



TOWN OF LEICESTER

Office of Development & Inspectional Services

Leicester Town Hall, 3 Washburn Square, Leicester, MA 01524

www.leicesterma.org

508-892-7003 (Building/Health) / 508-892-7007 (Planning, Conservation, ZBA)

*Board of Health
Building/Code Enforcement
Conservation Commission
Planning Board
Moose Hill Water Commission
Zoning Board of Appeals*

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 @ 6:00PM

ONLINE ONLY

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/654129629>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States (Toll Free): [1 877 309 2073](tel:18773092073)

Access Code: 654-129-629

6:00PM – Open Meeting

1. Survey Update
2. Goal Discussion
3. Public Forum
4. Adoption of Minutes: 4/6/2021
5. Miscellaneous

7:00PM - Adjourn

From: [Sarah Adams](#)
To: [Buck, Michelle](#); [Mary Hannah Smith](#)
Cc: [Brooke Hammond](#)
Subject: RE: Leicester OSRP meeting
Date: Thursday, April 22, 2021 9:12:13 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[Leicester Open Space and Recreation Planning Survey Results 4.22.pdf](#)
[Leicester Goals.pdf](#)

Hi Michelle –

Could you please add the following agenda items:

- Survey Update
- Goal Discussion
- Public Forum

We have 98 survey responses so far, and I have attached a prelim report to give the committee an idea of who has responded to see (i.e. 83% of respondents are age 25 – 64 so some targeted outreach to teens / seniors might be warranted!).

Based on the responses we have so far, and to get the committee thinking about goals, we can revisit the attached from 2007 and 2015 and start to highlight goals to keep or adjust. It would also be useful for us to hear about progress on the goals from 2015. Following the public forum we can revisit the list and start drilling down on objectives.

On that note, I'd like to start thinking about the public forum – we have this in our tentative timeline for July. This could be held during the regularly scheduled OSRP Committee meeting that month, or at a date / time that the committee thinks may be more convenient, but we'd like to save a date and start thinking about what the forum will look like. This will allow us to develop flyers and advertise in May / June.

Thank you!



Sarah A. Adams, AICP

(she/her/hers)

Principal Planner | Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520 | Worcester | MA | 01608

tel: 508.459.3336 | cell: 774.287.4268 | fax: 508.792.6818 | www.cmrpc.org



Please be advised that the Massachusetts Secretary of State and the Massachusetts Attorney General consider e-mail to be a public record, and therefore subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66 § 10.

****COVID-19 UPDATE: Please note that in accordance with the Governor's recommendations, CMRPC staff will be operating remotely until further notice. I can be reached via email, or mobile, and am checking my office phone messages periodically. CMRPC staff will also not host or attend in-person meetings, project workshops, focus groups, or interviews. Our team will still be available to discuss projects, but we will attend all meetings virtually****

From: Buck, Michelle <BuckM@leicesterma.org>

Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:18 AM

To: Sarah Adams <sadams@cmrpc.org>; Mary Hannah Smith <mhsmith@cmrpc.org>

Cc: Brooke Hammond <hammondb@leicesterma.org>

Subject: Leicester OSRP meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from **outside of the organization**. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. Thanks.

The next meeting of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 4/27/2021 @ 6PM, and we need to post the agenda with the Town Clerk today.

What would you like on the agenda, and do you have any materials you'd like to go to the committee ahead of time?

Michelle R. Buck, AICP

Leicester Town Planner/Director of Inspectional Services

508-892-7007

buckm@leicesterma.org

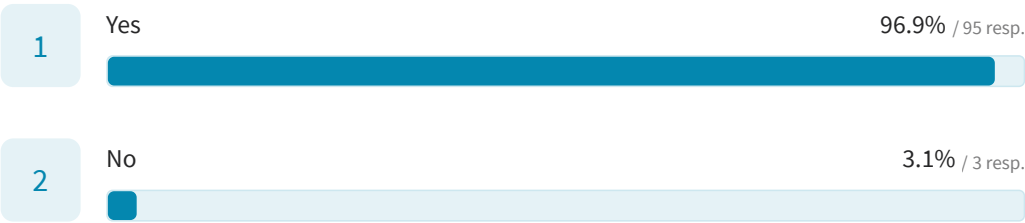
Please note that Leicester Town Hall is closed on Fridays.

Leicester Open Space and Recreation Planning Survey

98 responses

Do you feel there is a need to protect open space and recreation opportunities in Leicester? (Open space includes - but is not limited to - open fields, active agriculture fields, forests, plantations, parks, recreation facilities, trails, greenways, beaches, water access, watersheds, historic resources, and scenic vistas.)

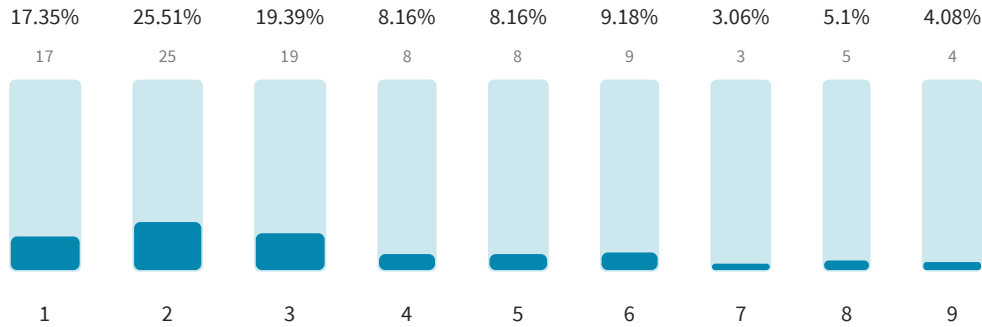
98 out of 98 answered



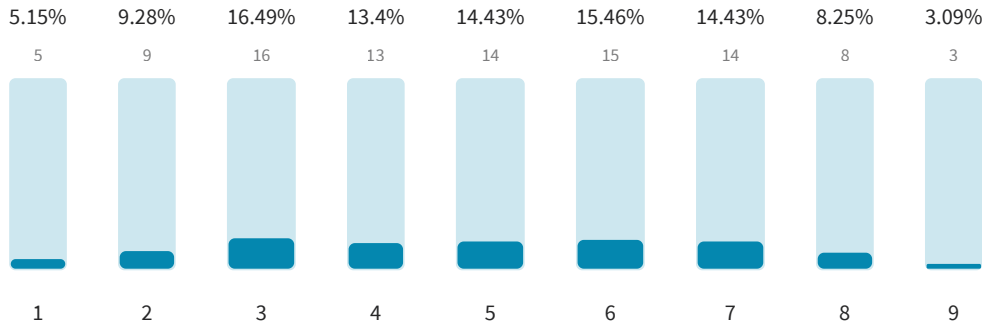
In your opinion, what are the top conservation issues for Leicester? Please rank your choices accordingly with 1 being of highest priority.

98 out of 98 answered

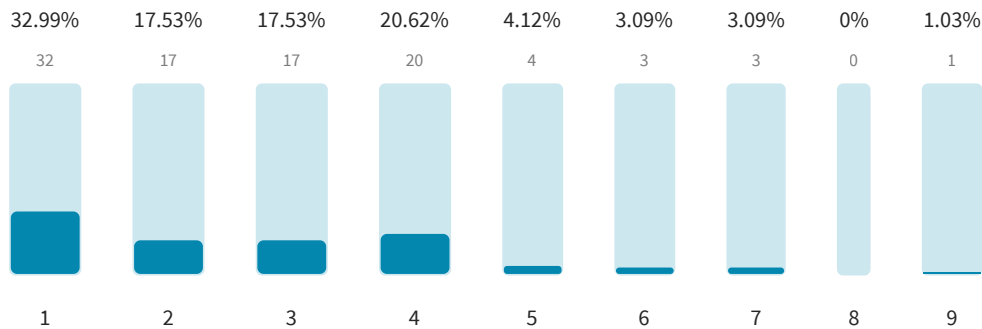
Open space for recreation use



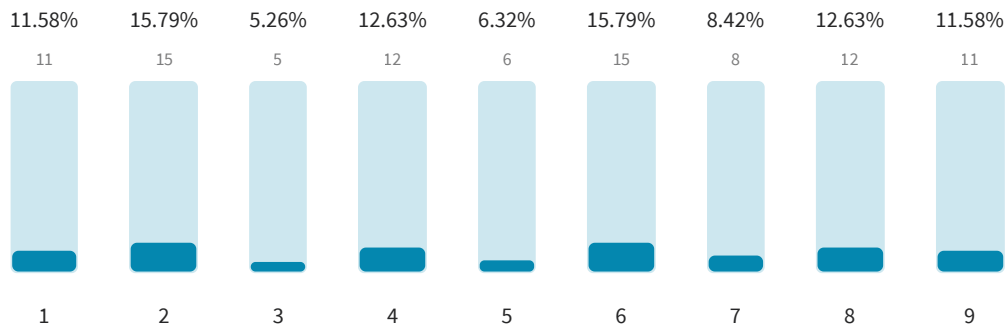
Open space for scenic value



Water quality

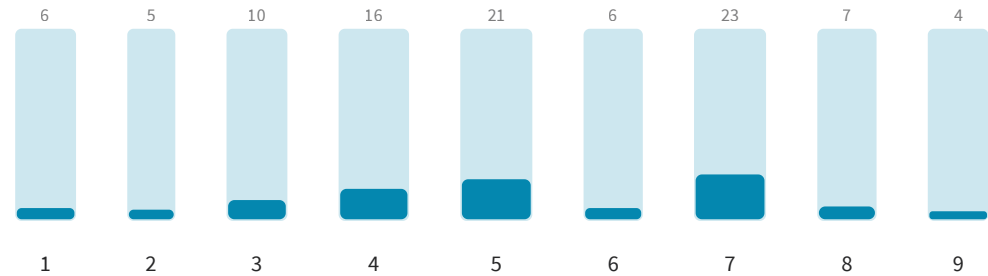


Water access

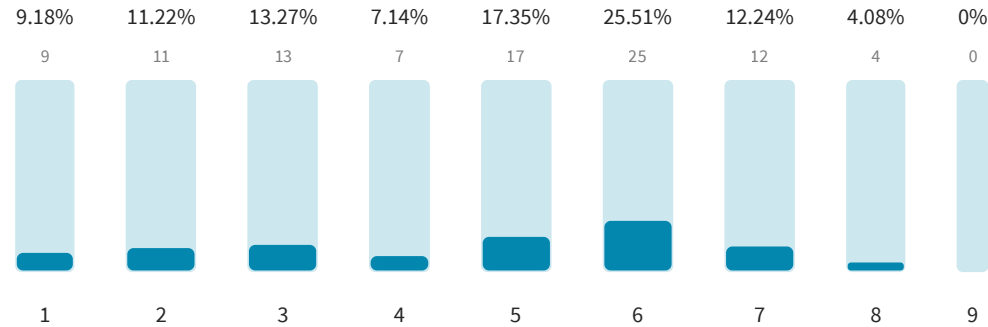


Working Farmland

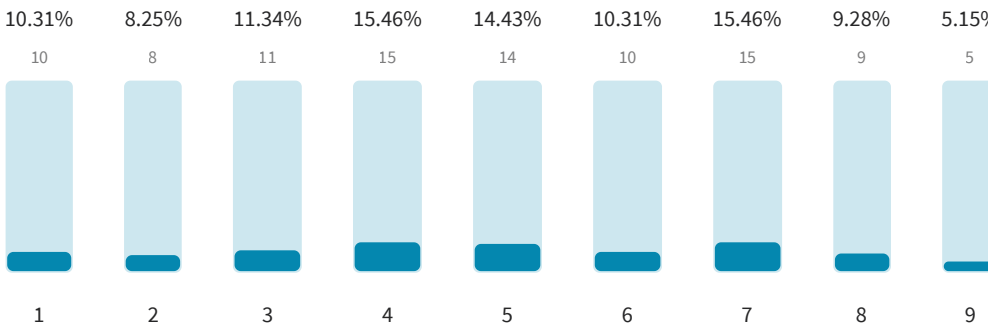




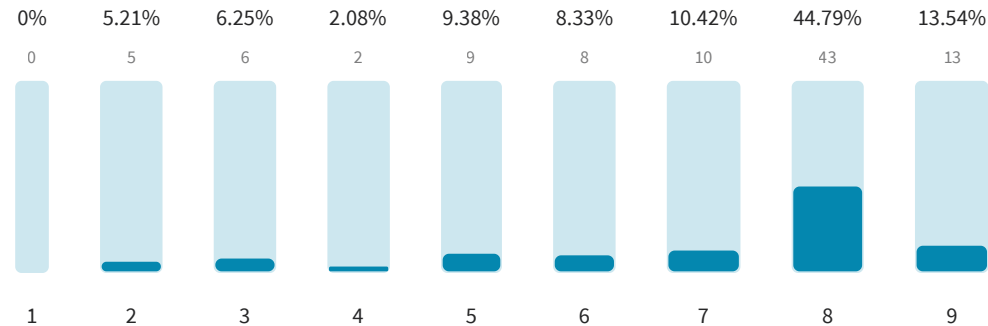
Forests



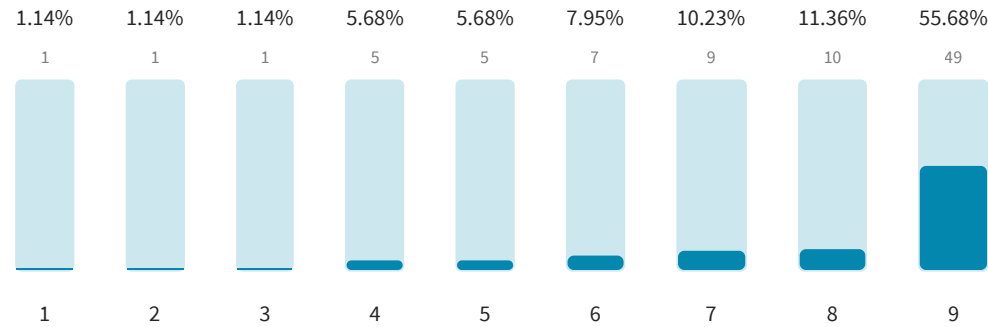
Wildlife



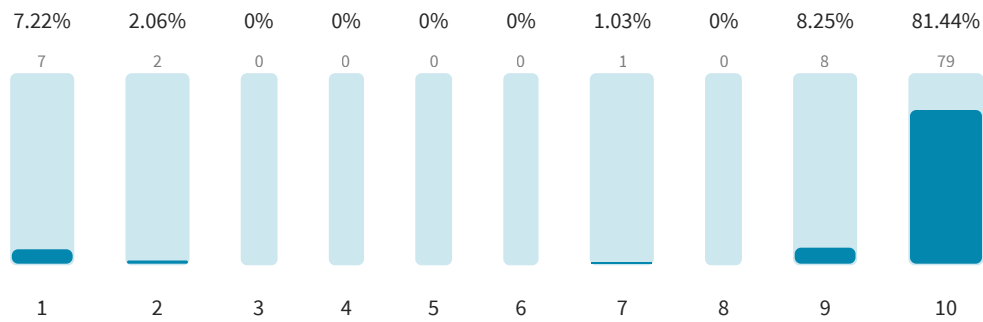
Buildings of historic interest



Historic/Archaeological Sites

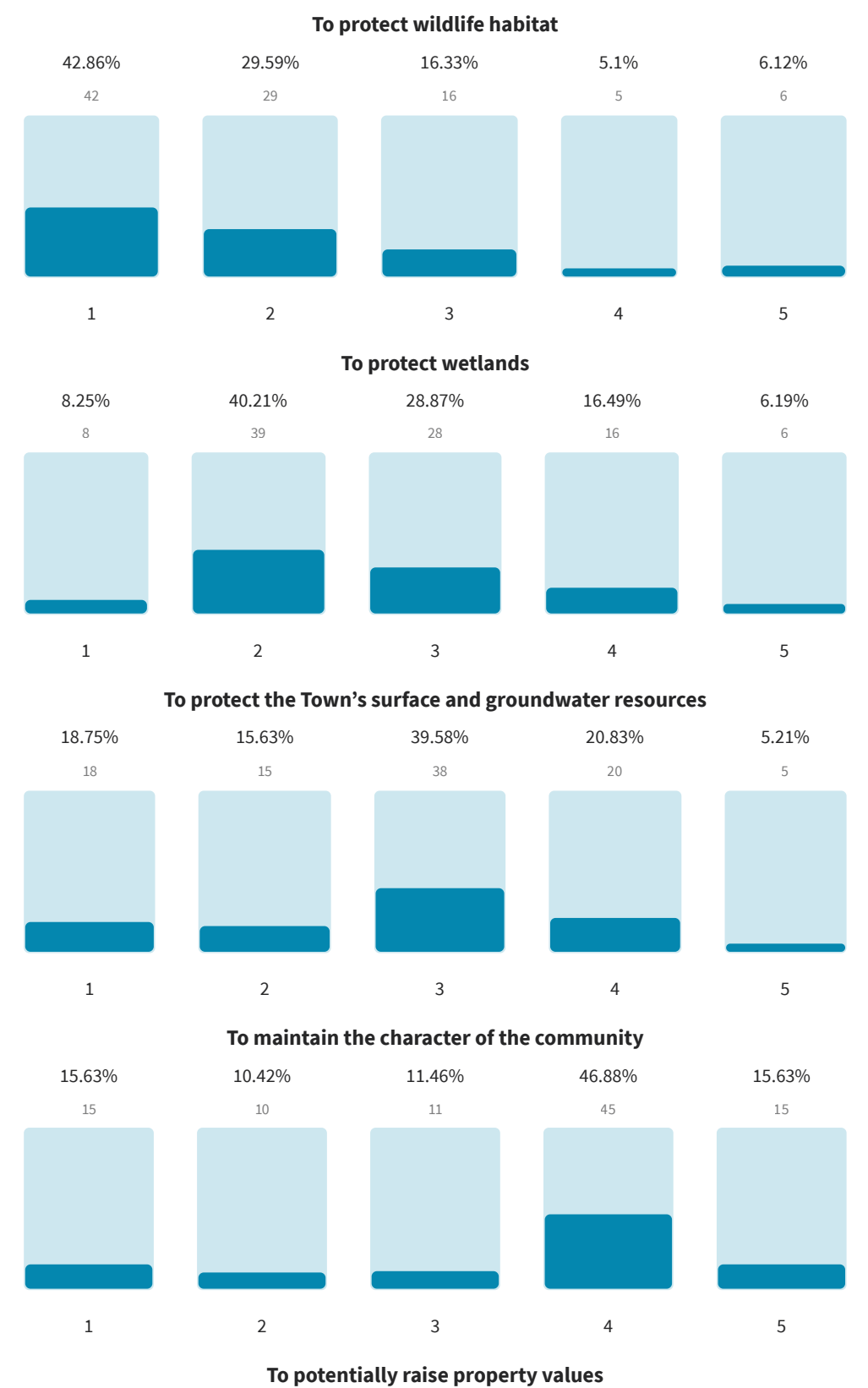


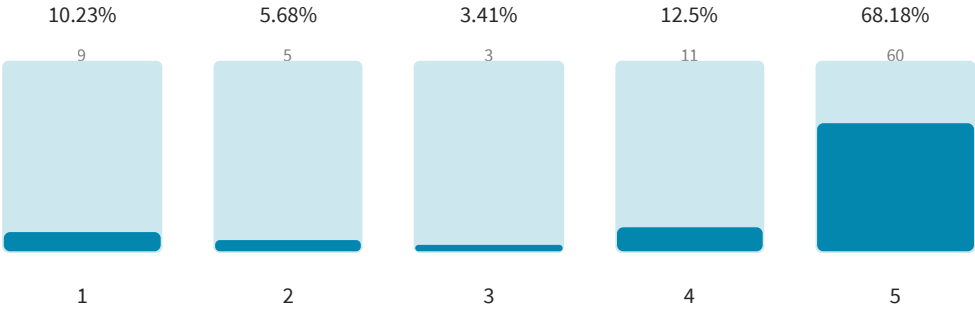
Other (please describe on the following screen)



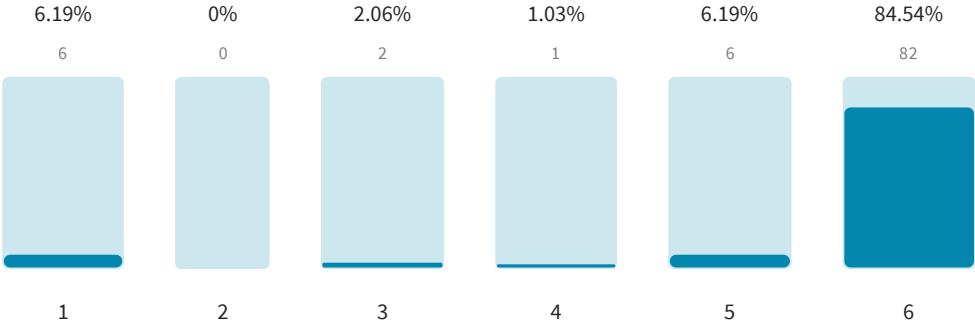
In your opinion, what are the top reasons you think Leicester should protect its open spaces and natural areas.
Please rank your choices accordingly with 1 being of highest priority.

98 out of 98 answered



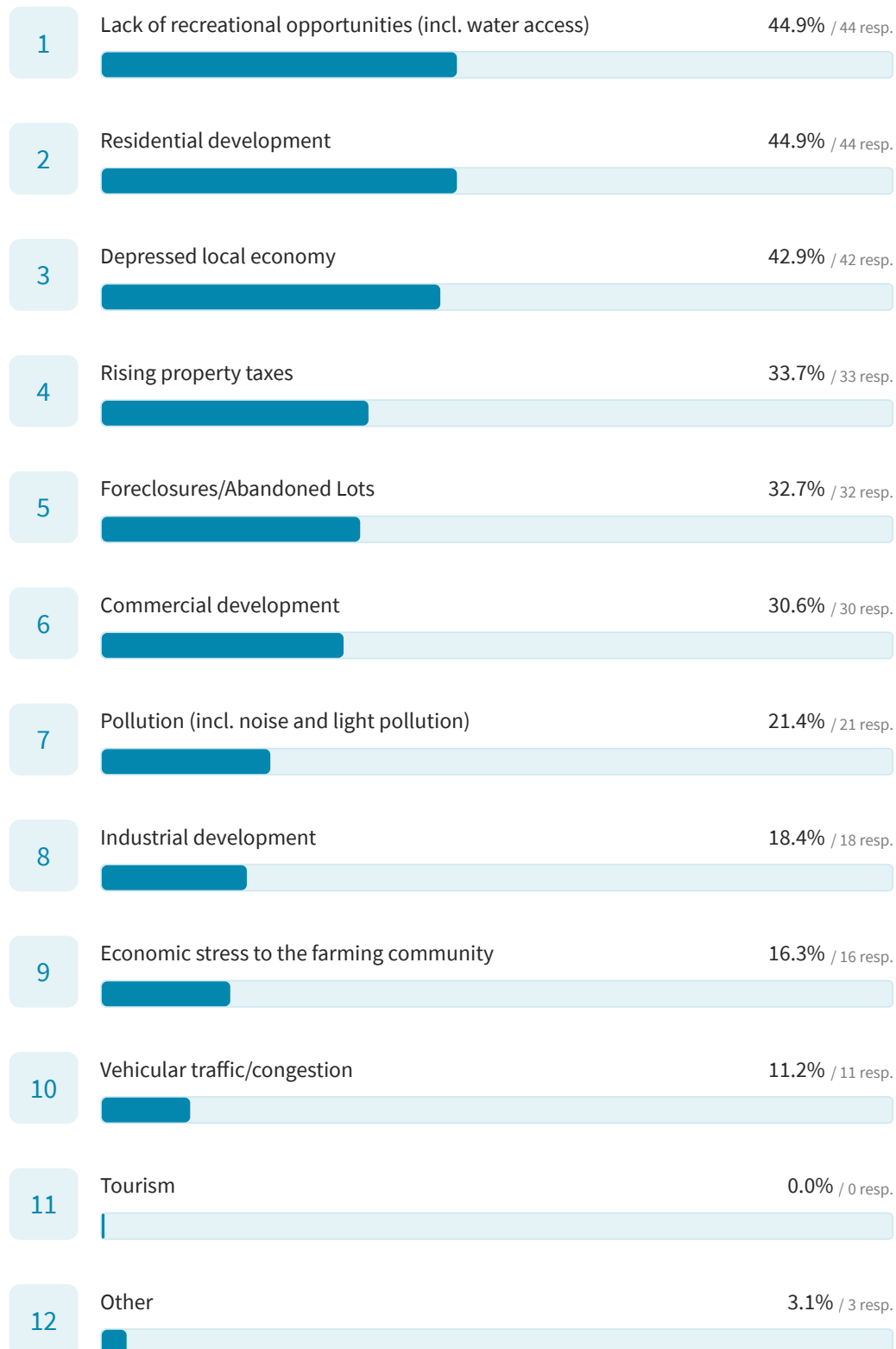


Other (describe on the following screen)



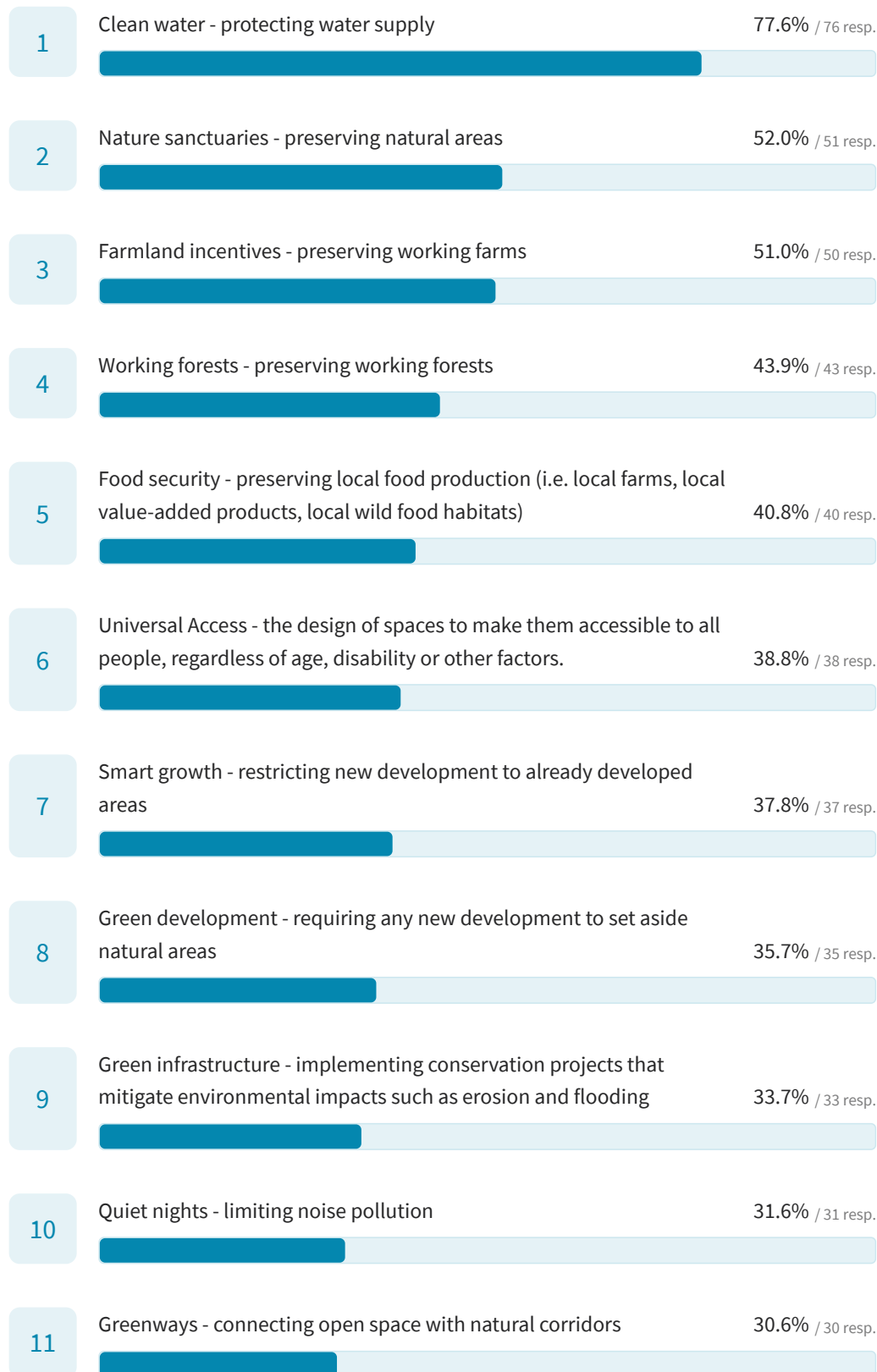
In your opinion, what are the three (3) greatest threats to open space in Leicester?

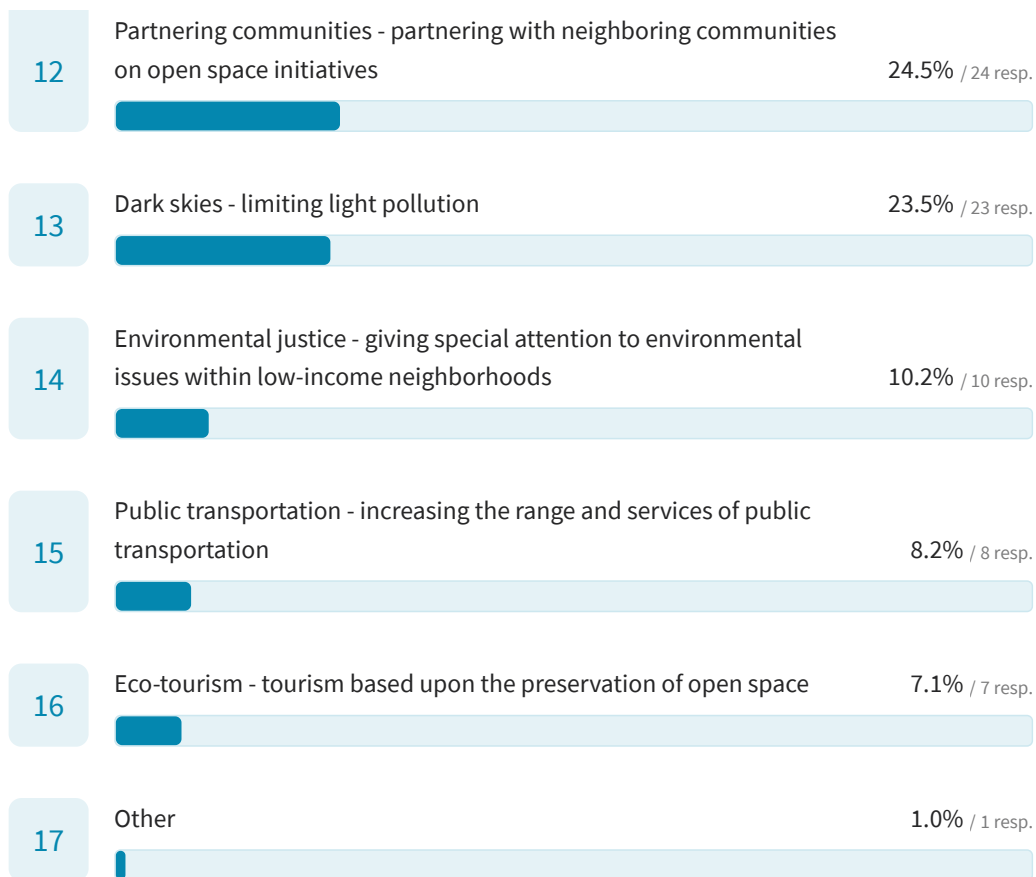
98 out of 98 answered



What initiatives do you feel are worth considering in preserving Leicester's open space?

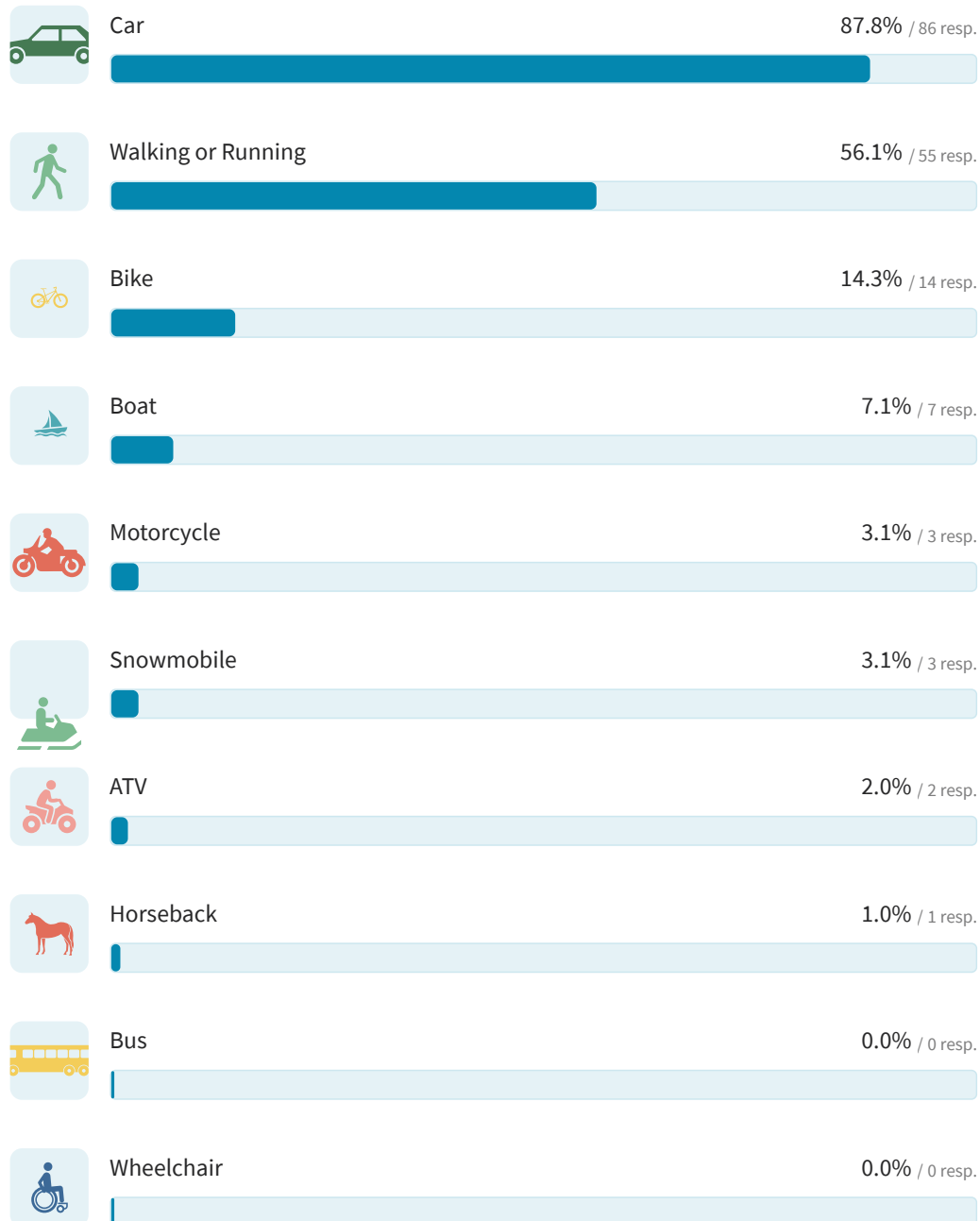
98 out of 98 answered





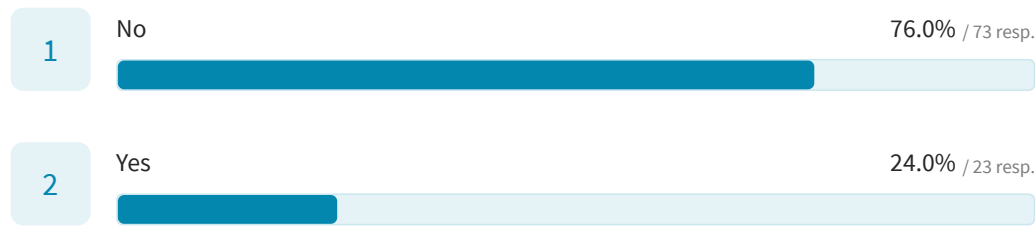
How do you travel to open space and recreation facilities in Town?

98 out of 98 answered



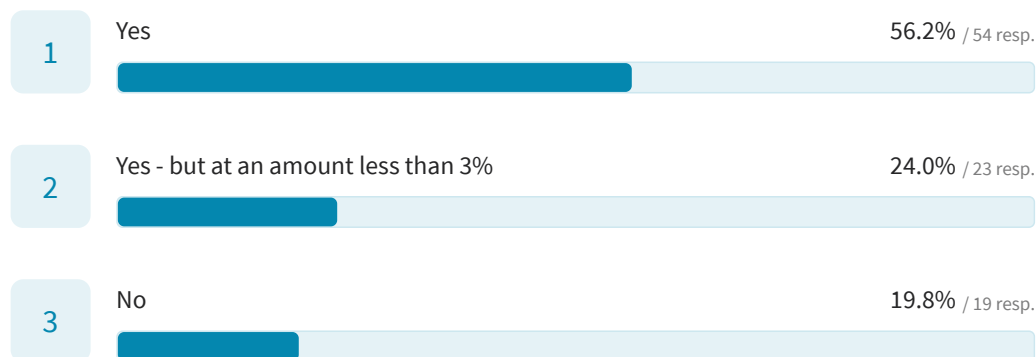
Have you ever encountered physical barriers to any open space and/or recreation properties in Leicester?

96 out of 98 answered



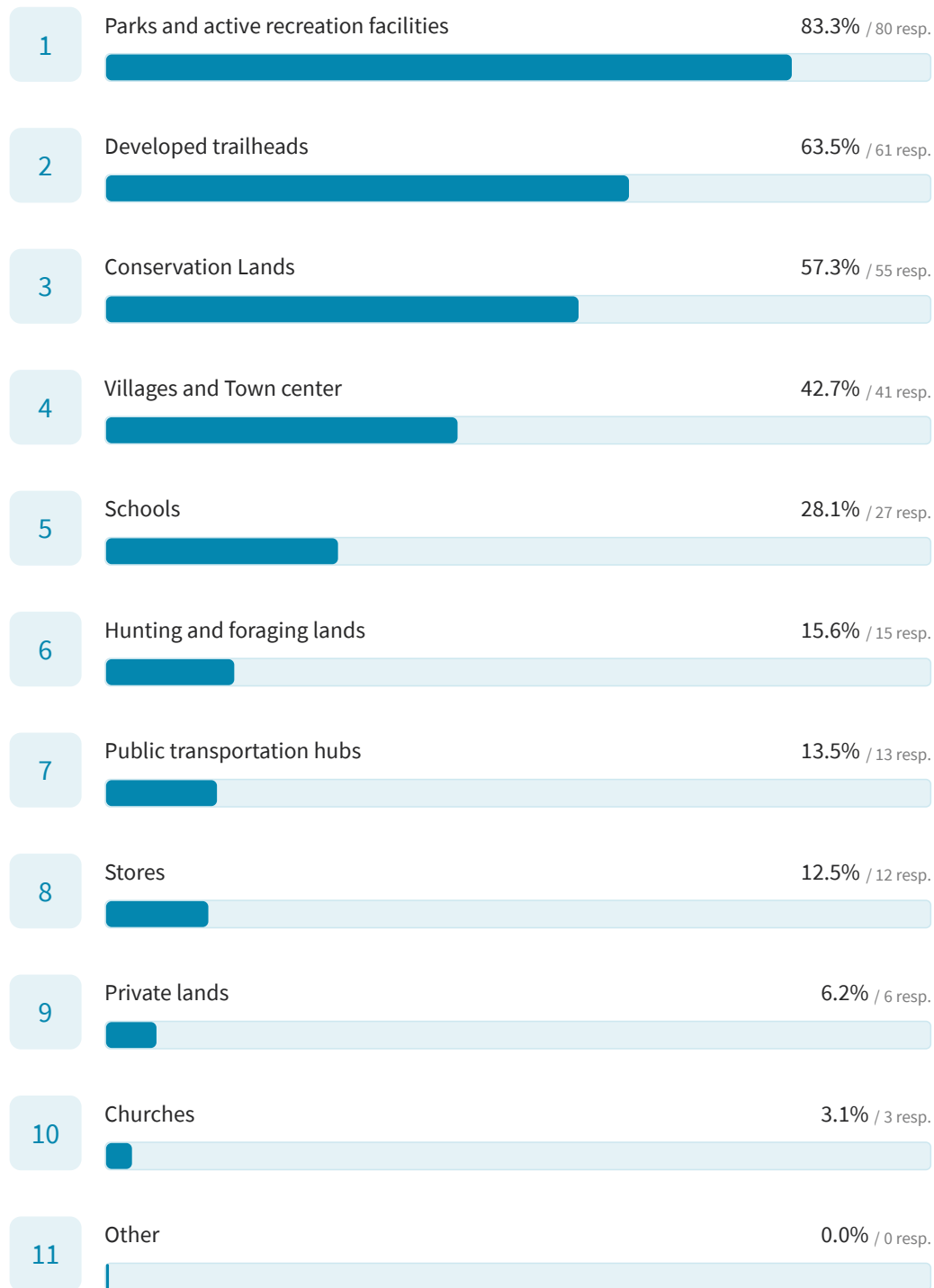
The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is funded through a local option surcharge on property tax bills and a state match up to a maximum allowable surcharge of 3%. Would you support a CPA surcharge to implement the recreational facilities and/or open space you would like to see developed/expanded in town?

96 out of 98 answered



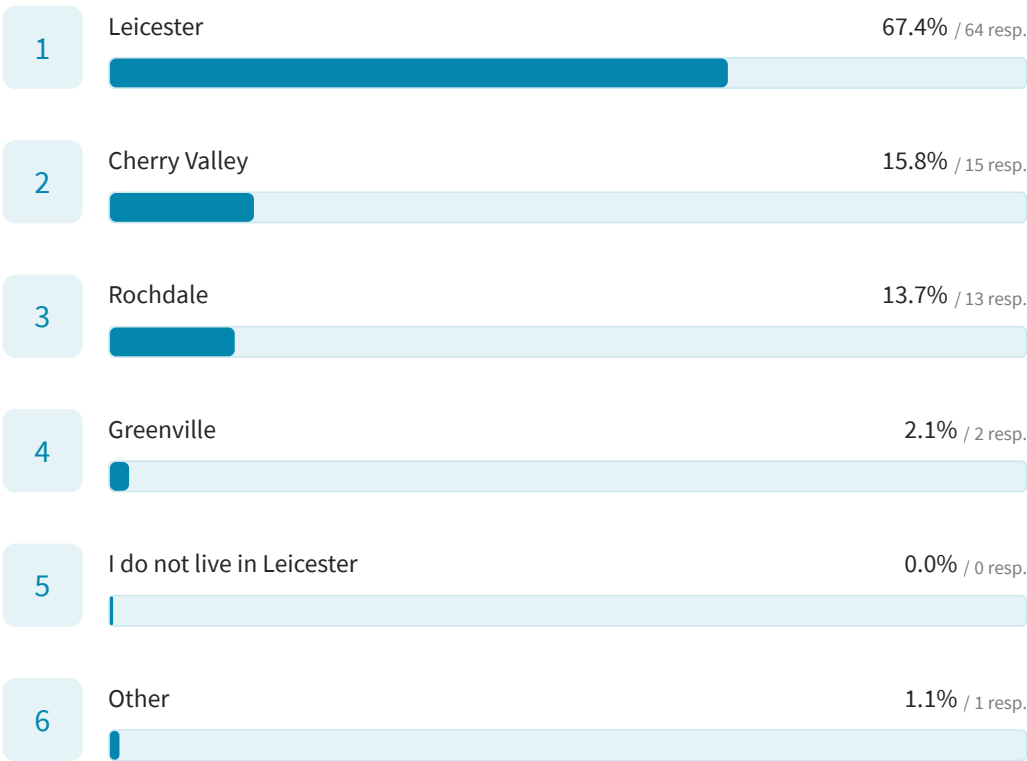
What places should a town trail system connect?

96 out of 98 answered



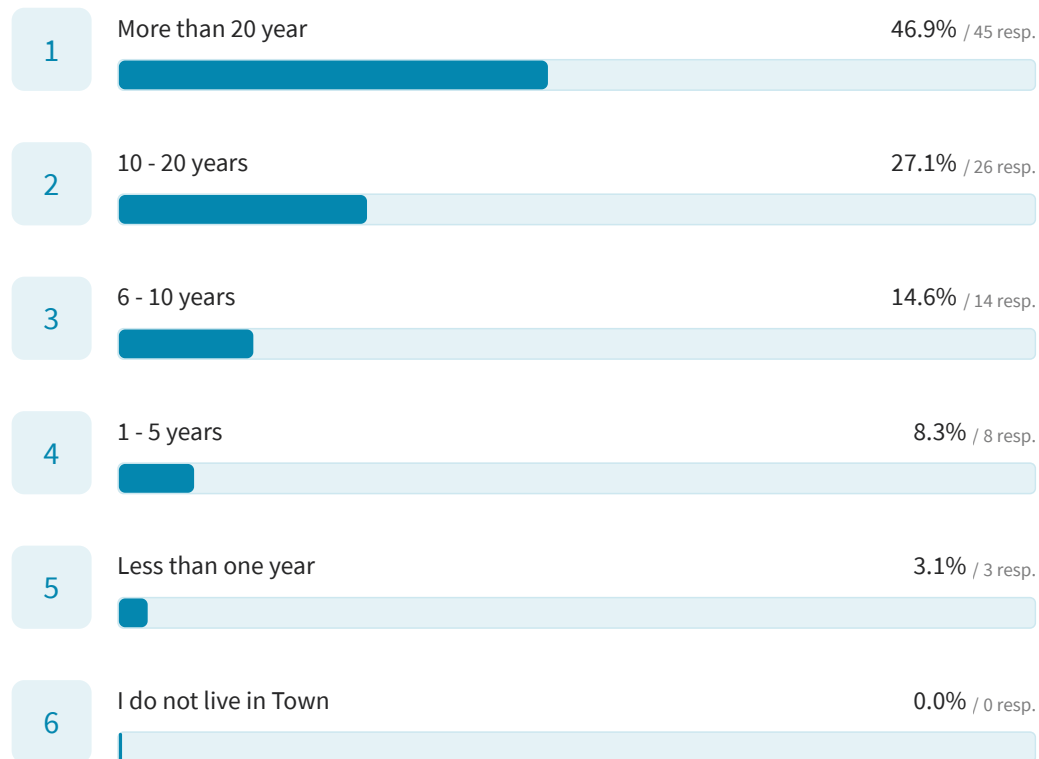
What general area of town best describes where you live?

95 out of 98 answered



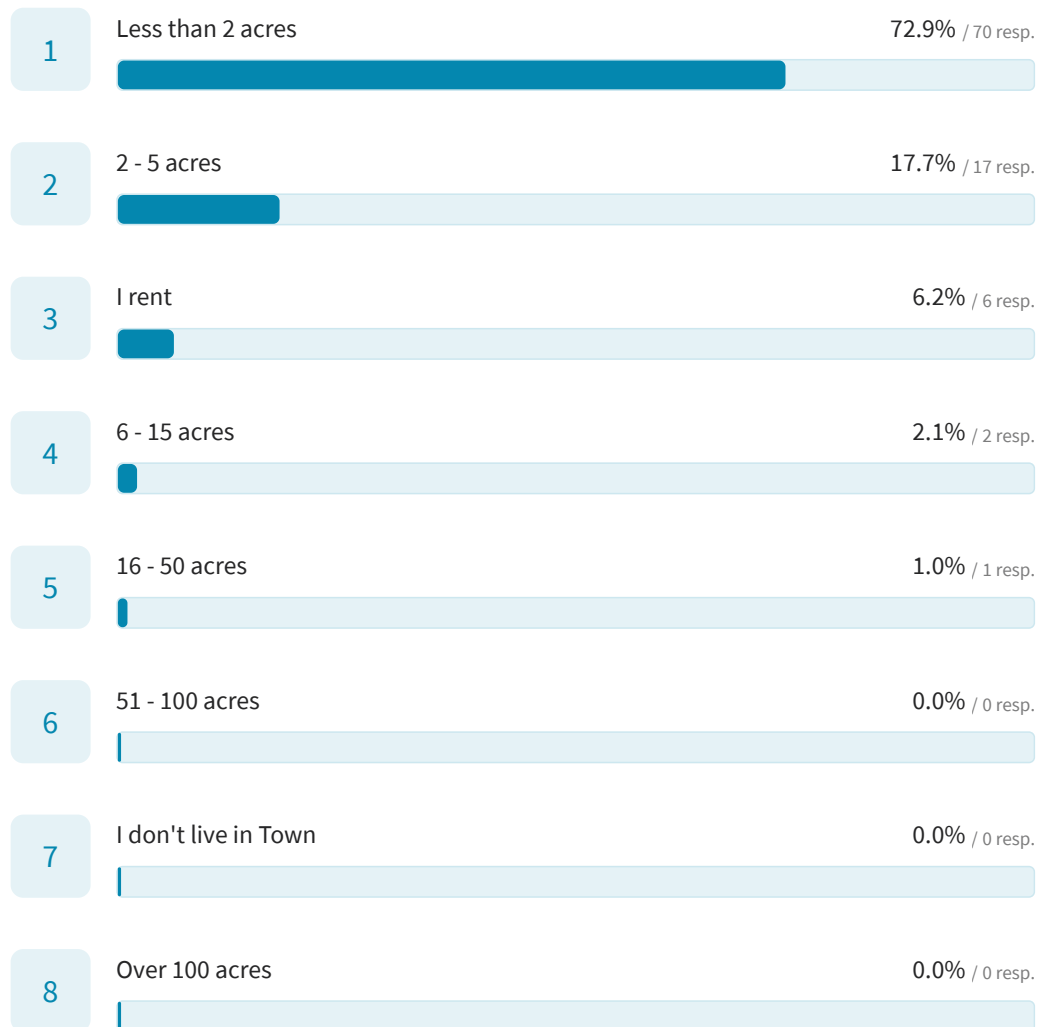
How many years have you lived in Leicester?

96 out of 98 answered



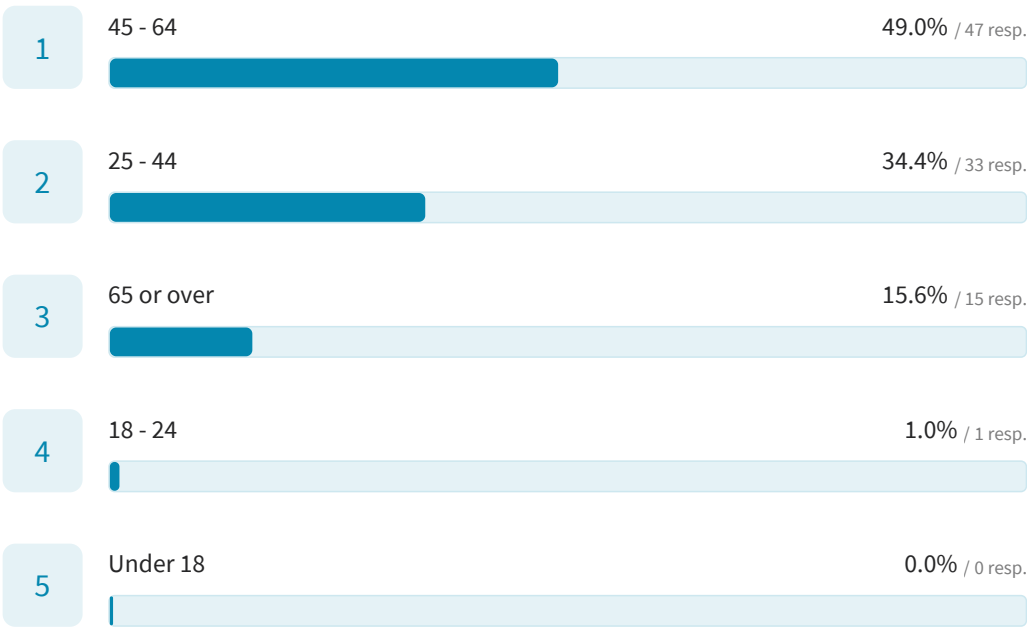
How much land do you (or your family) own in Leicester?

96 out of 98 answered



What is your age?

96 out of 98 answered



2007 Goals

- Preserve, protect, connect, and enhance Leicester's conservation and natural land resources.
- Provide, maintain, and improve diverse recreational opportunities to meet the needs of Leicester's growing population.
- Preserve and improve the quality, character, and health of Leicester's community and environmental resources by remediating degraded lands, protecting common resources, and preserving cultural heritage.
- Build a strong constituency of open space and recreation advocates through education and collaborative partnerships.
- Identify funding and other resources to support implementation of the actions identified in the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update.

2015 Goals

- Protect open space and natural resources, particularly water resources
- Provide and maintain recreational opportunities
- Develop and maintain partnerships
- Expand revenue sources and resources
- Establish a continuous open space planning process

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Marrtila, Jim Reinke, Sue Sears, Sharon Nist, Vaughn Hathaway (Alternate)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dianna Provencher

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Buck, Town Planner; Brooke Hammond, Department Assistant

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Open Meeting

1. Final Review of Draft Survey
2. Adoption of Minutes: 3/23/2021
3. Miscellaneous

Adjourn

Mr. Reinke calls the meeting to order at 6:04 PM. [Ms. Provencher absent]

1. Final Review of Draft Survey

Ms. Adams explains the changes made to the survey questions after hearing the Board's input at the last meeting.

Questions 3, 4, and 5 Ms. Adams added an "other" option to allow residents to fill in personalized answers. People who take the survey online will have the option to drag and drop the boxes in order to rank their answers. People that use paper copies of the survey will fill in numbers to rank answers.

Question 8: the definition for "universal access" was added so residents know the exact meaning when it appears in later questions.

Question 10: ATV, snowmobile, wheelchair and horseback were added as travel options.

Question 11: The spelling of "Lions" Park was fixed. Girls Softball Field was added to Russel Memorial Park.

Ms. Nist asks if Becker should still be included since the school is being sold. Ms. Buck says it should stay because there are still facilities there that residents use.

Question 12: "Open and Recreation space" was clarified as opposed to just using the word "space".

Question 14 was added to gauge whether residents encountered any physical barriers when accessing open space in Leicester.

Question 15 asks residents to specify where the barriers mentioned in question 14 exist.

Question 19: The term "universal accessibility" was added again.

The remainder of the questions did not require editing.

On question 13 Ms. Nist notes the term “developed” may be misconstrued as building/construction. She suggests changing the term to “improved” or something that indicates the open space won’t be disturbed. Mr. Reinke says “created, implemented and/or expanded” would be an appropriate term.

Motion: Ms. Nist moves to accept the survey as amended.

Second: Ms. Marrtila

Discussion: None

Roll-Call Vote: (5-0-0)

Ms. Nist volunteers to distribute paper copies at various locations around town, and will report where paper copies are left.

2. Adoption of Minutes: 3/23/2021

Motion: Ms. Nist asks that the name Parliment be corrected, but otherwise accepts the minutes.

Second: Ms. Marrtila

(5-0-0)

3. Miscellaneous

Survey will be shared tomorrow, April 7, 2021.

Adjourn

Motion: Ms. Nist

Second: Ms. Sears

Discussion: None

Vote: (5-0-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brooke Hamond, Department Assistant