



A Community Surveys

This section includes summaries of the two community surveys that were given, one in October 2015 (Survey #1) and one in February 2016 (Survey #2). Each survey focused on questions pertaining to a different set of topics. The surveys are presented separately due to the different demographic makeup of each set of respondents.

A.1 Survey #1: Housing, Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization **3**

A.2 Survey #2: Land Use and Community Design; Transportation; Public Infrastructure and Services; and Natural Systems, Open Space and Recreation **19**

A.3 Open-Ended Responses: Survey #1 & Survey #2 **33**



A.1 Survey #1

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Survey #1



The first community survey solicited public involvement in the La Crescent Comprehensive Plan on the following topics: Housing, Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization. The project team created an on-line public opinion survey to address these topics. The survey was hosted on Survey Monkey and posted on the City of La Crescent’s website. It was promoted via the following methods:

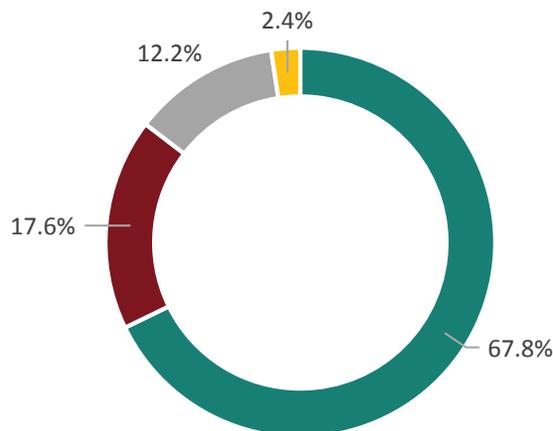
- Links to the survey on the City and Library websites
- Press release in the Houston County News
- Email blasts

In total, 665 individuals completed the survey. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of those who completed the survey live in the City of La Crescent and 18% live in the Township of La Crescent. Approximately half of respondents (46%) spend most of their time during weekdays (place of employment or otherwise) in the City of La Crescent. The second most popular response to this question was the City of La Crosse, with 31% of respondents stating most of their time on weekdays is spent here.

The survey represents a diverse group demographically, though certain groups were under- and over-represented. Survey respondents under the age of 18 made up 8% of responses while this group makes up 24% of the demographic in La Crescent according to the 2010 United States Census. Survey respondents age 35-44 were the most over-represented; this demographic accounted for 25% of survey results but according to the Census, makes up 11% of La Crescent’s total population. The figure depicting respondents’ answers to their corresponding age group compared to Census data is shown as the response to Question 31 on page A-18.

**A comprehensive list of open-ended questions and comments is found at the end of this appendix. Questions with additional comments/responses will be marked with an asterisk (e.g. Q2*).*

Q1* WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



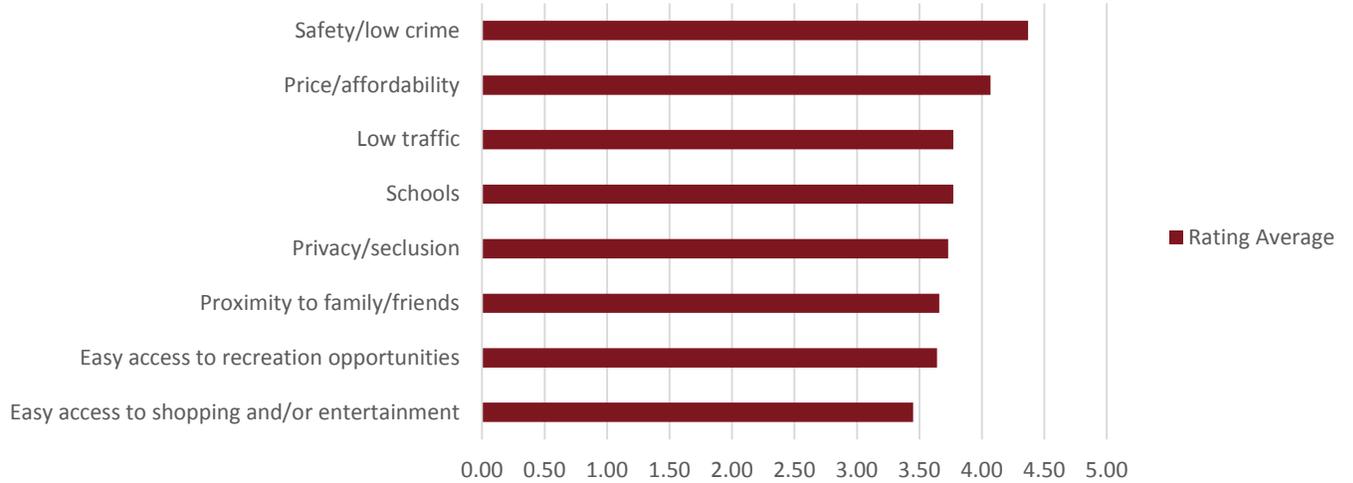
- City of La Crescent
- Township of La Crescent
- Other location in Minnesota
- Other location in Wisconsin



A.1 Survey #1

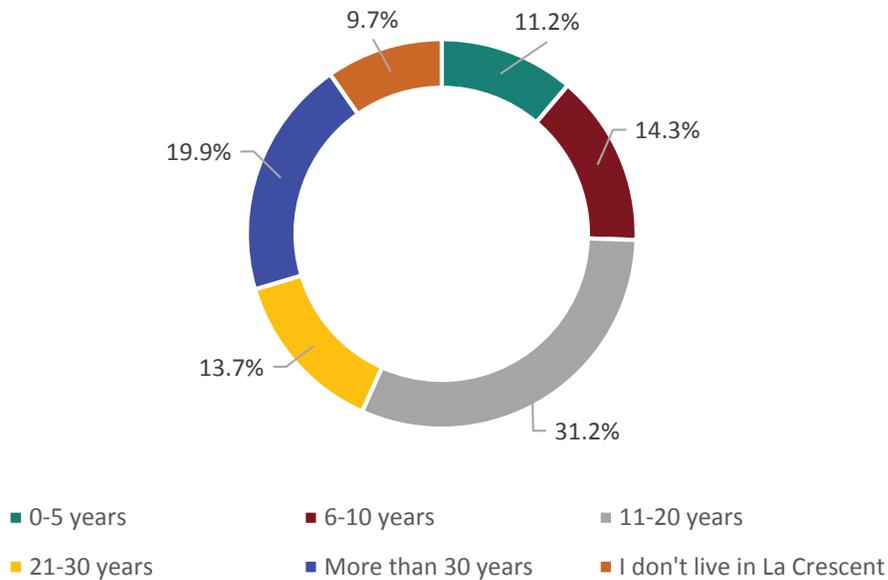
Q2*

PLEASE RATE THE INFLUENCE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS IN YOUR DECISION TO LIVE WHERE YOU LIVE RIGHT NOW:



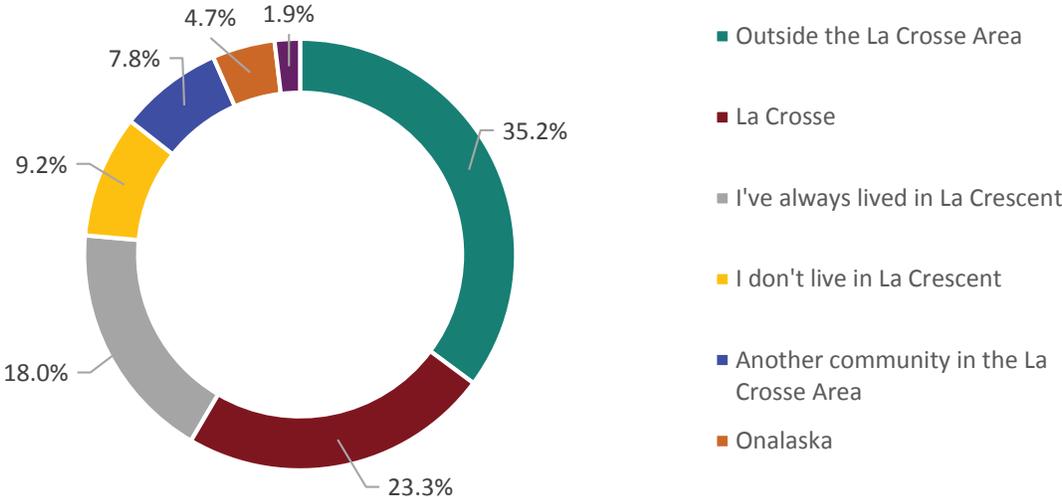
Q3*

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED IN LA CRESCENT (CITY OR TOWNSHIP)?



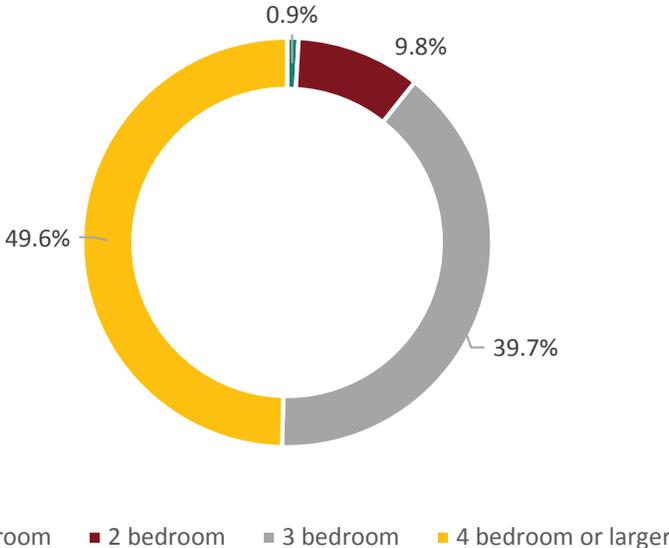
Q4*

WHERE DID YOU LIVE PRIOR TO LIVING IN LA CRESCENT?



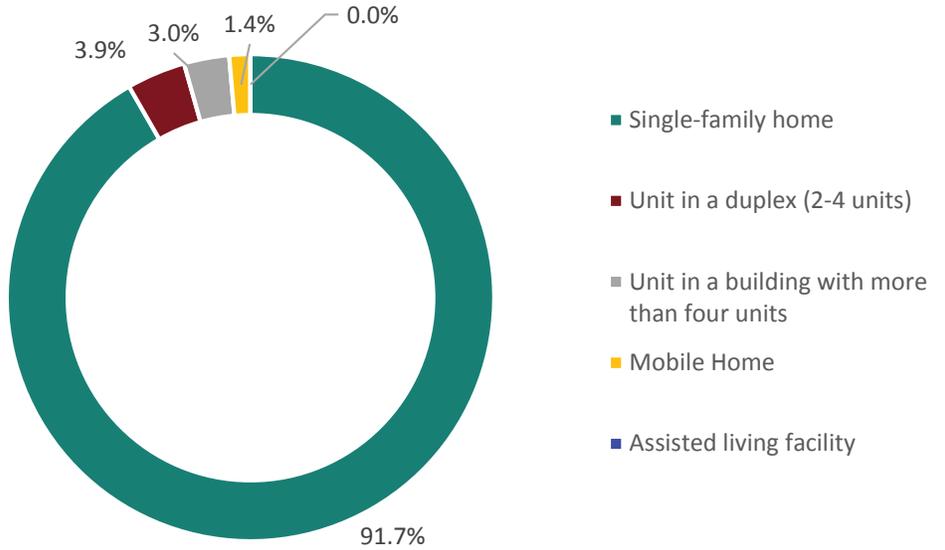
Q5*

WHAT IS THE SIZE OF YOUR CURRENT HOME OR APARTMENT?



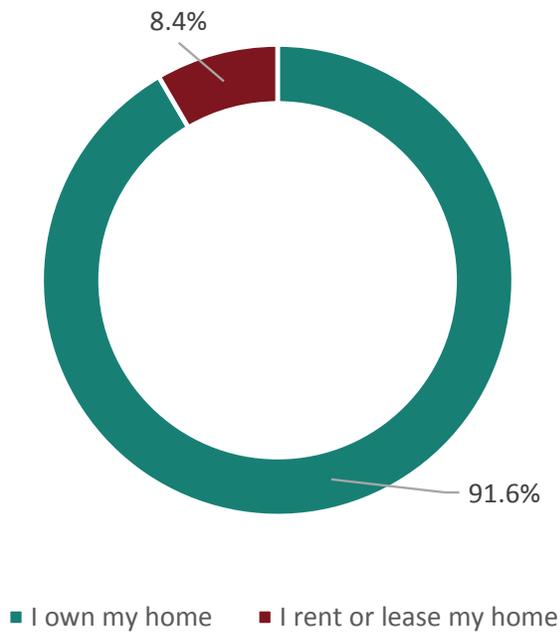
Q6

IN WHICH TYPE OF HOUSING DO YOU CURRENTLY LIVE?



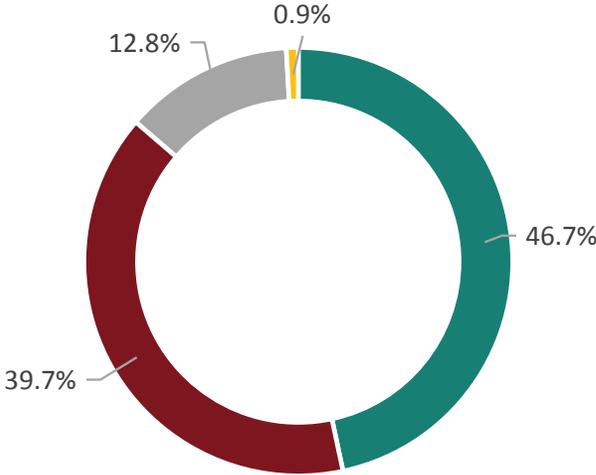
Q7

DO YOU RENT OR OWN YOUR DWELLING?



Q8*

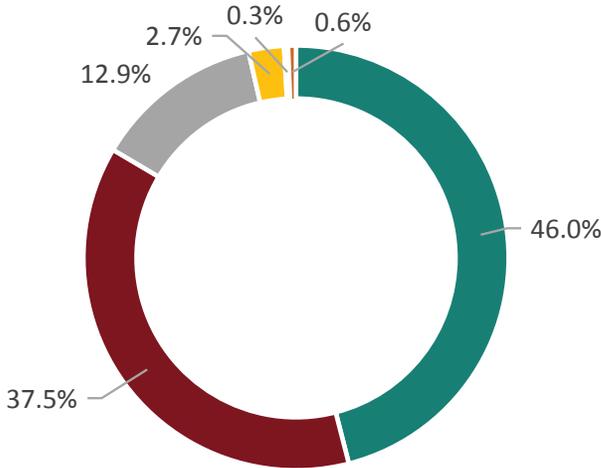
WHAT CONDITION IS YOUR HOME IN?



- Excellent
- Good
- Fair / Needs a few repairs
- Poor / Needs many and/or major repairs

Q9*

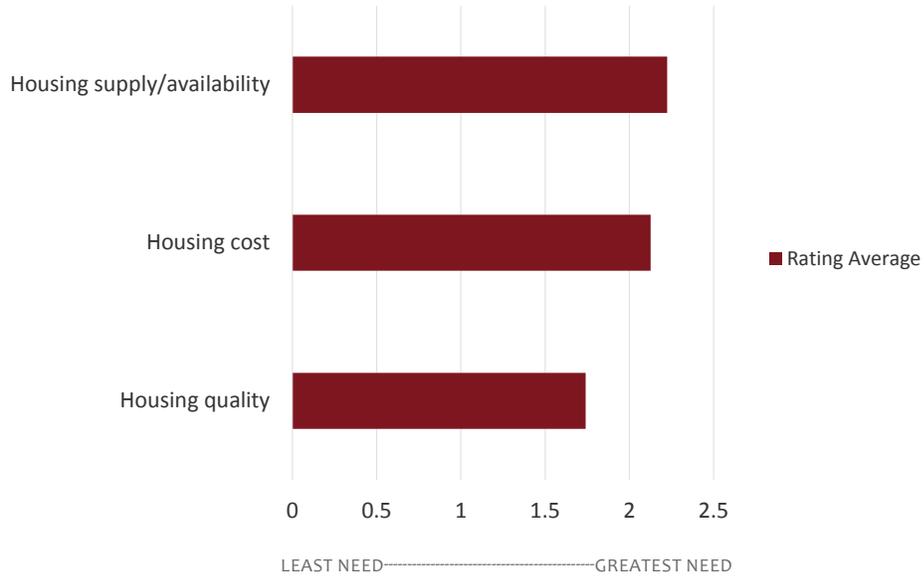
HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH YOUR CURRENT HOME AND PROPERTY?



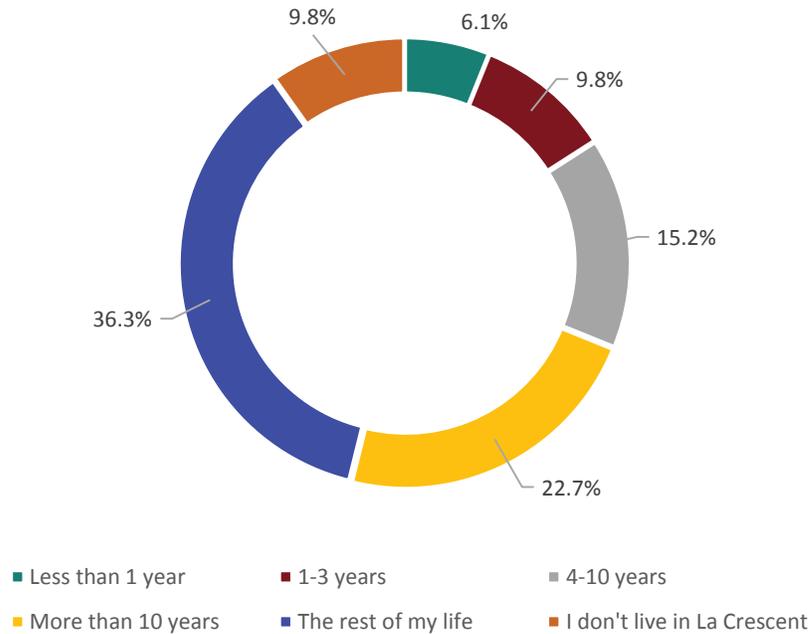
- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Somewhat Satisfied
- Somewhat Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Very Dissatisfied

A.1 Survey #1

Q10 PLEASE RANK THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF LA CRESCENT HOUSING BASED ON THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT (WITH 1 BEING THE GREATEST NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT AND 3 BEING THE LEAST NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT).

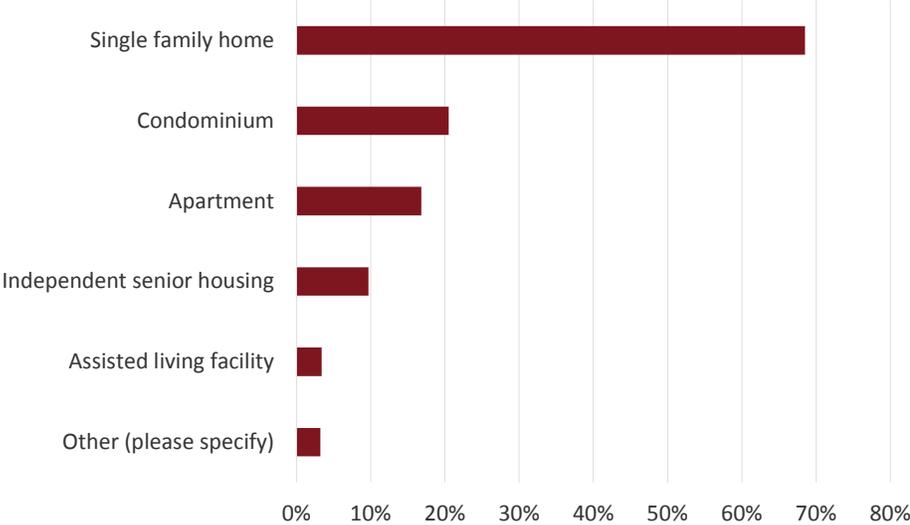


Q11* HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT TO CONTINUE LIVING IN LA CRESCENT?



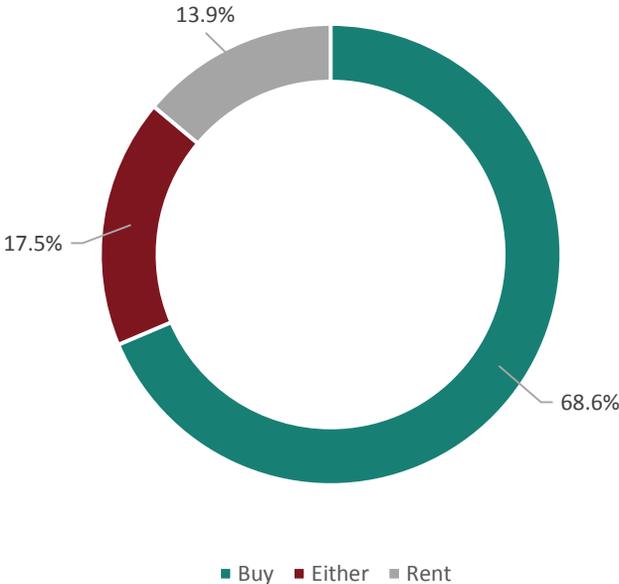
Q12*

IF YOU WERE TO MOVE (WITHIN OR OUTSIDE OF LA CRESCENT) IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS FOR ANY REASON, WHAT TYPE OF HOUSING WOULD YOU BE SEEKING? (CHECK EACH THAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER)



Q13

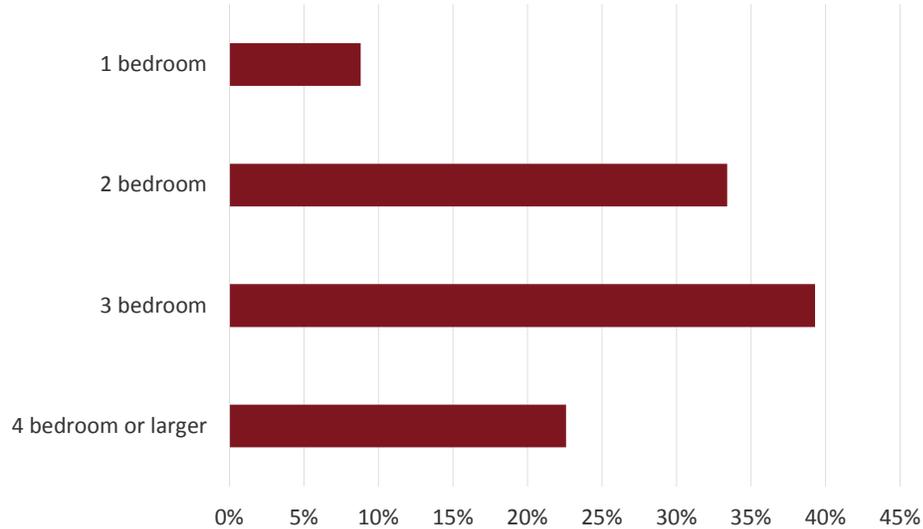
IF YOU WERE TO MOVE IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS, WOULD YOU BE LOOKING TO RENT OR BUY?



A.1 Survey #1

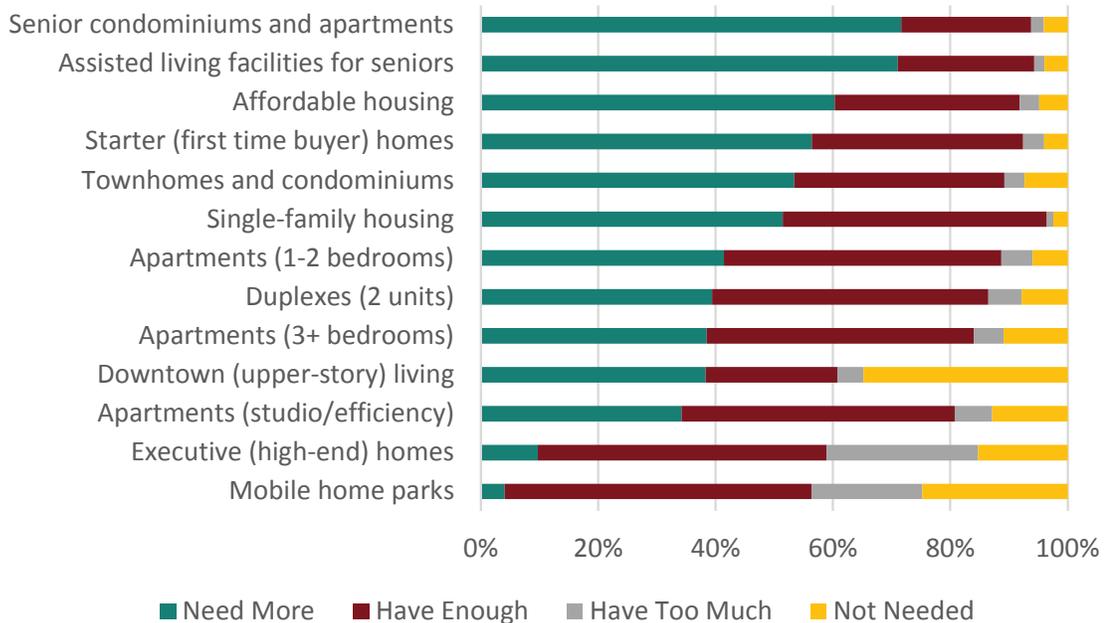
Q14*

IF YOU WERE TO MOVE IN THE NEXT 5 YEARS, WHAT SIZE OF A HOME OR APARTMENT WOULD YOU LIKELY NEED? *NOTE: THIS RESPONSE SHOULD BE COMPARED TO QUESTION 5 - 50% OF RESPONDENTS CURRENTLY HAVE HOMES WITH 4 OR MORE BEDROOMS AND ANOTHER 40% WITH 3 BEDROOMS.



Q15*

PLEASE SHARE YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT THE SUPPLY OF VARIOUS HOUSING TYPES IN LA CRESCENT:



Q16*

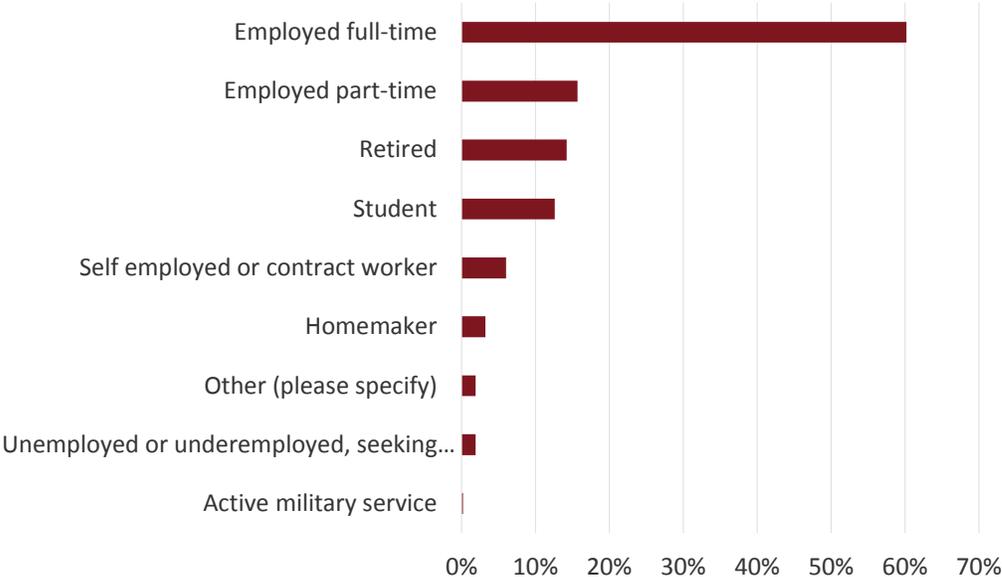
WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE OR TWO THINGS THAT THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT SHOULD DO TO IMPROVE HOUSING WITHIN THE CITY DURING THE NEXT 5-10 YEARS?

Common Responses:

- + Have housing that is affordable for all individuals and families.
- + Have more housing opportunities for seniors (both assisted and independent living facilities).
- + Have more starter homes for young professionals and young families.

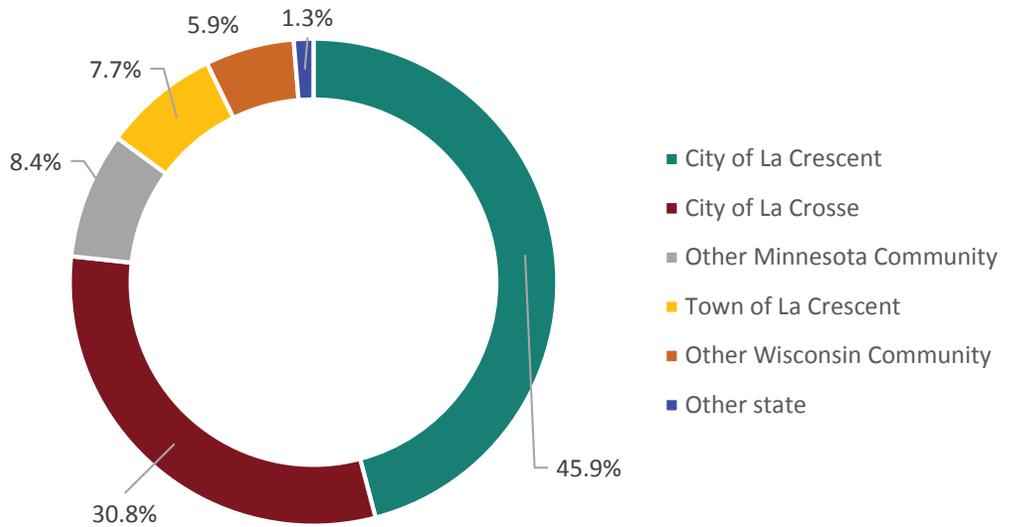
Q17*

WHAT IS YOUR EMPLOYMENT STATUS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)?



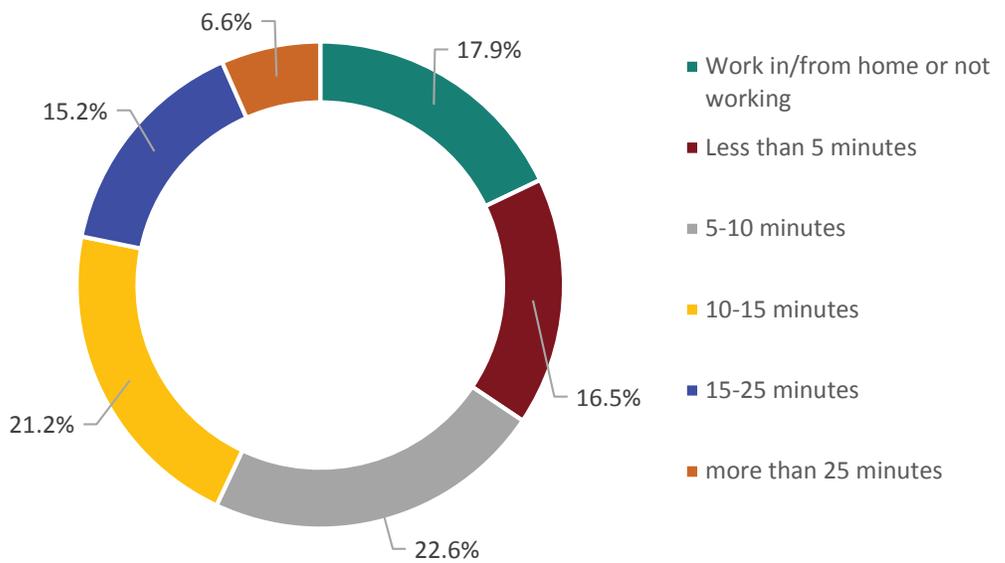
Q18*

WHERE DO YOU SPEND MOST OF YOUR TIME ON WEEKDAYS (PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR OTHERWISE)?



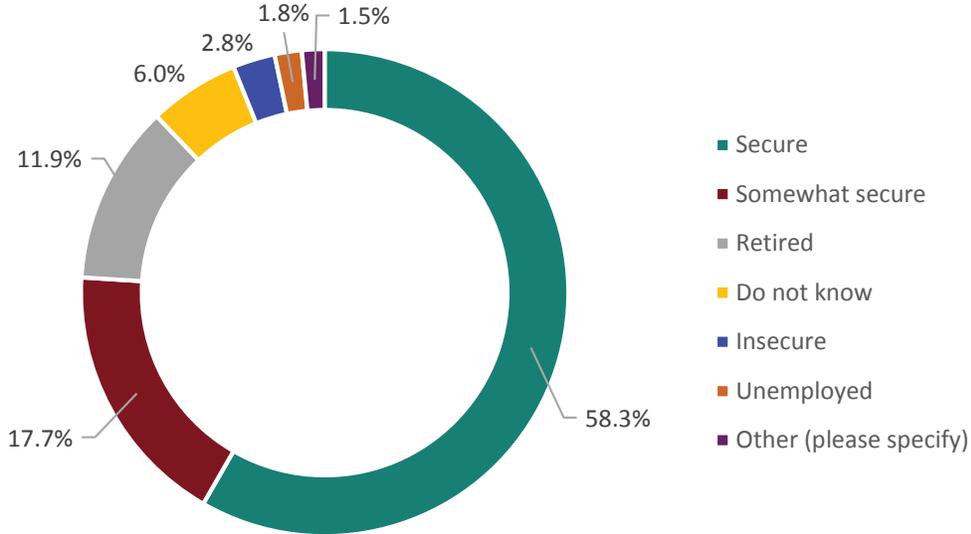
Q19*

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE YOU TO GET TO WORK?



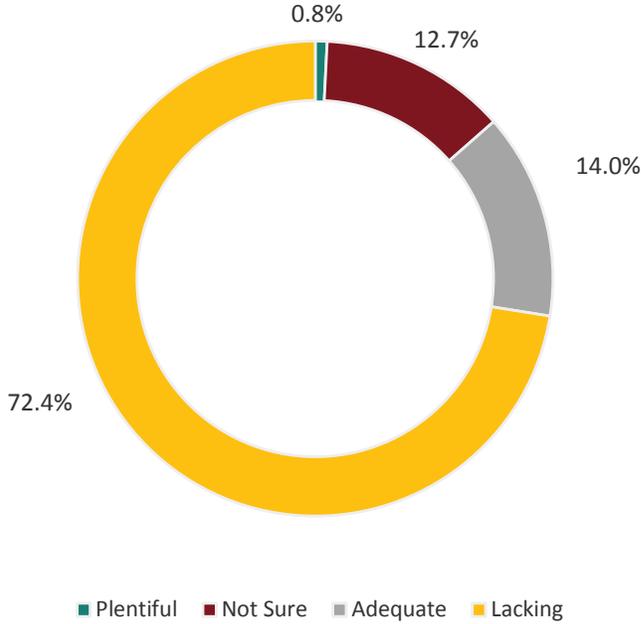
Q20*

HOW SECURE DO YOU BELIEVE YOUR EMPLOYMENT TO BE OVER THE NEXT 3-5 YEARS?



Q21*

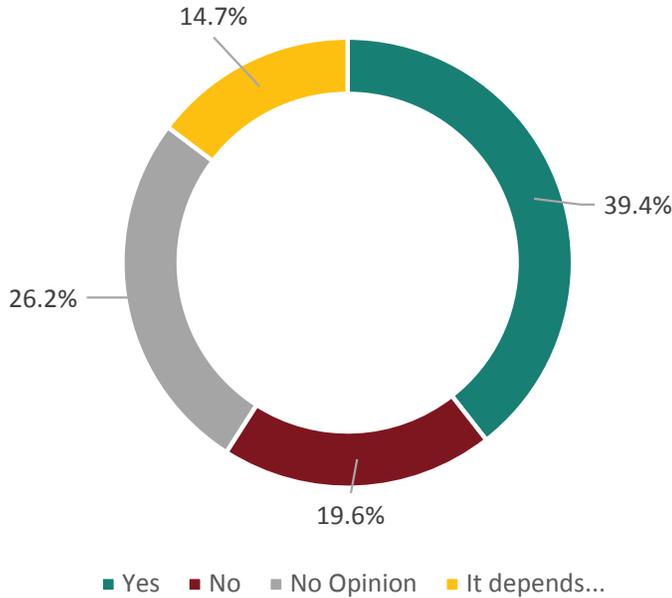
IN YOUR OPINION, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE AVAILABILITY OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN LA CROSSE?



A.1 Survey #1

Q22*

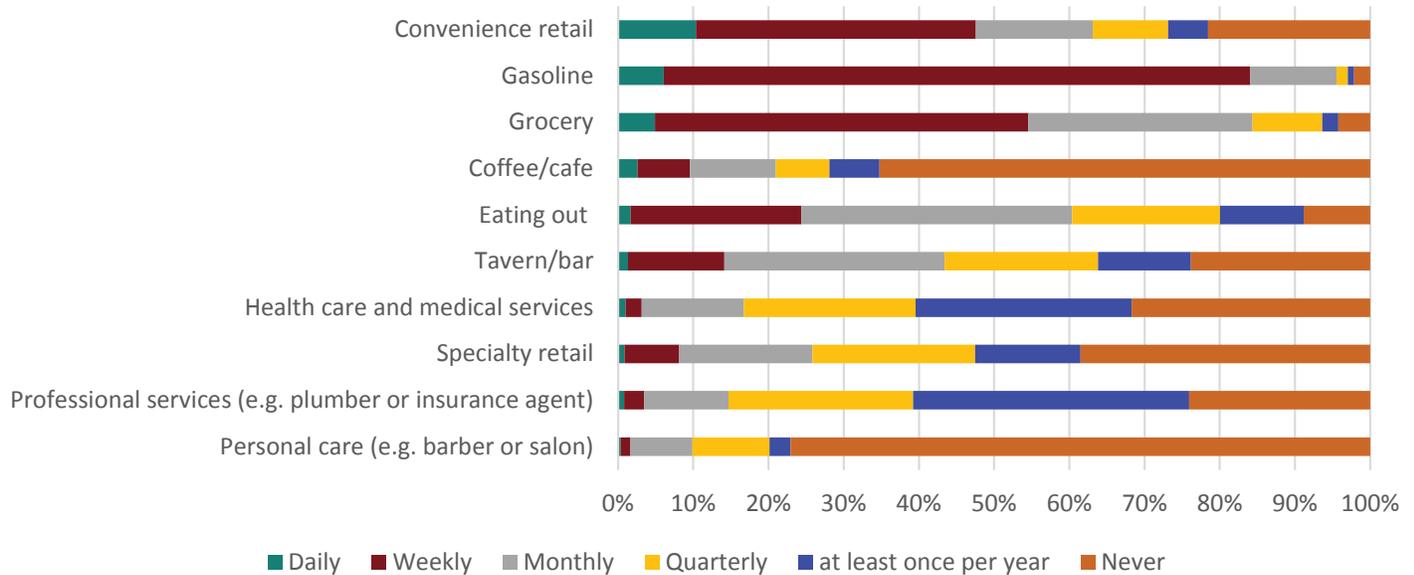
DO YOU BELIEVE THE CITY SHOULD COMMIT ADDITIONAL TAX DOLLARS TO ATTRACT AND RETAIN JOBS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WITHIN LA CRESCENT?



Common Response:
+ It depends on the type of business and types of jobs. The jobs should be higher paying.

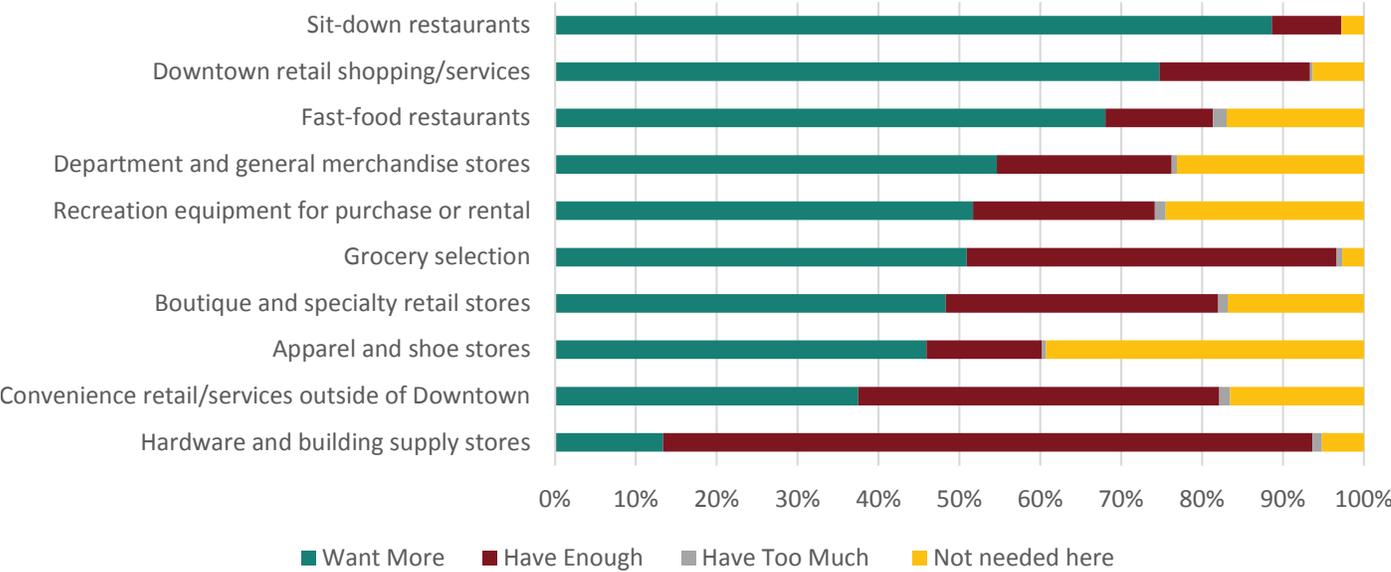
Q23*

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PATRONIZE LA CRESCENT BUSINESSES FOR THE FOLLOWING SERVICES?



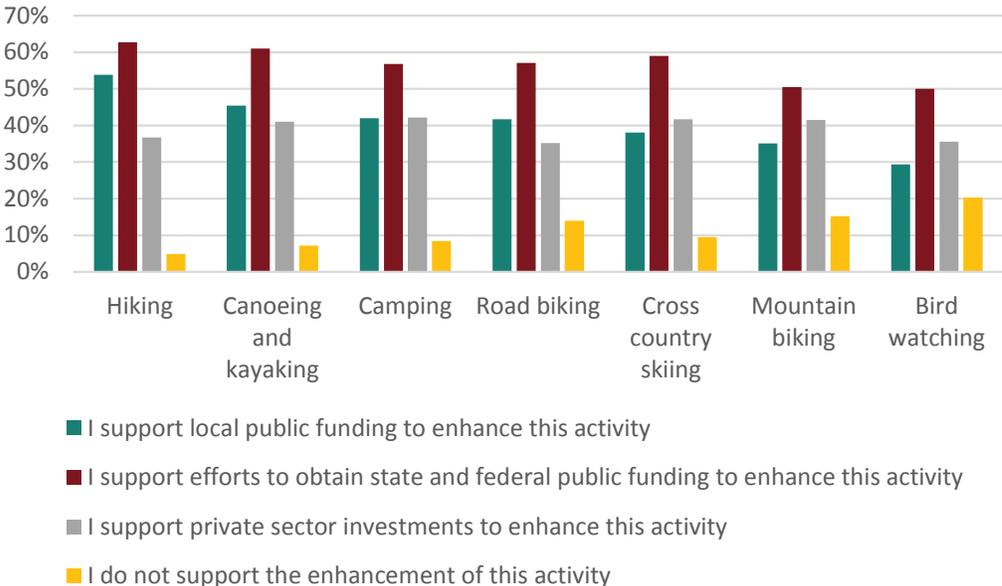
Q24*

PLEASE SHARE YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT THE SUPPLY OF VARIOUS RETAIL AND SERVICE BUSINESSES IN LA CRESCENT. "MORE" COULD MEAN MORE STORES, MORE/ DIFFERENT PRODUCT SELECTION, OR BOTH.



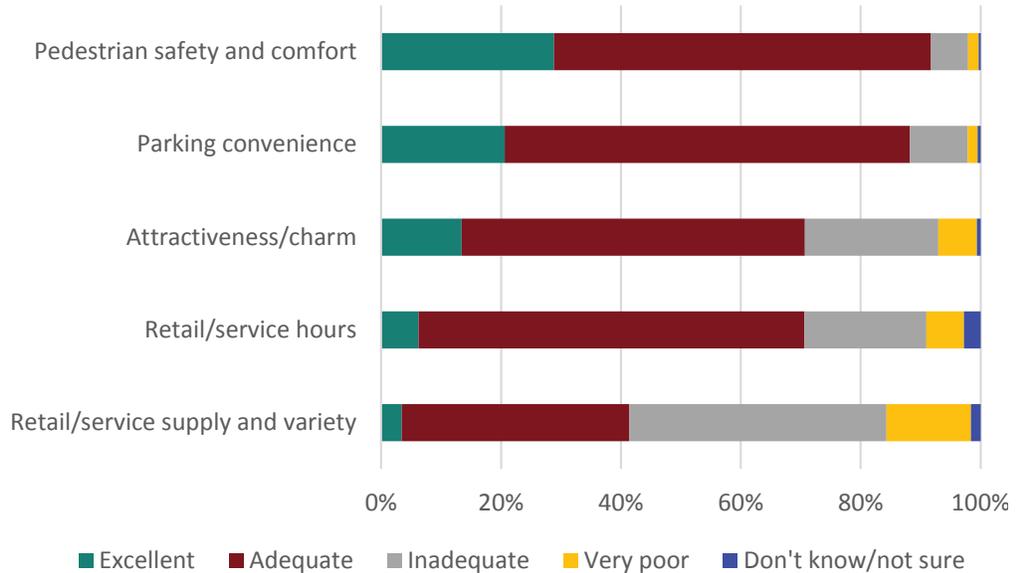
Q25*

INDICATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR ENHANCEMENTS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION IN THE LA CRESCENT AREA AS A STRATEGY TO SPUR LOCAL TOURISM SPENDING (YOU MAY SELECT MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE IN EACH ROW).



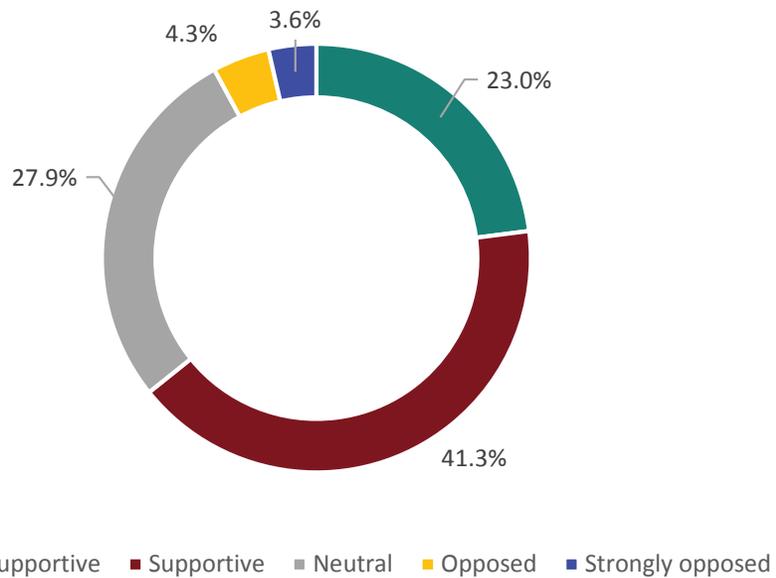
Q26*

PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS OF DOWNTOWN LA CRESCENT.



Q27*

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROVIDES GUIDANCE WHEN PROPERTY OWNERS WANT TO TEAR DOWN AND BUILD NEW BUILDINGS. PLEASE INDICATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR NEW, MULTI-STORY BUILDINGS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA.



Q28* AS THE CITY CONTINUES TO GROW/CHANGE, WHAT WOULD BE THE ONE THING YOU WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE CHANGE IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA?

Common Responses:

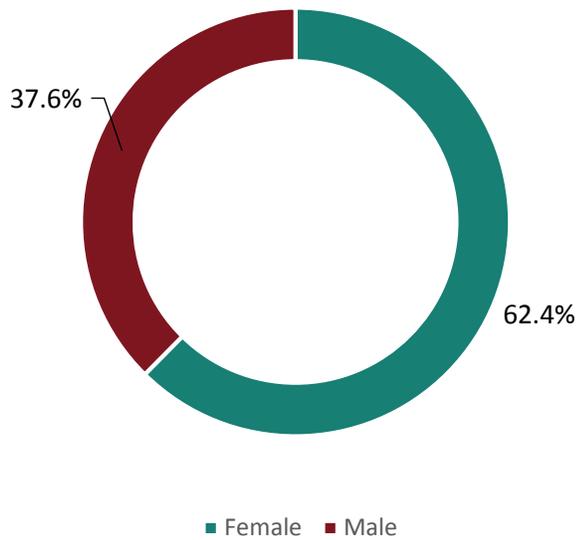
- + The variety and number of local businesses in the Downtown District.
- + The ease and availability of parking within the community.
- + The “small-town” feel.
- + The character and vibrancy of the Downtown District.

Q29* THINK OF OTHER COMMUNITIES SIMILAR TO LA CRESCENT THAT YOU LIKE, ESPECIALLY ANY WITH VIBRANT AND ATTRACTIVE DOWNTOWN DISTRICTS. PLEASE NAME THE COMMUNITY AND DESCRIBE WHY YOU LIKE IT.

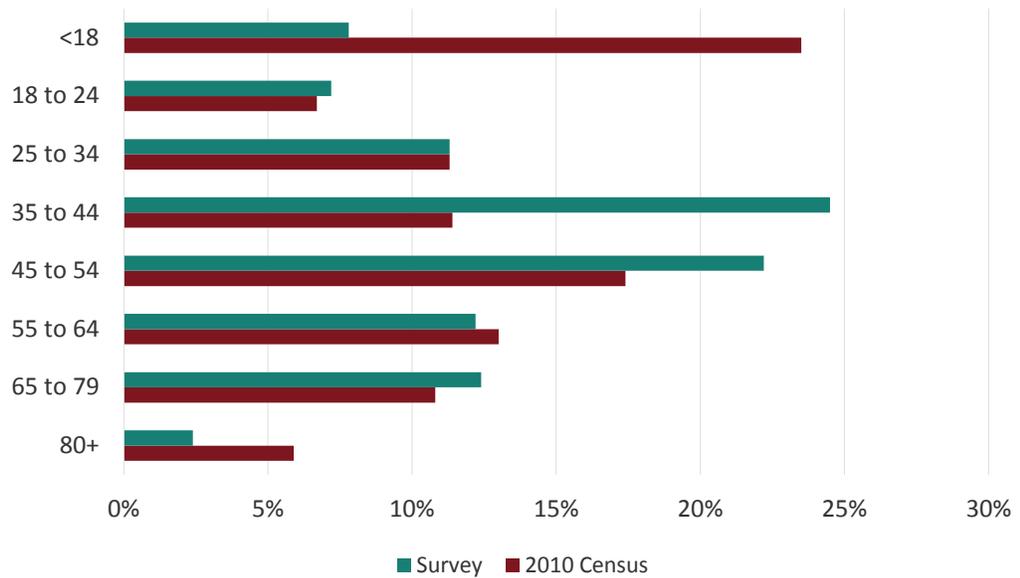
Common Responses:

- + Lanesboro, MN -historic, busy, attractive and inviting downtown; variety of businesses downtown; natural beauty and opportunities for recreation; the community is welcoming to tourists.
- + La Crosse, WI - more opportunities than La Crescent for housing and employment; wider variety of businesses; nice downtown; it’s on the river; there is a lot to do; “big city” feel.
- + Lake City, MN - sit-down restaurants; shops; lakefront; small-town feel; clean.
- + Red Wing, MN - historic downtown and trees, flowers, decor; they’ve taken advantage of being on the river.

Q30 WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?



Q31 WHAT IS YOUR AGE?



Survey #2



The second community survey solicited public involvement in the La Crescent Comprehensive Plan on the following topics: Land Use and Community Design; Transportation; Public Infrastructure and Services; and Natural Systems, Open Space and Recreation. The project team created an on-line public opinion survey to address these topics. The survey was hosted on Survey Monkey and posted on the City of La Crescent’s website. It was promoted via the following methods:

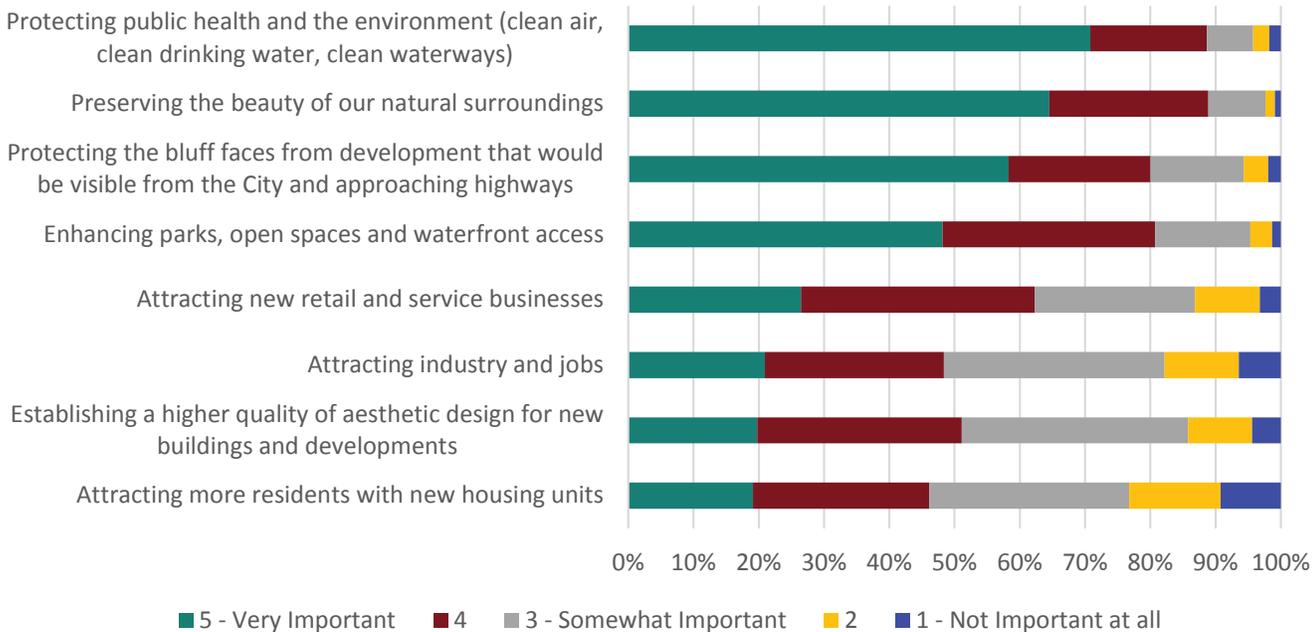
- Links to the survey on the City and Library websites
- Press release in the Houston County News
- Email blasts

In total, 693 individuals completed the survey. Sixty percent (60%) of those who completed the survey live in the City of La Crescent and 20% live in the Township of La Crescent. Seventeen percent (17%) live in another location in Minnesota.

The survey represents a diverse group demographically, again certain groups were under- and over-represented, though not the same groups as the first survey. Survey #2 had a much better representation of those under age 18. This cohort made up 26% of survey responses and makes up 24% of the demographic in La Crescent according to the 2010 United States Census. Survey respondents age 35-44 were again the most over-represented; this demographic accounted for 22% of survey results but according to the Census, makes up 11% of La Crescent’s total population. Survey respondents age 80+ were the most under-represented proportionally; this demographic accounted for only 0.5% of survey results but makes up 6% of the population according to the Census. The figure depicting respondents’ answers to their corresponding age group compared to Census data is shown as the response to Question 22 on page A-31.

**A comprehensive list of open-ended questions and comments is found at the end of this appendix. Questions with additional comments/responses will be marked with an asterisk (e.g. Q2*).*

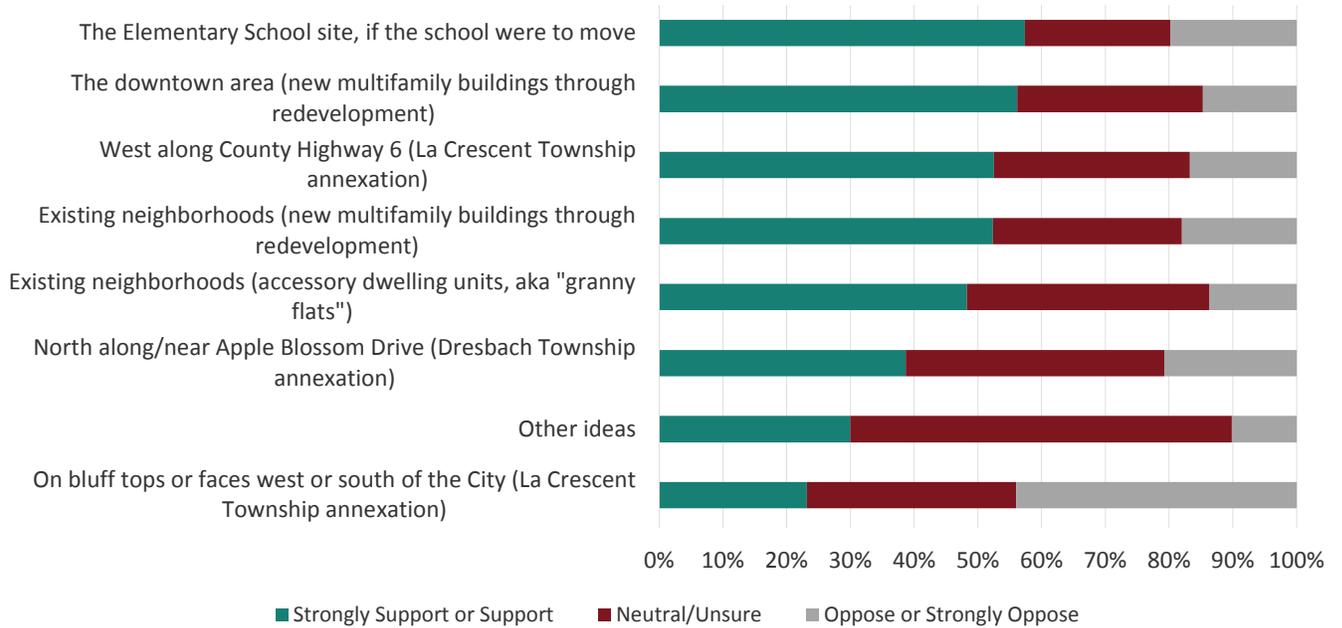
Q1* LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATION REQUIRES THE BALANCING OF COMPETING INTERESTS. PLEASE INDICATE THE IMPORTANCE OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TO YOU:



A.2 Survey #2

Q2*

GROWING THE POPULATION OF LA CRESCENT REQUIRES THE CONSTRUCTION OF MORE HOUSING UNITS. THE CITY HAS A FEW LOTS AVAILABLE FOR NEW HOUSING, AND LIMITED OPTIONS FOR GROWTH THROUGH ANNEXATION OF UNDEVELOPED LAND IN THE SURROUNDING TOWNSHIPS. INDICATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS FOR NEW HOUSING UNITS IN LA CRESCENT.

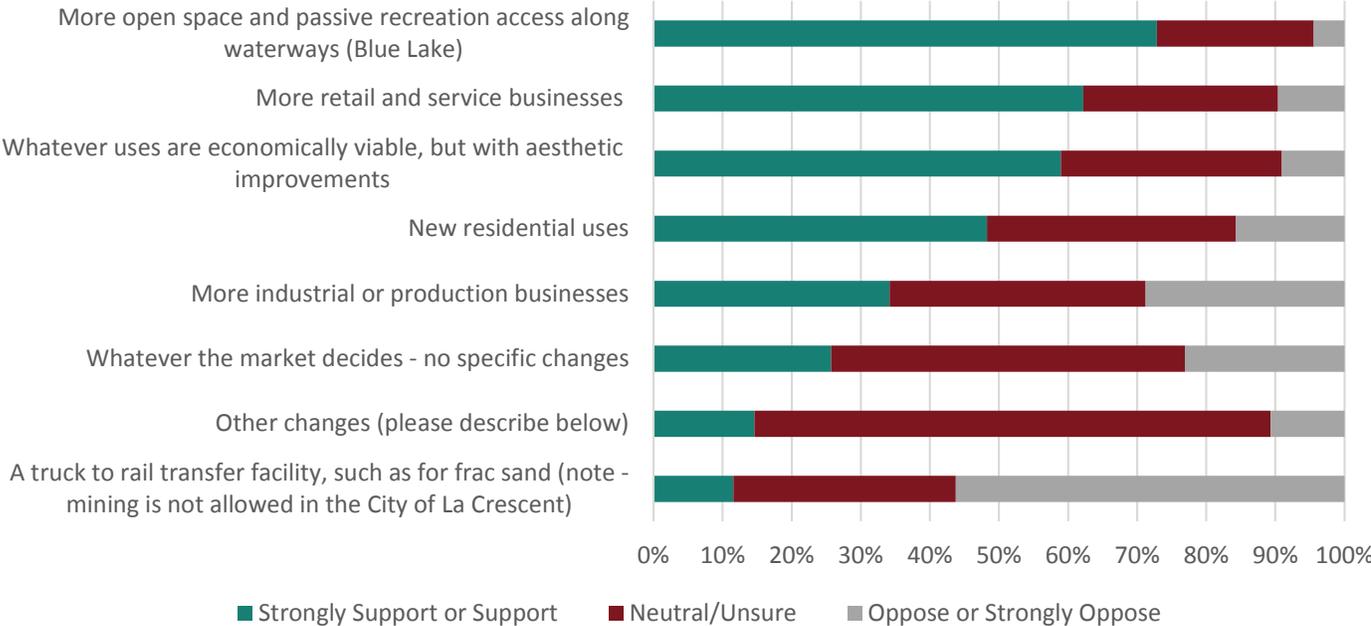


Sample "Other Ideas":

- + Create more senior housing units - some higher end and some that are more affordable (location not specified).
- + Create more housing that meets the needs of young families and young professionals (location not specified).
- + No more housing is needed in La Crescent.

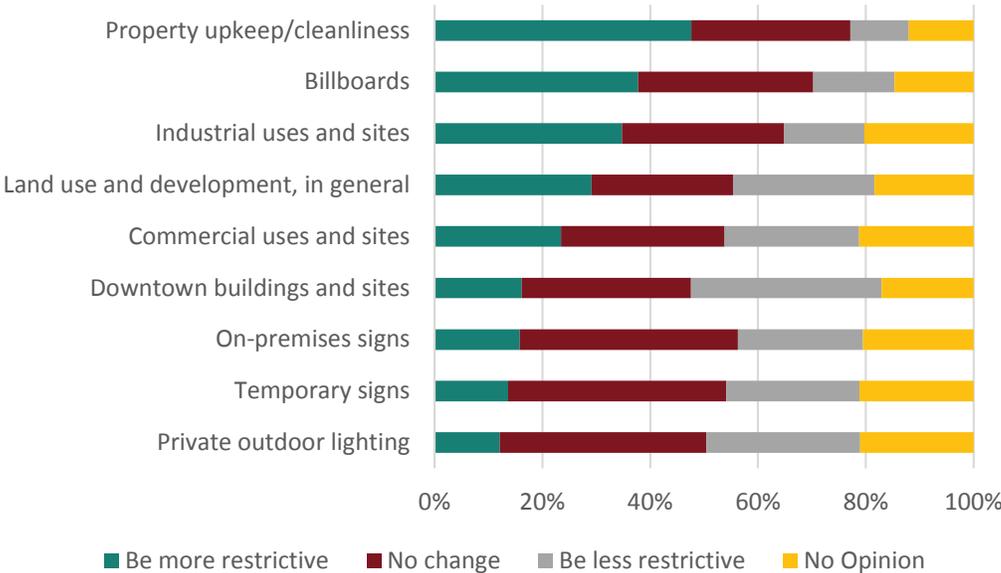
Q3*

LA CRESCENT'S COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS ARE LOCATED ALONG ITS HIGHWAY 14/61 CORRIDORS, NOT ONLY NORTH/SOUTH BUT ALSO ON THE PIKE BETWEEN LA CRESCENT AND LA CROSSE. THESE LANDS AND USES MAY CHANGE OVER TIME. INDICATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING CHANGES.



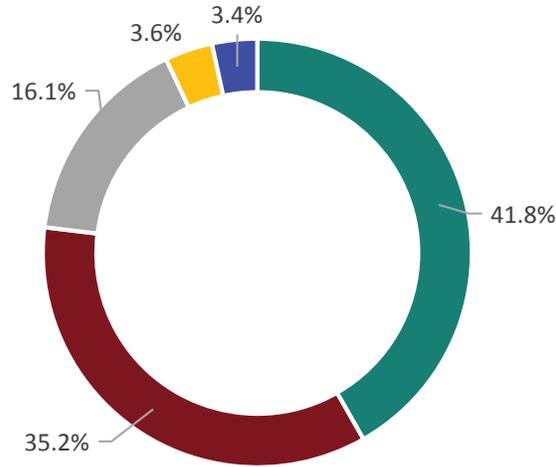
Q4*

HOW WOULD YOU DIRECT CITY LEADERS WITH REGARD TO REGULATION OF THE FOLLOWING?



Q5

SHOULD THE CITY OF LA CRESCENT TAKE STEPS TO BECOME A LEADER IN “GREEN” PRACTICES AND ECOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP?



■ Yes, strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Neutral/Not sure ■ Disagree ■ No, strongly disagree

Q6*

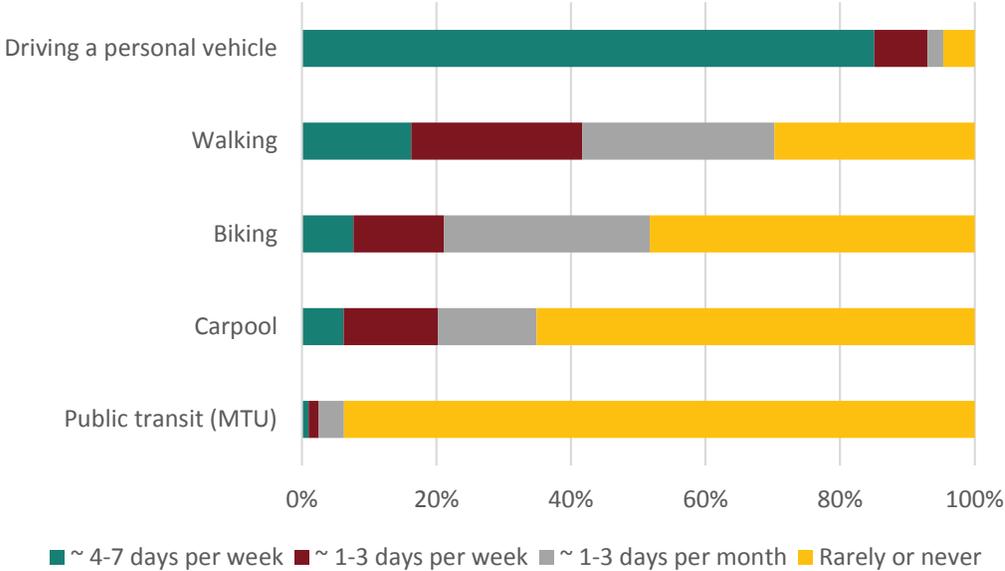
ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC SITES OR AREAS IN THE CITY YOU WOULD DEFINITELY LIKE TO SEE CHANGED OR IMPROVED THROUGH REDEVELOPMENT? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

Common Responses:

- + More/improved opportunities for outdoor recreation, improved waterfronts.
- + Housing or other new development on the school site if it is sold.
- + Make the downtown more vibrant and attractive to tourists, add more businesses.
- + Improve curb appeal of existing trailer park.
- + Improve curb appeal of existing apartments.

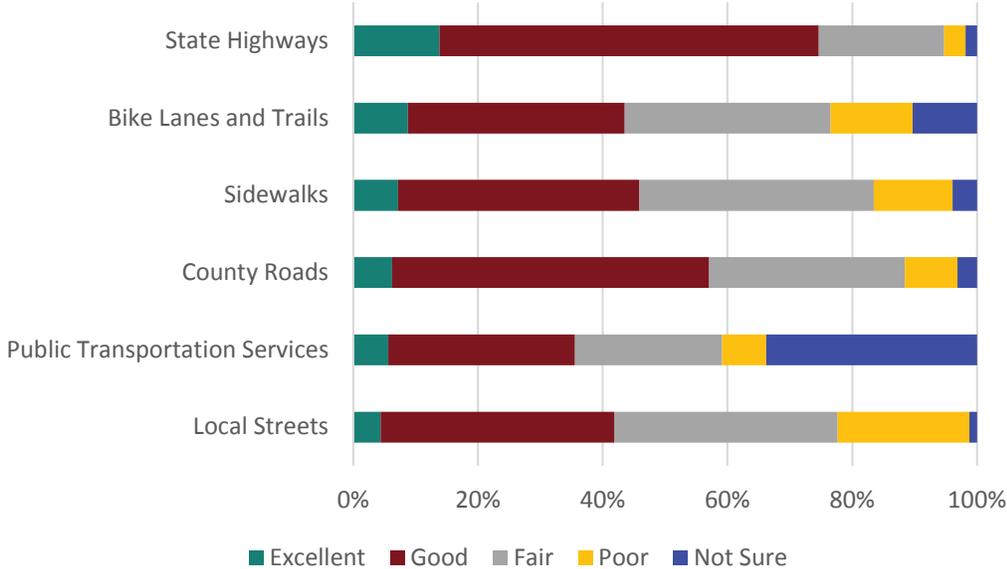
Q7*

HOW OFTEN DO YOU USE THE FOLLOWING METHODS OF TRANSPORTATION IN LA CRESCENT? IF "RARELY OR NEVER" PLEASE INDICATE WHY.



Q8*

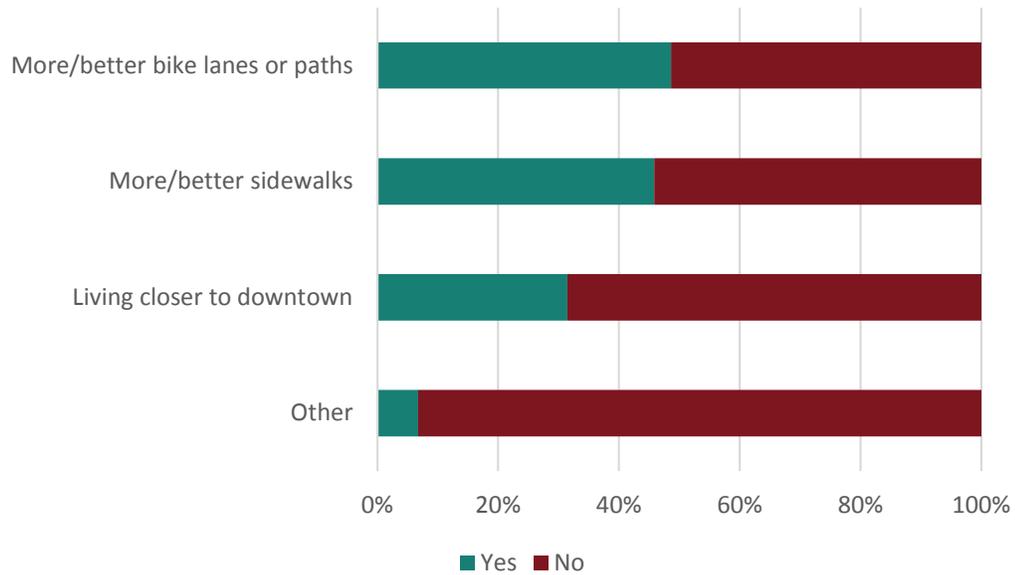
RATE THE FOLLOWING IN LA CRESCENT:



A.2 Survey #2

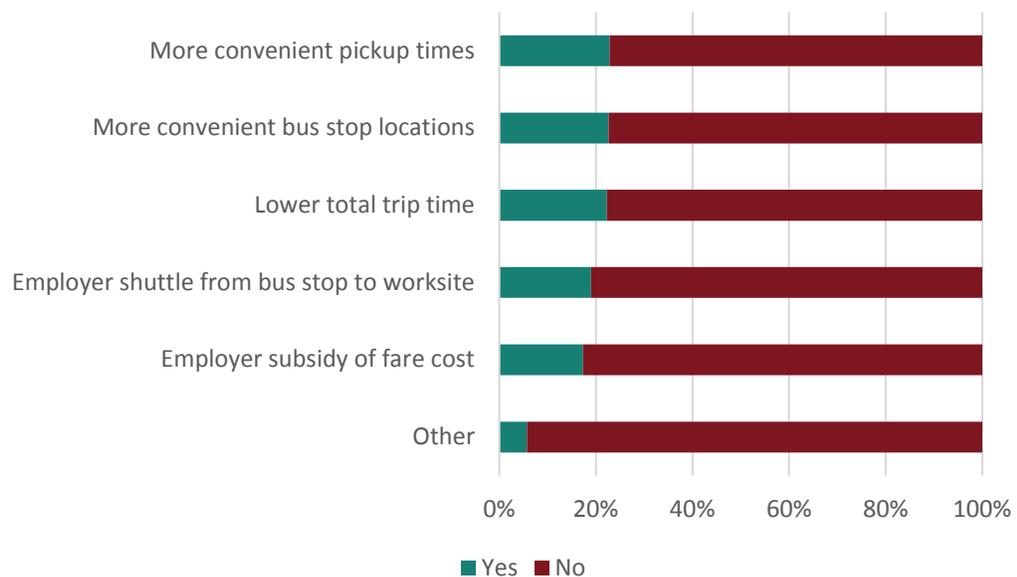
Q9*

WOULD ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGES MAKE YOU MORE LIKELY TO EITHER WALK OR RIDE A BIKE IN LA CRESCENT? IF YOU SAID “YES” TO ANY OF THE OPTIONS, PLEASE DESCRIBE THE IMPROVEMENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE.



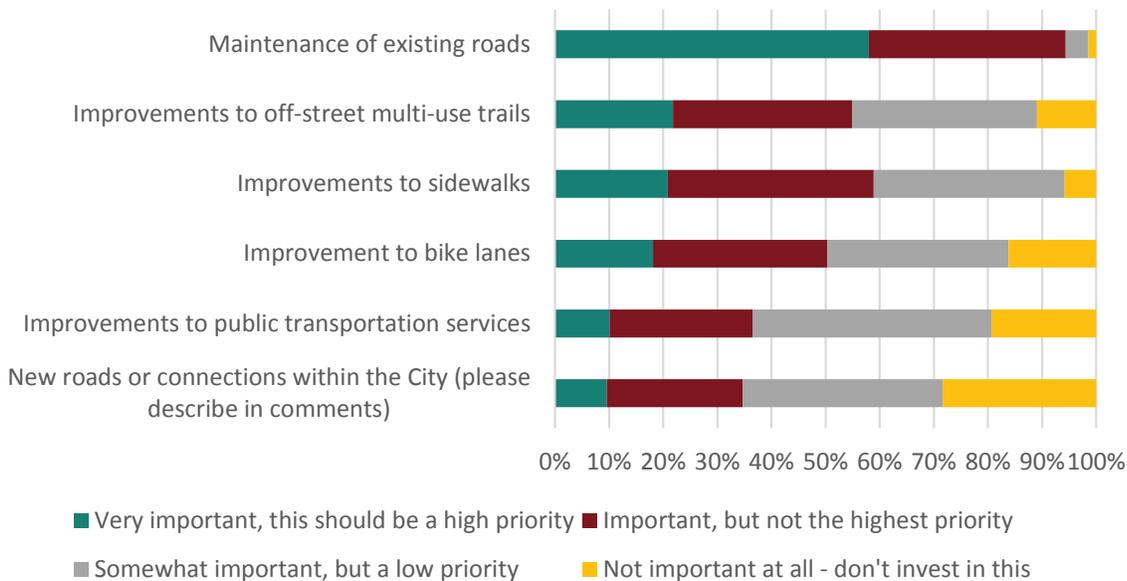
Q10*

WOULD ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CHANGES MAKE YOU MORE LIKELY TO USE MTU PUBLIC TRANSIT? (OPEN ENDED: WHAT WOULD IT TAKE FOR YOU TO USE PUBLIC TRANSIT?)



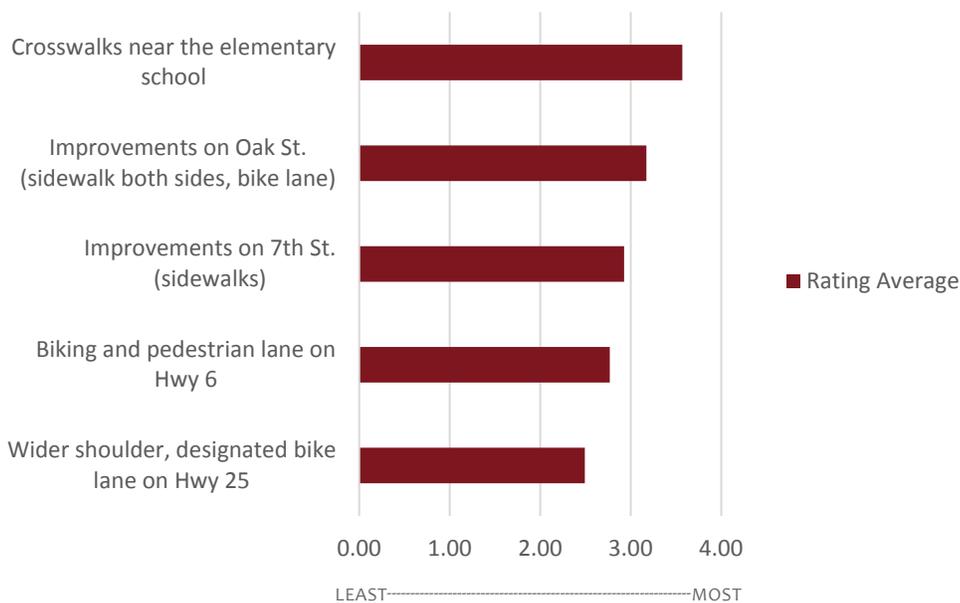
Q11*

PLEASE INDICATE THE IMPORTANCE TO YOU OF THE FOLLOWING TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS IN THE NEXT 10 YEARS.



Q12

RANK BY IMPORTANCE THE FOLLOWING BIKE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS.



Q13*

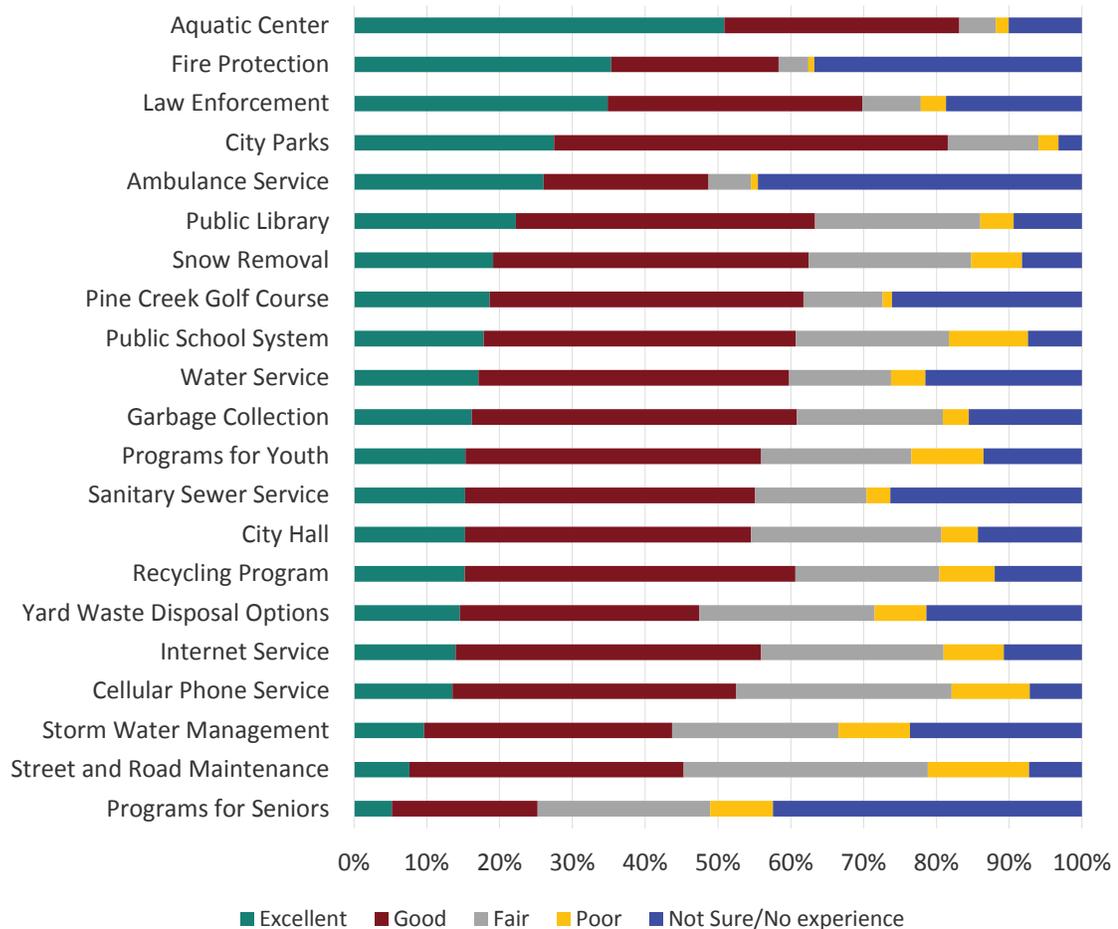
ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC CHANGES NEEDED TO IMPROVE SAFETY OR CONVENIENCE FOR DRIVERS, BIKERS OR PEDESTRIANS YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DESCRIBED IN THIS SURVEY? PLEASE DESCRIBE THE LOCATION AND DESIRED IMPROVEMENT.

Common Responses:

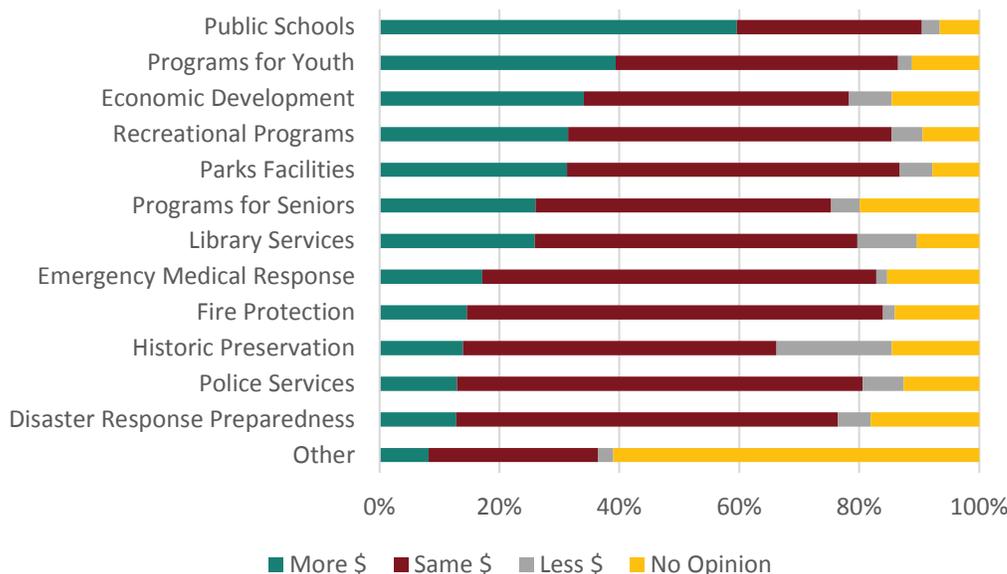
- + Promote awareness of bikers & pedestrians and etiquette on sharing the road.
- + Add sidewalk on Oak Street near schools to improve safety.
- + Add bike and pedestrian facilities on Highway 6.
- + Improve bike lane, crosswalk, bike/ped awareness on Elm Street.

Q14*

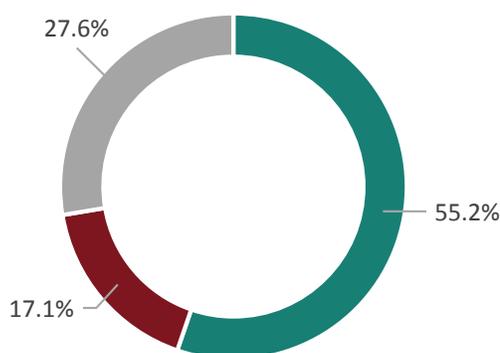
FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE, PLEASE RATE THE FOLLOWING SERVICES IN LA CRESCENT.



Q15* LA CRESCENT SUPPORTS MANY PUBLIC SERVICES WITH A LIMITED BUDGET. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THE CITY TO PRIORITIZE SPENDING ON THESE SERVICES? PLEASE INDICATE YOUR SPENDING PREFERENCES BASED ON YOUR SATISFACTION WITH THESE PUBLIC SERVICES.



Q16* WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING SCENARIOS FOR LA CRESCENT'S CITY GOVERNMENT BUILDING (CITY HALL AND POLICE STATION) DO YOU PREFER?

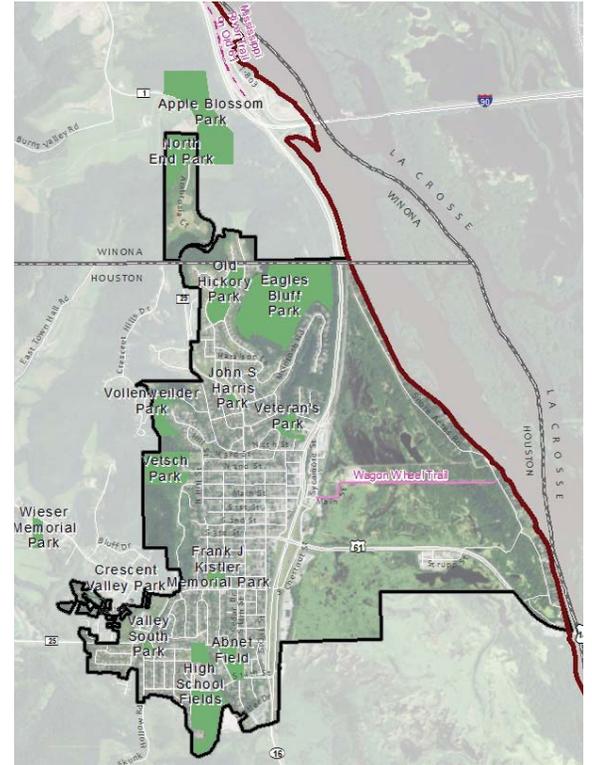
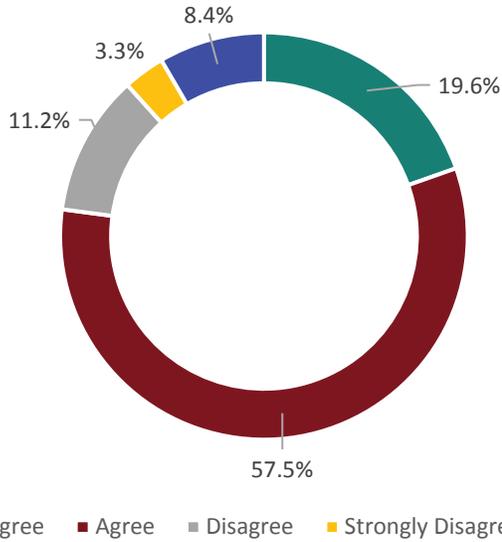


- Make no changes - continue to use the current facility as long as possible
- Build a new City Government facility for Police and City Hall
- Build a new City Government facility for Police, City Hall and the Public Library

A.2 Survey #2

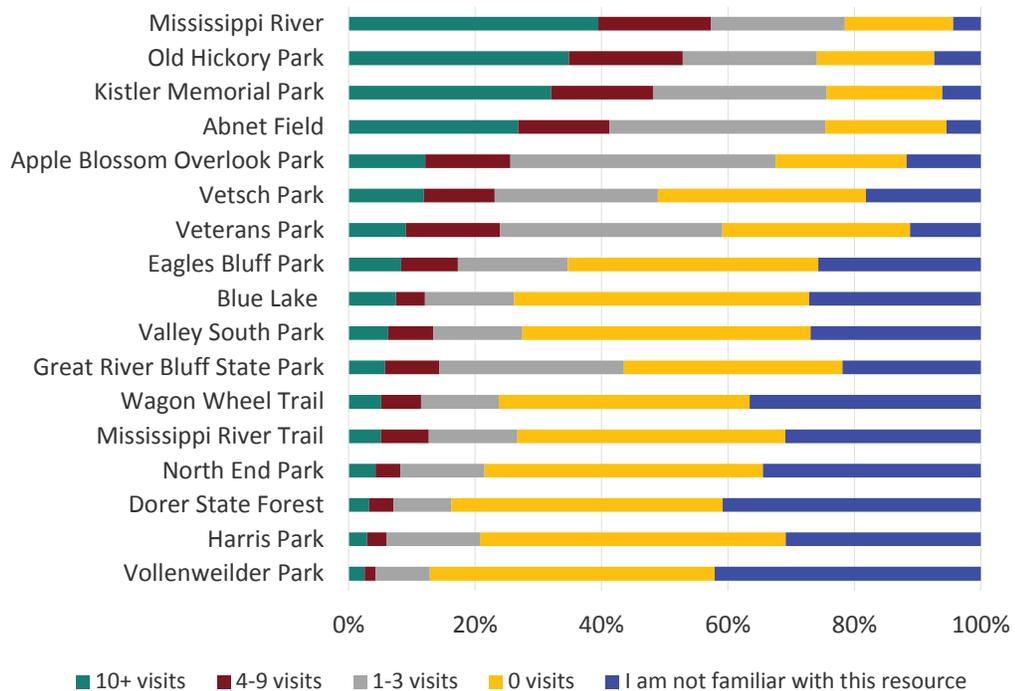
Q17*

CURRENT PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AROUND LA CRESCENT CURRENTLY MEET YOUR NEEDS:



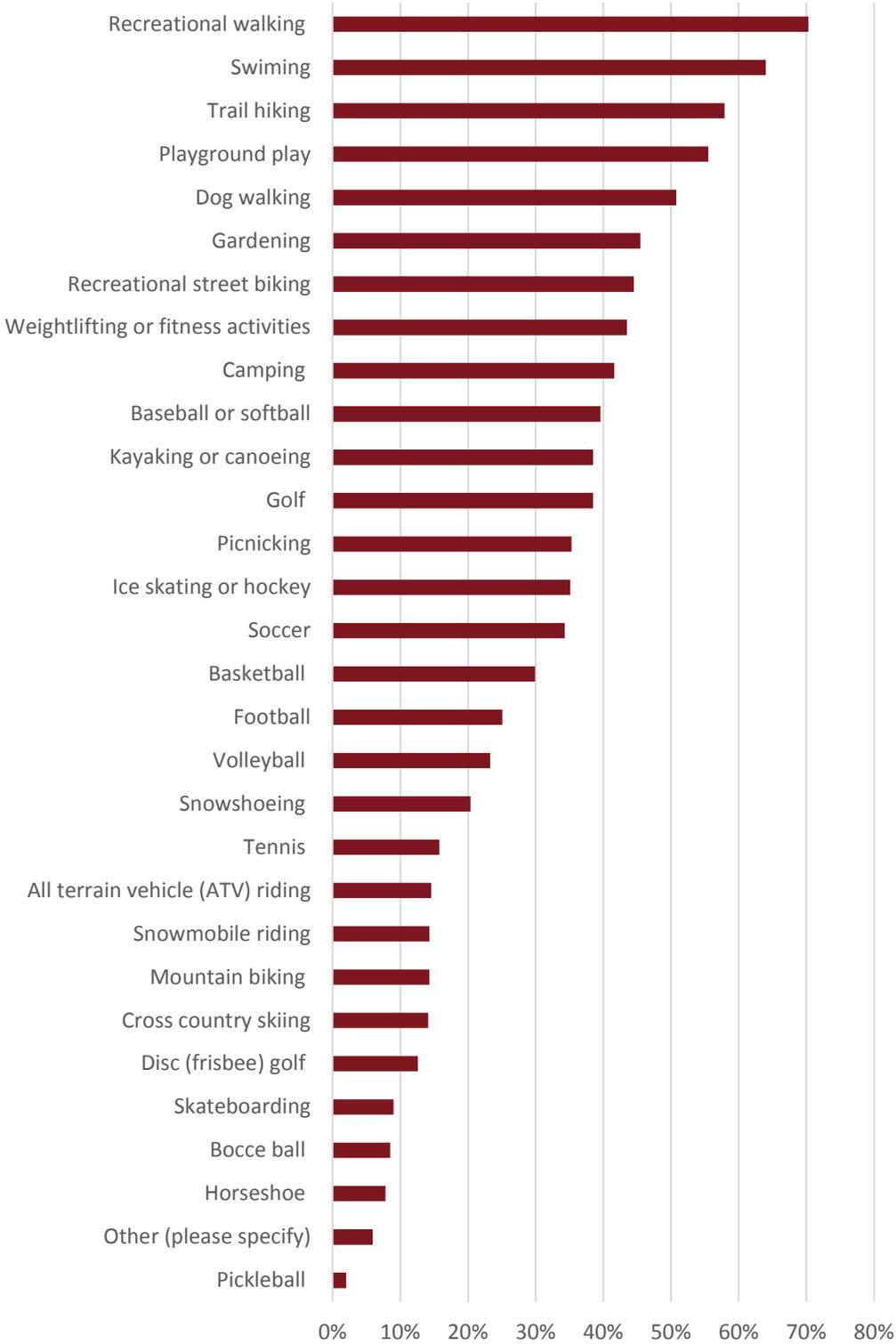
Q18*

HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER USED THE FOLLOWING OUTDOOR RECREATION RESOURCES IN THE PAST YEAR?



Q19*

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU OR YOUR FAMILY PARTICIPATED IN DURING THE PAST YEAR?

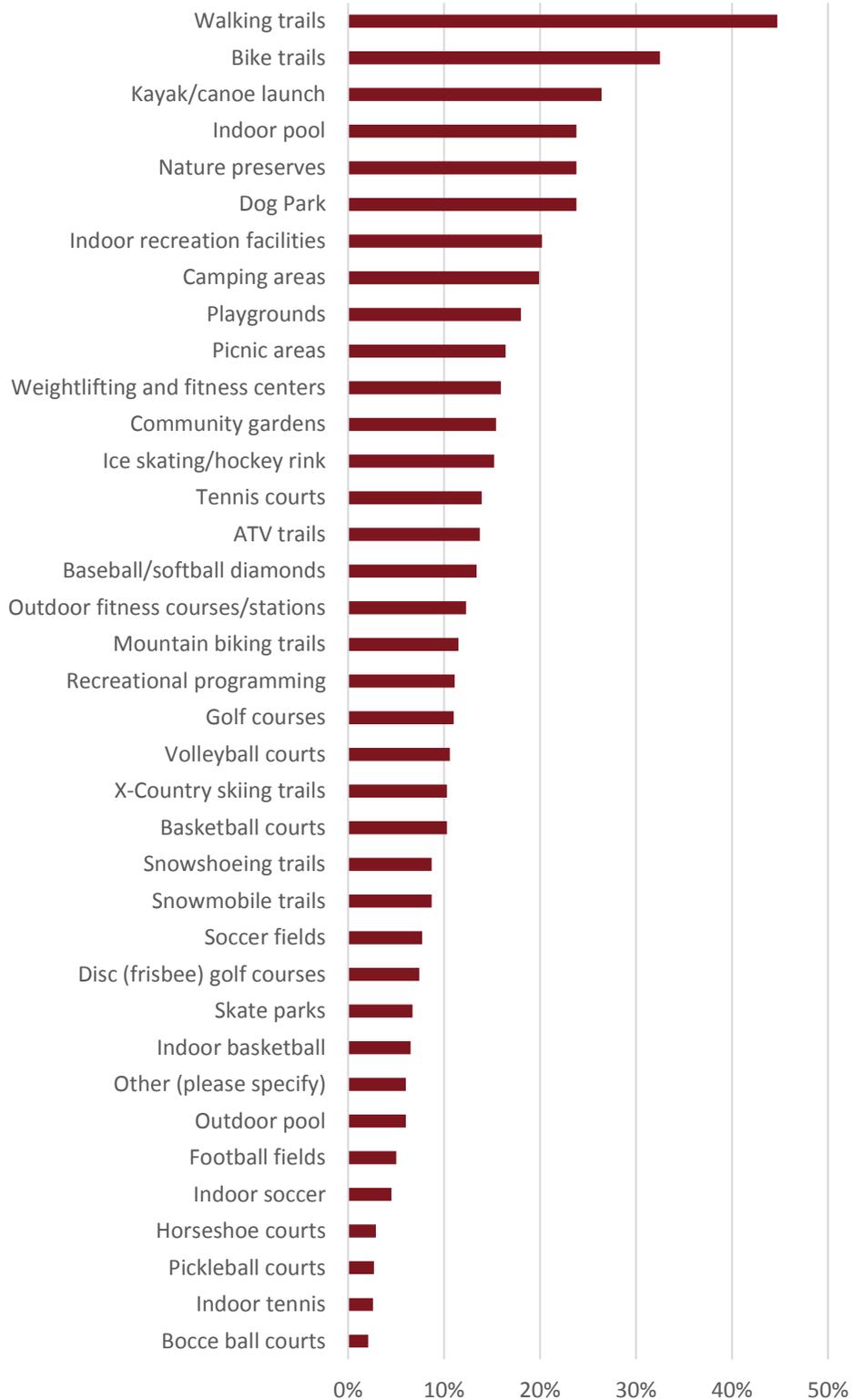




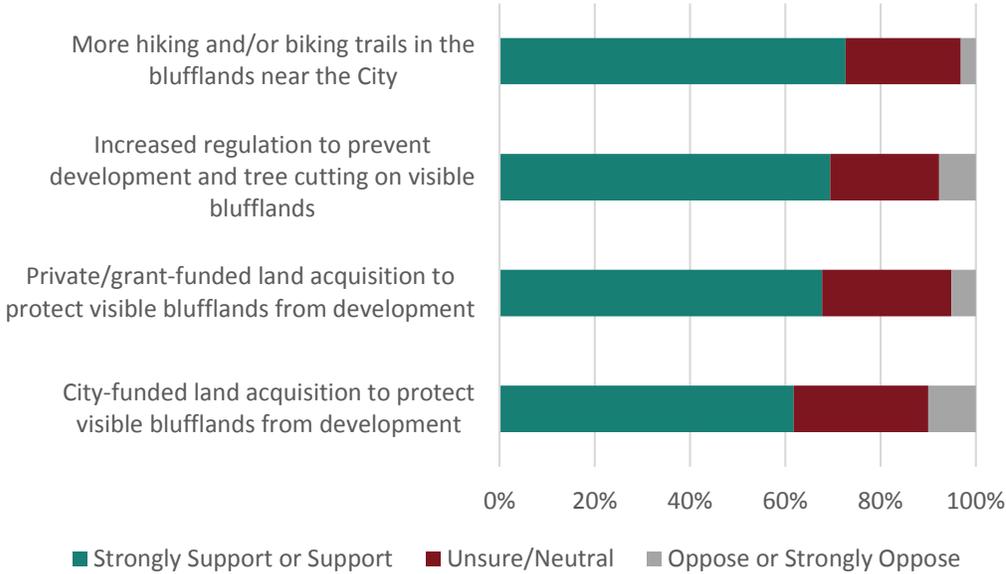
A.2 Survey #2

Q20*

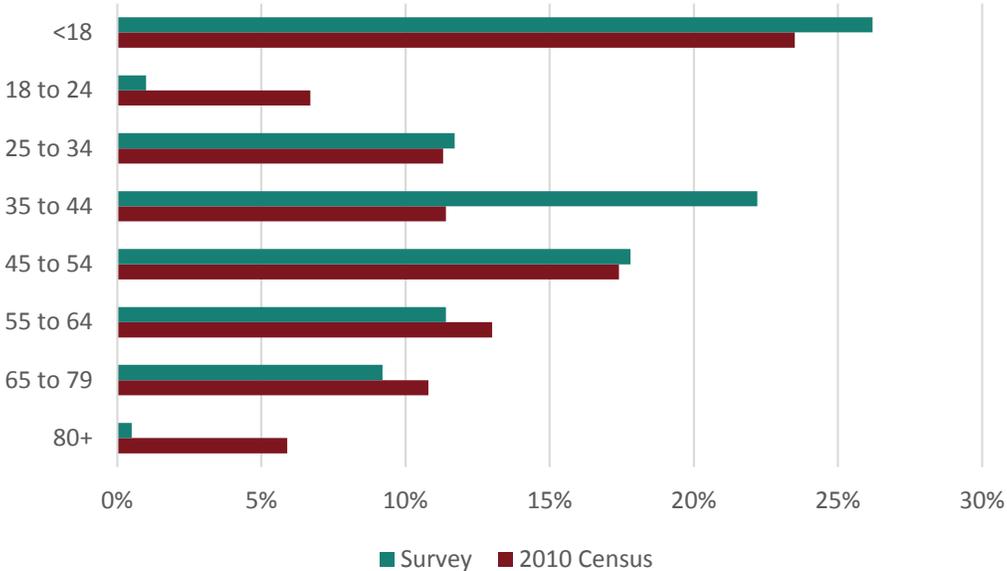
PLEASE INDICATE UP TO FIVE (5) TYPES OF RECREATION AMENITIES THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE EXPANDED OR IMPROVED IN LA CRESCENT, EITHER BY THE CITY OF BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.



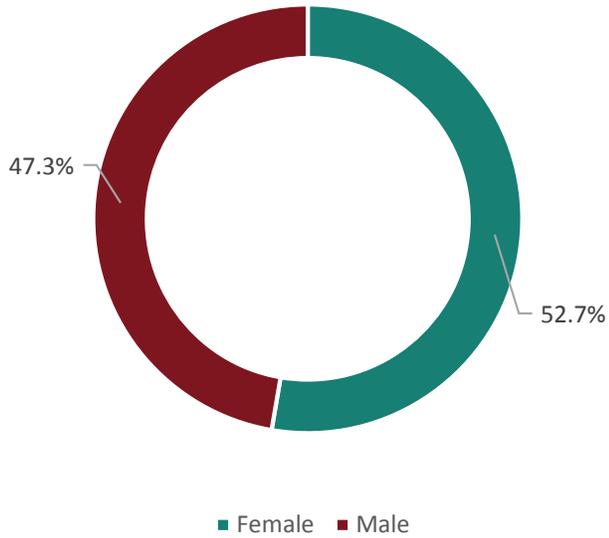
Q21* INDICATE YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS TO PROTECT AND/OR EXPAND ACCESS TO THE BLUFFS AROUND LA CRESCENT, ESPECIALLY THE BLUFFLANDS VISIBLE FROM THE CITY AND APPROACHING HIGHWAYS.



Q22 WHAT IS YOUR AGE?



Q23 WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?



Q24* WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

