

2015 FITCHBURG URBAN FOREST SURVEY RESULTS

Tree Advisory
Committee
February 23rd,
2015

SURVEY RESPONSE

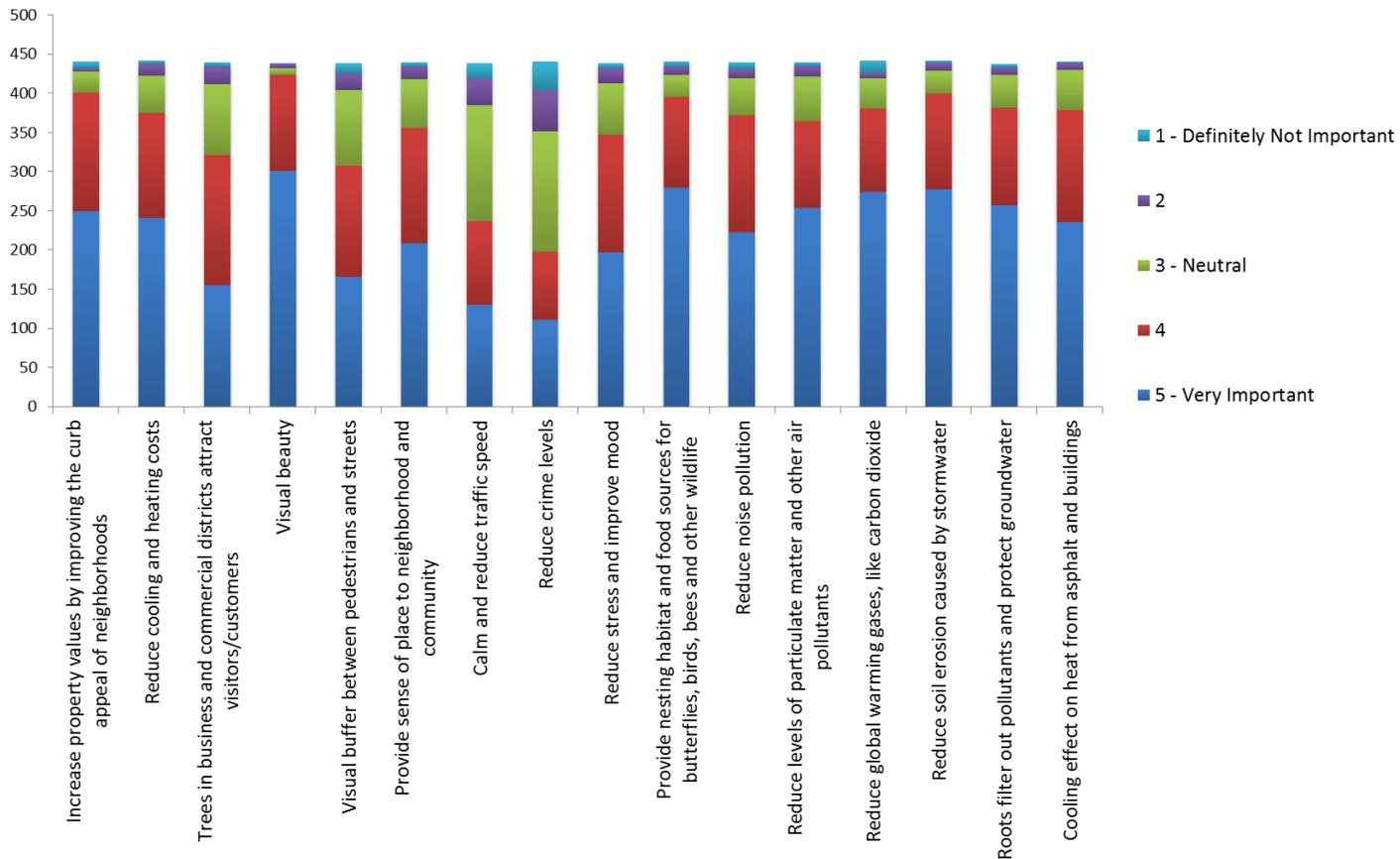
- **534 responses in total**
 - **507 online**
 - **2 surveys completed in Spanish**
 - **27 hardcopy**

PLEASE RATE THE IMPORTANCE TO YOU OF THE FOLLOWING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS PROVIDED BY OUR PUBLIC TREES:

Answer Options	1 - Definitely Not Important	2	3 - Neutral	4	5 - Very Important	Response Count
Increase property values by improving the curb	9	4	27	152	249	441
Reduce cooling and heating costs	5	15	47	134	241	442
Trees in business and commercial districts attract	6	22	91	166	155	440
Visual beauty	1	5	9	122	301	438
Visual buffer between pedestrians and streets	12	22	97	141	166	438
Provide sense of place to neighborhood and	6	16	62	148	208	440
Calm and reduce traffic speed	20	34	149	106	130	439
Reduce crime levels	37	52	154	87	111	441
Reduce stress and improve mood	7	19	66	150	197	439
Provide nesting habitat and food sources for	7	10	28	117	279	441
Reduce noise pollution	9	12	47	149	223	440
Reduce levels of particulate matter and other air	5	14	57	110	254	440
Reduce global warming gases, like carbon dioxide	15	8	39	106	274	442
Reduce soil erosion caused by stormwater	4	9	29	123	277	442
Roots filter out pollutants and protect groundwater	4	10	41	125	257	437
Cooling effect on heat from asphalt and buildings	3	8	52	143	235	441
<i>answered question</i>						443
<i>skipped question</i>						91

PLEASE RATE THE IMPORTANCE TO YOU OF THE FOLLOWING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS PROVIDED BY OUR PUBLIC TREES:

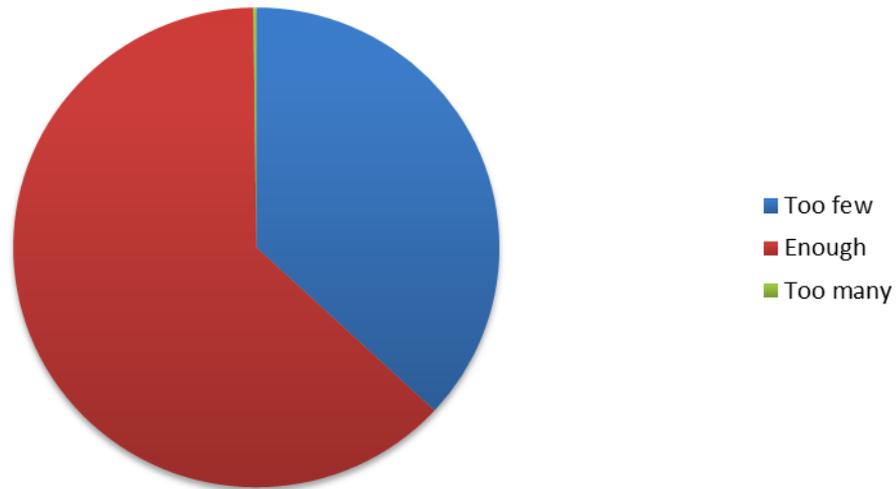
Please rate the importance to you of the following economic, social and environmental benefits provided by our public trees:



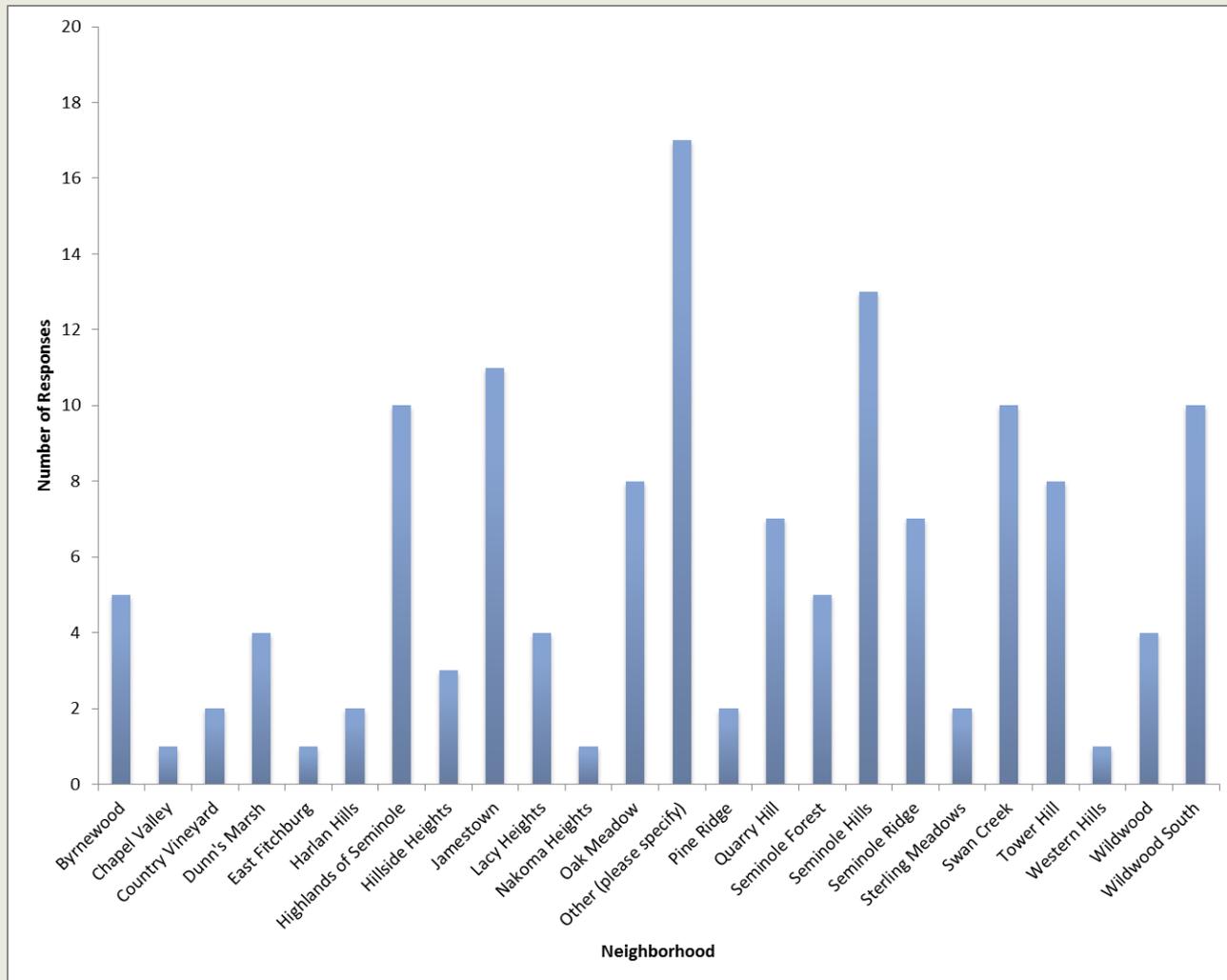
THE NUMBER OF TREES ON MY STREET IS:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Too few	36.9%	159
Enough	62.9%	271
Too many	0.2%	1
<i>answered question</i>		431
<i>skipped question</i>		103

The number of trees on my street is:



THE NUMBER OF TREES ON MY STREET IS 'TOO FEW':

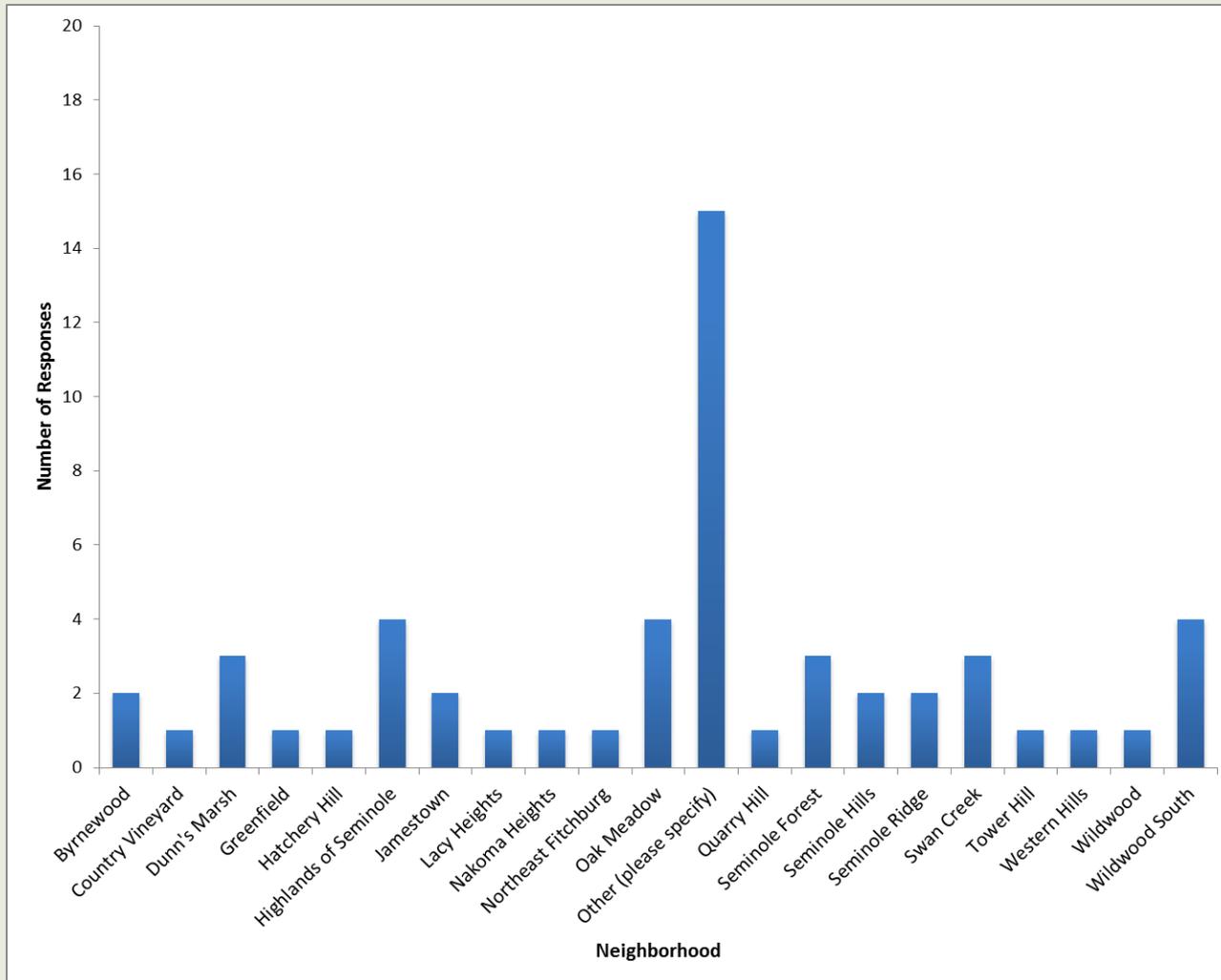


THE TREES ON MY STREET ARE:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Not cared for	15.1%	65
Adequately cared for	67.7%	291
Well cared for	17.2%	74
<i>answered question</i>		430
<i>skipped question</i>		104



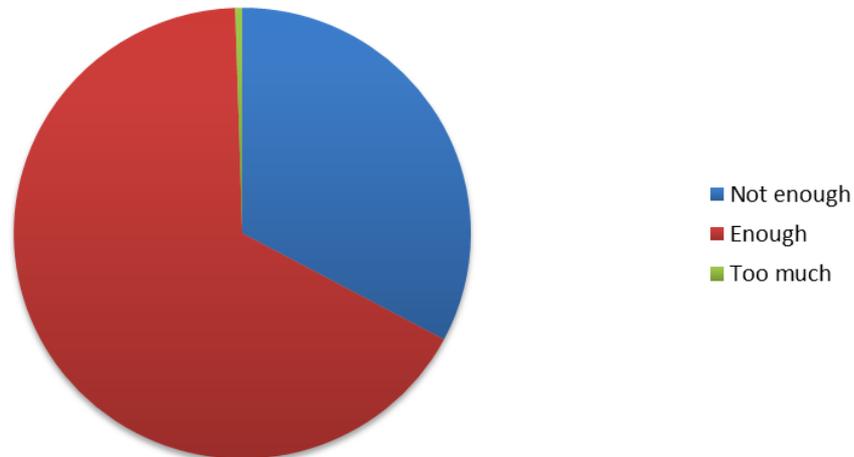
THE TREES ON MY STREET ARE 'NOT CARED FOR':



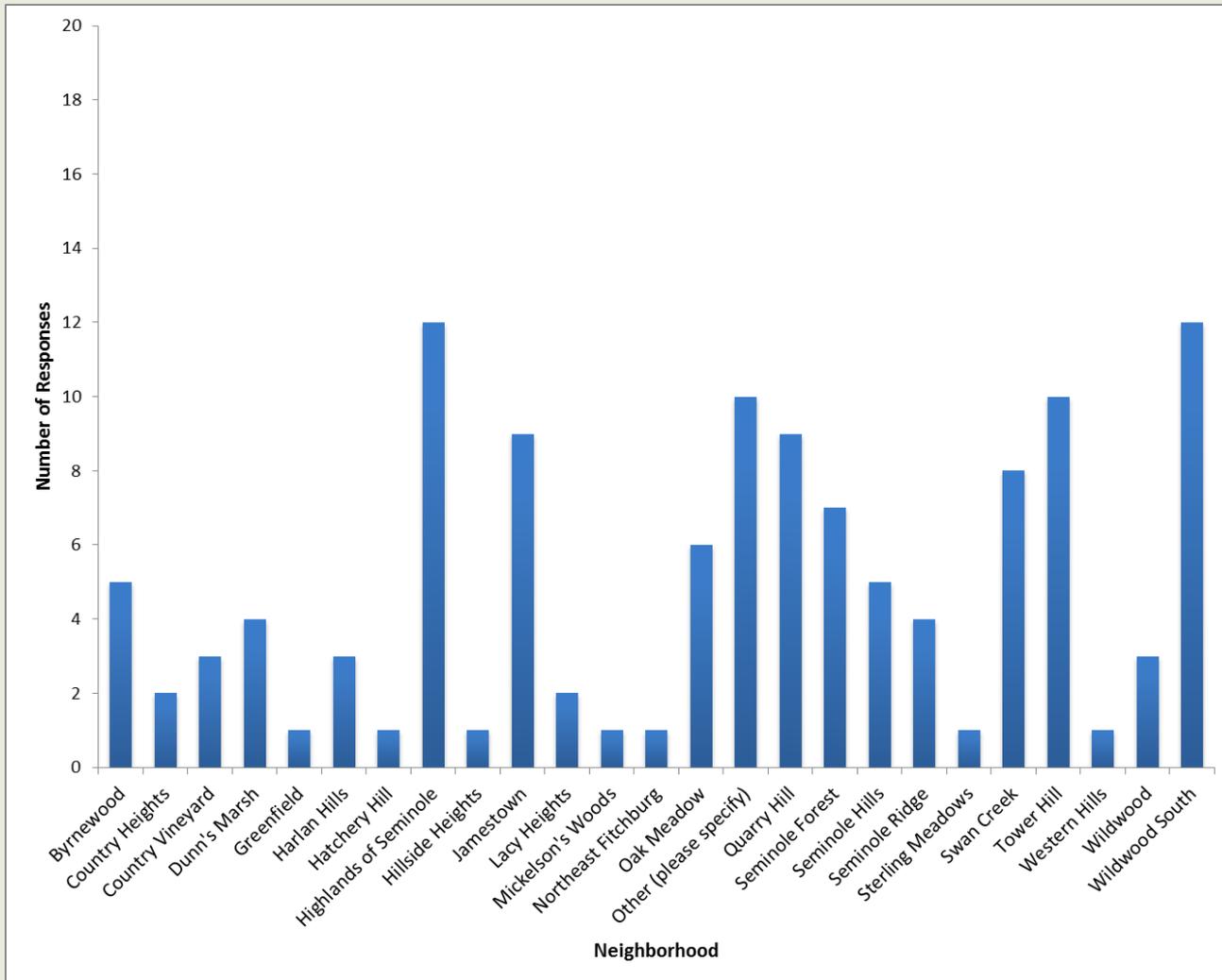
THE VISUAL DIVERSITY OF TREES ON MY STREET IS:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Not enough	32.8%	141
Enough	66.7%	287
Too much	0.5%	2
<i>answered question</i>		430
<i>skipped question</i>		104

The visual diversity of trees on my street is:



THE VISUAL DIVERSITY OF TREES ON MY STREET IS 'NOT ENOUGH':



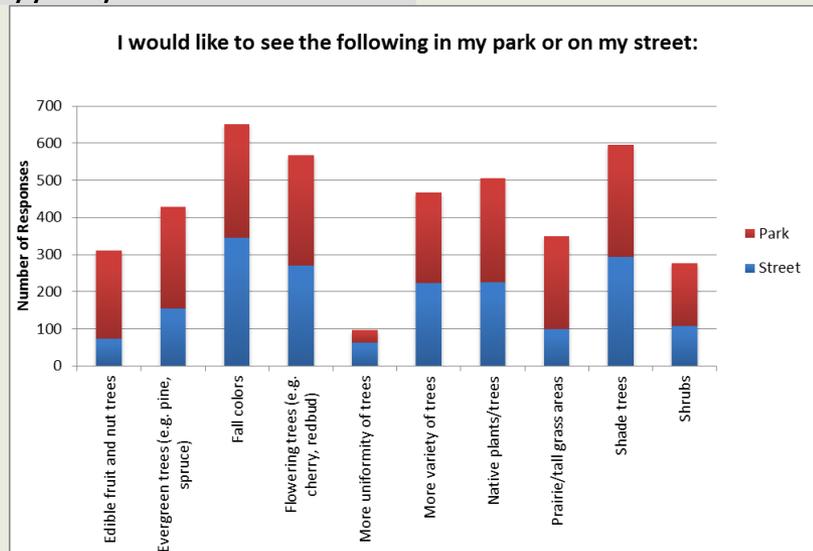
PARK NAME:

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Arrowhead	0.0%	0
Belmar Hills	0.6%	2
Briarwood	0.3%	1
Byrne	6.3%	21
Chicory Meadow	8.0%	27
Clayton	0.0%	0
Commerce Park Hillside	0.0%	0
Country Vineyard	0.9%	3
Curry Court	0.0%	0
Dawley Conservancy	0.0%	0
Dunn's Marsh	0.6%	2
Fitchburg Center	0.3%	1
Fitchburg Springs	0.6%	2
Gorman Wayside	0.0%	0
Greenfield	3.0%	10
Gunflint Trail	0.0%	0
Harlan Hills	1.5%	5
Hatchery Hill	0.0%	0
Hawk Ridge	1.8%	6
Hillside Heights	1.5%	5
Huegel-Jamestown	7.7%	26
McGaw	5.7%	19
McKee Farms	16.1%	54
Nannyberry	3.3%	11
Nevin Village Green	0.6%	2
Nobel Woods	0.3%	1
Oak Meadow	3.9%	13
Orchard Pointe Natural Area	0.0%	0
Perry J. Schappe	0.0%	0
Pine Ridge	0.9%	3
Quarry Hill	5.7%	19
Quarry Ridge	0.3%	1
Rimrock	0.0%	0
Rosecommon	3.6%	12
S. Johnson	0.0%	0
Seminole Glen	6.8%	23
Stoner Prairie	2.7%	9
Tower Hill	2.4%	8
Western Hills	1.2%	4
Wildwood	2.1%	7
Wildwood South	3.6%	12
Other (please specify)	8.0%	27
	answered question	336
	skipped question	198

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE FOLLOWING IN MY PARK OR ON MY STREET:

I would like to see the following in my park or on my street:

Answer Options	Park	Street	Response Count
Edible fruit and nut trees	237	74	249
Evergreen trees (e.g. pine, spruce)	274	154	306
Fall colors	306	346	378
Flowering trees (e.g. cherry, redbud)	297	270	356
More uniformity of trees	35	62	82
More variety of trees	245	223	286
Native plants/trees	280	225	309
Prairie/tall grass areas	251	98	264
Shade trees	303	293	364
Shrubs	169	107	204
answered question			407
skipped question			127

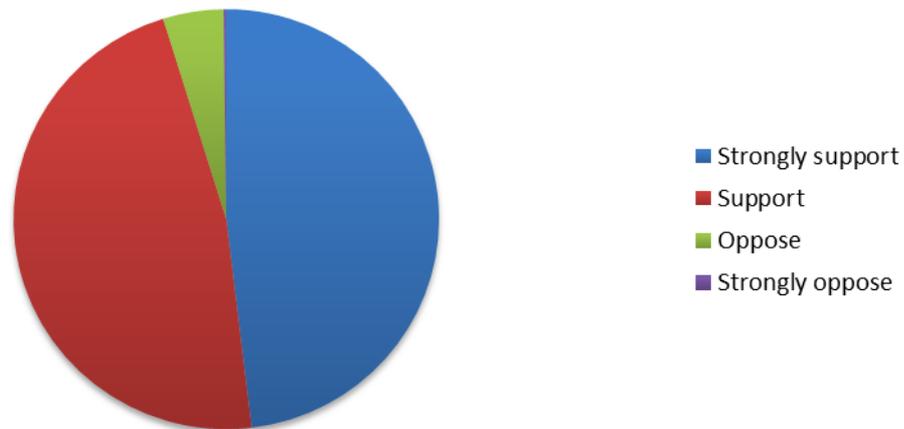


HOW STRONGLY WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF NATIVE TREES AND UNDERSTORY PLANTS ON PUBLIC LANDS?

refer to handout for comments

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly support	48.1%	199
Support	47.1%	195
Oppose	4.6%	19
Strongly oppose	0.2%	1
<i>answered question</i>		414
<i>skipped question</i>		120

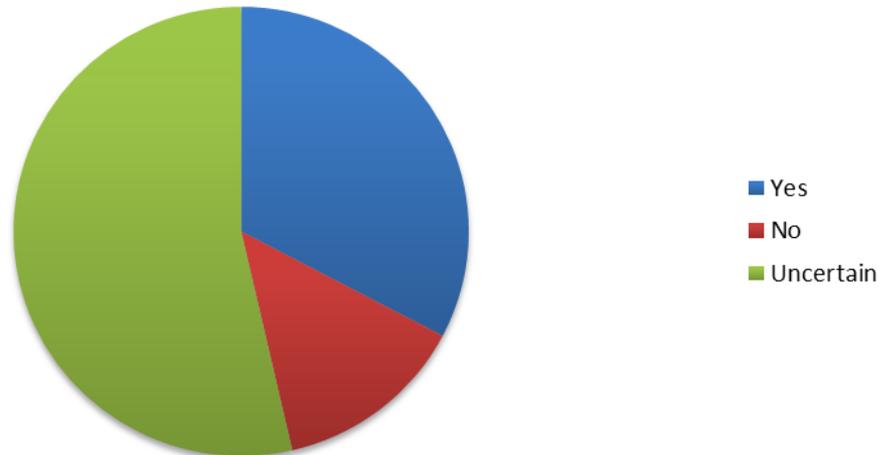
How strongly would you support or oppose restoration and maintenance of native trees and understory plants on public lands?



DO YOU FEEL THAT INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES ARE A PROBLEM IN FITCHBURG PARKS?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	32.7%	136
No	13.7%	57
Uncertain	53.6%	223
<i>answered question</i>		416
<i>skipped question</i>		118

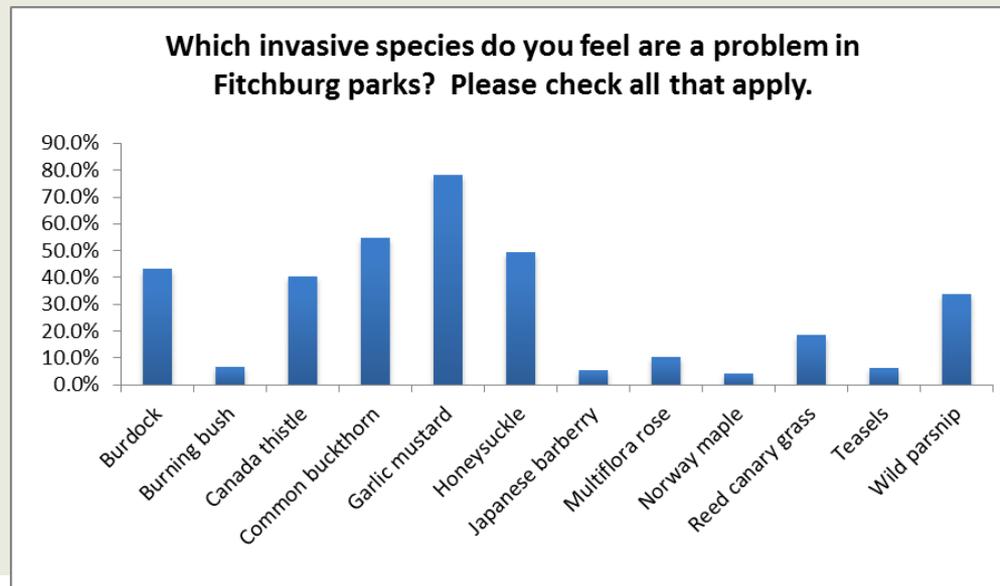
Do you feel that invasive plant species are a problem in Fitchburg parks?



WHICH INVASIVE SPECIES DO YOU FEEL ARE A PROBLEM IN FITCHBURG PARKS?

refer to handout for comments

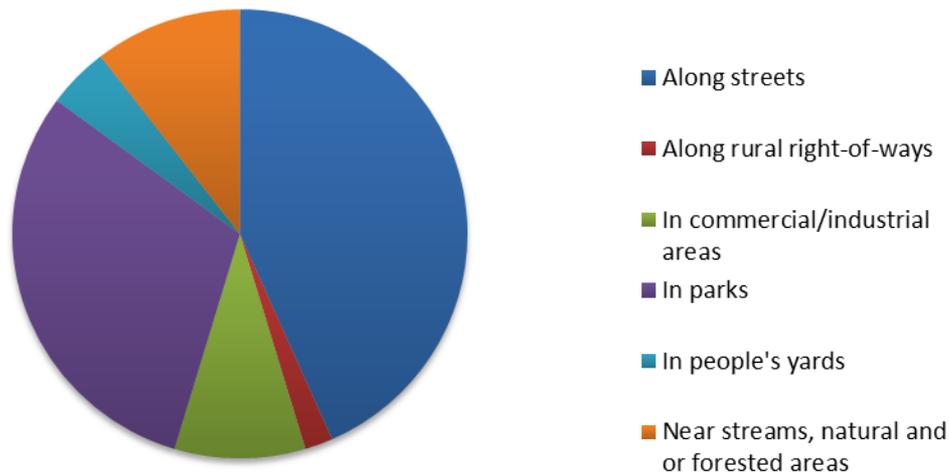
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Burdock	43.4%	72
Burning bush	6.6%	11
Canada thistle	40.4%	67
Common buckthorn	54.8%	91
Garlic mustard	78.3%	130
Honeysuckle	49.4%	82
Japanese barberry	5.4%	9
Multiflora rose	10.2%	17
Norway maple	4.2%	7
Reed canary grass	18.7%	31
Teasels	6.0%	10
Wild parsnip	33.7%	56
<i>answered question</i>		166
<i>skipped question</i>		368



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD BE YOUR FIRST CHOICE OF WHERE THE CITY SHOULD PLANT TREES?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Along streets	43.4%	178
Along rural right-of-ways	2.0%	8
In commercial/industrial areas	9.3%	38
In parks	30.5%	125
In people's yards	4.4%	18
Near streams, natural and or forested areas	10.5%	43
<i>answered question</i>		410
<i>skipped question</i>		124

Which of the following would be your first choice of where the city should plant trees?

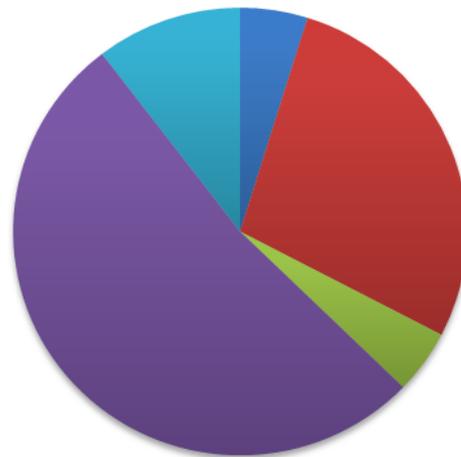


WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS MOST CLOSELY REPRESENTS YOUR OPINION ABOUT TREES?

** refer to handout for comments **

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Allow individuals to remove trees as they wish	4.8%	20
Preserve as many as possible	27.8%	115
Preserve only large or unique trees	4.6%	19
When trees are removed, replace them	52.3%	216
Other (please specify)	10.4%	43
<i>answered question</i>		413
<i>skipped question</i>		121

Which of the following statements most closely represents your opinion about trees?

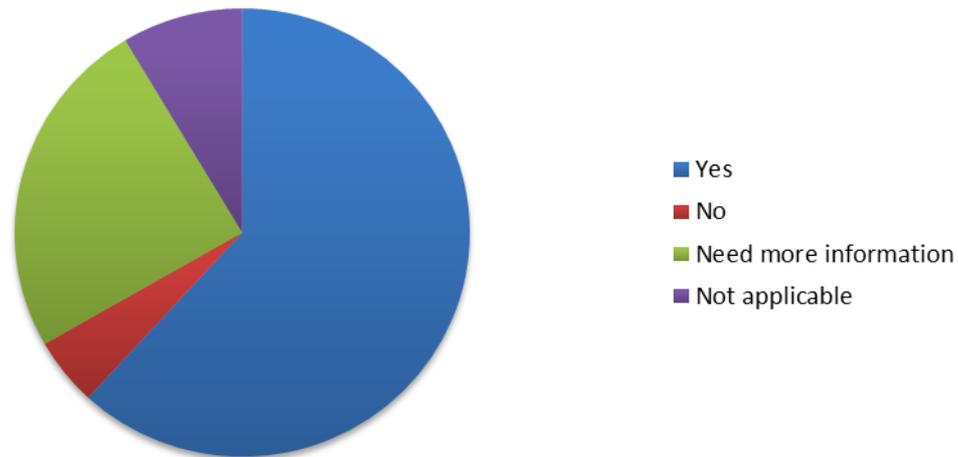


- Allow individuals to remove trees as they wish
- Preserve as many as possible
- Preserve only large or unique trees
- When trees are removed, replace them
- Other (please specify)

WOULD YOU PLANT TREES ON YOUR PROPERTY IF OFFERED A MONETARY INCENTIVE?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	61.9%	253
No	4.9%	20
Need more information	24.7%	101
Not applicable	8.6%	35
<i>answered question</i>		409
<i>skipped question</i>		125

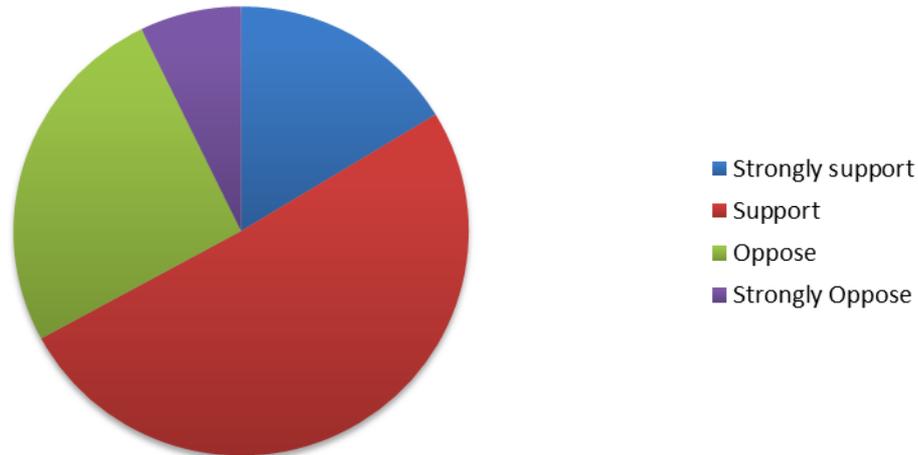
Would you plant trees on your property if offered a monetary incentive?



HOW STRONGLY WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE PAYING MORE IN PROPERTY TAXES TO BETTER MAINTAIN AND PROTECT EXISTING CITY TREES?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly support	16.3%	66
Support	50.7%	205
Oppose	25.7%	104
Strongly Oppose	7.2%	29
<i>answered question</i>		404
<i>skipped question</i>		130

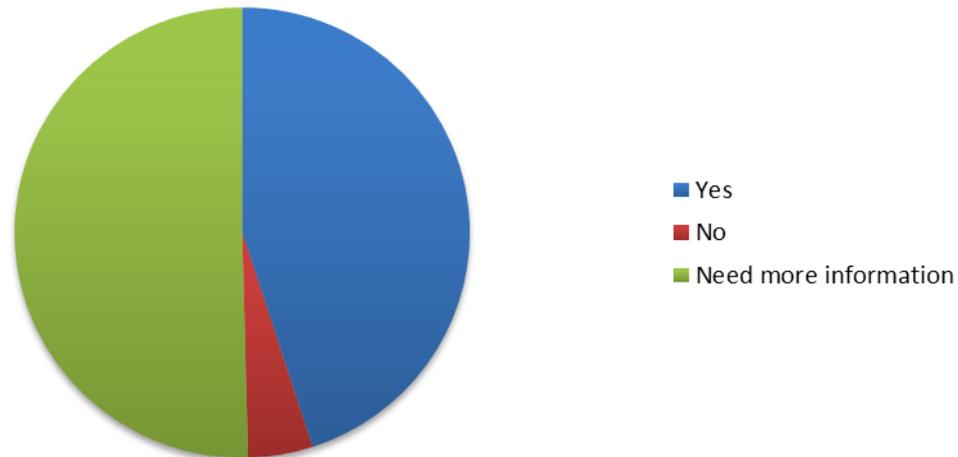
How strongly would you support or oppose paying more in property taxes to better maintain and protect existing city trees?



SHOULD THE CITY REALLOCATE EXISTING RESOURCES TO BETTER MAINTAIN AND PROTECT EXISTING CITY TREES WITHOUT RAISING PROPERTY TAXES?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	45.0%	184
No	4.6%	19
Need more information	50.4%	206
<i>answered question</i>		409
<i>skipped question</i>		125

Should the City reallocate existing resources to better maintain and protect existing city trees without raising property taxes?



HOW STRONGLY WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE CITY REGULATIONS THAT WOULD REQUIRE SOME TREES BE PRESERVED AND NEW ONES PLANTED ON SITES THAT ARE BEING DEVELOPED?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly support	46.4%	187
Support	44.9%	181
Oppose	6.9%	28
Strongly oppose	1.7%	7
<i>answered question</i>		403
<i>skipped question</i>		131

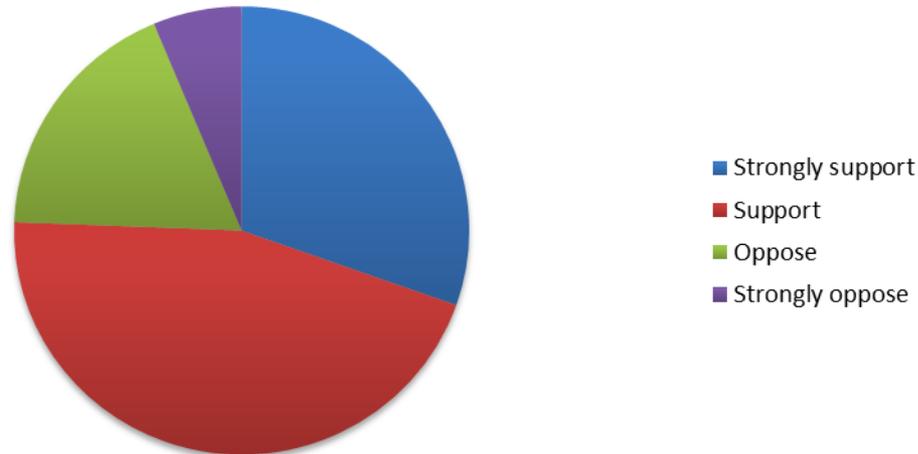
How strongly would you support or oppose city regulations that would require some trees be preserved and new ones planted on sites that are being developed?



HOW STRONGLY WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE TREE REMOVAL REGULATIONS DURING PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly support	30.4%	121
Support	45.2%	180
Oppose	18.1%	72
Strongly oppose	6.3%	25
<i>answered question</i>		398
<i>skipped question</i>		136

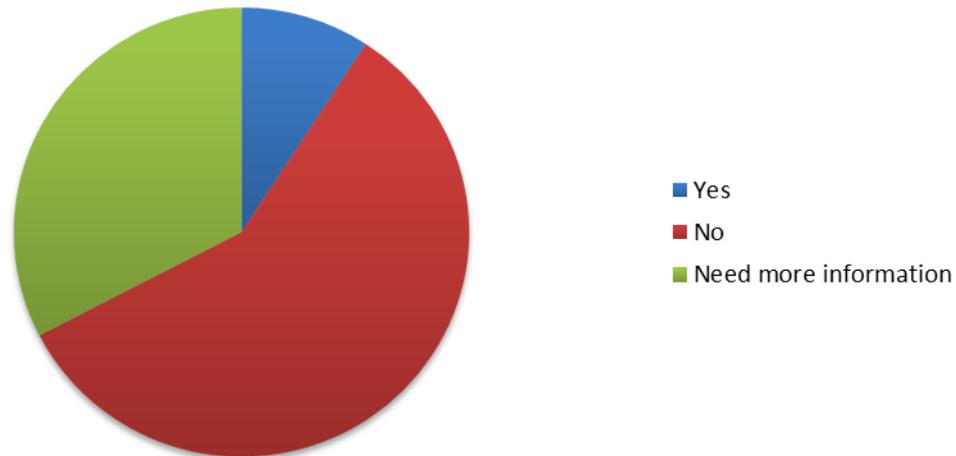
How strongly would you support or oppose tree removal regulations during property development?



SHOULD THE CITY ALLOW THE DECISION TO PRESERVE EXISTING TREES TO BE LEFT UP TO THE DEVELOPER?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	9.2%	37
No	58.2%	234
Need more information	32.6%	131
<i>answered question</i>		402
<i>skipped question</i>		132

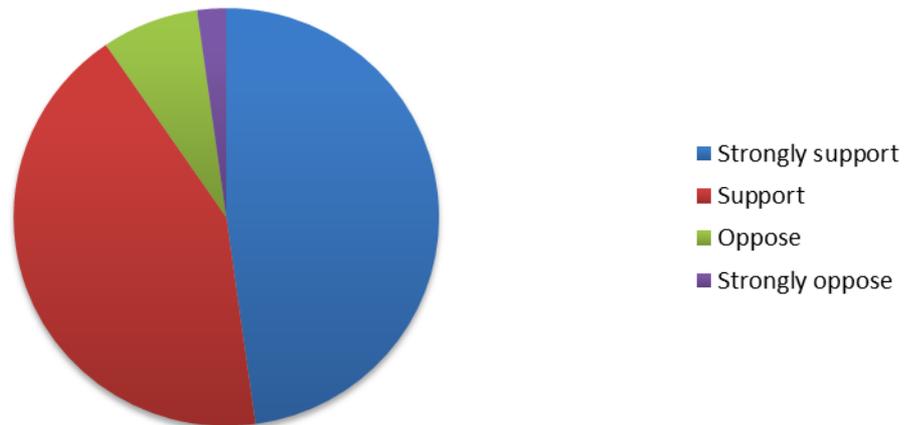
Should the City allow the decision to preserve existing trees to be left up to the developer?



HOW STRONGLY WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE CITY REGULATIONS THAT WOULD PROVIDE SOME LEVEL OF PROTECTION TO PRESERVE LARGE, HEALTHY TREES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY (E.G. 200+ YEAR OLD HERITAGE OAKS)?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Strongly support	47.8%	193
Support	42.6%	172
Oppose	7.4%	30
Strongly oppose	2.2%	9
<i>answered question</i>		404
<i>skipped question</i>		130

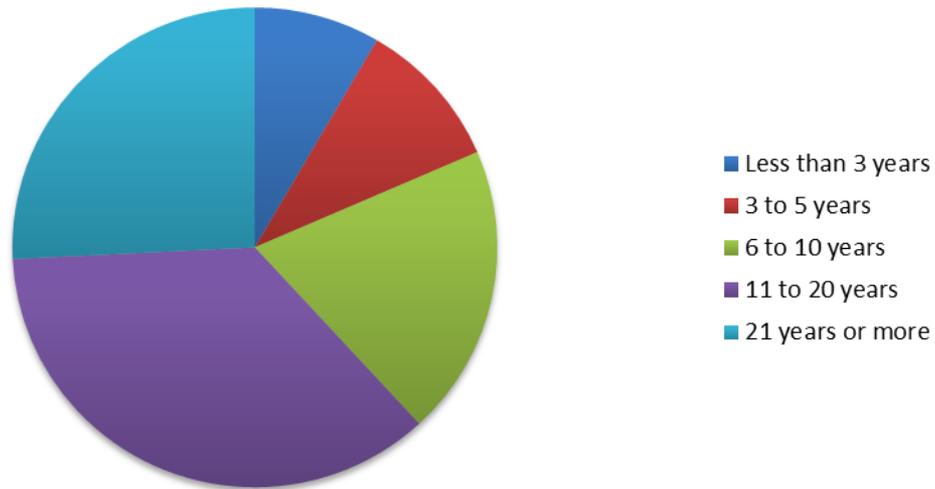
How strongly would you support or oppose city regulations that would provide some level of protection to preserve large, healthy trees on private property (e.g. 200+ year old heritage oaks)?



HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN FITCHBURG?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 3 years	8.4%	34
3 to 5 years	10.1%	41
6 to 10 years	19.7%	80
11 to 20 years	36.1%	147
21 years or more	25.8%	105
<i>answered question</i>		407
<i>skipped question</i>		127

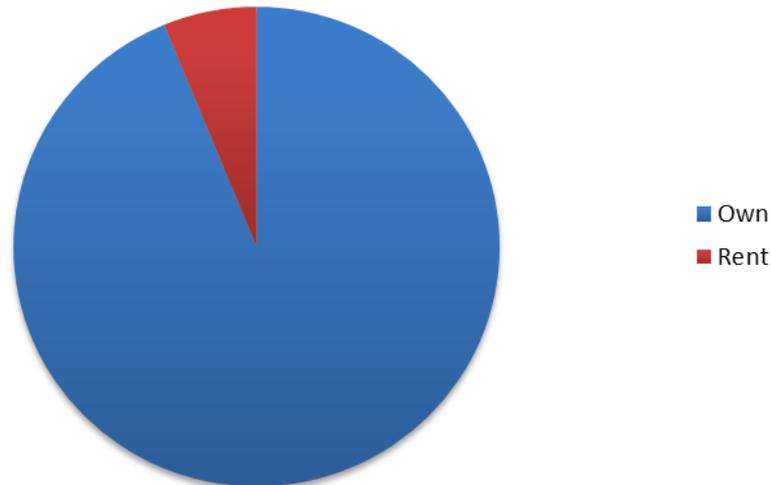
How long have you lived in Fitchburg?



DO YOU RENT OR OWN THE PLACE WHERE YOU LIVE?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Own	93.8%	378
Rent	6.2%	25
<i>answered question</i>		403
<i>skipped question</i>		131

Do you rent or own the place where you live?



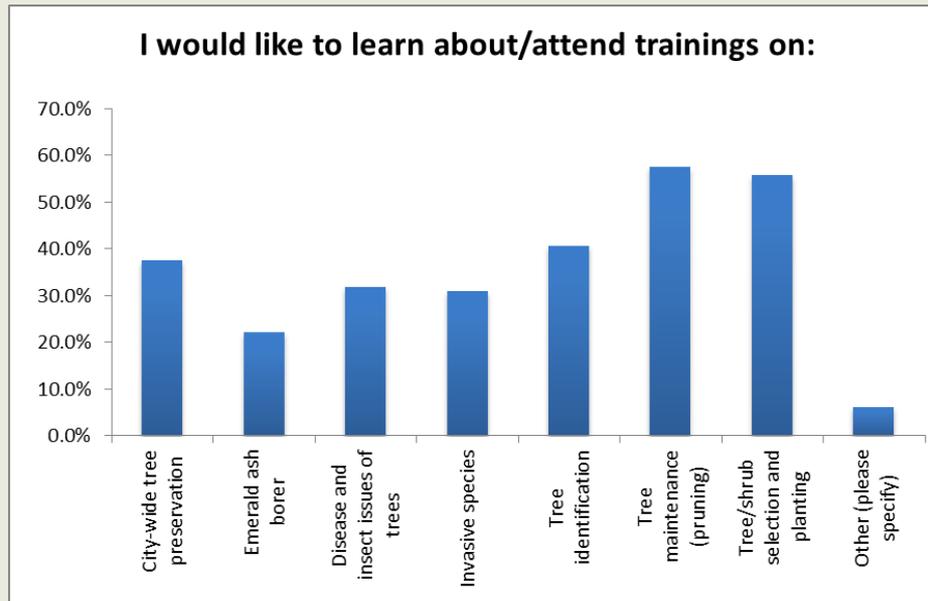
WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD DO YOU LIVE IN?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Braeger Court	0.0%	0
Briarwood	0.5%	2
Byrnewood	4.5%	17
Chapel Valley	1.0%	4
Country Heights	1.0%	4
Country Vineyard	1.0%	4
Dunn's Marsh	1.6%	6
East Fitchburg	1.6%	6
Forsythe Downs	0.0%	0
Greenfield	3.4%	13
Harlan Hills	3.4%	13
Hatchery Hill	0.3%	1
Highlands of Seminole	9.4%	36
Hillside Heights	2.1%	8
Jamestown	7.3%	28
Lacy Heights	2.4%	9
Leopold	0.0%	0
Maple Lawn heights	0.0%	0
Mickelson's Woods	0.3%	1
Morning Sun	0.0%	0
Nakoma Heights	0.3%	1
Nesbitt Heights	0.0%	0
Northeast Fitchburg	0.8%	3
Oak Meadow	3.9%	15
Pine Ridge	0.5%	2
Quarry Hill	3.4%	13
Seminole Forest	8.1%	31
Seminole Hills	4.7%	18
Seminole Ridge	3.4%	13
Sterling Meadows	0.5%	2
Swan Creek	7.3%	28
Timber Lake Knolls	0.0%	0
Tower Hill	4.7%	18
Western Hills	0.5%	2
Wildwood	3.4%	13
Wildwood South	7.3%	28
Willow Run	0.0%	0
Other (please specify)	11.0%	42
answered question		381
skipped question		153

I WOULD LIKE TO LEARN ABOUT/ATTEND TRAININGS ON:

refer to handout for comments

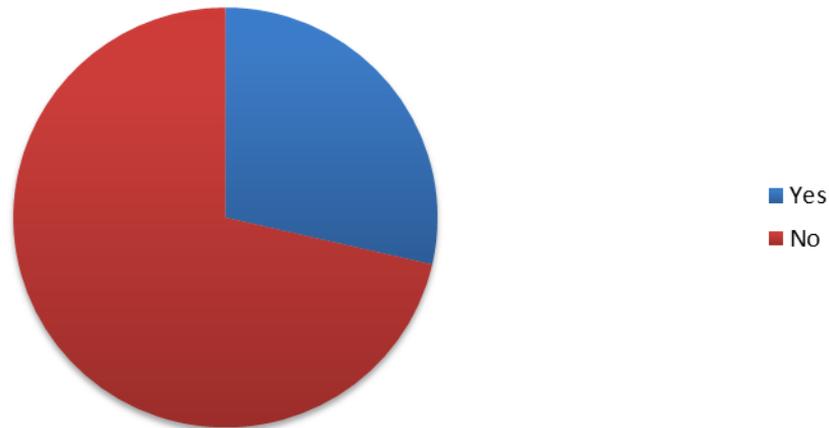
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
City-wide tree preservation	37.6%	86
Emerald ash borer	22.3%	51
Disease and insect issues of trees	31.9%	73
Invasive species	31.0%	71
Tree identification	40.6%	93
Tree maintenance (pruning)	57.6%	132
Tree/shrub selection and planting	55.9%	128
Other (please specify)	6.1%	14
answered question		229
skipped question		305



WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR URBAN FOREST AND PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS? COORDINATION AND TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED AS NECESSARY.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	28.6%	106
No	71.4%	265
<i>answered question</i>		371
<i>skipped question</i>		163

Would you like to volunteer for urban forest and park improvement projects? Coordination and training will be provided as necessary.



IF YES, WHICH PROJECTS WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN?

refer to handout for comments

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
City street and/or park tree inventory	36.9%	41
Invasive plant removal	35.1%	39
Get involved with a community orchard	34.2%	38
Pruning street and park trees	15.3%	17
Trail maintenance in natural areas	36.0%	40
Tree planting	52.3%	58
Other (please specify)	11.7%	13
answered question		111
skipped question		423

