

**KAMARA**



**2024**

**PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENT  
SUMMARY & SURVEY  
RESULTS**

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**RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

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## Introduction

The Ramara Master Recreation Plan review began in June of 2024. As part of the review a Public and Stakeholder Engagement Plan was developed. The engagement strategy and schedule were designed to ensure the key principles were followed:

**Inform** – To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

**Consult** – To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

**Involve** – To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.

**Collaborate** – To partner with stakeholders in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

**Represent** – to ensure all interested or concerned stakeholders and Indigenous representatives and communities are appropriately represented throughout the project.

The Engagement Plan included a Public Survey, a Public Open House, followed by staff, council and community group interviews. The Public Survey was launched on July 8, 2024, and ran until August 5, 2024. The survey was available online at the Township of Ramara Website and advertised through social media and direct email to previously identified community groups and potential stakeholders. The Recreation Department staff also made hardcopy surveys available at various municipalities facilities.

The Public Open House on July 29<sup>th</sup> involved two sessions: an afternoon Open House hosted at the Township of Ramara Municipal Office in Brechin and an evening session held at the Ramara Recreation Centre. The afternoon session had 11 residents in attendance including 2 council members (Councillor Bell & Councillor Tuju). The evening session had 6 in attendance including 2 council members (Councillor Snutch & Councillor Tuju). Residents included representation from the Ramara Library Board, Ramara Trails Committee, Ramara Soccer and the Lake St. John Association.

Following the Public Open House, staff and council interviews were set up and in-person and virtual meetings took place from July 31 to August 12, 2024.

Staff interviews and discussions included:

- Jennifer Connor, Director of Legislative Services/Clerk
- Justine Bayne, Recreation and Community Services Supervisor
- Abby Harper, Recreation Programmer
- Melody Madden, Program Assistant
- Walied Zekry, Director of Building and Planning/Chief Building Officer
- Jennifer Stong, Planner
- Manon Higgins, Director of Finance/Treasurer
- Josh Kavanagh, Director of Infrastructure and Drainage Superintendent
- Tony Stong, Director of Fire and Rescue Services/Fire Chief

Council Member Interviews and discussions included:

- Jennifer Fisher, Ward 2 Councillor
- Dana Tuju, Ward 3 Councillor
- Joe Gough, Ward 4 Councillor
- Sherri Bell, Ward 5 Councillor

Stakeholder groups and community organizations were identified early in the project. Each group was informed by email of the project, the public survey and Public Open House. Planscape Inc. directly contacted each community group via email to determine if they wished to participate in a follow-up interview or meeting. Follow-up interviews included the following groups:

- Ramara Trails Committee
- Orillia District Snowmobile Club
- Ramara Chamber of Commerce

It is also noted that Janet Banfield, CEO of the Ramara Public Library attended a Public Open House Session and provided additional comments by email.

Consultation with Rama First Nation is on-going. At the time of this report no formal response from Rama has occurred. The Township of Ramara has identified this consultation and future partnerships with Rama First Nation as high priority. Township staff have committed to creating a meaningful relationship with the Rama First Nation recreational staff counterparts.

## Consultation Themes

The following themes have been noted from the consultation efforts to support the creation of the Ramara Recreation Master Plan. They are not in priority order and have been provided for convenience, but it is recommended that the fulsome summary of the consultation touchpoints of this project be read in their entirety in Appendix A and B.

- Multi-function / multi-use spaces are preferred
- Trails and trail connections between centres and as local features are supported
- Pickleball appears to be the priority sport court recommendation
- Spaces are under-utilized and the recommendation is to improve what exists
- Safety and accessibility on trails and facilities is critical
- Beaches and lake access are underutilized
- Parking in public spaces is difficult and prohibits expansions
- Partnerships for programming are a big opportunity
- The library serves as a community hub and should be supported
- Lagoon City “residents only” theme

## On-Line Survey Summary Learnings

The on-line survey provided excellent feedback and should be considered for consistent use by Township staff as a tool to gather and assess information regarding recreation use, needs and recommendations. The following points are contextually important for supporting the preparation of the Ramara Recreation Master Plan.

- Over half of respondents are over 60 years of age.
- Over 70% of respondents were female
- Over 80% of respondents are permanent residents
- There was a fairly equitable spread of respondents from each Ward
- Many respondents are part of an existing community group
- 55 % of respondents currently swim, 33% play pickleball, 32% engage in a book / reading or social club
- Almost 43% of respondents engage in a recreational activity not listed in the survey
- 88% of respondents note that they walk or hike
- Over 50% of respondents use the Ramara Centre for activities, compared to less than 20% use for each of the other existing facilities

- Approximately 40% of respondents are satisfied with the programs provided by Ramara and approximately 10% are either unsatisfied or very satisfied
- Approximately 41% of respondents are moderately satisfied with the facilities provided by Ramara, with about 8% very satisfied, 22% note very satisfied and 13% unsatisfied
- Interestingly, approximately 24% of respondents indicate that they never use any recreational program or facility in Ramara and 21% use them weekly with just over 3% indicating that they use programs or facilities daily
- Approximately 76% of respondents travel outside of Ramara to engage in recreational activities one to four times per week
- Approximately 50% of respondents are satisfied with the existing walking and cycling trails and approximately 33% are unsatisfied with the existing trails
- Trails, a recreation centre (with a gym / fitness / dancing facility), pool and pickleball courts are the facilities that respondents would most like to see in the future
- The main reason preventing respondents from using existing facilities and programs is that they aren't offered
- Respondents want programming offered through the week or 7 days per week vs. on the weekends
- An in-door pool and/or multi-use recreation centre are the top items on respondent's wish list
- Asked to narrow down a priority project for the Township, 13% of respondents selected trails, 11% selected a multi-use recreation centre and 10% selected an in-door pool
- Fitness / sporting activities were deemed to be the most beneficial to residents
- Users report getting their recreational information from social media or an email list most predominantly and prefer these methods of communication
- User fees could be supported by respondents (please note that this was only a yes / no question and that no amounts or costs informed the responses)

## Appendices

The following results are attached summarizing the Public Engagement:

**Appendix A: Interviews, Public Open House Comment Summary**

**Appendix B: Public Survey Results**

## APPENDIX A: Interviews, Public Open House Comment Summary

Below are summaries of the discussions and interviews that took place with the Township of Ramara staff, Council and community groups. Interviews took place from July 31 to August 12, 2024.

Facility or Program	Staff Input	Council Input	Community Group Input	Open House / Comment sheets
<b>Facilities / Infrastructure</b>	<p>Comments and recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-function Outdoor Space in each community node</li> <li>• Proper indoor gym</li> <li>• Walking Track</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> <li>• Splashpad</li> <li>• “multi-use” &amp; “multi-purpose” investments</li> <li>• Meeting space, gathering space, &amp; socializing</li> <li>• Pavilions at parks</li> </ul> <p>One comment was made addressing the idea of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sport pitch vs soccer pitch and that thinking about all field sports could open new opportunities</li> </ul> <p>If money was not an object, limited support for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ice Rink (1)</li> <li>• Indoor Pool (2)</li> </ul> <p>There was an underlying tone that Orillia and Brock offered facilities to support indoor ice, and an arena is not a priority.</p> <p>Additional feedback for outdoor space discussed the ideas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outdoor art/murals</li> <li>• Branding and Signage</li> </ul>	<p>Comments and recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of Splash pads in serviced areas (Brechin, Lagoon City &amp; Atherley)</li> <li>• Multi-purpose sports courts</li> <li>• Playgrounds at each main park or hall</li> <li>• Make Parks a destination</li> <li>• Centralized Facility</li> <li>• Brick and Mortar project over Sports Dome concept</li> <li>• Bring back a Brechin Library</li> <li>• Hubs and shelters along trails; trails should begin and end at something</li> <li>• Amphitheatre/meeting place</li> <li>• Addressing parking at parks and beaches</li> <li>• Need for more common/gathering space</li> <li>• Community Gardens</li> </ul> <p>If money was not an object</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not want an Arena</li> <li>• Sense that larger facilities exist in Brock and Orillia and residents are happy to use and have been doing so for generations</li> <li>• Larger settlement areas are located at north and south close to Orillia and Brock</li> </ul> <p>Additional feedback included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AODA was not considered with recent playground installations</li> </ul>	<p>Trails Committee Recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finish last links of trails: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 350 m from lagoon city to Bayshore Village (purchase)</li> <li>○ Safe link from Rama to Washago</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Maintenance of Trails is priority</li> </ul> <p>Orillia Snowmobile Club Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trail hubs, parking and washrooms would be a welcome addition to OFSCA</li> <li>• Winter connection (OFSCA) from Rama to Washago – key when ice conditions are in question</li> <li>• Atherley Bridge/Weirs project is now almost unfeasible but still considered a missed opportunity for trail connection between Atherley to Orillia</li> </ul> <p>Ramara Chamber of Commerce Comments included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball is huge – need investment</li> <li>• Not supportive of Sports Dome</li> <li>• Ramara should cater to demographics</li> </ul>	<p>Comments and Recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-use trails are wanted</li> <li>• Multi-use facilities – one stop “shopping”</li> <li>• Pickleball, Pickleball, Pickleball</li> <li>• “Beaverton Lions Loop” and centralized recreation Hub of Beaverton Fairgrounds good example of multi-use area</li> <li>• Ward 3 has no Community Hall</li> <li>• Centralized Pool and Arena in Ramara would be a great asset</li> <li>• Local history and landmarks are huge importance to local residents and should be recognized and incorporated into placenames and development</li> <li>• Construction of Splash Pad</li> <li>• Indoor walking track is needed</li> <li>• Bring back the Brechin library</li> <li>• Baseball Diamonds brought back</li> <li>• Community Gardens at all community nodes</li> <li>• Expansion of existing facilities over creating new facilities was supported</li> <li>• Outdoor rink/pad for winter and summer uses</li> </ul>

Facility or Program	Staff Input	Council Input	Community Group Input	Open House / Comment sheets
	<p>Infrastructure Department addressed the need to consider implications of equipment to maintain expanded trails and facilities (i.e. baseball diamonds, brush cutting and staffing requirements)</p>			
<p><b>Parklands</b></p>	<p>General Comments related to parkland included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramara has enough open space and is underutilized</li> <li>• Need for more parks and trails</li> <li>• Underutilized/undeveloped Space:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Crossing Park</li> <li>○ Lakeshore Dr. Beach/Park</li> <li>○ Laguna Pkwy Open Space (Lagoon City)</li> <li>○ Longford Mills</li> <li>○ Udney</li> <li>○ Concession Rd. Lake Accesses</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Need complete safe trail connections to connect various community nodes</li> <li>• Connection to Ramara Centre needed from surrounding residential communities</li> <li>• Local community trails would be an asset in parks like Ramara Centre</li> </ul> <p>Better coordination of grass cutting, and scheduled use (getting better) is needed; comes down to weather and staffing and combined departments are working together on this for ongoing improvements and communication.</p> <p>Joyland Beach/Hall/Park properties are currently privately owned; it was mentioned that there may be an opportunity for a future partnership.</p>	<p>General Comments related to parkland included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramara has enough open space/park; they are just underutilized</li> <li>• Nothing (parks or facilities) in the northeast</li> <li>• Need to connect to Ramara Centre with safe trails for walking and bicycling</li> <li>• Need to connect to Washago Community (safely)</li> <li>• More natural space connections</li> <li>• Address parking at parks and beaches</li> </ul> <p>Private vs public space is an issue in some communities (Lagoon City), where residents and tourists are trespassing</p> <p>An Art installation in Atherley/Rama Rd trail was discussed and that a plan to create partnership and expand the idea should be encouraged throughout parks and trail systems</p>	<p>General Comments related to parkland included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete trail connections across Ramara are key priority and link most communities and parks</li> <li>• AODA should be priority</li> <li>• Opportunity for signage and programming to educate the public</li> </ul>	<p>General Comments related to parkland included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe connections throughout township</li> <li>• Localized trails and loops would be asset in each community</li> <li>• Parking at parks can be an issue; parking issues to consider:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Resident vs non-resident</li> <li>○ Fee vs Free</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



Facility or Program	Staff Input	Council Input	Community Group Input	Open House / Comment sheets
<b>Ramara Trails</b>	General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to the Ramara Trails included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for pause on trail expansion; cost to maintain not always considered</li> <li>• Staffing does not allow for upkeep in timely manner always; grass cutting is priority over trails in terms of brush cutting or poison ivy etc.; limited seasonal staffing</li> </ul> Connection to Ramara Centre from Atherley-Uptergrove community needed for youth and safety reasons	General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to the Ramara Trails included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to connect to Ramara Centre</li> <li>• Need Safe passage from Rama to Washago</li> <li>• Create trail hubs with possible amenities such as shelters, parking, gathering points – destinations</li> <li>• More biking opportunities for youth</li> </ul>	General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to the Ramara Trails included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 key links a priority; Lagoon City to Bayshore and Rama to Washago</li> <li>• Local loops for residents to walk maybe in Brechin and Atherley areas</li> <li>• Centralized hubs with parking, shelters, benches etc.</li> <li>• Tree canopy/shade opportunity</li> <li>• Invest into natural features along trail system</li> <li>• Opportunity for public education and trail signage</li> <li>• Work with rec dept. to teach biking (HOP on Canada)</li> <li>• AODA</li> <li>• Safe crossings</li> <li>• E-bikes and scooters charging stations</li> <li>• Visit 1.6km School Zone networks for students accessing walkable schools</li> <li>• Washrooms</li> <li>• Better signage</li> <li>• Lighting</li> <li>• Safety concerns throughout (maintenance, poison ivy, proximity to highways)</li> <li>• Youth bike programming opportunity (HOP on Canada)</li> <li>• OFSCA has impact on economy; need for links to food, gas and rest</li> <li>• Parking needs for hikers and trailers</li> <li>• OFSCA is supportive of shared public trails in winter (not if privately owned)</li> </ul>	General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to the Ramara Trails included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safer connections</li> <li>• Local community loops</li> <li>• Connection Ramara Centre</li> <li>• “Storybook” trails – programming</li> <li>• Multi-use trails to include cross country skiing, snow shoeing etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Beaches / Lake Access</b>	General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to beaches and lake access point included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Underutilized beaches</li> </ul>	General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to beaches and lake access point included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for better parking</li> </ul>	General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to beaches and lake access point included:	General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to beaches and lake access point included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brechin Boat launch needed</li> </ul>

Facility or Program	Staff Input	Council Input	Community Group Input	Open House / Comment sheets
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lakeshore Dr.</li> <li>○ Concession Rd. Accesses</li> <li>○ Swimming Dock -no longer used (Atherley)</li> <li>● Opportunities to revisit swimming lessons</li> <li>● Parking Issues are across the township, as most access points are at end of concessions</li> <li>● Township has vast shorelines but not a great property for a large public beach</li> <li>● Provincial Parks offer best locations</li> <li>● Concept floating around to create parking/launch at 4<sup>th</sup> Concession (Brechin)</li> </ul>	<p>Lagoon City Public Beach is intended for residents only</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Beaches not promoted and access is limited</li> <li>● Lake and beaches not promoted enough</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lagoon City Beach for residents only</li> </ul>
<b>Ramara Recreational Programming</b>	<p>General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to Ramara Recreational Programming included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rec. Dept offers what they can with the resources they have</li> <li>● Residents that access the programming feel involved and have a sense of community – rec dept would like to expand that opportunity</li> <li>● Swimming Lessons</li> <li>● Cooking</li> <li>● Walking groups</li> <li>● Outdoor yoga</li> <li>● Boot camps</li> <li>● Art classes</li> <li>● Cultural events/programs</li> <li>● Kids after school drop in</li> <li>● 6-week after school camps geared to grades 1 to 4 (prior to organized school sports)</li> <li>● Allow for budget of pilot programs</li> <li>● Allow for programs to be established (do not cancel because nobody shows up the first couple of times)</li> <li>● Create recreational or cultural events</li> </ul>	<p>General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to Ramara Recreational Programming included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduce community events               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Create partnerships with other committees or service groups</li> <li>○ Cultural events</li> <li>○ Drone show, Canada Day, earth day or capture something other communities are not already doing</li> <li>○ Support Community Groups and events already taking place – build on what is there</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Community engagement for all ages – “recreate the mind of the community”</li> <li>● Introduce Skiing/snowshoeing</li> <li>● Bring back Swimming lessons</li> <li>● AODA programming</li> <li>● Review budget to address staffing</li> <li>● Need for more staff as volunteering declines</li> </ul>	<p>General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to Ramara Recreational Programming included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bicycle education for youth</li> <li>● Cultural and nature orientation programming in conjunction with trails</li> <li>● Events – create one Ramara Event and support existing community led events</li> <li>● More pickleball, cards, darts – listen to the demographics 50+</li> <li>● Use event or program startup as opportunity to showcase new sport or program and get more people to show up</li> </ul> <p>Use community groups/business for competition and engagement to promote activities and facilities</p>	<p>General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to Ramara Recreational Programming included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community gardens in each community</li> <li>● Introduce more senior programming</li> <li>● Introduce cultural/arts events and programming</li> <li>● “Storybook” trails and signage along trails</li> <li>● More opportunity for pickleball</li> <li>● Herb walks, roadkill workshops, chainsaw therapy</li> <li>● Bring back Swimming lessons</li> </ul>

Facility or Program	Staff Input	Council Input	Community Group Input	Open House / Comment sheets
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents’ fees vs non-residents</li> <li>Offered staff fees to participate</li> <li>Use Staff to help promote leagues/work with to create (fire-fighters looking for social league)</li> <li>Look at alternative program promotions – reluctance for adults to engage in programs without pressure from peers</li> <li>Senior drop in/social space</li> <li>Offer “adult day programs” (not all seniors can play pickleball) with age and ability considerations to recreation</li> <li>Virtual opportunities needed to reach out to youth and seniors when travel is not an option (in general or weather related)</li> <li>Continue with opportunities to offer social services</li> </ul>			
<b>Ramara Centre</b>	<p>General Recommendations and upgrades related to The Ramara Centre included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor Walking Track</li> <li>Splash Pad</li> <li>Gym enhancements (multiuse/more equipment)</li> <li>Operational Kitchen for rentals and programming</li> <li>No Outdoor Court</li> <li>More Social Space</li> <li>Meeting/breakout rooms</li> <li>Create Central Hub</li> <li>Senior gathering space</li> <li>Café/cafeteria/food venue</li> <li>Safe connections/trails to residents off HWY 12</li> <li>Playground</li> <li>More Programming</li> <li>Redevelop a “sports pitch” (soccer, rugby, football lacrosse for all field sports)</li> </ul>	<p>General Recommendations and upgrades related to The Ramara Centre included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connection to Atherley, Udney and Joyland Beach needed</li> <li>Provide more programming</li> <li>Access to all residents is an issue, not all residents travel past</li> <li>Community Board could be used to promote more</li> <li>Joint library programming</li> <li>Ramara Experience</li> <li>Orillia Lake Country</li> <li>Development of Ramara Sub-committees</li> </ul>	<p>General Recommendations and upgrades related to The Ramara Centre included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trail connection needed</li> <li>Walkable trail could be considered</li> </ul>	<p>General Recommendations and upgrades related to The Ramara Centre included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe trail connections</li> <li>Indoor walking</li> </ul>

Facility or Program	Staff Input	Council Input	Community Group Input	Open House / Comment sheets
<b>Brechin Park / Brechin Community</b>	<p>General Recommendations and upgrades related to the Brechin Area included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pickleball court (inside/outside)</li> <li>• Need for satellite programming from Rec Dept. but limited indoor space</li> </ul> <p>Key concepts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brechin Park redevelopment project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There are staff level redevelopment options for the park to replace the baseball diamond in a new location or a plan with no diamond</li> <li>○ Long-term planning of this property has a potential option to sell land and create new park lands in potential future development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• St. Andrews Hall/Standard Bank redevelopment project has grant money to get started with staff level concept plan that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Library Branch location</li> <li>○ Museum Location</li> <li>○ Additional office or meeting space</li> <li>○ Outdoor gathering</li> <li>○ Upgraded parking</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Planning Department commented that Future Development may create room for new park and open space, allowing for amenities and trail connections; currently working with developers for land and parks</p>	<p>General Recommendations and upgrades related to the Brechin Area included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring back Library branch</li> <li>• Splash pad</li> <li>• Introduce new events and support on-going events and programs (offered by service groups)</li> <li>• Offer programming to residents aside from Ramara Centre</li> <li>• Brechin Park redevelopment plan and address SWM</li> </ul>	<p>General Recommendations and upgrades related to the Brechin Area included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common Event needed</li> <li>• Redevelop Brechin Park</li> <li>• Support efforts of Saturday Vendors Market</li> <li>• Baseball is dead; pickleball is growing and concrete pad exists at Brechin Park; underutilized</li> </ul>	<p>General Recommendations and upgrades related to the Brechin Area included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring back Library branch</li> <li>• More Trails/loops and connections</li> <li>• Pickleball court</li> <li>• Support Brechin Legion run events or piggyback</li> <li>• Public Boat Launch needed</li> </ul>
<b>Lagoon City</b>	<p>Ramara Owned Property near entrance into Lagoon City on Laguna Parkway not being used and no long-term plan currently in place</p>	<p>General Recommendations and upgrades related to the Lagoon City included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Splash pad that can be serviced</li> <li>• Upgrades to Beach underway; parking being addressed</li> <li>• Lagoon City is NOT a tourist area and meant for residents only</li> <li>• Trespassing issues need to be addressed</li> </ul>	<p>General Recommendations and upgrades related to the Lagoon City included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12<sup>th</sup> annual Classic Car show – VERY successful – little support from council (not all visible)</li> <li>• Trail connection to Bayshore a key priority</li> <li>• Often an unsanctioned OFSCA link to Lake Simcoe (trailhead) but no parking or amenities</li> </ul>	<p>General Recommendations and upgrades related to the Lagoon City included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident only parking</li> <li>• Splash pad on serviced sewage</li> <li>• Accessible beach mat</li> </ul>

Facility or Program	Staff Input	Council Input	Community Group Input	Open House / Comment sheets
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need to link to Bayshore Village by trail</li> </ul>		
<b>Atherley-Uptergrove</b>	General recommendations and upgrades related to the Atherley-Uptergrove included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe Connection to Ramara Centre</li> <li>Partnership with Rama</li> <li>Crossings Park development</li> <li>Future growth area needs a strategic plan for parks and trails (see transportation plan)</li> <li>New Sports court installed</li> <li>Parking issues at Lovely Day Park</li> </ul>	General Recommendations and upgrades related to the Atherley-Uptergrove included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe passage to Ramara Centre</li> <li>Rama Corridor development may be key to economic development and tourism</li> <li>Parking limited at Lovely Day Park</li> <li>New Sports Court opens soon</li> </ul>	General Recommendations and upgrades related to the Atherley-Uptergrove included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connections and parking to trail heads (hiking and OFSCA)</li> </ul>	General Recommendations and upgrades related to the Atherley-Uptergrove included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resurface Baseball Diamonds</li> <li>Community gardens</li> </ul>
<b>Udney Community Centre and Park:</b>	General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to the Udney Hall included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed by Community Hall Board</li> <li>Resident engaged for pickleball court</li> <li>Great kitchen for rentals and programming</li> <li>Underutilized</li> <li>Opportunity for satellite programming</li> </ul>	General recommendations and upgrades related to the Udney Hall included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground</li> <li>Pickleball court was brought as an idea outside</li> <li>Volunteers are down, fewer events</li> </ul>	Nothing specifically noted	Nothing specifically noted
<b>Longford Mills Community Centre and Park</b>	General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to the Longford Mills Hall included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed by Community Board</li> <li>Need for accessibility upgrades</li> <li>Opportunity for satellite programming</li> <li>Use of space and maintenance not always coordinated (grass cutting vs rentals)</li> </ul>	General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to the Longford Mills Hall included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized by Hall Board</li> <li>Playground installs</li> <li>Connection to trails</li> </ul>	Nothing specifically noted	General comments, recommendations and upgrades related to the Longford Mills Hall included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Want community Garden</li> <li>Safe trail connections</li> </ul>
<b>Library</b>	General comments and recommendations related to the library include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with Library</li> <li>Need room for “Maker Space”</li> </ul>	General comments and recommendations related to the library include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brechin Branch</li> <li>Explore more joint opportunities</li> </ul>	Nothing specifically noted	General comments and recommendations related to the library include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brechin Branch</li> <li>Joint programming</li> <li>Story book Trails</li> <li>Ringette</li> </ul>

Facility or Program	Staff Input	Council Input	Community Group Input	Open House / Comment sheets
	<p>A concept plan for the relocation or recreation of a Brechin branch was mentioned (more details needed)</p> <p>Shared use of space between the library and recreational program sometimes reduces the opportunity to use the Ramara Recreation Centre for programming and loss of generated programs fees</p>			
<b>Transportation</b>	<p>General comments and recommendations related to the transportation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to Ramara Centre is by vehicle only</li> <li>• Community nodes not always near where the program or facility is offered</li> <li>• Taking programs to different halls is time consuming and has financial barriers</li> <li>• Ramara has a new Transportation study that will impact future growth in Brechin and Atherley/Uptergrove</li> </ul>	<p>General comments and recommendations related to the transportation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety on trails is a concern</li> <li>• Access to facilities can be an issue</li> <li>• Localized trails for leisure walking or dog walking could be considered</li> <li>• Trails are important</li> </ul>	<p>General comments and recommendations related to the transportation include (see Trails comments above):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for trails and links before/with development</li> <li>• Safety is key priority</li> </ul>	<p>General comments and recommendations related to the transportation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities and travel make nighttime and winter travel an issue</li> <li>• Vast township makes transportation and access an issue</li> <li>• Not everyone can drive</li> <li>• Need for safe trail links</li> <li>• Safe connection to Ramara Centre</li> </ul>
<b>Accessibility</b>	<p>General comments and recommendations related to the Accessibility include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AODA should be standard practice for programming and applied to new facilities</li> <li>• Older community Halls not fully accessible; costly upgrades are not feasible</li> <li>• Communication social media vs print</li> </ul>	<p>General comments and recommendations related to the Accessibility include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AODA not considered with all new playgrounds</li> <li>• AODA is more than just “physical access”</li> <li>• Communication social media vs print</li> </ul>	<p>General comments and recommendations related to the Accessibility include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AODA was not addressed in project background report</li> <li>• AODA should be top of mind for improvements</li> <li>• Communication has accessibility implication as well including social media vs print</li> </ul>	<p>General comments and recommendations related to the Accessibility include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to facilities is an issue</li> <li>• Communication is a barrier for use of facilities</li> <li>• Wireless connections</li> <li>• Playground equipment not AODA</li> <li>• Beach access and need for accessible mat</li> </ul>
<b>Potential Partnerships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rama First Nations (High Priority)</li> <li>• Orillia Facilities</li> <li>• Brock Facilities</li> <li>• Developers</li> <li>• Businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rama First Nations</li> <li>• Ramara and community groups</li> <li>• Need for effective partnerships</li> <li>• Community Gardens</li> <li>• Legion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Orillia</li> <li>• Orillia District Snowmobile Club</li> <li>• Rama First Nations</li> <li>• Chamber of Commerce</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beach Associations</li> <li>• Orillia Snowmobile Club</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• Legion</li> <li>• Work with local events to promote</li> </ul>

Facility or Program	Staff Input	Council Input	Community Group Input	Open House / Comment sheets
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economical Development Committee</li> <li>• Early-On</li> <li>• VON</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foodbanks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lost huge potential with Orillia Lake Country Association with ads/promoting</li> <li>• Casino Rama</li> <li>• Provincial Parks (winter use of trails)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a strategic volunteer plan to run events and programs</li> <li>• Provincial Parks and use of beaches</li> </ul>

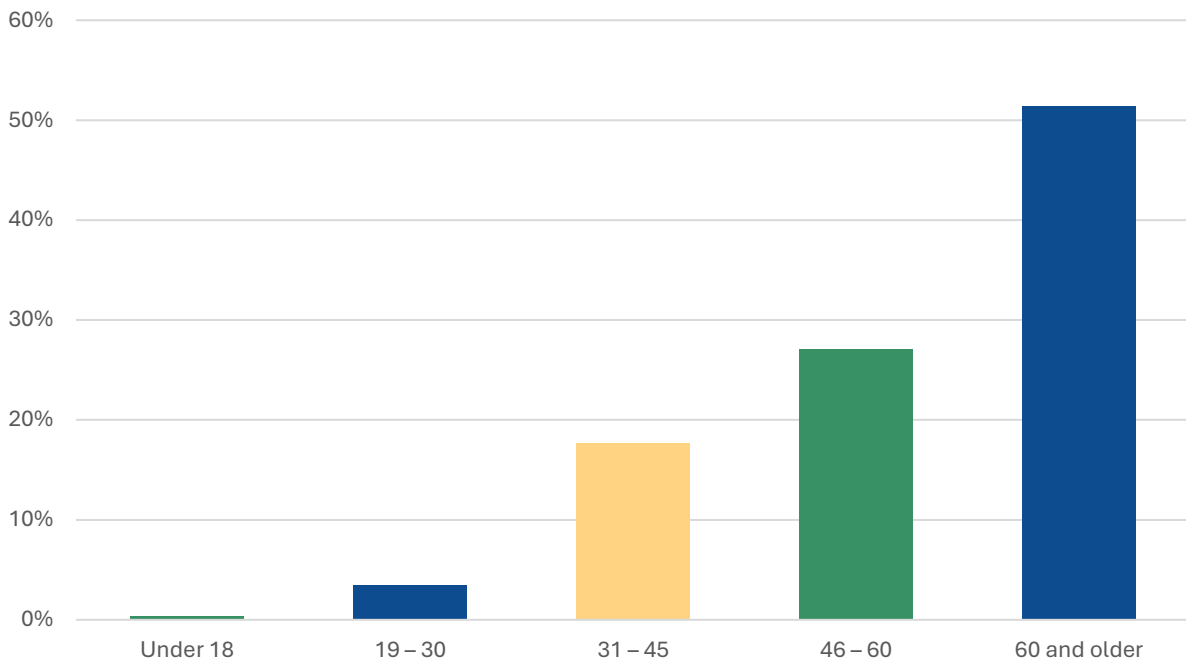
# APPENDIX B: Survey Results

## Have Your Say on the Future of Recreation in Ramara!

A public survey launched July 8, 2024, and ran until August 5, 2024. The results include 288 responses.

### Question 1

Which age group are you in?



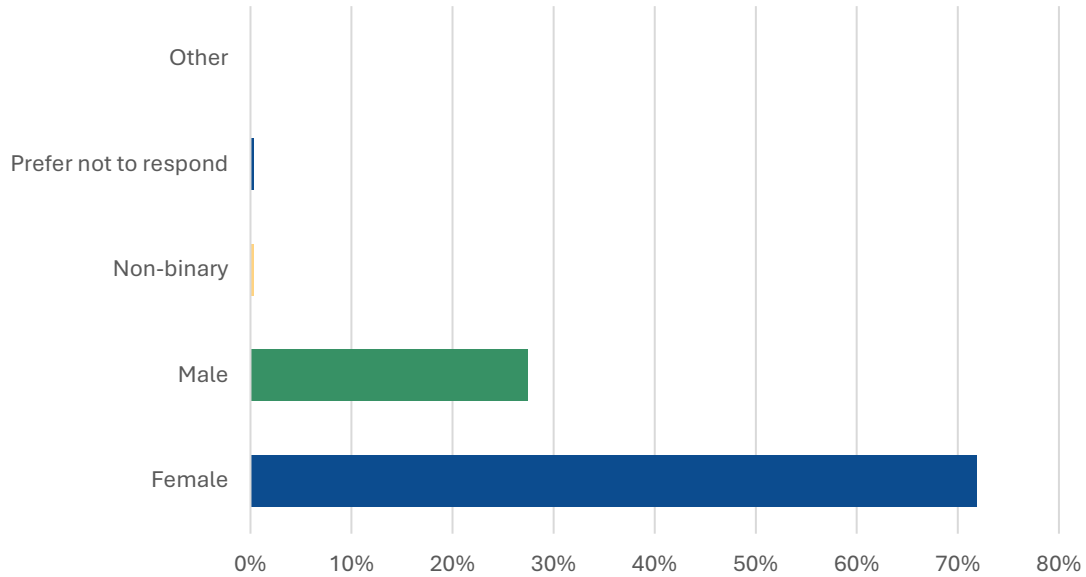
288 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 1, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Under 18	0.35%	1
19-30	3.47%	10
31-45	17.71%	51
46-60	27.08%	78
60 and older	51.39%	148
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>288</b>



## Question 2

What is your gender?

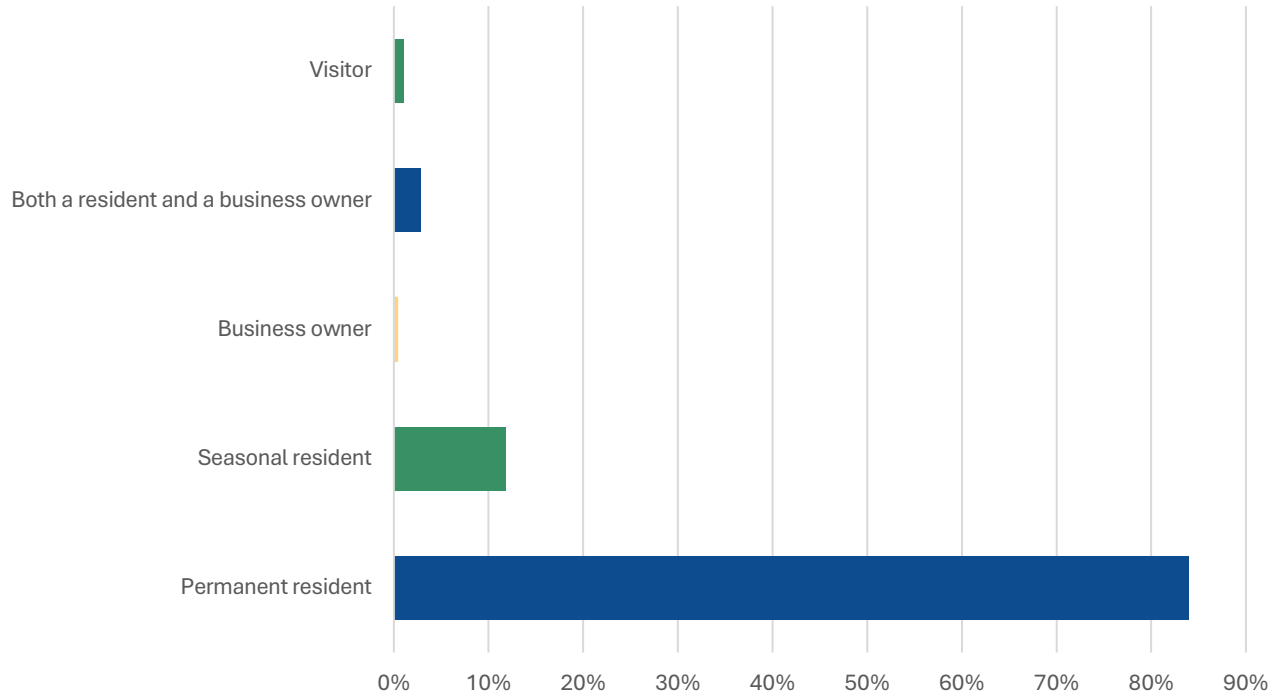


288 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 2, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Female	71.88%	207
Male	27.43%	79
Non-binary	0.35%	1
Prefer not to respond	0.35%	1
Other	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>288</b>

### Question 3

Do you consider yourself to be a:

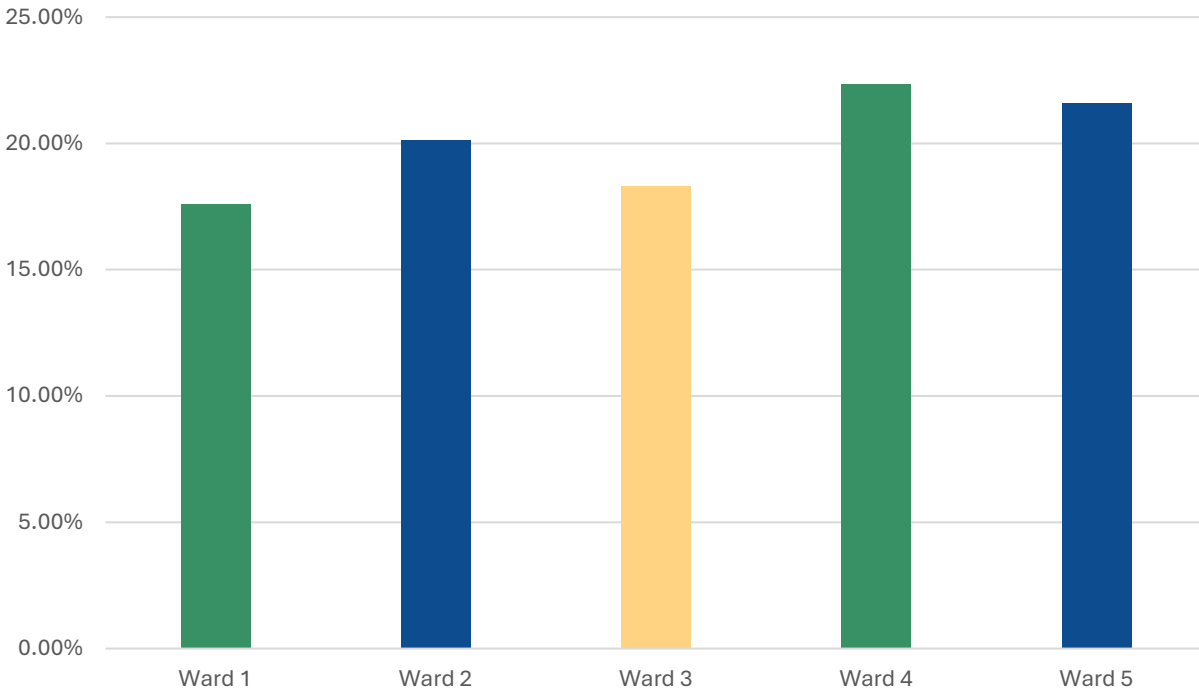


287 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 3, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Permanent resident	83.97%	241
Seasonal resident	11.85%	34
Business owner	0.35%	1
Both a resident and a business owner	2.79%	8
Visitor	1.05%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>287</b>

## Question 4

### Which ward do you live in?

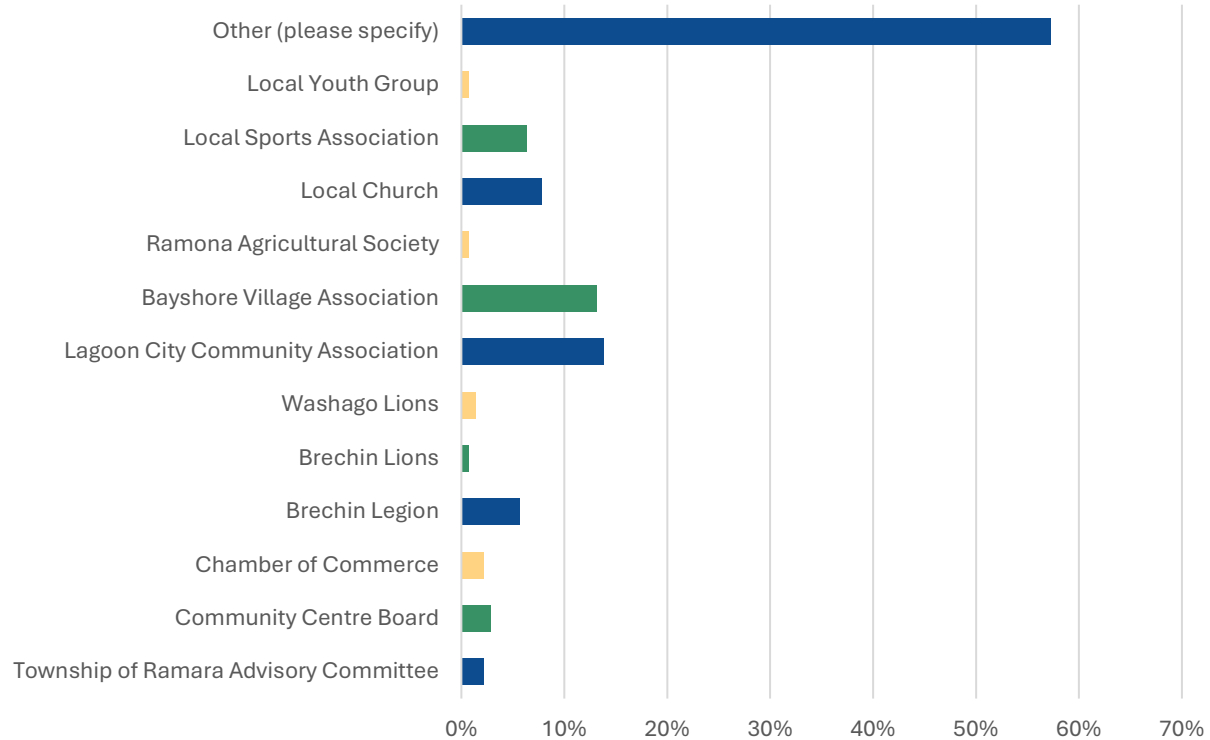


273 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 4, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Ward 1	17.58%	48
Ward 2	20.15%	55
Ward 3	18.32%	50
Ward 4	22.34%	61
Ward 5	21.61%	59
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>273</b>

## Question 5

Are you a member of any community groups?  
 (If yes, please select all that apply.)

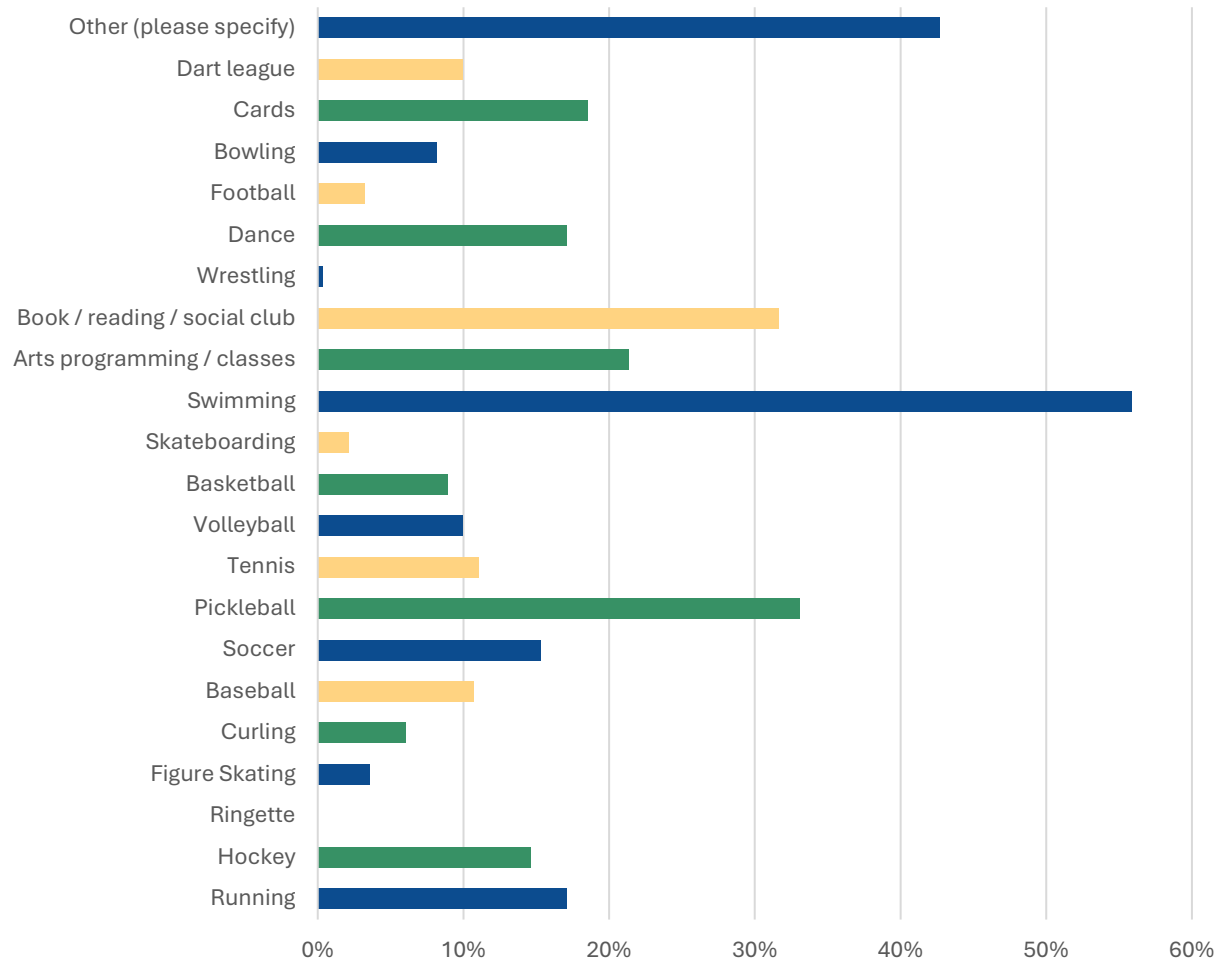


281 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 5, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Township of Ramara Advisory Board	2.14%	6
Community Centre Board	2.85%	8
Chamber of Commerce	2.14%	6
Brechin Legion	5.69%	16
Brechin Lions	0.71%	2
Washago Lions	1.42%	4
Lagoon City Community Association	13.88%	39
Bayshore Village Association	13.17%	37
Ramona Agricultural Society	0.71%	2
Local Church	7.83%	22
Local Sports Association	6.41%	18
Local Youth Group	0.71%	2
Other (please specify)	57.30%	161
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>281</b>

## Question 6

Please indicate the recreational activities you currently engage in (check all that apply and please note they do not have to be done in the Township of Ramara)



281 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 6, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Running	17.08%	48
Hockey	14.59%	41
Ringette	0.00%	0
Figure Skating	3.56%	10
Curling	6.05%	17
Baseball	10.68%	30
Soccer	15.30%	43
Pickleball	33.10%	93

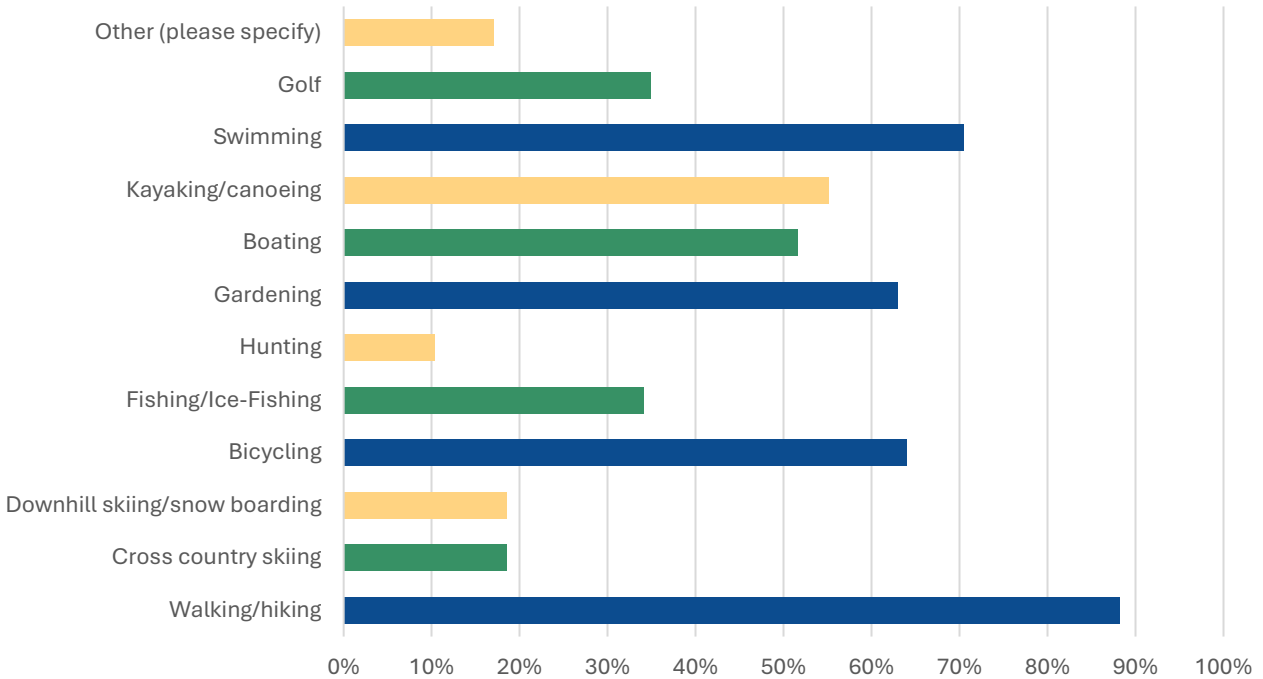
Tennis	11.03%	31
Volleyball	9.96%	28
Basketball	8.90%	25
Skateboarding	2.14%	6
Swimming	55.87%	157
Arts programming / classes	21.35%	60
Book / reading / social club	31.67%	89
Wrestling	0.36%	1
Dance	17.08%	48
Football	3.20%	9
Bowling	8.19%	23
Cards	18.51%	52
Dart league	9.96%	28
Other (please specify)	42.70%	120
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>281</b>

Many of the “other” responses were activities addressed in the following Question 7. Question 6 was intended to address organized sports and programming, Question 7 addresses outdoor leisure and passive recreation. Additional relevant responses included:

- A. Health & Fitness Theme - fitness classes, yoga, Pilates, Tia Chi, Martial Arts, Zumba, spin classes etc.
- B. Arts Theme - theatre, piano
- C. Additional Sports - badminton, cornhole, cheer, disc golf, lacrosse, rockclimbing, roller-skating, skating etc.
- D. Other included quilting, sewing and crafts .

## Question 7

Please indicate the outdoor leisure and recreational activities you currently engage in (check all that apply and please note they do not have to be done in the Township of Ramara)

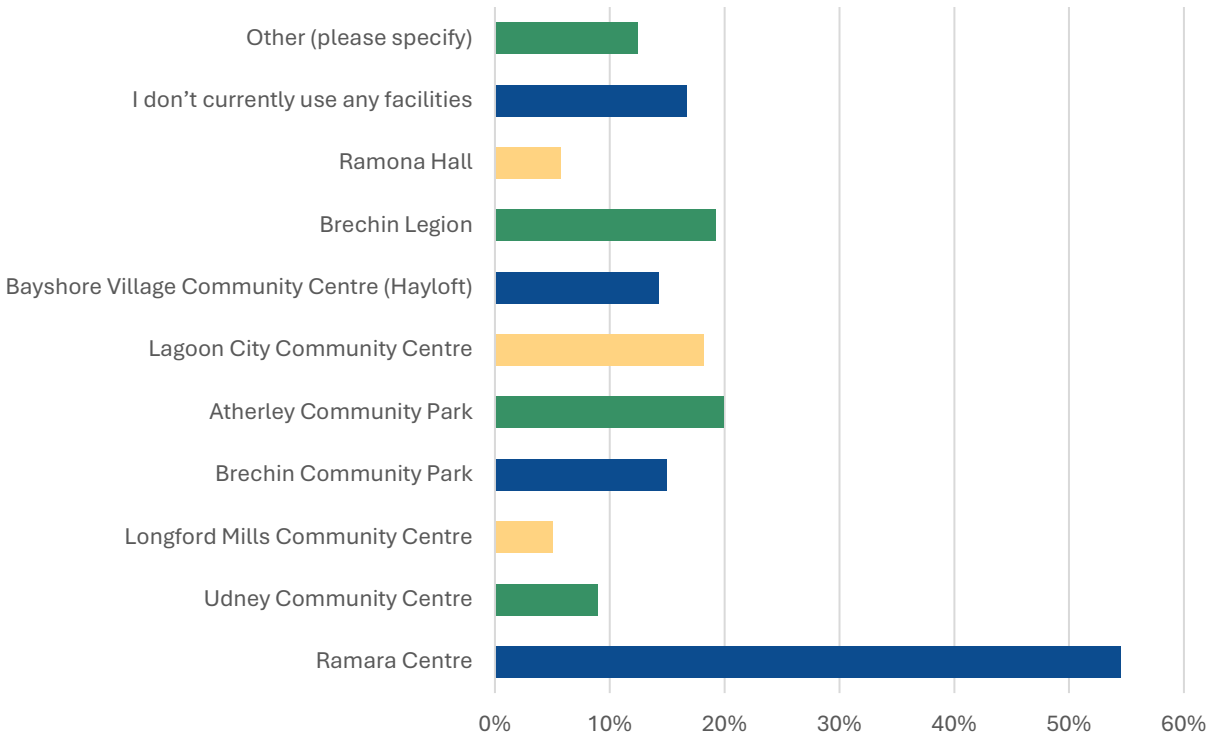


281 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 7, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Walking/hiking	88.26%	248
Cross country skiing	18.51%	52
Downhill skiing/snowboarding	18.51%	52
Bicycling	64.06%	180
Fishing/Ice-Fishing	34.16%	96
Hunting	10.32%	29
Gardening	62.99%	177
Boating	51.60%	145
Kayaking/canoeing	55.16%	155
Swimming	70.46%	198
Golf	34.88%	98
Other (please specify)	17.08%	48
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>281</b>

## Question 8

Please check all the facilities within Ramara you currently use:



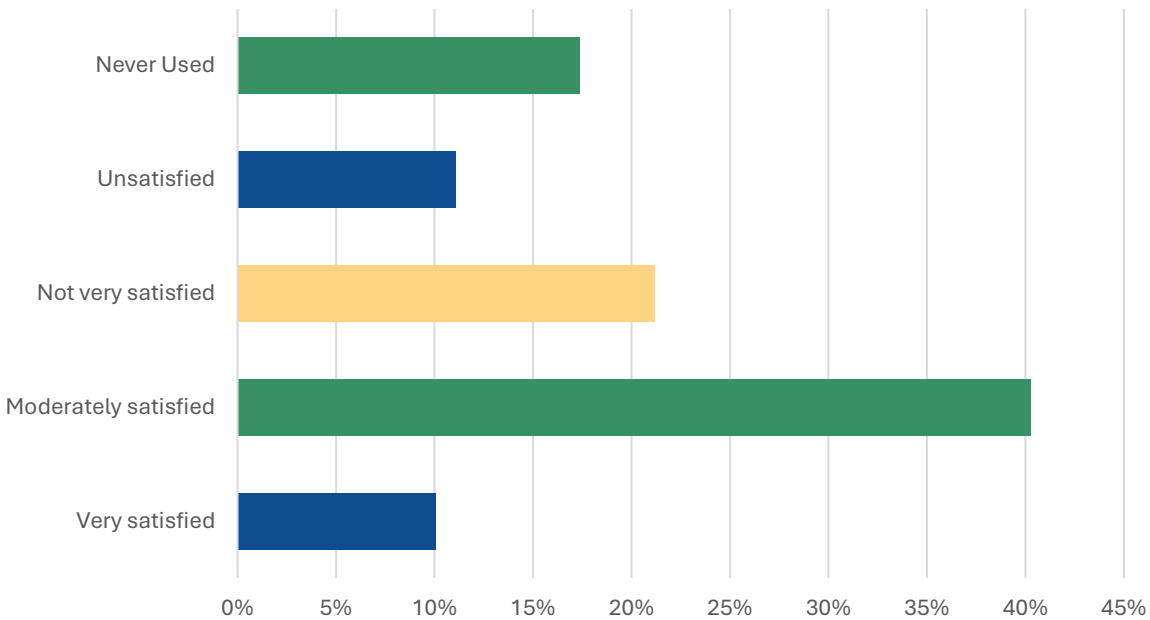
281 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 8, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Ramara Centre	54.45%	153
Udney Community Centre	8.90%	25
Longford Mills Community Centre	4.98%	14
Brechin Community Park	14.95%	42
Atherley Community Park	19.93%	56
Lagoon City Community Centre	18.15%	51
Bayshore Village Community Centre (Hayloft)	14.23%	40
Brechin Legion	19.22%	54
Ramona Hall	5.69%	16
I don't currently use any facilities	16.73%	47
Other (please specify)	12.46%	35
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>281</b>



## Question 9

Overall, how satisfied are you with the recreation programs provided by Ramara Township?

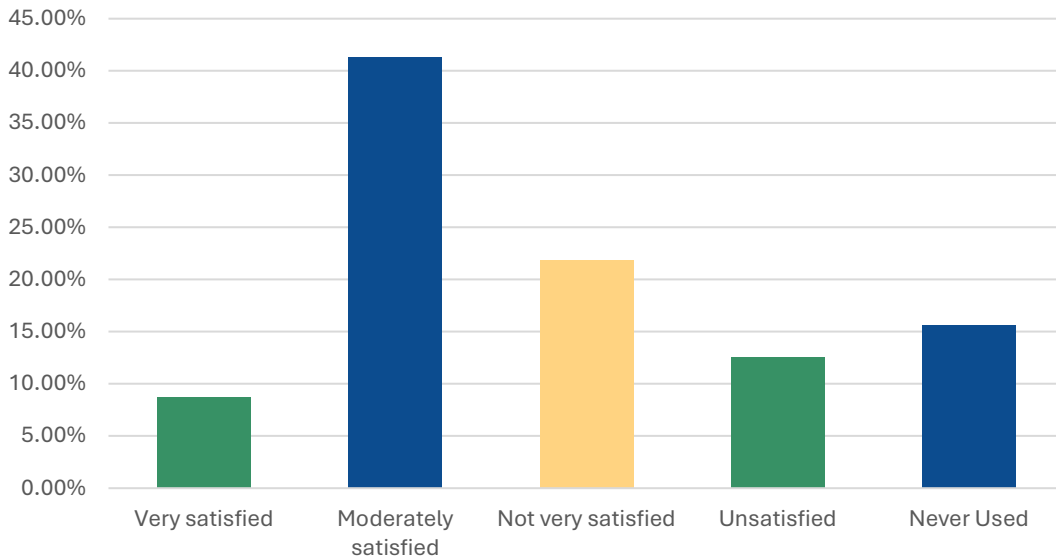


288 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 9, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Very satisfied	10.07%	29
Moderately satisfied	40.28%	116
Not very satisfied	21.18%	61
Unsatisfied	11.11%	32
Never Used	17.36%	50
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>288</b>

## Question 10

Overall, how satisfied are you with the recreation facilities provided by Ramara Township?

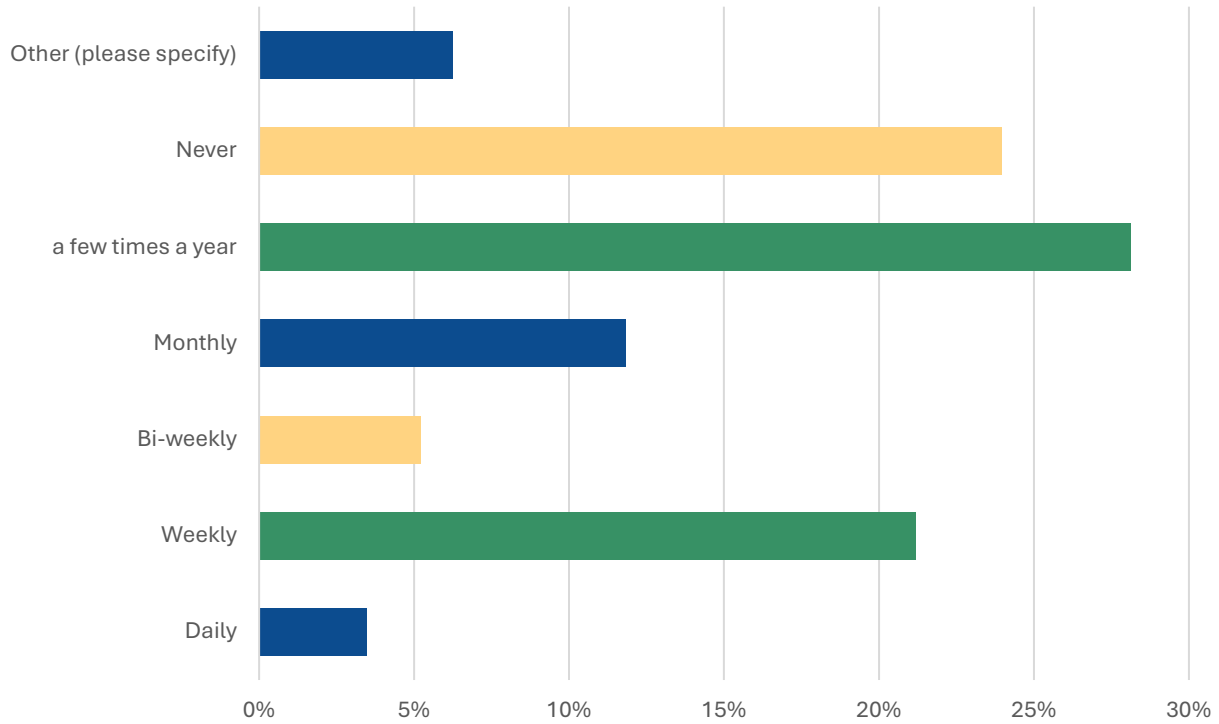


288 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 10, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Very satisfied	8.68%	25
Moderately satisfied	41.32%	119
Not very satisfied	21.88%	63
Unsatisfied	12.50%	36
Never Used	15.63%	45
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>288</b>

## Question 11

How often do you use any recreational program or facility in the Township of Ramara?

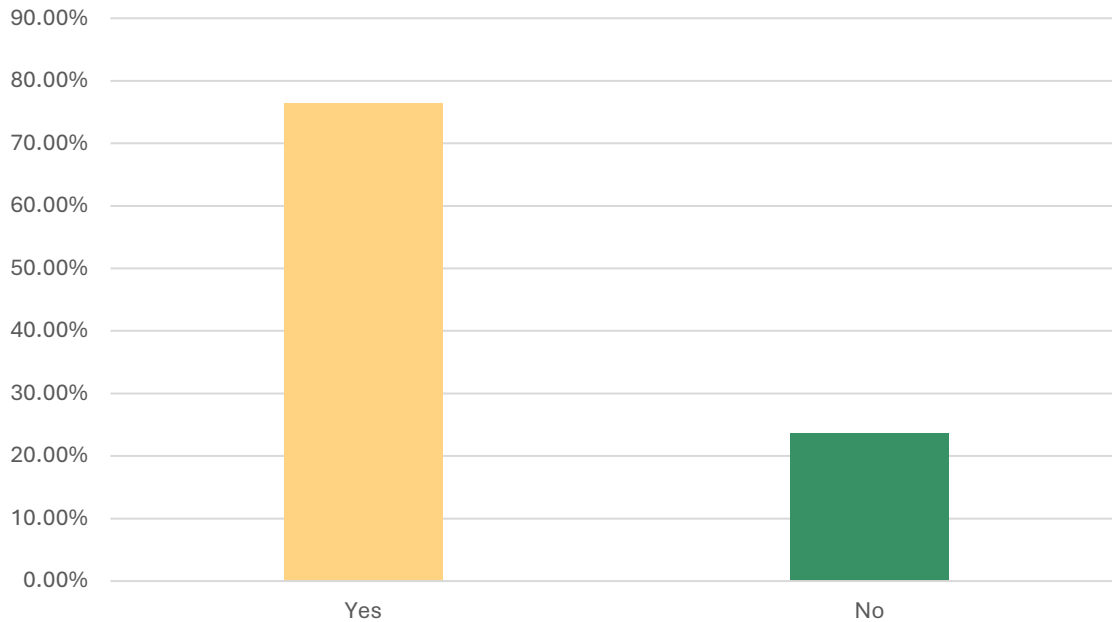


288 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 11, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Daily	3.47%	10
Weekly	21.18%	61
Bi-weekly	5.21%	15
Monthly	11.81%	34
A few times a year	28.13%	81
Never	23.96%	69
Other (please specify)	6.25%	18
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>288</b>

## Question 12

Do you travel outside of the Township of Ramara to engage in recreational activities regularly?

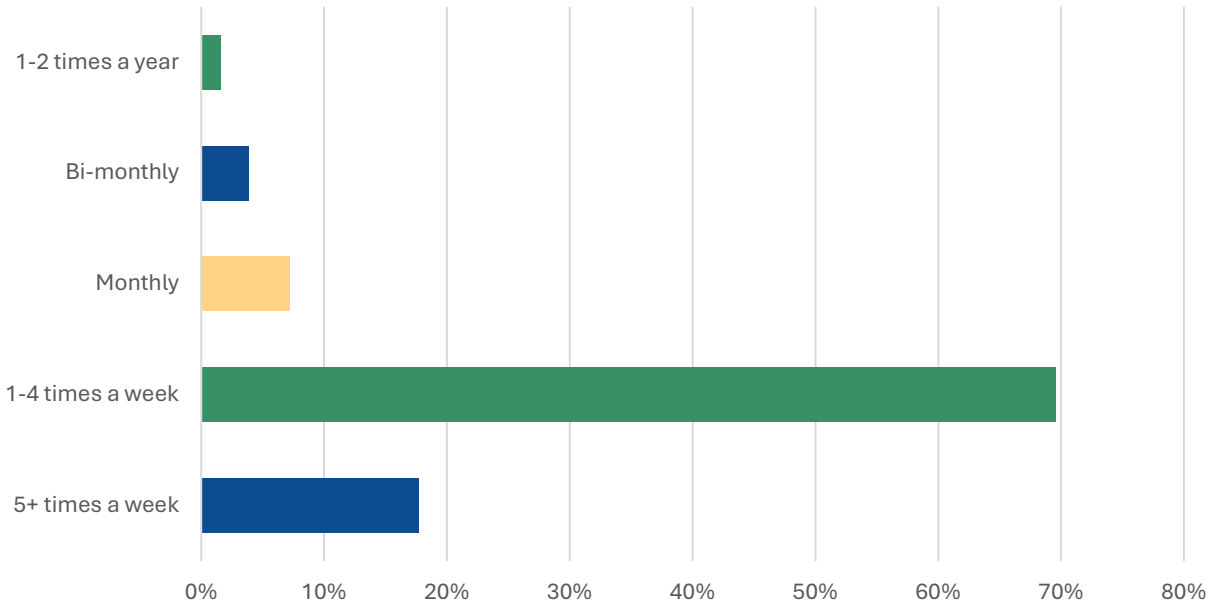


288 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 12, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	76.39%	220
No	23.61%	68
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>288</b>

## Question 13

If yes, how often? Please list the activity and how often you travel to do-use it.



181 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 13, below are the top answers.

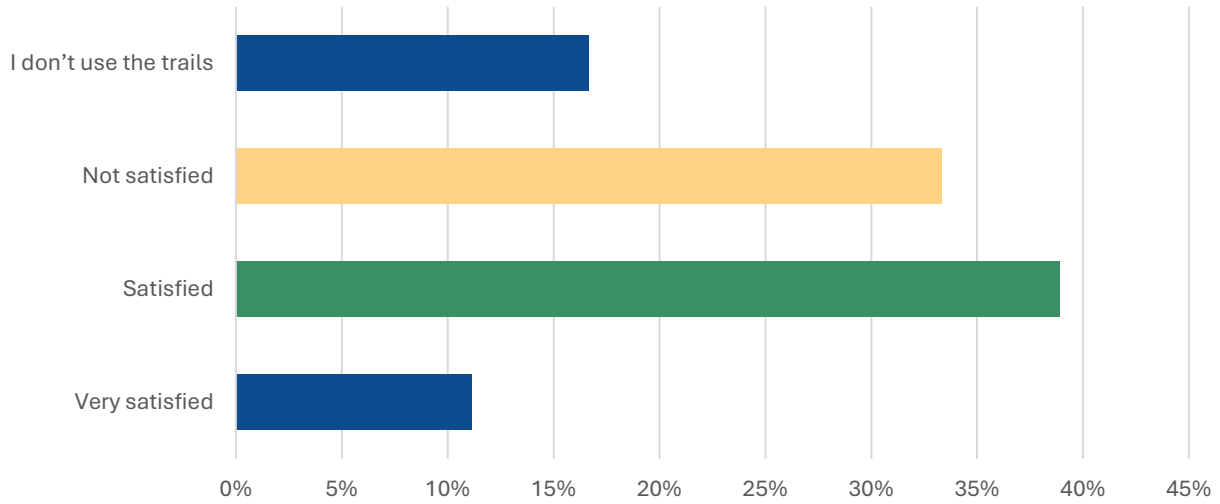
Answer Choices	Responses	Count
5-7 times a week	17.68%	32
1-4 times a week	69.61%	126
Monthly	7.18%	13
Bi-monthly	3.87%	7
1-2 times a year	1.66%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>181</b>

Activities residents often travel for include: swimming, golf, hockey, baseball, volleyball, hiking, pickleball, Zumba, equestrian, euchre, skiing and skating

Residents often travel to the City of Orillia or the Township of Brock to participate in these activities.

## Question 14

How satisfied are you with trails for walking and cycling in Ramara Township?

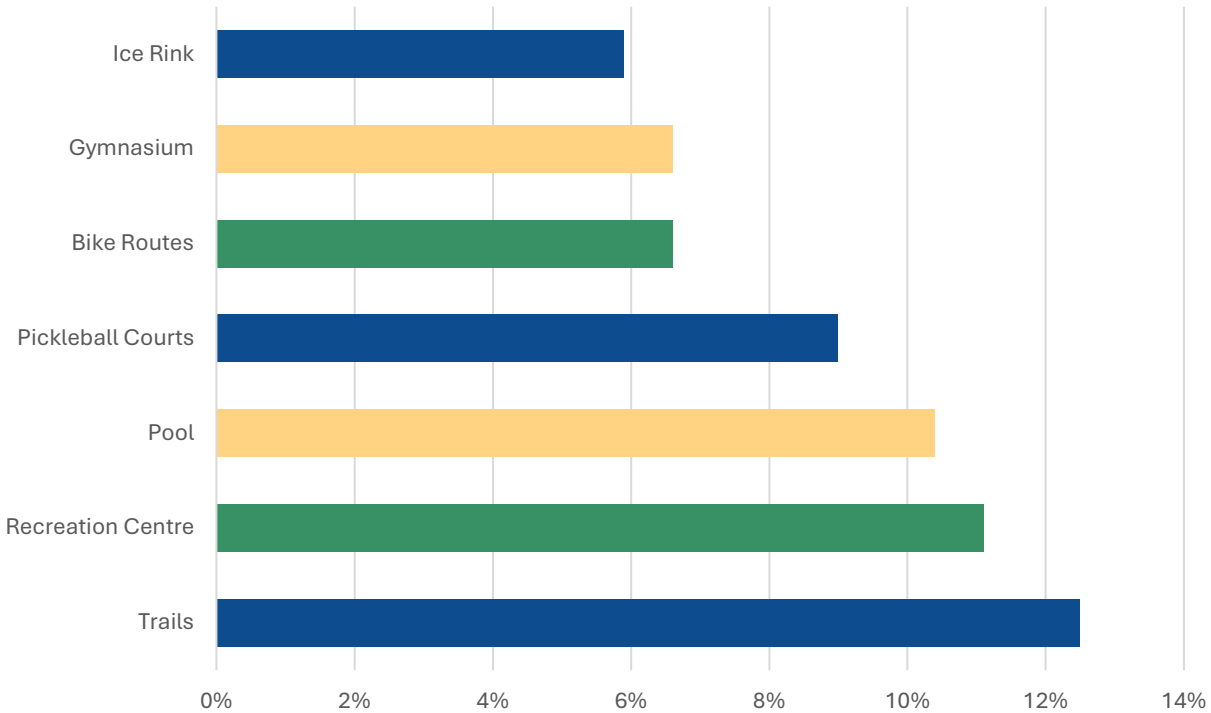


288 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 14, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Very satisfied	11.11%	32
Satisfied	38.89%	112
Not satisfied	33.33%	96
I don't use the trails	16.67%	48
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>288</b>

## Question 15

What facilities would you most like to see in the future? Please list as many as are important to you.



255 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 15, the most common responses are organized below.

- A. Trails (12.5%): 36 responses were centred around the need for improved, safer trails and recommendation to finish connecting existing segments and to expand to connect communities and park spaces for hiking and biking.
- B. Recreation Centre (11.1%): 32 responses indicated the need to expand the existing Ramara Recreation Centre or to create a new complex in the Atherley or Brechin areas that are multi-purpose.

Suggested uses included:

- a. Variety of Sports
- b. Pool
- c. Indoor/Outdoor Walking Track
- d. Stage/Space for Cultural events and theatre
- e. Proper Gymnasium
- f. Exercise Room

- C. Pool (10.4%): 30 responses specifically referenced the need for a pool or aquatic centre. Additional support for a pool was supported in comments to a new or expanded recreation complex
- D. Pickleball Courts (9.0%): 26 residents indicated the need for more pickleball courts both indoor and outdoor opportunities.
- E. Bikes routes (6.6%): 19 responses referenced the desire for more bicycle trails and lanes throughout the township. Bicycle trails overlap with “trails” but these responses were more specific to bike lanes as part of roadways and dedicated paved lanes.
- F. Gymnasium (6.6%): 19 responses indicated the need for an indoor full-sized gymnasium that could facilitate organized sports for youth and adults. Multiple comments included space for weight training and exercise rooms.
- G. Ice Rink (5.9%): 17 survey responses indicated the desire for an ice rink. Comments included outdoor and indoor options for skating and one response indicated curling

Additional comments received included comments recommending upgrades or development of Boat Launches, Splash Pads, places for Arts & Theatre, a Brechin Library, more playgrounds and improved programming.

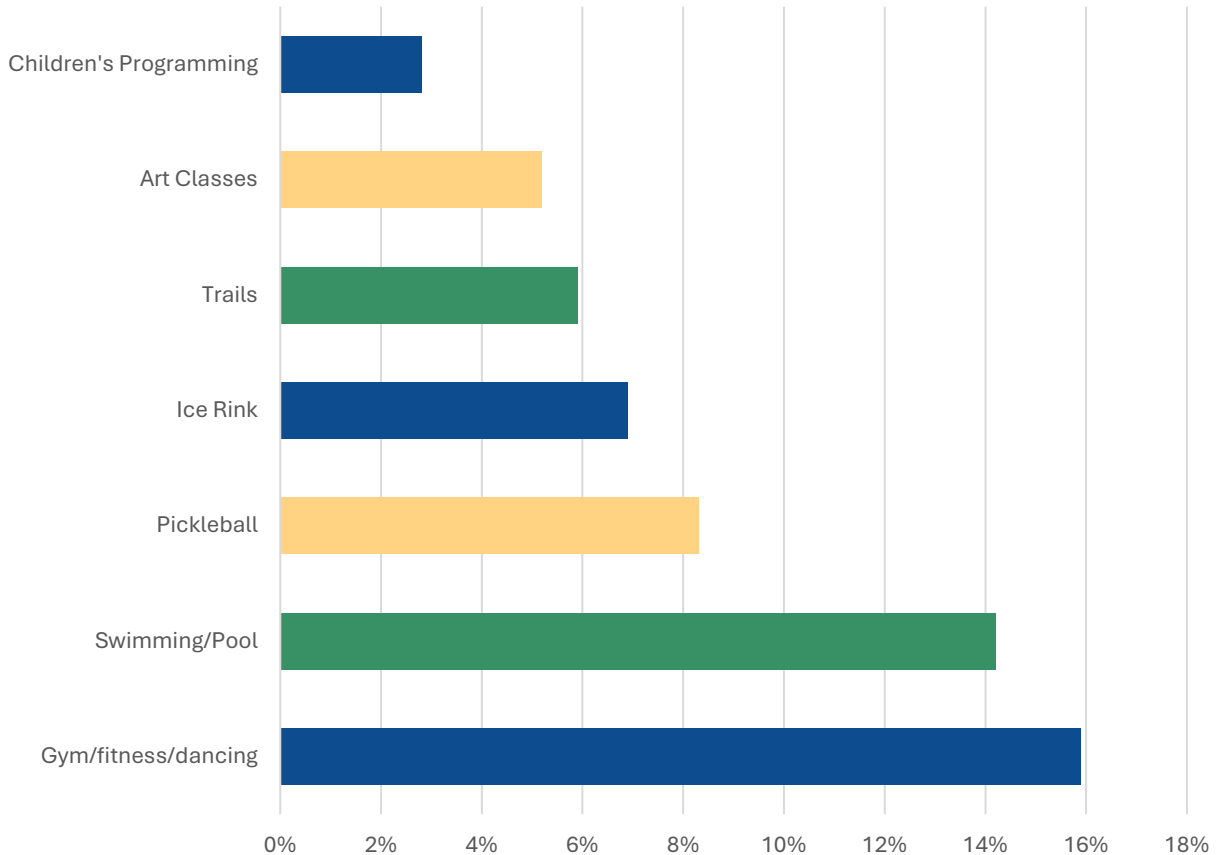
Minimal comments were made in support of a sports dome (4), tennis (4), soccer (1), baseball (1) or golf (1).

Eighteen responses indicated that money may be better spent elsewhere in the township and not into Recreation. Several comments indicated the need to address maintenance, access and safety on beaches, parks and trails.



## Question 16

What other programs or facilities would you use if they were available to you?



222 out of 288 surveys completed responded to Question 16, the results are summarized below.

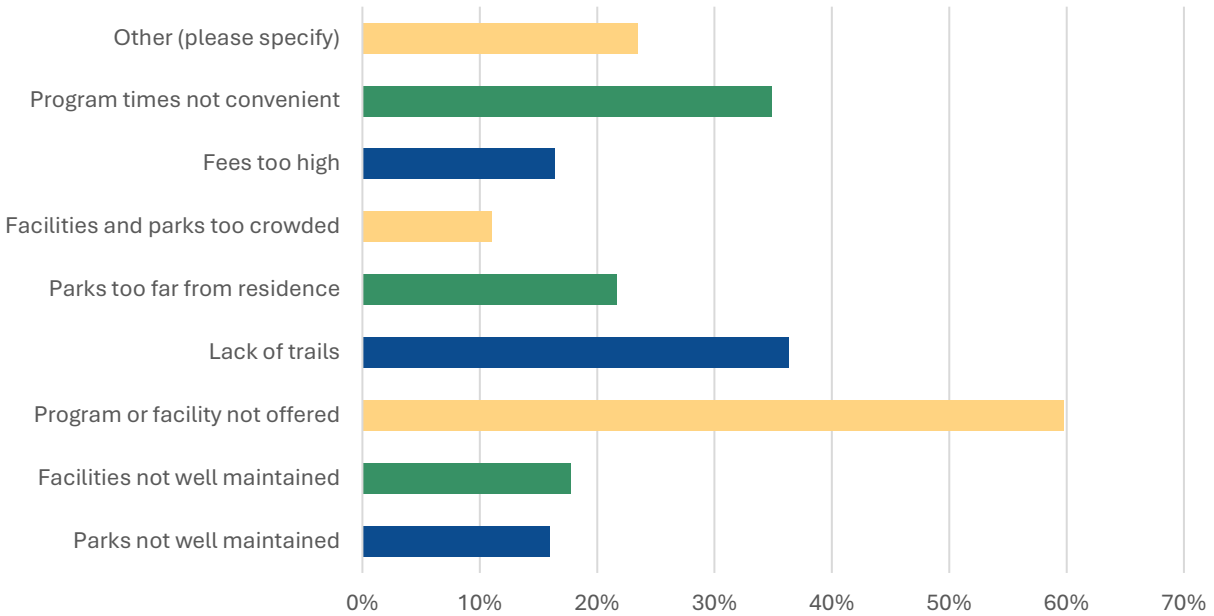
- A. Gym/fitness/dancing (15.9%): 46 responses included comments regarding increasing opportunities for the use of a gymnasium including:
  - a. Fitness centre/workout space
  - b. Fitness/health classes
  - c. Spin Classes
  - d. Yoga
  - e. Zumba
  - f. Pilates
  - g. Dance lessons
  - h. Weight training

No indoor organized sports were overwhelmingly identified in the results but included: basketball (7), ball hockey (5), volleyball (4), badminton (3), squash (2) and indoor soccer (1)

- B. Swimming/Pool (14.2%): 41 comments referenced the desire to participate in swimming or aquafit opportunities, most identified the need for an indoor or year-round pool.
- C. Pickleball (8.3%): 24 responded to want to access pickleball courts both indoor and outdoor.
- D. Ice Rink (6.9%): 20 responses combined identified a rink (indoor or outdoor) as a facility they would use for a variety of ice sports including:
  - a. Skating (9)
  - b. Hockey (5)
  - c. Curling (3)
- E. Trails (5.9%): 17 respondents would like more walking, hiking and biking trails that include safe travel along roadways, links to available parks (including Provincial Parks).
- F. Art Classes (5.2%): 15 respondents would like more opportunities for arts, crafts and cultural programs for youth and adults that include:
  - a. Art Classes (painting, pottery, ceramics, stained glass, general art)
  - b. Craft/woodworking classes
  - c. Music classes/lessons
  - d. Entertainment/theatre
  - e. Technology classes
- G. Children's Programming (2.8%): 8 responses would like the opportunity for more youth programming from toddler to teens.

## Question 17

Check all reasons that may prevent you from using recreation facilities or attending recreation programs.

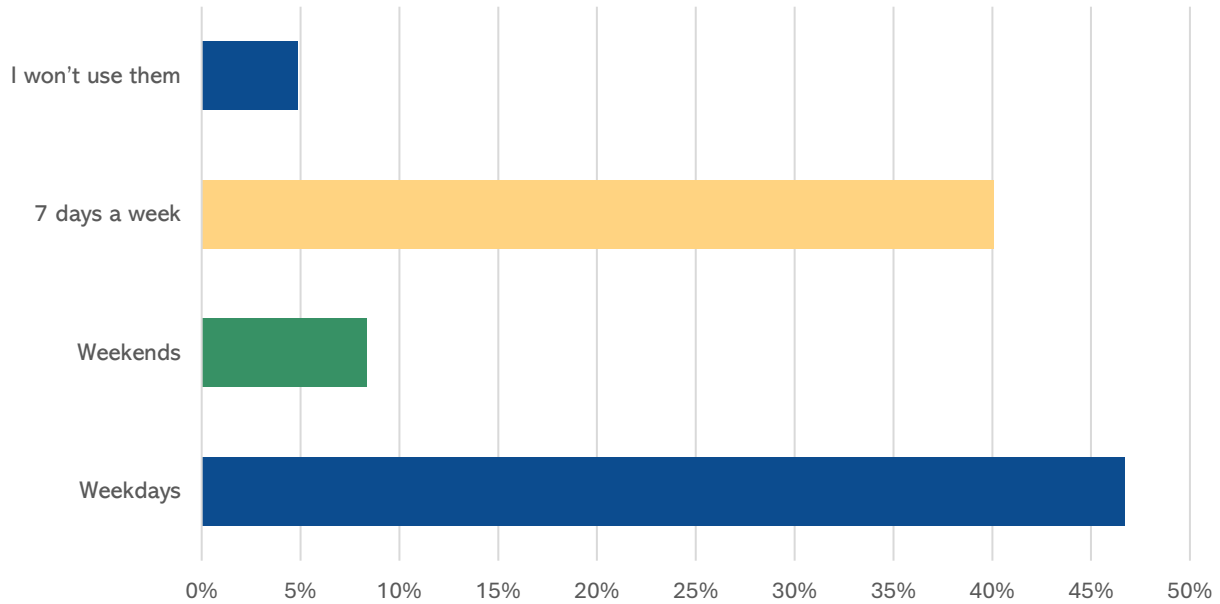


281 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 17, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Parks not well maintained	16.01%	45
Facilities not well maintained	17.79%	50
Program or facility not offered	59.79%	168
Lack of trails	36.30%	102
Parks too far from residence	21.71%	61
Facilities and parks too crowded	11.03%	31
Fees too high	16.37%	46
Program times not convenient	34.88%	98
Other (please specify)	23.49%	66
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>281</b>

## Question 18

What days of the week would you use programming offered by the Township?

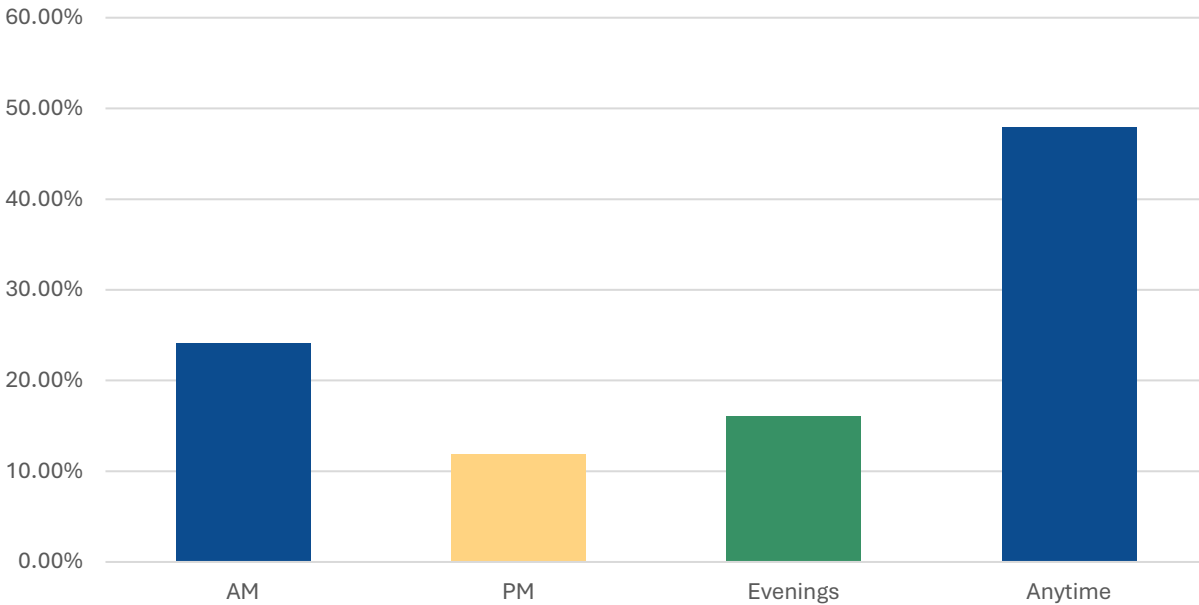


287 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 18, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Weekdays	46.69%	134
Weekends	8.36%	24
7 days a week	40.07%	115
I won't use them	4.88%	14
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>287</b>

## Question 19

When in the day would you like programs to be run?

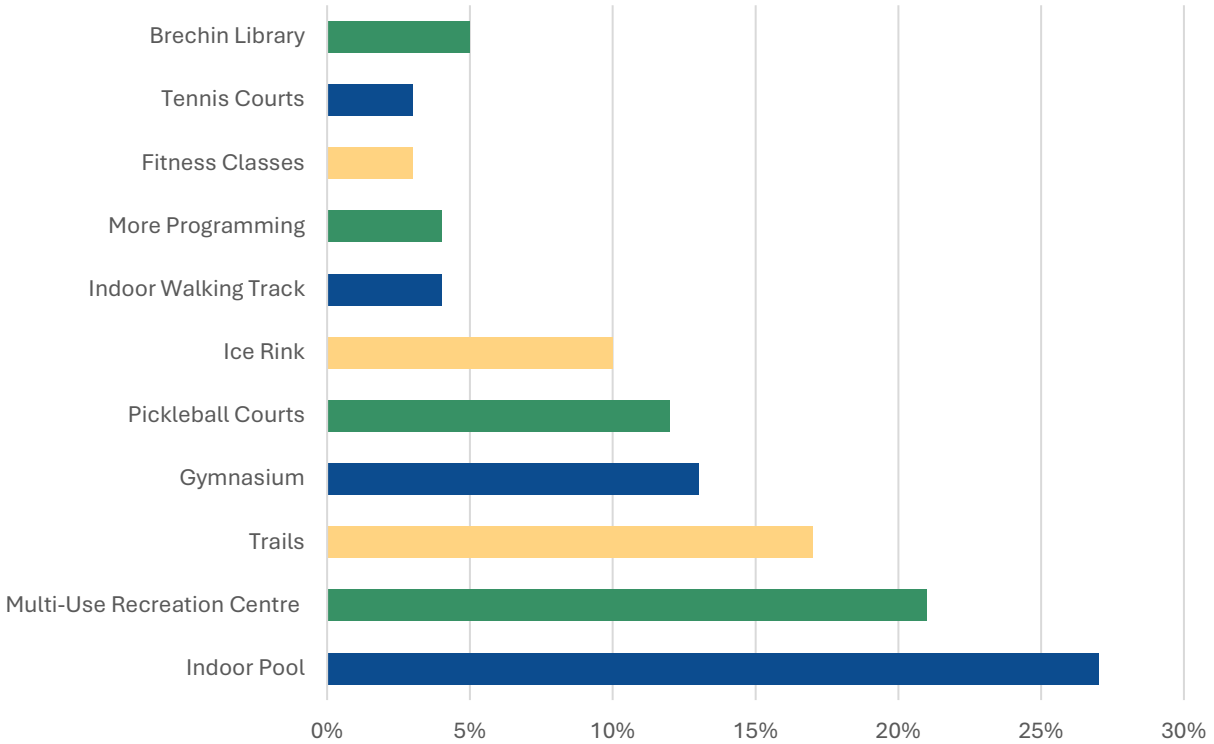


286 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 19, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	
AM	24.13%	69
PM	11.89%	34
Evenings	16.08%	46
Anytime	47.90%	137
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>286</b>

## Question 20

If budget was not a consideration, what do you think would most benefit the residents of Ramara in terms of recreational activities or facilities?

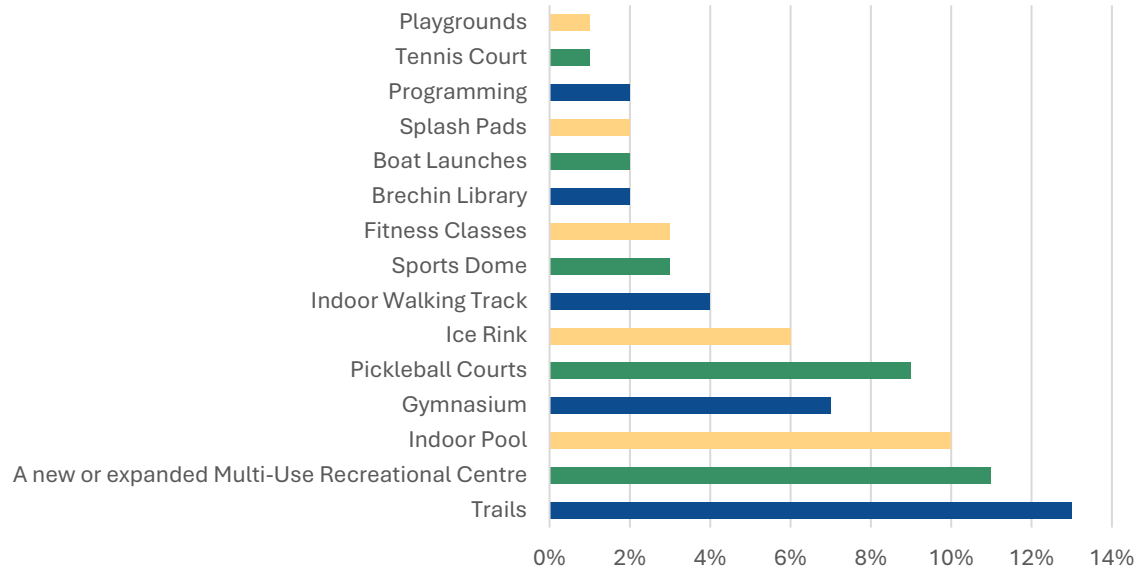


258 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 20, the results are summarized below.

- A. Indoor Pool: 27%
- B. Multi-Use Recreation Centre: 21%
- C. Trails: 17%
- D. Gymnasium: 13%
- E. Pickleball Courts: 12%
- F. Ice Rink: 10%
- G. Brechin Library: 5%
- H. Indoor Walking Track: 4%
- I. More Programming: 4%
- J. Fitness Classes: 3%
- K. Tennis Courts: 3%

## Question 21

If only one project by the Township of Ramara could be pursued in the near future, what project would you recommend?

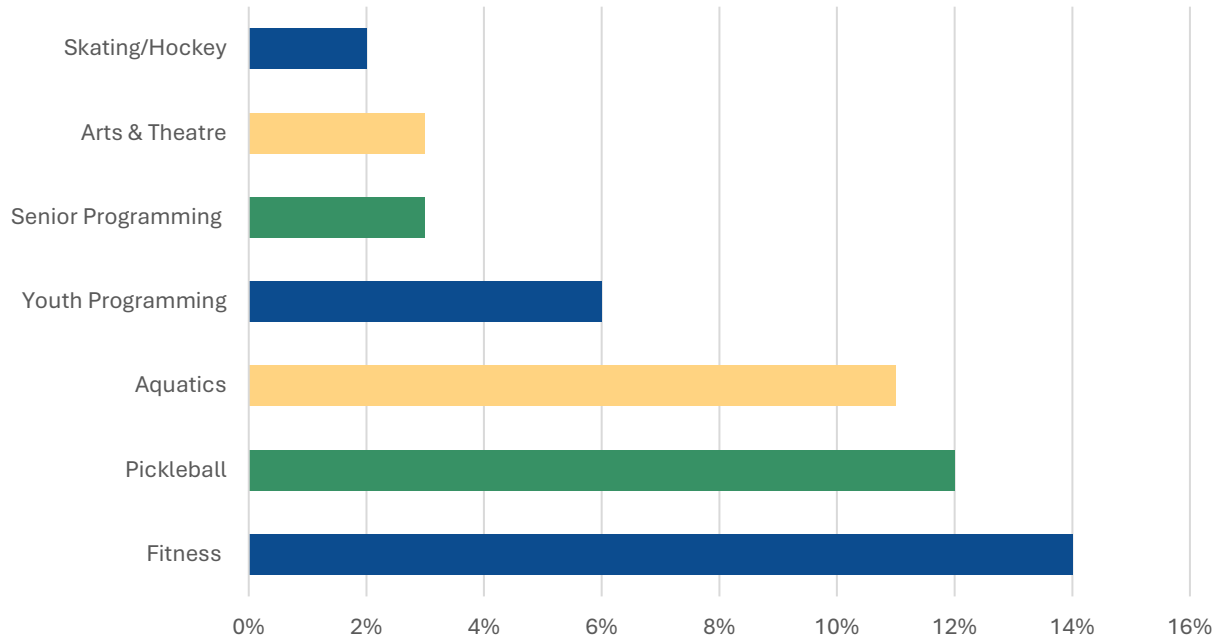


254 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 21, the results are summarized into the following themes.

- A. Trails: 13%
- B. A new or expanded Multi-Use Recreation Centre: 11%
- C. Indoor Pool: 10%
- D. Gymnasium: 7%
- E. Pickleball Courts: 9%
- F. Ice Rink: 6%
- G. Indoor Walking Track: 4%
- H. Sports Dome: 3%
- I. Fitness Classes: 3%
- J. Brechin Library: 2%
- K. Boat Launches: 2%
- L. Splash Pads: 2%
- M. Programming: 2%
- N. Tennis Court: 1%
- O. Playgrounds: 1%

## Question 22

What programs do you think would most benefit residents of the Township?



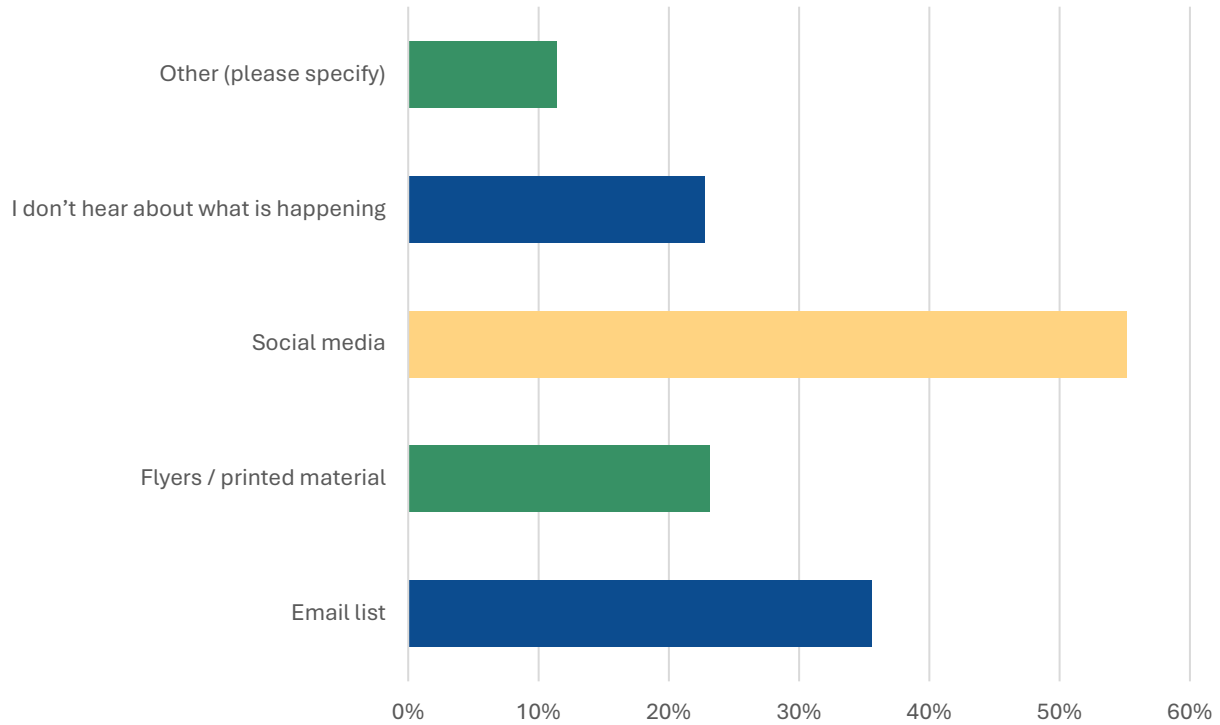
228 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 22, below are the top answers.

- A. Fitness: 14%
- B. Pickleball: 12%
- C. Aquatics: 11%
- D. Youth Programming: 6%
- E. Senior Programming: 3%
- F. Arts & Theatre: 3%
- G. Skating/Hockey: 2%



## Question 23

How do you currently hear about activities or programs in the Township?

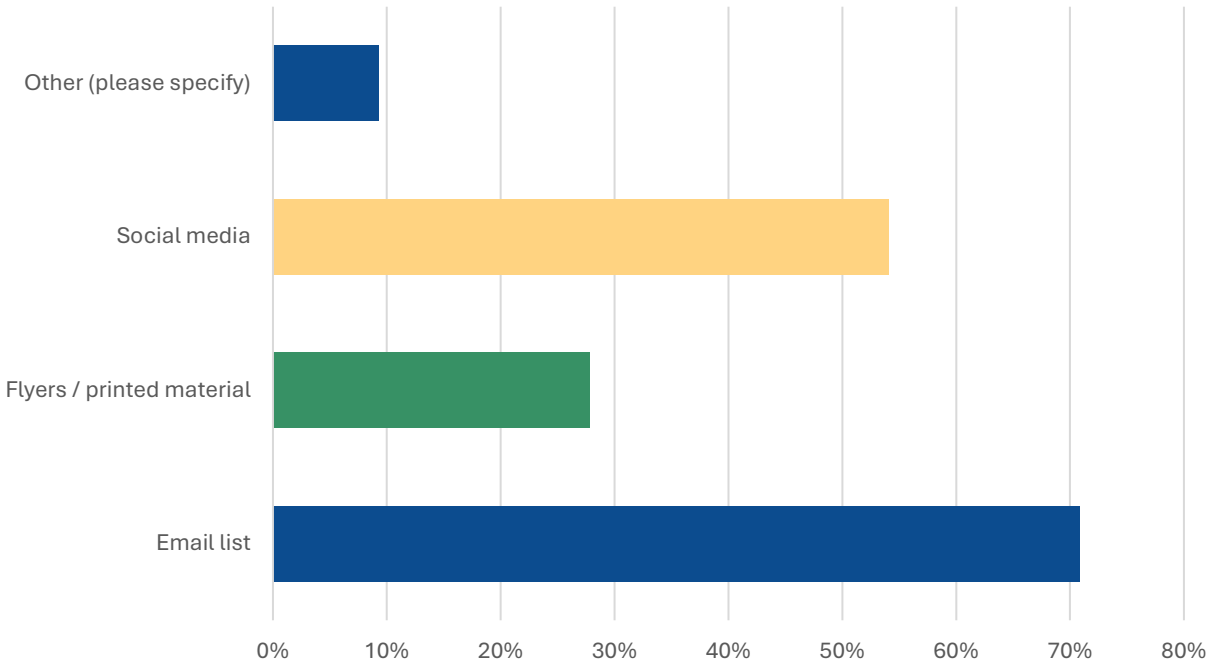


281 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 23, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Email List	35.59%	100
Flyers / printed material	23.13%	65
Social media	55.16%	155
I don't hear about what is happening	22.78%	64
Other (please specify)	11.39%	32
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>281</b>

## Question 24

How would you like to receive information about Ramara services?

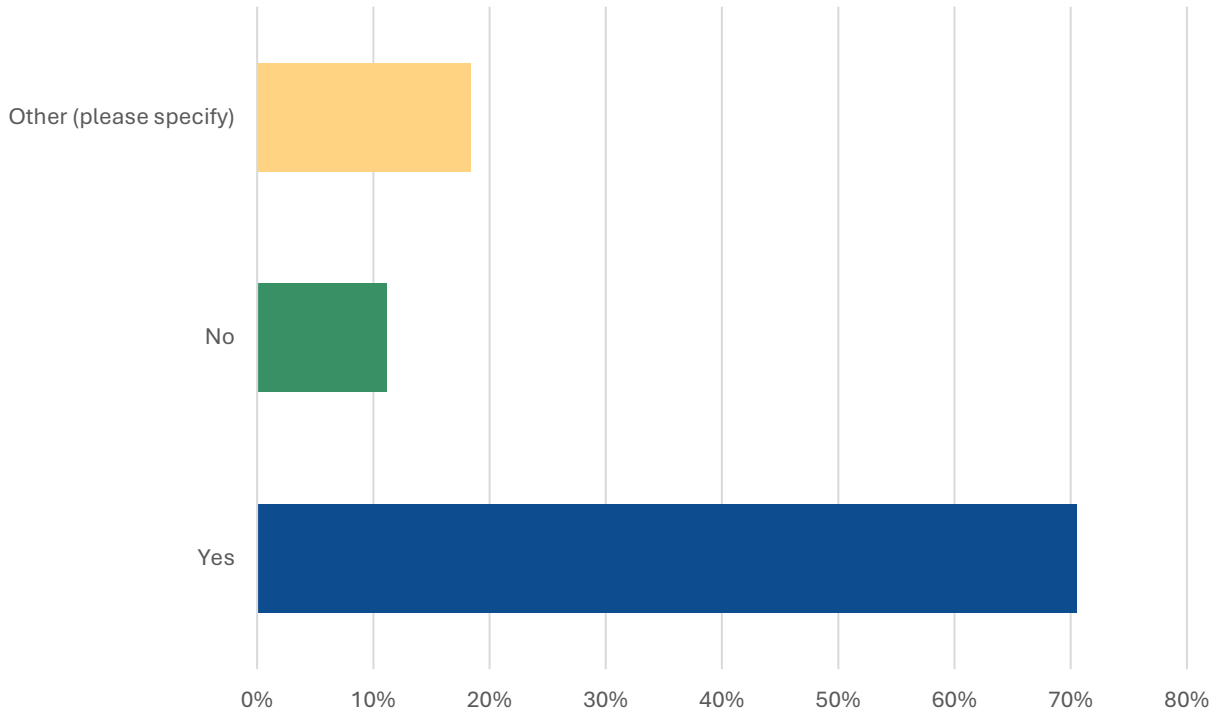


281 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 24, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Email list	70.82%	199
Flyers / printed material	27.76%	78
Social media	54.09%	152
Other (please specify)	9.25%	26
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>281</b>

## Question 25

Would you support user fees for new or expanded facilities or programming?

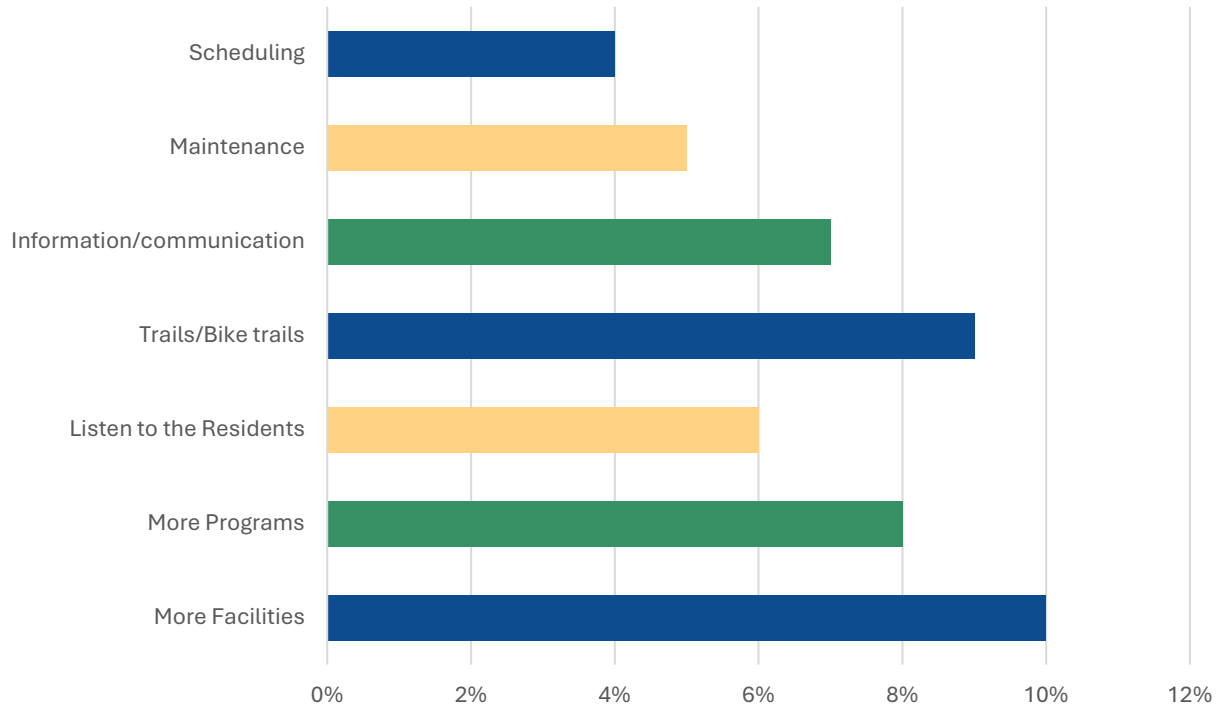


288 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 25, below are the top answers.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	70.49%	203
No	11.11%	32
Other (please specify)	18.40%	53
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>288</b>

## Question 26

What are your suggestions for Township staff and Council to enhance your recreational experiences within the Township?



216 out of 288 Surveys completed responded to Question 26, below are the top answers of general themes.

- A. More facilities: 10%
- B. Trails/bike trails: 9%
- C. More Programs: 8%
- D. Better information/communication: 7%
- E. Listen to the Residents: 6%
- F. Maintenance: 5%
- G. Scheduling: 4%