

Date Posted : March 20, 2025

NOTICE OF MEETING

Please be advised that the Symons Recreation Complex Natatorium Board will convene on Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 5:30 PM in the pool atrium of the Symons Recreation Complex at 1250 Symons Circle, Richland Center, WI 53581.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Verification of Open Meetings Law Compliance
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approve Minutes of the February 10, 2025 regular meeting
6. Public Comment

Facility Tour

Members will take a tour of the Symons Recreation Complex facility and the adjacent campus tennis courts

Administrative Reports

7. Staff Report
 - Summary of SRC Space Needs Survey results
8. Symons Recreation Complex Foundation Report
9. Update on re-branding, sponsorships and partnerships related to growth and sustainability of current and future facilities that are part of the SRC
 - Discussion with Richland School District on MOU and opportunities for shared campus gym usage in addition to other partnership opportunities

Action Items

10. Consider proposals for future SRC space needs
11. Consider recommending naming the former UW-Richland wellness trails the Marty Brewer Nature Trail

Closing:

12. Future Agenda Items
13. Adjourn

Symons Recreation Complex Natatorium Board Minutes February 10, 2025

The Natatorium Board met on February 10th, 2025 at 5:30 pm. The following people were in attendance: John Cler, Dave Turk, Todd Coppernoll, Grant Worthington, Larry Engel, Mark Chambers and Melony Walters. Mary Miller attended remotely via online. Staff members Mike Hardy and Kyle Ewing were present. Symons Foundation members Barb Wentz, Alan Lins, Suzanne Fish and Lisa Rewald were also present.

1. Call to Order - Cler called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.
2. Roll Call of Membership
3. Open Meetings Compliance - Verification was met, per Hardy.
4. Approve Agenda – Chambers made a motion to approve the agenda. Coppernoll seconded. Motion carried.
5. Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2025 – Engels made a motion to approve the minutes. Chambers seconded. Motion carried.
6. Public Comment – None

Administrative Reports:

7. Staff Report – Hardy provided a summary of January revenues and expenses. Revenues amounting to 8% and expenses of 7% were received, leading to a positive 1% surplus for the month. This amount does not include any tax subsidy payments, so this is self-sustaining revenues. With the news of a good revenue month, it was expected that membership was up again in January. Hardy reported that January 31 membership was 2,195 which was an increase of 209 members in the last month. The 6-month increase in memberships (August 31 – January 31) was 503 new members, an increase of about 20%. Hardy noted on the attendance at the January 29 Community Forum which featured the status of the campus building was about 60-70 people, and several people have contacted SRC to ask about how to support more space at Symons. A survey has been created and was released January 30 to collect input from both supporters and non-supporters of SRC growth to help get public input into SRC future plans. So far in just over a week, 228 responses have been received. Hardy is hoping for at least 500 responses by the end of February and will provide results to the Board at their March meeting.
8. Symons Recreation Complex Foundation Report – Barb Wentz noted that the Foundation Board held their regular meeting at 1pm and they had approved donating just over \$21,000 for 2 new treadmills, 2 recumbent steppers and several dumbbell hand weights. She commented on the great work being done by SRC management in bringing in new members and making so many upgrades to the facility.
9. Update on Re-branding, Sponsorships and Partnerships – no report

Action Items:

10. Consider recommending acceptance of February donations from SRC Foundation – Chambers made a motion to recommend the County accept \$21,545 in donations from SRCF for 2 new treadmills, 2 recumbent steppers and several replacement dumbbell hand weights. Seconded by Walters. Motion carried.
11. Consider final recommendations for updates to the County/City Swimming Pool (Symons) Agreement – Engels asked about the status of Richland School District's interest in possibly joining the partnership. Hardy noted that it is still being discussed at the staff level, while the Superintendent is a little hesitant under the existing unclear status of the gym and future structure of SRC partnerships, but all sides are very optimistic and continue to work for similar cooperation goals. Coppernoll added that he and Hardy were at a staff meeting earlier with reps from City and School District and added that there is a lot of optimism and support between all sides to expand the partnership. Members discussed the need to have representatives from the school attend the next meeting

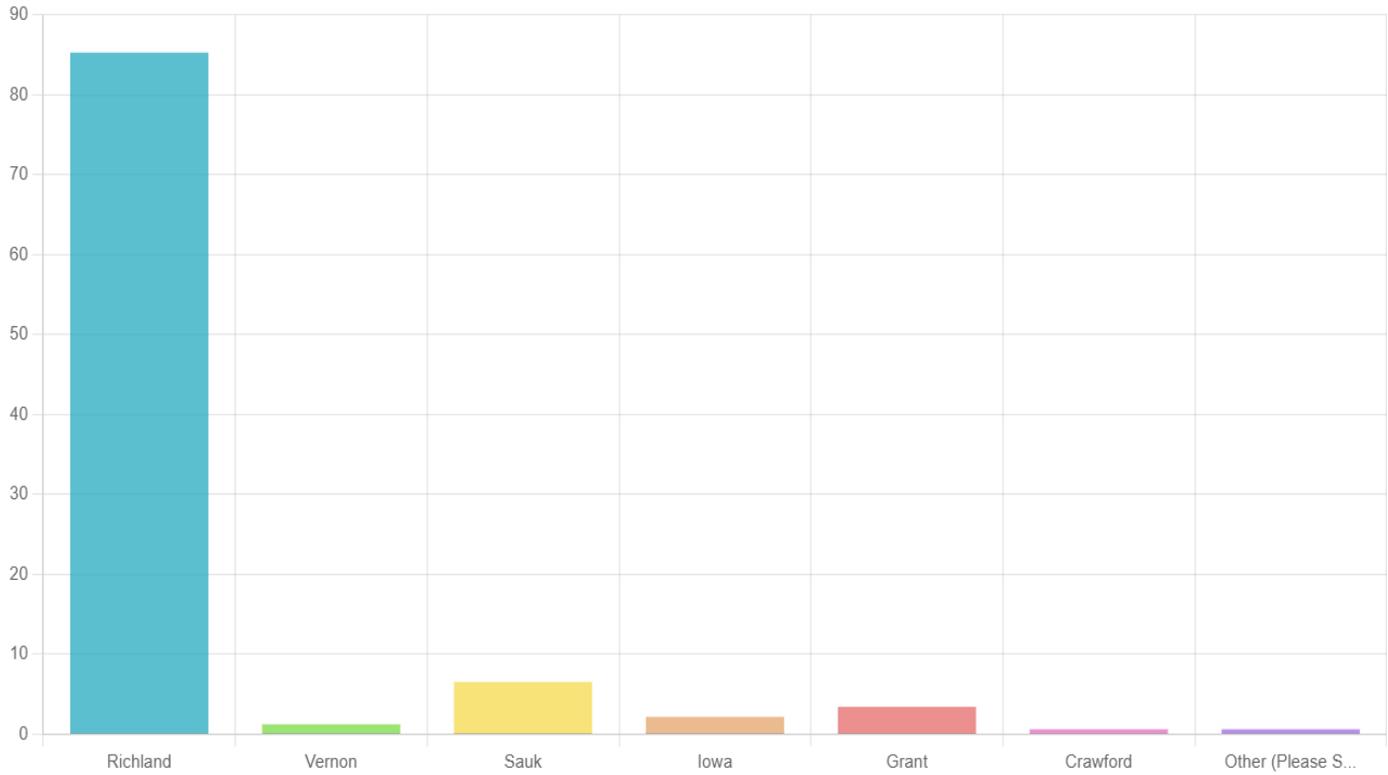
to discuss options, either Superintendent or Board President. Engels made a motion to invite Richland School District representatives to the next meeting for a discussion at the Board level. Coppernoll seconded. Motion carried.

12. Consider Pine River/kayaking management opportunities – Engels had previously asked for this item to be included on the agenda, but has since dropped his request. There was no further discussion.
13. Consider recommendations for updates to Campus Reconfiguration Committee on proposed management of former UW-Richland facilities: gym; soccer field; tennis/BB courts; wellness trails – Walters asked if the Reconfiguration Committee is ready to discuss allowing SRC to manage any properties at the campus. Hardy noted that the current structure and footprint of SRC does not allow for the facility to ever be self-sufficient so it will always need outside financial support to offset the significant cost of swimming pool. He added that in addition to SRC being able to increase memberships and programming to increase revenues, if the Board ever wanted to explore private or YMCA ownership in the future, they would need to add space like the gym as a corporate or YMCA owner will not be interested unless they have ability to at least break even. Coppernoll added that Walters had talked to the YMCA a couple of years ago and LaCrosse had zero interest, but Madison sounded like they might be interested but only if the gym were included. Members discussed the difference between requesting temporary use of the gym vs. permanent management/ownership. Turk noted that the County already owns the gym and owns Symons, so requests for temporary use would not need an MOU like the school is working on. Engels asked why the school has a MOU being finalized for gym use and SRC doesn't. Turk noted that the school asked and SRC hasn't. Hardy explained that technically the request should come from the Natatorium Board, as he was hired under the new structure of the Board in which the Director is hired and overseen by the County Administrator. Hardy does not feel comfortable making a direct request of a County Committee or Board without Administrator knowledge or approval, and that respectfully unless the current structure of his position is changed, the Director needs to make requests through the County Administrator. He stated that he had asked former Administrator Pesch to use the gym over the winter months for overflow fitness classes last fall, but was told to wait until the Reconfiguration Committee completes their study. Engels asked how to move this forward and make sure that the County knows that Symons wants to use the gym now and manage it in the future to expand programming. Turk suggested that the Board have Hardy talk to Interim Administrator Kalish to request permission to temporarily use the gym. Coppernoll made the motion to recommend that the interim County Administrator look into the ability of SRC using the gym while the Campus Reconfiguration Committee completes their recommendations. Seconded by Engels. Motion carried.
14. Consider membership rate discounts: College Students; Richland Hospital and Clinic Employees – Chambers moved to table the discussion until next meeting. Seconded by Copernoll. Motion carried.
15. Future Agenda Items – 1) Discussion with School District reps on future partnerships; 2) College student and healthcare employee membership discounts.
16. Adjourn—Engels made a motion to adjourn at 6:55pm. Chambers seconded. Motion carried.

Symons Recreation Center Space Needs

Symons Recreation Center has had a very successful and fulfilling history, thanks to support from many areas. We have reached a point where we have space needs along with potential opportunities to fill some of those needs at a significant cost savings due to the recent closing of the UW campus. The adjacent gymnasium has long been considered as a possible "addition" to Symons to help alleviate space needs in addition to collaboration with other groups - making community recreation more efficient and accessible to more in the community. These talks began well before the campus was even considered for closing. Additionally, we recognize that outdoor fitness opportunities are in greater demand, and can bring significant health benefits by making use of already existing trails behind Symons that are some of the best views in southern Wisconsin. Additional opportunities to expand health and fitness offerings exist at the adjacent tennis/BB courts and soccer field, previously under the UW-Richland management. We are requesting responses from the community as how to best address our lack of space at Symons and if any of the available vacated campus facilities would be supported and alleviate some of the space needs.

1 What County do you reside in?



85% (273)
Richland

1% (4)
Vernon

7% (21)
Sauk

2% (7)
Iowa

3% (11)
Grant

1% (2)
Crawford

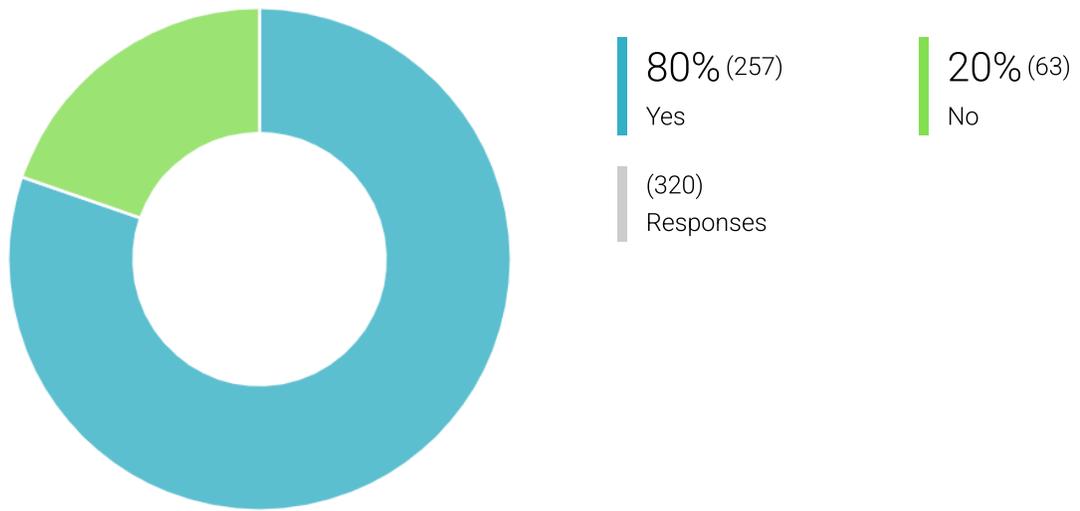
1% (2)
Other (Please Specify)

(320)
Responses

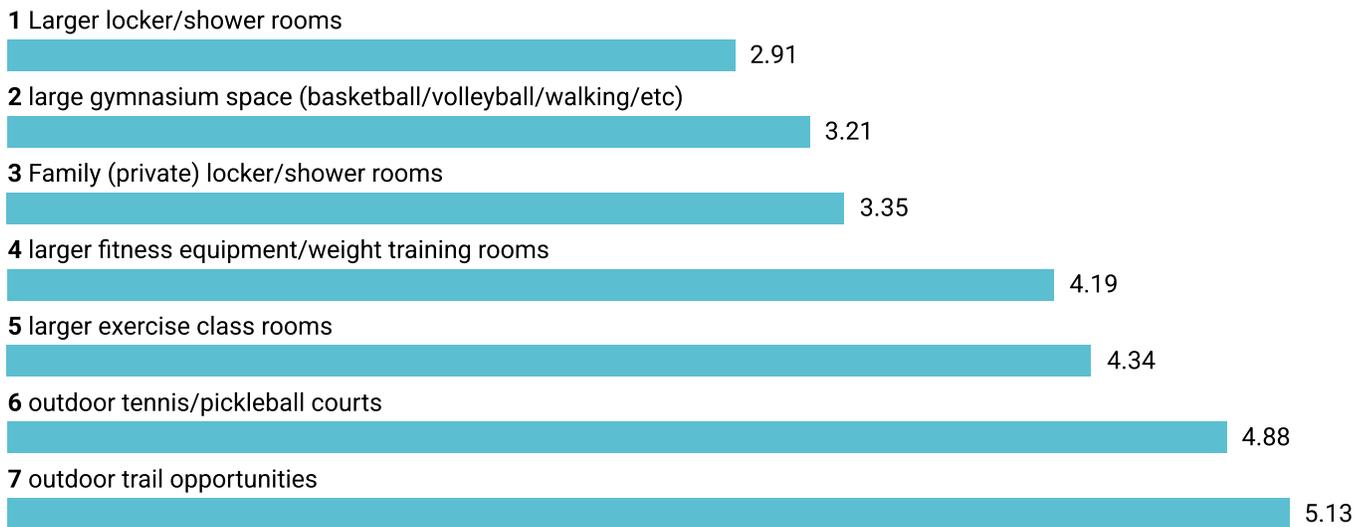
Dane

We are FL residents although live part of the year in Richland County, WI

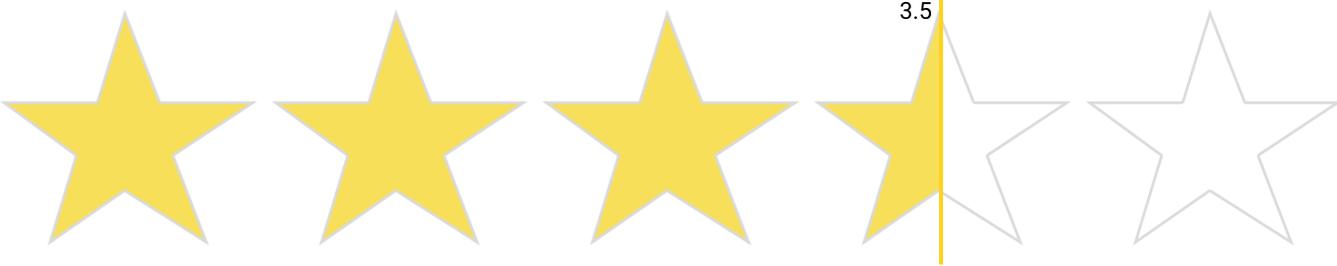
2 Are you currently a member of Symons Recreation Complex?



3 Please rank, in order of importance to you, the current needs of Symons Recreation Complex:



4 Please rank your opinion of current SRC land fitness classes:



15% (34)
1

3% (6)
2

26% (58)
3

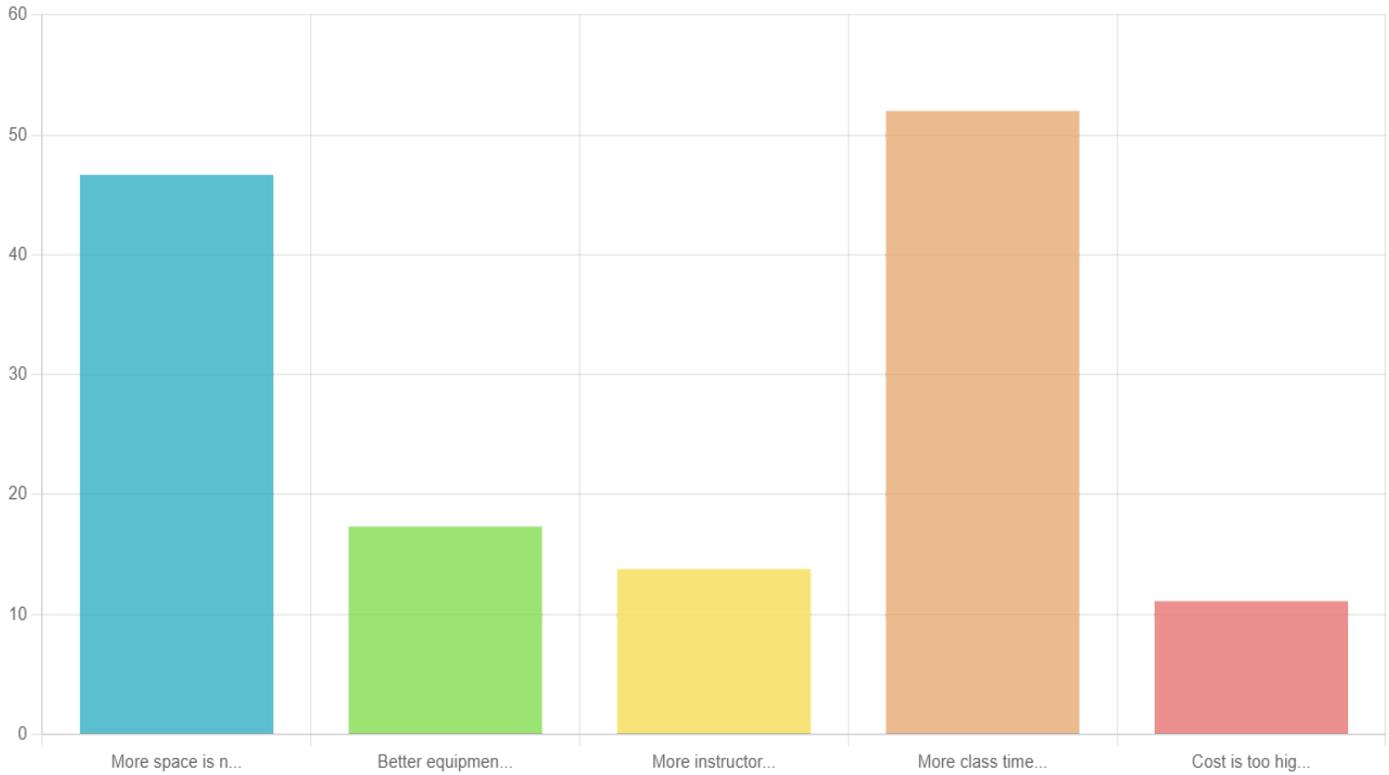
29% (64)
4

27% (61)
5

(223)
Responses

(3.5 / 5)
Weighted Average

5 What would make you rate our land fitness classes higher?



47% (105)
More space is needed

17% (39)
Better equipment is needed

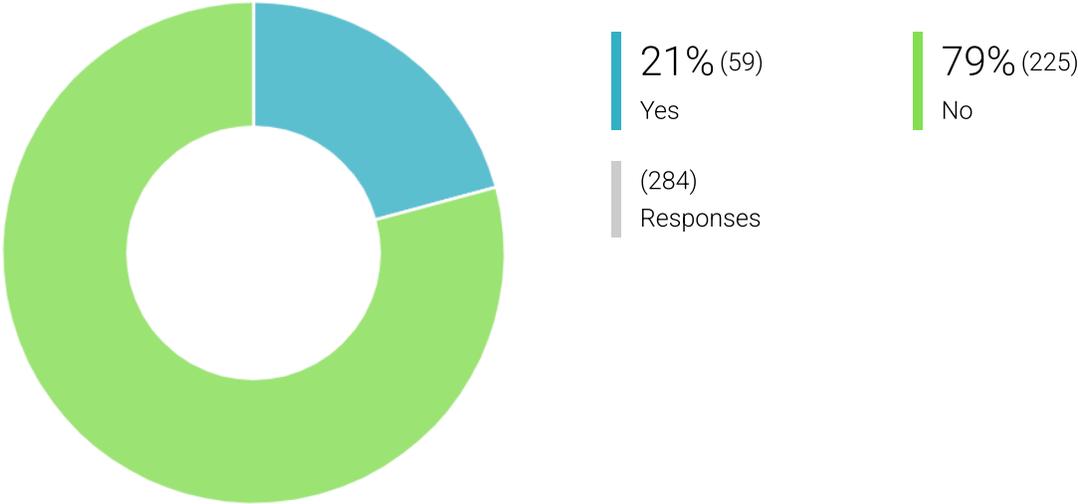
14% (31)
More instructor training is needed

52% (117)
More class times are needed

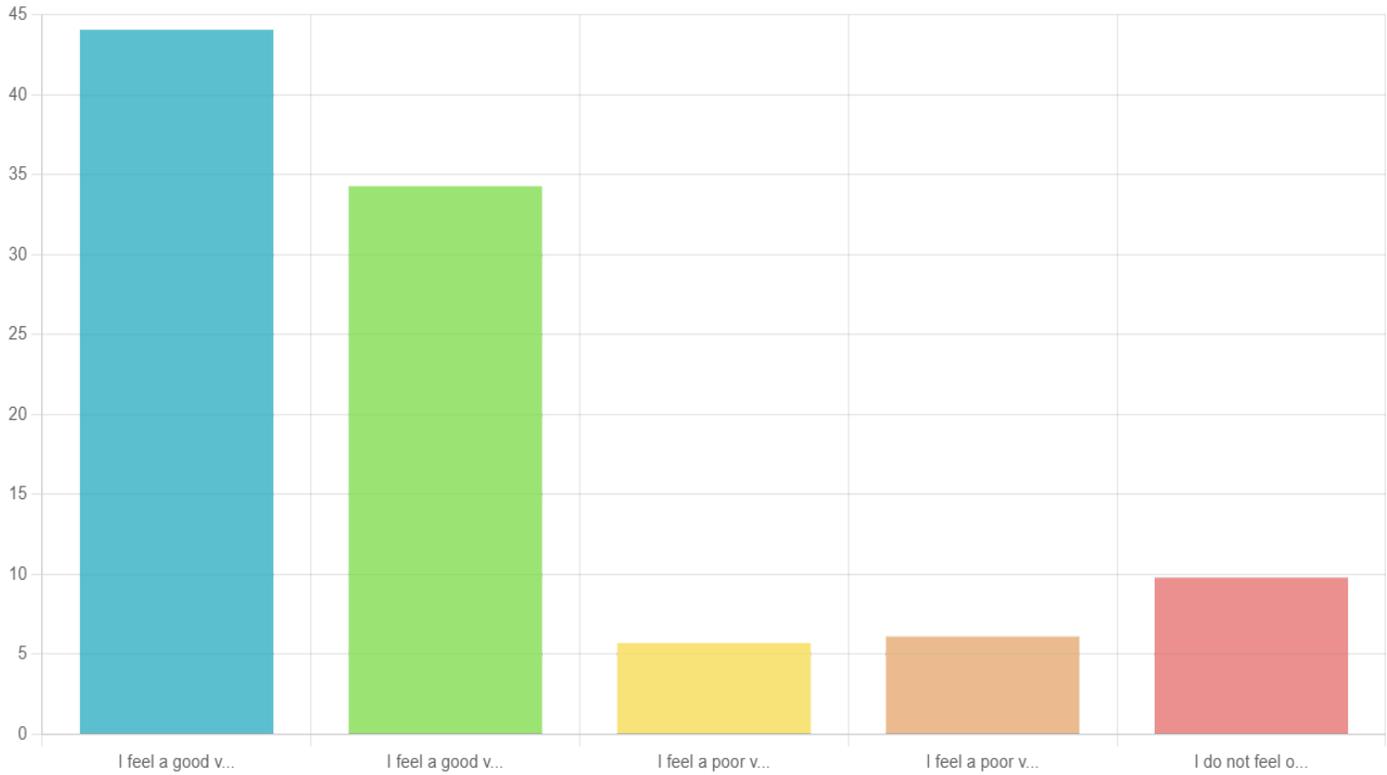
11% (25)
Cost is too high

(317)
Responses

6 Have you (or do you know of others who) ever had to leave SRC fitness classes because there was no space available for you?



7 How do you feel about current SRC land fitness class costs?



44% (108)

I feel a good value for my membership/class fee paid. I feel that fees should not be raised for more space or equipment.

34% (84)

I feel a good value, however I may be willing to pay more for more space or equipment to open up to additional members or expand offerings.

6% (14)

I feel a poor value and choose not to participate in land fitness at SRC. Further, I do not support paying extra to improve space or equipment to improve classes.

6% (15)

I feel a poor value and currently do not participate in land fitness at SRC, however I would support paying extra to improve space or equipment to improve classes and value.

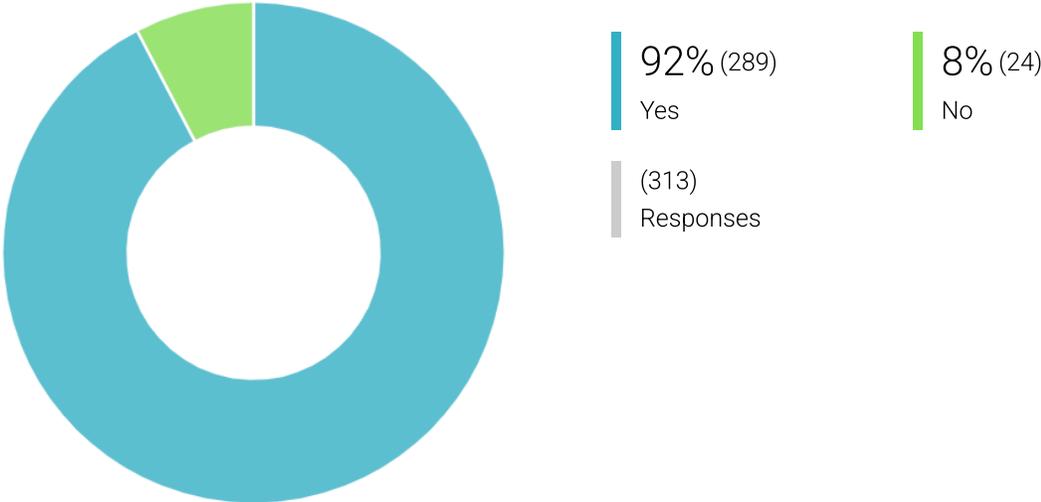
10% (24)

I do not feel offering fitness classes at SRC should be a priority and I would prefer to spend resources in other areas.

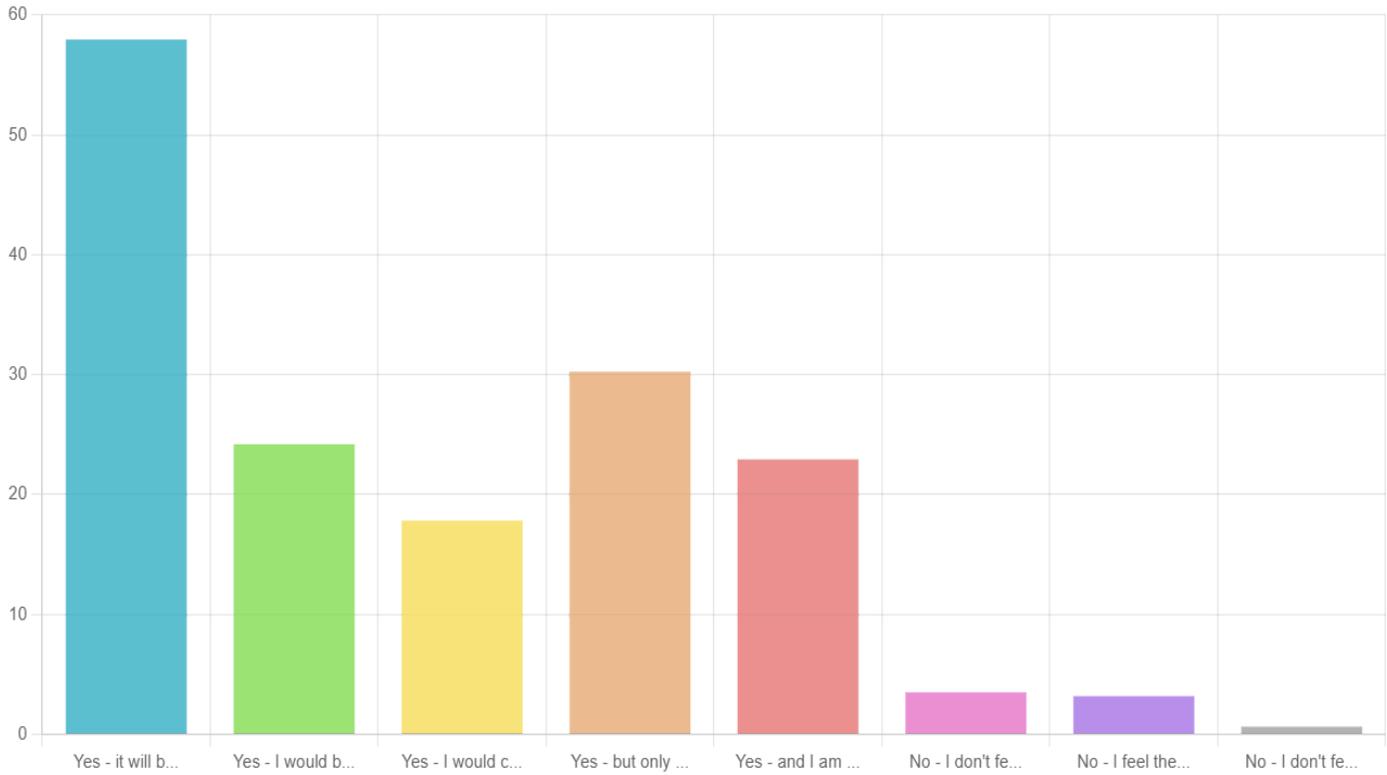
(245)

Responses

8 Do you support Symons Recreation Complex taking over management of the campus gymnasium?



9 Please explain why you answered yes or no to SRC overseeing campus gym management:



58% (182)

Yes - it will boost membership and add revenue to support SRC.

24% (76)

Yes - I would be a frequent user of the gym and would continue my membership because of the added service.

18% (56)

Yes - I would consider renting the gym for private uses

30% (95)

Yes - but only if membership did not increase and taxes were not impacted

23% (72)

Yes - and I am willing to pay a little more to use the gym and./or participate in fundraising to raise donations to support the acquisition of the gym

4% (11)

No - I don't feel additional gymnasium space is needed and I would not use it.

3% (10)

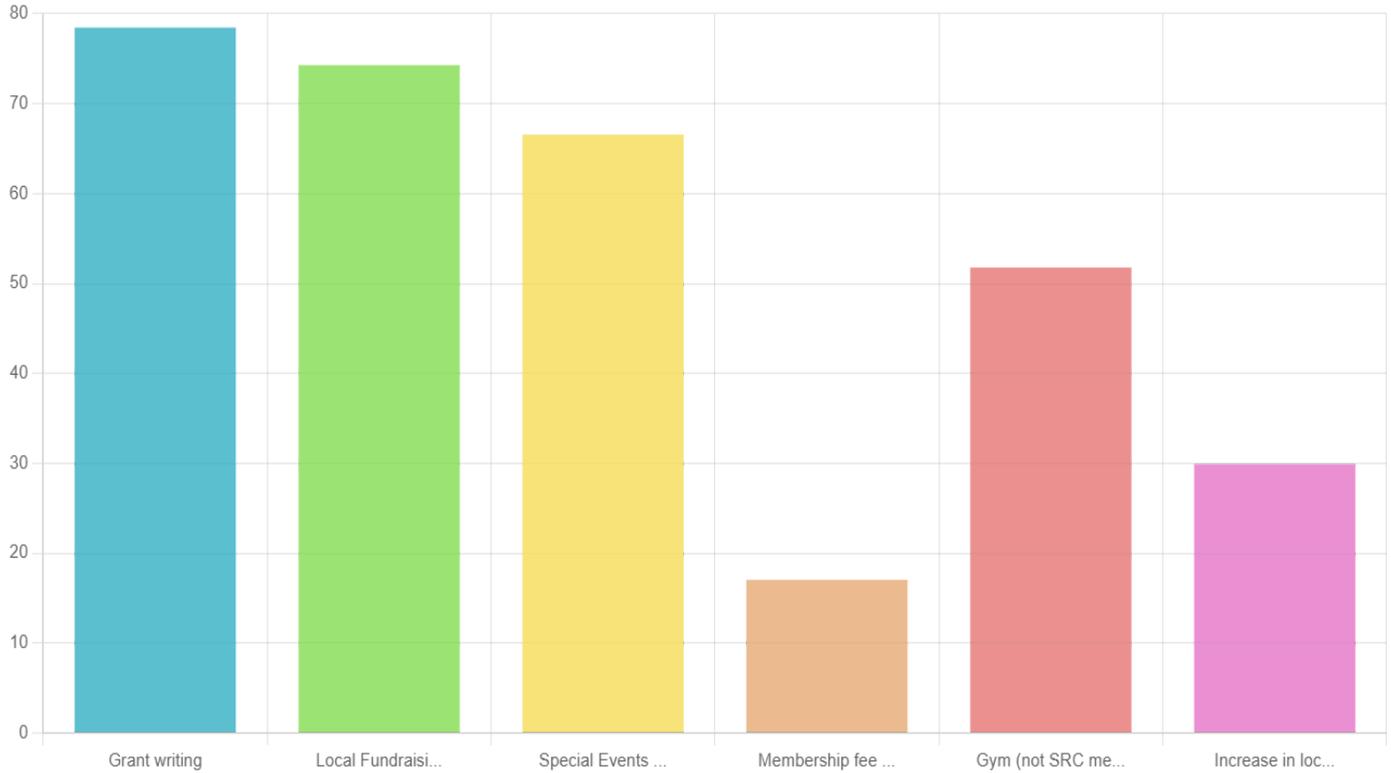
No - I feel the gym could be better utilized by another group (private or school) and not open to SRC/Community uses.

1% (2)

No - I don't feel that expansion of health, recreation and fitness space or services is needed in Richland County.

(504)
Responses

10 What funding sources would you support for SRC in taking over management of the SRC gym?



78% (244)
Grant writing

74% (231)
Local Fundraising

67% (207)
Special Events designed to develop a specific gym fund

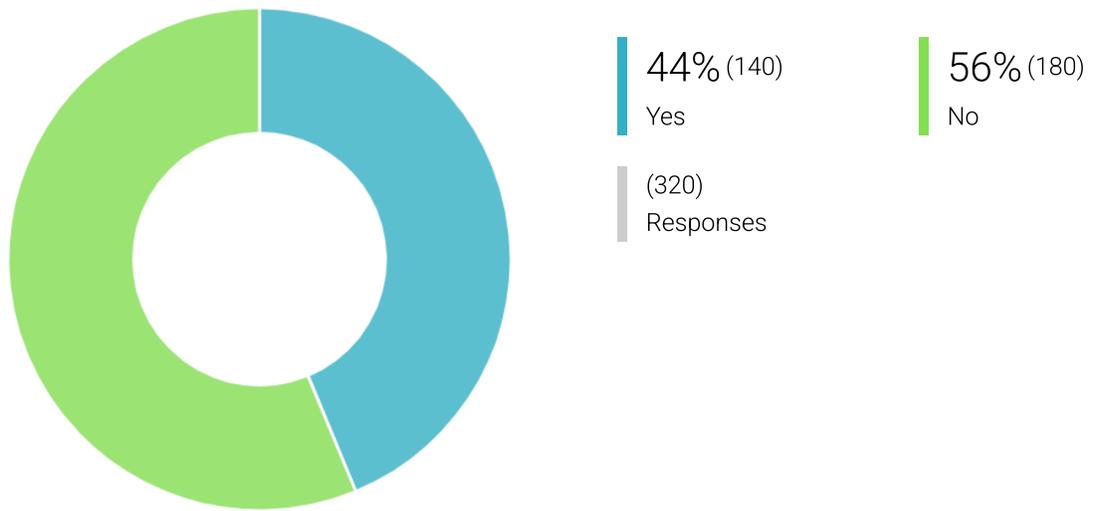
17% (53)
Membership fee increases

52% (161)
Gym (not SRC membership) User fees

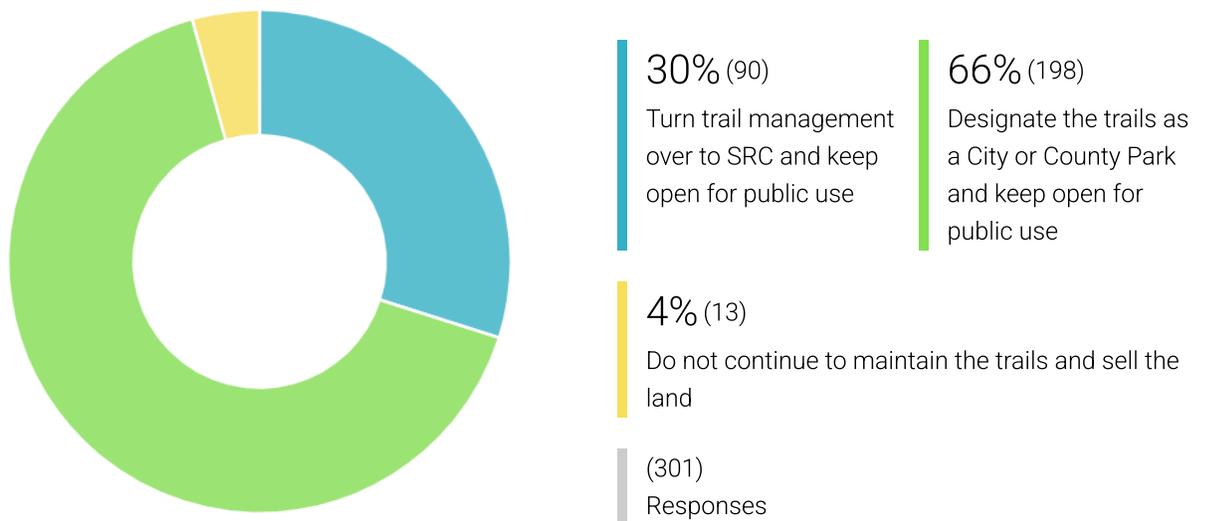
30% (93)
Increase in local taxes, as long as it is less than \$50 per year

(989)
Responses

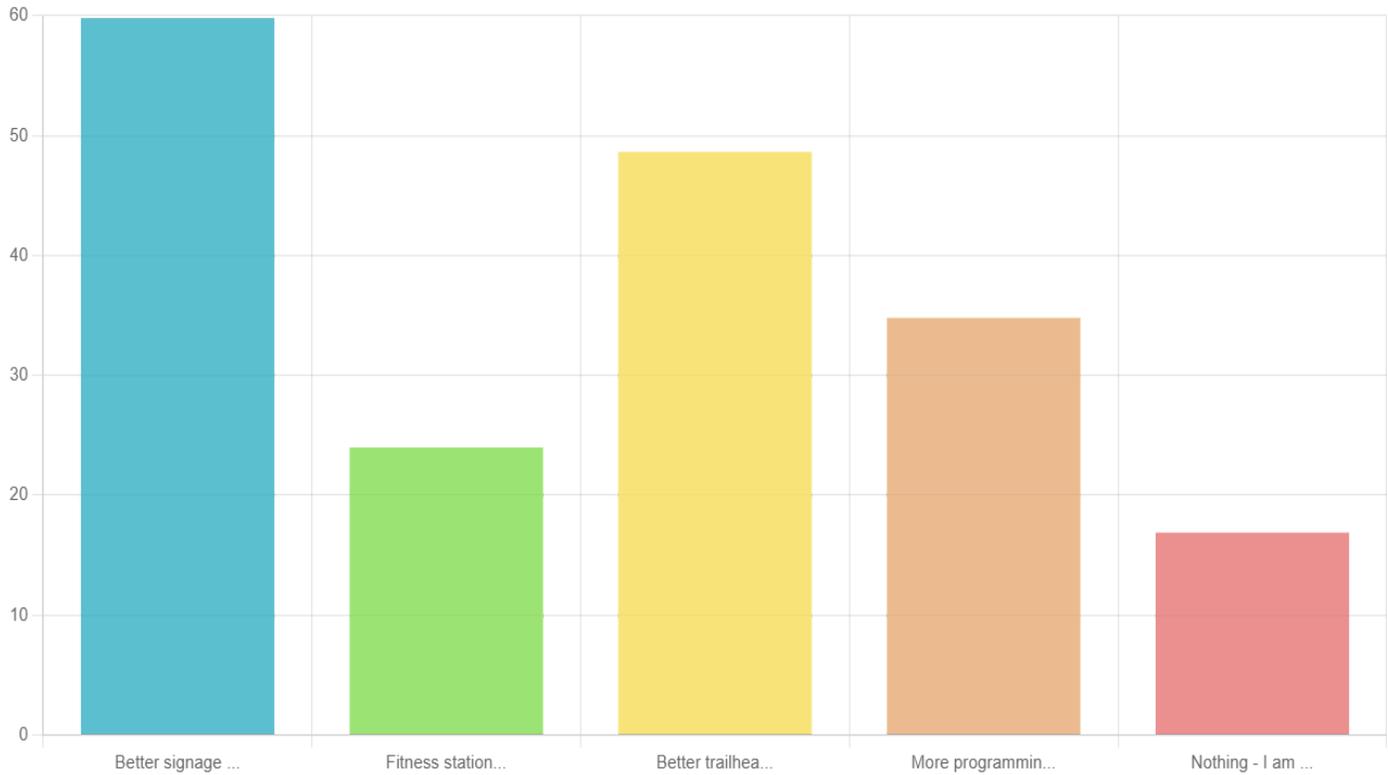
11 Have you ever used the hillside wellness trails located behind SRC?



12 What is your opinion as to what should happen to the trails?



13 What would make you use the trails more and what would you support in future trail development on the campus property?



60% (177)

Better signage and benches along the trail

24% (71)

Fitness stations along the trail

49% (144)

Better trailhead with parking and maps

35% (103)

More programming - educational walks, birding, etc - sponsored by local groups

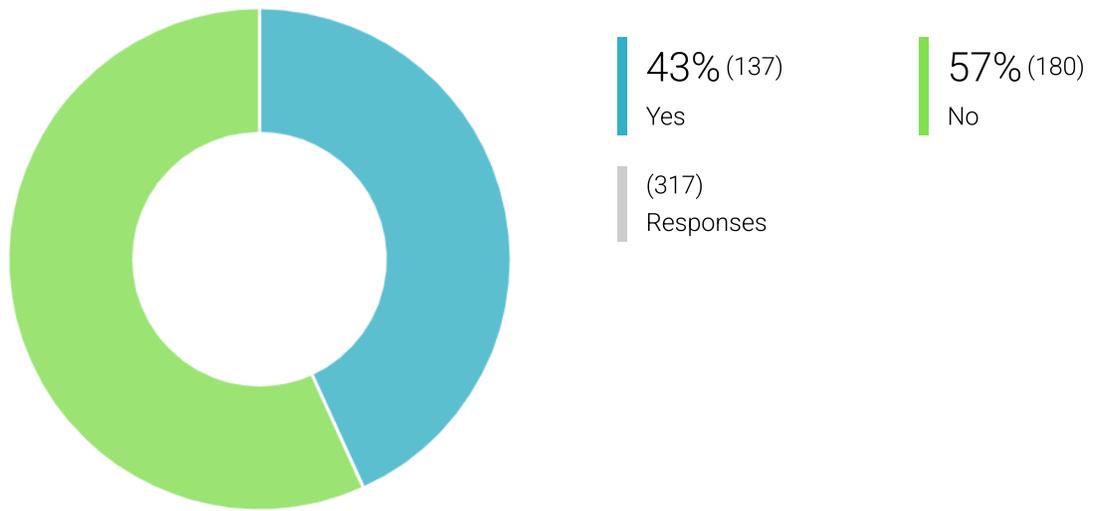
17% (50)

Nothing - I am not interested in using the trails

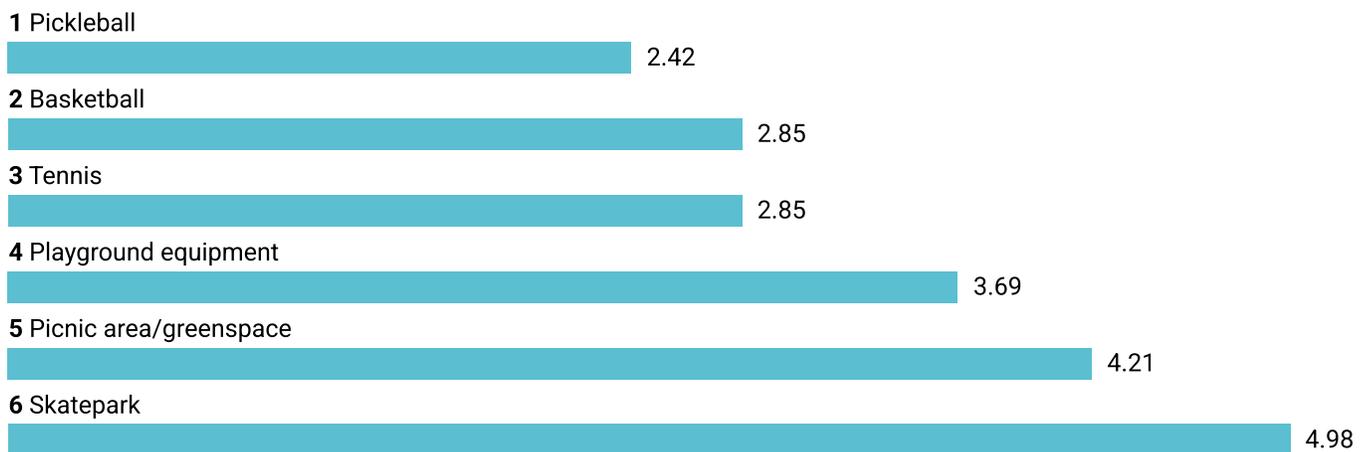
(545)

Responses

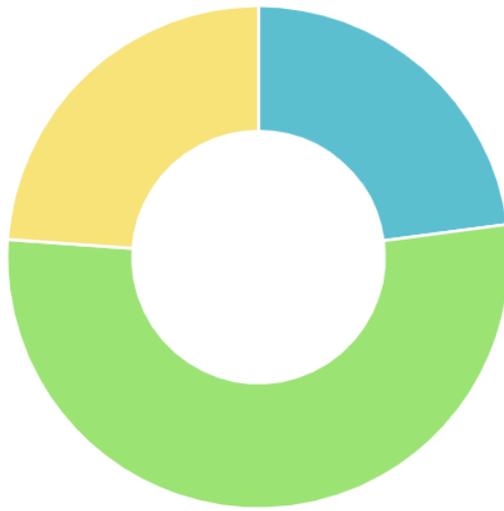
14 Would you utilize the tennis/basketball courts adjacent to SRC if the were repaired?



15 Please rank in importance to you what the tennis/BB court area should be used for:



16 What do you feel should be done with the campus soccer field?



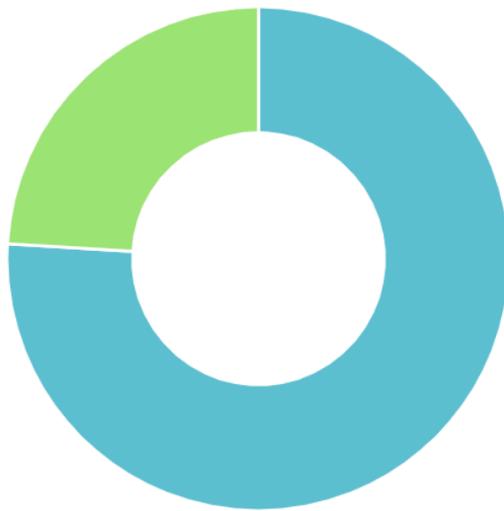
23% (71)
Keep as public space,
with SRC management

53% (165)
Give to school district
for use in school
activities (and possible
community use
outside of school
schedules)

24% (74)
Remove the soccer field and create a low
maintenance prairie or pollinator field to better
manage Brush Creek flooding

(310)
Responses

17 If additional needed space for SRC is not satisfied by acquiring the campus gym, do you support building an addition on SRC to allow for family locker/shower rooms to be added?

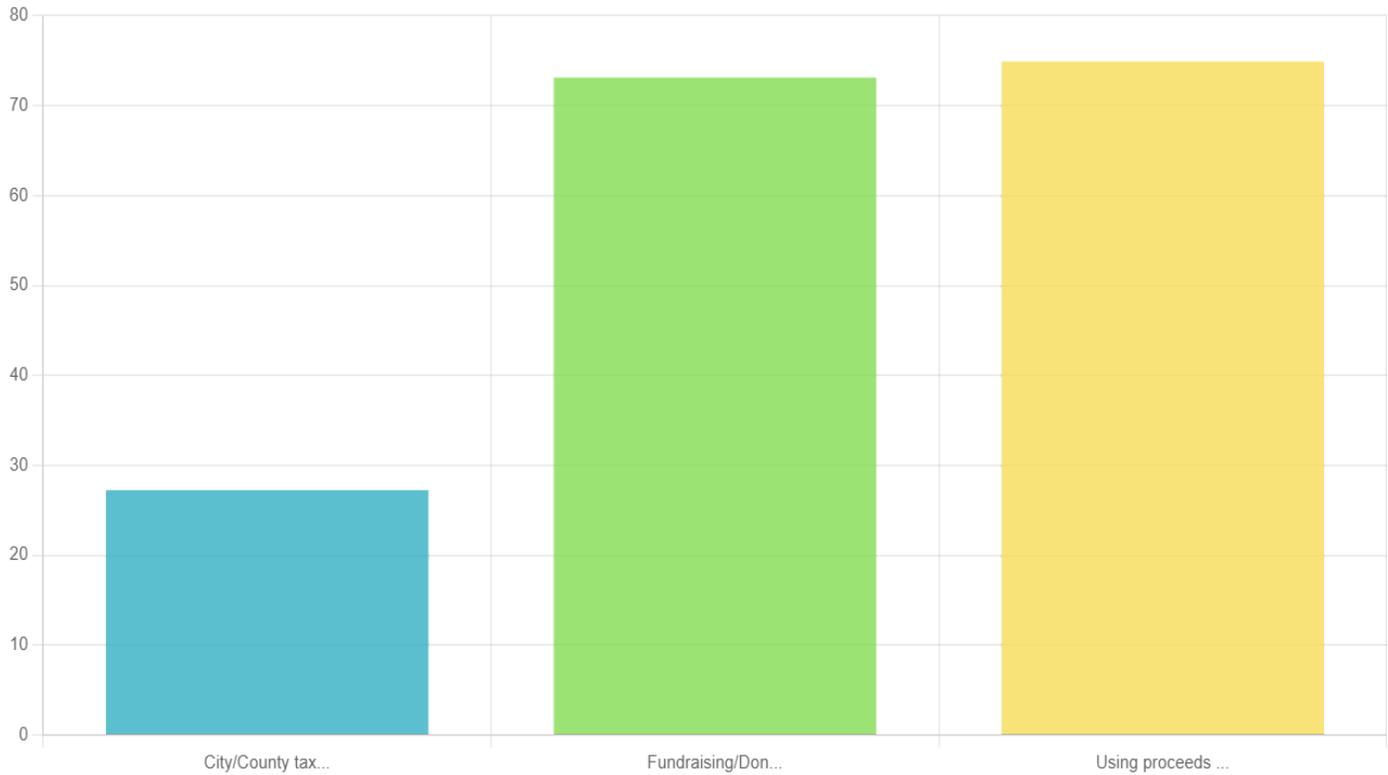


76% (240)
Yes

24% (76)
No

(316)
Responses

18 If you support building an addition on SRC for family locker rooms, knowing the cost would likely exceed the cost of acquiring the gym, how should we fund the addition?



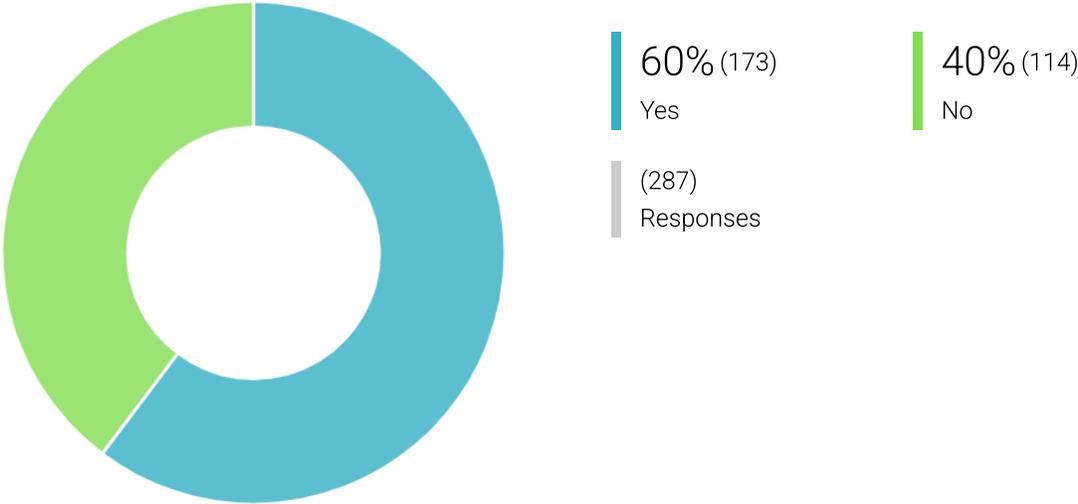
27% (76)
City/County tax increase

73% (204)
Fundraising/Donations

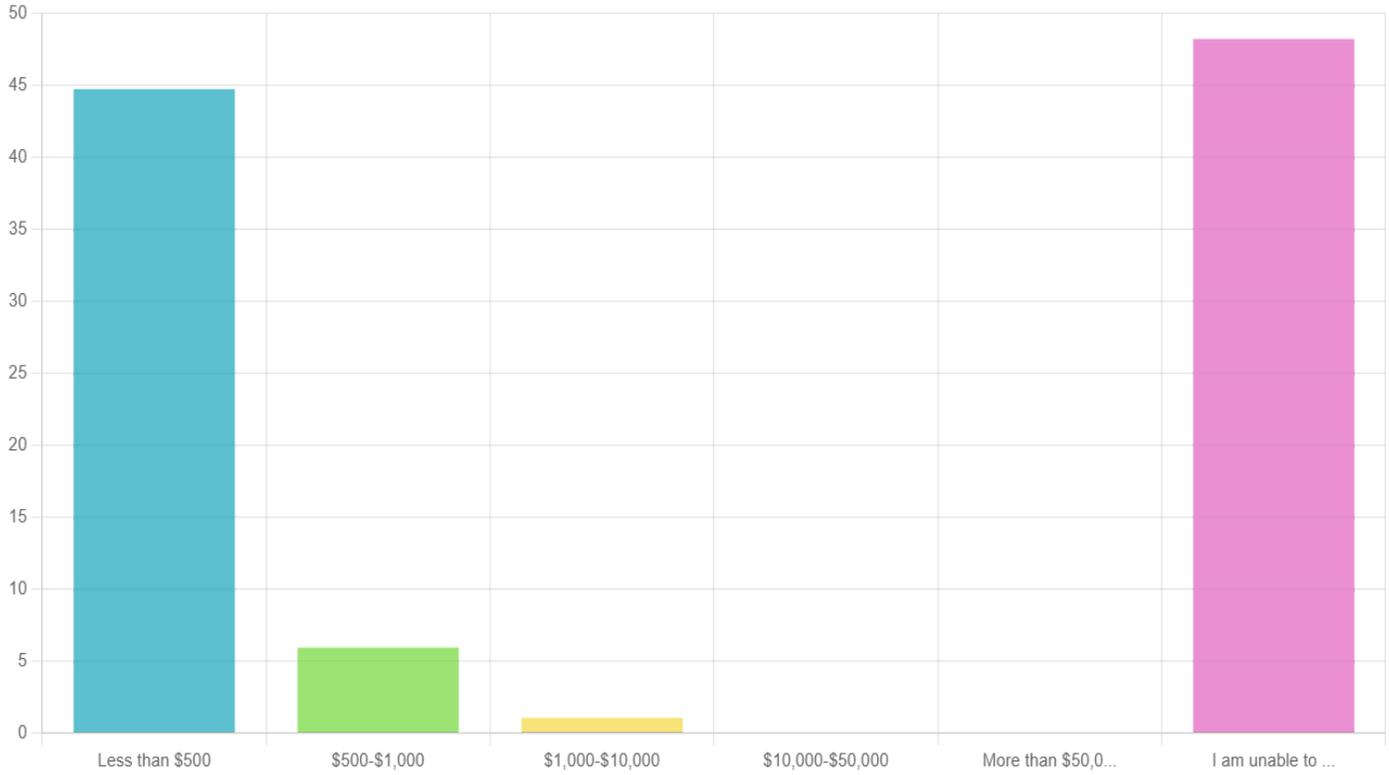
75% (209)
Using proceeds from the sale of campus property

(489)
Responses

19 If you support building an addition on SRC for family locker rooms, would you donate toward the project?



20 If you support building an addition on SRC for family locker rooms, how much would you be willing to consider contributing?



45% (128)
Less than \$500

6% (17)
\$500-\$1,000

1% (3)
\$1,000-\$10,000

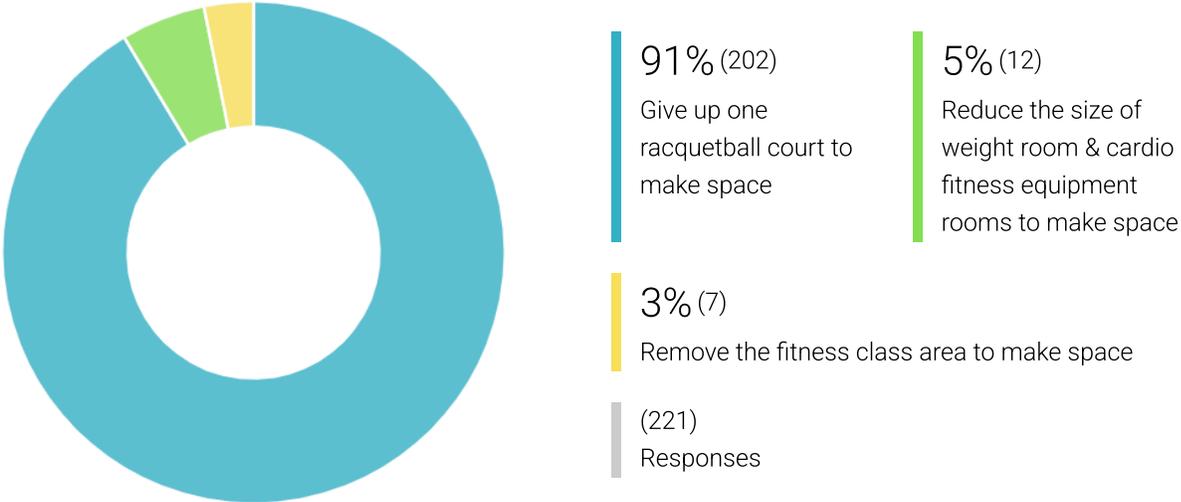
0%
\$10,000-\$50,000

0%
More than \$50,000

48% (138)
I am unable to commit at this time.

(286)
Responses

21 If you do NOT support building an addition onto SRC to add family locker/shower rooms, what are you willing to give up to provide space to make the needed addition of the locker rooms?



Memorandum of Understanding

Between

Richland School District

And

Richland County

Effective Date: January 1, 2025

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a shared agreement between the Richland School District ("RSD") and Richland County ("County") regarding the use of the building known as the "Gymnasium Building" and adjoining facilities, including the field and courts, located at 1200 US Hwy 14 W, Richland Center, WI 53581, formerly part of the UW-Richland property. These facilities shall be utilized for district-sponsored events and activities to enhance educational and extracurricular opportunities for students.

Terms and Conditions

1. Use of the Gymnasium Building

RSD shall have the right to use the Gymnasium Building for district-sponsored events and events booked through the RSD Facility Use Agreement, at no cost.

2. Custodial Services and Supplies

RSD shall provide all custodial services and necessary supplies to maintain the areas used, including but not limited to restrooms, snow removal as needed, and mowing of adjacent field.

3. Locker Rooms and Weight Room

Locker rooms within the Gymnasium Building may be used for storage purposes only. The weight room may be used under proper supervision provided by RSD.

4. Access to the Property

RSD personnel authorized to access the Gymnasium Building are limited to building principal(s), the activities director, the district administrator, the business official, the director of maintenance and grounds, custodial staff responsible for maintaining the property, and any designees of the aforementioned individuals. Any such designee must be consented to in writing by the County prior to their exercise of this authority.

Authorized personnel shall be provided access via key or key fob issued by the County, subject to approval per the preceding.

5. Utilities and Equipment

The County shall provide electricity, water, sewer, heat, and other necessary utilities for the Gymnasium Building.

The County shall also ensure access to scoreboard control panels and any other accessories needed for conducting normal events within the gymnasium.

6. Access to Adjoining Facilities

RSD shall have access to the adjoining field, provided no permanent structures are erected, to be used for outdoor sports such as soccer, golf, or cross country.

RSD shall also have access to the courts for district-sponsored events and activities.

7. Effective Date and Termination

This MOU shall take effect immediately upon execution by both parties and will remain in force until terminated.

Either party may terminate this agreement by providing written notice at least thirty (30) days in advance.

8. Amendments

Any amendments to this MOU must be made in writing and signed by both parties.

9. Liability and Insurance

RSD agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Richland County from any claims, liabilities, or damages arising from the use of the Gymnasium Building and adjoining facilities under this agreement, except for claims arising from the County's negligence or misconduct.

Both parties shall maintain adequate liability insurance coverage for activities conducted under this agreement. RSD shall, upon demand of the County, add the County as an additional insured under any such coverage for activities governed by this agreement.

10. Dispute Resolution

In the event of a dispute arising under this MOU, the parties agree to engage in good-faith negotiations to resolve the matter amicably. If a resolution cannot be reached, the dispute may be submitted to mediation or another mutually agreed-upon method of resolution.

Signatures

By signing below, the parties agree to the terms outlined in this Memorandum of Understanding.

****Richland School District****

****Richland County****

By: 

By: _____

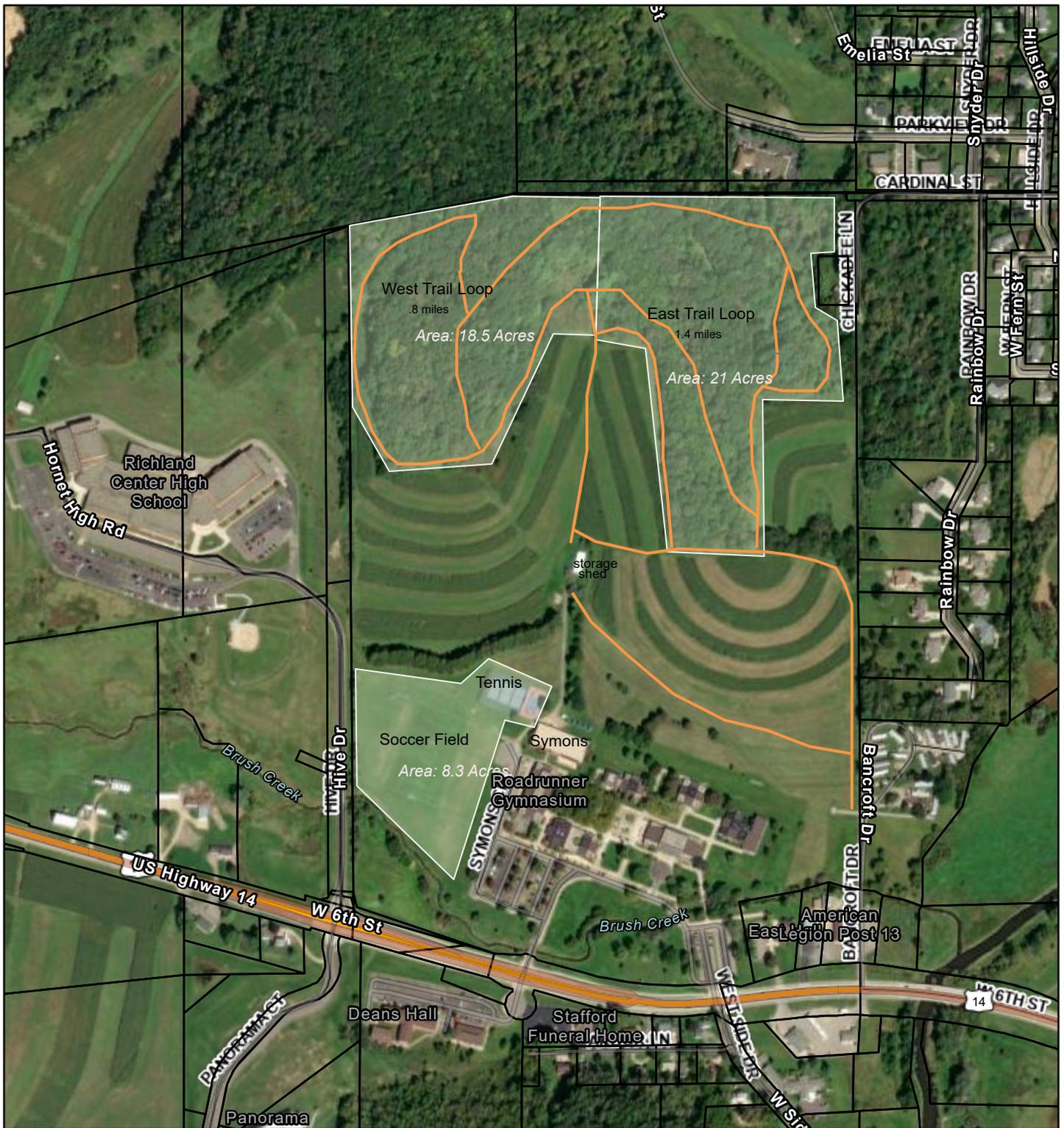
Name: Steve Board
Title: District Administrator

Name: Derek Kalish
Title: County Administrator

Date: February 28, 2025

Date: _____

Campus Trails/Tennis Courts/Soccer Field



3/19/2025, 10:06:41 AM

1:9,028

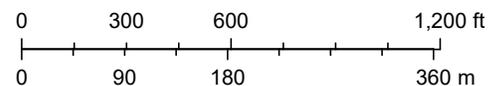
Parcel Lines

Roads

Town Roads

US Hwy

City Streets



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Maxar

Mike Hardy, CPRP