

# RELEAF

*with Tree Pittsburgh*

## Homewood

# Project Updates and Community Feedback

# Agenda

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- What is ReLeaf?
- How does this plan align with the Homewood Comprehensive Plan?
- Results from Community Survey
- Prioritization exercise
- Upcoming ReLeaf activities in Homewood

What: **RELEAF**  
*with Tree Pittsburgh*

ReLeaf is a **community driven** program to bring **greening efforts** to **low canopy neighborhoods**.



# Roadmap



## *Greener neighborhoods one block at a time!*

Tree Pittsburgh's ReLeaf program is a stakeholder-driven process that brings urban forest planning to the neighborhood level. We work with communities that want to chart a path toward a greener neighborhood. Together, we'll create a plan to grow the urban forest through tree planting, young tree care, and education to help ensure long-term success.

### THIS IS YOUR FOUR-STEP ROAD MAP TO RELEAF PLANNING!

#### *What Do We Have?*

Our team will assess existing trees, green spaces, and existing resources within the community.



02

#### *How Do We Get There?*

With our community priorities in mind, we'll put it all together to create project ideas to bring more trees to your neighborhood.



04

#### *What Do We Want?*

Next, we listen to community members to define their wants and needs for protecting and growing their neighborhood trees.



#### *How Are We Doing?*

Tree Pittsburgh staff will check in to track, record, and analyze metrics to deliver a progress report on your ReLeaf efforts.



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# What: TreeVitalize

- Program focused on planting trees and restoring canopy
- Communities, Non-profits, Municipalities, and other organizations can apply to receive trees
- Staff plants trees with applicants and volunteers each spring and fall
- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources program in **2004**
- TreeVitalize Pittsburgh established in **2008**
- Additional grants from governmental and private funders
- Expanded to all of **Allegheny County** in **2011**

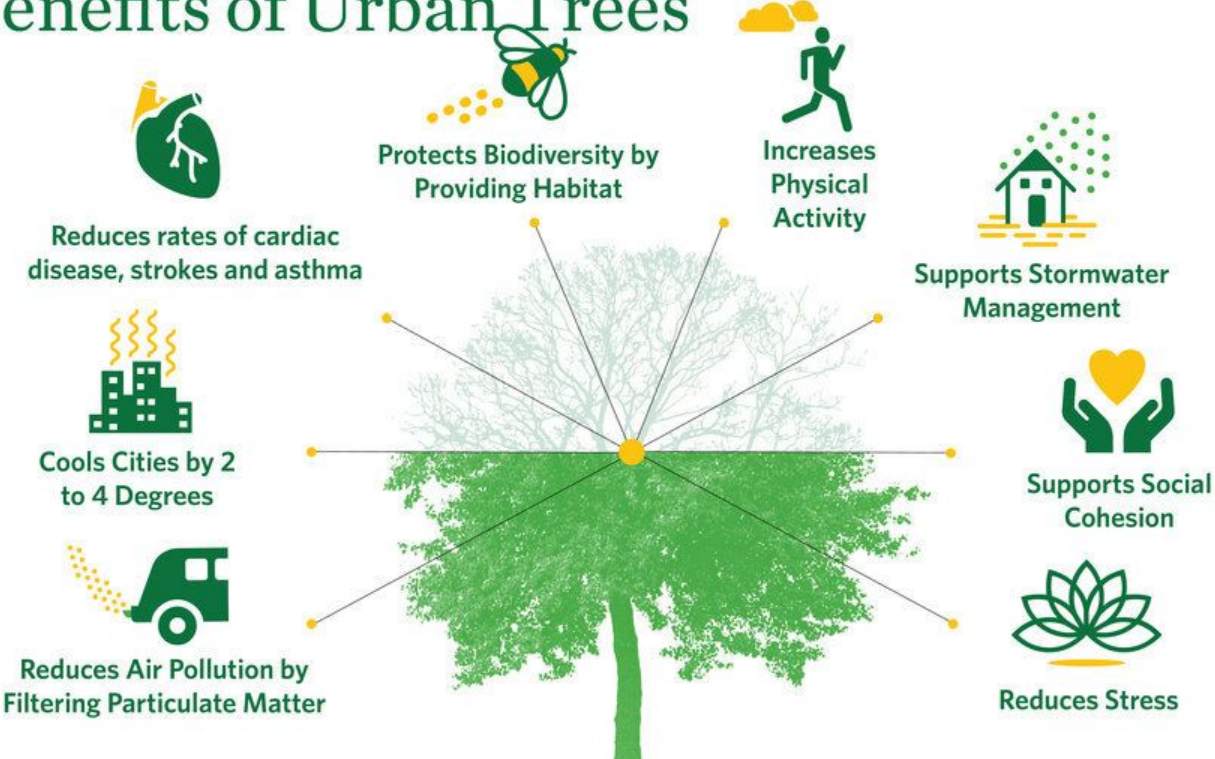


# Why Homewood?



# Why: Tree Benefits

## Benefits of Urban Trees





# Why: Homewood Community Plan, Infrastructure



Supports Social Cohesion



Reduces Stress



Reduces Air Pollution by Filtering Particulate Matter



Supports Stormwater Management

## VISION STATEMENT:

**Homewood will be an African-American cultural destination where people choose to live, work, worship, and visit. It will be safe, green, healthy, and innovative. It will have quality schools. It will be a place that protects long-term and low-income residents and equips them to be engaged and informed.**

## INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS:

**GOAL 19: Improve access to and quality of open spaces**

**GOAL 20: Improve local air quality**

**GOAL 21: Encourage the expansion of stormwater management**

# Why: Homewood Community Plan Cont.

## GOAL 20: IMPROVE LOCAL AIR QUALITY

### STRATEGY 20.1: WORK WITH ONGOING EFFORTS TO DEVELOP TREE PLANTING STRATEGY FOR HOMEWOOD

**TYPE** Program & Project

**TIMELINE** Medium

#### CONNECTION TO PREVIOUS PLANS

Homewood-Brushton Community Coalition Organization Strategic Plan: Charting a New Future for Homewood-Brushton; Open Space PGH: Optimizing Pittsburgh's open space, parks, and recreation system; ONEPGH: Resilient Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan version 2.0; Homewood Urban Agenda Strategy: An Inner-City Model for Urban Revitalization; Pittsburgh Principles for Design & Planning

#### ACTION TEAM

Sustainability

This strategy specifically ties the growth of Homewood's community with the growth of its urban forest. Urban forests provide many benefits for communities including: providing shading for pedestrians; cooling of buildings in the summer and reduced energy costs; reduction of harmful air pollution; aesthetic benefits; improved water

quality of stormwater runoff and improved stormwater detention capacity of open space. Planting trees is one of the most important sustainability strategies in terms of the collective impact its implementation will have across other goals in the Homewood Comprehensive Community Plan.

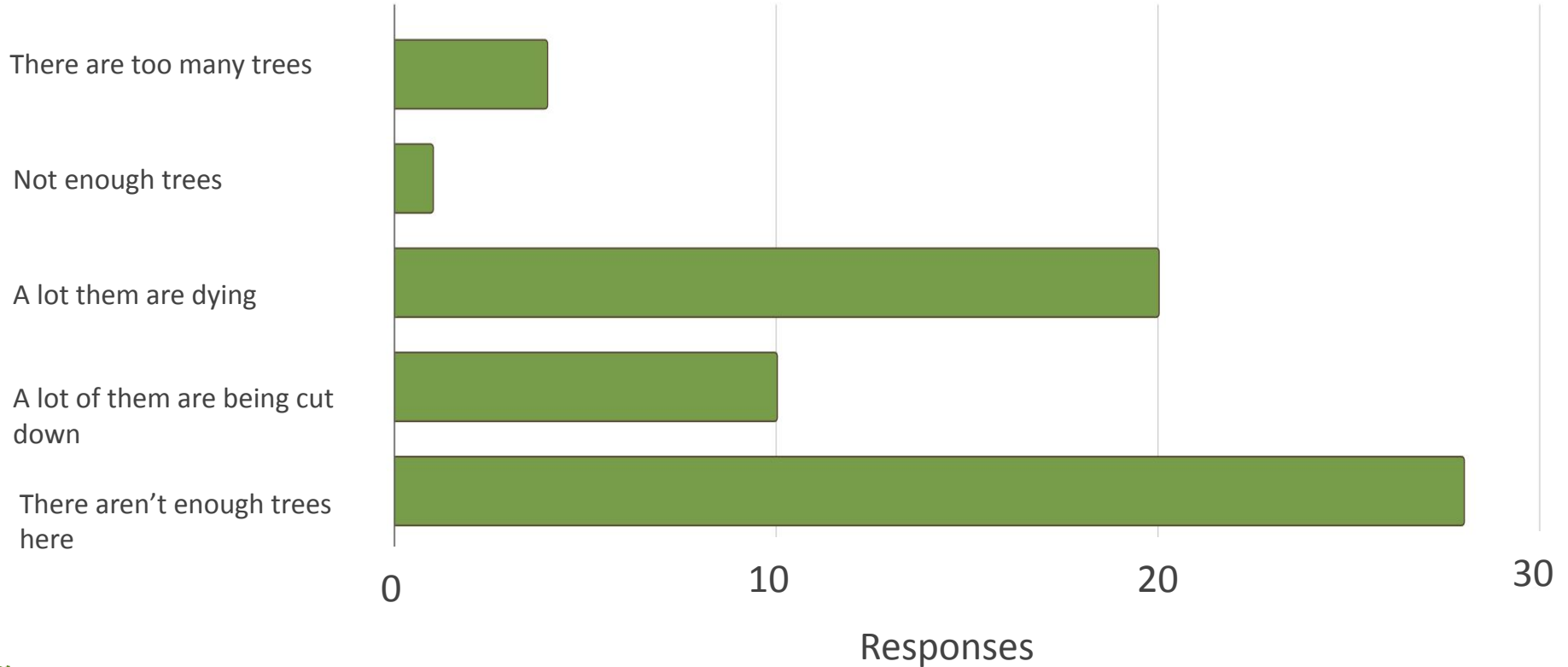
# Community Survey Results

*What Do We Want?*

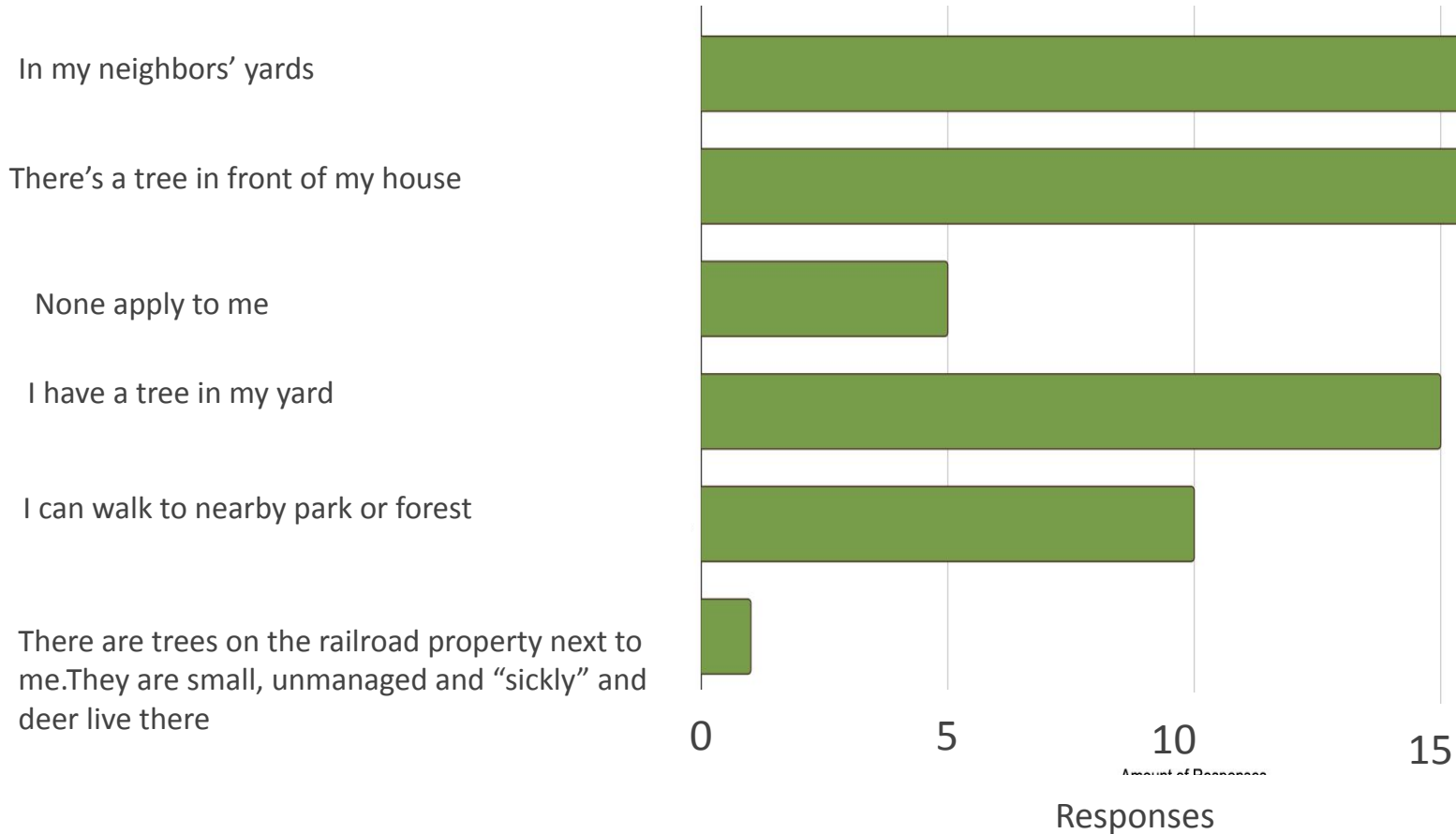
# Community Tree Interactions



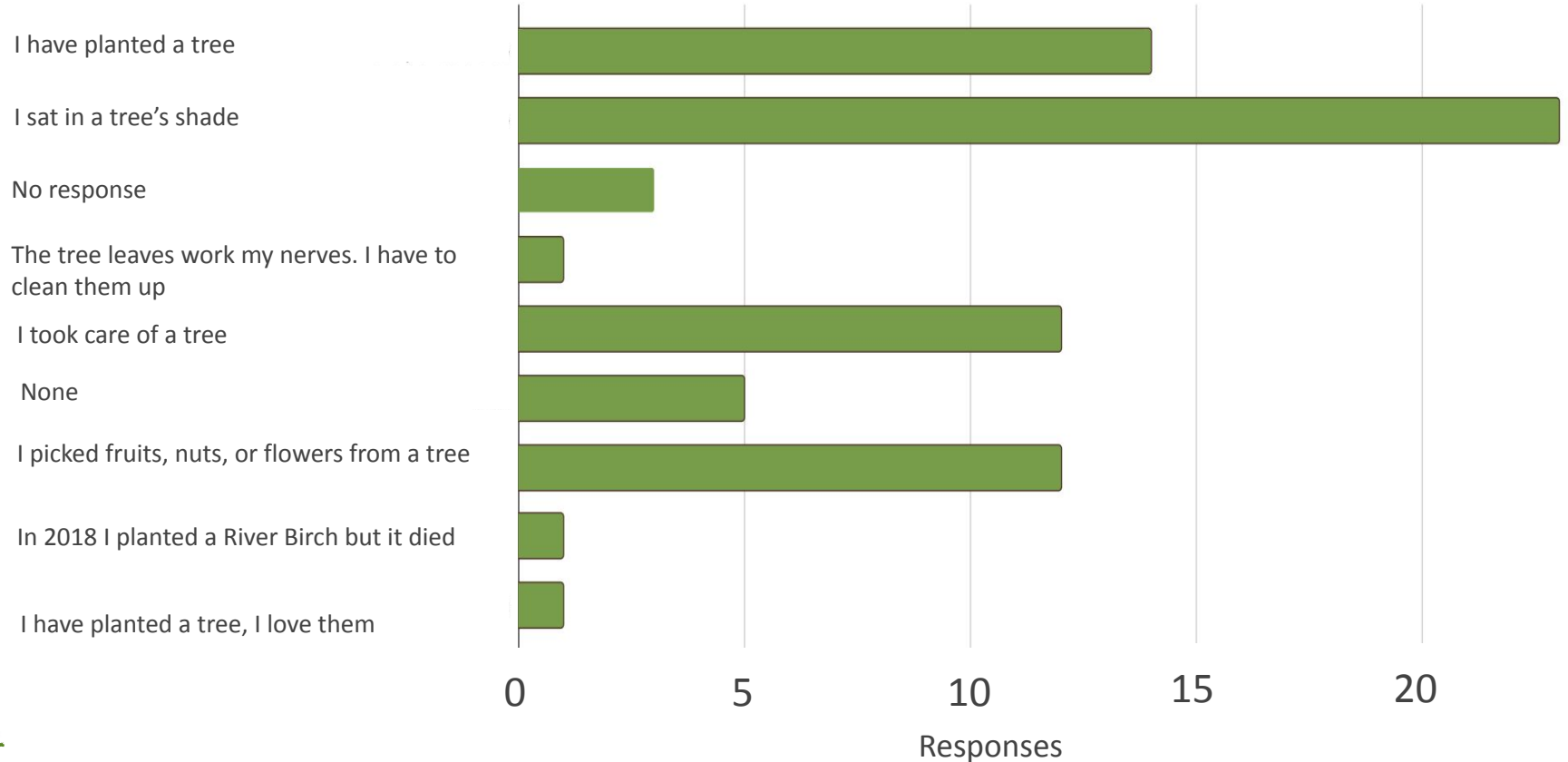
# How Do You Feel About the Number of Trees in our Neighborhood?



# Where do you see trees in the neighborhood?



# Share activities in which you have participated in the last year around the neighborhood



# Tree Education Opportunities





# I am aware that trees reduce carbon dioxide, a gas which contributes to global warming

**Not at all aware**

7.5%

**No opinion**

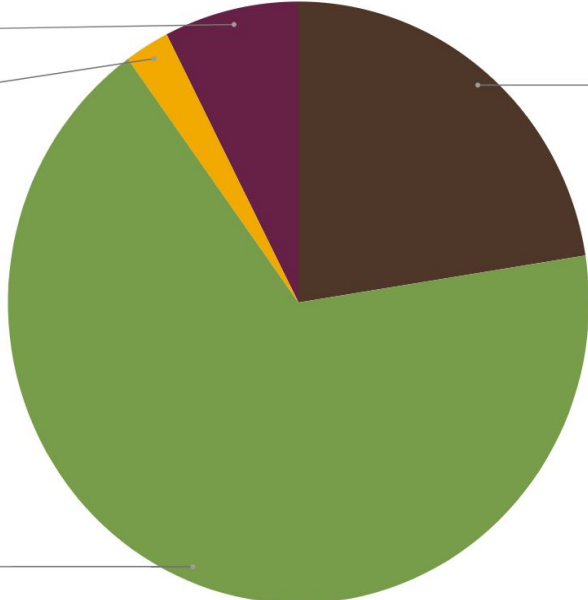
2.5%

**Aware**

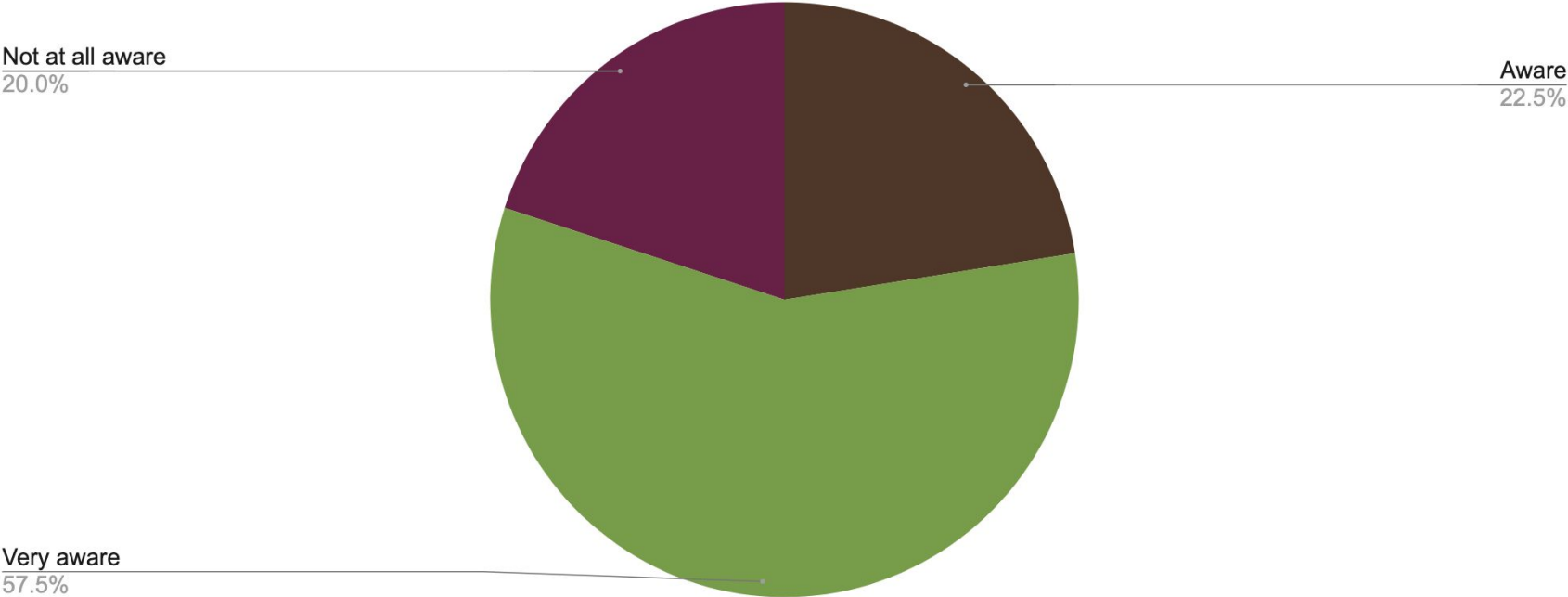
22.5%

**Very aware**

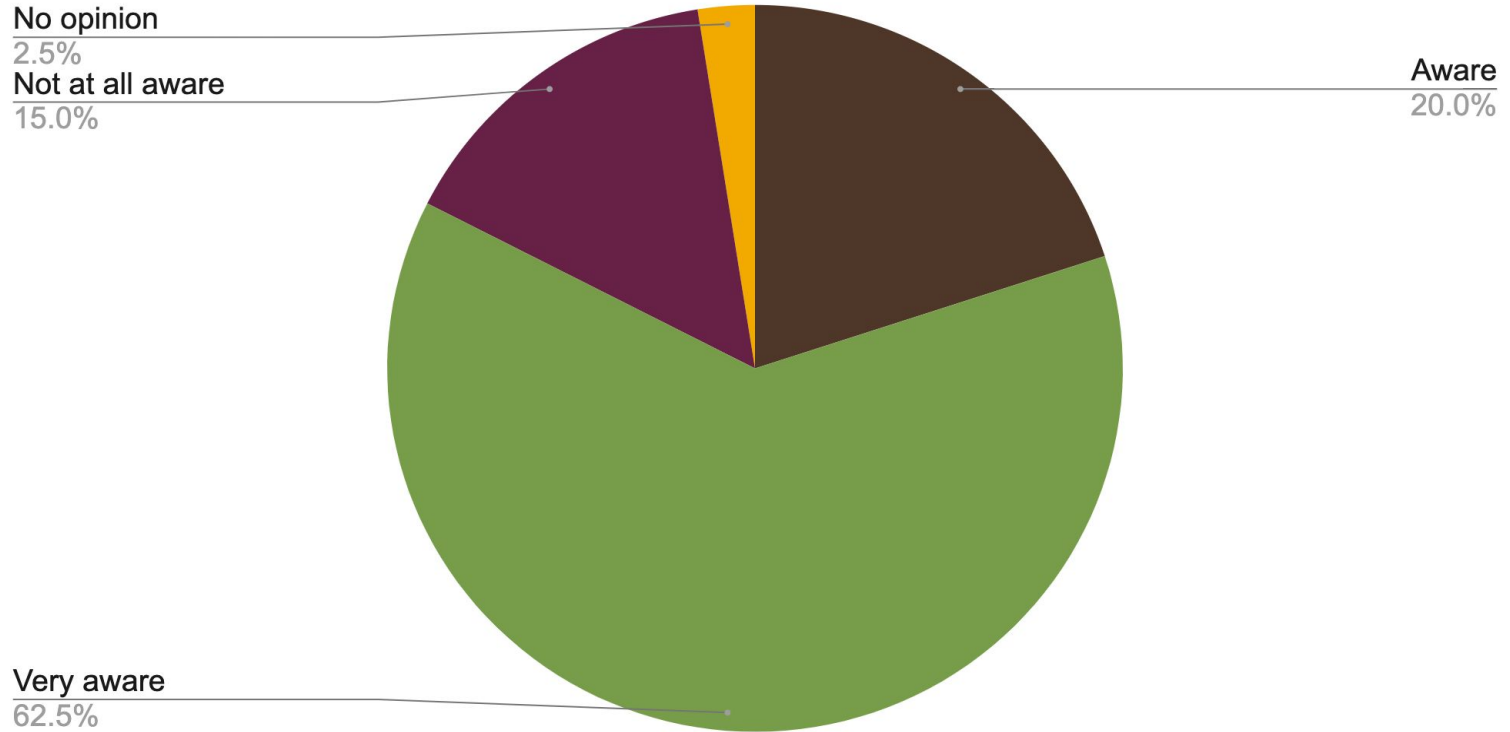
67.5%



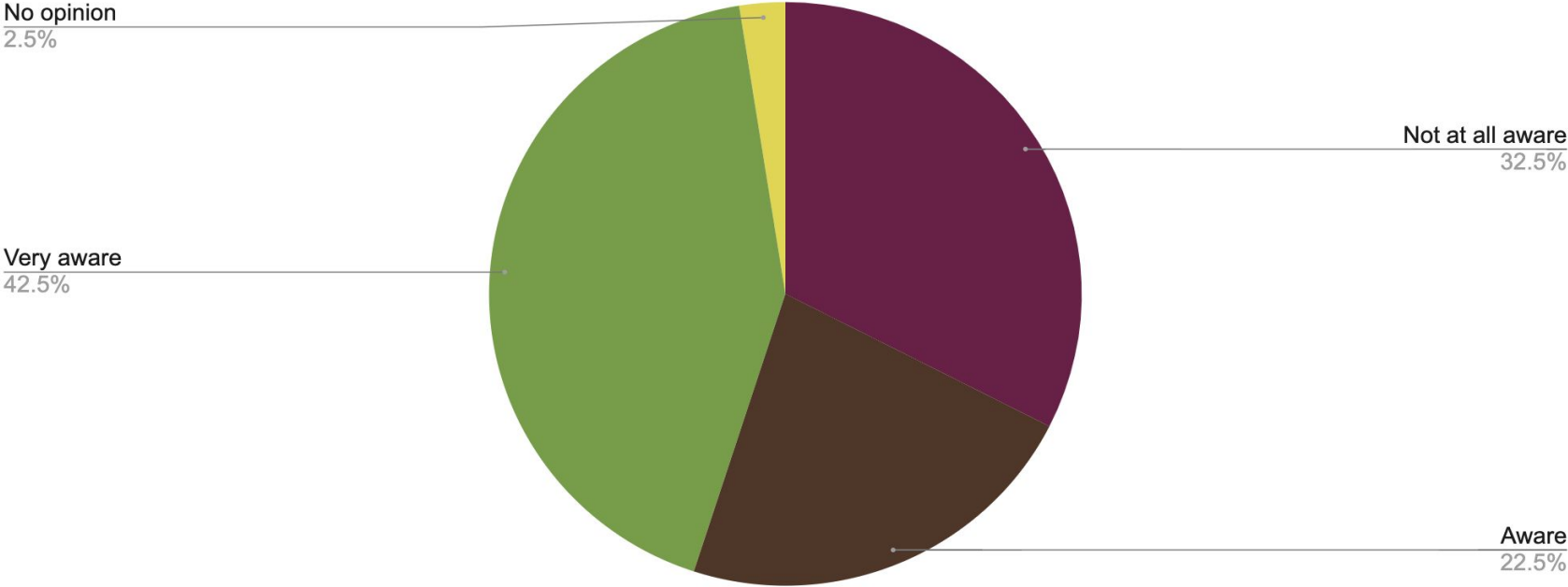
# I am aware that trees reduce stormwater runoff



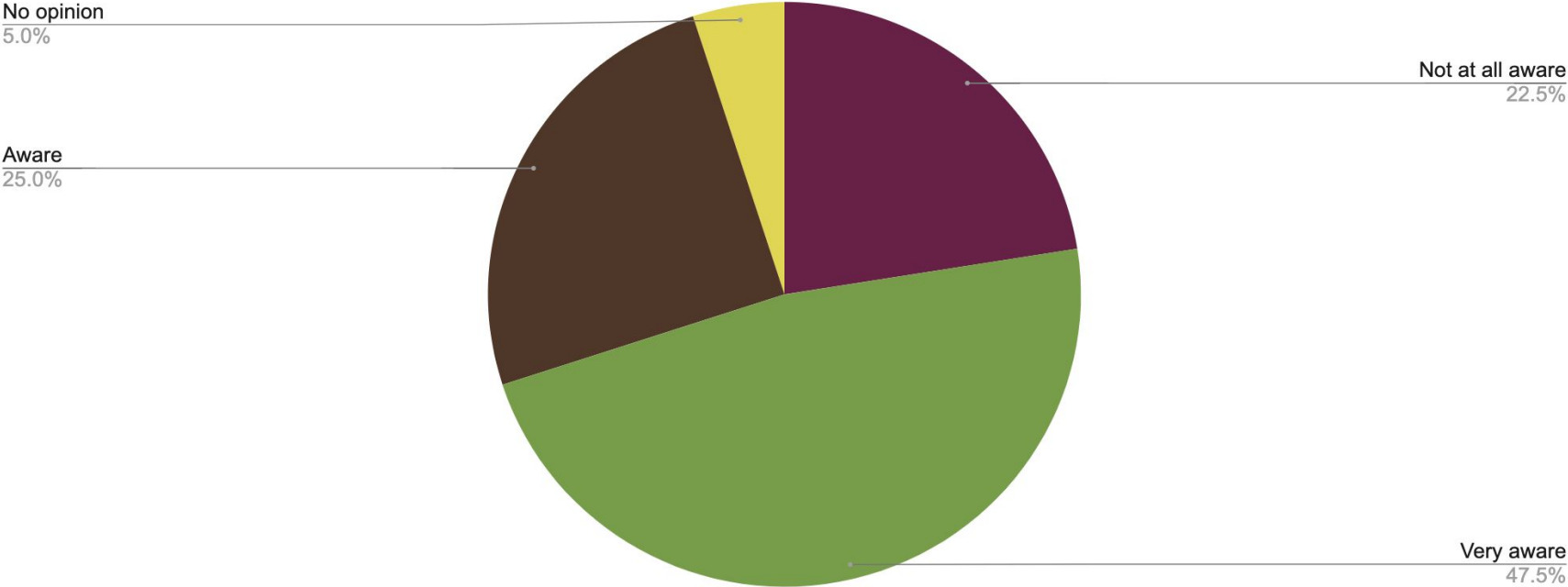
# I am aware that trees reduce landslides



# I am aware that trees reduce utility bills



# I am aware that trees make streets feel safer



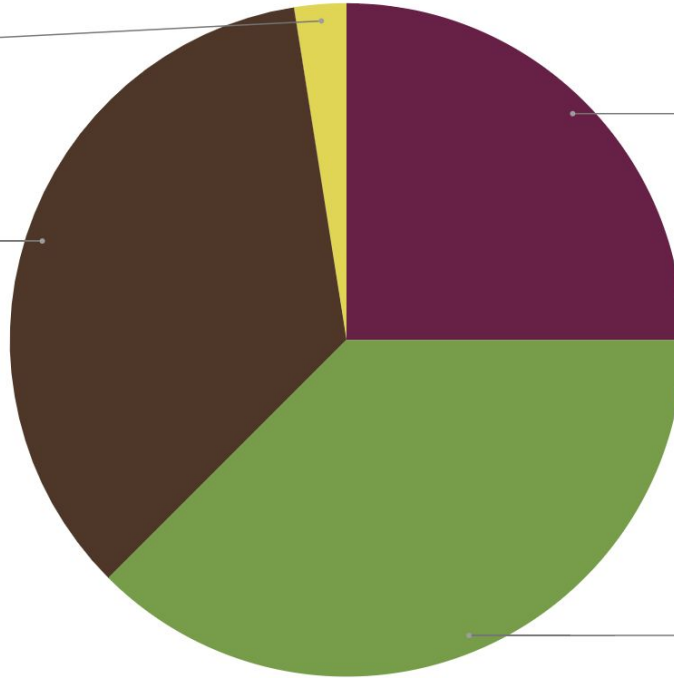
# I am aware that trees increase home values

No opinion  
2.5%

Aware  
35.0%

Not at all aware  
25.0%

Very aware  
37.5%



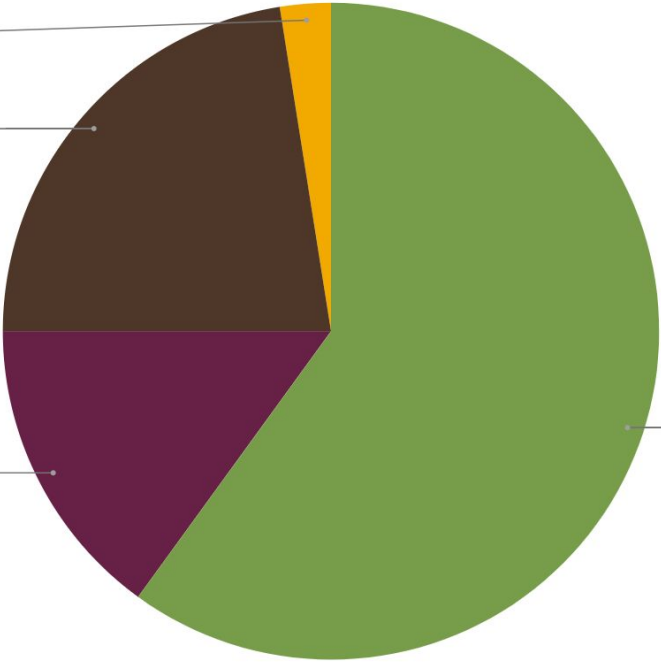
# I am aware that trees filter pollutants that cause asthma and heart disease

No opinion  
2.5%

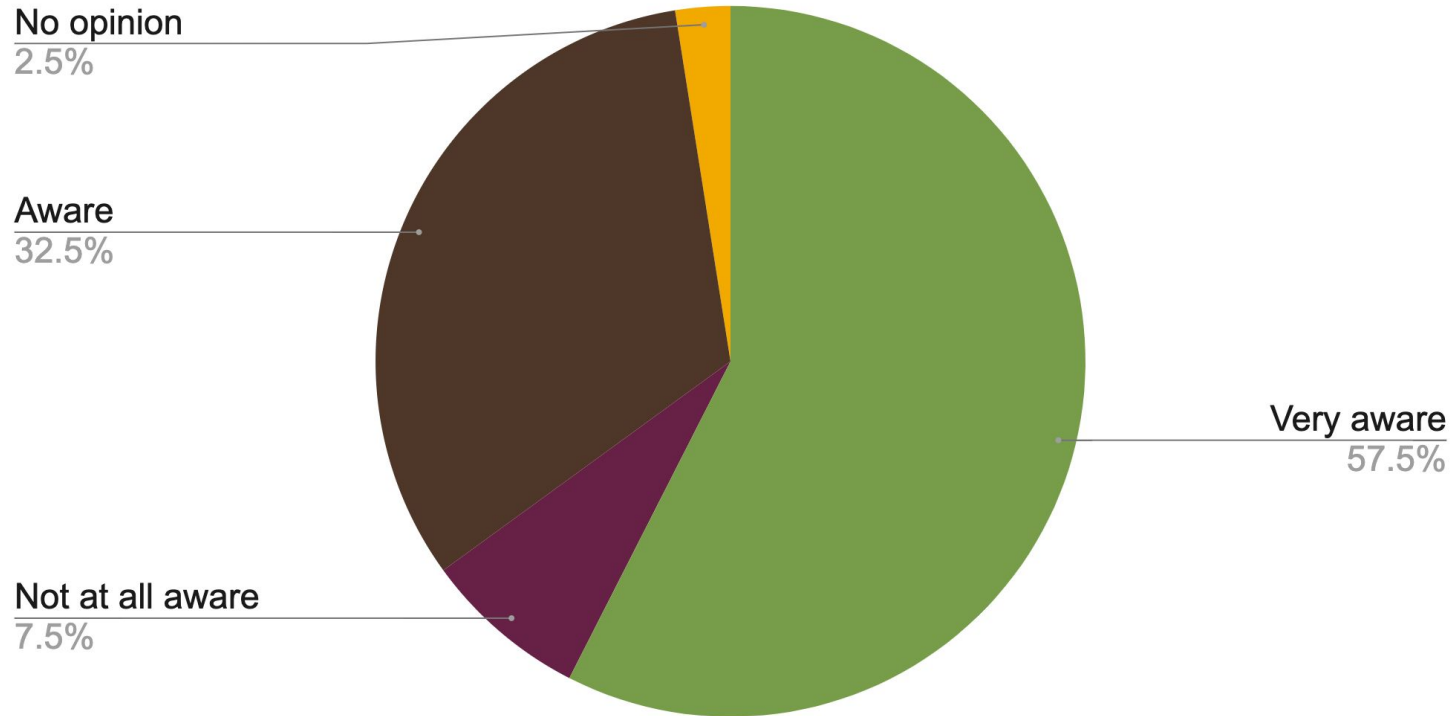
Aware  
22.5%

Not at all aware  
15.0%

Very aware  
60.0%

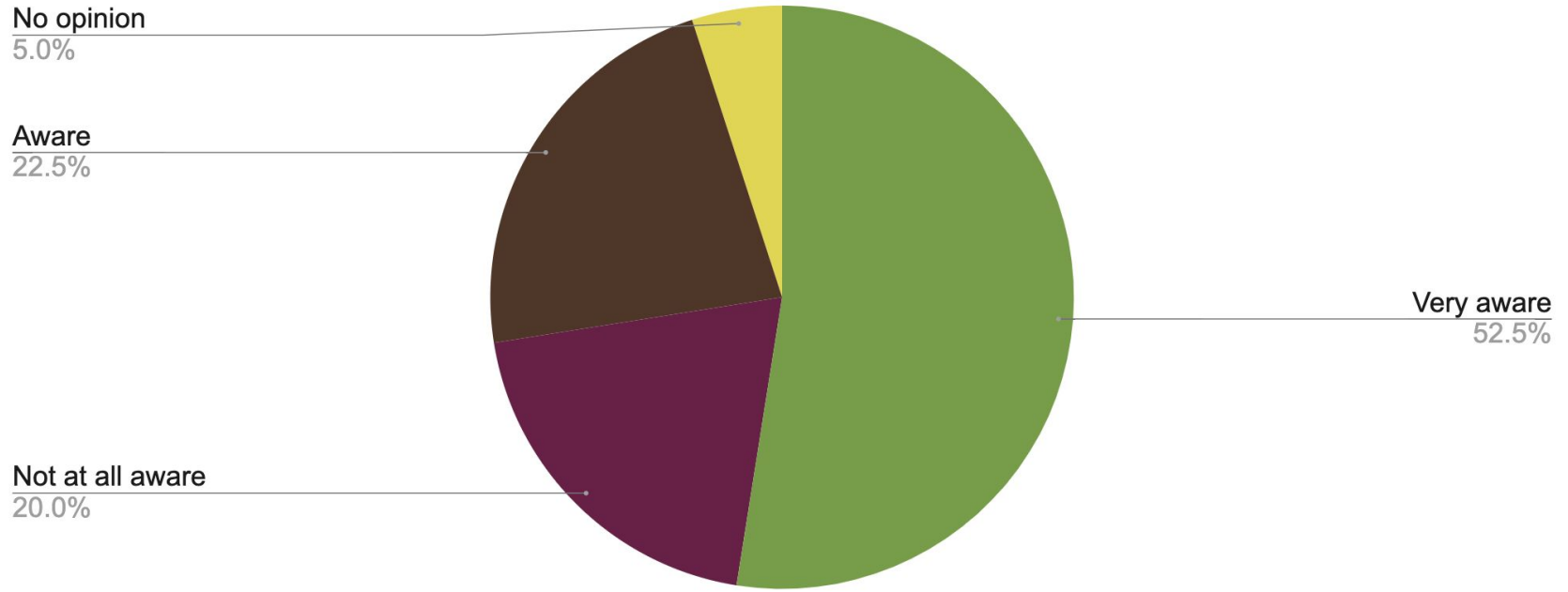


# I am aware that trees help people relax and feel calmer





# I am aware that trees encourage walking and physical fitness



# I am aware that trees reduce temperatures when it's too hot

No opinion

5.0%

Not at all aware

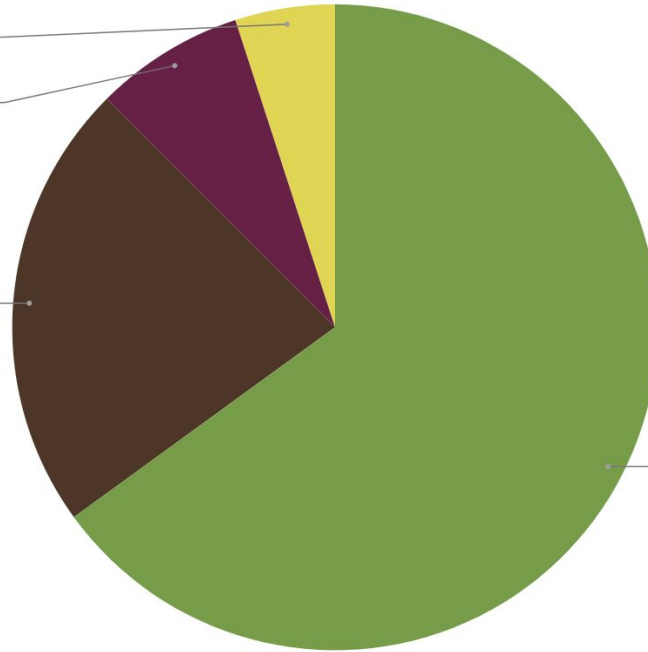
7.5%

Aware

22.5%

Very aware

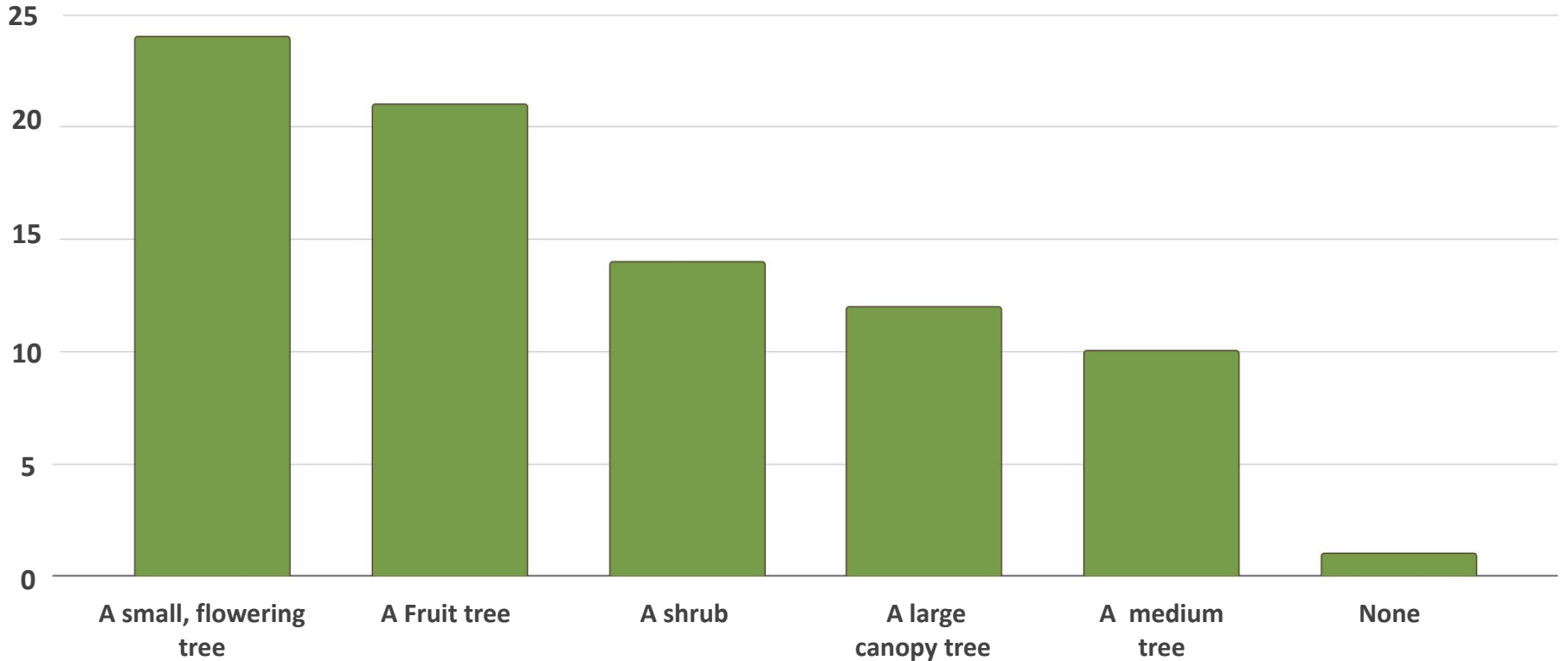
65.0%



# Tree Activity Questions



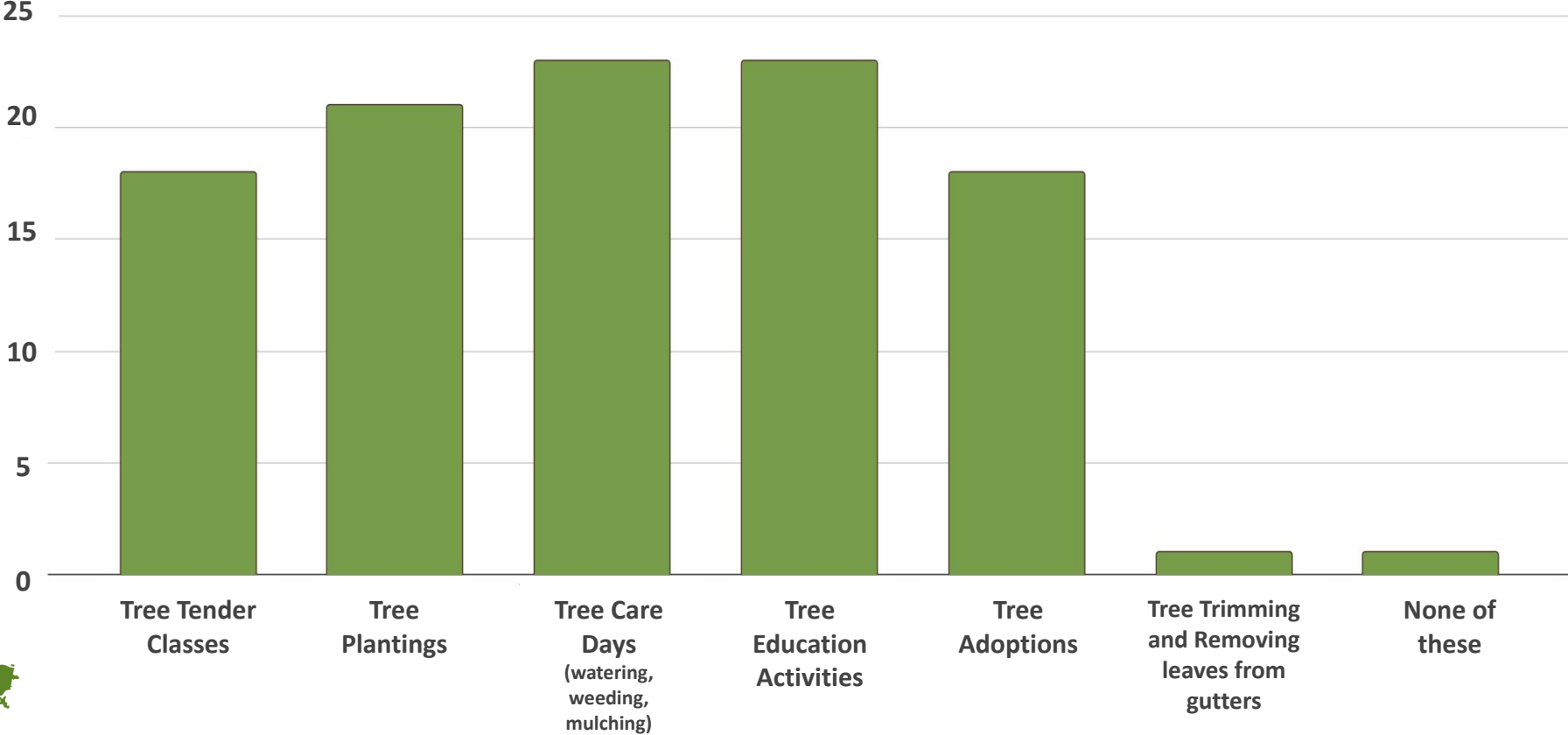
# If you had the opportunity, what type of tree would you plant in your yard?



Check all that apply



# Tree Pittsburgh regularly hosts events throughout the year, what activities would you like to see in Homewood?



# Survey Conclusions

## Resident Sentiment:

- Inadequate tree presence; existing trees declining or being cut down.

## Interactions with Trees:

- Common interaction: Sitting under tree shade.

## Tree Education:

- Improvement needed, especially in economic benefits awareness.

## Resident Preferences:

- Desire for a balance of tree activities: plantings, care days, education.
- Preference for small flowering or fruit-bearing trees in the neighborhood.



# Plan Recommendations



# Tree Planting

- ★ Update **street tree inventory** for all street trees in Homewood
- ★ Develop a clear **plan for tree plantings** in the next 5 years for the neighborhood together with City Planning and City Forestry
- ★ Continue conducting **tree adoptions** for private property and land owners in the neighborhood - tree protection, educational resources
  - Pilot distributing trees, protection, and educational resources directly to residents, with follow-up/on-going (ideally on-site) engagement, evaluation, and education
- ★ Strengthen partnerships with **local orchards and gardens** through the **Giving Grove program** at Tree Pittsburgh
- ★ Develop an implementation plan for **Finance Street** planting with PRT and community residents
- ★ Develop an implementation plan for planting trees on **Frankstown Road** with the City of Pittsburgh.





# Tree Care

- ★ Remove & prune hazardous trees through the City Forestry department at the City of Pittsburgh
- ★ Implement community tree care with volunteers and Operation Better Block Youth
- ★ Conduct tree tender education classes open to the public
- ★ Conduct public educational events in the neighborhood at local libraries and community public spaces
- ★ Engage Westinghouse 6-12 students in tree care through the One Tree Per Child Program
- ★ Continue to support care for street and fruit trees planted in the neighborhood by local partners



# Community Building

- ★ Pilot Low-income Homeowner Tree Care Fund to support homeowners with tree care
- ★ Coordinate new programming models with Homewood Children's Village in collaboration with other partners
- ★ URA Housing Development (Low income tax credits)
- ★ Support community partners with tree care needs including bringing out volunteers, and developing tree care plans
- ★ Continue development of youth engagement programming with Operation Better Block Junior Green Corp on various greening initiatives in the neighborhood.



# Upcoming Events



Care for Our Trees:

Become a Tree Tender



## CARE FOR YOUR TREES: BECOME A TREE TENDER!

*Meet great trees, learn tree care basics, and more*



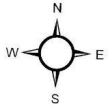
**Saturday, March 9**

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.


Covenant Fellowship Reformed  
Presbyterian Church  
1300 E. Swissvale Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221




# Street Tree Sites for Homewood, Spring 2024



## Map Key

 Spring 2024 Homewood Sites

0 120 240 480 Feet



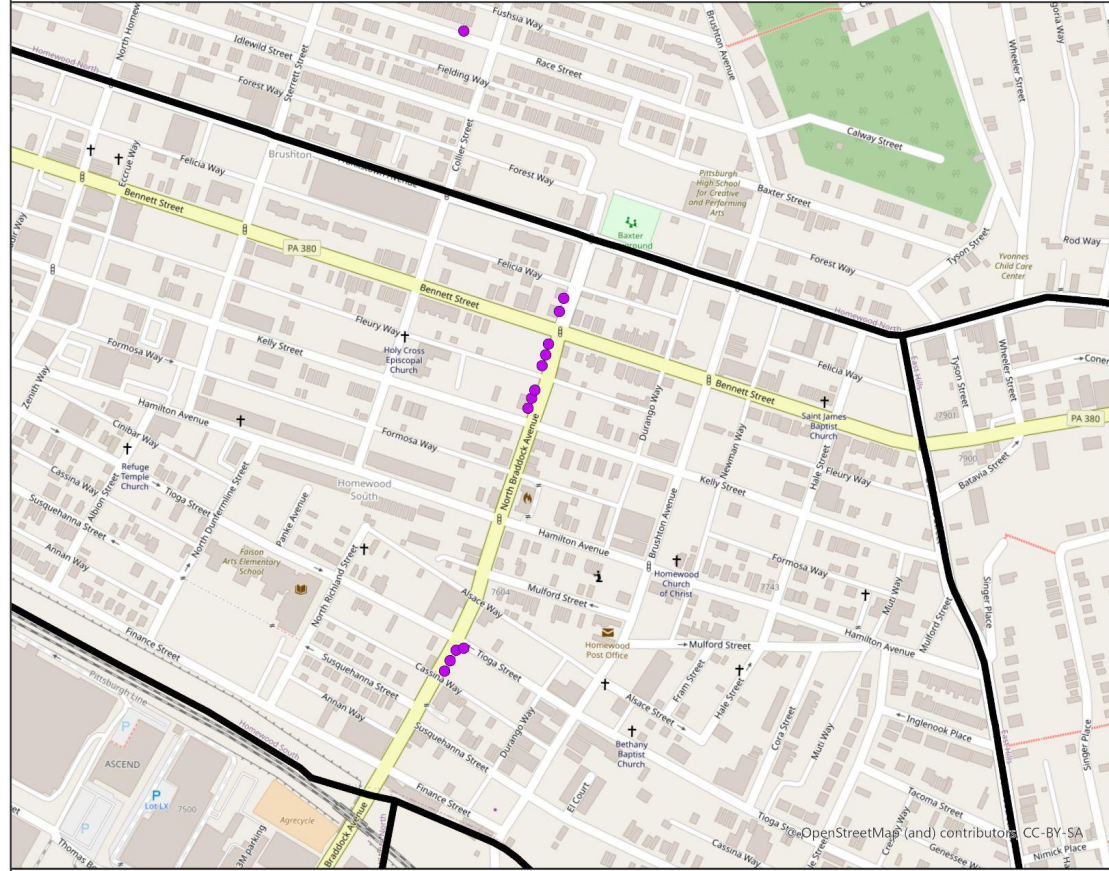
The plan includes planting:

4 trees by the Habitat for Humanity housing on N Braddock Avenue,

8 additional trees on N Braddock Avenue between Kelly Street and Felicia Way,

1 tree on Race Street to replace a hazardous tree.

Planting will be done through the Tree Vitalize partnership between Tree Pittsburgh, City of Pittsburgh and Western PA Conservancy.



Join in for a spring tree planting:

Contact Clara at [clara@treepittsburgh.org](mailto:clara@treepittsburgh.org)



# Thank you!!!

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**Clara Kitongo**

Tree Equity Manager

clara@treepittsburgh.org

<https://www.treepittsburgh.org/programs/releaf-neighborhoods/>

