Community Recreation Participation Trends

Town of Gravelbourg | Historical registrations, 2017–2026

This report looks at how our local sports and recreation programs have changed over the years. It includes programs run by community groups and, starting in 2025, programs offered by the Town at the Aquaplex. These are registration numbers, not a count of individual people.

Our recreation picture

For a town of fewer than 1,000 people, there is a lot happening in recreation! In 2026, we counted 537 registrations across local sports groups and Town programs. That includes 344 registrations with community groups and 193 in Town-led programs

Community groups recorded 175 registrations in 2017 and 344 in 2026. That is a big change over time, although the groups included in the numbers have not always been the same. The figures help show how much activity our volunteers, clubs and facilities support.

And these numbers only tell part of the story! They don't include the many coaches, volunteers, officials, spectators and families who also play a big part in keeping recreation alive in our community.

How registrations have changed

Reporting year	Organization-led	Town-led	Combined total
2017	175	Not recorded	175
2021	188	Not recorded	188
2023	298	Not recorded	298
2025	336	197	533
2026	344	193	537

The big jump between 2023 and 2025 does not mean participation suddenly doubled. Starting in 2025, we began including Town-run Aquaplex programs too. Looking just at community groups, registrations went from 298 in 2023 to 336 in 2025. This gives us a better comparison, though the programs offered have changed over the years.

A look at our local groups

Organization / group	2017	2021	2023	2025	2026
Skating Club	33	23	23	29	31
Minor Hockey	73	66	65	77	91
Senior Hockey	19	24	26	28	28
Women's Rec Hockey	18	—	—	—	—
Rec Hockey	—	—	37	36	16
Curling Club	32	—	30	43	51
Minor Ball	—	75	100	110	113
Soccer Club	—	—	—	—	14
Swim Club	Not reported	Not reported	17	13	0

A dash means we did not have a number reported for that year. It does not necessarily mean the group was inactive.315

What stands out

- Minor Hockey: From 73 registrations in 2017 to 91 in 2026. That is 14 more than in 2025.
- Minor Ball: From 75 registrations in 2021 to 113 in 2026. That is 38 more young ball players registered than in 2021.
- Skating Club: From 33 registrations in 2017 to 23 in 2021 and 2023, then back up to 31 in 2026.
- Senior Hockey: From 19 registrations in 2017 to 28 in 2025, holding steady at 28 in 2026.
- Rec Hockey: Registrations went from 36 in 2025 to 16 in 2026. We used to have two rec teams playing regularly; now there is one. That explains much of the change.
- Curling Club: 43 registrations in 2025 and 51 in 2026, an increase of eight.
- Soccer Club: A new addition to the numbers in 2026, with 14 registrations.
- Swim Club: 17 registrations in 2023 and 13 in 2025. The club was unable to run in 2026 because there were not enough registrations or trained coaches.

Why we started counting Town programs in 2025

For years, these numbers mainly came from our local sports clubs. But the Town also runs swimming lessons and other programs at the Aquaplex, and those participants were not showing up in the overall picture. In 2025, we started counting Town-led programs as well. Swim Fit joined the list in 2026.

Town-led program	2025	2026	Change
Swim lessons	134	119	−15
Advanced swim courses	63	64	+1
Swim Fit	—	10	+10 (new)
TOTAL	197	193	−4

In 2026, Town-led programs made up 193 of our 537 registrations, or 36%. Including them gives a much better idea of how many recreation opportunities are being used in our community.

Recreation brings our region together

2026 residency	Registrations	Share
Town of Gravelbourg	222	41%
RM No. 104	136	25%
Other RMs and communities	179	34%
TOTAL	537	100% (rounded)

Our recreation programs reach well beyond town limits! In 2026, 315 registrations (59%) came from outside Gravelbourg, including 136 from RM No. 104 and 179 from other surrounding RMs and communities. Our rink, pool and local programs play an important role in bringing people together, not just from Gravelbourg, but from across the surrounding area.

A few things to keep in mind

- These are registrations, not unique people. Someone who plays more than one sport or signs up for more than one program may be counted more than once.
- Blank spaces in earlier years mean a number was not reported. They do not necessarily mean a program did not run.
- Because we started including Town-led programs in 2025, totals from before 2025 cannot be compared directly with the newer totals.
- Numbers can also change when teams combine, programs cannot run, or different information is collected from year to year.

Looking Ahead
More Than Just Recreation!

For a community of fewer than 1,000 people, what Gravelbourg has to offer is something to be proud of! Our recreation facilities, local sports organizations, dedicated volunteers and community leaders have helped make Gravelbourg a **regional hub for recreation**, welcoming participants and families from well beyond our town limits.

And the impact goes far beyond the rink, pool, ball diamonds and playing fields! Every game, tournament, swimming lesson and community event brings people together. It also brings visitors into our community. People who stop for fuel, grab a meal, shop at local businesses and support our local economy. **Recreation doesn't just benefit those participating; it benefits our entire community!**

We are incredibly fortunate to have the facilities we do, but even more fortunate to have the people behind them. From volunteer coaches and board members to organizers, officials, parents and community supporters, it takes a tremendous amount of dedication to keep these opportunities available, especially in a small town.

Having 59% of our 2026 registrations come from outside town limits says a lot about Gravelbourg's regional reach. Families from surrounding RMs and communities continue to choose Gravelbourg for their recreation opportunities. That is something worth recognizing, celebrating and continuing to build on!

These statistics are about much more than counting registrations. They help show the value of our facilities, the strength of our local organizations and the important role recreation plays in keeping Gravelbourg active, welcoming and thriving. They also give us valuable information when planning future improvements, building partnerships and applying for funding.

For a small town, we have a BIG recreation community and that is something we should never take for granted!