

2024 SURVEY SUMMARY

Regional District of East Kootenay

ELK VALLEY OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN



Official community plans are long-range planning policy documents that set community direction to guide future development. The Elk Valley Official Community Plan will guide growth and change over the next 15 to 20 years. The process will focus on developing policies that are reflective of current community perspectives. A timeframe of 18-24 months is planned for the OCP planning process, inclusive of all community engagement, policy development and refinement, and the approval process.

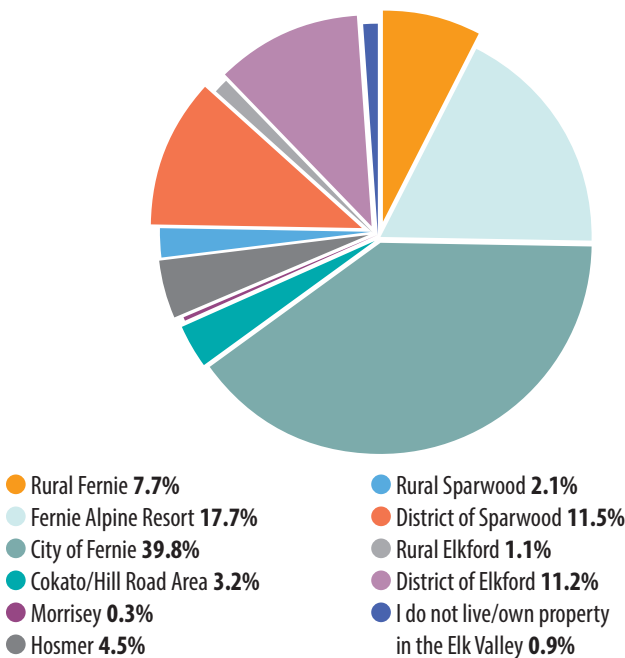
Survey summary

An initial survey for residents was open from June 12 through August 31, 2024 garnering 628 contributions. The comments and feedback received through the survey have been compiled in this document.

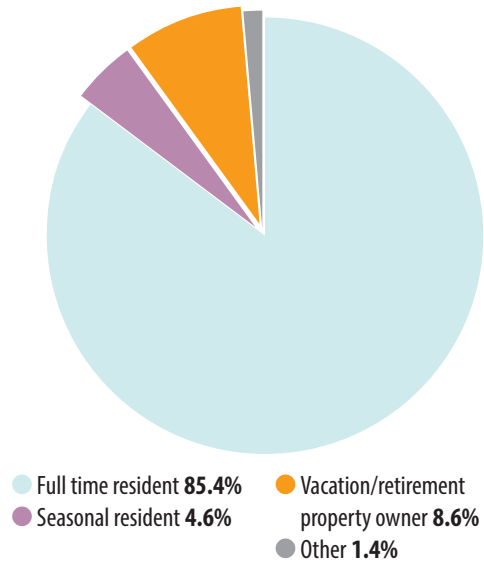
In what age range are you?



Where in the Elk Valley is your home/property located?



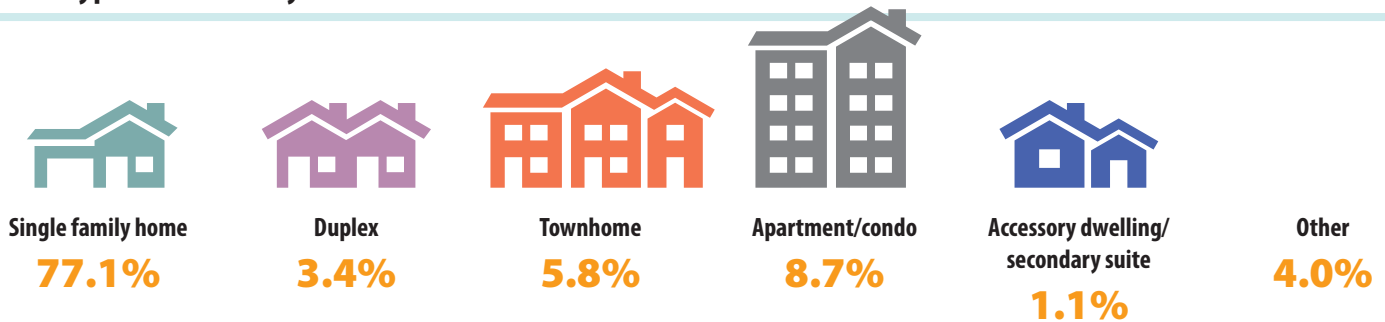
Are you a permanent resident of the Elk Valley?



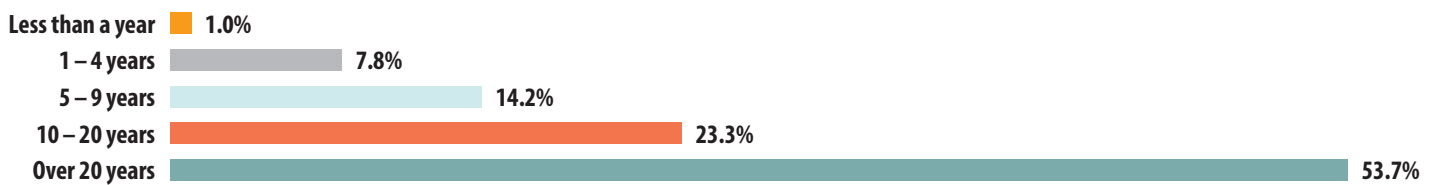
Within the Elk Valley, do you own or rent your home?



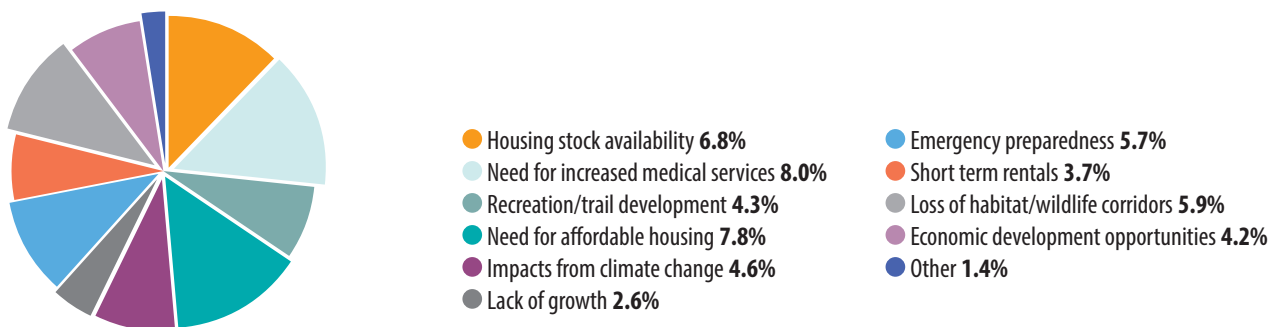
What type of home do you reside in/own?



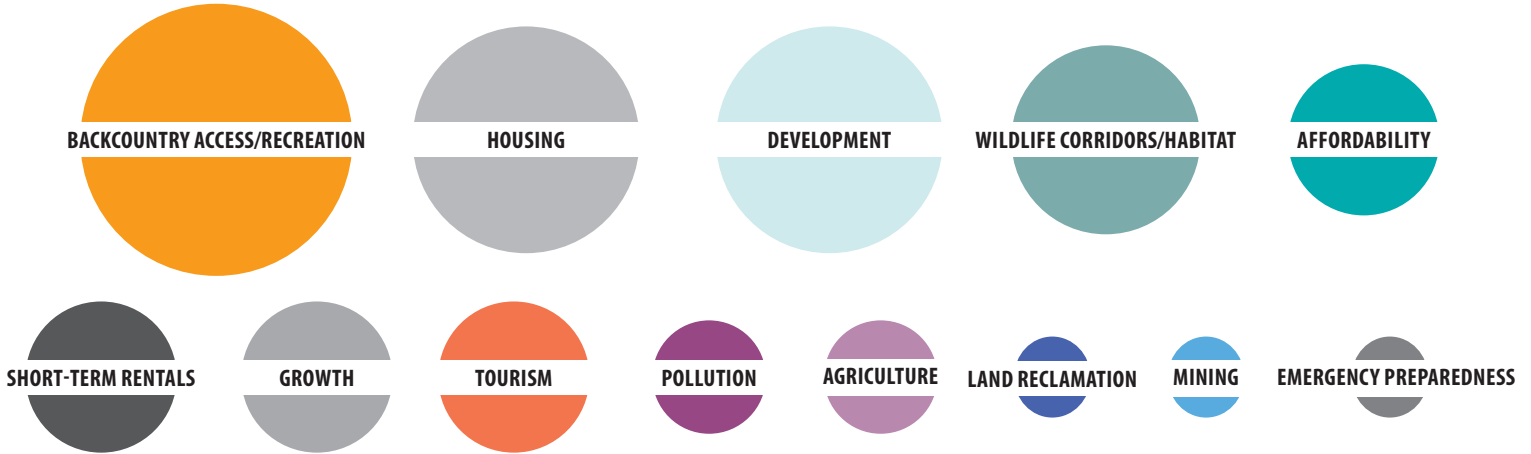
How long have you lived, recreated, visited or worked in the Elk Valley?



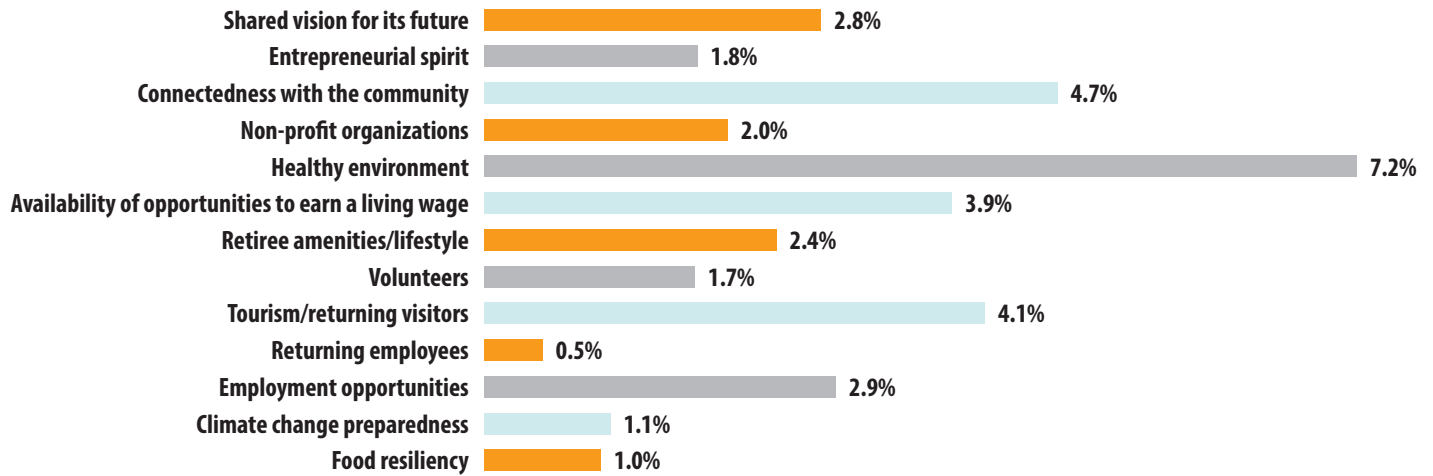
What challenges do you foresee affecting the community the most in the next 10 years?



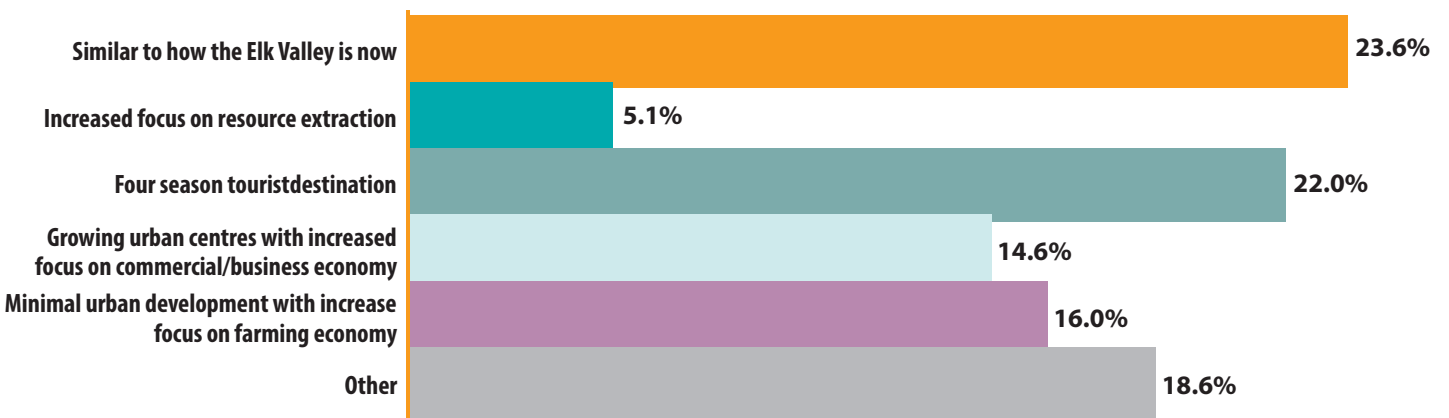
Please list the three most important land use issues in the Elk Valley.

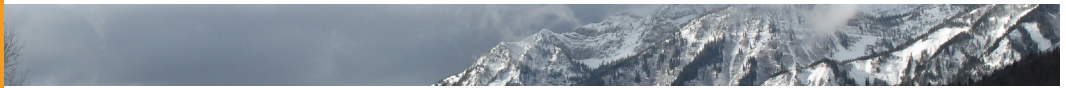


What are the top three strengths of the Elk Valley that can be built on?

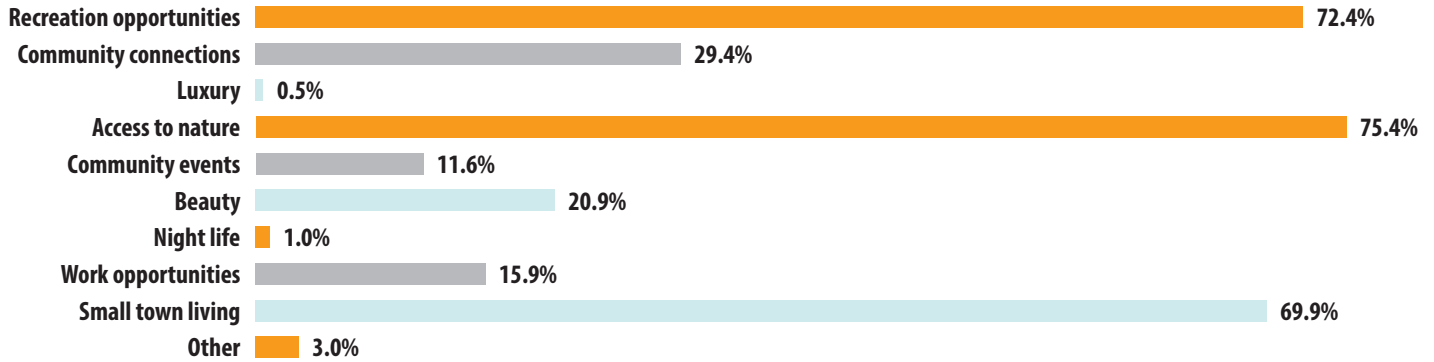


Please select which phrase best describes your vision of the Elk Valley in the future.





What do you value most about living/residing/working in the Elk Valley (Choose 3 options)?



What kind of amenities or services would make the Elk Valley a more attractive or desirable place to live?



- More work opportunities **8.6%**
- Preservation of environment **30.8%**
- Local food options **9.6%**
- Wider variety of businesses **14.5%**
- Increased options for active transportation **10.7%**
- Trail system connecting Elk Valley to Cranbrook and beyond **4.8%**
- Increased education opportunities **5.4%**
- Other **15.8%**

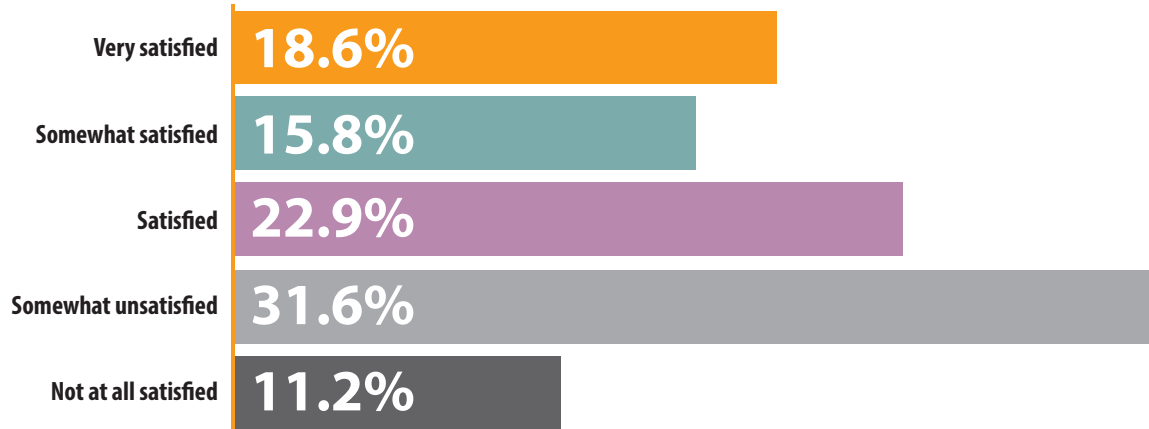
Are there heritage or cultural resources of the Elk Valley that you would like to see protected?

- HERITAGE BUILDINGS**
- MINING HISTORY**
- NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**
- INDIGENOUS CONCERNS**
- LIBRARIES/MUSEUMS**
- THE ARTS**
- DOWNTOWN FERNIE**
- THE AMMONITE**

Are there cultural or recreational programs or facilities that you would like to see in the Elk Valley?

- INDOOR MULTI SPORT FACILITY** • ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION TRAIL SYSTEMS • INDIGENOUS CULTURAL EDUCATION • **MUSICAL VENUES** • REC COMPLEX • CROSS-COUNTRY SKI TRAILS • **COMMUNITY CENTRE** • HOCKEY RINKS • CONVENTION CENTRE • **MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS** • INDOOR CLIMBING • SNOWMOBILE CLUB • **RIVER ACCESS** • YOUTH PROGRAMMING • DOG PARKS • **SENIORS PROGRAMMING**

How sufficient do you find the fire protection services available to you?



What actions would best help better protect your community from wildfire?

PERIMETER CORRIDOR • FIRESMART™ COMMUNITIES • CONTROLLED BURNS • INCREASED ACCESS/EGRESS • CLEAN-UP SLASH PILES • INCREASED ENFORCEMENT OF BANS • FOREST MANAGEMENT • INCREASED EDUCATION • ELK VALLEY COORDINATED FIRE PLAN • SELECTIVE LOGGING • DEADFALL CLEARING • FIREHALL UPGRADES

Do you find the wildlife corridor protection policies of the RDEK sufficient?





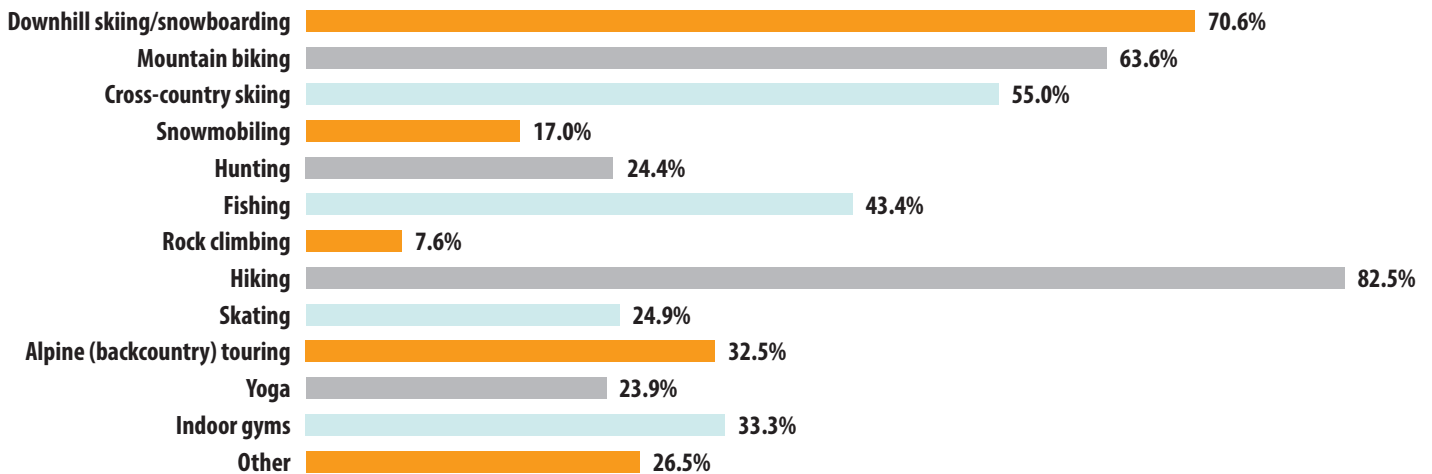
Are there specific policies or areas of concern that you believe would be most beneficial for wildlife corridor protection?

LESS DEVELOPMENT IN NATURAL AREAS • CONTINUOUS CONNECTED CORRIDORS • LESS LOW DENSITY BUILDING • ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING BYLAWS • RIVER REGULATION • WILDLIFE MONITORING • ANIMAL PASSAGES OVER/UNDER ROADS • RESTRICT TRAILS • OUTLINE CORRIDORS ON MAPS • LISTEN TO THE EXPERTS • MORE FENCING • BACKCOUNTRY USE PERMITS • STOP CHANGING ZONING

Do you find the riparian (river bank/wetland) area protection policies of the RDEK sufficient?



What recreation activities do you currently enjoy in the Elk Valley?



Are there specific areas of the Elk Valley where recreation or trail network development would be most beneficial?

- Fernie to Fernie Alpine Resort
- Valley trail connecting Sparwood – Elko
- Hwy 3 shoulder
- Dicken/Cokato Roads
- In towns
- Ski hill neighbourhoods
- Focus on existing infrastructure
- On Fernie Alpine Resort
- Fernie Provincial Park and Ridgmont
- Galloway Lands
- BC Hydro land
- Connecting communities
- Transcanada Trail
- Morissey/Coal Creek drainages
- Elkford to Sparwood
- Lower Elk Valley Road
- Elko area
- Elk Valley to Cranbrook

Please mention any other programs, services, projects, or initiatives you believe would benefit the Elk Valley.

- Regular bus service to Cranbrook/Alberta
- Housing for seasonal workers
- Improved fire safety
- Hiking trail development
- Access to healthcare
- River access
- Food affordability
- Convention centre
- Ski hill transportation
- Day care facilities
- Indoor multi-use rec centre
- Affordable housing
- Seniors programming
- Bear aware practices
- Youth programming
- Wildlife corridors
- Short-term rentals enforcement
- Riparian restoration
- Disability advocacy
- Protect recreational land access
- Arts funding
- Trail development
- Indoor recreation
- Dog parks
- Mental health resources
- Economic development
- Support small businesses

What would help a shift away from car usage in the Elk Valley?



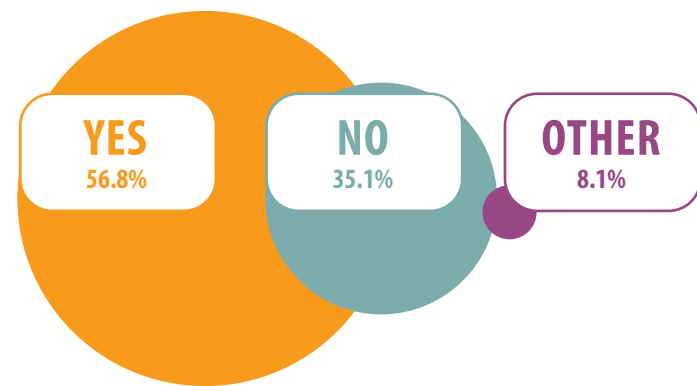
Is there sufficient affordable employee rental accommodation in the Elk Valley?



How important is it to have affordable employee rental accommodation in the Elk Valley?



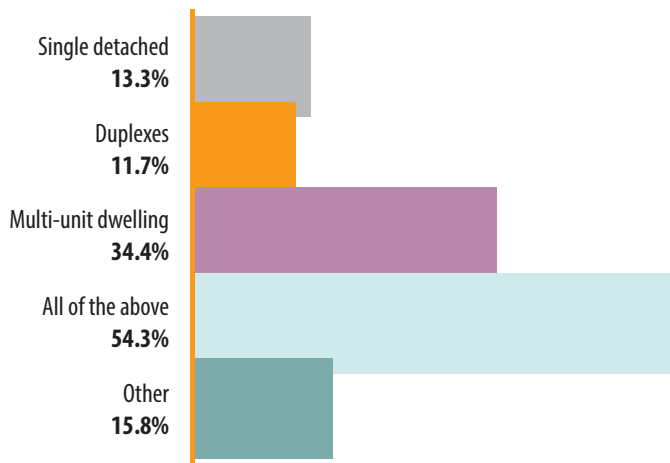
Should short-term rentals (STRs) be restricted to certain neighbourhoods, zones, or types of buildings?



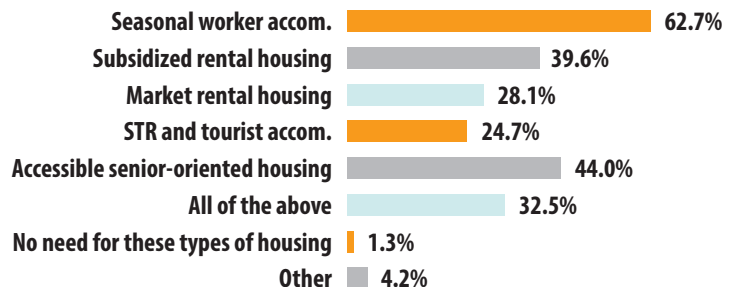
Which type of neighbourhoods should short-term rentals be restricted to?



What types of buildings should allow short-term rentals?



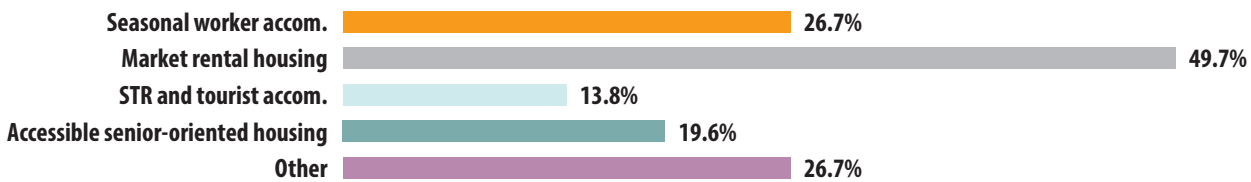
Are there specific types of rental housing that would benefit the Elk Valley?



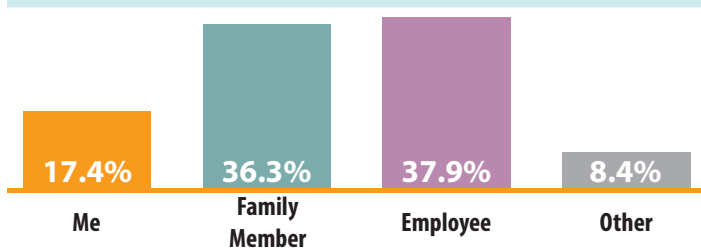
Do you have a need for housing in the Elk Valley either for yourself, your family, or your employees?



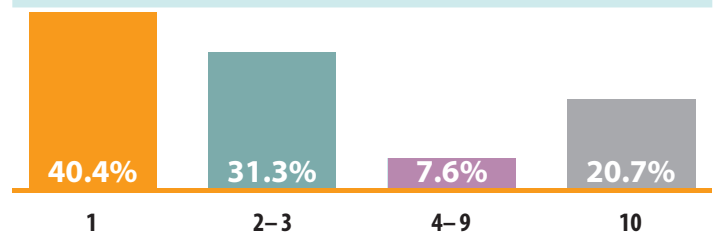
What type(s) of housing do you need?



Who needs this housing?



How many units are needed?

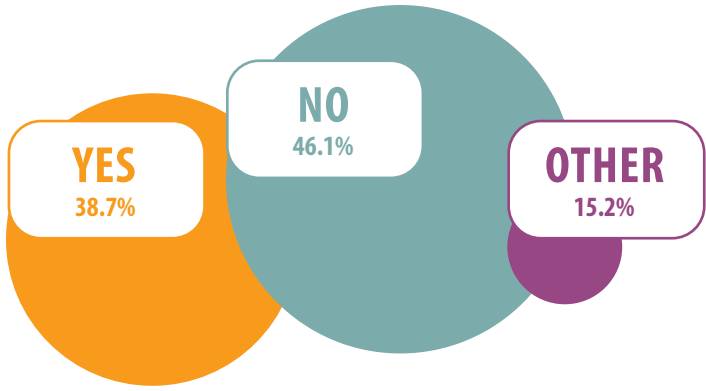


How would you like to see the needed housing built in the community?

WHERE NEEDED • STAFF HOUSING • RENTAL HOUSING • SMALLER UNITS • SENIORS HOUSING • AFFORDABLE HOMES • GOVERNMENT BUILT/OWNED • HIGH DENSITY • MIXED HOUSING NEIGHBOURHOODS • APARTMENTS • GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS • RENOVATE/EXPAND EXISTING BUILDINGS • CONDOS • COMMUNITY CENTRED • SINGLE FAMILY • CARBON NEUTRAL



Is there a need for more commercial land in the RDEK?

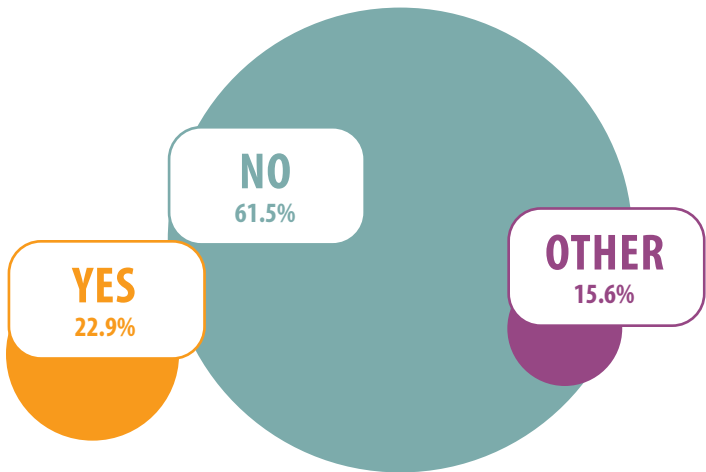


What is more commercial land needed for? And where?

- SMALL BUSINESSES
- RETAIL
- RESTAURANTS
- INCREASE TAX BASE
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- CONVENTION CENTRE
- RECREATION
- ACCOMODATION
- ECO TOURISM
- BIG BOX STORES
- OFFICE SPACE
- STUDIOS/WORKSHOPS

- FERNIE
- SPARWOOD
- ALONG THE HIGHWAY
- ELKFORD
- EAST OF FERNIE
- FERNIE ALPINE RESORT
- HOSMER

Is there a need for more industrial land in the RDEK?



What is more industrial land needed for? And where?

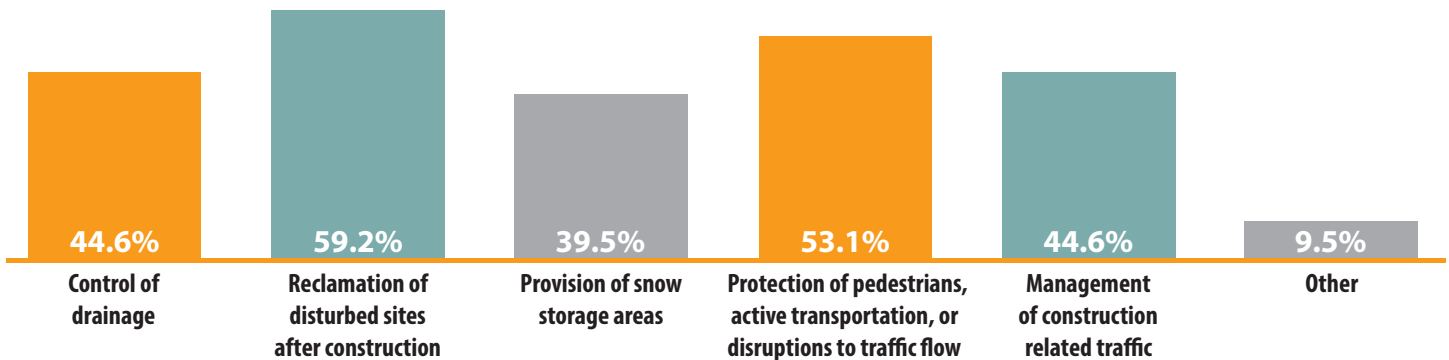
- BUSINESSES
- FACTORIES
- MINE SUPPLIERS
- WAREHOUSES
- STORAGE
- FOOD SECURITY
- MANUFACTURING
- NEW MINES
- BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
- COMMUNITY GROWTH

- FERNIE
- ALONG THE HIGHWAY
- SPARWOOD
- ELKFORD
- COAL CREEK

Are there specific neighborhoods or areas, that are currently within the RDEK that you feel should be considered for future annexation or municipal boundary changes for Fernie, Sparwood or Elkford?

- Fernie Alpine Resort
- Galloway Lands
- Dicken Road
- Cokato Road
- Anderson Road
- Hosmer
- Morrisey
- Lower Elk Valley Road
- Olsen
- Savorie Subdivision
- South of Elkford

Do you have any concerns regarding issues arising from construction sites?



For future development in the Elk Valley, please indicate how important these development control issues are to you.

