Appendix K: Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan



Town of Nanton Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

A Supplement to the Parks and Open Space Element of the Municipal Development Plan

September 2019



Cover Art by the Oldman River Regional Services Commission

OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

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Prepared for the Town of Nanton

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Intended Use of this Document

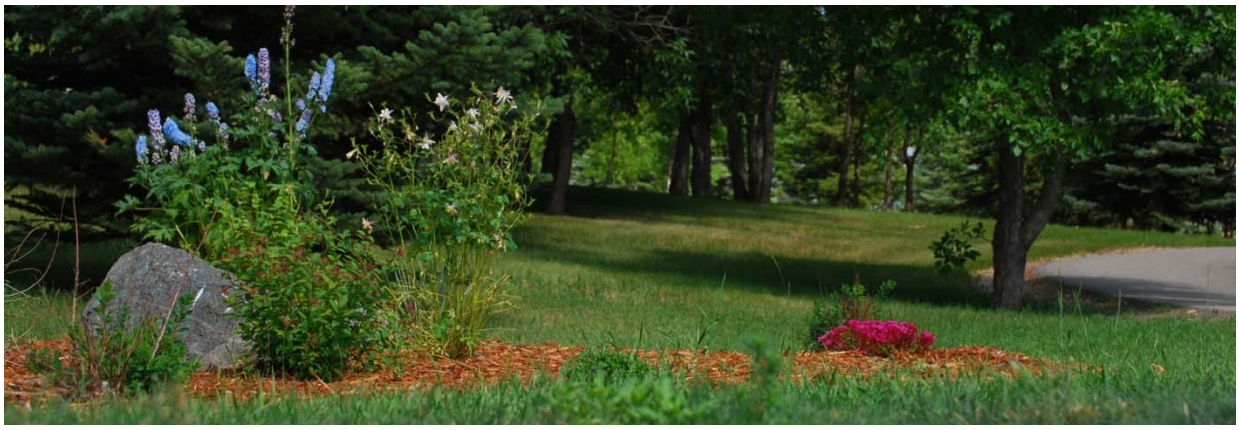
The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan has been developed as a reference for Town of Nanton Council, staff, developers and citizens to guide the land use decisions and the implementation of new and improved park space. The Plan is intended to augment the Municipal Development Plan and will guide the emergence of new policy as topics are brought forward.

This is a "living" document intended to provide the most current information available to users. As a result, the contents of this package are reviewed and updated periodically. This document is made up of specific goals, an inventory of existing assets, a series of strategies related to the goals, and the basic components that make up the park system.

For developers, this document is to be read in conjunction with the Municipal Development Plan, the Land Use Bylaw, other adopted statutory plans, Town Engineering standards, and supplementary policy as developed by the Town of Nanton.

For citizens, this document is meant to be the opening to dialog on a vast topic and provides the basis for open and transparent discussion and ensuring that citizen engagement informs the continuing work done on the park system.

This document is not intended to limit ideas, but to put forward preferences in the pursuit of a great community.



Town of Nanton
Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan

A long-term planning strategy for sustaining healthy natural spaces, promoting environmental stewardship and providing active living opportunities for all ages.

Part 1: Vision

The statement above sets the community vision for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan (the Plan) for the Town of Nanton and is based on the 2021 Plan introduced by Town Council in 2015 and updated in 2018 as Strategic Planning 2019 - 2021.

Purpose of the Plan

The Town of Nanton Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan is a supplemental plan to the Municipal Development Plan (MDP). Where the MDP provides an overarching direction for planning in the Town, it lacks the detail sometimes needed to guide broad planning subjects such as parks and open space management. This document will provide the planning detail needed to bring a variety of ideas from the multi-facets of park planning into a single document for council decision making.

This Plan includes recommendations about the overall park and outdoor recreation system needs within a 20-year planning horizon. However, it also recognizes that these recommendations are applicable even if they cannot all be implemented within the planning horizon.

The Plan includes strategies about the Town's role as property owner, park provider, and partner with other governmental agencies, school districts, non-profit organizations, and private sector individuals, organizations, and businesses.

It is also believed that this plan is representative of the needs and goals of Nanton's citizens. An important aspect of this document is that it engages residents and empowers them to take ownership of the plan as they approach each new project in their community. And as such, it is important that the citizens play an active role in the planning and implementation of the plan.

The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan serves largely as a high level strategy document offering ideas, concepts and direction that are designed to capture opportunities and consider possibilities as they unfold. This approach is based on the recognition that the Plan needs to be flexible in light of changing economic, cultural, and demographic realities.

Goals

Goals are the desired outcomes to be achieved by implementing this Master Plan and they echo the goals established in the Municipal Development Plan. The following goals reflect key directions for the Town's park system. These goals are organized by four core values (shared stewardship, quality of life, excellent service and sense of community) which they support:

1. Shared Stewardship Goals

Sustainability: The Town of Nanton will sustain Town assets, land use, and environmental resources for future generations through effective decisions, management and maintenance. The Town will use conservation measures in developing the community with an eye to the future.

Environmental Protection: The Town of Nanton will protect, conserve and restore Town natural resources, providing opportunities for the community to enjoy and learn about nature and the outdoors. The Town will seek opportunities to preserve or enhance the urban forest, the Mosquito Creek watershed, critical habitat and wetlands, and the community's open space and natural beauty.

Historical/Cultural Preservation: The Town of Nanton will foster an appreciation of its historical, cultural, and agricultural resources. The Town will provide high-quality cultural and historical experiences, while being a steward of these resources.

2. Quality of Life Goals

Health and Wellness: Health and wellness are critical elements of a livable community. Personal health and wellness require opportunities to be physically active, mentally and emotionally recharged, and socially engaged. The Town of Nanton will support active lifestyles and promote life-long learning by providing parks, facilities, and services that support healthy lifestyles for all ages.

Community Livability: The Town of Nanton will promote a livable community, providing a variety of opportunities and benefits that make the Town a safe, attractive and enjoyable place to live, work, and play.

Economic Vitality: The Town of Nanton is an important partner in promoting economic development and vitality, by providing vision, structure and opportunity through achievable action plans.

3. Excellent Service Goals

Accessibility: The Town of Nanton will strive to make the built environment geographically, physically, and economically accessible to all members of the community. The Town will plan and design inclusive facilities, serving residents of all ages, abilities, family compositions, and economic and cultural backgrounds.

Quality Facilities and Infrastructure: The Town of Nanton will provide safe, clean, and inviting facilities that foster community pride and encourage use and interaction. The Town will strive to provide quality infrastructure in the pursuit of servicing the community.

Customer Service: The Town of Nanton will be responsive, accountable, and creative in meeting present and future community needs, thereby reflecting the desires of residents and sharing community priorities. The Town will continue to demonstrate excellence in customer service.

Fiscal Responsibility: The Town of Nanton will make fiscal responsibility, accountability, and long term financial stability a priority, to make the best use of limited public funds. The Town will use a variety of long and short-term funding strategies to provide dependable funding for all aspects of the built environment.

4. Sense of Community Goals

Connectivity: The Town of Nanton will connect community members together via recreation and educational facilities, transportation, information services and public forums.

Volunteerism: The Town will promote volunteerism and community involvement to engage active citizen participation where appropriate.

Partnerships: Strong community and regional collaboration brings additional resources to community development. The Town of Nanton will continue to cultivate strong, positive relationships with public, private, and non-profit organizations in order to unite the community.

Community Identity: Building a sense of community pride is critical for addressing challenges in today's world. The Town of Nanton will foster community unity, reflect community strengths and values, keep a sense of Authentic Alberta, honor the past and local traditions, celebrate special events, and create a legacy for future generations.

Community Support: Town Staff will work together with citizens and town leaders to build the community. The Town will respect community values and the community's vision for the future, building a constituency of consensus.



Part 2:
Community Background



Climate

The average annual precipitation for the region is approximately 32.5 cm of rain and 99.7 cm of snow. As well, Nanton experiences an average of 2314 hours of sunshine annually with approximately 109 frost-free days. Like most areas of southern Alberta, Nanton receives the warm Chinook winds that blow off the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. As a result, in the winter months the temperature can rise as much as 20 degrees in a matter of hours. Although this makes for milder winters and hot summers, the warm westerly flow often meets the cool southerly flow from northern Alberta causing extreme weather events such as blizzards and thunderstorms.

Demographics

In the context of a parks recreation and open space master plan, the important demographic categories are population age structure and population projections. The table and graphs below provide the population breakdown.

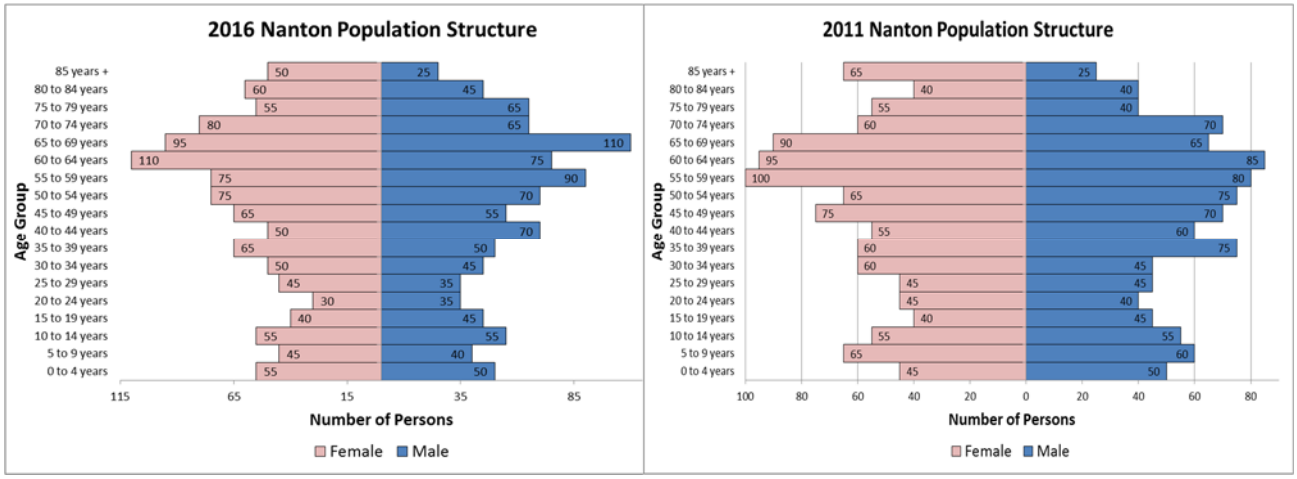
Population age structure is important to parks and recreation planning because each demographic has differing needs. An aging rather than a younger population needs walking trails versus active infrastructure like ball diamonds or playgrounds. Table 1 and Chart 1 indicate the breakdown of individual age groups by gender and age according to the 2016 Statistics Canada Census.

TABLE 1: 2016 Population Breakdown

Age Group	Males	Females	Total Population by Age Group	Percentage of Total Population
0 - 9	95	105	200	9.4
10 -19	100	95	195	9.2
20 - 29	70	75	145	6.8
30 - 39	95	115	210	9.8
40 - 49	125	115	240	11.3
50 - 59	160	150	310	14.5
60 - 69	185	200	385	18.1
70+	200	245	445	20.9
Total	1030	1100	2130	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada (population numbers vary due to rounding error)

CHART 1: Nanton Population Structure



Source: Statistics Canada

As a comparison, the age structures for the 2011 and 2016 census years are provided. After analysis, the following observations can be made:

- The general shape of the population pyramids from 2011 and 2016 are similar, with only slight changes across the categories;
- In 2016 median age is 52.7 years whereas the provincial median is 41.7 years;
- In 2016 approximately 80% of the population was over 19 years of age;
- In 2016, there were more females than males in 11 age group categories; males outnumber females in only 6 of the 18 total categories.

The ratio of males to females did not vary between census years, the ratio being approximately 48:52 percent respectively.

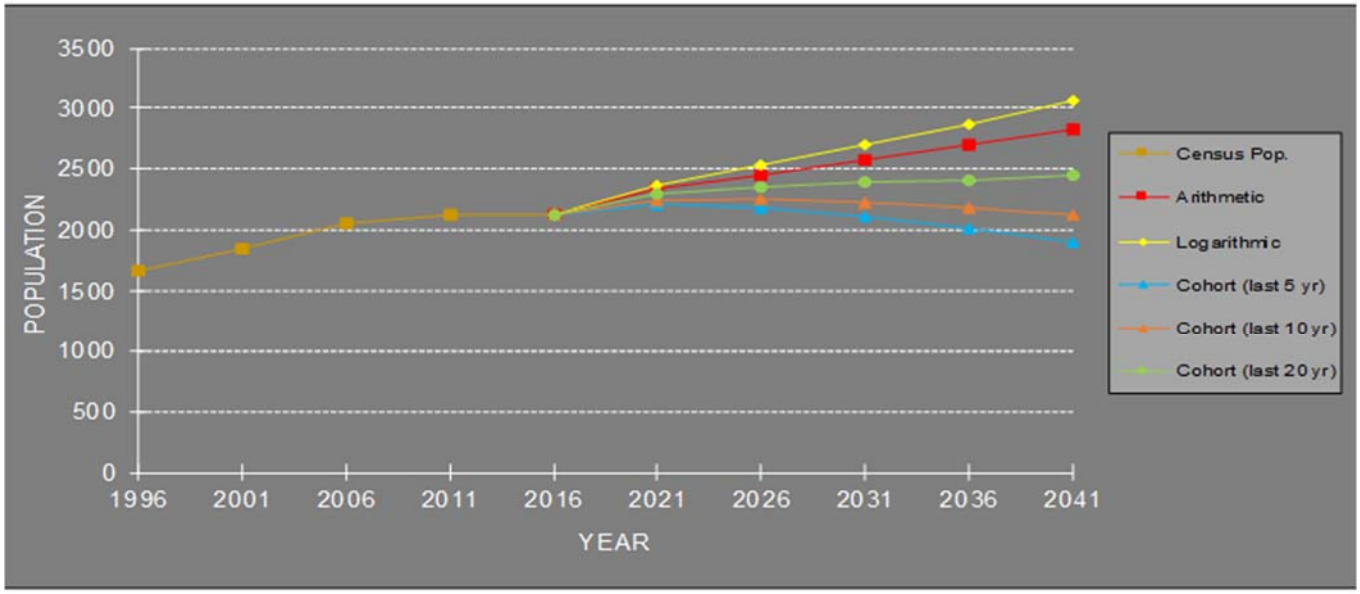
In 2011, the town's Stats Canada Census population was 2135 persons. The 2016 Census was corrected from a reported 2130 persons to 2181. Over the past 30 years, Nanton has grown on average 2.3% annually. If the Alberta economy and City of Calgary continue to grow, a higher growth rate may occur resulting in a projected population of between 2441 and 3060 (see Table 2).

In summary, Nanton's population has increased over the past 10 years and this analysis suggests that growth is strongest in the age groups over 44 years of age, but is also stabilizing with young families and children. This trend will have to be reviewed with the 2021 Census and parks planning adjusted accordingly.

TABLE 2: Town of Nanton Population Projections until the year 2041

NANTON

Year	Census Pop.	Arithmetic	Logarithmic	Cohort (last 5 yr)	Cohort (last 10 yr)	Cohort (last 20 yr)
1996	1665					
2001	1841					
2006	2055					
2011	2132					
2016	2130	2130	2130	2130	2130	2130
2021		2331	2369	2210	2237	2290
2026		2453	2526	2181	2246	2352
2031		2575	2692	2112	2222	2386
2036		2697	2870	2017	2177	2412
2041		2819	3060	1910	2127	2441





Town of Nanton Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan Questionnaire Summary

Everyone takes surveys. Whoever makes a statement about human behavior has engaged in a survey of some sort. - *Andrew Greeley*

In order to gain input from citizens, a questionnaire was designed by the planning advisors for the Town of Nanton and refined with input from the Nanton Town Council. The questionnaire itself was nine pages in length and included a map of the Town's parks and trails.

The questionnaire was mailed directly to 816 Town ratepayers as well as 475 MD landowners within the service area of Nanton. The intention was to analyze the data submitted based on the responses by MD and Town landowners.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

A total of 105 questionnaires were returned which represents an 8.1% response rate. Of the total respondents, 52.3% were male, 40.0% were female, and 7.6% did not indicate their sex. The family characteristics of respondents was largely composed of seniors (living either alone or as a couple), and family households (with older children or children no longer at home) representing 40% and 29% of respondents respectively. Young couples and single adults, either with or without children, and other family arrangements not fitting into the above categories made up the remaining 31% of respondents.

In terms of home ownership, 96% of all respondents stated that they were home owners (the remainder did not answer the question). A large proportion of surveys were completed by long-term residents, as 39% of Nanton respondents and 64% of MD respondents stated they had lived in their jurisdiction more than 20 years. On the other side, only 9% of Nanton respondents and 0% of MD respondents said they had lived in the municipality for less than five years. 81% of respondents confirmed that they expected to be living in the municipality for the next five years.

This is a good indication that projects started with see continued support from the established community.

In general, there is a high level of satisfaction in the number of recreational facilities within the Town of Nanton. Yet according to question 10, respondents' household members aged 10-17 years old are clearly dissatisfied with the recreational and open space facilities within the Town of Nanton. All other household age categories had a substantial portion of respondents that were very satisfied with the facilities. Overall, there seems to be a clear desire from respondents for more or expanded swimming facilities in the Town of Nanton.

Over 50% of respondents reported some level of use for walking trails, park spaces, rodeo grounds, playgrounds and biking. Walking trails received the highest reported level of use with 77% of respondents stating some use in the past year. The least used facilities were overwhelmingly the tennis/basketball courts followed by soccer fields and ball diamonds.

Respondents from the two jurisdictions showed significantly different use patterns with certain facilities and open spaces. When use is measured by the facilities which received the lowest percentage of respondents stating no uses, respondents from the MD of Willow Creek used the rodeo grounds, golf course, picnic areas, and walking trails the most. Meanwhile, Nanton respondents used walking trails, park space, biking and playgrounds the most. Walking trails, park space and biking showed the greatest difference between responses from the two municipalities. For example, only 9% of Nanton respondents indicated no uses for walking trails, but 52% of Willow Creek respondents stated no uses. In contrast, a higher percentage of MD respondents used the rodeo grounds, golf course, picnic areas and ice rinks compared with Town respondents.

Expanding the recreation centre is favored by 65% of Nanton respondents compared to 59% of MD of Willow Creek respondents. This is backed up by the ranking of the top facilities. Nanton residents identified the top three recreational facilities as: rinks for hockey and skating, an indoor swimming pool, and trails for walking and/or biking. Both respondent groups ranked indoor recreation facilities as the top priority and outdoor recreation facilities as the lowest priority for the Town to maintain and develop.

A significant majority of respondents (64%) affirmed that there are adequate systems of sidewalks, trails and green space in the Town of Nanton. However, when asked to identify locations where such connections are lacking respondents had many suggestions in the responses to question 24. Respondents highlighted a need for sidewalks along various streets including along 26th Avenue and into the Westview area and around the west pond. Respondents suggested that walking and biking paths should create a loop, or at least connect with each other throughout Town and that sidewalks need to be designed and maintained for handicap and stroller access. One respondent suggested providing pedestrian access to the grain elevators and the street across the tracks. Respondents also remarked that Luther Park requires development to appear more accessible and signage to aid in directing people to these areas.

Approximately 70% of Nanton respondents stated that they use the parks and green space in Nanton. Respondents from the MD of Willow Creek stated a much lower usage level as only 32% indicated that they use Nanton parks and green space. Respondents that stated they used the parks gave a variety of reasons, including: using the walking/biking paths, picnicking, tobogganing, close proximity and the opportunity to take grandchildren to the park. The frequent mention of grandchildren in the responses to this question highlights the importance of parks for children even in a Town where the average age is quite high.

88% of MD of Willow Creek respondents support partnering with neighbouring communities to development parks and recreation programs/facilities compared with only 54% of Town respondents. These responses suggest that value of Town amenities are clearly recognized by the rural residents.



Respondents from both jurisdictions are willing to invest substantially in Nanton parks and recreation. However, respondents from the MD of Willow Creek appear more willing to invest through increased property taxes than Town respondents. For example, only 19% of MD respondents stated that they were in favor of no investment through property taxes while 32% of Nanton respondents favored no investment. Further, only 25% of Nanton respondents are willing

to support an increase of up to 2% of property taxes while 45% of MD respondents supported such an increase.

For a complete set of results and a copy of the questionnaire, see Appendix 4.

Sports and Leisure Trends

The following section provides sports and leisure trends from two surveys. The first is the 2017 Alberta Recreation Survey and the second is the 2010 Town of Nanton Recreation Survey. Through comparison of similarities and differences the two will be use to set priorities for the Master Plan. The 2017 Alberta Recreation Survey provides the following profiles of activity trends.

The favorite household activities which would be done as individuals or as family groups included:

1. walking for pleasure
2. camping
3. hiking
4. reading
5. golf
6. bicycling
7. watching tv
8. walking a pet
9. jog/run
10. swimming

The favorite activities that people would like to participate included:

1. northern lights/dark sky viewing
2. comfort camping
3. outdoor zip-lining
4. urban experiences
5. high-rope courses – tree top walk
6. via ferrata

When asked what new activities the respondents would like to try the following activities were included:

1. swimming
2. canoeing/kayaking
3. hiking
4. yoga
5. running/jogging

Top reasons provided for not participating in recreation or leisure activities included:

1. too busy with other activities
2. the cost of buying or renting equipment or supplies
3. too busy with family
4. too busy with work
5. admission fees/charges for facilities or programs

The Provincial survey results indicated that 34% of respondents have done volunteer work connected with recreation, sport, parks or culture in the past 12 months. The majority of volunteers spent, on the average, 6.9 hours per week volunteering.

The Town of Nanton Recreation Master Plan Questionnaire provided the following profiles of activity trends.

From survey question 12, the favorite household activities which would be done as individuals or as family groups included:

1. walking for pleasure
2. going to park
3. attending rodeo grounds event
4. playgrounds
5. bicycling
6. golfing
7. picnicking
8. using school yard equipment
9. participating in ice rink activity
10. camping

From survey question 19, the favorite activities that people would like to participate included:

1. hockey or skating
2. swimming
3. curling
4. playground activities
5. golfing
6. rodeo ground activities
7. baseball/softball
8. recreation centre programs
9. park activities
10. camping

From survey question 34(b), when asked what new activities the respondents would like to try the following activities were included:

1. swimming
2. adult baseball
3. aquasize
4. curling
5. dance
6. tennis
7. adult ball hockey
8. badminton
9. cooking
10. crafts

From survey question 35, top reasons provided for not participating in recreation or leisure activities included:

1. too busy with other tasks
2. activities too expensive
3. too busy with other activities
4. don't have the right equipment
5. transportation

The Nanton survey results indicated that 66% of Nanton respondents are willing to do volunteer work connected with recreation, sport, parks or culture throughout the year. The majority of volunteers would spend, on the average, one to three hours per week volunteering.

By comparison, it is clear how across the province and locally activities vary only slightly. Most respondents who don't participate indicate that either time or money as a reason. Acknowledging the rural nature of the community, Nanton respondents (which included MD of Willow Creek citizens) also indicate transportation as a major reason for not participating.

Nanton respondents like most Albertans prefer walking as an activity and would like to do more swimming. Nanton's seasonal swimming facilities limit the participation of this activity. Also of note is the inclusion of activities important to Nanton area residents such as ball, curling, golfing and rink activities.



Preserving our open spaces or having them there for recreational purposes is one of the things that contributes to the high level of quality of life that we offer.

– Ed Rendell, American Politician

Parks and Open Space Inventory

Nanton has a variety of parks and open space. These areas support both passive and active recreation with a variety of recreation experiences. The Town's inventory of parks and their related facilities is summarized below. Maps 2-6 provide detailed location of each park and its amenities.

Centennial Park (2204 - 18th Street)



Centennial Park is a 32.13 acre (13.00 ha) site located between southbound Highway 2 and 22nd Avenue and north of 18th Street. Nanton's Centennial Park boasts a huge array of recreational activities. It was commemorated in 1967 in observance of the centennial and was funded by the Province of Alberta and the Government of Canada.

Centennial Park is adjacent to the Nanton Community Centre. The Park features four quality baseball diamonds that are a hub of activity from spring to fall. Each has a shale infield and grass outfield, individually fenced, and equipped with dugouts and bleachers. There is also a batting cage at this area. These diamonds may be booked through the Tom Hornecker Recreation Centre.

Centennial Park also has horseshoe pits, beach volleyball courts and a large fenced playground area for the youngsters. As well, the first phase of Nanton's Millennial Pathway weaves its way around this park, giving residents a paved (8 feet wide and 1823.8 m long), secure and scenic tour of the park. A Skate Park (2000 sq. ft.) was developed on the west side of the property.

This park is an ideal location for residents and tourists to stop and enjoy a picnic lunch at its many picnic tables or park benches in the shade of the large trees. The Bomber Command Museum is located within this park and acts a catalyst for park activity year round. The proposed Bomber command expansion will require the removal of two ball diamonds. And the expansion in concept should embrace the park as an asset and not ignore the interplay that exists between the building and the park.

Centennial Park ball diamond area is engineered as a water detention area for drainage in the neighborhood. Other amenities include picnic tables, swing sets, playground equipment, park benches with garbage cans, multiple monuments, and adequate parking. See Map 2.

Lion's Grove Community Park



Lion's Grove Park is a 15.02 acre (6.08 ha) site located between southbound Highway 2 and Highway 533 southeast of the Slade subdivision. It was dedicated in 1991 it as an Alberta Heritage Fund Project.

"Boomers Hill" makes a great winter site for snow sliding. Nestled within the "Boomers Hill" ecological area, it is the ideal location for bird watching. A camp kitchen is a great feature for family picnics. The second phase of the Millennial Pathway system winds itself around the area, connecting to the adjacent residential subdivision with a total length of 1541.7 m. The Park contains adequate parking conveniently located along the service road off the highway.

Amenities include large parking area, 9 foot wide trail, dog waste station, park benches, garbage bins, toboggan hill and a camp kitchen. See Map 3.

Nanton Lions Campground



The Nanton Lions Campground is nestled amongst the trees, alongside the Mosquito Creek just off Highway 533 east. On site, is a large coin operated shower building with washroom facilities, as well as a dumping station. Currently, onsite power outlets are not available.

Wood is available for the individual fire pits at a nominal charge. A large camp kitchen is perfect for large gatherings. With approximately 75 individual tent and recreational vehicle sites available, this is a popular spot for tourists utilizing the adjacent Nanton Agricultural Grounds for rodeos or the Nanton Golf Course. A small playground area is also a great feature for the kids. See Map 4.

Group camping is also available. Reservations and further information may be obtained through the Campground Manager.

Luther Park



Although Luther Park does not have extensive facilities, this lovely treed and grassed area is located just off Highway 533 east and was dedicated as a park in 1959. It makes for an excellent quiet retreat for picnics, or a relaxing game of lawn bowling or croquet. Adjacent to Mosquito Creek at the Nanton Lions Campground, it is an ideal location for small gatherings.

Currently, a portion of the titled land adjacent to the treed portion of Luther Park is leased as grazing land to the Agriplex.

No amenities. See Map 5.

Dave Wallace Memorial Park

Dave Wallace Memorial Park is Nanton's next great park which when fully developed will service the residents of Westview subdivision. The park is located at the intersection of 20th Street and 31st Avenue and is planned to be approximately 2.0 acres (0.81 ha) in size. It currently features a set of playground equipment.

Westview Meadows (Adjacent to Highway 533)

This Westview Subdivision storm ponds excluding the water treatment plant area was designed as a public utility lot with the potential for trails and park area around its periphery. The parcel east of 29th has a rocked 'Nanton' sign on the northern side and there are multiple trees planted throughout. A trail loop has been added includes pathway furniture including benches, dog stations, garbage receptacles, tree plantings and picnic tables. See Map 6.

Slade Drive Path

As the pathway system leaves Lions Gate Community Park, it follows Slade drive westward toward 26th Avenue. This linear park space has received incremental improvements over time with the largest investment being the developed trail. The trails edge has been enhanced with trees, park benches and garbage receptacles. At either end of the path where Slade Drive curves away, there exist triangular open spaces that could be continuations of Lion's Gate Community Park.

The Town's inventory of open space is summarized below. See Map 1 where all numbered sites correspond to the numbers below.

1. 26th Avenue and 19th Street

This 0.48 acre open space lot provides opportunities for passive use by neighborhood residents. Outside of a cluster of old growth trees and a grassed area the lot remains unnamed or dedicated as a Town park space. Its inclusion does not necessitate a change to active use or large investment, but should be considered for an enhancement over time as an inviting place to take a quiet moment.

2. 26th Avenue and 22nd Avenue

The 0.38 acre open space adjacent to Centennial Park provides opportunities for passive use by neighborhood residents, however the adjacency of commercial and industrial use does make the location less appealing. The Town has recently planted some trees around the periphery of the lot as an enhancement to the property. Its inclusion does not necessitate a change to active or passive use or large investment, but should be considered for continued enhancement over time.

3. 20th Street between 27th and 28th Avenue



This 1.62 acre lot was dedicated as Municipal Reserve, but functions mainly as a public utility lot for area storm drainage. The outside edge has been landscaped and a simple fence has been installed.

4. 29th Avenue between 20th and 19th Street

This 0.11 acre open space is a grassed and treed corridor between two residential lots. Subdivision design often creates these spaces as linkages to adjacent streets in cul-de-sac style developments. In this case, the adjacent development design to the west has not been finalized and it has not been determined whether a linkage is necessary. Without action this space may be adopted by the adjacent residences as an expansive side yard.

5. Water Treatment Plant Area (Adjacent to Highway 533)

Other than a few trees near the water treatment plant, no open space improvements have been completed west of 29th Avenue.

6. Railway Lands

In the late 1990s, the CPR decommissioned the rail line from Fort Macleod to Caley and removed the rails. As a result, the railroad right-of-way running parallel to Highway 2 through the town is now vacant and its physical characteristics and geographic location suggest a future intensification

of use will occur. Map 3 of the Municipal Development Plan suggests the corridor should be used to expand the trail network connecting the two phases of the millennial trail project.

7. MD of Willow Creek Range Road 282 and 19th Avenue

At the south end of the golf course and behind the industrial park, there is a natural open space that plays a major role in drainage for the area east of Highway 2. This area has limited development potential yet provides the community with a natural buffer from industrial uses and agricultural uses in the MD.

8. South of the Waste Treatment Plant to 22nd Street

This area contains a large expanse of hay land with minimal development except for a deep utility easement and associated underground infrastructure. With industrial uses on the south side and the golf course to the north and east, the land has potential for park development.

9. North of Luther Park and West of Mosquito Creek

This area has limited access being nestled between Mosquito Creek and the former railway land. It has traditionally been leased for grazing.

10. East of the Campground and adjacent to the Ag Society Lease

This area of grassed unimproved land is utilized by the Nanton Agricultural Society during large community events.

Facilities and Destination Node Summary

Sahuri & Partners Architecture Inc. facilities review which was completed during the 2008-2009 budget cycle provides a review of existing facilities including the following:



- Town Office
- Thelma Fanning Memorial Library
- FCSS
- Community Centre
- Tom Hornecker Recreation Centre
- Public Works Building

This document does not seek to revisit the analysis provided to council in that report. The Sahuri report and subsequence facility assessment action is a proactive stance by council and town administration to prepare for future growth and maintain existing infrastructure. It is important to

note that the location of the sites is currently centered on the downtown. As the community moves forward new structures will be contemplated to meets the citizen's needs. The MDP suggests that:

"Council and town staff will continue to make decisions on new development, but it is paramount to the sense of community that each proposal be weighed against the strength of core and the sense of center that the downtown provides for its citizens. For example, a new town hall with joint uses is an asset to any community and there are always options for location. Sense of community and recognition of core should make the decision easier. Simply put, civic functions should always be considered in the downtown core first. Every decision to place something away from the core should be reviewed on its ability to compliment the core through the transportation network."

The Town of Nanton is blessed with a number of options for the location of civic buildings and facilities. Location decisions should take into account this and other planning documents.

Each location can be thought of a node in larger systems such as transportation and within the concept of accessibility. As nodes in the parks and trails system, it should be a strong consideration to locate new buildings adjacent to the system and not isolated from it.

Other destination (See Map 1) nodes not included in the Sahuri report include:

- AB Daley Community School
- JT Foster School
- Agriplex and rodeo grounds
- Nanton Grain Elevator
- Nanton Golf Course
- Nanton Visitor Center
- Nanton Cemetery
- Nanton Baptist Church



Part 3: Plan Strategies

Context

At the outset of this plan, a set of goals were established around four core values namely shared stewardship, quality of life, excellent service, and sense of community. The plan strategies are organized around these core values in an attempt to provide focus for general discussion, budgeting, policy development, and implementation of the plan. Strategy statements may require further input by council, town staff, citizens, and outside agencies. Ideally, the strategies should be thought of in the context of what may be accomplished over 20 years.

Shared Stewardship

Sustainability strategies:

Park design should be done in a manner that accommodates ease of maintenance, plant diversity, recycled materials, green practices, and the principles of xeriscaping including the use of drought tolerant plants appropriate for planting zones 3a and 3b (Appendix 3).

Environmental Protection strategy:

The plan commits to the protection of land and water ecology within the park and open space system by pursuing best management practices.

Historical/Cultural Preservation strategy:

The plan encourages the promotion of Nanton's history and culture within the park system through the preservation of existing assets, the dedication of new monuments, and by holding public events related to history and culture.

Quality of Life

Health and Wellness strategy:

Community land use choices have an impact on public health. The development of this plan is in recognition of the need to promote a comprehensive and cohesive park, recreation and open space system that betters the health of Nanton's citizens. Strategy development will therefore be weighted toward active uses over passive uses.

Community Livability strategy:

The town will circulate via assorted media:

- periodic questionnaires to evaluate future needs and current rate of use of the system components;

- information packages regarding recreation events and programs;
- public forums regarding parks, recreation and open space topics.

Economic Vitality strategy:

This document strives to promote development with the viewpoint that park amenities support a livable community, tourism, and the local economy.

Excellent Service

Accessibility strategy:

Nanton is committed to designing a walkable community. Although not every area of a park or trail will be accessible to all citizens, the system will provided for like experiences for those who have disabilities. Barrier-free design will continue as a tenet of public buildings, urban open spaces, sidewalk construction, and parking lots.

Customer Service strategy:

The plan supports ongoing staff training for exemplary customer service whereby communication with citizens remains a priority. As part of that communication effort, the collection of reference materials for education of citizens regarding the topics contained herein will be developed by staff over time and released via printed material and website links.

Quality Parks and Facilities strategy:

The minimum standard for park requirements as outlined in the plan Components section will be utilized to review amenity needs for existing and newly proposed park spaces. Facility needs will be addressed through needs assessment, budget processes, and dialog with citizens.

Fiscal Responsibility strategy:

A system of financing the parks and trail system that would entail no or limited additional tax load may be achieved by utilizing alternative funding methodologies.

Sense of Community

Connectivity strategies:

Although this document provides a list and map of nodes and linkages throughout the community, this is not a static system and each new node approved through planning processes should be reviewed against the existing system to identify appropriate linkages.

The plan supports the development of wayfinding signage throughout the park system to help engage the public in using the space and educating them on the features of the system.

Volunteerism strategy:

The plan encourages the formal recognition and celebration of its volunteer community.

Partnerships strategy:

The plan commits to open dialog with governmental bodies and public/private organizations regarding needs, funding, and promotion of recreation development within the Town of Nanton.

Community Identity strategies:

Community branding around the theme of Authentic Alberta should be expanded and be celebrated in Nanton's public parks and recreational spaces.

Public art and monuments are encouraged to be located throughout the parks, recreation, and open space areas. These features are to further the celebration of Nanton's history and sense of community.

Community Support strategy:

When contemplating new or improved recreation facility development, community organizations, parks and recreation staff, and citizens play an important role in the planning and decision making process and will be consulted.



Part 4: Components of the Park and Open Space Plan

Acreage Characteristics and Standards for Park Types

In Alberta legislation, the base acreage requirements for schools and parks recommended by the province is 16 acres per quarter section (160 acres) of development. This acreage is generally taken as Municipal Reserve (School Reserve) at the time of subdivision. The acreage requirement does not include environmentally protected lands acquired as environmental reserve, which when taken adds to a municipality's inventory of open space and provides opportunity for passive recreation. A municipality may also choose to purchase lands from the open market, accept donations of land, or negotiate a land exchange. With all this land at a community's disposal, it becomes necessary to think of the need and location of parks to best utilize and manage the resource.

A typical park and open space plan consists of a variety of land forms, acreage, and functions defined under a classification system. The classification system is meant to be a guideline for development and not a rigid standard. Although classifications are based on a primary intent and service of a particular area, this may have to be adjusted when actual use is evaluated in the long run.

General Standards

1. **Park Size**

   As Nanton continues to grow, the majority of that growth will occur on annexed lands. These acquisitions will generally be large tracts and full quarter sections. As area structure plans are developed for these lands, it is a requirement of the Town of Nanton that each quarter section develop a community size park and then based on walkability and connectivity provide the remainder of acreage among the other park types discussed below.

2. **Public Safety**

   a. Park boundaries are to be configured in such a way as to optimize visual access into the site. A compact, rectangular shape is preferred. Configurations which will result in hidden corners are not acceptable.

   b. Placement of planting and land forms must allow for play structures, paddling pools and walkways to be visible from a passing vehicle.

   c. All play equipment and other supplied recreational components must have approval from the Town of Nanton.

   d. Principles of crime prevention are to be applied throughout the park planning and design process with the intent to minimize the opportunity for crime and nuisance behavior, and to create acceptable levels of actual and perceived public safety.

3. Environmental Conditions

a. Park design should recognize and, where possible, take advantage of natural site features including sloping land, existing vegetation, creek bank areas and water bodies.

b. Parks may contain recreational lakes.

4. Services

a. Municipal Reserve may be used to convey storm water runoff to storm water storage basins and may act as temporary water storage to allow water detention for a temporary period of time after a storm event. Municipal Reserve land and land held for storm water management facilities shall be integrated in all cases where circumstances permit. Storm water facilities, where located adjacent to parks, must be treated in a manner that complements the park development. Planning and development of all integrated sites will be a collaborative process involving the Developers, the Town departments, and volunteer organizations. Funding for construction and the subsequent maintenance of the Storm Water Management facilities on integrated sites must be one of the subjects of this collaborative process and subsequent agreement. The Developer will bear the responsibility to address the costs associated with required landscape plans of the Storm Water Management facility on integrated sites.

b. The placement of utility easements within parks must adhere to Town engineering standards while being sensitive to the investment already in place within the setting.

c. Where it is appropriate, utility easements may be used for recreation purposes. The design of the area shall complement the park development and recreational use.

5. Structures

Structures should be designed to resist vandalism and may be developed in the various types of parks provided they are consistent with the park's programming objectives.

6. Parking

The provision of appropriate parking for community and neighbourhood parks shall be a combined objective of the park planning process for a standalone park, and the school site design process where the town retains adjacent ownership to create the opportunity for joint-use of parking facilities. A developer may in accordance with the act be required to pay for the parking facility related to a park.

The Chart 2 provides the general park classification system for Nanton. The written explanation (below) provides more detail of each park type.

CHART 2: Town of Nanton Park and Open Space Standards

Type	Description	Intended Service Area	Acreage	Suggested Amenities	Existing Equivalent
Pocket Park	For limited recreational and passive use needs complementary to the Neighbourhood Park	Residents and users within 1/4 mile	2500 sq. ft. to under 2 acres	play structure, bench	1915 - 29th Avenue
Neighbourhood Park	The basic residential park focused on the general needs of the neighbourhood for general active and passive use	Centrally located to service residents within 1/4 to 1/2 mile	2-5 acres minimum and up to 7-10 acres	Developed pathway or trail, play structure, bench, passive/ active space	Dave Wallace Memorial Park
Community Park	Larger parks whose amenities serve the entire community and attract users from outside the community	Greater than 1/2 mile	Greater than 10 acres	All of the above plus gazebo, bathrooms, picnic tables, lighting, parking	Centennial Park Lions Grove Park
School / Church Sites	Dual purpose site whose secondary use is meant to augment park space for passive and limited active use as agreed upon by the Town and owner	Service per agreement	Existing parcels	Per agreement	A.B. Daley School J.T. Foster School Baptist Church
Recreation Facility	For intensive recreational use	No standard	No standard	As developed	Tom Hornecker Recreation Centre
Linear Parks	For connective purposes, linking different nodes via walkway or active pathway	As developed	As developed	Developed pathway or trail with signage and rest areas	Slade Drive Pathway
Natural Areas	Lands set aside for preservation whose intended use is limited and generally left in a natural state	No standard	No standard	Natural pathway or trail	Mosquito Creek

Community Parks

Community parks are considerably larger in scale and serve a broader range of community recreation and social needs. Development focuses on both active and passive recreation with a wide array of programmed activities being accommodated. These parks may also contain special use facilities such as the Bomber Command Museum, campground or rodeo grounds.

General Characteristics

As noted in the chart, these 10 plus acre parks and their amenities serve the entire community and will attract users from outside the community. Key to use by such a large population is that the park have good road connections and high walkability. The high user ship also commands that they be highly maintained and accommodate parking and bathroom facilities. The general layout should provide for a variety in landscapes varying from natural to active recreation areas.

Development Parameters

Furniture and equipment needs:

2 park benches, 1 garbage/recycling station, 1 dog waste station per acre

Additional furniture considerations:

a. Generally 1 garbage can should be placed within 150 feet of every 4 picnic tables.

b. It is recommended to place picnic tables within 400 feet of a parking lot as this is where the washroom facility would also likely be located.

c. Picnic table spacing should be at least 40 feet apart.

d. If a drinking fountain is to be located on site, it should be within 150 feet of the picnic tables or at a trail head.

Landscaping will be completed as adopted by plan

Trails: level of services should be considered high, with multi-use requirements therefore minimum width should be 10 feet. See Linear Parks for components and development parameters.

Location, visibility and access: The quality of the natural resource base should play a significant role in site selection for the community park. The site should be serviced by arterial and collector streets and be easily accessible from throughout its service area by way of interconnecting trails.

100% visibility of site interior from park/street boundaries, but not necessarily from any one point on the boundary.

Site boundaries not abutting school property to have 50% street exposure.

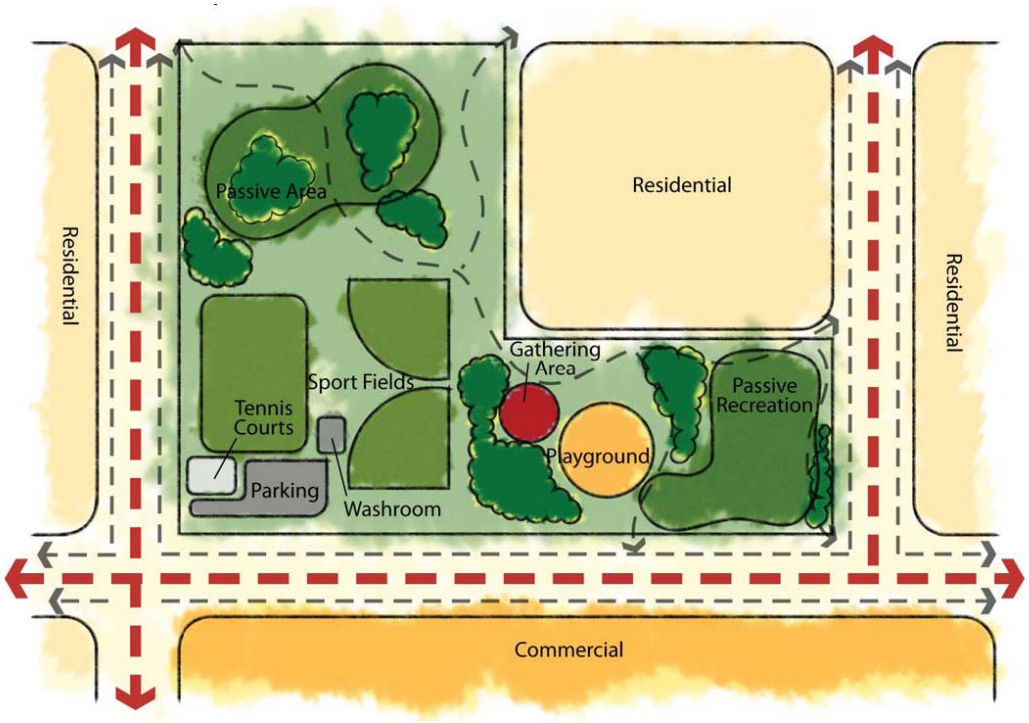
Parking to be provided, quantities according to programming, with access from a collector or arterial street.

Barrier-free Accessibility for special needs persons and the elderly

Specialty uses: Dog park, campground, rodeo grounds, large footprint sports fields as active use, monument dedications, civic buildings.

Developer Requirements

A developer may in accordance with the act be required to pay for the trails and parking facility related to a community park. Design detail may be required at the ASP, subdivision or development stages. A development agreement including all required security deposits will be the mechanism by which the developer will comply with the requirement.



Neighbourhood Parks

Neighbourhood parks are the basic unit of the park system and serve both a recreational and social purpose. The neighbourhood facility requirements are more reliant on the needs and interest of surrounding residents for livability. Development focuses on walkability and informal recreation with a lessor role for major recreational programming excepting youth sports.

General Characteristics

As noted in the chart, these 2-10 acre parks and their amenities serve the residential neighbourhoods. They have a higher walkability factor than a community park and are therefore less reliant on vehicular access. Because of their proximity to home, bathroom and parking facilities are not necessary unless the park is upgraded with programmed active use(s). The general use should strike a balance between active and passive space.

Development Parameters

Furniture and equipment needs:

2 park benches, 1 garbage/recycling station, 1 dog waste station per acre

Landscaping will be completed as adopted by plan

Trails: level of service should be considered medium to high, multi-use requirements therefore minimum width should be 8'. See Linear Parks for components and development parameters.

Location and access: The neighborhood park should be centrally located if possible within its service area and should be uninterrupted by non-residential roads or other physical barriers. It should be accessible by way of interconnecting trails, sidewalks, or low-volume residential streets. Ideally, the park should adjoin a public elementary school.

Centrally located in neighbourhood, not combined with a Community Park.

Located on local or collector streets, not arterial.

Within 0.5 mile (800 m) walk of one and two unit dwellings in neighbourhood.

100% visibility of site interior from park/street boundaries, but not necessarily from any one point on the boundary.

Site boundaries not abutting school property to have 25% continuous street frontage (primary – collector street).

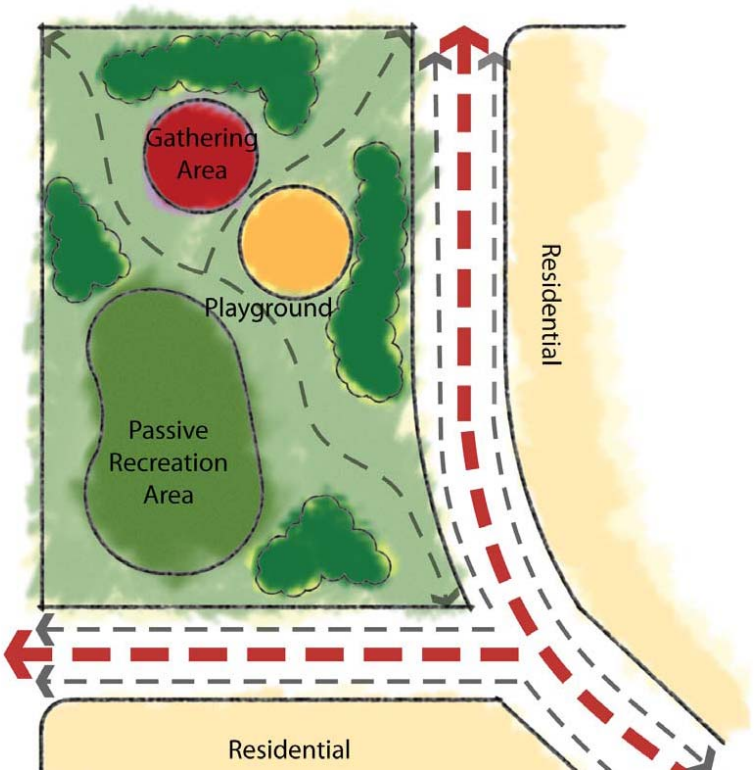
Minimum 20 metres run of street frontage (secondary – local street), in addition to the 25%, located on a side of the park away from the principal run of frontage, in order to ensure 100% visibility.

Barrier-free Accessibility for special needs persons and the elderly

Specialty uses: Gazebo, small footprint sporting improvement as active use, monument dedications.

Developer Requirements

A developer may in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act* be required to pay for the trails and parking facility related to a Neighborhood Park. Design detail may be required at the ASP, subdivision or development stages. A development agreement including all required security deposits will be the mechanism by which the developer will comply with the requirement.



Pocket Parks

Pocket parks (aka mini-park, tot lot) are the smallest component of the park system. They are generally located in highly developed areas to support the Neighbourhood Park component or provide passive open space in a commercial area. Nanton has some large lot redevelopment areas which may not have the acreage for a neighbourhood park but have a need for open space. The pocket park may be the option to fill the need.

General Characteristics

The pocket park at under 2 acres provides open space where other larger options are limited. Dependent on the nature of its service area and intent may be minimally equipped but should be highly walkable and provide for passive activity. In a residential area, because of their proximity to home, bathroom and parking facilities are not necessary; these facilities may be warranted in a commercial setting.

Development Parameters

Furniture and equipment needs:

2 park benches, 1 garbage/recycling station, 1 dog waste station per acre

Landscaping will be completed as adopted by plan: small clustered trees to provide shade for park benches during summer high sun hours. Remainder of plantings at a scale complimentary to the park keeping in mind visibility and safety.

Trails: not required although the park may be established as a trail head or rest area along a linear park which may contain a trail. See Linear Parks for components and development parameters.

Location and access: One potential area of importance for the development of mini-parks is to create pockets of park development along trails and greenbelt corridors. In general, these parks serve a passive need and normally do not require vehicular parking.

Not less than 400 m from Neighborhood Park.

Located on local or local collector streets, not collector or arterial.

Pocket parks to be located in different parts of the neighbourhood from each other, and from Neighborhood Park, to achieve optimal distribution of open space in the neighbourhood.

100% visibility of site interior from street.

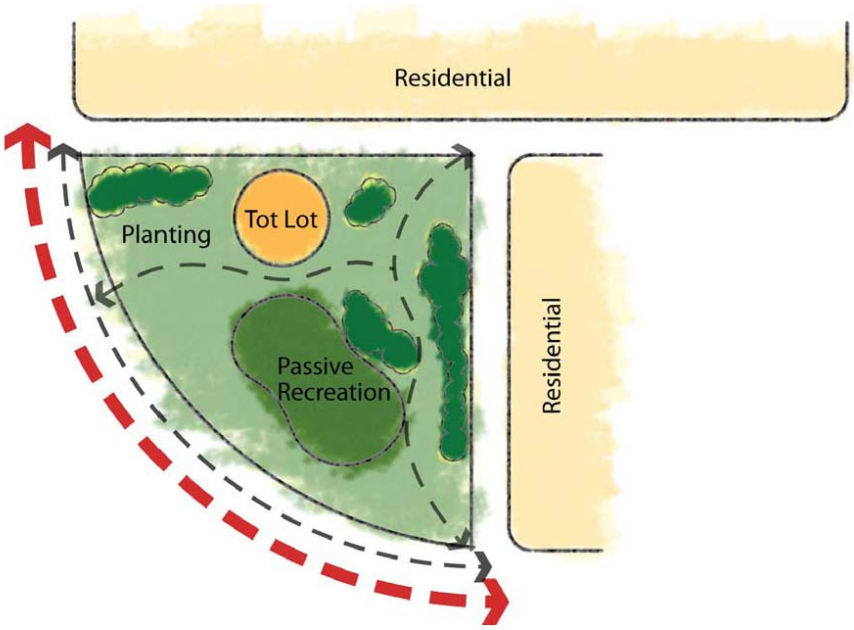
Site boundaries to have minimum 25% street frontage.

Barrier-free Accessibility for special needs persons and the elderly: not required as similar or like experience is accessible at the Neighborhood Park.

Specialty uses: small monument dedications.

Developer Requirements

A developer may in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act* be required to pay for the trails and parking facility related to a Pocket Park. Design detail may be required at the ASP, subdivision or development stages. A development agreement including all required security deposits will be the mechanism by which the developer will comply with the requirement.



Linear Parks

Linear parks are the component that links the various larger open spaces or parks into a connective system. Historically, the linkages were accommodated via a sidewalk separated from the roadway by a treed boulevard along a grid street network. Current subdivision design attempts to create a park system that is linked via dedicated routes rather than sidewalks or utilizing natural amenity and built infrastructure. Each design should work within the parameters of walkability and accessibility by multiple pedestrian modes including walking, bicycling, skateboard, skating, strollers etc. Linear parks may also provide means to connect important nodes of development (as listed in Facilities and Destination Node Summary) or act a separator buffers between two non-compatible uses.

General Characteristics

As described above, the linear park is and can be many things, but should not be diminished in importance in its finished detail. Successful walkability provides pleasant and interactive user experience which can be undermined done without the same level of importance as the destination. The general use should strike a balance between active and passive space.

Trail Design Components

Trail design in an urban setting can come in a variety of forms from asphalt to natural foot worn single track paths. Often the form is defined by the intended usage which should be understood prior to construction, so as to not over or under build the amenity. Usage is defined by node connectivity, proximity of population, available land, and accessibility needs.

The components of the trail design will include consideration for: the travel surface, trail heads, drainage features, signage, finished landscaping, lighting, furniture and surface travel markings.

Development Parameters

Trails in new development areas shall minimize street crossings especially collector and arterial streets where crossings shall only be permitted at controlled intersections.

Residential mid-block street crossings shall be limited, but where utilized shall be reviewed with pedestrian safety features as the primary street design component.

Trails along streets and alleys shall have distinct separation from vehicular traffic.

Trails internal to a neighborhood and community park should have a loop system in layout.

The sidewalk system should link directly into the trail system.

Trails should be designed with the concept of visual edges, gateways, and anchors in mind (see figure 1, 2, 3).

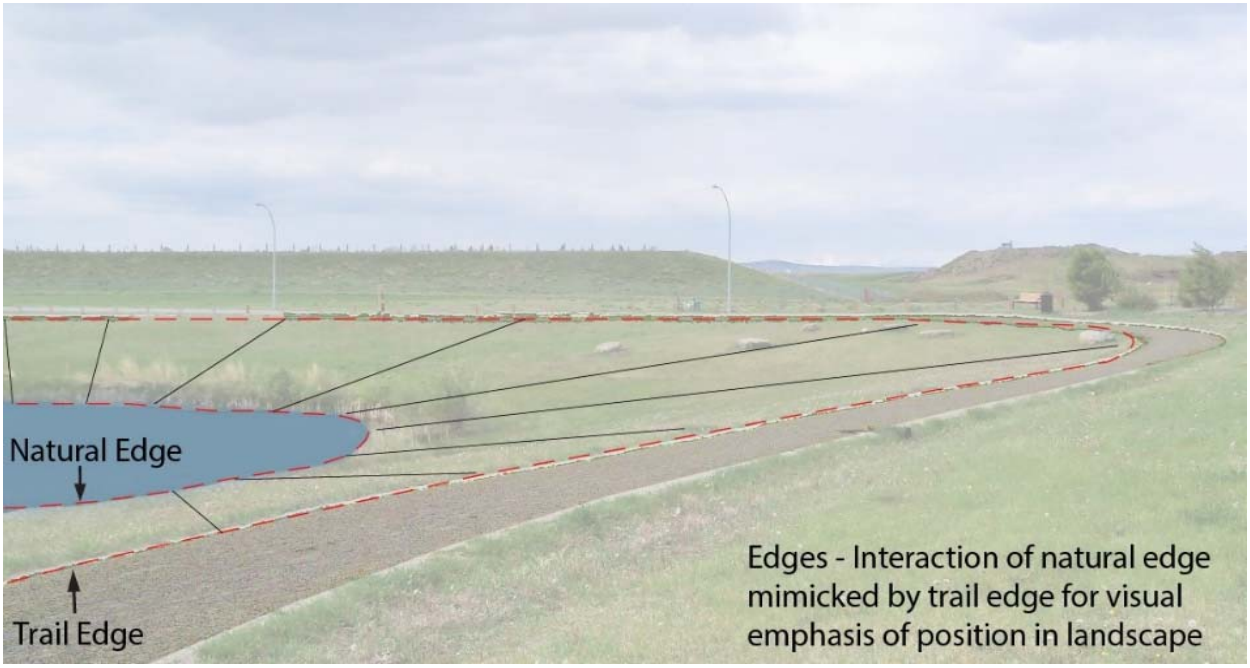


Figure 1

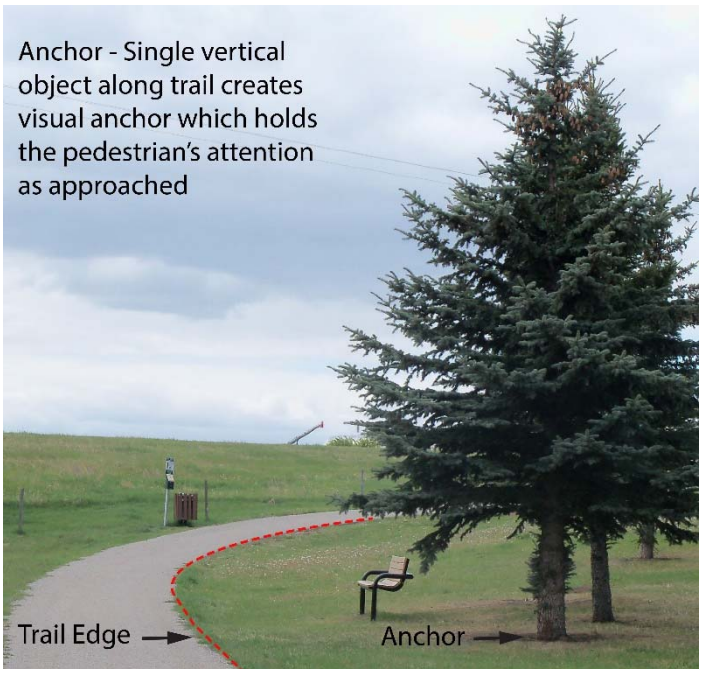


Figure 2

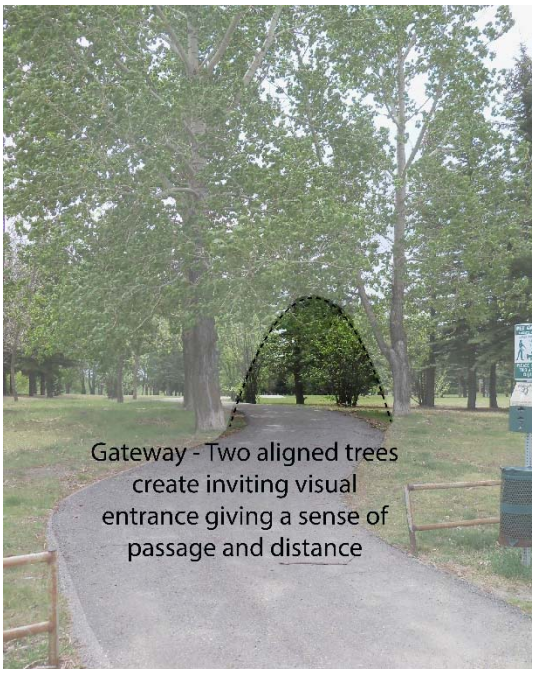


Figure 3

Multi-user hard surfaced trails should be accessible to the majority of the population. This requires vehicular parking, curb ramps, and a grade less than 5%.

Accessibility where it relates to natural trails should be focused on like experiences versus over uniform access.

Natural trails should be marked with range of difficulty provided (easy and accessible to difficult and strenuous).

Lighting should be considered for those portions of highly used trails in community parks, at rest area nodes in the linear path system, where security is an issue, and at intersections with streets or alleys. Ideally, utilizing a solar lighting system is most efficient in remote areas where existing serving is limited or inaccessible. Where possible street lighting should be utilized to light the trails system with ambient light.

Trail furniture should be considered at trail heads and along trail as periodic rest areas. The furniture at these nodes should include a park bench, garbage can, and optionally lighting and water station.

Where practical, trailheads and rest areas should be considered at the recommended 1500 foot walkability distance. Natural areas posted as challenging to strenuous may not be suited to this criteria.

As the system matures and becomes more complex, a user friendly system of way-finding / signage should be developed to supplement user experience.

The trail system need not only focus on passive interaction with users, recreational programming initiatives that provide exercise hints and simple equipment may also be developed.

Intensive landscaping standards along the linear park is not practical because of maintenance. Instead, simple low maintenance planting should be considered. Intensive landscaping may be considered at the rest area node to enhance user experience.

The town shall work with Alberta Transportation to ensure trail related crosswalks across Highway 2 are well defined and maintained.

Where a trail has minimal elevation change and no natural interruption of the right-of-way, a meander in the trail should be introduced to enhance the user experience.

Overhead clearances on trails should be maintained at 10 feet (3 m).





Foot worn paths should be evaluated for improvement if part of an intensively used park setting. Foot worn paths in natural settings should be left to help define access.

Developer Requirements

A developer may in accordance with the *Municipal Government Act* be required to pay for the trails and parking facility related to a Linear Parks including the design components and parameters described above. Design detail may be required at the ASP, subdivision or development stages. A development agreement including all required security deposits will be the mechanism by which the developer will comply with the requirement.

Urban Open Space

Downtown Nanton is an urban environment which because of its intensive land use is dominated by built infrastructure . . . streets, sidewalks, buildings, parking lots, servicing infrastructure, and alleyways. But real successful downtowns all provide an oasis of open space as a relief from the street. These open spaces can be as small as a planter or as large as a park. The challenge is to identify and take advantage of opportunities to provide open space in an intensive environment, but the effort should always be considered at the development review and approval stage.

In Nanton, the planting in front of the Community Health Centre should be measured as successful as the placement of half barrel planters between buildings further down the street. The health centre and its civic function allowed for a strip of permanent planting which would not work for retail development where window shopping is a component of business engagement of the street.



The use of hard surface in downtown open space is an important component of design. It is therefore necessary to consider a higher standard of material to make the end result inviting and successful. Texture, color, and pattern are key considerations in the design of hard surface.

Landscaping (or softscape) in an urban setting because of the high volume of potential users needs to be considered carefully. Foot traffic can potentially damage the best intentions of designed softscape. Softscape is therefore often strategically located and quite often requires protection for survival. Raised planters, dense foliage, fencing and appropriately aligned foot paths can help protect the investment and maintenance of urban softscape.

Outside of formally design downtown space, side yards, spaces between buildings and parking lots should be identified as an opportunity for softscape.

Trees have a functional role in defining street edges and softening a hard landscape. Young trees may benefit from tree guards for protection.

Downtown open spaces present unique opportunity for interaction, livability, historical commemoration, and design. Historic designated buildings and structures are often only experienced from there exteriors and commemoratory plaques.

Other elements to consider in these spaces are street furniture, art/sculpture, a structure to protect users from inclement weather, a water feature, historical monuments, and public bathrooms.

Natural Open Space – Mosquito Creek and other natural features

The park system does not need to be activated to do everything everywhere. Natural open areas, captured through Environmental Reserve (MGA section 664), public utility lot designation or land exchange processes, are meant to be kept in as close to their natural state as possible. These are the wild leftover places where urban form has conceded to Mother Nature either by practical necessity or by vision.

Environmental Concerns

Public access and stewardship:

- May be connected to or incorporated into park and open space system by dirt trails.
- Where appropriate establish low impact pedestrian connections through natural and preservation areas.
- Provide interpretive and educational opportunities featuring the unique characteristics of the land.
- Unapproved accesses should be monitored and where appropriate removed and return to a natural state.

Area Structure Plan and developer requirements for plan submittals:

- The preparation of any land planning documents (i.e. Areas Structure Plans, Area Redevelopment Plans, Conceptual Design Schemes, etc.) should identify all naturally significant areas and include recommendations for their preservation relevant to the overall parks and open space system. If portions of the area are necessary to the park system, any proposed development shall be measured against provincial and municipal policy.
- Areas identified as naturally significant or undevelopable due to naturally existing land features during the Area Structure Plan process should remain undisturbed during subsequent subdivision design and construction processes, and should be registered as Environmental Reserve at the time of subdivision.
- Utility rights-of-way should not interfere with the natural or environmentally significant open spaces.

Urban Forest Management

The urban forest is comprised of all trees and shrubs within the municipal boundary. It is the collective inheritance of the history of Nanton's development played out in a living being. Although ecologically linked across the community, the forest is affected by ownership: primarily private and public. The public ownership can be found in park and open space areas, publicly owned property, and street trees within road right-of-ways. Other areas of quasi-public ownership

(schools, churches, private recreation areas and provincial lands) should be encourage through memorandum of understanding or contractually to adhere to public forest management standards.

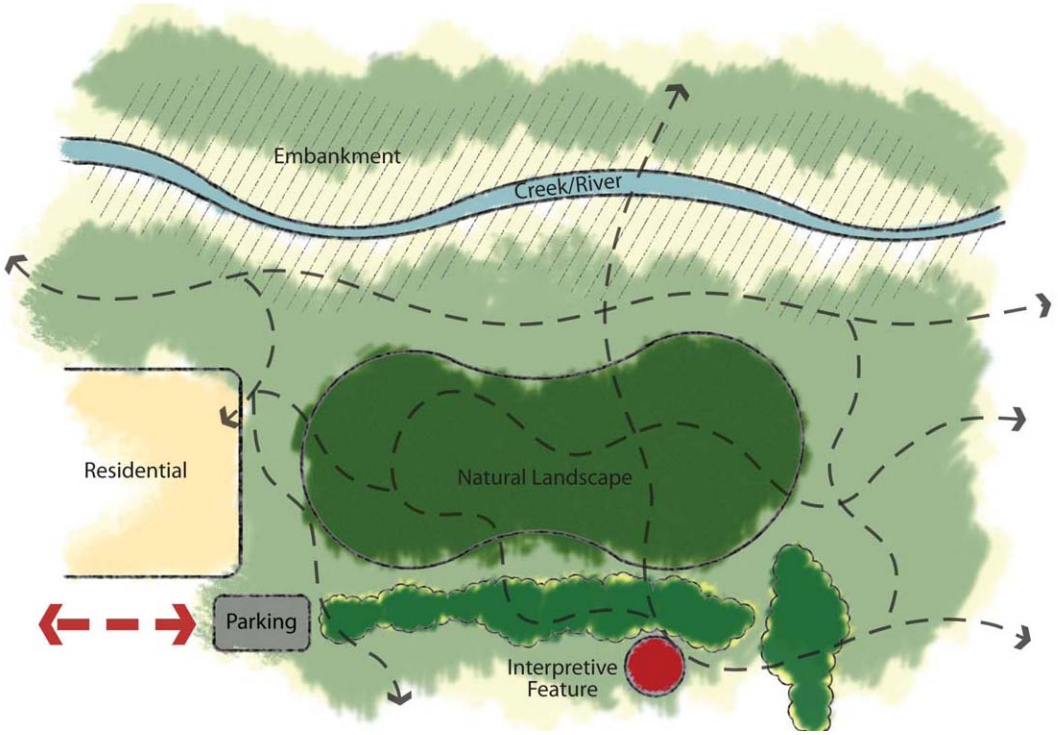
More and more communities are beginning to recognize the tangible benefits that trees provide in the urban environment. Healthy trees reduce air and noise pollution, provide energy-saving shade and cooling, furnish habitat for wildlife, enhance aesthetics and property values, and are an important contributor to community image, pride, and quality of life.

Furthermore, many communities have realized that in order to protect and enhance their valuable tree resources, it is useful to view and manage their trees as a cohesive unit.

The benefits of street trees includes, but is not limited to:

- shade in the summer and shelter in the winter, making streets much more walkable,
- contributing to the overall attractiveness of the streets and the Town, and
- ecological function, serving as habitat for birds and other wildlife.

The presence of street trees, and the design of residential streets, has varied over time in Nanton. A strong vision of the public open space system should include streets with street trees as one of the most important public open space elements. This needs to be combined with a good planting, management and replacement program. An inventory of street trees is the basis for development of an urban forestry plan, and should be considered for Nanton. For further information, see the Urban Forest Management Plan.



Part 5: Plan Implementation

The implementation of this plan requires the input of four general groups to make for a successful parks, recreation and open space master plan. The following summarizes these groups and their roles.

1. Citizen Proposals

It is important to note that any project proposed on Town park land needs to include Town administration early on. If a project needs water and sewer or other amenities, only the town administration is qualified to answer the feasibility of those questions and work out possible options for the proposal.

To aid town administrators and council on decisions, each proposal for park improvement shall provide a written submittal which utilizes this plan (where applicable) to justify the projects acceptance. Town administration and council should also review the merits of the proposal against this document and other relevant plans.

2. Council

Council decisions on the vast scope of park, recreation and open space related topics will draw upon existing documents, staff resources, contract work and volunteerism. Other important documents to consider in the actions of council include Government of Alberta legislation and guiding documents, the Municipal Development Plan, the Land Use Bylaw, Area Structure Plans and the Infrastructure Master Plan. To further augment the plan, Council may consider over time developing policy on the following:

- a community garden program
- urban forest management
- volunteerism recognition
- xeriscaping
- standard entrance / park name signage

Each additional policy may be added as an appendix and may be cause for a review and amendment of the document.

3. Staff

The Town of Nanton Staff and advisors will carry out the majority of analysis when evaluating existing parks and open spaces and provide Council with options for each budget cycle. Newly proposed parks devised through area structure plans, subdivision or other means will be reviewed against this plan.

4. Developers

Developers are to utilize this document in conjunction with the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw within their proposals for Area Structure Plans, Area Redevelopment Plans and for Subdivision and Development proposals.

Validity and Amendment

This plan will not contain a "sunset" clause, but rather, a method of continuous updating as required. It should be reviewed during each budget cycle, after additional questionnaires are circulated, and every 5 years by each new incoming council.

This plan comes into effect on the date it is adopted by the Town. It remains in effect until council rescinds the plan from the Municipal Development Plan.

Recognizing that this plan may require an amendment from time to time to accommodate an unforeseen situation, such an amendment may be adopted by council via resolution and not the formal three readings process.

Publicly driven applications for an amendment to this plan shall be made to the town and be accompanied by the appropriate fees.

Upon adoption (and subject to any amendment) of this document the Town of Nanton should review and update all other planning documents affected by the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

Waiver

It is important to have consistent decisions made over time, however, because policies do not anticipate each circumstance, decision-making authorities need the ability to allow for periodic waivers.

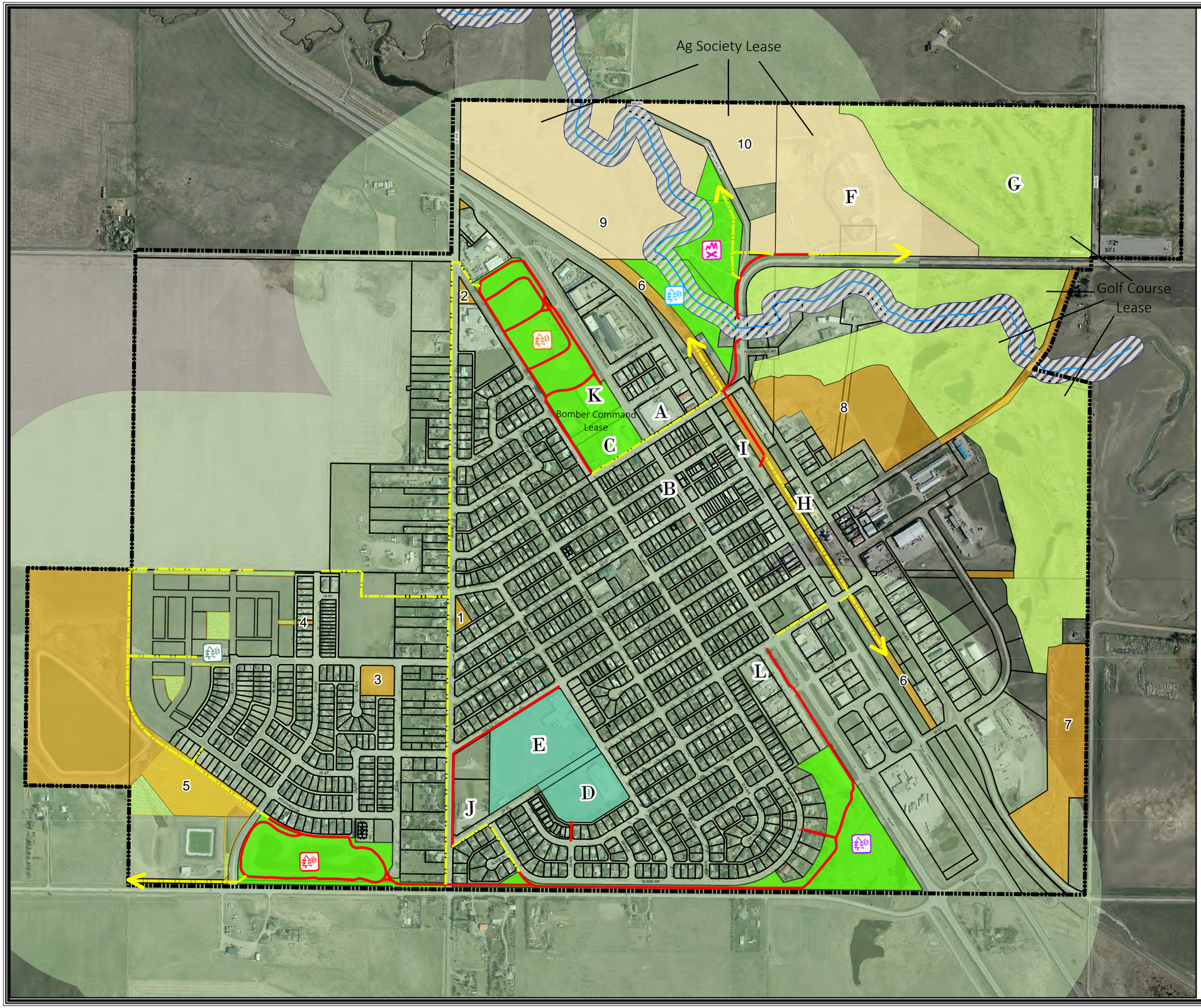
In respect to policies in this plan, an approval authority may approve an application even though the proposed development, subdivision, Area Structure Plan or redesignation does not comply with the plan if, in its opinion, the proposals would:

a. be in accordance with the community spirit and image of the area of the proposal including landscape, traditional land uses or other community values;

b. not materially interfere with or affect the use, enjoyment or value of neighbouring parcels of land.

Maps

TOWN OF NANTON
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN
MAP 1



Legend

Points of Interest

- Centennial Park
- Lion's Grove Park
- Luther Park
- Dave Wallace Memorial Park
- Westview Meadows
- Nanton Campground

- A Tom Hornecker Rec Center
- B Town Hall
- C Community Centre
- D A.B. Daley Community School
- E J.T. Foster School
- F Agriplex / Rodeo Grounds
- G Nanton Golf Course
- H Nanton Grain Elevator
- I Nanton Visitor Centre
- J Baptist Church
- K Bomber Command
- L Fire Hall

Parks

- Existing Park
- Ag Society Lease
- Golf Course Lease
- School
- Proposed Park
- 1500 Ft Park Walkability Buffer

Open Space

Walkways

- Existing Walkway
- Proposed Walkway

Nanton Municipal Boundary

Mosquito Creek

100 Foot Creek Setback

1-10 See Inventory of Open Space

NANTON EST 1903

OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION

0 125 250 500

Meters

N

November 7, 2023

Town of Nanton Park Inventory: Centennial Park



1. Park Bench
2. Park Bench
3. Information Signs
4. Baseball Diamond
5. Park Bench
6. Baseball Diamond
7. Park Bench
8. Baseball Diamond
9. Park Bench
10. CF-100 Monument
11. Baseball Diamond
12. Parking Lot
13. Batting Cage
14. Horseshoe Pit
15. Bomber Command Museum of Canada
16. Flagpole
17. Flagpole
18. Nanton Air Museum Monument
19. Canada's bomber Command Memorial
20. Canadair T-33 "Silver Star" Monument
21. Picnic Table
22. Nanton Quality of Life Foundation
23. Picnic Table
24. Cenotaph & Flags
25. Parking Lot
26. Park Bench
27. Flagpole
28. Picnic Table
29. Skate Park
30. Picnic Table
31. Picnic Table
32. Millennial Path Dedication Sign
33. Scouts Clubhouse
34. Park Bench
35. Merry-Go-Round
36. Park Bench
37. Bike Rack
38. Garbage Can
39. Swing Set
40. Swing Set
41. Playground Set
42. Park Bench
43. Garbage Can
44. Nanton Community Center
45. Sister City Garden & Monument
46. Washroom

Map 2

0 25 50

Meters

May 10, 2019

Town of Nanton Park Inventory: Lion's Park



1. Camp Kitchen
2. Dedication Rock/Plaque
3. Picnic Table
4. Park Bench
5. Dog Station
6. Park Bench
7. Park Bench
8. Park Bench
9. Boomers Hill
10. Ecological Area
11. Garbage Can
12. Park Bench

Pathways

Map 3

0 25 50

Meters

May 10, 2019

Town of Nanton Park Inventory: Nanton Campground



1. Tenting Area
2. Restrooms
3. Wash House
4. Town Map
5. Camp Kitchen
6. Swing Set / Playground
7. Information / Registration Kiosk

NOTE
All trailer sites contain a picnic table
And metal campfire ring

Map 4
0 20 40
Meters
May 10, 2019


Town of Nanton Park Inventory:
Luther Park
1
1. Luther Park Dedication Monument
Pathways
NANTON
Map 5
0
12.5
25
Meters
May 10, 2019
N

Town of Nanton Park Inventory: Westview Meadows



1. Bench
2. Bench
3. Bench
4. Bench
5. Bench
6. Bench
7. Dog Station
8. Dog Station
9. Dog Station
10. Garbage
11. Garbage
12. Garbage
13. Garbage
14. Picnic Table
15. Picnic Table
16. Picnic Table

Pathways

Map 6

0 25 50

Meters

May 10, 2019

Appendix 1

Glossary of Terms

Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms

Active Use Park *A park featuring active recreation pursuits, such as swimming pools, play equipment for children, ball fields, court games, picnic tables, etc.*

Area Structure Plan (ASP) *A statutory plan, adopted by Bylaw that provides a policy framework for the evaluation of proposals for redesignation, subdivision and development of a specified area of land in the Town.*

Barrier Free Access *The absence of obstacles in an environment which allow persons with physical, mental or sensory disabilities a safer and easier means of accessing a space. In a park system, this often is limited given nature, but a series of like experiences may be provided with careful planning.*

Community Park *A publicly owned park as defined in the [local plan]. Such parks are generally a minimum size of 30 acres, have a service area of one mile, and are designed to serve a population of approximately 6,000. Such parks usually include restrooms and lighted outdoor recreation facilities such as softball, baseball, soccer, and football fields and tennis and basketball courts, and other facilities such as swimming pools, recreation centers, on-site parking, group picnic areas, and sculpture parks.*

Council *The Council of the Town of Nanton.*

Environmental Reserve (ER) *A parcel of land provided at the time of subdivision without compensation, as required under the Municipal Government Act s. 664. These lands are typically characterized by such features as swamps, gullies, ravines, coulees or natural drainage courses. ER also includes lands that are subject to flooding or deemed to be unstable as well as land that abuts water bodies. An environmental Reserve Easement (ERE) has the same effect, but the ownership does not transfer to the municipality; it stays with the private landowner.*

Green Space *An area of grass, trees, or other vegetation set apart for recreational or aesthetic purposes in an otherwise urban environment.*

Hard space or hardscape *A surface area meant for long term use with minimal degradation. Materials include dirt, concrete, asphalt, artificial grass, decomposed rock, sand, stone or brick.*

Linear Park *An area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, and canoeing. Oftentimes a linear park will be developed to connect recreational facilities, as well as schools and residential neighborhoods. The acreage and*

service area of a linear park is variable and subject to existing natural and man-made features, the existence of public right-of-way, and the public demand for this type of park. In some cases, a linear park is developed within a large land area designated for protection and management of the natural environment, with the recreation use a secondary objective.

Municipal Reserve (MR) *A parcel of land provided at the time of subdivision without compensation, as required under the Municipal Government Act, to be used for public parks, recreation areas, schools and as buffers between uses.*

Neighbourhood Park *A park which serves the population of a neighborhood and is generally accessible by bicycle or pedestrian ways.*

Node *An identifiable grouping of uses subsidiary and dependent upon a larger urban grouping of similar or related uses. In a parks system, a node can be thought of as designated destinations or points of rest.*

Open Space, Natural *Any parcel of land or water that is essentially unimproved and devoted to remaining in a natural state through planning or land use documents.*

Open Space, Urban *A usable open space adjoining and directly accessible to adjoining development which is conceived as part of the landscape. Town squares and public art spaces in a downtown are examples of urban open space.*

Park *A noncommercial, not-for-profit facility designed to serve the open space and recreation needs of the residents of the community.*

Park Furniture *A collective term for objects and pieces of equipment installed in parks for various purposes. It includes benches, bollards, kiosks, streetlamps, fountains, drinking fountains, memorials, public sculptures, clocks, picnic tables, playground equipment, game tables, bicycle racks, signage, and waste recycling receptacles.*

Passive Use Park *A park featuring passive recreation pursuits, such as interpretive programs and trail systems that take advantage of geological, biological, or scenic resources located within the park but not including recreational facilities, such as swimming pools, gyms, and playing fields.*

Plan, the *The abbreviation utilized throughout the document standing for Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.*

Pocket Park *A small neighborhood park of approximately one acre or less.*

Soft space or softscape *A surface area meant for short to medium term use which allows for some degradation and recovery. Materials include turf and natural ground covers.*

Trail *A publicly owned or maintained path system including trailheads.*

Urban Forest *The sum of all woody and associated vegetation in and around dense human settlements.*

Wayfinding *A system of signs, maps, and other graphic or audible methods used to convey location and directions to travelers.*

Xeriscape *Xeriscaping refers to a set of principles that are practical and environmentally friendly. Xeriscaping is not the same as zero-scaping and does not focus on rocks, stone and gravel, but on drought tolerant and native greenery.*

Appendix 2

Town Initiatives

Appendix 2: Town Initiatives

A town's implementation of a parks, recreation and open space system can be developed through initiatives of council and through volunteer organizations. This appendix is provided to track what changes have been completed and when. Over the past several years, Town Council has budgeted for the following:

2007 Capital Budget included replacement of the Arena and Curling Club condenser. Also completed that year was the replacement of the swimming pool return lines. Also of note is the Sahuri & Partners Architecture Inc. facilities review which was completed during the 2008 budget cycle through grant funding.

2008 Capital Budget included pathway repairs, renovations to the existing washroom and storage area allowing for a Woman's Changing Room. Also completed by the Town was a new roof installed on the campground kitchen.

2009-2011 Capital Budget included the following priorities:

- Eaves troughing around recreation centre
- Replacement of compressor and motor
- Vehicle purchase for park maintenance
- Ball diamond fencing upgrade
- Upgrade arena dressing rooms 1 and 2
- Playground equipment for Centennial Park
- Campground electrical serviced sites
- Arena spectator heating units

2012-2014 Volunteer organizations have spearheaded many projects with the backing of Town Council such as Millennial Trails, the skate park, the Hub Cap Society rink expansion, and the kid's playground upgrade at Centennial Park.

2014 - Centennial Park Washroom

2016 - Pathway extension from Ag Grounds to Visitor Information Centre

2018 - Lion's Club campground improvements

Appendix 3

Drought-Resistant Plantings

Appendix 3: Drought-Resistant Plantings

Drought-Resistant Plantings

Perennials	Bedding Plants	Trees & Shrubs
Arizona columbine	Gomphrena	Caragana
Artemisias	Clarkia	Dogwood
Asters	Wild Rose	Bur Oak
Blue pineleaf beardtongue	African Daisy	Hackberry
Columbine	Cosmos	Pine
Coreopsis	Ice Plant	Ninebark
Delphinium	Portulaca	Potentilla
Echinacea	Scaevola	Sumac
Gaillardia	Poppy	Currant
Iris	Nierembergia	Cinquefoil
Lamb's Ears	Gazania	Honey Locust
	Lotus Vine	Silver Buffaloberry

Native Species Southern Alberta

Prairie Flowers	Prairie Grasses	Prairie Shrubs
Prairie Smoke	Sideoats Gama	Saskatoon Berry
Golden Alexanders	Crested June grass	New Jersey Tea
Butterfly Weed	Prairie Dropseed	Grey Dogwood
Canada Milk Vetch	Big Bluestem	Fragrant Sumac
Blazing Star	Little Bluestem	Early Wild Rose
Wild Bergamot	Canada Wild Rye	Meadowsweet
Purple Prairie Clover	Switchgrass	Silverweed
Yellow Coneflower	Indian Grass	Dwarf Birch
Black-eyed Susan	Tufted Hair	Snowberry
Blue Vervain	Sweetgrass	Fringed Sage
Culver's Root	Alpine Bluegrass	Sagebrush
	Green Needle Grass	Bog Cranberry

Appendix 4

Questionnaire Results Summary

Questionnaire Results Summary

Demographics

Questions 1-8

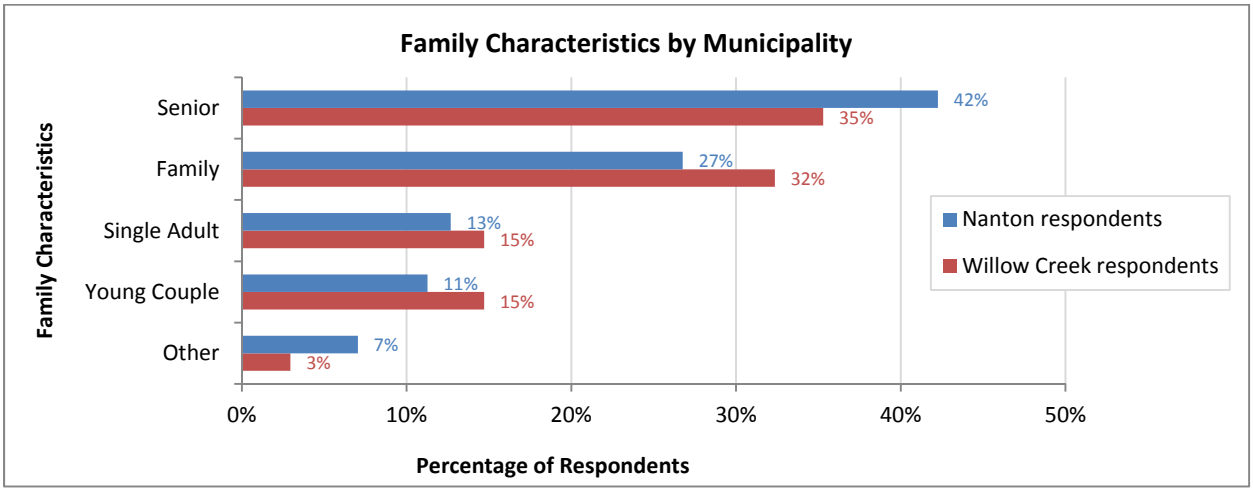
Gender and Age Distribution

A total of 105 households responded to the questionnaire with approximately two-thirds of respondents living within the Town of Nanton and the remainder living in the M.D. of Willow Creek. Approximately 52% of respondents were male, 40% female and 8% not stating an answer. The average age of the survey respondents was 60.8 years old from Nanton respondents and 58.4 years old from Willow Creek respondents. Over 75% of respondents were over the age of 41 years old.

Demographics Summary Table					
Jurisdiction	**Total**	**Males**	**Females**	**No Gender Answer**	**Average Age**
Nanton Respondents	71	31	33	7	60.8
Willow Creek Respondents	34	11	22	1	58.4
Total	**105**	**55**	**42**	**8**	**60.0**

Tenancy and Family Characteristics

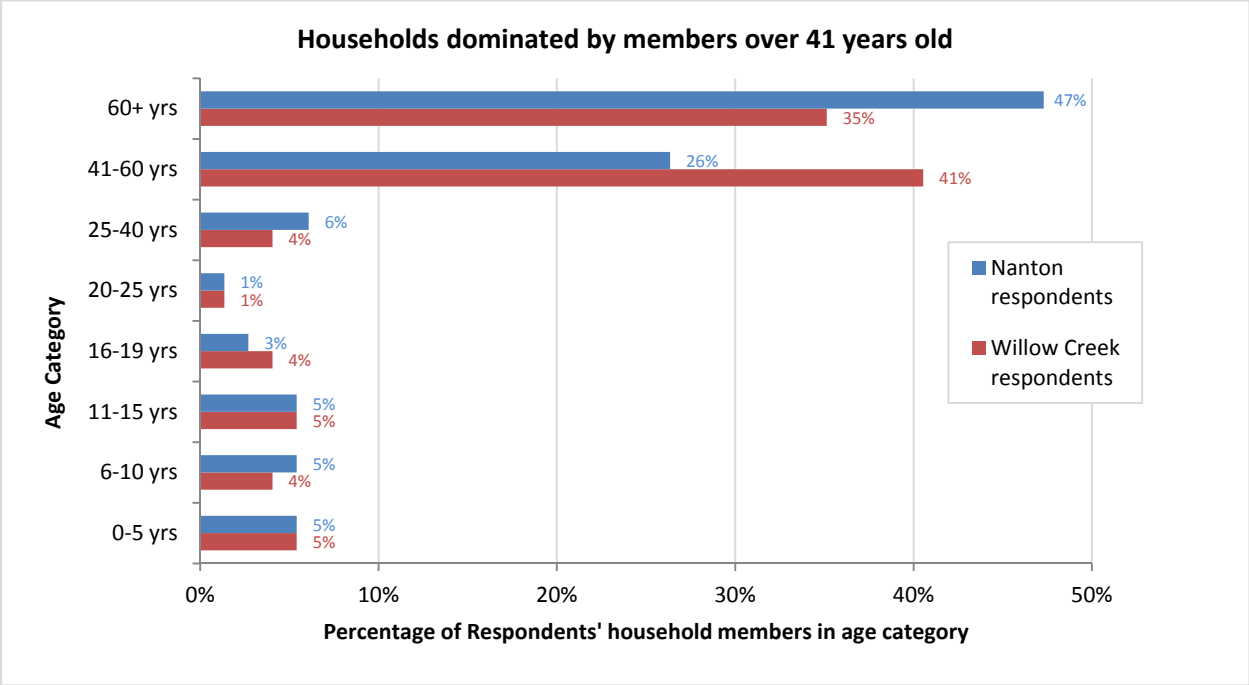
The family characteristics of respondents was largely composed of seniors (living either alone or as a couple), and family households (with older children or children no longer at home) representing 40% and 29% of respondents respectively. Young couples and single adults, either with or without children, and other family arrangements not fitting into the above categories made up the remaining 31% of respondents. In terms of home ownership, all respondents either stated that they were home owners or did not answer the question.



Tenancy Summary Table			
Jurisdiction	**Own**	**Rent**	**No Answer**
Town of Nanton Respondents	68	0	3
M.D. of Willow Creek Respondents	33	0	1
Total	**101**	**0**	**4**

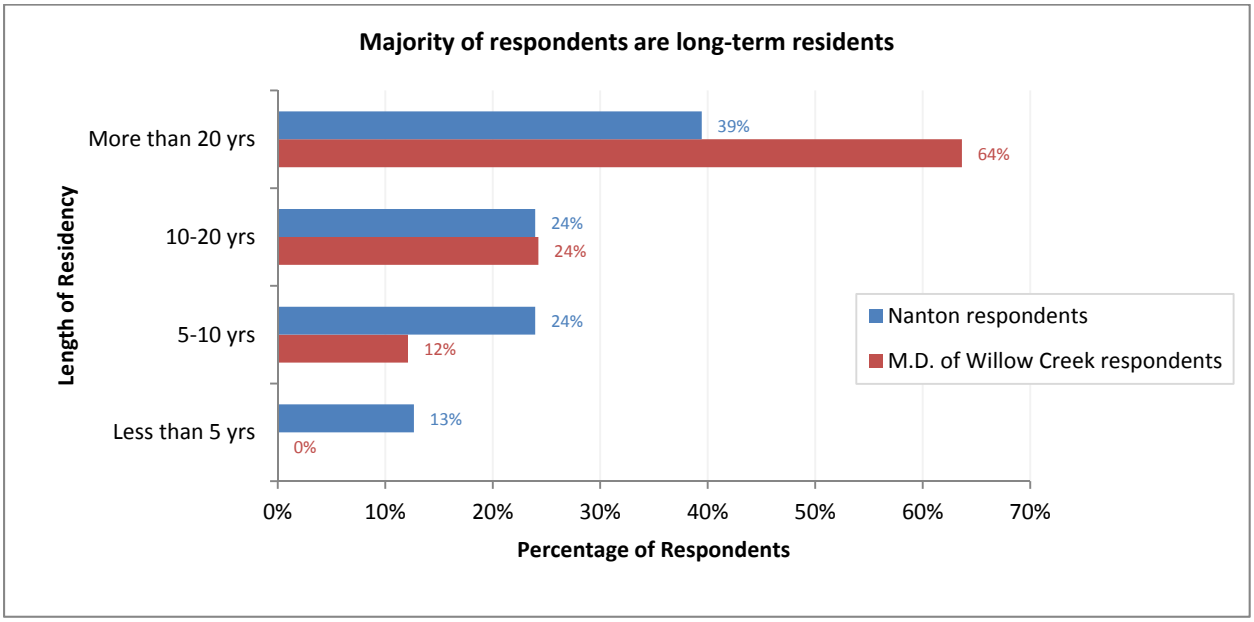
Household Membership

The majority of households that completed the questionnaire are dominated by members over 41 years old. This was true from both the Town of Nanton and the M.D. of Willow Creek respondents. The smallest group of household members was the 20-25 years old category representing only 1% in both jurisdictions.



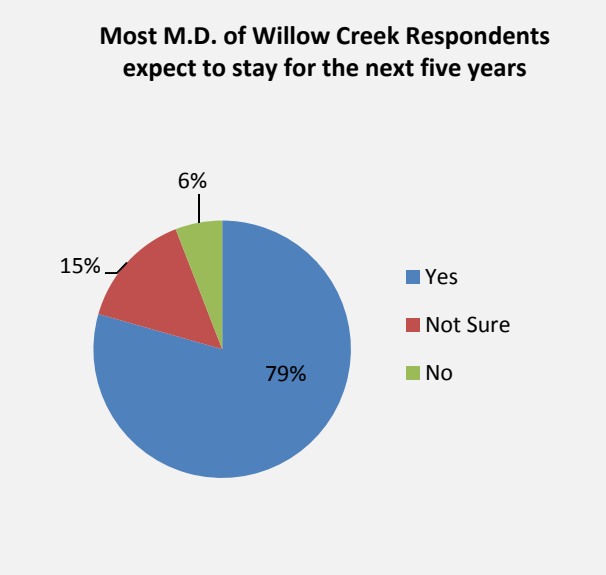
Length of Residency

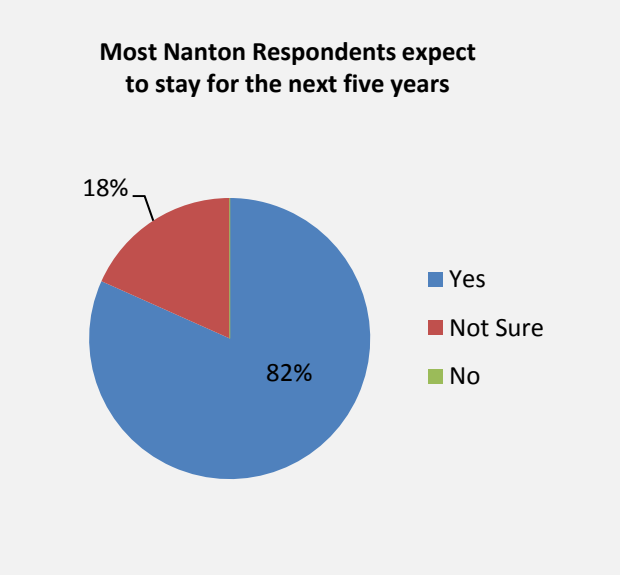
A large proportion of surveys were completed by long-term residents, as 39% of Nanton respondents and 64% of M.D. respondents stated they had lived in their jurisdiction more than 20 years. On the other side, only 9% of Nanton respondents and 0% of M.D. respondents said they had lived in the municipality for less than five years. 81% of respondents confirmed that they expected to be living in the municipality for the next five years.



Future Residency

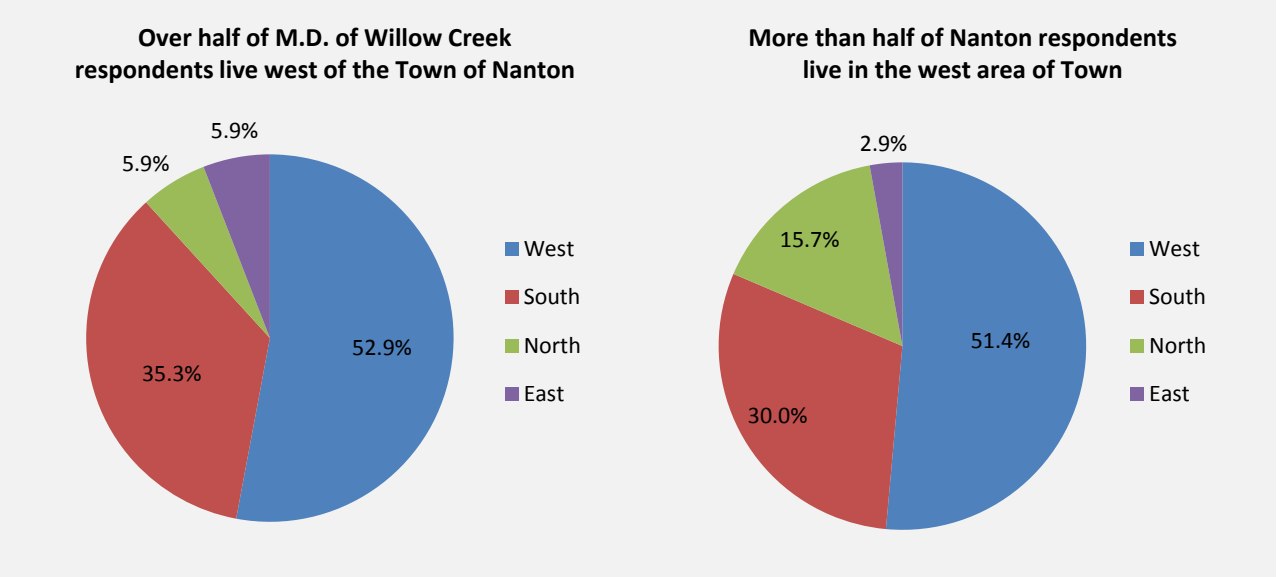
Approximately 80% of respondents from both jurisdictions expect to be residents in their respective municipality for the next five years.





Location

Over half of the respondents identified themselves as living either in the west area of the Town or west of the Town within the M.D. of Willow Creek. Additionally, over 30% of respondents stated that they lived either in the south area of Town or south of the Town within the M.D. of Willow Creek.

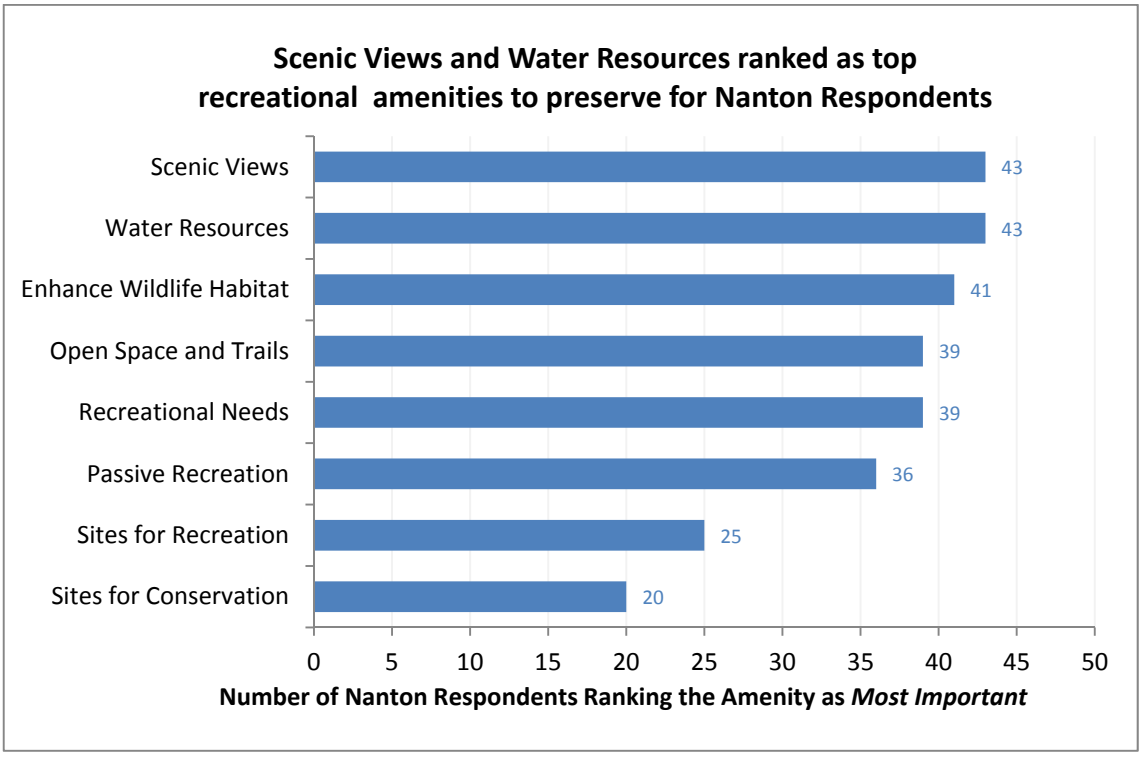


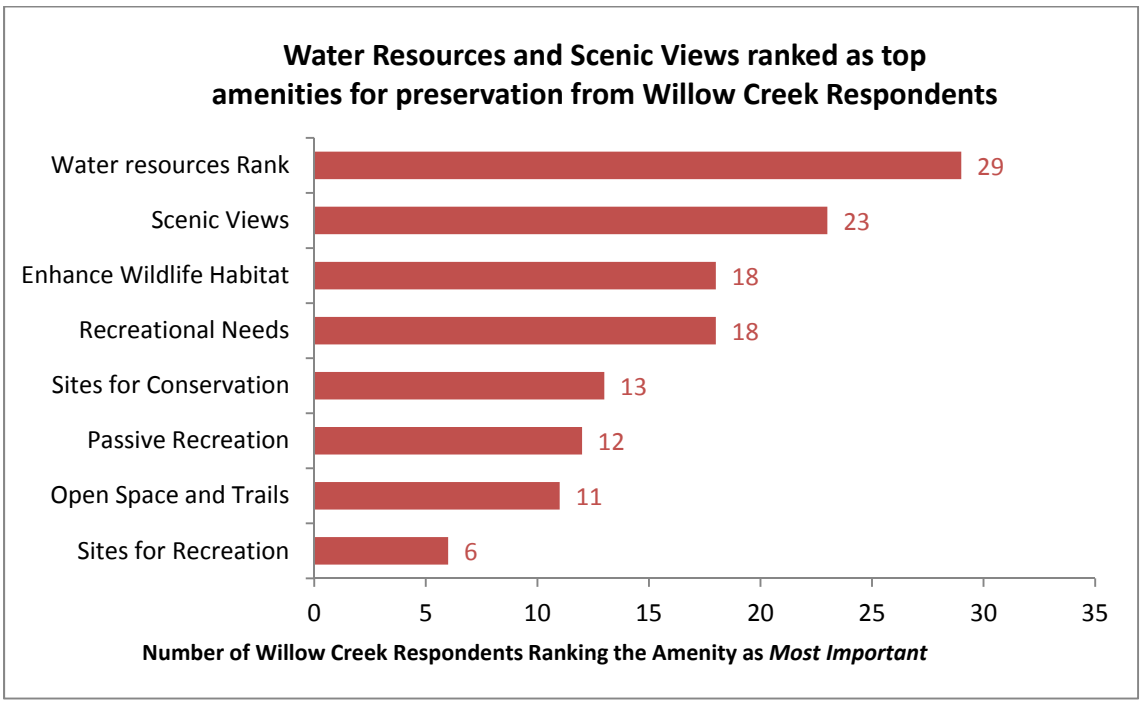
Preservation of Important Recreational Amenities

Question 9: Rank the following by using 1 (most important), 2 (neutral) or 3 (least important) to indicate how important it is for you to preserve:

Nanton respondents ranked scenic areas and views and open spaces to preserve water resources and wetlands as the most important recreational amenities for preservation. Other amenities also ranked quite high in importance of preservation including: enhancement of wildlife habitat; access to open spaces and trails; and open spaces to meet recreational needs.

Willow Creek respondents ranked many of the same amenities as priorities for preservation, including water resources and wetlands and scenic views and areas.

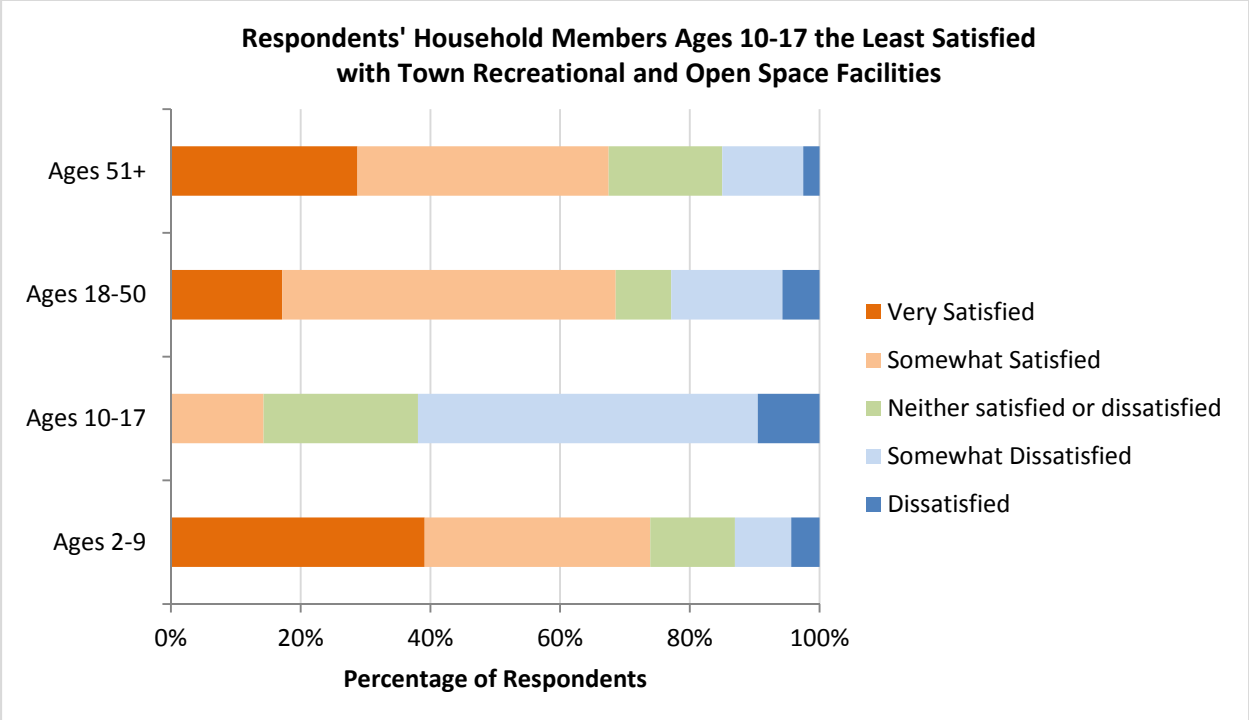



Water Resources and Scenic Views ranked as top amenities for preservation from Willow Creek Respondents
Water resources Rank
Scenic Views
Enhance Wildlife Habitat
Recreational Needs
Sites for Conservation
Passive Recreation
Open Space and Trails
Sites for Recreation
29
23
18
18
13
12
11
6
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
35
Number of Willow Creek Respondents Ranking the Amenity as *Most Important*

User Satisfaction with Town Recreational Facilities

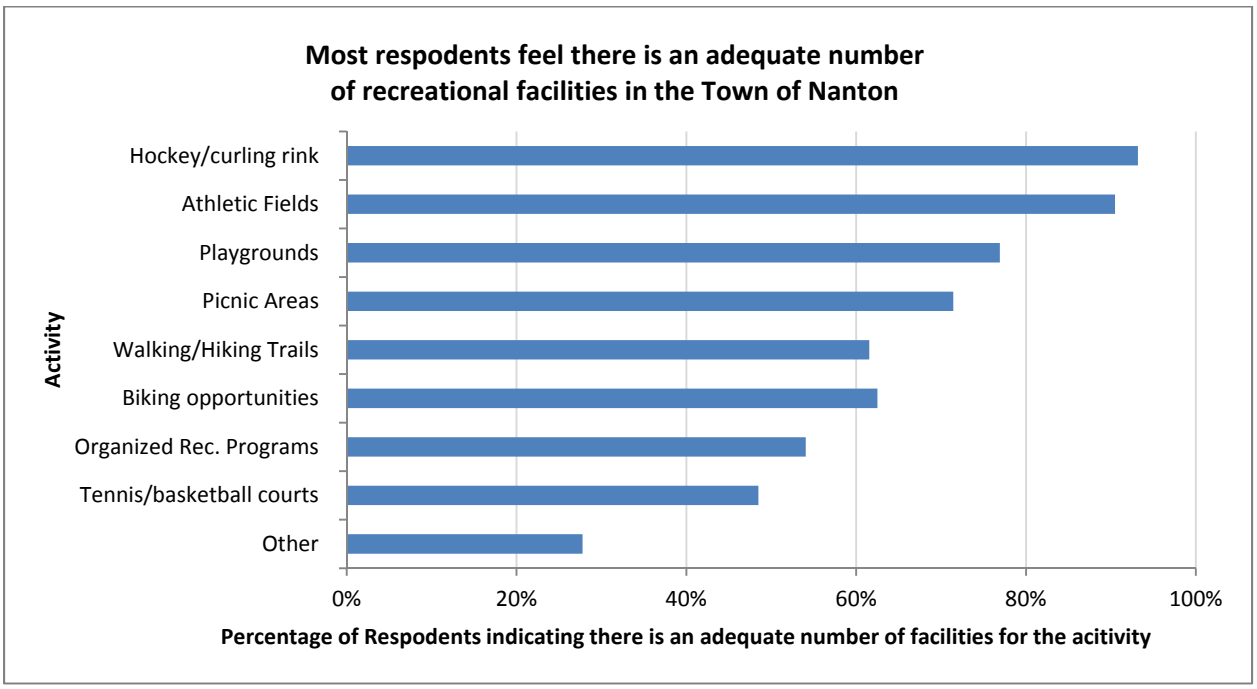
Question 10: Based on household age, how satisfied are you with the town recreational and open space facilities?

Respondents' household members aged 10-17 years old are clearly dissatisfied with the recreational and open space facilities within the Town of Nanton. While all other household age categories had a substantial portion of respondents that were *very satisfied*, no respondents' household members aged 10-17 indicated they were *very satisfied.* In comparison, respondents aged 2-9 indicated the highest level of user satisfaction, with almost 75% of respondents either *very satisfied* or *somewhat satisfied*.

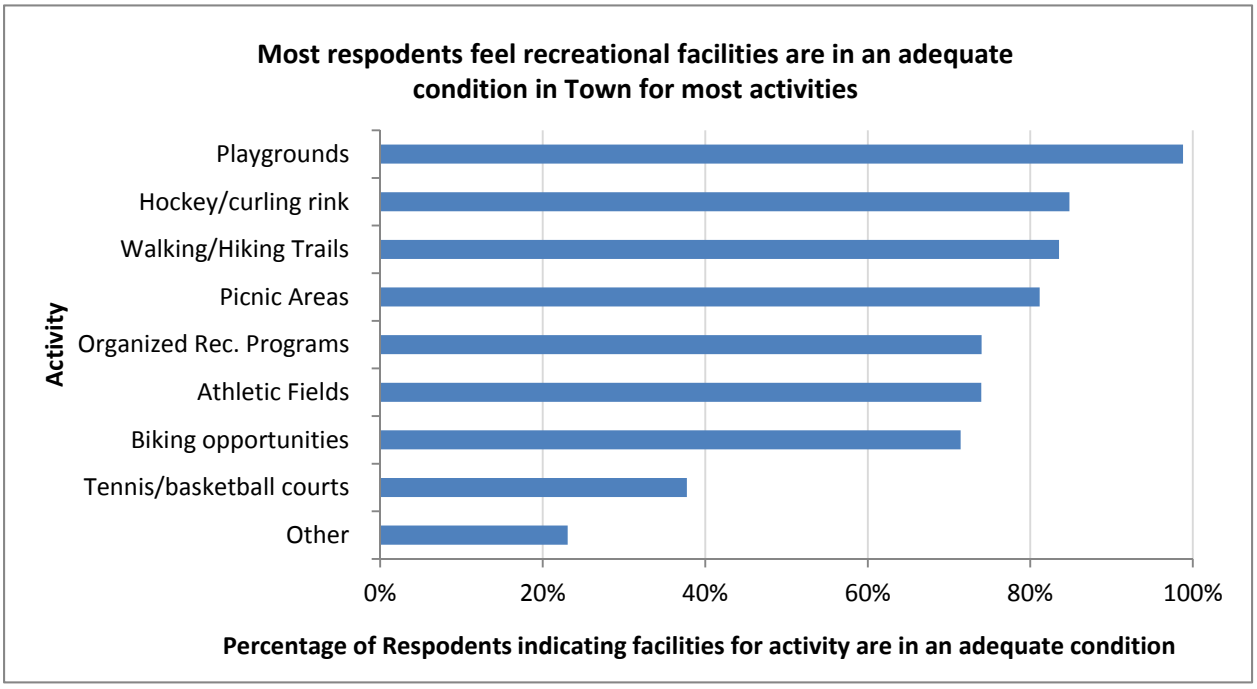


Question 11: Is the number of existing recreational facilities and open space resources throughout the town (both public and private) adequate and are they properly maintained?

In general, there is a high level of satisfaction in the number of recreational facilities within the Town of Nanton. For example, over 80% of respondents indicated that there are adequate numbers of hockey/curling rinks and athletic fields throughout the Town. Similarly over 50% of respondents stated that there is an adequate number of playgrounds, picnic areas, walking trails, biking opportunities and organized recreational programs. Only tennis/basketball courts and "other" had less than 50% of respondents indicating there is an adequate number. 72% of respondents who marked "other" stated there was an inadequate number of swimming pools in the Town. Additional suggestions in the "other" category included: bowling, indoor agricultural arena, shooting range, racquet ball court and skate park.



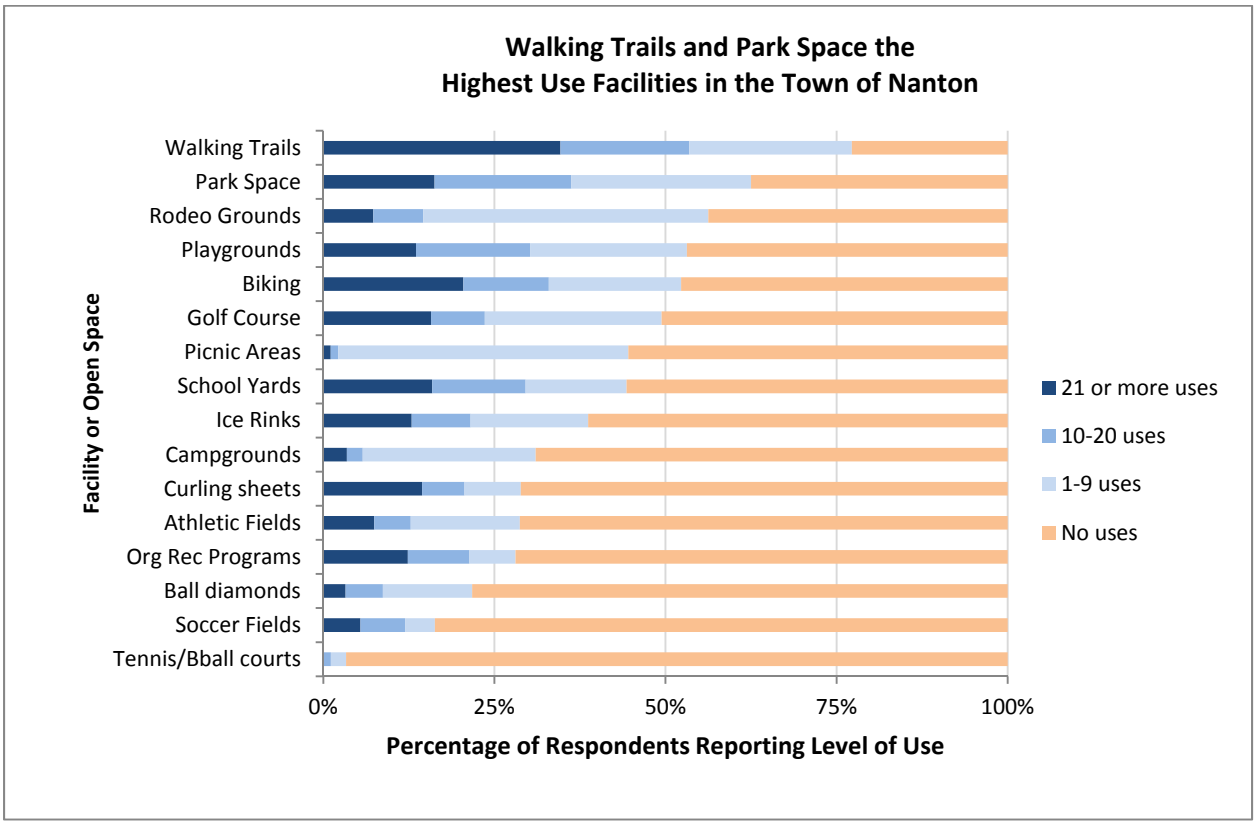
An overwhelming majority of respondents feel that recreational facilities within the Town of Nanton are in an adequate condition. Almost 99% of respondents stated that playgrounds were in adequate condition. While over 80% of respondents felt that hockey/curling rinks, walking/hiking trails and picnic areas were in adequate condition. Only tennis/basketball courts and "other" had less than 50% of respondents indicating that the facilities were in adequate condition. As stated earlier the "other" was composed largely of respondents indicating *swimming pool*.



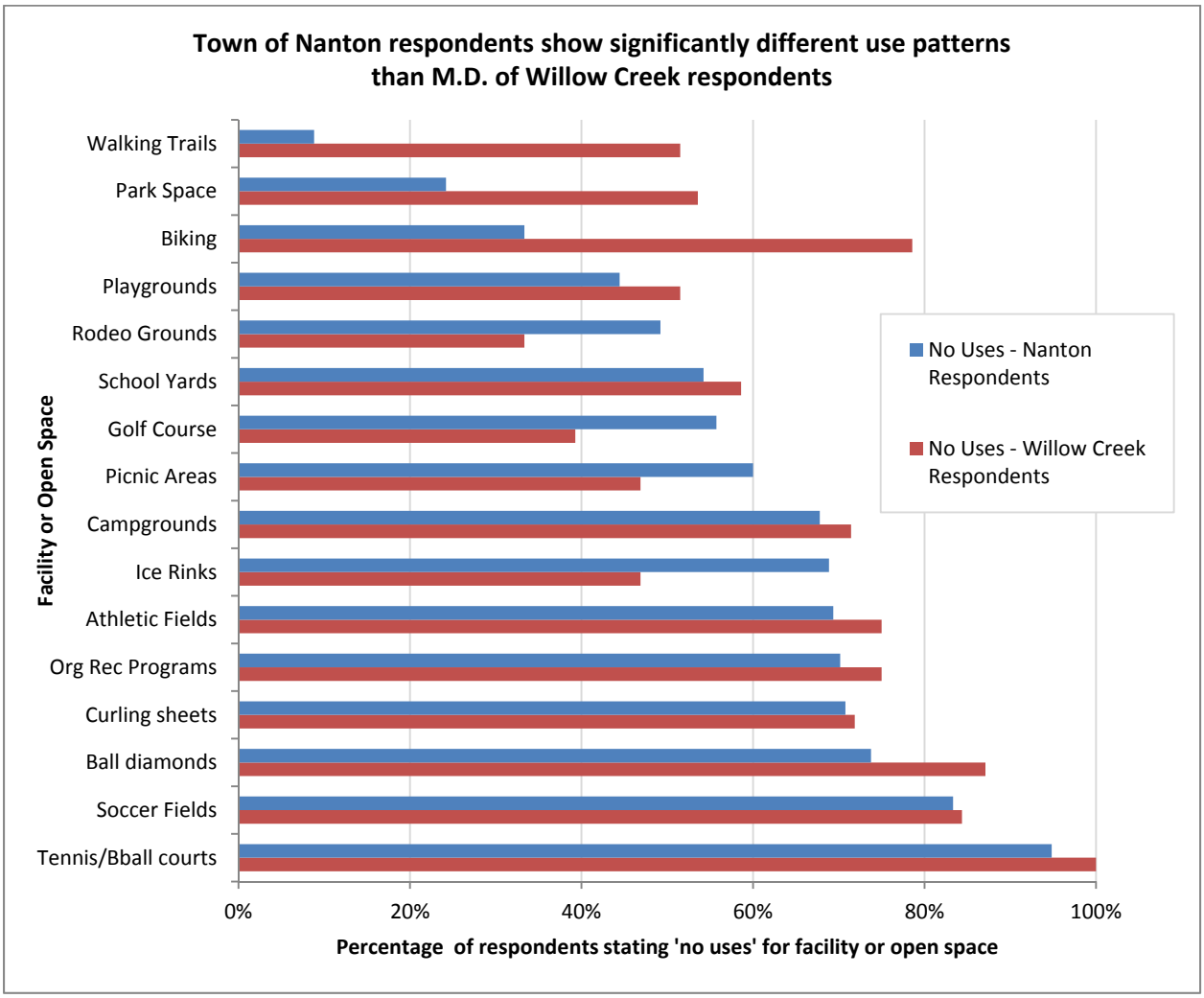
Use of Town Recreational Facilities

Question 12: Please indicate how frequently members of your household used each Town facility or open space within the previous 12 months.

Over 50% of respondents reported some level of use for walking trails, park spaces, rodeo grounds, playgrounds and biking. Walking trails received the highest reported level of use with 77% of respondents stating some use in the past year. The least used facilities were overwhelmingly the tennis/basketball courts followed by soccer fields and ball diamonds.



Respondents from the two jurisdictions showed significantly different use patterns with certain facilities and open spaces. When use is measured by the facilities which received the lowest percentage of respondents stating *no uses*, respondents from the M.D. of Willow Creek used the rodeo grounds, golf course, picnic areas, and walking trails the most. Meanwhile Nanton respondents used walking trails, park space, biking and playgrounds the most. Walking trails, park space and biking showed the greatest difference between responses from the two municipalities. For example, only 9% of Nanton respondents indicated *no uses* for walking trails, but 52% of Willow Creek respondents stated *no uses*. In contrast, a higher percentage of M.D. respondents used the rodeo grounds, golf course, picnic areas and ice rinks compared with Town respondents.



Question 13: If you DO NOT utilize the Town open spaces and recreational facilities, please select all applicable reasons why:

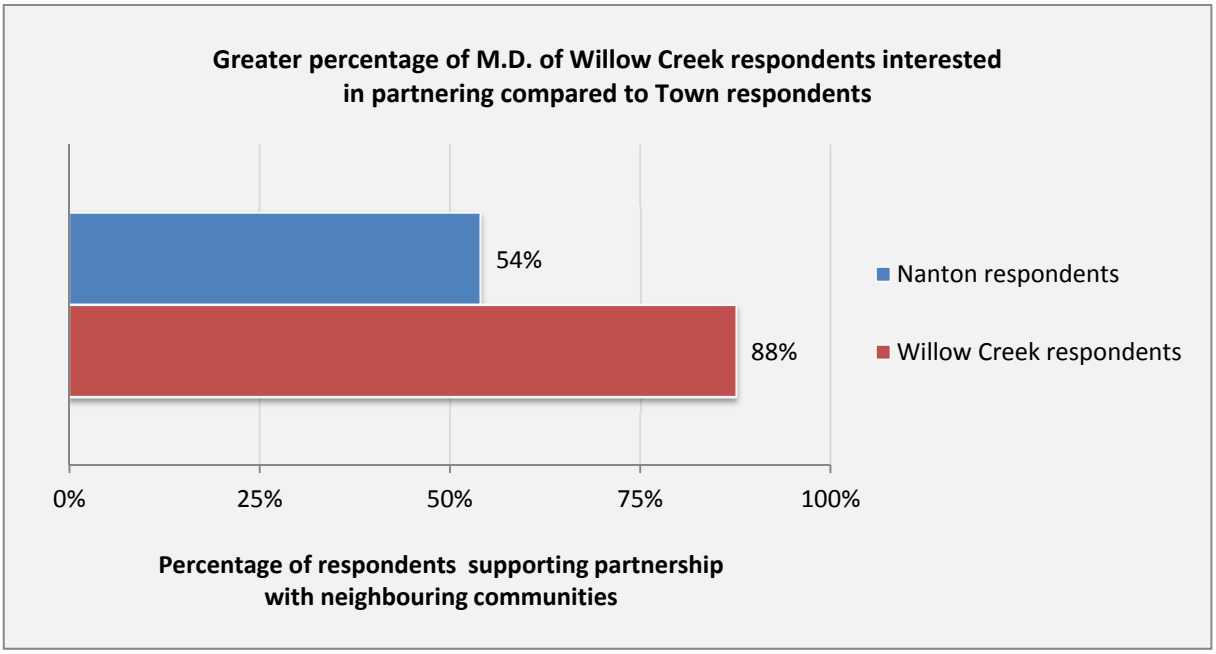
Respondents that indicated that they do not utilize town facilities were provided an opportunity to state some reasons. The top three reasons included: spending time doing other things, lack of adequate restrooms and age limiting visits. Other frequently stated reasons included: lack of facilities, lack of picnic facilities and lack of fountains/refreshments. The only substantial difference between M.D. and Town respondents was that a high number of M.D. respondents stated that the facilities were *too far away*.

Reason	Town of Nanton Respondents	M.D. of Willow Creek Respondents
I spend my leisure time doing other things	25	15
Lack of adequate restrooms	17	2
My age limits my visits	17	6
Lack of facilities	10	0
Lack of picnic facilities	8	0
Lack of water fountains/refreshments	6	1
Condition of existing facilities/equipment	4	0
Do not like the facilities offered	4	1
Other (specify)	4	1
Lack of lighting	3	0
Don't know what's there	1	1
Lack of handicap access	1	1
Lack of parking	1	0
Safety concerns	1	1
Too far away	1	9
Poor location	1	1
Don't know where they are	1	1
Vandalism & graffiti	0	1
Total	**105**	**41**

Partnerships

Question 14: Do you feel the [Municipality] should partner with neighbouring communities in the development of parks and recreation programs/facilities?

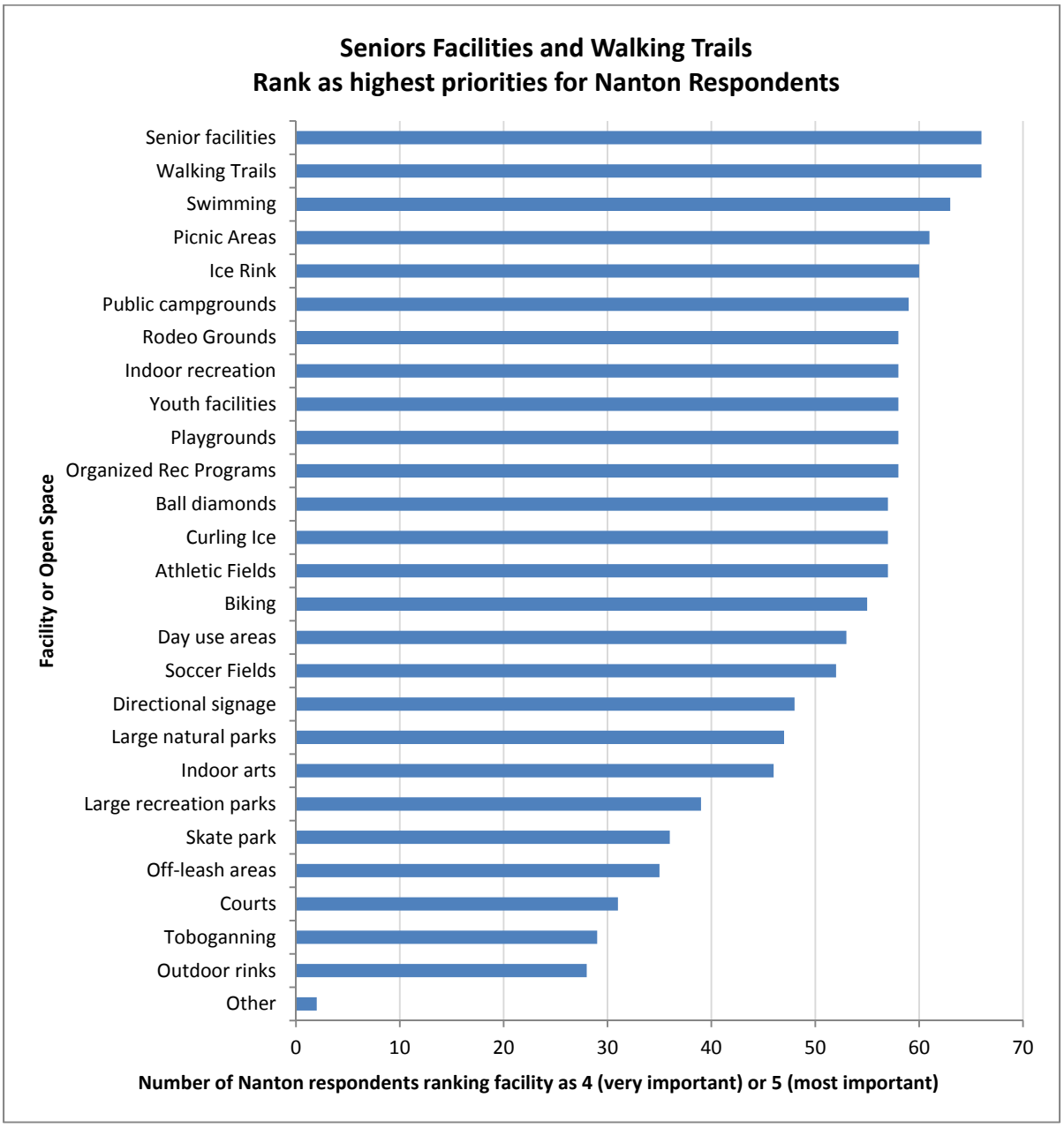
88% of Willow Creek respondents support partnering with neighbouring communities to development parks and recreation programs/facilities compared with only 54% of Town respondents.



Provision of Recreational Services

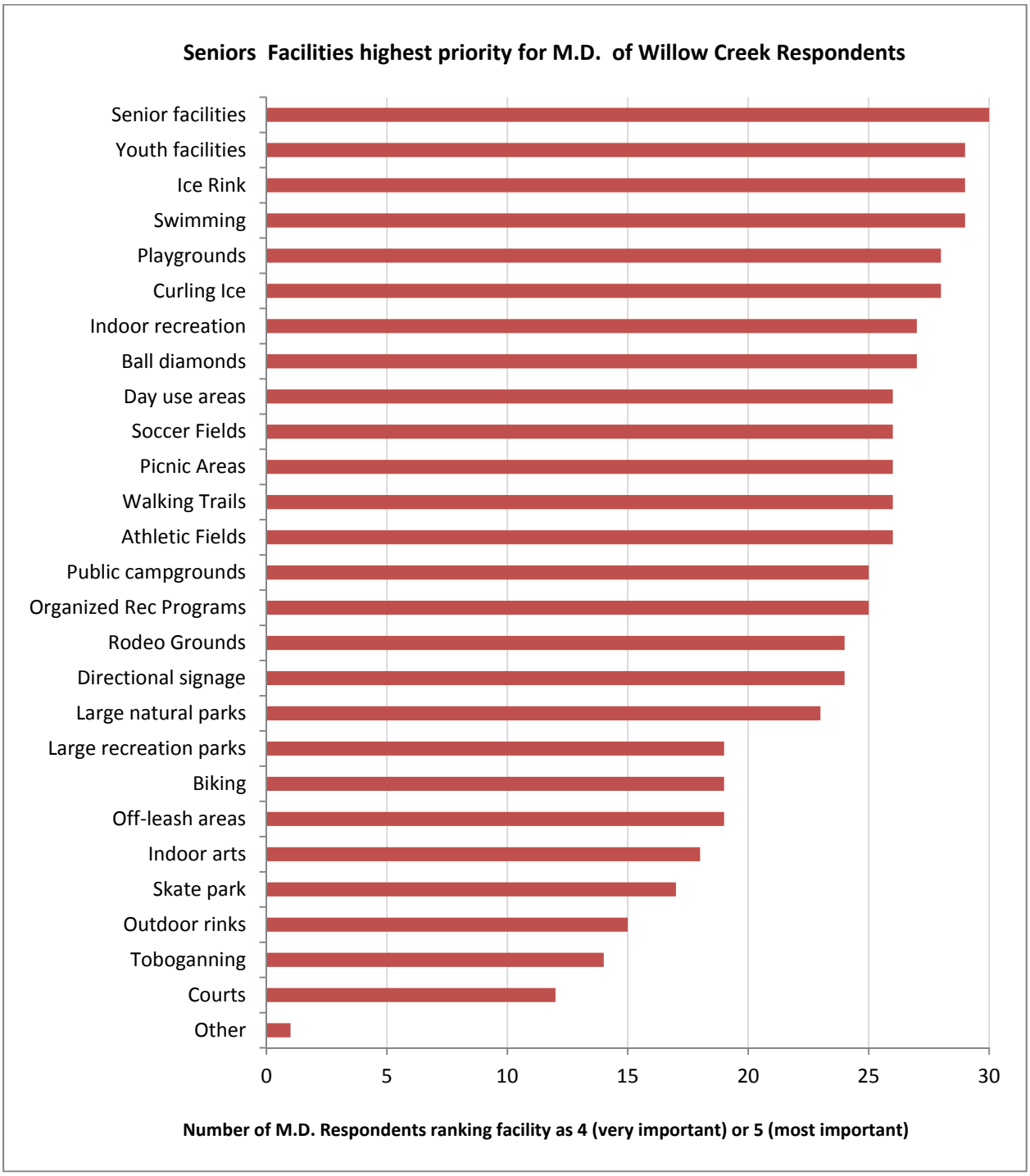
Question 15: Please indicate how important it is that the Town provide:

Other top ranking priorities included: swimming, picnic areas, and ice rinks. The lowest ranking priorities were outdoor rinks, tobogganing, courts and off-leash areas.



Respondents from the M.D. similarly ranked senior facilities as the top priority, but also ranked youth facilities much higher than Nanton respondents. Additionally, ice rinks, swimming facilities, playgrounds

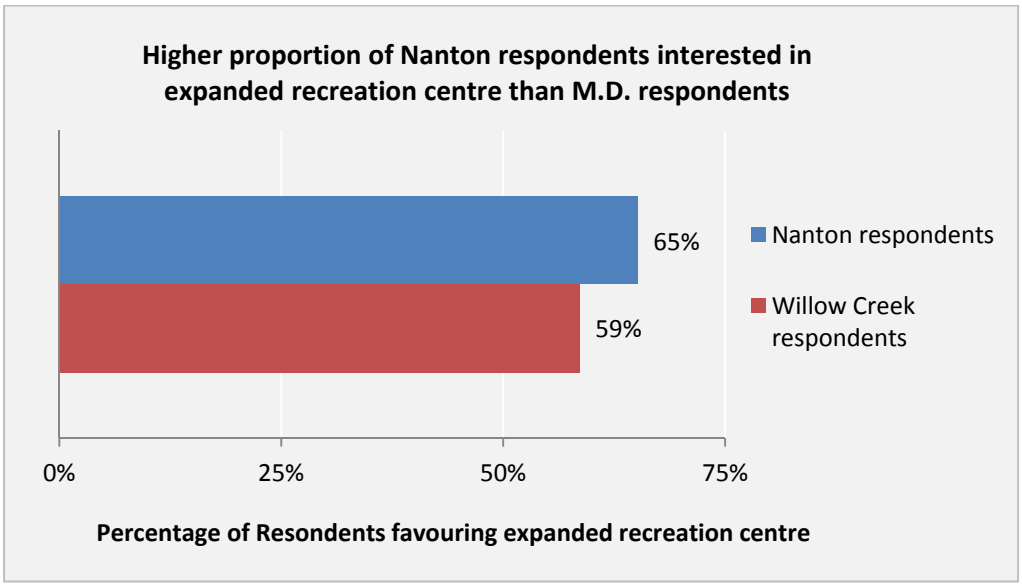
and curling ice were given high priority from M.D. respondents. M.D. respondents agreed with Nanton respondents that the lowest three priorities were courts, tobogganing and outdoor rinks.



Expanded Recreation Facilities

Question 16: Would you be interested in an expanded recreation centre?

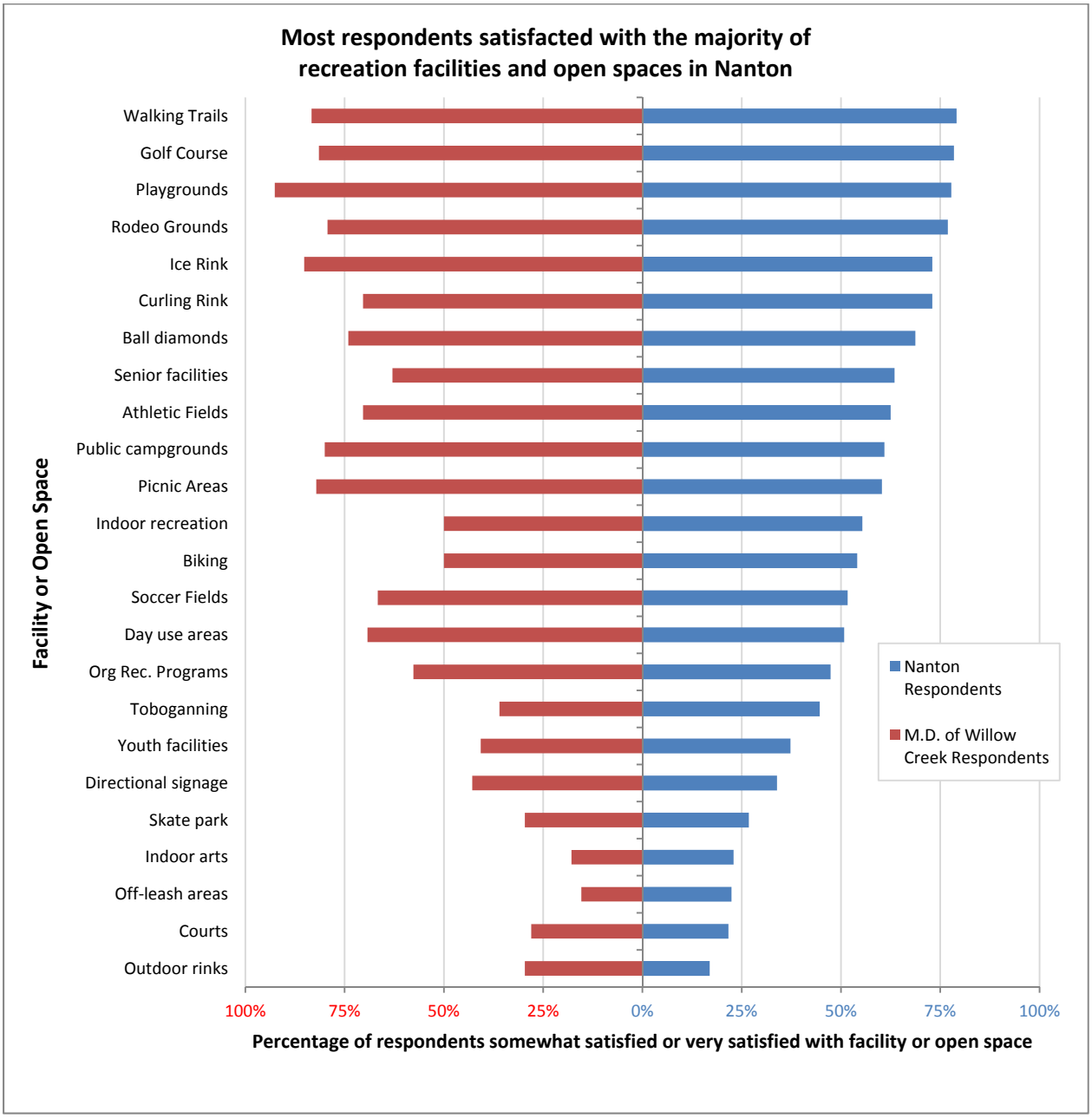
Expanding the recreation centre is be favored by 65% of Nanton respondents compared to 59% of M.D. of Willow Creek respondents.



User Satisfaction

Question 17: Please indicate how satisfied you are with the Town's provision of:

Overall most respondents are either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the majority of facilities and open spaces in the Town of Nanton. For Nanton respondents, the highest levels of satisfaction were for walking trails, golf course and rodeo grounds. The highest levels of satisfaction from M.D. respondents were for playgrounds, ice rink and walking trails. Conversely outdoor rinks, courts, off-leash areas and indoor arts had the lowest levels of user satisfaction from both respondent groups. It is also interesting that respondents from the M.D. had higher satisfaction ratings on 17 of the 24 facilities than Town respondents.



Facilities Needs Assessment

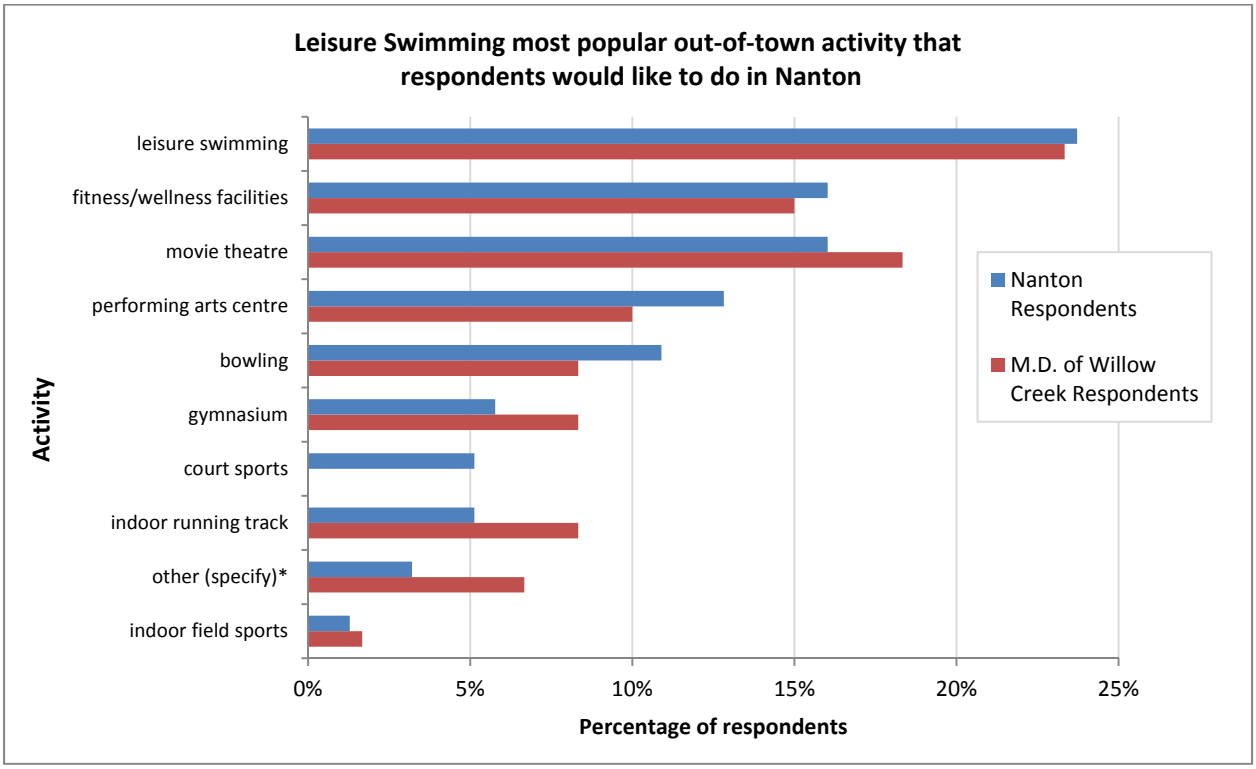
Question 18: Please list the top five recreational facilities you feel are needed in Nanton or are of importance.

Nanton residents identified the top three recreational facilities as: rinks for hockey and skating, an indoor swimming pool, and trails for walking and/or biking. Curling rink, playgrounds and golf courses also ranked high in importance according to the Nanton respondents. One noticeable difference between the two respondent groups was that a much higher percentage of M.D. respondents rated the rodeo grounds as one of the top five facilities needed in Nanton. On the other side, a higher percentage of Nanton respondents rated an indoor swimming pool and walking/biking trails on the top five list of facilities needed.

Facility / Open Space	Nanton Respondents		MD Respondents	
rink - hockey/skating	29	13.9%	15	16.5%
indoor swimming pool	27	13.0%	7	7.7%
walking/biking trails	24	11.5%	4	4.4%
rink - curling	22	10.6%	11	12.1%
playgrounds	14	6.7%	4	4.4%
golf course	13	6.3%	8	8.8%
rodeo grounds	12	5.8%	12	13.2%
ball diamonds	11	5.3%	5	5.5%
recreation facilities & programs	7	3.4%	0	0.0%
community centre / recreation centre	6	2.9%	7	7.7%
parks/picnic areas	6	2.9%	2	3.3%
campground	4	1.9%	2	2.2%
soccer/sports fields	4	1.9%	2	2.2%
youth facilities	4	1.9%	1	1.1%
seniors facilities	4	1.9%	1	1.1%
fitness centre	4	1.9%	0	0.0%
outdoor rink	3	1.4%	3	3.3%
bowling	3	1.4%	0	0.0%
skate park	3	1.4%	2	2.2%
water park	2	1.0%	0	0.0%
dog park	2	1.0%	0	0.0%
kozy korner	2	1.0%	0	0.0%
tennis courts	2	1.0%	2	2.2%
Other responses	11 (winter activities, indoor arts facilities, squash courts, library, day camps, ball league, bmx track, gymnastics, mini golf, shooting range)		3 (library, indoor ag. complex, children's opportunities)	
Total	**219** (100%)		**91** (100%)	

Question 19: If you or members of your household travel out of Nanton for leisure, culture, or recreation, please indicate which of these out-of-town activities you would like to do in town:

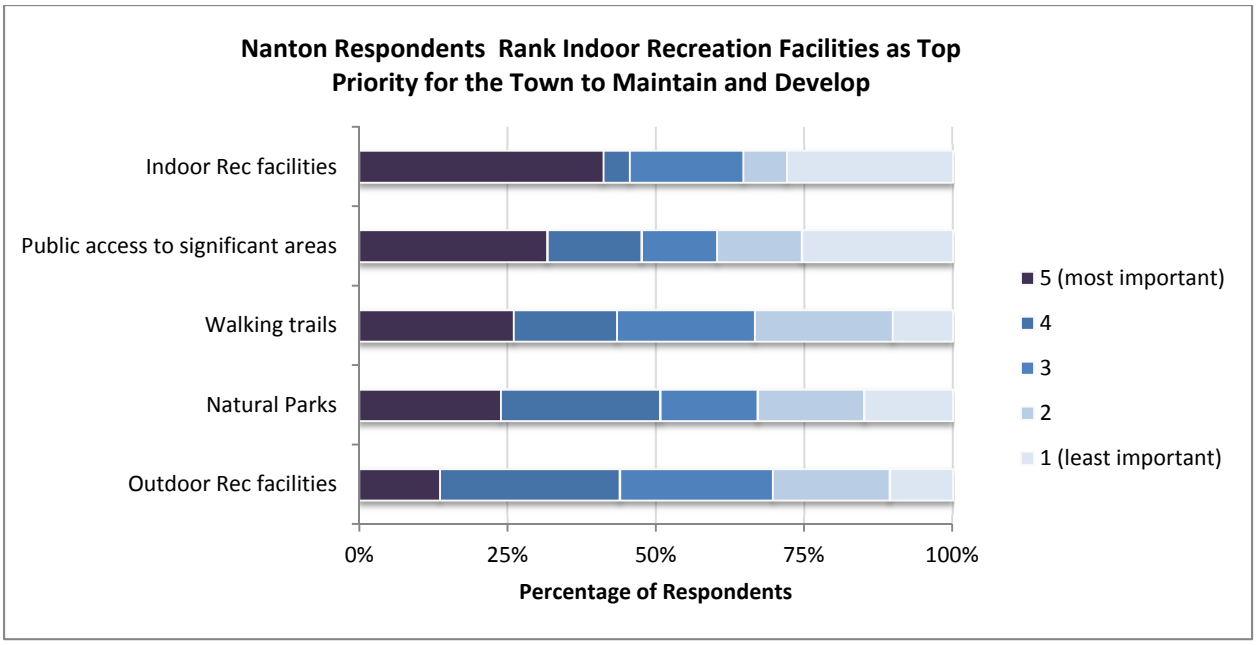
The most common out-of-town activities that respondents would like to see in town are indoor swimming, fitness and wellness facilities and a movie theatre. Respondents from both jurisdictions were quite similar in what out-of-town activities they would like to do in Nanton. The only substantial difference between the respondent groups was in regards to court sports, indoor running track and other, which included dance, rodeo, golf, tennis and live theatre.

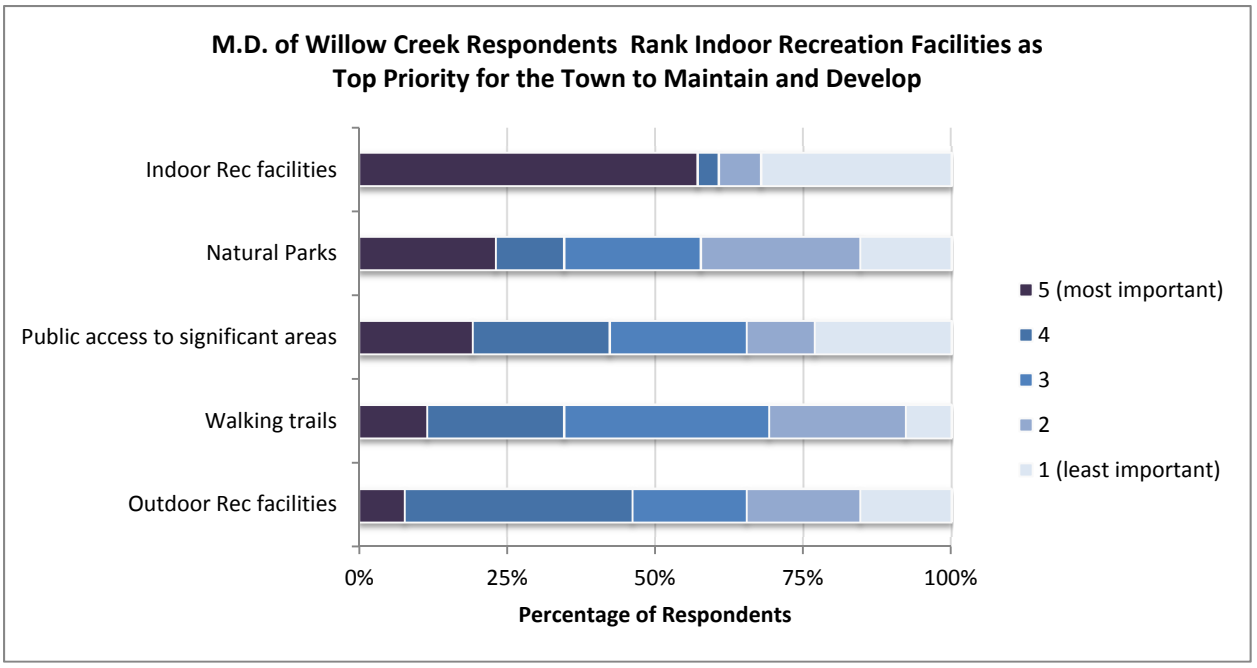


*Comments from the 'other (specify)' category included: dance, rodeo, golf, tennis, and live theatre.

Question 20: From the following list please indicate from 1-5 (1 the least important to 5 the most important) what the Town should consider the most important in maintaining and developing:

Both respondent groups ranked indoor recreation facilities as the top priority and outdoor recreation facilities as the lowest priority for the Town to maintain and develop, as determined by the percentage of respondents ranking the facility as *most important*.





Favourite Recreation Areas

Question 21 (a). What specific areas in and around the Town of Nanton do you like to spend recreation time in and why?

Respondents indicated that walking trail, biking trails and parks were the most preferred areas in and around Town to spend recreation time. Other favourite areas of Town included Boomer's hill, pool, hockey and curling rinks and Lion's park.

Location	Number of Respondents
walking trails	11
biking trails	8
parks	6
Boomer's hill	6
pool	5
hockey rink	5
curling rink	4
Lion's Park	4
ball diamonds	4
rodeo grounds	4
golf course	3
playgrounds	2
playground - new	2
Centennial Park	2
playground - A.B. Daley	2
library	2
community center	1
seniors drop-in centre	1
recreation centre	1
Millennium trail	1
train place	1
park - community center	1
Kozy Korner	1
Cenotaph park	1
lakes	1
pathways	1
soccer fields	1
dog park	1
air museum	1
campground	1
coffee shops	1
Total	**85**

Question 21 (b). What is it about these spaces and places that make you feel comfortable, welcome, safe etc.?

Many respondents indicated that they feel comfortable, welcome and safe in their favourite areas because they are well-maintained. Other reasons respondents stated they feel comfortable, welcome or safe in these areas included: the presence of trees, friendly people, open spaces, feeling of safety and cleanliness.

Reason	Number of Respondents
well-maintained	15
treed	9
friendly people	8
open spaces	7
safe	6
clean	6
nice	6
quiet	5
close	5
natural	4
small-town atmosphere	3
relaxing	3
no traffic	3
birds	2
lots to do	2
wildlife viewing	2
fun	2
children can play	1
pleasant	1
picnics	1
horses	1
pool is supervised	1
always something new	1
enjoyment	1
peaceful	1
flowers	1
exercise	1
beautiful	1
calm	1
organized	1
new equipment	1
Total	**102**

Question 22 (a).Least favorite areas:

A significant number of respondents stated no *least favourite areas* in the Town of Nanton. According to the respondents, the tennis courts were by far the least favourite area in Nanton followed by Westview Park, A.B. Daley School, Bomber Park and Luther Park.

Location of Least Favourite Area	Number of respondents
None	12
Tennis courts	5
Westview Park	3
A. B. Daley School	2
Bomber park. Too close to community centre and to the town centre.	2
Luther Park- looks like private land	2
Antique Shops- no new businesses	1
Anywhere close to Highway 2	1
Area east of highway	1
Golf course- injured and acant play outdoor sports- too old to play	1
Lion's Park	1
Lakes Park	1
J. T. Foster School	1
North bound entrance to town on the highway. It's not inviting and could use some flower baskets, weeding.	1
Pool is in a bad location, not much to do there and needs a wading area, hot tub, toys, slides, diving board, ropes etc.	1
Rodeo grounds	1
Skateboard park not recommended	1
The westend pathway needs a place to park and an approach that is easy to enter	1
Walkways where dogs poop	1
Total	**39**

Question 22 (b). Reasons for least favorite areas:

Respondents were mixed as to the reasons for their least favourite areas, but lack of maintenance and safety were top reasons. Many other reasons related to safety or maintenance related issues including: signs of vandalism, no sidewalks, bad lighting, being close to the highway, loose dogs, and lack of maintenance ranging from snow removal to garbage and animal wastes.

Reason for feeling unsafe, unwelcome, etc.	Number of Respondents
None	8
Not maintained	3
Not safe/ not finished	3
Road safety	2
noise	2
Animal waste	1
Creek smells	1
insects	1
Not enough public skating time	1
Pool is seasonal	1
Hard to discern location of public parks	1
Dogs on the loose	1
No place to sit	1
Pollution	1
Street lighting	1
No sidewalks	1
Vandalism	1
Too much of a place for bored youth to "hang out".	1
Bomber park to close to the town center and community center parking.	1
Total	**32**

Connectivity

Question 23. Are there adequate systems of sidewalks, trails and green space that you can get where you want to go actively?

A significant majority of respondents (64%) affirmed that there are adequate systems of sidewalks, trails and green space in the Town of Nanton. However, when asked to identify locations where such connections are lacking respondents had many suggestions in the responses to question 24.

Response	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
YES	36	(64%)
NO	20	(36%)
Total	**56**	**(100%)**

Question 24. Are there places in Nanton where such connections are lacking?

Respondents listed a number of places where connections are lacking including: 26th Avenue, in the west area and the Silver Willow area. Respondents also commented about the condition of existing pedestrian and cycling infrastructure stating a need for greater connections throughout town and improved condition and maintenance.

Comments
• Sidewalks are needed on 26th Ave
• Almost, need more in the west area
• Bike paths are great- would like to see them expanded some day
• For the size of the town these seem adequate. Should increase from with the town growth
• Nanton wasn't designed with green space in mind. It is more important that new development provide more green space
• Need to do a better job of having the sidewalk from Silver Willow to Kozy Korner more wheelchair and walker friendly
• Need walknig paths in Westview
• No, mostly have to follow streets and avenues
• No, trails do not connect and some trails on the map are actually roads.
• Sidewalk system is in place, some are in bad need of upgrading, overgrown grass edges, hedges encroaching on sidewalks, raised sections of cement and broken out pieces are dangerous
• Some streets are missing sidewalks for walking on and we need ramps at the corners for seniors and their carts or to get up on the sidewalk with their walkers. Not enough lighting on the streets for at night time for people to see.
• These should be built into the developments and not afterthoughts. Some are still needed around the lake
• Yes, but the walking path is disconnected and not easy to find. Biking is mostly on the streets and not interesting.

Question 25. What formal or informal trails do you currently use?

Almost 20% of respondents stated that they used both formal and informal trails while approximately 33% of respondents said they use pathways or paved walking paths. Only 6% of respondents reported that they don't use any of the trails.

Response	Number of Respondents	% of Respondents
All	7	19%
Pathways	7	14%
All paved walking paths	5	19%
None	2	6%
Bike paths	2	3%
Both ends of pathway	1	3%
Centennial Park loop and Lion's grove Park trails	1	3%
Existing walk way and streets in between. Around pond in Westview	1	3%
Existing walk ways on southside of town. The streets.	1	3%
Existing walkways (black-mile)	1	3%
Informal- walking paths in fields surrounding town	1	3%
I walk and jog in the field west of Westview	1	3%
Out of town roads to get a good bike trail of any length	1	3%
Path by ball diamonds, but its boring- too short	1	3%
Slade drive walking trail, centennial park, 26 ave	1	3%
Walkway in Lions Park	1	3%
Walkway, ball park	1	3%
Total	**36**	**100%**

Question 26. Do you currently use the parks and green space in Nanton? Why or why not?

Approximately 70% of Nanton respondents stated that they use the parks and green space in Nanton. Respondents from the M.D. of Willow Creek stated a much lower usage level as only 32% indicated that they use Nanton parks and green space. Respondents that stated they used the parks gave a variety of reasons, including: using the walking/biking paths, picnicking, tobogganing, close proximity and the opportunity to take grandchildren to the park. Many of the reasons for not using the park were related to the distance required to get to the parks, especially for Willow Creek respondents, as well as the general condition of the parks.

	Nanton Respondents		Willow Creek Respondents	
Yes	39	(70%)	9	(32%)
Sometimes	4	(7%)	3	(11%)
No	13	(23%)	16	(57%)
Total	**56**	**(100%)**	**28**	**(100%)**

Reasons for using the parks
• We enjoy them
• Walking/bike paths, tobogganning, baseball, picnics
• Use them for birthday parties, or picnics etc.
• To walk our dogs off leash and relax
• Nice to get out
• Love walking and sitting in parks
• Lions park.Very nice.
• kids walking, and kite flying
• kids play areas, and trails
• It's close to my home.
• I use the pathways or walk downtown
• I use playgrounds with grandchild, and walk through the parks.
• I like the spaces
• Green space is well kept
• Grandchildren, walking and reading
• For soccer, running (track) and walkway, walking
• For pleasure
• Because me and my family will run, ride bikes, rollerblade, etc.
• Because I play baseball and take my nephews to the playgrounds
• Because I enjoy the activities
• Good areas to share with grandkids.
• Soccer at A.B daley, community center playground
• We always include a trip to the park/ playground when we come to town

Reasons for not using
• Too old
• Too busy at rodeo grounds
• People don't clean up after their dogs
• Not attractivly laid out and few sitting areas
• Spend free time doing other things
• I would swim if there was a well maintained indoor pool.
• Health issues
• General disability
• Live too far away
• Live out of Town

Question 27. Are there enough parks and green space in Nanton? If you were going to create more parks and green space where would you put it?

Respondents from both jurisdictions had varying opinions on whether there are enough parks and green space in Nanton. Almost half of Willow Creek respondents indicated that they feel there are enough parks and open space while only 27% of Nanton respondents said there were enough parks and green space.

	Nanton Respondents		Willow Creek Respondents	
Yes	14	(27%)	12	(48%)
Maybe	2	(4%)	5	(20%)
No	36	(69%)	8	(32%)
Total	**52**	**(100%)**	**25**	**(100%)**

Overwhelmingly respondents indicated that facilities are needed in the Westview area. Some respondents indicated that a playground is needed while others stated a park, trail or picnic area should be put in Westview. Beyond the recommendations for Westview respondents suggested that a stormwater retention area be utilized more effectively, trails be constructed in various locations and that green spaces be considered at the outset of development.

Reasons for "Yes, there are enough parks and green space in Nanton"
There's enough, they just need improvement.
There is a good ratio
There are a good number, but one could be built in Westview
Adequate, if fully usable.
it's quite balanced as it is.

Reasons for "No, there are not enough parks and green space in Nanton"
Westview needs a playground/park/trail around pond/picnic areas (x12 respondents)
Should be one on the west side (a large one, not neighborhood one.)
More would be welcome - wherever possible (x 2 respondents)
We can't maintain and/or don't sue the ones we have (x2 respondents)
We need more smaller parks; especially in Westview and in the Town core. Lack of green spaces in planning.
There are empty spaces downtown
Outdoor rinks and playground in the crazy flood area that's never wet.
Need another playground in the town green triangle located on 26 ave- between 20th and 19th St. Put up playground signs and equipment. Signs may slow down traffic.
Need a ladies' and men's shoe store and a home decor store for bath and bedrooms
Mosquito creek trails
More green spaces in Eastview
Make sure each new subdivision sets aside green space and bike path areas
In west meadows
First of all at each end of Town there should be a decorative area of flowers welcoming visitors to Nanton. Even smaller towns have a pretty entrance to their town. Seniors could volunteer to keep the area neat and pretty.
Expand by the Lancaster because people traveling through Town stop and see what a great place we live in

East side near highway (x2 respondents)
Around the wetland pond east of the water plant. Utilize collection pond at the north end of 26th Ave- flood for winter skating
Former collection basin in Westview could be used (developed) as a soccer pitch
For the current use yes. Future development in the NW would require another park area
North side of Twp Rd 163 there is a mini wetland area that needs to be preserved.
Westside needs to be incorporated into new phase of development. A waterpark and playground with benches and picnic tables.
We need newer and bigger park and campground- never enough picnic tables.
North of town on the creek with easy access from the highway no. 2. Also a possible expansion of Lions Park.
Need greenspace/beautification on North bound highway 2 by school house playground in Westview, skatepark will improve the use and looks of the current park
In the midst of town so all children can enjoy not just the rich.
I feel it is important to have parks and green spaces scattered throughout the town. It makes for easier access for elderly or families with smaller children, who would like to walk to places.
We could expand the campground a bit more
Add fitness activities, benches and gardens

Financial Considerations

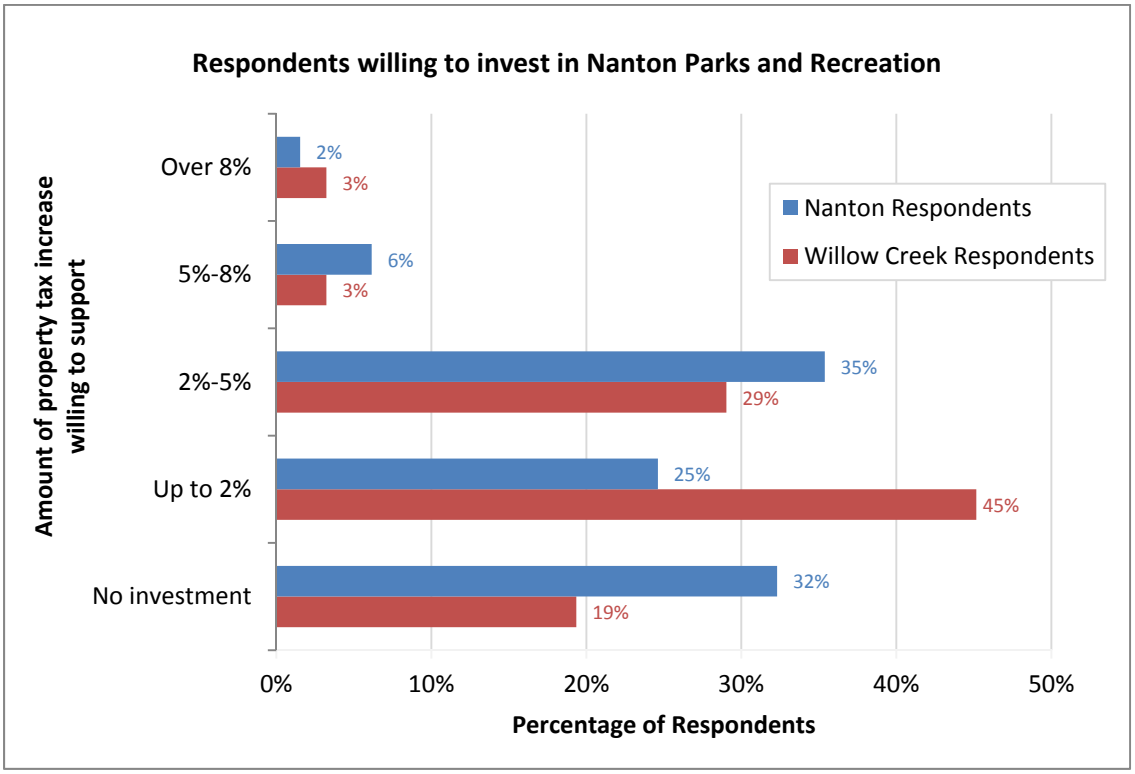
Question 28: What criteria do you think the Town should use to determine the priority of multiple facility projects?

Both Nanton and Willow Creek respondents placed as the top priority *facilities that can service a variety of programs*. Nanton respondents equally support capital costs and operating costs as a second priority, but Willow Creek respondents favour facilities that would have the greatest number of participants and capital costs over operating costs.

Priority	Nanton Respondents		Willow Creek Respondents		Total	
Facilities that can service a variety of programs	36	25%	19	30%	55	27%
Capital costs	24	17%	10	16%	34	17%
Operating costs	24	17%	7	11%	31	15%
Facilities that serve programs	18	13%	11	17%	29	14%
Enhancements to existing facilities	14	10%	8	13%	22	11%
Facilities that focus on youths	13	9%	5	8%	18	9%
Facilities that will raise the profile of Nanton	12	8%	1	2%	13	6%
Cultural and heritage facilities	2	1%	2	3%	4	2%
Total	**143**	**100%**	**63**	**100%**	**206**	**100%**

Question 29: How much investment would you be willing to support through property taxes?

Respondents from both jurisdictions are willing to invest substantially in Nanton parks and recreation. However, respondents from the M.D. of Willow Creek appear more willing to invest through increased property taxes than Town respondents. For example, only 19% of M.D. respondents that they were in favour of no investment through property taxes while 32% of Nanton respondents favoured no investment. Further, only 25% of Nanton respondents are willing to support an increase of up to 2% of property taxes while 45% of M.D. respondents supported such an increase.



Question 30: Do you feel the Town should consider increasing the budget for park and recreational programs?

68% of M.D. of Willow Creek respondents were supportive of increasing the Town's budget for parks and recreational programs, but only 35% of Nanton respondents were supportive of an increase. Overall 54% of respondents were no interested in increasing the budget for park and recreational programs.

	Nanton Respondents		Willow Creek Respondents		Total	
YES	22	35%	21	68%	43	46%
No	41	65%	10	32%	51	54%
Total	**63**	**100%**	**31**	**100%**	**94**	**100%**

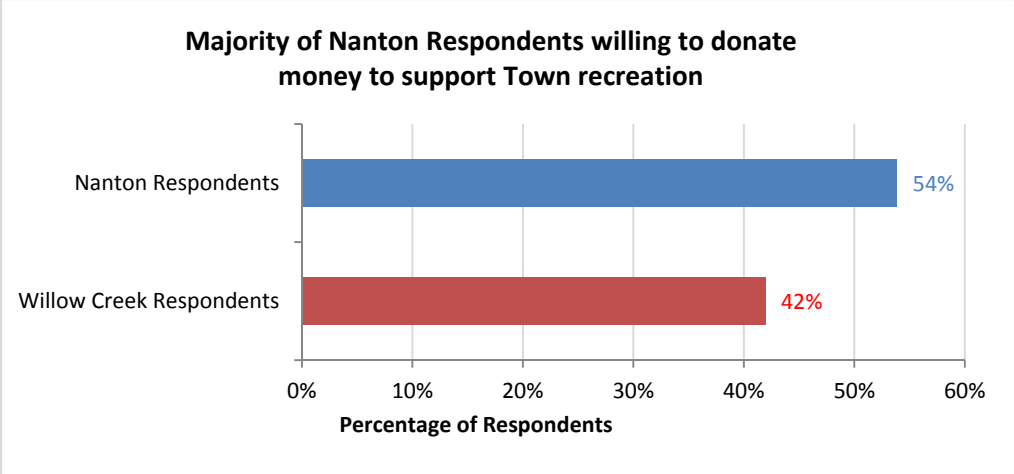
Question 31: If yes, how much do you feel is reasonable per resident?

The majority of respondents felt an increase of less than $300 was reasonable, with a few respondents feeling that a larger increase of up to $600 would be reasonable.

Amount ($)	Nanton Resident	Willow Creek Resident	Total
$0-99	2	1	3
$100-199	0	4	4
$200-299	8	10	18
$300-399	6	0	6
$400-499	0	0	0
$500-599	1	0	1
Total	**17**	**15**	**32**

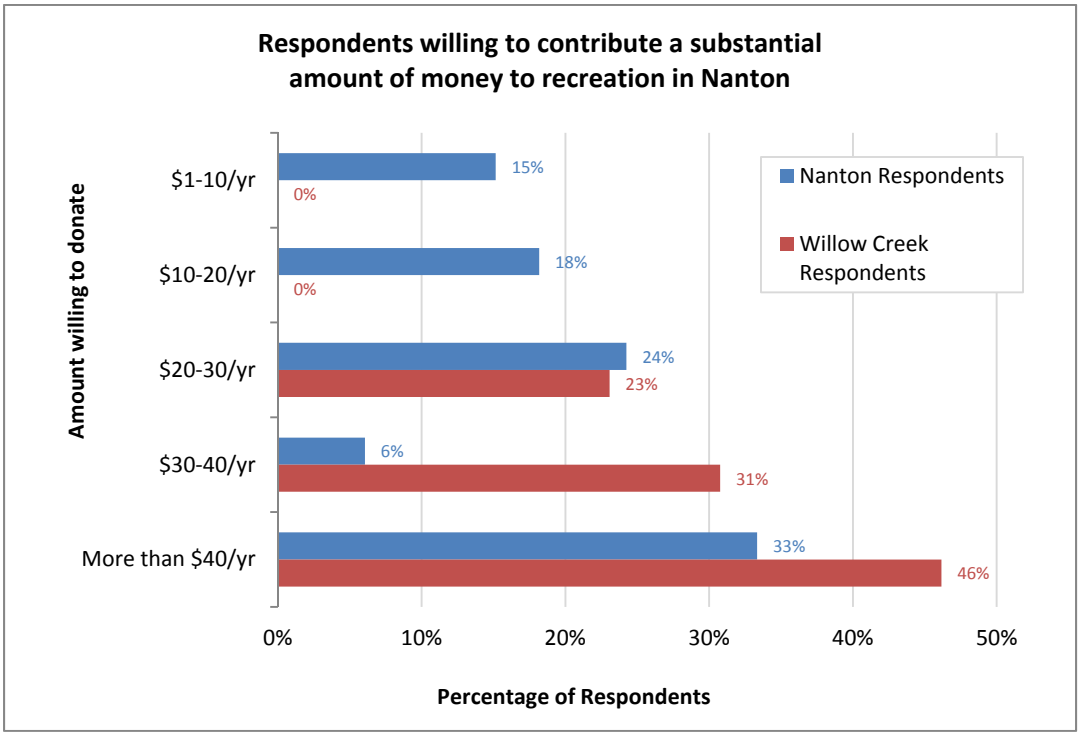
Question 32: Would you consider donating additional money to support parks, recreation, and trail systems within the Town?

The majority of Nanton respondents stated a willingness to donate additional money to support parks, recreation and trail systems within the Town. In comparison, just under half of respondents from the M.D. of Willow Creek stated that they would consider donating money.



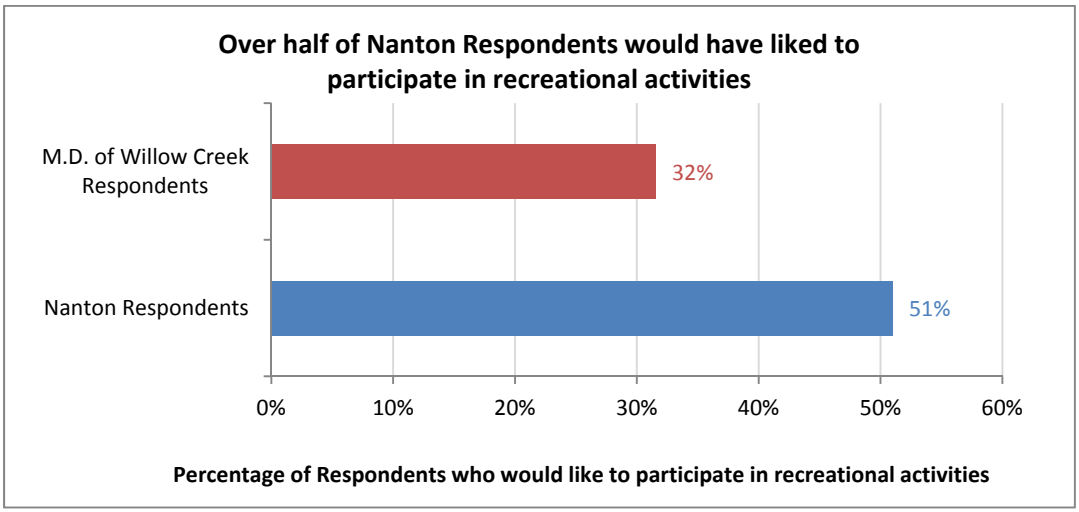
Question 32(b): If yes, how much would you be willing to contribute?

Overall, Nanton respondents stated a greater willingness to contribute donating to Town parks and recreation than Willow Creek respondents. However, Willow Creek respondents were more willing to contribute a greater amount of money per year than Nanton respondents. For example, over 77% of Willow Creek respondents said they would be willing to contribute more than $30 per year while only 39% of Nanton respondents stated the same level of contribution.



Question 34 (a): Are there any programs or recreational activities you or your family members would like to have participated in?

51% of Nanton respondents and 32% of Willow Creek respondents would have liked to have participated in some recreational activity. Activities listed by respondents included: swimming/indoor pool, dance lessons, music lessons, cooking classes, etc.



Question 34 (b): If yes, please specify which programs and/or activities:

The vast majority of respondents said they would like to participate in indoor pool swimming activities. Other activities respondents would like to participate in included: adult baseball, aquasize (pool related), curling, dance and tennis. Willow Creek respondents favoured court sports, indoor soccer and tackle football.

Desired Activity	Nanton Respondents	Willow Creek Respondents
Indoor pool	23%	50%
Adult baseball	10%	0%
Aquasize	5%	13%
Curling	5%	0%
Dance	5%	0%
Tennis	5%	0%
Adult ball hockey	3%	0%
Badminton club	3%	0%
Cooking	3%	0%
Crafts	3%	0%
Lacrosse	3%	0%
Aerobics	3%	0%
Art classes	3%	0%
Boot camp	3%	0%
Children's sports activities	3%	0%

Club activities	3%	0%
Family sports nights	3%	0%
Golf	3%	0%
Gym	3%	0%
Music lessons	3%	0%
Pilates	3%	0%
Shooting range	3%	0%
Taekwondo	3%	0%
Water park	3%	0%
Court sports	0%	13%
Indoor soccer	0%	13%
Tackle football	0%	13%
Total	**100%**	**100%**

Question 35: Why have you or your family members not participated in any/certain programs and activities?

Most common reason for not participating in activities: too busy with other tasks, including other recreational activities, or because the program is not offered in Nanton. Some respondents identified time conflicts or inconvenient program times as reasons that prevent them from participating in recreational activities.

Reason for Not Participating	Nanton Respondents	Willow Creek Respondents
We are too busy with other tasks	32%	24%
Other reasons - *specify* (not offered, age, health, schedule, kids, distance)	31%	39%
Activities are too expensive	13%	3%
We are too busy with other recreational activities	13%	24%
Don't have the right equipment	6%	0%
Lack of transportation	4%	6%
Places are not safe	1%	0%
Children have too much homework	0%	3%
Total	**100%**	**100%**

Question 37: Would you be willing to volunteer to maintain a recreational facility, open space, or recreational program/activity? Please explain.

66% of Nanton respondents and 59% of Willow Creek respondents would be willing to volunteer their time. Nanton respondents would be most willing to help garden and paint, while Willow Creek respondents would prefer to coach, help clean up, or garden. The majority of respondents would prefer to keep their volunteer time to less than eight hours per week.

Willing to volunteer?	Nanton Respondents	Willow Creek Respondents
Yes	66%	59%
No	31%	38%
Maybe	3%	3%
Total	**100%**	**100%**

Volunteer Task	Nanton Respondents	Willow Creek Respondents
Gardening	16%	12%
Painting	16%	6%
Clean up	7%	12%
General Maintenance	7%	6%
Projects of interest	5%	0%
Coaching	2%	18%
Rodeo	2%	0%
Supervising	2%	0%
Depends on my children's interests	0%	6%
Total	**100%**	**100%**

Question 38: How much time per week for the above activities you descried would you be willing to volunteer for?

Time	Nanton Respondents	Willow Creek Respondents
1-3 hrs	79%	40%
4-8 hrs	6%	40%
1 day	9%	20%
2-3 days	6%	0%
Total	**100%**	**100%**

Question 39: What method or methods do you feel are the most effective way to provide information regarding park facilities and recreation programs offered within the Town?

Nanton residents prefer to hear about recreation programs and activities either by the town newsletter (26%) or the newspaper (20%). Willow Creek residents also favour the newspaper (26%), but identify the town website (17%) as the next best information method.

Information Method	Nanton Residents	Willow Creek Residents
Town newsletter	26%	14%
Newspaper	20%	26%
Community bulletin board	13%	10%
Town flyer	12%	8%
Town website	10%	17%
School newsletter	9%	14%
Email	6%	6%
Other(specify)	5%	5%
Total	**100%**	**100%**