

# Town of York, ME: 2017 Recreation Needs Assessment and Planning Report

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## Abstract/Project Summary

The town of York is a vibrant and active community with strong citizen involvement and interest in public recreation opportunities. The town has access to an abundance of outdoor recreation resources and amenities, and prides itself on its natural and historic character. Residents have expressed the need for an indoor community center, specifically having access to the spaces, places, and activities that help to foster community connectedness and a high quality of life. Public recreation opportunities can help to address these needs.

Based on the activities associated with this project, including background research, benchmarking, stakeholder focus groups and interviews, recreation public forum, and household survey, the following findings/recommendations are offered for consideration by the town of York.

1. Public input supported the need for multigenerational community recreation/activity space in York.
2. A multigenerational community center in York should include a separate, dedicated space for specific age groups.
3. A multigenerational community center in York should include a diverse array of recreation activity spaces based on resident's expressed needs.
4. Funding for the construction of a multigenerational community center should come from a diverse mix of funding sources.
5. Conduct site feasibility studies for the location of a new multigenerational indoor community center.
6. Consider combining a multigenerational indoor community center with a new Town Hall project.

Each of these recommendations are explained in greater detail, and data supporting each finding/recommendation is presented in the pages that follow.

## Introduction

The scope of this report focuses on the work of the planning and evaluation team from the University of New Hampshire in conducting a parks and recreation needs assessment for the town of York, ME during the Summer and Fall of 2017. The project was led by Dr. Bob Barcelona, Dr. Nate Trauntvein, Matthew Frye, and Samantha Powers from the University of New Hampshire. Specifically, the purpose of this study was the following:

1. To examine the need for a multigenerational community center as identified by the residents and key stakeholders in the town of York;
2. To determine the current and future needs and planning priorities for multigenerational community center facilities and activity spaces in York by engaging citizens in public input sessions, conducting a benchmarking study of peer/comparison communities, and implementing a town-wide needs assessment survey;
3. To assist the town of York in planning efforts, and provide a set of recommendations to meet the needs for multi-generational community center spaces now and in the future.



In addition to understanding the broad parks and recreation needs and priorities, the town was particularly concerned with whether there was a need for a new multigenerational indoor recreation facility to be constructed in York, and whether the construction of such a facility would be feasible given current and future need and demand, public support, and town resources. The UNH project team has expertise in community planning and parks and recreation administration, and team members have conducted similar community planning studies in New England and throughout the country.

The team's philosophy and approach in undertaking the study was one of "holding up a mirror" and reflecting back to the community what we heard during the data collection process. The results and recommendations presented in this report are a direct reflection of the data that was collected. While the team's expertise in parks and recreation planning played a role in the final recommendations and discussion, all recommendations were informed by the data gathered during an extensive research and public input process. The research and public input process included the following activities:

1. Background and information gathering related to existing parks and recreation resources in York;
2. Recreation facility tours and observations for major indoor and outdoor recreation facilities;
3. Benchmarking recreation facility space and budget allocations with peer communities identified by the Town of York;
4. Focus group and one-on-one meetings with recreation stakeholders and the public;
5. Large format public input session open to York residents;
6. Town-wide online household survey, with paper copies available for those who could not or chose not to access the survey online.

All public input activities were designed to get broad citizen participation and input into the process. Planning meetings with the Recreation Study Work Group to discuss the methodology used for this project, including all decisions related to data collection procedures, were open to the public for input, and public comments were considered and incorporated where feasible and consistent with the project's scope of work. Copies of study instruments, including the household survey, are included in the Appendix of this report.

## Summary of Project Activities

The following sections provide the data analysis and interpretation for the research and public input activities of the project. Every effort was made to capture the key themes and ideas generated by each of the project activities. An integration of the key ideas and themes across project activities will be discussed in the "Findings/Recommendations" section.

### 1. Background and Information Gathering

The project team reviewed information provided by the town of York that helped to provide historical, statistical, and demographic context for the report. In addition, the team reviewed overall town demographic information and trends provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

#### *About York*

The town of York is comprised of four distinct areas: York Village, York Beach, York Harbor, and Cape Neddick. York encompasses a rich history with the New England charm of a traditional seacoast community. Each summer, York sees an influx of tourists who come to visit the sandy beaches, iconic harbor, and the famous Nubble Light House. York is easily accessible from Boston and Portland via Interstate 95 and U.S. Route 1 and, given its historical and recreational appeal, it has become a most desirable community for tourists and commuter families as well. While it is known for its summer tourism, York and its residents value their sense of community which extends far beyond their seasonal visitors. The town has expressed an interest in an indoor recreation center which would serve as a community center for both residents of York and those of the surrounding areas.

Most recent Census data estimates that York has a population of 12,947 residents and 8,649 households (U.S. Census Bureau, 2016). Since 2010, the population of York has increased by 3.4%. Approximately 20.2% of the population is under the age of 18, while 21.5% is over the age of 65

(U.S. Census Bureau, 2017). Demographic trends show the population of York is aging (median age for York residents is 49.3 years) further suggesting the need for more dedicated recreational space for older adults. In addition to its year-round population, York also has a sizeable seasonal population; while there are many different estimates of the seasonal population in York, the 2015 Hazard Mitigation Plan estimates that York's seasonal population is approximately 18,690.

York has four schools in its district: a lower elementary school, upper elementary school, middle school, and high school. Students from all four villages attend these schools together. York school enrollment trends remains steady, suggesting that youth programs will continue to be in high demand and the need for indoor recreation space for youth activities will remain.

### *Parks and Recreation*

The town of York offers a vast assortment of successful recreational programs, but currently lacks a dedicated indoor facility in which to run their programs. Some of the most popular program offerings are youth sports, summer camps, adult fitness programs, and senior services. The Parks and Recreation department has maintained a strong, long-term partnership with the town school system and runs many programs at the middle school, high school, and elementary schools; facility usage requests can be made online on each school's website. "It is the School Committee's desire that the local taxpayers be able to obtain maximum use of the facilities, to the extent consistent with the primary educational function of the school. It is intended that community uses for educational, recreational, social, civic, philanthropic, and like purposes be approved by the administration, in accordance with this policy, the implementing regulations, and a fee schedule approved by this School Committee" (Community Use of School Facilities Policy, adopted 2002). However, despite this successful relationship, securing indoor space in York appears to remain a challenge.

There are some programs that the town offers through private facilities or the facilities of surrounding communities; for example, as York does not have an indoor or outdoor pool, the closest place for youth swim lessons is in Portsmouth. Many York residents use private fitness facilities or local community centers of nearby towns such as Kittery.



## 2. General Observations of Indoor Facilities used by York Parks & Rec

### *Village Elementary School (K-1 Primary School), Coastal Ridge Elementary School (2-4 Primary School)*

- ✓ The schools host a variety of programs managed by the recreation department; the most usable spaces include the gymnasiums, cafeterias, and larger classrooms. The recreation department partners with the elementary schools for use of their basketball courts, however, court availability remains a key concern. There is not enough court space to support the increasing popularity of the youth basketball programs and adult programs.
- ✓ The cafeteria and classrooms provide usable space for passive indoor recreation activities, space for arts and crafts, snacks/meals, and meetings. These spaces are not practically usable for active recreation activities, and set-up and take down of tables and chairs to prepare the activity space creates a significant challenge for recreation staff.
- ✓ Village Elementary School hosts several of York's summer programs, including the Junior Adventure Camp, science camp, arts and crafts, and jewelry making. The Junior Adventure Camp uses the main facilities including the gym and cafeteria.

### *York Middle School (grades 5-8)*

- ✓ The middle school is home to the Outdoor Adventure Summer Camp and other summer camp programs, most of which use the gym, cafeteria, and library. Additionally, the music room is a great asset for theater and music camps.
- ✓ As with the elementary schools, the gym is used for youth and adult basketball and additionally a new wrestling program run through the recreation department.
- ✓ The recreation department used to provide after school programming at the middle school, but there currently appears to be a gap in programming at the middle school level, as many programs are targeted to elementary and high school aged children.
- ✓ There is an adult walking program at the middle school which begins at 4pm each day; this is especially popular among seniors when they are unable to walk outdoors due to cold or rainy weather.

### *York High School (grades 9-12)*

- ✓ The recreation department uses many of the facilities at York High School, but scheduling remains a challenge. The indoor gymnasium space is particularly popular for pickle ball, basketball, and volleyball. Additionally, in the summer, theater camp uses the chorus room and fashion camp uses the home economics classroom. The classrooms also provide meeting space for afterschool activities as well some independent groups.

### *Anchorage Inn*

- ✓ The Anchorage Inn is the current location of aquatic programs for older adults in York. Seniors can use this facility at a discounted rate. The youth programs used to be housed here as well, but York is now exploring the new partnership with the Portsmouth indoor pool.

### *Portsmouth Indoor Pool*

- ✓ York's recreation department recently secured a partnership with the Portsmouth indoor pool to provide swim lessons to children from York. The new program, starting in the fall, will include bus transportation from York public schools to the Portsmouth pool, a 30-minute lesson and free swim, followed by return transportation. While this is a great partnership, the lengthy bus ride is a significant downside.

### *Kittery Community Center*

- ✓ York currently partners with the Kittery Community Center for use of indoor pickleball courts, which is especially popular within the older adult community. Many York residents use the Kittery Community Center and have expressed desire for something similar, but less “sterile”, in York.

### *Fitness Options*

- ✓ This fitness studio in York currently offers many fitness classes. People can register through York’s recreation department, but the classes are held in this studio.

### *Senior Center*

- ✓ The York Senior Center is located in the town’s old police department. It is a 501c non-profit organization, which allows it to secure grants and other funding to keep low cost membership as well as reduced cost program fees. The current facility is small and cannot accommodate the amount of people who are interested, especially during the peak summer months. Additionally, it lacks adequate parking for functions and events. The facility has a commercial kitchen, but it is small and the equipment is old. The center offers great programming in York and has both domestic and international trips. The most popular program is the MEALs program, which serves lunch for \$4 each day. For many seniors, this is their main meal.



### 3. Benchmarking

Five (5) benchmark communities were identified by the town of York and the UNH project team. Benchmark communities were deemed by the town to be comparable along dimensions of size, scope of services offered, geographic location, or some combination; additionally, the communities identified each have similar multi-generational community centers/recreation facilities in regards to square footage, activity spaces, staffing levels, capital costs, operational costs, and cost recovery potential. The benchmark communities identified in this study were: Kittery, ME; South Portland, ME; Portsmouth, NH; Dover, NH; and Meredith, NH. The project team visited the indoor facilities of each of the benchmark communities to gather data and solicit information about their general operations.

With such a diverse group of communities spread throughout different regions of Northern New England, it is difficult to compare one community to another and likewise, is challenging to quantitatively compare indoor facilities through items such as general fund allocations, operating costs, or cost recovery. A more qualitative comparison of facilities can be seen below through descriptions of what each facility includes as well as the types of programming offered in the space.

Table 1 shows information about town support for recreation. However, making comparisons between communities' recreation general fund allocations and cost recovery estimates is challenging due to the disparate nature of what is considered part of the recreation department in each community. For example, while Kittery's recreation allocation includes budgeted funds for the town's community center and related programs, Dover's recreation allocation represents not only their community center and programs, but also indoor pool, outdoor pool, and ice skating arena. Likewise, departmental cost recovery estimates also vary widely by each community's means of generating revenue. While Dover's recreation department recovers a high percentage of costs from user fees and memberships to the aforementioned facilities, Meredith relies more heavily on facility rentals. It is important to keep in mind the varied nature of these communities when viewing the tables below.

In this analysis, York is comparable to peer communities in terms of recreation general fund allocations, and is on the lower half of its peer communities in recreation tax funding allocation per capita. However, in regards to general recreation fund cost recovery, York generates over half of its budget from user fees and other charges with a cost recovery rate of approximately 53%. The recreation budget allocation as a percentage of the overall town budget is comparable to peer communities, but does remain on the lower end of the spectrum. Overall, in comparison with peer communities, York appears have a smaller per capita budget in regards to recreation; however, this is likely due to the inclusion of the sizable seasonal population in the per capita calculations. With this in mind, as well as the town's cost recovery strategies, York appears to be much more successful than its peer communities in its ability to generate revenue from recreation programs and services.

Table 1: Benchmarking Information: Town Financial Support of Recreation

Town	Year-Round Population	Seasonal Population	Rec General Fund Allocation	Rec Allocation Per Capita	Rec Dept. Cost Recovery	% Rec Dept. Cost Recovery	Rec Allocation as % of Town Budget	Rec Staff FTE
Dover	31,153	N/A	\$2,095,972	\$67.28	\$1,584,078	43.0%	5%	6
Kittery	9,644	1,570	\$1,233,819	\$110.02	\$750,000	37.8%	4%	10
Meredith	6,287	18,000	\$719,110	\$29.61	\$87,314	10.8%	5%	5
Portsmouth	21,485	N/A	\$825,384	\$38.42	\$256,770	31.1%	1%	4
South Portland	25,577	N/A	\$2,458,226	\$96.11	\$222,701	8.3%	8%	7
<b>York</b>	<b>12,947</b>	<b>18,690</b>	<b>\$1,294,196</b>	<b>\$40.90</b>	<b>\$1,435,085</b>	<b>52.6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>5</b>

Table 2 shows a more detailed analysis of the indoor recreation facilities of the benchmarking communities, including figures representing the town's construction or remodeling costs, annual operating costs of their indoor facilities, and annual cost recovery generated from the facility alone (memberships, user fees, rentals, facility specific programming, etc.). While the table below gives information about each community's indoor facility, it is important to keep in mind that each facility is very different, and therefore operating costs as well as methods of cost recovery vary by facility and what the facility is designed to offer. For example, Portsmouth and South Portland have daily use fees as well as memberships for their pool which generate significant revenue for their facilities. Dover and Kittery's indoor facilities, on the other hand, generate a strong portion of their revenue from facility rentals (both permanent rental contracts and short-term rentals).

Each of the peer communities was asked about their programming for older adults. All five communities have senior centers as well as specific senior programming which is managed by the recreation department. In every town except Portsmouth, the senior center is directly attached to the main recreation facility, meaning that seniors have access to other amenities such as fitness areas, courts, and aquatic facilities.

Table 2: Benchmarking Information: Indoor Recreation Facilities

Town	Year Built	Sq. Ft.	Capital Const. Cost	Annual Op. Cost	Facility Cost Recovery	% Facility Cost Recovery	Permanent Rental Space	Senior Center Attached
Dover	1905	102,895	\$7,883,621 (renovated 2004)	\$211,331	\$77,160	37%	Yes	Yes
Kittery	1941	49,558	\$5,500,000 (renovated and expanded 2012)	\$269,507	\$85,294	32%	Yes	Yes
Meredith	2006	18,000	\$3,500,000	\$102,700	\$87,314	85%	No	Yes
Portsmouth	Obtained 2000	N/A	\$750,000 (renovated 2000)	\$267,297*	\$240,567	90%	No	No
South Portland	1976;1999	N/A	\$2,500,000 (1999)	\$210,192	\$119,636	57%	No	Yes

\* Annual operating cost includes employee salaries and related expenses (i.e. social security)

Of the benchmark communities, all five have dedicated indoor activity space specifically for town recreation programs and services, similar to what the town of York is interested in. However, of these five, only Meredith and South Portland constructed their facilities with the purposes of recreation in mind. Kittery and Dover have both acquired former school properties and are using these in the provision of town recreation programs and services; Dover invested a considerable amount of money into renovating and remodeling the space. Portsmouth acquired their indoor space in 2000 from the Spinnaker Point Condo Association and proceeded to remodel the facility to be used as a public recreation site.

All the benchmark communities reported that their town recreation departments provide programs and services for older adults. With the exception of Portsmouth, all of the other benchmark communities have an area for older adults which is directly attached to their main indoor recreation facility. The recreation department of Portsmouth does provide programming for older adults, but it is offered at the Senior Activity Center at the Foundation for Seacoast Health's Community Campus. Common programs provided for older adults in the benchmark communities include ballroom dancing, Bingo, senior trips, fitness programs, socialization opportunities, and senior meals.

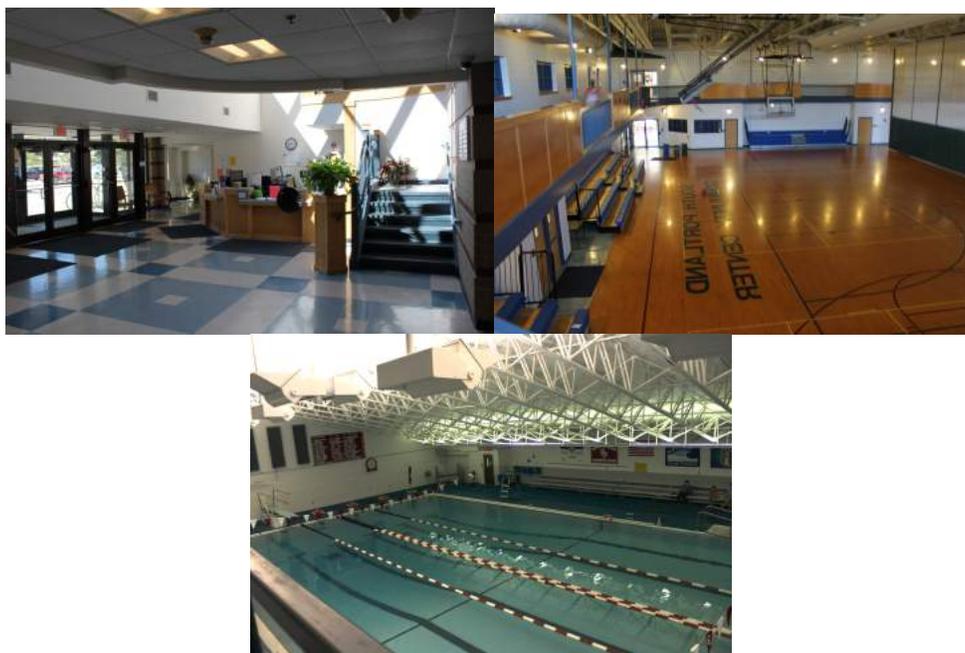
#### ✓ Kittery, ME

The town of Kittery's indoor recreation facility operates out of the former Frisbee Elementary School (originally built as a Federal Public Works Project in 1941) which closed in 2009. The school was converted to a community center which opened to the public in 2012. Current yearly membership fees to the community center are as follows for residents and nonresidents, respectively: youth/senior- \$90, \$120; adult- \$180, \$240. Other sources of cost recovery include personal training sessions, punch passes, theater tickets, and facility rentals. The facility itself

employs four reception staff, three dedicated custodial staff, and three full time program staff. The community center also has its own board of directors. Kittery's senior center is incorporated into the recreation department and is located inside the community center, offering weekly programs to both residents and nonresidents. The community center offers both youth and adult programming which includes sports, fitness classes, art workshops, trips, and socials. The facility also has an art gallery and a theater for concerts and other special events.

### ✓ South Portland, ME

The town of South Portland has two indoor recreation centers: The South Portland Community Center (SPCC) and the Redbank Teen Center. The SPCC was constructed in 1999 as an addition the town's existing indoor pool, which was built in 1976. The center employs seven full time staff and nearly 50 part time staff depending on the season. Today, the facility includes two gymnasiums, an elevated track, a senior wing with an industrial kitchen, large multipurpose and conference rooms, pool, afterschool program, aerobic area, and the recreation department offices. The center is home to both youth and adult programming. While the facility does include a senior wing, it is not a dedicated space for older adults and is often commandeered for other programming needs. In the next few years, South Portland hopes to expand their afterschool programs beyond the center and into the elementary schools of the city, thus freeing up the afterschool wing of the building. The director hopes that this area could become a dedicated senior center as the town's older adult population needs a space which can facilitate a drop-in center and more targeted programming for seniors. On the other side of South Portland lies the Redbank Community Center. This is specifically a teen center which has a full gym, kitchen, activity and game room, as well as an outdoor pavilion. The Redbank Center provides programming for teenagers in middle school through high school.



## ✓ Portsmouth, NH

Portsmouth has three indoor recreation facilities: Spinnaker Point Adult Recreation Center, Connie Bean Community Center (youth center), and an indoor pool. The town of Portsmouth acquired the Spinnaker Point center in 2000 at next to no cost, but put \$750,000 into remodeling the facility. The initial building was constructed in the late 80s and included the oval structure pictured below. In 2002 when Portsmouth recreation took over the facility, a new gymnasium was constructed (rectangle structure on the left). Spinnaker Point is an adult only facility and therefore requires low supervision in terms of staffing (for example, no lifeguards are employed here). The facility director is the only full time employee, and there are generally about eight part-time employees who manage the front desk. All of the classes and fitness programs are managed by independent instructors who pay rent to use the facility and then charge their own program fees. Yearly membership fees for Spinnaker Point indoor recreation facility includes the following: Adult resident- \$162, senior resident- \$81, non-resident- \$324, non resident senior- \$162. Daily fees are as follows: \$5/day for resident and \$10/day for nonresident. Membership includes access to cardiovascular fitness equipment, spin room, free weights, 4 lane pool, hot tub, steam room, saunas, full court gymnasium, and a variety of group classes held in the multipurpose room.

In Portsmouth, the senior center is housed within the Community Campus, a part of the Foundation for Seacoast Health, yet the senior center coordinator is an employee of the Portsmouth Recreation Department. The department provides a variety of programs similar to that of the other benchmarking communities. Anyone can visit the drop-in senior center lounge free of charge, and many of the programs are also free. Portsmouth is in the process of acquiring a new senior center facility, but it will not be attached to their main adult recreation center.



## ✓ Dover, NH

Dover's main indoor recreation center is the McConnell Center; the building was formerly Dover High School, but was remodeled for recreational use in 2002. The center includes an array of town offices, rental space, multipurpose rooms, gym, and senior center; the recreation department and the senior center each have a dedicated entrance, although you can navigate the areas of the building from the inside as well. The McConnell Center is unique in that it was established through a government bond under the conditions that it would remain a space for recreation municipal offices and additionally include rental space for non-profit offices and headquarters. This unique partnership has made the Dover recreation department an integral part of the city government and a clear liaison between the municipal and non-profit sectors. Although the center has a dedicated area for older adults, seniors can access and use the entire facility including the fitness courses and cardio equipment.

Both residents and nonresidents can obtain yearly memberships to the McConnell Center at the following costs: adult resident- \$120, senior/youth resident- \$65, adult nonresident-\$150, senior/youth nonresident- \$80. People may also pay daily to visit the facility at the following costs: adult resident- \$5, senior/youth resident- \$3, adult nonresident- \$7, senior/youth nonresident- \$4. The center employs four full time staff members and 20 to 30 part time employees to manage programming and building maintenance. In addition to the McConnell Center, Dover also has an indoor ice arena and an indoor pool, both of which are managed by the recreation department.



## ✓ Meredith, NH

The Town of Meredith, NH has an indoor recreation facility which was built in 2006 for \$3.5 million; it includes basketball/volleyball courts, multipurpose rooms, meeting rooms, offices, locker rooms, kitchen; Meredith generates approximately \$87,314 by indoor facility, while the average operating expenses are \$102,700; town recreation department runs programs for seniors focusing on socialization, exercise, health, and education. Facility rentals are the main source of cost recovery for Meredith's indoor recreation center.

## 4. Observations and Themes from Focus Groups

Focus groups and interviews were held with concerned citizens and stakeholder groups in York throughout the day on Monday, June 5, 2017, Tuesday, June 6, 2017, and Wednesday June 7, 2017. Approximately 13 focus groups were held with approximately 80 residents and stakeholders. Stakeholder groups represented a range of interests including recreation and town staff, program partners, community service groups, Select Board members, adult recreation participants, summer residents, York Advisory Committee members, parents of recreation participants, youth participants, York school administration, recreational sport coaches and officials, and seniors. Meetings were scheduled through the town and coordinated with the Recreation Department, and were facilitated by the project team from UNH. Meetings consisted of an open, guided conversation related to the recreation needs and priorities in York. Detailed notes of public sessions were taken by the project team for each meeting.

The project team met to review focus group notes and discuss salient themes and trends that emerged across the interviews. The following themes and observations were found by the team to be dominant and salient throughout the focus group and interview process:

- **The Town of York has committed citizens interested in public recreation issues.** The public is clearly invested in the discussion regarding public recreation in York, regardless of whether they support or oppose the building of a new indoor recreation facility. This was evident in the number of residents who attended focus groups and other events and activities related to this project. Residents are clearly interested in issues that affect them, including public spending, economic development, shifting demographic trends, quality of public education, and issues impacting quality of life (including recreation). All of these topics were mentioned and discussed in focus group conversations.
- **There is a group of citizens concerned with the idea of new indoor recreation facility development due to lack of trust with the city government.** There are numerous concerns that have been raised about new recreation facility development, particularly related to an indoor recreation building. At the center of these concerns are perceptions of the project's cost and scope, with residents worried about the feasibility of the project. Other reasons mentioned throughout the focus groups and interviews include a lack of trust with the town based on past infrastructure and spending projects and a feeling that there has been a lack of transparency with previous town projects. Some residents have suggested a need to reevaluate and inventory current facility opportunities including schools, private facilities, and unused commercial space.

- **There is support to reevaluate current facility partnerships as well as expand partnerships with additional public and private organizations in the area.** Many residents mentioned existing facilities in York which the recreation department may be able to gain more consistent access to. These include several hotel pools, basketball court behind Star of the Sea, and many of the function rooms in the local churches. Furthermore, there is a desire to reevaluate use of the schools to improve efficiency and scheduling conflicts. The hospital wellness center as well as empty commercial space were also mentioned as potential opportunities for indoor space.
- **There is a large, passionate group of multigenerational citizens who are advocates for developing a new indoor recreation facility.** Many focus group participants stated that they currently travel outside of York for indoor recreation opportunities, specifically to Kittery and Portsmouth; they expressed desire for York to have a facility like the one in Kittery. Many residents of all ages have expressed the need for indoor walking space, especially in the winter. While outdoor walking works in the summer months, in the winter, many residents walk in the school hallways (only available after 4pm) or in the mall, neither of which are sufficient. There is a significant need for more multipurpose meeting space with storage areas whether it be for recreation programming, large functions, school activities, non-profits, or town meetings. Additionally, supporters of the facility would like to see low cost access to cardio equipment, free weights, space for fitness classes, and a multipurpose gymnasium which could be used for pickup basketball, youth basketball, pickleball, and volleyball. Furthermore, many key stakeholders have expressed the need for an indoor pool which could provide low cost swim lessons for local youth, allow for York High School to have a swim team, be a source of revenue for hosting swim meets and other events, and provide public access space for recreational swimming and aquatic classes. While the focus of many recreation facilities is often fitness and sports, there is a significant desire among York residents to have a more diverse facility which includes space for performances, art exhibitions, and music. Residents would also like to see a free, drop-in community space with a café-style atmosphere.



- **There is a desire for a new facility to incorporate recreation space as well as town hall offices;** furthermore, there is some frustration among residents who feel that the need for a town hall office building should take precedent over a new recreation facility.
- **There is a need for a place for kids and teenagers to go after school, in the evenings, and on the weekends.** For youth who are not participating in sports, there is gap in programming, particularly at the middle school level. Currently, many middle school and high school students hang out at the Scoop Ice Cream Shop, but there is a need for a dedicated space with supervision. Kids and teenagers expressed the need for a facility that is easy to access (walking distance from schools would be ideal) and open in the evenings and on weekends. All of the high school focus group participants also expressed the need for a dedicated space for teenagers which could include a game room and study room. Additionally, some citizens expressed the need for a drop-in childcare facility or day care facility that is run by the recreation department.
- **Many seniors recognize that the current senior center space is inadequate; however, they have concerns over a shared multigenerational building as well as fear of increased user fees and loss of what they currently have.** The support among seniors for having a new facility with dedicated recreation, social, and activity space for older adults is contingent upon no loss of current programming and no increase in memberships fees. Additionally, seniors and senior center employees expressed the need for the senior center to remain a 501c nonprofit organization, as this is how the center funds many of their programs and keeps costs low for participants. Additional hesitation with a multigenerational facility appears to stem from the fear of the loss of dedicated space and of what they have now. Despite these hesitations and concerns, there is support for a new facility, as members and staff of the current senior center have expressed the insufficiency of the space in the current facility including not having enough multipurpose rooms, lack of a large function room, not enough parking for members, and a kitchen which is too small for their needs. Some seniors have also expressed the need for indoor walking space, especially in the winter as the school hallways are only usable after 4pm. Seniors currently use the indoor pool at Anchorage Inn for a discounted rate. However, some seniors supported the idea of building an indoor pool for the town of York. A senior center housed in a larger recreation facility would need to have its own entrance, commercial kitchen (for the MEALs program, cooking classes, and functions), dedicated parking area, and several multipurpose rooms (one of which should be able to hold 100+ people). The seniors would also need to have access to the rest of the recreation facility space. The seniors expressed that they do not want to share a space with children: “I don’t want to eat across from the four year olds!” The idea of a campus approach where the senior center and indoor recreation facility would be in the same vicinity, but not attached seemed popular among the older adults and reinforced the concept of a dedicated space.
- **There is a need for an open community space where people of all ages can go to gather and socialize.** Focus group participants discussed the separation between the four villages, and expressed desire for a place which could facilitate a more connected community. The closest thing to a community center which participants identified was the public library; however, many residents expressed frustrations with the library, specifically lack of internet access, multipurpose rooms, and space to socialize. There is a clear need for

a public space in which people can come together as a community to socialize, relax, and access online resources. The library is not practical for this as the space is small and must remain a quiet atmosphere. Many citizens expressed desire for a café-style indoor space in which people could study, socialize, and have meetings. Furthermore, several focus groups mentioned the need for public internet access during power outages. One group even suggested the idea that an indoor recreation facility could serve as an emergency shelter space for the town.

- **Many citizens are also interested in more outdoor recreation facilities, but still feel that the indoor facility is the priority.** Focus group participants expressed desire for more outdoor walking trails. Additionally, some people felt the need for an additional outdoor space which includes a playground and basketball court, as the ones by the beach are often dominated by tourists, especially in the summer. There is also a desire for more community garden space.

## 5. Data Analysis from the Recreation Public Forum Session

A public input session was held in the York Middle School auditorium on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. All York residents were invited to attend, and the event was publicized through printed information located in town offices, electronic billboards, and via a postcard sent to resident homes, and through York's town Facebook page. Approximately 60 residents attended the public input session, which included public survey polling using the iClicker system, as well as group exercises designed to receive public input on important recreation planning issues, such as facility development, management priorities, and community needs.

The following table shows the demographic profile of the 60 residents in attendance at the public input session. Only those residents who provided answers to the demographic questions are included in the table below.

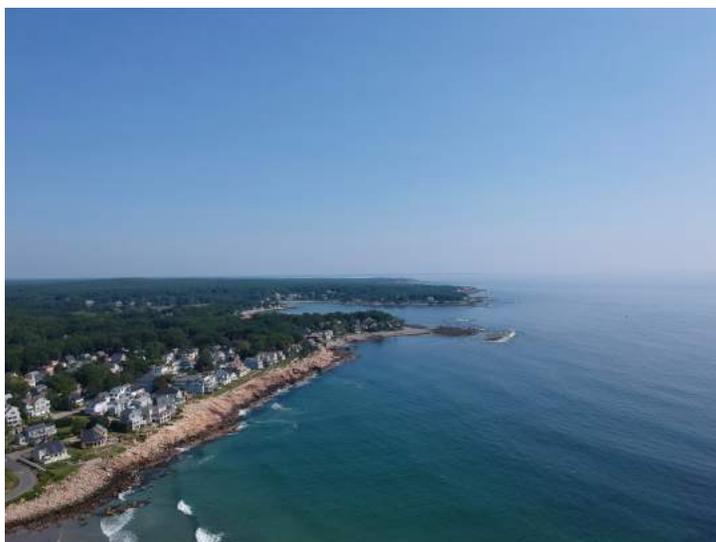


Table 3: Activity Space Preference for the Town of York

Activity Space	Very Important	Important	Neither	Unimportant	Very Unimportant
Dedicated space for senior activities	66% (40)	15% (9)	7% (4)	5% (3)	8% (5)
Dedicated space for youth/teen activities	48% (30)	19% (12)	11% (7)	8% (5)	13% (8)
Multipurpose activity space	41% (25)	20% (12)	8% (5)	13% (8)	18% (11)
Indoor walking/jogging	35% (22)	26% (16)	6% (4)	11% (7)	21% (13)
Outdoor walking paths/trails	34% (11)	28% (9)	6% (2)	6 (2%)	25% (8%)
Dedicated space for early child	32% (20)	29% (18)	5% (3)	13% (8)	21% (13)
Cardio workout space	31% (19)	20% (12)	8% (5)	7% (4)	34% (21)
Indoor pool	36% (20)	12% (7)	9% (5)	7% (4)	36% (20)
Gymnastics/athletic courts	30% (17)	16% (9)	18% (10)	19% (11)	18% (10)
Commercial kitchen	29% (18)	18% (18%)	18% (11)	5% (3)	31% (19)
Arts and crafts	23% (14)	22% (13)	15% (9)	10% (6)	30% (18)
Community meeting/conference room	20% (12)	25% (15)	11% (7)	13% (8)	31% (19)
Strength/weight training	20% (12)	20% (12)	13% (8)	8% (5)	39% (24)
Outdoor playgrounds	13% (8)	20% (12)	18% (11)	13% (8)	36% (22)
Indoor climbing wall	13% (8)	16% (10)	13% (8)	11% (7)	46% (28)
Outdoor community gardens	13% (5)	11% (4)	21% (8)	13% (5)	42% (16)
Outdoor hardscape patio with seating	11% (7)	25% (16)	10% (6)	13% (8)	41% (26)
Outdoor open green space	11% (7)	21% (13)	18% (11)	7% (4)	43% (26)
Outdoor swimming pool	11% (7)	8% (5)	13% (8)	14% (9)	54% (34)
Performing arts space	10% (6)	15% (9)	8% (5)	14% (8)	53% (31)
Indoor artificial turf	5% (3)	5% (3)	20% (12)	18% (11)	52% (31)
Outdoor fitness trail/stations	3% (2)	17% (11)	21% (13)	8% (5)	51% (32)

Survey questions given at the public input session were designed to test some of the themes that were heard in the focus groups, and to receive deeper input on recreation planning issues. For example, residents were asked whether they believed that the town should explore the feasibility of building an indoor community center to meet indoor space needs. Responses to these questions are noted in the table below.

Table 4: Philosophy on Town-Sponsored Recreation Facilities

	<b>n</b>	<b>Percent</b>
What is your current level of satisfaction with the facilities and spaces used for indoor recreation or community activities in the Town of York?		
Very Satisfied	11	17%
Satisfied	15	23%
Neutral	8	12%
Unsatisfied	17	26%
Very Unsatisfied	14	22%
The Town of York should explore the feasibility of building an indoor recreation/community center to meet indoor space needs.		
Strongly agree	31	46%
Agree	10	15%
Neutral	1	1%
Disagree	8	12%
Strongly Disagree	18	26%
If the Town explores the feasibility of building an indoor recreation/community center, what level of priority should this be for the Town?		
Essential	15	22%
High Priority	20	29%
Medium Priority	9	13%
Low Priority	9	13%
Not at All a Priority	15	22%

Table 5: Barriers to Community Recreation

<b>Type of Barriers</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Availability of facilities	31	46%
Quality of facilities	27	39%
Availability of programs	25	36%
Lack of information	24	36%
Travel distance	22	33%
Location of programs	22	31%
Time	21	27%
Cost	19	27%
Quality of programs	16	23%

A series of table exercises were completed where public input participants were asked to discuss a series of questions related to their priorities for new recreation programs and/or new recreation facilities. Participants were asked to work individually and discuss their thoughts with those sitting at their table. In some cases, tables were asked to try to come up with consensus around priorities for recreation program and facility development. For example, participants were asked to talk about and list in order of importance their top three priorities for town recreation programs and services, and for recreation facilities and amenities.

Participants' priorities for recreation facility development were grouped into common types, and listed in order based on the frequency of occurrence on table notecards. Facility priorities are noted below:

- ✓ Dedicated space for senior activities, programs, and meals (71%)
- ✓ Indoor pool (51.7%)
- ✓ Dedicated space for youth/teen activities/programs (48.3%)
- ✓ Indoor walking/jogging track (38.3%)
- ✓ Commercial kitchen and indoor dining space (25%)
- ✓ Outdoor walking paths and trails (25%)
- ✓ Indoor gymnasium/athletic court use (21.7%)
- ✓ Multipurpose gym or studio space (e.g. dance, martial arts, aerobics) (21.7%)
- ✓ Community meeting and/or conference room space (18.3%)
- ✓ Dedicated space for early child and/or school-ages activities and programs (18.3%)
- ✓ Strength/weight training space (16.7%)
- ✓ Cardio workout space (e.g. treadmills, elliptical machines) (15%)
- ✓ Indoor climbing wall (11.7%)
- ✓ Arts and crafts space (8.3%)
- ✓ Performing arts space (e.g. theater, stage) (6.7%)
- ✓ Tennis (6.7%)
- ✓ Outdoor community gardens (5%)
- ✓ Outdoor playgrounds (5%)
- ✓ Dog park (5%)
- ✓ Outdoor open green space for pickup or informal activities (3.3%)
- ✓ Bike trail (3.3%)
- ✓ Outdoor hardscape patio with seating (1.7%)

Within their table groups, recreation forum participants were given a prompt which asked them to meet the short term (3-5 years) needs of the community. Participant responses were grouped into common types and listed in order based on the frequency of occurrence by group. Short term needs are noted below:

1. Build multigenerational community center
  - Community indoor pool
  - Community indoor walking track, activity rooms, and fitness center
  - Teen center, meeting rooms
  - Indoor tennis courts, movie theater, senior center, commercial kitchen, climbing wall

2. Senior center renovations
  - More rooms
  - Bigger rooms, outdoor spaces
  - Fitness center
3. Build new town hall
  - Feasibility study for new town hall
  - Municipal complex with community center
4. Maximize current space use (use schools more efficiently)
5. Build new senior center
6. Maintain senior center program coordinator position
7. Increase public/private partnerships (hotel pools)
8. Increase access to public transportation
9. Open greenspace (park) areas
10. Preschool center
11. Increase access and participation in afterschool programs

The remaining short term needs occurred once within the groups, and are therefore not possible to rank:

- ✓ Increase storage for organizations
- ✓ Outdoor walking paths
- ✓ Bike trails
- ✓ Restaurant in York village open until 10pm
- ✓ Improve rooftop boat access to harbor and river
- ✓ Partnership with Kittery community center
- ✓ Relocate parks and recreation department

Within their table groups, recreation forum participants were given a prompt which asked them to meet the long term (5-10 years) needs of the community. Participant responses were grouped into common types and listed in order based on the frequency of occurrence by group. Long term needs are noted below:

1. Indoor pool
2. Build new multigenerational community center
3. Common spaces for community programs

The following needs occurred only once or twice within groups, and are therefore not possible to rank:

- ✓ Municipal center including town hall and multigenerational community center
- ✓ Indoor track
- ✓ Build new town hall
- ✓ Increase access to meeting spaces
- ✓ Teen center
- ✓ Outdoor paths for biking and walking
- ✓ Outdoor pool
- ✓ Increase access to public transportation
- ✓ Increase low income housing



Table 6: Demographics for the Resident Survey

Variable	Percent, Median or Mean	Number
<i>Age</i>		
Average Age	Median = 55 (SD 14.7)	541
18-35	7.9%	44
36-50	35.9%	194
51-64	26.2%	142
65-80	27.6%	149
81 and older	2.2%	12
<i>Gender</i>		
Male	30.5%	188
Female	67.7%	418
<i>Employment Status</i>		
Employed Full-Time	56.7%	367
Employed Part-Time	12.8%	83
Retired	34.6%	224
Not Retired nor Employed	2.5%	16
<i>Number of Years (part &amp; full)</i>		
Average Number of years	M = 21.7 (SD 17.2)	606
0-10	34.5%	209
11-20	23.6%	143
21-40	28.4%	172
41 and more	13.5%	82
<i>Months per year in Town</i>		
Average months	M = 11.4 (SD 1.8)	602
0-6	5.6%	29
7-11	5.2%	24
12 months	89.2%	537
<i>Primary or Seasonal Residents</i>		
Primary Residence	93.4%	579
Second or Seasonal Residence	6.0%	37
<i>Households w/ Children</i>		
Children under the age of 5	17.6%	109
Children between 6-12	25.4%	157
Children between 13-18	18.8%	115
Grandchildren living in Town	11.6%	71

The demographics of survey respondents varied slightly from the demographics of the overall population in York. While the median age for survey respondents was 55 years old, the overall median age in York is 49, showing that respondents skewed older. Additionally, respondents included a much higher percentage of females than is representative in the overall town demographics, yet females still represent a greater percentage of citizens in York. Over ninety

percent of the survey respondents identified York as their primary residence, yet York's seasonal population is greater than the full-time resident population. Households with children represented 28.2% of survey respondents, which is consistent with the U.S. Census data which shows that just over 30% of households in York county are households with children under the age of 18.

### *Use of Recreation Facilities and Amenities in York*

Respondents were asked how frequently they used the recreation facilities and amenities in York. The facilities that received the most use more than once per year were York High School (51.2%), private/independent instruction of classes (38.2%), York Middle School (37.9%), and pools at York hotels (37.2%). This aligns with the constraints to participation, specifically respondent perception that the facilities needed are not available, which may explain low usage of current facilities. The table below shows the breakdown of recreation facility use in York by survey respondents.

Table 7: Frequency of Indoor Recreation Facility Use in York

	>1 per year	>10 per year
York High School	51.2%	21.8%
Private/Independent Instruction of Classes	38.2%	21.3%
York Middle School	37.9%	18.9%
Pools at York Hotels	37.2%	16.4%
Private/Independent Fitness Facilities	36.5%	24.9%
Village Elementary School	32.9%	16.2%
Coastal Ridge Elementary School	32.3%	14.8%
York Senior Center	23.8%	12.5%
Seacoast United	22.4%	10.4%
Living Well Center	18.2%	7.3%
Paddle Club	4.3%	1.1%



### *Use of Recreation Facilities Outside of York*

Survey respondents were also asked how frequently they used recreation facilities and amenities outside of York. Popular non-York facilities that were used more than once per year by some survey respondents include out-of-town instruction/classes (44.8%), out-of-town fitness facilities (40.8%), and Kittery Community Center (36.8%). Popular out-of-town facilities that were used more than 10 times per year were out-of-town instruction/classes (31%) and out-of-town fitness facilities (29.7%) and out-of-town instruction/classes (24.7%). The table below shows the breakdown of out-of-town recreation facility use by survey respondents.

Table 8: Frequency of Recreation Facility Use Outside York

	>1 per year	>10 per year
Out-of-town Fitness Facilities	44.8%	29.7%
Out-of-town Instruction or Classes	40.8%	24.7%
Kittery Community Center	36.8%	13.1%
Great Bay Tennis and Fitness	4.6%	2.3%

### *Constraints to Recreation Participation in York*

Respondents were also asked the reasons why they did not use the recreation facilities or properties in York, or why they may use them less than they would like. Almost half (48.2%) agreed or strongly agreed that the “facilities needed are not available” and that there were “better recreation opportunities available elsewhere” (45.0%). More than one-third of survey respondents (36.2%) agreed or strongly agreed that the “facilities are not adequate to meet my/my family’s needs.” The table below shows the breakdown of respondent’s perceived constraints to recreation participation in York.



Table 9: Constraints to Recreation Participation in York

Constraint	Mean	SD	% Strongly Agree/Agree
Facilities needed are not available	3.68	1.64	48.2%
Better recreation opportunities available elsewhere	3.60	1.52	45.0%
Facilities are not adequate to meet my/my family's needs	3.40	1.58	36.2%
Not aware of available facilities	3.04	1.56	31.2%
Lack of time because of other leisure activities	3.02	1.49	23.5%
Lack of time because of work or other obligations	2.96	1.59	29.1%
Not interested in the available recreation opportunities	2.96	1.52	27.4%
Lack of money/too expensive	2.90	1.54	19.6%
Facilities are too crowded	2.83	1.43	11.7%
Lack of parking availability/convenience	2.77	1.50	13.0%
Lack of childcare	2.76	1.57	14.1%
Inappropriate social environment	2.57	1.44	4.5%
Disability/accessibility issues	2.53	1.46	4.3%
No one to participate with	2.52	1.54	13.8%
Facilities are not safe	2.28	1.50	1.4%
Lack of transportation	2.03	1.52	4.6%

### *Recreation Facility Needs in York*

More than 60% of respondents expressed a need for an indoor swimming pool (63.4%). A majority of respondents expressed a need for an indoor walking or jogging track (52.8%) and a majority also expressed a need for an outdoor swimming pool (55.2%). More than 40% of respondents continued to express needs for indoor recreation space. Indoor weight/fitness areas (49.9%), indoor ice skating (48.5%), indoor multipurpose gyms (48.2%), teen/youth center (46.5), and indoor gyms/athletic courts (43.4%) were among the spaces most noted as not being adequate or available to meet the recreation needs of York. Finally, in terms of outdoor facilities, outdoor ice skating was noted as a need for 46.2% of survey respondents. The table below shows a detailed breakdown of survey respondent needs for recreation facility development in York.



Table 10: Importance and Availability of Recreational Facilities in York

	% Important But Not Adequate	% Important But Not Available	Total %
<b>INDOOR FACILITIES</b>			
<b>Indoor swimming pool</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>46.5%</b>	<b>63.4%</b>
<b>Indoor walking or jogging track</b>	<b>15.5%</b>	<b>37.3%</b>	<b>52.8%</b>
Indoor weight/fitness areas	16.9%	33.0%	49.9%
Indoor ice skating	10.9%	37.6%	48.5%
Indoor multipurpose gyms	14.9%	33.3%	48.2%
Teen/youth center	13.2%	33.3%	46.5%
Indoor gyms/athletic courts	16.9%	26.5%	43.4%
Indoor performing arts space	14.1%	25.1%	39.2%
Community meeting space	19.4%	18.8%	38.2%
Indoor climbing wall	6.7%	30.0%	36.7%
Senior center	22.0%	10.0%	32.0%
Indoor tennis court	6.2%	24.1%	30.3%
Indoor racquetball or squash courts	6.3%	22.8%	29.1%
Indoor pickleball court	4.4%	15.4%	19.8%
<b>OUTDOOR PARKS &amp; TRAILS</b>			
Built/developed parks	27.9%	10.3%	38.2%
Undesignated green space	16.4%	21.2%	37.6%
Pet/dog parks	12.5%	24.6%	37.1%
Outdoor bandstand/performing arts stage	15.1%	13.1%	28.2%
<b>ATHLETICS/BUILT RECREATION</b>			
<b>Outdoor swimming pool</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>43.7%</b>	<b>55.2%</b>
Outdoor ice skating	20.2%	26.1%	46.2%
Outdoor walking or jogging track	22.5%	16.8%	39.3%
Playgrounds	19.0%	8.3%	27.3%
Skateboard/action sports park	6.9%	18.0%	24.9%
Outdoor tennis courts	14.5%	8.2%	22.7%
Outdoor pickleball court	4.8%	13.6%	18.4%

### *Recreation Program Needs in York*

Similar questions were asked regarding residents' needs for recreation activities and programs in York. Program needs tracked closely with facility priorities among survey respondents. For example, more than half of survey respondents felt that there was a need for aquatics or swim programs (60%). Nearly half of respondents expressed a need for fitness programs (49.3%), open gyms/drop-in sports (48.7%), arts and cultural programs (47.3%), and musical concerts and performances (46.5%). More than one third of respondents expressed a need for out-of-school teen activities (40.8%), nature or environmental education programs (36.1%), adapted recreation programs (35%), adult recreational sports (34.8%), and non-sport adult recreation activities (33.7%).

Program needs spoke to the importance of suitable facilities in which to stage and offer these activities. For example, to meet the needs for open gyms or drop in sports, it is necessary to have sufficient indoor recreation space to accommodate these interests. Given scheduling priorities for school activities and youth sports, there is often little or no time available for drop-in sports. The table below shows the breakdown of recreation program needs as expressed by York residents.

Table 11: Importance and Availability of Recreational Programs in York

	% Important But Not Adequate	% Important But Not Available	Total %
<b>Aquatics/swim programs</b>	<b>28.5%</b>	<b>31.5%</b>	<b>60%</b>
Fitness programs	32.9%	16.4%	49.3%
Open gyms/drop-in sports	24.1%	24.6%	48.7%
Arts and cultural programs	29.2%	18.1%	47.3%
Musical concerts and performances	30.8%	15.7%	46.5%
Out-of-school teen activities	22.1%	18.7%	40.8%
Nature or environmental education	24.5%	11.6%	36.1%
Adapted recreation programs	16.9%	18.1%	35%
Adult recreational sports	22.8%	12.0%	34.8%
Non-sport adult recreation activities	22.1%	11.6%	33.7%
Holiday/special events	20.6%	12.9%	33.5%
Sports instruction/lessons	22.6%	9.3%	31.9%
Afterschool programs (ES and MS)	19.8%	12.0%	31.8%
Youth recreational sports	17.5%	10.2%	27.7%
Senior/older adult activities	16.8%	7.5%	24.3%
Pre-K activities	10.6%	11.9%	22.5%
Summer day camps	15.1%	7.0%	22.1%
Senior meals	11.2%	6.5%	17.7%

### *Perception of Benefit from Town Supported Indoor Recreation/Community Center*

More than sixty percent of respondents believe that their community would benefit a lot or very much so from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York (64.2%). Furthermore, a majority of survey respondents expressed that they and their household would benefit a lot or very much so from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York. The table below shows the breakdown of respondent's perceptions of the benefits of a town supported indoor recreation center.



Table 12: Perception of Benefit from Town Supported Indoor Recreation/Community Center

Variable	Overall n	Mean Score	N (%) Reporting: A Lot or Very Much So
How much do you feel your <i>community would benefit</i> from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York?	629	3.72 (SD = 1.65)	404 (64.2%)
How much do you feel your <i>household would benefit</i> from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York?	629	3.47 (SD = 1.71)	366 (58.2%)
How much do you feel you would <i>personally benefit</i> from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York?	632	3.42 (SD = 1.68)	354 (56.0%)

### *Perceptions of Need for Town Supported Indoor Recreation/Community Center*

More than 60% of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that York needs a town supported indoor recreation/community center to meet the needs of York residents. The table below shows the breakdown of this data.

Table 13: Perception of Need for Town Supported Indoor Recreation/Community Center

Variable	Overall n	Mean Score	N (%) Reporting: Agree or Strongly Agree
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “York needs a town-supported indoor recreation/community center to meet the recreation needs of York residents.”	596	3.65 (SD = 1.6)	381 (63.8%)

### *Prioritization of Community Center Options*

Sixty one percent of survey respondents would like to see a multigenerational indoor recreation/community center of some type built in York. The table below shows the breakdown of prioritization for indoor facilities in the Town of York.



Table 14: Prioritization of Community Center Options

If you could prioritize one of the options below, which would you choose?

Option	N (%) Selecting Option
A multigenerational indoor recreation/community center open to all residents of York	233 (37.2%)
A multigenerational indoor recreation/community center with separate, dedicated spaces in the building for specific age groups (separate and distinct space for seniors, youth, etc.)	150 (24.0%)
A separate senior center building offering senior-only activity spaces and programming	60 (9.6%)
None-there is no need for an indoor recreation/community center in York	126 (20.1%)
Other	52 (8.3%)

### *Funding and Support for Parks and Recreation in York*

Just over two-thirds of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that “it’s a good idea for the town of York to partner with other organizations and agencies to deliver park and recreation services” (66.9%) and that they “would be willing to pay a fee to participate in town-sponsored recreation programs and activities in York” (66.6%). Additionally, a majority of survey respondents agree or strongly agree that they “would be willing to pay a fee for the use of town-owned recreation facilities in York” (57.6%) and that they “believe that some portion of a resident’s property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain indoor recreation facilities in York” (52.7%). The table below shows the breakdown of respondent’s support for funding recreation programs and facilities in York.



Table 15: Funding for Recreation Programs and Facilities

Variable	Overall n	Mean Score	N (%) Reporting: Agree OR Strongly Agree
I believe that it's a good idea for the Town of York to partner with other organizations and agencies to deliver park and recreation services.	608	3.74 (SD = 1.45)	407 (66.9%)
I would be willing to pay a fee to participate in town-sponsored recreation programs and activities in York.	607	3.59 (SD = 1.5)	404 (66.6%)
I would be willing to pay a fee for the use of town-owned indoor recreation facilities in York.	613	3.39 (SD = 1.61)	353 (57.6%)
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain indoor recreation facilities in York.	611	3.18 (SD = 1.7)	322 (52.7%)
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to pay to run recreation programs and activities in York.	609	3.09 (SD = 1.65)	284 (46.6%)

Table 16: Voting

Variable	Overall n	N (%) Reporting: Yes
Are you currently registered to vote?	621	570 (91.8%)
Did you vote in the last town election?	620	494 (79.7%)
Variable	Overall n	N (%) Reporting: Very Likely or Somewhat Likely
How likely are you to vote in the next town election?	619	567 (91.6%)
Variable	Overall n	N (%) Reporting: Important or Very Important
How important are recreation issues for you in your voting decisions?	618	475 (76.9%)

### *Differences Between Online and Paper Surveys*

There were significant differences on age of the respondents and on several of the support for a town-sponsored indoor community center items between online and paper surveys. Where there were differences between the online and paper versions, the online responses were more supportive of each of the statements with the exception of one ("I believe that it's a good idea for the Town of York to partner with other organizations and agencies to deliver park and recreation

services”). Table 7 shows the details of the comparison between online questionnaires and paper questionnaires.

Table 17: Differences Between Online and Paper Surveys

Comparison Variable	Overall Mean	Online Mean	Paper Mean	F Value	Sig
Age	54.6 (SD 14.7)	53 (SD 14.0)	72.6 (SD 9.8)	83.47	.000
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “York needs a town-supported indoor recreation/community center to meet the recreation needs of York residents.”	3.65 (SD 1.6)	3.83 (SD 1.5)	2.59 (SD 1.8)	45.08	.000
How much do you feel your community would benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York?	3.72 (SD 1.6)	3.86 (SD 1.5)	2.81 (SD 2.1)	31.53	.000
How much do you feel your household would benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York?	3.47 (SD 1.7)	3.65 (SD 1.6)	2.29 (SD 1.8)	43.26	.000
How much do you feel you personally would benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York?	3.42 (SD 1.7)	3.59 (SD 1.6)	2.29 (SD 1.8)	47.89	.000
I believe that it’s a good idea for the Town of York to partner with other organizations and agencies to deliver park and recreation services.	3.74 (SD 1.4)	3.64 (SD 2.3)	4.44 (SD 2.3)	21.437	.000

## Findings/Recommendations

Based on the activities associated with this project, including background research and observations, stakeholder focus groups, the public input session, and the resident household survey, the following findings/recommendations are offered for consideration by the Town of York:

### **1. Public input supported the need for multigenerational community recreation/activity space in York.**

- Sixty three percent of survey participants agreed or strongly agreed that “York needs a town-supported indoor recreation/community center to meet the recreation needs of York residents.”
- Fifty one percent of public forum participants reported that exploring the feasibility of an indoor recreation/community center was either “essential” or a “high priority” for the town.
- The town needs additional gymnasium/athletic court space to meet the needs of youth and adult recreation programming.
- The town needs additional space for dedicated senior programming, given the growth of Senior Center programs, including activities and meals, and the inadequacy of the current Senior Center building to meet the needs of all York seniors.

### **2. A multigenerational community center in York should include a separate, dedicated space for specific age groups**

- The building should include separate, connected, and dedicated activity space for seniors. This space should include multipurpose activity area/s, commercial kitchen and dining facility, adequate storage, and offices for senior center staff
- The senior wing should include a separate entrance/exit with dedicated parking areas proximate to the building for senior use.
- A good physical model is South Portland, ME’s Community Center (SPCC) which was constructed in 1999. However, it is important that York specifically designate this space for senior use.
- Consider including dedicated space for youth/teen programming in a separate part of the building. Programming should be available for non-sport related activities such as games, social space, art and music.
- The building should include a space for early childhood programming, including a drop-in childcare facility.

### **3. A multigenerational community center in York should include a diverse array of recreation activity spaces based on resident’s expressed needs.**

- The building should include adequate gymnasium/athletic court space for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, etc. Gymnasium space is at a premium in York, particularly in the winter months when demand for gym space exceeds supply. Gymnasium space is also needed in the summer for camp programs.
- The building should be designed to include an indoor swimming pool. The lack of aquatics opportunities in York was a strong theme in this project. Approximately 63.4% of survey

respondents reported that indoor swimming pools were either “important but not adequate” or “important but not available” in York. The pool could include spaces for lap swimming, water exercise, and therapy. Locker room/change facilities will need to be included.

- The building should include an indoor walking/jogging track. The track could be suspended over the athletic courts, and include mezzanine-level stretching and/or fitness areas. A good model for this would be Kittery (ME)’s recreation facility. Another option would be to have the track on the same level as the basketball courts around the perimeter of the facility.
- The building should include multipurpose gym space for fitness, dance, yoga, and other activities.
- The building should include office space for the town’s parks and recreation department. The town should consider repurposing the existing parks and recreation building and property for other recreational, cultural, or historical needs.
- The building should include adequate and ample equipment storage for parks and recreation programs and activities.
- The building should include basic weight training and fitness/cardio workout space. The space should be designed for beginner or casual fitness enthusiasts as a means of introducing residents to basic strength training and cardio fitness activities. The space should not be designed in a way that would compete or draw business away from commercial fitness providers in town, but should be designed to compliment existing commercial offerings in this area.
- A multigenerational community center should include basic outdoor amenities such as patios with hardscaping and outdoor seating, a basic outdoor walking trail/area, and outdoor fitness stations.

#### **4. Funding for the construction of a multigenerational community center should come from a diverse mix of funding sources.**

- There was strong support for developing public-private or public-public partnerships to support parks and recreation services in York. Recreation facilities can be economic drivers for communities. Indoor facilities can provide opportunities for business sponsorship, rental/contracts, and referral services. Partnerships with York Hospital, non-profit groups, business community, and the York schools are natural fits for this project.
- There should be consideration for charging basic, low threshold membership fees for York residents to use the center, as a majority (57.6%) of survey respondents were willing to “pay a fee for the use of town-owned indoor recreation facilities in York.” Fees should be heavily discounted or waived for seniors and low-income individuals and families. Indoor recreation facility cost recovery varies by community and ranged anywhere from 31.6% to 90.0% of operations and maintenance costs in benchmark communities.
- There was some support (52.7%) for using property tax dollars to offset the costs to build and maintain an indoor community center.
- Financial transparency and adequate communication of funding options must be presented to the public throughout the process.

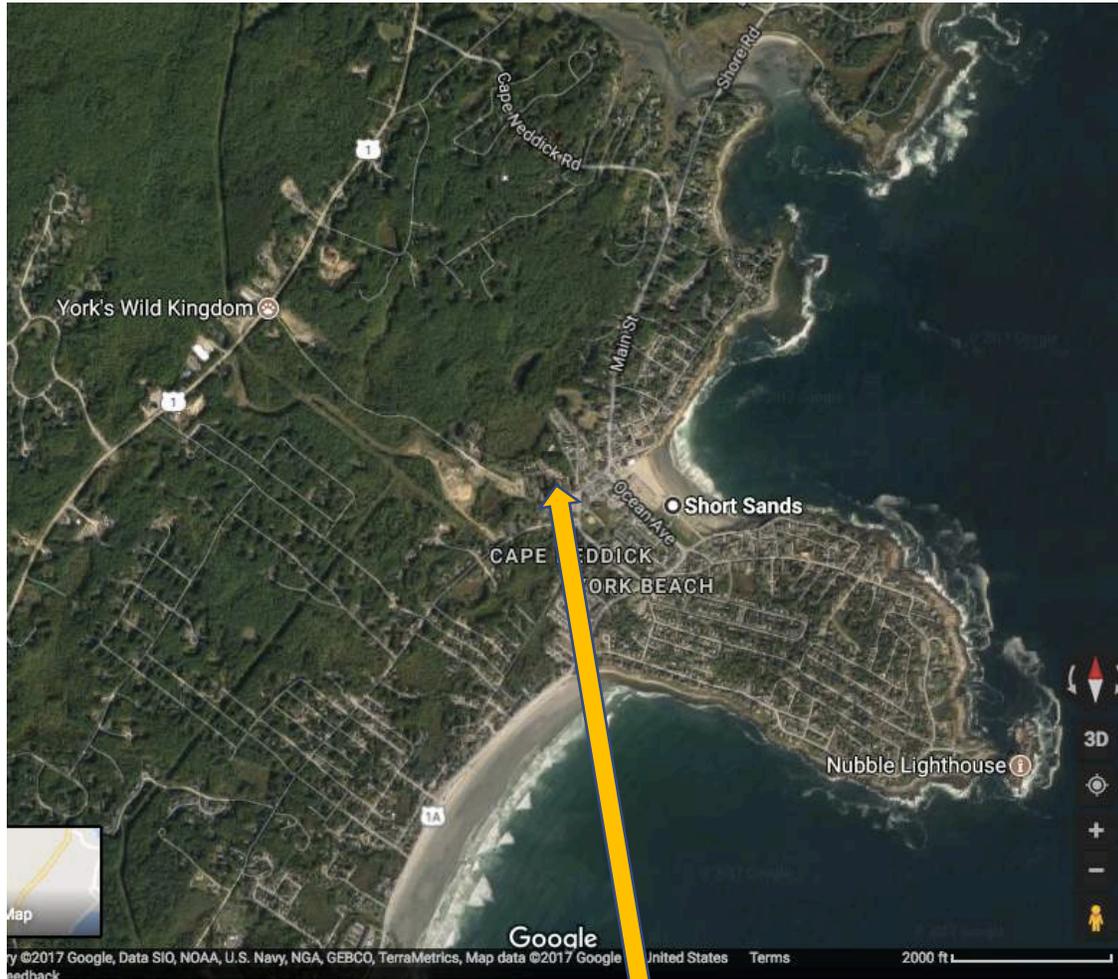
## **5. Conduct site feasibility studies for the location of a new multigenerational indoor community center.**

- If the town moves forward, site feasibility studies with an architectural/engineering firm need to be conducted as to the best location for a new multigenerational community center.
- Of the options presented through this process, the site adjacent to York Wild Kingdom and the post office along Ridge Road appeared to us to be the most suitable site for new facility development. The site is proximate to the beach and easily accessible from the current Senior Center, high school, and Village. Focus group participants spoke of existing plans for improvements to Ridge Road. This provides an opportunity to make the site accessible by walking or biking.
- There was discussion in the focus groups about the possibility of future school consolidation. If this happens, Village Elementary School could be an attractive site for this project, and the school could be repurposed for community center use. This is a common method for gaining indoor recreation space particularly in New England. Both Dover, NH and Kittery, ME have repurposed schools as community center space and are good models for this.

## **6. Consider combining a multigenerational indoor community center with a new Town Hall project.**

- This process illuminated the discussion about the need for a new Town Hall in York. We are aware that this is an on-going discussion in town, and has been debated and voted on in the past. However, there is still a sizable and vocal group of citizens who see this is the major priority for York.
- There was some support expressed in the focus groups and public forum about the possibility of combining the multigenerational indoor community center with a new Town Hall. This would be a novel use of space, but one that has some precedent in other communities. For example, Shelburne, VT has a “municipal building” that includes a gym and activity space.
- It is possible that a new building or repurposed school could include space for municipal offices and select board chambers. This is something to consider as discussions about a new facility move forward.

Suggested Potential Location of New Facility: Lot adjacent to York Wild Kingdom on Ridge Road



**Appendix A: Household Survey**

**TOWN OF YORK, ME COMMUNITY CENTER NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

The following information is being gathered to assess the recreation interests, needs, and priorities of households in the Town of York. As a town resident or taxpayer, your responses to the following questions are important to us. The information that you provide will assist in establishing priorities and a strategic direction for indoor recreation provision in York. Please read each question carefully before responding, and please answer each question to the best of your ability. You can be assured that all individual responses will be kept confidential. Thank you for your thoughtful responses to the following questions.

**I. USE OF YORK RECREATION FACILITIES & PROPERTIES**

Which of the following York facilities and properties do you or other members of your household use or attend events in for recreation purposes? Do you use these facilities: **Frequently** (more than 20 times/year), **Regularly** (10-20 times/year), **Occasionally** (1 to 9 times/year), or **Never**? If you never use the facility, are you aware that it exists?

<b>Recreation Facility/Property</b>	<b>Frequently Use</b>	<b>Regularly Use</b>	<b>Occasionally Use</b>	<b>Never Use</b>	<b>Unaware of Facility</b>
Village Elementary School	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Coastal Ridge Elementary School	<input type="checkbox"/>				
York Middle School	<input type="checkbox"/>				
York High School	<input type="checkbox"/>				
York Senior Center	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Living Well Center (York Hospital formerly Heart Health)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pools at York Hotels	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Seacoast United	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Paddle Club (Route 91)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Private/Independent Fitness Facility	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Private/Independent Instruction or classes					

Which of the following out-of-town recreation facilities do you use, and how frequently do you use them?

<b>Recreation Facility/Property</b>	<b>Frequently Use</b>	<b>Regularly Use</b>	<b>Occasionally Use</b>	<b>Never Use</b>	<b>Unaware of Facility</b>
Great Bay Tennis and Fitness	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Kittery Community Center	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Out-of-town Fitness Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Out-of-town Instruction or Classes	<input type="checkbox"/>				

What other out-of-town recreation facilities do you use, if any?

## II. EVALUATION OF THE QUALITY OF YORK RECREATION FACILITIES & PROPERTIES

How would you rate the overall quality of the recreation facilities and properties available in York? Please check the appropriate box. If you do not use the facility, please indicate.

Recreation Facility/Property	Superior	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	Don't Use/Unable to Judge
Village Elementary School	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Coastal Ridge Elementary School	<input type="checkbox"/>					
York Middle School	<input type="checkbox"/>					
York High School	<input type="checkbox"/>					
York Senior Center	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Living Well Center (York Hospital formerly Heart Health)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Pools at York Hotels	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Seacoast United	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Paddle Club (Route 91)	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Private/Independent Fitness Facility	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Private/Independent Instruction or classes						

## III. PARTICIPATION CONSTRAINTS

Below is a list of reasons why you or members of your household may not use the recreation facilities or properties in York. If you do not use the recreation facilities or properties available in York, or if you use them less than you would like to, indicate why by rating the following:

Reason	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree/Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Lack of time because of other leisure activities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Not aware of available facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Lack of transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Facilities are not safe	<input type="checkbox"/>				
No one to participate with	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Lack of time because of work or other obligations	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Facilities are too crowded	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Lack of money/too expensive	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Facilities needed are not available	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Lack of parking availability/convenience	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Lack of childcare	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Disability/accessibility issues	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Inappropriate social environment	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Not interested in the available recreation opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Facilities are not adequate to meet my/my family's needs	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Better recreation opportunities available elsewhere	<input type="checkbox"/>				

If there are additional reasons why you or members of your household may not use the recreation facilities or properties in York, please indicate them below:

#### **IV. EVALUATION OF RECREATION FACILITIES/AMENITIES**

Below is a list of recreation facilities/amenities that might be of interest to you. Please rate each of the following recreation facilities/amenities based on their level of importance, their availability to you, and how well they meet you and/or your family's recreation needs. If something is not important to you or your family, or you are not interested, please check the box in the last column.

<b>Recreation Facility/Amenity</b>	<b>This is important, available, and what we have meets my needs.</b>	<b>This is important and available, but what we have is not adequate for my needs.</b>	<b>This is important, but is unavailable to me.</b>	<b>This is not important to me</b>
Built/developed parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor walking/jogging track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor walking/jogging track	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undesignated green space for passive or active drop-in recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor gym or athletic courts (e.g. basketball/volleyball courts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor racquetball or squash courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor multipurpose gyms (e.g. dance, gymnastics, martial arts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor senior center (e.g. space for drop-in recreation, social space, activity space, kitchen/meals)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teen/youth center (e.g. space for drop-in recreation, games, social and activity space)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor weight room/fitness center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor community meeting space	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor performing arts center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor ice skating/ice arena	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor climbing wall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor pickleball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor pickleball courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skateboard/action sports park	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor tennis courts				
Outdoor tennis courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor bandstand/performing arts area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pet/dog parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor ice skating area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please list other recreation facilities/amenities that you or your household might be interested:

### **V. EVALUATION OF RECREATION PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES**

Below is a list of recreation programs or activities that might be of interest to you. Please rate the following recreation programs and activities based on their importance, availability, and how well they meet you and/or your family's recreation needs. If something is not important to you or your family, or you are not interested, please check the box in the last column. Please define senior as 50+ somewhere in the survey

<b>Recreation Programs</b>	<b>This is important, available, and what we have meets my needs.</b>	<b>This is important and available, but what we have is not adequate for my needs.</b>	<b>This is important, but is unavailable to me.</b>	<b>This is not important and/or I'm not interested.</b>
Arts and cultural programs (e.g. performing arts, art lessons, dance)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Musical concerts and performances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Holiday/Special Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation programs for people with disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pre-kindergarten activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Out-of-school activities for teens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After-school programs for elementary and middle school children	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summer day camps for children and youth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-sport adult recreation activities (e.g. cards, games, social opportunities)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior recreation activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior meals				
Fitness programs (e.g. aerobics, weights, yoga, pilates)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature or environmental education programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sports lessons or instruction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult recreational sports (e.g. pickleball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, badminton)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth recreational sports (e.g. pickleball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, badminton)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open gyms / Drop-in recreation programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatics/swim programs (e.g. swim lessons, water aerobics)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please list other recreation programs or activities that you or your family believe are important:

- To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “York needs a town-supported indoor recreation/community center to meet the recreation needs of York residents.”
  - Strongly Agree
  - Agree
  - Neutral
  - Disagree
  - Strongly Disagree
  
- If you could prioritize ONE of the options below – which would you choose?
  - A multigenerational indoor recreation/community center open to all residents of York
  - A multigenerational indoor recreation/community center with separate, dedicated spaces in the building for specific age-groups (separate and distinct space for seniors, youth, etc.)
  - A separate senior center building offering senior-only activity spaces and programming
  - None – there is no need for an indoor recreation/community center in York
  - Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond by rating the following:

Statement	5 = Very Much So	←—————→			1 = Not at all
How much do you feel you would <i>personally</i> benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
How much do you feel your <i>household would</i> benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
How much do you feel your <i>community would</i> benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**If you would benefit from a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York** - how would having access to a town-supported indoor recreation/community center in York benefit you, your household, and/or your community?

Please respond by agreeing or disagreeing with the following statements:

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I would be willing to pay a fee for the use of town-owned indoor recreation <i>facilities</i> in York.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would be willing to pay a fee to participate in town-sponsored recreation <i>programs and activities</i> in York.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain indoor recreation <i>facilities</i> in York.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to pay to run recreation <i>programs and activities</i> in York.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I believe that it's a good idea for the Town of York to partner with other organizations and agencies to deliver recreation services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## VI. HOUSEHOLD INFORMATION

Please answer the following questions about you and your household. These questions are important because they help us understand whether a broad range of voices from different populations are represented in this survey.

Please be assured that all of your responses are confidential and are not linked in any way to information that could identify you personally.

- Are you a resident or taxpayer of York? (check one)
  - Yes
  - No
  
- Do you own or rent your home: (check one)
  - Own
  - Rent
  - Other
  
- Is your York home your (check one):
  - Primary residence
  - Second or seasonal home
  
- How many **months per year** do you live at this residence? \_\_\_\_\_ number of months
  
- How many **years** have you resided in York? \_\_\_\_\_ number of years
  
- What neighborhood or area of York do you live in/near? (check one)
  - York Village
  - York Harbor
  - York Beach
  - Cape Neddick

- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you or another adult household member: (check all those that apply)
  - Employed Full-time
  - Employed Part-Time
  - Retired
  - Not Retired and Not Currently Employed
- What best describes you?
  - Male
  - Female
- In what year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_
- Do you have a child or children 5 years old or younger living in your home? (check one)
  - Yes
  - No
- Do you have a child or children between the ages of 6-12 living in your home? (check one)
  - Yes
  - No
- Do you have a child or children between the ages of 13-18 living in your home? (check one)
  - Yes
  - No
- Are you currently registered to vote?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not sure
- Did you vote in the last town election?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not Sure/Can't Remember
- How likely are you to vote in the next town election?
  - Very likely
  - Somewhat likely
  - Not sure
  - Somewhat unlikely
  - Very unlikely
- How important are parks and recreation issues for you in your voting decisions?
  - Very Important
  - Important
  - Neither Important/Unimportant
  - Unimportant
  - Very Unimportant

- What is your current marital status?
  - Now married
  - Widowed
  - Divorced
  - Separated
  - Never married
  
- What is your annual household income?
  - Less than \$40,000
  - \$40,000-\$69,999
  - \$70,000-\$99,999
  - \$100,000 or more

If you have additional comments related to parks and recreation in York, or if you need more space to elaborate on your answers from earlier in the survey, please write here:

Thank you for your time in completing this survey!  
Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

## Appendix B: Invitation for Public Input Meeting



The York  
Community Center Needs Assessment Committee  
invites you to a

### ***PUBLIC FORUM***

**Wednesday, June 7, 2017**

**7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**York Middle School Cafeteria**

This public forum will discuss ***if*** the Town of York has a need for a  
*multi-generational community center.*

Please join us for this important community discussion.

