

Youth Program Feasibility and Sustainability Study

Sooke Region Communities Health Network

Dan McNeill



Acknowledgments

We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the Coast Salish. T'Sou-ke Nation and Scia'new Nation and Nuuchahnulth: Pacheedaht Nation.

Thank you to the **District of Sooke** for support and funding.

Thank you, Mary Dunn and Christine Bossi of **SRCHN** for the organization and support for this study.

Special thank you to Katrina Abell, vice-principal, **Journey Middle School**, and Ashley Green, Community School Programs Coordinator, **Edward Milne Community School** for coordinating students and teachers in filling out youth surveys throughout challenging COVID-19 school restrictions.

Thank you, Andy the Pizza Man at **Sooke 2 for 1 Pizza** for donating bottomless pizza and drinks for our youth consultation sessions.

Thank you to the following for your support and interviews (in alphabetical order):

Brandy Daniels - Cultural Youth Worker - **T'Sou-ke First Nation**

Carla Simicich - LGBTQ+ Youth Program - **Sooke Family Resources Society**

Colleen Hoglund - Program Services Manager - **SEAPARC**

Debra Johnston - Youth Services - **Sooke Rotary Club**

Elaine and Les Haddad - Coordinators - **Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program**

Emily Rennalls - Urban Planner, Associate - **DIALOG**

Katrina Abell - Vice-Principal - **Journey Middle School**

Hammond Dominchelli - Teacher - **Westshore Centre for Learning and Training (Sooke)**

Megan MacKeigan - Recreation Program Coordinator - **SEAPARC**

Nicky Logins - Executive Director - **Sooke Family Resource Society**

Sandi Brumsovsky - Youth Navigator - **Sooke Family Resource Society**

Teresa Winter - PEACE Counsellor - **Sooke Transition House Society**

Todd Powell - Vice Principal/Leadership - **Edward Milne Community School**

Vanessa White - District Principal, Safe & Healthy Schools - **Sooke School District (SD62)**

Executive Summary

From September 7 to December 15, 2020, SRCHN and the District of Sooke Youth conducted a comprehensive youth survey in three parts: interviewing youth service providers, youth focus groups, and surveys.

- Youth and youth service providers are inspired by, and willing to engage with, youth programming in the new facility.
- Healthy, artistic, and entertaining youth programming is needed in Sooke.
- Youth have an abundance of ideas for creating an inclusive space, art, life skills, health, recreation, and intergenerational programming.
- Youth have an understanding of the barriers which would prevent youth from coming to a program and how to manage solutions.
- Youth service providers are interested in helping with staffing and organizational support.
- Youth Service Providers do not support a dedicated youth space.
- There is a need for more mental health services for youth in Sooke.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	2
Executive Summary	3
Table of Contents	4
Introduction	5
Background	5
Regional Demographics	5
Aim of Study	5
Methodology	6
Youth Service Provider Interviews	7
Introduction	7
Research Methods	7
Findings Summary	7
Interviews	8
Conclusion: Youth Service Provider Interviews	10
Youth Focus Groups	11
Introduction	11
Research Methods	11
Demographics	11
Findings Summary	11
Questions and data	12
Conclusion: Youth Focus Groups	15
Digital and Paper Survey	16
Introduction	16
Intergenerational Programming	17
Barriers	17
Research Methods	17
Demographics	18
Findings Summary	18
Questions and Data	19
Conclusion: Digital and Paper Survey	30
Conclusion	30
Recommendations	31
Questionnaire	32

Introduction

Background

At the September 14th, 2020 Council meeting the Sooke Region Communities Health Network (SRCHN) development and operation of an Elders Complex with youth programming on the Northeast quadrant of Lot A was approved. The complex will include at least 76 affordable housing rental units for individuals 55 plus and an elder's centre on the ground floor for socializing, recreation, information resources, and enrichment. On behalf of the District of Sooke, SRCHN undertook a comprehensive youth consultation to determine what programming would meet the needs of our youth and elders.

Regional Demographics

The Sooke Region from Port Renfrew to Beecher Bay includes the traditional territories of the Coast Salish: T'Sou-ke Nation and Scia'new Nation and Nuu-chah-nulth: Pacheedaht Nation.

There are 2050 youth between the ages of 10-24 in Sooke, which is 16% of the total population of 13,000 according to the 2016 Statistics Canada census. 775 (38%) youth are 10-14 years old, 760 (37%) youth are 15-19 years old, and 515 (25%) are 20-24 years old. The average age of the population of Sooke is 41.

In the Sooke Region, there are five elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and one alternative education centre within the Sooke School District (SD62).

Sooke is an hour's drive from Victoria, the provincial capital of BC. There are many natural areas for outdoor recreation: Mountain biking, hiking, skateboarding, and surfing. The main recreation centre, SEAPARC, hosts youth activities such as swimming, skating, gym, and basketball. The Sooke Family Resource Society is home to many of the social services programs for youth and families.

Aim of Study

1. To ascertain need and potential partnerships for youth activities in a seniors dedicated space
2. Interview and speak with youth about programming needs and gaps
3. Understand youth desires for future programming
4. Create a report that will be beneficial for all youth service providers in Sooke

Methodology

This youth consultation was completed in three stages to collect qualitative and quantitative data.

1. Youth service provider interviews (September 7-20, 2020)
2. Youth focus groups (October 19-30, 2020)
3. Online and paper survey (November 6 - December 14, 2020)

BC COVID-19 restrictions and precautions were in place during all stages of the consultation. We were able to meet youth groups while following distancing and safety guidelines. In all stages, we asked youth and youth service providers to answer questions about the proposed programming as if COVID-19 were not an issue. As there is a two-year timeline for the construction of the facility, youth should be free to be creative and dream big while brainstorming.

Due to COVID-19 we were not able to have in person meetings with youth in the schools. Hence their input was via surveys rather than discussion groups.

Youth Service Provider Interviews

Introduction

The Sooke Regional Community Health Network commissioned a youth program feasibility study from September 7th, 2020 to September 20, 2020. We interviewed youth service providers (YSP's) in the Sooke region to collect information about the feasibility and sustainability of a new youth program in Sooke. We spoke with YSP's who represent a range of youth services and needs, to truly understand what is currently available and what is possible. This study is the first part of a three-part consultation. The second and third parts will be a qualitative and quantitative analysis of youth needs in the Sooke region.

Research Methods

We interviewed youth service providers (YSP's) representing the Junior Youth Empowerment Program, Westshore Centre for Learning and Training, Sooke Transition House Society, SEAPARC, Sooke Family Resource Society, and School District 62. Interviews were with one or two YSP's from an organization at a time. We selected our participants through the SRCHN network, and referrals from YSP's during the interviews. During the hour-long interviews, we asked the questions below and took notes.

Findings Summary

There are diverse options for activities and groups for youth in Sooke, but many youth feel disconnected and unrepresented. Youth are often just "hanging out" in town, or gaming in isolation. It is challenging for youth to connect with sustainable and meaningful mental health and family support.

Youth service providers in Sooke are interested in supporting a youth program with part-time staffing and structural support. **No organizations are able to offer financial support at this time.** YSP's are optimistic about an intergenerational program and the varied ways it could support connections with youth and elderly people.

The following is a summary of answers from youth service providers followed by point form information direct from interviews. These are the views of youth service providers, not direct consultation with youth.

Interviews

What do youth do in Sooke?

Youth in Sooke are participating in sports (both structured and unstructured), arts, and faith-based programming. Unfortunately, youth who aren't involved in activity groups or work are just "hanging out" in Sooke, or leaving to go to Victoria. Youth are spending more time at home isolated and/or gaming.

- Edward Milne Community School Society (EMCS Society) and SEAPARC provide a variety of activities during and after school, but some restrictions apply due to COVID.
- Youth spend a lot of time online gaming
- Just "hanging out" in town, at coffee shops, and traveling to Langford or Victoria.
- Older youth often have to leave Sooke to work.
- Youth who are hanging out are mostly not a danger or causing damage.

What are the big issues for youth?

There is no safe place in Sooke where youth feel recognized and accepted. Many youth are not engaged in decision making in the community. Isolation and anxiety are a growing issue, made more challenging by COVID-19 fears and restrictions.

- There is "nothing to do."
- While it is recognized that there are options for sports, arts, and faith groups. Youth often feel that they are not accepted in these activities.
- Youth are not feeling recognized by the community or municipality.
- Youth find it difficult to fit in and feel engaged.
- There is no one group taking care of youth needs.
- Isolation and anxiety are a growing problem for youth.

What are some of the gaps in youth services in Sooke?

Youth service providers say that there is a lack of consistent, available mental health, addiction, and healthcare services for youth. Outside of school time, youth do not have a place where they feel welcomed and at home.

- Mental health support.
- Addiction support.
- Sooke needs more full-time, dedicated support workers, not just one day a week.
- Often services that are supposed to be shared with Langford are not available in Sooke.
- Many youth do not know how to access the available supports.

-
- It is a challenge for low-income families to find sustainable support.
 - Youth are not connecting to healthy role model mentors.
 - There is no space for youth to go where they feel at home.
 - Many outdoor activities are challenging in winter when it gets dark at 5 pm.
 - Suicide is not openly discussed as an issue.

What would you like to see in a youth program?

A space to just “hang out” is not enough. YSP’s would like to see a place where youth can connect to support, mentorship, courses, and life skills.

- A causal space for students to study/work
- A place to do homework
- A place for YSP’s to meet and connect with new youth
- Certificate programs
- First-Aid courses
- Office space for programs like the PEACE program
- Life skills programs
- Help accessing mental health supports
- Sanctioned outdoor space
- Youth could run a business out of the space

What does it take to run a successful youth space in Sooke?

YSP’s are interested in a new youth project in Sooke, but they have seen many youth projects come and go. In order to succeed, a youth program needs to be organized and staffed by dedicated workers who understand the complexities of running a youth program. Youth need to be truly involved and feel ownership from the start.

- YSP’s need to know that a youth program is sustainably funded and coordinated.
- All of the dedicated youth spaces have closed.
- YSP’s do not want to see another poorly planned youth project.
- Transportation is a challenge in Sooke
- A space to hang out is not enough.
- A youth program needs to have concrete involvement from youth from the start.
- If the program is run out of a shared space, it needs to be a space where everybody feels ownership.

Would youth in Sooke benefit from an intergenerational program?

YSP's are positive and interested in an intergenerational program that could facilitate youth connections with seniors. YSP's feel that youth are connecting with elders less in our society. One organization has been successfully hosting programs that bring youth into seniors care centres with success for years. People are excited to brainstorm the ways that an intergenerational program could be beneficial for youth and seniors.

- Both youth and elderly people would enjoy it.
- Knowledge keepers are valuable in our society.
- It is important for youth to mingle with other generations.
- We could connect youth with mentors.
- There are many types of service projects and ways to volunteer within an intergenerational program.
- An intergenerational program could be part of the school curriculum.
- Boundaries need to be thought out.
- Needs to be well facilitated by someone who knows what could go wrong.

Is your organization able to offer support to a youth program?

While all commitments are tentative, several organizations are interested in providing staffing one night per week. **No YSP organizations are able to offer direct financial support at this time.** Currently, there is no organization prepared to sustainably organize and back a dedicated youth space. There is no financial support from YSP's for a dedicated youth space.

- YSP organizations can offer structural and organizational support for the right program.
- Most organizations are interested in offering their expertise.
- YSP's want to be part of the decision making process.

Conclusion: Youth Service Provider Interviews

Youth service providers in Sooke are interested and willing to help with the organization and facilitation of an intergenerational youth project in Sooke. There are many ways that a new youth program could help fill gaps in youth services. YSP's acknowledge that a good youth program must be built with adequate planning and funding for capable staff. A youth program that tackles youth issues and connects youth to the community would be a welcome addition to Sooke.

Youth Focus Groups

Introduction

We had the pleasure to meet with youth in Sooke and talk about a proposed youth space within a seniors living centre from October 19-30, 2020. We spoke about current activities, issues for youth, ideas for the space, intergenerational programming, job skills programs, cooking programs, and barriers that prevent youth from attending a program. Youth in the groups were engaged and enthusiastic to be helping create programming for youth in Sooke. The youth who are engaged in community activities in Sooke have an understanding of gaps and issues and a desire to work on improving the community.

Research Methods

We interviewed youth representing the Junior Youth Empowerment Program, SEAPARC, and the LGBTQ+ group in three sessions. We selected our participants through referrals from youth service providers in Sooke. During the two-hour focus group sessions, we asked the questions below (page 12). We allowed the conversation to flow naturally to capture the feelings of participants. We recorded answers in writing and sticky notes written by participants.

Demographics

All youth consulted were attending the Junior Youth Empowerment Program, the LGBTQ+ group held at the Sooke Family Resource Society, or SEAPARC programming. In total, 14 youth age 13-17 participated in focus groups. All participants live and attend school in Sooke.

Findings Summary

Inclusive youth programming in Sooke is both needed and desired. The most common answer, when asked about issues in Sooke, was that it is boring, or there is nothing to do. We came out of the focus group sessions with 6 highlights.

1. When we spoke about intergenerational programming youth were overwhelmingly positive and were able to brainstorm activities and ideas to facilitate sharing and learning.
2. There are many options for activities for youth but they are often not accessible.

-
3. Youth do not have a gathering place where they can just be without feeling judged, unwelcome, or unsafe. It was emphasized as very important that the space be inclusive to all youth.
 4. Youth have many ideas about ways the space can look, engage, and help. Ideas flowed about the space, art, life skills, health services, and recreation.
 5. The main two things that would prevent youth from coming to a youth program was social relationships and anxiety. Youth do not want to see their teachers outside of school time or run into others who they are not comfortable around.
 6. Youth would like to see a youth council and continued input into the space. Many youth in the session enthusiastically offered to provide continued support for the programming.

Questions and data

What do you currently do in Sooke?

Most of the youth that we met with were involved with sports, and leadership activities. A number of the youth said that they spend a lot of time “hanging out” at cafes or McDonalds because there is “nothing to do.” Some of the youth who were doing intergenerational volunteer work were excited that it broke social barriers. One youth said, “I thought seniors were unrelatable, but they had a lot of good advice.”

- Recreation and sports - Skate park, swimming, weight room, kung-fu, rugby, basketball, and soccer.
- Intergenerational work - having tea with, sharing stories, and reading with people in assisted living homes.
- Leadership activities, cadets, and part-time jobs
- Volunteering - 10000 tonight food drive, fundraising for local causes and refugees, Sooke Fall Fair, Christmas bureau.
- Art - Makerspace at EMCS, digital art, writing, and graphic design.

What are the issues facing youth in Sooke?

- There is nothing to do.
- No space to be without “getting yelled at.”
- Lack of confidential mental health and medical services.
- Poor bus service. Difficult to get around.
- Isolation and loneliness. Hard to meet new people.
- “Creeps” who make youth feel unsafe.

What would you like to see in a youth program?

All of the focus groups mentioned a need for the space to be safe and inclusive for First Nations people, women, and the LGBTQ+ community. The focus groups emphasized the importance of making the space feel safe, free from judgment, and comfortable. The youth had many ideas about how that could be achieved. Youth were excited to suggest programming ideas for life skills, recreation, art, and health services. The groups would like to see a youth leadership committee for the space. Many youth offered to be a part of the committee.

- Space
 - Youth leadership committee
 - Safe space for First Nations people, LGBTQ+, and women.
 - “Obsessed with vibes” - Lighting is huge
 - Showers, hygiene, snacks, couches
 - Therapy dogs
 - Wheelchair accessible
 - Ability to work volunteer hours
 - Chill space
 - Youth feedback and input
- Art
 - Improv
 - Facilitated board game hours
 - Volunteer art/drawing teachers
 - Access to art supplies
 - Community mural
 - Makerspace - EMCS is often inaccessible to youth.
- Life Skills
 - Homework club - help and space to work
 - Guest speakers and workshops
 - Drug use education/protocol for overdoses
 - Help with navigating scholarship applications
 - “Adulting,” how to pay taxes, rent houses, get loans, and jobs
 - Community building
 - First aid training and outdoor survival

-
- Coding and graphic design
 - Car maintenance
 - Health
 - Sexual health info
 - Condoms
 - Feminine hygiene supplies
 - LGBTQ and sex education
 - Recreation
 - Outdoor movies
 - Super smash tournament
 - Outdoor trips
 - Badminton club
 - Running track
 - Communal gaming consoles
 - Video game competition

Would you be interested in intergenerational programs?

In the focus groups, youth were excited about the idea of intergenerational programming. One group has had many positive experiences with volunteering with seniors in homes. The youth told stories about truly connecting with seniors and learning from them. Many offered to teach computer skills as a way to connect.

- It would be fun to challenge seniors to pool
- "It would be great to be helping seniors"
- Youth are looking for spaces for seniors and youth to mingle
- Would love an elder mentor
- Would be happy to help seniors with computers

Would you be interested in a cooking skills program?

- Healthy easy cheap meals like spaghetti
- Youth can cook meals and feed people in the community
- Basic food safety and health codes
- An easy way for hungry people to get a meal
- Yes! "I love cooking"

Would you be interested in a job skills program?

- Survive independently
- Basic mechanics
- Outdoor survival skills
- Naloxone training
- First-Aid
- Foodsafe
- First aid course

What would stop you from participating in a program?

Focus group youth were put off by the idea of unaccepting adults dictating all of the rules. Groups acknowledged the importance of rules and expectations but would like more understanding and participation in creating the rules. Sooke being a small place where everybody is known, many issues with social dynamics were brought up in the sessions.

- Controlling adults telling youth what to do
- Worried about judgement/complaints from seniors
- Difficult to bus and arrange transportation
- Afraid of seeing other adults/teachers from the community
- Not having friends in the space
- Anxiety - fear of being put on the spot, or running into people that you don't want to see
- Groups not separated by age
- Rigid times that do not work with school and activities schedule
- Long waits

Conclusion: Youth Focus Groups

Youth in Sooke are passionate about new youth programming in Sooke in a space where youth feel welcome. The focus groups showed a strong interest in intergenerational programming based on past volunteer experiences. The sessions were filled with ideas about how to build an inclusive, positive, healthy, community space. Participants had an in-depth understanding of issues that would prevent youth from attending programs. In order to build truly youth-friendly programming, youth would like to be a continued part of decision making.

Digital and Paper Survey



Wordcloud was created with the most-used words in the responses to the “your vision of Sooke” question.

Introduction

Youth in Sooke are passionate about their community and aware of issues facing youth. The responses to the open-ended question, “your vision,” showed that youth care for the environment, the people, and the future of Sooke. Survey responses are consistent with finding from the youth surveys. We saw echoes of comments from focus groups in the survey responses.

Visual graphs and charts of survey responses:

[Community Youth Survey Responses - Sooke Full.jpg](#)

Through their responses, youth have shown an interest in a new youth program in Sooke. When talking about issues for youth the main theme is that there is “nothing to do” and that Sooke is “boring.” Youth would like to see a wide variety of activities that would be possible to implement in the proposed space. Many of the requests could be integrated as part of intergenerational programming.

Youth expressed an interest in a wide variety of activities that would be ideal in the proposed space. The interests of respondents include cooking, arts, gaming and movies, animals, employment training, and life skills programs.

Intergenerational Programming

Many of the activities that youth would like to see would benefit from intergenerational integration. 62.7% of youth responded that they would “appreciate help from someone in the community with your hobbies/interests.” This interest in mentorship opens doors to a wide range of activities that would bring youth and Seniors together. Seniors in Sooke have knowledge and skills which could benefit youth through mentorship, career training, life skills, arts, sewing, and crafts.

Barriers

Youth pointed out several barriers that may stop them from participating in youth programming. “Too many rules” and “people who are not accepting of youth” were two of the main concerns. Steps will have to be taken to ensure that rules and people in the space are inclusive and fair. Transportation to and from, especially at night, is an issue with 79% of respondents relying on friends or family members to drive. The youth program needs to ensure that it is affordable and not cost-prohibitive. Style and smell are important to youth.

Research Methods

SRCHN collaborated with DIALOG Design to create a written survey that would capture the ideas, thoughts, and wishes of youth in Sooke for the proposed youth program and the District of Sooke. Some survey questions were adapted from a 2019 survey created by Journey Middle School in collaboration with students.

A printed paper survey was shared by teachers at Journey Middle School. Journey students completed the survey from November 6-20, 2020. A digital survey made with google forms

was sent to teachers at Edward Milne Community School (EMCS). EMCS students completed the survey from November 6 to December 14th, 2020. The digital survey was shared through social media, and available for youth to complete online from November 6 to December 14th, 2020.

Respondents filled out 12 multiple choice questions, and 3 open-ended questions. In multiple-choice questions, youth were able to select as many options as they wanted. The option of selecting “other” and writing ideas was available on 7 of the multiple-choice questions.

Demographics

224 youth aged 10 to 18 completed the Sooke Community Youth Survey. The majority of respondents were attending Journey Middle School and the Leadership class at Edward Milne Community School. The survey was also shared through local social media networks. 87.5% of respondents were aged 11 to 13.

Findings Summary

Full data from youth survey responses can be found in the following links.

Youth Response Graphs

Visual graphs and charts of survey responses:

[Community Youth Survey Responses - Sooke Full.jpg](#)

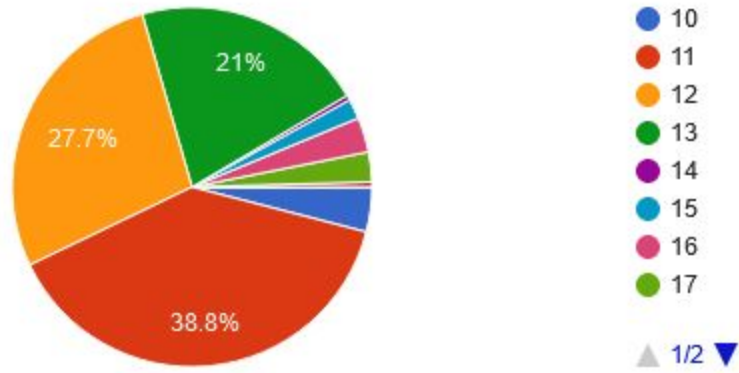
Spreadsheet Data

Google Sheets Spreadsheet containing full written and checkmark data from all surveys:

[Responses Spreadsheet - Community Youth Survey Responses - Sooke](#)

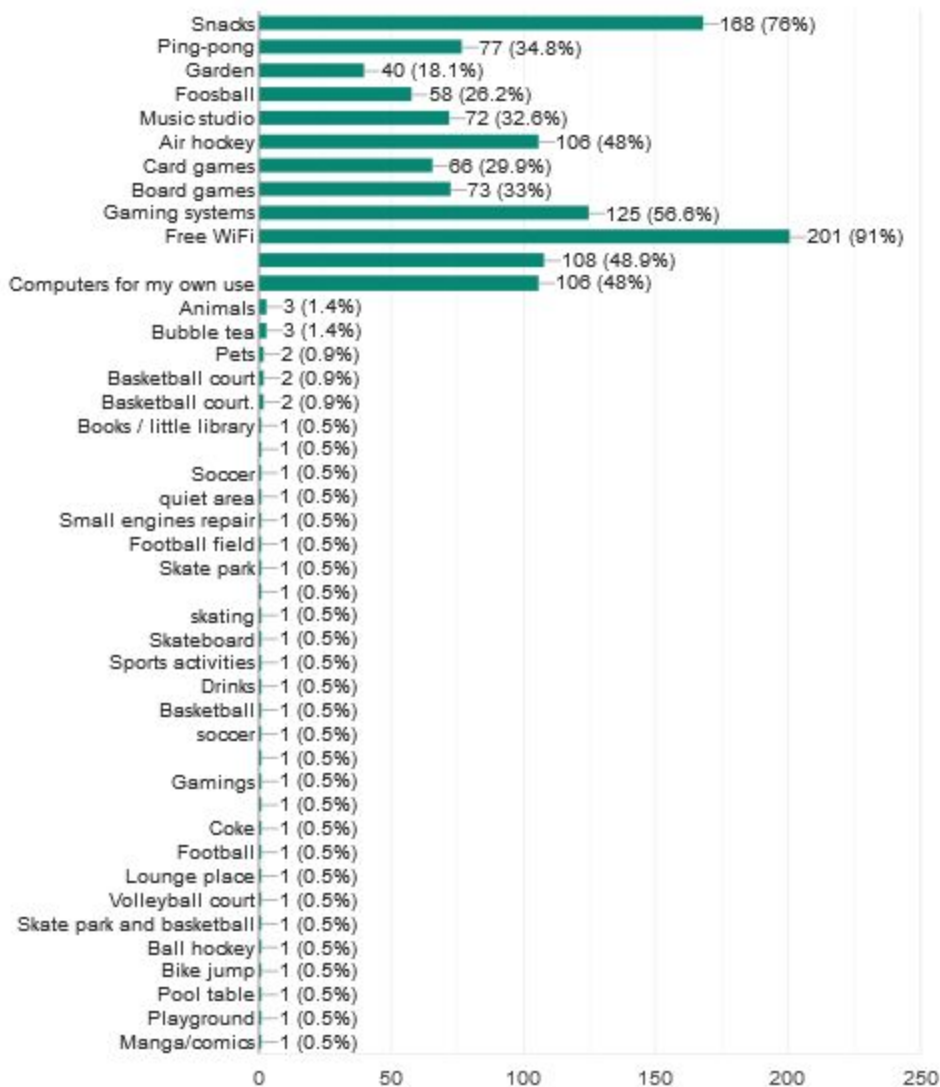
How old are you?

224 responses



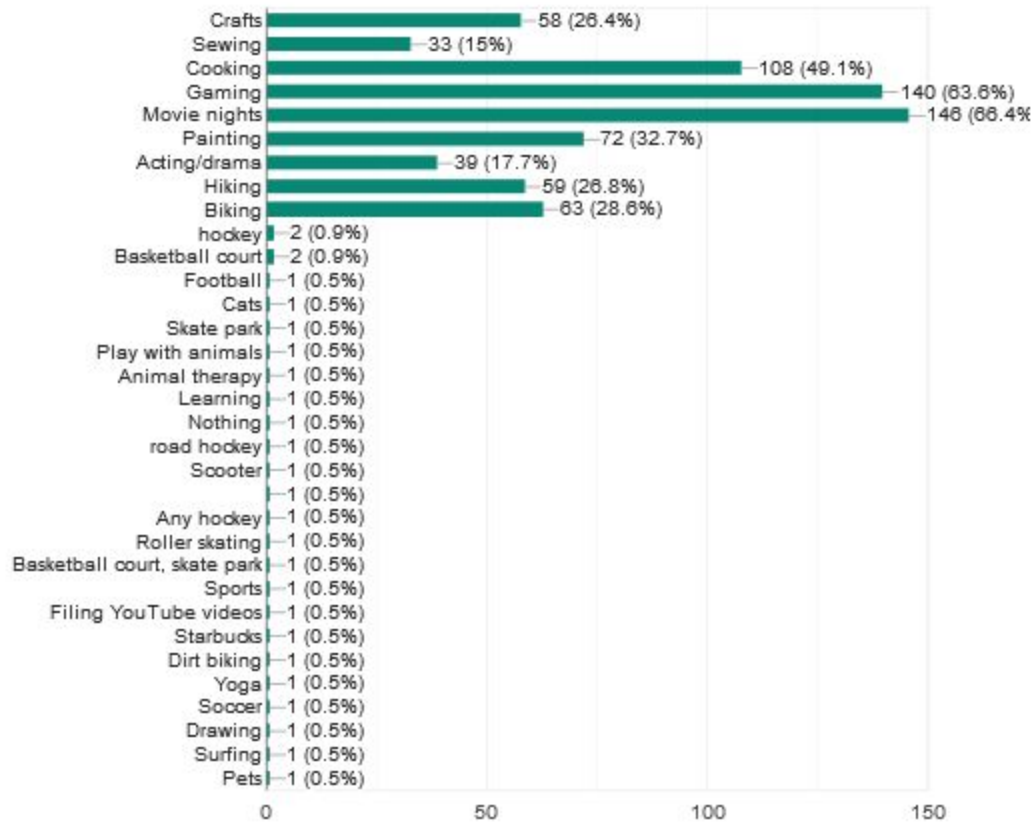
In the community space, what would you like available to use any time you were there?

221 responses



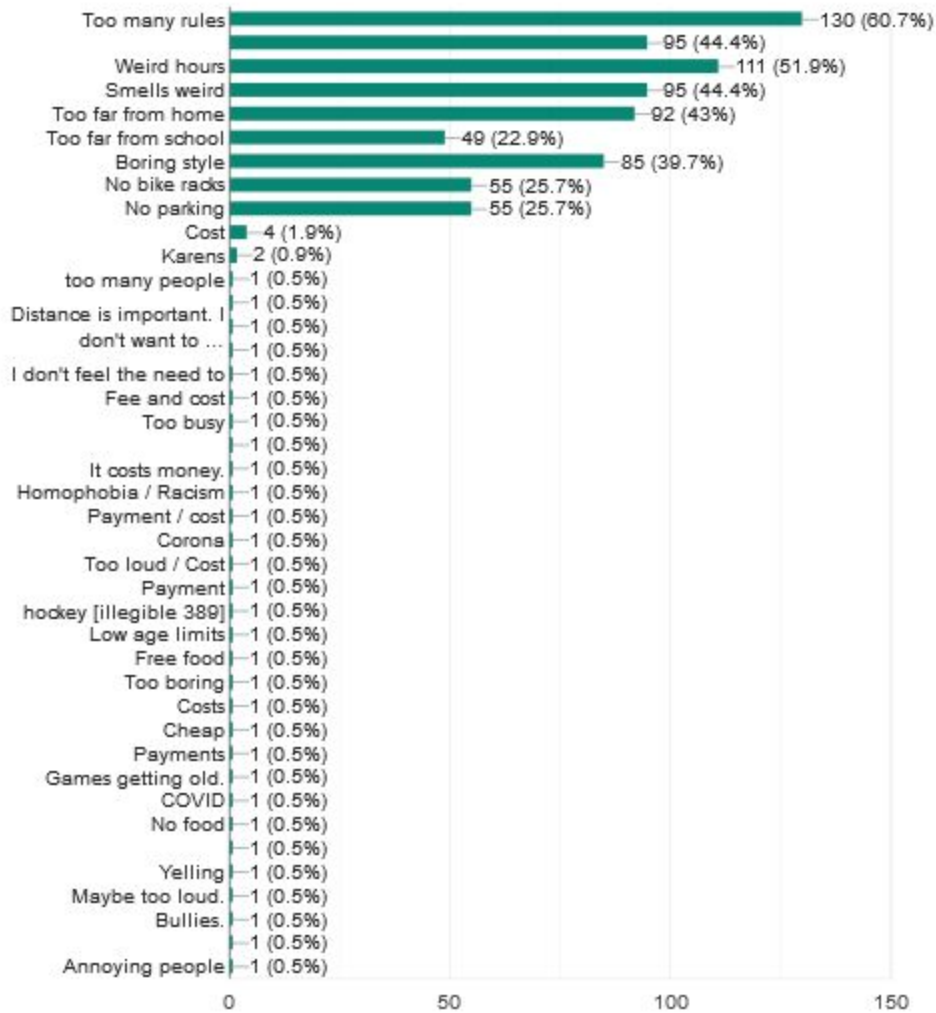
What other activities would you like from time to time?

220 responses



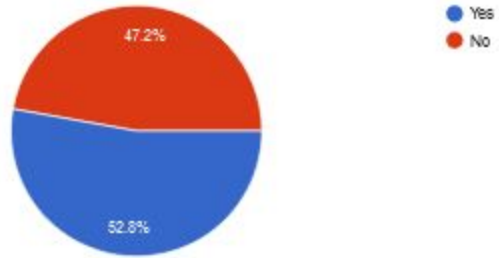
What would stop you from coming and using the space?

214 responses



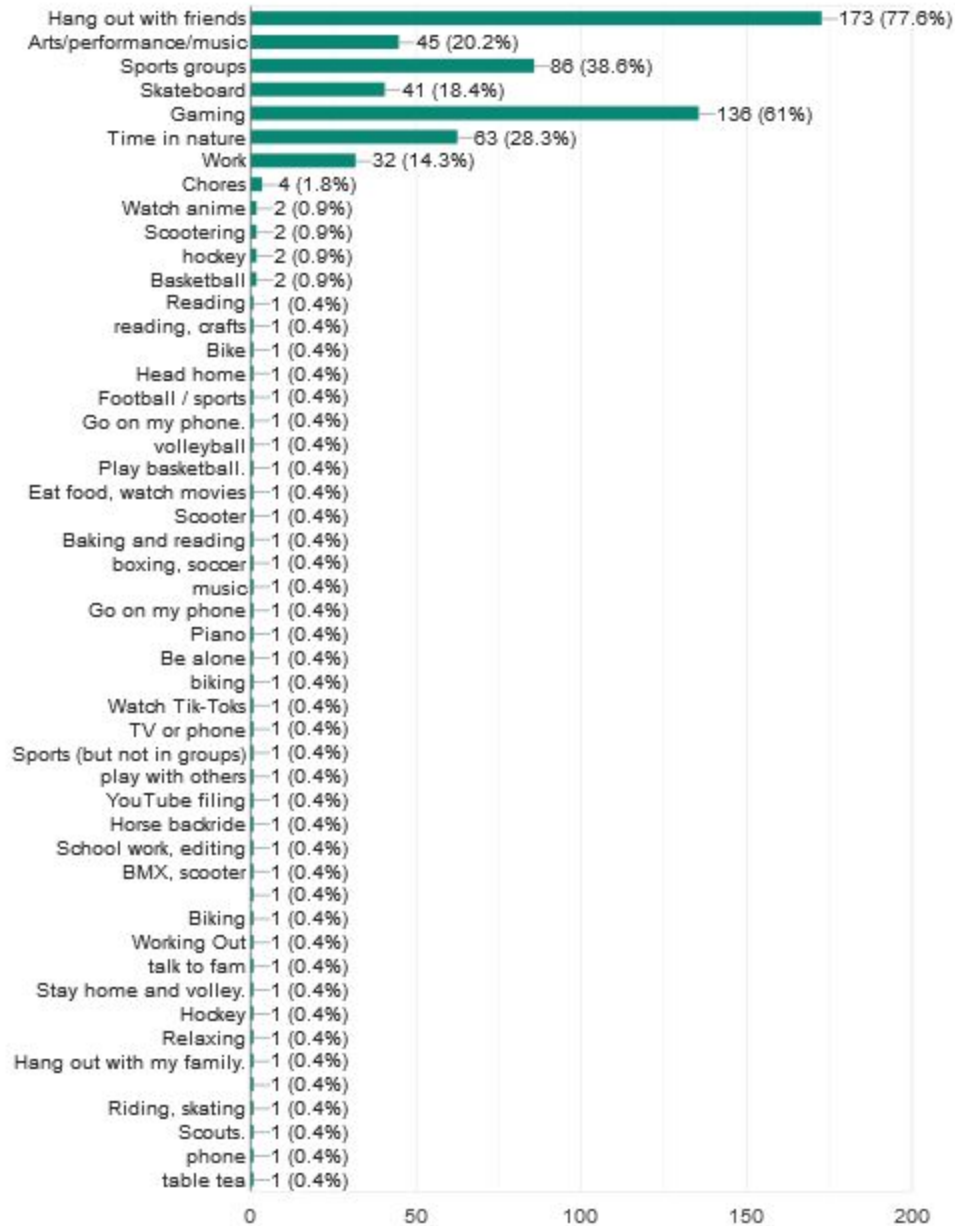
Would you like a family cooking night in the group kitchen?

214 responses



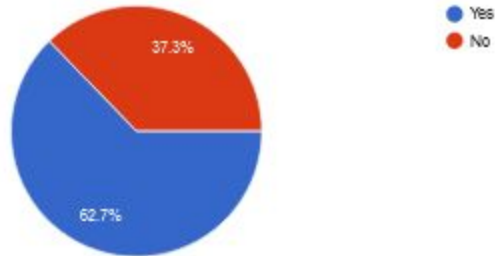
What do you do outside of school time?

223 responses



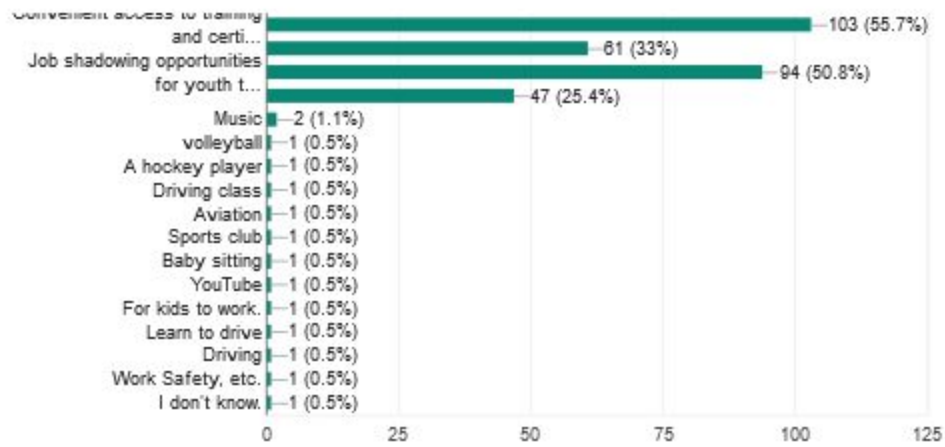
Would you appreciate help from someone in the community with your hobbies/interests?

204 responses



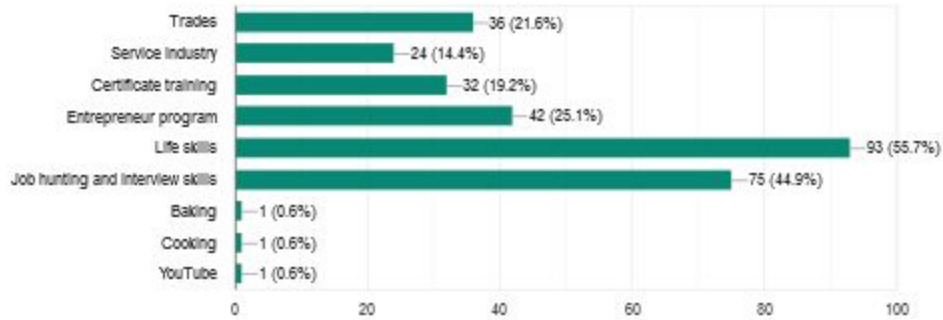
Employment-wise, which opportunities would youth in our community benefit from the most?

185 responses



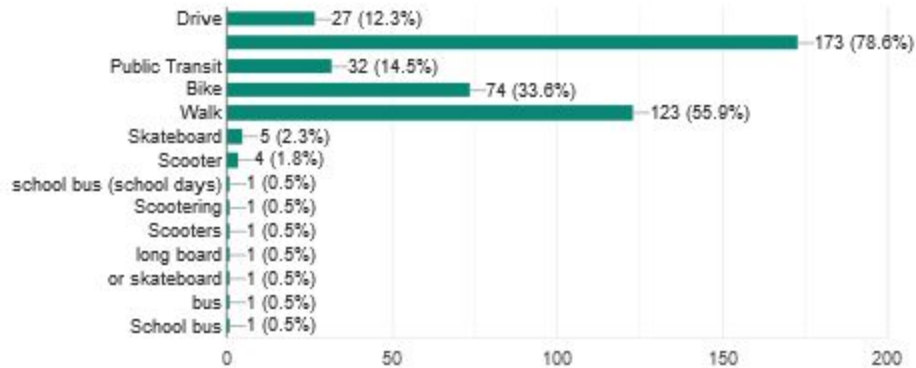
What type of job skills training programs would you be interested in?

167 responses



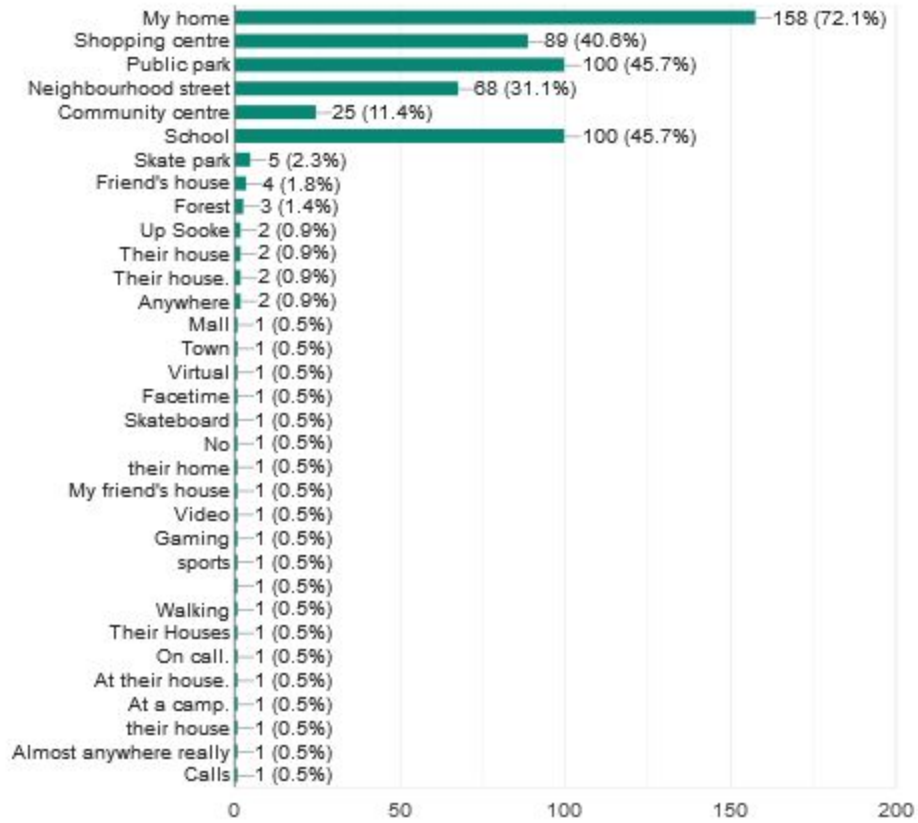
How do you move around Sooke?

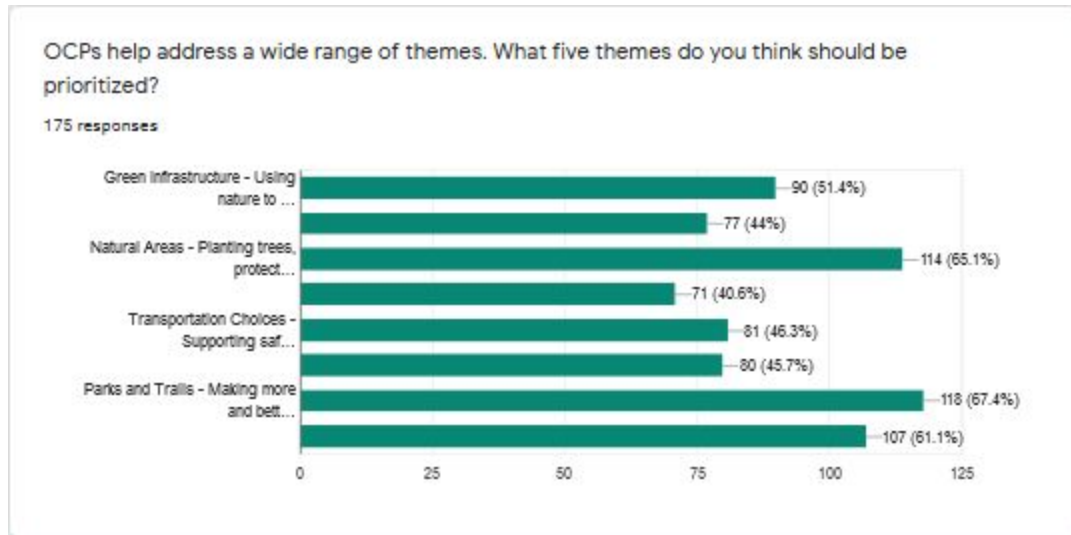
220 responses



Where do you prefer to spend time with friends?

219 responses





What do you like about living in Sooke?

This was an open-ended question. The responses are thoughtful and specific. Major themes are nature, camping, knowing everybody, friends, not a big city, peaceful, hiking, it's not Victoria, nice people.

What don't you like about living in Sooke?

This was an open-ended question. Youth voiced their strong opinions. Major themes are "nothing to do," fear of dangerous people, people using drugs, lack of transportation options, lack of shopping options, too much construction, not meeting new people.

Conclusion: Digital and Paper Survey

The responses show that more youth programming in Sooke is both needed and desired. Youth have a wide variety of interests that the proposed space would be able to accommodate. If these activities were to be held in Sooke, they would promote health, connection, creativity, life skills, job skills, and safe recreation. Working out of a shared space with seniors combined with youth interest in mentorship could develop into valuable opportunities for intergenerational programming. If continued youth consultation throughout the process, the barriers that would stop them from coming to the space can be addressed. Overall, survey respondents embrace the opportunity to have a welcoming space where they can learn, create, and relax.

Conclusion

Youth and youth service providers (YSP's) are inspired by and willing to engage with youth programming in the new facility. Healthy, artistic, and entertaining youth programming is needed in Sooke.

1. Youth have an abundance of ideas for creating an inclusive space, art, life skills, intergenerational, health, and recreation programming.
2. Youth in Sooke are passionate and enthusiastic about people, the future of the community, and the environment. The responses to "your vision for sooke" in the survey are inspiring and hopeful.
3. YSP's would like to see a new youth program in Sooke.
 - a. YSP's are interested in helping with staffing and organizational support.
 - b. Many YSP's have concerns about the planning and sustainability of a new youth program.
 - c. YSP's do not support a dedicated youth space.
 - d. No YSP can financially support dedicated space for youth. (staff and operational costs)
4. Youth and YSP's are inspired by the possibilities of intergenerational programming in the new space.
 - a. Youth groups have had past successes working with seniors. Focus groups youth were animated in telling stories and brainstorming about intergenerational programming.
 - b. Youth indicated a strong interest in mentorship. There are opportunities for experienced seniors to share their knowledge and skills in a variety of subjects that youth would like to see.
 - c. Skill sharing can be exchanged both ways.

-
5. YSP's report that youth feel disconnected and unrepresented.
 - a. There is a lack of mental health support services for youth.
 - b. Many youth are just "hanging out" in town or isolated in their homes.
 6. Youth identified a number of barriers that must be understood and managed in order to run a successful youth program.
 - a. Youth often feel judged and unwelcome by people in the community.
 - b. In a small community, complicated social relationships can prevent youth from participating in activities
 - c. Social anxiety is a barrier for many youth.
 - d. Youth are suspicious of a program having too many rules.
 - e. Youth indicated that program costs and fees could prevent them from participating.
 - f. Transportation to and from Sooke town centre is a challenge.

Recommendations

1. Youth have shown that they are engaged and involved with the proposed youth programming. Assembling a youth leadership group is essential to ensure quality programming, continued engagement, creating rules and guidelines, and inclusive problem-solving. Many youth in the focus groups volunteered their continued support with a leadership group. A connected youth leadership group will be able to adapt and understand the wishes and barriers of youth.
2. Hold youth consultation sessions with the T'Sou-ke Nation youth centre. The youth group is not meeting currently due to COVID-19. Input from T'Sou-ke Nation would be valuable for creating an inclusive space.
3. Provide a variety of program opportunities to meet the needs of diverse youth.
4. Harness the knowledge and resources of youth service providers in Sooke. There is a dedicated interest in collaborating to provide youth with the services they need.
5. Involve seniors in the formation of the program. The youth are interested in collaborating, learning, and volunteering with seniors.
6. There is an opportunity for Youth Service Providers and Youth to collaborate, coordinate and develop new Youth Programming in Sooke.

Survey Questions

Introduction:

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey. The answers you give will help two projects understand the needs and voices of youth in Sooke:

1. Sooke Region Communities Health Network (SRCHN) is planning to build a space that will be shared by seniors, teenagers, and the community. We would like to hear what you would like to see and do in this space.
2. The District of Sooke is completing their Official Community Plan (OCP) review. It's an opportunity for the District to ensure that the goals and objectives which were set out in the OCP are still important to the community.

1. How old are you?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 | |

2. In the community space, what would you like available to use any time you were there?

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snacks | <input type="checkbox"/> Board games | <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop or laptop computers for my own use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ping pong | <input type="checkbox"/> Gaming systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Free WiFi | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foosball | <input type="checkbox"/> Desktop or laptop computers to get school work done | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music studio | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air hockey | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Card games | | |

3. What other activities would you like from time to time?

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crafts | <input type="checkbox"/> Movie nights | <input type="checkbox"/> Biking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Painting | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> Acting/drama | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gaming | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | |

4. What would stop you from coming and using the space?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too many rules | <input type="checkbox"/> Smells weird | <input type="checkbox"/> No bike racks |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People who are not accepting of youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Too far from home | <input type="checkbox"/> No parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Weird hours | <input type="checkbox"/> Too far from school | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Boring style | _____ |

5. Would you like a family cooking night in the group kitchen?

- Yes
- No

6. What do you do outside of school time?

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hang out with friends | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts/performance/music | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboard | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Gaming | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Time in nature | |

7. Would you appreciate help from someone in the community with your hobbies/interests?

- Yes
- No

8. Employment-wise, which opportunities would youth in our community benefit from the most?

- Convenient access to training and certification programs (FoodSafe, First Aid/CPR, Serving it Right, etc.)
- A program, club, or class dedicated to entrepreneurship and self-employment
- Job shadowing opportunities for youth to explore career interest
- Placing a greater focus on financial literacy in the Career-Life Education course
- Other: _____

9. What type of job skills training programs would you be interested in?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trades | <input type="checkbox"/> Entrepreneur program | <input type="checkbox"/> Job hunting and interview skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Life skills | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate training | | |

10. How do you move around Sooke?

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drive | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Transit | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Driven by a family member or friend | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Walk | |

11. Where do you prefer to spend time with friends?

- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> My home | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbourhood street | <input type="checkbox"/> School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shopping centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Community centre | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public park | | |

12. What do you like about living in Sooke?

[Open Answer]

13. What don't you like about living in Sooke?

[Open Answer]

14. OCPs help address a wide range of themes. What five themes do you think should be prioritized? [rank order 5]

- Green Infrastructure
Using nature to manage stormwater and other resources
- Housing Choices
Providing a variety of housing types ranging from apartments, duplexes, secondary suites, affordable housing, and more!
- Natural Areas
Planting trees, protecting ecological areas and supporting natural systems
- Economic Development
Supporting local job creation, job skills programs
- Transportation Choices
Supporting safe choices for moving through Sooke
- Arts and Culture
Supporting arts and culture in Sooke
- Parks and Trails
Making more and better parks throughout Sooke
- Urban Design
Designing buildings, streets and other public spaces to be nice to spend time in

15. Your Vision

Pause for a moment and imagine what Sooke could look like in the future.

- What housing options do you have?
- What transportation choices are available?
- What kinds of open spaces and natural areas do you visit?
- Where do you work and how do you get there?
- What types of shops and services do you use?

What comes to mind? Share your vision!

Please consider housing, moving around the district, destinations and services, connecting with social networks, playing and relaxing, working, connecting with the natural world, tackling and adapting to climate change, and more...

[Open Answer]