



UPDATED MEMORANDUM

TO: Wilsonville City Council

FROM: Amanda Guile-Hinman, City Attorney

DATE: April 22, 2023

RE: Public Outreach – Prohibited Camping Code Update Project

I. INTRODUCTION

This memorandum provides the public outreach undertaken by staff regarding the prohibited camping code update project. **Exhibit 1** attached hereto is the Let's Talk, Wilsonville! questionnaire results report. The questionnaire received the largest community response of a Let's Talk, Wilsonville! survey at 437 responses. This memorandum details the other outreach components already undertaken and those planned in the coming days.

II. OUTREACH EFFORTS

In addition to information collected internally from City personnel from the Parks and Recreation, Library, Public Works, Code Compliance, Police, and Administration Departments, staff has contacted, or attempted to contact, Wilsonville Community Sharing, Heart of the City, fourteen religious organizations located in the city, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Wilsonville Alliance for Inclusive Communities, and 26 local homeowners associations. Staff also contacted the West Linn-Wilsonville School District; Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue; Clackamas County Health, Housing, and Human Services; and several regional, state, and federal agencies that work with unhoused individuals and the housing crisis.

City representatives met with Wilsonville Community Sharing, Heart of the City, Creekside Bible Church, Clackamas County employees, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue representatives, West Linn-Wilsonville School District employees, the Wilsonville Alliance for Inclusive Communities, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Library Board, and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

The City coordinated with Wilsonville Community Sharing for it to collect responses from individuals experiencing homelessness to provide information to the City about camping regulations.

III. INFORMATION FROM OUTREACH

This memorandum summarizes the information obtained from interviews conducted thus far.

A. Services Provided

Below is information regarding services provided to unhoused individuals¹ by those organizations staff interviewed:

- Clackamas County Housing and Community Development department discussed with City staff several important resources available to unhoused individuals.
 - Clackamas County has a program called Coordinated Housing Access, which serves as the starting point to get individuals connected to housing and support services. People can call **(503) 655-8575** and leave a message or fill out the online form at <https://www.clackamas.us/communitydevelopment/cha>.
 - Clackamas County also has a number people may call when an individual appears to be experiencing a mental health crisis, but does not appear dangerous or need a police response. That phone number is **(503) 655-8585**. Individuals experiencing suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress can also dial **988**, which is the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
- Wilsonville Community Sharing (WCS) provides “grab and go” food for unhoused individuals on Tuesdays from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm and 6 pm to 7:15 pm at its food pantry located in the City’s Art Tech Building at 29796 SW Town Center Loop East. Community members will sometimes donate to WCS small dollar gift cards to local restaurants and grocery stores that are given out to unhoused individuals. WCS noted that they provided food to 52 unhoused individuals last year, but that number is duplicative because many people came to WCS each week for food.

¹ These organizations in many cases provide other services to individuals based on other life circumstances, but the interviews are specifically focused on services provided to unhoused individuals.

They estimate that they provided approximately 1,000 pounds of food to unhoused persons last year.

- Heart of the City provides counseling, rental and utility payment assistance, clothing, sleeping materials, and other necessities for individuals experiencing homelessness or are vulnerable to becoming unhoused. Its hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 am to 2 pm.
- The West-Linn Wilsonville School District staff explained that the school district works to remove barriers that prevent unhoused students from attending school. One way the school district does this is by providing transportation to the student's "school of origin." If a student's family is unhoused and staying in location(s) outside of the school or school district boundaries, the school district will provide transportation to ensure the student is able to attend their school of origin. Providing transportation to an unhoused student's school of origin is a requirement under federal law (42 USC §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)). Another way the school district works to remove barriers is by offering free or reduced lunch. Applications for the program should be submitted during the summer prior to the start of the school year or at the beginning of the school year. The application can be found here:
<https://www.ode.state.or.us/apps/frlapp>.

B. Other Notable Discussion Points

In these interviews, staff also inquired about the service providers' general experiences, barriers to providing services, and any considerations that should go into a prohibited camping code update. Below is a summary of some notable discussion points raised:

- Providers noted that many of the unhoused individuals they serve live in their vehicles and camp at the rest stop. They estimated approximately 80% of the individuals are senior citizens and mainly men. They also stated that almost all of the individuals that sought services are not addicted to drugs or drug users nor appear to have significant mental health disorders.
- Another service provider stated that the unhoused individuals they serve are generally not unsheltered, but rather living in others' homes or temporarily in vehicles.

- A service provider explained that a barrier that does occur for some unhoused individuals in the community is what to do when their vehicle breaks down. Since this provider's experience is that many unhoused residents in the community live in their vehicles, a vehicle breaking down means they cannot drive and move their car and are more likely to have their vehicle (their home) towed.
- None of the providers were overly enthusiastic about a private property camping program – though some expressed a willingness to work with the City on a City-sponsored program.
- Clackamas County is planning to launch new programs and infrastructure for supportive housing through Metro's new Supportive Housing Services tax.
 - Clackamas County staff provided a presentation to the City Council on February 23, 2023 about some of its new initiatives.
- Clackamas County provides utility payment assistance and limited water and wastewater payment assistance to low-income individuals. People can call **(503) 650-5640** or fill out an application request at <https://www.clackamas.us/socialservices/energyassistance>
- One provider noted that some COVID-19 emergency benefits came to an end in March 2023. February was the last month that the federal government will allow Oregon to issue pandemic emergency food benefits for eligible SNAP households. For more information about this change and regular SNAP benefits, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/ASSISTANCE/FOOD-BENEFITS/Pages/Emergency-Allotments.aspx>.
- One interviewee explained that many unhoused individuals in the area do not want to be visible to the community. Visibility often means that the camp will closed down, unhoused individuals could be harassed, or items might be stolen.
- One interviewee connected with unhoused individuals at the rest stop from approximately 2008 through 2010. Most people lived in their vehicles. The interviewee explained that for most of those individuals, the biggest hurdles were not drugs, alcohol, or severe mental health disorders, but rather a lack of basic life skills.

- Another interviewee similarly noted that most unhoused unsheltered individuals in Wilsonville live in their vehicles. A suggestion was to look at the regulations for vehicles differently (and more permissively) than tent camping or sleeping directly on sidewalks and City property.
- Interviewees were generally supportive of continuing to close parks at night to all people, including unhoused individuals.
- Supportive sanitation facilities was a common theme in many of the interviews, particularly focusing on garbage receptacles and restrooms. This is an item that will be discussed among the inter-departmental team as allowable places to camp are identified.

C. Survey of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Below is a summary of the feedback that the City received from Heart of the City through the survey Heart of the City administered to individuals experiencing homelessness on behalf of the City. This survey was conducted on a Tuesday during the times the food pantry was open.

- Many prefer lighted area, close to restrooms
- They also requested trash receptacles
- Many asked for signs/maps to know where to go and what regulations are
- They asked for nightly patrols – many expressed concerns about safety/theft
- Many preferred a 24 hour, 12 hour, or 7 pm to 7 am camping timeframe
- Some expressed interest in a sign-in or registration process
- Some expressed desire for outlets to charge devices
- Some were concerned about the presence of drugs and loud music

Survey

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

19 July 2019 - 05 February 2023

PROJECT NAME:

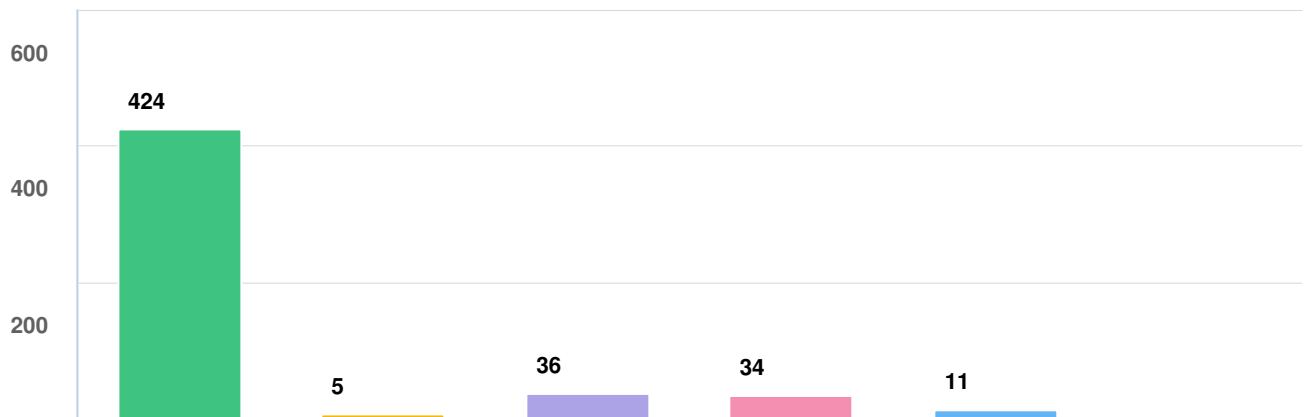
Legal Review of Prohibited Camping Code





SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 What is your relationship to the City of Wilsonville?



Question options

- I live in Wilsonville
- I go to school in Wilsonville
- I am employed by a Wilsonville business
- I operate a Wilsonville business
- I am a frequent visitor to Wilsonville
- None

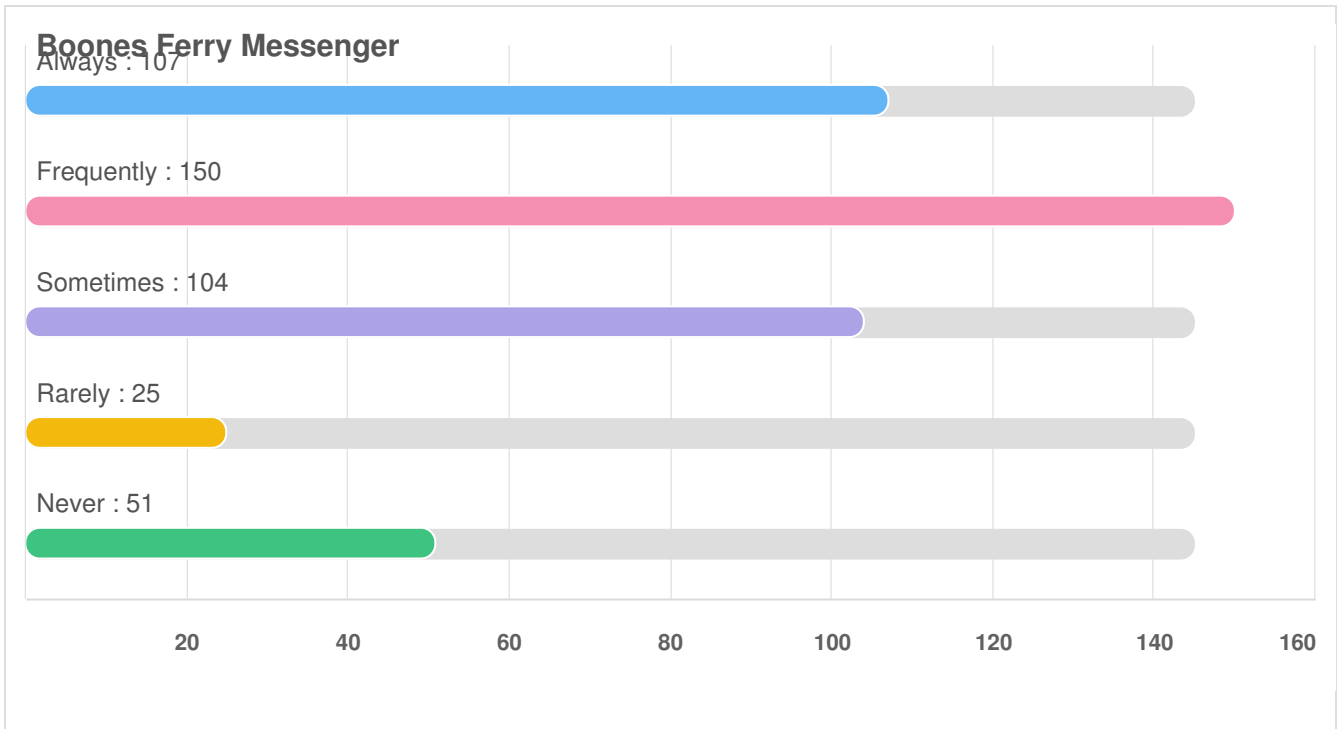
Optional question (437 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

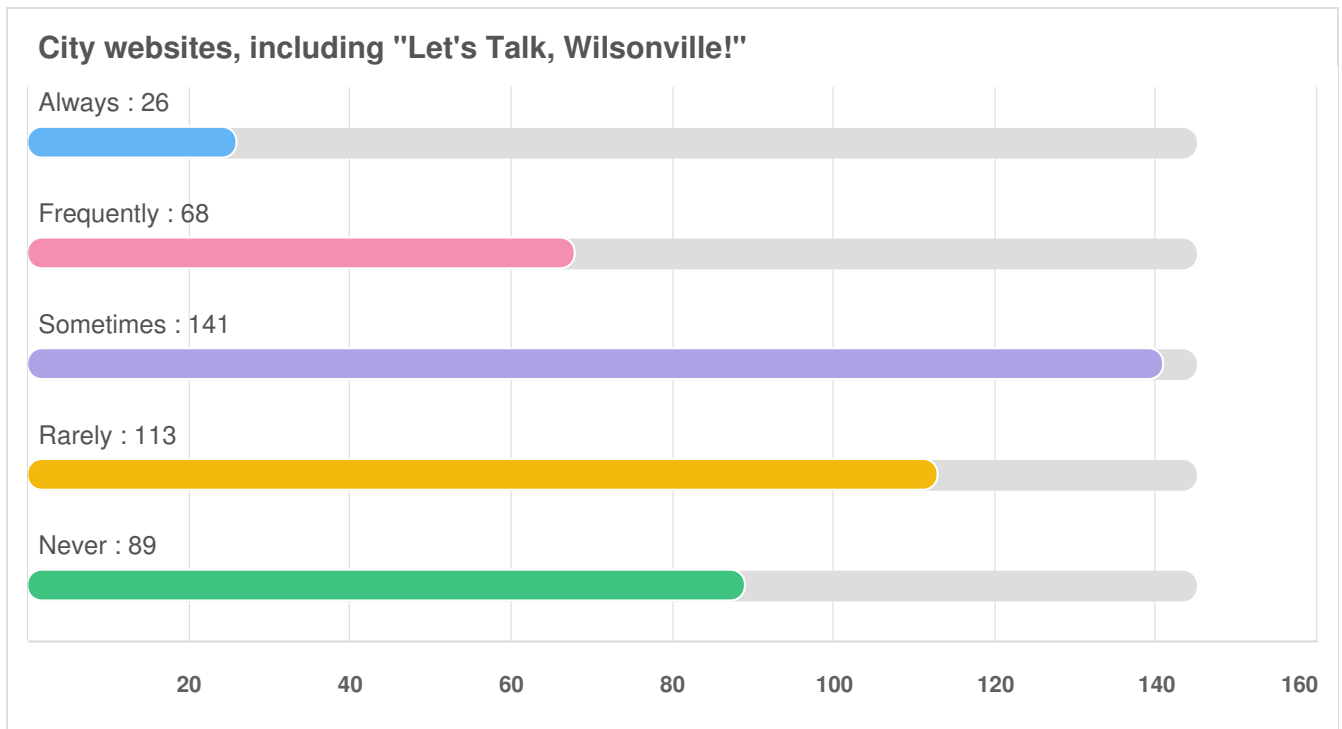
Q2 How do you typically stay informed about City projects of interest to you?

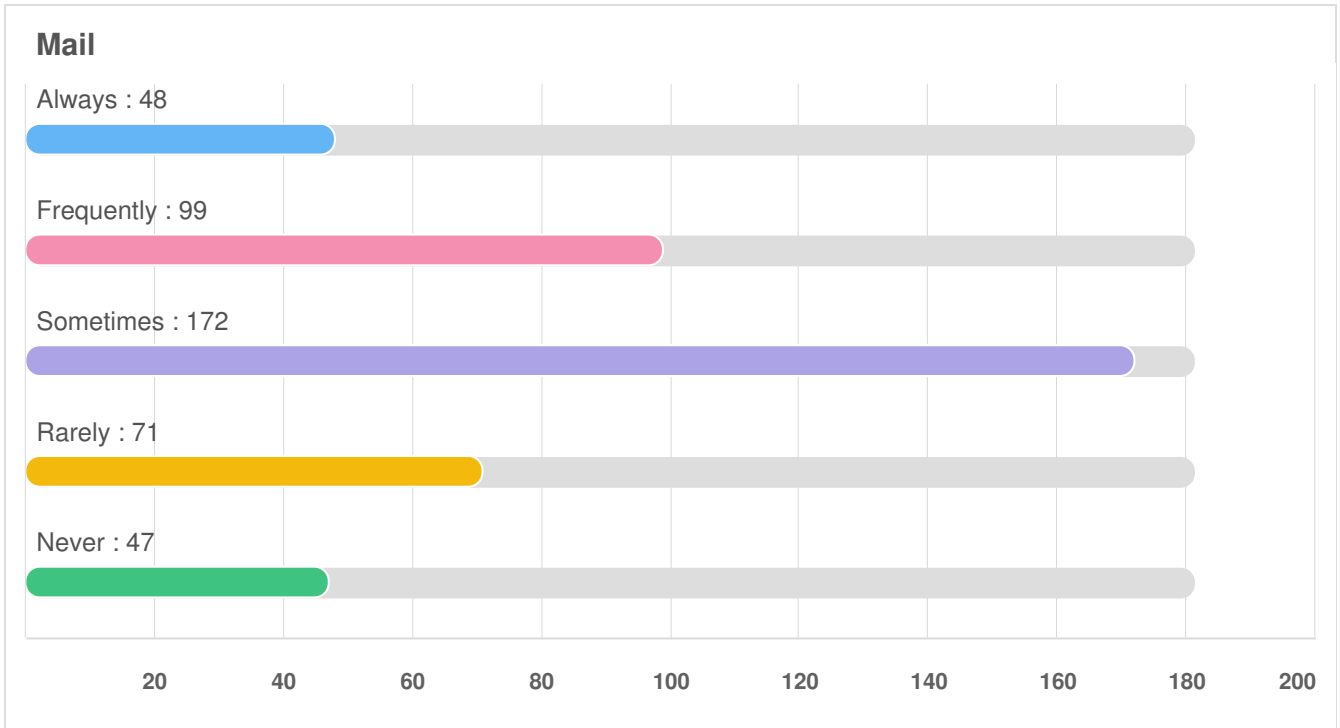


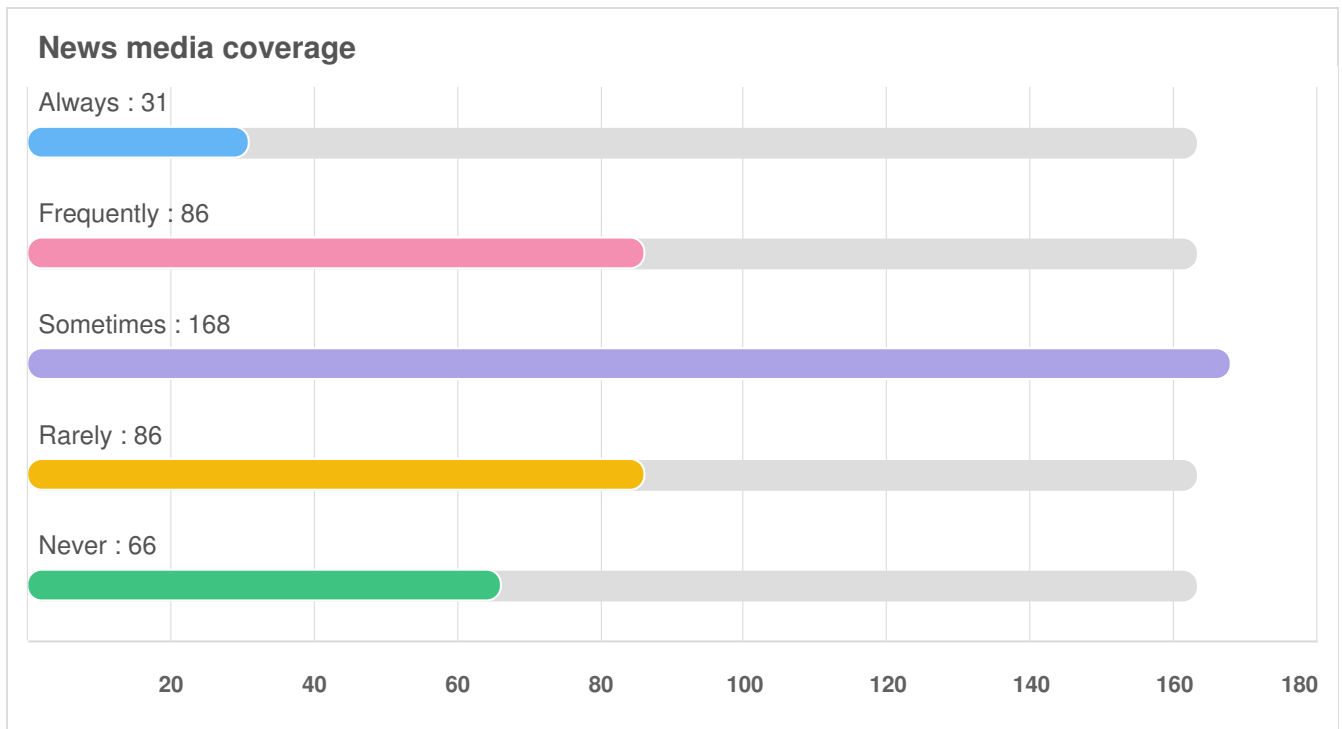
Mandatory Question (437 response(s))
 Question type: Likert Question

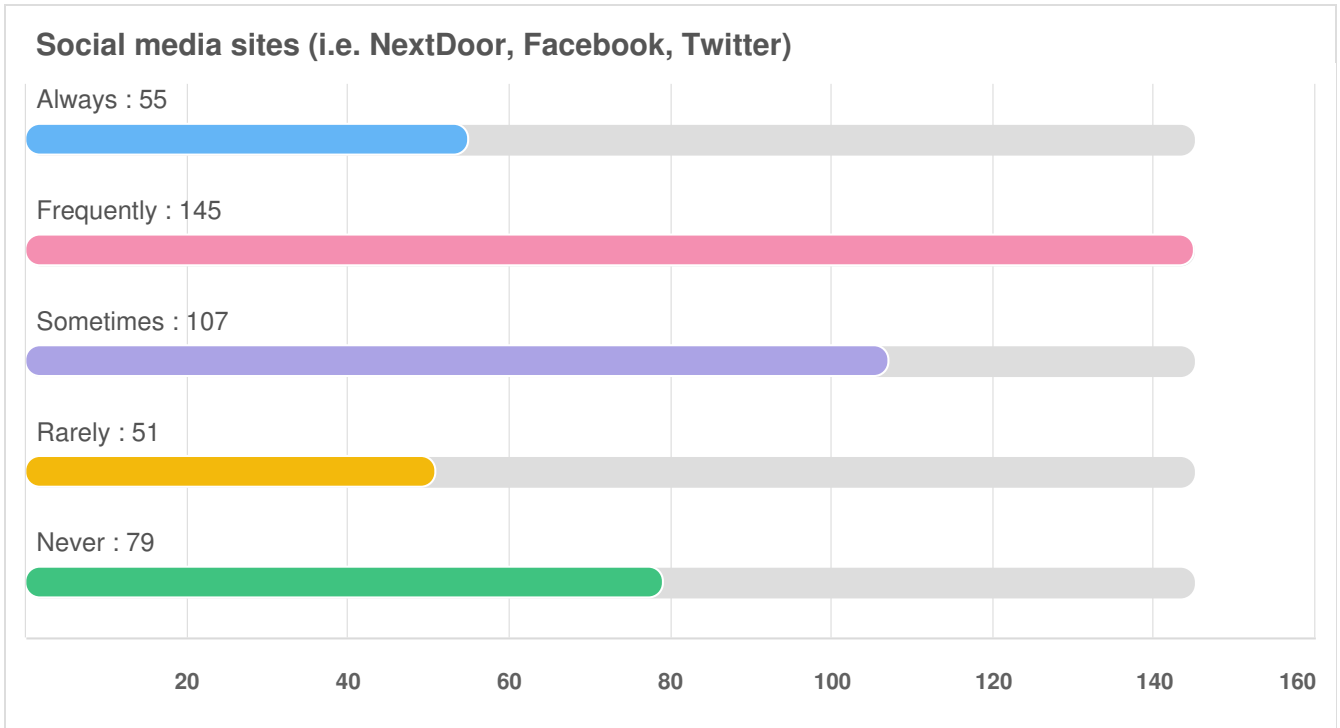
Q2 | How do you typically stay informed about City projects of interest to you?

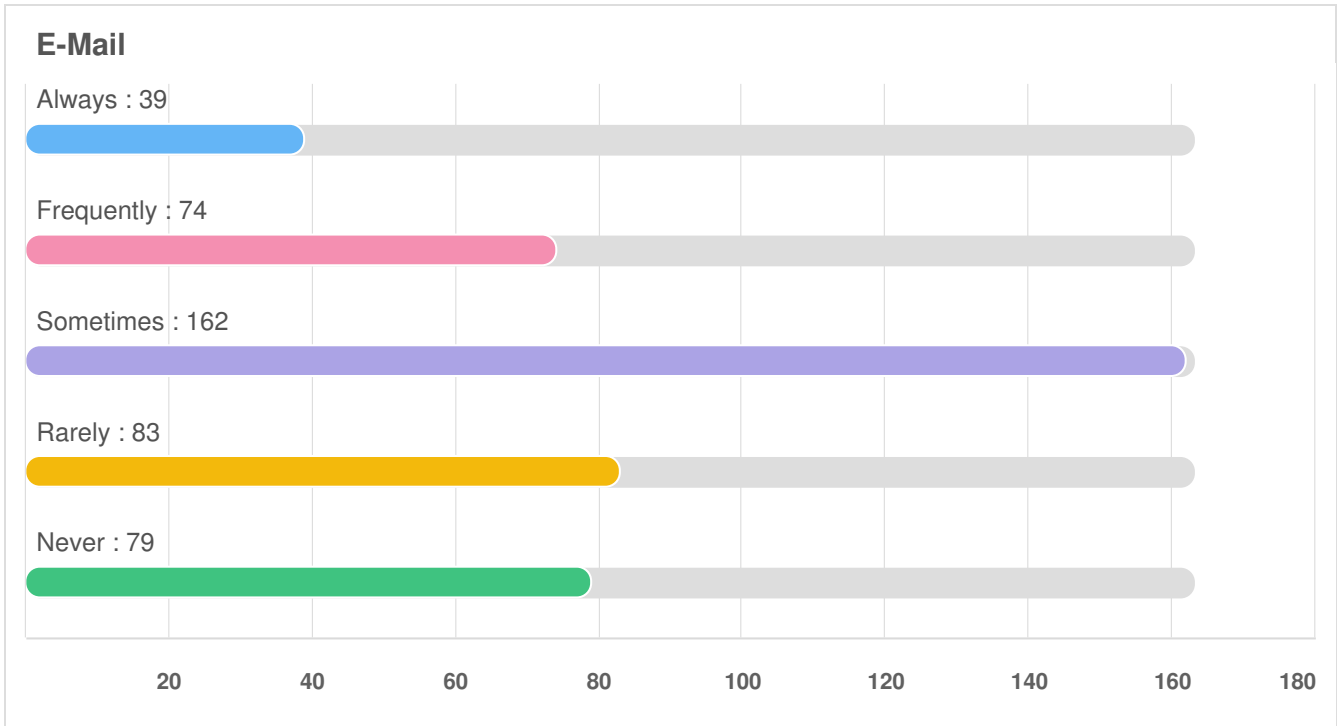




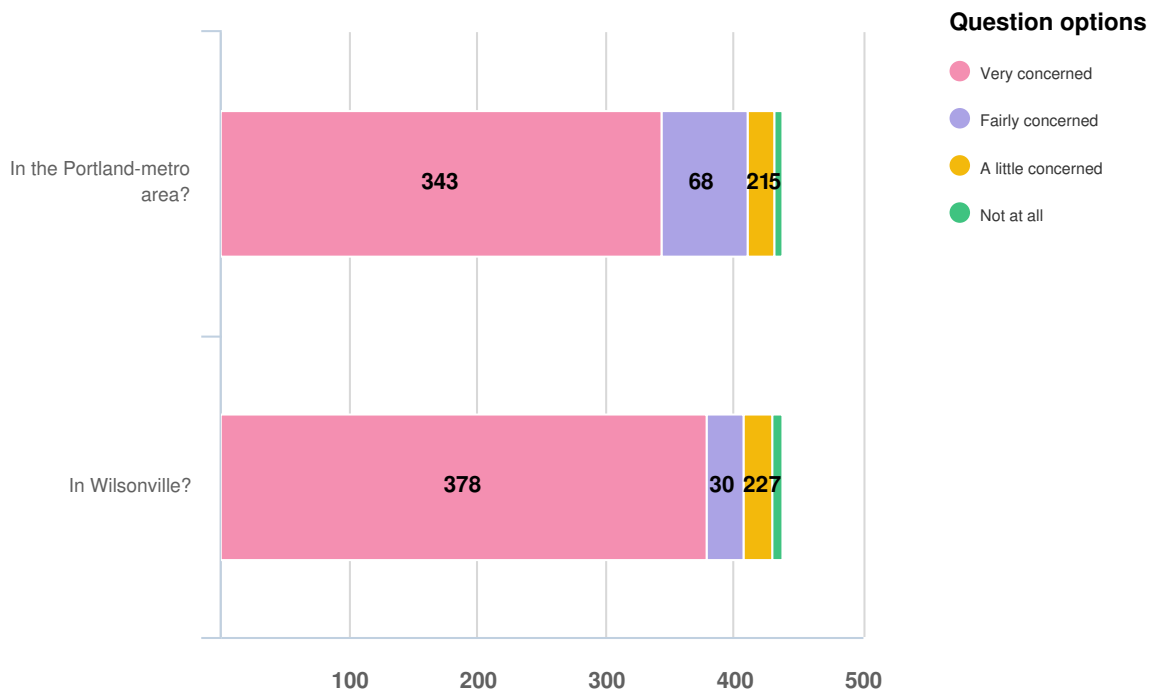






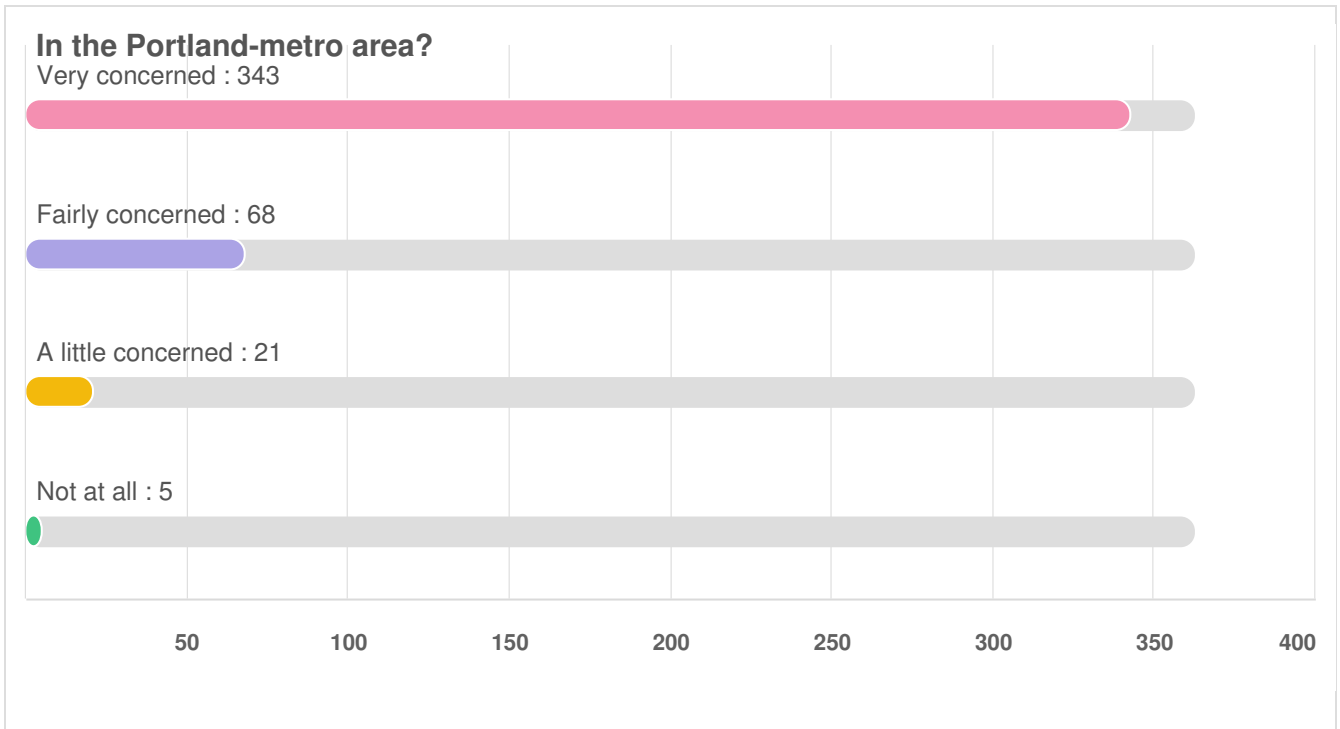


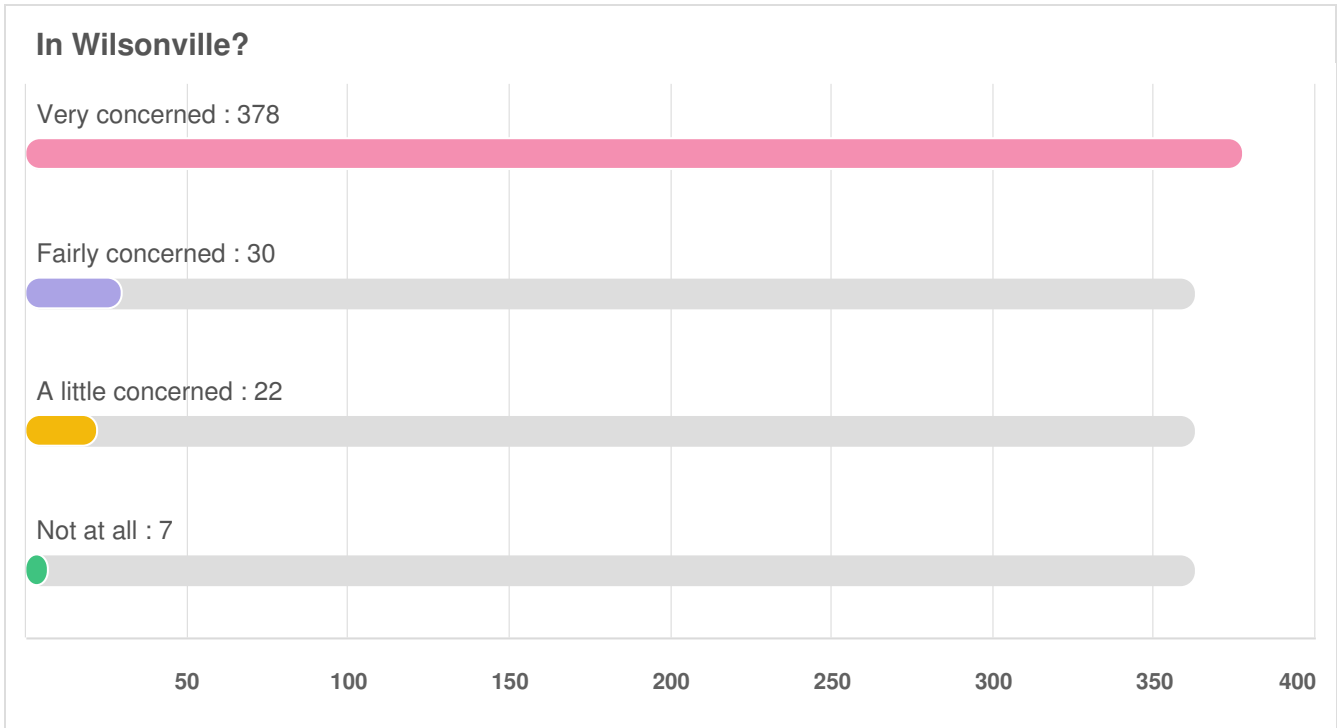
Q3 How concerned are you about people camping on public property?



Mandatory Question (437 response(s))
 Question type: Likert Question

Q3 | How concerned are you about people camping on public property?





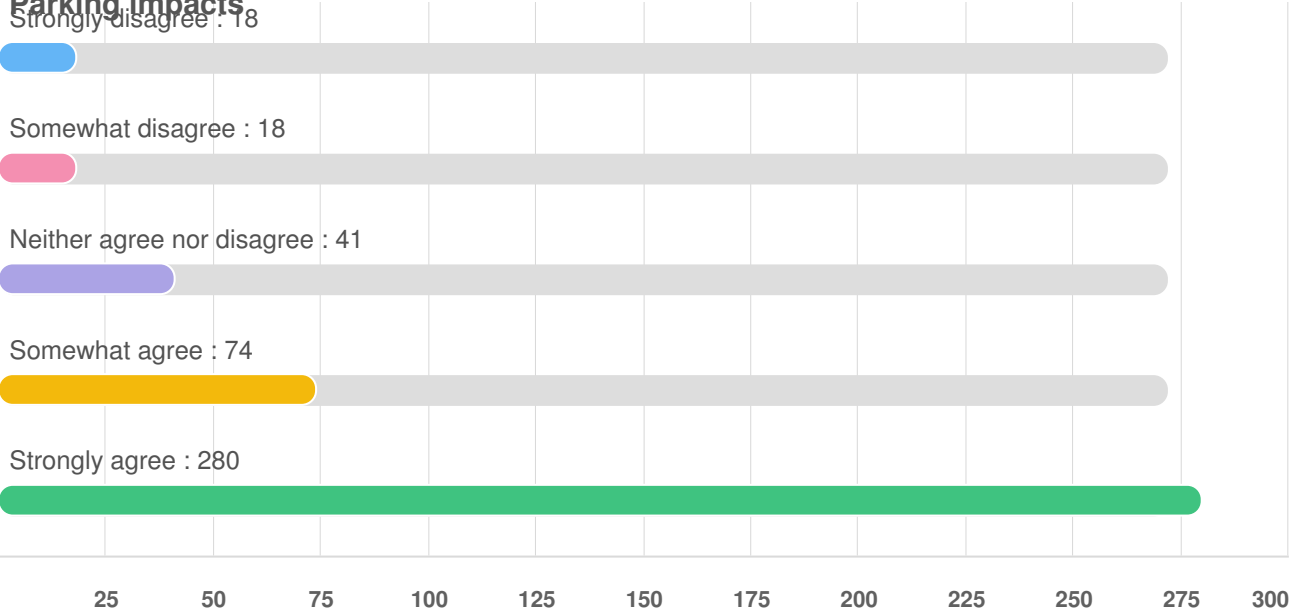
Q4 The City should consider the following factors when reviewing potential locations at which to allow overnight camping?

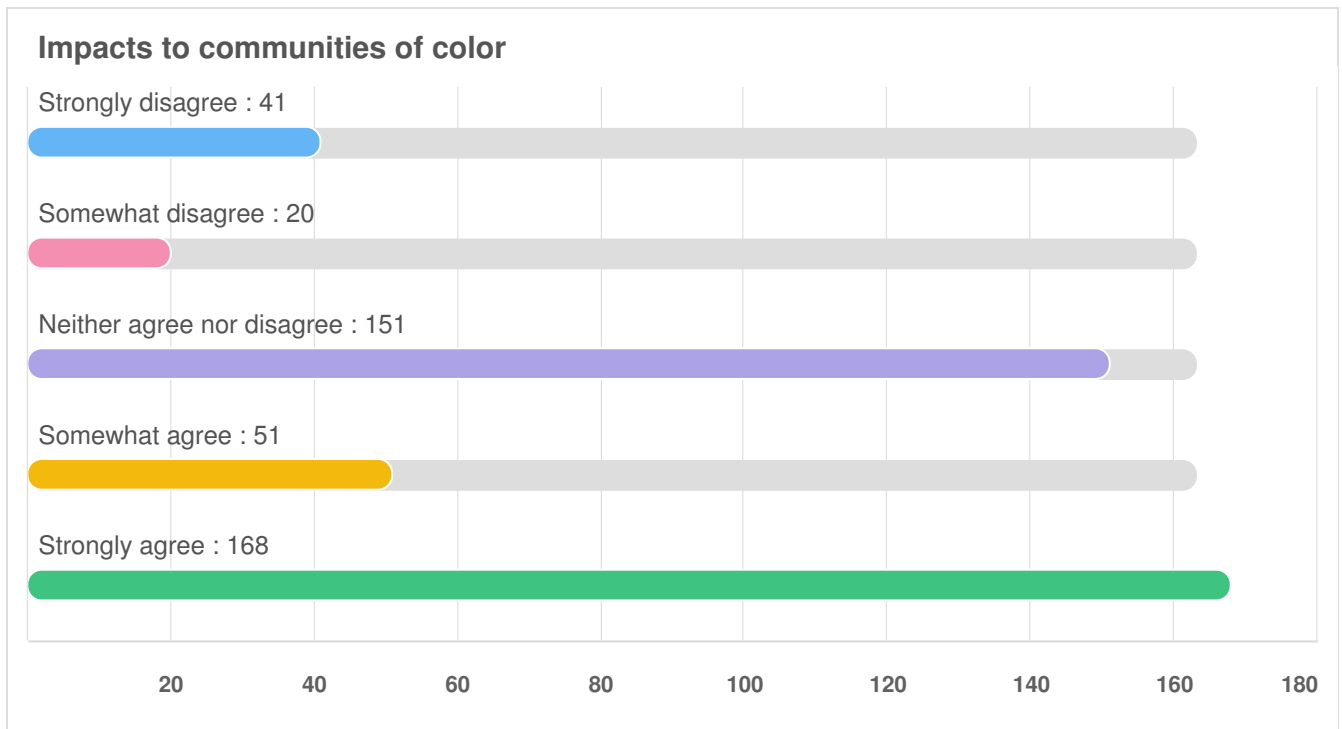


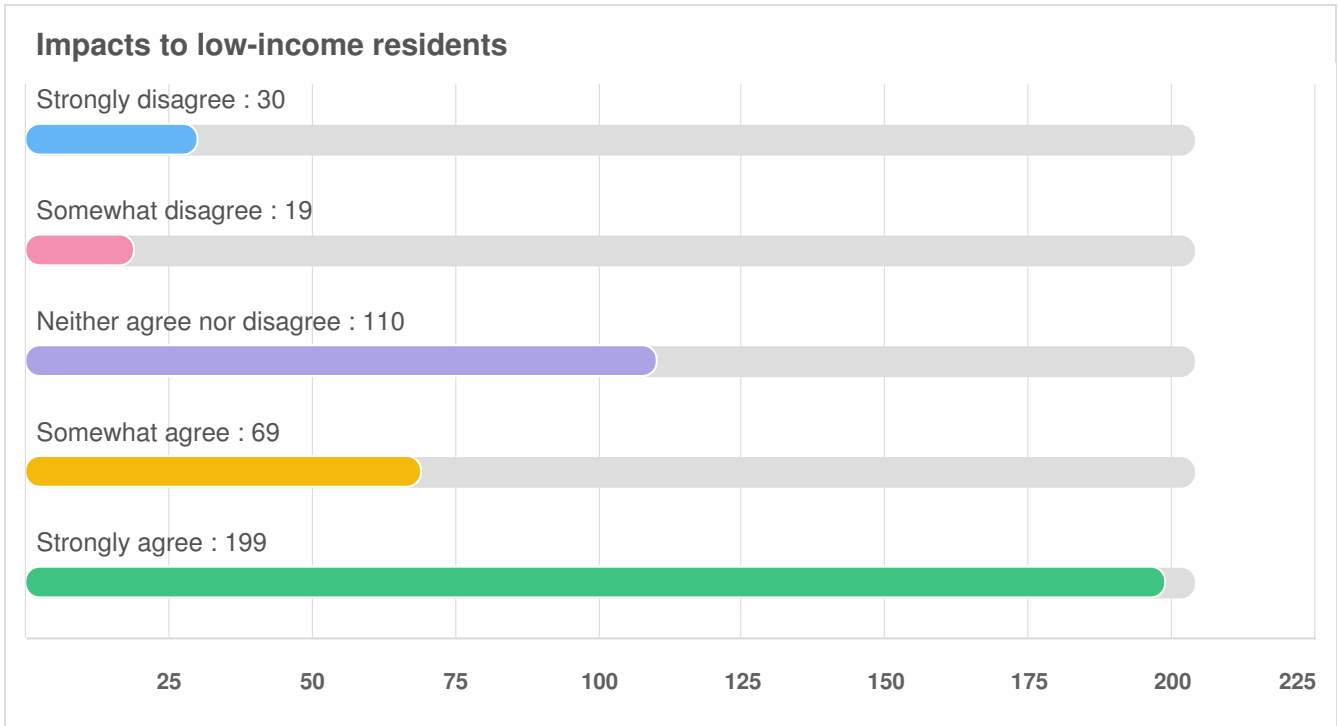
Optional question (437 response(s), 0 skipped)
 Question type: Likert Question

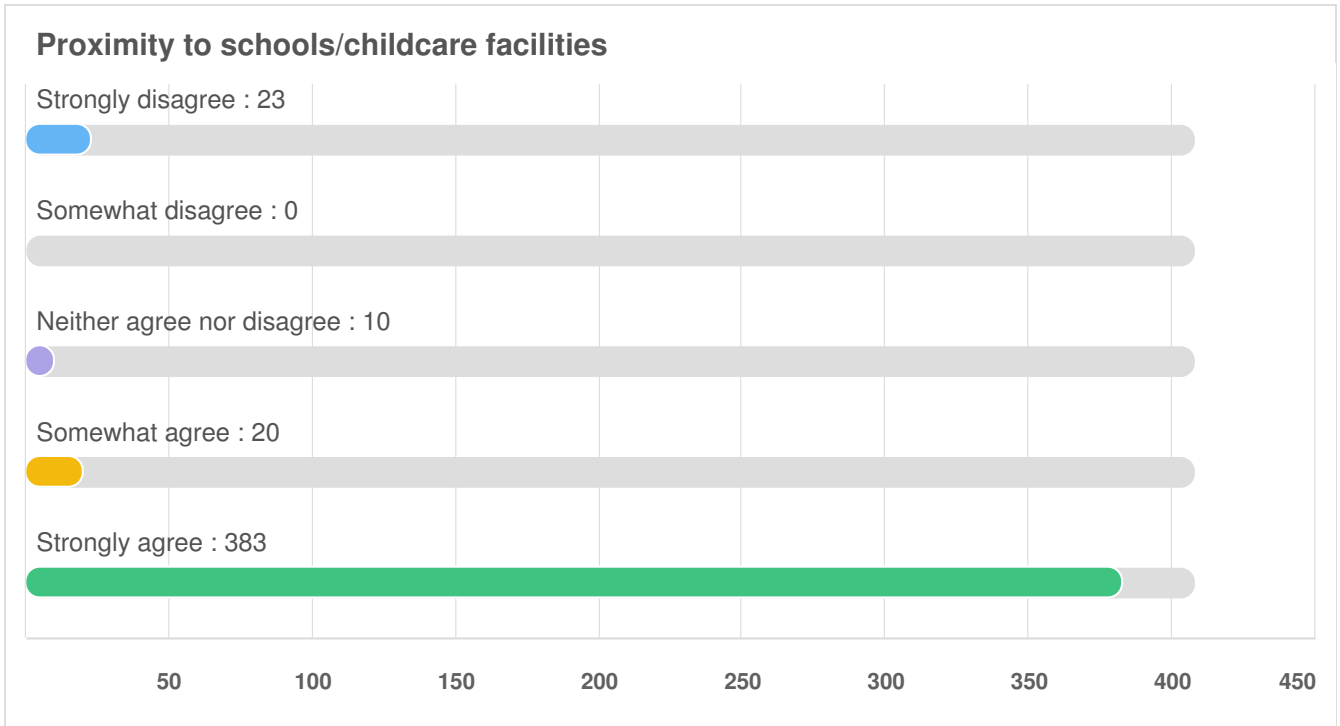
Q4 | The City should consider the following factors when reviewing potential locations at which to allow overnight camping?

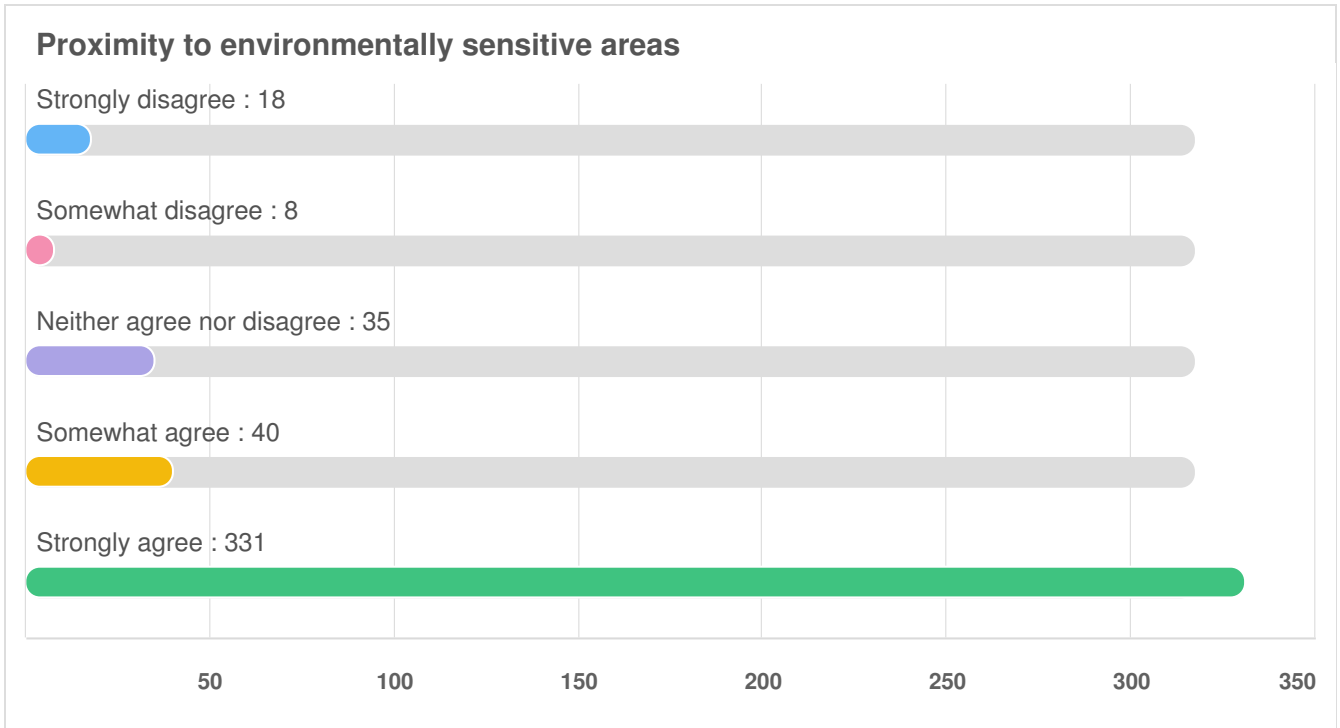
Parking impacts

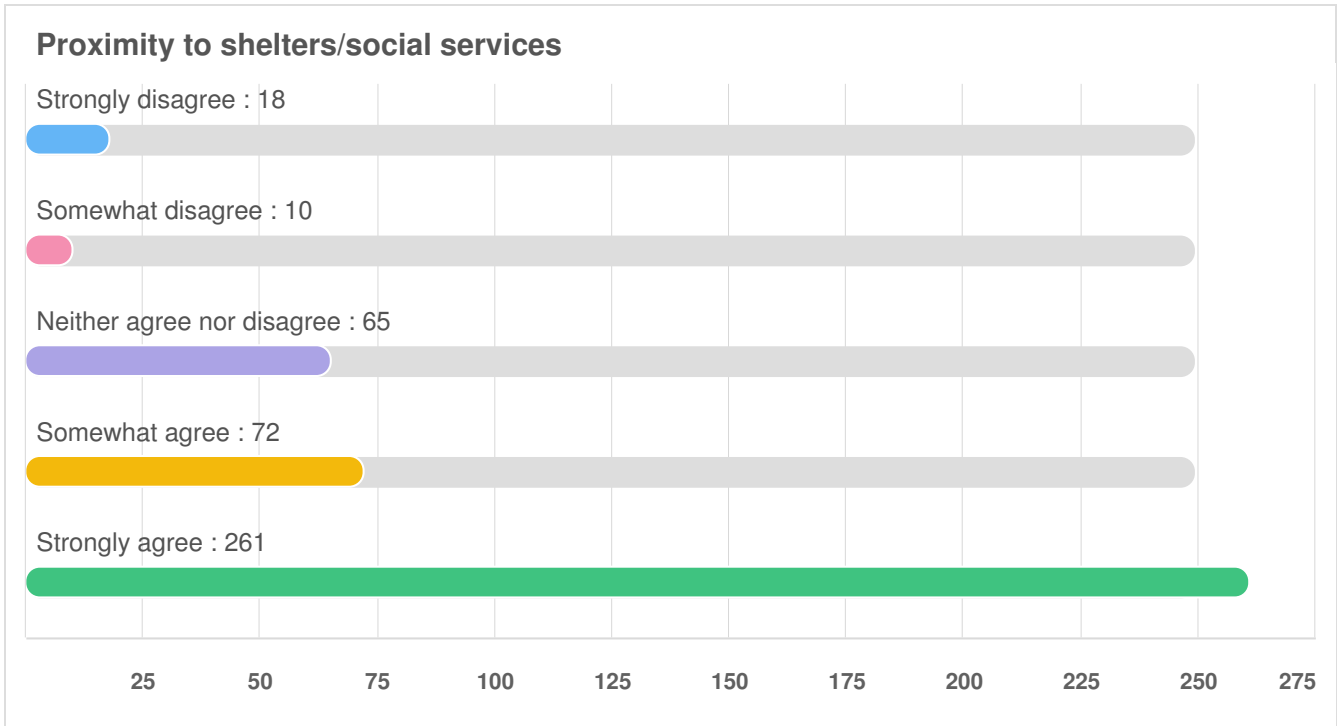


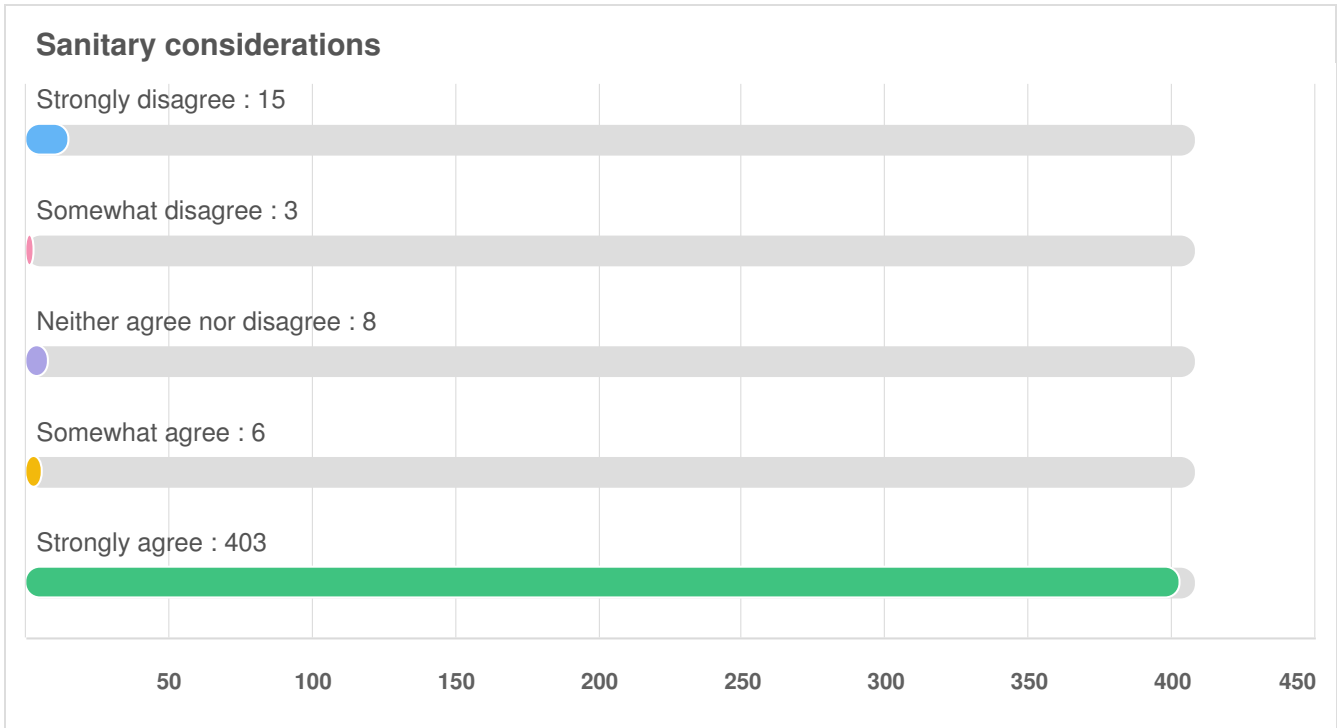


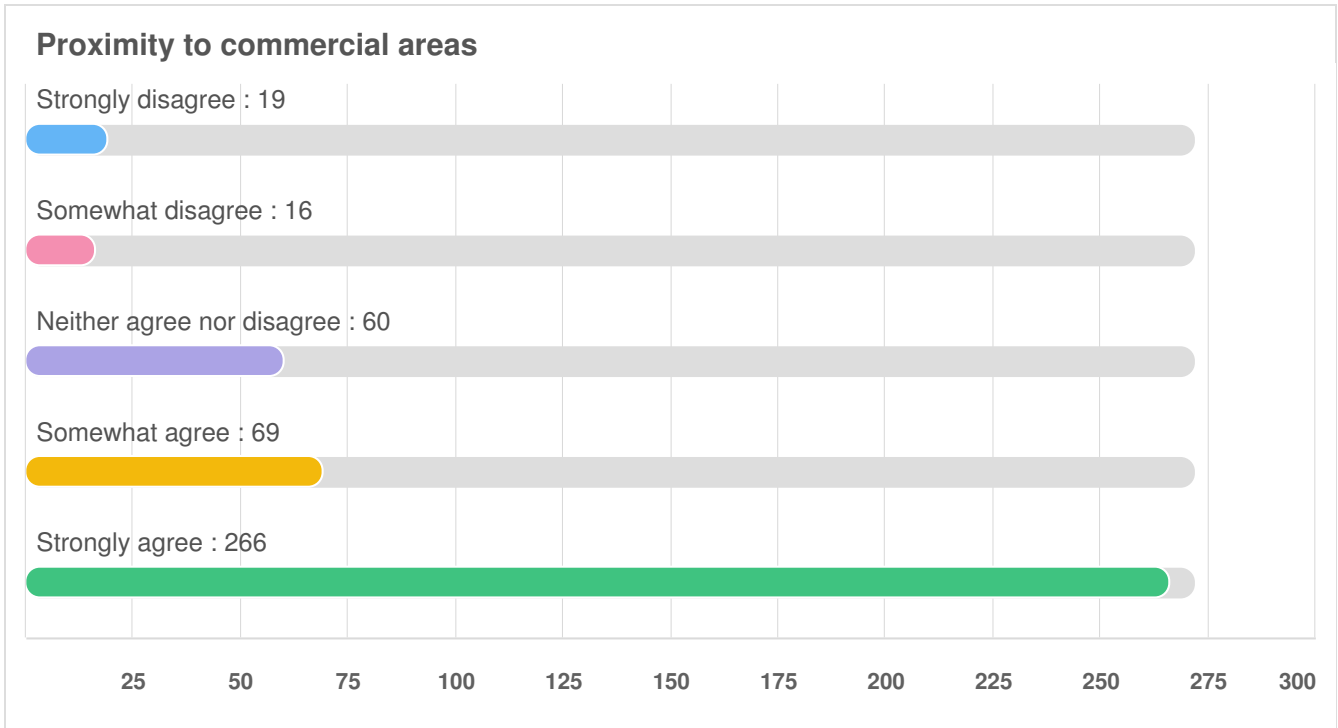


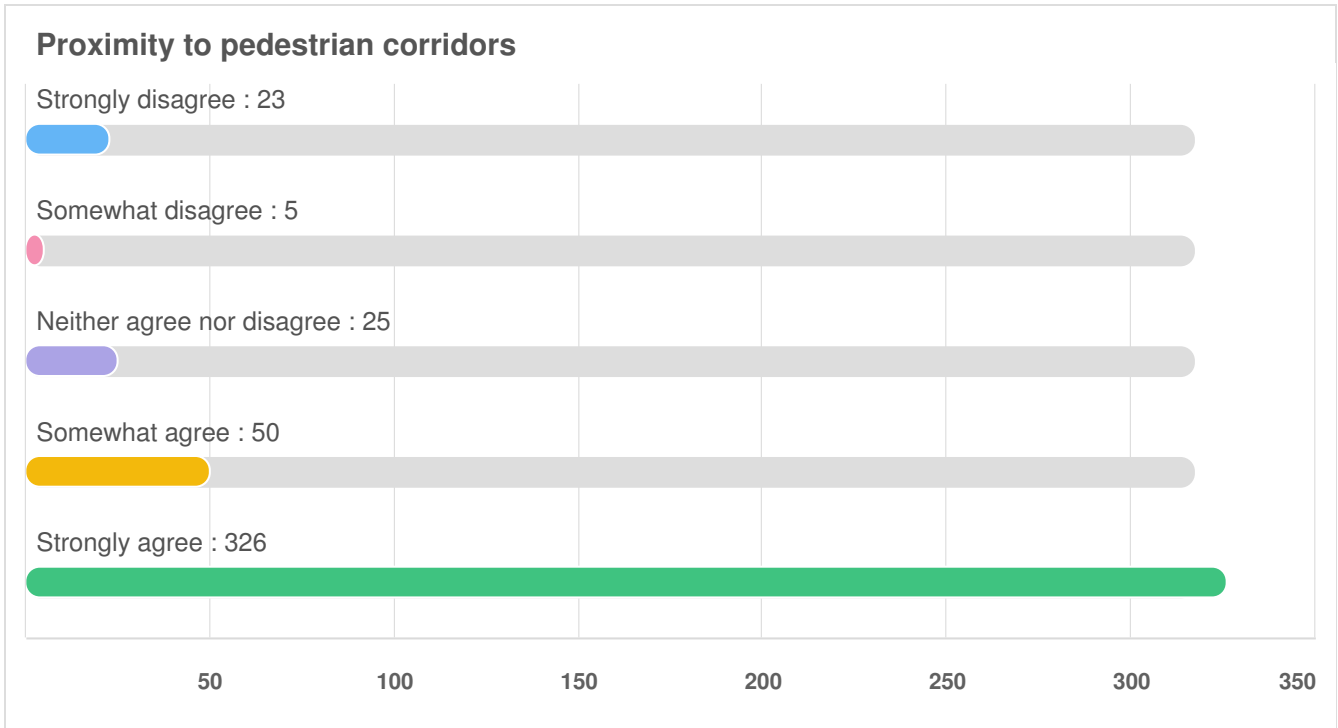


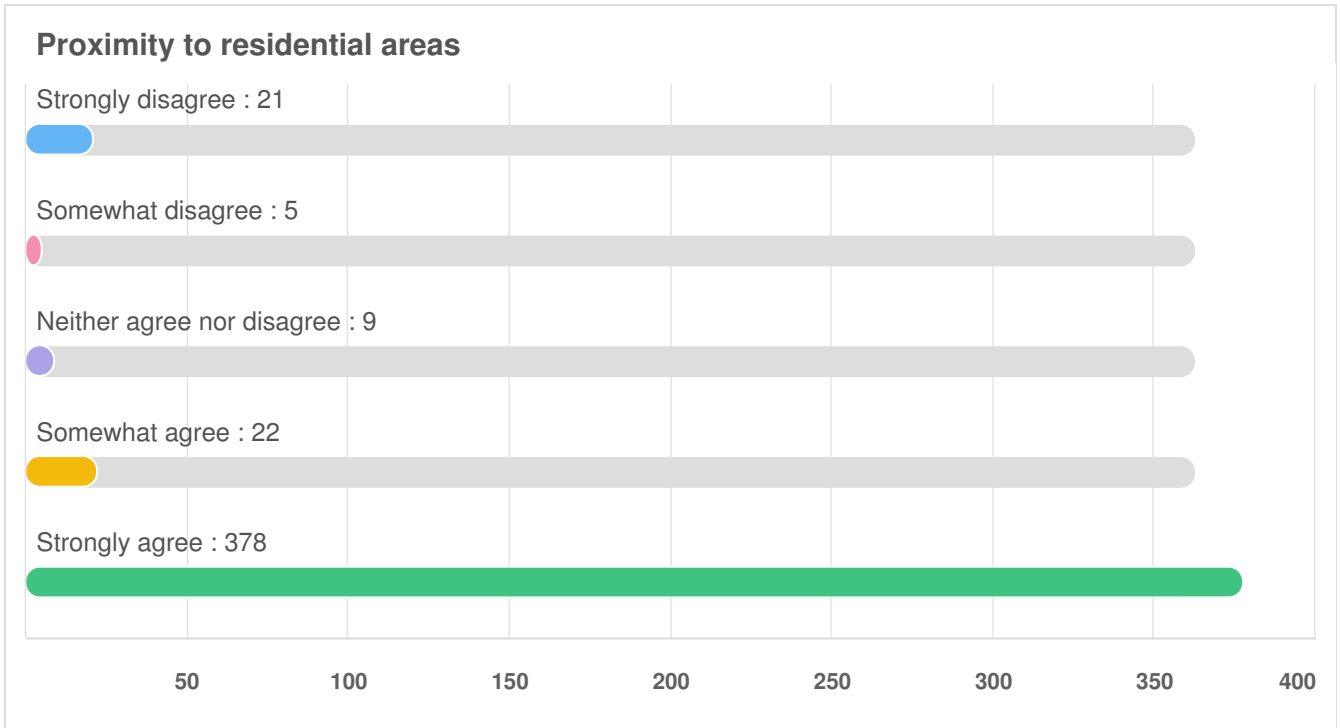


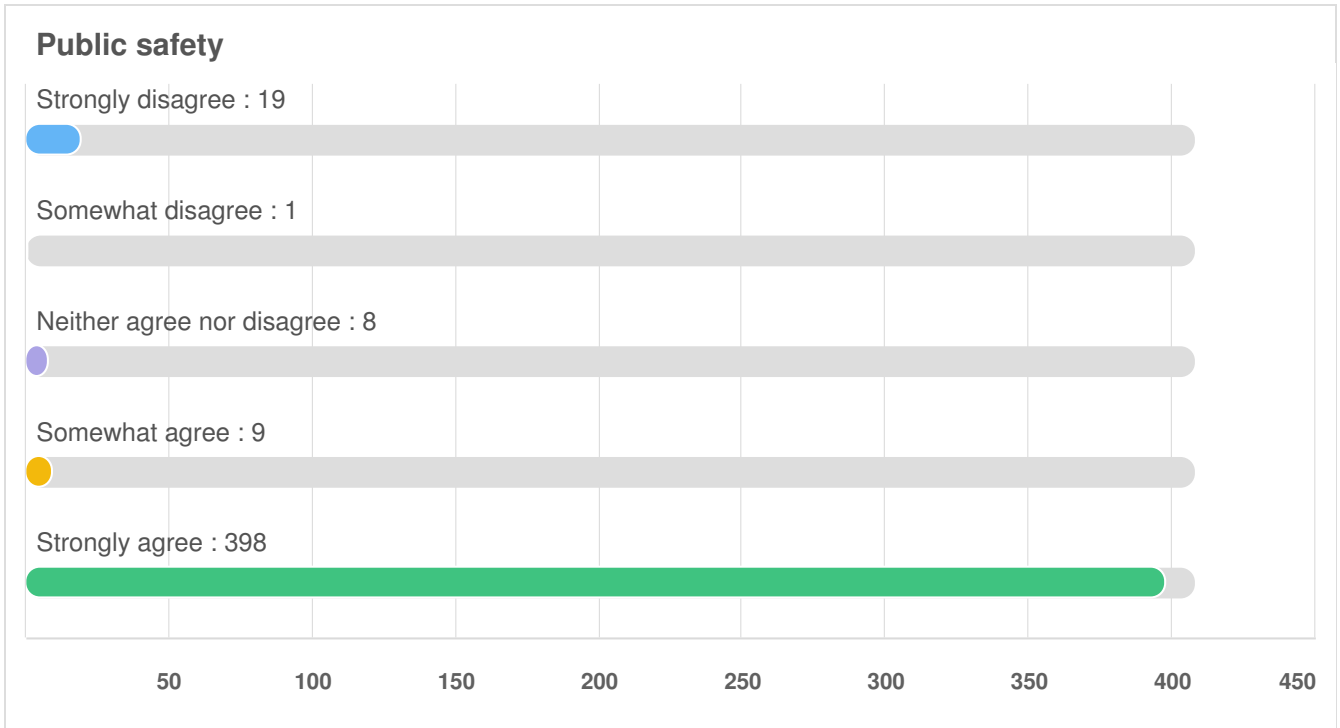












Q5 | With #1 being the best alternative, rank each location's suitability as a space to allow overnight camping (as required by ...

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
City/Government-owned Property	2.57
Industrial Areas	3.40
Transit Areas	4.02
Parking Lots	4.41
Office/Commercial Areas	5.76
Town Center	6.82
Rights-of-Way/Streets	7.07
Retail Areas	7.27
Forested/Environmentally Sensitive Areas	7.47
Parks & Trails	8.00
School Grounds	10.54
Residential Neighborhoods	10.68

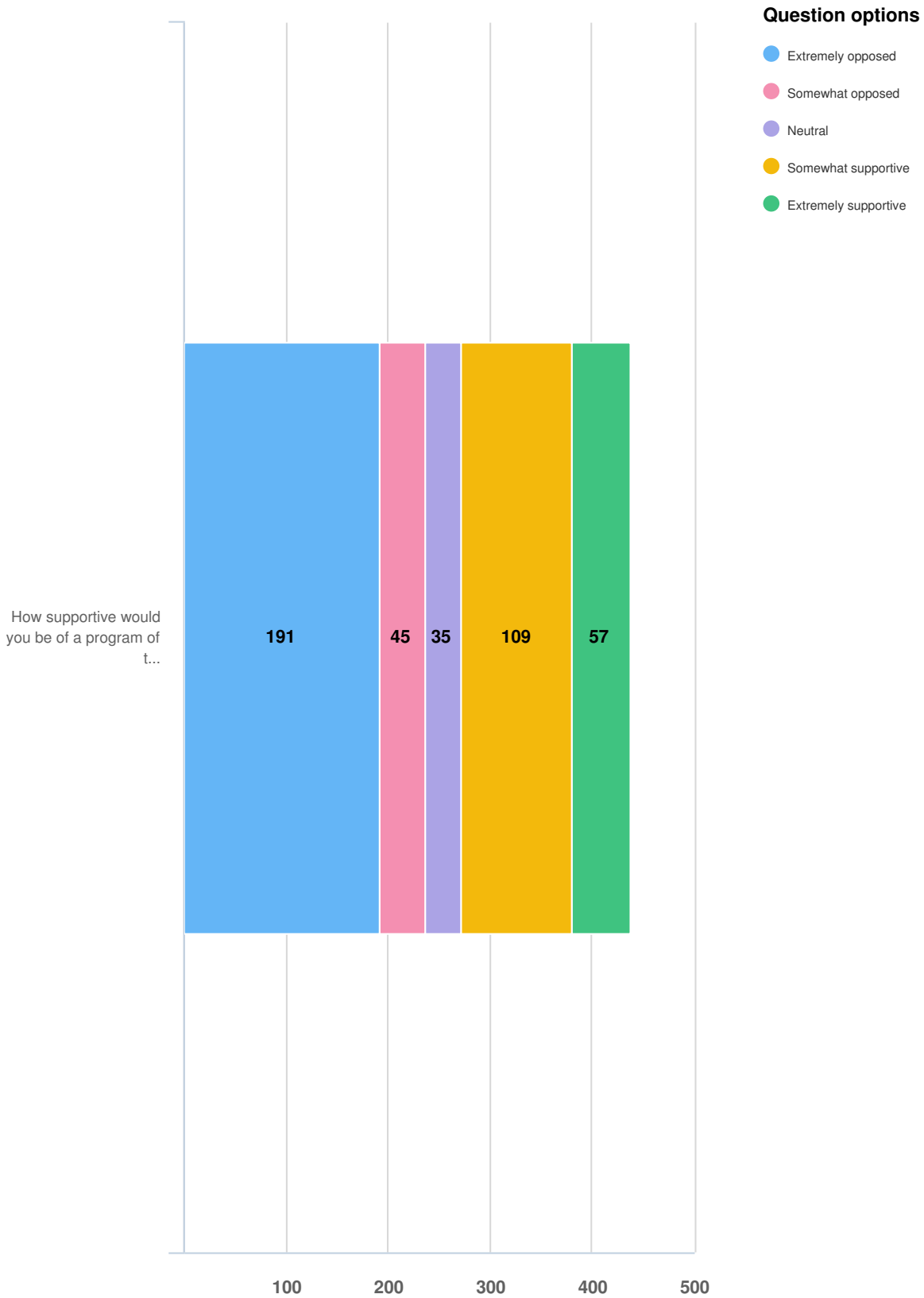
*Mandatory Question (437 response(s))
Question type: Ranking Question*

Q6 | With #1 being most important, which factors should receive the most consideration in the development of new overnight camping policy?

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Duration of stay	2.64
Hours during which camping is allowed	3.16
Compatibility with nearby uses	3.32
Environmental impacts	4.13
Proximity to services	4.25
Access to buildings, sidewalks	5.08
Access to public parking lots	5.17

Optional question (432 response(s), 5 skipped)
Question type: Ranking Question

Q7 One consideration is a program to allow camping on private property, with approval of the property owner. Typically, these programs allow temporary camping (a maximum of 90 days, 6 months, etc.), with the maximum number of camp sites dependent on t...



Optional question (437 response(s), 0 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

Q7 | One consideration is a program to allow camping on private property, with approval of the property owner. Typically, these programs allow temporary camping (a maximum of 90 days, 6 months, etc.), with the maximum number of camp sites dependent on t...

How supportive would you be of a program of this nature?

