

Panorama Recreation

Central Saanich Recreation Needs Assessment: Results

Panorama Recreation | September 2019



Overview

Through Panorama Recreation's 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, feedback was received that additional recreation programming would be desired within the District of Central Saanich ("the District"). In 2018, a \$5,000 Creating Healthy Places Grant was secured through BC Healthy Communities Society and the PlanH Healthy Communities Fund to support completion of a recreation needs assessment in Central Saanich. The intention was to collect community feedback to get a more comprehensive look at what specific programs and services would be of short and long-term interest. Project goals were:

- to review existing programs and services facilitated by Panorama Recreation in Central Saanich.
- to identify strengths, opportunities, and new and emerging needs related to recreation programs and services.
- to assess and identify what types of programs and services residents would like to see offered within Central Saanich.
- to examine current and projected demographics to identify trends and opportunities.
- to identify opportunities for new partnerships and increased collaboration in the delivery of programs and services.
- to actively engage residents with different engagement methods when collecting feedback and
- to identify types of amenities and facilities that would best meet community desire and need.

In-person and electronic methods were used to gather feedback from key stakeholders and the general public. The feedback collected through this needs assessment is an invaluable reference for staff when considering adjustment and augmentation of existing programming to better meet community need. Related to this project was the strategic initiative of developing and implementing a collaborative model for evaluating facility needs on the Saanich Peninsula. Staff completed a Central Saanich facility inventory in 2017.



Figure 1. Project promotional postcard.

Background

Central Saanich is a friendly and active community whose leaders are committed to working towards the creation of a healthy, sustainable community in which citizens can thrive while creating a harmonious relationship with the natural environment. It is home to over 19,300 residents which includes those from Tsartlip and Tsawout First Nations. Demographic projections for the District based on the 2011 and 2016 Census Profiles show notable growth in the number of preschool and school age children, along with those 60 years+, and a decrease in the number of youth 10-19 years of age.

Table 1

District of Central Saanich demographics with age group percent change from 2011 Census to 2016 Census

Age Group	Total Population by Census Year		Percent Change (%)
	2011	2016	
0-4 years	560	700	+22.2
5-9 years	685	725	+5.7
10-14 years	865	805	-7.2
15-19 years	1,120	950	-16.4
20-24 years	815	905	+10.5
25-59 years	7,070	6,990	-1.1
60-74 years	3,100	3,825	+20.9
75 years+	1,725	1,920	+10.7

Under the direction of the Peninsula Recreation Commission, Panorama Recreation provides a comprehensive selection of recreation programs and services for residents and visitors of the Saanich Peninsula. Panorama is committed to increasing citizen awareness of the benefits of recreation on quality of life, and to providing ongoing opportunities that facilitate its integration into residents' regular routines.

Currently, in Central Saanich, Panorama offers a variety of registered programs in two multi-purpose spaces at the Central Saanich Cultural Centre - including yoga, group fitness, workshops and various community recreation programs such as Out of School Care and dog training. Working in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Victoria, Panorama provides space at the Cultural Centre for their after school program, and hosts a weekly Teen Drop-In at their Central Saanich location. At Centennial Park, Panorama offers a year-round nature program for early years, along with seasonal day camps and family programs. Centennial Park and Pioneer Park are weekly locations for Panorama's free, summer Play in the Park program which includes weekly Yoga in the Park and other feature activities. Panorama also utilizes school spaces when available such as Bayside Middle School classrooms for language programs and the gymnasium during the Saanich Peninsula Amateur Basketball Association season.

Process

The recreation needs assessment process began with the formation of a working group comprised of individuals each representing a demographic(s) within Central Saanich. Input was sought from this group in development of the engagement plan and process, particularly how best to reach the various demographics comprising such a diverse community. Staff collaborated with this group and internal teams to develop a stakeholder list and the project questions. Stakeholders identified included both specific groups, as well as more generalized demographics, including School District 63 (SD63), preschool providers, community health providers and government services, First Nations, sport organizations, service clubs, adapted programming providers, neighbourhood groups, the general public and others like the Central Saanich Chamber and art and non-profit organizations. Staff worked to connect with anyone living, working or recreating in Central Saanich.

Staff worked with the District of Central Saanich on hosting the needs assessment information and survey on their existing Let's Talk Central Saanich community engagement platform. Advertisement of the invitation for feedback was shared via:

- the Central Saanich spring utilities newsletter.
- the May publication of Seaside Magazine.
- e-newsletter to current Panorama Recreation e-newsletter subscribers.
- email to stakeholders.
- posters and promotional postcards posted and distributed at Central Saanich coffee shops and grocery stores, and at existing Panorama Recreation facilities and
- boosted and unboosted posts to Panorama Recreation's social media pages, and sharing of these posts to various community groups.

In addition to collecting feedback via electronic means, Panorama Recreation staff attended the Brentwood Bay Festival, Tsawout Community Spring Feast, an SD63 Indigenous Education Community Meeting, and sessions with Stelly's Secondary and Bayside Middle Schools. Event attendees were invited to either provide structured feedback through completion of the project survey or unstructured feedback through comments left on posters.

Results

In addition to 438 completed surveys, the results include feedback from students, conversations with stakeholders, comments collected at community events and input from Panorama Recreation staff.

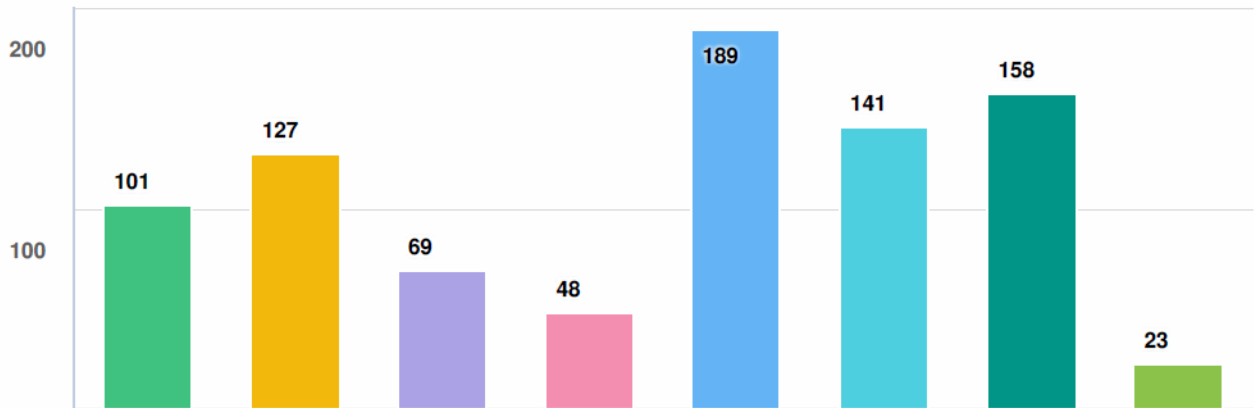
Who were the respondents?

The majority of survey respondents were residents of Brentwood Bay and Saanichton from households of two to four individuals. When asked which age groups represent their household, 68% noted having dependent children at home, 43% were adults between 26-45 years of age and 32% were those 46-59 years of age. A large number of respondents fell within the 60-75 year old age group (36%) with the least number being those 76 years+ (5%).

Table 2

Total Number of Respondents per Area Based on Postal Code Provided in Survey

Area	Total Number of Respondents
Brentwood Bay	144
Saanichton	142
Sidney	58
Victoria	55
North Saanich	36
Esquimalt	1
Out of Province	1



Question options

● 0 - 5 years
 ● 6 - 12 years
 ● 13 - 18 years
 ● 19 - 25 years
 ● 26 - 45 years
 ● 46 - 59 years

● 60 - 75 years
 ● 76 years+

(438 responses, 0 skipped)

Figure 2. Responses to survey question 3: “Please indicate which age groups represent your household.”.

What recreation programs or services are participants currently involved in?

When asked what recreation programs and services people had participated in within the boundaries of Central Saanich, the top survey responses were workshops & education (50%), drop-in sports (36%), weight room (34%), music & dance (32%), day camps (23%) and outdoor recreation & nature programs (23%). For Bayside Middle School students, drop-in sports, arts, music & dance, outdoor recreation & nature programs and weight room were the top responses, with mind & body and teen drop-in being the least. In the format these students were surveyed, rehabilitation, tennis and mind & body had not been provided as options. For Stelly’s Secondary School students, drop-in sports, fitness classes, teen drop-in, weight room and arts were the top responses, technology and rehabilitation being the least. Based on staff knowledge of the current recreation programs and facilities available within Central Saanich, staff suspect that some respondents may have considered programs and services falling outside the boundaries of the District when answering this question.

What recreation programs and services would participants like to see?

When combining the number of respondents who indicated *definitely need more* and *could use more* for the options provided, the top 10 responses, ranked, were:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Drop-In Sports (incl. Badminton, Basketball, Pickleball, Volleyball) | 5. Arts |
| 2. Mind & Body (Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi, etc.) | 6. Workshops & Education |
| 3. Fitness Classes | 7. Weight Room |
| 4. Outdoor Recreation & Nature Programs | 8. Music & Dance |
| | 9. Out of School Care |
| | 10. Day Camps |

Table 2

Percent of Total Responses per Recreation Program and Service Type for Survey Question 5:
“What recreation programs and services would you like to see, or see more of, within Central Saanich?”

Recreation Program and Service Type Option	Percent of Total Responses by Response (%)				
	Definitely Need More	Could Use More	Neutral	Have Enough	Not Applicable
Arts	18	21	22	5	4
Day Camps	13	15	17	6	13
Drop-In Sports (incl. Badminton, Basketball, Pickleball, Volleyball)	29	20	19	6	6
Fitness Classes	21	25	17	8	2
Mind & Body (Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi, etc.)	20	27	19	7	2
Music & Dance	16	19	21	5	5
Out of School Care	20	11	17	2	16
Outdoor Recreation & Nature Programs	22	23	18	3	4
Rehabilitation	7	12	28	3	11
Technology (ie. Computer Courses)	7	11	30	5	9
Teen Drop-In	7	10	23	4	17
Tennis	7	9	26	9	11
Weight Room	24	14	22	7	3
Workshops & Education	16	22	21	3	4

Of the Stelly's Secondary School students surveyed, additional fitness classes, teen drop-in and weight room received equal interest, with outdoor recreation and nature programs and drop-in sports closely behind. Bayside Middle School students noted desire for more arts, drop-in sports and outdoor recreation & nature programs, followed by music & dance and weight room with equal weighting.

The survey provided an opportunity for respondents to provide some open feedback. Overall, the feedback provided was complimentary of current programs and services and focused on maintaining and expanding services along with facilities. The feedback can be divided into three distinct themes - programs and services, timing and facilities and infrastructure. Themes have been summarized below.

- Programs and Services

Of the comments provided regarding programs and services, most commonly mentioned was the desire for gymnastics for children. Expansion of lunchtime and evening drop-in fitness offerings, pickleball, along with art and more afterschool programming for school age children followed. It was noted that more programs of all types should be offered in existing Central Saanich facilities like the Central Saanich Cultural Centre and schools, to make recreation opportunities more accessible to residents and alleviate the growing demand on existing Panorama Recreation facilities. With transportation being mentioned as a barrier to participation, the suggestion was also made of establishing a free shuttle from Central Saanich to existing Panorama Recreation facilities, following a regular route and schedule.

*"I think more classes need to be offered in the evening. Like most people pre-retirement, I work during the day. You have a number of classes that interest me, but they are not offered in the evening. Even the ones that are offered start too early -- people who work downtown and get off a 4:30 cannot make a class at 5."
- Survey Respondent*

- Timing

Another common theme was regarding program timing. Most frequently mentioned was people being unable to participate in some existing programming due to conflict with work hours or other commitments and that more late evening or weekend programming would be desired in exchange. Depending on individual schedules, there was desire for:

- more lunchtime fitness offerings.
- both less and more immediate after school offerings for children.
- both less and more daytime offerings for adults and
- both less and more evening and weekend offerings for adults, children and families.

- Facilities and Infrastructure

Many comments were related to recreation facilities and infrastructure. Most noted was the desire for a satellite recreation facility within the District of Central Saanich, with a weight room and multi-purpose space, to enable expansion of programs and services, increase accessibility via active transportation modes and alleviate the growing demand on existing Panorama Recreation facilities. Brentwood Bay and closer to Keating were two recommended locations, with Greenglade Community Centre being referenced as a desirable example. Secondly was the strong note of need for indoor and outdoor pickleball facilities to accommodate the existing high community demand and future growth. Some comments indicated that the lack of suitable spaces for pickleball was due to the fact that current options do not allow for year-round use or casual, drop-in play. Disc golf was the third most commonly mentioned, accompanied by comments of it being inclusive, intergenerational and a low-impact, enjoyable and financially accessible outdoor recreation option. A swimming pool (both outdoor and indoor), e-charging stations, curling rink and bike park were also common responses.

“Offering a free disc golf course allows young families and the elderly of any socio-economic status to get outside and play together, as discs are very affordable. The overall building cost of a disc golf course is also very low, so for the expenditure it would be a great addition to Central Saanich.” - Survey Respondent

“Pickleball is undeniably the fastest growing sport in North America and serves the widest age range of our population. It contributes greatly to the health and well-being of all players and can be played by everyone regardless of their skill level. It is time for informed decision-makers to recognize the need for more indoor and outdoor facilities for Pickleball.” - Survey Respondent

Feedback was collected not only regarding the type of recreation programs and services that would be of interest, but also what influences peoples decisions when choosing and accessing them. Proximity to home (within 3 kilometres)(69%), cost (65%) and facility accessibility (31%) were the top responses.

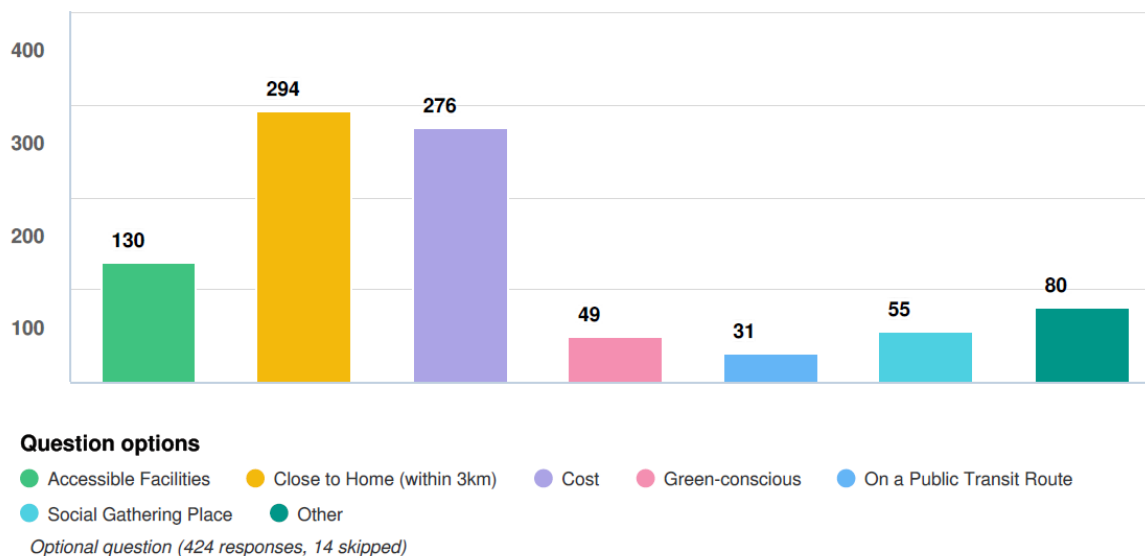


Figure 3. Responses to survey question 9: “What influences your decision when choosing recreation programs and services?”.

Questions asked when the respondent typically accesses programs and services. Of the 420 responses received, weekdays: 49% noted 4-7pm, 37% 9am-12pm and 28% 7-10pm. On weekends, of the 413 responses provided, 47% noted 9am-12pm, 37% 12-4pm and 28% 4-7pm.

Conclusion

Panorama Recreation continues to be recognized as a leader in recreation on the Saanich Peninsula through offering programs and services that are desired. Having an ever growing and changing community, the feedback collected through this review provides a current and clear picture of recreation desires within Central Saanich. It will be an invaluable reference for Panorama Recreation and the District of Central Saanich staff when considering enhancement, adjustment and augmentation of programs and services short- and long-term.

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- Brent Banfield, Student at Stelly's Secondary School
- Elaine Venables, Director of Children's Programs & Counselling Services with Beacon Community Services
- Glenys Cavers, Director of Thrift Shops and SHOAL Centre with Beacon Community Services
- Jessie Jim, Acting Health Director for Tsawout Nation
- Marlene Dergousoff, Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood Committee Coordinator
- Michael Bird, President of the Central Saanich Senior Citizens Association
- Mua Va'a, Tsartlip Youth Program Coordinator
- Ryan Braun, Community Member & Teacher at Stelly's Secondary School
- Sarah Walker, Student at Stelly's Secondary School

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