

Monterey Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Results Forum

April 27
10-11:30

Public Forum: April 27, 10:00-11:30
Monterey Public Library, 452 Main Road

Town of Monterey Open Space and Recreation Survey Results

Join the Open Space and Recreation Committee to discuss the results of the public survey.

Use the following URL or QR Code to get to the Zoom meeting if you are unable to attend in person!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84225900001?pwd=WFB6c3R0bk10WEJ5eUJjTFBXdW4yQT09>

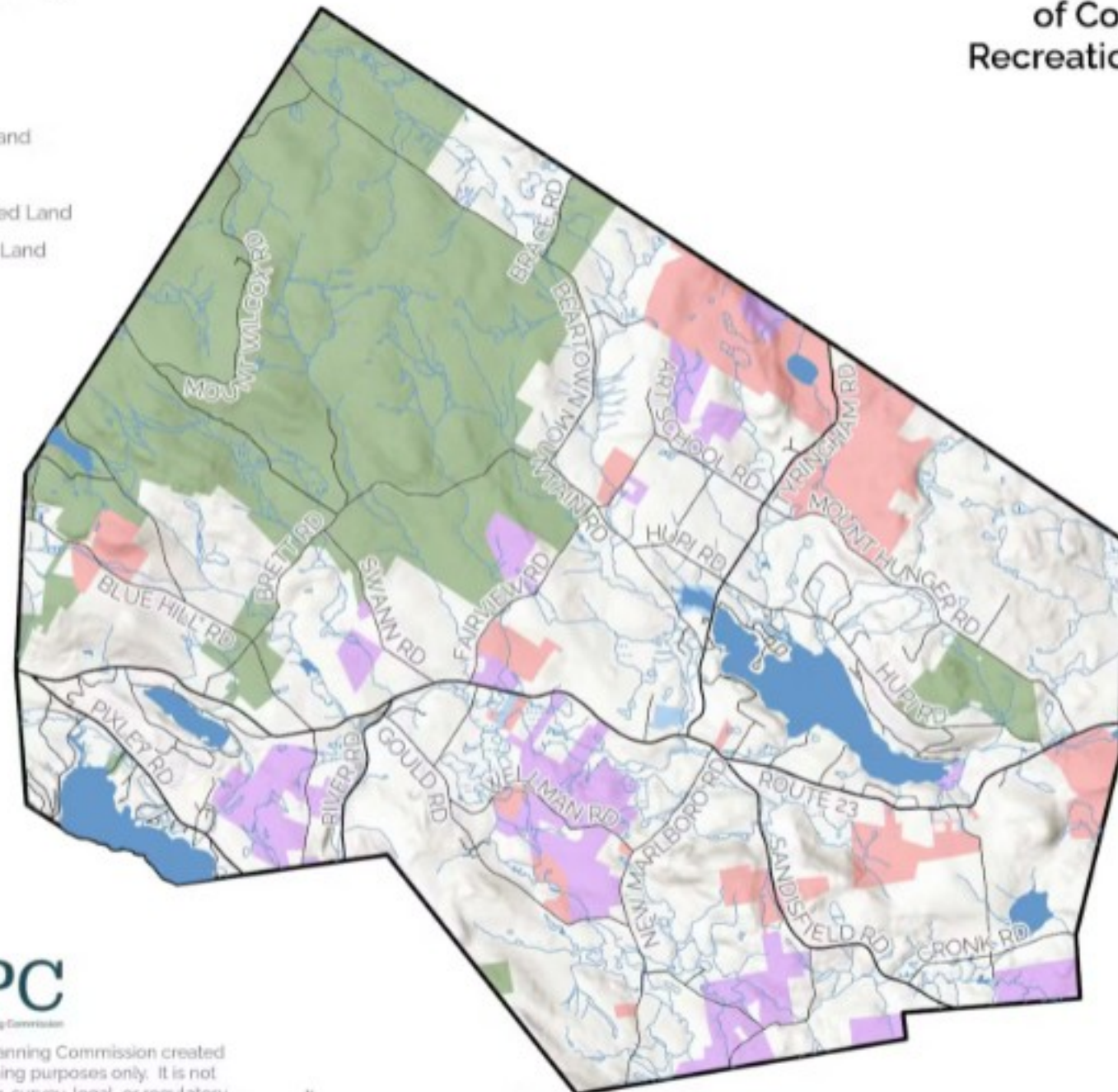
Meeting ID: 842 2590 0001

Passcode: 596565



Town of Monterey
Master Plan

- State Protected Land
- Land Trust Land
- Municipal Protected Land
- Private Protected Land



Inventory of Land
of Conservation and
Recreation Interest Map



The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission created this map for general planning purposes only. It is not to be used for engineering, survey, legal, or regulatory purposes. MassGIS, MassDOT, BRPC, or the municipality may have supplied portions of this data.

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





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

Monterey: Open Space & Recreation Questionnaire

Friday, March 08, 2024

228

Total Responses



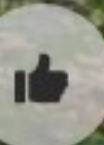
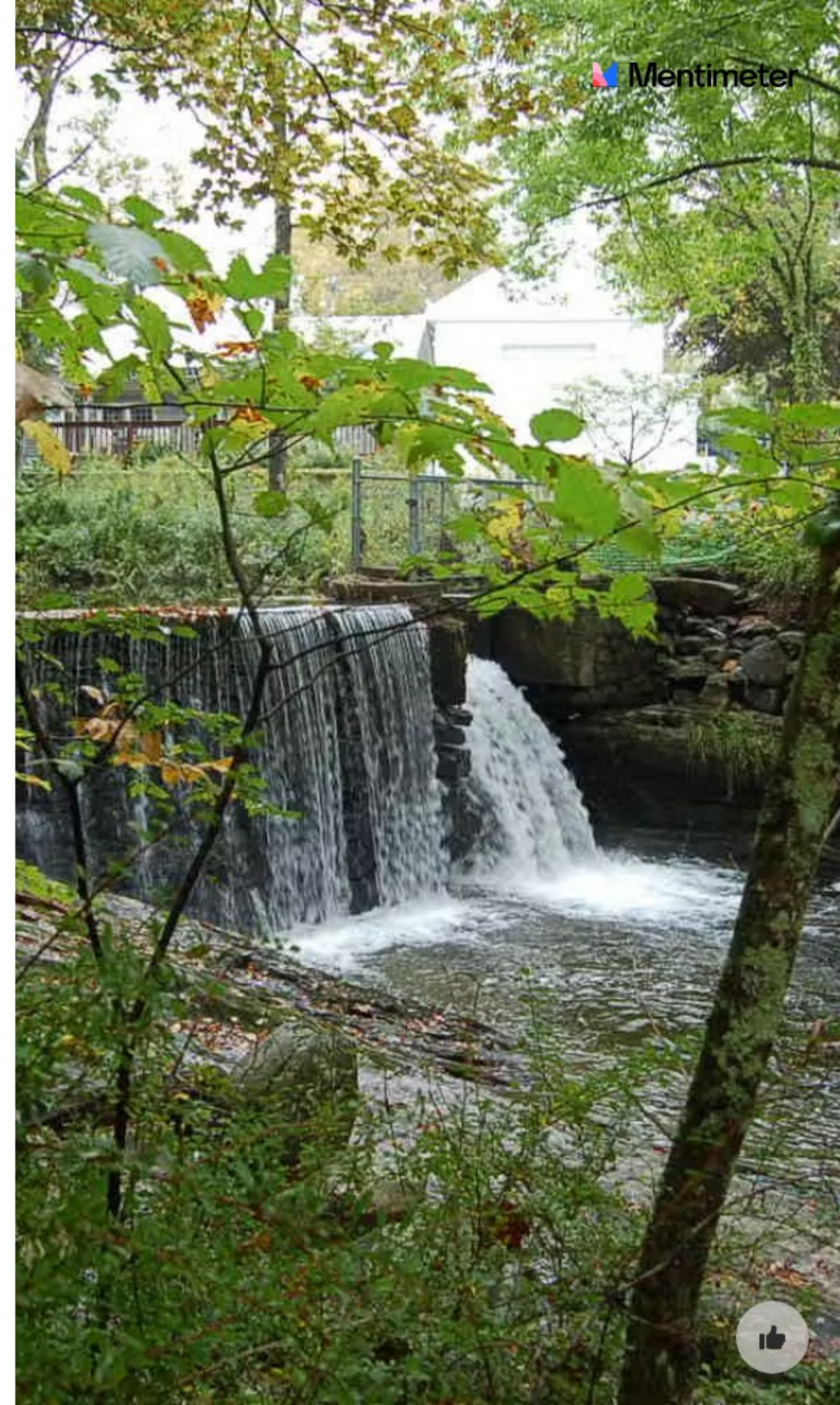
Lake Garfield is the
jewel of Monterey :-)

– Monterey OSRP Survey Respondent



Bidwell Park has special
resonance for me.
A great place for quiet
contemplation.

– Monterey OSRP Survey Respondent



We love the new
playground at Greene
Park.

– Monterey OSRP Survey Respondent



"Beartown State Forest - 4 seasons of fun"

- Monterey OSRP Survey Respondent

Welcome to DCR's Beartown State Forest

Home to the pristine Benedict Pond and a section of the Appalachian Trail, Beartown offers 12,000 acres of park land and is primarily used for fresh water swimming, camping and hiking.

Beartown is part of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

DCR oversees 450,000 acres of parks, forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds and dams. Its mission is to protect, promote, and enhance the state's natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn about DCR and to discover more parks and recreational opportunities within the Massachusetts state parks, visit www.mass.gov/dcr.

TRAIL USE GUIDELINES

- Stay on designated trails and roads
- Observe all posted rules and regulations.
- Camping allowed only at designated campsites or lean-tos.

• **Motorized vehicle use limited:** Inquire at Forest Headquarters.

- Be respectful of other trail users:

Hikers: Allow bicyclists and equestrians to pass.
Bicyclists: Control your bike-do not skid. Avoid startling horses and hikers-announce your presence.

Hikers: Allow bicyclists and equestrians to pass.
• Be aware of hunting seasons and wear blaze orange when appropriate.

• **ORV/CHV/ATV:** Riding Season: May 1st - last Sunday in November, weather permitting.

• **NO ORV/CHV/ATV operation** allowed in campground.

Designated by a heart symbol, Healthy Heart Trails are pathways or trails used for hiking or walking that are easy to moderate in activity level, and intended for routine use to help build a healthy heart.



Continue to promote the
ecological health of Lake
Garfield.
and
Lake Garfield, concerned
about milfoil and jet ski noise
pollution

– Monterey OSRP Survey Respondents



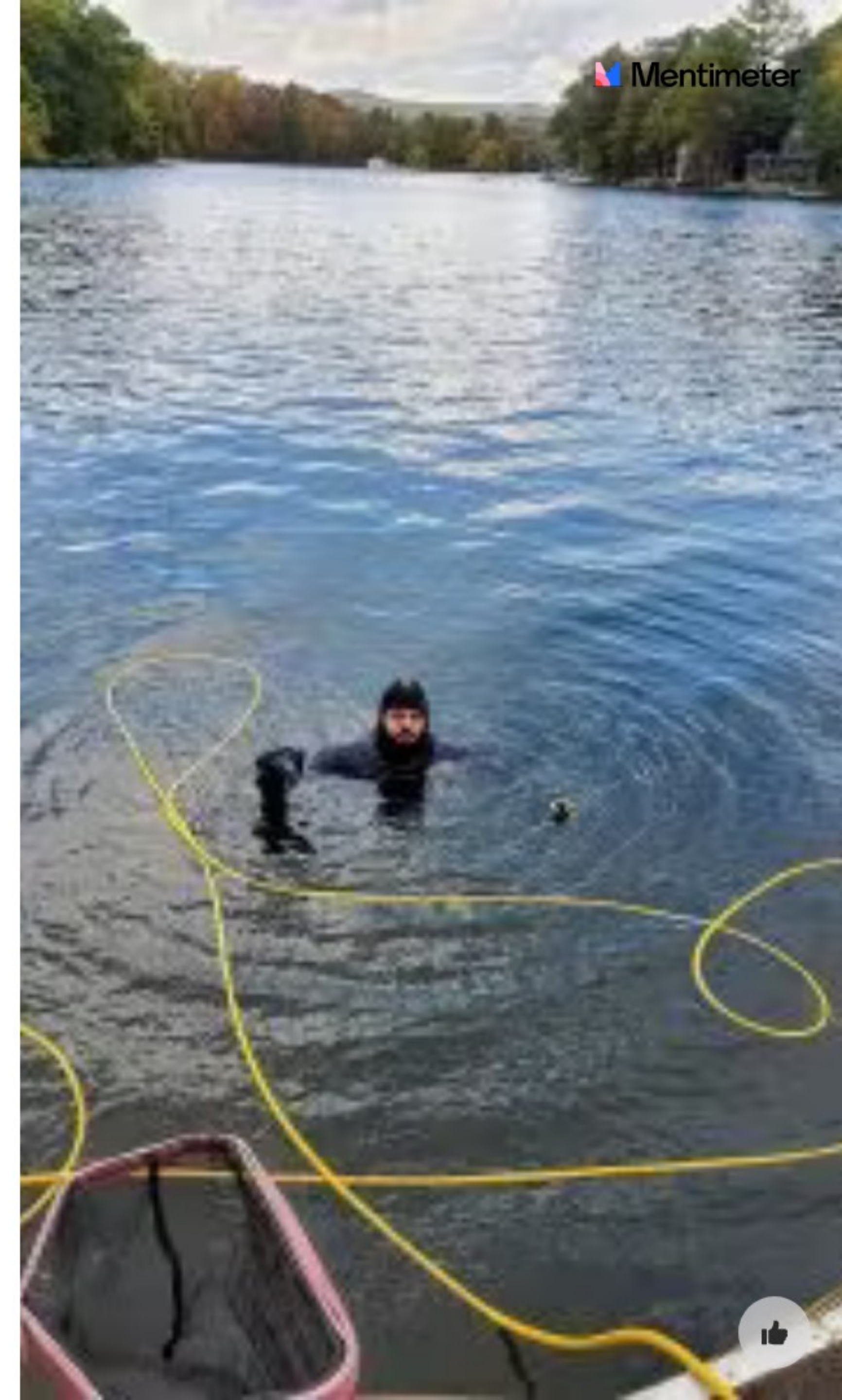
Monterey Community
Center 1. brings people
together and, 2. the
community gardens.

– Monterey OSRP Survey Respondent



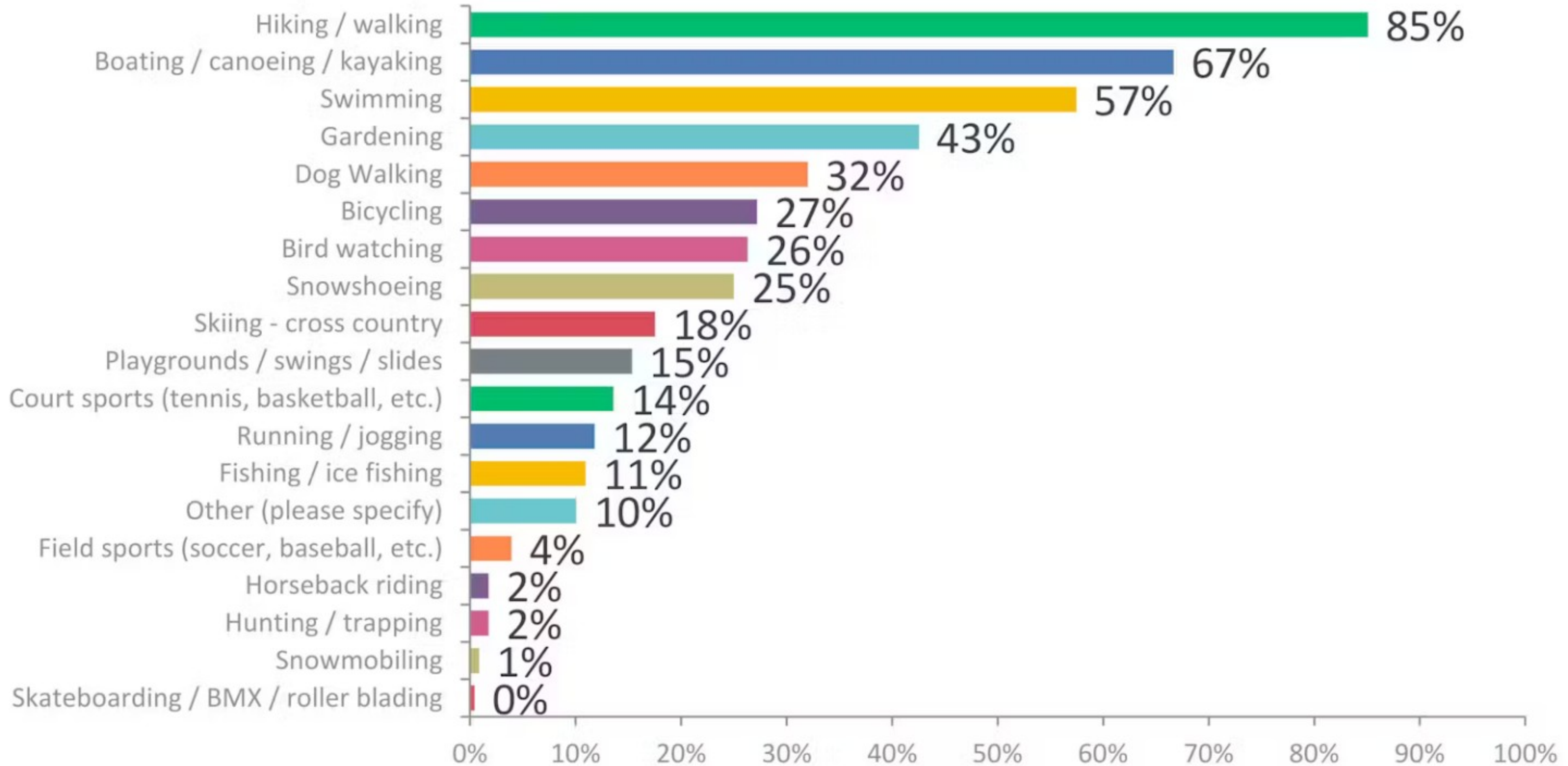
Other Quotes:

- Disallow motorboats on Lake Garfield; at least limit jet skis and allow electric motors or minimum HP only
- Protect the lake and enforce the rules on speed and wakes.
- Multipurpose trail (pedestrian and biking) between village and Lake Garfield beach
- Set up a Monterey volunteer trail maintenance club (possibly affiliated with parks and rec) to coordinate efforts to maintain trails
- The creation of a trail guide would be ideal and help raise visibility. This should be coupled with a fundraising campaign.



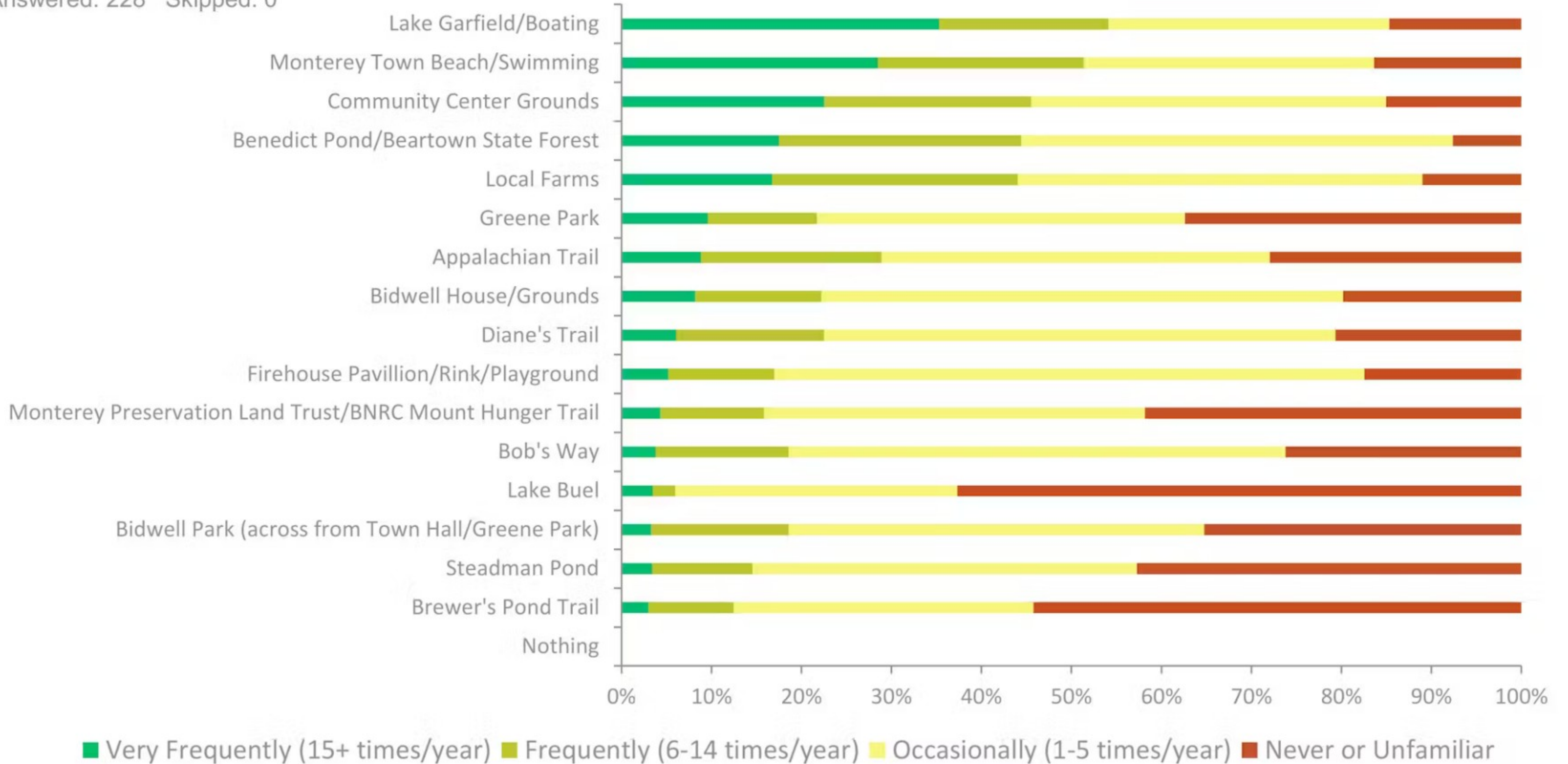
Q1: Choose up to five (5) activities that you enjoy doing in Monterey.

Answered: 228 Skipped: 0



Q2: How often do you visit in a typical year, and which is your favorite Monterey location?

Answered: 228 Skipped: 0



Tell us about your favorite place in Monterey. (1/3)

- Backroads
- Beach, General Store
- Beartown State Forest , hiking loop
- Beartown
- Beartown
- Beartown
- Beartown Mountain Road and Beartown State Forest
- Beartown Mtn Forest
- Beartown St Forest, great variety during any season.
- Beartown State Forest
- Beartown State Forest
- Beartown State Forest
- Beartown State Forest
- Beartown State Forest
- Beartown State Forest - 4 seasons of fun (but am greatly annoyed by new high parking fees with no discount for anyone but MA residents)
- Beartown State Forest at the end of Beartown Road.
- Beartown, Benedict pond
- Benedict Pond
- Benedict Pond
- Benedict Pond - all seasons
- Benedict Pond trail
- Benedict pond was my favorite place, but I haven't been there since they are now charging \$30. for an out of state plate, and they have discontinued the out of state summer pass.
- Benedict Pond without a doubt.
- Beware pond trail because it's near my house
- Bidwell
- Bidwell House Museum
- Bidwell Park
- Bidwell Park
- Bidwell Park has special resonance for me. A great place for quiet contemplation.
- Bidwell property
- Bob's Trail
- Bob's Trail
- Bobs way
- Brewers Pond by the dam
- Community Center
- Community Center
- Definitely the town beach
- Diane's trail
- Diane's Trail
- Diane's trail and Bidwell house woods for walkin
- Diane's trail
- Diane's Trail
- dirt roads
- Dirt Roads to walk or Bike
- Garfield
- Gould Farm gravel pit
- Greene Park
- hiking trails

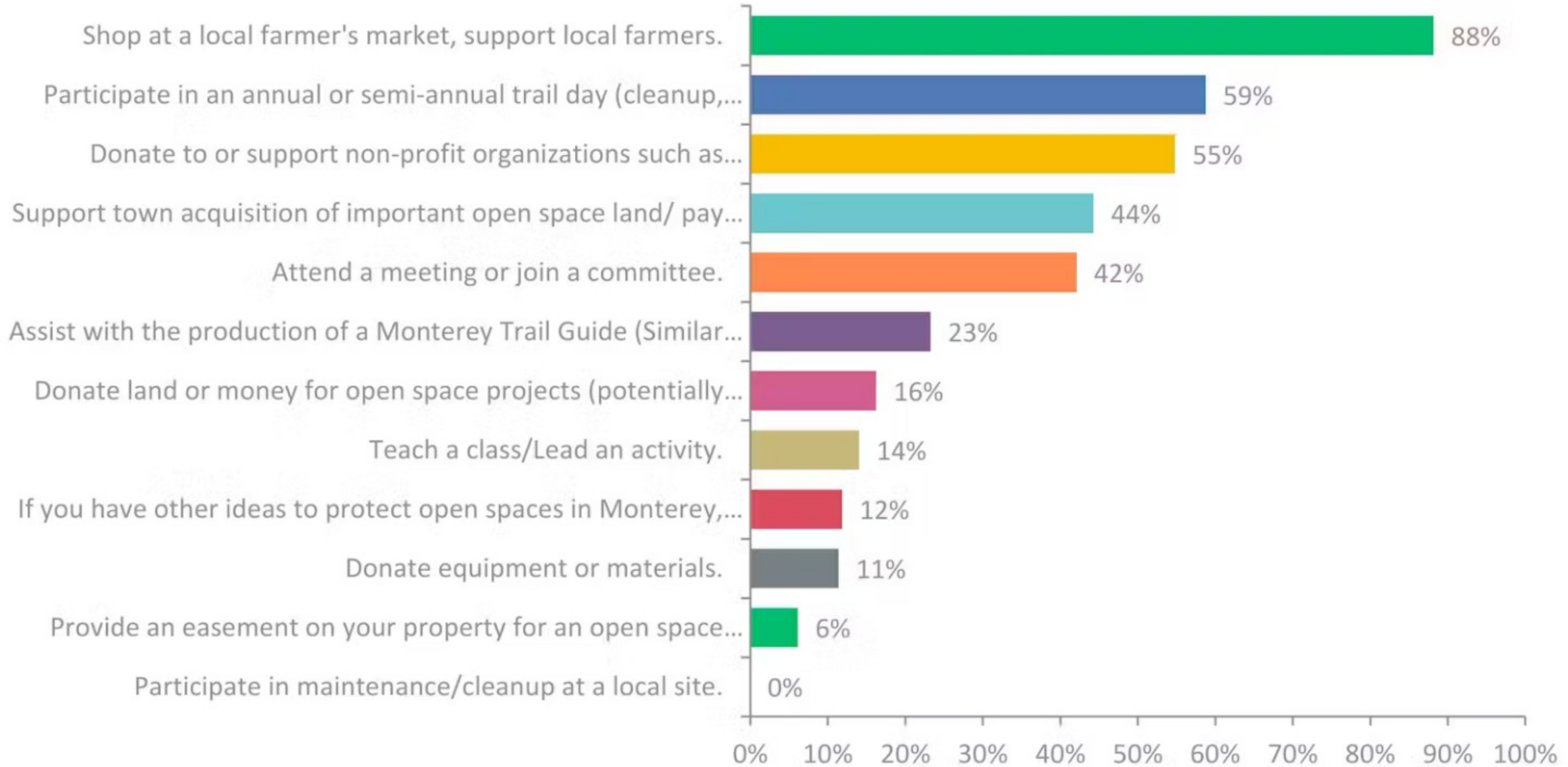


Tell us about your favorite place in Monterey. (3/3)

- Monterey Town Beach and Diane's Trail
- Mount Hunger state forest
- Mount Hunger Trail.
- Mt. Hunger Peak (NOT Hunger Mountain trail) near cemetery off Hunger Mountain Rd was an awesome surprise find (almost no mention or even way to google for it because of conflation with Hunger Mountain)
- My boathouse
- My family loves Lake Garfield and Brewer's Pond Trail!
- My family often visits Benedict Pond, Bob's Way, Diane's Trail. We love the new playground at Greene Park. We love the beach in the summer.
- My home on Stevens Lake!
- My own family summer homestead on Lake Buel
- Our lakeside home, allowing for our most frequent activities.
- Quiet country roads for cycling
- Road and trail around Stevens Lake (where I live)
- Sitting on a rock I call "Stillpoint" at Benedict Pond.
- State forest behind my house on Hupi Road
- Steadman is terribly infested with Ticks. Dangerous to go there and needs to be remediated. I had more than 100 ticks on me the last time I walked there.
- Steadman, Beartown/Benedict Pond and Lake Garfield Beach
- The "real Mount Hunger" (summit) on Hunger Mountain State Forest land and surrounding trails
- The Appalachian Trail heading north from Benedict Pond
- The Bear Town State Forest trails between Hupi Rd and Hunger Mountain Rd
- The Bidwell trails
- The church at the center of town - coffee club, food pantry, etc.
- the community center and the gronds
- The deck at my house with view across valley
- The falls at Bidwell park
- The lake!
- The lake! And we live on Hupi so love the MT Huger trails behind our house
- The library
- The Library!
- The town beach
- The undeveloped shores of Lake Garfield.
- this is a question for visitors; I don't visit, I live here
- Top of the gravel quarry, Gould Farm
- Town beach
- Trails on Gould Farm property
- Walking along Curtis road. Dianes Trail
- Wellman road for walking. Roads around Gould farm/dianes trail

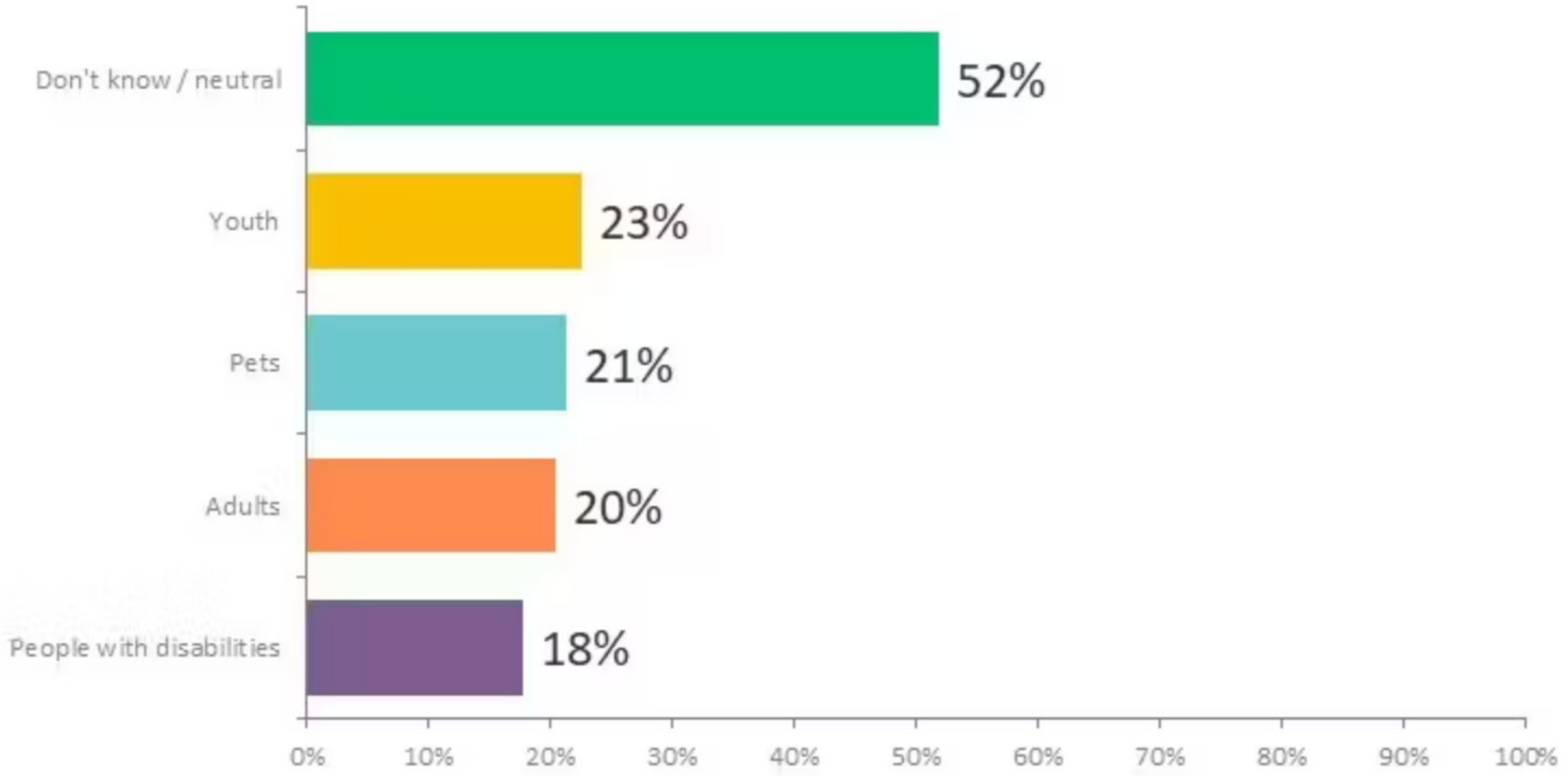
Q4: Which of the following are activities you would be willing to participate in to improve Open Space/Recreation in Monterey? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 228 Skipped: 0



Q5: Does Monterey need more recreational opportunities for: (check all that apply)

Answered: 226 Skipped: 0



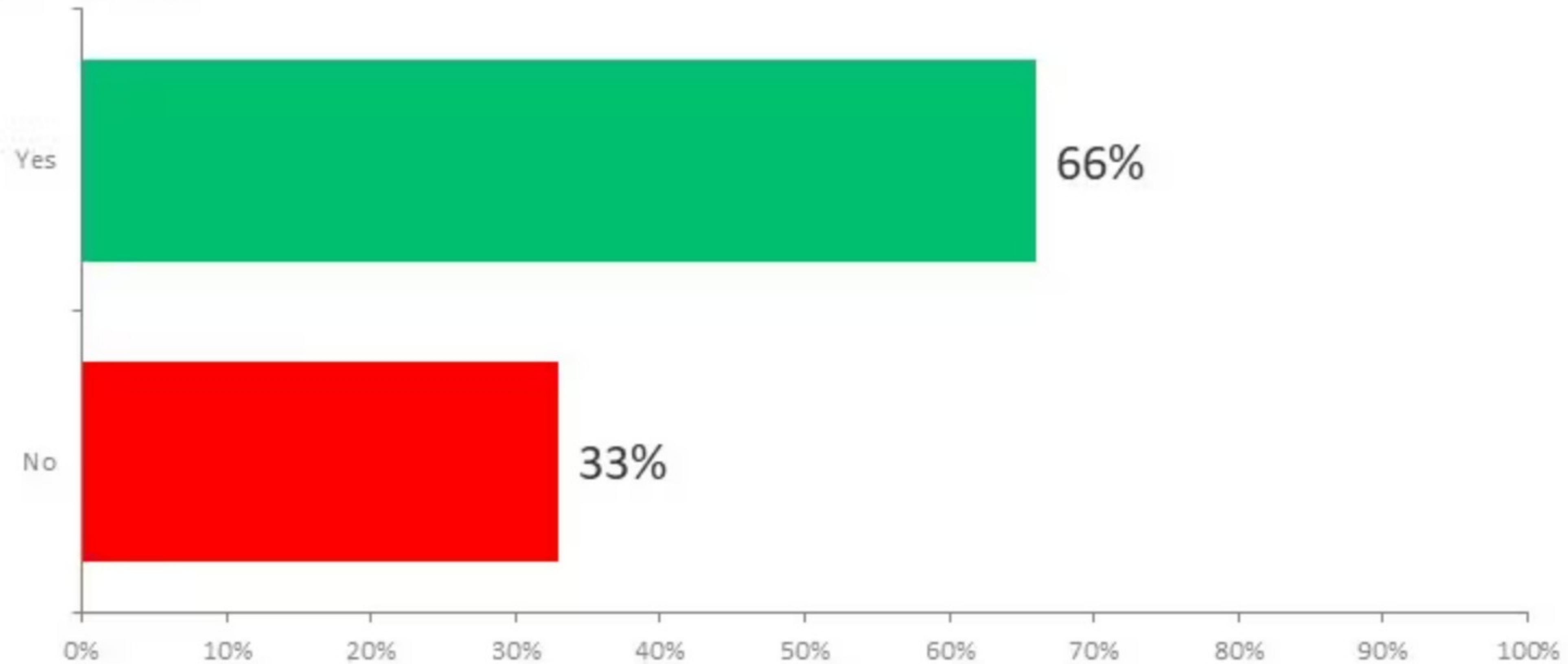
Elaborate on your response here.

- A dog park is an extremely important communal space
- a tennis court
- ADA-friendly community garden access.
- Afternoon community center classes
- Bike and pedestrian paths into town
- Continue to develop activities at community center
- Dog park
- Dog Park
- dog park (only if it can be maintained)
- Dog park and exercise equipment for older adults.
- dog park would be nice.
- dog park, adult fitness equipment
- Evaluate town parks to improve use for people with disabilities
- I believe that Monterey should concentrate on the public lands it already has and maintains. Suggesting that we need to set aside more and more land only exacerbates a housing inequality that is quickly aging our community. Monterey needs to balance this hunger for woodlands and natural resources with a need to grow our community to include the children born in Monterey and the families that desire to move here.
- I don't think so
- I think we need to look at needs going forward. I keep bringing up pickleball because there will be more and more demand so it would be great to get ahead of it now
- I would love a dog park
- I would love to bike more if there were safe bike lanes
- Important that natural beauty be available to all.
- It needs safe areas for bike riding. The roads are VERY dangerous.
- It would be fun to have a community dance/ fundraiser
- like to see access on certain trails, though don't know much about this
- Monterey should purchase the old eagle camp gym and make it available for winter activities for everyone.
- More for kids and families
- More promotion. Increase awareness.
- Most of us can probably benefit from more exercise
- No interest in additional activities
- No real trails here for mobility challenged people. Hopefully that changes. BNRC has an opportunity to use the old subdivision roads on the newly acquired land for that, and that is something missing here.
- None Its great just the way it is
- Pickleball courts
- Place for dogs away from Green Park and beach
- Public tennis/pickleball court(s)
- Refrigerate ice rink
- Safety issues walking on roadway. Are a concern
- See answer to ? #3: always try to maximize accessibility
- Seniors
- Soccer field
- stop with the recreation
- Tennis and pickleball courts would be an attractive and well-used community facility.
- Tennis courts
- The COA does a great job in providing recreational opportunities for the elderly.
- The creation of a trail guide would be ideal and help raise visibility. This should be coupled with a fundraising campaign. Something analogous to Friends of the Public Library, but dedicated to Monterey's Public Spaces and Recreation.
- The new playground is great. We would love more family-friendly recreational opportunities for young children.
- we are not full time so not sure about what is needed here
- We have a wonderful community center and library.
- We need a dog park. Many residents have dogs they would like to socialize.
- We need more youth/families
- We seem very fortunate in Monterey to have many places nearby to get into the woods and enjoy our small lakes.
- we would love additional outdoor organized activities for kids (especially young kids)
- Winter activities such as the hockey/ice skating rink are to be encouraged
- Would love to have a dog park like Egremont
- Would love to see a dog park
- Younger adults
- Youth is traditionally underserved.

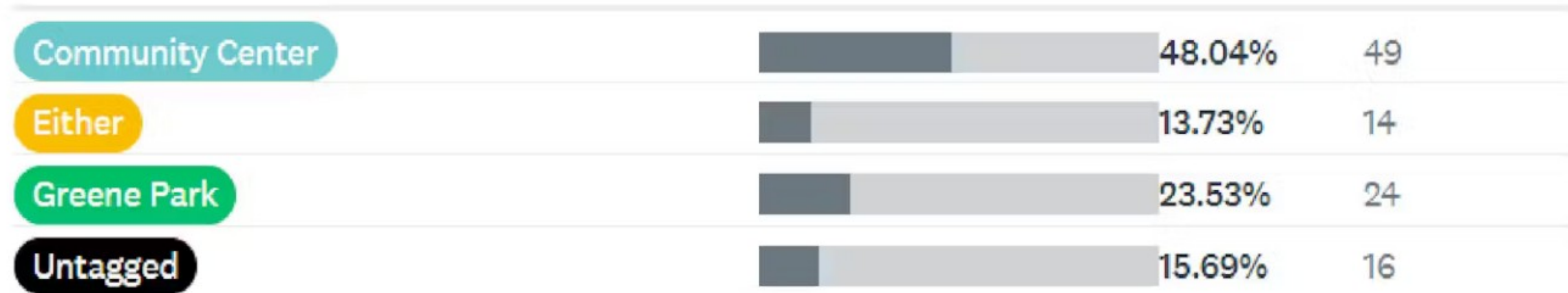


Q6: Would you use adult/senior exercise equipment if it was installed at a town park or support it's installation for others? If yes, where would you prefer it to be installed (Community Center, Greene Park, Brewer's Pond, other)?

Answered: 215 Skipped: 11



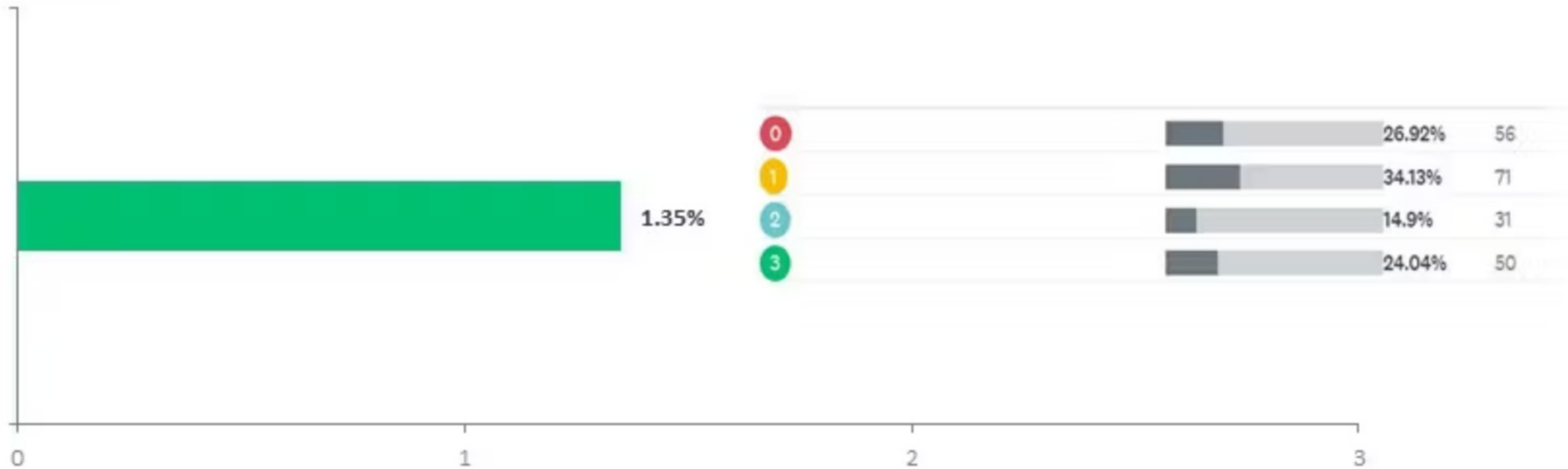
Question 6: When asked where in the town residents would prefer to see the installation of exercise equipment, answers are displayed below.



Almost 50% of respondents said the Monterey Community Center, with many others having no preference (14%) and 24% preferring Greene Park.

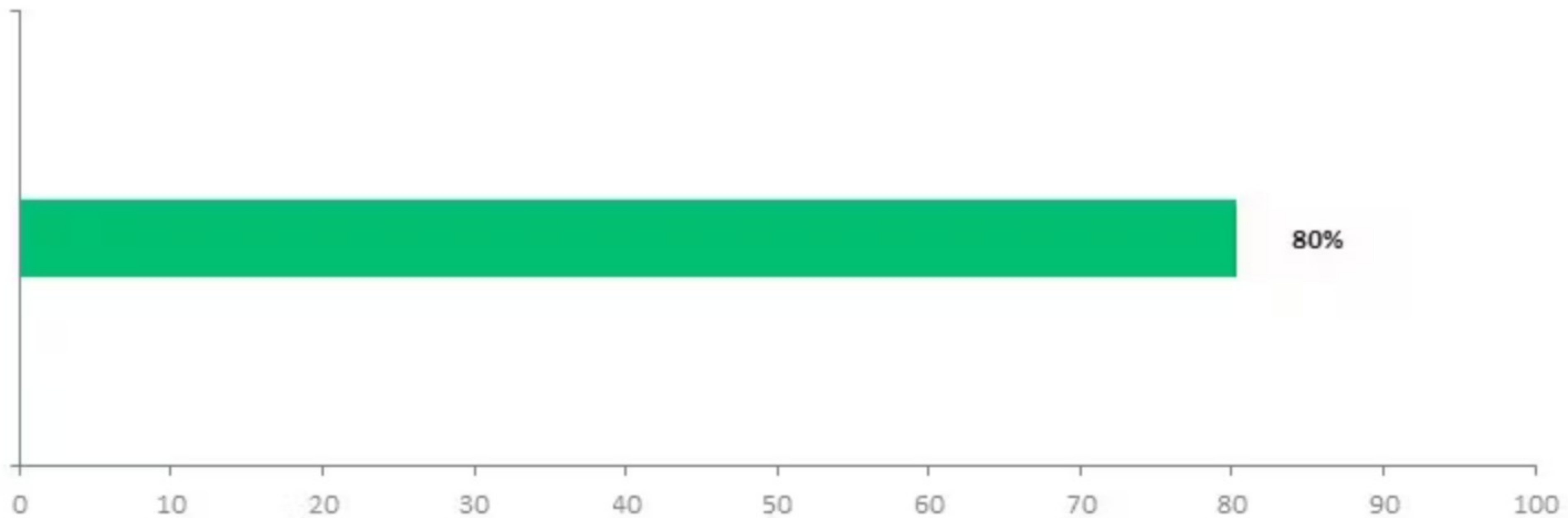
Q8: During the Master Plan Survey process, the infrastructure project most supported by the 385 respondents was for Bike and Pedestrian Paths (followed by Solar Energy and Environmental Resilience projects.) If a pedestrian/multi use path was constructed between downtown and the town beach (either on or off road), how much of a tax increase (percentage, 0-3%) would you be willing to support to fund the project?

Answered: 206 Skipped: 20



Q9: Green Corridors are landscape scale, connected tracts of natural land (often forested lands or river systems) that enable organisms to move between areas to protect ecological and genetic diversity and allow organisms to adapt to climate change. Would you support the town partnering with other communities (Tyringham, New Marlborough, etc.) or non-profit organizations (BNRC, Trustees, etc.) to protect these corridors?

Answered: 214 Skipped: 12



Berkshire Natural Resources Council is working with Monterey Preservation Land Trust to improve access to some properties while conserving others.

- 836 acres preserved on Konkapot Ridge between Tyringham, Sandisfield, and Monterey
- Contains unique communities and organisms..



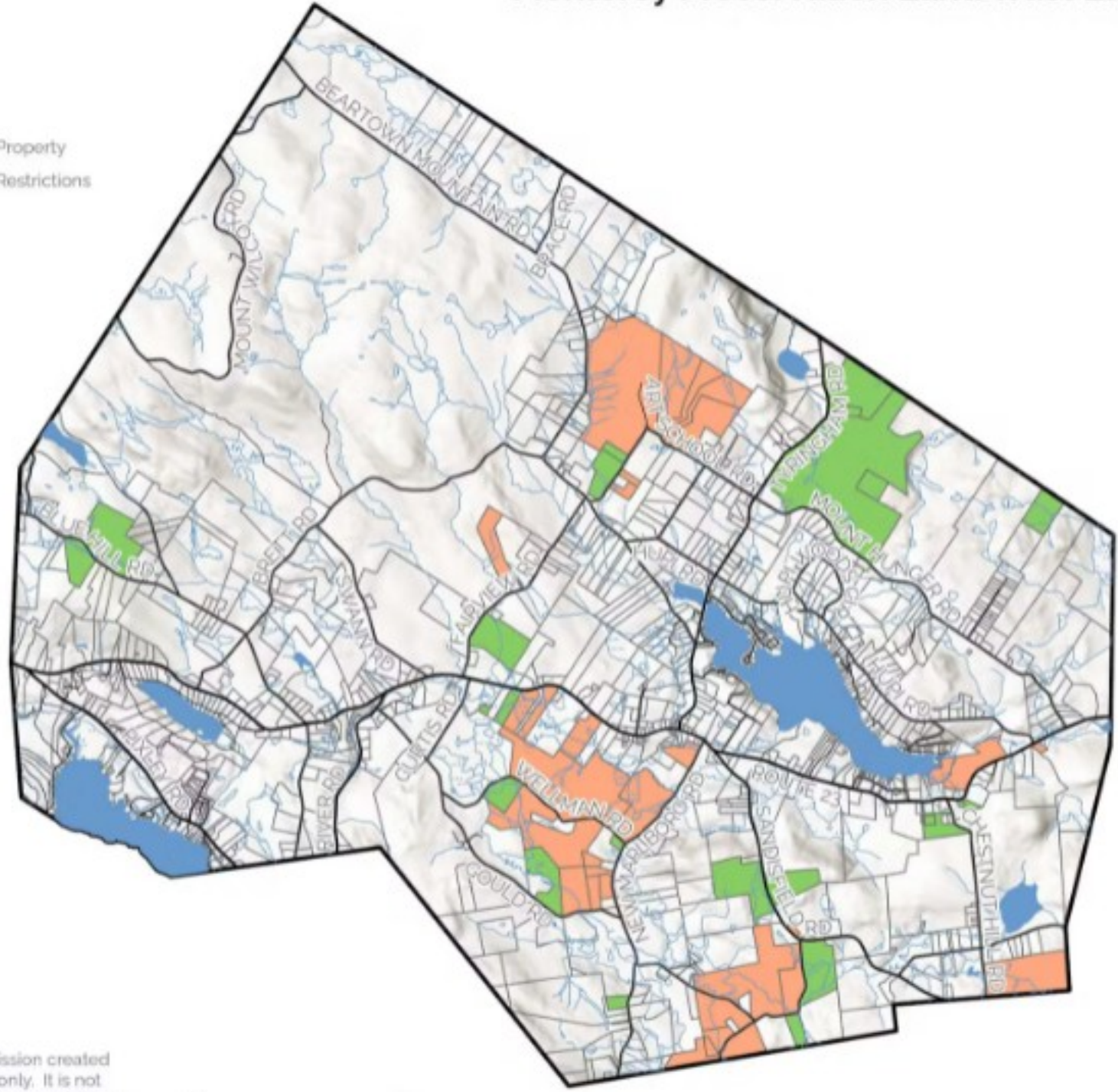
GENEROUS LANDOWNERS PROTECT HABITAT TO BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENC
Multi-parcel project links 14,000 acres of conserved land
1 Monterey and Tyringham



Town of Monterey
Master Plan

Monterey Preservation Land Trust Land Map

- Monterey Preservation Land Trust Property
- Monterey Preservation Land Trust Restrictions

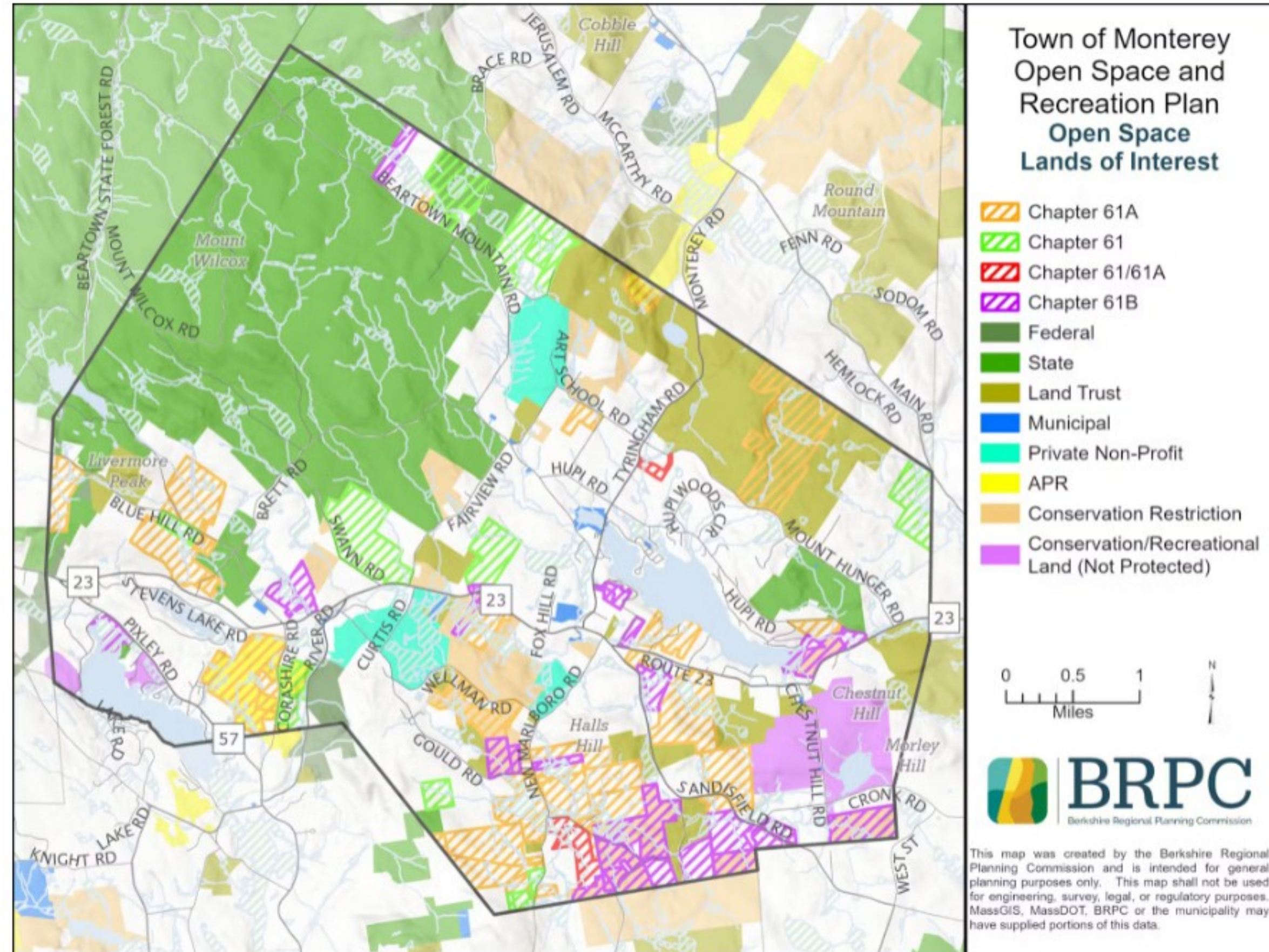


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Beskshire Natural Resources Council is working with Monterey Preservation Land Trust to improve access to properties.



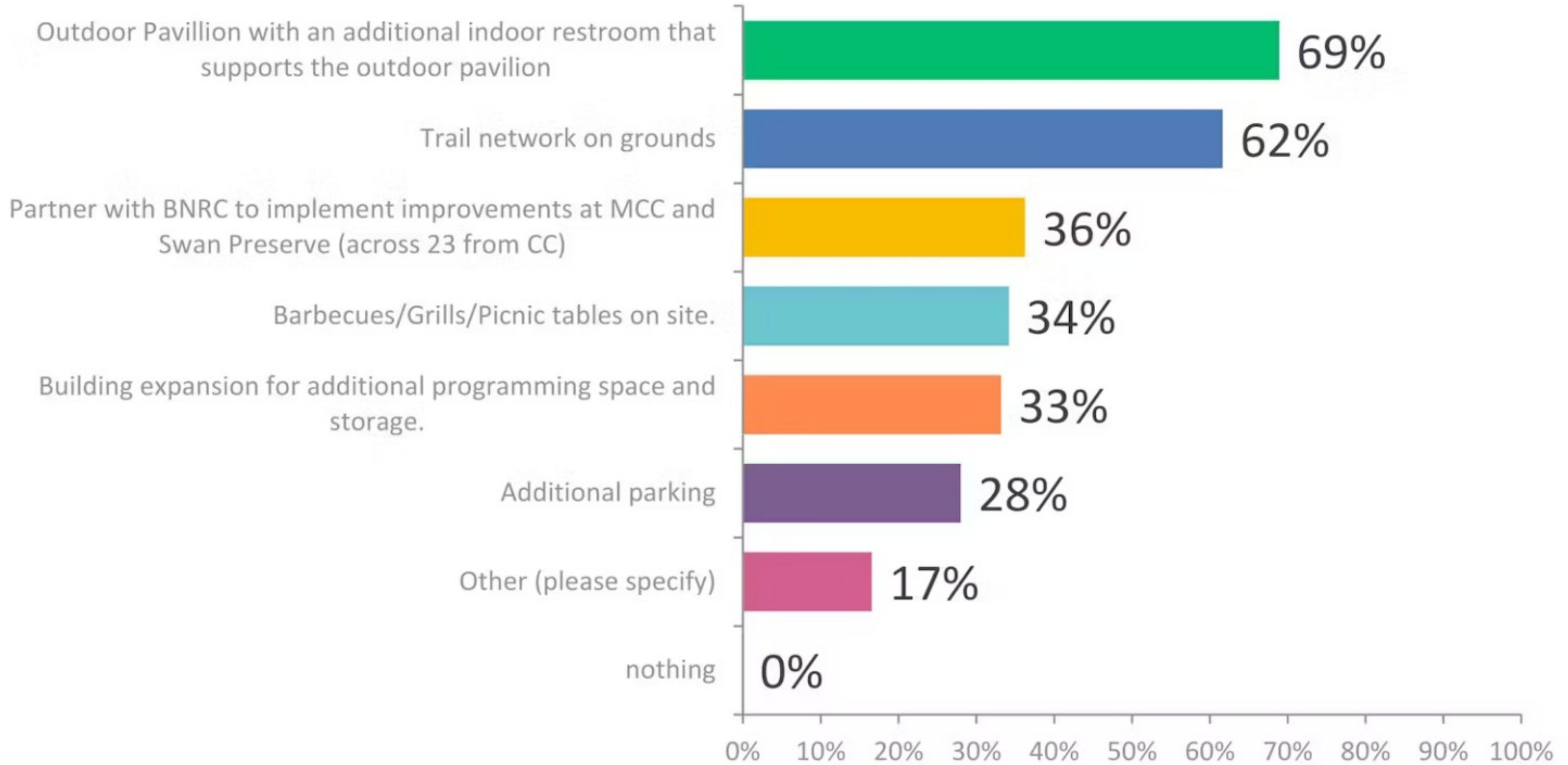


Protected Land within Monterey.



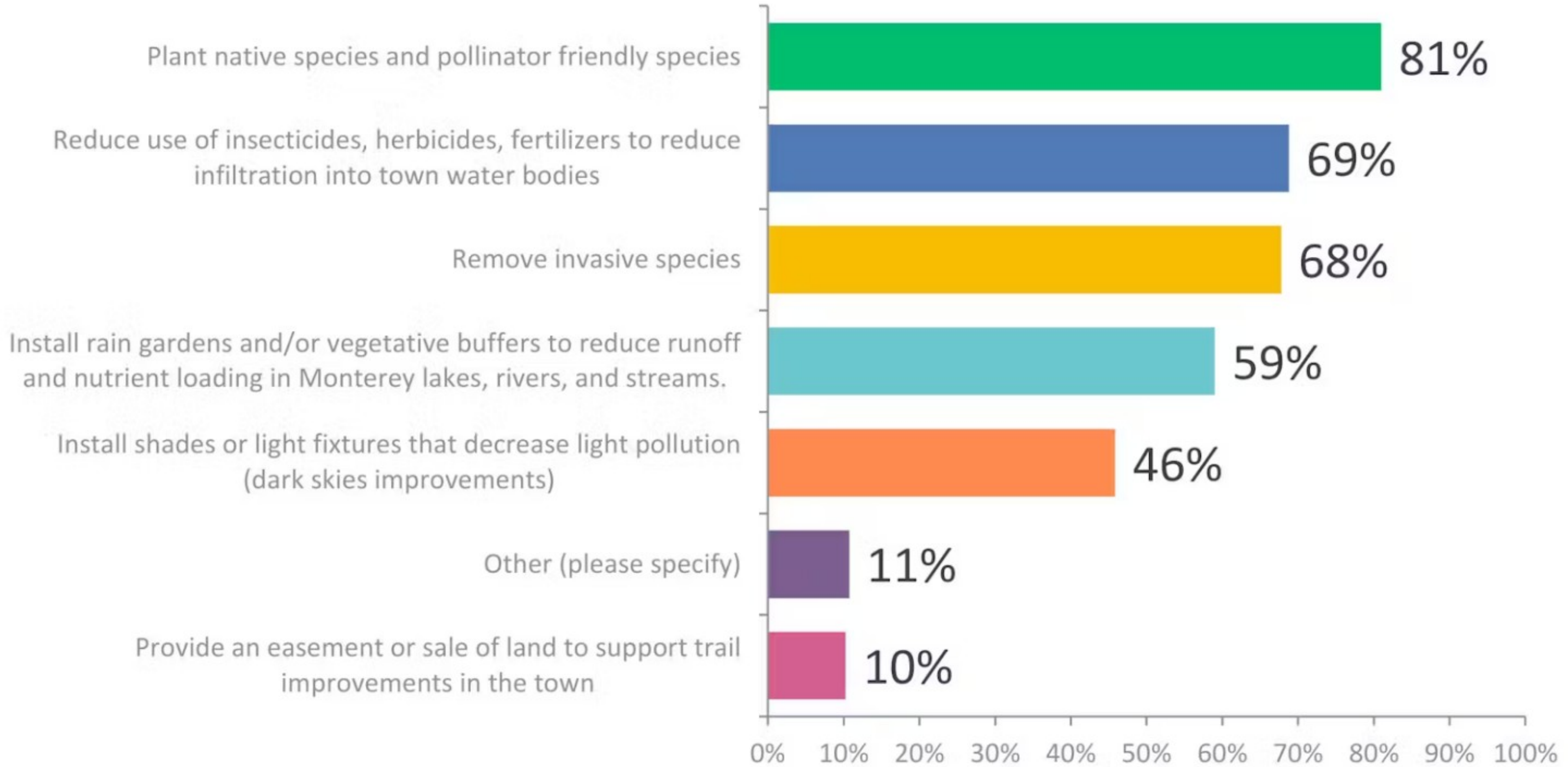
Q10: What improvements would you support at the Community Center and grounds?

Answered: 193 Skipped: 35



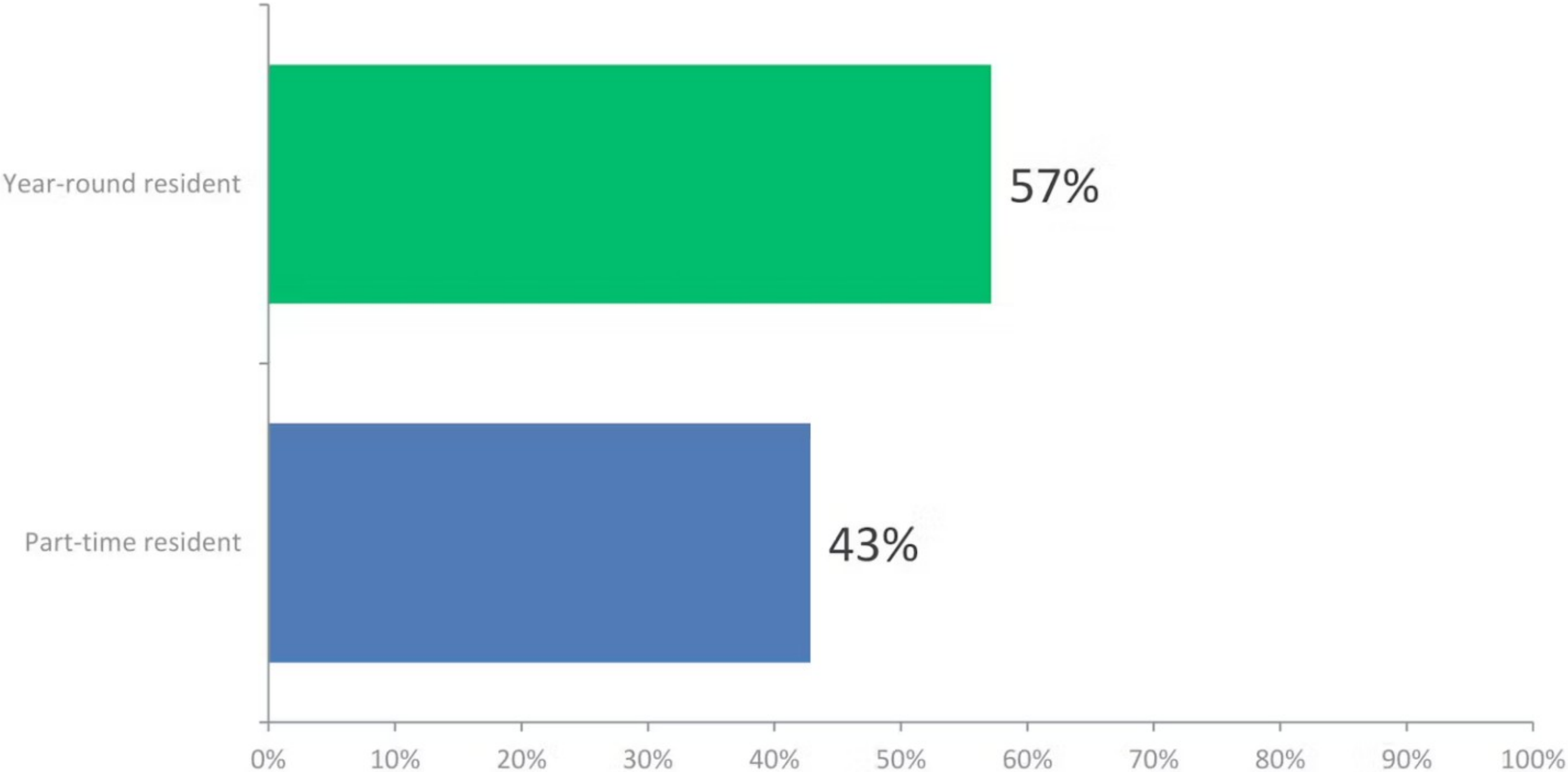
Q11: Which of the following conservation practices would you be willing to implement on your own property?

Answered: 205 Skipped: 23



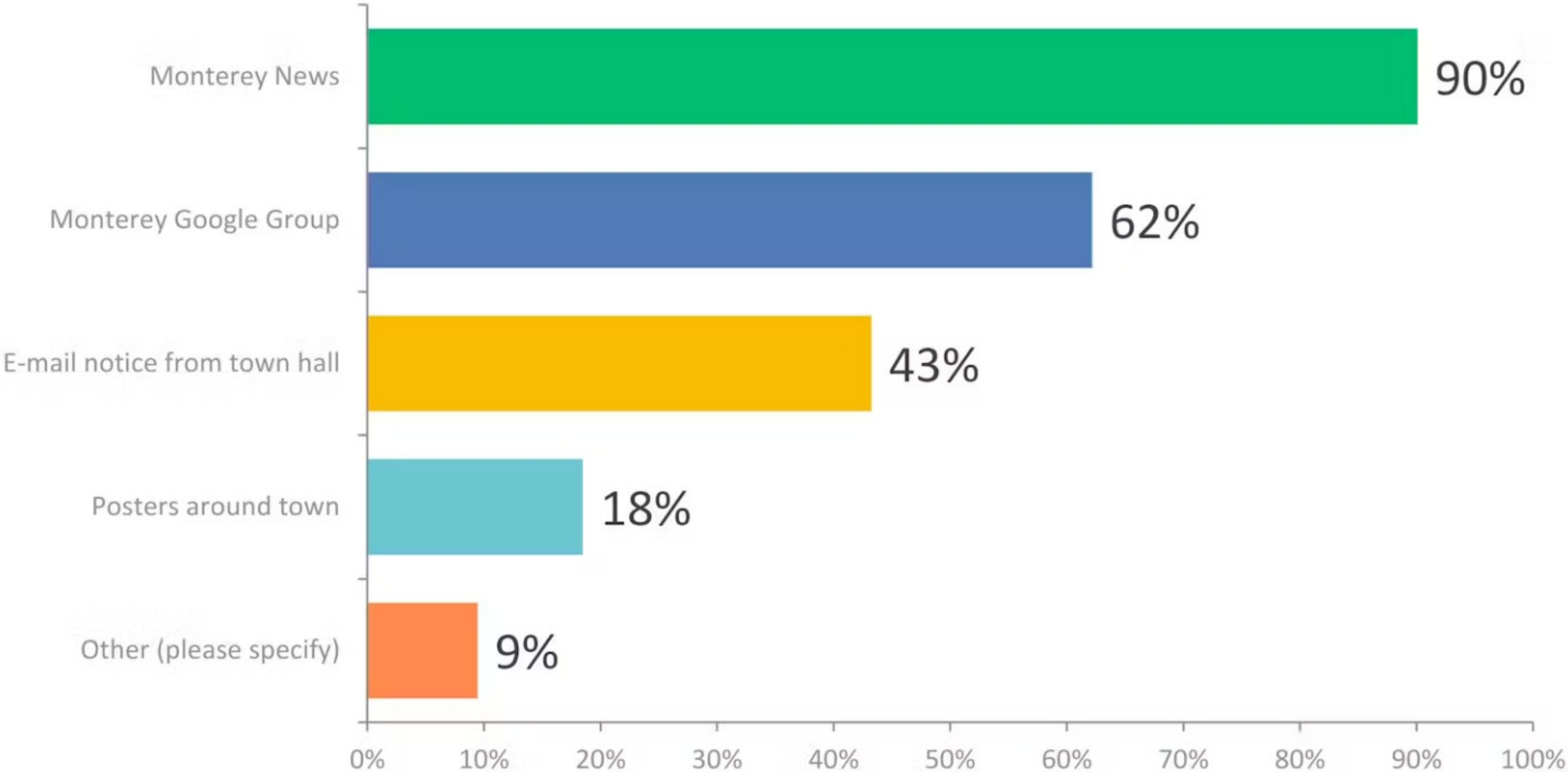
Q13: Are you a year-round resident, part-time resident, or visitor of Monterey?

Answered: 224 Skipped: 4



Q15: How do you get information about open space issues in Monterey?

Answered: 222 Skipped: 6



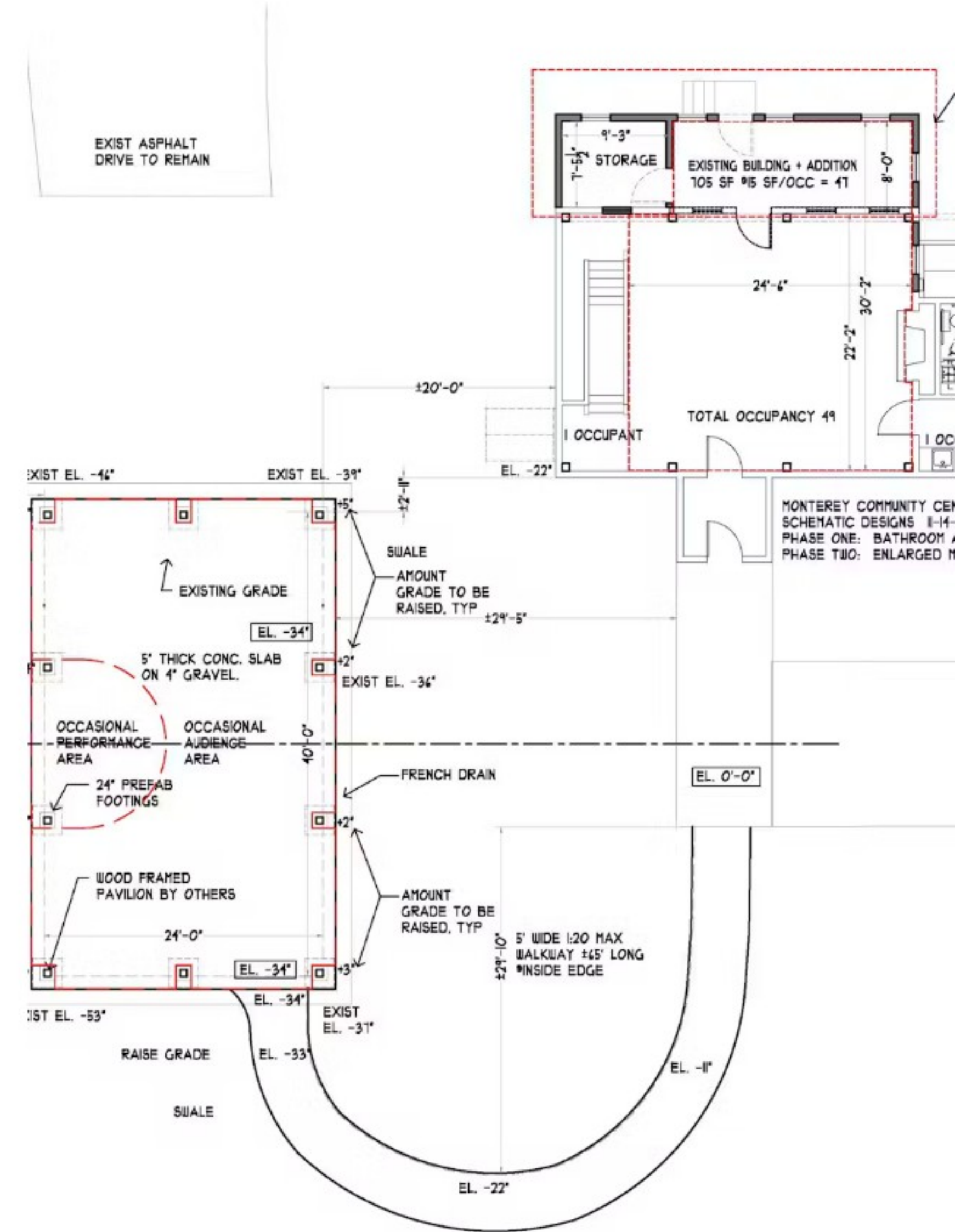
Households of Survey Respondents: Age Table

	One Person	Two People	Three People	Four People	Five People	Total	Percentage
under 10	11	32	9	0	0	52	9.92%
10-19	12	24	0	0	0	36	6.87%
20-29	8	10	3	0	0	21	4.01%
30-39	10	10	3	8	5	36	6.87%
40-49	16	30	3	4	0	53	10.11%
50-59	21	36	0	0	0	57	10.88%
60-69	24	68	0	0	0	92	17.56%
70+	33	144	0	0	0	177	33.78%
						524	Individuals represented by Survey responses.

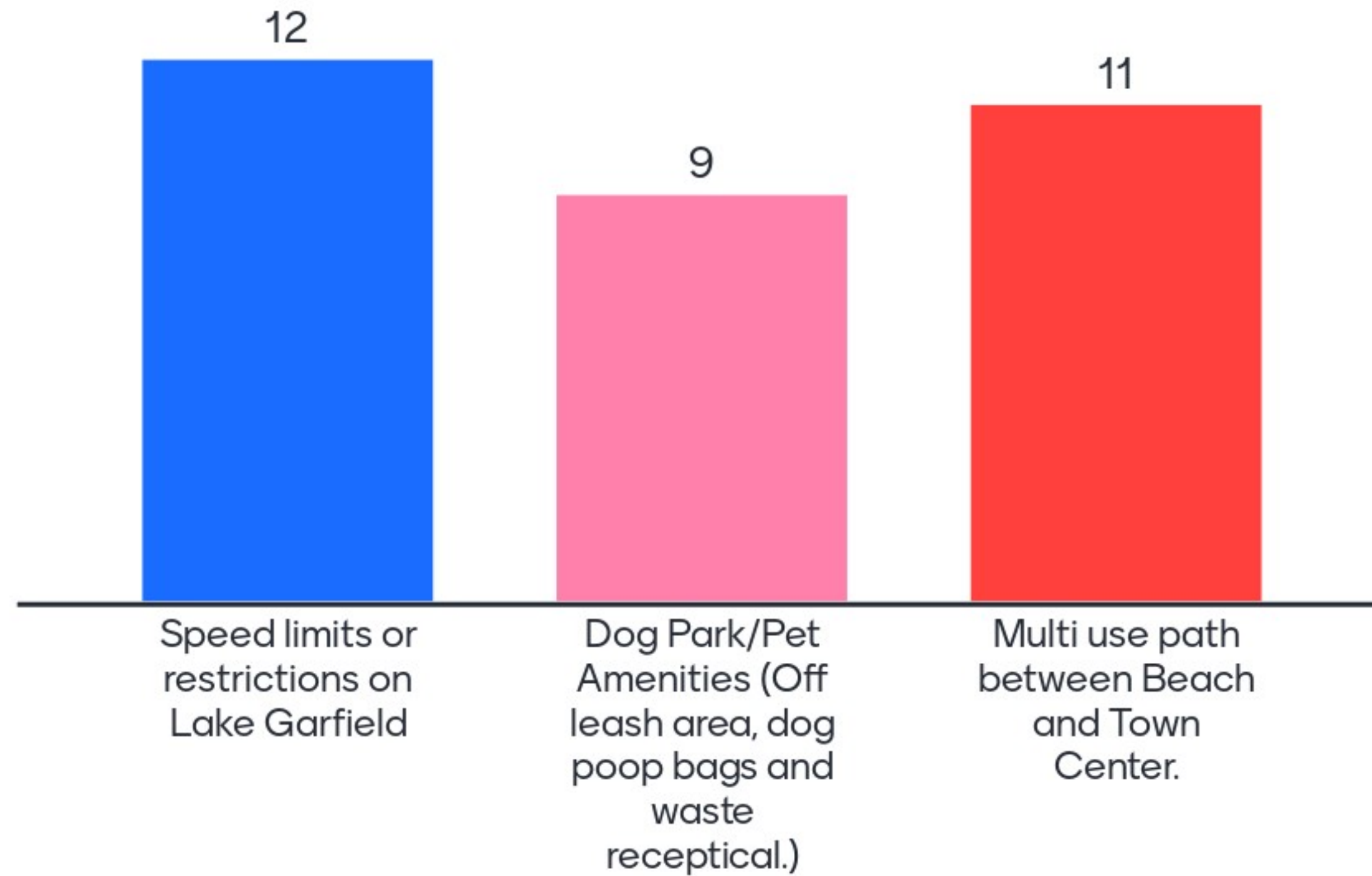


Town projects currently developed or under development.

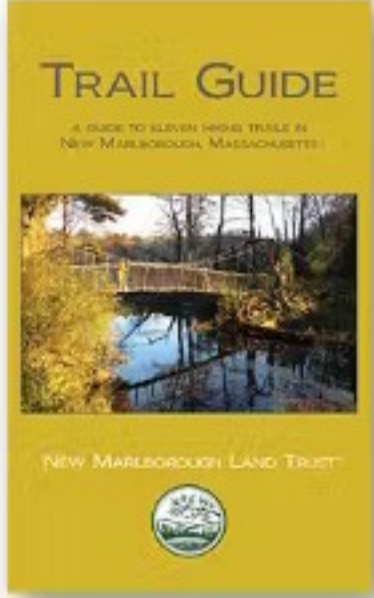
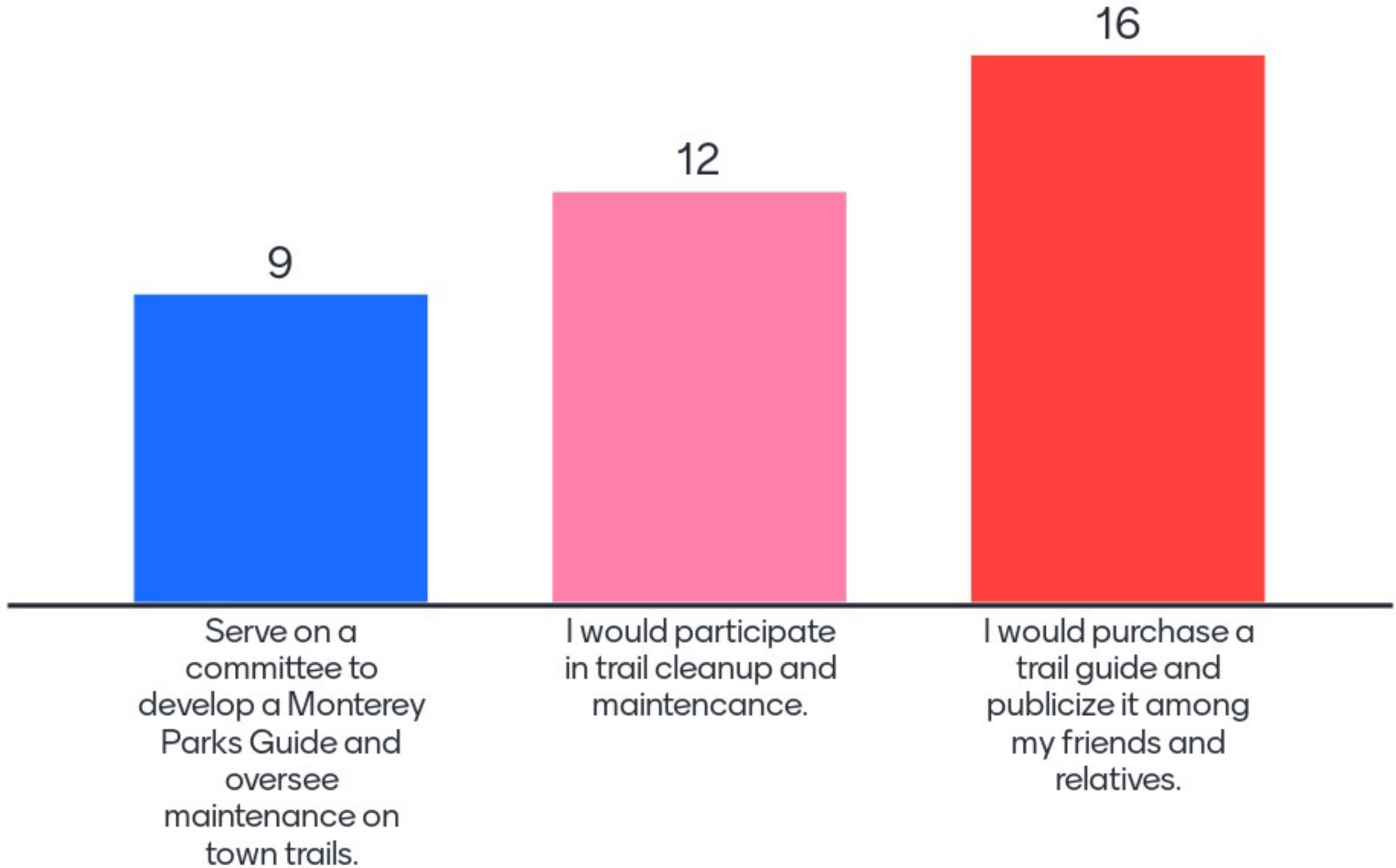
- Pavillion at community center.
- Pickleball court lines on basketball court.
- Dark skies ordinance under development.
- Site analysis of 11 acre Fox Hill Road Parcel.
- Complete Streets to investigate pedestrian connection between town beach and town center.



The following projects were suggested as part of the Open Space Survey. in Monterey. Select any that you would support.



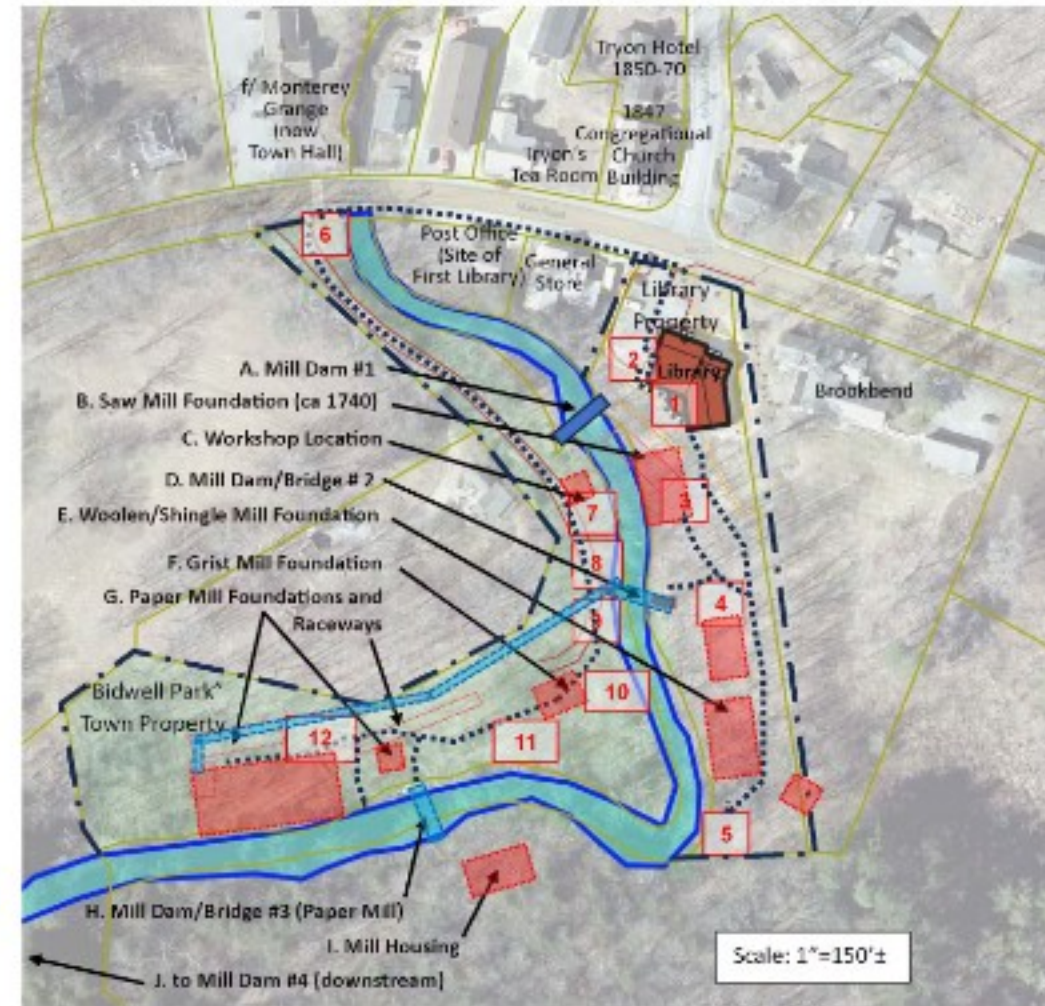
Select all relevant trails related activities you would be willing to participate in:



Get your own Trail Guide!

The revised edition of our popular *Trail Guide* features eleven great hikes. The Guide is available for \$10 at the Southfield Store, Mill River General Store, the New Marlborough Town Library, and The Bookloft in Great Barrington.

MONTEREY MILLS INTERPRETIVE TRAIL
SKETCH PLAN WITH SIGNAGE KEY - MARCH 2024



INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE KEY

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>LIBRARY PROPERTY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductory Overview Sign on Library Balcony 2. Introductory Overview Sign at Library Ramp 3. Mill Dam #1 (A) and Saw Mill (B) 4. Mill Dam/Bridge #2 (D) and Woolen/Shingle Mill (E) 5. Konkapot River Overlook | <p>Bidwell Park Property</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Introductory Overview Sign 7. Mill Dam 1 (A), Saw Mill (B) and Workshop (C) 8. M.S. Bidwell Park Dedication Memorial 9. Mill Dam/Bridge 2 (D) 10. Grist Mill (F) 11. Mill Housing (I) across river 12. Paper Mill Facilities (G), Mill Dam# 3 (H), and downstream mill dam (J) |
|--|---|

Plan B: Signage Key, Wetlands RDA 3/24

3/15/24 Monterey Mills Interpretive Trail Signage Key Plan_RDA Draft 2024-03-11.docx

TRAIL MAP PROVIDED BY ROB HOOGS

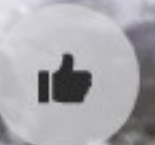
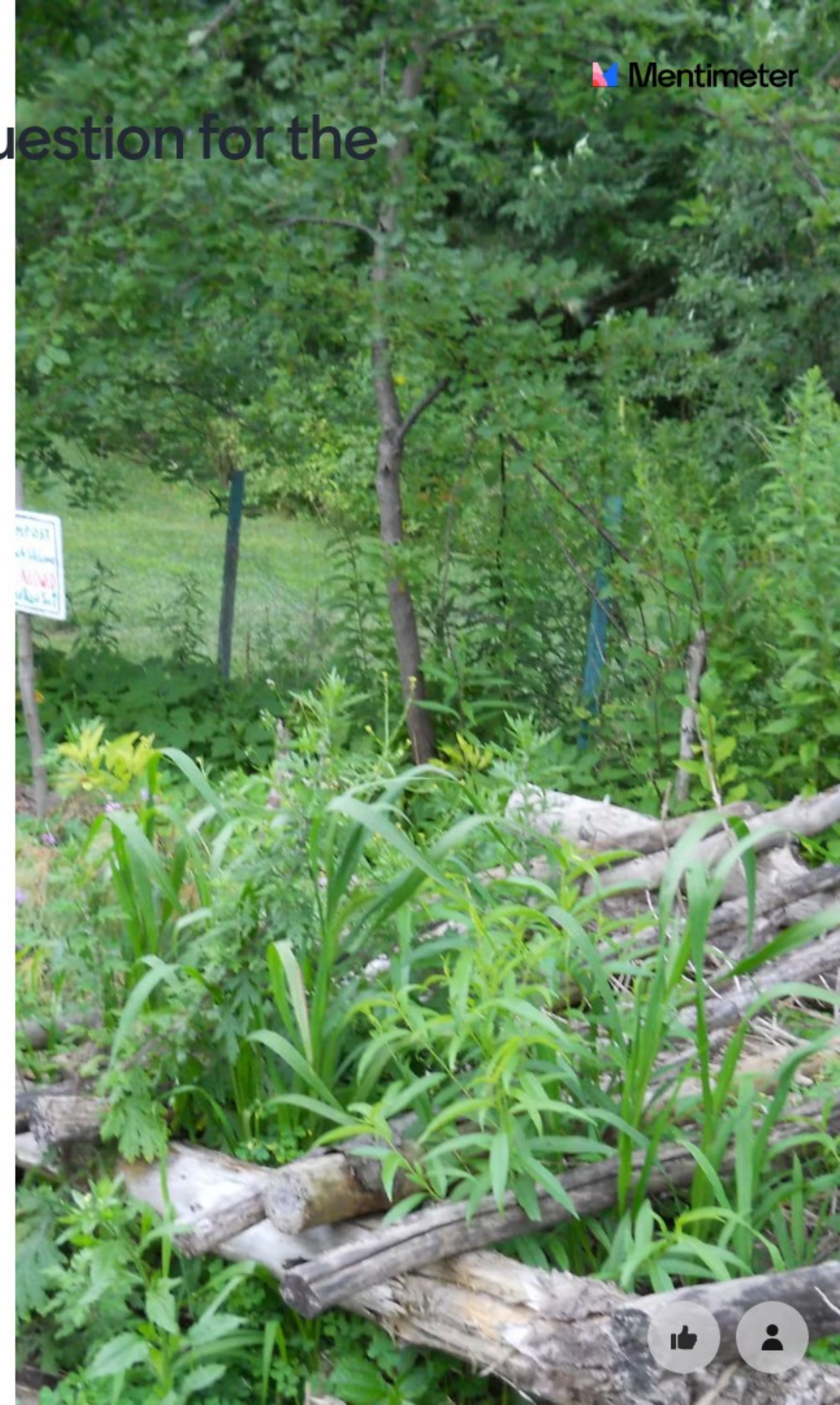
Trail improvements planned for Bidwell Park.

Topics unrelated to Open Space but highlighted during survey.

- Need for affordable housing in town.
- Potential sale and closure of Monterey UCC
- Parking fees for out of state plates at Beartown SF and Benedict Pond
- Food trucks and desire for a return of General Store soon.
- Bringing more young people to the town.



Did we forget something? Tell us about it here or pose a question for the committee.



Thank you for attending today.

Watch for the draft plan and public comment period during May and June on the town's website.

Public Forum: April 27, 10:00-11:30
Monterey Public Library, 452 Main Road

Town of Monterey Open Space and Recreation Survey Results

Join the Open Space and Recreation Committee to discuss the results of the public survey.

Use the following URL or QR Code to get to the Zoom meeting if you are unable to attend in person!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84225900001?pwd=WFB6c3R0bk10WEJ5eUJjTFBXdW4yQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 2590 0001

Passcode: 596565

