or games	1	5	5	11	15	37	2.7%	13.5%	13.5%	29.7%	40.5%	15	18	20	11	8	12
Climbing (rock)	0	6	7	3	0	16	0.0%	37.5%	43.8%	18.8%	0.0%	23	15	14	27	35	27
Climbing (ice)	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	23	44	44	34	35	48
Curling	0	1	1	4	8	14	0.0%	7.1%	7.1%	28.6%	57.1%	23	38	37	25	18	30
Dance	1	4	3	3	5	16	6.3%	25.0%	18.8%	18.8%	31.3%	15	22	27	27	24	27
Field hockey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23	44	44	41	35	49
Fishing	0	8	12	15	16	51	0.0%	15.7%	23.5%	29.4%	31.4%	23	9	6	6	7	6
Football	0	3	1	2	1	7	0.0%	42.9%	14.3%	28.6%	14.3%	23	29	37	29	32	37
Golf	0	1	8	6	13	28	0.0%	3.6%	28.6%	21.4%	46.4%	23	38	12	19	10	17
Gym / fitness training	1	7	18	10	9	45	2.2%	15.6%	40.0%	22.2%	20.0%	15	13	4	13	15	7
Gymnastics	1	2	0	0	0	3	33.3%	66.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15	33	44	41	35	43
Hiking	8	10	22	30	31	101	7.9%	9.9%	21.8%	29.7%	30.7%	4	6	2	1	2	2
Hockey (ice)	1	18	7	4	2	32	3.1%	56.3%	21.9%	12.5%	6.3%	15	3	14	25	28	15
Hockey (ball)	0	1	2	0	0	3	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	0.0%	0.0%	23	38	30	41	35	43
Horseback riding	0	5	2	2	2	11	0.0%	45.5%	18.2%	18.2%	18.2%	23	18	30	29	28	33
Hunting	0	2	5	7	18	32	0.0%	6.3%	15.6%	21.9%	56.3%	23	33	20	18	6	15
Kayaking	3	4	7	13	11	38	7.9%	10.5%	18.4%	34.2%	28.9%	6	22	14	8	12	11
Martial arts	0	3	1	1	0	5	0.0%	60.0%	20.0%	20.0%	0.0%	23	29	37	34	35	39
Pickleball	0	0	0	2	3	5	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	40.0%	60.0%	23	44	44	29	26	39
Ringette	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23	44	44	41	35	49
Running (road)	0	4	6	5	2	17	0.0%	23.5%	35.3%	29.4%	11.8%	23	22	18	20	28	26
Running (trail)	1	4	5	8	0	18	5.6%	22.2%	27.8%	44.4%	0.0%	15	22	20	16	35	25
Sailing	0	0	3	1	0	4	0.0%	0.0%	75.0%	25.0%	0.0%	23	44	27	34	35	41
Skating	4	10	6	5	3	28	14.3%	35.7%	21.4%	17.9%	10.7%	5	6	18	20	26	17
Skateboarding / Scooters	2	7	1	0	0	10	20.0%	70.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%	9	13	37	41	35	35
Skiing (cross country)	1	4	3	5	7	20	5.0%	20.0%	15.0%	25.0%	35.0%	15	22	27	20	21	22
Skiing (downhill)	0	15	11	9	8	43	0.0%	34.9%	25.6%	20.9%	18.6%	23	4	8	14	18	8
Snowshoeing	0	4	5	8	7	24	0.0%	16.7%	20.8%	33.3%	29.2%	23	22	20	16	21	21
Soccer	2	8	2	1	0	13	15.4%	61.5%	15.4%	7.7%	0.0%	9	9	30	34	35	31
Surfing	0	2	2	0	0	4	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23	33	30	41	35	41
Swimming (indoor)	11	34	21	16	14	96	11.5%	35.4%	21.9%	16.7%	14.6%	1	1	3	5	9	3
Swimming (outdoor)	9	20	17	24	19	89	10.1%	22.5%	19.1%	27.0%	21.3%	3	2	5	3	3	4
Tai Chi	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	23	44	44	34	32	46
Tennis	0	0	2	2	9	13	0.0%	0.0%	15.4%	15.4%	69.2%	23	44	30	29	15	31
Track and field	0	8	2	1	0	11	0.0%	72.7%	18.2%	9.1%	0.0%	23	9	30	34	35	33
Volleyball	0	4	4	0	0	8	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23	22	25	41	35	36

Walking	11	12	23	26	58	130	8.5%	9.2%	17.7%	20.0%	44.6%	1	5	1	2	1	1
Yoga	2	2	5	1	10	20	10.0%	10.0%	25.0%	5.0%	50.0%	9	33	20	34	13	22
TOTAL	72	268	282	317	365	1304											



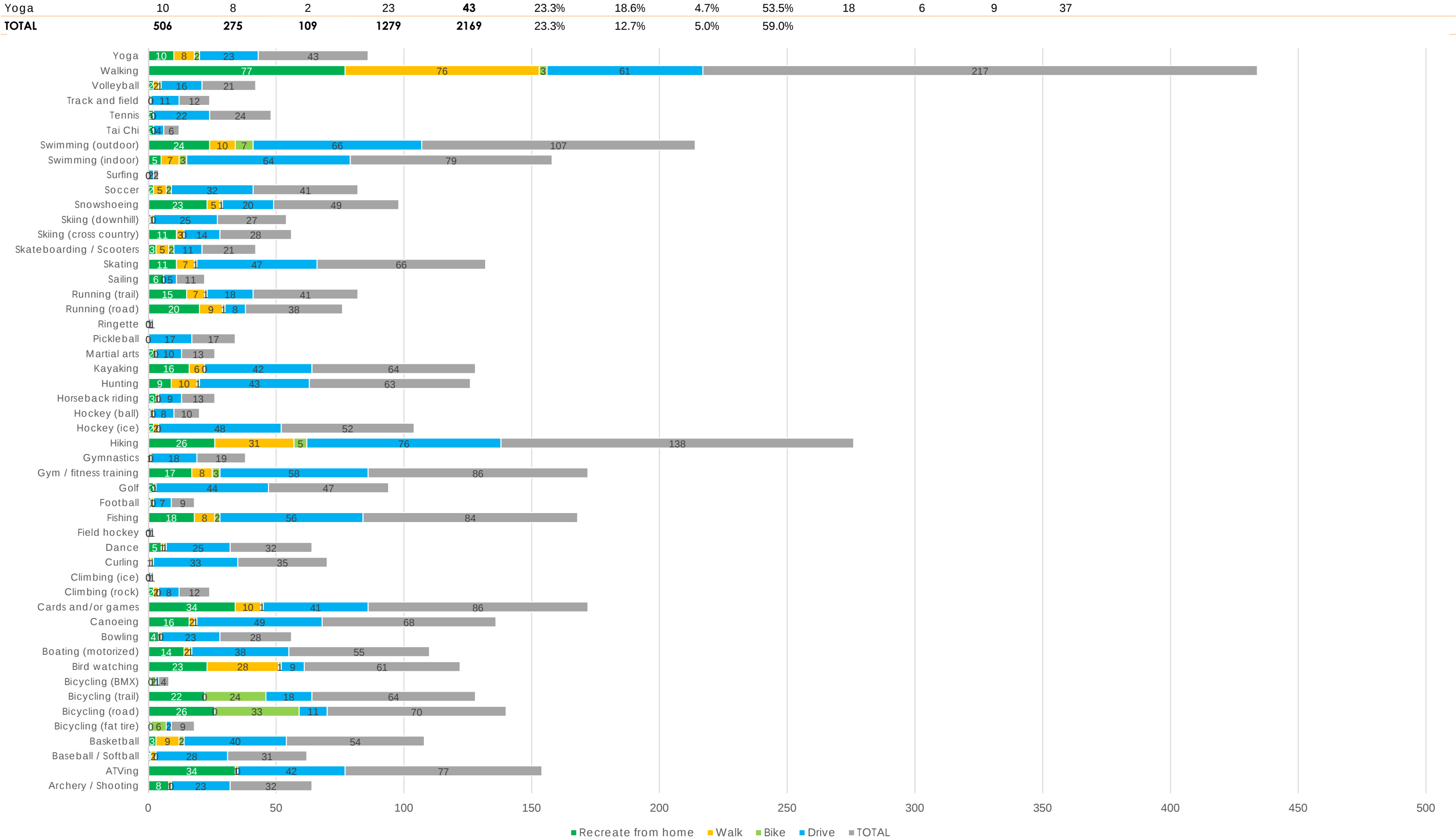
Q.10 What mode(s) of transportation do you use to access your household's top recreation activities?

Count

% Breakdown

Rank

	Recreate from home	Walk	Bike	Drive	TOTAL	Recreate from home	Walk	Bike	Drive	Recreate from home	Walk	Bike	Drive
Archery / Shooting	8	1	0	23	32	25.0%	3.1%	0.0%	71.9%	14	32	28	24
ATVing	34	1	0	42	77	44.2%	1.3%	0.0%	54.5%	4	36	28	36
Baseball / Softball	1	2	0	28	31	3.2%	6.5%	0.0%	90.3%	43	26	28	13
Basketball	3	9	2	40	54	5.6%	16.7%	3.7%	74.1%	38	8	11	22
Bicycling (fat tire)	1	0	6	2	9	11.1%	0.0%	66.7%	22.2%	31	37	1	47
Bicycling (road)	26	0	33	11	70	37.1%	0.0%	47.1%	15.7%	8	37	3	49
Bicycling (trail)	22	0	24	18	64	34.4%	0.0%	37.5%	28.1%	11	37	4	44
Bicycling (BMX)	1	0	2	1	4	25.0%	0.0%	50.0%	25.0%	14	37	2	46
Bird watching	23	28	1	9	61	37.7%	45.9%	1.6%	14.8%	7	1	22	50
Boating (motorized)	14	2	1	38	55	25.5%	3.6%	1.8%	69.1%	13	30	21	27
Bowling	4	1	0	23	28	14.3%	3.6%	0.0%	82.1%	28	31	28	14
Canoeing	16	2	1	49	68	23.5%	2.9%	1.5%	72.1%	17	34	25	23
Cards and/or games	34	10	1	41	86	39.5%	11.6%	1.2%	47.7%	5	12	27	40
Climbing (rock)	2	2	0	8	12	16.7%	16.7%	0.0%	66.7%	24	8	28	30
Climbing (ice)	0	0	0	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	44	37	28	1
Curling	0	1	1	33	35	0.0%	2.9%	2.9%	94.3%	44	35	15	7
Dance	5	1	1	25	32	15.6%	3.1%	3.1%	78.1%	26	32	14	17
Field hockey	0	0	0	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	44	37	28	1
Fishing	18	8	2	56	84	21.4%	9.5%	2.4%	66.7%	21	18	18	30
Football	1	1	0	7	9	11.1%	11.1%	0.0%	77.8%	31	13	28	19
Golf	2	0	1	44	47	4.3%	0.0%	2.1%	93.6%	40	37	19	8
Gym / fitness training	17	8	3	58	86	19.8%	9.3%	3.5%	67.4%	22	22	13	29
Gymnastics	0	1	0	18	19	0.0%	5.3%	0.0%	94.7%	44	27	28	6
Hiking	26	31	5	76	138	18.8%	22.5%	3.6%	55.1%	23	5	12	35
Hockey (ice)	2	2	0	48	52	3.8%	3.8%	0.0%	92.3%	41	28	28	10
Hockey (ball)	1	1	0	8	10	10.0%	10.0%	0.0%	80.0%	33	17	28	16
Horseback riding	3	1	0	9	13	23.1%	7.7%	0.0%	69.2%	19	24	28	26
Hunting	9	10	1	43	63	14.3%	15.9%	1.6%	68.3%	28	10	23	28
Kayaking	16	6	0	42	64	25.0%	9.4%	0.0%	65.6%	14	20	28	33
Martial arts	2	1	0	10	13	15.4%	7.7%	0.0%	76.9%	27	24	28	20
Pickleball	0	0	0	17	17	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	44	37	28	1
Ringette	0	0	0	1	1	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	44	37	28	1
Running (road)	20	9	1	8	38	52.6%	23.7%	2.6%	21.1%	2	4	16	48
Running (trail)	15	7	1	18	41	36.6%	17.1%	2.4%	43.9%	9	7	17	42
Sailing	6	0	0	5	11	54.5%	0.0%	0.0%	45.5%	1	37	28	41
Skating	11	7	1	47	66	16.7%	10.6%	1.5%	71.2%	24	15	24	25
Skateboarding / Scooters	3	5	2	11	21	14.3%	23.8%	9.5%	52.4%	28	3	5	38
Skiing (cross country)	11	3	0	14	28	39.3%	10.7%	0.0%	50.0%	6	14	28	39
Skiing (downhill)	1	1	0	25	27	3.7%	3.7%	0.0%	92.6%	42	29	28	9
Snowshoeing	23	5	1	20	49	46.9%	10.2%	2.0%	40.8%	3	16	20	43
Soccer	2	5	2	32	41	4.9%	12.2%	4.9%	78.0%	39	11	7	18
Surfing	0	0	0	2	2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	44	37	28	1
Swimming (indoor)	5	7	3	64	79	6.3%	8.9%	3.8%	81.0%	37	23	10	15
Swimming (outdoor)	24	10	7	66	107	22.4%	9.3%	6.5%	61.7%	20	21	6	34
Tai Chi	2	0	0	4	6	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	66.7%	12	37	28	30
Tennis	2	0	0	22	24	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	91.7%	35	37	28	11
Track and field	1	0	0	11	12	8.3%	0.0%	0.0%	91.7%	35	37	28	11
Volleyball	2	2	1	16	21	9.5%	9.5%	4.8%	76.2%	34	18	8	21
Walking	77	76	3	61	217	35.5%	35.0%	1.4%	28.1%	10	2	26	45



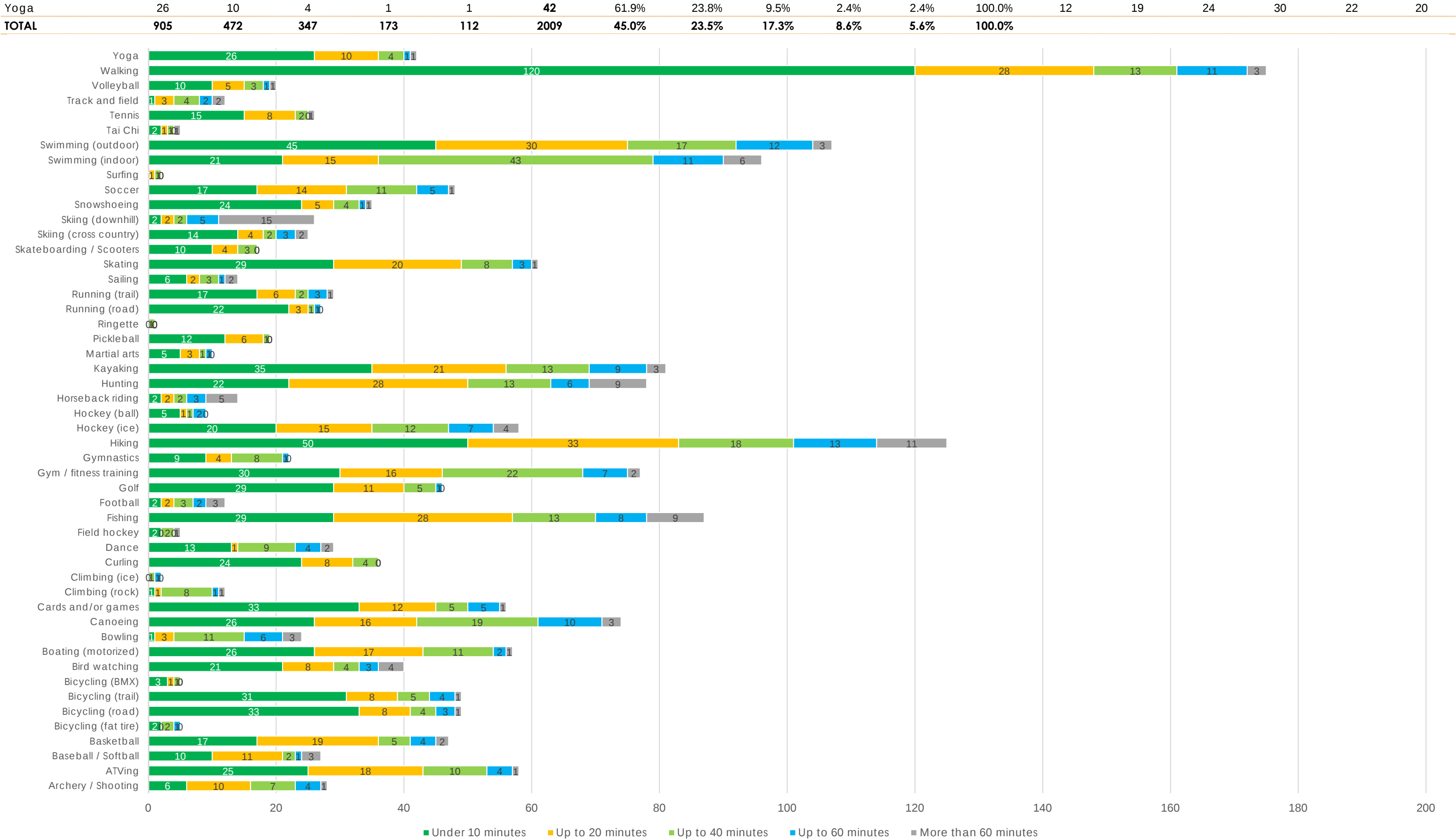
Q.11 How much time does it take to travel to your household's top recreation activities?

Count

%

Rank

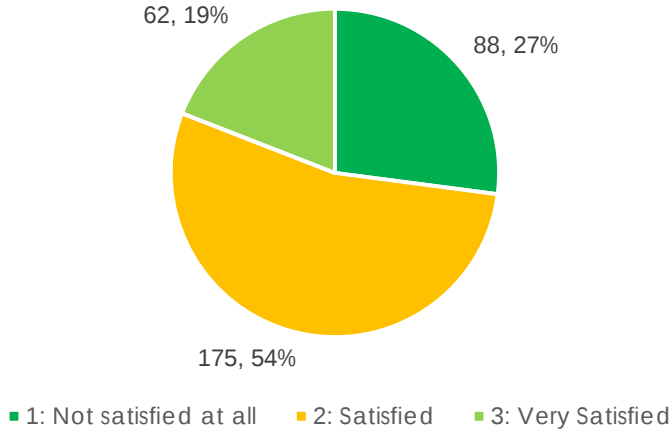
	Under 10 minutes	Up to 20 minutes	Up to 40 minutes	Up to 60 minutes	More than 60 minutes	TOTAL	Under 10 minutes	Up to 20 minutes	Up to 40 minutes	Up to 60 minutes	More than 60 minutes	TOTAL	Under 10 minutes	Up to 20 minutes	Up to 40 minutes	Up to 60 minutes	More than 60 minutes	TOTAL
Archery / Shooting	6	10	7	4	1	28	21.4%	35.7%	25.0%	14.3%	3.6%	100.0%	34	19	19	15	22	26
ATVing	25	18	10	4	1	58	43.1%	31.0%	17.2%	6.9%	1.7%	100.0%	15	9	14	15	22	11
Baseball / Softball	10	11	2	1	3	27	37.0%	40.7%	7.4%	3.7%	11.1%	100.0%	30	17	34	30	9	27
Basketball	17	19	5	4	2	47	36.2%	40.4%	10.6%	8.5%	4.3%	100.0%	23	8	20	15	16	18
Bicycling (fat tire)	2	0	2	1	0	5	40.0%	0.0%	40.0%	20.0%	0.0%	100.0%	39	47	34	30	38	44
Bicycling (road)	33	8	4	3	1	49	67.3%	16.3%	8.2%	6.1%	2.0%	100.0%	5	21	24	20	22	15
Bicycling (trail)	31	8	5	4	1	49	63.3%	16.3%	10.2%	8.2%	2.0%	100.0%	7	21	20	15	22	15
Bicycling (BMX)	3	1	1	0	0	5	60.0%	20.0%	20.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	38	41	42	42	38	44
Bird watching	21	8	4	3	4	40	52.5%	20.0%	10.0%	7.5%	10.0%	100.0%	20	21	24	20	7	21
Boating (motorized)	26	17	11	2	1	57	45.6%	29.8%	19.3%	3.5%	1.8%	100.0%	12	10	11	26	22	13
Bowling	1	3	11	6	3	24	4.2%	12.5%	45.8%	25.0%	12.5%	100.0%	45	33	11	10	9	32
Canoeing	26	16	19	10	3	74	35.1%	21.6%	25.7%	13.5%	4.1%	100.0%	12	11	3	5	9	9
Cards and/or games	33	12	5	5	1	56	58.9%	21.4%	8.9%	8.9%	1.8%	100.0%	5	16	20	12	22	14
Climbing (rock)	1	1	8	1	1	12	8.3%	8.3%	66.7%	8.3%	8.3%	100.0%	45	41	16	30	22	39
Climbing (ice)	0	0	1	1	0	2	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	100.0%	48	47	42	30	38	48
Curling	24	8	4	0	0	36	66.7%	22.2%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	16	21	24	42	38	22
Dance	13	1	9	4	2	29	44.8%	3.4%	31.0%	13.8%	6.9%	100.0%	28	41	15	15	16	24
Field hockey	2	0	2	0	1	5	40.0%	0.0%	40.0%	0.0%	20.0%	100.0%	39	47	34	42	22	44
Fishing	29	28	13	8	9	87	33.3%	32.2%	14.9%	9.2%	10.3%	100.0%	9	3	6	7	3	5
Football	2	2	3	2	3	12	16.7%	16.7%	25.0%	16.7%	25.0%	100.0%	39	37	30	26	9	39
Golf	29	11	5	1	0	46	63.0%	23.9%	10.9%	2.2%	0.0%	100.0%	9	17	20	30	38	19
Gym / fitness training	30	16	22	7	2	77	39.0%	20.8%	28.6%	9.1%	2.6%	100.0%	8	11	2	8	16	8
Gymnastics	9	4	8	1	0	22	40.9%	18.2%	36.4%	4.5%	0.0%	100.0%	33	30	16	30	38	33
Hiking	50	33	18	13	11	125	40.0%	26.4%	14.4%	10.4%	8.8%	100.0%	2	1	4	1	2	2
Hockey (ice)	20	15	12	7	4	58	34.5%	25.9%	20.7%	12.1%	6.9%	100.0%	22	13	10	8	7	11
Hockey (ball)	5	1	1	2	0	9	55.6%	11.1%	11.1%	22.2%	0.0%	100.0%	36	41	42	26	38	43
Horseback riding	2	2	2	3	5	14	14.3%	14.3%	14.3%	21.4%	35.7%	100.0%	39	37	34	20	6	37
Hunting	22	28	13	6	9	78	28.2%	35.9%	16.7%	7.7%	11.5%	100.0%	18	3	6	10	3	7
Kayaking	35	21	13	9	3	81	43.2%	25.9%	16.0%	11.1%	3.7%	100.0%	4	6	6	6	9	6
Martial arts	5	3	1	1	0	10	50.0%	30.0%	10.0%	10.0%	0.0%	100.0%	36	33	42	30	38	42
Pickleball	12	6	1	0	0	19	63.2%	31.6%	5.3%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	29	26	42	42	38	35
Ringette	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	48	47	42	42	38	50
Running (road)	22	3	1	1	0	27	81.5%	11.1%	3.7%	3.7%	0.0%	100.0%	18	33	42	30	38	27
Running (trail)	17	6	2	3	1	29	58.6%	20.7%	6.9%	10.3%	3.4%	100.0%	23	26	34	20	22	24
Sailing	6	2	3	1	2	14	42.9%	14.3%	21.4%	7.1%	14.3%	100.0%	34	37	30	30	16	37
Skating	29	20	8	3	1	61	47.5%	32.8%	13.1%	4.9%	1.6%	100.0%	9	7	16	20	22	10
Skateboarding / Scooters	10	4	3	0	0	17	58.8%	23.5%	17.6%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	30	30	30	42	38	36
Skiing (cross country)	14	4	2	3	2	25	56.0%	16.0%	8.0%	12.0%	8.0%	100.0%	27	30	34	20	16	31
Skiing (downhill)	2	2	2	5	15	26	7.7%	7.7%	7.7%	19.2%	57.7%	100.0%	39	37	34	12	1	29
Snowshoeing	24	5	4	1	1	35	68.6%	14.3%	11.4%	2.9%	2.9%	100.0%	16	28	24	30	22	23
Soccer	17	14	11	5	1	48	35.4%	29.2%	22.9%	10.4%	2.1%	100.0%	23	15	11	12	22	17
Surfing	0	1	1	0	0	2	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	48	41	42	42	38	48
Swimming (indoor)	21	15	43	11	6	96	21.9%	15.6%	44.8%	11.5%	6.3%	100.0%	20	13	1	3	5	4
Swimming (outdoor)	45	30	17	12	3	107	42.1%	28.0%	15.9%	11.2%	2.8%	100.0%	3	2	5	2	9	3
Tai Chi	2	1	1	0	1	5	40.0%	20.0%	20.0%	0.0%	20.0%	100.0%	39	41	42	42	22	44
Tennis	15	8	2	0	1	26	57.7%	30.8%	7.7%	0.0%	3.8%	100.0%	26	21	34	42	22	29
Track and field	1	3	4	2	2	12	8.3%	25.0%	33.3%	16.7%	16.7%	100.0%	45	33	24	26	16	39
Volleyball	10	5	3	1	1	20	50.0%	25.0%	15.0%	5.0%	5.0%	100.0%	30	28	30	30	22	34
Walking	120	28	13	11	3	175	68.6%	16.0%	7.4%	6.3%	1.7%	100.0%	1	3	6	3	9	1



Q.12 How satisfied are you with recreation facilities that you use within the Southwest NB Region?

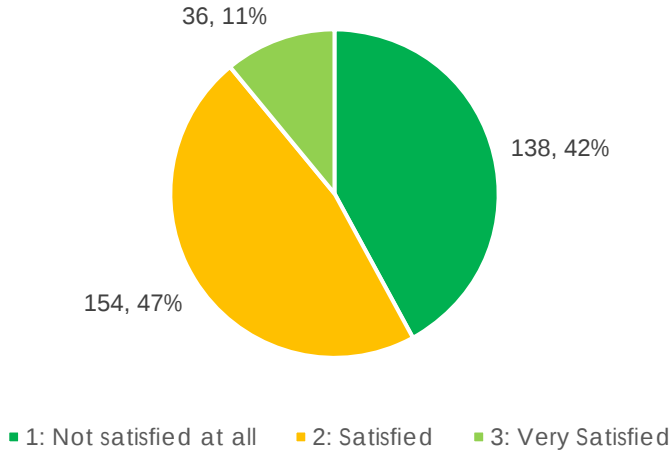
	Count	%
1: Not satisfied at all	88	27.1%

2: Satisfied	175	53.8%
3: Very Satisfied	62	19.1%
TOTAL	325	100.0%



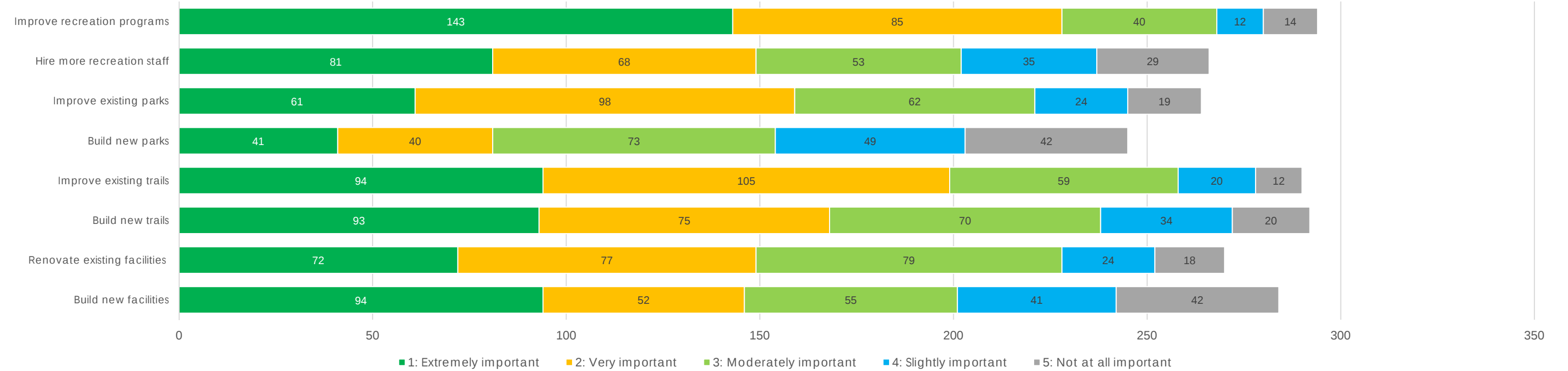
Q.13 How satisfied are you with the current recreation programs / activities available within the Southwest NB Region?

	Count	%
1: Not satisfied at all	138	42.1%
2: Satisfied	154	47.0%
3: Very Satisfied	36	11.0%
TOTAL	328	100.0%



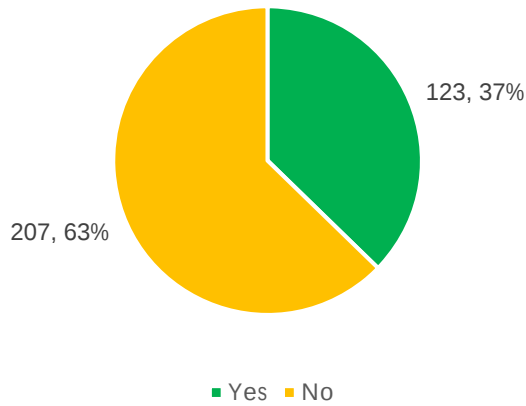
Q.14 Please rate the following options in terms of the priority you place:

	Count					% Breakdown						Rating	
	1: Extremely important	2: Very important	3: Moderately important	4: Slightly important	5: Not at all important	TOTAL	Avg. Rating	Rank	3: Moderately important	4: Slightly important	5: Not at all important	Average	Rank
Build new facilities	94	52	55	41	42	284	2.60	8	19.4%	14.4%	14.8%	2.60	7
Renovate existing facilities	72	77	79	24	18	270	2.40	6	29.3%	8.9%	6.7%	2.40	5
Build new trails	93	75	70	34	20	292	2.36	3	24.0%	11.6%	6.8%	2.36	3
Improve existing trails	94	105	59	20	12	290	2.14	2	20.3%	6.9%	4.1%	2.14	2
Build new parks	41	40	73	49	42	245	3.04	9	29.8%	20.0%	17.1%	3.04	8
Improve existing parks	61	98	62	24	19	264	2.40	5	23.5%	9.1%	7.2%	2.40	4
Hire more recreation staff	81	68	53	35	29	266	2.48	7	19.9%	13.2%	10.9%	2.48	6
Improve recreation programs	143	85	40	12	14	294	1.87	1	13.6%	4.1%	4.8%	1.87	1
TOTAL	679	600	491	239	196	2205	2.40	4	22.3%	10.8%	8.9%	2.40	



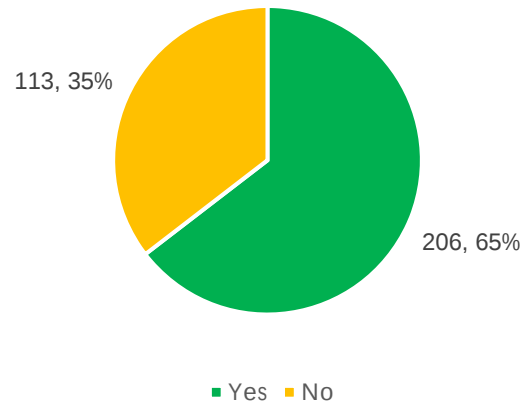
Q.15 Do you currently contribute as a volunteer to recreation services (i.e., programs or facilities maintenance) in the Southwest NB Region?

	Count	%
Yes	123	37.3%
No	207	62.7%
TOTAL	330	100.0%



Q.16 Would you be willing to contribute as a volunteer to recreation services (i.e., programs or facilities maintenance) in the Southwest NB Region?

	Count	%
Yes	206	64.6%
No	113	35.4%
TOTAL	319	100.0%



Q.17 Please provide any further comments concerning recreation facilities, services, or any other aspects of your recreation experience in the Southwest NB Region.

Trails for cyclists need to be developed
Stop building and leave the green space intact. We don't need more buildings. Ruined our area already. Killing deer to make room for more subdivisions etc. Please no more. People just need to go back to basics. They are so stupid.
Men's beer league soccer could be advertised better so that new ppl join.
I'm really thankful for all the volunteers, organizations, services provided in the area, but I think we can keep improving. I know one challenge can be quality and consistency in service, event to event, year to year - it is so important to invest in having experienced and committed people managing and leading programs and services at places like the Garcelon Civic Centre. It's disappointing to see great community resources be under-utilized or not reach its potential because of poor management or lack of 'fill in the blank' (leadership, resources, ideas, staff etc.).
Improvements to snowmobile trails and establishment of off road motorcycle park
This area DESPERATELY needs a turf field.
Good administration and networking are key. We need to think and hire carefully :)
Please provide different recreation options in communities in our county for better variety for all in County.
An indoor horseshoe court facility could be a part of a larger rec centre (Border Arena)
Living on the country limits what we have for facilities and too far to drive to use others
We are quite happy with what we have in St. Andrews as seasonal residents and St. Andrews is quite special in every respect to the rest of NB. We pay a huge property tax, in comparison to that most public recreational facilities in the area are barely sufficient in quality and quantity. Previous politicians were pretty stupid when they gave away the railroad track between Minister Island and St. Andrews for private use, even to herself, and to let Minister Island to decay and its facilities plundered. Now everybody wished that had never happened. Thank you for this survey.
There is so much potential in this region for recreation! I live in the St. George area and have a lot of work experience in recreation activities and facilities. If there is a committee to join or a news letter to receive could you please let me know at kimgale13@Gmail.com. I am excited for all your plans!
The area has tremendous opportunity for bicycle tourism and use by local cyclists, but there needs to be better/safer infrastructure (paved shoulders, marked trails, share the road signage, etc.).
New to the area from Toronto, Ontario. A little underwhelmed with the amount of activities available for both adults and children. Still learning about facilities and what they offer in my area.
Pool facilities in St Andrews would be valuable, visitors to a regular camping weekend in St Andrews often comment on the lack of pool facilities for their children's use.
Very concerned over the cost of running existing facilities and needed maintenance on older ones (W. C. O'Neill arena in particular
recreation very important need to get people active and away from electronics
Given the demographic (disproportionate older age of citizens), declining tax base, local economic status I DO NOT/WOULD NOT support any government funding for NEW facilities. There are sufficiently adequate facilities (perhaps some in need of renovations/upgrades) and if anything inadequate access ((and I see this survey may NOT touch on use of existing school facilities (incl Community College)); in my opinion what may be missing is the local coordination of access to a range of facilities in a particular town/village. The goal is to maximize access (through a coordinated fashion) across all existing facilities in a given locale (individual mandates need to be respected but when space is available in a church basement, school gym, college gym, etc. can we not set up mutually beneficial arrangements for access for various citizen's physical recreational interests??)
This survey addresses either sports or activities that are related to sports but does not address other ways that people do physical activities ie: gardening, bird watching, historical interests etc...
Need indoor tennis and badminton facilities
I feel that a club house at the St. Andrews tennis court would certainly help improve the amount of players coming out to join. Currently there is no bathrooms, or water. Having a club house would mean we could house more tournaments bringing people to St. Andrews to visit, we could also have more things for the kids like mini, local and competitive tournaments, this would also apply to the adult tennis
Indoor tennis would be good as well
Personally, I feel there needs to be more children's programs.
I think we should offer a pool and a community play ground in St. George
Schools used to be a focal point in communities for recreation to the point of no community facilities being built. Restrictions on access and increased school usage severely limits community usage. There needs to be an increased focus on healthy lifestyles which would involve a facility to co-ordinate prevention.
We need somewhere for art and tutoring
We are a young family with three small children, and we want to stay in St. George but we need more things for our kids to do here, in order to KEEP us here. Forgot to mention a splash pad would be out #1 cry for the immediate area :)
Thanks :)
It would be fantastic to not have to travel from St. George to St. Stephen to use their civic centre. We have enough interest in this town that if the services were offered, they would be used and gladly paid for. Also, as a basketball parent (3/9 kids in basketball), there is a need for more gym space/time as our teams often have to travel or take less practice time as there is no space available.
The eastern section of this area in the area surrounding St George has many many jobs but no facilities and people want to live where the recreation facilities are. Families of school teachers and professionals are choosing to move closer to the facilities and services they require and travel to work and this trend will continue if facilities and services families demand are not built. Families for the most part do not look for low taxes they look for good facilities and services when deciding where to live.
Physical activity is extremely important. A healthier community is important to everyone. More parks, walking biking and hiking would be an asset. Another gym for our children and adults would be awesome.
Swimming and aquatic exercises are better for health. Need an indoor walking place for seniors n people for winter.
I think there should be more water based recreation, given our proximity to the salt water. I also think there should be much more organized activity in the schools
I would like to contact land owners and build a trail network just north of st. George.
I think that instead of using Tax payers money to build a big "Field house" in an area where only the locals can get to without a drive, we should open up the facilities already available in the Schools which are already there and paid for by the tax payers. I know there are many restrictions etc. for using schools these days so that people can no longer afford to put on fitness oriented classes etc. which I think should be changed as all the schools are local so people would not have to travel far especially in the winter. In the day time there are church halls etc. who need money so maybe we could help there to give some money to these facilities if they can be used for classes etc.
Again.....I do not think building on huge building in one of our communities will help. We need to work with what we have locally.
Eastern Charlotte is in dire need of an all year recreation facility, we are the economic driver for Charlotte County, but lack the necessary means to retain higher wage earners in our area ! Most of our top people commute rather than live here, keeping our tax revenues lower than needed to improve growth ! We are in the process of building this centre, but not getting much support from various government departments who expect us to know the complicated process involved in such an undertaking ! There should be people in government we can turn to that are genuinely interested in seeing these projects through to completion, and not let inexperience on our part to condemn them to failure !
There is a limited amount of gymnasium space available in St. George, which makes it difficult to have a good evening program for non-school related groups. There is a limited number of trails in the St. George area. The facilities at Canal beach need repair and upgrades - washroom facility, canteen. The Adventure centre in St. George could really benefit from added activities - ie. another skating rink in winter, changing facilities for swimming, etc.
We desperately need a swimming pool in St. George and access to dance classes without having to travel to St. Stephen. Martial arts other than tae kwon do would be a nice change.
Disabled now so can't do all I used to
multi use trails
I travel everyday to the YMCA an hours drive as there isn't anywhere in the St. George area that has a gym or gym facilities. We need a place closer to St. George
NOTHING IN OUR AREA
When traveling to other areas, whether in NB or outside, there seems to be so many recreational areas that we certainly need.

Should be user pay for most

My son is 8, and it is so sad for him to have to travel for opportunities, it isn't realistic for us to travel long distances on school nights to swim or play indoor sports. Any recreation we have to travel 40 mins or more. I'd love for him to have opportunities in st George, as I've moved home from a city to stay in a small town, however it is frustrating for lack of gyms/ recreation facilities, there isn't anything in winter, we love soccer/ tennis I work/ volunteer in our community and I would help make this happen any way I could

Model off of Halifax rec, check it out. It would benefit greatly this area.

We live in a climate that NEEDS good recreational facilities in EVERY community. Physical activity is so important for good health. We should have a nice facility with pickleball/badminton courts and a nice indoor walking track for people to get exercise at every day of the week.

Regarding recreatiin it is not fairly cost shared. Residents living outside of incorporated municipalities leach the services for free with no tax contribution.

Help with funding for the bigger Facilities that all people use instead of just the Little villages/towns to fund when all users are from all the regional area

The arenas in Blacks Harbour and St Andrews need to be renovated , so they are warmer . The cold keeps people from attending hockey games. Someone needs to build a indoor dome facility in St George, so people can stay active when it's raining or winter . With a dome , people could play soccer , rugby , badminton etc . I think it's important to keep the youth active , to keep them away from drugs and alcohol. Perhaps a indoor rock wall like they have in cities for wall climbing.

Daycare facilities and Programs for Youth age 9-13 both summer and after school are desperately needed in this area. 98% of Daycare in this area is in private homes and there are no programs for youth. Summer day camps and after school activities would be great in addition to an indoor walking facility.

McAdam Nature trail is in need of all new bridges, this will help recreation in our area.

In Harvey we have a rev centre and a curling club why not bring these activities under one roof

I'm the head coach of the local girls travel team for softball and girls junior high varsity basketball. More money needs to be devoted to developing girls programs and help with existing ones. Parents are responsible for transporting players for school teams when all other teams in our league have school busses available. Players on school teams have to pay up to 185\$ to play when most other schools we play (basketball) play for free, we play in a Us league and it's night and day difference between the two countries. The out of pocket expenses heaped onto players representing their school in Charlotte county is too much. I recently developed the local girls softball league in st. Stephen and without the donations of local businesses we would have folded. We spoke with representatives from the province regarding grants but so much red tape involved for us to get the money needed to start. We persevered and have a successful program now. As far as basketball is concerned we would like to see a local gymnasium renovated for public use and not rely on schools for use of theirs. We have an old arena here in town currently being used for storage. So much potential there.

GCC ~ need to have more flexible times for skating , swimming aquafit etc...no extra charge should be add for members , more aquatic programs for aging population . Firmly believe that more recreation programs , the less \$\$ spent on health care.

schedule at Civic Center is not welcoming

more programs for special needs children

Would love to see an indoor pool

Lots to do outside in summer but more difficult during winter months.

need more activities for seniors and an inside walking track would be great for our seniors to keep morderately in shape and in turn save \$\$\$ for our health care system by having healthier, more fit seniors.

Use to be volunteer fire fighters

Need a pool but realize it's expensive. It would be safer for bicyling and walking if all roads had paved shoulders. Any new road improvements should include these.

Our family continues to find many recreation activities to take part in and we are happy to live here. Fields, outdoor courts, etc need to be attended to and financially managed for the long term.

Mist families can't afford the high cost of recreation in nb.trail passes insurance. Family swimming prices to much forvyi little. We are taxed to death in nb and We have nothing to offer people living there tense why people are moving where there is something to do and you do not have to remortgage your home to provide entertainment for your kids.

I feel we need more safe accessible outdoor recreation areas for walking ,hiking, running, relaxing in nature so people can get out with their families . I don't feel activities have to be highly structured and organized to enjoy exercise and a healthy lifestyle. If children learn to enjoy the outdoors in a safe environment this will carry on into their adulthood. We need some new infrastructure as well to bring tourist dollars into the city- hockey tournaments, ball tournaments etc. The port city needs to become a leader again in NB. We need to invest some money to attract business and culture that doesn't revolve around oil that just gets shipped out of here with NO benefit to the citizens.

In the future for sure, once my kids are a bit older. We are newer to town but hope to give back to this awesome community. I have a recreation background so this is something that really interests me.

Facilities for young families and children are needed in St. George. This is why family's are moving to other areas. Please take a close look at what activities young families are traveling out of town to attend and you will see what needs to be invested in for our area....indoor playgrounds/areas for young children, swimming pools, splash pads. When families travel out of town for these activities you'd be surprised how much is spent in those other towns/cities...for example stopping for groceries, gas, restaurants before or after the activity (exactly like our family did last week...and every week). I am hearing that certain facilities will be off limits talking about like big civic centres and swimming pools, but also that we are trying to attract people and families to stay/or move back to this area. This is the issue, big money will need to be invested to see big gain. It's like adding our great tennis court and saying we have invested in recreation....it's not investing smartly unless the facility we are adding will actually be used by locals and attract people from other towns as well. And what will be used is the facilities that people are traveling for....pools, splash pads, civic centres, indoor play for children.

I feel it is very important to provide as much recreation as possible to all members of our society, both young and old. Our FMHS is booked solid to provide recreation for our youth and that is great. It is very difficult to book time in other gyms under our current super district, often causing individuals or groups not to go through the process.

Need more promotion of Garcelon Centre pool and other programs. Promote and sell memberships, follow-up with participants you use services or buy memberships to see how they can be more engaged in the programs offered, in developing new programs, volunteering, etc.

I am a volunteer for Charlotte County Cancer, Walk Cause We Care and on the Board for helping Cancer Patients.

St Andrews has a great playground. However, as the parent of a child not yet in school, it is very frustrating that the only playground in town is unavailable to us during school hours! I would like to see more recreation options available to us during the school day, as this is when we would be most likely to make use of them. Now that the weather is getting colder this is especially problematic as it means we spend all day inside.

The town of St. Andrews needs a gym for public use. As far as I know the Algonquin hotel no longer allows public to use its facilities. A new facility with an indoor pool and workout equipment with be a great addition to the town that I personally would use on a daily basis.

In my region on Saint Andrews, it's frustrating to see all these "new"things around town and not having a basic gym that people can access year round at a reasonable price. There's a new huge playground for younger kids, new skate park for older children, and short paved trail. It has taken lots of fundraising to get these up and running, which is great to see the community come together for it. We don't have a gym, a pool to swim laps, or somewhere where we can go running or walking year round that we are sheltered from the elements and vehicles! There'a a huge demand for exercise classes for all levels and there's not a space large enough to accomodate these classes. I was lucky enough to take advantage of our local yoga studio and was ashamed to hear how many issues the town gave them over it. It was no surprised they left and no one else was interested in taking it over. I am also lucky enough to participate in a local fitness class with an amazing teacher, however the church is the only local large enough for us and it's not ideal in anyway (floors, ventilation, cleanliness..)

Could be interested in volunteering however age becomes a factor

I read a LOT.

In my area there are no public use gyms no outdoor or indoor pool closest is twenty five mins away

Questions 10 and 11 about modes of transportation and travel times show identical lists of recreational activities. My mode of transportation is my car and travel times can be a 15 minutes to 1.5 hours of driving outside the region.

st.george needs an indoor facility for swimming and walking

Needs to be all elusive of all recreation with financial help from the province

Michael E. Morton Memorial Rink should be considered for financial assistance through this program. This being our first year as a Non profit, but our 3rd year providing an outlet for recreational activities throughout the winter months. Our goal is to eventually be a 365 day per year facility.

Living on Deer Island I feel that I don't have easy access to many facilities. It is a choice to live here - so I do the best I can . I feel we do have adequate ferry service. As well we are very fortunate to have a small camp on the mainland so we can access that during 3 seasons which I thoroughly enjoy. Sometimes we all need to rediscover what we have in our back yard for free.

We have to travel too far to take part in any programs.

For health reasons we owe it to ourselves to have a recreation facilityy in our area.

We live on an island with limited access to Urban programs and facilities but the unlimited natural access to the ocean and beaches, forests and trails, more than makes up for it. The Herring Cove Provincial Park and Roosevelt International Park are extremely important resources for Campobello Islanders - with groomed trails, playgrounds, sport and events areas, and (Summer) Programs.

My opinion is a new complex with a improved ice sheet(arena), and indoor track, gym and indoor court for hockey, soccer etc.. in the St.George Black Harbor area that could also be used by current martial arts schools and other local businesses to offer a more centralized and common wellness venue..

because of my work schedule, the garcelon center is not a good option for me to do exercise classes, I don't get off work til 530 in St George and every weekend family duties take me to saint john. I would like to see inexpensive (5\$ a class) yoga, fitness, martial arts etc. I was going to private fitness classes but I found \$90 a month too much and it was always a race to get there for 6, and only twice a week was not enough

there is high demand for an artificial turf field in this county, especially for use in spring and fall when ground is still too wet or snow has fallen and in summer when regular fields get closed because of rain. Soccer and rugby are two existing field sports that could use a turf field but others will likely become popular such as lacrosse and field hockey

I have coached school and recreational teams in basketball and volleyball

Existing facilities are not used as often as they should be. Perhaps making said facilities, ie community schools, more user friendly, many would benefit in the area, with minimal expense. A regional recreational council, with equal representation from each area, might be a good starting point.

We have some really nice facilities in our region that see little use due to lack of organization for programs. Our communities sporting events are all run by volunteers who take it upon themselves to start and govern our programs. I believe a recreation director would be a huge asset to the community if that person was hard working and willing to put the time into organizing programs for our kids.Last spring a bunch of people took it upon themselves to resurrect a co ed softball league in Bonney river that has been missing for nearly 15 years. There was great support and turnouts for the league, it was a great year. If not for a couple people stepping up to organize this it would not have happened.

The was also a new men's hockey league formed to operate out of blacks harbour this fall which has been a success but without someone stepping up and organizing these things they simply do not happen.

St. George area needs more facilities, especially a pool and/or gym. We have a rink but still have to travel to St. Andrews for half our hockey practices. Traveling to Saint John or St. Stephen for everything else is costly and time consuming making a lot of activities inaccessible for many. Attention to be paid to people of all ages with disabilities in the planning and design of any facility, communities in the region tend to be silos and neighbouring communities don't necessarily know what is available, communication is deplorable - determination of lowest common denominator (phone) being used rather than electronic means exclusively, an information hub would be useful, more rec programming with coastal use (diving, snorkling, discovery and education programming as well, sailing clubs, beach clean ups, beach investigation)

The outside rink spearheaded by volunteers was a great assets to st george last year

It would be nice to have a pool built by the Grant Harvey arena since the unb pool is being closed

I am disappointed that art and museums does not get a mention or thought in your recreation planning. Both our minds and bodies need attention for us to stay healthy.

Need for a turf field in St.Stephen is crucial to continue sporting programs such as soccer football track and field

Our recreation time is outdoors, making use of the nature that surrounds us.

Very limited in rural areas

Campobello is unusual because of the distance ... I do wish that facilities in Saint Stephen were avaiable at earlier times to allow for travel back to the island on week days. BUT love the access to natural trails and beaches here ... we are very lucky!

The park play equipment needs to be updated desperately

Would like to see something in central charollette, the garcelon beautiful but cannot afford to drive daily to use, I am sure a lot of people do not have the means to drive that far over half and hour each way to exercise is a lot to work out for an hour each day.

A Recreation Facility should be a priority for Campobello. Our population is important also and traveling an hour to St.Stephen is not feasible

Many trails, such as abandoned railway lines, are available for opening and if not acted upon, will be lost to other forms of development, as seen with the abandoned line departing Saint Andrews towards Lawrence Station where once open now houses have been built making future development and use of the potential trail much less possible. In so many areas, where the land is currently pristine and undeveloped, recreational corridors can be charted and prepared, so when the eventual development occurs, the trails infrastructure will already be in place, initially improving the retail value of the land resources, with greater quality access, and ensuring for the future, the potentially greater use for the greater number of enthusiasts for the least costs of overall investment.

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Would LOVE something in St. George, I am so tired of traveling to Saint John for everything. Thank you!

More improvement and promotion for Pea Point and the Connors Nature Preserve in Blacks Harbour and for Lepreau Falls.

In the first question it was indicated that the Border Arena was a recreational area but the interior of the venue is not available currently for recreational activities.

Here is a lot of emphasis placed on physical movement in funding for facilities and participants at all levels of government. While I see the merits of this, it must also be remembered that there are those who are unable for one reason or another to take part in such activities. The sport of airgun shooting (a recognized Olympic sport) concentrates on remaining as still as possible and focusing your mind on one thing - the target. As young people learn how to do this they develop core strength, something vital to all sports and also learn to concentrate and become more self confident. It should also be noted that we do not have injuries such as concussions, contusions, muscle tears and other such injuries seen in most sports. We have trained many young people in the proper use and care of firearms and have taught them the respect necessary for the sport. In all the years we have been working with young people we have NEVER had anyone behave in a detrimental way with firearms on or off the range!

Our mandate is to encourage competition shooting, but in our present facility we are unable to host such competitions, thus placing our athletes at a distinct disadvantage because travel is an expensive undertaking. Unfortunately, there does not appear to be any other alternative as there are no other spaces in the area able to accomidate our needs and within our budget as we fund raise to support ourselves.

The Border Arena would be ideal for our purposes if it were made available and I for one hate to see it fall into disrepair. Lets get this facility open post haste, encouraging more activities in town instead of delaying so long that it becomes dangerous and in need of destroying, at which point someone will come up with an idea for a recreational building costing much, much more than it would have cost to upgrade it now!

Poor or no info on what is available-not all have FB, these could provide jobs and tourism boost, don't put more in school facilities that are over booked, a large facility offering many thing to many and w shared maintenance and staff is better (walking track and gym and pool and yoga classes and rooms for meetings/classes/lectures/ movies/roller-inline skating/ice skating, soccer.... all indoors) incl cafeteria which helps pay for facilities

In rural areas the groupd participating in any one activity will be smaller, abd so the cost of renting a olace vecomes prohibitable. Make existing facilities less expensive so they can be used by recreational programs like yoga. Any physical or mental program.. These groups can't afford the rental rate without charging participants too much. Also transport for low income or senior residents is often a stumbling block; this in part could be alleviated by using the local schools and LSD buildings that are closer to the communities.

Before you build new facilities have a look at the existing ones and the reasons why they are not fully used.

St.Stephen Cemetary should be included as a recreational location.

Southwest NB has distinct subregions: McAdam and Harvey / Campobello / St. Stephen and St. Andrews / Grand Manan / Eastern Charlotte

Each of these regions has their distinct recreation programs, facilities and needs.

I live in the Easten Charlotte area which includes Deer Island, Blacks Harbour, St. George and adjacent Local Service Districts..

In terms of indoor pool facilities, service is adequetely provided by the Garcelon Centre in St. Stephen or one of the pool facilities in Saint John.

In terms of ice facilities, the Patrick Connors Complex and the W C O'Neill Complex in St. Andrews provide adequate ice time in this area.

In Eastern Charlotte County at the present time, there is an adhoc committee examining recreation programs and the feasibility of building a facility in the area to meet the following needs.

--- currently nowhere in the Southwest Region is there an indoor soccer facility. I believe there are gyms where soccer is played but no facilities exist with the surface and dimensions specifically for soccer. Such a facility combined with an indoor walking track, would be in demand and would greatly increase the number of children and adults engaged in the sport of soccer.

The indoor walking facility is a high priority item.

Such a venue would also lend itself to hosting music events, craft shows and other large audience events

--- wellness / fitness centre Currently there are no facilities in Eastern Charlotte for weight training. There are fitness and yoga classes but no standard gyms with equipment.

The Garcelon Centre is the closest.

--- gymnasium It is increasingly difficult for the local minor basketball association to secure time in the local schools with the new system of booking and the fact that gyms are not available when custodians are not working.

A gymnasium as part of this proposed new recreation complex for Eastern Charloette County, would be well used for many sports by many groups both youth and adult.

--- community rooms for day care and afterschool programs and summer and holiday youth camps. There is a great need for these programs in our area.

I fully support the building of a new recreation facility and I fully support the organization of recreation programs in Eastern Charlotte County

Trail development and maintenance. Use of licensing fees that are added on for our trail development, ATV horseback and walking trails.

I would like to see outdoor exercise equipment such as is prove in northern New Brunswick, communities such as Barrie, Ontario and many European communities.

I would like to see the addition of a year round swimming pool added to the community center on Grand Manan.

Recreation is vital to a community as is safety. A bike trail adjacent to route 776 would balloon the number of people walking and riding. Our narrow roads and close calls discourage this activity especially between populated areas.

The ferry system adds extra cost to all teams (mainland and Island) travelling due to user fees imposed on this small piece of New Brunswick highway.

We need more and varied walking trails. Also parks. I have mobility limitations. It would be nice to have trails that can be accessed by someone who is limited by mobility, and not just a walk through a town or something similar. It would be nice if there was accessibility to some local vistas and views as well.

As a retired person, there is lots to keep me busy.

The border arena needs to be renovated quickly. Why is it taking so long? The building will be ruined soon. I'd love to see a new range there. We have some of the best shooters in the world right here!

I think an artificial turf field in the area would get the best bang for our buck. Most of the area fields are in rough shape even after several attempts to fix them. The sports and activities that can be done on those fields would ebcourage a wider range of participants as ghey tend to be cheaper.

The area of Lepreau/Maces Bay has nothing. They are completely left out of the recreation opportunities. St George is the same time drive as Saint John for me. I don't want to have to drive that far for recreation opportunities , especially in winter. We need something here in this area.

Municipalities cannot be depended on to shoulder the burden of maintaining recreation facilities. Outlying areas should be paying an amount to proportional to their residents usage of a town or villages rec facilities. Iâ€™ve always heard the example that the village of Blacks Harbour shoulders 90% of the cost for their arena but village residents are only 10-15% of the users. Iâ€™m sure St. Stephen and St. Andrews have the same issue but not as profound as Blacks Harbours

We have a fully functioning arena in our town that is being used as a garage. The civic centre is great for the teams and the community but need more than that I think. Itâ€™s hard to get ice time if you donâ€™t play on a team, and the public skating hours are very weird.

We could use a local pond in the winter, an open ice surface to use when we want, individual practice time for kids that would like to just go mess around with a puck (not for full team practices) have small pond hockey games...

how much could it really cost to run the ac long enough to freeze the ice and keep it froze on the warmer days and let Mother Nature do the rest?

The biggest barrier to recreation in the region is the policy recently implemented by the Dept. of Education regarding school use. We went at one elementary school from the gym hosting an average of more than 200 people over five weekdays to a group of 5-8 using it one night a week.

This has been repeated throughout the district. Milltown Elementary was officially designated a "Community School" in an elaborate ceremony by a former Minister of Education. Now it remains virtually empty most nights while local children, without access to transportation, sit at home or wander the streets.

Snpwmpbiling was not mentioned on survey! Everything should be user pay

I was involved in childrenâ€™s recreation for most of my adult life, our facilities in Eastern Charlotte are totally inadequate for todayâ€™s needs ! With a volunteer base almost non existant, we need to do more to provide recreation that is tailored to our needs and managed by a director and paid staff ! Our current plans for a recreation / wellness centre in St.George needs to be backed by the RSC, and funded by all levels of government, I firmly believe, with proper management, and involvement by all communities in this area, this facility will be self sustaining, and enable us to attract new residents and retain the ones we have ! Considering this area is the economic center of Charlotte County, the support is long overdue for a recreation centre in this area !



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