

Community Services Master Plan Update

Summary of Open House, June 28, 2021

Overview

At this public meeting, we presented the findings from the Community Services Master Plan survey conducted during the Spring of 2021, and presented more in-depth information on specific recreation topics.

The following is an overview of the meeting.

Additional information about the Community Services Master Plan Update is available on the municipal website.

Registration and Attendance

- 71 Registered
- 45 (approx.) Attended

Open House Advertisement

- Municipal Social Media (5 times over preceding two weeks)
- Municipal Website
- Municipal e-newsletter
- Middlesex Banner page

Meeting Agenda

- Welcome/Opening Remarks (Mayor Aina De Viet)
- Highlight Survey Results (Scott Mairs, Director of Community Services)
- Focus Areas Scott Mairs, Director of Community Services)
- Public Feedback (open mic)

Presentation

- Please see presentation attached to this document.

Poll Questions

Pop-up Polls were used during the presentation.

Question: Do you live in a rural area, hamlet or one of the community settlement areas of Middlesex Centre?

- Rural – 5 (18.5%)
- Hamlet (Poplar Hill/Coldstream, Denfield, Birr, Bryanston, Ballymote, Melrose, Lobo) – 6 (22.2%)
- Arva – 1 (3.7%)
- Delaware – 3 (11.1%)
- Ilderton – 8 (29.6%)
- Komoka-Kilworth – 3 (11.1%)
- I do not live in Middlesex Centre – 1 (3.7%)

Question: If you had to choose one from the following recreational activities, what would be your idea of fun?

- Taking a class to learn a new skill like cooking or art – 2 (6.9%)
- Hitting the trails by foot or by bike – 13 (44.83%)
- Gliding over the ice with a hockey stick or curling broom in my hand – 7 (24.14%)
- Joining friends for pickleball or a round of golf – 3 (10.34%)
- An afternoon with my kids at the splash park – 4 (13.79%)

Question: Recognizing the costs required to build and operate an aquatic facility, how likely would you be willing to see an increase to your property taxes to support this amenity?

- Very Likely – 1 (3.2%)
- Likely – 4 (12.9%)
- Somewhat Likely – 7 (22.6%)
- Not Likely at All – 19 (61.3%)

Question: In general, does this approach to offering recreational programming at existing community facilities make sense to you?

- Yes – 28 (87.5%)
- Unsure – 4 (12.5%)
- No – 0 (0%)

Question: What type of passive infrastructure is most important to you (select all that apply)?

- Nature Trails for Hiking – 18
- Unpaved Mixed Use Trails – 16
- Paved Mixed Use Trails – 13
- Sidewalks – 6
- Cycling Only Trails – 3

Question: What does “age-friendly” recreation look like to you (select all that apply)?

- Pleasant and safe outdoor areas and public buildings – 25
- Senior-specific recreational programs are available – 22
- Opportunities for seniors to be socially active exist – 21
- Information is easy to find and easy to understand – 16
- Neighbourhoods are safe – 15
- Roads and sidewalks are accessible – 15

Question: Do you support a Youth Centre for Ilderton?

- Yes – 25 (78.1%)
- Unsure – 5 (15.7%)
- No – 2 (6.2%)

Questions and Comments Received

Survey Results Overview

- I’m seeing what the community is looking for. What makes sense based on the demographics?

Pool/Swimming

- Would an outdoor pool be a better option?
- What is the utilization on London pools
- Does the municipality own any ponds or lakes in the area?

Community Centres

- My question is out of sequence for the discussion but cannot stay online for the full period. In the event you can address..... I really appreciate the focus and steady progression on programs and infrastructure that supports health and wellness of our

diverse community. With respect to the community centres would you be open to consider a different model that allows for shorter allotment rental times/adjusted fees?

- Glad to hear that - would love to see smaller community groups access these facilities.

Dog Park

- I have a dog and love off leash but happy to walk with a leash on the trails we have.
- I would use an off leash dog park in Ilderton; it would be very unlikely for me to commute my dogs outside of my community to use a dog park.
- Would you be able to work with lobo animal care centre to use their large fenced dog areas at specific times?
- Could a portion of the land that has been set aside for a park in Ilderton be used for a fenced in, off leash area for dogs?
- Dog park = safer for all. Helpful for responsible dog owners. A space to socialize and owners
- Scott, I would like to make my opinion clear on the Weldon Park off leash area. I feel it should be taken out completely or fence it in. I have no issue if the area was fenced. Weldon Park cannot even compare to the other off lease unfenced area in Ilderton. The trail is more isolated from the main trail. At weldon Park, one is more likely to come in contact with an off leash dog.
- Have you considered checking with the railroads to see if land along side the tracks can be utilized as an off leash park in Komoka. IE: land along the CN at Queen.

Recreational Programming

- I consistently need to look outside of Ilderton for arts programs for my tween daughters. Is there any plan to introduce municipal youth arts programs out of the community centres?
- RE: Arts programs — Other communities have annual seasonal performing arts programs (like Christmas performances) that are all-ages. For example, before COVID Exeter had an all ages “Elf the Musical” performance for the community to audition and revenue for tickets went to support local organization. I think this is a good opportunity to build relationships between age groups in our communities. (inter-generational programming).
- Not a question - I love the idea of the skateboard camp - a great way to encourage safe use of a facility and to tap into a huge interest in that demographic. Love the creative programming.
- Does MC have any pull with the YMCA to open earlier and maybe have classes?
- Would we consider adding Y programming in community centres - like yoga was
- Can you work with service clubs for community programming?

Youth Centre

- Mitchell, Ontario used to have a great Youth Centre, not sure if it is still operating, but could be a model worth exploring with the Youth Advisory. I know at one time there was a program for youth to get their high school volunteer hours by teaching seniors how to use Google.
- I am a volunteer at 37 frank youth centre in strathroy. A youth centre is a great idea for all youth to have a safe place to go without judgment. A place for them to do home work - get involved in programmes etc just for them We also had a high school volunteer there as well
- How is a youth centre different from a library? Could the library hours be extended and be used a youth centre?

Trails – Cycling/Walking

- Is there a plan to extend this existing paths in Ilderton i.e. Meadowcreek subdivision?
- Is there anything in the Master Plan to add a paved trail around the exterior of Poplar Hill Park to join with the existing trails. I've heard this request from quite a number of residents.
- As it appears cycling is very popular and active in MC. Are there plans to enhance safety, ie: wider roads, dedicated bike lanes, paved trails etc?
- Are you able to include more benches in senior walkways, ideally with some shade as well?
- Good evening, is it possible for Middlesex Centre to work with the City of London to connect a multi-use pathway in Komoka/Kilworth to Byron for access to the Thames Valley Parkway?
- Who establishes the width of the paved section of roadway? I feel significantly safer riding on Ilderton Rd between Poplar Hill and Coldstream Conservation due to the wide paved shoulders vs riding on any other road in Middlesex that doesn't have a paved shoulder with a wide width of pavement.

Other

- Is there a way to work with vintage green in Ilderton to expand use of their senior facilities more broadly?
- Is there a lighting upgrade coming to the Delaware Community Center Baseball diamond, anytime soon?
- With the pending closure of the Mount Brydges arena and the majority of hockey youth that use that arena coming from the Middlesex centre area, is Middlesex Centre looking at this potential issue of lack of ice time as currently the Komoka arena doesn't have enough available ice time to support the loss of the Mount Brydges arena?

- Just wondering what is happening with proper crosswalks on Hyde park and meadowcreek both by library and also by fireball/ church.
- Also what is the possibility of lowering the speed limits coming into town by the firehall



Community Services Master Plan

Public Information Centre

June 28, 2021

Agenda

- 1) Welcome/Opening Remarks
- 2) Highlight Survey Results
- 3) Focus Areas
- 4) Public Feedback (open mic)



Community Services Master Plan Update

The Municipality of Middlesex Centre is updating the Community Services Master Plan from 2012. Over the last nine years, staff have actively worked on the implementation of the 73 recommendations identified. In all 62 of the 73 recommendations have been completed or are now in progress.

The 2012 Community Services Master Plan indicated the following vision for the department: “To be a community that embraces active and healthy living and that works together to support quality leisure opportunities that are accessible to all.”

What is a Community Services Master Plan?

The Master Plan strives to identify the needs that will guide the Community Services Department over the next five years for the municipality's parks, trails, facilities and recreational programming. The Master Plan is a strategic document that is intended to provide long-term direction to staff through which decisions can be made.

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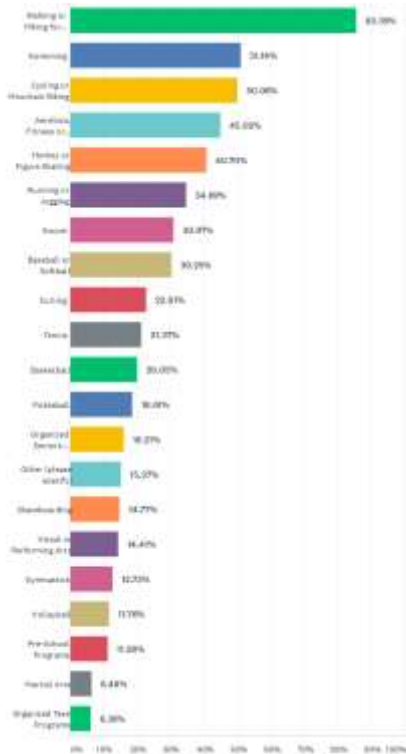
Total Responses



- Survey open April 19, 2021 to May 31, 2021
- Advertised through social media, website, Middlesex Banner page (2x), ads in Komoka-Kilworth-Delaware Villager and Ilderton Villager, signs at parks
- 841 Surveys Received
- 80% completion rate
- About 12 minutes average time spent
- Survey Results Link: <https://middlesexcentre.on.ca/articles/community-services-master-plan-update>

Q1: Thinking back to before COVID-19, what activities would you or anyone your household participate in during a typical year? Check all that apply.

Answered: 833 Skipped: 8



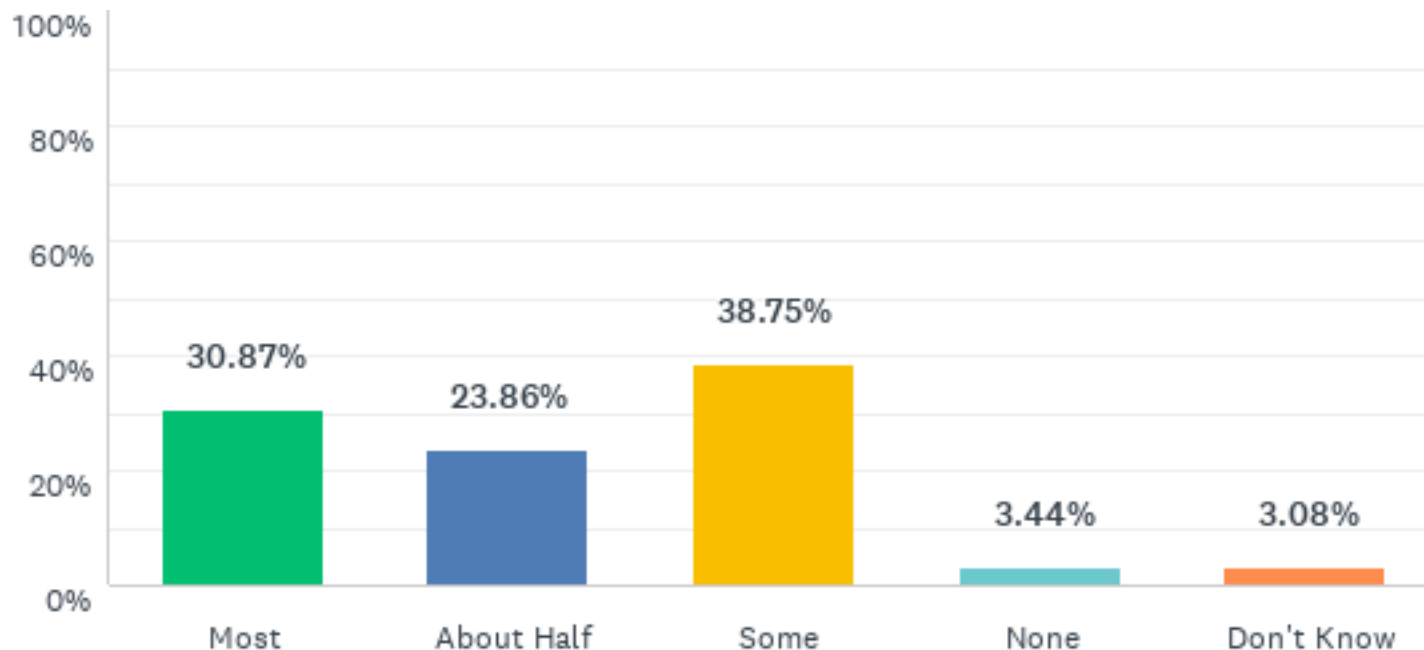
Top Ten

1. Walking or Hiking for Leisure - 85.59%
2. Swimming - 51.14%
3. Cycling or Mountain Biking - 50.06%
4. Aerobics, Fitness or Weight-Training - 45.02%
5. Hockey or Figure Skating - 40.70%
6. Running or Jogging - 34.69%
7. Soccer - 30.97%
8. Baseball or Softball - 30.25%
9. Curling - 22.81%
10. Tennis - 21.37%

Close behind: Basketball - 20.05% and Pickleball - 18.61%

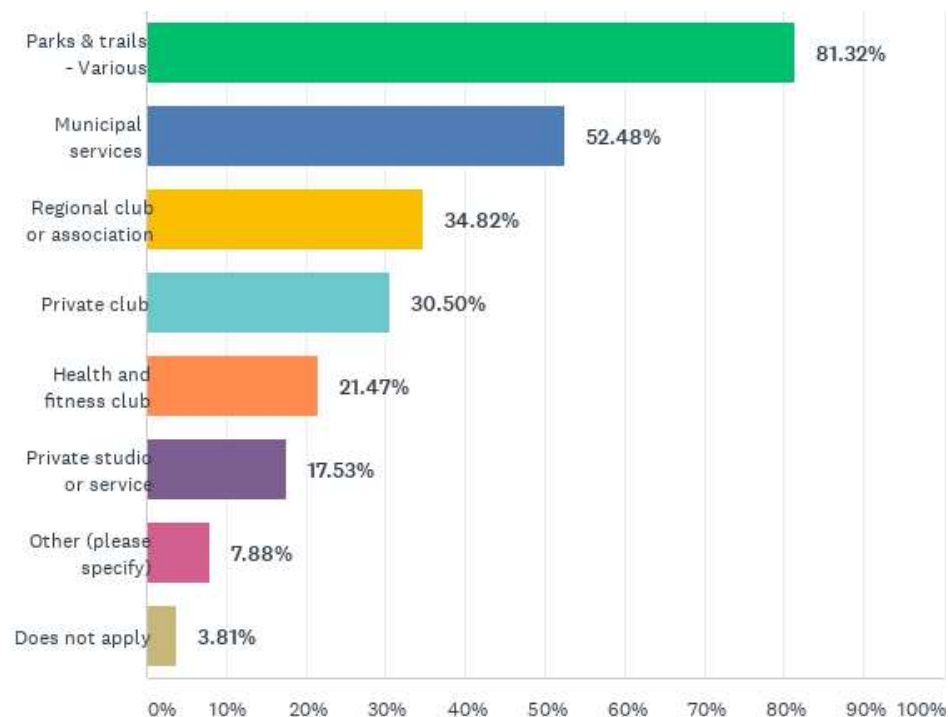
Q4: Thinking back before COVID-19, in general what proportion of your household's parks and recreation needs are met within Middlesex Centre?

Answered: 813 Skipped: 28



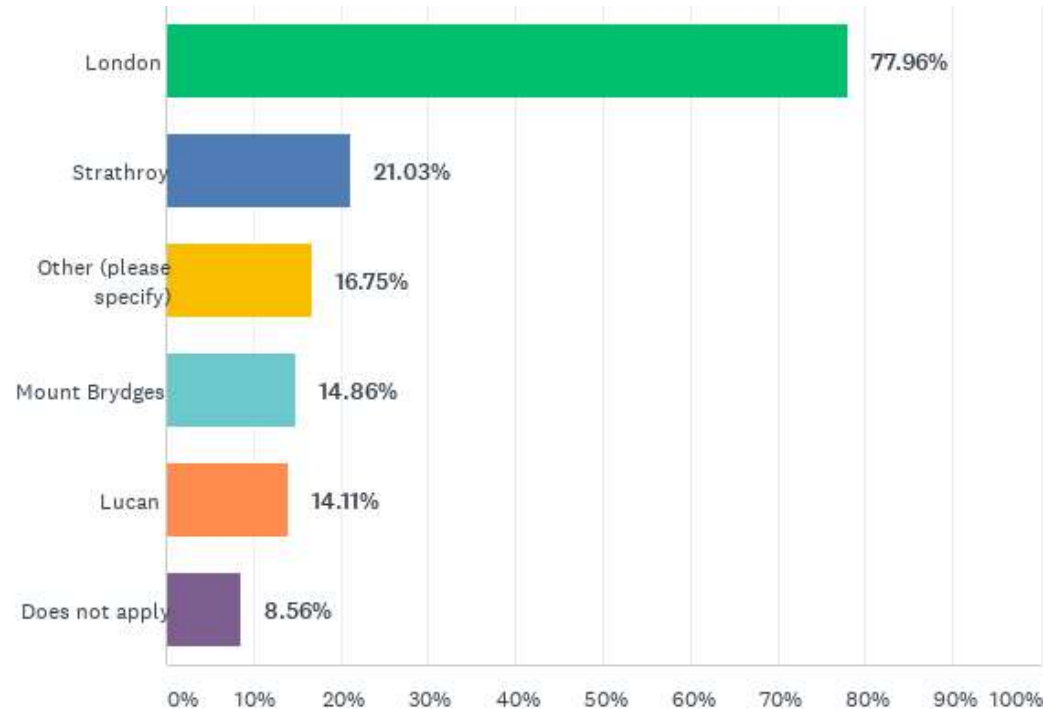
Q5: Who provides the services (facility and/or instruction) that you access IN Middlesex Centre? Select all that apply.

Answered: 787 Skipped: 54



Q6: Where do you or members of your household choose to participate in recreational activities outside of Middlesex Centre? Check all that apply.

Answered: 794 Skipped: 47



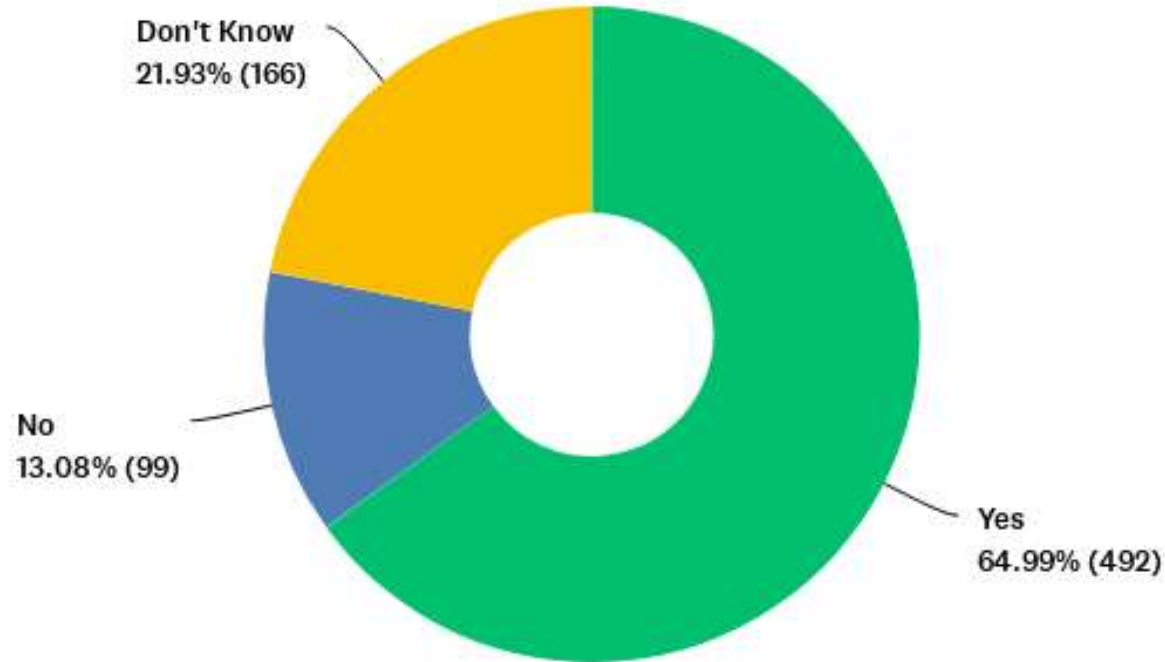
Q8: What recreational activities do you or members of your household participate in OUTSIDE of Middlesex Centre (in other communities)? List up to three.

Answered: 591 Skipped: 250



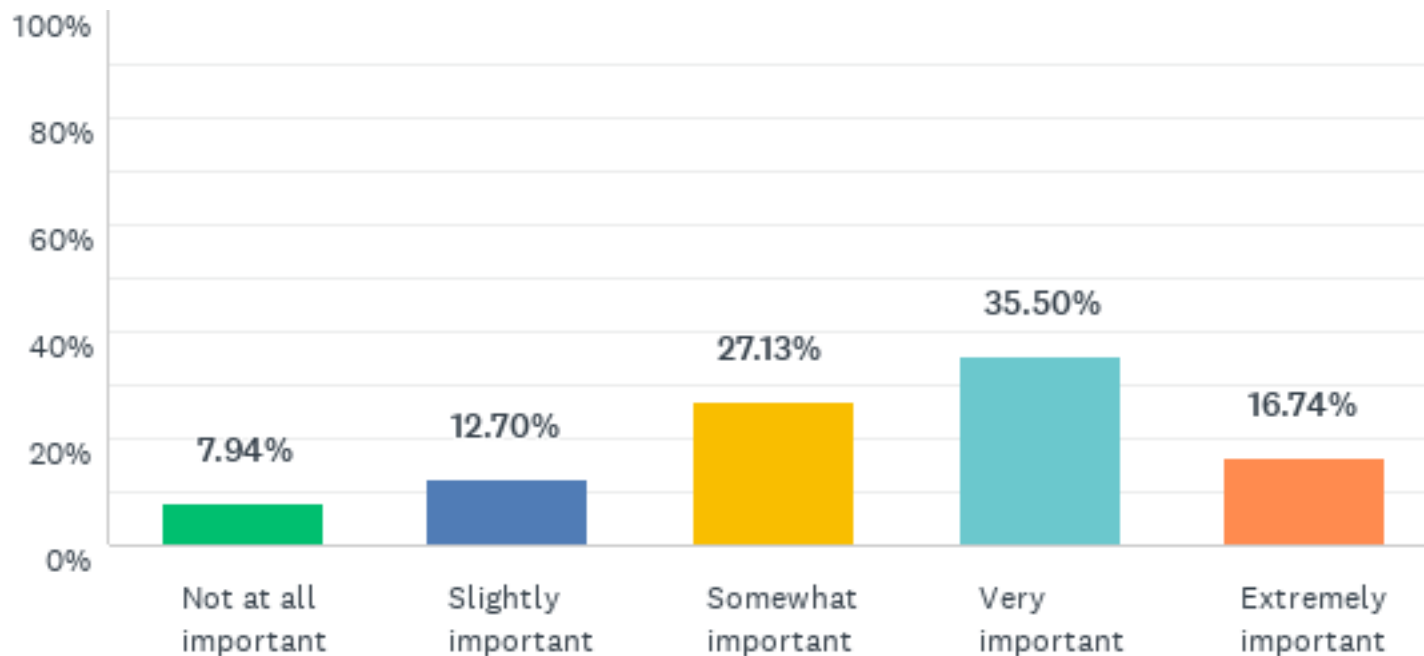
Q10: Are there any parks or recreational activities that you or members of your household would like to see offered in Middlesex Centre that are NOT currently available?

Answered: 757 Skipped: 84



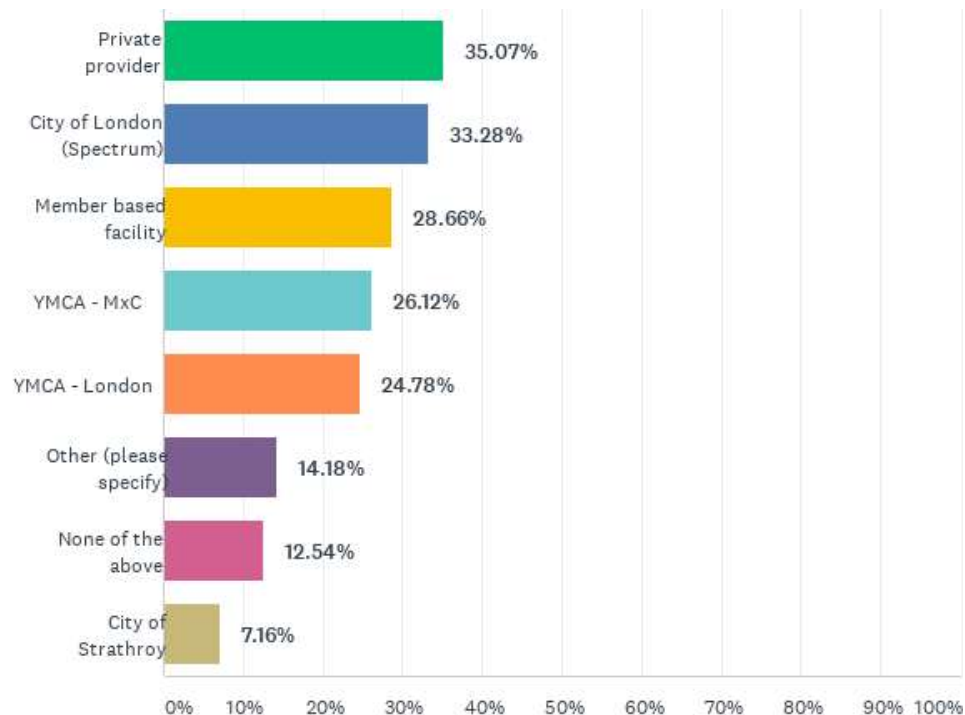
Q13: How important is participating in formal recreational programs to your overall quality of life?

Answered: 693 Skipped: 148



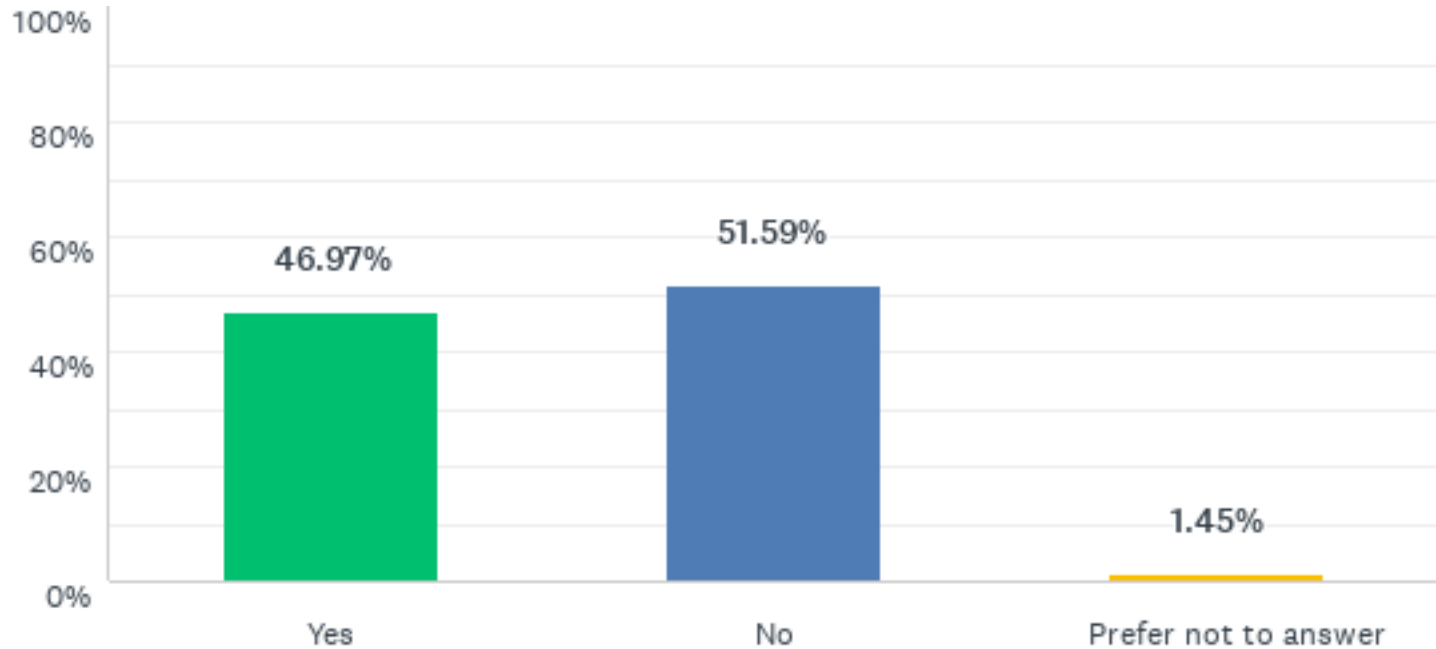
Q16: Prior to COVID-19, which of the following facilities for recreational activities or programs would you use in a typical year?

Answered: 670 Skipped: 171



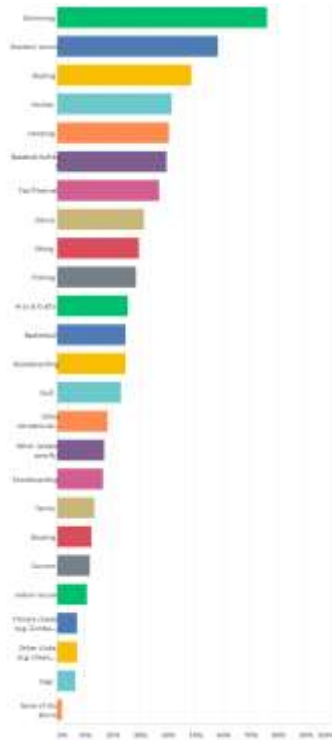
Q17: Do you have any dependent children under the age of 18?

Answered: 692 Skipped: 149



Q20: Prior to COVID-19, in what recreational activities or programs would your child (children) typically participate? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 310 Skipped: 531



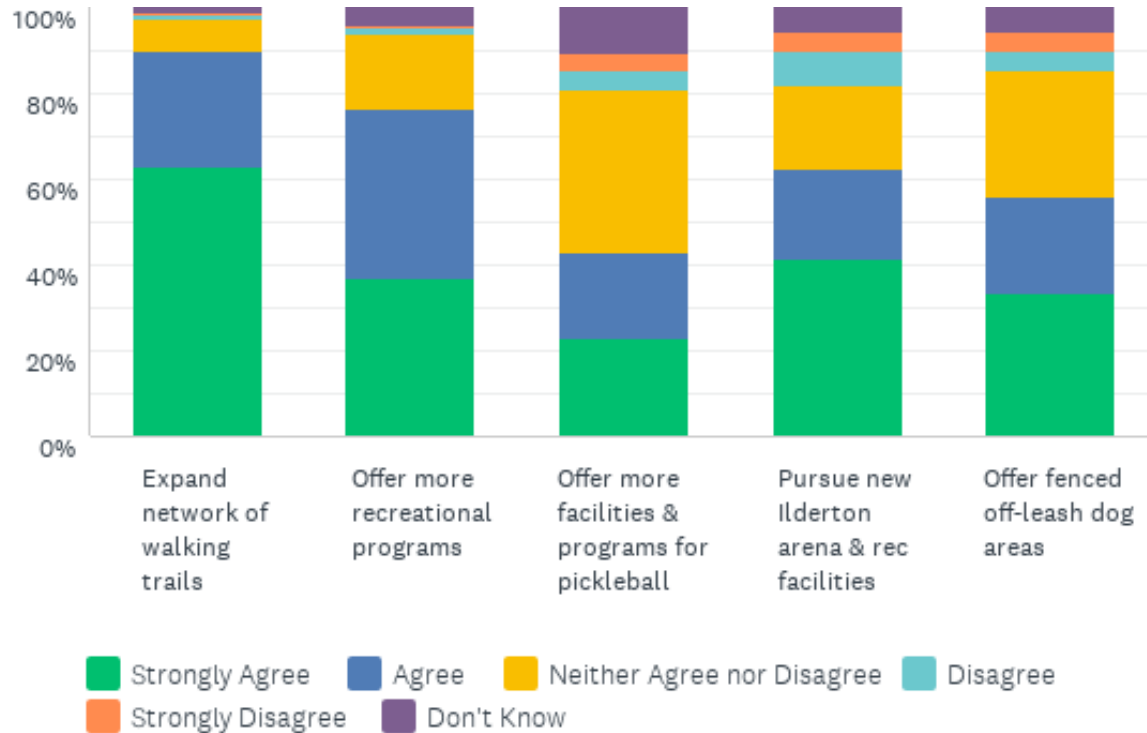
Top Ten

1. Swimming - 76.13%
2. Outdoor soccer - 58.39%
3. Skating - 48.71%
4. Hockey - 41.61%
5. Camping - 40.65%
6. Baseball/softball - 39.68%
7. Fair/Festival - 37.10%
8. Dance - 31.61%
9. Skiing - 29.68%
10. Fishing - 28.71%

Close behind (above 20%): Arts & Crafts, Basketball, Skateboarding, Golf

Q21: Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements. The Municipality should:

Answered: 680 Skipped: 161



Q22: If Middlesex Centre could do JUST ONE THING right now to improve recreational opportunities in our community, what should that be?

Answered: 577 Skipped: 264

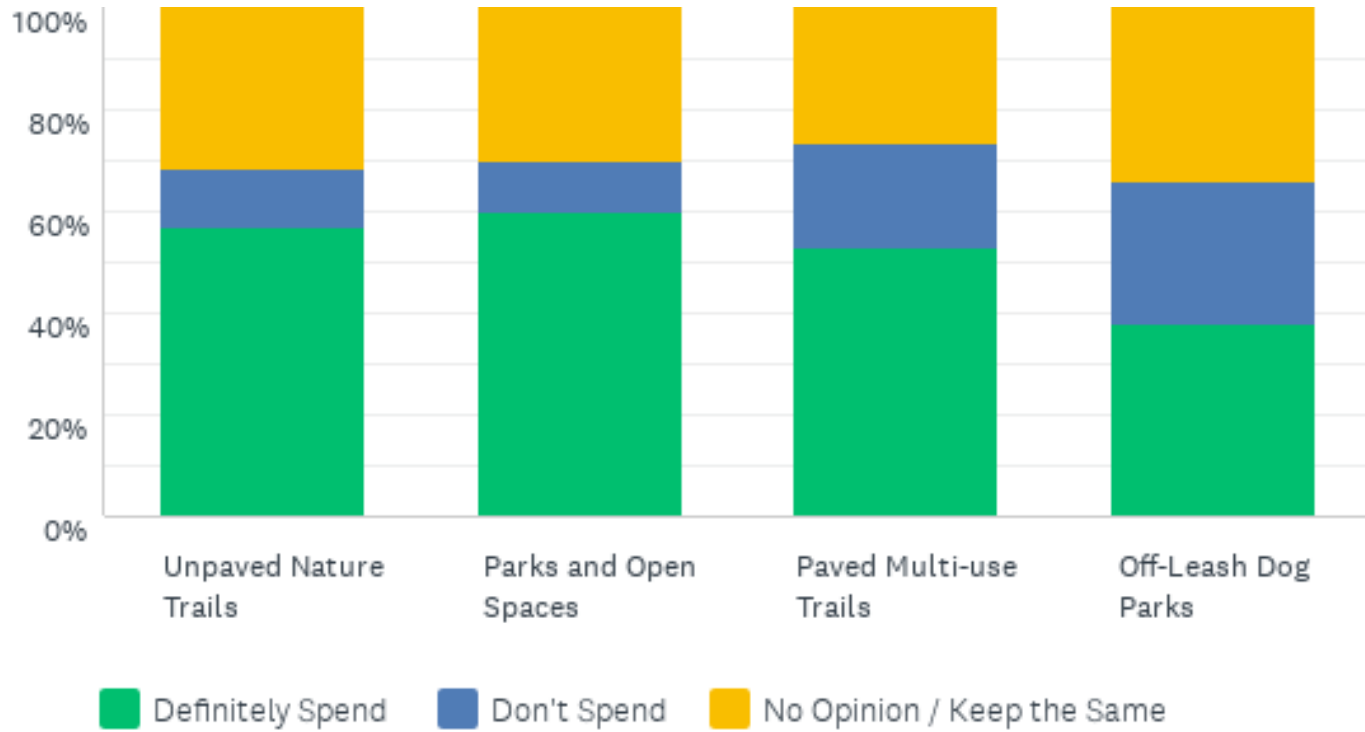
Wide variety of comments received. Often comments were for amenities for a specific community in Middlesex Centre. Most supported more recreational opportunities, but a few (less than 5) were concerned about spending taxpayers dollars.

There was broad support for:

1. Building, connecting and enhancing trails and sidewalks for walking, hiking and cycling
2. Swimming pool / aquatic facilities
3. Off-leash dog park(s)
4. New/enhanced arena(s) and recreational facility in Ilderton
5. Curling facilities
6. Pickleball facilities and programs
7. Adding new neighbourhood parks and/or adding amenities to existing parks
8. Programming and amenities for seniors

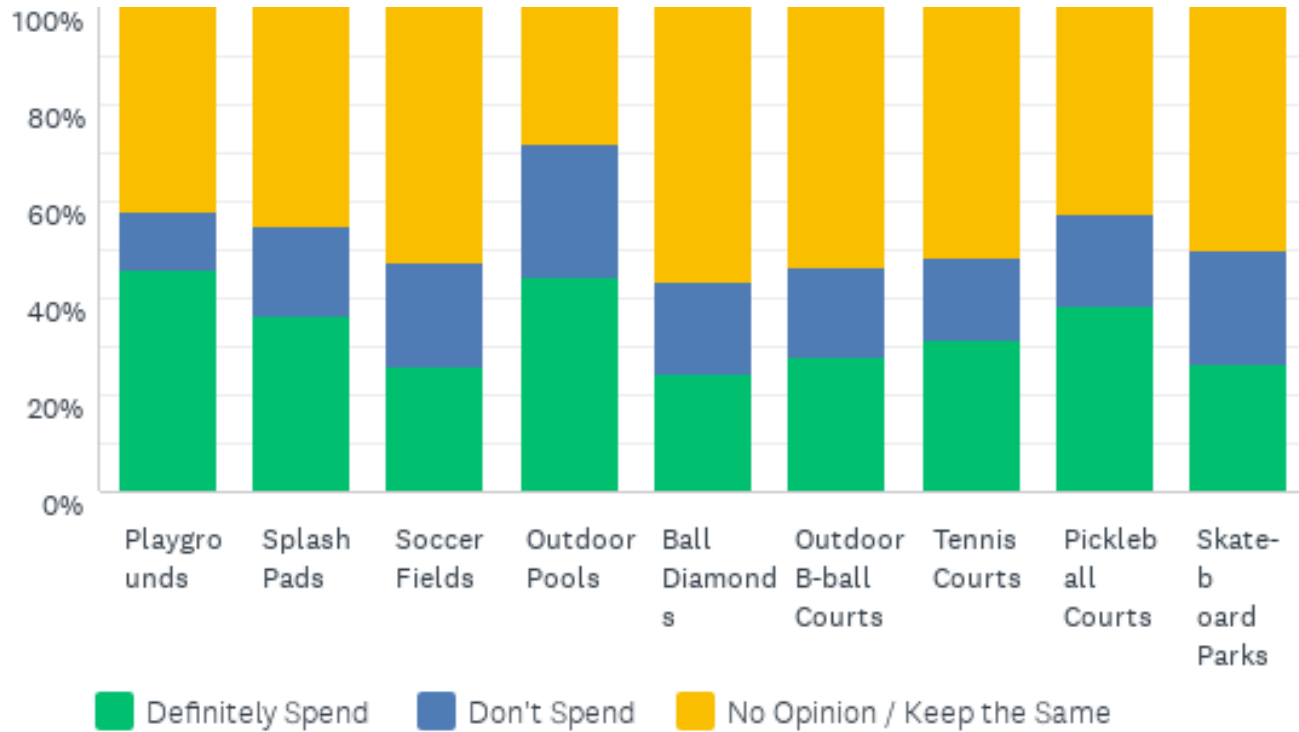
Q28: To what degree should the Municipality spend **ADDITIONAL** public funds on the following types of passive use outdoor facilities?

Answered: 395 Skipped: 446



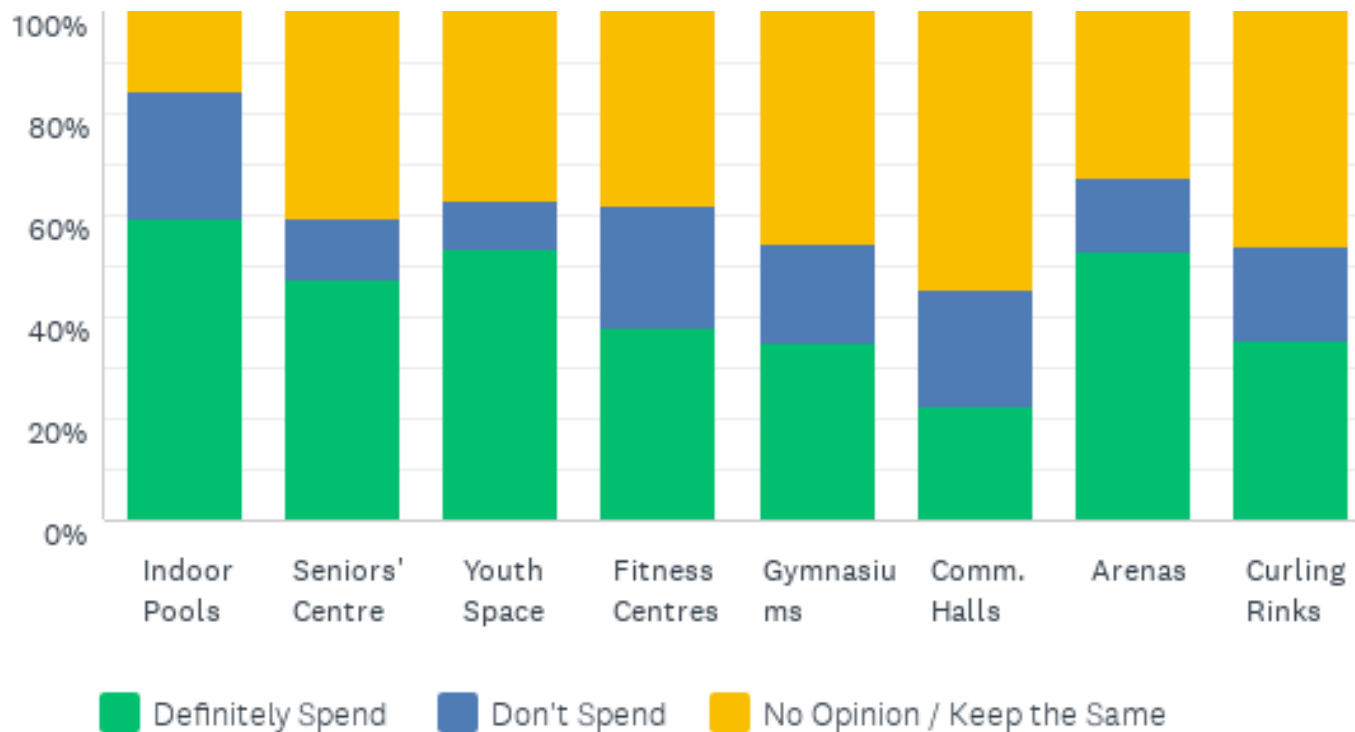
Q29: To what degree should the Municipality spend ADDITIONAL public funds on the following types of active use outdoor facilities?

Answered: 394 Skipped: 447



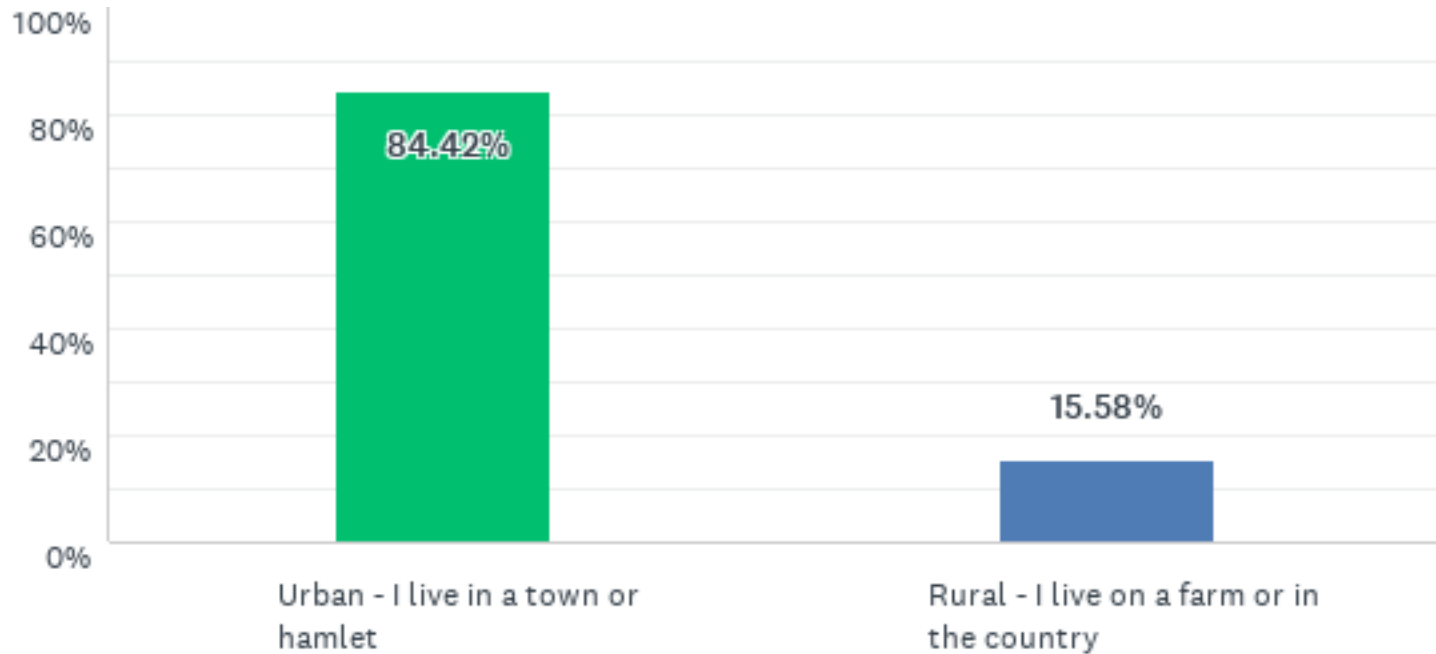
Q30: To what degree should the Municipality spend ADDITIONAL public funds on the following types of indoor facilities?

Answered: 391 Skipped: 450



Q35: Do you consider your home to be rural or urban?

Answered: 616 Skipped: 225



Areas of Focus

- 1) Aquatics
- 2) Trails & Passive Recreation
- 3) Dog Parks
- 4) Recreational Programming
- 5) Youth/Older Adults
- 6) Ilderton Arena





Next Steps

- 1) Stakeholder Interviews – Month of July
- 2) Farmers Markets – Engagement Tables – July/August
- 3) Develop Draft Recommendations - August
- 4) Public Information Session #2 – Present Draft Recommendations – September

For up to date information, visit our project page:

<https://middlesexcentre.on.ca/articles/community-services-master-plan-update>

Additional Questions?

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