



South St. Clements Community Recreation
Planning recreation in South St. Clements

**Summary Report of
South St. Clements Recreation
Survey Responses, May 2016**

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We wish to extend our sincere thanks to the more than 300 citizens who took the time to attend the South St. Clements Community Recreation Forum on April 18, 2016 or to provide input via our online survey. The survey results are captured in the following summary. This input will be used to help guide recreation development in south St. Clements.

1.0 Introduction

New recreation options for south St. Clements residents have been in the works for many years. Many volunteers, RM Councillors and consultants have thought long and hard about how best to incorporate recreation in south St. Clements. Now is the time to refresh, regroup and decide how to proceed.

On Monday, April 18, 2016 the RM of St. Clements held a South St. Clements Community Recreation Forum to update residents on what has been done so far, to encourage public input and discussion, and to find volunteers to form an action committee to make recommendations to council in the fall of 2016.

Some background: In 1999-2000, south St. Clements Activity Centre (SSCAC) volunteers ran recreation programs at Donald School and surveyed 1200 homes in the community about recreation needs. In 2006, Donald school became unusable and was eventually torn down. In 2013, Dillon Consulting completed the *South St. Clements Recreation Needs Assessment* report that proposed seventeen recommendations to meet recreation needs of south St. Clements residents. In 2014, Dillon Consulting undertook a feasibility study for planning the construction of a proposed activity centre. These plans were presented at public open house on September 24, 2014. The *South St. Clements Recreation Needs Assessment* report and the *Proposed Activity Centre Feasibility Study* can be downloaded on our website at rmofstclements.com/SSCRecreation.

2.0 Public engagement overview

The RM considers public consultation an essential part of the planning process. Prior to any development taking place, the RM consulted the public to gather input to ensure new development is aligned with citizens' expectations and that growth is appropriately managed.

The following activities have taken place to-date:

- **Project information website:** Information about recreation in south St. Clements was shared on a dedicated webpage at www.rmofstclements.com/SSCRecreation.
- **Email updates and contact list development:** An email notice was sent to the RM's existing database of 728 St. Clements residents providing information and promoting the South St. Clements Community Recreation Forum. Two follow-up emails were sent promoting the recreation options survey. One hundred and ten people submitted email addresses in order to receive electronic updates. From these we gathered about 40 new email addresses.

- **General promotion of opportunities to participate:** The RM used multiple methods to update the public about the status of recreation in South St. Clements and to tell them about the forum including:

- RM of St. Clements website
- emails sent to the RM's email database
- ads in two local newspapers
- RM of St. Clements reader board
- Facebook posts
- Media releases to two local newspapers, resulting in two pre-event articles

- **Public forum:** Over 70 people attended the forum on April 18, 2016. Attendees shared input via survey forms, brainstorming sessions, and in conversation with RM staff and members of council. Take-home information sheets were distributed at the event.
- **Public survey:** 308 people took the time to complete an 8-question survey about recreation options for south St. Clements which was distributed on our website, emailed via Mail Chimp, boosted on Facebook (a paid promotion guaranteed to reach a certain number of people) and at the forum.

Promotion at a glance

- 4 Facebook posts
- 3 email updates sent to database of more than 700 St. Clements residents
- 1 newspaper ad in each of the *Selkirk Journal* and the *Selkirk Record*
- Message posted on RM reader board

Participation at a glance

- 70 citizens attended forum
- 303 citizens completed survey

Public forum

On Monday, April 18, 2016 a public forum was held to:

- update residents on what has been done so far
- encourage public input and discussion
- find volunteers to form an action committee to make recreation recommendations to council in the fall of 2016



South St. Clements Recreation Forum April 18, 2016

Seventy people attended. Attendees were divided into nine groups. They were given three options to choose from and asked to decide what should be done within a \$3,000,000 budget. The options were:

1. **Option 1:** Spend all the money on a building
2. **Option 2:** Spend half the money on a building and half on outdoor amenities
3. **Option 3:** Spend all the money on outdoor amenities

Group Results

	Option Chosen	Group Comments
Group 1	Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive to all • State of the art • Would like to see aquatic
Group 2	Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charge user fees
Group 3	Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a meeting place and activity centre, not a recreation centre • Child care • Seniors area • Outdoor: baseball, hockey, asphalt paths, casual skating, hockey and baseball – not organized sports
Group 4	Option 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is existing baseball/soccer/hockey in ESRA • Ages 60-69 are increasing – add something for seniors • Get buy-in from Floodway authority/schools
Group 5	Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have events to generate income • Walking/cycling/snowmobile along Gunn's Creek • Contact the children to get their ideas/wants/needs

	Option Chosen	Group Comments
Group 6	Did not state option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine what is needed for seniors • Determine how to attract youth • Determine what is out there already and don't duplicate • Asphalt walking path
Group 7	Did not state option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whatever you do, do it right, user fee/cost recovery, if not developed fully – don't do it
Group 8	Option 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you wait to add on in future, the costs will be inflated • It is important for recreation director to pursue available monies
Group 9	Option 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15,000 sq ft – do it now and outdoor in future, kitchen, canteen, multipurpose, nursery/daycare, wellness, exercise, showers

Two hand-outs with more information were distributed. Participants had the option of completing an eight question survey. Thirty-two surveys were completed that evening.

3.0 What you told us: survey results

308 people completed our eight-question survey that was available from our website, two Mail Chimp mail outs and a boosted Facebook post. The survey was open to all residents of the RM of St. Clements.

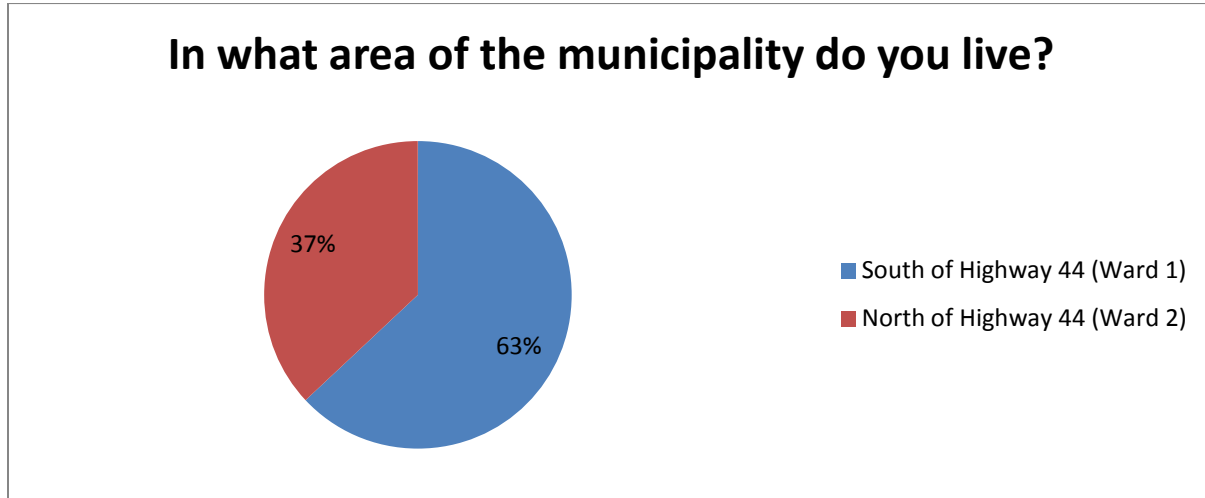
Of these, 191 respondents identified themselves as from south St. Clements. Because the recreation options are for south St. Clements, we will separate these results out to get a clearer picture of what residents of south St. Clements want.

Results area 1: About Respondents

On the survey, three questions focused on learning about who was responding: in what part of the municipality they live, how many people are in the household, and whether they had ever used the old Narol/Gonor Community Centre.

Question: In what area of the municipality do you live?

Sixty-three percent (191) of respondents live south of Highway 44 in the RM of St. Clements (in south St. Clements) and 37% (112) live north of Highway 44.

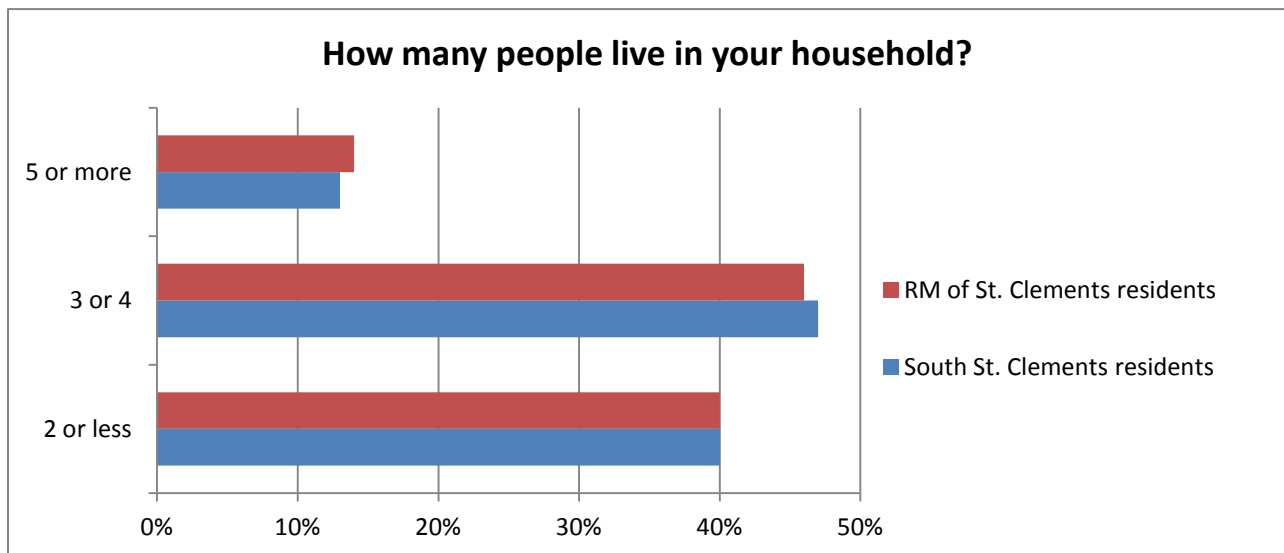


Question: How many people live in your household?

RM of St. Clements responses: 304 of 308

South St. Clements-only responses: 188 of 191

The results are very similar between south St. Clements and the entire RM, as shown below. The majority for south (47%) and the entire RM (46%) chose *three or four people* per household.

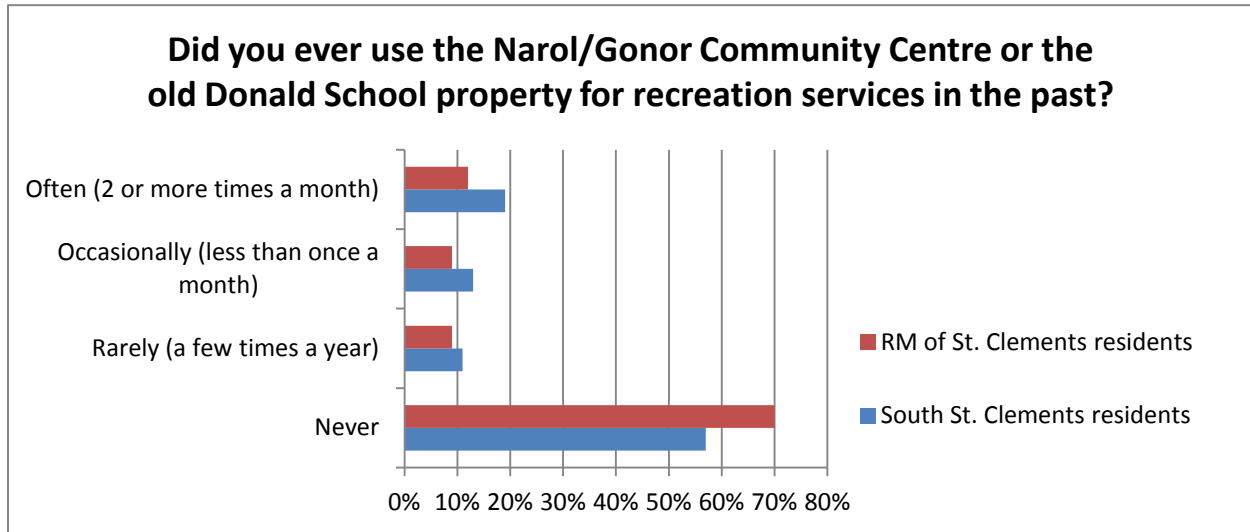


Question: Did you ever use the Narol/Gonor Community Centre or the old Donald School property for recreation services in the past?

RM of St. Clements responses: 305 of 308

South St. Clements-only responses: 190 of 191

Overwhelmingly, 57% of respondents from the south and 70% from the entire RM say they had never used them. Nineteen percent from south St. Clements say they had used them often.



Results area 2: Importance of recreation and current satisfaction

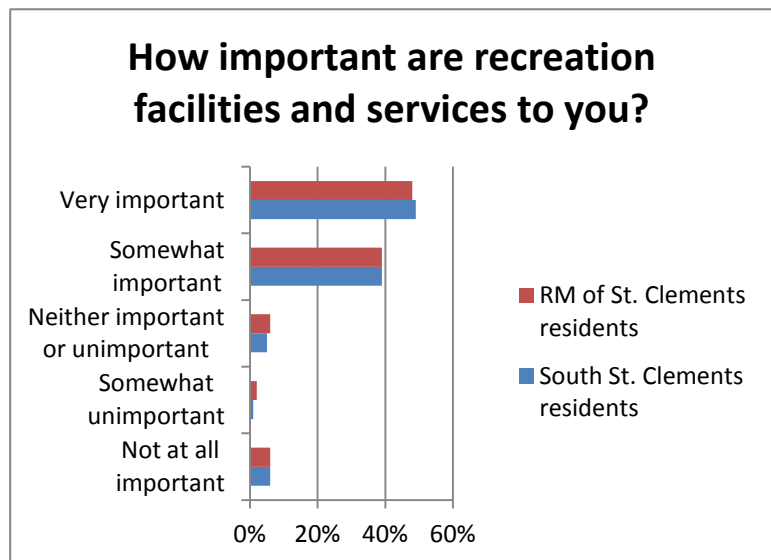
Results area 2 focused on finding out how important recreation was to the respondent and what their current level of satisfaction is with recreational opportunities in the RM of St. Clements.

Question: How important are recreation facilities and services to you?

RM of St. Clements responses: 308 of 308

South St. Clements-only responses: 191 of 191

Results are very similar throughout the south and the entire RM with the majority saying it is somewhat important (south



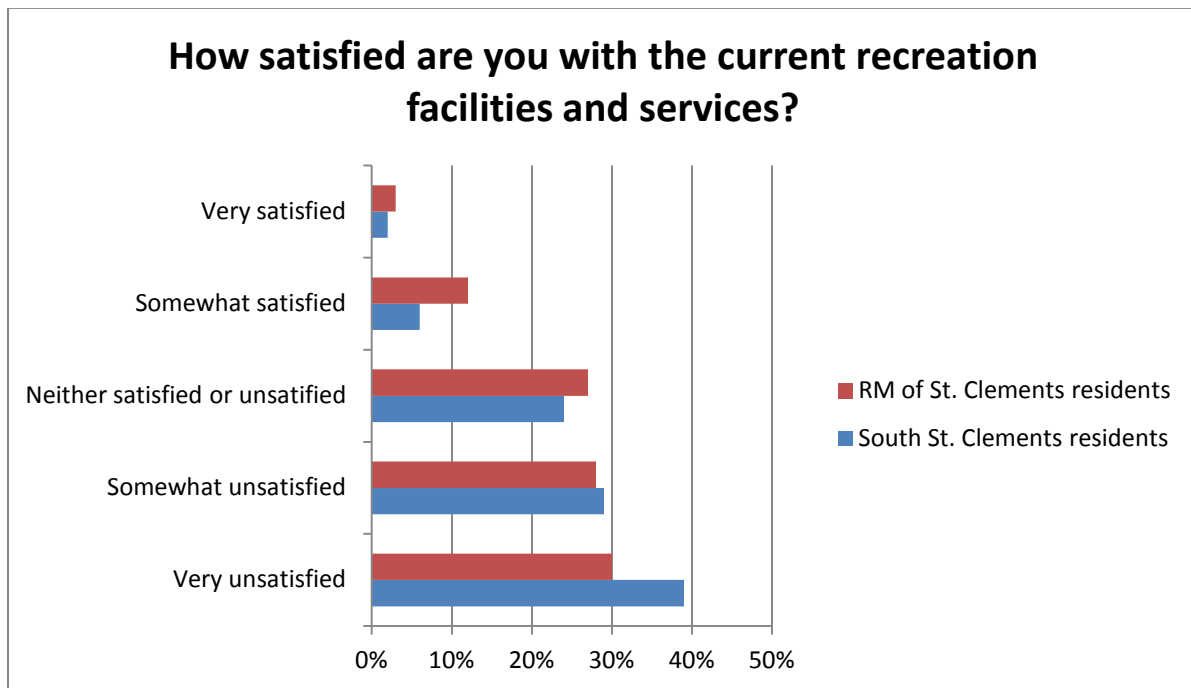
and entire RM 39%), or very important (south 49% and entire RM 48%).

Question: How satisfied are you with the current recreation facilities and services?

RM of St. Clements responses: 303 of 308

South St. Clements-only responses: 189 of 191

The majority of respondents are very unsatisfied (south 39% and entire RM 30%) or somewhat unsatisfied (south 29% and entire RM 28%) with the current recreation facilities and services. South St. Clements respondents were somewhat more unsatisfied than the entire RM. About a quarter of respondents are neutral, and very few are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied.



Results area 3: Your recreation priorities

Results area three asks three questions about what kind of recreation options are important to respondents. With each question was an opportunity for respondents to leave a comment.

Question: The Municipal Council is considering investing in recreation infrastructure in south St. Clements. How would you like to see this money invested?

RM of St. Clements responses: 272 of 308

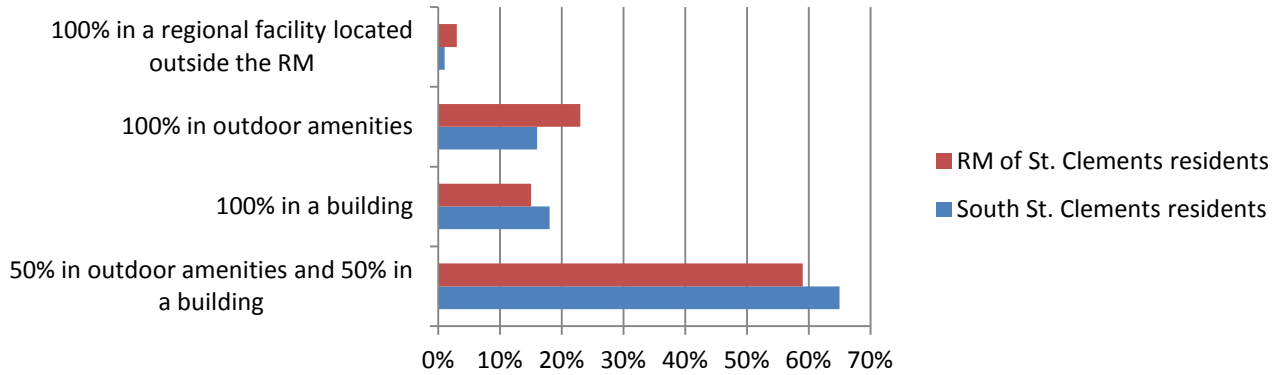
Comments: 65

South St. Clements-only responses: 173 of 191

Comments: 39

The vast majority chose 50% in outdoor amenities and 50% in a building, with 65% of south St. Clements residents and 59% of the entire RM preferring that option.

The Municipal Council is considering investing in recreation infrastructure in South St. Clements. How would you like to see this money invested?



The sixty-five comments received on this question were widely varied. Seventeen of these wanted outdoor amenities including paths, river access, wading pool/splash pad, sports fields, a skating rink and more.

Fifteen of the comments suggested that the RM should spend the money on other priorities like drainage and infrastructure.

Several mentioned that whatever is developed, accessibility for all ages and abilities is important.

"It would be nice to have an outdoor skating rink in the winter."

"Paths, outdoor play structures, environmental green spaces"

"Don't spend any money. Keep our taxes as low as possible."

"Better facilities for seniors."

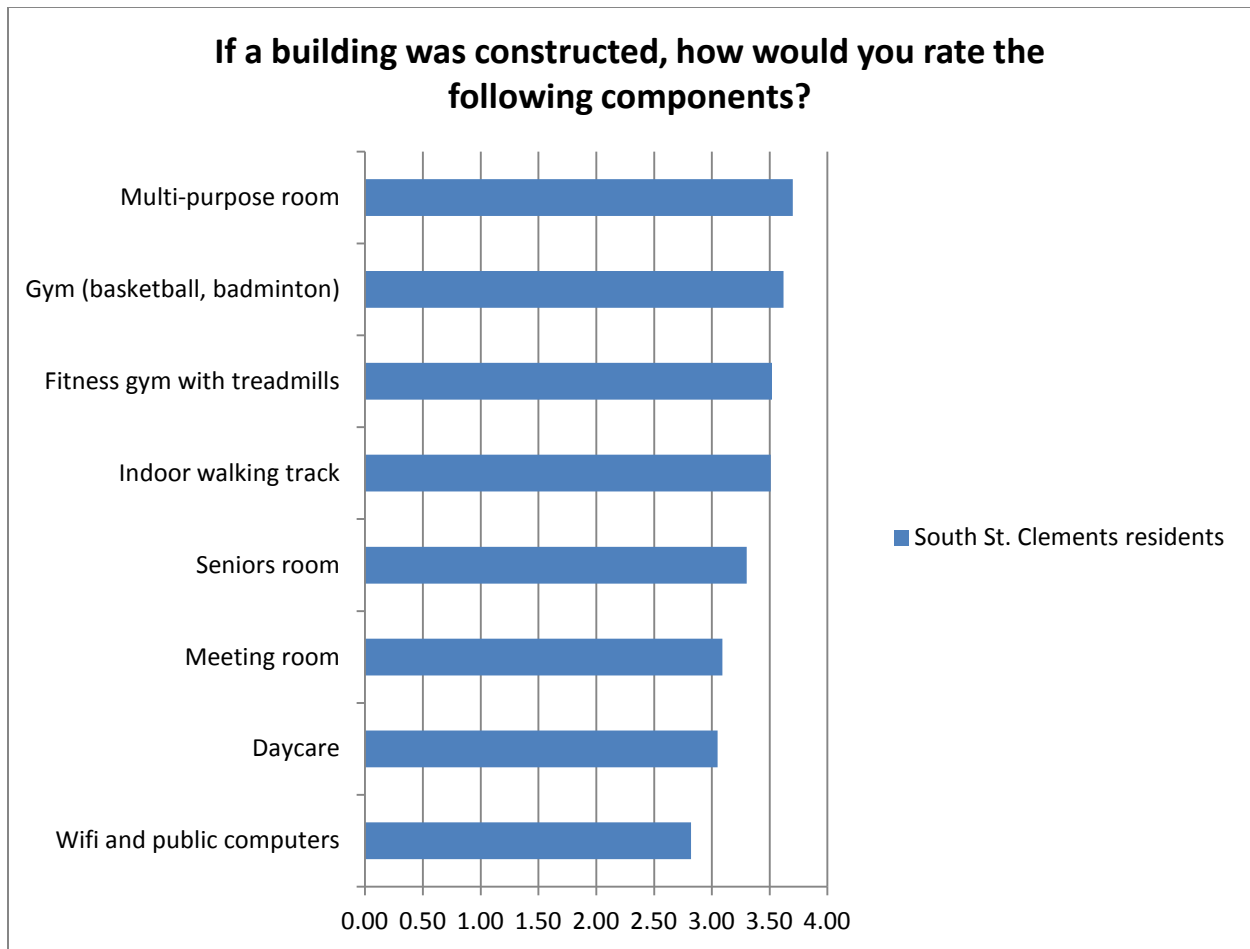
Question: If a building was constructed, how would you rate the following components?

South St. Clements responses: 189 of 191

Comments: 33

In this question, we are just going to look at the results from residents of south St. Clements. Respondents were asked to rate the importance of these eight indoor options: daycare, multi-purpose room, senior's room, gym (basketball, badminton), fitness gym with treadmills, meeting room, indoor walking track, wifi and public computers.

A multi-purpose room ranked as most important (weighted average 3.7 out of 4). The second most important was a gym for basketball, badminton, etc. (weighted average of 3.62) and the least important was a day care and wifi with public computers.



The thirty-three comments received were widely varied. Desire for a pool and/or aquatic centre was mentioned as important several times. Several comments expressed concern that facilities already existed elsewhere and those should be invested in/developed.

A multi-purpose room was also suggested as important. Space for seniors was also mentioned.

“Multi-sport pool complex”

“Meeting room and senior’s room could be combined into the multi-purpose room as well as the computers and wifi.”

“An indoor swimming pool that provides swimming lessons would be nice too.”

“This building should act as an informal meeting centre for residents. This will help create a sense of community.”

Question: If funding was invested in outdoor amenities, how would you rate the following options? (Currently, East St. Paul has many of these amenities)

South St. Clements responses: 189 of 191

Comments: 26

In this question, we are just going to look at the results from residents of south St. Clements. Respondents were asked to rate the importance of these eleven outdoor options: paved walking/biking trails, unpaved walking/biking trails, dedicated ATV/snowmobile trails, wading pool, splash pad, playground, tennis courts, sports field, skateboard park, duck ponds/community stage, outdoor skating rink, toboggan run with wind shelter.

An outdoor skating rink ranked as most important having a weighted average of 3.74. A playground was chosen as second most important, having a weighted average of 3.71. Close behind was paved walking and biking trails having a weighted average of 3.62.

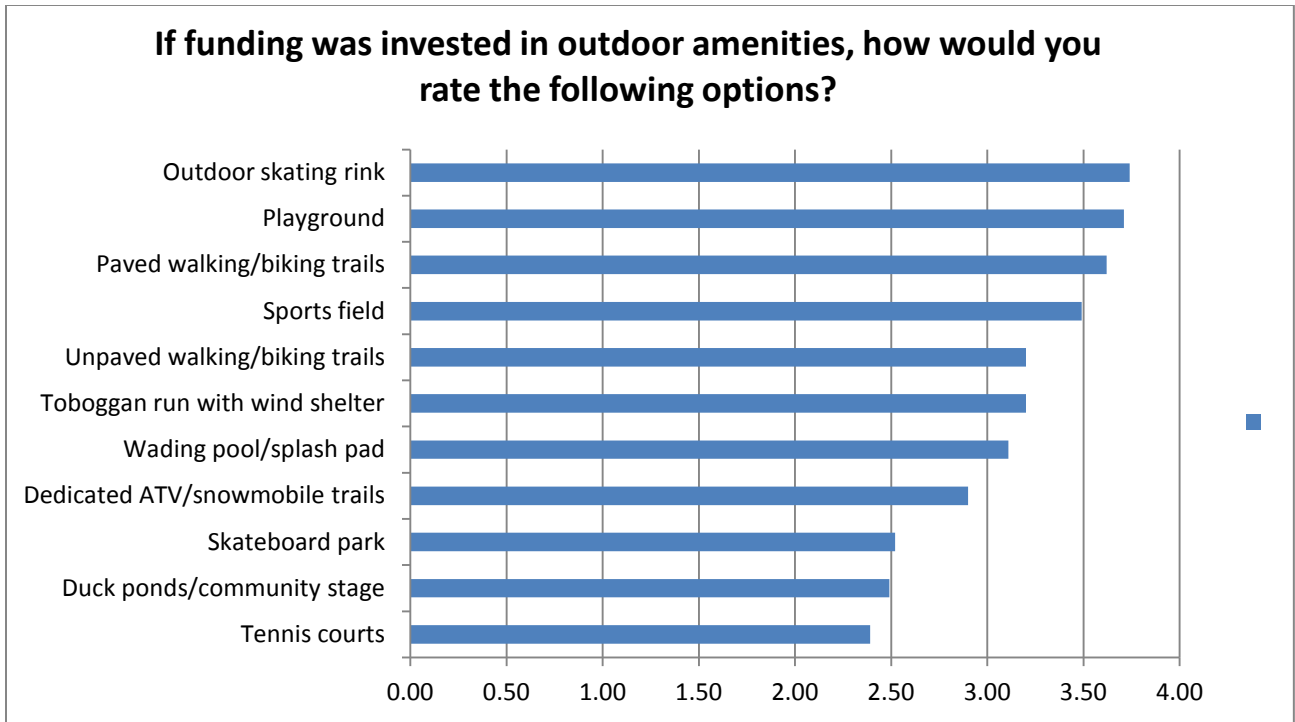
Tennis courts, a duck pond/community stage and dedicated ATV/snowmobile trails ranked the lowest in importance.

Of the twenty-six comments received many of them stressed the importance of trails, a few mentioned that accessibility for all ages and abilities should be considered, and a few raised concerns about various other aspects.

"Paved trails afford families with children better access for biking and walking while ATV/snowmobile trails already exist with Snoman providing services so St. Clements only needs to be marginally involved."

"Would like to see space for outdoor senior's activities."

"Do not duplicate things that are already built and not used to capacity, eg. East Selkirk ball grounds, high school tennis courts in Selkirk."



Results area 4: Additional comments

We received forty-eight more comments from the entire RM of St. Clements. Key themes included:

- A desire for creating a sense of community
- Concern that the municipality should address issues such as drainage and roads before spending more money on recreation
- Positive feelings about this process
- Anticipation of the future outcome

Results area 5: Committee volunteers

Thirty-seven respondents volunteered to be on a committee tasked with making recreation recommendations to Council in fall of 2016, with 23 of them being from south St. Clements.

"We have a 5 year old growing up in this area and would love anything to be brought to our area!!!"

"Quit wasting money."

"We need to make smart decisions about recreation that takes into account all ages and abilities and looks long term. Look at a variety of models not just East St. Paul. Consider looking at the Chief Peguis Trail system."

"Excited about this initiative!"

We also received 110 emails submitted to be added to our database. Of these, forty were new for us.

4.0 How your input will be used

Thank you for your important input. It will be used to guide the recommendations made by a volunteer advisory committee to the RM of St. Clements Council this fall (2016). These recommendations will help guide how Council develops recreation in south St. Clements. If you are interested in joining the volunteer advisory committee, please contact CAO DJ Sigmundson at cao@rmofstclements.com

The RM is committed to keeping citizens fully informed at each stage of planning and development and citizens are encouraged to stay connected as this work continues. Information will be shared through updates on the website, Facebook, e-mail and newsletters. Please consider signing up to receive updates from us by:

- Sending your e-mail address to communications@rmofstclements.com, and requesting to sign up for e-mail updates
- Going to the 'Home' page of our website at <http://www.rmofstclements.com/> and clicking "Register with us" in the bottom right hand corner of the page
- Going to our [Rural Municipality of St. Clements Facebook page](#) and click "Share your e-mail..." under Apps in the left hand column

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