

# Bible Hill Strategic Plan

## Stage 1: Information/Input

### Resident Survey Summary Report

1<sup>st</sup> Draft

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Bible Hill Recreation, Parks and Culture  
Individual Survey  
Report

**Section A:**

**Over-all satisfaction with Recreation, Culture, Parks and Trails**

**What People Said:**

Approximately 86% of respondents indicated they are somewhat or very satisfied with sport and recreation opportunities in Bible Hill. Likewise, 90% said they are somewhat or very satisfied with parks and trails. However, the results are somewhat lower when it comes to cultural opportunities. Only 59.5% said they are somewhat or very satisfied (38% very or somewhat dissatisfied).

**Key Issues/Learnings:**

1. There is a relatively high satisfaction level regarding sport, recreation, parks and trail opportunities in Bible Hill, overall.
2. In regards to cultural opportunities, the satisfaction level is not as high. However, it is interesting to note that when asked about availability of cultural/creative arts facilities (Question 10), approximately 74% of respondents said they are somewhat or readily available.

Although the question specifically asks about Ain Bible Hill@, we might speculate that respondents were thinking of the availability of facilities in the area (ie Truro)? This may warrant more exploration.

**Section B:**

**Barriers to Participation in Recreation, Culture, Parks and Trails**

**What People Said:**

A number of people indicated they would be more active if there were more opportunities and more variety. Typically, some cited (lack of) time as a factor and interestingly enough, even though existing trails receive a high satisfaction rating; a number of respondents cited the need for more/better quality trails within a closer proximity as a necessary pre-requisite for participation. Other responses included Aactive now@, Aage@, Acost@ and Asidewalks/safety@. Twelve respondents said they were not interested in being more physically active.

Regarding barriers to participation in organized sport and recreation activities, some of the more common responses were A more programs/opportunities@, A information and advertising@, A already participate@, A cost@ and age or health issues.

In respect to cultural activities, a number of people said they would participate more if there were more programs/opportunities. Lack of information/advertising was another common response.

And finally, regarding the use of parks and trails, many people indicated they use the trails now. Time, safety, quality/quantity, information, and travel distance and transportation were other responses.

### **Key Issues / Learnings:**

1. People reported that they are active now (except in cultural area) and parks and trails are being used.
2. The responses indicate more programs (more variety) and more parks and trails would further increase participation
3. A need for more information and advertising is indicated.
4. As per the previous section, the Village may need to further explore cultural interests and its role to respond to those interests.

### **Section C:**

#### Quality and Availability of Recreation, Culture, Parks and Trails

#### **What People Said:**

##### Re: Quality of Recreation and Sport Facilities

Approximately 78.5% of residents surveyed rated the quality of recreation facilities in Bible Hill as being good or very good.

##### Re: Availability of Recreation and Sport Facilities

Approximately 83% of respondents rated recreation and sport facilities as being somewhat (38.3%) or readily (44.7%) available. The only specific comment by one respondent was there is no track in Bible Hill.

##### Re: Availability of facilities for Cultural/Creative Arts Activities

Approximately 74% of respondents indicated facilities for cultural/creative arts activities were either somewhat (53.5%) or readily (20.9%) available. One respondent commented that it would not make financial sense to build a new facility in Bible Hill as we already have the Marigold Centre in Truro. Two people indicated they were not familiar with or interested in cultural/creative arts facilities and/or activities.

Re: Availability of Parks and Trails in the Neighbourhood and in the Village Overall

Approximately 90% of respondents said parks and trails were either somewhat (30.7%) or readily (59.6%) available in their neighbourhood. For the Village overall, the availability rating was even higher at 96% (23% somewhat, 73% readily available). There were only two additional comments - both extremely positive (Great place to live! The Trails are very well maintained!)

Approximately 44% of respondents considered a 5-15 minute walk to parks and trails to be a reasonable distance.

The Need for More Recreation Areas and Facilities:

14.	Neighborhood parks/open space	59.6% Yes	40.4% No
15.	Multi-use community parks	67.3% Yes	32.7% No
16.	Non-motorized trails	60.8% Yes	39.2% No
17.	Motorized trails	37.2% Yes	60.8% No
18.	Environmental/Natural Areas	67.3% Yes	32.7% No
19.	Any other Recreation or Cultural facilities?	46.3% Yes	53.7% No

In response to the need for Any other recreation or cultural facilities (#19), additional comments included rink (4); baseball field (1); active transportation - biking (1); outdoor skate park (1); building-cultural/education (1).

Recreation/Culture Programs - Which should be provided by the Village Commission

Participants were asked if there were any recreation and cultural programs which should be provided by the Village Commission. Thirty-four percent (34%) said yes; sixty-six percent (66%) said no. Although the question specifically referred to programs, twelve of sixteen suggestions were facility related - rink (9), man-made pond (1), other (2). Additional suggestions included day camps (2), clubs (2), cultural activities (1) and concert (1).

Special Events / Festivals

Approximately 68% of respondents said there is a need for more special events or festivals which should be coordinated by the Village Commission. (30% said no): Specific suggestions and/or comments are as follows:

- X Festivals and events - Winter carnival, family events, picnics, heritage day, spring festival, car show, Oktoberfest; Christmas Festival; community events bring community

- together
- X More for children - indoor BMX, skate park, more festivals for kids, Easter Egg hunt
  - X Music Concerts - Blues Fest, Music Festivals; Rock and Roll
  - X Family Events - picnics
  - X Arts and Crafts for seniors
  - X Age appropriate activities
  - X More diversity
  - X Keeps Village=s identity
  - X Summer activities

**Key Issues/ Learnings:**

1. There is a relatively high satisfaction with the quality of facilities in the Village.
2. The availability of facilities is considered to be relatively high. However, it should be noted, that even though the survey question specifically referred to facilities in Bible Hill, it is possible that some respondents were considering the availability of facilities in the general area.
3. Although respondents reported a relatively high availability of facilities for cultural/creative arts activities, it should be noted that approximately 55% of respondents rated them as Asomewhat@ available. It is likely that, in some cases, the context here may be that they are available in the area, but not necessarily in Bible Hill. It is also important to consider that unlike some sport activities, many cultural/creative arts activities do not require a dedicated space, so respondents may not view a facility in a culture/creative arts context if they are not typically used for that purpose. This area probably warrants more consideration - but is suggested the focus be on the availability of cultural/creative arts activities rather than facilities.
4. Parks and trails are clearly considered readily available and valued. What is interesting is that respondents think there is a need for more parks and trails. What is even more interesting is that 44% of respondents are prepared to walk 5-15 minutes to get to a park or trail. Considering the proliferation of parks and trails that already exist, it would seem the Village is well served already. It is suggested the Village continue its over-all parks and trails master plan by completing the unfinished sections of the trails and developing neighbourhood parks in an those few areas presently under-served.
5. It is interesting to note that approximately 37% of respondents felt there is a need for motorized trails in the community. While motorized trails are potentially a contentious issue, the fact that such a relatively large portion of respondents have an interest in motorized use, needs to be recognized and perhaps explored further.
6. It is interesting that, in more than one area of the survey, respondents indicated an interest in a rink in Bible Hill. However, it is not clear what the respondents expressed need in regards to a rink actually is, ie more ice time to accommodate existing programs or

new/different ice-related activities, such as skating, broomball, ringette. This may warrant some additional investigation. This could impact program and design considerations for the proposed Civic Centre.

7. It is interesting that approximately two-thirds (66%) of respondents did not feel there were any additional programs which should be provided by the Village. Further, of the one-third which did feel there were un-met needs - most of the suggestions were facilities not programs. The one possible exception is the area of cultural/creative arts programs as mentioned previously.
8. There is a clear interest in more special events and/or festivals. What is particularly interesting is the apparent motivating factors, namely - an interest in more programs for children and families, supporting/developing sense of community and economic benefit.

**Section D:**

Important Roles

**What People Said:**

When asked to rate a list of nine potential roles of the Village Commission in recreation, parks and culture as being either not the Village's role, not important, somewhat important, or very important, over two thirds of the respondents rated all but one area (provide financial support to volunteer organizations) as being somewhat or very important. However, if we look only at the very important ranking there is a considerably greater range of response. For example providing information was the top response (88.2% - very important) own/operate/maintain parks and trails and open spaces was #2 (72.6% - very important) and promote physical activity and health lifestyles was #3 (70.6%). By contrast, provide financial support to volunteer organizations was the lowest ranked role (33.3% very important).

The following chart shows the responses for all potential roles:

Rank	Role	% Very important
1	Provide Information	88.2%
2	Own/operate/maintain parks/trails	72.6%
3	Promote physical activity/healthy lifestyles	70.6%
4	Own/operate/maintain recreation facilities	68.6%
5	Support Volunteer organizations with their activities	63.5%
6	Coordinate special events	55.8%
7	Direct provision of programs	45.1%
8	Own/operate cultural facilities	44.0%

9	Provide financial support to volunteer organizations	33.3%
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The previous nine potential roles were summarized into four categories: Special Events, Parks and Facilities, Direct Programs and support to volunteer organizations. Respondents were asked to place them in rank order. The results are as follows:

Rank	Role	% of listings as #1
1	Parks and Facilities	51.0%
2	Special Events	22.5%
3	Support to Volunteer Organizations	16.0%
4	Direct Programs	8.2%

**The Last Word:**

Survey participants were invited to comment on anything they wished to say about recreation, parks, culture in Bible Hill. There were many comments and they are attached as an appendix to this report. In summary however, the comments focused around a number of themes as follows:

- X Interest in a Civic Centre/Sportsplex
- X Trails (Compliments, use extensively, very important, more/better advertising)
- X Wheelchair accessibility
- X Facilities (for special events, skate park, educational activities)
- X Other: Need to support Scotia Pool
  - Dog Park
  - Lower crime rates
  - Clean up garbage
  - Concerts on Sunday nights
  - Summer programs for all ages
  - Provincial Exhibition declining
  - Track
  - Cultural diversity

**Key Issues/Learnings**

1. All the potential roles are deemed important, but there are some clear priorities. This can help the Village set strategic priorities for recreation, parks and culture.
2. The fact that the direct provision of programs ranked lowest, while at the same time, there is an interest in more program areas, may indicate a need for strong partnerships with community organizations and other municipalities in the area, ie cultural groups, Town of Truro, etc.
3. There is an expressed need for more community-based special events and facilities.