

Community Engagement Results

The Recreation and Parks Master Plan considered the goals and needs of a broad range of community members and groups in the County. Engaging with Lac La Biche County stakeholders and residents was important at every stage of the process in order to ensure that the plan will be “owned” by the community as a whole. This is especially important as the community moves forward into the implementation stages. Figure 11 summarizes the various methods utilized to engage the community throughout the process.

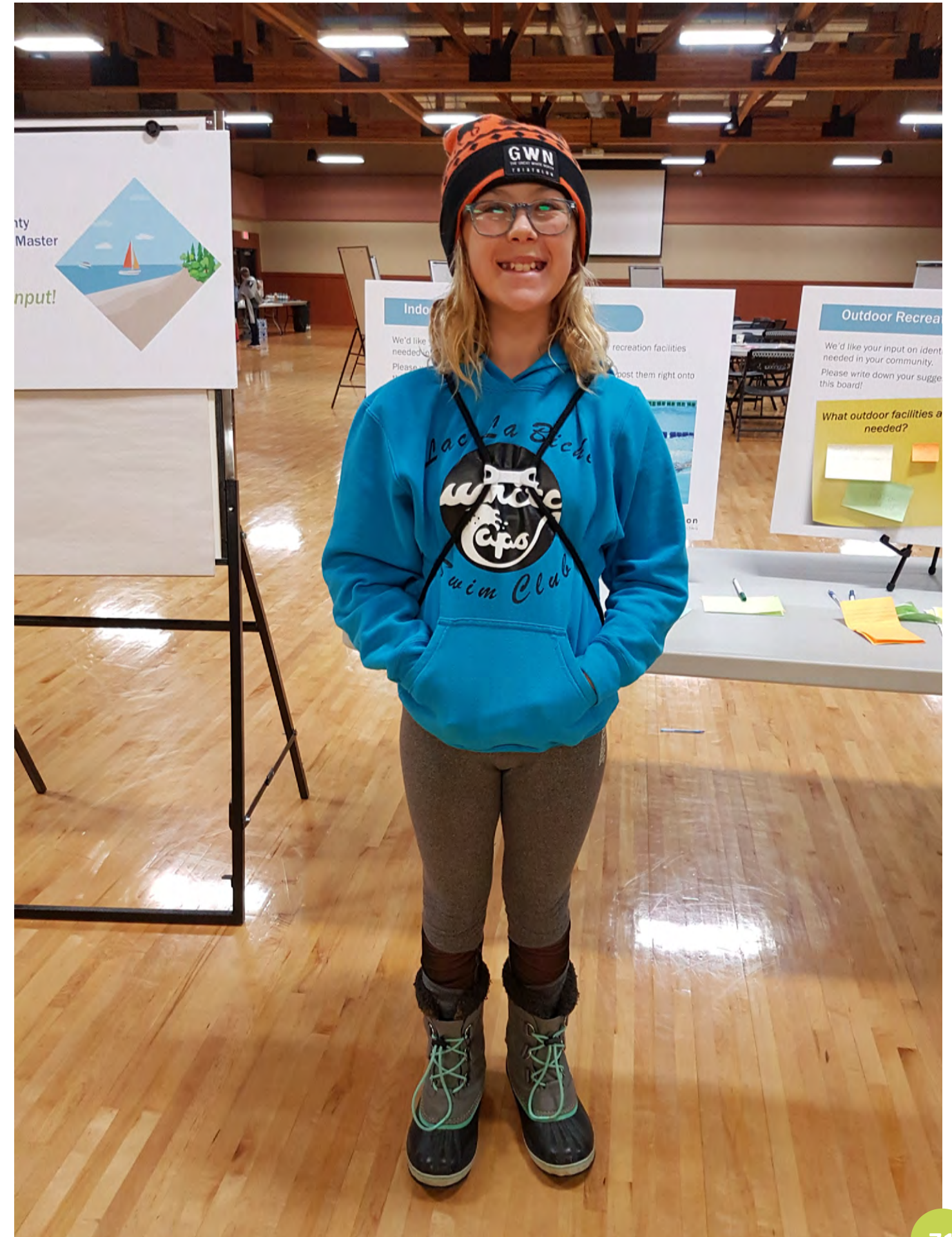
Figure 11. Master Plan Community Input



Input from Lac La Biche County’s residents, community groups and other stakeholders was gathered through surveys, facilitated sessions, and interviews. The main research questions we asked the community for input on were:

1. What new or improved indoor facilities are needed?
2. What new or improved outdoor facilities are needed?
3. What new or improved programs, activities or events are needed?

The remainder of this section summarizes the key findings from the input gathering activities. For an expanded discussion on the input received, please refer to the What We Heard Report in Appendix B.

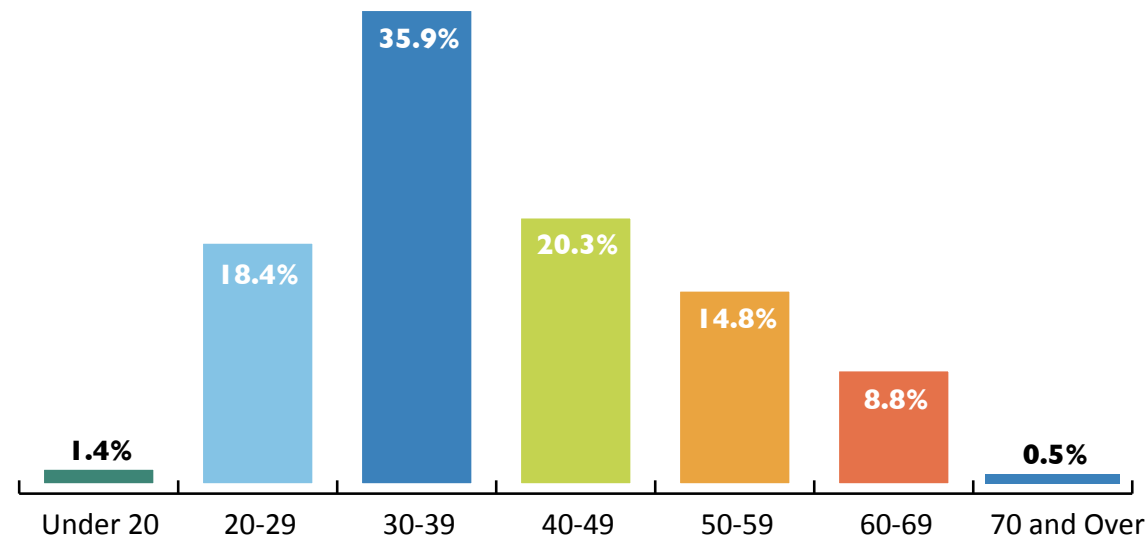


Resident Survey Results

Lac La Biche County residents were surveyed to collect input to support the Recreation and Parks Master Plan. Residents were asked to fill out an online survey, which ran from November 2 - 23, 2018. A link to the survey was posted on the County website and promotion occurred through social media channels and word of mouth. In total, 230 responses were collected. The main findings from the resident survey are provided below.

In terms of demographics, the gender split between respondents to the resident survey was 72.9% female and 27.1% male. Respondents were located primarily in Lac La Biche (61.8%), followed by a Locality (15.7%), Plamondon (11.5%) and Hilo/Venice (7.5%). A wide range of ages responded to the survey, although 30-39 year olds provided the highest proportion of responses at 35.9% (see chart below). Households made up of families with children were also strongly represented in the survey.

Question: What is your age?

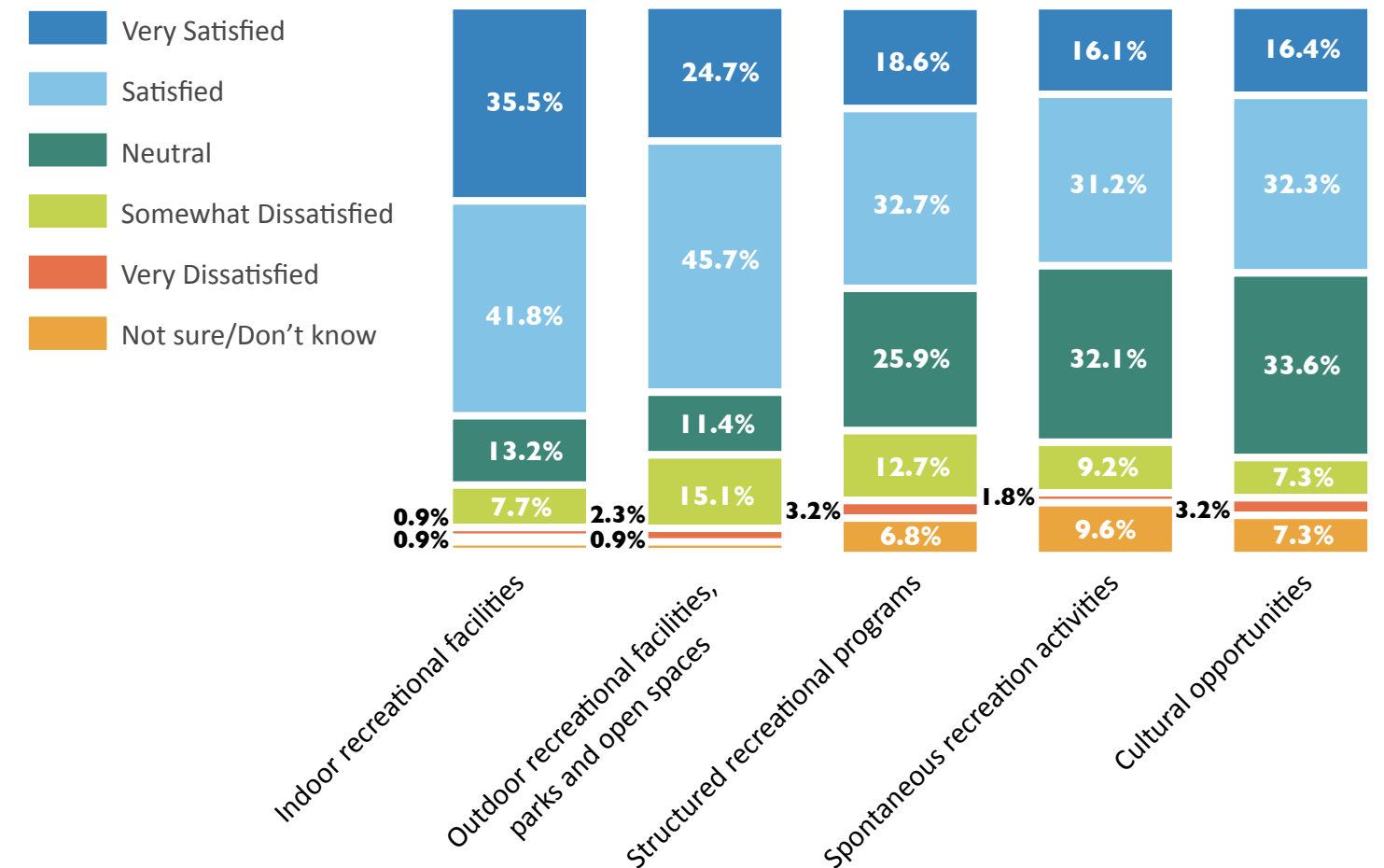


93.8% of respondents reported that recreation, parks and culture opportunities are important to their quality of life. When respondents were asked which recreation, parks and culture activities were most important to them, the most commonly identified activities included:

Outdoor Activities:	Indoor Activities:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking, hiking and running Camping Fishing Boating and paddling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swimming Exercise/fitness Hockey/skating

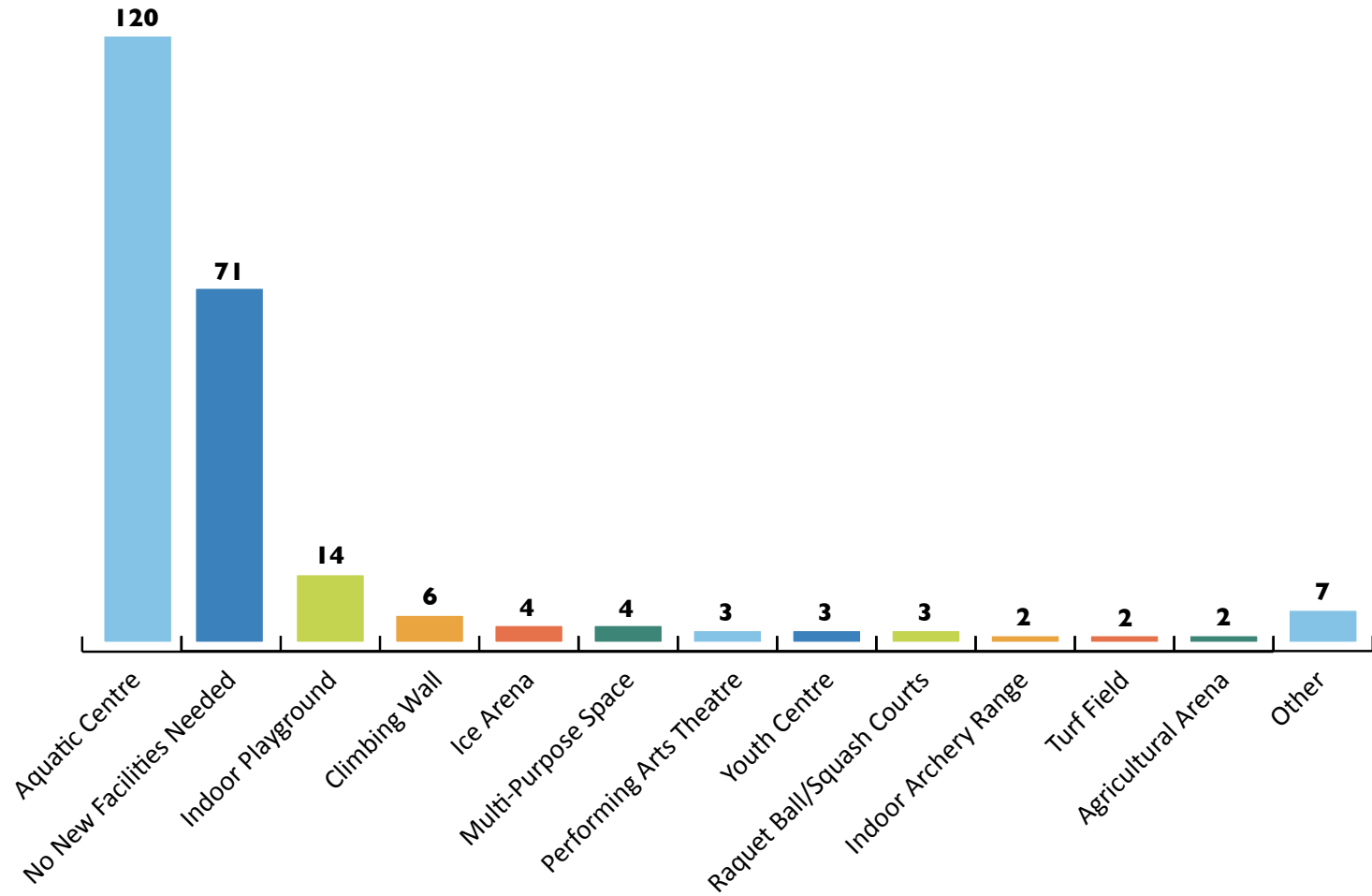
Overall, respondents indicated that they were largely satisfied with the recreation, parks and cultural offering Lac La Biche County provides to them. Respondents were most satisfied with Indoor Recreational Facilities (77.3% Very Satisfied or Satisfied) and Outdoor Recreational Facilities (70.4% Very Satisfied or Satisfied). However, in comparison to other categories, respondents also indicated some dissatisfaction with Outdoor Recreational Facilities (17.4% Somewhat Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied). Respondents also had some dissatisfaction with Structured Recreational Programs (15.9% Somewhat Dissatisfied or Very Dissatisfied).

Question: Overall, how satisfied are you with the following in Lac La Biche County?



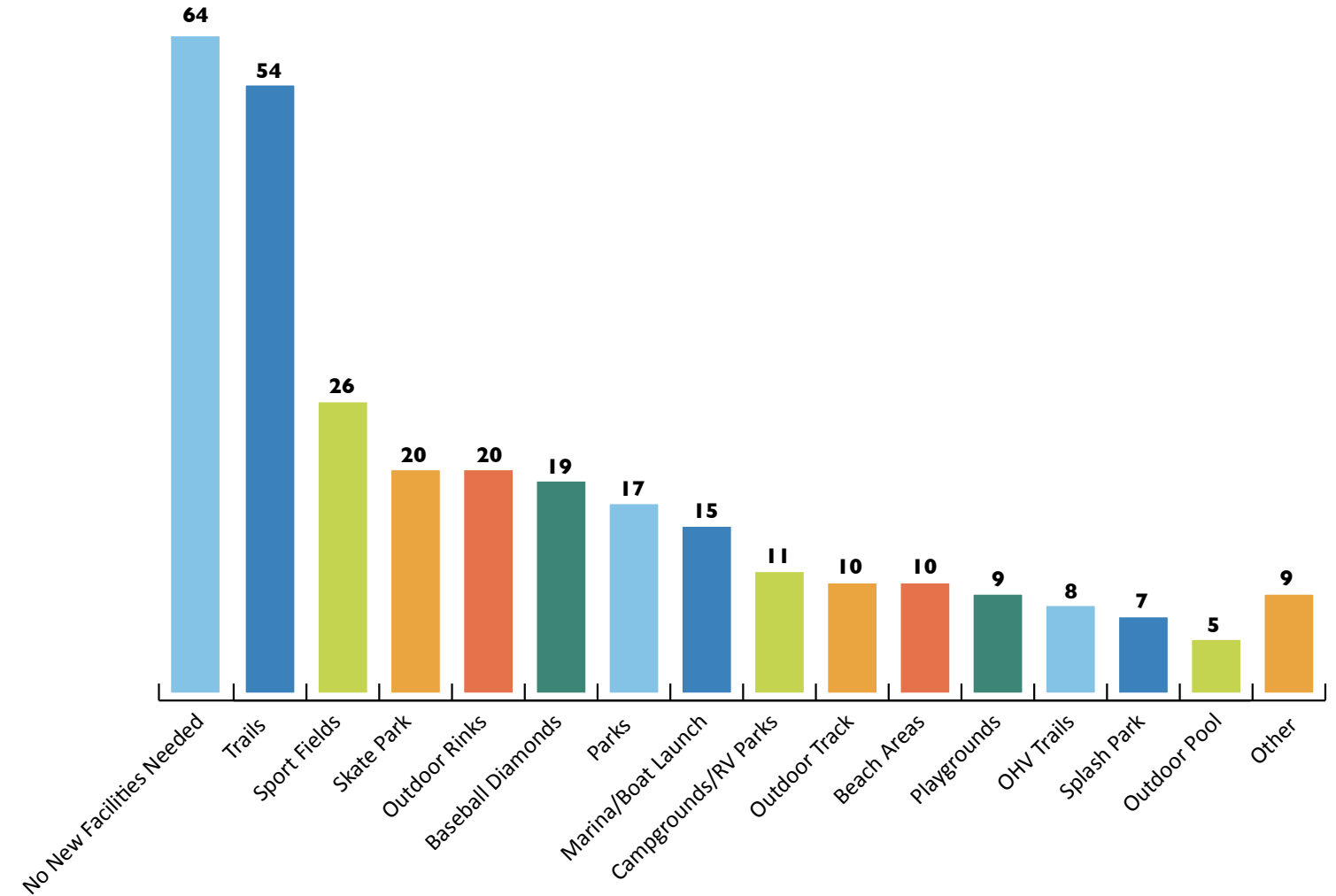
In terms of new indoor recreation facilities, a new aquatic centre was the top choice with 120 separate selections out of a total of 170 selections. The next most requested indoor facility was an indoor playground (14/170 selections). 71 respondents indicated that no new indoor facilities were needed.

Question: What new indoor facilities are needed in Lac La Biche County?



Respondents identified a wider variety of outdoor recreation facility needs. Trails for walking, hiking, biking and skiing were the most requested (54/240 selections). This was followed by sport fields (26/240 selections), outdoor rinks (20/240 selections) and skate parks (20/240 selections). A common theme that was expressed by respondents when answering this question was that they wanted to see enhancements to existing facilities, rather than building completely new facilities. 64 respondents indicated that no new outdoor facilities were needed.

Question: What new outdoor facilities are needed in Lac La Biche County?



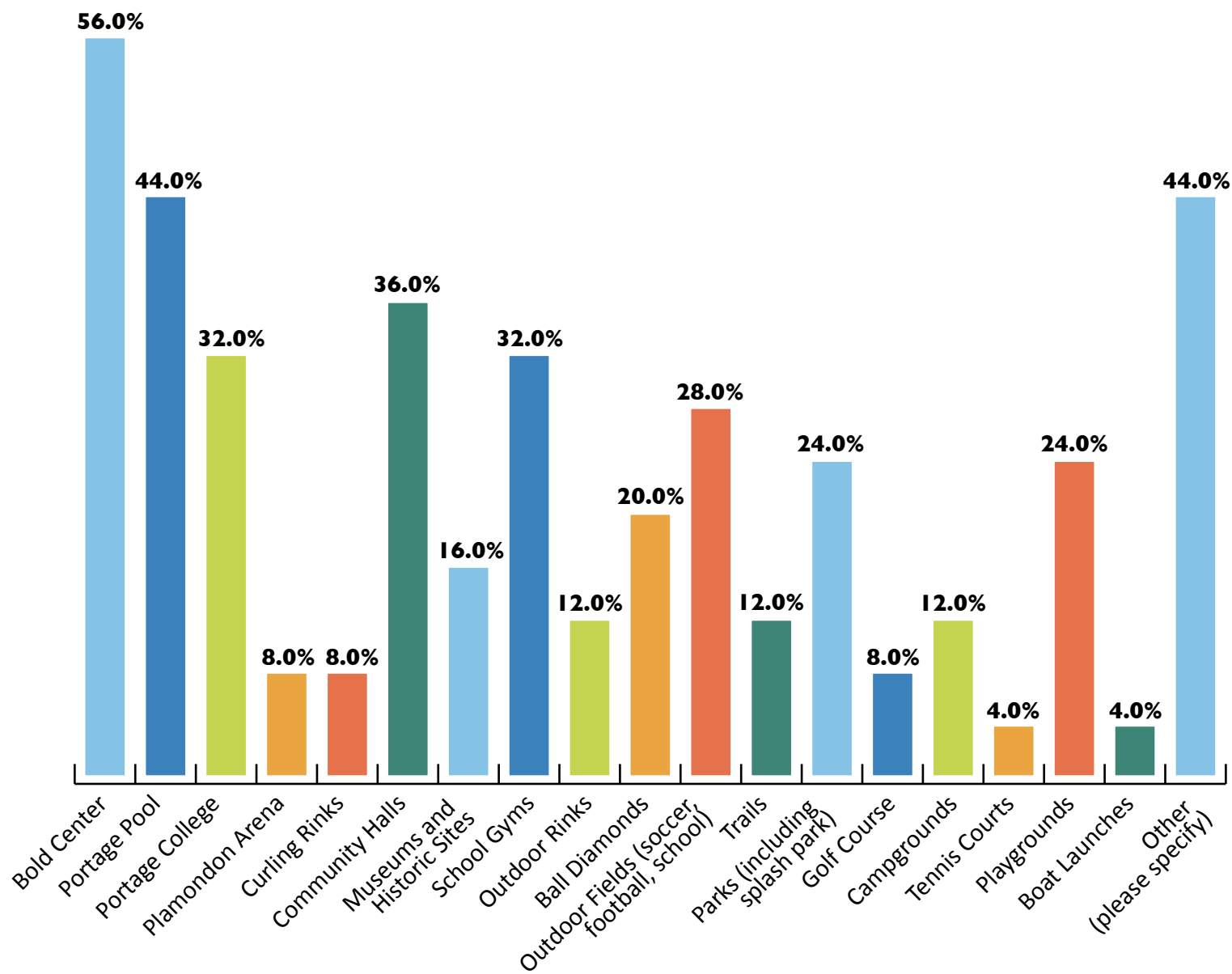
Regarding the types of recreation, parks and culture programming that respondents said are needed in Lac La Biche County, outdoor activities and education was the most requested (15/101 selections). Culture programs (14/101 selections), performing arts programming (9/101 selections) and events (9/101 selections) were the next most requested programming need.

Stakeholder Survey Results

Recreation, parks and culture stakeholder groups in Lac La Biche County were surveyed to collect data to support the Recreation and Parks Master Plan. Stakeholders were asked to fill out an online survey, which ran from November 2 - 23, 2018. A link to the survey was posted on the County website and promotion occurred through email, social media channels and word of mouth. In total, 25 responses were collected. The main findings from the stakeholder survey are provided below.

Respondents were asked which facilities their organization currently utilize. The Bold Center was used by the most respondents (56.0%), followed by Portage Pool (44.0%), Community Halls (36.0%), Portage College (32.0%) and School Gyms (32.0%).

Question: Please indicate which facilities your organization currently uses to serve its participants.*



*Participants were asked to select up to three activities, so the total percentages may add up to more than 100%.

37.5% of stakeholder groups are anticipating growth of between 1% and 5% annually over the next 5 years. 33.3% of stakeholder groups are anticipating growth of 6% to 10% annually over the next 5 years. For the most part, stakeholder groups are not having to turn away potential program participants due to a lack of facilities (73.9%). Respondents were also asked to describe the barriers facing their organization in meeting the needs of their participants. The top three barriers were limited ability to generate funds, the cost of renting facilities, and the lack of a permanent facility for their group.

To better serve their participants, stakeholder groups identified facilities and programs they would like to see in the future. In terms of facility needs, the most requested addition was sports fields, such as soccer fields and baseball diamonds (5 of 24 selections). This was followed by permanent space for their organization (3 of 24 selections), aquatic centre (2 of 24 selections) and water access (2 of 24 selections). In terms of programming needs, respondents identified funding support/reduced rates (2 of 24 selections), board development workshops (1 of 24 selections), equipment rentals (1 of 24 selections) and drop-in programs for all ages (1 of 24 selections).

When asked if Lac La Biche County could make one improvement to better support their organizations, stakeholder groups most often said enhanced collaboration and partnerships with the County to reduce costs for their organization and their members. Opportunities to work together include advertising and promotions, equipment rentals, access to space and facilities, and programming.

Key Themes from the In-Person Engagements

In-person community consultation took place in Lac La Biche County from November 13 – 14, 2018. Manned pop-up displays were set up at the Bold Center to collect input, facilitated sessions were held with stakeholder groups, seniors and staff, and drop-in input opportunities were held for youth and the general public. In total, 179 community members were engaged through these consultation activities (see Figure 12 below). The main findings from the in-person engagements are provided below.

Figure 12. Summary of In-Person Consultation

In-Person Engagement Activity	# of Participants
Manned Pop-up Displays	55
Facilitated Session for Staff	20
Public Input Session	25
Facilitated Session for Seniors	37
Facilitated Stakeholder Input Session	17
Youth Session	25
TOTAL	179



Regarding indoor facilities, strong demand was identified for a new aquatics facility. This was the most requested recreation facility addition/enhancement across all engagement activities. Many participants indicated they would like it to be attached to the Bold Center. It should be noted that some members of the public were opposed to this idea. They believed the existing pool at Portage College is not fully utilized and could be refurbished instead of building a new pool. Participants also often requested an indoor playground/play space and improved maintenance of indoor facilities.

In terms of outdoor facilities, improvements to trails and park spaces and enhanced maintenance of outdoor facilities were most requested by participants. A skate/BMX park also featured strongly, particularly among youth participants. An additional theme common to most engagement activities was the importance of access to lakes in the County.

Regarding programming, stakeholder groups and young families identified affordable prices for programs and facility rentals to be a concern. A gap that was identified across multiple engagement activities was a lack of cultural facilities and programs in the County. Participants would like to see a stronger cultural offering provided by the County.

Public Review of the Draft Master Plan

The Draft Master Plan was reviewed with the public on June 11, 2019. Feedback was collected through facilitated pop-up stations in Lac La Biche and Plamondon. A summary of the feedback collected is provided below. See Appendix C for the full report on the feedback gathered.

Overall, the 10 year vision for recreation and parks in Lac La Biche County was positively received. The majority of residents who shared their thoughts agreed that the County's recreation and parks system is a core strength of the community.

In terms of the priorities outlined in the Draft Master Plan, many participants indicated their support for lake remediation, the redevelopment of McArthur Park, a trails master plan, and studying the feasibility of a new aquatic centre. Some participants felt that a new aquatic centre is not a need and other priorities should take precedence over building a new pool. Some participants also questioned the relative priority of a new skatepark and hiring additional staff.

There was a feeling among some meeting participants that the draft priority list focused too much on the Hamlet of Lac La Biche. Specific requests for facilities outside of Lac La Biche that were identified included a new museum in Plamondon and a boat launch in Plamondon.

The information above was considered during the development of the Final Master Plan document.

06 *Vision for the Future*

