

Park and Recreation Board Meeting
Monday, February 9, 2026

Members Present: Art Taft, DeeAnna Brady-Leader, Pat Carroll, Victoria Hunt, and Jim Sargent
Staff Present: AJ Smovir, Jessica Compton, Sarah Griffin, Kevin Vining, and Bryan Lockerby
Guest Present: Shannon Wilson, Matrix Staff (Lauren Schubring, Allyson Brekke, Cassidy Burns), Jen Rowell, and Jenny Dodd

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

INTRODUCTIONS

Board motioned to approve January 12, 2026 as written. Motion was seconded and carried, 5-0.

New Business

- Electric City Archer Lease
 - Electric City Archer Club lease expired 12/31/2025.
 - The Electric City Archer Club currently leases a designated portion of City-owned property at Wadsworth Park for the purpose of conducting archery-related activities.
 - Board members were provided with copies of the Electric City Archer Lease for their review and consideration.
 - Advisory Board members were briefed on the current terms and conditions of the leases and were asked to provide a recommendation regarding approval of the proposed lease renewals.

Board motioned to recommend approving the Electric City Archer Lease to the City Commission. Motion was seconded and carried, 5-0.

- Matrix Organizational Review (Phase 1)
 - Staff from Matrix Consulting presented Phase 1 of their organizational review to the Advisory Board.
 - There is a desire to evaluate the Great Falls Park and Recreation system within the context of establishing a sustainable framework for long-term operations and growth.
 - The process began with an assessment of the current status of the Park and Recreation Department.
 - An inventory and comprehensive assessment of the Department were conducted.
 - The first step involved engaging with City staff—including Parks and Recreation personnel, Civic Center staff, advisory boards, and other key stakeholders.
 - Aim High: Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of childcare services and whether the facility can effectively compete with other gyms in the community.

- Discussion included Park District-level funding and the permissible uses of those funds.
- Trust levels were reported to be relatively low.
- Discussion included the overall history of maintenance in Great Falls, noting that facilities have been difficult and costly to maintain, funding has been insufficient, and necessary repairs have often been delayed due to budget constraints.
- It was suggested that there may be an opportunity to reposition and broaden the marketing approach for Aim High to reach a wider audience.
- There was noted confusion regarding which agreements are currently in place and what the established priorities are.
- The Operations Report is anticipated to be released in early to mid-March.
- A draft of the Mini Poll results was distributed to the Board for review.
 - 5 Mini Polls were distributed to the public.
 - A total of approximately 5,000 responses were received across the five polls.
 - Board reviewed the results of the polls.
 - Lauran did an Engagement/Critical Priorities/Potential Trade-offs/Great Falls in 5 years/ and who is missing – working board with the board members.

OLD BUSINESS

- Improvement and Repairs Budget for Centene Stadium -Update Advisory Board
 - Received Letter from Greg Doyon.
 - In the interest of time Art suggested that we move this topic for another time. A separate meeting. A special work session.
 - Board would like meeting to be attend by Advisory Board, City Commissioners and Greg Doyon and Jeremy Jones , 2/23/2023 3:00pm.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Staff Reports
 - Kevin – Parks Manager
 - Working on landscaping parks.
 - Picking up garage.
 - Continuing on general maintenance and graffiti removal.
 - AJ-Trails
 - Kings Bridge Bid going out on Tuesday to contractors.
 - Working on Permits for behind the Refinery (Spring project).
 - Jessica - Director
 - Calendar of events passed out to Board members.
 - Rec Center has a lot of events going on.

PARK BOARD

- No Comments

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Jenny Dodd –
 - Conflict of interest brought up at the City Commission – Enbar and LPW, in regards to the transactions with the Centene Stadium funding project. I have brought this up previously to City Commission and was it was ignored.
 - Several people upset Park District Funding money is going to a private organization.
 - In 2023 \$600,000 in ARPA Funds were awarded to the Baseball Club.
 - One of the items they requested these funds for was for new stadium seats.
 - They listed a tax id number that is not found anywhere. That is lying to the Federal Government.
 - Would like the board to look into the relationship of the Voyagers and subcontractors.
 - Pat Carroll requested that Jenny Dodd put all these comments into a written request and send it to Jessica Compton, for the Board to receive and review.

Next Meeting March 9, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

LEASE AGREEMENT

This AGREEMENT is made effective the 1st day of March, 2026, by and between the **CITY OF GREAT FALLS**, a municipal corporation, P.O. Box 5021, Great Falls, Montana 59403-5021, hereinafter referred to as "**City**" and **ELECTRIC CITY ARCHERS, LLC** a Montana limited liability company with a mailing address of 2702 Fern Drive, Great Falls, MT 59405 hereinafter, the "**Lessee**."

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the City and Lessee entered into a Lease Agreement dated October 21, 2020, for use of a portion of City owned property located within Wadsworth Park, 4645 Wilkinson Lane, Great Falls, MT 59404 (hereinafter refer to as the ("**Property**"), (the "**2020 Lease**"). The Property is depicted on the attached **Exhibit A**.

WHEREAS, the term of the 2020 Lease was from October 21, 2020 and expiring December 31, 2025. The 2020 Lease stated the City, in its sole discretion, may grant and extension of the 2020 Lease with any conditions and covenants to be negotiated;

WHEREAS, the parties now desire to replace the 2020 Lease with this new Lease Agreement to continue archery activities at the Property and clarify their respective obligations;

WHEREAS, the parties intent and agree that the full execution of this Agreement shall control the relationship between the parties with respect to the Property replacing all terms of the 2020 Lease, which will have no effect following said execution;

WHEREAS, this Lease Agreement complies with Title 3, Chapter 4 of the Official Code of the City of Great Falls (OCCGF). This Lease is exempted from the public bidding process pursuant to OCCGF § 3.4.050;

WHEREAS, the City deems it to be in the public interest and serving a public purpose to lease the Property under the conditions as hereinafter set forth, and;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties do hereby covenant and agree as follows:

1. RECITALS. The City and Lessee agree that the above Recitals shall be incorporated as agreed upon terms within this Agreement.

2. LEASE. The City, for and in consideration of the Rent amount to be paid and the agreement to be performed by each party, does hereby lease, and let unto the Lessee the Property as described above in the Recitals.

3. TERM. The term of the lease will be for a period of five (5) years from March 1, 2026 to February 28, 2031. The term may be renewed for one (1) additional five (5) year term, beginning on January 1, 2031 and ending on December 31, 2035, unless a party gives the other

party written notice of non-renewal on or before October 1, 2030. If the parties agree upon revised or additional terms an extension addendum shall be executed by the parties.

Notwithstanding the above term, this Agreement is terminated if Lessee's use of the Property ceases to be for a public purpose. In such event, the use of the Property immediately reverts to the City of Great Falls. Either party may terminate this Agreement, without cause, by providing written notice to the other party at least sixty (60) days in advance. Nothing herein limits the City's right to terminate immediately if Lessee's use ceases to serve a public purpose or if Lessee is in default under this Agreement. Upon the expiration or termination of this Agreement and any extension thereof, Lessee shall leave the Property in as good condition as received, except for reasonable wear and tear.

4. RENT. In consideration therefore, the Lessee agrees to pay the City \$250.00 annually for the duration of the first five years of this Agreement. Rent for the second five years of this Agreement may be negotiated and agreed upon in an extension addendum provided for in Paragraph 3. Rent shall be paid upon execution of this Agreement, and annually thereafter on or before January 2nd of each calendar year.

5. ACCEPTANCE OF CONDITION. Lessee acknowledges familiarity with the condition of said Property and states that no representation, statement or warranty, expressed or implied, has been made by or on behalf of the City as to such condition. In no event shall the City be liable for any defect in such Property, except as otherwise provided herein, or for any limitation on its use. The lease of the Property shall be conclusive evidence that Lessee accepts the same "as is" and that the Property is in good condition. Lessee agrees to accept the Property without representation or warranty, express or implied, in fact or by law, by City, and without recourse as to the nature, condition or unsuitability thereof, or as to the uses to which the Property may be put.

6. COVENANTS OF LESSEE. The Lessee hereby covenants and agrees that the Lessee shall:

- a. Use and occupy said Property in a careful and proper manner and not commit any waste therein;
- b. Not use or occupy said Property for any unlawful purpose; and will comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations of all governmental authorities or agencies, respecting the use and occupation of the Property;
- c. Not use the Property for any purpose other than as stated herein, without written consent of the Park and Recreation Director or the Director's designee;
- d. Pay all bills, taxes, assessments, debts and obligations incurred by Lessee as a result of operations under this Agreement;

- e. Not use or occupy said Property, or permit the same to be used or occupied, for any purpose deemed hazardous;
- f. Not permit alcoholic beverages to be sold on the Property during the term of this Agreement, unless prior approval is granted by the City, and in such case all required permits, licenses or other authorizations are obtained;
- g. Not make any signage, alterations, changes, remodeling or capital improvements to the Property, other than livestock facilities, lighting, electrical or water improvements and installation of equipment, without prior written permission signed by the Park and Recreation Director or the Director's designee, and in addition thereto, shall make such approved changes at Lessee's cost, in compliance with the law and by obtaining all permits required for such work under City ordinance. Approval for such proposed work shall not be unreasonably withheld. Any such alterations or additions shall be the sole responsibility of the Lessee, inclusive of any and all financial, material, or labor considerations and will become the property of the City upon termination of this or any subsequent lease;
- h. Ensure that routine maintenance, trash removal, and cleaning is effectively accomplished at its cost;
- i. Be responsible for all damage to property, public or private, that may be caused by Lessee's operations in the performance of this agreement; and
- j. Leave Property at the expiration or prior to termination of this lease and any extension thereof in as good condition as received, except for reasonable wear and tear.

7. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE:

- a. Lessee Maintenance. Except as provided below, Lessee shall, throughout the term of this Lease Agreement, and at its own cost and without any expense to the City, keep and maintain the Property, including the building and improvements, and all appurtenances thereto, in good condition and repair by conducting ordinary day-to-day maintenance and repair, including but not limited to, timely removal of rubbish and trash. Lessee shall maintain the Property in a functional condition, inspect the Property on a regular basis to determine any hazardous conditions which may exist, and take immediate action to correct such conditions if they exist.
- b. Maintenance by City. City shall not be obligated to make any repairs, replacements or renewals of any kind, nature or description whatsoever to the Property or any improvements thereon. Further, City shall not be responsible for repairs or maintenance resulting from the negligence of Lessee, its employees, agents, or invitees, which shall be the sole responsibility of Lessee.

- c. Entry by City for Maintenance. Should Lessee at any time fail, neglect or refuse to fulfill this obligation to repair and maintain after receiving written notice of such default and a minimum of 30 days to correct such default, City may, but need not, enter the Property and make such repairs or alternations as in its opinion it may deem necessary, and may charge the costs of the same to Lessee to be paid upon the first day of the following month in addition to the rental, and should said costs not be so paid, this Lease Agreement shall be considered in default.

8. SUBLETTING, USE AND ASSIGNMENT

- a. Lessee is authorized to allow third persons or organizations to temporarily use or rent the Property for periods of no more than five consecutive days, without the prior written permission of City. For any longer time periods, Lessee shall not have the right to assign this Lease Agreement or sublet the Property, or any part thereof, without the prior written permission of City.
- b. Any assignment, use or sublease, temporary or otherwise approved, shall be subject to all the provisions of this Agreement, and not affect the rental payable to City in any manner whatsoever.
- c. With any assignment, use or sublease, Lessee shall continue to be bound by all the terms, conditions and covenants of this Lease Agreement. Permission given by City to an assignment or sublease shall not be deemed to be permission given to any subsequent assignment or sublease. Other than as stated herein, any assignment or sublease made without the prior written permission of City shall be void, and shall, at the option of City, terminate this Lease Agreement.

9. MUTUAL COVENANTS: It is mutually agreed by and between the City and Lessee

that:

- a. If the Lessee pays the rental as herein provided, and keeps, observes and performs all of the other covenants of this lease, the Lessee may, peaceably and quietly, have, hold and enjoy the Property for the term aforesaid;
- b. This lease and all the covenants and provisions herein contained shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the successors and assigns of the parties and the public hereto; provided, however, that no assignment by, from, through or under the Lessee in violation of any of the provisions hereof shall vest in the assigns any right, title or interest whatsoever;
- c. The City shall not be liable to any creditor of Lessee or any claimant against the estate or property of Lessee for any debt, loss, contract or other obligation of Lessee. The relationship between the City and Lessee is solely that of landlord and tenant and shall not be construed or deemed to be a partnership or joint venture.
- d. City's interest in and to the Property shall not be subject to or permitted to become subject to any lien or claims from or arising out of the use and occupation

of the Property by Lessee. If and in the event such liens or claims arise or occur, Lessee shall promptly and forthwith cause the same to be released or discharged to the extent that the interest of the City is encumbered thereby.

10. RIGHT OF ENTRY. The City, through its agents or employees, shall have the right, but no obligation, to enter the Property at all reasonable hours to examine the condition of the same. There shall be no reimbursement of Rent, nor liability for any loss of occupation or quiet enjoyment occasioned by the City's entry.

11. INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS. Lessee shall, at all times during the term of this Agreement and any extensions, at Lessee's sole expense, procure and maintain comprehensive general liability insurance covering the use, occupation or condition of Property in the amount of at least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for injury to or death of any one person per occurrence, and in the amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) aggregate for injury to or death of any number of persons in one occurrence. The policy must be issued by a company licensed to do business in the State of Montana and having at least an "A" rating in the current A.M. Best's Manual. All such policies will be written on an occurrence basis. The policy must include the City as a named insured and primary with no right of subrogation against the City. Lessee shall annually furnish to the City the certificate of insurance including a copy of the Additional Insured Endorsement, which shall be in a form acceptable to City. Claims-made policies are not acceptable and do not constitute compliance with the Lessee's obligation under this paragraph. The policy must contain a provision or endorsement that the coverage afforded will not be canceled, materially changed, or renewal refused until at least thirty (30) days prior written notice has been given to Lessee and the City.

Providing the City of Great Falls proof of required insurance annually is a condition of this Agreement. Failure to provide insurance documentation will be a violation to this Agreement and will result in terminate of this Agreement.

12. INDEMNIFICATION. To the fullest extent permitted by law, Lessee agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold the City harmless against claims, demands, suits, damages, losses, and expenses, fees and costs (including reasonable attorney fees) connected therewith that may be asserted or claimed against, recovered from or suffered by the City by reason of any injury or loss, including but not limited to, personal injury, including bodily injury or death, property damage, occasioned by, growing out of, or in any way arising or resulting from Lessee's use and occupancy of the Property, including use by its agents, assigns, renters, employees and others using the Property; except to the extent such damages, or claims thereof, may be due to or caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the City, or its employees or agents and any obligation of the City shall be limited by the amounts set forth in Mont. Code Ann. §2-9-108. This indemnification shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement and any extensions thereof.

In addition, the City shall not be liable to Lessee or any third party for any damage or injury (including death) to persons or property resulting from any defect in the Property or the improvements thereon, whether such defects be the result of improper construction, lack of maintenance or repair, improper maintenance or repair or other cause whatsoever.

13. DEFAULT. If either party fails to comply with any condition of this Agreement at the time or in the manner provided for, the other party, at its option, may terminate this Agreement and be released from all obligations if the default is not cured within thirty (30) days after written notice is provided to the defaulting party. Said notice shall set forth the items to be cured. Additionally, the non-defaulting party may bring suit for damages, specific performance, and any other remedy provided by law. These remedies are cumulative and not exclusive. Use of one remedy does not preclude use of the others. Notices shall be provided as set forth below in this Agreement.

14. INVALIDITY. The invalidity or ineffectiveness, for any reason, of any portion of this Agreement shall in no way affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining portion thereof and any invalid or unenforceable provisions shall be deemed severed from the remainder of this Agreement.

15. WAIVER. The waiver by the City of, or the failure of the City to take action with respect to, any breach of any term, covenant, or condition herein contained shall not be deemed to be a waiver of such term, covenant or condition, or subsequent breach of same, or any other term, covenant or condition herein contained.

16. EFFECT OF LESSEE'S HOLDING OVER. Any holding over shall be subject to the City's prior written consent and shall not be construed as a renewal unless expressly agreed in writing.

17. BINDING EFFECT. It is mutually understood and agreed that each and every provision of this Agreement shall bind and inure to the benefit of the successors and assigns of the respective parties hereto.

18. PAYMENTS AND NOTICES. Any payments or notices required to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and delivered by personal service, certified mail, or email to the City Manager at the Civic Center, Great Falls, Montana, or to the Lessee at the address included on page 1. Notices by email are effective upon acknowledgment of receipt. Mailed notices shall be deemed to have been made within three (3) calendar days after mailing.

19. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and no representations or warranties have been made by the City to the Lessee save those contained herein.

20. APPLICABLE LAW, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE. This Agreement, and any extensions thereof, shall be governed by, and constructed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Montana without giving effect to the conflicts-of-laws principles thereof. The parties hereby consent to jurisdiction and venue for any litigation or dispute arising from this Agreement in the Montana State District Court in the Eighth Judicial District in and for Cascade County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, by signing below, the City and Lessee agree to the terms outlined in this Lease, and have caused this Lease to be executed on the latest date set forth below.

[The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank. Signature page to follow.]

CITY OF GREAT FALLS

ELECTRIC CITY ARCHERS, LLC

By: _____

Gregory T. Doyon, City Manager

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Attest:

By: _____

Lisa Kunz, City Clerk

(Seal of the City)

*Approved as to Form:

By: _____

David G. Dennis, City Attorney

* By law, the City Attorney may only advise or approve contract or legal document language on behalf of the City of Great Falls, and not on behalf of other parties. Review and approval of this document was conducted solely from the legal perspective, and for the benefit, of the City of Great Falls. Other parties should not rely on this approval and should seek review and approval by their own respective counsel.

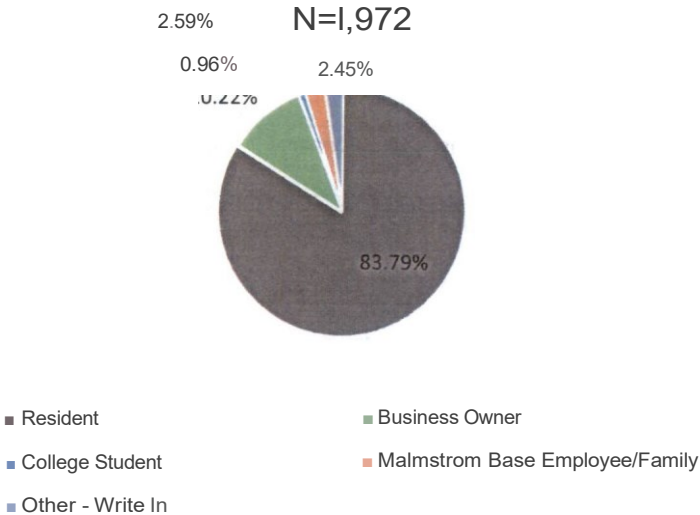
Great Falls Mini Polls #1-5 Summary DRAFT

Throughout December 2025 and January 2026, five mini-polls were circulated through Great Falls to collect information for the Great Falls Parks Department's Fee Study and Cost Allocation Plan. This is a summary of the responses to each question throughout the five-part mini poll series. Overall, there were 5,484 responses to the five mini-polls.

Mini-Poll #1 - Facility Usage and Preferences

The first mini-poll in the five-part series was collecting responses regarding facility usage and preferences. The survey was made up of four questions, with the first asking for respondents' connection to Great Falls. A total of 83.79% of respondents are residents of Great Falls. About 10% are business owners, 2.6% are a Malmstrom Base Employee/Family, and almost 1% are college students. 2.5% are connected to Great Falls differently and were able to submit it as a write-in answer. The most common responses were that they work in Great Falls, live in Cascade County, or recreate often in Great Falls.

Figure 1. What is your connection to Great Falls? (Please select all that apply)



The next question asked how often they visit certain parks and recreation facilities within Great Falls. More than half of respondents (67.27%) visit parks either weekly (35.13%) or monthly (32.14%). Again, more than half (60.95%) of respondents visit the river's edge trail either weekly (38.3%) or monthly (32.65%). Outdoor pool/splashpads are most often visited once a year (21.3%) or monthly (15.61%). The facilities with the highest percentages of people never visiting them are BMX/skate parks (88.15%), dog parks (70.45%), and the Aim High Big Sky recreation center (54.42%).

Table 1. How often do you visit the following Great Falls park and recreation facilities? N=1,516

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Once a Year	Never
Parks	12.71%	35.13%	32.14%	13.71%	6.32%
Outdoor Pools/Splash Pads (while open seasonally)	1.75%	12.45%	15.61%	21.13%	49.06%
Dog Parks	2.02%	6.07%	9.65%	11.81%	70.45%
BMX/Skate Parks	0.34%	1.21%	3.97%	6.33%	st
Sport Fields/Courts	3.49%	13.68%	17.64%	16.83%	48.36%
River's Edge Trail	11.68%	28.30%	32.65%	17.88%	9.50%
Aim High Big Sky Recreation Center	5.38%	12.56%	13.75%	13.89%	54.42%
Electric City Water Park	0.87%	4.55%	11.78%	33.33%	49.46%

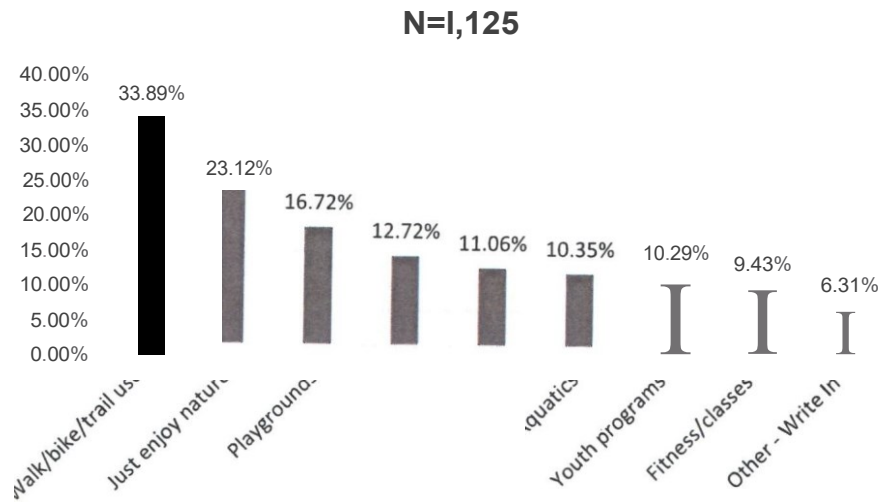
The next question asked about their level of satisfaction with these facilities. Following similar trends as the question before, about three-quarters (71.08%) of respondents are either satisfied (49.13%) or very satisfied (21.95%) with Great Falls Parks. Respondents are also very satisfied (37%) and satisfied (44.7%) with the river's edge trail. About 22% of respondents feel satisfied with the Aim High Big Sky Recreation Center, and 17.34% feel neutral.

Table 2. What is your level of satisfaction with each of these facilities? N=1,494

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied	Not Applicable
Parks	21.95%	49.13%	18.81%	5.49%	1.61%	3.01%
Outdoor Pools/Splash Pads	6.56%	25.05%	25.34%	8.68%	3.03%	31.33%
Dog Parks	9.03%	20.45%	19.05%	3.08%	2.03%	46.36%
BMX/Skate Parks	3.06%	9.52%	21.54%	3.41%	2.56%	
Sport Fields/Courts	5.83%	24.44%	24.51%	8.64%	2.60%	33.99%
River's Edge Trail	37.00%	44.77%	9.72%	2.09%	1.01%	5.40%
Aim High Big Sky Recreation Center	12.97%	21.08%	17.34%	9.29%	7.56%	31.76%
Electric City Water Park	4.78%	22.89%	25.42%	11.24%	4.85%	30.83%

About a third of respondents chose that "walk/bike/trail use" (33.89%) is one of their top three priorities for park and recreation facilities. "Just enjoy nature" was selected by 23.12%, and "playgrounds" by 23.12%. The most common write-in responses were pickleball, bathrooms, accessibility, dog walking, and safety.

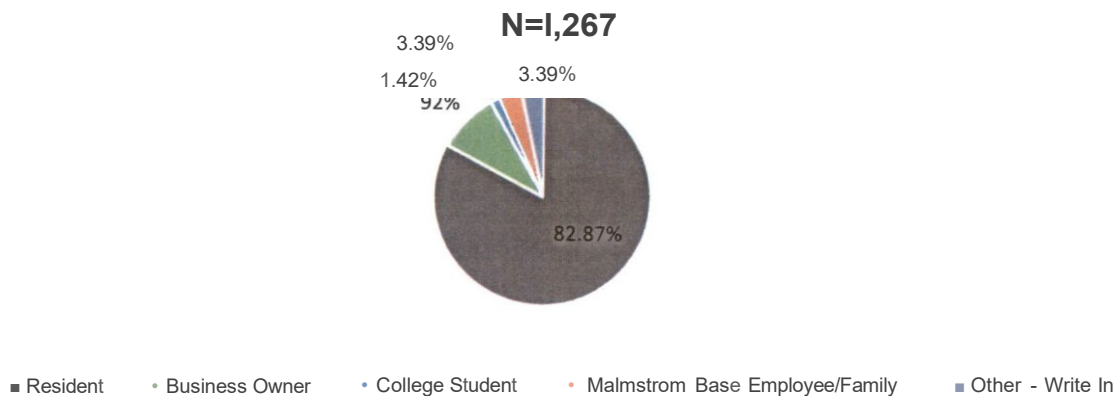
Figure 2. What are your top needs and priorities for park and recreation facilities? (Please choose 3)



Mini-Poll #2 - Fees & Affordability

This was the second mini-poll in the five-part series and was collecting responses regarding fees and affordability. When asked what their connection to Great Falls is, 82.87% of respondents said that they're residents, and 8.92% are business owners. College students make up 1.42% of respondents, and 3.39% are Malmstrom base employees/families. The last 3.39% had a different connection to Great Falls, and the most common responses were that they work in Great Falls, live in a neighboring community, or recreate in Great Falls.

Figure 3. What is your connection to Great Falls? Please select all that apply.



When asked if they bought a pass or membership to any Great Falls park and recreation facility in 2025, 61.71% of respondents marked that they had not, and 38.29% of respondents marked that they had bought a pass or membership. The next question asked respondents to share where they had a pass or membership if they had marked "yes" on the previous question. A little more than half (53.88%) of respondents shared that they had a membership for the Scheels Aim High Big Sky Recreation Center, 17.40% had one at Electric City Water Park, and a little less than 11% had a recreation program payment. Another 5.66% had a pass for Jaycee Pool, 5.03% for meeting/party room reservation, 4.40% for an athletic field/court reservation, and 2.73% for the Water Tower Pool.

Figure 4. In 2025, did you buy a pass or membership to any Great Falls park and recreation facility (including aquatic facilities and neighborhood pools), reserve a park and recreation facility, or pay for a recreation program (swimming lessons, youth camps, etc.)?

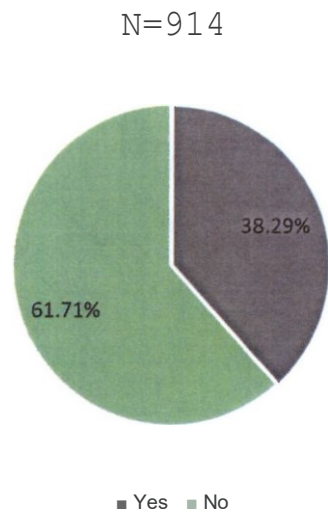
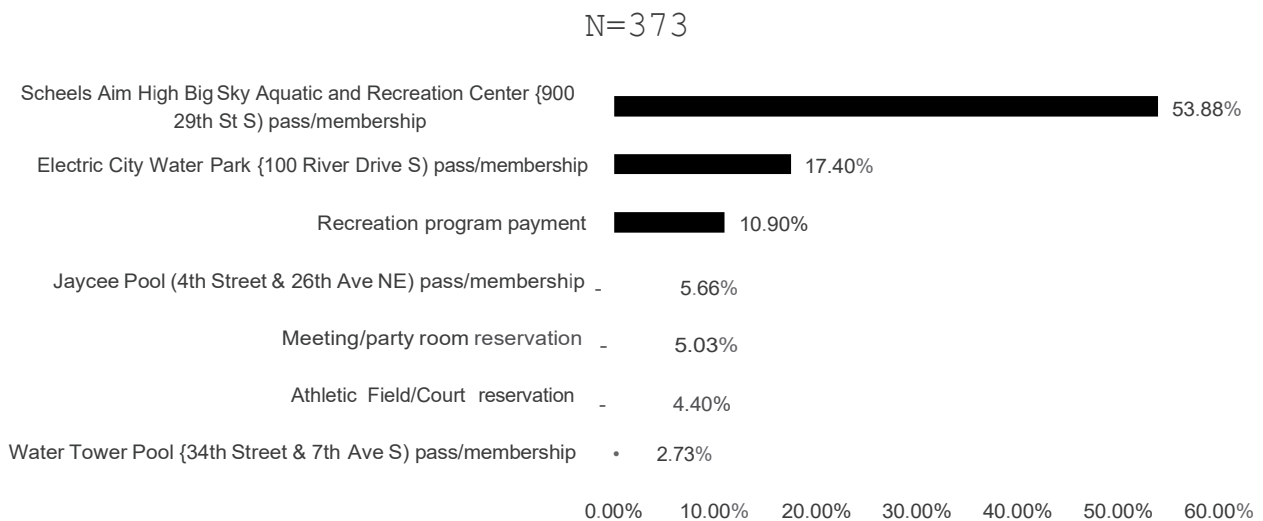
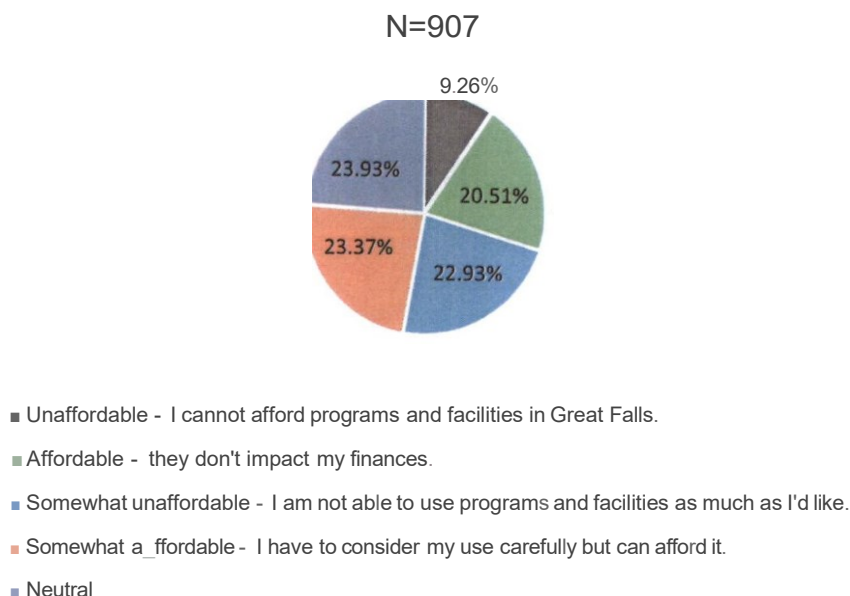


Figure 5. 3.If yes, which one(s)? Select all that apply



When asked how they would describe the affordability of Great Falls' park and recreation facility usage and reservation fees, the responses were split almost equally, except the response "unaffordable - I cannot afford programs and facilities in Great Falls", which only received 9.36% of responses. The other responses each received a little less than a quarter of responses: neutral (23.923%), somewhat affordable (23.37%), somewhat unaffordable (22.93%), and affordable (20.51%).

Figure 6. How would you describe the affordability of Great Falls' park and recreation facility usage and reservation fees?



Respondents were then asked if they would support a park and recreation fee increase if it meant maintaining existing facilities or offering more program options. The highest portion of respondents selected "maybe" (40.92%), then 37.40% selected that they would not support it, and 21.67% of respondents selected "yes". If there were a park and recreation fee increase, 27.92% of respondents would support investing in the ongoing maintenance of all existing facilities, and 24.89% would support existing facility upgrades and improvements. Finally, if fee increases were to occur, about half of respondents (45.21%) would prefer they were phased in over a 2-3-year period to have a gradual impact.

Figure 7. Would you support a park and recreation fee increase if it meant maintaining existing facilities or offering more program options?

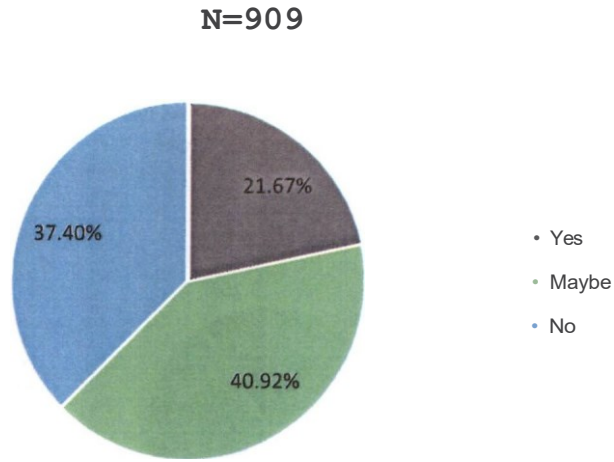


Figure 8. If there were a park and recreation fee increase, which areas would you most support investing in to improve Great Falls' facilities and programs? Select your top 2.

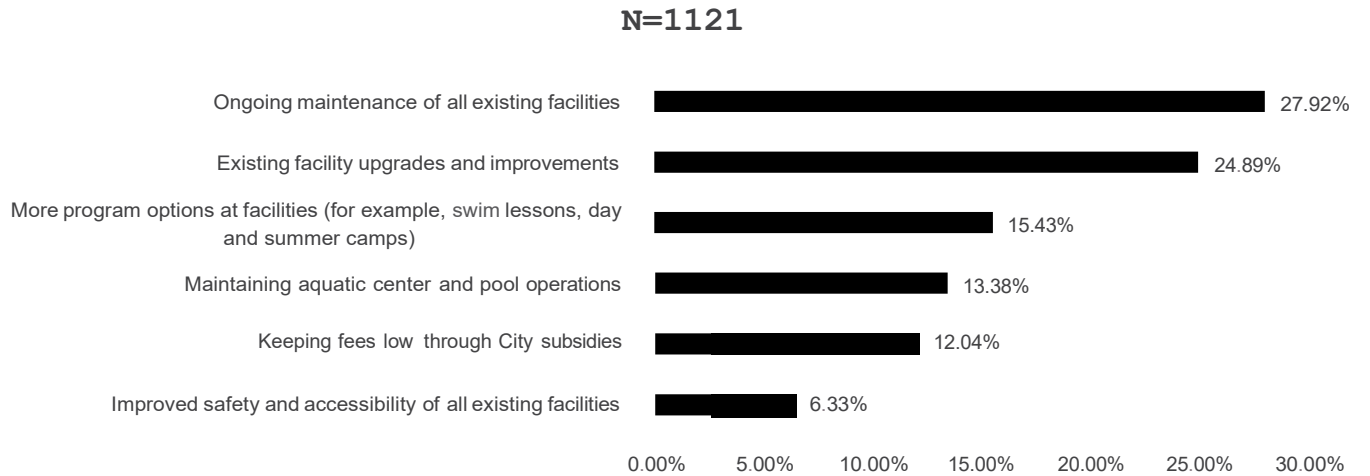
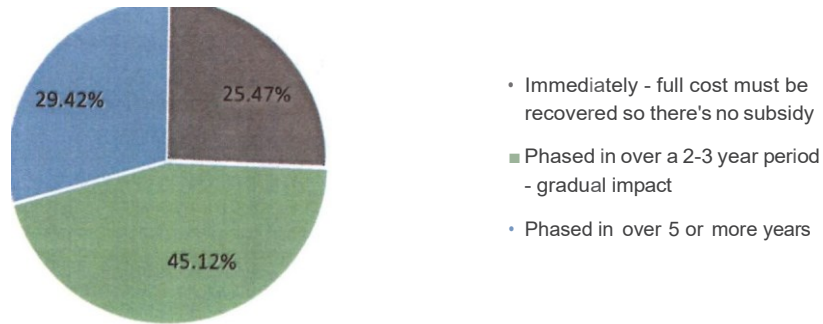


Figure 9. If park and recreation fee increases were to occur, how would you prefer they be made?

N=860

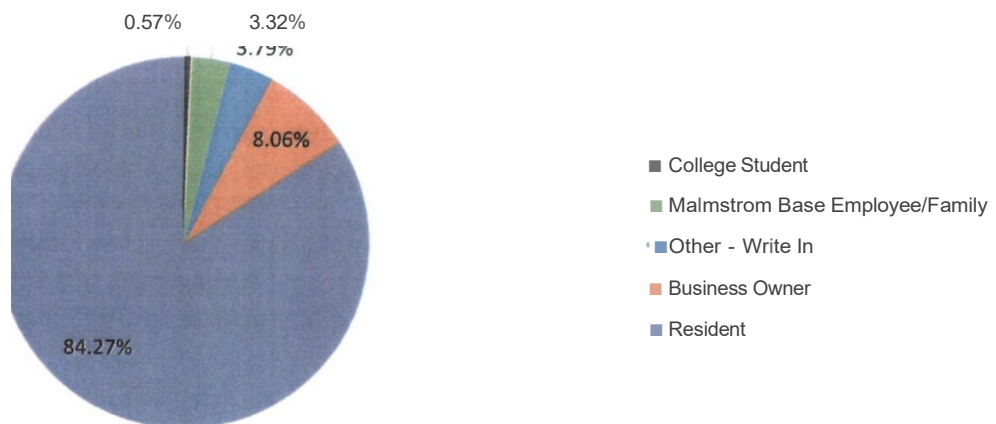


Mini-Poll #3 - Facility Condition & Future Needs

This was the third mini-poll in the five-part series and was collecting responses regarding facility condition and future needs. The majority of people who filled out this mini poll are residents in Great Falls (84.27%), and 8.06% are business owners. A total of 3.32% are Malmstrom base employees/family, and 0.57% are college students. About 4% connected to Great Falls differently. These included: employed in Great Falls, past resident and now current visitor, and County residents.

Figure 10. What is your connection to Great Falls? Please select all that apply.

N=900



When asked to rate the overall condition of different aspects of Great Falls park and recreation facilities, the results varied. For parks and playgrounds, 52.67% of respondents marked that they were "pretty good" and 19.08% marked that they "could use work". A total of 53.65% of respondents said that Scheels Aim High Big Sky Aquatic and Recreation Center was "excellent" (26.76%) or "could use work" (26.89%). Paths and trails were rated highly with 51.86% rating them "pretty good" and 23.05% as "excellent".

Table 3. How would you rate the overall condition of these park and recreation facilities? N=779

	Excellent ▲	Pretty good ■	Neutral ●	Could use work ◡	Bad □	Not sure/No opinion ▼
Parks and Playgrounds	7.63%	52.67%	15.65%	19.08%	1.65%	3.31%
Scheels Aim High Big Sky Aquatic & Recreation Center (900 29th St S)	26.76%	26.89%	10.37%	7.55%	1.92%	26.50%
Electric City Water Park (100 River Drive S)	3.85%	22.82%	17.31%	29.87%	4.74%	21.41%
Jaycee Pool (4th Street & 26th Ave NE)	2.58%	17.65%	20.10%	14.56%	1.93%	43.17%
Water Tower Pool (34th Street & 7th Ave S)	2.57%	15.92%	18.10%	15.28%	2.70%	45.44%
Paths and Trails	23.05%	51.86%	10.63%	11.01%	0.38%	3.07%
Athletic Fields/Courts	3.21%	24.42%	16.07%	22.11%	7.58%	26.61%

When asked what area needs the most investment today, 23.26% marked parks and playgrounds, and 17.96% chose all of the above. Another 17.96% selected athletic fields/courts, 12.66% selected paths and trails, 11.89% chose aquatic facilities, 10.21% said indoor recreation space, and 6.07% selected the option none of the above. Interestingly, when asked which improvements would make the biggest difference for them in Great Falls' parks and facilities, the response with the highest percentage of people selecting it was restroom upgrades (24.10%), followed by increased indoor recreation options (18.41%) and improved or new trail connections (18.09%).

Figure 11. Which area needs the most investment today?

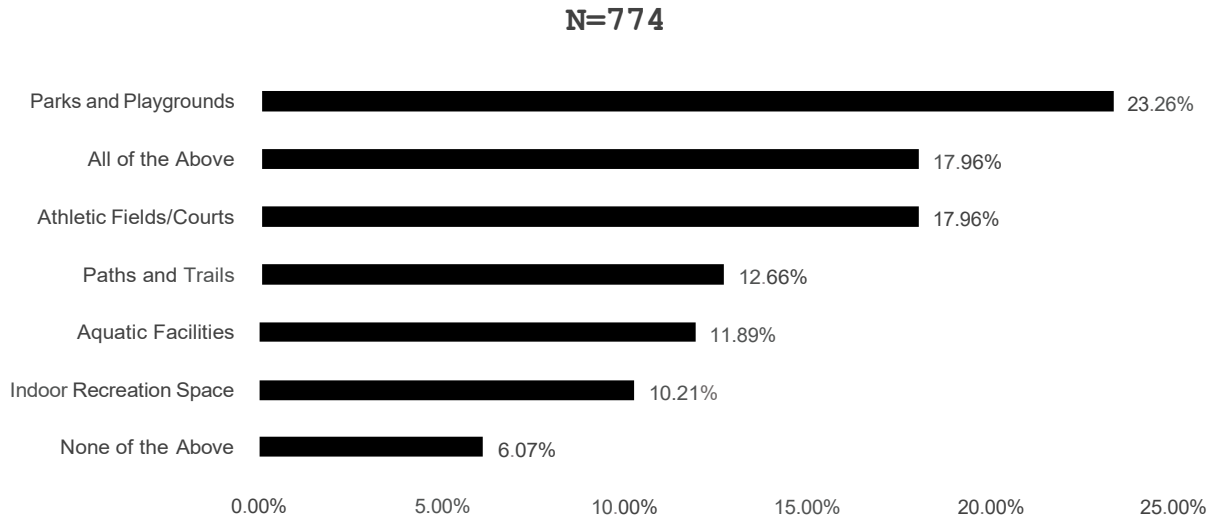
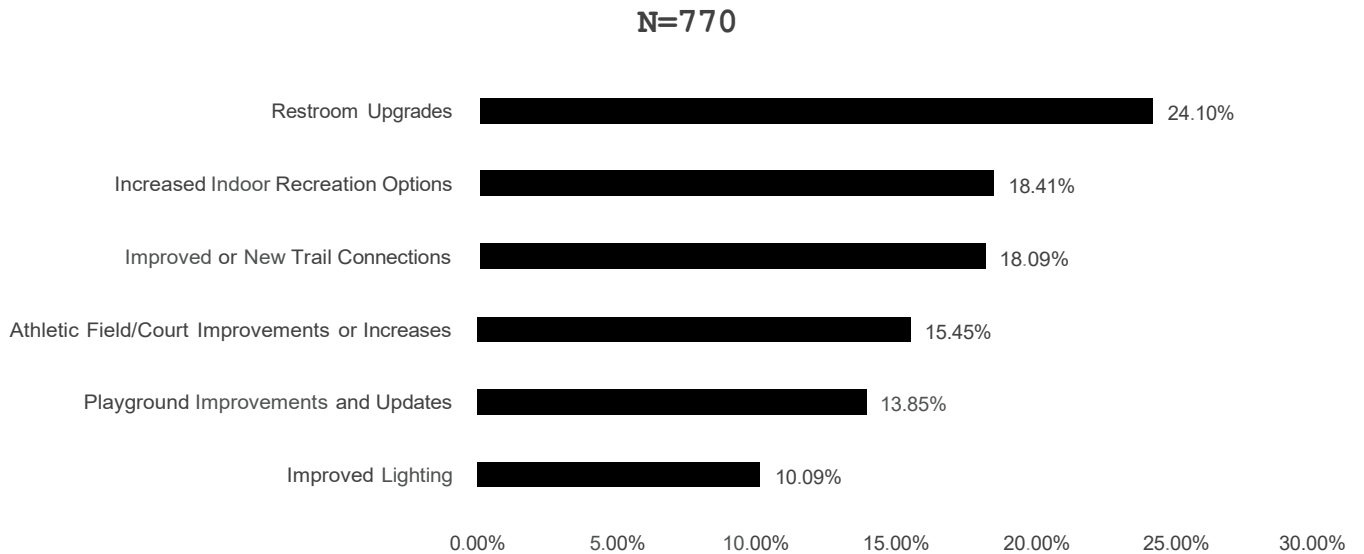
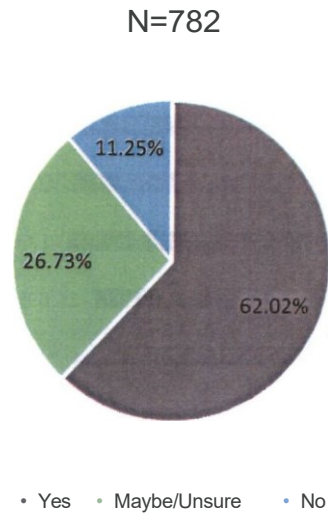


Figure 12. Which improvements would make the biggest difference for you in Great Falls' parks and facilities? Select up to two.



Respondents were asked if they would support reducing lawn and adding more natural landscaping in some parks if it helped to reduce maintenance needs and costs. 62.02% selected "yes", they would support it, and 26.73% selected "maybe/unsure". Finally, 11.25% selected that they would not support it.

Figure 13. Would you support reducing lawn (turf) and adding more natural landscaping in some parks if it helped to reduce maintenance needs and costs (such as mowing or irrigated lawn areas)?

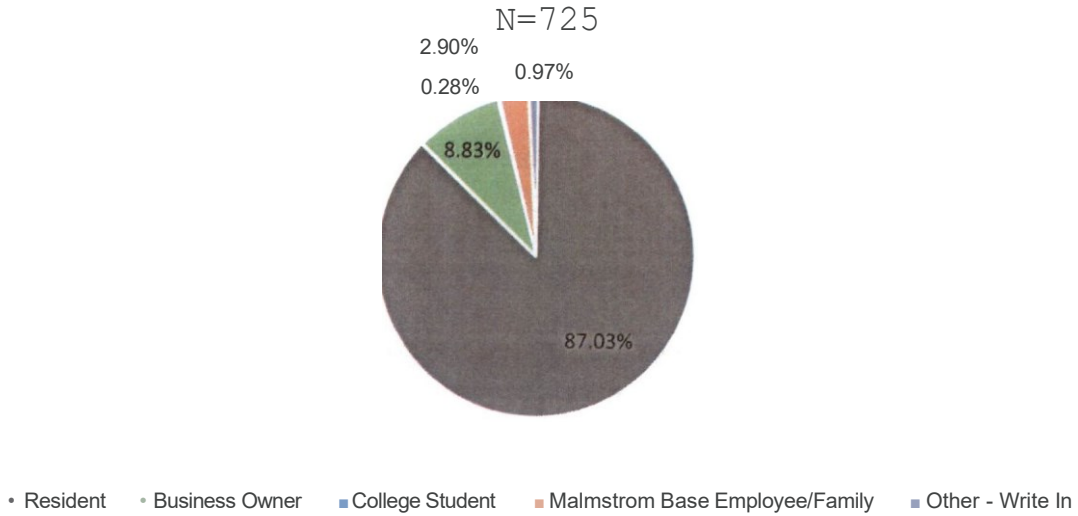


At the end of the mini-poll, respondents were asked to share any additional thoughts that they would like to be considered in the development of this plan. The main themes that came up consistently were maintenance of existing facilities, pickleball growth and poor court conditions, affordability of aquatic facilities, cleanliness of bathrooms, accessibility, and tree canopy concerns. Survey write-in responses provided great details about their experiences with Great Falls' parks and recreation. Ongoing maintenance of all facilities was a large concern so that amenities can be fixed before needing to be rebuilt. Respondents would like to see more indoor and outdoor pickleballs with the proper surfacing. There were calls to repair or repurpose underused tennis courts and to improve basketball court quality. Concerns about cost, breakdowns/closures, and safety/accessibility within aquatic facilities were prevalent. Overall, respondents would like to see the existing facilities within the Great Falls' parks and recreation system be maintained, affordable, and accessible for all.

Mini-Poll #4 - Aim High Big Sky Recreation Center

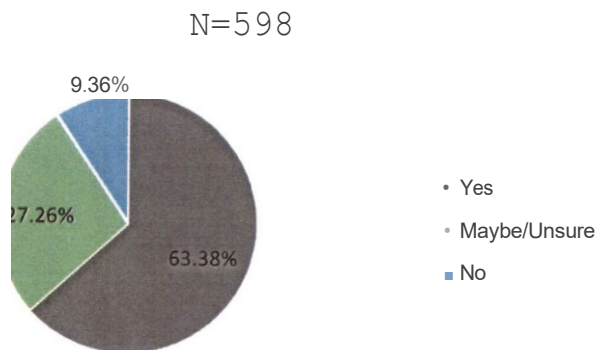
This was the fourth mini-poll in the five-part series and was collecting responses regarding the Aim High Big Sky Recreation Center. Similar to the other mini-polls, 87.03% of respondents are residents, 8.83% are business owners, 2.9% are Malmstrom base employees/family, 0.28% are college students. And 2.9% connect to Great Falls differently. These include county residents, homeowners in Great Falls, families in Great Falls, and employees in Great Falls.

Figure 14. What is your connection to Great Falls? Please select all that apply.



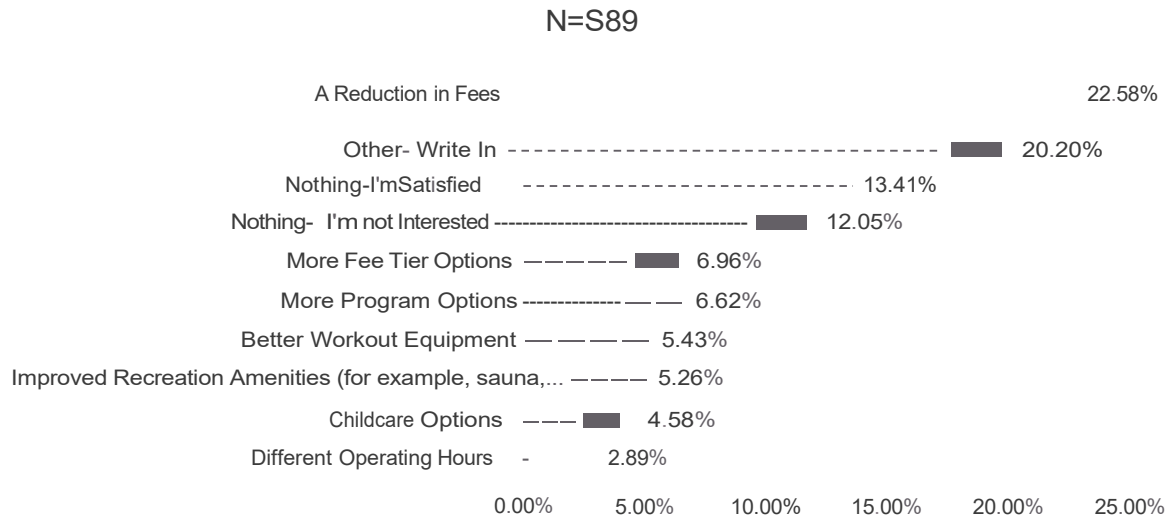
The next question asked survey takers to share if they feel the Scheels Aim High Big Sky Center is a positive asset for the community. 63.38% said yes, they do believe it is a positive asset, 27.26% said maybe, or they were unsure, and 9.36% disagreed with the question. They were asked to share why they felt the center was a positive asset for the community, and respondents consistently described the facility as a much-needed indoor recreation and community gathering space, particularly for year-round swimming, fitness, and youth and family activities following the loss of the Natatorium. At the same time, many emphasized that its long-term value depends on affordability, accessibility for all ages and abilities, and sufficient programming, equipment, and awareness to ensure the facility is truly usable by the broader community. However, those who marked that they did not feel Scheels Aim High Big Sky Center was a positive asset for the community raised concerns about the facility's affordability, location, and ongoing operating deficits, many feeling like it has become a financial burden that doesn't benefit everyone in the community. Several also expressed that they were frustrated that public funds were diverted from existing parks and pools.

Figure 15. Do you feel Scheets Aim High Big Sky Center is a positive asset for the community?



After those questions, respondents were asked what would encourage them to use Scheels Aim High Big Sky Center more frequently than they currently do. 22.58% chose a reduction in fees, 20.20% had a different idea and shared in a write-in response, and 13.41% said nothing, and they're satisfied. The most prevalent themes in the write-in responses were affordability, programming, access and hours, amenities, and outreach.

Figure 16. What would encourage you to use Scheels Aim High Big Sky Center more frequently than you currently do?

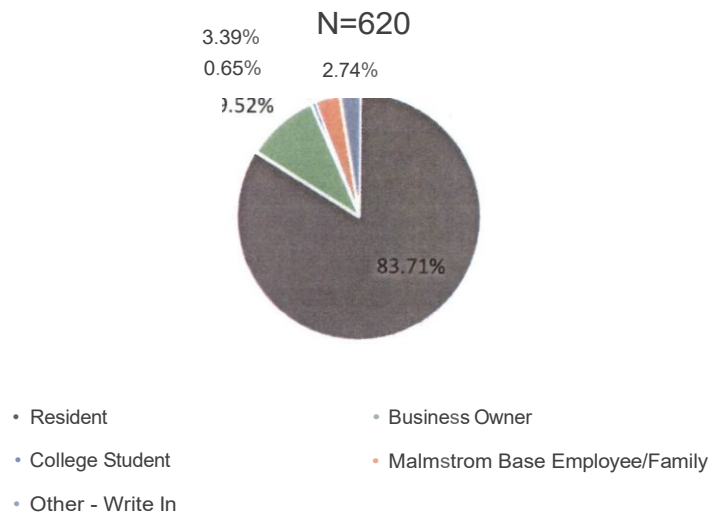


At the end of the mini-poll, respondents were asked to share additional thoughts they would like considered. The most consistent themes were affordability and tiered pricing, protecting neighborhood/outdoor pools, and better communication about what the facility offers and what it costs. Many comments emphasized that a public recreation center should be treated as a community service, with solutions focused on increasing use through lower barriers like expanded hours, more classes, childcare, and partnerships, rather than cutting amenities or shifting costs onto other facilities.

Mini-Poll #5 - Program Needs and Community Priorities

This was the last mini-poll in the five-part series and was collecting responses regarding program needs and community priorities. The survey was made up of six questions, with the first asking for respondents' connection to Great Falls. The majority of respondents are residents (83.71%), and 9.52% are business owners. There are also 3.39% that are Malmstrom Base employees/families, 0.65% that are college students, and 2.74% connect to Great Falls differently. There were county residents, people employed in Great Falls, people who have family in Great Falls, or are regular visitors.

Figure 17. What is your connection to Great Falls? Please select all that apply.



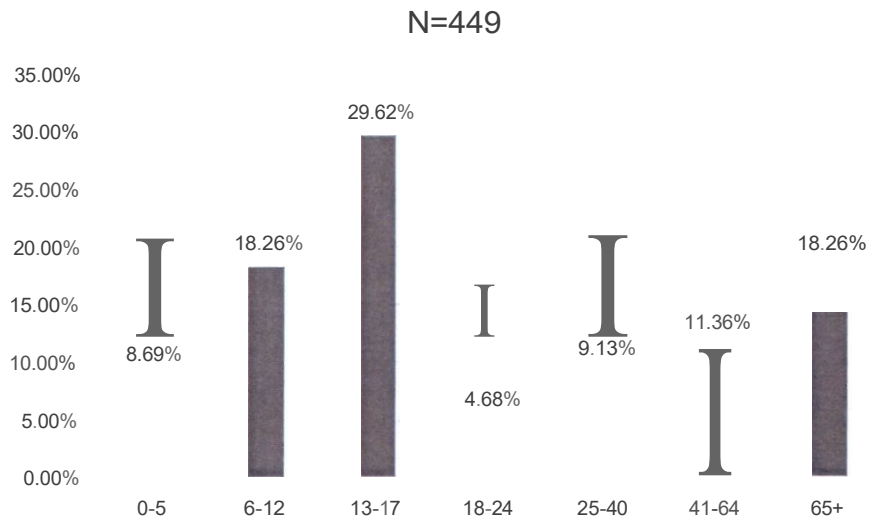
Respondents were asked which types of recreation programs they would like to see more or less of in Great Falls. Almost 50% of respondents chose that they would like to see more of all programs listed below. However, 73.2% would like to see more family and community events, and 68.6% would like to see more youth programs. 8% of respondents marked that they could have fewer adult fitness programs, 6.7% said there could be fewer sports leagues (youth and adult), and 5.7% said there could be fewer after-school programs.

Table 4. Which types of recreation programs would you like to see more or less of in Great Falls? N=412

	Would like to see more of	Keep as-is	Could have less
Youth Programs (camps, childcare, etc)	98.1%	28.9%	2.6%
Adult Fitness Classes	47.6%	44.5%	8.0%
Senior Programs	58.0%	38.3%	3.6%
Aquatic Programs (swimming lessons, etc)	51.0%	45.6%	3.3%
Sports Leagues (youth and adult)	52.2%	41.1%	6.7%
Family and Community Events		23.3%	3.5%
After-School Programs		36.7%	5.7%

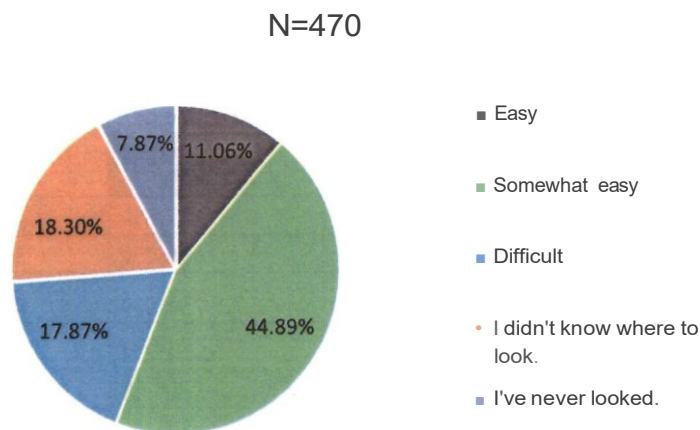
The next question asked, "which age group needs more options?" and 29.62% of respondents selected the age group 13-17 years old, and the age groups 6-12 and 65+ had the same percentage of respondents select it (18.26%). About 10% would like to see more options for 41-64 year olds {11.36%}, and 9.13% would like to see more options for 25-41 year olds.

Figure 18. Which age group needs more options?



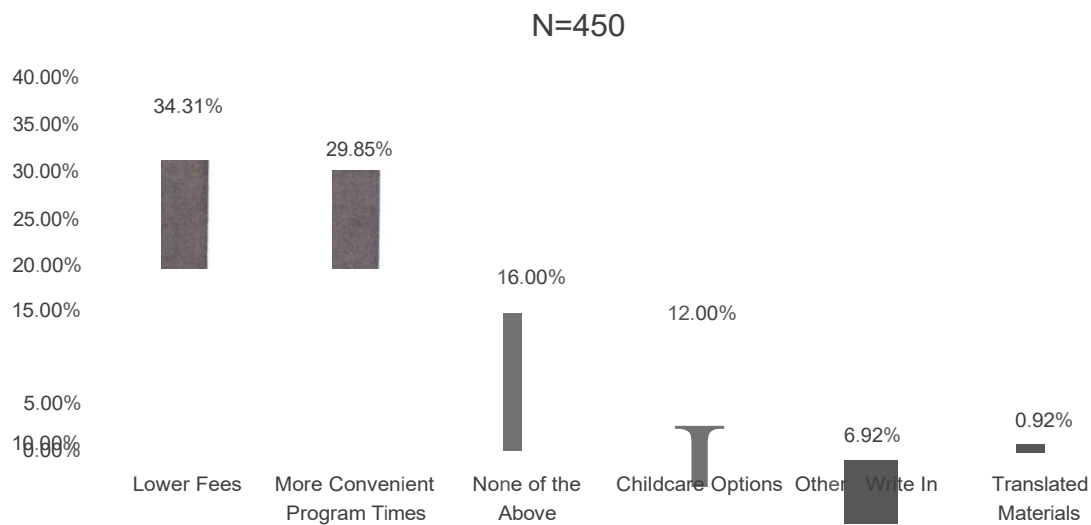
They were then asked how easy it is to find information about Great Falls Park and Recreation programs. Almost half said that it was somewhat easy (44.89%), and 11.06% said that it was easy. But 17.87% marked that it was difficult to find information. 18.30% selected that they didn't know where to look to find info, and 7.87% said that they had never looked.

Figure 19. How easy is it to find information about Great Falls Park and Recreation Programs?



Lower fees would improve access for 34.31% of the respondents, and 29.85% said that more convenient program times would improve access for them or their household. 16% said that none of the options would improve access, and 12% selected that childcare options would improve their access. Others would like to see more pickleball, more information, longer hours, and more maintenance. A little less than one percent selected that translated material (0.92%) would improve access for them or their household.

Figure 20. Would any of the following improve access for you or your household? Please select all that apply.



At the end of the mini-poll, respondents were invited to share additional thoughts for future Parks and Recreation planning. Common themes included affordability, more activities for families, teens, and seniors, better maintenance of existing parks and courts, and clearer communication about programs and events. Respondents also emphasized the importance of distributing programs and facilities more evenly throughout Great Falls, so all neighborhoods have access to safe, affordable places to gather and recreate. Overall, respondents expressed a desire for inclusive, well-maintained recreation opportunities available across all parts of the city.