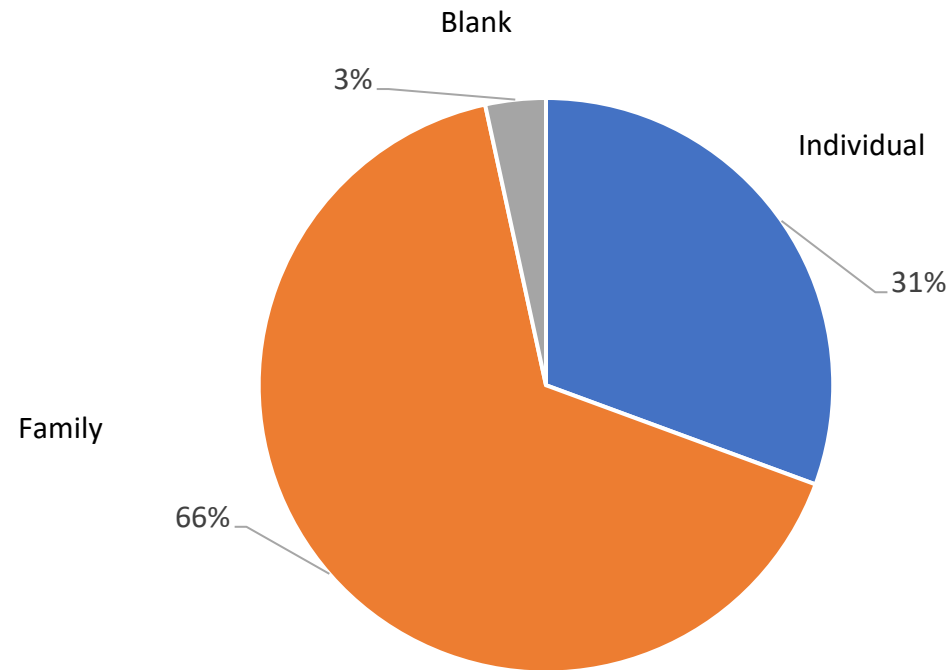


Public Input Summary

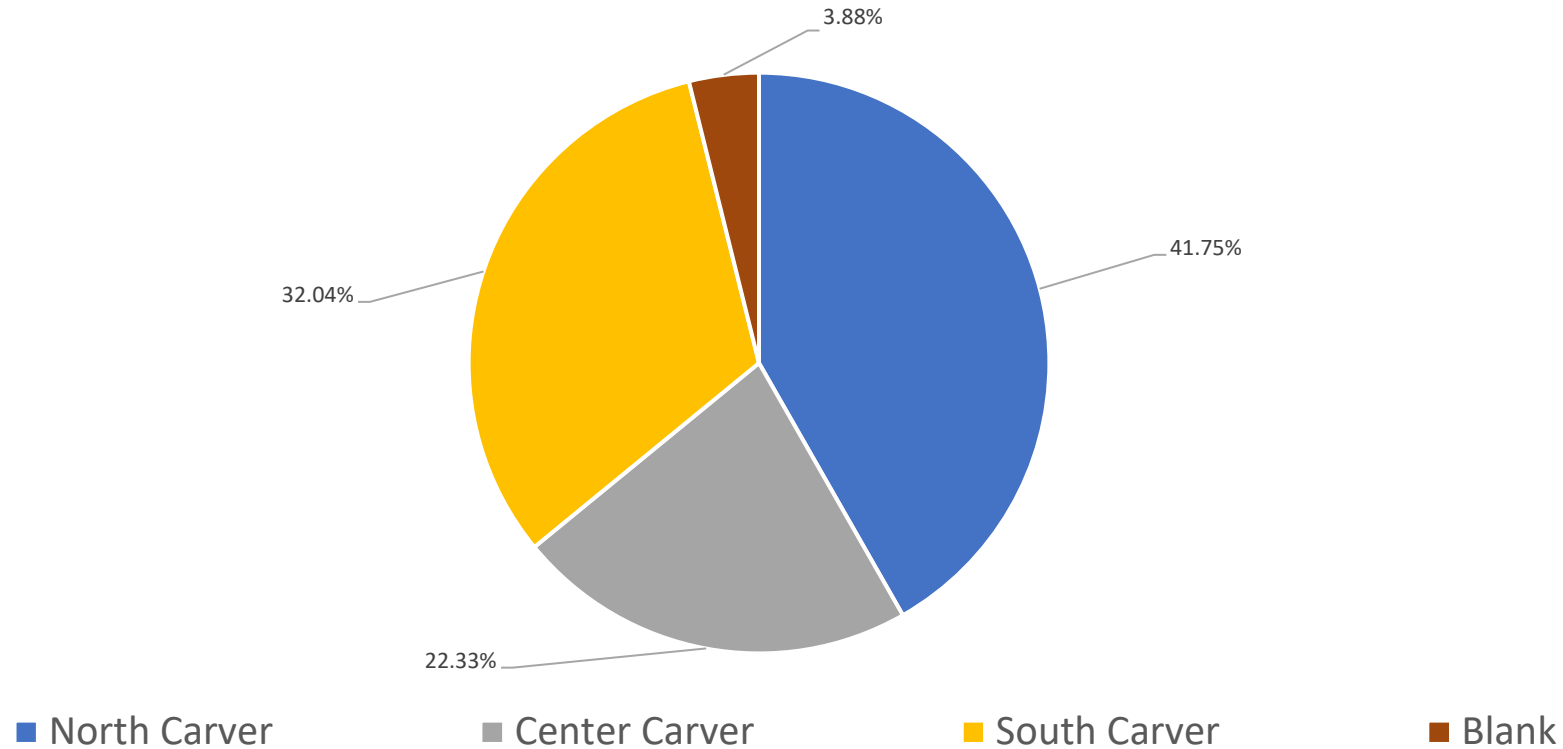
Carver – Open Space and Recreation Plan

10/12/2022

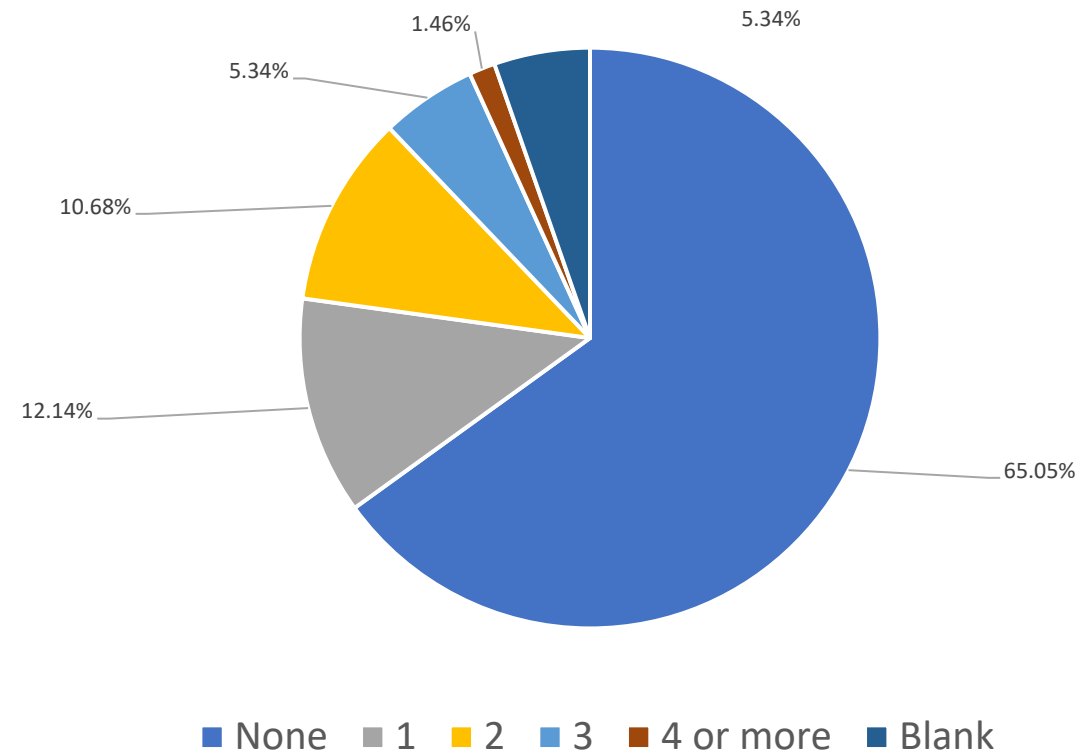
Q: Completed as an individual or family?



Q: Which of the following most closely describes the area in which you live?



Q: How many children do you have under the age of 18?



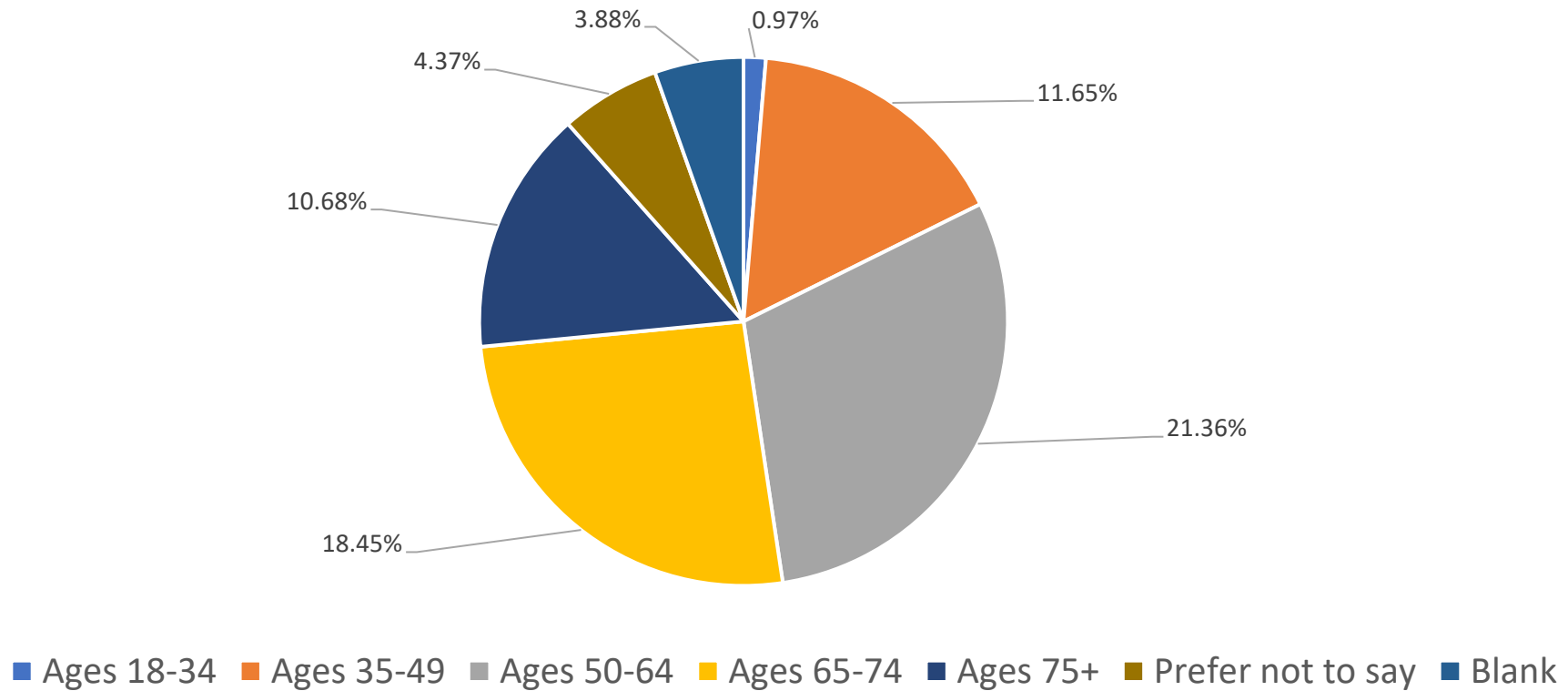
Percentage of respondents who have the following number of children:

None - 65%

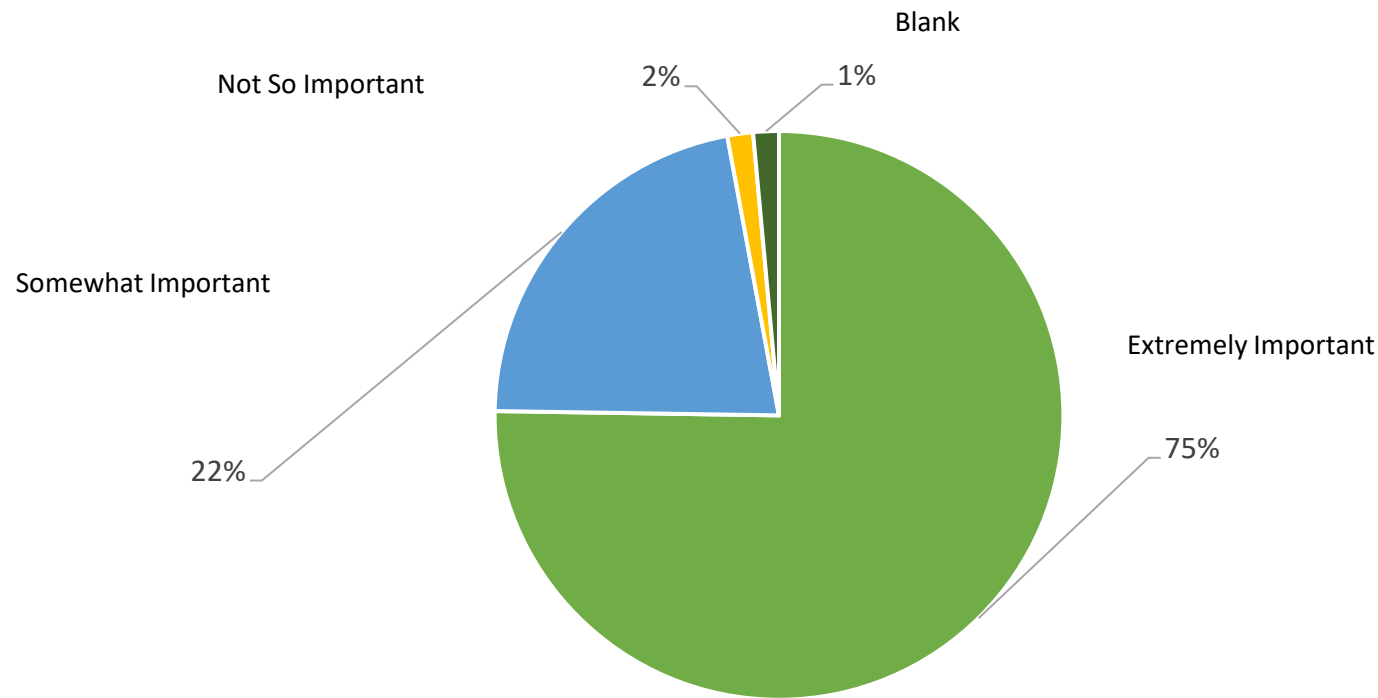
One or more – 30%

Blank - 5%

Q: What is your age?



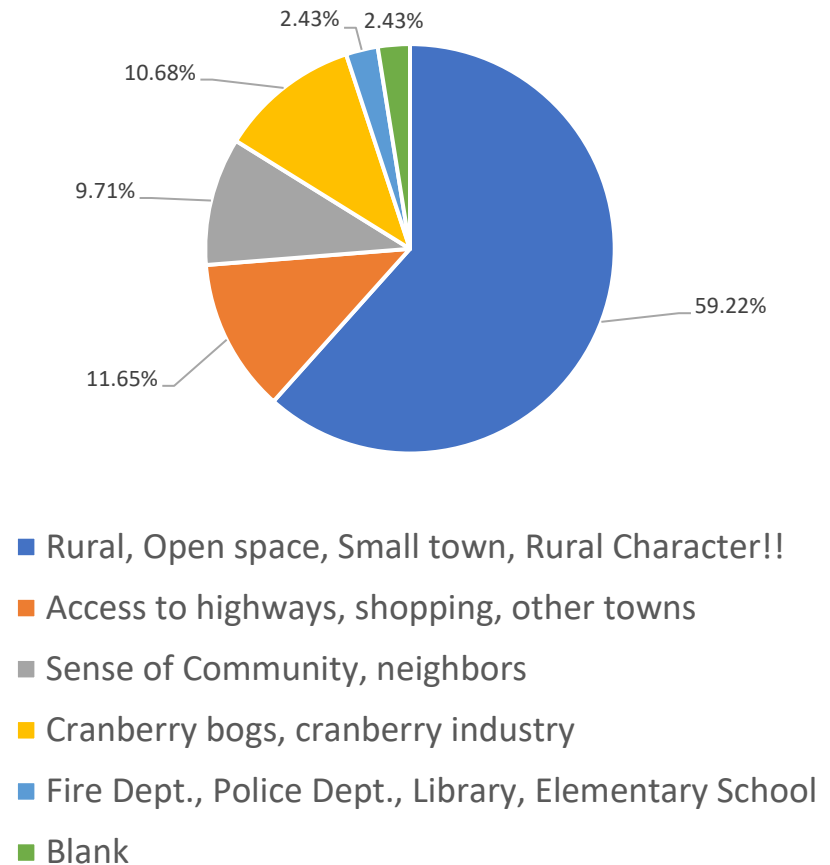
Q: How important is it to you to preserve the rural character of Carver?



Q: What is your favorite thing about living in Carver?

Respondents' **favorite thing** about living in Carver:

- Rural Character, Open Space Small town - 59%
- Access highways, shopping, other towns (location/convenience) - 12%
- Cranberry bogs - 11%
- Sense of Community - 10%
- Fire Dept., Police Dept., Library, Elementary School (town services) - 2%
- Blank - 2%



Take Aways: Who Took the Survey

- Mostly families (2/3)
- Slightly dominated by North Carver, but solid representation from South and Central Carver as well (42%, 32%, 22%)
- Mostly people with no children or adult children (65%), with 30% having one or more children
- Mostly young seniors (50-74): 40%, versus less than 1% young adults (18-34)
- 75% of respondents view it as extremely important to preserve Carver's rural character, in fact for about 60% of respondents, it's their favorite thing about the town

Q: Which team sports facilities do we need more of? Do they need upgrading or repair?

Percentage of people who think the following team sports facilities the town needs **more of** or should acquire:

- Ice skating rink – 29%
- Basketball Court – 12%
- Tennis Court – 9%

Q: Which team sports facilities do we need more of? Do they need upgrading or repair?

Percentage of people who think the following team sports facilities need **upgrade**:

Take Aways: Needs for Specific Recreational Facilities – Team Sports

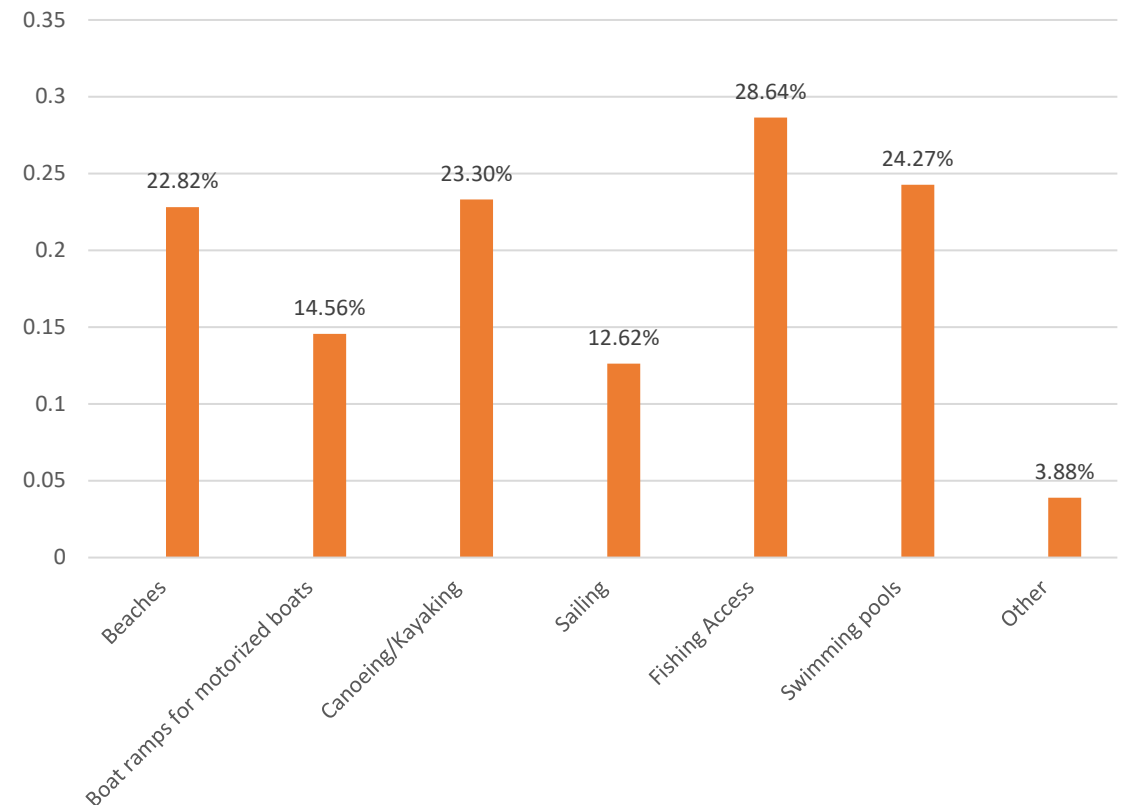
- Pickleball: Convert underutilized tennis courts at Lakeview Street, behind COA. Existing design.
- Fields: Forest Street field grass issue should eventually be addressed. Purchase Street field drainage grates on field – could these be removed to rely instead on perimeter drainage?
- Upgrade Bates Pond Playground (Con Comm took ownership) – needs additional fill

Q: Which water access facilities do we need more of? Do they need upgrading or repair?

Percentage of people who think the following water access open spaces or facilities the town needs **more of** or should acquire:

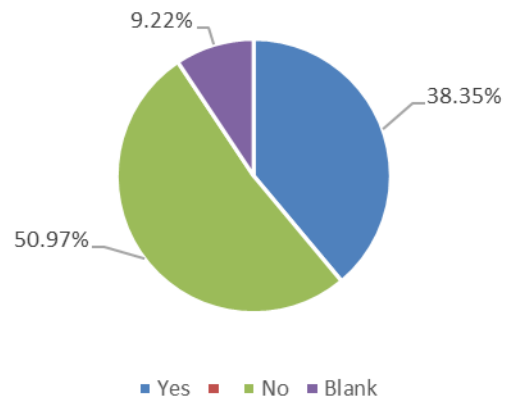
- Fishing Access - 29%
- Swimming Pools - 24%
- Beaches - 23%
- Canoeing/Kayaking - 23%
- Boat Ramps for Motorized Boats - 15%

Q. 3. Which of the following water access open spaces or facilities does the town **need more of** or should the town acquire?

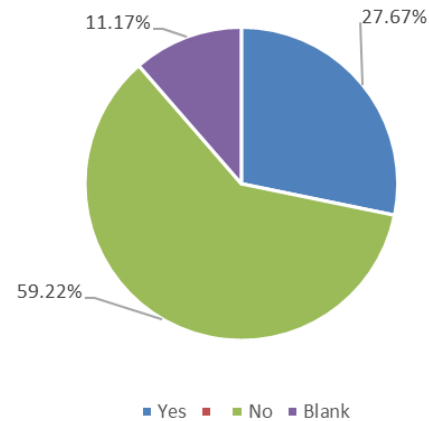


Q: Do you or your family members ever use the following beaches? Mark “Y” for Yes and “N” for No. If no, please indicate why.

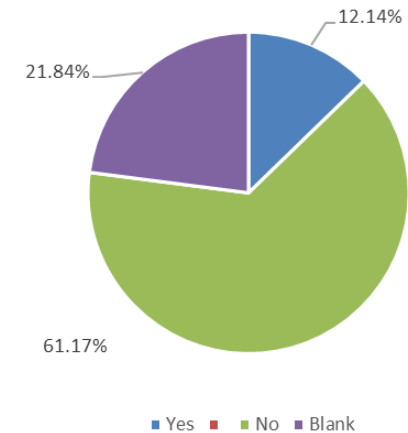
Q. 5. Do you or your family members ever use the following beaches?
Sampson's Pond:



Q. 5. Do you or your family members ever use the following beaches?
John's Pond



Q. 5. Do you or your family members ever use the following beaches?
Private Beach

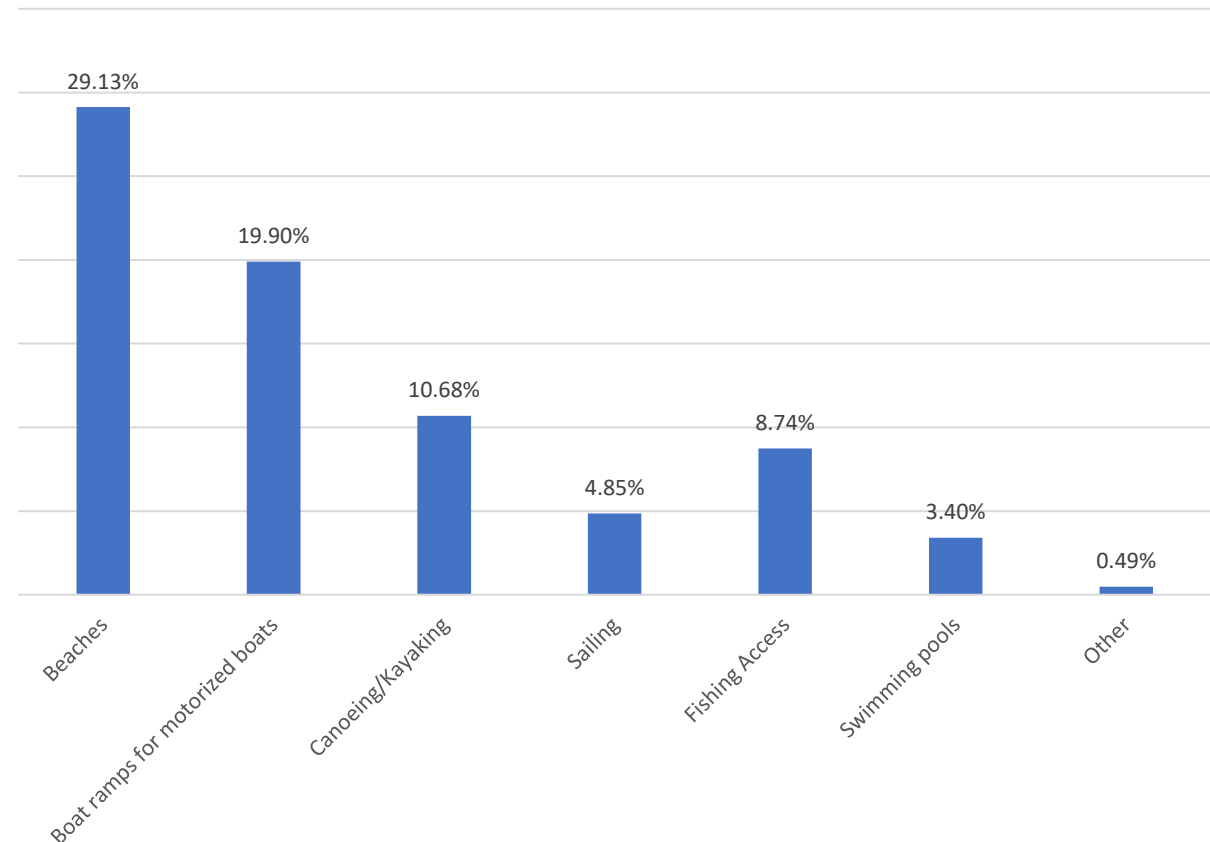


Q: Which water access facilities do we need more of? Do they need upgrading or repair?

Percentage of people who think the following water access open spaces or facilities the town needs **more of** or should acquire:

- **Beaches - 29%**
- **Boat Ramps for Motorized Boats - 20%**
- Canoeing/Kayaking - 11%
- Fishing Access - 9%
- Sailing - 5%

Q. 3. Which of the following water access open spaces or facilities **need upgrading?**



Take Aways: Needs for Specific Recreational Facilities – Water Access

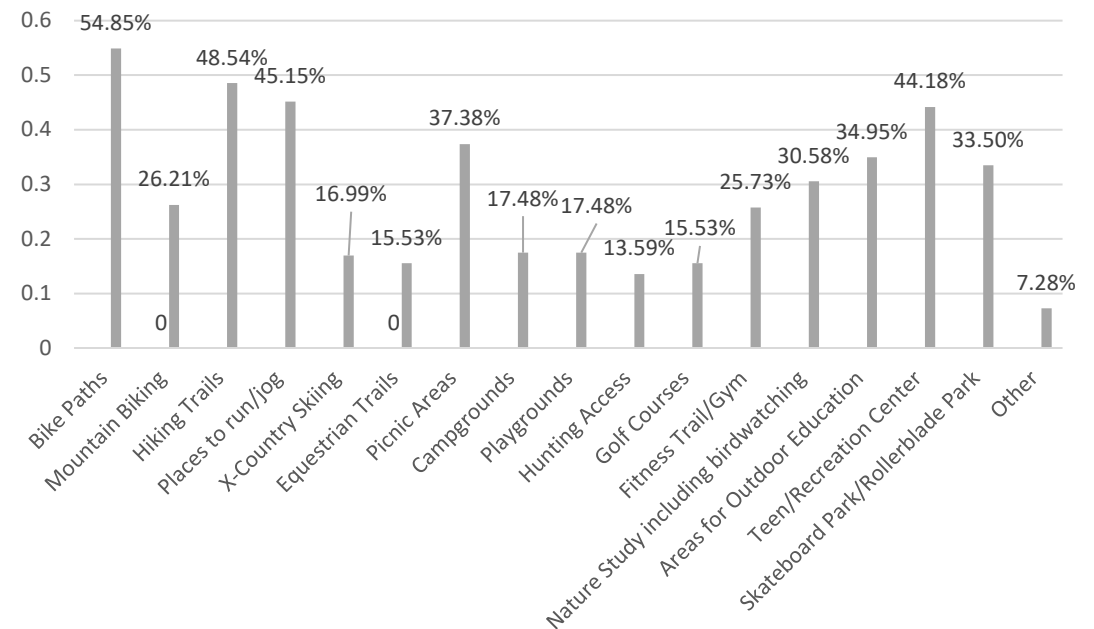
- Boating: Ramps in the upgrade category (Sampsons Pond in particular – gravel and debris erosion into boat ramp; temporary seasonal boat ramp, similar options to explore).
- Fishing: Create a map/list of fishing / boating opportunities (rec website) because a lack of information might be driving this “need new” answer. A seasonal fishing pier at Sampson’s Pond would expand access to fishing (and also canoe/kayak launching) for ADA purposes.
- Beaches: Improve ADA access with mats. Upgrade in informational kiosks (how to behave and be a steward/what to look out for in the waterbodies). Remove overgrowth (con comm) to expand swimming access.
- Indoor Swimming Pool: would expand recreational opportunities for year-round health for seniors and youth alike, and ADA users. If a group comes together around this, they could take on the development of a feasibility study and potential opportunities (new high school, etc.)
- Canoe/kayak launch (seasonal, portable, ADA-access oriented dock) at 44 Lakeview on Sampson’s Pond
- For all categories: Create a Town Water Access Plan (activity icons).

Q: Which lower impact or individual recreational activities do we need more of? Do they need upgrading or repair?

Percentage of people who would like to see **more of**, or have the town acquire, the following activities or facilities:

- Bike Paths - 55%
- Hiking Trails - 49%
- Places to Run/Jog - 45%
- Teen/Recreation Center - 44%
- Picnic Areas - 37%
- Areas for Outdoor Education - 35%
- Skateboard Park/Rollerblade Park - 34%
- Nature Study, Including Birdwatching - 31%
- Mountain Biking - 26%
- Fitness Trail/Gym - 26%

Q. 3. WHICH OF THESE INDIVIDUALIZED/LOWER-IMPACT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES/FACILITIES DOES THE TOWN **NEED MORE OF** OR SHOULD THE TOWN ACQUIRE?

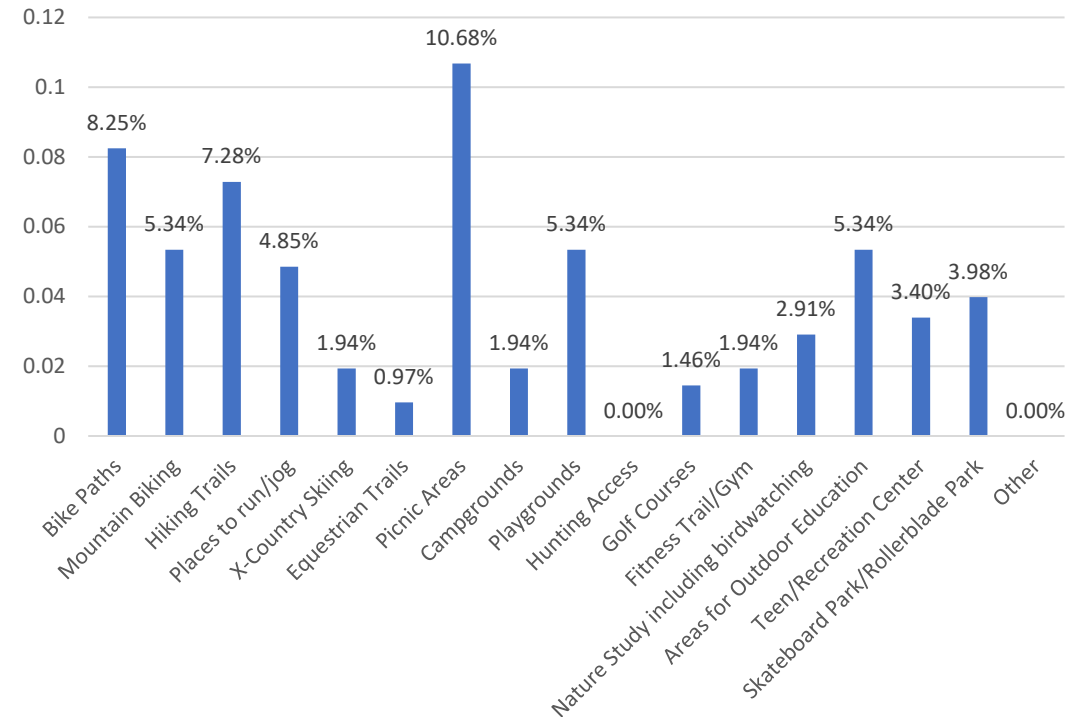


Q: Which lower impact or individual recreational activities do we need more of? Do they need upgrading or repair?

Percentage of people who feel the following activities / facilities need upgrades:

- Picnic Areas - 11%
- Bike Paths - 8%
- Hiking Trails - 7%
- Places to Run/Jog - 5%
- Areas for Outdoor Education - 5%
- Mountain Biking - 5%
- Playgrounds - 5%

Q. 3. WHICH OF THESE INDIVIDUALIZED/LOWER-IMPACT RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES/FACILITIES **NEED UPGRADES?**



Take Aways: Needs for Specific Recreational Facilities – Low Impact

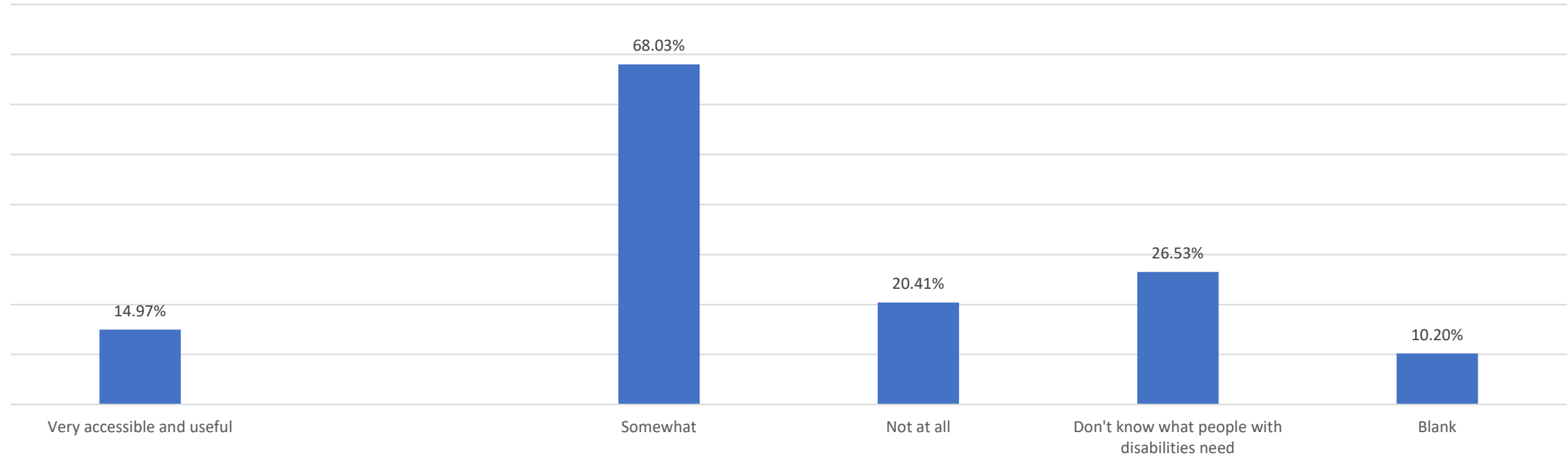
- Biking: Bring back Bike Path Committee – clear need and desire for more bike paths and different kind of accessible bike paths in town. Petition Town Meeting for funding via Committee (potentially framed as feasibility study to implement path that was already approved.) Off-road easements. Implement path that was already designed and approved as part of the Master Plan. Repaint the sharrows that have recently been affected by road re-paving).
- Hiking: Existing Trails Committee working on maintenance (trail blazing) what we have and educating public, working on signage (branding), opportunities for outdoor education, and maps. Committee can also look into opportunities to enhance supportive infrastructure like expanded parking at sites (including creative options to expand parking, like purchasing nearby properties). Information gap here, so create a map/list of trails so people know where the existing opportunities are.
- Teen Recreation: Cultural Council is looking into developing a teen art/event space. Recreation would like a building to host certain activities, especially during the summer – not enough space in town hall or library meeting rooms (often booked and at capacity). Could the Old Fire and Police Stations (feasibility study for reuse?) or the lot be a spot for a Town Recreation/Community Center, perhaps with a COA as well). Another option is the School Admin Building that is currently underutilized. Multi-use building aligned with Master Plan.
- Mechanism for first right of refusal for key “wish list” priorities related to recreation. Is there a Committee that can take this on? Tax/title properties could go before Select Board, RDA, and other committees before going onto the auction list. This mechanism is perhaps where the town could achieve something like a teen recreation center.

Take Aways: General

- Establish a formal Recreation Department with staff
- Establish a standing Open Space and Recreation Committee
- Reestablish revolving Conservation Properties Maintenance Fund at Town Meeting (exact funding source tbd – Line item? Sources from fees? – would need to be decided).
- Corporate partnerships, non-profit partnerships for volunteer coordination and property maintenance)
- Maintain understanding of Chapter 61B property status so that the town is ready to act on priority properties (potentially such as King Richards Fair)

Q: How accessible and useful do you feel open spaces and recreational facilities in Carver are to those in the community with disabilities?

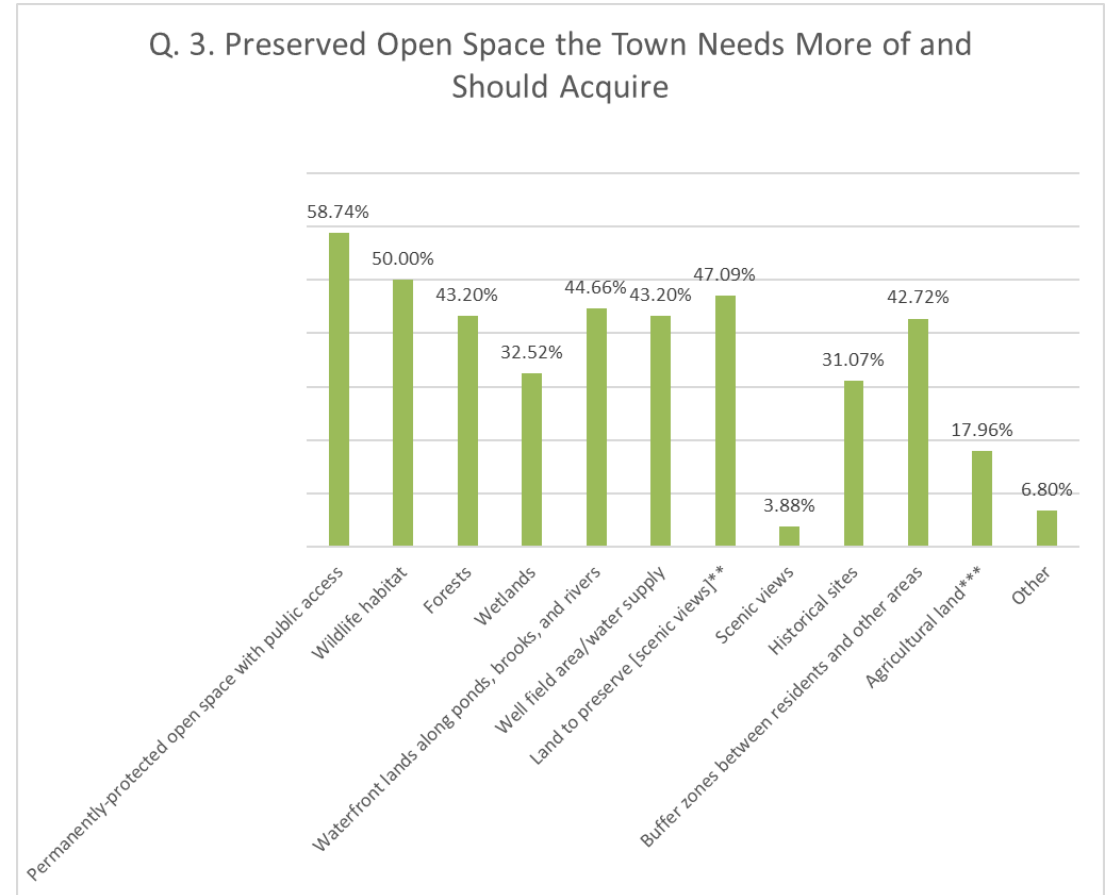
Q. 8. How accessible/useful do you feel open spaces and recreational facilities in Carver are to those in the community with disabilities?



Q: Which preserved open spaces do we need more of? Do they need upgrading or repair?

Percentage of people who think we **need more** of the following top five open space facilities and should acquire them:

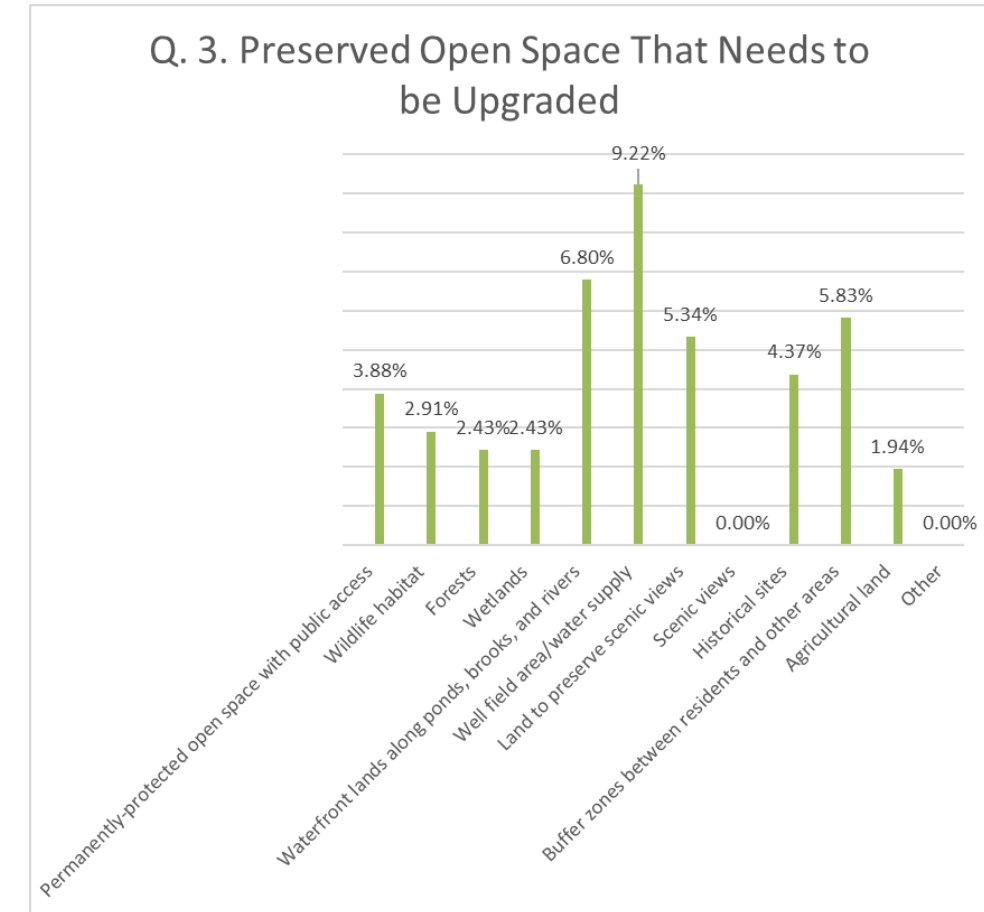
- Permanently protected open space with public access - 59%
- Wildlife habitat - 50%
- Land to preserve [scenic views] - 47%
- Waterfront land along ponds, brooks, and rivers - 45%
- Forests – 43%
- Wellfield area/water supply – 43%
- Buffer zones between residents and other areas - 43%



Q: Which preserved open spaces do we need more of? Do they need upgrading or repair?

Percentage of people who think the following top five open space facilities should be **upgraded**:

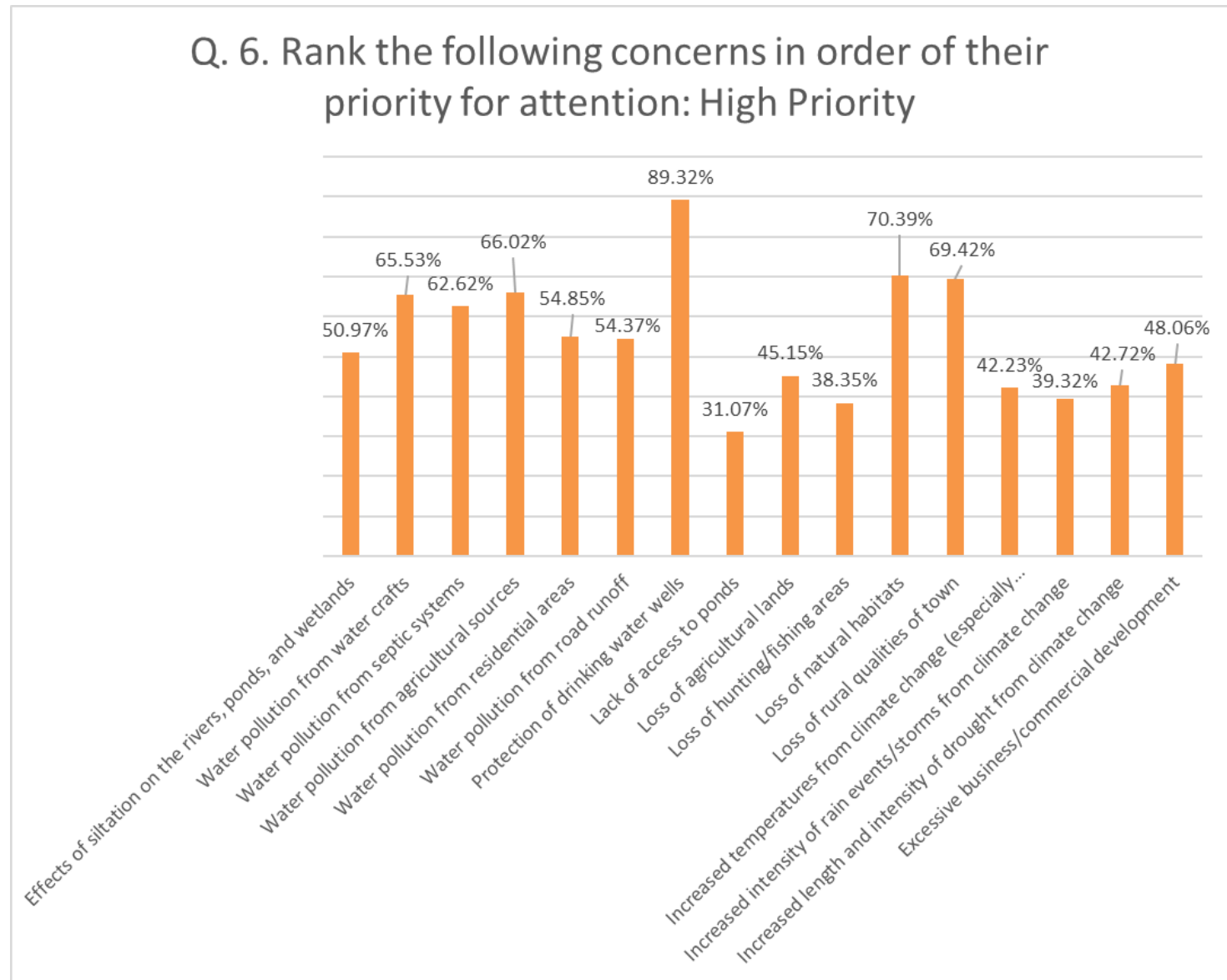
- Wellfield area/water supply – 9%
- Waterfront land along ponds, brooks, and rivers - 7%
- Buffer zones between residents and other areas - 6%
- Land to preserve [scenic views] - 5%
- Permanently protected open space with public access - 4%



Q: Rank the following concerns in order of their priority for attention.

Top five concerns in order of highest priority:

- Protection of drinking water wells - 89%
- Loss of natural habitats - 70%
- Loss of rural qualities of town - 69%
- Water pollution from agricultural sources - 66%
- Water pollution from watercrafts - 65%

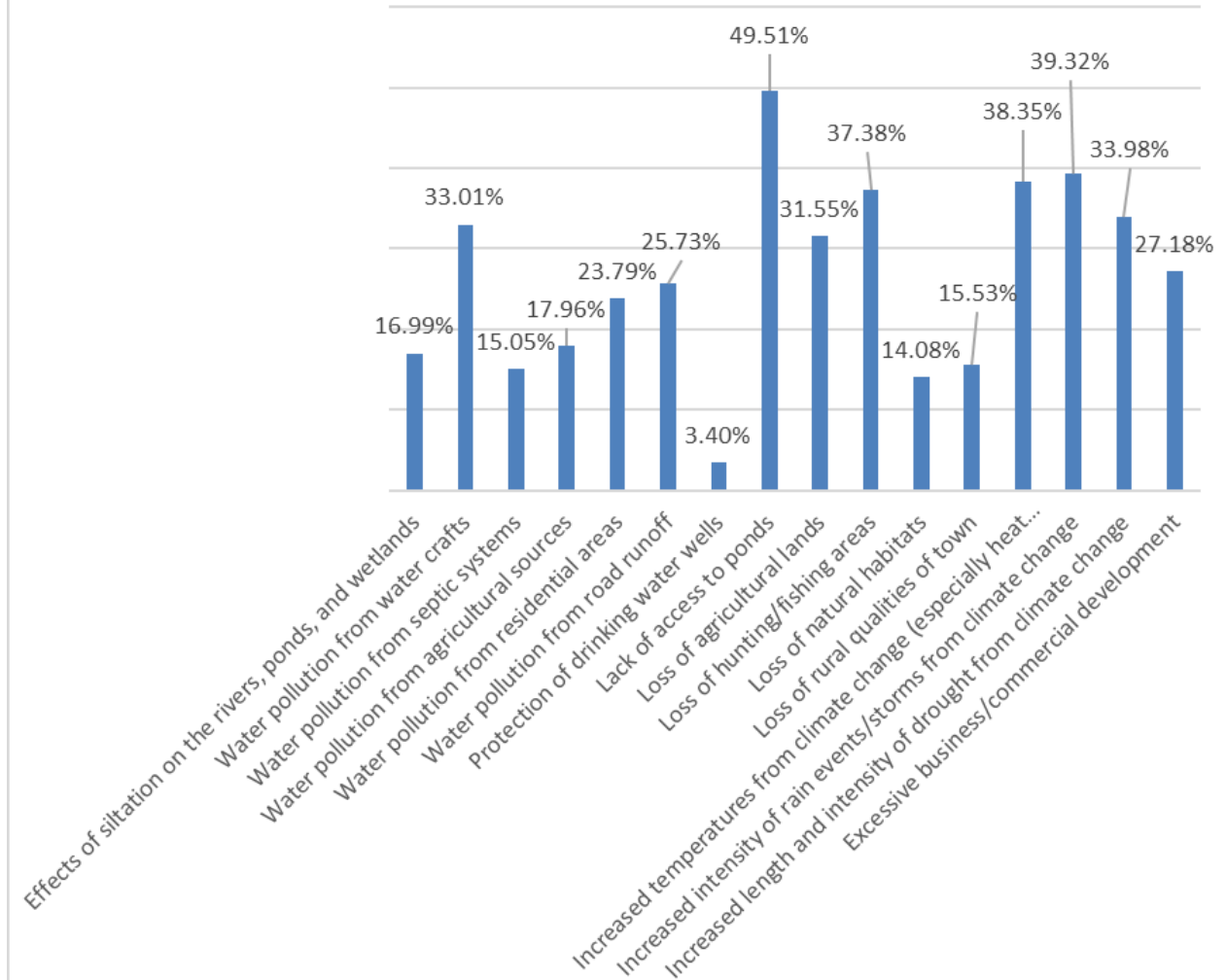


Q: Rank the following concerns in order of their priority for attention.

Top five **lowest priority** concerns:

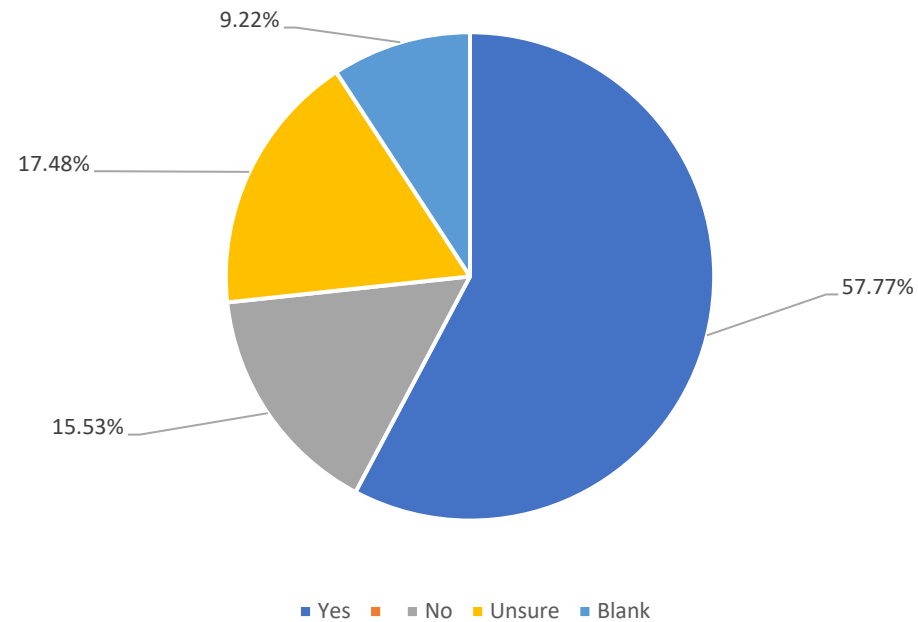
- Lack of access to ponds - 50%
- Increased intensity of rain events/storms from climate change - 39%
- Increased temperatures from climate change (especially heat in summer - 38%
- Loss of hunting/fishing areas - 37%
- Increased length and intensity of drought from climate change - 34%

Q. 6. Rank the following concerns in order of their priority for attention: Low Priority



Q: Do you feel town bylaws should be drafted to encourage more open space in new residential subdivisions and commercial developments?

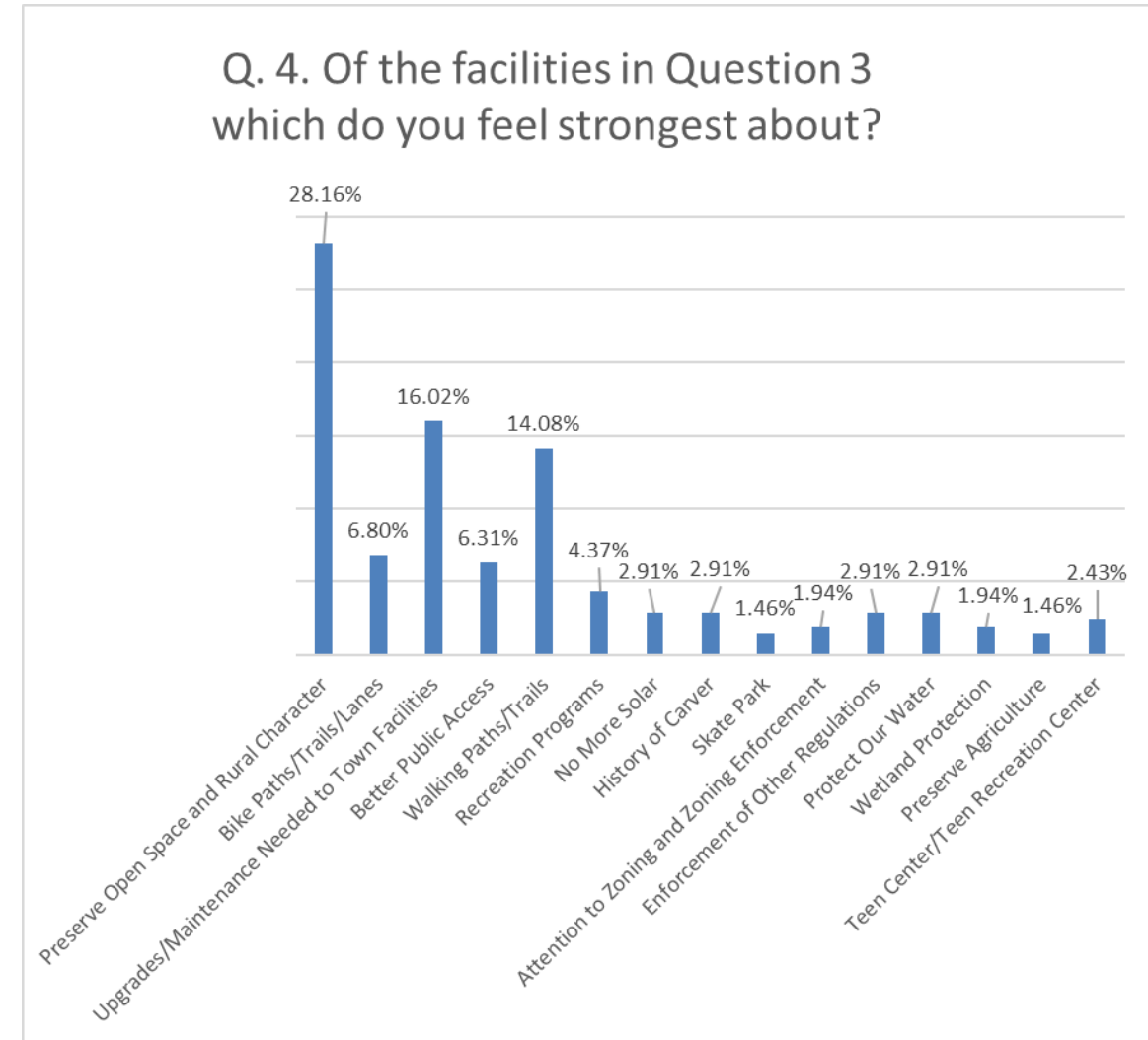
Q. 7. Should bylaws be drafted to encourage more open space in residential subdivisions/commercial developments?



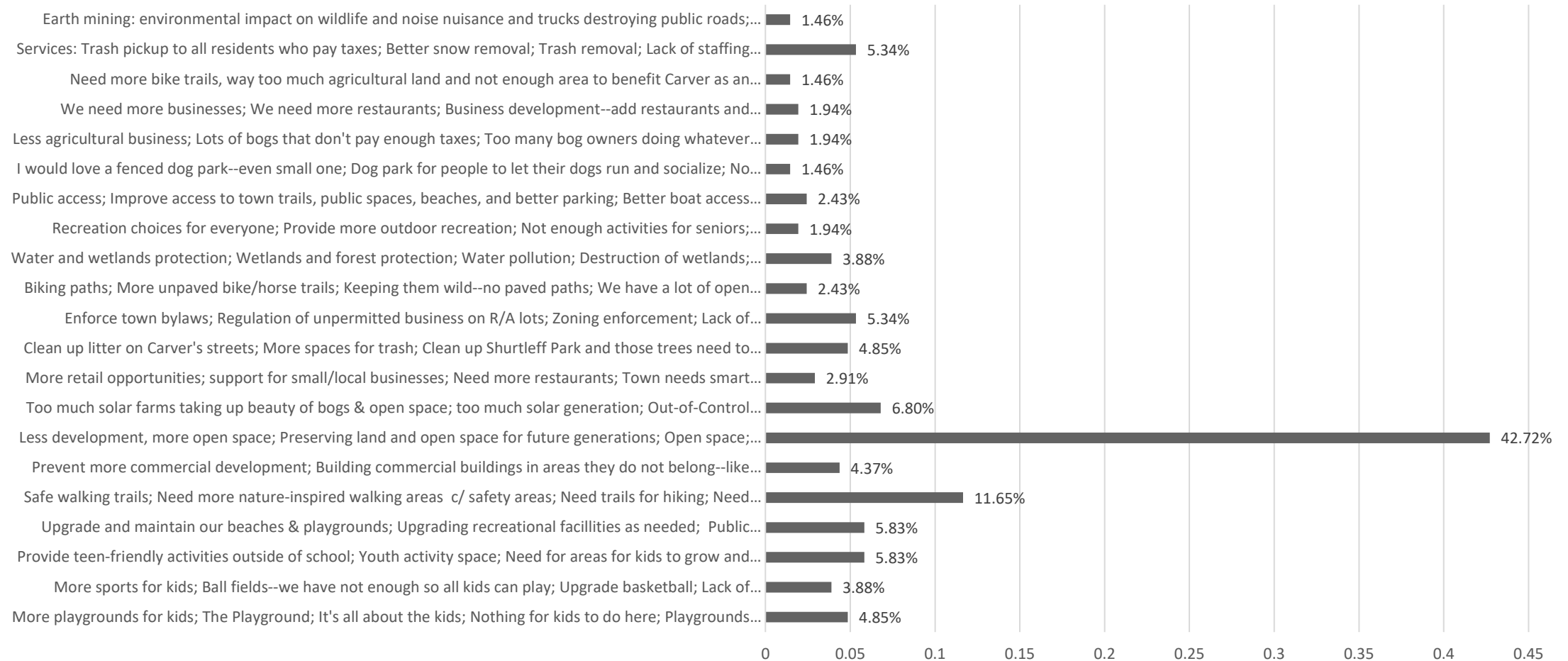
Q: Of the facilities listed in Q2 - 7, which do you feel strongest about? Which are your favorites that you care most about and that you think need most attention? Ok to talk about more than one type of facility

The top 5 facilities from Question 3 respondents **felt most strongly about**, care the most about, and feel need the most attention:

- Preserve Open Space and Rural Character - 28%
- Upgrades/Maintenance Needed to Town Facilities - 16%
- Walking Paths/Trails - 14%
- Bike Paths/Trails/Lanes - 7%
- Better Access to Town Facilities - 6%



Q: In the spaces below, please list the three most important open space and recreation issues facing Carver.



Q: In the spaces below, please list the three most important open space and recreation issues facing Carver.

Top five most important open space and recreation issues facing Carver:

1. Preserving land and open space for future generations - 43%
2. Safe walking trails - 12%
3. Too much solar farms taking up beauty of bogs and open space - 7%
4. Upgrade and maintenance of town facilities - 6%
5. Provide teen-friendly activities outside of school - 6%

Take Aways: Relative Preservation and Recreation Priorities

Q: What kinds of businesses do you think are important to encourage in Carver?

Top five types of businesses respondents think are important to encourage in Carver?

- Restaurants/Agricultural business - 52%
- Grocery-food store - 46%
- Waste disposal - 37%
- Home business - 35%
- Natural resource-based ecotourism - 33%

Q. 9. What kinds of businesses do you think are important to encourage in Carver?

