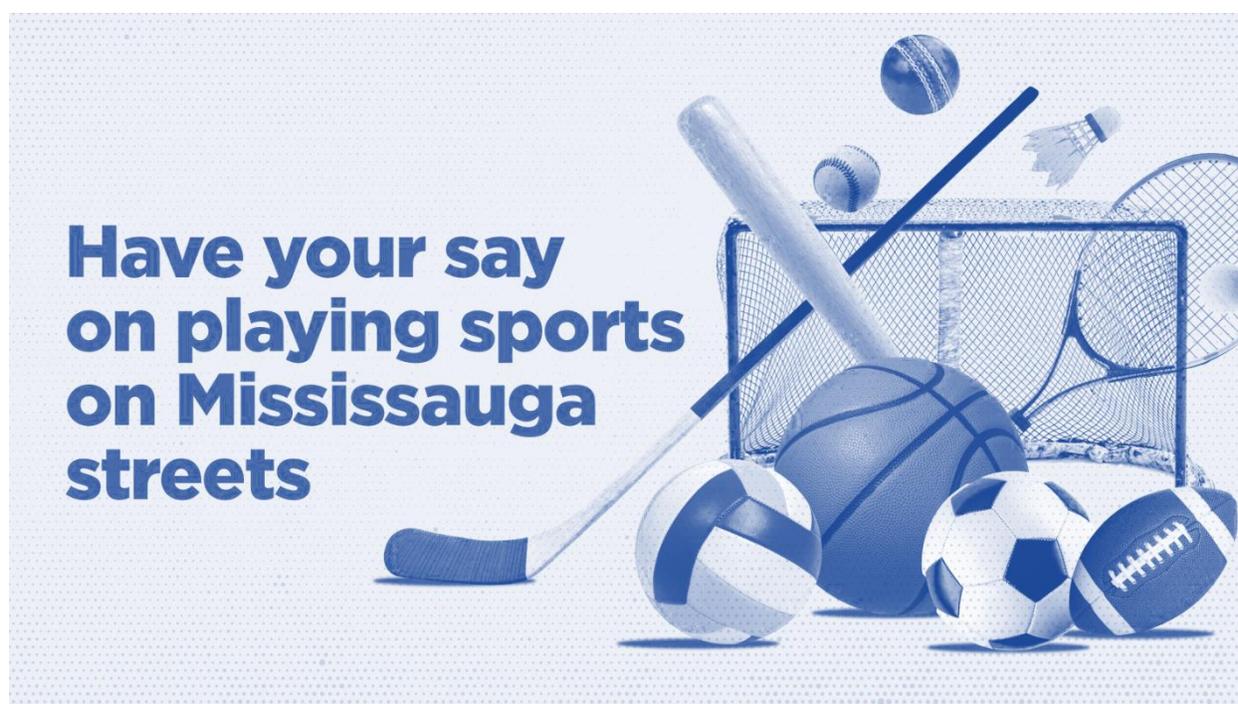


Sports on Streets Survey Analysis



**Have your say
on playing sports
on Mississauga
streets**

Overview:

While reviewing the City of Mississauga's ("City") current by-laws related to sports on streets, staff sought resident input on playing sports and using sports equipment on local roads in the City. The current regulations prohibiting sports on streets are enforced on a complaint basis. Most incidents, especially those related to playing sports on the roadway, are resolved by compliance through education.

From **July 8 to August 7, 2024**, Mississauga residents were invited to complete an online survey to share their thoughts on playing sports and using sports equipment on local roads. The survey supported the City in understanding what sports are currently being played on streets, how often sports are being played on streets, and to garner residents' feedback or concerns on sports being played on city streets. Survey responses have informed recommendations for potential changes to the existing regulations.

Summary:

The survey received **1,178 responses**; however, questions were not mandatory to proceed and complete the survey. Note that all percentages used in this analysis are rounded to the nearest whole number. Further, respondents were also able to provide qualitative feedback in the form of comments, the content of which is included in the analysis.

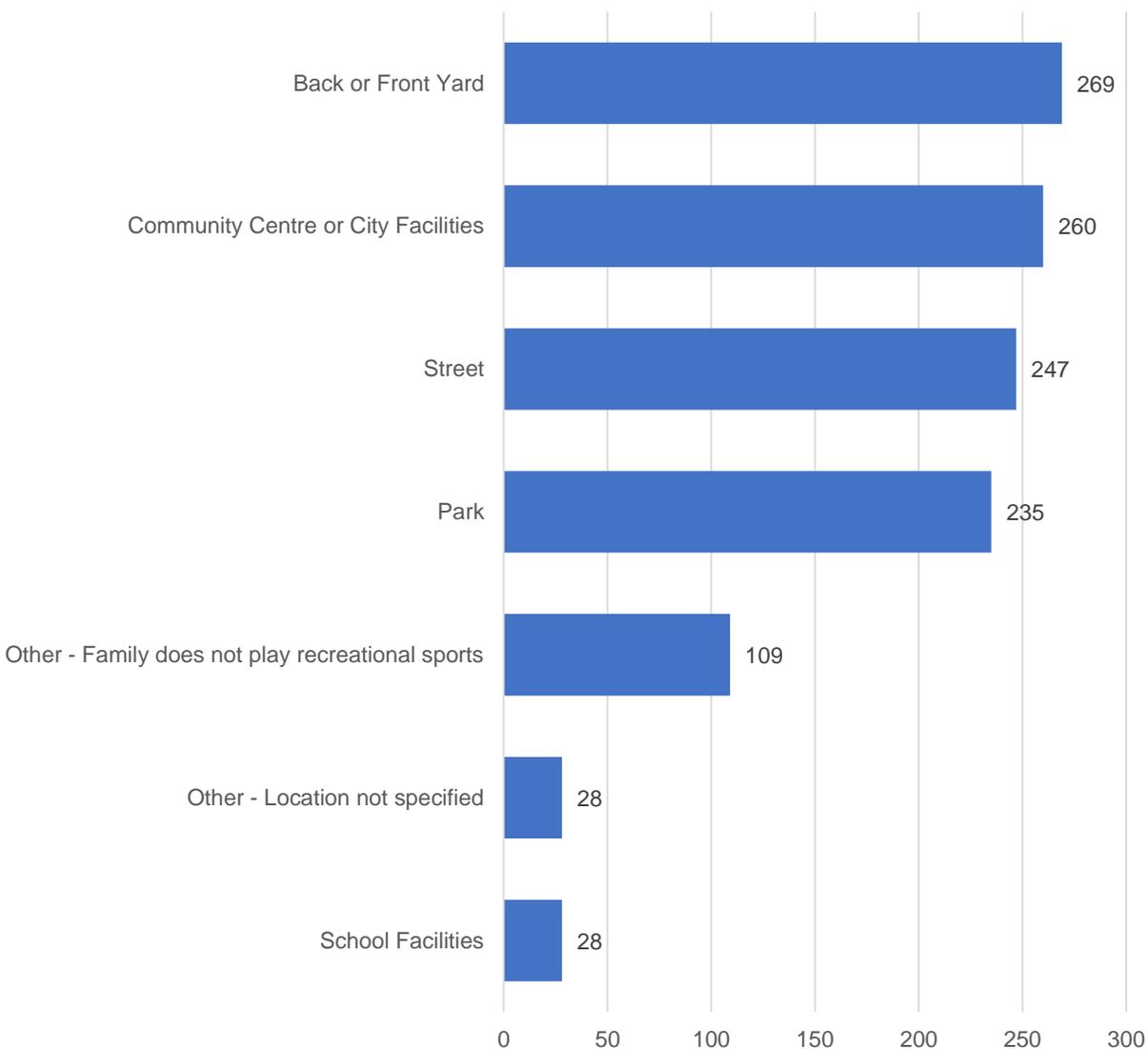
Most respondents indicated that they play sports in their back or front yard and tend to play 3-5 times a week all year round, typically in the evening after 5 p.m. Most respondents feel that their street is safe for residents to play on and have seen people playing sports throughout their neighbourhood streets. The vast majority of respondents agreed that sports like golf, cricket, and baseball should not be permitted on City streets and most agreed that equipment should be stored on the resident's property when not in use.

Most concerns were focused on the overall safety of sports being played. Many respondents indicated that it is not necessarily about the sport itself, but about the equipment being used for the sport and how it is being played on the street. They recommended that parents supervise their children who are playing in the streets and that players be encouraged to be aware of their surroundings to ensure that they are being safe and respectful. It was also consistently suggested that applicable sports are not to be played with hard balls and should be swapped with a softer or smaller ball. Many respondents also noted that the use of speed bumps and low speed limits in residential streets has positively impacted the overall safety of their neighbourhoods.

Survey Results by Individual Questions:

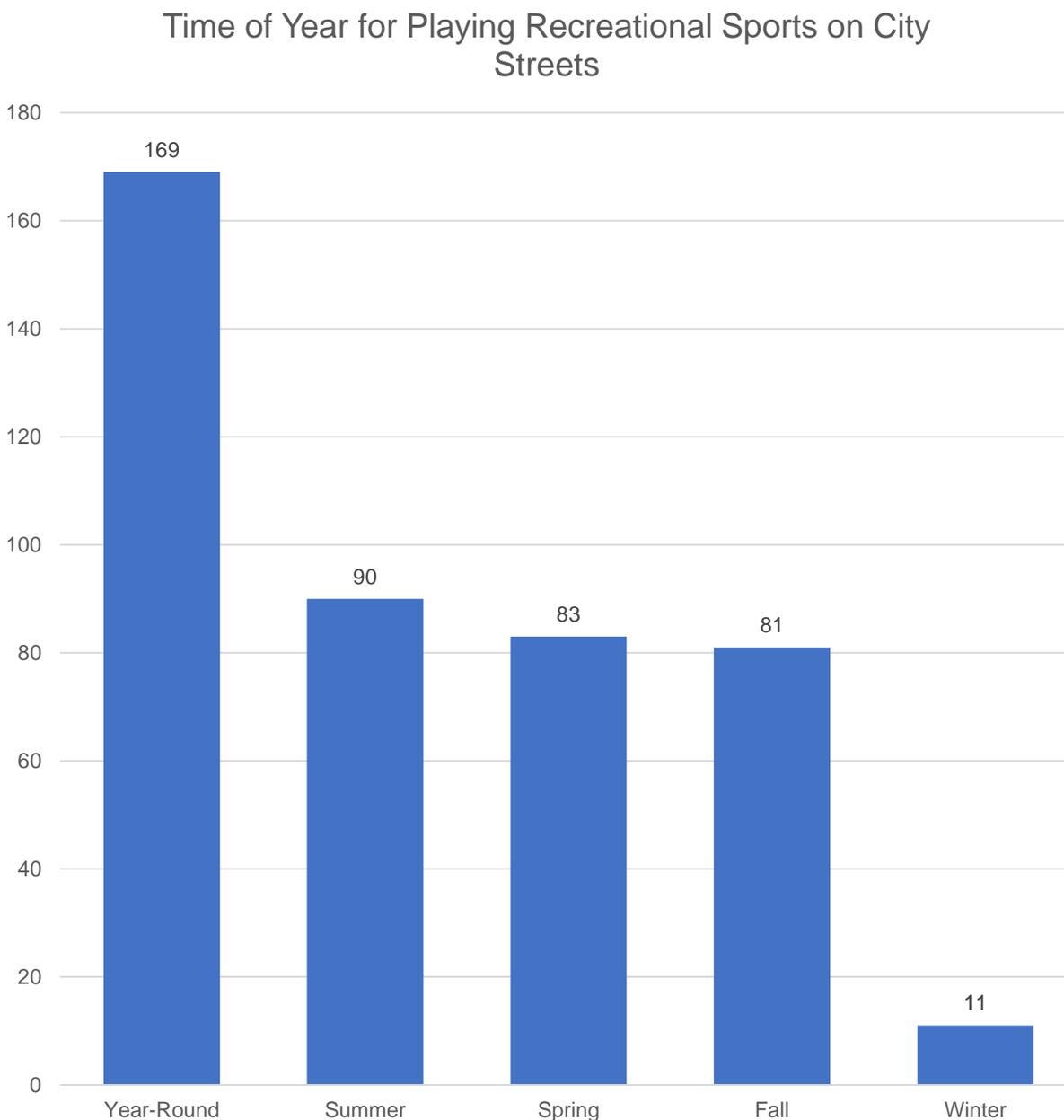
Question 1: Where do you and your family most commonly play recreational sports in the City of Mississauga?

Location for Playing Recreational Sports



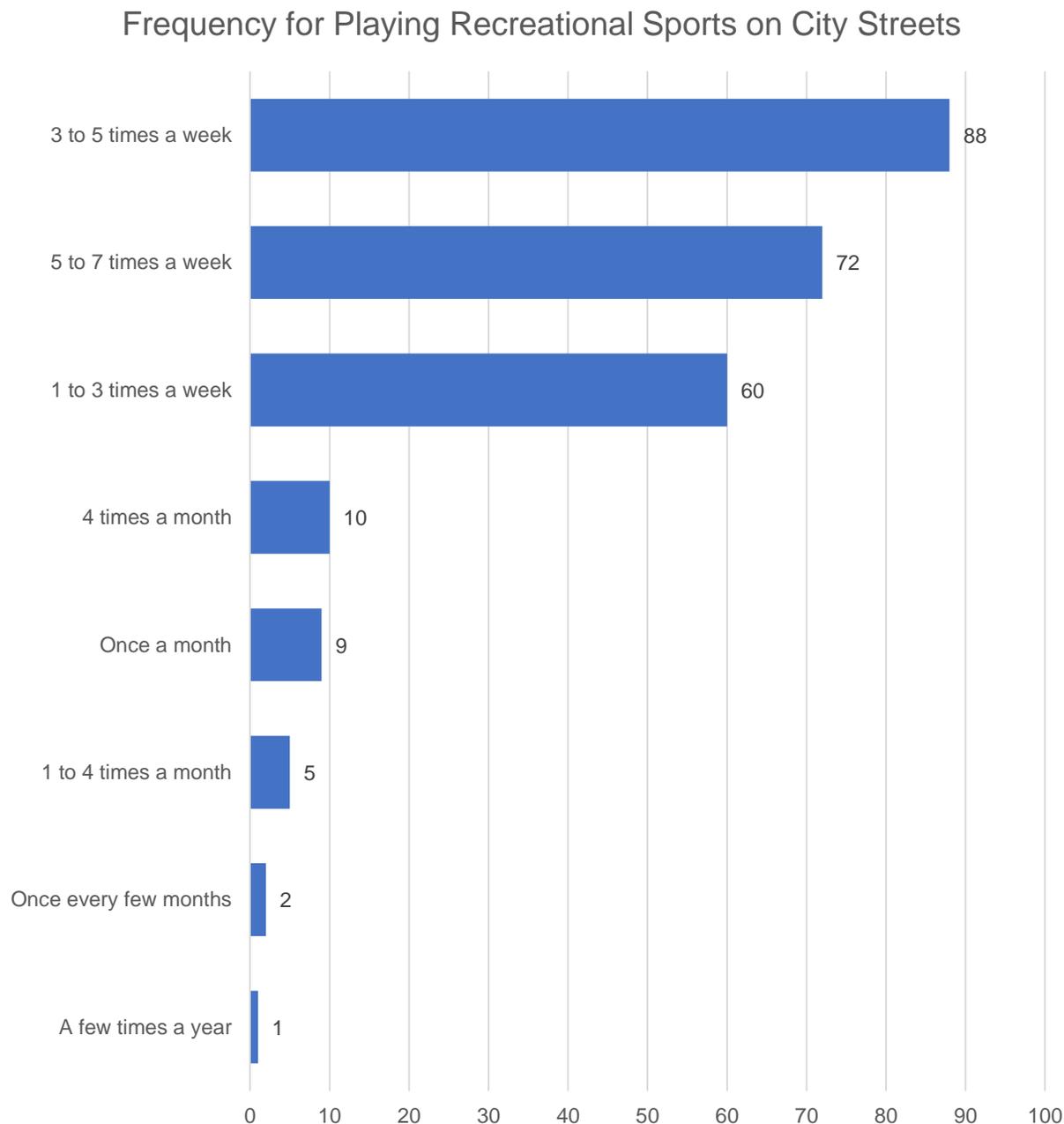
Out of **1,173 responses**, the most common locations for families who participated in this survey to play recreational sports was in their **back or front yard (23%)**, at a community centre or other City facility (22%), on the street (21%), or at the park (20%).

Question 2: When do you and your family play on City streets? Check all the apply:



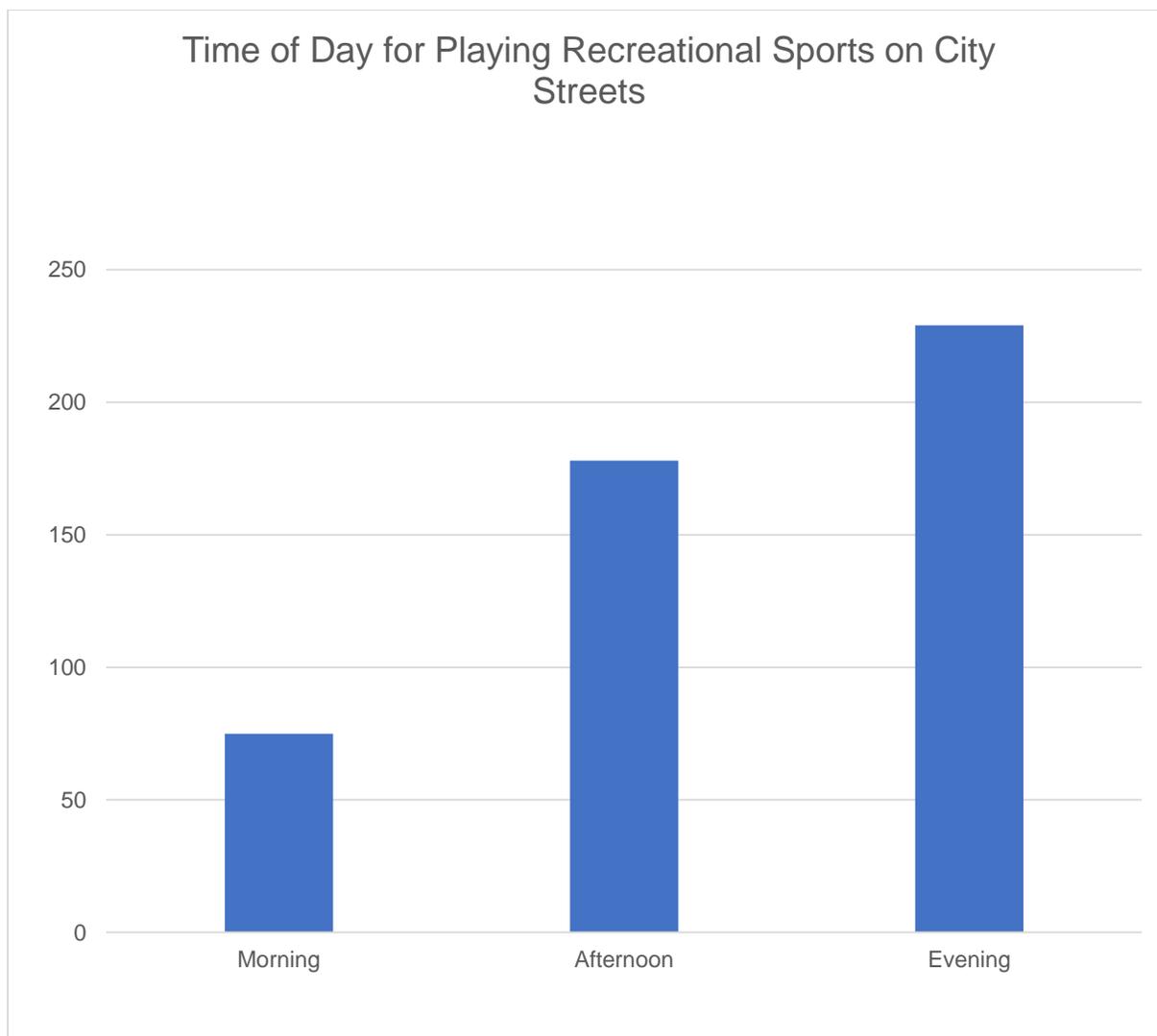
Out of **245 responses**, the most common time of the year for families who participated in this survey to play recreational sports on City streets was **all year round (69%)**, followed by summer (37%), spring (34%), fall (33%), and winter (4%). Note that only respondents who received this question were those who indicated that they play recreational sports on City streets in question 1, and this question allowed for the selection of multiple responses.

Question 3: How often do you and your family play on City streets?



Out of **245 responses**, the highest frequency for families who participated in this survey to play recreational sports on City streets was **3 to 5 times a week (36%)**, followed by 5 to 7 times a week (29%), and finally, 1 to 3 times a week (24%). Note that only respondents who received this question were those who indicated that they play recreational sports on City streets in question 1.

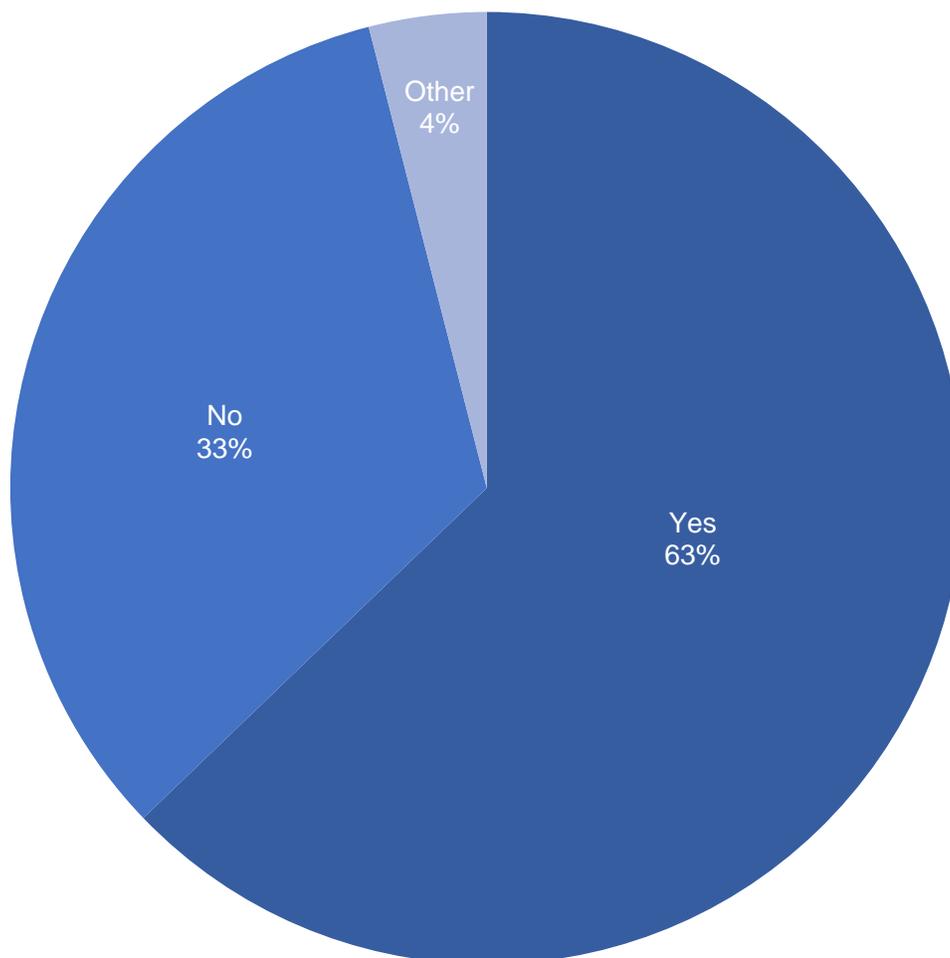
Question 4: What time of day do you and your family play on City streets? Check all that apply:



Out of **245 responses**, the most common time of day for families who participated in this survey to play recreational sports on City streets was in the **evening after 5 p.m. (229 responses)**, closely followed by the afternoon (178 responses). Playing in the morning (75 responses) was the most infrequent time of day in which respondents played sports on City streets. Note that the only respondents who received this question were those who indicated that they play recreational sports on City streets in question 1. This question also allowed for the selection of multiple responses.

Question 5: Do you feel like your street is safe for residents to play on?

Street Safety for Playing Recreational Sports

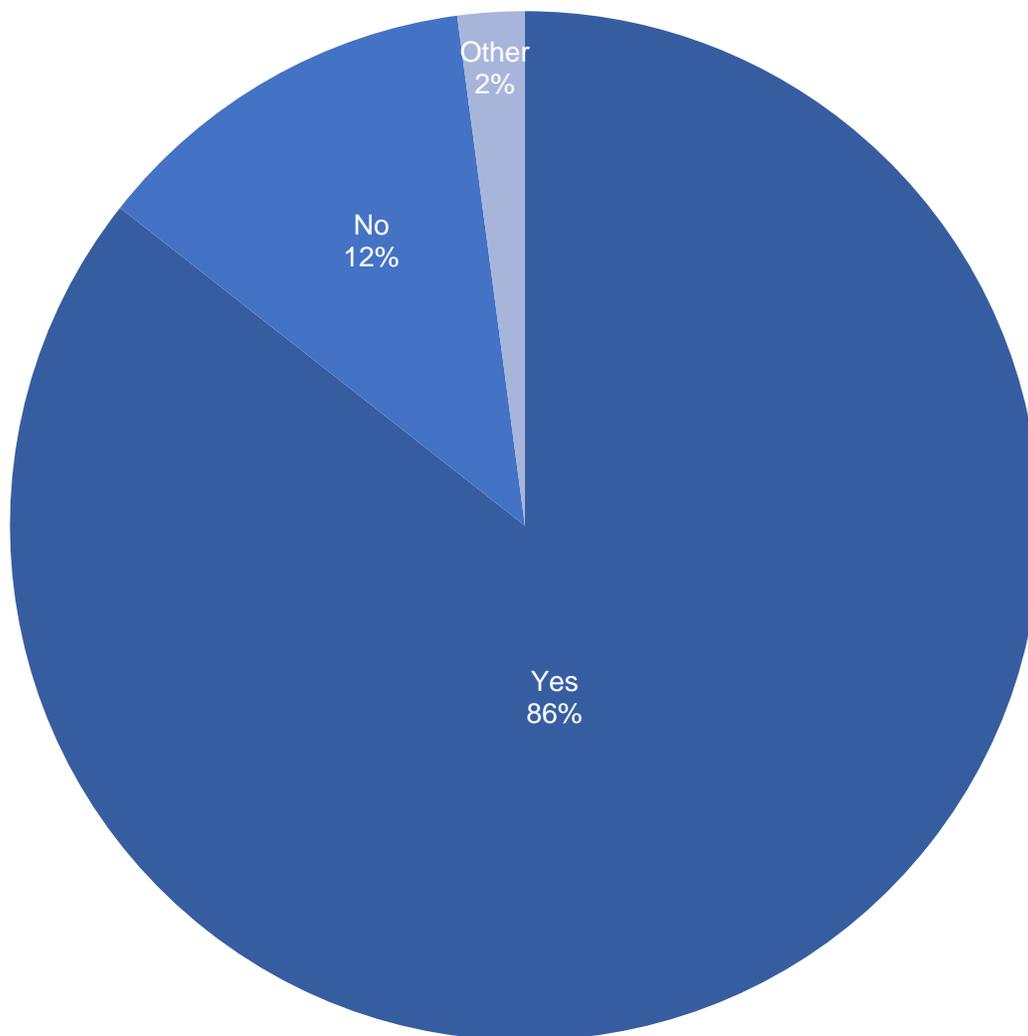


Out of 1,000 responses, most residents who participated in this survey **agreed that their street is safe to play on (630 responses)**, while the remaining number of respondents either felt that their street was unsafe (333 responses) or had another perspective (40 responses). Some common responses for those who selected "Other" included that it depends on the type of street (i.e., a major road or bus route is considered unsafe, while a quiet court is safe) or that certain parts of the street are safe and certain parts are not (i.e., the end or corners of the road are more hazardous, due to the inability to see traffic turning onto the street). Some respondents indicated that speed bumps and speed limits have been helpful in slowing down speeding cars on their neighbourhood streets. Other respondents reported taking matters into their own hands by placing pylons

around the play area, which they believe helps to make playing sports on City streets safer.

Question 6: Do you see people playing sports on the streets in your neighbourhood?

Recreational Sports being Played in Neighbourhood

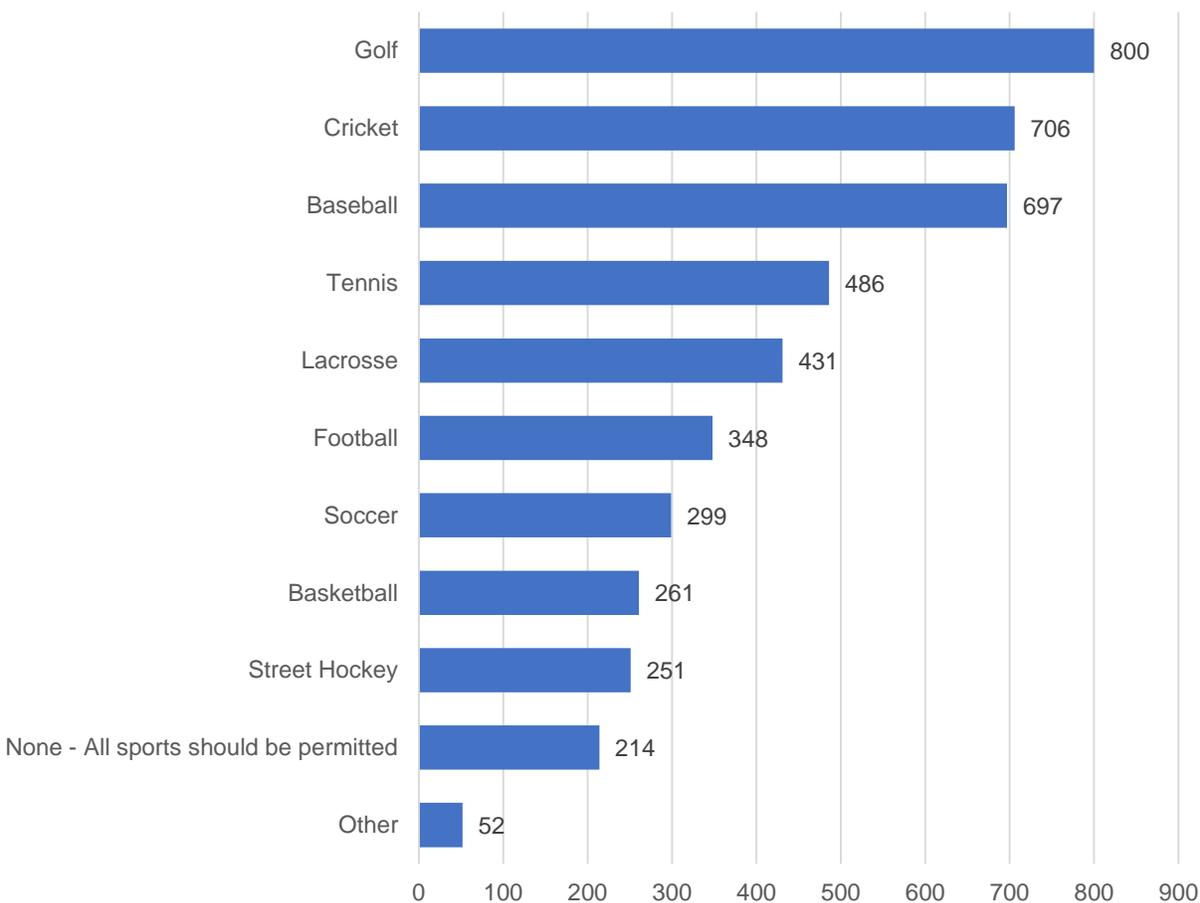


Out of 615 responses, most residents who participated in this survey agreed that they see people playing sports on the streets in their neighbourhood (529 responses), while the remaining number of respondents either disagreed (76 responses) or had another perspective (13 responses). Note that only respondents who received this question were those who indicated that they do not play recreational sports on City streets in question 1. Some common responses for those who selected “Other” included

“sometimes” and “rarely.” It was also indicated that it was more common to see kids playing outside in the past, but now it is more infrequent (some noted that they had attributed this decrease in sports being played on the streets to the rise in technology use for kids).

Question 7: What sports, if any, should not be permitted on City streets? Pick all that apply:

Recreational Sports NOT to be Permitted on City Streets



Out of **1,159 responses**, the sports with the highest selection for those that should not be permitted on City streets, based on the opinions of those who participated in this survey, would be **golf (69%)**, cricket (61%), and baseball (60%). Note that this question allowed for the selection of multiple responses. Some responses for those who selected “Other” included the following: volleyball, badminton, and boxing.

It was commonly suggested that all sports should be permitted in some capacity and enforcement should be based on the type of equipment used, rather than the sport itself (e.g., using a tennis ball to play baseball is acceptable, but a hard ball would be

dangerous). Others noted that awareness and supervision were important factors as well. One comment noted, “It isn’t about restricting certain sports, it is about how people are playing those sports respectfully and with awareness of surroundings.” Overall, the concern seemed to be around the use of hard balls and the way sports are being played, rather than any specific sport.

Question 8: What conditions would you like to see in place for individuals playing sports on Mississauga streets?

Of 802 responses, many respondents indicated that the priority of streets are for vehicles and those playing sports must immediately move themselves and their sports equipment as vehicles approach them. Common themes are summarized below:

Location

It was commonly suggested that while there should be restrictions on certain streets, like major roads and bus routes, playing sports should be permitted on side streets and courts. Other respondents indicated that restrictions should only be put in place if the entire road is blocked off for the sport; while some suggested that there should be a total ban of sports on City streets.

Some residents think that the City offers ample spaces to play sports (e.g., parks and fields), so residents should use those specifically designed spaces to play their sports instead of roadways.

Time of Day

It was also recommended that there should be a time limit for playing sports in City streets, as drivers and motorcyclists may not see people playing on the road in the dark during the night. One response suggested that playing on City streets should not be permitted before 7 a.m. or after 10 p.m. Another suggested not on weekends or after 8 p.m. Many responses indicated that sports should only be played during daylight hours, and another suggested for a restriction to be put in place during “rush hour.”

Equipment

Some respondents also offered the idea that only those who leave equipment on the road when it is not actively in use should be enforced. Others commonly indicated that sports being played at a slow speed and with soft equipment should be permitted, while dangerous equipment, such as hard balls, and fast-paced sports should not be permitted.

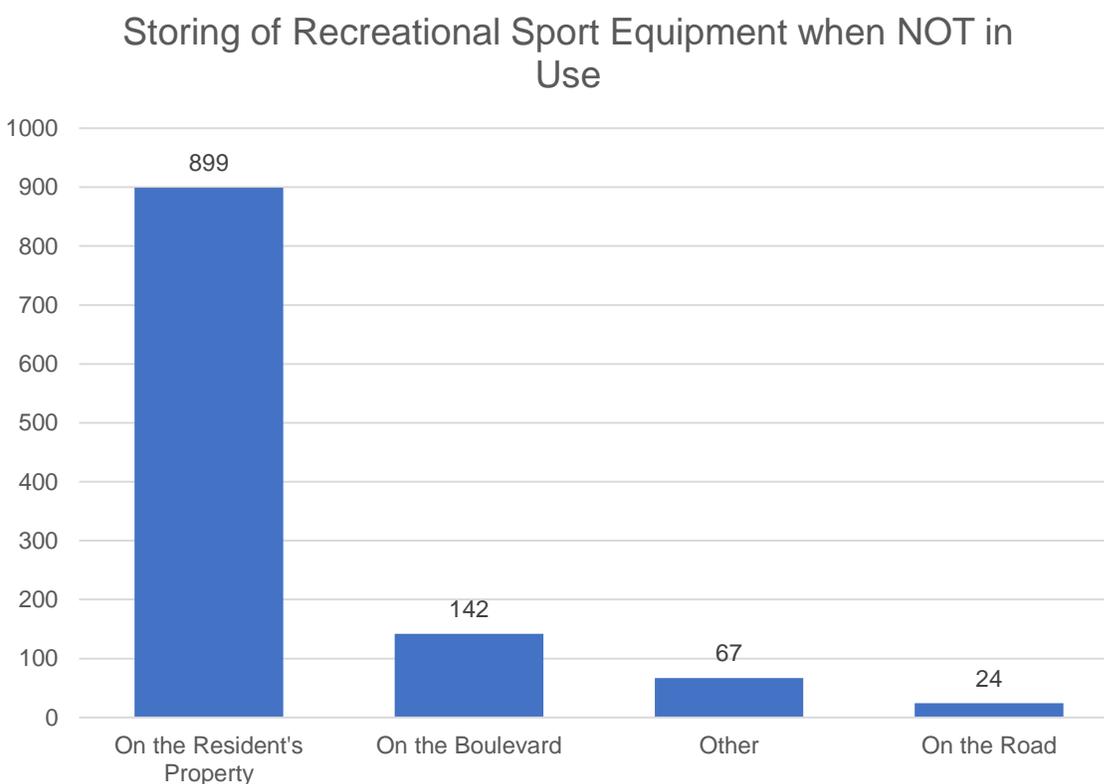
Education

Many respondents also believe that an adult should be supervising at all times and that “kicks and snapshots” should not be allowed. It was commonly suggested that children keep a safe distance from other people, homes, and vehicles, to avoid injury of people and damage of property. Others suggested education about road traffic to ensure that

all residents are aware of where they can and cannot play. It should also be noted in education that the player (or parent of the minor player) who causes any property damage is responsible for repair costs.

Many respondents also indicated that the speed limits should be lowered and there should be signs indicating that children play on the streets.

Question 9: If there is equipment being used to play sports (e.g. basketball net), where should the equipment be stored when the sport isn't played?



Out of **1,129 responses**, the most common location to store equipment that is not in use recommended by those who participated in this survey was **on the resident's property, including their driveway or yard (80%)**. The remaining selected on the boulevard (13%), road (2%), or had another recommendation (6%). Some common responses for those who selected "Other" included that easily moveable items should be stored away, while heavy equipment (e.g., a basketball net) should be able to stay outside (. e.g., on the curb). Some indicated that equipment should not be visible outside when not in use, while others think that as long as it is not negatively impacting traffic on the road, it

should be allowed anywhere. Others noted that it depends on the specific street's capacity for storage space. Some suggested that more sports equipment should be installed in parks for public use, to avoid the use of this equipment on roads.

Question 10: Do you have any other comments?

Of [524 responses](#), many respondents demonstrated concern for the safety of children, due to erratic drivers and lack of parental supervision while others supported allowing children to play. Common themes are summarized below:

Safety Concerns

Many respondents indicated concern around the safety of players. One respondent noted, "Streets are for cars not for any individuals. No sports should be allowed on the street. As the saying goes, there is a place for everything - parks are for people and streets are for cars, no exemptions. Exemptions create more confusion and debates." Similarly another respondent added, "No one can say the street is safe for any kind of sports. Accidents can happen and the streets are the most favorable of them all. I've seen children without adult supervision playing basketball on the streets."

Allow Kids to Play

There were many responses in favour of sports in City streets with comments like, "Kids have been playing sports on the streets for YEARS! The city should continue to support these kids getting exercise and fresh air outside."

One respondent stated that, "Kids really need to get outside and away from screens (adults too for that matter). They need to play. There should be more public safety information on media to promote safe use of roads (for recreational games, e-scooters, bikes etc.) including education for pedestrians to teach them how to properly cross roads - keep one headphone off your ear so your can hear properly, don't cross when the orange hand is flashing etc. Street safety is everyone's responsibility."

A further respondent stated to, "Let kids be kids," while another noted, "Adding restrictions to play keeps kids indoors and sedentary which is unhealthy both physically and mentally. We have to get the kids more active and involved in community sports, and it helps to get them started at home on their own neighbourhood streets."

Opposition to Sports on Streets

A number of respondents noted the fact that as a home owner, they should be entitled to peace and quiet in their neighbourhood. There were comments by respondents opposing sports in City streets like, "Just ban all sports. It protects the community, properties, and individuals."

Balancing the Needs of Road Users

Some respondents took a more balanced perspective. As one stated, “It should be understood that being able to play sports on roads should be seen as a privilege subject to road function and safety considerations. There can be a balance between that and the need for people to get outside and be active. This is especially the case in high density neighborhoods.””