

It's time to refresh & recharge.



Winnipeg Recreation & Parks Strategies

Help shape the future of Winnipeg
recreation and parks for the next
25 years.

Why are the Recreation & Parks Strategies needed?

Recreation and parks contribute to the enjoyment and quality of life for residents and visitors

As Winnipeg continues to grow and change, the need to make strategic, forward-thinking decisions to ensure the City can deliver high-quality recreation and parks services is essential. The strategies are needed to guide programs, services, policies, standards and procedures, and future investment in existing and new infrastructure.

The City of Winnipeg faces the challenge of balancing the maintenance of existing recreation and parks infrastructure with the investment in future needs.



Aging Infrastructure

Much of the City’s recreation and parks infrastructure is over 45 years old. Many facilities and their building systems are at, or near, the end of their useful life cycle.

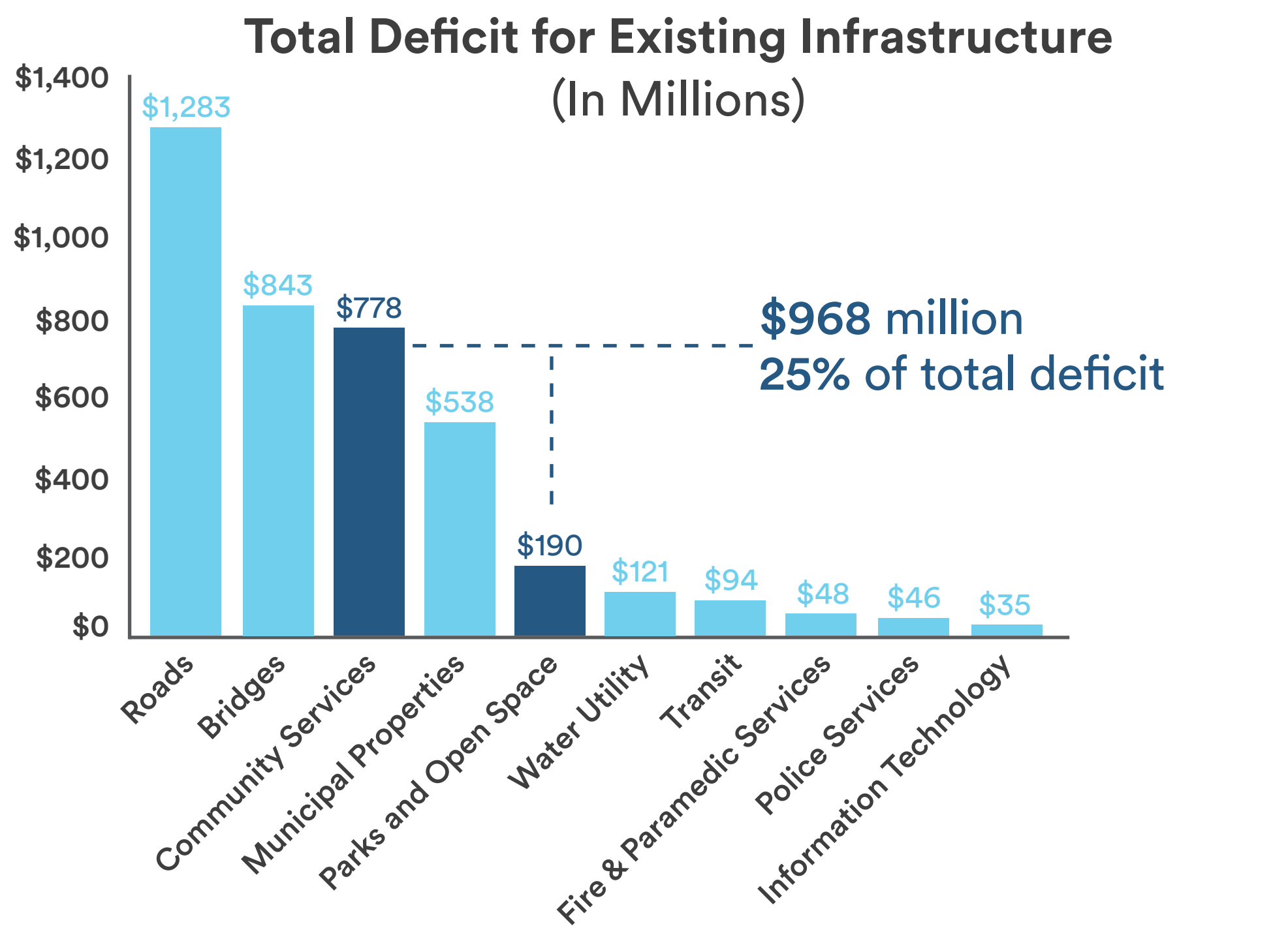
What has been accomplished?

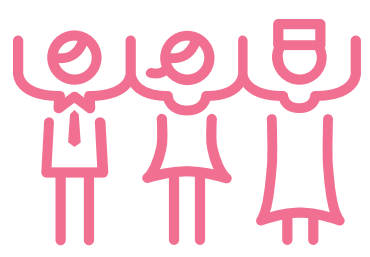
In 2015, three arenas that were between 40-50 years old and in poor condition were closed. New, more financially sustainable ice sheets were built to replace them at multi-pad arena sites.



Growing Infrastructure Deficit

Due to aging infrastructure, limited resources, and competing priorities, an additional \$968 million is needed to maintain the existing recreation and parks infrastructure over the next 10 years.





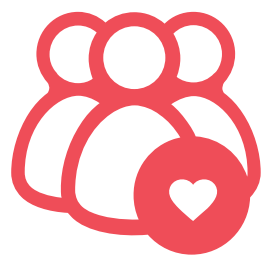
A Changing City

Winnipeg’s population is growing.

- From 2011 to 2016, Winnipeg’s population increased by 6% to over 700,000 people
- Winnipeg’s population is projected to increase by more than 200,000 people over the next 25 years.

Winnipeg’s population is becoming more diverse.

- From 1996 to 2011, the population of **visible minorities** doubled to 1-in-5 residents
- Winnipeg has the largest **urban Indigenous population** of any Canadian city (11% of the population)
- Over 100,000 residents, or 15% of the population, is 65 years or older which equals the number of residents aged 20-29.



Declining Volunteerism

Winnipeg’s 63 community centres are unique from other Canadian cities, as they are not staffed by the City, but are organized, operated, and programmed by volunteers.

However, volunteerism has been declining in Winnipeg and across Canada in recent years.

What has been accomplished?

14 Community Centres have chosen to amalgamate in order to strengthen program and facility offerings.



Evolving Trends and Preferences in Recreation, Sport, & Leisure

As Winnipeg’s population becomes more diverse, programs and services that strengthen community connections and create a sense of belonging are increasingly important.

Winnipeggers have changing preferences in leisure and recreation interests and priorities. Certain activities are growing in popularity – such as spray pads, skateboard parks, cricket, pickleball, and ultimate frisbee.

What has been accomplished?

21 new accessible spray pads have been constructed to replace 18 wading pools at the end of their useful lifecycle.



Limited and Declining Resources

There are limited and declining resources available to address the often competing needs and desires of our developing city. As our city continues to grow, new parks and recreational spaces have been added with little to no increase in the operating budgets available to maintain them. Over the long term, this has resulted in declining service levels throughout the City as limited resources become more thinly spread.

What has occurred?

Resources have been reallocated to core services such as grass mowing and litter collection, resulting in service reductions in other areas. For example, between 1938 and 2011, floral displays in Fisher Park have been largely removed.



Why are recreation & parks services and programs important?

- Support activities that keep people **active**, and contribute to **physical** and **mental health**
- Support communities by providing space for people to **gather** and **socialize**
- **Boost tourism** by acting as destinations and make our city a more attractive place to work and live
- Contribute to **inclusion**, **local culture** and **history**, and **economic vitality**
- Contribute to the **revitalization** of surrounding **neighbourhoods**

Additional benefits:

- Provide a broad range of **physical skill development** from beginner to competitive
- Support **high profile sporting** and **athletic events** that draw people from around the world
- Promote **social development** which trains future leaders and maintains a strong, healthy, vibrant community
- Provide **outdoor spaces** for all people to enjoy
- **Protect nature** by providing wildlife food and shelter
- Absorb rain and stormwater and **clean the air**

Can you think of other benefits?



Winnipeg's Parks & Open Space



Winnipeg's parks system, totaling more than 3,500 ha and comprised of almost 1,200 parks and open spaces, encourages and promotes healthy lifestyles, cleaner environments, civic pride and urban beautification.

Winnipeg's parks system includes:

305,257 Boulevard & Park Trees	280km Trails & Pathways
3,757 Benches	234 Garden Plot Rentals
1,257 Floral Planters	128 Tennis Courts
661 Athletic Fields	25 Toboggan Runs
499 Play Sites	15 Skateparks

Hectares of Parkland per 100,000 People	
399 ha Winnipeg	
255 ha Maintained Parkland	
144 ha Natural Parkland	
281 ha Toronto	
153 ha Maintained Parkland	
128 ha Natural Parkland	
741 ha Regina	
674 ha Maintained Parkland	
67 ha Natural Parkland	
495 ha Hamilton	
267 ha Maintained Parkland	
228 ha Natural Parkland	

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada, 2016 (PRKS205; PRKS210; PRKS215)

Parkland in Winnipeg as a Percent of Total Municipality Area	
6.2% park area	
12.8% Toronto 9.1% Regina 2.4% Hamilton	
Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada, 2016 (PRKS125)	
Annual Operating Costs of Parks in Winnipeg	
\$9,905 per hectare	
\$23,642 Toronto \$10,731 Regina \$10,868 Hamilton	
1 hectare is approximately the size of half a football field	
Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada, 2016 (PRKS230M)	

Winnipeg's Recreation Services



Winnipeg's recreation services help people live active and healthy lives. The majority of recreation facilities pre-date the 1970's and are now at or near the end of their useful lifecycle. Considerable growth in new areas of the city is also creating demand for new recreation facilities and services.

Programs & Participation

Annually	2014	2015	2016
Number of Paid Aquatics, Recreation & Leisure Courses	10,889	11,641	11,623
Number of Learn to Skate Visits	57,354	59,774	63,214
Number of Visits to Indoor Pools	1.77 M	1.56 M	1.78 M

Free & Subsidized Programs

Number of Visits to Outdoor Pools	99,100	101,706	128,087
Value of Subsidies Provided for Visits & Course Registrations	\$725,734	\$827,770	\$1.57 M *

* Promotion of Fee Subsidy Program introduced in March 2016

Winnipeg's recreation facilities includes:

- 81 Wading Pools
- 21 Spray Pads
- 13 Indoor Pools
- 10 Outdoor Pools
- 14 City-operated Arenas
- 14 Recreation & Leisure Centres
- 63 Community Centres with 80+ Locations and 140+ Outdoor Rinks

Total Cost for Recreation Programs & Facilities in Winnipeg

\$17.30 per participant visit

\$7.60 Toronto | \$23.90 Calgary | \$13.30 Hamilton

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada, 2016 (SREC310T)

Operating Cost of Recreation Programs per Person

City	Operating Cost (\$)
Windsor	\$29.97
Winnipeg	\$35.45
Hamilton	\$47.12
Toronto	\$55.86
Ottawa	\$148.38

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada, 2015 (SREC902)

Recreation User Fees as a Percent of Operating Cost

City	User Fees (%)
Toronto	19.3%
Ottawa	21.6%
Winnipeg	24.3%
Hamilton	29.2%
Windsor	41.0%

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada, 2015 (SREC312)

What have we heard from you so far?

At three **stakeholder workshops** this past spring, key stakeholder and user group representatives have provided information about opportunities, ideas, and issues related to recreation and parks services.

Since April 20 over 5,500 people have completed the **online survey** and shared what they value most, how they currently use recreation and parks, and how they want to use recreation and parks in the future.



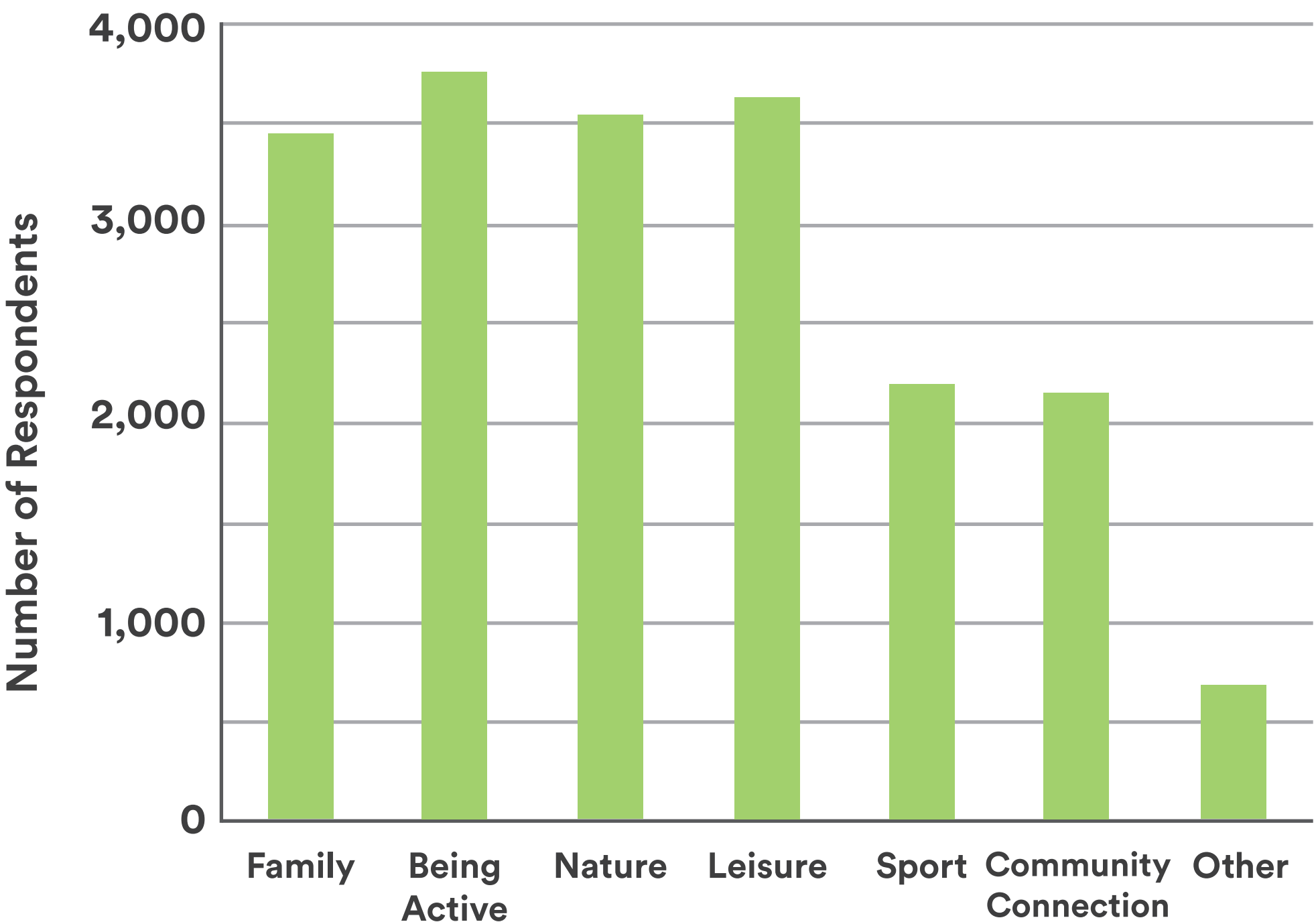
Have you completed the online survey?

If not, talk to the project team and complete it today!

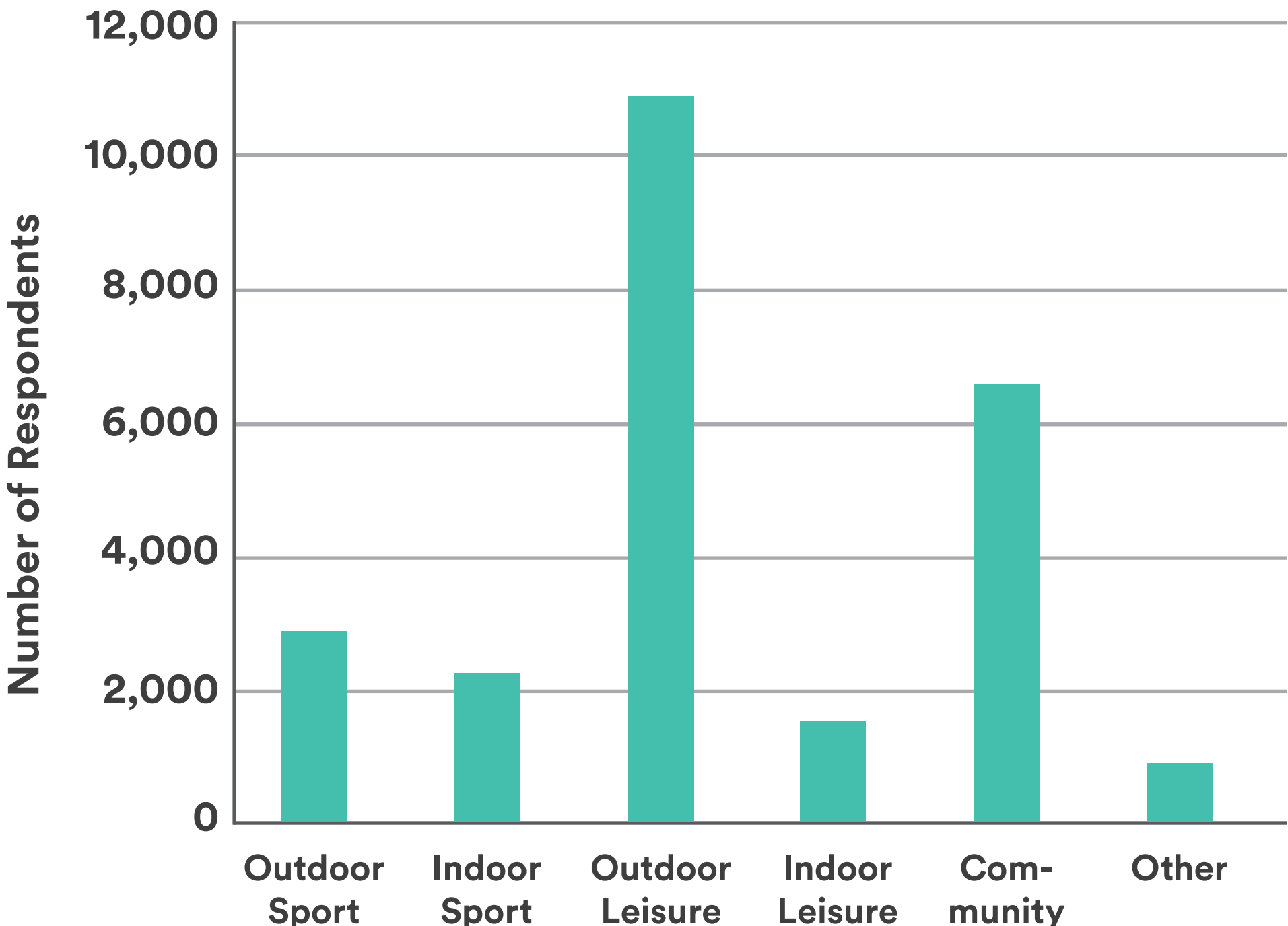
Or visit winnipeg.ca/recandparks

Initial Online Survey Results

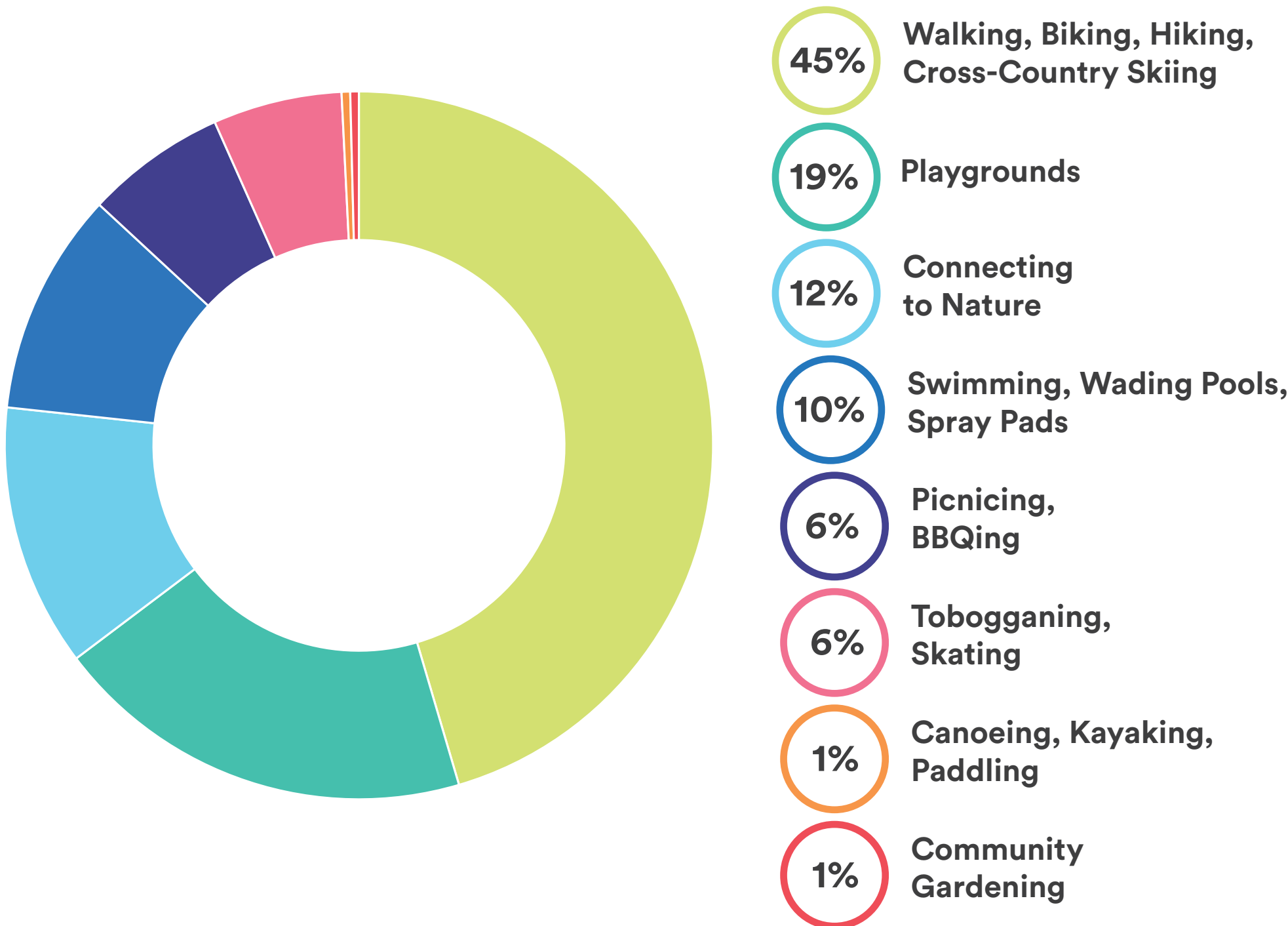
Why do you visit parks and why do you participate in recreation?



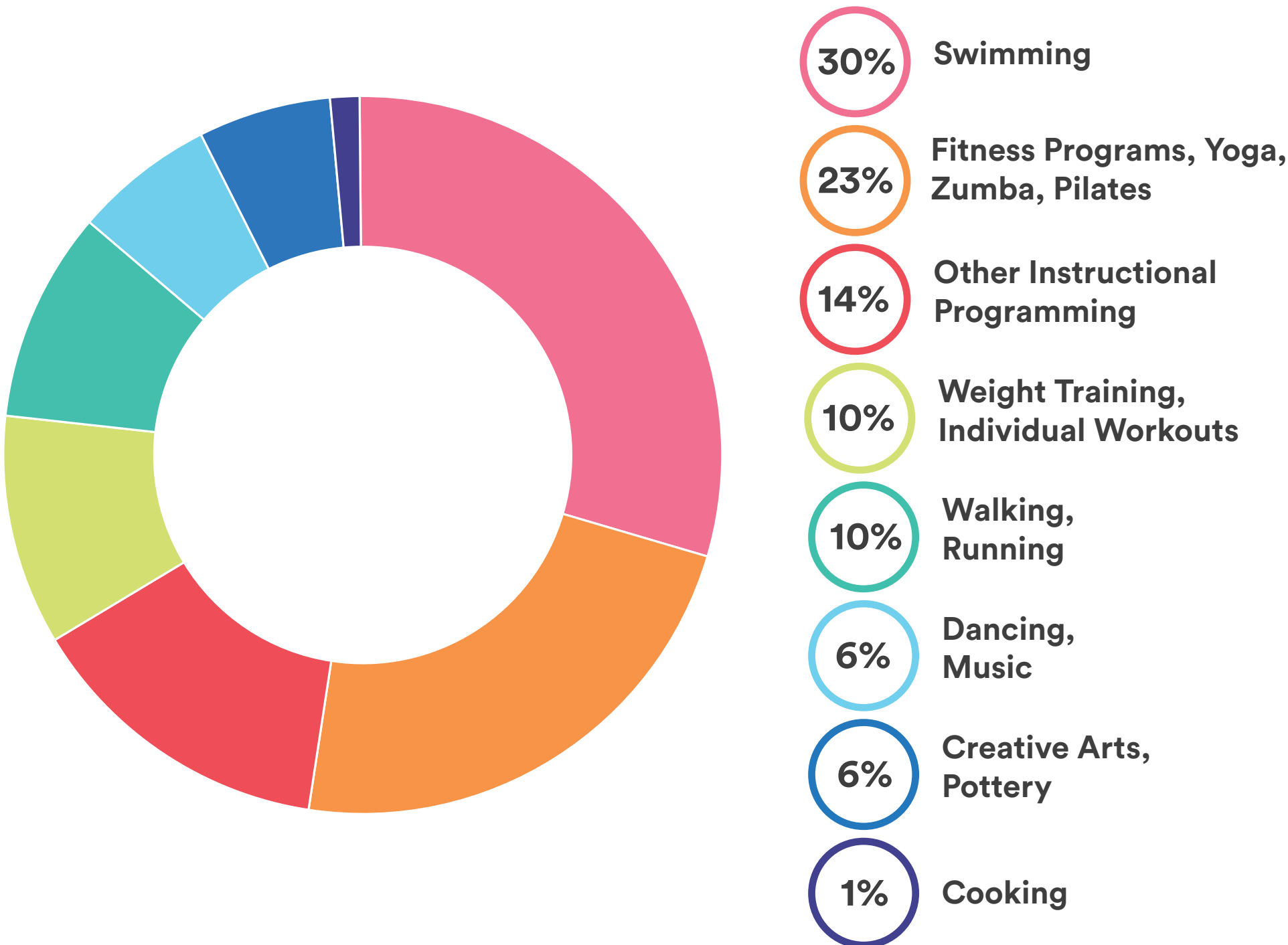
What activity categories do you participate in?



Which outdoor leisure activities do you participate in?



Which indoor leisure activities do you participate in?



How can I stay involved?

Over the course of the 18-month planning process, Winnipeggers are being asked what they want out of their recreation and parks services and infrastructure and where their priorities lie.

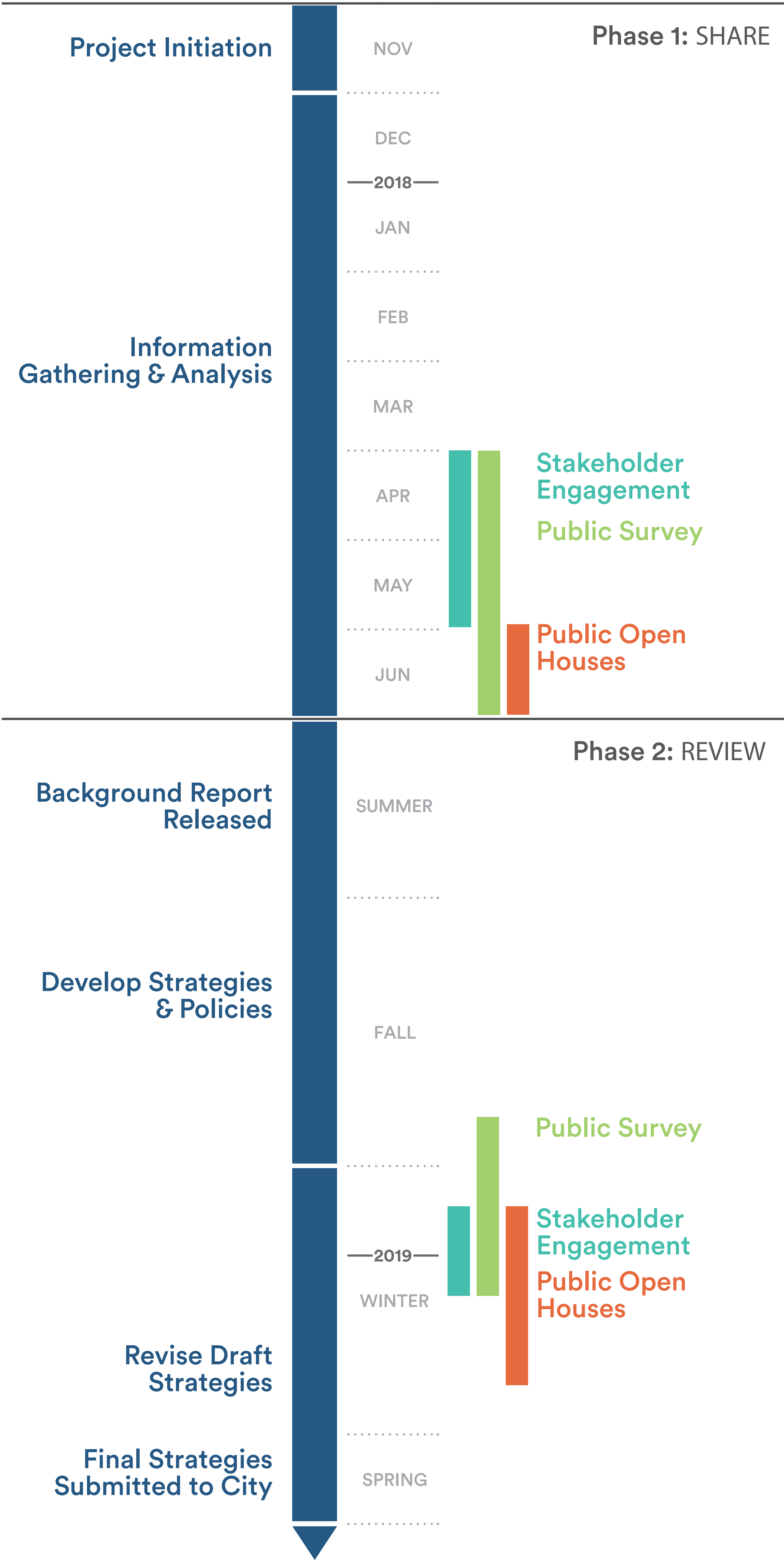
Have you completed our online survey?

 Complete one today, or visit winnipeg.ca/recandparks

Want updates?

 winnipeg.ca/recandparks

 recandparks@winnipeg.ca



Thank you for attending & sharing your input!

We need to work together to envision innovative and inclusive solutions to the challenges our recreation and parks services and infrastructure face.

Next Steps

The project team will:

- Compile a Discussion Paper or Background Document
- Compile public input into a **What We Heard Report**, which will help shape the Strategies
- Prepare the **vision statement, policies and priorities** for the draft Recreation Strategic Plan, the draft Parks Strategic Plan and the draft Regional Park Investment Strategy
- Develop **strategies and decision-making tools** to guide future investments in recreation and parks infrastructure, programs and services

At the next public engagement opportunity you will be invited to:

- Provide feedback on the draft Recreation & Parks Strategies and the draft Regional Park Investment Strategy
- Contribute ideas about how the Strategies should be implemented

