Open Space and Recreation Survey Forum

November 15, 2023

Mentimeter

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Leyden	NO	Expired Plan
Lincoln	YES	Apr-24
Littleton	YES	Nov-23
Longmeadow	YES	Jan-28
Lowell	YES	Feb-26
Ludlow	NO	Expired Plan
Lunenburg	YES	Jun-26
Lynn	YES	Oct-23
Lynnfield	YES	Jan-28
Malden	YES	Dec-24
Manchester	YES	Nov-28
Mansfield	YES	Dec-23
Marblehead	NO	Expired Plan
Marion	NO	Expired Plan
Marlborough	NO	Expired Plan
Marshfield	YES	Nov-24
Mashpee	NO	Expired Plan
Mattapoisett	YES	Apr-29
Maynard	YES	Nov-22
Medfield	YES	Nov-22
Medford	YES	May-26
Medway	YES	Oct-25
Melrose	NO	Expired Plan
Mendon	NO	Expired Plan
Merrimac	NO	Expired Plan
Methuen	YES	Dec-28
Middleborough	YES	Nov-22
Middlefield	NO	Expired Plan
Middleton	NO	Expired Plan
Milford	NO	Expired Plan
Millbury	YES	Dec-27
Millis	YES	Jul-26
Millville	YES	Jul-25
Milton	NO	Expired Plan
Monroe	NO	Expired Plan
Monson	YES	Apr-29
Montague	YES	Dec-24
Monterey	NO	Expired Plan
Montgomery	NO	Expired Plan
Mount Washington	NO	Expired Plan
Nahant	YES	May-29
Nantucket	NO	Expired Plan
Natick	YES	Oct-27
Needham	NO	Expired Plan
New Ashford	NO	Expired Plan
New Bedford	YES	Feb-28
New Braintree	YES	Dec-25
New Marlborough	YES	Apr-24
New Salem	NO	Expired Plan
Newbury	NO	Expired Plan
Newburyport	YES	Dec-27
Newton	YES	Jul-27
Norfolk	YES	Feb-24

Open Space and Recreation Plans are...

- a tool communities use to plan for conservation and recreation needs.
- make the community eligible for state grant funding.
- reviewed and approved by the Division of Conservation Services.
- relevant for 7 years and then require updating.

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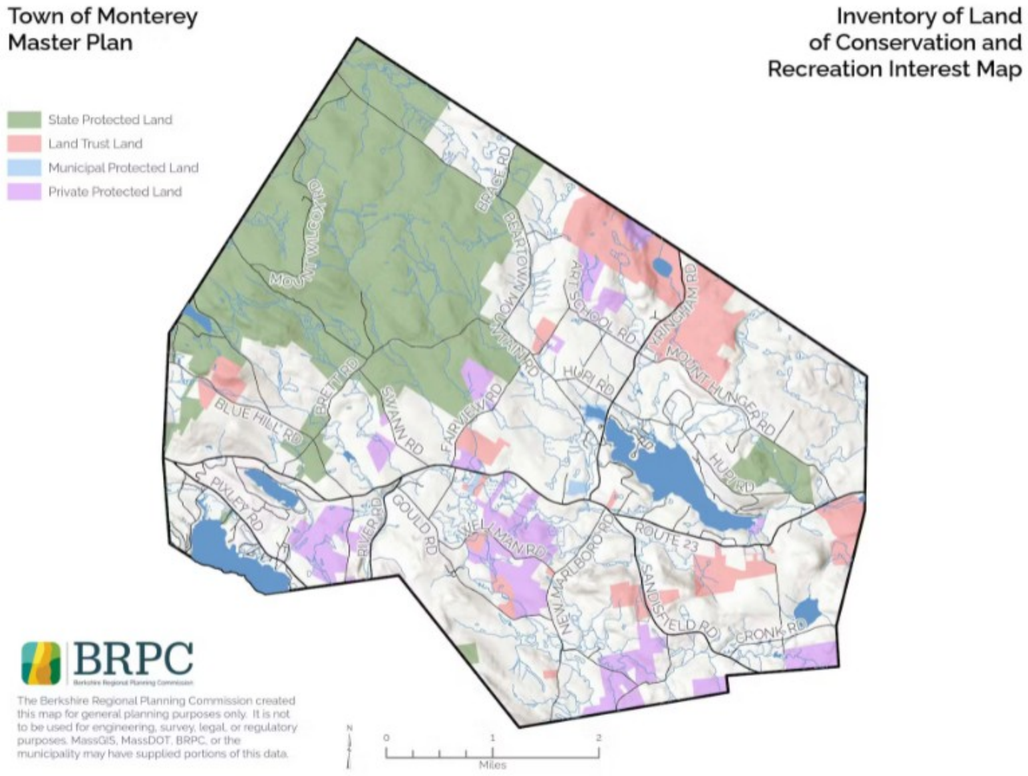

What do we mean by open-space?

- Any land or area that...
- (1) conserve and enhance natural or scenic resources
- (2) protect streams or water supply
- (3) promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches, or tidal marshes
- (4) enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations, or sanctuaries
- (5) enhance recreation opportunities

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Open Spaces include:

- Lakes and Rivers
- State Parks
- Preserves and Land Trusts
- Town Lands- parks, cemeteries, beaches
- Farms
- Forests and wetlands
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Private land in Conservation Restriction or tax abatement program

Open Spaces in Monterey include:

- Lake Garfield, Lake Buel, other waterbodies.
- Beartown State Forest
- Greene Park
- Bidwell Park (across from Greene Park)
- Monterey Town Beach
- Community Center Grounds
- Bob's Trail, Steadman Pond, Diane's Trail
- Appalachian Trail
- Bidwell House Grounds/Trails
- Brewer's Pond Trail
- Local Farms

Timeline of the Process:

- Use results of public forum, committee feedback, Master Plan document to develop an online survey (December, 2023).
- Collect survey responses from community regarding Open Spaces in town (January/February 2024.)
- Use survey feedback to draft additional open space goals in town (March/April 2024.)
- Present findings to community (April/May 2024)
- Present Draft document for community review (mid-May.)
- Submit Draft document for state review (June 30, 2024)

Monterey residents value...

Nature, wildlife, scenic beauty.
Peace and quiet.
Small-town atmosphere, people, and community.
They want to see the town preserve its natural beauty and rural nature.
Having a current Open Space and Recreation Plan registered with the state makes the town eligible for grant funding, especially PARC's Grant (Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities.)

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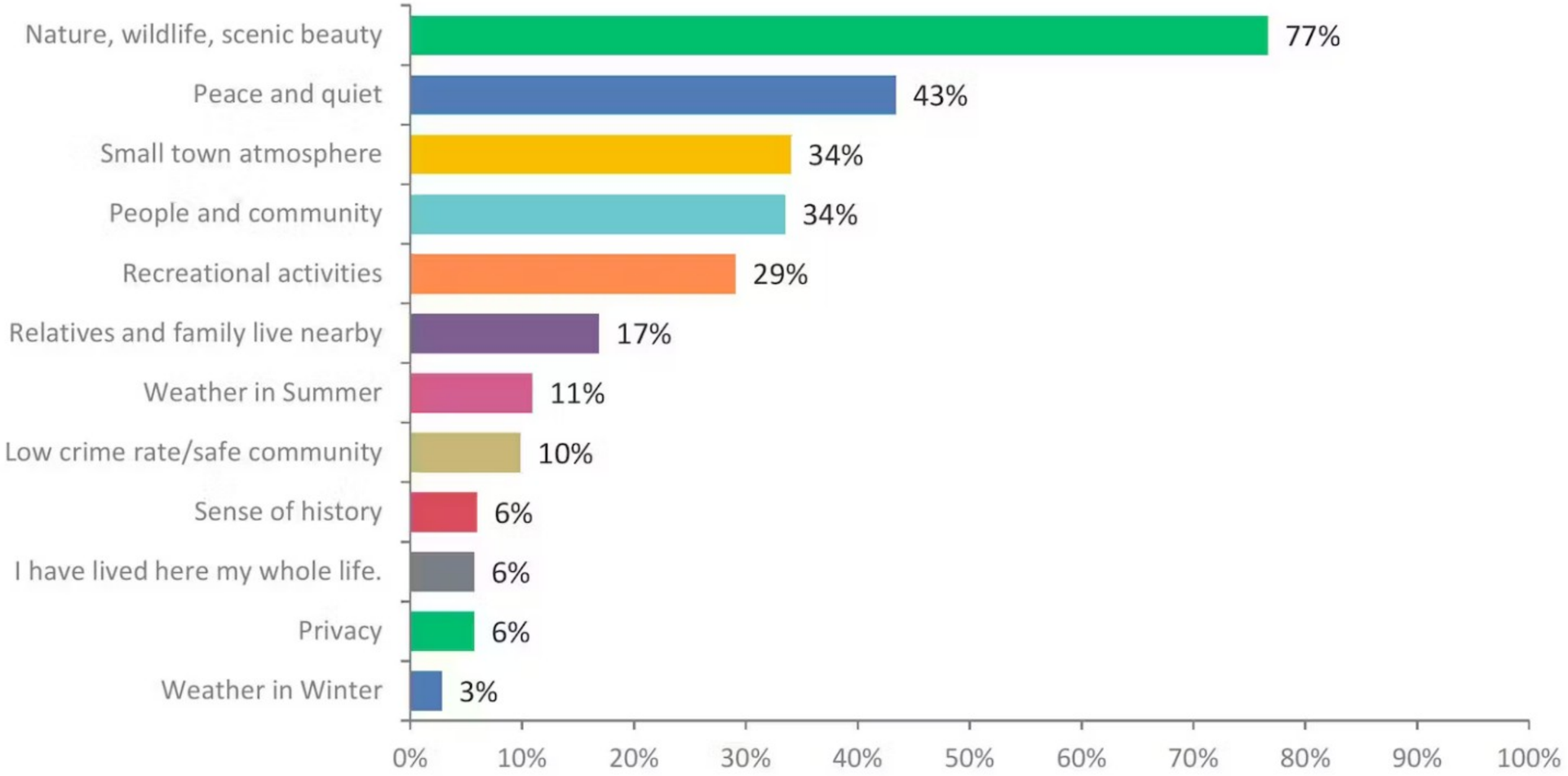
Q1: What are the three top reasons that you choose to live in Monterey?

Answered: 375 Skipped: 10



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Q2: What would you like to see for the town of Monterey for the next 20 years (Choose up to 5)?

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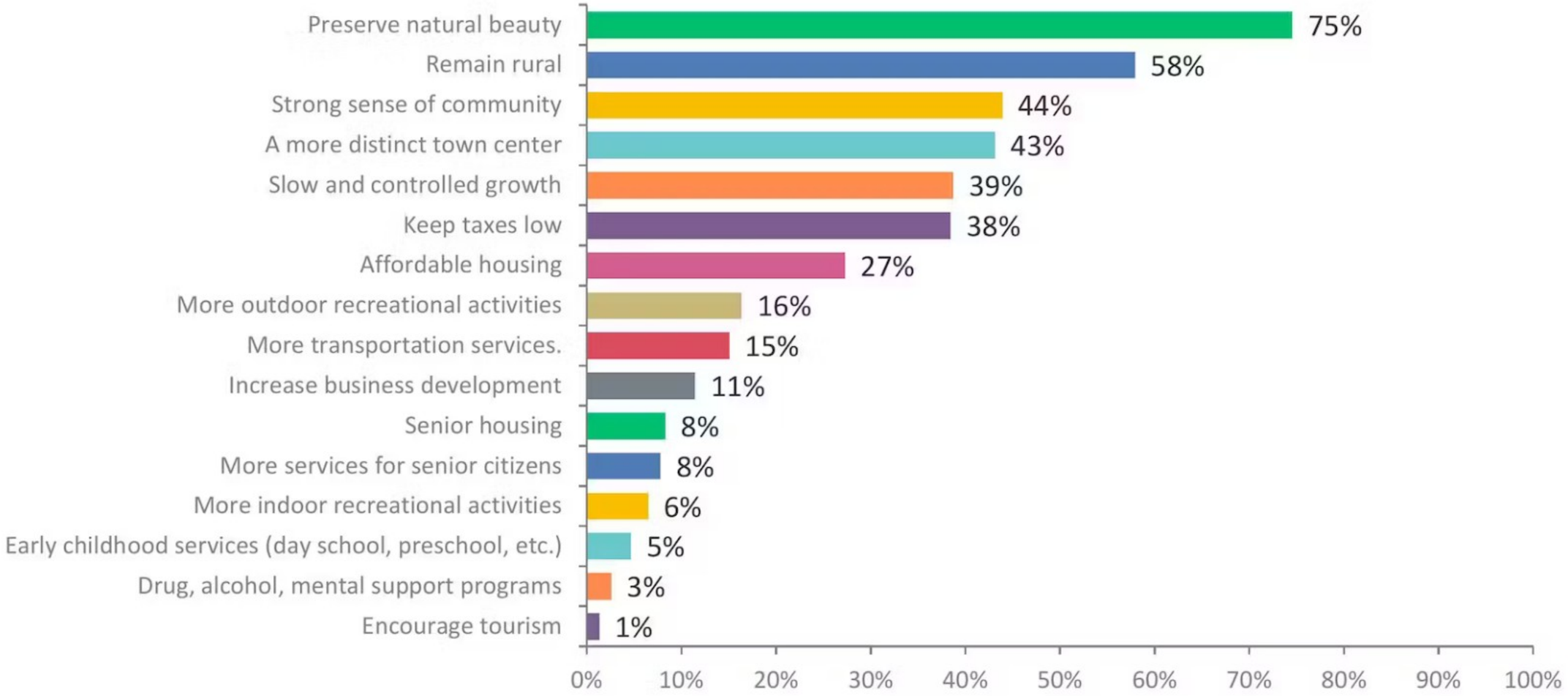
Answered: 383 Skipped: 2



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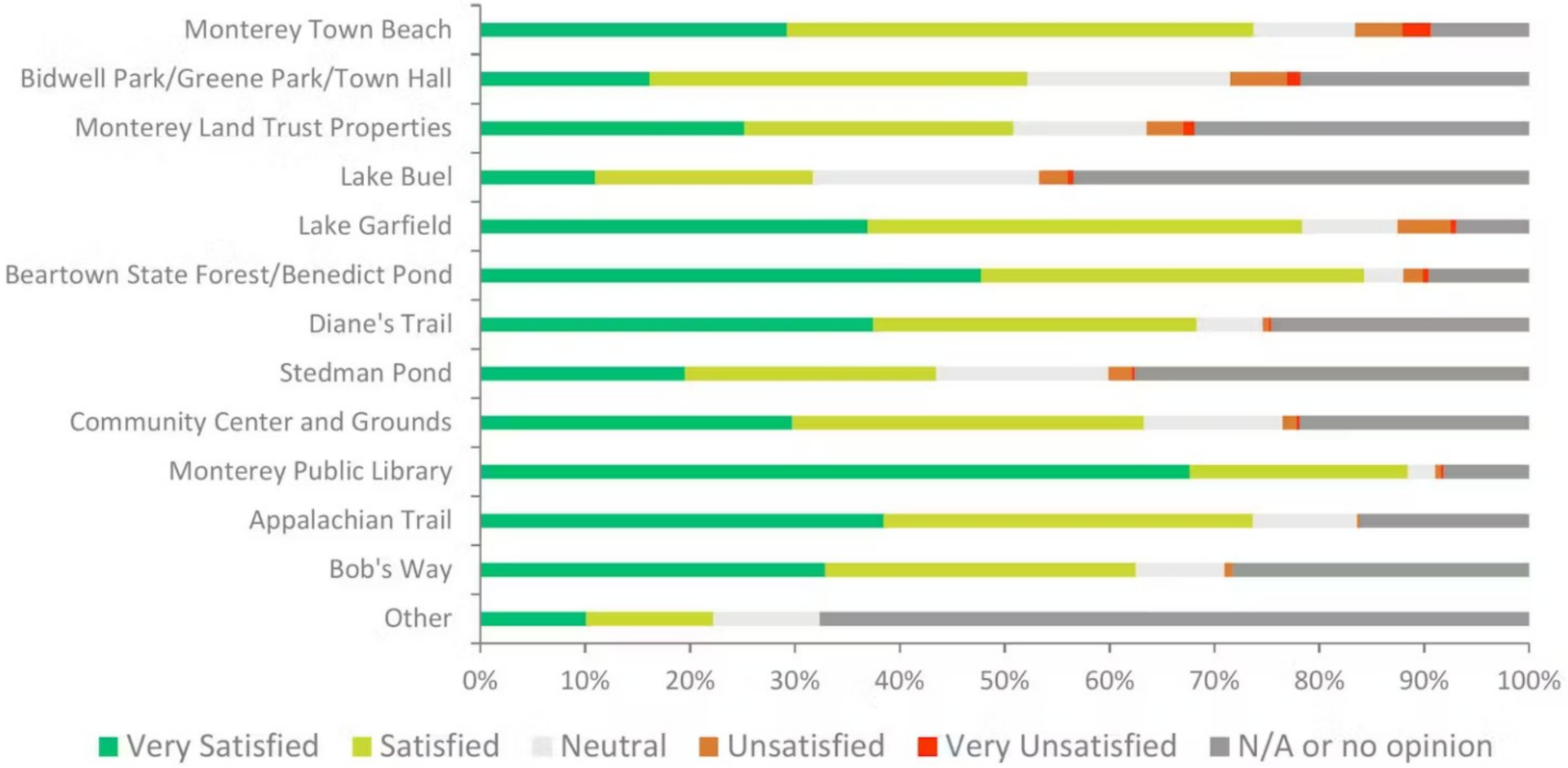
Q4: How satisfied are you with the following recreation areas in Monterey?

Answered: 381 Skipped: 4



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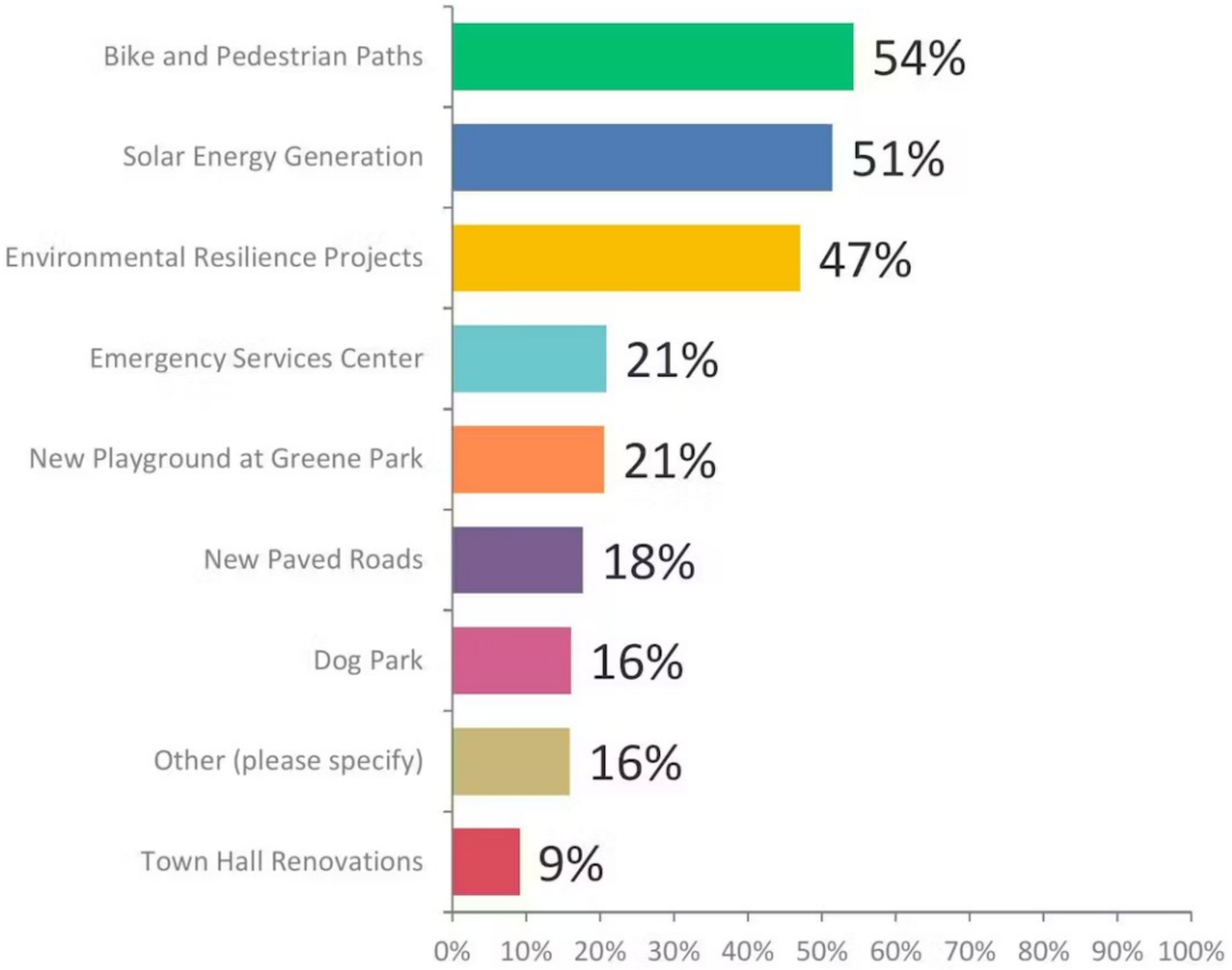
Q6: What infrastructure project or improvement do you think should be a priority in Monterey (Choose 3)?

Answered: 385 Skipped: 0



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Q10: If the town was to develop land behind Town Hall/ on Fox Hill, what use would benefit the town the most? (Rank your choices)

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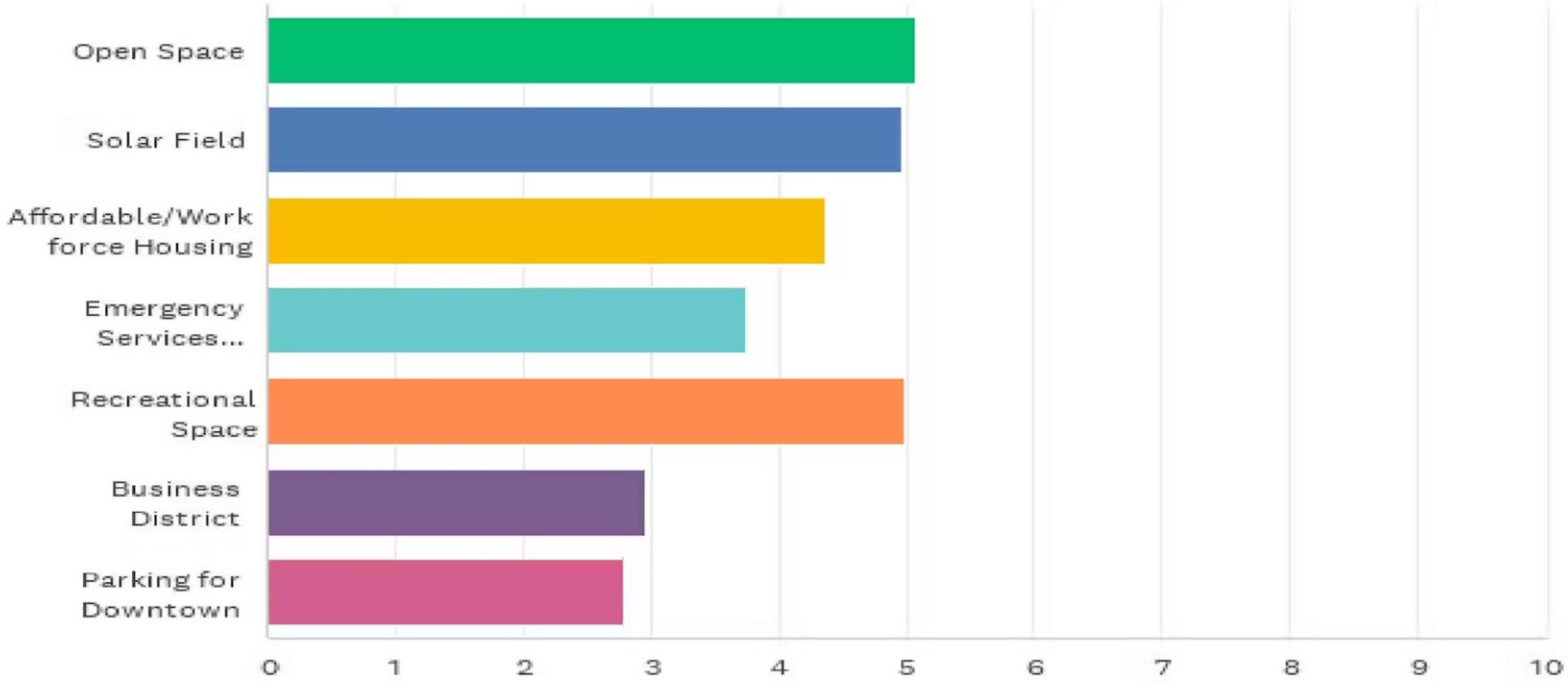
Answered: 373 Skipped: 12



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Q15: Would you support making Monterey a "Dark Sky" community? (This bylaw would limit light pollution by requiring directed/screened lighting in building codes.)

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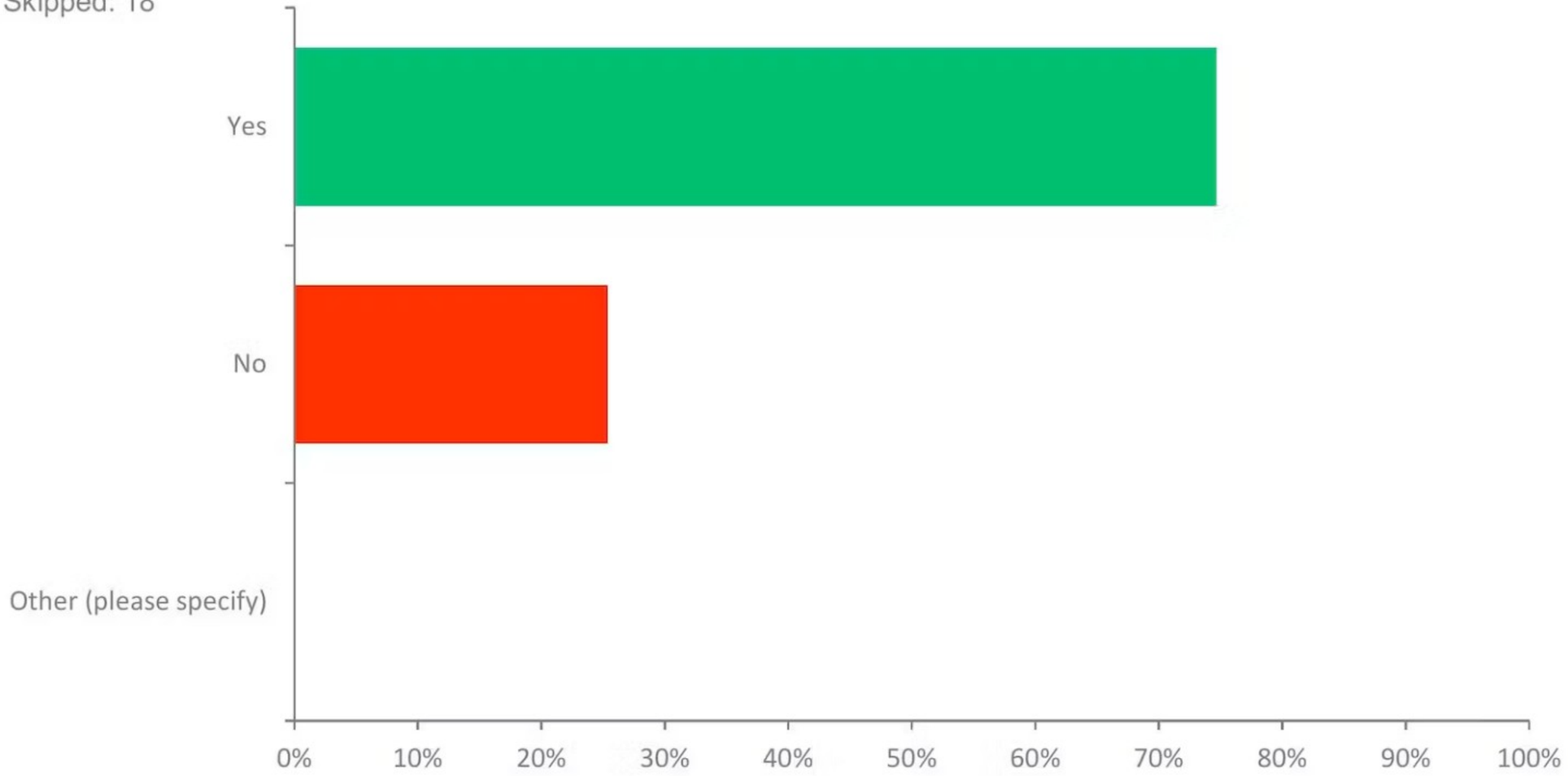
Answered: 367 Skipped: 18



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The Community Preservation Act

Allows communities to establish a dedicated fund for:

Open Space

Historic Preservation

Affordable Housing

Basics of the Act

- Local adoption needed
- Establishes up to a 3% surcharge on local property taxes
- Requires 10% of monies to be spent on each of the 3 categories
- Allows flexibility for the remaining 70% in each of the 3 categories
- Establishes a Community Preservation Committee

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Available CPA Exemptions

- Property owned and occupied by a person who qualifies for low income housing or low or moderate income senior housing
- Commercial and industrial properties in cities or towns with classified tax rates
- $100,000 of the value of each taxable parcel of residential real property

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What does that mean for the taxpayer?

Assessed Housing Value	$200,000		
* With $100,000 exemption	$100,000		
Net House Value Surcharged	$100,000		
Municipal Tax Rate	$16.00		
Amount Subject to Surcharge	$1,600		
CPA Surcharge	.03%	.02	.01
Amount paid toward CP Fund	$48	$32	$16

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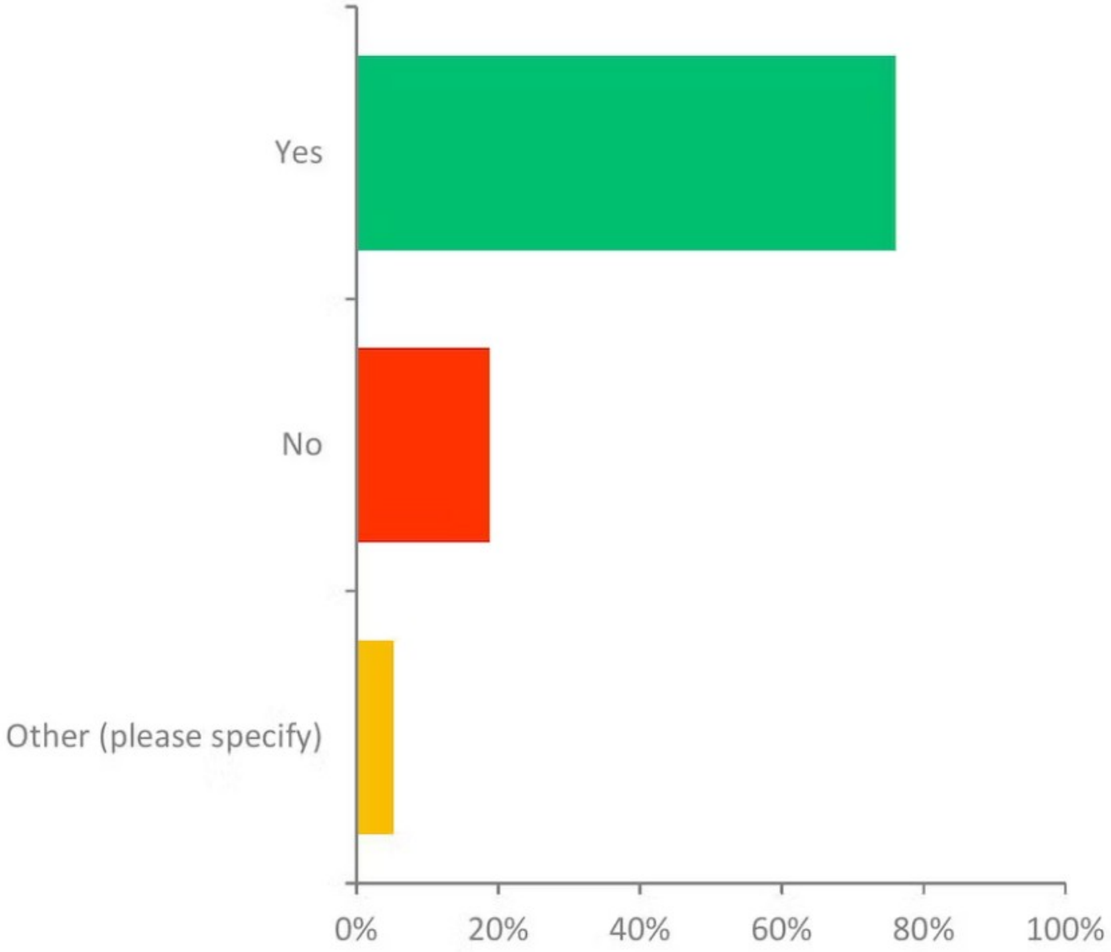
Q17: Would you support the town's adoption of the Community Preservation Act, or CPA, to facilitate projects in open space, historical preservation, and affordable housing? (CPA allows communities to create a local Community Preservation Fund for open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing and outdoor recreation. Community preservation monies are raised locally through the imposition of a surcharge of not more than 3% of the tax levy against real property, and municipalities must adopt CPA by ballot referendum. This enables towns to leverage state money to finance projects in open space protection/outdoor recreation, historic preservation, and affordable housing. (https://www.communitypreservation.org)



Answered: 367 Skipped: 18

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Monterey Master Plan Goals and Objectives

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Goal 1: Promote open space projects throughout the town.

	Recommendation	Category	Magnitude of Cost ($,$$,$$$,$$$$)	Responsible Party	Priority (1-5 Stars)	Time	Funding Avenues	Notes
1.1	Apply for CPA membership (Community Preservation act) to allow for funding of Open Spaces projects.	Open Space/ Parks	$	Town Residents, SB, PB, Parks Committee	****	Medium	Town passage of CPA Bylaw.	
1.2	Develop a town committee or plan for maintenance of Town trails	Open Space/ Parks	$	New committee or Parks Committee	***	ongoing	Mass PARC Grant, (Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities)	
1.3	Support efforts of open space organizations in Monterey and Berkshire County.	Open Space/ Parks	$	Various town depattments and Non-Profits (both local and regional)	***	ongoing	Various Federal, State, Local and Non Profit Sources.	
1.4	Support efforts of Parks Committee improvements at Green, Bidwell, and other town parks.	Open Space/ Parks	$-$$$	PB, SB, Town Residents	****	ongoing	Mass PARC Grant, (Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities)	

Goal 2: Promote Environmental Resilience and Sustainability.

	Recommendation	Category	Magnitude of Cost ($,$$,$$$,$$$$)	Responsible Party	Priority (1-5 Stars)	Time	Funding Avenues
2.1	Provide support to environmental/sustainability initiatives with existing town groups.	Environmental/Sustainability	$	Various	****	ongoing	Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant Program, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Office of Grants and Technical Assistance, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program,
2.2	Continue to encourage and support Solar development in town.	Environmental/Sustainability	$	SWG, PB	****	ongoing	Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant Program, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Office of Grants and Technical Assistance, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program,
2.3	Continue to pursue the Route 23 culvert project to protect from flooding.	Environmental/Sustainability	$$	SB, Cons Com	****	short	Funding Obtained
2.4	Support and encourage native plants and pollinator-friendly activiites.	Environmental/Sustainability	$	Citizens, NPWG	***	ongoing	MASS PARC Grant
2.5	Finalize the requirements for Massachusetts Green Communities designation.	Environmental/Sustainability	$	SB,Various	**	medium	Green Communities Grant
2.6	Adopt Dark Sky Community bylaw.	Environmental/Sustainability	$	PB	***	medium	DLTA, Planning Assistance Grant
2.7	Evaluate roads/stormwater needs in light of increased runoff and heavier rains.	Environmental/Sustainability	$$	SB, Hwy. Dept, Private Road Owners and Abutters	***	ongoing	Municipal Vulnerability Program

Goal 4: Enhance facilities and transportation in the town.

	Recommendation	Category	Magnitude of Cost ($,$$,$$$,$$$$)	Responsible Party	Priority (1-5 Stars)	Time	Funding Avenues
4.1	Hire a consultant to evaluate complete streets opportunities in the downtown area (sidewalks and paths)	Transportation	$-$$$	SB,PB	****	Short	Planning Assistance Grant,
4.2	Work with the neighboring communites to provide additional van transport in town.	Transportation	$	SB,PB, COA	***	Ongoing	Community Transit Grant Program, Helping Hands Mini-grants, Complete Streets, Efficiency and Regionalization Grant Program, Mass Community Health and Healthy Aging Funds,
4.3	Evaluate the road suitability for heavy use by Hume camp on Chestnut Hill/Cronk roads	Transportation	$	SB, Highway, Hume Camp	***	Short	N/A
4.4	Apply for Complete Streets designation by Massachusetts.	Transportation	$	SB, PB, Highway	****	Short	MassDOT Complete Streets Funding
4.5	Evaluate possibility of trail connection between town beach and town center.	Transportation	$-$$$	SB, PB, Highway	***	Ongoing	Shared Streets Program, Transportation Improvement Program, Complete Streets Funding
4.6	Evaluate pedestrian improvements on Route 23, especially in the downtown area.	Transportation	$-$$$	SB, PB, Highway	***	Ongoing	Shared Streets Program, Transportation Improvement Program, Complete Streets Funding
4.7	Evaluate town hall improvements for record storage and town government.	Facilities	$-$$$	SB, Various Town Departments	**	Medium	Community Compact, One Stop for Growth
4.8	Evaluate the suitability of town emergency services for the future, including ambulance service.	Facilities	$-$$$	SB, Police, Fire, and Emergency Services	*	Ongoing	Community Compact, One Stop for Growth, Efficiency and Regionalization Grant Program
4.9	Consider a cooperative emergency/disaster response plan with Hume and Gould Farm and the town.	Facilities	$	SB, Police, Fire, and Emergency Services, Hume, and Gould Farm	**	Medium	N/A
4.11	Create a mechanism for town acceptance/denial of private ways as public ways-define conditional requirements and consider adoption of official map.	Facilities	$	SB, Highway Department, Police, Fire, and Emergency Services.	*	Long	N/A

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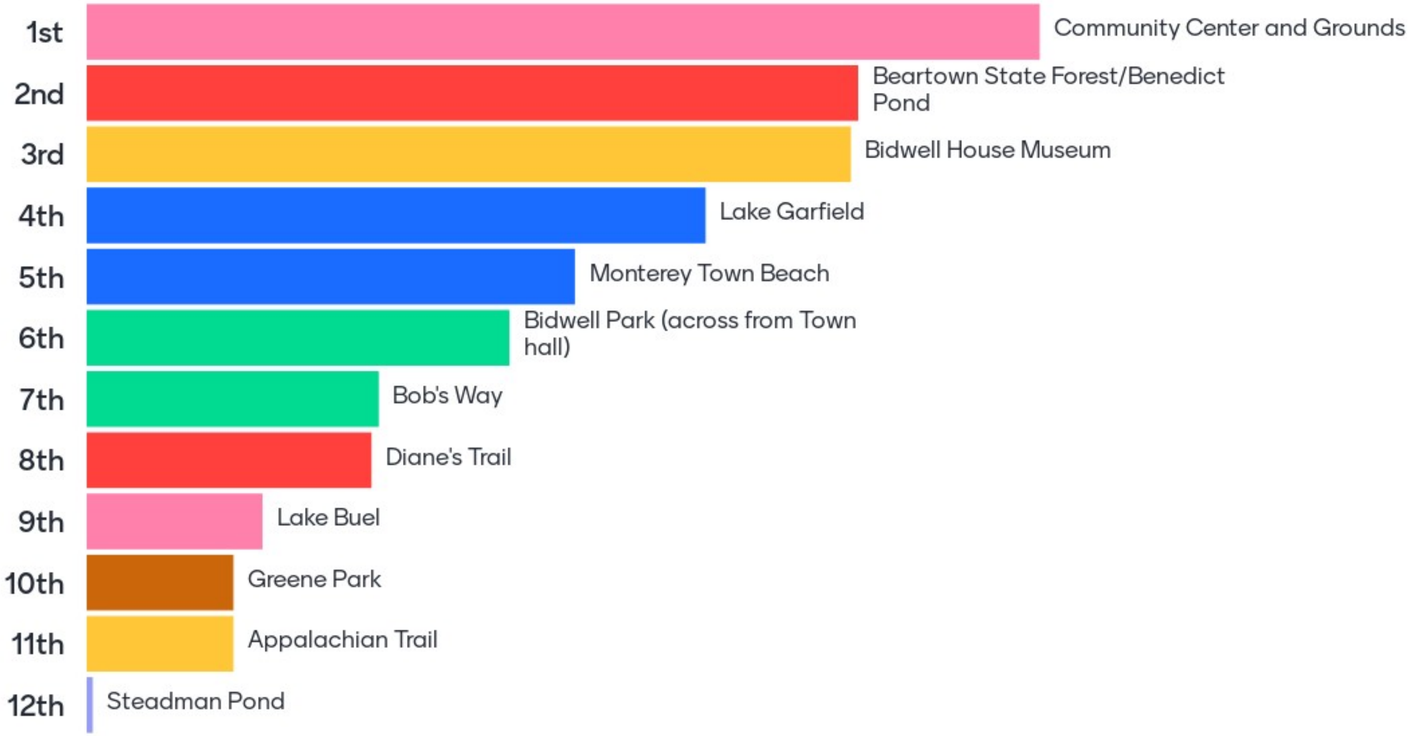
What are your three (3) favorite open space sites in Monterey?



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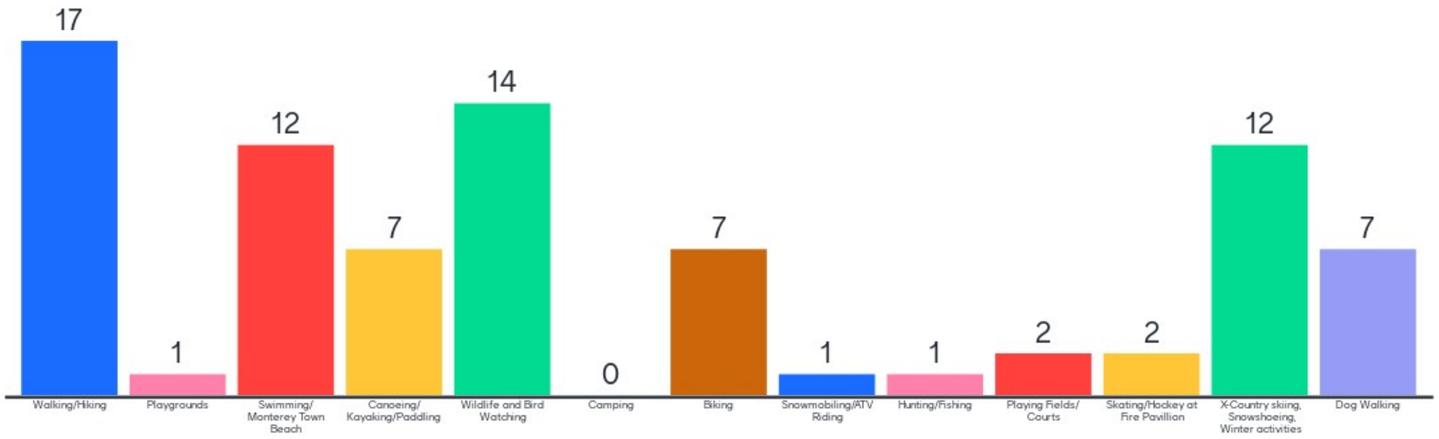
If your favorite site in Monterey was not included in the last slide tell us about it here? Or, tell us more about how you use Monterey Open Spaces?

15 responses

old cemetaries
community garden
mount hunger trail
garden
hiking
pond
community
ashintully pillars
walking paths next to
trail
brewer
paved roads
bnrc parcel opposite mcc

11

What five (5) outdoor recreation activities do you and your family most enjoy in Monterey?



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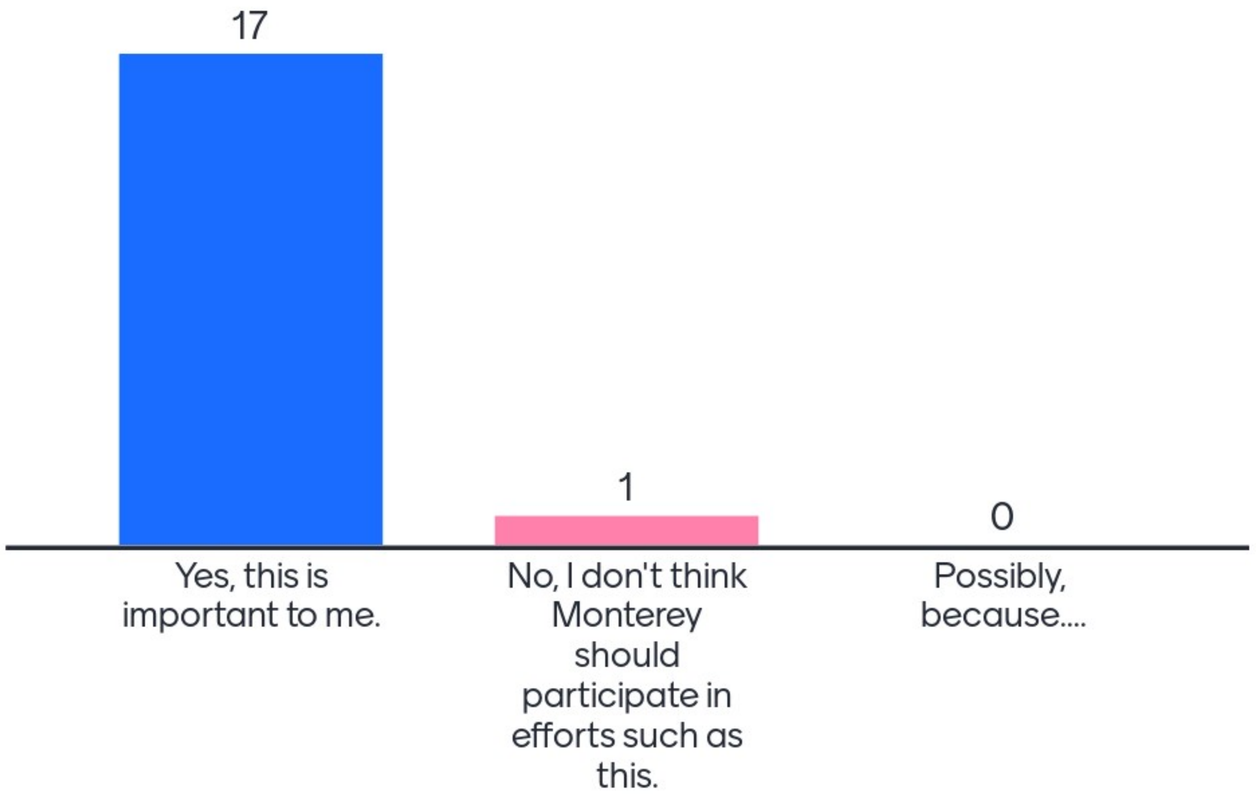
Should Monterey partner with neighboring communities to create "Green Corridors" to support wildlife and ecological health?



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If you said possibly in the last slide, tell us more.

Watershed of Lake Garfield protected

I'd love to see a town-wide trail network connecting open spaces.

Protect lake Garfield watershedProtect Konkopot riverMore public literature on the trails and nature

I would like to see lower speed limits on the lakes (I realize they belong to the state) to decrease the erosion on the lakeshores.

More support for native trees and plants

More trails. Trail maps.

Better signage and blazing for the mount hunger trial

Keep the konkapot protected

1

6

COVID highlighted the need for outdoor gathering space at the community center.

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To support programming, would you support the construction of a new outdoor pavilion and the addition of a new bathroom inside the existing building?

26 responses

cultural programs

pavilion needed

outdoor pavilion needed

bbq

enthusiastically

absolutely

major meeting place

with public bbq

yes

critical programs

impact

picnic tables

add storage

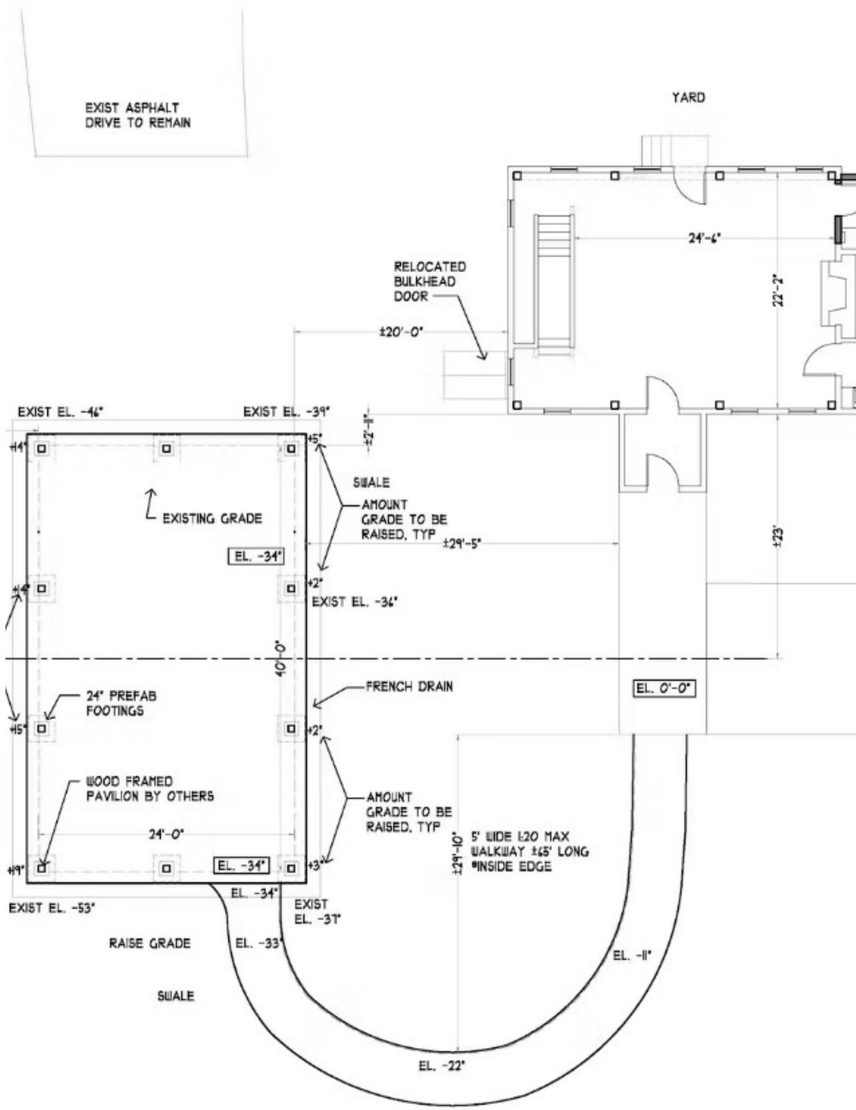
make it classy

skies

dark

bathroom outside

make building bigger



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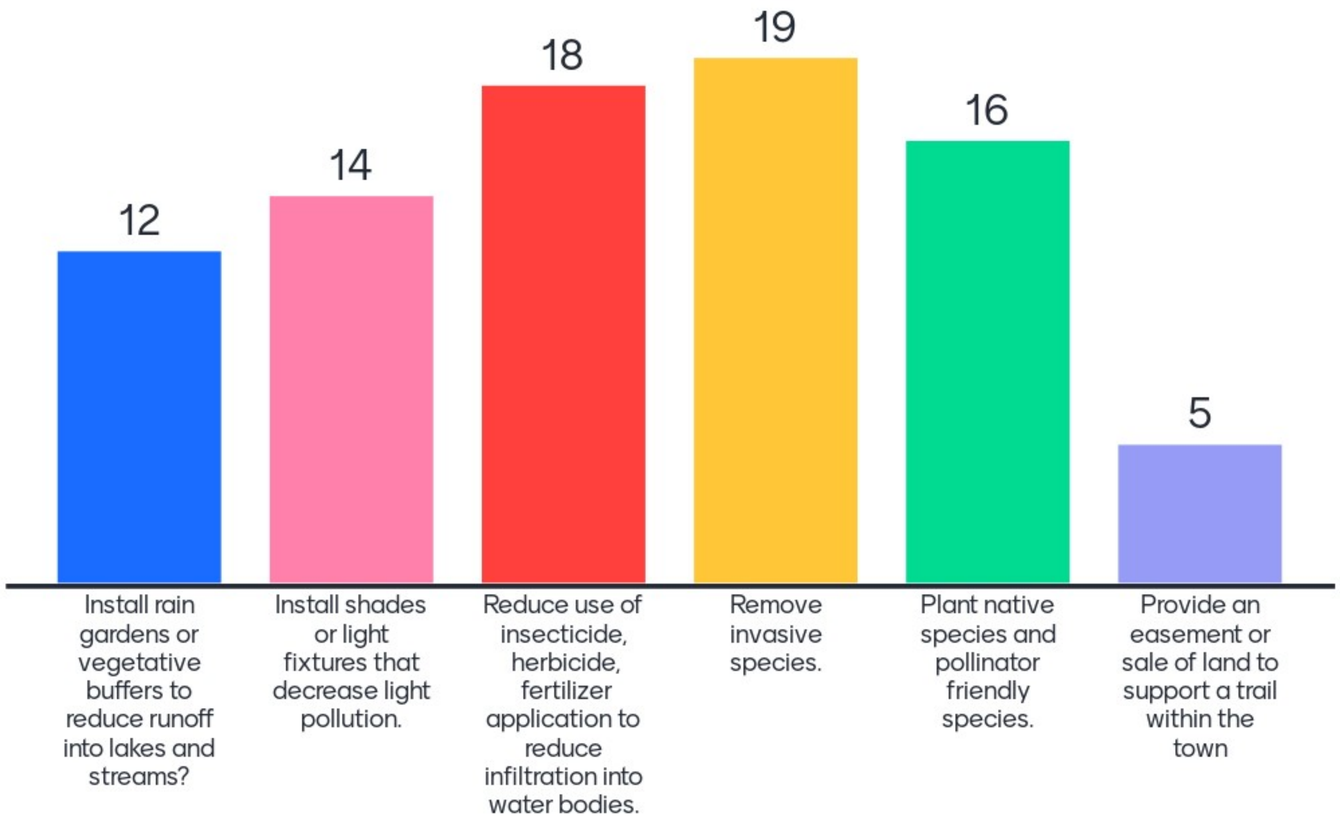
How often do you use the following open space sites in Monterey?

19

Which of the following practices would you be willing to implement on your own property?



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Would you use adult exercise equipment designed for seniors and adults if installed at a local park?

No

Yes!

No

Not personally but I think Greene park would be an ideal spot

Only at Greene Park

Community Center has plenty of land and parking

Yes

Green park

1

16

Mentimeter

Would you use adult exercise equipment designed for seniors and adults if installed at a local park?

NoGreene park

Monterey Community Center

Community center park

Maybe

Important to preserve wild parks / areas. Must go in already cleared area. Maybe green park / community centre

Yes

Yes

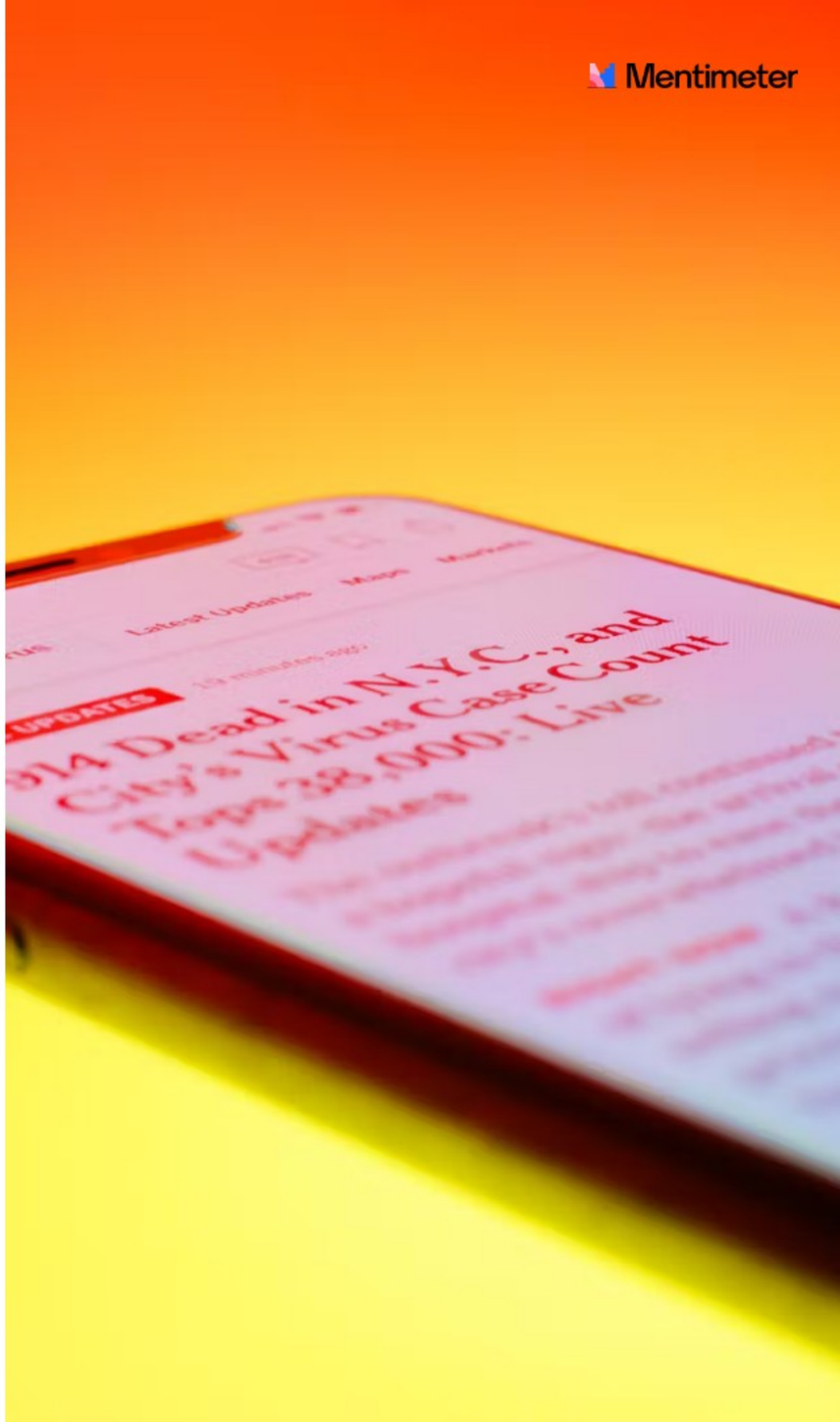
Yes and put it at Community Center near the new pavilion

1

16

How would you like to be updated about Open Space Issues in Monterey?

2 17



Open Space ideas we didn't have time to address:

- Level of support for a dog park.
- Beartown Superintendant's House RFP
- Becoming an Appalachian Trail community?
- Agricultural protections such as Chapter 61, APR, CR.
- Creating a replanting plan and budget to replace removed street trees.
- Help developing a town trail guide.

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What other improvements in open space or recreation would you like to see in Monterey?

35 responses

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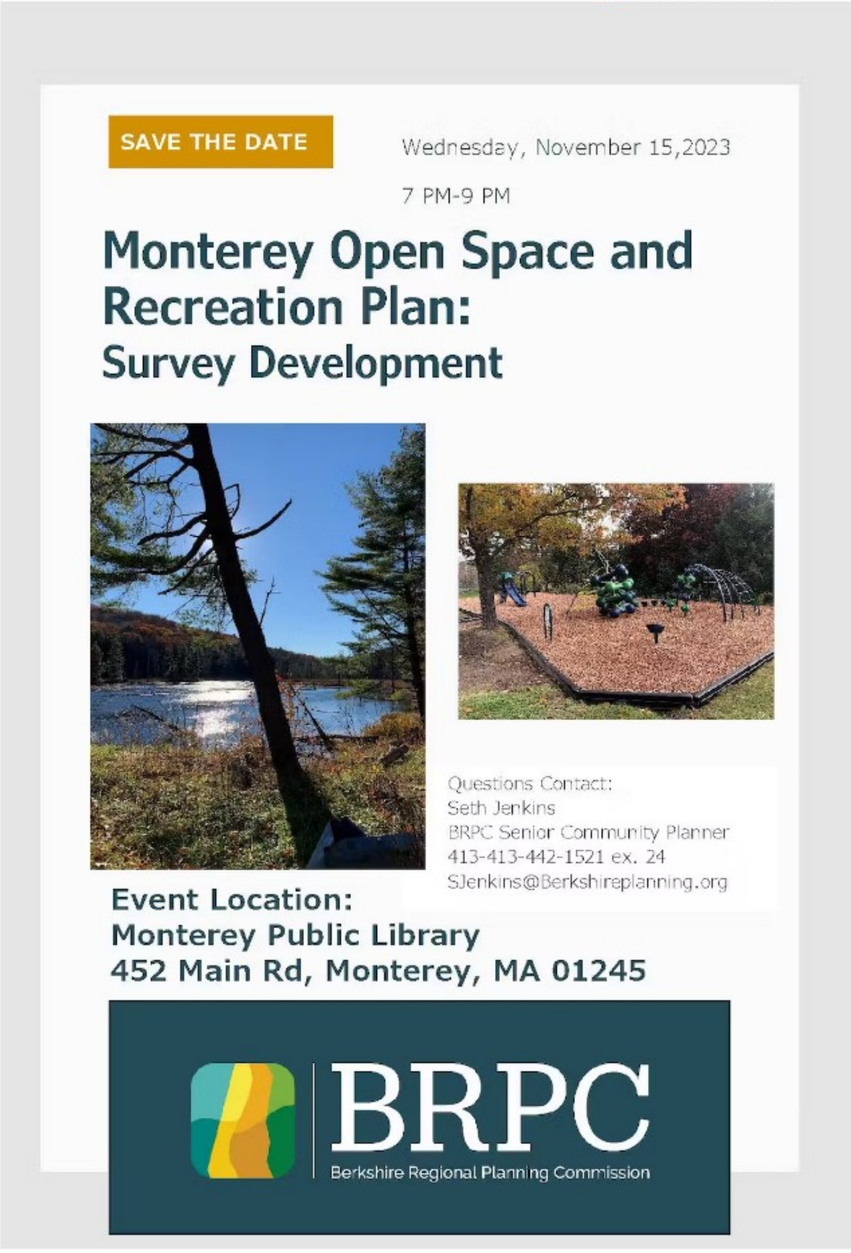
Thank you for participating, Questions from the audience?

0 questions
0 upvotes