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**STAFF REPORT**  
**FEBRUARY 24, 2020 – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**MULTI-USE REC. FACILITY – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION UPDATE**

**PURPOSE:**

To provide Council with a brief update regarding the community engagement efforts undertaken so far for the design phase of the multi-use rec. facility project.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Public Participation Plan for the Multi-use Rec. Facility project was approved on July 8, 2019 and is focused on the design phase of the project.

**PROCESS UPDATE:**

The Public Participation Plan initially proposed that the community engagement for the design phase of the project would be completed by this time of the year. However, the pool situation that occurred in July (after the participation plan for this project was approved) resulted in the need to extend timeline for engagement activities for this project. Specifically, the Plan showed that work with the Sport and Rec. Working Group, user groups, and community-at-large, would be completed by this point. While the majority of this work has been completed, the final two steps for design phase engagement are still in process.

To ensure the feedback from user groups and the community-at-large is incorporated as much as possible into the design of the facility, a three-part design engagement process has been used:

***Part 1 – general preliminary design feedback (completed)***

- Activities completed for this phase included user group meetings and workshops facilitated jointly by the Town and Working Group members, and two open houses
- 12 different user groups have participated so far
- 5 of Coaldale's 6 schools have participated so far
- 2 community open houses were held with a total of approximately 40 participants
- Over 500 individuals have provided feedback through Part 1 activities
- Close to 100 different ideas for indoor and outdoor amenities and activities have been shared (approx. 70 indoor and 30 outdoor)

### ***Part 2 – refining general feedback from Part 1 (completed)***

- Town staff has reviewed all ideas with the project architects and the majority of ideas have been costed
- The refining process has focused on grouping ideas for indoor/outdoor activities and amenities into broad categories including ‘not feasible’, ‘possibly feasible’, ‘feasible’
- Nothing has been decided formally and instead the categories are being used to help organize if, how and where different ideas can be incorporated into the facility most effectively and efficiently
- A brief online survey was open from the week of December 9 to the week of January 13 and a total of 294 respondents provided feedback regarding how they would prioritize a number of the optional items that were desired as identified in Part 1 of the community feedback.

### ***Part 3 – Final series of preliminary design consultations (completed)***

- A series of four 45-minute design workshops were led by the project architects on January 15 and 16, and were attended by 35 community members.
- The ideas shared between the architects and the community members helped add depth to the understanding of how certain aspects of the facility can be designed, programmed and operated
- At these events Town staff also noted questions, ideas and concerns attendees had and a project Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) supplement will be prepared and posted on the project webpage soon.
- The Sport and Rec. Working Group met with the project architects for a design workshop later in January, where feedback from the January 15 and 16 meetings was discussed further and ideas regarding how to best incorporate the community’s feedback were shared.

### **FINDINGS FROM THE SURVEY:**

The survey provided an opportunity for respondents to rank each of the top 9 ‘standalone’ amenities/activities that were requested as a part of the Fall 2019 engagement outcomes. The survey focused on standalone amenities/activities as they typically represent the higher-cost amenities/activities that require their own dedicated space.

The 9 amenities/activities that were included in the ranking survey were (see next page):

**Table 1: Stand-alone amenities and activities**

Climbing wall (think Ascent Climbing Centre in Lethbridge)
Indoor playground (a very popular amenity in other newly built centres these days)
Archery
Hockey training centre (think a small area of artificial ice and a row of nets)
Bouldering area (think Ascent Climbing Centre in Lethbridge)
Squash and racquetball court
Boxing
Trampoline
Beach volleyball (this would be fun! Sand and space may be a challenge)

This is in contrast to the many activities and amenities that require less space and/or are more based on individual user groups having their own equipment that can be set-up and taken down efficiently enough that multiple activities/amenities can share 'flex' spaces.

These 'shared space' activities/amenities include:

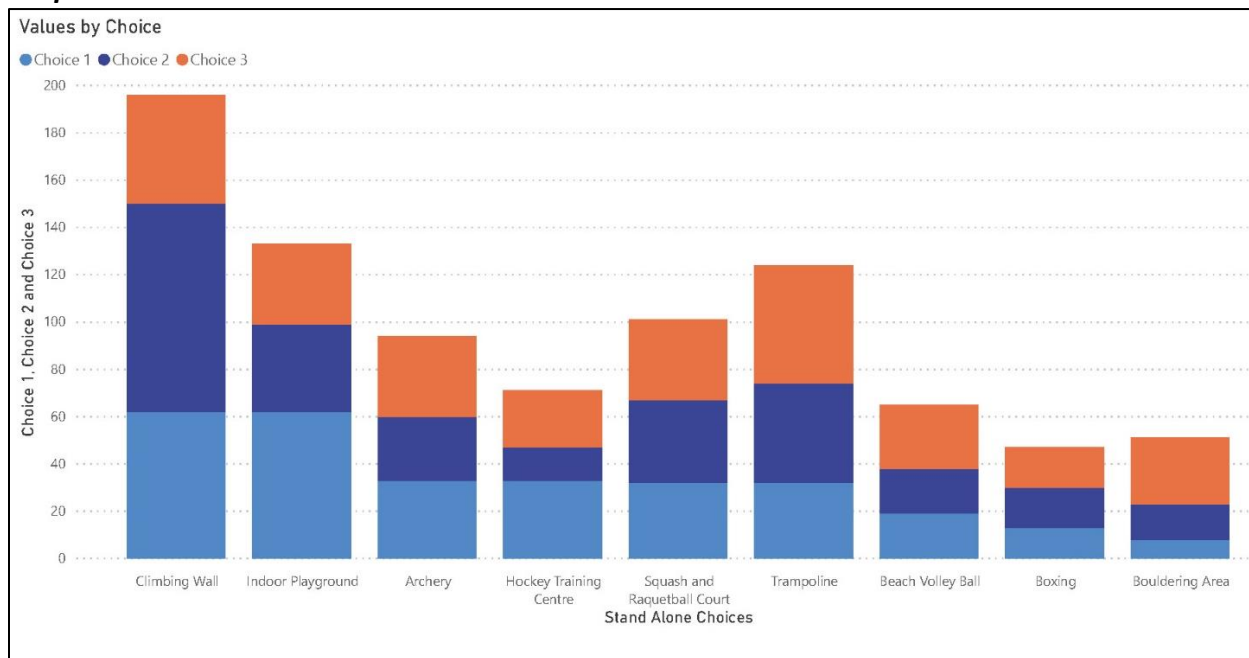
**Table 2: Shared space amenities and activities**

Wrestling	Indoor parkour
Bumper balls	RC track
Laser tag	Racing simulator
Yoga	Indoor driving range
Bouncy castles	Indoor obstacle course
Batting cages	Gymnastics
Zipline	Banquet and conference space
Restaurant/café	Dojo
Meeting rooms	Fencing
Arts and crafts studio	

### **Survey results**

Ultimately, the survey findings provided a 9-part ranking of the nine standalone amenities and activities shown in Table 1 above. Because survey respondents were asked to rank all 9 choices, the results needed to be synthesized in a way that identified the most popular choices. The top 3 choices from each respondent were graphed and the results are as follows:

**Graph 1**



As a way of double-checking the top three choices for all respondents was a reasonable way of summarizing the data, all scores for the nine options were aggregated and weighted, which resulted in the following:

**Graph 2**



Comparing the weighted scores to the top 3 choices of each respondent, the ranking is reasonably consistent, with one or two options switching places by one rank.

The three highest ranked choices included: climbing wall, indoor playground, and trampoline.

Ultimately the ranking exercise was not intended to identify the top three activities/amenities and forego further discussion on any other options. Instead, the ranking exercise represented a way of checking with the community on which of the optional uses should be considered for inclusion in the initial build, versus those that might be able to be incorporated later on or if sponsorships/grant funding becomes available for certain activities/amenities.

Respondents also had an opportunity to share written feedback, the results of which are included in the attached survey responses summary.

### ***Respondents***

The survey was responded to by a total of 294 people. By age category, those 294 respondents included:

- Ages 10 to 19: 33% (97 respondents)
- Ages 20 to 29: 13% (41 respondents)
- Ages 30-39: 20% (60 respondents)
- Ages 40-49: 16% (47 respondents)
- Ages 50-59: 7% (23 respondents)
- Ages 60+: 8% (26 respondents)

### **FINDINGS FROM THE PRELIMINARY DESIGN ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS:**

Many excellent ideas and suggestions were shared at the workshops. The most common feedback included:

- A strong desire to have spectator seating included in meaningful ways
- Almost unanimous feedback to forego space dedicated to a trampoline area
- A strong desire for the flex space to be designed so that it can be used to host conferences, weddings, and other types of events
- Some kind of large door access to the open areas (field and court spaces)
- Debate regarding whether to start small and build more over time, or build it all initially (with specific reference to elements such as the climbing wall, indoor playground, etc.)
- A desire to avoid competing with existing local sport/recreation focused businesses

### **MOVING FORWARD:**

The 3-part preliminary design engagement process may be considered a success as the feedback collected has been invaluable to ensuring the facility reflects the desires of the user groups and broader community as much as is reasonably achievable.

The following next steps are recommended:

**1. Sport and Rec. Working Group and Council roundtable workshop**

This step is recommended as a way to finalize the preliminary design phase of the project, and would be beneficial as it will help to ensure the community's feedback, and the perspectives of the Sport and Rec. Working Group are shared and discussed directly with Council prior to the architects moving into the detailed design phase of the project.  
TO BE HELD: Later in February

**2. The development of an FAQ for the project**

This step is suggested as a matter of best practice as it represents a way of sharing project information a centralized location and in a manner that is quick to find and easy to share.

TO BE RELEASED: Later in February

***Transitioning from Preliminary Design to Detailed Design***

Once preliminary design feedback is completed the project architects will transition to detailed design, which should allow for the construction tendering process to be undertaken by the Fall of 2020.

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. THAT Council accept this report for information.

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Respectfully Submitted:

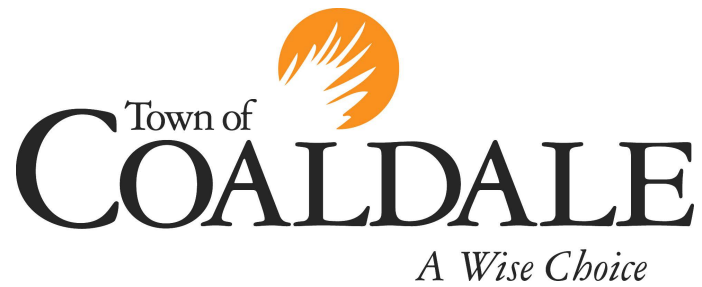
Spencer Croil, RPP MCIP  
Director of Planning and Community Development

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Multi-use Rec. Centre survey summary

This report has been prepared in consultation with the following listed departments:

Department	Signature
Kalen Hastings, CAO	



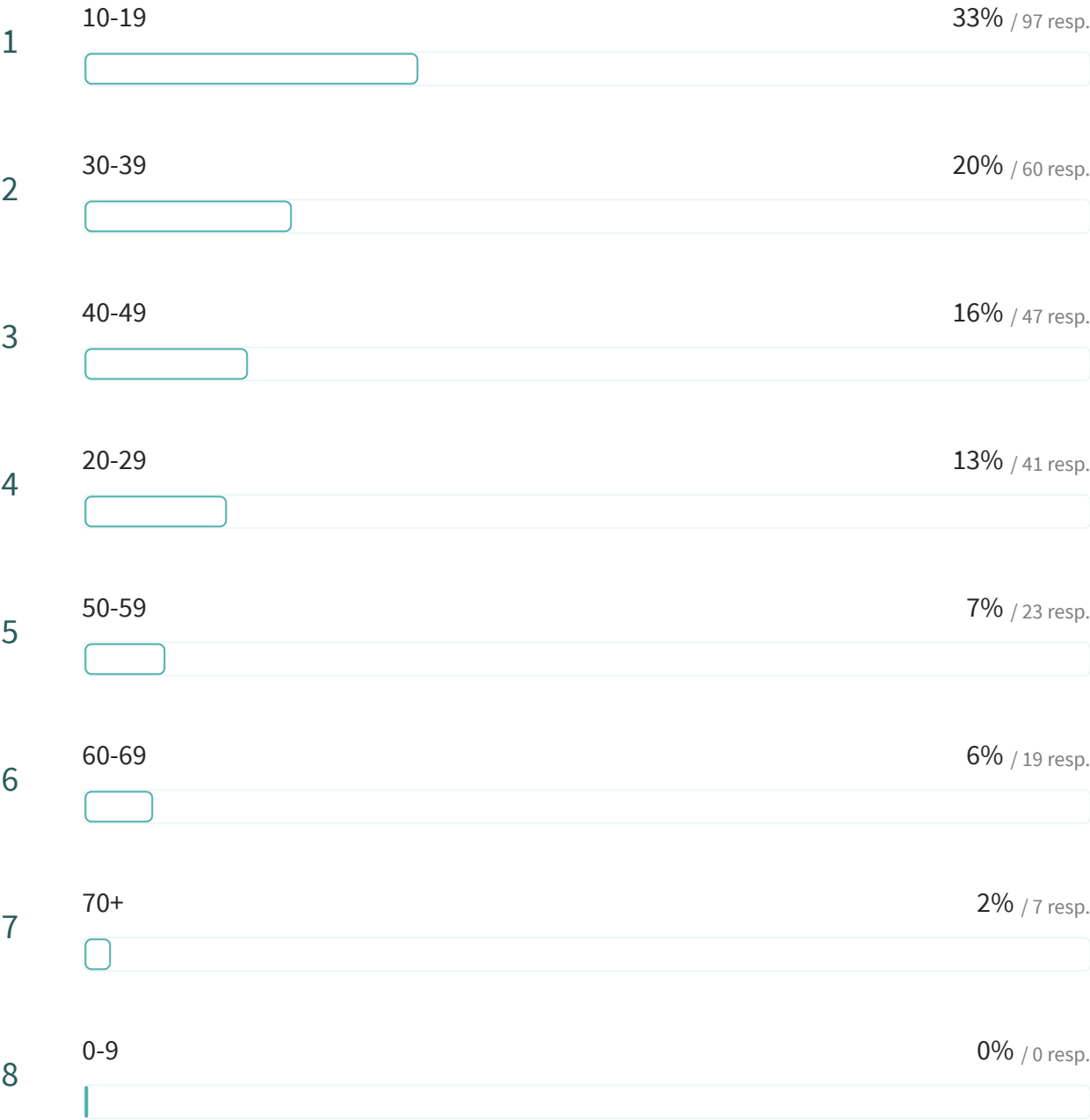
# **Multi-Use Recreation Centre Design Survey Results**

January 2020

294 responses

Please indicate your age range.

294 out of 294 answered

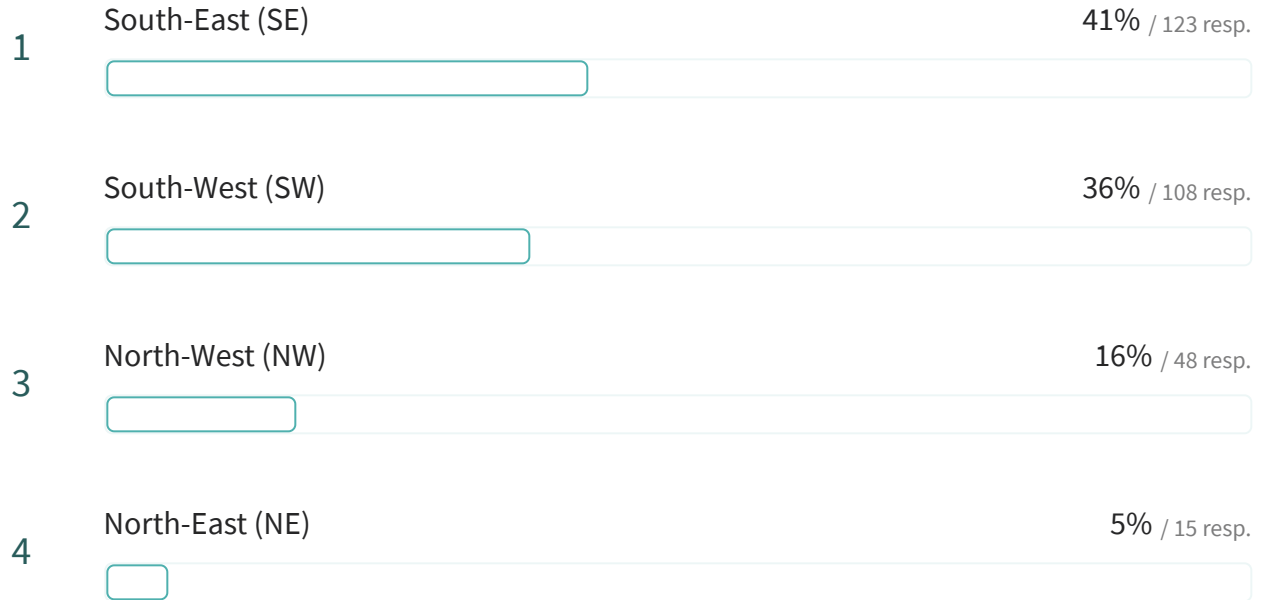






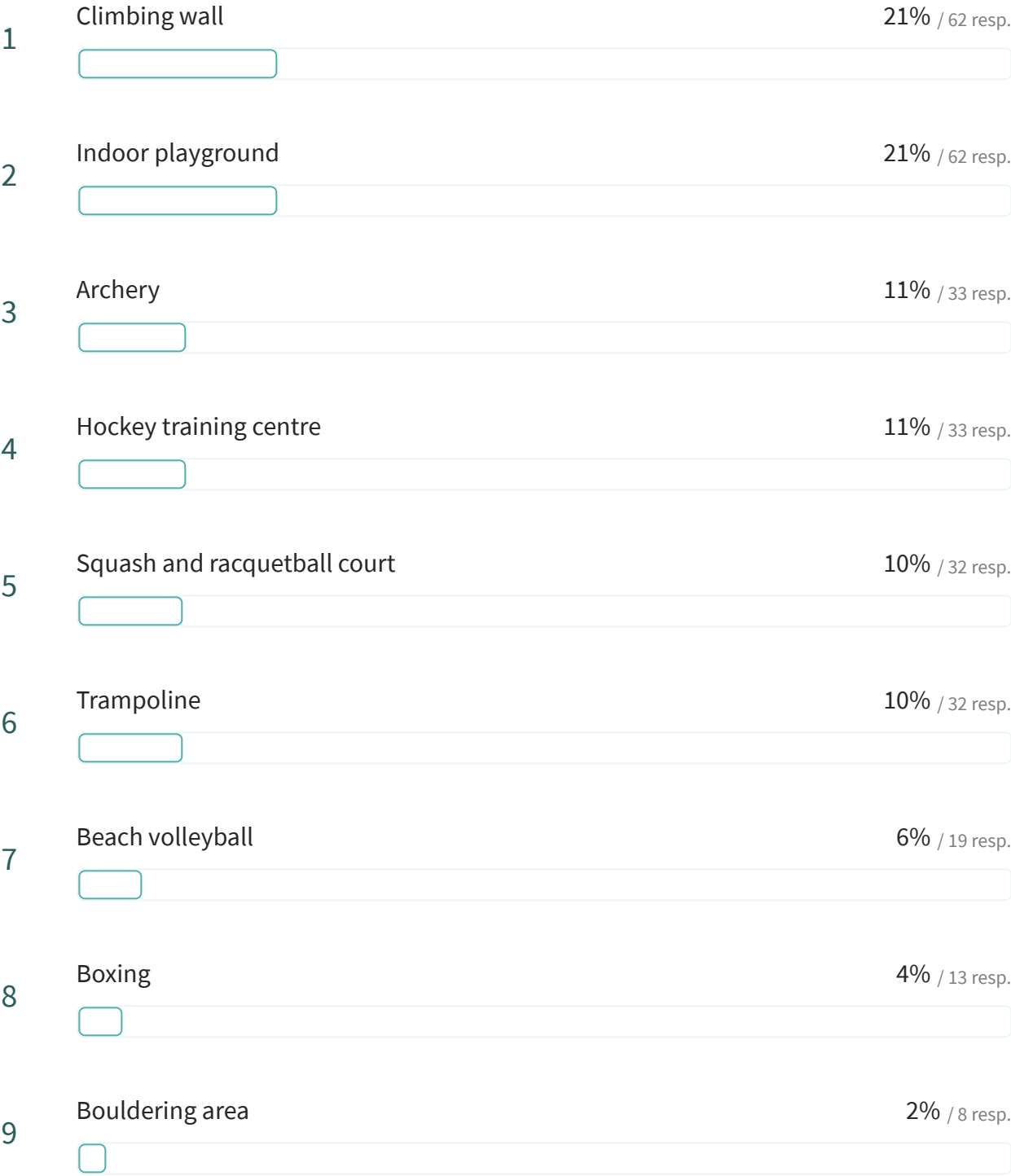
**Great! What area of Town do you live in?**

294 out of 294 answered



Select your most desired standalone amenity from the dropdown list below:

294 out of 294 answered



**What is your #2 choice?**

294 out of 294 answered

1	Climbing wall	29% / 88 resp.
2	Trampoline	14% / 42 resp.
3	Indoor playground	12% / 37 resp.
4	Squash and racquetball court	11% / 35 resp.
5	Archery	9% / 27 resp.
6	Beach volleyball	6% / 19 resp.
7	Boxing	5% / 17 resp.
8	Bouldering area	5% / 15 resp.
9	Hockey training centre	4% / 14 resp.

What is your #3 choice?

294 out of 294 answered

1	Trampoline	17% / 50 resp.
2	Climbing wall	15% / 46 resp.
3	Archery	11% / 34 resp.
4	Indoor playground	11% / 34 resp.
5	Squash and racquetball court	11% / 34 resp.
6	Bouldering area	9% / 28 resp.
7	Beach volleyball	9% / 27 resp.
8	Hockey training centre	8% / 24 resp.
9	Boxing	5% / 17 resp.

What is your #4 choice?

294 out of 294 answered

1	Archery	19% / 57 resp.
2	Trampoline	14% / 42 resp.
3	Climbing wall	12% / 37 resp.
4	Bouldering area	10% / 31 resp.
5	Indoor playground	10% / 31 resp.
6	Beach volleyball	9% / 28 resp.
7	Squash and racquetball court	8% / 26 resp.
8	Boxing	7% / 22 resp.
9	Hockey training centre	6% / 20 resp.

What is your #5 choice?

294 out of 294 answered

1	Trampoline	17% / 52 resp.
2	Indoor playground	12% / 38 resp.
3	Beach volleyball	11% / 34 resp.
4	Archery	10% / 32 resp.
5	Squash and racquetball court	10% / 32 resp.
6	Bouldering area	10% / 31 resp.
7	Boxing	9% / 28 resp.
8	Hockey training centre	8% / 26 resp.
9	Climbing wall	7% / 21 resp.

What is your #6 choice?

294 out of 294 answered

1	Squash and racquetball court	13% / 41 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
2	Bouldering area	12% / 38 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
3	Archery	12% / 37 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
4	Boxing	12% / 37 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
5	Trampoline	11% / 33 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
6	Beach volleyball	10% / 32 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
7	Indoor playground	9% / 29 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
8	Hockey training centre	8% / 26 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
9	Climbing wall	7% / 21 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	

What is your #7 choice?

294 out of 294 answered

1	Boxing	17% / 50 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
2	Bouldering area	15% / 45 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
3	Trampoline	13% / 39 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
4	Squash and racquetball court	12% / 38 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
5	Hockey training centre	11% / 34 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
6	Beach volleyball	9% / 29 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
7	Indoor playground	8% / 25 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
8	Archery	7% / 21 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
9	Climbing wall	4% / 13 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	



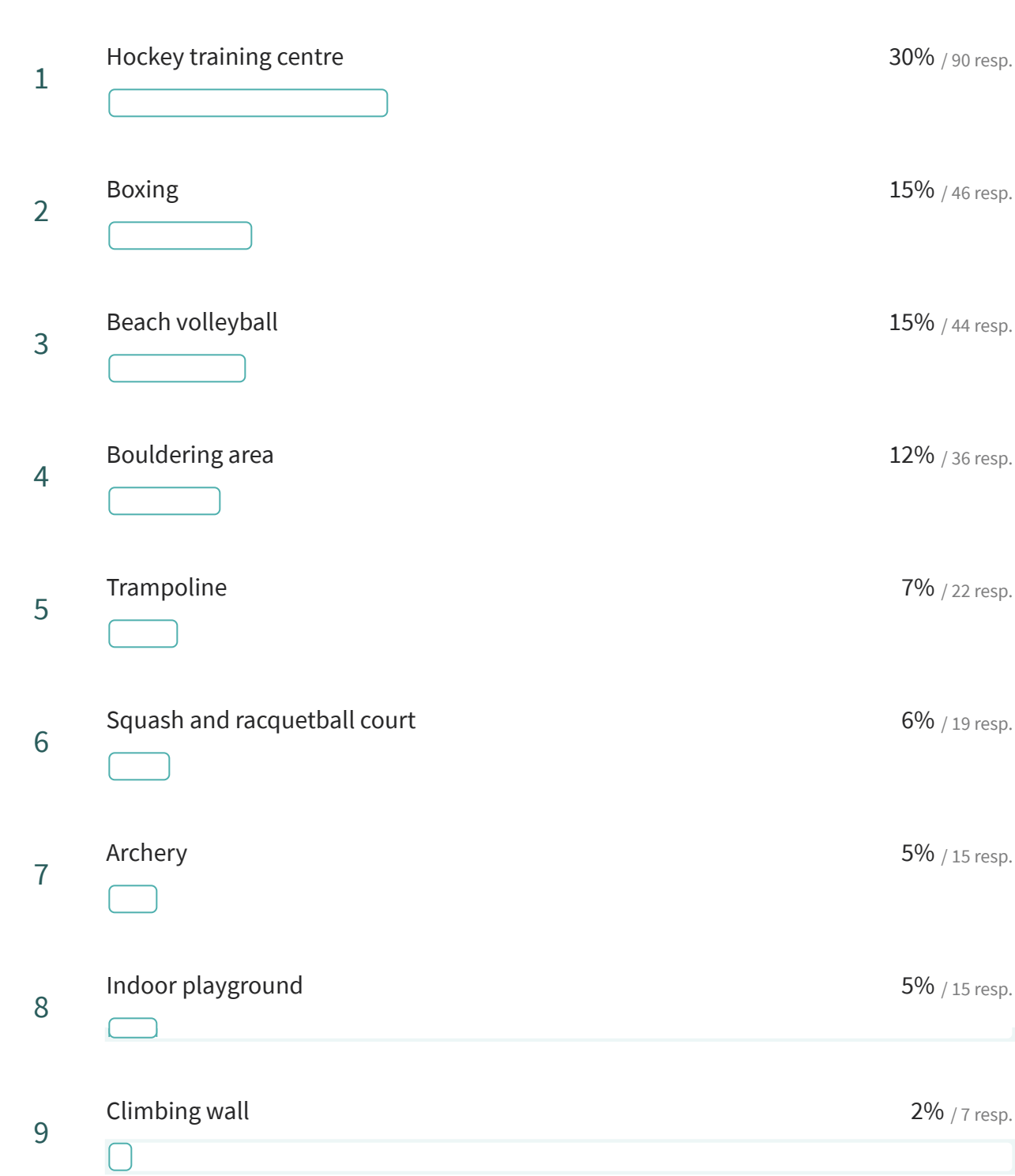
What is your #8 choice?

294 out of 294 answered

1	Beach volleyball	17% / 50 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
2	Boxing	16% / 49 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
3	Bouldering area	12% / 38 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
4	Squash and racquetball court	10% / 32 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
5	Trampoline	10% / 32 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
6	Archery	10% / 30 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
7	Hockey training centre	9% / 28 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
8	Indoor playground	9% / 27 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	
9	Climbing wall	2% / 8 resp.
	<input type="text"/>	

Finally, what is your least desired choice?

294 out of 294 answered



### Do you have any other suggestions?

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- Indoor Volleyball Court
  - Indoor Pool
  - Mini Golf
- A gym with fitness classes
- A playground type gym for toddlers to play in small area!
- A POOOL
- A small community SO CLOSE to Lethbridge we should NOT be doing any of these things or doing a rec centre. [REDACTED] This has got to be the stupidest idea ever... [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
- a workout and cardio area
- An arcade! With classic games like pac-man, street fighter, etc. And tabletop games like air hockey.
- An indoor pool
- An indoor swimming pool!!!
- An indoor walking track
- Anything hockey
- Awesome, we'd love to hear your suggestions!
- Axe throwing
- Badminton/Tennis Courts; Batting cages; indoor driving range; basketball courts; pickleball courts
- Ball hockey paintball/airsoft arena
- Basketball court
- Basketball needs to be there
- Basketball, volleyball courts, pool, gym, elevated track
- Batting cages and baseball/softball training, indoor diamond and turf
- Booster juice
- Change the location to the South side of town...also stop the champagne taste and be more responsible on a beer budget...listen to the adults more!!! who will be paying for it

- Courts could be utilized for other group games like off wall volleyball, etc.  
Walking and running Track around outside parameter.  
Think multi sports when designing the areas. As mentioned could the court be used for non racket games.  
Activities for non active/senior people.
- Curling rink
- Dance, gymnastics, football, soccer, lacrosse
- Exercise gym that can be used for physical education by the high school, and for public use.
- first off, I don't believe we need most of the things listed, how big is this building going to be and what is the projected cost for the initial stage. The kids should never have been consulted, they are not the ones paying for it and when they get old enough to pay taxes, they won't be here
- Fitness room
- Have a shooting machine for in the basketball court
- honestly i personally think the people of coaldale would love a new swimming pool
- How about a rec centre like pincher creek has with a rink, an indoor pool and indoor gym. This type of facility is much more versatile and with that much more useable. Anything else that is super specific will not be used as much.
- I personally think the whole thing is a waste of taxpaying dollars. I would like to see all the money go into a new skating rink and a new swimming pool. You are going to spend a huge amount on fixing the old pool then what happens if more go wrong with it. Think people not just spend
- I think a hall for meetings , weddings, banquets and extra curricular classes like yoga or gymnastics. Could rent it out to help pay the Bill's, a consession would be great too. This would provide jobs and opportunities for all ages.
- i think there isn't a place for teens to go and hang out. i think there should be a student lounge where kids can go legally
- I truly am not interested in any of the options offered and do not plan on using the facilities. Besides, it is not in a location that my grand children would be able to access the facilities either since these are planned on the wrong side of the tracks!
- I wish that there could be a pool, Our kids need something to do in this town
- Ice rink
- I'd love an indoor walking/runningtrack.
- If combined with the school, we need at least 3 full size basketball courts. KA alone uses 1 all evening, Baker most of the evening. Can't expect to share only 2 courts between Gr. 7 to 12 and community

- Indoor pickle ball court
- Indoor pool
- Indoor pool, indoor soccer, concession, indoor volleyball and basketball courts for adult recreational leagues, indoor throwing/kicking and batting cages
- Indoor pool. Let's keep our kids occupied year round.. including the toddlers !
- Indoor soccer
- Indoor soccer  
An option for group exercise class use
- Indoor swimming
- indoor swimming pool and hot tub and walking against the current/river area
- Indoor swimming pool with waterslides.
- Indoor walking / running path (I've seen where it is elevated above the main floor encompassing only the outer 8-10feet next to windows)
- It is important to look at the appeal a stand alone activity will have to the whole town. For example a hockey training centre appeals to a small group within the town compared to an indoor playground that appeals to anyone who has children, not just those who play hockey.
- It would be nice to have an outdoor area within a nearby green space to have a disc golf course.
- Large indoor area bigger than just a soccer pitch, with height for baseball or football/flag football or frisbee
- Make a high school
- Multiple people have wanted a skatepark, it's one of the most requested ideas, the one here is now dangerous and the sport of skateboarding is growing in coaldale. We get kicked out from skating street spots so we need a place where we can perform  
In a safe environment
- My only suggestion would be to go back to the pre-step 1 phase and properly consult with the public about the location. I realize it is too late now and unfortunately that is a decision Coaldale will have to settle with.
- New community pool
- none
- One would be to have your videos audio be much clearer than it was. Sounded like the guy was talking through a kazoo the whole time. And why if we are building a multisport rec center, why would we not consider a hockey rink be included with this. It's difficult enough to get ice time in Coaldale.
- Public access fitness centre/gym

- running track with some fitness equipment or and area for workouts
- SKATEPARK!!!!
- Small Arcade
- Soccer should only be included in facility if the users pay 100% of the cost. Already too many fields and resources expended on this small vocal user group in town. Also, being as the province is not funding the school this project should also be defferered indefinitely.
- Speed gun zone! A spot to shoot pucks or lacrosse balls or throw baseballs with a radar would be awesome
- Swimming pool
- Swimming pool!! Plan for the next 50 years like you did for the old pool lasting that long or more.
- The most utilized recreation facility that could be incorporated into this proposed Rec complex is an indoor swimming pool, which provides year-round recreation/exercise to all ages of Coaldale residents. It appears this Town Council to determined to exclude this as a possible choice.
- Trampoline
- Trampoline
- Update to the curling rink
- Virtual reality
- Walking /running track  
Sauna/hot tub
- Walking track  
Hockey arena
- We do not need an indoor climbing wall/bouldering area there is one in Lethbridge. We also could use the gym space for boxing and archery. As for a hockey training centre, we have an arena already! There is also Get Air/Wear em Out in Lethbridge so we do not need trampolines and a playground indoors
- We need a small movie theater with two shows playing at once or even a little upgrade on the skatepark please. But the thing I want the most is a mini bowling alley for people to hangout at and have fun
- we should get a gym, a track, a pool with water slides, jugo juice
- We should get a quading and dirt biking track
- What about indoor soccer ? Lethbridge and Coaldale have always been trying to find enough field time

- Why didn't you give the option of "None" ? The project is too ambitious. The Town should keep competition with private businesses out of this facility; e.g., fitness centre causing them to go out of biz or pay high rates to relocate into this facility? Where is the biz plan?
- Would really like to see an indoor pool. Our family would really enjoy having something like that close to home.
- You need to change the location, this needs to be built south of the tracks.
- Youth center

**Do you feel this survey was helpful to your overall understanding of the subject? What could be improved? What did you like? Any suggestions for next time? Let us know in the space provided below!**

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- As has been the pattern of this Town Council: make overall decisions without consulting residents, then present a fait accompli, ignore citizen groups that oppose this, provide propaganda and ask for approval, while guiding/arranging for choice that only includes what Council decides originally.
- Ask these questions before council votes to build. This process was done poorly from the beginning.
- Basketball gym
- Could explain subject further
- Create more options such as "None" and more area to comment. This is a leading survey tool. What happens when the project is seen to be overbuilt for a small town. Are taxes to pay for that mistake? Long term financial planning is required to show where \$\$ to come from with contingencies noted.
- Different way to order preferences
- Go door to door and ask people in person. I think that you would have a more accurate sample from the community that way, there is no way to ensure equal opinions from everyone on a voluntary online survey.
- helpful to provide background information and what has been done so far.
- Hi
- I do not think that the survey was very useful since you limit possible activities before hand.
- I feel the town is ignoring the people who are going to end up paying the taxes for this rec center Town council is ignoring the citizens and going ahead with this no matter what. The council needs to listen to the tax payers, NOT the kids and coaches. Make better use of the school facilities

- I got a little impatient with the spoken video portion of the survey. I would have preferred some quick written points and then moved on to the actual questions.
- I would like a weight room in the rec center
- I would really like to see swimming somewhere in this town. And perhaps it's in the design which I've heard is not but could be wrong.
- It depends on direction. I felt the choices limited in activities.
- It was descent but the options for the rec centre do not reflect the values of the community as something like beach volleyball does not relate
- It was fine the way it was
- It was good
- Looks good
- Make the items chosen in the drop-down menus disappear after they have been selected
- Meh. There should be alot more options instead of one's leading to certain groups that particular people
- No
- Nope
- Not really, as usual the town has their mind made up on what they are doing. Input is basically useless as they will do what they want
- Overall this was a good survey, I realized you need a character limit for suggestions as you have many to read. I would have liked a bit higher character limit for the previous question asking for suggestions.
- Sure
- Sure
- the survey was fine.
- The survey was great, except for the five minute video.
- The survey was very user-friendly and easy to understand. Some visuals including initial design drafts would help to understand the scope of the project.
- The tax payers who will be paying for this should know how much taxes will rise by!!The cost of each item you have already decided on putting in .You should have put this to the taxpayers in a vote as we are talking millions of dollars. Most residents cannot afford higher taxes.
- The video has terrible audio, makes it hard to receive the message.
- The video moved too quickly and the volume was a little too low. Would be impossible for hearing impaired to participate.



- There is no need to fill out all 8 choices; top 5max. No talk about a gym or indoor walking track
- This is cool and all. But with something that  
's not all sports like art studio or classes offered
- This is helpful to know what ammenties are being considered.
- This survey was vague. You could offer more options in the amenities. The audio in the video could've been more clear or have subtitles because the quality was very poor. Also please do not include hockey as they already a monopoly in our town.
- This survey was very organized, I liked the video at the start that explained the process so far. Short and simple and easy to follow. User friendly, which makes it more likely to have more input from the community. Great job. I appreciate that the town is seeking opinions and hearing us.
- this was a waste of my time there are no choices I would or could take part in
- trampoline
- Trampoline
- Very helpful to include the video before the survey!
- Y
- ya
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- yes i do, and i don't really think it needs improvement, its short, and not long and boring.
- Yes was great
- Yes was helpful. The ranking question would of been helpful to eliminate answers as you select them, thus making the selection shorter.
- yes- writing bigger was hard to read the on screen tables...
- Yes, I think I understand the whole plan. I'm not really sure what could be improved yet.
- Yes. Excellent set-up and way of gathering community feedback.
- Yes. Nothing to improve it was very simple and straightforward
- your questions were pertinent and clear