



District of Sechelt Community Services Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan



District of
SECHELT

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expedition
MANAGEMENT CONSULTING



Photo Credit: District of Sechelt

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
1 Project Overview	6
2 Analysis.....	10
3 Trends and Benefits	24
4 Community Engagement Results	29
5 Vision for the Future.....	33
6 Master Plan Priorities	35
1. Programming and Service Delivery	37
2. Parks, Trails, Recreation and Culture Facilities.....	52
3. Planning and Policy.....	63
7 Implementing the Plan.....	72
8 Conclusion	77
Appendices	79
Appendix A – Demographics in Comparator Communities	80
Appendix B – Facility and Program Inventory	81
Appendix C – Partner Analysis	86
Appendix D – Strategic Alignment Analysis	87
Appendix E – Policy Analysis.....	89
Appendix F – Expanded Engagement Results.....	92
Appendix G – Volunteer Engagement Program Development	110
Appendix H – References	113

Land Acknowledgement

The District of Sechelt is located on the traditional territory of the shíshálh Nation.
We respect the histories, language and culture of the people of the shíshálh Nation, whose presence continues to enrich this community.



Photo Credit: Expedition Management Consulting Ltd.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Set in the heart of the Sunshine Coast, Sechelt is a community shaped by its coastal setting, creative spirit, and deep connection to the outdoors. Surrounded by ocean, forest, and mountains, residents enjoy an exceptional range of recreation and cultural experiences, from shoreline access and local parks to trails, arts and culture events, and recreation facilities. This rich mix of natural assets and amenities forms the backbone of daily life. As Sechelt continues to grow and evolve, its parks, trails, recreation, and cultural services will remain essential to sustaining community well-being and enriching the lives of residents.

The Project

This Master Plan will guide decisions about parks, recreation, and culture amenities and programs for the next 10 years. It was developed based on input from residents and community groups, staff and Council, interviews with key partners and facility operators, as well as research and analysis by the consulting team.

This Plan has a broad mandate that addresses programming, volunteerism, organizational development, services, policies and facilities. Sports fields are outside the scope of the plan, as are indoor recreation facilities operated by external entities.

This is a non-statutory plan to provide direction and guidance only. Implementation of the plan may be impacted by a variety of factors, including Council priorities, available resources, and emerging opportunities/challenges.

Context and Project Findings

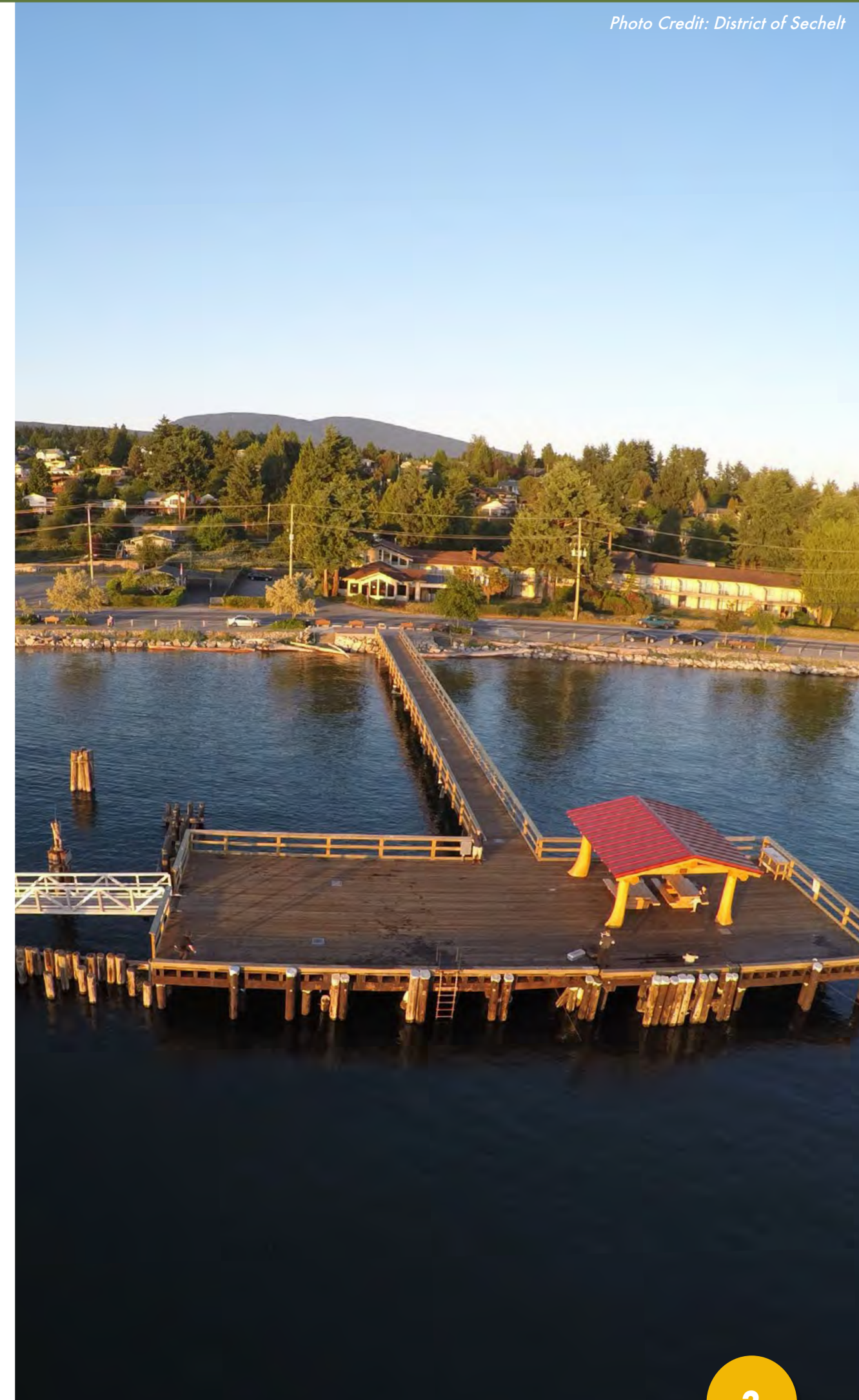
KEY COMMUNITY CHARACTERISTICS	 Rapidly growing population  High proportion of seniors  Abundant outdoor recreation  Strong arts and culture community
AMENITIES AND PROGRAMS IN HIGH DEMAND	 Parks and trails  Sport courts  Programs for children and youth  Trail-based and educational/skill building programs
KEY OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE SERVICE DELIVERY	 Improving accessibility of recreation amenities  Connecting more residents with parks, recreation and culture  Strengthening tools for park and trail acquisition and development

VISION FOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE IN THE DISTRICT OF SECHelt

Over the next 10 years, parks, recreation and culture opportunities in Sechelt will be significantly enhanced through the development of exciting new programming, enriching volunteer experiences and enhanced opportunities for all residents to become connected to our beautiful community.

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Celebrate and protect Sechelt's natural setting.
2. Create a connected and accessible parks and trails network.
3. Support arts and culture in the community.
4. Enhance diverse program opportunities.
5. Maintain and enhance existing built and social assets.
6. Strengthen organizational capacity to deliver municipal services.
7. Expand community engagement and volunteerism.
8. Foster inclusive and accessible experiences and reduce barriers to participation for residents of all ages and abilities.
9. Enhance local and regional partnerships.



Summary of Master Plan Priorities

The following provides a summary of the priorities recommended in the Master Plan and a suggested timeline for implementation.

SHORT TERM (2026-2027)

- Confirm the Role of the Community Services Department (1.A)
- Develop a Volunteer Engagement Program to Connect More Residents with Parks, Recreation and Culture (1.B)
- Create a Parks, Recreation and Culture Program Plan (1.C)
- Develop a Festivals and Events Strategy (1.D)
- Enhance the Capacity of the Community Services Department to Support Programming and Volunteer Development (1.E)
- Create Programming for Children and Youth (1.F)
- Introduce Educational and Skill Building Programs for People of All Ages (1.G)
- Introduce Trail Programs (1.H)
- Improve Facility and Amenity Accessibility (2.A)
- Work with the Sechelt Public Library to Investigate Options to Expand the Library (2.C)

MEDIUM TERM (2028-2030)

- Support Enhanced Program Offerings for Older Adults (1.I)
- Explore Innovative and Participatory Public Art Installations and Programming (1.J)
- Increase Access to/Utilization of Existing Multi-purpose Spaces (1.K)
- Work with School District 46 to Develop a Joint Use Agreement for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces (1.L)
- Update the Development Concept for Phase Two of Mission Point Park (2.D)
- Enhance the District's Parks and Trails (2.E)
- Collaborate on Conducting a Building Condition Assessment for the Arts Centre (2.F)
- Build an Accessible Multi-sport Court (2.G)
- Use the Information in this Plan as Input to Future Recreation Facility Planning (2.H)
- Consider Third Party Development and Operation of Future Pickleball Courts (2.I)
- Strengthen Tools for Park and Trail Acquisition and Development (3.A)
- Update Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs and Policies (3.B)

LONG TERM (2031-2036)

- Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation (1.M)
- Maintain and Update Existing Assets as Resources Allow (2.B)
- Consider Climate Change in Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery (3.C)
- Explore Opportunities for Enhanced Partnerships (3.D)
- Review and Update the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan (3.E)
- Consider Assessing the Feasibility of a Performing Arts Centre at a Future Date (2.J)

Top Five Actions

The following actions have been identified as the top priorities of the master plan. They are listed in a recommended order of priority.



1. Expand organizational capacity to support programming and volunteer development.



2. Develop a Volunteer Engagement Program.



3. Increase and further support programming for all ages.



4. Improve facility and amenity accessibility.



5. Strengthen tools for park and trail acquisition and development.

Conclusion

The District of Sechelt Community Services, Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan sets a clear and forward-looking direction for a community that continues to grow, evolve, and deepen its connection to place. It defines an expanded role for the Community Services Department focused on enriching resident experiences, renewing existing assets, and strengthening connections between people, parks, recreation, and culture. The plan highlights opportunities to enhance accessibility, foster volunteerism, and guide the thoughtful evolution of the parks and trails network. Together, these strategies position Sechelt to build a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient community services system for the future.

Photo Credit: Expedition Management Consulting Ltd.





1

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Introduction

Nestled at the centre of the Sunshine Coast, the District of Sechelt is known for its easygoing coastal character, unique arts and culture scene, and strong sense of community. The community blends creative energy with a deep appreciation for the outdoors. Sechelt is set against a backdrop of ocean, forest, and mountain landscapes. Its location between the Salish Sea and the sheltered waters of the Sechelt Inlet creates exceptional opportunities for water-based recreation, while the forested slopes rising above the community draw hikers, mountain bikers, skiers, and motorized recreation users throughout the year. Festivals, events, and public art also enliven the community year-round.

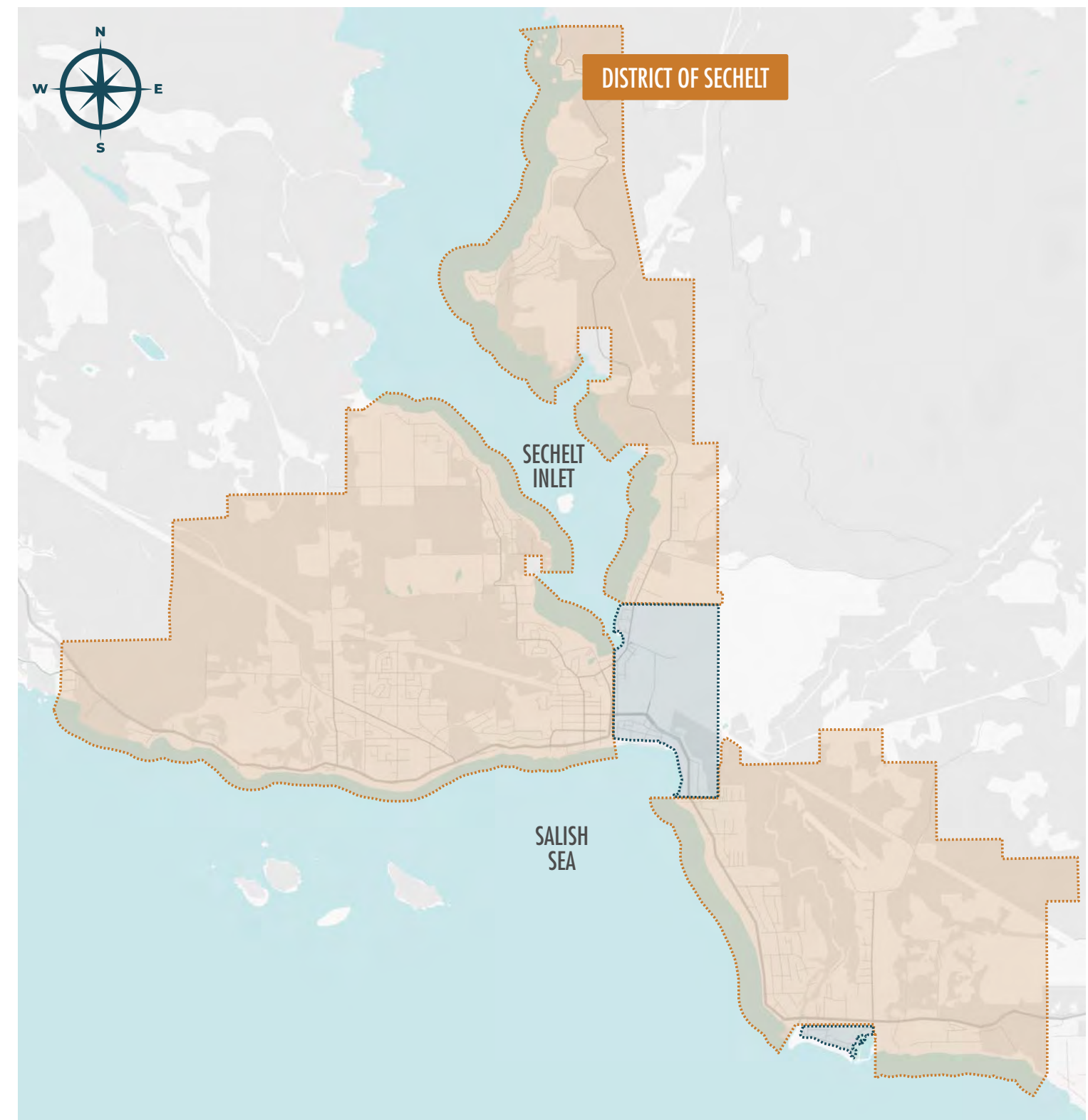
Sechelt's parks, recreation and culture system is comprised of varied infrastructure, services and programs. These include dozens of municipally owned and operated beach access points, unique parks and trails, piers, sports fields, multi-purpose buildings, and municipal programs and policies. Partner run recreational programming and facilities such as an aquatic centre, arena, seniors centre, arts centre, and additional fields complement the District's assets and services, and provide residents with a diverse mix of indoor and outdoor recreation and culture opportunities.

As the community continues to grow and evolve, its parks, trails, culture and recreation services will remain central to supporting community well-being.

*"We live our lives outdoors.
Everyday we make memories
in this beautiful place."*

SURVEY RESPONDENT

Figure 1. District of Sechelt Map*



*Map is provided for illustrative purposes only and not to scale.

 shíshálh Nation

Scope

This document has a broad mandate. It addresses parks, trails, recreation and culture, including programming, volunteerism, organizational development, services, policies and facilities. Sports fields are outside the scope of the plan, as are indoor recreation facilities operated by external entities.

Process

The District of Sechelt Community Services, Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan process has five, interconnected phases, as described next. The project is currently in Phase 4. A Project Steering Committee comprised of municipal staff was established to oversee the project, provide input, and give feedback on the overall direction of the Master Plan. The plan was developed by Expedition Management Consulting Ltd.



Photo Credit: District of Sechelt

Overview of Research

A variety of primary and secondary research activities were conducted to develop the Master Plan. Primary research was completed through surveys of residents and community groups, an input workshop with District Council, interviews with key interest holders and District staff, a community tour, in-person engagement stations, and discussions with facility operators.

1. Surveys Administered

- a. Resident Survey
- b. Community Group Survey

2. Meetings Conducted

- a. Project Steering Committee Meetings
Dates: January 7, January 21, and March 13, 2026
- b. In-Person Resident Engagement Stations
Dates: March 3 and 4, 2026
- c. Seniors and Youth Engagement
Date: March 3 and 4, 2026
- d. Council Input Workshop
Date: March 5, 2026

"All three of my boys learned to ride bikes on trails at Kinn Park. It is an excellent place for beginners to learn."

SURVEY RESPONDENT

3. Groups Engaged (through interviews and/or surveys):

Invitations to participate in the engagement process were sent out to community groups and partners by the District. Twenty one groups chose to participate, including representatives of the organizations listed next.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Chinook Swim Club | 11. Sunshine Coast Arts Council |
| 2. Coast Recital Society | 12. Sunshine Coast Elder College |
| 3. Davis Bay – Wilson Creek – Selma Park
Community Association | 13. Sunshine Coast Film Society |
| 4. One Straw Society | 14. Sunshine Coast Men's Soccer League |
| 5. Sechelt Community Archives | 15. Sunshine Coast Pickleball Association |
| 6. Sechelt Community Schools Society | 16. Sunshine Coast Pride Society |
| 7. Sechelt Public Library | 17. Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) |
| 8. Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre | 18. Sunshine Coast Tourism |
| 9. Sechelt Village Community Association | 19. Sunshine Coast Trails Society |
| 10. shishálh Nation | 20. Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer Association |
| | 21. West Sechelt Elementary School |

4. Tours Conducted

Members of the consulting team toured the District of Sechelt to gain a first-hand perspective of parks, recreation, and culture assets, including SCRD facilities located within the community.

5. Documents Reviewed

- a. Strategies, plans, and other documents from the District of Sechelt.
- b. Reports, statistics, surveys, and planning documents from the District of Sechelt, community groups, and partner organizations.
- c. Recreation frameworks and policies from provincial and national sources.

2

ANALYSIS

Current State of Parks, Recreation and Culture

The District of Sechelt is home to a diverse range of recreation and cultural amenities. Outdoor amenities in the community include a rich and varied collection of parks, trails, playgrounds, beach access points, and sports fields. The majority are owned and managed by the District. Indoor facilities are focused on sports and active recreation, community programming, and the arts. These assets are owned and operated by various public and non-profit entities including the District of Sechelt, the SCRD, the shíshálh Nation and School Division 46.

Recreation programs are primarily delivered by the SCRD and local organizations and sport groups. They range from soccer camps to swimming lessons to art classes. Events are frequent and well attended in the community. Some are hosted by the municipality and others are delivered by community groups.

Local clubs and community groups operating in the District offer a variety of community services. Among them are the Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre Society, Sunshine Coast Arts Council, Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts, Suncoast Racquet Club, and the Sechelt Groves Society.

The recreation system faces growing pressures. Looking ahead, the District will navigate rising infrastructure costs, population growth, demographic change, and the operational impacts of persistent drought and climate-related events. As a regional hub, the community is also responding to evolving recreation expectations and increasing social inequities that affect access to services. These pressures underscore the need for resilient infrastructure, adaptable service delivery, and thoughtful planning to meet the needs of those who live and recreate in the community.

"Our family loves going to the beach. There are so many beach access points. We enjoy walking the wharfs and hiking through the forest."

SURVEY RESPONDENT



Photo Credit: Expedition Management Consulting Ltd.

Community Demographics

In 2021, the District had a population of 10,847.¹ It grew 6% from 2016. The demographic profile of the community is notably older than provincial and national averages. Children made up just 12% of residents, while adults 65 and over represented 37%. This is nearly double the national share of seniors in 2021, which was 19% of the total Canadian population. The median age in the community of 57.6 underscores this strong skew toward older adults. The median age across the entire Sunshine Coast Regional District in 2021 was 56. See Appendix A for a comparison with demographics in other communities with a similar population.

Household patterns also reflect this older demographic. The average household size is 2.1, with single-person and two-person households accounting for more than three-quarters of all households. Thirty five percent of households are couples without children, 15% are couples with children, 6% are one parent families, and 2% are multigenerational. Most District residents live in single-detached dwellings (75%), and homeownership is high at 81%.² The cost of homeownership is also high, having increased 216% between 2017 and 2023.³ The number of people experiencing homelessness in the region has also increased.⁴

Household incomes vary significantly by household type. The median total household income in 2020 was \$73,500, but one-person households reported a median of \$39,000 compared with \$95,000 for households with two or more people. Indicators of low-income status show that adults aged 18–64 represent the largest share of residents experiencing economic vulnerability.⁵

In 2021, 5% of residents (525 people) in the District identified as Indigenous.⁶ This is in addition to the 760 living within the shíshálh Nation Government District in 2021.⁷

The District of Sechelt is also home to a growing number of people from racialized communities. The percentage of the population identifying as such grew from 9% in 2016 to 12% in 2021.

Figure 2. Existing (2021) Demographics



Low number of people 14 and younger



High number of people 65 and over



High proportion of couples without children



Majority live in single detached homes



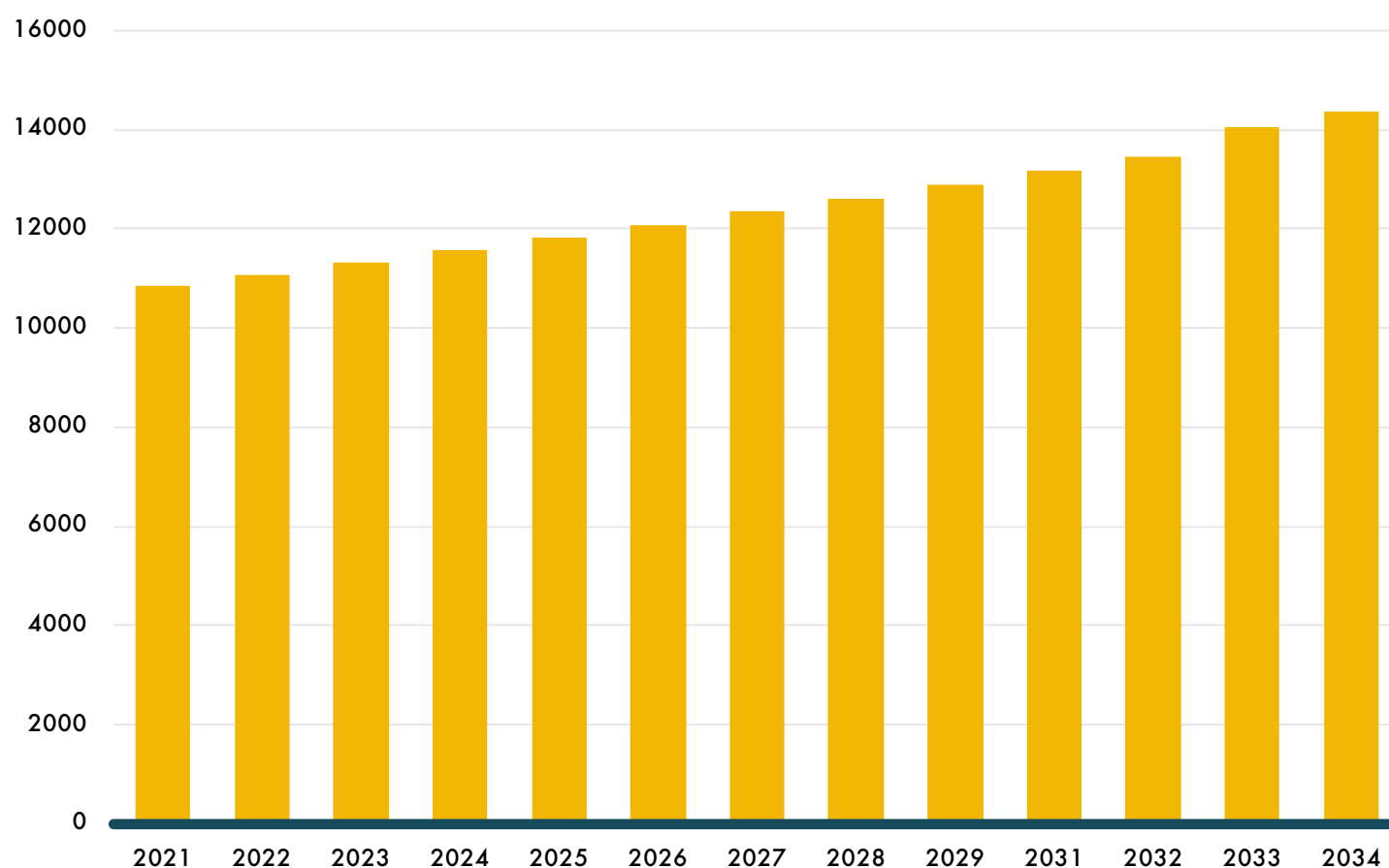
High rate of home ownership

District Population Growth and New Households

Between 2021 and 2034, the District's population is projected to grow by 31% to a total of 14,341. To accommodate the projected population growth, Sechelt is anticipated to add approximately 1,110 net new households by 2029 and a total of 1,656 by 2034.⁸

It is projected that by 2034, there will be approximately 1,714 more seniors, who will account for 41% of the population.⁹ Working-age adults between the ages of 25 to 65 are expected to account for some new growth, adding 368 people between 2024 and 2034. A modest 446 increase in youth and children between the ages of 0 and 24 years old is projected.

Figure 3. District of Sechelt Projected Population Growth



The District's existing and forecast community demographics suggest that the following should be key considerations in future community services:

- The needs of a high and growing number of seniors
- The needs of people living alone, in particular those with lower incomes
- The needs of Indigenous people
- The needs of an increasingly culturally diverse population

Figure 4. Expected Demographics in 2034



31% population growth from 2021

3,494 new people and 1,656 new households

1,714 additional seniors, 368 working age adults, 446 children and youth

Artists and Cultural Workers in Sechelt¹⁰

The District has the third highest concentration of artists among Canadian municipalities. The 330 workers in arts, culture, and heritage occupations in Sechelt account for 6.3% of the 5,300 people in the local labour force, a percentage that is higher than both the provincial average (5.4%) and the national average (4.4%). One in every 16 workers in Sechelt has a cultural occupation.

Facility Inventory

The following provides an overview of indoor and outdoor recreation and culture facilities in the District. See Appendix B for a full inventory. See Figure 6 for a map of key parks and amenities. Note that while sports fields and regional facilities are referenced here, these facilities are outside the scope of this study.

Outdoor

Key outdoor District-owned assets include 47 parks, over 25km of trails, multiple natural areas and viewpoints, several piers, 52 beach access trails, four rectangular fields and six ball diamonds. See Figure 5 for more information on sports fields. Prominent spaces include Hackett Park, Kinnikinnick Park, Mission Point Park and Davis Bay Beach. There are four public washroom facilities across all parks and open spaces, in parks with high uses and multiple amenities. Spirit Square in downtown Sechelt is one of three urban parks in the community. There is also a skatepark and a basic bike pump track in the District.

"Recreation in Sechelt was a beautiful part of my youth and is now key to healthy aging."

SURVEY RESPONDENT

Figure 5. District Sports Fields

There are four rectangular fields and six ball diamonds in the community. Each of these fields is overlapping, meaning that combined rectangular fields and ball diamonds can only be used by one user group at a time. The District worked with the shíshálh Nation, SCRD, Town of Gibsons, and Sunshine Coast School District 46 to complete a Sunshine Coast Sports Field Strategy. The strategy defines a shared vision and provides recommendations to guide sports field management, allocation, and capital and operational investments over the next 10 years.



Outdoor Facilities in the District of Sechelt

- 47 parks (185 hectares)
- 25+ km of trail
- 52 beach access points
- 3 piers
- 1 float
- 4 dog parks
- 4 rectangular sports fields
- 6 baseball diamonds
- 2 pickleball courts
- 1 tennis court
- 1 skatepark
- 1 pump track
- 10 playgrounds
- 1 golf course

Photo Credit: Expedition Management Consulting Ltd.

Indoor

The District owns three buildings that can be rented for community activities and events. These include Seaside Centre, Mission Point House, and Rockwood Lodge.

The Sunshine Coast Arena and the Sechelt Aquatic Centre are owned and operated by the SCRD. Other indoor facilities in the community that are operated by other entities include the Sechelt Library, Sunshine Coast Arts Centre, tems swiya Museum, Sechelt Community Archives, Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre,

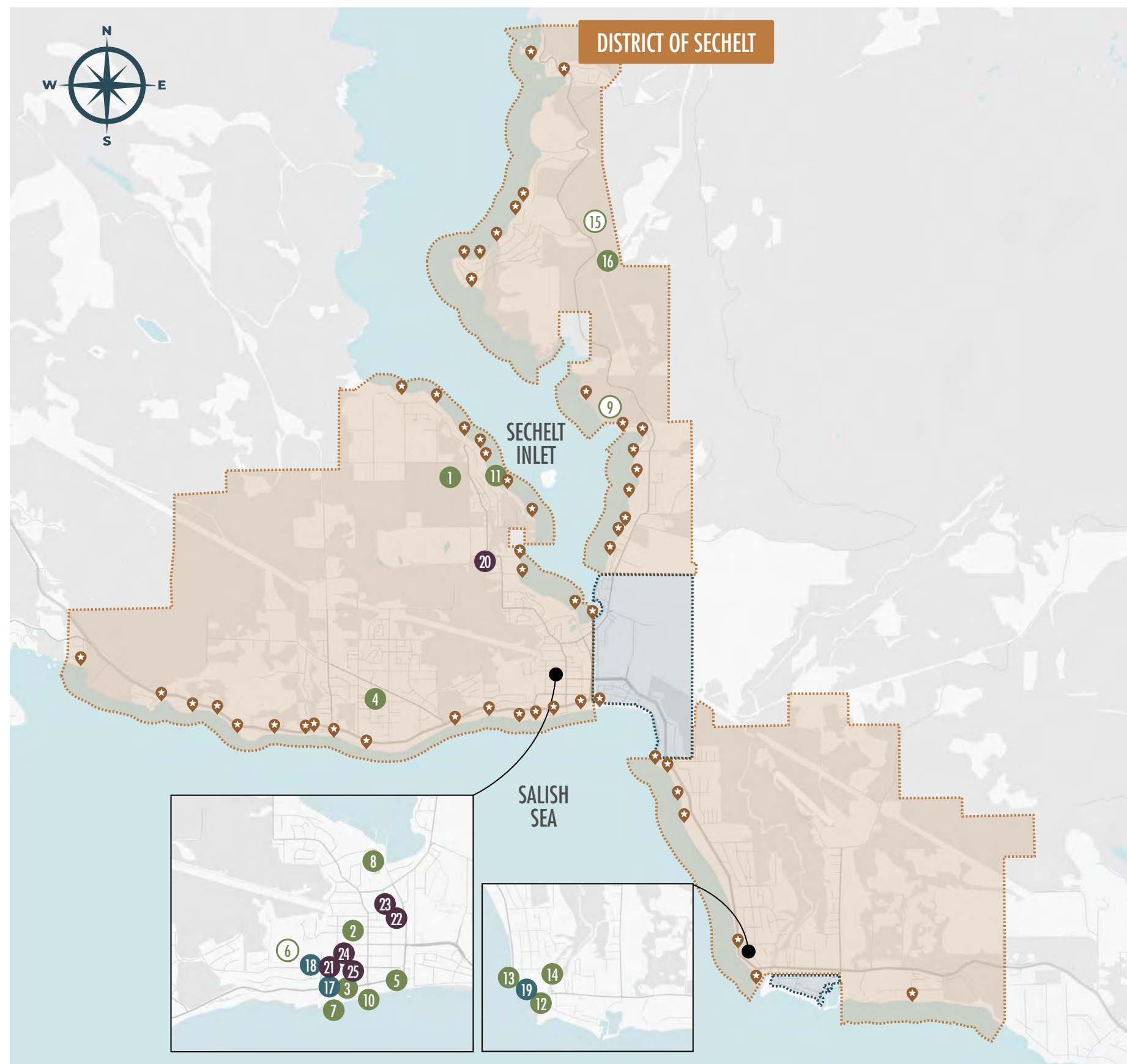
Sechelt Early Years Centre, Sechelt Youth Centre, Raven's Cry Theatre and Suncoast Racquet Club.

Schools and school grounds in Sechelt contain recreation and culture amenities including gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, a theatre, a running track, fitness facilities, and a bouldering wall.



Photo Credits (L-R): District of Sechelt, Justin Samson (Sechelt Aquatic Centre), Expedition Management Consulting Ltd. (Sunshine Coast Arena)

Figure 6. Key Parks, Recreation and Culture Amenities*



*Map is provided for illustrative purposes only and not to scale.

★ Beach access point

shíshálh Nation

○ Not owned by the District of Sechelt.

LEGEND

KEY PARKS

- 1 Kinnikinnick Park
- 2 Hackett Park
- 3 Spirit Square
- 4 Picadilly Park
- 5 Friendship Park
- 6 Sechelt Skateboard Park
- 7 Snickett Park
- 8 Sechelt Marsh
- 9 Porpoise Bay Provincial Park
- 10 Trail Bay Waterfront
- 11 Inlet West Esplanade
- 12 Mission Point Park
- 13 Davis Bay Waterfront
- 14 Brookman Park
- 15 Sechelt Heritage Forest

DISTRICT OPERATED INDOOR FACILITY

- 17 Seaside Centre
- 18 Rockwood Lodge and Pavillion
- 19 Mission Point House

NON-DISTRICT OPERATED INDOOR FACILITY

- 20 Sunshine Coast Arena
- 21 Sechelt Aquatic Centre
- 22 Sunshine Coast Arts Centre
- 23 Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre
- 24 Sechelt Youth Centre
- 25 Sechelt Public Library

Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre

The centre is a hub of activity in the community. It is operated by a volunteer-run non-profit society and offers a wide range of programming. These include fitness and arts classes, and social activities including daily lunches. The centre has a well-maintained gymnasium with regulation-sized pickleball courts on a cushioned sports floor. It also has rooms and facilities available for rentals.



Photo Credit: Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre

Asset Conditions

The District's 2025 Asset Report Cards classify the average condition of public buildings, marine assets and recreational assets as good. Most individual recreation facilities within these categories are identified as in fair or good condition. Some benches/picnic tables and irrigation assets are identified as in poor condition, suggesting that there are park and field amenities in need of replacement.

Facilities Outside the District

The SCRD operates several indoor facilities elsewhere on the Sunshine Coast. These include the Gibsons and Area Community Centre, the Town of Gibsons and District Aquatics Facility, the Pender Harbour Aquatic and Fitness Centre, and six community halls. These facilities are within a 30 minute drive of Sechelt.

There are numerous sports fields, parks and trails in the region. The shíshálh Nation has lit multi-use fields near downtown Sechelt as well as baseball fields near Trail Bay. Sports fields are also located in the of Town Gibsons as well as in each Electoral Area in the SCRD.

Porpoise Bay Provincial Park is directly adjacent to Sechelt and Sargeant Bay Provincial Park is 8km to the northwest. Both offer a backdrop for many outdoor activities. Dakota Ridge is a winter recreational area on a plateau above the community, managed by the SCRD. There are several trail networks in the region also, largely located on forestry lands.

Program and Facility Analysis

The following provides a description of programs and facility utilization in the District (where data was available).

Facility Utilization

District Owned and Operated Facility Utilization

Usage of District owned and operated facilities is on the rise. See Figure 7 for booking trends between 2023 and 2025.

Several local organizations use District operated indoor and outdoor facilities for one-off or ongoing programs and activities. Examples include the Sunshine Coast Elder College, Sechelt Library, Restorative Justice Program of the Sunshine Coast, Sunshine Coast Arts Council, Sunshine Coast Pride Society, and Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts. The shísháhlh Nation also uses some District facilities for its activities. Public facilities are also used by private individuals and groups for events, programs, celebrations, and private functions.

Figure 7. Facility and Park Booking Trends 2023-2025

87% increase at Mission House and Park (1,253 to 2,348 hours)

29% increase at Rockwood Lodge (2478 to 3187 hours)

28% decrease at Seaside Centre (1,739 to 1,250 hours)

1037% increase at Hackett Stage (54.5 to 620 hours)

44% decrease at Hackett Park (1726 to 975 hours)

40% decrease at Picadilly Park (1,028 to 621 hours hours)

41% increase at Upper Kinnikinnick Park (880 to 1241 hours)

74% increase at Lower Kinnikinnick Park (801 to 1392 hours)

27% decrease in mobile vending at Davis Bay (3112 to 2268 hours)

44% decrease in mobile vending at Friendship Park (3060 to 1708 hours)

433% increase in filming bookings (18 to 69 hours)*

*2024 to 2025



Photo Credit: District of Sechelt

Recreation and Culture Programs and Participation

Recreation and Culture

There are two primary programs in the District to support arts and culture. These are the Community Investment Grant Program and the Public Art Program. The Community Investment Grant Program provides financial assistance to non-profit community organizations to support programs, projects, services, and events across several focus areas including arts, culture and recreation. The Public Art Program showcases the work of local artists, highlights the creativity of the community, and enhances public spaces.

The District does not currently deliver recreational programming. Such programs are provided by external entities such as the SCRD, Sechelt Public library, and community organizations. The SCRD delivers drop-in and registered indoor recreation programs at the facilities that it operates. It offered an annual average of 466 registered programs between 2023 and 2025 across its facilities on the Sunshine Coast. Programs offered at facilities in Sechelt include registered fitness and aquatics, drop-in public skate and hockey, registered hockey including adult coed learn to play, rug hooking and line dancing. The Sechelt Library delivers programs and events for adults, children and youth. Between 2023 and 2025 they offered an average of 188 adult programs/events annually and 214 child/youth programs and events.

The Sechelt Seniors Centre Society delivers fitness and arts programming for seniors. The SCRD and other organizations provide funding for the Sechelt Youth Centre to deliver youth programming at its centre. The Sunshine Coast Arts Council provides programming for children, youth and adults. Parks, recreation, and culture programs are also delivered by community groups.



Photo Credits: District of Sechelt

Festivals and Events

Festivals and events in Sechelt are well-established, well-loved and reflect the uniqueness of the community. The District's Community Services Department supports them in various ways. District staff coordinate annual events such as the Summer Music Series, Canada Day and syiyaya Days. It also provides significant funding for the annual Sechelt Arts Festival and contracts out its production. It also provides some financial support to several community-organized festivals and events.

Annual Festivals and Events in Sechelt

- Culture Days
- Davis Bay Farmers' Market
- Festival of Lights Parade
- Festival of the Rolling Arts
- Festival of the Written Arts
- Hackett Park Artisan Fair
- Salmon Release Festival
- Sechelt Arts Festival
- Sechelt Farmers' and Artisans' Market
- Summer Music Series
- Sunshine Coast Art Crawl
- syiyaya Days
- Taste of Sechelt



Photo Credit: District of Sechelt

Festival of the Written Arts

The Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts attracts thousands of attendees each year. It drew 8,251 attendees in 2019. The 2022 Festival, the first full scale event following the pandemic, had an attendance of 5,111 and the 2023 event saw 5,740 visitors.¹¹

Sechelt Arts Festival

The Sechelt Arts Festival is a vibrant event that highlights local and Indigenous artists through multidisciplinary performances and exhibitions. It draws thousands of attendees, including families, visitors, and dedicated arts supporters. Its focus on community participation and Coast Salish cultural themes has made it a standout success. It was created by the District of Sechelt in 2002.

syiyaya Days

syiyaya Days is a multi-day event starting on National Indigenous Peoples Day. Since it began in 2022, thousands of people have participated in film screenings, dialogue circles, Blanket and Mapping exercises, Healing Ceremonies, and Reconciliation Walking Tours hosted by the shíshálh Nation, and the syiyaya Reconciliation Movement.¹²

"There are so many wonderful events in Sechelt to attend. Everything is so well organized."

SURVEY RESPONDENT

Comparative Benchmarking

The District of Sechelt is within benchmark ranges for the provision of many indoor and outdoor parks, recreation and culture facilities. The District meets comparator service levels for libraries, arenas, aquatic centres, fitness centres, museums and archives, performing arts centres, youth and seniors centres, sports fields, pickleball courts, municipal parks and skateparks. It is below benchmark standards for municipally owned gymnasiums, outdoor multi-sport courts, bike parks, and spray parks.

Looking more broadly, the Sunshine Coast region as a whole is also within or above benchmark standards in comparator communities for anchor facilities. This includes aquatic centres and arenas.

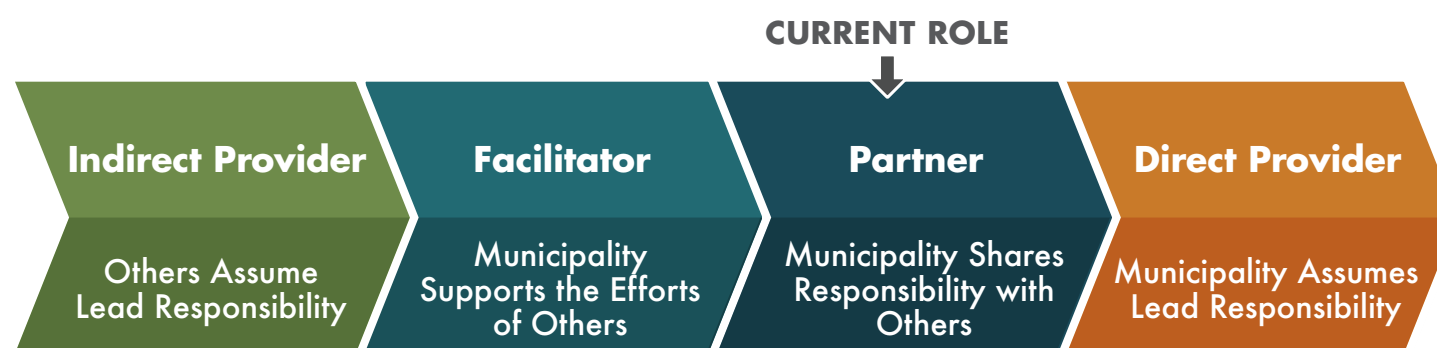


Photo Credit: Expedition Management Consulting Ltd.

Service Delivery Model Analysis

Figure 8 outlines a continuum of municipal service delivery and identifies the District of Sechelt's current role. Currently, the District's approach is best described as a Partner. While it does provide some services directly, it also shares responsibility with and facilitates the efforts of others.

Figure 8. Service Delivery Spectrum



The District's recreation, parks, and culture services and activities are led by the Department of Community Services. The department was formed in 2023 through the amalgamation of the District's parks, arts, and facilities divisions. Department responsibilities are diverse. They include overseeing three District-owned buildings, venue and equipment rentals, parks operations, sports field maintenance, urban forest management, festival and event support, event delivery, managing community grants, managing public art, promoting local arts and cultural groups, and working with partners on service delivery.

The department is led by the Director of Corporate and Community Services. This director has corporate, human resource and communications reports and functions in their portfolio, in addition to community services. The Manager of Community Services leads the community services functions and business areas. These include parks, community services, arts and culture. Among these there are 11 full-time parks staff, 3 casual/summer student parks staff, 1 full-time community services/facility booking coordinator, and 1 part-time arts coordinator. The department does not include parks/recreation programmers, community liaison positions, volunteer coordinators, or facilities (building) maintenance. It contracts external entities for complex arborist needs, some trail building and maintenance, some playground repairs, welding, janitorial services, and signage design and manufacturing. It also contracts externally to produce select festivals and events (e.g. the Summer Music Series and Sechelt Arts Festival).

The District of Sechelt collects annual tax requisitions on behalf of the SCRD for the management and operation of indoor recreation facilities and programs. Within Sechelt, the SCRD manages and operates the Sechelt Aquatic Centre and Sunshine Coast Arena. Beyond remitting collected taxes to the SCRD, the District is not involved in SCRD recreation service delivery.

Partner Analysis

The District has several primary partners in community service delivery. These are the SCRD, the shíshálh Nation, School District 46, and the Sunshine Coast Arts Council. It also has agreements with several other entities. Many of these allow external organizations to operate facilities and deliver programming on lands owned by the District. See Appendix C for an overview of each.

Strategic Alignment Analysis

The following plans were reviewed for direction and alignment with this Master Plan. The broader planning context of provincial and national recreation frameworks and plans was also considered. See Appendix D for more information from these documents.

District of Sechelt Plans

- District of Sechelt Strategic Plan 2023-2026
- Official Community Plan Framework (2026)
- Community Land Development Analysis (2025)
- District of Sechelt Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (2019)
- Parks and Open Space Master Plan (2018)
- Official Community Plan (2011)
- Urban Forest Plan (2010)

Regional, Provincial, and National Policies and Frameworks

- Sunshine Coast Sports Field Strategy (2026)
- Sunshine Coast Destination Development Strategy (2022)
- National Framework for Recreation: Pathways to Wellbeing (2015)

Policy Analysis

Several District policies and bylaws were reviewed to inform this plan. They include:

- Policy 2.5.4 Community Investment Program
- Policy 2.5.6 Foundation Grants for Community Initiated Projects
- Policy 1.6.10 Public Art Program and Policy
- Policy 5.3.2 Community Dedication Program
- Policy 5.1.3 Park Naming Policy

See Appendix E for an overview of these policies and potential future changes.

3

TRENDS AND BENEFITS

Parks, Recreation and Culture Trends

Trends that affect the delivery of community services were reviewed to inform the planning process. Trends were utilized as one indicator to justify future initiatives. The most relevant trends for the District of Sechelt are provided next.



Growing Interest in Informal and Individual Activities

Participation in independent, life sport activities has been increasing and is a programming trend across the recreation sector. Life sport activities include things like biking, swimming, walking, hiking, and other pursuits that are non-competitive, fun, and individualized.¹³



Changing Lifestyle Habits

Leisure screen use has increased, indicating shifts in how people choose to spend their free time. Enhancing access and encouraging more use of parks, recreation and culture facilities and services is important to support ongoing community well-being.



Participation in Parks and Outdoor Recreation

Visiting parks, hikes and beaches are consistently the top outdoor recreation activities for British Columbians, chosen by up to 50% of residents year-round. In 2022, 79% participated in outdoor recreation in the summer and 69% participated in the winter. Being close to outdoor recreation heavily influences where people in BC call home.¹⁴



Attending Arts and Cultural Events

According to a National Arts Council survey in 2025, there has “been a significant increase of culture-goers who say that attending arts and cultural events have a positive or somewhat positive impact on their sense of belonging to Canada”. Learning new things and a change of scene/escape of the everyday are the top things arts and cultural event-goers want to experience.¹⁵



Active Aging and Social Connection

Older adults are increasingly seeking recreation opportunities that support physical activity, social interaction, and mental well-being. This includes low-impact fitness, walking groups, and intergenerational programming that reduces isolation.



Equity and Diversity in Arts and Culture

Across the arts and culture sector efforts are being made to make arts and culture more equitable. This includes efforts to meet the needs of artists and organizations who face discrimination, racism and barriers to self-determined advancement.¹⁶



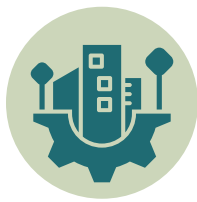
Youth Sport Popularity and Preferences

Soccer, swimming and hockey are the most popular organized sports for youth participation. Basketball and volleyball are also growing in popularity. Preferences vary by gender and origin. New Canadian youth exhibit a preference for soccer, swimming and basketball. One in four girls between 3 and 17 participate in dance, ballet and gymnastics.¹⁷



Rising Demand for Accessible, Age-Friendly Park and Trail Design

Seniors and households with children are driving demand for universal design features such as smooth walkways, rest areas, shade, accessible washrooms, and safe trail surfaces.



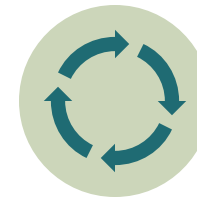
Aging Infrastructure

Aging infrastructure poses a significant challenge for municipalities across the country. It will be important to ensure facility maintenance is a priority to support the longevity of facilities.¹⁸



Increased Emphasis on Inclusion and Access

Municipalities are taking strong steps to address barriers and constraints that their residents face when participating in recreation and culture services. The importance of inclusion and access in the sector is also being recognized and acted on at provincial and federal levels.



Focus on Sustainability and Capacity

An appropriate mix of individuals including professional staff and volunteers are needed for delivering high quality recreation and culture programs and services.



The Integration of Technology into Recreation and Leisure

The use of web, mobile, and cloud-based platforms has increased, indicating a shift in programming, information delivery, and data collection.



Evolving Nature of Volunteerism

Volunteers remain essential to the planning and delivery of recreation, events, and programs. Trends that could impact the District include an aging volunteer base and a redefining of volunteer commitment as a negotiated and mutually beneficial arrangement rather than a one-way investment of time by the volunteer.¹⁹



Increasing Costs

The costs to maintain, operate, and build new parks, recreation, and culture infrastructure have increased significantly. Supply chain issues, cost of materials, and labour shortages have all contributed to increases in the cost of construction and project timelines.²⁰



Changing Demographics

It is important to consider demographics when planning for parks, recreation and culture. Service delivery systems must evolve and grow alongside the population as there are more people to serve, and changing user profiles and interests.



Rapid Growth of Select Sports and Leisure Activities

Numerous activities have ballooned in popularity since the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples include paddling, mountain biking, and trail running. Participation in soccer, basketball and rugby is also growing, as is the participation of women and girls in ice sports such as hockey and ringette. Pickleball has also taken off in popularity, as has disc golf.



Changing Environment and Climate

The effects of climate change are becoming more apparent and there is an increasing feeling of urgency to adapt quickly. Parks and facilities need thoughtful planning and maintenance to respond to climate change and reduce environmental impacts. Extended wildfire seasons, increased wildfire severity, more intense precipitation events, and extreme drought are threats of particular relevance to the District of Sechelt.

Climate Change and Recreation

Like all areas in BC, the District of Sechelt is facing the impacts of climate change. Climate change trends and impacts relevant to the Sunshine Coast include:

- Increase in the frequency of days above 30°C
- Increase in annual precipitation, with winter and spring projected to become significantly wetter, and summers projected to become drier
- Increase in intensity of precipitation events
- Increase in frequency and length of precipitation events

In addition, the British Columbia Ministry of Environment suggests preparing for 0.5m of sea level rise by 2050, and 1.0m by 2080.²¹

Considerations for parks, trails, recreation and culture amenities include:

- Challenges for sports field and outdoor amenity maintenance during periods of wetter or drier weather
- Potential for and mitigation of drainage/flooding at recreational amenities
- Growing demand for climate controlled indoor spaces and sun protected outdoor spaces
- Increased demand for lower impact construction and operation of amenities

Climate change also produces other non-weather impacts such as increasing costs related to insurance, environmental standards, and reporting.²²

Benefits of Parks, Recreation and Culture



1

ENHANCED MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

Parks and recreation have important roles to play in increasing physical activity, which is a crucial factor in physical and mental health. People who participate in recreation and culture have reported improved self-esteem and life satisfaction.



2

ENHANCED SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Experiencing recreational and cultural activities has been shown to enhance social well-being. For both children and adults, participation supports the development and strengthening of social relationships.



3

BUILDS STRONG FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Participation in recreational and cultural activities can be an important component of fostering family cohesion, adaptability and resilience while helping to build welcoming communities for people and families from diverse cultures.



4

HELPS PEOPLE CONNECT WITH THE OUTDOORS

Connecting citizens with the outdoors can provide both environmental and human benefits. Exposure to green spaces can have a positive effect on health, including reducing stress levels and improving cognitive development in children.



5

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Recreation and culture have been shown to be powerful contributors to community revitalization and economic development. Spending on recreation and culture provides local economic benefits including providing employment opportunities and attracting events. There are also significant cost savings to society through reductions of physical and mental health conditions, and strain on social services.

4

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

Photo Credit: Expedition Management Consulting Ltd.



Summary of Engagement Process

Input from the public, community groups, Council, and staff was gathered between February 2 and March 6, 2026. In total, the engagement process produced 627 touchpoints with the community. Figure 9 provides a summary of the engagement process.

Figure 9. Summary of Engagement Touchpoints

Engagement Activity	Total Engagement
Resident Survey	426 responses
Community Group Survey	17 responses
Council Engagement	6 participants
Engagement Booths	126 participants
Seniors Session	22 participants
Youth Session	20 participants
Interviews and Written Comments	10 participants
Total Touchpoints	627

Key Findings

The remainder of this section summarizes the key findings from the input received. To view expanded engagement results, please see Appendix F.

Resident Survey Results

NEW OR IMPROVED FACILITY AND PROGRAM NEEDS

OUTDOOR FACILITIES

1. Trails/Pathways
2. Pickleball court
3. Nature park

INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

1. Indoor court space/gymnasium
2. Youth centre
3. Indoor turf field

INDOOR CULTURE FACILITIES

1. Performing arts facilities
2. Visual arts facilities
3. Library

EVENTS

1. Family-friendly events
2. Events related to the Arts
3. Food and beverage events

PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE PROGRAMS

1. Children/youth activity programs
2. Educational/skill-building programs
3. Trail programs

LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH OPPORTUNITIES BY POPULATION



Respondents reported higher levels of satisfaction with parks, recreation and culture opportunities for adults, seniors and families and lower levels of satisfaction with opportunities for youth and children.

BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION



36%

Program(s)
not offered



36%

Scheduling/timing
of activities



35%

Lack of
facilities

QUALITY OF LIFE



94%

A strong majority of respondents agreed that parks, recreation, and culture opportunities are important to their quality of life.

SUPPORT FOR INCREASED TAXATION AND USER FEES



69%

of respondents indicated they would support some level of increased property taxes to better meet parks, recreation and culture needs in the District of Sechelt.



62%

of respondents indicated support for increased user fees to better meet their needs.

Community Group Survey Results

GROWTH IN PARTICIPATION



100%

of community groups that responded projected their annual participant base to grow over the next 5 years.

REQUESTED IMPROVEMENTS

Respondents identified new facilities and/or upgrades that are needed to better serve their organization and their participants. Respondents identified the following most often:

Upgrades to facilities.

More availability of grass fields.

Maintenance to parks.

Improved accessibility.

Dedicated facility for pickleball.

Performing arts facility.

Rental spaces with state-of-the-art A/V technology.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Respondents identified opportunities or challenges their organization experiences in meeting the needs of their participants. Respondents identified the following most often:

Low-cost rental space.

Communication and collaboration with the District (point of contact).

Centralized booking system for fields.

Supporting facility development (e.g., pickleball and performing arts centre).

Enhancing visibility and exposure.

A photograph of a lush forest scene. In the foreground, a wooden bench made of logs sits on a dirt path. Behind the bench, a waterfall cascades down a mossy rock face. The forest is dense with tall trees and ferns. A large, semi-transparent green circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the number 5 and the text 'VISION FOR THE FUTURE'.

5 VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The District of Sechelt recognizes the essential role that parks, culture, and recreation play in supporting community well-being and quality of life. It is committed to enhancing its facilities, programs, and service delivery so they continue to reflect the needs of residents today and in the years ahead. Successful implementation of this plan will be driven by strong relationships with partners along with the dedication of engaged residents and volunteers.

VISION FOR PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE IN THE DISTRICT OF SECHelt

Over the next 10 years, parks, recreation and culture opportunities in Sechelt will be significantly enhanced through the development of exciting new programming, enriching volunteer experiences and enhanced opportunities for all residents to become connected to our beautiful community.

STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Celebrate and protect Sechelt's natural setting.
2. Create a connected and accessible parks and trails network.
3. Support arts and culture in the community.
4. Enhance diverse program opportunities.
5. Maintain and enhance existing built and social assets.
6. Strengthen organizational capacity to deliver municipal services.
7. Expand community engagement and volunteerism.
8. Foster inclusive and accessible experiences and reduce barriers to participation for residents of all ages and abilities.
9. Enhance local and regional partnerships.



6

MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES

This section outlines the key areas of focus for developing community services in Sechelt, including parks, recreation and culture. Priorities were identified based on extensive research, analysis, review of trends, consultant assessments, and engagement with residents and local groups. Some of the priorities will take more time to accomplish than others. The District and its partners are encouraged to pursue multiple priorities at the same time, as resources allow.

Priorities have been divided into three categories for organizational purposes (note that the numbering does not indicate priority). These categories include:

1. Programming and Service Delivery
2. Parks, Trails, Recreation and Culture Facilities
3. Planning and Policy

Action items are identified under each priority. Each action item has been assigned a suggested priority rating, anticipated timeline, and estimated cost for implementation.

This is a non-statutory plan to provide direction and guidance only. Implementation of the plan may be impacted by a variety of factors, including Council priorities, available resources, and emerging opportunities/challenges.

Legend

Recommended Direction



MAINTAIN

Maintain the amenity or program at its current service level.



IMPROVE

The amenity needs improvement to meet community needs.



**NEW AMENITY
OR SERVICE**

New amenity or service to meet community needs.



**FURTHER
STUDY**

Further study is recommended before proceeding with development.



**NEW STRATEGY,
POLICY, OR
TOOL**

New strategy, policy or administrative tool that would serve to meet community needs.



PAUSE

The cost/benefit of this amenity does not support development at this time. There may be opportunity to revisit the project when resources allow.

Timeline

Short Term	2027 - 2028
Medium Term	2029 - 2031
Long Term	2032 - 2036

Priority

High Priority
Medium Priority
Low Priority

Cost

\$	Less than \$10,000
\$\$	\$10,000 - \$99,999
\$\$\$	\$100,000 - \$999,999
\$\$\$\$	Over \$1,000,000
Staff	Action can be undertaken with existing staff resources or contractors. Re-allocation of priorities or duties may be required.

Quick Wins



A blue star indicates that an action item is a "Quick Win." Quick wins are actions that can be implemented within a short timeframe, have a high probability of success, and have a relatively low cost.



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

A. Confirm the Role of the Community Services Department

- B. Develop a Volunteer Engagement Program to Connect More Residents with Parks, Recreation and Culture
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- D. Develop a Festivals and Events Strategy
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- H. Introduce Trail Programs
- I. Support Enhanced Program Offerings for Older Adults
- J. Explore Innovative and Participatory Public Art Installations and Programming
- K. Increase Access to and Utilization of Existing Multi-Purpose Spaces
- L. Work with School District 46 to Develop a Joint Use Agreement for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces
- M. Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation

1. Programming and Service Delivery

The following identifies program development priorities for the District of Sechelt.

A. Confirm the Role of the Community Services Department

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
	1. Confirm the role of the Community Services Department. 	- The department's expertise and resource limitations, as well as evolving community interests, all point toward a need for a focused and sustainable service model for the Community Services Department. These factors suggest that the department's role should center on continuing to steward parks and sports fields, enhancing outdoor assets, supporting arts and culture, and expanding its impact through programming and volunteer development. - The following mandate is recommended: - Continuing to operate parks and sports fields at current service levels to ensure stability in core services that residents already rely on and value. - Continuing to support arts, culture, festivals and events in the community. - Focusing on enhancing existing indoor and outdoor assets to maximize the impact of limited resources and address the highest-priority improvements. - Expanding the department's role in community programming to enable inclusive and responsive activities that reflect local needs and interests. - Expanding the department's role in volunteer development to connect residents, support local organizations, and enhance the sustainability of events, programs, and park stewardship initiatives. - It is recommended that the department does not expand its mandate into the development or operation of new indoor facilities or new major outdoor facilities. This is to prevent duplication of services offered by other regional entities and to reduce long-term financial risk. The department should bring forward District residents' needs for consideration by facility operators.



Timeline
Short



Priority
High



Cost
Staff



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

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B. Develop a Volunteer Engagement Program to Connect More Residents with Parks, Recreation and Culture

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW AMENITY OR SERVICE	1. Develop a Volunteer Engagement Program. 	- There is opportunity to leverage volunteerism both as a leisure activity in and of itself and to enhance capacity to deliver programming that will engage residents of all ages in parks, recreation and culture. An intergenerational volunteer and programming initiative would invite seniors, adults and youth to deliver recreation and cultural activities for residents, drawing on the strengths of each age group to enrich community life. - Training pathways could be developed to help volunteers become instructors, facilitators or program assistants. These volunteers could support District programs such as festivals and events, drop-in activities, arts and culture workshops, beach and park clean-ups, and public space animation. They could also extend their support to non-profit organizations that rely on volunteer capacity for festivals, cultural programming, and fundraising events. - Appendix G outlines steps to develop and implement a volunteer engagement program, as well as ideas for volunteer activities.



Timeline
Short



Priority
High



Cost
\$/Staff



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

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C. Create a Parks, Recreation and Culture Program Plan

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW STRATEGY, POLICY, OR TOOL	1. Create a parks, recreation and culture Program Plan. 	- A program plan is an internal operational document that would guide the Community Services Department's efforts to deliver a variety of new programming for residents. - A plan should identify: program goals, what specific programs (e.g. courses, activities, camps, etc.) will be offered, when and how often they will occur, who programs serve, where they will take place, how they will be staffed and resourced, and the role of community partners. A plan should also include a market assessment, performance measures, resource requirements, and evaluation processes to guide continuous improvement.



Timeline
Short



Priority
High



Cost
Staff



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

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D. Develop a Festivals and Events Strategy

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW STRATEGY, POLICY, OR TOOL	1. Develop a festivals and events strategy in collaboration with local partners.	- The resident survey identified an interest in more family-friendly events, events related to the arts, and food and beverage events. - A festivals and events strategy would describe how the District, local partners and local businesses can work together to continue to support festivals and events in Sechelt, and to grow the community's offering. It should establish a vision for events, clarify and confirm roles for event support and delivery, and guide District resourcing and decision making. It should also identify how community groups can be supported to host events, what types of events have the strongest potential for growth, what events will attract residents and tourists, and what actions are required to evolve, attract and host them. - The proposed Volunteer Engagement and Program Plan could be leveraged to support festivals and events.



Timeline

Short



Priority

High



Cost

\$\$



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

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- M. Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation

E. Enhance the Capacity of the Community Services Department to Support Programming and Volunteer Development

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW AMENITY OR SERVICE	1. Consider engaging contracted resources to expedite the creation of the Volunteer Engagement Program, and potentially other program and event planning. 2. Assess current positions in the Community Services Department to identify where program and volunteer development functions could be assigned. 3. Investigate options to use contracted resources to provide program and volunteer development functions to the Community Services Department.	• Taking a more active role in programming and volunteer development will require the District to enhance its capacity in these areas. • This could be achieved through several means. These include engaging contracted resources to develop the program, assigning program and volunteer development implementation functions to existing positions, use of contracted resources for program administration, and/or the addition of program and volunteer developer positions. • A phased-in approach would see the District moving through these avenues as needed to initiate program and volunteer development services, and to sustainably grow its capacity. • The following program developer functions/responsibilities are recommended: leading the District's program development activities, coordinating with external program providers, promoting programs, and developing and executing program plans. • The following volunteer development functions/responsibilities are recommended: leading the implementation of a volunteer program, recruiting volunteers and working with community groups to support their volunteer needs, promoting volunteer opportunities, and assisting community-based volunteers in developing and delivering activities.



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Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW AMENITY OR SERVICE	4. Consider adding volunteer and program developer positions to the Community Services Department.	Because the programmer and volunteer development roles are complementary, a single resource (staff person or contractor) could take on both. If it is warranted, over time the two functions could be split and the roles could become more specialized.



Timeline
Short



Priority
High



Cost
Staff/\$\$-\$\$\$\$



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

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- L. Work with School District 46 to Develop a Joint Use Agreement for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces
- M. Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation

F. Create Programming for Children and Youth

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW AMENITY OR SERVICE	1. Create programming for children and youth. ★	- Programming for children and youth was identified as the highest priority for new or improved programs through the resident survey. Community groups also expressed its importance. - New programming should be varied to support recreational and cultural interests, skill building and employment needs. It should also be low-cost to encourage/enable wide participation. - The District could deliver its own programs (with additional staff resources) and/or work with existing service providers and partners such as the SCRD, School District 46 and Sunshine Coast Arts Council to increase the number and diversity of recreation and culture programs available. - It could also consider leveraging available summer student employment programs from other orders of government to support recreation and culture programming in parks. - Underused spaces in existing District and non-District owned facilities could be leveraged to improve access to programs across the community.



Timeline
Short



Priority
High



Cost
\$-\$\$/Staff



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

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- M. Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation

G. Introduce Educational and Skill Building Programs for People of All Ages

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW AMENITY OR SERVICE	1. Introduce educational and skill building programs for people of all ages.	- Educational/skill-building programs (e.g. orienteering courses, cooking classes, bike repair classes, etc.) were identified as the second highest overall programming priority. - Such programs would benefit people of all ages, especially youth. - Opportunities for intergenerational programming should be explored. - Skill building programs tied to the arts could leverage the skills and knowledge of the existing arts community. - The District could provide such programs directly, partner with or otherwise support community organizations in program delivery.



Timeline
Short



Priority
Medium



Cost
\$



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

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- J. Explore Innovative and Participatory Public Art Installations and Programming
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- L. Work with School District 46 to Develop a Joint Use Agreement for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces
- M. Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation

Skill Building Program Case Studies

Youth Leadership Training Program: This program is delivered by the Township of Esquimalt to help youth gain skills for future jobs and volunteer opportunities in recreation centres. It is in three parts. The first is a week-long course where participants develop key skills such as customer service and professional communication, behavior management and conflict resolution, game and craft training to engage and inspire children and youth. Following this, graduates are required to complete volunteer hours across program areas such as camps and special events. The final stage focuses on what it takes to acquire a job such as resume development, interview skills and first aid.²³

Senior Digital Literacy Program: This program is offered by Maple Ridge & Pitt Meadows Community Services, a non-profit community service agency. It provides free workshops and one-on-one support to help seniors learn email, internet navigation, smartphone use, and online services, taught by community volunteers.²⁴

Gear Up: Our Community Bikes and the YWCA Metro Vancouver partner to deliver this free 13-week program. It trains youth ages 15 to 30 in bike mechanics, including six weeks of in-class skills development and five weeks of work experience in local bike shops.²⁵



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

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- E. Enhance the Capacity of the Community Services Department to Support Programming and Volunteer Development
- F. Create Programming for Children and Youth
- G. Introduce Educational and Skill Building Programs for People of All Ages

H. Introduce Trail Programs

- I. Support Enhanced Program Offerings for Older Adults
- J. Explore Innovative and Participatory Public Art Installations and Programming
- K. Increase Access to and Utilization of Existing Multi-Purpose Spaces
- L. Work with School District 46 to Develop a Joint Use Agreement for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces
- M. Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation

H. Introduce Trail Programs

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW AMENITY OR SERVICE	1. Introduce trail programs for people of all ages.	- Trail programs (e.g. running clubs, hiking groups, mountain bike groups, cross country skiing, etc.) were identified as the third highest overall programming priority. - There are many trails in the District and in the surrounding area. - Introductory programs could help familiarize users with the District's trails and reduce barriers to trail access for older adults and new residents. Examples include beginner hiking classes, weekly drop-in walking groups, and combination plant identification and hiker safety courses. - There are several formal and informal walking and biking groups in the District that may be interested in partnering to deliver trail programs.



Timeline
Short



Priority
Medium



Cost
\$



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

- A. Confirm the Role of the Community Services Department
- B. Develop a Volunteer Engagement Program to Connect More Residents with Parks, Recreation and Culture
- C. Create a Parks, Recreation and Culture Program Plan
- D. Develop a Festivals and Events Strategy
- E. Enhance the Capacity of the Community Services Department to Support Programming and Volunteer Development
- F. Create Programming for Children and Youth
- G. Introduce Educational and Skill Building Programs for People of All Ages
- H. Introduce Trail Programs
- I. Support Enhanced Program Offerings for Older Adults**
- J. Explore Innovative and Participatory Public Art Installations and Programming
- K. Increase Access to and Utilization of Existing Multi-Purpose Spaces
- L. Work with School District 46 to Develop a Joint Use Agreement for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces
- M. Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation

I. Support Enhanced Program Offerings for Older Adults

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 IMPROVE	1. Work with the Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre to ensure programs meet the needs of a growing older adult population.	- Older adults are the fastest growing demographic in Sechelt. - The Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre provides numerous programs targeted at older adults. There may be opportunity for the District to support or enhance their efforts.



Timeline
Medium



Priority
Medium



Cost
Staff

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 FURTHER STUDY	2. Seek to identify gaps in service provision for adult and older adult programming and determine the best service provider to respond.	As the older adult population grows, new needs may arise that current offerings may not address. It will be important to identify those needs and then determine which service provider is best positioned to respond to them.



Timeline
Medium



Priority
Low



Cost
Staff



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

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- C. Create a Parks, Recreation and Culture Program Plan
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- E. Enhance the Capacity of the Community Services Department to Support Programming and Volunteer Development
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- H. Introduce Trail Programs
- I. Support Enhanced Program Offerings for Older Adults
- J. Explore Innovative and Participatory Public Art Installations and Programming**
- K. Increase Access to and Utilization of Existing Multi-Purpose Spaces
- L. Work with School District 46 to Develop a Joint Use Agreement for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces
- M. Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation

J. Explore Innovative and Participatory Public Art Installations and Programming

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 IMPROVE	1. Work with community organizations to explore innovative and participatory public art installations and programming.	The District could work with local organizations to explore innovative and participatory public art installations and events, and their incorporation into arts and culture programming, festivals and events, and community placemaking.



Timeline
Medium



Priority
Medium



Cost
Staff/\$

Community-Based Public Art Project Case Studies

The Chantal Bérubé Community Youth Centre Public Art Project: This is a mural initiative in Beaumont, Alberta, designed to enhance community spaces, engage youth and celebrate creativity. Community input will shape the mural's themes, colours and storytelling elements. The process includes community brainstorming sessions, youth workshops for mural concept development and idea generation, and mural painting by a local artist.²⁶

City of Nanaimo Temporary Public Art Program: The program supports artists in creating temporary artworks that activate public spaces and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to experience art as part of everyday life. Projects may include sculptural installations, community-engaged works and site-responsive interventions across the city. The program provides necessary resources and staff support to artists through project development and realization.²⁷



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

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- H. Introduce Trail Programs
- I. Support Enhanced Program Offerings for Older Adults
- J. Explore Innovative and Participatory Public Art Installations and Programming
- K. Increase Access to and Utilization of Existing Multi-Purpose Spaces**
- L. Work with School District 46 to Develop a Joint Use Agreement for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces
- M. Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation

K. Increase Access to and Utilization of Existing Multi-Purpose Spaces

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 IMPROVE	1. Increase utilization of existing multi-purpose spaces. 2. Work with the Sunshine Coast Arts Council to develop more visual and performing arts programming in the Arts Centre's multi-purpose room.	• Interest in multi-purpose community spaces was identified in the resident survey, as was interest in spaces for performing and visual arts. • The District owns and operates several facilities with multipurpose space, as do other entities such as the School District and Sunshine Coast Arts Council. There is capacity in the Art Centre's multipurpose room for additional programming, and there may be at schools. • The District could find ways to increase programming and access at their spaces and also work with external organizations to enhance resident and user group access to other facilities. Ideas to consider include enhanced promotion of existing spaces for community use, collaborating with community groups to identify and deliver programming options, and seeking expressions of interest for bookable space from potential service providers.



Timeline

Medium



Priority

Medium



Cost

Staff



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

- A. Confirm the Role of the Community Services Department
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- C. Create a Parks, Recreation and Culture Program Plan
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- E. Enhance the Capacity of the Community Services Department to Support Programming and Volunteer Development
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- G. Introduce Educational and Skill Building Programs for People of All Ages
- H. Introduce Trail Programs
- I. Support Enhanced Program Offerings for Older Adults
- J. Explore Innovative and Participatory Public Art Installations and Programming
- K. Increase Access to and Utilization of Existing Multi-Purpose Spaces
- L. Work with School District 46 to Develop a Joint Use Agreement for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces**
- M. Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation

L. Work with School District 46 to Develop a Joint Use Agreement for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW STRATEGY, POLICY, OR TOOL	1. Work with School District 46 to develop a Joint Use Agreement.	- School District 46 operates four public schools and an Early Years Centre in Sechelt. Such facilities are home to amenities that could help meet growing community recreation needs. - The District should work with the School District to develop a joint use agreement for indoor and outdoor spaces. Such an agreement could provide access to School District spaces for District of Sechelt programming, and access to District of Sechelt spaces for school programming. An agreement should outline what facilities are available and when, responsibilities of both parties, booking procedures, and rates (if any).



Timeline
Medium



Priority
Medium



Cost
Staff



1. PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY

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- C. Create a Parks, Recreation and Culture Program Plan
- D. Develop a Festivals and Events Strategy
- E. Enhance the Capacity of the Community Services Department to Support Programming and Volunteer Development
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- G. Introduce Educational and Skill Building Programs for People of All Ages
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- J. Explore Innovative and Participatory Public Art Installations and Programming
- K. Increase Access to and Utilization of Existing Multi-Purpose Spaces
- L. Work with School District 46 to Develop a Joint Use Agreement for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces

M. Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation

M. Enhance Natural and Cultural Interpretation

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 IMPROVE	1. Leverage the natural and cultural heritage of the community to enhance interpretation and connection to place.	- The District is rich in natural and cultural heritage. - There are many opportunities to enhance natural and cultural interpretation in parks, trails, recreation and culture facilities and programs. Examples include signage, guided walks, and use of technology at key locations. - The District may want to reach out to the shíshálh Nation to determine if there is interest in partnering to develop cultural interpretation initiatives in public spaces.



Timeline
Long



Priority
Medium



Cost
\$-\$\$



2. PARKS, TRAILS AND FACILITIES

- A. Improve Facility and Amenity Accessibility
- B. Maintain and Update Existing Assets as Resources Allow
- C. Work with the Sechelt Public Library to Investigate Options to Expand the Library
- D. Update the Development Concept for Phase Two of Mission Point Park
- E. Enhance the District's Parks and Trails
- F. Collaborate on Conducting a Building Condition Assessment for the Arts Centre
- G. Build an Accessible Multi-sport Court
- H. Use the Information in this Plan as Input to Future Recreation Facility Planning
- I. Consider Third Party Development and Operation of Future Pickleball Courts
- J. Consider Assessing the Feasibility of a Performing Arts Centre at a Future Date

2. Parks, Trails, Recreation and Culture Facilities

The following identifies parks, trails, recreation and culture facility priorities for the District of Sechelt.

A. Improve Facility and Amenity Accessibility

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
	1. Undertake accessibility audits for key parks, recreation and cultural facilities and amenities that were not included in the 2025 Accessibility Report. 2. Trial the use of mobi-mats on select beaches. 	• Analysis and community engagement identified some barriers to accessibility at beaches, public washrooms, parks, trails, fields and indoor facilities. • The District completed an accessibility report for select facilities in 2025. It should continue to implement the report's recommendations and also complete audits of other key facilities. • Accessibility improvements would support wider participation in recreation among seniors, Elders, people with disabilities and mobility challenges, and caregivers. • Installing mobi-mats on select beaches to trial their use would quickly improve accessibility at key locations. See Figure 10.



Timeline
Short



Priority
High



Cost
\$\$ (audit)
TBD (capital improvements)



2. PARKS, TRAILS AND FACILITIES

- A. Improve Facility and Amenity Accessibility
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Figure 10. Accessible Beaches

Many communities across BC have taken steps to improve beach and water access for wheelchair and mobility device users, people with mobility challenges, and caregivers with wagons and strollers. Accessible beach mats, also known as mobi-mats, can be easily installed on a beach. They provide a stable surface that connects hardscaped areas such as sidewalks and paths to the sand and water. They can be paired with beach wheelchairs to further enhance accessibility. Parksville, BC, rolls out its 100ft long mobi-mat seasonally and offers free 2-hour chair rentals.²⁸



Photo Credits (top-bottom): City of Nanaimo 2022, City of Parksville 2026



2. PARKS, TRAILS AND FACILITIES

- A. Improve Facility and Amenity Accessibility
- B. Maintain and Update Existing Assets as Resources Allow**
- C. Work with the Sechelt Public Library to Investigate Options to Expand the Library
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B. Maintain and Update Existing Assets as Resources Allow

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 MAINTAIN	1. Continue to maintain and update existing park, trail, and playground assets and indoor facilities as resources allow.	- Some park and trail infrastructure such as play equipment, benches and signs are in need of maintenance, upgrades, or replacement. - Community groups identified desired improvements to existing indoor facilities. Among these are enhanced acoustics and high speed internet access. - The District should undertake enhancements as resources allow to keep indoor and outdoor amenities attractive and functional for community use.



Timeline
Short/Ongoing



Priority
High



Cost
\$-\$\$\$



2. PARKS, TRAILS AND FACILITIES

- A. Improve Facility and Amenity Accessibility
- B. Maintain and Update Existing Assets as Resources Allow
- C. Work with the Sechelt Public Library to Investigate Options to Expand the Library**
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- J. Consider Assessing the Feasibility of a Performing Arts Centre at a Future Date

C. Work with the Sechelt Public Library to Investigate Options to Expand the Library

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 FURTHER STUDY	1. Work with the Sechelt Public Library Association to continue to investigate options to expand the Sechelt Library.	- The library was identified through the resident survey as the third highest priority for new or improved indoor cultural facilities. - The existing library is well used by residents, and membership numbers are growing. It has outgrown the space that it currently occupies. - An expanded facility would better meet the current and future needs of the community, for collections, administration and programming. - Expansion at or near the current location would support vibrancy of the recreation, and civic hub that the library, aquatic centre, and Seaside Centre are part of.



Timeline

Short



Priority

High



Cost

\$\$ (feasibility study)



2. PARKS, TRAILS AND FACILITIES

- A. Improve Facility and Amenity Accessibility
- B. Maintain and Update Existing Assets as Resources Allow
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D. Update the Development Concept for Phase Two of Mission Point Park

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 FURTHER STUDY	1. Update the concept for and develop Phase Two of Mission Point Park.	- Mission Point Park is an iconic public space at a key entrance to the community. - The Mission Point Park Master Plan was developed in 2009. The first phase of the park was developed thereafter. The concept for the second phase should be initiated at the earliest opportunity in alignment with and consideration of the timing of the District's access to the Robertson property. - The natural beauty of the site should be leveraged. Current community needs (e.g. covered outdoor programming areas) and integration with other parks and amenities in the area should be considered.



Timeline
Medium/Long



Priority
High



Cost
\$\$ (concept)
TBD (development)



2. PARKS, TRAILS AND FACILITIES

- A. Improve Facility and Amenity Accessibility
- B. Maintain and Update Existing Assets as Resources Allow
- C. Work with the Sechelt Public Library to Investigate Options to Expand the Library
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- F. Collaborate on Conducting a Building Condition Assessment for the Arts Centre
- G. Build an Accessible Multi-sport Court
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- J. Consider Assessing the Feasibility of a Performing Arts Centre at a Future Date

E. Enhance the District's Parks and Trails

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW STRATEGY, POLICY, OR TOOL	1. Develop a parks and trails network concept plan for the District.	- New and improved trails and parks were identified as the highest priority outdoor facilities in the resident survey. - A network concept plan would identify the general location and alignment of future parks and trails across the entire District, including developed and undeveloped lands. - It would provide a tool for Administration and landowners to use to guide land development master planning, parkland acquisition and trail dedication. It could also be used to support developer contributions to the network. - The concept should complement direction in the District's Official Community Plan and Transportation Master Plan. It should seek to develop a comprehensive network of trails that connect neighbourhoods, community amenities, and provide varied active recreation and active transportation opportunities. It should also seek to develop a diverse and connected network of parks that serve residents across the District, and identify special natural areas and features that should be included in/taken as part of future parkland acquisition.



Timeline
Medium



Priority
High



Cost
\$\$



2. PARKS, TRAILS AND FACILITIES

- A. Improve Facility and Amenity Accessibility
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Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 IMPROVE	2. Invest in enhancing existing parks and trails, and in developing undeveloped parkland and trail dedications as resources allow.	- Enhancing existing parks and trails will ensure that current assets remain safe, functional, and enjoyable. - Investing in the development of undeveloped trail dedications and parkland will help build out missing connections and amenities, and expand the usable network. - Investing as resources allow will enable the District to address the most strategic gaps and opportunities first while maintaining a sustainable approach to long-term network growth.



Timeline
Medium/Long



Priority
Medium



Cost
\$-\$\$\$



2. PARKS, TRAILS AND FACILITIES

- A. Improve Facility and Amenity Accessibility
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F. Collaborate on Conducting a Building Condition Assessment for the Arts Centre

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
	1. Collaborate with the Sunshine Coast Arts Council in undertaking a Building Condition Assessment for the Arts Centre.	- Use of the facility could be increased and it has the potential to become further enhanced as a hub for the community. A barrier to realizing this is the current condition of the building. It requires repairs and the Arts Council reports that it does not have the resources to complete an assessment on its own. - The District could provide support such as helping with grant applications, helping with contractor procurement, or partnering on funding a building condition assessment.



Timeline
Medium



Priority
Medium



Cost
Staff or \$\$
(feasibility study)



2. PARKS, TRAILS AND FACILITIES

- A. Improve Facility and Amenity Accessibility
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G. Build an Accessible Multi-sport Court

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
	1. Build an accessible multi-sport court.	- There is community interest in outdoor courts. Youth engagement identified demand for a full basketball court. - An accessible multi-sport court would further increase participation and support equitable access to recreation amenities.



Timeline
Medium



Priority
Medium



Cost
\$\$\$

H. Use the Information in this Plan as Input to Future Recreation Facility Planning

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 FURTHER STUDY	1. Use the analysis and findings from this Master Plan as input to future indoor recreation facility planning to be completed by the Regional District.	- Engagement for this plan identified resident interest in several new or improved indoor recreation facilities. These include indoor courts/gymnasiums, indoor turf, indoor pickleball courts, and an enhanced youth centre. - Development of facilities that will attract users from Sechelt and elsewhere on the Sunshine Coast is best suited to a regional entity that serves a broader resident base and can collect taxes from that base to build and operate the facility. The Regional District has indicated that they intend to complete a recreation facility plan in the coming years.



Timeline
Ongoing



Priority
Medium



Cost
Staff



2. PARKS, TRAILS AND FACILITIES

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- G. Build an Accessible Multi-sport Court
- H. Use the Information in this Plan as Input to Future Recreation Facility Planning

I. Consider Third Party Development and Operation of Future Pickleball Courts

- J. Consider Assessing the Feasibility of a Performing Arts Centre at a Future Date

I. Consider Third Party Development and Operation of Future Pickleball Courts

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW AMENITY OR SERVICE	1. Consider third party development and operation of future pickleball courts that are beyond the current service level that the District is able to provide.	- Pickleball courts were identified in the resident survey as the second priority for new or improved outdoor facilities. The Sunshine Coast Pickleball Association has also indicated a need for a new facility. - The District operates two outdoor courts at Hackett Park. The Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre operates two indoor courts in its gymnasium. - Indoor pickleball-only facilities in some communities are delivered successfully by private (for profit and non-profit) operators. - The District may wish to consider supporting a third party to build and operate additional pickleball facilities in the future. Support could include access to District land for courts, in-kind contributions, and/or planning and permitting assistance. - Third party operators would help to meet growing demand for court space and provide a level of service above the baseline that the District is able to provide through existing facilities.



Timeline

Medium/Long



Priority

Medium



Cost

Staff/\$



2. PARKS, TRAILS AND FACILITIES

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J. Consider Assessing the Feasibility of a Performing Arts Centre at a Future Date

J. Consider Assessing the Feasibility of a Performing Arts Centre at a Future Date

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 PAUSE	1. A new performing arts centre is not recommended within the 10 year time frame of this Master Plan. In the longer term, the District could consider working with the arts community to assess the feasibility of a performing arts centre.	- A performing arts facility was the most requested new or improved indoor culture facility from the resident survey. - Performing arts facilities require significant resources to build and operate. - The community is served by several existing indoor and outdoor facilities that can be used for performing arts such as the Rockwood Pavillion, Raven's Cry Theatre, Hackett Park stage and amphitheatre, Chatelech Secondary School Theatre, and various multipurpose spaces. Communities with comparable populations (Parksville, Nelson and Kimberley) do not have purpose-built performing arts centres. - A new performing arts centre is not recommended within the 10 year time frame of this Master Plan, however the District may want to assess the feasibility of the facility in the future.



Timeline

N/A



Priority

N/A



Cost

N/A



3. PLANNING AND POLICY

A. Strengthen Tools for Park and Trail Acquisition and Development

B. Update Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs and Policies

C. Consider Climate Change in Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery

D. Explore Opportunities for Enhanced Partnerships

E. Review and Update the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

3. Planning and Policy

The following identifies planning and policy priorities for the District of Sechelt.

A. Strengthen Tools for Park and Trail Acquisition and Development

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW STRATEGY, POLICY, OR TOOL	1. Adopt park acquisition guidelines. 2. Adopt park design guidelines.	• More parkland will be acquired, and new parks will be built as new residential development and redevelopment occurs across the District. • Together, park acquisition guidelines and park design guidelines would provide a clear framework for planning new parks and making upgrades to existing ones. • Park acquisition guidelines could be used to inform the drafting and review of land development proposals. They would help ensure these spaces are appropriately sized, located, and connected. • Design guidelines could be used to inform park layout and the provision of amenities, resulting in usable, welcoming, and accessible parks for people of all ages and abilities. They could also be used to address prioritization of existing park spaces for improvements.



Timeline
Medium



Priority
High



Cost
Staff



3. PLANNING AND POLICY

A. Strengthen Tools for Park and Trail Acquisition and Development

B. Update Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs and Policies

C. Consider Climate Change in Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery

D. Explore Opportunities for Enhanced Partnerships

E. Review and Update the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW STRATEGY, POLICY, OR TOOL	3. Create a parks and trails procedure manual.	- A dedicated procedure manual would bring together all District standards, guidelines, and expectations related to parks and trails in one accessible place. This would create a consistent reference point for staff, landowners, and developers, improving alignment across projects and proposals. - When used alongside the Official Community Plan and this Master Plan, the procedure manual would serve as a practical tool to guide day-to-day decisions. It translates high-level policy direction into clear, operational guidance. - The manual should include key components that support consistent planning, design, and delivery of parks and trails, such as park and trail design guidelines, parkland acquisition and trail dedication guidelines, parkland and trail classification systems, parkland and trail provision standards. - Relevant procedural elements of the 2018 Parks and Open Space Master Plan could be incorporated into the manual.



Timeline
Medium



Priority
Medium



Cost
Staff



3. PLANNING AND POLICY

A. Strengthen Tools for Park and Trail Acquisition and Development

B. Update Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs and Policies

C. Consider Climate Change in Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery

D. Explore Opportunities for Enhanced Partnerships

E. Review and Update the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 NEW STRATEGY, POLICY, OR TOOL	4. Establish a reserve fund for parkland acquisition and renewal.	- Parkland acquisition through subdivision alone will not meet the District's future park needs, as a municipality can only secure up to 5% of new residential land for parks through the subdivision process. This is below what is required for a complete, connected, and resilient park system. - A dedicated reserve fund would provide the District with an additional tool, enabling more proactive acquisition and renewal. Once built up, a fund would allow the municipality to act quickly when strategic parcels become available, and to make strategic improvements to existing parks despite limited capital and operating resources. - See Figure 11 for an overview of other parkland acquisition tools.



Timeline
Medium



Priority
Low



Cost
\$\$/Staff

Figure 11. Parkland Acquisition Tools

Subdivision Parkland Dedication: Developers must dedicate up to 5% of land for parks during subdivision.

Subdivision Parkland Cash-in-Lieu: Instead of land, municipalities may collect money equal to the value of the 5% dedication.

Development Cost Charges (DCCs): Funds collected from development to acquire new parkland.

Community Amenity Contributions (CACs): Contributions from developers obtained through rezoning.

Land Purchases: Municipalities may purchase lands from other entities.

Land Swaps: Municipalities may swap municipally owned land for land owned by other property owners.

Voluntary Acquisition & Partnerships: Municipalities may collaborate with land trusts for covenants, land donations, and conservation purchases.



3. PLANNING AND POLICY

A. Strengthen Tools for Park and Trail Acquisition and Development

B. Update Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs and Policies

C. Consider Climate Change in Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery

D. Explore Opportunities for Enhanced Partnerships

E. Review and Update the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

B. Update Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs and Policies

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 IMPROVE	1. Update the Public Art Program and Policy.	- The policy was last updated in 2013. It could be enhanced through commitments to equity, inclusion, and reconciliation, recognition of the role of public art in community connection and placemaking, and emerging digital and technology-based art forms. - The District could also update and leverage the program to support more community participation in public art projects and installations. (See Priority 1.H.1). - It could also consider developing supporting tools such as a procedural manual for public art and related placemaking projects, in addition to guidelines for working with external entities and developers on public art acquisitions. - See Appendix E for recommended changes.



Timeline
Medium



Priority
Low



Cost
Staff



3. PLANNING AND POLICY

A. Strengthen Tools for Park and Trail Acquisition and Development

B. Update Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs and Policies

C. Consider Climate Change in Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery

D. Explore Opportunities for Enhanced Partnerships

E. Review and Update the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 IMPROVE	2. Update the Community Investment Program and Policy.	- The policy was last updated in 2013. - It could be enhanced through the incorporation of impact measurement, more transparent decision-making and funding parameters, meaningful commitments to equity and reconciliation, and requirements for alignment with Council priorities. - These improvements would help to support underserved groups and to best leverage the program and policy as a tool to advance arts, recreation and culture goals. - See Appendix E for recommended changes.



Timeline
Medium



Priority
Low



Cost
Staff

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 IMPROVE	3. Update the Community Dedication Program Policy.	- The policy could be enhanced in several ways, including through the addition of a set of criteria and a process for evaluating requests for dedications. - These improvements would help the District manage increasing dedication requests. - The District may also wish to more broadly consider how to best address the community's growing memorial needs in parks and public spaces, and to align the objectives of the program with other District programs and priorities related to parks and public spaces. - See Appendix E for recommended changes.



Timeline
Medium



Priority
Low



Cost
Staff



3. PLANNING AND POLICY

- A. Strengthen Tools for Park and Trail Acquisition and Development
- B. Update Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs and Policies
- C. Consider Climate Change in Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery**
- D. Explore Opportunities for Enhanced Partnerships
- E. Review and Update the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

C. Consider Climate Change in Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 FURTHER STUDY	1. Consider climate change related risks (e.g. storm surge, sea level rise, extreme storms, drought) when upgrading existing and planning new parks, recreation and culture amenities. 2. Seek to shift maintenance equipment from fossil fuel to electric as opportunities and technologies permit. 3. Seek opportunities to reduce water use through the design of irrigation systems, landscape management, and facility upgrades. 4. Consider introducing educational opportunities into District parks, recreation and culture programs.	• It is a priority of the District's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan to adapt to climate change. • Considering energy and water efficiency and climate change risks in the operations, maintenance, capital renewal and design of amenities would support that goal. • There is an opportunity to enhance resident awareness and introduce education about climate change into new parks, recreation and culture programs.



Timeline
Ongoing



Priority
Medium



Cost
Varies



3. PLANNING AND POLICY

- A. Strengthen Tools for Park and Trail Acquisition and Development
- B. Update Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs and Policies
- C. Consider Climate Change in Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery
- D. Explore Opportunities for Enhanced Partnerships**
- E. Review and Update the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

D. Explore Opportunities for Enhanced Partnerships

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 IMPROVE	1. Work with the SCRD to explore opportunities for enhanced communication and collaboration.	- Both the District and SCRD could benefit from enhanced collaboration on recreational needs, programming and facilities. This could support more informed decision making on programming, better use of existing facilities, and the identification of shared solutions to recreational challenges in the District and wider region. - Opportunities that could be explored include designating a recreation liaison to the SCRD, implementing regular communication processes, and sharing data updates on programming and facility use.



Timeline
Ongoing



Priority
Low



Cost
Staff



3. PLANNING AND POLICY

- A. Strengthen Tools for Park and Trail Acquisition and Development
- B. Update Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs and Policies
- C. Consider Climate Change in Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery
- D. Explore Opportunities for Enhanced Partnerships**
- E. Review and Update the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
 IMPROVE	2. Work with the shíshálh Nation to explore options for more engagement and partnership opportunities.	- The Nation and District already partner on sports field maintenance. - There may be other opportunities to partner on the development of facilities and provision of services for the benefit of all residents. - Additional engagement would also support a better understanding of recreation needs for members of the Nation, and the development and delivery of programming. It would also help ensure that parks, recreation and culture development is reflective and respectful of the Nation's values, and that it recognizes the Nation's territory.



Timeline
Ongoing



Priority
Low



Cost
Staff



3. PLANNING AND POLICY

- A. Strengthen Tools for Park and Trail Acquisition and Development
- B. Update Parks, Recreation and Culture Programs and Policies
- C. Consider Climate Change in Parks, Recreation and Culture Service Delivery
- D. Explore Opportunities for Enhanced Partnerships
- E. Review and Update the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan**

E. Review and Update the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan

Recommended Direction	Recommendation(s)	Rationale
	Review the Master Plan as needed and undertake a fulsome update in ten years.	- An assessment of whether a review/update of the Master Plan is needed should be completed every five years. - A fulsome update should be completed after ten years of implementation.



Timeline
Medium/Long



Priority
Medium



Cost
\$\$

7

IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

This section provides guidance toward implementing the Master Plan.

Organizational Lead

The District will take the lead role in implementing the Master Plan. It will work with partners including community organizations and user groups, and is encouraged to seek collaborate with other orders of government to leverage available expertise and resources.

Future Planning, Evaluation, and Reporting

A key component of the success of the Master Plan will be the evaluation of its initiatives. Recommended performance measures are included in this section. Implementation of actions should be reviewed bi-annually, at which time priorities should be re-evaluated and a discussion of any variances should occur in reference to performance measures. If new projects are added (or old projects removed) as the plan progresses, this should be done by weighing the relative priority of all projects in the plan. Prioritization should be updated on a yearly basis; therefore, the third quarter evaluation period will set the stage for the updated version of the plan. In the fourth quarter, the updated plan should be formalized, and a draft approved by the end of the year. A fulsome update of the Master Plan may be needed after year five of implementation, depending on progress made and circumstances at the time.

Implementation Considerations

The Master Plan recommends several priorities and supporting recommendations. Attempting to complete all initiatives concurrently will stretch the resources and limit the focus of the District as it implements the plan. Therefore, it is recommended that implementation of the plan begins with the highest priority items and quick wins.

Funding Considerations

The following strategies can help the District achieve more Master Plan objectives while mitigating capital and operational budget impacts.

- Regional collaboration to reduce duplication and share costs
- Grant funding from provincial, federal, and other sources
- Non-profit sector involvement through access to unique grants, fundraising, and volunteer labour
- Reviewing existing municipal budgets to identify cost-saving and revenue-generating opportunities
- Enhanced corporate sponsorships for amenities and programs
- Developer contributions aligned with Master Plan priorities
- Linking recreation to economic development and broader community priorities (e.g., childcare, housing, health, climate resilience, reconciliation, DEI) to strengthen funding leverage.

Top Five Actions

The following actions have been identified as the top priorities of the Master Plan. They are listed in a recommended order of priority. This priority list and all components of the plan are for planning purposes only and subject to annual budget approvals. The District may add, remove or re-order activities based on the needs of the community at the time of implementation.



1. Expand organizational capacity to support programming and volunteer development.



2. Develop a Volunteer Engagement Program.



3. Increase and further support programming for all ages.



4. Improve facility and amenity accessibility.



5. Strengthen tools for park and trail acquisition and development.



Performance Measures

The following measures can be used to track performance during implementation of the Master Plan. Exact numbers and percentages should be added to each performance measure once benchmarks have been developed.

Goal	Performance Measures		Measurement Tools	Measurement Value
SOCIAL MEASURES	1.1	Increased public utilization of amenities (e.g. parks, trails and community buildings).	User statistics Capacity analysis	% Growth % Utilization
	1.2	Strong support for recreation and culture offerings in the community.	Resident and user surveys	% Support
	1.3	Facilities and programs positively impact individual and community wellness.	Resident and user surveys	% Satisfaction
	1.4	Facilities and programs demonstrate a high level of maintenance and accessibility.	Accessibility audits, user surveys	% Satisfaction
	1.5	Increased user satisfaction.	User surveys	% Satisfaction
	1.6	Residents report that recreation amenities and services are a key factor in their decision to live in the community.	Resident surveys	% Growth
	1.7	Increased volunteer participation in recreation and culture.	Volunteer statistics	% Satisfaction % Program Growth % Facility Improvements
ECONOMIC MEASURES	2.1	Cost control measures are in place.	Expense tracking	% Target Realization
	2.2	Budget targets are achieved.	Dept. budget	% Target Realization
	2.3	Growth in facility bookings in the community.	Facility bookings	% Growth
	2.4	Budget targets are achieved.	Dept. budget	% Target Realization

Goal		Performance Measures	Measurement Tools	Measurement Value
ORGANIZATIONAL MEASURES	3.1	The department is appropriately staffed to successfully run operations and deliver services.	Staffing complement, staff survey	% Satisfaction
	3.2	Facility and program performance are reviewed annually.	Annual report	% Target Realization % Growth
	3.3	Community organizations report enhanced satisfaction.	User group survey	% Satisfaction
	3.4	Municipal-led and municipal-supported initiatives align with the directions of this Master Plan.	Annual report	% Alignment
	3.5	Partnerships for service delivery are strong.	Partner feedback and results	% Satisfaction
ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES	4.1	Amenity use and development minimizes negative impact to the environment.	Environmental impact assessments, energy audits.	Impacts Identified % Energy Savings
	4.2	Amenity use and development minimizes wildfire and extreme weather related risks (e.g. drought and severe rainfall events).	Audits	Risks and impacts Identified
	4.3	Amenity use and development encourages active transportation (walking, biking, etc.) to and from recreational amenities.	User surveys	% Growth in Use

8

CONCLUSION



Photo Credit: District of Sechelt

The District of Sechelt Community Services, Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan sets a clear and forward-looking direction for a community that continues to grow, evolve, and deepen its connection to place. It defines an expanded role for the Community Services Department focused on enriching resident experiences, renewing existing assets, and strengthening connections between people, parks, recreation, and culture. The plan highlights opportunities to enhance accessibility, foster volunteerism, and guide the thoughtful evolution of the parks and trails network. Together, these strategies position Sechelt to build a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient community services system for the future.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Demographics in Comparator Communities

Figure 12. Demographics in Comparator Communities²⁹

	Sechelt	Parksville	Nelson	Kimberley
Population (2021)	10,847	13,642	11,106	8,115
Population Growth 2016-2021	6%	10%	5%	9%
Median Age	57.6	63.6	42.4	45.2
Children (0-14)	12%	9%	14%	17%
Seniors (65+)	37%	44%	21%	24%

Appendix B – Facility and Program Inventory

Indoor Facilities – District Owned and/or Operated

Seaside Centre

Located next to the visitors centre in downtown Sechelt. Operated by the District.

- A large bright and open event space with upper mezzanine and separate kitchen.
- Rentable venue for weddings, family gatherings, community presentations, art shows, meetings, and fitness classes.
- Used by Sunshine Coast Elder College, Sechelt Library, and shíshálh Nation for programming.
- Capacity of 135 people.

Mission Point House

Located next to the beach and Mission Point Park in Davis Bay. Owned and operated by the District.

- 900 sq.ft home is post and beam cedar side, has plenty of windows, a living room, dining room, small kitchen, large deck and yard for entertaining.
- Used for a variety of activities and events such as birthday parties, family gatherings, weddings, art and yoga classes or private meetings.

Rockwood Lodge

Located just west of Downtown and owned and operated by the District.

- Former Lodge re-purposed into a hub for the community, community organizations, arts, local businesses, and public.
- Entire space or portions of it can be rented: main floor living room, dining room, kitchen, the downstairs art space or the whole lodge. The space offers a newly renovated commissary kitchen, complete with 6 burner gas stove and gas oven.
- Can be rented/used for weddings, family gatherings, art shows, meetings, or filming.
- Restorative Justice Program of the Sunshine Coast leases office space in Rockwood year-round.
- Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts leases office space on the Rockwood Lodge property year-round.
- Sechelt Library uses the lodge on occasion for programming.

Outdoor Facilities – District Owned and/or Operated

Parks

- 47 municipal parks owned by the District.
- Public washrooms are available at Friendship Park, Kinnikinnick Park, Hackett Park, and Selma Park.

Hackett Park Stage

- 500 sq.ft accessible stage with access to electrical service.

Beach Accesses and Lookouts

- 52 beach accesses and lookouts.

Playgrounds

- 10 playgrounds.

Dog Parks

- 4 designated off-leash dog parks.

Rectangular Sports Fields

- 4 sports fields (all overlapping with ball diamonds)
 - Two full size grass fields at Kinnikinnick Park
 - One full size at Hackett Park
 - One undersized field at Picadilly Park

Ball Diamonds

- 6 ball diamonds (all overlapping with rectangular sports fields)

Courts

- 2 pickleball courts
- 1 tennis court
- 1 half-court for basketball
- 1 beach volleyball court

Proctor Bike Park

- Dirt pump track built by students from the Capilano University Mountain Bike Program.

Skatepark

- Land owned by School District 46. The District leases and maintains this park.

Trails

- Numerous trails and pathways. Longest trail is 6km (in Kinnikinnick Park).
- 9 trails are classified as accessible.

Trail Bay Pier

Owned by the Province of BC. Leased by the District. Accessed from Friendship Park in downtown Sechelt.

- Pier and day float (in place each summer).
- Open for rentals June 1 to October 1 for classes such as yoga, Pilates or tai chi fitness classes (max 15 people).

Davis Bay Esplanade

- Owned and maintained by the District.
- Oceanside walkway (900m) and wharf (75m), bordered to the east by Mission Point Park.
- Public washrooms, benches, pier, a drinking fountain, picnic tables, and sandy beach.

Sechelt Duck Marsh

- Owned by Nature Trust of BC and leased to the District.
- Three-acre wetland reserve is home to salmon fry, ducks and other bird species.
- A trail runs full circle around the site.

Ocean Ave Community Garden

- On District property. Leased to One Straw Society (non-profit operator).
- Community garden near Hackett Park.

Indoor Facilities – Operated by External Organizations

Sechelt Aquatic Centre

Located in downtown Sechelt and operated by the Sunshine Coast Regional District.

- 25 metre lap pool, leisure pool, lazy river, hot tub, sauna, steam room, water slide.
- Weight room and fitness studio.
- Community room.

Sunshine Coast Arena (SCA)

Located in West Sechelt and operated by the SCRD. Located on District land and leased to SCRD.

- NHL-sized ice surface.
- Seasonal dry-floor activities also available.

Sechelt Library

Adjacent to/within municipal hall building. Operated by Sechelt Public Library Association. Funded by the Nation, District and SCRD.

- Offers books and materials, as well as one-on-one technology and genealogy support for patrons.

Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre

Operated by the Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre Society.

- Fitness and arts programming for seniors, including pickleball in the gymnasium.
- Rooms/facilities available for rent.

Sunshine Coast Arts Centre

Located on District land. Leased to Sunshine Coast Arts Council. Arts Council also owns the building and operates the centre.

- Two exhibition spaces, a visual arts studio and multi-purpose room.
- Host free cultural events, annual craft fair, exhibitions, public programs, professional development workshops, readings, screenings and talks, and provide accessible space for cultural groups to gather and work.

Sechelt Youth Centre

Located near the aquatic centre and library.

- Fun free drop-in environment for teens and tweens.
- Building is owned by the School District.
- Programs funded by the SCRD.
- Couches, tables, pool table, kitchen.
- In a good location adjacent to a gymnasium.

Sechelt Community Archives

Land and collection owned by the District, and operated by a non-profit society (Sunshine Coast Museum and Archives).

tems swiya Museum

Operated by the shíshálh Nation.

- Features a large collection of artifacts including many cedar baskets, stone tools and a 3,500 year old mortuary stone.

Sechelt Early Years Centre

Operated by School District 46.

- Newly renovated, includes Family Resource Program space.
- Attached to/within Sechelt Elementary (across from the library and pool).
- Families will be able to access drop-in programs and childcare.
- SCRD offers some programming at the centre.

Raven's Cry Theatre

Owned by the shíshálh Nation and privately operated.

- First run movies and available for rent for local events and dance academies.
- Bills itself as the Sunshine Coast's premier Event Facility.
- Dance recitals, plays, broadcasts of the metropolitan opera, films presented by Sunshine Coast Film Society
- 274 seats.³⁰

Suncoast Racquet Club Indoor Tennis

Located near the arena. Raquet Club owns and operates the building which is located on District land.

- Two indoor tennis courts.
- Membership required.

Outdoor Facilities – Not Owned and Operated by the District

Ted Dixon Soccer Fields

- Owned by the Nation, on Nation lands. District assists with maintenance.
- Two full size grass fields.

School Grounds

- Three elementary schools with school grounds that include playground structures, sports court areas, and field spaces that are used by the broader community.
- One secondary school in Sechelt Chatelech Secondary School, that includes outdoor field spaces that are used by the community.

Blue Ocean Golf Club

- Owned by the Province of BC, leased to the District, subleased to Blue Ocean (private operator).
- 18 hole course, driving range, and event space in West Sechelt.

Heritage Forest and Hidden Groves

- 170 acre green space. Includes well marked network of community built hiking trails that wind through large trees in a second growth forest.
- Over 16km of hiking trails including two accessibility trails

West Sechelt Trails

Some trails begin within the District's boundaries at its western edge. Trails are largely on provincial land. Bike trails are maintained by the Coast Mountain Bike Association and trail users.

Programs

The District of Sechelt does not offer recreational programs. Programs in the community are delivered by external agencies including the Sunshine Coast Regional District and local organizations.

The SCRD delivers some sports programs at the Sechelt Aquatics Centre and Sechelt Arena. It also offers a limited number of arts programs. All its programs are indoors. They include:

- drop-in and registered fitness and aquatics
- drop-in public skate and hockey
- registered hockey including adult coed learn to play
- rug hooking and line dancing

The Sunshine Coast Arts Council offers the following programs:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| • for Youth | • for all |
| • Summer Art and Conservation Camps | • Sunday Film Series |
| • Pro-D Day Camps | • Annual craft fair |
| • Young Artist Awards | • Art exhibitions |
| • the Banner Project (annual banner exhibition for youth) | • Professional development workshops |
| • Young People's Own Shows | • Readings |
| | • Screenings and talks |

Events

The District of Sechelt hosts a variety of festivals and events including the Sechelt Arts Festival, syiyaya Days, the Summer Music Series, and Culture Days. It also supports several annual community events such as the Festival of the Written Arts, the Sunshine Coast Art Crawl, the Hackett Park Artisan Fair, the Sechelt Farmers' and Artisans' Market, the Festival of the Rolling Arts, and the Festival of Lights Parade.

Appendix C – Partner Analysis

The following outlines how the District of Sechelt works with partners to deliver community services.

SCRD

The District and other municipalities in the region contribute to community recreation facilities and programs through annual tax requisitions to the SCRD. The SCRD leases land from the District for both the Sechelt Aquatic Centre and Sunshine Coast Arena.

shíshálh Nation

The shíshálh Nation Government District directly abuts the District of Sechelt's boundaries. The District currently assists in the maintenance of the Nation's Ted Dixon sports fields.

School District 46

The District of Sechelt and the School District have an agreement to lease School District land to Sechelt to use as a skateboard park.

Sechelt Golf and Country Club

The District sub-leases provincial land to this organization for the purpose of operating a golf club and associated amenities. The agreement identifies that the golf course is to be a community amenity, made available to the public.

One Straw Society

The District has a license agreement with the Society which allows it to maintain a community garden on the subject property on Ocean Avenue.

Sunshine Coast Festival of the Written Arts

The District has a license agreement with the Society which allows it to use several District owned facilities. These include the Pavilion, Box Office and part of Rockwood Lodge. The intended use of these spaces is for the development and promotion of the arts and culture, and for the presentation of cultural activities.

Suncoast Racquet Club

The District has a lease agreement with the Club which allows it to use a parcel of District land to operate a tennis club.

Sunshine Coast Arts Council

The District has an agreement with the Council which allows it to use a parcel of District land to operate an arts centre, for the benefit of the public and for the promotion of artistic and cultural events. It also has a three year contract with the Council for delivery of the Sechelt Arts Festival.

Sechelt Farmers and Artisan Market

The District and Market have an agreement to enable the operation of the market. The agreement establishes roles and responsibilities of each party.

Nature Trust of Canada (formerly National Second Century Fund)

The District and Trust have a 99 year lease agreement for the Sechelt Marsh. The District maintains the land as a public park and nature reserve.

Appendix D – Strategic Alignment Analysis

Alignment with Municipal Documents

District of Sechelt Strategic Plan 2023-2026

Establishes Council's vision for the community. Core values are defined as Caring and Sharing Community, Environmental Sustainability, and Emergency Preparedness. Community safety and wellbeing is among the Plan's priorities. The plan includes a commitment to considering a parks, recreation and culture lens on community service delivery. Ensuring financial balance is also a priority, as well as a commitment to analyzing and reviewing service levels to ensure the District is efficiently managing core services and planning for the future.

Official Community Plan Framework

The framework provides content direction for the plan. For parks and trails these include updated policies and mapping, and approximate location and phasing of parks and trails. For community facilities, direction includes updated land use policies and mapping, and approximate location and phasing of sites for public uses such recreation facilities, and arts and culture.

Community Land Development Analysis (2025)

This analysis assesses access to daily needs neighbourhood by neighbourhood. Daily needs amenities include parks and beach access, and recreation and sports facilities and community centres. They also include grocery stores, daycares, pharmacies, libraries, health services, and schools. The analysis found that some neighbourhoods have better access than others to daily needs: "The more remotely located areas of Tuwanek, Sandy Hook, and East Porpoise Bay have relatively lower access to daily needs amenities, which is unsurprising given their isolated locations, limited road access and low population density". The report stated that "when development of new subdivisions in the District occur, these developments could include non-residential land uses such as commercial establishments, schools, daycares, and park spaces, which would help to ensure future residents enjoy access to daily needs amenities from the outset".

District of Sechelt Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (2019)

The plan establishes a sustainability vision and provides guidance for updates to the Official Community Plan and related master plans, including this Community Services Master Plan. Priorities and goals most closely related to this plan include: promoting active and healthy lifestyles for all ages, providing supports for an aging population, attracting and retaining new residents, adapting to climate change, protecting and restoring natural spaces, reducing water consumption in public parks and civic areas, promoting the arts and culture sector, supporting festivals and events, and supporting Downtown through strategic investments in services, parks and public realm.

Parks and Open Space Master Plan (2018)

This plan identified six goals for parks and open spaces in Sechelt, along with recommendations for improvements to them. Goals include focus on quality, strengthen connectivity, respect the environment and natural features, promote accessibility and inclusivity, encourage a healthy and active community, and cost effective and well managed. The plan recommended community wide projects, neighbourhood specific projects and operational improvements.

Official Community Plan (2011)

The District is currently updating its OCP. This process is concurrent with the community services master plan process. The 2011 plan identifies objectives and policies for parks, trails and recreation.

Urban Forest Plan (2010)

This plan guides decisions relating to the District's urban forests over a 50 to 100 year time horizon. Two recommendations are strongly tied to parks and trails. These include 'Plant and Maintain Unused District Right of Ways' as multipurpose trails, and "Create an 'Adopt a Boulevard or Beach Access' Program" to help share the maintenance duties on public lands with local residents.

Alignment with Regional Documents

Sunshine Coast Sports Field Strategy (2026)

This strategy identifies several recommendations for the management of sports field in Sechelt and elsewhere on the Sunshine Coast. Recommendations support the vision and priorities identified in this Master Plan.

Sunshine Coast Destination Development Strategy (2022)

The strategy was developed as part of Destination BC's Destination Development Program to support and guide the long-term growth of tourism in the Sunshine Coast. One of three selling propositions includes 'arts, culture and heritage'. The strategy identifies several experiences with potential for growth or support. These are the Sunshine Coast Arts Crawl, Sunshine Coast Trail and Suncoaster Trail, and wildlife viewing along inlets and waterways.

Alignment with National Documents

National Framework for Recreation: Pathways to Wellbeing (2015)

Provides a vision for recreation in Canada whereby everyone is engaged in meaningful, accessible recreation experiences that foster individual wellbeing, community wellbeing and the wellbeing of natural and built environments.

Appendix E – Policy Analysis

The following policy analysis contributed to the identification of recommendations in this Master Plan.

Policy 2.5.4 Community Investment Program (last amended in 2019)

Overview

- The policy guides the administration and delivery of Community Investment Program grants. Grants provide financial assistance to non-profit community organizations to support programs, projects, services, and events that benefit residents of Sechelt. They cover three program areas including: arts, culture and recreation; social and environmental; and community development. Grants can be for one-time, new, recurring or ongoing activities.
- No explicit requirement to align with Council strategic priorities or District plans.
- Reflects a charity support model as opposed to a community investment model.

Current State Summary

- Includes program objectives such as complementing or extending the reach of District programs/services, encouraging civic engagement and volunteerism, and enhancing quality of life for residents.
- Does not speak to measurement of impact or outcomes.
- Does not specify who makes decisions or the total available amount of grant funding available to eligible organizations.
- Limited attention to equity, reconciliation, and inclusion. This may bias the program towards well established organizations, groups with strong grant writing capacity, and historically funded sectors.
- Grant award trends suggest funding may reinforce established service providers that deliver programs over time rather than supporting new organizations and initiatives.
- Inclusion of objectives related to equity, diversity, inclusion and reconciliation.
- Commitment to supporting new organizations and initiatives.
- Addition of requirements for applications and grant supported initiatives to advance District priorities.
- Inclusion of procedural information related to decision making and maximum grant allowances.

Policy 2.5.6 Foundation Grants for Community Initiated Projects (last amended in 2018)

Overview

- The policy permits the District of Sechelt to consider community-based requests to make applications on their behalf to the Sunshine Coast Community Foundation (SCCF), or any other grant-making foundations, for the purpose of obtaining a grant from the Foundation.

Current State Summary

- Benefits the community by supporting access to resources for community groups beyond those available from the municipality.
- Lack of clarity/available information about how the policy is applied in practice and if any challenges exist with its application.

Potential Future Updates

- Audit the application of the policy to evaluate the value of the District's role in helping community based organizations access grants.

Policy 1.6.10 Public Art Program and Policy (last amended in 2013)

Overview

- The policy provides a framework to "encourage, fund, select, preserve and, as required, de-accession Public Art".

Current State Summary

- Provides a strong foundation for a public art program.
- Outlines values and guiding principles including accessibility, artistic excellence, community engagement, diversity, and sustainability.

- Establishes procedures, roles and responsibilities, funding strategies, maintenance responsibilities, and community outreach expectations.
- Lacks commitments related to equity, inclusion and reconciliation.
- Emphasizes permanent, site-specific works. This may bias the program to support higher cost projects at the expense of lower cost and less permanent installations.
- Does not recognize public art as a tool for community connection, storytelling and placemaking.
- Does not meaningfully address digital and technology embedded public art.
- Prioritizes Downtown as a location for public art, which privileges those with easy access to the area.

Potential Future Updates

- Update the policy to embed commitments to equity, diversity, inclusion and reconciliation.
- Consider adding guiding principles that prioritize Indigenous leadership and partnership, culturally safe/appropriate processes and inclusive artist selection practices.
- More explicitly recognize temporary, digital, participatory and community-based works to allow the program to respond to changing artist practices and community interests, and to support placemaking, experimentation and lower cost projects.
- Expand location prioritization to support the incorporation of public art into public facilities and parks across the District.

Policy 5.3.2 Community Dedication Program (last amended in 2021)

Overview

- The policy is intended to provide direction to District staff for the application, costs, installation and maintenance of dedicated items in the Community Dedication Program.

Current State Summary

- Outlines a first-come first-served approach to dedication requests. Does not establish criteria or a process for District staff to use in reviewing requests.
- Is narrowly focused on dedication items such as benches, picnic tables, and plaques. Does not consider opportunities for dedication beyond these.
- It does not include parameters for the location of dedicated items.

Potential Future Updates

- Establishment of criteria and a process for reviewing requests.
- Consideration for dedication items beyond benches, picnic tables and plaques.
- Expansion of the objectives of the program to include alignment with other District programs and priorities related to parks and public spaces.

Policy 5.1.3 Park Naming Policy (last amended in 2009)

Overview

- The policy provides guidelines and procedures for naming parks.

Current State Summary

- Contains criteria and other considerations for park naming.
- Permits parks to be named after historical figures and the names of individuals, as well as local geography, history and tradition, and natural features. Does not establish an order or priority for naming considerations or include criteria to evaluate the appropriateness of potential individual and historical figure names.
- Identifies categories of names that will not be considered.
- Does not require the review of proposed names by representatives of the District's diverse communities or the shíshálh Nation.
- Requires park re-naming to be accompanied by a petition signed by at least 2/3 of the property owners directly affected within a 1/2 kilometre radius in the neighbourhood in which the park is situated.

Potential Future Changes

- Consider moving away from naming parks after historical figures. This would be in alignment with the trend across many municipalities to name or rename places that honoured individuals or events that disadvantaged large groups of people, such as colonial officials, 'explorers' and other entities and times related to settler culture.
- Build in requirements for representation from the shíshálh Nation and other diverse perspectives. Consider implementing a review committee that forwards recommendations to Council.
- Remove the requirement for signed petitions from nearby property owners for park re-naming. It is a barrier to the District considering renaming parks if a park's name is offensive to particular communities or individuals and has been identified by them as such (with justification).

Appendix F – Expanded Engagement Results

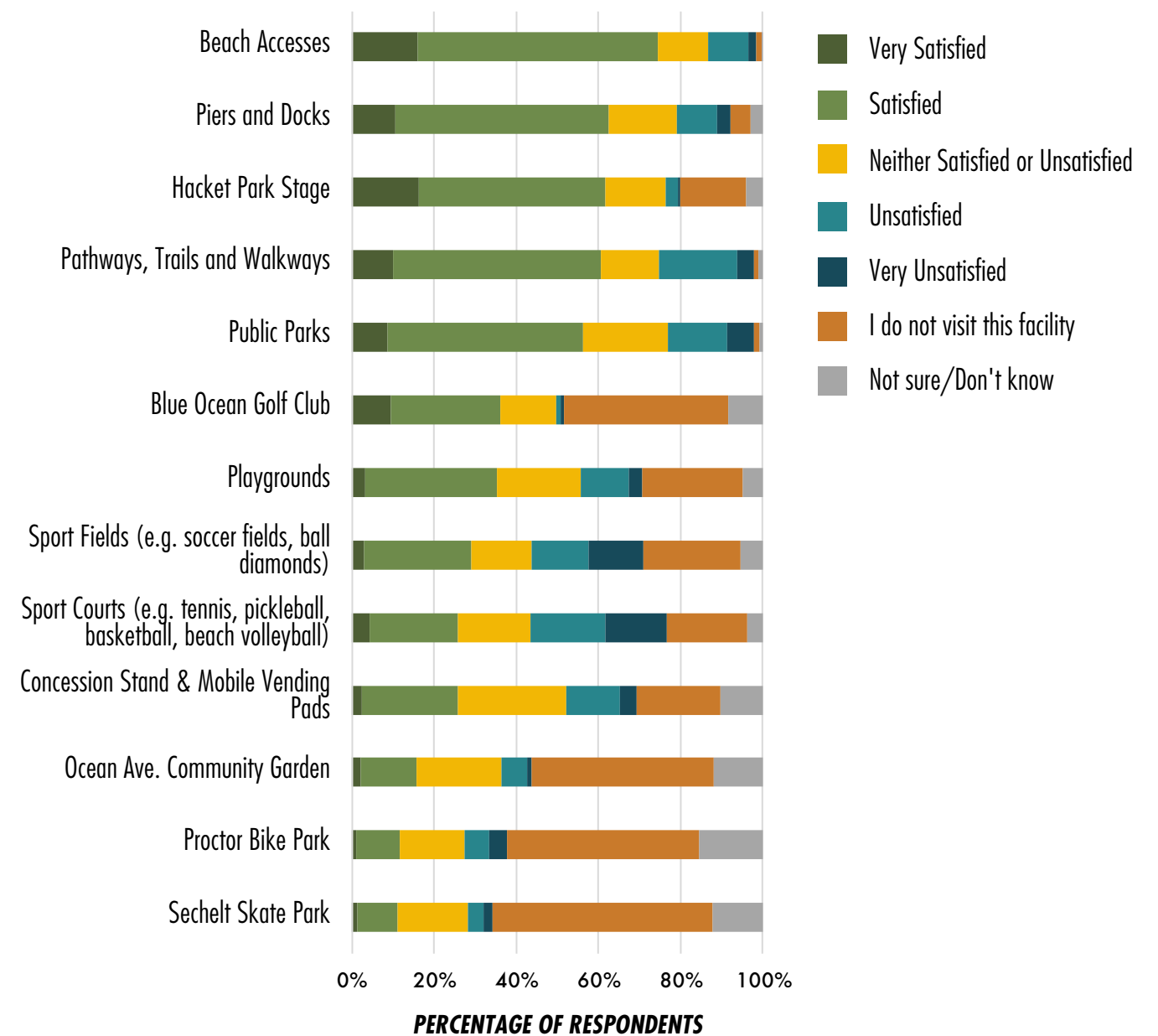
Resident Survey

A resident survey was conducted from February 2 to March 6, 2026. The objective of the resident survey was to gain a deeper understanding of residents' needs for parks, recreation and culture facilities and programs in the District of Sechelt.

In total 426 responses were received. Respondents were primarily between the ages of 70 and over (24%), 40-49 (23%), 60-69 (21%), and 30-39 (14%).

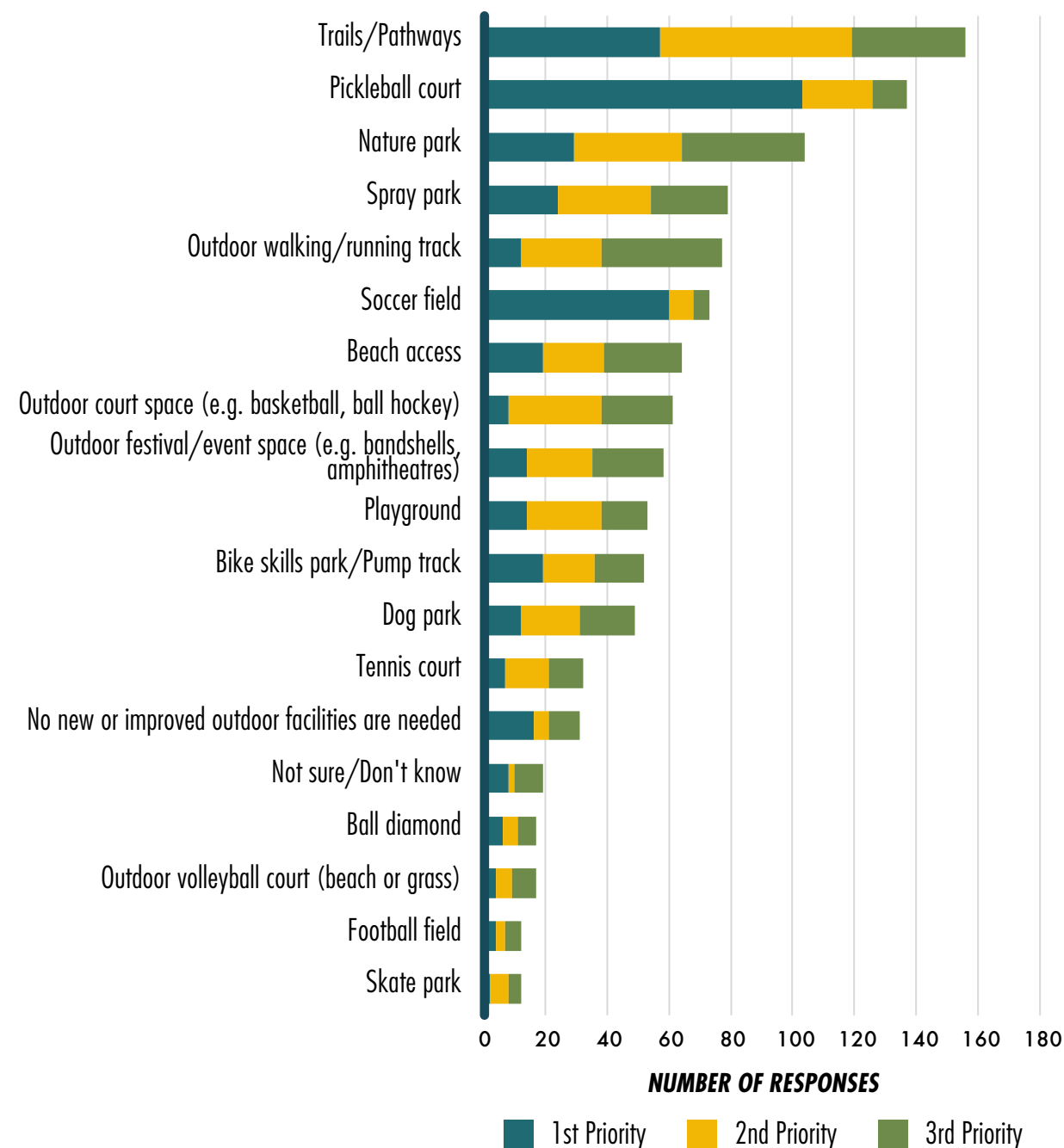


Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following outdoor recreation facilities located in the District of Sechelt.

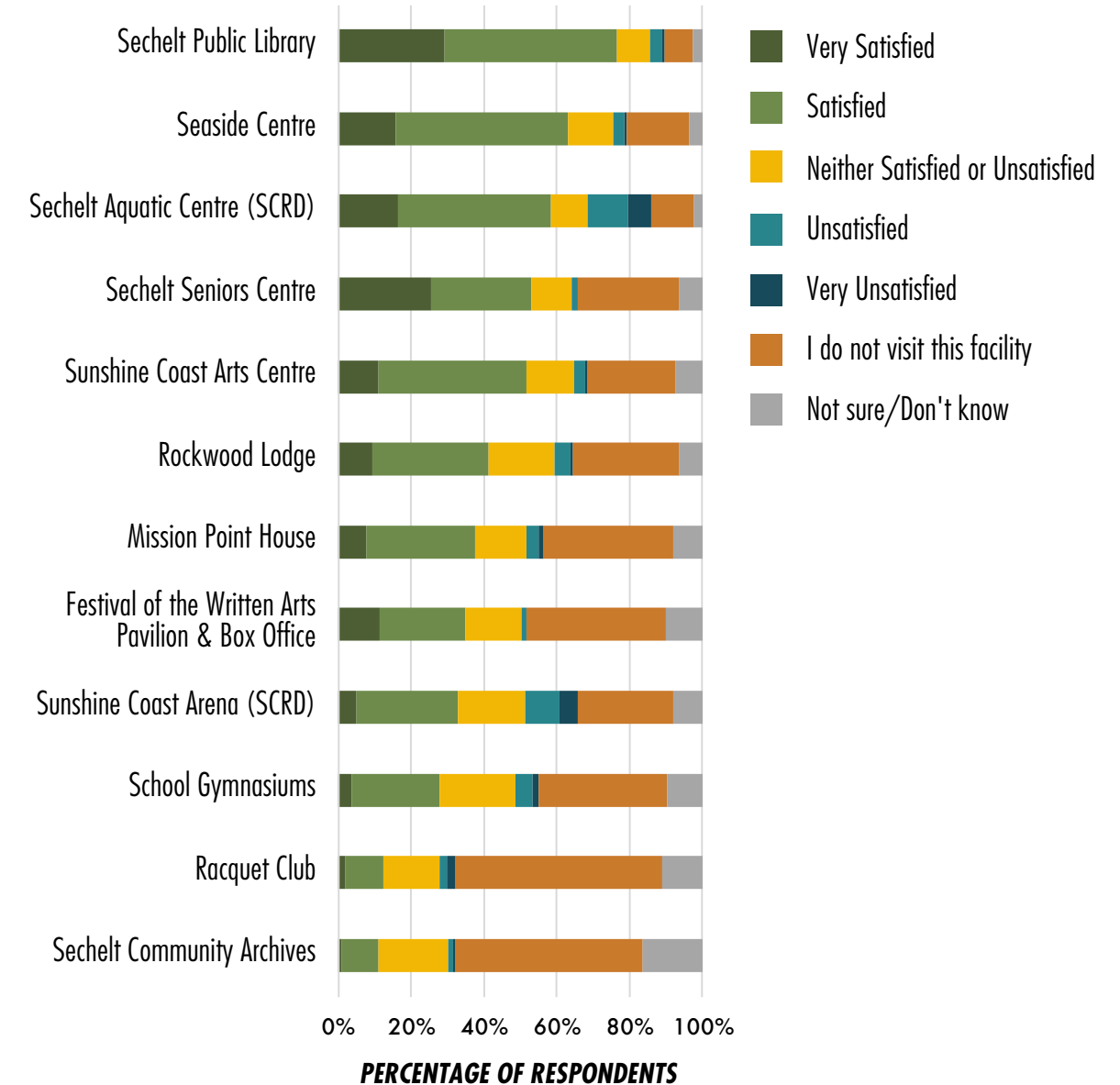




What, if any, new or improved parks and outdoor facilities are most needed in the District of Sechelt. Please rank up to three priorities.

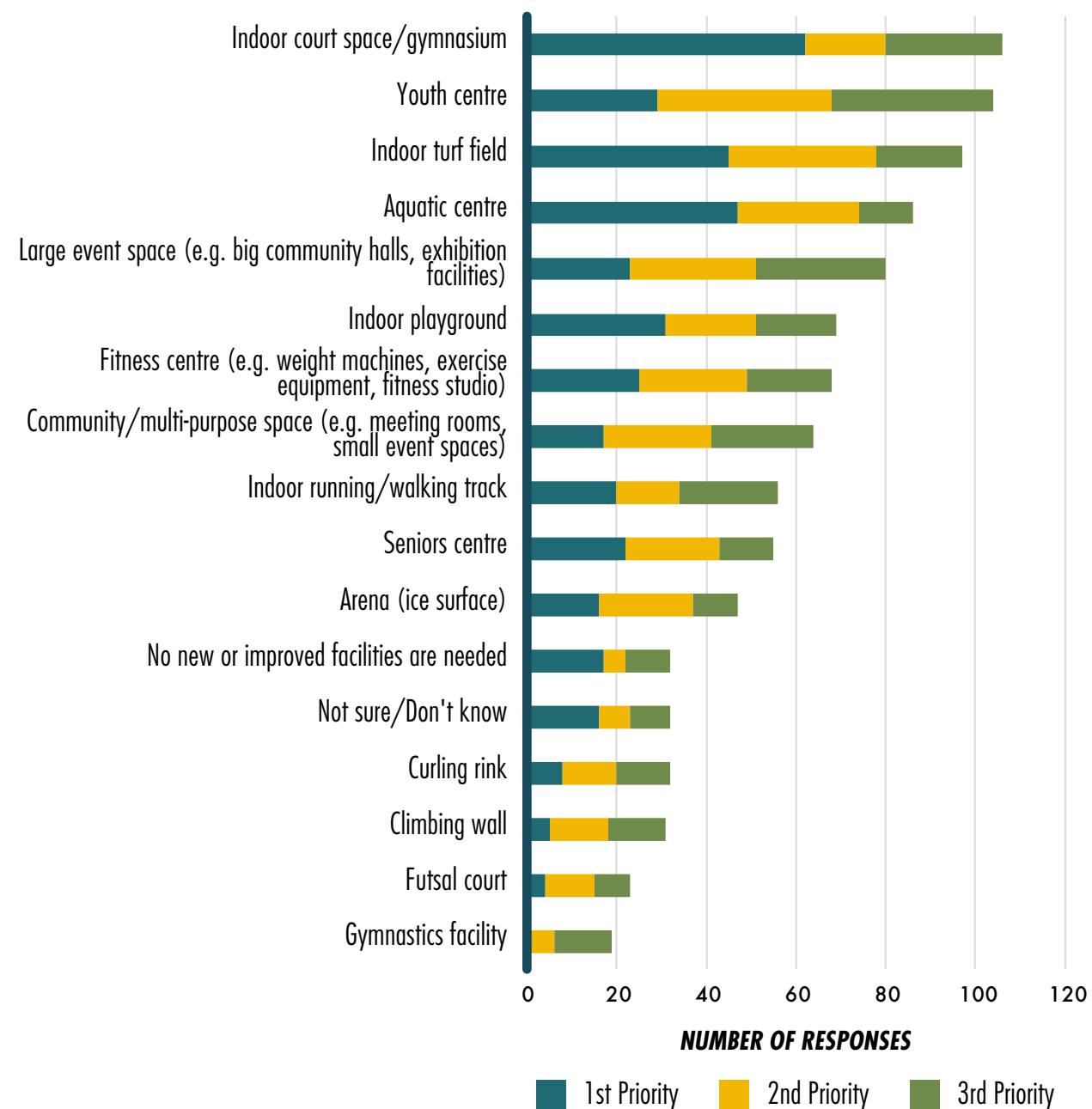


Please rate your level of satisfaction with the following indoor recreation facilities located in the District of Sechelt.

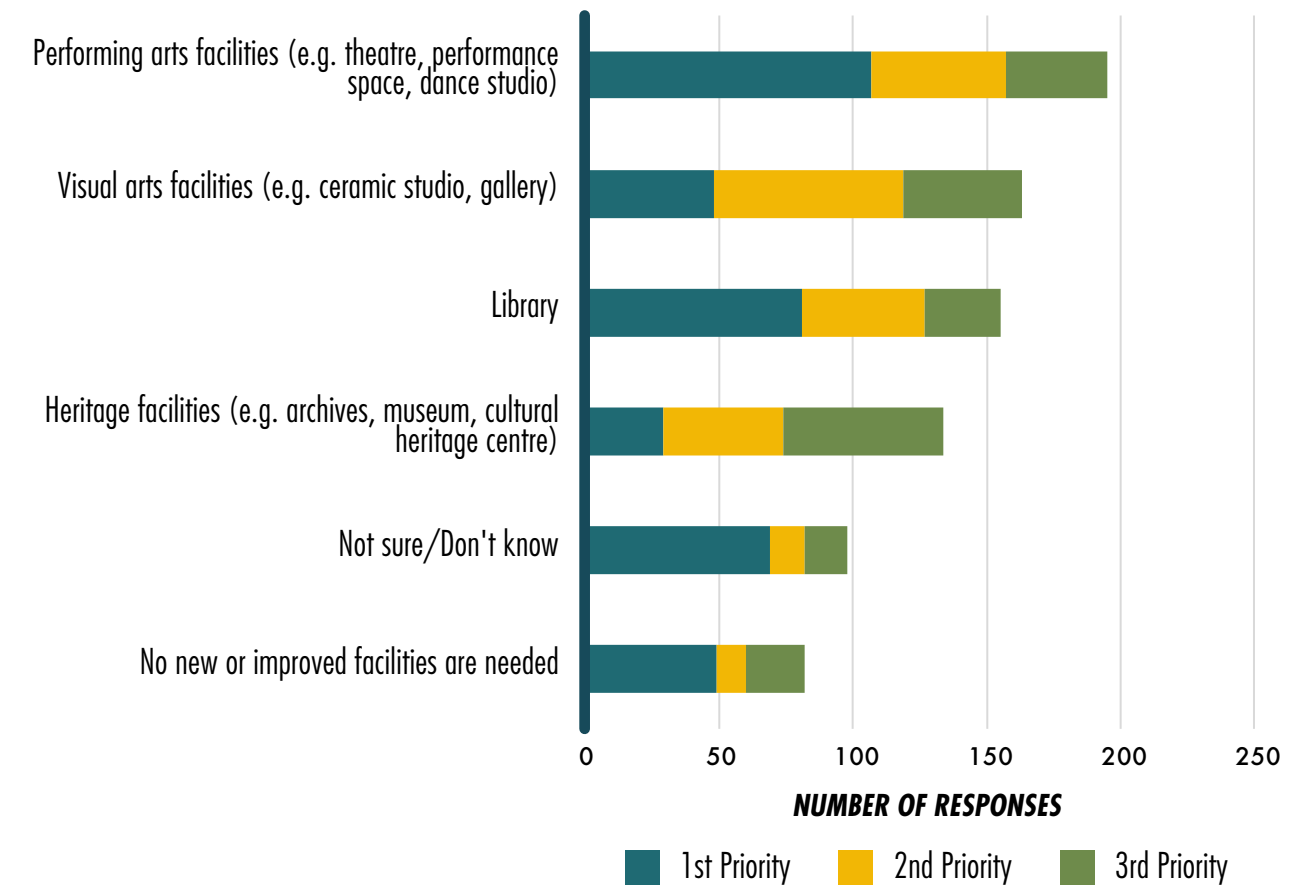




What, if any, new or improved indoor recreation facilities are most needed in the District of Sechelt? Please rank up to three priorities.

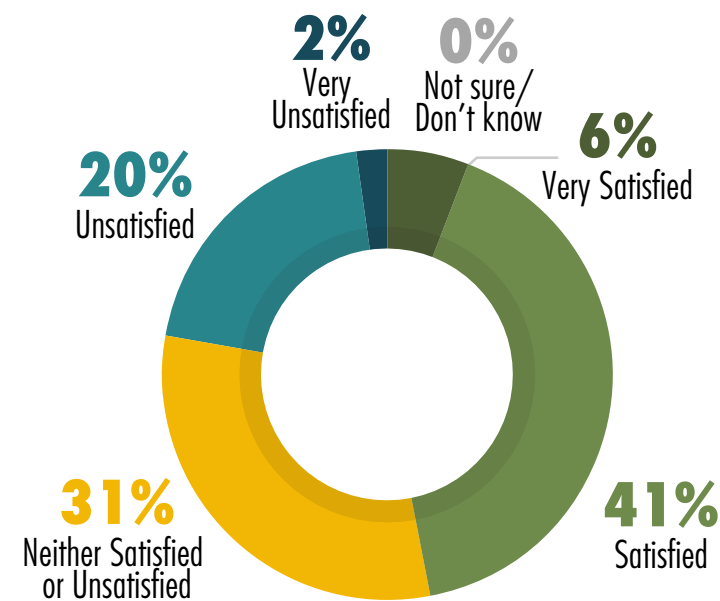


What, if any, new or improved indoor culture facilities are most needed in the District of Sechelt? Please rank up to three priorities.

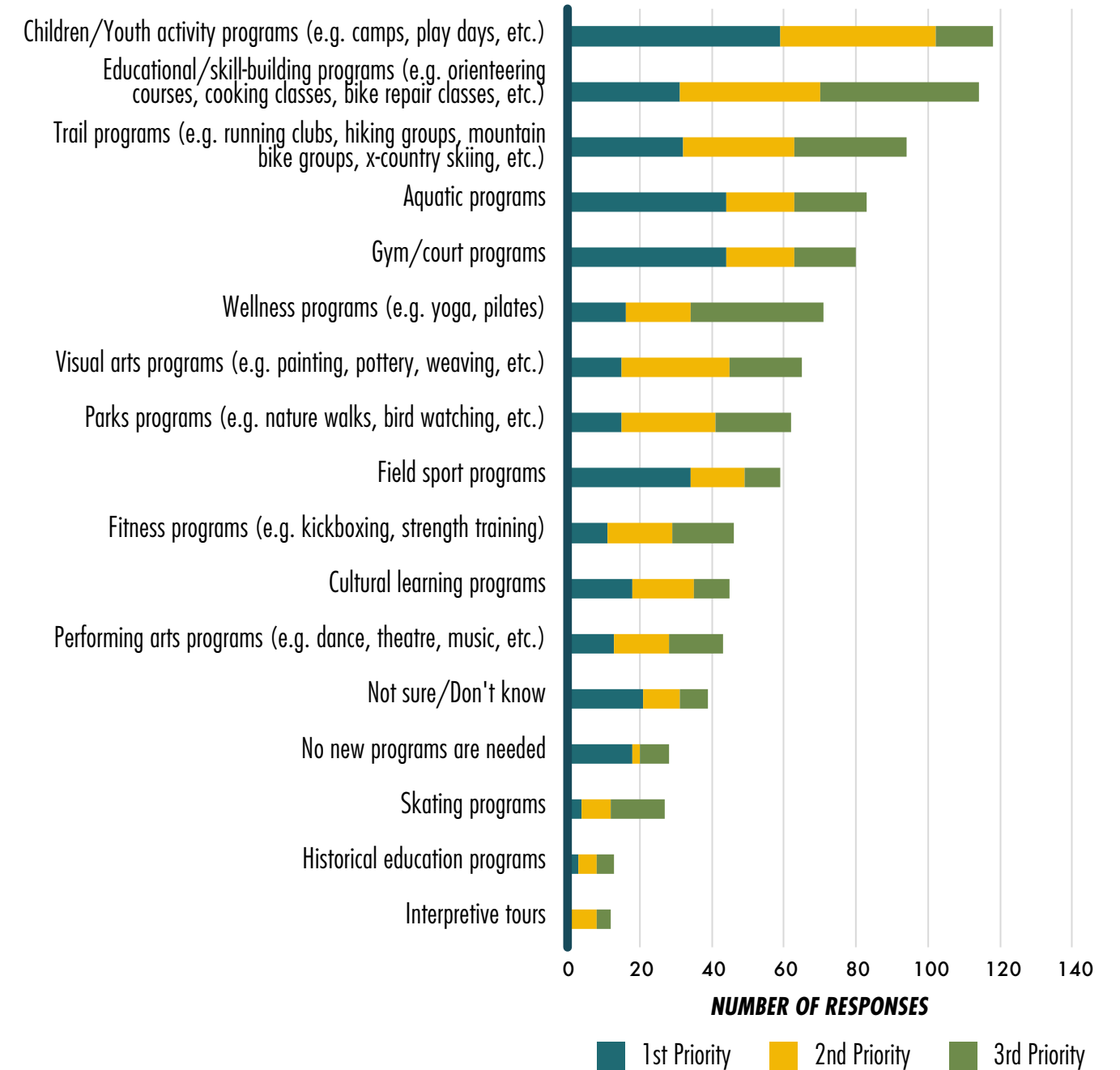




Please rate your level of satisfaction with parks, recreation, and culture programs that occur in the District of Sechelt.

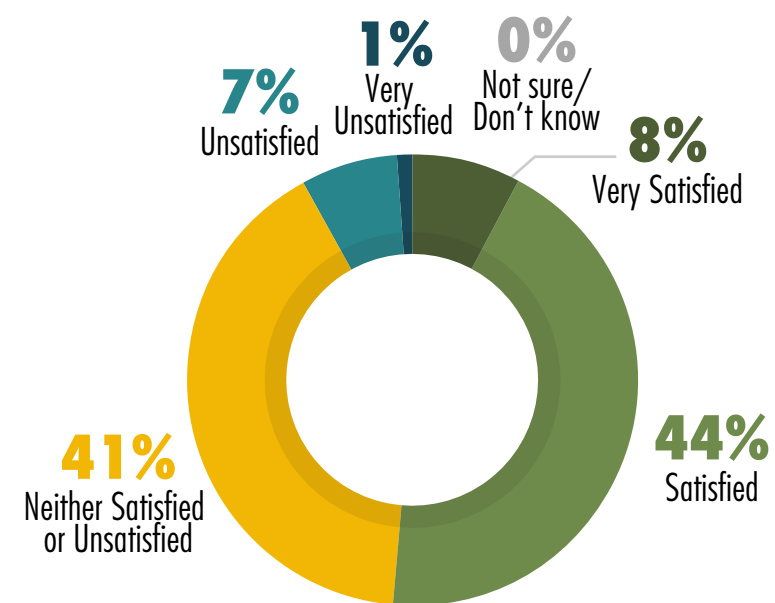


What, if any, new or improved parks, recreation, and culture programs are most needed in the District of Sechelt? Please rank up to three priorities.

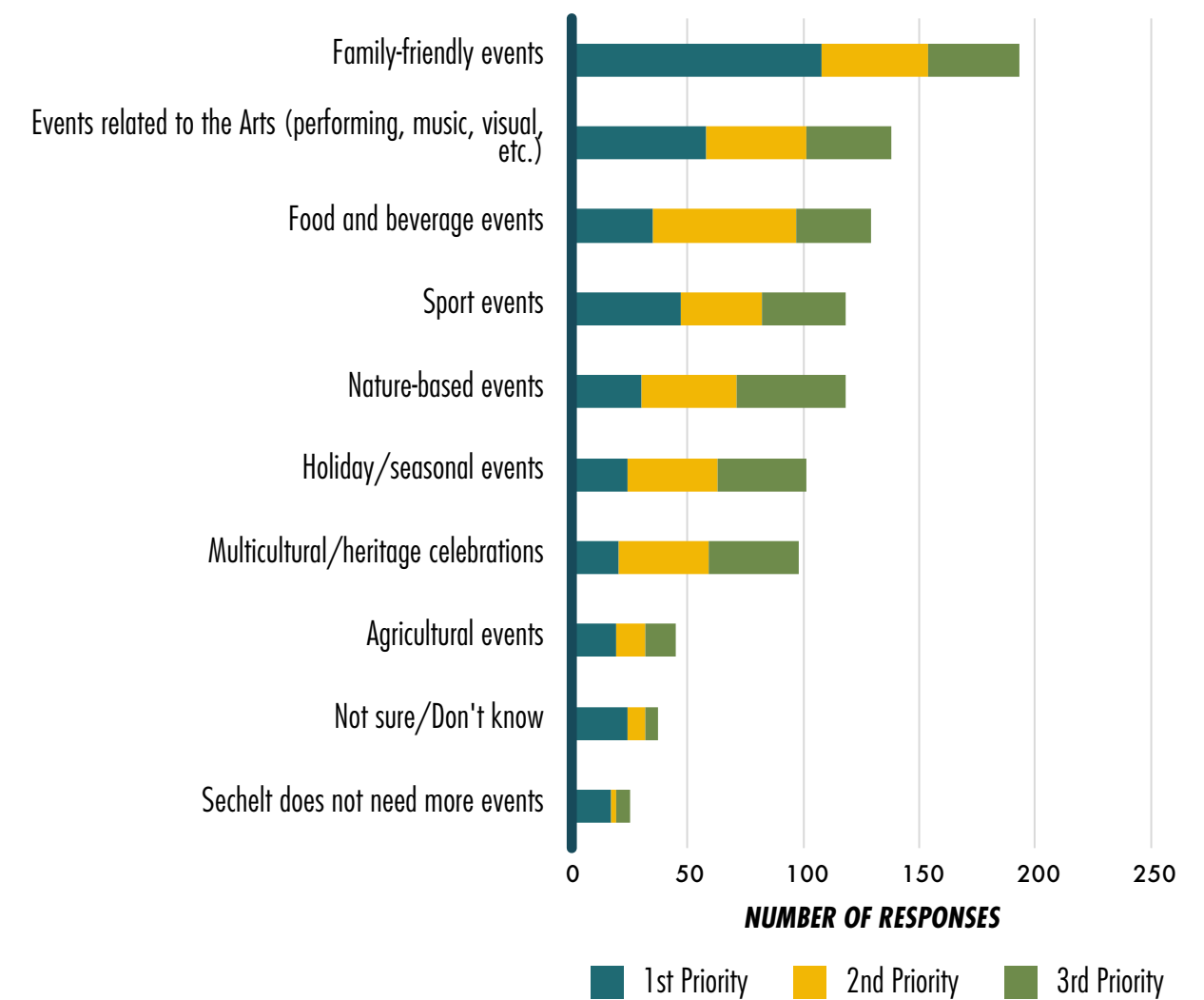




Please rate your level of satisfaction with events that are produced by the District of Sechelt.

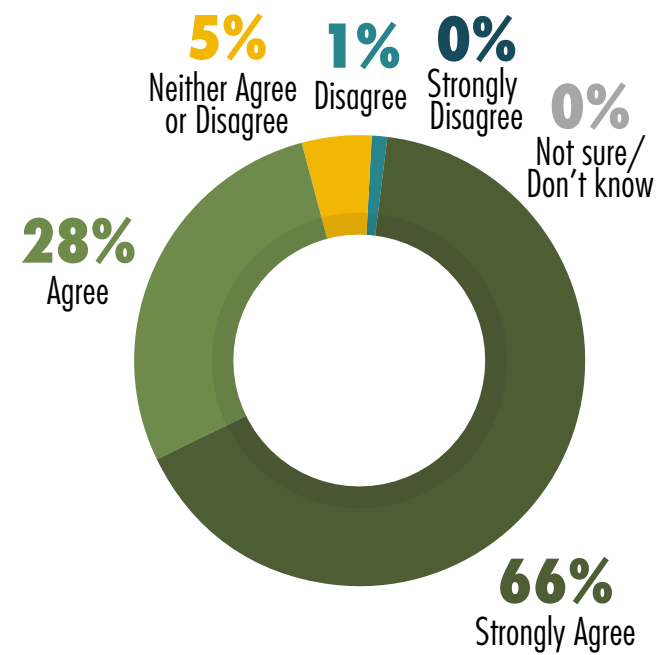


What, if any, types of events should the District of Sechelt focus on in the future? Please rank up to three priorities.

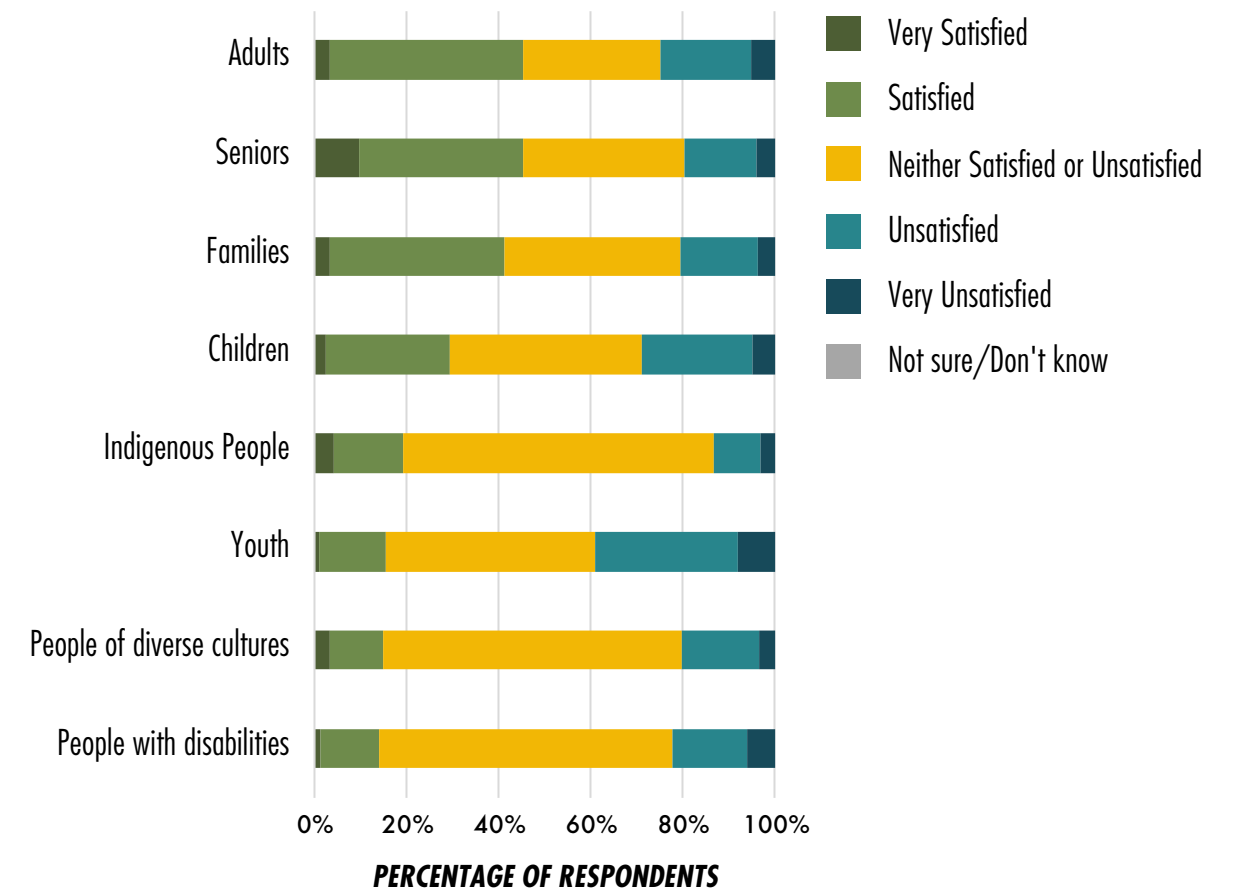




Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: Parks, recreation and culture opportunities in my community are important to my quality of life.

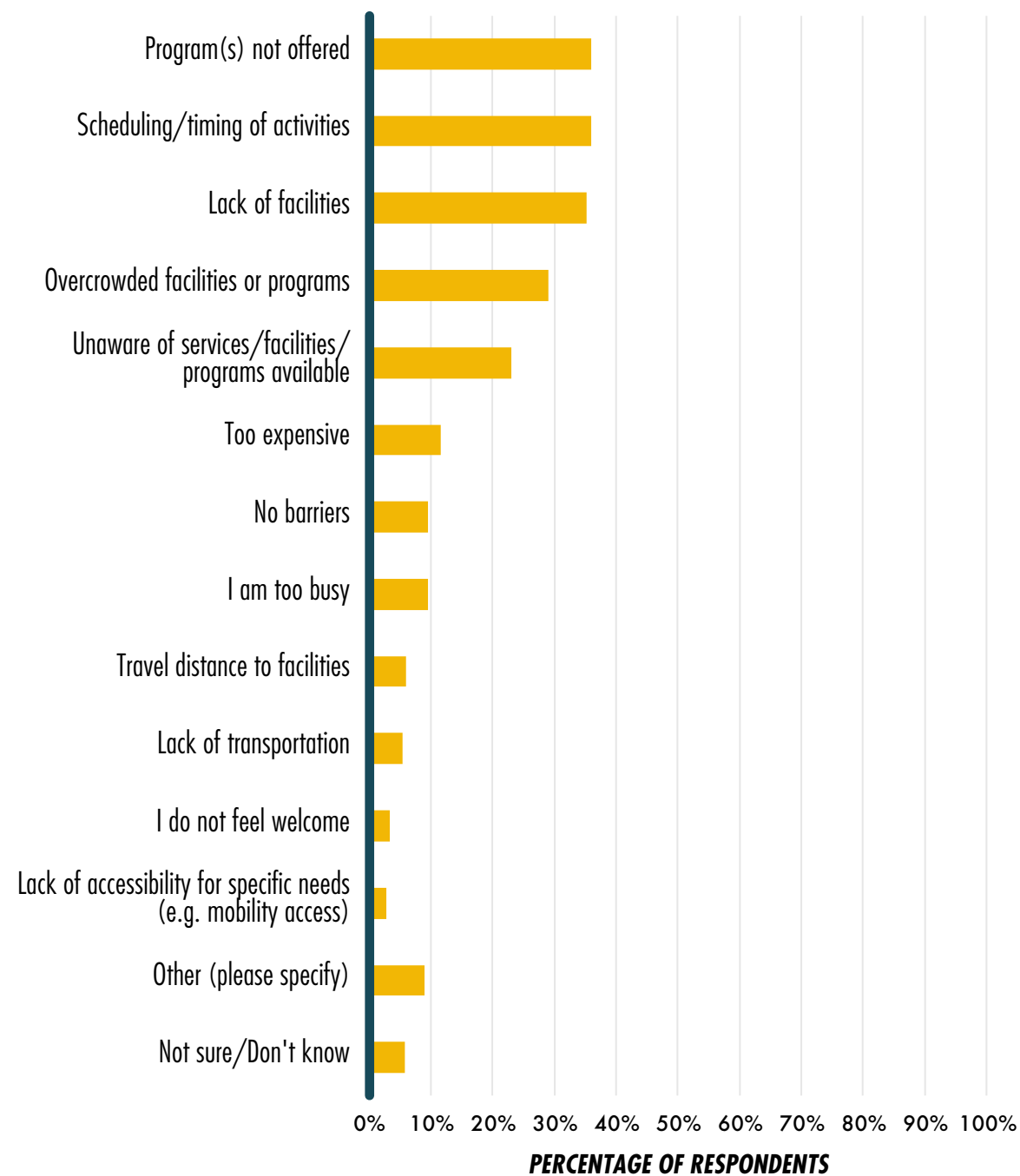


Overall, how satisfied are you with parks, recreation, and culture opportunities for the following populations in the District of Sechelt.

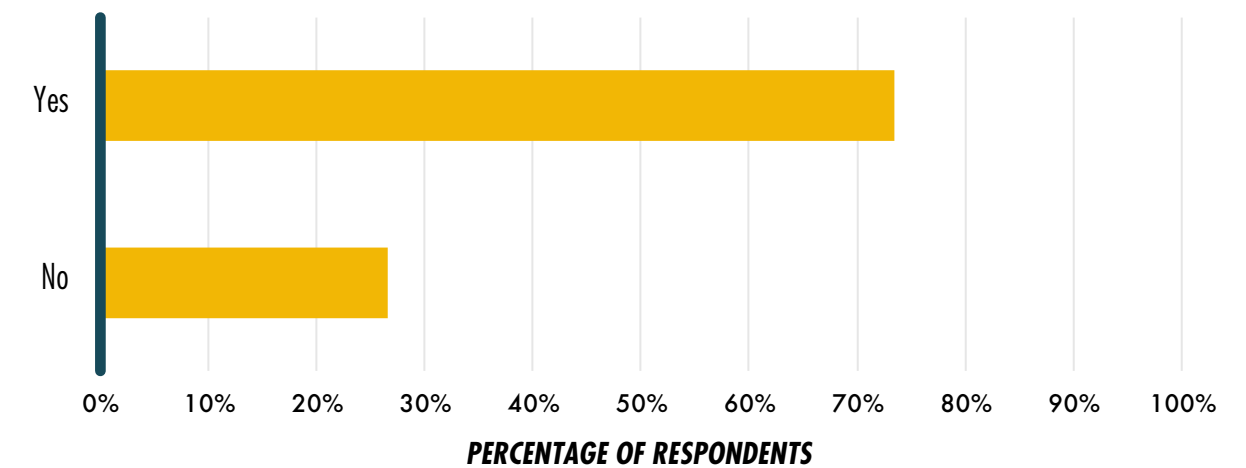




What, if anything, prevents you from participating in parks, recreation, and culture activities more often? Please select all that apply.



Do you travel outside the District of Sechelt to access parks, recreation, and culture facilities and programs?





If you answered “yes” to the question above, please describe where you travel and what facilities and/or programs you participate in.

Respondents identified the following most often:

- Travel for the purpose of sports such as pickleball, soccer, hockey, curling, and gymnastics.
- Utilize various trails for cycling, hiking, and walking.
- Travel to utilize parks in other communities including nature parks, provincial parks, dog parks, and spray parks.
- Utilize various facilities including pools, arenas, gymnasiums, community centres, sport fields, and indoor playgrounds.
- Attend events such as cultural events, concerts, markets, and heritage events.
- Visit culture facilities such as museums, libraries, performance venues, theatres, and galleries.
- Several respondents travel to Gibsons and Vancouver.



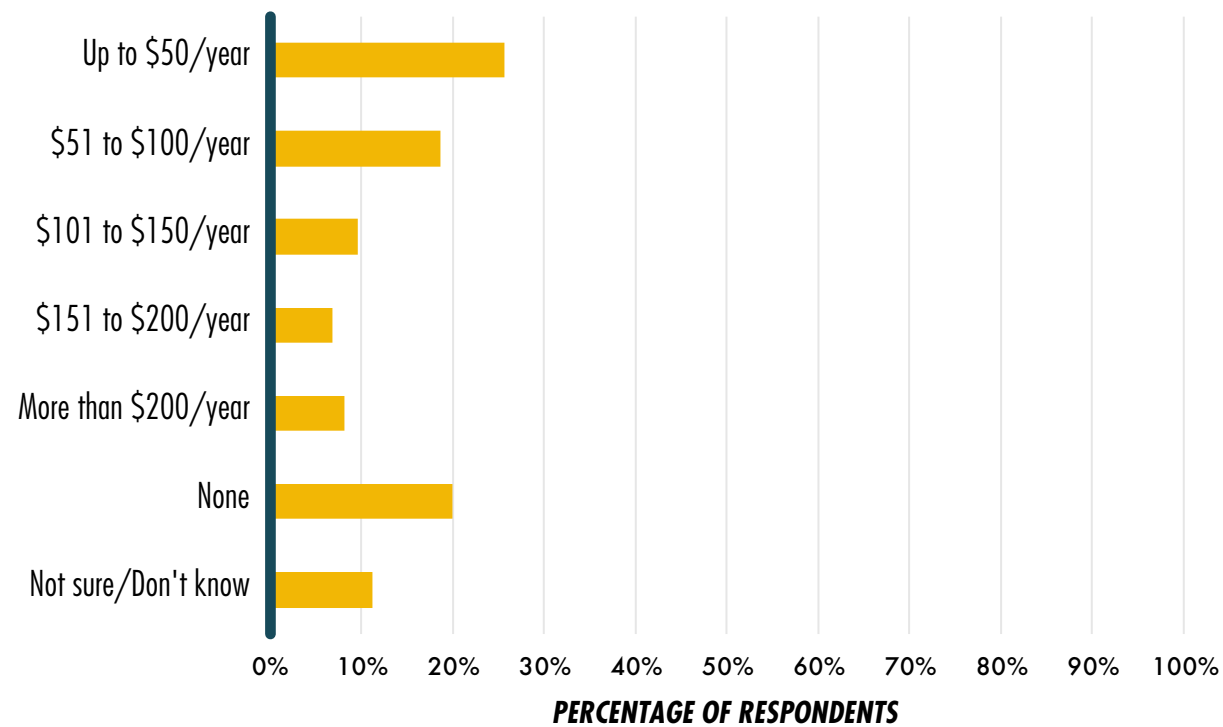
If one improvement could be made to parks, recreation, and culture facilities and program in the District of Sechelt, what would your top priority be?

Respondents identified the following most often:

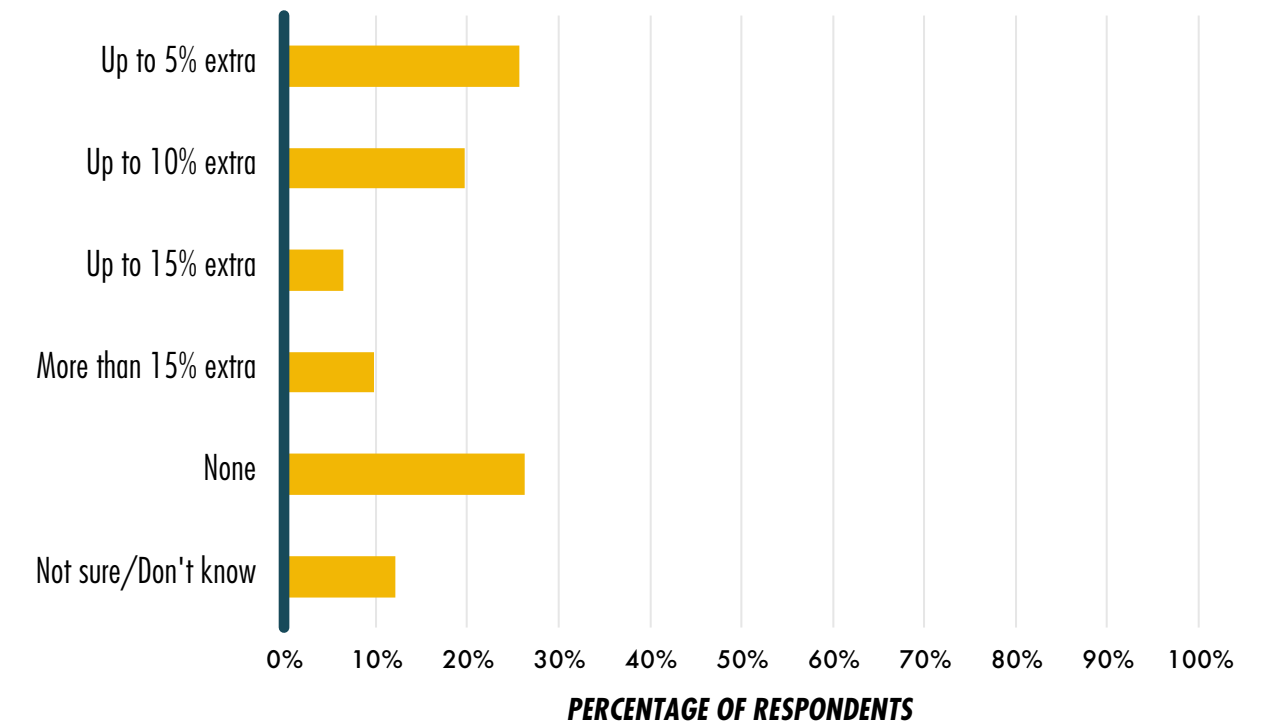
- Need for a dedicated pickleball facility and more indoor/outdoor pickleball courts.
- Need for turf fields that can be used year-round.
- Comments related to enhancing parks, including the need for a bike park, spray park, and enhanced playgrounds.
- Expanded pathways/trails and more connectivity.
- More programs for adults, youth, seniors and families.
- Improved maintenance of parks, trails, and existing facilities.
- Enhanced accessibility.
- Culture facilities including performance venues, theatres, and visual arts facilities.
- Indoor multipurpose facility that can accommodate a variety of uses.
- Expanded hours at the aquatic centre/library.
- More festivals and live performances.
- Comments about indoor facilities including the need for an indoor playground, senior space, and indoor turf.
- Comments about outdoor facilities including the need for a dog park, upgrades to ball fields, and disc golf course.



Would you support an increase in property taxes to better meet parks, recreation, and culture facility and program needs in the District of Sechelt? If so, how much?



Would you support an increase in user fees to better meet parks, recreation, and culture facility and program needs in the District of Sechelt? If so, how much?

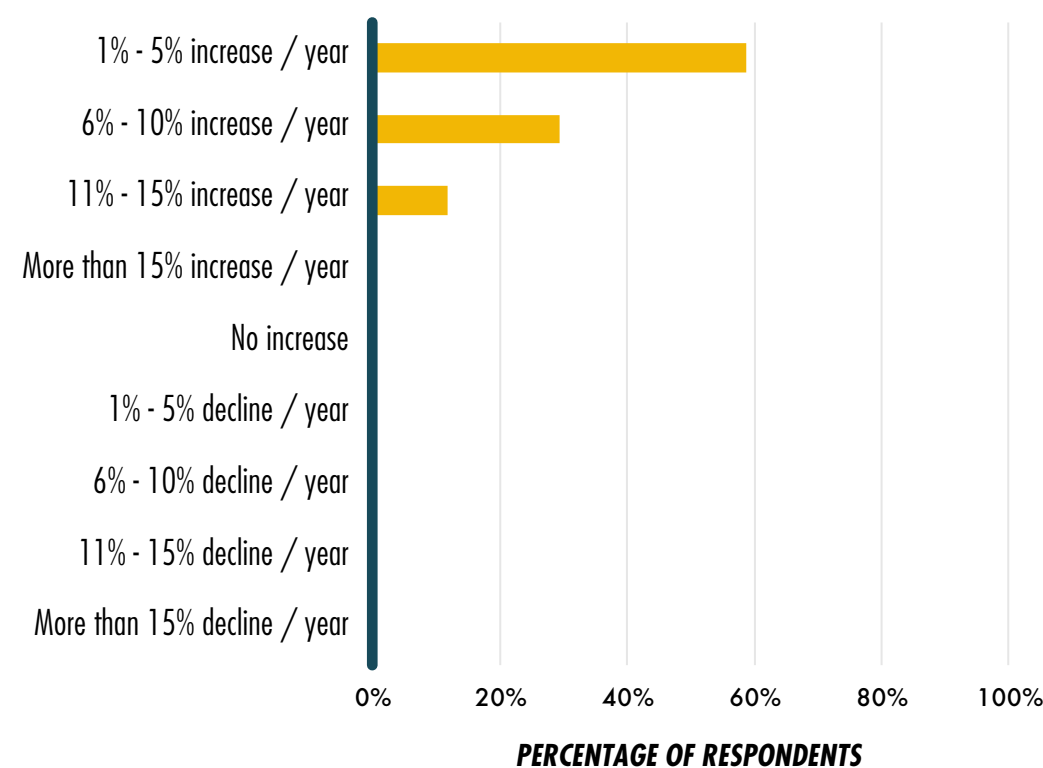


Community Group Survey

A community group survey was conducted from February 2 to March 6, 2026. The objective of the survey was to gain a deeper understanding of community group's perspectives in relation to parks, recreation, and culture facilities and programs in the District of Sechelt. In total, 17 responses were received.



What are your average annual growth projections for your participant base over the next 5 years?



If applicable, please describe any new facilities or upgrades to existing facilities that are needed to better serve your organization and its participants.

Respondents identified the following:

- Upgrades to the Seaside Centre (e.g., upgraded accessible washrooms, acoustics, and solution for garbage removal).
- Sunshine Coast Arts Centre is in need of repair (e.g., plumbing, roof, flooring).
- Rental spaces with state-of-the-art A/V technology along with high-speed Wi-Fi access.
- More availability to fields.
- Moving the garbage can further away from the library book return bins.
- Reconstructing the size of the public washroom stalls at the DOS/Library facility.
- Construction of a public playground closer to the library.
- Permanent or summer-only outdoor-covered area for programming (10-15 people).
- Public outdoor seating/reading spaces at the library.
- Enclosed and covered area outside the library staff room.
- Additional pickleball courts.
- More water fountains, covered with local artwork in more areas of the community.
- Wheelchair accessibility into the water.
- Mission Point Park could be more accessible (e.g., maintaining the park and paths, accessible all gender washroom).
- Dedicate pickleball facility.
- Performing arts facility.



Please describe why these enhancements are necessary to better serve your organization and its participants.

Respondents identified the following:

- Sunshine Coast is lacking washrooms.
- Accessible infrastructure is lacking.
- More use of technology in teaching and learning methods.
- Enhancements needed to ensure safe and secure infrastructure to continue operations and offer arts and culture programming to the community.
- Challenging to find fields to play on, especially during the wet winter months.
- More accessible for the community to attend events.
- No dedicated pickleball space.
- Artists and audiences are drawn to facilities designed to showcase and match the excellent of the presentations.



Please describe any opportunities or challenges your organization experiences in meeting the needs of its participants.

Respondents identified the following:

- The biggest unmet needs of visitors to the community is a lack of public washrooms and accessible infrastructure.
- Improvements in accessible beach access.
- More bike racks and secure bike storage at public facilities.
- Require space that is accessible, ample parking nearby, good heating ventilation, and easy access to washrooms. Challenging to find rental space with all four attributes.
- Brand recognition, visibility and exposure is always a challenge.
- Availability of fields.
- Amount of communication it takes to book fields and find out about conditions/availability when they are booked.
- Need to make plans to get fields lined, which costs time and money, specially if it is unclear if we have access to the field.
- Library needs more space (approximately 3 times more) to meet the needs of its patrons. Staff areas are also beyond inadequate.
- Public washroom stalls are too small.
- Patrons ask why there isn't a library close to the library.
- Mobility and some social. Families will attend these locations when in groups providing another level of safety and security.
- Challenging for the public to visit in-person as we are only open one day a week.
- No accessible safe place to use the washrooms or change into swim wear by the ocean.
- Lack of dedicated indoor courts.
- Poor acoustics, inadequate backstage for artists, cramped foyer, inadequate space for receptions.



How can the District of Sechelt work with your organization to help you better serve the community?

Respondents identified the following:

- Appreciation for the support from the District.
- All-volunteer society. Having access to rental space at a low cost is important.
- Having a point of contact on an ongoing basis.
- Communicate and plan together to develop a new and improved library facility.
- Planned Shishálh Nation events and activities would also us to secure spaces and tables with covers.
- Work with the Sunshine Coast Pickleball Association to build a dedicated facility.
- Inspire and take the lead on the creation of a plan to build a performing arts centre.



If you would like to provide any further comments to inform the study, please do so here.

Respondents identified the following:

- One of ElderCollege's strategic goals is to establish a physical "home base" centrally on the Coast. To that end, as noted previously, we have taken a 1-year lease at the SCAC. While they have generously given us a below-market rate, we will be closely evaluating its cost-benefit over the year as it's an unprecedented financial commitment for our Society. We had a task force researching the possibility of collaborating with another community group or acquiring free space from a supportive partner, but no opportunities were found. Support from the District of Sechelt in pursuing our "space issue" would be welcomed.
- It would be helpful to book and discuss fields with one central group. Currently, each group has different processes and people to talk to, and different websites to check.
- A cultural centre could enhance the Village neighbourhood.
- Curious if there is a process to create opportunities and services.
- Need for a dedicated pickleball facility in the region.
- We can become a centre of excellence for the performing arts.

In Person Engagement Stations

Members of the consulting team visited the District of Sechelt on March 3 to 5, 2026 to conduct in-person engagement stations, a seniors session and youth session. Engagement stations were set up at multiple locations to collect input from community members regarding parks, recreation and culture facility and program needs. The stations had table-top presentation boards where participants could “stick” their input onto the boards. In total, the consultant team engaged with 168 community members.

Outdoor Facility Requests

Parks

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creekside park needs a refresh • Better maintenance at SCRD and provincial parks • Cascade Green Park (interpretive signage looks neglected, municipal signage needs replacements, more work on limiting bike access and bike jumps) • Cover for playgrounds (rain and shade) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More lighting in parks • Covered outdoor areas • More bathroom checks • More washrooms and signage • Water stations • Doggy bags • Off leash pet park • Toddler friendly playgrounds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult swings at parks • More fun equipment for adults in parks • Off leash dog park near ocean • Off leash dog park that has a fence • Love the dog park and playground but they need fences to separate the two • Water park |
|--|---|--|

Trails/Pathways

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend bike path by Reeves and Nickerson • Pathways with stairs and rails • Trail maintenance • More trail maps and signage • More seating on trails • More accessible trails • Trails are busy. Would like more naturalized trails. • More garbage cans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More trail looping/connectivity • Wheelchair accessibility • The Boulevard (limited parking, proper pathways separated from traffic) • Ease of access to activities • Main walking routes are too close to traffic • Kinn Trails are too wet • Trail improvement and more maintenance on a regular basis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike trail from Davis Bay to Gibsons is inconsistent and not cleaned • Would like to get to parks and facilities on bike • Improve walkability to parks • Trail etiquette • More information on which trails are accessible • Address unauthorized mountain bike trails |
|---|--|--|

Outdoor Facility Requests

Fields

- Better sport field maintenance
- More fields
- Need for artificial turf because its easier to maintain and use year round
- Lights
- Baseball/cricket facility
- Astro turf

Courts

- Covered courts (basketball, racquet sports)
- More tennis and pickleball courts
- SD46 partnership with DOS to share facilities for outdoor use

Community Gardens

- Need more pollinator gardens
- Making use of underdeveloped lots for things like community gardens
- More community gardens and opportunity to rent

Other facilities

- Bocce area/lawn bowling
- Boat launch
- Outdoor track
- Splashpad
- Outdoor roller skating
- Fix the floating dock
- Extend Hackett park stage
- More garbage bins at beaches and boat launch

Safety

- AED at trail bay pier
- Trim back hedge between vet and ambulance station on Wharf Ave for safety

Other

- Make use of vacant lots for parking or events
- Extend the seawall
- More marinas
- Volunteer involvement in outdoor areas
- Easier access into the water
- Don't change anything on waterfront blvd.
- Beautification downtown
- Preserve wilderness and parks

Indoor Facility Requests

Library

- Municipal Hall space not used well – expand Library to Seaside Centre. Library needs more space
- Love the Library!
- Good Library

Indoor Facilities

- Bowling alley
- Indoor pickleball courts
- Gymnasium
- Social spaces
- More meeting rooms
- Indoor play space
- More birthday options/rooms at the rec centre
- Indoor soccer
- Dryland hockey
- Public rec centre for kids activities
- Medium sized facility bigger than Mission House but smaller than Seaside
- Multipurpose spaces that can be divided or expanded

Parking

- More parking at Seaside Centre
- More parking at rec centres

Sechelt Arena

- Snack bar at the arena
- Why is the upstairs lounge sitting empty?
- Warmer viewing area

Arts and Culture

- Arts and culture centre
- Another auditorium
- Visual arts creative space
- Performance/rehearsal space
- Makers space

Aquatic Centre

- More hours at the pool (weekends)
- Expand the aquatic centre

Indoor Facility Requests		
Seniors Centre		
Love the seniors centre	Getting to be too small	
Other		
- Cooperate with school gyms - Tool library	- Seaside Centre is important to host events like the market - Keep facilities open longer	Community hall rental is too expensive

Program/Activity Requests

Programs

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tai-Chi • History and heritage events and programs • Educational and life skills course (sewing/cooking) • Mentoring programs • Dance classes • Yoga in the park | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water aerobics/aquafit • Social programming • Summer camps • Outdoor education courses • Outdoor programming for seniors • Morning spin class • More swim lessons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora and fauna tours • More cooking classes • Outdoor programs in parks • Running clinic for trail running • Love the programming at the pool. |
|---|---|---|

Events

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside country music festival • Love the Hackett Park outdoor concerts and Canada Day event • Bring back fireworks at events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More jazz festivals • More art sale events at Seaside Centre • Liked the Sechelt Arts Fest event on Waterfront • Inclusive music event for broader community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawaiian Luau with dance and food • Community bonfire on the beach • Like the downtown food events |
|---|---|--|

Activities

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More things to do in the winter • More birthday party options | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More activities for children/youth • Activities for young people | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More weekend activities |
|--|---|---|

Markets

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy that the Sechelt Farmers Market will continue on Cowie street • Pedestrian only street for things like a night market | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love the Farmers Market • Would like to see the Davis Bay market held on a different day |
|--|---|

Other

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driving safety program • Volunteer training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More space for artists to display artwork • Community involvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pickleball court schedule to book/reserve times for tournaments |
|--|--|---|

Council Input Workshop

A Council Input Workshop was held on March 5, 2026. 6 Councillors attended the workshop. The following summarizes the input received.

- Parks and recreation are essential to the quality of life that residents enjoy in Sechelt.
- Parks should be flexible, well connected, and responsive to resident needs.
- Desire for more interpretation in parks, including First Nations representation and natural interpretation.
- Desire for increased utilization of parks. Opportunity to promote park and outdoor recreation offerings more.
- Desire for more education on trail use, safety, ecology, and categorisation of trail difficulty.
- Enhance accessibility of trails and parks.
- Enhance amenities in some parks (e.g. washrooms, seating, playground equipment, fitness equipment).
- Need for more tools to work with developers on land acquisition for parks and recreation.
- Opportunity to “bookend” the community with feature parks to welcome visitors and demonstrate the importance of parks.
- Desire for new revenue sources and partnerships to support park development and maintenance.
- Need to prioritize action items in the plan and right-size them for the community so that they will be achievable and sustainable.

Appendix G – Volunteer Engagement Program Development

The following outlines how a Volunteer Engagement Program can be developed. Figures 13 and 14 provide case studies for a municipal volunteer program and examples of park-based activities that such a program could support.

Steps to Develop a Volunteer Engagement Program

1. Needs Assessment and Objective Definition

- **Community Services Department Volunteer Needs Assessment:** Assess volunteer needs for the Community Services Department. Create detailed descriptions of volunteer needs.
- **Community Group Volunteer Needs Assessment:** Connect with community groups that deliver recreation, parks, and culture opportunities to assess their needs and goals. As part of the assessment, it is recommended that detailed descriptions of their volunteer needs are created (i.e. required skills/knowledge, number of volunteers, positions, etc.).
- **Define Objectives:** Establish clear and specific objectives for volunteer development, for the District and for community groups. It is recommended that measurable goals are also created to track progress.

2. Promotion and Engagement

- **Develop a Promotional Plan:**
 - **Identify Target Audiences:** Identify the specific demographic(s) or group(s) of individuals that align with the volunteer opportunities.
 - **Leverage Multi-Channel Marketing:** Utilize a variety of channels for promotion, including social media, email campaigns, print materials, websites, community events, local media, and through the activities of local organizations. This may include regularly posting engaging content about volunteer stories, volunteer testimonials and upcoming opportunities on social media platforms. Furthermore, develop a calendar to plan and schedule promotional activities across various channels during high need periods.
 - **Promote Opportunities:** Promote current Community Services and community group volunteer opportunities in a central online location. This may include the District's website or social media platforms, and those of community groups seeking volunteers.
 - **Implement a Volunteer Referral Program:** Work with community groups to develop a referral program that incentivizes current volunteers to refer friends, family, or colleagues to volunteer with different community groups.

3. Volunteer Support and Recognition

- **Volunteer Onboarding:** Develop an onboarding training plan to familiarize volunteers with their roles and responsibilities.
- **Regulatory and Safety:** Assist community groups with regulatory and safety requirements (e.g. criminal record check assistance, insurance/liability support, health and safety program supports, etc.).
- **Volunteer Training and Skill Development:** Determine if there are common competencies related to volunteer roles and offer skill development opportunities for volunteers.
- **Recognition and Appreciation:** Establish a system to recognize and appreciate volunteers for their contributions and achievements. This may include an organized volunteer appreciation event, discounts for programs, certification programs, or awards.
- **Feedback and Evaluation:** Collect feedback from volunteers regarding their experiences, challenges, and recommendations for improvement.

Figure 13. Engaged EG

The Town of East Gwillimbury, Ontario delivers a program known as the “Purple Shirts” that attracts up to 100 volunteers annually. They include teens, adults, seniors, and families with children. Volunteers support events in the community through a variety of roles such as greeting event attendees and working at activity specific booths. Town staff provide pre-event training and information sessions for volunteers, as well as on-site event training.³¹



Photo Credit: Town of East Gwillimbury

Figure 14. Examples of Park-Based Activities that a Volunteer Engagement Program Could Support

Programming*Ongoing drop in or registered activities.*

- outdoor fitness and wellness classes
- walks and bird watching days
- nature based arts and crafts classes
- visual and performing arts
- kids camps and clubs
- monthly park clean up events

Animation*One-off or frequently changing activities and installations.*

- community picnics
- interactive art installations
- intro to sport afternoons
- themed one-off drop-in activities
- nighttime nature/stargazing nights

*Photo Credit: OBX Go Far**Photo Credit: District of Sechelt*

Appendix H – References

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- ²⁹ Statistics Canada. (2021). 2021 Census of Population.
- ³⁰ Retrieved from: <https://www.ravenscrytheatre.com/facility-specifications/>
- ³¹ Expedition Management Consulting. (2025). Town of East Gwillimbury Events Strategy.