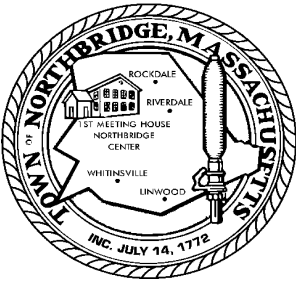


The Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Committee, in partnership with the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission & others are updating the town's Open Space & Recreation Plan. Your views & opinions are important to this process. Please help by completing this brief survey. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

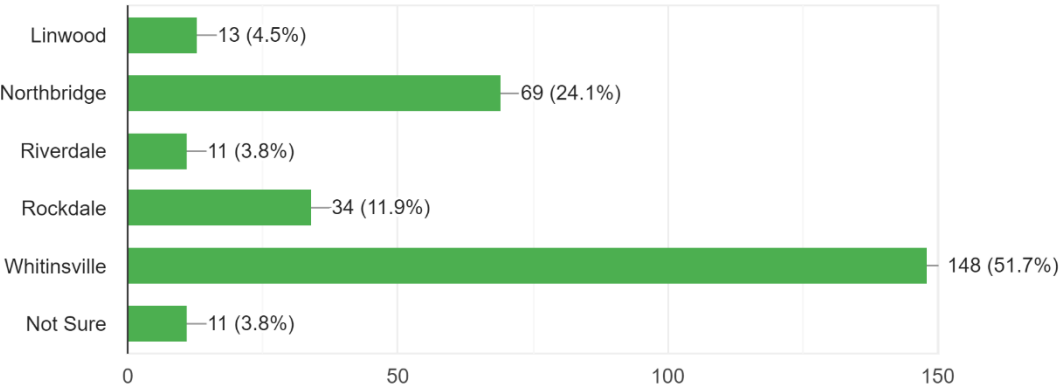


(2022) Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Survey

DEMOGRAPHICS

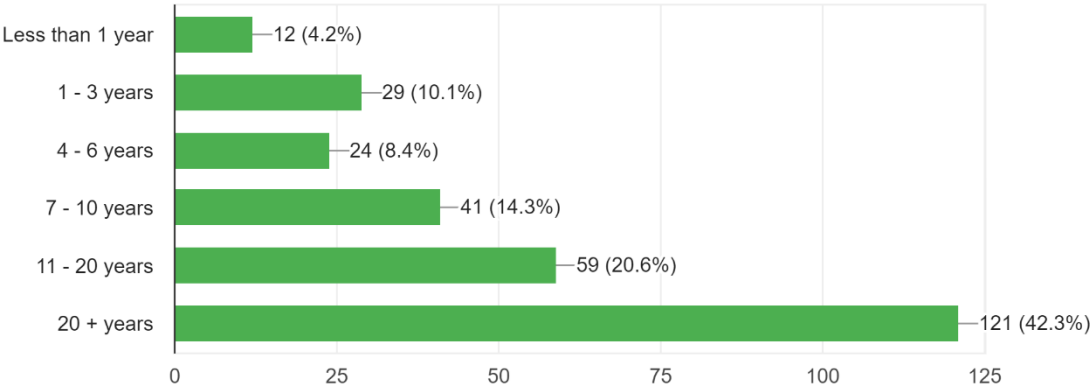
1. Please indicate the general location of town in which you live:

286 responses



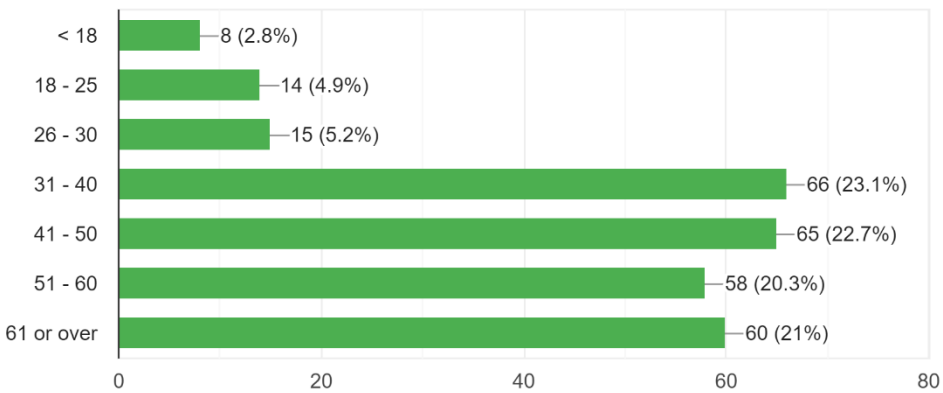
2. Please indicate the number of years you have lived in town:

286 responses



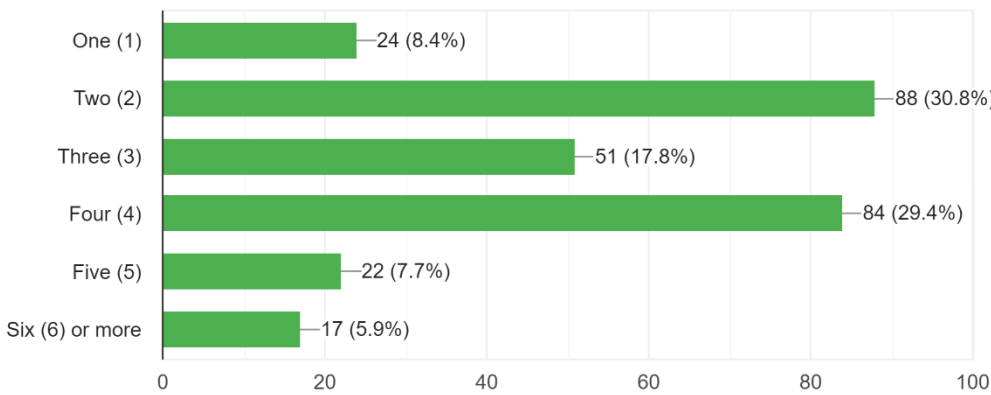
3. Please indicate your age group:

286 responses



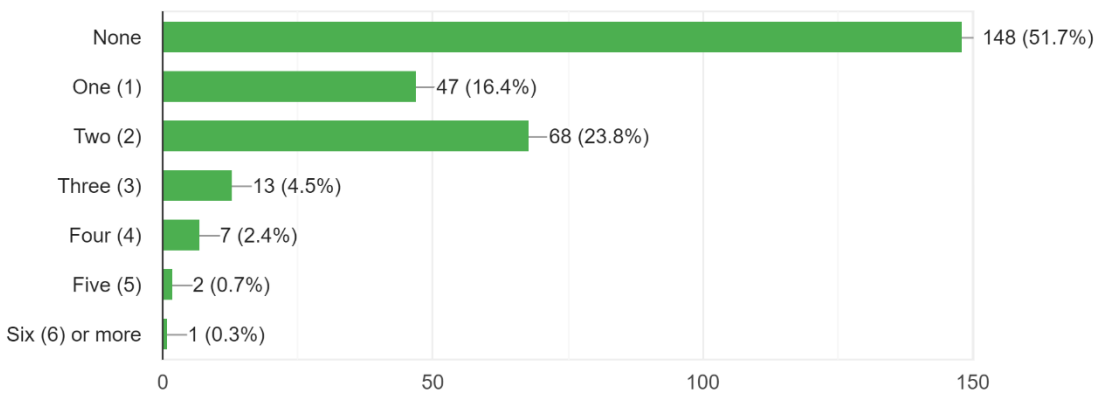
4. How many persons live in your household?

286 responses



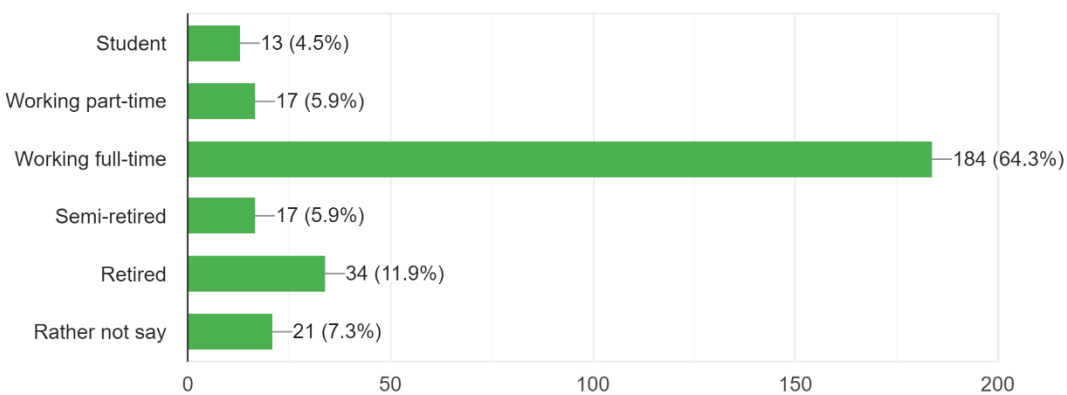
5. How many children (<18 years of age) live in your household?

286 responses



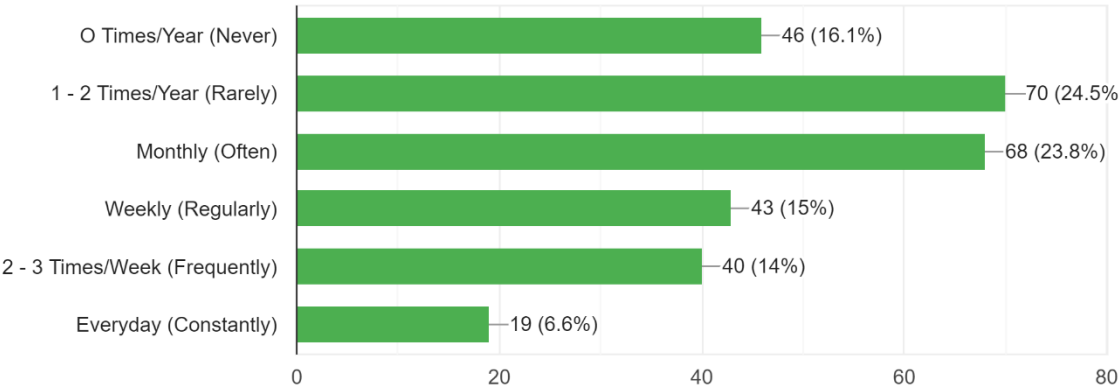
6. Which best describes you?

286 responses



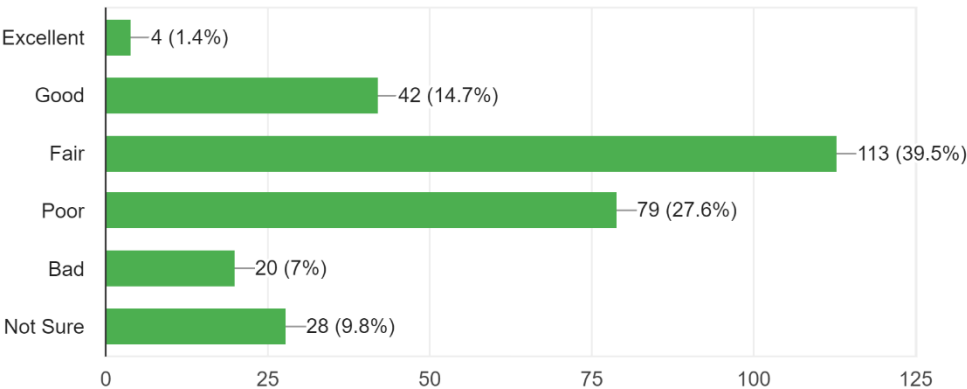
7. How often do you or a member of your household use town playgrounds/recreational facilities?

286 responses



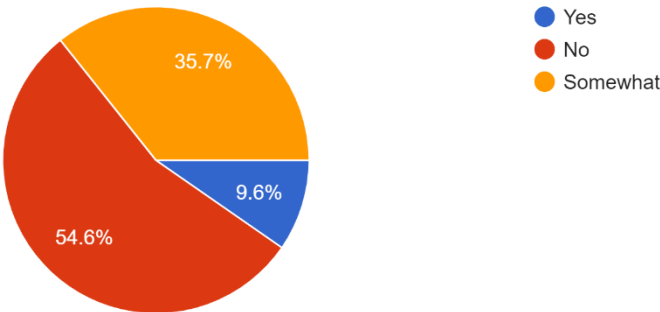
8. How would you rate Northbridge's playground and recreation facilities?

286 responses

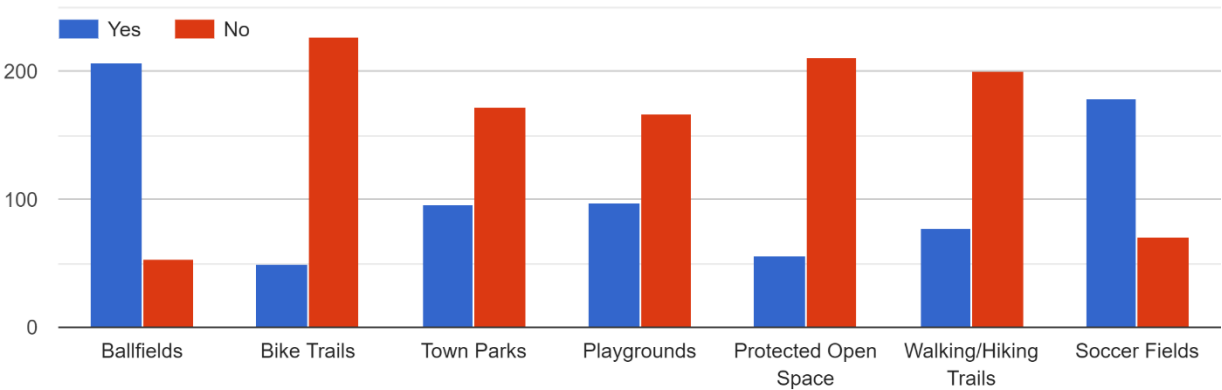


9. Are you satisfied with the recreational opportunities offered in Northbridge?

280 responses

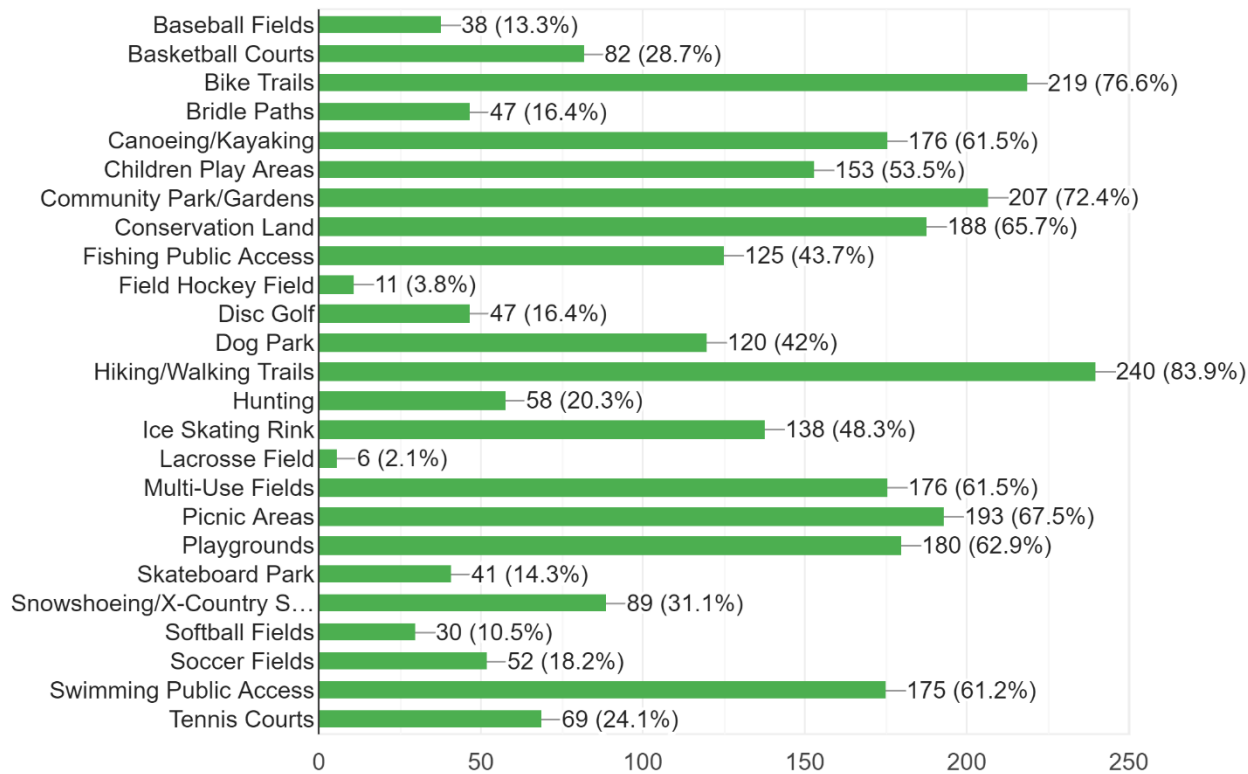


10. Does Northbridge have an adequate number of these facilities?



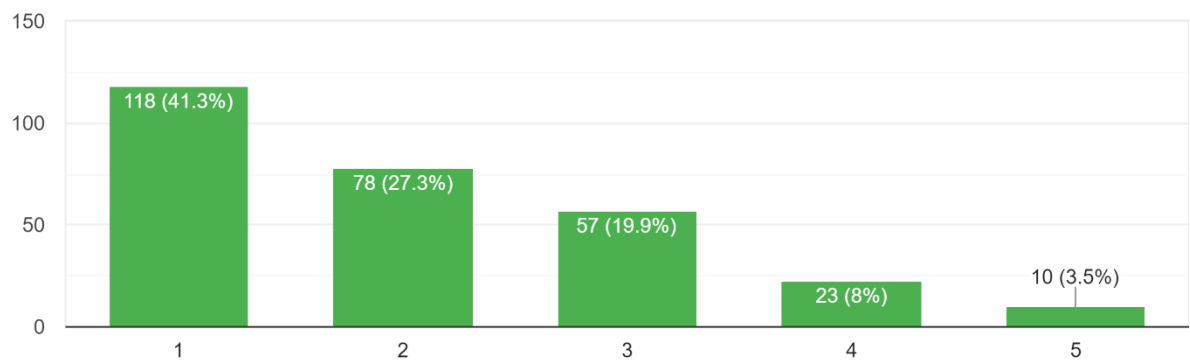
11. Please indicate your "Top 10 Recreational Facilities" you feel are needed or should be expanded in Northbridge:

286 responses



12. How important is it to you that Northbridge allocate additional town funds (\$) to enhance/maintain existing recreational facilities?

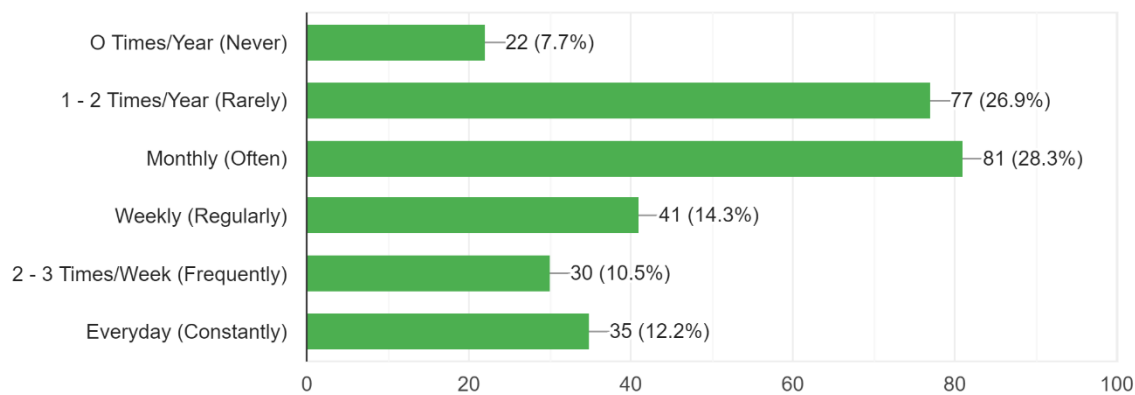
286 responses



OPEN SPACE

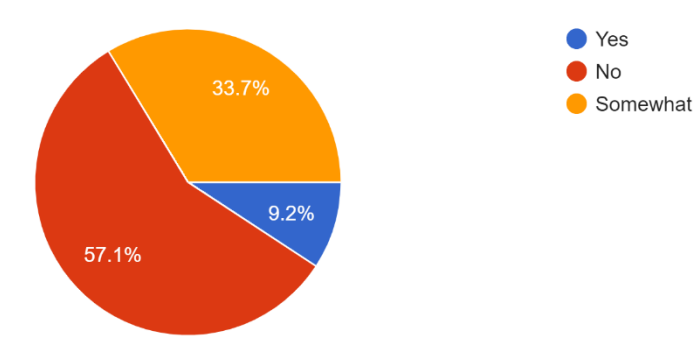
13. How often do you or a member of your household use town open space?

286 responses



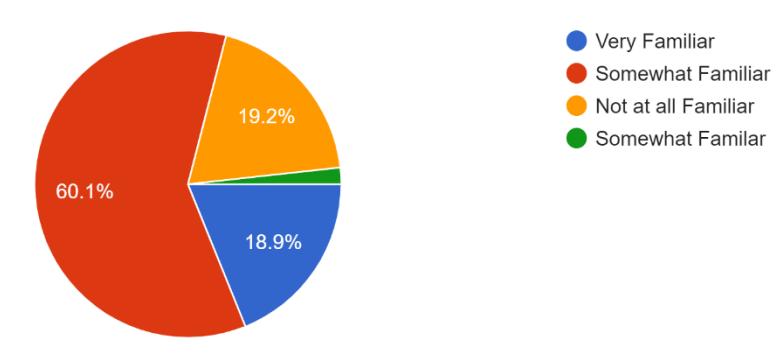
14. Are you satisfied with the amount of open space preserved in Northbridge?

282 responses



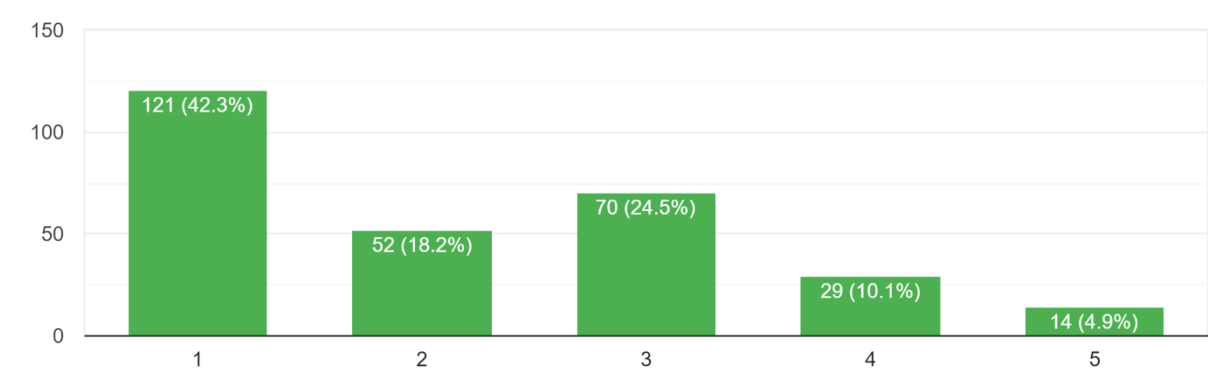
15. How familiar are you with the open space & conservation areas currently accessible in Northbridge?

286 responses



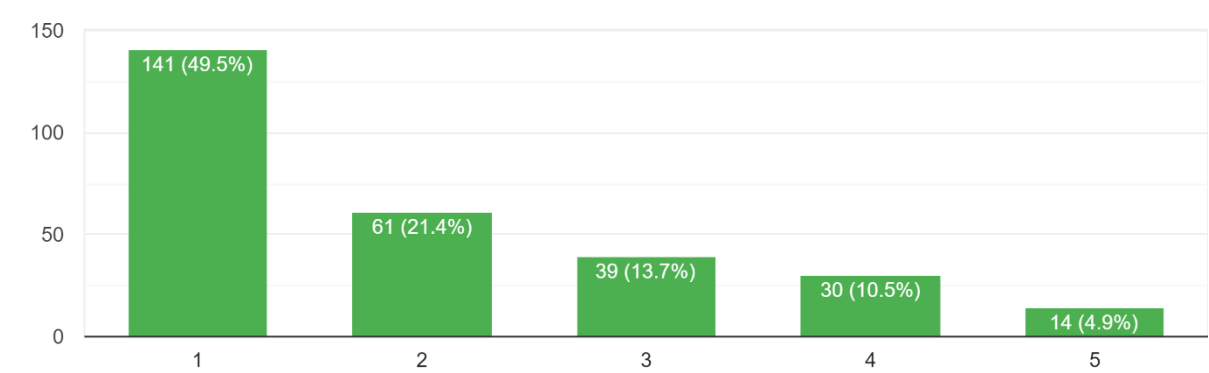
16. How important is it to you that Northbridge utilize town funds (\$) to acquire additional open space?

286 responses



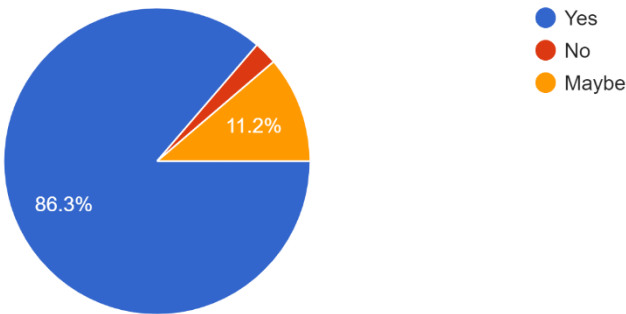
17. How important is it to you that Northbridge preserve & acquired open space/conservation land?

285 responses



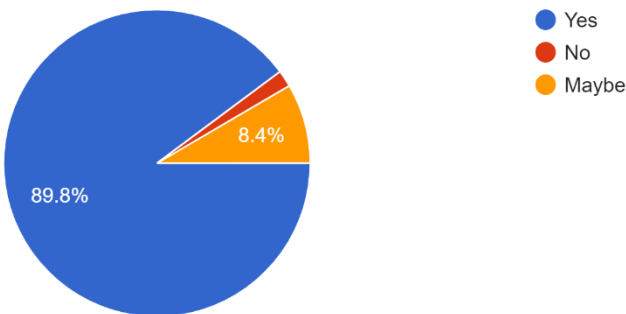
18. Are you interested in the town preserving environmentally sensitive, natural habitat & water supply areas?

285 responses



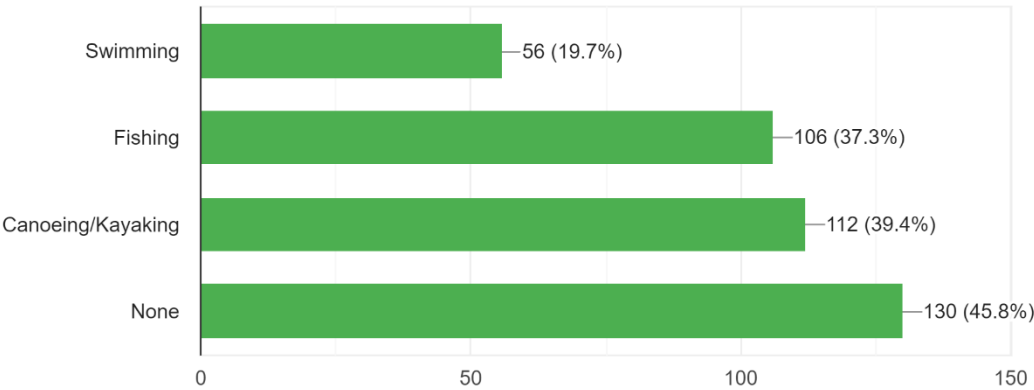
19. Would you support spending town funds (\$) to cleanup and/or improve access to rivers, lakes or ponds?

285 responses



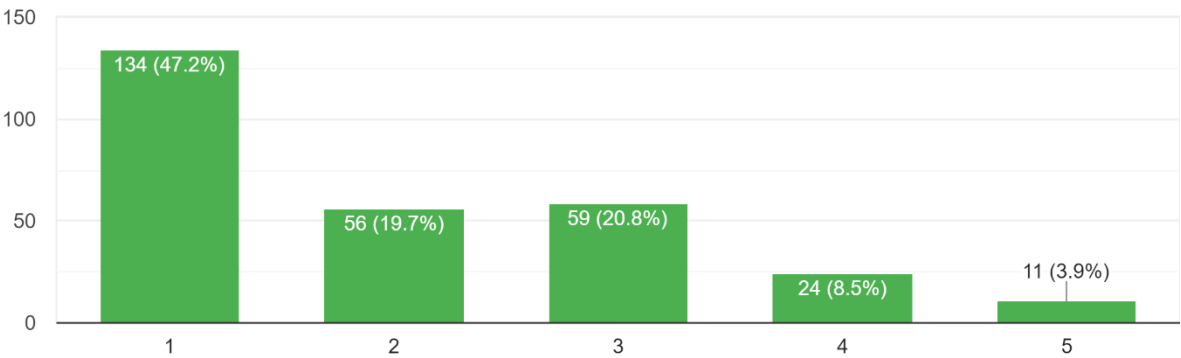
20. Do you currently utilize any of the town's rivers, lakes or ponds for the following?

284 responses



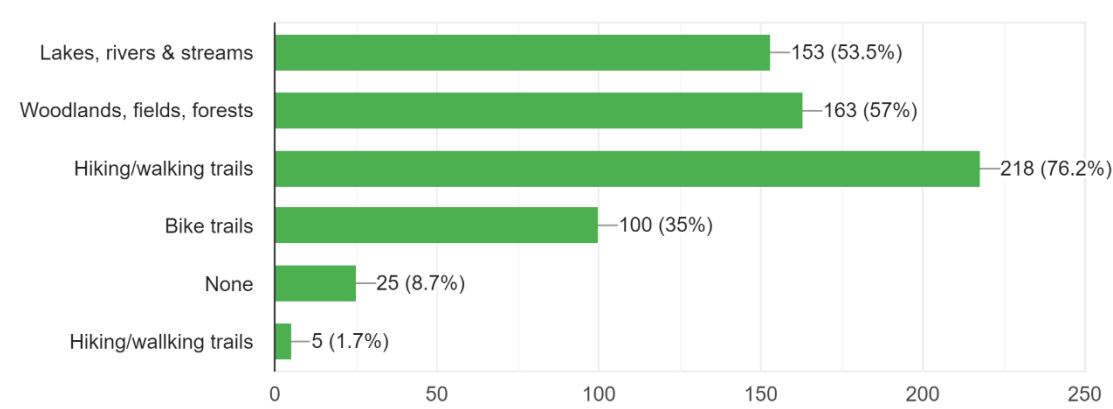
21. How important is it to you that Northbridge allocate additional town funds (\$) to protect ecologically important resource areas?

284 responses



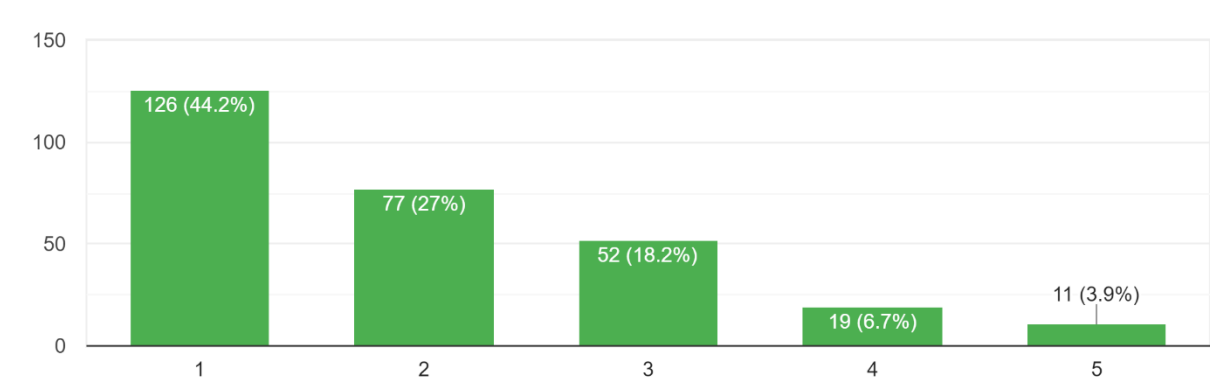
22. Which of the following open space do you use?

286 responses



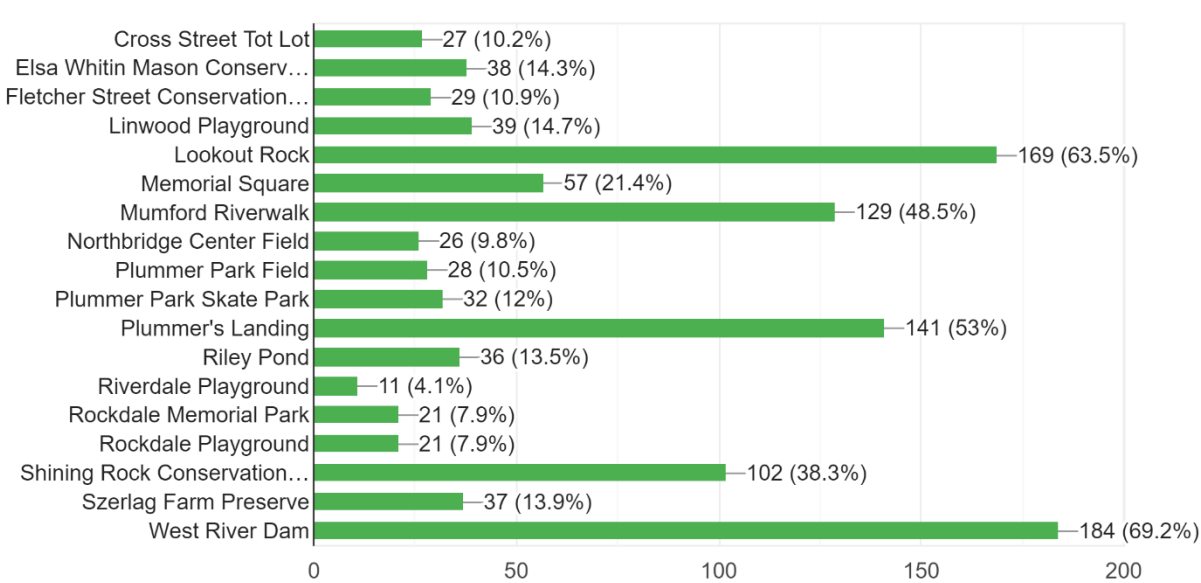
23. How important is it to you that Northbridge allocate additional town funds (\$) to enhance/maintain/expand its open space/conservation land?

285 responses



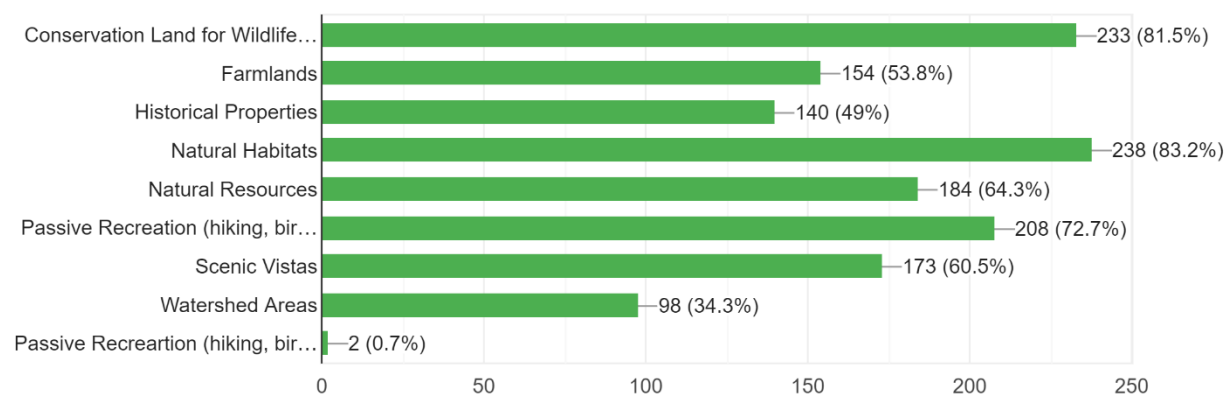
24. Which open space/recreational facilities in town do you and/or household currently use?

266 responses



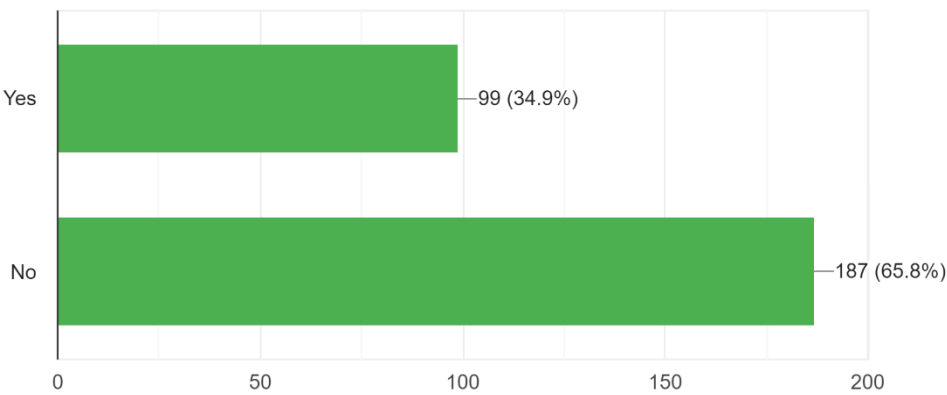
25. Please indicate your "Top 5" priorities for open space & conservation land.

286 responses



26. Are familiar with the Community Preservation Act, commonly referred to as CPA funds?

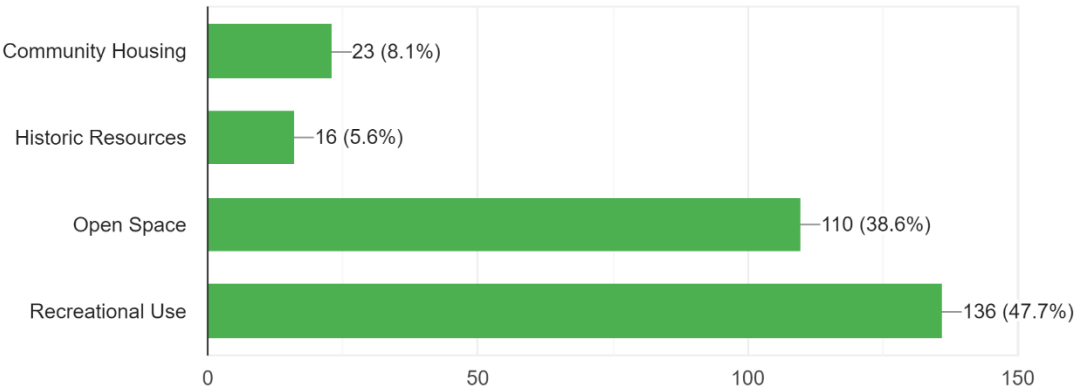
284 responses



Northbridge adopted the Community Preservation Act (CPA) at the November 2017 General Election: adding a 1% surcharge on all real estate property tax bills. Proceeds of the CPA funds collected are deposited into special municipal accounts for Community Housing; Historic Resources; and Open Space & Recreation. CPA funds may be used to acquire, create, preserve OPEN SPACE; acquire, rehabilitate, preserve HISTORIC RESOURCES; acquire, create, preserve, support COMMUNITY HOUSING; and acquire, create, rehabilitate, land for RECREATIONAL USE.

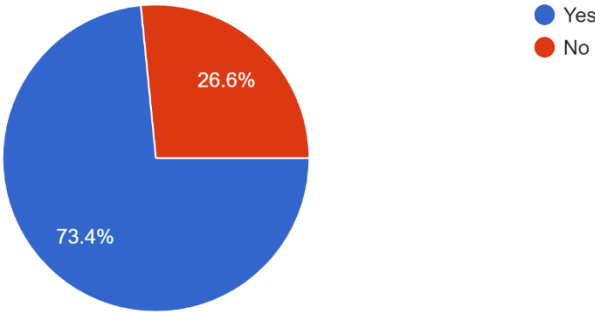
27. Which of the following would you be most likely to support the use of CPA funds for?

285 responses



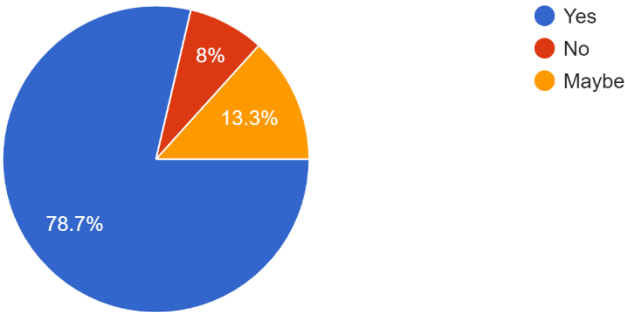
28. Are you familiar with the “Blackstone River Bikeway” a planned 46-mile multi-purpose trail connecting Worcester, MA to Providence, RI; wher...pprox. 6-miles) are proposed within Northbridge?

286 responses



29. Would you support allocation of local funding (\$) to further the bikeway project in Northbridge?

286 responses



30. If you had a magic wand and could improve one thing about open space and recreation in Northbridge, what would it be? 198 responses

1. More of it
2. More playgrounds
3. Protect/expand open space
4. Walking trails
5. Not sure
6. Walking, bike trails and a dog park.
7. Accessibility
8. the town needs to take better care of the current open space and be careful about future building throughout the town. Having lived in the town for over 80 years we are very disappointed in the current conditions.
9. That it would be maintained properly.
10. More places for kids to play.
11. Clean the ponds/rivers
12. Adding more walking/hiking trails that could also be used as bike trails.
13. More playgrounds
14. Clean up all the dead trees and debris from around d the ponds
15. Keep the fields clean and maintained regularly
16. Get the road back to West Hill Park and add porta-potties. No town beaches! Clean up Riley Pond and stop the drug sales - visitors are threatened by them at all hours.
17. more trails to walk on
18. Do NOT clear woodlands for solar- put solar in fields and rooftops- including municipal rooftops
19. More open areas in the community for relaxing
20. I would love to see more of it - tennis courts, biking trails, hiking, and the like.
21. Bikeway
22. large park
23. Bike Path
24. More places for kids and teens to hang out after school and on weekends
25. Have a hired cleaning staff to clean up all trash and debris
26. Protect/expand open space (farm/wood lands)
27. Add more playgrounds and parks
28. Keep open space open, stop building.
29. ADA Access
30. New Playground near Plummers Skate Park
31. Bring back the summer parks program
32. Increase awareness/educate residents about what we already have, and ensure that the spaces are accessible, clean and safe. We need to be proud of what we have already, and generate excitement to maintain, improve and build on that. (I say "clean," because I hated to take the kids to skate park, because they asked what the spray-painted words in graffiti meant. Similar for Lookout/Shining Rock.)
33. The bike path should be a priority to connect to other towns
34. Better playgrounds
35. More benches and cleaner open areas.
36. playgrounds
37. Open space where the community could enjoy spending time in a natural environment.
38. Access to town swimming and beach area.
39. Preservation and improvement of wildlife corridors to ease habitat fragmentation
40. Town swimming area.
41. Tennis courts and sidewalk upkeep/maintenance in neighborhoods
42. Quality and maintenance of parks.
43. Dog parks
44. Easier access
45. Leave the remaining woods and farmlands alone and stop building so many houses and businesses.
46. Clearing of dead trees that pose a hazard to people walking in the area and wildfires.
47. Expand
48. Public swimming access & kayak use
49. Getting the BV Bikeway built.
50. More playgrounds for children
51. Create a way for the community to be part of a cleanup crew to maintain our spaces. Provide trash receptacles for dog waste.
52. Bikeway and hiking trails
53. More playgrounds, accessible fishing.
54. Better mountain biking trails, better skateboard parks
55. Make it usable (good condition) and accessible
56. Ponds are full of invasive species. They need to be managed
57. Better playgrounds for kids in town
58. Peace and quiet
59. Bike/walking trails
60. More hunting
61. Prevent development sprawl into wood/farmlands

62. Cleaner rivers!
63. More paved bike trails.
64. Safe and clean playgrounds
65. More clear access to fishing. Currently people park on the side of the road it's dangerous.
66. More parks and picnic areas. More enforcement of rules and pickup of litter.
67. Keep it clean and safe
68. Use open space in ways that encourage family outings. It was nice when the West River Swimming/playground/picnic area was open. Now it's closed due to a land dispute.
69. More canoe, kayak cartop boat access
70. The softball fields should be just as good as the baseball fields
71. Have a plan to stop sprawl and traffic, ASAP!
72. A playground in or adjacent to nature preserve
73. More walking trails and kids' playgrounds
74. preserve natural areas from development
75. Staff to maintain the area
76. Clean up look out rock
77. Swimming area
78. INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE AVAILABILITY / ACCESSABILITY OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL AREAS IN NORTHBRIDGE
79. Castle hill farm-turn into open space
80. protect farm- and woodlands
81. Expand Blackstone River bike way through northbridge
82. Blackstone river cleaning/clearing
83. Bike trails
84. For people to realize we have plenty of recreational locations, but they have to be willing to MAINTAIN THEM instead of building new places elsewhere. Tired of everyone wanting new things in town when we already have them yet no one is willing to keep up their maintenance.
85. Accessible, updated offerings and supporting the bike path
86. More trails and open space, rec programs for all
87. Playgrounds our currently playgrounds are embarrassing
88. cleaner trails
89. Improve the ethics/responsibility of those that use it
90. More water area
91. I would make the basketball courts better
92. Places to walk and hike that also have a playground and picnic tables
93. Town pool and restructuring playground & recreation to be full time town employees with dedicated budgets that could actually make a difference in town to manage parks etc
94. paved bike trails
95. Running track open to the public during daytime
96. Development of specific cycling lanes, or development of well-maintained shoulders on major cycling roads (e.g. Rt 122) would be a big improvement, and bring more cyclists through Northbridge. Towns that have high-cycling traffic because the shoulders are well-kept include Paxton, Rutland, Barre, and some parts of Douglas and Leicester. Keeping sand and debris off the shoulder is also a safety issue.
97. Purchase Castle Hill Farmland and acquire more woodland conservation areas.
98. In town Playgrounds that can be utilized during in school hours, free zero depth spray park, picnic areas
99. Protect Castle Hill. There's a lot of interesting wildlife there, including rare birds (northern harriers) and animals such as bobcats. Developing the land would have an extremely negative impact on the wildlife.
100. Continuous upkeep of the areas -that they are properly maintained/cleaned.
101. Paved Bike Trail

(optional) If you are interested in learning more about Northbridge's Open Space & Recreation Plan Update and would like to be kept informed -please provide your name and email below: 73 responses

<EMAIL ADDRESSES KEPT ON FILE> -Notice of Public Forum to be sent to Individuals

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey! For questions or additional information regarding the Open Space & Recreation Plan feel free to email us at osrp@northbridgema.org Thank you, take care & be well.