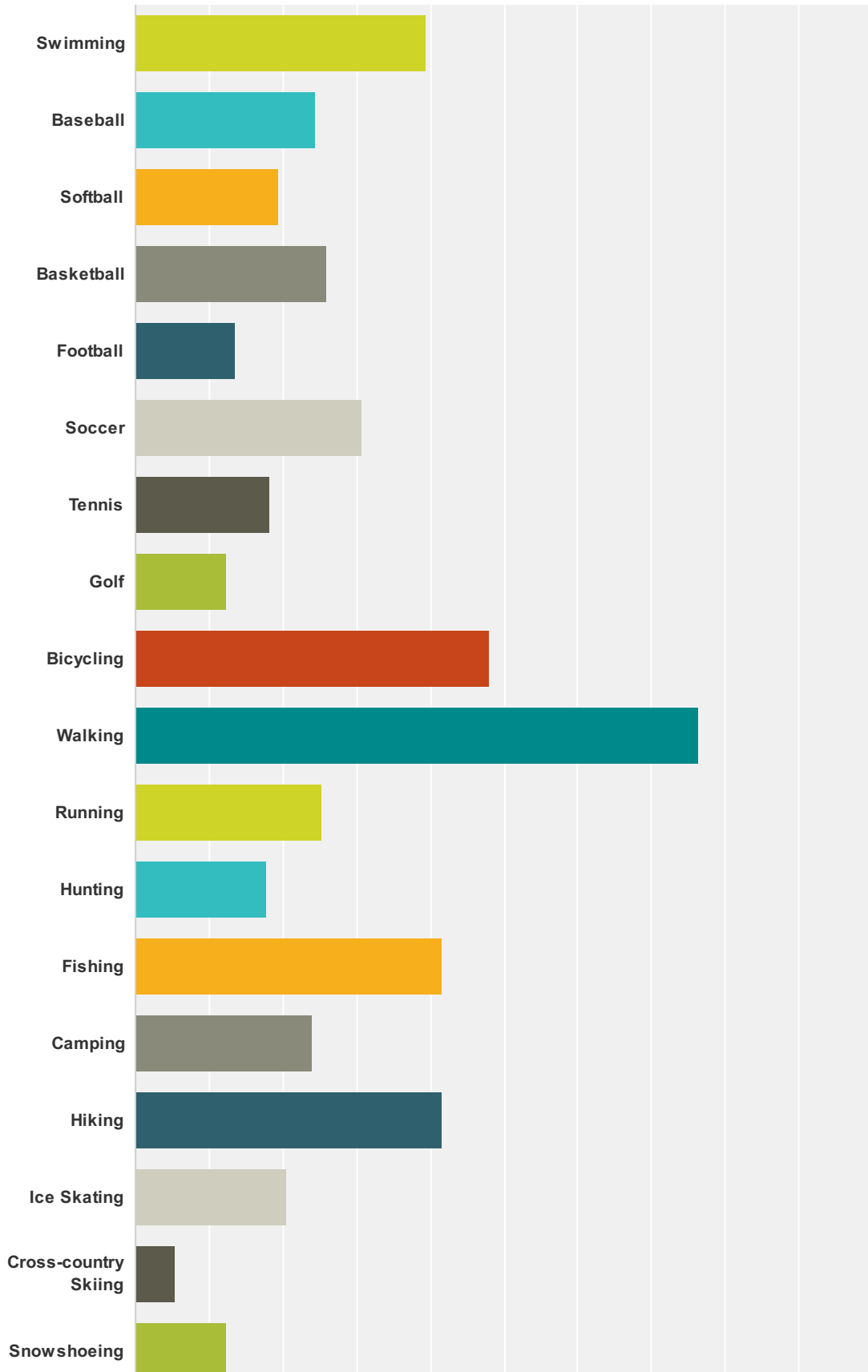


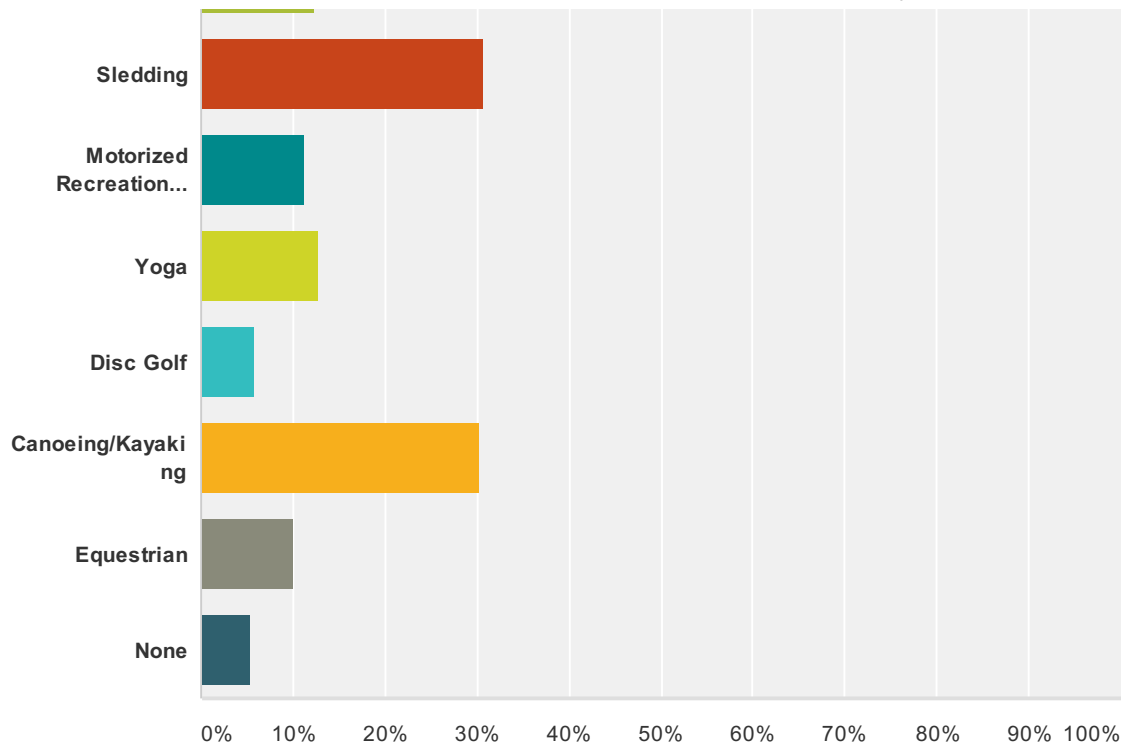
# **Appendix B: Community Survey Results**

**Q1 What type of recreational activities do you and/or your family participate in here in Palmer? Check all that apply.**

Answered: 221 Skipped: 3



## Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



Answer Choices	Responses
Swimming	39.37% 87
Baseball	24.43% 54
Softball	19.46% 43
Basketball	25.79% 57
Football	13.57% 30
Soccer	30.77% 68
Tennis	18.10% 40
Golf	12.22% 27
Bicycling	47.96% 106
Walking	76.47% 169
Running	25.34% 56
Hunting	17.65% 39
Fishing	41.63% 92
Camping	23.98% 53
Hiking	41.63% 92
Ice Skating	20.36% 45
Cross-country Skiing	5.43% 12
Snowshoeing	12.22% 27
Sledding	30.77% 68

## Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

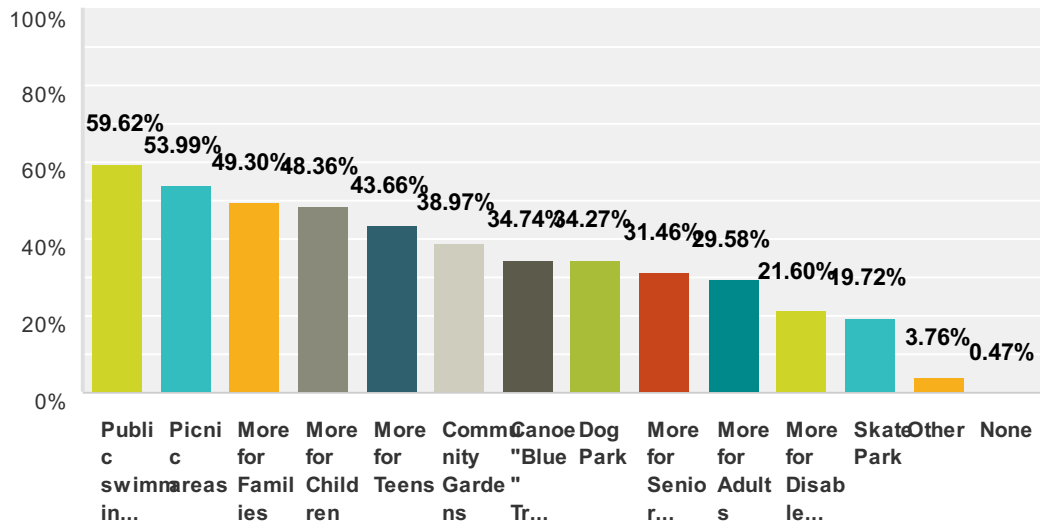
Motorized Recreation (ATV, Snowmobiling)	11.31%	25
Yoga	12.67%	28
Disc Golf	5.88%	13
Canoeing/Kayaking	30.32%	67
Equestrian	9.95%	22
None	5.43%	12
<b>Total Respondents: 221</b>		

**Question 1: What type of recreational activities does you and/or your family participate in here in Palmer? Other/Comments**

1. We like to enjoy the streams
2. Jeep Trails (tread lightly)
3. Paddle boarding
4. Going to the park with our 17 month old
5. Birding
6. all of the above then some
7. Water spray park
8. Fencing
9. Dog activities
10. Birding
11. Paintball

## Q2 What additional recreational activities would you like to see the Town of Palmer offer? Check all that apply.

Answered: 213 Skipped: 11



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Public swimming access	59.62%	127
Picnic areas	53.99%	115
More for Families	49.30%	105
More for Children	48.36%	103
More for Teens	43.66%	93
Community Gardens	38.97%	83
Canoe "Blue" Trails	34.74%	74
Dog Park	34.27%	73
More for Senior Citizens	31.46%	67
More for Adults	29.58%	63
More for Disabled Citizens	21.60%	46
Skate Park	19.72%	42
Other	3.76%	8
None	0.47%	1
<b>Total Respondents: 213</b>		

**Question 2: What additional recreational activities would you like to see the Town of Palmer offer? Other/Comments**

1. For special needs people
2. more safe hiking areas
3. Pool at Burleigh Park
4. rail trail
5. Less taxes
6. Bike Trail finished
7. Farmer's Markets
8. Disc golf, Bike trails
9. Jeep access
10. Bike trail
11. Rail trail network
12. Bike Trails
13. Bike Trail
14. make town pool available
15. Dance party
16. outdoor concerts
17. water spray park
18. teens need a safe place to have fun
19. Ice skating
20. nice recreation facilities at Burleigh Park, i.e. pool, bathrooms, bike paved trails for roller blading, hiking, pavilion for events for rental to residents, playground equipment etc.
21. Rebuild Burleigh Park

22. More children's related science, logic & nature activities.

23. places to run and or walk

24. That the town actually MANAGES the recreations we already have

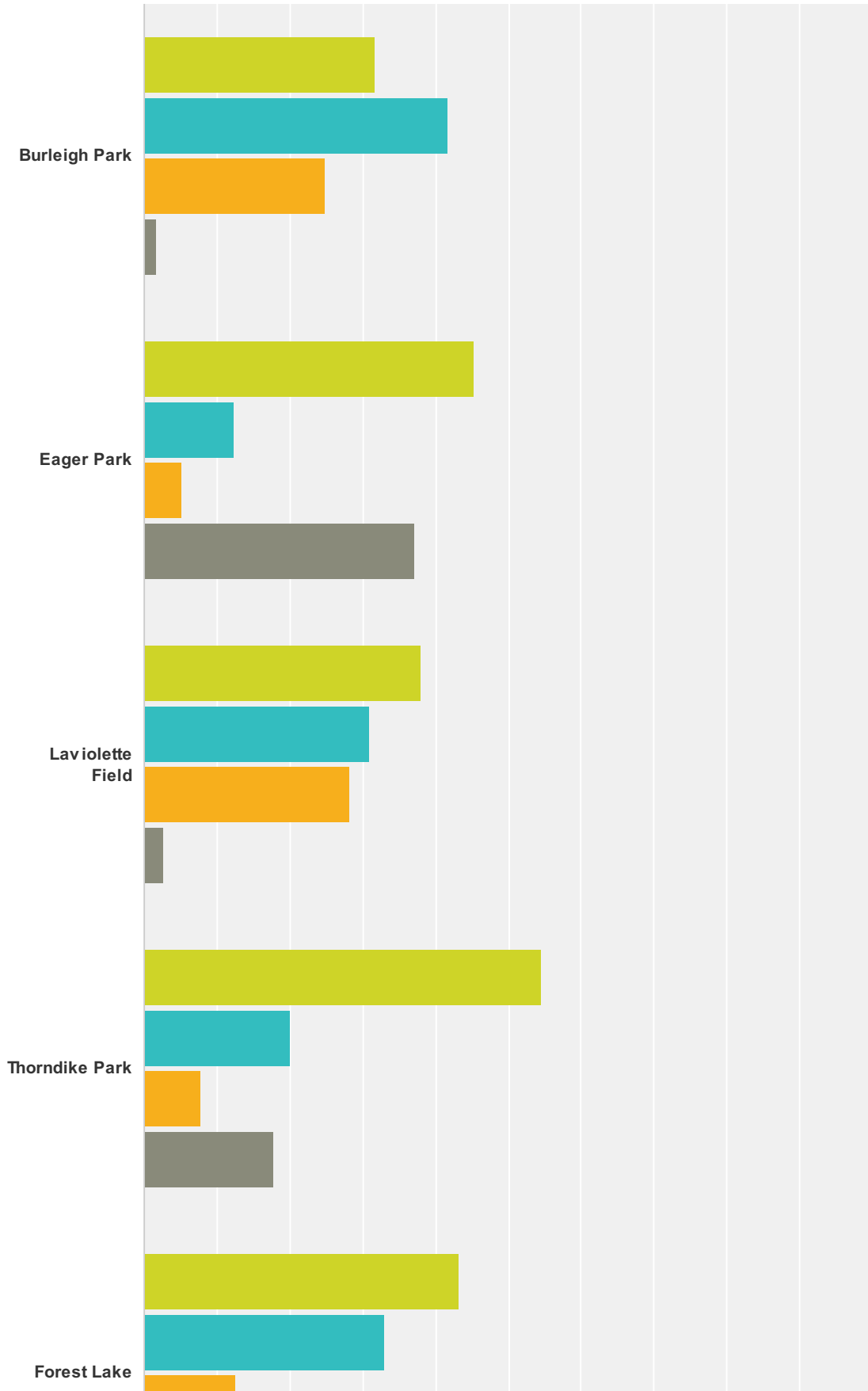
25. Would love to see a vineyard/winery and Resort for venue for music weddings fall/winter festivities horse drawn wagon rides pumpkin picking sleigh rides and ice skating Palmer has a lot of natural beauty. This could be good for the economy as well. Other businesses could grow around a winery as well cheese making etc.

26. More access to enjoy riverfronts

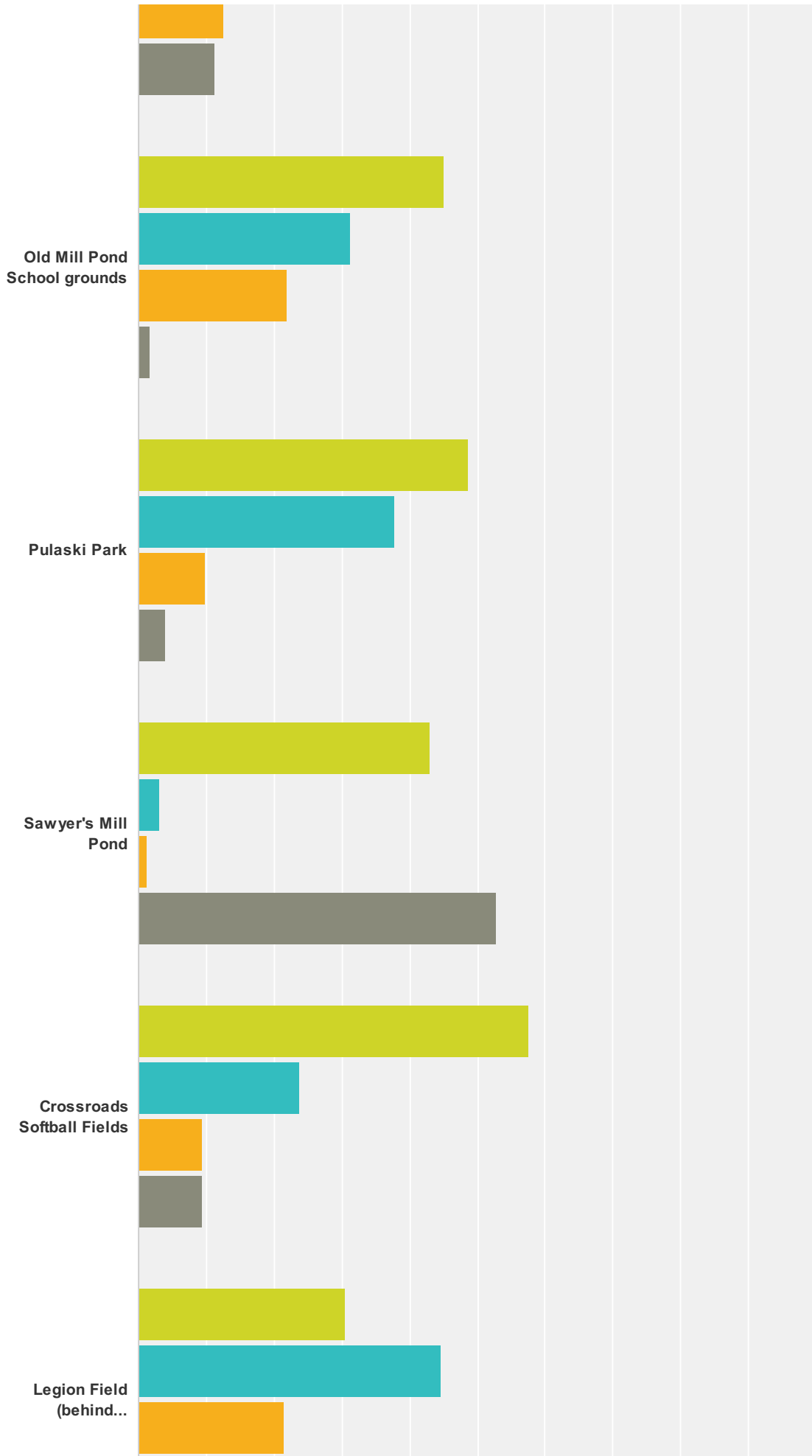


### Q3 Which parks and playgrounds does your family regularly use in Palmer?

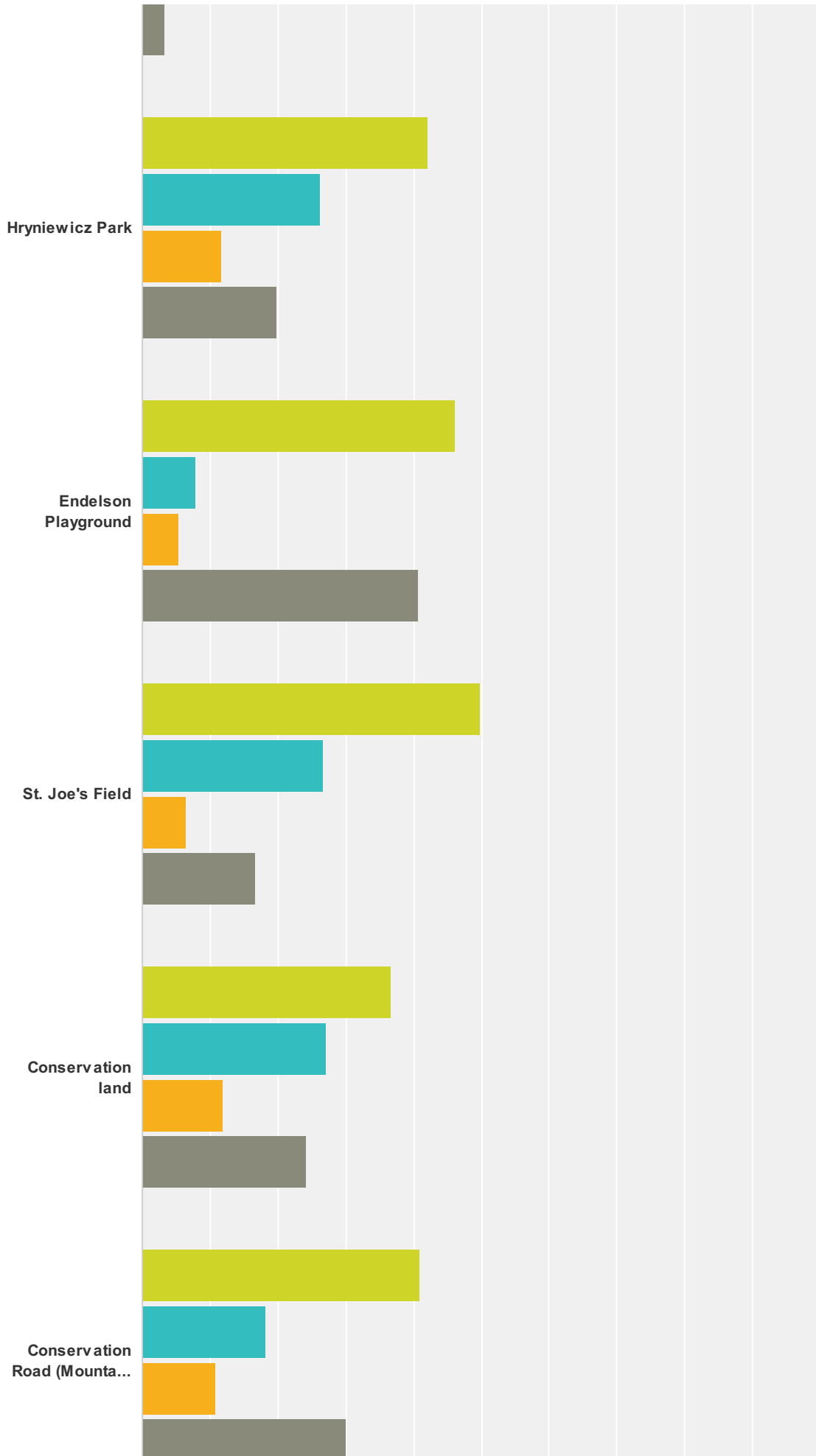
Answered: 220 Skipped: 4



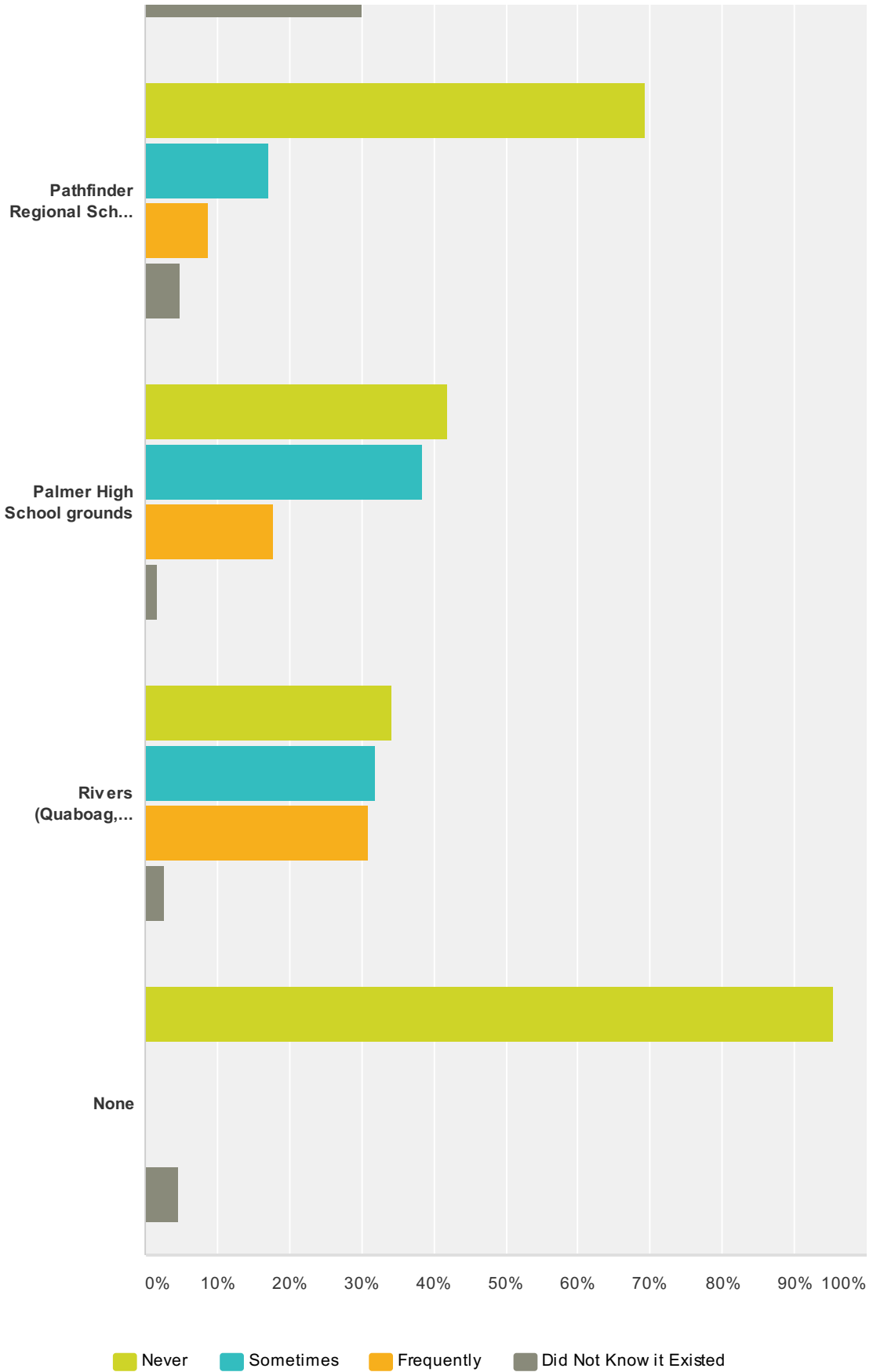
# Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



# Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



# Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



	Never	Sometimes	Frequently	Did Not Know it Existed	Total
--	-------	-----------	------------	-------------------------	-------

Burdleigh Park

31 75%

41 80%

24 87%

1 50%

## Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

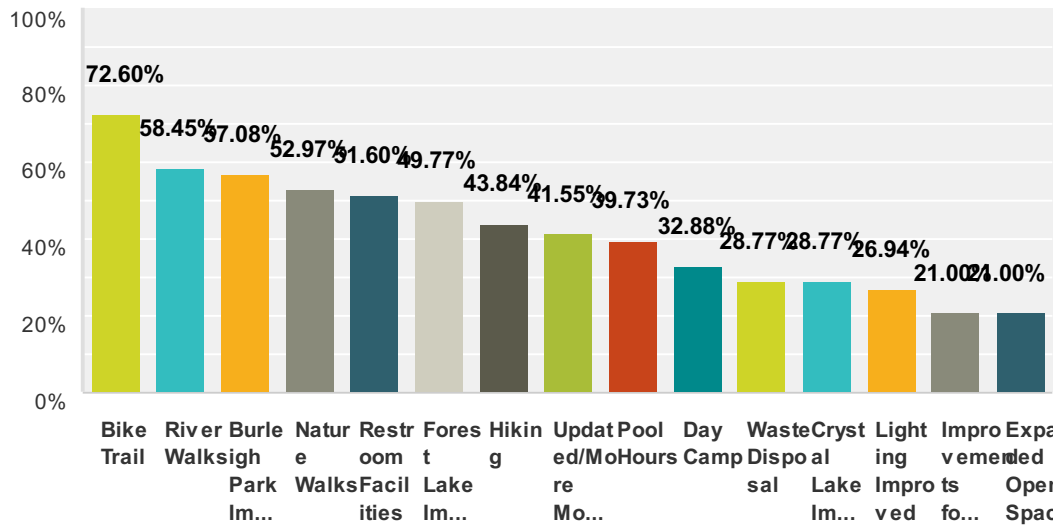
Bunleigh Park	60	79	47	3	189
Eager Park	<b>45.29%</b> 77	<b>12.35%</b> 21	<b>5.29%</b> 9	<b>37.06%</b> 63	170
Laviolette Field	<b>38.04%</b> 70	<b>30.98%</b> 57	<b>28.26%</b> 52	<b>2.72%</b> 5	184
Thomdike Park	<b>54.44%</b> 92	<b>20.12%</b> 34	<b>7.69%</b> 13	<b>17.75%</b> 30	169
Forest Lake	<b>43.18%</b> 76	<b>32.95%</b> 58	<b>12.50%</b> 22	<b>11.36%</b> 20	176
Old Mill Pond School grounds	<b>45.05%</b> 82	<b>31.32%</b> 57	<b>21.98%</b> 40	<b>1.65%</b> 3	182
Pulaski Park	<b>48.57%</b> 85	<b>37.71%</b> 66	<b>9.71%</b> 17	<b>4.00%</b> 7	175
Sawyer's Mill Pond	<b>43.03%</b> 71	<b>3.03%</b> 5	<b>1.21%</b> 2	<b>52.73%</b> 87	165
Crossroads Softball Fields	<b>57.56%</b> 99	<b>23.84%</b> 41	<b>9.30%</b> 16	<b>9.30%</b> 16	172
Legion Field (behind Converse Middle School)	<b>30.39%</b> 55	<b>44.75%</b> 81	<b>21.55%</b> 39	<b>3.31%</b> 6	181
Hryniewicz Park	<b>42.11%</b> 72	<b>26.32%</b> 45	<b>11.70%</b> 20	<b>19.88%</b> 34	171
Endelson Playground	<b>46.06%</b> 76	<b>7.88%</b> 13	<b>5.45%</b> 9	<b>40.61%</b> 67	165
St. Joe's Field	<b>50.00%</b> 84	<b>26.79%</b> 45	<b>6.55%</b> 11	<b>16.67%</b> 28	168
Conservation land	<b>36.69%</b> 62	<b>27.22%</b> 46	<b>11.83%</b> 20	<b>24.26%</b> 41	169
Conservation Road (Mountain St. John, Bacon, Tavern, McMaster, Rondeau)	<b>40.96%</b> 68	<b>18.07%</b> 30	<b>10.84%</b> 18	<b>30.12%</b> 50	166
Pathfinder Regional School grounds	<b>69.41%</b> 118	<b>17.06%</b> 29	<b>8.82%</b> 15	<b>4.71%</b> 8	170
Palmer High School grounds	<b>41.95%</b> 73	<b>38.51%</b> 67	<b>17.82%</b> 31	<b>1.72%</b> 3	174
Rivers (Quaboag, Swift, Ware)	<b>34.25%</b> 62	<b>32.04%</b> 58	<b>30.94%</b> 56	<b>2.76%</b> 5	181
None	<b>95.45%</b> 21	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>4.55%</b> 1	22

**Question 3: Which parks and playgrounds does your family regularly use in Palmer? Other/Comments**

1. Three Rivers Park
2. Midura Area
3. walking throughout town
4. Used to be a children's playground at Burleigh park
5. Field behind Dunkin Donuts
6. Bondsville playground
7. Should inform the public of these areas
8. Bondsville Park
9. When will Endelson Playground be re-done
10. Walking around town
11. children grown and live away
12. [www.domnarskifarm.com](http://www.domnarskifarm.com)
13. Park Across from The Gin Mill
14. When my son was young, used many of these but haven't in years.
15. Forest Lake is home to beautiful turtles, fish and birds. I'm always happy and love seeing these beautiful creatures. The rivers are a treasure as well. We need to respect and take very good care of them.

### Q4 What improvements, additions, or changes would you like to see in Palmer's recreational facilities?

Answered: 219 Skipped: 5



Answer Choices	Responses
Bike Trail	72.60% 159
River Walks	58.45% 128
Burleigh Park Improved	57.08% 125
Nature Walks	52.97% 116
Restroom Facilities	51.60% 113
Forest Lake Improved	49.77% 109
Hiking	43.84% 96
Updated/More Modern Playgrounds	41.55% 91
Pool Hours	39.73% 87
Day Camp	32.88% 72
Waste Disposal	28.77% 63
Crystal Lake Improvements	28.77% 63
Lighting Improved	26.94% 59
Improvements for the Disabled	21.00% 46
Expanded Open Space	21.00% 46
<b>Total Respondents: 219</b>	

**Question 4: What improvements, additions, or changes would you like to see in Palmer's recreational facilities? Other/Comments**

1. Dog Park
2. water/spigot for drinking
3. Thorndike Park improved
4. do not know where parks are
5. Recycling
6. Dog Park/Campgrounds
7. Sports Field Maintenance
8. Dog Park
9. Is Crystal Lake town owned?
10. Waste disposal
11. Trash Receptacles
12. see some actual rec programs would be nice
13. Develop forest lake with clubs for outdoor activities
14. Finish our section of the Rail Trail!!!!
15. outdoor pool
16. clean up litter
17. Improve Forest Lake
18. Thorndike needs major overhaul
19. Children's Park. picnic areas, sprinkler park
20. Dog Park!!
21. It would be great to try to reclaim the area around/to the right side of Forest Lake to use as a multiple use area. (Where private gravel pits are...) It seems that it was a great town asset and point of pride at one point.



22. I wish there was more playground equipment. The "older kid" part at Eager Park is pitiful. I was very sad when Burleigh Park's playground was removed.

23. Decent athletic fields for town sports

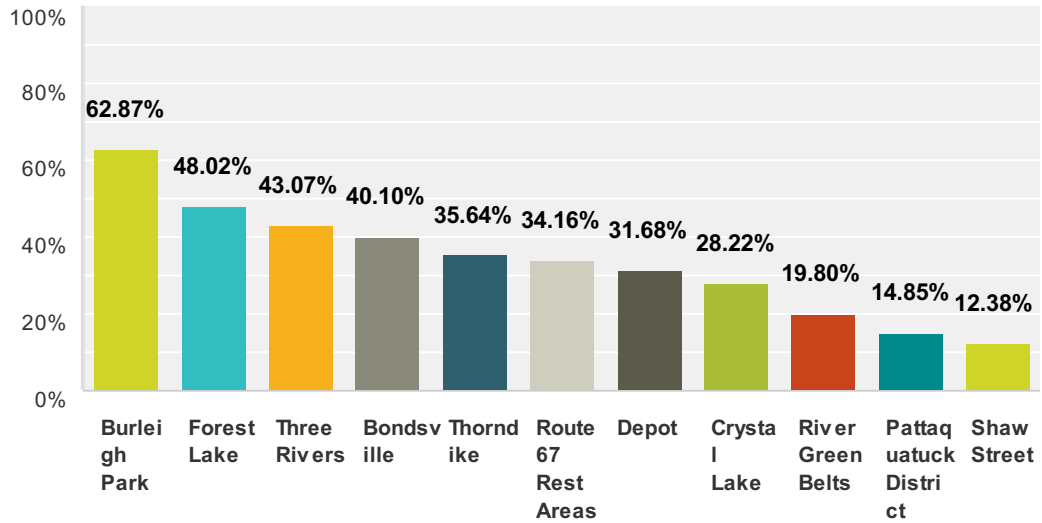
24. all of the above then some

25. River walk is a wonderful idea

26. Recycling

### Q5 Where in Palmer would you like to see additional recreation facilities and programs provided?

Answered: 202 Skipped: 22



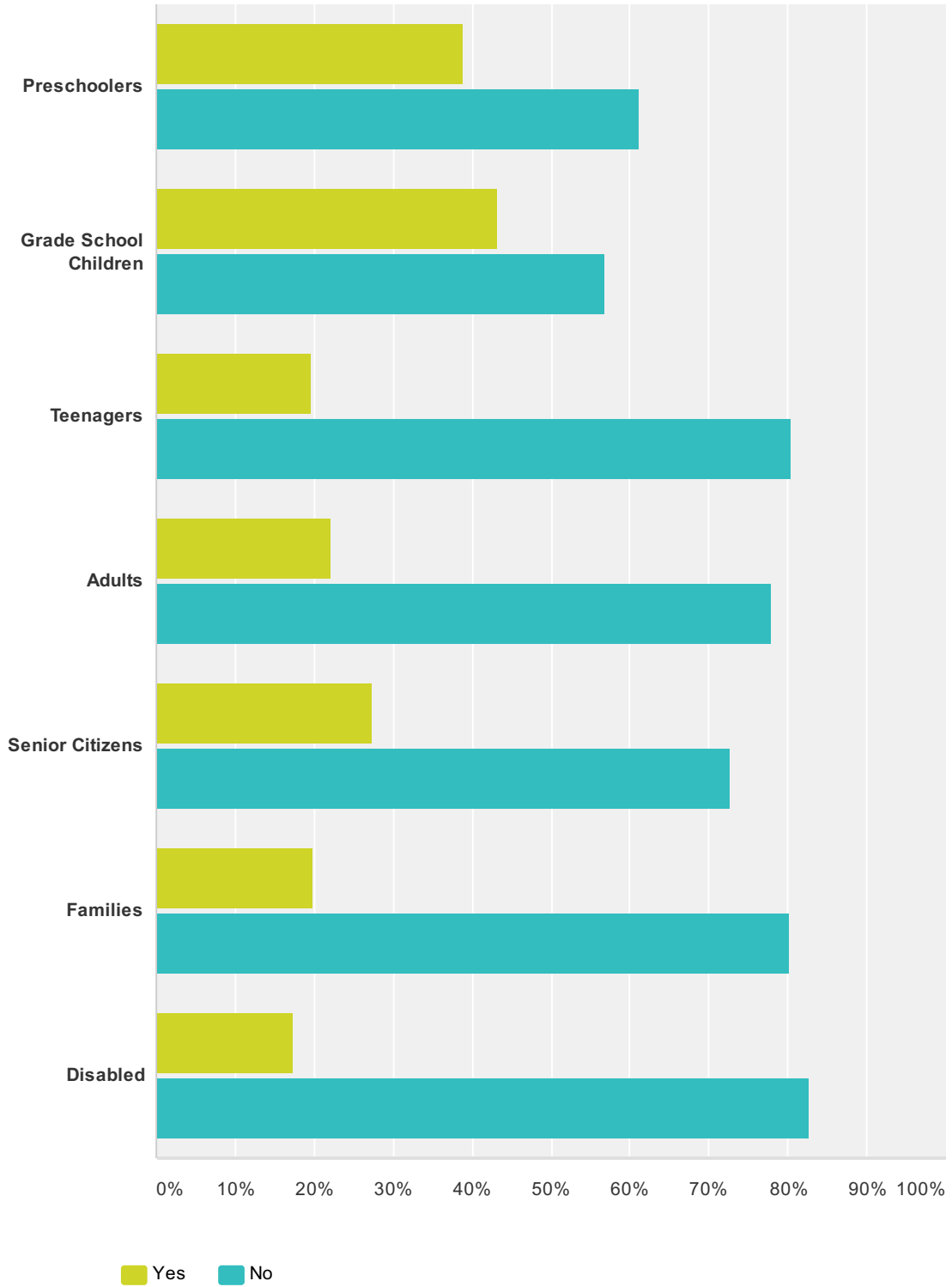
Answer Choices	Responses
Burleigh Park	62.87% 127
Forest Lake	48.02% 97
Three Rivers	43.07% 87
Bondsville	40.10% 81
Thorndike	35.64% 72
Route 67 Rest Areas	34.16% 69
Depot	31.68% 64
Crystal Lake	28.22% 57
River Green Belts	19.80% 40
Pattaquatuck District	14.85% 30
Shaw Street	12.38% 25
<b>Total Respondents: 202</b>	

**Question 5: Where in Palmer would you like to see additional recreation facilities and programs provided? Other/Comments**

1. Put something where the casino wanted to go
2. improve what we have
3. for sports teams
4. central location for town
5. I really don't care just does it!! All in one place!!
6. Wherever there are good opportunities to make good educational and recreational meeting places, the more open and spacious and multi-functional, and the better.
7. The whole town would benefit from improvements in any area
8. all of the above then some
9. When people have access and can connect with their environment they will learn to care for and take care of it.
10. Anything along our waterfronts
11. Everywhere

### Q6 Do you think the following groups have sufficient recreational opportunities?

Answered: 207 Skipped: 17



	Yes	No	Total
Preschoolers	38.74% 74	61.26% 117	191

## Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

Grade School Children	<b>43.30%</b> 84	<b>56.70%</b> 110	194
Teenagers	<b>19.70%</b> 39	<b>80.30%</b> 159	198
Adults	<b>22.11%</b> 42	<b>77.89%</b> 148	190
Senior Citizens	<b>27.32%</b> 50	<b>72.68%</b> 133	183
Families	<b>19.90%</b> 38	<b>80.10%</b> 153	191
Disabled	<b>17.32%</b> 31	<b>82.68%</b> 148	179

**Q7 Please list the landscapes, views, locations, and other outdoor experiences that you think most symbolize Palmer's unique character and the parts of Palmer that you would "show off" to visitors and guests?**

Answered: 104 Skipped: 120

**Question 7: Please list the landscapes, views, locations, and other outdoor experiences that you think most symbolize Palmer's unique character and the parts of Palmer that you would "show off" to visitors and guests?**

**Other/Comments**

1. Forest Lake, Pulaski Park
2. Mountains, Conservation lands along old warren rd., Rondeau Rd.
3. Train Station, Library
4. Rivers and Lakes
5. the sports fields
6. Thorndike Mountain, scenic ware river tours, utilize railroads
7. MT. Duplin, Waterfall at Bondsville Dam
8. The woods, some of the 'mountains', Steaming Tender
9. not sure
10. Churches, Parks
11. Railways
12. Olmsted Park
13. Swift River, Sand Pit off Breckenridge, all the Rivers, old Warren Rd. area
14. Burleigh Park, Midura Rec. Area, Whisky Hill, Pattaquatic, St John street, Robinson Rd, RT 67 River area, river walk in Three Rivers
15. Rivers, Railroads
16. not sure
17. Burleigh Park, Burgundy Brook, rt.67 and 181, rivers, lakes and mountains.
18. Train Station, Library
19. Train Station
20. the rivers/lakes/abandoned train tracks

21. downtown/depot
22. water street, Gussys bar, Milltown ink, marries, gin mill, china house, crossroads, wile e. coyote saloon, one stop liquors, 1210 ware rd.,
23. Forest Lake, River in Bondsville, depot park, Burgundy Brook Farm, Hryniewicz Park
24. View from Pattaquatic, along Whiskey Hill Rd.
25. Park in Bondsville where the school used to be
26. Railroad Views
27. Swift River
28. Mt. Dumplin
29. Swift River trails
30. Train Station, Swift River
31. Railroad Station, some parks, Swift River, Pulaski Park
32. Swift river, ware river, Quaboag river, Burleigh park
33. Conservation Lands, Three Rivers Common, Rivers, historical architecture in town
34. Depot
35. Quaboag River rest areas, Swift River, Mt. Pattaquatic, Forest Lake, Train Station w/ Park,
36. Train station, Bondsville to Belchertown river trail, 3rivers to Ludlow trail
37. rivers, railroads
38. Legion Field
39. Rails and Railroad, Lakes, Nature Conservation Areas
40. Burleigh Park needs some attention and pride
41. The Rivers, Mt. Dumplin, The Lakes



42. The fish weir, Three Rivers; Mt. Dumplin, The Rabbit Railroad Trail
43. Midura Conservation Area, Top of Pattaquatic Hill
44. Steaming Tender Restaurant, Three Rivers Bridge, Mt. Dumplin, Palmer Public Library, Palmer Historical Center
45. The Railroad
46. The Rivers, The Train Station
47. Quaboag River, Swift River
48. Steaming Tender Restaurant, The Library
49. History of the town: 'Town of Seven Railroads'
50. Area around the 'Steaming Tender' restaurant
51. unpopulated hillsides viewed from roadways and pathways; less building is good
52. Legion field
53. all the railroads
54. Personal hiking spot
55. Legion Field
56. Midura conservation area, network of closed roads in NE area of town
57. Pattaquatic, Midura Area, STE John St, Rt 67 River, Three Rivers Area
58. Railroads, rural lands, downtown w/beautification efforts
59. No idea about history or unique features of Palmer
60. Not really
61. Swift River Mt. Dumplin Trails
62. MT Dumplin
63. rivers

64. If Laviolette Park was developed for outdoor concerts, school band. Promote the high school grounds w/new tennis courts
65. Swift river, parks
66. View or Quaboag River from RT.67
67. Forest Lake
68. The rivers in general
69. Swift River
70. Steaming Tender/Railroad/Train
71. none
72. Depot, Forest Lake, Main St
73. Forest Lake, Train Station, Rivers, Mt. Dumplin
74. not sure
75. maybe the rivers
76. not off hand
77. Not much! Water fall dam in Bondsville,
78. The only place we go is to Steaming Tender...otherwise we go to The Quibbling Reservoir. There really isn't a nice place to take visitors...we had to go to three different parks in order to find a nice place for our 17 month old to play safely. Old mill pond school didn't have any swings, so we went to Thorndike where we were approached by a unsavory character...we left immediately because we did not feel safe...we then went to the park for little kids behind Converse middle school where we stayed the longest...that was the nicest one we have found where we feel relatively safe with our daughter.
79. I think the river area in Bondsville that divides Belchertown and Bondsville would be a good area to improve. Also Forest lake area. And put it out there what is available for us to use on our own.
80. Depot Park could if maintained.
81. The Swift River is so beautiful. It should be utilized with walking paths, picnic areas, bike paths, canoe launch, fishing dock.

82. Swift River, Crystal Lake has potential, Forest Lake has potential , Burleigh Park has potential
83. The Blue Star Equiculture Area, Hiking behind St.Joe's,
84. The historic and open spaces of Palmer. I.e. the beauty of the old train depot (steaming tender), our country roads, equine center, the views of the mountains from rt 67, walk along the river in three rivers (not as safe as it used to be). There's so much beauty but so many updates needed to playgrounds, planting of gardens, etc. Main Street palmer looked beautiful this year with the trees in full bloom!
85. The Steaming Tender restaurant gives the historical part of the town, since we are part of the Town of Seven Railroads.
86. Forest lake, crystal lake, Burleigh park
87. The area near the train station and restaurant Steaming Tender. It would be nice if Palmer could become an active stop once again.
88. Train station now steaming tender. Conservation trail on Old Warren rd. Old school buildings.
89. None
90. Steaming tender restaurant. swift river,
91. All the gazebos.
92. Burleigh Park has large amounts of potential... Can visualize a YMCA type place at Burleigh park
93. Railroad s and rt 67
94. BURLEIGH park is the only recreational facility remotely having "show off" capability and it is still an embarrassment
95. Lakes and rivers, train stations, just having decent well maintained playing fields.
96. Legion Field Walk along river in Bondsville Trail off Rondeau Road Depot Park (esp. now that is has been rehabbed - nice work!)
97. Mt Dumplin
98. Our hiking trails

99. Not sure

100. Improve Main Street

101. Rivers for kayaking and fishing, wooded areas for hiking, atv'ing, winter snowmobiling, conservation lessons for children.

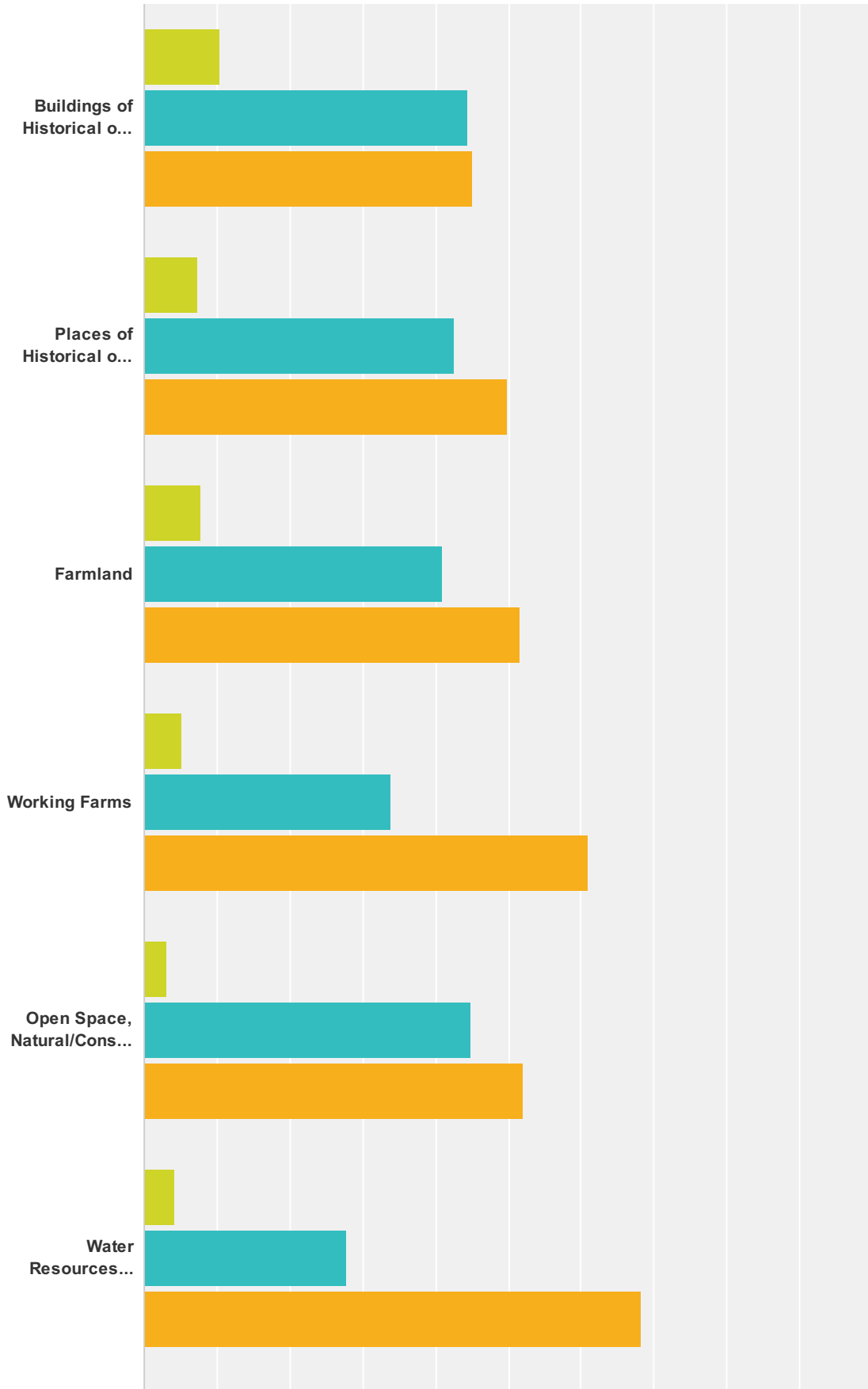
102. rivers and farm lands

103. Forest Lake

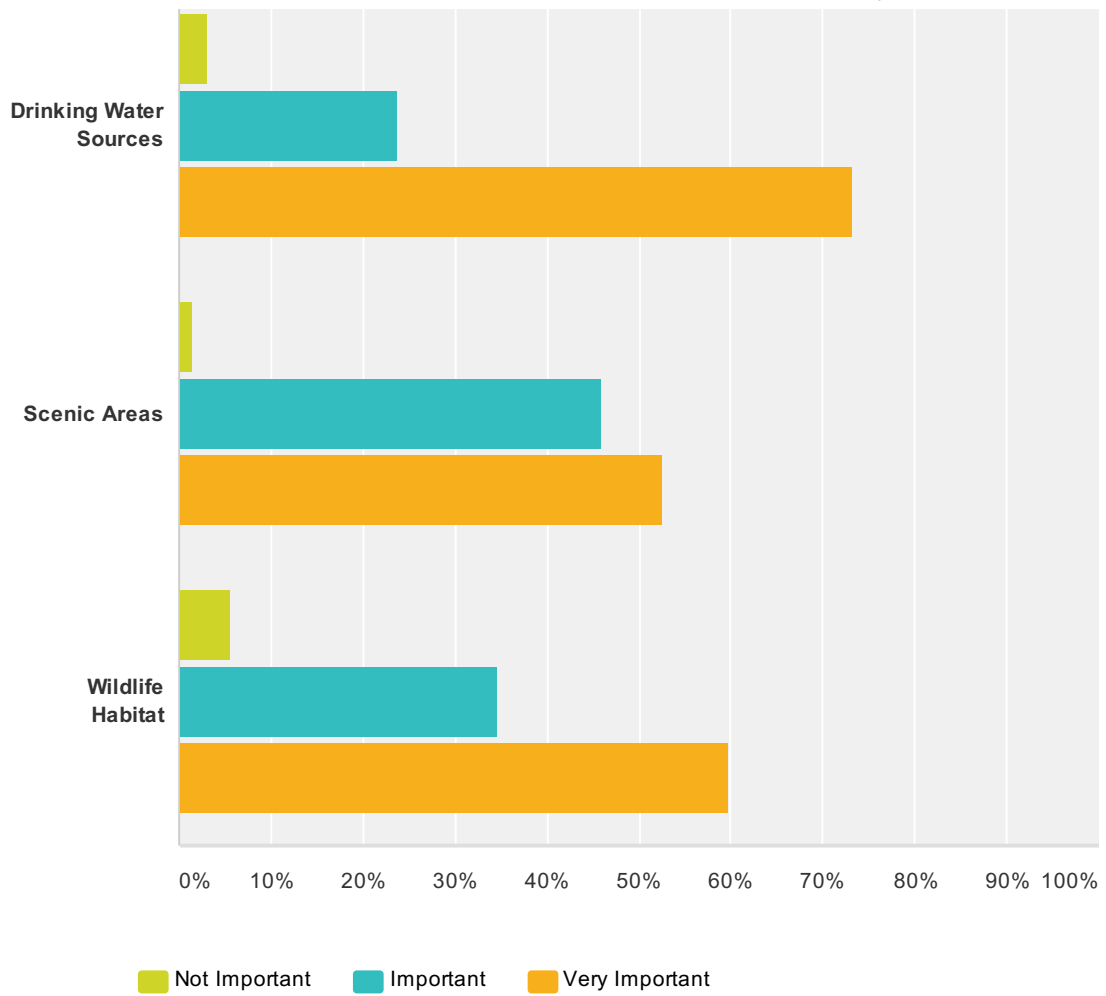
104. The Pattaquatic (?) Trail and any forest areas in town!

### Q8 How important is it to conserve the following community features?

Answered: 204 Skipped: 20



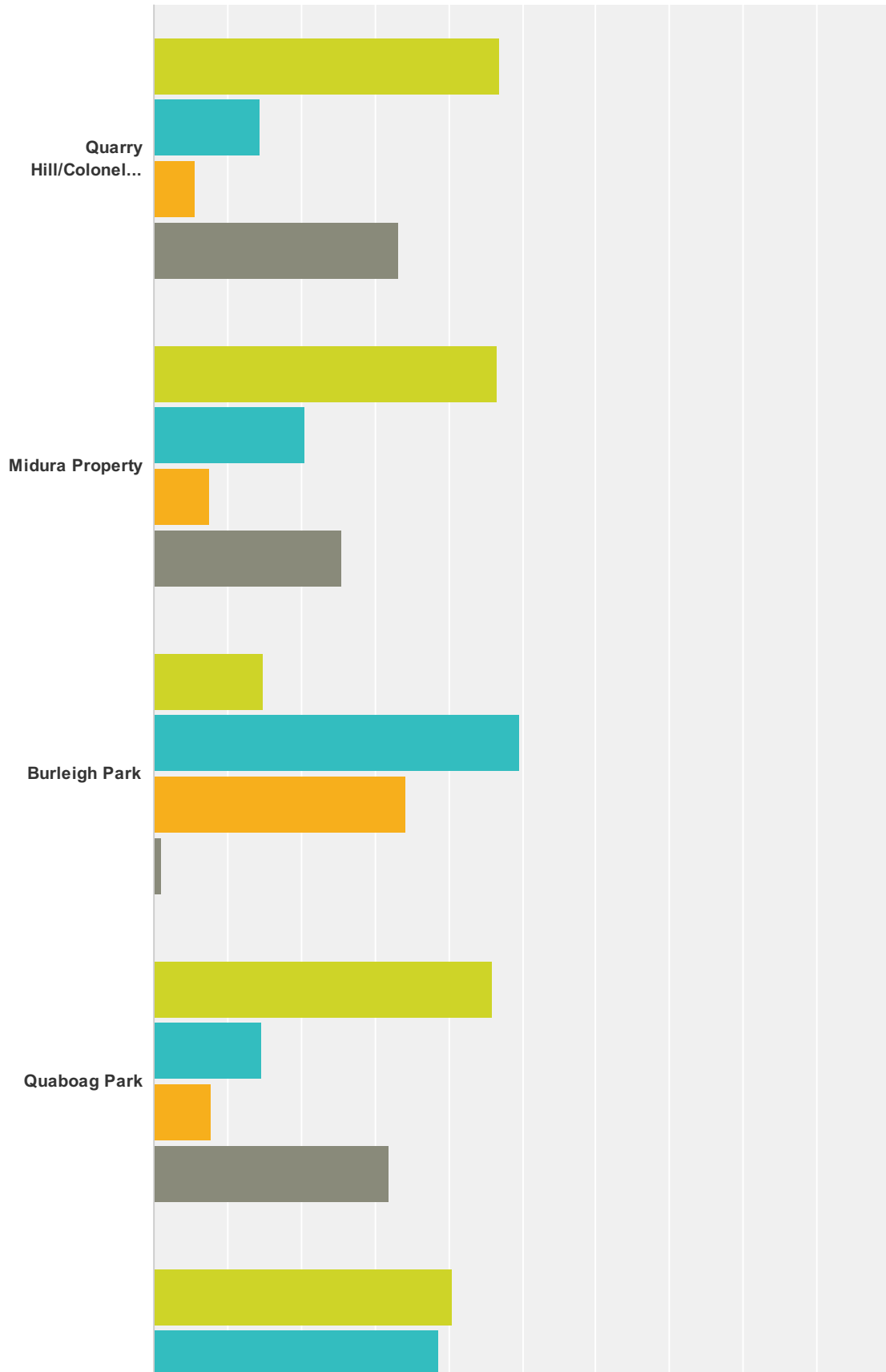
## Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



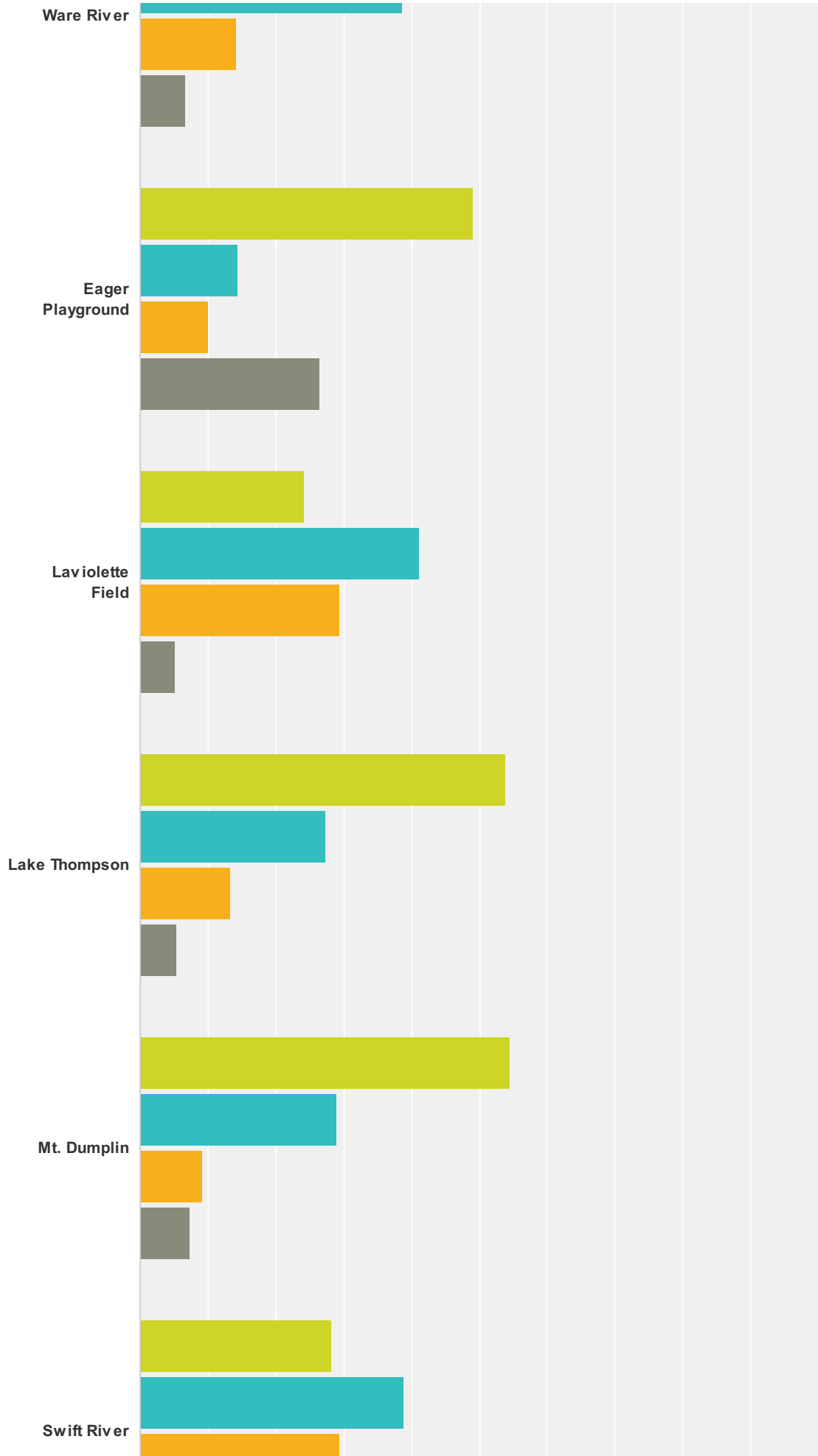
	Not Important	Important	Very Important	Total
Buildings of Historical or Architectural Interest	10.36% 20	44.56% 86	45.08% 87	193
Places of Historical or Archaeological Value	7.37% 14	42.63% 81	50.00% 95	190
Farmland	7.65% 15	40.82% 80	51.53% 101	196
Working Farms	5.13% 10	33.85% 66	61.03% 119	195
Open Space, Natural/Conservation Lands	3.09% 6	44.85% 87	52.06% 101	194
Water Resources (natural/recreational)	4.10% 8	27.69% 54	68.21% 133	195
Drinking Water Sources	3.09% 6	23.71% 46	73.20% 142	194
Scenic Areas	1.55% 3	45.88% 89	52.58% 102	194
Wildlife Habitat	5.61% 11	34.69% 68	59.69% 117	196

### Q9 Which open space areas in Town (public or private and including rivers) have you and/or your family utilized?

Answered: 207 Skipped: 17

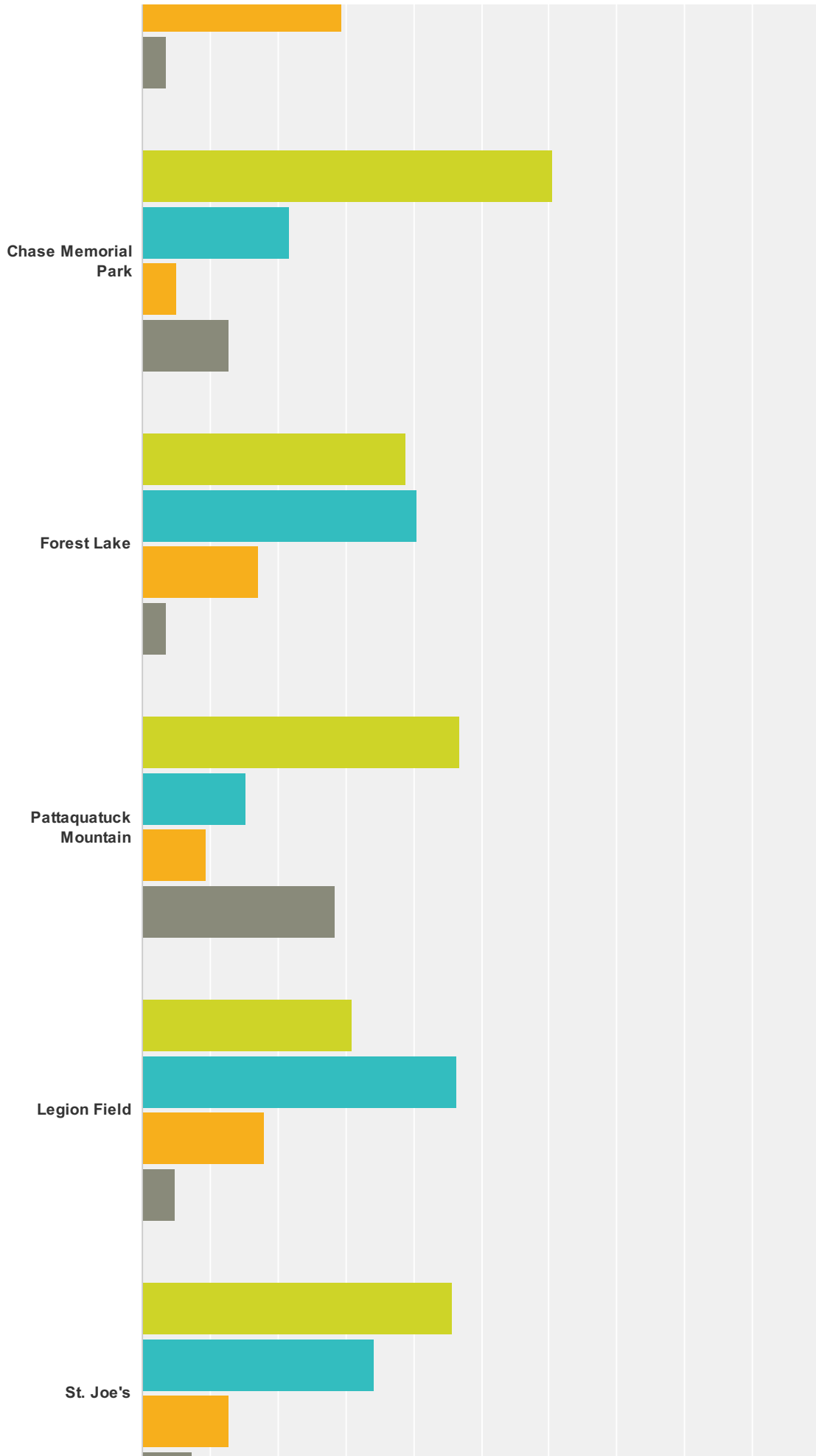


# Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

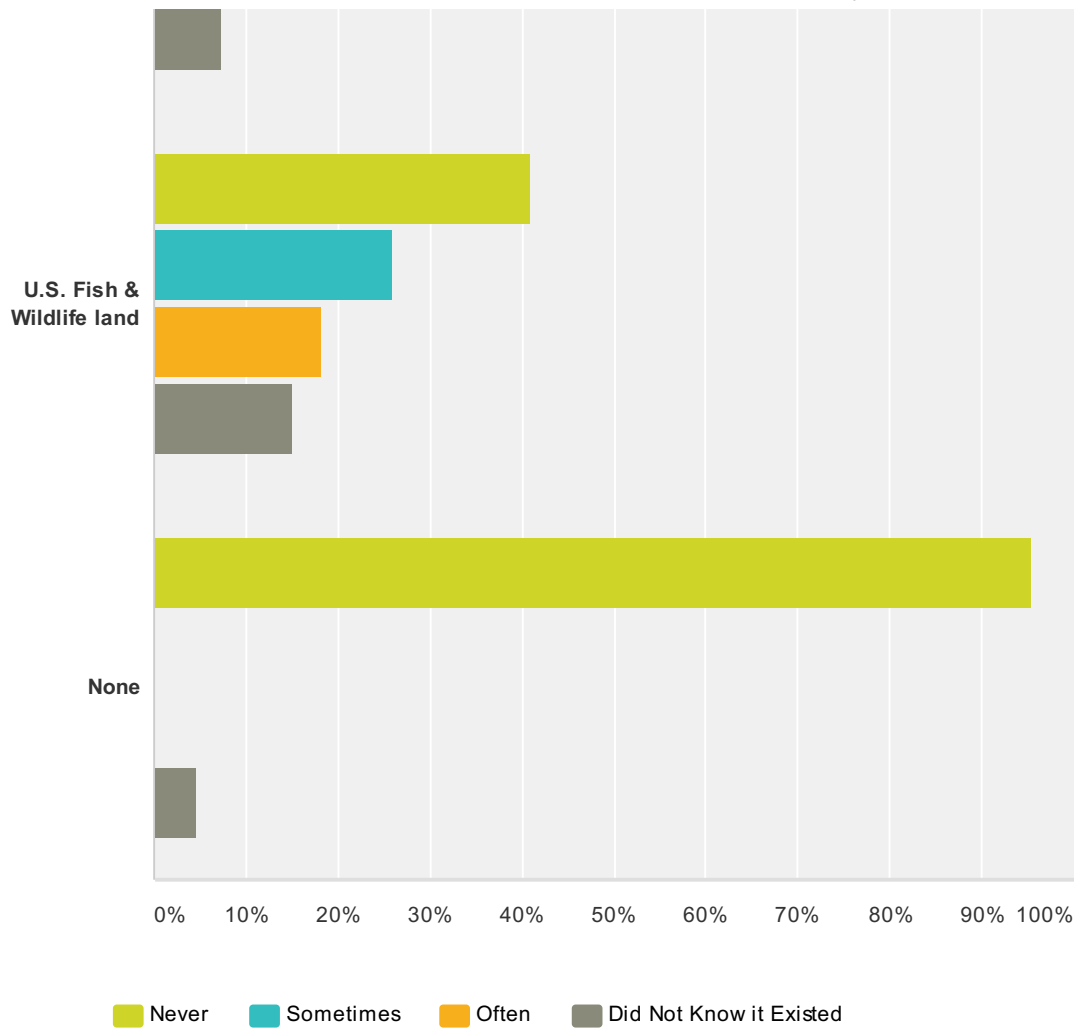




# Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



# Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey



	Never	Sometimes	Often	Did Not Know it Existed	Total
Quarry Hill/Colonel Mountain	46.88% 75	14.37% 23	5.63% 9	33.13% 53	160
Midura Property	46.58% 75	20.50% 33	7.45% 12	25.47% 41	161
Burleigh Park	14.86% 26	49.71% 87	34.29% 60	1.14% 2	175
Quaboag Park	45.86% 72	14.65% 23	7.64% 12	31.85% 50	157
Ware River	40.49% 66	38.65% 63	14.11% 23	6.75% 11	163
Eager Playground	49.06% 78	14.47% 23	10.06% 16	26.42% 42	159
Lavolette Field	24.12% 41	41.18% 70	29.41% 50	5.29% 9	170
Lake Thompson	53.94% 89	27.27% 45	13.33% 22	5.45% 9	165
Mt. Dumplin	54.55% 90	29.09% 48	9.09% 15	7.27% 12	165

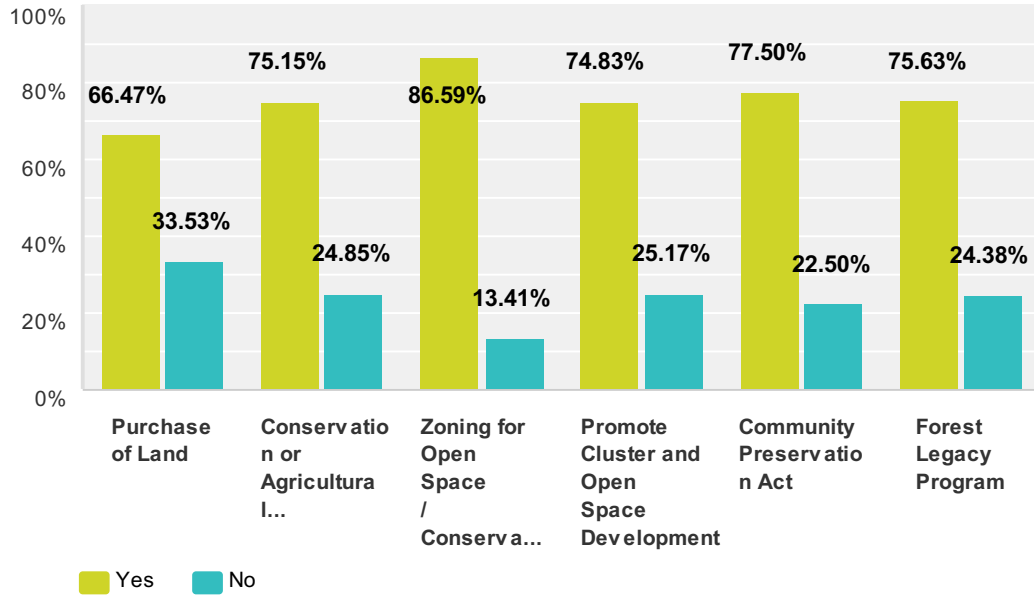
Swift River	28.24% 48	38.82% 66	29.41% 50	3.53% 6	170
-------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	------------	-----

## Palmer Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey

	40	50	50	0	100
Chase Memorial Park	<b>60.51%</b> 95	<b>21.66%</b> 34	<b>5.10%</b> 8	<b>12.74%</b> 20	157
Forest Lake	<b>38.82%</b> 66	<b>40.59%</b> 69	<b>17.06%</b> 29	<b>3.53%</b> 6	170
Pattaquatuck Mountain	<b>46.84%</b> 74	<b>15.19%</b> 24	<b>9.49%</b> 15	<b>28.48%</b> 45	158
Legion Field	<b>30.95%</b> 52	<b>46.43%</b> 78	<b>17.86%</b> 30	<b>4.76%</b> 8	168
St. Joe's	<b>45.73%</b> 75	<b>34.15%</b> 56	<b>12.80%</b> 21	<b>7.32%</b> 12	164
U.S. Fish & Wildlife land	<b>40.96%</b> 68	<b>25.90%</b> 43	<b>18.07%</b> 30	<b>15.06%</b> 25	166
None	<b>95.45%</b> 21	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>0.00%</b> 0	<b>4.55%</b> 1	22

### Q10 What actions do you think the Town should take to conserve open space?

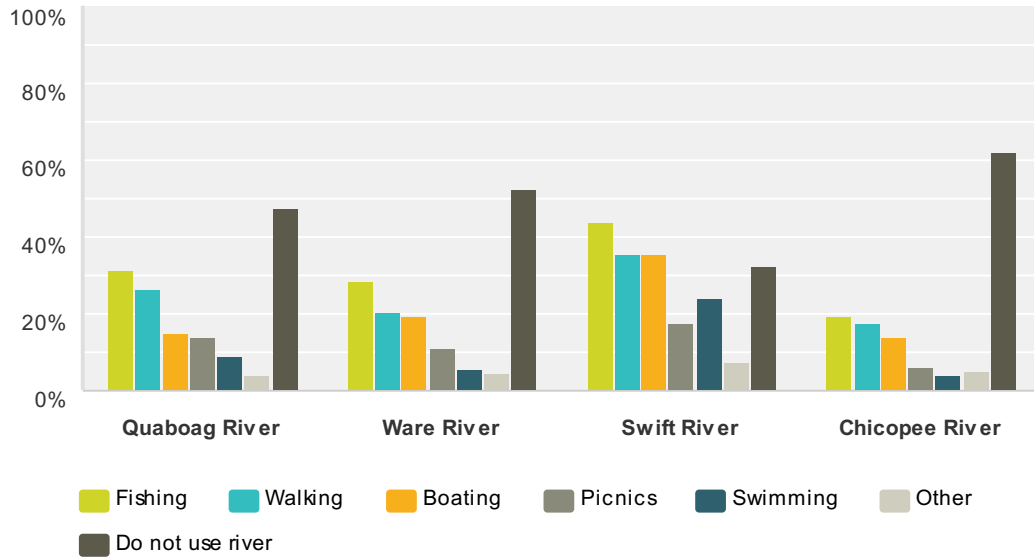
Answered: 188 Skipped: 36



	Yes	No	Total
Purchase of Land	66.47% 113	33.53% 57	170
Conservation or Agricultural Restrictions	75.15% 124	24.85% 41	165
Zoning for Open Space / Conservation	86.59% 142	13.41% 22	164
Promote Cluster and Open Space Development	74.83% 113	25.17% 38	151
Community Preservation Act	77.50% 124	22.50% 36	160
Forest Legacy Program	75.63% 121	24.38% 39	160

### Q11 If you ever use any of the rivers in Palmer, which rivers do you use, and for what?

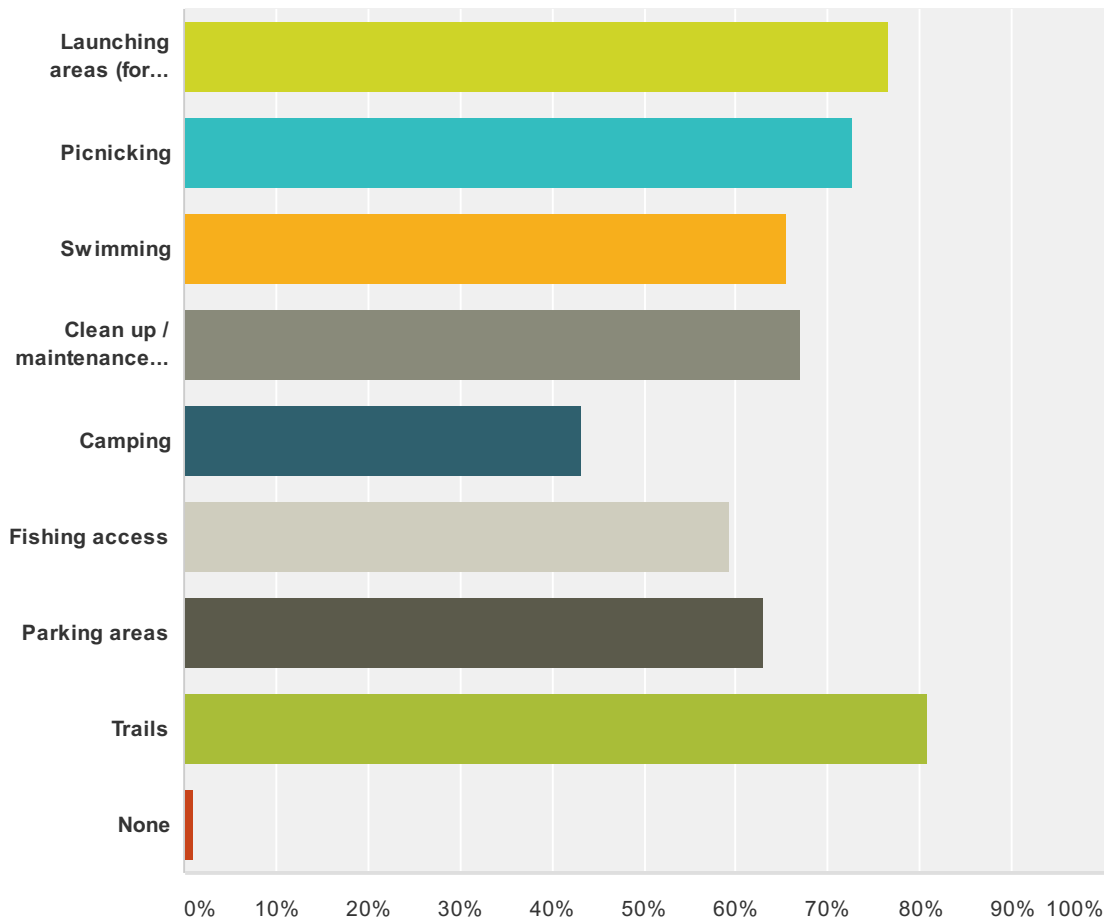
Answered: 193 Skipped: 31



	Fishing	Walking	Boating	Picnics	Swimming	Other	Do not use river	Total Respondents
Quaboag River	31.61% 55	26.44% 46	14.94% 26	13.79% 24	9.20% 16	4.02% 7	47.70% 83	174
Ware River	28.66% 47	20.73% 34	19.51% 32	10.98% 18	5.49% 9	4.27% 7	52.44% 86	164
Swift River	43.85% 82	35.29% 66	35.29% 66	17.65% 33	24.06% 45	7.49% 14	32.62% 61	187
Chicopee River	19.39% 32	17.58% 29	13.94% 23	6.06% 10	4.24% 7	4.85% 8	61.82% 102	165

### Q12 What activities would you like to see made available on the rivers?

Answered: 197 Skipped: 27



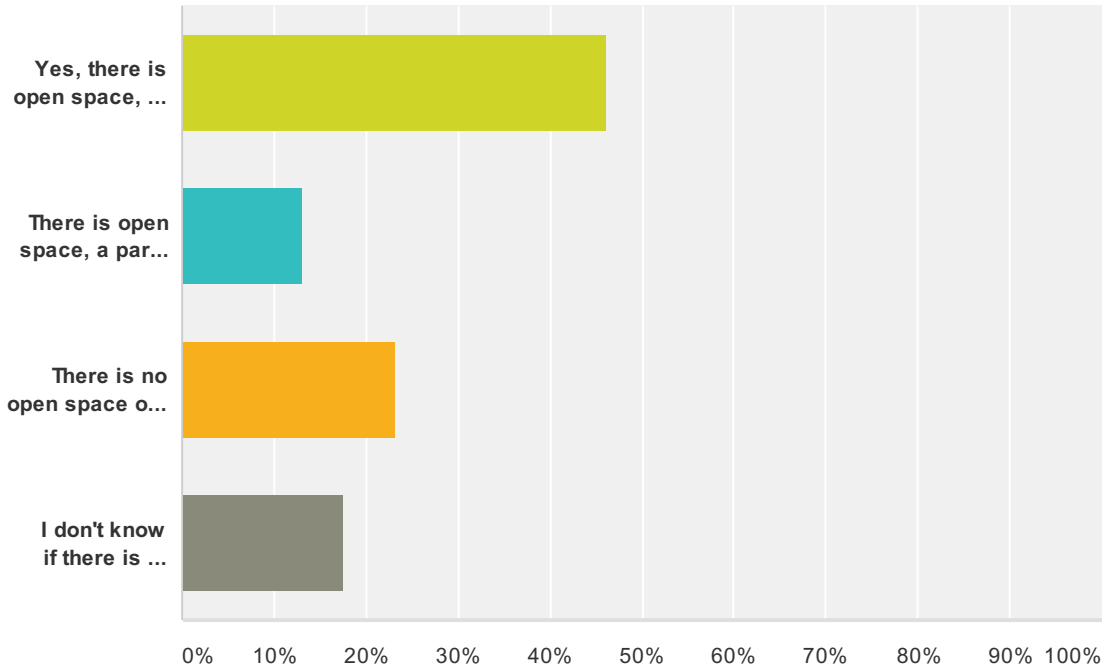
Answer Choices	Responses	
Launching areas (for canoeing, kayaking, boating, rafting)	76.65%	151
Picnicking	72.59%	143
Swimming	65.48%	129
Clean up / maintenance services	67.01%	132
Camping	43.15%	85
Fishing access	59.39%	117
Parking areas	62.94%	124
Trails	80.71%	159
None	1.02%	2
<b>Total Respondents: 197</b>		

**Question 12: What activities would you like to see made available on the rivers? Other/Comments**

1. tasteful family restaurant w/deck
2. Bicycle Trail improvement
3. Bathrooms
4. Trash clean-up
5. Restrooms/Portable Toilets
6. Walking trails.
7. I would like to know where the "allowable" spots are to be and enjoy. We have tried a few times to find places but we are not sure where is allowed or if it is public or private, etc... We have not lived in town long and we are slowly learning about more places.
8. all of the above then some
9. Loving this!
10. What these "improvements" bring is dumping and litter that someone has to pick up
11. River front , walking or bike trails

### Q13 Is there open space, a park, or a conservation area within a 10-minute walk from your home that you use?

Answered: 199 Skipped: 25

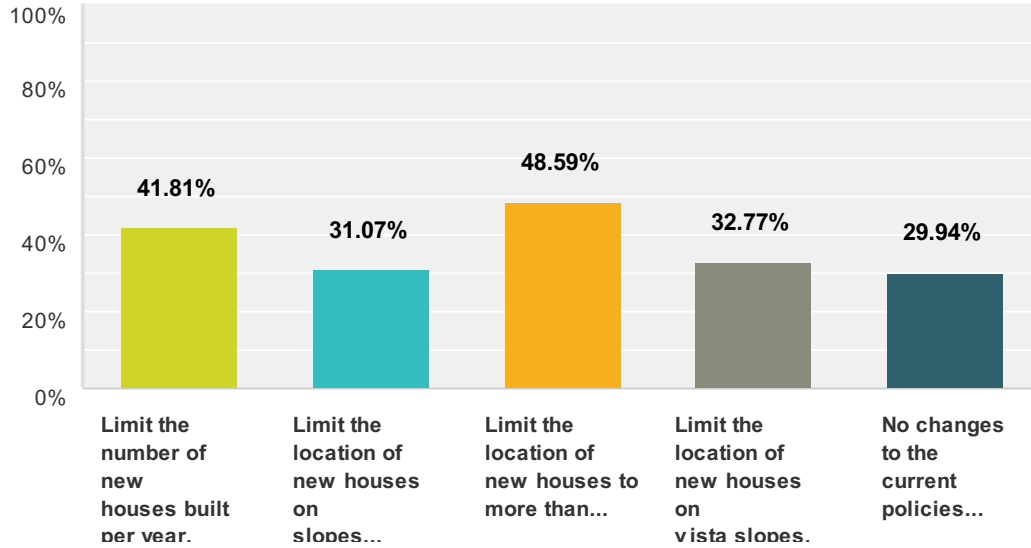


Answer Choices	Responses
Yes, there is open space, a park, or a conservation area within a 10-minute walk from my home and I use it.	46.23% 92
There is open space, a park, or conservation area within a 10-minute walk from my home but I do not use it.	13.07% 26
There is no open space or any parks or conservation areas within a 10-minute walk from my home.	23.12% 46
I don't know if there is any open space, parks, or conservation areas within a 10-minute walk from my home.	17.59% 35
<b>Total</b>	<b>199</b>



**Q14 The term "residential growth" refers to new housing development. What residential growth policies do you support for the Town of Palmer?**

Answered: 177 Skipped: 47



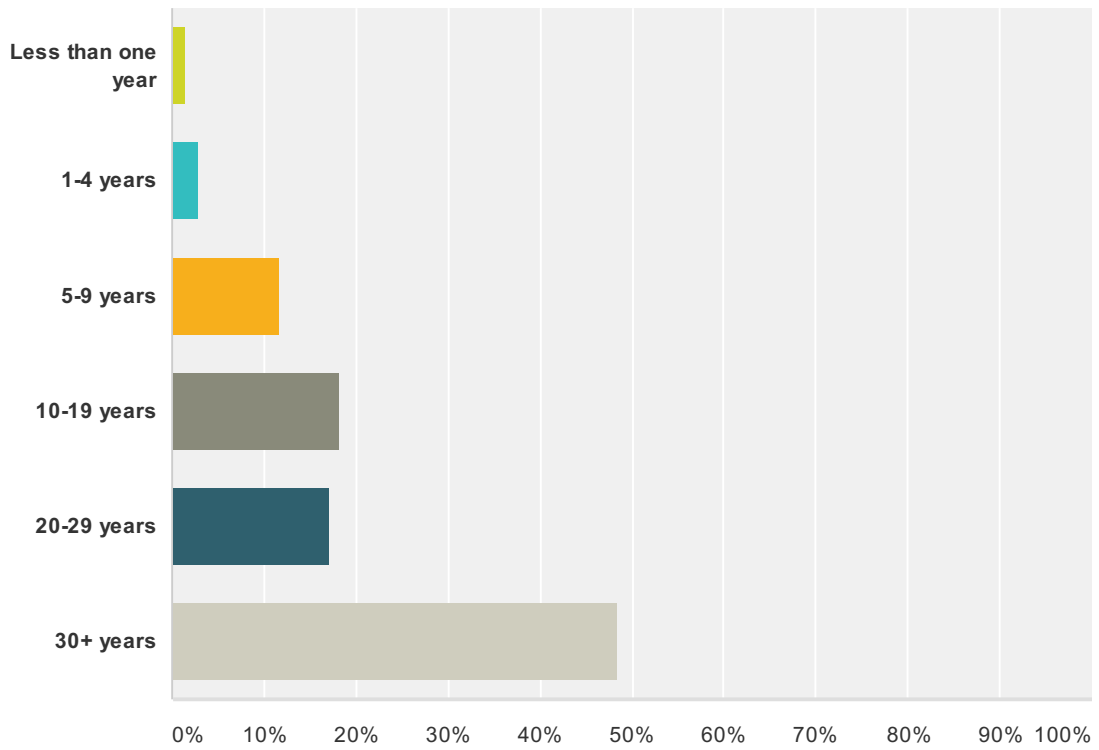
Answer Choices	Responses	
Limit the number of new houses built per year.	41.81%	74
Limit the location of new houses on slopes greater than 15%.	31.07%	55
Limit the location of new houses to more than 200' from any wetland.	48.59%	86
Limit the location of new houses on vista slopes.	32.77%	58
No changes to the current policies governing residential growth in Town.	29.94%	53
<b>Total Respondents: 177</b>		

**Question 14: The term "residential growth" refers to new housing development. What residential growth policies do you support for the Town of Palmer? Other/Comments**

1. no low income housing
2. Builders should finish what they start.
3. more housing for 55 and older
4. limit apartment buildings
5. enforce housing laws
6. encourage new growth as much as possible
7. promote single family development
8. Need new development for young families
9. no multi-family development, more condos
10. no more sub-divisions like Katie Lane
11. 'Clean-up' all the housing 'eyesores'
12. not sure
13. I don't know
14. We came from a town that was not cautious with its growth rate for new housing and was as not considerate of wetland and cluster land opportunities and protections. In hindsight the general consensus was that it changed the town's feel and landscape too rapidly for town's people's comfort.
15. I live on a little pond and nestled in MT Dumplin. The animals I get to see from my yard and window enrich my life every day and feel very fortunate to have them...
16. Who are we to put such restrictions on someone else's property
17. Limit trailer homes

### Q15 How long have you lived in Palmer?

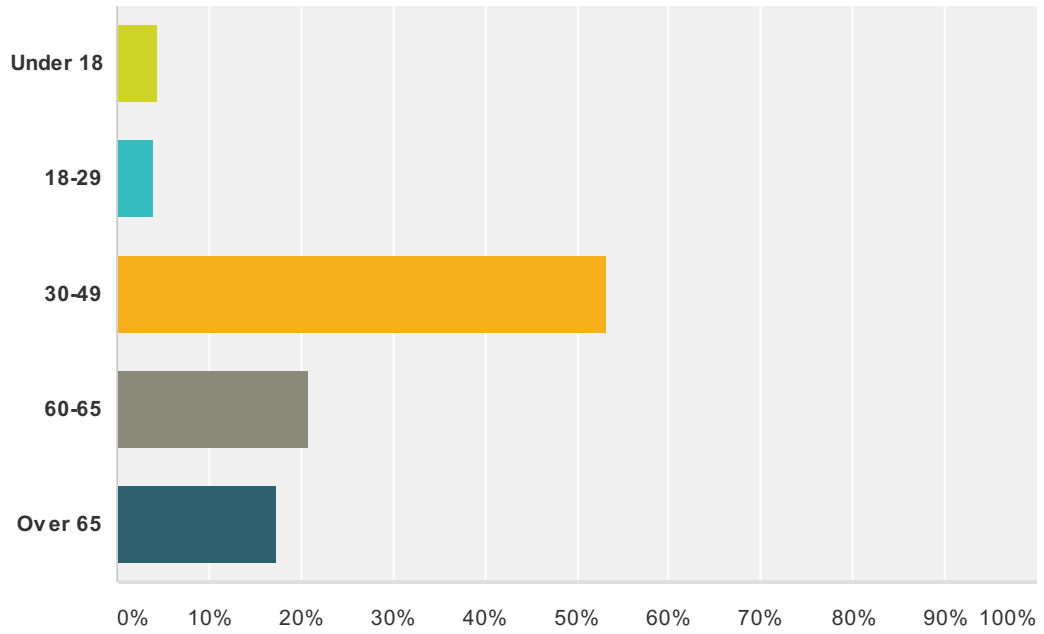
Answered: 204 Skipped: 20



Answer Choices	Responses
Less than one year	1.47% 3
1-4 years	2.94% 6
5-9 years	11.76% 24
10-19 years	18.14% 37
20-29 years	17.16% 35
30+ years	48.53% 99
<b>Total</b>	<b>204</b>

### Q16 What is your age?

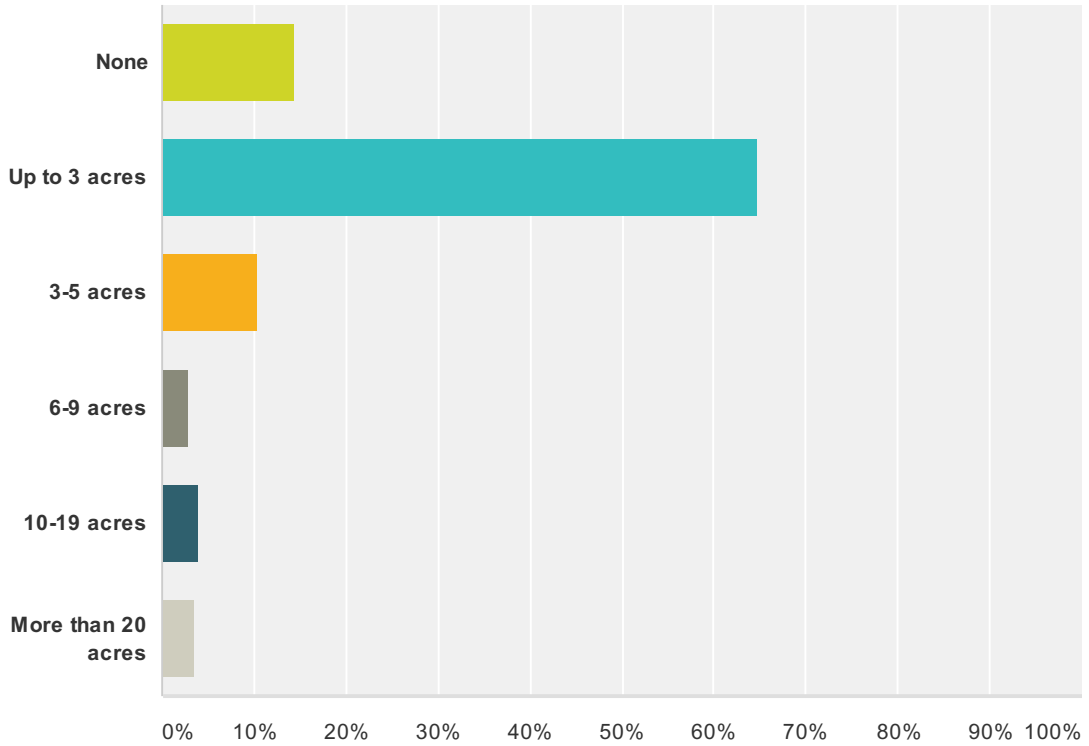
Answered: 201 Skipped: 23



Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 18	4.48%	9
18-29	3.98%	8
30-49	53.23%	107
60-65	20.90%	42
Over 65	17.41%	35
<b>Total</b>		<b>201</b>

### Q17 Approximately how many acres do you own in Palmer?

Answered: 201 Skipped: 23



Answer Choices	Responses
None	14.43% 29
Up to 3 acres	64.68% 130
3-5 acres	10.45% 21
6-9 acres	2.99% 6
10-19 acres	3.98% 8
More than 20 acres	3.48% 7
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>

**Q18 Do you have anything else to tell us  
about your thoughts on Palmer's recreation  
and/or open space opportunities?**

Answered: 70 Skipped: 154

**Question 18: Do you have anything else to tell us about your thoughts on Palmer's recreation and/or open space opportunities? Other/Comments**

1. The trails on the Mountains behind Emery St.
2. Utilize the pool we have at the high school. Instead of renting space from Monson.
3. improve Burleigh Park by: limit traffic speed to 20mph, off road parking, play area for small kids
4. More Equestrian Trails
5. 4th of July Parade, Lions Club Chicken BBQ,
6. Safe place to run outside
7. No apartments
8. invite the public to discuss any major changes
9. love the town
10. make it better
11. It would be great to have bike paths
12. Make Palmer more attractive
13. Rec. Dept. should clean up and maintain parks.
14. develop more outdoor spaces for children and families
15. Block Party
16. Return to Town Meeting/Selectmen from of town government
17. Make the rivers better accessible w/ canoeing, kayaking, parking, trails
18. Open Rondeau Mtn, Burleigh park, court house trail and others to jeep vehicles,
19. I hope something gets accomplished from this survey
20. need better trash clean-up
21. Nature Center/ Education

22. Palmer needs to develop a pedestrian friendly community
23. Palmer needs a decent playground
24. create more homeowners, decrease renters
25. Do more to save the woods and other open spaces
26. Make Palmer more pedestrian 'friendly'
27. Promote the Hiking Club
28. recreational development that benefits the youth of our community should be given priority
29. Palmer needs help there is nothing to do here
30. No more condos
31. Limit building
32. Follow through on the survey
33. Need to update playgrounds in Bondsville, Thorndike, Old Mill Pond, and Converse MS
34. there should be police patrolling High St in Thorndike
35. Improve walkability/connectivity to open space. Reestablish the bus transportation to Boston, Mall, and Sturbridge etc.
36. Finish the Rail Trail
37. keep it going
38. Not enough clean open spaces, adult recreation, seasonal activities
39. Make something that lets residence know what is available
40. quality rec. fac. leads to increased property values, new families moving in and better tax base improving quality of palmer overall.
41. Bring back: Metro, Forest/Crystal lake roller skating, Hunting, better sidewalks, traffic improvement
42. We should take better care of what we have and families will utilize areas more



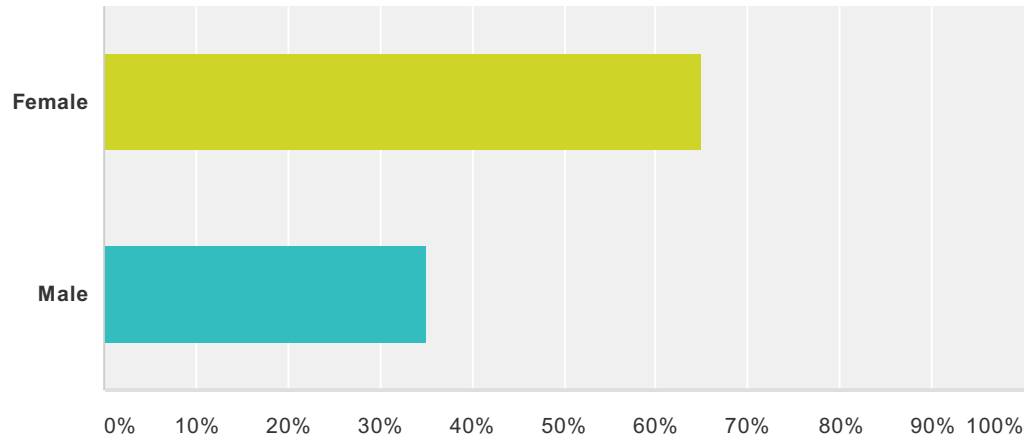
43. summer pool hours
44. clean up the drug problem at Burleigh Park, I would use it more
45. Recreation facilities seriously lacking for families
46. Make it happen!
47. I really would like to have a space that I can go with my family that I feel safe and where the space is kept up. Allot of the parks around town are very run down and honestly it is sad. The parks were so nice when I was a kid and there is really nothing for my daughter to enjoy.
48. There is significant unprotected open space in town not readily developed. Much of it can and should be protected as conservation land. There are also many trails in town but you have to know where to find them. Maps of conservation land are greatly needed. Gates to limit ATV access are also a good idea in areas with sensitive habitat (riverfront, wetlands, erodible slopes, etc.).
49. Have a list of places that people can go and hike/explore/use. I have lived her most of my life and I have no idea where I can go that is not considered "Private Property" or where I would be afraid to accidentally cross into "Private Property". Oh and Lake Thompson is a private lake, so you may want to talk to the association about what is allowed for "Public Use".
50. I feel that there are immense opportunities for Palmer to plan great community spaces that can nurture, educate and enhance our community's connectedness, enjoyment and well-being. I feel that some surrounding towns that have made long term definitive plans based on open space, preservation, and unified community based places are considered much more desirable and draw more positive, aware and forward thinking residents, which enhances the areas overall and gives connection and hope to those (especially, kids) that may be less likely to encounter them otherwise. I feel very hopeful that Palmer has a great future ahead, even the fact that these questions are being asked is a step in the right direction. I can wait to learn more about the results and the plans that they will help focus and create. I also look forward to learning more about some of the spaces in this survey that I wasn't aware of! Thank you!
51. Playground improvements are of great interest to me. We have so many families that struggle with finding a safe, clean space to let their children play! Improve our resources for families, school systems and we will bring in young working families to our town.
52. Utilize some of the empty locations to see if people can donate either time or resources to clean up a building. I'd be the first in line to help with giving Burleigh Park a facelift - it needs it big time!

53. It would be nice to see the town invest in our school playgrounds (which have been funded 100% thus far through the elementary schools PTO). It would also be nice to see additional attention given to the two main parks used for Baseball and Soccer (Burleigh and Lavallette). Also; it would be nice to have a dog park.
54. I enjoy walking and biking; I have young and school age children. We do not have interest in sports leagues. We frequently go to Burleigh Park and miss the playground. Wish the pavilion was a nice spot for picnicking. Sad to see it so run down. I feel like Eager park area needs more equipment; not to get rid of the old stuff for more modern, boring things, though. The playground in Ware is very exciting for kids. It has a wooden play structure, swings, seesaws, swing-seats for adults, etc. A brochure listing all the recreational opportunities would be great. I do not know about all the parks, trails, rivers, etc. in Palmer. I think some volunteer days to work on improvements might work too. I grew up in Palmer and moved back after I married and we bought a house here. I do NOT favor more regulations. I love open spaces and land but do not want right taken away from citizens. Maybe the historical society could work with owners of one of the old schools to have a mini museum type place. I loved seeing the pictures in the Park St School when the library was in there. Sorry for the long, rambling answer! Feel free to contact me- Maya Andrews, Ware St
55. I think Palmer is lacking what it offers to residents/families as far as park/rec compared to neighboring towns. Glad you are working on this.
56. GET IT TOGETHER! There is no rec department.
57. The Palmer Rec Dept. should have governance over all youth sports in town including but not limited to baseball, basketball, soccer, football, softball. This includes all field maintenance and scheduling. This will ensure continuity in policy, practices and fees.
58. Spray park at Eager Park and in Bondsville... Utilize Burleigh Park ( see Ludlow YMCA )
59. would rather see a few really good parks in many that we cannot afford
60. It is an embarrassment that the town does not manage the youth recreational sports activities and that only parent volunteers with questionable intentions or personal bias and limited management capabilities are in charge of keeping our children safe. They alone manage the fees we pay to have our children play sports. The town does not even manage the scheduling of field availability and parent volunteers mow, rake and line fields. Other towns with real recreation departments literally laugh at palmer's incompetence.

61. I think walking and biking trails and more fields for sporting events would make Palmer an even more welcoming community!
62. Update the soccer fields before someone gets hurt. They are in terrible shape
63. There is nothing for kids and teens to do!! We need a Teen Center or a nice upgrade to park with Spray Park!! Picnic tables... For all the taxes in Palmer what is there for kids to do???
64. The residents need to complain less and get out and get involved more.
65. Would love a bike trail... Love the new tennis courts that are being built.
66. Everything starts with an idea and a plan. So wonderful to see this! My children have been raised in Palmer. My son used to walk through Mt Dumplin to get to the high school. Many times he would tell me how nice it was to walk the trail see turkeys or come across a deer or owl. Or how interesting the fog or the dew looked on the spider webs. His favorite fishing hole has a waterfall and he picks up any trash he comes across to keep it as pristine as possible. Webs. up
67. YES! This town would be better off with no OSRP at all. All this document does is, over time, usurp our property rights and hand them over to government. It is bad for property owners, bad for Palmer, bad for the already over taxed population, and bad for the country.
68. I feel the rivers in this town could be a great asset and would give families a place to gather and enjoy nature.
69. Look into purchasing the gravel pit next to Forest Lake. Develop a town beach there.
70. I think this is a good step for Palmer to get back on its feet.

### Q19 What is your gender?

Answered: 200 Skipped: 24



Answer Choices	Responses
Female	65.00% 130
Male	35.00% 70
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>