

# Harpswell Recreation and Open Space Survey Results

May 2007

Photo by Elsa Martz

Conservation Commission  
Recreation Committee

# What Initiated the Survey?

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- Recreation plan for Mitchell Field
- Open Space Plan

# What do the citizens of Harpswell want?

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Not specific ideas, but broad preferences on:

- Recreation Facilities
- Water Access for boating
- Community Center
- Open Space

# Survey Process

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- Mailed to randomly-selected tax parcels with phone call follow-up.
- Results entered into a relational database
- Direct costs ~ \$1000
- Volunteer time ~ 100 hours

Ed Harris, Gordon Weil, Liz Bouve, Marguerite Kelly, Doug Orput, Dierdre Strachan, Sue Rich, Mary Ann Nahf, Ann Nemrow, Tony Barrett, Wayne Gagne, the Recreation Committee and Conservation Commission members

# Survey Validity

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- Is the Survey Fair & Objective?
  - Used tested and unbiased questions
  - Reduced barriers to completion
    - Postage-paid return envelope
    - 1-page/ 2 minutes to complete

# Survey Validity

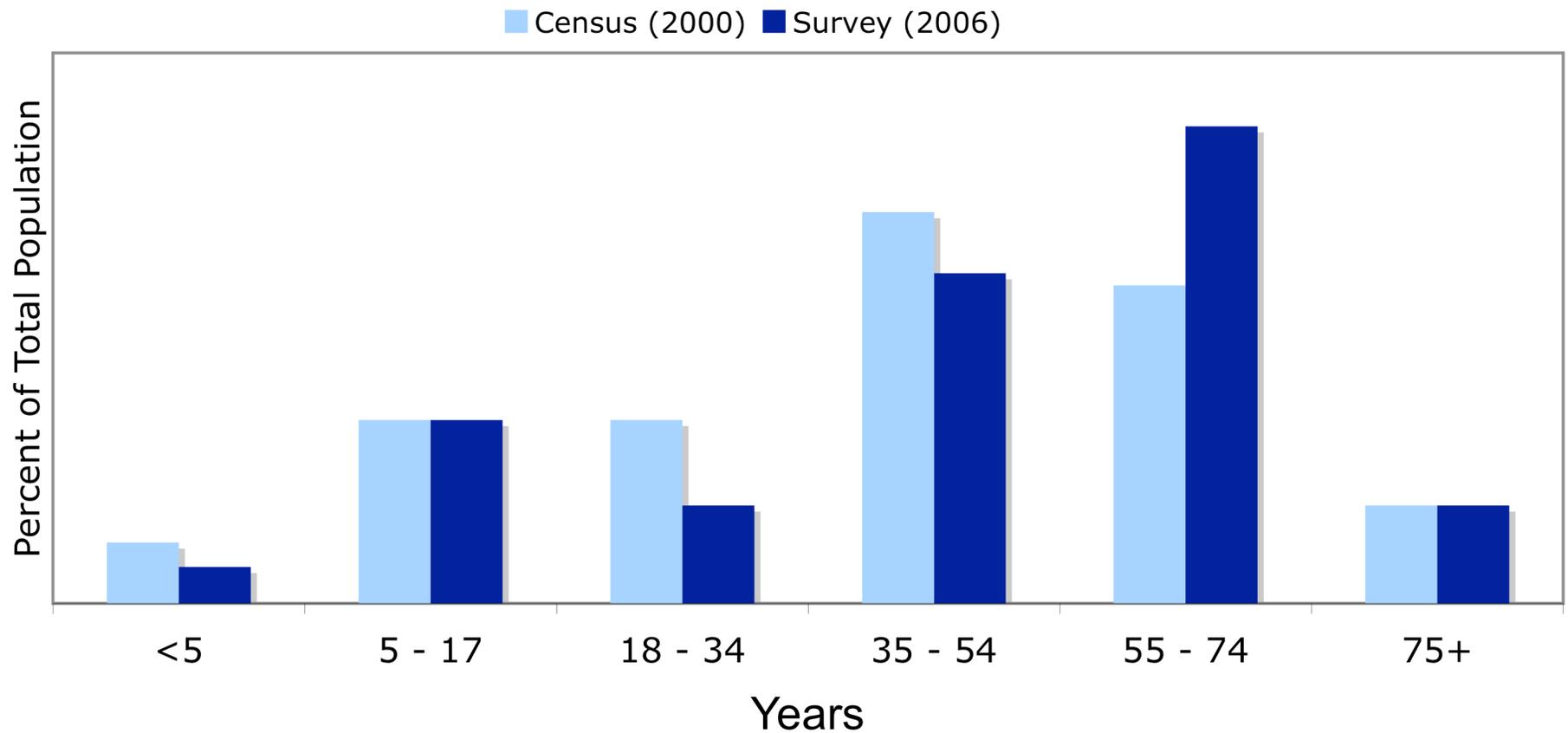
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- Is the Survey Fair & Objective?
  - Used tested and unbiased questions
  - Reduced barriers to completion
    - Postage-paid return envelope
    - 1-page/ 2 minutes to complete
- **Are the Results Accurate & Representative of Harpswell?**
  - 517 random-selected tax parcels
  - High response rate -- 60%

Question 6

# Survey respondents slightly older

Age Distribution in Full-time Harpswell Households

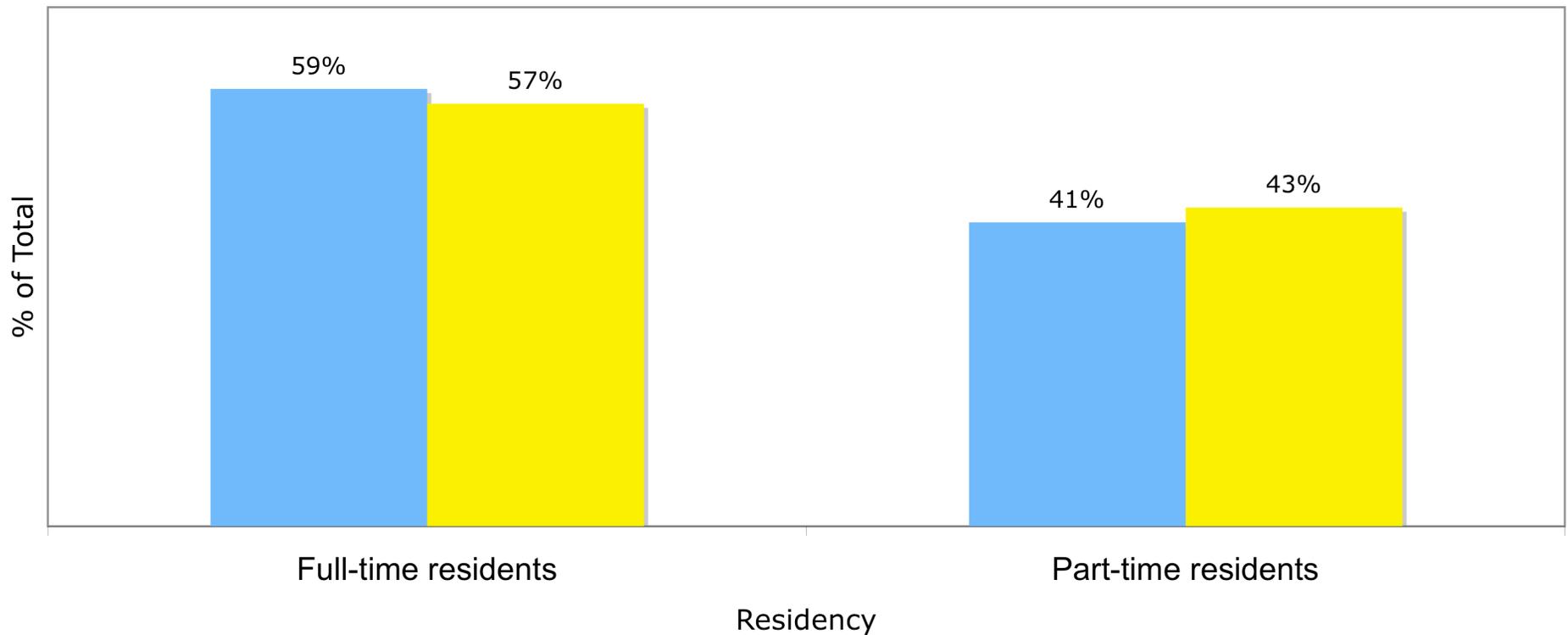


Question 7

# % of Survey full-time residents almost an exact match to Town-wide distribution

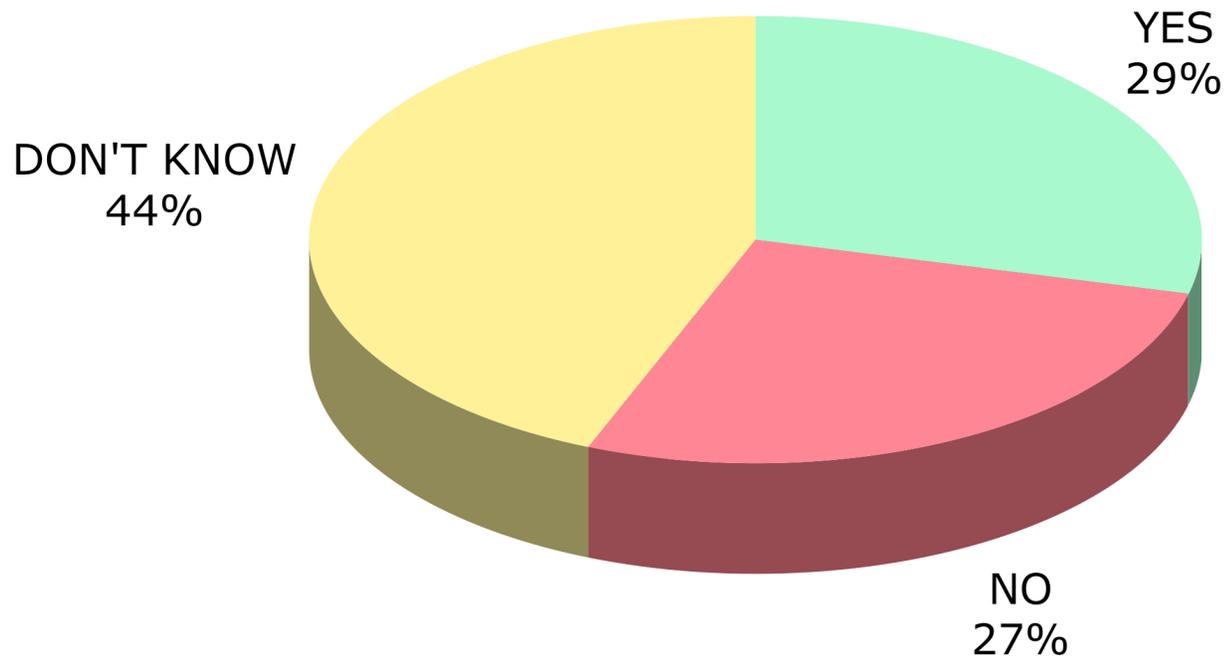
## Residency of Harpswell Taxable Parcels

■ Survey (285 parcels) ■ Townwide (4,767 parcels)



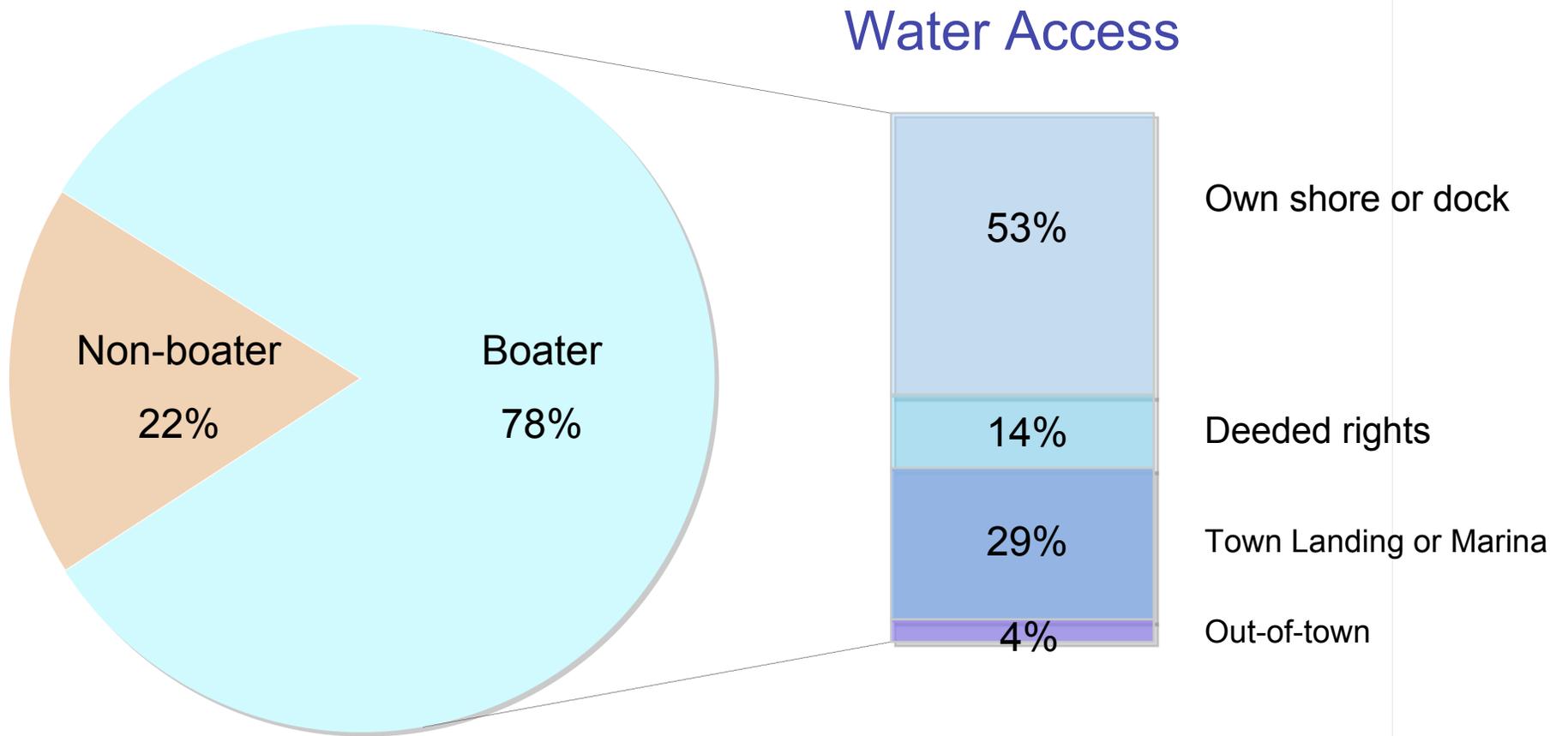
Question 1

# Does the Town have sufficient Recreation Facilities and Programs?



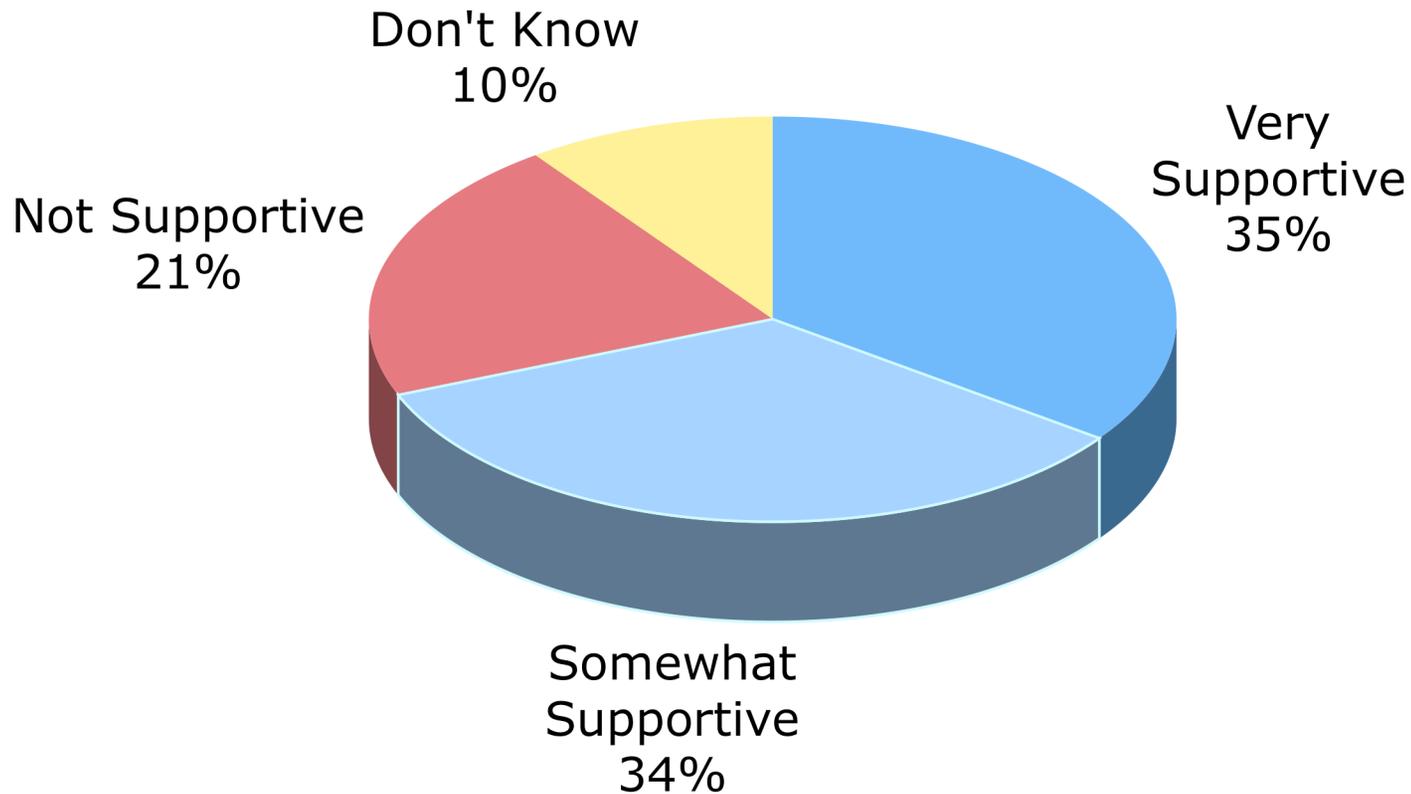
Question 2

# Boating and Water Access



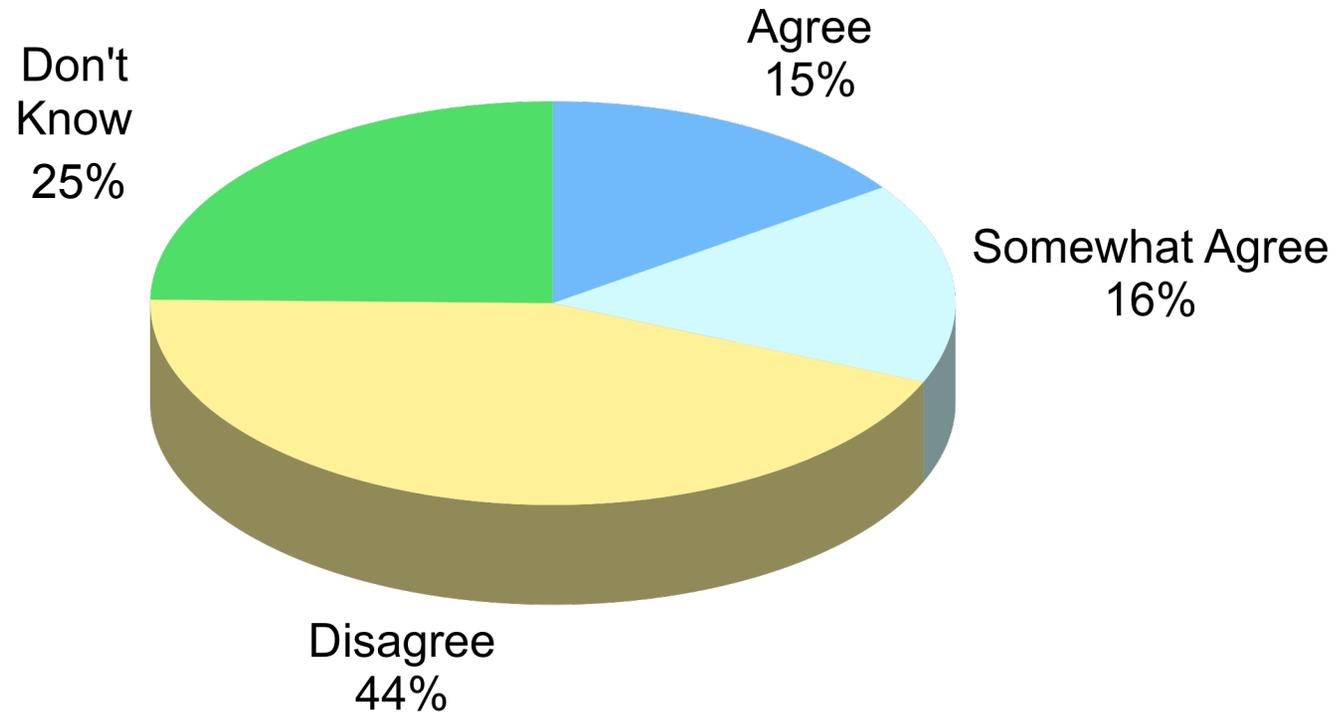
Question 3

Would you support a central community center in Harpswell available for recreation classes, group gatherings and general community use?



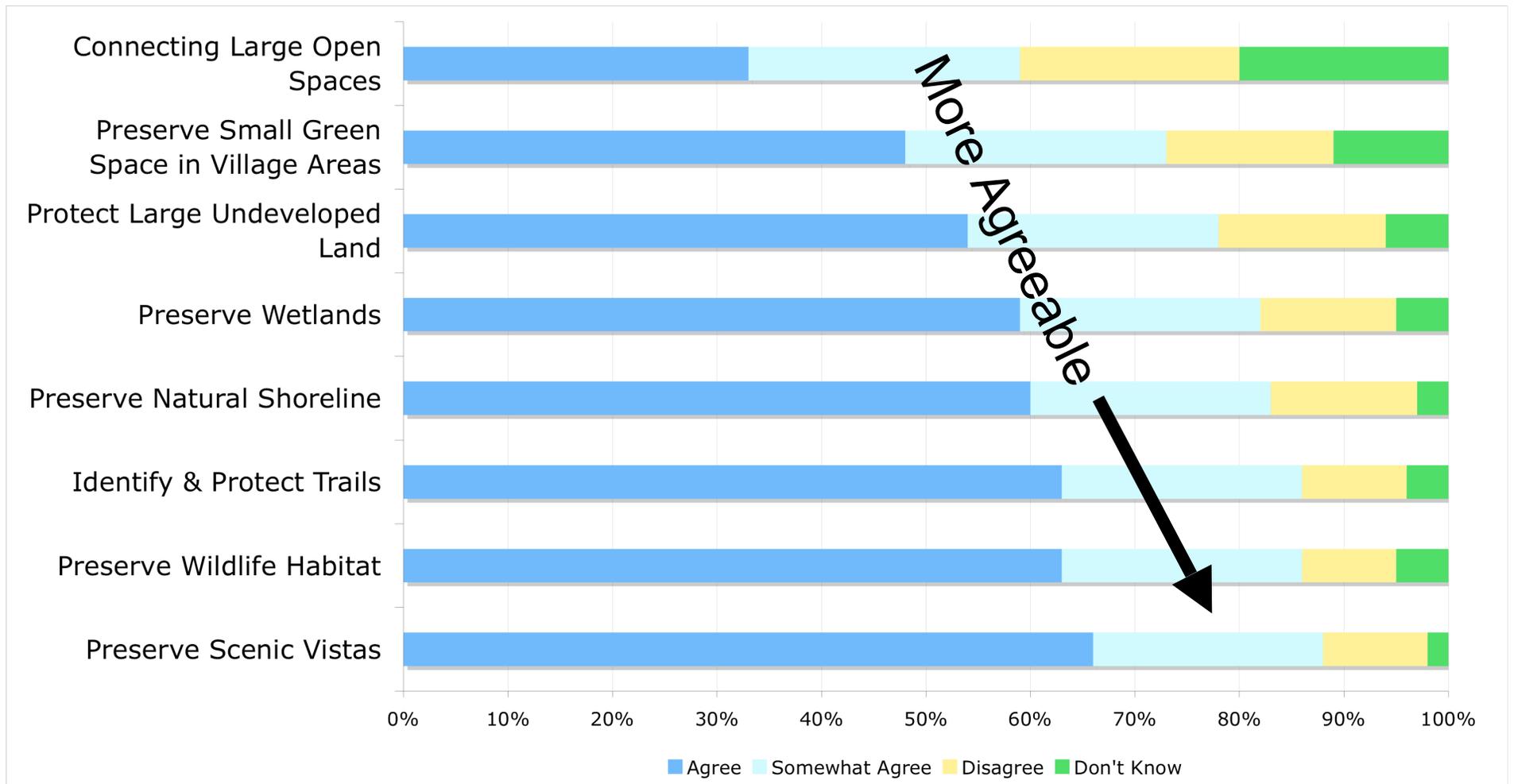
Question 4 - I

# There is enough conserved open space in Harpswell



Question 4

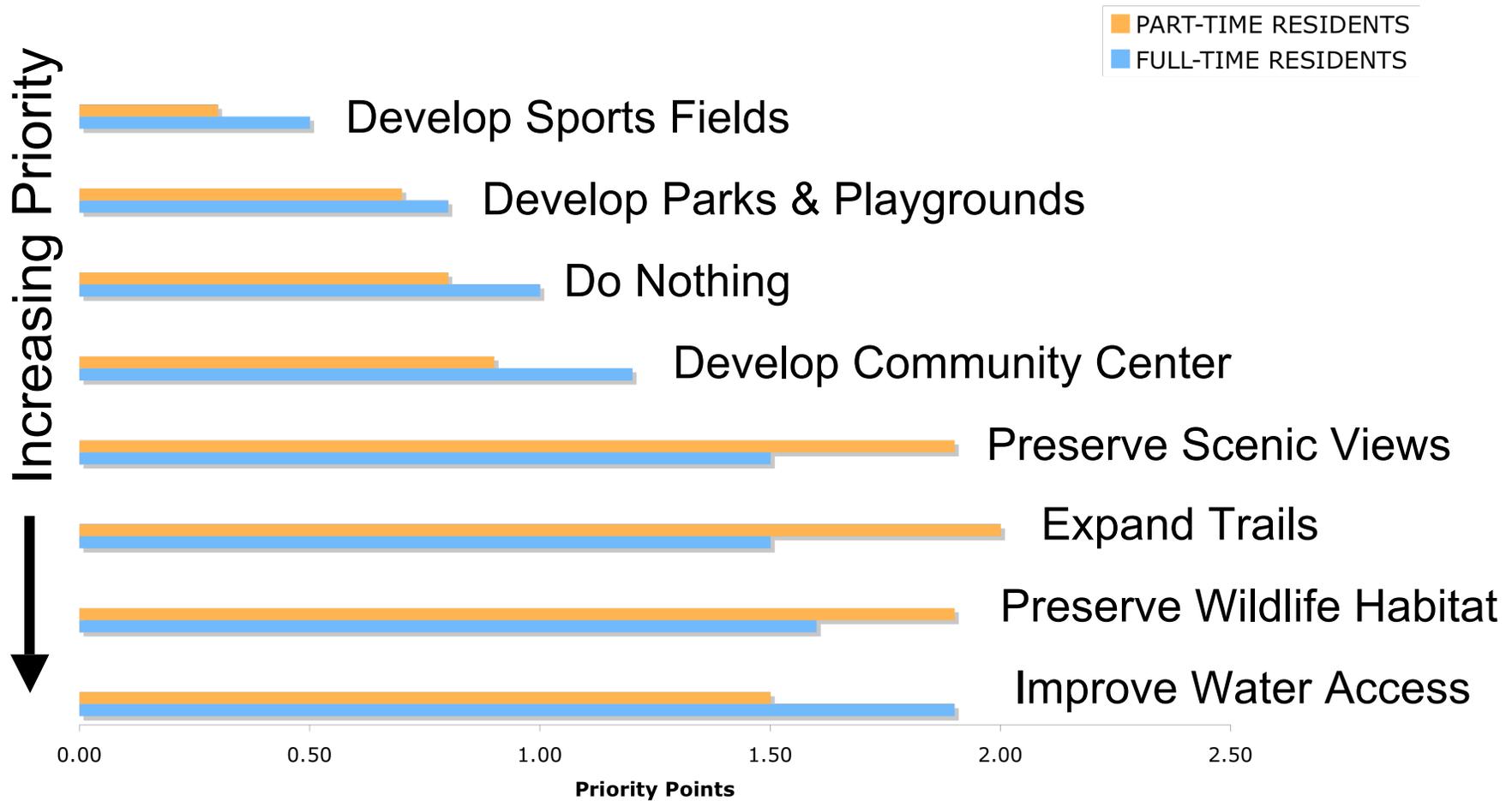
# Agreement with Potential Open Space Actions



Question 5

# Priorities for Town Investment

Part-time vs. Full-time residents



# Conclusions

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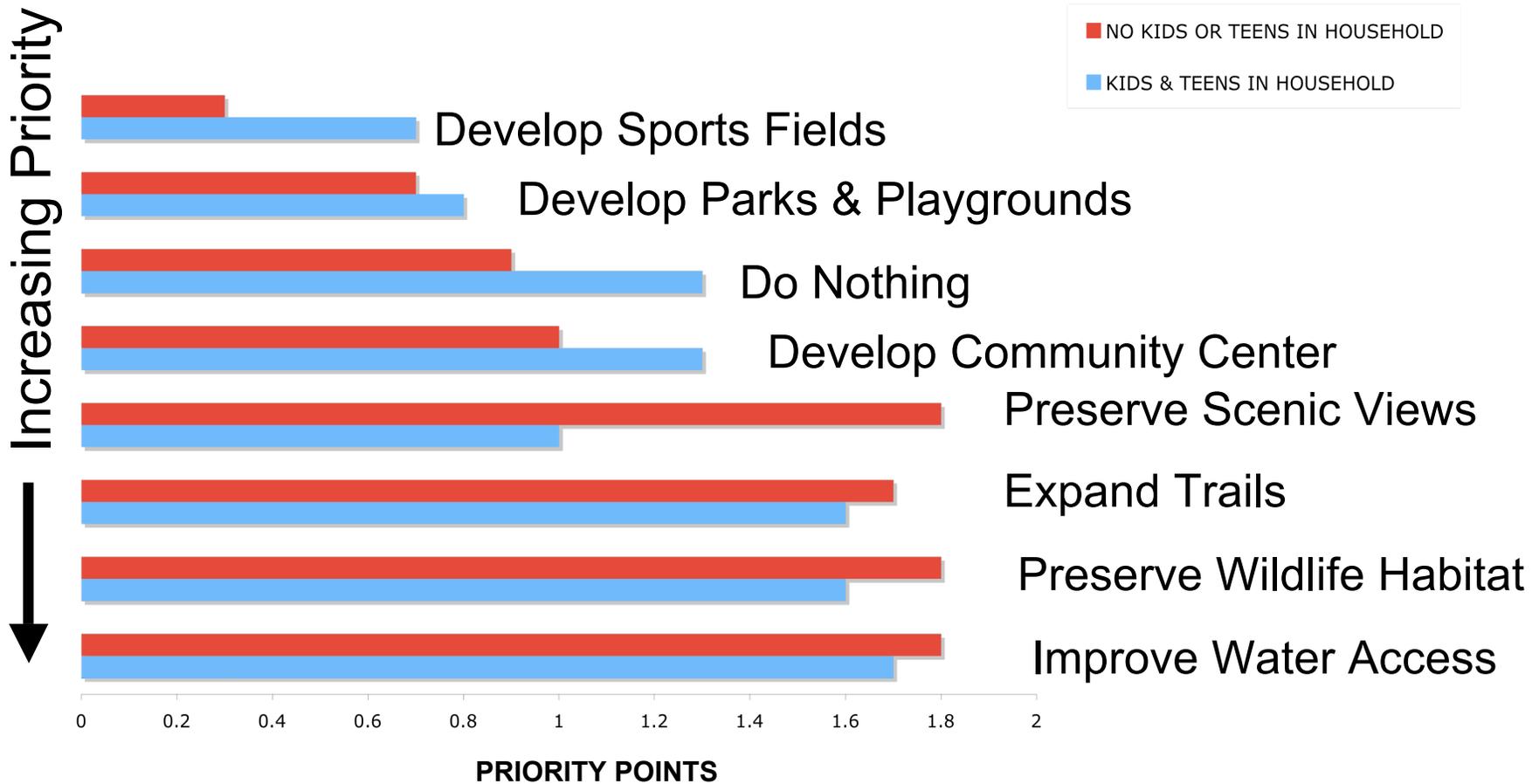
- Majority want to preserve scenic views & wildlife habitat and expand trails.
- Improved Access to the Water is the highest priority recreation & open space issue but only a priority for half the town taxpayers.
- 'Passive' recreation and intrinsic open space rank higher than building more facilities.
- People are supportive of a community center conceptually, but place it as a lower priority.

# Extra Slides

Question 5

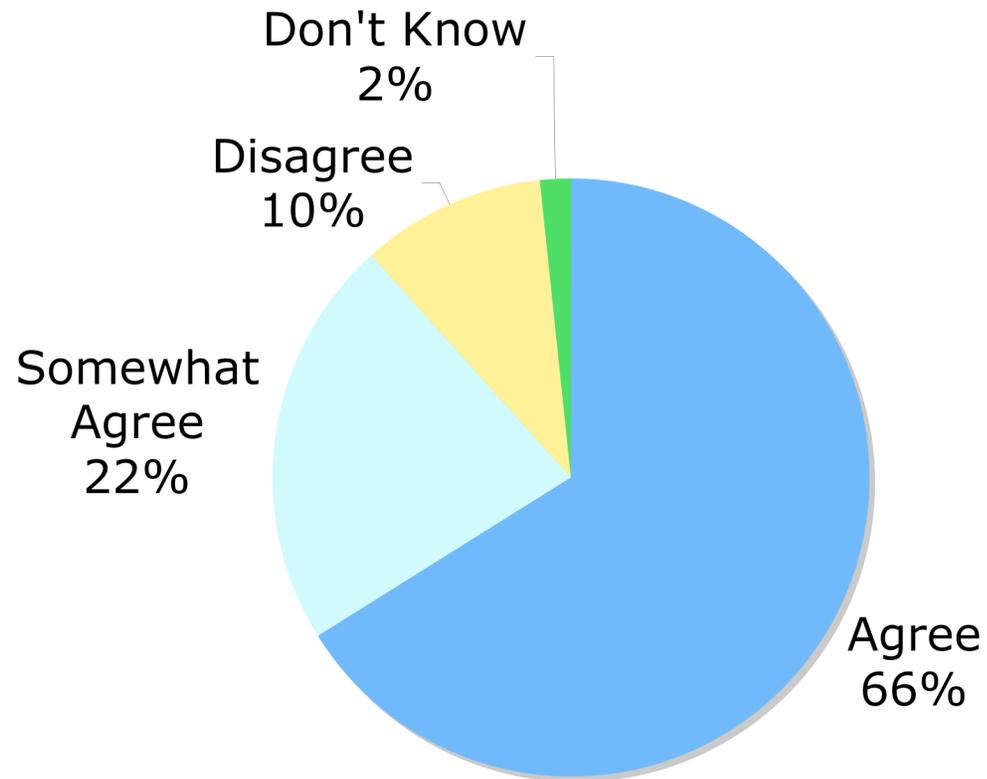
# Priorities for Town Investment

## Children in the household



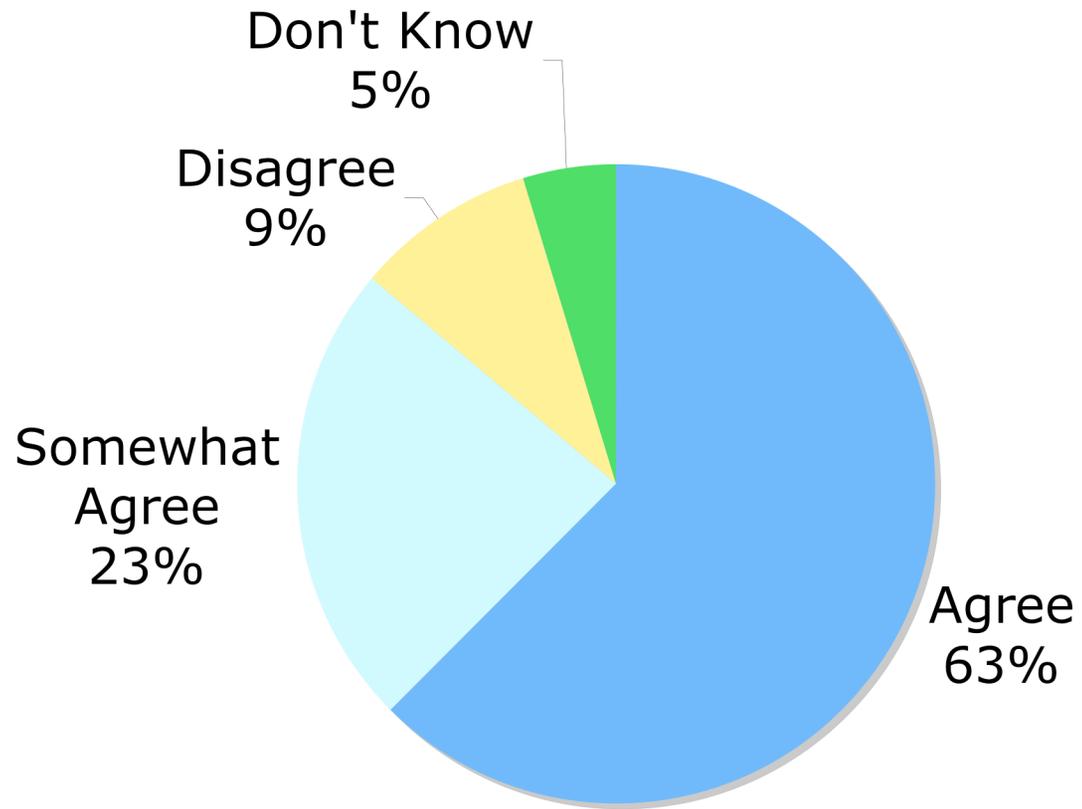
Question 4A

# Preserve Scenic Vistas



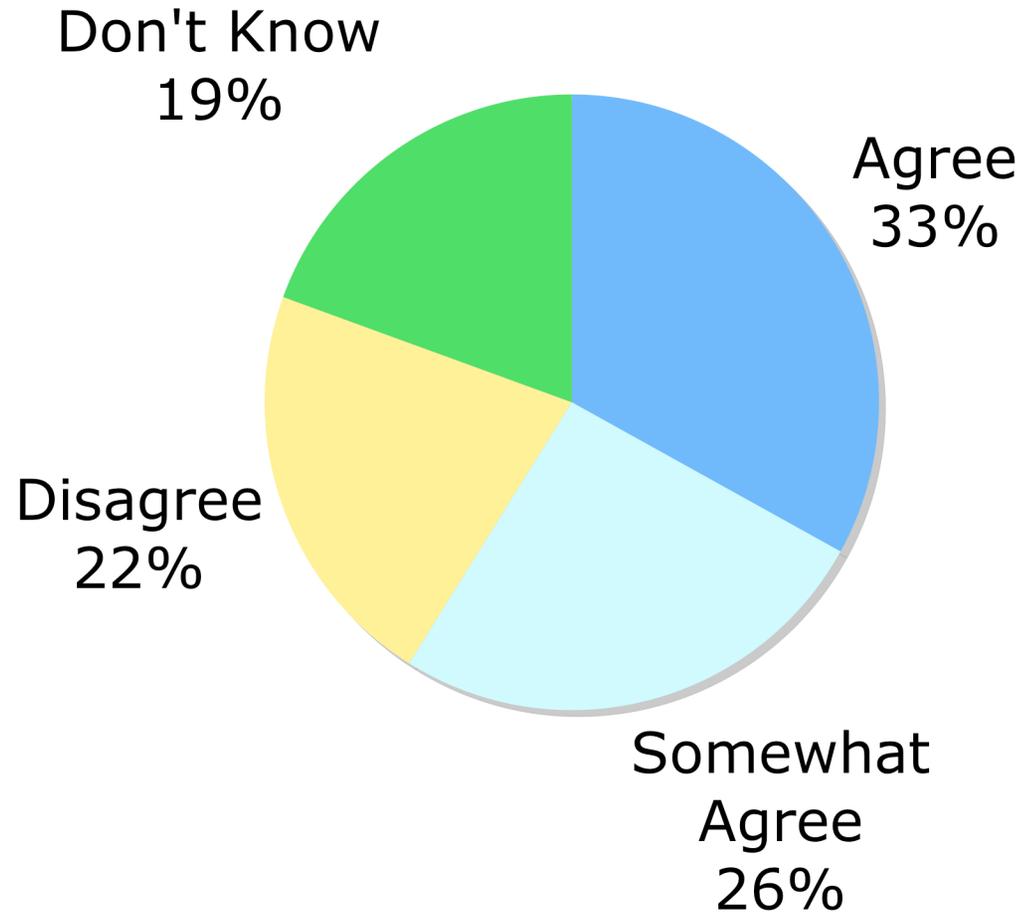
Question 4B

# Preserve Wildlife Habitat



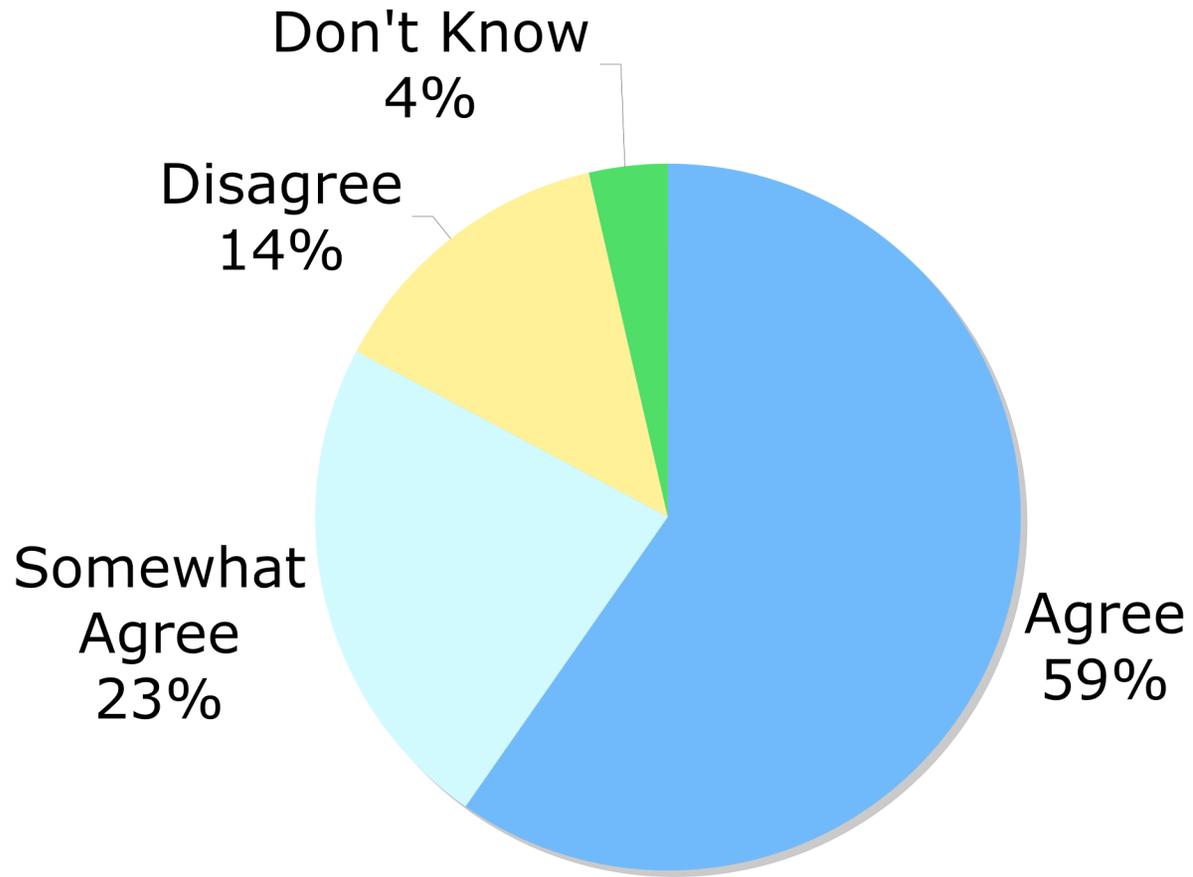
Question 4C

# Connecting Large Open Spaces



Question 4D

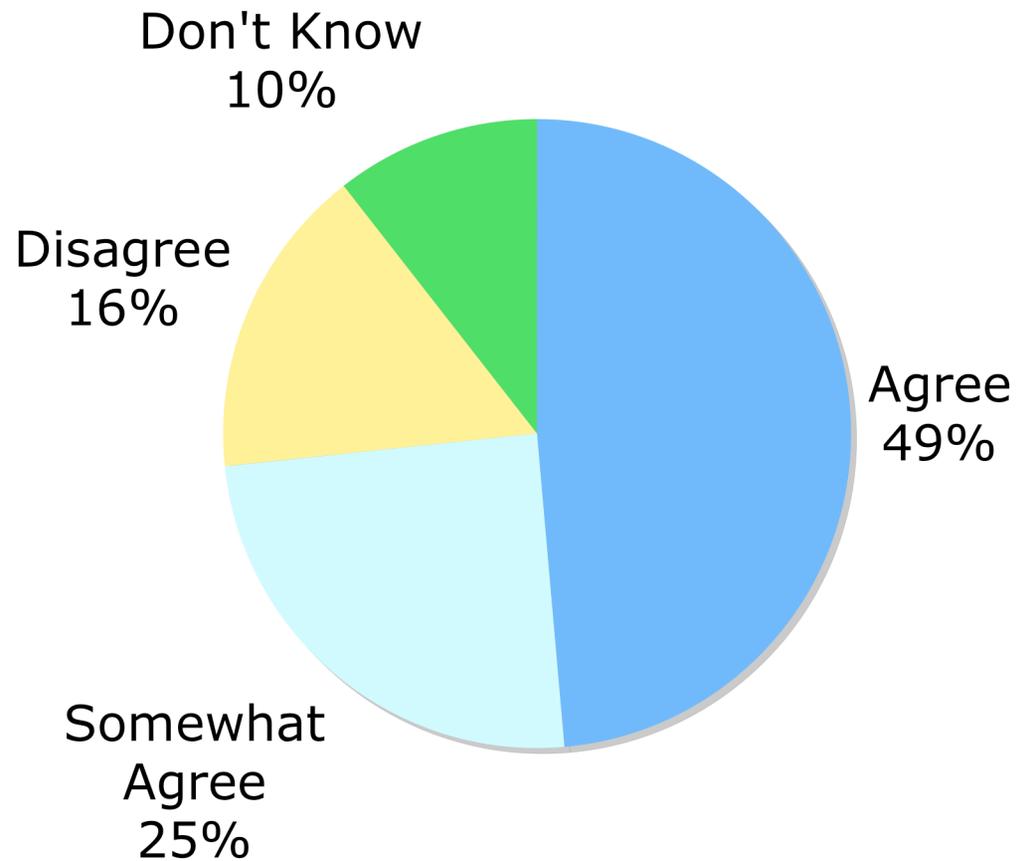
# Preserve Natural Shoreline



Question 4E

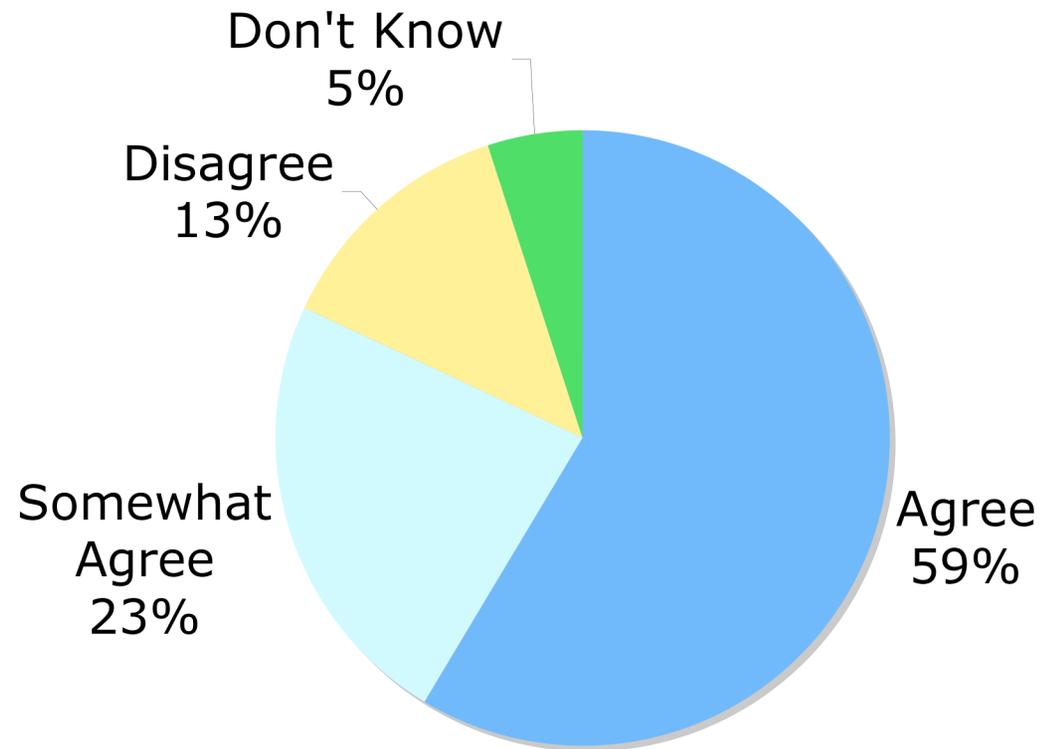
# Preserve Small Green Space in Village Areas

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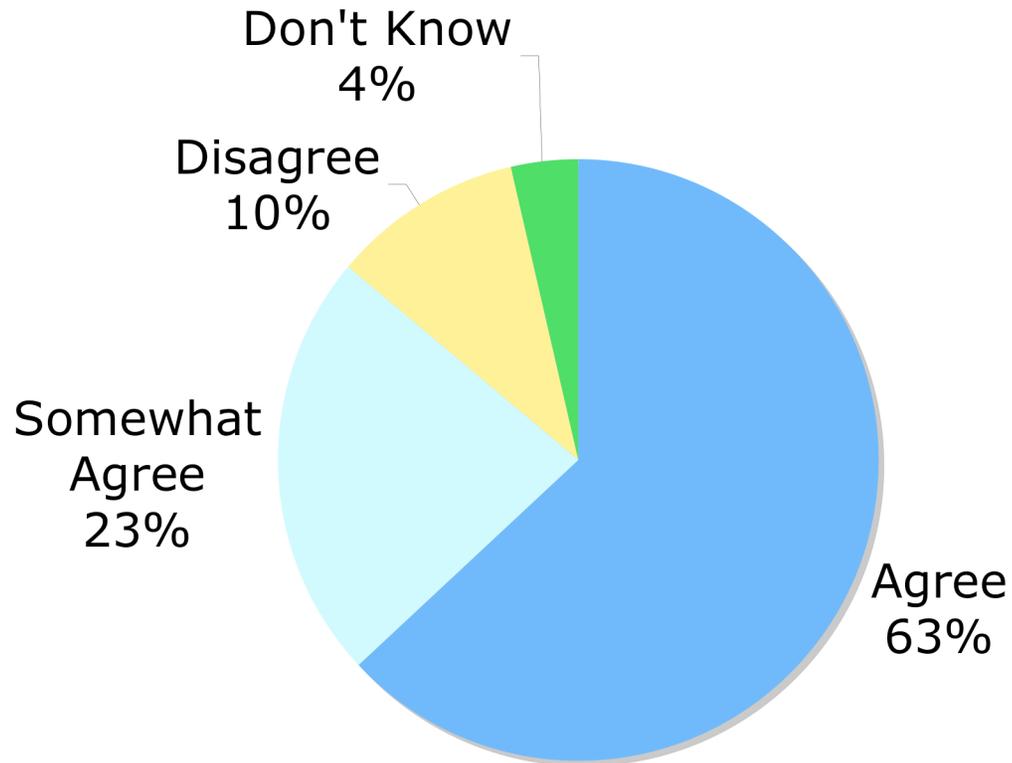
Question 4F

# Preserve Wetlands



Question 4G

# Identify & Protect Trails



Question 4H

# Protect Large, Undeveloped Land

