

McQueen Community League - November 2020 Visioning Survey Roll-Up

Question #1: What is your vision for your ideal community 10 years from now?

Summary Statement:

Residents of McQueen want to live in a community that puts people first, and is a safe, diverse, but most of all a connected place to raise a family. They want a community with lots of nearby activities and events, but with a particular focus on outdoor recreation, sports and amenities.

Kids playing / street life (34 references)

- Kids playing came up 15 times
- Community school came up 5 times
- People walking / walkable spaces came up 8 times
- Biking / rollerblading / skateboarding came up 6 times

Connected Neighbourhood (32 references)

- References to neighbours knowing each other came up 15 times
- References to feeling welcomed came up 6 times
- A caring community (helping each other, taking care of vulnerable, volunteering) came up 10 times
- Partnerships with businesses, schools and organizations in the community came up once

Diverse (23 references)

- Diverse (age, gender, culture, income) came up 5 times
- Multi-generational came up 7 times
- Families came up 7 times
- Youth specifically came up 2 times
- Seniors specifically came up 2 times

Outdoor Amenities and Sports Facilities (21 references)

- Reference to sportsfields, rink, courts (tennis / basketball / pickle ball) came up 9 times
- An outdoor focus came up 6 times
- Playgrounds came up 5 times

Things to do and meet people (17 references)

- Programs, classes and activities came up 9 times
- Events came up 6 times
- Fun and vibrant came up 2 times

Safe (15 references)

- Reference to a safe space came up 15 times

Calm Traffic (11 references)

- Slower or less traffic came up 7 times
- Quiet came up 3 times
- Good public transport came up once

Outliers (things that came up less than 5 times and don't really fit in any of the themes)

- A well maintained and used hall came up 3 times.
- A well run league that is inclusive, transparent with easy to understand processes, came up once
- Space for dogs came up 3 times.
- Community that leads on environmental policy
- Spaces that are a destination for surrounding neighbourhoods

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What should the board do to move toward the vision in question #1? Other important and big ideas? Written suggestions

Summary Statement: McQueen residents are rich in ideas to move toward the community they want. A few highlights include action and advocacy on safety, a park space with new developments and lots of activities, continuing (and adding to) the great community events and supporting opportunities for residents to connect through volunteering and activities at both a community and block level.

To achieve the community that the residents of McQueen envision, they think the board should...

...advocate for:

- Unique / more street lighting (2x)
- Lower speed limit and traffic mitigation (4x)
- Connections to the CoE multi use trail and bike network
- Better playground maintenance
- Fewer big developments
- No lot splitting
- Better standards for infill developments (92x)
- More police patrols
- Better tenant screening
- Fewer dogs
- An outdoor pool

...host:

- More hall activities and events (9x)
- Fundraisers
 - Family catered dinners with local businesses
 - Art classes
 - Open mic nights (2x)
 - Paint night
 - Fitness classes
 - Puppy yoga
 - Multi gen classes / events
 - Play groups
 - Sewing group
 - Seniors coffee time
 - Active seniors groups
 - Card / board games
- Outdoor social gatherings (12x)
- Outdoor and local markets (5x)
 - BBQs
 - Coffee in the park
 - Park socials
 - Music concerts (2x)
 - Outdoor movies
 - Pumpkin parade and compost
 - Christmas tree collection
 - Sled races
 - Skating parties

...improve the parks with

- Bigger, better toboggan hill (2x)
- More garbage cans
- Better landscaping / trees
- Covered outdoor spaces (2x)
- Picnic tables
- Fire pits (3x)
- Unique amenities (2x)
- Old fashioned hand pump
- Bocce pitch (2x)
- Community garden (6x)
- Compost site
- Water feature (not spray deck)
- Christmas lights in the trees
- Multi use trails
- Outdoor musical instruments
- Modernize the playground
- Climbing wall
- Pump track (2x)
- Bike track
- Spray Park (3x)
- Skate park (2x)
- Inclusive equipment
- More plaques for long term residents

...continue to**:

- Host events and activities at the hall (9x)
- Engage the community (3x), (maybe add surveys at events / activities)
- Honour history and families who have been in the community for generations

...change:

- Restricting events to members
- Meetings... shorter & clear
- Want the rink and tennis courts to open earlier.
- Pave or grass the rink so it's usable in the summer (wheeled sported / grass sports)

...organize:

- Community Crime / Neighbourhood Watch (6x)
- Opportunities for neighbours and youth to volunteer to help each other (7x) *
- Sports programs for kids and youth

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and make rink and tennis courts available 		
<p>..support residents to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan block parties (6x) • Have block connectors • Plant trees • Grow their own gardens • Plant native species • Develop ideas with small grant programs • Neighbourhood clean-up events • Spend more time in front yards and on the street • Use the hall (vs. external renters) 	<p>...try some new ideas like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing the community together to build something • Weekly casual drop in events • Focusing on positive social media users / restricting disrespectful behaviour (3x) • Have league volunteer positions other than the board • Pop up parks on busy roadways • Space or events for local artists (visual / performance) • Painted hopscotch • Pickleball lines on tennis / b-ball courts. • Basketball / ball hockey / Bocce events, challenges, tournaments • Neighbourhood annual themes - garden theme, window silhouettes. • Light up the hall for the holidays • Utilize the pocket parks (2x) 	<p>...connect with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses, churches non profit to sponsor or support events and activities. • The school around programming, partnerships, fixing basketball court • New people who are not already part of the league • Local businesses to highlight and promote with league events • Neighbours on virtual platforms

* There was a lot of interest and suggestions around ways that **neighbours could help neighbours**. Mostly involving a digital platform, database or matching service where residents could volunteer for snow shovelling, walk kids to / from school, visit seniors, ride sharing, excess garden and vegetable sharing, reuse furniture / property, share talents for instruction / mentoring / tutoring, yard clean up, garbage hauling, help stringing Christmas lights, handyman services

Other helping initiatives included a collective kitchen, community food bank, youth mentoring

**There is a lot of sincerity in the written comments that doesn't really fit in a box. Some residents acknowledged that it has been a difficult year for McQueen and expressed a desire to continue healing as a community; many appreciated the request for input and felt reaching out this way was a good start towards healing. Significantly, though, more than half of the respondents (without any prompting) wrote of their love for the McQueen neighbourhood, gratitude to the board members, enthusiasm for the work being done and encouragement to keep going..

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The residents of McQueen were asked to assign the importance and priority of the following activities.

Summary Statement: There is clear alignment of the importance and priority for family programming although there seems to be a preference for activities provided by MCL vs. other partners. Interestingly park developments fall in the middle of the pack for importance, but rank second highest in priority, with building and amenity being a consistent 3rd on both fronts.

MCL run family friendly programs	27 top 3 mentions (1st)	202 points
Partner run programming	12 top 3 mentions (5th)	195 points
Improving / maintaining league building / amenities	15 top 3 mentions (3rd)	188 points
Neighbourhood Watch / Safety program	13 top 3 mentions (4th)	183 points
Adult focused social programming	11 top 3 mentions (6th)	180 points
Park amenity and developments	16 top 3 mentions (2nd)	179 points
Rentable hall	11 top 3 mentions (6th)	179 points
Membership benefits	3 top 3 mentions (10th)	179 points
Information hub	7 top 3 mentions (8th)	159 points
Community Garden	2 top 3 mentions (11th)	138 points
Destination attractions for surrounding communities	4 top 3 mentions (9th)	130 points

Methodology

Points - Respondents were asked to rate importance of each option from 1 - 5, each time an answer was rated 5 in got 5 points, ranked 4 got 4 points and so on. In the few instances of a missing answer it was assumed to be a neutral 3. Written answers were added to the ideas listed above as they were not ranked by other survey participants, and often closely aligned with ideas listed above.

Top 3 mentions - Respondents were asked to choose which of these 11 tasks would be in the top 3 priorities. Number indicates how many times that item was included.

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What are your ideas around a future hall renovation?

Summary Statement: Overwhelmingly, the respondents see the hall as a space for the community to connect and would like to see better integration of the hall, league facilities and outdoor space. The majority see a need for some interior changes to design, kitchen, bathrooms but there is some difference of opinion about whether smaller or larger spaces best serve their needs. That likely will require a space that is flexible to adapt to different needs and may require some more investigation with the community to find consensus.

General idea	Specifics	For what?	Other rationale / info
Outdoor spaces	Many mentions of patio spaces , and outdoor seating including covered areas. Suggestions included fireplaces and BBQs . Pathways to connect the hall to other amenities. One particular out of the box suggestion was a rooftop patio . There were a number of requests for outdoor washrooms . Outdoor music and landscaping / gardens suggested.	Outdoor spaces could support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee shop • Pub • Events • Rentals • Warm up space • Markets • Mural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee shop / pub could be in partnership with other group or social enterprise model • A casual place that you can meet friends or sit and read. • Lots of interest in connecting the hall to the outdoor park space as well as the league amenities to each other. • Would make it more attractive to rent. • Fireplace and washroom accessible from outside would support outside events and community use of the park without needing access to hall. Could also be used by rink users and programs provided by other groups like pedal heads and green shack. • Crestwood was suggested as an example to look at.
Rink shack and rink	Some felt the rink and rink shack should be included in the scope of the project and want more indoor but especially outdoor seating space to support the rink usage. Improved indoor meeting and gathering space were also seen as a helpful addition.	An improved rink and shack could support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team events • Spectator space • Birthday parties • Skate changing • Warming space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would make the rink nicer to hang out at, possibly more rentable by teams. • Highly used and valued by both families and youth. • Would animate the space with more winter activities.
Kitchen	Some notes that the Kitchen needs to be updated or expanded . Included are some requests for a bigger, more commercial kitchen .	An upgraded kitchen could support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective Kitchen • Cooking classes • Rentals • Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some think the kitchen is old and outdated • Would make the hall more rentable • Better for supporting events • A health regulation complaint kitchen could host a wider range of use
Bathrooms	Some note they should be updated , could add stalls or make	An upgraded bathroom could support:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could they be smaller to make more space for the kitchen?

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	spaces that are gender neutral .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better hall accessibility 	
Interior finishes	There is lots of recognition that it is outdated and needs an update to the interior design. There were some references to a warmer, less institutional feel including comfy furniture and a fireplace. Some other suggestions for inside the hall was to focus on investing in good furniture and equipment, a collapsible stage and better sound system	Updating the interior and investing in new equipment could support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekend coffee house Indoor fitness gym Rentals Family gatherings More permanent indoor play space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having the right furniture and equipment helps facilitate the community use and supports rental desirability
Community Hub	There were many mentions from respondents that the facility should be an active, vibrant place where the community connects . In particular people mentioned being a hub of activity for a wide spectrum of residents (age, culture, income, interest) both inside and outside in all seasons .	A community hub could support activities like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staging and space for sports tournaments and park programs Casual, flexible use Events Rentable office, studio or meeting spaces for local groups. Connections to services and support for community members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A busy space creates vibrancy, excitement and makes the area safer. More community use = more bumping and connections.
Size	There is some division of opinion between respondents desiring small spaces for smaller activities and groups, and those who want a big space including hall expansion. There were many calls for a multi-use space , and a few suggesting it was just right as it is.	Developing small spaces could support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classes Meeting spaces Drop in spaces Developing a big space could support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weddings Sports activities Large gatherings Team practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both perspectives felt it would be suitable for rentals. Proponents of small spaces tend to focus on community and local use and programming. Proponents of a large space tended to be more open to renters from outside the community, suggesting it adds vibrancy and income. These respondents also tended to be more focused on large family events and sport / fitness activities. There were many calls for mixed uses, which could lend itself to flexible, adaptable spaces.
General Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few residents indicated they felt the hall was great as is and doesn't need to change. On the other end of the spectrum, a few suggested it should be torn down and start with a blank slate. There were reminders that the hall should be accessible and inclusive to everyone. One respondent indicated that a large scale reno could have a long impact on programs and events at the site which would impact the community. There were a couple reminders to explore other new buildings and how they've accommodated the many needs and interests. 		