

A Climate Resilient Open Space and Recreation Plan for Rowe

Survey Results

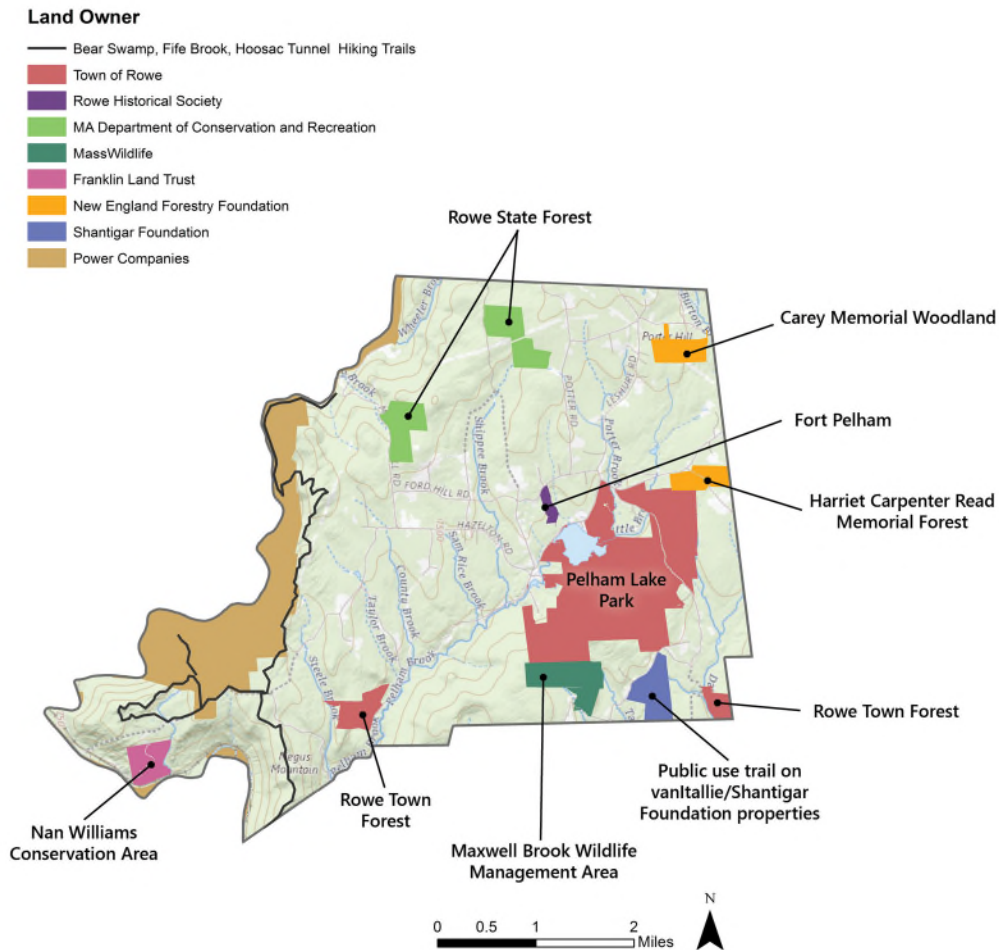
61

Total Responses

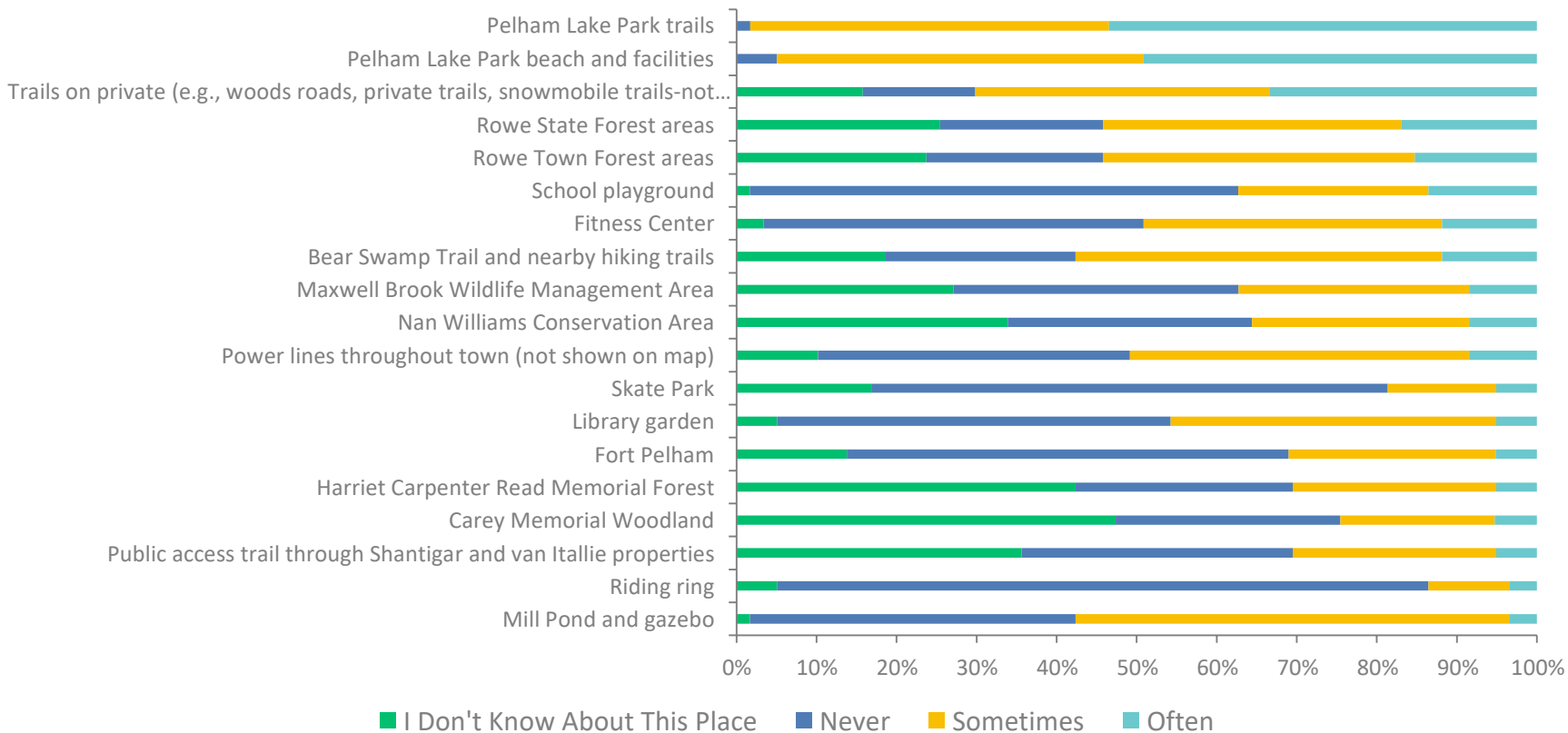
Survey run date: October 11 – November 11, 2022

Q1: How often do you or your family use the following outdoor recreation areas in Rowe?

Publicly Accessible Outdoor Recreation Areas in Rowe



Q1: How often do you or your family use the following outdoor recreation areas in Rowe? (Select all)



Q1: How often do you or your family use the following outdoor recreation areas in Rowe?

Top 5 places people go OFTEN

- 1) PLP Trails
- 2) PLP Beach
- 3) Private trails
- 4) Rowe State Forest
- 5) Rowe Town Forest

Top 5 places people NEVER go

- 1) Riding ring
- 2) Skate Park
- 3) School playground
- 4) Fort Pelham
- 5) Library garden

Top 5 places people DON'T KNOW ABOUT

- 1) Carrie Memorial Woodland
- 2) Harriet Carpenter Read Memorial Forest
- 3) Trail at Shantigar/van Itallie
- 4) Nan Williams Conservation Area
- 5) Maxwell Brook WMA

Over **80%** of people go **OFTEN** or **SOMETIMES** to

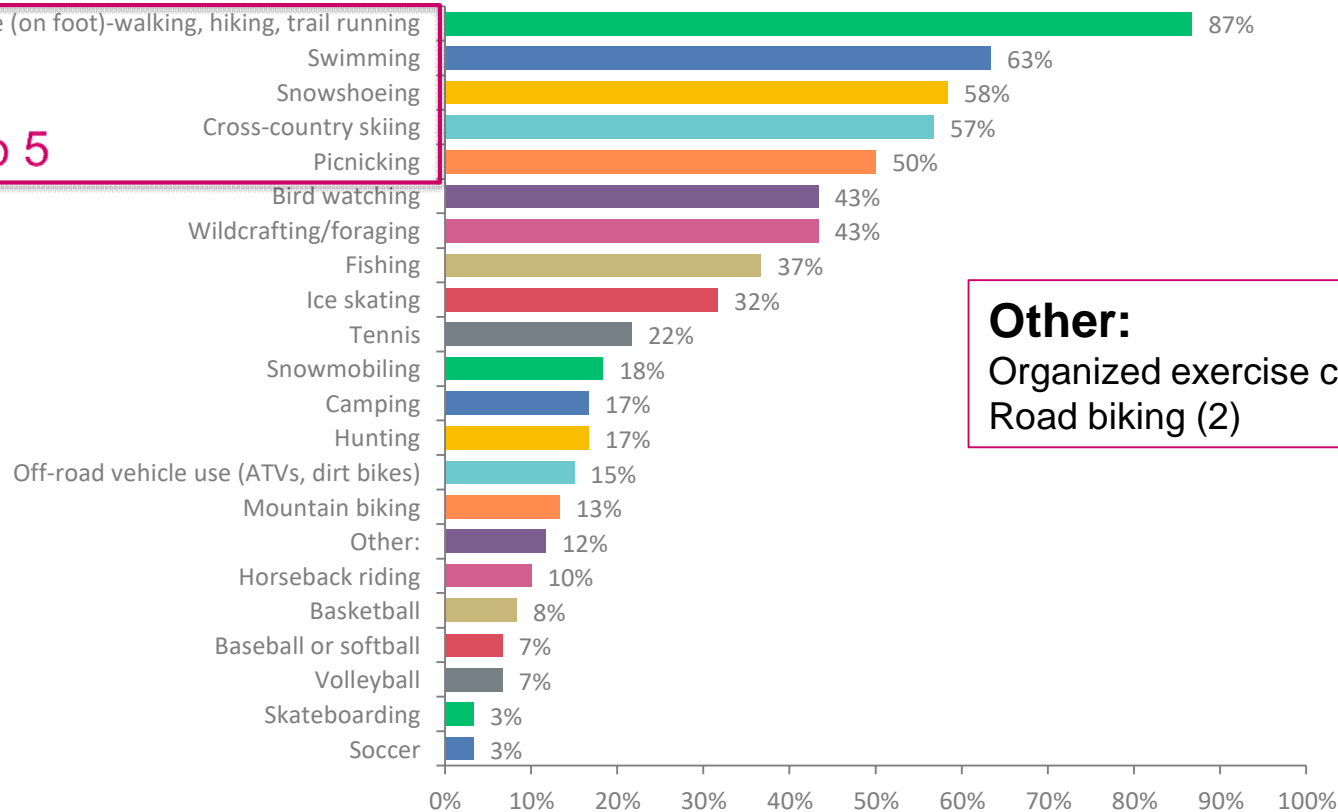
- Pelham Lake Park trails
- Pelham Lake Park beach

Over **50%** of people go **OFTEN** or **SOMETIMES** to

- private trails
- Rowe State Forest
- Rowe Town Forest
- powerlines
- Bear Swamp trails
- Mill Pond and the gazebo

Q2: Which of the following recreational activities do you and your family want to do more of in Rowe? (Select all)

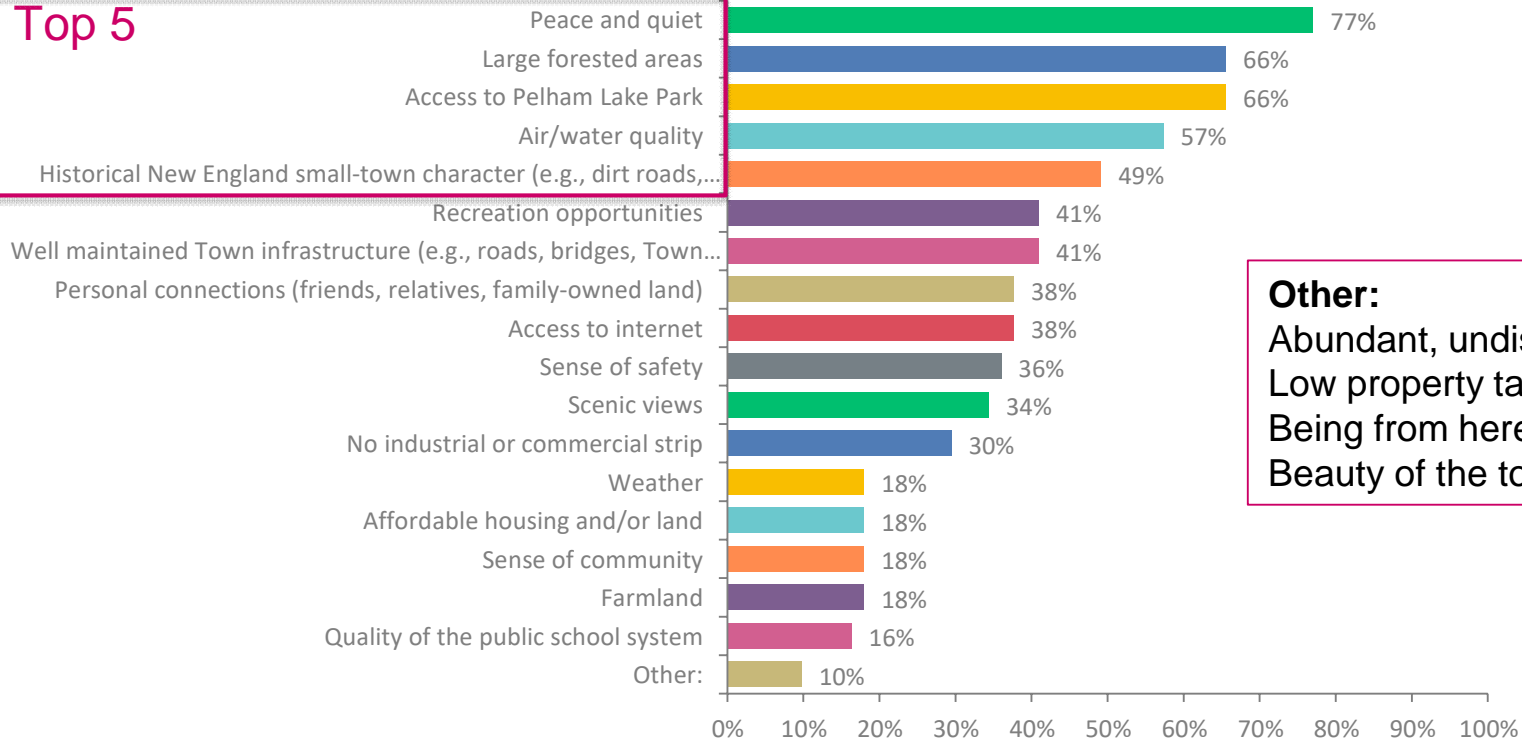
Top 5



Other:
Organized exercise classes (2)
Road biking (2)

Q3: Which of the following factors influence your decision to live or spend time in Rowe? (Top five)

Top 5

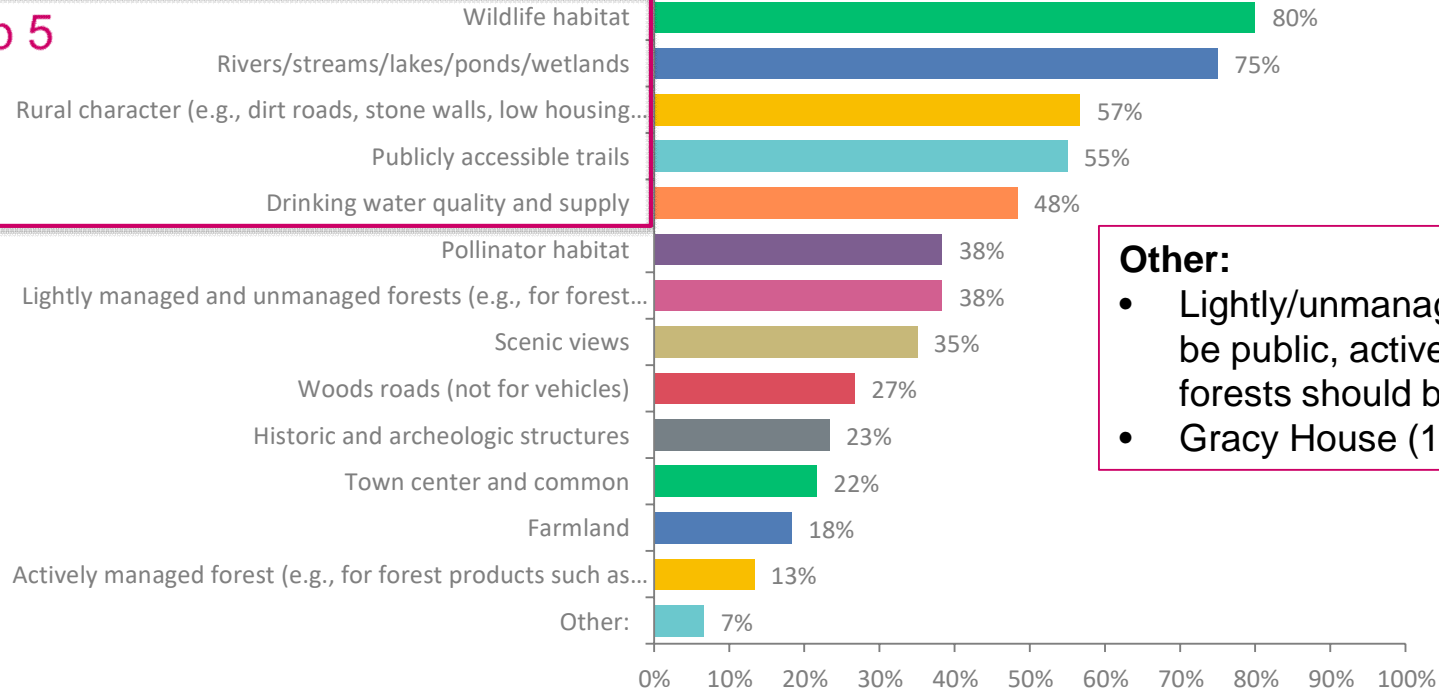


Other:

- Abundant, undisturbed wildlife (2)
- Low property taxes (2)
- Being from here (1)
- Beauty of the town (1)

Q4: How important do you consider it to conserve the following natural and scenic resources in Rowe? (Top five)

Top 5



Other:

- Lightly/unmanaged forests should be public, actively managed forests should be private (2)
- Gracy House (1)

Q5: If Rowe was going to permanently protect more undeveloped land for climate resiliency which of the following efforts would be your top priority? (Top three)

Top 3

Protect areas along rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands to provide storage of flood waters

Protect water quality 57%

Protect water supply 52%

Protect habitat important for climate-sensitive species 40%

Protect undeveloped corridors for climate migration 35%

Protect the local food system 35%

Protect pollinator habitat 32%

Protect native fish habitat 27%

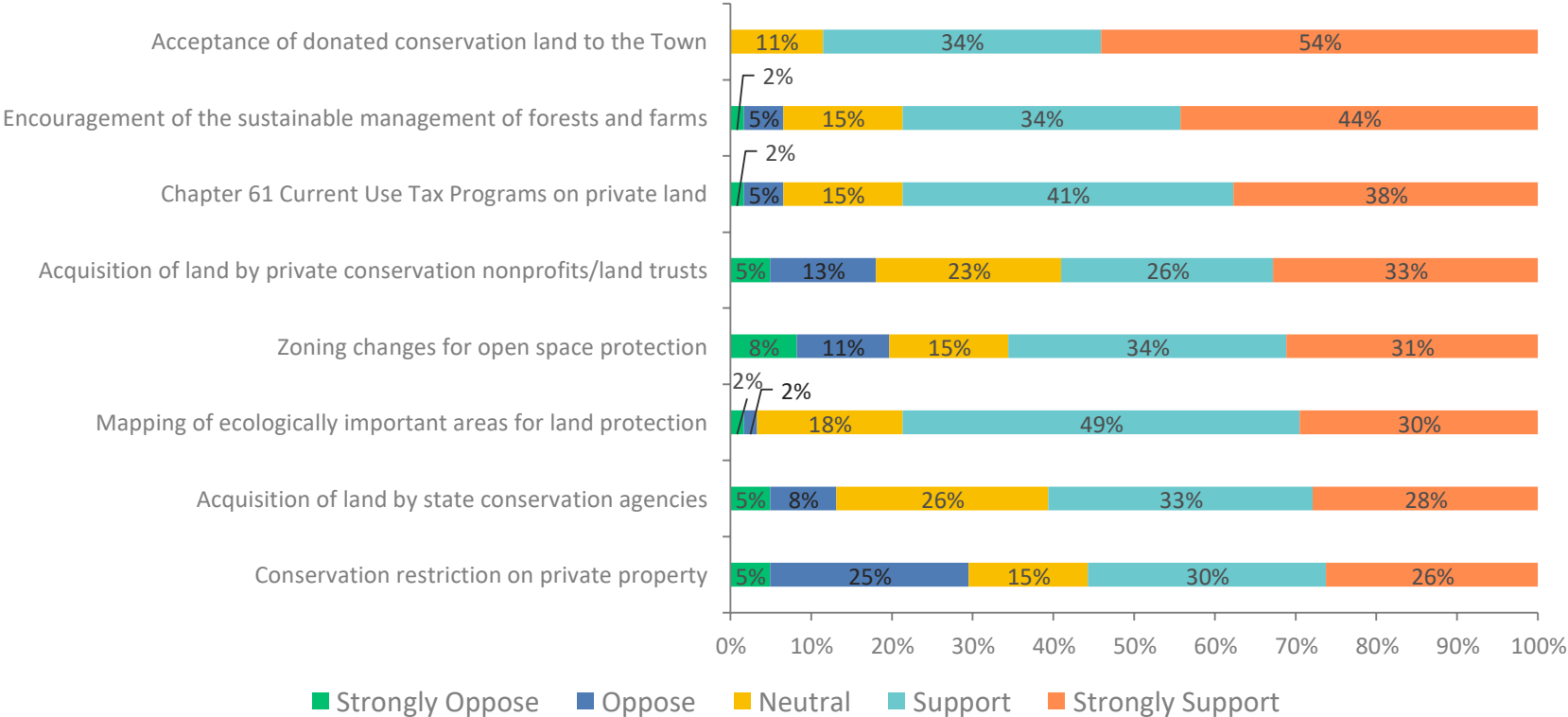
Other: 7%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Other:

- Must be carefully, reasonably done with input from citizens; forbidding mowing lake edge where children fished was unreasonable (1)
- Forest fire prevention and resiliency (1)
- I don't understand the meaning or consequences of several of these options (1)

Q6: What is your level of support for each of the following actions designed to protect/conserves open spaces and natural resources?



Q6: What is your level of support for each of the following actions designed to protect/conserve open spaces and natural resources?

Over 50% of respondents either “supported” or “strongly supported” all conservation actions. The most popular conservation actions were conservation donations to the town, and actions that did not involve legal land protection: ecological mapping and sustainable management of forests.

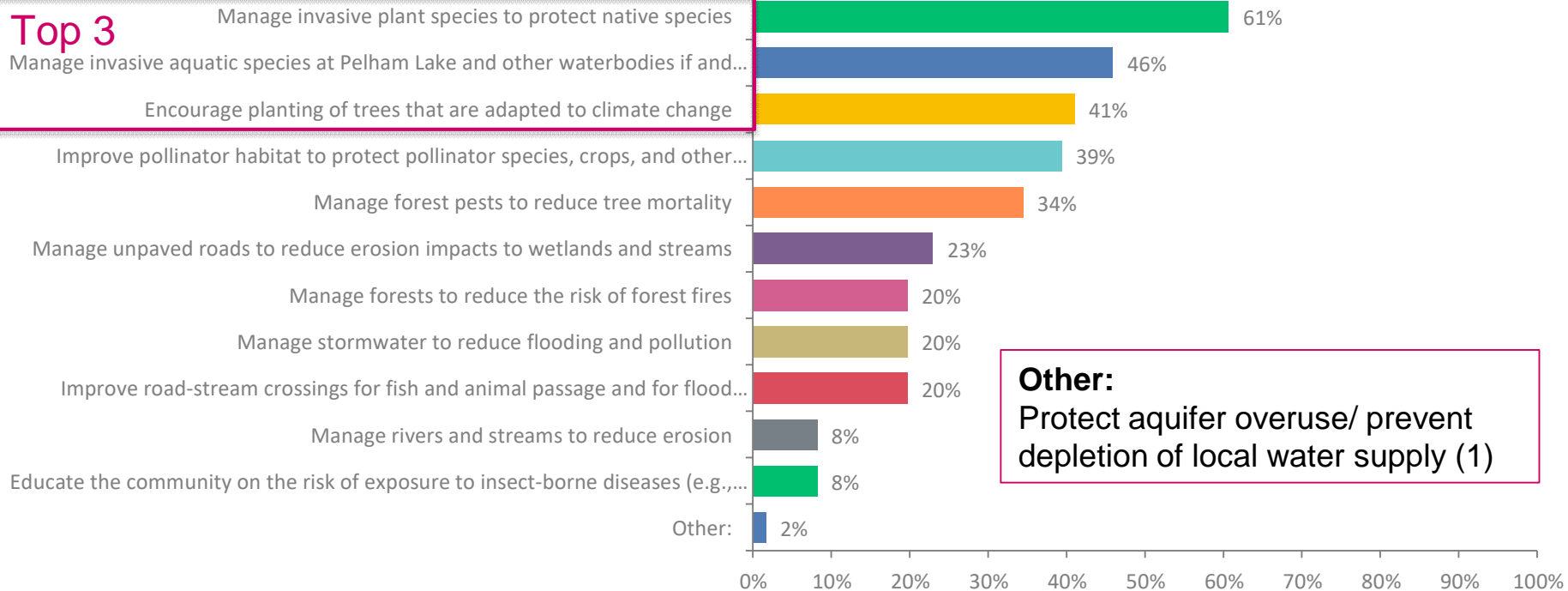
The least supported actions were zoning to protect open space, and permanent protection of by landowner, land trust, or state agency. Conservation restrictions on private property had more than 25% combined “opposed” or “strongly opposed”.

Other:

- Do not understand many of the listed actions and/or their implications (2)
- Oppose what New England Forestry Foundation did on property on Stone Hill (1)
- Manage town forests for quality carbon sequestering timber (1)
- Generally opposed to conservation actions that do not open the land up for more access by the public, or limit the access that the public may have to that land (i.e., trail design, routes, etc.) (1)

Q7: If residents of Rowe were going to take actions for climate resiliency in Rowe that did not involve land protection, which of the following types of efforts would be your top priority? (Top 3)

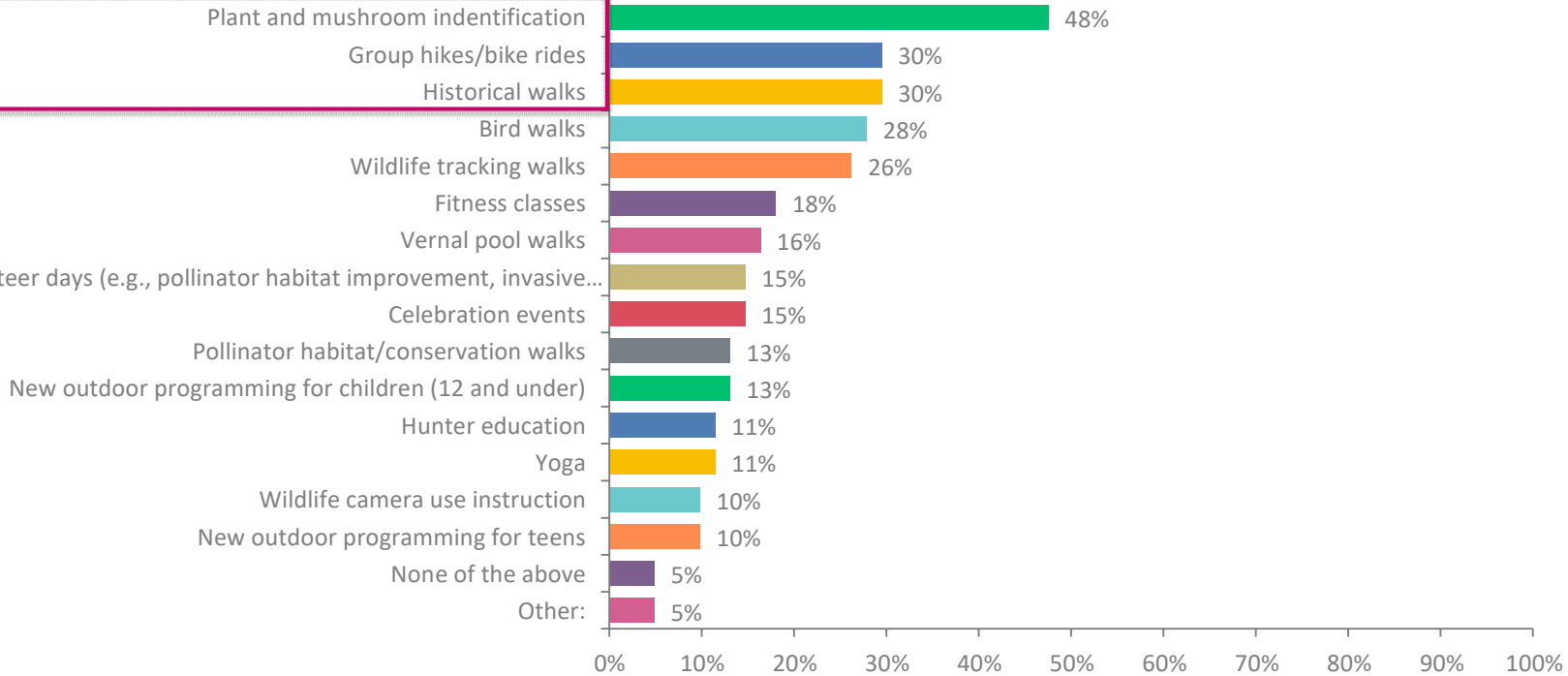
Top 3



Other:
Protect aquifer overuse/ prevent depletion of local water supply (1)

Q8: Which three of the following outdoor activities would you or your household participate in? (Top 3)

Top 3



Q9: If you have specific ideas about public outdoor recreational activities, please explain.

Trails

- New trails
- Better trail maintenance town-wide (2)
- Accessible trails
- ATV trails

Recreation

- Handicap-accessible fishing dock
- Better indoor recreation center
- Pickleball
- Hiking club
- Guided hikes
- Water-based exercise
- Workshops to introduce people to recreation and help them meet people interested in the same activities

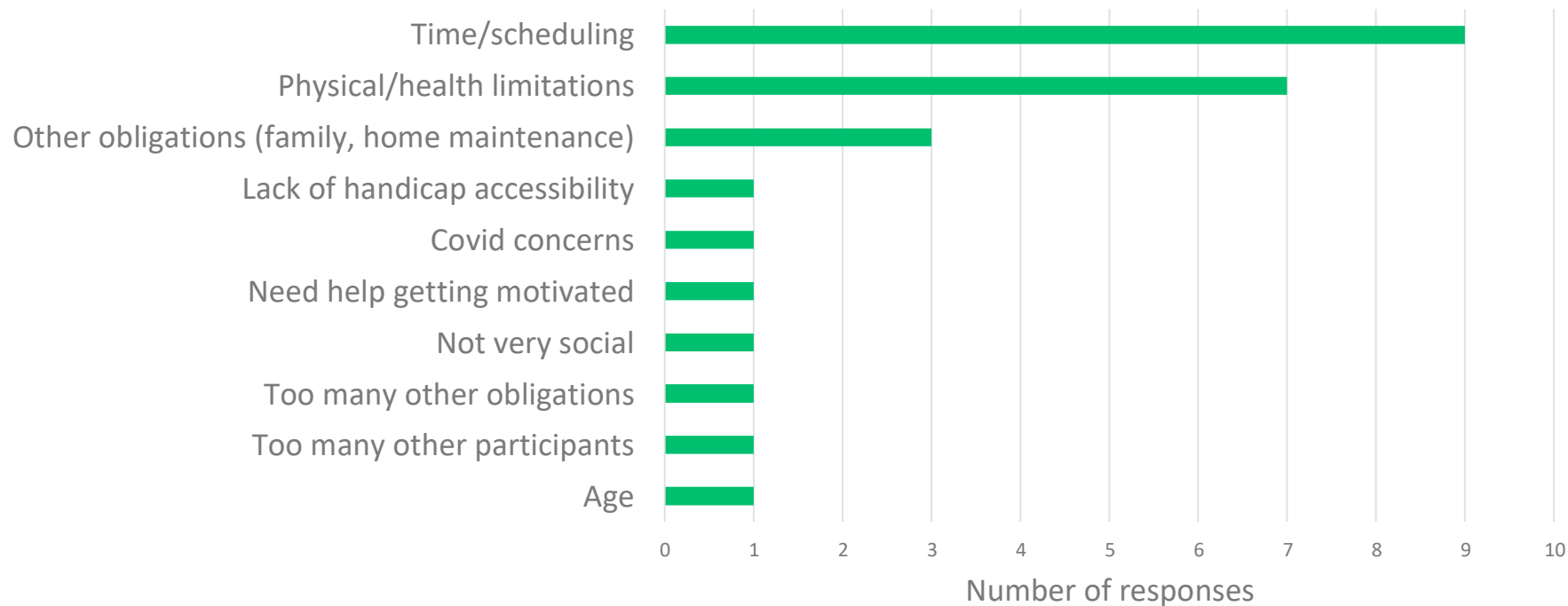
Activities/education

- Tractor-oriented activities
- More outdoor movies
- Better indoor gathering space
- Food and foraging-related activities
- Natural history activities in winter

Entertainment

- Tractor-oriented activities
- Outdoor movies

Q10: What might prevent you from joining the activities you selected above? (Open-ended)



Q11: What improvements, if any, do you feel are needed to increase access for any of the following activities in Rowe? (Open ended)

Hiking/walking

- Better marked and signed trails (6)
- Handicap trails and access to trails (4)
 - > Accessible bridges/bog bridges
 - > More bridges over uneven terrain
 - > Consider making the trail to the bridge and riding ring handicap accessible
- Better trail maps/publicity of trail locations (3)
- More trail and bridge maintenance (3)
 - > Meadow Trail and Davenport Trail
- Better parking (2)
- More connectivity between public access parcels (1)
- More accessible bridges/bog bridges in PLP (1)
- Carey Memorial Forest is no longer walkable (2)
- Accessible fishing dock (1)
- User-friendly variety of materials on pathways (1)
- More public access trails on private property (1)

"One does not have to be totally handicapped or in a wheel chair to feel unsafe on trails or walks."

"We are not sure that any of the trails in town are accessible to handicapped or limited mobility persons and are afraid to go on them should we fall."

Debate about leaves on trails: some think they should be blown off for better accessibility, others think blowing the leaves leads to erosion, creating more tripping hazards.

Q11: improvements, if any, do you feel are needed to increase access for any of the following activities in Rowe? (Open ended)

Biking

- Mark bike lanes (2)
- Repair the road (1)
- Pave roads for better biking (1)
- Host off-road biking workshop (1)
- Create easy woods biking trail (1)
- Reduce trail erosion (1)
- Restrict mountain biking on Town trails to prevent erosion and trail damage.
- Maps with trails, trail difficulty, and parking
- Good signage at parking

"I consider Rowe a superior place for road biking (both paved and unpaved roads)."

Swimming/boating/non-motorized boating:

- Consider banning motorized boats (2)
- More restrictions/oversight at beach and around lake (2)
- More than one beach (1)
- Better boat launch (1)
- Clean up debris around lake (1)
- Dredge (1)
- Remove weeds in lake (1)
- Keep invasive species in check (1)
- Paddle boat for people with arm mobility issues (1)

"I consider the Pelham Lake beach facility is quite good."

Q11: improvements, if any, do you feel are needed to increase access for any of the following activities in Rowe? (Open ended)

Hunting/fishing/foraging

- Improve handicap access for fishing (2)
- Signage for where hunting/fishing/foraging can occur (2)
- Increase the number of places people can do all three activities
- Ban hunting within PLP
- More information about winter ice fishing
- Catch and release bass fishing/no ice fishing until fish stocks rebound
- More boat launches
- Waste collection at boat launches

Other

- Better fitness center (2)
- Friendlier hours for the fitness center
- Indoor space for gathering
- Increased public access is neither necessary nor desirable for any of the above.
- Making things too easy does not always make things better.

Facilities at Pelham Lake Park

- Lighting for nighttime activities
- Improve oversight to ensure proper behavior is followed
- Town sailboat
- Accessible boardwalk out to wetlands at the meadow with a viewing station for bird and wildlife watching.
- More barbeque areas
- A bigger concrete floor/permanent roof pavilion for larger gatherings. The small pavilion near where the S.S. Percy is moored is way too small.
- Pickleball on the tennis courts
- Bathroom open year-round

“The facilities at PLP are great!”

“The new grills and tables that have been put in has helped with accessibility.”

Q11: improvements, if any, do you feel are needed to increase access for any of the following activities in Rowe? (Open ended)

Access to any activities for other towns, particularly towns with fewer resources

General conclusion: Many people open to PLP lake and facilities being open to residents of other towns with passes and more oversight.

Yes let us share.

I feel that most are accessible to anyone. The PL Park Lake should be continued to be managed for residents and guests.

Perhaps open up PLP for some specific days or a week during the summer. Our family would be open to a trial basis of opening the Park to others.

Any group activities, workshops, presentations, etc. that can accommodate larger groups could be opened up to an adjacent town or two to increase participation.

Allow access to recreation area to out-of-towners but provide management oversight to insure proper behavior.

Keep Rowe secret.

Could sell yearly pass to Pelham Lake (or seasonal)

Most other towns have fewer resources - the only area that has caused concern in the past in my opinion is the park beach area; many many people will come if it is unlimited access. It's a difficult question and I think some restrictions are necessary. I think it worked well last year with school of choice families welcome M-F with no guest pass.

Strict oversight of conduct by non-Rowe residents when they use our town's facilities.

Establish days for neighboring towns to use the park

I think this should be considered. Perhaps upgrading the facilities along the Lake Road shore of Pelham Lake.

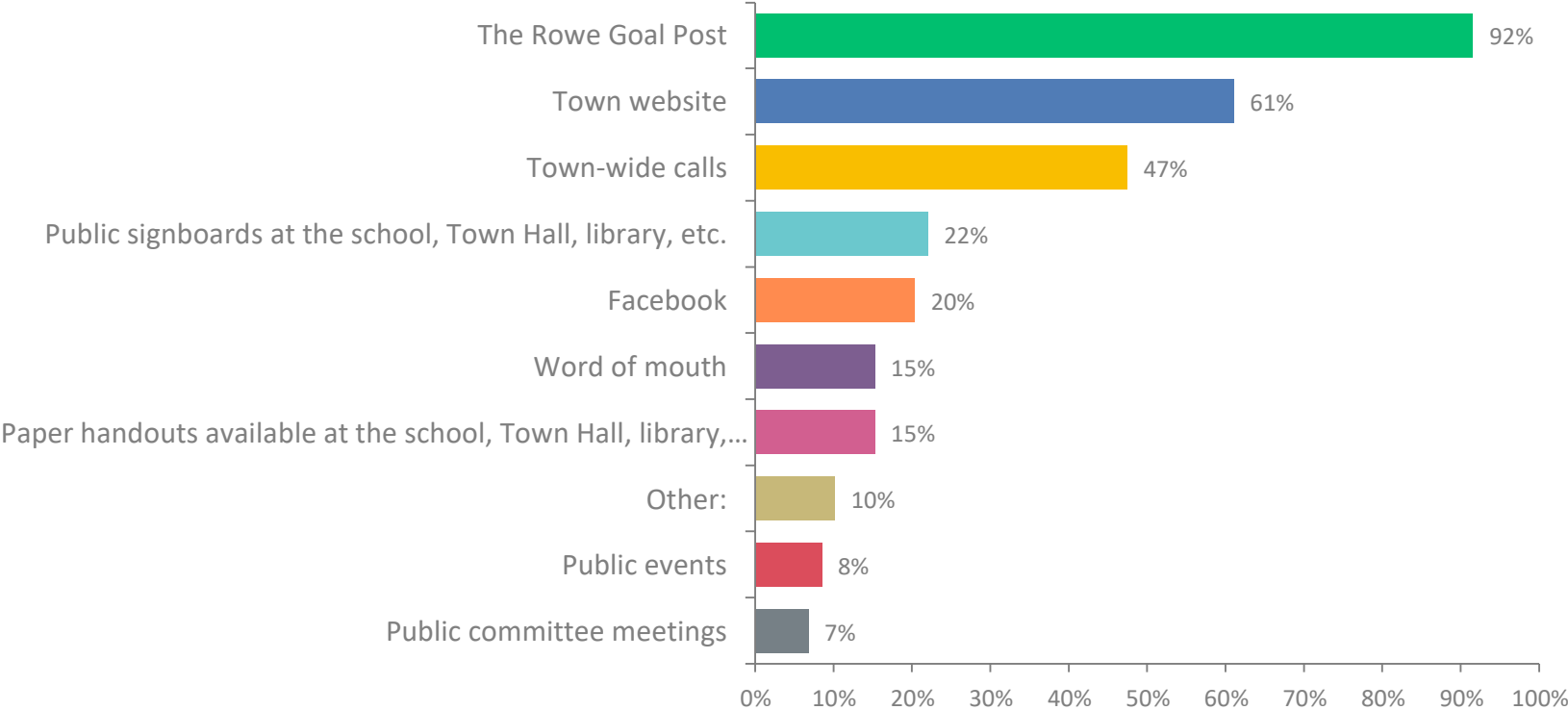
Residents from other towns should have access to our park, although resident-only parking areas are acceptable.

Yes, they should have full access. Limit # of guest passes to beach to 10- 15 a day....when guests leave another car can enter. Talked about this years ago

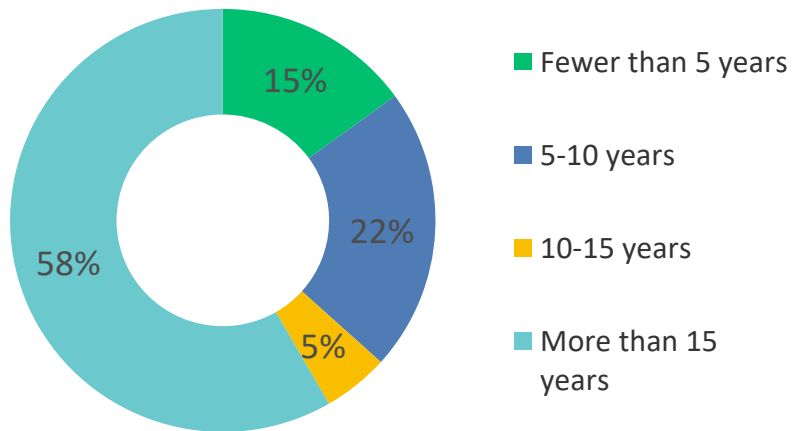
Allow other residents of other town to access our resources, perhaps managed with free passes

Perhaps sell seasonal "licenses" for identified nearby town residents for the beach. How would trail deterioration be affected by more hikers? If the Rowe resources would not be stretched, then I think "Neighbor" passes for specific recreation options could be considered.

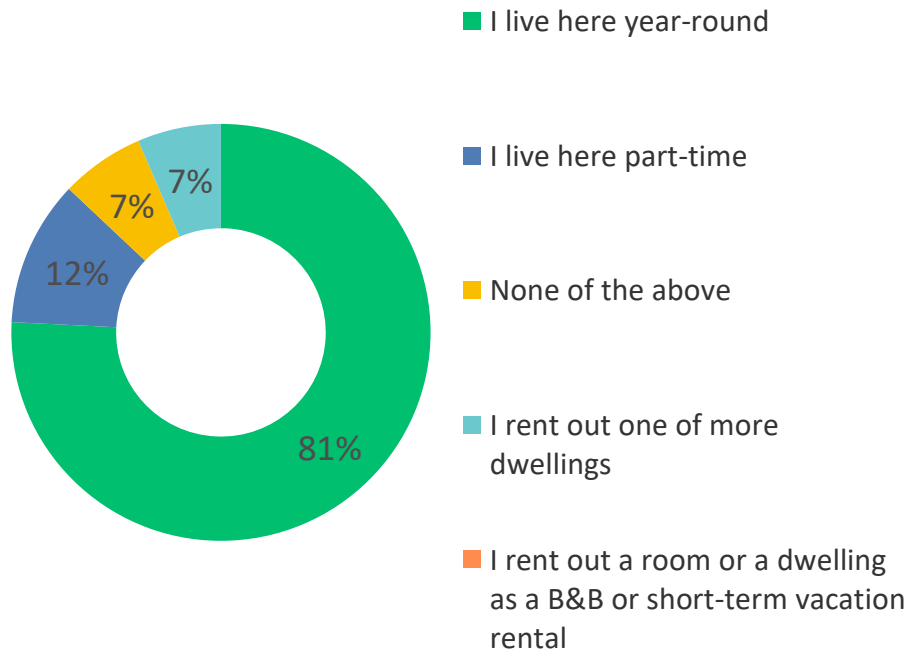
Q12: How do you prefer to get your information about open space and recreation matters (or other Town information)? (Select all)



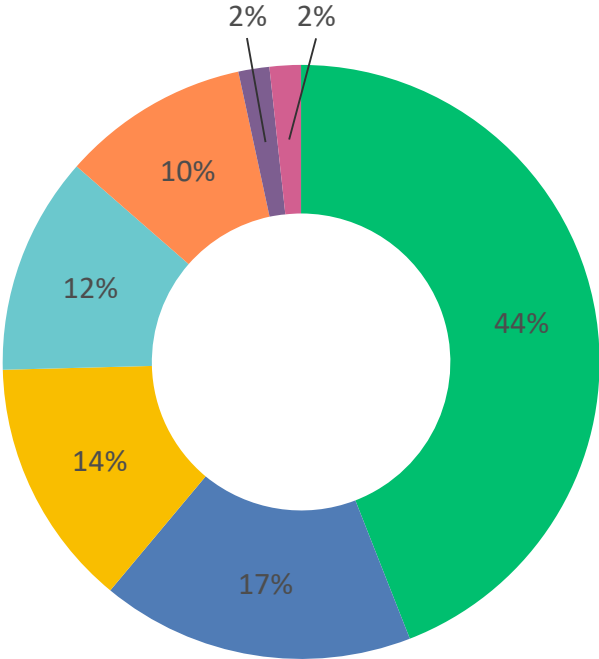
Q13: How long have you lived in Rowe (full and/or part time)?



Q14: If you live at least part of the time in Rowe, which of the following apply?

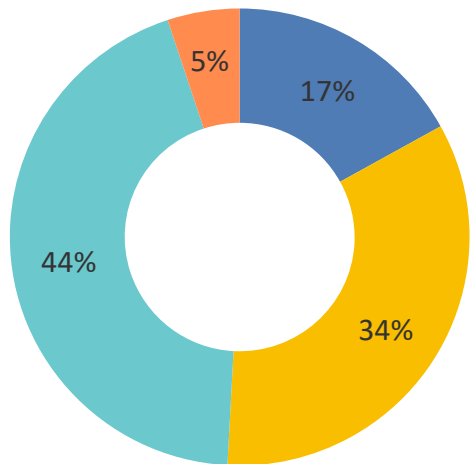


Q15: Where does your MAIN household income come from?



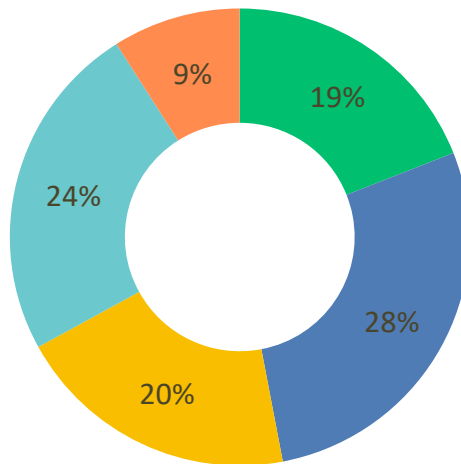
- Retired
- Commute to work outside of Rowe
- Telecommute
- None of the above
- Work for an employer in Rowe
- Run an in-person business based in Rowe
- Run an online business based in Rowe

Q16: What is your age?



- 0 – 19 years
- 20 – 44 years
- 45 – 64 years
- 65 – 79 years
- 80 years and older

Q17: How many people in each of the following age groups are in your household?



- 0 – 19 years
- 20 – 44 years
- 45 – 64 years
- 65 – 79 years
- 80 years and older