

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Town Hall, 525 Washington Street, Wellesley, Massachusetts 02482-5992

Heidi K. Gross, Chairman
Stephen Murphy, Vice Chairman
Joan E. Gaughan
Lise Olney
Raina McManus

Brandon Schmitt, Director
Telephone: 781.431.1019, Ext. 2298
Facsimile: 781.237.6495
Website: www.wellesleyma.gov/NRC

Thanks very much to the more than 600 Wellesley residents who recently completed the Natural Resources Commission Open Space and Recreation Survey. Based on the survey results, it is clear that survey respondents treasure the town's open spaces and recreational facilities, and are concerned about preserving and enhancing these extraordinary amenities for the future.

The results of the NRC Open Space and Recreation Survey will be incorporated into the Open Space and Recreation Report that the NRC will submit to the Commonwealth in the next few weeks. Meanwhile, the NRC commissioners and staff will continue to digest the results and incorporate them into our thinking and planning for the future.

The NRC commissioners and staff are especially grateful for the many thoughtful comments and suggestions submitted through the survey. We are giving those comments careful attention and, when appropriate, referring them to other departments for consideration and action.

Going forward, please contact us with any comments and concerns you may have - you don't have to wait for a survey!

- Our web site: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Our office is open in the basement at Town Hall, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4 pm. Summer hours (starting July 6): Monday 8 am to 8 pm; Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 am to 4 pm.
- Our phone number is 781-431-1019, ext. 2294
- Click [HERE](#) to like us on Facebook.

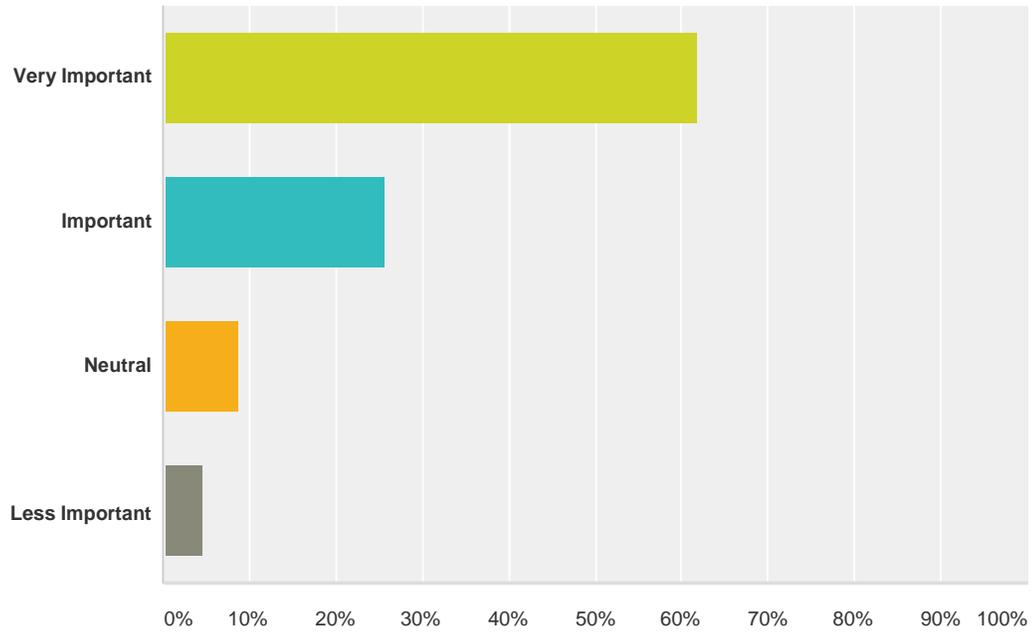
Wellesley Open Space and Recreation Plan 2015 Update
Q1: Please fill out the following information.
(Optional)

Answered: 308 Skipped: 316

| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----|
| Name | 98.70% | 304 |
| Company | 0.00% | 0 |
| Address | 0.00% | 0 |
| Address 2 | 0.00% | 0 |
| City/Town | 0.00% | 0 |
| State/Province | 0.00% | 0 |
| ZIP/Postal Code | 0.00% | 0 |
| Country | 0.00% | 0 |
| Email Address | 92.53% | 285 |
| Phone Number | 0.00% | 0 |

Q2: How important is it for the Town to acquire and preserve open space for natural resource protection?

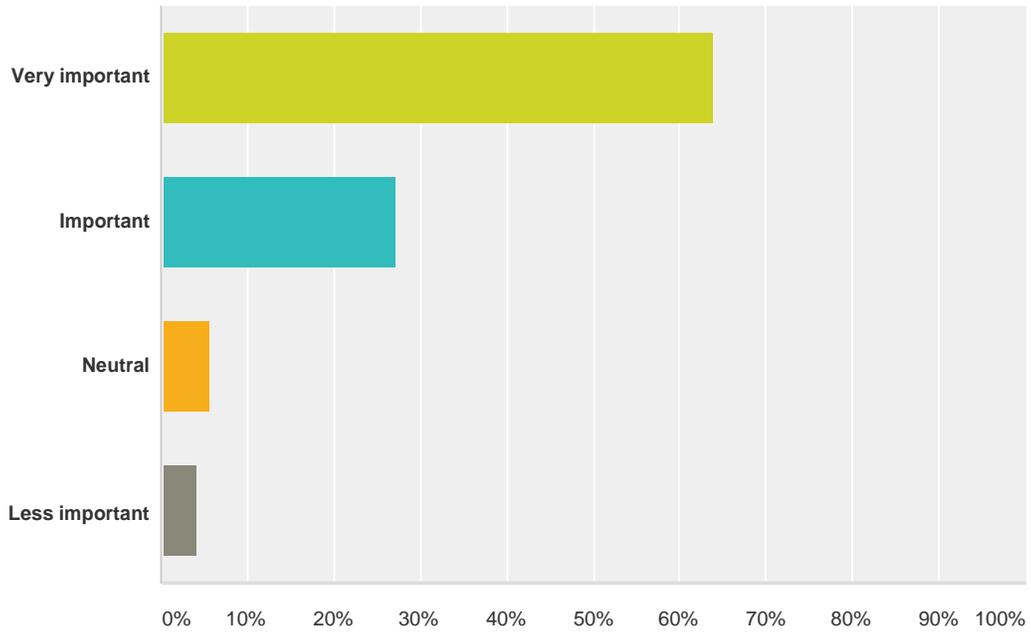
Answered: 618 Skipped: 6



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|------------|
| Very Important | 61.49% 380 |
| Important | 25.57% 158 |
| Neutral | 8.58% 53 |
| Less Important | 4.37% 27 |
| Total | 618 |

Q3: How important is it for the Town to acquire and preserve areas and facilities for recreational uses (both passive and active)?

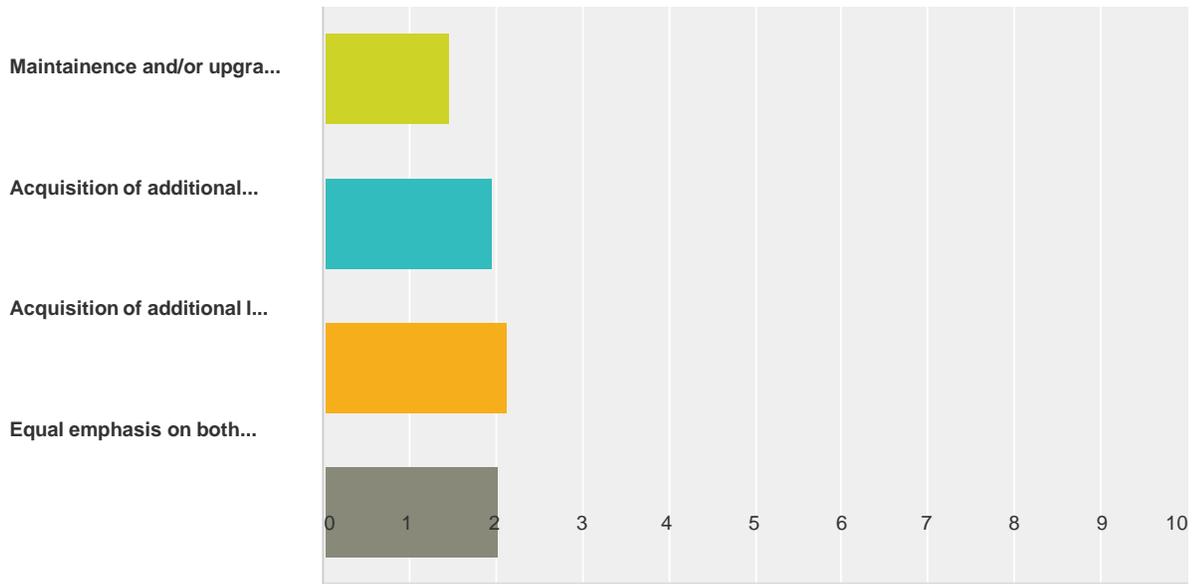
Answered: 617 Skipped: 7



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|------------|
| Very important | 63.70% 393 |
| Important | 26.90% 166 |
| Neutral | 5.35% 33 |
| Less important | 4.05% 25 |
| Total | 617 |

Q4: To help us understand your priorities for maintaining open space, and acquiring new open space, please indicate the importance of the following:

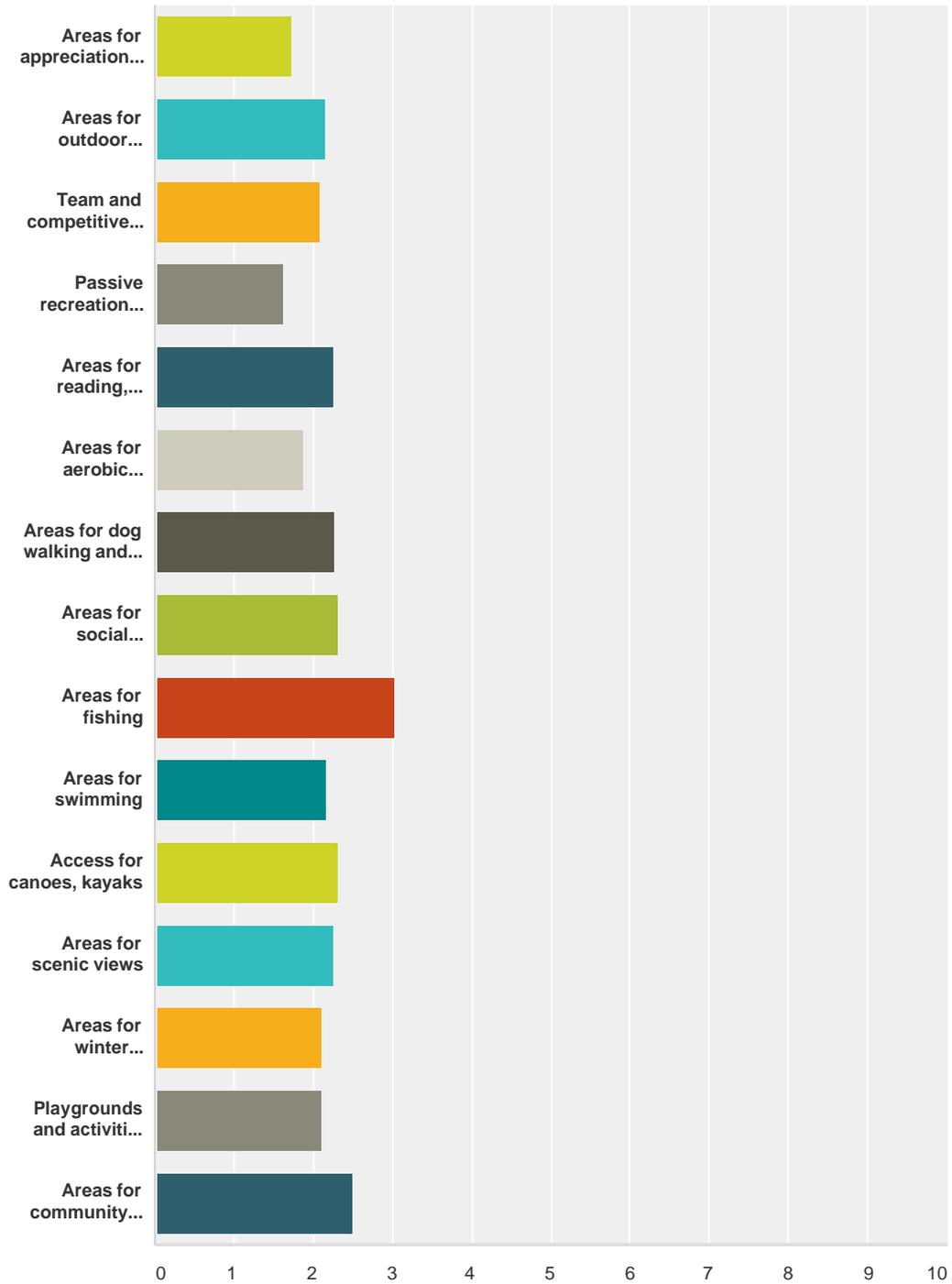
Answered: 621 Skipped: 3



| | Very Important | Important | Less Important | Not Important | Total | Weighted Average |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------|------------------|
| Maintenance and/or upgrades of existing open space and recreation areas and facilities | 61.35% 373 | 33.88% 206 | 3.95% 24 | 0.82% 5 | 608 | 1.44 |
| Acquisition of additional conservation land | 40.33% 246 | 30.33% 185 | 22.95% 14 | 6.39% 39 | 610 | 1.95 |
| Acquisition of additional land specifically for recreational facilities (playing fields etc.) | 32.84% 200 | 33.50% 204 | 24.63% 15 | 9.03% 55 | 609 | 2.10 |
| Equal emphasis on both maintenance and acquisition | 33.44% 200 | 39.63% 237 | 19.06% 11 | 7.86% 47 | 598 | 2.01 |

Q5: How important to you are each of the following resources based on your use of Wellesley open space and recreation areas?

Answered: 623 Skipped: 1

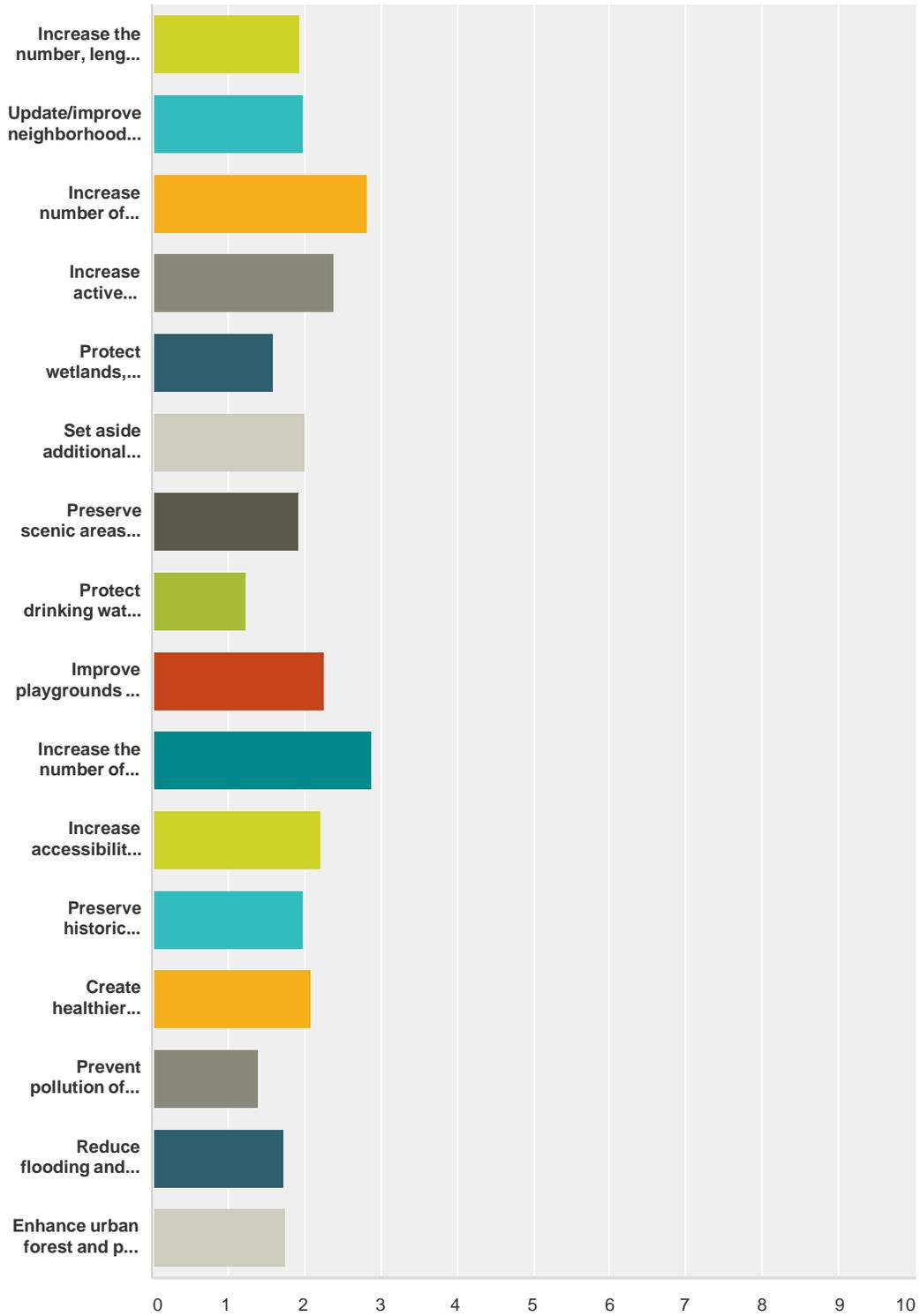


Wellesley Open Space and Recreation Plan 2015 Update

| | Very Important | Important | Less Important | Not Important | Total | Weighted Average |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------|------------------|
| Areas for appreciation and observation of nature and wildlife | 48.78% 300 | 33.50% 206 | 15.45% 95 | 2.28% 14 | 615 | 1.71 |
| Areas for outdoor education about nature | 30.03% 185 | 34.90% 215 | 28.41% 175 | 6.66% 41 | 616 | 2.12 |
| Team and competitive sports facilities (basketball, soccer, field hockey, etc.) | 37.60% 232 | 29.34% 181 | 23.01% 141 | 10.05% 62 | 617 | 2.06 |
| Passive recreation areas (walking, snow-shoeing, tai chi, etc.) | 52.03% 321 | 36.79% 227 | 9.56% 59 | 1.62% 10 | 617 | 1.61 |
| Areas for reading, relaxation, or contemplation | 25.93% 160 | 32.41% 200 | 34.52% 211 | 7.13% 44 | 617 | 2.23 |
| Areas for aerobic exercise (running, biking, etc) | 37.90% 235 | 41.94% 260 | 17.26% 101 | 2.90% 18 | 620 | 1.85 |
| Areas for dog walking and play | 30.26% 187 | 31.23% 193 | 20.87% 122 | 17.64% 109 | 618 | 2.26 |
| Areas for social interaction (picnics, group events, etc.) | 18.14% 111 | 41.83% 256 | 32.35% 191 | 7.68% 47 | 612 | 2.30 |
| Areas for fishing | 7.35% 45 | 18.14% 111 | 41.18% 251 | 33.33% 204 | 612 | 3.00 |
| Areas for swimming | 30.42% 188 | 36.57% 226 | 21.36% 131 | 11.65% 72 | 618 | 2.14 |
| Access for canoes, kayaks | 21.50% 132 | 37.95% 233 | 29.32% 181 | 11.24% 69 | 614 | 2.30 |
| Areas for scenic views | 25.16% 154 | 35.95% 220 | 30.07% 181 | 8.82% 54 | 612 | 2.23 |
| Areas for winter activities (sledding, ice skating, etc.) | 27.39% 169 | 43.11% 266 | 22.69% 141 | 6.81% 42 | 617 | 2.09 |
| Playgrounds and activities for young children | 30.24% 186 | 39.02% 240 | 23.25% 141 | 7.48% 46 | 615 | 2.08 |
| Areas for community gardens | 22.17% 137 | 29.13% 180 | 27.51% 171 | 21.20% 131 | 618 | 2.48 |

Q6: How important are the following objectives?

Answered: 621 Skipped: 3



Wellesley Open Space and Recreation Plan 2015 Update

| | Very Important | Important | Less Important | Not Important | Total | Weighted Average |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------|------------------|
| Increase the number, length, and connectivity of trails | 34.69% 213 | 41.04% 252 | 21.82% 134 | 2.44% 15 | 614 | 1.92 |
| Update/improve neighborhood parks | 26.14% 160 | 52.12% 319 | 20.42% 125 | 1.31% 8 | 612 | 1.97 |
| Increase number of family picnic areas | 6.83% 42 | 22.44% 138 | 55.93% 344 | 14.80% 91 | 615 | 2.79 |
| Increase active recreation areas (basketball, tennis, etc.) | 22.99% 140 | 30.87% 188 | 33.50% 204 | 12.64% 77 | 609 | 2.36 |
| Protect wetlands, rivers, streams, and ponds (from encroachment, development, or overuse). | 58.09% 359 | 28.96% 179 | 10.68% 66 | 2.27% 14 | 618 | 1.57 |
| Set aside additional areas for conservation | 39.45% 243 | 31.49% 194 | 20.94% 129 | 8.12% 50 | 616 | 1.98 |
| Preserve scenic areas and views | 39.41% 242 | 36.16% 222 | 20.20% 124 | 4.23% 26 | 614 | 1.89 |
| Protect drinking water supply | 82.31% 507 | 13.96% 86 | 3.41% 21 | 0.32% 2 | 616 | 1.22 |
| Improve playgrounds for children | 20.42% 126 | 41.82% 258 | 31.77% 196 | 6.00% 37 | 617 | 2.23 |
| Increase the number of playgrounds | 8.03% 49 | 18.03% 110 | 52.79% 322 | 21.15% 129 | 610 | 2.87 |
| Increase accessibility to recreation facilities for persons with disabilities | 19.09% 117 | 48.78% 299 | 24.80% 152 | 7.34% 45 | 613 | 2.20 |
| Preserve historic character | 36.85% 227 | 36.69% 226 | 19.81% 122 | 6.66% 41 | 616 | 1.96 |
| Create healthier transportation options | 35.15% 213 | 32.34% 196 | 23.27% 141 | 9.24% 56 | 606 | 2.07 |
| Prevent pollution of lakes, ponds, brooks, and streams from pesticides, herbicides, and other chemicals and | 69.93% 428 | 24.02% 147 | 4.58% 28 | 1.47% 9 | 612 | 1.38 |
| Reduce flooding and control stormwater | 45.93% 282 | 40.55% 249 | 10.59% 65 | 2.93% 18 | 614 | 1.71 |
| Enhance urban forest and park trees to enhance air quality, provide wildlife habitat, add to scenic character | 48.28% 295 | 33.72% 206 | 13.91% 85 | 4.09% 25 | 611 | 1.74 |

Q7: What are the most significant needs in your immediate neighborhood regarding the supply, quality, public access, or accessibility of open spaces and facilities? Please list no more than three neighborhood needs in order of their importance to you.

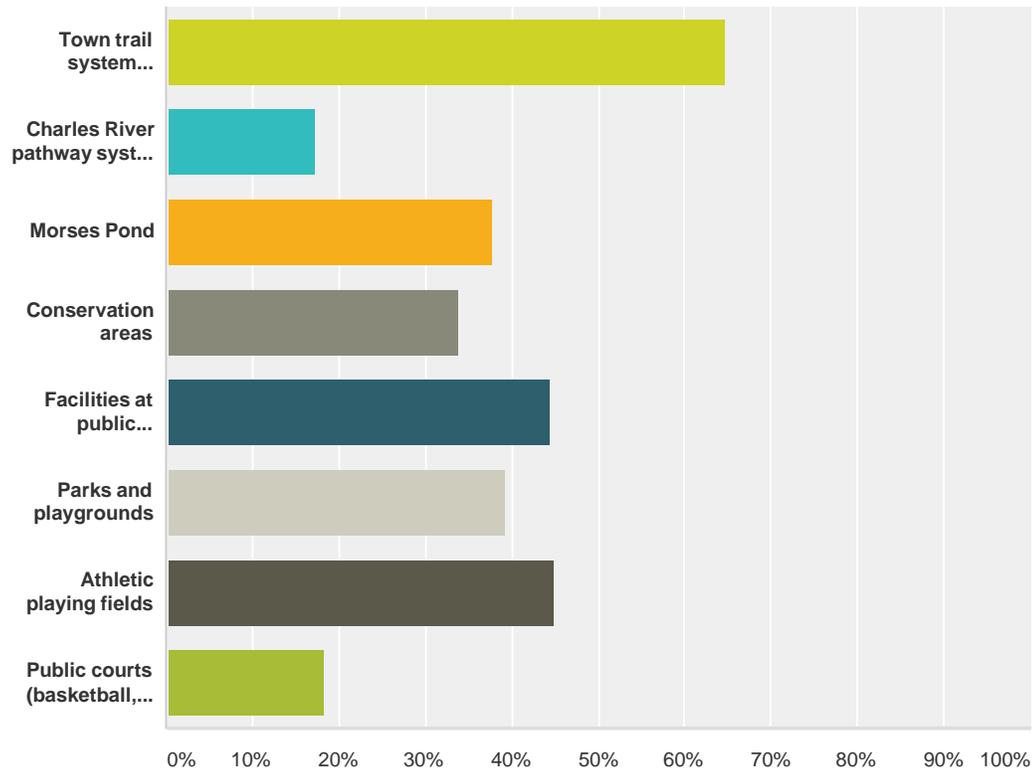
Answered: 429 Skipped: 195

| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1. | 100.00% 429 |
| 2. | 71.33% 306 |
| 3. | 47.55% 204 |

Comments currently being reviewed.

Q8 What public outdoor open space, recreation, and conservation lands do you and members of your household use most often? (Please select no more than 3.)

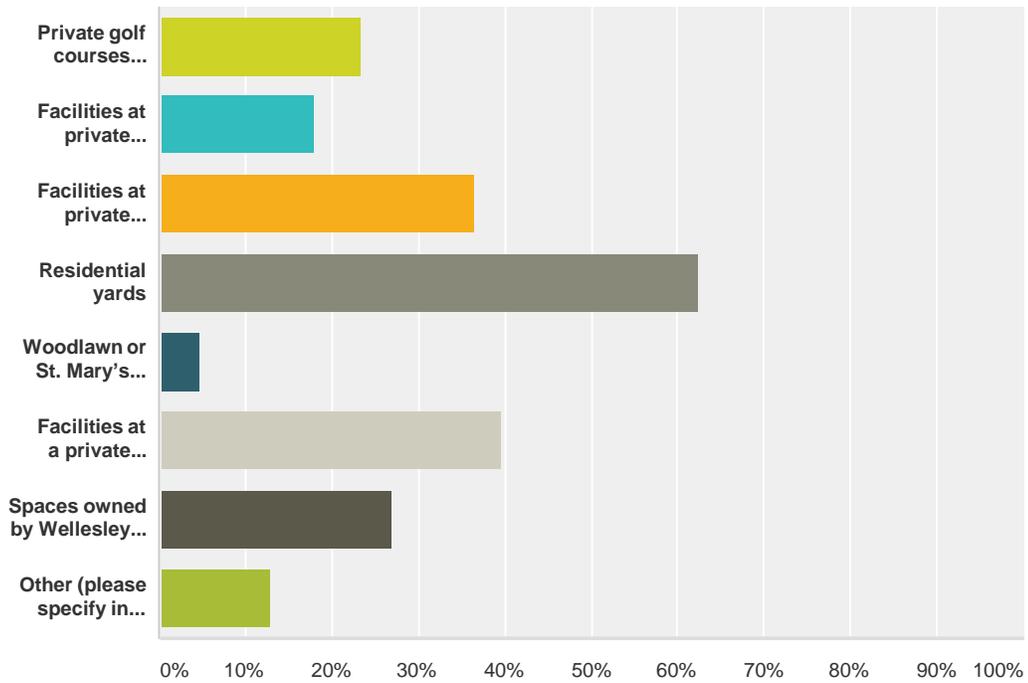
Answered: 611 Skipped: 13



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|--|------------|
| Town trail system including Cochituate and Sudbury Aqueducts | 64.48% 394 |
| Charles River pathway system (State DCR) | 17.18% 105 |
| Morses Pond | 37.64% 230 |
| Conservation areas | 33.55% 205 |
| Facilities at public elementary, middle school, or high school | 44.35% 271 |
| Parks and playgrounds | 39.12% 239 |
| Athletic playing fields | 44.68% 273 |
| Public courts (basketball, tennis) | 18.17% 111 |
| Total Respondents: 611 | |

Q9 What privately owned outdoor open space, recreation, and conservation lands do you and members of your household use most often? (Please select no more than 3.)

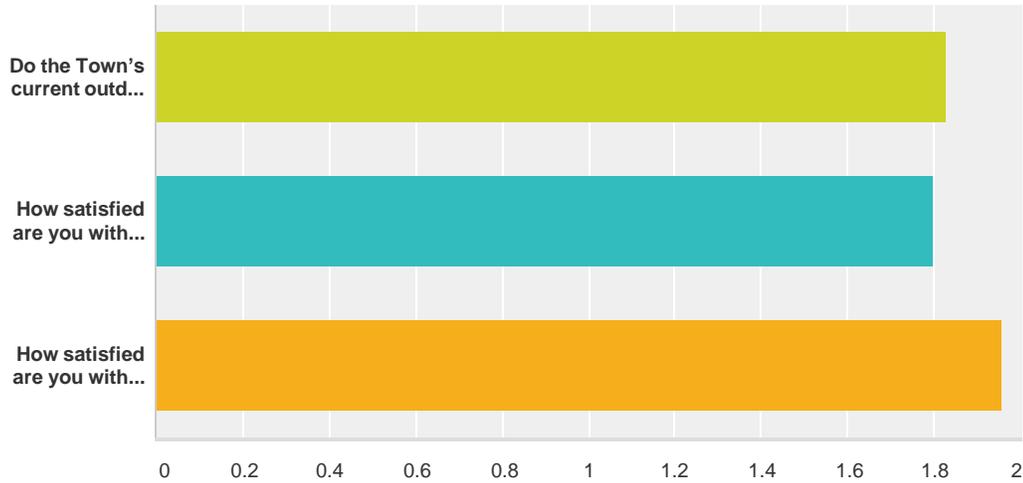
Answered: 585 Skipped: 39



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|--|----------------------|
| Private golf courses (Country Club or Nehoiden) | 23.08% 135 |
| Facilities at private elementary or high schools | 17.78% 104 |
| Facilities at private colleges or universities | 36.24% 212 |
| Residential yards | 62.22% 364 |
| Woodlawn or St. Mary's Cemetery | 4.62% 27 |
| Facilities at a private health club or similar recreation provider | 39.49% 231 |
| Spaces owned by Wellesley Conservation | 26.67% 156 |
| Other (please specify in "Comments" field below) | 12.82% 75 |
| Total Respondents: 585 | |

Q10 Please answer the following questions about your satisfaction with the Town's recreational areas:

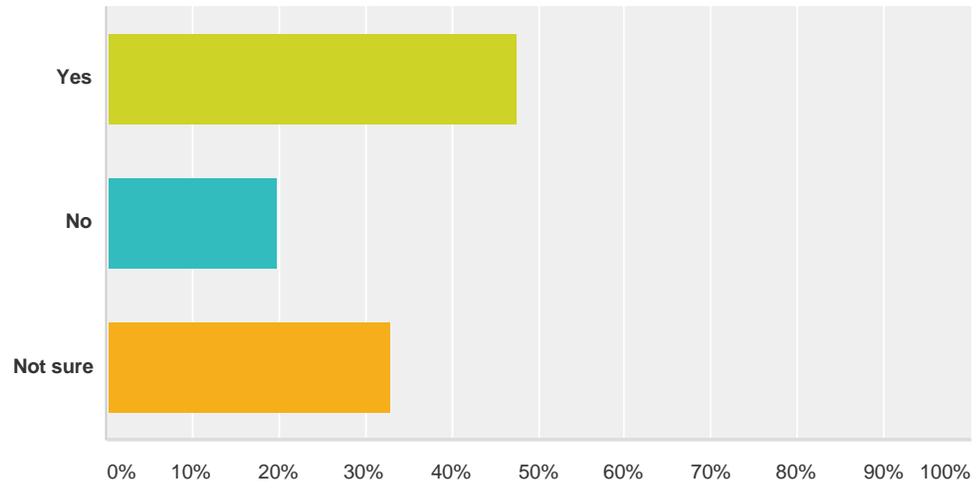
Answered: 608 Skipped: 16



| | Very much so | Somewhat | Very Little | Not at all | Total | Weighted Average |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------|------------------|
| Do the Town's current outdoor recreational areas meet your needs? | 29.87% 181 | 60.23% 365 | 7.26% 44 | 2.64% 16 | 606 | 1.83 |
| How satisfied are you with the facilities for children and youth to play and recreate in Town? | 35.91% 214 | 51.17% 305 | 9.56% 57 | 3.36% 20 | 596 | 1.80 |
| How satisfied are you with the facilities available in Town for recreational use by adults? | 24.50% 147 | 58.50% 351 | 13.83% 83 | 3.17% 19 | 600 | 1.96 |

Q11 Do you know where all the open space and recreation resources are in Town?

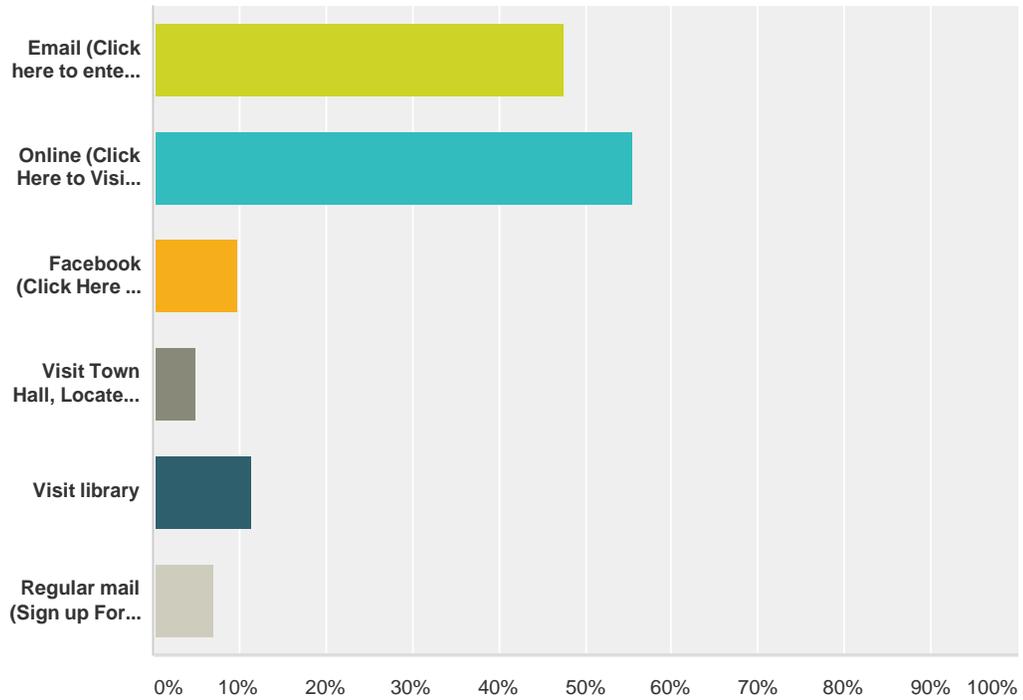
Answered: 615 Skipped: 9



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|------------|
| Yes | 47.48% 292 |
| No | 19.67% 121 |
| Not sure | 32.85% 202 |
| Total | 615 |

Q12 If you would like to know more about these resources, how would you like to receive that information?

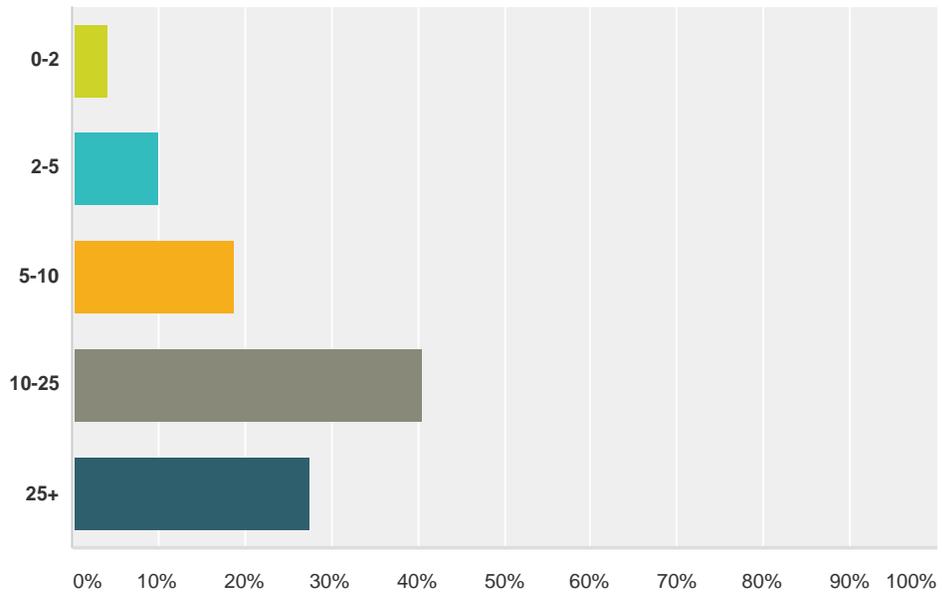
Answered: 434 Skipped: 190



| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|--|-----------|-----|
| Email (Click here to enter your email address and receive occasional updates from the NRC) | 47.47% | 206 |
| Online (Click Here to Visit our Website) | 55.30% | 240 |
| Facebook (Click Here to Like our Facebook page) | 9.68% | 42 |
| Visit Town Hall, Located at 525 Washington ST, Lower Level | 4.84% | 21 |
| Visit library | 11.29% | 49 |
| Regular mail (Sign up For Information Here) | 6.91% | 30 |
| Total Respondents: 434 | | |

Q13 How many years you have lived in Wellesley?

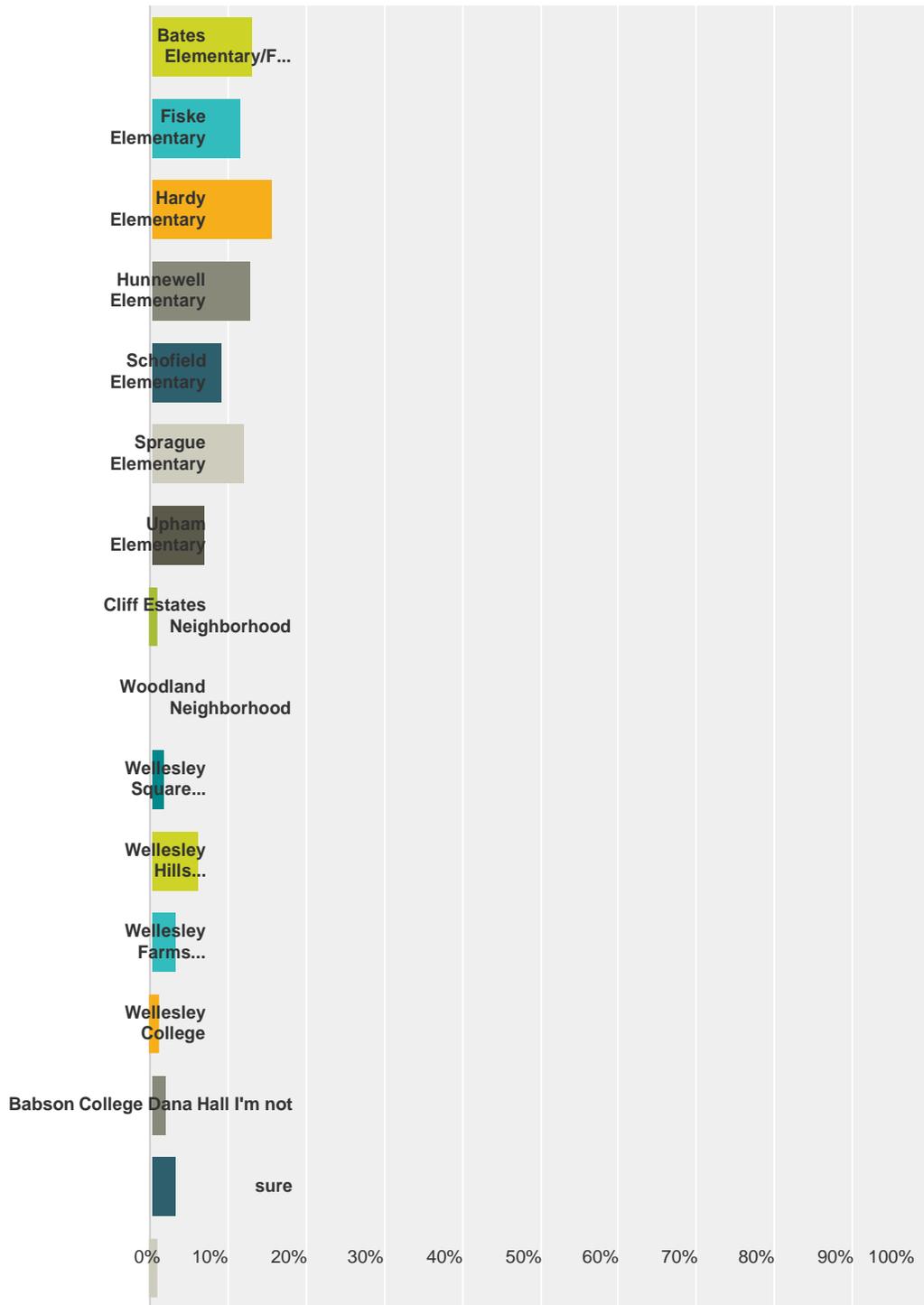
Answered: 615 Skipped: 9



| Answer Choices | Responses |
|----------------|------------|
| 0-2 | 4.07% 25 |
| 2-5 | 9.76% 60 |
| 5-10 | 18.54% 114 |
| 10-25 | 40.33% 248 |
| 25+ | 27.32% 168 |
| Total | 615 |

Q14 What neighborhood or School District do you live in? Please check one box.

Answered: 617 Skipped: 7

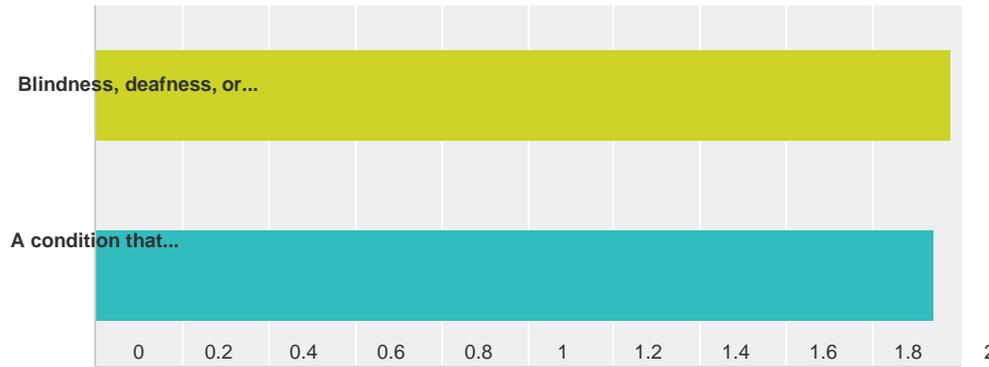


Wellesley Open Space and Recreation Plan 2015 Update

| Answer Choices | Responses | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Bates Elementary/Fells Neighborhood | 12.97% | 80 |
| Fiske Elementary | 11.51% | 71 |
| Hardy Elementary | 15.40% | 95 |
| Hunnewell Elementary | 12.80% | 79 |
| Schofield Elementary | 9.08% | 56 |
| Sprague Elementary | 11.99% | 74 |
| Upham Elementary | 6.81% | 42 |
| Cliff Estates Neighborhood | 0.97% | 6 |
| Woodland Neighborhood | 0.49% | 3 |
| Wellesley Square Neighborhood | 1.62% | 10 |
| Wellesley Hills Neighborhood | 6.00% | 37 |
| Wellesley Farms Neighborhood | 3.08% | 19 |
| Wellesley College | 1.30% | 8 |
| Babson College | 1.94% | 12 |
| Dana Hall | 3.08% | 19 |
| I'm not sure | 0.97% | 6 |
| Total | | 617 |

Q15 Do you or any member of your household have any of the following conditions?

Answered: 606 Skipped: 18



| | Yes | No | Total | Weighted Average |
|---|-------------|---------------|-------|------------------|
| Blindness, deafness, or a severe vision or hearing impairment? | 1.66% 10 | 98.34% 593 | 603 | 1.98 |
| A condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, lifting, or carrying? | 5.56% 33 | 94.44% 561 | 594 | 1.94 |