

# SCOOP

## Recreation in Strathcona County

DATE: April 2021



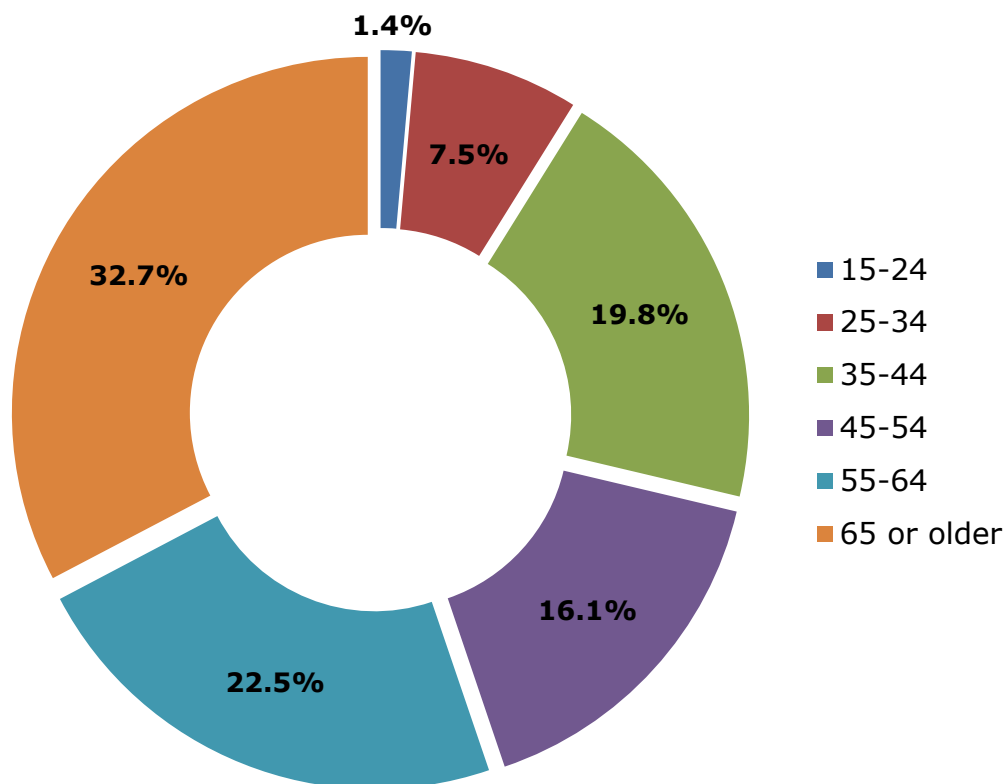
In April 2021, Strathcona County conducted a regular online survey as part of its Strathcona County Online Opinion Panel (SCOOP) initiative. This project consisted of different survey topics with a number of questions asked within each topic area. This survey was exclusive to residents who signed up to be part of SCOOP.

## Survey Highlights

The April mixed-topic survey consisted of questions about summer recreation events, summer activities at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre, the 2021 pitch-in event, and potential winter recreation events. There were 455 responses to the mixed-topic survey.

### WHO RESPONDED?

- 75.4% of participants lived in an urban area, 22.6% lived in rural parts of Strathcona County, and the remaining 2.0% worked in Strathcona County but did not live there.
- 60.3% of the participants were female while 39.7% were male.
- The age group breakdown of the survey respondents is shown below.



## Summer Recreation Events

- Respondents were asked if they would like to answer a series of questions about summer recreation events in Strathcona County. Only 18.9% of respondents expressed an interest in participating in virtual activities like arts, crafts, games and nature activities while more than half were not interested.
- All respondents were then asked about their interest in either self-led<sup>1</sup> or staff-led<sup>2</sup> in-person activities. Overall, there was a stronger interest in self-led activities than staff-led activities, though many were unsure.

### Interest in Self-led or Staff-led In-Person Recreational Activities



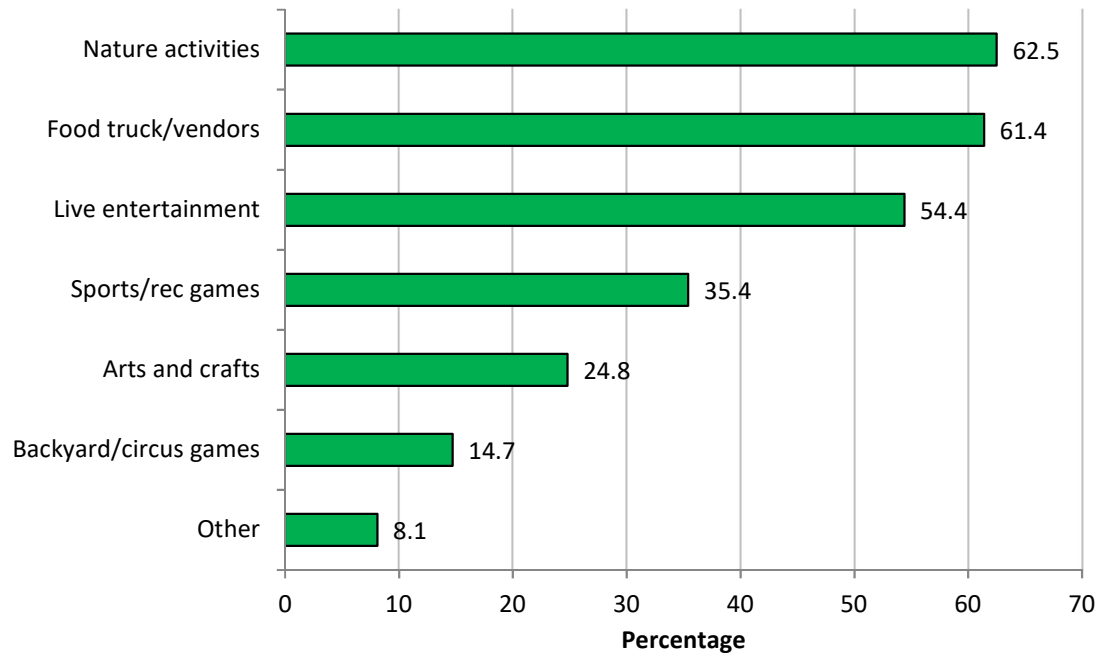
- These respondents were then asked to indicate what kinds of in-person activities they would be interested in participating in. Interest was highest in activities that were not easily accessible at home. Other interested activities include cycling tours, escape rooms, treasure/scavenger hunts, canoeing and beer/wine tasting events.

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<sup>1</sup> **Self-led** means participating in an activity when it fits your schedule, at your own pace, and without live staff guidance. A set of instructions or pre-recorded video would be provided for you to follow.

<sup>2</sup> **Staff-led** means Strathcona County will have staff available to provide direction. This could be at an activity station, event, or online and able to answer questions or provide direction in real time.

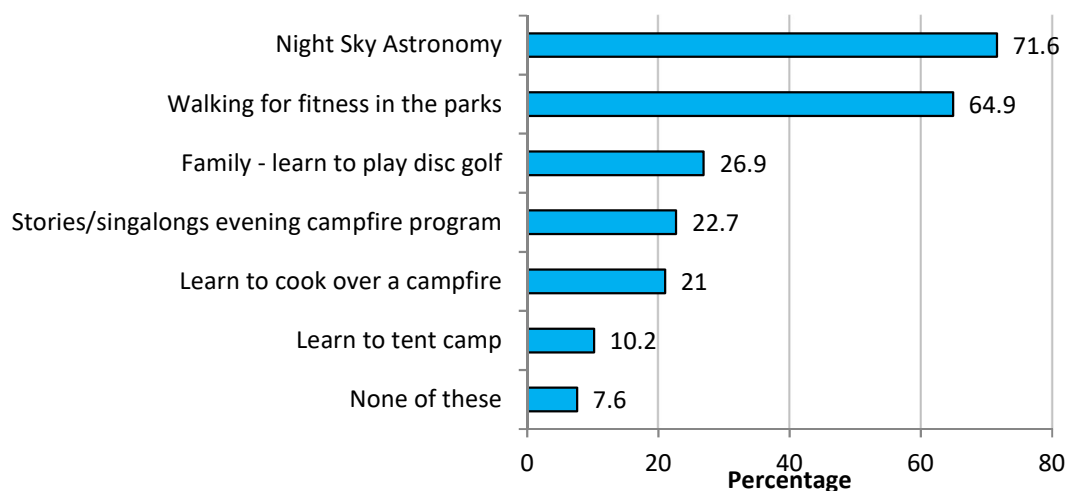
## Interests in In-Person Recreational Activities



## Summer Activities at the Strathcona Wilderness Centre

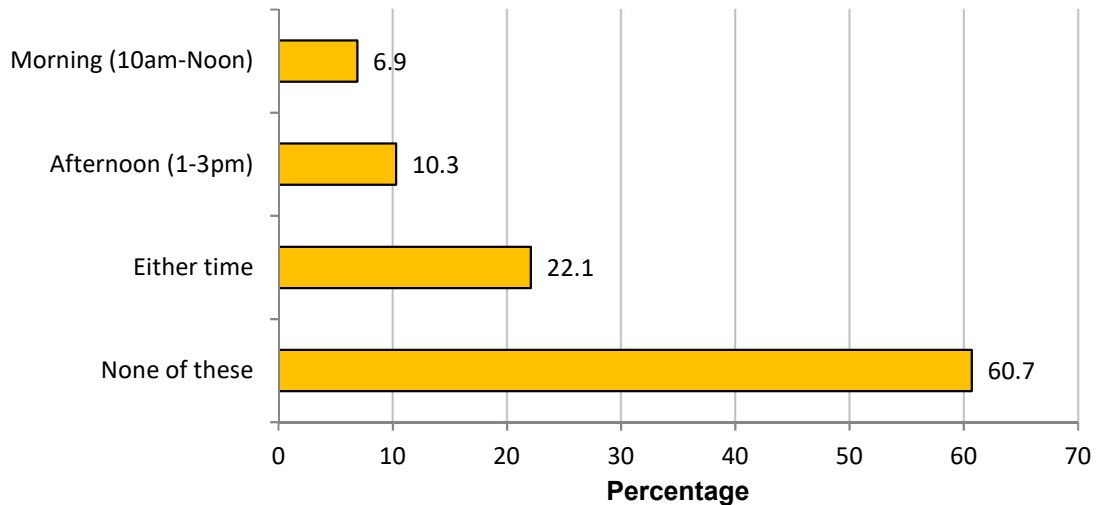
- Respondents were asked which activities they would be interested in participating in in-person this spring or summer. Night sky astronomy and walking for fitness in the parks were the most popular options.

### Interest in In-Person Activities at the Wilderness Centre



- Respondents were also asked what time they would like to send their children for organized classes:

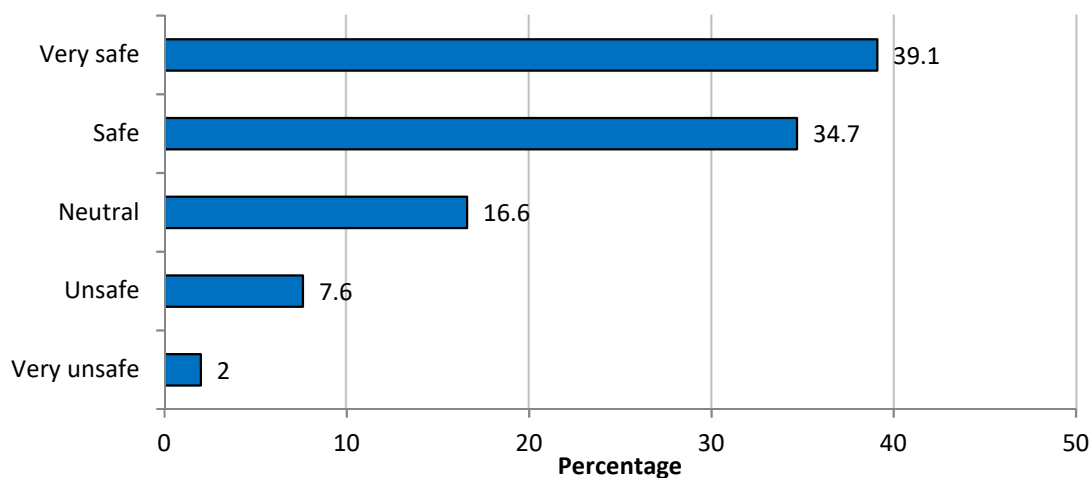
### Preferred Time(s) for Children's Classes



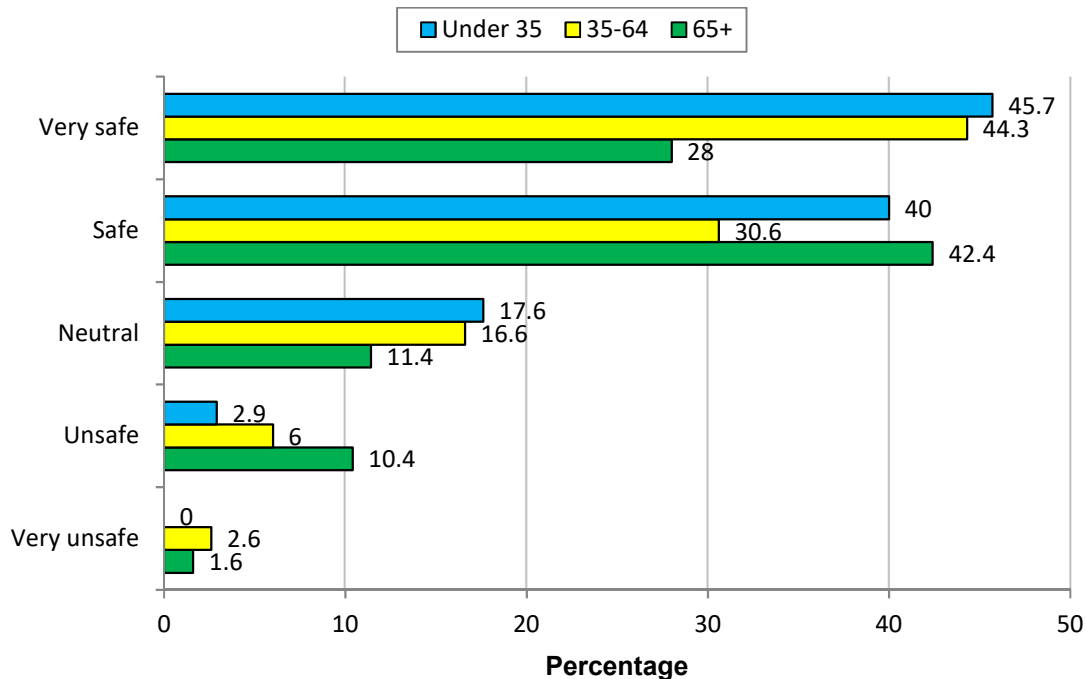
## 2021 Pitch-In Campaign

- Close to three quarters of respondents either felt safe or very safe in participating in the 2021 pitch-in campaign. No differences were found with gender, but younger people felt safer participating in the campaign compared to older people, though the differences were not substantial.

### Perceptions of Safety in Participating in the 2021 Pitch-In Event



## Perceptions of Safety, Comparing Age Groups



## Winter Recreation Activities

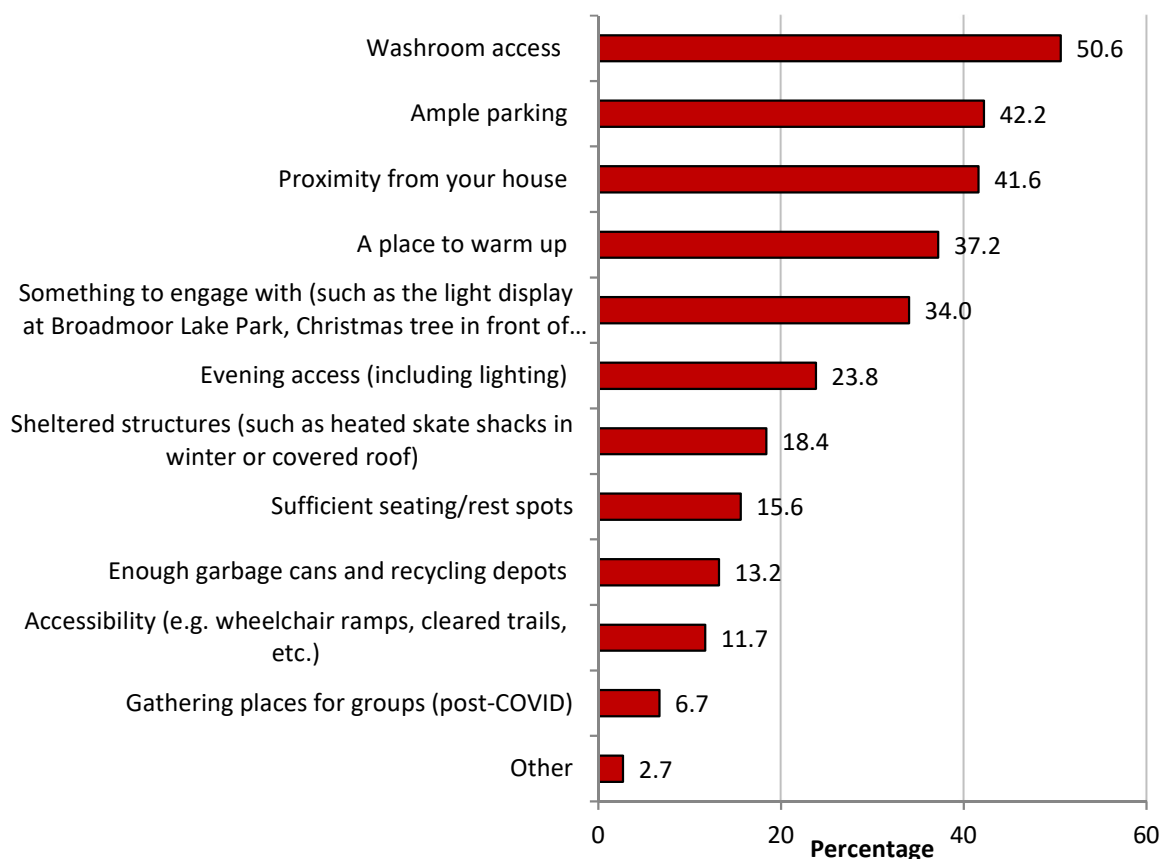
- Respondents were asked to rank their favorites winter recreation activities. Walking, skating and looking at/creating outdoor light displays are the top three winter activities. Being at an outdoor fire pit or outdoor patio, as well as cross-country skiing, tobogganing and snow-shoeing, were secondary activities.

## Ranking Winter Outdoor Activities

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
Walking	45.8%	17.6%	11.6%	12.1%	6.8%	3.5%	2.0%	0.5%	---
Skating	16.6%	14.9%	12.2%	10.8%	13.0%	11.9%	7.5%	11.6%	1.7%
Light displays	14.2%	20.2%	16.8%	19.2%	9.7%	5.8%	4.5%	8.1%	1.6%
X-country skiing	7.9%	6.2%	7.3%	4.8%	10.5%	15.3%	22.9%	21.8%	3.4%
Tobog-ganing	7.1%	10.8%	10.5%	11.1%	15.1%	16.5%	14.5%	13.4%	1.1%
Fire Pits	6.7%	15.4%	17.5%	19.7%	14.3%	12.1%	9.2%	4.6%	0.5%
Outdoor Patio	3.0%	9.5%	19.6%	12.3%	15.3%	14.4%	11.2%	13.4%	1.4%
Snow-shoeing	2.6%	10.0%	7.4%	9.4%	12.0%	15.1%	22.3%	18.9%	2.3%

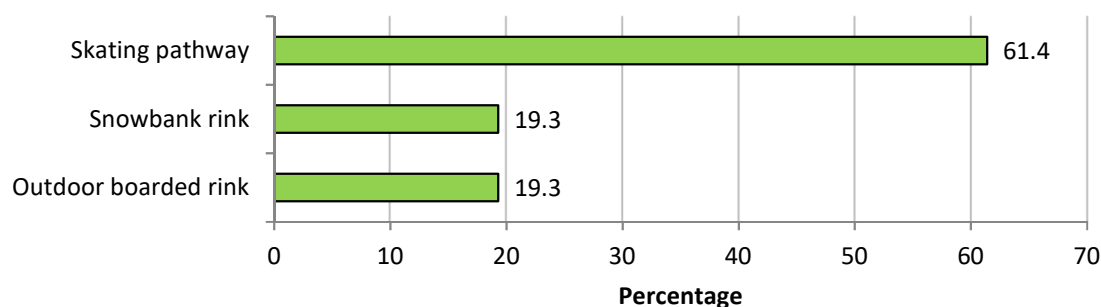
- Washroom access, ample parking, and having a place to warm up were considered the most important outdoor amenities during the winter months.

### Most Important Winter Amenities

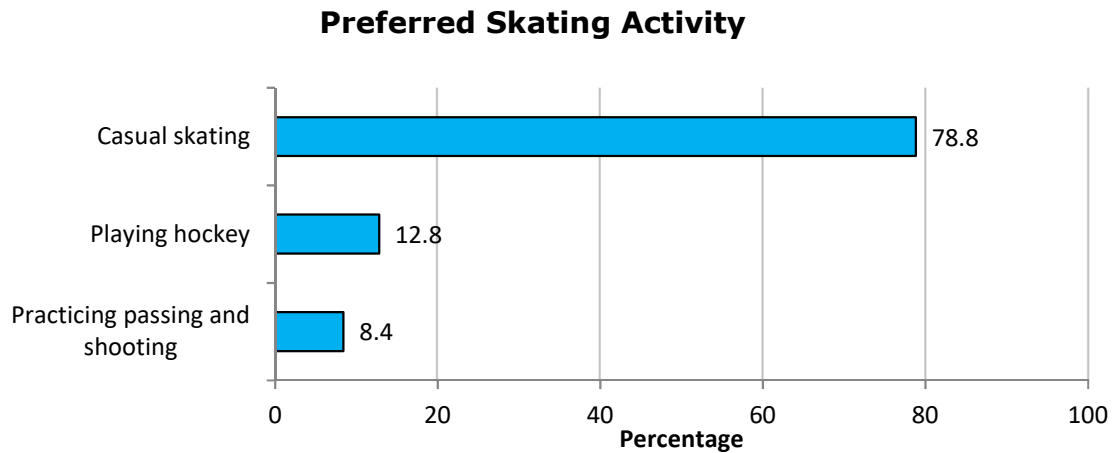


- Respondents were then asked two questions specific to skating (32.5% of respondents did not skate and were excluded). Of those who did skate, the majority preferred a skating pathway, and the rest were split between a snowbank rink or an outdoor boarded rink.

### Preferred Skating Location

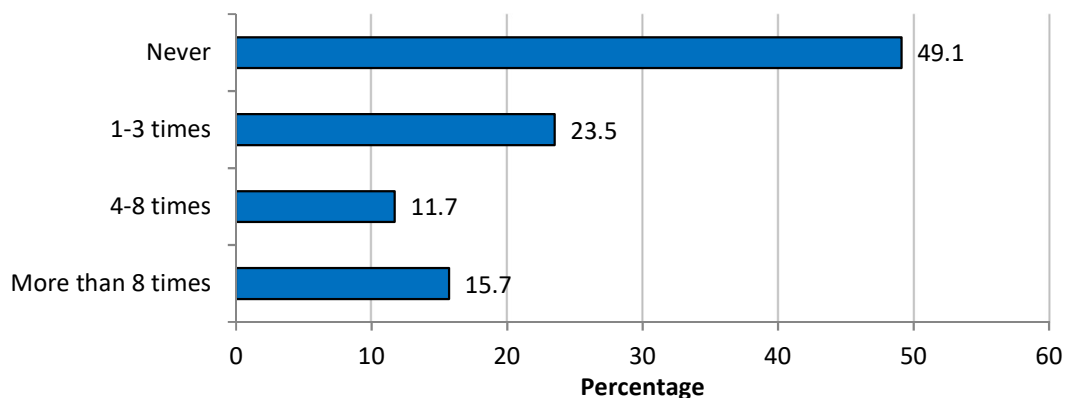


- By far most respondents preferred casual skating, with a minority preferring hockey or practicing hockey skills.



- Over half of respondents (57.4%) were aware that groomed trails were being added to Broadmoor Public Golf Course for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and walking. These people were then asked how often they used the Broadmoor trails last winter. Just over half of those who knew about the trails used them.

#### Number of Times Respondents Used Broadmoor Trails

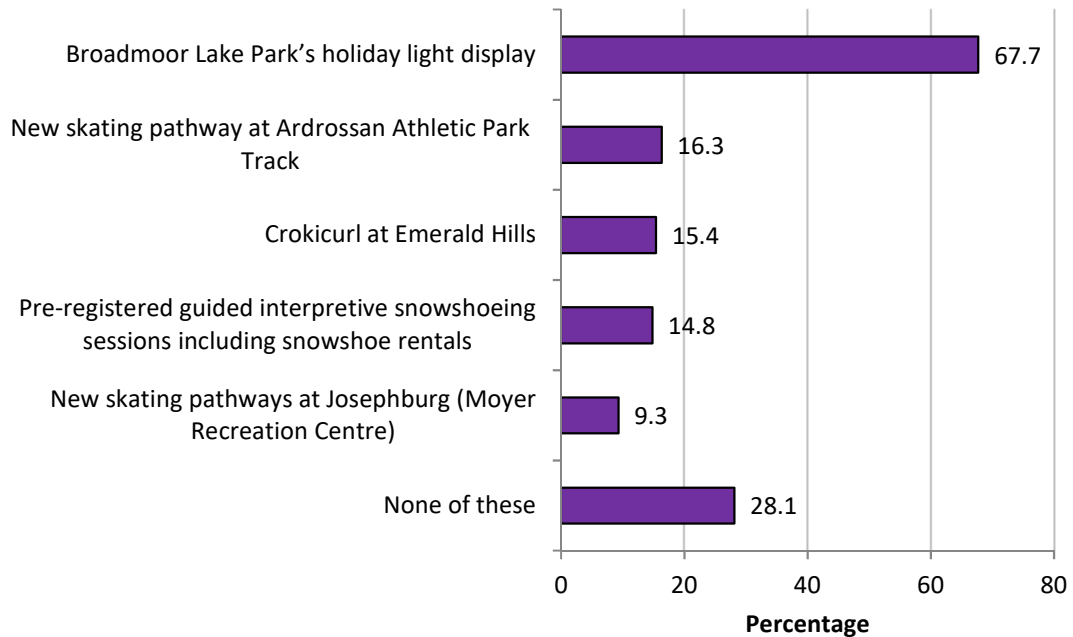


- When asked to state in their own words how the groomed trails were, there were a few who thought that the County should groom all 18 holes, and there were some people who thought there should be lights for evening use. However, most of the comments were overwhelmingly positive.



- As for the awareness of other outdoor recreation opportunities, two thirds of respondents knew about Broadmoor Lake’s holiday light display, but only small percentages were aware of the other events.

### Knowledge of Other Recreation Opportunities



### What's Next?

The SCOOP Mixed Topic Surveys usually run monthly and cover a variety of topics. Our next Mixed Topic Survey results will feature topics covered in our June 2021 release.