

OPEN SPACE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING #3

December 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

BELMONT

The word "BELMONT" is displayed in a stylized font. The letters "B", "E", "M", "O", "N", and "T" are in a teal color. The letter "O" is replaced by a circular logo featuring a globe with red and teal curved lines. The letters "L" and "U" are partially visible below the "O" and "N" respectively, in a dark red color.

AGENDA

- Adoption of Minutes
- Presentation of Survey Results
- Presentation of Stakeholder Results
- Feedback from Committee
- Confirmation of Mission Statement/Goals
- Next meeting Date / Begin Drafting

SURVEY RESULTS

Staff



SURVEY OVERVIEW

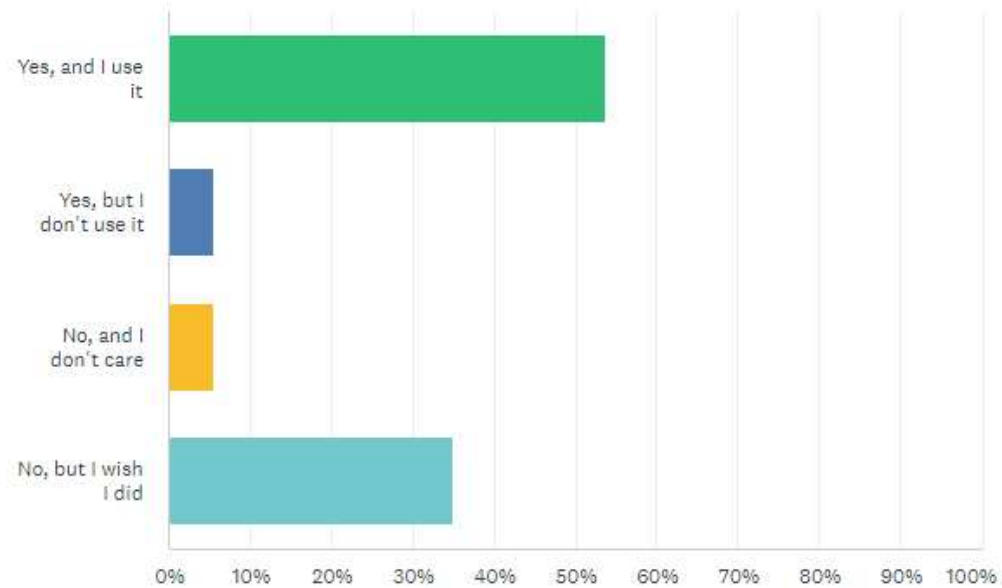
- Total Respondents: **249**
- Sent out via WaterSmart Portal
- Facebook Posts
 - Initial post on November 9th
 - Follow up post on November 17th
 - Shares to other local/neighborhood Facebook groups

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Out of the respondents, 70% of open space users utilize Belmont parks/greenways and 40% utilize neighborhood parks/open spaces
- 95% of all respondents utilize public open space in general
- The most used public open spaces were
 - Parks & Playgrounds
 - Greenways or Walkways
 - River views/access
- Respondents wished Belmont had more of the following open spaces:
 - Greenways or Walkways
 - River views/access
 - Dog Park
 - Usable rooftop area
 - Open grassy area
 - Parks/Playgrounds
 - Public Art
 - Community Garden

Do you have parks/open space in your current residential neighborhood?

Answered: 249 Skipped: 0

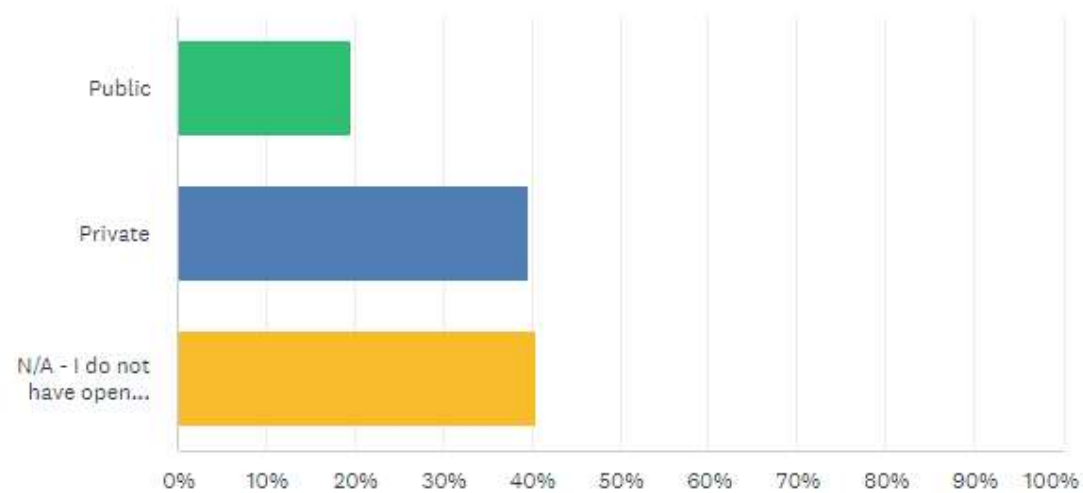


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes, and I use it	53.82% 134
Yes, but I don't use it	5.62% 14
No, and I don't care	5.62% 14
No, but I wish I did	34.94% 87
TOTAL	249



Is this park/open space publicly maintained by the city of Belmont or privately maintained by the HOA?

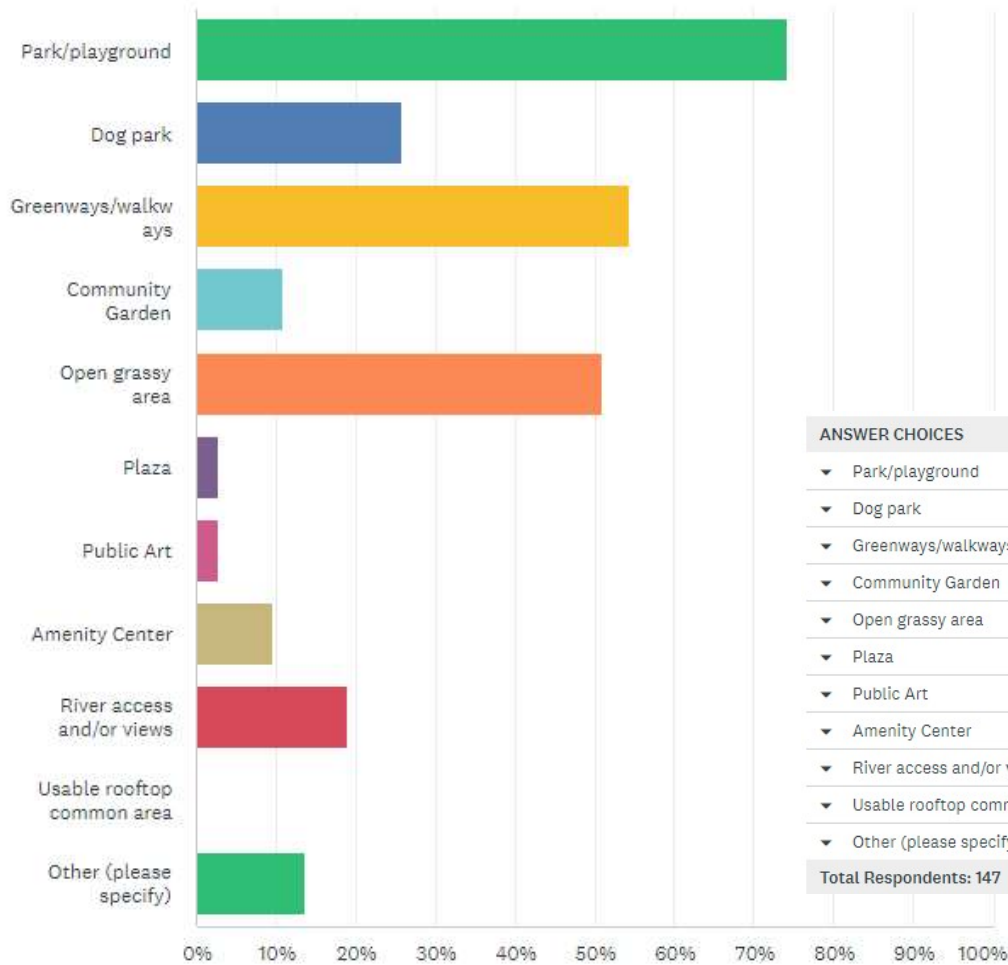
Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Public	19.68% 49
Private	39.76% 99
N/A - I do not have open space.	40.56% 101
TOTAL	249

If you answered yes, what type of open space does your neighborhood have?
Select all that apply.

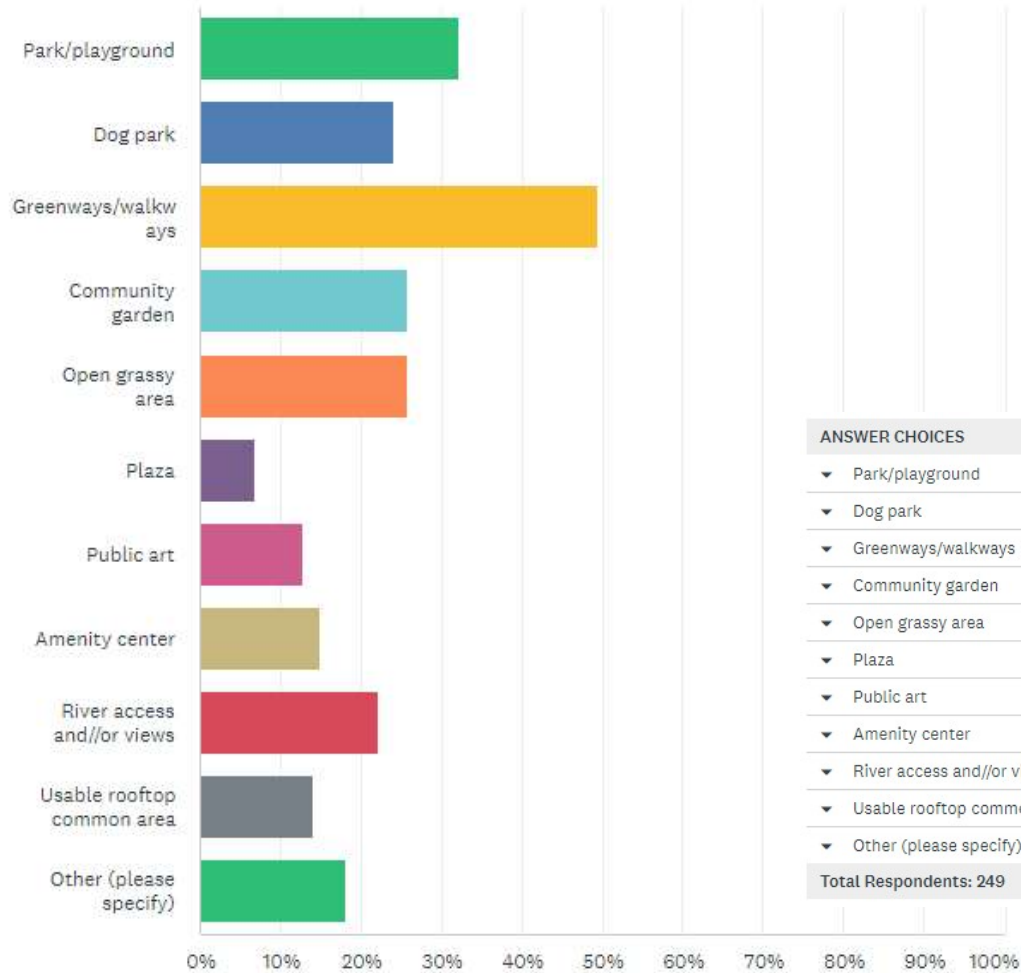
Answered: 147 Skipped: 102



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Park/playground	74.15% 109
▼ Dog park	25.85% 38
▼ Greenways/walkways	54.42% 80
▼ Community Garden	10.88% 16
▼ Open grassy area	51.02% 75
▼ Plaza	2.72% 4
▼ Public Art	2.72% 4
▼ Amenity Center	9.52% 14
▼ River access and/or views	19.05% 28
▼ Usable rooftop common area	0.00% 0
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 13.61% 20
Total Respondents: 147	

What type of open space do you wish your neighborhood had? Select all that apply.

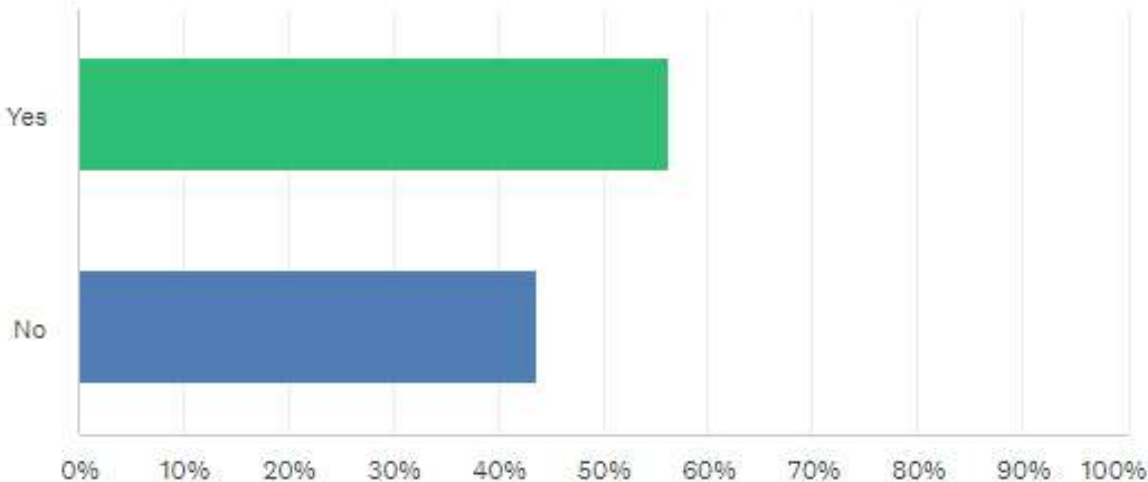
Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Park/playground	32.13% 80
▼ Dog park	24.10% 60
▼ Greenways/walkways	49.40% 123
▼ Community garden	25.70% 64
▼ Open grassy area	25.70% 64
▼ Plaza	6.83% 17
▼ Public art	12.85% 32
▼ Amenity center	14.86% 37
▼ River access and/or views	22.09% 55
▼ Usable rooftop common area	14.06% 35
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 18.07% 45
Total Respondents: 249	

Did access to parks/open space have an impact on why you chose your current residence location?

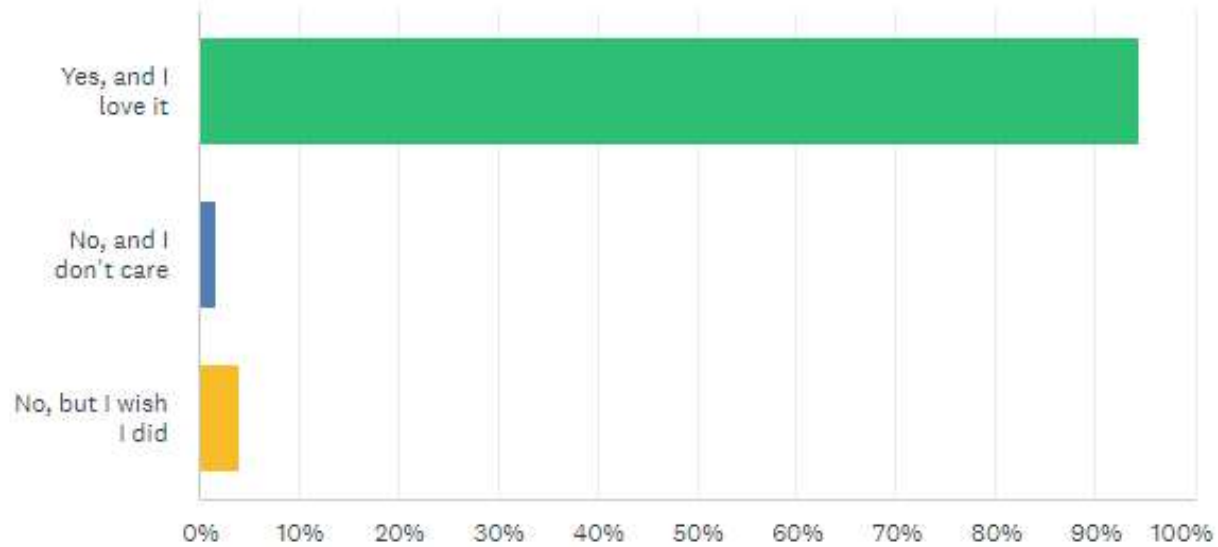
Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	56.22% 140
No	43.78% 109
TOTAL	249

Do you utilize public parks/open space within Belmont as a whole?

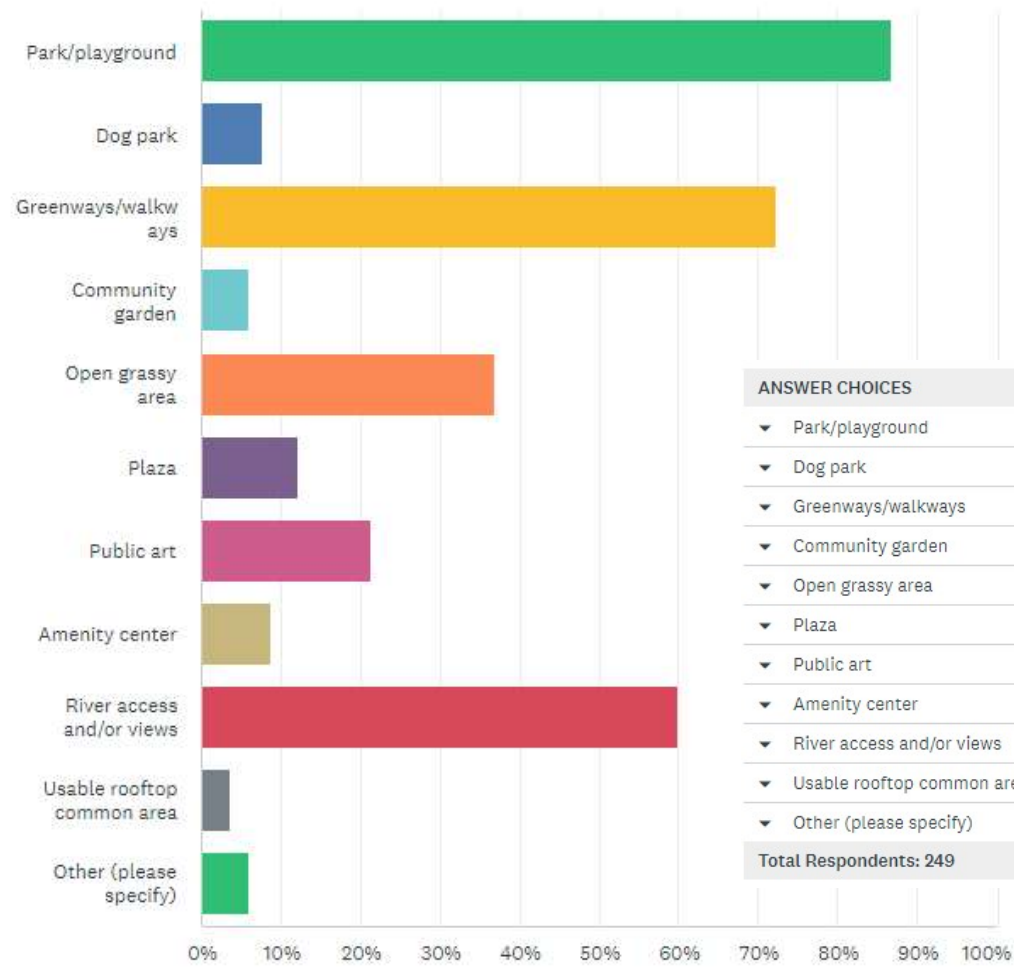
Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes, and I love it	94.38% 235
▼ No, and I don't care	1.61% 4
▼ No, but I wish I did	4.02% 10
TOTAL	249

What type of parks/open space do you utilize in Belmont? Select all that apply.

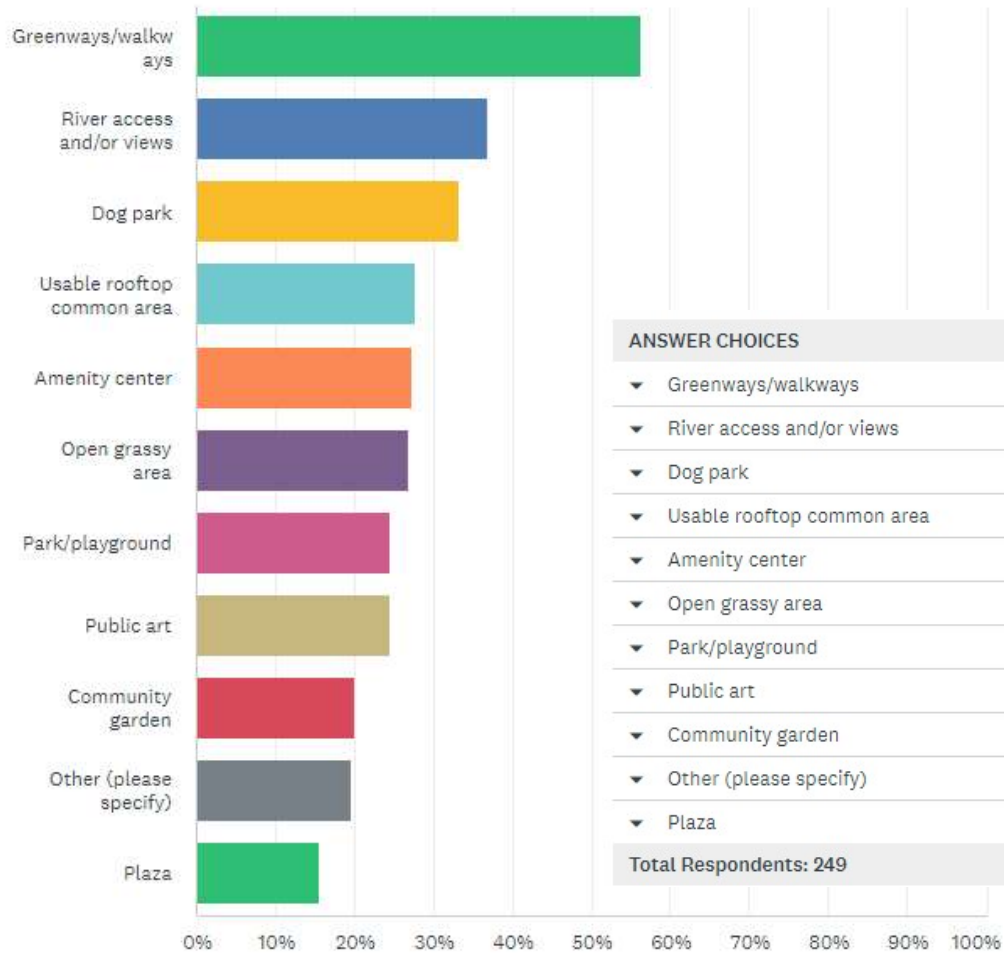
Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Park/playground	86.75% 216
▼ Dog park	7.63% 19
▼ Greenways/walkways	72.29% 180
▼ Community garden	6.02% 15
▼ Open grassy area	36.95% 92
▼ Plaza	12.05% 30
▼ Public art	21.29% 53
▼ Amenity center	8.84% 22
▼ River access and/or views	59.84% 149
▼ Usable rooftop common area	3.61% 9
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 6.02% 15
Total Respondents: 249	

What type of open space do you wish Belmont, as a city, had more of and/or had at all? Select all that apply.

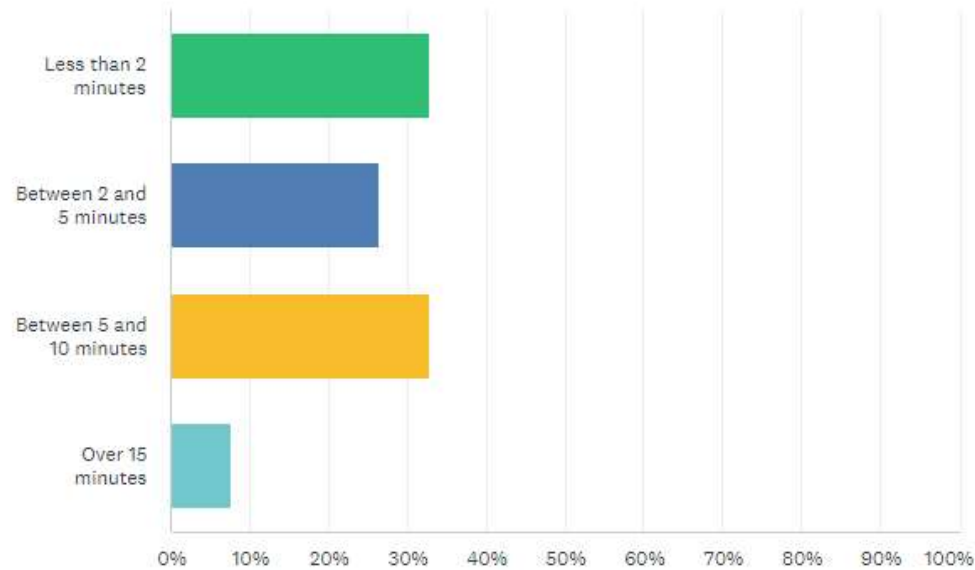
Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Greenways/walkways	56.22% 140
River access and/or views	36.95% 92
Dog park	33.33% 83
Usable rooftop common area	27.71% 69
Amenity center	27.31% 68
Open grassy area	26.91% 67
Park/playground	24.50% 61
Public art	24.50% 61
Community garden	20.08% 50
Other (please specify)	Responses 19.68% 49
Plaza	15.66% 39
Total Respondents: 249	

On average, how long does it take you to get to your most utilized open space area via car?

Answered: 249 Skipped: 0

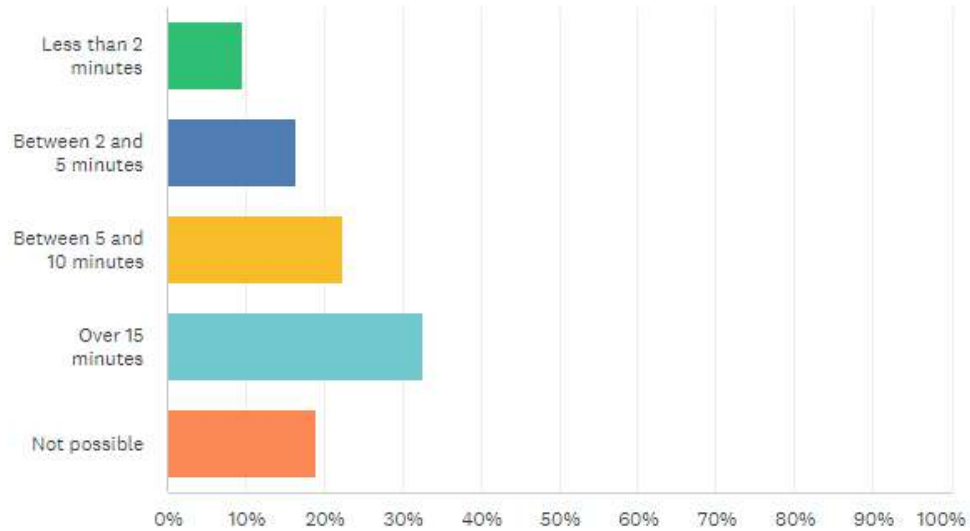


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Less than 2 minutes	32.93% 82
▼ Between 2 and 5 minutes	26.51% 66
▼ Between 5 and 10 minutes	32.93% 82
▼ Over 15 minutes	7.63% 19
TOTAL	249



On average, how long does it take you to get to your most utilized open space area via walking?

Answered: 249 Skipped: 0

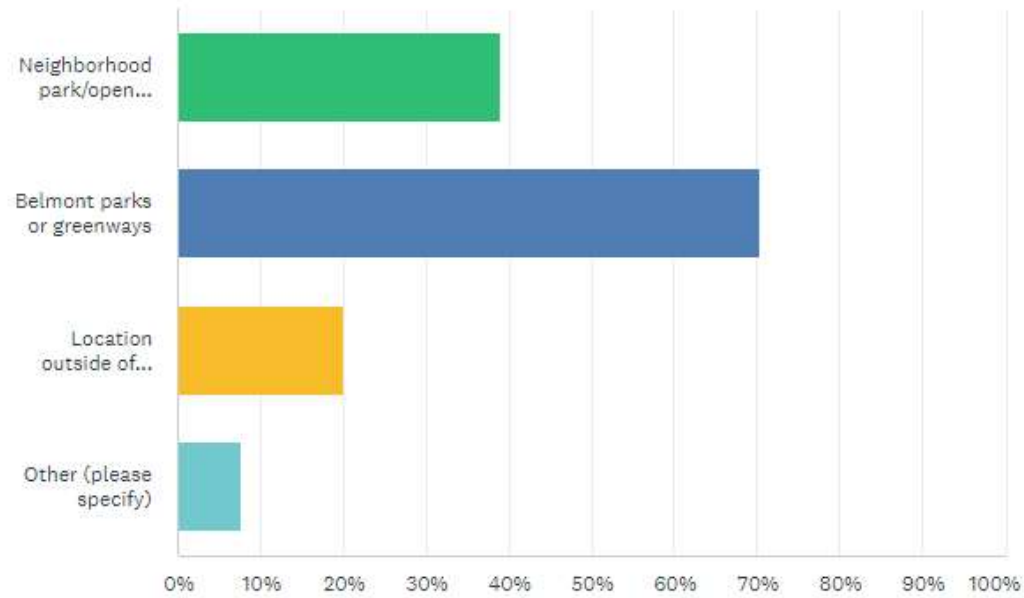


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Less than 2 minutes	9.64%	24
▼ Between 2 and 5 minutes	16.47%	41
▼ Between 5 and 10 minutes	22.49%	56
▼ Over 15 minutes	32.53%	81
▼ Not possible	18.88%	47
TOTAL		249



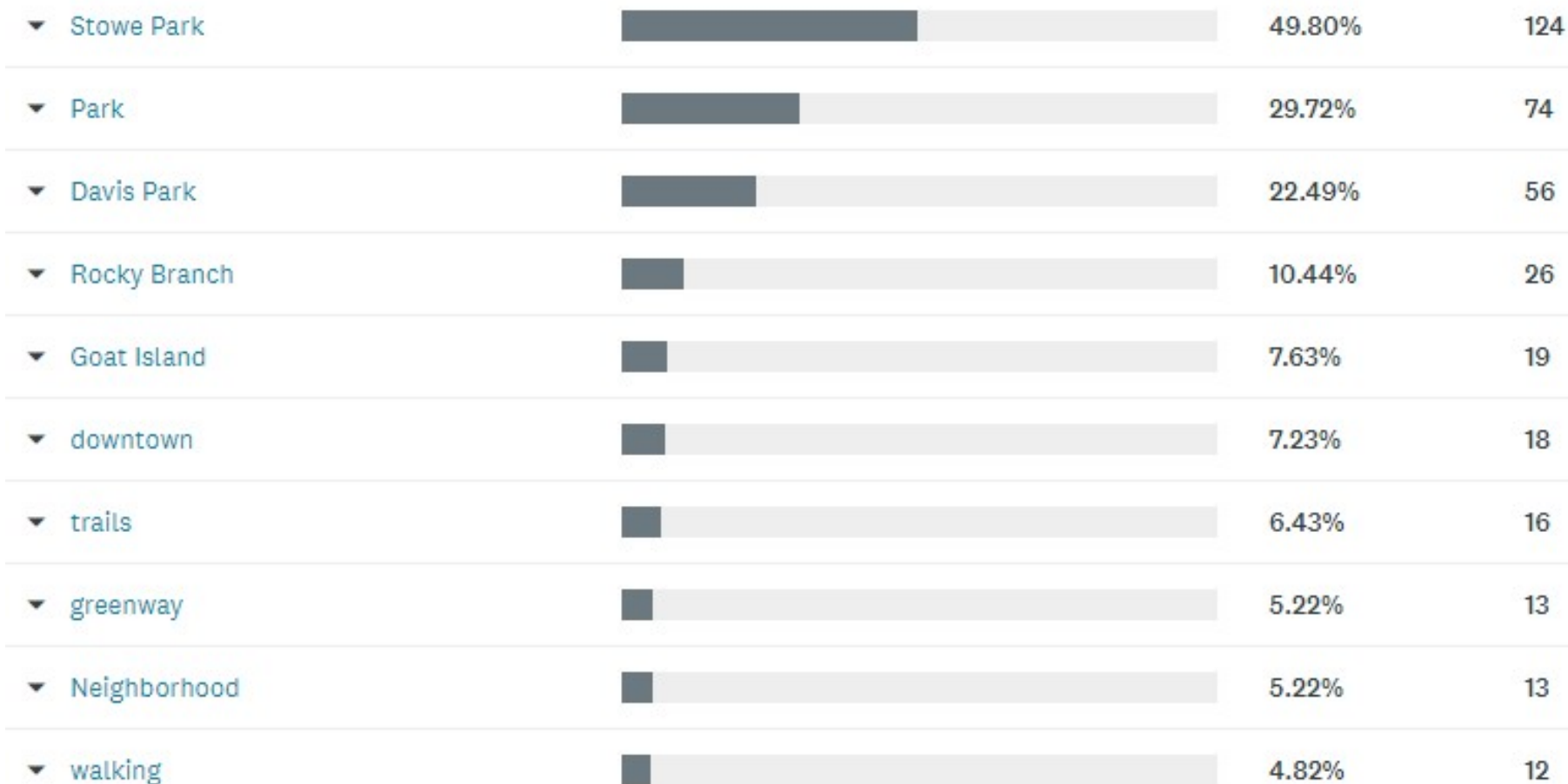
Where is the open space you visit most frequently? Select all that apply.

Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



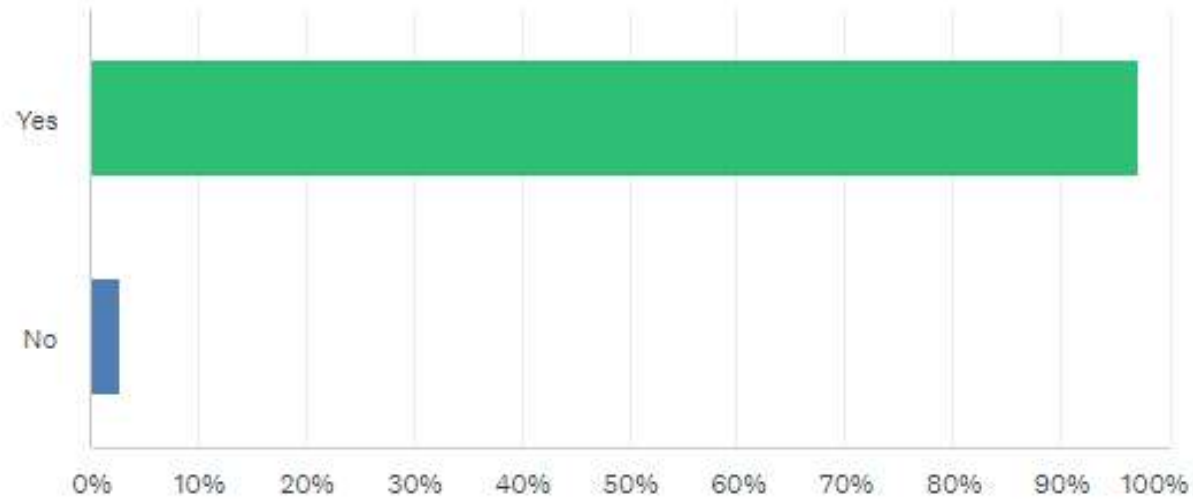
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Neighborhood park/open spaces	38.96% 97
▼ Belmont parks or greenways	70.28% 175
▼ Location outside of Belmont	20.08% 50
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 7.63% 19
Total Respondents: 249	

Where are some of the places you visit most frequently?



Do you live or work in Belmont?

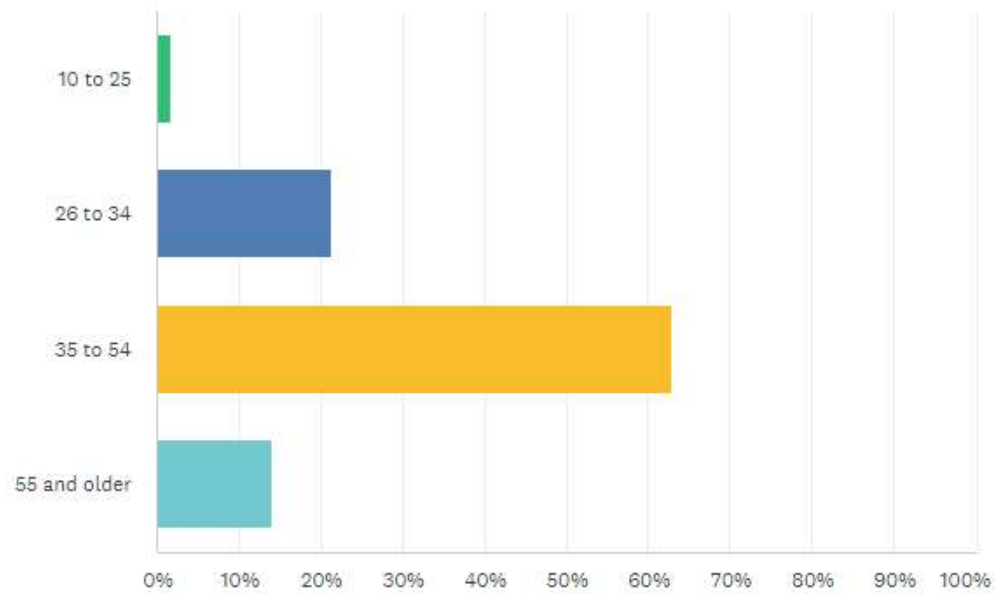
Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Yes	97.19%	242
▼ No	2.81%	7
TOTAL		249

How old are you?

Answered: 248 Skipped: 1

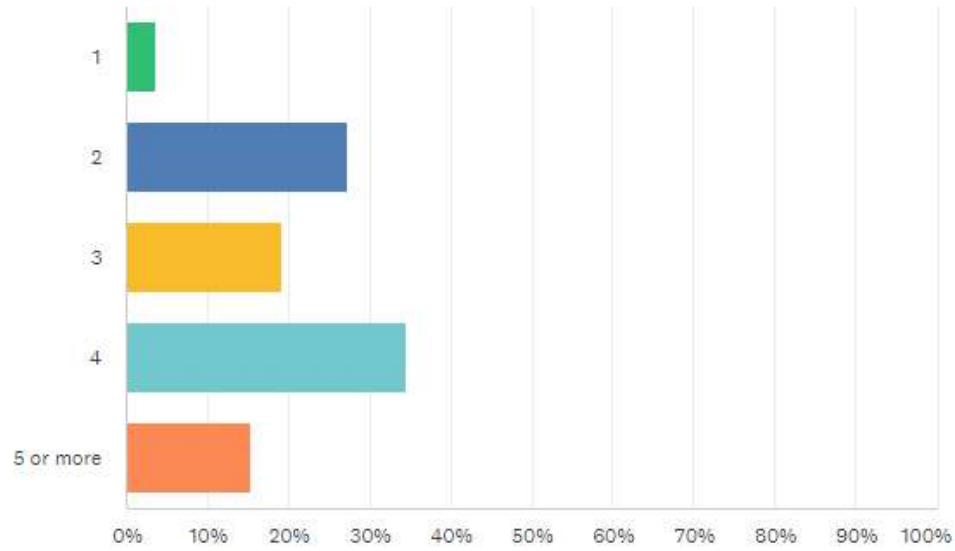


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ 10 to 25	1.61%	4
▼ 26 to 34	21.37%	53
▼ 35 to 54	62.90%	156
▼ 55 and older	14.11%	35
TOTAL		248



How many people are in your household?

Answered: 249 Skipped: 0

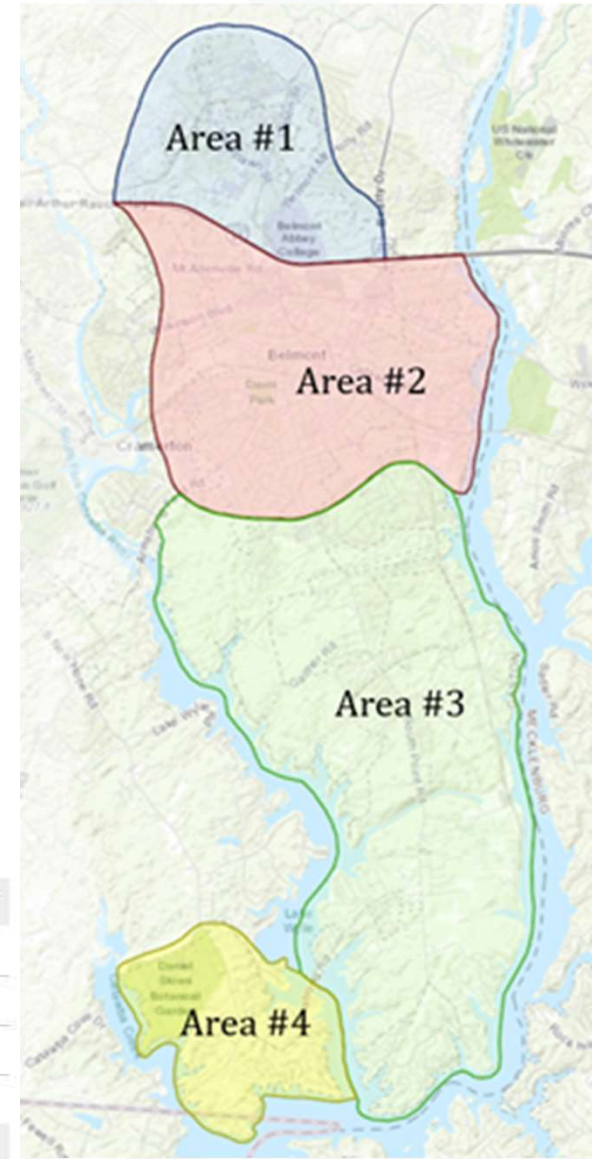
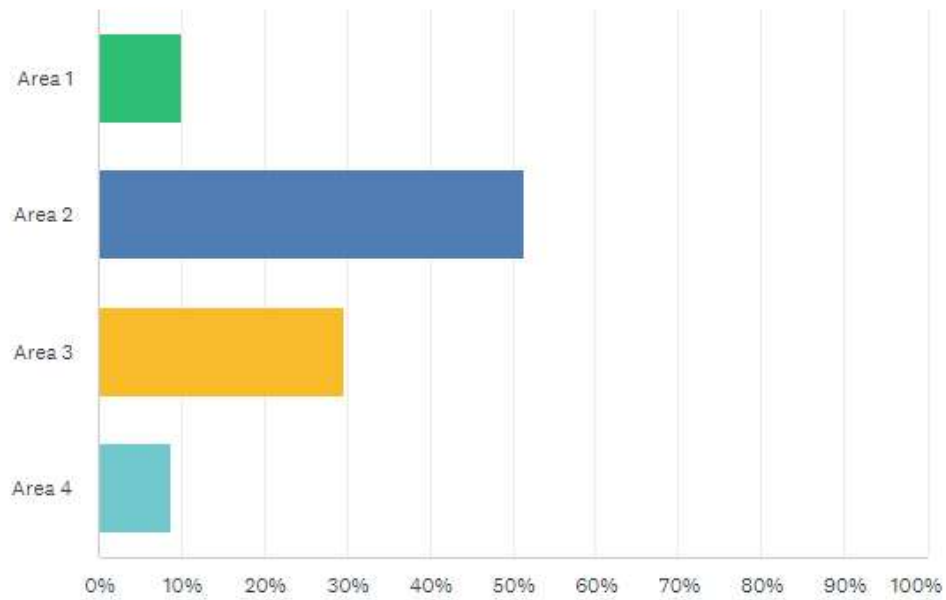


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1	3.61% 9
2	27.31% 68
3	19.28% 48
4	34.54% 86
5 or more	15.26% 38
TOTAL	249



Where do you live based on the map below?

Answered: 249 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Area 1	10.04%	25
▼ Area 2	51.41%	128
▼ Area 3	29.72%	74
▼ Area 4	8.84%	22
TOTAL		249

STAKEHOLDER RESULTS

Staff



MEETINGS

- 🌐 Developers/Builders/Realtors
 - Two meetings due to technical difficulties (Nov 17th and Nov 22nd)
 - Attendance: 5 developers/realtors
- 🌐 HOA Managers/Presidents/Board Members
 - Meeting on November 18th
 - Attendance: 3 managers
- 🌐 Municipal Planning and Parks & Rec Staff
 - Meeting on November 18th
 - Attendance: 2 (from Gaston County and Matthews)

STAKEHOLDER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: DEVELOPERS/REALTORS

- ④ Emphasized the cost and value of open space. Open space should be valuable and not something to build just to comply with city regs.
- ④ Flexibility in both hardscape and natural space
- ④ Well designed open space = a balance of purpose and quality
- ④ Would like a payment-in-lieu option – by right (to remove the political aspect)
 - All in-lieu fees must be used within the area of the project
- ④ Equitable to everyone – experienced and inexperienced developers
- ④ Trade off – higher density allows for more money for open space
- ④ Point System Option*

STAKEHOLDER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: HOA MANAGERS/PRESIDENTS

- 🌀 Currently, most open space within communities are private
- 🌀 Certain people are willing to pay dues for amenities – based on what residents value (pool, walking trails, etc.)
- 🌀 Should add value to the community based on the purpose
- 🌀 Financial hardships of open space based on type
- 🌀 Dog parks – popular and low cost/maintenance
- 🌀 Often open space is over designed – community programming and how open space will be used will come organically based on the residents/nature of the community

STAKEHOLDER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: MUNICIPAL STAFF

- A new trend is to maintain a natural buffer / a natural buffer along the road frontage
- Payment-in-lieu
 - Heavily utilized (in Matthews)
 - Based on nearby parks (Gaston County)

FEEDBACK

Steering Committee



GOALS/ MISSION STATEMENT

Steering Committee



STEERING COMMITTEE GOALS/PRIORITY RANKINGS

- Most Important Goal: Encourage intentionally designed, equitably distributed, and well-connected open spaces in future development
- Top Priorities
 - Allow for more active, usable open space
 - Create an ordinance that allows for a diversity of open space types
 - Preserve trees and barren land within communities and the city as a whole
 - Preserve a balance between development and open space in the context of economic development

PROPOSED MISSION STATEMENT

- The city of Belmont encourages thoughtfully designed, evenly distributed, and well-connected open spaces in new development. Our open space policy should:
 - Provide for more active, usable open space
 - Allow for a variety of open space types
 - As much as possible, preserve appropriate trees and desirable land within communities and the city as a whole
 - Preserve a balance between responsible development and open space in the context of economic development

NEXT STEPS / NEXT MEETING



Drafting



January 25th?





THANK YOU!