

Rocky View County Recreation and Culture Master Plan

Phase 1 and 2 Community Engagement Summary

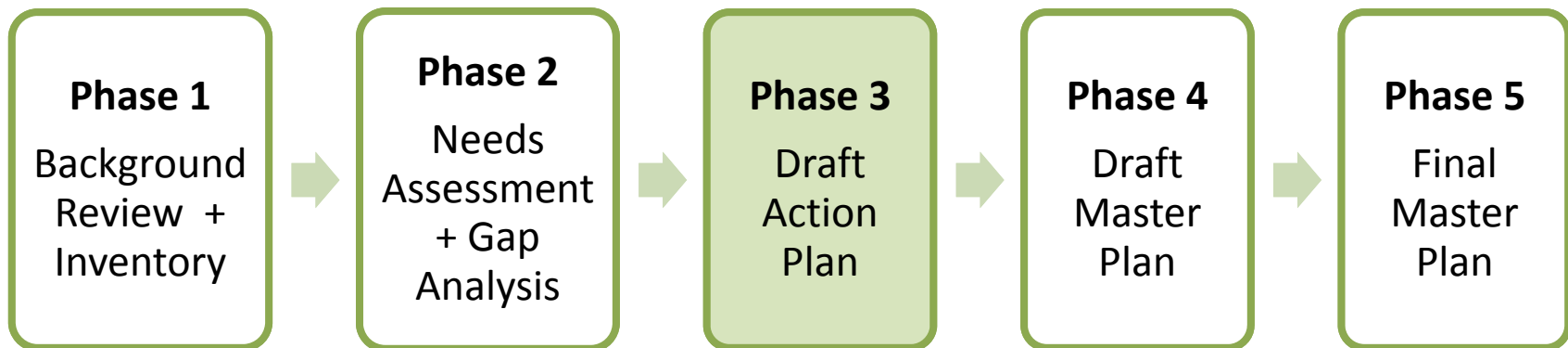


Contents	Page
Where are we in the Recreation and Culture Master Plan Process?	3
Summary of Community Engagement Opportunities and Events	4
Key Themes from Community Workshops	5
Public Workshop Detailed Feedback	7
Public Questionnaire Summary Results	15

1

Where are we in the Recreation and Culture Master Plan process?

We are currently in the process of developing the first document: A Draft Action Plan



2

The community engagement process has included the following:

- Regional Recreation Board Workshop (January 28, 2014)
- Regional Facility Partners Workshop (January 28, 2014)
- District Recreation Boards Workshop (January 29, 2014)
- Public Workshop (January 29, 2014)
- Public Online Questionnaire (open January 30-March 10)

3

Key Themes from the Workshops

Four initial workshops were held, one with the Regional Recreation Board, Regional Facility Partners, District Recreation Boards, and the public.

The following is a summary of emerging themes and key points across all of the workshops.

Vision, Principles and Outcomes

- Create a clear vision and direction for the County moving forward;
- Define principles and defined outcomes;
- Plan for the future and get out ahead of demand;
- Recognize the benefits of recreation and culture in the community;
- Reflect local culture and history;
- Celebrate and build community; and
- Improve community health and wellness.

Level of Service

- Establish guidelines and benchmarks;
- Establish an equitable base level of service;
- Respond to growth and diverse needs;
- Establish more and a better array of facilities and programs; and
- Ensure there are affordable opportunities for recreation.

Partnerships and Community Volunteers

- Improve communication;
- Improve volunteer support;
- Encourage cooperation between organizations to help maintain the volunteer base;
- and direct more revenue at collective goals;
- Recognize the individuality and diversity of communities across the County; and
- Improve partnerships with schools.

Facility Planning

- Focus on existing aging facilities and life cycle costs;
- Outline the tough choices, especially around regional facilities;
- Ensure access to regional facilities for County residents;
- New or upgraded facilities need to be more efficient operationally; and
- New facilities should be phased in to enable better sustainability.

Funding

- Allocate funding based on need;
- Establish a clear funding model and process;
- Establish accountability for how money is spent;
- Leverage multiple funding sources; and
- Improve the process for funding through developer contributions.

4

Public Workshop Feedback Summary

The following provides a summary of the unedited notes from the public workshop held January 29, 2014. Approximately 50 County residents were in attendance.

Discussion 1: Vision for the future

Imagine that it is the year 2030 and you are a Rocky View County resident that is reading a media story describing the successful recreation and culture landscape in the County. The media story is describing the top ten reasons why recreation and culture is doing so well. Please finish the following statement:

In the year 2030, Rocky View's recreation and culture landscape can be described as one that.....

- Diverse culture and sports
- Integrity, gather, diversity
- Easy access, meaningful to community
- Support health, accessibility, well being
- Accessible information
- Financially accessible
- Convenient location
- Complete community
- Population growth
- density
- green space balance (well planned)
- environment friendly
- quality of life
- easily accessed by seniors and people with disabilities
- facilities easily adapted for multi-use
- easy access, \$, location, abilities easy to engage ie. To rent, use etc.
- supports and promotes the health, well being of its citizens, being accessible. Feasible for persons of all ages, stages and abilities.
- Diverse in what's offered, available in easily accessible areas, meaningful to community, economic development
- One that is diverse, and shows integrity within the community. Rich in culture/arts and embraces sports alike.
- Brings the entire community together, all ages. Offers local activities that we don't need to travel for, for all ages.
- In 2030, Rocky View's recreation and culture would look like this: one that is diverse and full of life and energy, one that can fulfil the needs of a growing community. A hub where a community can come together and build and grow with integrity and pride.
- Engages all members of a community with facilities and programs that are accessible by all ages of the community. As well it supports all facilities regardless of their financial situation. Also supporting a green environment by reducing greenhouse emissions.
- Is inclusive, accessible and provides a myriad of opportunities for participation locally. Provides a great quality of life for Rocky View residents.
- To properly manage the growth nodes in the County and support the recreational amenities that are required to facilitate health living within the community.
- In 2030, rec and culture in RVS is flexible, multipurpose spaces, accessible – cost, distance, transportation, thriving and diverse. (fitness programs, multiplex facility, sustainable, all ages, contributing to local economy, lots of community involvement, working together to meet all needs, arts centre, sculpture park, more variety, multi-plex including arts, community centre, better maintenance. #1 – children, #2 – seniors. More local focus).
- KOAC (culture centre) – Kiyooka (one art centre), Spring bank (already founded), 20 acres/pavilion for large art collection registry.
- Organized youth sports
- Employment opportunities and community growth.
- Whole community working together to develop recreation for our whole community area.
- Activity for kids who do not play hockey: court sports, meeting rooms, drama, clubs
- Thriving, diverse, and locally available and accessible to everyone. Locally focused to help strengthen the community and keep people active and engaged within the community. Year round use and local focus. 8

Discussion 1: Vision for the future

(Continued)

- Transportation: accessibility, options, linked to green space.
- Youth employment opportunities.
- All ages mixed together.
- Broad definition of recreation. Link culture and recreation.
- Balance urban and rural, offer programs to people from all income levels.
- Partnerships across boundaries, and with other levels of government.
- Financial sustainable: user pays, but balanced. Opportunities for everyone. Different groups help support others.
- Sustainable/eco buildings.
- Provide physical, educational, cultural, psychosocial need. Accessible to those who have difficulties participating i.e. wheelchair, youth who don't drive and who can't because of weather conditions/no shoulder on highway.
- Consider transportation in selecting locations.
- A meeting place for food facilities and storage for smaller sports equipment, skate sharpening, repairs.
- Provide most services within district/regional level.
- Multi-use, interconnected services and facilities.
- Focus on the neighbourhood.
- Interconnected green spaces, greenways – linking to communities.
- Cultural facility should follow a regional model as the utilization is less than recreation facilities.
- Would like the county to be “caught up” in the recreation and cultural needs of residents.
- Multi-purpose instead of individual buildings. Community hub.
- All ages participation in outdoor pursuits.
- Lower fees, rural values, low travel time, all ages access. Bring together communities (big and small). Wide variety, accessible and sustainable.
- Recreation boards able to service community. Fiscal certainty for funding, consolidation of people's time (volunteers).
- Inclusive and diverse. Wide variety of options. Maintain small town feel.
- More populated, more optional recreation facilities, having things easily accessible.
- Where all age groups and cultures have the ability/opportunity to participate within a 20 minute drive. Small to medium recreation centres that offers more than just a building but sports, exercise, general gatherings, arts, crafts.
- More rural roots and farm heritage.
- Helping to provide a wide range of services throughout the communities. With the Rec boards able to provide programs/services to their whole district.
- From all walks of life – growing and fostering the County's identity. A linked web of groups/activities not just mainstream. Keep rural roots. Financially stable.
- Provides opportunity for residents of all ages to participate in those activities that support healthy living including access to natural spaces for cross country skiing, horseback riding, hiking, etc.
- Wide array of services. Greater degree of financial stability, consolidation of volunteers + other resources.

Discussion 2: Financial Sustainability

Financial sustainability will be a key consideration when developing the recreation master plan as the County has limited resources to supply a wide variety of services.

What are the top 5 actions that should be taken to improve financial sustainability of the County's recreational and cultural amenities?

Discuss the balance between the desired service level and the tax support required.

- User fees
- Increase tax
- Partnerships with corporation vs. municipality, more partnerships with school board, partnership with library.
- One stop facility
- Start up is more important
- Clearly define needed programming – not just wants
- Collaboration
- Revenue action: forge new partnerships, increase taxes (allocate \$ to denser populations, certain % of all funds allocated accordingly), increase user fees.
- Must be revenue from all: user fees, taxes, grants, sponsorships, rental space, muni, provincial, federal.
- Build facilities in Langdon – children and elders need them.
- We should pay more for rec fees through taxes + partnerships with surrounding communities, especially if those communities use the facilities.
- Increase tax: use programs that are need warranted
- Joint ownership to lower costs. Increasing the user fees provides a sense of ownership by users.
- County – recognize where the needs are and invest in the community. Residents – look after sustaining and supporting. Re-organize regionalization. Tax increase was ok with brought in with amenities.
- Increase collaboration. Combination of user fees vs. tax increase.
- User pay may limit access to some groups. Partners can be critical. NGOs have access to \$ that governments do not.
- Develop joint ventures with school district and private partnerships. Tax base growth: develop facilities/amenities in identified growth nodes – will in turn attract more population growth. Look at user fee models. Look at multipurpose/use spaces.
- Facility must bring in enough revenue to support itself through user fees, partnership with corporations, increase taxes, start with programs that will bring in fees to support other programs.
- Partnerships with churches.
- Built with efficient heat/electrical systems. Operational efficiencies.
- Balance between operations of existing facilities and capital for new facilities.
- Concessions
- Sponsorship with oil company.
- Facilities run by multiple groups.
- People have to realize we are more than one town, a community includes people outside of town boundaries – everyone is needed.
- Have rentable space for birthday parties.
- Membership fees.
- Develop new facilities where the population is to attract more development.
- Developer recreation levy.
- Host events, fundraise, apply for provincial grants.
- Phased development: start with low cost and revenue generators.
- Build in operational structures i.e. firehalls. Could share some joint use facilities – ie. CPR classes, fire fighters could use the fitness centre.

Discussion 2: Financial Sustainability

(Continued)

- Use existing assets prior to planning for new ones.
- Tax credits to facilities
- Opportunities to donate.
- Marketing department to create new opportunities and apply for grants.
- Ag Society should be supporting Langdon.
- Increase advertising opportunities.
- Recreation tax.
- Instruction in grant writing: to look for and how to write.
- County should play a bigger role.
- Process with MR land – County to re-evaluate. Sell MR land?
- Cash vs. land reserves.
- Lifecycle planning.
- Use existing facilities – do not compete with what we have.
- High end programs and facility rentals as a source of funds for other programs.
- Establish an RVC foundation to raise funds, and as a means to receive donations.
- Energy efficient design.
- More emphasis on rural programs ie. Equestrian, workshops on horses, farm animals, gymkana, rodeo
- Attract day trip tourists with attractive community
- No doubling of services within close proximity.
- Encourage small town ownership in rec facilities through volunteer opportunities. Promote greater volunteer base.
- Facility management assistance – grant education, funding streams.
- Promote growth through positive development (residential vs industrial)
- Facilities closer to communities with facility shortages will help secure the use and will bring residence from low service/high population to high service/low population areas.
- Revisit how recreation \$ is currently allocated.
- Engage and reward volunteers
- Direct recreation taxes to where people use their facilities and where they are able to participate in their activities.
- Seek operational efficiencies (less groups). Consolidate culture and rec groups to direct revenue at more targeted goals.
- Keep as many people involved as possible – try to keep it more small community driven.
- Facilities that generate revenue through users, rentals, events.
- Evaluate opportunities to create revenue generating stream within facilities i.e. art courses, exercise classes, music concerts etc.
- Benchmark county's tax and support with other communities.
- Promote positive growth (sustainable population base in all areas).
- Evaluate opportunities for revenue generation opportunities – have space available at low cost.
- Consolidation of similar groups.
- Understand demands of user base.
- Government needs to better understand needs and building development process. (incorporate in ASP etc).

Discussion 3: Level of Service

What are the basic recreational and cultural activities most important for health and community-building in rural areas?

What are the recreational and cultural activities most important for health and community-building in the hamlets?

What is your opinion of the current level of service at the **Regional Recreation Centres**?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of this approach?

What is lacking or needs improvement?

- Unfortunately, most of the other rec facilities are too far from us. Needs improvement as not all other facilities offer everything such as aquatics.
- Open space, community halls (strengths?). Depends on the criteria of needs based on the demographics of the area.
- Regional recreation centre – not accessible by all residences. Nice to have aquatic centre in Airdrie but not used often by myself – will go to Calgary/Strathmore.
- Level of service: rural: community hall, playground. Hamlet – depends on size and demographics.
- Level of service: rural: green spaces, community gather location (indoor community centre), gymnasium. Hamlet: demographic and population needs to be taken into account to see facilities Have a space that can be multi-use and all year round use.
- Opinion: current level of service is not good. Should be focused on where the population is. Lacking: not accessible to all people. Only benefits their residents.
- Rural: meeting spaces and area for outdoor activities. Hamlet: number (population, ages)? If younger community, definitely needs a different amenity than a population age of 50+ olds.
- Current level of service for regional -> travel time -> not too cool. Lacking – closer amenities, accessibility.
- Most important for healthy community: access to resources (fitness, cookbooks, ebooks), ability to be outside safely (exercise indoors in winter), reasonable access to healthy food choices locally (farmers market, flexible facility space).
- Lacking/needs improvement: if the county has identified a growth node then they need to grow recreational facilities in that location. Not nearby [but] within walking distance. Partnership with corporations and developers.
- For regional: not supplying the need.
- Important to provide basic rec and cultural activities.
- No ice currently allocated to ringette in Chestermere.
- Regional recreation centres: not enough pools to meet the demand
- Basic rec and culture activities. Rural: community centre with space for clubs, rec activity, ball diamonds etc. Hamlet: pathways and green space. Multi-use facility, dep. On population and demographics.
- Regional Rec centres (i.e. Chestermere) – too far to access.
- Regional rec centre: extra user fees for regional rec centres or unable to access some programs. Does not help communities grow together. “suburb” feel – commuting again.
- Demand for space exceeds supply. Want to spend \$ in RV, not elsewhere.
- Measure of success for regional buildings needs to be reassessed.
- Accessibility and cost for use limits our ability to use regional space for people with disabilities. Also: organizing activities for persons with disabilities is practically non-existent.
- Rural: ball diamond, soccer, playgrounds, library, creative spaces, paths, small parks, organized sports, health and wellness, equestrian programs.
- Hamlets: lacrosse, indoor track, fitness, paths, parks, youth centre and hangout, gymnasium, roller derby, inline hockey, arena,
- Regional: tournament facilities, camping, dumping facility, hotel, pool (multipurpose, lessons, aquasize), performing arts centre, 500 person theatre, sculpture garden, arts centre, indoor skate park, universal access, climbing walls, large parks, performing arts centre, library.

Discussion 3: Level of Service

(Continued)

- Ensure population centres have rec and culture facilities. Expand focus from sports to include more community spaces, arts, culture at single location. Balance mind and body health.
- More substantial cultural programming.
- Scouts, senior and youth clubs, guide, 4H, church groups. Medical clinics, mental health clinics, youth camps.
- Schools allowing more community use i.e. volleyball, badminton, etc.
- Focus in areas with higher populations.
- Year round activities.
- (how does a small community afford liability?)
- Health services in a structure
- Connected trails, walking, sledding.
- Spectator opportunities.
- Hamlet: halls, meeting space, event space, trails, library, school gym, stage + technology, year round options, ice, indoor courts for kids, basic rec facilities, youth events, active and passive opportunities, local rec hub, fitness facility.
- Open green space with connectivity where possible.
- Classes, comedy, dance, adult education, parenting classes, equestrian competitions, facility for weddings, funerals, bowling, arcades, billiards, running tracks, physio/chiropractor.
- Current level of service is unacceptable to rural residents.
- Indus residents note zero service – their funding goes to Chestermere facilities.
- The regional rec centre does not know who they should be supporting, tax base pays for regional centre.
- Springbank does not support cultural events. Several comments around poor services and planning at this facility.
- Rural: community hall, own draw or cultural atmosphere, no cookie cutter answer, blended services (library, rec hal, meeting rooms etc), design services and facilities to meet our needs, encourage western lifestyles in rural i.e. 4H, meeting places.
- Hamlet – tools for volunteers to be able to self manage.
- Both need to work together – blend responsibilities. Look at bigger picture, look at whole group. What are the commonalities between areas.
- Same level of service should apply for everyone
- Hamlet – multipurpose space, wide variety, promote healthy lifestyle, family.
- Ask residents: what drew you to your community, were culture and recreation activities available a consideration in your decision making? What were they? What do you wish was available?
- If services are available in rural areas this will draw families from larger communities.
- Access within 20 minutes to local recreational and cultural activities.
- Rural: community halls, access to learning, centralized in areas. Promotion of rural lifestyles and activities.
- Hamlet: recreational facility capable of hosting large events, physical activity (soccer, ball diamonds, rink), multi-purpose buildings.

Discussion 4: One big idea!

If this Master Plan could address one thing, what would it be?

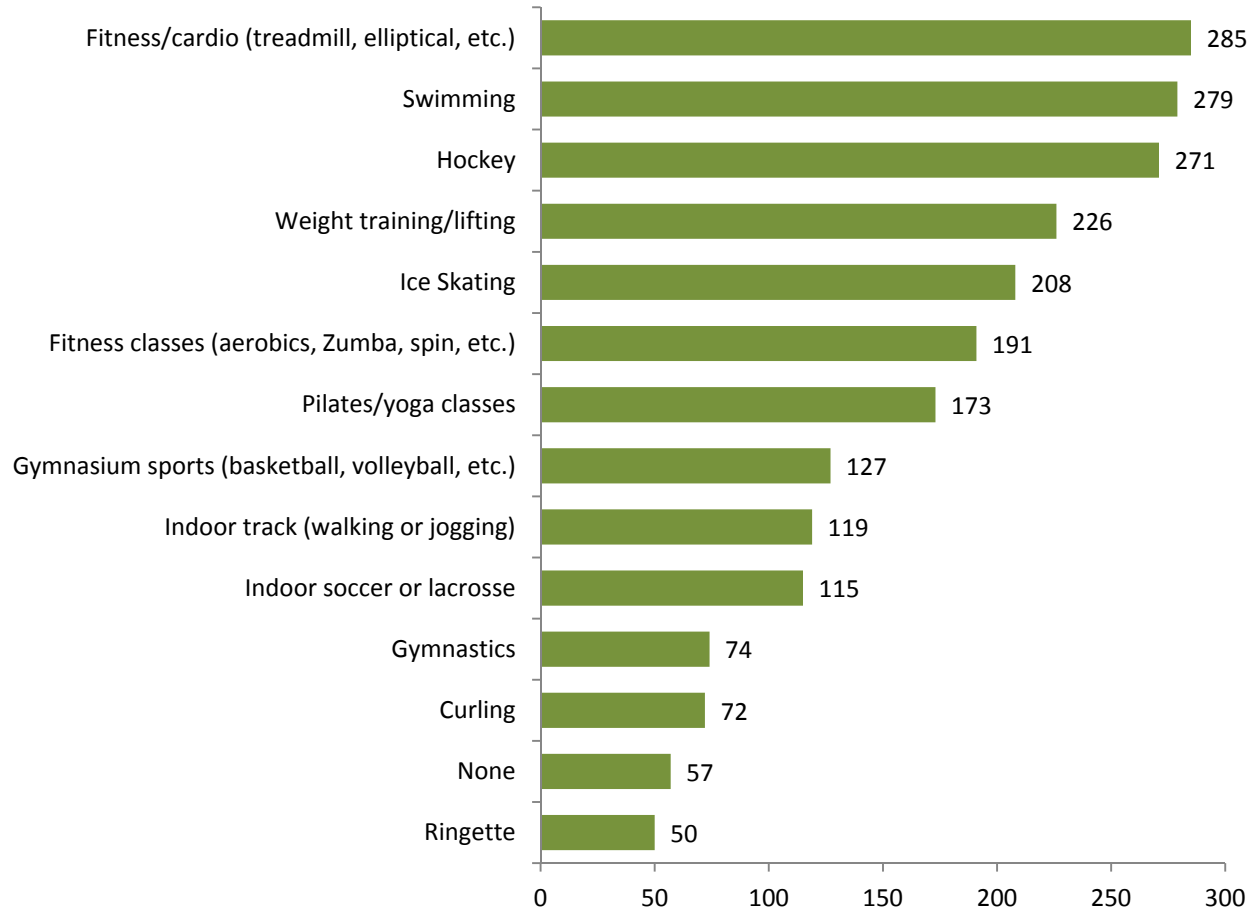
- All services for all people – indoor and outdoor
- Swimming pool
- Get ahead of growth
- Better planning of facilities
- Synergy between local groups (50 community groups)
- Global vision, still maintaining importance of each district
- Accountability for how to spend \$\$
- Plan needs to get communities in same districts working together towards common goals
- County is lacking direction
- Public indoor equestrian/agriculture centre at Springbank
- More focus on the needs of actual residents in community rather than serving urban needs.
- Empower community residents to participate in their community rather than traveling to Calgary.
- Planning on an area wide basis
- Focus more on needs of smaller communities, before addressing bigger communities.
- Expanded library system.
- Lacking ice, pool, gymnastics in SE.
- Fiscal commitment
- Information on regional facilities

5

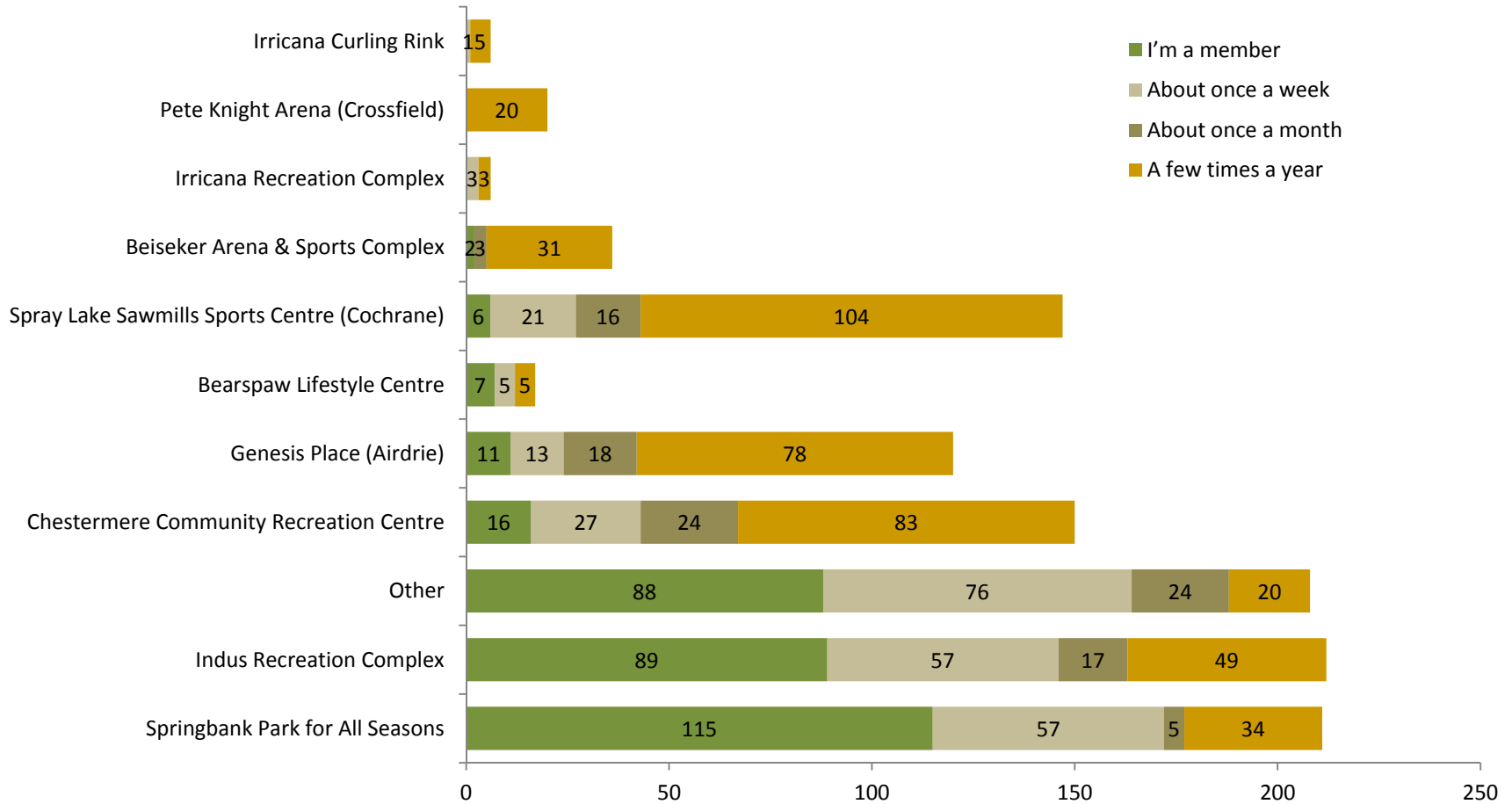
Online Public Questionnaire Results

The following is a summary of the public questionnaire which was open between January 30 – March 10, 2014 and received 600 responses

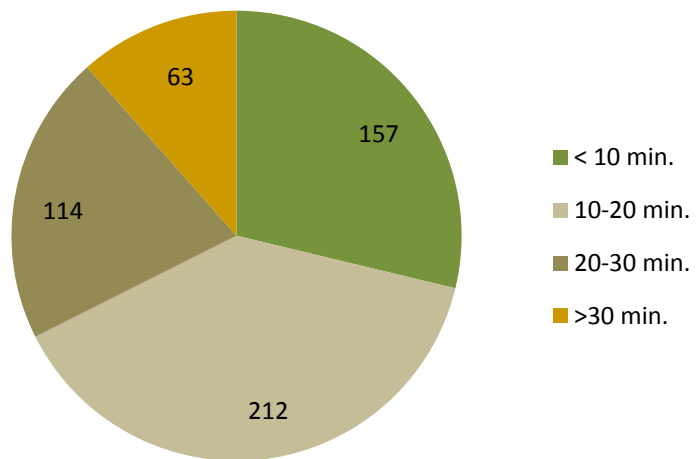
What indoor recreational activities do you participate in on a regular basis?



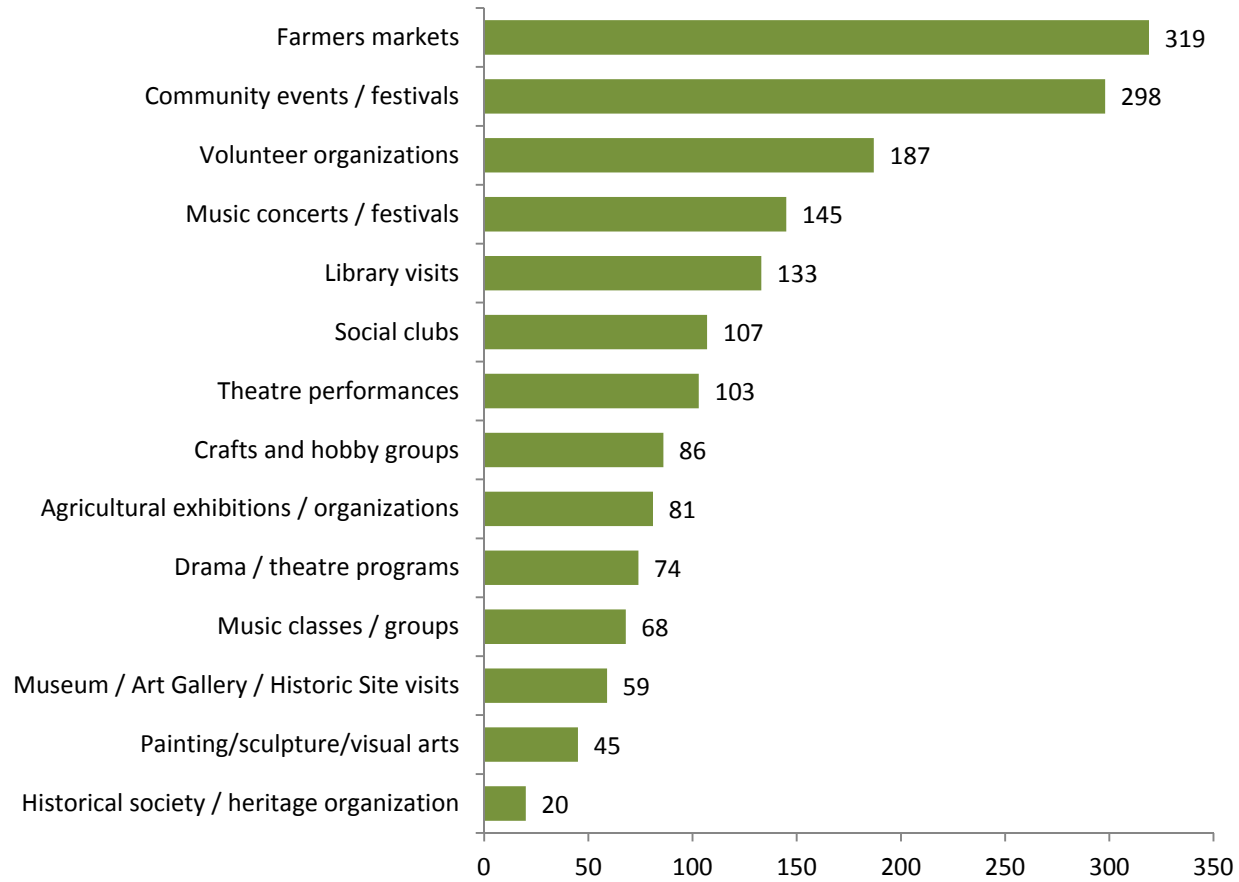
*How often do you participate **in recreational activities** at each of the following facilities?*



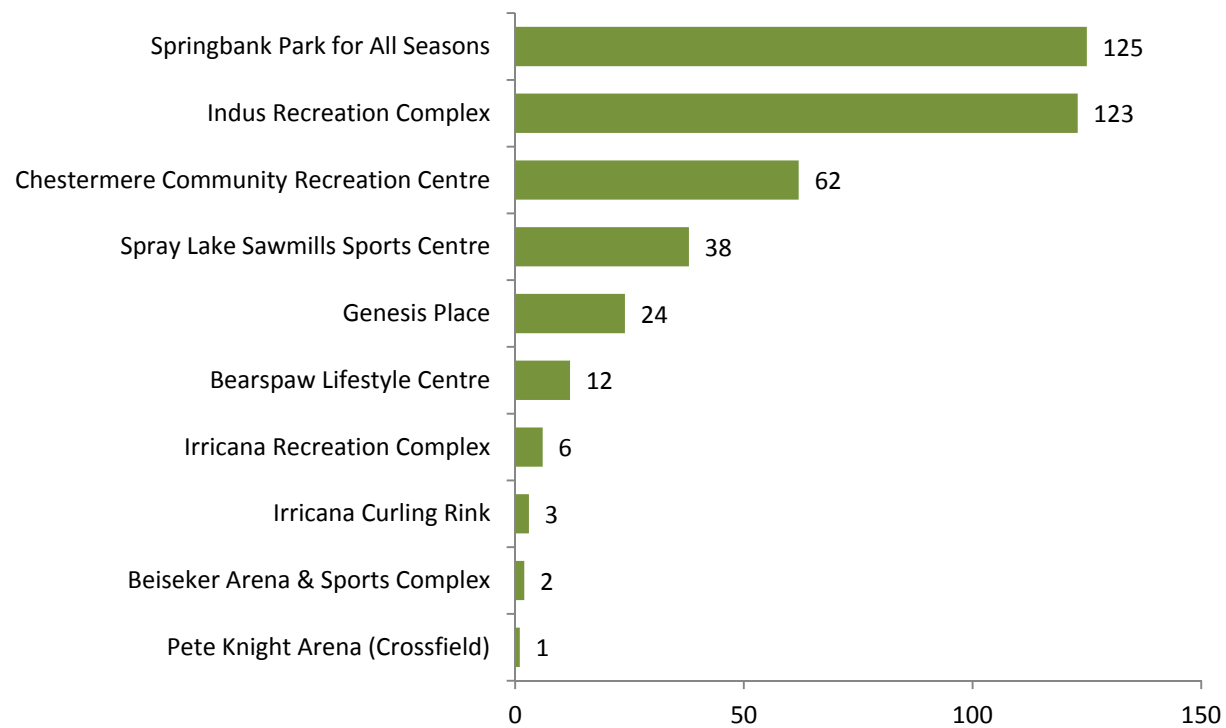
How long does it usually take you to get from home to the facility you use the most?



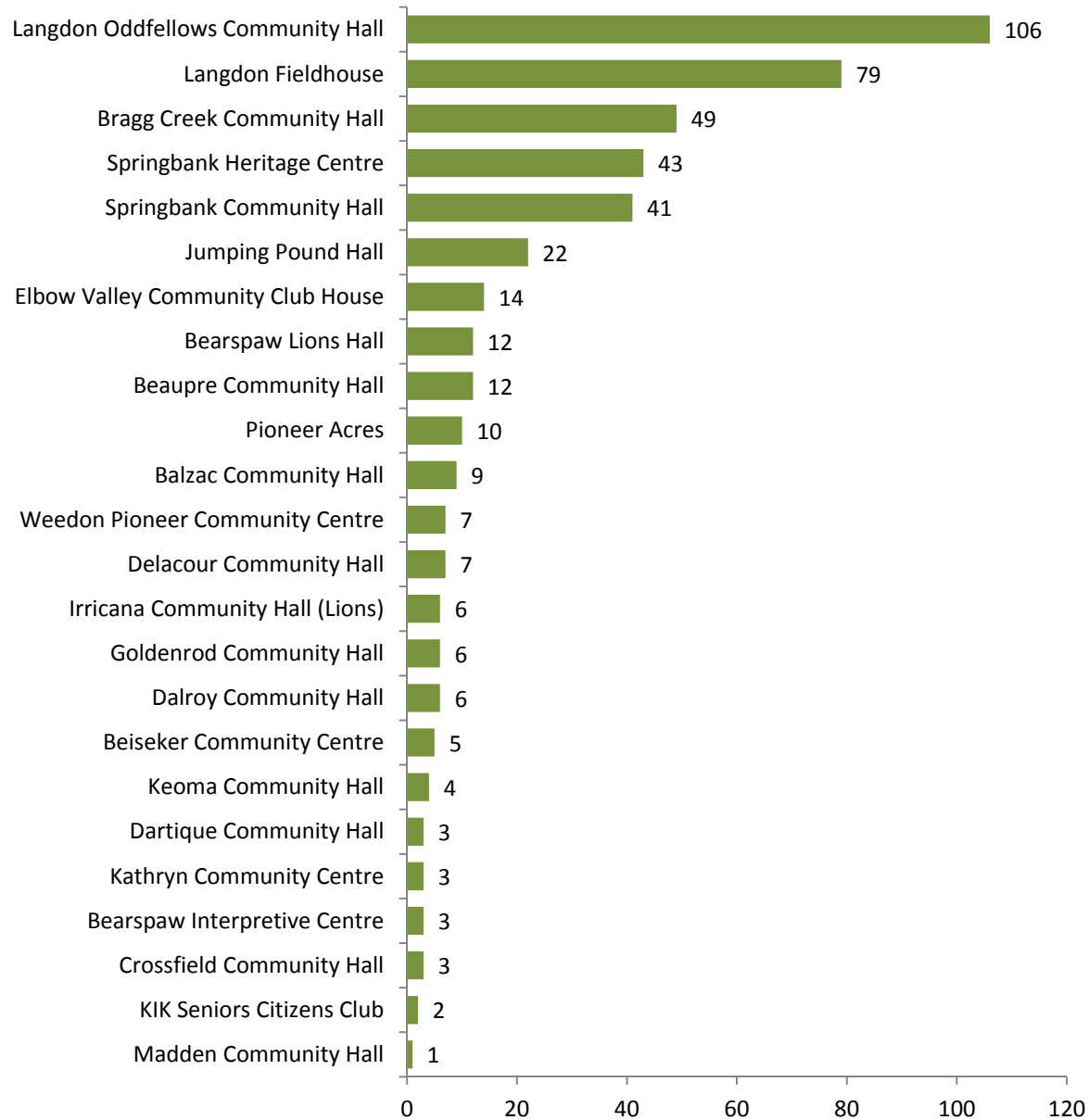
*What **cultural activities** do you participate in on a regular basis?*



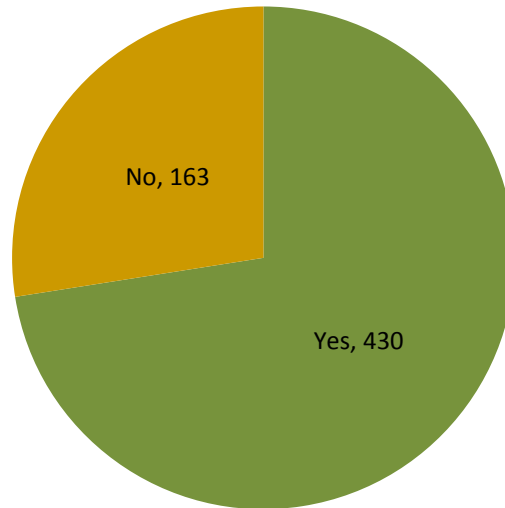
*Do you participate in **cultural activities** at any of the following recreation facilities?*



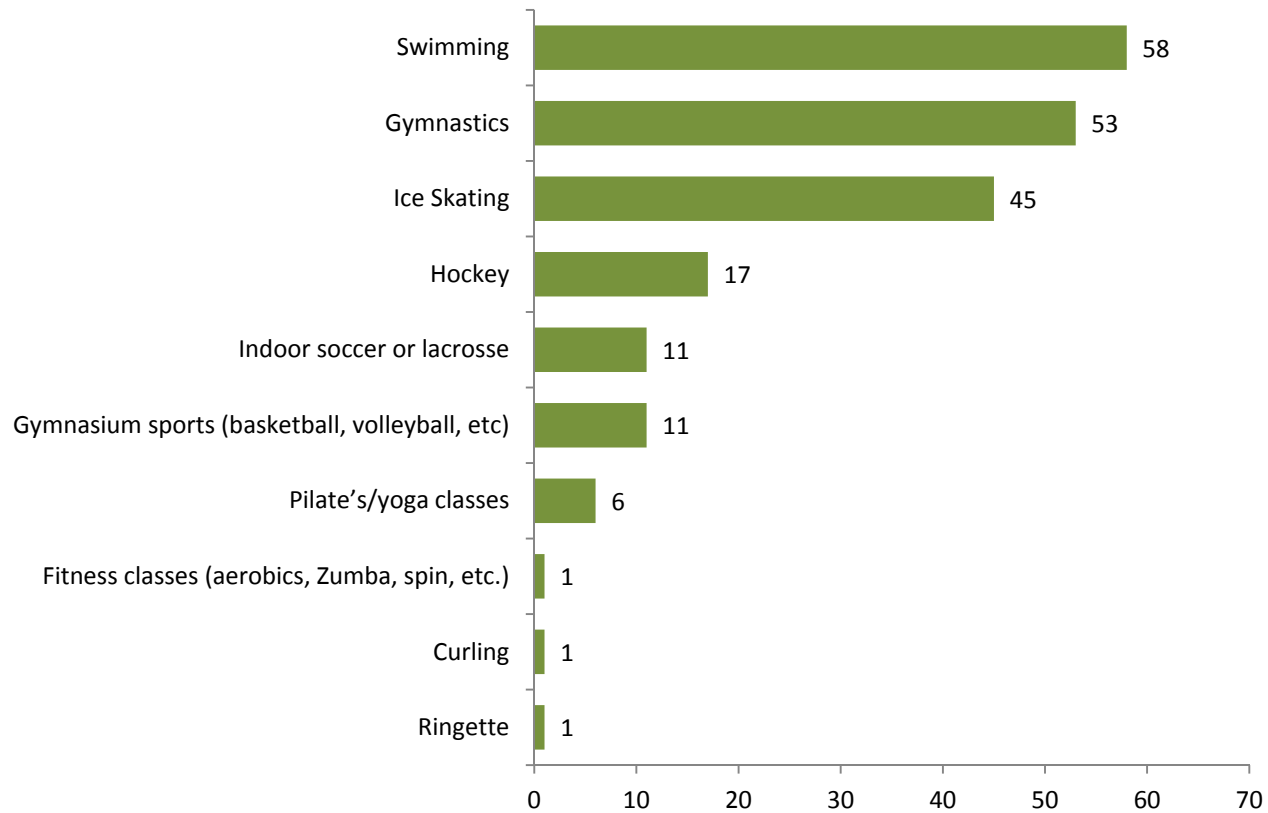
*Do you participate in **cultural activities** at any of the following community halls?*



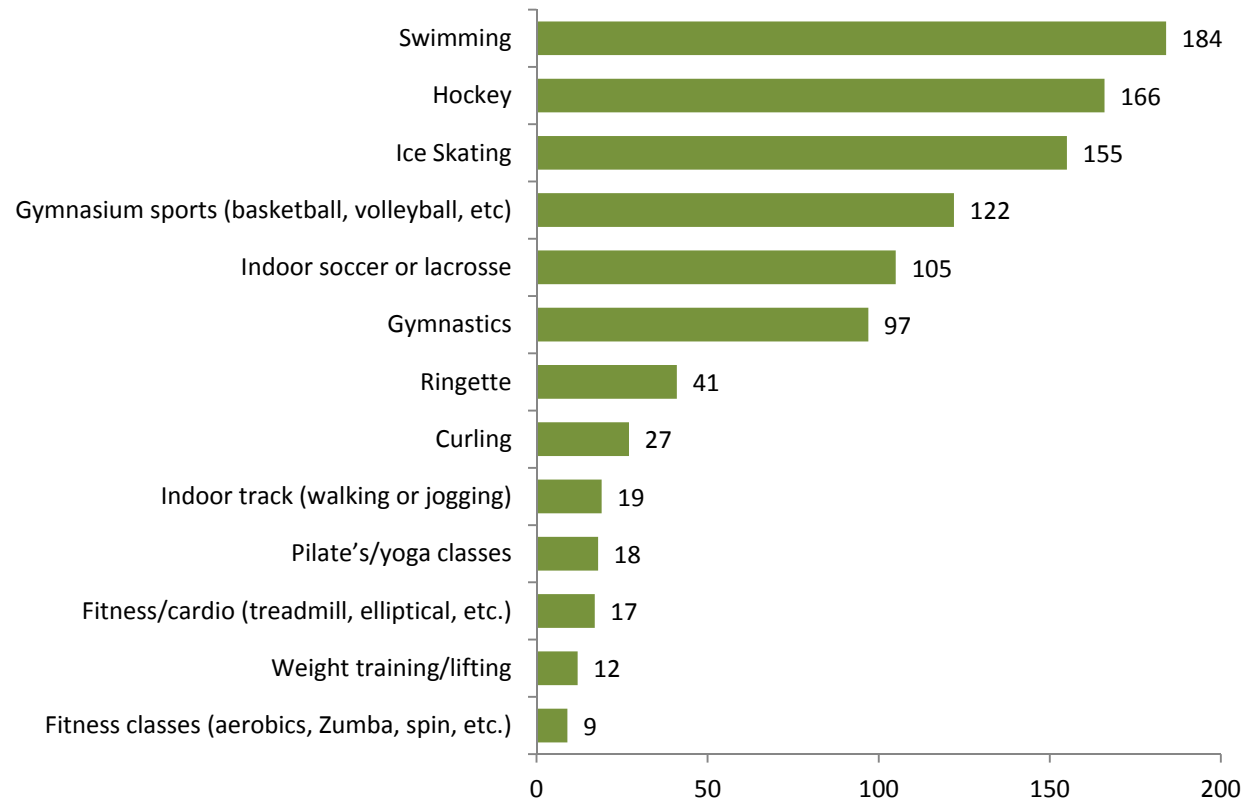
Do you have children under the age of 18 years?



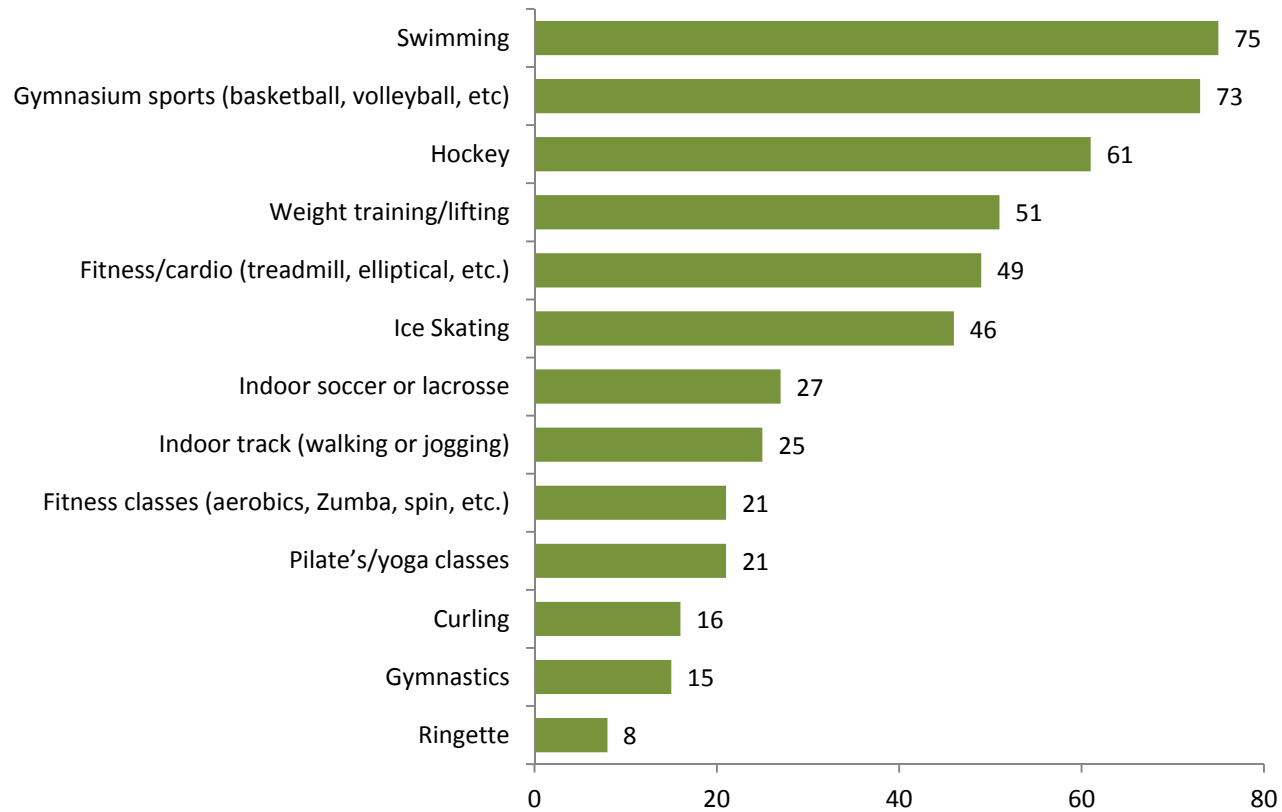
What type of **recreational activities** does your child or children (under the age 4) enjoy?



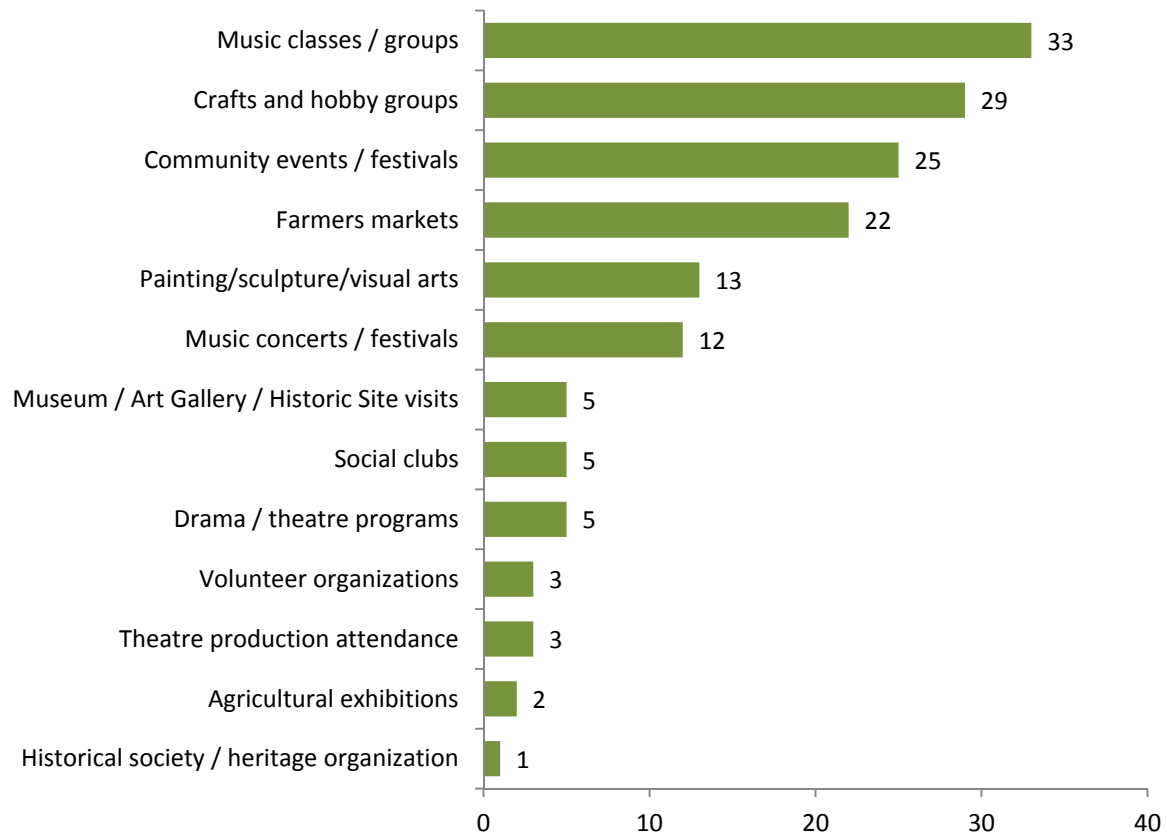
*What type of **recreational activities** does your child or children (ages 5-11) enjoy?*



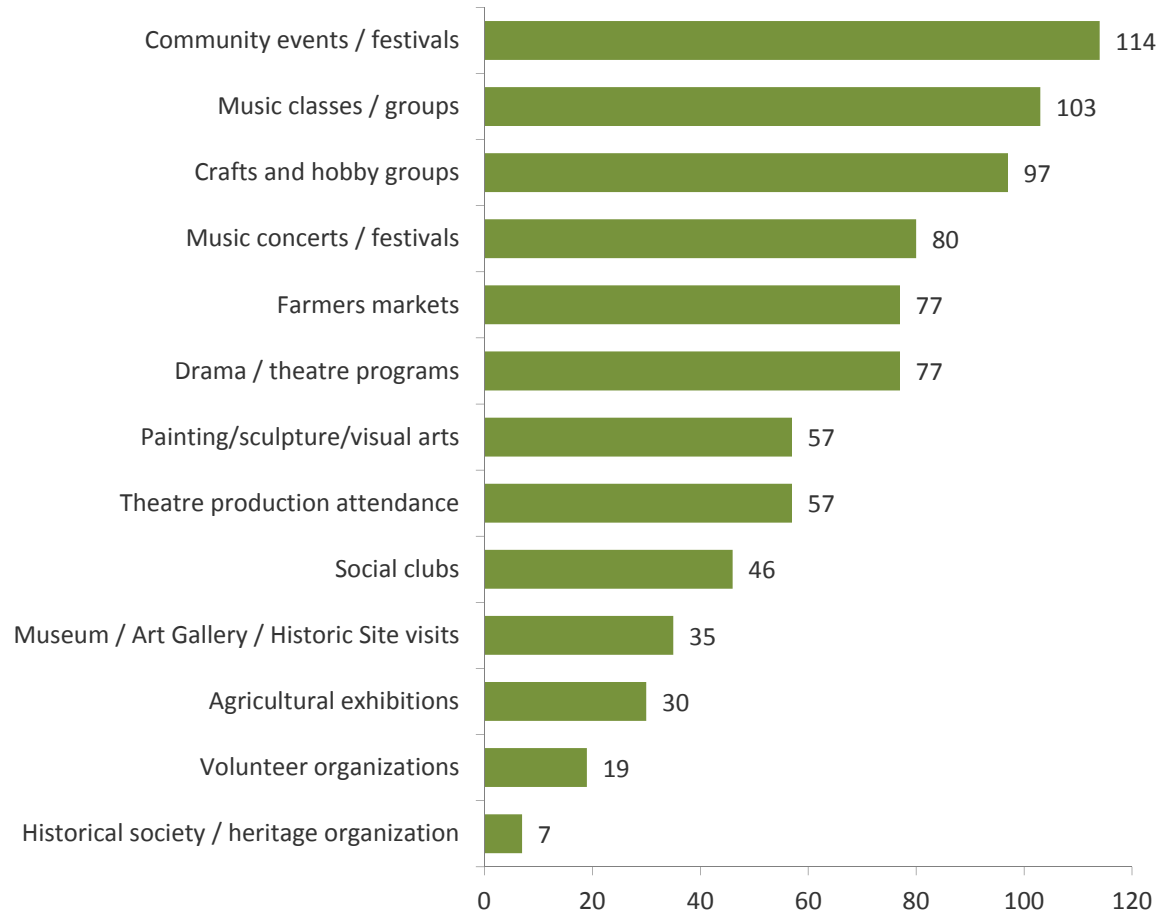
What type of recreational activities does your child or children (ages 12-17) enjoy?



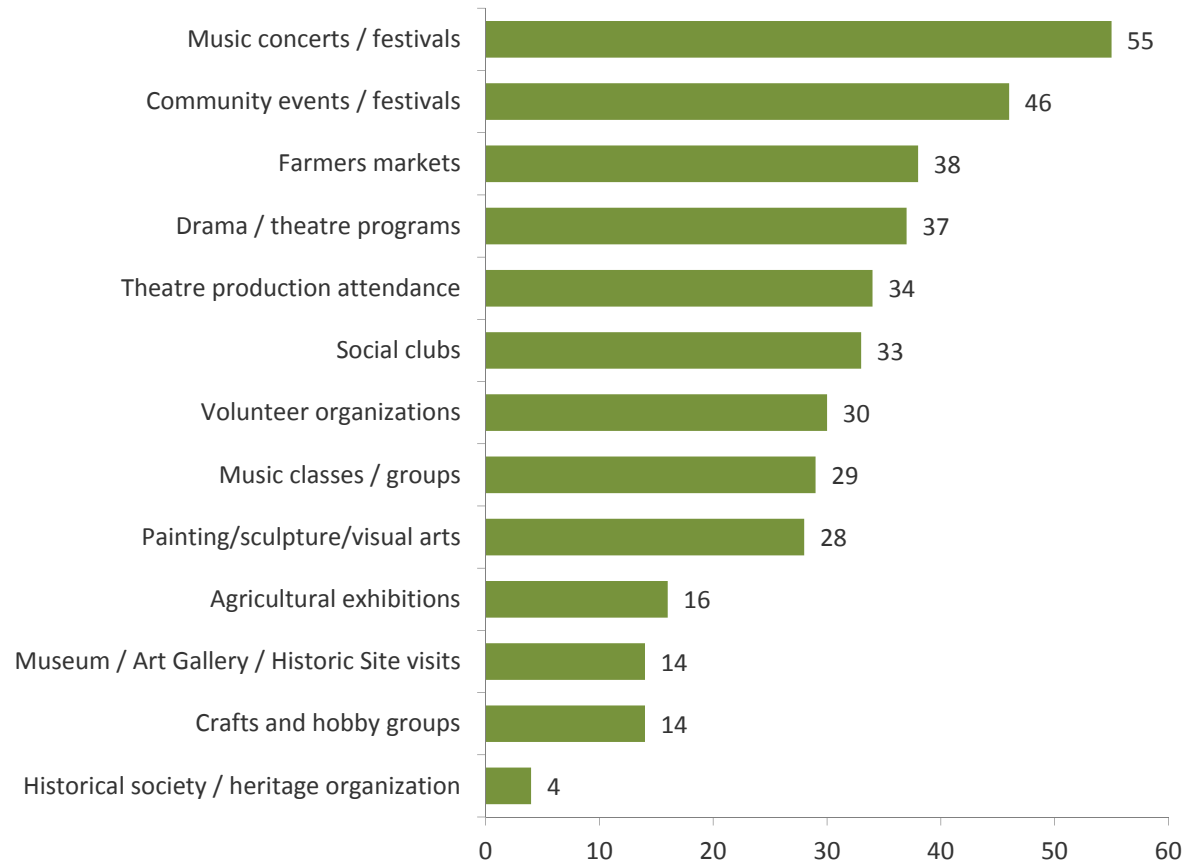
*What type of **cultural activities** does your child or children
(under the age 4) enjoy?*



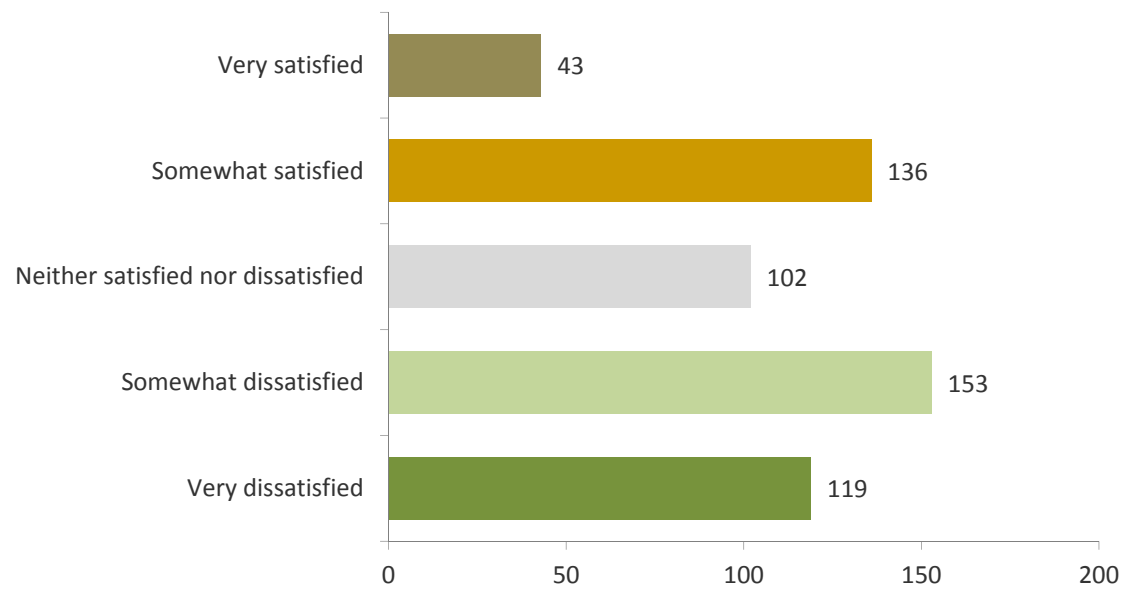
*What type of **cultural activities** does your child or children (ages 5-11) enjoy?*



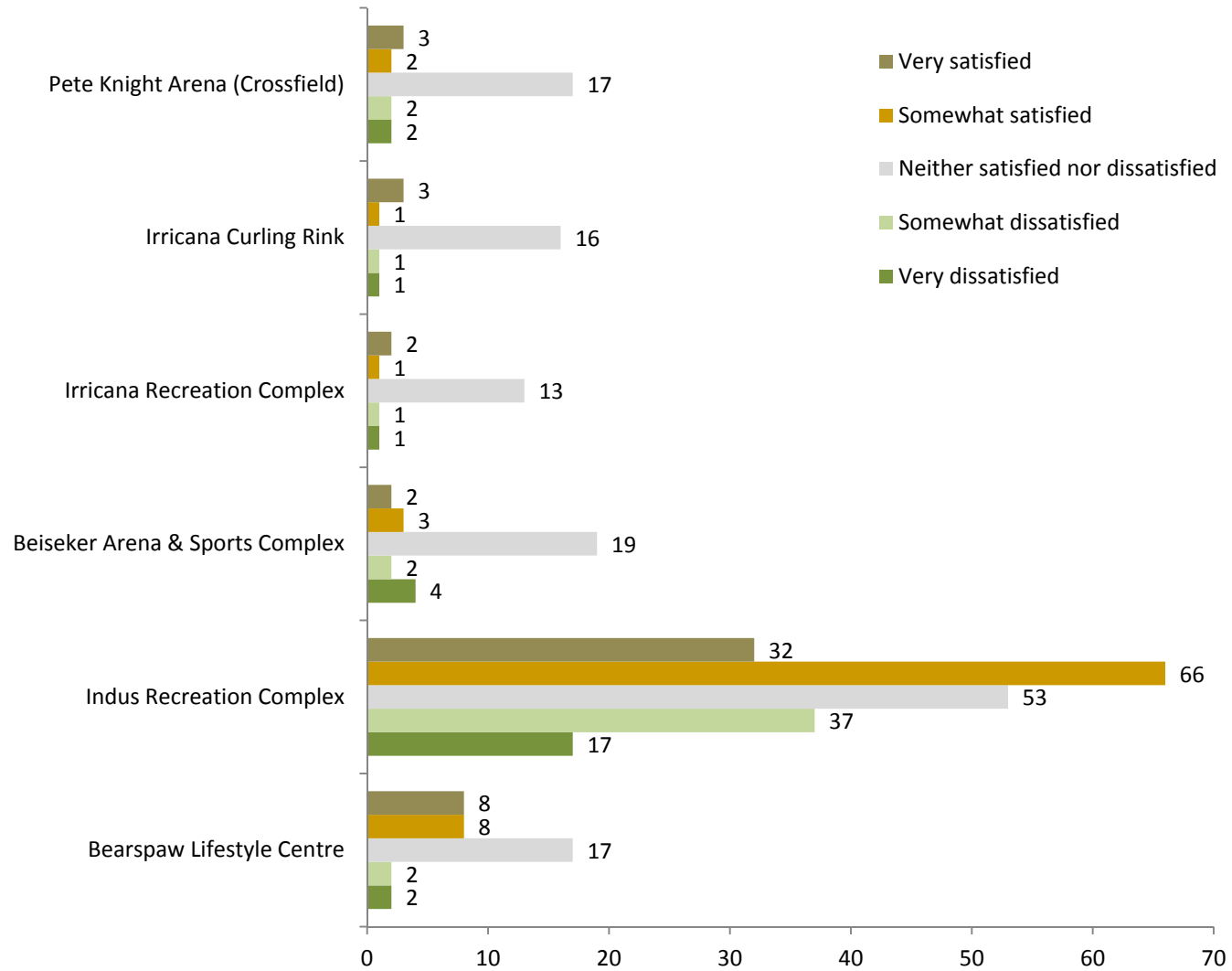
*What type of **cultural activities** does your child or children (ages 12-17) enjoy?*



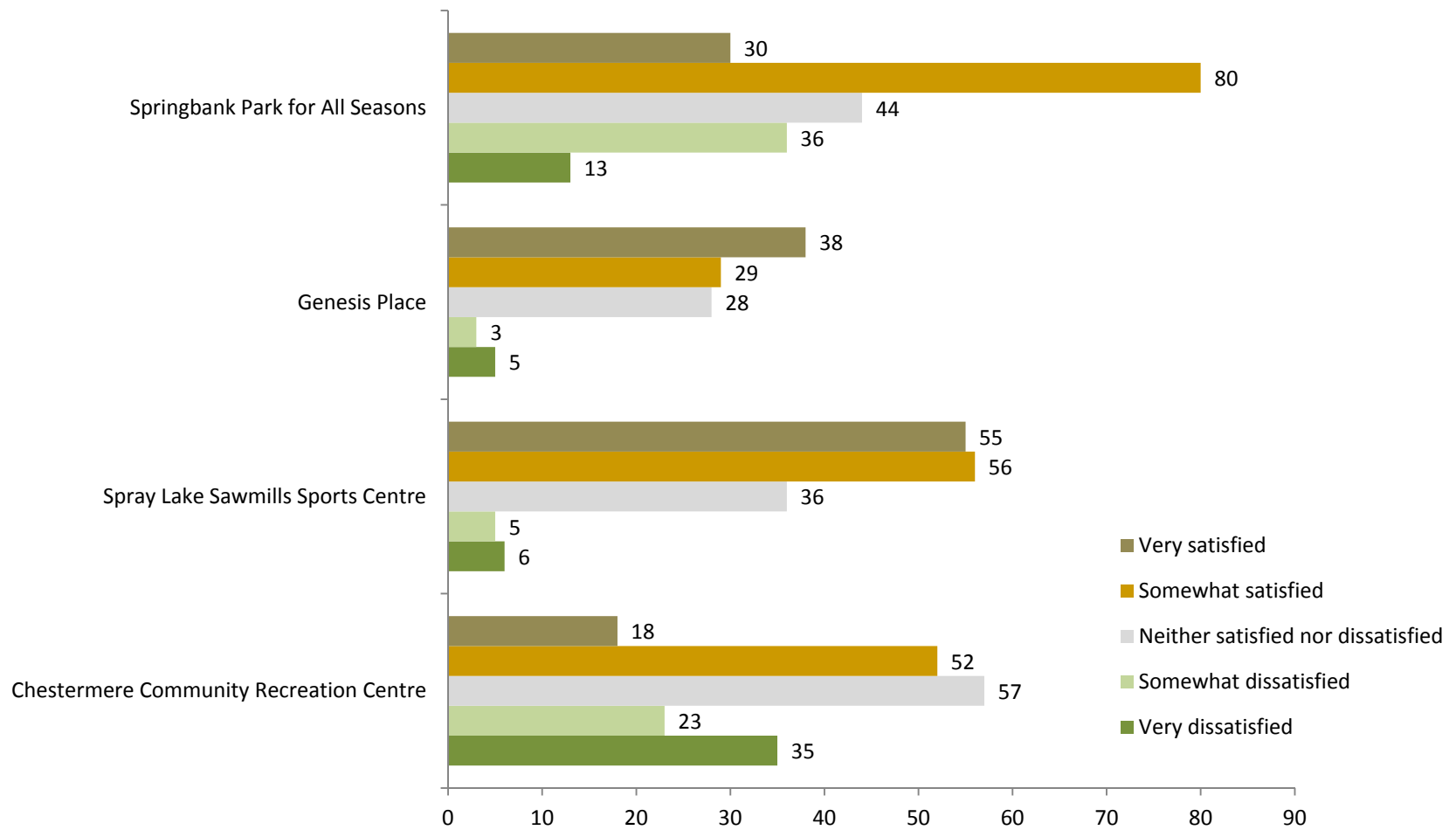
*Overall, how satisfied are you with the indoor **recreational or physical activities opportunities** available in Rocky View County ?*



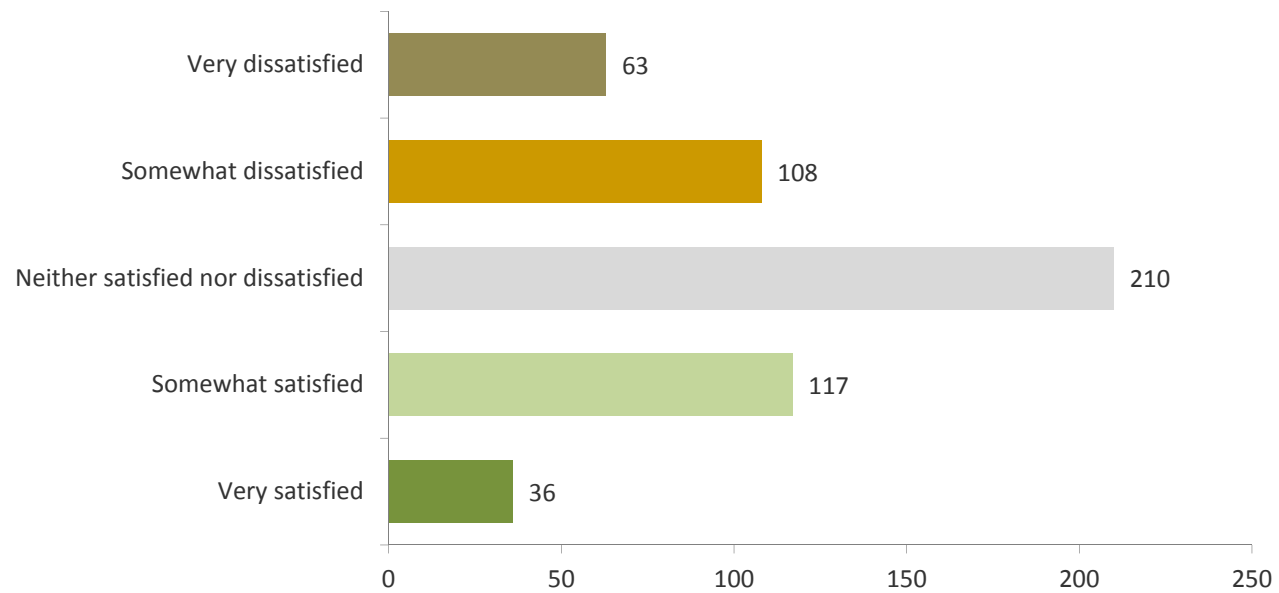
*How satisfied are you with the following **district recreation facilities**?*



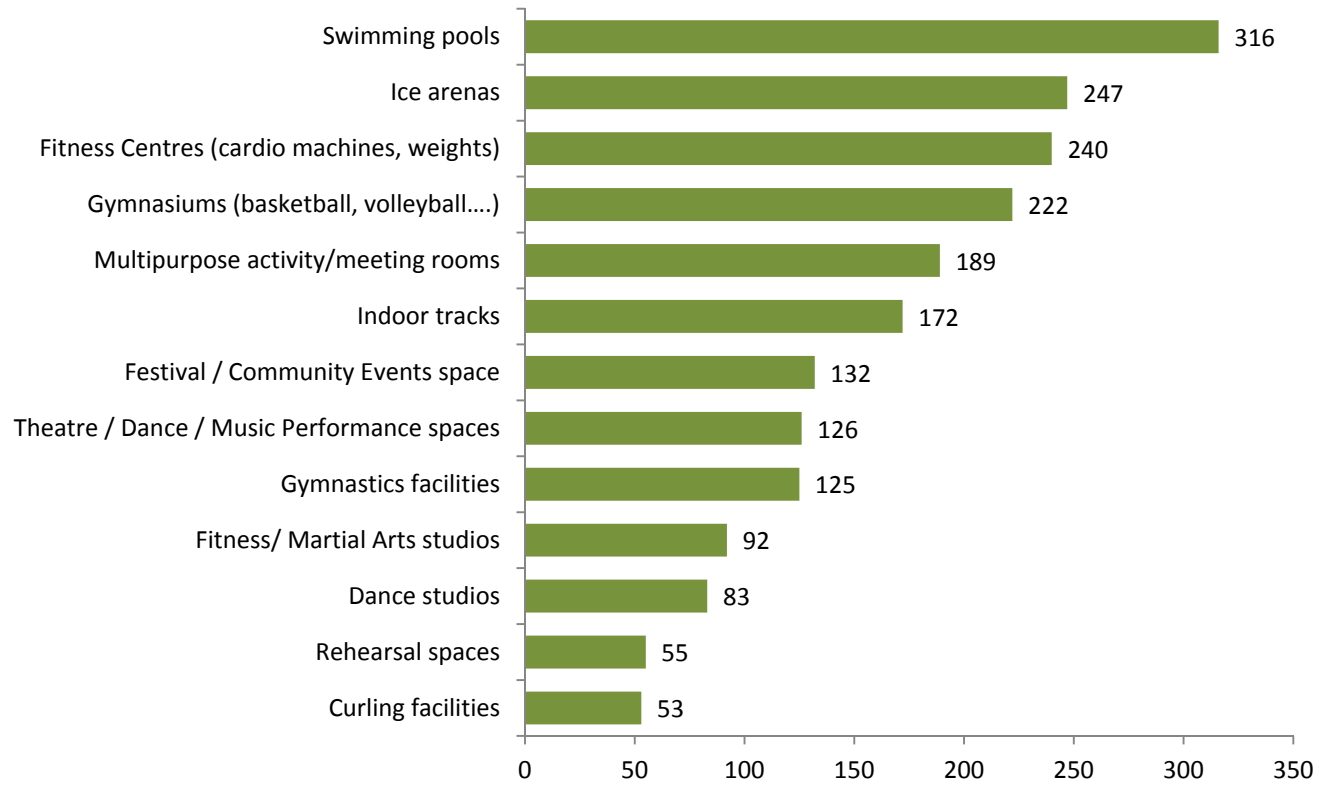
*How satisfied are you with the following **regional recreation facilities?***



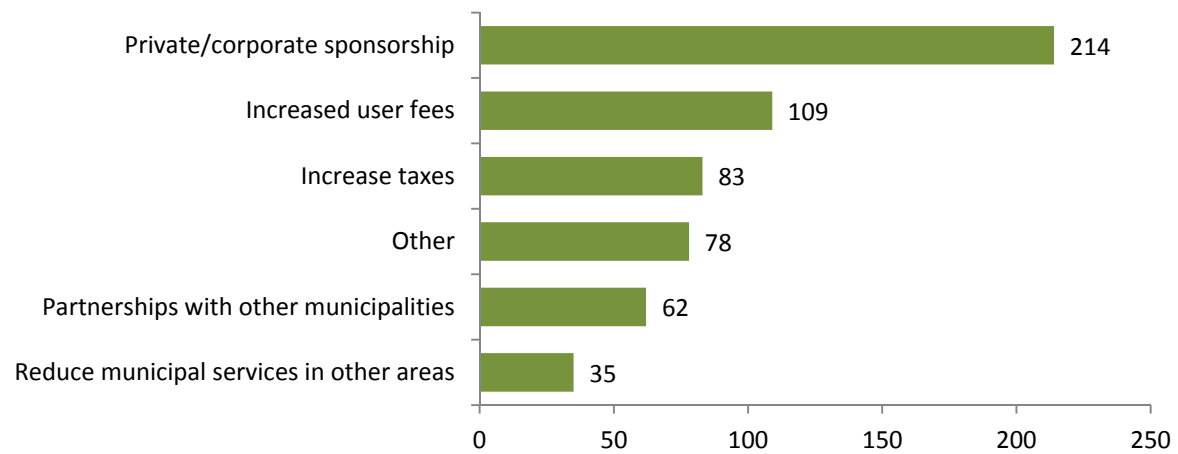
*Overall, how satisfied are you with the **cultural facilities** and opportunities available in Rocky View County?*



*What indoor recreational or cultural facilities are **lacking or needing improvement** in Rocky View County?*



How would you prefer that Rocky View County pays for any new or improved recreational or cultural facilities?



What, if anything, prevents you from participating in recreational or cultural activities more often?

