# Mohawk Sports Park Community Hub Project

Community Engagement Summary

#### **Mohawk Sports Park Council**

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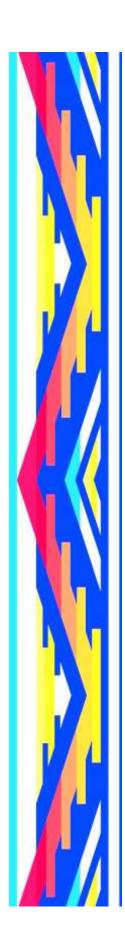
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## Land Acknowledgement

The City of Hamilton is situated upon the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

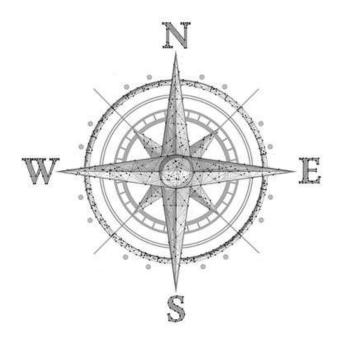
Today, the City of Hamilton is home to many Indigenous people across Turtle Island (North America). We recognize that we must do more to learn about the rich history of this land so that we can better understand

our roles as residents, neighbours, partners, and caretakers.



## **Project Vision**

Our proposed hub is rooted in sport and driven by the community's needs. It builds upon Mohawk Sports Park's existing identity as a destination for outdoor sports and layers it with new, varied, and complimentary uses. Through the vehicles of sport and play, the hub will generate broad social outcomes and city-wide benefits, giving an otherwise seasonal park year-round life.



## Guiding Principles



#### Inclusion

Inclusion is about building cultures and environments in which people with diverse identities feel they belong and can participate meaningfully as part of the whole while retaining authenticity, uniqueness, and autonomy.

#### **Diversity**

We aim to embody a diverse and inclusive mindset that acknowledges individuals' identities, characteristics, qualities, and experiences, which shape us and contribute to the varied perspectives and approaches we bring to our interactions with others.

#### **Equity**

Creating equitable access to programs and services starts with recognizing and acknowledging the existence of systemic social inequalities and acting proactively to reduce or remove barriers to opportunities and inclusion. Equity is about giving more to those who need it, in proportion to their circumstances, to ensure everyone has the same opportunities. Everyone is given the support they need to succeed.

#### **Accessibility**

We strive to ensure Accessibility is at the core of our work. It is about designing products, communications, services, and/or environments usable by people with diverse abilities without barriers. We offer equal opportunities for everyone to have autonomy and self-direction in all aspects of life.



The Canada Healthy Communities Initiative was created to help communities adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic and create safe ways for residents to access services and enjoy the outdoors.

Public spaces can offer physical and mental health benefits by providing people with places to be active and connect with others. They can also offer opportunities to help local economies grow.

To continue offering these benefits amidst COVID-19 restrictions and beyond, local governments, Indigenous communities, and not-for-profit community partners have had to rethink public spaces and how to deliver services safely and equitably.

From community gardens and activity spaces to digital infrastructure, the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative allows organizations to adapt programs and services to keep residents safe and healthy, support economic recovery, create jobs, and build vibrant, resilient communities.

We are excited to incorporate the principles of the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative into our Project Strategic Vision.







The 17 Sustainable Development Goals represent a global call to action aimed at addressing the most urgent social, economic, and environmental challenges we face today.

The Government of Canada is actively working to promote these Goals through dialogue, participation, and collaboration. Progress in achieving these Goals is a responsibility we all share.

Building stronger, safer, and more inclusive communities requires a collective effort from both the government and society, ensuring that no one is left behind.

We are committed to integrating the guiding principles of Canada's Sustainable Development Goals to reaffirm our dedication to the community and society as a whole.



## Mohawk Sports Park

Location: 1100 Mohawk Road East, Hamilton, Ontario. L8T 2S4.

Size: 39.66 hectares (98 acres).

#### **Features**

Football Fields, Playground, Ray Lewis Track & Field Centre, Soccer Fields, Ball Diamonds, Batting Cage, Skateboard Ramp, Cricket Pitch, Bernie Arbour Stadium, Rugby Fields, Mohawk Four Pad Ice Arena, Rail Trail, Nearby Waterfalls.

#### **History**

This park was formerly Upper King's Forest Sports Park and Commonwealth Park. It became known as Mohawk Sports Park in 1971 when it was recommended that the old Mohawk Trail, which had once been part of the property, be mentioned. This park is considered the area's finest major sports facility.

The civic baseball stadium was relocated to the site in 1970, and on June

30, 1971, it was officially named Bernie Arbour Stadium to honour Bernie Arbour (1921 - 1967), a former Hamilton police sergeant who directed the police minor sports association when it began in 1948. In 1949, he was appointed secretary of the association, a position he held until his death. He was elected Hamilton's Citizen of the Year in 1966 for his



involvement in youth sports in the city.

## Culture & Heritage Mohawk Trail

The original Mohawk Trail began as a First Nations footpath that spanned from the Brant Region to Upper New York State and is believed to have existed since prehistoric times.

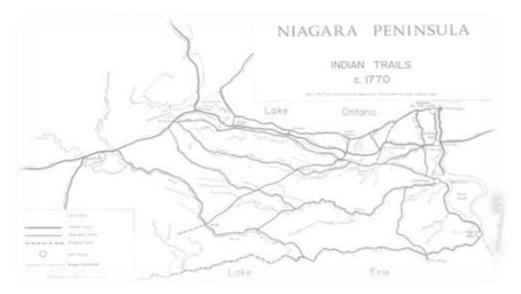
It represents one of the earliest transportation routes across our region and, in turn, supported many of our earlier settlers. This reflects many of today's landmarks (Hess, Rymal, James, Ryckman, Terry Berry, Mount Albion) and historical sites involving homes, Inns, Churches, Schools, and Parks.

The Trail saw significant development under Governor Simcoe's term of office, 1792-96, as a matter of strategic importance. Later, it supported industry growth/commerce and the development of a modern highway system (King's Highway 8) across the region.

In 1953, the Mohawk Trail was renamed Mohawk Road, and today's Mohawk Sports Park was officially named in 1971 in recognition of

Mohawk Trail system.

the



## **Executive Summary**

The Mohawk Sports Park Council is a registered non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring the sustainability of one of our community's largest municipal multi-sport parks. Spanning approximately 98 acres in Ward 6, this remarkable facility serves as a vital resource for the diverse leisure and recreational needs of residents throughout Hamilton, a city home to 597,010 individuals as of 2022. Together, we foster an active community and create lasting memories through sports and social connections.



## Mohawk Sports Park Council





Our program and service delivery are founded on three strategic pillars: health and wellness, equity, and conservation. We prioritize activities based on our member organizations'

valuable guidance, ensuring that our efforts are tailored to effectively address community needs, with particular attention to underserved populations.

#### **OUR MISSION**

We are committed to advancing park, recreation, and environmental conservation initiatives to enhance sustainability and significantly improve the quality of life for all individuals who utilize Mohawk Sports Park. Our initiatives will align with Canada's 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative.

#### **OUR VISION**

We are committed to a future in which the Mohawk Sports Park Council is recognized for its valuable contributions to enhancing the quality of life within our community. Our vision focuses on developing a strong, healthy, resilient community and fostering positive change. This vision is anchored in three core principles: Health and Wellness, Equity, and Conservation.



#### **Health & Wellness**

The Mohawk Sports Park Council is actively fostering community health and wellness through various strategic local initiatives. We build collaborative partnerships, develop valuable resources, and implement thoughtful policies to enhance health outcomes. By addressing the unique needs of our residents, we are working collectively to improve individual well-being and to uplift the overall quality of life in our community, creating a more supportive and healthier environment for everyone.

#### **Equity**

The Mohawk Sports Park Council is dedicated to advancing the principles of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA). We recognize that many marginalized communities face systemic barriers that hinder their access to safe and welcoming public spaces. To address these challenges, we are committed to improving access to high-quality park and recreation experiences for all. By focusing on equitable opportunities for everyone, we aim to foster community vitality and promote health equity, ensuring that our public spaces serve as inclusive environments for all community members.

#### Conservation

The Mohawk Sports Park Council envisions the development of a vibrant and sustainable public park designed to combat climate change and ignite community transformation. We will actively engage residents through various immersive environmental initiatives to nurture a flourishing ecosystem while passionately advocating for the numerous benefits of nature through innovative sustainable practices.

## **Project Background**

2017 - 2022

From 2017 to 2022, more than \$4 million was invested in upgrading the Ray Lewis Track & Field Centre at Mohawk Sports Park, showcasing the strength of community teamwork with the City of Hamilton.

Thanks to these efforts, different groups within the park came together to create a shared vision for an open and accommodating public space. This vision aims to support current programs and plan for future growth. Following this initial interest, we engaged informally with nearly forty organizations from various fields, including sports, social services, education, health, tourism, culture, and environmental sustainability.

Feedback from this engagement highlighted a strong need for flexible spaces catering to the community's diverse needs. People also urged a complete revitalization plan to make the outdoor area safer, more inclusive, and accessible. This plan will also focus on being environmentally friendly while respecting Mohawk Sports Park's rich history and its importance to local Indigenous communities.



#### 2023

In late 2023, we had constructive talks about our project with federal, provincial, and municipal governments and city staff representatives. They stressed the necessity of conducting a feasibility study to carefully evaluate the project's needs, benefits, and long-term sustainability. This step is crucial to ensure our decisions reflect the community's needs.

#### 2024

Then, in April 2024, the Project Steering Committee, which includes members from the Mohawk Sports Park Council and various stakeholder groups, joined forces with a Hamilton-based design company, Toms + McNally Design. This partnership will allow the firm to conduct a thorough feasibility study incorporating a comprehensive community engagement and consultation process.



## Community Hub Model

Community hubs act as vibrant centers that bring together a variety of essential health and social services, along with cultural, recreational, and green spaces that truly enrich community life. Whether they exist online or in a physical location—be it in a bustling urban neighbourhood or a tranquil rural setting—each hub is uniquely tailored to meet its community's specific needs, services, and resources. The active participation of community members and forging partnerships are vital elements that contribute to these hubs' ongoing success and sustainability.

#### Benefits

- Enhancing social connections and fostering a sense of belonging.
- Streamlining services to enhance accessibility and cost efficiencies.
- Maximizing use of public spaces which support community engagement.
- Supporting the unique needs and challenges of the local community.

Community hubs are vital for boosting the well-being and connectedness of our neighborhoods and relies on engaging actively with the community through

consultation as a key to ensuring the maximum success for fostering a thriving, supportive environment for everyone!



## Community Engagement



We invited community members, organizations, and stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed development of a Community Hub and the revitalization of Mohawk Sports Park. Their input will directly inform the feasibility study regarding facility features, amenities, programs and services, governance structure, operational model, and sustainability plan.

We employed a diverse range of strategies to gather valuable input. This encompassed hosting online stakeholder meetings, organizing public information events, conducting personal interviews, distributing targeted organizational questionnaires, and implementing community surveys. Each method was thoughtfully designed to capture various perspectives, enhancing our understanding of evolving programming and future facility needs. This comprehensive approach lays a strong foundation for the successful implementation of the project.

#### **Community Consultations** (Attachment 'A')

List of organizations engaged in the Community Consultations scheduled between April and December 2024.

#### Public Information Events (Attachment 'B')

Illustrates the results of two public information events from June 21st to 23rd, 2024 (Hamilton Francophone Festival, Gage Park) and July 6th, 2024 (Hamilton Challengers Accessibility Fair, Inch Park).

#### **Community Surveys** (Attachment 'C')

Provides a summary of online survey results, which were received through the online survey platform, "Survey Monkey," between the period of June to September 2024.

## **Community Consultations**

#### Community

Mohawk Sports Park Council.

YWCA Hamilton.

Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford YMCA.

Professional Aboriginal Advisory Networking Group.

Hamilton Challengers Sports Association.

Ron Joyce Children's Centre.

Catholic Youth Organization.

Hamilton Special Olympics.

Boys & Girls Club of Hamilton.

Hamilton Military Family Resource Centre.

Hamilton Accessible Sports Council.

Golden Horseshoe Track & Field Council.

Steel Town Athletic Club (STAC).

Hamilton Olympic Club.

91st Highlanders Athletic Association.

PACK Running Club.

Monte Cristo Track & Field Club.

Thorold Elite Track & Field Club.

Burlington Track & Field Club.

Hamilton Hornets Rugby Football Club.

Hamilton District Cricket League.

Westdale Fencing Club.

Hamilton Francophone Inter-Agency Committee.

Centre Francophone Hamilton Inc.

Francophone Seniors Federation of Ontario.

Hamilton/Niagara Community Health Centre.

Francophone Welcome Committee.

## Community Consultations Cont.

#### National

Athletics Canada.

Minister Filomena Tassi.

Member of Parliament Lisa Hepfner.

Federal Development Ontario.

Heritage Canada.

#### Provincial

Athletics Ontario.

Ontario Para Sport.

Rugby Ontario.

Francophone Economic Society of Ontario.

Minister of Sport, Neil Lumsden.

Member of Provincial Parliament, Monique Taylor.

#### Municipal

City of Hamilton Mayor Andrea Horwath.

City of Hamilton Ward 6 Councillor Tom Jackson.

City of Hamilton General Manager Grace Mater.

City of Hamilton General Manager Angie Burden

City of Hamilton Director Steve Sevor.

City of Hamilton Accessibility Committee for Persons with Disabilities

City of Hamilton Built Environment Working Group.

City of Hamilton Indigenous Relations Office.

City of Hamilton Emergency & Community Services Committee.

Attachment 'A" Page 3 of 3



#### Education

Redeemer University.

Mohawk College.

Boreal College.

Conseil scolaire catholique MonAvenir.

Conseil scholaire Viamonde.

#### **Private Sector**

Canadian Tire Jumpstart Foundation.

Wishbone Athletics.

XCEL Analytic Sport Testing.

Sport-Made-Simple.

ALP Training Institute Inc.

Tarket Sports.

Playteck Enterprises.

Beynon. Sports.

Field Turf Inc.

Ball Construction.

American Buildings (Nucor Corporation).

Attachment 'B" Page 1 of 6



## **Public Information Events**

Dot Board Results - Hamilton Francophone Festival. June 21 to 23, 2024 Gage Park, Hamilton.

Question: What Indoor Facilities Do You Want at The Community Hub?

Indoor Running Track	00000000	10
Indoor Multi-Courts	0000	5
Indoor Turf Field	0000	4
Indoor Pool	000000000000	13
Retractable Batting Cages	0000000	8
Fitness/Conditioning Space	00000	6
Multi-Purpose Activity Spaces	000	3
Community Meeting Rooms	0000	5
Community Kitchen	0000	4
Changing Rooms	000000	7
Other - Recycling Program	•	1



### **Question: What Outdoor Facilities Do You Want at The Community Hub?**

Outdoor Multi-Courts	0000	4
Turf Multi-Use Field	•	1
Sand Volleyball Courts	-	-
Batting Cage	00000	6
Outdoor Ice Rink	0 0 0	3
Spray/Splash Pad	• •	2
Outdoor Pool	00000	6
Playground/Accessible Play Area	0 0	2
Fitness Areas	0000	5
Community Garden	•	1
Secure Bike Locking Stations	0000	4
Pavilion/Shade Areas	000000	7
Seating	• •	2
Accessible Pathways	0 0 0	3
Lighting	000000	7
Leash-free Dog Zone	•	1
All-Season Public Washrooms	00000000	9



### **Question: What Programs Do You Want at The Community Hub?**

Childcare	0000	4
Youth Services	0000	4
Seniors Programs	0000	4
Veterans Family Support	• •	2
Newcomer/Immigration Support	0000	5
Educational Programs	000000	7
Cultural/Heritage Programs	•	1
Employment & Skills Training	• •	2
Housing Services	•	1
Health & Wellness Services	0000	5
High-Performance Training	000	3
Athlete & Team Analytic Assessments	-	-
Sports Medicine & Physiotherapy	•	1
Recreational Sports Clubs	• •	2
Group Fitness Classes	0 0 0	3
Sports Camps	0000	5

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Dot Board Results - Hamilton Challengers Accessibility Fair. July 6, 2024 Inch Park, Hamilton.

### **Question: What Indoor Facilities Do You Want at The Community Hub?**

Indoor Running Track	00000	6
Indoor Multi-Courts	•	1
Indoor Turf Field	•	1
Indoor Pool	• •	2
Retractable Batting Cages	000	3
Fitness/Conditioning Space	0000	4
Multi-Purpose Activity Spaces	• •	2
Community Meeting Rooms	• •	2
Community Kitchen	0000	5
Changing Rooms	• •	2



### **Question: What Outdoor Facilities Do You Want at The Community Hub?**

Outdoor Multi-Courts		2
Outdoor Multi-Courts		2
Turf Multi-Use Field	• •	2
Sand Volleyball Courts	• •	2
Batting Cage	0 0 0	3
Outdoor Ice Rink	• •	2
Spray/Splash Pad	0000	4
Outdoor Pool	• •	2
Playground/Accessible Play Area	000000	7
Fitness Areas	00000	6
Community Garden	•	1
Secure Bike Locking Stations	•	1
Pavilion/Shade Areas	0000	5
Seating	000	3
Accessible Pathways	0 0 0 0 0 0	7
Lighting	• • •	3
Leash-free Dog Zone	-	-
All-Season Public Washrooms	00000	6

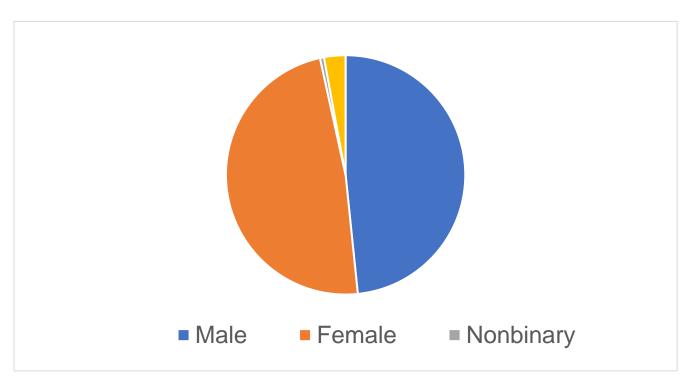


#### **Question: What Programs Do You Want at The Community Hub?**

Childcare	0000	3
Youth Services	0000	4
Seniors Programs	0000	6
Veterans Family Support	• •	2
Newcomer/Immigration Support	0000	2
Educational Programs	000000	2
Cultural/Heritage Programs	•	4
Employment & Skills Training	• •	3
Housing Services	•	3
Health & Wellness Services	0000	5
High-Performance Training	0 0 0	4
Athlete & Team Analytic Assessments	-	-
Sports Medicine & Physiotherapy	•	1
Recreational Sports Clubs	• •	5
Group Fitness Classes	• • •	6
Sports Camps	0 0 0 0	3



### Gender



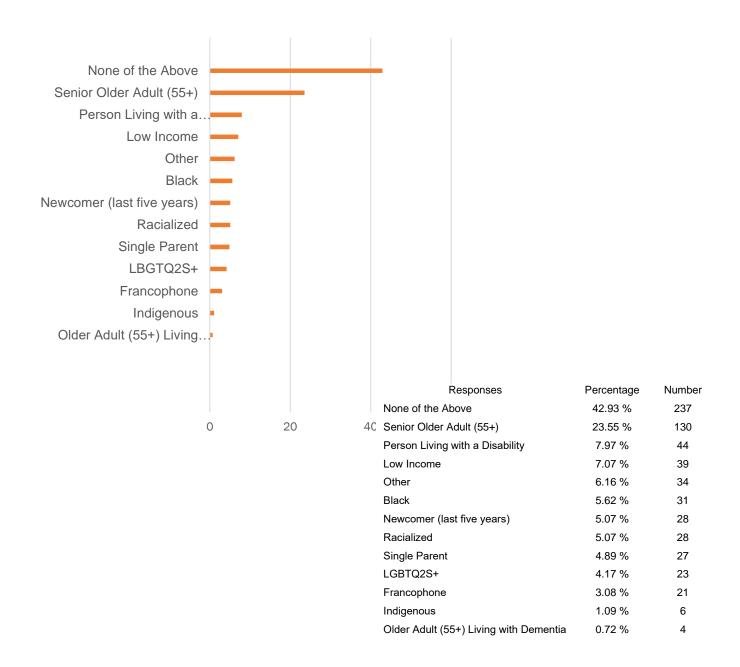
RESPONSES

Male
Female
Nonbinary
Prefer Not to Answer

PERCENTAGE 48.37% 48.19% 0.54% 2.90%

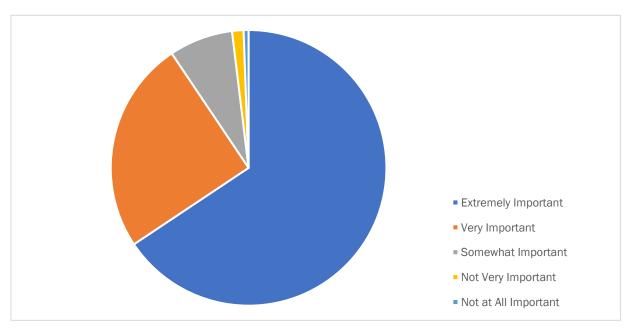


### "How Do You Identify?"





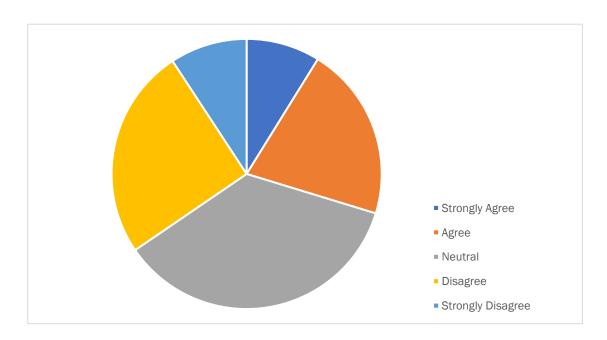
## "How Important Are Park and Recreational Facilities to Your Quality of Life?"



RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER
Extremely Important	65.64%	342
Very Important	24.95%	130
Somewhat Important	7.49%	39
Not Very Important	1.34%	7
Not Important at All	0.58%	3



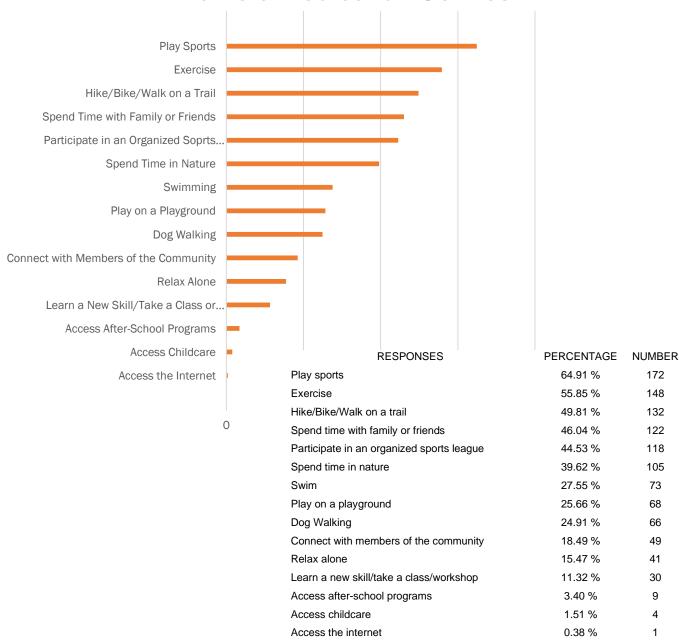
## "Local Parks and Recreation Facilities Meet My Needs"



RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER
Completely Agree	8.84%	22
Agree	20.88%	52
Neutral	35.74%	89
Disagree	25.30%	63
Strongly Disagree	9.24%	23

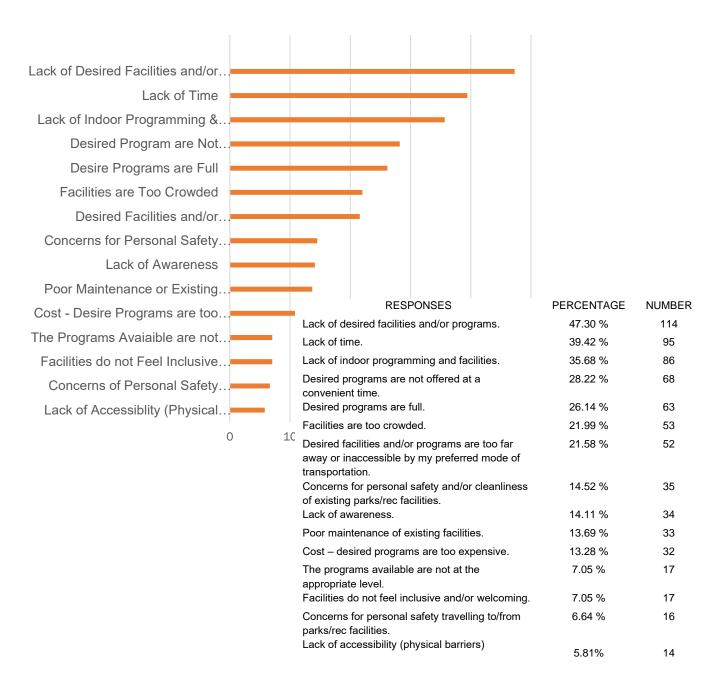


## Key Reasons People Visit City of Hamilton Parks & Recreation Centres



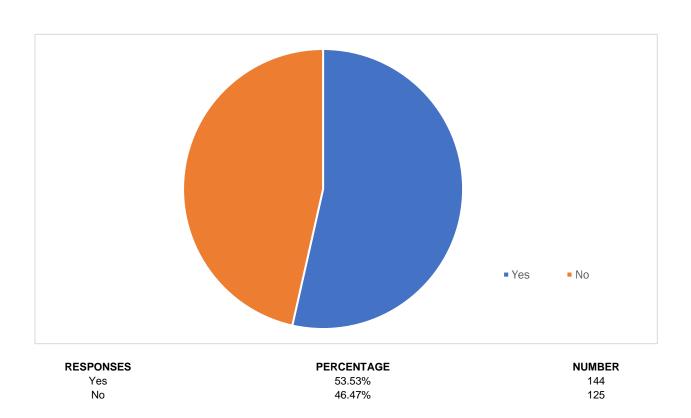


## "What Prevents You from Participating as Often as You Would Like?"



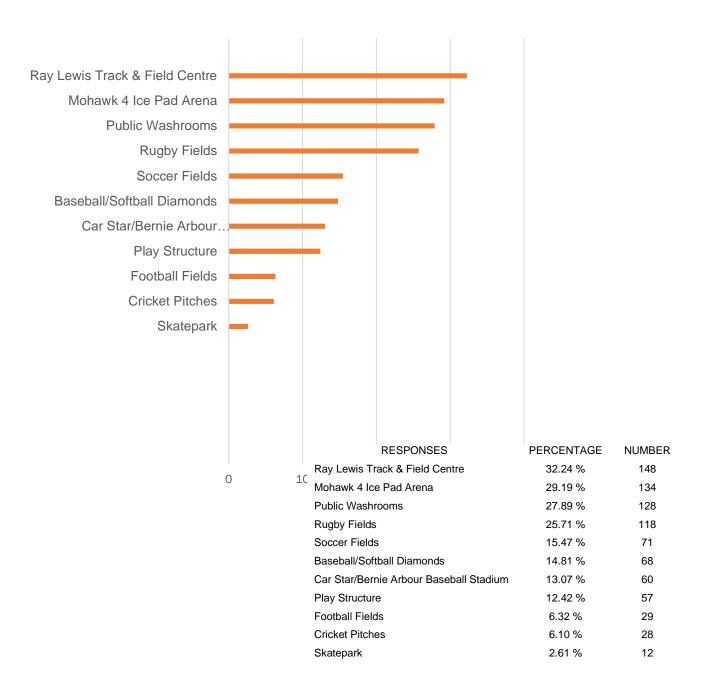


### "Do You Travel Outside of Hamilton to Access Facilities Not Available in Your Own Community?"

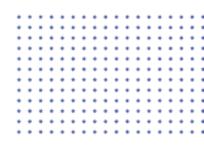




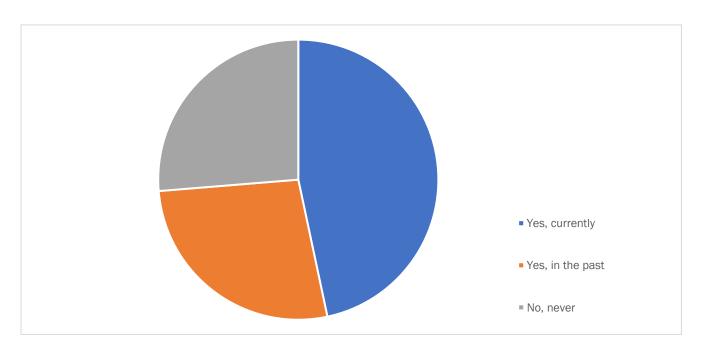
### Most Frequently Used Mohawk Sports Park Facilities



Attachment 'C" Page 9 of 17



## "Do You or Your Family Participate in Any Programming or Activities That Take Place at Mohawk Sports Park?"

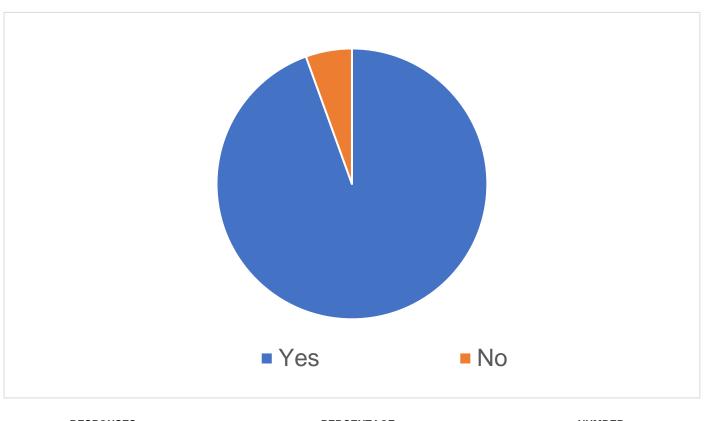


RESPONSES
Yes, currently
Yes, in the past
No, never

PERCENTAGE 46.67% 27.04% 26.30% NUMBER 126 73



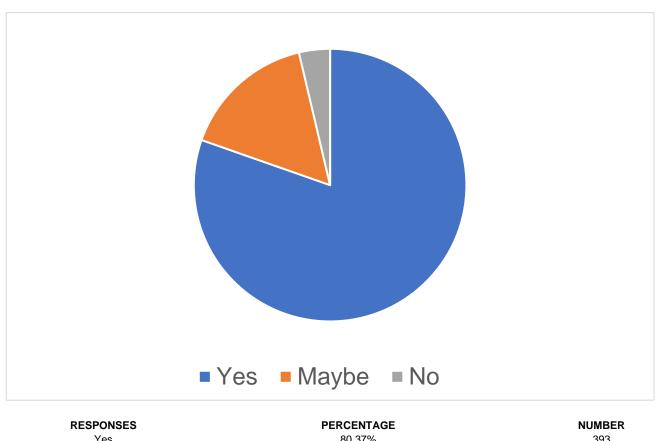
## "Would You Support a Community Hub Facility at Mohawk Sports Park?"



RESPONSES Yes No 94.48% 5.52% **NUMBER** 462 27



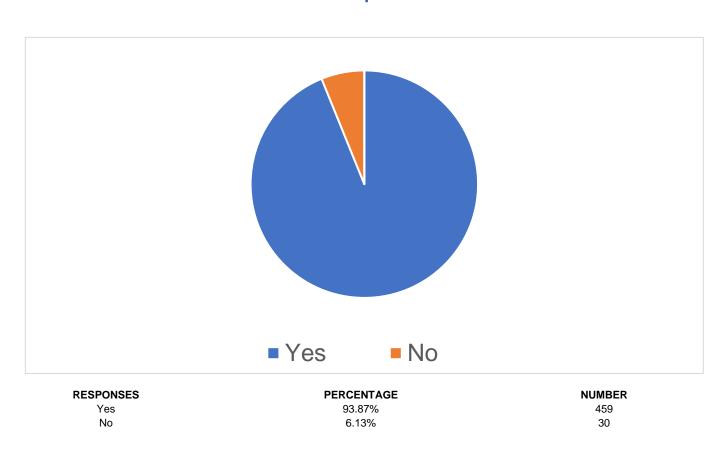
### "Are You Interested in Utilizing the Proposed Community Hub at Mohawk Sports Park?"



RESPONSES Yes Maybe No PERCENTAGE 80.37% 15.95% 3.68% 393 78 Attachment 'C" Page 12 of 17

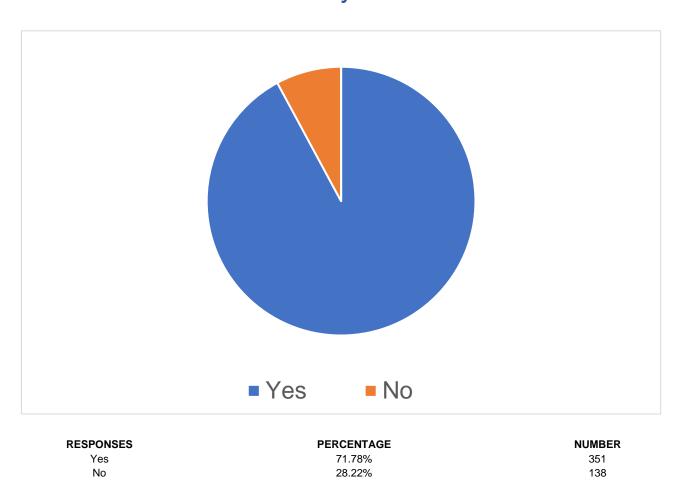


### "Would You Support the Use of Municipal Funding Towards the Building of a Community Hub at Mohawk Sports Park?"



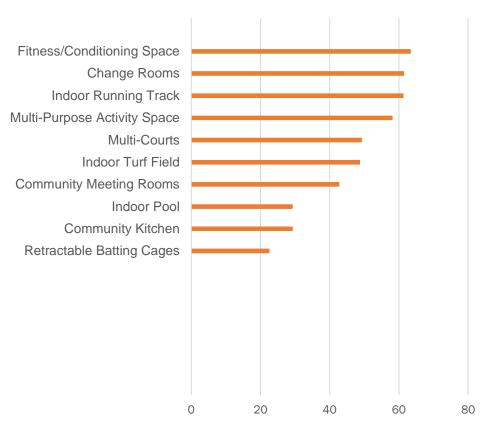


# "Would You Support a User-Pay System to Access Facilities-Programs-Services at the Proposed Community Hub?"





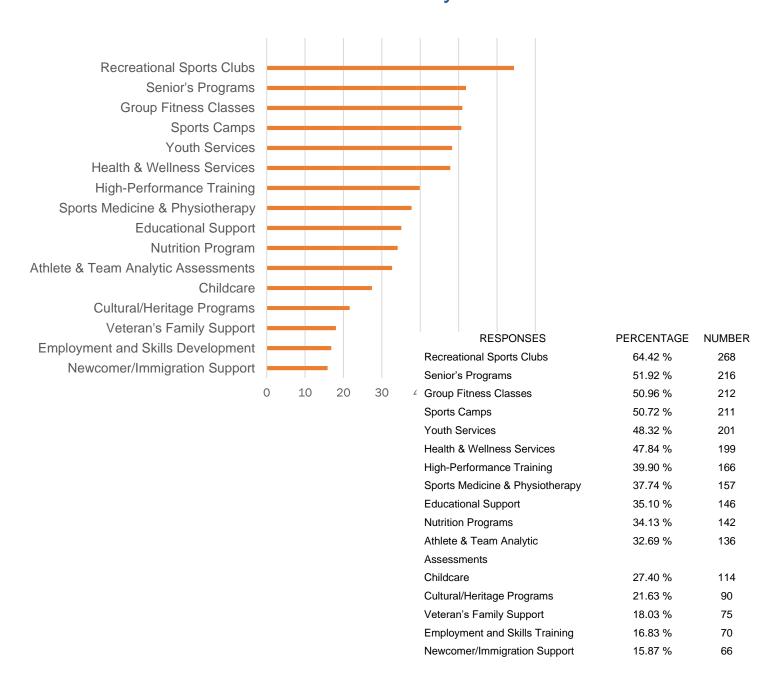
## Indoor Facilities and Amenities You Would Like to Include in the Community Hub



RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER
Fitness/Conditioning Space	63.46 %	264
Change Rooms	61.54 %	256
Indoor Running Track	61.30 %	256
Multi-Purpose Activity Space	58.17 %	242
Multi-Courts	49.28 %	205
Indoor Turf Field	48.80 %	203
Community Meeting Rooms	42.79 %	178
Indoor Pool	29.33 %	122
Community Kitchen	29.33 %	122
Retractable Batting Cages	22.60 %	94

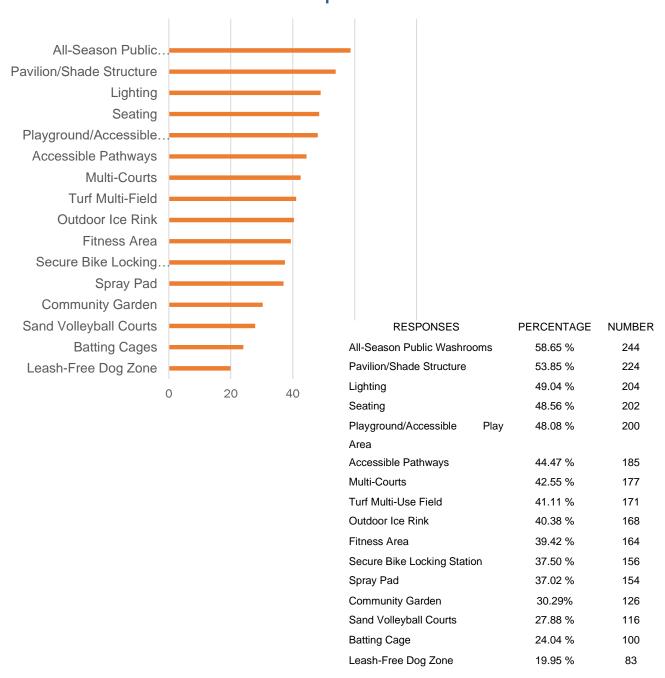


## Programs and Services You Would Like to Have in the Community Hub



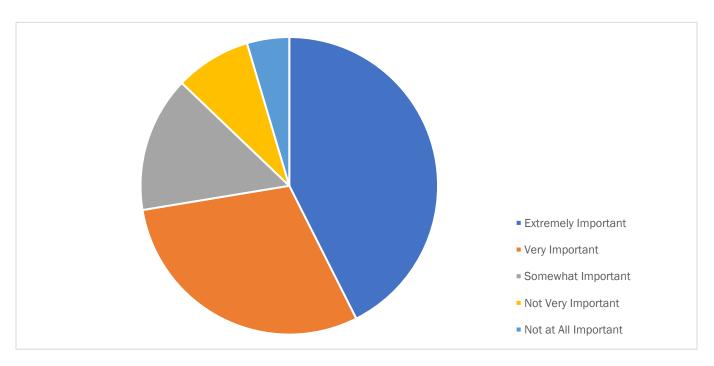


## Outdoor Facilities You Would Like to Include at Mohawk Sports Park





## "How Important is Environmental Sustainability to You and Your Family?"



RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER
Extremely Important	46.35%	127
Very Important	32.48%	89
Somewhat Important	16.06%	44
Not Very Important	3.28%	9
Not Important at All	1.82%	5





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#### Mohawk Sports Park Council

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Mohawk Sports Park Community Hub Project