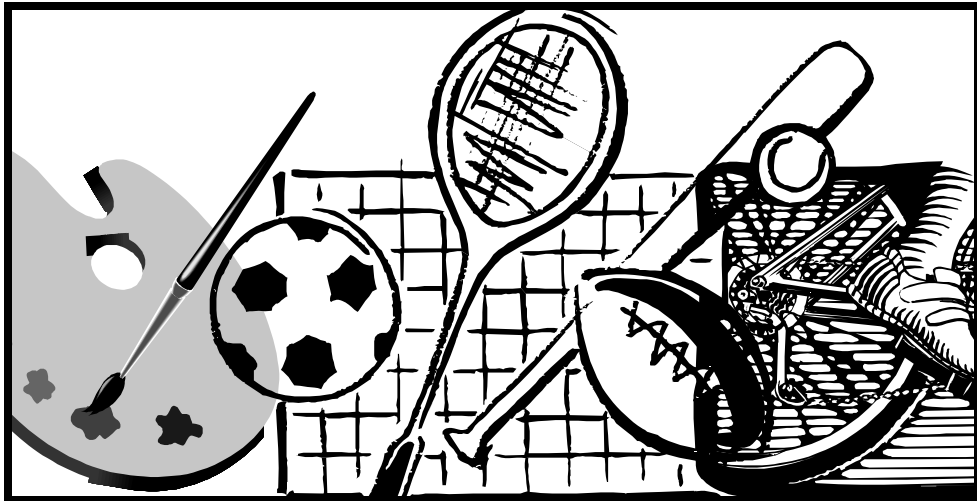

Alberta Recreation Survey

Alberta

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Community and Citizenship Services Division

Summary of Results August '96



In April, 1996 you received a copy of the Alberta Recreation Survey. We would like to thank you for taking the time to complete it and send it back to us. The data we gathered is helping us to determine participation patterns of Albertans and the factors which influence their recreation choices.

The survey was divided into several sections. The first dealt with respondent and household participation in a number of social, creative, cultural, outdoor and sports activities. The second part asked about the respondent's favorite activities, any activity they would like to start, and if they were involved in volunteer work. Section three asked the respondent's opinions on a number of developments and services, while the final section requested information

about the respondents and their household.

You were one of the 3,785 individuals responding to the survey. You expressed an interest in receiving a summary of the results. The following are a few major findings from those results.

Household Participation

The first section asked about the recreation activities of your household. The ten activities most frequently mentioned were:

- walking for pleasure
- bicycling
- doing a craft or hobby
- gardening
- attending sports events
- swimming (in pools)
- visiting a museum
- playing video games
- overnight camping
- golfing

Alberta Recreation Survey

Favorite Activities

The survey then focussed on you, the person who completed it. We asked about your three favorite leisure or recreational activities. The responses were very varied, with the following ten being most frequently mentioned:

- walking for pleasure
- golf
- camping
- fishing
- reading books or magazines
- swimming
- physical fitness activities
- gardening
- jogging or running
- handicrafts

People have many reasons for taking part in leisure activities. The following five reasons were stated to be most important:

- for pleasure
- for physical health or exercise
- to relax
- to enjoy nature
- to do something different

Your Opinions

We asked for your opinions about who should provide certain activities or services in provincial parks and recreation areas. The majority of those responding felt that private cottaging, hunting, or using atv's, trikes, quads or snowmobiles should not be allowed. Likewise, resorts, hotels/motels were felt to be undesirable, but were not as strongly objected to. On the other hand, most of you agreed with allowing golf courses, hostels or dormitories, restaurants or lounges, gas stations, grocery stores or

laundromats, horse rentals, primitive cabins, playing fields, courts, downhill ski areas, cross country ski areas, and mountain biking.

We also asked about the provision of activities and services in municipal parks and recreation areas. You were in favour of permitting picnic areas, cross country ski areas, sportsfields, courts (tennis, volleyball, etc.), restaurants or snack bars, tents and campgrounds, mountain biking trails, downhill ski areas, golf courses, and horse rentals. Snowmobiling and ATV use were felt to be undesirable, while on the question of permitting hostels and dormitories opinion was almost equally divided.

About 49% of you indicated that you had no desire to take up a new activity at this time, while nearly 41% expressed such a wish. (10% did not answer this question.) The ten most desired activities mentioned were:

- physical fitness
- swimming
- golf
- bicycling
- canoeing/rowing/kayaking
- backpacking/mountain climbing
- body building
- x-country skiing
- tennis
- camping

An important issue today is why people do not take part in recreation or leisure activities. We asked why you have not started the recreation activity you desire. The five reasons mentioned most often were:

- the cost of buying or renting equipment or supplies

- admission fees/charges for facilities or programs
- too busy with work commitments
- too busy with family commitments
- facilities overcrowded

The survey results indicated that 37% of you had done volunteer work connected with culture, recreation, sports or parks in the past 12 months. The majority of volunteers spent, on the average, one to five hours per week volunteering.

Where to from here?

As stated above, these are only a few of the highlights from the Alberta Recreation Survey. We hope that you find this material interesting. It is helping us to identify recreation trends and preferences, forecast future demands and assist in providing better programs and services to Albertans. We will continue to review the results of the survey in detail, and will share the information with those involved with recreation and sport programs.

Once again, thank you for your assistance. Your responses to our questions will help us to meet your recreation and parks needs more effectively. If you would like more information please write to:

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