



# 2023 Recreation Programming Survey Results





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# Purpose and Methodology

Buhler Recreation Commission (BRC) Staff administered a survey during the fall of 2023. The target participants for the survey included City of Buhler residents and nearby community members that look to BRC for services. The purpose of the survey was to help BRC gather opinions and feedback on local governmental programs and services provided by BRC and partners. The results of the survey will be used to help BRC board members and staff understand community needs and wants better to help prioritize valuable resources.

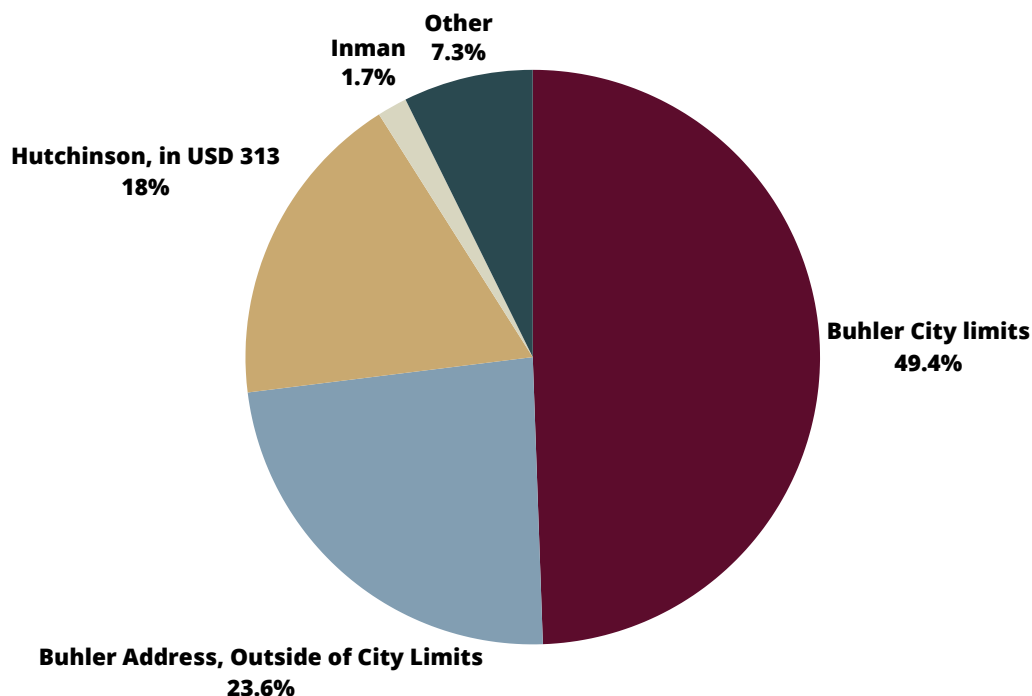
The online survey opened on Oct. 31, 2023. It was first promoted at Buhler's Downtown Trick or Treat event through a postcard advertisement. Over 200 postcards were handed out at that event. Promotions continued via email blasts, facebook posts, and flyer postings at government facilities. Buhler Elementary School also helped advertise by sending a postcard home in each student's backpack.

To help incentivize engagement, each participant received 1 raffle ticket into a drawing for a \$100 visa gift card. The survey closed on Nov. 19, 2023 with 178 participants.

## Demographics & Communication

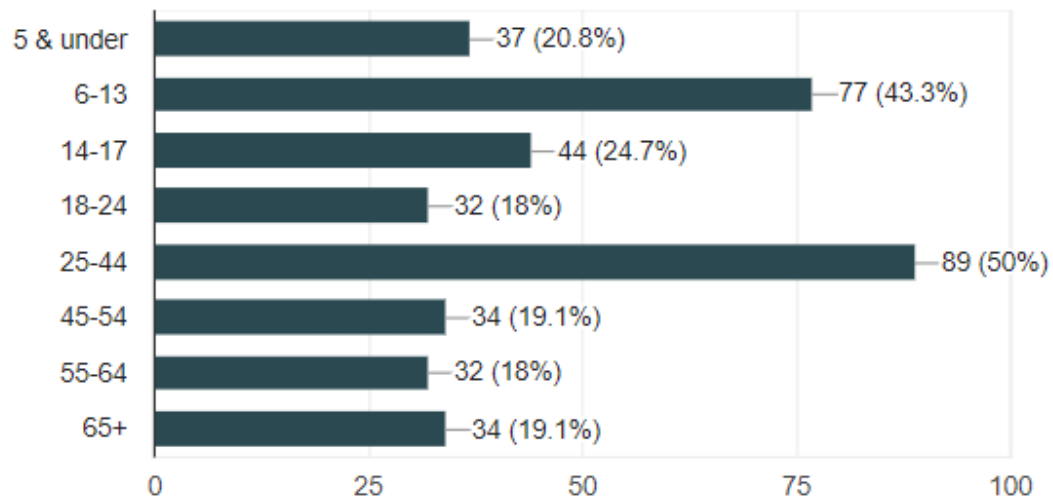
### Residency:

178 Responses



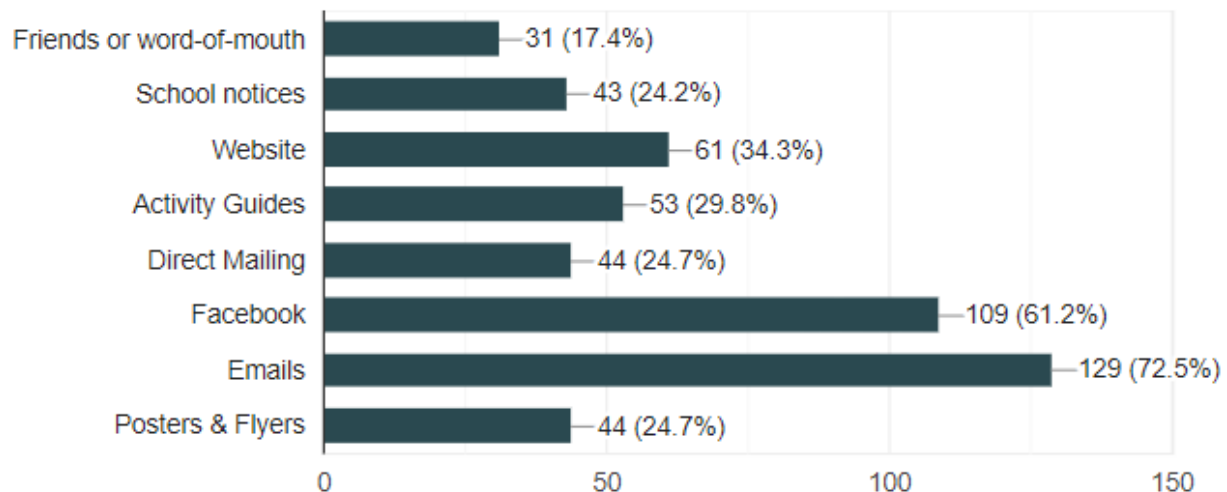
Please check each box indicating the **age groups** living in your household:

178 Responses



How would members of your household prefer to **receive information** about Buhler Rec.'s programs and services? (check all that apply)

178 Responses

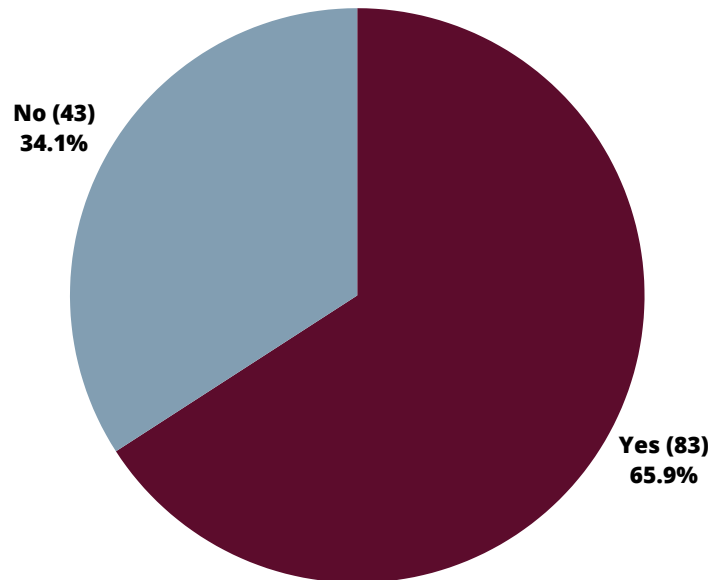




# Youth Programs

**#1) Did anyone in your household participate in Buhler Rec. **summer camps/classes** this past year?**

126 Responses



**#2) If yes to question #1, do you have any ideas for how we can improve?**

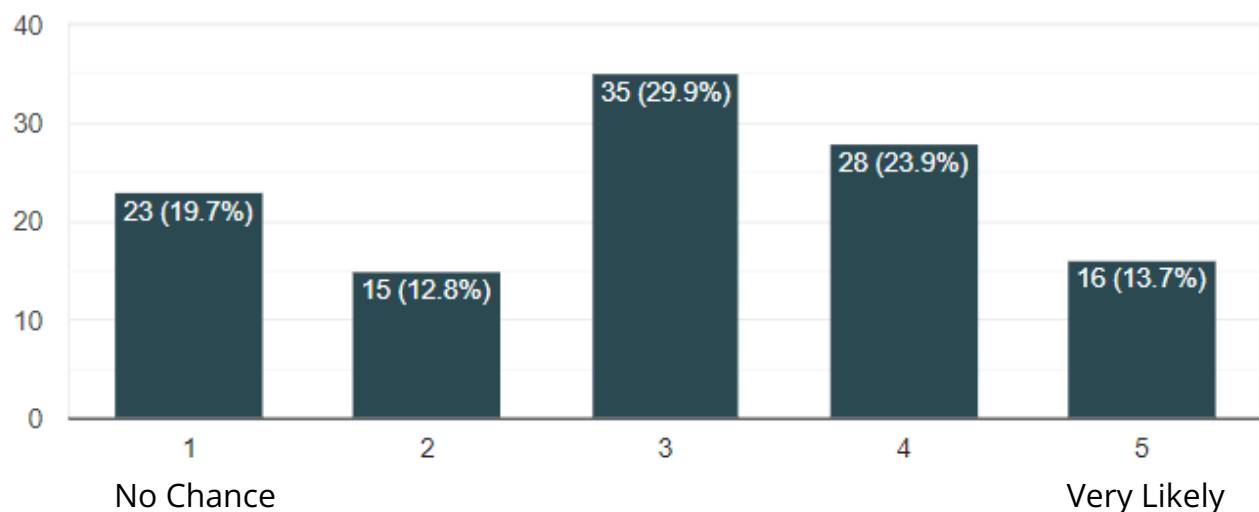
22 Responses

- More options for kids and teens that aren't sports related
- Swim lessons in the evenings for working parents would be awesome!
- I would have liked to have seen pictures on FB of my child's Cooking Camp & Soccer Camp.
- It would be nice to get a text if events are canceled because of weather instead of relying on the Facebook page.
- Better communication about canceling events.
- A more affordable option without a t-shirt would be really helpful for us! We loved the soccer camp, but with all other activities our budget gets pretty stretched.
- It would be nice if the cooking classes were more than a week or longer time for the week.
- First time trying camps and loved them!
- Different time of day or earlier in June for tennis camp. It's been miserably hot that week for the past few summers.
- Offer more.
- All the kids at my house enjoyed it very much.

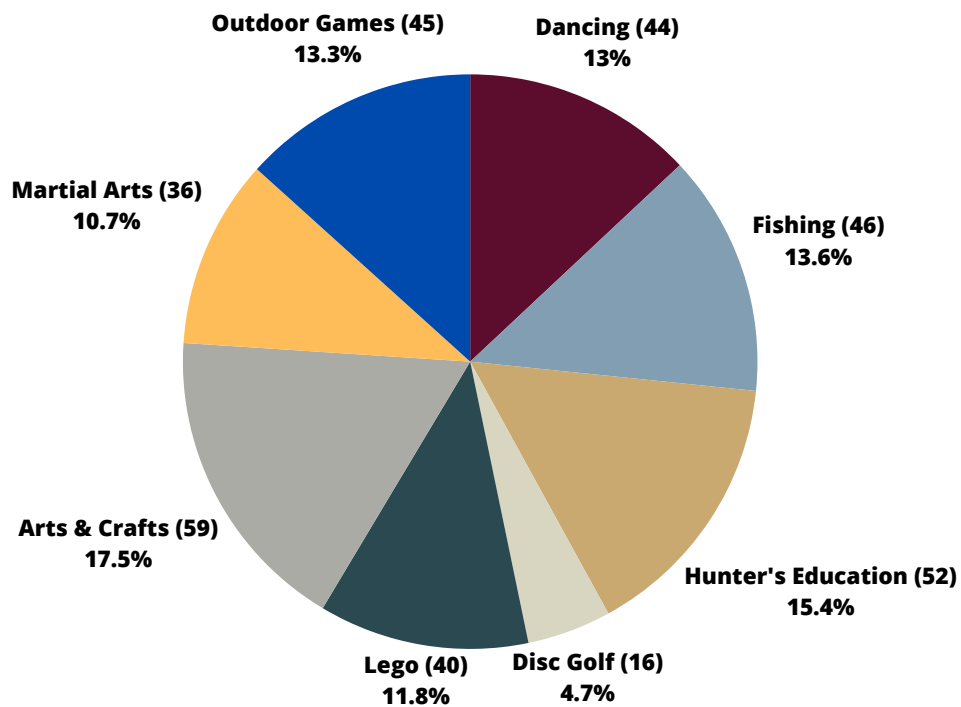
- Space out the camps to allow kids to participate in all (maybe not do soccer during t-ball?) Offer more swim lessons over the summer.
- More sports in the winter.
- It's perfect.
- More reminders & communication about camps.
- No we had a fun time during the season.
- Worked well for us.
- I think everything went well.
- More offers in July rather than June.
- More times, slots, availability.
- It would be nice to have more times available for the classes. The classes that are only offered at 1 time for the entire summer can make scheduling tricky.
- It would be amazing if the summer ball games could be hosted in Buhler for the home games, rather than hosted in Hutchinson as the "home" location.

**#3)** Currently, Buhler Rec's **youth camps/classes** are only offered during the summer months. How likely would your family be to participate in camps/classes offered during the school year?

117 Responses

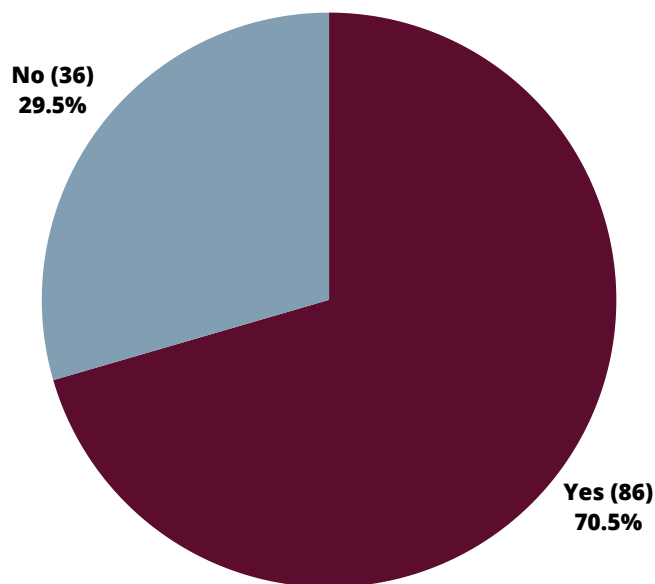


**#4) What new **youth camps or classes** would you like for Buhler Rec to offer? (select up to 3)**



**#5) Did anyone in your household participate in **T-ball, Baseball, or Softball** through Buhler Rec this past year?**

122 Responses



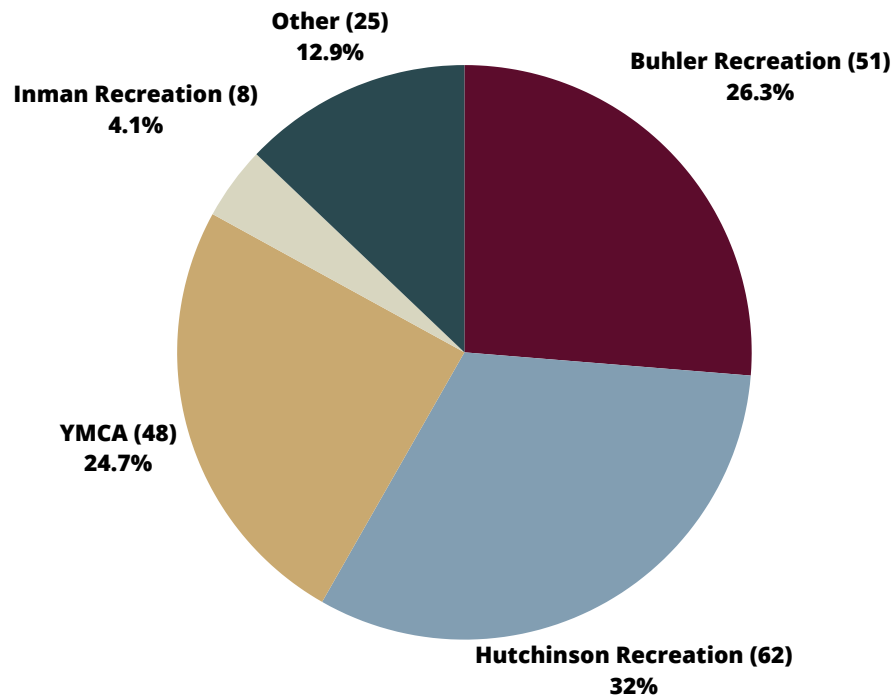


**#6) If yes to question #5, do you have any ideas for how we can improve?**

16 Responses

- There were not enough kids so we had to go to hutch.
- We have had great experiences with the youth baseball program.
- I think it went really well!
- Compile teams sooner so they can practice more than once or twice prior to the start of games.
- Last year all the teachers kids were in one team and the "leftovers" were thrown in another team. Not the only parent that noticed that. Also, we stopped letting our older kids play baseball/softball because all of the games were at fun valley and not Buhler. We are a Buhler team not a Hutch team and it was also inconvenient.
- Couldn't because years previous we were forced to play through hutch rec because not enough kids signed up for a Buhler team.
- I thought it went very well. I enjoyed the rec leagues for my kids. And that there are Buhler teams (or partial teams) my kids can be a part of.
- Not scheduling games on Wednesdays!
- No we had a fun time during the season.
- Better umpires for softball
- It always seems like it's difficult for coaches to find a practice time/place. I'm not certain if that's their fault or if Buhler Rec could provide better communication of times/locations sooner.
- Larger helmet options for boy's baseball.
- Have baseball games at the buhler complex.
- Not allow music or cussing at games.
- Hosting home games in Buhler.
- I wish we would transition back to utilizing our own fields for games and not Hutch. It's a big reason we stopped doing sports because it was through Hutch and everything was based on Hutch.

**#7)** Where do you go for youth sports in your household? (check all that apply)

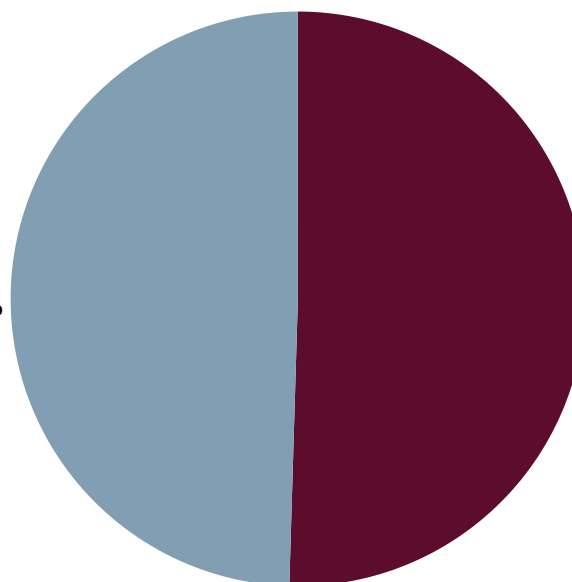


**#8)** Which one of these statements best describes your viewpoint regarding **Youth Sports**?

106 Responses

I am happy with the youth sports opportunities as is. I can take advantage of programs offered by Buhler Rec but I am also happy to go to Hutchinson (or other nearby communities) for their programs.

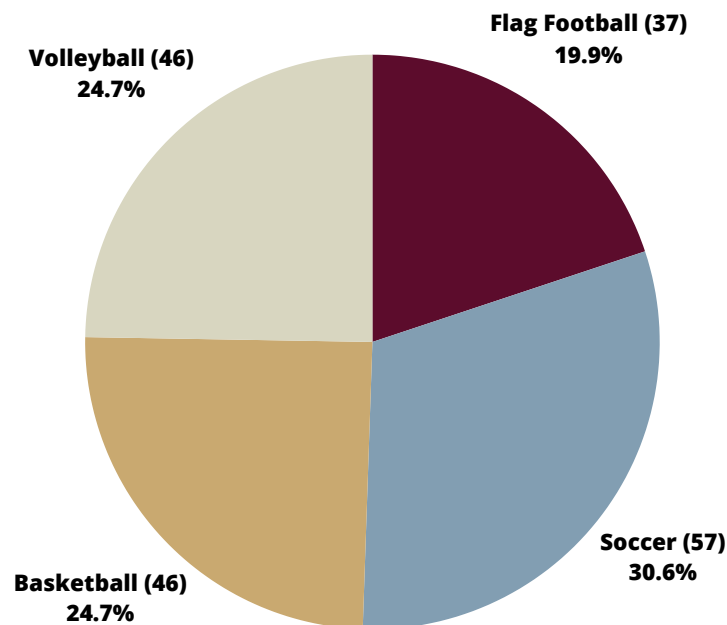
(53)  
49.5%



I would like to see Buhler Rec. add more youth sports opportunities.

(53)  
50.5%

**#9) What Youth Sports would your household like to see Buhler Rec. offer?**  
(Select top 2)



**#10) What recommendations do you have for Buhler Rec in regards to Youth Programs?**

29 Responses

- Put out more flyers because I didn't know we had a rec here in Buhler.
- Have traveling sports offered during the specific seasons of the sport.
- I would love to see more youth sports added so that we don't have to travel as much for our son's to play!
- I would love to see some thing in the gymnastics/dance area to get my 3 year old daughter in. It would also be nice if more of the sports and activities allowed kids up to 8th grade be involved. Just because they have opportunities to do those sports and activities in school doesn't mean they necessarily want to. I know my 7th grader would love to do some of the activities over the summer but was aged out. But mostly like I stated a gymnastics/ dance group would be AMAZING.
- Better communication on weather cancellations. I do like how art, cooking, etc are at the high school! It gives the younger kids a chance to be a little more familiar with the high school. I would like the same thing of the middle school!
- I don't know if this is possible, but a small gymnastics class would be amazing! The YMCA is such a long drive for us, especially on school nights. I love that suggestion for dance on question 4! I also wish there were art camps for the littler kids. That would be huge for us. There's plenty of sports opportunities for preschoolers, but all the art camps and classes are for older kids.



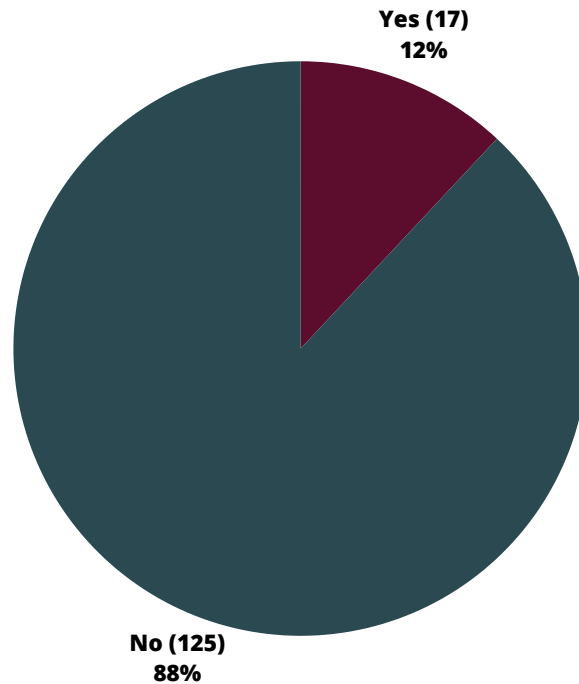
- Making sure the schools send out notifications on sports during school year if it was to be added.
- Tumbling/gymnastics.
- Gymnastics, wrestling, martial arts.
- Be affordable for everyone.
- Keep things affordable.
- I like the idea of maybe adding basketball and football to Buhler rec but I also realize it might not have enough interest.
- Love the idea of utilizing the disc golf course to create a program. Maybe pickleball too?
- When we moved here, it confused me that Buhler Rec didn't offer ALL sports programs and that we had to go through Hutch Rec. However, I can see that it is a competitive area. I'm originally from a small town and we played all sports through our town's recreation department.
- It would be great if something was offered during the school year. I think a basketball camp would be great, but unsure if BHS holds their own junior basketball camp.
- Martial Arts.
- More is better. I'd like to support Buhler as much as possible and make it for my child to play with her friends. Through hutch rec she is usually placed on a 313 team but very few are Buhler Grade students
- Heavy concentration on kids as young as possible. Get kids in love with being OUTDOORS more than anything. Sports also but outdoor activities being most important. We are in an age where youth sports is about competition/travel ball. Buhler Rec can't compete with that, but it can help get more kids outdoors in sports or other activities.
- Add roller hockey
- Hunter education
- Inquire with local businesses about sponsoring a team so they can have uniforms, not just a shirt.
- I would just like to see it easier for kids to be on a team with their classmates. I don't know that it's Buhler Rec's job to fix that problem. It is easier for that to happen when we sign up through Buhler for baseball and softball.
- All our boys played BUHLER rec until it became evident that traveling teams were siphoning away, many of the more competitive players. That made it tough for us to remain in Buhler rec.
- I would absolutely love it if Buhler Rec had basketball available for the little little kids, just like they do for t-ball. With Inman and Haven involved too, perhaps. Or any other surrounding communities.

- Soccer would be nice to have.
- Activities during the school year.
- More tennis options!!
- The current options are good, but it would be great to have more competitive Buhler teams that help prepare kids for school athletics.
- I would love to see some less traditional options - fishing, martial arts, dance programs - to keep those community-building opportunities growing here in OUR community, rather than having so many of our kiddos going to nearby communities for them. Many of my students and nephews/nieces travel for those 3 specific opportunities, and I think that those are options we could possibly facilitate/support here in Buhler, just based on the numbers I see at school (if those families accessed those activities via the Buhler Rec instead, I mean).

# Adult Sports

**#1)** Did you participate in an adult softball league through Buhler Rec. this past year?

142 responses



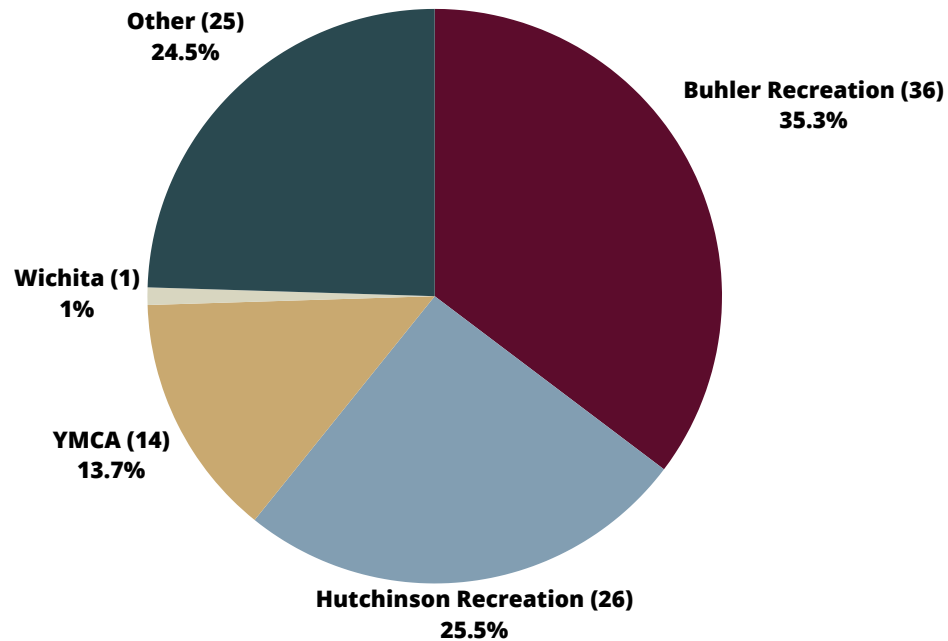
**#2)** If yes to question #1, do you have any ideas for how we can improve our Adult Softball Leagues/Tournaments?

9 Responses

- I love playing in Buhler
- Loud music that teams played during games not appropriated. Profanity in the music played by teams not needed. Won't play in hutch due to this and the nature of the teams.
- Make the regular season 6 weeks long instead of 5.
- There should be more outlets and accessible ways for people to be heard when it comes to attempting to hold the officials to a professional standard. Being (mistreated) by a particular official is extremely upsetting. There is no place for any of that and shouldn't be allowed if they want to be employed by the City of Buhler.
- I enjoyed the adult softball league. I'm even glad we added a 9:30pm game to get double headers in and play more games possibly. I enjoyed that the league grew a few more teams.
- More Teams. Coed was better this year with a couple new teams. More the better. If we can get enough maybe divide into 2 sections (Rec/Competitive).
- I think they're pretty good the way they are. I personally like as many games as possible under the lights after the heat of the Summer Day has passed.
- It was great.
- Not allow music or cussing at games.

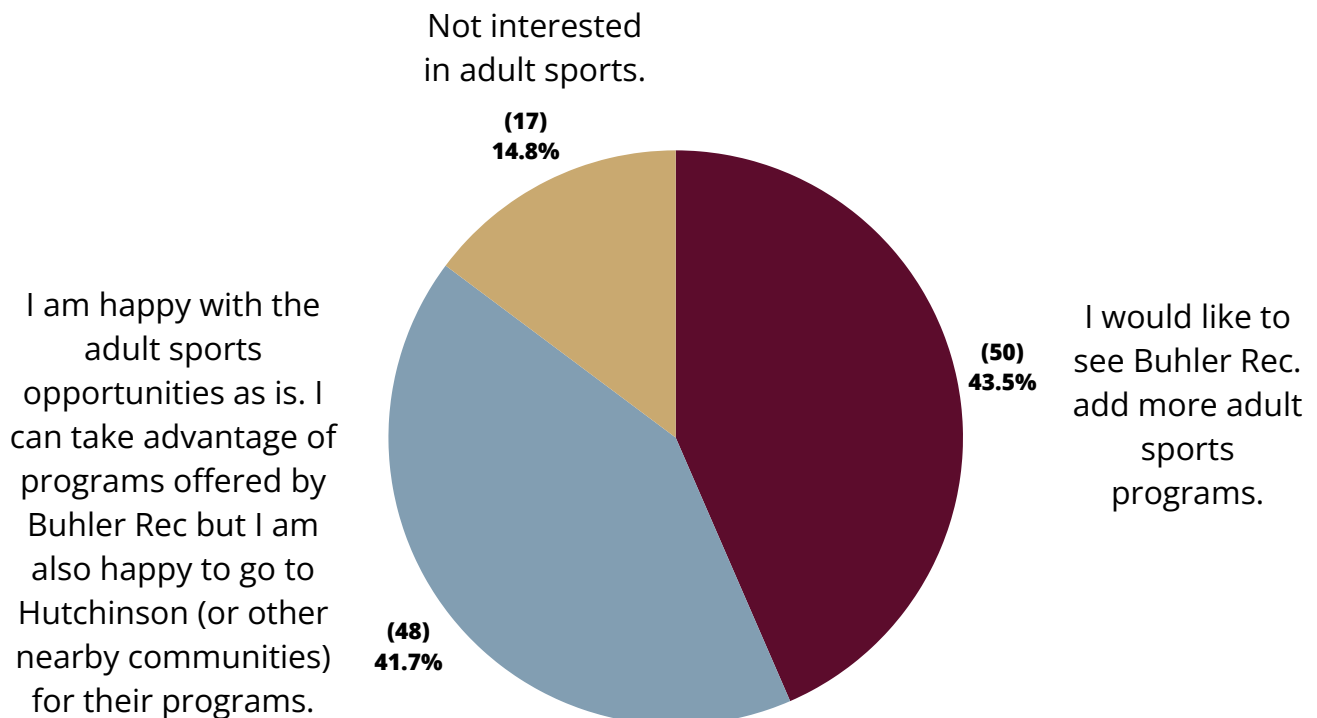


**#3)** Where do you go for adult sports in your household? (check all that apply)

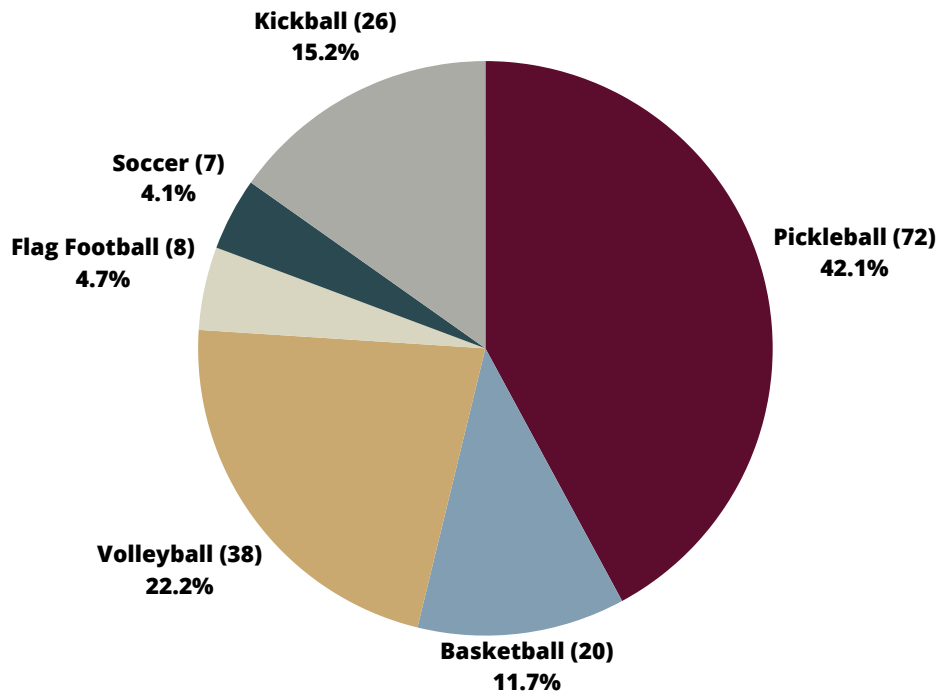


**#4)** Which one of these statements best describes your viewpoint?

115 Responses



**#5) What Adult Sports League would your household like to see Buhler Rec. offer? (Select top 2)**



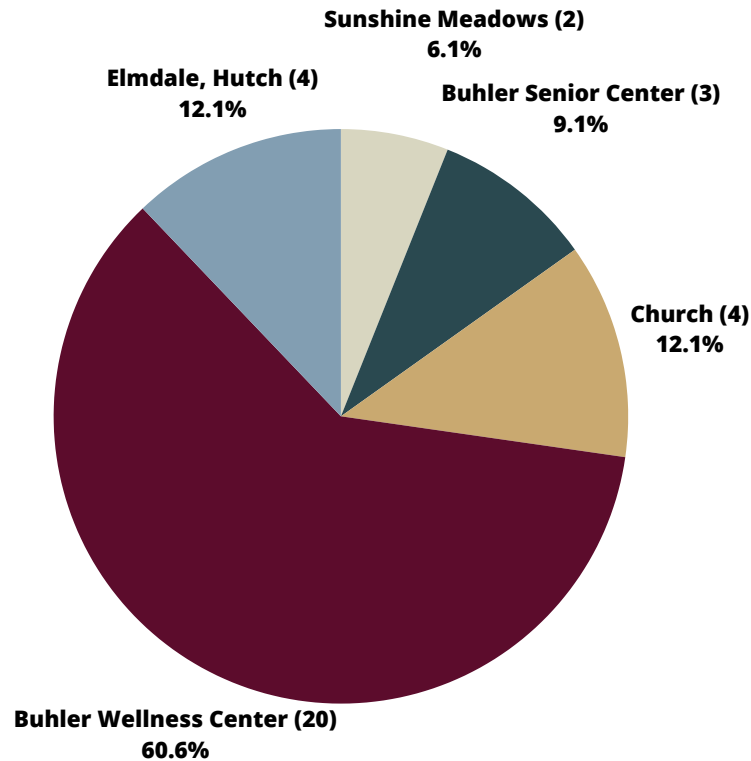
**#6) If yes to question #5, do you have any ideas for how we can improve?**  
25 Responses

- I'm not a senior, but I'd be interested in book clubs, art classes, etc. I wish there were ways for my husband and I to meet other people in the area that weren't just through a church or sports.
- I would love to get involved with adult volleyball.
- See question #2
- I think a flag football league would be a great addition!! Football is an iconic American sport. Flag football is a great non-contact variety, that is great for all age groups. It is good exercise. It also doesn't use all the expensive pads and a million refs as in contact football. If you do add it, I sincerely hope you would consider making it a 7 or 8 man team, and use the same minimum age as the softball: 16. Thanks!
- Sand Volleyball
- Tennis would be great!
- Water aerobics

- Maybe a disc golf intro and league. Are there ways to incorporate family involvement so kids and adults can participate together? Martial arts, disc golf, pickleball . . . Clay shooting :)
- None. We are currently busy with youth sports, so no longer play Coed Volleyball.
- Adult co ed soccer team.
- Would love to see coed volleyball league!
- Tennis.
- Classes for kids/adults with disabilities.
- Disc Golf if possible.
- ok as is.
- Cornhole and or dart leagues.
- More options.
- Maybe add some fun runs.
- Good luck! Difficult to engage working & nonworking adults, a large spectrum of interests. \$\$\$
- Frisbee golf for ladies , spin class.
- We like the church leagues a lot It's good clean fun.
- I would love to play volleyball but I think pickle ball would go over better with a wider age range.
- Lesson on how to play pickle ball.
- Adding more classes at the wellness center in the evenings would be great, for all ages.
- For Buhler, I think I would develop adult sports based off the community demographics, specifically the older age groups. This might be more beneficial. I think flag football would be great but most likely our senior community has time and interest in different sports for them.

# Senior Programs

**#1)** Do you participate in Senior Activities in Buhler? If so, who hosts the activities?



**#2)** Which one of these statements best describes your viewpoint?

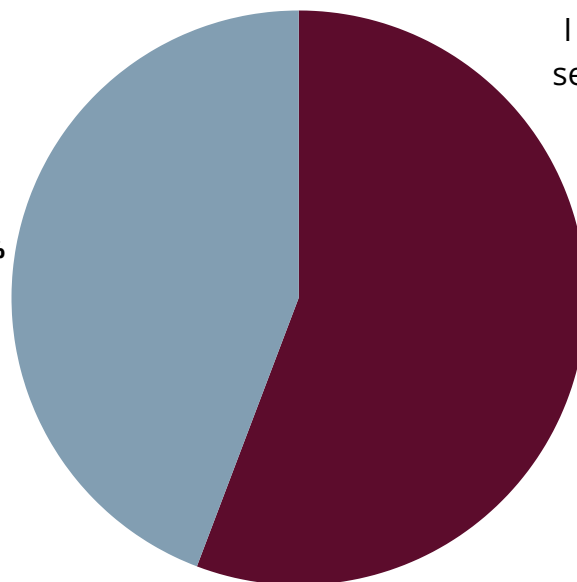
52 Responses

I am happy with the activity options as is. I can take advantage of programs offered by Buhler Rec but I am also happy to go to Hutchinson (or other nearby communities) for their programs.

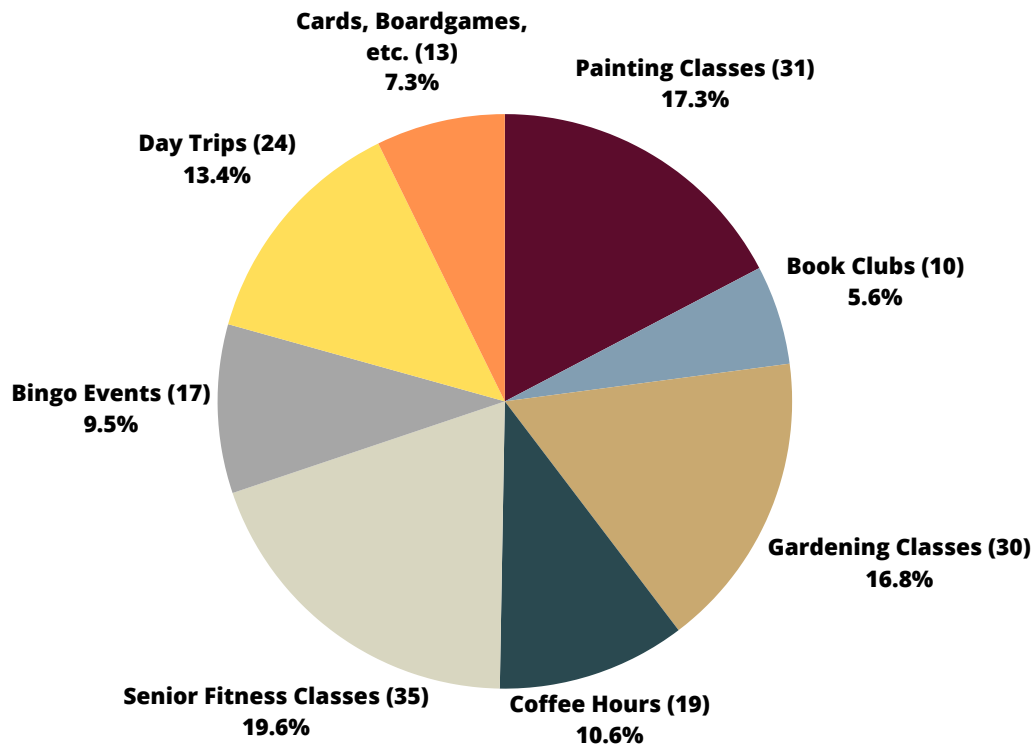
(23)  
44.2%

I would like to see Buhler Rec. add more senior programs.

(29)  
55.8%



**#3) Which Senior Activities would you be most interested in Buhler Rec. offering? (Select up to 3)**



**#4) What recommendations do you have for Buhler Rec in regards to Senior Activites?**

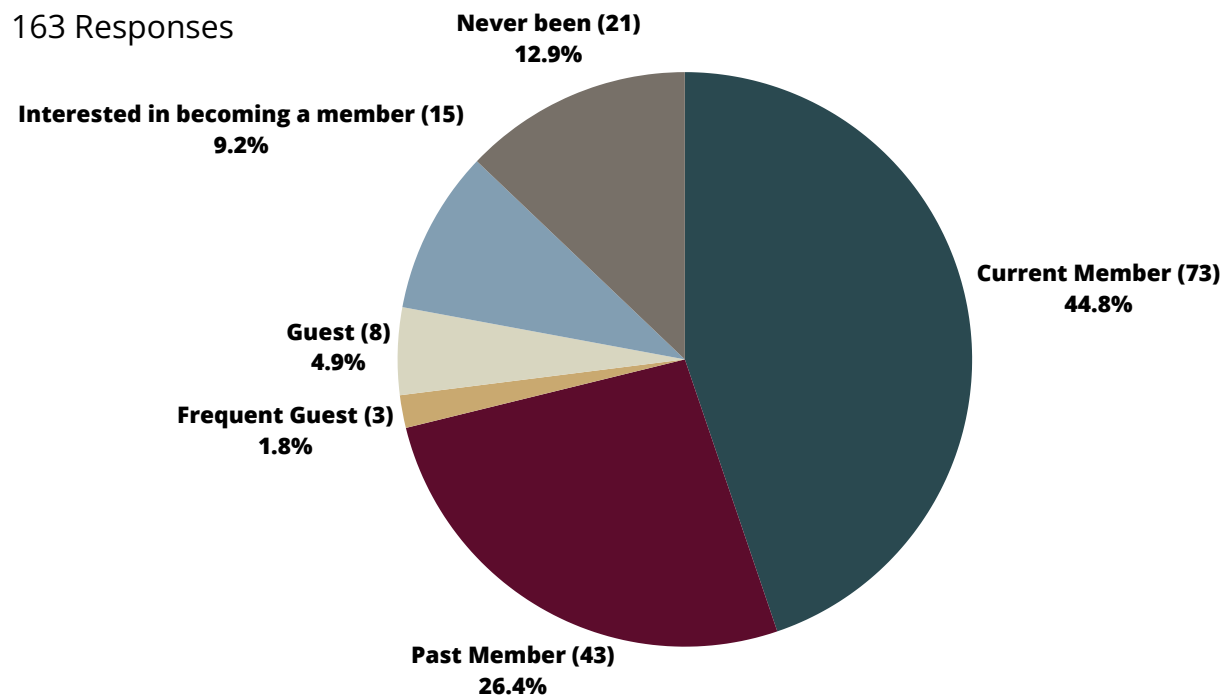
14 Responses

- A quilting class or group.
- Evening activities as well as daytime. Some of us still work a day job and so we are not able to participate as much.
- Have more for the older citizens
- Evening activities
- Provide quality weight training machines.
- line dancing? yoga
- PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO EVENTS
- Thanks for all you do. Just keep being aggressive with new fun opportunities
- Coordinate with Buhler Adult Center. Again Good Luck!!!!
- Water aerobics
- Music, dance
- My mom would love some opportunities for socializing, and the Buhler Rec feels like a safe, comfortable venue for her. Our family would definitely purchase an additional membership if there were some senior-specific opportunities that weren't too competitive or strenuous, but that facilitated socializing during the activity. There is also a group of young moms that have preschool/younger kiddos that might appreciate a "Mom & Me" fitness class, or a gathering opportunity to build a supportive little community network.
- Later morning aerobics/core training exercises.
- Would hiking, kayaking, canoeing, dancing, no impact karate/kata be possible offerings for seniors?

# Wellness Center

**#1) Which option best describes you in relation to the Buhler Wellness Center?**

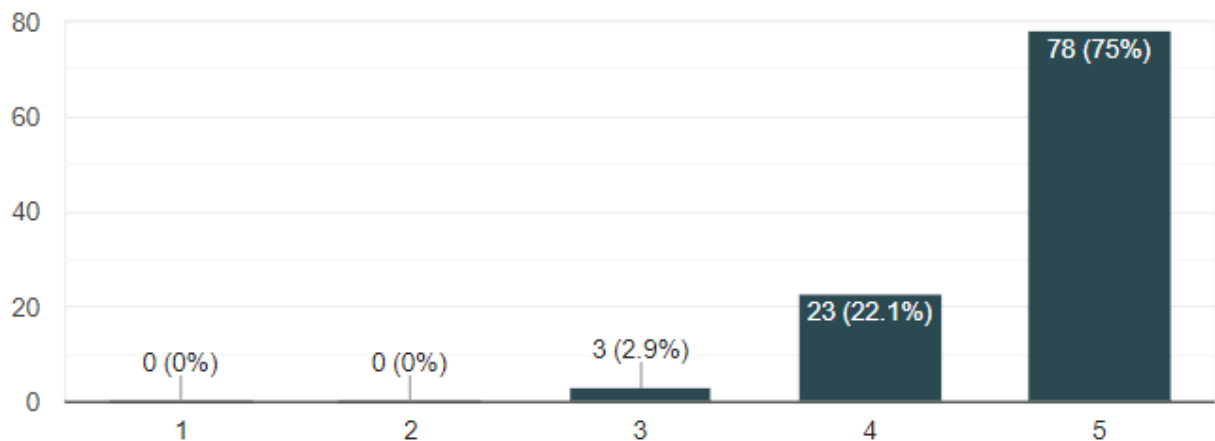
163 Responses



**#2) If you have used the Wellness Center in 2023, please rate the following:**

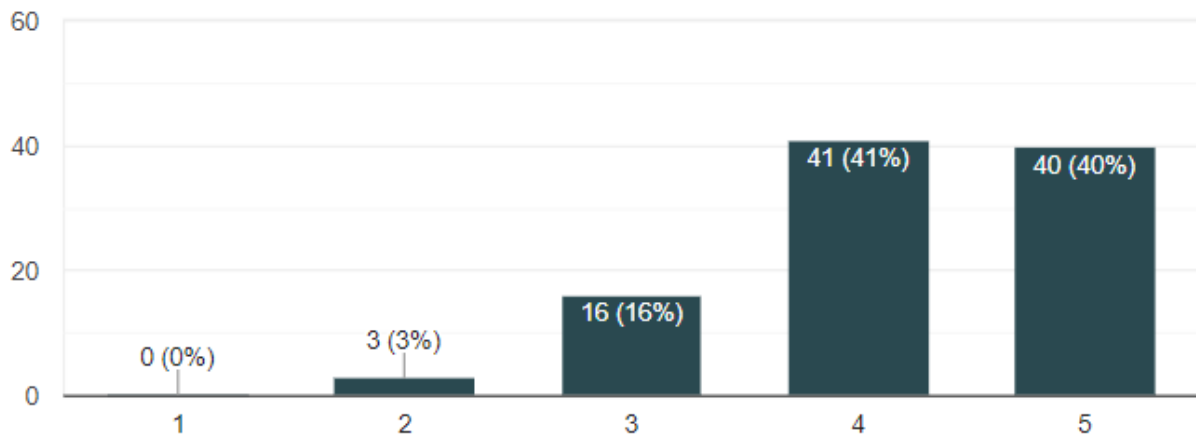
## Cleanliness

104 responses



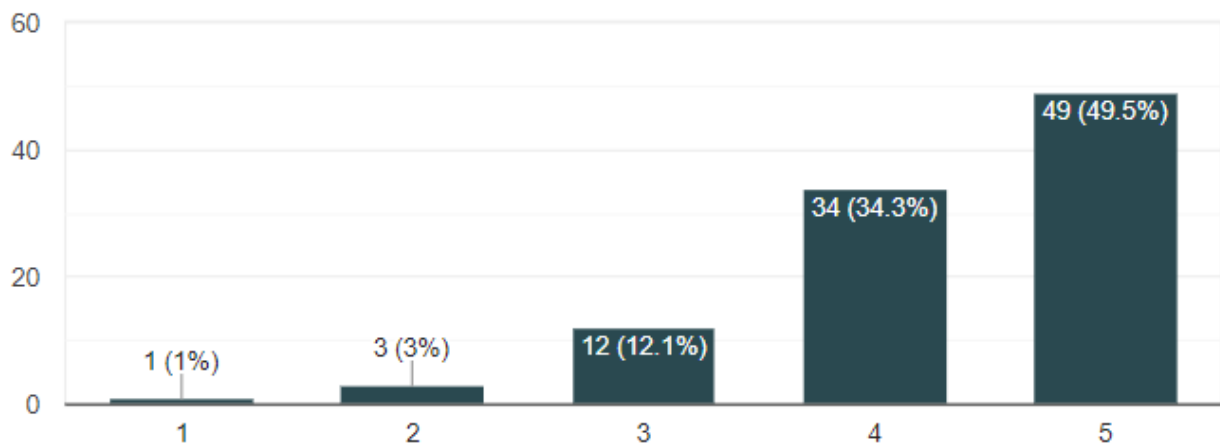
## Amentities/Equipment

100 responses



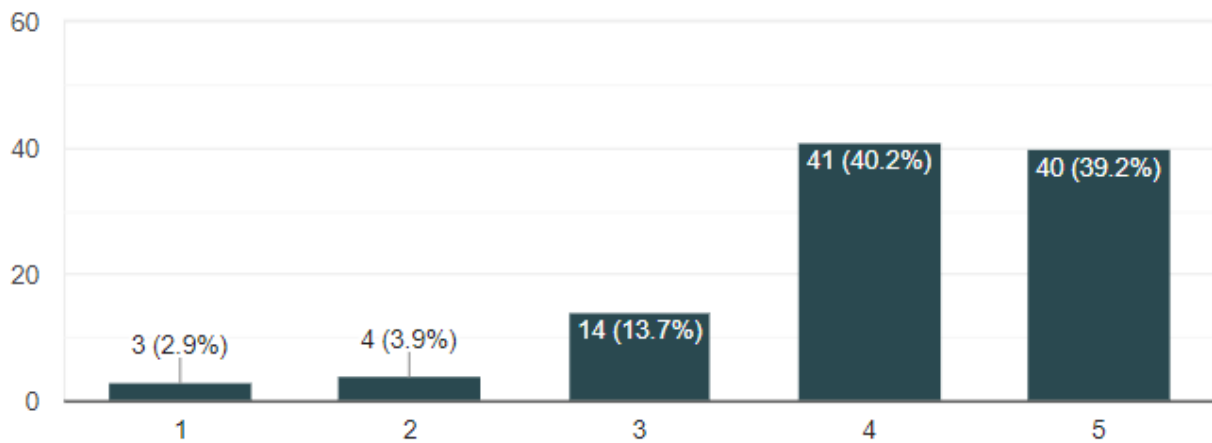
## Conduct of other users

99 responses



## Facility Size

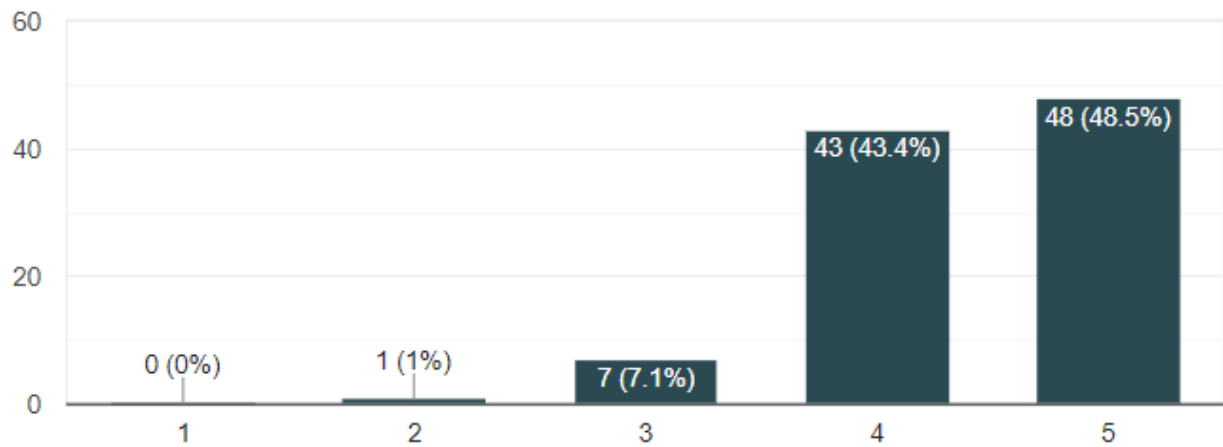
102 responses





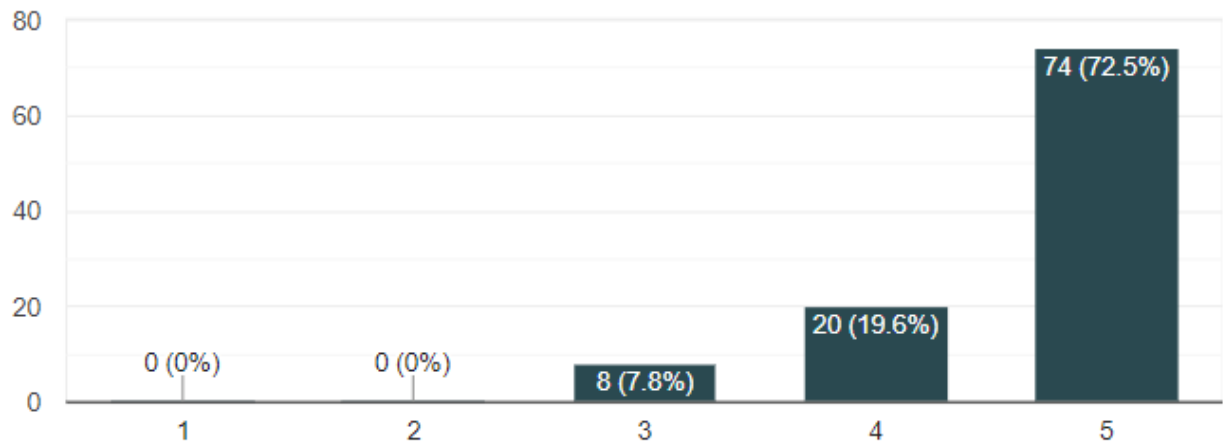
## Organization of Equipment & Supplies

99 responses



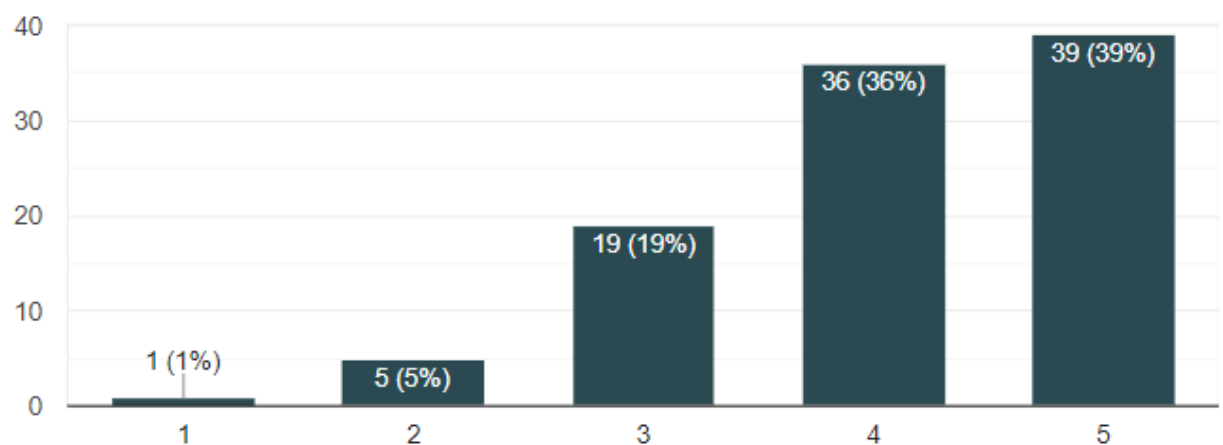
## Staff Helpfulness

102 responses



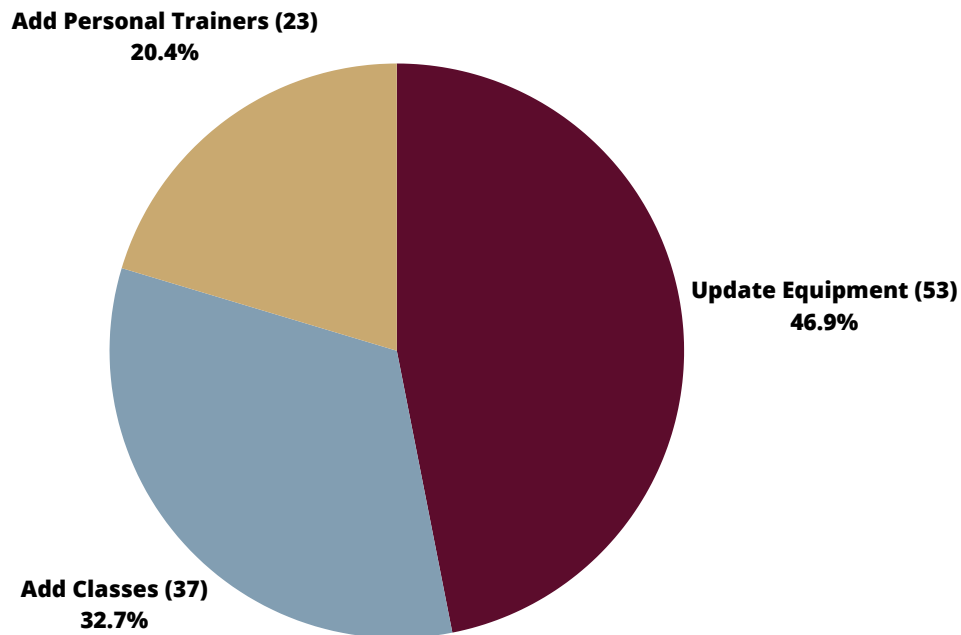
## Staff Availability

100 responses

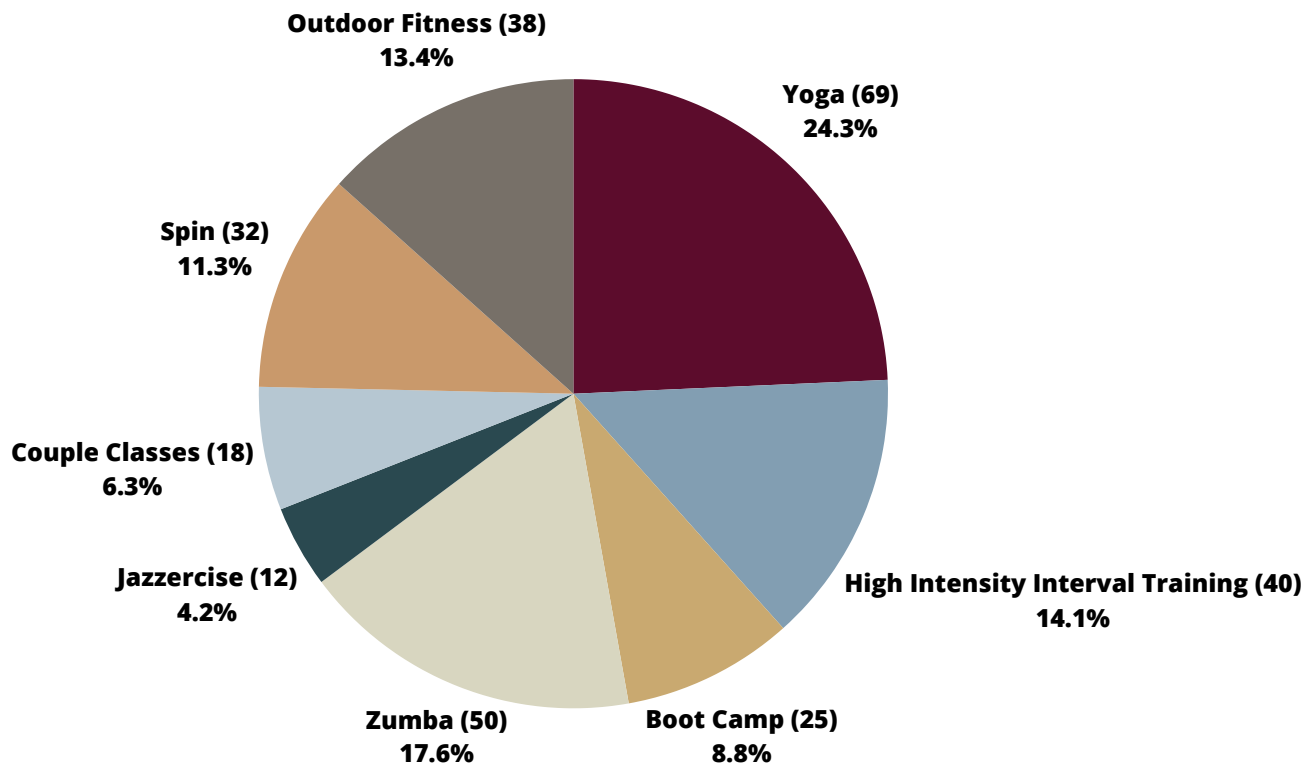


**#3)** What would you like to see Buhler Recreation focus on improving the most?

113 Responses

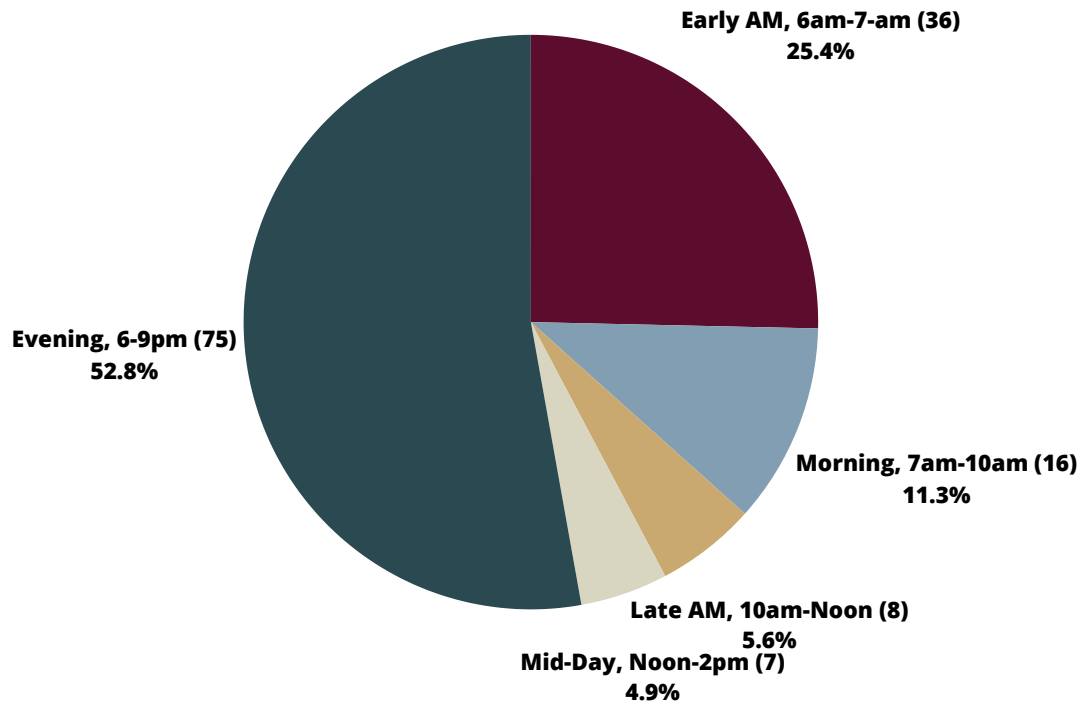


**#4)** Which of the following classes would you be most likely to participate in? (Select up to 3)

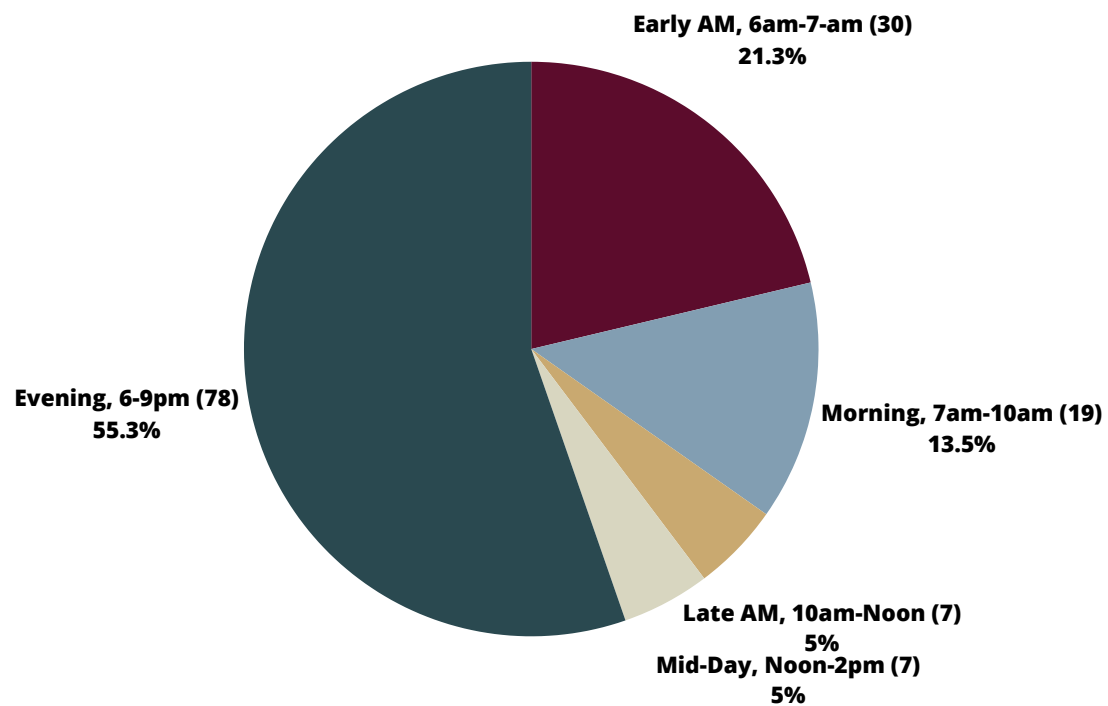


**#5) What time of the day would you be able to attend a fitness class?**

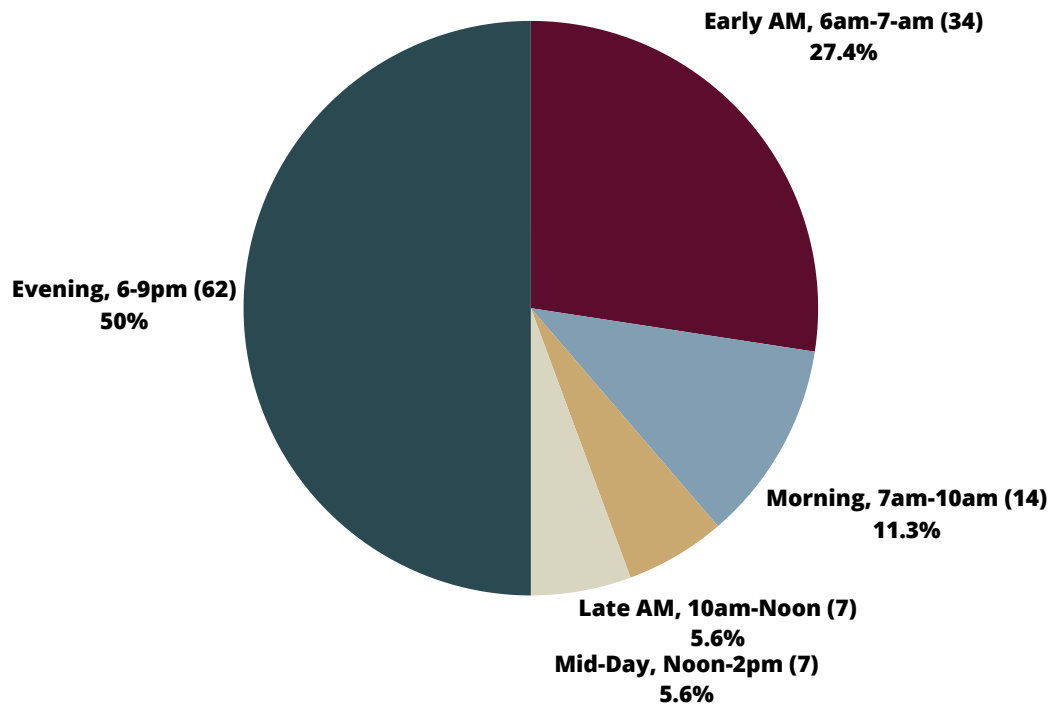
**Monday**



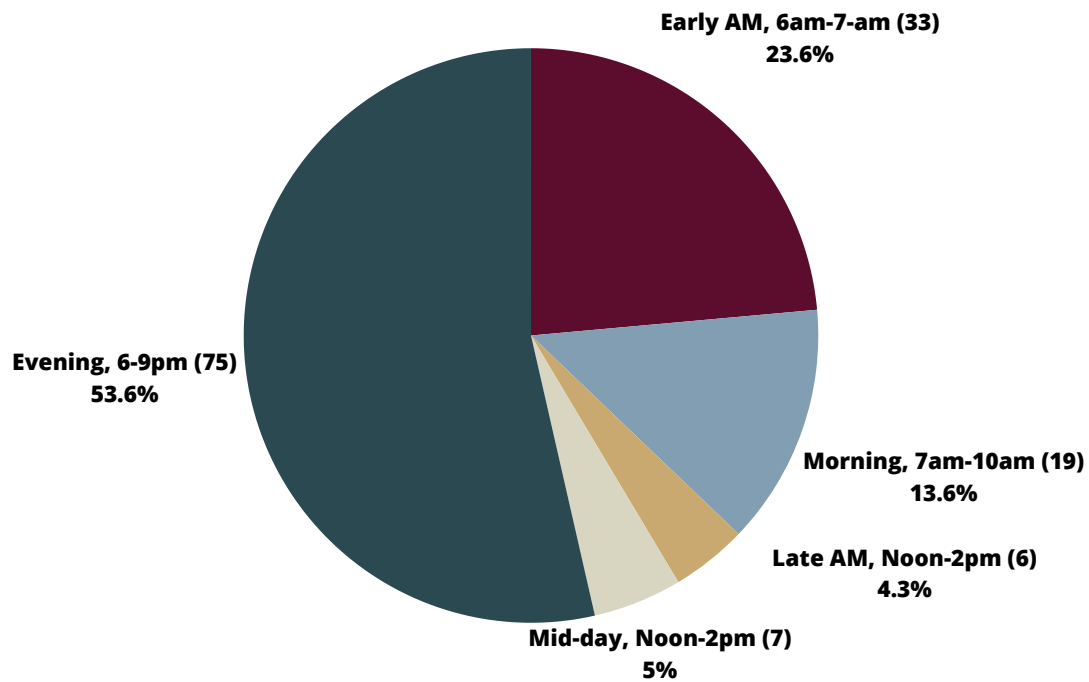
**Tuesday**



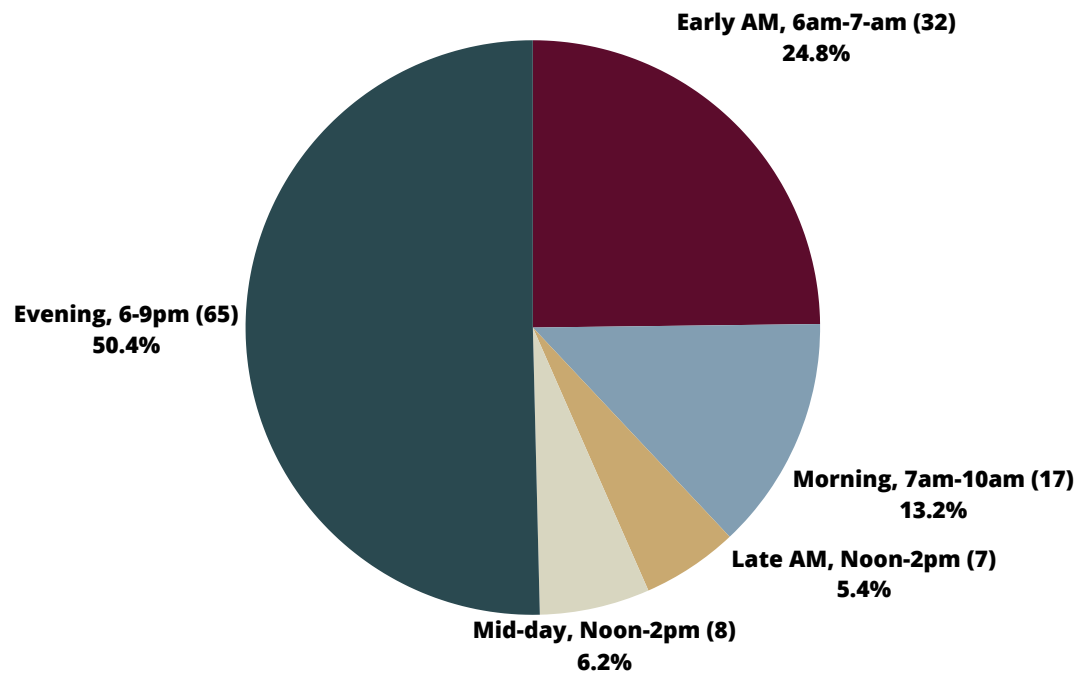
## Wednesday



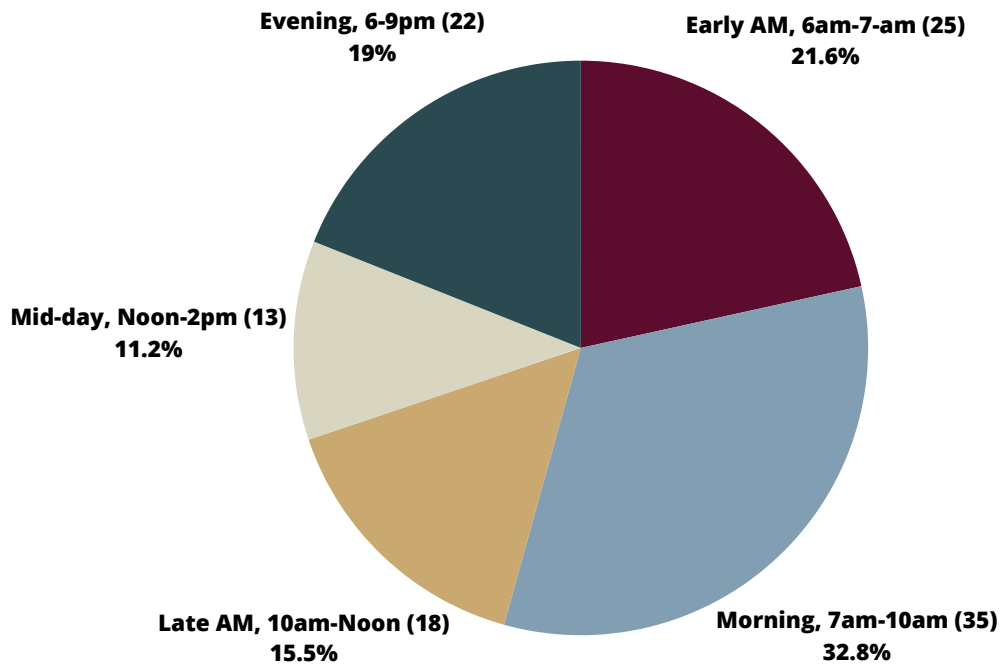
## Thursday



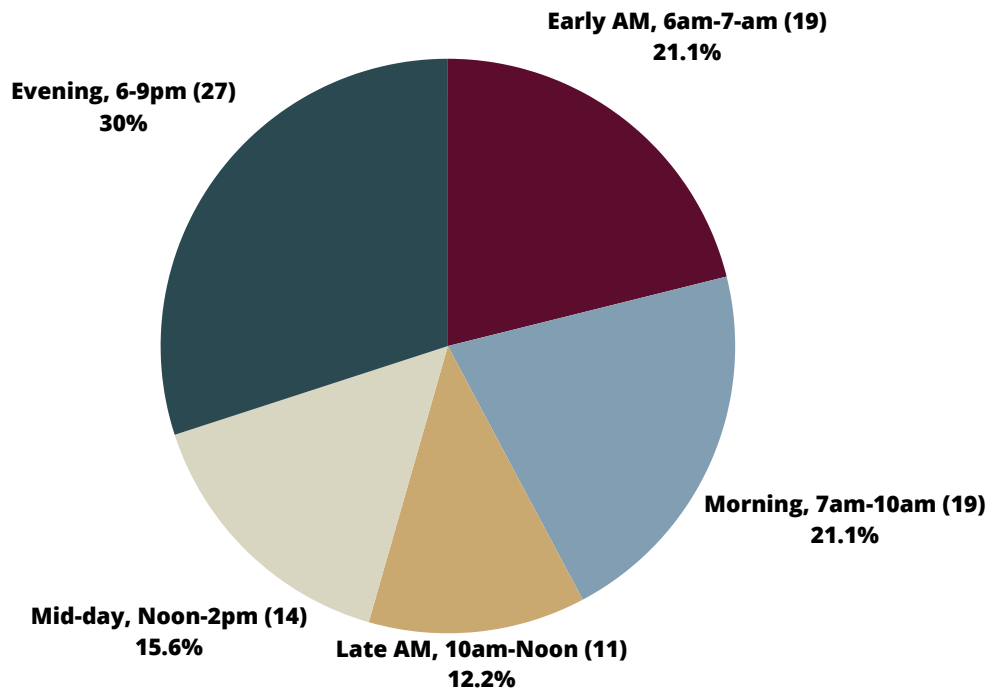
## Friday



## Saturday



## Sunday



### **#6)** Do you have any other suggestions or feedback regarding the Wellness Center?

#### 32 Responses

- Even a short class like 6-6:30 or 5:30-6 for commuters in the mornings would be awesome. Also if you had workout cards or something so I have some direction when I show up to use machines.
- Olympic lifting section.
- If I was to use the wellness center is there child care?
- I would like more stationary bikes as well as more leg machines.
- Late afternoon classes? 4-6 pm
- Would like classes between the 2 pm and 6 pm time frame. I have bad hip so low intensity options would be nice.
- A recumbent stepper (like nu-step) would be nice.
- It would be nice to have a mirror in the north east corner of the room so when you are on the treadmills you can see people coming and going thru the entrances. It's not problematic when it's the afternoon and there are unrelated groups of people coming and going. But, early morning or late at night, if you have ear phones in, you kind of worry about someone coming in unnoticed. It can be a little creepy!

- Would like to see the childcare room have more things for younger kids to do while parents workout. Has been the reason I haven't gotten a membership yet. Maybe some classes/equipment for kids with sensory issues/autism.
- I was a previous wellness center member. I loved Zumba classes. I would like to see more Zumba/dance type classes. I would also love to see a step class or something like that. The lack of group classes makes me sad. It would also be nice to have an "intro to lifting" type class. I also would love to see more/updated equipment.
- Visible improvement with the leadership - weight area is kept clean and organized, kids are less likely to be using equipment shirtless, and there is rec director presence/involvement.
- I would have purchased a membership, but when my kids were little, there was nothing for them to do while I worked out. I suggest adding a gymnasium, or an indoor basketball shooting area.
- Great Staff and great facility.
- Reinforcing the idea that people need to wipe down their equipment, specifically their sweaty benches when they're finished with it
- Would love to go if it fit my budget better.
- Modified classes for adults with disabilities
- I would love to see the weight benches updated. The padding in each is worn out, making heavy lifts dangerous. And many are torn. I'd also appreciate a new set of bumper plates. The collars in the set at the gym are loose around the rubber. The rubber is also quite hard, adding noise during deadlifts and cleans. Rogue makes a great set of bumper plates.
- Higher weights for dumbbells.
- Please focus on the age of the community and what is lacking at the center to meet their needs, safe fitness equipment, equipment that is easy for an aging population to use.
- -Need heavier dumbbells. Should have the availability from 5lbs up to 120lbs. - Reorganize or re arrange. Any more than 3 people in the weights area and it becomes cluttered and people are waiting for equipment. -Addition of a stairmill, not stair stepper would be a giant improvement and a welcomed upgrade for the multitude of first responders that live in Buhler and use the wellness center to stay fit for duty.
- Maybe a class at 5:15-5:30 am and more good exercise bikes. Thanks!
- weight lifting/fitness for seniors >65
- I would like to have a wider variety of kettlebells, and a single straight unbroken pull-up bar. Other than that I like the equipment and location.
- Keep up the good work! My three sons use the fitness equipment regularly. All my kids enjoy the pool in summer.
- Hip thrust machine.



- On the question that states, "What would you like to see Buhler Recreation focus on improving the most," I put "add/update equipment" only because it was the best option of the 3 provided. I'm really satisfied with what is there right now. If something needs updated, or replaced because it's worn out, you usually are really good about that.
- I wish you could talk Heather Schmidt from Inman into having a Fascinator class.
- Indoor pool for swim team and patron use.
- It would be really helpful if people would routinely put the equipment back where it goes. There's times when weights and bars are left out. Adding a smoothie bar would be fantastic!
- We love using the Wellness Center! It feels safe and clean, and easy to access.
- I would like the pool room to be warmer and the pool temperature slightly warmer for the winter.
- If you could add some heavier dumbbells and a peloton bike that would be amazing! Thanks!

# General Feedback

## 30 Responses

- I really love the kiosk with the video workouts!
- Lived here going on 2 years didn't know Buhler has so much going on at the rec center. It would be nice to have a flyer or a activity newsletter once a month to see what's new or what's going on at the center.
- Thank you staff. You're doing a great job
- Love the pickleball court. Adding lighting, and another court or having an indoor pickleball option would be supported by our family.
- If you add a new sport, you might consider putting that in the spring. Since there is already men's softball during the summer, and coed softball during the fall.
- Hold the same high standard of professionalism for hired officials as you do for the players.
- Been seeing some amazing new things! Keep it up!
- (The temperature in the back room is a bit too cool.) It's a very nice facility for a small town such as ours.
- Things have improved greatly over the last couple years! Keep it up!
- My son really enjoyed the culinary camp this summer! It was his favorite camp out of everything he did!
- Thank you for all you do.
- Posting rules on website for use and availability of indoor pool would be helpful.
- Getting a pec deck/rear delt machine would be amazing and a tricep push down machine would be awesome!!
- We have enjoyed all of the activities you have in place for the kids. Very kind staff and very engaging!
- Maybe have a beginners weight lifting course for students or adults so they can become more comfortable with lifting and have good form.
- I enjoy the space. Wish we had a few fans. Also the only thing that annoyed me is when the young high school kids come in late. They are loud and trying to get a rise out of people. I generally come late at night because of my work schedule. If we could get another set of dumbbells that would be great. Another cable machine that could handle more muscle groups. Considering the space available it isn't a bad setup by any means. Oh maybe another full set of resistance bands and a complete set of kettle balls. Thank you all for what you do here.
- Thanks for sending this out. It shows that someone is finally starting to care about what the community and its users want.
- I need to become active and would if classes were available to me in my age group. I feel intimidated by being in a class with young ones.

- I so appreciate the willingness to look at what we have and ask the public what they want moving forward. It shows excellent leadership to be willing to change or even just keep moving in the same direction with the confidence that the majority of patrons also want that. Thank you!
- Poker Tournament
- Thank you for everything you do, and for bouncing ideas off of me and letting me help brainstorm with you. The Buhler Rec and Wellness Center are honestly both a really impressive part of Buhler, in my opinion.
- Lights on the walking path would be great.
- Thanks for all your efforts!!
- A big thank you to staff for the direction you have taken the Rec and Wellness Center! You do a good job listening to the needs and wants of the community!
- An option that wasn't listed on the activity options for the adults, but that I'd love to see, would be some sort of organized volunteering to help meet needs in the community. I know that my mom and a bunch of other women her age would love an organized way to give back to the community (things like making door decorations for the Memory Care area at Sunshine Meadows, or making/sending cards to local veterans, or organizing a drive for the Food Pantry on Main Street, etc.)
- Thank you for the hard work on making Buhler recreation great and improving our community.
- Love to have more water aerobics including evenings indoor.
- More classes for people with disabilities (kids and adults).
- Improvements to the outdoor pool would be beneficial.
- Appropriate weight training machines for seniors.

# Highlights & Goals

## Highlights

### **Participation**

- 178 surveys were submitted.
  - 49% of participants lived in Buhler City Limits which is the taxing district for Buhler Recreation Commission.
  - 24% of participants have a Buhler Address but live outside of City limits.
  - 18% of participants live in Hutchinson but within the USD 313 district.
  - 9% of participants live in other communities.

### **Communication**

- The top 4 Communication preferences for receiving BRC information:
  - #1) Emails
  - #2) Facebook
  - #3) Website
  - #4) Activity Guides

### **Youth Programs**

- There were split opinions on whether families would be interested in BRC youth camps/classes during the school year.
  - (33% Not likely, 30% unsure, 38% likely)
- There were split opinions on whether families would be interested in BRC youth sports during the school year.
  - (50% are happy with youth sports opportunities as is, 50% would like to see BRC add more youth sports opportunities.)

### **Adult Sports**

- Majority of adults would not be interested in BRC adding more adults sports.
  - 56.5 % of adults are either not interested in adult sports or are happy with the opportunities as is. 43.5% would like Buhler Rec. to offer more.
  - Pickleball had the most interest.

### **Senior Programs**

- Majority of participants (56%) would like to see BRC add senior programs.
- The most popular program ideas were:
  - #1) Fitness classes
  - #2) Painting classes
  - #3) Gardening workshops

## **Wellness Center**

- Majority of Wellness Center users are either “satisfied” or “very satisfied” in every survey category.
  - The average rating was 4.3 out of 5.
- Majority of participants would like to see the Wellness Center focus on updating equipment.
  - 47% update equipment, 33% add classes, and 20% add personal trainers.
- Most popular new class ideas were Yoga and Zumba.
- Most popular class time slots were Mon-Thurs. 6pm-9pm.

## **Goals**

The BRC Board held a workshop on 12/14/23 to review survey results to create a 3 year goal plan (2024 - 2026). The goals are listed below in order of priority:

### **#1) Develop and implement a Wellness Center equipment replacement plan.**

- The Wellness Center is BRC’s largest revenue source and most users would like equipment upgrades to be the top priority.

### **#2) Improve Communications.**

- Website, marketing, registration software and rain out lines should be improved as program offerings expand.

### **#3) Improve existing baseball and softball (youth and adult) leagues.**

- Emphasize:
  - Umpire recruiting and training.
  - Helping parents understand youth sports collaborations.

### **#4) Add Senior Programs**

- Partnerships with Buhler Senior Center and Sunshine Meadows should be explored to better serve the aging population in Buhler.

### **#5) Add Fitness Classes**

- There is significant interest in Yoga, Zumba, and Intro to Weightlifting classes.