



Wood County Parks & Forestry Open Spaces Plan Survey Results 2018



Projects completed since the 2011 Open Spaces Plan











Community Survey Results

Wood County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan

May 2018



Survey Purpose

- Gather public opinions and attitudes towards Wood County's outdoor recreation system
 - Facility usage
 - Preferred amenities/activities
 - Values
 - Funding
 - Future projects
- Public input collected through survey will be utilized in the development of the *Wood County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Plan – 2018*
- Public participation is essential to the overall success of the plan

Survey Methods

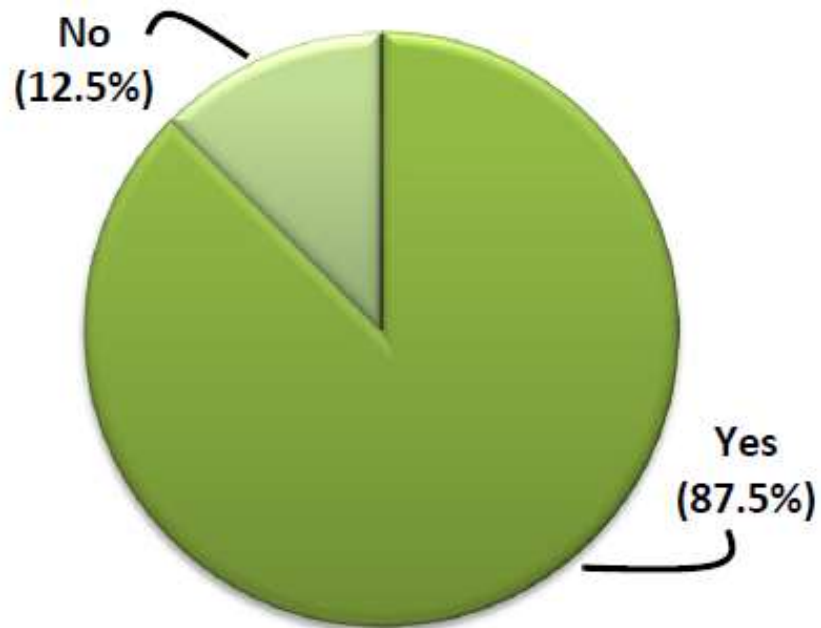
- Open January 26th to March 1st, 2018
- Available online or by hard copy
- Available to residents and non-residents
- Tools used to convey surveys:
 - Mailings (500 postcards)
 - Email
 - Facebook
 - Radio
 - Newspapers
 - Wood County Website

Survey Results

- A total of 591 surveys were completed
- Survey summary document is available on the Wood County website.

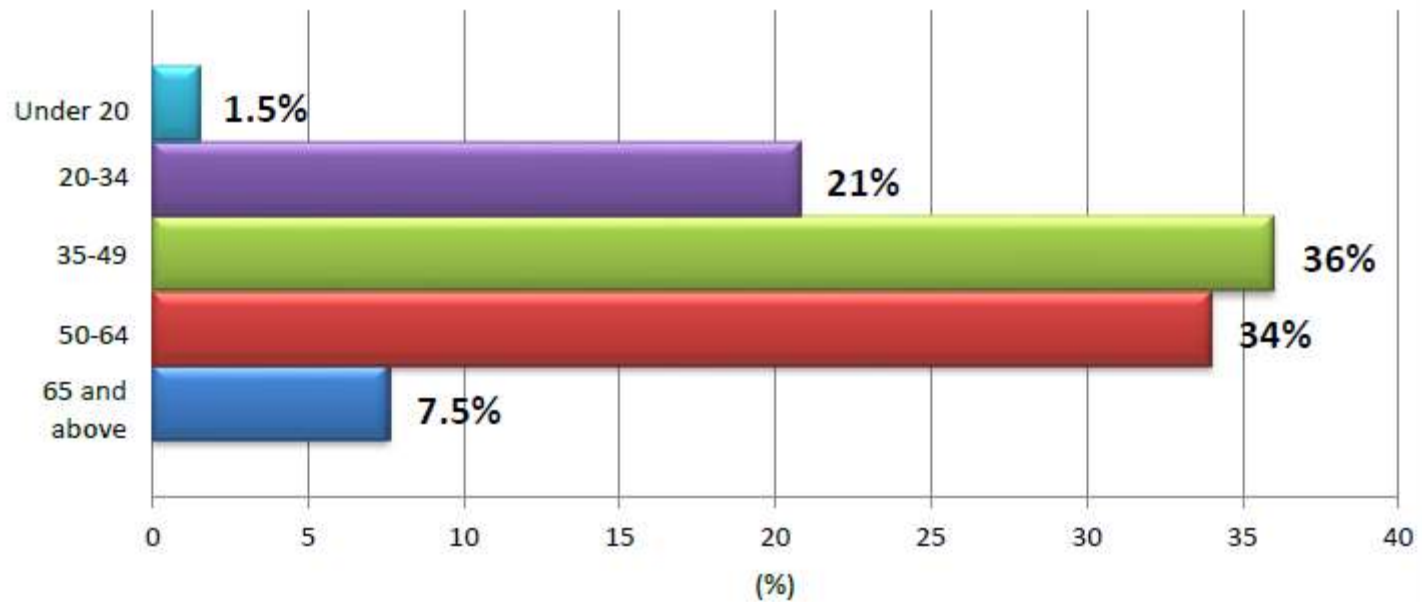


Question 1: Are you currently a Wood County, Wisconsin resident?



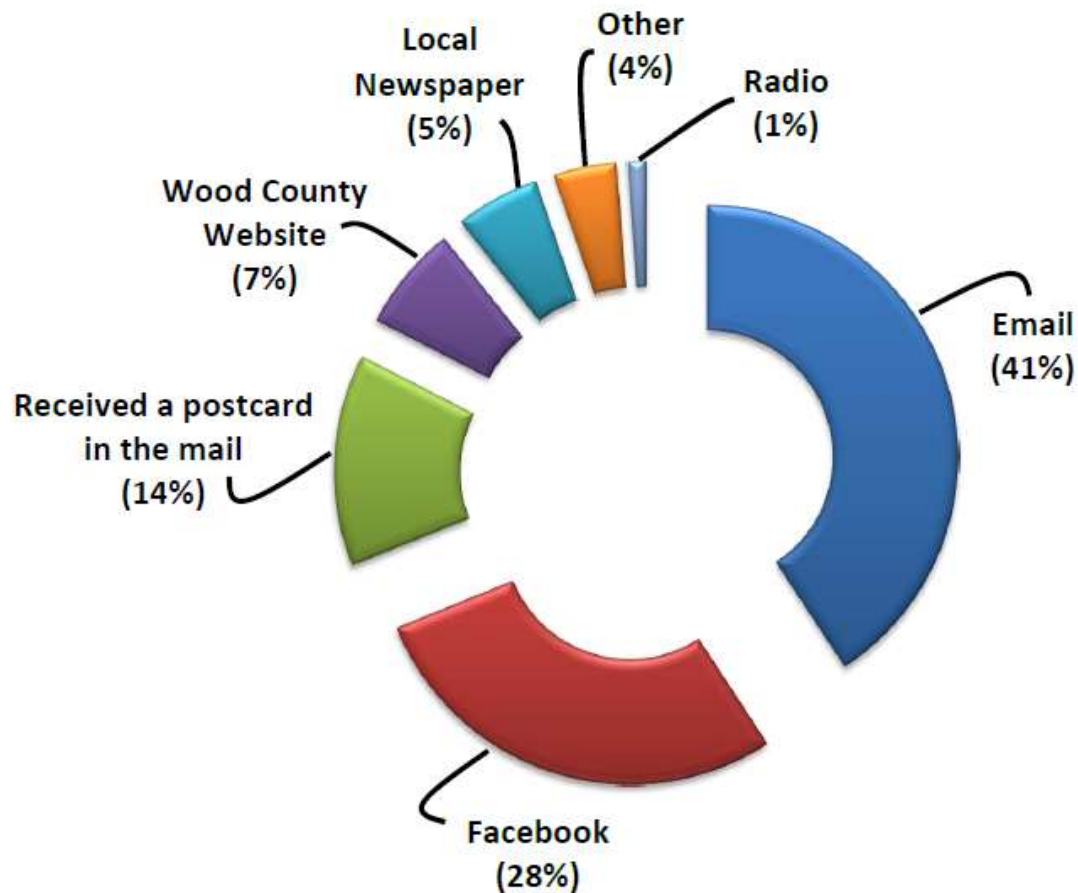
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	87.5%
No	12.5%

Question 2: What is your current age?



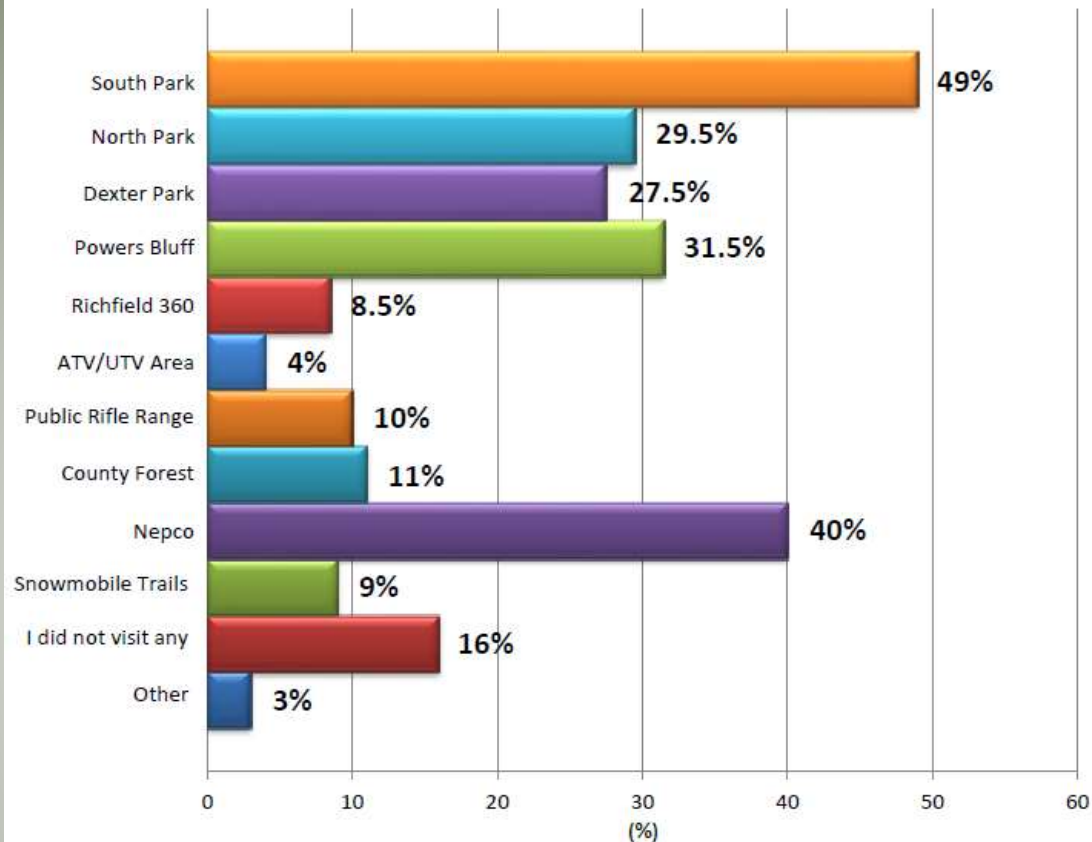
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 20	1.5%
20-34	21%
35-49	36%
50-64	34%
65 and above	7.5%

Question 3: How were you made aware of this survey?



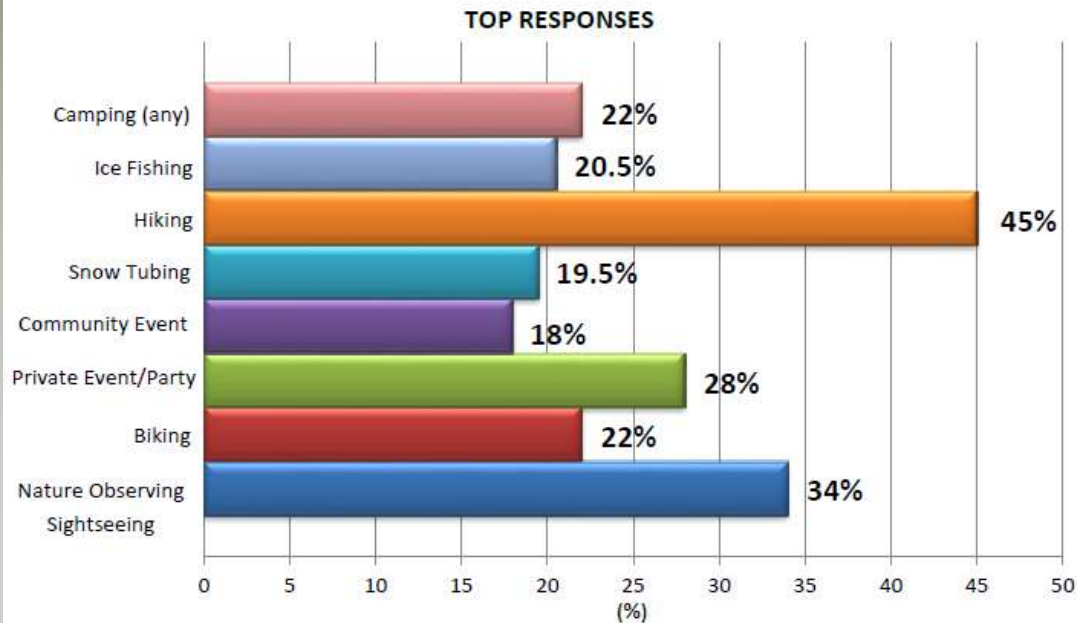
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Received a postcard in the mail	14%
Radio	1%
Wood County Website	7%
Email	41%
Facebook	28%
Local Newspaper	5%
Other (please specify)*	4%

Question 4: During the months of December, 2016 – May, 2017 (winter/spring), which parks and forestry areas did you visit? (Check all that apply)?



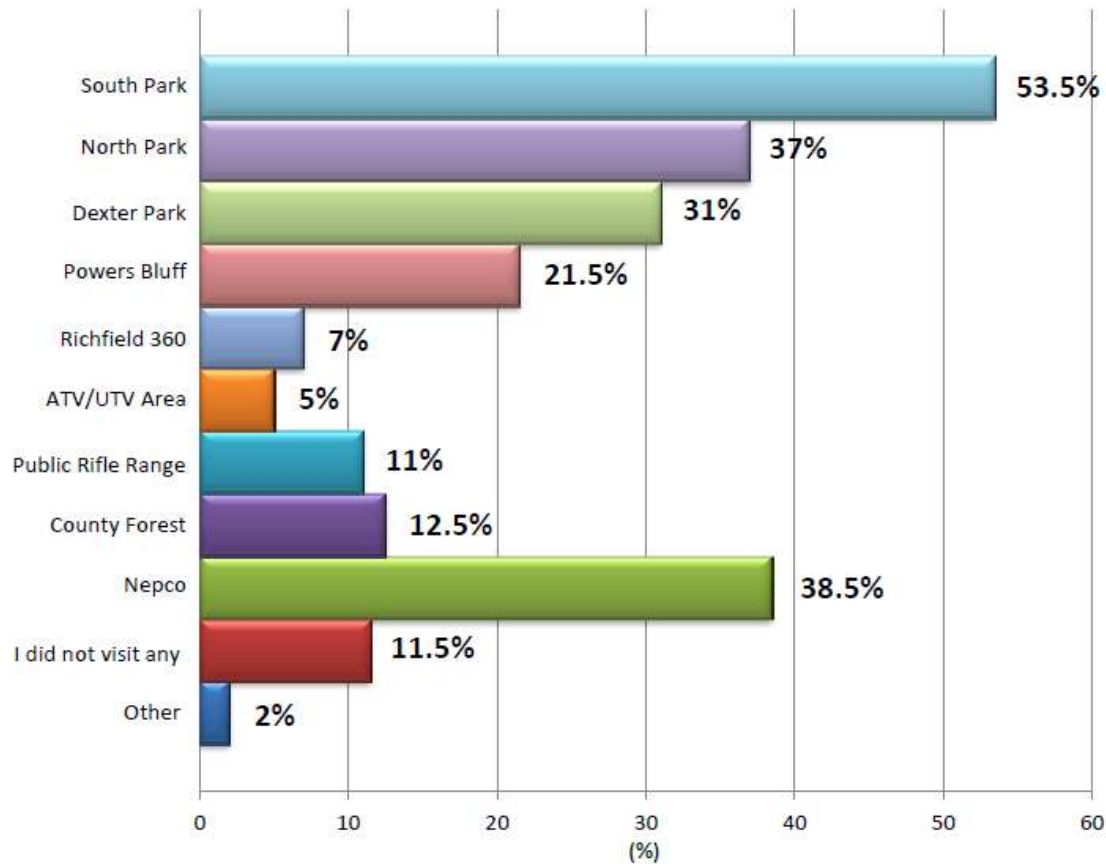
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
South Park (Wazeecha)	49%
North Park	29.5%
Dexter Park	27.5%
Powers Bluff	31.5%
Richfield 360	8.5%
Highway 54 ATV/UTV Area	4%
Public Rifle Range	10%
Wood County Forest Area	11%
Nepco	40%
Wood County Snowmobile Trails	9%
I did not visit any	16%
Other (please specify)*	3%

Question 5: During your December, 2016 – May, 2017 (winter/spring) visit, what facility/activity did you participate in? (Check all that apply)?



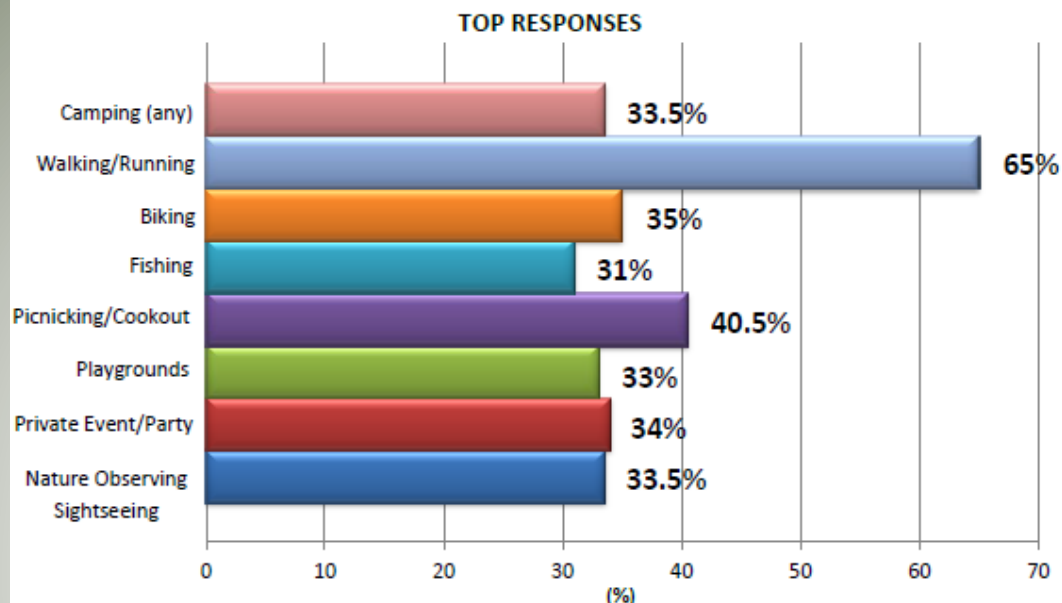
ALL ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Camping (any)	22%
Ice Fishing	20.5%
Snowmobiling	9%
Hiking	45%
Snowshoeing	11.5%
Cross Country Skiing	7.5%
Downhill Skiing/Snow Boarding	4.5%
Snow Tubing	19.5%
Community Event	18%
Private Event/Party	28%
ATV/UTV Riding	8%
Hunting/Trapping	8%
Biking	22%
Target Shooting	7%
Nature Observing/Sightseeing	34%
Did not participate in any activities	15.5%
Other (please specify)*	7%

Question 6: During the months of June, 2017 – November, 2017 (summer/fall), which parks and forestry areas did you visit? (Check all that apply)?



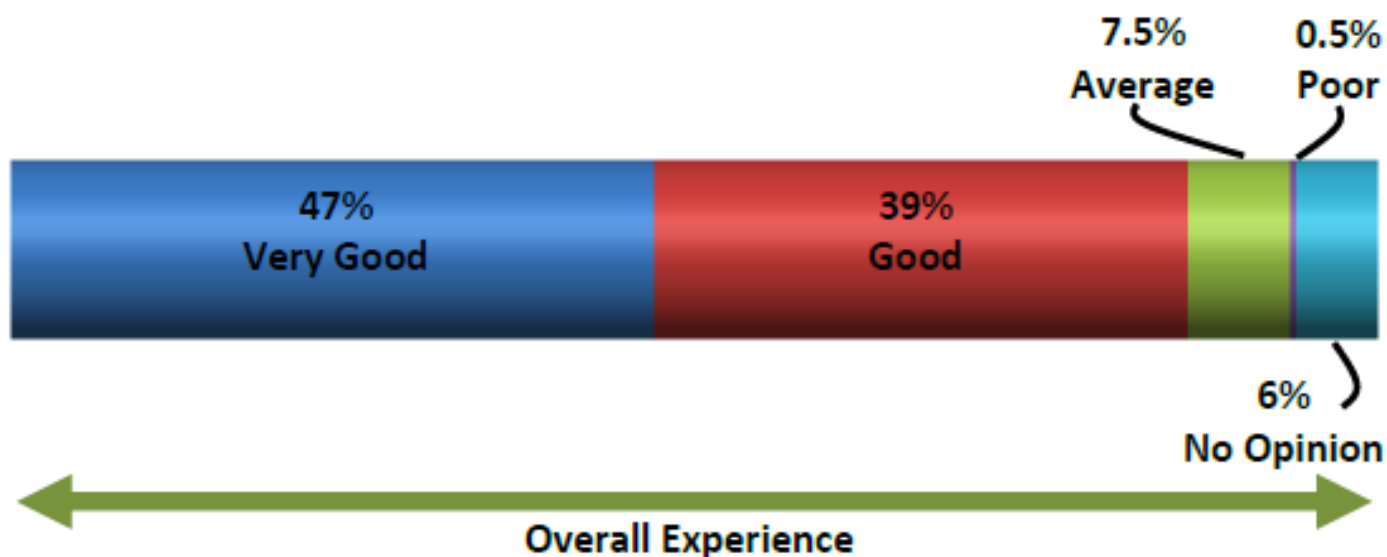
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
South Park (Wazeecha)	53.5%
North Park	37%
Dexter Park	31%
Powers Bluff	21.5%
Richfield 360	7%
Highway 54 ATV/UTV Area	5%
Public Rifle Range	11%
Wood County Forest Area	12.5%
Nepco	38.5%
I did not visit any	11.5%
Other (please specify)*	2%

Question 7: During your June, 2017 – November, 2017 (summer/fall) visit, what facility/activity did you participate in? (Check all that apply)?



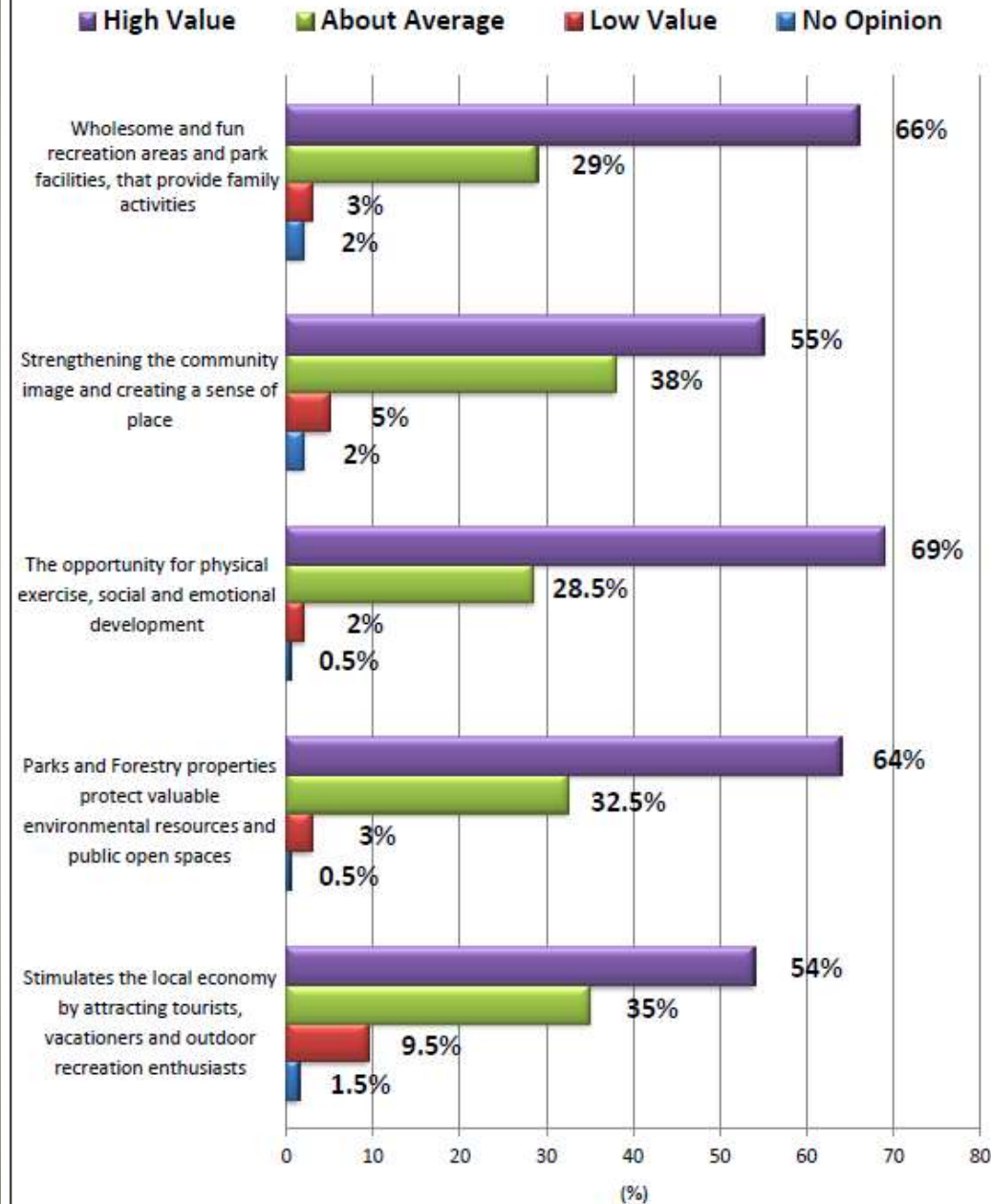
ALL ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Camping (any)	33.5%
Walking/Running/Hiking	65%
Biking	35%
Motor Boating	16.5%
Target Shooting	9%
Disc Golf	11.5%
Fishing	31%
Hunting/Trapping	8%
Swimming	30.5%
Picnicking/Cookout	40.5%
Playgrounds	33%
Community Event	20%
Private Event/Party	34%
Nature Observing/Sightseeing	33.5%
Kayak, Paddle Board, Canoeing	22.5%
ATV/UTV Riding	6%
Did not participate in any activities	9%
Other (please specify)*	4%

Question 8: How would you rate your overall experience in these parks and forestry areas?

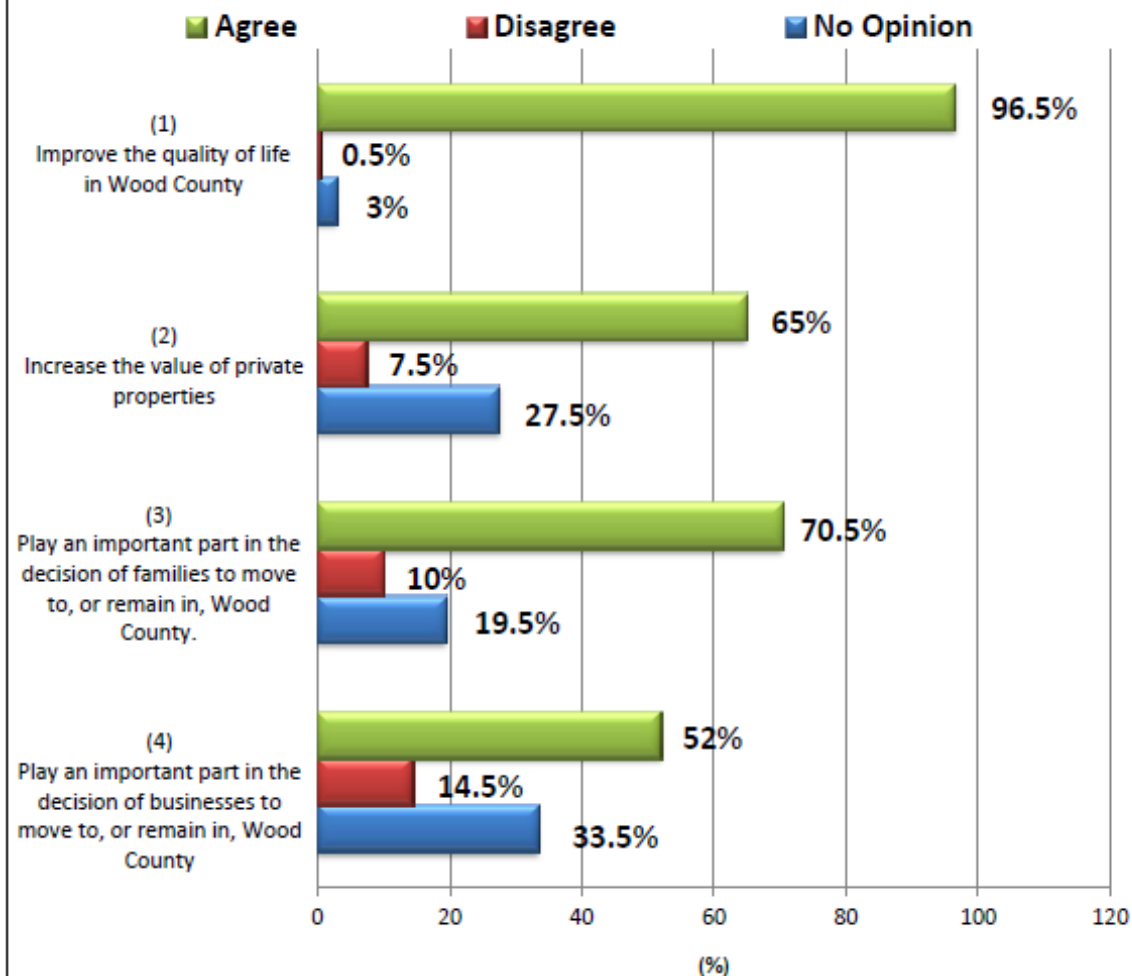


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Very Good	47%
Good	39%
Average	7.5%
Poor	0.5%
No Opinion	6%

Question 9: Please indicate your sense of the value parks, trails and outdoor recreation hold for the residents and visitors of Wood County:

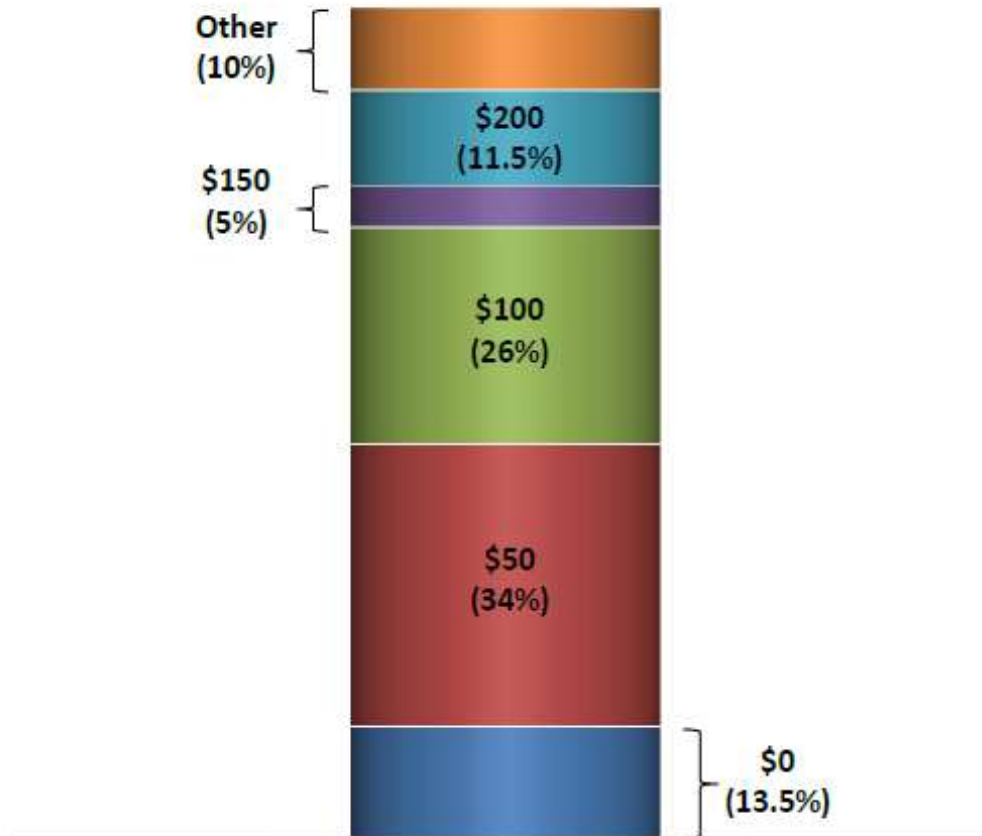


Question 10: Following is a list of statements regarding parks, recreation, and open spaces in Wood County. What is your opinion?



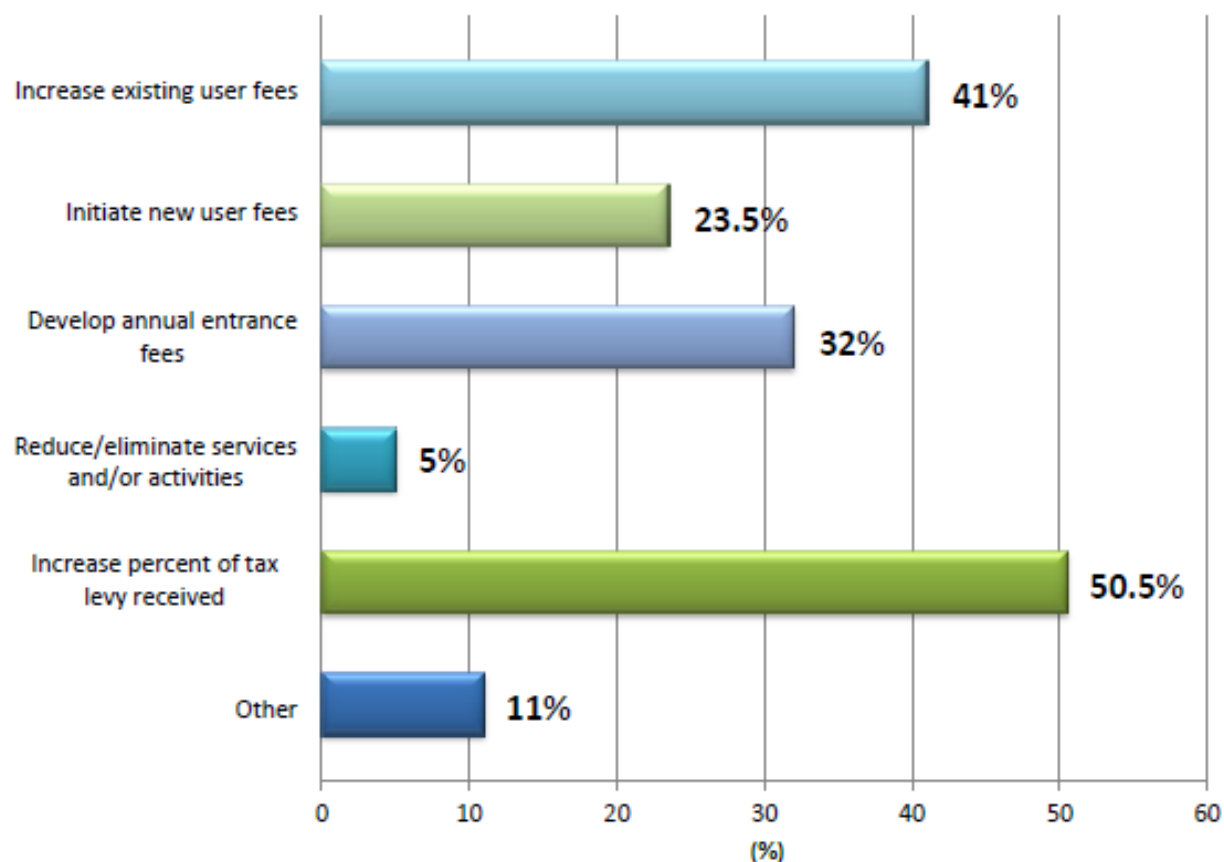
STATEMENT	AGREE	DISAGREE	NO OPINION
(1)	96.5%	0.5%	3%
(2)	65%	7.5%	27.5%
(3)	70.5%	10%	19.5%
(4)	52%	14.5%	33.5%

Question 11: FUNDING: Currently, the Wood County Parks and Forestry Department is funded with a combination of: user fees, timber sales, grants and tax levy dollars from property and sales tax. If you could decide, how much of your household tax dollars would go towards maintaining the parks and forestry areas in Wood County every year?



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Other (please specify)*	10%
\$200	11.5%
\$150	5%
\$100	26%
\$50	34%
\$0	13.5

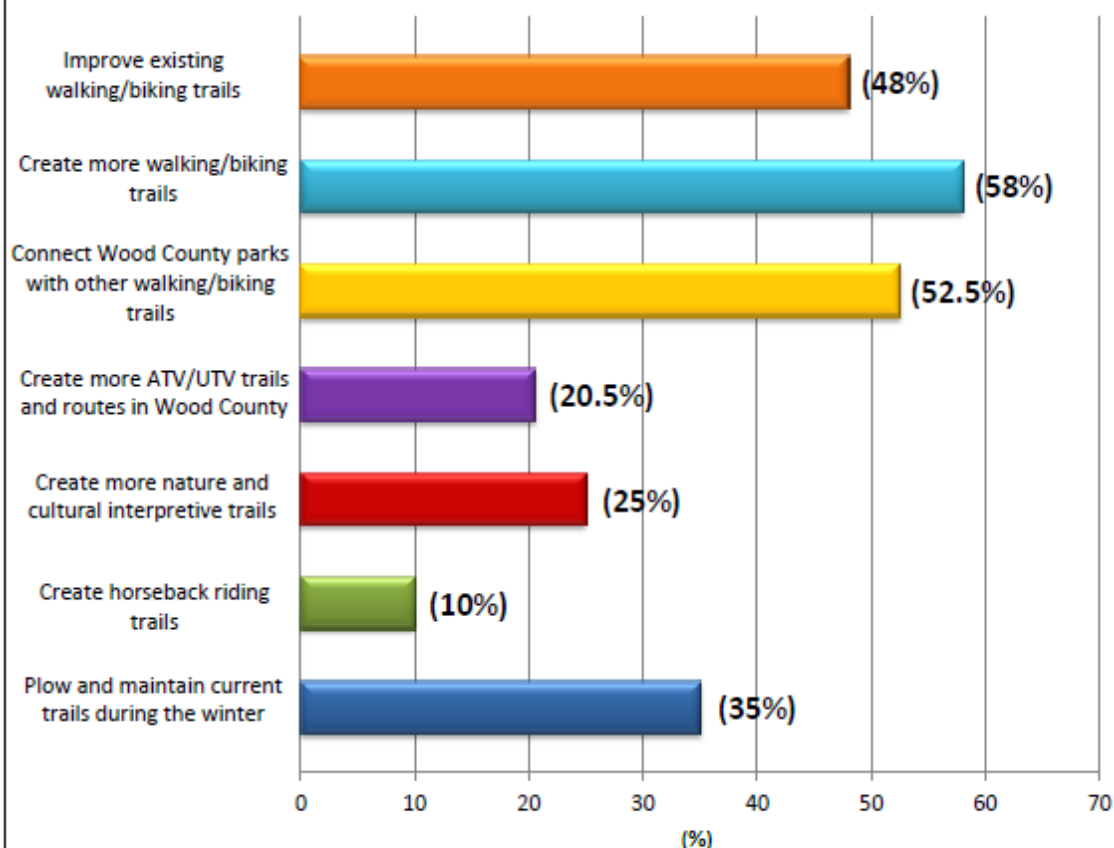
Question 12: FUNDING: In your opinion, how should future operating cost increases be paid for? (Check all that apply)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Increase existing user fees (camping, skiing, tubing, etc.)	41%
Initiate new user fees (disc golf, single track bike trails, etc.)	23.5%
Develop annual entrance fee for parks (e.g. state park vehicle sticker)	32%
Reduce/eliminate services and/or activities	5%
Increase percent of tax levy received	50.5%
Other (please specify)*	11%

Question 13: Please select up to three issues/projects you would like addressed within the next five years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.

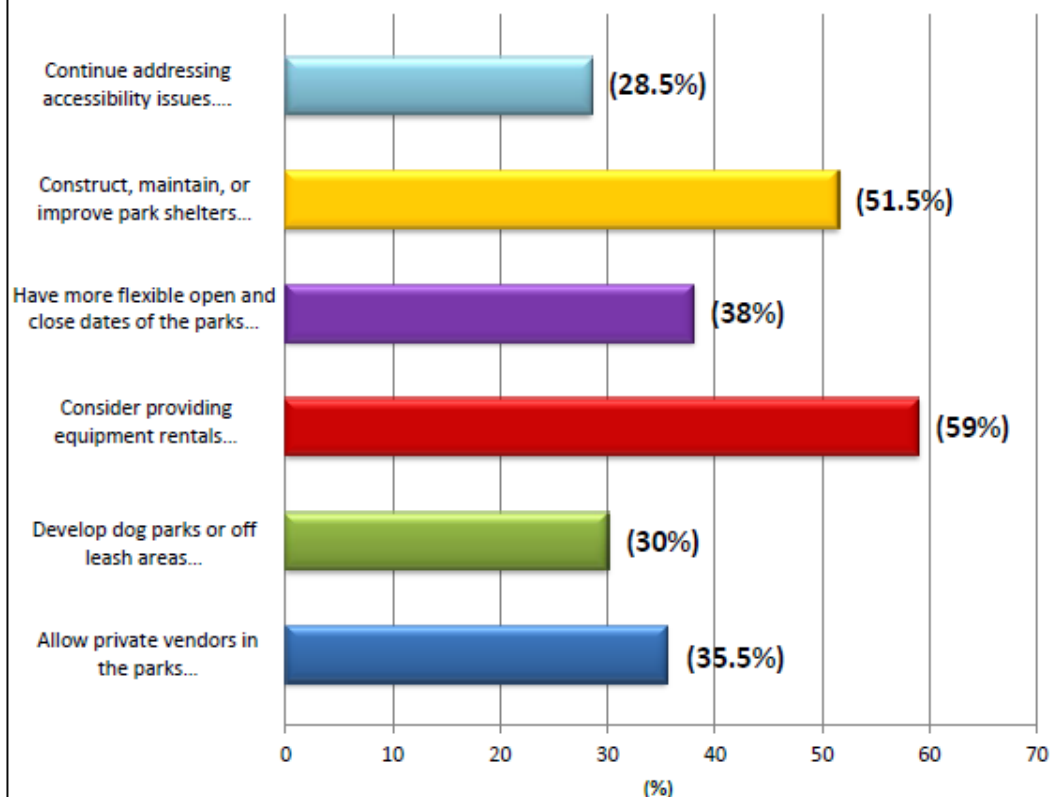
TRAILS (Select up to 3)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Improve existing walking/biking trails	48%
Create more walking/biking trails	58%
Connect Wood County parks with other walking/biking trails	52.5%
Create more ATV/UTV trails and routes in Wood County	20.5%
Create more natural and cultural interpretive trails	25%
Create horseback riding trails	10%
Plow and maintain current walking trails during winter	35%

Question 14: Please select up to three issues/projects you would like addressed within the next five years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.

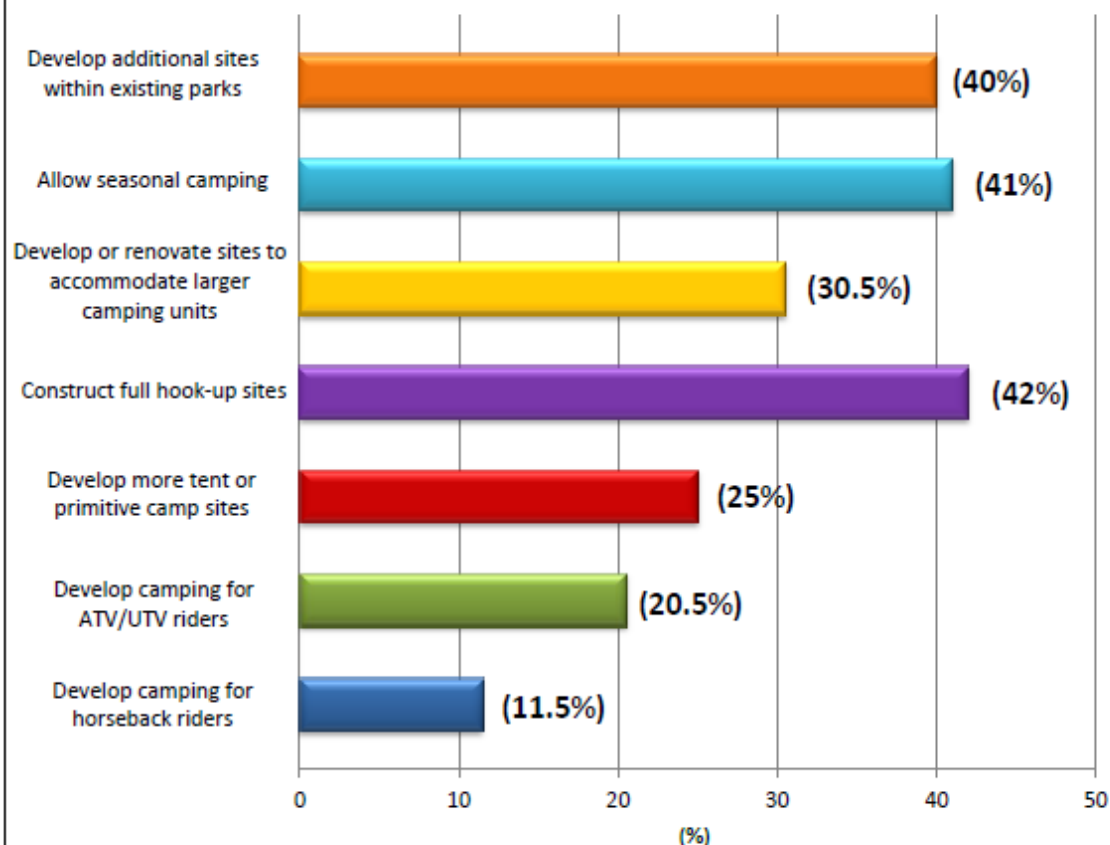
DAY USE (Select up to 3)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Continue addressing accessibility issues in all park facilities and areas	28.5%
Construct, maintain, or improve park shelters to accommodate seasonal and year-round use for private or community events	51.5%
Have more flexible open and close dates of the parks depending on the weather	38%
Consider providing equipment rentals (kayak, paddleboards, frisbee discs, bicycles, etc.)	59%
Develop dog parks or off leash areas within existing parks	30%
Allow private vendors in the parks for the purpose of selling food and beverages	35.5%

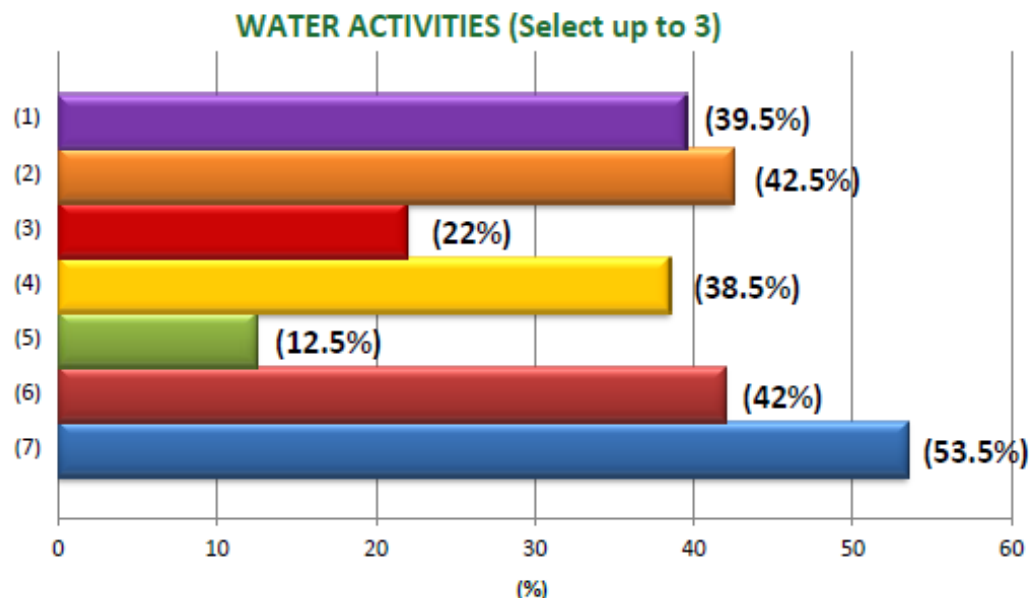
Question 15: Please select up to three issues/projects you would like addressed within the next five years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.

CAMPGROUNDS (Select up to 3)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Develop additional sites within existing parks	40%
Allow seasonal camping	41%
Develop or renovate sites to accommodate larger camping units	30.5%
Construct full hook-up sites	42%
Develop more tent or primitive camp sites	25%
Develop camping for ATV/UTV riders	20.5%
Develop camping for horseback riders	11.5%

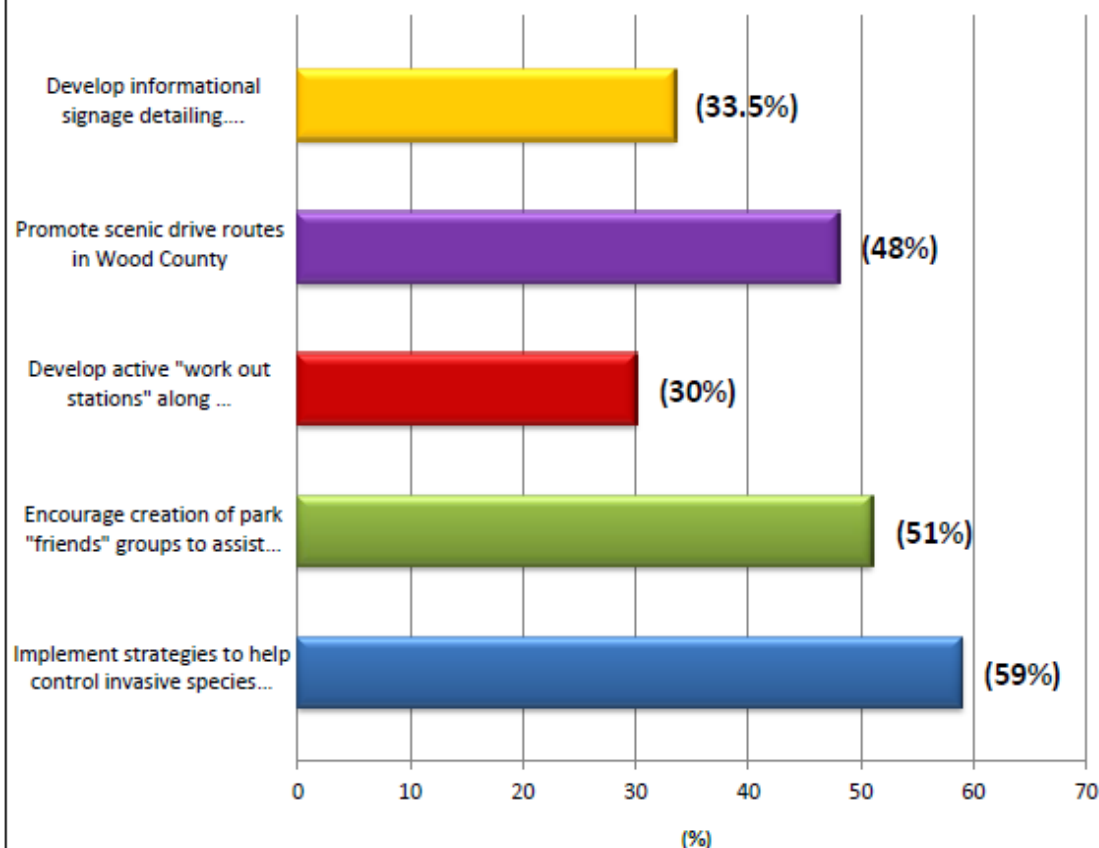
Question 16: Please select up to three issues/projects you would like addressed within the next five years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
(1) Establish "blue ways" or mapped routes for canoes, kayaks and other watercraft	39.5%
(2) Develop accessible kayak/canoe launch docks	42.5%
(3) Improve access to areas of the Wisconsin River to alleviate boat traffic on small lakes in the county	22%
(4) Monitor shoreline erosion and lake depths to ensure continued long-term recreational use and water quality of lakes in county parks	38.5%
(5) Work with local ski club/organizations on balancing use of waterways with Wood County resident use	12.5%
(6) Work with the Land and Water Conservation Department and the Department of Natural Resources to monitor and address surface water quality issues of lakes adjoining Wood County Parks	42%
(7) Improve fishing opportunities in area lakes through fish stocking and habitat improvement	53.5%

Question 17: Please select up to three issues/projects you would like addressed within the next five years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.

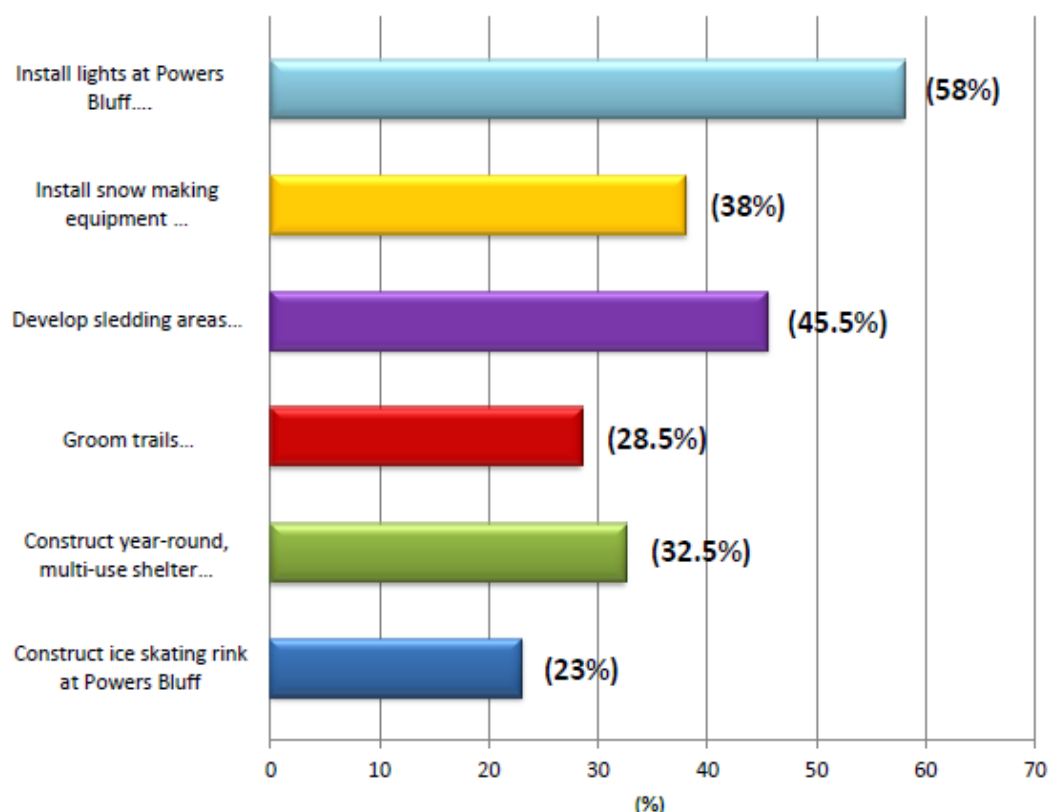
Other (Select up to 3)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Develop informational signage detailing the history of the parks	33.5%
Promote scenic drive routes in Wood County	48%
Develop active "work out stations" along existing trails	30%
Encourage creation of park "friends" groups to assist in funding and maintaining the parks	51%
Implement strategies to help control invasive species on both land and water in county parks	59%

Question 18: Please select up to three issues/projects you would like addressed within the next five years. Please use the comments section to identify additional issues/projects.

WINTER RECREATION (Select up to 3)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Install lights at Powers Bluff for night tubing, downhill skiing and snowboarding	58%
Install snow making equipment at Powers Bluff to increase length of season	38%
Develop sledding areas within the parks	45.5%
Groom trails for fat tire biking and/or snowshoeing	28.5%
Construct year-round, multi-use shelter building at Powers Bluff at the bottom of the hill	32.5%
Construct ice skating rink at Powers Bluff	23%

Questions?

The Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning along with the Parks and Forestry Department would like to thank all who participated in the planning process.



Wood County Department of Planning and Zoning

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Wood County Parks and Forestry Department

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