

# **CITY OF SALMON ARM OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT - JULY 2024**



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The City of Salmon Arm acknowledges the traditional territory of the Secwepemc people, with whom we share these lands and where we live and work together.

MODUS respectfully acknowledges that our office is located on the unceded and occupied lands of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy<sup>ə</sup>m (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səfilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

The City of Salmon Arm and MODUS extend gratitude to all community members, organizations and government agencies who shared their time, experience, and knowledge with the project team. A special thank you to the Community Ambassadors for helping to lead the engagement efforts, and to the community organizations who welcomed us into their programming.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|      |   |    |
|------|---|----|
| 1.   | Introduction .....                      | 2  |
| 2.   | Engagement Snapshot .....               | 3  |
| 3.   | What We Did.....                        | 5  |
| 3.1. | Phase One .....                         | 5  |
| 3.2. | Phase Two .....                         | 5  |
| 4.   | Who We Heard From .....                 | 7  |
| 5.   | What We Heard .....                     | 11 |
| 5.1. | Community Values & Vision.....          | 11 |
| 5.2. | Housing, Infrastructure and Growth..... | 17 |
| 5.3. | Transportation and Accessibility.....   | 21 |
| 5.4. | Parks, Recreation, and Trails.....      | 25 |
| 5.5. | Environment and Climate Change .....    | 30 |
| 5.6. | Agriculture and Food Security .....     | 34 |
| 5.7. | Jobs and the Local Economy .....        | 38 |
| 5.8. | Arts, Culture, Community Heritage ..... | 41 |
| 3    | Measuring Success.....                  | 44 |
| 4    | Next Steps .....                        | 45 |

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The City of Salmon Arm is reviewing and updating its Official Community Plan (OCP). An OCP sets out a broad, long-range vision for the community. It guides land use decisions and includes supporting objectives and policies for a range of topics like housing, transportation, parks, agriculture, and community services, among others.

The current OCP was adopted in 2011 and is now being updated to ensure the Plan reflects community priorities and trends, and allows the City to adapt to challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Since January 2024, the project team (including City staff and consultant team) has been engaging with community members, organizations and interest holders

Distinct engagement processes are being undertaken directly with both the Adams Lake Indian Band and Neskonlith Indian Band to understand their priorities and visions for the future, and how their interests can best be respected in the revised OCP. The results of these engagement efforts are ongoing and are not represented here.

This document provides a summary of what we heard during the first two phases of the project. It highlights a wide variety of interests and perspectives from across Salmon Arm. At the end of each round of engagement, we will continue to update this document with a summary of what we have heard to date.

## 2. ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

### What We Did



#### Outreach & Promotions

- Press release
- Postcard and poster handouts
- Project newsletters
- Newspaper ads
- Social media posts
- Direct outreach to community organizations



#### Public Pop Ups

- Shaw Arena
- Okanagan Regional Library
- Earth Day Celebrations
- Downtown Farmer's Market
- Salmon Arm Youth Soccer Association
- 151 attendees



#### Combined Stakeholder Workshop

- March 13<sup>th</sup>
- 20 participants



#### Stakeholder Meetings

- SAEDS Industrial Park
- SAEDS Agricultural Advisory Committee
- SAEDS Agricultural Industry
- 30 participants



#### Futures Fair Event

- May 4<sup>th</sup>
- 71 attendees



#### 'Go-to-them' Events

- Salmon Arm Secondary School Leadership Club
- Rise Up
- Family Resource Centre
- Shuswap Association for Community Living
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Shuswap Immigration Services Society
- 117 participants



#### Public Survey

- Phase 1 Survey: January 5<sup>th</sup> to February 9<sup>th</sup>
- Phase 2 Survey: April 8<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup>
- 1,377 respondents

## Cross-Cutting Themes

Across our many engagement activities, we heard a desire for...

### Connectivity

- Safe and connected trails, sidewalks, and bike paths (improved active transportation)
- Expanded and accessible public transit network and service
- Easy access to services and amenities

### Balanced growth

- Well-maintained infrastructure and facilities that supports community growth and change
- Protected and enhanced natural areas, green spaces, trees and agricultural lands

### Sustainability

- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Improved climate resilience
- Diverse food growing opportunities
- Access to healthy, local foods
- Improved water quality

### Safety

- Celebration of diversity and improved sense of belonging
- Access to low-barrier social, cultural, and wellness services and supports
- Improved emergency preparedness

### Affordability

- Affordable options for housing
- Affordable options for transportation and recreation
- Low unemployment

### Community vibrancy

- Vibrant downtown core and small businesses
- Arts and cultural spaces and celebrations
- Age-friendly public spaces and recreational opportunities

## **3. WHAT WE DID**

### **3.1. PHASE ONE**

Phase One activities consisted largely of providing information to create interest and awareness about the review project, through the City's website and pop-up events. An initial online survey was also hosted on the website to understand the current level of community awareness of the OCP, and to determine how well the current OCP was (or was not) meeting community needs and objectives.

### **3.2. PHASE TWO**

#### **3.2.1. Background**

In the second phase of engagement, the community was invited to share their hopes and ideas for the future of Salmon Arm. The feedback gathered will help inform the development of the Draft OCP; alongside other public and stakeholder input, technical studies and analysis, engagement with the Adams Lake Indian Band and Neskonlith Indian Band, and direction from Council.

Through Spring 2024, the project team hosted a series of engagement opportunities to build on what we heard in phase one and gather input on goals, objectives, and policy ideas for the OCP Update.

#### **3.2.2. Combined Workshop**

On March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the project team hosted a workshop at Song Sparrow Hall. The workshop brought together twenty representatives in conversation, with interests ranging from agriculture and food, arts and culture, economic development, housing, environment and climate change, recreation and trails, and community and social services.

#### **3.2.3. Stakeholder Meetings**

With the support of the Salmon Arm Economic Development Society (SAEDS), three sessions were held with Industrial Park users and owners (June 13<sup>th</sup>), Agricultural landowners and producers (June 17<sup>th</sup>), and Downtown Salmon Arm (June 25<sup>th</sup>). These stakeholder sessions were focussed on the interests of the groups attending.

In addition to the session noted above a workshop-style session was held with the Agricultural Advisory Committee (June 23<sup>rd</sup>) to gather input specific to agricultural land uses, food security and issues facing producers.

### 3.2.4. 'Go-to-them' Engagement

The project team coordinated with community organizations to host events with equity-deserving groups, including youth, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, people with mental health challenges, renters, and more. The event format was tailored to organizations' needs and interests and included:

- Leadership Club Meeting at Salmon Arm Secondary School on April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Pop Up at the Rise Up Open House on May 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Staff Meeting at the Family Resource Centre on May 6<sup>th</sup>
- Pop up at the Shuswap Association for Community Living on May 9<sup>th</sup>
- Pop Up at the Canadian Mental Health Association on May 16<sup>th</sup>
- Lunch and Learn at the Shuswap Immigration Services Society on June 15<sup>th</sup>

### 3.2.5. Public Pop-ups

The project team, including Community Ambassadors, facilitated three public pop-up events at key events and locations in Salmon Arm. The pop-ups aimed to raise awareness of the OCP Update, gather input on community values and vision for the future, and encourage participation in the online survey and Futures Fair event. Pop-ups were held at:

- Earth Day Celebration, Ross St Plaza on April 20<sup>th</sup>
- Downtown Farmer's Market, Ross St Plaza on April 27<sup>th</sup>
- Salmon Arm Youth Soccer Association, Downtown Fields on May 1<sup>st</sup>

### 3.2.6. Futures Fair

On May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the project team hosted a Futures Fair event at the SASCU Recreation Centre. This interactive event included activities for the whole family to get involved. Over seventy community members dropped by to meet the project team, learn about the OCP Update, and share their ideas. Community members typically spent a half hour or more at the event and provided detailed feedback. Participants who completed an "event passport" by visiting all the activities were entered into a draw to win one of six \$50 grocery gift certificates.

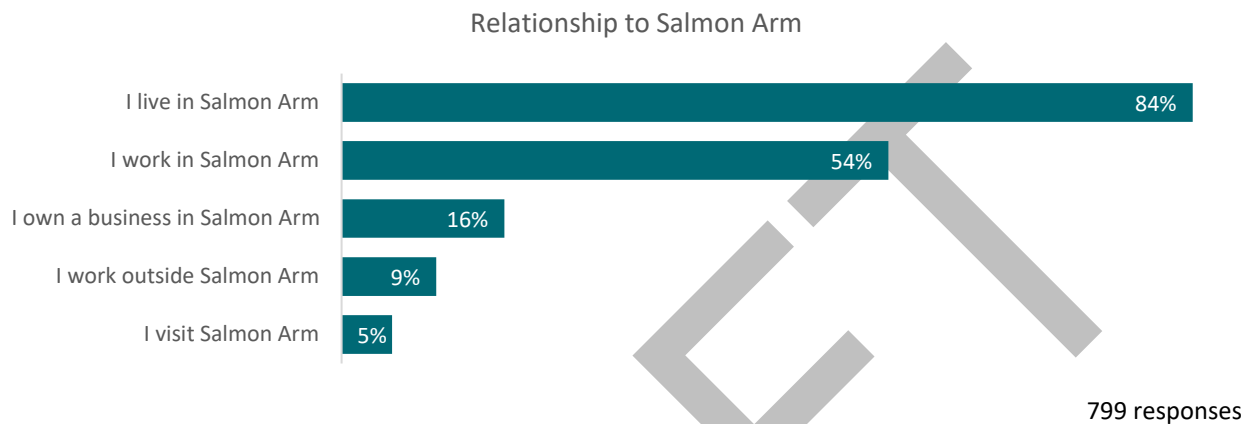
### 3.2.7. Online Survey

A public survey was available online from April 8<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup> on the City of Salmon Arm website. The survey gathered feedback on key OCP topic areas and received 960 responses. Participants who left their email addresses were entered into a draw to win one of six \$50 grocery gift certificates.

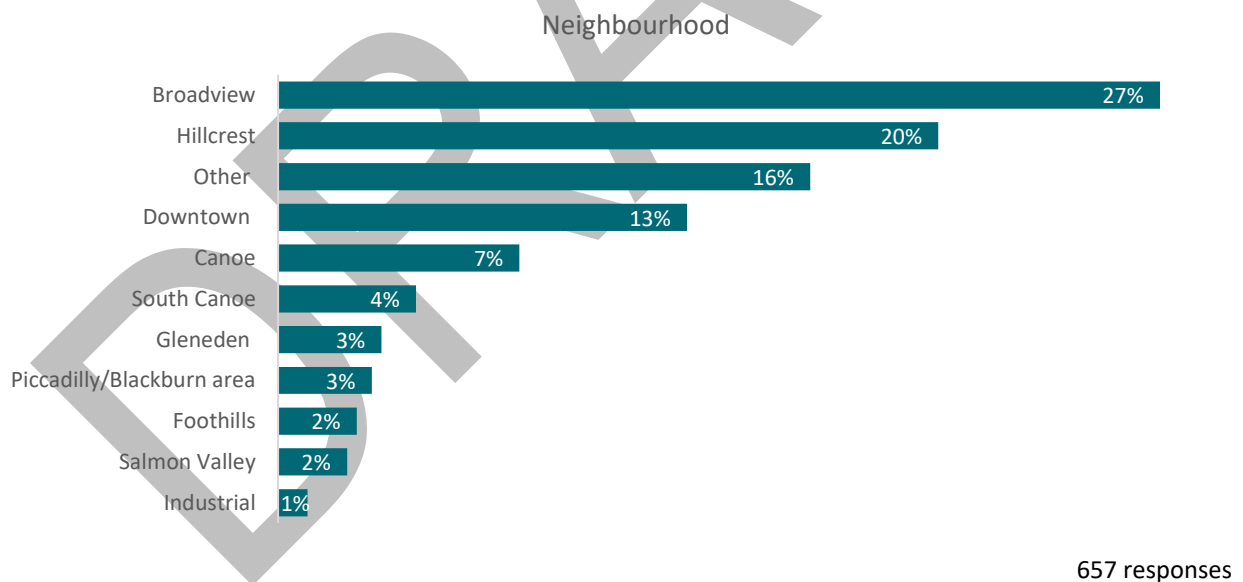


## 4. WHO WE HEARD FROM

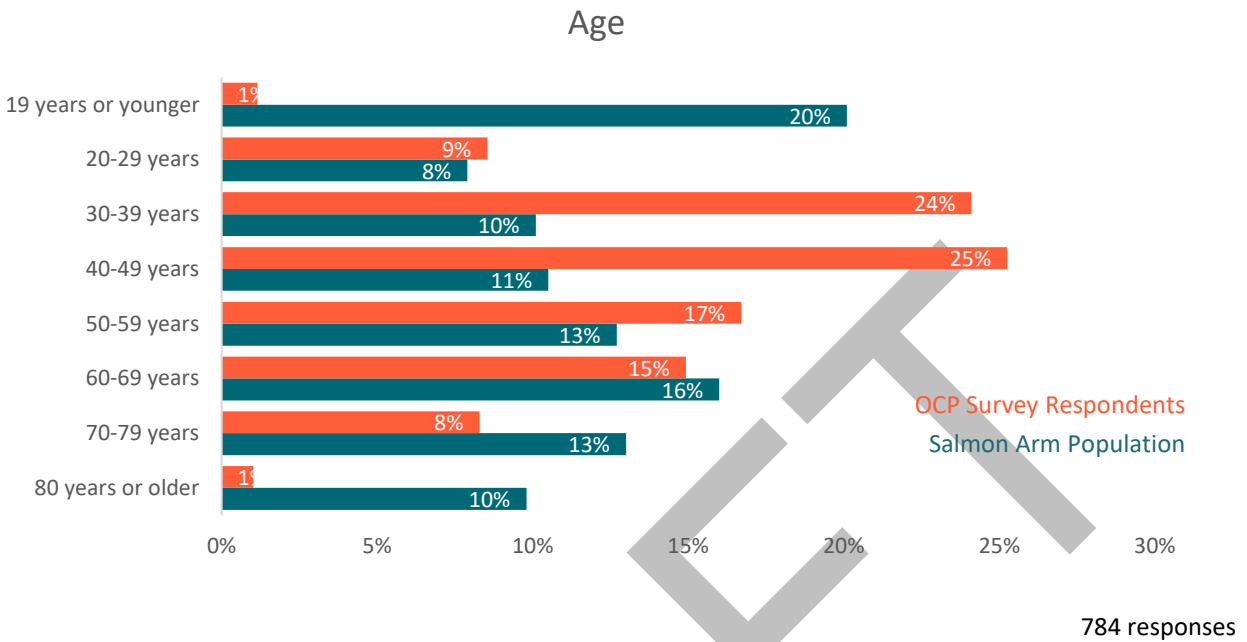
Through the online survey, the project team asked optional demographic questions to better understand who we are engaging in the OCP Update. The graphs on the following pages describe these results.



Most survey respondents (84%) live and work (54%) in Salmon Arm. We also heard from business owners (16%) and those who work outside Salmon Arm (9%) or visit the community (5%).

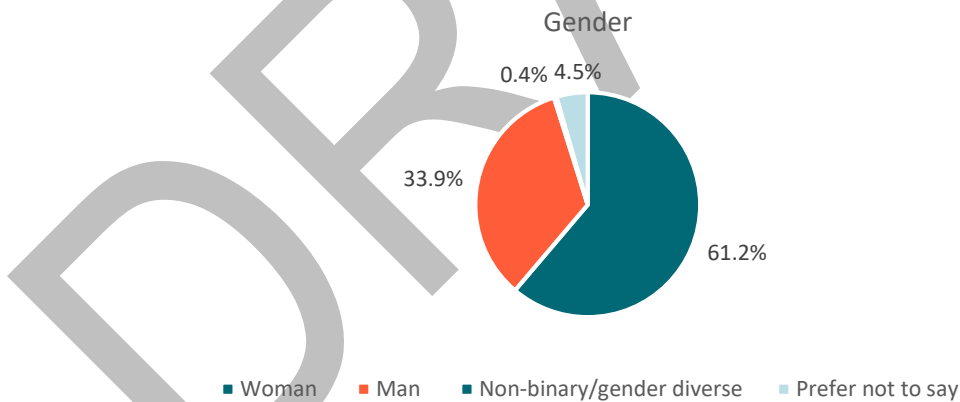


Of those that live in Salmon Arm, over a quarter (27%) live in Broadview, and about one-fifth (20%) live in Hillcrest. Other responses often referenced Okanagan, Uptown, Ranchero, and Raven neighbourhoods.



Survey respondents range in age: 10% are under 30, 49% are between 30 and 50, and 41% are over 50. Compared to Salmon Arm’s population, we heard from a higher percentage of people aged 30 to 50 and fewer people aged 19 or younger, and over the age of 70.

781 responses



Most survey respondents (61%) identify as a woman. This is higher than the percentage of women in the community (53%). About a third (34%) of survey respondents identify as a man; less than the percentage of men in the community (47%). In addition, 5% of survey respondents identify as gender diverse or prefer not to say.

### Housing



763 responses

We heard most from homeowners (87%). This is relatively comparable to Salmon Arm’s demographics, in which 76% of the population own a home. We heard relatively less from renters, and those that live in supportive or co-op housing (15%), compared to the population (24%). Other responses include living with parents or having previously lived in Salmon Arm.

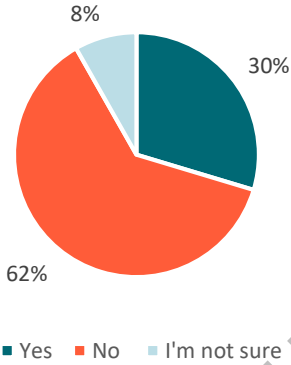
797 responses

### Languages Spoken at Home



Most survey respondents (96%) speak English at home, which is reflective of the population (97% speak English at home). We also heard from community members who speak German, Secwepemc languages, Cantonese, Tagalog, French, Spanish, Russian, Mandarin, Japanese, Urdu, Portuguese and Italian.

Previous OCP Engagement



779 responses

Most survey respondents (62%) have not participated in an OCP Update before.

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## 5. WHAT WE HEARD

The following section summarizes what we heard across engagement activities, organized by OCP topic. This includes the questions asked to the community, and the key themes that emerged in response. The themes are described in order from most to least often referenced.

### 5.1. COMMUNITY VALUES & VISION

*Q: What do you value most about Salmon Arm today?*

Survey respondents shared an appreciation for Salmon Arm today, and a desire to sustain current lifestyles while accommodating future growth. We heard community members value:

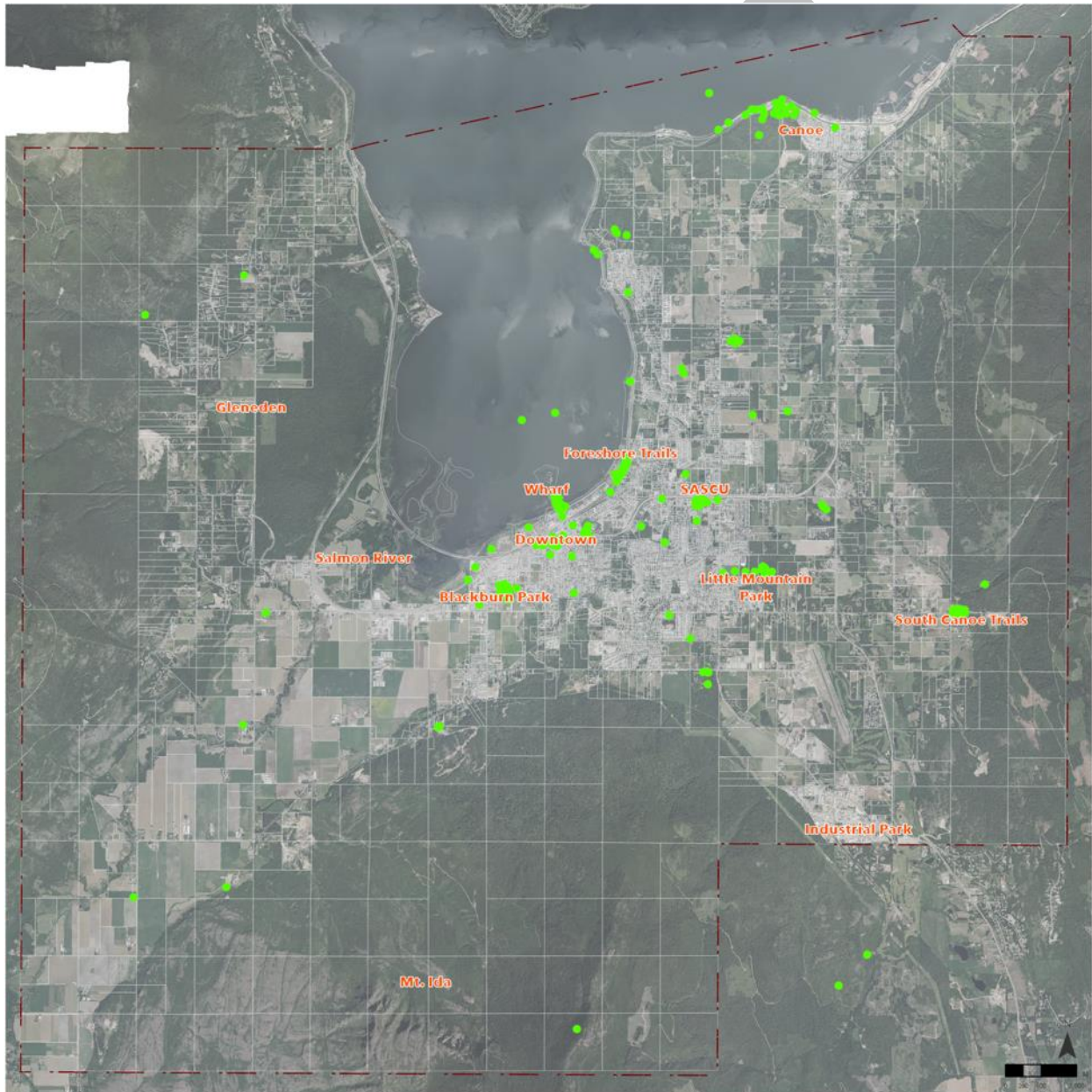
- The natural beauty and access to nature and green spaces
- A safe and connected community that supports one another
- Access to recreational activities, amenities, and services
- Vibrant downtown and local businesses
- A diverse economy and industries
- Age-friendly opportunities that support young families and seniors
- Relative affordability compared to other municipalities in BC



*Q: Reflect on Salmon Arm today. Place a sticky dot to show a place you love to go to, you feel needs more attention, you think there should be growth or change, and should stay the same.*

**● Love to Go to**

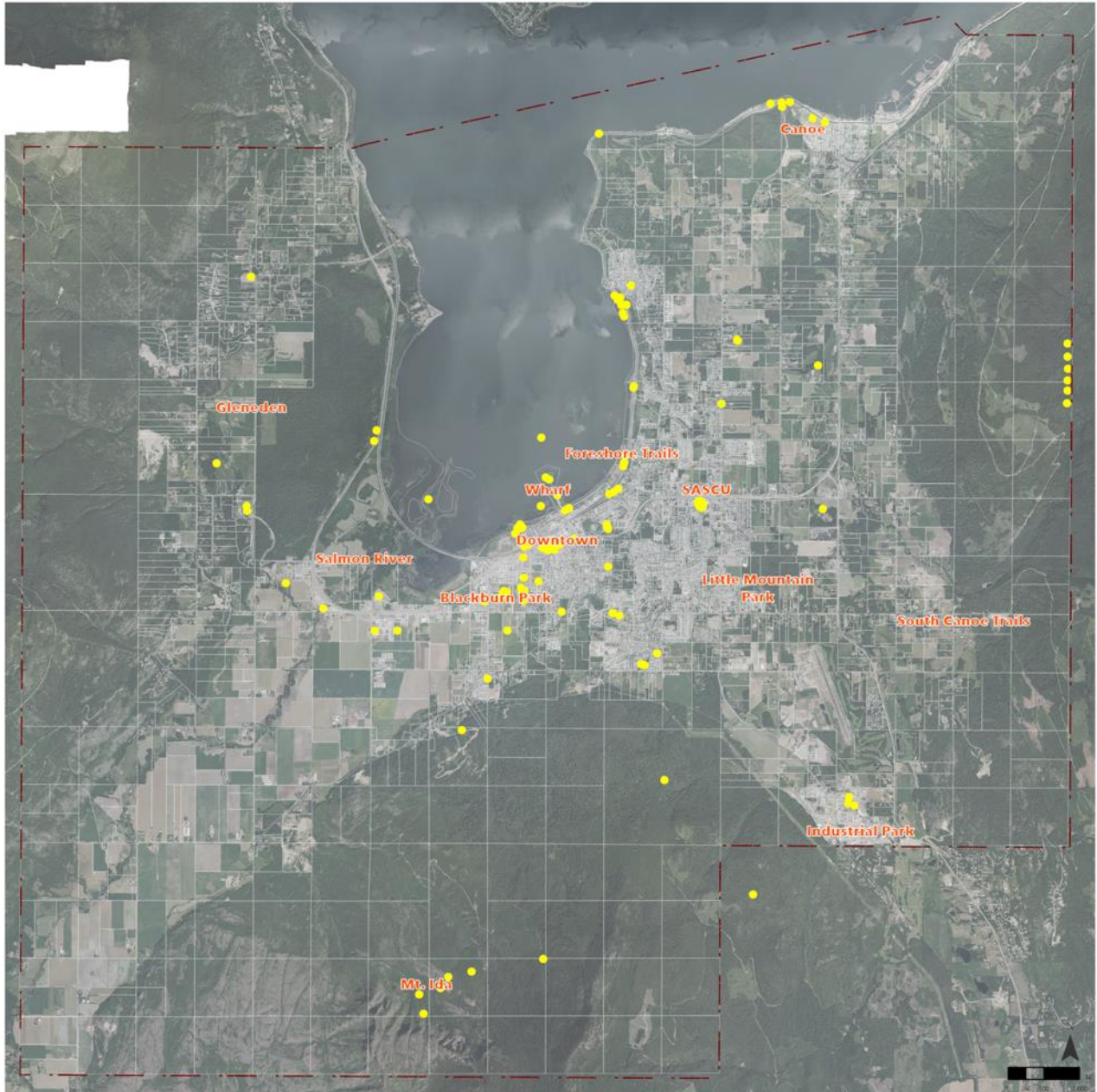
The map below shows community members' reflections on where they **love to go to** today. Common responses frequently cited recreational and natural areas such as Canoe Beach, Foreshore and Raven Trails, South Canoe Trails, Little Mountain Park, Blackburn Park, and the SASCU Recreation Centre. Many elements of Downtown were pointed out including Salmar Classic, local shops, and McGuire Lake Park.





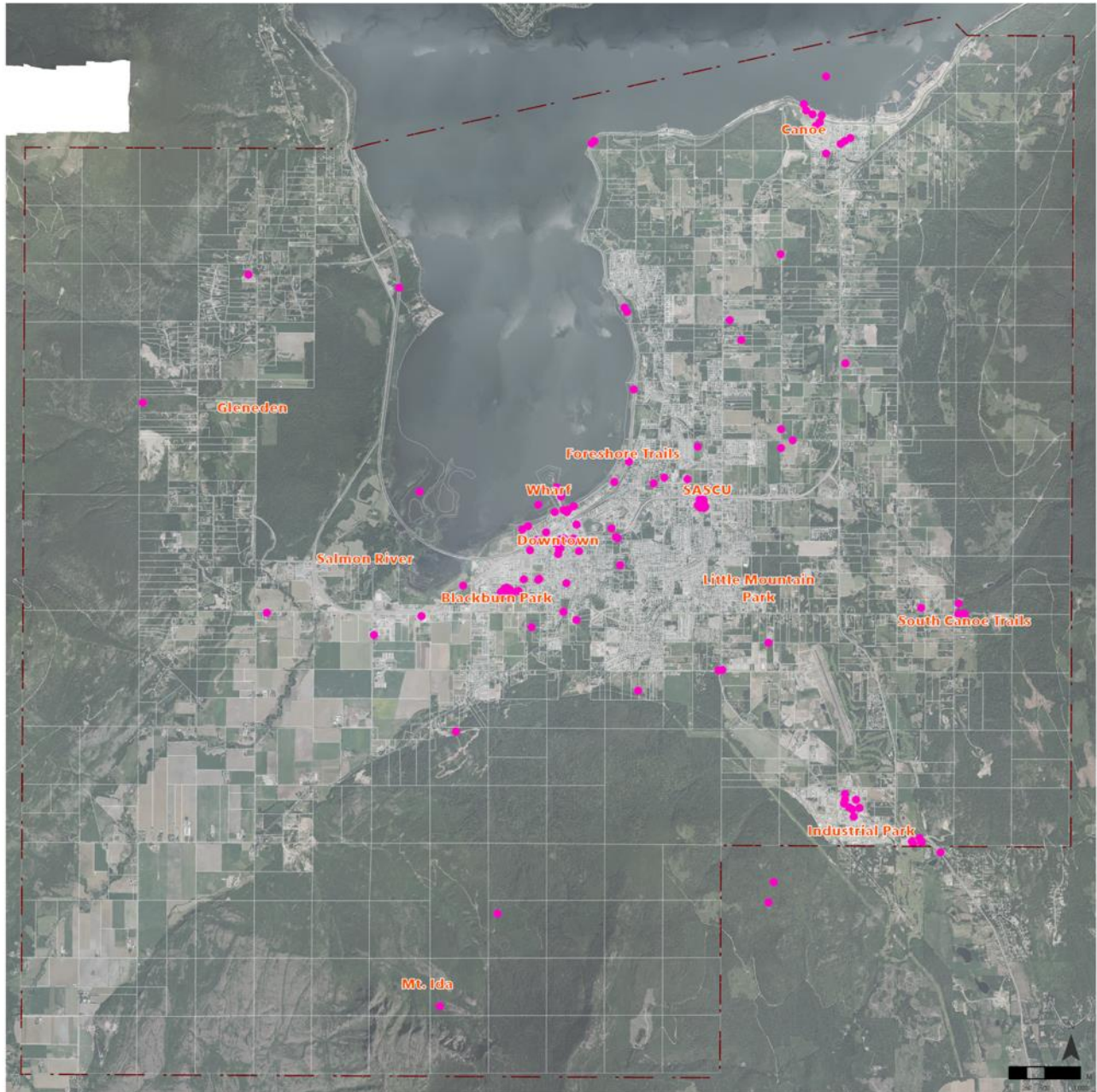
**● Needs More Attention**

The map below shows community members' reflections on where they feel **needs more attention** today. Some common responses include Mount Ida, the Foreshore and Raven Trails, Downtown, Shuswap Naturalist Park, Canoe, and the SASCU Recreation Centre.



● Should have growth or change

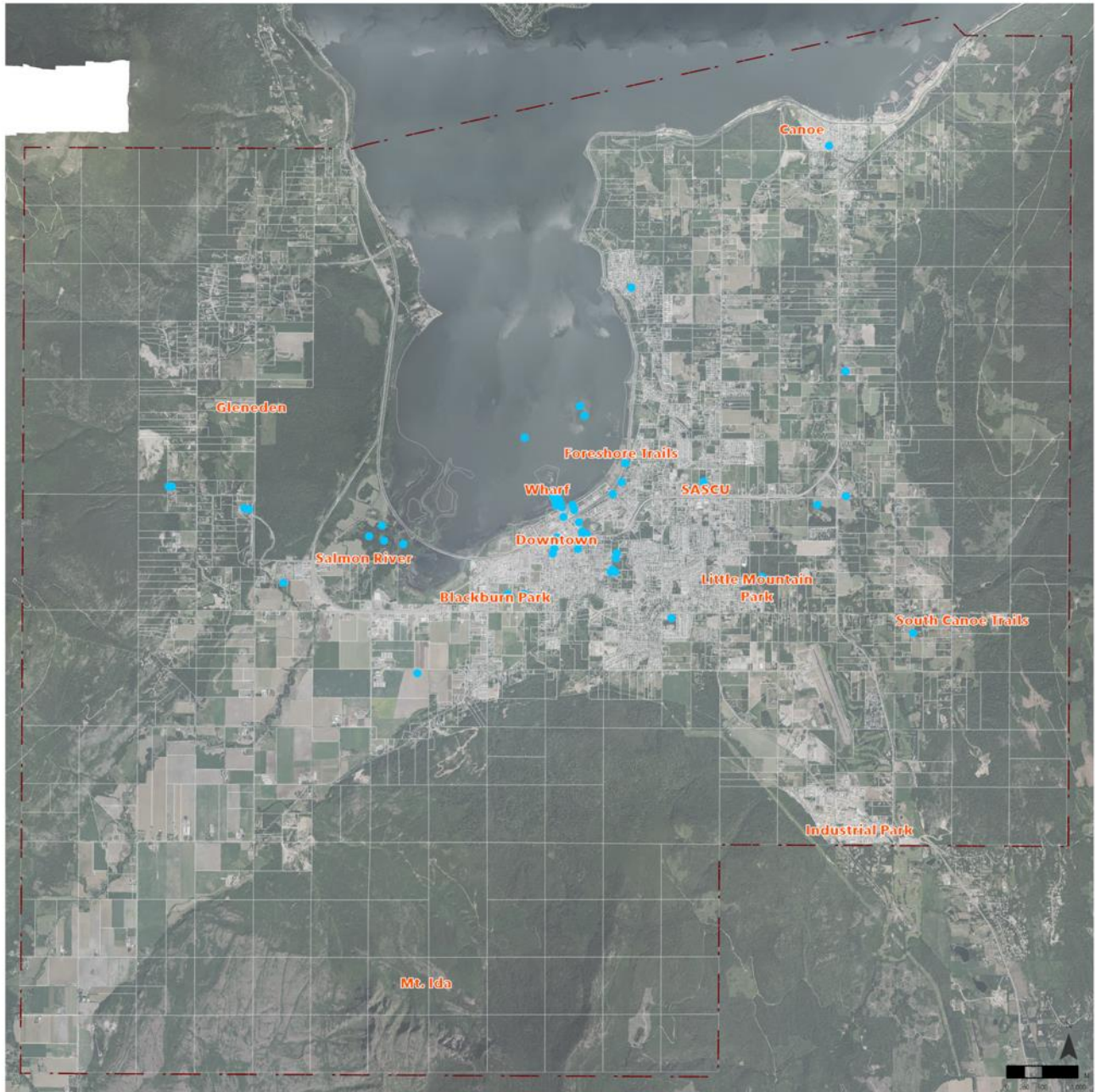
The map above shows community members' reflections on where they feel **should grow or change** today. Some common responses include industrial areas, Blackburn Park, Downtown, the Foreshore and Raven Trails, South Canoe Trails, and Canoe.





● **Should stay the same**

The map above shows community members' reflections on where they feel **should stay the same** today. Some common responses include the Wharf, Salmon River, Shuswap Lake, and some parts of Downtown.



*Q: Imagine it's 30 years from now, and we have successfully implemented the Official Community Plan. How would you describe Salmon Arm in the future?*

Community members shared a vision of Salmon Arm that is:

- **Inclusive, accessible, and safe.** A community that supports one another and everyone feels safe and like they belong. There is a small-town feel, with access to recreational activities, amenities, and services.
- **Green, beautiful, and sustainable.** Community members enjoy and steward the natural environment. Natural and green spaces are protected, and the community is climate resilient.
- **Vibrant.** The economic, arts, and cultural landscape is bustling. Local businesses and artists are well supported, there are activities to do in the evening, and visitors feel the community's distinct charm.
- **Well-planned.** The community is well-balanced in its growth through comprehensive planning and community engagement. Infrastructure is well maintained and supports community growth. Community members feel like they can flourish and root themselves in Salmon Arm.
- **Age friendly.** There are adequate spaces and opportunities for children, youth, adults, and seniors. Community members feel like they can start a family here and age in place.
- **Healthy.** Community members enjoy a healthy lifestyle, supported by recreational opportunities, fresh and culturally appropriate foods, and places for social connection.
- **Connected.** The community is connected through safe trails, sidewalks, public transportation, and bike paths to decrease the need for car use. Amenities and services are easy to access.
- **Affordable.** It is affordable and attainable to live here (e.g. housing, recreation and social activities, food, transportation, etc.).

## 5.2. HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWTH

### 5.2.1. Housing and Infrastructure Today

During Phase 1 engagement, survey respondents identified housing as a key issue that is not adequately addressed in the current OCP. Utilities and infrastructure were identified as one of the top four issues for those responding, both in terms of their importance and where the new OCP should focus.

*Q: What does housing and infrastructure look like today?*

Through the combined workshop, meetings, and one-on-one sessions in Phase 2 engagement, participants expressed support for infill housing, and a desire to encourage a range of housing while protecting and enhancing greenspace. In general, we heard a preference for infill housing at the lower end of the density spectrum, compared to higher-density housing types. Community members surfaced ongoing challenges with housing affordability and diversity (e.g. senior, supportive housing, affordable rentals) and aging infrastructure in need of upgrades to support current and future residents.

### 5.2.2. Housing and Infrastructure in the Future

*Q: In 30 years, what does housing and infrastructure look like?*

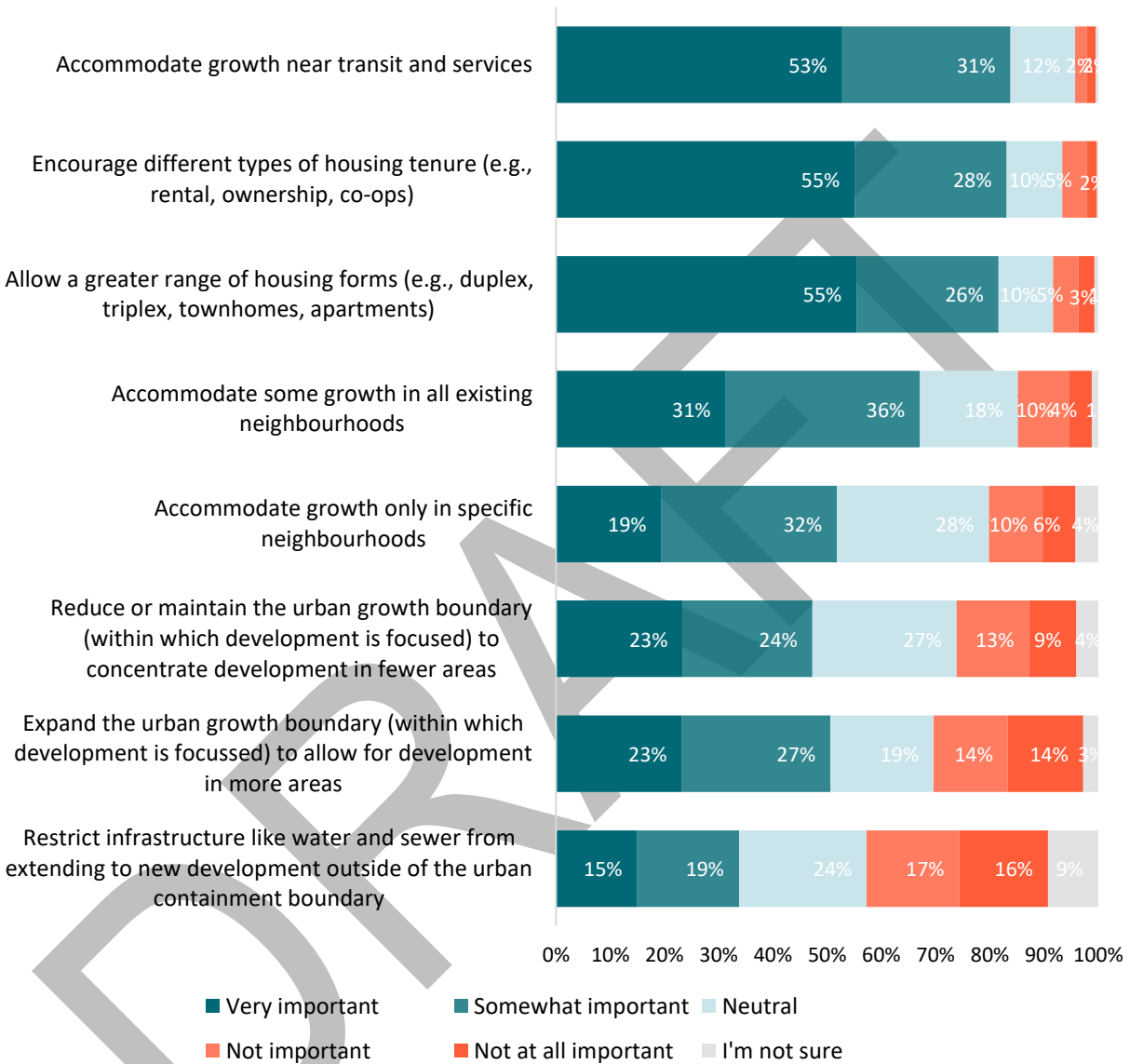
Community members shared a vision of:

- **Housing for all.** Diverse and affordable housing choices meet a range of needs (e.g. low-income housing, attainable rentals, first-time homeownership, housing for seniors, workers, and newcomers among others). Homes are family-friendly, allow community members to age in place, and there is zero homelessness.
- **Connected.** Housing is near services and amenities, connected by safe walking, cycling, and transit routes. Growth is concentrated in downtown and nearby neighbourhoods and limits sprawl.
- **Balanced.** Community growth is balanced with protected and enhanced green space, trees, natural areas, and agricultural land.
- **Sufficient.** Infrastructure is improved and maintained to support community growth (e.g. water, roads, childcare, schools, health services, etc.).
- **Sustainable.** Housing and infrastructure support sustainability and reduced greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. energy-efficient buildings).
- **Community.** Housing and infrastructure support a healthy and connected community and maintains a small-town feel.



### 5.2.3. Big Ideas for Housing and Infrastructure

Q: How important are each of the following actions for Salmon Arm?



Survey respondents ranked accommodating **growth near transit and services** as the most important action for Salmon Arm. We heard ideas related to this action like:

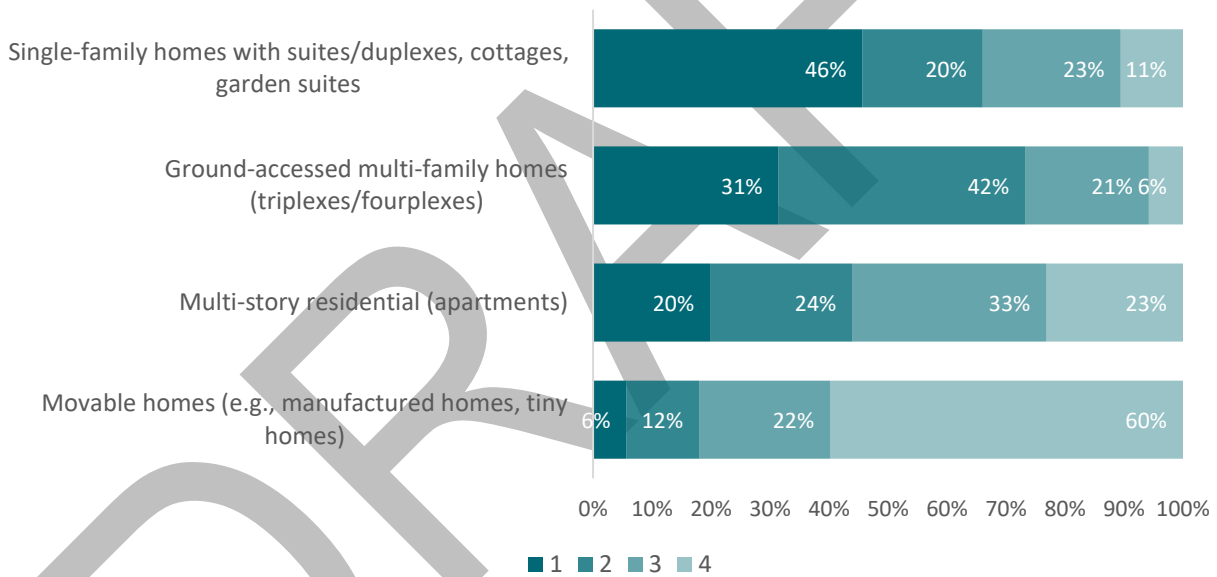
- Concentrating growth in downtown and nearby neighbourhoods
- Improving connections to housing, like increasing transit servicing and multi-use pathways
- Ensuring adequate infrastructure, services, and facilities to support community growth (e.g. sewage, water treatment, recreational facilities, medical services, etc.)

We also heard about the importance of encouraging **different types of housing tenure** and allowing a **greater range of housing forms**. Ideas included:

- Encouraging diverse housing options for families, seniors, and vulnerable populations (e.g. affordable rentals, co-housing, townhomes, apartments, gardens, and suites, etc.)
- Incentivizing additional units
- Allowing RVs and encouraging tiny homes
- Introducing residential parking permits

There were mixed opinions about the importance of **reducing or maintaining the growth boundary, extending the urban growth boundary, and restricting infrastructure outside the urban containment boundary**.

*Q: What new types of housing forms should we prioritize? Please rank each housing type from most (1) to least (4) preferred.*



Survey respondents and Futures Fair participants ranked single-family homes with suites and cottages as the most preferable new form of housing, followed by ground-access multi-family homes. Participants most often ranked movable homes as least preferred and there was mixed preference for apartments.

## 5.3. TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESSIBILITY

### 5.3.1. Transportation and Accessibility Today

During Phase 1 engagement, survey respondents identified transportation, and particularly active transportation modes, as an issue not adequately addressed in the current OCP. We also heard a desire for transportation and accessibility to be an area of focus in the new OCP.

*Q: What does transportation and accessibility look like today?*

Through the combined workshop, meetings and one-on-one sessions in Phase 2 engagement, participants shared support for the City's Active Transportation Plan, new underpass, and ongoing road maintenance. We also heard about the importance of reducing car dependency and improving safe, accessible, and reliable active and public transportation options (particularly to downtown). Community members identified the topography, highway, and rail corridor as challenges for active transportation and accessibility, and expressed concerns about the adequacy (both routes and frequency) of the current public transit system. There were some concerns about road safety, particularly in rural areas.

### 5.3.2. Transportation and Accessibility in the Future

*Q: In 30 years, what does transportation and accessibility look like?*

Community members shared a vision of a transportation system that is:

- **Connected.** It is easy to access jobs, schools, services and amenities by foot, bike, bus, or car. There is an expanded public transit network within Salmon Arm and to neighbouring communities. There is a network of trails, bike lanes, and continuous sidewalks. Services and amenities (e.g. corner stores, grocery stores, neighbourhood pubs) are available within neighbourhoods.
- **Efficient and reliable.** There is reliable, year-round transit service, with frequent service and extended hours.
- **Accessible.** Transportation options meet the needs of all ages and abilities; there is affordable transit, increased handyDART service, and wheelchair-accessible sidewalks. Transportation networks consider the challenging topography and offer plenty of rest areas. There is improved parking downtown.
- **Sustainable.** There is reduced car dependency and shifts to electric vehicles and car share programs.
- **Safe.** Transportation infrastructure supports safe active transportation, including dedicated bike lanes, bike parking, painted crosswalks, lighting on paths, safe highway crossings, and traffic calming.



*"Salmon Arm has free public transit for youth under 18 and seniors, has been rated the most walkable and bikeable" community in Canada."*

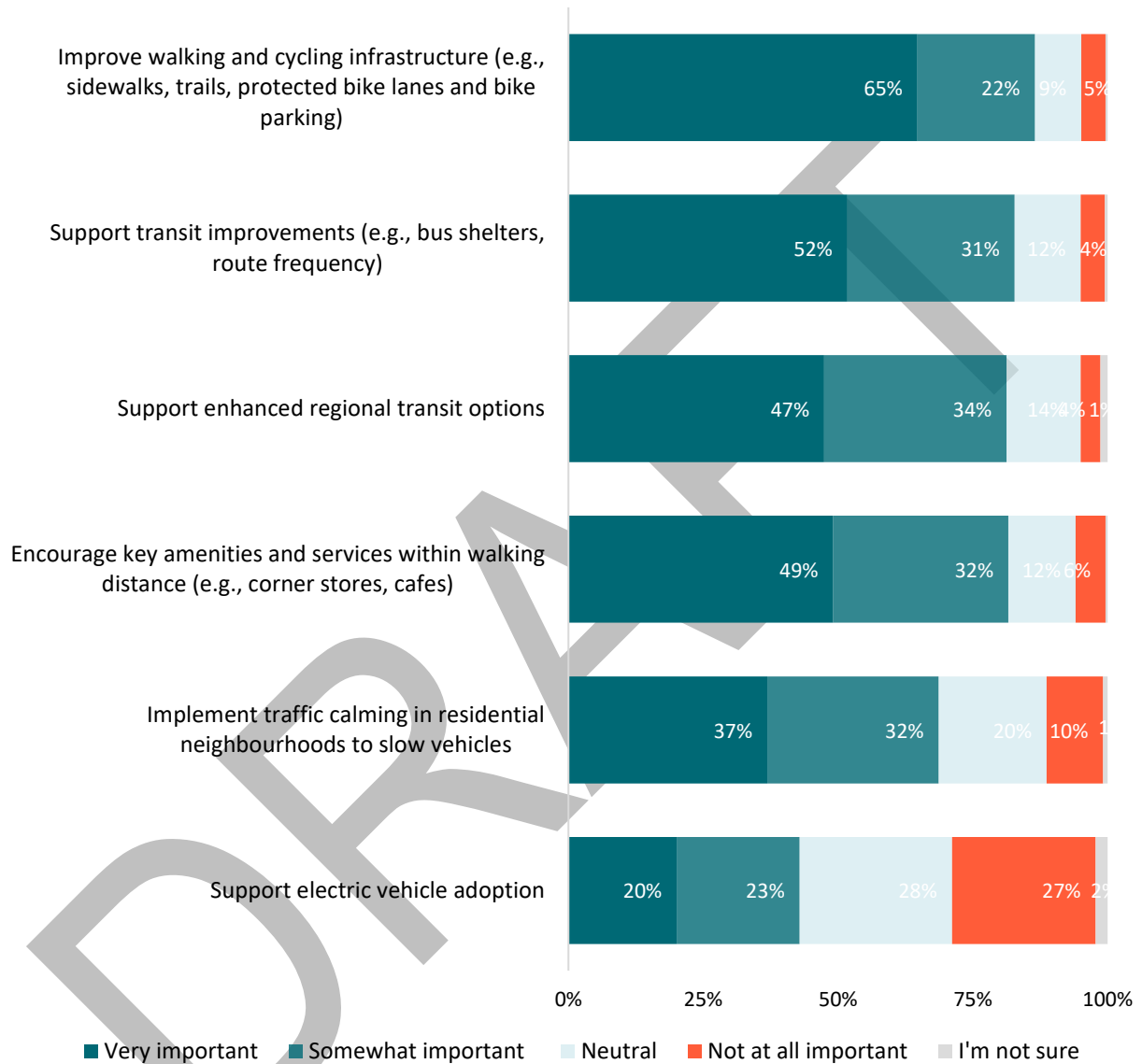
*"There are sidewalks and pathways connecting all major areas, separated bike lanes allow safe travel, and transit covers a larger amount of the city and runs more frequently so that more people use it"*

*"Salmon Arm is accessible without the need of a car. The city is walkable and supports different kinds of public transportation (e.g. busses, rental bikes, rental e-scooters, Ubers and maybe even funiculars or escalators on steep hills e.g. on Okanagan Ave E)"*



### 5.3.3. Big Ideas for Transportation and Accessibility

Q: How important are each of the following actions for Salmon Arm?



Survey respondents most often selected **improving walking and cycling infrastructure** as the most important action, followed by supporting **transit improvements** and **enhanced regional transit options**. We heard ideas related to these actions, including:

- Improving connections between Uptown and Downtown
- Implementing the Active Transportation Plan:

- Ensuring complete sidewalks and trails, lit pathways, and safe highway and rail crossings
- Improving safe bicycle parking, separated, and connected bike lanes, and opportunities for bike/scooter rentals
- Promoting walkability within new developments and consolidating community services
- Advocating and collaborating for more frequent servicing and connections within Salmon Arm (e.g. school, employment) and to other communities (e.g. Sicamous, Vernon)
- Relaxing parking standards, particularly downtown

We also heard suggestions for **key amenities and services** outside the downtown core, including grocery stores, coffee shops, and pubs.

Supporting **electric vehicle adoption** was voted as the least important action overall by survey respondents. We heard some concerns about its cost of implementation and viability.

Some community members also shared concerns about the feasibility of active transportation due to weather and topography. We heard ideas to **improve road network and safety**, including:

- Reducing traffic speeds, implementing traffic calming measures and increasing signage
- Enforcing traffic laws
- Ensuring ongoing road repairs and maintenance
- Exploring new truck routes

Other ideas included encouraging more ride services like Uber and taxis.

## 5.4. PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS

The community consistently highlighted the importance of parks, recreation, and trails during Phase 1 engagement. Parks, recreation and trails was identified as the most important section in the current OCP, and as a section that would need focus in the new document. It was also identified as the least effectively addressed area and frequently mentioned in general comments, particularly concerning the management and planning of recreation facilities. There is a clear desire in the community to ensure that parks, recreation and trails continue to be well-represented and addressed in the new OCP.

### 5.4.1. Parks, Recreation and Trails Today

*Q: What do parks, recreation and trails look like today?*

Through the combined workshop, meetings, and one-on-one sessions in Phase 2 engagement, we heard community members love the great trails, parks, and recreational amenities (e.g. tennis courts, playgrounds, off-leash dog areas, etc.). Community members shared the importance of parks and recreation opportunities for physical and mental wellbeing, and social connection. We also heard a need for improvements to existing amenities and facilities, like the baseball and soccer fields, as well as a desire for more facilities and/or improved capacity to accommodate community growth (e.g. pool, multi-use fields, skate rentals, track, pump track). There were some questions about the future of the wharf and maintaining boat access.

### 5.4.2. Parks, Recreation and Trails in the Future

*Q: In 30 years, what does park, trails, and recreation look like?*

Community members shared a vision that is:

- **Accessible and diverse.** There are adequate and affordable recreational facilities and options year-round. People of all ages have access to activities they enjoy.
- **Welcoming.** Community members and visitors are welcomed and attracted to the city's state-of-the-art facilities. Salmon Arm hosts a variety of sporting and community events.
- **Connected.** There is easy access to parks, trails, and facilities, and an active network between communities and neighbourhoods. Active public spaces foster a strong sense of community.
- **Well maintained.** Facilities and infrastructure are well maintained and planned into the future to support use and longevity.
- **Green.** Natural and green spaces are well-kept and accessible throughout the city. Facilities are built sustainably to last a long time.
- **Healthy.** Community spaces are built to foster healthy connections and lifestyles. Walkability and bikeability are increased.



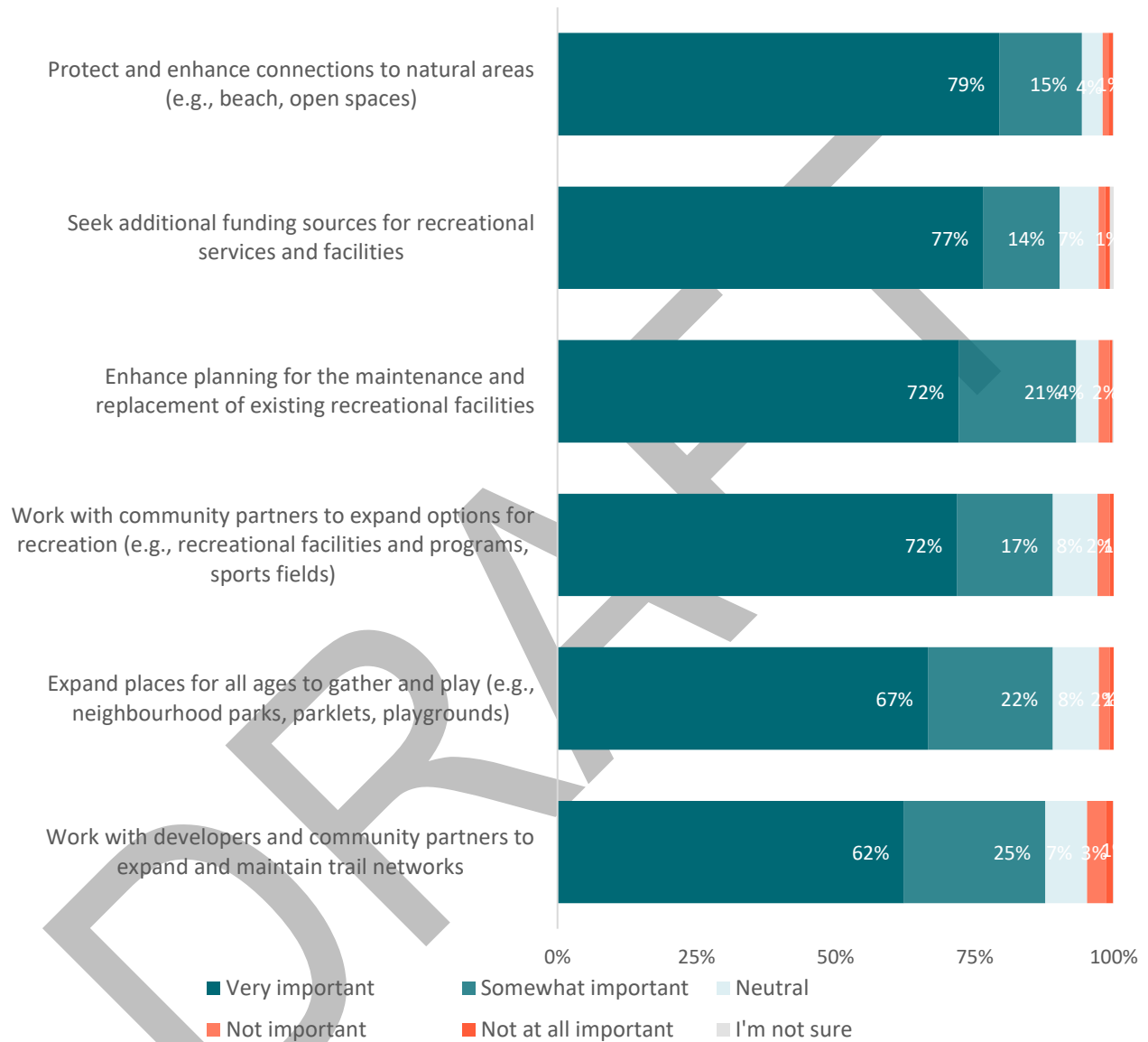
*"A fantastic web of trails and pathways all around town and going out of town."*

*"Salmon Arm is well known as a recreational city.... Tourists flock here for play, and people move here because of all the recreational opportunities Salmon Arm has to offer."*

*"Salmon Arm has plentiful indoor and outdoor recreation facilities offering a vast variety of recreational activities. The city actively promotes an active lifestyle."*

### 5.4.3. Big Ideas for Parks, Recreation and Trails

Q: How important are each of the following actions for Salmon Arm?



Survey respondents ranked protecting and enhancing **connections to natural areas** as the most important action. Across engagement, we heard ideas related to:

- Integrating greenspace into new developments (e.g. trails, parklets, parks)
- Purchasing land to expand the park network
- Establishing a community campground
- Improving connections to the lake

**Seeking additional funding sources** for recreational services and facilities was also ranked with a high level of importance. We heard ideas like:

- Encouraging user fees for sports groups to support upgrades
- Working with clubs and organizations to fundraise
- Advocating to senior government
- Providing funding for operations, not only capital

This was followed by enhancing planning for the **maintenance and replacement of existing recreational facilities** and working with community partners to **expand options for recreation**. Community members shared ideas to achieve these actions, including:

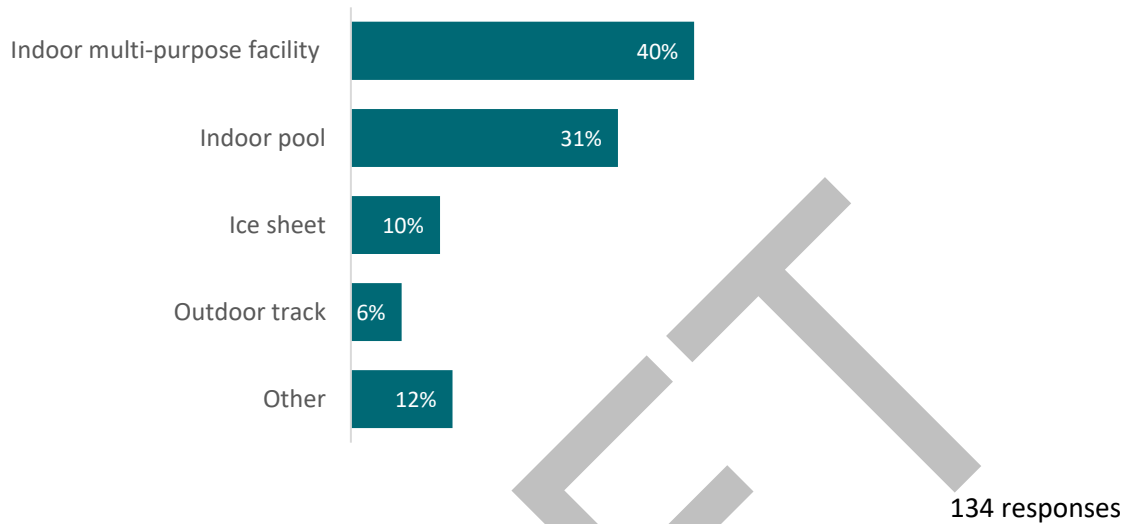
- Improving asset management to plan for facilities that align with community growth
- Conducting a public vote for a new recreational facility
- Building a multi-use facility that is accessible and year-round
- Upgrading existing facilities like the pool, pump track, soccer fields, basketball courts, indoor ice rink
- Diversifying recreational activities to provide more affordable programming options (e.g. swim lessons)

Many ideas were also shared on **expanding places for all ages** to gather and play and working with developers and community partners to **expand and maintain trail networks**:

- Ensuring safe spaces and diverse opportunities for children, adults, and seniors (e.g. gathering spaces, pump track, pool, playground, splash park, variety of classes)
- Improving park and trail lighting, mapping, and waste management
- Improving regional trail connections
- Mitigating potential conflicts with trails along agricultural lands

Other ideas included restricting ATV access from waterways and ensuring boat inspection to protect the lakes.

*Q: What are your top priorities for new recreational facilities in Salmon Arm?*



Futures Fair participants most often ranked an indoor multi-purpose facility as their top priority for new recreational facilities (40%), this was followed by an indoor pool (31%), a new ice sheet (10%), and outdoor track (6%). Other ideas included a combined multi-purpose sports facility with performing arts spaces, indoor play areas, trails and small neighbourhood parks.

## 5.5. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Phase 1 engagement process identified environmental concerns and policies as some of the most important to community members, and as a topic the new OCP should focus on. The environment and climate change policies were frequently mentioned when survey respondents were asked about what the current OCP is missing. When asked to provide general comments on the current OCP, many respondents cited the need for enhanced policies to address the environment and climate change.

### 5.5.1. Environment and Climate Change Today

*Q: What does environment and climate change look like today?*

Through the combined workshop and one-on-one sessions in Phase 2 engagement, we heard about the importance of protecting Salmon Arm's healthy marshlands and natural areas, including addressing agricultural run-off into waterways. We also heard a need to develop a climate strategy and concerns about wildfire seasons.

### 5.5.2. Environment and Climate Change in the Future

*Q: In 30 years, what does the environment and climate change look like?*

Community members shared a vision of Salmon Arm that is:

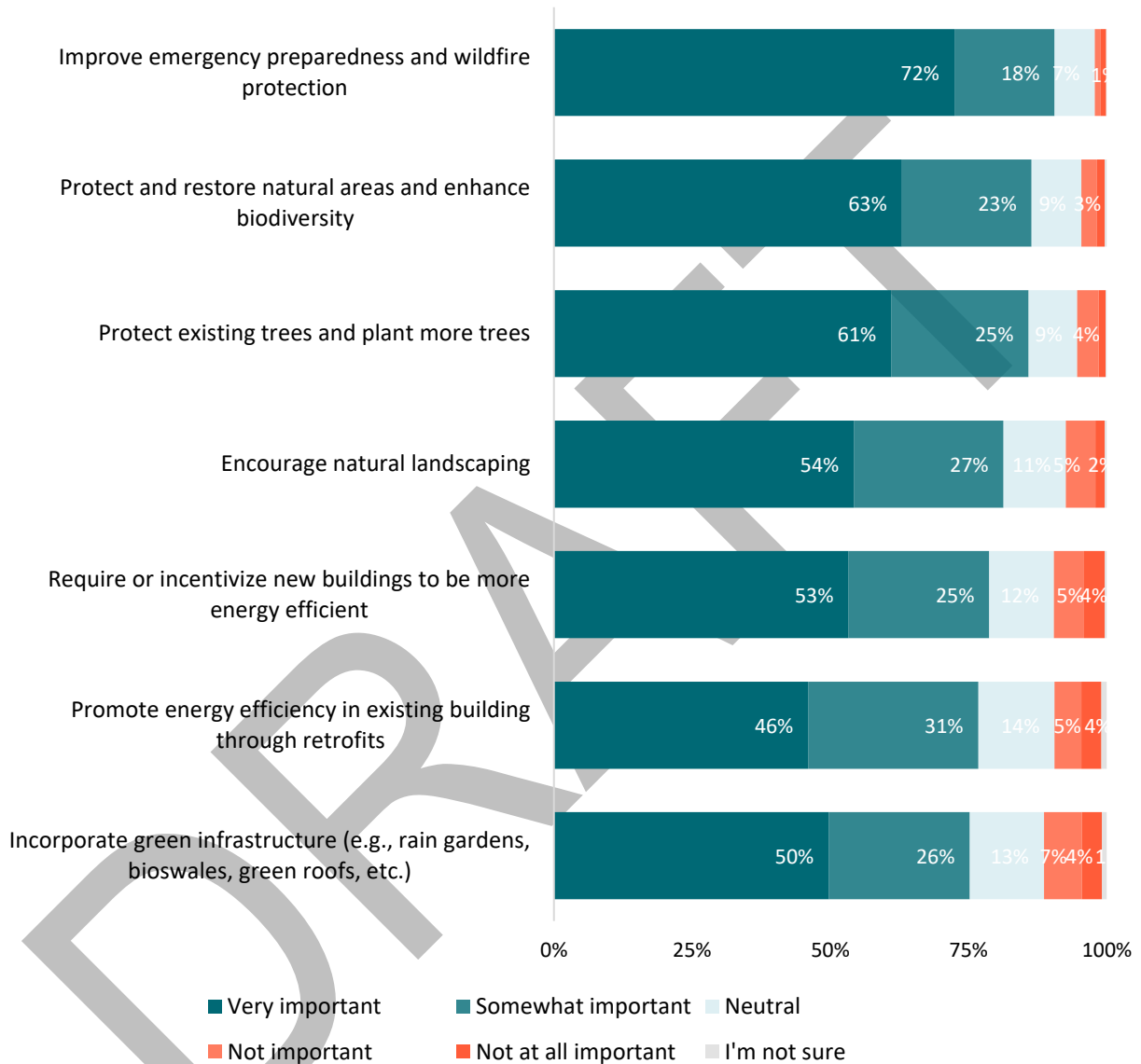
- **Abundant.** There are protected and enhanced natural areas, wildlife and networks of green spaces, with a healthy degree of biodiversity. Community growth is balanced with permeable areas and protected trees. There are more food-growing opportunities and climate-resilient plants and landscapes.
- **Safe and resilient.** The community is a safe place to be and there is no displacement from climate emergencies (e.g. wildfires). The City is progressive, forward and long-term thinking, and a leader in climate action
- **Energy efficient.** New developments are energy efficient. The City adopts solar energy, supports electric vehicles, has reduced greenhouse gas emissions and aims to achieve net-zero emissions.
- **Water-wise.** Local watersheds are protected, and there is improved water quality and removal of invasive species. Homes and businesses integrate rainwater collection, greywater systems and xeriscaping.
- **Connected.** There are improved walking, cycling and transit connections to reduce car dependency, particularly downtown.





### 5.5.3. Big Ideas for Environment and Climate Change

Q: How important are each of the following actions for Salmon Arm?



Survey respondents ranked **improving emergency preparedness and wildfire protection** as the most important action. Survey respondents placed a high level of importance on **protecting and restoring natural areas** and enhancing biodiversity, **protecting, and enhancing trees**, and encouraging **natural landscaping**. Community members shared ideas like:

- Incentivizing fire-smart homes and yards (e.g. fire-resistant plants)

- Supporting evacuation plans for vulnerable populations without access to transportation
- Advocating for improved forestry practices and Provincial wildfire plans
- Encouraging climate-resilient landscaping, like native species, drought, and fire-resistant species, food lawns, and xeriscaping
- Addressing invasive species
- Protecting and enhancing water quality and supply
- Protecting trees and green space, especially for cooling and air quality
- Tracking progress towards greenhouse gas reductions
- Protecting views to preserve natural beauty through new development

We also heard ideas to support **green development**, including:

- Incentivizing energy efficiency and passive design of buildings
- Encouraging the use of solar energy, geothermal, and greywater systems
- Promoting natural landscaping, green roofs, and reduced light pollution
- Encouraging density closer to services, amenities, and parks
- Improving active and public transportation connections
- Improving waste management

Some respondents shared concerns about the cost and viability of energy-efficient buildings and electric vehicles and questions about the local government's role in addressing climate change.

## 5.6. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

During Phase 1 engagement, about 75% of respondents to the survey indicated that rural and agricultural issues were ‘very important’ or ‘somewhat important’. When associated comments were provided, survey respondents indicated continued support for the protection of agricultural lands and support for agricultural producers, and suggested that more emphasis be given to issues related to food security in the updated OCP.

### 5.6.1. Agriculture and Food Security Today

*Q: What does agriculture and food security look like today?*

Through the combined workshop and stakeholder meetings in Phase 2 engagement, we heard about the importance of protected agricultural lands and supporting local food producers. We also heard about opportunities to improve food security through urban agriculture and community gardens.

### 5.6.2. Agriculture and Food Security in the Future

*Q: In 30 years, what does agriculture and food security look like?*

Community members shared a vision of a food system that is:

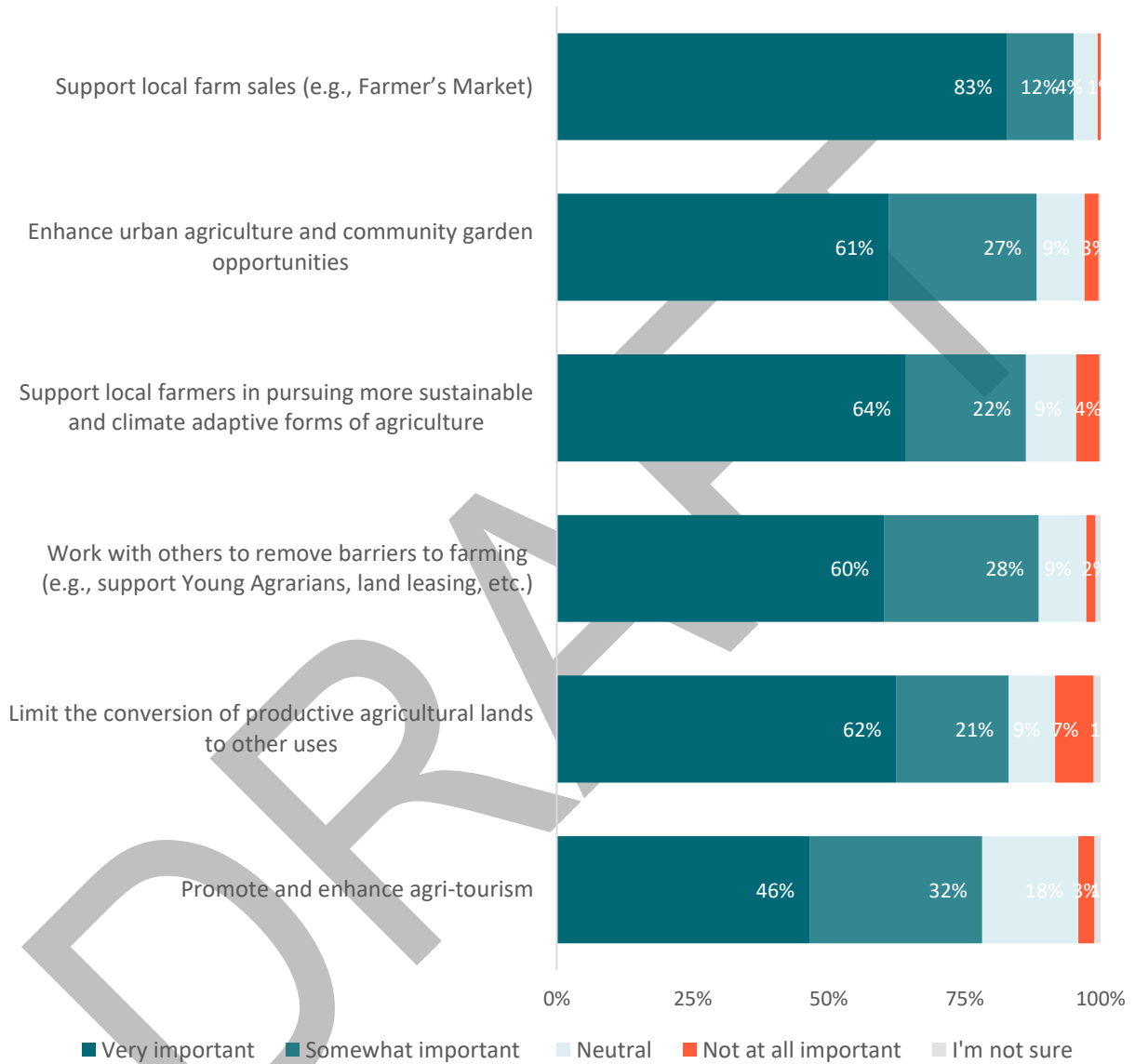
- **Local and accessible.** Local, healthy, and affordable food options are accessible to all. There are more farmer’s markets, and local farm products sold in stores and restaurants, and reduced reliance on food imports. Community members are food secure and can produce their own foods should they choose (e.g. gardens, backyard hens).
- **Abundant and diverse.** Food production is abundant and diverse; there are more community gardens, backyard bees and hens, green roofs, greenhouses, thriving farms and orchards, salmon-bearing ditches, and edible landscapes around town. Community members have year-round access to a variety of foods that meet their needs.
- **Supported.** Community members (farmers, youth, residents) are supported in growing local food. There are land matching and sharing programs, skills programs, teaching gardens, and community kitchens. Farming is viable, there are protected agricultural lands, and infrastructure to support food production (e.g. food sharing hub, processing options, agri-tourism and a supported food producer group).
- **Sustainable.** Food production is sustainable, there are more organic producers, climate-resilient crops, smart water use, reduced run-off, and use of renewable energy.

Other ideas included improving food safety standards and reducing government regulation in agriculture. There were some concerns about future agricultural productivity due to climate change and development pressures.



### 5.6.3. Big Ideas for Agriculture and Food Security

Q: How important are each of the following actions for Salmon Arm?



Survey and Futures Fair participants most often ranked **supporting local farm sales** as the most important action. We heard ideas for more markets, farm gate sales, and opportunities to connect farmers to local businesses, including food maps and promoting agri-tourism.

**Enhancing urban agriculture opportunities** also ranked with high importance. Across engagement, we heard ideas like:

- Encouraging home food gardens
- Removing restrictions on backyard chickens and bee-keeping
- Encouraging food growing throughout community parks
- Supporting community programming for growing and processing
- Encouraging more processing options and defining lands for processing (e.g. abattoir)

We heard ideas to support local farmers in pursuing **more sustainable agriculture**, including:

- Encouraging renewable energy
- Encouraging climate adaptive agricultural practices
- Improving decision-making related to water usage
- Improving infrastructure such as ditch maintenance and water access

Community members shared ideas to **remove barriers to farming** like:

- Expanding potable water infrastructure for agricultural uses (e.g. livestock)
- Exploring opportunities for expanding irrigation in the Salmon Valley
- Exploring opportunities for an agricultural college
- Investigating and responding to pest and noxious weed issues
- Seeking ways to minimize permitting delays
- Exploring creative solutions to workforce housing in urban and rural areas
- Supporting an organization to represent producers' interests (e.g. Farmer's Institute)

Ideas related to protecting agricultural land and the ALR included:

- Creating an inventory of lands which are suitable or non-suitable for agricultural uses
- Providing incentives to encourage farm uses
- Protecting agricultural land from development and providing buffer areas
- Coordinating with other levels of government to have consistent guidelines on policies and regulations related to ALR

## 5.7. JOBS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Phase 1 engagement elicited limited feedback on economic issues given there is no current section in the OCP that directly addresses these issues. About 70% of respondents indicated that commercial and industrial policies were ‘very’ or ‘somewhat important’ in the OCP. Comments indicated continued support for the protection and expansion of industrial lands, and a continued focus on the downtown as the commercial centre of the community.

### 5.7.1. Jobs and the Local Economy Today

*Q: What do jobs and the local economy look like today?*

Through the combined workshop, meetings and one-on-one sessions in Phase 2 engagement, we heard Salmon Arm has a vibrant, walkable downtown core with many small businesses. There is an opportunity to continue to support local shops and expand options for youth (i.e. jobs, and public spaces). We also heard a desire to protect industrial lands, encourage a diversified economy, and expand commercial options and amenities in Canoe.

### 5.7.2. Jobs and the Local Economy in the Future

*Q: In 30 years, what do jobs and the local economy look like?*

Community members shared a vision of a local economy that is:

- **Supported.** There is low unemployment; community members of all ages and backgrounds have stable employment opportunities and earn a living wage. Small businesses thrive, there is workforce housing, and education and training opportunities for workers.
- **Sustainable.** The community supports sustainable economic development, including small businesses, low-emission industries, and clean technology.
- **Diverse.** There is a diverse economic base, including services, retail, tourism, manufacturing, food production and processing, and home-based businesses.
- **Connected.** Jobs, amenities, and services are well connected to housing by foot, bike, and transit.
- **Thriving.** A thriving local economy supports a vibrant community for those who live, work and visit Salmon Arm. Placemaking is well-considered and successfully implemented.



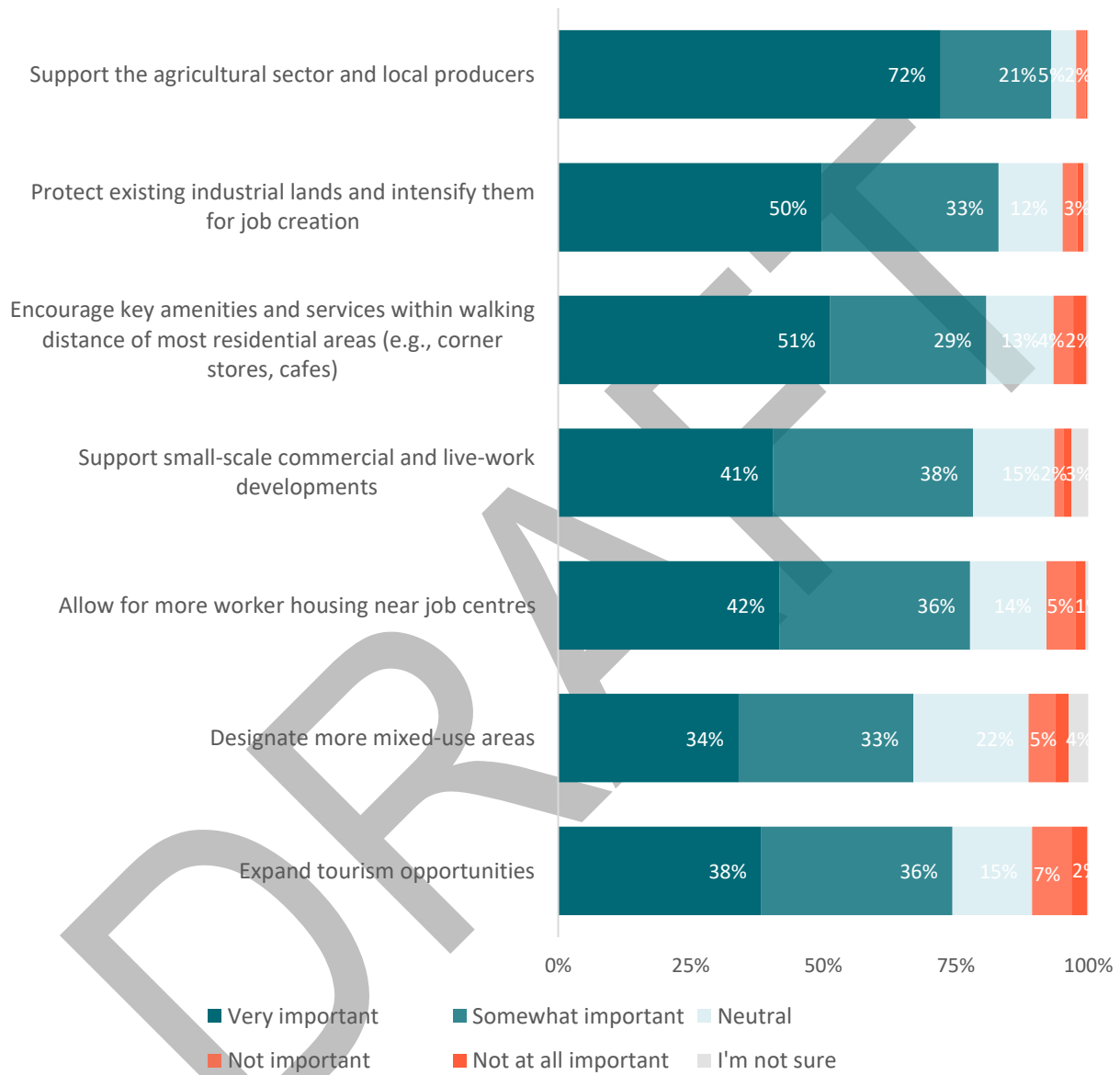
*“Booming city  
full of  
opportunities”*

*“A community with a range  
of clean jobs exists.  
Employees are able to  
reach their worksite easily  
without creating GHG  
emissions and they can as  
well, work in their homes  
where possible”*



### 5.7.3. Big Ideas for Jobs and the Local Economy

Q: How important are each of the following actions for Salmon Arm?



Survey and Futures Fair participants ranked a high level of importance for supporting the agricultural sector. Protecting existing industrial lands and encouraging key amenities and services within walking distance also ranked with a high level of importance. Related to these, we heard suggestions to:

- Extending water and sewer services to the industrial parks

- Encouraging convenience stores, coffee shops, and restaurants in neighbourhoods, and particularly more commercial options in Canoe, Hillcrest and Raven areas
- Encouraging culturally diverse food options (e.g., restaurants, groceries)
- Improving connectivity and transit access to the industrial parks
- Encouraging residential density downtown to support commercial uses

We heard ideas to **support live-work options** and to **attract skilled labour**, including:

- Incentivizing live-work options downtown
- Increasing workforce housing and skills training opportunities
- Encouraging other types of industry to flourish (e.g. manufacturing)
- Encouraging companies to undertake the Labour Market Impact Assessment and hire temporary foreign workers

There were mixed levels of importance for **designating more mixed-use areas** and **expanding tourism opportunities**.

- Developing Ross Street parking for new commercial mixed-use
- Expanding commercial options near the waterfront
- Exploring wharf access and uses into the future
- Expanding entertainment options downtown, including a bowling alley and cinema
- Protecting the charm of downtown and ensure it remains a commercial focus

Ideas related to **developing policy and partnerships**, include:

- Reducing development cost charges in industrial areas
- Building partnerships with Local First Nations to build a strong community and economy together
- Reducing barriers to business approvals process
- Improving cohesion between city departments (e.g. City Council, planning, engineering)

## 5.8. ARTS, CULTURE, COMMUNITY HERITAGE

Participants in the Phase 1 engagement expressed support for policies continuing to support the arts, cultural and community heritage sector, with over 60% indicating that these issues were ‘very’ or ‘somewhat important’. Comments when provided, indicated support for community heritage programs and efforts made to date.

### 5.8.1. Arts, Culture, Community Heritage Today

*Q: What does arts, culture, and community heritage look like today?*

Through the combined workshop, meetings and one-on-one sessions in Phase 2 engagement, we heard the community’s appreciation for Salmon Arm’s community organizations, events, live music, art spaces, and Innovation Centre. We also heard a desire for more cultural representation and celebrations, a need for more inclusive and accessible public gathering spaces, as well as low-barrier and welcoming community services. There were some concerns about increasing crime and community safety, particularly in downtown and rural areas.

### 5.8.2. Arts, Culture, Community Heritage in the Future

*Q: In 30 years, what does art, culture, and community heritage look like?*

Community members shared a vision of Salmon Arm that is:

- **Vibrant.** Salmon Arm is a destination for arts and culture. There are plenty of community events and performances, and gathering spaces (e.g. First Nations cultural centre, performing arts centre, etc.). Local artists and community cultures are celebrated
- **Diverse and inclusive.** People feel safe and welcome. It is a community that celebrates all cultures, ages, abilities, and walks of life. There is respect and good relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and a commitment to reconciliation from government.
- **Supported.** Everyone is housed and can access social, cultural, and wellness supports (e.g. mental health services, doctors, cultural centres, after-school care, etc.). There are opportunities for community members to be involved in planning decisions.
- **Honoured.** A diverse community heritage is represented through art and the built environment. There is increased public awareness of Secwepemc history and connection to the land.

*“A rich tapestry of diverse cultures and a wide acceptance of diverse populations.”*

### 5.8.3. Big Ideas for Arts, Culture, Community Heritage

Q: How important are each of the following actions for Salmon Arm?



Survey respondents ranked working with the **Province to expand social programs**, and to **support inclusive and accessible community events** as the most important actions. This was followed by working with **community partners to expand social programs** and encouraging **public art** in the community. Community members shared ideas, including:

- Expanding support for both Indigenous peoples and newcomers, including those dealing with mental health and substance use issues, housing and job insecurity

- Clearly articulating the City's role in social development
- Ensuring public spaces are accessible to diverse abilities, ages, and cultures
- Showcasing local artists through murals, music, and performances
- Updating the Performing Arts Theatre and expanding public art spaces and venues downtown
- Exploring an arts and culture district
- Integrating public art throughout the city

Expand **arts and culture programs** and **educational opportunities that reflect the community's diversity** were ranked with relative less importance. Still, many (79%) feel it is very or somewhat important. We heard ideas like:

- Building relationships with Secwepemc communities
- Increasing public education of the local Indigenous history
- Recognizing and acknowledging diverse histories to inform a better future
- Increasing education and awareness of different cultures

We heard ideas related to good governance, including:

- Integrating an equity lens throughout the OCP, and establishing social connection as a guiding principle
- Developing an Anti-Racism Strategy
- Diversifying Council and City staff makeup
- Committing to transparent decision-making and City planning
- Ensuring community safety and policing

### 3 MEASURING SUCCESS

The table below summarizes the measures of success identified by the project team, along with Phase 2 results. Overall, Phase 2 reached a high proportion and diverse cross-section of the Salmon Arm population, including those who do not typically participate in OCP processes. Participants also reported a high level of satisfaction with the engagement opportunities.

| Measures of Success   | OCP Update Phase 2 Engagement   |
|---|---|
| Number of participants reached across engagement opportunities                  | 1,325 community members (about 8% of population) participated in some form of Phase 2 engagement opportunities.   |
| Number of participants who have not previously engaged                          | Most survey respondents (62%) have not previously engaged in an OCP Update.   |
| Geographic distribution of participation and representation across demographics | <p>Most survey respondents (84%) are Salmon Arm residents, living in Broadview and Hillcrest neighbourhoods.</p> <p>61% of survey respondents identify as a woman, and 34% as a man.</p> <p>Most survey respondents (66%) are between the ages of 30 and 50 years; 10% of respondents are under the age of 30 and 9% over the age of 70 years.</p> <p>We heard less from youth under the age of 19, community members who live in Gleneden, Piccadilly/Blackburn, Foothills, Salmon Valley, Industrial neighbourhoods, as well as non-homeowners. Future engagement can aim to reach and engage these groups and ensure diverse voices through the OCP.</p> |

| Measures of Success                                    | OCP Update Phase 2 Engagement  |
|--|--|
| Participant satisfaction with engagement opportunities | <p>100% of respondents at the stakeholder workshop agree or somewhat agree they felt listened to, the discussions were useful, they learned something new, and the information provided was clear.</p> <p>100% of respondents at the Futures Fair event agree or somewhat agree they felt listened to, the discussions were useful, and the information provided was clear.</p> <p>89% of respondents at the Futures Fair event agree or somewhat agree they learned something new, while 6% were neutral and 6% disagree.</p> |

#### 4 NEXT STEPS

The project team extends our gratitude to all those who provided valuable feedback throughout the OCP Update in Phase One and Phase Two. The input gathered will inform the Draft Plan and how we engage with the community.

Future engagement on early draft policy directions is anticipated for Fall 2024. Stay connected to the process through the City’s project web page at [www.salmonarm.ca/464/OCP2024](http://www.salmonarm.ca/464/OCP2024).