

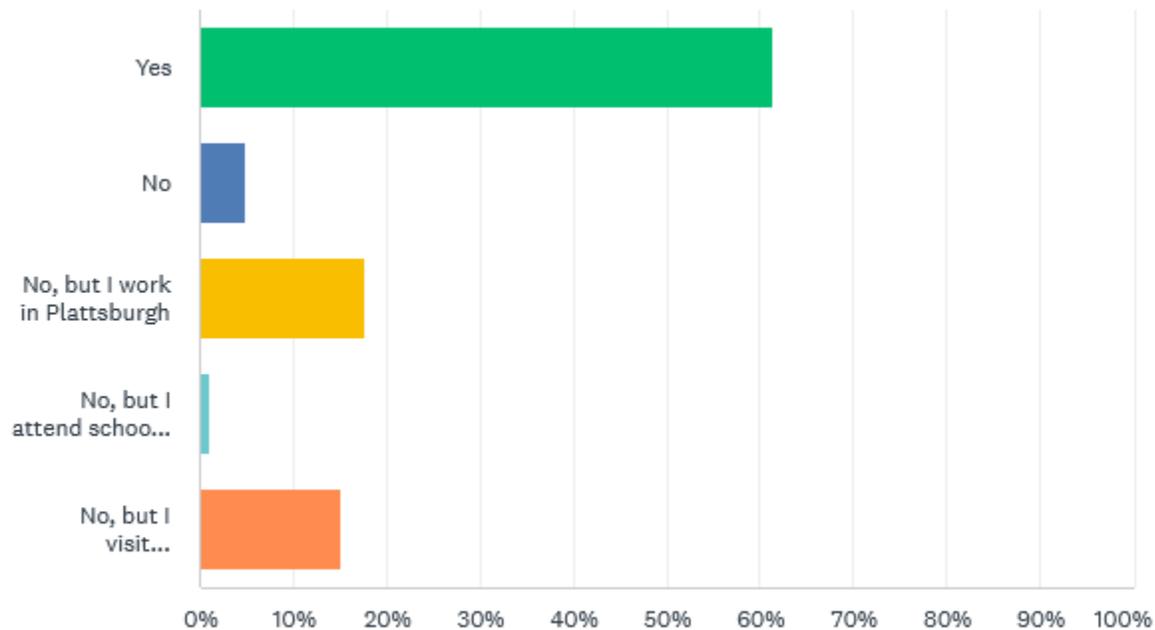


City of Plattsburgh Harborside Master Plan

Summary of Responses from the Community Survey, January 2022

The City of Plattsburgh is developing a Master Plan for its Harborside Lakefront and Riverfront subareas. In order to gather public input on the project, an online survey was available to the public from January 14 to January 25. During that time, 1,094 people took the survey. Participants were asked a total of 18 questions about their ideas, priorities, and concerns about the future of Plattsburgh’s Harborside site. Survey questions were a combination of multiple-choice, ranking criteria, and some open-ended responses for issues or concerns not covered within the survey.

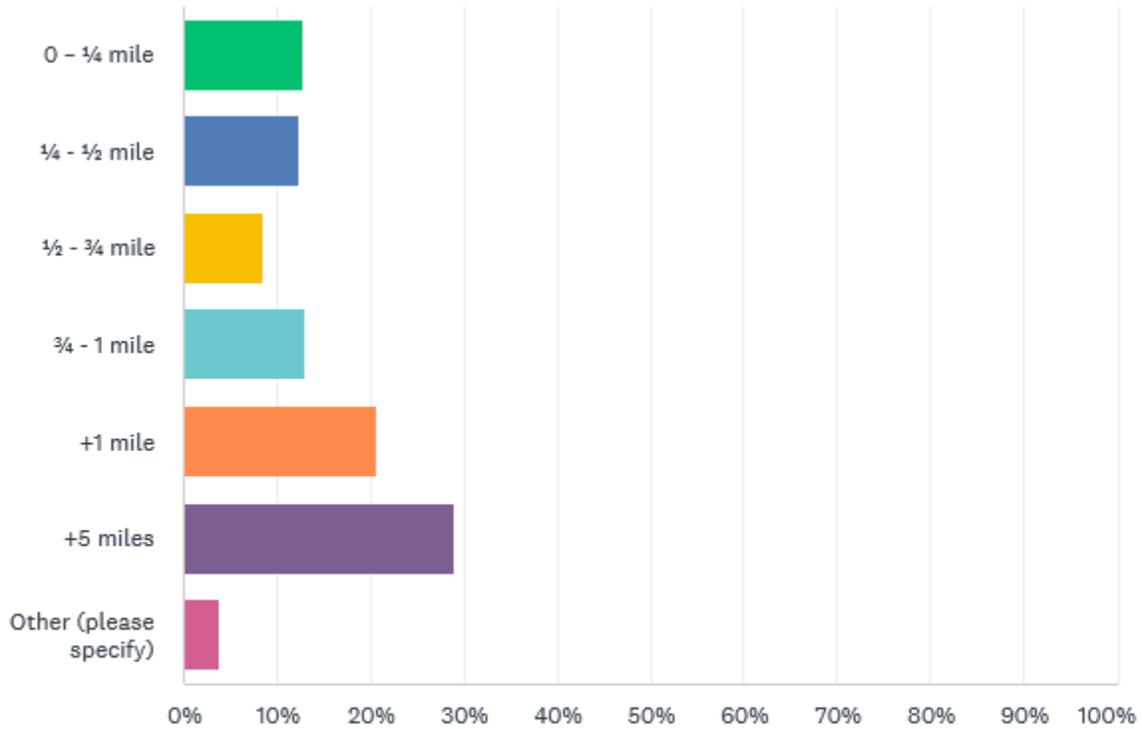
Question 1- Are you a resident of the City of Plattsburgh?



The majority of survey participants are residents of the City of Plattsburgh (61%), 18% of participants stated they are not from the City, but work in it, and 15% said they do not live in Plattsburgh, but they visit regularly.

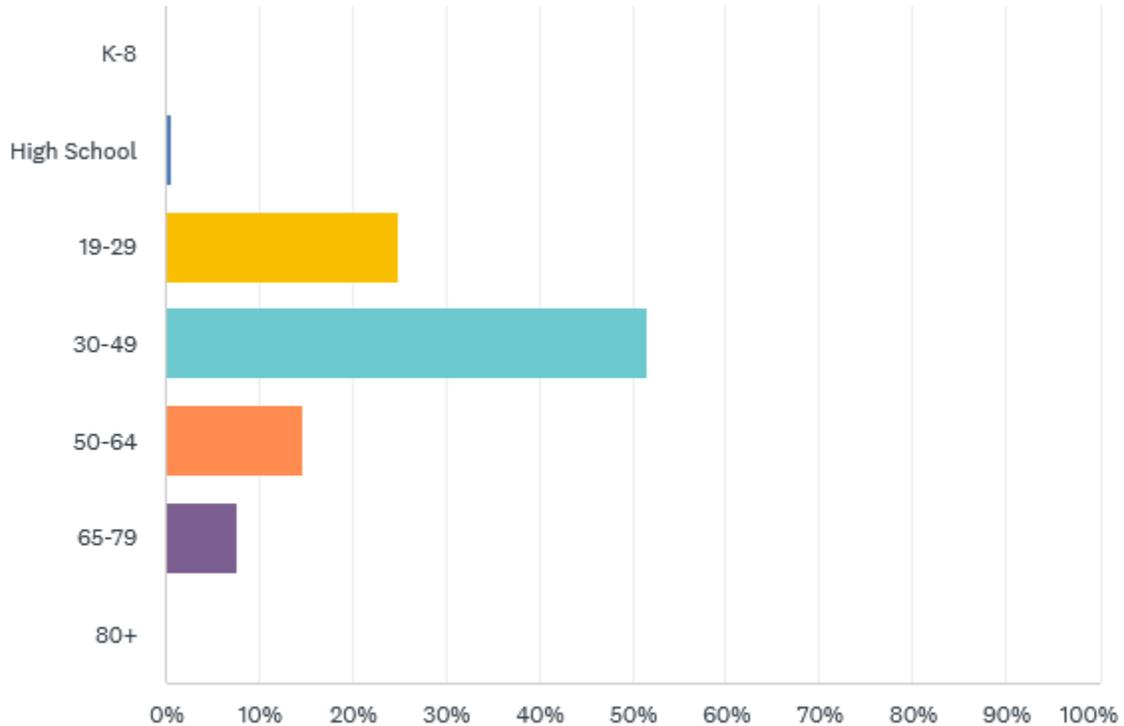
Those who chose the fourth option were asked their main reason for visiting Plattsburgh, 83 participants stated shopping, while 63 said they visit for recreation and entertainment purposes. 47 participants said they visit the City for dining and restaurants, and 23 said they come to Plattsburgh to visit family and friends.

Question 2- How far do you typically travel to get to the Plattsburgh Waterfront?



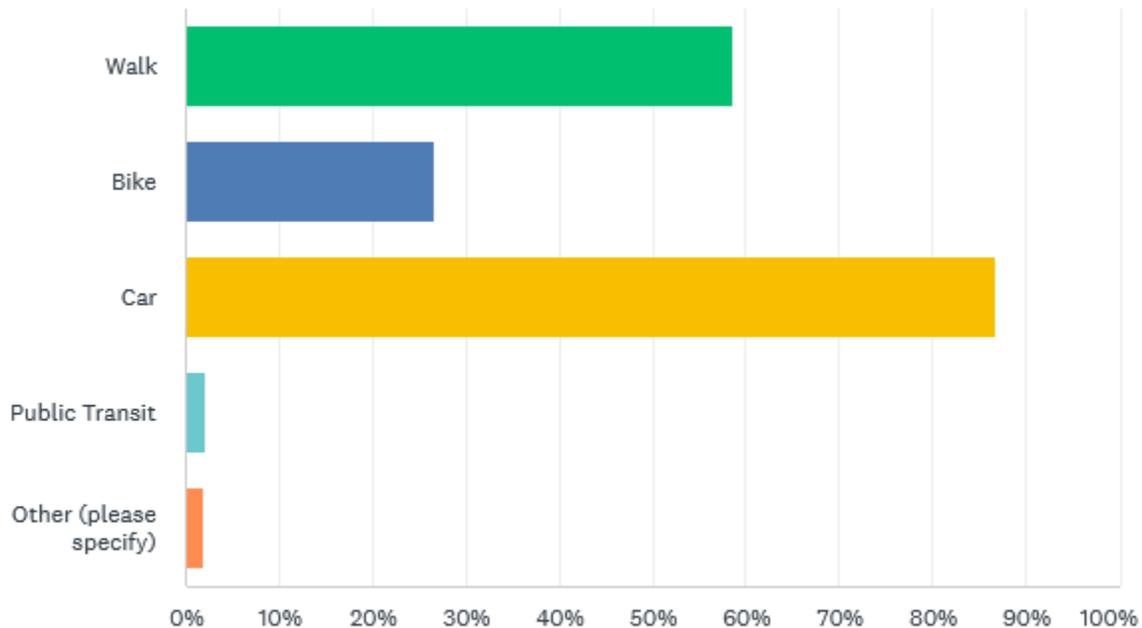
Data was spread evenly regarding how far people travel to get to the Plattsburgh Waterfront, with 29% of participants traveling up to five (5) miles, 21% traveling over a mile, 13% traveling 3/4 -1 mile, 8% traveling 1/2-3/4 mile, 12% traveling 1/4-1/2 mile, and 13% traveling 0-1/4 mile. Those who chose the other option live more than five (5) miles away, and were asked to specify how far they live.

Question 3- What is your age?



The majority of survey takers were in the 30-49 year old age group (52%). 25% of respondents fell within the 19-29 age group; 15% of respondents were between the ages of 50-64; and 8% were at or above the age of 80. There was a small portion of participants that were in grades K-8, or high school, with a total of 10 responses from this category.

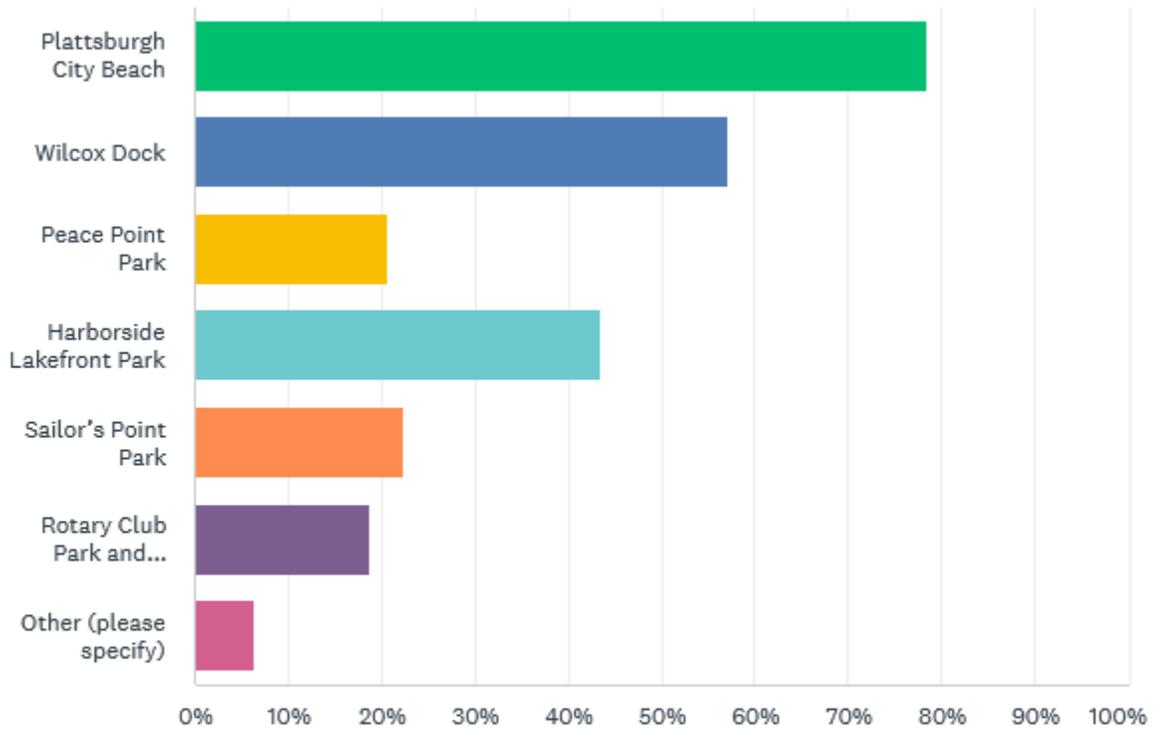
Question 4- How do you (or any members of the household) typically travel around the city and to the waterfront parks? Please select all that apply.



Based on the responses, car, bike, and walking are the main modes of travel around the City. Respondents were able to select all options that applied, 87% of respondents use a car, 59% walk, and 27% bike. A small percentage of respondents utilize public transit (2%).

2% of respondents said they use other forms of travel; these include boats, motorcycles, scooters, and rollerblades.

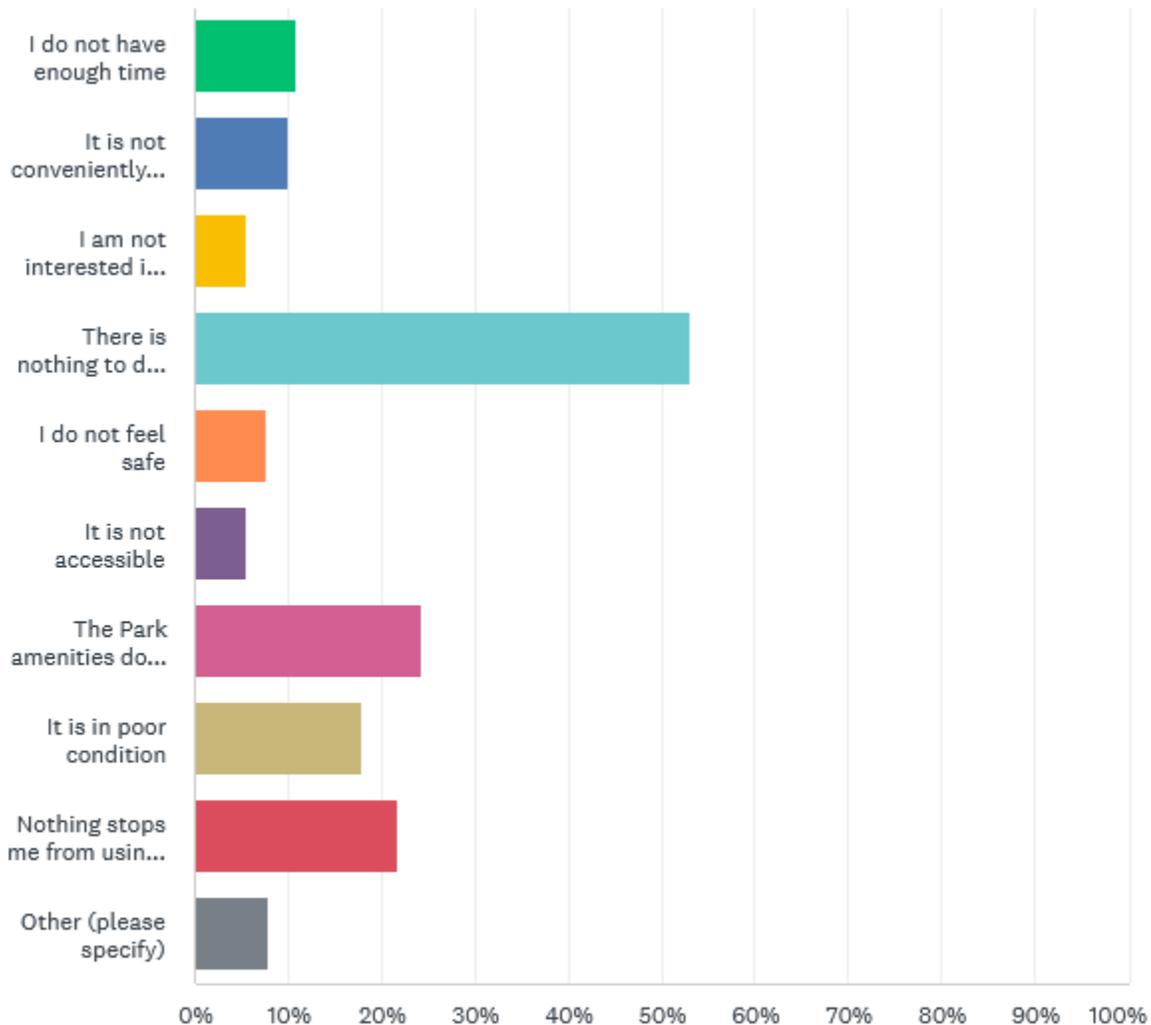
Question 5- Which existing waterfront parks do you use within the City of Plattsburgh? Select all that apply.



Plattsburgh City Beach is the most utilized waterfront park with 32% saying they use it. Wilcox Dock is the second most utilized with 23%. Peace Point Park, Rotary Club Park/Sailor Beach, and Sailor’s Point Park are used relatively the same amount (8%, 8%, 9%, respectively).

For those who chose the “other” and were asked to specify, 20 participants said they do not use any of these parks, or even visit the area; 16 participants said they use the river walking trail; and a total of 16 participants said they visit MacDonough Monument Park or Samuel de Champlain Monument Park.

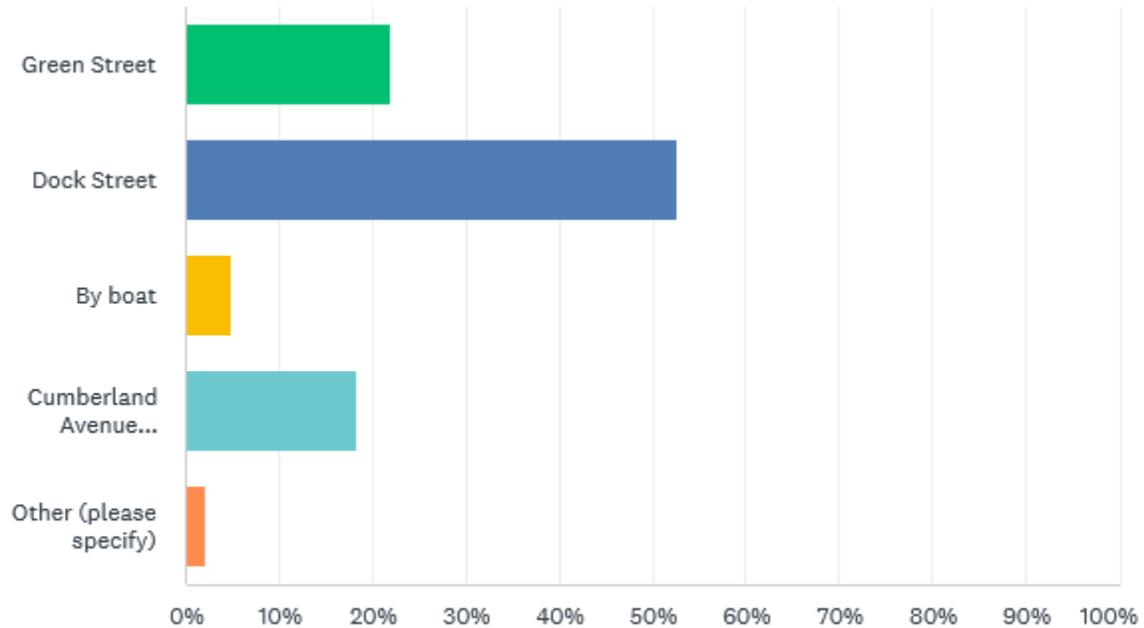
Question 6- Specifically for Harborside Lakefront Park, if any, what are the main reasons you do not visit the Lakefront Park more often? Please select all that apply.



53% of responses said they do not visit Lakefront Subarea more often because there is not enough to do in the area. 25% of respondents feel that the park amenities do not match their interests; 18% said the park is in poor condition; and 22% said that nothing stops them from using the park space.

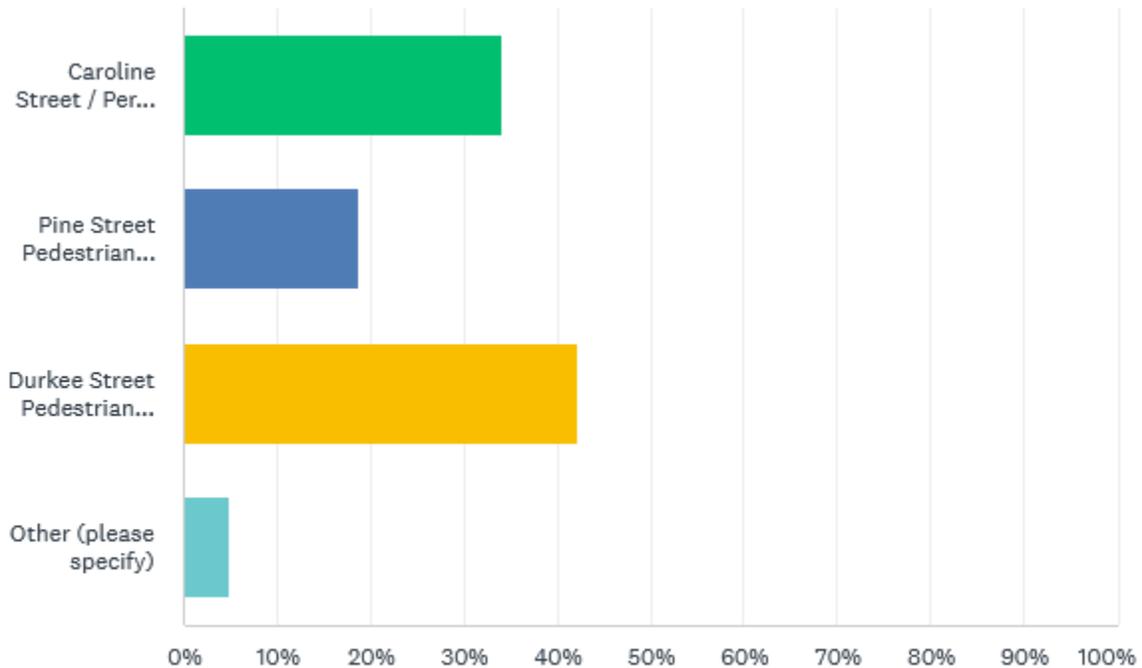
Some concerns brought up using the “other” option were that respondents are unfamiliar with the area, it is unappealing due to the Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) nearby, and that there is not enough greenspace, gardens, or playground.

Question 7—How do/would you commonly access Harborside Lakefront?



Over half of the responders said they use Dock Street to access Harborside Lakefront Subarea (53%). Green Street is the next most commonly used with 22%, and Cumberland Avenue Pedestrian Bridge with 19%. A small percentage of responders said they access it by boat (5%), and about 2% said they use/would use other methods. When asked to specify, 17 respondents said that they are unsure due to unfamiliarity with the area. 3 respondents said they use all methods of access.

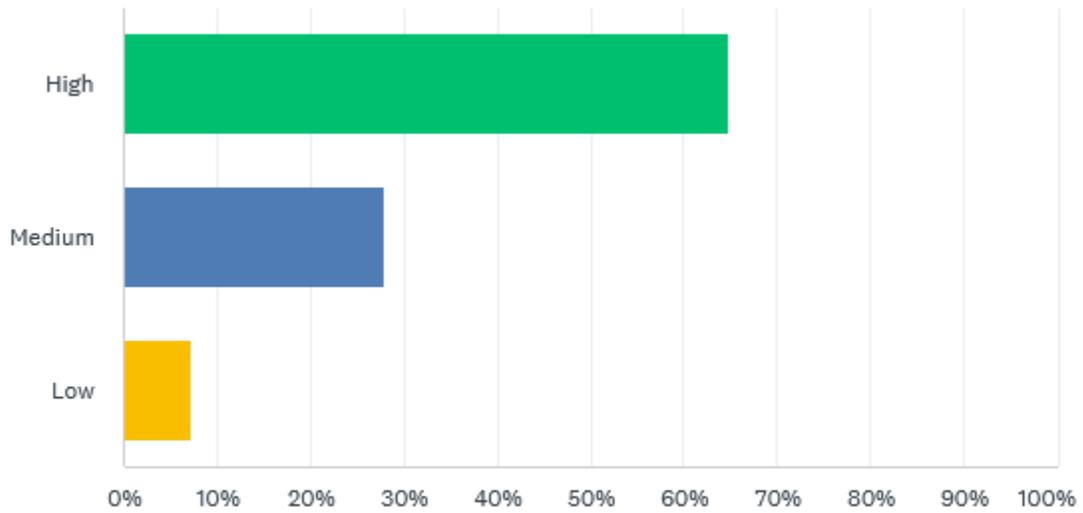
Question 8- How do/would you commonly access Harborside Riverfront?



Based on the results, 42% of respondents use Durkee Street Pedestrian Bridge/Saranac River Trail to access Harborside Riverfront Subarea. The second most utilized is Caroline Street/Peru Street (34%). Only 19% of respondents said they use the Pine Street Pedestrian Bridge/Saranac River Trail.

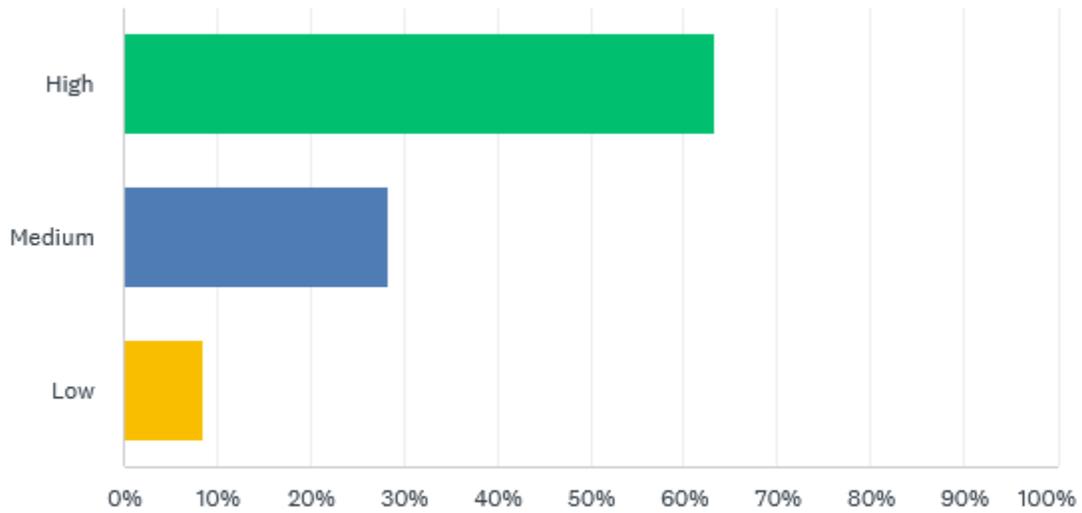
Those who selected “other” were asked to specify. 19 respondents said they are unsure of what they use, or just do not access the Harborside Riverfront Riverarea at all. Five (5) respondents said they use more than one of these.

Question 9- How strong of a priority should active recreation- such as playgrounds, splashpads, athletic fields, basketball/tennis/pickleball courts, exercise equipment, and trails, etc. – be at Harborside Lakefront?



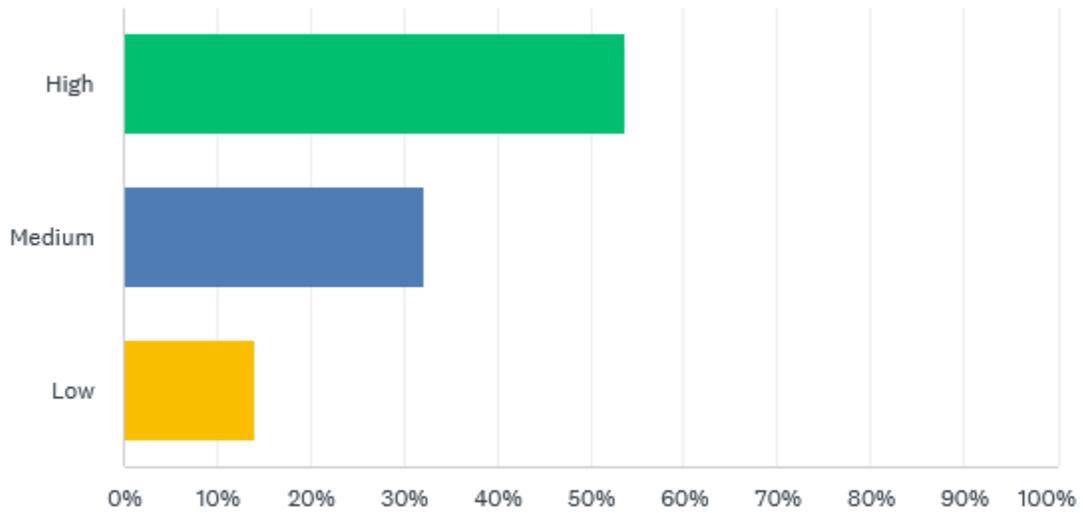
The majority of participants feel as though active recreation should be high priority (65%). Only 7% of participants think it should be low priority and 28% think it should be medium priority.

Question 10- How strong of a priority should active recreation – such as playgrounds, splashpads, athletic fields, basketball/tennis/pickleball courts, exercise equipment and trails, etc. – be at Harborside Riverfront?



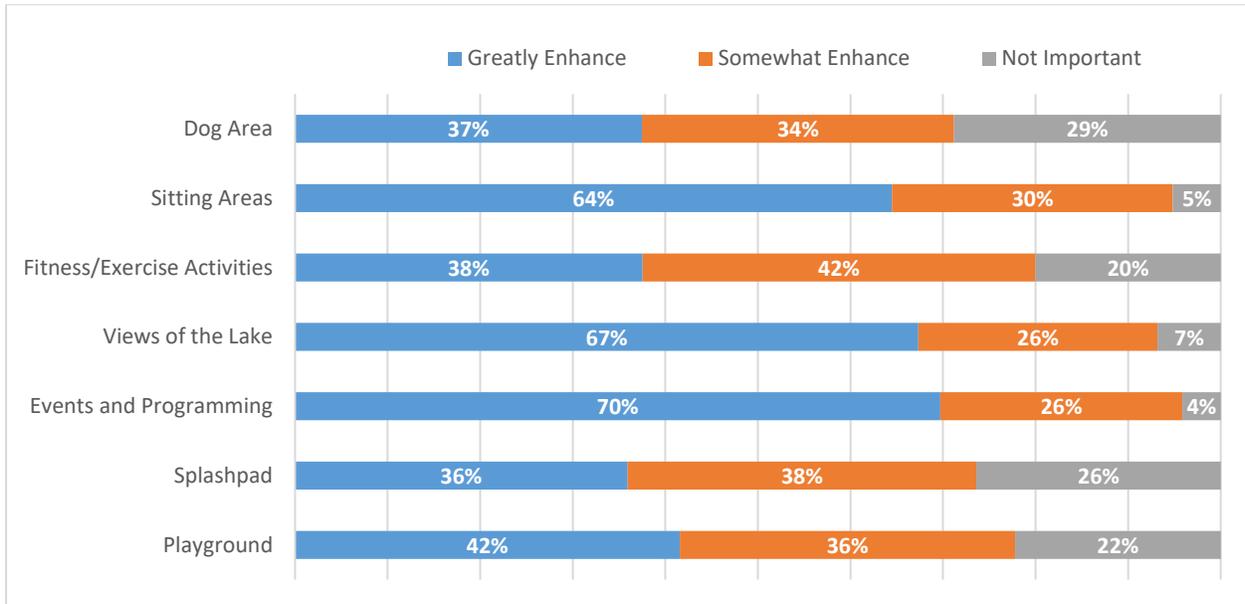
The responses were pretty similar to that of question 9, being that the majority of respondents feel that active recreation should be high priority at Harborside Riverfront Subarea (63%). Similarly to above, 28% of respondents said medium priority, and 8% said low priority.

Question 11- How strong of a priority should whitewater recreation- such as kayak launches, viewing platforms, buoys, in-water hydraulics to create rapids, etc. – be for the lower Saranac River?



Following the same order as the two previous questions, respondents felt slightly different about the priority level of whitewater recreation in the lower Saranac River with 54% wanting it to be high priority, 32% for medium, and 14% feel that it should be low priority.

Question 12- What type of amenity would most enhance your experience when visiting the Plattsburgh Famers Market? Choose between GREATLY ENHANCE; SOMEWHAT ENHANCE; AND NOT IMPORTANT.

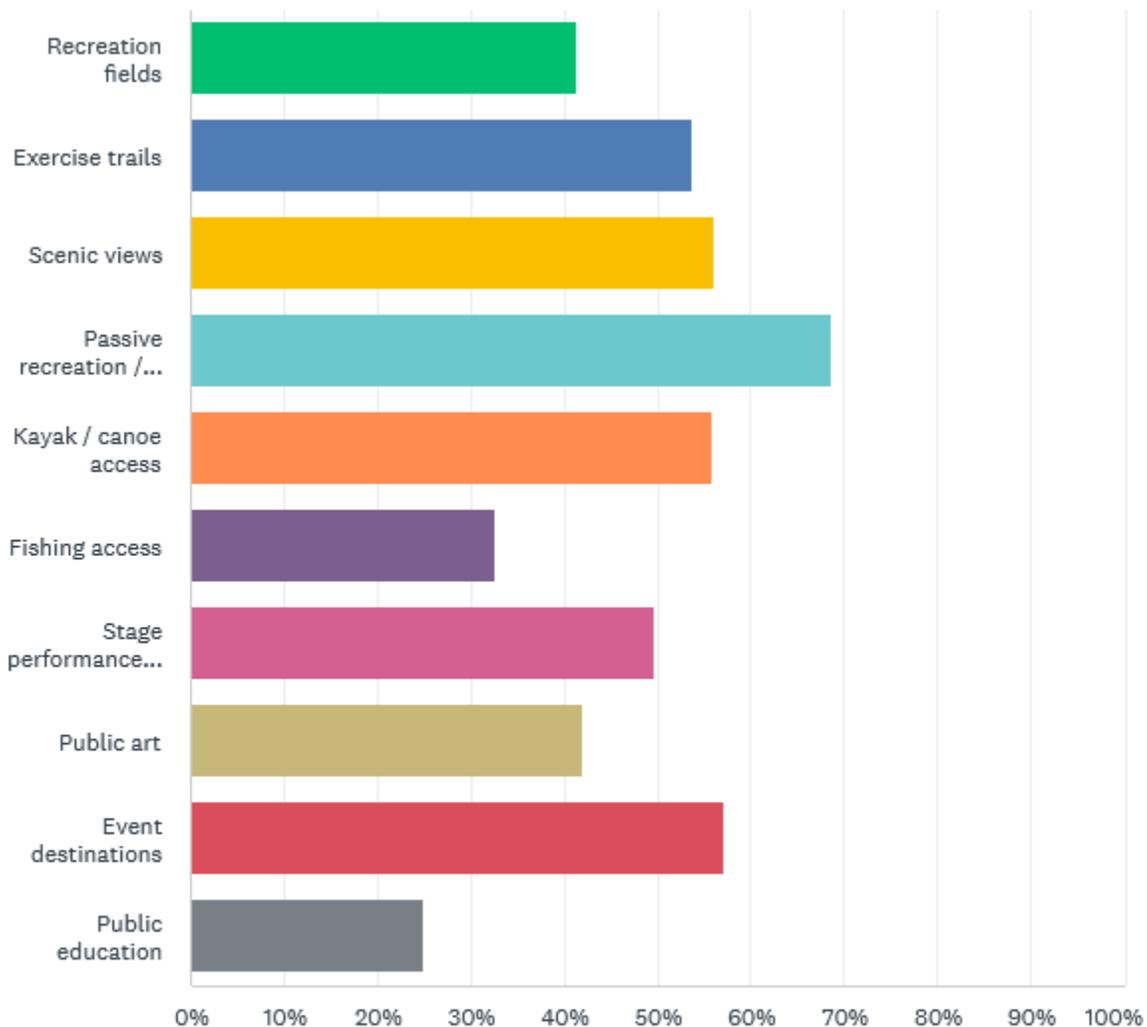


Participants feel that playgrounds, events and programming, views of the lake, sitting areas, and a dog park would greatly enhance their experience when visiting the Plattsburgh Farmers and Crafters Market. Respondents felt especially strong about the events and programming, view of the lake, and sitting areas.

For the splashpad, 36% said it would greatly enhance their experience, 38% said it would be somewhat enhanced, while 26% feel that it is not important.

42% of respondents said that fitness and exercise activities would somewhat enhance their experience. Responses for the dog park were very close in ranking with 37% saying it would greatly enhance their experience, 34% saying somewhat, and 29% saying it is not important.

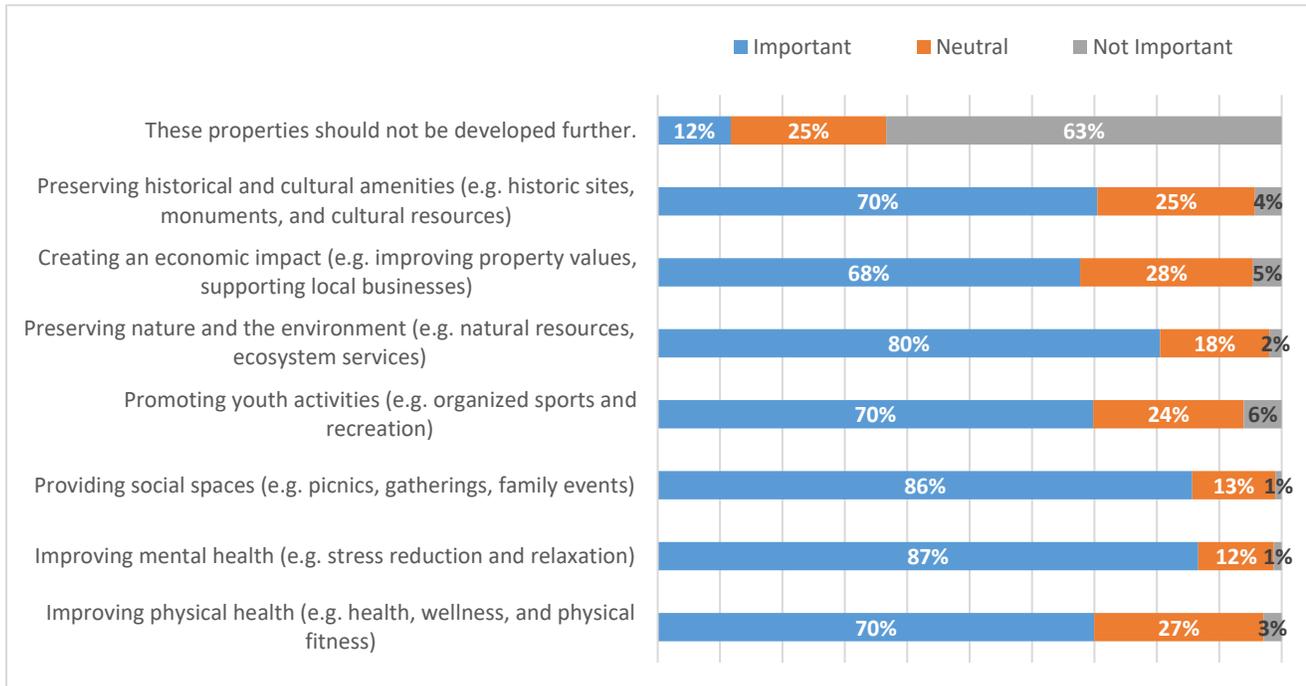
Question 13- What types of features could be provided at either Harborside Lakefront or Riverfront that are missing or lacking in Plattsburgh right now? Select all that apply.



The most important feature to respondents according to the survey is passive recreation/picnic areas (69%). People did not feel strongly about public education with only 25% of the responses.

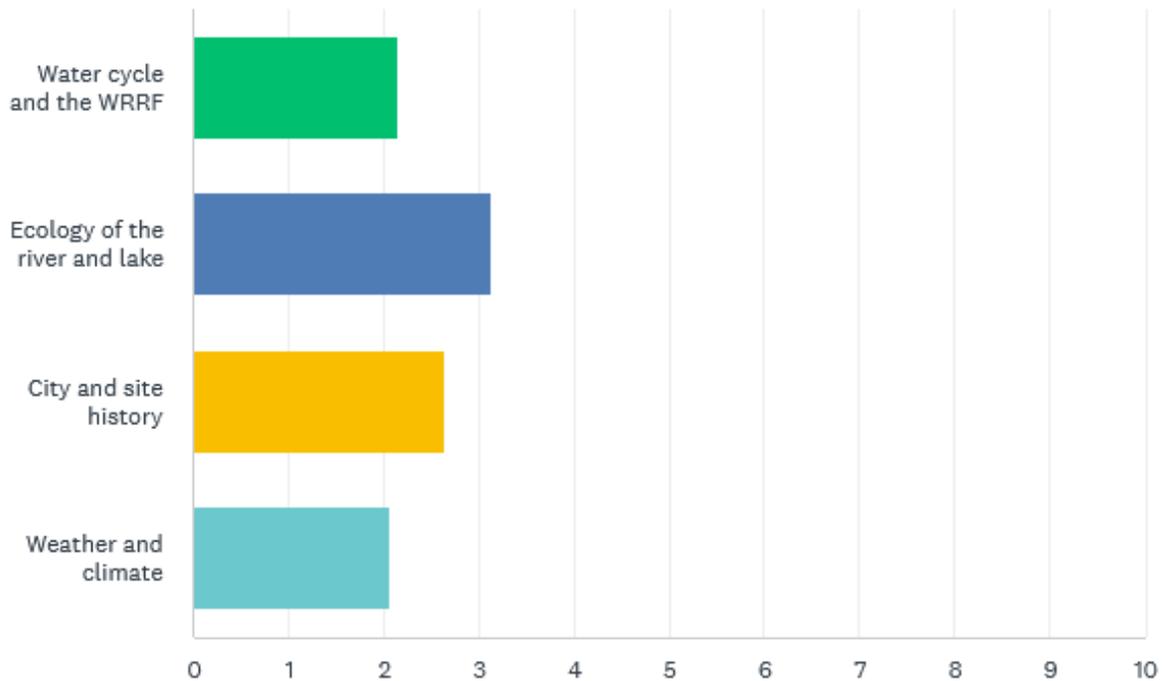
Exercise trails, scenic views, kayak/canoe access, stage performance space, and event destinations were the relatively close, ranging from 50-57% of the respondents feeling that Harborside Lakefront or Riverfront Subareas are lacking these features.

Question 14- In your opinion, what are the most important benefits of developing these waterfront properties to the community? Choose between Important, Neutral, and Not Important.



The majority of respondents felt that waterfront properties should be developed further (63%). Respondents feel that waterfront development is beneficial to people’s mental health, stress reduction, and relaxation (87%). Respondents would like more social spaces such as picnic areas and gathering areas for family events (86%). Other important benefits people respondents see waterfront development having include: preserving nature and the environment (80%); promoting youth activities (70%); preserving historical and cultural amenities (70%); improving physical health (70%); and creating an economic impact (68%).

Question 15- Prioritize the types of exhibit features you would most like to see at the Environmental Learning Center? Prioritize the following



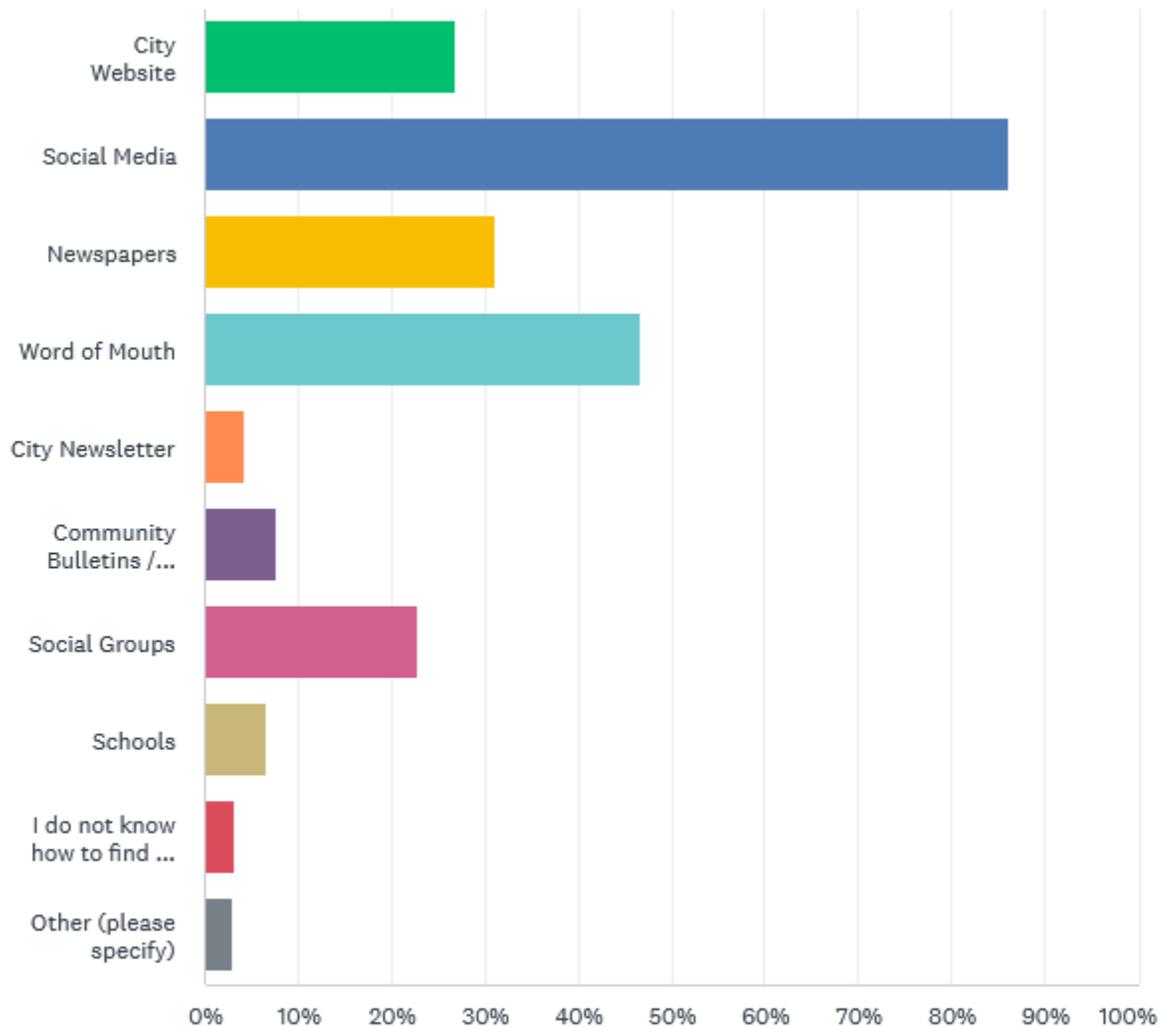
Most participants (43%) felt that the ecology of the river and lake should be prioritized first when adding exhibits to the Environmental Learning Center. The second most prioritized exhibit was city and site history with 29% of votes. 16% of respondents would like to see water cycle of the WWRF while 12% prioritized the weather and climate.



Question 16- Please describe the reasoning behind the way you ranked the answers in the previous question:

733 survey takers answered this short response question. Over 200 out of the 733 respondents stated that preserving the history of the area is extremely important, which led them to ranking the answers in the order that they did. Many also felt that it is important to know the ecology of the area that you live in. There were many respondents that also feel that maintaining the environment and climate is extremely important, and many kept their children and future generations in mind when ranking these. There were about 100 respondents that ranked the answers solely based on their own personal interests and opinions.

Question 17- How do you typically receive information regarding future development within the City and City events? Please select all that apply.



Survey takers were asked to check all answered that applied to this question. Of the 1,000 people that answered this question, 86% indicated that social media was their main source of receiving information related to future development within the City and City events. It was also shown that a large amount of this communication happens through word of mouth (47%). Newspapers, the City website, and social groups also show to be helpful in getting this information out.

When respondents that chose “other” were asked to specify, the majority of the respondents said they get this information via their local TV news.



Question 18- Please provide any additional comments to the proposed future development of Harborside Lakefront and Waterfront Parks.

598 survey participants offered additional comments to the proposed future development of Harborside Lake front and Waterfront Parks. The most popular comment was making the area more appealing to people of all ages, as well as adding more recreational opportunities. People would like to see more food and drink options including more restaurants, bars, and even food trucks/drink vendors. Finally, many want to see more green space and wish to see the area cleaned and better maintained better. The remaining comments felt that the survey addressed many of the concerns they had and left no additional feedback.