

MIRA ~ Montpelier Indoor Rec & Aquatics Task Force
Jump and Splash VT First Survey Results
December 12, 2016

First off, the MIRA Task Force would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete our first community survey! We highly value your input as it helps us maintain public involvement throughout the process. Now, without further ado, **we are very happy to present to you the results of our first survey:**

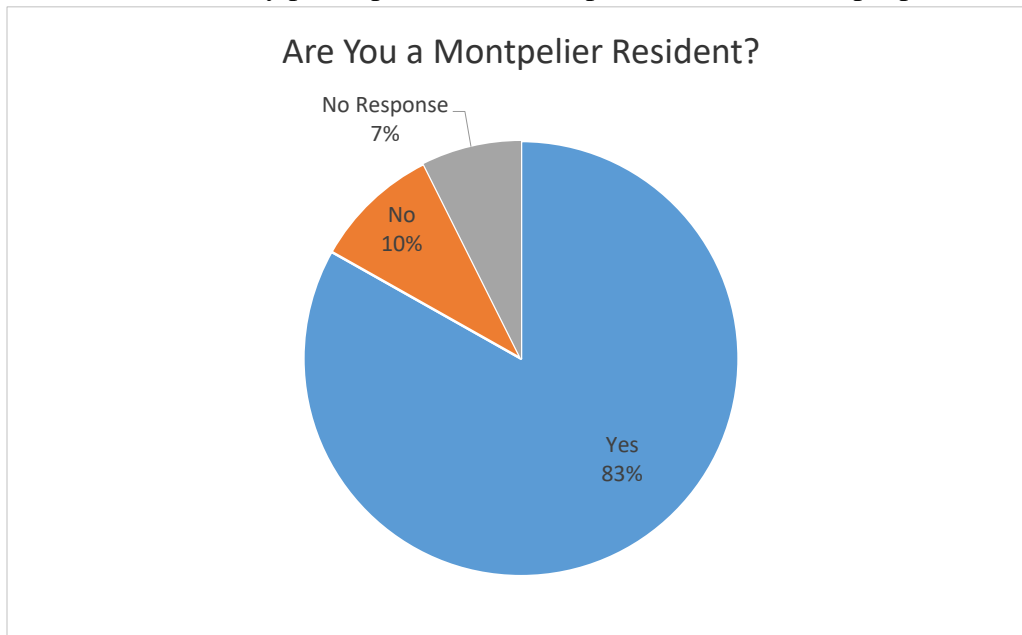
Our process

We asked people to envision an indoor recreational facility for Montpelier and to provide comments on their dreams and concerns. The survey questions were designed to find out what the community thought about our efforts, and how people are envisioning this facility. We developed a web version (hosted through SurveyMonkey) and solicited responses through Front Porch Forum, The Bridge, and the Onion River Sports website. We also gathered paper surveys at City Hall during Saturday early voting, as well as on election Tuesday. Finally, we collected paper responses from the Barre Street Recreational Facility.

In total we received over **1000 responses**, logged **contact information for 376** people who wanted to stay updated on our efforts, and recruited almost **100 volunteers!**

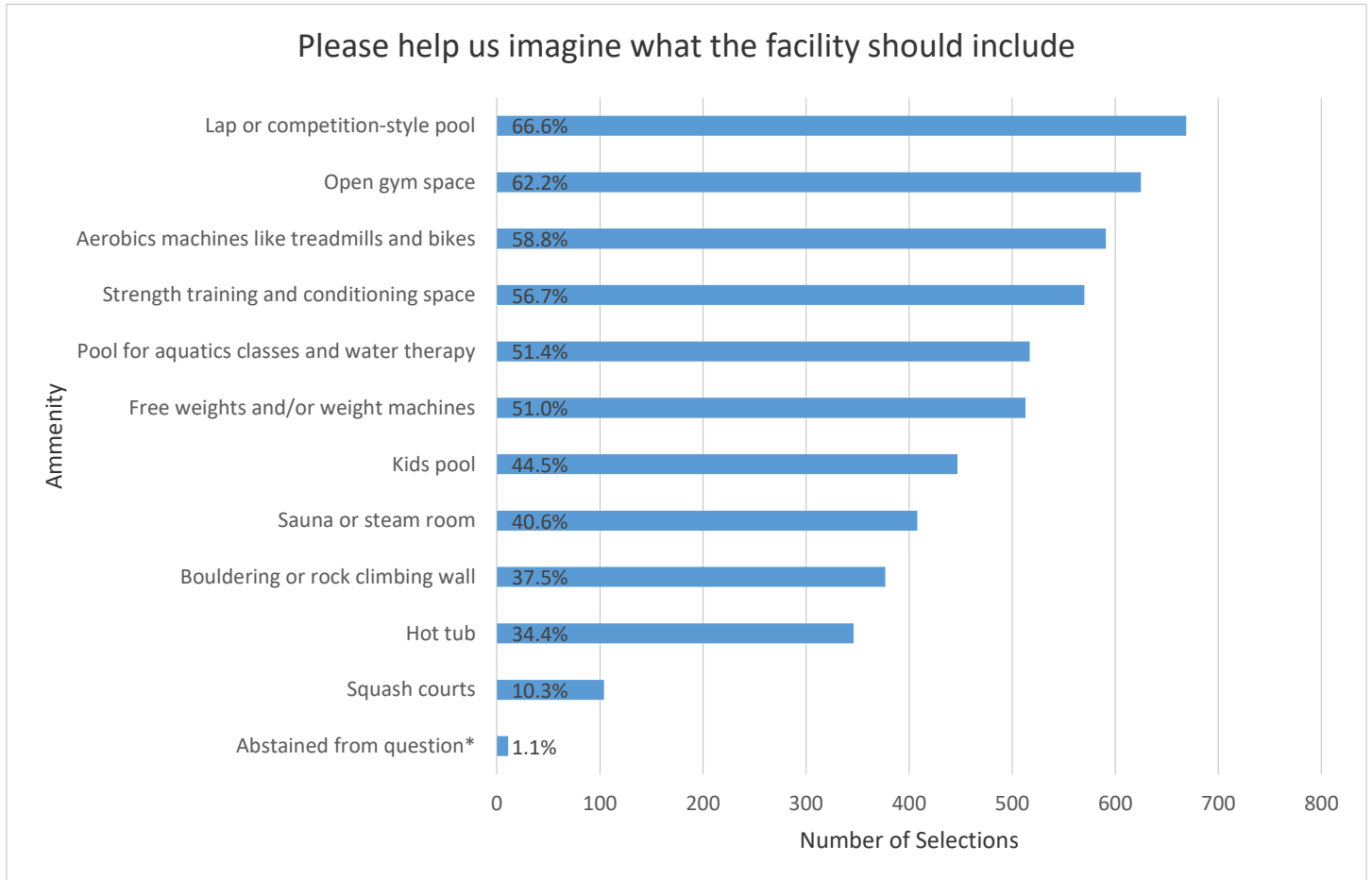
Who answered the survey?

About 83% of survey participants were Montpelier residents; 845 people out of a population of about 7,855.



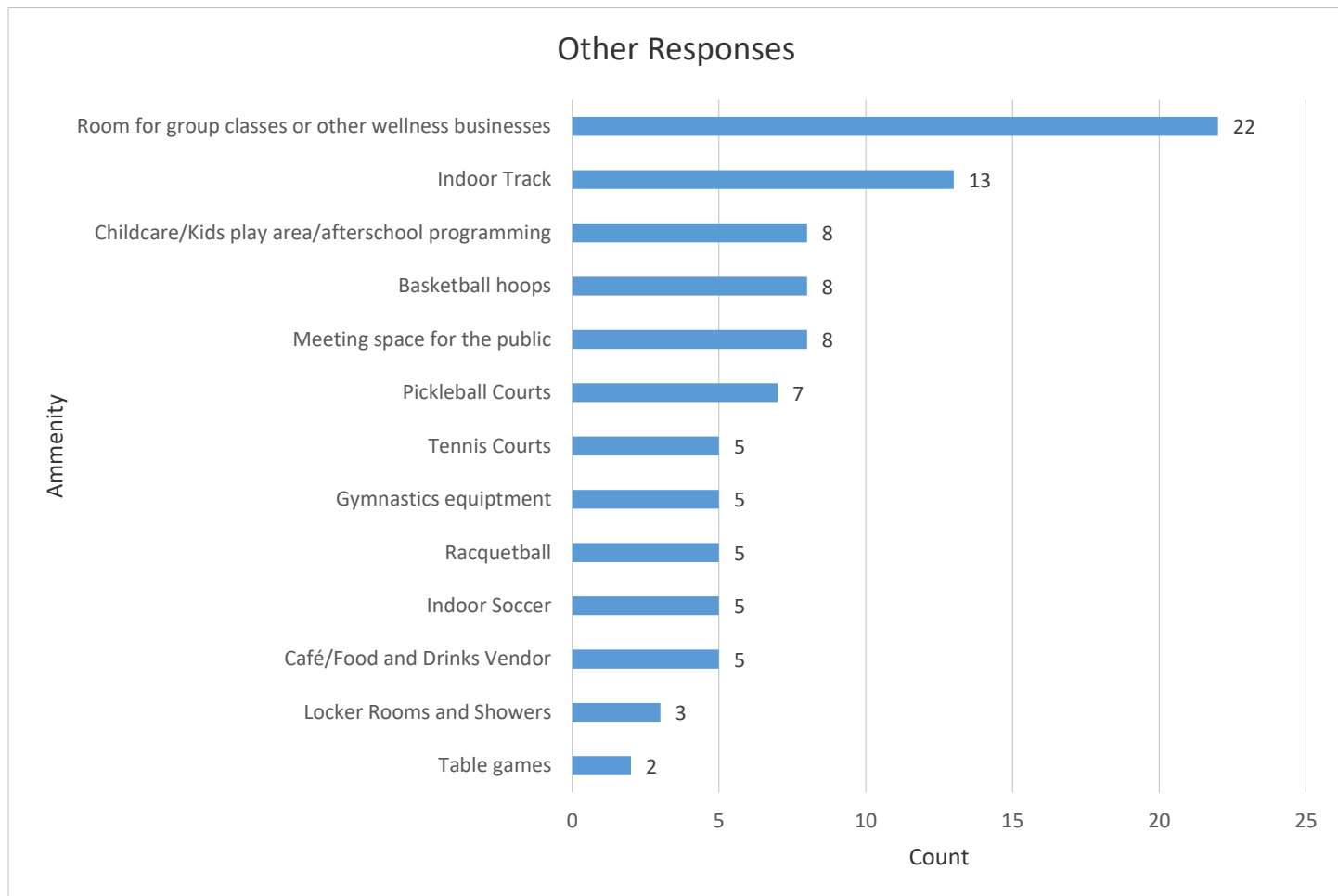
What type of facility do people want to see?

While the results of this survey do not “set in stone” the design of the facility, it was interesting to learn what people hoped to see. Two-thirds of survey participants would like a lap/competition-style pool, and many also want an open gymnasium. Almost all amenities received between 34 and 67% support.



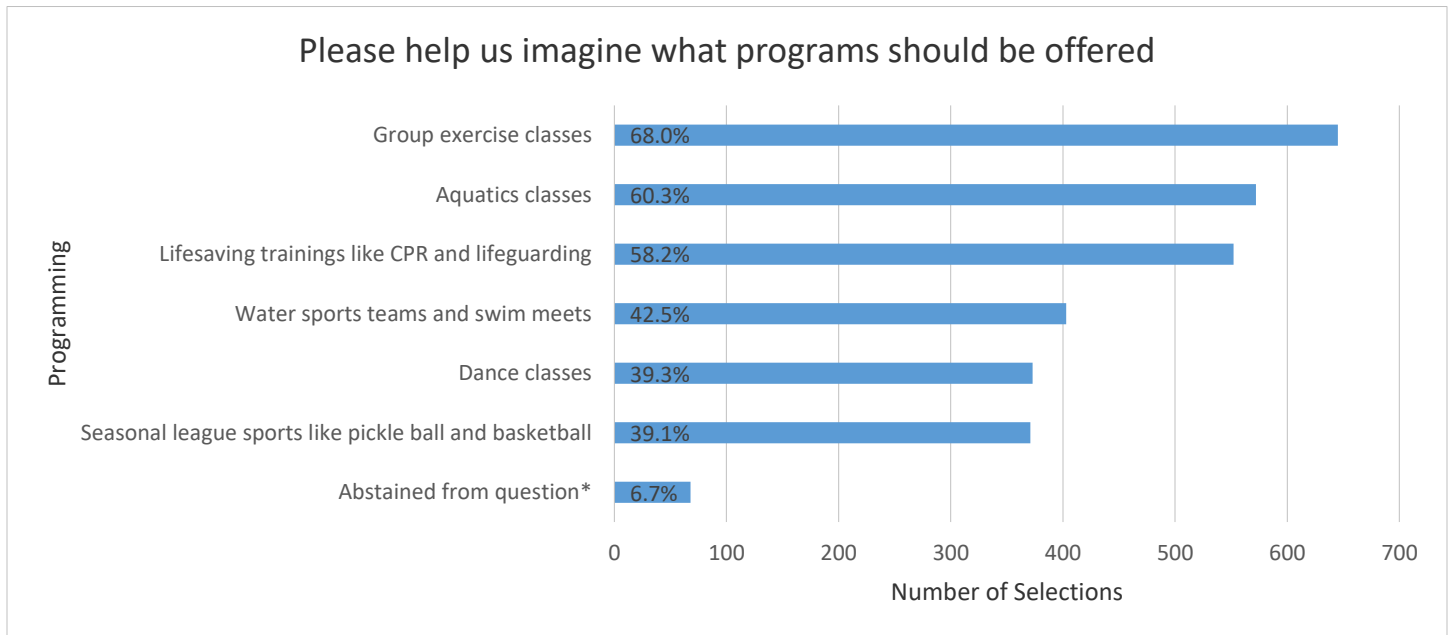
* All percentages are out of number of people who answered this question (1005) except “abstained” which is out of total surveys collected (1016)

Many of you had some great suggestions of other amenities to include in the facility. There was a lot interest in having spare rooms available for use by group exercise classes, community fitness clubs, or wellness professionals. In a similar vein, several people requested public meeting space for things other than fitness, for example, crafters, or classes in healthy living. An indoor track was also frequently suggested.



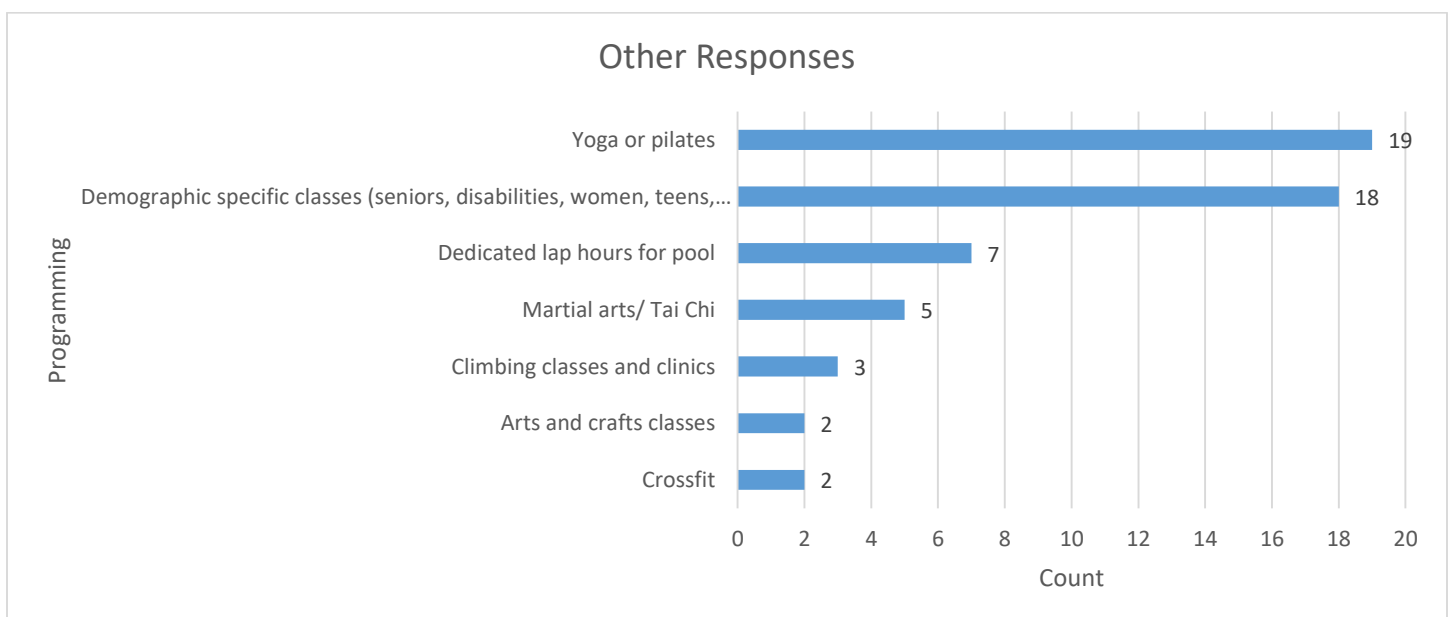
What type of programming do people want to see?

The greatest interest was for group exercise and aquatics classes while there was less interest in facilitation of seasonal league sports. All programming, however, received support between 39 and 68%.



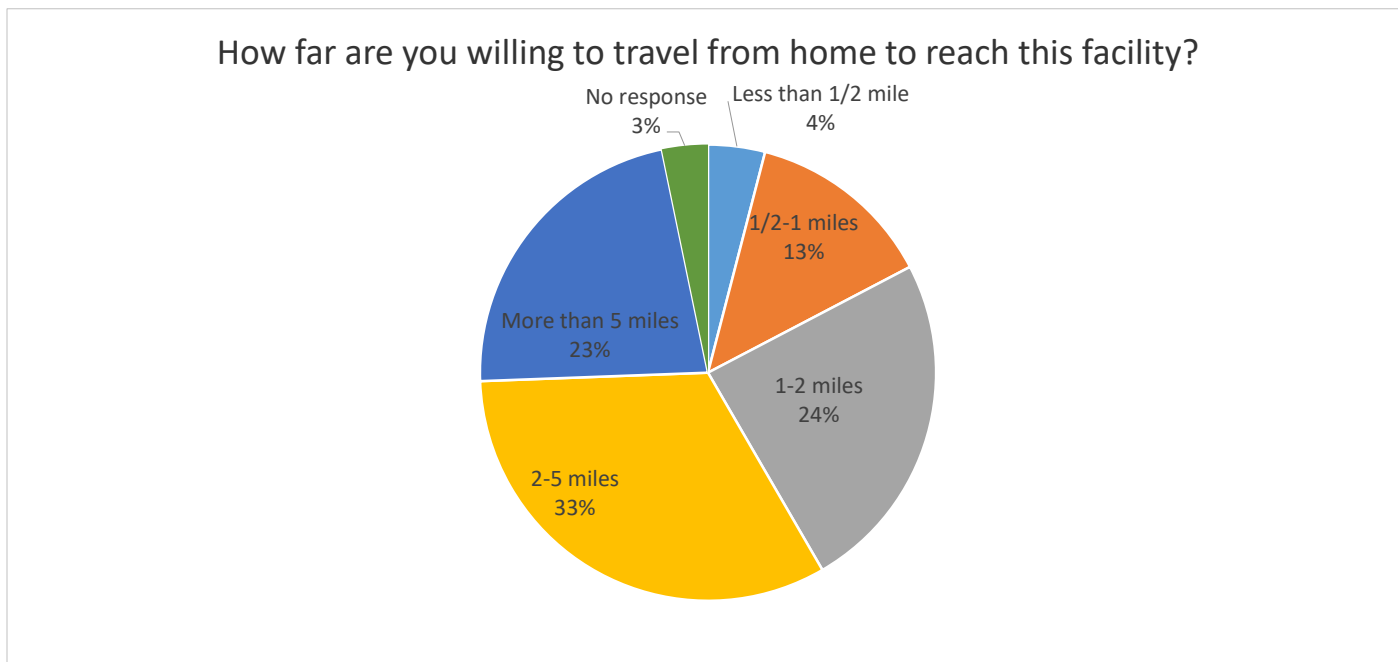
* All percentages are out of number of people who answered this question (948) except “abstained” which is out of total surveys collected (1016)

Several survey respondents got more specific with the group exercise selection and requested yoga/Pilates-type classes. Other programming requests included classes that targeted a particular demographic such as seniors, those with disabilities, women, or children. There were also several requests that a lap pool include dedicated lap-swimming hours.

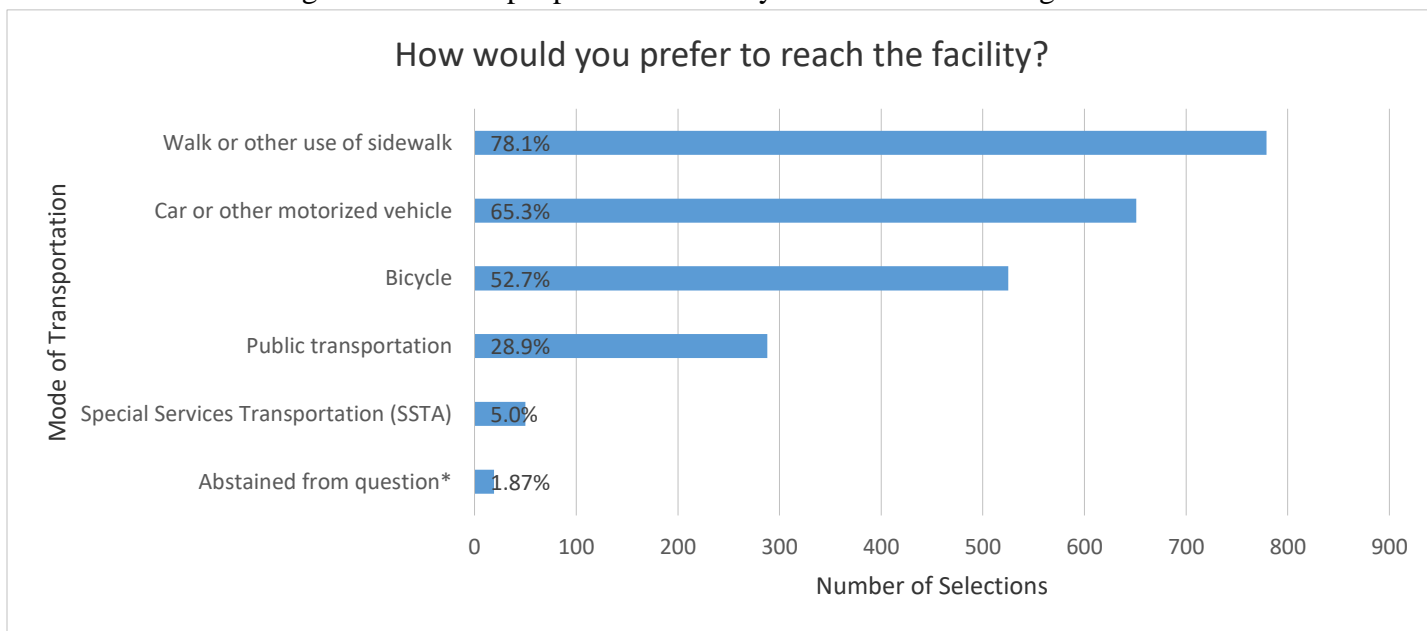


What are people's preferences in traveling to the indoor center?

Almost half of survey respondents (41%) prefer to travel under 2 miles, while an additional 33% are willing to travel up to 5 miles. In total, almost three quarters of survey respondents feel that more than 5 miles from their home is too far.



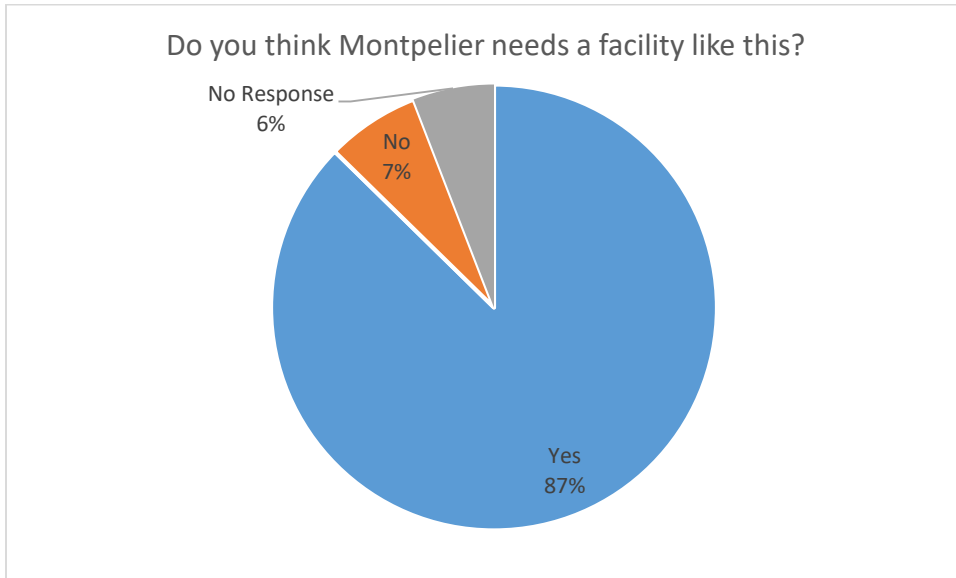
Travel by use of sidewalk is the most popular mode of transportation. Many individuals indicated that it would be valuable to have a facility that kids and teens could walk to after school. The second most popular mode of transportation is car with several people indicating that, particularly with pool use in the winter, a car felt more reasonable than walking. Over 50% of people also said they would use a bike to get there.



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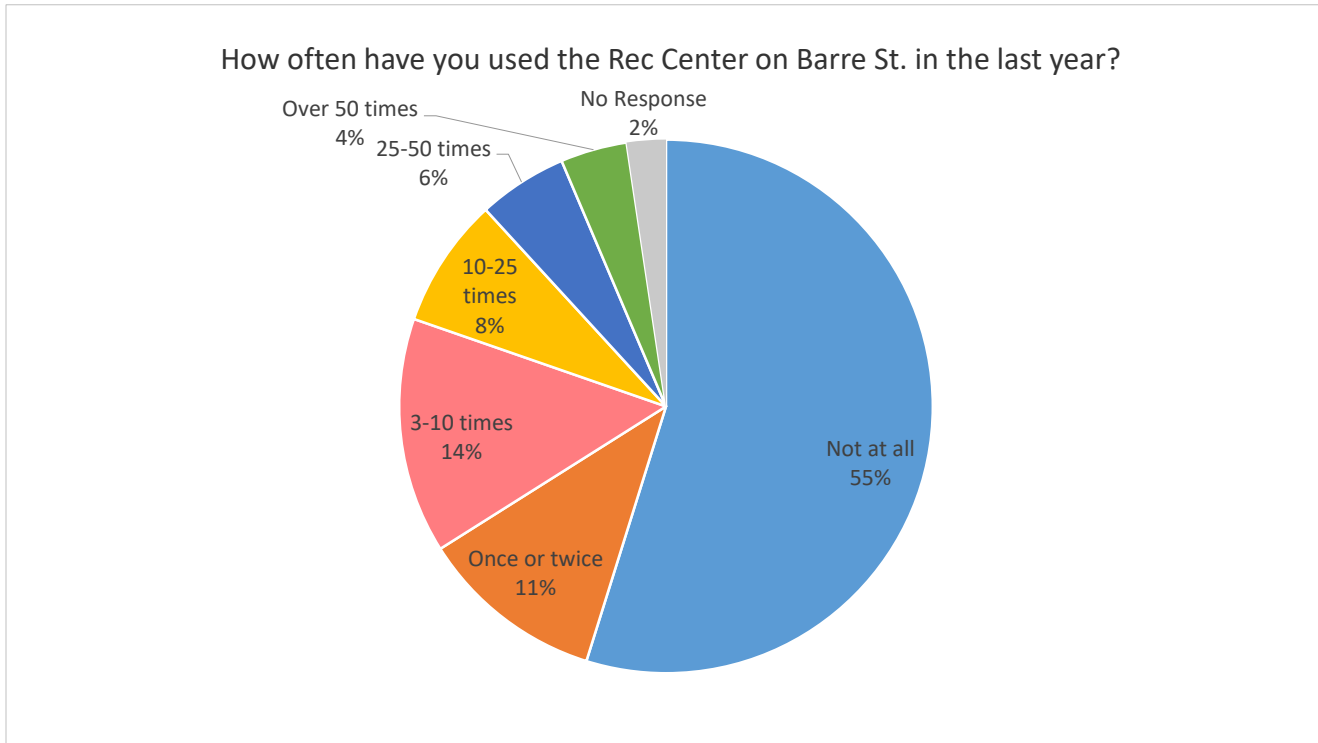
How many support this effort?

Just about 87% of survey respondents believe that Montpelier needs a facility like this for the community.

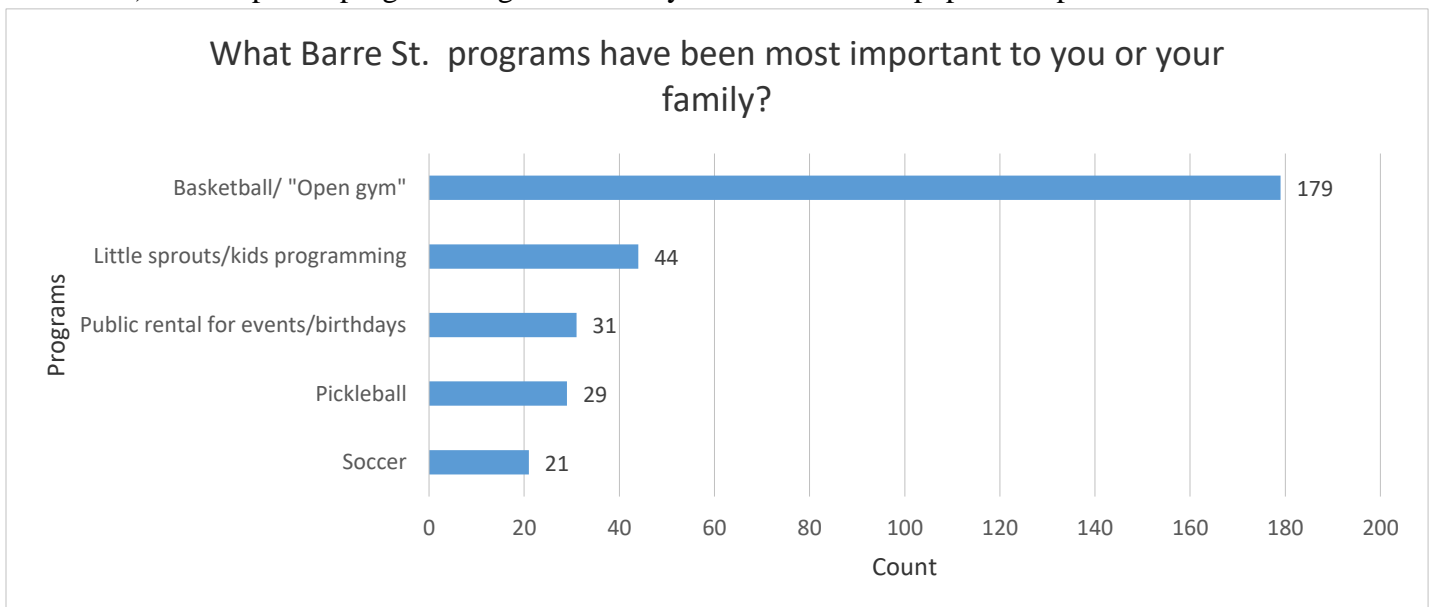


Who uses the current public recreational facility and how do they use it?

A majority of survey respondents (55%) have not used the Barre St. Recreational facility in the last year. Some complained that it was too dingy, or didn't have clean and accessible changing rooms. Others admitted that they didn't even know it existed. A few specified that they used it more when their children were young, but hadn't used it in the past year.



For those who have used the Barre St. facility, it was overwhelmingly for access to the basketball hoops. About 108 people explicitly mentioned basketball (whether for girls, adults, or just open gym pick up) as their key reason for visiting the site while another 71 said they enjoyed using the “open gym” (which we interpreted as basketball). Little sprouts programming and birthday rentals were also popular responses.



Key Citizen Comments, Concerns, and Questions

Our survey concluded with open space to invite public comment and some citizens expressed key concerns that we think are important to address. Further explanation of, and our responses to, these issues can be found in our other post entitled “Questions and Answer on Key Citizen Concerns from Our November Survey,” while below we provide a tally count of these types of comments. Please keep in mind this is our best guess given our interpretation of how comments were written.

Comment or Question Category	Count
Affordability for membership	23
Upfront costs, who will pay, and impacts on taxes	11
Distinguishing between wanting the facility and recognizing actual need for the facility in town	15
Developing a realistic facility that can be financially supported given the small size of Montpelier	7
Requests for a saltwater/ low chemical pool	7
Identifying potential community collaborators	6
Facility cleanliness, accessibility, and hours of operation	7
Minimizing redundancy with what’s already offered in town	4

Additionally, **over 70 people said thanks**, wished us good luck, or expressed enthusiasm for our efforts in their closing comments. Here’s a sampling:

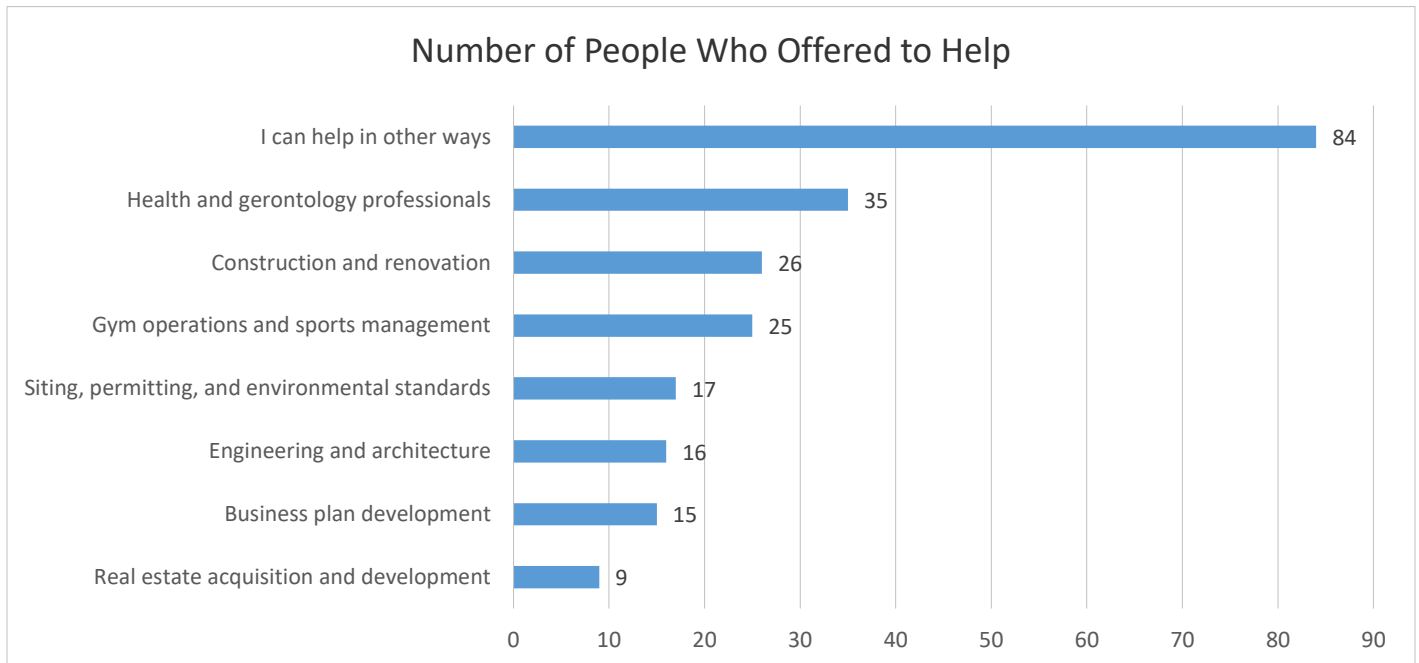
- *MIRA Rocks!*
- *Anything to make Montpelier more family/kid friendly. This is a fabulous idea, and I would pay to use this space!*
- *I truly feel this project would benefit the community as a whole! Thanks for the idea!*
- *I'm cheering for you.*

Thanks for all the support folks!

Next Steps

We truly appreciate all the well wishes! You can stay updated on our progress by returning frequently to our news page on our website: www.jumpandsplashvt.org or look for highlights in The Bridge and through Front Porch Forum.

Next steps for the Task Force include working on a business plan and reaching out to volunteers and community collaborators. We were really impressed with the number of people who volunteered their services and knowledge (shown below).



We thank everyone, again, for their support as this small group of volunteer residents works to get something off the ground. We believe this will be most successful if it is a collaborative, community-driven project and we look forward to seeing what we can build together!

If you would like to reach us, please email info@jumpandsplashvt.org