

# Official Community Plan Update

## ROUND 1 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

District of Lake Country

OCTOBER 2025



**Let's Grow Lake Country Together**  
Official Community Plan Review and Update



**LAKE COUNTRY**  
Life. The Okanagan Way.

# ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY AT A GLANCE

## Engagement Overview

Engagement activities were designed to gather early community direction under the themes **NOW**, **WOW**, and **HOW**, exploring current strengths and challenges, future aspirations, and practical steps to move forward.

**NOW.**

**WOW!**

**HOW?**

The OCP engagement process included a range of activities designed to reach residents across Lake Country, including one **community survey** (with over 600 responses), **two community open houses** (with over 120 participants), nine **pop-up events** at local parks and gathering spaces, and four **community workshops** (with 18 community groups).

## Engagement Outreach Summary

Outreach for the Lake Country OCP engagement reached a broad audience through multiple channels:

- Mailouts to approximately 8,600 households.
- Five ads in the Lake Country Calendar (Aug 28 – Sept 25).
- Facebook post reaching 5,800 people with 118 click-throughs.
- Project website with about 2,400 visits and 358 document downloads.

## Who We Heard From

Round 1 of engagement for Lake Country's Official Community Plan (OCP) update drew strong participation, with 604 survey responses (92% identified as full-time residents), nine pop-up events, two open houses, and four community workshops involving over a dozen local organizations. Respondents represented a broad cross-section of the community, though notable demographic imbalances were observed through the survey results:

### Overrepresented

- Homeowners (versus renters).
- Adults aged 35 and older, particularly seniors (65+).
- Those who self-identified as Female.

### Underrepresented

- Renters
- Children, youth, and younger adults (20–34).
- Those who self-identified as Male.



## Key Themes Across Engagement

### NOW.

### What People Value and What Needs to Change

#### Values:

Participants deeply value Lake Country's natural setting, lakes, rural and agricultural roots, and small-town character. The friendly, family-oriented community, safety, and access to outdoor recreation were cited as defining qualities. Agriculture, open space, and proximity to Kelowna and Vernon were also seen as key advantages.

#### Challenges:

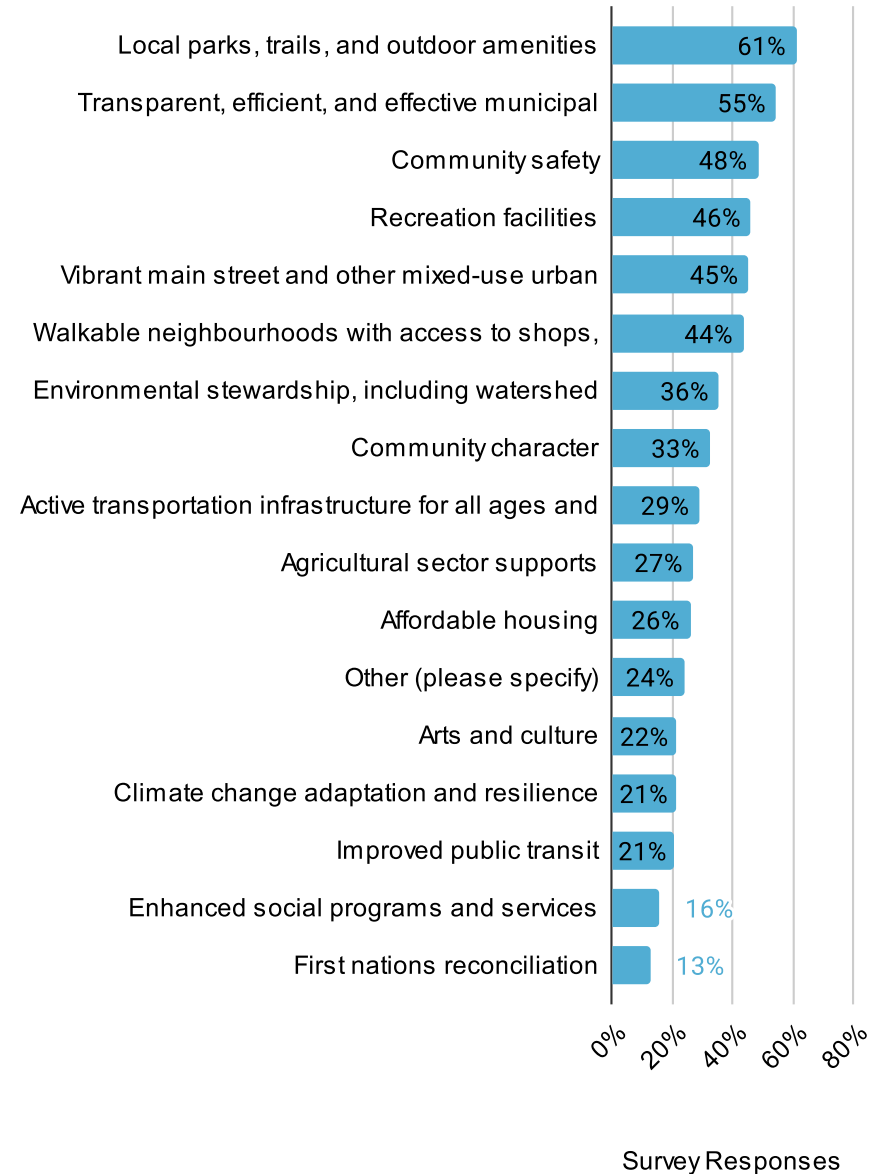
Participants described the most common challenges related to:

- Traffic and infrastructure, especially along Glenmore Road and Highway 97.
- Rapid growth outpacing infrastructure and threatening rural character.
- Housing affordability and limited options for families, workers, and seniors.
- A narrow tax base and a need to diversify the local economy through light industry, tourism, and small business growth.
- Concerns regarding unchecked development and limited transparency in governance that could erode community identity and affordability.

"Love the small-town feel, safety, and sense of community."

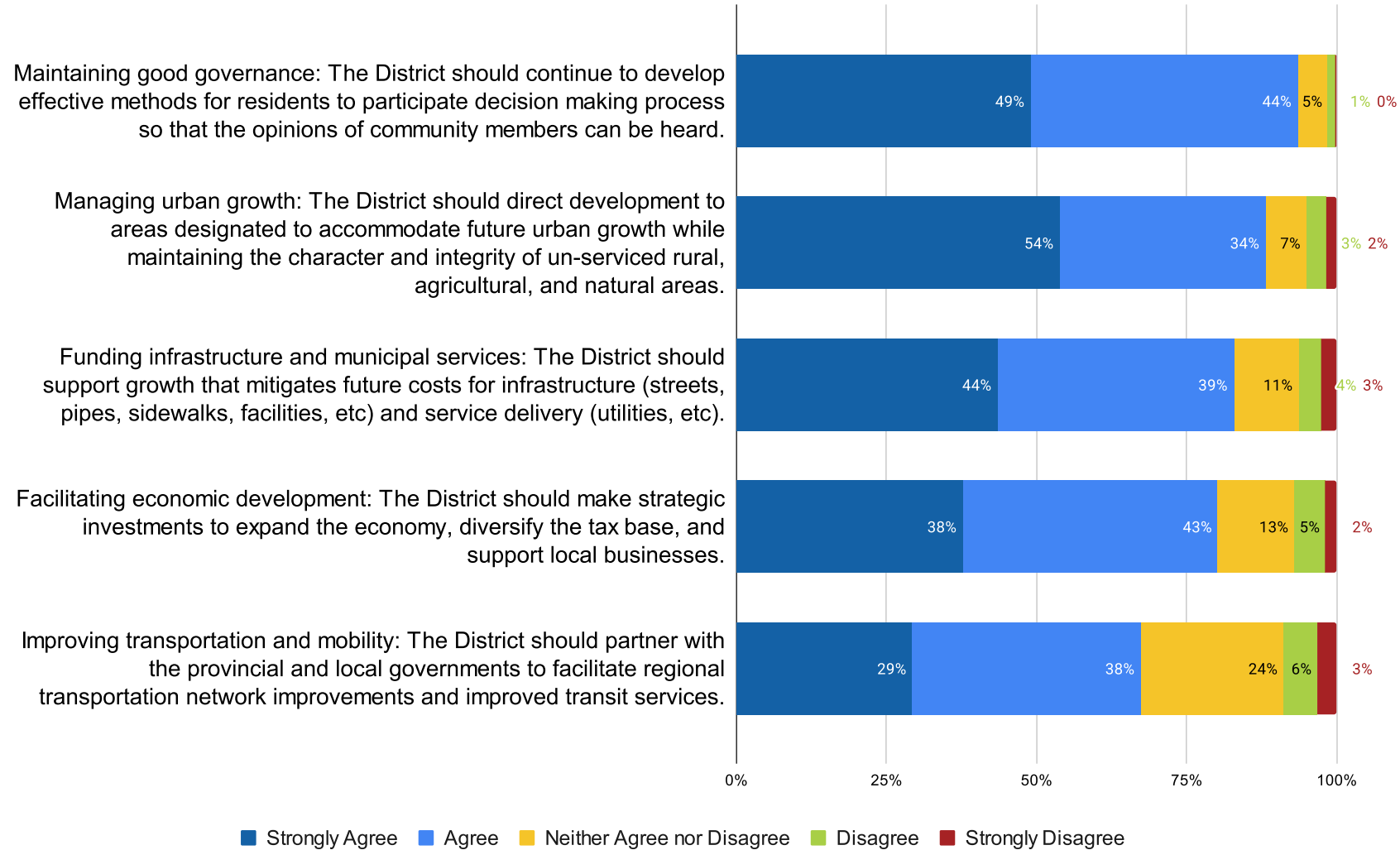
"Traffic impacts health and wellness - Glenmore is dangerous."

### Survey Question: As Lake Country plans for the future, what are your priorities?



**NOW.**

**Survey Question: Please rate your level of agreement with each proposed solution to a specific challenge facing the community:**



Note: Showing the top five of ten proposed solutions. Organized in descending order for those who indicated 'strongly agree' and 'agree'. For a full chart, see page A8.



**WOW!****Vision and Opportunities for the Future**

Participants envision a thriving, distinct, and connected Lake Country that balances growth with environmental protection and small-town charm.

Key aspirations included:

- A vibrant and walkable Town Centre with restaurants, shops, and gathering spaces.
- Safe and connected transportation, including improved intersections, sidewalks, bike lanes, and public transit.
- Expanded recreation and cultural amenities, such as a pool, multi-use recreation centre, and event spaces.
- Protection of lakes, farmland, and natural landscapes, with compact growth focused in the Town Centre.
- A diversified local economy that supports local jobs and reduces reliance on residential taxes.

The greatest opportunities identified were strengthening Main Street, enhancing public lake access, completing the Rail Trail, attracting small businesses, and positioning Lake Country as a hub for arts, culture, and agri-tourism.



**HOW?****Moving from Vision to Action**

Participants emphasized that achieving “WOW” requires practical, transparent, and values-driven implementation. The most common strategies included:

- Managing growth responsibly, focusing density in serviced urban areas while protecting sensitive and agricultural lands.
- Investing in core infrastructure before approving further development, including water, sewer, and transportation upgrades.
- Expanding housing diversity through attainable, multi-generational, and missing-middle housing options.
- Strengthening community engagement and governance transparency, ensuring residents can see how their input informs decisions.
- Building community amenities and public spaces that foster belonging, including a recreation centre, improved parks, and cultural hubs.
- Environmental stewardship, emphasizing clean lakes, fire resilience, and climate adaptation.

Youth engagement echoed these themes, with children prioritizing pools, beaches, ice sports, and trails as top amenities.



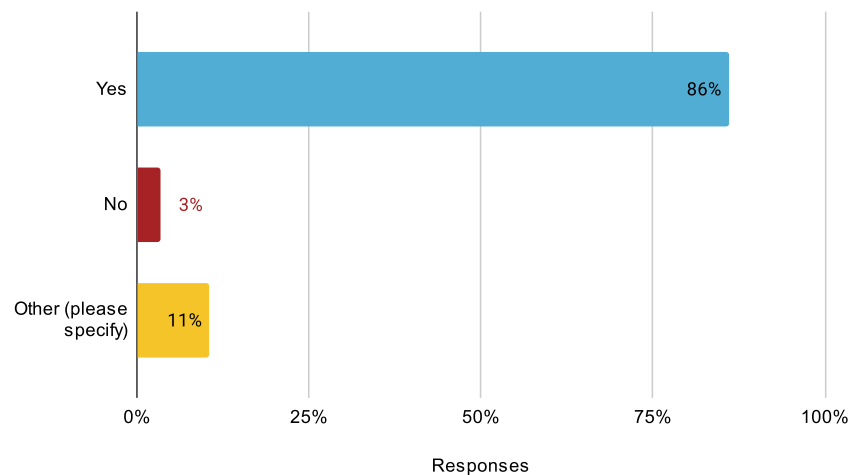
## Final Thoughts

Participants expressed a strong affection for Lake Country and a shared desire to see growth managed in a way that protects the community's defining qualities—its lakes, agricultural roots, and small-town character.

Common themes included:

- Thoughtful, paced growth that aligns with available infrastructure and community priorities.
- Transparency and community-driven decision-making to build trust and accountability.
- Affordability and inclusion to ensure all residents can remain part of the community.
- Environmental stewardship to safeguard lakes, farmland, and natural areas.
- Investment in local amenities that enhance quality of life and reinforce civic pride.

### Survey Question: Do you feel you were able to express your ideas and values?



## Summary

Across all engagement activities, participants expressed deep pride in Lake Country's **rural beauty, agricultural roots, and community spirit**, alongside a clear desire for **thoughtful, well-managed growth** that protects these defining qualities.

The path forward centers on balancing **livability and sustainability**, investing in infrastructure, expanding amenities, supporting a resilient local economy, and maintaining transparency and trust between the District and its residents.



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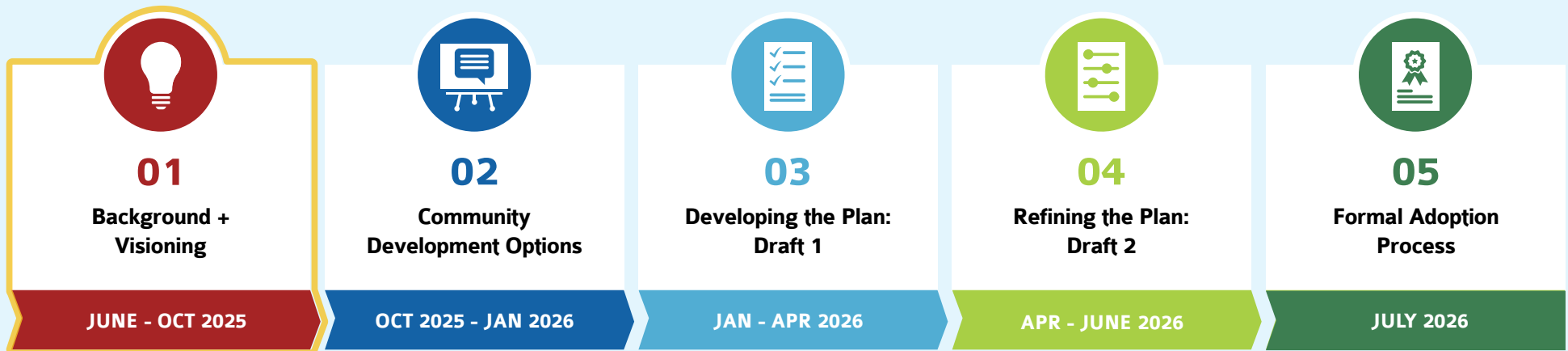
# 01 REPORT OVERVIEW

This report provides an overview of the engagement results for Round #1 of the District of Lake Country (DLC) OCP refresh project.

- **Section 2** provides an overview of the consultation activities to date, including online and in-person opportunities.
- **Section 3** provides an overview of survey demographics, including which groups were over- and under-represented in the survey results.
- The **Appendix** provides an overview of engagement results, including a synthesis of both online and in-person engagement, broken down by OCP topics.

## 1.1. Project Timeline

*We are here*





## 02 CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

Generally, this phase of engagement focused on initial community visioning for the updated OCP.

The NOW–WOW–HOW engagement approach was used as a structured conversation framework to guide participants through three stages of reflection:

- **NOW** – understanding and describing current conditions and community values.
- **WOW** – envisioning an ideal or aspirational future.
- **HOW** – identifying actions, priorities, and pathways to move from the present toward that future.

Respondents were asked multiple qualitative (e.g., open-ended) and quantitative (e.g., multiple-choice) questions for online and in-person engagement through this framework. An overview of events is presented below.

<b>NOW.</b>	<b>What People Value and What Needs to Change</b>
<b>WOW!</b>	<b>Vision and Opportunities for the Future</b>
<b>HOW?</b>	<b>Moving from Vision to Action</b>

### 2.1. Online Engagement

#### Survey

The DLC received 604 survey submissions. An overview of the demographics of respondents is provided in Section 3, including a comparison of the respondents' age with the population of Lake Country to determine which age groups are over- and under-represented.

### 2.2. In-person Engagement

#### Community Open House

The District of Lake Country hosted two community open houses to share information and gather feedback on the OCP update process, one on Wednesday, September 10th, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and another on Thursday, September 11th, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. These sessions provided community members with opportunities to learn about the project and engage directly with the planning team.

## Pop-ups

Between July and September 2025, Planning staff conducted nine pop-up events around Lake Country, including at the Farmers Market, Art Walk, the Library, and a seniors Centre. The pop-up events provided community members with opportunities to learn about the project and engage directly with the planning team in a condensed format compared to the Community Open House.

## Community Workshops

In September, DLC hosted four community workshops with various stakeholders, including:

- Lake Country Art Gallery
- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Art Walk
- Museum and Archives
- Okanagan Centre Community Hall
- Urban Development Institute
- Rotary
- Food Bank
- SAFR (Safety Awareness Friends and Residents)
- Farmers Institute
- Lake Country Seniors Activities
- Public Art Advisory Commission
- Carr's Landing Community & Recreation Association
- Canadian Home Builders Association – Central Okanagan
- Friends of Okanagan Rail Trail (FORT)
- The Society of Hope
- Okanagan Regional Library
- Tourism Lake Country (Kelowna Tourism)

Participants explored current challenges and what they value most about living in Lake Country, shared bold ideas and opportunities for the future, and identified practical priorities and actions to help achieve their shared vision.

A summary of the feedback received can be found in section A.4.

## 2.3. Outreach

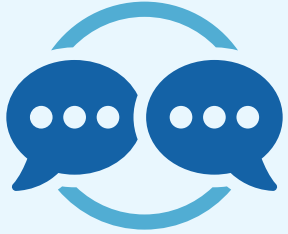
To promote participation in the Lake Country OCP engagement process, a broad range of communication tools were used to reach local residents and stakeholders across the District:

- **Direct Mail:** approximately 8,637 households received printed mailouts inviting participation in the process.
- **Local Media Advertising:** advertisements were published in the Lake Country Calendar on August 28 and September 4, 11, 18, and 25, providing consistent weekly exposure throughout the engagement period.
- **Digital and Social Media Outreach:**
  - » A Facebook post on August 27 reached 5,808 viewers and generated 118 click-throughs to the engagement webpage.
  - » The District's project website recorded approximately 2,400 visits, including 1,364 direct link visits and 358 document downloads.

These combined outreach efforts provided strong community visibility, ensuring that information about the OCP process was accessible through multiple channels including print, digital, and direct mail to reach a wide cross-section of Lake Country residents.

## 2.4. Consultation at a Glance

**604**



**Total Survey  
Submissions**

**9**



**Total Pop-up  
Events**

**120**



**Total Community  
Open House  
Participants**

**18**



**Total community  
groups engaged  
through  
workshops**

## 03 WHO WE HEARD FROM

This section offers an overview of the survey's demographic data, highlighting groups that were over- or under-represented in the results, along with other relevant demographic and response characteristics.

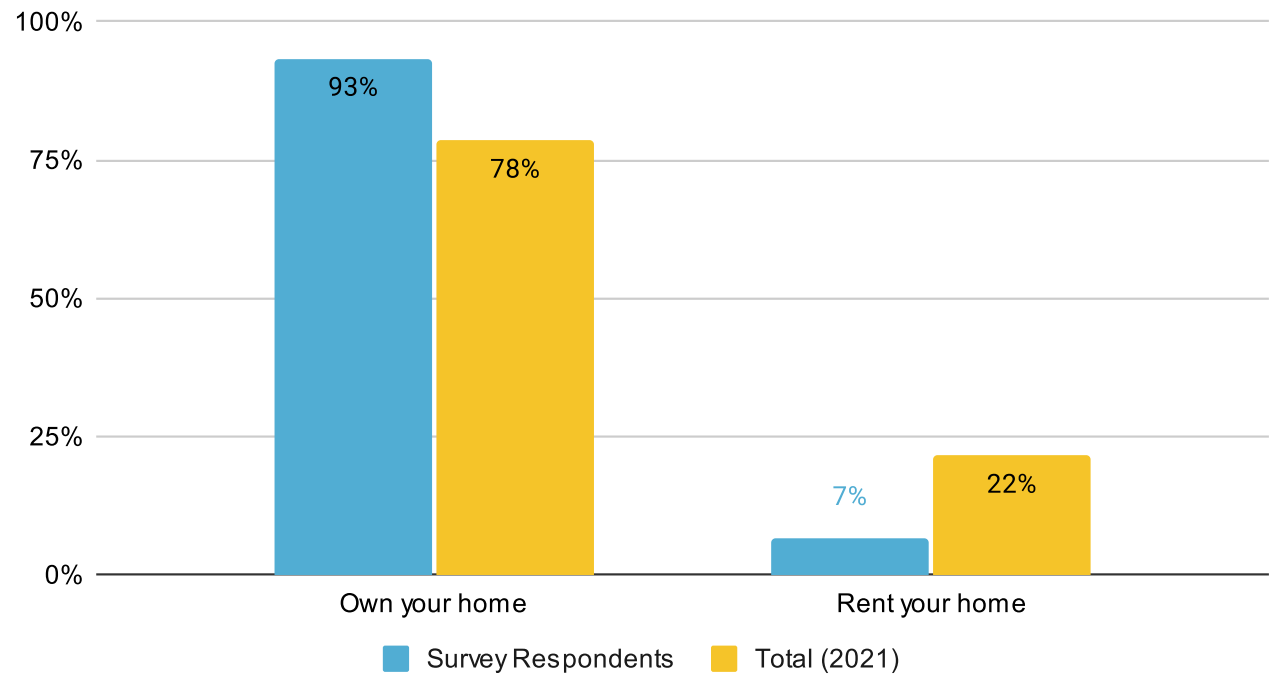
### 3.1. Over-and-Under Representation in the Survey Results

The online survey collected demographic and household data. The project team compared the results with DLC's most recent census information (2021) to determine what groups were over- and under-represented in the survey results.

#### Home Ownership

##### Key findings

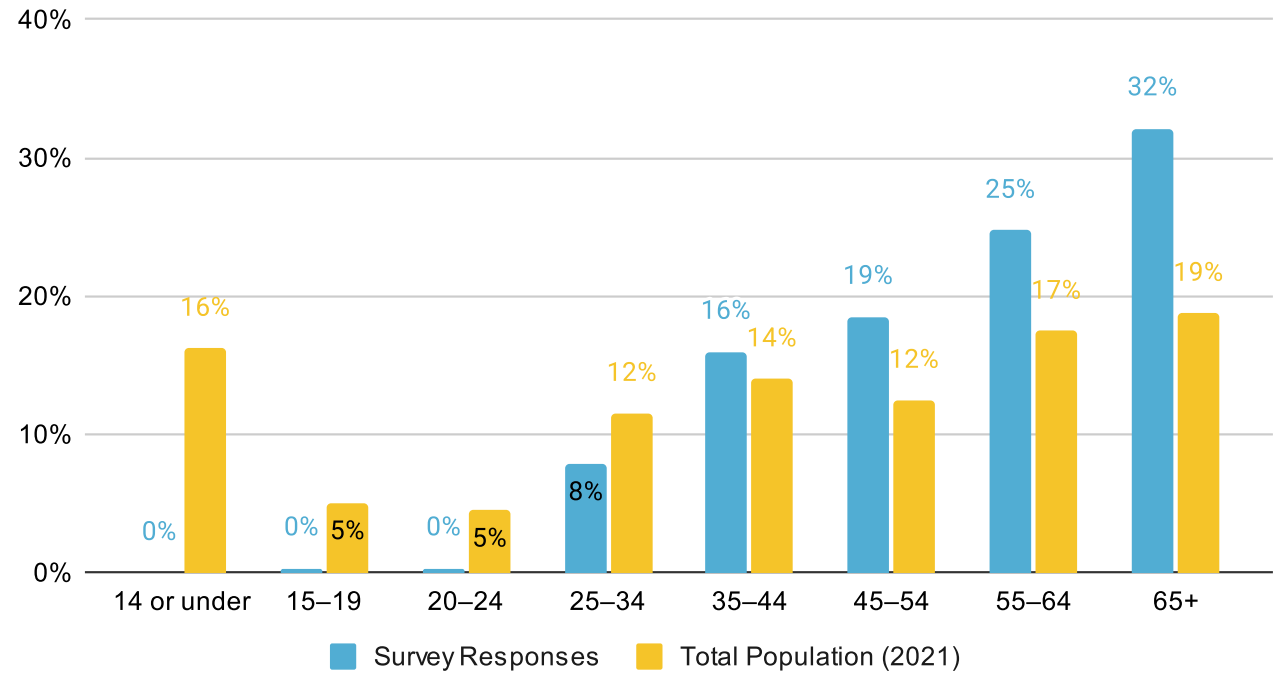
- Homeowners were over-represented in the survey, while renters were under-represented.



## Age

### Key findings

- Children, youth, and young adults (20–34) were under-represented.
- Adults aged 35 and older were over-represented.
- Seniors (65+) were significantly over-represented.

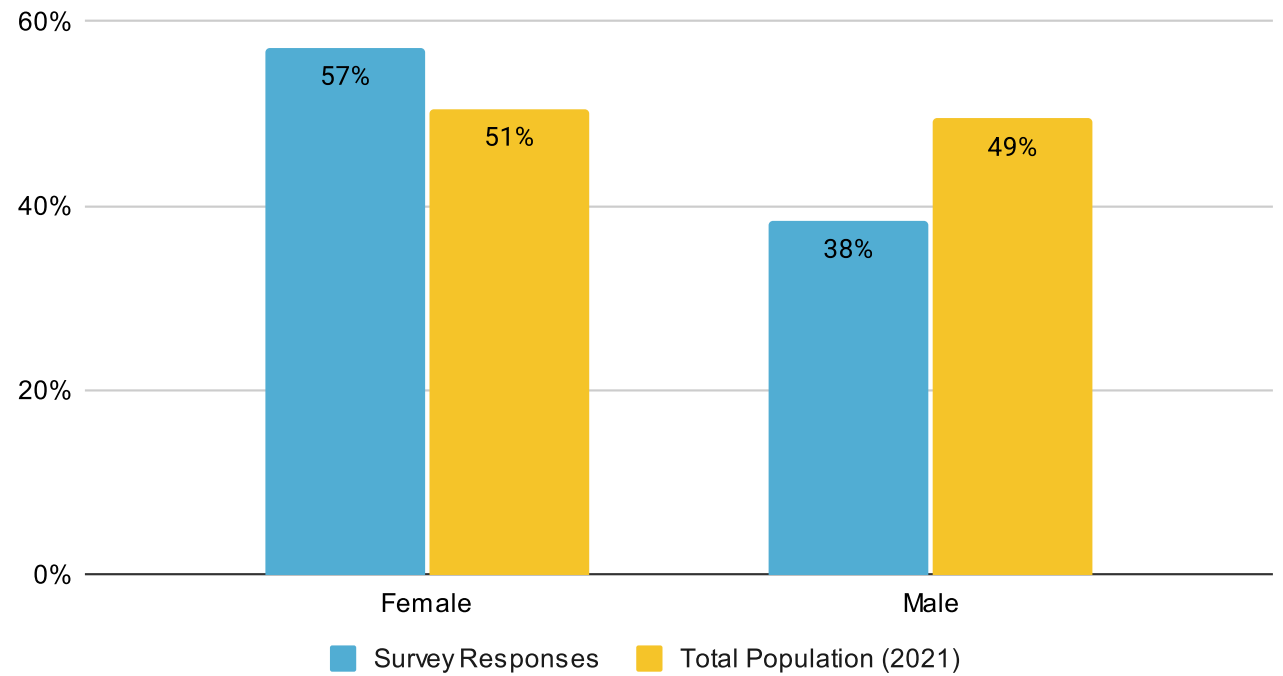




## Self-identified Gender

### Key findings

- Individuals who identified as Female were over-represented, while Males were under-represented
- 4 percent of responses indicated 'Prefer not to Answer' and 0.5 percent indicated "other"

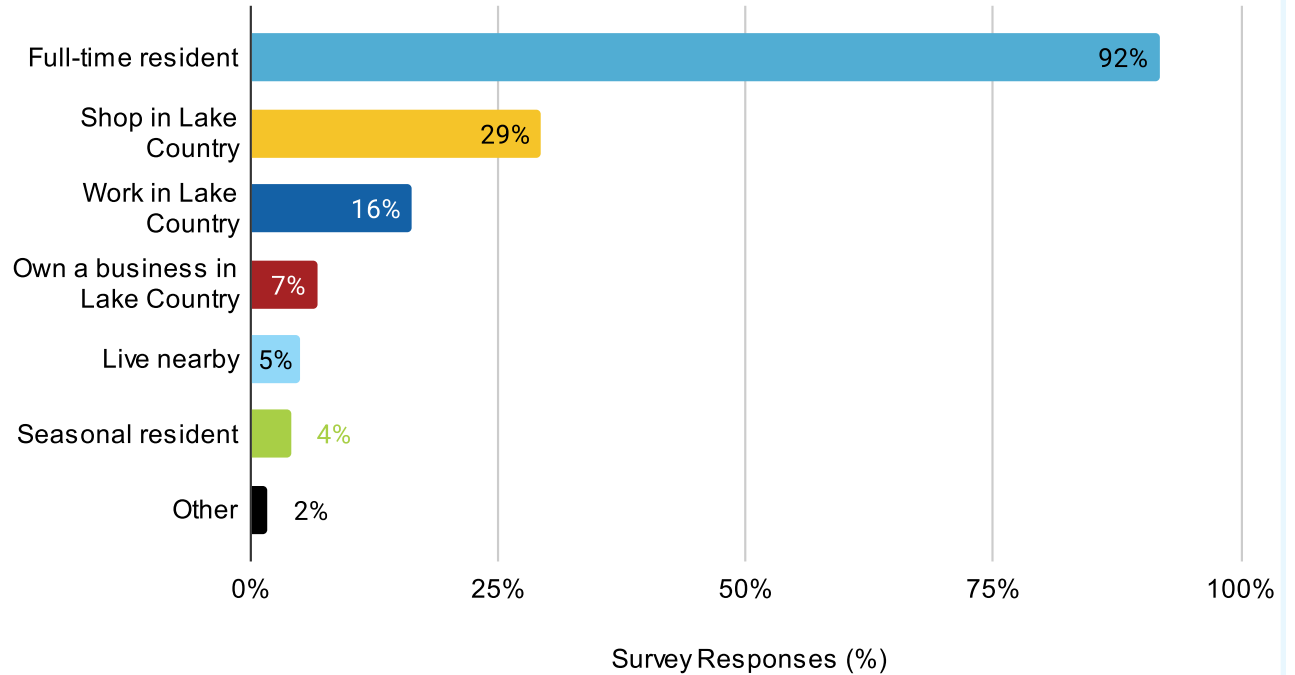


### 3.2. Other Demographic and Information Request Responses

#### Connection to Lake Country

##### Key findings

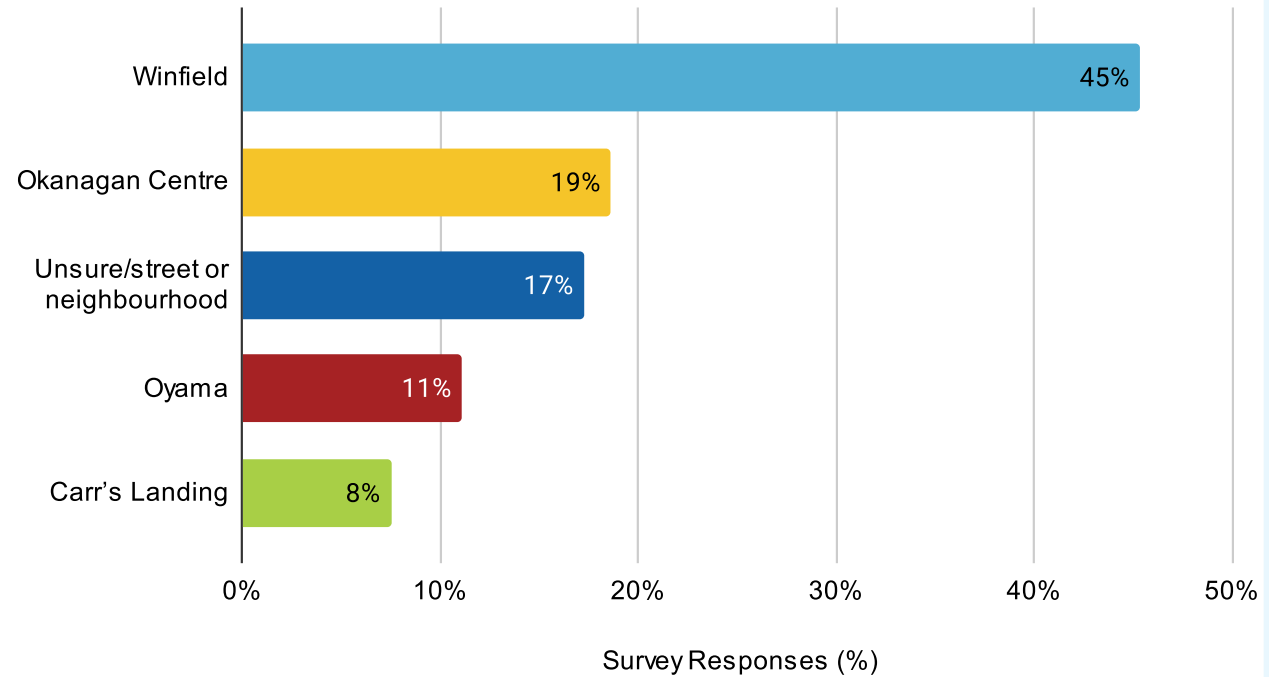
- 92 percent of respondents identified as being a full-time resident of Lake Country
- Four percent identified as a seasonal resident



## Respondents by Neighbourhood

### Key findings

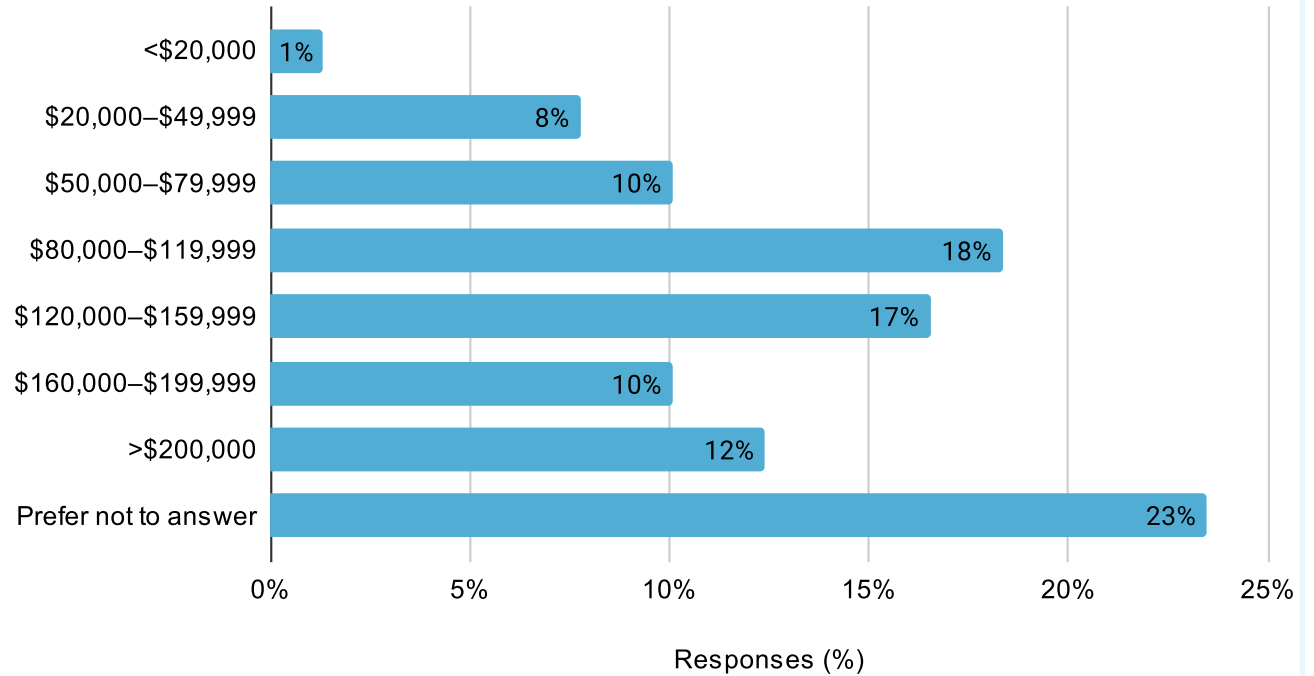
- Nearly half of the respondents who resided in Lake Country indicated they live in Winfield
- 17 percent of respondents indicated they were unsure what street or neighbourhood they lived in



## Household Income

### Key findings

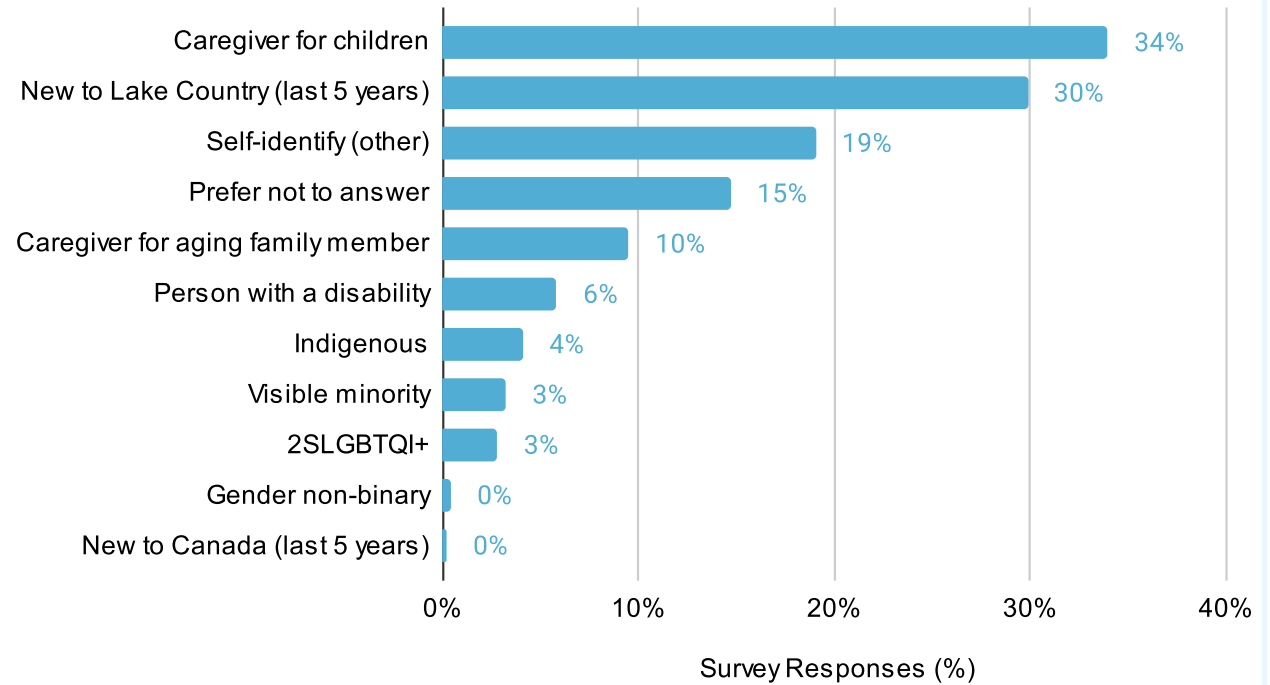
- The median total income of households in Lake County in 2020 was \$98,000.
- Respondents largely fell into the category of \$80,000 - \$119,999 and \$120,000 - \$159,999



## Other Self-identification

### Key findings

- 34 percent of respondents identified as a caregiver to children
- 30 percent of respondents indicated they are new to Lake Country in the past 5 years







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# A.0 ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

The Appendix provides an in-depth overview of engagement analysis methodology and engagement results, broken down by engagement stream (e.g., survey, workshop).

## A.1. Methodology

The engagement results were organized by OCP engagement streams by the question posed to respondents.

### Quantitative Analysis

#### Descriptive Statistics

- Frequency counts for categorical data (e.g., rank order) are presented in percentages.

### Qualitative Analysis

#### Thematic Analysis

- Identify and categorize themes or patterns in open-ended responses, which were then ranked by most common to least common
- Select quotes are presented that most accurately reflect the themes heard.

Finally, validation through a thorough review of the results between peers (e.g., peer review) was undertaken to ensure the reliability and validity of the analysis.





## A.2. Survey Summary

### What three words best describe Lake Country today?

Participants were asked to describe Lake Country using three words. The responses reveal a strong attachment to the area's natural setting and community character, balanced by significant concern about growth, infrastructure, and affordability. The following five themes summarize the most common ideas, ranked from most to least frequently expressed.

#### 1. Natural Beauty and Rural Character

The most prominent theme reflects widespread appreciation for Lake Country's natural environment, scenic landscapes, and rural charm. Respondents frequently described the community as beautiful, peaceful, scenic, and defined by its lakes, orchards, and agricultural lands. These descriptions underscore that Lake Country's natural beauty and open spaces remain central to its identity and a defining source of pride for respondents.

#### 2. Growth and Change

Many respondents emphasized that Lake Country is growing and changing rapidly. While some view this as progress or opportunity, others expressed unease about the pace of development. Phrases such as "growing too fast", "in transition", and "overcrowded" appeared frequently.

#### 3. Small-Town Character and Community Spirit

Respondents consistently identified Lake Country's friendly, welcoming, and community-oriented atmosphere as one of its most valued qualities. Words such as friendly, safe, home, and small-town feel convey a strong sense of belonging and neighbourliness.

#### 4. Infrastructure, Traffic, and Governance Challenges

A notable share of responses pointed to frustrations with infrastructure and local management. Common words included traffic, roads, poor planning, and under-serviced. Participants frequently mentioned that infrastructure and amenities have not kept pace with growth, with several describing issues such as congestion, aging roads, and rising taxes.

#### 5. Affordability and Inclusivity

Although less frequent, a growing theme relates to affordability, social change, and inclusivity. Terms such as expensive, affluent, and gentrification suggest that respondents are increasingly aware of rising living costs and a perceived shift toward exclusivity.





## What do you value most about living in Lake Country?

Participants' responses emphasize Lake Country's natural setting and access to lakes and outdoor recreation, coupled with a strong small-town, community-oriented lifestyle. Many value the rural and agricultural character, the convenient location between Kelowna and Vernon, and the breadth of local amenities, parks, and cultural activities that support everyday quality of life.

### 1. Natural Setting, Lakes, and Outdoor Access

Participants consistently valued the area's natural beauty, including its lakes, views, trails, beaches, and year-round outdoor recreation (hiking, biking, rail trail, water access). Many referenced the landscape as restorative, central to daily life, and a defining advantage over larger urban centres.

### 2. Small-Town Character, Community, and Safety

Participants emphasized a close-knit, friendly atmosphere, where people know and support one another, feel safe, and enjoy a slower pace suitable for families and multi-generational living. Community spirit, neighbourliness, and a welcoming culture were recurring notes.

### 3. Rural and Agricultural Identity

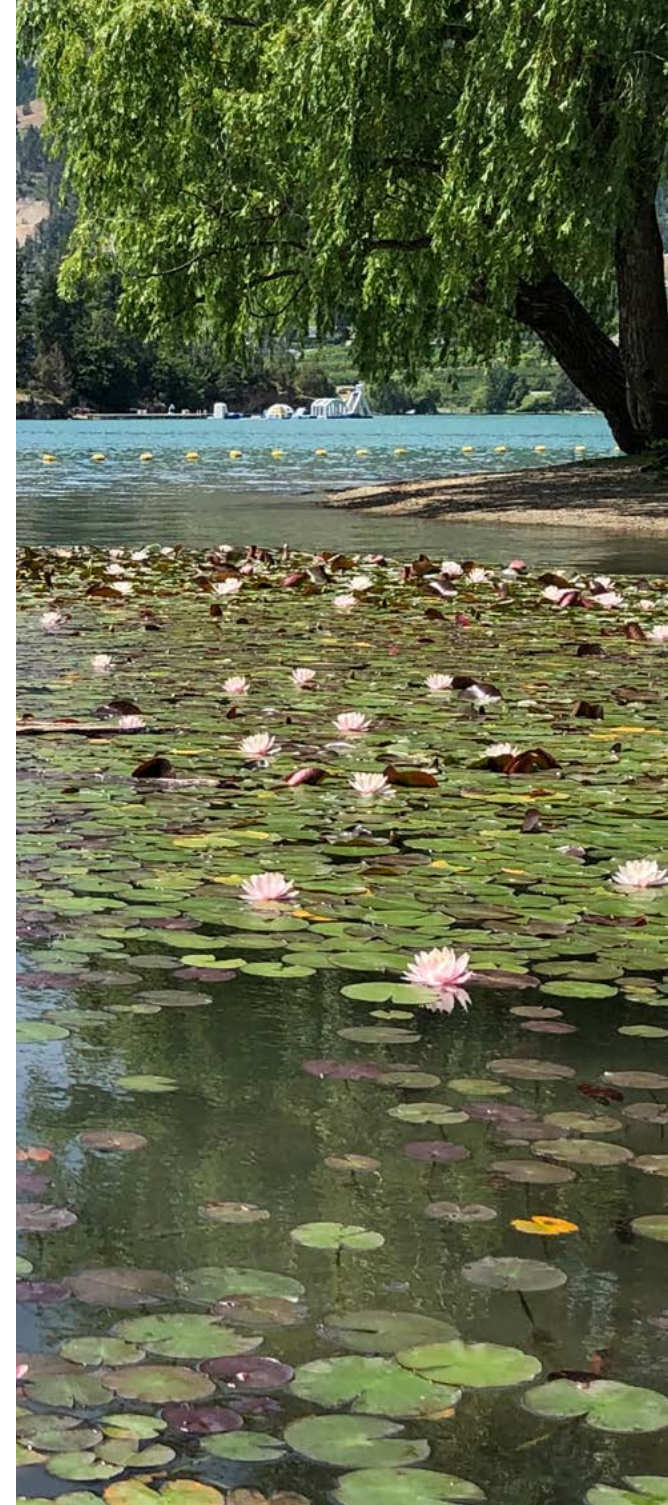
Participants valued the rural feel, including orchards, farms, vineyards, Agricultural lands, farm-gate produce, and open space. The country character and low-density form were seen as integral to Lake Country's identity and everyday experience.

### 4. Strategic Location with Convenient Access

Participants appreciated being "between" Kelowna and Vernon and close to the airport and regional services, calling it the "best of both worlds." Access to amenities without the big-city bustle, and the ability to reach shops, health services, schools, and employment quickly, was cited frequently.

### 5. Local Amenities, Parks, and Cultural Life

Participants pointed to strong parks and recreation offerings, beaches, trails, community events (e.g., concerts, ArtWalk), local businesses and cafés, and accessible municipal services. These assets were viewed as enhancing daily quality of life and reinforcing community connection.



## If you could change one thing, what would it be?

Participants most often called for improvements to transportation and road infrastructure, followed by a clear desire to slow and better manage growth. Many asked for more community amenities such as a pool and recreation centre, a stronger and more vibrant town centre with additional shops and services supported by a broader commercial tax base, and better governance, communication, and fiscal management.

### 1. Transportation, Traffic, and Road Infrastructure

Calls to fix congestion, redesign key intersections, calm traffic, repave and maintain roads, and address Highway 97 impacts were widespread. Participants also asked for more sidewalks, street lighting, safer crossings near schools, and better connections between neighbourhoods.

### 2. Pace and Pattern of Growth

Many asked to slow the rate of development, align growth with infrastructure, and focus higher density in appropriate areas. Participants frequently opposed scattered multi-family projects in rural and agricultural settings and sought stronger protection for Agricultural Reserve lands (ALR) and neighbourhood character.

### 3. Community Amenities and Recreation Facilities

Participants frequently requested a community recreation centre, indoor pool, gym, and more spaces for youth and families. Additional arts and culture programming, ice time, pickleball and sport courts, and year-round activity options were also highlighted.

### 4. Town Centre, Local Businesses, and Diversified Tax Base

There was strong interest in building a more vibrant Main Street and adding local shops, services, restaurants, and a larger grocery store. Participants linked this to reducing reliance on residential taxes by expanding the commercial and industrial tax base and improving the look and vitality of the highway corridor.

### 5. Governance, Communication, and Fiscal Concerns

Participants asked for clearer communication, better planning, timely permitting, and more consistent bylaw enforcement. Many cited high property taxes and wanted stronger accountability, more transparent decision-making, and a more predictable approach to development that reflects community priorities.

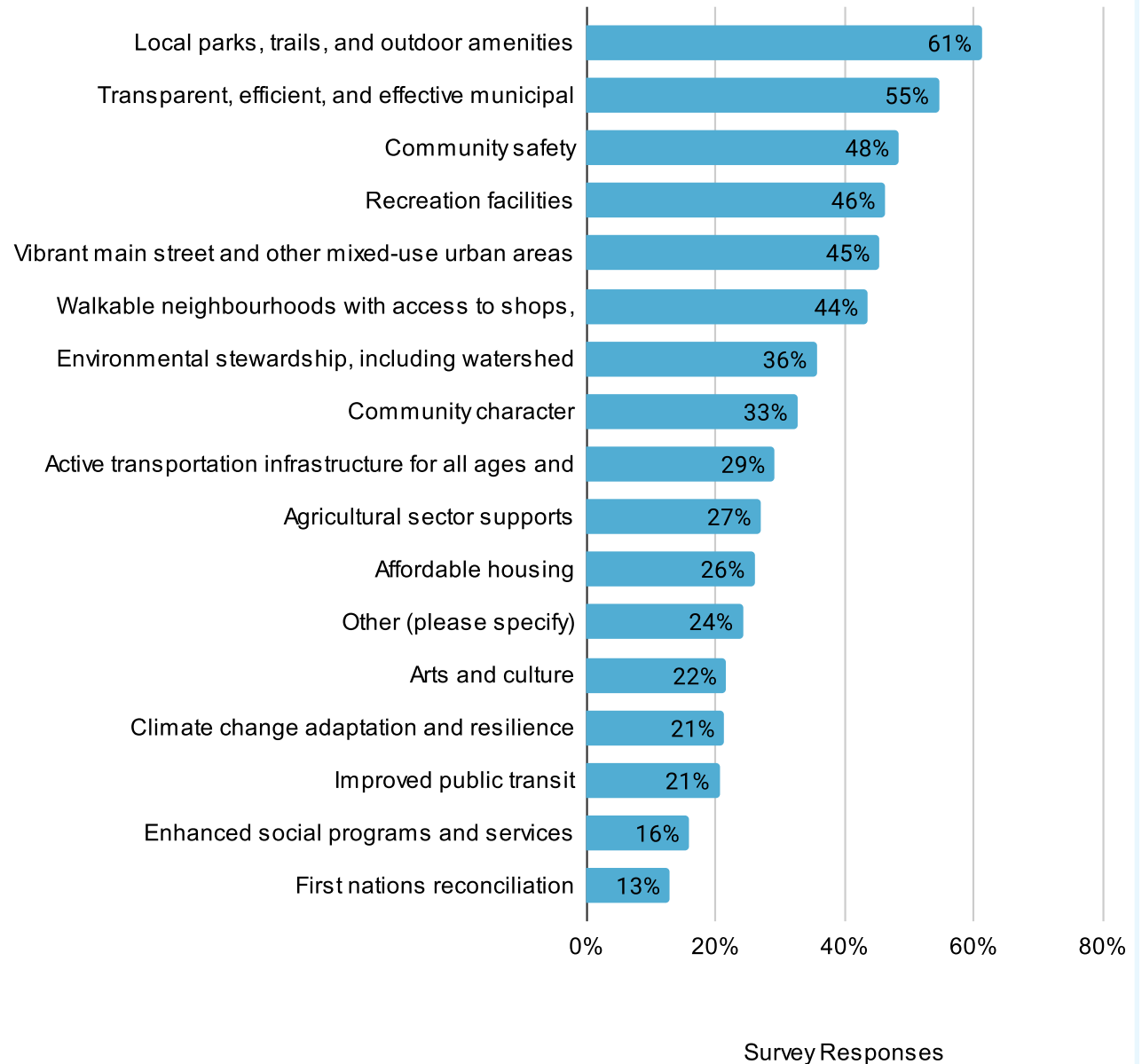




## As Lake Country plans for the future, what are your priorities?

### Key findings

- Top priorities identified by respondents were:
  1. Local parks, trails, and outdoor amenities;
  2. Transparent, efficient, and effective municipal government;
  3. Community safety;
  4. Recreation facilities;
  5. Vibrant main street and other mixed-use urban areas; and
  6. Walkable neighbourhoods with access to shops, services, and amenities.
- Enhanced social programs and services, and First Nations reconciliation were the lowest priorities for survey respondents.



## What three words describe your best version of Lake Country in 20 years?

Participants envision a future that protects Lake Country's natural beauty and rural character while improving day-to-day livability. Priorities include careful, well-planned growth, a stronger town centre with more amenities and a broader tax base, safer and more connected transportation options, and a community that remains affordable, welcoming, and safe.

### 1. Protected Natural Setting and Small Town Character

Participants want a community that remains beautiful, peaceful, and closely tied to lakes, orchards, and open spaces. The goal is to keep the small town feel, preserve rural landscapes, and maintain a strong sense of community.

### 2. Managed Growth and Land Use that Fits the Place

Participants call for growth that is paced and located appropriately, with higher density in the town centre and urban areas and strong protection for agricultural lands. They want cohesive design, clear character, and development that supports services without eroding community identity.

### 3. Transportation that is Safe, Connected, and Convenient

Participants want smoother traffic and safer intersections, along with more sidewalks, bike routes, and trail links between neighbourhoods and the town centre. Completing regional active transportation connections and improving highway interfaces are frequent aspirations.

### 4. Vibrant Town Centre, Local Amenities, and a Diversified Tax Base

Participants seek a lively main street with shops, restaurants, cultural venues, and everyday services. Many want a recreation centre with an indoor pool, more youth spaces, and community programming. A larger commercial and light industrial base is seen as essential to reduce reliance on residential taxes.

### 5. Affordability, Safety, and Inclusion

Participants hope for attainable housing options for families, seniors, and young adults, along with stable or lower taxes and dependable public services. They emphasize a welcoming, safe, and inclusive community with accountable and transparent local decision-making.



## What do you see as the greatest opportunity for Lake Country?

Participants most often identified opportunities to improve transportation and connectivity, build a stronger town centre with year-round amenities, and manage growth in a way that protects rural and agricultural character. Many emphasized expanding the commercial and industrial tax base to ease pressure on households, and elevating Lake Country's distinct identity through tourism, arts, culture, and environmental stewardship.

### 1. Transportation, Connectivity, and Active Mobility

Participants saw near-term wins in fixing key intersections and highway interfaces, relieving congestion, improving local road quality, and adding sidewalks, street lighting, and separated bike lanes. Completing the rail trail connections and designing safer routes to schools and parks were frequently cited.

### 2. Vibrant Town Centre and Community Amenities

Participants highlighted the potential to create a cohesive Main Street and mixed-use core with shops, restaurants, services, and public gathering spaces. A multi-use recreation centre with an indoor pool, gym, ice, and youth spaces was one of the most common requests.

### 3. Managed Growth that Protects Rural and Agricultural Character

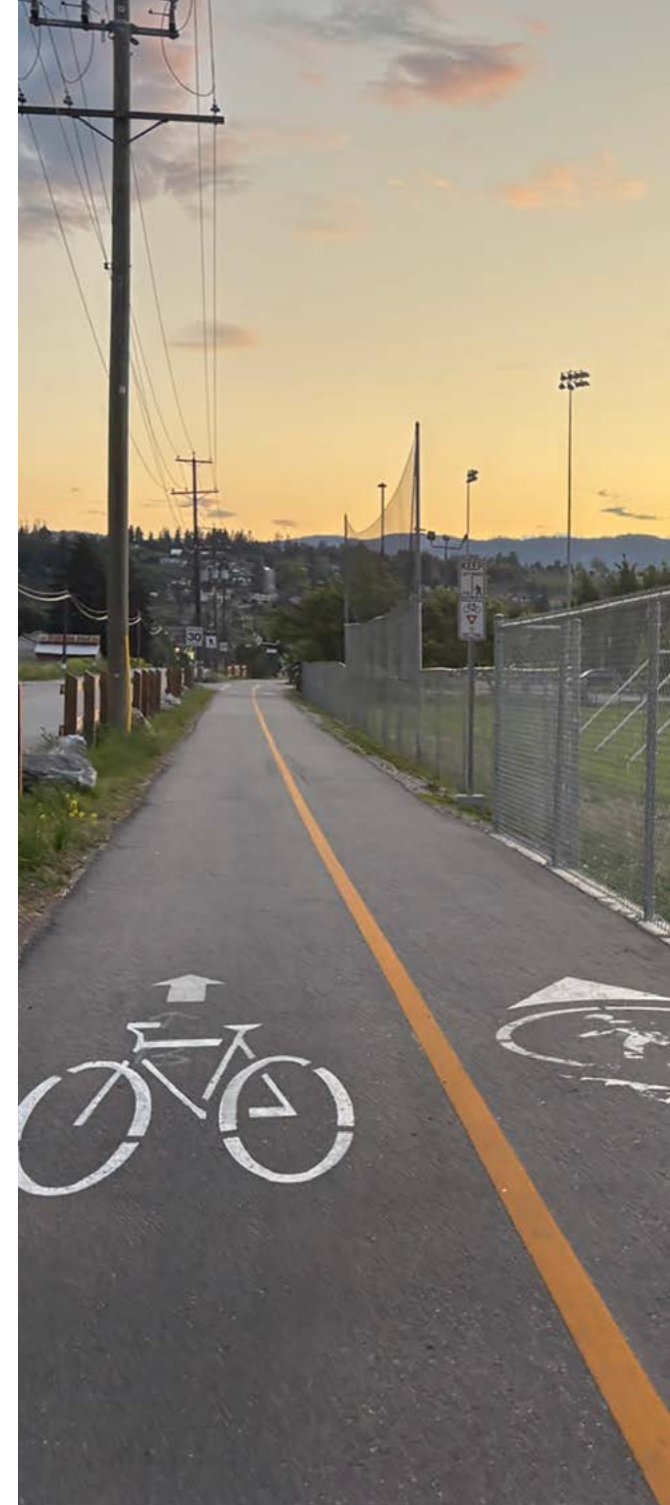
Participants called for growth that is phased, focused in appropriate areas, and aligned with infrastructure. Many want agricultural lands, lakeshore, and open spaces protected, with higher density limited to the urban core and a design that reflects local character.

### 4. Diversified Local Economy and Broader Tax Base

Participants viewed expansion of commercial and light industrial activity as a way to add jobs, keep spending local, and reduce reliance on residential property taxes. Ideas included reclaiming or expanding industrial areas, recruiting small businesses, and improving permitting to attract investment.

### 5. Distinct Identity, Tourism, and Environmental Stewardship

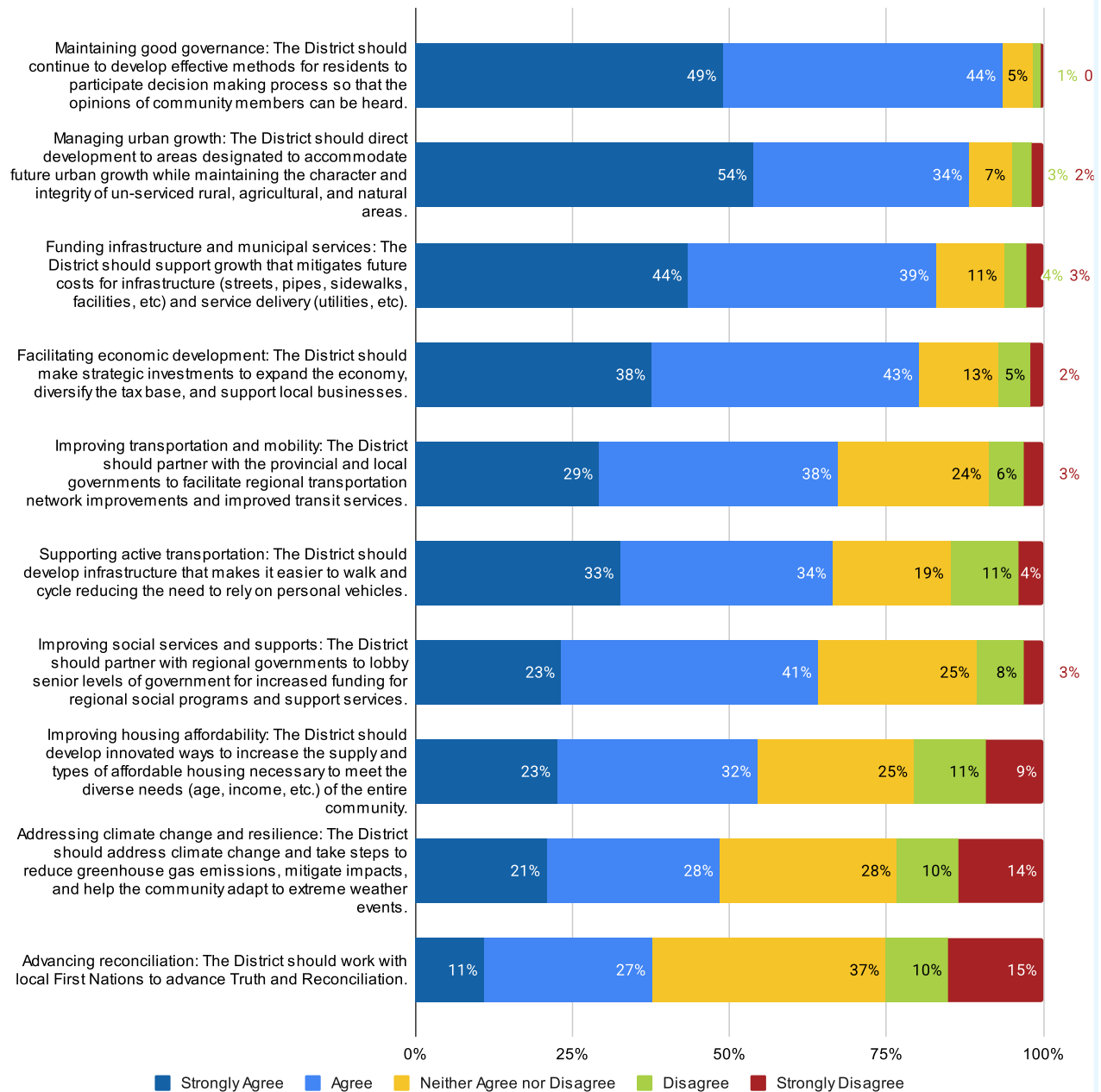
Participants saw a chance to differentiate Lake Country as an arts and culture hub and outdoor destination that showcases lakes, trails, orchards, and wineries. Many paired this with protecting water quality, expanding public waterfront access, and positioning eco-tourism that reinforces conservation.



**Please rate your level of agreement with each proposed solution to a specific challenge facing the community:**

### Key findings

- Top choices of proposed solutions to specific challenges identified by respondents were:
  1. Maintaining good governance;
  2. Managing urban growth;
  3. Funding infrastructure; and
  4. Facilitating economic development.
- Addressing climate change and resilience and advancing reconciliation were respondents' last choices of proposed solutions to specific challenges.



## Can you identify any additional challenges that Lake Country may face in the next 20 years? If so, what solution can you propose?

Participants identified several pressing challenges for the next two decades, emphasizing the need to manage growth responsibly, invest in infrastructure and water systems, address transportation bottlenecks, and maintain community identity and transparency in governance. Many respondents expressed concern that rapid development could outpace the District's ability to deliver services, protect agricultural lands, and preserve the natural environment. Participants also highlighted the importance of diversifying the tax base, strengthening local health and recreation services, and planning proactively for climate resilience, fire risk, and aging infrastructure.

### 1. Growth Management and Community Character

Participants stressed that Lake Country must pace growth carefully to protect its rural and agricultural roots. There is strong concern that unchecked development could erode the small-town feel, increase traffic, and strain limited services.

Suggested solutions: Enforce growth boundaries, focus density in the town centre, adhere to the OCP, and ensure all new development aligns with available infrastructure.

### 2. Transportation and Traffic Congestion

Traffic on Highway 97, Glenmore Road, and Beaver Lake Road was among the most frequently mentioned challenges. Participants cited congestion, safety issues, and lack of alternative routes.

Suggested solutions: Build a new overpass or bypass, synchronize traffic lights, expand alternate routes (e.g., Commonwealth and Shanks Road connections), and invest in sidewalks, cycling infrastructure, and public transit.

### 3. Infrastructure, Water, and Utilities

Respondents identified infrastructure as a critical concern—particularly the need for reliable water systems, sewer upgrades, and ongoing road maintenance. Many linked this to climate change and fire preparedness.

Suggested solutions: Invest in water treatment and supply diversification, upgrade storm and wastewater systems, plan for long-term maintenance, and ensure developers contribute to infrastructure costs before approvals.



#### 4. Diversified Economy and Fiscal Stability

Many participants noted that Lake Country's reliance on residential property taxes is unsustainable. Without a stronger commercial and industrial base, infrastructure and service costs will continue to rise.

Suggested solutions: Reclaim or expand industrial lands, attract small businesses, streamline permitting, and pursue partnerships for recreation and community facilities.

#### 5. Governance, Transparency, and Community Trust

Several respondents expressed frustration with decision-making processes, citing limited transparency and inadequate engagement. They emphasized rebuilding public trust and improving communication.

Suggested solutions: Increase open houses and town halls, improve notice for zoning and bylaw changes, and ensure Council and staff remain accessible and accountable.

#### 6. Environmental Protection and Climate Resilience

Participants raised concerns about wildfire risk, water contamination, and loss of tree canopy and lake health. Climate change impacts were viewed as a growing threat to safety, agriculture, and quality of life.

Suggested solutions: Expand FireSmart programs, restore forests, enhance water quality protections, enforce environmental bylaws, and promote sustainable building and landscape practices.

## How should the community's history, culture, and identity be reflected in future planning?

Participants strongly emphasized that Lake Country's agricultural heritage, rural character, and connection to nature form the foundation of its community identity and must be central to all future planning. Many respondents expressed concern that rapid urban-style development threatens the qualities that make the area distinct, including its farms, small-town feel, and access to lakes and open spaces. Others stressed the importance of celebrating and sharing this identity, through public art, local events, museums, and storytelling, while balancing preservation with thoughtful modernization and inclusivity. There was a clear call to ensure planning decisions honour the past while shaping a vibrant, resilient, and authentic future.

### 1. Protect Agricultural Lands and Rural Character

Participants overwhelmingly identified Lake Country's agricultural landscape, farm culture, and open rural setting as essential to its identity. They stressed that protecting farmland, orchards, and ALR areas from development is key to maintaining community character.

### 2. Celebrate Heritage, Arts, and Local Storytelling

Respondents called for stronger recognition of Lake Country's history through public art, cultural programming, and educational displays. Many pointed to the museum, art gallery, and local events (like ArtWalk) as vital tools for fostering shared identity and pride.

### 3. Honour the Lakes and Natural Environment

Participants repeatedly highlighted the lakes, trails, and natural scenery as core to Lake Country's identity. They urged that development respect lake health, riparian areas, and scenic quality, while expanding access for residents and visitors.

### 4. Reflect Local Character in Planning, Design, and Development

Respondents emphasized that new development should reflect the unique rural and agricultural identity of Lake Country rather than mimic urban Kelowna or Vernon. They encouraged context-sensitive architecture, small-scale local businesses, and design guidelines that preserve charm and authenticity.

### 5. Strengthen Community Connections and Inclusion

A number of participants emphasized that the District should continue to support community events, markets, and spaces that bring people together and celebrate diversity. There was also a call to honour Indigenous history and strengthen partnerships with Syilx/Okanagan peoples in future planning.

## How can Lake Country get from NOW to WOW?

Respondents interpreted the question as a call to balance growth and livability—strengthening what already makes Lake Country appealing while addressing infrastructure, affordability, and local vibrancy. Many felt the community is already a desirable place to live, but emphasized that unmanaged development, rising costs, and congestion could erode its character. Participants most often called for investment in infrastructure, a vibrant Main Street and town centre, and stronger environmental and agricultural stewardship. Others highlighted the need for improved recreation amenities, better municipal efficiency, and stronger engagement and transparency as the foundation for community pride and future success.

### 1. Infrastructure, Roads, and Traffic Management

Participants consistently pointed to the need for improved infrastructure before further growth. Priorities included fixing the Glenmore and Beaver Lake Road intersections, widening narrow rural roads, adding sidewalks, and improving maintenance standards. Many tied “WOW” to safe, reliable infrastructure that keeps pace with development.

### 2. A Vibrant and Walkable Town Centre

Respondents want a clearly defined, lively Main Street with local shops, restaurants, and gathering spaces that serve as the heart of the community. They see potential in transforming the Winfield core into a destination with small-town charm, boutique retail, and walkable streetscapes that reflect local character.

### 3. Recreation, Culture, and Community Spaces

Many participants identified the need for more recreational and cultural amenities—particularly an indoor pool, expanded arena space, trails, and all-season gathering places. They emphasized that investing in recreation, arts, and community programming would help retain families, support health, and strengthen local identity.

### 4. Managed Growth and Fiscal Responsibility

Respondents stressed that growth should be deliberate, phased, and supported by infrastructure and services. Concerns were raised about high taxes, housing affordability, and overdevelopment in rural areas. Participants urged the District to prioritize essentials, focus on efficiency, and maintain transparency in spending.



## 5. Protecting Lakes, Agriculture, and Rural Character

Participants emphasized that Lake Country's appeal depends on protecting its lakes, farmland, and rural setting. Many supported stronger environmental protection, sustainable development practices, and policies that prevent sprawl while promoting eco- and agri-tourism that celebrates local identity.

## 6. Strengthening Local Economy and Employment

There was strong interest in expanding the commercial and industrial tax base, improving permitting processes, and attracting local jobs so residents can work where they live. Respondents highlighted the importance of small business growth, agricultural innovation, and tourism investment over large residential expansion.

## 7. Civic Engagement and Leadership

Participants encouraged ongoing engagement, transparency, and collaboration in decision-making. Many called for a "shared vision" that reflects community input, improved communication from the District, and leadership focused on accountability and long-term stability.

## Is there anything else that you would like to share about your hopes for Lake Country's future?

Respondents' final reflections reiterated a deep affection for Lake Country and a collective hope that future growth maintains the qualities that make the community special including its lakes, agricultural roots, and small-town feel. Many participants urged Council to slow down the pace of development, focus on infrastructure, and ensure transparent, community-driven decision-making. Affordability, environmental stewardship, and civic pride emerged as central to respondents' vision for the future. The most common hopes centred on thoughtful growth management, investment in local amenities, and preserving the natural and cultural identity that sets Lake Country apart from larger urban centres.

### 1. Preserve Rural and Agricultural Character

Participants repeatedly emphasized the importance of protecting farmland, open spaces, and the natural landscape. They see Lake Country's agricultural heritage and lakeside beauty as defining features that must not be sacrificed to rapid or uncoordinated growth.

### 2. Manage Growth and Keep Taxes Affordable

Many respondents expressed concern that rising taxes and rapid development are making Lake Country unaffordable for long-term residents. Respondents called for measured, fiscally responsible growth that prioritizes core services and ensures infrastructure and amenities keep pace with new housing.

### 3. Improve Infrastructure, Roads, and Services

Infrastructure improvements were among the most frequently mentioned hopes. Respondents cited the need for road upgrades, safer intersections (particularly Glenmore and Beaver Lake), sidewalk connections, expanded sewer and water systems, and maintenance of existing facilities before new projects proceed.

### 4. Maintain Community Identity and Small-Town Feel

Respondents strongly urged the District to resist the urban sprawl seen in Kelowna and Vernon. They want Lake Country to retain its sense of community, friendliness, and slower pace—qualities that many cited as their reasons for living there.

## 5. Invest in Recreation, Culture, and Gathering Spaces

Participants expressed strong support for new and improved recreational amenities such as an indoor pool, community centre, pickleball courts, and outdoor gathering spaces. Many highlighted the value of arts, culture, and events like ArtWalk and Music in the Park in bringing the community together.

## 6. Strengthen Environmental Protection and Stewardship

Participants underscored the need to protect lake water quality, manage drought risks, and preserve wildlife habitat. Many also mentioned tree planting, geese control, and green infrastructure as tangible ways to maintain Lake Country's natural appeal and resilience.

## 7. Support Local Business and Economic Diversity

Respondents hoped to see a stronger local economy with more small businesses, shops, and light industry to provide employment opportunities and broaden the tax base. There was particular interest in revitalizing Main Street and attracting businesses that align with Lake Country's rural and cultural identity.

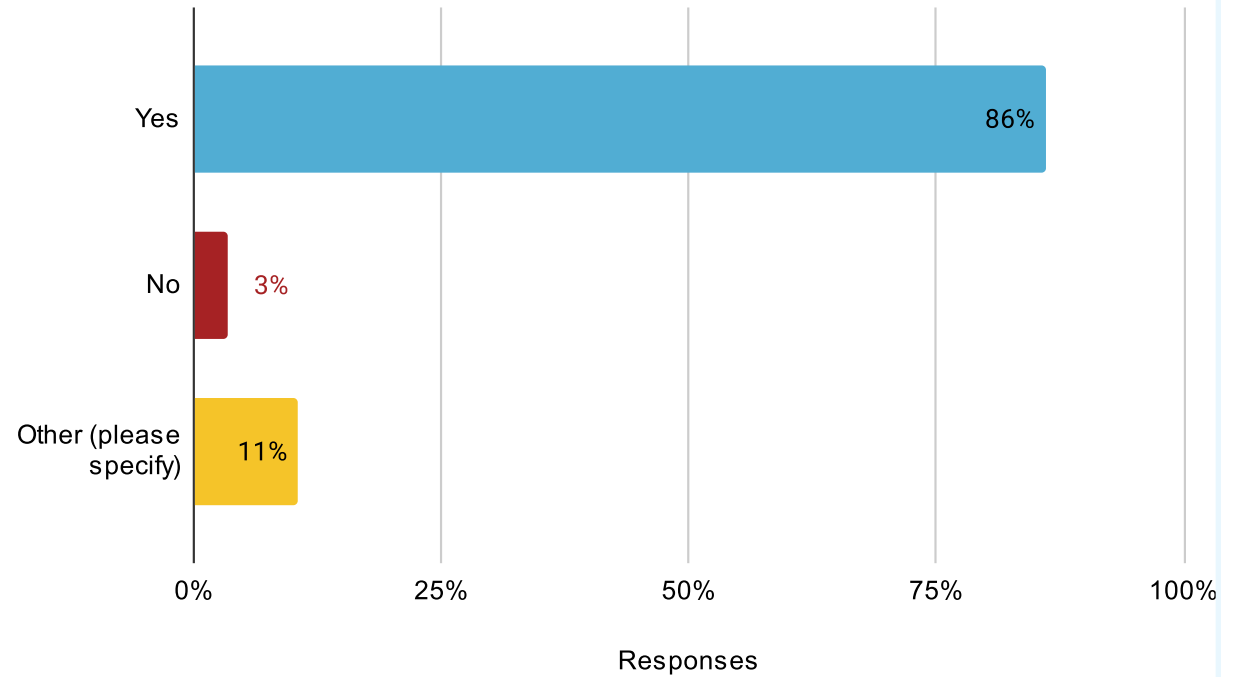
## 8. Enhance Governance, Transparency, and Engagement

Many respondents called for improved communication, transparency, and collaboration from the District. They emphasized the importance of Council listening to residents, ensuring fair and timely permitting processes, and building trust through open, participatory decision-making.

## Do you feel you were able to express your ideas and values?

### Key findings

- The majority of respondents felt they were able to express their ideas and values



## How can we improve future surveys or other requests for feedback?

Participants offered practical, candid advice on how the District can make future engagement more accessible, trustworthy, and useful. Their feedback centers on reaching more people (including non-digital audiences), being transparent about how input is used, checking in more often through multiple formats, and sharpening survey design so responses reflect real trade-offs and priorities.

### 1. Accessibility and Outreach

Many respondents emphasized the need to make surveys easier to find and complete. Suggestions included mailing surveys with utility bills, posting notices in community spaces, and advertising through local news, social media, and signage. Respondents also requested more options for non-digital participation, such as mail-in surveys and printed copies for seniors or residents without reliable internet access. Ensuring surveys are promoted widely and accessible to all age groups was a consistent priority.

### 2. Transparency and Follow-Up

Participants frequently asked that the District share survey results publicly and explain how community input informs decision-making. Respondents expressed that trust and engagement would improve if residents could see how feedback was summarized, what actions were taken, and whether Council decisions reflected community sentiment. Regular updates—through newsletters, social media, or town halls—were seen as essential for accountability.

### 3. Frequency and Variety of Engagement

Many respondents supported continuing regular surveys and complementing them with in-person engagement such as open houses, town halls, or small focus groups. Annual or semi-annual surveys were suggested to maintain a consistent dialogue with the community and track shifting priorities. Respondents valued opportunities for both written input and in-person discussion to deepen understanding of local issues.

### 4. Survey Design and Content

Feedback highlighted the importance of clear, unbiased, and meaningful survey questions. Respondents noted that some questions felt repetitive or overly general, and suggested including more open-ended opportunities to share ideas, as well as more context about costs, trade-offs, and current initiatives. A few respondents suggested showing draft plans or examples to make responses more informed and realistic.

## A.3. Community Open House

### NOW - If you could change one thing...

#### 1. Traffic, Roads, and Safety Improvements

By far the most frequent feedback related to fixing Glenmore Road and improving traffic flow and safety. Participants highlighted the dangerous conditions at major intersections (Glenmore & OK Centre Rd East, Lodge Rd & Hwy 97, Woodsdale & Bottom Wood Lake Rd), the need for bike lanes, sidewalks, and better connections to Kelowna, including calls for a third route or highway bypass. Many described Glenmore as a “nightmare” and stressed the urgency for upgrades, road resurfacing, and improved active transportation safety.

#### 2. Managing Growth and Protecting Rural Character

Participants expressed strong concern about the pace and style of development. Many called for a “gentler attitude” toward growth, urging the District to preserve hillsides, trees, and agricultural land and to focus higher-density housing within the Town Centre instead of expanding into rural areas. There was broad support for environmentally sensitive development and protecting farmland as key to maintaining Lake Country’s identity and quality of life.

#### 3. Community Amenities and Services

A recurring priority was investment in community amenities, especially a pool or recreation facility, more grocery stores and local shops, pickleball courts, and improved transit. Participants emphasized the need for local recreation options, family-oriented spaces, and facilities that reduce reliance on nearby cities for everyday needs. Some also noted the need for health and emergency services within Lake Country.

#### 4. Housing Diversity and Affordability

Several participants raised concerns about housing costs and limited options for young families, seniors, and lower-income residents. Suggestions included affordable or multi-use housing projects, senior-friendly units, and integrating housing above community or recreation spaces. Participants saw greater housing diversity as key to keeping Lake Country livable and inclusive for the long term.

NOW.

A yellow rectangular box containing the word "NOW." in a white, sans-serif font.

## NOW - What do you value most?

### 1. Small-Town Character and Sense of Community

Participants consistently expressed appreciation for Lake Country's small-town atmosphere, describing it as friendly, safe, and community-oriented. The ability to know one's neighbours, feel connected, and live in a place with a slower pace and personal character was highly valued. Many participants emphasized the importance of maintaining this small-community identity while the area continues to grow.

### 2. Natural Beauty and Outdoor Lifestyle

The lakes, mountains, trails, and natural spaces were frequently cited as what makes Lake Country special. Participants highlighted the community's scenic beauty, access to recreation, and the daily enjoyment of nature as defining qualities of life in the area. The proximity to both outdoor adventure and tranquil landscapes was seen as a core part of Lake Country's identity and appeal.

### 3. Agricultural Lands and Rural Character

Participants placed strong value on Lake Country's agricultural roots and open spaces, recognizing farms, orchards, and local food production as key elements of its heritage and future. They appreciated the rural landscapes and connection to the land, seeing agriculture as both an economic and cultural foundation that contributes to food security, identity, and the visual beauty of the community.

### 4. Safety and Family-Friendly Environment

Many participants noted that Lake Country feels safe, quiet, and family-oriented, with good parks, playgrounds, and a general sense of security for raising children. This was often tied to the community's manageable scale, natural surroundings, and the supportive local culture that encourages family life and neighbourly care.



WOW!

## WOW - What three words describe your best version of Lake Country in 20 years?

### 1. A Strong, Connected, and Friendly Community

Participants envisioned a welcoming, safe, and community-oriented Lake Country where people feel connected and engaged. The future community is described as friendly, healthy, and supportive, maintaining the small-town spirit while fostering local pride and inclusivity.

### 2. Vibrant and Distinct Town Centre

Many participants expressed a desire for a developed and lively town centre that includes restaurants, cafés, local shops, and gathering spaces. They want a walkable, social hub that brings people together and reflects Lake Country's identity—distinct from larger urban centres like Kelowna or Vernon.

### 3. Protected Natural and Agricultural Lands

Participants emphasized the importance of preserving green spaces, lakes, and agricultural lands, with some urging protection of the ALR as essential to Lake Country's long-term character and environmental health. They want to see balanced growth that safeguards natural and rural assets, ensuring that Lake Country remains beautiful, open, and connected to its landscape.

### 4. Safe, Calm, and Manageable Growth

A recurring theme was the desire for controlled, thoughtful growth—not becoming “just another city.” Participants hope for safe roads, better traffic management, and quiet, peaceful neighbourhoods, with infrastructure that supports residents without compromising the community's relaxed pace and livability.


 WOW!

## WOW - What do you see as the greatest opportunity for Lake Country?

### 1. Developing a Vibrant Town Centre

The most common opportunity identified was to build out and strengthen the Town Centre as a complete, walkable hub with shops, restaurants, services, and public spaces. Participants saw this as a chance to give Lake Country its own heart — a place for community life, economic activity, and local identity. Many emphasized revitalizing existing underused sites and focusing density and affordable housing near schools and amenities.

### 2. Enhancing Access to Lakes, Trails, and Recreation

Participants viewed lake access, clean water, and expanded trail networks as defining assets that should be protected and improved. Opportunities include adding public beach access points and stairs, opening the full Rail Trail connection, and investing in recreation amenities such as a pool, sports fields, and turf pitches. These were seen as both quality-of-life improvements and tourism draws that celebrate Lake Country's natural setting.

### 3. Strengthening the Economy and Local Employment

Many participants called for more local business opportunities, from small shops to light industrial and tourism ventures. Suggestions included reclaiming the Jim Bailey industrial area, attracting new employers, and supporting hotels, farm-based tourism, and manufacturing to diversify the tax base. Participants saw economic growth as essential to funding services while keeping Lake Country affordable.

### 4. Protecting Rural and Agricultural Character Amid Growth

Participants emphasized that growth should preserve Lake Country's rural charm and agricultural identity. Maintaining farmland, minimizing rural light pollution, and enacting stronger tree protection were common suggestions. The opportunity lies in achieving balanced, compact growth that supports a thriving town centre and active agricultural landscape while keeping the community's "small town, rural feel" intact.

## HOW - How can we go from Now to Wow?

### 1. Manage Growth Thoughtfully and Protect the Environment

Participants consistently called for careful, environmentally responsible growth that respects Lake Country's natural systems, water capacity, and small-town identity. There was strong agreement that development should remain focused within existing urban areas, with limits on density in sensitive areas such as Woodsdale and the lakeshore. Many urged the District to protect green space, trees, and hillsides, improve environmental regulations (e.g., tree bylaws, fertilizer restrictions), and prioritize clean lakes and water conservation as central to Lake Country's future.

### 2. Improve Transportation and Infrastructure

A major theme centered on the need for better transportation planning and infrastructure investment. Participants highlighted chronic traffic congestion—especially along Glenmore Road and Highway 97—and called for more sidewalks, bike lanes, and safe routes between neighbourhoods. There was strong interest in improving transit (including regional light rail and bus connections), maintaining roads, and ensuring that infrastructure upgrades keep pace with growth. Many emphasized that planning must be realistic about car use while still expanding active transportation options.

### 3. Expand Housing Diversity and Affordability

Participants encouraged the District to increase housing variety—including secondary suites, duplexes, and attainable multi-family homes—while maintaining Lake Country's rural and family-oriented character. They supported policies that make it easier for multi-generational families to live together, ensure housing aligns with infrastructure capacity, and prevent speculative or excessive development. Some suggested establishing mechanisms to focus housing on local needs, not just market-driven outcomes.

# HOW?

## HOW?

#### 4. Invest in Community Amenities and Local Economy

Participants expressed enthusiasm for community facilities such as a recreation centre or pool (though opinions were mixed on cost), and improvements to parks, trails, and gathering spaces. There was also strong support for expanding local businesses, restaurants, and tourism options to strengthen the economy and reduce reliance on Kelowna and Vernon. A vibrant Main Street and increased local commerce were viewed as key to both economic sustainability and community vibrancy.

#### 5. Strengthen Governance, Communication, and Collaboration

Several participants emphasized the need for better communication, transparency, and public involvement in decision-making. Suggestions included more opportunities for community input on development proposals, visible follow-up on public feedback, and clear communication around budgets, bylaws, and infrastructure priorities. Participants also encouraged partnerships across public and private sectors, community celebrations, and continued opportunities for civic engagement as Lake Country evolves.

## A.4. Workshop Summary

The community workshops were structured around three themes, **Now**, **Wow**, and **How**, to guide discussions about the community's present, future, and path forward. The following is a summary of themes heard.

### **NOW - Values**

#### 1. Rural and Agricultural Identity

Participants strongly identified Lake Country's rural and agricultural roots as central to its character. Farming, ALR protection, and open landscapes were seen as core to the community's identity and economy. Many expressed pride in the District's heritage of orchards, vineyards, and small-scale agriculture, emphasizing the need to maintain this lifestyle as a defining feature that sets Lake Country apart from urban neighbours.

#### 2. Natural Environment and Lakes

Participants highlighted the natural setting, lakes, trails, parks, views, and open space, as a defining and unifying aspect of community life. Access to the water, quiet rural spaces, dark skies, and natural beauty were seen as critical to Lake Country's appeal and quality of life. The protection of natural assets, from wildlands to lakefronts, was viewed as essential to health, recreation, and long-term sustainability.

#### 3. Small-Town Character and Community Connection

A strong sense of belonging, volunteerism, and safety were consistently valued. Participants described Lake Country as a family-oriented, close-knit community with opportunities to participate and make a difference. They valued the quiet pace of life, strong social networks, and local initiatives, from arts and culture events to community halls, that build identity and connection. Maintaining this "small-town feel" while managing growth and change was seen as vital to preserving what people love about Lake Country.

**NOW.**

# NOW.

## NOW - Challenges

### 1. Housing Affordability and Diversity

Participants identified limited and increasingly unaffordable housing as one of Lake Country's most pressing challenges. A lack of diverse housing types restricts opportunities for young families, workers, and seniors looking to downsize or age in place. Participants noted that high housing costs discourage volunteerism, reduce social diversity, and make it difficult for the next generation to remain in the community.

### 2. Infrastructure, Transportation, and Growth Management

Infrastructure capacity—particularly roads, sidewalks, schools, and recreation facilities, was a recurring concern. Participants observed that rapid growth has outpaced the infrastructure needed to support it, creating challenges related to traffic safety, connectivity, and public transit. They also pointed to a lack of safe, separated active transportation routes and limited access to healthcare and other essential services. Balancing infrastructure investment with affordability and responsible tax increases was viewed as a key challenge moving forward.

### 3. Economic Sustainability and Tax Base Balance

Participants emphasized the need to diversify Lake Country's economic base to reduce reliance on residential property taxes. A stronger commercial and industrial presence, as well as sustainable tourism and agricultural innovation, were seen as ways to build a more resilient local economy. This diversification would help fund community amenities, support infrastructure, and lessen dependence on commuting to neighbouring municipalities for work and services.

### 4. Maintaining Rural and Cultural Identity Amid Growth

Participants expressed concern that ongoing development and urbanization could erode the small-town, rural, and agricultural character that defines Lake Country. Protecting farmland, supporting the arts and culture sector, and celebrating local heritage were viewed as essential to retaining identity and vibrancy. Participants also highlighted the need for the District to more visibly support cultural institutions, such as the museum, art gallery, and community halls, which rely on limited funding and volunteer capacity.

WOW!

## WOW - Future Opportunities

### 1. A Vibrant and Connected Town Centre

Participants envisioned a more lively, mixed-use downtown that acts as the heart of the community — a place where people live, work, and gather. They emphasized the importance of high-quality public spaces, pocket parks, and pedestrian-oriented design to foster vibrancy and connection. Beautification initiatives such as gardens, murals, and streetscape greenery were seen as key to creating a welcoming and distinctive Main Street. Participants supported accelerating Town Centre development through collaboration, incentives, and design standards that strengthen Lake Country's identity.

### 2. Arts, Culture, and Community Life

Participants emphasized that arts, culture, and heritage should play a larger role in shaping Lake Country's future. Ideas included recognizing history through street names and public art, expanding festivals and markets, and integrating culture into everyday spaces. Many saw a need for new cultural and community facilities, such as a shared-use hub with event space, offices, and recreation amenities, to support local organizations and provide gathering places that serve all ages. Partnerships with UBC, RCMP, and other institutions were identified as opportunities to position Lake Country as a hub for creativity, education, and research.

### 3. Environmental Stewardship and Access to Nature

Protecting and celebrating Lake Country's natural assets was a dominant theme. Participants called for improved lake access, expanded trails and waterfront parks, and stronger watershed management to safeguard water quality and ecosystem health. Ideas included a community tree-planting program, drought- and fire-resistant landscaping, and enhanced education on lake and watershed stewardship. Participants saw the Rail Trail, waterfront parks, and natural corridors as key connectors linking the community's recreational, ecological, and social fabric.

### 4. Inclusive, Safe, and Sustainable Growth

Participants described a future where Lake Country grows in a balanced, inclusive, and sustainable way. Priorities included multi-generational housing options, support for aging in place, improved accessibility for people with disabilities, and safe routes for children to walk and bike to school. Economic sustainability was also seen as essential, with calls to attract small businesses, improve local services, and reduce dependence on commuting. Participants encouraged "smart growth" that concentrates density in established nodes, supports active transportation, and protects the environment and rural character that define Lake Country.



## HOW? - how we go from NOW to WOW

### 1. Strengthening the Town Centre and Local Economy

Participants emphasized that revitalizing and diversifying the Town Centre is essential for achieving Lake Country's long-term vision. A vibrant downtown with mixed-use development, restaurants, offices, and small businesses was seen as central to building community pride and reducing reliance on neighbouring cities. Participants supported incentives and partnerships to attract investment, create local jobs, and diversify the tax base through a stronger commercial and light-industrial presence. Ensuring that development aligns with community values, prioritizing quality design, walkability, and unique, small-scale businesses, was viewed as critical to success.

### 2. Expanding Housing Choices and Affordability

Participants identified the need for a full range of housing options to meet the needs of all ages and incomes. Ideas included laneway and missing-middle housing, multi-generational and aging-in-place options, and policies that ensure developments contribute to community goals. There was strong interest in establishing a Housing Authority to lead local initiatives, pursue funding, and collaborate with developers to improve housing attainability. Participants stressed the importance of balancing growth with livability, ensuring that new housing is supported by green space, services, and transit.

### 3. Investing in Infrastructure, Connectivity, and Public Spaces

Participants called for continued investment in infrastructure and amenities that support quality of life. Priorities included road safety, expanded transit, and separated active transportation routes connecting Lake Country's neighbourhoods and parks. Enhancing public spaces—such as plazas, waterfront parks, and green corridors—was viewed as key to community well-being and social connection. Participants also encouraged the District to prioritize parkland acquisition, urban design standards, and wayfinding improvements as population growth continues.

# HOW?

## HOW?

#### 4. Environmental Stewardship and Agricultural Resilience

Protecting water quality, farmland, and natural systems was a consistent theme. Participants emphasized the need for watershed protection strategies, wildfire preparedness, and support for sustainable agriculture. There was enthusiasm for positioning Lake Country as a leader in agri-tourism and local food systems—creating new jobs and reinforcing the community’s identity. Clean energy generation, composting, and biomass reduction were suggested as practical steps toward becoming a more climate-resilient community.

#### 5. Community Well-Being, Services, and Partnerships

Participants highlighted the importance of expanding local services and facilities that meet social, cultural, and recreational needs. Ideas included new recreation amenities (pool, rink, sports fields), accessible gathering spaces, and integrated hubs offering community, health, and government services locally. Strengthening partnerships, with UBC, provincial and federal agencies, and community organizations- was seen as key to achieving shared goals. Ongoing engagement, transparent communication, and recognition of volunteer and community leadership were also identified as essential to maintaining trust and civic pride as Lake Country evolves.

## A.5 Pop-up Events General Summary

### NOW.

#### 1. Strong Appreciation for Small-Town Lifestyle and Natural Setting

Participants expressed deep appreciation for Lake Country's relaxed, small-town atmosphere, scenic views, and access to parks, beaches, and trails. Many noted that the community feels friendly, close-knit, and well-balanced between rural charm and proximity to larger centres. The outdoor recreation opportunities, such as the Rail Trail, bike skills park, and music events, were seen as key parts of what makes Lake Country special.

#### 2. Transportation, Traffic, and Infrastructure Concerns

The most frequent challenges raised related to traffic congestion (especially on Glenmore and Highway 97), lack of sidewalks and safe routes for walking and cycling, and general infrastructure strain from growth. Participants called for better road maintenance, improved mobility options, and investment in essential systems like sewer, water, and schools before further development proceeds.

#### 3. Growth, Affordability, and Maintaining Rural Character

Many participants were concerned about rapid development, rising housing costs, and loss of rural identity. They emphasized the need for thoughtful, well-planned growth that preserves open space, protects the environment, and keeps Lake Country's "spacious, peaceful" feel intact. Several also mentioned the importance of affordable and senior housing, while resisting over-densification and "urban-style" condo developments.

### NOW.

**WOW!****1 Recreation and Community Spaces**

Participants strongly emphasized the need for a community recreation centre with a pool, along with pickleball courts, sports fields, and expanded trail networks. These amenities were seen as vital for health, social connection, and ensuring all ages can stay active within the community.

**2 Arts, Culture, and Local Identity**

There was broad support for making Lake Country a hub for arts, music, and cultural expression, with a vibrant Main Street and public spaces that showcase the community's creativity and character. Participants envisioned Lake Country as a distinct and welcoming place, celebrating its small-town charm and natural setting.

**3 Connectivity and Managed Growth**

Participants highlighted the need for safe bike and pedestrian routes, better traffic flow, and improved transit connections, alongside balanced, inclusive growth that maintains affordability and the rural character of Lake Country. Growth should enhance—not erode—the qualities that make the community special.

**WOW!**

## HOW?

### 1. Recreation, Parks, and Youth Spaces

Participants consistently called for new and expanded recreation amenities — including a community pool, indoor sports facilities, skate park upgrades, walking tracks, and more playgrounds. There was strong interest in ensuring year-round spaces for youth, families, and seniors, as well as protecting and enhancing parks, trails, and waterfront areas for community use.

### 2. Mobility, Infrastructure, and Smart Growth

Improving bike and pedestrian infrastructure, completing the Rail Trail, and enhancing transit connections were top priorities. Participants also emphasized the need for balanced growth, more commercial and mixed-use development on Main Street, and upgraded utilities and roads — all while maintaining Lake Country's rural and natural character.

### 3. Community Engagement and Local Governance

Many participants urged the District to keep citizens actively involved in planning and decision-making, with transparent communication and accessible consultation methods. There was also interest in fiscal responsibility, ensuring that growth, beautification, and recreation investments are made thoughtfully and reflect the community's shared values.

## HOW?



## Kids Boards

During the pop-up events, kids had their own board where they could share what's most important to them. The summary below highlights what they said.

### Key findings

- Kids most often mentioned wanting a pool, beaches, ice sports, and more trails or paths to walk and bike on.

