RM of Piney
Recreation Master Plan

Final Report

Internal Version for RM of Piney Planning Purposes Only

March 4th, 2024

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To: Martin Van Osch, CAO

From: Mark Baxter

Date: March 4, 2024

Re: RM of Piney Recreation Master Plan – *Draft Final Report*

Dear Martin,

We are pleased to present our *draft* final report for the RM of Piney Recreation Master Plan. This has been an illuminating project that we hope will help provide direction for the delivery, management, and expansion of recreation in RM of Piney for years to come.

Thank you for accepting our report.

Sincerely,



Mark Baxter,
Outlook Market Research & Consulting

INTRODUCTION TO THE RM OF PINEY MASTER PLAN

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Background

The Rural Municipality of Piney commissioned Outlook Market Research & Consulting to develop a long-term Recreation Master Plan. The primary purpose of this Master Plan is to provide direction for the delivery, management, and expansion of recreation in the RM of Piney.

Goal of the Master Plan
The plan is intended to identify community needs and priorities, assess the current state of recreation infrastructure and services, and establish goals and objectives to enhance and expand recreational opportunities. The plan also aims to identify funding strategies and governance models. The goals of the Recreation Master Plan include:

- Drafting a plan for the Municipality to set objectives and preferences with regards to the expansion and implementation of recreation.
- Evaluating the way in which the Municipality finances and supports financing for recreation.
- Examining the current approach for providing recreation in the RM of Piney.
- Evaluating the requirement for new and enhanced parks, facilities and or programs.
- Analyzing the consequences for a capital funding approach.

1.2 Methodology

The planning process involved a collaborative effort with the Municipality, the community, and other relevant stakeholders, to assist in identifying issues to be addressed in the Plan. The Municipality and the Recreation Committee provided valuable feedback and guidance to the consultants throughout the development of the consultation strategy. This included:

- Conducting an inventory and analysis of existing recreation facilities and services including site visits.
- Reviewing existing governance and management structures.
- Analyzing community demographics.
- Analyzing recreation trends and participation rates.
- Review of internal governance and management structures.
- Meeting with neighbouring communities regarding their plans and investigating potential collaboration opportunities with the RM of Piney.

One of the most essential aspects of the process was an in-depth consultation effort which involved:

- Engaging in a public consultation process with recreation stakeholders and organizations including conducting interviews (in-person and via telephone), site visits, and a community-wide recreation and recreation programming survey.

This approach aimed to gather input from a diverse range of perspectives and to ensure that the Recreation Master Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the entire community.

1.3 Key Findings

The following is an overview of the key issues identified through secondary research and, notably, the stakeholder consultation process. These issues guided the development of the strategic recommendations which form the foundation of the Recreation Master Plan:

1. The geography and sparse population of the RM of Piney present challenges in efficiently developing and implementing recreation programs and maintaining recreation facilities.
2. The average age of the population, particularly recreation participants, is older, on average, than other areas of Manitoba and that trend will continue over time.
3. There is community-wide realization of the importance of recreational programming, evidenced by the eager community participation in the project and their input.
4. Seniors' clubs and programs are well attended and in high demand.
5. Volunteers are the backbone of almost all recreational programming, but there is an insufficient number of volunteers in all communities/programs, and a lack of volunteer coordination.
6. Lack of coordination between/among communities, many of which struggle with the same population, geography, and resource issues as the RM of Piney.
7. The RM does not own regional recreation facilities. As such, the RM should only support those facilities financially and informationally at arm’s length. There is a need for a strategy focused on development of assistance and communication best-practices for the RM through a regional recreation programming plan.

1.4 Vision Statement

The research and the consultation process yielded the following Vision Statement for recreation in the RM of Piney:

Support the community in the development and delivery of sustainable recreation programs to maximize the quality of life of all residents. Coordinated human and capital investments in recreation will ensure the vibrancy and well-being of the region for years to come.

1.5 Strategic Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Hire a Municipal Recreation Director

This is the primary recommendation of the Recreation Master Plan. Amongst other duties, the Director would: facilitate the coordination of programming regionally; support facility operators in planning, developing, operating, and maintaining facilities to ensure their long-term viability and sustainability; and facilitate the coordination of programming regionally to lessen the duplication of services and programs. The Plan presents several potential job structures/scenarios for a Municipal Recreation Director.

Recommendation 2: Recreation Director Work Collaboratively with RM of Piney Recreation Committee

Currently the Recreation Committee primarily oversees the funding of recreation programs in the RM. In the new scenario, the RM of Piney Recreation Committee would oversee the Recreation Director who would take over both the primary responsibility of coordinating programs and assess the best allocation of funding resources. *Note*: It is also recommended the Recreation Committee be represented fully by Council members. The Committee has to look at complex municipal financial considerations when making decisions, which is best done by Council members with an understanding of the financial implications.

Recommendation 3: Coordinate a Support Program for Facility and Program Administrators

The Recreation Director will take leadership role with respect to regional recreation providing administrative support, program coordination, consistency in policy and procedures, standardization of financial management, and operational oversight to facility managers and program administrators.

Recommendation 4: Develop a Facility/Program Proposal Analysis Process

The Recreation Director should develop a means to evaluate proposals for the development of and/or expansion of regional recreational facilities or programs by engaging directly with community members and stakeholders, identifying priority areas, gathering feedback on proposed developments, and developing evaluation criteria for municipalities.

Recommendation 5: Develop a Comprehensive Regional Volunteer Program

The Recreation Director should collaborate closely with regional and municipal recreation program volunteers to create an annual program guide, facilitate collaborations across communities to lessen duplication and facilitate inter-community cooperation, foster regional awareness of programs, and facilitate human and capital resource efficiencies.

Recommendation 6: Develop a Volunteer Recruitment Initiative

As part of the Comprehensive Regional Volunteer Program, the Recreation Director should develop a formalized volunteer recruitment initiative which can serve to promote the benefits and opportunities of volunteering in the RM to utilize the strengths of the current volunteer base, engage 'newcomers' and young families to become more active in the community, and assist in replenishing diminishing volunteer base.

Recommendation 7: Regional Coordination of Communication, Promotion and Organization of All Municipal Recreation Programs

The Recreation Director should create communication and information dissemination plans and materials regarding recreational programs throughout the region. Communication might be the most important responsibility of the Recreation Director.

***Note**:* One of the objectives of the Recreation Master Plan project was providing direction for recreation planning over the next 20-years. After intensive research and consultations, it is clear this is not a realistic objective currently. The existing and upcoming deficits in human resources, facilities, volunteering, and funding require immediate attention (which a Recreation Director can begin to provide) must be addressed before a long-term potential picture of Recreation in the region can become clearer. How the RM of Piney Recreation Committee and Recreation Director choose to address these issues, based in the information and recommendations in this Master Plan, will guide that long term planning.

1.6 Next Steps

The following is an outline of next steps in the implementation of this Plan:

1. The RM of Piney Council should receive the Recreation Master Plan for information and refer it to its administration for implementation.

2. Administration should initiate preliminary discussions with the RM of Stuartburn (and/or Buffalo Point First Nation if possible) to further explore the potential for sharing a Recreation Director given that these communities were open to this potential during engagements within this study.

3. Begin developing a job posting or at least an expression of interest for the position of Recreation Director in case a suitable candidate is identified before a formal hiring process begins.

4. Host spring 2024 information sessions with citizens regional recreation stakeholders/providers to encourage regional consensus and cooperation while fostering buy-in for the Recreation Master Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Area

The RM of Piney is a vast and varied Municipality. Land-base wise, it is one of the largest in the Province of Manitoba. However, despite its vast footprint, the land-base over which the Municipality can plan is relatively small, as 75 percent of land in the RM is Crown Land. Besides being one of the largest Municipalities in Manitoba it is also one of the most varied – with a rapidly changing landscape throughout the Municipality. This landscape includes prime agricultural land, aggregate, forests, sand deposits and urban areas. While it is advantageous to have a variety of uses, this variety can make planning and guiding sustainable growth challenging. The RM's park-like setting makes it attractive to cottagers, hunters and other recreational users.

The RM is located in the southeast corner of the province and is bordered by the RM of Stuartburn, the RM of La Broquerie, the RM of Reynolds, Buffalo Point First Nation and the United States.

RM of Piney communities include:

- Badger
- Carrick
- Middlebro
- Menisino
- Piney
- St. Labre
- Sandilands
- South Junction
- Sprague
- Vassar
- Wampum
- Woodridge

Population in the RM was up in 2021 to 1,843, from 1,726 in 2016. This is a 6.6% increase which is more than Manitoba which was up 5% in that same period. But at the same time the average age is significantly older in the RM than Manitoba: 45.9 vs 39.7. Notably, the percentage of people 65 years and over is 25.5% in the RM of Piney, and 17.1% in Manitoba.

The geographically spread out, relatively older population base drives much of the research and recommendations in the Recreational Master Plan.



2.2 Regional Recreation Related Facilities

The RM of Piney features 17 recreation related facilities/locations that were researched for the Recreation Mater Plan:

1. Woodridge Community Club

    - The community club is a hub of recreational activities in Woodridge an includes a 10,000 sq. foot recreation centre, a licensed commercial kitchen, a games room, gymnasium, banquet hall including a picnic shelter/canteen, wooden play structure, an outdoor ice rink and 16 acres of greenspace. The facility is home to the local senior's meal program, the annual Summer Fun on the Ridge festival, a car show and multiple community gatherings.

2. South Junction Community Club

    - The community club is the hub of the sporting and other recreational activities for local residents. The club's grounds include a local park for picnics, barbecues, an outdoor playground, a covered picnic facility, a basketball/ tennis court, an enclosed, outdoor area for licensed events with a canteen, and two baseball diamonds both providing covered bleacher seating.

3. Pine Grove Seniors Club - South Junction

    - The open grounds of the club is host to one of the region's favorite farmer's markets. The club building, with a capacity of 75, includes a full kitchen offering multiple gathering opportunities in addition to the wide scope of senior's programs offered to residents.

4. Carrick Community Club

    - The club is home to the well-attended Carrick Days, an annual event held each August which includes live entertainment, horseshoe tournaments, a parade, fireworks and more. Facilities at the club include the community/recreation centre, historic Spurgrave School, multiple horseshoe pits, a canteen, a screened-in picnic area/gazebo and, a large open, outdoor space for gatherings.

5. Vassar Community Recreation Centre

    - The recreation centre hall, with a full-service kitchen, plays host to multiple indoor events throughout the year. The grounds include the Vassar Pool, outdoor basketball court, playground equipment, outdoor picnic area, outdoor camping sites, three ball diamonds, batting cage and beer garden/canteen area. The center annually hosts a softball tournament attracting teams province-wide.

6. Vassar Pool

    - As the only public pool in the region, the Vassar Pool is one of the focal points for summertime recreation for much of the RM. The pool, located on the Vassar Community Recreation Centre grounds, is seasonally open for public swimming and booked events as well as providing swimming and lifesaving lessons for the public.

7. Vassar Pine Needles & Cones Seniors Club

    - The senior's club is located in the Vassar Community Recreation Centre hall and provides seniors, and those wishing to book the facility, the opportunity for yearly indoor recreation opportunities. The seniors club room includes a billiards table, shuffleboard table, card tables, television and a computer/internet station. The club also has full access and use of the hall's updated kitchen area.

8. Piney Community Centre

    - The community centre banquet hall, with a fully operational kitchen and serving area commonly plays host to weddings, socials, funerals as well as providing the community with a local bingo facility, indoor pickle ball, archery opportunities and other activities. The recreation grounds include a covered picnic area with a canteen, outdoor picnic tables, a playground, and a mud pit which hosts the popular annual Mud Run.

9. Piney Curling Club

    - The curling club is located on the Piney Community Centre grounds and includes two sheets of ice, a ground-level spectators' area, and an upstairs lounge/bar overlooking the sheets. During winter months, the facility is the RM's only curling facility with weekly leagues on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as playing host to one of the larger annual regional bonspiels in southeast Manitoba.

10. Piney Over 40 Club

    - The club is located within the same facility as the Piney Community Centre hall. With a full-service kitchen and a seating area capable of catering to small events, the club is host to the Piney Congregate Meal Program as well as providing exercise and recreation activities for locals over 40.

11. Sprague Community Center

    - The center is located adjacent to the Evergreen Seniors Club and Sprague & Area Arena facilities and includes a large hall, a full kitchen, a basketball court and a covered picnic area. The facility is host to Sprague Fest, a multi-day event which is one of the most well-attended annual events in the RM of Piney.

12. Sprague & Area Arena

    - The arena is located on grounds adjacent to the Sprague Community Center and the Evergreen Seniors Club, has a single icesheet, and is the only indoor arena in the Municipality. The facility provides community members with access to skating and informal hockey opportunities nightly and on weekends during the winter freeze.

13. Evergreen Seniors Club - Sprague

- The senior's club is located in the same facility housing the Sprague Community Center. With a fully functional kitchen, the facility is host to weekly senior's meals and provides weekly opportunities for recreation and leisure including billiards and shuffleboard tables, as well as board and other games, and provides the community a space for small gatherings.

14. Middlebro Community Hall and Middlebro Park

- The community hall facility is a moderately sized recreation center with a full, modernized kitchen which plays host to multiple community events including dinners, gatherings, weddings, and funerals. Middlebro Park, administered by volunteers, is located near the hall and offers a ball diamond, an open-air picnic facility, outdoor playground, horseshoe pits, and a basketball court for community use.

15. Sandilands Park

- Sandilands Park sits on 5 fenced acres in the Sandilands Provincial Forest. The park serves as a hub for local and surrounding community events and a waypoint for tourists and recreational enthusiasts who enjoy the many trails and outdoor activities the area has to offer. The park has a canteen style building with attached covered gazebo including several picnic tables. Annual events include Spring Seed Swaps, an Autumn Harvest Festival and a Volunteer Appreciation Event as well as community building events like community wide yard sales, BBQ's and other special events.

16. Badger Park

- In 2009, the Badger Community Association constructed a community shelter at Badger Park. The park covers close to two acres of land within the community. Beyond the shelter, both newly planted and mature trees in the park, its picnic tables and small playground provide the community an avenue for family and other gatherings. The park is open to the public year-round and provides a location for picnics, barbecues, horseshoe games, as well as ATV and snowmobile gatherings and other events.

17. St. Labre Community Park

- In 2009, to further enhance recreation amenities for its residents, St. Labre Community Centre Inc. built a community shelter in the community park. The shelter includes picnic table seating and sits on approximately one-acre of park land.

In addition to the six permanent picnic tables there are additional picnic tables available to park users as well as large canvas tents and a big screen and projector for community use. The park is used for movie nights, sports events, family gatherings, geocaching, and many other community activities.

2.3 Methodology

Background for the Study

The RM of Piney required the development of a comprehensive Recreation Master Plan. The Recreation Plan is meant to describe how the municipality currently funds recreation, reviewing current recreation delivery systems, the feasibility of existing recreation facilities, the risks to existing facilities and recreation infrastructure, the potential for new park upgrades, and a capital fundraising plan for future development.

Challenges:

- Like some other rural municipalities, the RM of Piney does not own or operate the 17 recreation facilities/venues studied in this report. This made researching the status of the facilities slightly more challenging in terms of the dispersion of information. Ownership of the facilities also affects the Strategic Recommendations of this report.

- Another challenge, again stemming from a lack of centralized information about recreation programming and facilities in the region, is the present lack of a Recreation Director or any paid RM staff focused specifically on recreation. But this challenge is also an *opportunity*, and the main Strategic Recommendation of this Master Plan revolves around the hiring of a Recreation Director.

Logistics and Literature Review

The consulting team completed a document review of all (but not limited to) documents provided by the RM of Piney and its member communities, and other regional/provincial recreation stakeholders. The literature review included a recreation services list, recreation facility inventory list, target market list, stakeholder list, and other informational items relating to regional recreation programming and infrastructure.

Consultation Process

The core research methodology in development of the RM of Piney Recreation Master Plan centred around community consultations. The consultation process involved a collaborative effort with Municipality, the community, and other relevant stakeholders, to assist in identifying issues to be addressed in the Plan. The Municipality and the Recreation Committee provided valuable feedback and guidance to the consultants throughout the development of the consultation strategy. This included:

- Conducting an inventory and analysis of existing recreation facilities and services
- Reviewing existing governance and management structures
- Analyzing community demographics
- Analyzing recreation trends and participation rates

The most essential aspects of the public consultation process included:

- Engaging in a public consultation process with recreation stakeholders and organizations including conducting interviews (in-person and via telephone), site visits, and a community-wide recreation and recreation programming survey.

This approach aimed to gather input from a diverse range of perspectives to ensure the Recreation Master Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the entire community.

THE RESEARCH

3. RECREATION & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

3.1 Demographic Trends

RM of Piney Population Growth Trend

The RM of Piney is not showing a depopulation trend. The population percentage change from 2016 to 2021 was an increase of 6.6%, which is even better than Manitoba which was up 5% in the same period. And while it is true that small changes in lower population areas can have an outsized impact on changes by percentage, Table #1 shows a steady increase in population the last 10 years. This is also supported by a slight increase in population density, and in increase in the "Private dwellings occupied by usual residents."

Table #1

RM of Piney	2021	2016	2011
Population	1843	1726	1720
Population percentage change, previous census	6.8	0.3	-2
Total private dwellings	1172	1191	1112
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents	804	768	741
Population density per square kilometre	0.8	0.7	0.7
Land area in square kilometres	2,430.32	2,433.1	2,433.77
Total - Age groups of the population - 100% data	1,840	1,725	1,720
0 to 14 years	285	265	280
0 to 4 years	80	80	85
5 to 9 years	95	85	95
10 to 14 years	105	95	100
15 to 64 years	1,080	1,025	1,015
15 to 19 years	100	80	80
20 to 24 years	70	65	65
25 to 29 years	90	65	65
30 to 34 years	65	90	90
35 to 39 years	110	75	75
40 to 44 years	90	75	75
45 to 49 years	105	95	95
50 to 54 years	125	140	140
55 to 59 years	150	155	155
60 to 64 years	190	175	175
65 years and over	470	435	420
65 to 69 years	175	150	135
70 to 74 years	125	130	120
75 to 79 years	90	80	90

80 to 84 years	50	50	45
85 years and over	35	25	30
Median age of the population	50.4	51.4	50

RM of Piney Population Age

The age of the population in the RM of Piney is of critical importance to this Recreation Master Plan. The 65-and-older segment is a significant portion of the population; higher than in the province on average. The 15 to 64 demographic is also smaller.

Table #2

2021 Population Data	RM of Piney	Manitoba
0 to 14 years	15.5%	18.8%
15 to 64 years	58.7%	64.1%
65 years and over	25.5%	17.1%
85 years and over	1.9%	2.2%
Average age of the population	45.9	39.7
Median age of the population	50.4	38.4

The demographic reality is that the RM has an older population than the Manitoba average. This will impact best-practices for recreation planning. Seniors are a larger part of the RM population and are typically an outsized part of any research sample due to their increased time, availability and relative community involvement. As such, the plan needs to find a balancing act between seniors' wants and needs, while also focusing on the younger families that are vital to rural population retention and attraction.

Physical activity is good for mental and physical health. The Chief Provincial Public Health Officer's 2015

Health Status of Manitobans Report: Healthy Environments, Healthy People states that physical activity reduces stress, improves self-esteem, and prevents non-communicable diseases. Being physically active may also protect against some mental health problems. Communities that provide opportunities to be physically active are more likely to have lower rates of depression and anxiety across all life stages.

(https://www.gov.mb.ca/mh/activeliving/docs/physicalactivity_rec.pdf)

Manitoba Population Projections

Population projections for the province and the country are not necessarily reflective of the RM of Piney. The vast majority of population projections are derived from data on large population centres. Small-population, rural areas are often subject to their own trends and in Western Canada there is often a long-term trend of slow depopulation as young people move to larger urban centres.

However, the population growth is stable in the RM of Piney, and with 6.6% increase from 2016 to 2021, it was higher than the Province of Manitoba.

As population projection data is not performed for census subdivisions (like the RM of Piney), we must rely on Manitoba trends and projections. The Manitoba five-year percentage increase rate tends to rest around 5% to 6% in most projections. Looking back, last decade of Manitoba's population, the growth rate is very consistent and strong ranging from 1.03% to 1.19%, adding around 13,280 to 15,210 people each year to the overall population. (Source: https://www.canadapopulation.net/manitoba-population/)

Table #3 shows slow, medium, and high, growth projections for the province over the next 20 years, which is a time frame of interest for the Recreation Master Plan.

Table #3

Year	Projection scenario LG: low-growth (x1,000)	Projection scenario M1: medium-growth (x1,000)	Projection scenario HG: high-growth (x1,000)
2023	1,404.20	1,414.40	1,423.50
2024	1,413.30	1,429.60	1,445.00
2025	1,422.70	1,445.30	1,467.00
2026	1,431.10	1,461.40	1,489.40
2027	1,438.80	1,477.80	1,512.30
2028	1,446.10	1,494.40	1,535.30
2029	1,453.20	1,511.10	1,558.70
2030	1,460.30	1,527.90	1,582.60
2031	1,467.40	1,545.00	1,607.40
2032	1,474.40	1,562.10	1,632.80
2033	1,481.00	1,578.80	1,658.70
2034	1,487.30	1,595.20	1,685.00
2035	1,493.30	1,611.30	1,711.80
2036	1,499.00	1,626.90	1,739.00
2037	1,504.50	1,642.30	1,766.70
2038	1,509.80	1,657.30	1,794.90
2039	1,515.00	1,672.10	1,823.60
2040	1,520.10	1,686.70	1,852.90

2041	1,525.10	1,701.10	1,882.80
2042	1,530.10	1,715.50	1,913.30
2043	1,535.00	1,730.00	1,944.40
20 Year % Increase	9.31%	22.31%	36.59%

Based on: Statistics Canada. Table 17-10-0058-01; Components of projected population growth, by projection scenario (x 1,000)

Using "Projection scenario M1: medium growth", which is reflective of the typical Manitoba growth rate of 1.03% to 1.19%, the projected 22.31% percentage increase would take the **RM of Piney population to approximately 2,254**.

It should also be noted that using these Manitoba medium growth projections, the 65+ population would increase from 241,100 in 2023 to 341,000 in 2043, or 41.1%. It is unclear if that trend will happen in the RM of Piney, but we may assume that seniors may continue to be a growing proportion of the RM population which will impact recreation decisions materially.

Canadian Demographic Changes Affecting Recreation

A Framework for Recreation In Canada 2015: Pathways To Wellbeing recognizes four key county-wide demographic trends which will provide both challenges and opportunities for recreation. Trends 1 and 4 are particularly applicable to the RM of Piney:

1. The aging of the population means that many communities have a declining proportion of children and an increasing proportion of older adults. This is particularly evident in rural areas due to the migration of young people to urban centres to pursue education and work, and the desire of older people to "age in place" if possible.

2. Canada's population is increasingly rich in diversity. Two demographic trends are particularly relevant: 1) since changes in immigration policies in the 1970s, newcomers to Canada come from all areas of the world; and 2) the Aboriginal community is younger and growing faster than the general population. These populations and other ethnocultural/racial groups enrich our recreational experiences with multiple languages, historical context and diverse cultural identities, while challenging recreation to respond to their unique needs and strengths.

3. Rapid urbanization (80% of Canadians now live in cities) means that people have less exposure to the healing power of nature. They have increased exposure to the human and environmental stresses that accompany urban development, such as high levels of traffic and high-rise housing. Urbanization holds many opportunities but also challenges recreation to develop and nurture programs and places and spaces, which contribute to a high quality of life, both socially and environmentally.

4. At the same time, Canada's rural and remote areas face particular challenges in recreation due to small and decreasing population levels (in most but not all communities), a lack of funds and infrastructure, threats to the natural environment and traditional ways of life, increasing pressure on small numbers of volunteers to lead in many areas, and challenges related to transportation and distance.

3.2 Infrastructure Trends

Infrastructure Canada (INFC) and Statistics Canada worked together to develop Canada's Core Public Infrastructure (CCPI) survey. The survey facilitates a direct comparison of the stock, condition, and performance of public infrastructure across Canada on a bi-annual basis. The data from this survey is used by governments to better understand Canada's core public infrastructure and determine current and future needs.

The first round of the CCPI survey was launched by Statistics Canada in Summer 2017 for reference year 2016, receiving a positive response rate of over 90% from municipal, regional, provincial and territorial governments and Indigenous communities. The second round of the survey was launched in Fall 2019 for reference year 2018. The third round of the survey was launched in Fall 2021 for reference year 2020.

Canada's Core Public Infrastructure Survey: Culture, Recreations and Sports Facilities, and Public Social and Affordable Housing, 2020; Released: 2022-09-27:

Culture, recreation and sports infrastructure and social and affordable housing play a key role in the quality of life of Canadians. In 2020, local, regional, provincial and territorial governments in Canada provided 5,060 aquatics facilities, 5,761 arts and culture facilities, 7,569 ice facilities, 34,346 kilometres of trails and pathways, as well as myriad indoor and outdoor sports fields and other assets to communities.

Small Rural Municipalities Account for a Greater Share of New Facilities

In 2020, one-fifth of publicly owned culture, recreation and sports facilities were owned by rural municipalities with less than 5,000 residents, where 6% of the Canadian population lives. Almost one-third (32%) of these assets have been installed since 2010. In fact, close to two-fifths of all facilities (37%) and more than two-thirds of arts and culture facilities (68%) built in 2019 and 2020 were reported by small rural municipalities.

Facility Age

The 2016 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card (CIRC) reinforced the acute need for infrastructure investments into sport and recreation facilities across Canadian communities. The Report Card demonstrates that of all infrastructure categories – sport and recreation

infrastructure faces the most immediate and critical need for repair and refurbishment. Yet, when tough decisions need to be made by communities on infrastructure priorities, sport and recreation projects are often trumped by commitments to roads, sewers, water and bridges.

These trends are often exacerbated in rural areas. Using Core Public Infrastructure Survey data, the Rural Ontario Institute noted that in small population areas the bulk of facilities were built in the three decades of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. For example, 69% of RST indoor ice arenas (with a single pad) were constructed in this 3-decade period.

Table #4 provides an inventory of rural, **publicly owned** facilities by year of completed construction. As the recreation facilities in the RM of Piney are not municipally owned, this data provides a better comparison to general Canadian data.

Table 4

Inventory of publicly owned culture, recreation, and sport facilities by year of completed construction: Rural, 2020							
	Completed Construction Timeframe						
	2019-2020	2010-2018	2000-2009	1970-1999	1940-1969	Prior 1940	Unknown
Indoor ice arenas, single pad	45C	149B	85B	419A	160B	8E	239A
Indoor ice arenas: multiple pads	5D	19B	12C	10B	10E	0A	9C
Outdoor ice arenas	162B	385A	224A	340A	47B	16D	313A
Curling rinks	12D	40B	41C	153B	94B	3C	123B
Indoor pools, 25 metres	17D	21C	17B	40B	2D	0A	10D
Indoor pools, 50 metres or longer	2E	1D	1D	0A	0A	0A	0A
Indoor pools, leisure pools 3	0A	0A	8C	12D	0A	0A	3B
Outdoor pools	46C	63B	37C	131B	37B	0A	81B
Outdoor spray parks/splash pads/wading pools	191B	343A	89B	35C	8E	0A	19C
Galleries	12E	10D	F	25C	4B	13D	7E
Libraries	139B	293A	210A	568A	104B	55B	394A
Museums and archives	71B	82B	103B	216B	112B	77B	141B
Performance spaces	38C	61B	57B	69B	31D	25A	69B
Indigenous culture facilities	24D	6D	3C	0A	0A	0A	11D
Community centres (senior and youth centres)	188B	325A	314A	999A	371A	106B	471A
Indoor gymnasiums	65B	90B	29C	83B	16D	0A	83B
Indoor racquet courts	22D	25C	10D	23D	0A	0A	27C
Indoor walking/jogging tracks	34D	52B	21C	21D	0A	0A	23D
Indoor fitness areas	109B	145B	58B	48B	3D	0A	38C
Indoor fields	9D	16C	10E	16D	0A	1E	9D
Outdoor speciality areas	325B	369A	207B	141B	23B	4D	164B

Playgrounds	603A	1,550A	1,315A	1,264A	84B	4E	563A
Outdoor tennis and/or pickleball courts	254B	325A	335A	547A	21C	1D	225A
Ball diamonds	249B	327A	476A	1,709A	199B	19C	562A
Rectangular sports fields (natural turf)	122B	281A	388A	510A	49C	3D	267B
Artificial turf sports fields	9D	28C	5D	3E	0A	0A	26D
Paved pathways (in kilometres)	213B	871A	300B	204B	2A	2D	118B
Trails (non-paved) (in kilometres)	992A	2,432B	1,929B	1,658B	58D	167B	1,054B

Another interesting data set in the 2020 Canada Core Public Infrastructure Survey is the average expected useful life of new publicly owned facilities. High-cost indoor facilities like ice rinks and pools tend to have a useful life of 40 to 50 years. Winnipeg is experiencing extreme challenges right now with the large number of public ice rinks that were built in the 1960s.

Average expected useful life of new publicly owned culture, recreation and sport facilities: 2020 Survey			
	Avg Years		Avg Years
Indoor ice arenas, single pad	41	Community centres (senior and youth centres)	32
Indoor ice arenas: multiple pads (two or more)	50	Indoor gymnasiums	38
Indoor ice arenas: Performance/spectator	40	Indoor racquet courts	27
Outdoor ice arenas	26	Indoor walking/jogging tracks	36
Indoor pools, 25 metres	46	Indoor fitness areas	25
Indoor pools, 50 metres or longer	40	Indoor fields	50
Indoor pools, leisure pools 3	32	Outdoor speciality areas	27
Outdoor pools	32	Playgrounds	21
Outdoor spray parks/splash pads/wading pools	23	Outdoor tennis and/or pickleball courts	22
Galleries	75	Ball diamonds	25
Libraries	49	Rectangular sports fields (natural turf)	49
Museums and archives	32	Artificial turf sports fields	21
Presentation and performance spaces	17	Paved pathways	25
Indigenous culture facilities	16	Trails (non-paved)	26

3.3 Health Trends

Pathways to Wellbeing recognized three key challenges to health that can be affected by recreation. Modern lifestyles combined with changes in the social and physical environments have precipitated some negative trends in health. These include increases in:

1. Risk behaviours such as sedentary living, and risk factors for disease such as obesity.
2. Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.
3. Mental health concerns such as depression and youth suicide.

Obesity Across all Age Groups

Related to the digital age, which contributes to a life of sedentariness, especially for youth, physical inactivity is on the rise. Inactive parents are also linked to sedentary youth, suggesting that engaging with the family as a whole may contribute to families being more physically active.

The overall obesity rate in Canada (and in Manitoba) in 2018 according to Statistics Canada was 27%, with 34% classified as overweight. These obesity rates increase to 33% over the age of 60. (Statistics Canada 2017 Canadian Health Measures Survey). A 2018 study's finding shows the prevalence of obesity among adults in Canada increased from 22.2% in 2005 to 27.2% in 2017/18 ("Trends in Obesity Across Canada from 2005 to 2018' - https://doi.org/10.9778/cmajo.20210205.)

According to the Canadian Medical Association in the 2015 report, "Obesity in Canada: Causes, Consequences and the Way Forward, the primary causes if this rise in obesity is: 1)The widespread consumption of pre-packaged and processed foods, and 2) Change in physical activity patterns. These trends are more pronounced in large urban centres, and as such not as applicable to the RM of Piney. But the obesity link to aging is a concern in an area that skews older. Access to recreational facilities and programing is a way to counteract the decrease in physical activity.

New And Emerging Technologies

Also noted in Pathways to Wellbeing related to physical inactivity and obesity: "The recreation field is challenged to access and keep up with rapidly changing technologies, which offer opportunities for innovation, communication, improved efficiency and enhanced connections, especially with young people. At the same time, parents and leaders in public health and recreation are concerned about the increasing amounts of time people (especially children and youth) spend in sedentary and solitary digital pursuits, instead of active recreation and unstructured play. New technologies that encourage 24/7 connections have led to reductions in time available to pursue recreational experiences, and to challenges in achieving a balanced lifestyle."

Chronic Diseases

According to the Government of Manitoba, provincial diabetes prevalence rates and costs have significantly increased over time. Almost 1 in 10 Manitobans are currently living with diabetes. Adult interventions combining high intensity **physical activity** and healthy eating have been shown to reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes. Physical activity reduces the risk of type 2 diabetes by 43%. (https://www.gov.mb.ca/mh/activeliving/docs/diabetes_facts.pdf).

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada states that exercise is one of the most important things you can do for your heart health. Exercise helps you live longer and reduces the risk of dying from heart disease by up to 50 %. And for those who have had a heart attack, exercise is one of the most important things you can do for your recovery.(https://www.heartandstroke.ca/healthy-living/stay-active)

A 2022 University of Manitoba-led study found that living close to a trail used for walking, running and cycling leads to an eight per cent reduction in the risk factors for heart disease. "If you build it, they will come, and maybe even live longer," said Dr. Jon McGavock, professor of pediatrics and child health at the Max Rady College of Medicine, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences. This is applicable to the Master Plan as the survey found. "…what types of new or expanded facilities or recreational amenities would you like to see in the RM of Piney?", far and away the most popular answer, from 71 percent of respondents, was walking paths/trails.

Mental Health

Physical activity increases energy levels, helps people handle stress better and strengthens the heart and lungs - all important aspects of healthy living. Yet less than half of Manitobans engage in enough physical activity to improve their health according to Mental Health and Community Wellness.

There is a sufficiently, robust evidence base to confirm a strong relationship between physical activity and a number of dimensions of mental health. Existing evidence suggests physical activity may prevent and help treat mental illness, as well as enhance well-being for those with existing mental or physical illness. In terms of using structured exercise to treat mental illness, the strongest evidence is in the area of clinical depression. (https://www.gov.mb.ca/mh/activeliving/docs/physicalactivity_rec.pdf)

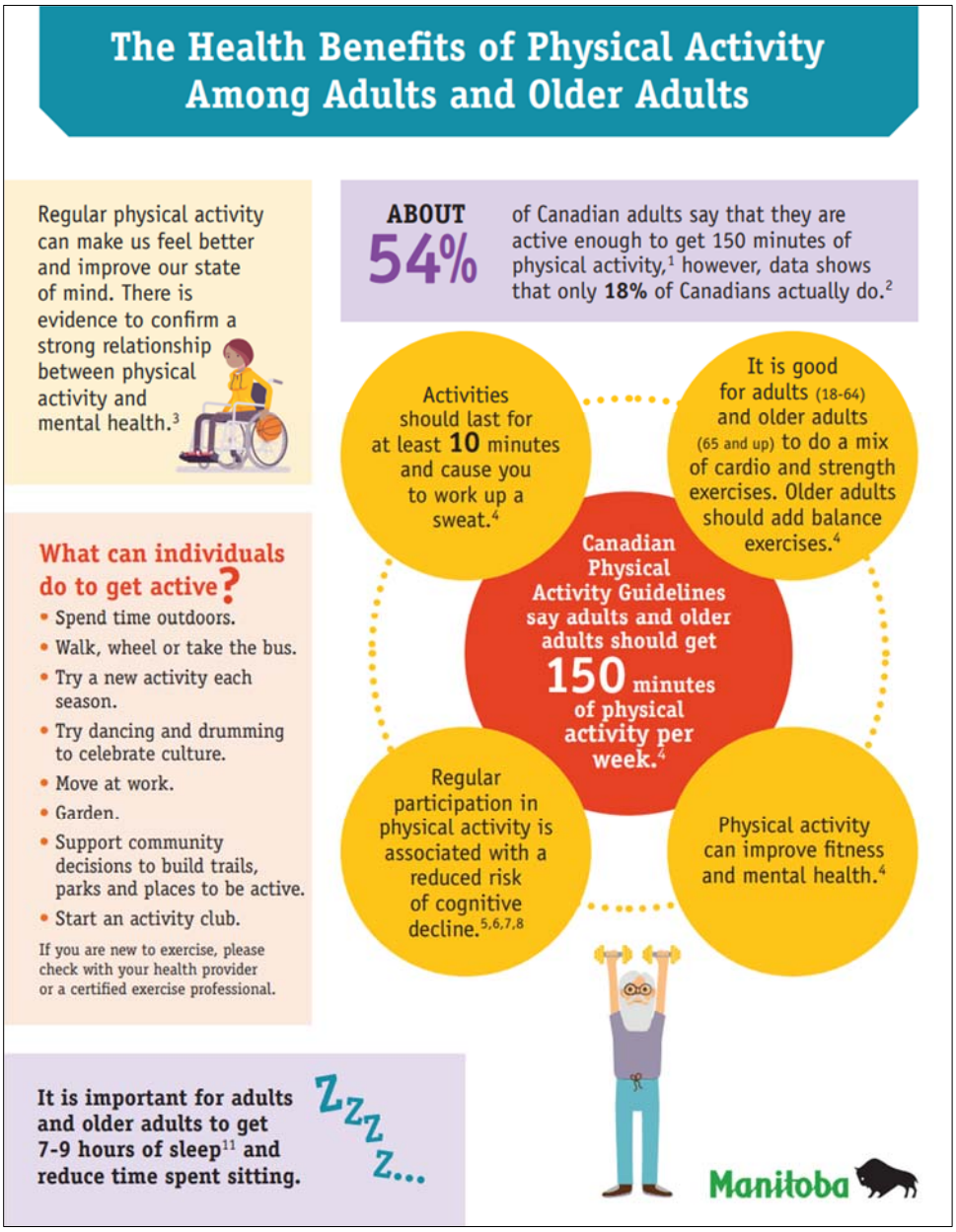
The strong link between mental health and physical activity was pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic. A study from the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table found: "Patterns of declining rates of physical activity worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, as Ontarians and other Canadians were significantly less active and even more sedentary. Studies have associated these rapid declines with pandemic-related measures, including closures of schools and recreation. Global data indicates that participation in physical activity has been associated with improved quality of life, well-being, and reduced depressive symptoms and anxiety during

the pandemic." (https://covid19-sciencetable.ca/sciencebrief/the-impact-of-physical-activity-on-mental-health-outcomes-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/)

Again, especially in the RM of Piney with its generally older demographic, access to recreational facilities and activities allows the population to participate in physical activity and that participation is clearly proven to aid in the mental health of citizens.

Figure #1 from the Government of Manitoba outlies some of the benefit of physical activity for adults:

Figure #1



3.4 Recreation Activity Trends

Outdoor Recreation Grows; Core Participants Shrink

Outdoor participation continues to grow at record levels. More than half (54%) of Americans ages 6 and over participated in at least one outdoor activity in 2021, and the outdoor recreation participant base grew 2.2% in 2021 to 164.2M participants. (This growth is seen in Canada as well – 77% of Canadians survey participated in outdoor activities close to home in 2019.) This growing number of outdoor enthusiasts, however, did not fundamentally alter long-term declines in high frequency or "core" outdoor participation.

Additional key findings of the report include the following:

- The outdoor recreation participant base grew again in 2021. The Outdoor participant base has increased 6.9% since the COVID pandemic began in early 2020. Although many of the official restrictions on indoor entertainment including restaurants, bars, and sporting events ended in 2021, outdoor recreation participation continued to grow.
- Youth participation is climbing but the frequency of their participation is declining.
- New outdoor participants are more diverse than the overall outdoor participant base and are driving increasing diversity not only by ethnicity but also across age groups.
- High-frequency or "core" participation in outdoor recreation is declining. The outdoor recreation "core" participant, defined as someone who participates 51 times or more in outdoor recreation activities in the past 12 months, has declined from 71.9% in 2007 to 58.7% of the participant base in 2021. In fact, the number of core participants has declined from 99.5M in 2007 to 96.4M today.
- The number of participants 55 years and older increased more than 14% since 2019, and senior participants ages 65 and older were in the fastest growing age category with 16.9% growth since the COVID pandemic began in early 2020.

The Outdoor Foundation has developed the Outdoor Participation Trends Report for 15 years. The survey reflects data gathered during the 2021 calendar year. https://outdoorindustry.org/resource/2022-outdoor-participation-trends-report/#:~:text=Share%3A,2021%20to%20164.2M%20participants.

Increased Popularity of Unstructured Spontaneous Activities

The consultation work in for this Master Plan found that some of the activities and facilities/amenities that respondents were most interested are generally unstructured. For instance, walking paths/trails far and away the most wanted amenity, along with other examples of unstructured activities including crafting, swimming, gardening, etc. This is evident in the results of the RM of Piney Recreation Survey. When respondents were asked, "What types of new or expanded facilities or recreational amenities would you like to see in the RM of Piney, "Walking Paths/Trails" was by far the most frequent response at 70.83%. Covid-19

accelerated the popularity some of these unstructured activities, but it is trend that has been emerging for some time:

"The Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institutes 2011 – 2012 Sport Monitor Report identifies that the highest proportion of Canadians prefer non-competitive sports or activities (44%).3 While many structured or organized activities remain important, there is an increasing demand for more flexibility in timing and activity choice. People are seeking individualized, informal pursuits that can be done alone or in small groups, at flexible times, often near or at home. This does not however eliminate the need for structured activities and the stakeholder groups that provide them. Instead, this trend suggests that planning for the general population is as important as planning for traditional structured use environments."
2019 Strathcona County Recreation and Culture Strategy - Trends and Best Practices

Pickleball

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the country, according to a research report by SFIA, or the Sports & Fitness Industry Association. This is especially applicable to seniors, that make up 25% of RM of Piney population. According to USA Pickleball, about 33% of the sport's core players are over 65.

Pickleball Canada recently commissioned a respected national research company to survey more than 2,000 Canadian households on household participation in various sports, including pickleball, soccer, hockey, tennis and golf. The survey results showed that 8% of Canadian households report at least one household member plays pickleball once per month. By extrapolating the data, this indicates that there are now one million individual Canadians playing pickleball at least once a month, with 45% playing four or more times/month. When analyzing the results from a similar survey conducted in January 2020, Pickleball Canada estimated there were 350,000 pickleball players in Canada. The 2022 survey indicates a near tripling of the number of pickleball players in Canada in two years. This analysis is supported by anecdotal reports of demands for more facilities, instruction, organized play and competition across Canada.
https://pickleballcanada.org/january-2022-survey-national-release/

Over 25% of the RM of Piney recreation survey respondents said new or expanded facilities focused on pickleball are of interest. There is a good chance this segment of the population will continue to grow, and there are many supports in Manitoba to grow the game. Pickleball Manitoba Inc. is a non-profit organization of dedicated volunteers who are committed to the promotion, development, and growth of the sport for players of all ages. There is also an Eastern Manitoba Pickleball association with over 200 members.

Volunteerism

Rural communities have limited funding for recreational services and depend upon the community to facilitate opportunities rather than access structured programs. Rural communities struggle to recruit volunteers to organize recreational activities, leaving the same few individuals to do all the work, resulting in burnout. Today, seniors are the leading volunteers in most communities, but there is mounting pressure to attract new volunteers. Barriers to volunteering among youth include school, organized sports, part-time jobs, and today's digital age. (2019 MD of Taber Master Recreation Plan – Trends)

Volunteering by older adults accounts for 163,000 hours every day in America. The potential for continued volunteering exists for the future, particularly if an agency, business, or organization is viewed as being concerned with values or social causes. The parks, recreation and leisure field will be challenged and motivated to communicate values and causes that the emerging older volunteer believes in and supports. The aging volunteers will be a value and cause driven because of who they have been throughout their history as a cohort.
The Leisure of the Aging: We've Only Just Begun by K. Dale Adkins, Re.D., CL

There are many methods to support or increase volunteerism are varied and can include:

- Recognition events
- Volunteer discounts
- Volunteer opportunity postings – print or web
- An email database/list of potential volunteers
- Training and development opportunities
- Communicate the benefits of volunteering and explain how it makes a difference in the community

3.5 Rural Recreation Cooperation/Partnerships Trends

The theme of increased cooperation was repeated throughout the community consultation process in the RM of Piney. It is reinforced in research from across the county:

Population density will not support every community's financing of recreation facilities. Population density can impact operational and capital budget demands so cooperative agreements between municipalities will continue to be an important strategy to provide maximum access and usage. (Rural Recreation Association)
http://www.healthyllg.org/_resources/Economic_Benefits_of_Recreation.pdf

Partnerships in the provision of parks, recreation, and culture opportunities are becoming more prevalent. These partnerships can take several forms, and include government, not for profit organizations, schools, and the private sector. While the provision of parks and recreation services has historically relied on municipal levels of government, many municipalities are

increasingly looking to form partnerships that can enhance service levels and more efficiently lever public funds. Examples of partnerships include facility naming and sponsorship arrangements, lease/contract agreements, the contracted operation of spaces, entire facilities, or delivery of programs.

It is estimated that over three-quarters of Canadian municipalities work with schools in their communities to encourage the participation of municipal residents in physical activities. Just under half of Canadian municipalities work with local non-profits (46%), health settings (40%), or workplaces (25%) to encourage participation in physical activities amongst their residents. Seventy-six percent (76%) of municipalities with a population of 1,000 to 9,999 to 80% of municipalities over 100,000 in population have formed agreements with school boards for shared use of facilities. In fact, since 2000, the proportion of municipalities that have reported working with schools, health settings, and local non-profit organizations has increased by 10 percent to 20 percent.

Partnership frameworks are used to guide the development of partnerships as well as to keep them accountable. A number of criteria are considered to determine whether a potential partnership is worthwhile and ethical to pursue. Partnership criteria could include:

- Alignment with municipal planning vision, values, goals, etc.
- Type of organization (non-profit, private company)
- Provision of additional/diverse variety of opportunities
- Capital cost savings
- Operating cost savings
- Enhancement of health and wellness of individuals
- Provision of social and wellness benefits to the community
- Safety and risk management
- Access and affordability
- Equity and fairness
- Sustainable approach
- Competency of the organization (clear demonstration of business/feasibility planning)

3.6 A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015: Pathways To Wellbeing

Conducted in 2015 by the Interprovincial Sport and Recreation Council and the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association, Pathways to Wellbeing is the result of a comprehensive process of a renewed vision for recreation developed by key stakeholders from within the sector as well as perspectives from other sectors such as (but not limited to) physical activity, parks, health, education, and justice.

Key themes that emerged throughout the consultations and that have driven the development of the Framework as it is presented include:

1. High quality, accessible recreation opportunities are integral to a well-functioning society.
2. The recreation sector can be a collaborative leader in addressing major issues of the day.
3. All people and communities deserve equitable access to recreational experiences. Recreation must be accessible and welcoming to all.

The Framework outlines a renewed definition of recreation as well as an overview for who is responsible for the provision of recreation opportunities. It also outlines challenges and opportunities of the current recreation marketplace.

Challenges outlined in the document include: demographic shifts (ageing, increasingly diverse and experiencing rapid urbanization); health challenges (sedentary living, chronic disease, and mental health); economic inequities (after tax income inequality); social challenges (lack of social connectedness and cohesion); new and emerging technologies (social media and the lure of sedentary, digital pursuits); the infrastructure deficit (the requirement of major investment to sustain existing recreation infrastructure as well as build new for expanding populations); and threats to the natural environment (decreasing biodiversity, extreme weather, global warming).

The Framework positions recreation as a key to addressing these challenges as participation in it leads to:

- Enhanced mental and physical well-being
- Enhanced social well-being
- Stronger families and communities
- Enhanced connection with nature

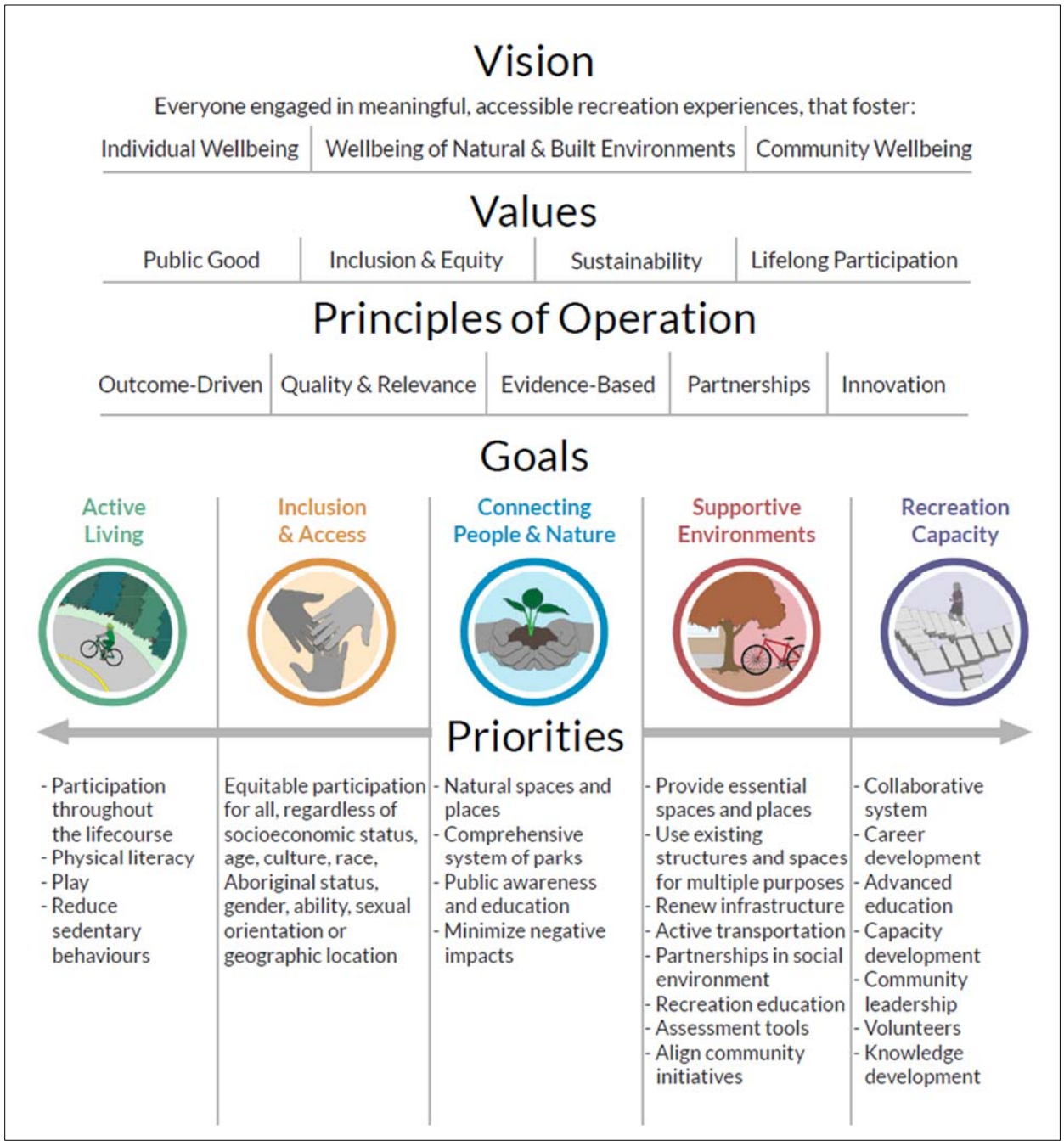
The Framework presents a renewed definition of recreation and explores the challenges and benefits of recreation today. It provides the rationale for investing in an evolved recreation strategy and describes the need for collaboration with other initiatives in a variety of sectors:

A Renewed Definition of Recreation

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

The full framework is illustrated in Figure 2, where the five core goals are listed. These goals are useful guideposts for the Recreation Master Plan.

Figure 2: A Framework for Recreation in Canada 2015



4. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

The cornerstone of the research effort in developing the RM of Piney Recreation Master Plan was a thorough set of systematic community consultation processes. The consultations included three different sets of data collection methods including:

1. **In-depth Interviews**
   In-depth interviews were conducted via telephone with citizens and recreational stakeholders located within the RM of Piney who are familiar with the recreational landscape of the RM and the surrounding region. An interview script was developed to investigate the key underpinnings of recreation and leisure in the RM. The script, provided within this report, consisted of several structured questions asked of each participant. However, discussions with respondents were also free flowing in nature and yielded more information than originally envisioned.

2. **Facility Stakeholder Interviews**
   A secondary qualitative consultation instrument was developed in March 2023 focusing on internal information specific to regional facilities from the perspective of those running them. The original in-depth interview script was not gathering enough of facility-specific information which necessitated these interviews taking place.

3. **Community Survey**
   An on-line survey was developed and delivered simultaneously with the in-depth interviews to gather quantitative (and qualitative) on a wider scale than the in-depth interview methodology was capable of on its own. This ensured more robust data, and a larger reach - allowing all residents in the RM an opportunity to participate in the planning process.

4.2 Interviews - Regional Swot Assessment

Interview Participation

When contacted directly, respondents were largely interested in a study aimed at furthering the development and growth of recreation opportunities in the RM. Almost all stakeholders contacted showed a ready willingness to participate in the research and felt the consultation process was a good way to garner information directly from those with a vested interest in the recreation landscape of the region. The consultation process commenced in late 2023 and 42 interviews were completed.

All interview participants lived or worked within RM of Piney. Almost all respondents indicated they have lived for a significant period of time within the RM. The vast majority of respondents have been living in the RM for at least 5 to 10 years with more than half indicating they had been in the region for 10 years or more. This level of familiarity with the region helped ensure that respondents were able to discuss the recreational landscape from a position of knowledge.

Many respondents stated their willingness to participate was based on the importance of the study and their appreciation of being consulted regarding the RM's Recreational Master Plan. Several respondents indicated the consultation process is perhaps the best way to assess the present environment and address the core recreational programming issues that resonate within the region.

Several respondents offered to participate in follow-up discussions, if necessary, and stated they would be willing to provide further feedback. There was a sense that future, ongoing community consultations (reaching out to the community at-large) could help develop efficient coordination of recreational development resources, information, and strategies for the RM.

Interview Reporting Methodology

- The quotes presented are almost verbatim accounts of responses but edited slightly for grammar and readability. Some of the quotes are taken directly from audio recordings and, as such, required some editing for ease of dissemination.
- To increase participation rates and to help ensure the research team was gathering honest, frank responses, each participant was informed that their responses would be held in confidentiality with only the content, and not the source, being made known to those outside the interview itself.
- The quotes herein provide a representative sample of the themes and salient responses the consulting team heard throughout the consultation process.
- This section of the report presents relatively raw data designed to provide the reader with an overview of the consultations and, an insight into the thoughts and opinions of key community stakeholders as they relate to the development of a Recreation Master Plan for the RM.

All interview participants were asked an array of questions that the consulting team formed into the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Weaknesses (SWOT) of the RM related to recreation in the region. The following are categorized examples of relevant responses provided by the community.

Responses are in ***italics***. They are close to verbatim, and adjusted only for grammar and readability.

STRENGTHS – ASSETS

Recreation Provides Community Health

- *It is mentally healthy for people to socialize. Sports are part of your life. You never really think about it until you think about it, but sports and recreation are a huge part of enjoying where you live.*
- *Sports (recreation) becomes an important means of gathering. Sports get all ages together. You take part and watch when you are younger. As you get older, you may not participate as much, but you are still entertained by it, and it helps one feel like you are part of the community.*
- *Without recreational activities that are regionally located, people become more disjointed. There are certain things that families with kids need to leave the area for because it's just not feasible to have some programs run here in the region - just because of the population. However, without some programs or as many programs as possible, the sense of oneness disappears. There can't be a sense of connection without activities that tie people together.*
- *Large events hosted in different communities seem to be well attended by people throughout the area. Whether it's a holiday or annual event or a (sports) tournament, people take the time to come.*
- *For a large part of the community, recreation opportunities are the only time they get to mingle with other members of the RM. There are small gatherings within each community that the others don't even know about, but it is the larger events and activities that bring people together across the whole area.*

Seniors Clubs/Programing is Vital

- *The seniors' clubs are getting stronger as time goes by. There is more programming now for seniors. And the programs that are available are well attended. Our community has seniors' nights three or four times a week and they are often full.*
- *Senior meal nights are a big thing. It allows people a chance to get out of their house and feel like they are part of the community. If we had a chance to hold them every night, I'm sure it would fly.*
- *It's important that the elderly have something to do and somewhere to go. Some people would become shut-ins if there was nothing to do.*
- *In the past, there were more large families, and they would bring their elderly family members with them to socialize. That is changing. Now that a lot of younger people are moving away from the area, any programs or activities that might be suitable for seniors are key. Activities aimed at older people help keep them alive and vibrant. In a large rural area (the RM), there aren't many things that seniors can do actively without support from the community so it's necessary that we continue with what we have been doing for them (us).*
- *Certain activities like meal programs and game nights are very well attended by seniors. However, seniors also make up a relatively large percentage of participants in all*

activities including festivals, holiday activities, game nights and sporting events. So, I guess that's no different.

The Quality of Volunteers

- *Volunteers are the lifeblood of any activities that take place. That's the case not just for sports or for recreation but for almost everything that takes place here.*
- *I'm not sure what we would do without volunteers. They run the programs, administer them, are dedicated to making sure things run smoothly and are a success. I think that is something unique in smaller communities like we have. There is limited funding and it is remarkable how much time some people spend making life better for others.*
- *The biggest strength is our volunteers. Without volunteers, these programs cannot happen. In every community there needs to be people willing to give part of their lives to give other people something to do. All over (the entire region) there are folks dedicated to doing things for other people. Most of them volunteer for multiple events or activities. The people who help are the reason anything at all happens.*
- *I don't think there is funding for anyone to be paid to organize activities so, without volunteers, where are we? Up the creek. I'm not sure everyone appreciates all the work they put in, but I sure do. Without their help some people would just never leave the house, especially in the winter.*

WEAKNESSES - GAP

The Diminishing Number of Volunteers

- *Over many years, it seems that the number of volunteers willing to help has been shrinking. With fewer volunteers, it is impossible to support all the activities that people want.*
- *The same people volunteer for many things (activities/programs), and they are stretched thin. I know people who are on the boards or volunteer for three, four, and five different things.*
- *If we had more volunteers, that would mean more programs and it seems like that's the only way anything (related to recreation) can happen.*
- *As soon as someone (a group/organization/board) finds out that someone is willing to help, everyone goes after them. For instance, if it's found out someone is volunteering for the church, they better be sure they know they are now going to be contacted by any group also looking for help. Finding volunteers? It's like a feeding frenzy.*
- *Volunteers are primarily the older generation. They have more time to dedicate to these activities and young people seem less interested. It may just be that younger people don't know how important or vital volunteers are to running things. People seem to be willing to attend events but are much less likely to help out.*
- *I'm not sure if all people know they can volunteer or if they understand that things don't run without people donating their time. Large events can't happen without the entire*

community buying in and often there is barely enough staff (volunteers) to coordinate and make events happen. Help is not only needed on event days (for larger scale events) but for all the lead up and planning.

- *I'm not sure how we can get newcomers to the area to volunteer but it's a great opportunity to meet people and become part of the (community). If there was a way to recruit people, that might help but people are busy with their own lives so how do we let them know there is a need?*
- *Lack of volunteers is a weakness– we are so spread out that we don't work together enough. If there is an activity, perhaps we could share volunteers somehow. I'm not sure if we could utilize the skills of volunteers running similar programs in different areas or how we could better coordinate efforts.*

Lack of Coordination Among Communities

- *Communities, for a long time now, have been independent of each other. There are multiple similar events held in different towns. This was always the case and when there were enough people in each community, it was often feasible but that has changed. There are not enough people to support the events that used to be supported in each different community.*
- *There is a history of (towns) not wanting to cooperate. This goes back generations, and it still exists today a little bit. It is not so much younger people as is it is some of the older generation.*
- *There are silos between the communities. The new generation would likely buy-in to having events, or attending events, in other communities if they felt included.*
- *There's not a large enough population in our own little separate towns to do things on our own anymore. Not enough people to make an event happen anymore. In order to have events, people will need to go elsewhere since each community cannot sustain multiple events. It is simply impossible given the population and distance between towns.*
- *For a simple example (of coordination): A bowling alley would be great in the region and I think a lot of people might be receptive to having one here. I'm sure it would be used by a lot of people but there are a lot of questions: Where does it go? Who decides that? How big is it? Who pays for it? How do all the communities fund it? Who is in charge of deciding that? Who staffs it?*

OPPORTUNITIES – POTENTIAL

Better Communication

- *With the Internet and modern communication, there is no reason that we can't better coordinate what is happening regionally. Sometimes the arm doesn't know what the hand is doing. Meaning, communities host events on the same night when people from elsewhere might have been able to come had it not been for the other event.*

- *A central location like a Facebook page could let people know what was happening in the Municipality. The RM has the newsletter and that's great but it's hard to have all that information there and accessible.*
- *We know about the bigger events because of the newsletter but not all the little things going on in each little town or village. If people had a better idea of everything that was going on, maybe attendance would be higher. Or maybe people would realize what they are missing.*

Willingness of People Willing to Travel

- *It used to be that every town was for itself. But now the younger people don't feel that way as much. Traveling longer distances does not seem to be as much of an issue as it has been in the past.*
- *People no longer feel tied to their own small, little communities. Just because something isn't being held in the town where they actually live doesn't mean they won't go based on some sort of, I don't know, loyalty to their own town.*
- *Travel distance isn't as much of an issue as it was because people communicate so well (efficiently) now. It is easier to coordinate activities across regions and know what is going on at all times. There is a different mindset both in terms of communication and a willingness to travel for something if that is what is desired.*
- *There used to be jealousy between communities or among people from different communities but people new to the area don't feel that way and that way of thinking is dying out as people get older and more new people move here.*

Welcoming Newcomers (a way to make them part of the community)

- *There are a lot of new people in the region and a lot of these are people who aren't currently involved in anything. They seem to go to work and that's it. Maybe we can find a way to get these people more involved than they are.*
- *The communities are growing with new families who are here. Not because their families originated here but for recreation purposes. They are here for the lifestyle.*
- *Snowmobiling. The outdoors. A lot of these people go to other places (outside of the RM) for organized sports for their kids and their own activities. Sometimes, certain things like basketball and other sports can't be supported here but we need to find out how we can support what else these people want.*
- *Maybe there is a way we can educate newcomers to the country about activities here in Canada. We should make them feel more welcome and part of the community and one way to do this might be directly inviting them into our activities and recreation. Whether that is teaching them how to play baseball or having them come out to a social event, I think that would help.*

Rural Lifestyle

- *I'm not sure how to sell it but we need to promote the benefits of small towns and rural lifestyles and a piece of that should be how lively the area is (recreation-wise). We have great schools, and strong communities. Everyone wants to support each other. It is hard to describe but people here seem happier. Now we need more to do (activities) and become a destination as a region rather than being so small-town specific. People here are more content with their lives and the laid-back lifestyle and that is great, but it would help if there was more to do without having to leave the area. People will travel to get the entertainment and leisure they want. We should give it to them here, so their time is spent where they want to be.*
- *Promoting the lifestyle here is important. There is not much reason to stop here but if we could make people stop and be entertained, the area could grow. We need to show the public that they can grow here and become members of the community. The people here are very welcoming and would support any new people coming. Having something for people and their kids to do in their spare time is an important part of that.*

THREATS – CHALLENGES

Distance

- *The number one problem is the distance between the small communities. It is such a large area and people have trouble getting from place to place sometimes. That is especially the case for many of us as we get older. Many people don't have accessible transportation as they get older.*
- *Unless it is something bigger like the pool or a baseball/softball league that you have to travel for, people are not interested in going long distances. Sure, there are good snowmobile trails in Woodridge but there are trails in other parts of the region too.*
- *It is hard to get to all the events or activities one might want to because of travel. The area is so big that, even if there was something we want to do, we sometimes don't go because it's just too far for a 30 minute or one-hour affair. And then if people don't go to the activities, they die out from lack of use.*
- *Part-time residents (weekenders) are a growing part of the population. Distance is less of an issue for this group. However, part-time residents don't care as much about coordinated recreation and leisure activities as do full-time residents. Part-timers are here because of the land and activities it can provide them with on weekends. They are not nearly as concerned with local residents, so they are not as involved (or willing to be involved) in daily activities.*

Small Population

- *The area is one of the least densely populated areas in the province. Even though we are close to the border and to wonderful natural resources, there just aren't enough people to support a whole lot.*
- *Things like walking, hiking and skiing trails (cited very often) would be used by many residents. The problem is where do you put the walking trail. If you put it in Piney, would people in Sprague use it? Probably not because it's too far for a simple walk but is there enough population in Piney to justify spending that much money in one location?*
- *With so few people, there aren't many people to pay taxes to fund public works. People are already taxed too much so where do you get the money from for leisure activities?*
- *Young people are moving out of Piney and into bigger centers. I am not even sure if it makes sense to build new facilities when it is already a struggle for the upkeep of what exists. People need to have leisure activities but there are not enough people to support big facilities (or activities).*

Funding

- *I think there could be more effort by the RM to work directly with the facilities themselves. There are other models where the regional government also deal with multiple privately owned facilities. Coordination for funding would be a start in the right direction.*
- *There may be grants or funding the RM could utilize to help the region not including what is currently available to the different municipalities. Right now, if there are funding sources outside of the RM, each municipality needs to seek those out themselves. Maybee seeking this out together (collectively) might work better.*
- *Although the Municipality does its best right now, there is an awful lot of competition for funding resources. Each town or smaller region is only interested in what benefits them, often. There is a chance to better utilize the resources available when an opportunity or a project could benefit the larger community.*
- *The Recreation Committee helps with funding and filling out some of the grant paperwork and that is appreciated. They also decide where funding goes but is the allocation of the funding based on needs or is it given out just to be fair to each community? A problem will arise, though, if one community gets funding for a big project, and another gets less. Does someone need to manage that? Is it necessary to have halls used just for funerals in every town? There needs to be both a fair and smart way to determine funding.*
- *Can funding be done based on the greatest need in the community? I am not sure how that would be managed.*

4.3 Survey Summary

Survey Participation

The survey reached **78 completions** through April 2023. Securing completions was sometimes a challenge, but the consistent effort put forward by the RM throughout the project helped make the survey a success. Incentives were offered to individual respondents. A draw for three-$50 Co-Op gift cards was held for individuals who participated in the study.

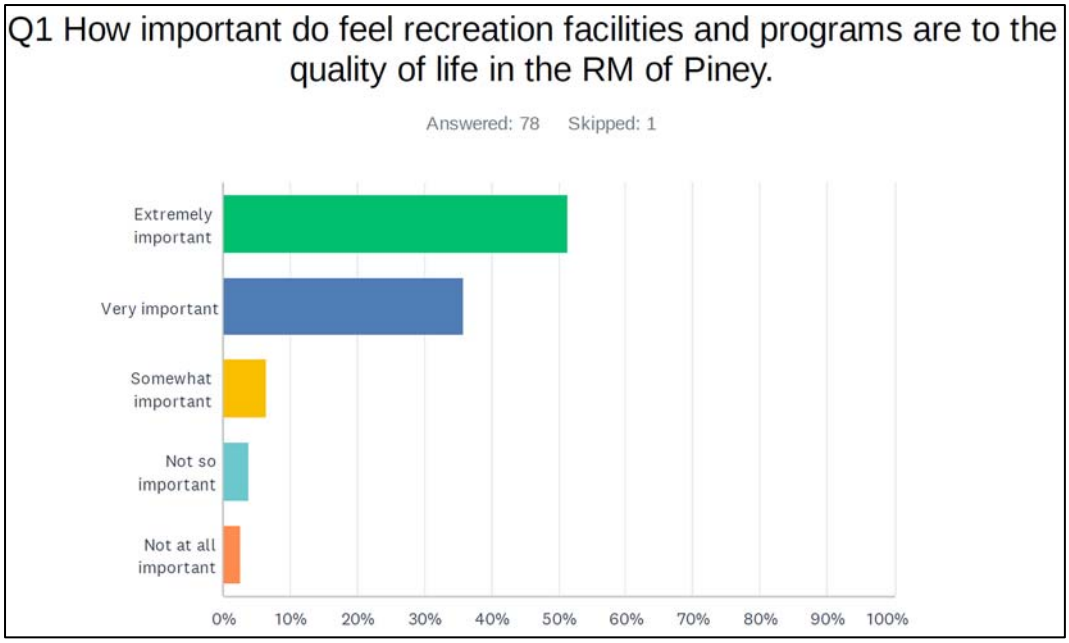
There were a mix of private citizens, business owners and key recreation stakeholders who participated in the survey. This broad spectrum of respondents strengthened the informational basis which helped form the underpinning of the direction and recommendations for the Recreation Master Plan.

The survey output data is extensive – please see Appendix E for full detail, graphics, responses, and context, especially as it relates to open-ended responses.

This summary encapsulates a few of the high-points for each question and is used to support the interview data, underpin the suggested strategies for the Master Plan, and provided more extensive reach than the interviews by allowing all residents in the RM to participate in the planning process.

Q1. How important do feel recreation facilities and programs are to the quality of life in the RM of Piney?

- Over 88 percent of respondents believe in the importance of recreation facilities and programs to the quality of life in the RM. 52.0 percent responded, “Extremely important”, and 36.4 percent said, “Very important”. This provides a likely indication of strong grassroots support for initiatives such as a Recreation Master Plan.



Q2. How well do you feel our existing facilities and recreation programs meet your needs?

- The responses skewed slightly to the positive with 32.4 percent responding, “Very good” or “Good”, 49.3 percent saying “Okay”, and 18.1 percent saying “Poor” or “Very Poor”. This reflects the general overall attitude that: ‘We are doing ok but could be doing better.’

Q3. Would you like to expand on your answer to question #2?

- The 44 responses to this question were wide-ranging. There is an overall feeling that more activities and upgraded facilities are needed. Please refer to Appendix E to review the responses.

Q4. How often have you or a member of your household visited the following facilities located in the RM of Piney in the last year? (NOTE: 14 regional facilities were listed in the survey. After the survey and consultation process was completed, three additional facilities/venues were included in the research and analysis within this report. Namely, Sandilands Park, Badger Park, and St. Labre Community Park)

- The most frequently visited facilities according to the survey are: Sprague and Area Arena, Vassar Pool, Piney Community Centre, Sprague Community Center, South Junction Community Club, Evergreen Seniors Club, and Pine Grove Seniors Club in South Junction. These facilities garnered approximately 15-20 percent response rates of either: “At Least Once A Week,” “A Few Times A Month”, or “Once A Month”.

Q5. Are there facilities that you feel are undermaintained? If so, please explain:

- Sprague Arena was mentioned more than any other facility. The 39 responses are wide-ranging. Please refer to Appendix E to review the responses.

Q6. Are there facilities that you would like to see upgraded or expanded? If so, please explain:

- Sprague and Area Arena and Vassar Pool were mentioned more frequently than other facilities. The 36 responses are wide-ranging. Please refer to Appendix E to review the responses.

Q7. If money were no object, what types of new or expanded facilities or recreational amenities would you like to see in the RM of Piney? (Feel free to check more than one.)

- "Walking Paths/Trails" was by far the most frequent response at 70.8 percent. There was a three-way tie for second place at 41.7 percent: "Wellness Centre", "Mini-Putt", "Indoor Pool". "Splash Pad" was also high at 38.9 percent. But all 17 options had a significant number of responses.

Q8. Knowing that funding is always an important consideration in municipal planning, what do you think the top priority(s) should be in terms of facility maintenance, expansion, or construction?

- Walking paths were mentioned a few times. The 47 responses are wide-ranging. Please refer to Appendix E to review the responses.

Q9. Which recreation programs offered within the RM of Piney have you participated in during the last 12 months?

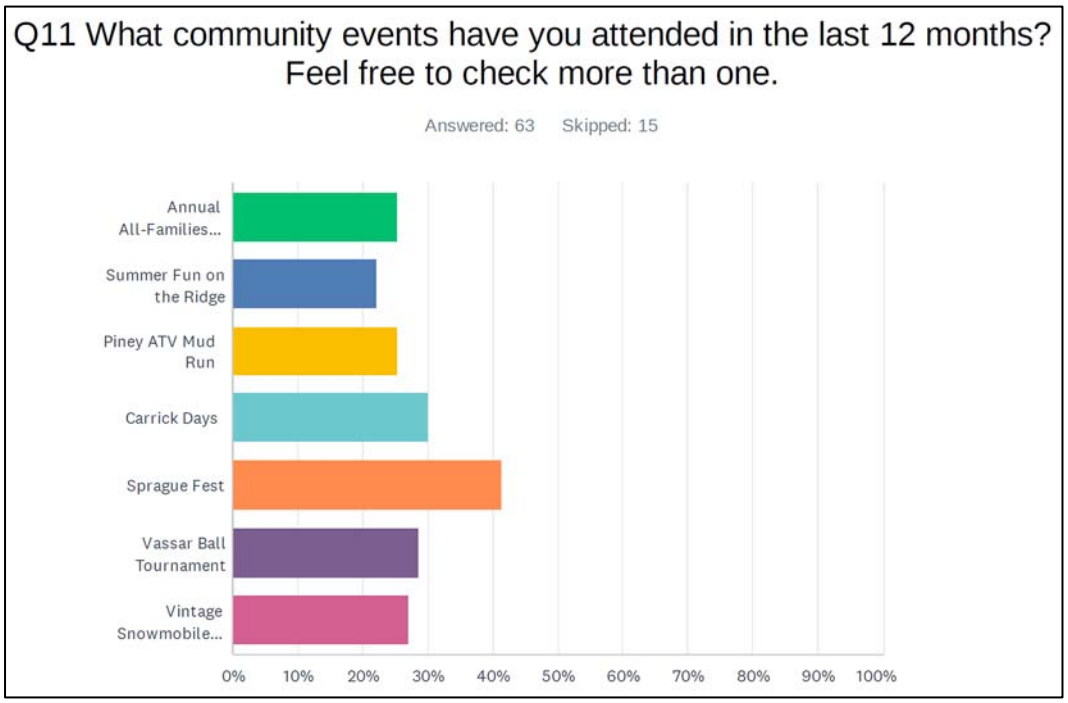
- Pickleball was mentioned multiple times, and it would appear the recreation programs most requested are generally geared towards seniors. "None" was also a frequent choice, but this is also likely tied to the survey being administered just after the community was coming out of Covid restrictions. The 52 responses are wide ranging. Please refer to Appendix E to review the responses.

Q10. What other recreation programs would you like to see offered within the RM of Piney?

- Pickleball and walking trails were mentioned a few times. The 34 responses are wide ranging. Please refer to Appendix E to review the responses.

Q11. What community events have you attended in the last 12 months? (Feel free to check more than one)

- "Sprague Fest" was the most common response at 41.3 prcent. "Annual All-Families SloPitch Tournament, Summer Fun on the Ridge, Piney ATV Mud Run, Carrick Days, Vassar Ball Tournament, Vintage Snowmobile Show, and Shine & Ride" all received over 20 percent. There were 32 responses in the "Other" category; Canada Day celebrations were mentioned several times.



Q12. Are there other community events that you would like to see happen in the RM of Piney?

- The 24 responses are wide ranging. Please refer to Appendix E to review the responses.

Q14. What types of leisure activities do you participate in? (Feel free to check more than one.)

- "Walking/Hiking" again led the responses with 67.1 percent. Other popular choices were:
  "Gardening" at 60.5 %, "Volunteering" at 59.2 %, "Fishing" at 42.1%, "Music" at 34.2%. Most of the 27 options noted received a significant number of responses. Again, they tended to be indicative of an older demographic responding to the survey. In the "Other" open ended section, hunting and ATV riding were mentioned several times.

Q15. What are the barriers that prevent you from participating in recreation activities? (Feel free to check more than one.)

- "Lack of time" was the most frequent response at 49.2 percent. "Proximity to home" was second at 45.9 percent, unsurprisingly, considering the geography and population dispersion in the area. One interesting finding is that "Don't know what's available" was listed a significant number of times at 34.4 percent. This presents a less intractable problem than some of the difficult geographic and funding challenges.

Q16. Do you believe that users of the indoor and outdoor facilities in the RM of Piney should have to pay user fees?

- 61.7 percent responded "Yes" and 38.2 percent said "No." The research team was slightly surprised by this as questions regarding the respondents' spending money usually tend to tilt the other way in these types of studies.

Q17. Do you believe that the current user fees are...

- An overwhelming number of respondents said "Adequate" at 83.1 percent. "Too high" was a low 5.1 percent and "Too low" was 11.8 percent.

Q18. What kinds of recreational services would you like to see the see offered in the RM of Piney that are not offered now?

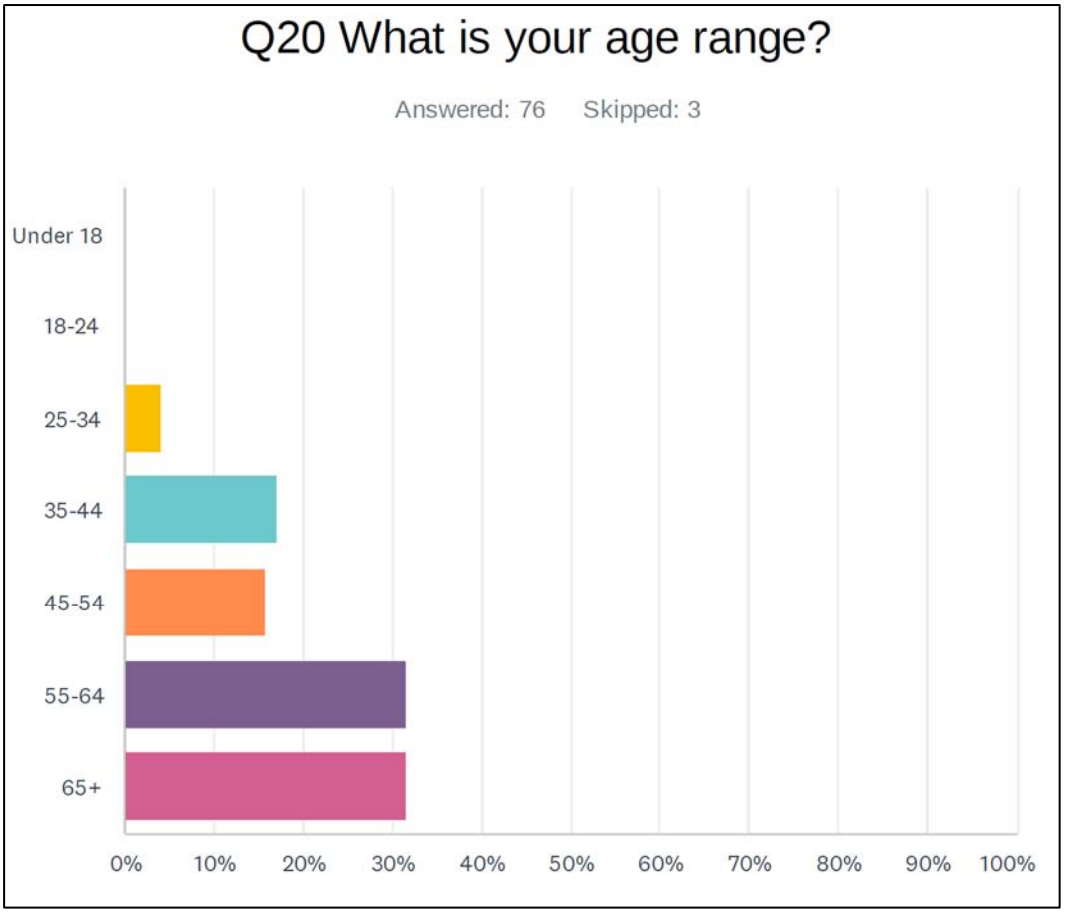
- Walking trails and programs were cited a few times. Besides that, the 38 responses are wide ranging. Please refer to Appendix E to review the responses.

Q19. Where do you live?

- The largest number of respondents were from Sprague at 23.3 percent, followed by Woodridge at 17.9 percent and Piney at 12.3 percent. There were respondents from 12 of the 14 community facilities/venues presented.

Q20. What is your age range?

- The survey sample was heavily skewed towards an older set of respondents. "55-64" and "65+" were both 32 percent (64 percent -total) of respondents. Only 36 percent of respondents were between the ages of 25 and 54, with none under age 25. This type of response pattern is common in these types of community surveys, especially in a rural area which already trends older demographically.



Q21. How long have you lived in the RM of Piney?

- The largest cohort was “Over 25 years” at 37.3 percent. Second was “11-25 years” at 25.3 percent. Only 14.67 percent said “Under 5 years” and 5.3 percent “Do not live in the RM of Piney”. This indicates the respondent base of the online survey is likely very knowledgeable about the area.

Q22. How many children under the age of 18 are in your household?

- Sixty-two percent of respondents had zero children under the age of 18 in their household. This reaffirms the more advanced age of the respondent base in a rural area which trends older demographically.

Q23. Do you have any questions or comments about the RM of Piney Recreation Plan?

- The 19 responses are wide ranging. Please refer to Appendix E (to review the full responses.

5. BEST PRACTICES FOR OPERATION OF COMMUNITY RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS

5.1 Best Practices and Trends

Flexibility and Information Gathering

There are many recreational and entertainment options today. Recreation service providers must therefore make sure that their delivery strategy is flexible and quick to adjust in order to satisfy community demand. Additionally, a lot of communities have had to decide which activities are best left to the private sector to provide versus those which they can actively supply or assist. Identifying and planning programming requires programming staff and management to be up to date on trends. Service providers also employ regular member contact and data collecting (such as consumer surveys) to determine which programs are well-liked and in demand. The development of multi-use spaces can also help ensure that municipalities have the flexibility to adapt to changing interests and activity preferences.

Recognizing Financial Barriers to Recreation

Many Canadians encounter obstacles that limit their capacity to benefit from the many physical, social, and mental advantages that come with engaging in recreational and leisure activities, according to research and data that is currently available. Recognizing these obstacles can aid recreation service providers in developing tactics to create a more inclusive set of option for community members. So, when developing programming, a Recreation Director should factor in potential financial limitations for community member and develop policies to mitigate these challenges.

Develop and Maintain Partnerships

Partnerships for the provision of parks, leisure, and cultural activities are growing more common, and in many instances necessary for small communities. These collaborations can be between the public and private sectors, as well as between the government and non-profits, educational institutions, and schools. While parks and recreation services have traditionally been provided by municipal levels of government, a growing number of municipalities are trying to establish partnerships in order to improve service levels and more effectively use public monies. Partnerships can take many different forms, such as lease or contract agreements, facility naming and sponsorship deals, contractual operation of spaces or complete

facilities, or program delivery. Perhaps the most important partnerships for a rural area like the RM of Piney will be with other municipalities.

Community Development

It is anticipated that community development and recreation will be closely linked in the RM of Piney. Community development is the process of creating change through a model of greater public participation; the engagement of the entire community from the individual up. The general public's wider involvement in decision-making and delivery is widely recognized as the definition of community development, which goes beyond the provision of parks and recreation programs and facilities. When it comes to providing facilities and programs, community development in recreation delivery entails helping volunteer groups become self-sufficient in the end. The Recreation Director may also have a defined role in community development – that will be up to the RM to decide when defining the Recreation Director position.

Recreation to Reduce Social Isolation

Social isolation, which is associated with ideas like social fragility, exclusion, and loneliness, has a significant negative influence on people's health and wellbeing. In Canada, awareness of this matter has grown recently, especially among the elderly. Group activities, arts and culture-based activities, and friendship programs were among the promising interventions for seniors that the Government of Canada compiled as part of a literature review on social isolation. Seeing as the RM of Piney has a significant population of seniors who are especially susceptible to social isolation, a Recreation Director should consider how they can develop programs and target seniors to address this issue.

Social Inclusion

The Framework for Recreation in Canada stresses the importance of increasing inclusion and access to recreation for populations that face constraints to participation. This goal aims to achieve equitable participation for all regardless of socioeconomic status, age, culture, race, aboriginal status, gender, ability, sexual orientation, and geographic location. The RM of Piney wants to attract new residents, and like with the rest of Manitoba and Canada, many of these new residents may be from other countries. Factoring in cultural differences and preferences of newcomers when designing recreation programs and facilities can help create a more inclusive and successful community.

5.2 Recreation Director and Recreation Committee Roles

The following information is culled from the **Recreation Director' Handbook** developed by the Government of Manitoba.
(https://www.gov.mb.ca/inr/publications/pubs/recreation_directors_handbook_2008.pdf)

It provides an overview of typical roles plated by Recreation Directors and Recreation Committees in Manitoba:

Recreation Committee Roles

The following is a list of the possible roles and expectations of a Recreation Committee. The RM must identify which of these make the most sense for its needs and can use them as a basis for creating a description of Committee requirements:

- Listen to all community residents about their recreation needs and interests.
- Make recommendations to Council on the allocation of recreation funds.
- Co-ordinate activities, events and facilities with the recreation director and community groups.
- Help volunteers learn to organize and lead events.
- Recognize volunteers.
- Provide direction and support to the recreation director.
- Develop an annual recreation plan with the involvement of the community.
- Encourage community participation.
- Encourage resident-initiated programs.

Recreation Director Roles

The following is a list of the many possible roles and expectations of a Recreation Director, which has been tweaked slightly to account for realities in the RM of Piney. The RM can identify which make sense for their needs and use them in creating a job description:

Leadership

- Act as role model in the community.
- Act in an honest, reliable, committed, confident, punctual, accountable and flexible manner.
- Motivate people to get involved.
- Instill pride and self-esteem in youth (and seniors).
- Be active in the community.

Programming

- Research, develop and implement programs.
- Organize activities and workshops.
- Educate adults on benefits of recreation.
- Plan programs for all areas of the community.
- Make sure programs meet the needs of the community.
- Supports community groups/organizations in the development and delivery of recreation programs.
- Develop leadership skill in others.

- Assess community needs on an ongoing basis.
- Develop a community annual plan.
- Program promotion and communication.
- Promote recreation in the community (personal contact, newsletters, radio etc.).
- Distribute information to the entire community.
- Professional development.
- Attend training sessions and workshops and apply knowledge to individual communities.
- Develop skills to effectively plan and deliver recreation programs.
- Maintain knowledge of current recreation theory and practice.

Facilities and Equipment

- Ensure that safety precautions and regulations are followed in the maintenance and programming of recreation areas and facilities.
- Coordinate scheduling of recreation facilities and areas.
- Prepare monthly reports summarizing community recreation activities.
- Fundraising assistance.
- Plan, promote and conduct fundraising events when necessary.
- Administration support.
- Maintain program records.
- Keep up to date on grant and funding opportunities.
- Keep in touch with Manitoba recreation related departments.
- Network with other community organizations, agencies and groups.
- Stay informed of community and regional events.

Community Involvement

- Develop a plan for community involvement.
- Recruit and support community volunteers.
- Develop and support mentor or apprenticeship programs.
- Consult and assist recreation committee and/or other community groups in the development and delivery of recreation opportunities.
- Act as a resource for community groups.
- Communicate with the community.

6. RECREATION FACILITY ASSET INVENTORY

6.1 Recreation Facilities

6.1.1 Woodridge Community Club

Woodridge, Manitoba, is a welcoming community with a mix of permanent and seasonal residents. The presence of groomed trails for snowmobiles and ATVs, coupled with the beautiful natural surroundings, wildlife, and fresh pine air, makes it an appealing destination. It serves as a 'get-away' location for cottagers and visitors.



The Woodridge Community Club is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of community members who are dedicated to improving, providing, and promoting recreation services and development opportunities with the community of Woodridge and its immediate areas.
In 2023, the Club held (6) major fundraisers to support the annual operating costs of the community centre and projects including the Car Show on the Ridge, Fall Community Supper, Meat Raffle, Christmas Craft & Bake Sale, Valentine's Spirit & Wine Raffle and the SESR Vintage Club Pancake Breakfast.





Renovations and capital projects continue to be a priority and critical to extending the life of the community centre. Recent capital and renovations include purchasing a new commercial range, stove and freezer for the kitchen; acquiring audio-visual equipment and more exercise gear; resurfacing exterior doors; major renovations of the Golden Star Club Room (game room).

Capital projects were possible with the help of volunteers and the financial support of the WCC fundraising efforts, municipal, provincial, and federal grants.

The community club Board of Directors embarked on facility development and renovation plan in 2016. Repairs and general upkeep have become increasingly more regular and costly. The board maintains an extensive capital project/renovation list which is reviewed annually.

Woodridge Community Club

Location	Woodridge, MB
Size	10,000 sf (recreation facility); 16 acres (land)
Year Built	1968 (former k-12 school renewed into recreation centre 1993)
Amenities	Recreation facility (licensed commercial kitchen, games room, licensed banquet hall); picnic shelter with canteen; outdoor play structure; outdoor ice rink; outdoor picnic area; outdoor lending library
Ownership	The Woodridge Community Club Inc.
Operation	The Woodridge Community Club Inc.
Condition	Fully functional. In need of ongoing maintenance. Amenity upgades required.
Programs/Events	Senior Congregate Meal Program; Commit to Get Fit exercise program; Ladies Coffee Club; Woodridge Wellness Wednesdays; Spring Break Open House; Fall Community Supper; Christmas Craft & Bake Sale; Woodridge Citizens on Patrol Program; Piney Emergency Assistance Team; Annual Car Show on the Ridge and Summer Fun on the Ridge; Welcome Neighbour Program.
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	Non-Licensed Events (Showers - $125-200; Funerals - $200-$250; Church Services $35/hr; Family Gatherings $200; Business Functions - $650); Licensed Events (Wedding - $1200; Social - $1200); MA Querel Picnic Shelter - $250; Services: Bartenders - $17/hr, Security Personnel - $17/hr
Funding Support	Yearly ask for RM capital and other grants (varies); provincial and federal grant programs; rental fees; fundraising events
Obstacles/Potential	Attracting volunteers; aging infrastructure; good uptake of current recreational programs; well-equipped facilities; dedicated volunteer group
Facility Needs/Desires *Immediate*	Replacement of ice rink shelter and outdoor storage (already funded - work currently in progress); upgrades needed (buildings structurally sound) to picnic shelter, canteen and attached restrooms; security system for all buildings including out-buildings; improve acoustics in the hall; replanting of trees on property
Long-term	Replacement of gym flooring (currently original from 1968); removal of stucco exterior with new outdoor panelling; replace hockey rink boards
Wish List	Transitional housing for 55+ on Woodridge acreage (likely with development partners)

6.1.2 South Junction Community Club







Named for two railways subdivisions (Sprague and Ridgeville) connecting Western Canada to the U.S.A. and connecting the Sprague subdivision to the Emerson port of entry. South Junction, Manitoba, originated as a pivotal point for transportation and trade in the early 1900s. Many residents engage in mixed farming and forestry, highlighting the diversified economic activities prevalent in the area. This reliance on agriculture and forestry has largely shaped the community's identity.

The South Junction Community Club is run solely by volunteers. The South Junction Community Club's reliance on volunteers speaks volumes about the commitment and dedication of community members toward enhancing their local area. The fact that the Board comprises individuals from the community demonstrates a deep sense of ownership and responsibility in fostering recreational services for its residents.

As there is no community hall in South Junction, the Community Club is comprised solely of outdoor facilities. The community club grounds are the location of the RM of Piney's annual Canada Day Celebration. The well-attended annual event includes fireworks, free food, live entertainment, and a farmer's market that is solely funded through donations and financial assistance from the RM. The other significant event hosted by the club is the annual Family Slow Pitch Tournament which has taken place for the past 37 years. The facilities of the club, including the ball diamonds, basketball/tennis/pickle ball court, playground and picnic facilities are available free of charge to all residents.

South Junction Community Club

Location	South Junction, MB
Size	10 acres (land) - community in process of expanding with additional 4 acres
Year Built	Late 1920's (current configuration of park - 1984)
Amenities	JL Sturk Memorial Park including: ball diamonds (2) - both with bleacher seating; picnic area including fire pits; covered picnic shelter with tables; canteen building and enclosed outdoor area for licensed events; outdoor play structure; restroom facilities, outdoor basketball/tennis court
Ownership	South Junction Community Club Inc.
Operation	South Junction Community Club Inc.
Condition	Good condition. Fully functional. In need of ongoing maintenance.
Programs/Events	Annual Canada Day Celebrations for the RM including entertainment and fireworks; Annual Family Slow Pitch Tournament
Rental Fees/Memberships -	Facilities available free of charge to community members
Funding Support	Yearly ask for RM capital and other grants (varies); provincial and federal grants
Obstacles/Potential	Attracting volunteers; two main annual events are well-attended; dedicated volunteer group
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	A paved walking path at JL Sturk Park - mainly for recreational walking safety purposes
Long-term	Year-round use of a walking path with lighting and rest areas
Wish List	New storage building; new canteen refrigeration equipment

6.1.3 Pine Grove Seniors Club

The Pine Grove Seniors Club is located in South Junction, Manitoba. South Junction's economy has historically relied on agriculture and forestry which cultivated a collective identity centered around hard work, resourcefulness, and a close relationship with nature. The senior's club has become a place for increased recreational opportunities for the entire community.



The Seniors Club plays a crucial role in catering to the needs and well-being of the local senior population by focusing on providing recreational opportunities. The primary function of such a club is to offer a range of activities, programs, and events specifically designed to promote social interaction, physical activity, mental stimulation, and overall wellness for seniors in the community. The Club also features exercise and fitness equipment that is utilized not only by South Junction residents but also by many seniors throughout the RM of Piney.
The facility hosts game nights and provides year-round indoor recreation for local seniors.





Beyond this, the Seniors Club facility is available for rent by local businesses and residents. The facility hosts small social functions such as meetings, family reunions, funerals and parties and is the only such facility in the immediate South Junction area capable of hosting these events. The ground of the Seniors Club is home the Southeast Farmer's Market. Typically, the largest farmer's market in the RM, its offerings include homemade baked goods, clothing and home decor, local and regional produce, and other wares. The market runs on weekends during summer months. During non-summer months, a scaled-down version of the farmer's market is held inside the Seniors Club building on an almost weekly basis.

Pine Grove Seniors Club

Location	South Junction, MB
Size	1,800 sf
Year Built	1987
Amenities	Seating for 75; full kitchen including stove, oven, fridge, freezer, microwave, slow cooker, and cookware; internet station; games room; television; service buildings; farmers market grounds; exercise equipment; billiards table; television
Ownership	Pine Grove Seniors Club Inc.
Operation	Pine Grove Seniors Club Inc.
Condition	Fully functional. Amenity upgades required are currently minor and include mainly ongoing maintenance.
Programs/Events	Weekly seniors events; farmers market; exercise programs bi-weekly; hand-bells club
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	Building rental $90 - $110; $20 annual membership fee
Funding Support	Yearly ask for Rm capital and other grants (varies annually); provincial and federal grants (New Horizon grants)
Obstacles/Potential	Low attendance for some seniors events; lack of volunteers limits the number of events held
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	New flooring - currently carpeted - looking to transition to vinyl laminate
Long-term	Increase the size of the facility in order to increase the size and capabilities of the kitchen
Wish List	Gazebo/patio addition - screen/windowed addition allowing sheltered outdoor access

6.1.4 Carrick Community Club



Carrick, originally a railway town, was named in honor of Lieutenant-Colonel J.J. Carrick. However, before its renaming, the post office and school were referred to as Spurgrave, while the CN Station was known as Carrick, creating some historical distinctions within the town and its landmark locations. The original McPhillips Street Railroad locomotive is another historic attraction located on the Carrick Community Grounds.



The community club hosts Carrick Days, an annual two-day August event which welcomes neighboring communities for a day filled with diverse activities. The festivities include horseshoe tournaments, pancake breakfasts, a talent show, live entertainment, fireworks, a parade, and a chance to explore the historic Spurgrave School. The event fosters camaraderie, offering something for everyone while celebrating Carrick's heritage and bringing communities across the RM of Piney together.



The community club in Carrick extends its role beyond Carrick Days by organizing an annual Thanksgiving gathering for locals. Additionally, it occasionally serves as a venue for small community events such as weddings and funerals. Throughout the non-winter months, the grounds are diligently maintained, ensuring they are fully functional and aesthetically pleasing for these occasions. However, apart from these specific events, the grounds are minimally utilized by the eight families residing in Carrick.

Carrick Community Club

Location	Carrick, Manitoba
Size	3 acres (land); numerous variously-sized facilities on the old Spurgrave School grounds
Year Built	Spurgrave School (1909); Carrick Community Club - 1995
Amenities	Mainstage/hall building (40-foot stage); canteen building; covered/screened-in picnic/gathering facility; horseshoe pits (7); outdoor play structure; outdoor restrooms; outbuildings; grass gathering/play area
Ownership	Carrick Community Club Incorporated
Operation	Carrick Community Club Incorporated
Condition	Well-maintained aging facilities
Programs/Events	Annual Carrick Days festival; Thanksgiving gathering for locals; weddings and funerals
Rental Fees/Memberships	Minimal fees or free-of-charge for local families
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; periodic federal grants; Carrick Days
Obstacles/Potential	Limited population; well-maintained facilities; grounds underutilized
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	Security system for the storage area including cameras
Long-term	Landscaping to smooth out playing fields and improve ingress and egress
Wish List	Concrete padding in front of Spurgrave/Carrick School

6.1.5 Vassar Community Recreation Centre



Vassar, settled a century ago with the construction of a CNR railroad in southeast Manitoba. History suggests it was named for the spring water found on Butcher Hill. Residents primarily survived by farming, utilizing resources from the wild, and engaging in activities like trapping, fishing, and blueberry picking. Logging stood out as the primary income source for the community. Today, Vassar is a quiet, safe, welcoming community and an idyllic rural Manitoba community with family values.



The Vassar Community Recreation Centre is the hub of regional leisure activities, entertainment, and sporting activities. The sprawling grounds of the Centre are among the most well-kept in southern Manitoba and include the main hall, Richard Cayer Park (3 ball diamonds), beer gardens with a canteen, a campground area, picnic shelter, playground, a basketball/pickleball court, and many other amenities. The Centre is also the home of the Vassar Pine Needles and Cones Senior Club and the popular Vassar Pool which is utilized in the summer months by residents from all over the RM of Piney.



The tournament attracts teams from across the province and is the Centre's biggest annual fundraising event. In addition, the Centre is the home of the Vassar and Area Minor Baseball Association – the only facility in the RM with the ability to host youth baseball programs. Beyond baseball/softball, the main hall at the facility plays host to multiple events such as a community One Stop derby, a fall supper/breakfast as well as numerous private gatherings like weddings, socials, and business parties. The hall is well-equipped, includes a new audio-visual system and Wi-Fi availability, is well-maintained and easily meets the needs of the community and the RM. The grounds at the Centre also provide Vassar residents and the general public a multitude of varied recreational activities in one location.

Vassar Community Recreation Centre

Location	Vassar, Manitoba
Size	Main Hall - 5,830 sf; Land - 12 acres (approximate)
Year Built	Main hall - 1945 (approximate date) with a new addition and a complete remodelling in 1992; Main hall capacity - 275 (323 when including Pine Needles & Cones Senior Club)
Amenities	Main Hall with ability to configure for varying sized events (Capacity - 340) including fully modern and updated kitchen facilities and new (2022) audio visual system; walk-in cooler; Richard Cayer Park ball diamonds (3) with bleachers; beer gardens area including canteen building with walk-in cooler and covered outdoor stage; basketball/pickleball court; playground structure; campground sites with fire pits and picnic tables; serviced restroom facility (adjacent to beer gardens); covered picnic/gathering shelter; mini-golf course (aging); board and yard game rentals for the public
Ownership	Vassar Community Recreational Centre Incorporated
Operation	Vassar Community Recreational Centre Incorporated
Condition	Excellent condition - upgrades to all facilities including the ball diamonds and main buildings; canteen is aging and needs upgrading
Programs/Events	Vassar Annual Ball Tournament; socials; funerals; weddings; Christmas parties; annual One Stop Derby; fall supper; karaoke; Vassar Catholic Women's League events; family reunions (park); Vassar and Area Minor Ball Association; park rentals for annual business gatherings (business and private)
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	Evening hall rental (socials, wedding, etc.) - $500; Business rentals - $225; Funerals - $200; Small parties (50 or less and 4-hour limit) - $100; Use of hall prior to event - $50
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; Metis, provincial federal grants; Vassar ball tournament; poker tournament; fall supper; hall and park rental fees
Obstacles/Potential	Not enough of a population to fully utilize/fund facilities; lack of volunteers limits expansion of programs; among best ball facilities and most comprehensive grounds in the region
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	Upgrading of restrooms and the canteen at the ballpark - (bathrooms need upgrade to full-service plumbing)
Long-term	Fencing for one of the three ball diamonds (two have been recently renovated); new playground structure
Wish List	Full renovation or construction of new canteen; upgrading campgrounds to electrical; update miniature golf facilities

6.1.6 Vassar Pool



The outdoor pool sits at the heart of Vassar, a town celebrated for its diverse regional recreational options. The Vassar Pool stands as a major draw for residents of the RM of Piney during the summer, representing one of the Municipality's primary leisure attractions. Notably, it is the sole aquatic facility available within the area, serving as a central hub for aquatic recreation and leisure activities for local residents throughout the warmer months.



The pool is located on the grounds of the Vassar Community Recreation Centre and volunteers are responsible for its operations. While open, the pool always has an on-staff lifeguard on duty to ensure the safety of patrons. The pool amenities include concrete decking, diving board, restroom facilities, change rooms, showers, a small, covered shelter with seating, and an adjacent playground structure and volleyball court. Patrons of the pool are also welcome to use all the amenities and activities provided at the Recreation Centre.

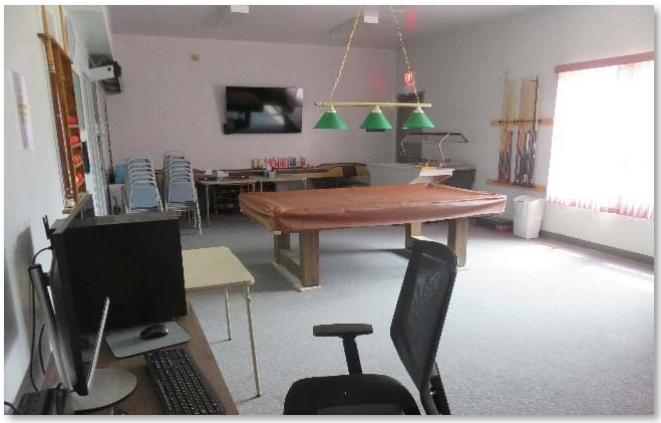


The pool is open only during the warmer summer months (approximately between July 1st and the last week in August) and although the hours of operation vary based on staffing, during the most recent season, the facility was open from Monday to Friday with varying hours. The pool is in very good operating condition and its programs include swimming lessons, public swim access, aquacise programs along with being available for private rentals. Although the pool is often underutilized due to the relatively low population base of the region, one of the most prevalent issues facing the facility is staffing. Although there is an opportunity to potentially expand the pool's operational hours, the administration has found it difficult to adequately find sufficient lifeguards and safety staff to do so.

Vassar Pool

Location	Vassar, Manitoba
Size	Outdoor heated pool (28 x 76 feet - 3-foot-deep shallow end, 9 foot-deep deep end) - Maximum capacity of 75 (30 if only one lifeguard on-duty)
Year Built	1970 (major upgrades and renovations in early 1990)
Amenities	Diving board; adjacent playground structure; shaded picnic table/shelter area within the pool grounds; solar and propane heating; flushing restrooms; change rooms; showers; volleyball court
Ownership	Vassar Community Recreational Centre Incorporated
Operation	Vassar Community Recreational Centre Incorporated
Condition	Pool in good operational condition with a new liner, solar panel, propane heater and cement walkways/decking installed within the last five years; pool equipment is fairly modern and operationally sound
Programs/Events	Swimming lessons (pre-school through lifeguarding); public swim; aquacise; lap swimming; rentals offered; free summer camp for children during swimming lesson hours
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	2023: public swim - $5; individual and family public swim passes ranging from $50-125; swimming lessons ranging from $60 (parent and tot) to $200 (lifeguard); aquacise - $5 drop-in, $60 summer pass, $125 family pass; lap swim - $5 or included with summer pass; pool rental - $100/hr (min 2 hours)
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; Metis, provincial and federal grants; Vassar ball tournament; rental fees
Obstacles/Potential	Limited number of lifeguard/safety staffing limits utilization; potential for increased utilization
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	Solar panels need repair (currently not fully functional)
Long-term	New toilets and showers; upgraded playground structure; renovate outdoor volleyball court
Wish List	Full renovation of plumbing for pool and out-buildings

6.1.7 Vassar Pine Needles & Cones Seniors Club



The Pine Needles & Cones Seniors Club, situated in Vassar, Manitoba, reflects the town's historical reliance on agriculture, characterized by industriousness and strong community bonds. This has made Vassar an appealing place to spend one's senior years. The Senior's Club has naturally evolved as an extension of this spirit, offering recreational opportunities that benefit the wellness of the town and region.



The Pine Needles & Cones Club is located within the Vassar Community Recreation Centre but manages its operations independently from the Centre. While occasional collaborations and resource-sharing occur, both entities maintain separate and distinct operations and functions. The Club primarily focuses on addressing the unique needs and interests of the elderly population within the community. The Club functions as a central gathering place for seniors in the region, providing vital services including recreational activities such as game nights offering a welcoming and enjoyable indoor entertainment venue tailored to the needs of seniors in the community.



The Club has been instrumental in addressing the social and recreational needs of local seniors, creating an inclusive environment for their well-being and enjoyment. The Club has access and use of the fully modern kitchen facilities in the Recreation Centre. Recent enhancements in the club include the installation of flat panel televisions and the addition of pickleball courts to the outdoor facilities which the club utilizes on a weekly basis.
Besides its regular functions, the Pine Needles & Cones Club can act as a venue for smaller private events if the need arises. Although these events are on a smaller scale and not suitable

for the larger community hall, they add to the club's versatility and significance within the community.

Vassar Pine Needles & Cones Seniors Club

Location	Vassar, Manitoba
Size	576 sf; Capacity - 48 (located within Vassar Community Recreation Centre building)
Year Built	1992 - completed during major renovation of the Recreation Centre
Amenities	Billiards table; two computer/internet stations; shuffleboard table; billiards table; card tables; meeting tables; flat screen television; direct access to full-service kitchen; access to pickleball court and Vassar Community Recreation Centre amenities
Ownership	Vassar Pine Needles & Cones Seniors Club Incorporated
Operation	Vassar Pine Needles & Cones Seniors Club Incorporated
Condition	Excellent condition; equipment and amenities in new or like-new condition
Programs/Events	Periodic karaoke events; weekly games and recreation events; pickleball 2x/week
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	Private rentals - $50 - 250 dependent on length of event and kitchen use
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; provincial and federal grants; rental fees (minimal use); periodic fundraisers
Obstacles/Potential	Limited number of volunteers; potential for more secondary uses (exercise programs, etc.)
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	No pressing capital, maintenance or amenity needs
Long-term	Walking trail
Wish List	Dedicated pickleball court

6.1.8 Piney Community Centre



Piney, settled in the late 1870s by Icelandic descendants, relied on agriculture for livelihood until 1906 when the railway introduced new income sources. Today, Piney hosts the Pineland Hutterite Colony and sustains its income primarily through agriculture. The community is also adjacent to the Pinecreek Border Airport, spanning the international border.



The Piney Community Centre stands as a central focal point for regional leisure activities, entertainment, and sporting events. The well-maintained grounds feature numerous amenities. These include a main hall, curling club, a covered canteen/picnic area allowing for beer garden, and playground. Additionally, the Centre houses the Piney Over 40 club, offering dedicated services to those in the community. Moreover, the recreation grounds include bleachers and a mud/water pit which plays host to the annual Mud Run, an event that has run for three years and attracts approximately 300 attendees from across the RM of Piney and region.



Aside from the mud run, the Community Center annually hosts an ATV Derby complete with food services and a Kite Festival. The venue accommodates various sporting activities including indoor floor curling, weekly pickleball, indoor archery, card-game nights, and biweekly bingo sessions held in the hall.

During the renovation project of 2022, considerable attention was directed towards the refurbishment of the facility's hardwood floors. This extensive overhaul has yielded improvements, empowering the venue to maintain its role as a prime location for hosting diverse events year-round. The upgraded floors not only enhance the facility's aesthetics but also ensures a more functional and versatile space, accommodating an even broader spectrum of activities and gatherings for the community to enjoy. Although Community Center

administration is consistently making upgrades and maintaining the Community Center grounds, officials have stated that there are no significant pressing needs at the moment. One item that officials are looking at in the long term is changing the facilities' heating and cooling system to a geothermal system which would incur significant initial capital costs but provide considerable savings over time.

Piney Community Centre

Location	Piney, Manitoba
Size	Hall capacity - 315
Year Built	1940
Amenities	Community hall with stage; hardwood flooring; full-service modern kitchen facilities; covered picnic/gathering area with canteen; playground; Mud Run pit and metal bleachers; access to restroom facilities in curling club (dependant on hours)
Ownership	Piney Community Centre, Inc.
Operation	Piney Community Centre, Inc.
Condition	Well-maintained - currently suits facility uses
Programs/Events	Annual Piney Mud Run; annual Fall ATV Derby (poker style) including food service at the community hall; community bingo tournament (bi-weekly); floor curling inside hall; weekly pickleball (2x/week); indoor archery range/lessons; Kite Festival; card game night (bi-weekly); Mother's Day
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	$350 weddings and socials; $75 funeral and meeting; Average fee for recreation events - $3 drop-in
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; provincial and federal grants; rental fees; bingo; ATV Mud Run; ATV Poker run; other events (pickleball/curling etc)
Obstacles/Potential	Lack of volunteers leads to resource stretching; dwindling population; hall layout provides for multiple uses of facility
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	Not in need of any pressing maintenance or upgrades
Long-term	Upgrading of the food booth inside covered shelter (lighting improvements, countertop replacement, and an upgrade to running water)
Wish List	Upgrading of the playground facilities; access to internet/Wi-fi

6.1.9 Piney Curling Club



The community of Piney hosts the only curling club within the municipality, serving as a central hub for enthusiasts. Positioned at the heart of the RM of Piney, this facility attracts users from a wide expanse of the region, owing to its convenient location. Nevertheless, the club's indoor curling sheets, while offering a unique outdoors-cooled feature, face limitations of seasonal availability for curling activities, due to its reliance on weather conditions.



Each year, the curling club organizes the Piney Curling Bonspiel, a highly anticipated event that garners significant attention, drawing teams from various parts of southern Manitoba. With an average participation of over 20 teams, the bonspiel is well-received and adds vibrancy to the club's calendar. Additionally, the club hosts a weekly curling league on Tuesday and Thursday nights, boasting approximately 10 teams engaging in regular play.



The administration has mentioned that there are no urgent maintenance needs at the club, aside from cosmetic enhancements to improve its overall presentation. However, they have identified a long-term requirement for installing new safety glass in the viewing area. This upgrade is being considered to improve safety measures and enhance comfort, a feature that the club aims to incorporate in the future.

Piney Curling Club

Location	Piney, Manitoba
Size	45,000 sf - approximation (two indoor sheets of ice)
Year Built	1962
Amenities	2 regulation sheet of ice; ice-level seating/viewing area; ice-level kitchen/canteen counter; restrooms; upstairs lounge with viewing area; licensed bar; games room
Ownership	Piney Community Centre, Inc.
Operation	Piney Community Centre, Inc.
Condition	Requires cosmetic work indoors and out
Programs/Events	Annual regional bonspiel - 3 day event; weekly curling league (Tuesday and Thursday); puzzles/board games
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	Bonspiel - $100 per team; curling league - $160 per team; curling sheet rental - $75/day
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; provincial and federal grants; rental fees; annual bonspiel
Obstacles/Potential	Outdoor cooling limits length of season; potential for weekend curling
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	No immediate needs
Long-term	The curling rink needs cosmetic work - painting minor renovations
Wish List	New windows for the viewing area (safety glass)

6.1.10 Piney Over 40 Club

The Piney Over 40 Club is situated within the main Piney Community Centre building, and the facilities both have their own outdoor access. Although occasional collaborations and resource-sharing occur, primarily based on ongoing events within the complex, the operations of the clubs mostly function independently.



Functioning as a vital center in the region, the club renders indispensable services, notably hosting seniors' lunches three times weekly. Additionally, it organizes recreational activities, encompassing enjoyable card-game nights, thereby establishing a hospitable and interactive indoor entertainment venue tailored specifically for those over 40 within the community.



The club has played a pivotal role in addressing the social and recreational needs of the community, fostering an inclusive environment that prioritizes their well-being and enjoyment. Moreover, the Club has the privilege of utilizing the fully modern kitchen facilities available at the Club.



One of the main programs the Club runs is the well-attended congregate meal program which is open for lunches on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday with supper also being provided on Wednesday evenings. Beyond its regular operations, the Piney Over 40 Club facilities have the flexibility to serve as a venue for smaller private events if the occasion demands. While these events may be smaller in scale and not suited for the larger community hall, they contribute significantly to the club's adaptability and importance within the community.

Piney Over 40 Club

Location	Piney, Manitoba
Size	1,500 sf; Capacity - 50 (approximation)
Year Built	1976 - addition to the rear of the main community hall
Amenities	Six- and eight-foot tables; 60+ chairs; billiards table; shuffleboard table; card tables; full kitchen (stove, oven, fridge, freezer, microwave, slow cooker, dishes, and cookware); full wheelchair accessibility; board games; small library; exercise equipment (elliptical, treadmill, exercise bicycle); television
Ownership	Piney Community Centre, Inc
Operation	Piney Community Centre, Inc
Condition	Well-maintained, modern updated kitchen facilities
Programs/Events	Congregate meal program weekly (T-W-F lunch, Wednesday supper); card game nights biweekly
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	Meetings and funerals - $50 (over 3 hrs - $100) includes kitchen facilities
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; provincial and federal grants; rental fees; cribbage bi-weekly (Sept-May); Congregate meal program ($150/month)
Obstacles/Potential	Potential for internet access for members
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	New freezer
Long-term	Flooring (laminate and carpeting)
Wish List	Internet/wi-fi; computer station

6.1.11 Sprague Community Center

Sprague was named after Daniel Sprague, who founded the Sprague Lumber Company around 1885 with the Sprague River facilitating log transportation to Winnipeg. Sprague offers hunting, fishing, and recreational spaces and the primary economic driver is agriculture. The Sprague & District Historical Museum preserves community history and is open from June to September. The Sprague & Area Arena is the only indoor ice rink in the region and Sprague is also home to the only school in RM of Piney.



The Sprague Community Club operates entirely through volunteer efforts, showcasing the remarkable commitment and dedication of local community members in improving their area. The involvement of community individuals on the Board highlights a strong sense of ownership and responsibility, emphasizing their commitment to enhancing recreational services for the benefit of residents.



The largest event held the Community is Sprague Fest, a one-day event which attracts residents from all over RM of Piney. The festival, the primary fundraiser for the Center, includes a car show, bingo tournament, live entertainment, a pancake breakfast, a dance, and many other events. Beyond Sprague Fest, the main hall hosts the annual Community Christmas Concert attended by many in the RM, the Annual Halloween Social to fund the Sprague and Area Arena as well as social, wedding and meeting events throughout the year.



The hall at the Community Center has undergone some significant upgrades in the recent future including a major kitchen renovation, in approximately 2011, which included new appliances, flooring and countertops bringing the facility easily up to health and safety standards. In addition, the roof was re-shingled in 2021 and cement walkways were installed

between the entrances Evergreen Seniors Club (located withing the main hall) and the main hall for safety purposes in 2022. Access to the Seniors Club is also available through a door adjoining the two venues.

Facility administration have indicated that the overall usefulness of the facility is sufficient to meet the needs of the community to host events but would like to see more utilization of the facility's amenities including the outdoor basketball courts and the picnics shelter.

Sprague Community Center

Location	Sprague, Manitoba
Size	7 acres (land); 6,000 sf (main hall)
Year Built	1967
Amenities	Main hall with ability to configure for varying sized events including fully modern and updated kitchen facilities (2011), serving area and stage; basketball/pickleball court; playground structure; covered picnic/gathering shelter; board and yard game rentals for the public; outdoor winter slide
Ownership	Sprague Community Center, Inc
Operation	Sprague Community Center, Inc
Condition	Well-maintained and up to date main hall; outdoor areas well-maintained
Programs/Events	Sprague Fest (car show, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, parade, chainsaw carving, live entertainment, bingo, pancake breakfast, canteen open all day, evening dance) - currently a one-day event; Community Christmas Concert (handbells, choir, singers); Halloween social benefitting Sprague Arena; socials, weddings, funerals, business meetings, AGM meetings, and business rentals
Rental Opportunities and Memberships (rates fluctuate - contact venue)	Evening hall rental (socials, wedding, etc.); Business rentals; Funerals; Small parties (50 or less)
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; provincial and federal grants; rental fees
Obstacles/Potential	The field area (formerly two baseball diamonds) is a non-useful space currently; shelter/picnic area is underutilized
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	Canopies for front entry-way; interior painting to refresh the hall
Long-term	Address heating and cooling issues and costs - potential move to geothermal
Wish List	New flooring - upgrade to industrial/commercial linoleum; bathroom renovations

6.1.12 Sprague & Area Arena

Sprague is home to the sole indoor ice rink in the RM of Piney, providing a haven for public skating protected from outdoor conditions. This historic facility draws users from a broad area. Nonetheless, the indoor hockey ice rink, while distinctive with its outdoor-cooled setup, is constrained from year-round availability for activities, due to its dependence on weather conditions.



Each year, the volunteers at the Arena organize and run the Annual Halloween Social, a highly anticipated event that garners significant attendance from regional neighbours and is the primary facility-driven fundraiser.



The facility's main purpose revolves around open public skating on different weeknights during the winter season, largely reliant on the availability of volunteers to keep the venue operational. Open skating is usually available on weeknights and weekend days and evenings. Alongside casual, leisure skating, visitors are encouraged to utilize hockey sticks and pucks to hone their skills.



The volunteers overseeing the facility have highlighted crucial maintenance concerns that require immediate attention to ensure the facility's functionality and, more importantly, the safety of its users. Recently, the roof has developed leaks and inspection reveals significant portions of it are deteriorating along with the underlying sheeting. Without prompt action, there's a risk of severe structural damage from water and wind exposure.

Moreover, the upper area, previously used as an enclosed viewing space, requires extensive repairs due to repeated vandalism. These critical renovations could disrupt the arena's operations. Additionally, the facility faces a lack of restroom facilities. Although there were restrooms in the enclosed upstairs area previously, they have been non-functional for several

years. Furthermore, there are no current outdoor restroom facilities on the arena or community center grounds, leading to sanitation concerns.

Sprague & Area Arena

Location	Sprague, Manitoba
Size	22,500 sf
Year Built	1970 (administration estimate)
Amenities	One ice-rink (indoors, outdoor cooled); hockey boards and plexiglass; rinkside spectator seating; warming room (change area); zamboni; outdoor winter slide; hockey nets; shooting targets; skating bars; donated hockey equipment, helmets and skates
Ownership	Sprague & Area Arena Incorporated
Operation	Sprague & Area Arena Incorporated
Condition	Aging facility; several significant renovations needed; significant upgrades and capital maintenance required; remains functional for current use
Programs/Events	Free Skate - based on volunteer availability; formerly adult hockey on Friday evenings
Rental Fees/Memberships	Skating is free-of-charge to encourage use; occasional birthday events most often offered for free
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; provincial and federal grants; rental fees; Annual Halloween Social fundraiser; Annual Skatathon fundraiser in collaboration with Ross L. Gray school
Obstacles/Potential	Significant facility upkeep required to maintain daily operations; very limited number of volunteers impacts venue availability times; potential to host events in facility if upgraded
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	Roof repairs - holes in roof and sheeting coming off; bathroom facilities (currently no restrooms available in-facility or on facility grounds)
Long-term	Canteen area and viewing area in need of repairs; install functional plumbing and restroom facilities; renovations allowing heated fundraisers; new zamboni
Wish List	New boards; small concession and kitchen area; bar and lounge within enclosed viewing area

6.1.13 Evergreen Seniors Club



The Evergreen Seniors Club in Sprague is situated in Sprague, Manitoba which is also home to the well-curated Sprague and District Historical Museum and the L. Ross Gray school, which serves as the sole educational institution in the Rural Municipality of Piney.



The seniors club facility is located in the same building as the Sprague Community Center. Inside the building, there is a connecting door facilitating access between these venues. While they occasionally collaborate and share resources, depending on the ongoing events within the complex, their operations and functions otherwise remain distinct and separate from one another.



The club serves as a primary hub for seniors in the area, offering essential services such as seniors' lunches held three times a week, recreational activities, including card-game nights, providing a welcoming and engaging indoor entertainment facility for seniors in the community. The club has played a pivotal role in meeting the social and recreational needs of local seniors, fostering an inclusive environment for their well-being and enjoyment.

In recent years, the club has made significant strides in enhancing its offerings. This includes the addition of new counters, updated kitchen equipment, well-received LED lighting improvements, new signage, enhanced accessibility features, and improved handicapped parking areas.

Moreover, the facility hosts a weekly Adult Wellness Program, managed by a separate entity, providing additional health-oriented activities. Beyond its regular activities, the Evergreen Seniors Club, with a seating capacity of 60, serves as a venue for various private events such as

funerals and family gatherings throughout the year. These events, though smaller in scale and not suited for the larger community hall, contribute to the club's versatility and importance within the community.

Evergreen Seniors Club

Location	Sprague, Manitoba
Size	4,000 sf
Year Built	1967
Amenities	Air conditioning; projector & screen; Wi-Fi; cell phone booster; six- and eight-foot tables; 60+ chairs; billiards table; shuffleboard table; card tables; full kitchen (stove, oven, fridge, freezer, microwave, slow cooker, dishes, and cookware); full wheelchair accessibility
Ownership	Evergreen Seniors Club Incorporated
Operation	Evergreen Seniors Club Incorporated
Condition	Excellent condition; well-maintained modern facilities
Programs/Events	Weekly exercise programs; seniors lunches M-W-F; weekly game recreation nights
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	Seniors club membership - $20 not including meals; Seniors club meals (variable); Adult Wellness Program; Full-day building rental - $110; Full-day rental with kitchen - $130; Half-day building rental - $60; Half day rental with kitchen - $80
Funding Support	Annual RM grant ask; provincial and federal grants; membership fees
Obstacles/Potential	Limited number of volunteers; potential for more secondary uses (exercise programs, etc.)
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	No pressing capital, maintenance or amenity needs
Long-term	Ability to maintain safety standards; developemnt of outdoor picnic table/barbecue/gathering area
Wish List	Walking path adjacent to facility; outdoor lighting and park benches

6.1.14 Middlebro Community Hall and Middlebro Park



In the early 1900s, the Middlebro was initially named Gravel Pit due to the Canadian National Railway using the area for gravel storage during the railway construction. However, it was the railway's connection to the US that triggered an economic boom, particularly in pulpwood, commencing around 1949. The community exudes a tranquil setting of rural living and offers many several recreation amenities for its residents including Middlebro Community Hall and Middlebro Park.



The hall offers a quaint location for small to medium gatherings, hosts dances, weddings, funerals as well as ensuring the community has a local gathering place for other community events such as crafting, game nights, and other activities. The well-maintained grounds of Middlebro Park provide the community with multiple recreation opportunities including a ball diamond, covered patio/gazebo for gatherings, basketball court, horseshoe pitches and several play structures for children.



Volunteers with the Middlebro Community Club hold several annual fundraisers at Middlebro which are well-attended and anticipated by members of the community. These fundraisers include: the Family Appreciation Day and Breakfast with Santa, an event which features not only a breakfast but cookie-baking, tree-decorating, and food donations to a local food bank; an annual Perogy Meatball and Cabbage Roll Sale with proceeds going to fund the breakfast with Santa event; and the Annual Poker Derby. The main annual event held at Middlebro Park is the Annual Family Fun Day which includes events and activities including the three-on-three basketball tournament, a beer

garden with live music, raffles, table auctions, a rainbow auction, face painting, horseshoes, food and refreshments for purchase, and other events.

The biggest concern among administrators with continuing to provide events for the community and expand upon those events is the extreme lack of local volunteers to facilitate the events. This was seen as the biggest impediment to increasing the programs that can be provided to the public, along with the significant costs of running the facility (hydro-electric power).

Middlebro Community Hall and Middlebro Park

Location	Middlebro, Manitoba
Size	Hall capacity - approximately 350; Park - 7 acres (land)
Year Built	Hall - 1954; Park - approximately 1940 (playground added approximately 2023)
Amenities	Community hall - full service kitchen and gathering area; Middlebro Park - 2 ball diamonds; covered gazebo/picnic facility; canteen and beer gardens; park benches; playground structures including swings, climbing structures and treehouse/play areas; horseshoe pits (3); outdoor basketball court; outdoor restroom facilities
Ownership	Middlebro Community Club Incorporated
Operation	Middlebro Community Club Incorporated
Condition	Hall - fully functional and in excellent physical and structural condition; Hall - modern updated kitchen facilities in main hall (2017); Park- good condition; Park - in need of some general aesthetic maintenance
Programs/Events	Annual Poker Derby; Middlebro Fall Supper; seniors meal program (Tuesday lunch); various gaming and other events for seniors and residents; Family Appreciation Day and Breakfast with Santa; Park - Annual Family Fun Day; Perogy, Meatball and Cabbage Roll Sale; socials, weddings, funerals, parties, etc.
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	Weddings, socials, dances and private parties - $350 for members, $450 for non-members; Showers, church events, funerals and birthday parties - $100 for members, $150 for non-members; Additional (set-up day) rentals - $75
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; provincial and federal grants; rental fees; annual fundraisers
Obstacles/Potential	Extreme lack of volunteers; dwindling population; low income of residents; potential for more activities because community interested and attends current events well
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	Hall - AED machine; internet access and computers stations; Park - electric service to site
Long-term	Hall - needs an entire electrical upgrade; Hall - long-term strategy/capabilities to lower hydro costs; Park - upgrade backstop on ball diamond
Wish List	Hall - exercise equipment; Park - walking path; Park - bike and skateboard park

6.1.15 Sandilands Park



The Sandilands area was largely uncharted by early European settlers until a significant forest fire in 1897 cleared enough land for the railway to plot its course through the forest between Marchand and Woodridge over what was then known as the "Cypress Mountains". The Rainy River-Sprague rail line, built in 1899-1900, then became the main means of regional transport for lumber harvested from nearby forests.



Though remote, the natural beauty of the area is unsurpassed, and an incredibly diverse community was cultivated over time. Indigenous, Metis, French, British Isles and Ukrainian families would eventually be joined by other European and Asian immigrants eventually evolving into distinct community Sandilands is today.



Sandilands Park sits on 5 fenced acres of historic land in the southwestern edge of the Sandilands Provincial Forest in Sandilands MB. Once the site of the Sandilands School, it now serves as a hub for local and surrounding community events and a waypoint for tourists and recreational enthusiasts who enjoy the many trails and outdoor activities the area has to offer. The park has a canteen style building with attached covered gazebo including several picnic tables.

Sandilands Community Club hosts several annual events such as Spring Seed Swaps, the Autumn Harvest Festival and a Volunteer Appreciation Event as well as facilitating community building events like community wide yard sales, BBQ's and special events. The park currently does not offer indoor communal space, hydro or water. The park is open to public access unless reserved for an event.

The park's gazebo was recently adapted with ramps to become more accessible for those with limited mobility and metal railings for safety. The tourist information station, installed in the park in 2024, has trail maps, historical information, and fun facts about the local environment for our visitors to learn. There are also a couple of geocaches in the area for people to find.

Sandilands Park

Location	Sandilands, Manitoba
Size	5 acres
Year Built/Established	Community Club formed circa 2003; Shelter - completed circa 2008, recent additions (railings, ramps etc) completed in 2021
Amenities	Canteen-style building with attached covered gazebo including several picnic tables,geocaching; trailhead/waypoint for park trails;
Ownership	Sandilands Community Club
Operation	Sandilands Community Club
Condition	In need of considerable maintenance for safe community use - has been underutilized in recent years
Programs/Events	Sandilands Community Club hosts several annual events such as our Spring Seed Swaps, Autumn Harvest Festival; Volunteer Appreciation Events; community building events; community-wide yard sales; BBQ's and, other special events.
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	Currently no fees in place although plans are underway to institute a fee schedule. The Club is still in the planning stages of developing a model for generating revenues to cover Park operating costs. Current fees under consideration include: a baseline refundable deposit for damages of $200, no rental fees for club members, for non-members - a nominal fee based on hours of use to cover clean up if they fail to complete it (i.e.: $100 for a full day(12 hours) or $50 for 4 hours. These possibilities for fees and rates will be going to a vote at the community's AGM in spring 2024.
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; provincial and federal grants; rental fees; local fundraisers
Obstacles/Potential	Grounds need extensive work to be fully utilized; Vast space and natural environment lend to recreation and leisure opportunities for the region
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	Tree trimming and root maintenance for safety; development of an outdoor paying field; development of pathways and recreational areas; horseshoe pitches need extensive maintenance; development of a long-term plan for the grounds
Long-term	Access to electricity and water; park lighting; a garden path; indoor space with restroom facilities; opportunity for community rentals
Wish List	Playground equipment; additional amenities and facilities to expand family use

6.1.16 Badger Park

The town of Badger began as a railway station along the Manitoba southern railway in 1900. In its early days, the town boasted three grocery stores, a post office, a dance hall, schoolhouse, as well as section and station houses. One of the buildings which housed one of the original grocery stores, built in 1908, is still standing and is occupied as a residence. The town's initial settlers trapped and hunted for extra income. Badger is surrounded by the Sandilands Provincial Forest and became well-known for its blueberry crops.



The town is now the largest it has ever been with a total of 81 lots. However, most of its residents are seasonal or weekenders. They enjoy berry picking, hunting, riding through the beautiful forest and the quietness of the pines.



To enhance the overall community, the Badger Community Association constructed a community shelter at Badger Park which covers close to two acres of land that includes both mature and newly planted trees. The shelter was completed in 2009 and, including the picnic tables and small playground, provides the community with a venue for family and other gatherings. The park is open to the public year-round and provides a location for picnics, barbecues, horseshoe games, as well as ATV and snowmobile gatherings and other events.



Badger Park

Location	Badger, Manitoba
Size	1.5.-2 acres
Year Built/Established	2007 (approximation); Shelter built in 2009
Amenities	Fully enclosed (four walled) commuity shelter building including tables, chairs and a refrigerator (half-walls of the shelter can e taken down in the summer); picnic tables, playground structure
Ownership	Badger Community Association
Operation	Badger Community Association
Condition	Well-kept grounds
Programs/Events	No specific programming; available for public use year-round - picnics, family gatherings, community picnics, sports; horeshoes; atv and snowmobile gatherings etc.
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	Not applicable
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; provincial and federal grants; rental fees; local fundraisers
Obstacles/Potential	Lack of water on site hinders tree growth for newly planted trees; Adequate area/size for upgrades
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	Installation of a water well for watering newly plated trees and water prevention
Long-term	Outdoor ice rink
Wish List	Water well; electricity

6.1.17 St. Labre Community Park



The community of St. Labre began in 1897 when a sawmill allowed the opportunity for employment bringing in families from Quebec, Belgium, France, Germany, and Switzerland over the next decade. In 1904, the first chapel was constructed, and in in 1910 the first school was set up. Around 1928, a convent was added to the church.

Today, St. Labre maintains a strong agricultural base allowing them to live and work in the area. There are close to 4,000 acres farmed in the area. Vast, fertile fields produce a variety of cereal and forage crops, and the land is ideally suited to present and future dairy operations as well as the expansion of the beef cattle industry.

The area is very popular with hunters because of its abundance of deer and bear. There are also several cottages in the area where weekenders can enjoy the natural beauty and serenity of this wonderful corner of the province. Many enjoy exploring the trails by quad and snowmobile.

In 2009, to further enhance recreation amenities for its residents, St. Labre Community Centre Inc. built a community shelter on the park grounds which sit adjacent to the community's historic church. The shelter includes picnic table seating and sits on approximately one-acre of park land. In addition to the six permanent picnic tables there are additional picnic tables available to park users as well as large canvas tents and a big screen and projector for community use. The park is used for movie nights, sports events, family gatherings, geocaching, and many other community activities. There is also a unique 'free little library', created from an antique canoe adjacent to the park.

St. Labre is also home to the St. Labre 200 – a go-cart building/racing competition that attracts thousands each year.

St. Labre Community Park	
Location	St. Labre, Manitoba
Size	1 acre (approxiamation)
Year Built/Established	Shelter built in 2009
Amenities	Roof-covered picnic and gathering shelter located adjacent to the community church; shelter houses six picnic tables for community and church use; in addition to the six permanent picnic tables there are additional picnic tables available to park users; large canvas tents also available for community use
Ownership	St. Labre Community Centre Inc.
Operation	St. Labre Community Centre Inc.
Condition	Shelter is structurally and functionally sound; Grounds in need of some general
Programs/Events	Movie nights; sports events; community picnics; family gatherings; holiday gatherings ; information about amenities, events and schedule available of the community centre's Facebook page
Rental Fees/Memberships (2023) - subject to change	No applicable fees; Donation accepted
Funding Support	Annual grant ask from RM; provincial and federal grants; rental fees; local fundraisers
Obstacles/Potential	Funding expansion is an obstacle / The grounds are large enough for significant additions
Facility Needs/Desires	
Immediate	Develop a food bank or emergency food supply
Long-term	Site clean-up; develop a plan and complete the shelter (enclosure, screening, electricity, etc.); community signage; outdoor beach volleyball court; outdoor ice rink
Wish List	Sports equipment for community use; Barbecue and/or grill; popcorn machine)

6.2 Summary of Site Visits and Facility Administrator Consultations

In the spring of 2023, 14 site visits were conducted to recreational facilities/venues within the RM of Piney. In early 2024, three additional facilities/venues were added to the analysis of the RM's recreation offerings, bringing the total number of facilities to 17.

Each facility is managed by volunteers, and discussions with administrators were held to inventory and assess buildings and programs. These conversations, both during site visits and numerous subsequent follow-ups into November 2023 provided valuable insights into recreation within the communities and shed light on the challenges and perspectives of the volunteers overseeing these programs. In early 2024, three additional facilities were added to this inventory bringing the total number of facilities/venues to 17.

The following is a summary of the overarching findings derived from an assessment of these meetings:

Appreciation for a Recreation Planning Initiative

Facility administrators across all RM of Piney communities expressed satisfaction and gratitude for being included in the study. Underscoring their role as local experts contributing support and feedback was vital to the research but also showed their opinions are valuable.

Full Support for a Potential Regional Recreation Director

When informed about the potential recommendation of hiring a dedicated Recreation Director for the RM, respondents agreed that it aligns with the needs of the region. The lack of information about plans in communities other than their own was commonly cited as a point of point of concern. Volunteers highlighted the need for improved community coordination, stating that they lack the means to overcome this issue. They strongly believe that a Recreation Director would greatly enhance the future of recreation within the RM of Piney.

Concerns about the Future of RM's Recreation Programs

With aging and underused facilities across the region, concerns about the long-term future of recreational amenities were prominent during the consultations. Many emphasized their own focus was on current and short-term needs while expressing some concern about the absence of a long-term plan for the RM's recreation development overall. They all agreed that population and geographical constraints limit available opportunities, raising concerns about the future of recreation in the RM.

Volunteers are the Cornerstone of Regional Recreation

Volunteers are the lifeblood of recreation in the RM of Piney. Without these individuals, recreation activities and programs within each community would simply not be possible. They organize events and manage facilities. Simply put, without volunteers, recreational opportunities in these communities would not exist.

Strained Volunteer Base in Every Community

The reliance on volunteers for every facet of operations within the RM's facilities - including programming, marketing, fundraising, finance, accounting, administration, project planning, event coordination, volunteer recruitment etc. - underscores the negative impact of a limited and aging volunteer base in sustaining even current levels of recreational activities.

Desire for Improved Volunteer Coordination

There is unanimous consensus among facility administrators for improved coordination among volunteers from all communities. This desire for better synchronization highlighted the potential benefits of a cohesive volunteer program, suggesting that pooling volunteers could be an effective strategy to address operational challenges.

Few Immediate Concerns Regarding Current Programs

While acknowledging the benefits of potential program improvements throughout the RM, administrators believe that most current offerings adequately meet the immediate needs of their communities. However, they also recognize the need for enhancements and long-term strategies to meet future programming needs.

Focus on the Present Before Long Term Facility Planning

When assessing the range and scope of recreational assets in the RM compared to other regions within Manitoba, the RM of Piney simply has fewer opportunities and amenities. This shortage underscores a need for attention to addressing the most immediate needs. Prioritizing immediate facility planning to enhance the current situation is advised before embarking on comprehensive long-term recreation planning.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

7. STRATEGIC VISION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic vision and recommendations presented below are based on extensive secondary research and on feedback gathered during the community consultation process, which involved conducting one-on-one interviews with key recreation stakeholders and members of the community. By soliciting input from a diverse range of stakeholders, the recommendations are designed to be responsive to the needs and priorities of the community.

7.1 RM of Piney Municipal Recreation Vision

The research and, notably, the consultation process yielded the following Vision Statement for recreation in the RM of Piney:

Support the community in the development and delivery of sustainable recreation programs to maximize the quality of life of all residents. Coordinated human and capital investments in recreation will ensure the vibrancy and well-being of the region for years to come.

7.2 RM of Piney Municipal Recreation Strategic Recommendations

Recommendation 1 – Appoint a Municipal Recreation Director

This is the primary recommendation of the Recreation Master Plan. Amongst other duties, the Director would: facilitate the coordination of programming regionally; support facility operators in planning, developing, operating, and maintaining facilities to ensure their long-term viability and sustainability; and, facilitate the coordination of programming regionally to lessen the duplication of services and programs. The Plan in Section 8.3 presents several potential job structures/scenarios for a Recreation Director.

More detail on this recommendation is provided in: Section 8. Focus Area A: Dedicated Municipal Recreation Director.

Recommendation 2 – RM of Piney Recreation Committee

The current Recreation Committee primarily oversees the funding and sustainability of recreation programs in the RM on a part-time basis. The decisions of the Committee's should be informed by a Recreation Director.

It is recommended the RM of Piney Recreation Committee, which currently includes representation from the Council, continue reviewing matters related to recreation development. The Committee would oversee the Recreation Director and continue to oversee the broader administration of recreation programs and their funding. A Recreation Director would be appointed to provide guidance and direction to support and guide the Committee in their decisions. This would allow the existing Committee to focus on approving funding for the best use of resources based on recommendations from the Director. The Recreation Director would be responsible for day-to-day oversight of operations and program management, as necessary.

This recommendation recognizes the need for a collaborative approach to recreation development and the importance of having a dedicated recreational professional, ensuring effective program management and sustainability.

Note: It is also recommended the Recreation Committee be represented fully by Council members. The Committee has to look at complex municipal financial considerations when making decisions, which is best done by Council members with an understanding of the financial implications.

Recommendation 3 – Coordinated Support Program for Facility and Program Administrators

The RM of Piney should take a leadership role in providing administrative support, program coordination, consistency in policy and procedures, standardization of financial management, and operational oversight to facility managers and program administrators.

The Recreation Director can be involved in overseeing facility and program management across the RM. The Director can provide guidance and support to facility managers and program administrators, ensuring that they have the resources and information they need to manage their facilities and programs effectively.

By taking a leadership role in these areas, the RM can help promote transparency, accountability, and efficiency in facility and program management, and ensure that resources are being used effectively to meet the needs of the community.

Recommendation 4 – Develop a Facility/Program Proposal Analysis Process

The RM should develop a means to evaluate proposals for the development of and/or expansion of regional recreational facilities or programs. This should be based on community need, alignment with regional plans, financial sustainability, and identified sources of potential funding.

To develop this process, the Municipality can start by engaging with community members and stakeholders to identify priority areas and gather feedback on proposed developments. This can be done through public consultations (building on the Recreation Master Plan consultation results) and other forms of community engagement which can be overseen by the Recreation Director.

Once community needs and priorities have been identified, the RM can develop a clear set of evaluation criteria. These criteria should be transparent, objective, defensible, and should be communicated to all stakeholders involved in the evaluation process.

This recommendation is meant to ensure that resources are being allocated in a way that meets community needs and priorities, and that proposed developments are financially sustainable over the long term.

Recommendation 5 – Develop a Comprehensive Regional Volunteer Program

To enhance the coordination and promotion of recreational programs, it is recommended that the RM's Recreation Director collaborate closely with regional and municipal recreation program volunteers. This collaboration could involve creating an annual program guide for the RM which will assist in preventing program duplication and facilitate program integration among and between the widespread communities.

A regionally directed volunteer program can help to ensure that all communities and volunteers are aware of all the programs available to them and that the programs are delivered in a coordinated and efficient manner. By working together, the Municipality and the program volunteers can better serve the community and provide a wider range of recreational opportunities. This should serve to assist in avoiding the potential duplication of similar services which can facilitate better utilization of human and financial resources.

Recommendation 6 – Volunteer Recruitment Initiative

To ensure the sustainability and success of recreational programs in the Municipality, it is recommended that a volunteer recruitment initiative be established to promote the benefits and opportunities of volunteering. This will be part of the overall Comprehensive Regional Volunteer Program.

This program should particularly focus newcomers to the area and younger populations who may not currently be engaged in volunteering. A coordinated effort to expand the volunteer base is essential to ensure that recreational programs are adequately staffed and supported, and to foster a sense of community engagement and involvement.

Recommendation 7 – Regionally Coordinated Communication, Promotion and Organization of All Recreational Programs in the Municipality

There is a need for better communication and information dissemination regarding recreational programs in the region. Individual communities, and the RM itself, have a relatively small population, and the size of the RM and the distance between the communities often aids in a lack of communication. To address this issue, it is recommended efforts be made to improve communication channels and ensure information about recreational programs is widely available and accessible to all interested parties. This could involve the use of various communication platforms such as recreation program guides, social media, newsletters, flyers, and public announcements. Enhancing communication and information dissemination can help ensure residents are aware of the recreational programs available to them and can participate in them more easily.

An annual *Recreation Program Guide* can be an excellent resource for residents to learn about the various recreational programs available to them. The guide can include information about the different programs, their schedules, and contact information for the program providers.

Promoting programs through social media is also a valuable idea, as it can help to reach a wider audience and increase awareness of the programs. Social media platforms such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram and many other platforms can be used to share information about recreational programs in order to better engage with the community.

Finally, organizing an annual or bi-annual meeting with all program providers can help limit duplication of services and ensure programs are integrated in a way that maximizes their impact. These types of information-sharing meetings also provide an opportunity for program/facility administrators to share ideas and best practices. This will only serve to improve the quality of the programs and recreation opportunities for the community.

***Planning Note**:*

One of the objectives of the Recreation Master Plan project was to provide direction for recreation planning over the next 20-years. After extensive research and consultations community-wide, it is clear this is currently not a realistic objective. The existing and upcoming deficits in human resources, facilities, volunteering, and funding require immediate attention (which a Recreation Director can begin to provide) must be addressed before a 'long-term potential picture' of Recreation in the region can become clear enough to succinctly defined. How the RM of Piney Recreation Committee and Recreation Director choose to address these issues, based in the information and recommendations in this Master Plan, should largely guide such long-term planning more effectively.

8. FOCUS AREA A: DEDICATED MUNICIPAL RECREATION DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Background: Need for A Dedicated Municipal Recreation Director

The hiring of a Municipal Recreation Director is the foremost strategic recommendation of the RM of the Piney Recreation Master Plan. This recommendation stems from extensive primary research in the community. The need for this position stems from:

- The lack of any centralized sources of recreation information in the RM.
- The need for volunteer attraction, retention, and coordination.
- The need for support of the volunteers that operate regional recreation facilities.
- The planning required to understand the regional needs for certain recreation programs and the coordination needed to ensure that facilities can efficiently meet these needs.
- The time and specialization required to seek funding for recreation facilities and programs.

In short, the RM requires *dedicated human resources capacity* to research, plan, fund, and help implement recreation programs, and support recreation facilities.

8.2 Municipal Recreation Director Duties

Facilities

The Municipal Recreation Director will be responsible for developing a maintenance management and facility lifecycle program. This program will support voluntary facility operators in planning, developing, operating, and maintaining facilities to ensure their long-term viability and sustainability. The Recreation Director will also be responsible for coordinating the resources and needs among and between the communities in the RM, which will help ensure that facilities are used efficiently and effectively across the region.

By providing guidance, support, and coordination to facility/program operators, the Recreation Director will help ensure that programs are well-maintained, and that they continue to meet the needs of the community over the long-term. This recommendation recognizes the importance of effective facility management from a regional perspective. The need for a dedicated resource to support the often-siloed, smaller communities with broader regional

coordination will help ensure that facilities, programs, and resource are used in a way to maximize their benefit to the both the smaller communities and the RM as a whole.

Volunteers

The Municipal Recreation Director will assist communities and volunteers with recreation program research development and coordination. These volunteer programs should be coordinated and include an ongoing assessment of the community recreation environment. The Director would then serve as an advocate for the different communities, informing the RM of Piney Recreation Committee and Council on the assets and human and capital investments required to fulfill these needs.

The Municipal Recreation Director will develop and help implement a Comprehensive Regional Volunteer Program and a Volunteer Recruitment Program.

Funding

The Municipal Recreation Director will also dedicate time to researching and procuring funding opportunities from all levels of government, NGOs, and the private sector to support the regional vision for recreation. Funding may be sought for the RM, but programs are facilitated by volunteer groups and their associated recreation facilities. The funding leads may be the associations or the facilities themselves, or in some cases the RM may have to procure and administer the grant funding.

Communications

Lastly, regionally coordinated communication, promotion, and organization of all recreational programs in the municipality is vital and should be managed by the Recreation Director. This may the be most important task of the Director, as the communications functions affects all other duties and responsibilities. The research the Director conducts will have to be communicated to stakeholders and the public, and in it is expected that the Director will become the centralized source of information about all regional recreation programs and facilities.

8.3 Potential Job Structures/Scenarios for A Municipal Recreation Director

Based on the relatively small population and number of facilities in the RM of Piney, it is unlikely the region would require the services of a full-time recreation director. Therefore, there may be a need to structure the position for the RM in a unique fashion. Following are three potential scenarios:

1. Hire a part-time (50%) Recreation Director for Piney.

Pro:

- Minimizes cost

Cons:

- Difficult to find specialized and qualified candidates for part-time positions (especially in rural locations)

2. Creation of a new position with duties split 50/50 between the roles of Recreation Director and a Community Development Officer. Such a position would be solely funded by the RM of Piney.

Pros:

- The RM controls administrative control of the position.
- Solely focused on RM of Piney-specific matters.

Cons:

- Potential difficulty finding suitable candidates.
- Hiring: Do you hire a recreation specialist to take on community development duties or vice-versa? This may detract from performance of the duties of one of these roles.

3. Partnership with adjacent communities for a Regional Recreation Director responsible for roles across multiple jurisdictions.

Pros:

- Both the RM of Stuartburn and Buffalo Point First Nation have indicated an initial interest and willingness to explore the potential of such a regional partnership.
- The adjacent communities already have multiple beneficial working agreements.
- The RMs of Piney/Stuartburn share their current EDO and Tourism Director
- The RMs of Piney/Stuartburn currently partner through the Piney Stuartburn Weed Control Building Inspection District.
- The RMs of Piney/ Stuartburn/Buffalo Point already share a waste management program
- The RM of Piney/ Buffalo Point First Nation are currently negotiating a potential agreement for sharing public e-vehicles between the two municipalities.
- Collaboration among communities does not pose a significant barrier

Cons:

- Increased administration coordination across jurisdictions
- Runs risk of spreading Recreation Director responsibilities too “thinly” across jurisdictions

8.4 Hiring A Municipal Recreation Director

Qualifications

The mix of education, knowledge, and experience required for the Recreation Director position when the job structure and duties are fully defined should be determined by the RM of Piney Recreation Committee. As a base example of potential requirements for the position in Piney, here are the qualifications listed for the Town of Lac du Bonnet's recent recruitment efforts in finding a recreation director:

- Education or degree in Recreation Studies, Kinesiology or a related education would be considered an asset.
- Must be able to work alone and be self-motivated.
- Must possess excellent oral and written skills and be able to interact effectively with members of the public and municipal staff.
- Ability to work efficiently with multiple community recreation groups, various duties and deadlines.
- Ability to effectively manage and lead employees and volunteers.
- Show leadership by becoming involved in local, regional and provincial activities.
- Certificate or working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite computer programs: Word, Excel applications.
- Class 5 Drivers License with clean driving abstract.
- Physically fit and mentally able to perform the required tasks.
- Minimum 2 years' experience in a community setting as a Recreation professional preferred.
- Must pass child abuse registry and criminal records background checks.

University of Manitoba – Bachelor of Recreation Management and Community Development (BRMCD)

Background

This degree is offered through the Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management. The program has always had a community development component but in 2007 added community development into the title of the degree. Since then, there has been more of a focus on the community development aspects of the degree including overall community wellness components including the aspect of tourism, community education, community support as well as the more 'traditional' aspects specific to recreation management. The community wellness components now put more focus on equipping students to better address challenges in their roles in 'real world' scenarios.

Hiring a BRMCD Graduate

If the RM chooses to hire a Recreation Director, there is certainly an opportunity to look at potentially hiring a recent graduate from the program. This would help ensure that the "dual roles" likely necessary for the RM of Piney area (Recreation and Community Development) could be filled. The potential downfall of filling a position with a new graduate for this position would be similar to the issue faced by smaller, more remote communities for other professional positions.

Often, new graduates tend to look at these rural opportunities as a stepping stone to get their early careers started to gain relevant professional experience before moving on to other opportunities. There is likely more of a risk of a new candidate moving on after a short period of time leaving the RM again looking to adequately fill the Recreation Director role.

Hiring a more experienced recreation professional (with the same degree, given that the community development aspect has always been imbedded) may be a better approach to finding a candidate who can fulfill the requirements and see a program through for the long-term. This approach, of course, would likely require a better incentive and compensation package for any qualified candidates.

Wage Scale

Compensation paid to a Recreation Director is, of course, a function of the responsibilities of the position along with the experience and qualifications of the candidate. However, there are some helpful tools and guidelines to determine what a competitive wage would be for the position in the RM of Piney.

Appendix A contains the Westman Recreation Professional Association Classifications and Wage Scale. The Scale was first created in 2005 by the Westman Recreation Practitioners Association. The association developed the first Employee Classification and Wage Scale in response to questions and concerns from both the recreation authorities and recreation practitioners regarding appropriate pay and benefits for recreation practitioners. It was updated in 2016 and was used as the basis for the Economic Development Officer wage scale developed by Economic Developers Association of Manitoba (EDAM) in 2021.

Appendix A contains the full Classification/Rating System to describe where a likely RM of Piney recreation Director candidate *with minimal experience* would land in the matrix. These pay-scales range from a Recreation Director I ($41,731 to $50,739/year) to a Recreation Director II ($53,276 to $64,757/year).

Once the candidate has minimum *five year's experience*, and if the position covered two municipalities (more population), that wage would be in Recreation Director III level ($67,995 to $82,248/year).

Figure 3: Westman Recreation Professional Association Classifications and Wage Scale.

40 Hour Workweek				
Points	Recreation Professional I -50	Recreation Professional II 51-100	Recreation Professional III 101-150	Recreation Professional IV 151+
Year One	$41,743	$53,276	$67,995	$86,780
Year Two	$43,830	$55,939	$71,394	$91,119
Year Three	$46,021	$58,736	$74,964	$95,675
Year Four	$48,322	$61,673	$78,712	$100,459
Year Five	$50,739	$64,757	$82,648	$105,482

Revised: January 1, 2023

Appendix B provides a Wage Grid Review for Recreation Professional Positions in the Eastman Region. 'Director level' positions tend to be in the $70,000 to $80,000 range in eastern Manitoba:

- RM of Hanover Manager of Recreation & Community Services: $74,082
- RM of Ritchot Recreation Director: $75,000

'Coordinator level' positions tend to be in the $50,000 to $60,000 range:

- RM of Springfield Program Coordinator: $58,000
- RM of Hanover Recreation Coordinator: $57,402

Hiring A Recreation Director Guide

The process of hiring a Recreation Director requires significant planning, access to process knowledge, and time. It is impractical to detail all facets of the process in this Recreation Master Plan. However, a thorough guide to the process is available. In 2011, Recreation Manitoba and Recreation and Regional Services Branch of the provincial government developed "Hiring a Recreation Director – A Practical Guide for Manitoba Communities." This valuable resource includes information on:

- Determining the responsibilities and requirements of the recreation director.
- Recruiting for the position.
- Screening applicants and conducting interviews.
- Checking references and making the job offer.
- Job orientation and ongoing support.

This practical guide has been developed as a how-to tool to be used during the hiring process but can also be used as a means of evaluating your current human resource practices.
It can be found at: https://recreationmb.ca/Hiring-a-Recreation-Director-Guide

General Recommendations

The RM of Piney Recreation Committee will have to review the Recreation Master Plan and form a plan on how the Recreation Director position will be structured, what that person's

responsibilities are, how they are compensated, etc. Based on extensive research into the process, an understanding of the RM of Piney recreation environment through consultations, and the research team's experience with other recreation master plan projects, here are general recommendations related to the recruitment and hiring of a Recreation Director for the RM:

Qualifications

- A candidate with experience in the field of recreation is of course preferable. However, finding a candidate who is hard working, organized, a good communicator, and cares about the community is even more important. This is directly related to the next consideration.

Location

- If possible, the candidate should live in the area. Not only will this increase the chances of long-term retention of a Recreation Director, but it is likely to have a significant positive impact on their job performance. For the position to be successfully fulfilled to it maximum potential requires that the Recreation Director be invested in the community and its citizens.

Position Structure

- The most preferable job structure, as outlined above is "Partnership with adjacent communities for a Regional Recreation Director responsible for roles across multiple jurisdictions." This, of course, would be dependent upon the partnering of municipalities. This type of model has already proven to be successful between the RM of Piney and the RM of Stuartburn with the sharing of Sunrise Corner Tourism and Sunrise Corner Economic Development. This model seems preferable because both RMs are small, are located in similar, adjacent rural areas, have limited resources for recreation spending, and are both regions with a relatively limited population base who utilize recreation facilities and programs. Therefore, sharing the resource of a Regional Recreation Director may be more efficient than other potential position structures.

Compensation

- Properly compensating the right candidate will be important. Attracting and retaining professionals in rural areas is a challenge. A "shared" position structure between communities may raise the level of compensation that can be offered to the candidate.

9. FOCUS AREA B: VOLUNTEER ATTRACTION, RETENTION, AND ENHANCEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Background: Need to Focus on the Volunteer Base

A clear and well-directed focus on supporting, attracting, and retaining the RM of Piney volunteer base is **absolutely vital** to recreation in the region for a number of reasons:

- Facilities are not municipally owned and are therefore almost exclusively operated by volunteers.
- There are citizens operating multiple recreation facilities and programs. This does and will lead to burnout and turnover.
- The volunteer base, like the population in the RM, tends to be older. The lack of a sufficient volunteer base is a significant threat to the viability of recreation facilities and programs in the region.
- The region's volunteers should represent the future of the community as well. Younger volunteers are not only needed for long-term sustainability of recreation facilities and programs, but also can better address the needs of young families and newcomers as programs evolve.

Assisting the volunteer base should be among the highest priorities of the RM of Piney Recreation Committee and a new Recreation Director.

9.2 Develop a Comprehensive Regional Volunteer Program

The RM of Piney Recreation Director should collaborate closely with regional and municipal recreation program volunteers to develop a Comprehensive Regional Volunteer Program which will:

- Create an annual program guide.
- Facilitate collaborations across communities to lessen duplication and facilitate inter-community cooperation.
- Foster regional awareness of programs.
- Better service a wider range of opportunities by avoiding duplication.
- Facilitate human and capital resource efficiencies.

Such a program would be based on similar programs used in other municipalities both provincially and nationally. Sources for this include www.charityvillage.com and www.volunteermanitoba.ca

As per Volunteer Manitoba, components of a Regional Volunteer Program can include:

a) Needs Assessment – reasoning, objectives, definition and understanding of roles.
b) Outline of Opportunities for Involvement – training and support; awareness of objectives, outcomes, and importance.
c) Recruitment Program – identification of current and potential volunteer bases; marketing; outreach.
d) Screening and Skills Assessment – interviews; discussions; volunteer feedback of challenges.
e) Engagement – feedback from volunteers in process/planning.
f) Training - needs/skill assessment/certification requirements (food handling, licenses, etc.). Orientation based on projects requirements/needs.
g) Retention Plan – recognition programs/incentives, informal and formal motivation, public recognition, personal feedback.
h) Follow-Up – ensure continued follow-up, feedback and evaluation.

9.3 Volunteer Recruitment Initiative

As part of a Comprehensive Regional Volunteer Program, the RM of Piney Recreation Director should develop a formalized volunteer recruitment initiative which can serve to promote the benefits and opportunities of volunteering in the RM.

The single biggest volunteer challenge the RM is facing is recruitment. The aging population base combined with the challenges of attracting younger volunteers makes 'attraction' paramount to recreation facilities and programs in the region.

The following are some of the steps that the Recreation Director should consider when developing a regionally customized volunteer program:

Recruiting basics:

- Create a baseline data set to understand existing and potential upcoming volunteer shortages in each facility and program in the region.
- Maximize the strengths of the current volunteer base.
- Address issues leading to a diminishing volunteer base.
- Engage 'newcomers' to become more active in the community.
- Engage young families (current low participation).

Specific recruiting components of a regional volunteer program might include:

- Undertake promotional efforts, marketing, outreach.
- Engage current volunteers into process/planning.
- Continual needs assessments and volunteer feedback loops.
- Identification of potential volunteer target segments.
- Retention initiatives such as volunteer benefit programs/perks.

10. FOCUS AREA C: LONG-TERM FACILITY PLANNING

10.1 Introduction: Recreational Facility Studies

This Recreation Master Plan project involved a Recreation Facility Asset Inventory which outlined the 17 facilities/venues in the RM of Piney. This included an investigation into "Facility Needs/Desires". A series of questions was put forward to facility administrators and stakeholders about the immediate, long-term, and wish-list needs for each of the 17 facilities. The following provides a brief situational analysis of each facility, but stops short of questions regarding long-term planning, development, and potential.

A more in-depth look at the immediate and long terms needs of these facilities must be conducted in a separate *recreational facility study*. The scope and cost of such a study must be evaluated by the regional Recreation Committee with the support of the Recreation Director.

Two basic types of studies should be considered:

1. A *regional recreational facility assessment*: a closer look at the specific infrastructure needs of each of the 17 regional facilities including cost estimates.

2. A *specific recreational feasibility study*: a detailed feasibility study for the renovation/expansion of a specific facility (e.g., Sprague Arena), or a feasibility study for any potential new recreation facilities.

These types of studies require architectural, engineering, marketing, and financial expertise. The first decision for the Recreation Committee would be whether to do a higher-level assessment of all regional facilities, or to dive into a specific facility/regional recreation need.

10.2 Facility Needs/Desires

10.2.1 Woodridge Community Club

Facility Needs/Desires:

Immediate: Replacement of ice rink shelter and outdoor storage (already funded – work is currently in progress); upgrades needed (buildings structurally sound) to picnic shelter, canteen and attached restrooms; security system for all buildings including out-buildings; improve acoustics in the hall; replanting of trees on property

Long-term: Replacement of gym flooring (currently original from 1968); Removal of stucco exterior with new outdoor panelling; hockey rink boards

Wish List: Transitional housing for 55+ on Woodridge acreage (likely with development partners)

10.2.2 South Junction Community Club

Facility Needs/Desires:

Immediate: A paved walking path at JL Sturk Park - mainly for recreational walking safety purposes

Long-term: Year-round use of a walking path, lighting, and rest areas

Wish List: New storage building; new canteen refrigeration equipment

10.2.3 Pine Grove Seniors Club

Facility Needs/Desires:

Immediate: New flooring - currently carpeted - looking to transition to vinyl laminate

Long-term: Increase the size of the facility in order to increase the size and capabilities of the kitchen

Wish List: Gazebo/patio addition - screen/windowed addition allowing sheltered outdoor access

10.2.4 Carrick Community Club

Facility Needs/Desires:

Immediate: Security system for the storage area – including cameras

Long-term: Landscaping to smooth out playing fields and improve ingress and egress

Wish List: Concrete padding in front of Spurgrave/Carrick School

10.2.5 Vassar Community Recreation Centre

Facility Needs/Desires:

Immediate: Upgrading of restrooms and the canteen at the ballpark - (bathrooms need upgrade to full-service plumbing)

Long-term: Fencing for one of the three ball diamonds (two have been recently renovated); new playground structure

Wish List: Full renovation or construction of new canteen; upgrading campgrounds to electrical; update miniature golf facilities

10.2.6 Vassar Pool

Facility Needs/Desires:

Immediate: Solar panels need repair (currently not fully functional)
Long-term: New toilets and showers; upgraded playground structure; renovate outdoor volleyball court
Wish List: Full renovation of plumbing for pool and out-buildings

10.2.7 Vassar Pine Needles & Cones Seniors Club

Facility Needs/Desires:
Immediate: No pressing capital, maintenance, or amenity needs
Long-term: Walking trail
Wish List: Dedicated pickleball court

10.2.8 Piney Community Centre

Facility Needs/Desires:
Immediate: Not in need of any pressing maintenance or upgrades
Long-term: Upgrading of the food booth inside covered shelter (lighting improvements, countertop replacement, and an upgrade to running water)
Wish List: Upgrading of the playground facilities; access to internet/wi-fi

10.2.9 Piney Curling Club

Facility Needs/Desires:
Immediate: No immediate needs
Long-term: The curling rink needs cosmetic work - painting minor renovations
Wish List: New windows for the viewing area (safety glass)

10.2.10 Piney Over 40 Club

Facility Needs/Desires:
Immediate: New freezer
Long-term: Flooring (laminate and carpeting)
Wish List: Internet/wi-fi; computer station

10.2.11 Sprague Community Center

Facility Needs/Desires:
Immediate: Canopies for front entryway; interior painting to refresh the hall

Long-term: Address heating and cooling issues and costs - potential move to a geothermal system

Wish List: New flooring - upgrade to commercial linoleum; bathroom renovations

10.2.12 Sprague & Area Arena

Facility Needs/Desires:

Immediate: Roof repairs - holes in roof and sheeting coming off; bathroom facilities (currently no restrooms available in-facility or on facility grounds)

Long-term: Canteen area and viewing area in need of repairs; install functional plumbing and restroom facilities; renovations allowing heated fundraisers; new Zamboni

Wish List: New boards; small concession and kitchen area; bar and lounge within enclosed viewing area

Note: The Regional Recreation Committee might see this as the most pressing facility to address. There are significant maintenance issues that need attention, and it is the sole indoor ice rink in the RM of Piney, providing a haven for public skating protected from outdoor conditions - a vital need in Manitoba with its long winters. The potential need for a "*specific recreational feasibility study",* as outlined in Section 10.1 of this report may apply to the Sprague & Area Arena.

10.2.13 Evergreen Seniors Club

Facility Needs/Desires:

Immediate: No pressing capital, maintenance, or amenity needs

Long-term: Ability to maintain safety standards; outdoor picnic table/barbecue/gathering area

Wish List: Walking path adjacent to facility; outdoor lighting and park benches

10.2.14 Middlebro Hall and Middlebro Park

Facility Needs/Desires:

Immediate: Hall - AED machine; internet access and computers stations; Park - electric service to site

Long-term: Hall - needs an entire electrical upgrade; Hall - long-term strategy/capabilities to lower hydro costs; Park - upgrade backstop on ball diamond

Wish List: Hall - exercise equipment; Park - walking path; Park - bike and skateboard park

10.2.15 Sandilands Park

Facility Needs/Desires:

Immediate: Tree trimming and root maintenance for safety; development of an outdoor paying field; development of pathways and recreational areas; horseshoe pitches need extensive maintenance; development of a long-term plan for the grounds

Long-term: Access to electricity and water; park lighting; a garden path; indoor space with restroom facilities; opportunity for community rentals

Wish List: Playground equipment; additional amenities and facilities to expand family use

10.2.16 Badger Park

Facility Needs/Desires:

Immediate: Installation of a water well for watering newly planted trees and water prevention

Long-term: Outdoor ice rink

Wish List: Electricity

10.2.17 St. Labre Park

Facility Needs/Desires:

Immediate: Develop a food bank or emergency food supply

Long-term: Site clean-up; develop a plan and complete the shelter (enclosure, screening, electricity, etc.); community signage; outdoor beach volleyball court; outdoor ice rink

Wish List: Sports equipment for community use; Barbecue and/or grill; popcorn machine)

11. FOCUS AREA D: FUNDING AND CAPITAL CONSIDERATIONS

11.1 Recreation Director Responsibility

Section 11.2 below provides an overview of funding programs that may be available to the RM of Piney. However, it is important to recognize that information about these programs is a **snapshot in time**.

One of the major duties of a Recreation Director will be continuously researching funding programs and options for the RM of Piney. In some ways, like an Economic Development Officer, there is an entrepreneurial aspect to the role. Small, rural communities most often struggle in securing funding for programs - especially facilities. Funding, especially for programs, is essential because without these very few recreation activities take place.

Hence, the RM should put a keen focus on research and writing capabilities as core competencies when hiring for the position.

11.2 Funding Programs

Federal Programs

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP):

Funds may be available through the Community, Culture, and Recreation Infrastructure Stream (CCRIS) which aims to build stronger communities and improve social inclusion. Through the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure stream, the Government is investing in projects that:

- Improve cultural infrastructure, like museums and Indigenous heritage centres;
- Support upgrades to recreational facilities, like arenas and both indoor and outdoor recreational spaces; and
- Improve community infrastructure, like community centres and libraries.

- In 2017, the Federal Government pledged to invest $21.9 billion over the next ten years. As an example, this fund provided $150,000 of a $450,000 project to add an addition for dressing rooms at the Shoal Lake Communiplex and $50,800 of a $152,400 project for Selkirk Recreation Complex structural repairs.
- For projects funded through the Public Transit, Green Infrastructure, Community Culture and Recreation Infrastructure, and Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure streams under the integrated bilateral agreements, Canada will invest up to: 40 percent of municipal and not-for-profit projects in the provinces. However,

provinces will have to cost-share on municipal projects at a minimum of 33 percent of eligible costs.

Funding - Culture, History and Sport

- There are various recreation related grant programs for Culture, History and Sport
- https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding.html

Provincial Programs

For all grants visit: https://www.gov.mb.ca/grants/grant-name.html

Arts, Culture and Sport in Community Fund

- Large Capital: Grants up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs ranging from 300,000 to $5 Million for projects that improve the quality, accessibility and availability of facilities and spaces needed for arts, culture and amateur sport programming and activities.
- Intake deadline is in April, 2024; awaiting possible new intake.

Building Sustainable Communities Program

- The Building Sustainable Communities grant helps build thriving sustainable communities that provide a high quality of life for Manitobans. The grant leverages investments in community development by local governments, non-profit organizations and others. The program covers up to 50 percent of eligible expenses to a maximum of $75,000. For capital projects with eligible project cost of over $150,000 (larger capital), up to 50 percent of eligible expenses are covered to a maximum of $300,000.
- Intake deadline is usually every January. The RM of Piney is well aware of this grant.

Urban/Hometown Green Team Program

- Green Team grants create summer employment opportunities for youth aged 15 to 29 years. Approved applicants provide a variety of community development projects that improve neighbourhoods, promote community involvement and help develop young leaders. The employment period is between May 1 and September 30. Recent priorities are focused on: community-based organizations and municipal governments that can offer full-time employment opportunities for youth, and projects that can demonstrate community need and partnerships**.**
- Intake deadline is usually every January.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities

- Municipal Asset Management Program: This program provides funding to support enhancements to asset management practices, with the goal of helping municipalities make more informed decisions related infrastructure assets, including municipally owned buildings.
- Capital Project - Retrofit of Municipal Facilities: Aimed at funding capital projects for retrofits that improve energy efficiency by at least 30 percent in municipal facilities.

Most of this funding goes to projects in municipally owned buildings, but a non-municipally owned building may be eligible if it is used mostly for municipal purposes.

- Regular loans and grants: Receive a low-interest loan of up to $5 million and a grant worth up to 15 percent of the loan; cover up to 80 percent of your eligible costs.
- High-ranking project loans and grants: These qualify for a low interest loan of up to $10 million and a grant worth up to 15 percent of the loan; cover up to 80 percent of your eligible costs.
- Capital Project - New Construction of Energy-Efficient Facilities: Provides capital funding for projects that target net zero energy performance in new municipal facilities. Most of the funding goes to projects in municipally owned buildings, but a non-municipally owned building may be eligible if it is used mostly for municipal purposes. Initiative must aim for net-zero energy performance. This means any energy it required must be generated through on-site, renewable or recovered power sources.
- Regular loans and grants: Receive a low-interest loan of up to $5 million and a grant worth up to 15 percent of the loan; cover up to 80 percent of your eligible costs.
- High-ranking project loans and grants: These qualify for a low-interest loan of up to $10 million and a grant worth up to 15 percent of the loan; cover up to 80 percent of your eligible costs.

11.3 Financing Strategies for Capital Projects

Reserve Fund

Setting aside money in every budget for both anticipated and unforeseen future expenses is the most straightforward method of financing capital projects. These costs can range from the creation of a new, large facility to routine, continuing upkeep. Spreading the cost of upcoming activities over the intervals between now and the future expense gives reserve funds their worth. Additionally, a reserve fund allows the community to participate in some federal or provincial initiatives that call for a municipal contribution without having to take out a loan to cover the full amount.

Public, Private Partnerships (P3)

Long-term contracts between two or more public and private entities are known as public-private partnerships (P3). They are typically employed in capital-intensive projects (those costing $50 million or more) because of the difficulties in creating a contract that covers every facet of the asset's design, construction, and frequently operation. It is improbable that the private sector will operate and maintain a facility or provide programs and services more effectively than a community in conjunction with partner sports organizations. Accordingly, a premium would be included in each P3 contract to enable private sector investors to recover their required rate of return.

Sponsorship and Donation

Simple ways to finance new capital projects include capital campaigns, naming rights, and in-kind gifts. Guidelines for naming rights could be set by the RM of Piney. One effective strategy to promote donations could be a collaboration with local businesses or associations. A corporation that does a lot of business in a community might promote goodwill in the community by sponsoring or buying the naming rights for key recreation facilities.

Development Corporations (DC)

A DC is a arms-length government entity with a specific mandate. A DC could have value in protecting the city from the liability associated with developing new capital assets. Generally, there isn't likely much benefit to developing recreation facilities through a Development Corporation. There is potential to utilize a not-for-profit Community Development Corporation to access additional funding streams not available to the RM of Piney, such as the Province of Manitoba Community Places Program.

Bonus Density

This incentive tool is a way to use the municipality's power to encourage private development by raising the density of permitted development in return for funding or in-kind assistance. These are most commonly used where market demand is strong and land availability limited, so is unlikely as a tool for financing recreation development in the RM of Piney.

11.4 Recommendations for Funding and Capital Considerations

Current Grant Policy

Currently the RM offers four types of community grants, each with their own policy:

1. Recreation Grants
2. Event Grants
3. Cultural and Community Identity Grants
4. Large Grants

Recreation Grants, which make up the bulk of grant monies distributed to facilities, are approved directly by the five-member RM of Piney Recreation Committee (two members of RM Council and one community representative from each of the three RM of Piney Recreation Districts).

The creation of the Recreation Committee was established so that funding allocation aimed for a grassroots approach where community members are directly involved in the process. Prior to

the Committee when Council allocated all recreation funding was often divided equally among projects without considering their merit. The aspiration for the creation of the Committee was regional prioritization of projects within the areas served.

The remaining three types of grans (Event, Cultural, Large) are allocated directly by the RM of Piney Council. To ensure community benefit, Council keeps control over these grants. This approach balances the RM's recreation funding, with the bulk allocated by the Recreation Committee and the remainder divided among three other grant types.

At present, there are four separate policies for the Recreation, Event and Cultural and Large Grants which all vary in level of detail with the Recreation Committee Policy having the most robust level of detail regarding the submission and approval process used to administer and assess grant requests. However, the efficacy of the funding provided by these grants might be increased by restructuring the means of evaluation by using some set criteria.

Restructuring of the Current Recreation Grant Policies and Procedure

The Recreation Committee may want to consider having the Recreation Director establish a more structured process to evaluate funding requests for regional recreational facilities or program expansions. The process would likely require further engaging directly with community members and stakeholders to gather their input on proposed developments to pinpoint priority areas.

To achieve this, the Recreation Director will need to establish clear evaluation criteria tailored for municipalities and for the overall goals of the RM. These criteria may include community impact, feasibility, cost-effectiveness, sustainability, accessibility, and alignment with community preferences.

After receiving grant proposals, the Director would oversee the evaluation of each proposal based on these established criteria. These criteria will allow for transparent decision-making, considering evaluation outcomes and recommendations can then be clearly provided by the Recreation Committee.

Upon grant application approval by the Recreation Committee, the Director should assist, as needed, in the implementation plan detailing timelines, resource allocation, and ongoing evaluation strategies. Continuous feedback mechanisms should be established to collect post-implementation progress and feedback from the community. This can help ensure the effectiveness and relevance of the newly developed or expanded facilities/programs. Regular reviews and assessments should be conducted to identify potential areas for improvement or further expansion, ensuring the continual enhancement of regional recreational offerings.

Grant Policy/Application Revision Recommendations

Below are proposed modifications that merit consideration during the revision of grant funding policies and the application process. These adjustments aim to ensure that the funding is in line with the RM's recreation goals and objectives. These suggestions draw upon industry best practices, particularly those from other regions in Manitoba with more established recreation programs than the RM of Piney.

The examples provided are the kinds of mechanisms used in the recreation sector. They are presented here to highlight the types of revisions the RM might consider when tailoring a funding program specific to its own recreation initiatives and needs.

Objectives

A set of clear program objectives tailored specifically to the RM of Piney should be developed by the Recreation Director and reviewed and approved by the Recreation Committee. These objectives might include, but are not limited to, elements such as:

- Increasing community participation in programs
- Increasing youth participation in programs
- Ensuring accessibility to programs and facilities
- Reflect the character of the community
- Add to enriching recreation in the entire region
- Contribute to other economic benefits
- Support the efforts of volunteer organizations
- Bolster sustainability for community desired programs
- In line with RM Recreation vision
- Mitigate environmental impacts

Evaluation Criteria

Ensure there are clear criteria outlined in the grant application based on the recreation objective of the RM of Piney. An example of one such set of criteria currently utilized by another RM within Manitoba is presented below:

- *Risk Management and Mitigation* - Projects that improve the safety of the facility/program for participants and users, improve the security of the facility and increase ability of facility/program to be used for its intended use.
- *Life Cycle Factors* - Projects that protect and extend the anticipated life expectancy of the facility/program and equipment.
- *Immediacy of Project* - Projects that would cause a service to be withdrawn or a facility/program to close in the near future. Condition assessment provided by Director of Facilities and Special Projects to help guide rating.
- *Cost/Benefit* - Improvement to a facility will result in significant cost saving or “payback” in savings over time.
- *Facility Use* - Is the facility being used as much as possible for it’s intended use?

Other types of criteria which may be considered might include: program benefits to the RM; program benefits to the community; program viability; program financial viability; accessibility to entire community; accessibility to entire RM; level of innovation; and past grant funding etc.

Ultimately, the evaluation criteria should be in harmony with the recreational objectives of the RM of Piney. In addition, the grant application should explicitly require applicants to address questions related to how and if and how well their program outcomes will meet these funding evaluation/eligibility criteria.

An example of "Assessment Criteria" within a grant policy can be seen in Appendix C: The RM of Alexander Grants to Volunteer Organizations Policy

Project Assessment (Assessment Matrix)

Presently, the Recreation Committee evaluates grant applications by assessing the stated community benefit as outlined by the applicant, alongside a breakdown of project expenses. While this approach allows applicants to articulate their desired program, it lacks a clear framework for the Recreation Committee or the Council to compare other applicants' projects against each other and against the overarching objectives of the RM.

An effective approach to streamline the grant assessment process for both the Recreation Committee and the Council would involve creating a decision matrix centered on the grant evaluation criteria. While *not the sole determinant* for grant approval, such a matrix would offer a structured and uniform method for comparing and contrasting the feasibility and appropriateness of various projects. It's important to note that some projects, while deemed suitable, might not score high on the assessment matrix but could still be granted funding. However, a matrix would serve as a tool to expedite and enhance the efficiency of funding assignment and efficiency.

The matrix presented below is a simplified example of how evaluation criteria and other factors outside of those criteria might be used to assess a score more uniformly for grant suitability and approval.

CRITERIA BASED SCORING MATRIX		Score
Aligns with Program Objectives (MAX 40)		**40**
	Build capacity within community organizations	
	Support community driven goals that have a public benefit	
	Prioritize innovative projects	
	Increase the reach or effectiveness of successful projects	
0	Meets none	
20	Meets one priority	
40	Meets two or more priorities	
Demonstrates Programming / Operational Efficiencies		**30**
5	Demonstrates ongoing programming / operational efficiencies	
10	New programming efficiencies	
10	New operational efficiencies	
5	Other efficiencies (describe in 'Comments' box below)	
Identifies Measurable Outcomes		**30**
0	No measurable outcome	
15	One measurable outcome	
30	Two or more measurable outcomes	
Comments:		
SCORE	**TOTAL SCORE (OUT OF 100)**	**100**

Note: An assessment matrix *should be a tool, not a crutch*. Funding decisions with limited resources and a variety of community needs are difficult. The matrix should not supplant the judgement and experience of the Recreation Director or the Recreation Committee. Rather, it is meant as a helpful tool to streamline the process and provide added clarity.

Reporting and Follow-Up

The Recreation Director should institute formalized follow-up procedures for awarded grants. This process would involve receiving regular reports that provide updates on the progress of the funded projects and outline the ongoing and overall benefits resulting from the allocation of funding. This practice ensures accountability and transparency while allowing the RM to assess and showcase the impact of the grants on the community.

Consider the Pros/Cons of Merging all Four Grant Policies

As discussed, the RM of Piney annually offers four types of community grants linked to recreation, with one overseen by the Recreation Committee and the remaining three entirely under the Council's jurisdiction. Presently, there are four separate policies, each for a specific grant program. Consolidating these into a single uniform policy might prove advantageous, especially as all grants are recreation related. This consolidation could offer uniformity for both grant assessors and applicants. Additionally, integrating a unified application process with an assessment matrix could potentially reduce the time the council spends on evaluating the three community grants which fall under their authority.

THE APPENDIX

Appendix A: Westman Recreation Professional Association Classifications and Wage Scale

Introduction

The Westman Recreation Practitioners Association is made up of Professionals who plan, implement, and manage a broad range of community, recreation, and leisure services. They provide a multi-faceted social and economic service that maximizes community involvement and coordination towards community capacity building. Personnel have a wide range of skills related to community, social, and economic development, program administration, staff management, facility management, and the management and operation of volunteer boards.

In the following document, a classification system has been formulated for Recreation Professionals. This classification/rating system provides a Recreation Authority with an objective tool that can be used to determine the skill, experience, and responsibilities of a new position or an existing position that has received new job responsibilities.

The classification/rating system also provides a starting salary range, four classifications within the profession, and five levels within each classification. Utilizing this system will allow the Recreation Authority to identify its long-term salary commitment for an employee and it will allow the employee to identify their long-term earning potential and goal setting within their position.

Background

In 2005, the Westman Recreation Practitioners Association developed the first Employee Classification and Wage Scale. The document was in response to questions and concerns from both the Recreation Authority and Recreation Practitioners regarding appropriate pay and benefits for Recreation Practitioners. Staff turnover, board-staff relations, salary expectations and competitive wages were a few of the common concerns.

The employee classification and wage scale is designed to:

- Match appropriate salary with job responsibilities
- Provide up-to-date information about current salary levels
- Improve the opportunity to attract qualified staff
- Improve the chance of retaining existing staff
- Eliminate inconsistencies in annual salary increases
- To provide Recreation Practitioners a base salary and yearly increases
- To provide Recreation Practitioners with long term earning potential

The classification and wage scale was revised in 2016 to ensure it remained a useful tool for the Recreation Authority and Practitioner.

Classification/Rating System

The system is to be used to match wages with job responsibilities or to reclassify a current position that receives new job responsibilities.

The system is based on three criteria, consisting of Education, Experience, and Responsibilities. Each criterion is further broken down into more specific measurements and points awarded. Total points are added together from each criterion and used to create a Sub-Classification of Recreation Professional I, II, III, and IV. According to the sub-classification, the wage matrix outlines a starting wage through to Year Five. A cost-of-living increase should be applied to the wage scale annually to be determined by the Recreation Authority.

System Criterion

Education	Available Points	Points Awarded
High School Graduate	0	
Post Secondary Education in Recreation or Related Field	50	
Total Education Points		

Experience (Recreation and/or Related)	Available Points	Points Awarded
No Years Experience	0	
Minimum Two Year's Experience	20	
Minimum Five Year's Experience	50	
Total Experience Points		

Responsibilities	Available Points	Points Awarded
Budgeted Expenditures		
0-$100,000	5	
$100,001-$300,000	10	
$300,001-$500,000	15	
$500,001-$700,000	20	
$700,001+	25	
Staff Supervision		
Full-Time		
1-5 Employees	10	
6+ Employees	20	
Part-Time		
1-5 Employees	5	
6-10 Employees	10	
11+ Employees	15	
Population		
0-2,500	5	
2,501-5,000	10	
5,001-7,500	15	
7,501-10,000	20	
10,001+	25	
Total Responsibilities Points		

Annual Wage Matrix

35 Hour Workweek				
Points	**Recreation Professional I -50**	**Recreation Professional II 51-100**	**Recreation Professional III 101-150**	**Recreation Professional IV 151+**
Year One	$32,635	$41,651	$53,159	$67,845
Year Two	$34,266	$43,734	$55,816	$71,238
Year Three	$35,980	$45,920	$58,607	$74,799
Year Four	$37,779	$48,216	$61,538	$78,539
Year Five	$39,668	$50,627	$64,615	$82,466

37.5 Hour Workweek				
Points	**Recreation Professional I -50**	**Recreation Professional II 51-100**	**Recreation Professional III 101-150**	**Recreation Professional IV 151+**
Year One	$34,966	$44,626	$56,956	$72,691
Year Two	$36,714	$46,858	$59,803	$76,326
Year Three	$38,550	$49,200	$62,794	$80,142
Year Four	$40,477	$51,660	$65,933	$84,149
Year Five	$42,501	$54,243	$69,230	$88,357

40 Hour Workweek				
Points	**Recreation Professional I -50**	**Recreation Professional II 51-100**	**Recreation Professional III 101-150**	**Recreation Professional IV 151+**
Year One	$37,297	$47,601	$60,753	$77,537
Year Two	$39,162	$49,981	$63,790	$81,414
Year Three	$41,120	$52,480	$66,980	$85,485
Year Four	$43,176	$55,104	$70,329	$89,759
Year Five	$45,335	$57,860	$73,845	$94,247

Revised: February 1, 2020

Appendix

1. Wages are base wages and do not include any additional benefits such as Medical Plans, Pension Contributions, Special Training Allowances, Northern Allowance, additional Holidays or any other additional Wages or Contributions.
2. A positive annual evaluation is recommended for level advancement that may be based on successful performance, maintained or expanded qualifications within the job responsibilities, and strategic plan accomplishments.
3. Employee will move up one income level each successful year.
4. The cost of living increases are not included in the wage matrix but should be reflected each year.

Appendix B: Wage Grid Review for Recreation Professional Positions - Eastman Region

Eastman Wage Grid Scale Review
January 27, 2023

Titles & Population	Hours per week	Work hours	Wage Grid	Salary	Education	Experience	What level of budget responsibilities ($ & role)	Staff Supervision (full time/part time/Coaches/ instructors
Title: Executive Director Comparisons								
1. **Community Services Coordinator** Pop. RM of La Broquerie	37.5 hrs/wk.	Mon - Friday 8:30 a.m. –4:30 p.m. Evening and weekends work as required – advisory committee, volunteers org, Council, etc	Yes 5 grid – 2022 Start - $70,373.76 to $79,205.50. COL – over and above – follow National average.	Current Salary - $83,957.00	Post-Secondary education in Recreation and or related experience.	5 years plus in experience	Oversee and development of the budget. O & M recreation budget approximately 1.0 million annually, not including capital.	6 full time staff and indirect part-time staff from 5 to 10 staff.
2.Manager of Recreation & Community Services RM of Hanover Pop.	40 hrs/wk.	Office – 7:30 to 4:00 with a 30 minute lunch.	Yes 7 grid Start – 2023 Hr – 31.22 to 36.61. COL over and above from October to October annually. In 2023 a salary grid review is being completed.	Current Salary $74,082.00, based on level 7.	Degree in the field or related experience.	5 years plus in experience	Oversee and development of the budget. O & M recreation budget approximately 1.2 million annually, not including capital.	7 full time, 4 part -time direct and 2-3 in-direct part-time staff.
3. **Recreation Director** Pop. R.M. of Ritchot	37.5 hrs/week	Mon - Friday 8:30 a.m. –4:30 p.m.	Yes	75,000 based 2022 with COL adjustments in 2023.	Post-Secondary Recreation education - Degree	5 - 7 years plus required. Current person in position has 20 yrs. Plus experience in Recreation & Sport	Oversee and development of the budget. O & M recreation budget is 1.1 million. Capital budget annually approximately $300,000.	2 full time staff directs & a couple park time staff. All summer staff report to Recreation Director. 5 to 10 part time staff.

		Evening and weekends work as required				and has a Master Degree.		

Title: Program Director Comparisons

Titles & Population	Hours per week	Work hours	Wage Grid	Salary	Education	Experience	What level of budget responsibilities ($ & role)	Staff Supervision (full time/part time/Coaches/ instructors
1**. Recreation Programmer/ Supervisor** Pop. 5,947	40 hrs. / week	8-5 with flex (might be needed evenings/week ends at times) Eve/Weekend work:	no	Current Salary or hr wage: 27.50	Post secondary education considered an asset	Experience in community experience as a recreation Professional	Operating Budget is approximately $100,00 annually	13 front desk staff, facilitators and 5 – 10 part time staff.
2**. Community Services Coordinator** Pop. 6,076 R.M. of La Broquerie	37.5 hrs	Mon - Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Yes The Salary shall be subject to an annual review and increases may be provided, in the sole discretion of the Employer, based on certain factors including performance and Manitoba CPI.	In 2022 - $23.54 - $26.50/hr 5-grid level. COL over above. 3% increment grid le el.	. Post secondary education in recreation or equalivent experience	2 or more years of experience in community setting as a recreation professional.	Oversee programming expenses and revenue budget up to $50,000.00.	Part-time Programming Staff and Service Providers/Instructors – 1-5 part-time staff.

3. Program Coordinator RM of Springfield Pop. 16,142	40 hrs/wk.	Mon - Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., 30 minute break.	Yes 5 level grid level. $55,906 to 70,400	58,000 annually - 2022	Post secondary education in recreation and or related field.		Under 100,000	All part-time
4. Program Coordinator R.M. of Hanover	40hrs/wk.	Mon - Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., 30 minute lunch	Yes 2023 $52,747 - $62,056 range, 1 to 7 grid level based on successful annual performance review	Current salary - $57,402 based on step 4 in the grid.	Post secondary education in recreation and or related field.	N/A An asset, not required.	Develop of programming budget, specific program budget	Casual supervision

Title: Sport Development Coordinator Comparisons

Titles & Population	Hours per week	Work hours	Wage Grid	Salary	Education	Experience	What level of budget responsibilities ($ & role)	Staff Supervision (full time/part time/Coaches/ instructors
1. Recreation Director Winnipeg River Recreation District (Town of Lac du Bonnet) Pop.	37.5/wk.	8:30 - 4:30 Occasional evenings/weekends dependent on classes/events	The Salary shall be subject to an annual review and increases may be provided, in the sole discretion of the Employer, based on certain factors including performance and Manitoba CPI.	Current Salary 23.42/hr as of Sept 2022	Non Post secondary Education, work related experience	3 years of experience	Operating Budget is approximately $100,00 annually	Part time instructors and summer staff and lifeguards and instructors

2. Recreation Coordinator RM of Lac du Bonnet Pop.	35 hours BI/weekly – alternating between 2 days/3 days per week.	9-4:30 or 8:30-4:00 p.m. with a 30 minute lunch/ 7 hour days. Evening & weekends only as required.	Hourly wage based on collective agreement annual 2.5-3% increase, and performance review based incentive pay level increases. Ranging from 21.12-25.02	S21.12/hr	Post-secondary degree or diploma in Recreation Management, or a related field will be considered an asset	1 year in position Previous experience in a municipal recreation position, will be considered an asset	Newly formed Recreation Department, small programming budget	Part time instructors
3. Recreation Programmer Pop. 5,947	40	8-5 with flex (might be needed evenings/weekends at times)	No	Current Salary or hr wage: 23.00	Post secondary education considered an asset	Experience in community experience as a recreation Professional	Programming budget up to $100,000	Facilitators/ instructors 10-12 summer camp staff – seasonal
4. Program Coordinator Town of Altona	37.5 hrs/week	Regular office hours, evening & weekend work required.	Yes 2021 information. Grid would be adjusted with approved COP annually.	5 level grid from $38,385 to $50,196 annually. $19.46 hr to $25.74/hr				

Appendix C: The RM of Alexander Grants to Volunteer Organizations Policy

THE R.M. OF ALEXANDER
Finance

GRANTS TO VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS POLICY

Subject:	Grants	**Section:**	Finance
Effective Date:	Immediate	**Policy No.:**	FIN - 001
Replaces Policy:	Grants Policy	**Resolution No.:**	2019 185
Review Date:		**Resolution Date:**	April 24th, 2019

The RM of Alexander is aware that various organizations, groups and events within the community promote and improve upon the cultural, social and economic well-being of the community. In the course of annual budget deliberation and subject to budget constraints, Council may approve grants in order to support the organizations, groups or events that will be of a direct or indirect benefit to the citizenry of the RM of Alexander, in estimation of Council.

GUIDELINES

I. Categories of Recognized Grant Activities

Grants may be offered by Council to financially assist organizations, events and activities whose functions improve the quality of life of the people of the RM of Alexander in the Council's estimation. Specific examples are described by, but not limited to, the following:

- Human Services – social, health care, and educational programs that benefit our citizens and improve the quality of life
- Economic promotion and development
- Arts, Culture and Recreation – activities and events that may enrich and perpetuate the artistic level and cultural heritage of the citizens of the RM of Alexander
- Other beneficial organizations not easily classified.

II. Eligibility Guidelines - All organizations or events seeking the discretionary grants must meet the following criteria

Geographic Location

- Optimally, each applicant should be physically located within the RM of Alexander or potentially provide services relating to residents of the RM of Alexander.
- In special circumstances Council may waive this criterion.

Legal Entity

- Any not for profit/charitable community organization which provides or develops recreation, cultural and social opportunities or enhances environmental or economic opportunities for the residents of the RM of Alexander.
- Eligible projects include those that are recreational, cultural and social in nature.

Organization

- Each applicant seeking a grant must show evidence and clearly outline the organizational and administrative structure. This administrative structure must be adequate in its numbers, be responsible for the overall management of the organization's resources, be responsible for the administration of its funds and should preferably have a Board of Directors that would be representative of the community it services.

Mission Statement

- Each applicant seeking a grant should indicate the reason for its existence and indicate how its proposed services will relate to the existing pattern of other services, and/or provide new services, in order to enhance the quality of life of the citizens of the RM of Alexander. Thus, the merit of the proposed services can be evaluated in sufficient detail in order that the Grants Committee can assess the value of the services to the community.

Grant Application

- Each applicant seeking a grant will be required to complete the application for financial assistance form (Appendix 1) and submit a copy to the Grants Committee no later than December 15th of the year prior to which consideration for financial assistance is requested. (i.e. To apply for a grant for the year 2020, application must be received by December 15th, 2019 in order for the amounts to be included in the Municipality's budget discussions).

Financial Feasibility of the Organization

- Each applicant seeking a grant must demonstrate that, if it is successful in obtaining a grant from the municipality, the group or organization becomes financially capable to offering the services it proposes. Audited financial statements, for the previous fiscal year and previous years, if available, and current year budget statements, that show the financial activities of the organization must also accompany each application and are required at minimum. Other pertinent financial information may be required by Council.
- It is important, where possible, to present budgets and financial statements with revenues and expenditures grouped by each individual activity, service or program rendered by the applicant organization. This may be requested by Council, at its discretion.

Other Sources of Financial Support

- Each applicant seeking a grant must demonstrate that it has and will be actively seeking other sources of financial support from the private sector and other levels of government. The RM of Alexander will provide grants only if it deems them to be supplementary financial assistance to the organization.

Fund-Raising Practices

- Each applicant seeking a grant must adhere to responsible fund-raising practices. Fund-raising practices deemed questionable by the Council, such as random telephone solicitations, undermine public confidence in donating charitably and discourage the support of worthwhile organizations.

III. Assessment Criteria

Funding of Other Organization or Events

- Any applicant acting in the capacity of a funding organization for any other event or organization, will not be deemed to be a distinct entity, and will be considered together for the purposes of funding.

Future Funding

- Granting of financial assistance in any one year by the Municipal Council is not to be regarded as a commitment of the RM of Alexander to continue such financial assistance in future years.

Provision of Grants

- The provision of grants will be made annually as funds are available and within budgetary limits and priorities as determined by the Council of the RM of Alexander.

Objectives

- Do the proposed services duplicate existing municipal or volunteer services, or do they provide additional or other services that are deemed to improve the municipal quality of life, as determined by Municipal Council?

  -Are the objectives clear, measurable and realistic?

  -Are they complementary to Council's policies and position?

Accountability

- With the establishment of objectives and results and the existence of a Board of Directors or management control structure within the group, the recipients of municipal funds can be held accountable for results targeted.

Value for Money

- In light of the above-mentioned objectives and accountability, will the group or has the group provided full value for every dollar granted by the Municipality?

- Do other groups exist and have they presented themselves and propose to continue similar services?

Financial Considerations

- Do the organizations or events requesting funding have accounts payable to the RM of Alexander? If so, these must be disclosed on the application for financial assistance and the organization must be aware that amounts up to the entire amount owed to the Municipality will be appropriated from any financial assistance granted, in order to discharge its obligation to the Municipality.
- The Municipality should not contribute to funding shortfalls resulting from programs or services of any kind which were commenced without prior consultation with the Municipality.
- Also, the Municipality shouldn't consider funding cumulative deficits for any organization,
- Grants and hence financial assistance should be based on budgeted revenues and expenditures in the year for which assistance is being requested.

Community Response

- If the services provided are essential and effective, the apparent quality of the services previously provided by the organization should produce a positive community response.
- Positive community response should be from a cross-section of the community and not specifically from target or "special interests" groups.

Group Services

- The activities or services proposed should be extended to all members of the general public in the RM of Alexander and should not exclude anyone by reason of race, religion or ethnic background.
- The community service programs proposed by volunteer organizations should be separate and distinct from any other activities of the group.
- The organization must appear to be willing to assess its impact on the community, in order to insure that high standards of service to citizens are being met.

General

- Council is not obligated to allocate funds to any organization, group or event.

Acknowledgment of Responsibility for Grants

- An official signing officer, on behalf of the organization, must acknowledge responsibility for grants approved by Council, by returning the completed form "Conditions and Signatures Confirming Acceptance <u>if</u> Grant Approval Received" in the attached Appendix. Approved discretionary grants will not be disbursed unless this form has been completed and returned to Administration.

Disbursement of Approved Grants

- Approved grants will be paid out to the successful applicants after the 2nd Council meeting in July of the year of application approval;
- Proof of completion of project (pictures, copies of receipts, completion reports) must be submitted before December 1st of same year or no further grant applications will be accepted by that association or organization.

NOTE:

In certain instances, Council may choose to issue Grants at times different from those above. Also, the Administration may deviate from the above disbursement schedule, in special circumstances, where the above is not practical.

Appendix D: RM of Piney Recreation Survey - Questionnaire

RM OF PINEY
RECREATION
Plan

RM of Piney Recreation Survey

1. How important do feel recreation facilities and programs are to the quality of life in the RM of Piney.

- ◯ Extremely important
- ◯ Very important
- ◯ Somewhat important
- ◯ Not so important
- ◯ Not at all important

2. How well do you feel our existing facilities and recreation programs meet your needs?

- ◯ Very good
- ◯ Good
- ◯ Okay
- ◯ Poor
- ◯ Very poor

3. Would you like to expand on your answer to question #2?

4. How often have you or a member of your household visited the following facilities located in the RM of Piney in the last year?

	At least once a week	A few times a month	Once a month	Several times a year	Not at all
Sprague and Area Arena	○	○	○	○	○
Vassar Pool	○	○	○	○	○
Piney Curling Club	○	○	○	○	○
Piney Community Centre	○	○	○	○	○
Sprague Community Centre	○	○	○	○	○
Vassar Community Recreation Centre	○	○	○	○	○
Woodridge Community Club	○	○	○	○	○
Middlebro Community Hall	○	○	○	○	○
South Junction Community Club	○	○	○	○	○
Evergreen Seniors Club	○	○	○	○	○
Piney Over 40 Club	○	○	○	○	○
Pine Grove Seniors in South Junction	○	○	○	○	○
Vassar Pine Needles & Cones Seniors Club	○	○	○	○	○
Carrick Community Club	○	○	○	○	○

Other (please specify)

5. Are there facilities that you feel are undermaintained? If so, please explain:

6. Are there facilities that you would like to see upgraded or expanded? If so, please explain:

7. If money were no object, what types of new or expanded facilities or recreational amenities would you like to see in the RM of Piney? Feel free to check more than one.

- [ ] Wellness Centre
- [ ] Playgrounds
- [ ] Bowling Lanes
- [ ] Golf Course
- [ ] Mini-Putt
- [ ] Indoor Pool
- [ ] Skateboard Park
- [ ] Baseball/Softball Diamonds
- [ ] Gymnasium
- [ ] Curling Rink
- [ ] Splash Pad
- [ ] Performing Arts Centre
- [ ] Pickleball Courts
- [ ] Tennis Courts
- [ ] Basketball Courts
- [ ] Beach Volleyball
- [ ] Walking Paths/Trails

Other (please specify)

8. Knowing that funding is always an important consideration in municipal planning, what do you think the top priority(s) should be in terms of facility maintenance, expansion, or construction?

9. Which recreation programs offered within the RM of Piney have you participated in during the last 12 months?

10. What other recreation programs would you like to see offered within the RM of Piney?

11. What community events have you attended in the last 12 months? Feel free to check more than one.

- [ ] Annual All-Families Slo-Pitch Tournament
- [ ] Summer Fun on the Ridge
- [ ] Piney ATV Mud Run
- [ ] Carrick Days
- [ ] Sprague Fest
- [ ] Vassar Ball Tournament
- [ ] Vintage Snowmobile Show, Shine & Ride

Other (please specify)

12. Are there other community events that you would like to see happen in the RM of Piney?

13. Do you belong to any sports groups, leagues or associations? (volunteer, coach, participant). If so, please list them:

14. What types of leisure activities do you participate in? Feel free to check more than one.

- [ ] Curling
- [ ] Golf
- [ ] Dance
- [ ] Exercising at a Fitness Facility
- [ ] Fitness Programs
- [ ] Skating/ Hockey
- [ ] Volunteering
- [ ] Creative Arts Hobbies
- [ ] Gardening
- [ ] Bird Watching
- [ ] Swimming
- [ ] Sports/ Coaching
- [ ] Theatre/Drama
- [ ] Soccer
- [ ] Baseball
- [ ] Tennis
- [ ] Skateboarding
- [ ] Pickleball
- [ ] Continuing Education/ Self Improvement
- [ ] Walking/Hiking
- [ ] Cycling
- [ ] Snowmobiling
- [ ] Cross Country Skiing
- [ ] Fishing
- [ ] Motor boating
- [ ] Paddling
- [ ] Music

Other (please specify)

15. What are the barriers that prevent you from participating in recreation activities? Feel free to check more than one.

- [ ] Lack of time
- [ ] Don't know what's available
- [ ] Cost
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Facility accessibility
- [ ] Health
- [ ] Proximity to home
- [ ] Not interested
- [ ] Other (please specify)

Other (please specify)

16. Do you believe that users of the indoor and outdoor facilities in the RM of Piney should have to pay user fees?

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No

17. Do you believe that the current user fees are...

- ( ) Too high
- ( ) Too low
- ( ) Adequate

18. What kinds of recreational services would you like to see the see offered in the RM of Piney that are not offered now?

19. Where do you live?

- ◯ Badger
- ◯ Buffalo Point
- ◯ Carrick
- ◯ Middlebro
- ◯ Menisino
- ◯ Piney
- ◯ RM of Piney
- ◯ St. Labre
- ◯ Sandilands
- ◯ South Junction
- ◯ Sprague
- ◯ Vassar
- ◯ Wampum
- ◯ Woodridge

Other (please specify)

20. What is your age range?

- ◯ Under 18
- ◯ 18-24
- ◯ 25-34
- ◯ 35-44
- ◯ 45-54
- ◯ 55-64
- ◯ 65+

21. How long have you lived in the RM of Piney?

- ◯ Under 5 years
- ◯ 6-10 years
- ◯ 11-25 years
- ◯ Over 25 years
- ◯ Do not live in the RM of Piney

22. How many children under the age of 18 are in your household?

- ◯ 0
- ◯ 1
- ◯ 2
- ◯ 3
- ◯ 4
- ◯ 5 or more

23. Do you have any questions or comments about the RM of Piney Recreation Plan?

24. If you would like to be entered into a draw for one of three $50 Co-op gift cards please enter your name and contact information below. You information will be kept confidential and used only for the purposes of the draw.

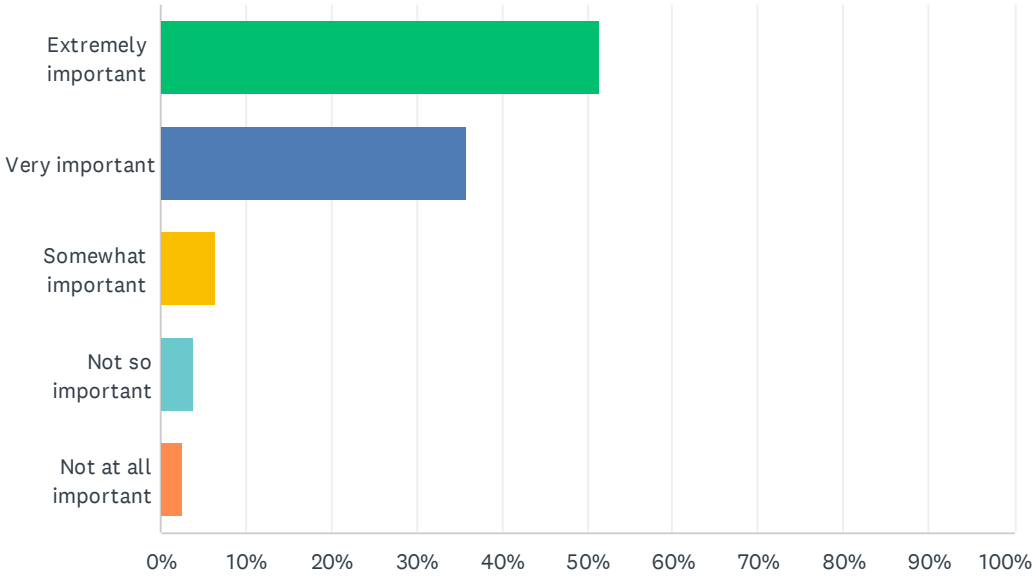
Name

Phone # or Email

Appendix E: RM of Piney Recreation Survey – Report Data

Q1 How important do feel recreation facilities and programs are to the quality of life in the RM of Piney.

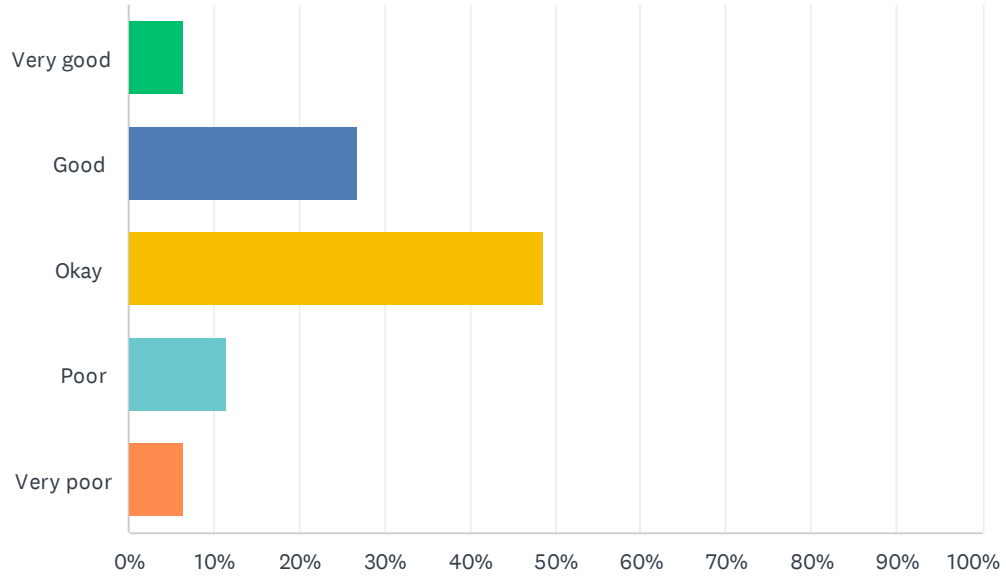
Answered: 78 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely important	51.28%	40
Very important	35.90%	28
Somewhat important	6.41%	5
Not so important	3.85%	3
Not at all important	2.56%	2
TOTAL		78

Q2 How well do you feel our existing facilities and recreation programs meet your needs?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very good	6.41%	5
Good	26.92%	21
Okay	48.72%	38
Poor	11.54%	9
Very poor	6.41%	5
TOTAL		78

Q3 Would you like to expand on your answer to question #2?

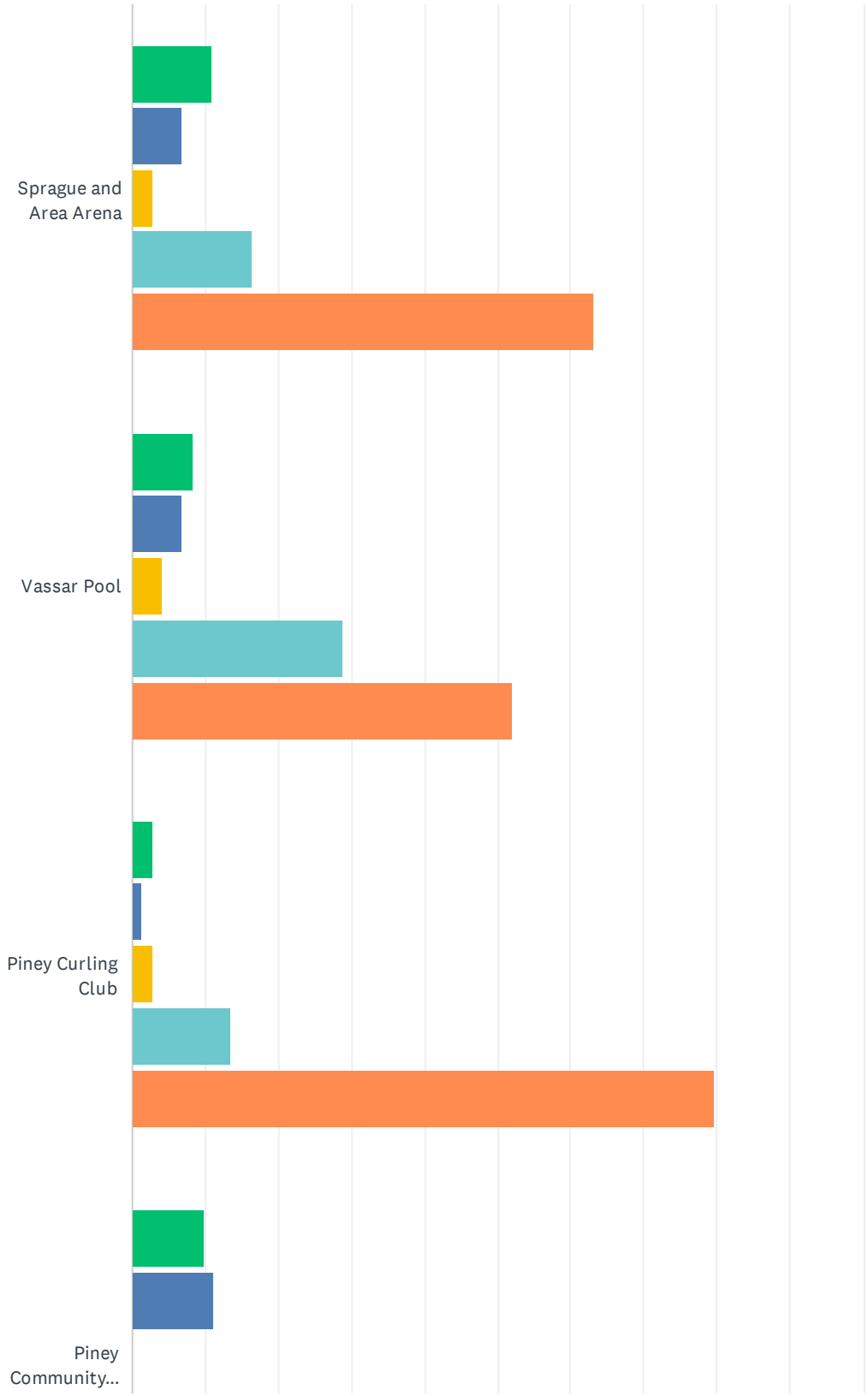
Answered: 45 Skipped: 34

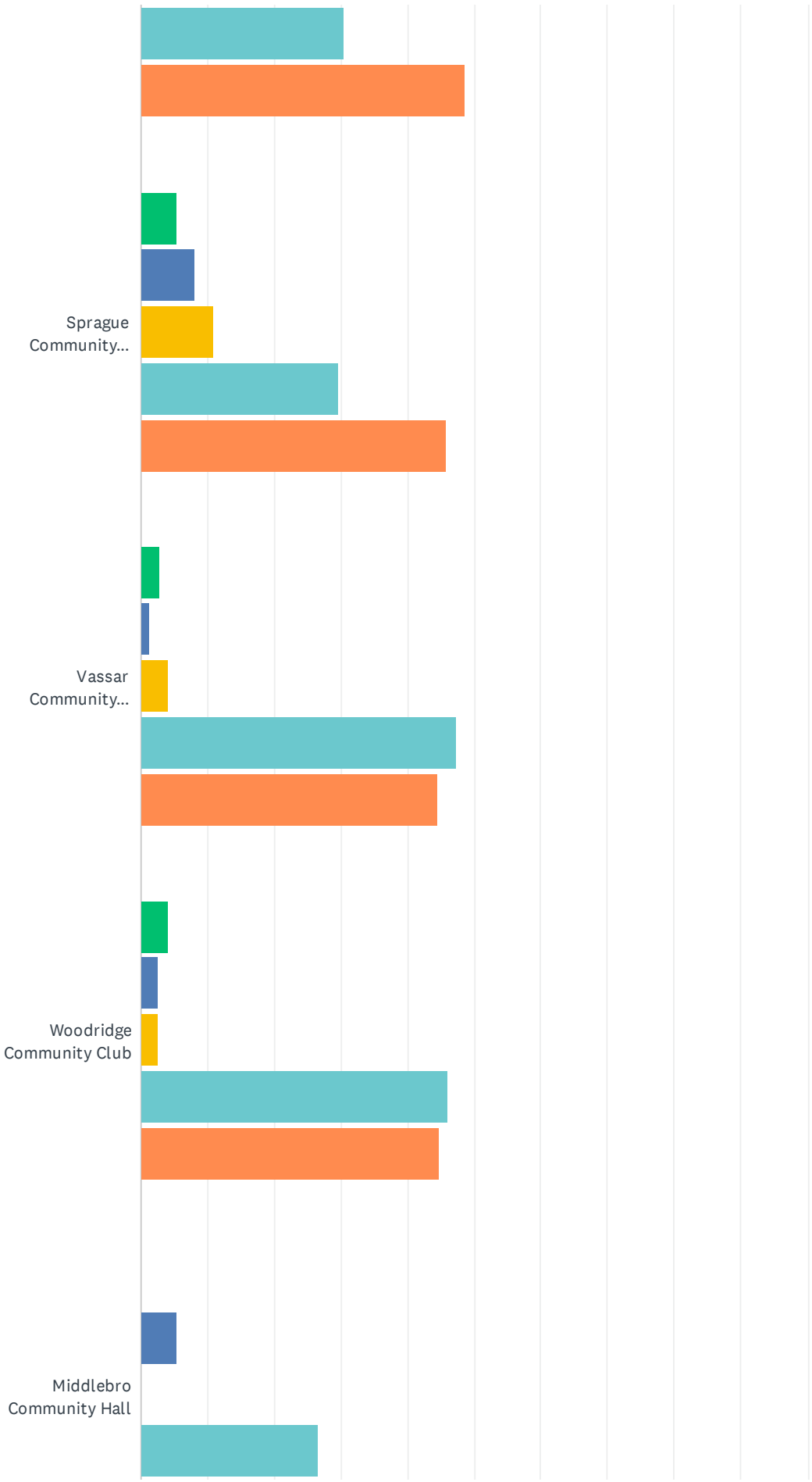
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No	4/24/2023 3:24 PM
2	Nothing available in sandilands so we do our own things. We would prefer extra money not be spent on things we won't use.	4/15/2023 11:26 AM
3	Open more hours/longer periods of time for starters	4/10/2023 10:58 AM
4	We don’t need to waste time playing. As a farmer we need to work to make a living.	4/9/2023 10:26 PM
5	I am a senior so for me they are adequate.	3/23/2023 1:50 PM
6	Would love more activities for teens and youth.	3/23/2023 11:18 AM
7	There is not enough communication of what is taking place in the different communities.	3/22/2023 6:07 PM
8	n0	2/22/2023 1:24 PM
9	Need more things for kids to do	2/19/2023 11:04 PM
10	we commute to LaBroquerie and Steinbach for lots of children activities. EG hockey, gymnastics	2/9/2023 8:17 AM
11	Vassar pool public swim hours are very limited, swim lesson times don’t work well for parents who work day jobs, no workout facilities, no ball diamonds in sprague, no safe walking or biking paths in RM, poor lighting where basketball hoops are set up, no options for skateboarding, scootering or rollerblading except on roadways - not safe for kids unattended	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
12	A greater emphasis on walking trails would be nice.	1/30/2023 6:54 AM
13	I’m older so I don’t need access to activities children would need.	1/28/2023 7:40 AM
14	Existing facilities are good. One has to expect less programs due to population	1/27/2023 6:42 PM
15	Town of Sandilands needs more grants to help with outdoor activities!	1/27/2023 6:39 PM
16	Relatively good in consideration of our resources/ population	1/27/2023 6:21 PM
17	Still more potential. RLG after 7:00.	1/27/2023 6:15 PM
18	Ceilings not high enough/ Pickleball	1/27/2023 6:06 PM
19	I am impressed with the programs we have; I would add floor hockey if possible.	1/27/2023 6:00 PM
20	do not drive so can't attend any functions	1/27/2023 12:54 PM
21	Good variety of events, festivals and programs all year round.	1/27/2023 10:01 AM
22	Alot of programming for seniors and for children.... very little activities for those in the middle. (Sports leagues, art classes, festivals etc.)	1/27/2023 7:03 AM
23	There is a need for well lit and marked NON-motorized paths that are accessible to all and multi use in every community.	1/26/2023 11:07 AM
24	A paving the 404 between Marchand and sandilands would be a great start. Putting signs up for the weekend warriors to respect the gravel roads and quit doing donuts on them would help also.	1/25/2023 3:16 PM
25	Whitemouth Lake is very under developped by way of camping faclilities and docking. It is a gem in our municipality that should be shown more attention.	1/25/2023 8:39 AM
26	It seems us in the RM of Piney are societies forgotten. The kids in school have the worst extra curricular activities i have ver seen. The manitoba snowman trail groomers are doing less and	1/24/2023 6:26 PM

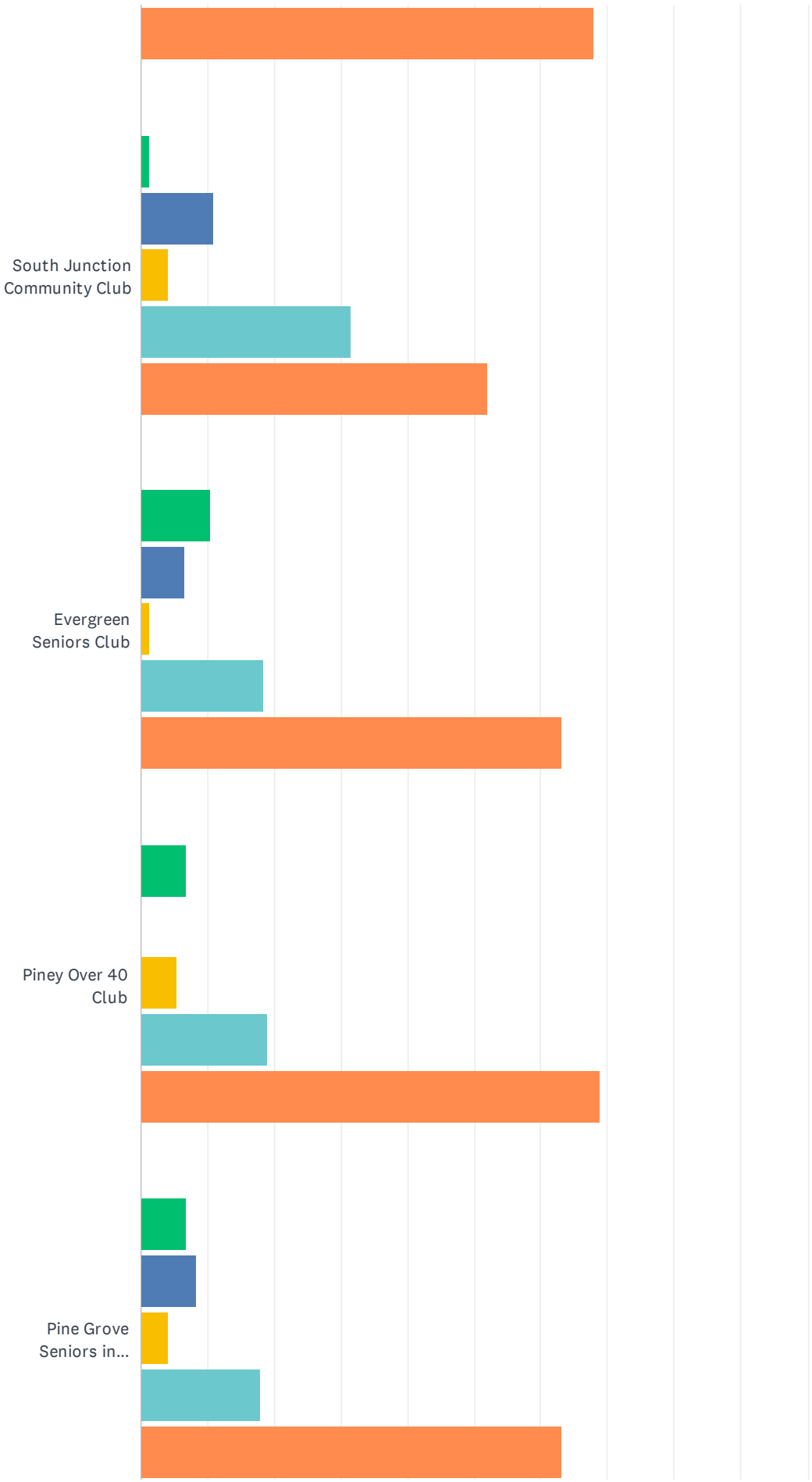
	less every year to support our local snowmobiles and focusing only on making a trail for other communities to ride to 1 location here at south junction. There has been alot of money in healthy together now grants to buy equipment such as skiis and snowshoes but no one to contact to access any of it. No local sports for any age.	
27	I find the RM is fine for our needs.	1/24/2023 1:21 PM
28	Clean, up-kept	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
29	Facility access and programming is dependent on the amenities available at that facility and the availability, expertise and enthusiasm of volunteers to program and supervise. Two very important variables. Herein lies the challenge. For more communities, volunteers are tapped out and in shorter supply. Recreation facilities in the RM are beginning to show their age and their operational costs are increasing. The time and money it takes to maintain facilities, fundraise, organize programming and events, etc. is taxing both financial and human resources. At the same time, it goes without saying that community and recreation facilities and programs are great connectors for residents. What happens at our community /recreation facilities can promote social inclusion, participation, volunteerism, personal and community well-being, and can positively impact the quality of life for residents. Most community clubs are the unifying force within a community. Just an aside . . . pools and arenas are two of the most expensive recreation infrastructures to operate/maintain and could potentially suck the life out of any operating budget. The RM has to be realistic in their expectations of what this Recreation Master Plan could recommend and hopefully in my lifetime.	1/24/2023 11:13 AM
30	There is very little for my children to do. They are homeschooled and there is nothing for them most of the year. In spring there is baseball but only one of my children like base ball. There is nothing for toddlers unless you're a stay at home parent and can take them to the stay and play at the school.	1/23/2023 9:17 AM
31	Not enough programs for senior recreation.	1/21/2023 11:20 PM
32	The current rec facilities are quite good for such a rural rm considering the size of the population.	1/9/2023 8:11 PM
33	The current rec facilities are quite good for such a rural rm considering the size of the population.	1/9/2023 8:08 PM
34	Not much to go to locally. In Woodridge the playground is falling apart and has become unsafe. And not alot of activities go on in the area or Woodridge itself for families.	1/7/2023 3:03 PM
35	I don't feel unhappy with what is available since a lot of what I like to do involves only nature, but if there were other options, I could see myself doing new or different things.	1/7/2023 8:36 AM
36	very dated facilities	1/6/2023 7:48 AM
37	Arena needs some help Need trails	1/5/2023 7:45 PM
38	Not always sure what is open when and what is available, I miss things I wanted to join	1/5/2023 6:02 PM
39	Better trail marking.	1/4/2023 8:05 AM
40	Nothing for men per say.	1/3/2023 1:06 PM
41	More can be provided for visiting or occasional visitors to our municipality.	1/3/2023 1:03 PM
42	More Xcountry ski trails, walking trails and biking trails properly groomed with shelters and toilets would be great. Also, horseback trails with areas to camp and house horses. Create wilderness campsites with running water and washrooms.	1/3/2023 11:31 AM
43	Need community involvement - seniors	1/3/2023 10:20 AM
44	I need to get in better shape and make more time to utilize the programs we have.	12/31/2022 10:34 PM
45	Need more things to do for young kids.	12/25/2022 2:33 PM

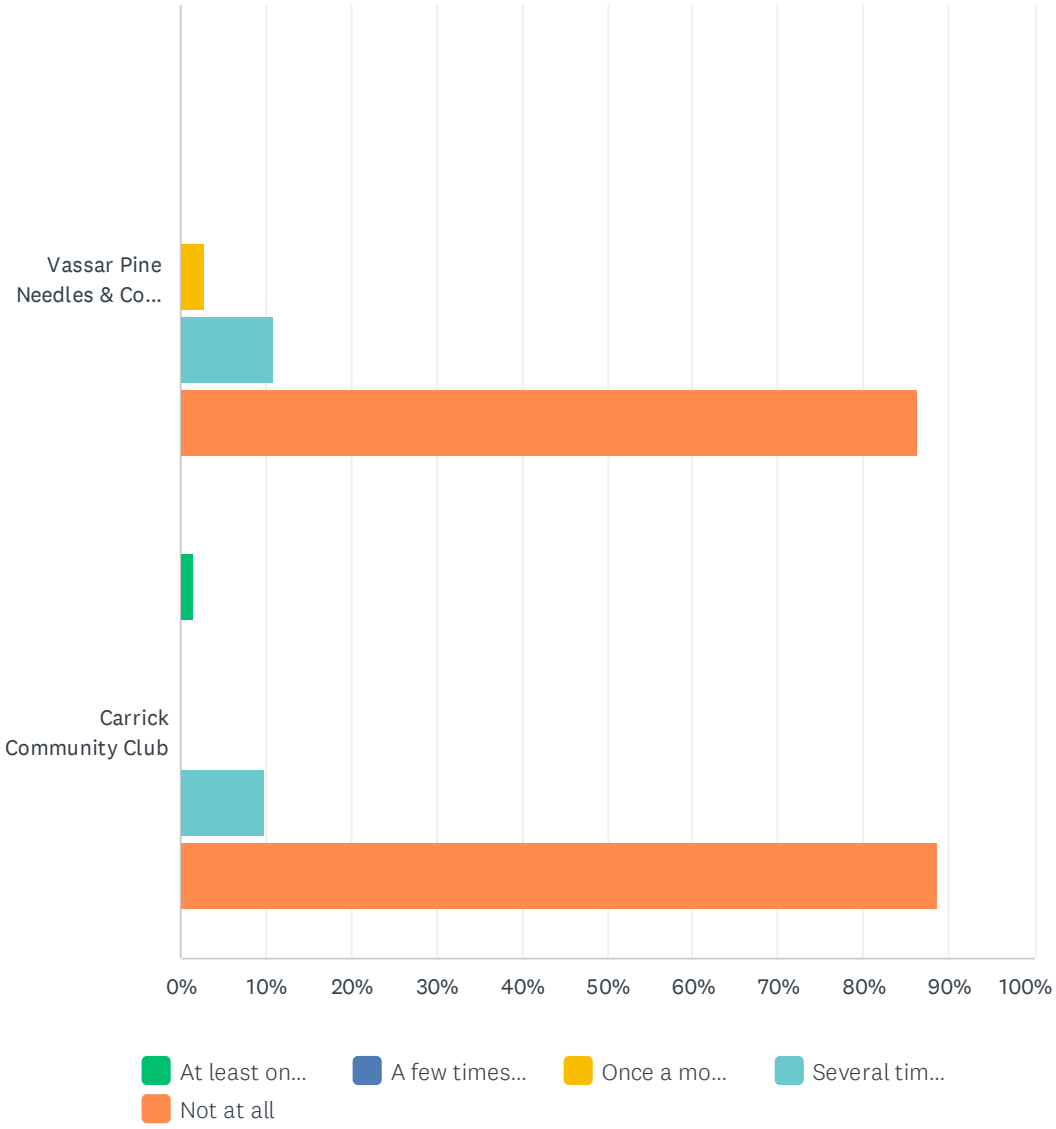
Q4 How often have you or a member of your household visited the following facilities located in the RM of Piney in the last year?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 2




Sprague Community...
Vassar Community...
Woodridge Community Club
Middlebro Community Hall


South Junction Community Club
Evergreen Seniors Club
Piney Over 40 Club
Pine Grove Seniors in...


Vassar Pine Needles & Co...
Carrick Community Club
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
At least on...
A few times...
Once a mo...
Several tim...
Not at all

	AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK	A FEW TIMES A MONTH	ONCE A MONTH	SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR	NOT AT ALL	TOTAL
Sprague and Area Arena	10.96% 8	6.85% 5	2.74% 2	16.44% 12	63.01% 46	73
Vassar Pool	8.22% 6	6.85% 5	4.11% 3	28.77% 21	52.05% 38	73
Piney Curling Club	2.70% 2	1.35% 1	2.70% 2	13.51% 10	79.73% 59	74
Piney Community Centre	9.72% 7	11.11% 8	0.00% 0	30.56% 22	48.61% 35	72
Sprague Community Centre	5.41% 4	8.11% 6	10.81% 8	29.73% 22	45.95% 34	74
Vassar Community Recreation Centre	2.70% 2	1.35% 1	4.05% 3	47.30% 35	44.59% 33	74
Woodridge Community Club	3.95% 3	2.63% 2	2.63% 2	46.05% 35	44.74% 34	76
Middlebro Community Hall	0.00% 0	5.33% 4	0.00% 0	26.67% 20	68.00% 51	75
South Junction Community Club	1.37% 1	10.96% 8	4.11% 3	31.51% 23	52.05% 38	73
Evergreen Seniors Club	10.53% 8	6.58% 5	1.32% 1	18.42% 14	63.16% 48	76
Piney Over 40 Club	6.76% 5	0.00% 0	5.41% 4	18.92% 14	68.92% 51	74
Pine Grove Seniors in South Junction	6.85% 5	8.22% 6	4.11% 3	17.81% 13	63.01% 46	73
Vassar Pine Needles & Cones Seniors Club	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	2.74% 2	10.96% 8	86.30% 63	73
Carrick Community Club	1.41% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	9.86% 7	88.73% 63	71

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Sprague & District Historical Museum	3/23/2023 1:50 PM
2	Buffalo Point - golf	3/22/2023 6:07 PM
3	We need a outdoor toilet in the RM of Piney	3/22/2023 6:03 PM
4	During community events	3/22/2023 4:40 PM
5	middlebro park 1 per month	1/27/2023 1:58 PM
6	do not drive	1/27/2023 12:54 PM
7	I use the facilities at the twisted root, support carols and the store in woodridge	1/25/2023 3:16 PM
8	Once a year	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
9	local churches	1/23/2023 11:30 AM
10	Most of the events are for over 55 and the ones that are not have drinking and that makes one of my children have anxiety attacks	1/23/2023 9:17 AM
11	Seniors Library in Middlebro	1/21/2023 11:20 PM
12	my cc ski trails	1/11/2023 7:43 PM

13	**once a week when open	12/31/2022 10:34 PM

Q5 Are there facilities that you feel are undermaintained? If so, please explain:

Answered: 40 Skipped: 39

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No. It would be better to encourage outdoor lifestyles like hiking biking and small scale farming on more types of lands.	4/24/2023 3:24 PM
2	No idea	4/15/2023 11:26 AM
3	Sprague arena, vassar park and pool	4/10/2023 10:58 AM
4	Not to my knowledge	4/9/2023 10:26 PM
5	Sprague arena, no bathroom, ice not thick enough in corners near boards.	3/25/2023 11:08 PM
6	I think they are all well maintained	3/23/2023 1:50 PM
7	clean,	3/23/2023 11:29 AM
8	No, at least not the ones I am familiar with, they are well kept and maintained.	3/23/2023 11:18 AM
9	Sprague arena could use a bathroom, better ice thickness as boards are past their prime, ice real thin at edges. Only indoor arena in r.m.	3/22/2023 11:52 PM
10	Arena	3/22/2023 9:36 PM
11	No	3/22/2023 6:16 PM
12	The problem is the facilities are old and the upkeep alone is costly.	3/22/2023 6:07 PM
13	Outdoor toilet along hwy #12 is used often but under maintained;	3/22/2023 6:03 PM
14	All community’s do a good job of maintaining there buildings	3/22/2023 4:40 PM
15	No	2/24/2023 4:18 PM
16	No	2/15/2023 10:28 AM
17	The arena needs attention but needs more volunteers that have time to commit and funds- it’s great to have the ice as an option, very sad that sprague no longer has baSeball diamonds - my kids used it often	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
18	Nope Woodridge keep their facilities very nice and are very community minded.	1/28/2023 7:40 AM
19	Sprague arena, no washrooms	1/27/2023 6:42 PM
20	Town of Sandilands needs more grants to help with outdoor activities!!!	1/27/2023 6:39 PM
21	No, all good	1/27/2023 6:28 PM
22	No	1/27/2023 6:21 PM
23	Good maintenace.	1/27/2023 6:15 PM
24	N/A	1/27/2023 6:00 PM
25	no idea	1/27/2023 12:54 PM
26	Roads to Whitemouth lake are in terrible condition	1/26/2023 6:56 AM
27	Pave the 404. There is no playground in the sandilands park or basketball court.	1/25/2023 3:16 PM
28	not that we know of	1/25/2023 8:39 AM
29	All maintained with the budget they have	1/24/2023 12:02 PM

30	I don't believe there is any facility in the RM of Piney that is operating to its fullest capacity. It takes time, money, human resources (i.e. volunteers), innovation, etc. . . . of which is in short supply. And of those like myself who are very active in my respective community as a volunteer, we are getting tired and frustrated.	1/24/2023 11:13 AM
31	Not undermaintained per se as the arena committee has made such progress with the building. However, there are needs within the facility that would make it more of a place to be able to socialize and bring the kids etc.	1/11/2023 9:02 PM
32	no	1/11/2023 7:43 PM
33	Not necessarily under maintained but under utilized by people. We need to use what's out there or lose it.	1/9/2023 8:11 PM
34	Not necessarily under maintained but under utilized by people. We need to use what's out there or lose it.	1/9/2023 8:08 PM
35	The playground in Woodridge the boards are rotting and the baby swing isn't proper a child falls through.	1/7/2023 3:03 PM
36	Woodridge Community Centre	1/3/2023 9:28 PM
37	Woodridge	1/3/2023 1:06 PM
38	All facilities need annual maintenance but overall the places I frequent are very decent.	1/3/2023 11:31 AM
39	All facilities are maintained to the best of the ability of their volunteers.	12/31/2022 10:34 PM
40	The washrooms In Piney hall haven’t been updated in 40 years. Vassar pool gold course needs updating.	12/25/2022 2:33 PM

Q6 Are there facilities that you would like to see upgraded or expanded? If so, please explain:

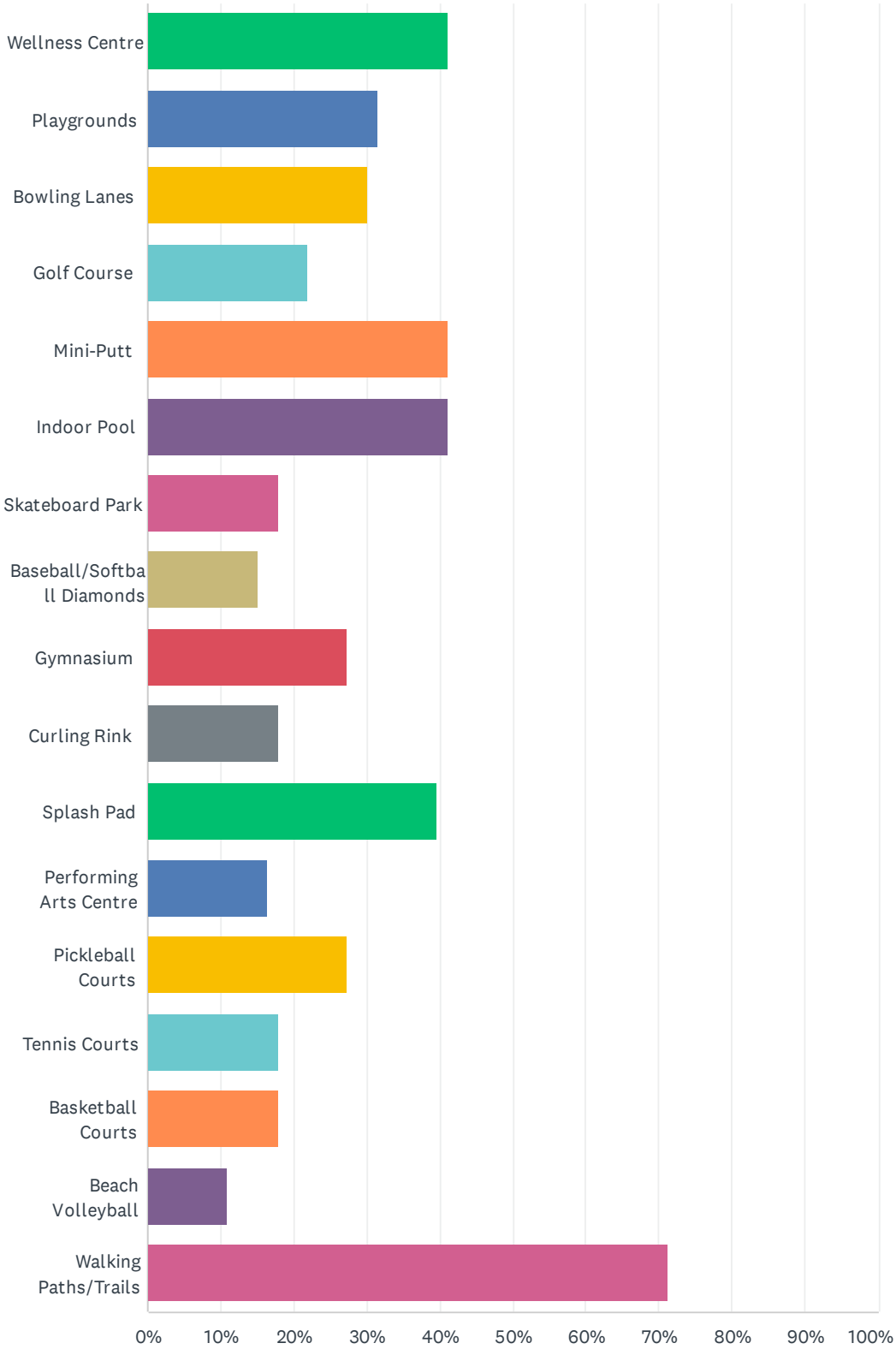
Answered: 37 Skipped: 42

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No	4/24/2023 3:24 PM
2	None	4/15/2023 11:26 AM
3	No	4/9/2023 10:26 PM
4	Sprague arena, see above	3/25/2023 11:08 PM
5	The Sprague museum is one facility that will continue to expand. The Sprague arena should look to add a curling lane where the seats are.	3/23/2023 1:50 PM
6	The rest stop on #12 hwg are always full,smelly to the point everyone begins to go behind a tree.	3/23/2023 11:29 AM
7	I would love to see more outdoor activities for youth at the Vassar Park. The old mini-golf course at the park would be nice to see upgraded.	3/23/2023 11:18 AM
8	Sprague arena should have a heated washroom. Field in front of arena would make perfect walking track area.	3/22/2023 11:52 PM
9	Arena	3/22/2023 9:36 PM
10	The community needs walking trails.	3/22/2023 6:07 PM
11	Piney Community Center needs a floor upgrade	3/22/2023 4:40 PM
12	No	2/24/2023 4:18 PM
13	Woodridge rink	2/15/2023 10:28 AM
14	Would love for the arena more functional, not enough volunteers with time to maintain the winter slide there, would love to see the area where the baseball diamonds were in sprague made into a skate park or walking paths or something useful, expanded swimming lesson times to evening options for working parents to attend with their kids, vassar baseball has limited parents willing to help coach- can't have teams without coaches , would be great if some of the local halls or seniors area could support youth drop in nights for games etc ,	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
15	I love hearing the snowmobiles and quads. If we could expand those and keep them respectful. I go in the bush myself and love it!	1/28/2023 7:40 AM
16	-Walking at the school -heater for pool at Vassar -Water temperature is too cold for older people to use often	1/27/2023 6:42 PM
17	Sandilands park area!	1/27/2023 6:39 PM
18	Would like to raise the ceiling in Piney, if cost effective.	1/27/2023 6:00 PM
19	A gym in the area would be nice to have.	1/27/2023 4:22 PM
20	no idea	1/27/2023 12:54 PM
21	Vassar pool to have a new change house with proper water drainage for showers etc.	1/27/2023 7:03 AM
22	I believe Whitemouth lake could be a thriving fishing location if access was better	1/26/2023 6:56 AM
23	Sandilands park could have a playground, basketball court, pickle ball court combo and a water well for the summer. It's only $7000 to set up a well, mountain bike trails.	1/25/2023 3:16 PM
24	Whitemouth Lake needs a campground. Maitenance of the Whitemouth Lake Road to there is also a must.	1/25/2023 8:39 AM

25	Woodridge Hall and fields, ODR	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
26	I believe upgrading is a constant in most communities . . . to make sure facilities are safe, efficient and meet the needs of community members. Not sure if you can make a strong enough case to expand any facility . . . because typically if you are expanding a facility, you are also seeing growth in a community. The RM Council and Administration commitment to recreation is also important part of the equation . . . and aside from this newest venture in developing a Recreation Master Plan . . . have not done enough to promote and support recreation as an essential service. If we were looking at new or expanded facilities, the RM of Piney as a whole needs to be realistic. We do not have the ratepayers/population to support such a notion and the geographically . . . would I travel extensively to access facilities outside of my community . .. it would depend but probably not.	1/24/2023 11:13 AM
27	indoor swimming pool, hot tub, bowling alley	1/23/2023 11:30 AM
28	Sprague Area and Arena could use more upgrades like washroom facilities...	1/18/2023 3:08 PM
29	I would love to see the Sprague Arena upgraded and money put towards maintaining the arena. The youth in the area are needing more winter recreation to participate in. The board of the area has put so much work into maintaining how it is now and making it a place that can be utilized comfortably but it would be great to see it start to become more of a meeting place outside of just using the rink in the winter. A concrete pad perhaps would allow it to be used all year long.	1/11/2023 9:02 PM
30	Play ground expanded or at least upgraded. Chain link around the ice rink to help keep pucks in rink for safety on vehicles parked near by. In the Woodridge community.	1/7/2023 3:03 PM
31	Vassar Pool had a mini golf area that could be revitalized	1/7/2023 8:36 AM
32	the park woodreige	1/6/2023 7:48 AM
33	vassar needs to be able to do more physical exercise activities	1/5/2023 6:02 PM
34	Woodridge	1/3/2023 9:28 PM
35	Woodridge outdoor rink - the walls are deteriorating	1/3/2023 9:15 AM
36	Vassar Pool - add a splash park and upgrade the Vassar playground -Bring in beach sand and upgrade the Vassar Beach Volleyball -Fix the mini-golf course at Vassar and expand to include some upgraded camping sites. -flushing toilets at Vassar Park/Ball Diamonds Bathrooms at Sprague arena and toboggan hill	12/31/2022 10:34 PM
37	The washrooms In Piney hall haven't been updated in 40 years. Vassar pool golf course is a complete joke. Needs to be updated.	12/25/2022 2:33 PM

Q7 If money were no object, what types of new or expanded facilities or recreational amenities would you like to see in the RM of Piney? Feel free to check more than one.

Answered: 73 Skipped: 6


Wellness Centre
Playgrounds
Bowling Lanes
Golf Course
Mini-Putt
Indoor Pool
Skateboard Park
Baseball/Softball Diamonds
Gymnasium
Curling Rink
Splash Pad
Performing Arts Centre
Pickleball Courts
Tennis Courts
Basketball Courts
Beach Volleyball
Walking Paths/Trails
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Wellness Centre	41.10%	30
Playgrounds	31.51%	23
Bowling Lanes	30.14%	22
Golf Course	21.92%	16
Mini-Putt	41.10%	30
Indoor Pool	41.10%	30
Skateboard Park	17.81%	13
Baseball/Softball Diamonds	15.07%	11
Gymnasium	27.40%	20
Curling Rink	17.81%	13
Splash Pad	39.73%	29
Performing Arts Centre	16.44%	12
Pickleball Courts	27.40%	20
Tennis Courts	17.81%	13
Basketball Courts	17.81%	13
Beach Volleyball	10.96%	8
Walking Paths/Trails	71.23%	52
Total Respondents: 73		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Art gallery , pool hall	4/9/2023 10:26 PM
2	Shooting range	3/25/2023 11:08 PM
3	LIke I said above, the Sprague Arena is not used much and if part of the arena could be used for curling yu would have more people curling and the school could use it as well	3/23/2023 1:50 PM
4	camping pads for people to park their units over night.	3/23/2023 11:29 AM
5	Would love to see a shooting range.	3/22/2023 11:52 PM
6	camping facilities needed	3/22/2023 6:03 PM
7	Fitness centre with showers, hot tub, sauna	2/25/2023 4:16 PM
8	Indoor roller blading - if the arena had concrete flooring for off season use !!	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
9	Cross country ski trails	1/27/2023 6:15 PM
10	Gym with weights and machines.	1/27/2023 4:22 PM
11	Campgrounds/seasonal RV parks	1/27/2023 10:01 AM
12	picnic areas	1/26/2023 5:03 PM
13	Cross country ski trails	1/26/2023 11:07 AM
14	Paved roads. Mountain bike trails would attract a new group of tourists.	1/25/2023 3:16 PM
15	Nature programs.	1/24/2023 1:21 PM

16	Outdoor rink	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
17	Soccer and other programs toddlers could do	1/23/2023 9:17 AM
18	A place to rollerblade for the youth and adults in the area.	1/11/2023 9:02 PM
19	Maker space for new Chamber equipment	1/7/2023 8:36 AM
20	outdoor skating loop/trail	1/5/2023 6:02 PM
21	Snowshoe trails. X-country ski trails	1/4/2023 8:05 AM
22	See prior comments.	1/3/2023 11:31 AM

Q8 Knowing that funding is always an important consideration in municipal planning, what do you think the top priority(s) should be in terms of facility maintenance, expansion, or construction?

Answered: 48 Skipped: 31

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Minimal development. Encourage enabling people towards producing their own food on a small scale	4/24/2023 3:24 PM
2	Sandilands	4/15/2023 11:26 AM
3	Expansion	4/10/2023 10:58 AM
4	Construction	3/25/2023 11:08 PM
5	It depends where you are in the municipality	3/23/2023 1:50 PM
6	Construction	3/22/2023 11:52 PM
7	Walking/recreation trails	3/22/2023 9:36 PM
8	The upkeep of the current facilities is the most important. It will cost a lot to build new facilities and the ones we have now are not used to capacity.	3/22/2023 6:07 PM
9	Yrs. ago Sprague had a curling rink which most of us enjoyed but the bldg. was not maintained due to lack of funds & sadly was eventually demolished	3/22/2023 6:03 PM
10	Each community should be responsible facility maintenance	3/22/2023 4:40 PM
11	Arena needs washrooms, more programs like pickleball and Archery in Piney, indoor pool would be amazing with water aerobics	2/25/2023 4:16 PM
12	Maintenance	2/24/2023 4:18 PM
13	Something for kids	2/19/2023 11:04 PM
14	New Construction is important as everything is aged	2/15/2023 10:28 AM
15	Construction of splash pad	2/9/2023 8:17 AM
16	We need to keep each community hall functioning and expand on their usages- vassar and woodridge are starting to do more which is great ! We need safe places for our youth to retreat to.	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
17	On going maintenance of existing facilities and construction of new venues	1/27/2023 6:42 PM
18	Walking trails	1/27/2023 6:28 PM
19	Walking paths	1/27/2023 6:21 PM
20	Existing facilities keep going	1/27/2023 6:15 PM
21	Unsure.	1/27/2023 6:00 PM
22	how well the and often facility will be used	1/27/2023 1:58 PM
23	transportation	1/27/2023 12:54 PM
24	Seek to rent out existing facilities more often to help cover maintenance costs, pay for expansions. Find new ways to use existing facilities that sit empty the majority of the time.	1/27/2023 10:01 AM
25	A multi use indoor sports complex with a gym weight room and pool. Recreation for the whole family. This would allow space for other events in the gym space. The pool would help seniors and others who travel to ysa schools for their facilities.	1/27/2023 7:03 AM

26	Multi use buildings or areas	1/26/2023 8:03 PM
27	Multi use, non motorized paths maintained year round in every community.	1/26/2023 11:07 AM
28	Upkeep to existing infrastructure	1/26/2023 6:56 AM
29	Paved roads. No one likes to beat there cars on gravel roads.	1/25/2023 3:16 PM
30	Road maintenance, more ATV trails in the forests.	1/25/2023 8:39 AM
31	Upgrades and maintenance	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
32	Inject some serious cash into upgrading current facilities including equipment. I am hard pressed to make a strong case (as there is no evidence) or justify for expanded or new construction. Regrettably Council has not demonstrated a strong desire to make this kind of significant investment in the past.	1/24/2023 11:13 AM
33	Things for children not just 55+ and school aged. The Rm says they want families moving in but there is really nothing for families with young children in the rm	1/23/2023 9:17 AM
34	Facilities for younger people to give them things to do to keep them in the community. I feel like the facilities for Seniors are quite updated and they can receive other grants.	1/18/2023 3:08 PM
35	Specific buildings that work for the youth and for the seniors.	1/11/2023 9:02 PM
36	keep up with what we have	1/11/2023 7:43 PM
37	Ball diamonds and parks	1/9/2023 8:11 PM
38	Ball diamonds and parks	1/9/2023 8:08 PM
39	A place where young families can go or even older children can go to get out of the house more regularly without having to drive a distance. I think having a more up to date park would be excellent on bringing the community together at different age groups. Where you can bring toddlers or older children to have fun and meet others. And if outdoor events happen there is a place that can keep a community full of children entertained. Even the community center was quite tight with the craft sale in Woodridge. If there was a way to expand the community center to allow more space that in turn when an event isn't happening we could have an area to have kid fun days at least once a month.	1/7/2023 3:03 PM
40	Walking paths/trails	1/7/2023 8:36 AM
41	Multipurpose Have a team to facilitate and market full use of building	1/5/2023 7:45 PM
42	construction to updated standards and technology; need a common meeting place	1/5/2023 6:02 PM
43	Bathrooms	1/4/2023 8:33 AM
44	Community Centres	1/3/2023 1:03 PM
45	External washrooms at playgrounds and areas that are not always open with running water.	1/3/2023 11:31 AM
46	Wellness centre	1/3/2023 10:20 AM
47	Ensure that existing facilities have the funds and volunteer base to continue to exist. Ensure that new facilities are built close to existing facilities. New facilities can not cause existing facilities to become obsolete and unused.	12/31/2022 10:34 PM
48	Playgrounds, and building a bowling lane.	12/25/2022 2:33 PM

Q9 Which recreation programs offered within the RM of Piney have you participated in during the last 12 months?

Answered: 53 Skipped: 26

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Woodridge plant identifying walk	4/24/2023 3:24 PM
2	None	4/15/2023 11:26 AM
3	Pool	4/10/2023 10:58 AM
4	We utilized the community centres for Christmas dinner at piney and at Vassar	4/9/2023 10:26 PM
5	Archery in piney, skating in Sprague arena, Sprague seniors game days	3/25/2023 11:08 PM
6	I have attended numerous depending on the event.	3/23/2023 1:50 PM
7	market gardening,craft sales, museum maintenance (grounds), bingo, suppers and charitable events	3/23/2023 11:29 AM
8	Vassar Pool, Geocaching throughout the RM, Farmers Markets, Bingo, Skiing, Community Fundraisers	3/23/2023 11:18 AM
9	Piney archery night, Sprague arena skating and vassal pool.	3/22/2023 11:52 PM
10	Pickleball, Exercise program, linedancing, Aquacise	3/22/2023 9:36 PM
11	Pickleball	3/22/2023 6:16 PM
12	Seniors meals programs, bingo, holiday events and festivals, social gatherings	3/22/2023 6:07 PM
13	Bingo 4X each month, Senior Meal Program once or twice each week, Mother's Day tea & Christmas Craft & Bake Sale in Piney, Southeast Farmer's Market, Middlebro Poker Derby, Fall Suppers in Piney & Middlebro	3/22/2023 6:03 PM
14	Crib and flooring curling	3/22/2023 4:40 PM
15	Baseball, pool, activities at various halls.	3/7/2023 5:33 PM
16	Pickle ball, handbells, crib night, karaoke, senior socials, bingo, choir	2/25/2023 4:16 PM
17	None	2/24/2023 4:18 PM
18	None	2/15/2023 10:28 AM
19	Vassar minor baseball, frequent use of the arena, kids practice basketball, kids used vassar pool only on the weekend of their slow pitch tournament	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
20	Family tournament	1/30/2023 6:54 AM
21	Exercise at Woodridge CC and exercising at Vassar pool this summer	1/28/2023 7:40 AM
22	-Senior programs in Sprague + south junction -Camping at Moose lake + Birch point -Archery in Piney -Swimming in Vassar at pool	1/27/2023 6:42 PM
23	Bingo, Sprague seniors and S. junction seniors	1/27/2023 6:28 PM
24	Curling, Pickleball	1/27/2023 6:21 PM
25	Piney Pickleball, Piney curling, Vassar pool lap swim	1/27/2023 6:15 PM
26	Pickleball, floor curling, bingo, cribbage	1/27/2023 6:06 PM
27	Pickle ball, karaoke, floor curling, cribbage, bingo	1/27/2023 6:00 PM
28	none----no way to get there	1/27/2023 12:54 PM

29	Not sure these are considered recreation: fall suppers, summer festivals, craft shows, farmer's market	1/27/2023 10:01 AM
30	Sprague and District Historical Museum	1/27/2023 9:44 AM
31	Community christmas choir Stay and play	1/27/2023 7:03 AM
32	floor curling	1/26/2023 5:03 PM
33	Lap swim, swim lessons, Commit to get Fit, Pickleball	1/26/2023 11:07 AM
34	Cross-country skiing	1/26/2023 6:56 AM
35	1	1/25/2023 8:39 AM
36	Snowmobiling	1/24/2023 6:26 PM
37	None	1/24/2023 1:21 PM
38	Fall suppers, vintage ride, community gatherings	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
39	Senior Congregate Meal Program, special events (i.e. Fall Suppers, Carrick Days, Birds of a Feather, Flock Together), Commit to Get Fit exercise classes, Ladies Paint Night, nature workshops, Spring Break Open House.	1/24/2023 11:13 AM
40	Archery Bingo	1/23/2023 9:17 AM
41	None because of Covid	1/18/2023 3:08 PM
42	We have utilized the Srpaue arena 90% of the time that it is open.	1/11/2023 9:02 PM
43	archery curling cc skiing swimming kite flying	1/11/2023 7:43 PM
44	None yet, just built a new house and moved here in November.	1/9/2023 8:11 PM
45	None yet, just built a new house and moved here in November.	1/9/2023 8:08 PM
46	None	1/5/2023 7:45 PM
47	pickleball, aquasize at Vassar pool	1/5/2023 6:02 PM
48	None	1/4/2023 8:33 AM
49	Seniors supper	1/3/2023 1:06 PM
50	Curling, picketball, archery, MudRun and ATV derby.	1/3/2023 11:31 AM
51	None	1/3/2023 9:15 AM
52	me -aqua size at Vassar Pool whole family - swimming at Vassar Pool me /daughter -line dancing at Vassar Hall whole family - skating at Sprague rink whole family - Vassar Minor Baseball as a organizer me and son - Vassar Summer Camp and swimming lessons as a coordinator whole family -Played pickle ball/basketball at Vassar park	12/31/2022 10:34 PM
53	None of them.	12/25/2022 2:33 PM

Q10 What other recreation programs would you like to see offered within the RM of Piney?

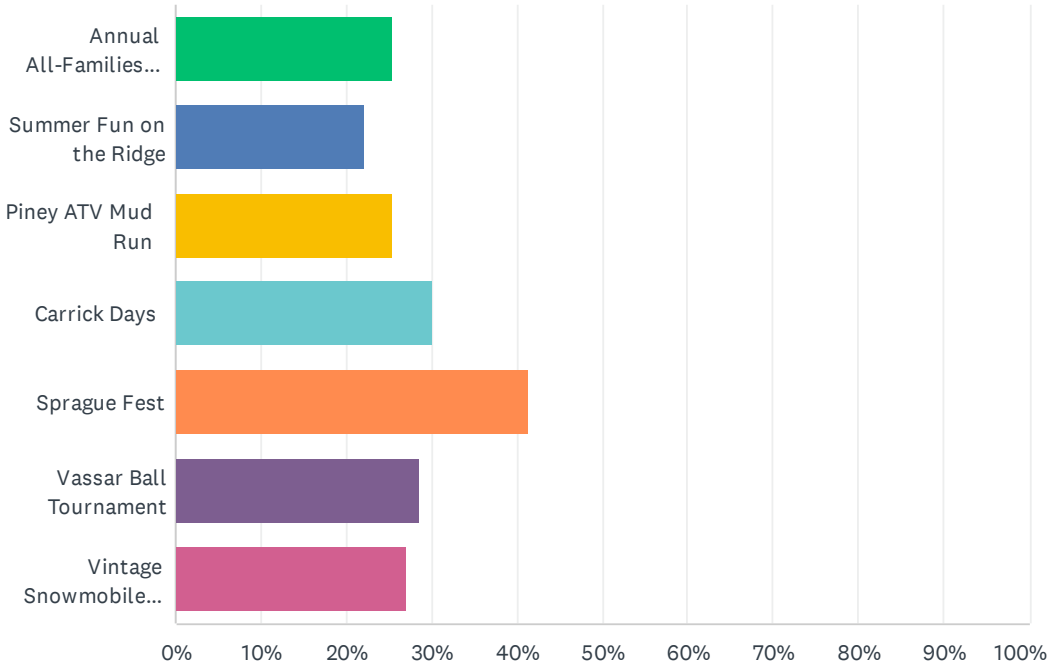
Answered: 35 Skipped: 44

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	None	4/24/2023 3:24 PM
2	None	4/15/2023 11:26 AM
3	Pickle ball courts, gun shooting range	3/25/2023 11:08 PM
4	walking path	3/23/2023 11:29 AM
5	Would love to see soccer or even a chess group.	3/23/2023 11:18 AM
6	Pickle ball courts	3/22/2023 11:52 PM
7	Cross country ski trails	3/22/2023 6:16 PM
8	Walking trails could be used by both the old and the young.	3/22/2023 6:07 PM
9	Theatre, musical theater, art programs, choir,	2/25/2023 4:16 PM
10	None	2/24/2023 4:18 PM
11	Hockey	2/15/2023 10:28 AM
12	Walking clubs, hiking clubs, yoga in one of the halls, family game nights	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
13	It’s always good to create something that will draw the outsiders, etc. the many people and go to Sandilands to hike is unreal. Perhaps a hiking trail within various areas of the RM, like loops?? Not sure just throwing that out there??	1/28/2023 7:40 AM
14	Pickleball courts	1/27/2023 6:42 PM
15	Cross country ski	1/27/2023 6:15 PM
16	Floor hockey.	1/27/2023 6:00 PM
17	More creative and artistic pursuits: live music concerts, paint nights, learn to knit, use a Cricut machine or 3D printer, print your own design on a t-shirt or mug	1/27/2023 10:01 AM
18	Gym nights, art classes, workout classes (zumba, step etc.)	1/27/2023 7:03 AM
19	corn hole games, ladder golf, etc.	1/26/2023 5:03 PM
20	Cross country ski trails and lessons/ club	1/26/2023 11:07 AM
21	Baseball tournaments	1/26/2023 6:56 AM
22	Mountain bike trails	1/25/2023 3:16 PM
23	Events such as a music festival, dances.	1/25/2023 8:39 AM
24	Horse riding, dog classes, culinary classes	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
25	Self awareness workshops or classes (i.e. first aid training, cooking classes, learn to line dance, etc.), games evening (i.e. billiards, cribbage), family fun days, walking club, art & craft classes	1/24/2023 11:13 AM
26	a volks march orenteering perment course	1/11/2023 7:43 PM
27	Some form of outdoor festivities for families and friends during Louie Riel day weekend.	1/9/2023 8:11 PM
28	Some form of outdoor festivities for families and friends during Louie Riel day weekend.	1/9/2023 8:08 PM
29	Evening or weekend classes/clubs - a few different series of 3-4 classes on a specific topic	1/7/2023 8:36 AM

	that you could sign up for - ie. cooking, crafting (ie scrapbooking, card making), painting etc	
30	Boy Scouts for kids or outdoor kids groups	1/5/2023 7:45 PM
31	indoor pickleball, instructor led circuit training, yoga, drumming group	1/5/2023 6:02 PM
32	See earlier comments. They will all encourage exercise and appreciation for nature.	1/3/2023 11:31 AM
33	Seniors volleyball Cross country ski trails Hiking trails	1/3/2023 10:20 AM
34	This year we have more senior programming which is great. We offer some youth programing through the school - there could still be more programming at this level. But there is very little programming for 20 - 45 year olds. There could also be some after school or spring break programs for youths.	12/31/2022 10:34 PM
35	Not sure.	12/25/2022 2:33 PM

Q11 What community events have you attended in the last 12 months? Feel free to check more than one.

Answered: 63 Skipped: 16



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Annual All-Families Slo-Pitch Tournament	25.40%	16
Summer Fun on the Ridge	22.22%	14
Piney ATV Mud Run	25.40%	16
Carrick Days	30.16%	19
Sprague Fest	41.27%	26
Vassar Ball Tournament	28.57%	18
Vintage Snowmobile Show, Shine & Ride	26.98%	17
Total Respondents: 63		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Firemen’s breakfast, st junction July 1, pot luck dinners	3/25/2023 11:08 PM
2	South Junction Canada Day Celebration	3/23/2023 11:18 AM
3	Sprague fire hall dinners, south junction july1 celebration	3/22/2023 11:52 PM
4	Canada Day celebrations, Vassar Poker Derby, Farmers Market	3/22/2023 9:36 PM
5	bingo, fitness classes	3/22/2023 6:07 PM
6	Canada Day Celebration in S.Jct.	3/7/2023 5:33 PM

7	StLabre200	2/9/2023 8:17 AM
8	I try and support local fundraisers, Middlebro had a family fun day and pots and pans game, normally would have went to SJ family tournament but had a scheduling conflict , SJ July 1st	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
9	Meet your neighbours S. J.	1/30/2023 6:54 AM
10	Senior days in Sprague + South junction/ July 1st at South Junction	1/27/2023 6:42 PM
11	Fall supper	1/27/2023 6:21 PM
12	middlebro fall supper poker derby south junction market	1/27/2023 1:58 PM
13	Sunday for Carrick days as someone picked me up	1/27/2023 12:54 PM
14	South Junction Canada Day, Vassar Fall Supper, Sprague Museum Spring Picnic and Fall Concert, St-Labre 200, Woodridge Car Show	1/27/2023 10:01 AM
15	Vassar's christmas celebration community christmas program sprague	1/27/2023 7:03 AM
16	Woodridge show & shine cars	1/26/2023 5:03 PM
17	South Junction Canada Day Celebrations	1/26/2023 11:07 AM
18	Dances at the Woodridge Community Centre	1/25/2023 8:39 AM
19	Woodridge christmas Sale and Fall supper	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
20	Woodridge Fall Supper. Fall suppers should have been included on this list. The Vintage Snowmobile Ride is back in 2023. This event among many others have only resumed after a two year absence due to COVID and public health orders.	1/24/2023 11:13 AM
21	Fall suppers	1/23/2023 11:30 AM
22	Middlebro Park event	1/21/2023 11:20 PM
23	kite carnavel	1/11/2023 7:43 PM
24	None so far as we just moved but intend to participate often going forward.	1/9/2023 8:11 PM
25	None so far as we just moved but intend to participate often going forward.	1/9/2023 8:08 PM
26	Woodridge Car Show, St Lab 200, Woodridge craft show	1/7/2023 3:03 PM
27	Woodridge Car Show, Woodridge craft show,	1/7/2023 8:36 AM
28	Halloween dance Sprague	1/5/2023 7:45 PM
29	Vassar Supper, Woodridge birding, Woodridge with Laura Reeves	1/5/2023 6:02 PM
30	Curling	1/3/2023 11:31 AM
31	we usually attend the family slo-pitch tourney and Sprague fest	12/31/2022 10:34 PM
32	South junction Canada Day	12/25/2022 2:33 PM

Q12 Are there other community events that you would like to see happen in the RM of Piney?

Answered: 25 Skipped: 54

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No	4/24/2023 3:24 PM
2	No	4/15/2023 11:26 AM
3	Fishing derby’s	3/22/2023 11:52 PM
4	We need more sports programs for new families. Right now, there are no opportunities for new families with kids.	3/22/2023 6:07 PM
5	No	2/15/2023 10:28 AM
6	Winter fests of some sort,	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
7	R.M fishing tournament	1/27/2023 6:42 PM
8	Yes more in Sandilands!! We pay taxes & get nothing!	1/27/2023 6:39 PM
9	Music festivals	1/27/2023 6:21 PM
10	Town festival for Piney.	1/27/2023 6:00 PM
11	transportation---handy van???	1/27/2023 12:54 PM
12	Live music concerts that aren't necessarily part of a bigger festival	1/27/2023 10:01 AM
13	Old time barn dance	1/26/2023 6:56 AM
14	All community events are great they bring the people together	1/25/2023 3:16 PM
15	Music Festival	1/25/2023 8:39 AM
16	Yes	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
17	None come to mind at this time	1/24/2023 11:13 AM
18	indoor swimming pool for everyone, hot tubs, bowling	1/23/2023 11:30 AM
19	triatolon for youth	1/11/2023 7:43 PM
20	I listed outdoor activities for the Louie Reil long weekend.	1/9/2023 8:08 PM
21	Monthly kid activity days, or socials for adults to get together,	1/7/2023 3:03 PM
22	Live music	1/7/2023 8:36 AM
23	more events in the summer	1/6/2023 7:48 AM
24	Gardening Club, cross country ski lessons,Identification of wild plants & mushrooms, Seasonal adult crafts ie wreath making, Sewing club	1/5/2023 6:02 PM
25	Bring back the Piney blue berry festival. Have a chase the ace in Piney once a week, serve beer and chicken wings during chase the ace.	12/25/2022 2:33 PM

Q13 Do you belong to any sports groups, leagues or associations? (volunteer, coach, participant). If so, please list them:

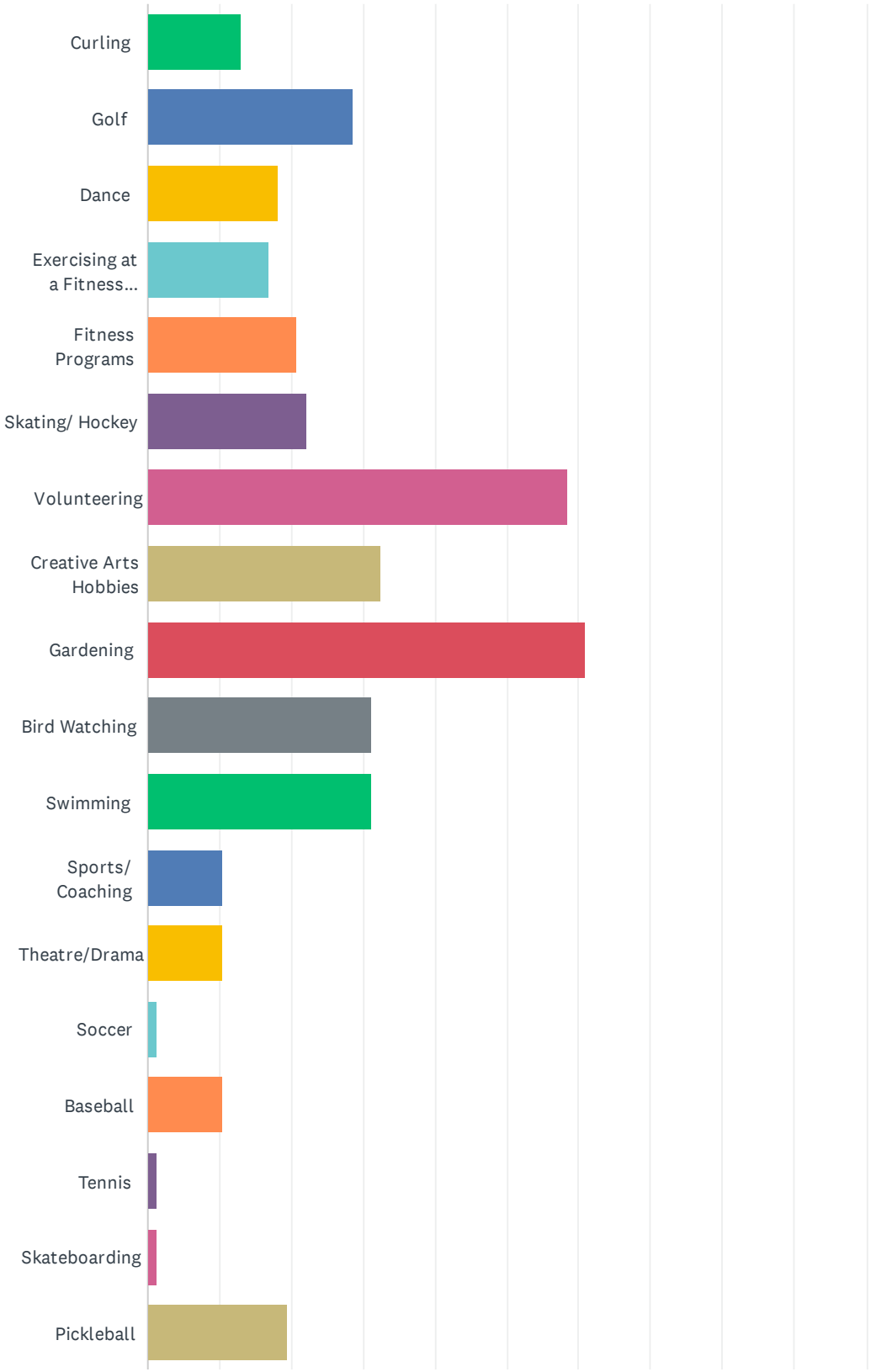
Answered: 40 Skipped: 39

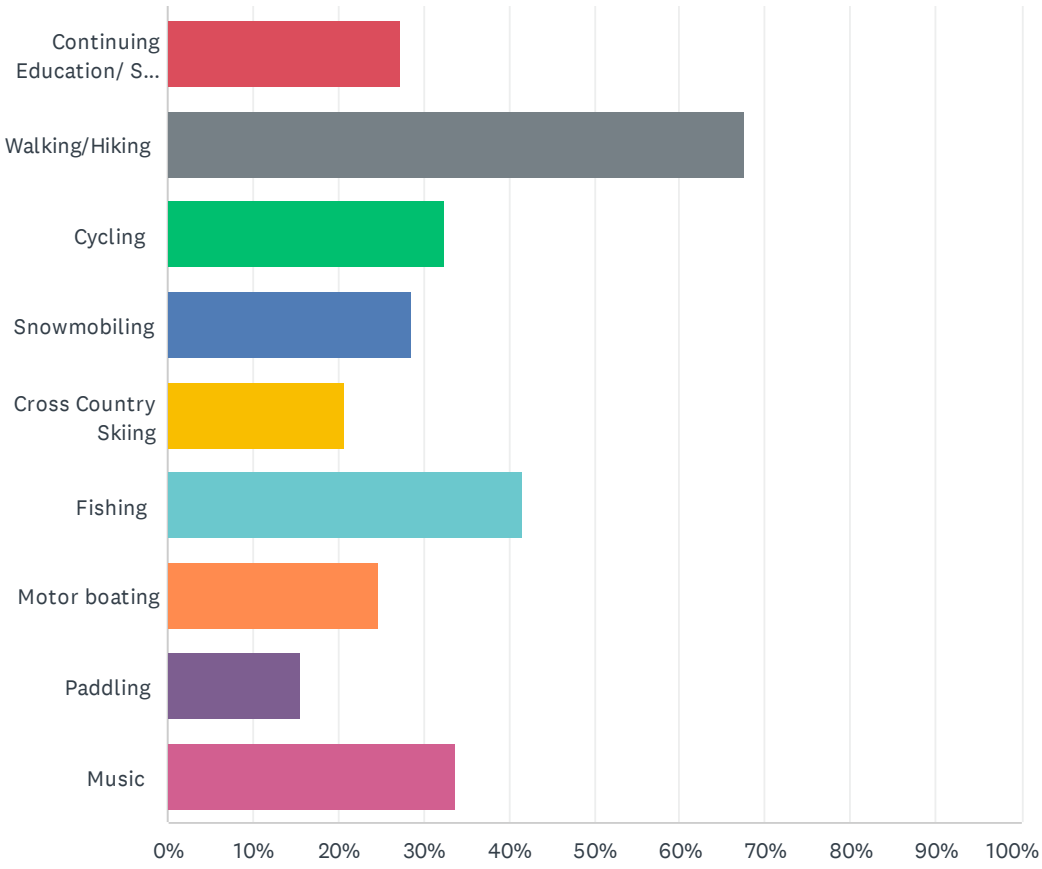
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	No	4/24/2023 3:24 PM
2	No	4/15/2023 11:26 AM
3	Baseball	4/10/2023 10:58 AM
4	Trapper association	3/25/2023 11:08 PM
5	I volunteer whenever I am asked.	3/23/2023 1:50 PM
6	No	3/23/2023 11:18 AM
7	No	3/22/2023 11:52 PM
8	Volunteer for Vassar ball tournament, Vassar snowmobile derby and senior's functions at Vassar rec center	3/22/2023 6:16 PM
9	No longer active on the boards of these associations.	3/22/2023 6:07 PM
10	Volunteered @ Senior Meal Program, & participant Volunteer @ Sprague Bingo & participant & driver for Wellness Program & Meal program for seniors	3/22/2023 6:03 PM
11	Pine Grove Seniors - President S. Jct. C.C. - Treasurer South East SnoRiders - President	3/7/2023 5:33 PM
12	No	2/15/2023 10:28 AM
13	Minor Hockey, hockey, gymnastic, swimming lessons, piano, violin lessons, baseball	2/9/2023 8:17 AM
14	Vassar minor baseball treasurer and coach, sprague Arena treasurer , sprague fest volunteer , volunteer when able at Vassar’s ball tournament,	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
15	N/A	1/27/2023 6:42 PM
16	Yes I do o	1/27/2023 6:39 PM
17	South junction catholic church, wampum quilters, Sprague seniors, Sprague bingo	1/27/2023 6:28 PM
18	No	1/27/2023 6:21 PM
19	Pickleball, curling, (maybe junior basketball coach)	1/27/2023 6:15 PM
20	N/A.	1/27/2023 6:00 PM
21	middlebro community club	1/27/2023 1:58 PM
22	none	1/27/2023 12:54 PM
23	n/a	1/27/2023 10:01 AM
24	4-H Head Leader	1/26/2023 11:07 AM
25	not yet	1/25/2023 8:39 AM
26	No	1/24/2023 1:21 PM
27	Eastman Rec Association	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
28	I am a member (no fee) of our community club.	1/24/2023 11:13 AM
29	Seniors Club in Middlebro, which you left out of this survey	1/21/2023 11:20 PM
30	Volunteer at the school	1/18/2023 3:08 PM

31	cc ski club, track club, archery club	1/11/2023 7:43 PM
32	No	1/9/2023 8:11 PM
33	No	1/9/2023 8:08 PM
34	no	1/7/2023 8:36 AM
35	MB Pickleball Association, Charleswood Garden Club	1/5/2023 6:02 PM
36	Steinbach x-country ski club	1/4/2023 8:05 AM
37	Evergreen seniors	1/3/2023 10:20 AM
38	Heritage Sports League	1/3/2023 9:15 AM
39	School based - Varsity Basketball, track and field, and Student council. Community Based - VCRC, Vassar Pool, Vassar Minor Baseball	12/31/2022 10:34 PM
40	No	12/25/2022 2:33 PM

Q14 What types of leisure activities do you participate in? Feel free to check more than one.

Answered: 77 Skipped: 2




Continuing Education/ S...
Walking/Hiking
Cycling
Snowmobiling
Cross Country Skiing
Fishing
Motor boating
Paddling
Music
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%

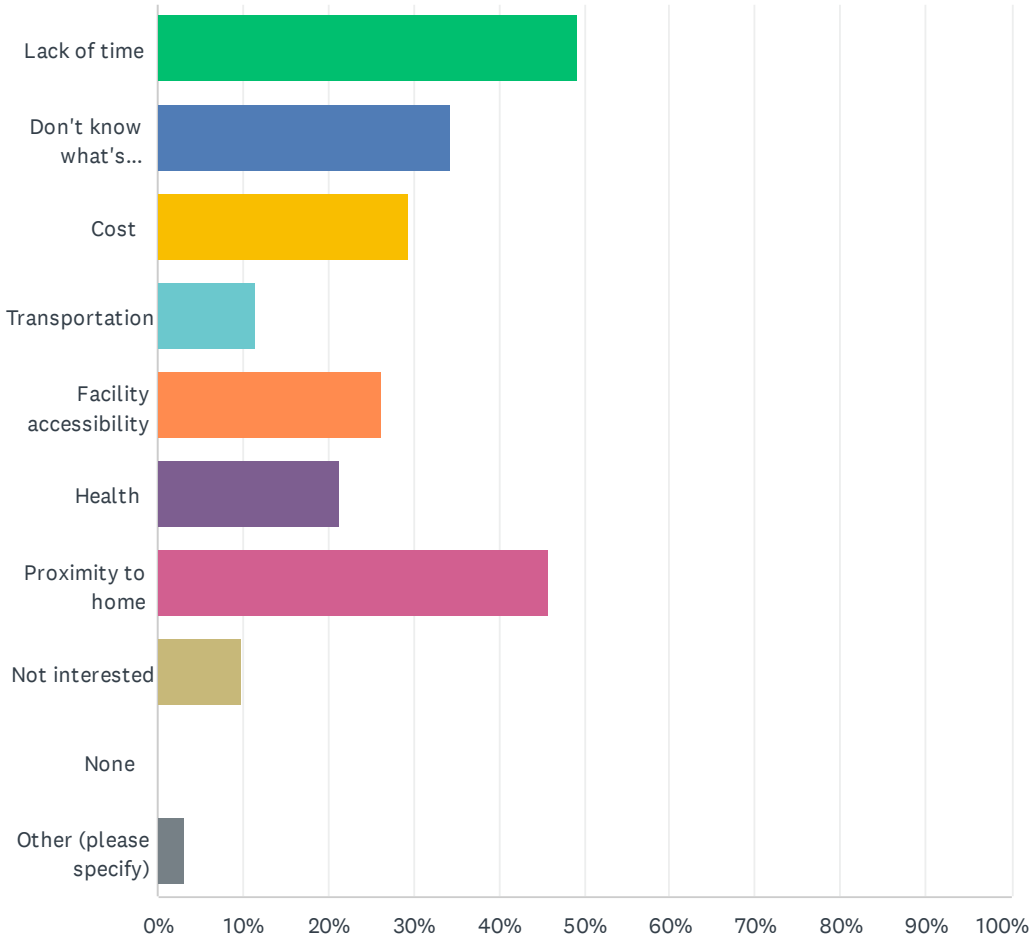
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Curling	12.99%	10
Golf	28.57%	22
Dance	18.18%	14
Exercising at a Fitness Facility	16.88%	13
Fitness Programs	20.78%	16
Skating/ Hockey	22.08%	17
Volunteering	58.44%	45
Creative Arts Hobbies	32.47%	25
Gardening	61.04%	47
Bird Watching	31.17%	24
Swimming	31.17%	24
Sports/ Coaching	10.39%	8
Theatre/Drama	10.39%	8
Soccer	1.30%	1
Baseball	10.39%	8
Tennis	1.30%	1
Skateboarding	1.30%	1
Pickleball	19.48%	15
Continuing Education/ Self Improvement	27.27%	21
Walking/Hiking	67.53%	52
Cycling	32.47%	25
Snowmobiling	28.57%	22
Cross Country Skiing	20.78%	16
Fishing	41.56%	32
Motor boating	24.68%	19
Paddling	15.58%	12
Music	33.77%	26
Total Respondents: 77		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Thrifting/bargain hunting at auctions	4/9/2023 10:26 PM
2	Quadding	3/25/2023 11:08 PM
3	I am very busy all summer at the Sprague & Disrict Historical Museum Inc.	3/23/2023 1:50 PM
4	Hunting	3/22/2023 11:52 PM

5	Camping	3/7/2023 5:33 PM
6	Snowshoeing	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
7	hunting	1/27/2023 1:58 PM
8	Quadding	1/26/2023 6:56 AM
9	ATV riding	1/25/2023 8:39 AM
10	ATV riding	1/24/2023 1:21 PM
11	ATV	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
12	skeet shooting target shooting	1/11/2023 7:43 PM
13	Alcoholics anonymous meeting's	1/9/2023 8:11 PM
14	Alcoholics anonymous meeting's	1/9/2023 8:08 PM
15	Quadding	1/7/2023 8:36 AM
16	Dirt biking. Atv	1/5/2023 7:45 PM
17	Snowshoeing	1/4/2023 8:05 AM
18	Hunting	1/3/2023 9:28 PM
19	Horseback	1/3/2023 11:31 AM
20	Water sports, atv	1/3/2023 9:15 AM
21	Hunting	12/27/2022 1:07 PM

Q15 What are the barriers that prevent you from participating in recreation activities? Feel free to check more than one.

Answered: 61 Skipped: 18

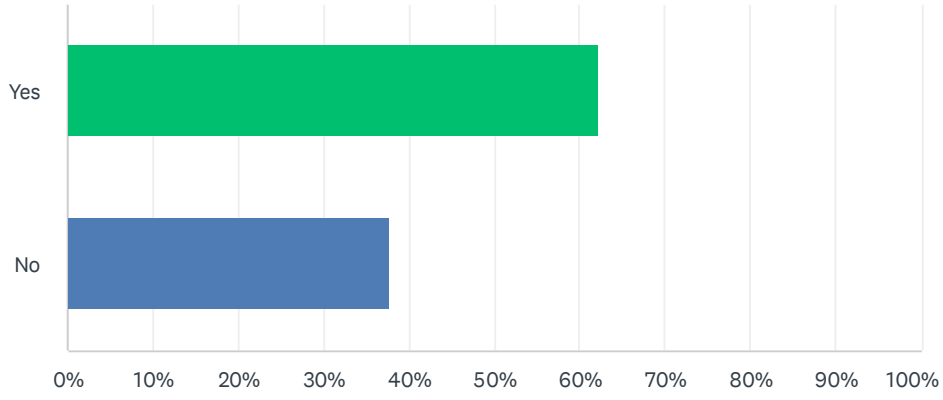


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Lack of time	49.18%	30
Don't know what's available	34.43%	21
Cost	29.51%	18
Transportation	11.48%	7
Facility accessibility	26.23%	16
Health	21.31%	13
Proximity to home	45.90%	28
Not interested	9.84%	6
None	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	3.28%	2
Total Respondents: 61		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Need trails for cycling and skiing	4/24/2023 3:24 PM
2	I am at an age where your interest change.	3/23/2023 1:50 PM
3	over 65 years of age	3/22/2023 6:03 PM
4	Unsure of target age group -- show up to events to all elderly and you are in your 30s	1/27/2023 7:03 AM
5	Lack of quadding trails	1/26/2023 6:56 AM
6	Don't live in the municipality full time. Weekender.	1/25/2023 8:39 AM
7	Young child	1/7/2023 3:03 PM

Q16 Do you believe that users of the indoor and outdoor facilities in the RM of Piney should have to pay user fees?

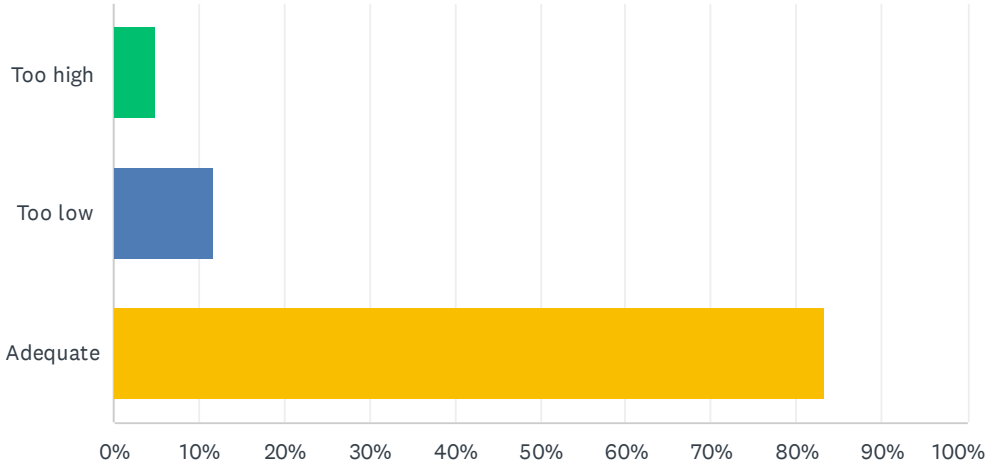
Answered: 69 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	62.32%	43
No	37.68%	26
TOTAL		69

Q17 Do you believe that the current user fees are...

Answered: 60 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Too high	5.00%	3
Too low	11.67%	7
Adequate	83.33%	50
TOTAL		60

Q18 What kinds of recreational services would you like to see the see offered in the RM of Piney that are not offered now?

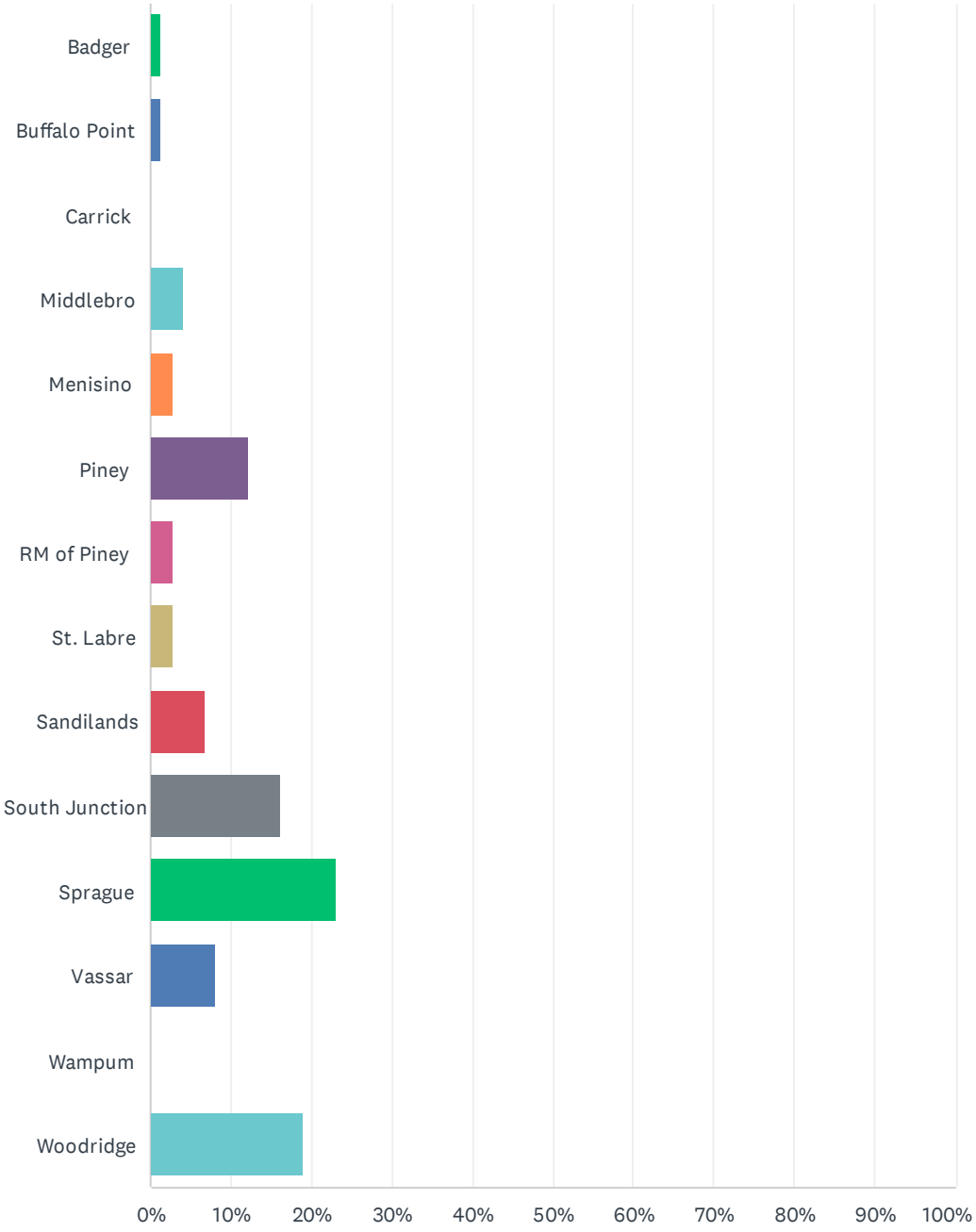
Answered: 38 Skipped: 41

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Seniors shuttle service to steinbach/Winnipeg	4/9/2023 10:26 PM
2	Walking trails, fitness centre	3/23/2023 11:18 AM
3	Firearms shooting range	3/22/2023 11:52 PM
4	Ski trails and walking paths	3/22/2023 6:16 PM
5	Not sure	3/22/2023 6:07 PM
6	walking trails, camping space for family reunions/ passer byes .	3/22/2023 6:03 PM
7	Mini Golf	3/22/2023 4:40 PM
8	Fitness centre, indoor pool, art, theatre/musical theatre, toastmasters	2/25/2023 4:16 PM
9	Not sure	2/15/2023 10:28 AM
10	An indoor workout facility. I would pay a fee to use it. Regarding #16- it makes sense to pay for the pool, I would not pay for general use of a hall unless it had something beneficial to offer - games, workout equipment, etc	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
11	Tall order - acquasize all winter??	1/28/2023 7:40 AM
12	Rifle or handgun shooting range	1/27/2023 6:42 PM
13	N/A	1/27/2023 6:28 PM
14	-Evening rec RLG school at 7:00 -Cross country ski trails -Currently using Roger Schwegel trails.	1/27/2023 6:15 PM
15	Floor hockey.	1/27/2023 6:00 PM
16	Marijuana store in the rm.	1/27/2023 4:22 PM
17	Guided hiking/foraging tours	1/27/2023 10:01 AM
18	More lessons for people in each community---music, dance, art	1/26/2023 11:07 AM
19	More development at Whitemouth Lake	1/26/2023 6:56 AM
20	Mountain bike trails,	1/25/2023 3:16 PM
21	not sure	1/25/2023 8:39 AM
22	Fitness creative arts gardening nature	1/24/2023 1:21 PM
23	Arts classes	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
24	It is dependent on the community and the availability of facilities, volunteers, etc.	1/24/2023 11:13 AM
25	indoor swimming pool for everyone, hot tub, bowling	1/23/2023 11:30 AM
26	Soccer, theater, art, dance, gymnastics,	1/23/2023 9:17 AM
27	running track	1/11/2023 7:43 PM
28	indoor pool, paved walking trails	1/7/2023 8:03 PM
29	Just making it family friendly	1/7/2023 3:03 PM
30	Nature exploration - things like how to find edible mushrooms Cooking classes	1/7/2023 8:36 AM

31	more family events	1/6/2023 7:48 AM
32	Kids clubs	1/5/2023 7:45 PM
33	Ski lessons, adult crafts, Nature MB offerings such as mushroom ID, birding, gardening advice, outdoor survival skills/tips, indoor swimming, weight training	1/5/2023 6:02 PM
34	More snowshoeing	1/4/2023 8:05 AM
35	See prior suggestions	1/3/2023 11:31 AM
36	Walking or running program	1/3/2023 10:20 AM
37	- assistance with programming already in place -snowmobile trails from our towns to the groomed trails. -walking paths -more programming for youth and young adults -adult slo-pitch	12/31/2022 10:34 PM
38	Bring a chase the ace to Piney. Have a wing night in Piney.	12/25/2022 2:33 PM

Q19 Where do you live?

Answered: 74 Skipped: 5

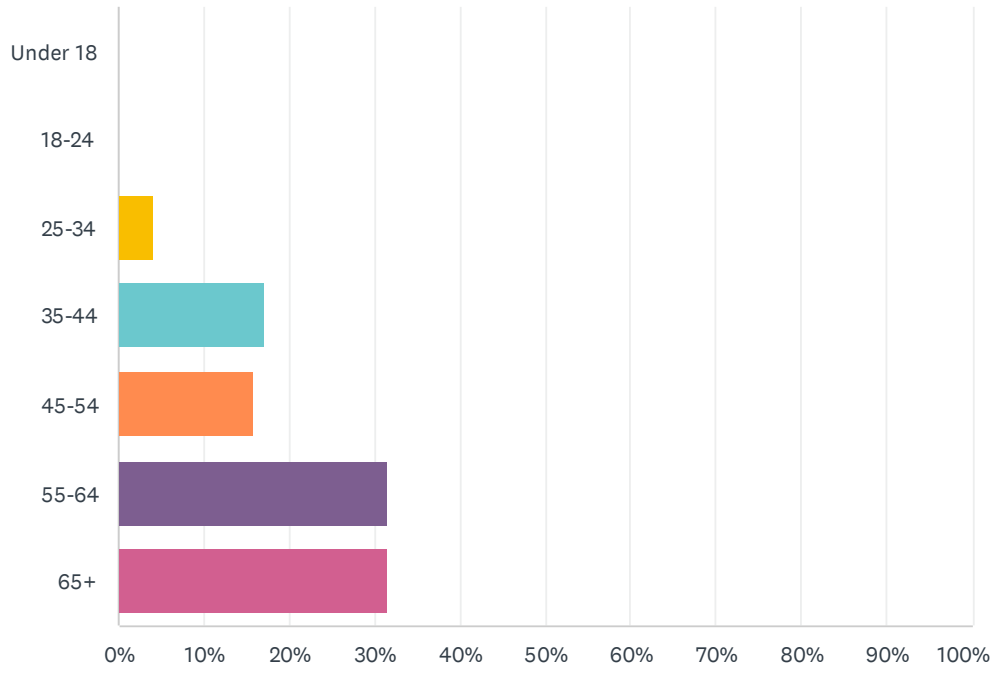


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Badger	1.35%	1
Buffalo Point	1.35%	1
Carrick	0.00%	0
Middlebro	4.05%	3
Menisino	2.70%	2
Piney	12.16%	9
RM of Piney	2.70%	2
St. Labre	2.70%	2
Sandilands	6.76%	5
South Junction	16.22%	12
Sprague	22.97%	17
Vassar	8.11%	6
Wampum	0.00%	0
Woodridge	18.92%	14
TOTAL		74

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Menisino	4/9/2023 10:26 PM
2	Florze	1/26/2023 6:56 AM
3	Florzé	1/25/2023 8:39 AM
4	Ste.Agathe is home base for now.	1/4/2023 8:05 AM

Q20 What is your age range?

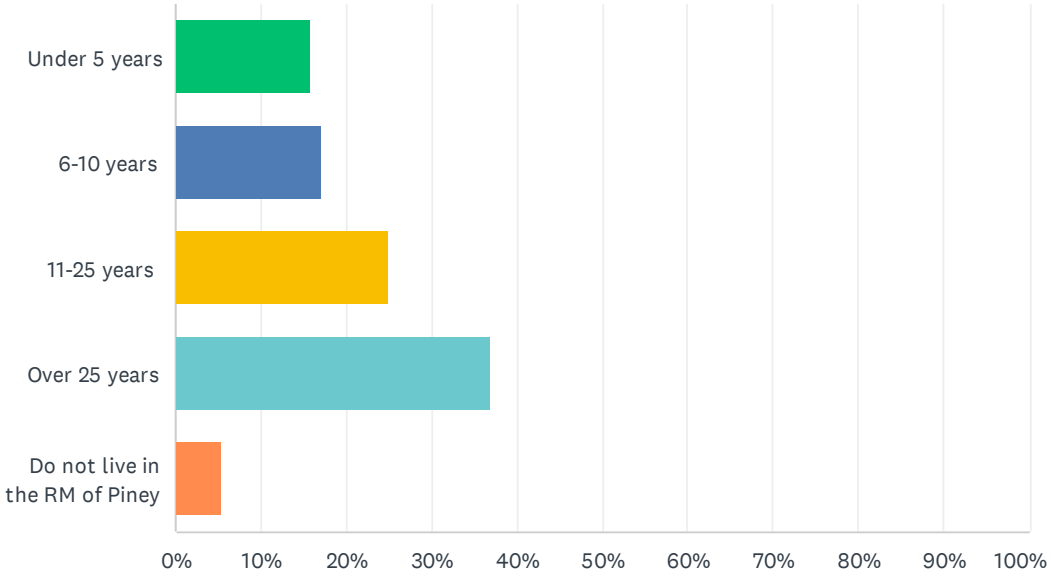
Answered: 76 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	0.00%	0
25-34	3.95%	3
35-44	17.11%	13
45-54	15.79%	12
55-64	31.58%	24
65+	31.58%	24
TOTAL		76

Q21 How long have you lived in the RM of Piney?

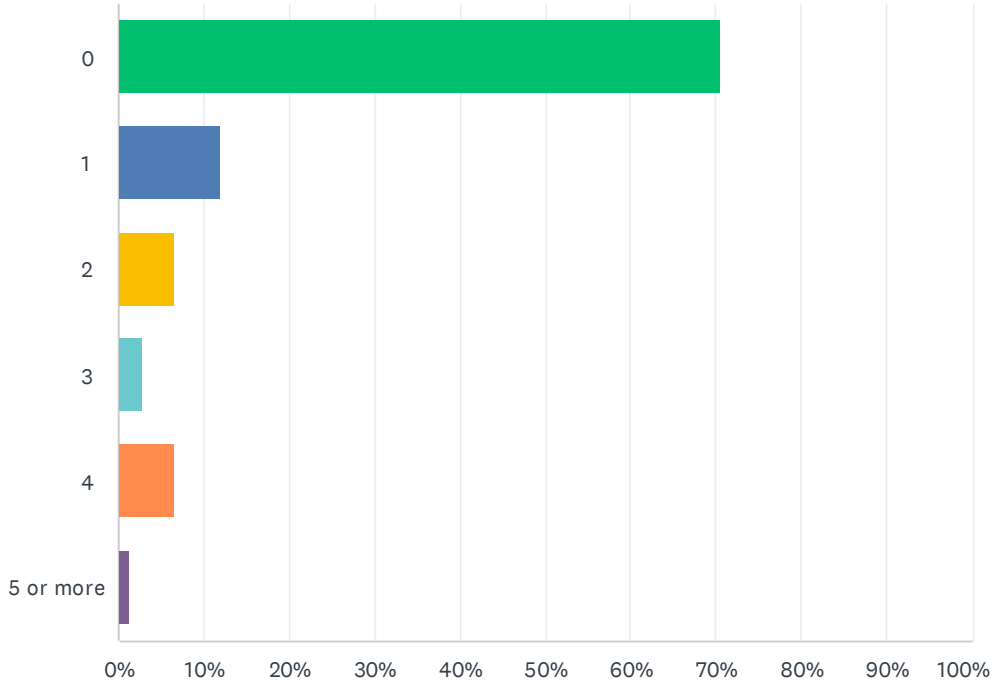
Answered: 76 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 5 years	15.79%	12
6-10 years	17.11%	13
11-25 years	25.00%	19
Over 25 years	36.84%	28
Do not live in the RM of Piney	5.26%	4
TOTAL		76

Q22 How many children under the age of 18 are in your household?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0	70.67%	53
1	12.00%	9
2	6.67%	5
3	2.67%	2
4	6.67%	5
5 or more	1.33%	1
TOTAL		75

Q23 Do you have any questions or comments about the RM of Piney Recreation Plan?

Answered: 19 Skipped: 60

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Don’t spend anymore money on paths improve children programs	4/10/2023 10:58 AM
2	It should not come out of the rate payers pocket.	4/9/2023 10:26 PM
3	I always wonder why the RM of Piney never considers the Sprague & District Museum recreational? Give me a reason?	3/23/2023 1:50 PM
4	The rest area on #12 is filthy forcing people to go behind a tree, when will that error ever be remedied.	3/22/2023 6:03 PM
5	Cut spending	2/24/2023 4:18 PM
6	No	2/15/2023 10:28 AM
7	It is nice to see the rm supporting rec in different districts, but I feel that there are too many community centres to keep maintaining and that they are burning out their volunteers.	2/9/2023 8:17 AM
8	I would like to know more about it and really hope it involves hiring a rec director!! We really need someone in that position	2/5/2023 9:02 PM
9	N/A	1/27/2023 6:28 PM
10	Wasting money to make walking trails in the ditch when people walk on the road wouldn’t be the best way to spend tax payer money. When you make a new development like in Sandilands there should of been a green space between the lots where a walking trail could of been made in the bush. Walking trails in the ditches would be quickly destroyed by the city weekend atv riders , the same group that leaves donuts all along the 404 between Woodbridge to Marchand turn off.	1/25/2023 3:16 PM
11	Where does ATV and snowmobile riding fit in the recreation plan.	1/24/2023 1:21 PM
12	Great job so far	1/24/2023 12:02 PM
13	LOTS but too many to pose here. I would hope that at some time in this process you will bring reps from each community together. I think this would solicit some more real and fruitful information.	1/24/2023 11:13 AM
14	Keep us informed and ask us more at the council meetings.	1/9/2023 8:11 PM
15	Keep us informed and ask us more at the council meetings.	1/9/2023 8:08 PM
16	No	1/7/2023 3:03 PM
17	Our natural environment in the RM of Piney is a great treasure. I am concerned that there is not awareness of that. We are losing green spaces everywhere. ATV poker derbies have destroyed hundreds of acres in this area and yet, more and more trails are bring built.	1/3/2023 8:20 PM
18	We need a Leisure Services Programmer or a Recreation and Wellness Facilitator that works with the communities to plan, organize, promote and facilitate programming. We also need assistance from the RM to maintain and upgrade facilities. We need an bigger volunteer base.	12/31/2022 10:34 PM
19	No	12/25/2022 2:33 PM