



Municipality of the County of Richmond

# Active Living Strategy & Recreation Plan



THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF  
**RICHMOND**

LA MUNICIPALITÉ DU COMITÉ DE  
**RICHMOND**

**UPLAND**

**RE**Consulting Group



## Active Living Strategy and Recreation Plan

April 2023

This report was prepared by UPLAND Planning + Design Inc., in association with REConsulting Group, for the Municipality of the County of Richmond.

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# I Purpose

The primary goal of this Active Living Strategy and Recreation Plan is to assess the state of recreation within the Municipality of the County of Richmond and to plan a future for recreation services, facilities, programs, and building a culture of active living that reflects the values and needs of the community.

Residents of the Municipality of the County of Richmond are able to take advantage of a range of recreation options provided by the Municipality and the many community organizations located in the County. The stunning natural landscape provides a wide range of exciting self-directed recreation activities, and the Municipality and various community organizations offer a variety of recreation programs and services that benefit residents of all ages.

However, there remains a need to plan for future development, redevelopment, and enhancement of the Richmond Arena and the Municipality's recreation services, open spaces, recreation programs, and the culture of active living. This planning process has been undertaken as a step in that direction, and includes an analysis of current and forecasted needs, clear recommendations, and an implementation strategy for the 10-year period from 2023 to 2033.

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## 2 Methodology

This Active Living Strategy and Recreation Plan was developed through a three-phase process that began with a systematic analysis of the existing conditions in Richmond County, followed by a targeted public outreach and engagement effort, and finally a strategic synthesis of the information derived. The three phases are referred to as:

- + Discovery and Analysis,
- + Community Consultation, and
- + Plan Development

The results from the Discovery and Analysis phase can be found in the Current State of Recreation report. That phase established a foundation for the recommendations contained within this Plan and included an analysis of existing plans and policies impacting active living and recreation in Richmond County, as well as a review of national, provincial, and local recreation trends. An inventory of the existing recreation facilities, parks, and trails in Richmond was also conducted during this phase.

In the Community Consultation phase, residents, community members, and other stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide their feedback about active living and recreation in Richmond County. Public surveys were made available, stakeholder interviews were conducted, and an interactive online map was hosted on the project website to provide an opportunity for anyone to leave comments and suggestions that might help inform the project. The results of the Community Consultation phase are summarized in the What We Heard report, which has been provided as Chapters 15, 16, and 17 at the end of this report.

The third and final project phase involved the development of this Active Living Strategy and Recreation Plan. The gaps and opportunities identified in the Discovery and Analysis and Community Consultation phases of the project were used to lay a foundation for the Plan. To guide the planning process, vision and mission statements were developed, along with a set of six guiding principles. Policy recommendations were developed for Municipal Council and the Recreation and Community Relations Department, along with action plans for the Municipality's indoor recreation facilities, sports field and outdoor facilities, parks and playgrounds, natural and open spaces, trails, and water-based recreation.

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## 3 The State of Recreation

Although the Municipality of the County of Richmond only owns and operates one recreation facility, a significant number of other facilities provide recreation services for local residents. In addition to the Richmond Arena, the 8,509 residents living in the Municipality have access to community halls, libraries, sport fields, a skatepark, playgrounds, beaches, surf spots, wilderness parks, trails, and more.

There are also a variety of recreational programs on offer within the Municipality, including scheduled and drop-in fitness programs, and cultural programs. The Municipality offers a combination of direct programming (organized and administered by Municipal staff) and indirect programming (Municipal staff working with community partner organizations).

The state of repair of recreation facilities varies significantly across the County. School facilities, both indoor and outdoor, are generally in good condition, while some other facilities are so badly deteriorated that they are unusable for play and unsafe for occupancy. The state of repair depends significantly on the number of volunteers available, and the ability of the managing organization to raise funds from their community and government for maintenance, repair, and upgrades.

In the Municipality of the County of Richmond, both the youth cohort (age 0 to 19) and working age cohort (age 20 to 64) have lost population over the last two decades. Meanwhile, the Municipality's senior age cohort (age 65 and over) has been growing, and as of the 2021 Census seniors made up one third of the total population. In line with this increase in the senior population, the average median age in the Municipality has risen almost 10% over the last decade, from 51 to 56 years of age, remaining higher than the provincial median age over that period. As Richmond ages, the ways in which residents access recreation can be expected to change.

Another factor that has direct implications for this Plan is household income. In the Municipality of the County of Richmond, the median before-tax household income is \$60,800. This is 15% lower than the provincial median of \$71,500, and lower still than the national median income. When compared to both Nova Scotia and Canada, a larger percentage of people living in Richmond receive government transfers such as employment insurance, disability benefits, and social assistance (almost twice the national rate). Despite this, the proportion of households spending more than 30% of their income on shelter costs (the national measure of unaffordable housing), is lower in Richmond than it is in both Nova Scotia and Canada. In Richmond the rate is 12%, compared to 18% across the province and 21% across Canada.

These two trends, demographics and income, have direct implications for the Municipality of the County of Richmond in terms of how the provision of active living and recreation services may need to change in the future. As Richmond's senior population continues to grow, and with a considerable portion of the population relying on social assistance, shifts in the provision of recreation services and programs will be required.

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## 4 Engagement Summary

Throughout the engagement phase of this project a number of key themes emerged:

### **Access to Active Living and Recreation**

Distance, cost, and barriers to physical accessibility were all cited as key barriers to participation in recreation opportunities in Richmond. While the vast geography of Richmond County enables the Municipality to offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities, it also creates challenges and barriers with respect to accessing recreation as programs and services do not reach everyone in every community.

### **Programming**

Engagement participants pointed to a gap in introductory program offerings, and a desire to see more guided fitness and arts and cultural programs. There was also a strong desire for the Municipality to host more events in order to bring the community together. Continued expansion of the existing equipment loan program was also suggested as a way to decrease barriers to participation in recreation.

### **Facilities and Infrastructure**

While some engagement participants identified a new multi-use recreation facility in the Municipality as a priority, others suggested distributing recreation opportunities throughout the County, focusing on the use of existing community halls. Walking, jogging, and running emerged as the activity that most survey respondents indicated participating in, but several commented on the lack of sidewalks and poor street lighting, which made them feel unsafe.

### **Trails**

Maintenance of trails came up as a persistent issue, both on community and provincial trails. Participants also mentioned that there was a need for maps of the trails in the area, as well as trail signage and trailhead parking to improve the experience for trail users.

### **Partnerships**

Many community groups indicated wanting to have more regular communications with the Municipality, suggesting that this could assist with their awareness about opportunities for financial support. It was also indicated that there is opportunity to deepen the partnership with Potlotek First Nation by sharing programs, events and facilities.

### **Communication and Engagement**

More than 20% of survey respondents said they were not sure what recreation opportunities were available in the Municipality, and concerns were raised with the reliance on social media as a platform for the distribution of information. Youth were identified as a group that requires specific attention.

### **Other Opportunities for Active Living and Recreation**

Several participants indicated they wished to see more tourism promotion in Richmond, as well as a need to develop more water-based recreation activities, including kayaking and canoeing.

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# 5 Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

## 5.1 Vision

The Municipality of the County of Richmond is a flourishing "community of communities" with outstanding recreational, cultural, and natural experiences where residents and visitors access diverse opportunities and pursuits that foster active living, creative enrichment, and community vitality.

## 5.2 Mission

The Municipality of the County of Richmond's Recreation and Community Relations Department provides leadership, support, and guidance for the development and delivery of recreation, sport, and active living services.

The Department engages citizens, community groups, Municipal Council, and other municipal departments in ensuring its citizens can volunteer, organize, gather, celebrate and participate in activities that promote individual and community well-being.

### 5.3 Guiding Principles



#### Quality Recreation Service Delivery

All interactions and experiences with residents of, and visitors to, the Municipality of the County of Richmond are of the highest quality, customer-oriented and evaluated for continual improvement.



#### Community Engagement

Recreation service delivery by the Municipality of the County of Richmond engages citizens, Municipal Council, and other municipal departments in ensuring its citizens can volunteer, gather, celebrate, and participate in activities that promote individual and community well-being.



#### Collaboration

The Recreation and Community Relations Department values and nurtures mutually beneficial partnerships with community-based organizations, the private sector and all levels of government.



#### Active Living

The Recreation and Community Relations Department supports and promotes opportunities for active play, physical literacy, healthy behavior, and social connections, enabling all residents to increase their participation in physical and social activities throughout their lives.



#### Equitable Resource Distribution

Distribution of recreation services and resources will provide a balance between effectively serving individual communities needs and contributing to the broader recreation delivery system across the Municipality.



#### Equity

Access and inclusion underscore all aspects of recreation service delivery by the Municipality of the County of Richmond.

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## 6 Outline of Recommendations

The following recommendations were developed following a systematic analysis of the existing conditions in Richmond County, followed by a targeted public outreach and engagement effort. The recommendations focus largely on policy development, programming, and service provision, while facility improvements and new development opportunities are also included. The list of recommendations also includes suggestions for strategic planning and partnerships that would improve the Municipality's ability to meet the community development and recreation expectations of the its residents.

The recommendations within this Plan are categorized into the following six sections:

- + Active Living
- + Administration and Accountability
- + Developing Strong Community Connections
- + Facilities, Parks, and Trails
- + Leadership
- + Program Service Delivery

Some of the recommendations established in this Plan include associated actions that the Municipality may wish to complete in accomplishing the recommendation. These are included as bullets within the text of the recommendation.

In order to assist with implementation, each recommendation is accompanied by timing and a priority indicators. These are explained in Figure 1 on the following page.

Fig 1. Recommendation timing and priority indicators.

Timing		
	Now	This recommendation should be implemented in the first 1 to 2 years following the Plan's adoption.
	Next	This recommendation should be implemented 3 to 5 years following the Plan's adoption.
	Future	This recommendation should be implemented 6 to 10 years following the Plan's adoption.
	Ongoing	This recommendation should be implemented on an ongoing basis.
Priority		
	High	This recommendation has a high degree of importance.
	Medium	This recommendation should be implemented following the high priority recommendations.
	Low	This recommendation is not as pressing as the medium and high priority recommendations, but is important nonetheless.

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## 7 Active Living

To some degree the terms “physical activity” and “active living” are used interchangeably. There is a difference. Active living is a lifestyle that integrates physical activity into everyday routines, such as walking to the store, biking to work, and sitting less. Active living is not a formalized exercise program or routine, but instead means to incorporate physical activity, which is defined as any form of movement, into everyday life.

In 2009, Richmond County placed a priority on physical activity with the adoption of its first Physical Activity Strategy. The Strategy had 47 objectives related to 5 key goal areas. While some of those goals and objectives are still viable in 2023, current thinking has evolved to taking a much broader view of movement and suggests focusing on active living over physical activity. Active living can be less intimidating and more manageable for community members to incorporate into their daily lives. Over the past few years, Richmond County has prioritized its physical activity initiatives on females over the age of 45, seniors, and girls.

Since the adoption of the 2009 strategy, several provincial and national resources have been developed to guide Richmond County in fostering a renewed focus on active living.

The Canadian 24-Hour Movement Guidelines provide evidence-based recommendations for physical activity, sedentary behaviour and sleep. The guidelines embrace the natural and intuitive integration of movement behaviours across the whole day (24-h period). The guidelines are unique because they don't just focus on a single movement behaviour, but instead look at how moving more, reducing sedentary time, and sleeping well integrate together.

Both the Shared Strategy for Advancing Recreation in Nova Scotia and SHIFT: Nova Scotia's Action Plan for an Aging Population identify active living as foundational to improving the health and well-being of Nova Scotians where they live, work and play.

Nova Scotia's Let's Get Moving Action Plan wants Nova Scotians to move more and sit less, more often. It challenges local governments and community organizations to work together in improving the social and physical environments making active living more accessible and inclusive.

### Municipal Roles

- + The Municipality should, using best and promising practices, create a culture of active living with their staff, volunteers, and residents.
- + The Municipality should establish social and infrastructure supports for walking in the natural and/or human-made environment.
- + The Municipality should establish social and infrastructure supports for additional opportunities for movement and active living.
- + The Municipality should implement policies to support movement.

7-01

## Active Living

Ensure the base level of service reflects a renewed commitment to introductory level, accessible, low cost programming that integrates less-structured physical movement throughout the day.

Timing:



Priority:



7-03

## Active Living

Work with leaders in the allied sectors of education, health, and local business to improve access to information and resources that foster a culture of active living in schools, workplaces and healthcare settings.

Timing:



Priority:



7-02

## Active Living

Prioritize "community" as the primary setting for active living interventions with a focus on those with less access and those that are less active in general.

Timing:



Priority:



7-04

## Active Living

Demonstrate the municipal administration's commitment to active living:

- + Organize team building events that encourage active living;
- + Support flexible work schedules to allow exercising during the work day;
- + Organize walking meetings;
- + Provide shower and locker facilities to support those exercising during the work day;
- + Install bike racks at municipal facilities.

Timing:



Priority:



7-05 Active Living

Organize physical activity leader training for daily activities such as walking, running, and cycling. Ensure volunteers are trained to a high standard and are able to competently and confidently lead short, free walks, runs and cycling experiences.

Timing:  Priority: 

7-06 Active Living

Facilitate the development of "buddy" programs for walking, hiking, cycling and special events in parks and on trails to encourage participation, ensure safe participation and create accountability for participants.

Timing:  Priority: 

7-07 Active Living

Focus on more casual drop-in, activity sampling and unstructured programs that facilitate active living making every effort to accommodate participant work schedules.

Timing:  Priority: 

7-08 Active Living

Create marketing and promotions campaigns for each season for all direct, partner and indirect programs and services. Utilize the municipal Facebook page to promote active living.

Timing:  Priority: 

7-09

## Active Living

Continue to expand the county-wide comprehensive equipment loan program with the following components:

- + Develop an Accessibility Programming and Adaptive Equipment Grant available to all organizations, groups and associations to help make recreation more inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities.
- + Expand the adaptive equipment loan program beyond sledges and build over time.
- + Explore a commercial or service club partnership/sponsorship to investigate the implementation of a bicycle loan program.
- + Work with community groups to install “play boxes” at community halls and play spaces, especially in the more remote areas if preschool and child population warrants such.
- + Partner with community hall associations to add additional equipment loan program sites, especially in regions that are lacking recreation opportunities.
- + Partner with the two libraries to create Play Packs for loan utilizing library cards.

- + Ensure the Winter Walking Kits are distributed to the outlying regions.
- + Expand the winter equipment loan program (snowshoes and cross-country skis) through partnerships with community-based organizations such as the Eastern Counties Regional Library and the Bras d’Or Lakes Inn to other areas of the County.

Timing:



Priority:



7-10

## Active Living

Ensure an emphasis on active living through unstructured and spontaneous play opportunities such as play days, community based special events, activity challenges, trail events and activity sampling.

Timing:



Priority:



## 7-II

## Active Living

Promote opportunities for self-directed recreation and active living experiences in traditional and electronic media. For example, include tips for rainy days, organizing activity "meetups", exploring your neighborhood, and "100 ideas to do on your own". Continually update and get input from community groups.

Timing:



Priority:



- + Partner with Trail Associations to deliver trail programming to include intergenerational activities, environmental stewardship, and "drop-in"/ unstructured opportunities. Ensure opportunities are provided for a variety of physical activity levels.
- + Promote and connect residents to resources and programs offered by Nova Scotia's outdoor recreation/ education providers (e.g., Hike Nova Scotia, the Trails Federation, Ecology Action Centre).
- + Continue to offer and expand the Trails Grant in order to support approved organizations, groups and associations to host and promote outdoor recreation programs and events.
- + Develop resources to support safe and active use of trails.

Timing:



Priority:



## 7-I2

## Active Living

Capitalize on the County's natural assets by:

- + Working with the Trail Associations to promote outdoor structured and unstructured opportunities throughout the year for all age groups especially youth and seniors.
- + Offering more physical activity initiatives on trails such as hike days and geocaching.
- + Exploring the feasibility of offering outdoor skills training in activities such as wilderness camping, canoeing, hiking, surfing, paddle boarding, cycling, sea kayaking, archery, and fishing.
- + Utilizing the resources of outdoor recreation providers to develop an outdoor recreation tool-kit to include activity ideas and planning processes.

## 7-I3

## Active Living

Expand safe and level appropriate programming for seniors with a focus on physical activity and social recreation, ensuring that it remains accessible and affordable. Suggested activities include pickleball, fitness classes, gardening, snowshoeing, walking and hiking clubs, bus trips, and shuffleboard.

Timing:



Priority:



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7-14

## Active Living

Ensure more alternative opportunities to structured hockey programs at the Richmond Arena exist. These options could include parent and tot skates, open skates, specific times for seniors, pick-up or low-organized hockey, and other non-competitive sports programs.

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Timing:



Priority:



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## 8 Administration and Accountability

The current level of satisfaction expressed through the engagement process reflects primarily a one-dimensional view of the role of the Municipality's Recreation and Community Relations Department as a service that exists to organize and deliver structured recreation and active living programs. Although this role is important, this limited view of the scope of the Department will create challenges in realizing the Department's full potential. There is a need to align the Department's human and fiscal resource capacity to the roles that are designed to meet the recreational needs of the County. The Department is challenged in balancing its provision of direct programs with assisting communities and their groups in organizing and managing their own programs and amenities.

There are currently no policies to guide the Department staff in administering the Municipality's recreation service delivery. This Plan suggests a number of potential policy actions that could be developed and implemented over time.

### **Municipal Roles**

- + The Municipality should ensure that its recreation operations have sufficient resources (human, financial, and administrative) to support the delivery of quality, safe, and inclusive recreation opportunities.
- + The Municipality should develop policies and procedures that define and guide the delivery of recreation services.
- + The Municipality should implement an ongoing process for data collection to inform decision making.
- + The Municipality should continue to enhance communication and promotion efforts related to the benefits of active living and recreation participation.

8-01

## Administration and Accountability

Develop policies that are approved by Council and reflect the Municipality's commitment to its focus on introductory level, accessible, low-cost programming including opportunities for active living, arts, culture, outdoor recreation and nature-based programming. Policies should also guide the equitable geographical distribution of programs and services.

Timing:



Priority:



8-02

## Administration and Accountability

Develop a decision-making framework to determine which opportunities are best provided directly (by the Municipality), indirectly (by community organizations with support from the Municipality), or left to the private sector. Such factors could include an assessment of available partners, gap filling criteria, facility availability, quality control, cost and whether the program meets the Department's mandate.

Timing:



Priority:



8-03

## Administration and Accountability

Develop an Access and Inclusion Policy that ensures recreation and physical activity programs and activities are accessible, welcoming, and inclusive. This can include:

- + Strategies to ensure access for underserved populations (low-income, persons with disabilities, newcomers and those living in the more remote, rural locations);
- + Ensuring program delivery incorporates the principles of universal access and recreation for all; and
- + Continuing to work with and expand partner organizations such as Kidsport and Jumpstart to further identify opportunities to expand the reach of programs and affordable recreation services.

Timing:



Priority:



8-04

## Administration and Accountability

Continually strive to objectively evaluate and determine where barriers to program participation exist (financially, physically, psychologically, attitudinally) and develop strategies on an annual basis to address inconsistencies.

Timing:



Priority:



8-05

## Administration and Accountability

Develop online strategies to address the implications of mental, physical and social isolation. Providing more online communication, ideas, programs, and services are proving to be effective in mitigating the implications of mental, physical and social isolation.

Timing:



Priority:



8-06

## Administration and Accountability

Explore the opportunity to provide access to a group liability insurance policy to community organizations that provide physical activity, sport and recreation opportunities to help reduce their operating costs.

Timing:



Priority:



8-07

## Administration and Accountability

Change municipal practice around the payment of programming staff. All paid leaders should be on payroll or formally set up as independent contractors, with proof of suitable insurance, invoicing the Municipality for their services. There should also be an equitable and consistent pay scale for program leaders that is reviewed regularly.

Timing:



Priority:



8-08

## Administration and Accountability

Utilize the registration system to its full potential including the participant tracking system for marketing and decision-making purposes. Encourage all registration to be completed online. Where online methods are not possible, ensure transparent and safe cash handling procedures that are auditable are in place. Eliminate manual transactions where possible unless it is accommodating those without online access or other barriers to technology.

Timing:



Priority:



8-09

## Administration and Accountability

Develop a Fee and Subsidization Policy with cost recovery ratios and a revenue generation strategy to ensure fees and charges are appropriate, transparent, fair and inclusive.

Timing:



Priority:



8-10

## Administration and Accountability

Develop a Fee Schedule for all programs based on the skill level of program and age category and in keeping with the above Fee and Subsidization Policy. Incorporate all aspects of an accessibility philosophy when establishing fees.

Timing:



Priority:



8-II

## Administration and Accountability

To facilitate access and coordination, establish formal Shared Use Agreements with each of three school boards: The Strait Regional Centre for Education, the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial School Board, and the Mi'kmaw Kina'matnewey School Board.

Timing:



Priority:



8-12

## Administration and Accountability

Create enhanced funding pathways to support community organizations that provide recreation, sport, and active living opportunities. Funding policies should be reviewed and updated to ensure equity of access, consistency, support of Council goals and directives, and accountability for the funds provided. Funding paths should exist for capital costs of local community halls and spaces, program service delivery, leadership development, and trail development and maintenance.

Timing:



Priority:



8-13

## Administration and Accountability

Continue to offer and expand funding support for recreation, sport, and arts and culture events. Consider creating an Events and Sport/Recreation Tourism Policy focused on strengthening the County's ability to attract and host events in collaboration with regional and government partners.

Timing:



Priority:



8-14

## Administration and Accountability

Review external grant and funding opportunities to see if additional resources could be obtained to advance recreation, sport, and the goals of this plan. This information should be shared with local recreation and sport groups to see if there are opportunities for them to obtain increased support for their efforts.

Timing:



Priority:



8-15

## Administration and Accountability

Negotiate a new funding agreement with the Strait Area Pool with clear funding criteria based on usage and ensure the invoices reflect the actual seasonal usage by Richmond County residents.

Timing:



Priority:



8-16

## Administration and Accountability

Expand traditional media use and explore new technologies to reach a greater audience. Social media tools are ever evolving and create a powerful resource for conveying public information, policy, and linking people together with programs organized by the municipality. Social media can be particularly effective in increasing public awareness of the benefits of physical activity through educational campaigns, events, and workshops.

Timing:



Priority:



8-17

## Administration and Accountability

Explore the potential to utilize augmented reality technology (app) to enhance the participant experience. An initial opportunity may be in improving trail access and usage (mapping, interpretation, signage, events).

Timing:



Priority:



8-18

## Administration and Accountability

Work in partnership with commercial operators and other outdoor stakeholders to offer activities that promote ecotourism throughout the County.

Timing:



Priority:



8-19

## Administration and Accountability

Regularly measure satisfaction levels of program participants and partner organizations.

Timing:



Priority:



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## 9 Developing Strong Community Connections

Recreation, active living, and sport activities and services are people-oriented experiences that create many opportunities to improve the community we live, work and play in. Municipal government is ideally placed to develop, lead and implement local policies that enhance community participation. Richmond County benefits from a variety of community volunteer led organizations and many are integral to the provision of recreation, sport, and active living opportunities.

Nurturing and supporting community-based organizations that share common and compatible goals to the Municipality enables a sharing of resources and knowledge, promotes a more efficient exchange of information, avoids duplication and overlap, ultimately leading to greater accountability, responsiveness, sustainability and transparency.

Relationship-building and partnership development is not easy. However, if built on a strong foundation of trust, mutual understanding, and commitment, the benefits far outweigh the challenges.

As revealed through the resident engagement and consultation process, participants were generally pleased with the Recreation and Community Relations Department and its delivery of structured recreation and active living opportunities. This is commendable. However, community-based organizations expressed a desire to gather on a more regular basis to network, coordinate, collaborate, and learn from one another. This desire provides an excellent opportunity for the Municipality to play a leadership role within the broader community organization network.

### Municipal Roles

- + The Municipality should support community organizations offering recreation, active living, and sport opportunities in coordinating their efforts and maximizing the effectiveness of their work.
- + The Municipality should enhance the participation of underserved populations in the organization of recreation, sport and active living opportunities that meet their specific and diverse needs.
- + The Municipality should provide expertise in assisting community-based recreation, sport, and active living groups in navigating local, regional, provincial and national support networks.

9-01

## Developing Strong Community Connections

Develop a program assistance guide for not-for-profit recreation groups and community hall volunteer associations that clearly defines and communicates the level and type of support provided by the Municipality in recreation program delivery, volunteer recruitment and training, program standards and evaluation.

Timing:



Priority:



9-02

## Developing Strong Community Connections

Strengthen and expand cross-sectoral relationships, as well as traditional and non-traditional collaborations and partnerships. This includes collaborative efforts to develop arts, cultural, and tourism opportunities and specifically, a renewed relationship with the Potlotek First Nations community, with a focus on:

- + Enhancing service delivery in the community;
- + Facilitating access to and participation in recreation, sport, and active living opportunities beyond the boundaries of the municipality;
- + Collaborating on events that promote cultural exchange.

Timing:



Priority:



9-03

## Developing Strong Community Connections

Enhance outreach and support to arts and cultural groups to support their delivery of arts and cultural recreation-based programming and to improve their volunteer and program capacity.

Timing:



Priority:



9-04

## Developing Strong Community Connections

Broaden participation in recreation, sport and active living by working with social service agencies and organizations that serve underrepresented populations.

Timing:



Priority:



9-05

## Developing Strong Community Connections

Develop a Community Events Support Policy to guide the Municipality's involvement in the organizing and staging of events. Particular to the Richmond Arena (and future municipal facilities), the policy should include booking procedures, priorities for use of space, hosting capacity of the facility, commercial restrictions, fees and charges, applicable bylaws, alcohol restrictions, and potential sources of funding and sponsorship.

Timing:



Priority:



9-07

## Developing Strong Community Connections

Foster partnerships to improve access to recreation, sport, and active living opportunities. To that end, develop a partnership framework that considers the goals and outcomes of the potential partner, the contribution of each partner, the tenure of the partnership, the benefits and costs to the Municipality amount of nurturing required to ensure success, and the accountabilities of each partner including performance measures.

Timing:



Priority:



9-06

## Developing Strong Community Connections

The Provincial Sport Organizations (PSOs) and Provincial Recreation Organizations (PROs) provide a wide range of program services and supports. Expand upon existing partnerships with organizations and develop new partnerships to take advantage of their opportunities to support volunteer recruitment, retention, training workshops and seminars.

Timing:



Priority:



9-08

## Developing Strong Community Connections

Continue and/or enhance the Recreation and Community Relations Department's commitment to working with regional recreation partners, including other municipal recreation departments in organizing regional networking and training opportunities for staff, program leaders, and volunteers; monitoring trends, conducting research; and, assessing opportunities for regional facility sharing and planning.

Timing:



Priority:



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## 10 Facilities, Parks, and Trails

The residents of the Municipality of the County of Richmond are generally satisfied with the recreation facilities in the community. The Municipality only owns one recreation facility, the Richmond Arena. Other facilities in the community, owned by community groups or other organizations, include community halls, sports fields, beaches, community and provincial trails, schools, provincial park, and private businesses.

Various residents expressed an interest in having a pool in their community, however they recognized that the Municipality does not have a large enough population base to support a swimming pool. Residents wishing to swim or participate in water-based activity use the pool in Port Hawkesbury or, in the summer, the various beaches in the County or private home-based swimming pools.

One of the most significant deficits residents reported in terms of recreation and physical activity infrastructure is the lack of safe places to walk. Walking (and running) is one of the most common and popular methods of staying active. The Municipality has few sidewalks, and the road shoulder is poor and unsafe for people walking in many places. The lack of lighting also makes walking after dark more dangerous. As well as making walking difficult, the state of the roadways makes cycling challenging. In the consultation, a 7-year-old described riding their bike on the side of the road as "too scary."

The other facility some residents expressed an interest in was a campground on Isle Madame. They feel a campground would attract tourists and families to recreate in the community. This type of facility would also be an economic driver for the community.

The Richmond Arena is a full-size arena with seating, a board room, a hospitality/program space, and a canteen. The facility is well-used with various programs and rentals during the regular ice season. The facility, community, and Recreation and Community Relations Department also use the meeting spaces. The Municipality has made a commitment to accessibility in the Arena, including the construction of an observation platform and the acquisition of sledges.

The Arena is approaching the end of its life cycle, and the Municipality must begin planning its replacement. Among several issues, the Arena floor is cracked and rippled. The state of the floor makes the installation of ice more complex and the use of the floor off-season impractical. The community supports replacing the Arena and hopes a new facility will include larger and more adaptive program spaces and an indoor walking track. Several groups have also expressed an interest in using the facility in the off-ice season for activities such as pickleball, floor hockey, events, children and youth camps, and rollerblading.

For some recreation spaces, the Municipality has accessed local school facilities. These facilities are generally in a good state of repair. Local community groups own other facilities in the community, such as community halls. Some of these facilities are regularly used for recreation programs and offer a variety of opportunities, both active and passive. Some of them are in exceptional condition and are very accessible. Others are older, and some groups lack the resources to invest in maintenance and accessibility upgrades. The Potlotek First Nation has made significant investments in recreation and cultural spaces as well as a medicine trail. The Potlotek leadership is keen to share these resources with external residents and groups. There are also for-profit businesses that provide recreation services.

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Residents of the Municipality expect new facilities, or significant upgrade efforts to existing facilities, to include a commitment to accessibility. This is especially important considering the ongoing aging of the population.

The Municipality has a wealth of outdoor facilities, including trails and beaches. Richmond County has a large ATV rider population, and they are committed to shared trail use and development. Trail maintenance and quality vary significantly by trail, with generally the Provincial trails being in better condition than community ones. The state of a trail generally depends on the various trail group's ability to attract and retain volunteers. Residents report that while some trails are suitable for all uses, some are unsuitable for hiking, walking with strollers, or cycling. There are various levels of accessibility on trails.

Residents enjoy their outdoor recreation opportunities and have several upgrades they hope to see to trails in the future. Residents would like to see maps for the various trails in the community, better signage and wayfinding, benches and shared rest areas, and increased development, upkeep, and maintenance.

One of the challenges in the Municipality of County of Richmond is the nature of its population distribution. Residents of the Municipality report transportation challenges to get to facilities and programs, relating to the cost and time it takes. It will be essential to balance the sustainability of facility spaces with the proximity of recreation opportunities to residents in the future.

### **Municipal Roles**

- + The Municipality should maintain and upgrade all components of its infrastructure used for sport and recreation purposes to meet the current and projected needs of the community, and best and promising standards or practices.
- + The Municipality should support local community organizations and groups in developing and maintaining facilities, parks, and trails.
- + The Municipality needs to support the coordination of the shared and simultaneous usage of recreation spaces and trails and help various activities be mutually supportive of each other.

## IO-01 Facilities, Parks, and Trails

The Richmond Arena has almost reached the end of its lifecycle. The Municipality should develop a plan for a new arena facility. In addition to a new ice surface, the facility design should accommodate meetings, programs, social spaces, and an indoor walking track. HVAC systems should be designed to include the capacity to support both winter and summer operations. The new facility design should incorporate universal design standards.

Timing:



Priority:



## IO-02 Facilities, Parks, and Trails

Based on the 2022 Trails Strategy, the Municipality should convene the various trail user groups and stakeholders in the community to implement a coordinated and mutually supportive approach for trails in the County of Richmond. The shared approach should address the development and maintenance of trails in the community, the development of trail maps and improved signage, an indication of the level of accessibility, opportunities to improve accessibility, bathrooms, and garbage collection, and a process to identify and prioritize new trails.

Timing:



Priority:



## IO-03 Facilities, Parks, and Trails

The Municipality should develop and promote a grant program to support the maintenance and infrastructure upgrades to community-owned and managed facilities. The municipal grant program should support life cycle planning for facilities and meet the accessibility goals and standards in the provincial Access by Design 2030 Plan.

Timing:



Priority:



## 10-04 Facilities, Parks, and Trails

The Municipality should actively promote and assist community groups with grant applications for provincial, federal, not-for-profit, and private sector funding opportunities to support accessibility and other priorities.

Timing:



Priority:



## 10-05 Facilities, Parks, and Trails

The Municipality should develop a pro-forma business plan to support additional camping opportunities in the Municipality. These opportunities should consider both tent camping as well as recreational vehicles.

Timing:



Priority:



## 10-06 Facilities, Parks, and Trails

The Municipality should include as a priority within its public works business plan and negotiations with the Province of Nova Scotia's Public Works Department, upgrading of road shoulders and lighting to improve opportunities for walking, running, and cycling. A list of priority locations should be identified as part of this work, ensuring that safe walking and cycling opportunities are available in every district of the Municipality.

Timing:



Priority:



## 10-07 Facilities, Parks, and Trails

The Municipality should establish a minimum standard of recreation infrastructure that should be available within 20 minutes of each resident of the Municipality. The minimum infrastructure should include the following:

- + A playground;
- + An accessible indoor multiple-purpose recreation space, such as a community hall, a school, or other suitable space;
- + An area of safe location suitable for walking and cycling;
- + A multi-kilometre multi-use trail; and
- + An outdoor field or play space, including an area for social gathering.

Timing:



Priority:



## 10-08 Facilities, Parks, and Trails

The Municipality should establish a facility allocation policy for the Arena and any other spaces for which the County of Richmond manages bookings, now or in the future. Procedures to be addressed in this policy include:

- + Allocating space based on the most significant benefit;
- + Balancing historical use of space with a demonstrated need for space;
- + Ensuring sufficient space is available for new and emerging activities;
- + Ensuring gender equity;
- + Ensuring user groups align with appropriate programming standards, such as the Canadian Sport for Life Athlete Development Model; and,
- + Ensuring opportunities for introductory skill development at all ages, non-competitive play, unstructured, drop-in, and spontaneous play.

Timing:




Priority:



## 10-09 Facilities, Parks, and Trails

The Municipality should invest in an online scheduling system for their facilities, programs, and services that include the options to allow residents to see availability in spaces and to book them online with minimal notice. There are remanent spaces in the Arena and other programs or services that could be used for short-term or single uses and to support access for persons facing barriers to participation.

Timing: 

Priority: 

## 10-10 Facilities, Parks, and Trails


The Municipality should promote the recreation and community facilities and features of the Potlotek First Nation.

Timing: 

Priority: 

## 10-II Facilities, Parks, and Trails

The Municipality should explore the option for outdoor rinks in various areas of the County. This would allow recreational skaters to be active at different times than available in the arena and be closer to home. While formal skating lessons may not be suitable or practical at a small outdoor rink, short skill development workshops, such as how to stop, fall, or skate backward, could be popular and encourage more people to be active in the winter.

Timing: 

Priority: 

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## II Leadership

The Municipality of the County of Richmond Recreation and Community Relations Department is the community's most prominent recreation leader and provider. The Municipality provides a wide variety of recreation programs and services. These programs and services range from introductory activities to unique and exciting options many larger municipalities do not have.

One widespread challenge every recreation provider in any rural municipality or setting faces is the availability of skilled or qualified leaders. For many, the choice of recreation programs is based more on the availability of instructors than on approved strategies or frameworks or the wants or needs of residents and visitors.

There are also other providers of recreation and sport services in the community. Sport programs such as baseball, hockey, and soccer are offered and managed by local sport associations. There are also various trail user groups, some working together and others not. Local community groups regularly rent space to the Municipality to run their programs. In some cases, they also host their own programs. Most of these groups and organizations are governed and managed by community volunteers.

The loss of experienced volunteer leadership is a trend impacting large and small community organizations across Nova Scotia, Canada, and North America. The recruitment of new volunteers is also challenging. How people want to volunteer, what they wish to do, and the time they have to give are all changing. Ultimately, the recruitment of new volunteers is not keeping pace with the retirement of current volunteers.

Regardless of the leadership model, recreation is changing. The

expectations of what people want, what successfully gets people more active, how residents and visitors want to interact with services and recreation leaders, and where infrastructure and leadership are needed to manage them are evolving. There are also new products, such as pickleball, that many communities are starting to embrace.

### Municipal Roles

- + The Municipality should promote volunteerism and support community organizations in recruiting, training, management, retention, and recognition of volunteers.
- + The Municipality should support recruiting and developing program leaders, coaches, and officials.
- + The Municipality should invest in its staff to ensure they bring the best and most promising recreation programs and practices, and community development approaches to the Municipality, community organizations, residents, and visitors to the Municipality of the County of Richmond.
- + The Municipality should develop relationships with and between any community group offering recreation services. All groups should support each other whenever possible, and opportunities for improved efficiency or effectiveness should be championed.

II-01

## Leadership

Due to the essential nature of volunteers in the delivery of recreation and sport opportunities, the Municipality should convene the community volunteer organizations to develop volunteer recruitment and management strategies. This effort should include learning about and implementing best and promising practices in rural volunteerism. The Municipality should also develop promotion and recognition approaches to support volunteer recruitment and retention. Resources such as Volunteer Nova Scotia, Volunteer Canada, Charity Village, and others should be utilized in this work.

Timing:



Priority:



II-02

## Leadership

The Municipality should develop the capacity of community leaders to facilitate the full participation of persons of diverse and racialized backgrounds in developing, leading, and evaluating programs and services.

Timing:



Priority:



II-03

## Leadership

The Municipality should provide or support the development of organizational and volunteer leadership skills within the community. This should include governance training, fundraising, cultural competencies, facility maintenance, community impact, and partnership development.

Timing:



Priority:



II-04

## Leadership

Due to the requirement for qualified or certified leaders for programs and sports, the Municipality should provide or support the development of skilled program and sport leaders, both for its programs and services as well as for those offered by other community organizations. This could include hosting training opportunities or supporting people to attend ones hosted by other groups and organizations. Resources such as Sport Nova Scotia's Regional Sport Consultant and the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage's Regional Physical Activity Consultant should be utilized. Helping community organizations connect with these resources is also a role for the Municipality.

Timing:



Priority:



## II-05

## Leadership

Youth recreation and engagement are critical for the community. The Municipality should create a process where the advice of youth is obtained and respected, and youth are linked explicitly to physical activity, arts and culture, and recreation programming.

Timing:



Priority:



## II-06

## Leadership

The Municipality should create a development and performance management plan for its full-time staff. This program should address knowledge and skill gaps within the staff team, improving community development skills and practices, cultural competencies, and awareness of best and promising practices in sport, recreation, and social and cultural opportunities. This plan should be multi-year in scope and have specific goals and performance standards.

Timing:



Priority:



## II-07

## Leadership

Due to the importance of trails to the community, and the various user groups, the Municipality should hire a Trails Coordinator. This Coordinator should champion the implementation of the Trails Strategy. They should convene trail groups to develop shared usage, development, and maintenance plans for trails in Richmond County. They will also be able to help individual trail groups develop trail-specific work plans based on that trail's specific needs. With a Coordinator in place, all these plans will be formulated similarly, capitalize on opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness and assure alignment within the region and with funders. There are also opportunities to build connections between the trails running through Richmond and other counties in Cape Breton.

Timing:



Priority:



II-08

## Leadership

The Municipality should hire a Community Development Lead. This position could be shared with the Trails Coordinator. This position is required to support the development of robust and mutually beneficial partnerships within the community.

Timing:



Priority:



II-09

## Leadership

Members of the Recreation Advisory Committee should be diverse. They should represent different age groups, genders, and other socioeconomic factors. They should represent the community's different types and views of recreation and sport interests. The Committee should establish a yearly work plan and a standing agenda. The Committee should report to municipal Council.

Timing:



Priority:



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## 12 Program Service Delivery

In this section, service delivery refers to the methods in which the Municipality provides, facilitates, and supports recreation, sport, and active living opportunities. It includes defining the level and type of programs to be provided and then determining the various and most cost-effective methods to deliver the services. The Municipality has traditionally focused on direct program delivery; however, there are also other sustainable and cost-effective delivery methods to meet the recreation needs of residents. While the Municipality of the County of Richmond provides a varied selection of quality and affordable programs, the large rural geography and sparsely populated smaller communities dictate the need for embracing a broader community development approach and a strategic focus on outreach.

The feedback during the engagement process indicated many participants felt there wasn't an equitable distribution of programs throughout the municipality, and that strong partnerships could help to address this.

In order to encourage active living initiatives, and given the low population combined with the vast geography, the Municipality will also need to emphasize self-directed and unstructured recreation opportunities so residents can manage their own recreation and active living experiences closer to home and at a time of their choosing.

Residents are very positive about their program experiences. Although challenges exist with respect to rural based programming, including recruiting qualified instructors and facility availability, a minimum base of programming should be defined and maintained especially for the more remote areas, making every attempt to adhere to the defined base level in the less populated regions. This will require the building and maintaining viable partnerships.

From an administrative perspective, the current administration of the program delivery across the municipality lends itself to a level of risk exposure, especially when it comes to the collection of revenues, inconsistencies in instructor remuneration and program fees, as well as a lack of consistency in program content. This Plan will recommend new methodologies to address these issues.

While the Municipality is recognized for its current array of quality programming, there were gaps identified related to growth in active living, opportunities for youth, seniors, outdoor and nature-based programming, as well as the need for a more holistic approach to community events, arts, and cultural programming.

### Municipal Roles

- + The Municipality should become an enabler in creating an environment that makes accessing recreation easy, safe, inclusive and equitable for all its residents and visitors.
- + The Municipality should strive to support the provision of recreation opportunities through a combination of direct, indirect and third-party private/public sector delivery methods.
- + The Municipality should optimize the unique natural assets within its boundaries, and connect residents and visitors to nature-based programming, skill development, environmental education and increased outdoor active living opportunities.
- + The Municipality should support and increase opportunities for active living for all age groups.

## I2-01 Program Service Delivery

Develop an inventory of “learn to” workshops/clinics, both in-person and online to introduce residents to new and emerging activities and physical activity opportunities.

Timing:



Priority:



## I2-02 Program Service Delivery

Adopt a base level of service for direct programming that ensures residents have access to introductory skill development, unstructured and drop-in type programs, and active living opportunities at low or no cost and close to their communities where feasible. This base level of service should be clearly defined and become the top priority focus area for direct service provision.

Timing:



Priority:



## I2-03 Program Service Delivery

Continue to follow all aspects of the HIGH FIVE Quality Assurance Program and the Quest component for child and youth programs. Additionally, set up a procedure for regularly evaluating adult, intergenerational, and seniors' programs.

Timing:



Priority:



## I2-04 Program Service Delivery

Develop a Program and Instructor Handbook. The Handbook should include but not be limited to, outlining all staff policies and procedures, cash handling practices, quality program standards and HIGH FIVE principles, safety and emergency procedures, and payroll procedures.

Timing:



Priority:



## 12-05 Program Service Delivery

Develop and standardize program content where possible. This is especially important when the program is offered in more than one location to ensure consistency.

Timing:



Priority:



## 12-07 Program Service Delivery

Explore additional program offerings in the outlying regions in partnership with the various volunteer groups at the community halls, trails, and other spaces.

Timing:



Priority:



## 12-06 Program Service Delivery

Strive to offer more intergenerational and family-oriented options.

Timing:



Priority:



## 12-08 Program Service Delivery

Investigate implementing a Sport Hub model with Sport Nova Scotia, perhaps in conjunction with the Municipality of the County of Inverness. Sport Hub is a community-wide collaborative initiative with long-term goals to improve community sport by increasing access and improving retention of sport participants. There are many possible scenarios and outcomes to integrating the Sport Hub model, and the elements can be customized to the current capacity and grown over time.

Timing:



Priority:



## I2-09 Program Service Delivery

Develop a multisport initiative offering various introductory sports. This approach increases the number of opportunities for children and youth to experience several sports within one program offering. As participants move through the program, interest in individual sports can be accommodated through the County's sport club system.

Timing:



Priority:



## I2-10 Program Service Delivery

Through a partnership with a local service club, explore the procurement of a mobile play wagon or van to service the more remote communities within the County.

Timing:



Priority:



## I2-II Program Service Delivery

Partner with the Dundee Resort to offer swimming lessons for children and youth in the summer. Explore other aquatic programming initiatives for all age groups to promote physical activity at this facility, including a senior's swim.

Timing:



Priority:



## I2-I2 Program Service Delivery

Expand the summer swim program and partner with Nova Scotia Lifeguard Services where appropriate to provide outdoor summer swimming lessons in each of the 5 Council districts. Identify suitable safe and accessible locations including motel pools, private citizen pools, lakefronts and beachfronts. This action may also be facilitated by the creation of a mobile swim instructor program ensuring the 5 districts are serviced over the 8 weeks of summer programming.

Timing:



Priority:



## I2-I3 Program Service Delivery

Create a focus in all programs and services on gender equity. Begin implementation of the Nova Scotia Gender Equity Toolkit across the region and with volunteer groups in community facilities.

Timing:



Priority:



## I2-I4 Program Service Delivery

Create an Inclusion Buddy program and grow over time. This program pairs a volunteer with a person with a disability to assist with their participation in a recreation program. The one-on-one volunteer support supports the participation of the individual with disability by helping to reduce barriers and create a more inclusive recreation environment.

Timing:



Priority:



## I2-I5 Program Service Delivery

Ensure a municipal recreation presence and support at community events or festivals within the smaller communities of the Municipality. Encourage more robust community events. Develop opportunities with the business community, Potlotek First Nations and other agencies to highlight and facilitate cultural exchanges and explore alternate activity initiatives.

Timing:



Priority:



## I2-I6 Program Service Delivery

Enhance outreach and support to arts and cultural groups to support their delivery of recreation-based programming.

Timing:



Priority:



I2-I7

## Program Service Delivery

Increase arts and cultural awareness by promoting the arts, including featuring local artists in the community halls and public spaces.

Timing:



Priority:



I2-I8

## Program Service Delivery

Increase arts and cultural program offerings throughout the County. Examples could include arts and crafts, dance, piano and music lessons, drama programs, and other opportunities for creative expression.

Timing:



Priority:



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## 13 Actions Plans

This section outlines six action plans intended to support the network of recreation assets in the Municipality of the County of Richmond. Each action plan is focused on a specific category of recreation assets (e.g. indoor facilities) and includes recommendations that take into consideration factors such as participation, barrier reduction, connectivity, travel distances, regional program diversity, usage patterns, allocation policies (existing and recommended), shared-use agreements, and community partnerships.

These action plans draw from and correspond to the relevant recommendations found in Chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 of this Plan.

### 13.1 Indoor Facilities

Although the Municipality only owns one indoor recreation facility, the Richmond Arena, a number of other recreation facilities in Richmond County are available for public use. This includes ten community halls or community centres and various school facilities that can be used for community recreation outside of school hours (including gymnasiums, sports courts, meeting spaces, and library facilities). The Municipality should strive to ensure that an accessible indoor multiple-purpose recreation space, such as a community hall, a school, or other suitable space exists within 20 minutes of every resident.

The swimming pool in Port Hawkesbury is nearby for some residents in Richmond County, while for others it would be more than an hour drive to get there.

### Facility Life cycle Planning

With the Richmond Arena nearing the end of its life, the Municipality should begin to consider what the community would like to see in a replacement facility. At minimum, a new arena should include a new ice surface, a walking track, shower and locker facilities, multi-purpose spaces, and the capacity to support both winter and summer operations. The new facility should incorporate universal design standards.

Establishing a facility allocation policy for the Richmond Arena now would provide insight into the facility needs going forward, and assist in informing the design of a replacement facility to accommodate any new and emerging activities.

The Municipality should also provide financial support for the maintenance of and upgrades to community-owned and managed facilities. Funding should be contingent upon meeting goals and standards for accessibility and universal design.

### Appropriate Programming

Programming at the Richmond Arena should be diversified to include specific times for seniors, pick-up or low-organized hockey, casual drop-in, activity sampling, and other unstructured programs that facilitate active living.

The county-wide comprehensive equipment loan program should continue to be expanded to improve access to a wider range of adaptive equipment, winter equipment, and bicycles. In regions lacking recreation equipment, community-based organizations such as community hall associations and libraries should be approached about hosting Play Boxes.

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## 13.2 Sports Field and Outdoor Facilities

There are opportunities to expand outdoor sports programming for all ages in all seasons. During summer months, the Municipality should explore partnering with Nova Scotia Lifeguard Services to provide outdoor summer swimming lessons and open swims in each of the five Council districts. The Dundee Resort, motel pools, and private citizen pools, should all be considered, as well as programming at lakefronts and beachfronts.

Small outdoor rinks located throughout the County could support recreational skating as well as short skill development workshops, such as how to stop, fall, or skate backward.

The Municipality should strive to ensure that an outdoor field or play space, including an area for social gathering exists within 20 minutes of every resident. Pickleball is a popular activity that could be included in such a facility.

The Municipality may also want to look at other low-cost outdoor facility development options. In particular, facilities that create opportunities for youth, adults, and families would help to address gaps that currently exist in the network of outdoor recreation facilities.

## 13.3 Parks and Playgrounds

The Municipality should establish minimum standards for the availability of recreation facilities specifically geared to children, and should develop a minimum of one playground within 20 minutes of each resident of the Municipality and one splash pad in each district.

The Municipality may also wish to examine low-cost park or parkette development options that create opportunities for youth, adults, and families to gather. At minimum, each district should have a parkette or picnic area suitable for social gathering, and a dog park. There may also be opportunities to consider additional camping opportunities for both tent camping as well as recreational vehicles.

## 13.4 Trails and Nature-based Programming

In looking to expand nature-based programming for all age groups, the Municipality should leverage the existing network of trails across the County. Where appropriate, the Municipality should seek to combine nature-based programming with active trail-based initiatives such as hike days and geocaching. The Municipality may wish to partner with Trail Associations and other community organizations to deliver intergenerational activities, drop-in opportunities, and opportunities provided for various levels of physical fitness.

The Municipality should strive to ensure that an area or safe location suitable for walking and cycling and a multi-kilometre multi-use trail both exist within 20 minutes of each resident of the Municipality.

The Municipality should develop resources to support the safe and active use of trails, including a plan to increase year-round accessibility both to and on trails. This should include improved winter trail maintenance and trail signage. "Buddy" programs for walking, hiking, and cycling could also be developed.



















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### 13.5 Water-based Recreation

The extensive coastline and many lakes and rivers of Richmond County present a host of opportunities for water-based recreation. However, water presents inherent risks, and the Municipality should explore the feasibility of offering outdoor skills trainings such as swimming, canoeing, sea kayaking, fishing, and stand-up paddle boarding. Rentals could be provided at the Pondville Provincial Park Trail.

At a minimum, each district should have access to water for swimming.

## 14 Recreation Facility Database

Facility Name	Location	Facility Type
 Gaston LeBlanc Memorial Ball Field	Arichat	<b>Baseball Field</b>
 Royal Canadian Legion Branch 150	Arichat	<b>Community Hall</b>
 Isle Madame iFit Centre	Arichat	<b>Fitness Centre</b>
 École Beau-Port	Arichat	<b>School</b>
 École Beau-Port Soccer field	Arichat	<b>Soccer Field</b>
 Arichat Skatepark	Arichat	<b>Skatepark</b>
 Arichat Beach Volleyball	Arichat	<b>Volleyball Court</b>
 Riverdale Softball Field	Cleveland	<b>Baseball Field</b>
 Riverdale Community Centre	Cleveland	<b>Community Centre</b>
 Riverdale Tennis Courts	Cleveland	<b>Tennis Court</b>
 LeNoir Landing	D'Escousse	<b>Concert Venue</b>
 Dundee Resort & Golf Club	Dundee	<b>Canoeing</b>
 Dundee Resort & Golf Club	Dundee	<b>Golf Course</b>
 Dundee Resort & Golf Club	Dundee	<b>Kayaking</b>
 Dundee Resort & Golf Club	Dundee	<b>Swimming Pool</b>
 Dundee Resort & Golf Club	Dundee	<b>Tennis Court</b>
 L'Ardoise Ball Field	L'Ardoise	<b>Baseball Field</b>
 L'Ardoise Community Centre	L'Ardoise	<b>Community Centre</b>

<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Facility Type</b>
 Royal Canadian Legion Branch 110	L'Ardoise	<b>Community Hall</b>
 Dr. Kingston Community Health Centre	L'Ardoise	<b>Community Health Centre</b>
 Royal Canadian Legion Branch 47	Grand Anse	<b>Community Hall</b>
 Friends United International Convention Centre	Cleveland	<b>Convention Centre</b>
 Richmond Arena	Louisdale	<b>Arena</b>
 Richmond Baseball Field	Louisdale	<b>Baseball Field</b>
 Felix Marchand Education Centre	Louisdale	<b>School</b>
 Richmond Academy	Louisdale	<b>School</b>
 Richmond Soccer Field	Louisdale	<b>Soccer Field</b>
 Louisdale Tennis Courts	Louisdale	<b>Tennis Court</b>
 Richmond Walking Track	Louisdale	<b>Walking/Running Track</b>
 Petit-de-Grat Baseball Field	Petit-de-Grat	<b>Baseball Field</b>
 Petit de Grat Little Ball Field	Petit-de-Grat	<b>Baseball Field</b>
 La Picasse	Petit-de-Grat	<b>Community Centre</b>
 Eastern Counties Regional Library - Petit De Grat Branch	Petit-de-Grat	<b>Library</b>
 Petit de Grat Tennis Courts	Petit-de-Grat	<b>Tennis Court</b>
 River Bourgeois Softball Field	River Bourgeois	<b>Baseball Field</b>
 Tara Lynne Community Centre	River Bourgeois	<b>Community Centre</b>


















<b>Facility Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Facility Type</b>
 River Bourgeois Tennis Courts	River Bourgeois	<b>Tennis Court</b>
 East Richmond Education Centre	St. Peter's	<b>Badminton</b>
 St. Peter's Baseball Field	St. Peter's	<b>Baseball Field</b>
 East Richmond Education Centre	St. Peter's	<b>Basketball</b>
 St. Peter's Basketball Nets	St. Peter's	<b>Basketball Court</b>
 St. Peter's Lions Club Community Hall	St. Peter's	<b>Community Hall</b>
 Eastern Counties Regional Library - St Peter's Branch	St. Peter's	<b>Library</b>
 St. Peter's Lions Club Marina	St. Peter's	<b>Marina</b>
 St. Peter's Playground	St. Peter's	<b>Playground</b>
 East Richmond Education Centre	St. Peter's	<b>Volleyball</b>
 East Richmond Education Centre	St. Peter's	<b>Walking/ Running Track</b>
 Point Michaud Beach	Point Michaud	<b>Beach</b>
 Potlotek Community Baseball Field	Potlotek	<b>Baseball Field</b>
 Mi'kmawey School Baseball Field	Potlotek	<b>Baseball Field</b>
 Potlotek Community Hall (St. Kateri's Church)	Potlotek	<b>Community Centre</b>
 Potlotek Community Multi Purpose Field	Potlotek	<b>Soccer Field</b>
 Potlotek Walking Track	Potlotek	<b>Walking/Running Track</b>



Fig 2. Recreation Facilities, Indoor (white) and Outdoor (black).

- |                |                 |                   |                  |                     |                    |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Library        | Gathering Space | Performance Space | Beach            | Canoe/Kayak Rentals | Boat Launch/Marina | Splash Pad       |
| Arena          | Curling         | Swimming Pool     | Skate Park       | Pump Track          | Golf Course        | Playground       |
| Fitness Centre | Badminton       | Basketball        | Walking Track    | Basketball          | Tennis Court       | Volleyball Court |
| Walking Track  | Volleyball      |                   | Baseball Diamond | Soccer Field        |                    |                  |

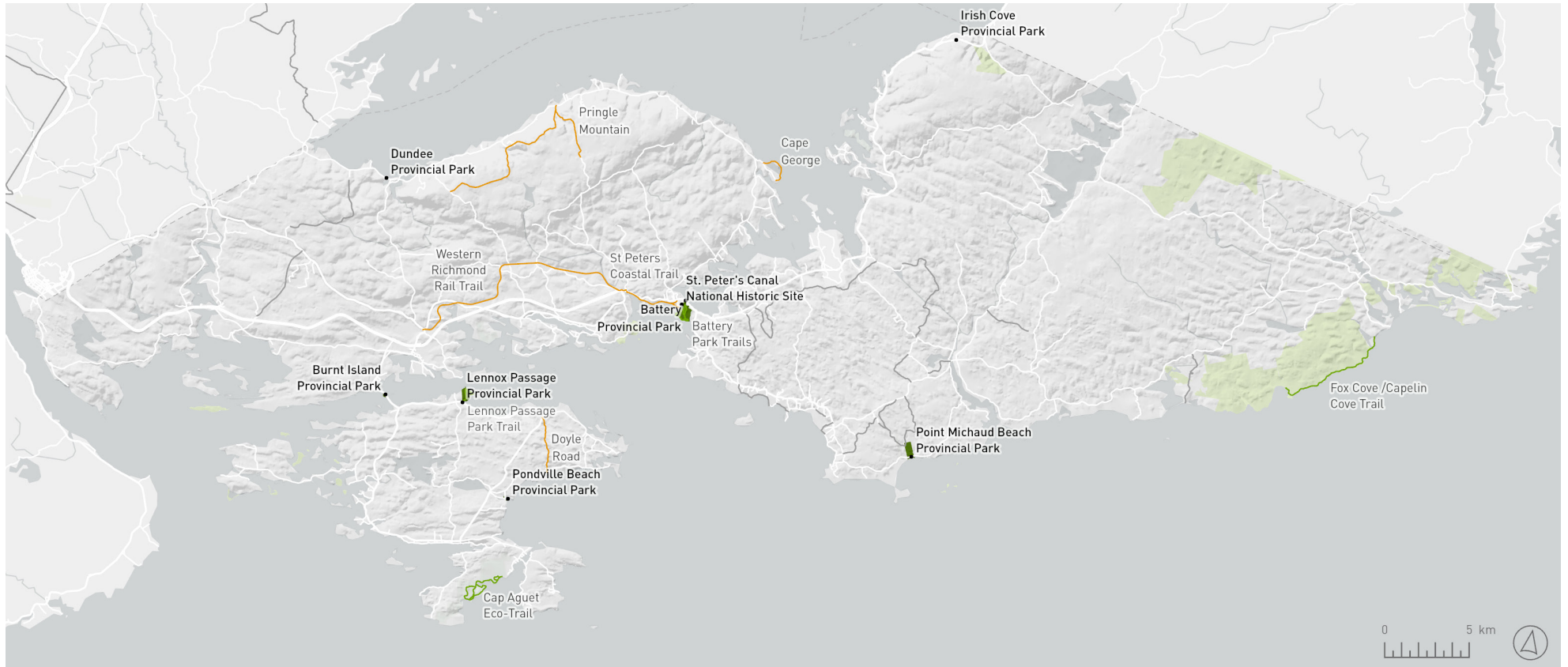


Fig 3. Forests, Parks, and Protected Areas.

- ATV or snowmobile trail
- Shared use trail
- Non-motorized trail
- Provincial Park
- Protected Area

## 15 What We Did

The development of the Active Living Strategy and Recreation Plan is a collaborative effort between the Municipality of the County of Richmond and the community. As the Municipality looks at how recreation services, facilities, programs, and open spaces will be developed, these future developments must also reflect the current and future values and needs of the community. Thus, community input has been an important component to the process.

Between February 6th and February 26th, 2023, community members and key stakeholders were invited to contribute to the project in four different ways:

- + a public survey
- + an interactive online map
- + community intercept interviews
- + key stakeholder interviews

This document summarizes the different themes that came up across all engagement methods. These themes reflect the opportunities and the challenges that the community sees in their ability to take part in active living and recreation opportunities in Richmond County.

### Public Survey

To reach as many members of the community as possible, an online public survey was made available between February 6th and February 26th, 2023. Recognizing that not everyone in the County might have access to the online survey, the Municipality mailed a physical copy of the survey to all residents.

The survey gathered participants' input and experiences with the existing recreation opportunities, the barriers they face with respect to participation, and their desires for the future of recreation and active living. The survey had no minimum age requirement to participate and received a total of 223 responses.

After several survey responses had been received, a discrepancy was found between the print survey and the online survey in Question 9. In the print survey, Question 9 read: "Please rate how important it is to you that the following types of programming are made available in the Municipality: (very important, somewhat important, not important, neutral / not sure)" while in the online survey Question 9 read: "Please identify the general type of programming that you think should be available in the Municipality for each age group: (children 0 - 12, youth 13 - 19, adults 20 - 64, older adults 65+)". To account for this, Question 9 from the paper survey was added to the online survey so that any subsequent online survey respondents would be able to answer both questions. As a result, response to the age-related version of Question 9 does not reflect full sample of survey responses outlined on page 13.

### Interactive Online Map

This engagement method invited participants to indicate specific areas in the Municipality that they saw as opportunities, challenges, or that needed to be addressed. Additionally, this engagement method gave an opportunity to participants to add any missing recreational facilities that were not already identified on the map. The map received a total of 105 unique interactions.



Fig 4. Social media post inviting participants to take part in the public survey

## Community Intercept Interviews

During a Pancake Supper at the St. Georges Channel Hall, 27 individuals were interviewed individually and in groups ranging from two to six participants (majority seniors, one young couple, and a child about 10 years old.) Another 30 individuals were interviewed in pairs at the Bean Bag afternoon (all seniors), and 36 more people, including youth, adults, seniors, and families, at the D'Escousse Civic Improvement Society Hall.

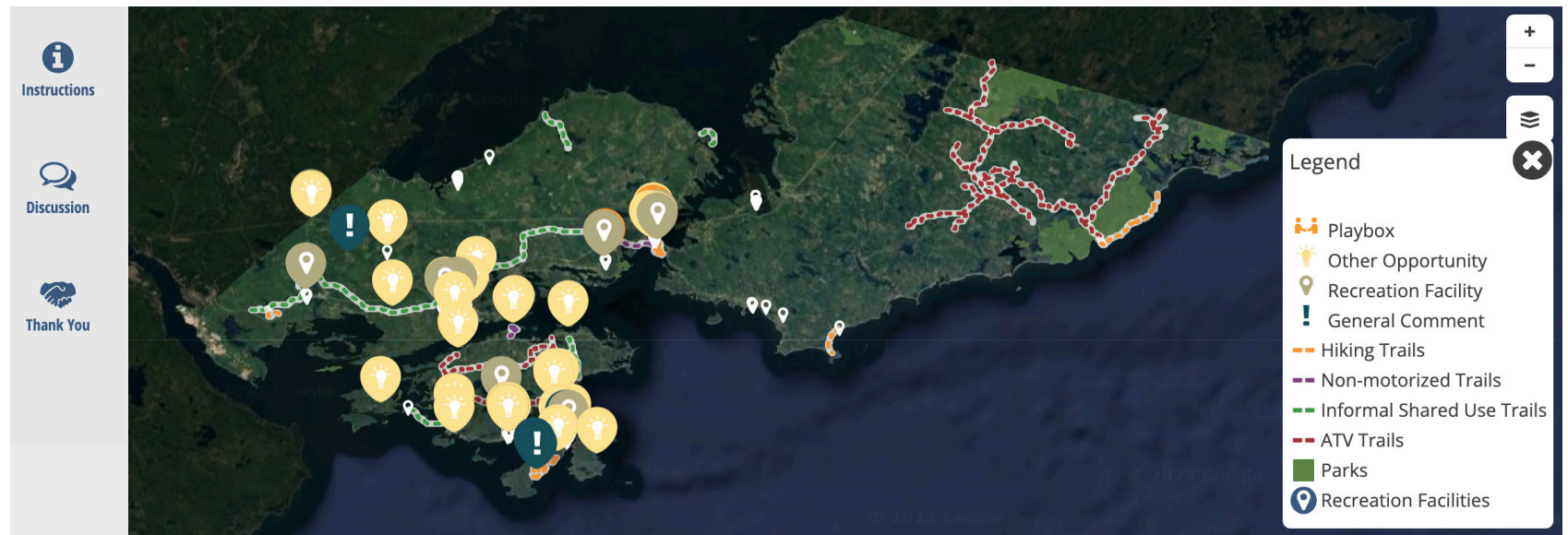
## Stakeholder Engagement

Municipal Council, staff, and community and recreation groups were contacted to provide their insights. Municipal staff provided a list of who should be consulted. Participants were interviewed individually and in groups, and those who were not able to participate through an interview were given the opportunity to send a written response.

In total, 21 individual interviews and three group interviews were conducted, including interviews with:

- + Potlotek First Nation;
- + Dundee Resort;
- + Richmond Arena;
- + Sports associations;
- + After School program;
- + Municipality's Recreation Advisory Committee;
- + Municipal staff (CAO + Recreation staff); and
- + Municipal Council (4 of 5 interviewed).

Fig 5. Interactive online map



# 16 Themes

The following section explores the themes that emerged through all engagement methods. Sub-themes have also been identified within each theme.

More than 50% of survey respondents indicated being somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the overall state of recreation in the Municipality, but this still leaves much room for improvement. Throughout the engagement, participants noted several specific areas where the Municipality could improve to encourage further opportunities for active living and recreation that could benefit everyone.

## 16.1 Access to Active Living and Recreation

The vast geography of Richmond County and its rural nature present both opportunities and challenges for recreation. On the one hand, it enables the Municipality to offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities. On the other hand, it creates challenges and barriers with respect to accessing recreation as programs and services do not reach everyone in every community. Around 40% of survey respondents indicated that distance to recreation and active living opportunities presented a barrier to their participation.

Distance can also create an inequitable distribution of opportunities across the Municipality. Across all engagement methods some participants indicated that active living and recreation opportunities were not equitably distributed across the Municipality. Some indicated that programs and facilities had a tendency to be concentrated in St. Peter's and Arichat, with smaller communities observing a gap in programs and facilities.

## Transportation

Less than 7% of survey respondents indicated that the lack of transportation limited their participation in recreation opportunities in the Municipality. However, the lack of transportation was mentioned several times throughout the rest of the survey, as well as in stakeholder engagement. In particular, many indicated that the lack of transportation made it especially difficult for seniors to access programs and opportunities. One participant suggested that the Municipality could partner with an organisation or group that provides transportation services in order to facilitate access to active living and recreation opportunities, especially for seniors.

To increase accessibility, one participant suggested having program offerings online, though this would require access to technology.

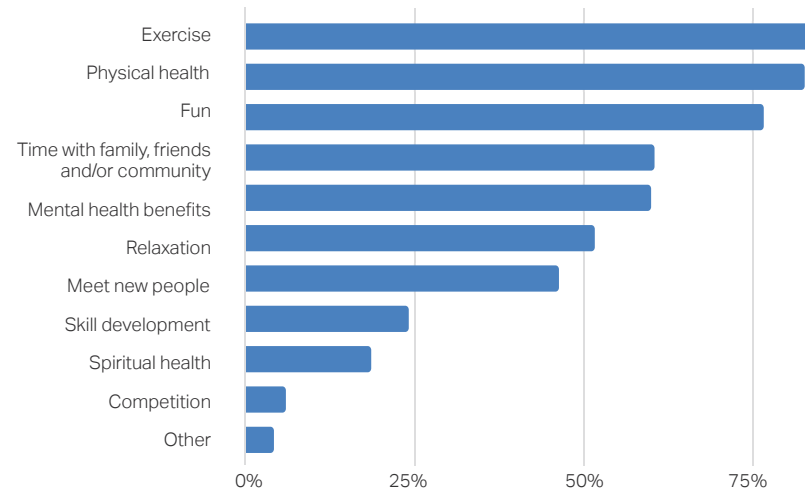
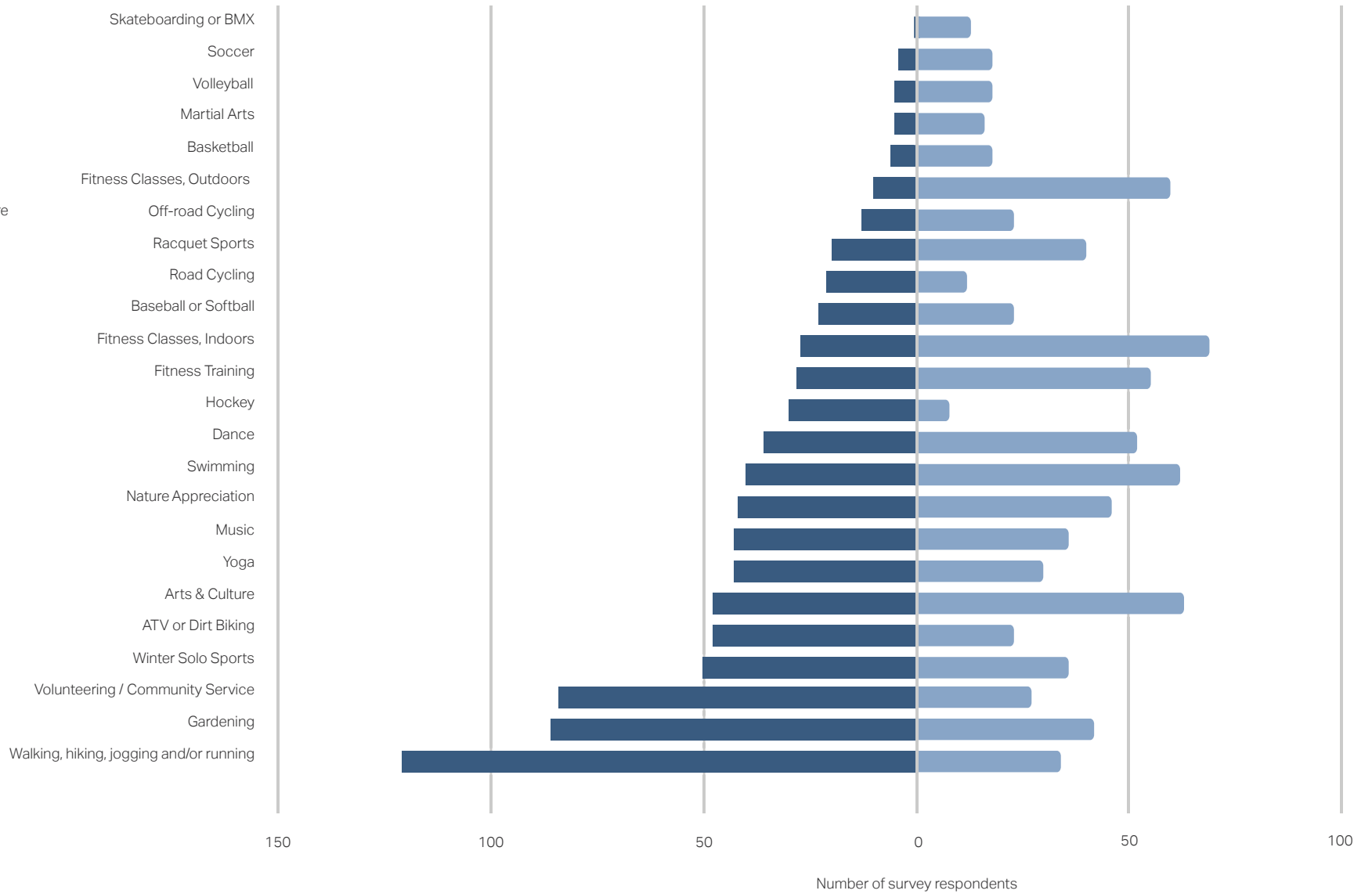


Fig 6. What are the main reasons that you and/or your family participate in recreation activities? Select all that apply.

Fig 7. What activities do you currently participate in? What activities would you like to participate in the future?

I currently participate in this activity  
 I would like to participate in this activity in the future



## Cost

Close to 20% of survey respondents indicated that cost represents a barrier to participation. This sentiment was repeated throughout the rest of the survey, as well as with stakeholders. Some mentioned the desire to see the Municipality subsidise participation costs in order to incentivize people to be more active. Some stakeholders added that it was also important to consider that participation costs are not the only barrier, since transportation costs are also a factor. It was mentioned, once again, that cost is a burden, especially for seniors and people with disabilities, who might be living on fixed incomes. The Potlotek community already subsidises some recreation costs for their members.

## Accessibility and Inclusion

Due to the ageing infrastructure and the lack of programs in the Municipality, many recreation opportunities are not accessible for people with disabilities. Although one stakeholder mentioned that new buildings have been meeting most accessibility standards, the same could not be said for older facilities. One stakeholder added that there was a need for all recreation facilities and programs in the Municipality to be universally accessible from the start, rather than as an afterthought.

Despite barriers, there is still a strong desire to participate in active living and recreation activities. Additionally, a few participants mentioned that health also includes mental health.

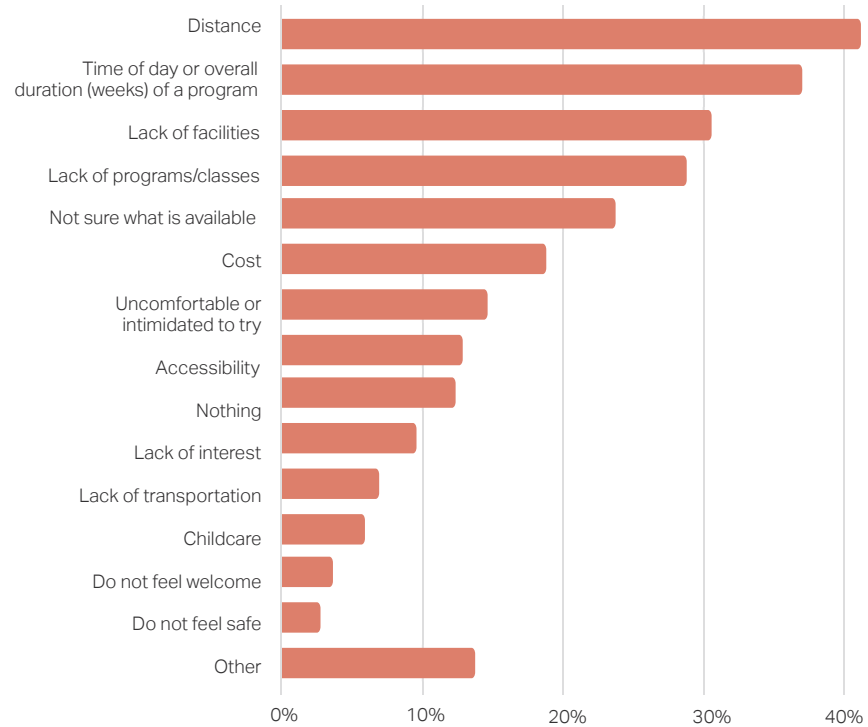


Fig 8. What, if anything, limits you or your family members from participating in recreation opportunities?

## 16.2 Programming

Barriers related to recreation program availability and variety were among the top five barriers to recreation participation in the Municipality, with at least 28% of survey respondents selecting each of these barriers. Some added that the location of some the programs made it difficult to attend them on time. Although some participants felt that programs required lengthy commitments, others wished to see more ongoing programs. As well, there was a strong desire from survey respondents and stakeholders to see more offerings that can introduce people to a sport or activity.

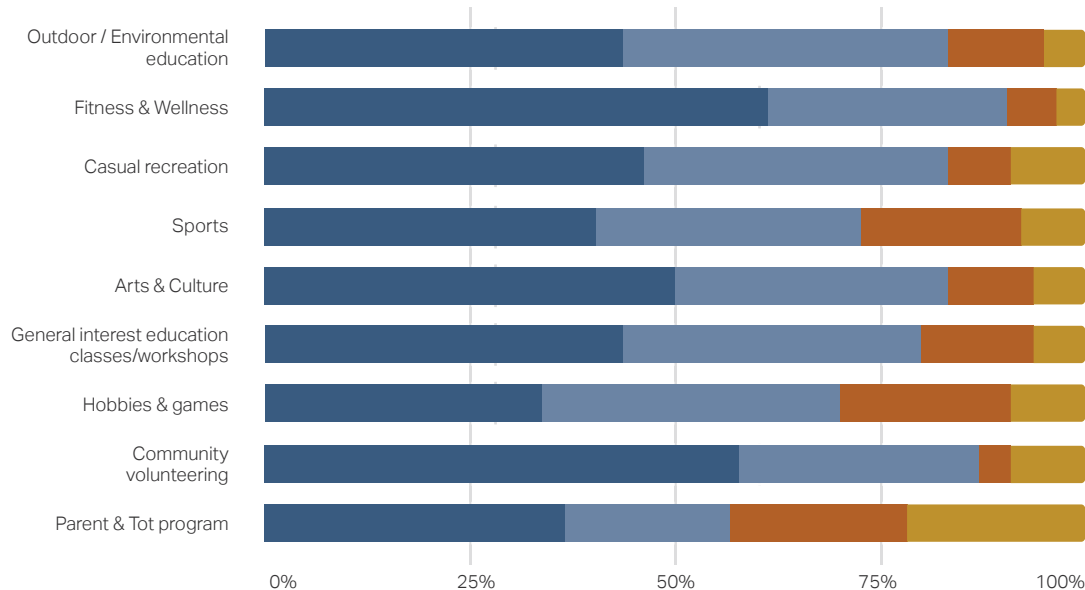
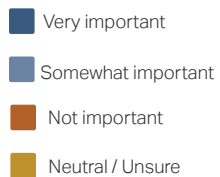
Participants wish to see more guided, structured programs, like fitness classes and arts and culture programming.

Other recreational activities that participants wished to see include:

- + Do-it-yourself workshops
- + CPR and First Aid
- + Yoga
- + Cooking
- + Gardening
- + Painting
- + Shuffle board

There was also a strong desire for the Municipality to host more events in order to bring the community together. Additionally, a few stakeholders mentioned wanting to see an equipment loan program. It was expressed that such a program could decrease barriers to participation in recreation.

Fig 9. Please rate how important it is to you that the following types of programming are made available in the Municipality:



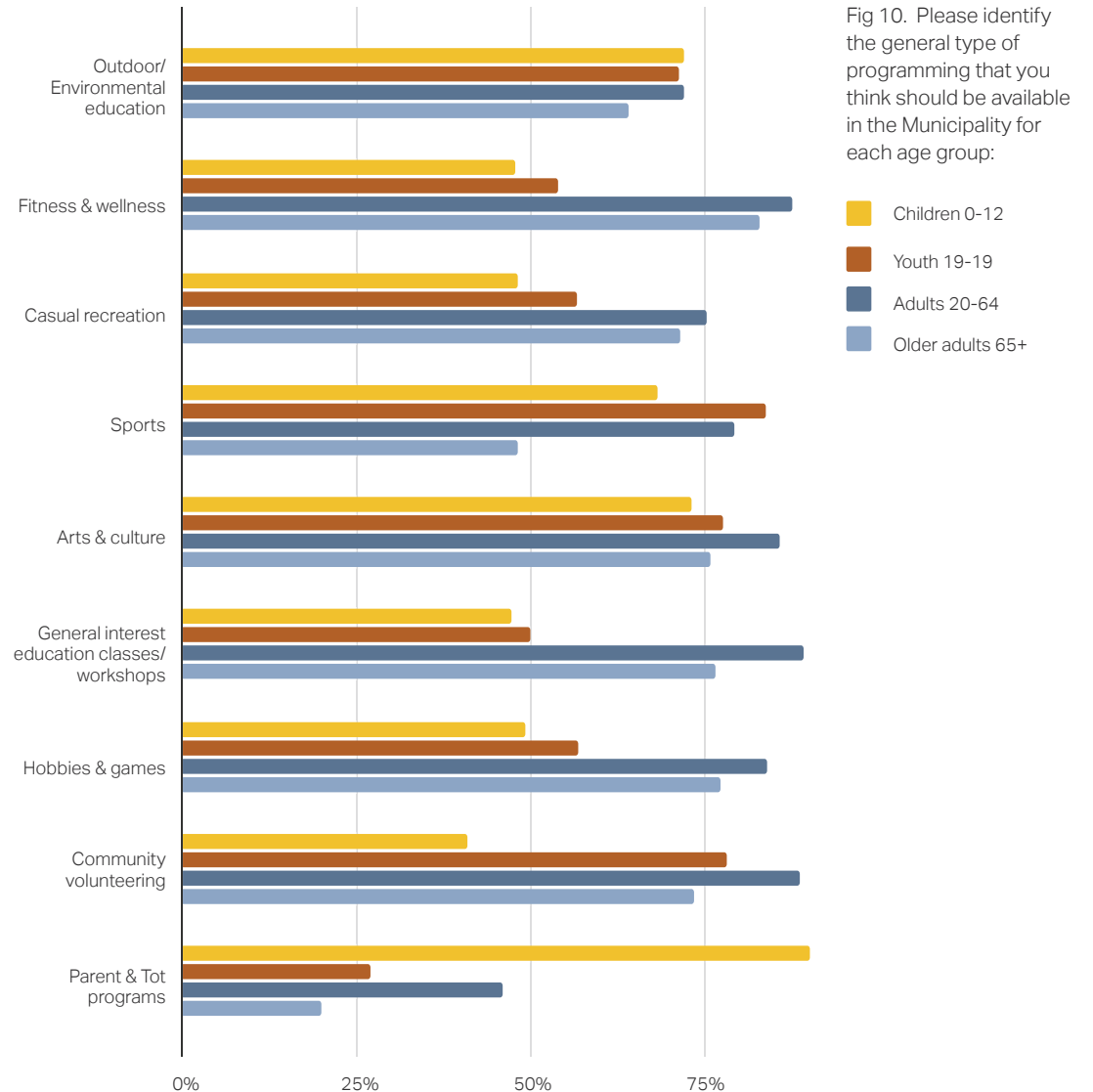
### Programming for different demographics

With a significant portion of the Municipality's population being older, some participants wanted to see more programming for seniors. A few suggested that organized day trips would be good to have, as well as more opportunities to encourage active living. However, transportation remains a barrier.

Several participants mentioned the need to offer more recreation programs for young families. Some believe that recreation opportunities could be a factor in attracting young families to Richmond.

### Program Delivery

Despite the wish to see more programs delivered in the Municipality, some participants indicated an understanding of the limited human resources available. One stakeholder expressed difficulties recruiting and retaining instructors. Similarly, community groups have expressed difficulties in recruiting and retaining volunteers.



### 16.3 Facilities and Infrastructure

Ageing recreation facilities and infrastructure have resulted in issues with maintenance. A stakeholder mentioned that the Richmond Arena, the only recreation facility that the Municipality manages, is nearing its lifespan. While some participants wished to see a new multi-use recreation facility in the Municipality with centralised programs, others wished to see recreation opportunities more spread out, using a community development model instead, focusing on community halls.

Survey participants also expressed their wish to have a swimming pool in the Municipality. However, one individual indicated that, due to the costs associated, this might not be feasible for the Municipality to build and maintain. One stakeholder pointed out that recreation in the Municipality had not been perceived from a community development standpoint, and thus, appears fragmented.

### Opportunities for New Recreation Facilities

The interactive map allowed participants to indicate specific areas in the Municipality that could receive more attention, or where potential recreation facilities could be developed. Some of the suggestions included:

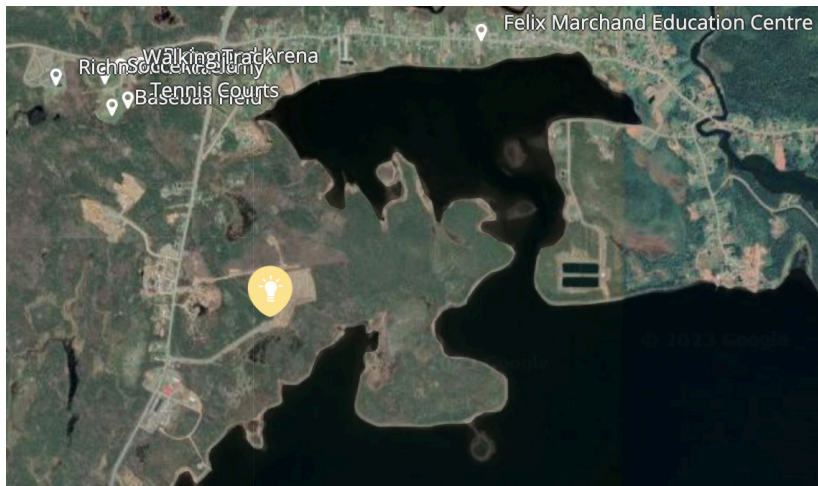
- + the former site of the Cleveland United Church;
- + a site on the eastern side of the Fleur-de-Lis Trail, north of Lennox Passage (as shown on Figure 8).

### Sidewalks

Although less than 7% of survey participants indicated safety as a barrier to their participation in recreation opportunities, the issue of safety came up often in the rest of the survey, as well as in the other two engagement methods. The lack of sidewalks in the County made many participants feel unsafe, with one saying, "All we want to do is walk but it is too dangerous to get outside,"

More than 50% of survey respondents indicated currently participating in walking, jogging or running. However, the lack of sidewalks has made it challenging for some to engage in active living opportunities. The lack of sidewalks has resulted in people walking on the road or on the shoulders of highways. This issue has also been prevalent with the Potlotek Nation, who also indicated that poor lighting added to the unsafe environment. Stakeholders indicated that this issue impacted seniors and people with disabilities disproportionately.

Fig 11. Suggestion for a new recreation facility location on the online interactive map



Participants in the online map suggested the following:

- + Building a sidewalk on the main road in Petit de Gras that is connected to other local roads due to proximity to several services and amenities;
- + Building a sidewalk in d'Escousse due to proximity to several services and amenities;
- + Extension of the sidewalks in Arichat, along Highway 206;
- + Installing a hopscotch in the school zone around Ecole Beauport

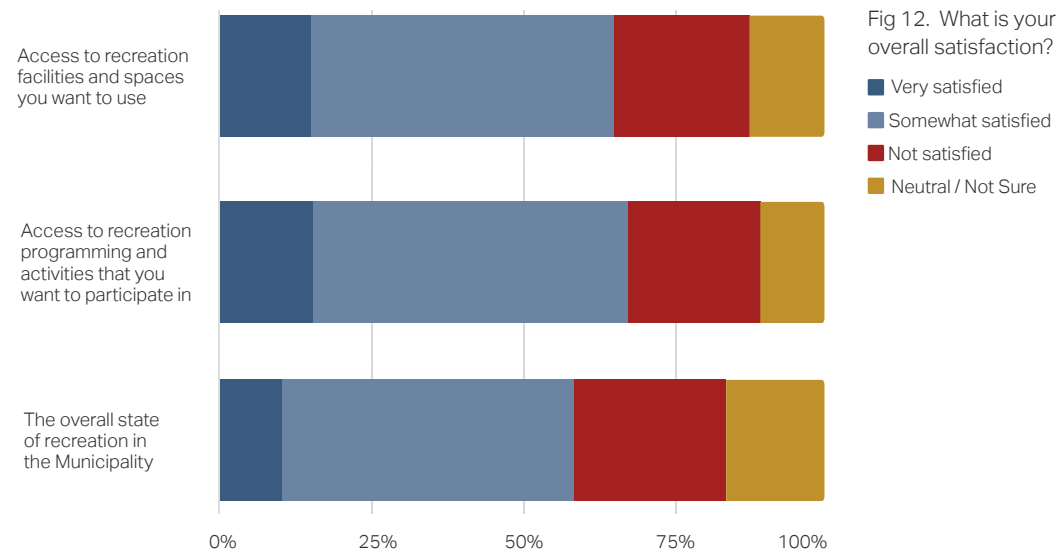
Additionally, one participant mentioned that the shoulders of highways also needed some maintenance, as overgrown vegetation in some areas is making it difficult to see. As well, the bad conditions of some roads have extended to the shoulders, making it even more unsafe to walk on.

## 16.4 Trails

Trails in the County of Richmond are an important asset to the community and to the Municipality. With walking, jogging or running as the activity that most survey respondents indicated participating in (121 respondents) some expressed wishing to see more walking trails in their communities. Participants mentioned that there was a need for maps of the trails in the area, as well as trail signage. Amenities and parking near trailheads were also brought up as opportunities to improve the experience for trail users.

### Trail Maintenance

An issue that was mentioned several times on the interactive map and in the survey was that there seemed to be a lack of trail maintenance in the County of Richmond. Participants indicated that this issue was persistent on both community and provincial trails, but emphasised that the latter is more prevalent. One stakeholder



noted that a contributing factor to this issue was related to volunteers, as groups were finding it difficult to recruit and retain volunteers, and existing ones were experiencing burnout. One stakeholder suggested engaging youth volunteering through school programs.

At the same time, another participant noted that the Municipality should be stepping up in maintaining some of the trails, rather than depending on volunteer trails groups to do the work. There is an opportunity for the Municipality to work with the Province in repairing and maintaining the provincial trails.

Some trails identified as needing maintenance include:

- + Cap Auget Eco-Trail
- + St Peter's Coastal Trail

## Competing Uses

There is a general appreciation for the trails in the County, especially those that are multi-use and allowing many users to share the space. However, we heard in our engagement process that there is some contention between non-motorised and motorised trail users. Concerns about motorised vehicles on trails were mostly around the impacts on the trails, although some participants mentioned that trail damage is not frequent. At the same time, some participants highlighted the role that ATV clubs play in trail development.

## Trail Development

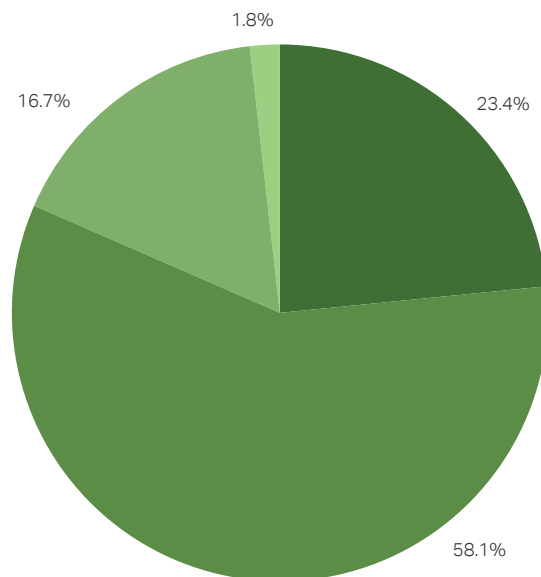
Participants emphasised the need to develop accessible trails that everyone in the community could enjoy.

One suggestion for trail development was provided in the engagement, which was to connect the Isle Madame Trail with the Richmond County Rail Trail, and it with the St Peter's Trail and the western side of the Barachois Trail with the Celtic Shores Coastal Trail. Additionally, a few participants highlighted the opportunities that Isle Madame could offer for outdoor recreation opportunities, including camping.

Beyond hiking, some participants also mentioned that there were opportunities along the trails system for self-propelled aquatic activities, like kayaking.

Fig 13. How aware are you of the recreation opportunities available within the Municipality?

- Very aware
- Somewhat aware
- Not so aware
- Not at all aware



## 16.5 Partnerships

A common theme that we heard across stakeholder groups was that the relationships between the Municipality and community groups and between the Municipality and the Potlotek First Nation both have room and potential for improvement. Traditionally, the Municipality has mostly engaged with external groups in the form of financial support for direct programming, rather than ongoing support or advising. Because of this, for community groups, the Municipality's primary role has mainly been in advertising their programs. While some groups were aware of the funding opportunities that they could access, others were not.

However, stakeholders expressed their desire to have a more ongoing relationship with the Municipality, where both parties could share their assets and strengths. Many community groups wanted to have more regular communications with the Municipality.

With the Municipality only owning and managing one facility, this presents an opportunity to improve recreation and active living offerings. Partnerships are also seen as crucial for sports and recreation organisations who are not connected to a provincial organization. Thus, they hoped to look at the Municipality for capacity support in the form of learning opportunities, training and helping with re-energizing clubs.

Participants also saw an opportunity for the Municipality to partner with other groups and organisations, especially in the private sector, as they already have some assets and programs in place. These organisations include:

- + Dundee Resort for their family-friendly activities
- + Camp Rankin for the youth camps
- + Friends United for their work with Indigenous artists

Additionally, a stakeholder indicated that there is opportunity to further partner with the Potlotek First Nation by sharing programs, events and facilities. One stakeholder, in particular, wanted to see the Municipality take a more active role in the development of playgrounds.

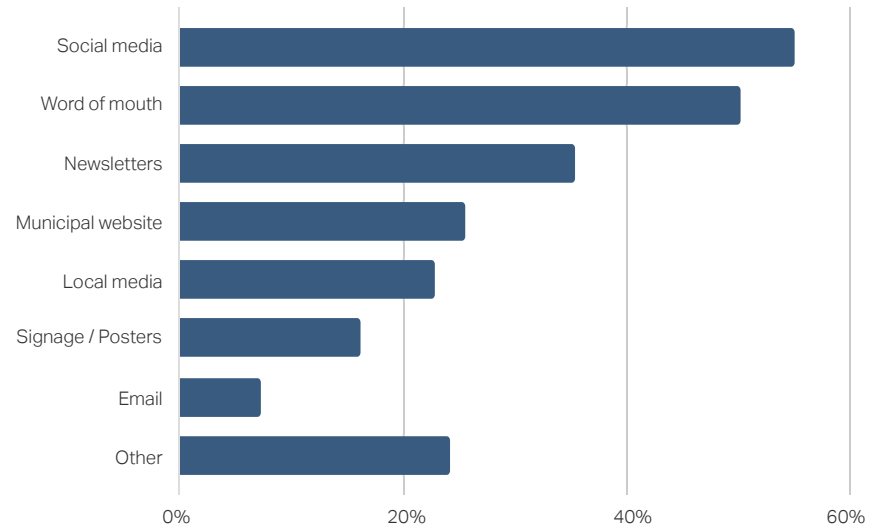


Fig 14. How do you find out about recreation opportunities in the Municipality?

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## 16.6 Communication and Engagement

Another identified barrier to participation was that more than 20% of survey respondents said they were not sure what recreation opportunities were available in the Municipality. Although stakeholders noted that the Municipality's social media is very active, they also recognized that not everyone has access to technology. Additionally, some participants wished to see the Municipality move away from social media, though there were no suggestions as to an alternative. Thus, the Municipality still relies on flyers and mail to communicate with its residents.

The Municipality has a newsletter, Richmond Reflections, that is mailed to all residents and the Municipality uses this medium to share information about programs and events. However, some participants noted that because the newsletter is only mailed quarterly, there are some activities that they miss. Nonetheless, that was one of the most common ways in which residents were informed.

Additionally, a couple of stakeholders emphasised the need for the Municipality to engage with youth, especially for this Active Living Strategy and Recreation Plan.

## 16.7 Other Opportunities for Active Living and Recreation

### Events and Tourism Opportunity

We heard from several participants that they wished to see more events take place in the community that could invite both residents and visitors. A participant noted that improving on recreation opportunities in Richmond could also be beneficial for its tourism sector.

Some areas that participants suggested as potential tourism sites to be developed include:

- + Little Anse and Samson's Cove
- + Janvrin Island
- + Old Cleveland United Church

### Water-based Recreation Activities

Several participants indicated that there is a need to develop water-based recreation activities, like kayaking and canoeing, with many seeing these opportunities taking place along trail systems near the river in Cleveland.

As well, a few participants brought up the possibility of having kayak and stand-up paddle boarding rentals at the Pondville Provincial Park Trail. However, they also noted that Pondville Beach might need some clean-up and maintenance.

# 17 Survey Demographics

The Active Living Strategy and Recreation Plan is meant to serve all residents of the Municipality of the County of Richmond. With the surveys being the main method for community input, it is important to understand how representative the response is when compared to the population within the municipal boundaries. To achieve this, the following sections compare the demographics of survey respondents against statistics from the 2021 Census collected by Statistics Canada.

Overall, the survey was open to anyone within the Municipality, regardless of age, and it gathered 223 responses. However, less than 1.5% of survey responses were from participants of the age 19 years and under. Additionally, the survey was disproportionately completed by respondents who identify as women.

Only three survey respondents (1.4%) indicated not living in the Municipality of the County of Richmond.

## 17.1 Age

Close to 83% of survey respondents were over the age of 40. This figure is higher than the Census figure of 70%, which indicates that these age groups are over-represented in the survey.

In contrast, individuals under 20 years of age are under-represented in the survey. While the Census indicates that this group makes up 15% of the population in the Municipality, less than 1.5% of survey respondents identified as being part of this younger age group. Additionally, survey respondents reported that around 26% of household members were under 20 years of age. Although the survey questions were framed in terms of individuals and their families, this does not mean that the responses represented the opinions of the younger age cohort in the Municipality.

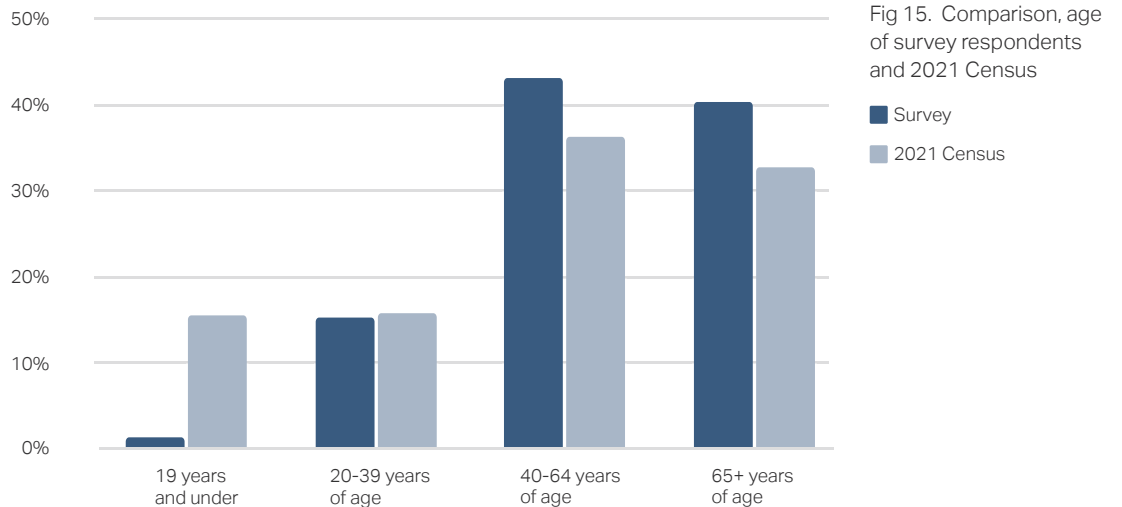


Fig 17. Gender identity of survey respondents

- Woman
- Man
- Gender not listed
- Prefer not to answer

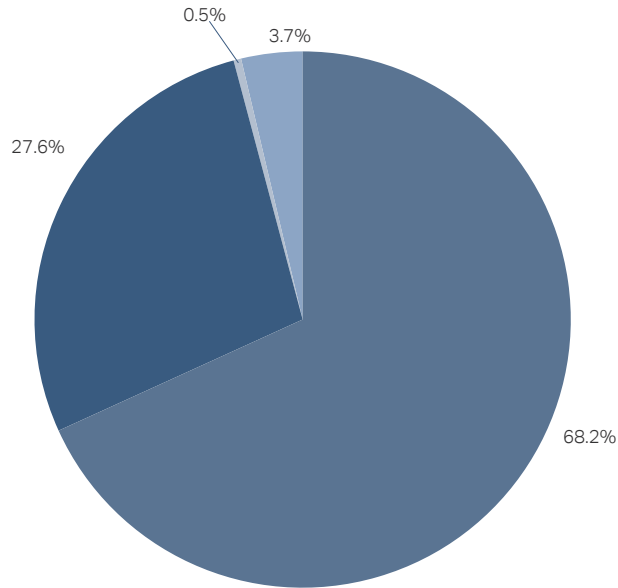
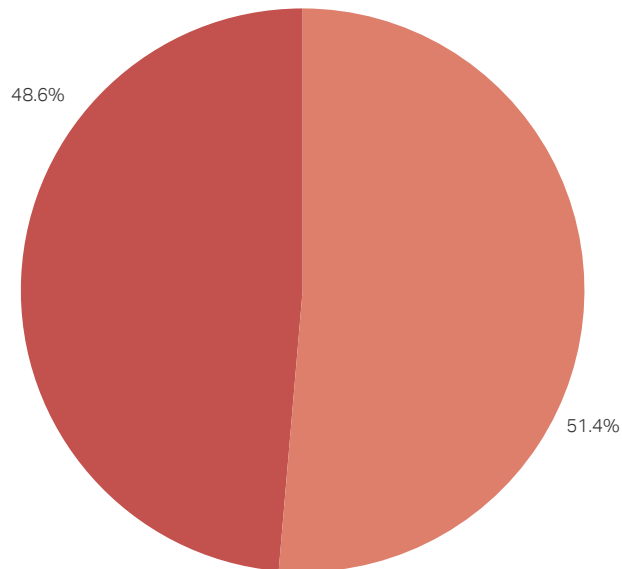


Fig 16. Gender identity of residents of County of Richmond, 2021 Census

- Female +
- Male +



## 17.2 Gender

Close to two thirds of survey respondents identified themselves as female, whereas the 2021 Census indicates that 51.36% of the county's residents are female. Only 27.6% of the respondents identified themselves as male, whereas the 2021 Census indicates that this number is closer to 49%.

No respondents identified as non-binary or two-spirit, but one did indicate that the gender they identify with was not listed. Eight respondents preferred not to answer this question. This gap can have implications on the level of recreation services that gender-diverse residents can participate in the Municipality.

Of note from the 2021 Census figure is that individuals who identified as non-binary in the Municipality were aggregated to the Male or Female categories. Statistics Canada does this for privacy reasons, when the statistics of a certain group are too small and might make the individuals identifiable.

### 17.3 Income

Households with income less than \$35,000 were under-represented in the survey. According to the 2021 Census, 23.69% of households in the County self-identified as having earning of less than \$35,000. However, these responses represented less than 18% of the total survey responses.

In contrast, residents with a household income of more than \$80,000 were over-represented in the survey. More than 38% of survey respondents identified having a household income of more than \$80,000. In the 2021 Census, this income bracket represents just over 35% of the households in the Municipality of the County of Richmond. This may have had implications on the socioeconomic barriers and opportunities identified in the survey.

### 17.4 Age

Close to 83% of survey respondents were over the age of 40. This figure is higher than the Census figure of 70%, which indicates that these age groups are over-represented in the survey.

In contrast, individuals under 20 years of age are under-represented in the survey. While the Census indicates that this group makes up 15% of the population in the Municipality, less than 1.5% of survey respondents identified as being part of this younger age group. Additionally, survey respondents reported that around 26% of household members were under 20 years of age. Although the survey questions were framed in terms of individuals and their families, this does not mean that the responses represented the opinions of the younger age cohort in the Municipality.

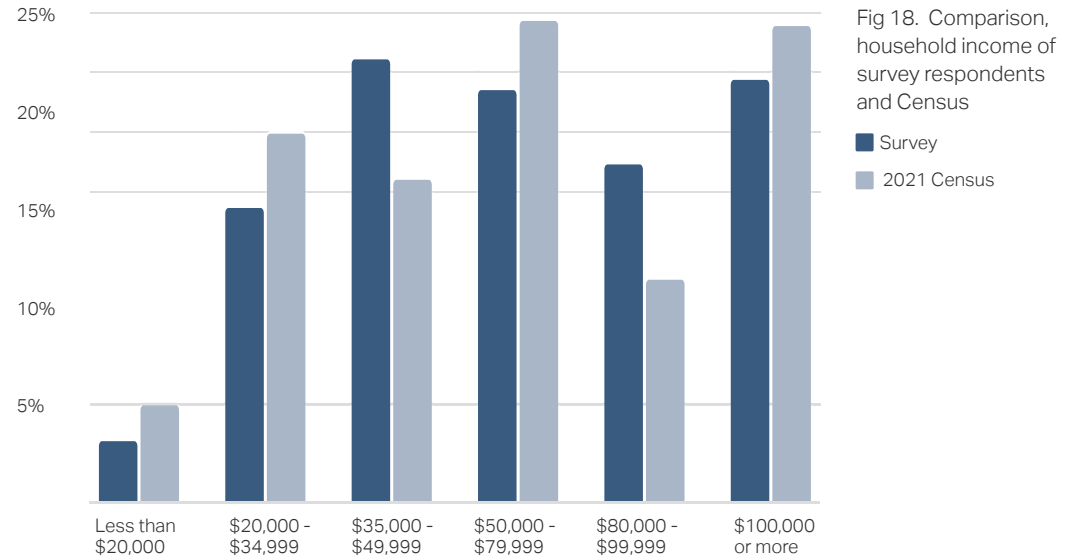


Fig 18. Comparison, household income of survey respondents and Census

Table 1. In what community do you live?

### 17.5 Community of Residence

98.6% of survey respondents identified as living within the Municipality of the County of Richmond. 98.6% of respondents self-identified as full-time residents, living in the municipality for more than six months of the year.

Community	Count	Percentage
Arichat	31	14.49%
St. Peter's	23	10.75%
River Bourgeois	20	9.35%
Petit de Grat	18	8.41%
Louisdale	17	7.94%
L'Ardoise	11	5.14%
D'Escousse	8	3.74%
Isle Madame	6	2.8%
Evanston	5	2.34%
West Arichat	5	2.34%
Cleveland	4	1.87%
French Cove	4	1.87%
Janvrin Island	4	1.87%
Sampsonville	4	1.87%
Soldiers Cove	4	1.87%
Richmond	3	1.4%
Rocky Bay	3	1.4%
Whiteside	3	1.4%
Chapel Island	2	0.93%
Grand Greve	2	0.93%
Grand River	2	0.93%
Hureauville	2	0.93%
Johnstown	2	0.93%
Kempt Rd	2	0.93%
Lower L'Ardoise	2	0.93%
Poulamon	2	0.93%
Red Island	2	0.93%
Rockdale	2	0.93%

Fig 19. Do you live in the Municipality of the County of Richmond?

- Yes
- No

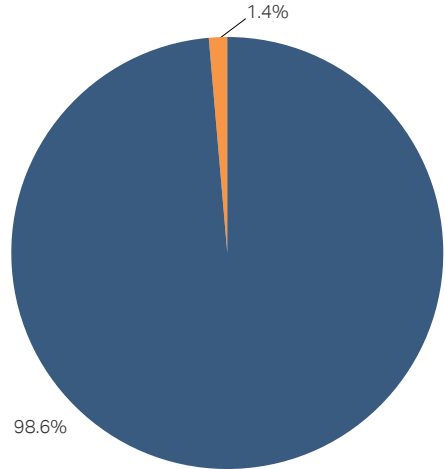
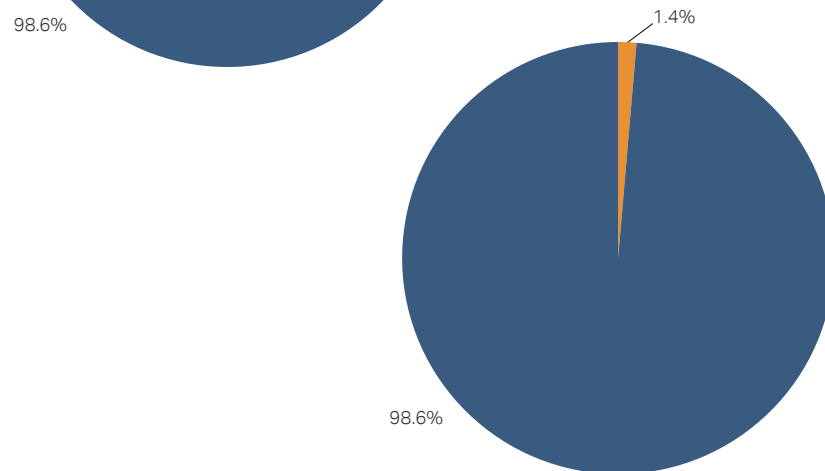


Fig 20. What type of resident are you?

- Full time resident (I live in the Municipality more than six months per year)
- Seasonal resident (I live in the Municipality less than six months per year)





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