

TOWNSHIP OF ASPHODEL-NORWOOD

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date: March 9, 2021
From: Candice White, CAO/Clerk/Treasurer
Re: Results of Recreation Survey No. 1

RECOMMENDATION

“**THAT** the Council of the Township of Asphodel-Norwood accepts this report regarding the Results of Recreation Survey No. 1 for information.”

BACKGROUND

In January 2021, a part-time Community Program Coordinator was onboarded to assist the Township with implementing the recommendations of the adopted Master Recreation Plan. An integral part of that implementation is community outreach to ensure programming is in alignment with the needs and wants of the residents.

On January 25, 2021 the first of two recreation planning surveys was released with an incentive to win gift cards to local businesses. The survey was a success with an impressive 337 responses being received.

The results of the survey are detailed below.

SURVEY RESULTS

Response Demographics

Of the 337 responses received 175 were from families of school-aged children and 73 were from families of youth/teens.

The following is the breakdown of interest in recreation programs by age:

Age	Number of responses
5-6 years	61
7-8 years	43
9-10 years	34
11-12 years	54
13-14 years	34
15-16 years	26
17-18 years	16

Barriers to Recreation

The survey found that the biggest barrier to attending programs is the times offered, followed by cost and location/transportation. In order to overcome the largest obstacle, the ideal time for programming to be offered will be weekday evenings with an alternative of weekend afternoons for the youth/teen demographic and weekend day time for the school-aged demographic.

Program Duration and Length

Families have indicated that ideal programs would run for approximately one hour for school-aged children and one to two hours for youth/teens. All demographics have indicated the desire for program sessions to be a duration of approximately 6 weeks.

Program Wish List

The survey indicated the following top choices in both school-aged and youth/teen programs:

- Outdoor Activities
- Sports
- Cooking
- Youth Fitness

School-aged families also indicated arts/crafts or dance/movement as potential interest and there was interest in social gatherings amongst the youth/teen respondents.

Twenty-two respondents indicated that they would be interested in assisting /volunteering with programs, however only 11 provided contact information.

Tutoring Programs

There were 138 responses to the question in regards to tutoring programs, with definite interest.

Seven respondents indicated that they would be interested in assisting/volunteering with a tutoring program.

Intergenerational Programs

The survey indicated definite interest in intergenerational programs with 76% of respondents in favor. The top 4 choices for intergenerational program topics are as follows:

- Fitness
- Cooking
- Sports
- Arts/Crafts

Summer Programming

The survey indicated that respondents want to see summer programming in Asphodel-Norwood. The following table represents a breakdown of interest by age group.

Age Group	Potential Participants
5-6 years	54
7-8 years	40
9-10 years	25
11-12 years	31

54.72% of respondents indicated a preference for full day **weekly** summer programs, with 17.9% expressing interest in **weekly** half day programs. There was also interest in **daily** full day programs (20.75%) with only 6% of respondents interested in **daily** half day programs.

Outdoor Rink

81.94% of respondents indicated a desire for an outdoor rink in Asphodel-Norwood. The majority indicated that they would use the rink occasionally or weekly.

Other Events

The survey indicated that residents would like to see more community events in Asphodel-Norwood, and this is reflected in the following table.

Event	Percentage of respondents
Farmers Market	83.39%
Music in the Park	70.17%
Outdoor Movie	61.36%
Community Garden	37.63%
Parent Support Groups	27.80%
Coffee Hour	21.02%

Respondents also noted interest in other types of events, such as festivals, guided nature walks, community dinners, dances, cycling club, fitness, and a dogpark, etc.

NEXT STEPS

At this time the actual implementation of in person programming is not possible due to the pandemic but the research, policy drafting and relationship building is occurring in preparation for the time when the Township can move forward. The completed research includes a detailed inventory of community programs already offered and the availability of facility/outdoor space to determine where and when programs can take place.

The following is a list of ongoing initiatives:

- Ongoing discussions with Trent University Excalibur Program
- Ongoing discussions with the Boys & Girls Club
- Release of survey No. 2 geared to the senior community
- Recognition of Earth Day
- Recognition of Trails Day
- Finalizing of an outdoor program for school aged children that will be offered in the spring (following all COVID-19 rules in place at the time)
- Promotion of existing community programs already offered
- 2021 Business and Community Awards

Prepared by: Candice White, CAO/Clerk/Treasurer

Survey data provided by: Prudence Cameron-Jordan