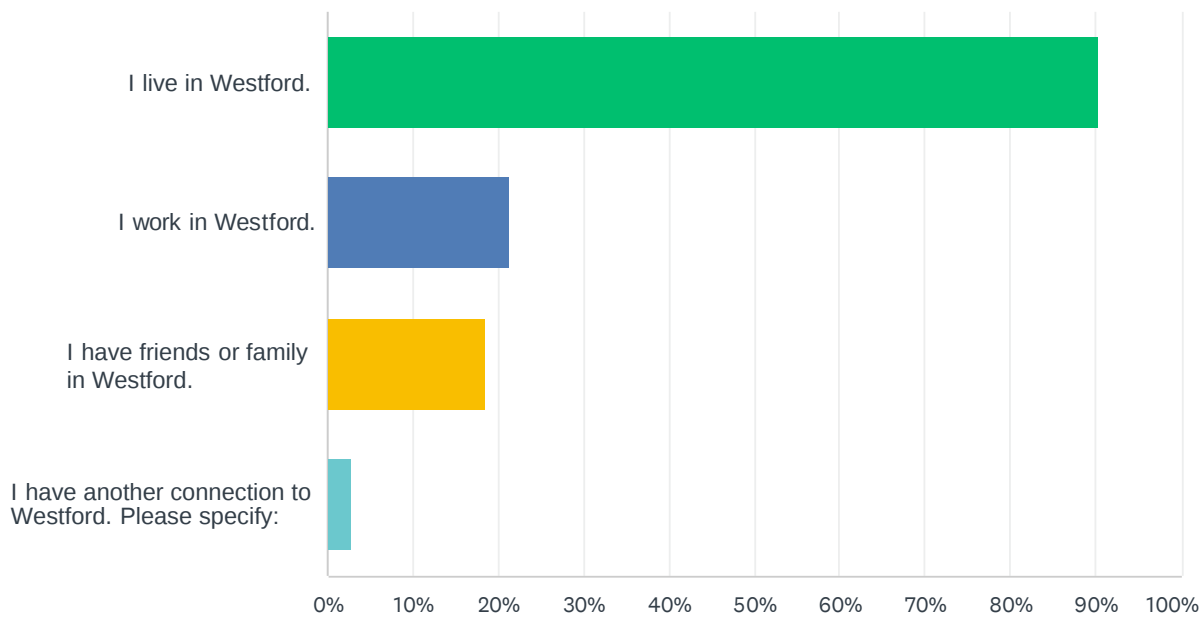


## Q1 Which best describes you? Check all that apply.

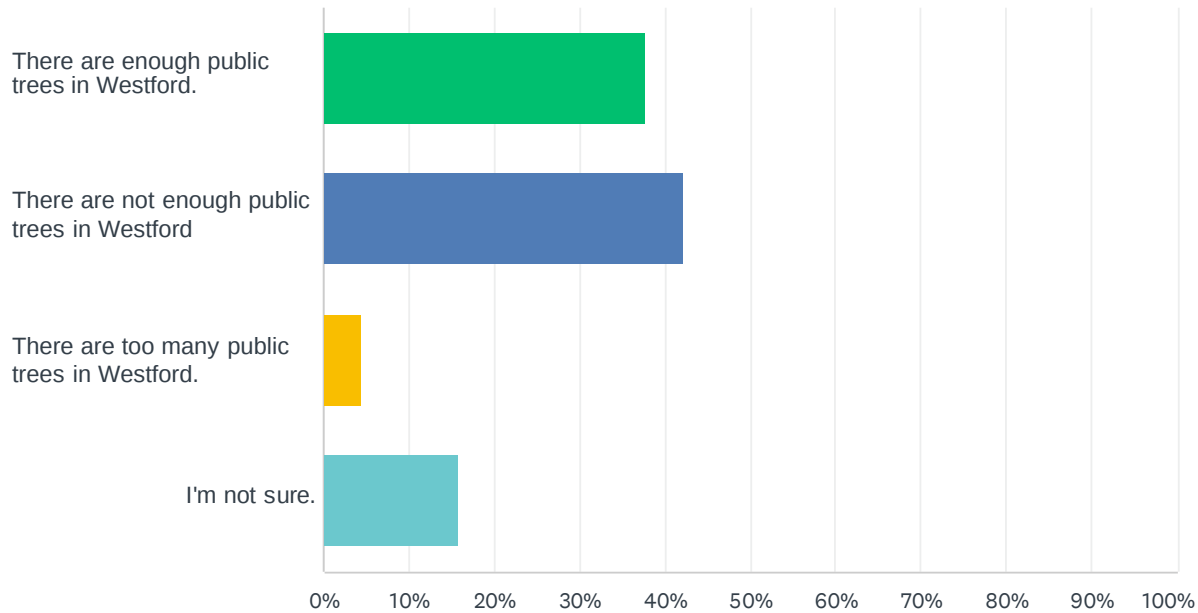
Answered: 178 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live in Westford.	90.45%	161
I work in Westford.	21.35%	38
I have friends or family in Westford.	18.54%	33
I have another connection to Westford. Please specify:	2.81%	5
Total Respondents: 178		

**Q2 Which best describes how you feel about the number of public trees in Westford? Public trees include trees along the roadside, in public parks, or in public parking areas, such as at libraries or schools.**

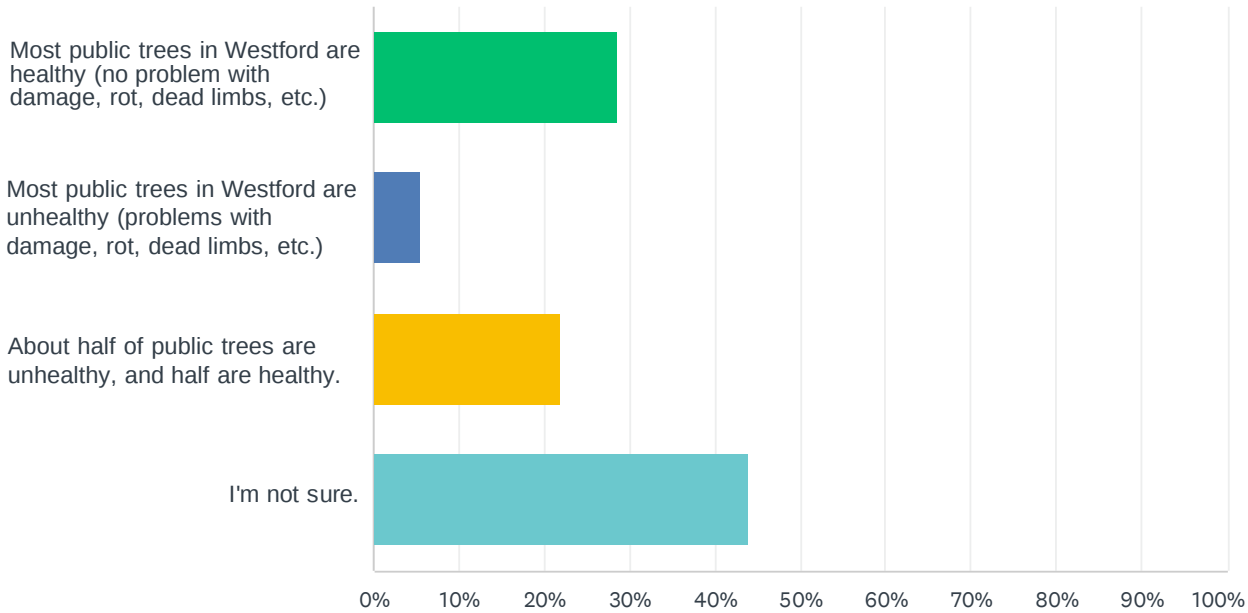
Answered: 178 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
There are enough public trees in Westford.	37.64%	67
There are not enough public trees in Westford	42.13%	75
There are too many public trees in Westford.	4.49%	8
I'm not sure.	15.73%	28
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>178</b>

### Q3 Which best describes how you feel about the health of public trees in Westford?

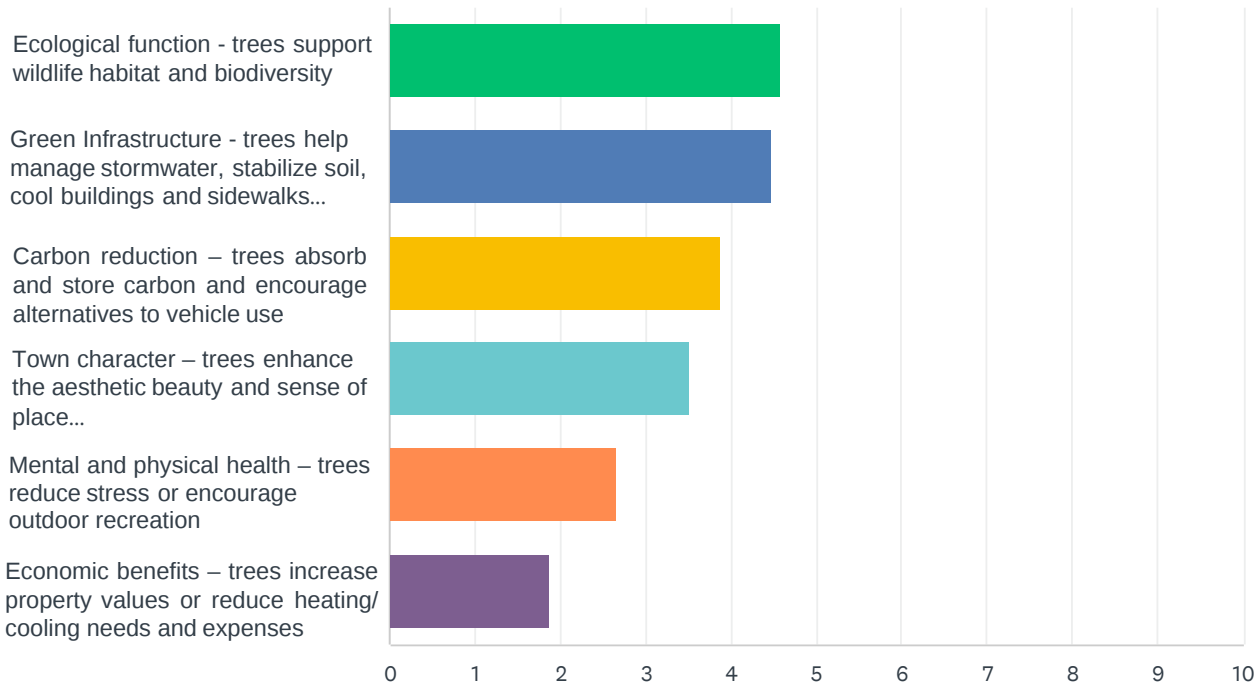
Answered: 178 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Most public trees in Westford are healthy (no problem with damage, rot, dead limbs, etc.)	28.65%	51
Most public trees in Westford are unhealthy (problems with damage, rot, dead limbs, etc.)	5.62%	10
About half of public trees are unhealthy, and half are healthy.	21.91%	39
I'm not sure.	43.82%	78
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>178</b>

**Q4 Please rank the following functions of trees from 1-6, where 1 is the item you feel benefits Westford the most and 6 is the item you feel benefits Westford the least.(You must assign a different number to each item.)**

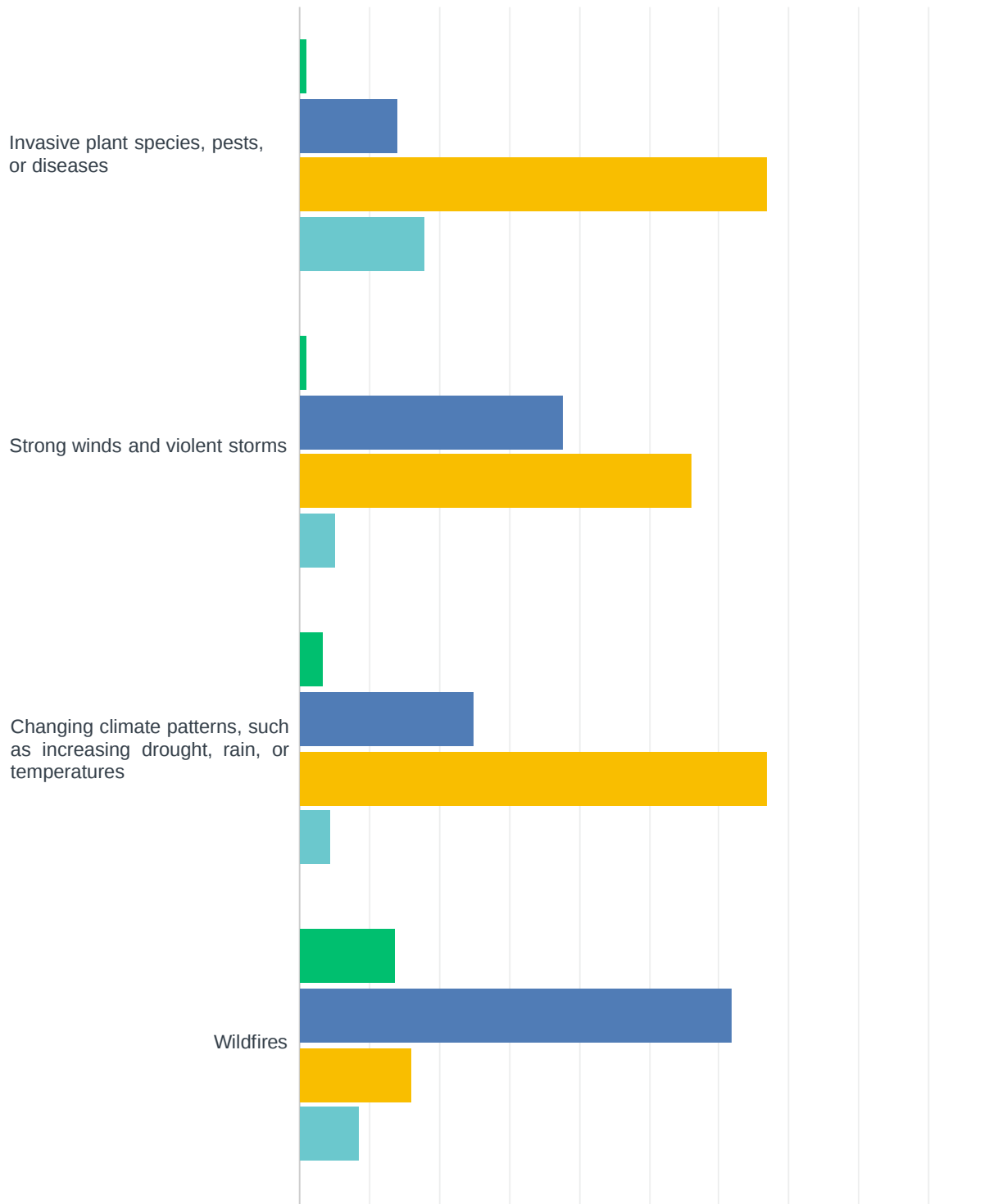
Answered: 178 Skipped: 0



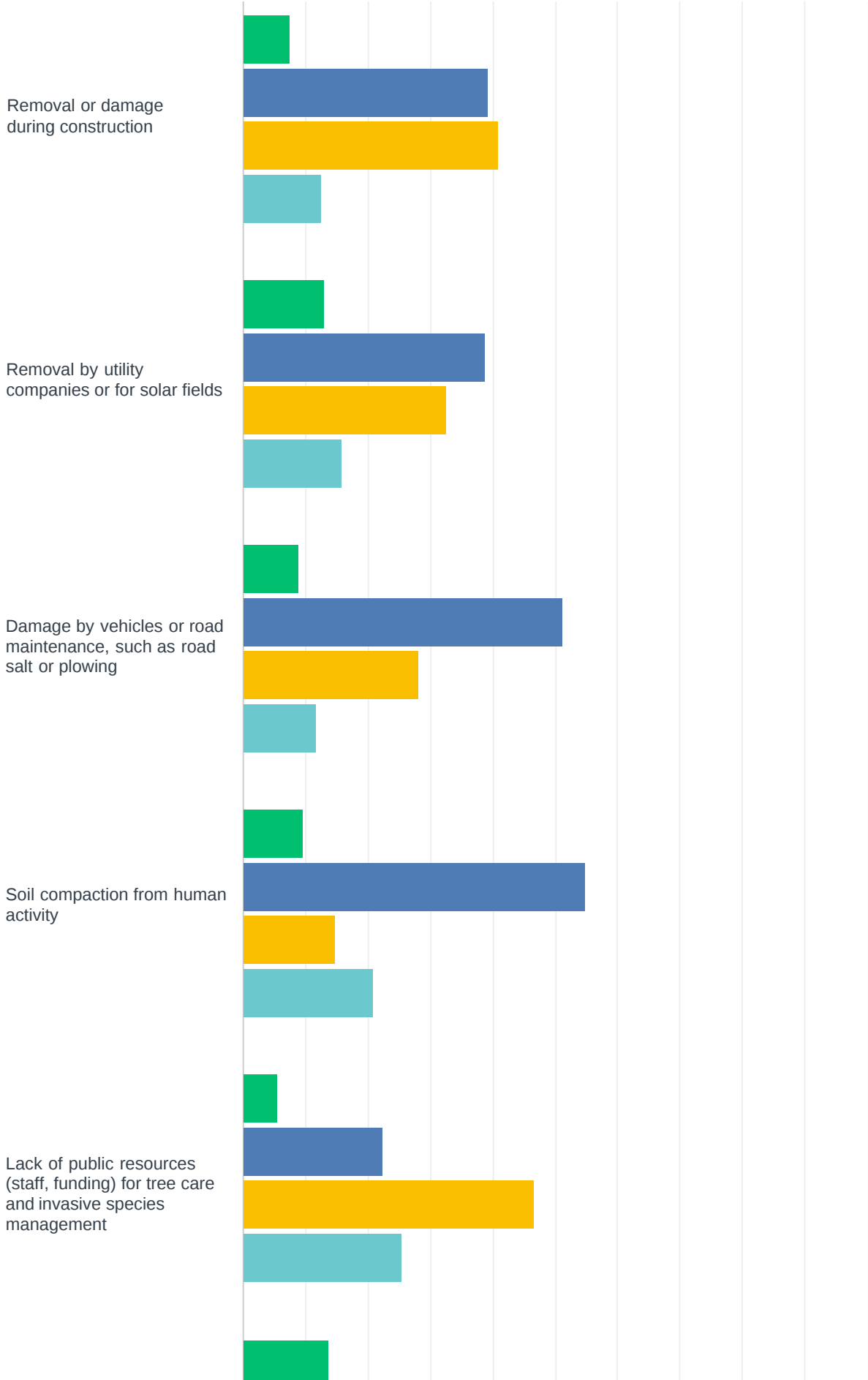
	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
Ecological function - trees support wildlife habitat and biodiversity	31.46% 56	26.40% 47	22.47% 40	10.11% 18	8.43% 15	1.12% 2	178	4.59
Green Infrastructure - trees help manage stormwater, stabilize soil, cool buildings and sidewalks, filter air, reduce wind speeds, and calm traffic	25.28% 45	27.53% 49	26.97% 48	11.24% 20	7.87% 14	1.12% 2	178	4.48
Carbon reduction – trees absorb and store carbon and encourage alternatives to vehicle use	16.85% 30	21.35% 38	27.53% 49	13.48% 24	8.99% 16	11.80% 21	178	3.88
Town character – trees enhance the aesthetic beauty and sense of place of streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces	17.98% 32	11.80% 21	8.99% 16	32.58% 58	21.91% 39	6.74% 12	178	3.51
Mental and physical health – trees reduce stress or encourage outdoor recreation	5.62% 10	7.30% 13	8.99% 16	26.40% 47	29.21% 52	22.47% 40	178	2.66
Economic benefits – trees increase property values or reduce heating/cooling needs and expenses	2.81% 5	5.62% 10	5.06% 9	6.18% 11	23.60% 42	56.74% 101	178	1.88

Q5 Rate the following list of potential threats to trees in Westford. Invasive species are plants or animals that are not native to an area and may cause harm to native species. Soil compaction refers to when soil becomes denser and harder due to weight or stress, leaving less space and air for roots.

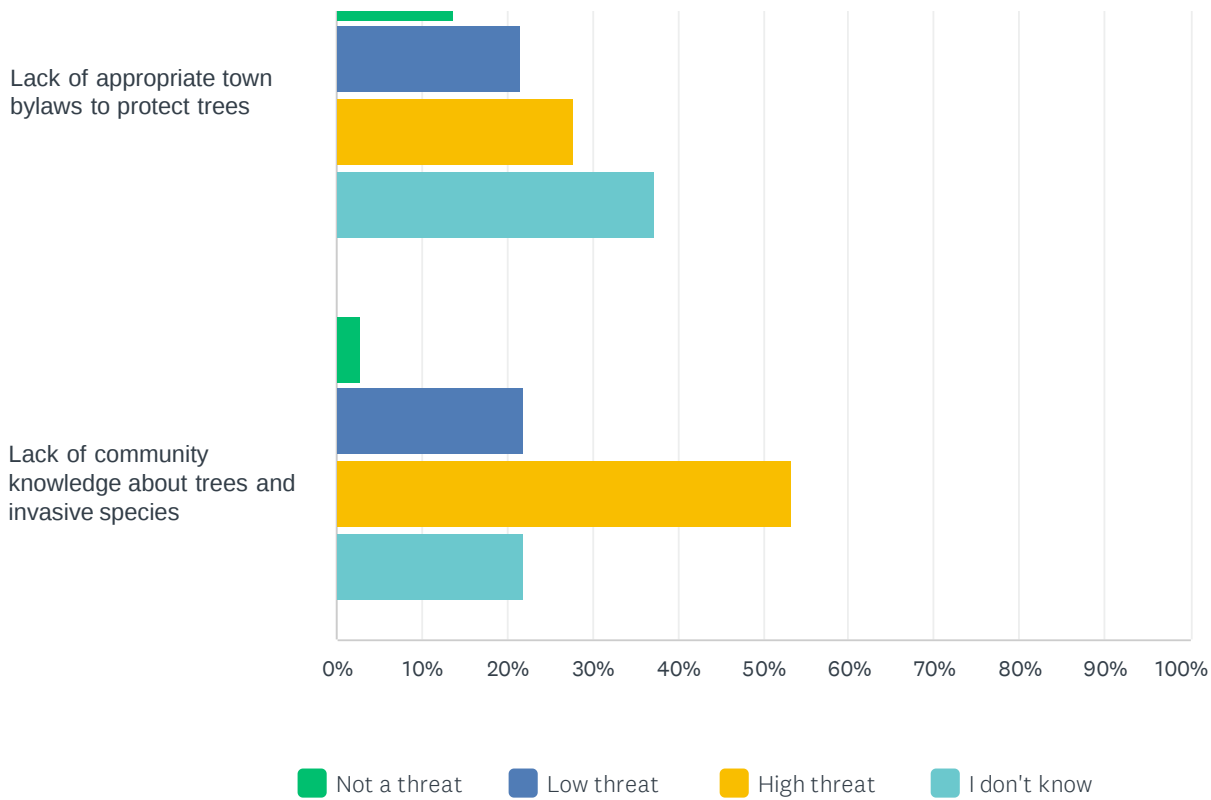
Answered: 178 Skipped: 0



# Westford Tree & Invasive Species Management Plan Community Survey



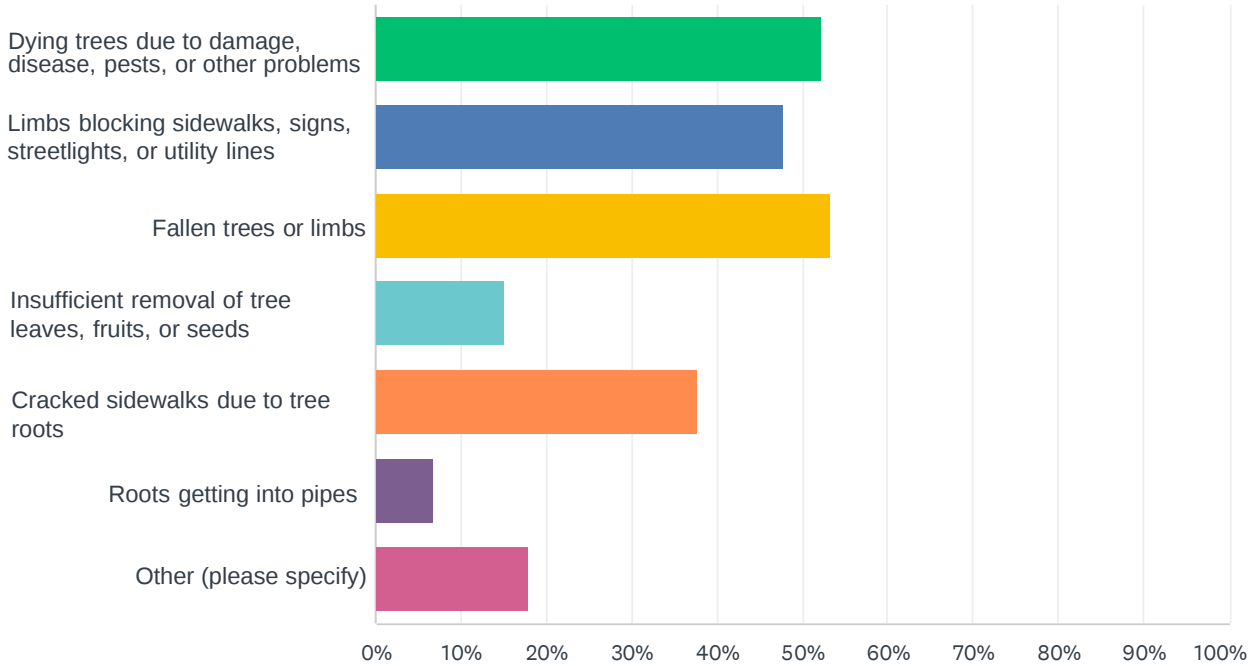
## Westford Tree & Invasive Species Management Plan Community Survey



	NOT A THREAT	LOW THREAT	HIGH THREAT	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Invasive plant species, pests, or diseases	1.12% 2	14.04% 25	66.85% 119	17.98% 32	178	1.48
Strong winds and violent storms	1.12% 2	37.64% 67	56.18% 100	5.06% 9	178	1.50
Changing climate patterns, such as increasing drought, rain, or temperatures	3.41% 6	25.00% 44	67.05% 118	4.55% 8	176	1.59
Wildfires	13.64% 24	61.93% 109	15.91% 28	8.52% 15	176	0.94
Removal or damage during construction	7.39% 13	39.20% 69	40.91% 72	12.50% 22	176	1.21
Removal by utility companies or for solar fields	12.92% 23	38.76% 69	32.58% 58	15.73% 28	178	1.04
Damage by vehicles or road maintenance, such as road salt or plowing	8.99% 16	51.12% 91	28.09% 50	11.80% 21	178	1.07
Soil compaction from human activity	9.60% 17	54.80% 97	14.69% 26	20.90% 37	177	0.84
Lack of public resources (staff, funding) for tree care and invasive species management	5.62% 10	22.47% 40	46.63% 83	25.28% 45	178	1.16
Lack of appropriate town bylaws to protect trees	13.56% 24	21.47% 38	27.68% 49	37.29% 66	177	0.77
Lack of community knowledge about trees and invasive species	2.81% 5	21.91% 39	53.37% 95	21.91% 39	178	1.29

## Q6 Do you encounter any of these maintenance problems with trees in Westford? Check all that apply.

Answered: 178 Skipped: 0

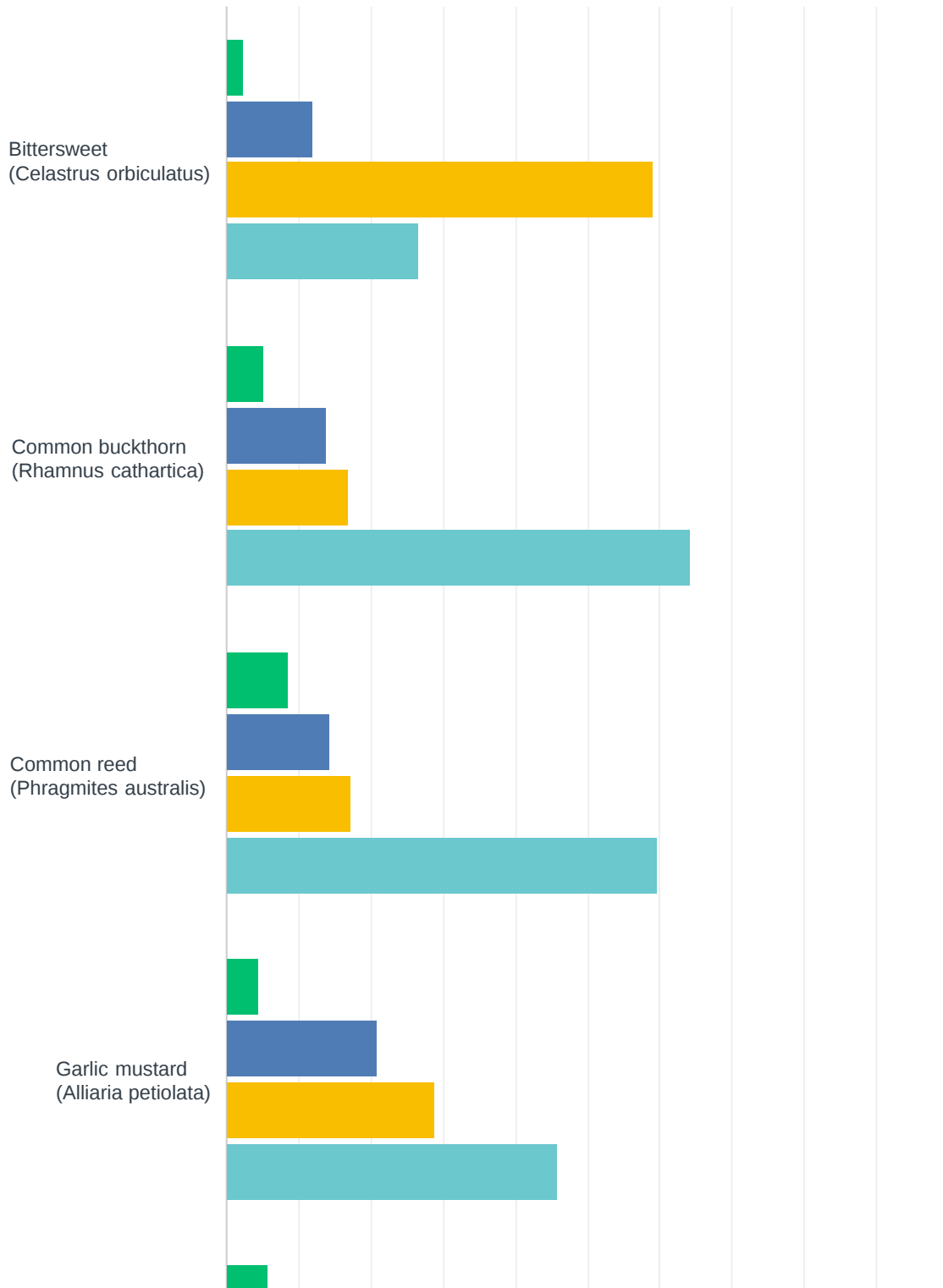


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Dying trees due to damage, disease, pests, or other problems	52.25%	93
Limbs blocking sidewalks, signs, streetlights, or utility lines	47.75%	85
Fallen trees or limbs	53.37%	95
Insufficient removal of tree leaves, fruits, or seeds	15.17%	27
Cracked sidewalks due to tree roots	37.64%	67
Roots getting into pipes	6.74%	12
Other (please specify)	17.98%	32
Total Respondents: 178		

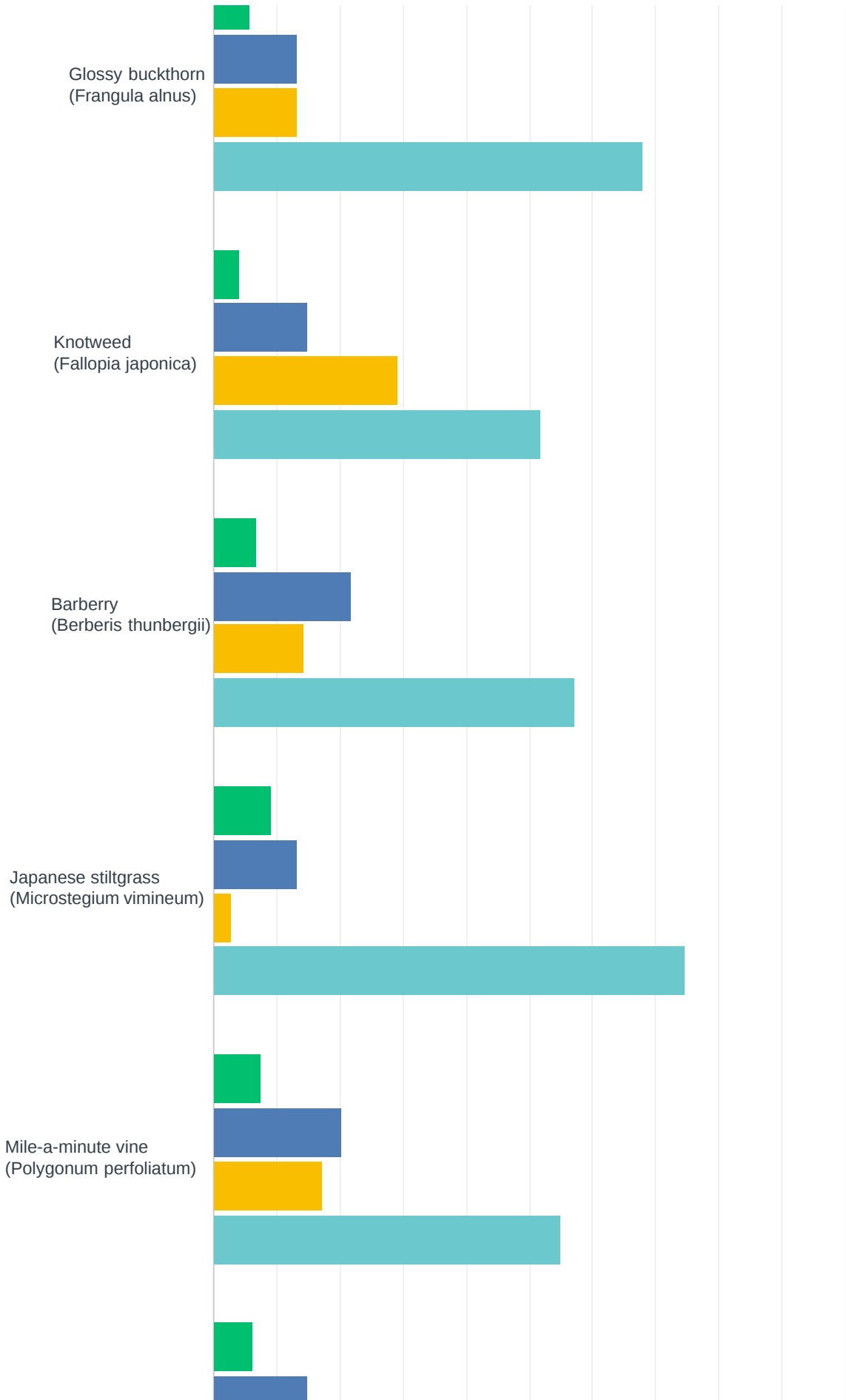


Q7 Do you encounter any of the following invasive plant species in Westford? If you're not sure, you can select "I don't know". Invasive plant species are plants that are not native to an area and may cause damage, disease, or death to native trees.

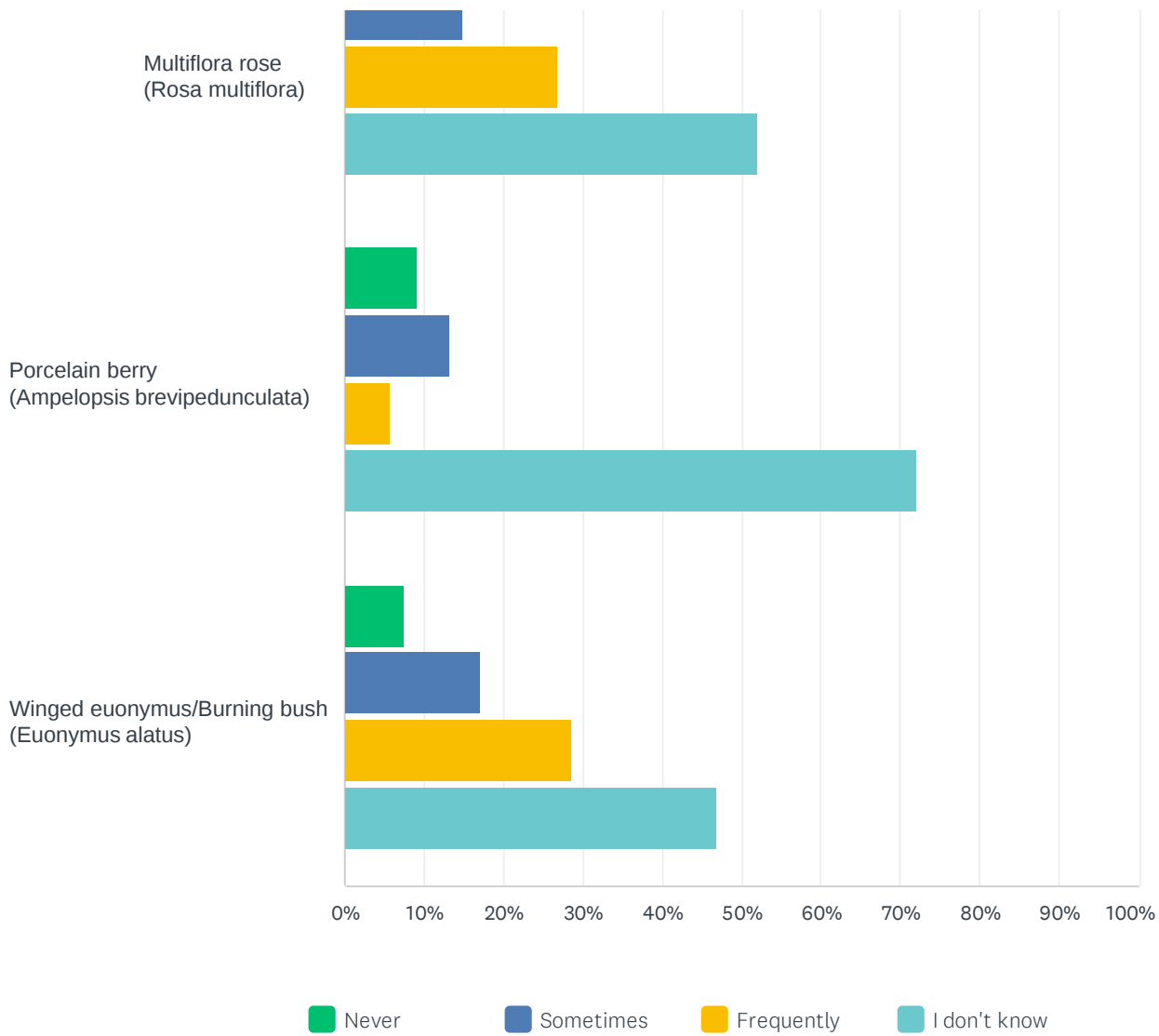
Answered: 178 Skipped: 0



# Westford Tree & Invasive Species Management Plan Community Survey



# Westford Tree & Invasive Species Management Plan Community Survey

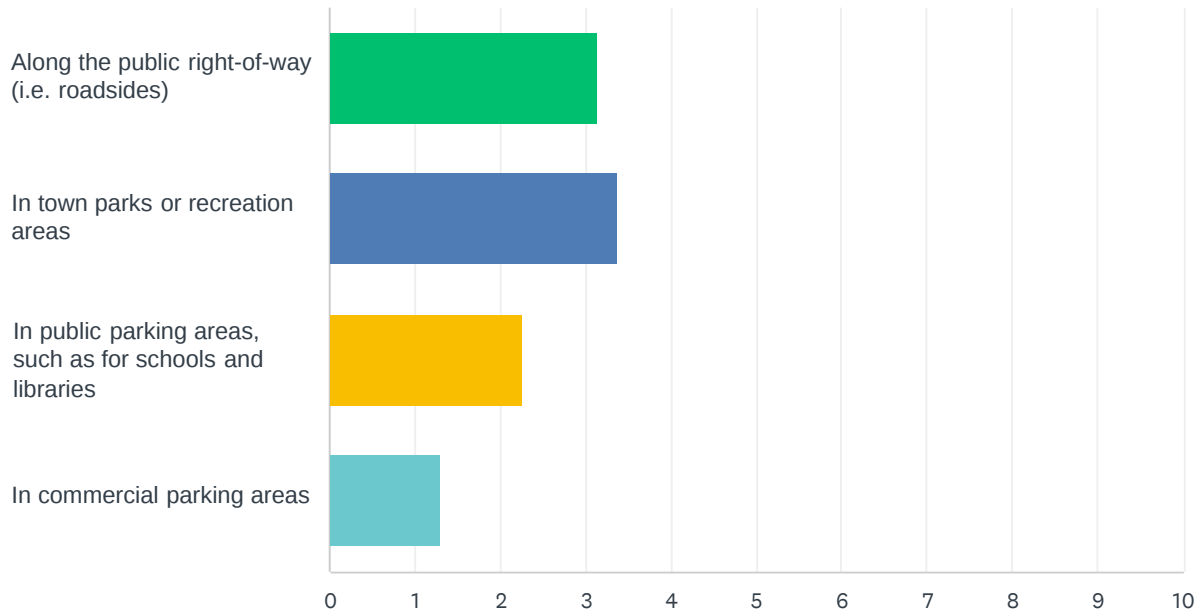


Westford Tree & Invasive Species Management Plan Community Survey

	NEVER	SOMETIMES	FREQUENTLY	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Bittersweet ( <i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i> )	2.27% 4	11.93% 21	59.09% 104	26.70% 47	176	1.30
Common buckthorn ( <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> )	5.20% 9	13.87% 24	16.76% 29	64.16% 111	173	0.47
Common reed ( <i>Phragmites australis</i> )	8.62% 15	14.37% 25	17.24% 30	59.77% 104	174	0.49
Garlic mustard ( <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> )	4.52% 8	20.90% 37	28.81% 51	45.76% 81	177	0.79
Glossy buckthorn ( <i>Frangula alnus</i> )	5.71% 10	13.14% 23	13.14% 23	68.00% 119	175	0.39
Knotweed ( <i>Fallopia japonica</i> )	4.02% 7	14.94% 26	29.31% 51	51.72% 90	174	0.74
Barberry ( <i>Berberis thunbergii</i> )	6.86% 12	21.71% 38	14.29% 25	57.14% 100	175	0.50
Japanese stiltgrass ( <i>Microstegium vimineum</i> )	9.20% 16	13.22% 23	2.87% 5	74.71% 130	174	0.19
Mile-a-minute vine ( <i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i> )	7.51% 13	20.23% 35	17.34% 30	54.91% 95	173	0.55
Multiflora rose ( <i>Rosa multiflora</i> )	6.29% 11	14.86% 26	26.86% 47	52.00% 91	175	0.69
Porcelain berry ( <i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i> )	9.14% 16	13.14% 23	5.71% 10	72.00% 126	175	0.25
Winged euonymus/Burning bush ( <i>Euonymus alatus</i> )	7.43% 13	17.14% 30	28.57% 50	46.86% 82	175	0.74

**Q8 Please rank the following locations for invasive species management in Westford from 1-4, where 1 is the location that is the highest priority and 4 is the location that is the lowest priority.(You must assign a different number to each choice.)**

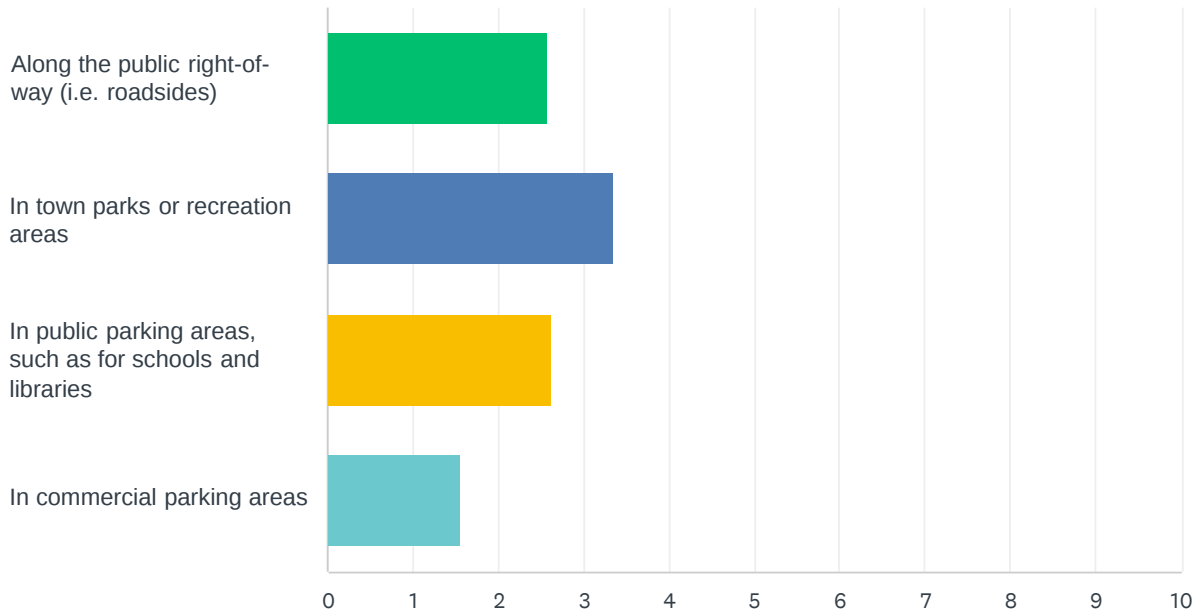
Answered: 178 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL	SCORE
Along the public right-of-way (i.e. roadsides)	36.52% 65	34.27% 61	14.04% 25	5.06% 9	10.11% 18	178	3.14
In town parks or recreation areas	47.19% 84	29.78% 53	10.11% 18	2.25% 4	10.67% 19	178	3.36
In public parking areas, such as for schools and libraries	4.49% 8	21.35% 38	53.93% 96	7.87% 14	12.36% 22	178	2.26
In commercial parking areas	2.81% 5	4.49% 8	8.99% 16	70.79% 126	12.92% 23	178	1.30

**Q9 Please rank the following locations for planting new trees in Westford from 1-4, where 1 is the location that is the highest priority and 4 is the location that is the lowest priority. (You must assign a different number to each choice.)**

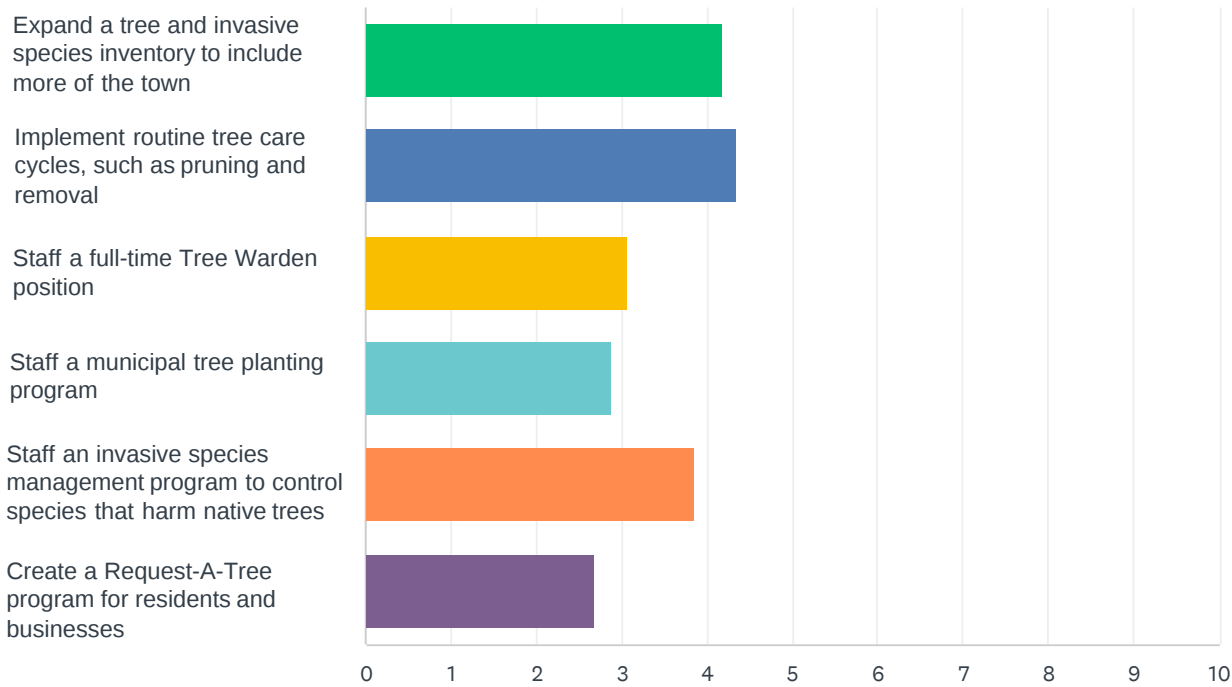
Answered: 178 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	I DON'T KNOW	TOTAL	SCORE
Along the public right-of-way (i.e. roadsides)	24.16% 43	23.60% 42	25.28% 45	18.54% 33	8.43% 15	178	2.58
In town parks or recreation areas	52.25% 93	23.03% 41	12.92% 23	3.93% 7	7.87% 14	178	3.34
In public parking areas, such as for schools and libraries	11.80% 21	37.64% 67	35.96% 64	5.06% 9	9.55% 17	178	2.62
In commercial parking areas	6.18% 11	7.87% 14	15.17% 27	60.11% 107	10.67% 19	178	1.55

**Q10 Please rank the following higher-cost actions that the Town can take to help manage trees and invasive species from 1-6, where 1 is the highest priority and 6 is lowest priority.(You must assign a different number to each item.)**Tree management refers to actions that improve the health of trees and their relationship with the surrounding community. A Request-A-Tree program gives away trees to eligible residents or businesses.

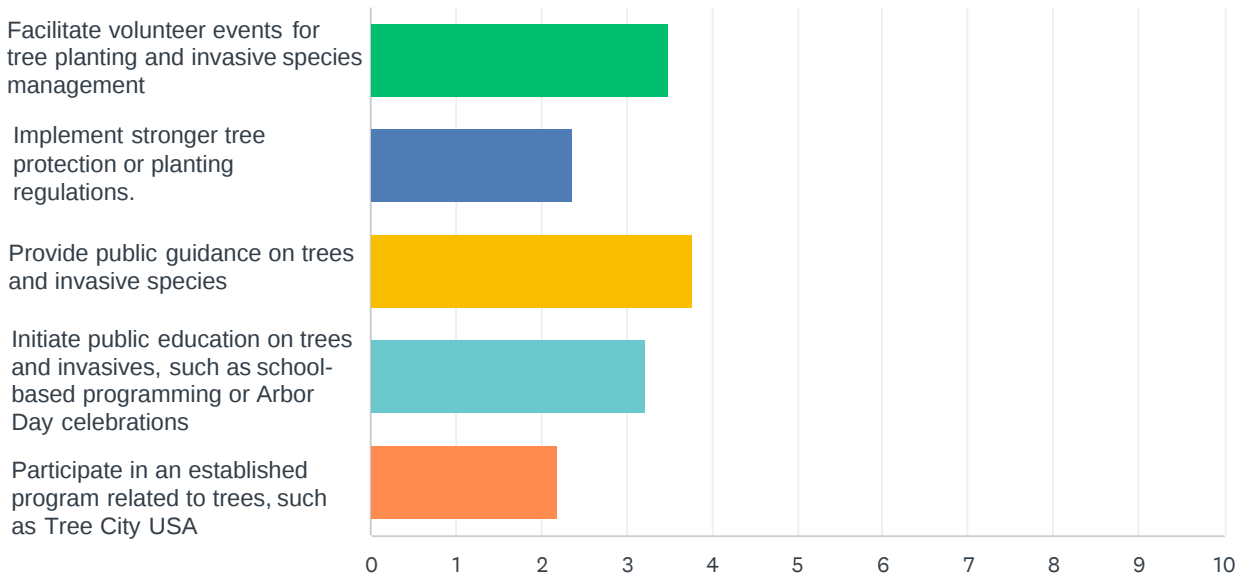
Answered: 178 Skipped: 0



	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
Expand a tree and invasive species inventory to include more of the town	23.03% 41	23.60% 42	24.16% 43	11.80% 21	11.80% 21	5.62% 10	178	4.17
Implement routine tree care cycles, such as pruning and removal	31.46% 56	17.98% 32	23.03% 41	13.48% 24	8.43% 15	5.62% 10	178	4.34
Staff a full-time Tree Warden position	13.48% 24	13.48% 24	15.17% 27	11.80% 21	15.73% 28	30.34% 54	178	3.06
Staff a municipal tree planting program	3.37% 6	10.67% 19	15.73% 28	22.47% 40	35.96% 64	11.80% 21	178	2.88
Staff an invasive species management program to control species that harm native trees	19.66% 35	23.03% 41	11.24% 20	24.16% 43	13.48% 24	8.43% 15	178	3.86
Create a Request-A-Tree program for residents and businesses	8.99% 16	11.24% 20	10.67% 19	16.29% 29	14.61% 26	38.20% 68	178	2.69

**Q11 Please rank the following lower-cost actions that the Town can take to help manage trees and invasive species from 1-5, where 1 is the highest priority and 5 is lowest priority.(You must assign a different number to each item.)**

Answered: 176 Skipped: 2

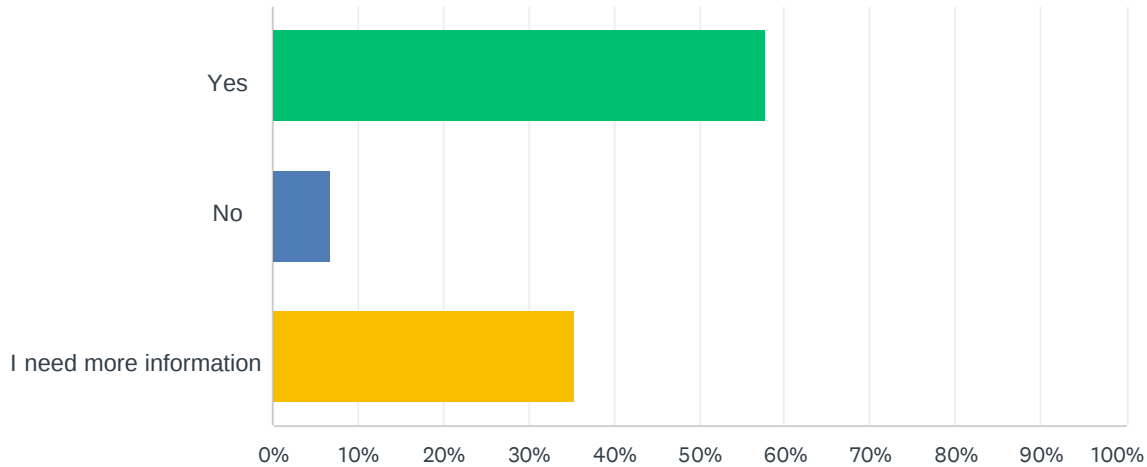


	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Facilitate volunteer events for tree planting and invasive species management	26.74% 46	27.33% 47	19.77% 34	20.35% 35	5.81% 10	172	3.49
Implement stronger tree protection or planting regulations.	16.47% 28	7.65% 13	14.71% 25	18.82% 32	42.35% 72	170	2.37
Provide public guidance on trees and invasive species	36.21% 63	24.14% 42	23.56% 41	13.79% 24	2.30% 4	174	3.78
Initiate public education on trees and invasives, such as school-based programming or Arbor Day celebrations	14.37% 25	29.89% 52	27.59% 48	20.11% 35	8.05% 14	174	3.22
Participate in an established program related to trees, such as Tree City USA	8.05% 14	10.92% 19	13.79% 24	26.44% 46	40.80% 71	174	2.19



## Q12 Would you support dedicating more of the town's budget to fund any of the actions in Questions 10 and 11?

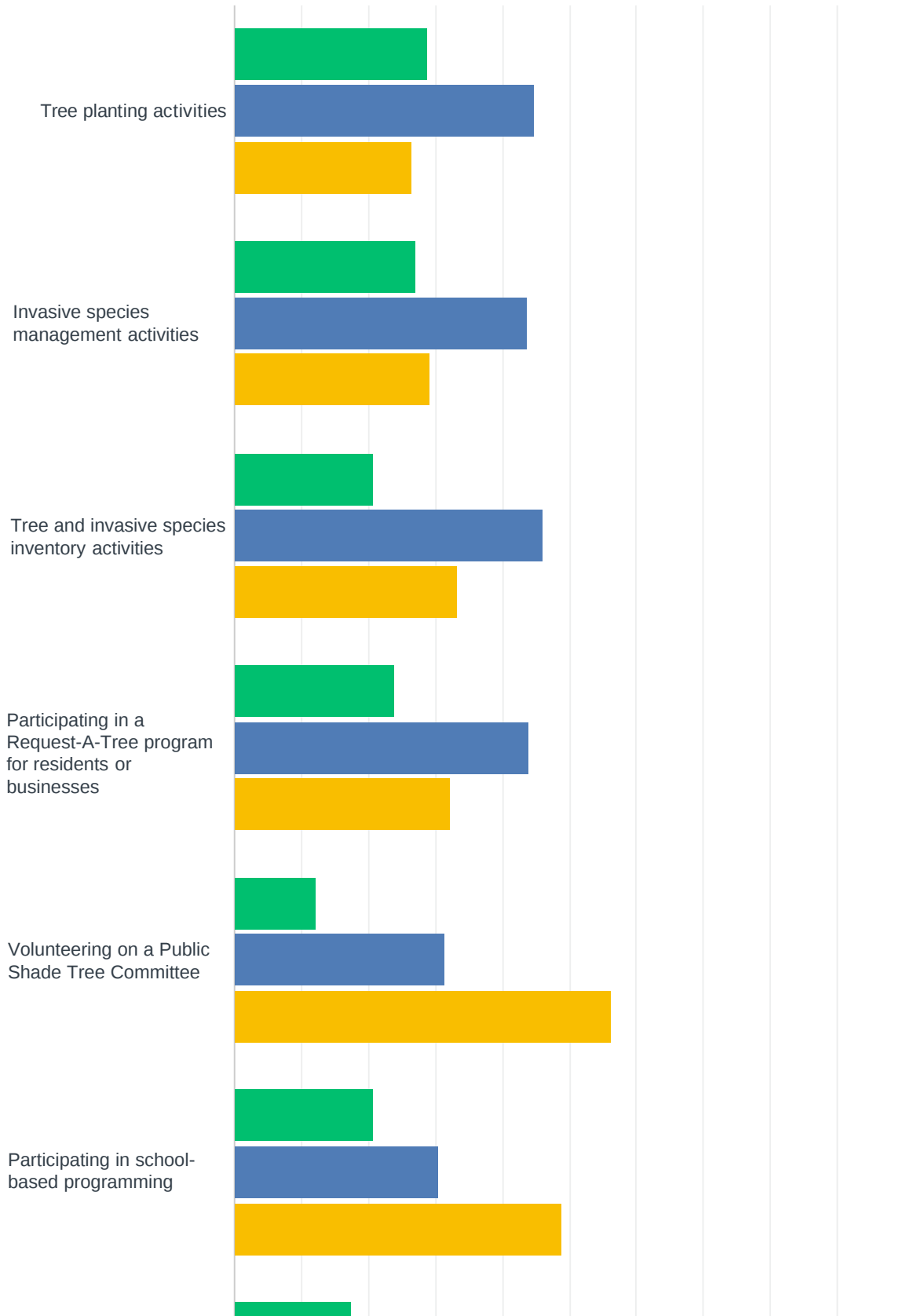
Answered: 178 Skipped: 0



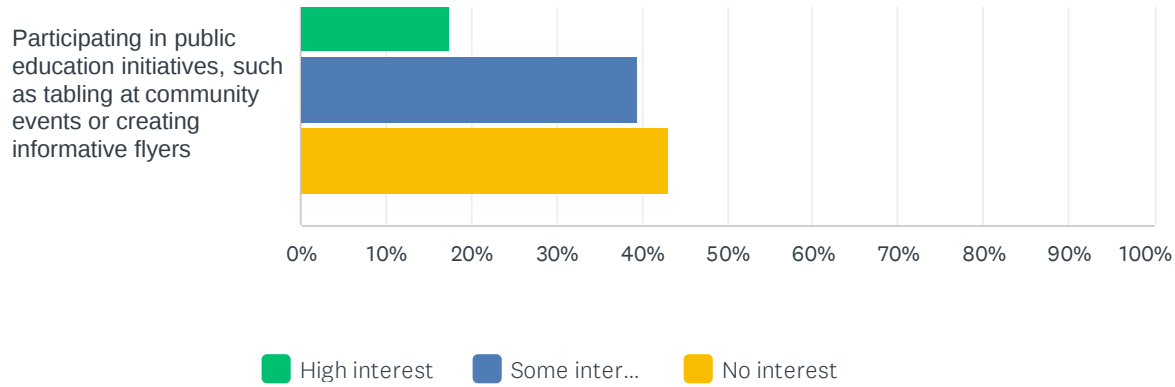
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	57.87%	103
No	6.74%	12
I need more information	35.39%	63
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>178</b>

## Q13 Which types of volunteer activities interest you?

Answered: 178 Skipped: 0



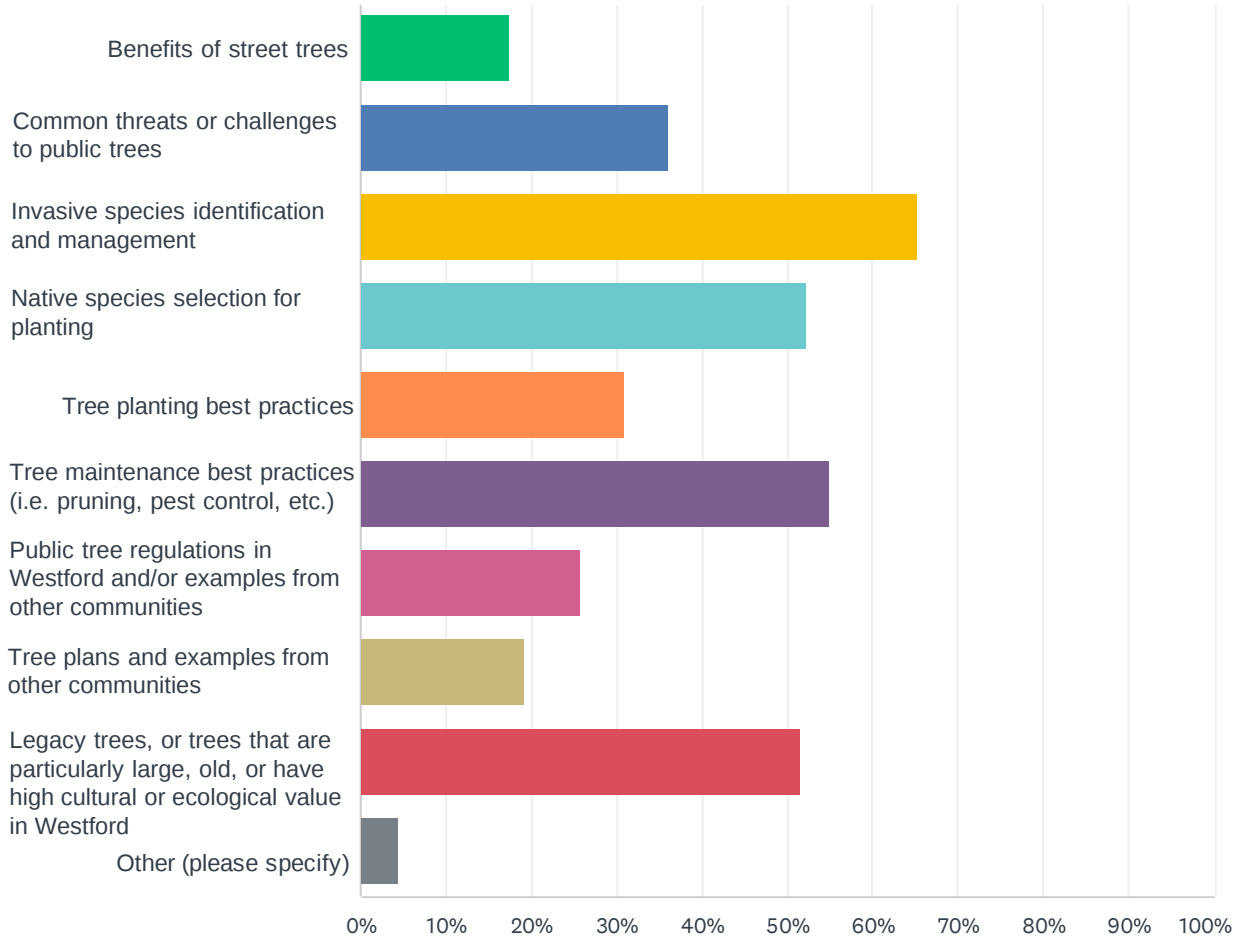
## Westford Tree & Invasive Species Management Plan Community Survey



	HIGH INTEREST	SOME INTEREST	NO INTEREST	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Tree planting activities	28.74% 50	44.83% 78	26.44% 46	174	1.02
Invasive species management activities	27.01% 47	43.68% 76	29.31% 51	174	0.98
Tree and invasive species inventory activities	20.69% 36	45.98% 80	33.33% 58	174	0.87
Participating in a Request-A-Tree program for residents or businesses	23.98% 41	43.86% 75	32.16% 55	171	0.92
Volunteering on a Public Shade Tree Committee	12.21% 21	31.40% 54	56.40% 97	172	0.56
Participating in school-based programming	20.59% 35	30.59% 52	48.82% 83	170	0.72
Participating in public education initiatives, such as tabling at community events or creating informative flyers	17.44% 30	39.53% 68	43.02% 74	172	0.74

## Q14 Are there any topics related to public trees or invasive species you would like to learn more about?

Answered: 178 Skipped: 0



## Westford Tree & Invasive Species Management Plan Community Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Benefits of street trees	17.42%	31
Common threats or challenges to public trees	35.96%	64
Invasive species identification and management	65.17%	116
Native species selection for planting	52.25%	93
Tree planting best practices	30.90%	55
Tree maintenance best practices (i.e. pruning, pest control, etc.)	55.06%	98
Public tree regulations in Westford and/or examples from other communities	25.84%	46
Tree plans and examples from other communities	19.10%	34
Legacy trees, or trees that are particularly large, old, or have high cultural or ecological value in Westford	51.69%	92
Other (please specify)	4.49%	8
Total Respondents: 178		

**Q15 What else would you like to tell us about public trees in Westford?  
(Optional)**

Answered: 41 Skipped: 137

Westford Tree & Invasive Species Management Plan Community Survey

<p>I would like the town to look at all plant species, not just trees, I see many non tree invasive plants. I would like to see some rules put in place that require a certain amount of trees to be put in after construction. It bothers me that we lost so many trees with the expansion of Littleton rd and nothing was replaced by the state. It changes the town character and makes it a hot intersection. They don't need to be native, just not aggressive. Or maybe we set a 10% native species goal? The management for town owned trees, space around schools and roadways needs to be better. I assume it is lack of staff and funding. I have seen aggressive non native plants take a hold of areas in town. The effort to remove them will take people with knowledge and funding. If regular maintenance was given along road sides, around schools, and fields, plus homeowner education maybe we would be in a better position? I do notice the trees and shrubs at the schools need fertilizer and need to be pruned at proper times. I have helped and donated fertilizer to the schools in the past, but guidance from the town would give more consistency to a program through the years. (Can you tell I have a horticulture background and have opinions? I think I need to connect with whomever is putting out this survey). I am glad someone is thinking about this!</p>
<p>An improvement to the survey - add links to invasive species list to help identify plants - I don't know them by name.</p>
<p>Beware of national grid. No attention to the shape of the tree and so much unnecessary pruning.</p>
<p>Critically important to the health of its citizens and the changing climate. I am concerned about the relationship of invasive species to both trees and waterways.</p>
<p>Determine cause of tree disease to see if there is a common issue in the various sections of town.</p>
<p>Do everything possible to save public trees 50 years and older. Be on constant watch for Bittersweet that might endanger our trees.</p>
<p>Don't wait too long to prune!! Maintain the beautiful trees and they will maintain us.</p>
<p>Hoping the builders on Main St on the property that recently sold and has new houses going up (the Hicks property) doesn't cut down all the beautiful trees along the road there.</p>
<p>I HATE when developers clear cut acres for developents. The ecosystem is destroyed in days and the good soil is taken away and fill is substituted. And NO woodlands should be sacrificed for solar fields. So inronic!!!!</p>
<p>i have a tree on the street in front of my house that i would like to have removed</p>
<p>I have seen the Conservation Committee encourage developers to preserve large trees and plant native species. It still seems that many developments just clear cut and go on from there.</p>
<p>I support the saving particularly of large, old trees, because of their sequestering of carbon.</p>

Westford Tree & Invasive Species Management Plan Community Survey

<p>I think diversity of native tree species is important to lessen the impact of diseases and harmful insects.</p>
<p>I think the community forests need help! Our forests seem to be half dead monoculture. Management doesn't mean just leave it alone!</p>
<p>I think this survey was too long and too detailed. In the future I recommend you let respondents skip any questions they feel they are not qualified to answer or are not interested in answering.</p>
<p>I was happy to see recent Town participation in National Grid's plan to prune/remove and think that the Town should be even more diligent in controlling utility removal/pruning of trees. The default should be "how can we save/help this tree" not "what can we do to get this tree out of the way of the public utility wires". The wires can go underground, the trees cannot.</p>
<p>I wish new construction activities were forced/encouraged to keep more trees on site &amp; plant natives</p>
<p>I'm glad we are doing this program.</p>
<p>I'm stunned that clear cutting of large areas is permitted when housing developments are built. There is NO reason to do this.</p>
<p>I'm very interested in preserving what old growth we may have in Westford, and am dismayed by the scale of tree removal along public streets.</p>
<p>It seems that there are a lot more fallen trees in public wetlands in the past few years. I'm wondering if this is a maintenance issue or if there are environmental causes. Does the town maintain public wetlands?</p>
<p>It would be nice to establish a new development code that ensures an acreage minimum and/or certain commitment to trees</p>
<p>Many look like they're about to fall over</p>
<p>Many of our roads are narrow. Beautiful Tree growth sometimes impede traffic flow and powerline safety. It's lovely to drive down a tree lined Road but future plantings need to be further off the road. Also, of all the invasive species listed there was no mention of poison ivy!</p>
<p>More education and enforcement of rules around dumping of leaves/brush by residents under trees on public lands</p>
<p>More is better</p>
<p>Most public roads need to have the trees cut way back for safety.</p>
<p>Nothing at this time.</p>

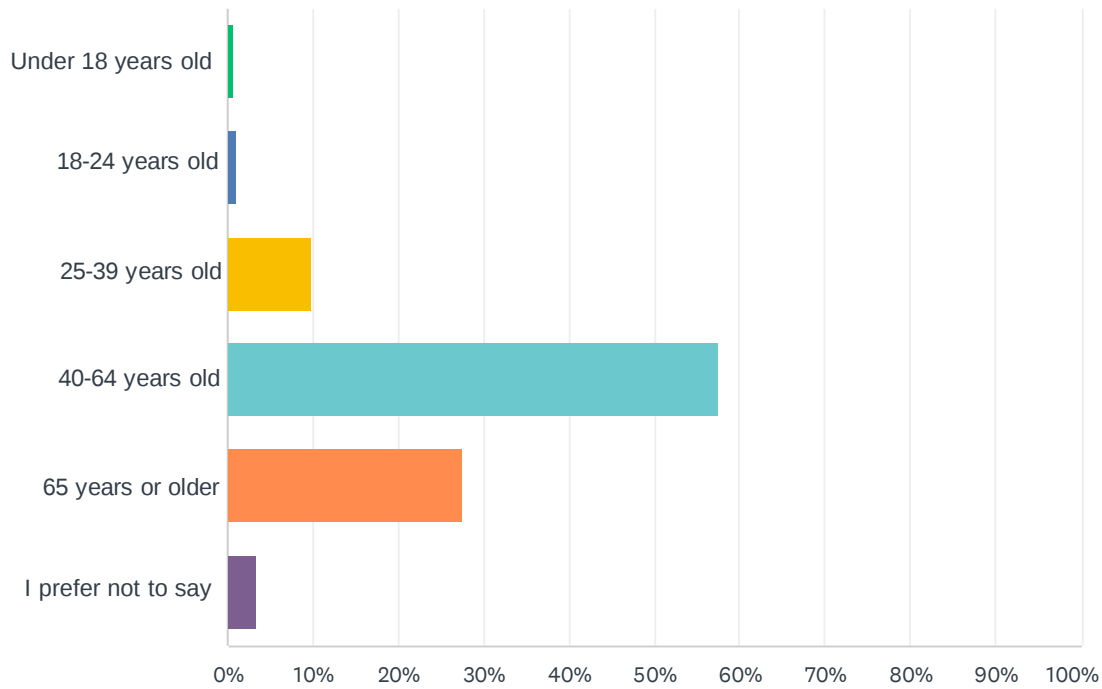


Westford Tree & Invasive Species Management Plan Community Survey

<p>Our trees are a precious and extremely valuable public resource that we need to spend more time, staff and funding on, to protect and increase. Regulations to keep developers from "clear cutting" new house lots (and perhaps commercial lots) are needed and soon! Arborist knowledge and expertise is also essential for any Westford "tree" staff positions, such as tree warden and pruning staff. This survey is very well done. Thank you for this opportunity to share my perspective about trees and also knowledge (or lack of) about invasive species.</p>
<p>Regardless of whether healthy trees are on public or "private" land, Westford should have laws that require planting trees to replace those cut down for residential, commercial or industrial development. It's NOT OK to say, "Oh, well, that's entirely up to the property owner." Development affects the environment and climate change for ALL of us!</p>
<p>Seems like there aren't very many big, beautiful trees... and the pruning by the power company looks like a hack job.</p>
<p>Take care of what we have , too many broken branches left by side of road. Stony Brook bridge terrible branches / trees in waterway. Teachers got very small raise how can we spend for trees?</p>
<p>Thank you!!</p>
<p>Thanks for your efforts</p>
<p>The proper solution to trees falling on power lines is to bury the power lines, not remove the trees.</p>
<p>The Town of Westford should require a set density of street trees that overrides the homeowners desire for a clear view. The Town of Westford has an obligation to keep the Town landscape healthy for present and future generations not for Magazine Images that are meant to sell and certain aesthetic.</p>
<p>Utilize Scouting - they have conservation service hour requirements. Offer public brush/ yard waste collection. If we remove deadfall and leaves invasive species (like bittersweet) could be better managed. Maybe work out a 10yr deal with former Drew Farms - they can use the free compost for soil remediation?</p>
<p>Ways to eliminate invasive species without the use of herbicides or other poisons that also poison insects, animals and other plants.</p>
<p>We need more trees between McDonalds and Mac &amp; Choose, also in that Mac &amp; Choose plaza. It is very barren and does not represent Westford to visitors. I also find it depressing to pass by.</p>
<p>We need to save the big old trees for carbon sequestration. Oaks are particularly beneficial for wildlife.</p>
<p>Worthwhile effort</p>

## Q16 What is your age?

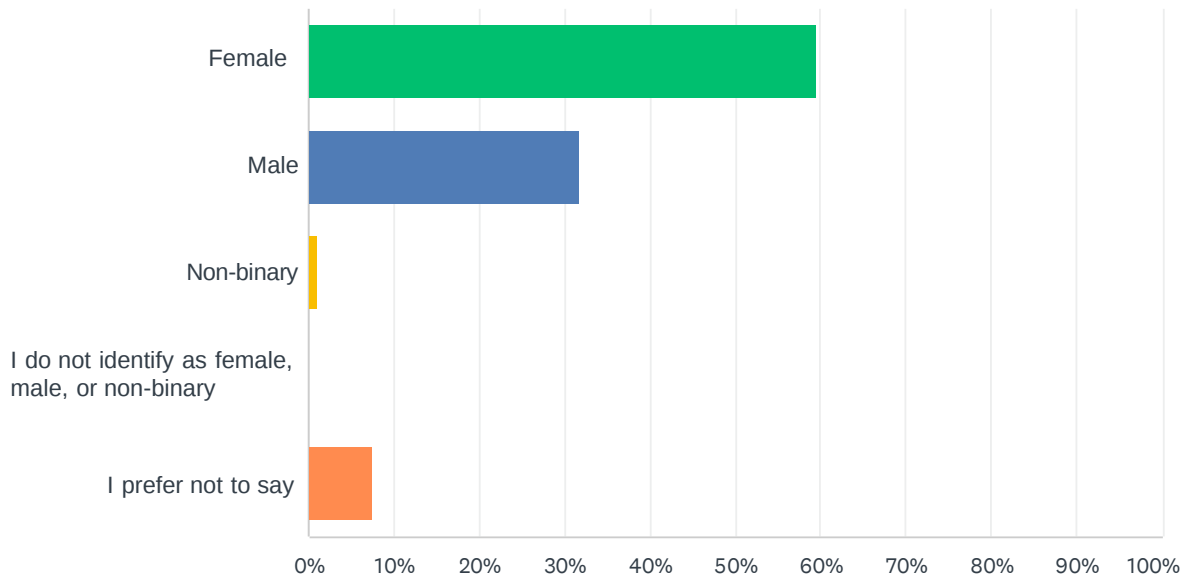
Answered: 174 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18 years old	0.57% 1
18-24 years old	1.15% 2
25-39 years old	9.77% 17
40-64 years old	57.47% 100
65 years or older	27.59% 48
I prefer not to say	3.45% 6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>174</b>

## Q17 How do you describe your gender?

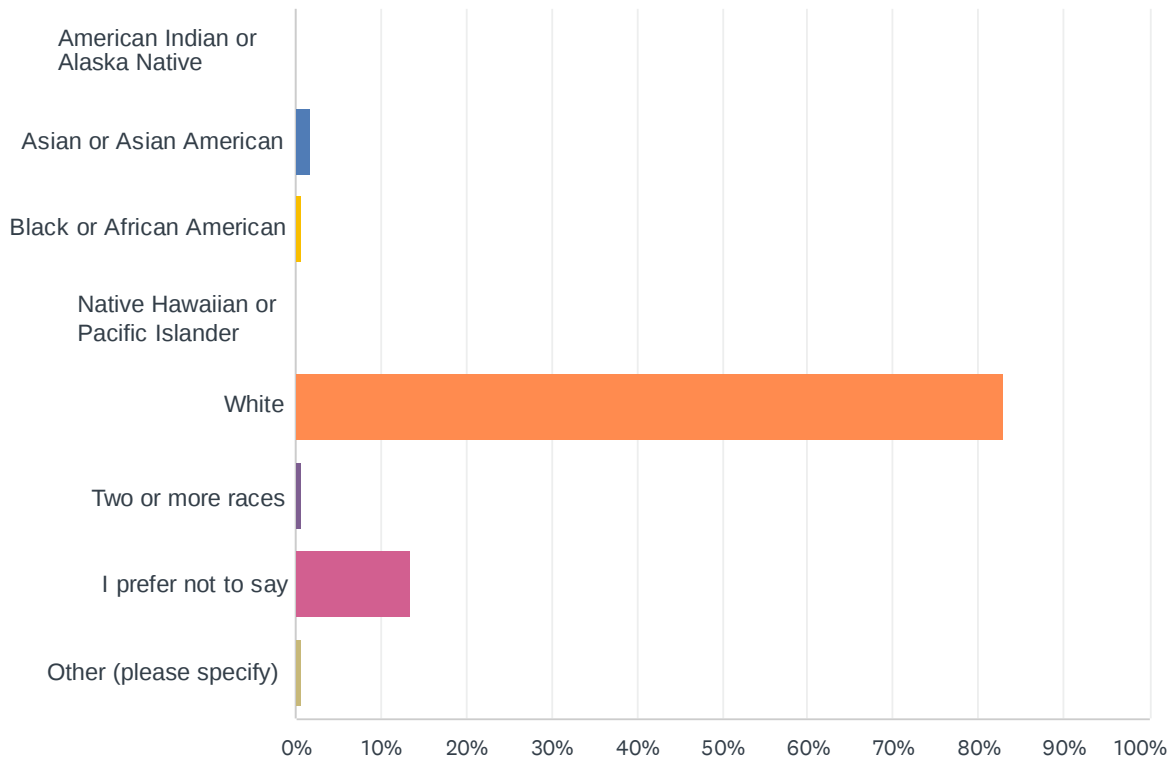
Answered: 173 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	59.54%	103
Male	31.79%	55
Non-binary	1.16%	2
I do not identify as female, male, or non-binary	0.00%	0
I prefer not to say	7.51%	13
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>173</b>

## Q18 How do you describe your race?

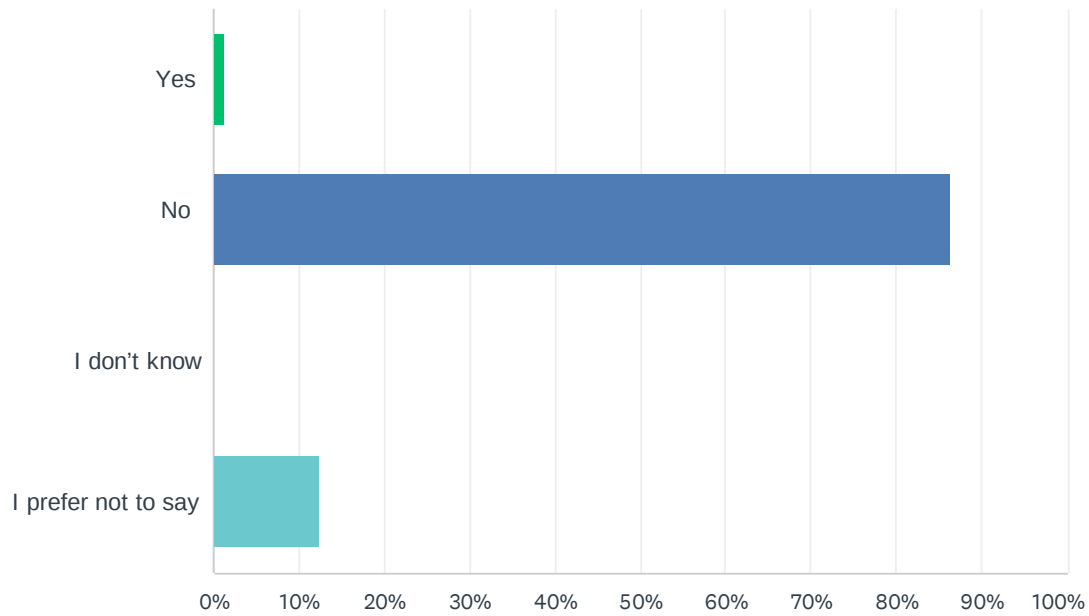
Answered: 171 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.00%	0
Asian or Asian American	1.75%	3
Black or African American	0.58%	1
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
White	83.04%	142
Two or more races	0.58%	1
I prefer not to say	13.45%	23
Other (please specify)	0.58%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>171</b>

## Q19 Are you of Hispanic, Latinx, or Spanish origin?

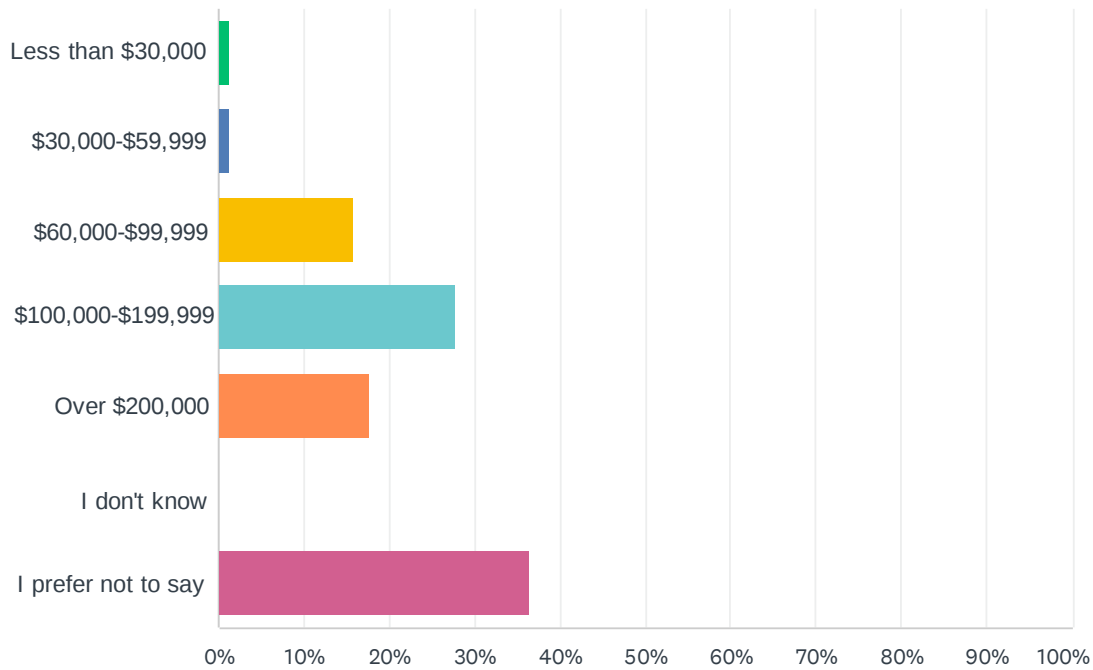
Answered: 169 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	1.18% 2
No	86.39% 146
I don't know	0.00% 0
I prefer not to say	12.43% 21
TOTAL	169

## Q20 What is your annual household income?

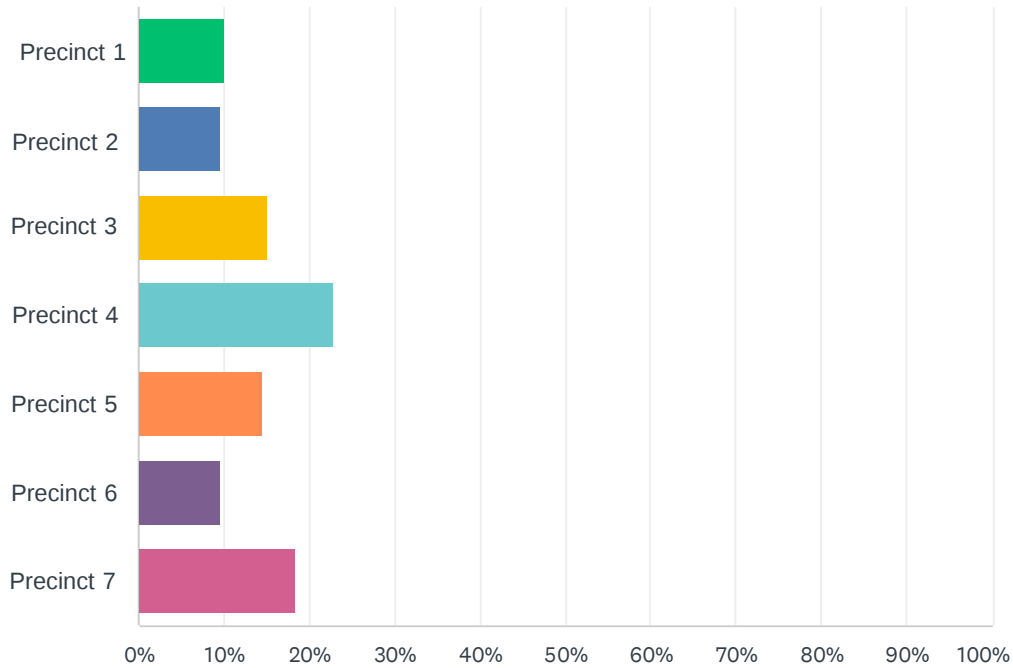
Answered: 170 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than \$30,000	1.18%	2
\$30,000-\$59,999	1.18%	2
\$60,000-\$99,999	15.88%	27
\$100,000-\$199,999	27.65%	47
Over \$200,000	17.65%	30
I don't know	0.00%	0
I prefer not to say	36.47%	62
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>170</b>

## Q21 For residents of Westford, please identify the part of town you live in by voting precinct (precincts updated 12/31/2021).

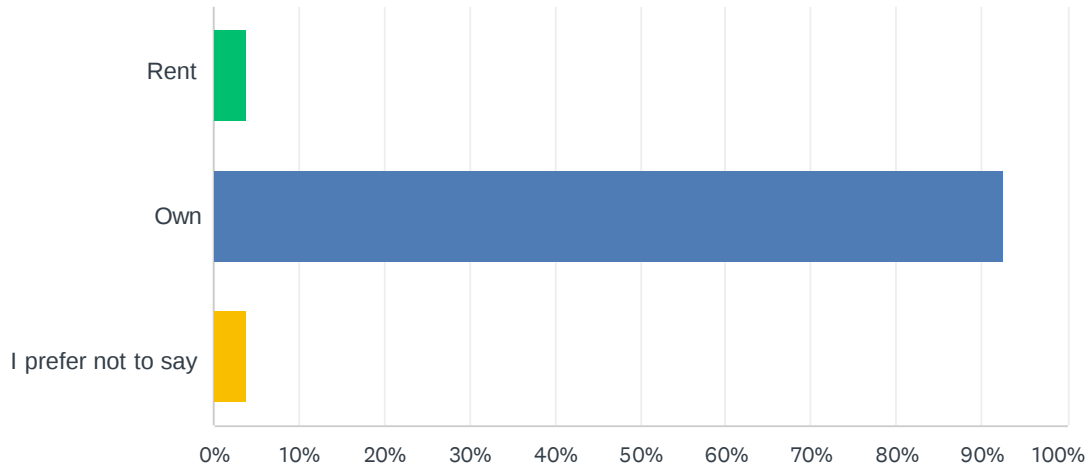
Answered: 158 Skipped: 20



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Precinct 1 (yellow)	10.13%	16
Precinct 2 (orange)	9.49%	15
Precinct 3 (purple)	15.19%	24
Precinct 4 (pink)	22.78%	36
Precinct 5 (green)	14.56%	23
Precinct 6 (grey)	9.49%	15
Precinct 7 (blue)	18.35%	29
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>158</b>

## Q22 For residents of Westford, do you rent or own your home?

Answered: 159 Skipped: 19



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rent	3.77%	6
Own	92.45%	147
I prefer not to say	3.77%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>159</b>