



CHESTERMERE

Municipal Development Plan: ROADMAP TO THE FUTURE

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

ROUND 1 SUMMARY REPORT



V3 COMPANIES OF CANADA LTD.

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Executive Summary

During Round One of the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) update in Chestermere, a variety of public engagement activities were conducted to gather feedback and insights from the community. These engagement activities offered diverse channels for input, providing broad representation across the community to help inform the policy development for Chestermere's new Municipal Development Plan.

These activities included:

Community Partner Meetings

Small-format meetings were held with 36 community partners, representing 27 organizations, including recreation groups, schools, developers, and social services. These meetings provided in-depth feedback on the community's needs and aspirations.

Pop-up Engagement Events

Five pop-up events were organized at locations such as the Chestermere County Fair and John Peake Memorial Park. These interactive sessions, attended by approximately 120 people, allowed residents to engage in discussions, share ideas, and participate in activities designed to highlight what they value most about the city and what's missing.

Public Survey

An online and hard copy survey collected 320 responses from the public. The survey covered a wide range of topics, including housing, transportation, green spaces, and recreation, providing valuable quantitative and qualitative data on residents' views and priorities.



Key Findings

The key findings from Round One of public engagement included these major themes across different community aspects:

	Recreation and Entertainment	A significant portion of the community expressed the need for improved recreational facilities, including a new recreation center, a swimming pool, and more sports fields. Many also voiced support for outdoor turf fields and indoor sports facilities to keep local teams from leaving the city.
	Transportation and Infrastructure	Public feedback highlighted concerns around transportation options and efficiency. There were calls for improved public transit, better traffic management on key roads, and enhanced bike paths and pedestrian connections. Infrastructure issues, such as road congestion and the need for updated municipal infrastructure, were frequently mentioned.
	Community Inclusivity and Services	Many respondents desired stronger community connections, and enhanced social services, including community hubs, theaters, and multipurpose venues. The lack of event spaces and affordable venues for non-profits were noted as significant gaps.
	Housing and Growth	Feedback on housing was mixed, with some residents supporting more diverse housing options (e.g., secondary suites and multi-residential buildings), while others preferred limiting high-density developments to preserve the small-town feel. Affordability and development flexibility were also key concerns.
	Environmental and Green Spaces	Preserving Chestermere's green spaces and sustainable growth were strong priorities for residents. Many emphasized the importance of lake preservation, ecological protection, and creating more parks and trails.
	Economic Development and Services	There were calls for expanding local commercial services, with requests for more grocery stores, restaurants, and retail spaces like hardware stores and big-box retailers. Residents also supported actions to reduce commuting by creating more local employment opportunities.
	Health and Social Services	Health services, including the need for an urgent care center and more doctors, were top priorities. There was also strong interest in expanding social services and senior care facilities.



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ROUND ONE ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

The City of Chestermere has and continues to experience significant growth. This growth, partnered with the need to align the City’s Municipal Development Plan (MDP) with the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board Growth Plan, means an update to the MDP is required. This project involves a comprehensive review, analysis and update of the MDP, with a heavy emphasis on community partner and public engagement. The community’s vision for the future will help shape the development of long-term goals, and feed into the strategies and policies that will form the new MDP.

Round one of the MDP project included background research, mapping exercises, and a deep dive into engagement. The first round of public engagement aimed to gather a comprehensive understanding of our current state and aspirations for the future. We sought to identify what’s working well and what people appreciate most about the City, while uncovering gaps where improvements are needed.

Project Timeline



To gather feedback, we used a survey as one of our key tools for collecting public opinions. Along with the survey, we held community partner meetings, pop-up events, and a Council workshop. These efforts were designed to engage a diverse audience and give residents multiple opportunities to share their thoughts.



Participants provided feedback on the following topics:

- What do you love about the City?
- What's missing in Chestermere?
- What would improve your quality of life?
- Satisfaction with:
 - Housing options
 - Transportation options
 - Transportation efficiency
 - Municipal infrastructure
 - Municipal servicing
 - Recreation facilities
 - Green spaces
 - Social and cultural services and community gathering spaces
 - Retail and commercial services
 - Taxes
 - Employment and business opportunities
 - Overall quality of life
- Values to guide the development of the MDP
- Types of multi-residential housing options
- Commuting
- Environmental initiatives
- Priorities as Chestermere grows and evolves over the next 25 years
- Priorities over the next 3-5 years

This feedback received during the first round of engagement will play a critical role in helping the MDP project team shape the initial draft of the new Municipal Development Plan (MDP). In the second round of engagement, we will return to the community to present the draft MDP and gather further input to refine the plan prior to the approvals process. This summary report highlights the engagement activities undertaken with Council, administration, community partners and the broader public.



SUMMARY OF ROUND ONE ENGAGEMENT

By The Numbers

5 community partner meetings

36 | representatives from

27 | organizations

1 Council workshop

5 pop up engagement events

~200 | comments and ideas received

~120 | participants

~30 | children engaged

1 public survey

320 | survey responses (online and hard copy)

Main Takeaways from Round 1 Engagement

Round 1 engagement yielded comprehensive feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, including residents, community partners, council members, and administration. This was essential in understanding the community's current needs, preferences, and priorities for the city's future development. The feedback collected will help lay the foundation for the MDP, aligning with the community's vision and values, and directly informing the drafting of policies and strategies that will shape the growth of Chestermere over the next several decades.

Round 1 took a multi-faceted approach, which enabled the City to capture feedback from diverse groups, providing a well-rounded perspective on the needs and aspirations of Chestermere's residents.

The feedback from the community highlighted several key areas of focus for the future MDP. Among these, **growth management** emerged as a top priority, with many participants emphasizing the need for thoughtful planning to balance development with the preservation of the City's character. The community expressed a desire to manage growth in a way that **maintains Chestermere's small-town feel** while providing the necessary infrastructure and services to accommodate future expansion. This will involve strategic planning around housing density, commercial development, and transportation.



Infrastructure was another prominent theme in the feedback, with participants highlighting the need for **improvements in roads, municipal services, and public transit**. Residents voiced concerns about traffic congestion, particularly along key routes like 17 Avenue, and called for more efficient transportation options. There was also significant support for expanding municipal infrastructure, including improving drainage systems, updating public facilities, and encouraging infrastructure that keeps pace with population growth.

Recreational facilities and **green spaces** were frequently mentioned as areas where residents would like to see improvements. The community expressed strong support for the development of more recreational amenities, including a new recreation center with a swimming pool, sports fields, and indoor training facilities. Green spaces were also highlighted as essential to maintaining Chestermere's livability, with calls for better-maintained parks, expanded walking and biking trails, and more outdoor activities for families.

Housing options were another major focus of the feedback, with a desire for more diverse and affordable housing solutions. Participants discussed the need for housing that caters to different demographic groups, including seniors and young families. Suggestions ranged from increasing the availability of small-scale housing options, such as townhomes and multi-residential units, to providing more design guidelines so that high-density developments do not detract from the character of established neighborhoods.

Environmental sustainability and the **preservation of natural areas** were also key concerns. Participants emphasized the importance of protecting the lake, green spaces, and other natural assets, while also promoting sustainable development practices. There was significant interest in initiatives like water conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable building standards.

Economic development and **local employment opportunities** were highlighted as important factors for Chestermere's future. Many participants expressed a desire to see more commercial and retail development within the city to reduce the need for commuting. There was also support for initiatives that would create local jobs and promote economic growth, such as attracting businesses and supporting local entrepreneurs.

Social services and **community inclusivity** were areas where participants saw room for improvement. The feedback called for more community gathering spaces, better access to social services, and support for diverse populations. There was also a desire to see stronger community connections and inclusivity, particularly for seniors and families.

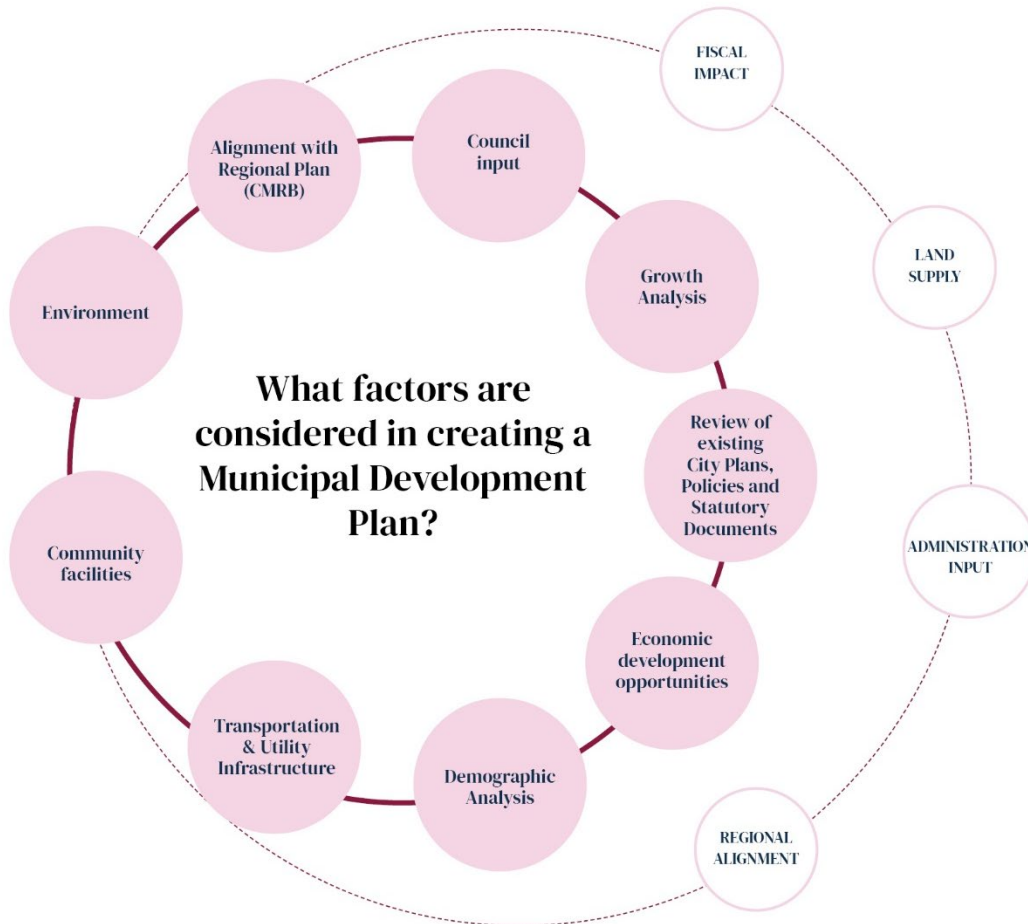


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COUNCIL WORKSHOP

On August 20th, 2024, Council was engaged for a workshop to review the current MDP as well as go over their initial vision for the future of Chestermere and how the new MDP could help achieve this. Content focused on the factors that need to be considered when developing the new MDP, and Council weighed in on their thoughts, priorities, and ideas within these factors.





COMMUNITY PARTNER MEETINGS

The City hosted a series of small-format meetings on September 9 and 11, 2024 with community partners, representing a variety of organizations and groups within the City.

Invitations were sent to over 120 community partners representing:

- Recreation and sports organizations
- Youth organizations
- Multicultural and religious organizations
- Community and Homeowners Associations
- Developers and builders
- Local school divisions
- Social service organizations
- Public service organizations

Thirty-six representatives from 27 community partner organizations participated in the community partner meetings. Representatives from three of the listed organizations were unable to attend a meeting but provided input to the MDP project team separately. The organizations that participated in Round 1 engagement included:

Organizations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chestermere Public Library • CWCS • OACC • FCSS • Lakeridge Community Church • Chestermere Food Bank • Synergy • Chestermere Art Guild • Lakeside Greens Golf Course Preservation Society • Saint Gabriel the Archangel Parish • Chestermere Football Club • Chestermere United FC • CLS Basketball • Chestermere Recreation Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky View School District • Calgary Catholic School Division • Chestermere Francophone School • Dawsons Landing Owners Association • Chestermere Lakefront Owners Association • Douglas Developments • Alliston Group • Mattamy Corp • Qualico • CivicWorks • Sunview Custom Homes • Prominent Homes Ltd. • Shane Homes



Community Partner Meetings



Meeting notes from each community partner meeting have been transcribed and summarized to report back on what we heard from each group of attendees.



COMMUNITY PARTNER GROUP	KEY FEEDBACK
<p>Developers & Builders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing lot servicing costs are affecting affordability. • Flexibility in development phases is needed to offer diverse housing options, with examples from Cochrane and Calgary cited, where municipalities must meet specific density requirements in certain zones, such as the R-MX zone. Flexible zoning would enable Chestermere to adapt to market demands while still achieving density goals. A • Emphasis on integrating secondary suites and multi-generational living options, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary/Garden/Garage suites in residential areas. • Purpose-built multi-generational homes, especially where parking is sufficient. • Density growth needs to be paired with infrastructure improvements to avoid public service strain. • Chestermere’s development trajectory is seen as evolving from lake-focused to more distant, denser development, aiming to align with regional plans. • Strengths include proximity to Calgary, a small-town feel, and community connections, but challenges remain, such as the lack of amenities and an arrival feature. • Developers discussed balancing residential and commercial tax bases, proposing innovations like commercial clustering and updating the land use bylaw to ease development. • Mixed-use development challenges were noted, especially in the Gateway area, where early designs were too car oriented. • Multi-storey commercial was seen as a good use of space, but there were concerns about mandating a second storey on buildings. • Looking 20 years ahead, Chestermere must align and be competitive with surrounding municipalities like Cochrane, Airdrie, and Okotoks, focusing on flexible land use. The city’s car-dependent nature, parking needs, and lack of transit infrastructure were highlighted as future challenges, along with the need to improve 17 Avenue. • Other key concerns include improving stormwater management, emergency services, rising levies, and competitiveness with Calgary.
<p>Recreation & Sports Organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chestermere is underdeveloped with respect to recreational facilities, causing challenges for local sports groups despite efficient booking efforts. • The city lacks sufficient sports fields, with none outside school sites and safety concerns such as the hilly terrain and poor field maintenance at the Recreation Centre fields. • There is a need for City-owned sports fields that are better maintained. There is a long-term vision of an outdoor turf field with lighting and a short-term need for irrigated grass fields with lighting. • Many teams travel to Calgary and Strathmore for fall/winter training due to the lack of an indoor facility, highlighting a strong desire to keep teams local.



COMMUNITY PARTNER GROUP	KEY FEEDBACK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad support exists for a multi-purpose sports space to accommodate various activities like soccer, football, lacrosse, and more, with a strong business case for such a facility. • There is disappointment over the lack of progress on a promised Recreation Centre with a pool and programmable spaces, with challenges noted due to the facility being on County lands. • Success stories from nearby cities, like Lacombe and Red Deer, with outdoor turf fields offer a model for Chestermere to generate revenue and meet demand. • The current Recreation Centre faces high demand, underscoring the need for expanded facilities. • A recent study showed that Chestermere's lake and beach facilities are heavily used by non-residents, limiting access for locals. • There is consensus on starting with key priorities for recreation facilities, like maintaining grass sports fields, while acknowledging that not all needs can be met immediately.
<p>Community & Homeowners Associations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary goal of the Lakefront Owners Association is to preserve the character of estate homes along the lake and avoid developments such as infills or smaller lot sizes. Concerns were raised about the approval of 37-foot lots, which they felt did not align with the existing Land Use Bylaw and could compromise the aesthetic and value of the area. • The Dawsons Landing Homeowners Association (HOA) is a not-for-profit organization that manages community events and maintenance responsibilities as the community continues to grow (currently 50% occupied). Presently Qualico is operating the HOA, but once enough homes are sold the HOA will be turned over to the homeowners. They noted that many residents were drawn to Chestermere because of its proximity to Calgary, with a diverse population that includes multi-generational households. • The Dawsons Landing Homeowners Association mentioned that many of their residents did not move to Chestermere for the lake, nor do they frequently use it. • Residents have expressed disappointment about the unmet promise of a recreational center in Dawsons Landing, a key feature they were initially sold on. • In a discussion of what's missing in Chestermere, a hardware store, healthier food options, a recreation centre, and a hotel were mentioned.
<p>School Boards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The question was posed whether school sites could be incorporated into earlier phases within the Area Structure Plans (ASPs) rather than being delayed due to construction and phasing changes. Participants acknowledged that although joint-use planning agreements exist to outline the required sites and infrastructure, changes during construction often result in school sites being pushed to later phases. • They emphasized the need for better coordination on Municipal Reserve (MR) allocation and transportation improvements.



COMMUNITY PARTNER GROUP	KEY FEEDBACK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing student enrollment, with schools now accommodating up to 900 students, has created challenges in finding appropriately sized sites, especially for high schools. • The school boards would generally prefer to locate high schools near recreation centers, light industrial, or other central spaces instead of making them the centerpiece of residential areas. • Amending the Land Use Bylaw to streamline modular classroom approvals was proposed. • Ideas to address the shortage of school sites include leveraging MR allocations for future high school land and using vacant school sites as temporary sports fields or parks. Airdrie's use of a volunteer off-site levy to support infrastructure was suggested as a potential model. • New provincial regulations reducing the busing distance from 1.5 km to 1 km will increase demand for buses, making road design and bus drop-off zones critical. Municipal transit could help, as seen in Calgary. The boards advocated for early involvement in the MDP process to improve planning and address key issues proactively.
<p>Social Services / Cultural Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendees emphasized the need for community spaces to function as central hubs, not just meeting areas, with successful examples cited from Strathmore, the Genesis Centre, and Cochrane's Family and Community Support Services (FCSS). • The concept of a shared space for non-profits was introduced, advocating for collaborative operating and meeting spaces to help organizations thrive. • Many non-profit and community-driven social services are run through the Chestermere library, which is increasingly being used by Calgary residents due to service gaps in east Calgary. A "one-stop-shop" for these services was proposed to simplify access. • There is a significant lack of event spaces in Chestermere, including theatres or multipurpose venues, which was identified as a gap in community infrastructure. • Participants highlighted minimal developer commitment toward creating spaces for non-profits and suggested strategies to incentivize developers like height relaxations or mixed-use buildings. Frustration was expressed over high market prices preventing non-profits from negotiating land deals. • A call for more collaboration between the City, developers, and partner municipalities was made to address the growing regional demand for social services, particularly as Chestermere sees increased usage from nearby Calgary residents. • The City is seen as "playing catch up" in providing adequate social services, with high commercial rents and a lack of affordable community spaces hindering development. • Participants proposed placing collective service hubs near schools or new developments, following successful models from other communities.



COMMUNITY PARTNER GROUP	KEY FEEDBACK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a shortage of places of worship in Chestermere, which are important for social and economic value. Participants advocated for more local places of worship, which are currently treated like commercial entities and struggle to acquire land.• A structured platform, like a “Non-Profit Council,” was recommended to facilitate collaboration between non-profits and developers, similar to initiatives like “Dirt to Door.” This would provide a forum to voice community service needs and develop solutions.

POP-UP ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Throughout the month of September, five pop-up engagement events were hosted across the City of Chestermere, offering community members a chance to learn about the project, share their thoughts, and ask questions. These sessions featured information boards, interactive engagement activities, and a “Stack the City” Jenga game, all designed to spark reflection on what makes Chestermere unique, what might be missing, and what residents hope for the city’s future. Pop-ups were held at the following locations:

Pop-up Locations

Chestermere County Fair – Kids Zone

Saturday, September 7, 2024
(10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

~45 attendees





**Energizer Night – Chestermere
Recreation Centre**

Wednesday, September 11, 2024
(6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)

~40 attendees



Chestermere Public Library

Thursday, September 12, 2024
(11 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

~10 attendees





John Peake Memorial Park

Sunday, September 22, 2024
(2 – 4 p.m.)

~10 attendees



Chestermere Recreation Centre

Tuesday, September 24, 2024
(5–7 p.m.)

~15 attendees



Pop-up Takeaways

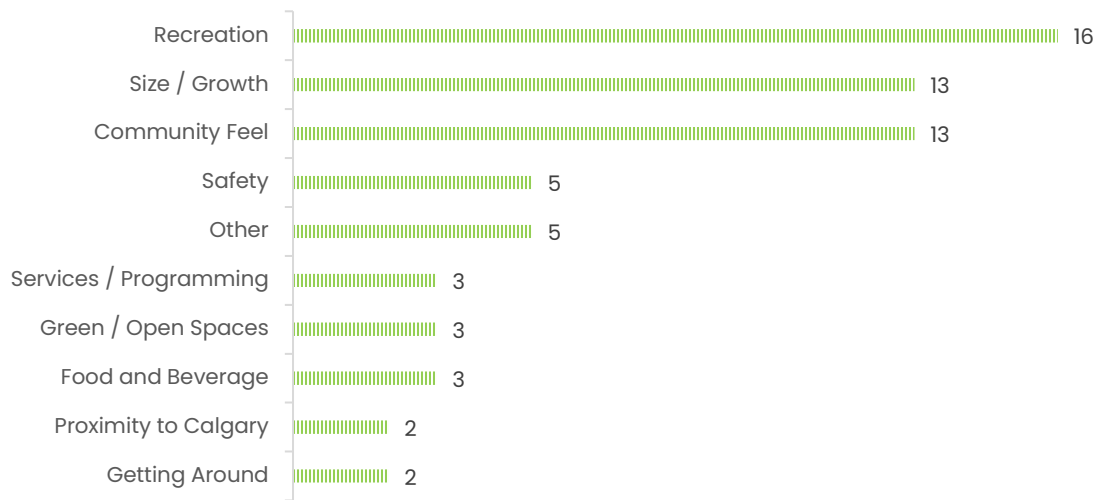
All comments received through the five pop up engagement events have been transcribed, analyzed and categorized into the following summary.

QUESTION 1: What do you love about Chestermere?

Total comments: 65



Figure 1. Question 1 Results



Key Findings

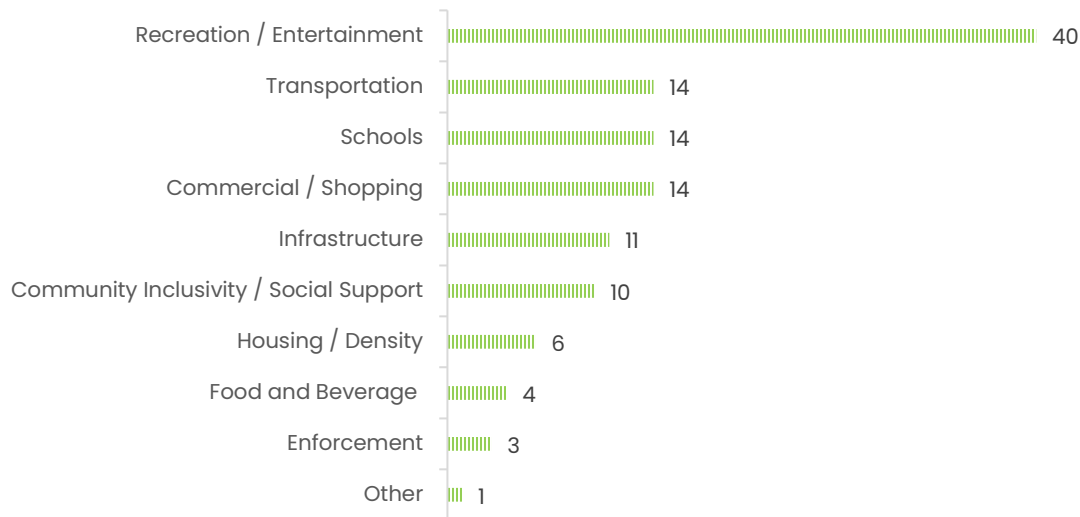
- **Recreation:** Among the 16 comments related to recreation, the lake and beaches were referenced the most, followed by community events. Other comments reflected appreciation for the town's playgrounds, golf community, bike park, arena, Camp Chestermere, and the overall active lifestyle of the community.
- **Size / growth:** The majority of the 13 comments pertaining to size and growth expressed an appreciation for Chestermere's small-town feel, while still being close to Calgary and offering amenities. Participants also voiced their optimism about the town's potential and their appreciation for it not being overcrowded.
- **Sense of community:** The most frequent topic of the 13 comments related to community feel was the peaceful and quiet environment. Participants appreciated the strong sense of community, friendly people, and the fun atmosphere. Other comments reflected the balance Chestermere offers and the familiarity that comes from living in a town where "everyone knows everyone."
- **Safety:** All five comments related to safety indicated that participants feel safe living in Chestermere.
- **Other:** The remaining comments reflected appreciation for the green spaces and open spaces in the community, the proximity to Calgary for commuting, the existing community services and programs, the ease of getting around town, the diversity in the community, and the existing food and beverage options.



QUESTION 2: *What areas of the City should be improved? What do you think are the most important considerations for planning Chestermere's future?*

Total comments: 117

Figure 2. Question 2 Results



Key Findings

- **Recreation / entertainment:** The top request of these 40 comments was for a swimming pool. There was also significant support for a new, improved, or larger City-owned recreation centre. Other suggestions included creating a theatre or performing arts space, improving existing beaches, and adding features like a splash park, more sports courts, and programming for children aged 6-12. Additional ideas included the need for a long-range recreation plan, more parks, and activities for teenagers, such as an arcade or games centre.
- **Transportation:** The most common suggestion of the 14 comments was the desire for public transit, though a couple participants expressed concerns that transit could bring crime. Other feedback focused on the need for more bike paths and lanes, improvements to the school bus system, and better pedestrian and bike connections. Additional suggestions included improving scooter and sidewalk safety and addressing traffic issues on Rainbow Road.



- **Schools:** All 14 comments related to schools pertained to the need for more schools and addressing capacity issues.
- **Commercial / shopping:** Through these 14 comments, participants expressed a desire for more commercial spaces and larger shopping areas. There were specific requests for a hardware store, a Superstore, and a Costco. Other suggestions included adding boutique and clothing stores, consignment shops, and creating a night market.
- **Infrastructure:** Of these 11 comments, there was a clear sentiment for improvements along 17 Avenue, with multiple mentions of traffic congestion. Additional suggestions included updates to Chestermere Plaza, adding sidewalks along Chestermere Boulevard, improving drainage at West Chestermere Estates, and providing more public washrooms in park spaces.
- **Community inclusivity / social support:** Through these 10 comments, participants expressed a desire for stronger community connections that involve all ethnicities and more diversity among community members and volunteers. Suggestions also included increasing support for those in need, creating more meeting and gathering spaces, and providing inclusivity for seniors in literature and communications. Additionally, there were calls for more healthcare services, a bigger library, and more daycare options to support the growing community.
- **Housing / density:** These six comments reflected a mixed views on housing density. Some felt that the high-density developments, particularly at the entrance to the city, are an eyesore, while others appreciated mixed-use density but felt it should be less visible. Additional suggestions included reducing the number of high-rise buildings, providing more small-scale housing for seniors, and limiting growth.
- **Other:**
 - The remaining comments expressed an interest in lakefront cafes/restaurants, a candy store, a Chick Fill, the need for more enforcement and policing, and a suggestion to relax sign bylaws to allow off-premise signs.
 - A number of acreage owners along Township Road 242 advocated for the removal of the commercial land use designation from their lands as outlined in the current MDP. The landowners indicated that they would be more supportive of commercial land use if there were a right-in/right-out access to the commercial area. However, they acknowledged that this is unlikely due to future intersection upgrades. As an alternative, they showed support for a live/work situation, which they believe would offer more flexibility in land use. Additionally, the landowners voiced frustration over the delay in receiving servicing following annexation into the City of Chestermere.



PROMOTIONS

A variety of promotions were used throughout Round 1 engagement to raise awareness and encourage participation in the various engagement opportunities:

- A project website (www.thecityofchestermere.ca/MDP)
- A road sign along Chestermere Boulevard
- Social media posts on the City's Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts
- A display in City Hall lobby
- Print advertisement in the Chestermere Wave
- Digital advertisement on Chestermere Anchor
- Posters in high traffic community areas
- Strathmore Times newspaper article
- Emails to community partner organizations



Promotions Examples



City of Chestermere
2,020 followers
2w · 📍

Have you heard? The City of Chestermere has announced the launch of our Municipal Development Plan (MDP) update!

The MDP is a visionary document that sets the roadmap for the City's future, directing Council and administration on how to make decisions on managing land uses, infrastructure, community facilities, parks and so much more.

It will establish a vision for Chestermere over the next 25 years.

For information, and to contribute your feedback, click the link below. What do you want for the future of Chestermere?

<https://lnkd.in/g/84DeGC>



Ken Venner, RPP, MCIP and 32 others · 1 comment · 2 reposts

The Chestermere Anchor News Magazine

August 26th 2024

Chestermere Enforces Stage 4 Water Restrictions Amid Calgary Water Main Repairs

Residents and Businesses Urged to Cut Outdoor Water Use by 25%

Background:
A report that Chestermere has imposed Stage 4 water restrictions in response to water main repairs in Calgary. The water main repairs are expected to last through the end of the month. The City of Chestermere has implemented Stage 4 water restrictions, which require residents to reduce outdoor water use by 25%.

Prohibited Activities During Stage 4 Restrictions:
The restrictions prohibit activities such as watering lawns, washing cars, and filling swimming pools. Residents are encouraged to use mulch, drought-tolerant plants, and water-efficient irrigation systems.

Our Office Follows:
The Alberta Dental Association Fee Guide

anchormedia

CITY OF CHESTERMERE

The City is updating our Municipal Development Plan (MDP) to enable sustainable growth over the next 25 years. This update will guide future growth, land use, development, economic opportunities, public spaces, and infrastructure.

Why is this important?
Our current MDP is nearly 10 years old and our world is changing around us. It's time to reflect on where we are today and where we'd like to go. Your input is crucial in shaping our community!

HELP US CREATE A ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE OF CHESTERMERE!

Tackling our City's most pressing topics:

- Cost effective growth and development
- Infrastructure and operational costs
- Tax base management and service delivery
- Housing availability
- Social and recreational needs
- Preserving Chestermere's unique identity
- Economic development

GET INVOLVED!

Online Survey: complete the survey here from August 26 to September 25.

Pop-Up Events: Join us at various locations throughout September. Check out our website for more info.

Municipal Development Plan Roadmap to the Future
www.thecityofchestermere.ca/MDP

City of Chestermere
September 11 at 11:29 AM · 📍

Have you had a chance to provide your feedback on the Municipal Development Plan? 🗳️

If not, we encourage you to complete the online survey at the link below or stop by one of our upcoming pop up engagement events:

- Chestermere Library – Thursday, Sept 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- John Peake Memorial Park – Sunday, Sept 22, 2-4 p.m.
- Chestermere Recreation Centre – Tuesday, Sept 24, 5-7 p.m.

What do you want for the future of Chestermere? Let us know in the comments or share your thoughts in the link below!

www.thecityofchestermere.ca/MDP

City of Chestermere
Government organization

Send message



PUBLIC SURVEY

An online survey was available on the project website to gather feedback from community partners and the public on key topics. These topics include growth, existing issues, untapped opportunities, areas of success or challenges, and desired outcomes. The input collected through the survey, alongside feedback from community partner meetings and pop-up events, will be instrumental in drafting the MDP Policy. To provide inclusive engagement, the City also coordinated the delivery of hard copy surveys to local seniors' homes.

The survey was launched on August 26th, 2024, and closed on September 27th, 2024. The survey was available online, as well as hard copy surveys available at City Hall and the Chestermere Public Library. The survey included four sections:

1. **Tell us about yourself** – to gain an understanding of the demographics of survey participants.
2. **Where are we now** – to understand what participants love about Chestermere and what we can do to make it better.
3. **Where are we going** – to hear about the dreams and aspirations for the future.
4. **Engagement** – to understand what form of outreach worked the best to raise awareness about the MDP update.

A total of **320 responses** were received.

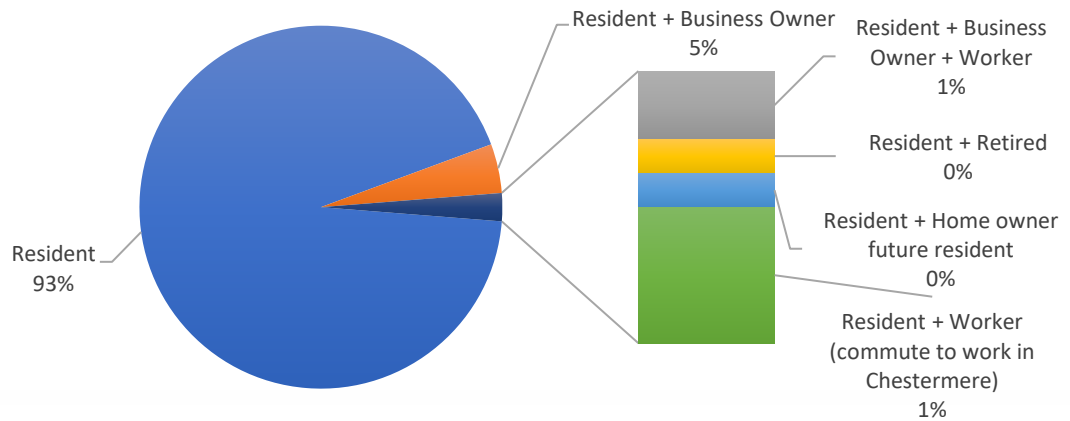


SECTION 1: TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

QUESTION 1: What is your connection to Chestermere? (Select all that apply)

The vast majority of participants, 298 out of 320, identify primarily as residents which accounts for over 93% of the responses. A smaller portion of respondents were residents that also contribute to the local economy through business and employment within the community.

Figure 31. Question 1 Results

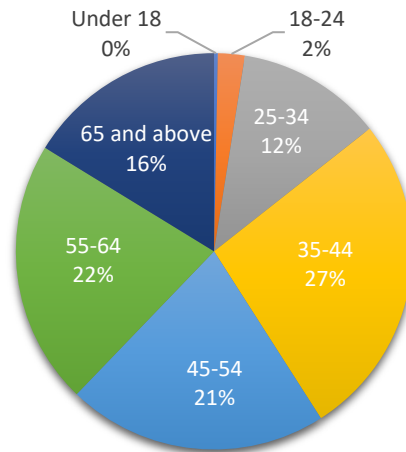




QUESTION 2: What is your age group?

The age distribution of respondents in this survey reflects a broad range of community members, with the largest group between 34-44 years old (27%), followed by the 55-64 year age range (22%), and the 45-54 year age range (21%). This indicates a high level of engagement from individuals in mid-career and family-raising stages of life. Younger adults (18-24) had minimal involvement (less than 3%), while seniors (65+) made up 16%.

Figure 24. Question 2 Results

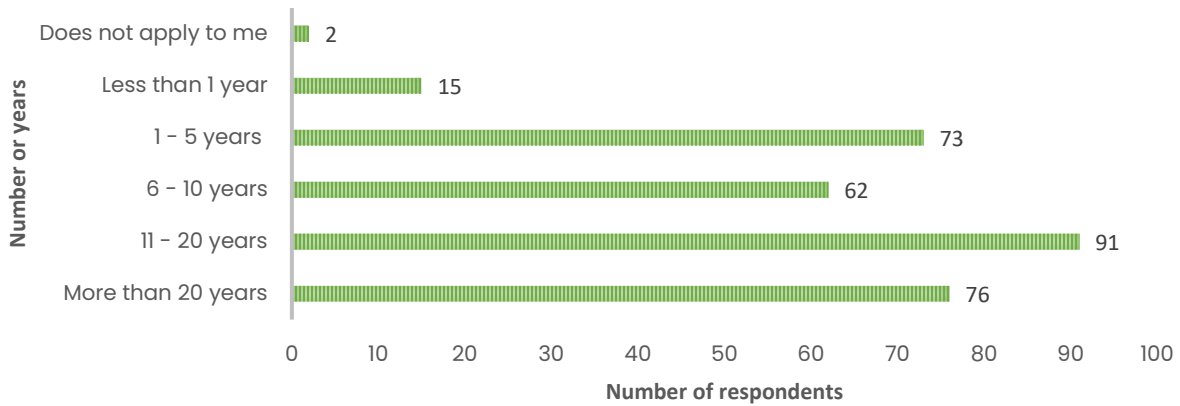




QUESTION 3: *If you live in Chestermere, how many years have you lived in the city?*

The distribution of respondents of the survey shows a significant portion of the population has been living in Chestermere for over a decade, with 91 (29%) respondents having lived there for 11-20 years, 76 (24%) for more than 20 years, and 62 (19%) for 6-10 years. A notable number of respondents, 73 (23%), have lived in Chestermere for 1-5 years, while 15 (5%) are relatively new. Only 2 (1%) respondents indicated that the question does not apply to them.

Figure 53. Question 3 results.

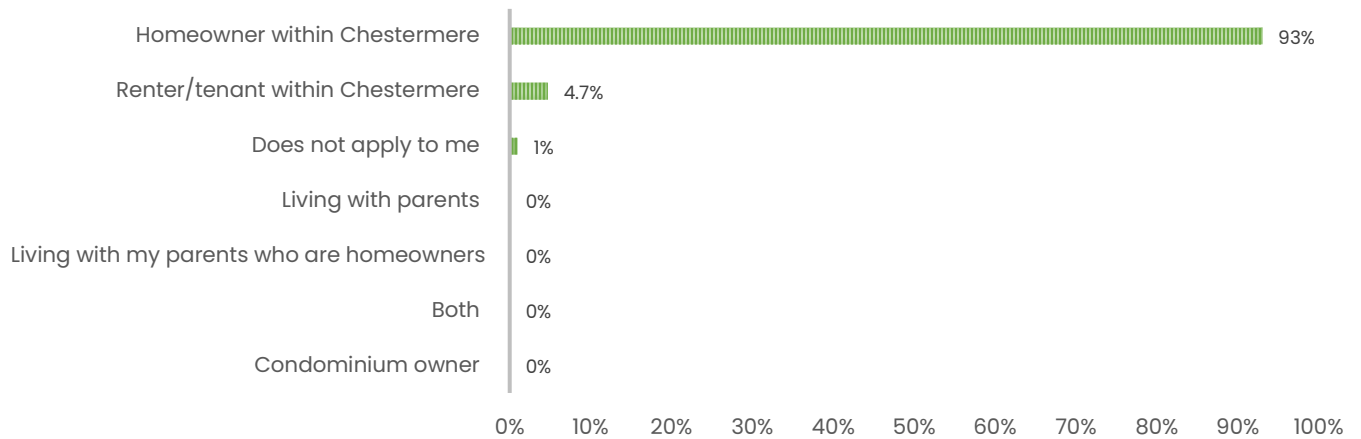




QUESTION 4: What is your current living situation?

A significant majority, 297 (93%), of respondents identify as homeowners within Chestermere out of total of 320 respondents. The remaining responses indicate a diverse but small proportion of living situations: condominium owners and those living with parents are represented minimally (1 response each) and renter/tenant make up a small portion of 15 responses (4.7%).

Figure 6. Question 4 Results





SECTION 2: WHERE ARE WE NOW

QUESTION 5: *What do you love about this City? (open ended)*

As highlighted in the word cloud in Figure 7 and the analysis chart in Figure 8, residents of Chestermere clearly love their city for its strong **sense of community**, which stood out as the top reason, mentioned 95 times. They value the feeling of connection and shared values that make Chestermere feel welcoming and supportive. The **lake** is also a major draw, with 70 people highlighting it as a favorite feature—whether for recreation or simply the beauty it brings to the area.

Many residents also emphasized the charm of the city's **small-town feel**, with 54 mentions, appreciating the peaceful atmosphere and slower pace. At the same time, Chestermere's **proximity to Calgary** is a big advantage, noted 46 times, offering easy access to urban amenities without sacrificing the city's quieter lifestyle.

Outdoor activities like using the **trails** (29 mentions) and the **golf course** (27 mentions) are also important to locals, as they seem to really value the opportunity to stay active in nature. In addition, **green spaces** and the overall **quiet living** of Chestermere—each mentioned over 25 times—are a big part of what makes living there so enjoyable.

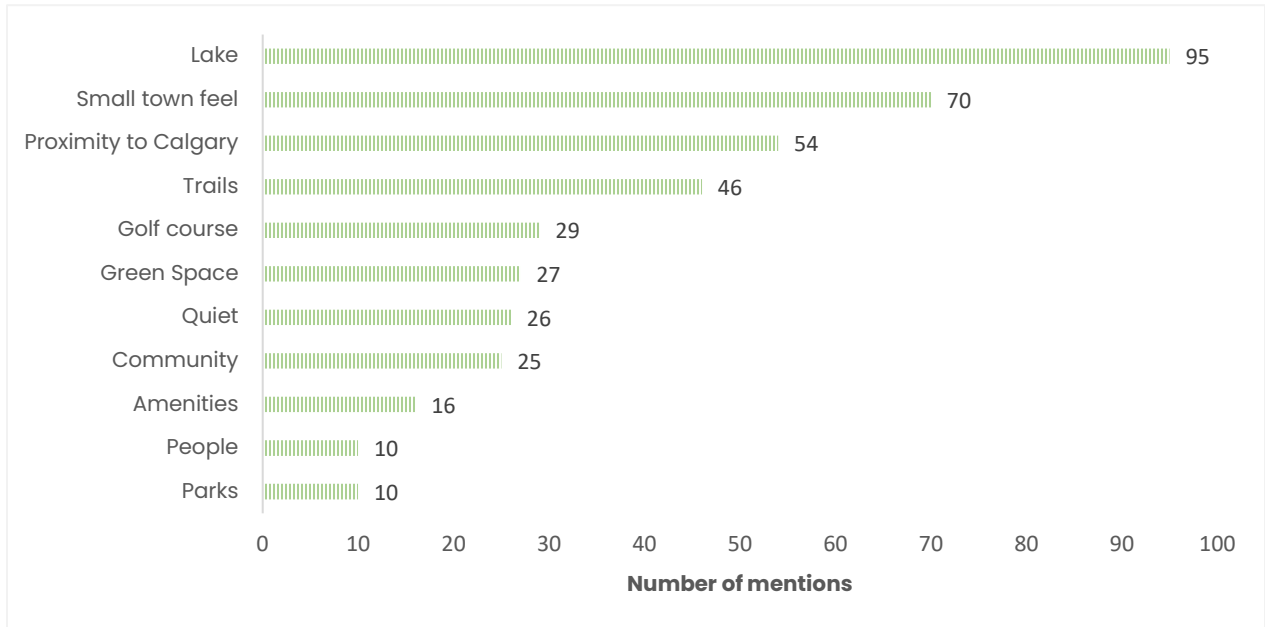
While **amenities** and **parks** were mentioned slightly less often (16 and 10 mentions respectively), it's clear that residents appreciate the facilities that support their lifestyle. Overall, the main priorities for Chestermere residents revolve around maintaining a close-knit, nature-focused community with easy access to Calgary when needed.

Figure 7. Word Cloud of Most Loved Chestermere Features





Figure 8. Question 5 Results: What do you love about this City?

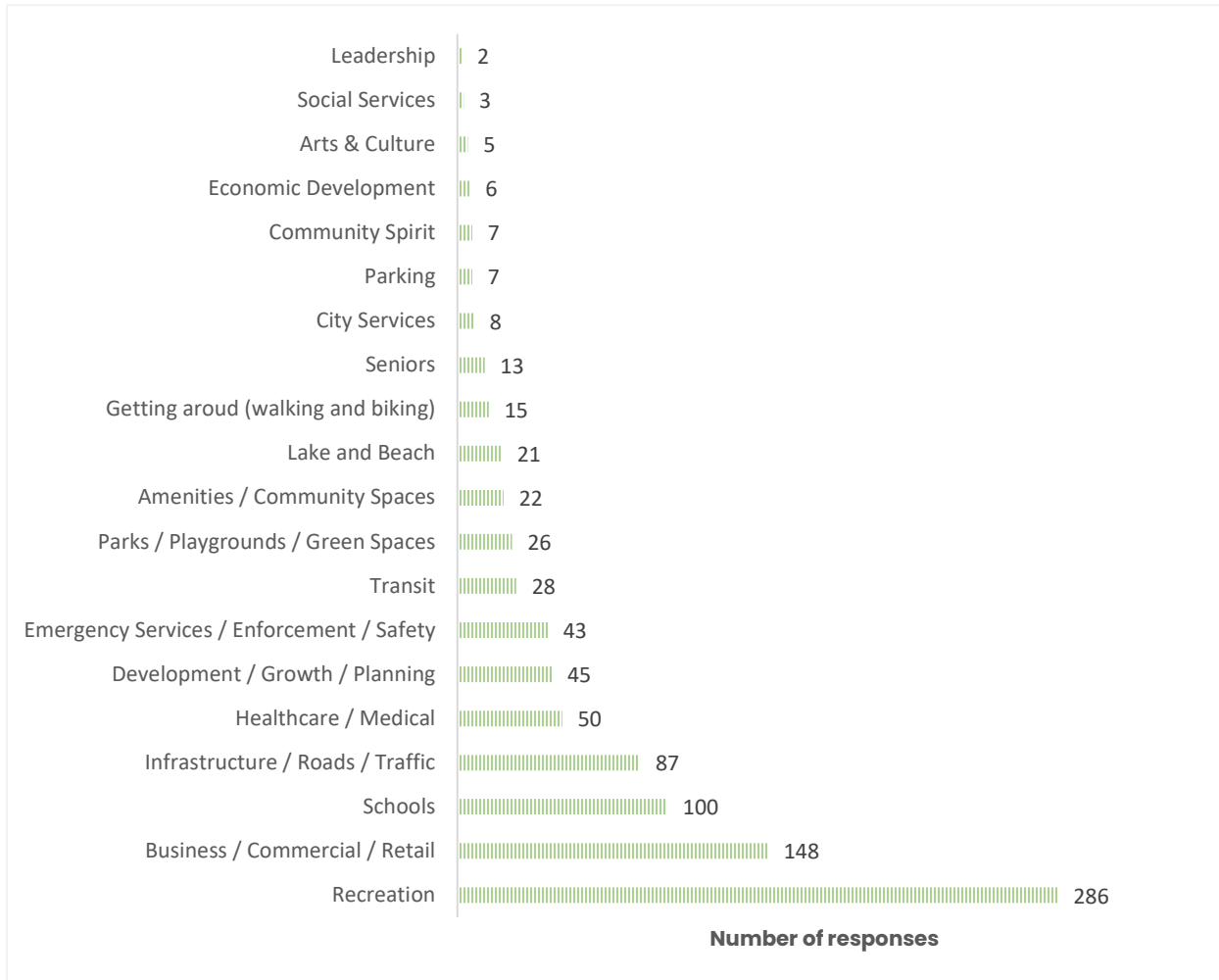




QUESTION 6: What's missing in Chestermere? What would improve your quality of life? (open ended)

Residents were asked what was missing in their community, and given the opportunity to weigh in on ideas that would improve their quality of life. Key findings have been included to better understand the nuance in the response category.

Figure 9. Question 6 Results



Key Findings

- **Recreation:** Nearly half of the 286 comments (47.6%) related to recreation and highlighted the need for a recreation centre. Swimming pools, including general pools and those with



hot tubs, were also a significant priority, making up 31.1% of the responses. A splash or spray park was another popular suggestion, mentioned by 5.2% of participants. Improvements to ice rinks and children's activities/programming were also noted, with 2.8% and 2.4% of the responses, respectively. Additional suggestions for other recreational programs and facilities, such as courts, tracks, and general outdoor activities, accounted for 9.4% of the feedback.

- **Business / commercial / retail:** The most requested addition, with 148 comments, was a hardware store, accounting for 33.8% of responses. A significant portion of participants (31.1%) also expressed a desire for general commercial, business, and retail development. Other popular suggestions included more grocery stores and restaurants, each representing 6.1% of the feedback. Additional requests included big box stores and shopping malls (4.1% each), as well as clothing stores (2.7%). There were also smaller mentions of limiting liquor stores, nail salons, and fast food, along with the need for services like daycares, hotels, bookstores, and car dealerships.
- **Schools:** The overwhelming majority, (90%), of the 100 comments received, expressed a need for more schools in general. A smaller portion (7%) specifically called for a new high school. Other suggestions included improving school busing, making school system improvements, and reducing class sizes.
- **Infrastructure / roads / traffic:** The most frequent of the 87 comments received was the need for better road infrastructure in general (34.5%). Improved infrastructure (not specific to roads) followed, with 17.2% of participants highlighting this need. Suggestions to expand, widen, or twin 17 Avenue made up 16.1% of responses, while 13.8% called for improvements in traffic flow and management.

Other concerns with fewer mentions included the desire for no more roundabouts, better street lighting, and improvements to 16th Avenue.

Additional suggestions included the desire for appropriate infrastructure being in place before development, better signage, upkeep of line painting, easier access in and out of the city, wider streets, improvements to the Rainbow Road/Glenmore Trail intersection, installing speed bumps on East Chestermere Drive, lowering speed limits, and adding more traffic circles.

- **Healthcare / medical:** Nearly half of the 50 comments (46%) expressed the need for an urgent care centre, and 18% requested a hospital. Other common suggestions included adding more doctors (14%) and additional medical centres or clinics (14%). A few



respondents also mentioned the need for better medical services, blood services, a drug store, and a walk-in clinic.

- **Development / growth / planning:** The most common suggestion amongst the 45 comments received (31%) was to slow down housing growth. Reducing high-density developments was mentioned by 13.3% of participants. Better planning for future growth and development accounted for 11.1% of responses, while 8.9% emphasized maintaining the city's small-town feel.

Respondents suggested more single-detached homes and lower-density communities (6.7%), along with suggestions to implement a cap on development or population control and improve planning leadership (both 4.4%). Conversely, other individual suggestions included adding more housing, increasing lot sizes, and providing more rental properties.

Other individual suggestions included improving the quality of housing, removing building permit fees, restricting or stopping illegal basement suites, streamlining the building permit process, and developing more apartments.

- **Emergency services / enforcement / safety:** The majority of the 43 comments received (62.8%) requested increased policing, while 14% suggested better bylaw enforcement. General improvements to emergency and protective services accounted for 7% of the responses, and 4.7% emphasized crime prevention. Other individual suggestions included concerns about gangs, increased fire services, patrolled stop signs, pedestrian controls, and electronic speed signs.
- **Transit:** Enhanced public transit within Chestermere and to/from Calgary was mentioned 28 times by respondents.
- **Parks / playgrounds / green spaces:** Half of the 26 responses received (50%) expressed a desire for more green spaces and parks. Additional suggestions, each mentioned by 7.7% of respondents, included cleaner, better-maintained parks and schoolyards, as well as planting more trees. Other individual suggestions included beautifying green spaces, adding gates to close off-leash areas, including more green space in new developments, and modernizing playgrounds with no rocks or wood.
- **Amenities / community spaces:** A significant portion of these 23 comments (31.8%) expressed a desire for more amenities, while 27.3% called for the addition of a community centre. There was also support for a bigger library, mentioned by 13.6% of respondents.



Other individual suggestions included more community spaces, family amenities, special needs amenities, an events centre, better-connected public spaces, and more churches.

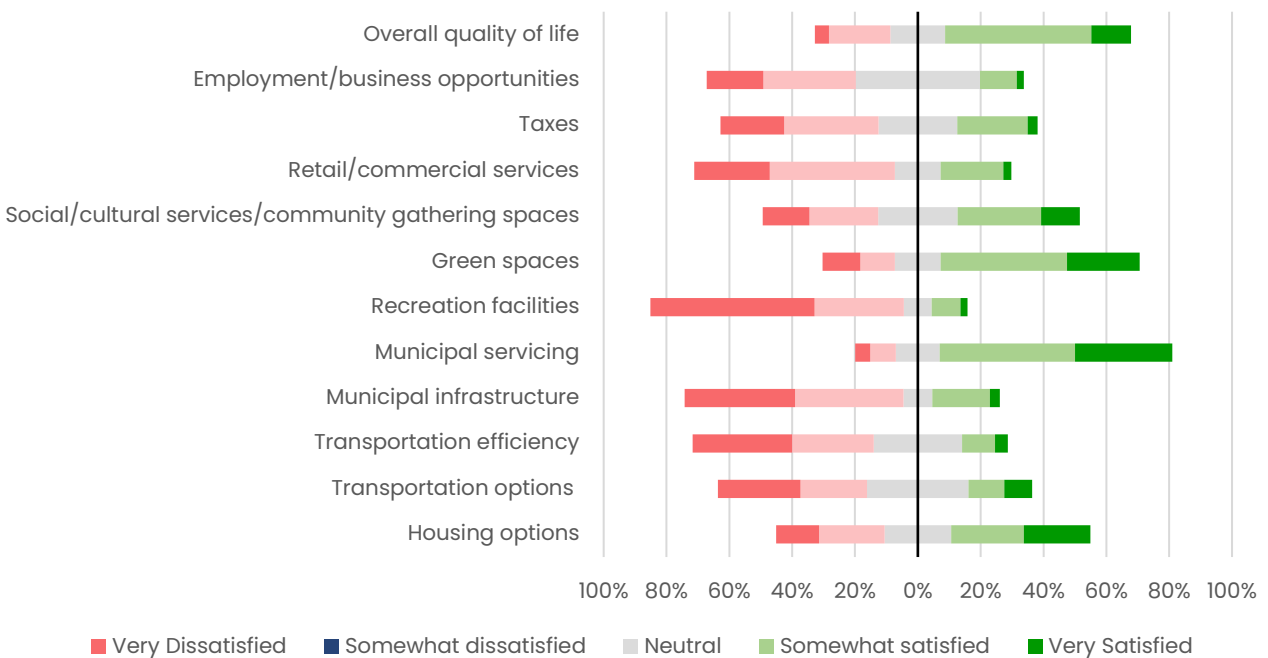
- **Lake and beach:** The most common suggestion, accounting for 42.9% of the 21 comments received was to restrict access to the lake and beaches. There was also interest in adding a beach on the south side of the lake (19%), along with improving lake conditions and increasing maintenance (14.3%). Other suggestions included adding more beaches, improving beach access, creating lakefront boardwalk shops, and establishing nighttime waterfront destinations.
- **Getting around (walking and biking):** 15 comments were provided suggesting to improve sidewalks, add more trails, enhance trail connectivity, and create dedicated bike paths.
- **Seniors:** 13 comments were focused on senior's housing, with calls for 55+ communities, amenities, care facilities, and a senior's centre.
- **City services:** Eight concerns were expressed about better snow removal, garbage collection, and cleanliness, along with a call for expanded sewer and water services to acreages.
- **Community spirit:** Seven comments emphasized fostering more community involvement, block parties, festivals, and better communication about events.
- **Parking:** Seven comments focused on providing adequate parking in new developments, improving beach parking, and better parking enforcement.
- **Economic development:** Six comments called for more job opportunities and a greater focus on economic development.
- **Arts & culture:** Five comments requested a performing arts centre and more arts and cultural activities.
- **Social services:** Three comments focused on supporting non-profits and initiatives like the Good Food Box.
- **Leadership:** One comment suggested improved transparency from Council, and one respondent expressed concern about taxes.



QUESTION 7: Satisfaction Rating

Questions 7 through 18 of the survey asked respondents to rate their satisfaction levels across various experiences from programming, services, and amenities within the city based on the scale of **very dissatisfied**, **somewhat dissatisfied**, **neutral**, **somewhat satisfied**, and very **satisfied**. Overall, municipal servicing, green spaces, and quality of life are the highest rated areas. Recreation facilities, municipal infrastructure, and transportation efficiency are the weakest areas that require attention.

Figure 10. Question 7 Results



Key Findings

- **Housing options:** The satisfaction levels are fairly balanced, with 23% somewhat satisfied and 21% very satisfied. However, about 34% fall into the dissatisfied categories.
- **Transportation options:** A large portion of respondents are either neutral (32%) or dissatisfied (47% combined very and somewhat dissatisfied). Only 20% are satisfied.



- **Transportation efficiency:** More than 57% of respondents are dissatisfied with transportation efficiency. Only about 14% are satisfied, suggesting this is a key area that requires attention.
- **Municipal infrastructure:** The dissatisfaction level is high, with over 69% expressing dissatisfaction. Satisfaction is quite low at 21% with a combined response of somewhat and very satisfied, indicating a significant concern with the city's roads, bridges, and public bridges, etc.
- **Municipal servicing:** This category sees more satisfaction, with 43% being somewhat satisfied and 31% very satisfied, totaling 74% satisfied. Only about 13% are dissatisfied.
- **Recreation facilities:** Over 52% are very dissatisfied with recreation facilities, and another 28% somewhat dissatisfied, indicating a major issue with these services. Only 11% are satisfied, indicating a need for better recreational resources.
- **Green spaces:** Satisfaction is moderate, with 40% somewhat satisfied and 23% very satisfied and dissatisfaction sits at 23% combined.
- **Social and cultural services/community spaces:** Satisfaction levels are mixed, with 39% satisfied and 37% dissatisfied. The remaining 25% are neutral, suggesting that these services meet the needs of some.
- **Taxes and value for services:** Satisfaction with tax value is relatively low, with 50% dissatisfied and only 25% satisfied.
- **Employment and business opportunities:** This category shows a high level of neutrality (39.5%), but dissatisfaction is still significant at 47% combined.
- **Overall quality of life:** The overall quality of life appears positive, with 47% somewhat satisfied and 13% very satisfied, totaling 59% satisfied. Only 24% are dissatisfied.

Highest Satisfaction (Combined satisfaction):

1. Municipal Servicing: **74%**
2. Overall Quality of Life: **60%**
3. Green Spaces: **63%**



Lowest Satisfaction (Combined dissatisfaction):

1. Recreation Facilities: **81%**
2. Municipal Infrastructure: **69%**
3. Transportation Efficiency: **58%**

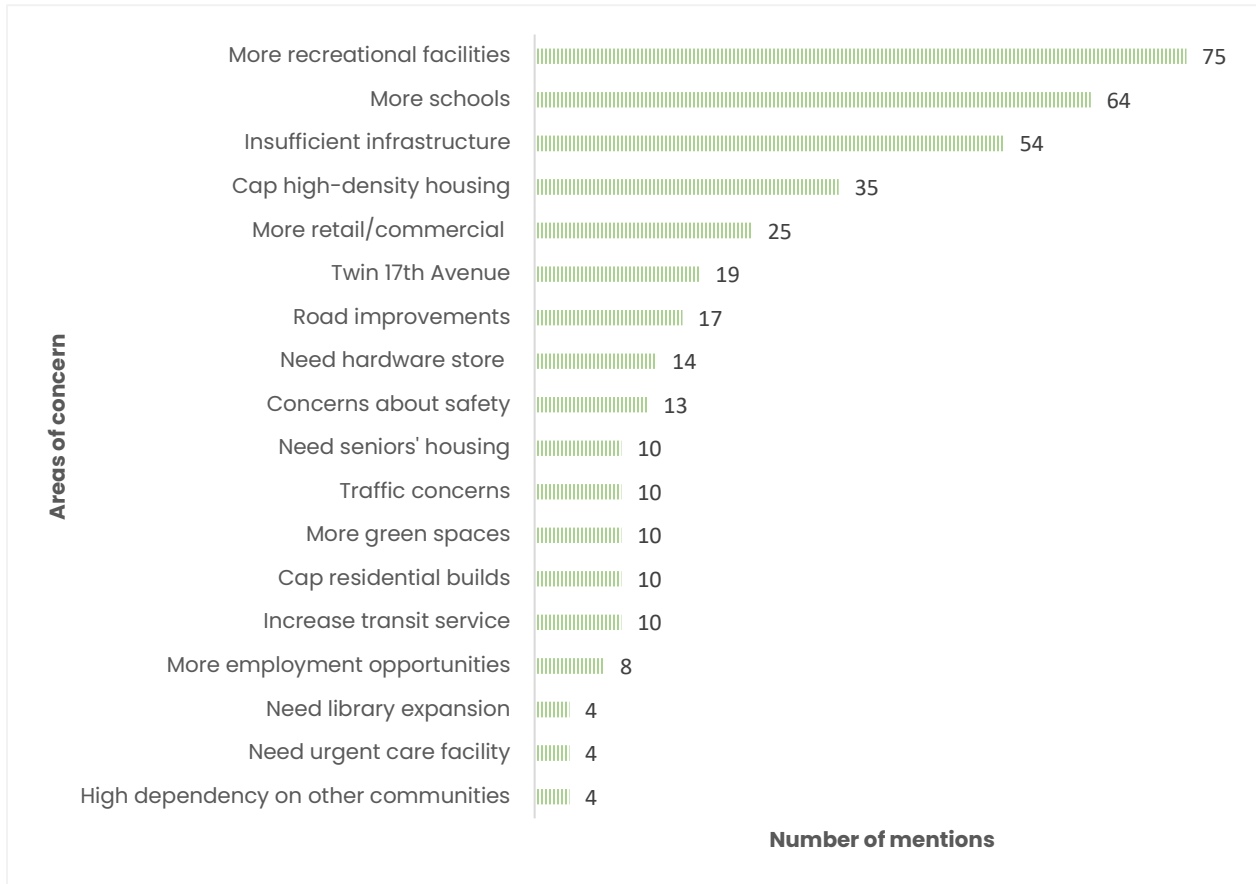
QUESTION 8: *Please provide comments to elaborate on any of your responses above (open ended)*

Respondents were given the opportunity to expand further on question 7. A notable issue in the open-ended responses was the high dependency on other communities for essential services, suggesting that Chestermere lacks certain facilities that force residents to seek resources elsewhere. One of the most pressing needs identified was for an urgent care facility

Transportation was another recurring theme, with calls for increased transit services to improve mobility and reduce reliance on personal vehicles. Residents also called for capping residential development to prevent overgrowth, which they felt was stretching existing infrastructure. There was a strong demand for more green spaces, improvements in traffic management, and enhanced safety measures, all of which contribute to the overall quality of life.



Figure 11. Question 8 Results



SECTION 3: WHERE ARE WE GOING?

We want to hear about your dreams and aspirations for the future as we continue to grow and build our city.

QUESTION 9: What are the top three values that should guide the development of Chestermere's MDP? (Ranking – top 3)

This question asked respondents to select their top priority areas across various categories shown in the table below.



Figure 12. Question 9 Results

CATEGORY	1ST PRIORITY	2ND PRIORITY	3RD PRIORITY	TOTAL RANKING
Caring for others / community inclusivity	5	6	13	6
Economic and local employment growth	15	28	47	5
Infrastructure maintenance and development	86	86	66	2
Lake-quality preservation / ecological protection / environmental sustainability	26	37	45	4
Managing growth and development	108	72	61	1
Promoting and facilitating recreation and an active community	64	83	63	3
Other (please specify below)	15	4	22	7

Top Priority:

1. Managing growth and development is the top priority for respondents, with the highest number of first-choice votes (108). It indicates that respondents are particularly concerned with how the city grows and expands.
2. Infrastructure maintenance and development is also highly prioritized, almost equally across all rankings.
3. Recreation and active living are also important to the residents, especially as a 2nd priority. This suggests a strong desire for the city to invest in public spaces, parks, sports facilities, and programs that support healthy and active lifestyle.

QUESTION 10: *If you selected "Other" above, please specify here:*

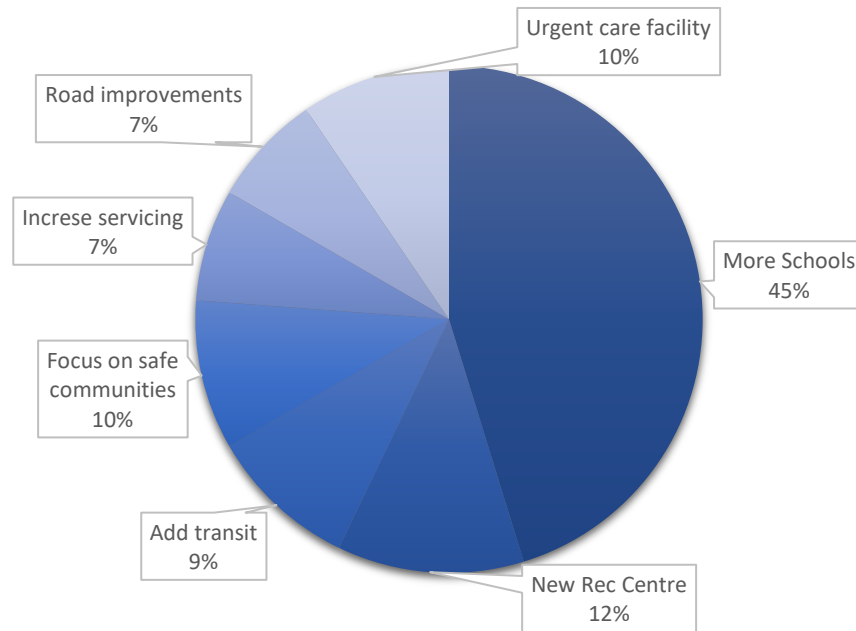
Respondents were given the opportunity to suggest other values that they believe are important to consider in developing the MDP. The responses from this question highlighted a few clear priorities. **More schools** emerged as the top value, supported by 39% of respondents. Other



significant values included the desire for a **new rec centre** (12%), the need for an **urgent care facility** (10%), and a focus on **safe communities** (10%).

This feedback suggests that residents are primarily concerned with improving essential services and infrastructure, particularly in education, recreation, and transportation.

Figure 13. Question 10 Results



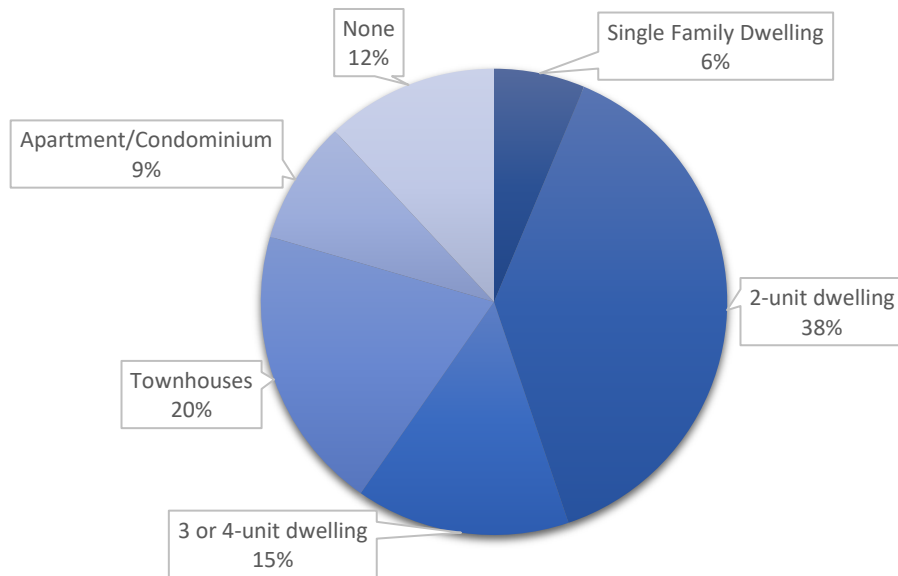
QUESTION 11: *What types of multi-residential housing options do you support in your neighbourhood? (Select all that apply)*

The data on the types of multi-residential housing options that Chestermere residents support reveals clear preferences. The most popular choice was **single-detached dwellings**, with 28% of residents in favor of this option. **Townhouses** were supported by 19% of respondents, while **2-unit dwellings** garnered significant backing with 17.1%. Support for **3- or 4-unit dwellings** was lower, at 6.6%, and **apartments/condominiums** were favored by only 3.8% of respondents. 5.3% of residents indicated they do not support any multi-residential housing options in their neighborhood. Results suggest a general preference for lower-density housing, with single-detached homes and townhouses being the most supported types. The comparatively low support for apartments and



higher-density options indicates that residents may prioritize maintaining the current character of their existing neighborhoods.

Figure 14. Question 11 Results



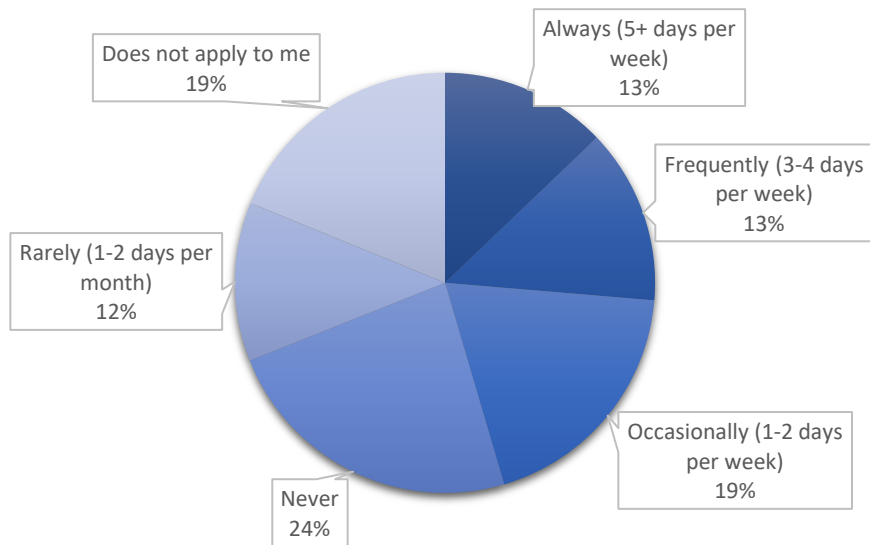


QUESTION 12: Please indicate how often you work from home.

The results of how frequently residents of Chestermere work from home shows a diverse range of responses. A significant portion (24%) reported that they never work from home, while 19% indicated they occasionally work from home (1-2 days per week). A total of 13% of residents stated they always work from home (5+ days per week), and another 13% said they work from home frequently (3-4 days per week). Additionally, 12% work from home rarely (1-2 days per month), and 18% indicated that the question does not apply to them.

This data suggests that while some residents have fully embraced remote work, a substantial number either never work from home or do infrequently. This range of work habits may reflect varying professional demands or the nature of employment opportunities within and outside Chestermere.

Figure 15. Question 12 Results

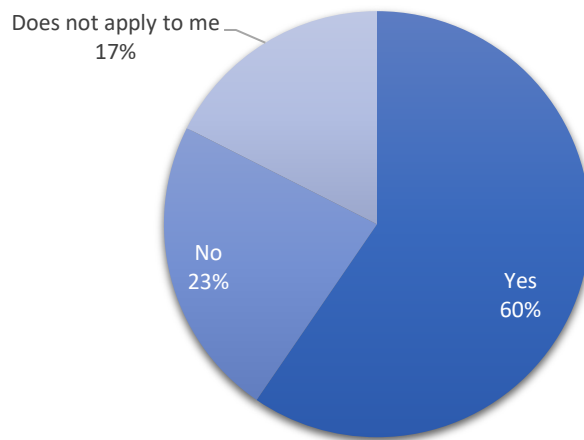




QUESTION 13: *Do you commute outside the City for work?*

The high percentage of commuters (60%) reflects the fact that a significant portion of Chestermere's working population relies on employment opportunities outside the city. The 23% who do not commute likely represent those who work locally, work from home, or have businesses within the city. The 17% whose answer does not apply reflects those who are not directly impacted by commuting issues, such as non-working residents' likely retirees, students, or those not in the workforce.

Figure 16. Question 13 Results

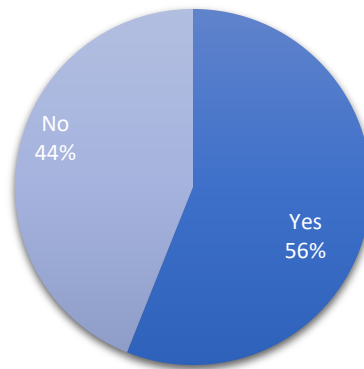




QUESTION 14: Do you support the City taking actions to reduce commuting outside the City?

When asked whether they support the City taking actions to reduce commuting outside Chestermere, **56% of respondents** said "yes," while **44%** said "no." While a majority support reducing commuting, a notable minority either prefer or are content with commuting out of Chestermere, highlighting a divided opinion on the need for local job creation and self-sufficiency.

Figure 17. Question 15 Results

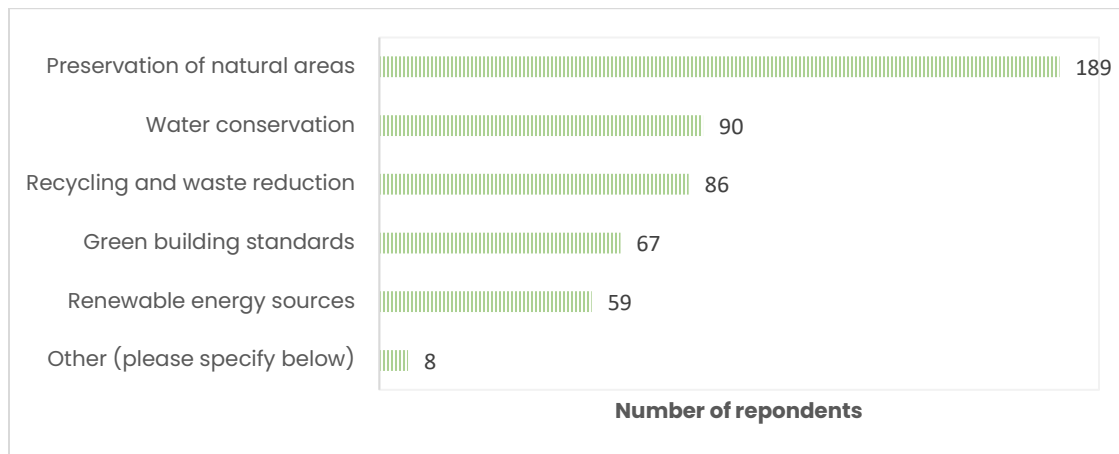


QUESTION 16: What environmental initiatives should be prioritized in the MDP? (Drag the items in order from your top priority to your lowest priority)

In this question, respondents were asked to rank their top environmental initiatives to be prioritized in the MDP. The main environmental concern for residents is **preserving natural areas**, followed by **sustainable water management and reducing waste**. While **green building standards** and **renewable energy** are still valued, they are viewed as lower priorities compared to the immediate need to protect the environment and manage resources effectively. This reflects a strong focus on maintaining natural beauty and ecological health as the city grows.



Figure 18. Question 16 Results



QUESTION 17: *If you selected "Other" above, please specify here*

The survey respondents had an opportunity to provide their own response. The following are the summary of the main concerns expressed:

- A strong focus on **water supply** and calling for the city to build its own water facilities to reduce reliance on Calgary.
- **Lake preservation** is a priority, with concerns about its cleanliness, invasive species and overdevelopment around the lake.
- Many of the respondents were concerned about waste **management and cleanliness** in the city.
- A recurring theme is the **creation and preservation of green spaces**. People want more parks and spaces for families and community interaction, and they are critical of new developments reducing natural areas.
- There is some support for **sustainable** urban development and limiting urban sprawl. A few respondents suggested implementing wind turbines, solar energy rebates, and designing walkways that are wheelchair accessible to **promote sustainability** and inclusivity.

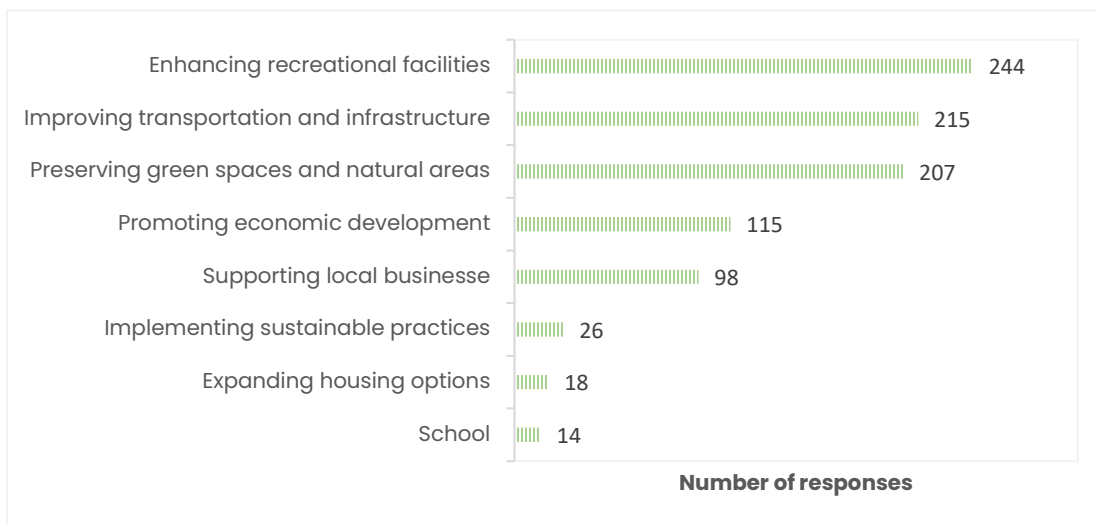
The key environmental concerns among respondents are focused on water independence and lake preservation, better waste management, expanding green spaces, and promoting new developments be sustainable and do not compromise natural areas.



QUESTION 18: *What are the most important factors to consider as Chestermere grows and evolves over the next 25 years? (Select up to three)*

This question asked participants to identify their top three priorities from a list of options. The choices reflect various aspects of city planning, including recreational facilities, infrastructure, housing, economic development, and environmental preservation. The goal of this question was to highlight the areas residents feel should receive the most attention in the city’s long-term growth strategy. By limiting responses to three choices, this question aimed to focus on the most significant concerns for the community.

Figure 20. Question 18 Results



Top Priority:

1. Enhancing recreational facilities was the most important factor (244 responses or 76%). This suggests a community focus on lifestyle, wellness, and family-friendly amenities.
2. Improving transportation and infrastructure was mentioned 215 times (215 responses or 67%) indicating respondents see these areas as key for managing growth.
3. There’s a strong preference for preserving green and natural areas (207 responses or 65%), indicating a community concern for sustainability and environmental well-being.



QUESTION 19: *If you were a City of Chestermere Councillor and had to rank the highest priority to focus on over the next 3-5 years, how would you rank the following? (Rank top three)*

The respondents were asked to select their top priority area from the various categories shown in the table below:

Figure 21. Question 19 Results

CATEGORY	1ST PRIORITY	2ND PRIORITY	3RD PRIORITY	TOTAL RESPONSES	TOTAL RANKING
Social services	114	79	55		2
Economic development	39	53	63		4
Environment	18	15	24		5
Health	70	84	104		1
Infrastructure	74	82	66		3
Housing	4	6	7		6

Top Priority:

1. Health has the highest cumulative response rate when calculated across all priority rankings, with the highest average votes across all categories, especially with strong 3rd priority support (104 mentions).
2. Social services received the highest number of 1st priority votes (114) and ranked second for overall mentions.
3. Infrastructure is also a high priority, with a relatively balanced spread across all rankings.

QUESTION 20: *Please tell us how you heard about the MDP project. (Select all that apply)*

This question asked the respondents to select their source for hearing about the Municipal Development Plan project. The results show that social media played a dominant role informing respondents about the MDP project, with the vast majority (245 out of 320) indicating they found out through this platform. This indicated that digital outreach is highly effective in engaging the community.



Figure 22. Question 20 Results

Source	Mention Count
City website	46
Friends/family (word of mouth)	29
Social media	245
Road signs	17
Newspaper	15
Councillor/Council	7

CONCLUSION

The feedback process itself was highly valuable in building trust and fostering dialogue between the City and its residents. Participants appreciated the opportunity to share their views and contribute to the City's future.

Feedback gathered during Round 1 has provided a wealth of insights that will be used to inform the development of Chestermere's new Municipal Development Plan. Feedback from the community was gathered through various methods:

- Opinions given at pop-up events
- Participation at community partner meetings
- Ability to weigh in on the public survey
- Ability to email the project team

The community's input on growth management, infrastructure, recreation, housing, the environment, economic development, and social services will help shape policies that align with the city's vision for the future. As the MDP moves into the next round, continued engagement with residents and stakeholders will help the plan reflect the evolving needs and priorities of the community.