

Stoneham Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 23, 2017



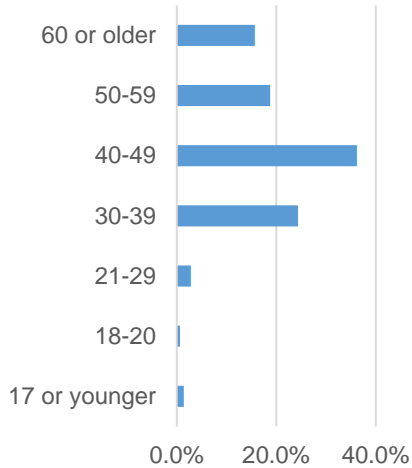
Survey Results Summary

For more information, contact Mark Racicot at
mracicot@mapc.org

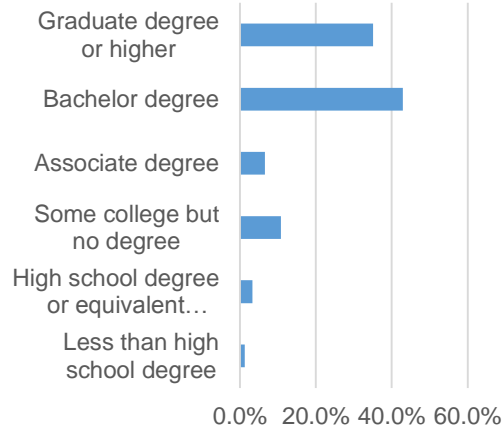
Respondent Profile

749 respondents as of May 17, 2017

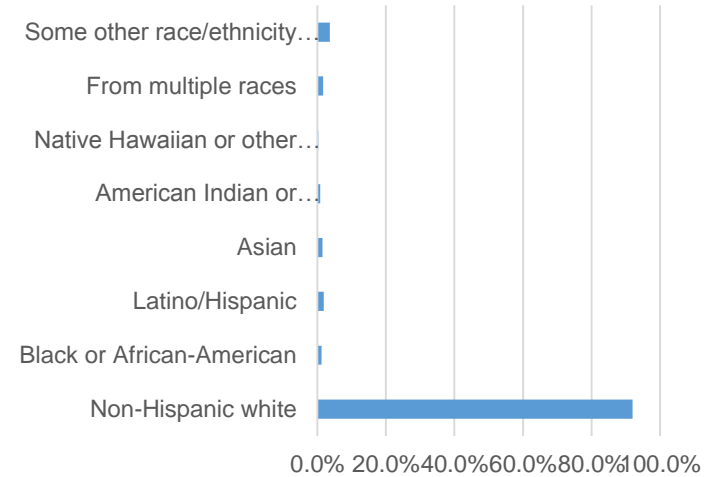
Age of Respondents



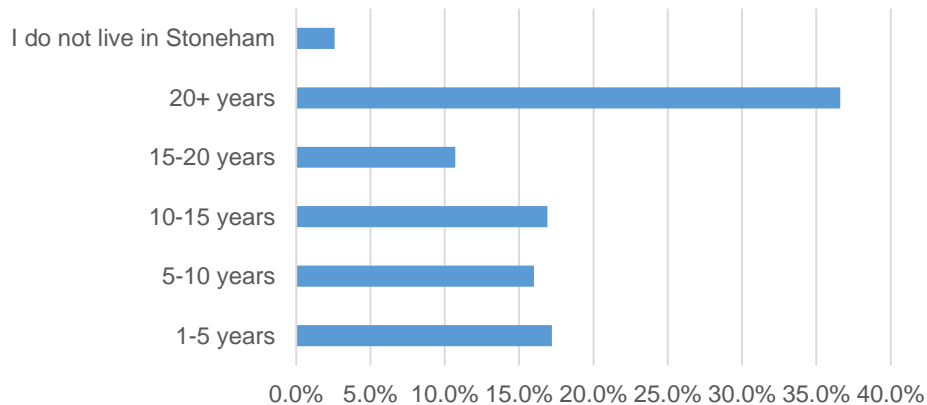
Educational Attainment of Respondents



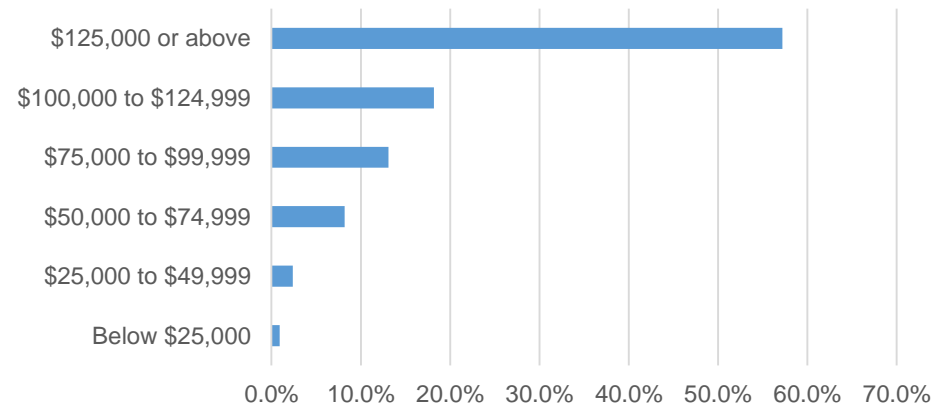
Race/Ethnicity of Respondents



Stoneham Residency of Respondents



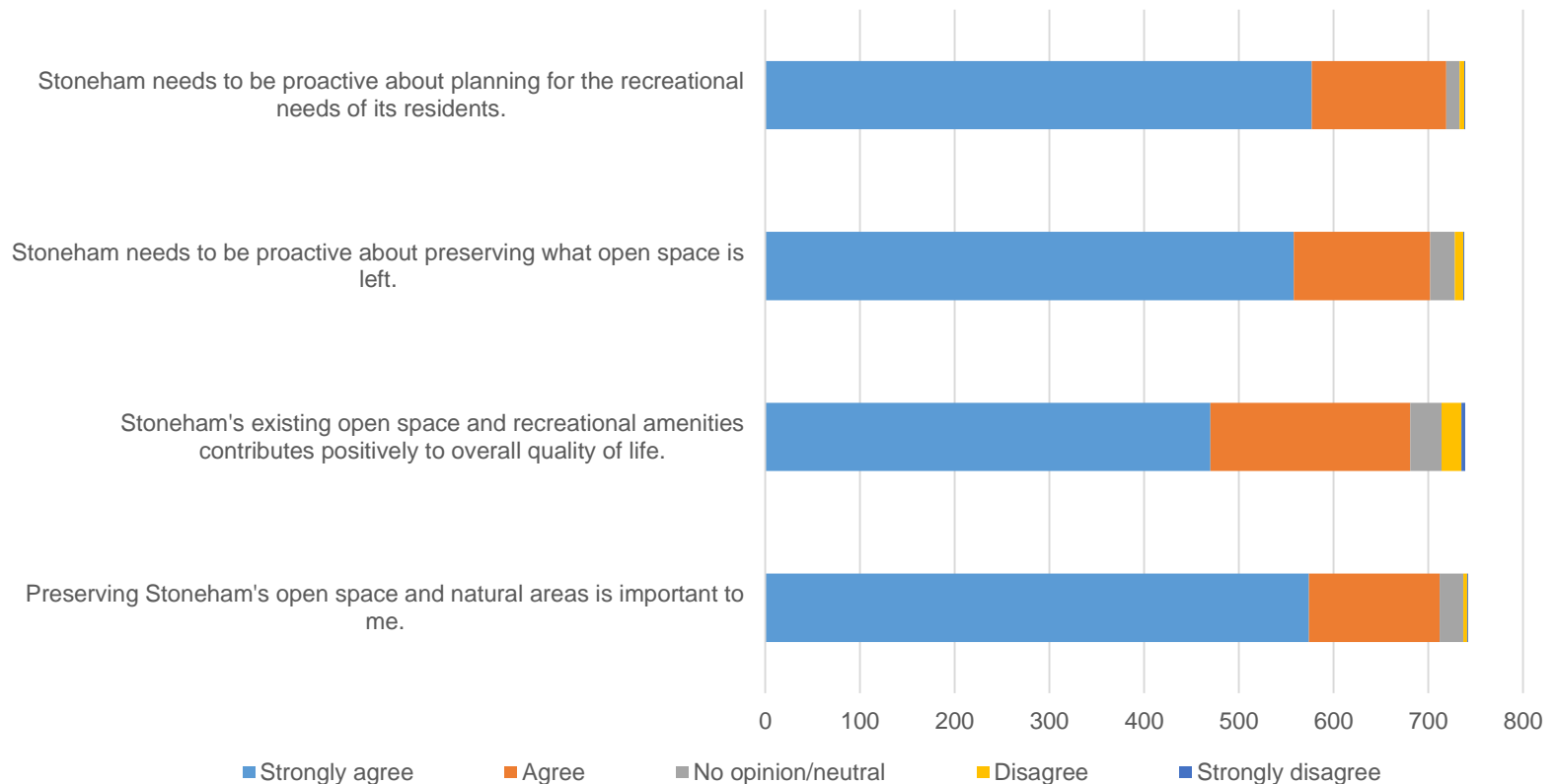
Annual Household Income of Respondents



Community Values

Investing in existing amenities and preserving what open is left are most important to residents. This theme resonates throughout the survey results.

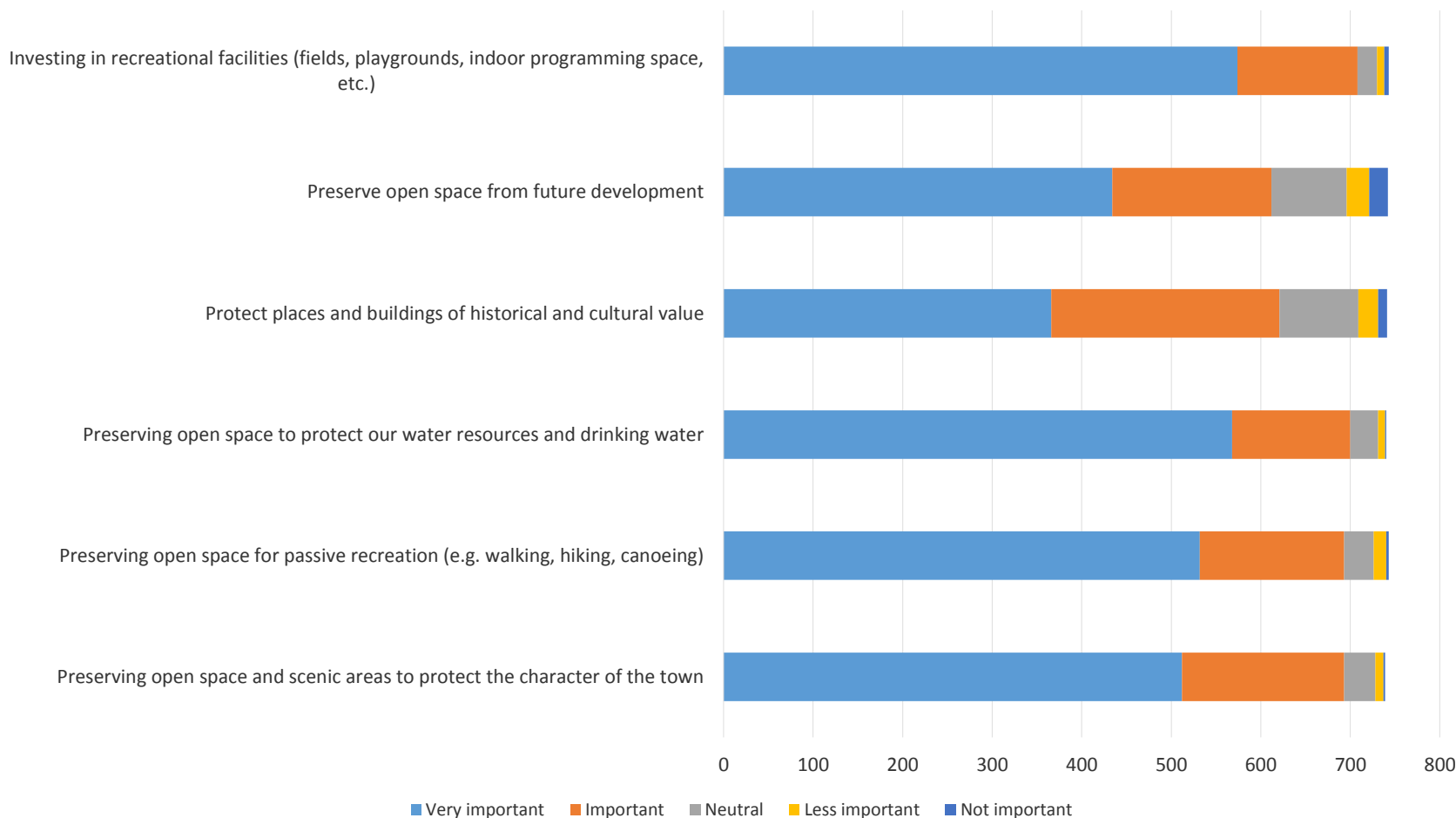
Do you Agree or Disagree with the following statements



Community Values

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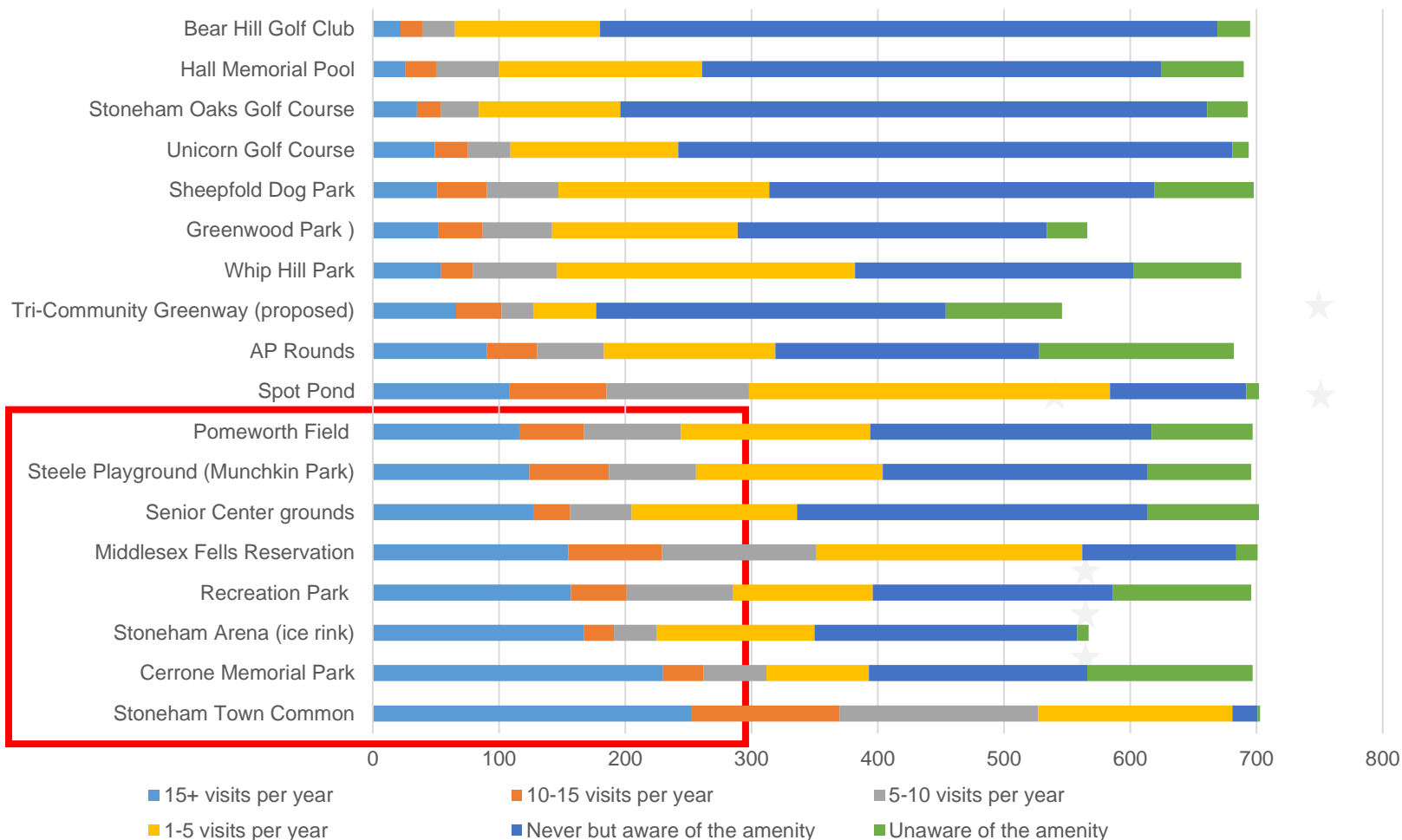
Please rate the importance of the following:



Awareness and Usage

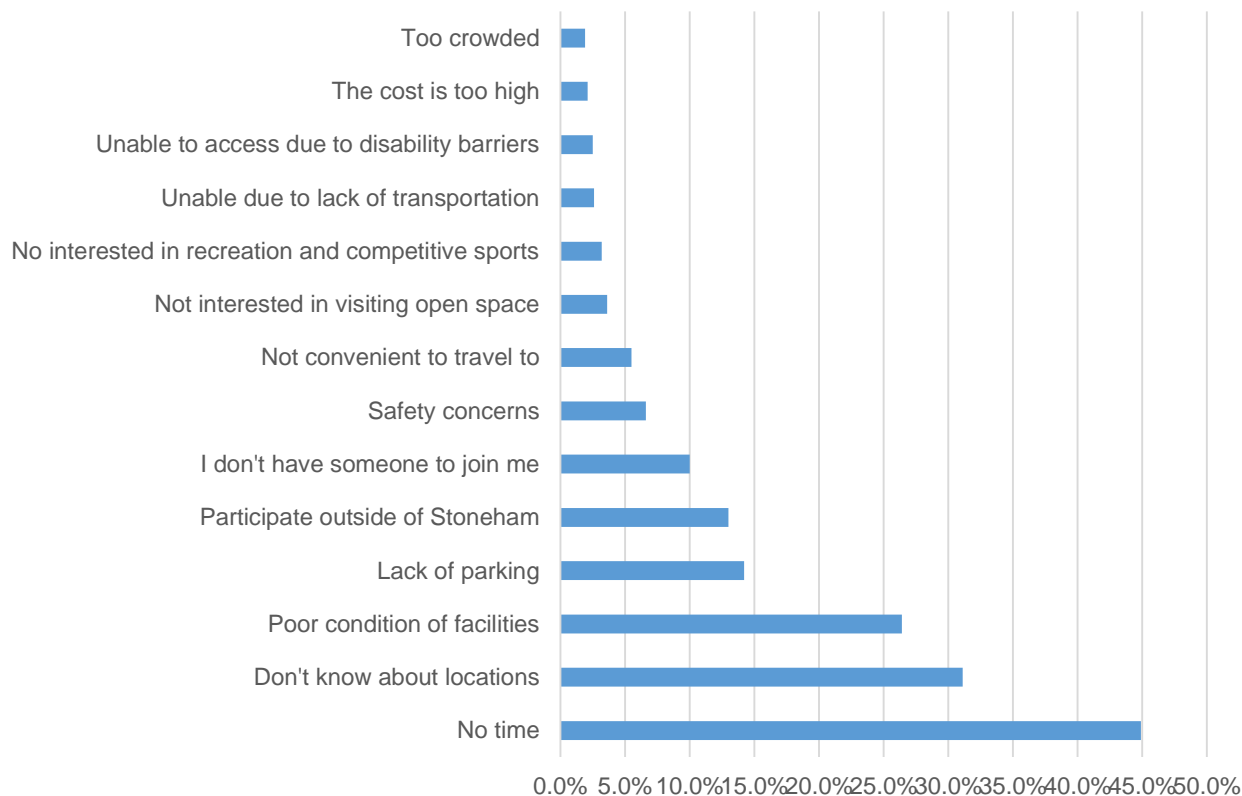
The Common, Fields and playgrounds get the most usage. AP Rounds recently renovated but many residents unaware of the amenity. Greenway not yet built but well known in the community. Golf courses well known but rarely used.

How often do you visit or use the following for passive/active recreation?



Awareness and Usage

What prevents you from utilizing Stoneham's open space and recreation amenities?



Recurring comments under "other":

- Kids have grown up
- Need for programs for all ages
- Do not golf
- Dogs not welcome/ too many dogs
- Lack of maintenance
- Lack of awareness of facilities
- Need for ADA compliant facilities

Consider diversification of program offerings to broaden participation of residents of all life stages and abilities.

Needs and Demand: Activities

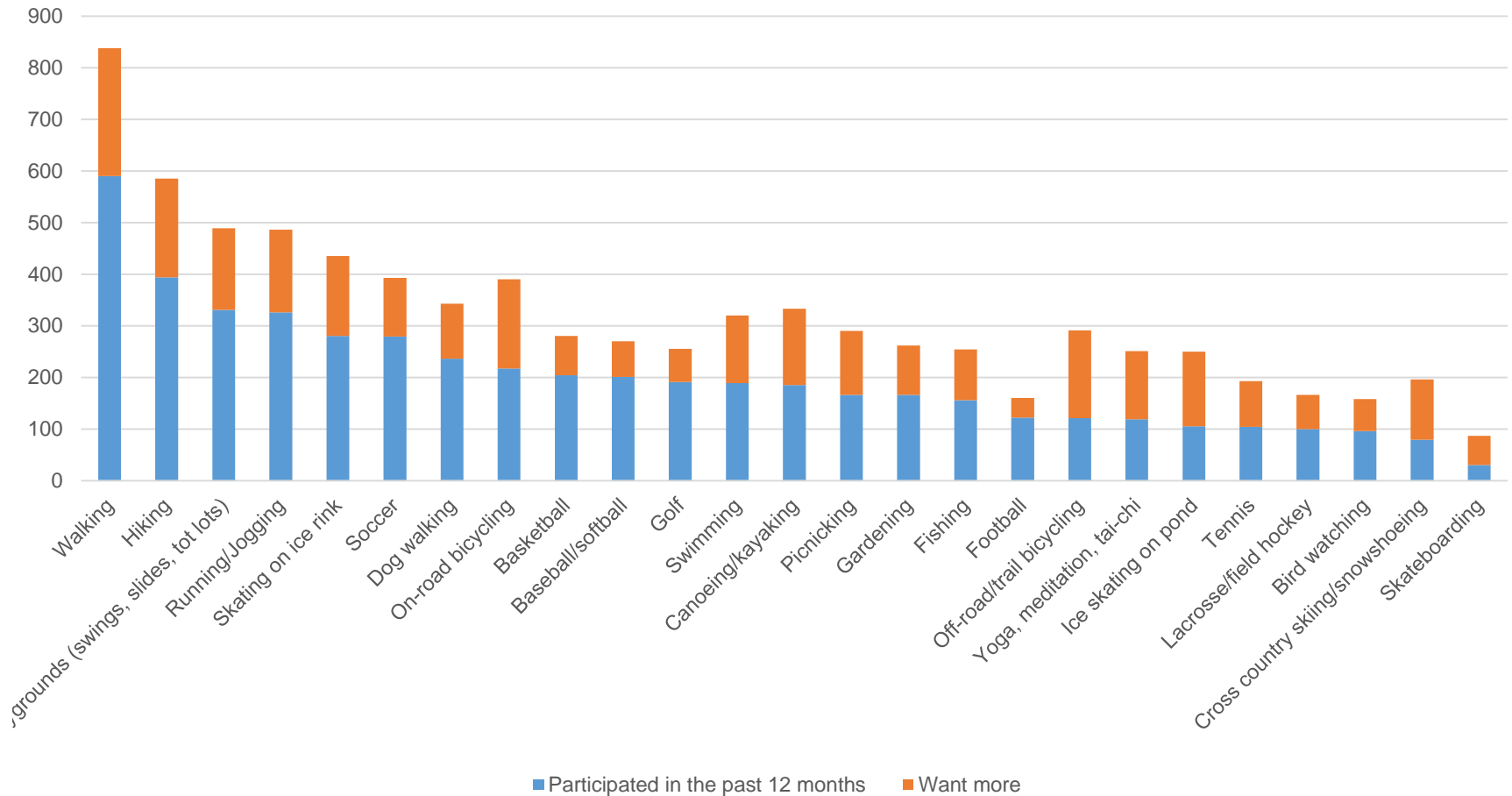
Does current availability and accessibility of facilities and programs meet current demand?

Activity	Participated in the past 12 months	Want more
Walking	590	248
Hiking	394	191
Playgrounds (swings, slides, tot lots)	331	158
Running/Jogging	326	160
Skating on ice rink	280	155
Soccer	279	114
Dog walking	236	107
On-road bicycling	217	173
Basketball	204	76
Baseball/softball	201	69
Golf	191	64
Swimming	189	131
Canoeing/kayaking	185	148
Picnicking	166	124
Gardening	166	96
Fishing	156	98
Football	122	38
Off-road/trail bicycling	121	170
Yoga, meditation, tai-chi	119	132
Ice skating on pond	105	145
Tennis	104	89
Lacrosse/field hockey	100	66
Bird watching	96	62
Cross country skiing/snowshoeing	79	117
Skateboarding	30	57

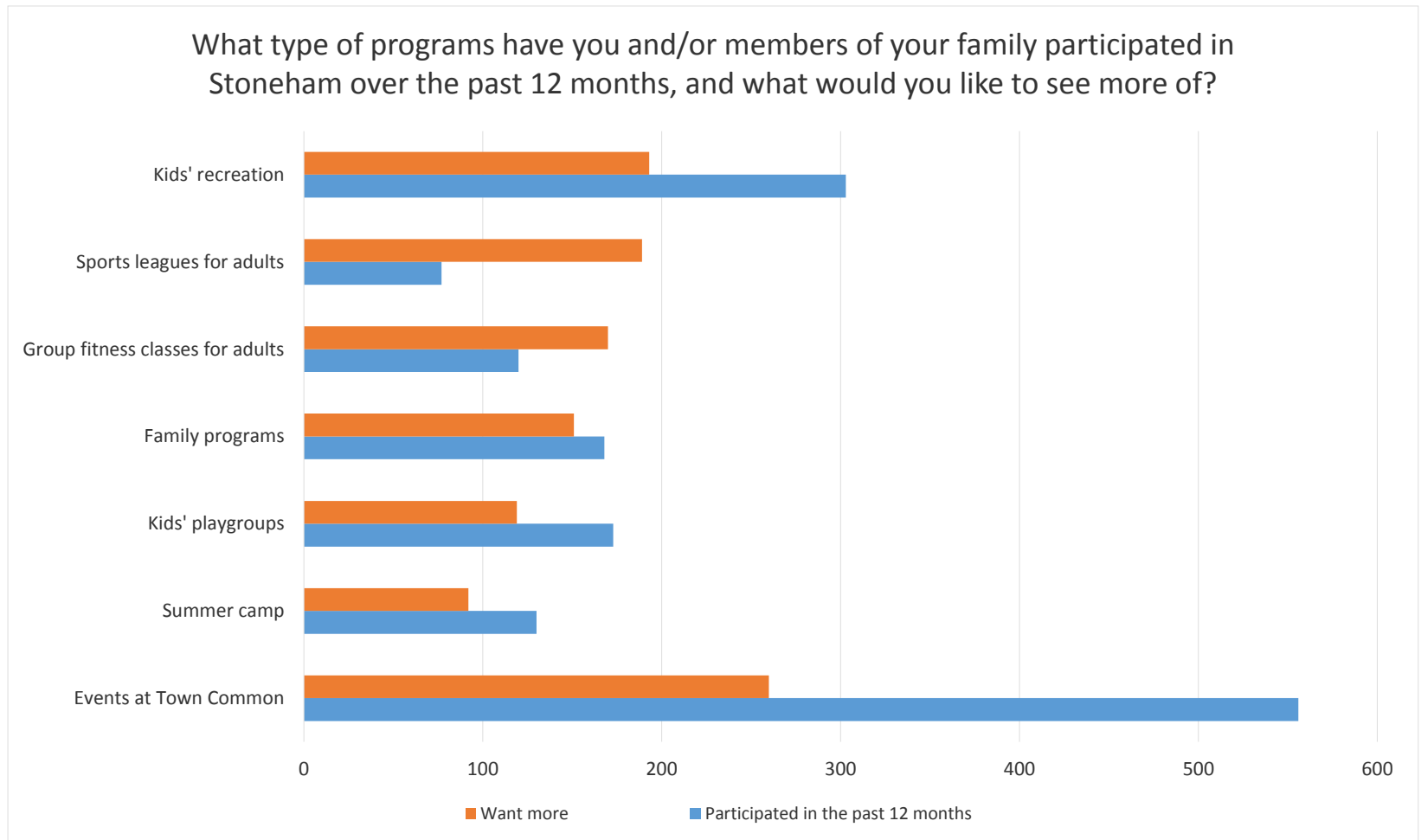
Needs and Demand: Activities

Does current availability and accessibility of facilities and programs meet current demand?

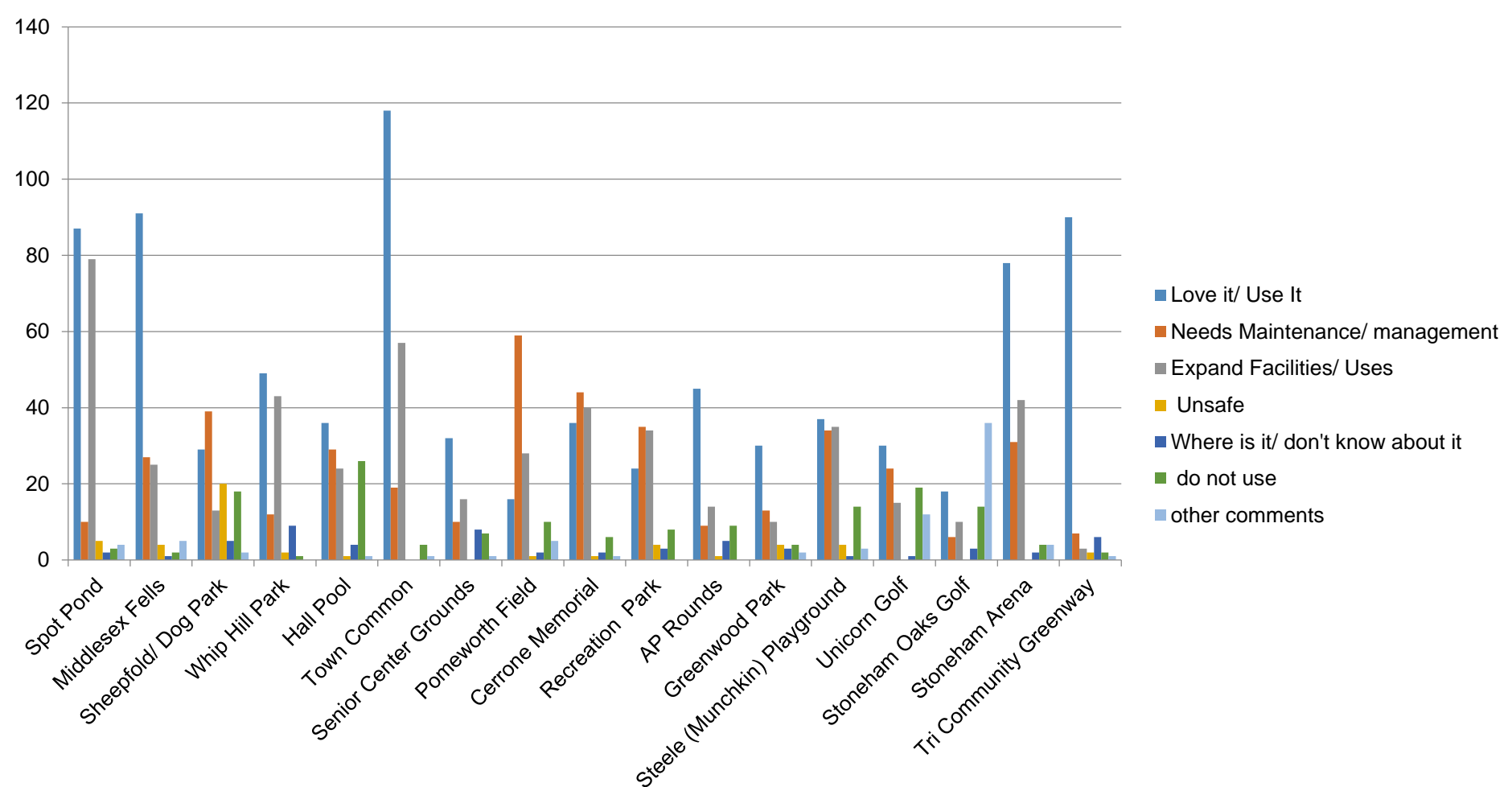
What activities have you and/or members of your family participated in Stoneham over the past 12 months, and what would you like to see more of?



Needs and Demand: Programs



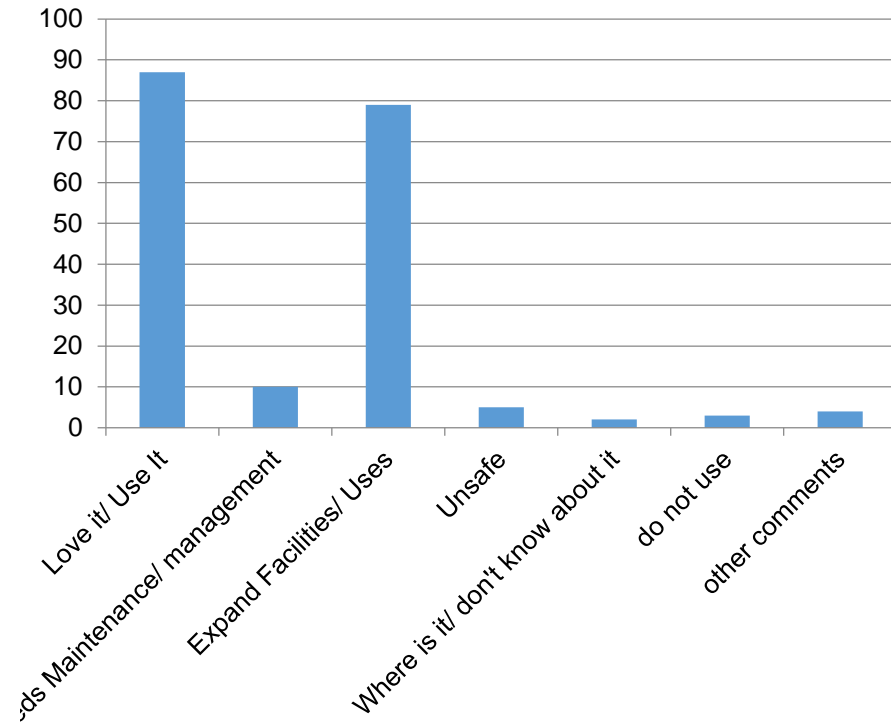
Facility conditions



- A Total of 749 Surveys were completed; not all respondents completed the open response questions.
- The greatest number of total responses was for Town Common (187), Spot Pond (176), Middlesex Fells (147), and Stoneham Arena (142).
- The parks that received the highest "Love it; Use It" category included the Town Common, Middlesex Fells, Spot Pond, Tri-Community Greenway (largely aspirational), and Stoneham Arena.

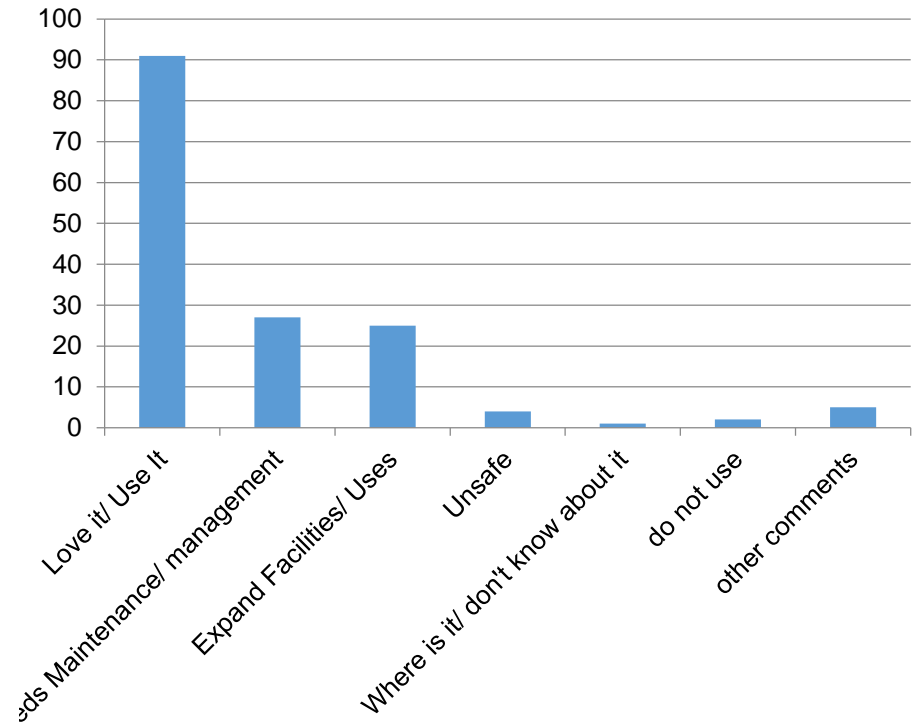
Facility conditions

Spot Pond



Spot Pond very popular. Many respondents would like to see more an expansion of facilities and uses, including private boats, swimming, and a circumferential trail.

Middlesex Fells



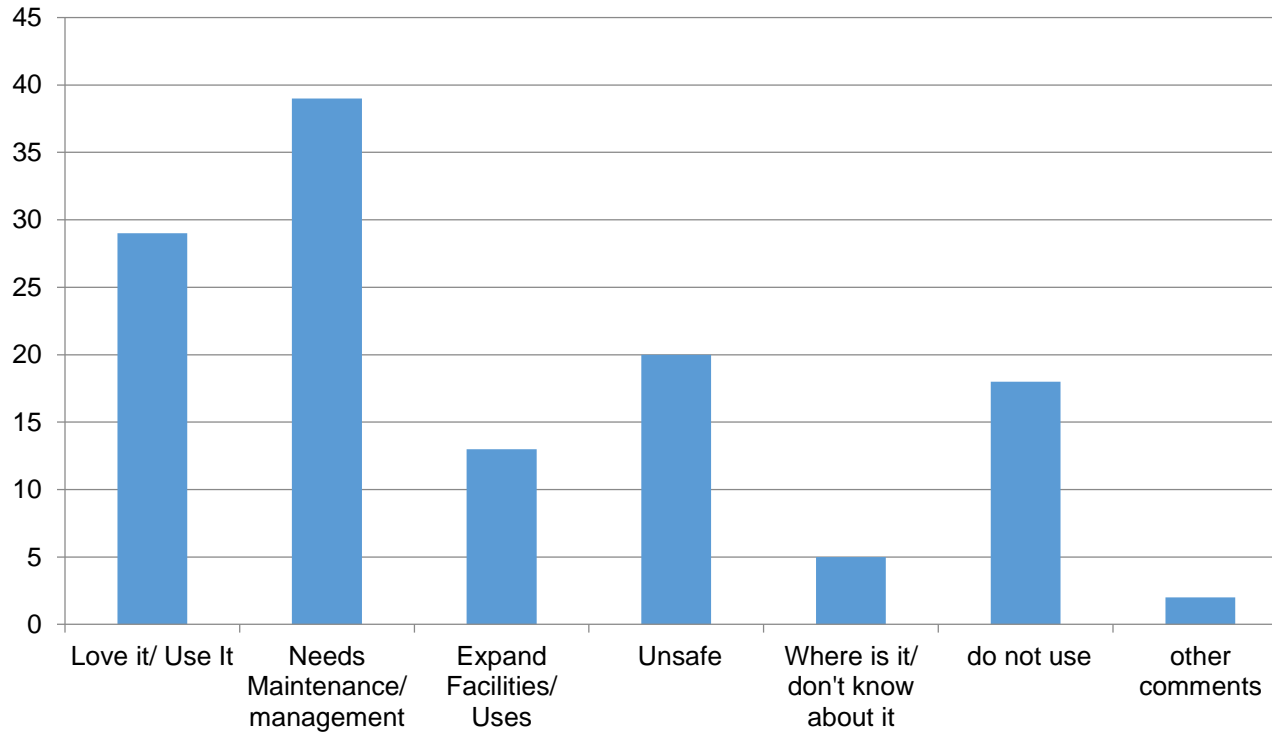
Middlesex Fells very popular.

Mixed feelings about dogs - some want more off-leash while others want more controls on dogs.

Many want additional parking and better maps/trails markings

Facility conditions

Sheepfold/ Dog Park



Very popular with dog owners

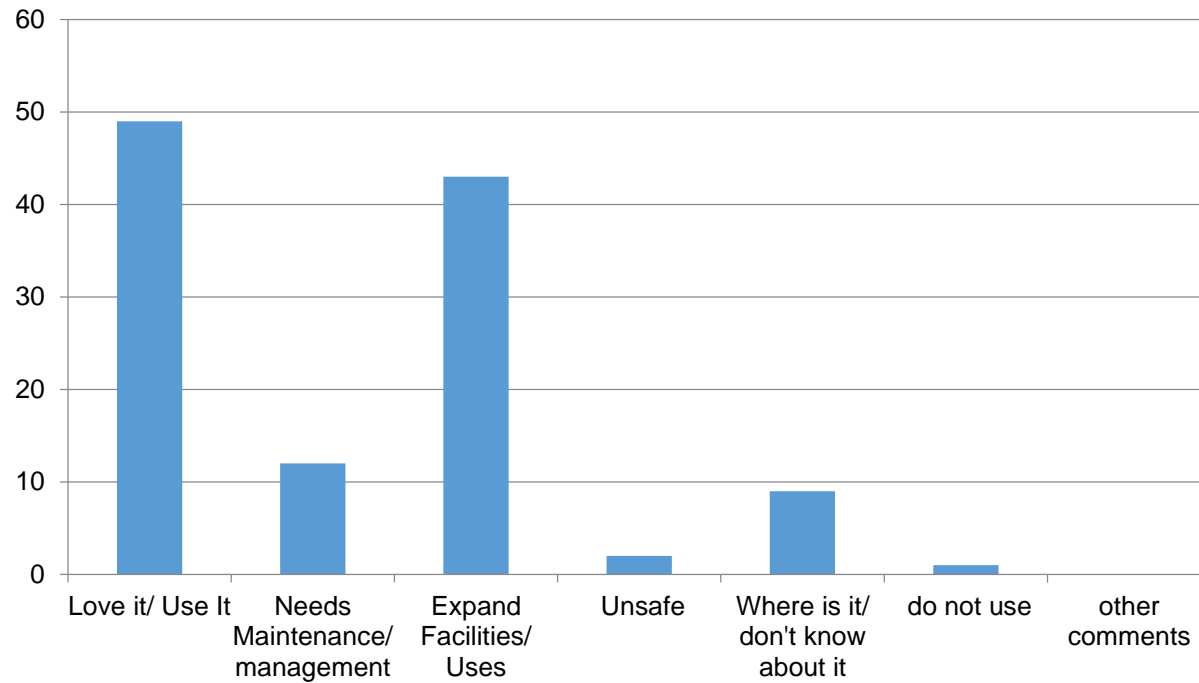
Many concerned about inadequate management of dogs

More feel unsafe here than at other parks in town

Some noted lack of parking and/or concerns over paying for parking

Facility conditions

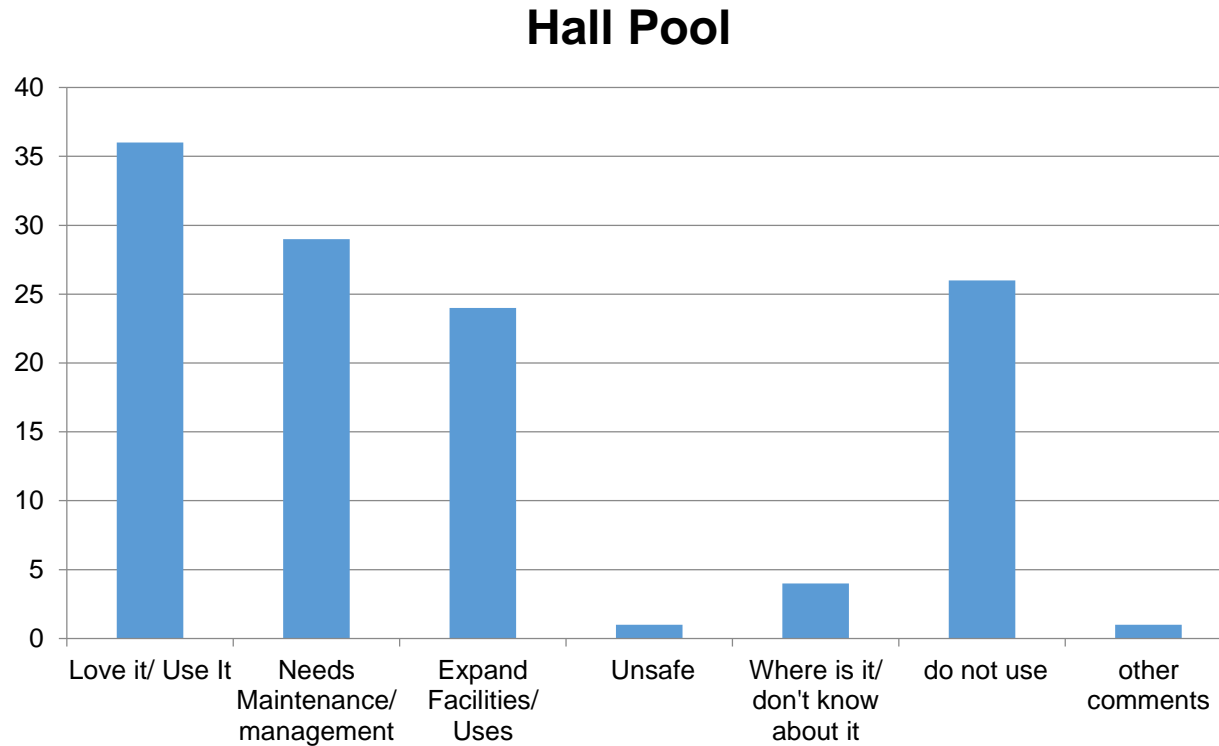
Whip Hill Park



Many cited this as a nice area to walk

Most felt this was under-utilized (and cited mostly Christmas program with Santa) and would support additional programs

Facility conditions



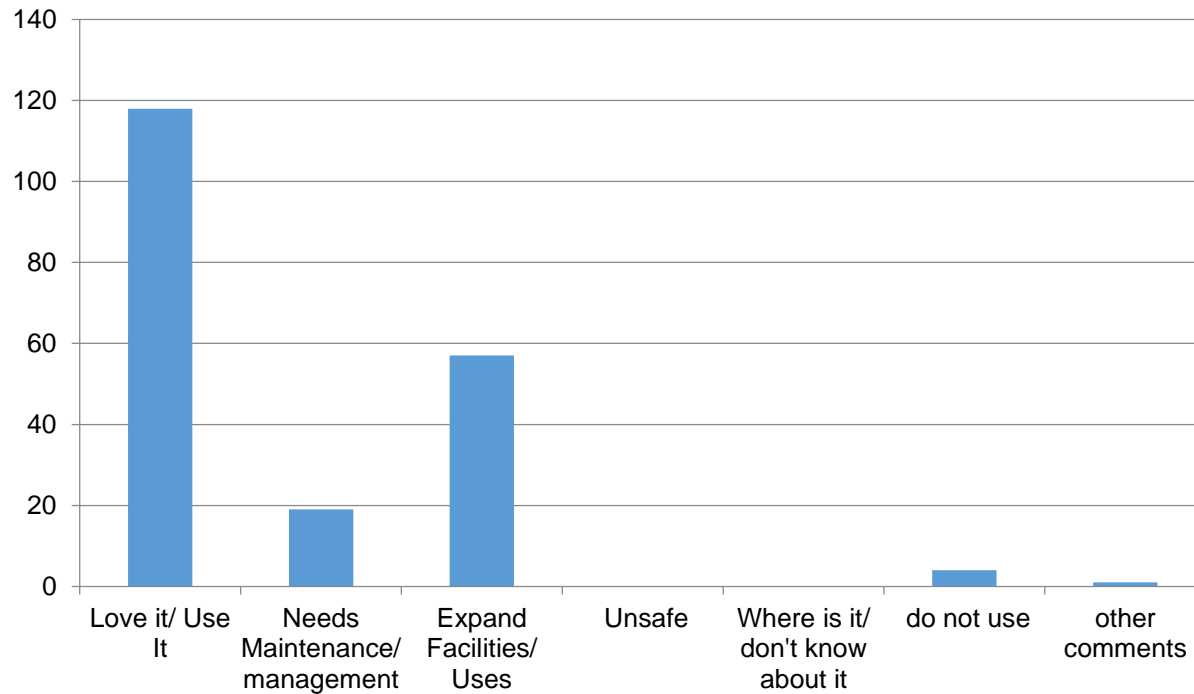
Many noted management had improved under Boys and Girls Club

Many others noted management still lacking.

Costs, short hours and short season were noted as concerns

Facility conditions

Town Common

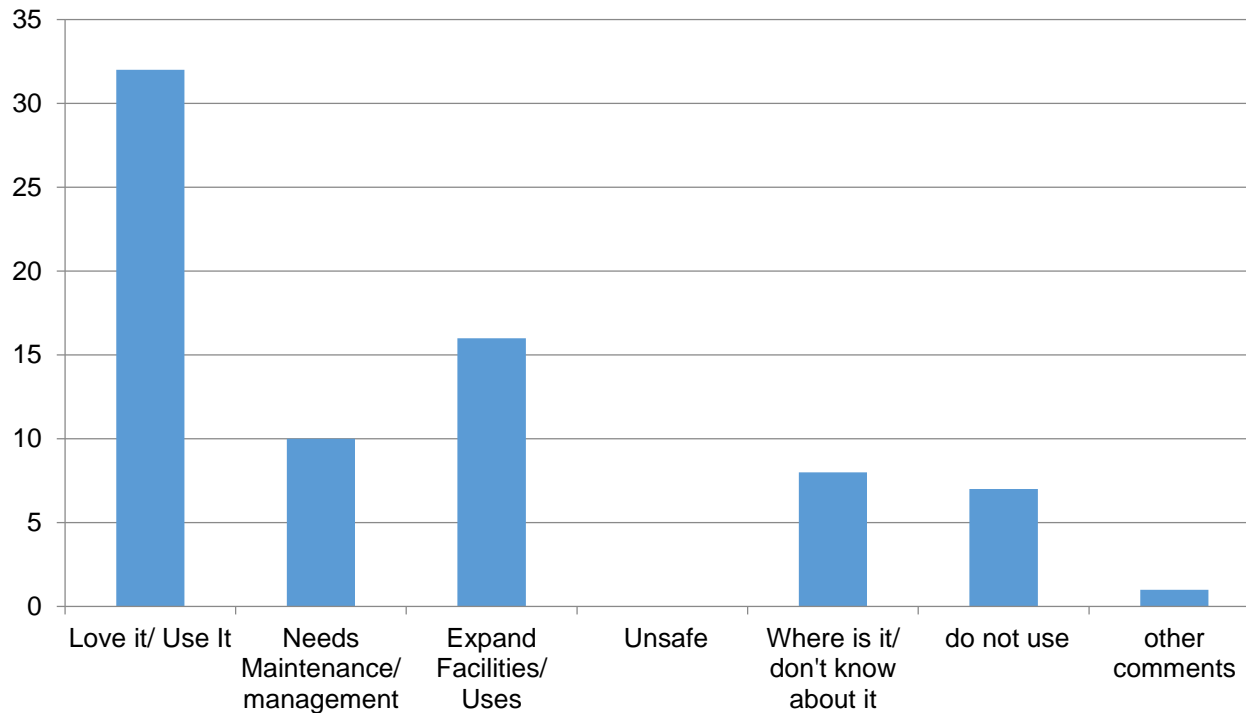


Received highest number of "Love it; Use it" responses

Most were positive towards past events and uses, and wanted more

Facility conditions

Senior Center Grounds

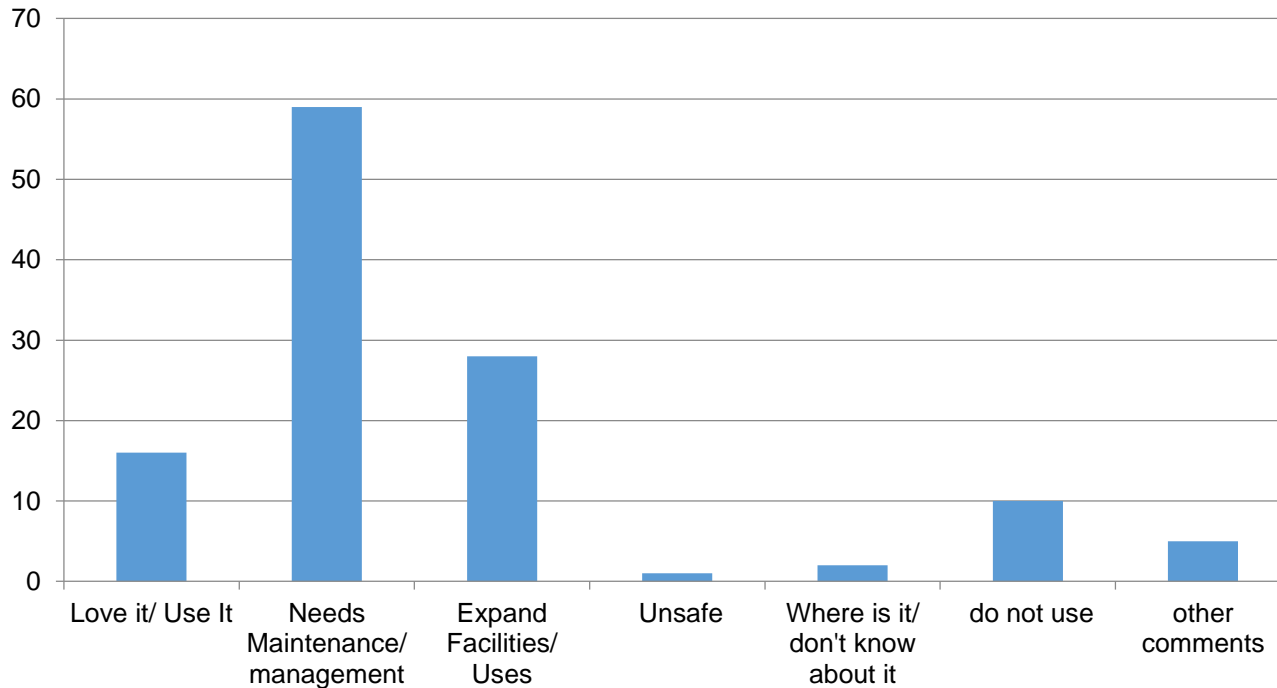


Respondents cited the use by Seniors, the broader use of the barn, and the use of parking for adjacent Soccer

Some cited the desire for additional non-senior uses; including a dog park and archery range

Facility conditions

Pomeworth Field



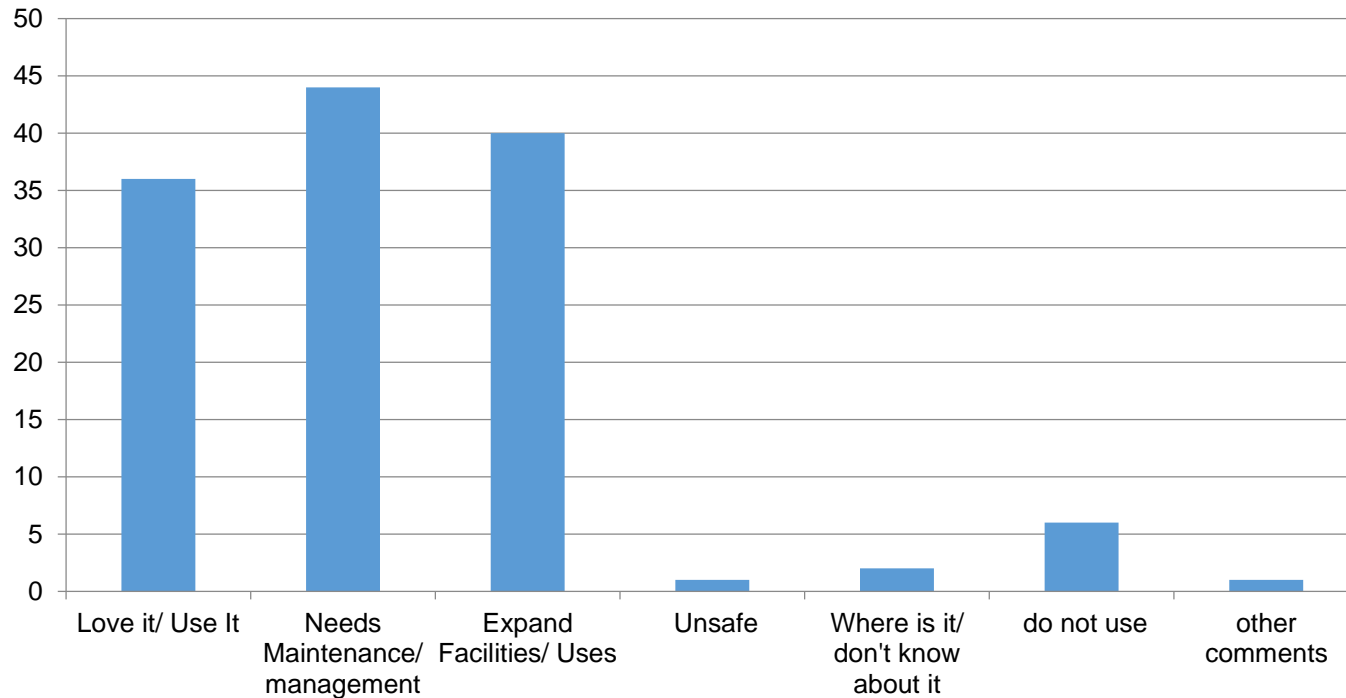
Most common use cited was for little league play

Many commented on poor conditions of the fields and lack of maintenance

Need for bathroom facilities, improved playground equipment, and overall rehab of facilities

Facility conditions

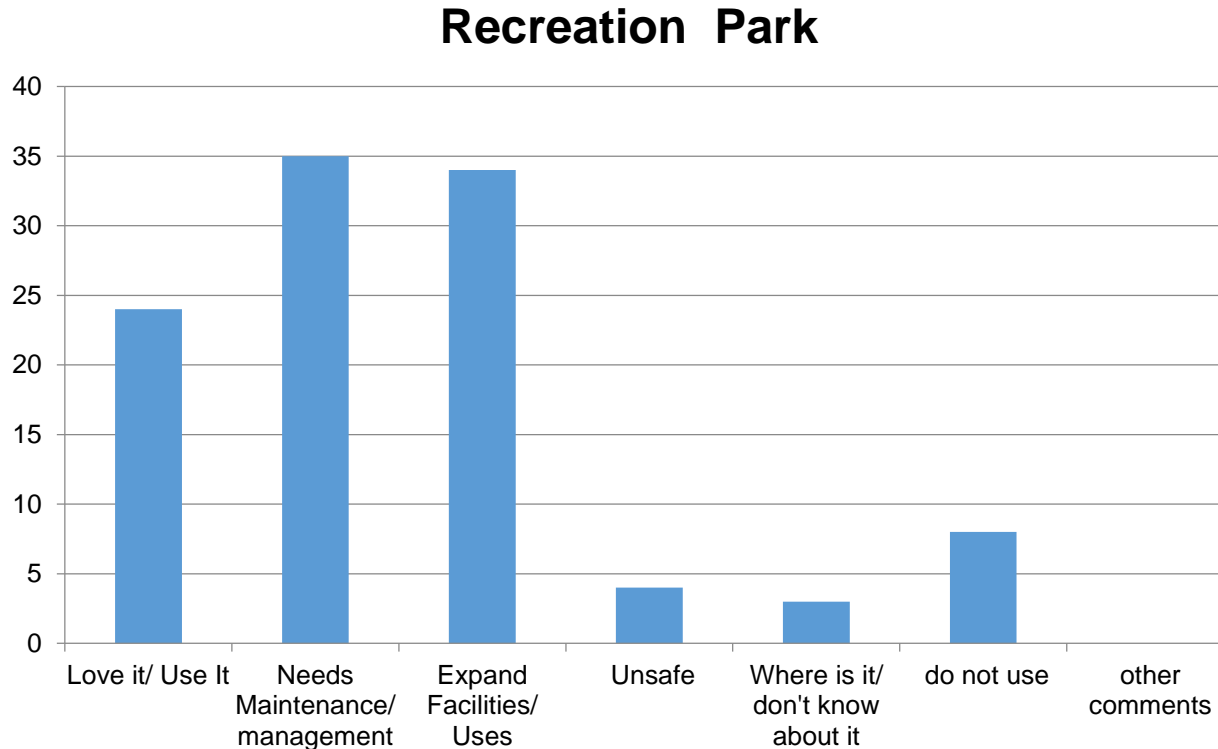
Cerrone Memorial



Many noted excellent resource for soccer, but some wanted additional non-soccer uses as well

Need for better field conditions, lighting, snack bar, parking were cited

Facility conditions

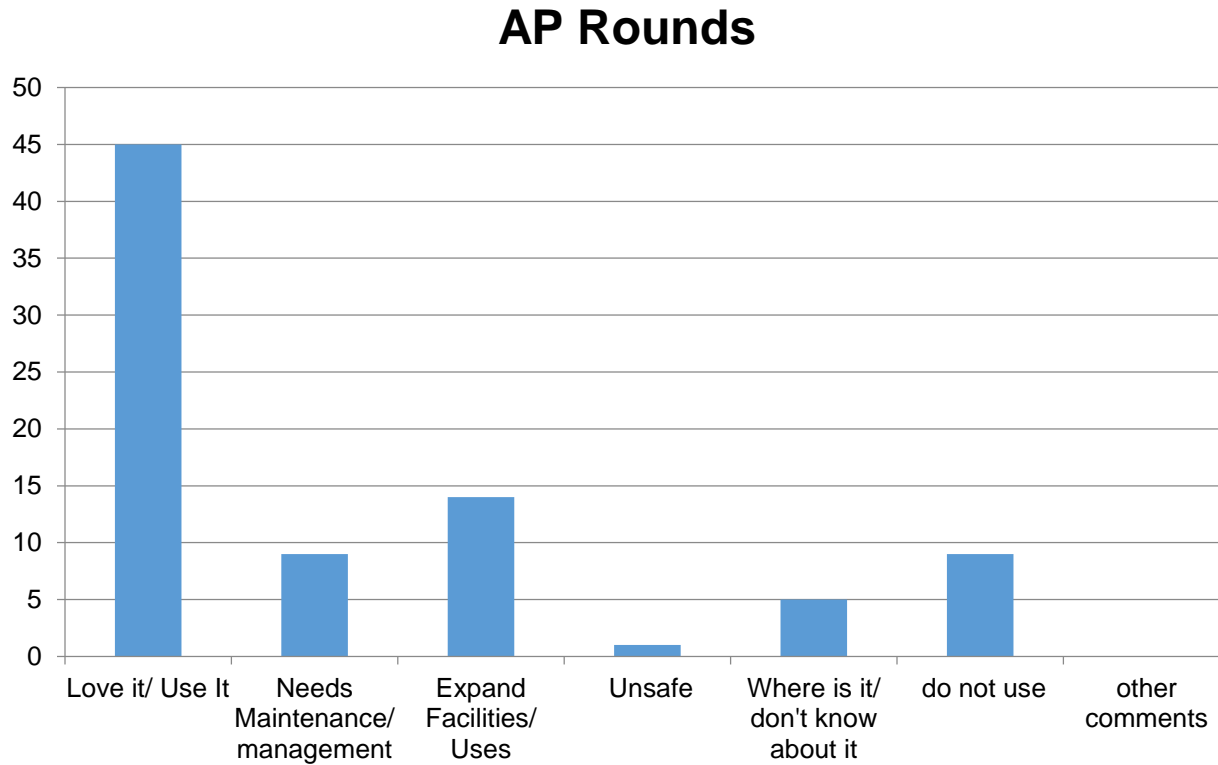


The diversity of sports using these fields was noted.

Many respondents commented on their concerns regarding maintenance and upkeep of their facilities

Repairs/expansions cited included the need for new seating, repairs to fieldhouse, improvements to playground

Facility conditions



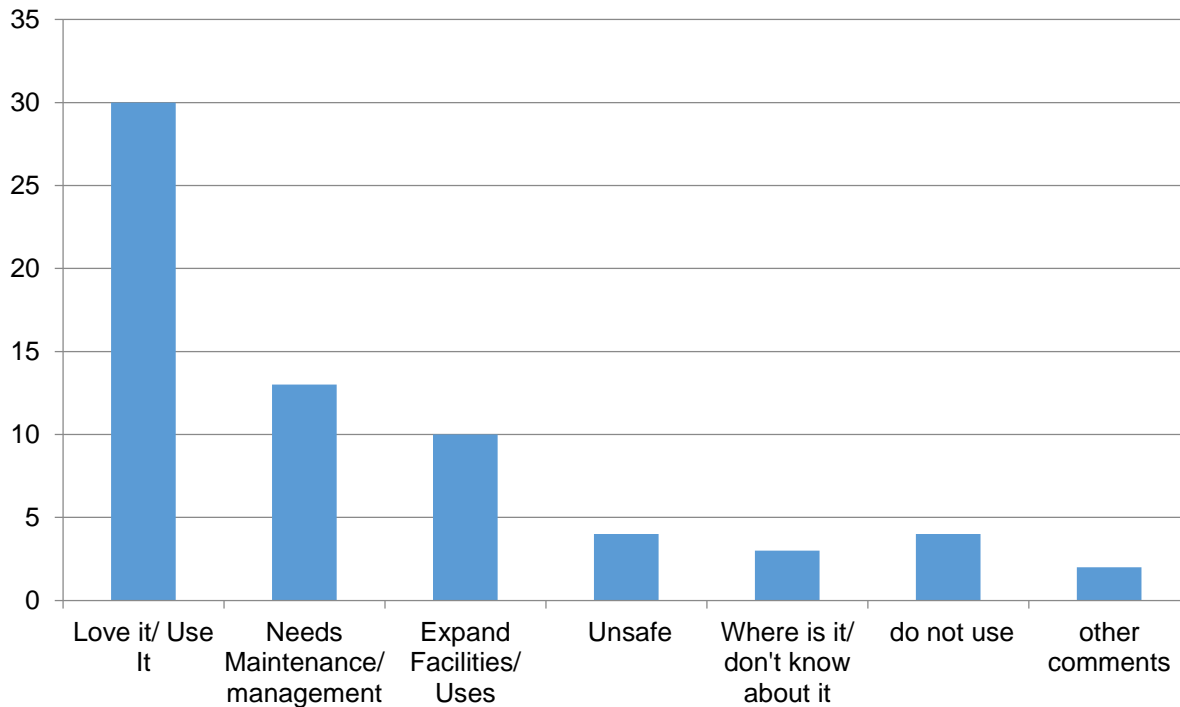
Fewer overall respondents for this neighborhood park

Many noted the recent improvements

Need for parking and ongoing maintenance were noted

Facility conditions

Greenwood Park



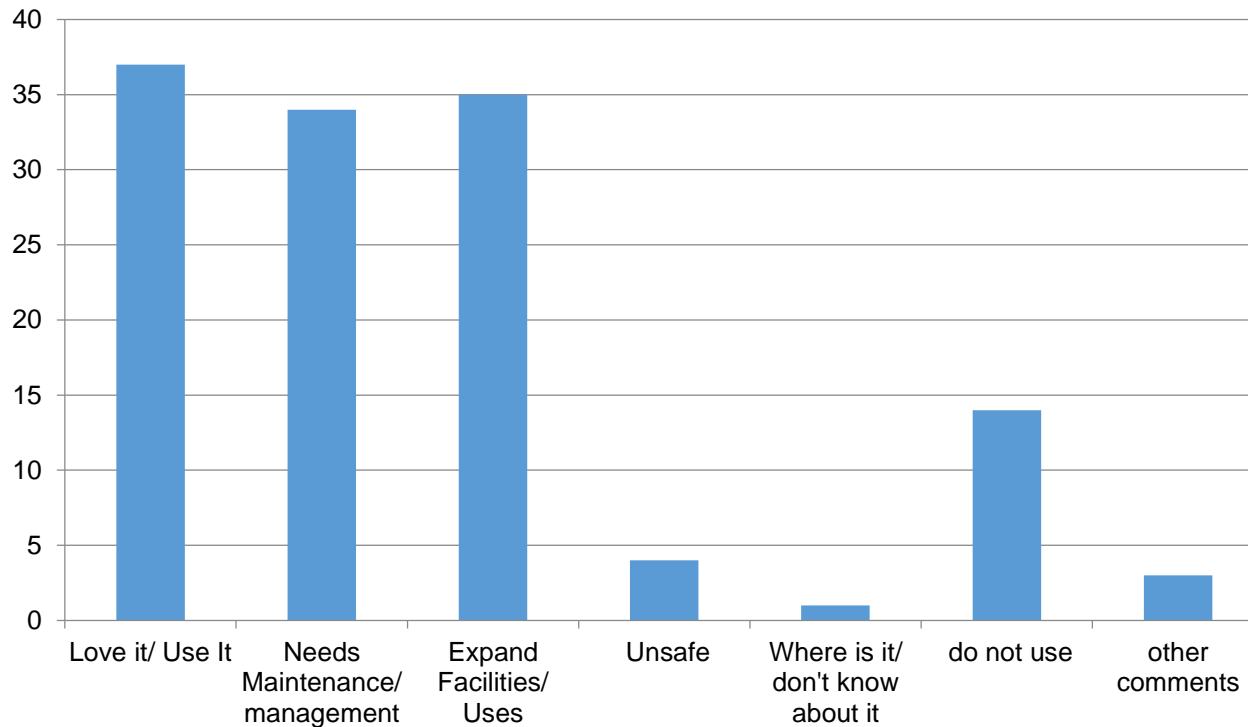
Lowest overall number of respondents; but well liked many of those that did respond

Many cited use of this field by Melrose residents

Needs for management of parking and fields were cited

Facility conditions

Steele (Munchkin) Playground

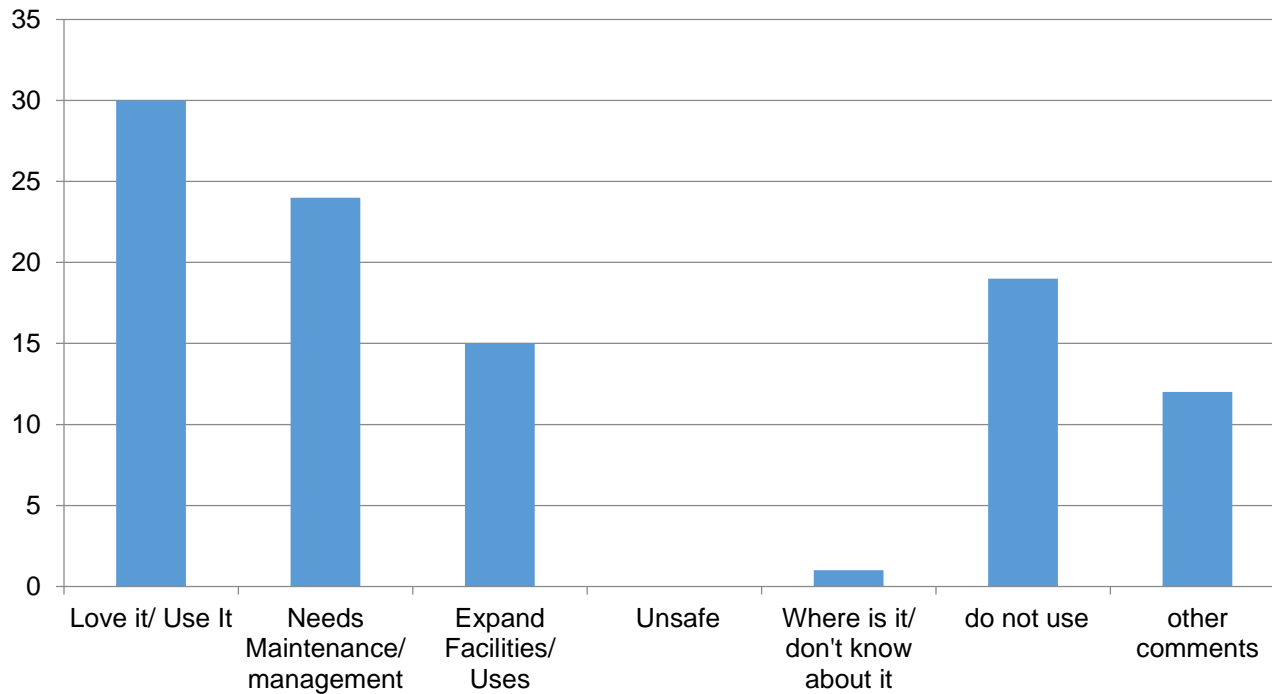


Well -liked playground

Many cited need for better maintenance and upgrade of playground equipment

Facility conditions

Unicorn Golf



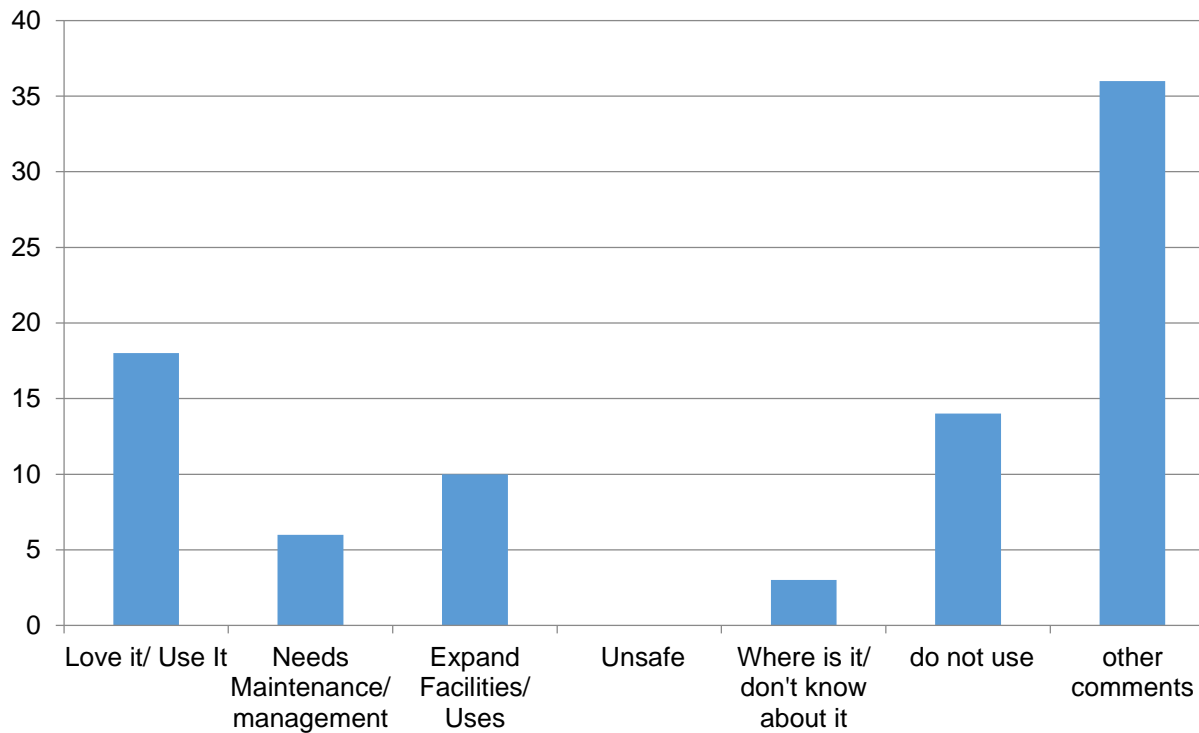
Popular golf course among players, but many cited that they did not play

Many comments related to not needing 2 golf courses

Management was also cited as an issue

Facility conditions

Stoneham Oaks Golf



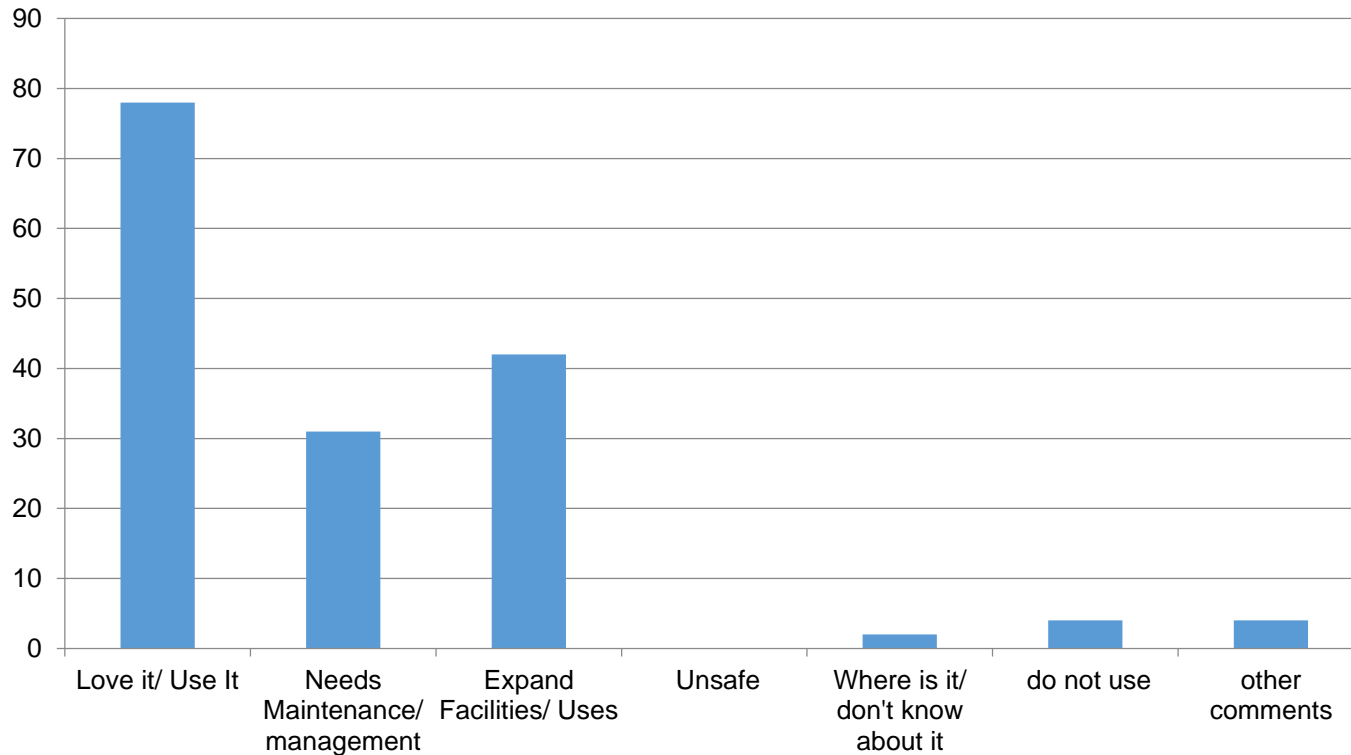
Less popular than Unicorn among respondents

Many more cited the need for only one course

Many suggestions for alternative uses for site, including rink expansion, driving range, trade for Weiss Farm

Facility conditions

Stoneham Arena

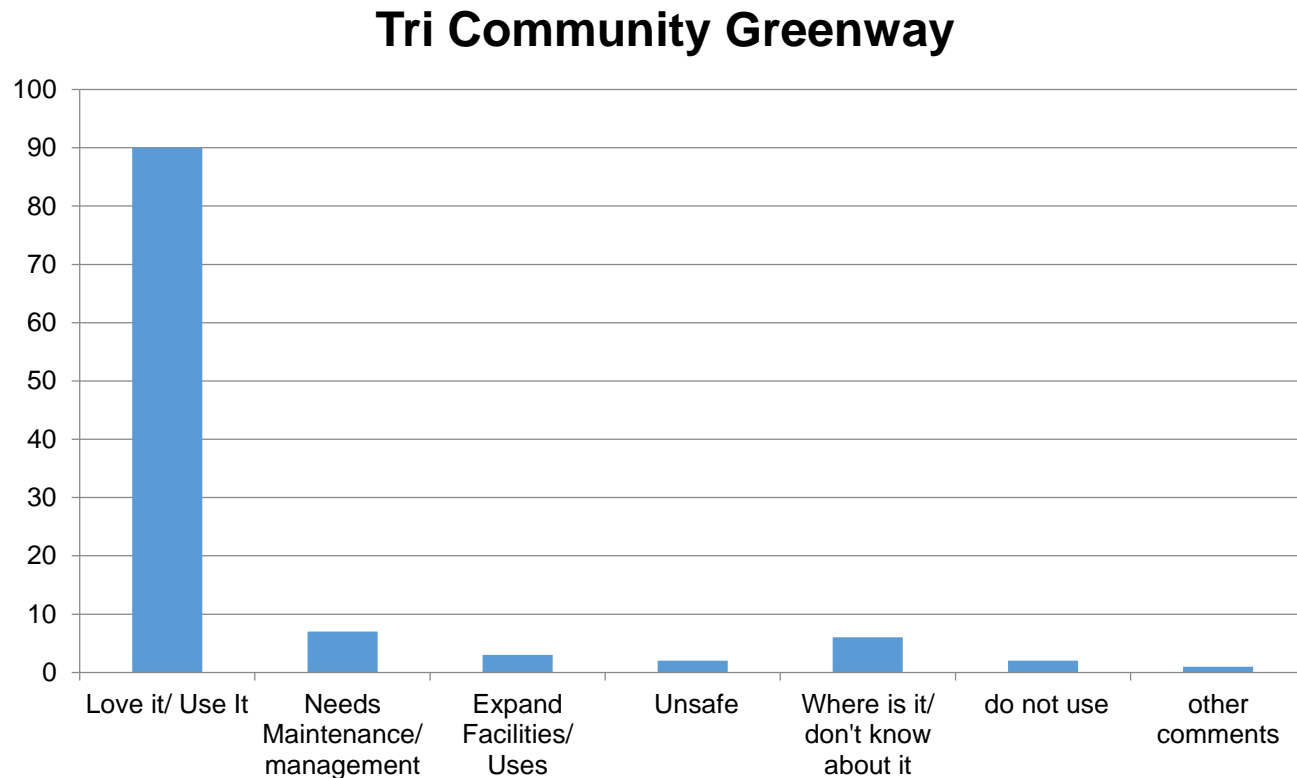


Many respondents liked the rink, but also cited needs for improvements and maintenance

Many supported concept of second rink

Some concerned regarding lack of public ice time at convenient times, and the need to have non-town uses

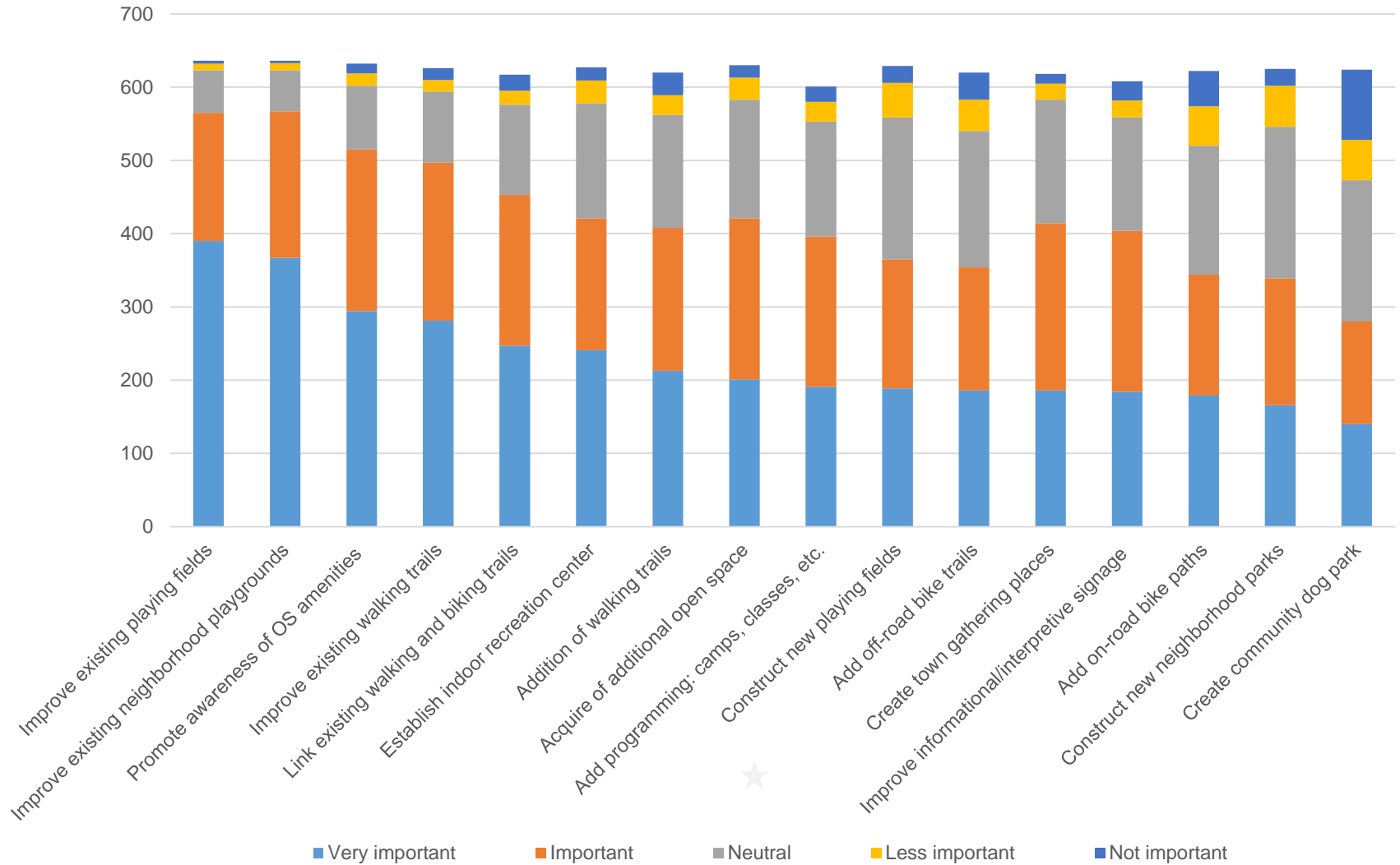
Facility conditions



Very popular facility - support was largely aspirational with many looking forward to it being completed, and less using currently

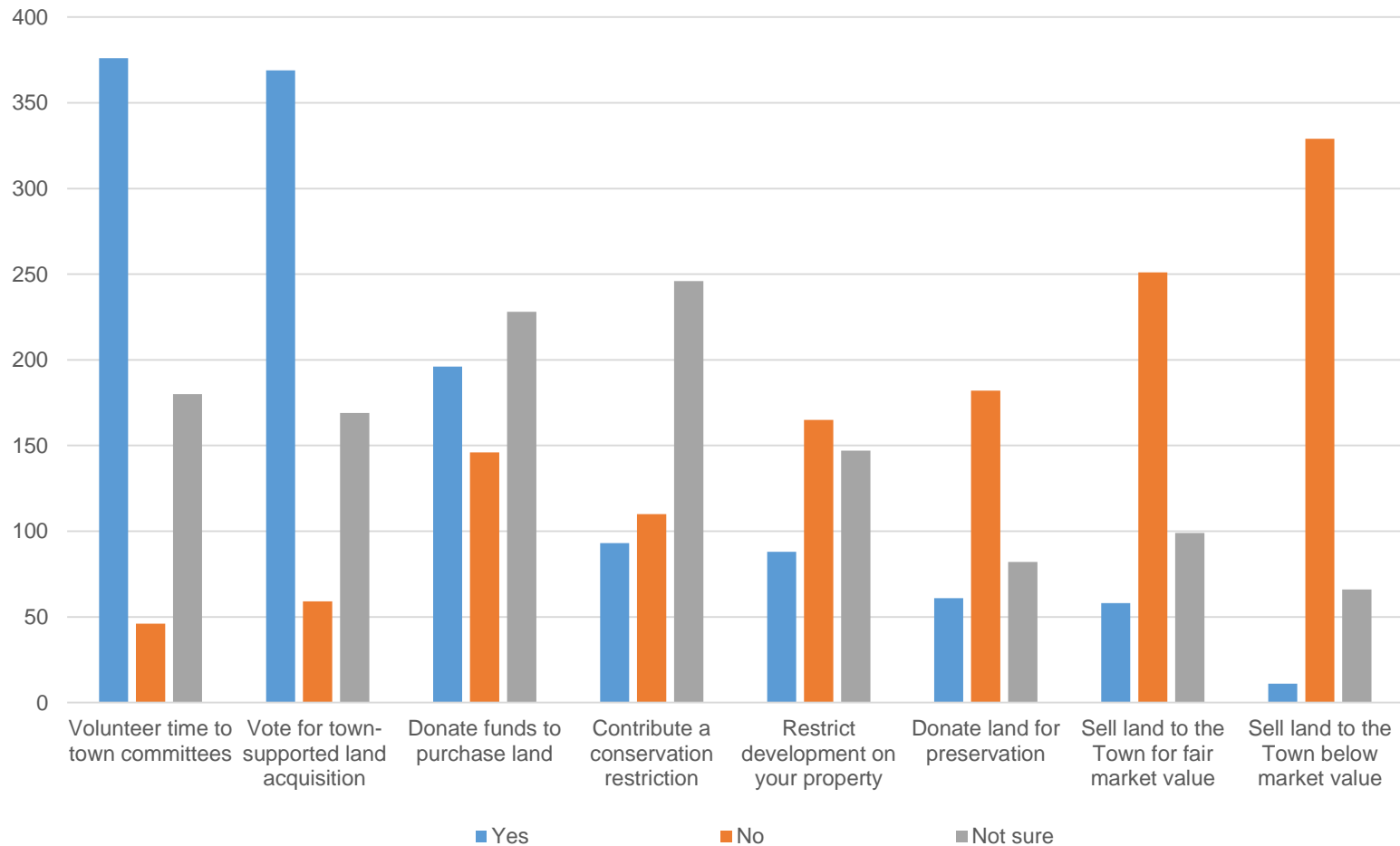
Priorities

Please rate the importance of the following:



Priorities

To preserve open space in Stoneham, would you personally:
(N/A answers omitted)



Priorities

Are there any parcels of land you think the town should investigate purchasing or permanently protecting for new conservation or recreation land?

- Weiss Farm (57)
- None (19)
- New Rink/Expand Arena (12)
- Land north of Cerrone (9)
- Near Greenway/Bike Path (4)
- For Sports Facilities (4)
- At Medical Center/Spot Pond (4)
- In front of Middle School (4)
- And 29 other locations proposed once or twice