

Round 2 Engagement: What We Heard

Most respondents or their children participated in organized field sports – primarily soccer, baseball, softball/fastball, and box lacrosse. Many also volunteered or coached in community sports.

The Strategy's vision statement and guiding principles were broadly supported. Respondents voiced the greatest level of support for the principle: *"Sports fields, lacrosse boxes and supporting amenities consider accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion to create a welcoming environment for all sports users and spectators."*

Respondents voiced the greatest level of opposition to the principle: *"Saanich's inventory and allocation of sports fields and lacrosse boxes reflect community needs and consider sports facilities within the context of the wide range of demands on the park system."*

Respondents suggested strengthening the Strategy by emphasizing recognition of community sports organizations, environmental impacts, asset renewal and maintenance, and cost recovery through user fees.

All recommendations received strong overall support (at least 73%), though some opposition was noted regarding transitioning to a new collaborative management model and updating allocation and fee policies.

In open-ended feedback, many respondents viewed the Strategy as a positive step toward more equitable access and modernized field management. Key concerns included potential limits on field availability, impacts on Home User Groups (HUGs), lack of clarity around compensation for HUG investments, and doubts about Saanich's ability to maintain fields at current standards. Participants also suggested field and amenity improvements, expanded maintenance, additional fields, and some advocated for other recreation activities beyond the Strategy's scope.

Overall, participants saw the Strategy as a strong framework for a more sustainable, equitable, and accountable sports field system, while noting concerns about capacity, management changes, and the future role of Home User Groups.

