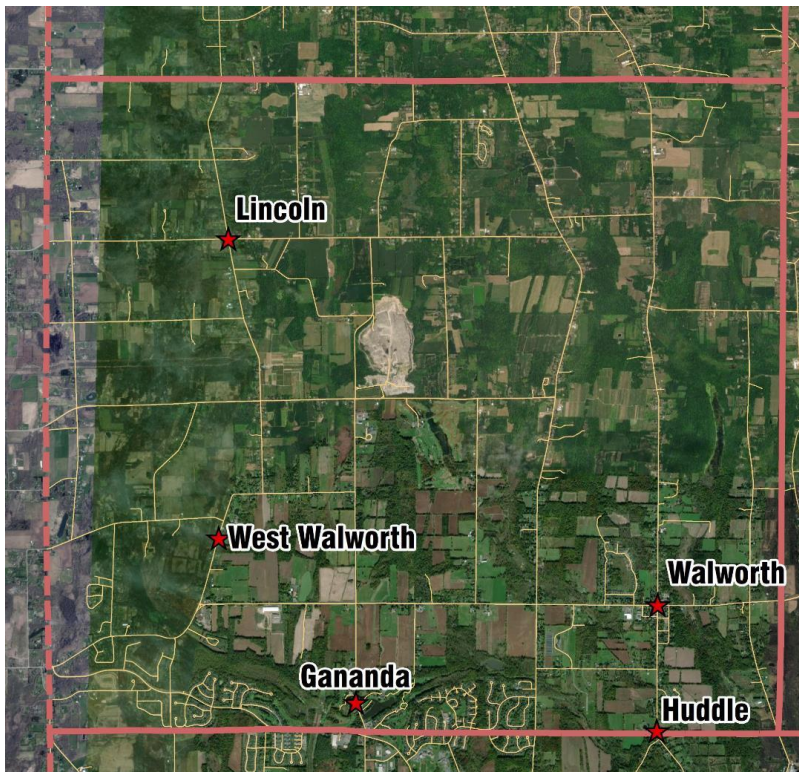


TOWN OF WALWORTH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT



September 25, 2023



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INTRODUCTION

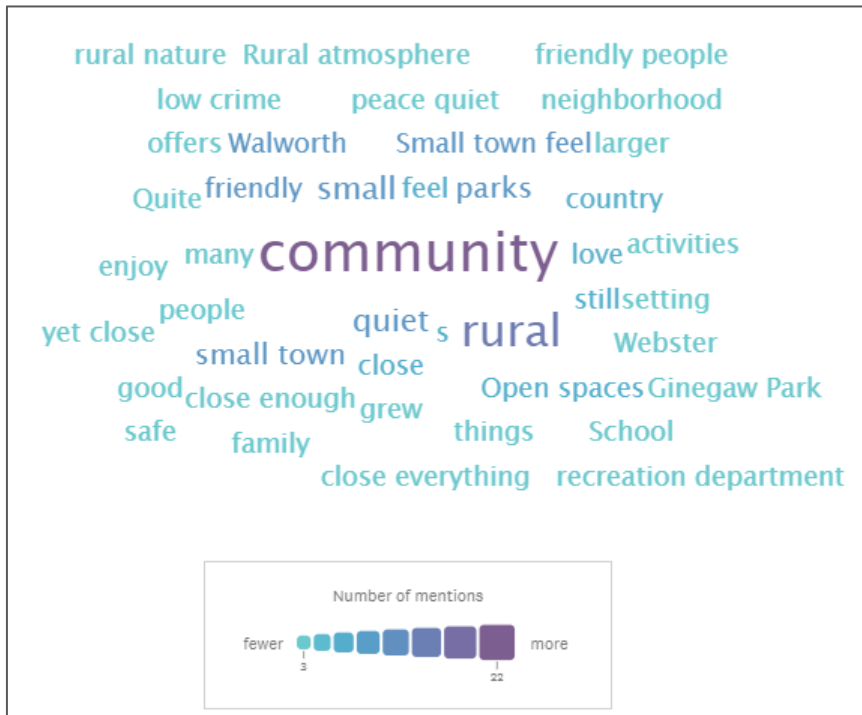
A public survey beginning on Friday April 14, 2023, was distributed to gather information on current residents' thoughts on the Town, their future outlook, and potential improvements. The 30-question survey covered a range of topics including residential & commercial development, transportation & safety, and natural & recreational resources. The survey results were not statistically representative of Town residents, but it serves as an additional opportunity to maximize community input, with 145 survey responses as of September 25, 2023. Below is a summary of the responses gathered from the survey.

QUESTION SUMMARIES

GENERAL OPINIONS: QUESTIONS 1 & 2

The survey begins with two open-ended questions. Starting the survey this way allows the Comprehensive Plan Committee to gauge respondent's thoughts about the Town before additional questions could potentially influence their answers.

Q1. What do you like most about the Town of Walworth?

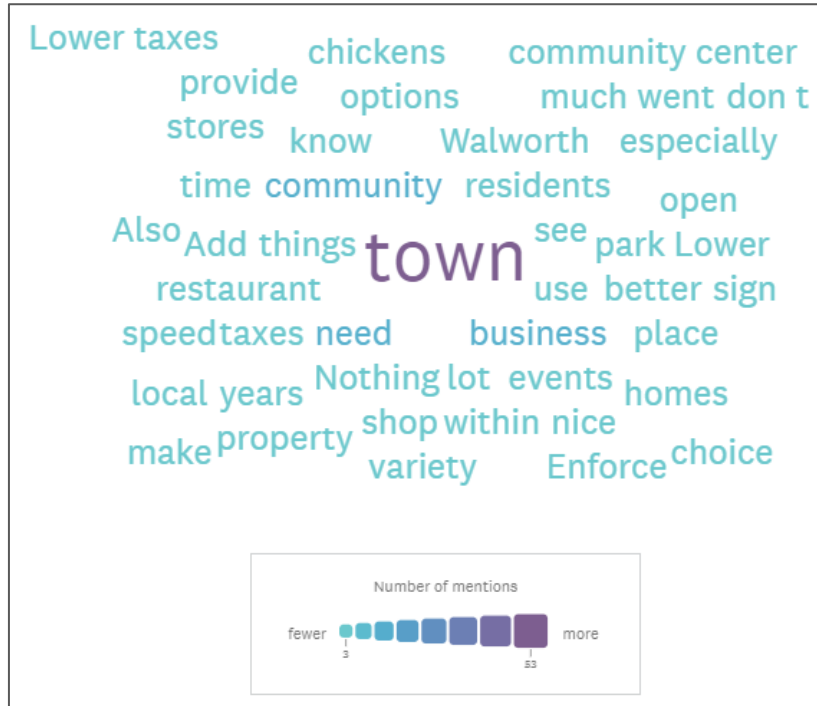


Word	Occurrence
Community	22
Rural	18
Quiet	13
Small	13
Parks	12
Small town	12
Friendly	11
Small town feel	11
Close	9
Open spaces	8
People	6

The word cloud above highlights the words which most occurred in the received responses. Many responses highlighted the small-town feel and friendly community as positive aspects. Generally, people enjoy the parks and open space within the Town while also having various amenities in close proximity. Several responses noted that the rural character was what they most liked about the Town of Walworth.



Q2. What would you like to change about the Town of Walworth?



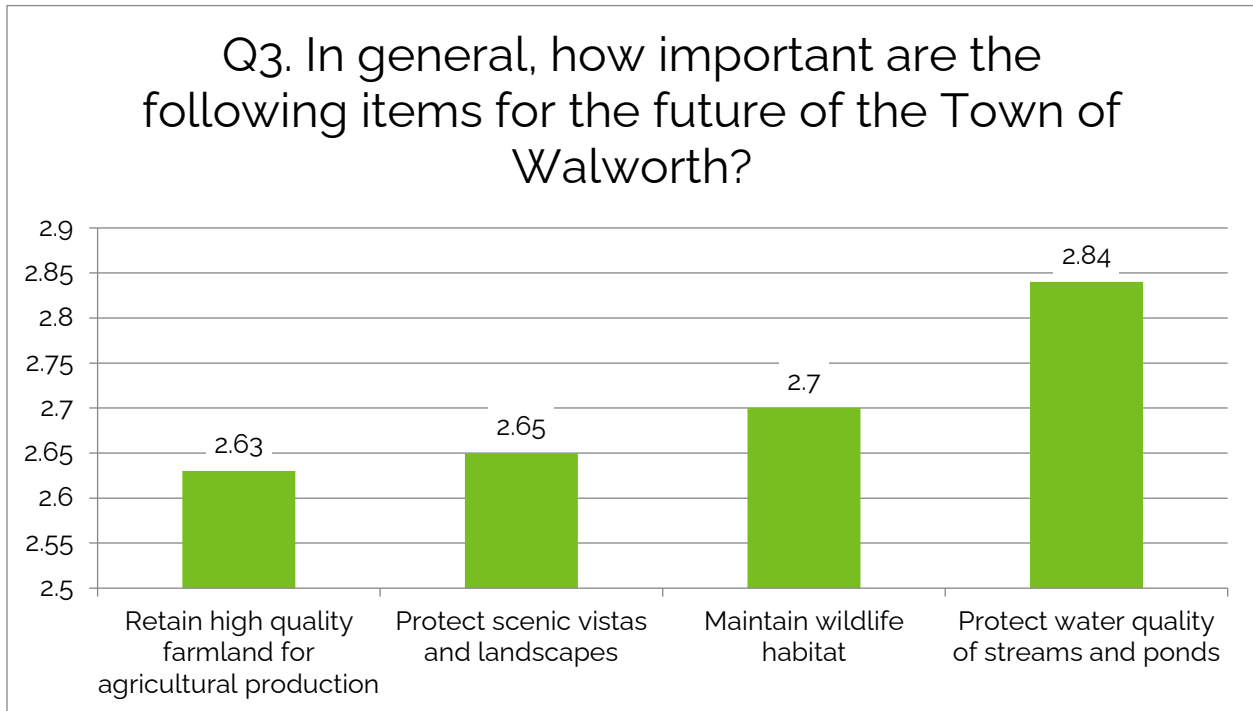
Word	Occurrence
Nothing	9
Taxes	9
Restaurant	5
Chickens	3
Community center	3
Lower taxes	3

The word cloud above highlights the words which most occurred in the received responses. Many responses highlighted the desire for lower taxes and additional business development, specifically the establishment of restaurants within the Town's borders.



NATURAL RESOURCES: QUESTIONS 3 & 4

Question 3 asked respondents to rate the importance of specific natural resources and environmental assets within the Town.



The bar chart above demonstrates respondents' environmental priorities based on a weighted average of the received responses. Respondents ranked "Protection of water quality of streams and ponds" as the most important environmental asset for the future of the Town of Walworth.



The table below provides a summary of this data. The weighted average is calculated by allocating a higher value (3) to "very important" selection and a lower value (1) to "not at all important" selection. The higher the weighted average, the more important the issue is. As seen below, nearly 86% of respondents rated "Protection of water quality of streams and ponds" as very important, and correspondingly, this item has the highest weighted average.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not At All Important	No Opinion	Total	Weighted Average
Retain high quality farmland for agricultural production	66.67% 94	27.66% 39	4.26% 2	1.42% 2	141	2.63
Protect scenic vistas & landscapes	66.20% 94	30.28% 43	2.11% 3	1.41% 2	142	2.65
Maintain wildlife habitat	71.13% 101	25.35% 36	2.11% 3	1.41% 2	142	2.7
Protect water quality of streams and ponds	85.92% 122	11.97% 17	2.11% 3	0.00% 0	142	2.84



Question 4 was open-ended allowing respondents to provide any additional comments regarding natural resources and related topic areas. Selected responses are included in the table below.

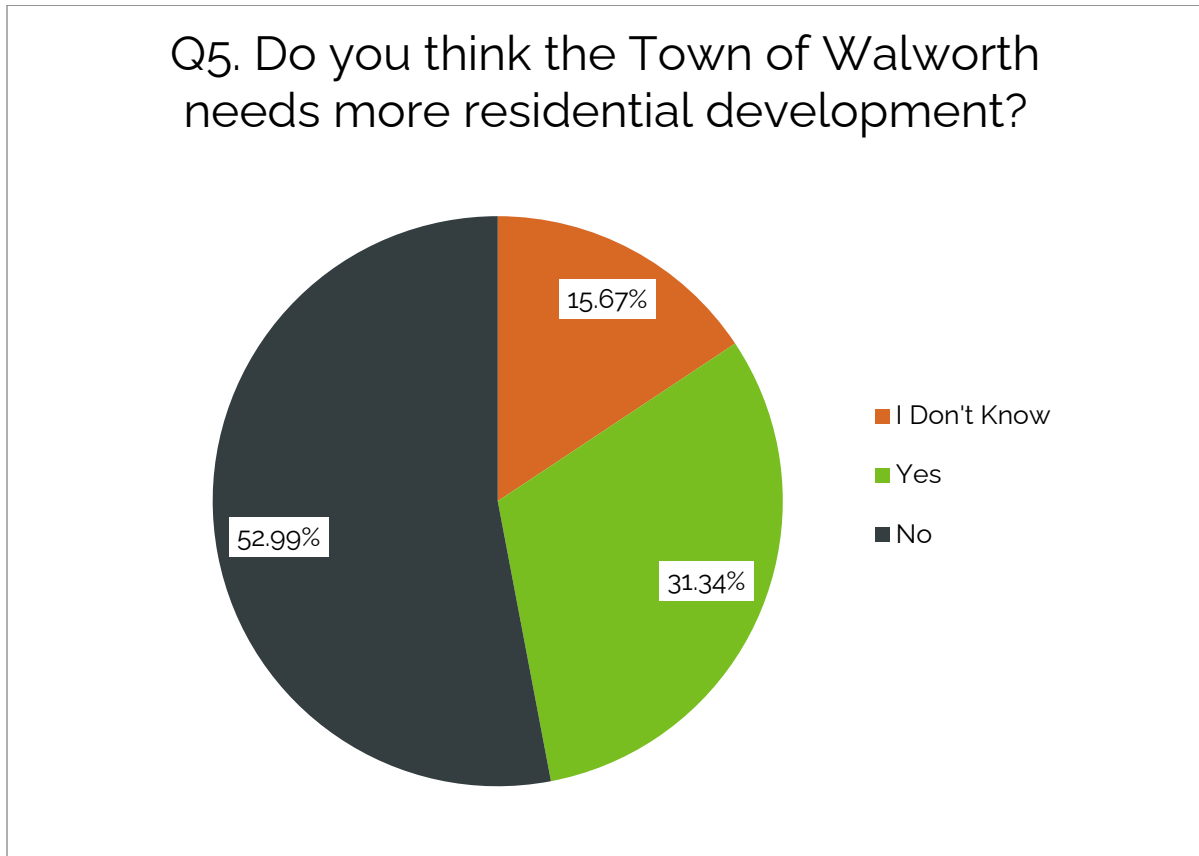
Q4. Do you have any additional comments regarding natural resources?

	
<i>We are lucky to live in this part of the world with really no natural disasters and many natural water sources</i>	<i>Worst fear is penfield moving this way</i>
<i>Keep what we have been enjoying, protect them - don't give them away!</i>	<i>Keep all solar farms and wind farms OUT of Walworth ,the green deal is a scam,it would ruin our nice town and New York State.</i>
<i>Every morning when I drive down 350 I am met by the beautiful view of farmland and wooded areas. I get to see many types of birds, woodland creatures and so many stars at night. I absolutely love this area, it is a true hidden gem.</i>	<i>Please do NOT encourage sub-divisions everywhere like Ontario and Webster have done!!</i>
<i>One of the draws for my husband and I to move to Walworth was it's country feel and natural space left untouched</i>	<i>Please continue to prevent large scale developments that would negatively impact water runoff without proper management</i>



HOUSING: QUESTIONS 5 - 8

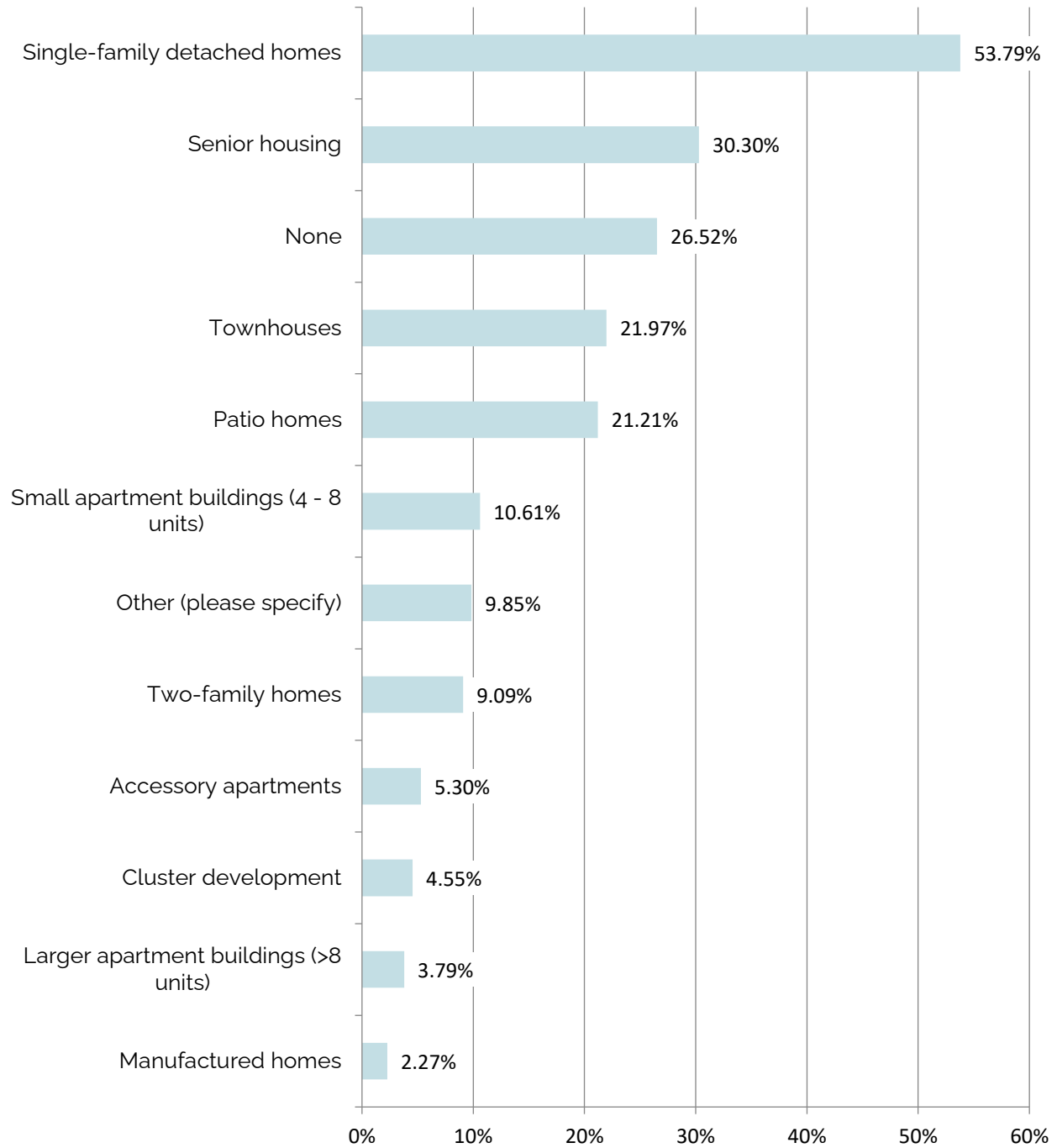
Question 5 was developed to better understand resident's thoughts regarding the increase in residential development in Walworth and surrounding areas. As seen in the pie chart below, the majority (52.99%) of respondents indicated that they believe the Town of Walworth does not need more residential development.



The survey further breaks down residential development into type of housing. Question 6 (as summarized in the bar chart on the following page) revealed that though a significant portion of the community does not want additional residential development, if housing were to be developed, there is a preference for the development of single-family detached homes and senior housing. Townhouses and patio homes are also somewhat desirable, with between 21 and 22% of respondents wanting to see more of these types of homes.

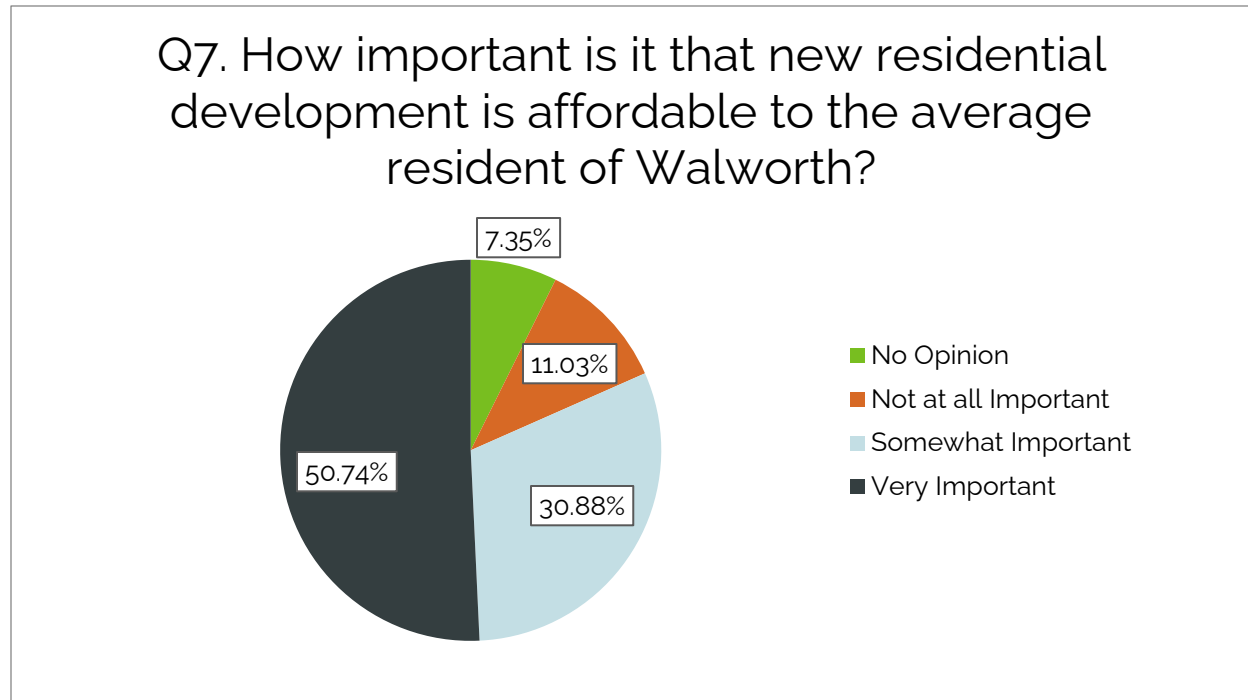


Q6. What kinds of housing would you like to see more of in the Town of Walworth?







Question 7 broaches the importance of affordability when it comes to residential development. Over 81% of respondents believe it is either very important or somewhat important that new residential development is affordable to the average resident of Walworth. See bar chart below.



Question 8 was open-ended allowing respondents to provide any additional comments regarding housing and related topic areas. Select responses are included in the table below.

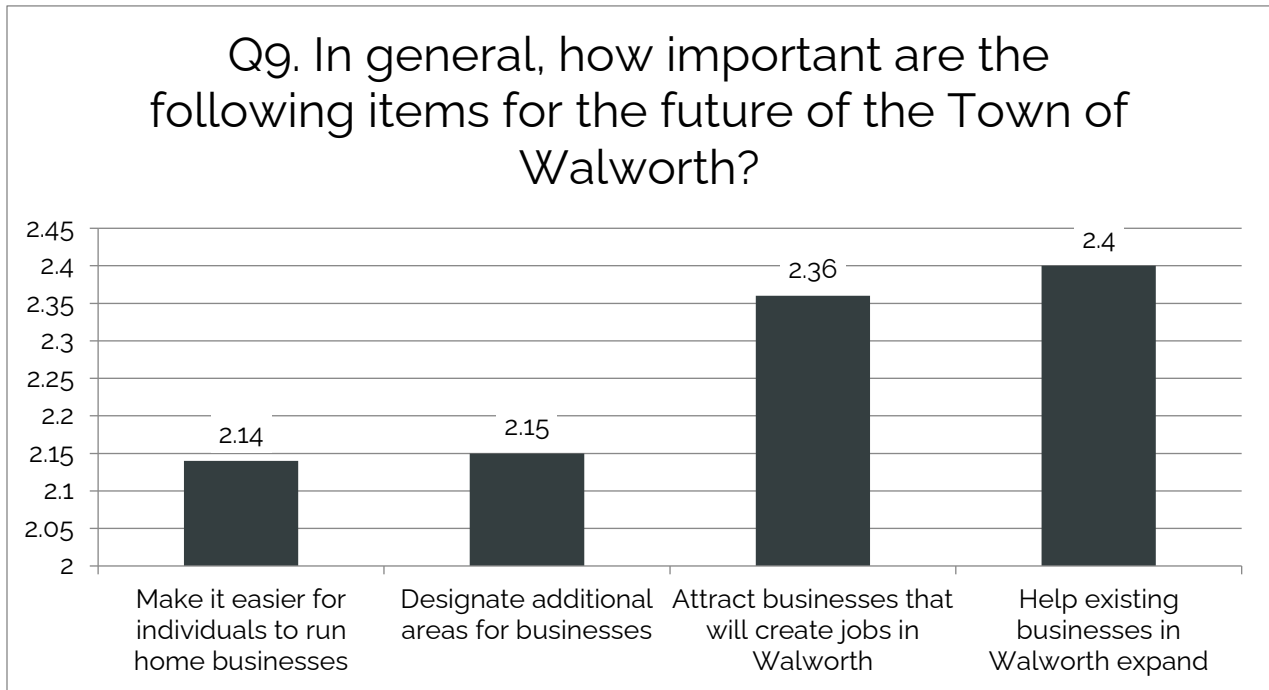
Q8. Do you have any additional comments regarding residential neighborhoods and housing?

	
<i>Cluster development in the planned development zones areas and Hamlets would be ideal</i>	<i>When I moved to walworth there was a lot of affordable houses available. The property values in the area are starting to drive out middle class families</i>
<i>I like that the community is rural and not a suburb.</i>	<i>I am concerned that farmland will be sold and turned into subdivisions.</i>
<i>Bringing in more people and housing is a nice idea to grow the town, but again... quality services need to be provided.</i>	<i>I think it is critical that housing for aging in place, at least within the community, is developed and affordable</i>
<i>I think we need more residential neighborhoods to support our tax base, however I would want to keep the country feel of our area.</i>	<i>Beware of sprawl. Once development occurs, keep a plan and vision of drawing the line; taking a pause to reevaluate; keeping in mind how gifted we are here with beautiful resources.</i>



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT: QUESTIONS 9 - 12

Question 9 asked respondents to rate the importance of specific business development issues within the Town.



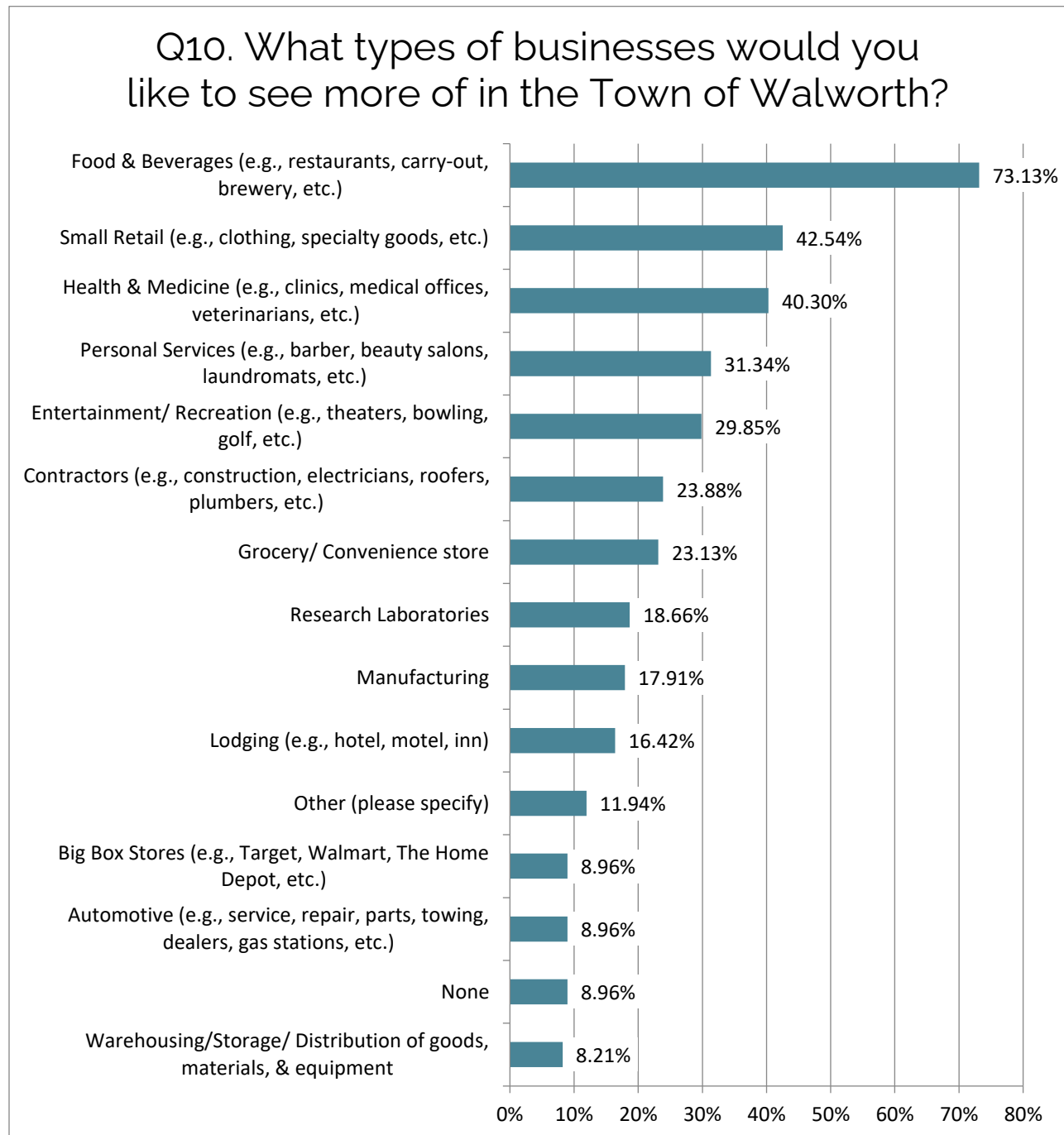
The bar chart above demonstrates respondents' business development priorities based on a weighted average of the received responses. "Help existing business in Walworth expand" ranked as the most important business development priority for the future of the Town of Walworth with "Attract businesses that will create jobs in Walworth" in a close second.

The table below provides a summary of this data. The weighted average is calculated by allocating a higher value (3) to "very important" selection and a lower value (1) to "not at all important" selection. Essentially, the higher the weighted average, the more important the issue is. As seen below, over 48% of respondents rated "Help existing business in Walworth expand" and "Attract businesses that will create jobs in Walworth" as very important.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not At All Important	No Opinion	Total	Weighted Average
Make it easier for individuals to run home businesses	29.63% 40	44.44% 60	17.04% 23	8.89% 12	135	2.14
Designate additional areas for businesses	36.03% 49	31.62% 43	22.79% 31	9.56% 13	136	2.15
Attract businesses that will create jobs in Walworth	48.53% 66	36.76% 50	13.24% 18	1.47% 2	136	2.36
Help existing businesses in Walworth expand	48.89% 66	38.52% 52	9.63% 13	2.96% 4	135	2.4

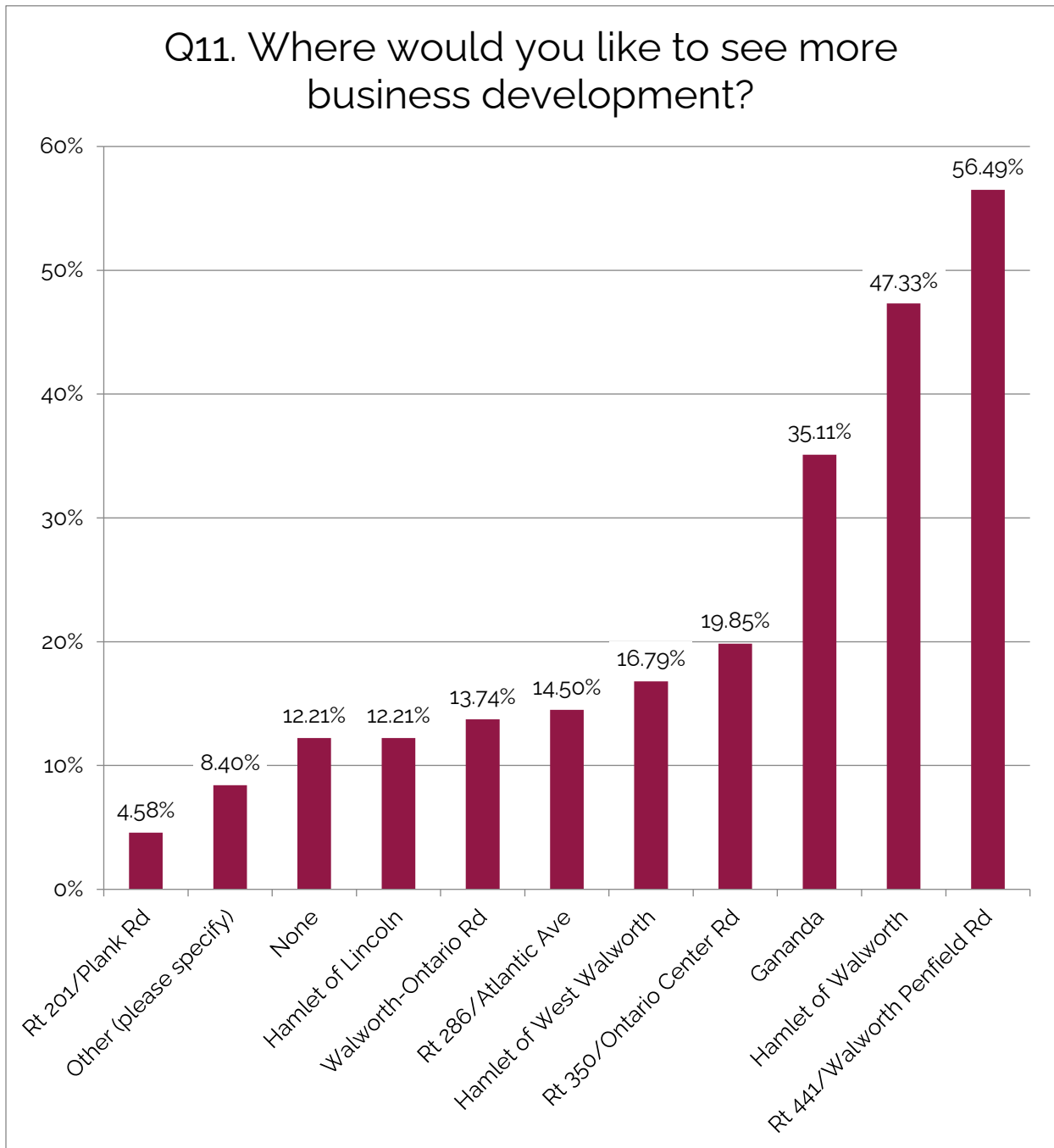


Question 10 asks respondents to indicate which types of businesses they would like to see in the Town of Walworth. The vast majority of respondents would like to see more food & beverage establishments, like restaurants and breweries, in the Town of Walworth. This was followed by small retail businesses and health and medical businesses, both with over 40% of the respondents indicating such. There appears to be less of a desire for additional warehousing, automotive businesses, and big box stores, all with less than 10% of respondents indicating they would like to see more of these types of businesses in Town. A bar chart summarizing the data for this question can be seen below.





Beyond the types of businesses, the survey also asked individuals to indicate where they would like additional business development. A summary of this data, collected in Question 11, can be seen in the bar chart below.



Over 56% of respondents indicated that they would like to see additional business development along Route 441, a major east-west thoroughfare on the southern side of the Town. 47.33% of respondents and 35.11% of respondents indicated they would like to see additional business development in the Hamlet of Walworth and Gananda respectively.



Question 12 was open-ended allowing respondents to provide any additional comments regarding commercial development and related topic areas. Selected responses are listed in the bulleted list below.

Q12. Do you have any additional comments regarding business development?

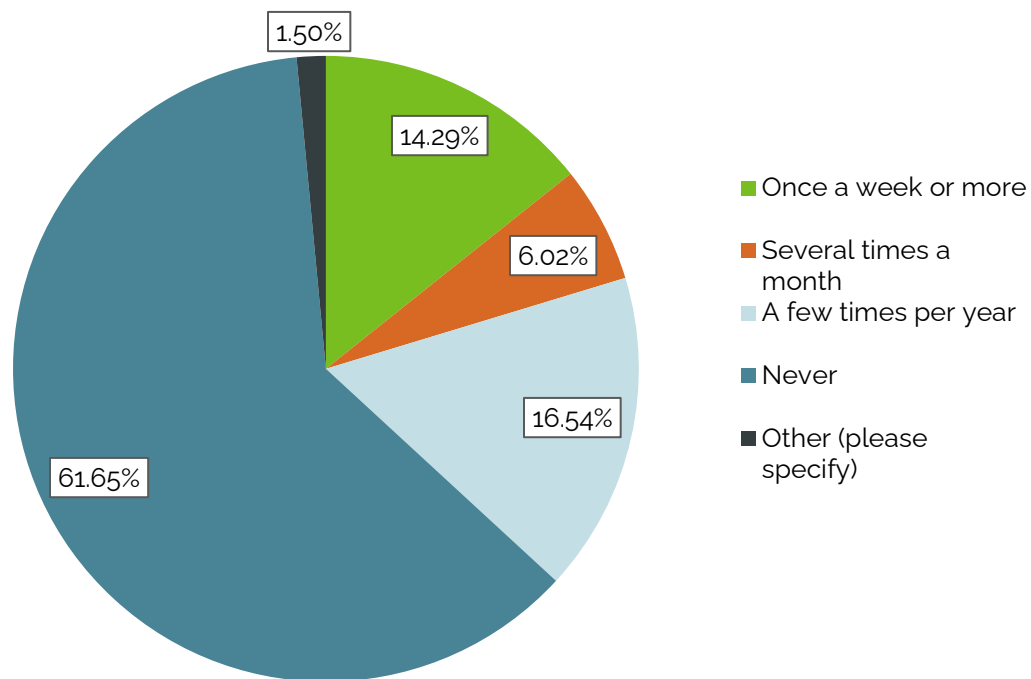
- I'm hesitant to advise too much retail etc as I'm afraid it would ruin what we love about Walworth.
- Open storefronts need to be filled before granting building permits to developers.
- Not in favor of building along major roads and streets. Need limited access to those. Build interior roads. "Business Parks"
- Let's avoid serving big business interests at the expense of our citizens' quality of life.
- We live "in the country" with the expectation that travel would be required for goods and services. The country should remain the country.
- I think it's important to draw new businesses in to not only benefit us as consumers, but to provide living wages for our community members who work there to thrive, not merely survive.
- I prefer to see little to no new businesses in the future
- Business that are small and service oriented are preferred.
- Crest businesses that will contribute to lowering school taxes.
- not next to residents property
- Keep things within the current feel of the town but not so restricted as to discourage growth, ie. Develop current structure into small business/office or smaller well planned developments not giant parking lots
- If Gananda doesn't get something to offset our Gananda School taxes here in Walworth, I know a lot of us plan to leave ASAP
- Attractive w/architectural interest, enough of the depressing Dollar General look inside & out



TRANSPORTATION: QUESTIONS 13 - 20

In order to gauge residents use of alternative forms of transportation, we asked individuals how frequently they use different forms of transportation.

Q13. In the past year, how often did you walk, bike, take public transportation, or use an alternative form of transportation (skating, scootering, etc.) to get to a destination in the Town of Walworth?

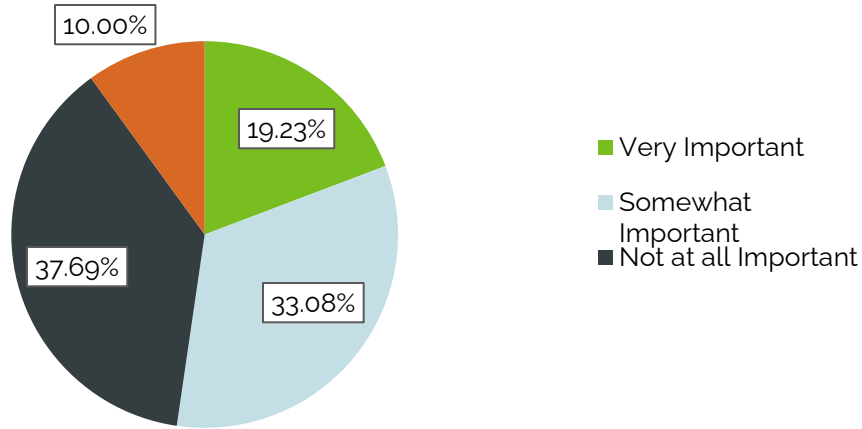


Via Question 13, we learned that the majority of people (over 60%) have not utilized an alternative mode of transportation in the last 12 months with an additional 16.54% having only utilized an alternative mode of transportation a few times in the last year.

The next several questions focus on behaviors and improvements associated with alternative modes of transportation. Question 14, summarized in the pie chart on the following page, asked respondents to rate the importance of improvements associated with bicycle safety.



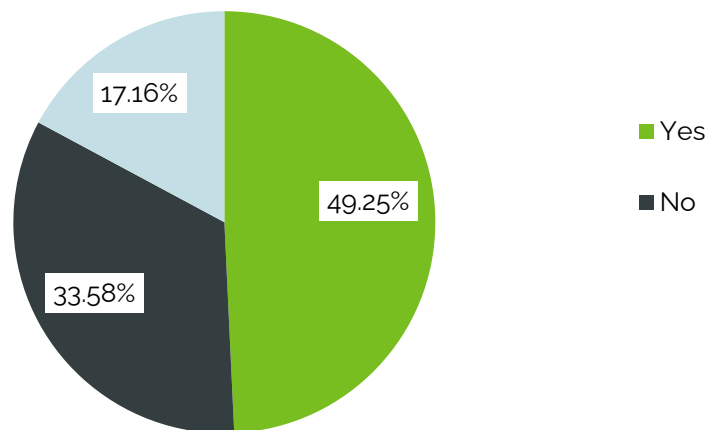
Q14. In general, how important is it that the Town install bike lanes or other improvements to make bicycling safer?



Responses were generally split, with the greatest number of respondents (37.69%) indicating that the Town installing bike lanes or other improvements to make bicycling safer was not at all important. 33.08% and 19.23% of respondents indicated that installing bike lanes to improve bicycling safer is somewhat important and very important respectively.

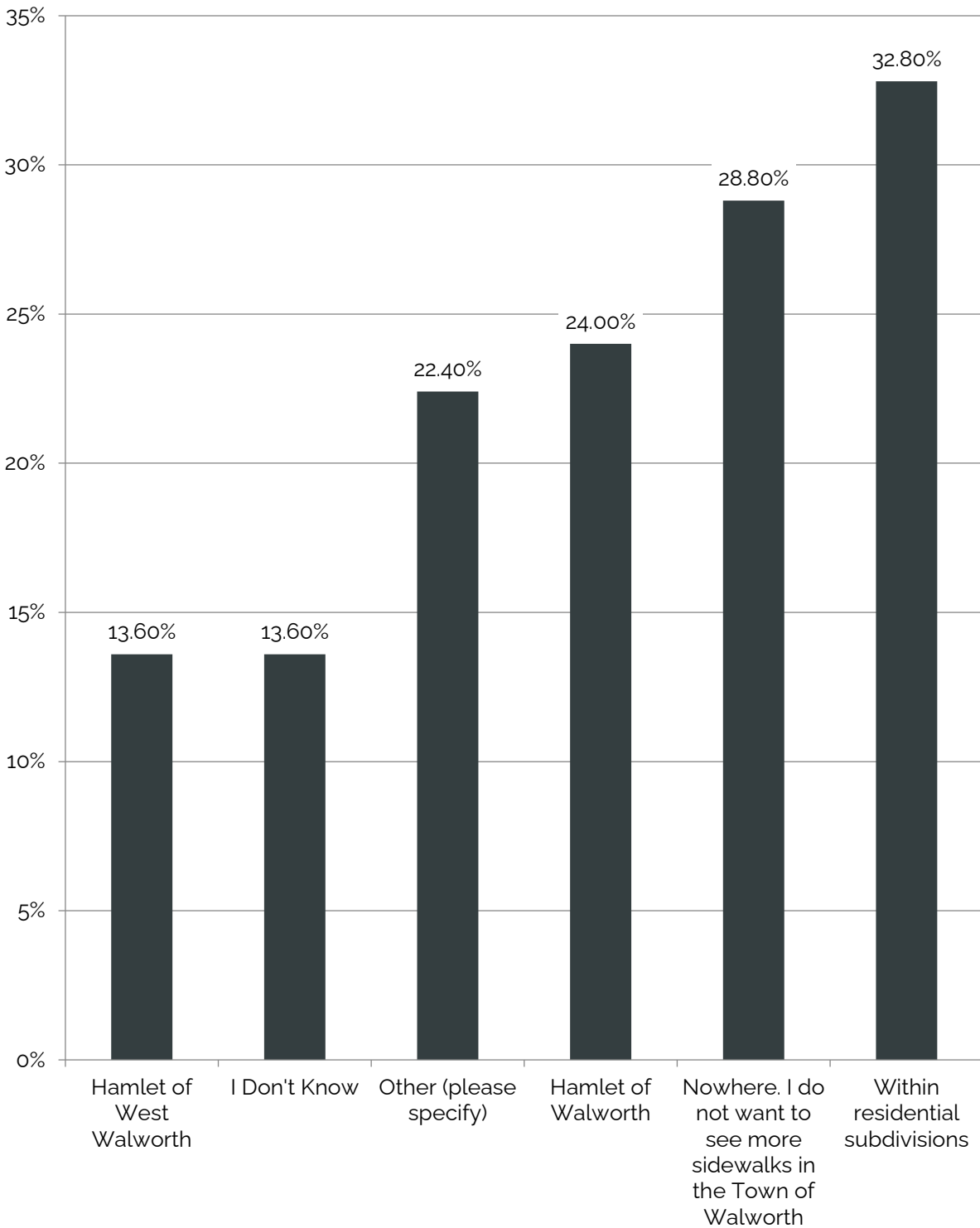
Questions 15 and 16 are focused on additional sidewalk infrastructure with almost 50% of respondents stating they would like to see more sidewalks with over 30% of respondents wanting to see more sidewalks within residential developments.

Q15. Would you like to see more sidewalks in the Town of Walworth?





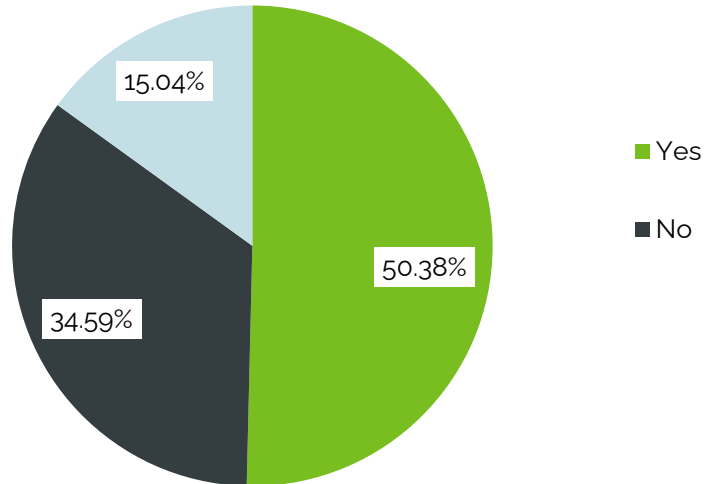
Q16. Where would you like to see more sidewalks?



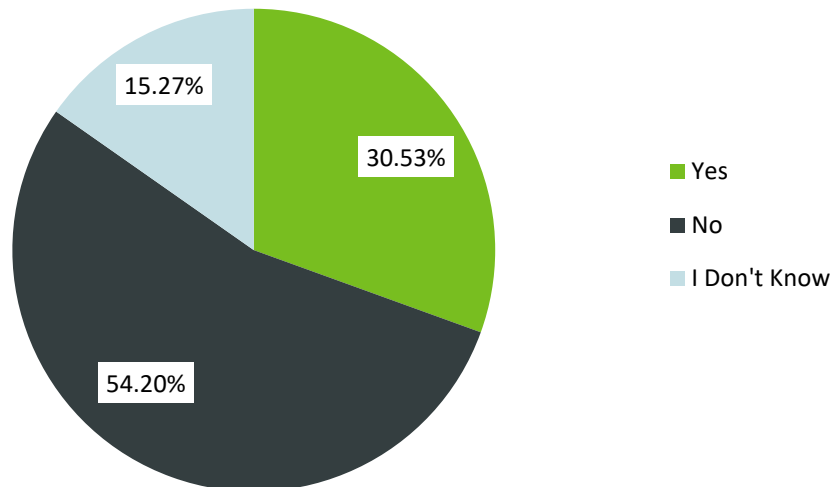


Questions 17 and 18 focus on streetscape safety and how it relates to frequency of use. While over 50% of respondents indicated that they would walk more if sidewalks and roads were safer, only about 30% of respondents indicated they would bike more if streetscape conditions were safer.

Q17. If sidewalks and roads were safer in the Town, would you walk more?



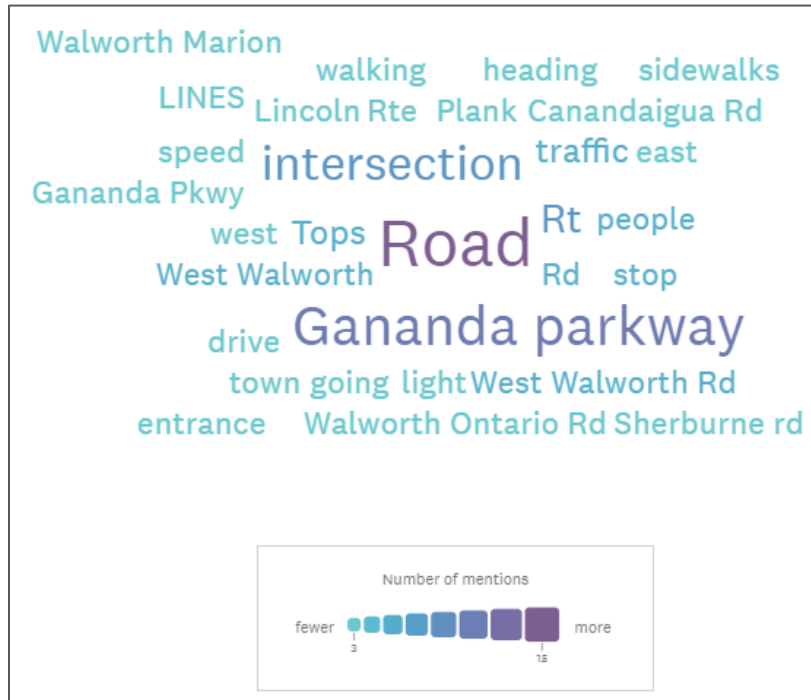
Q18. If sidewalks and roads were safer in the Town, would you bike more?





Question 19 continues to ask about roadway safety, asking respondents to identify specific intersections or locations where safety concerns exist.

Q19. Identify any intersections or locations in Town where you feel there are safety concerns.



Word	Occurrence
Gananda Parkway	13
Tops	8
West Walworth	6
West Walworth Rd	6
Plank	4
Canandaigua Rd	4
Sherburne Rd	4
Walworth Ontario Rd	4
Walworth Marion	3
Gananda Pkwy	3

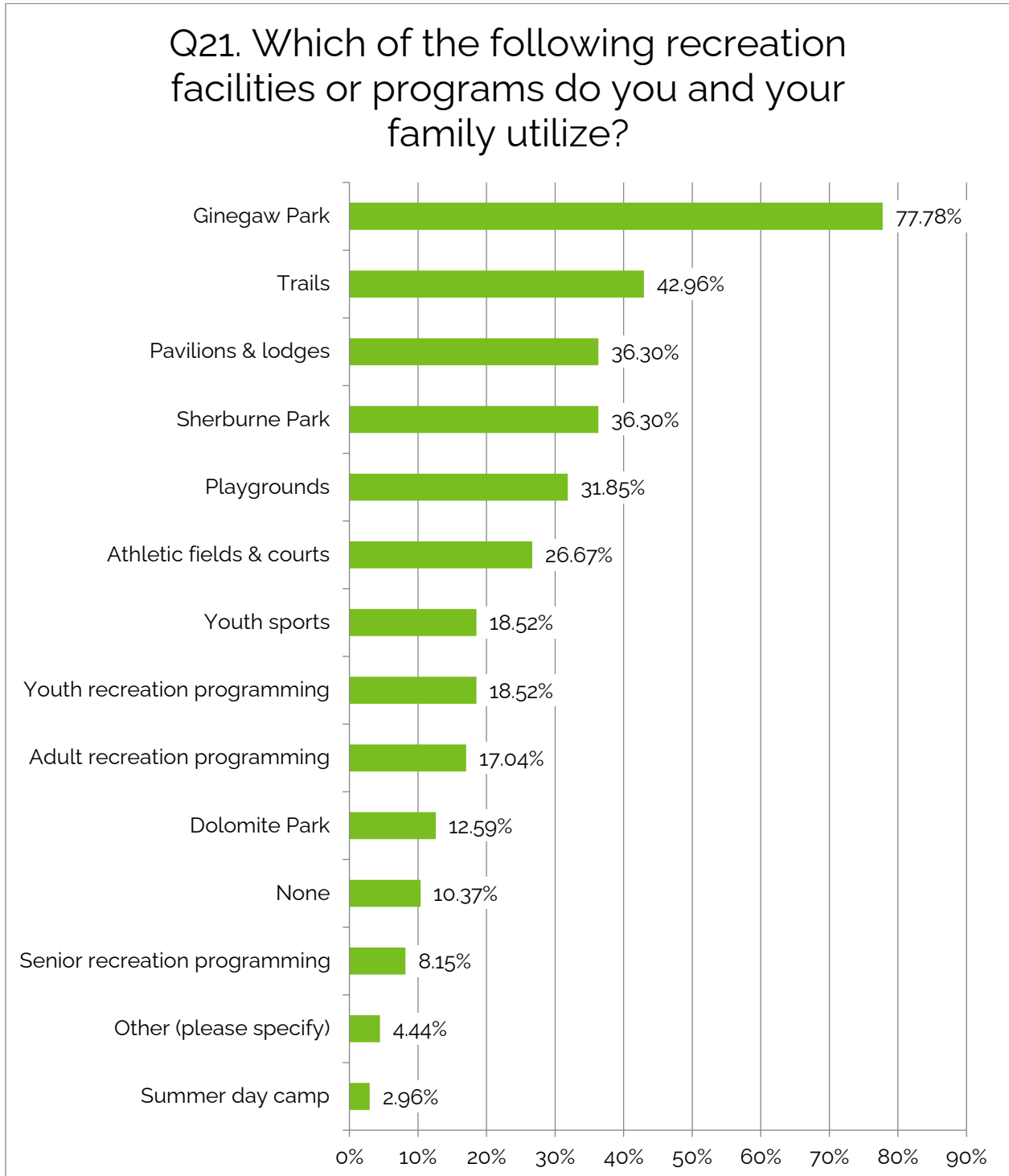
Q20. Do you have any additional comments regarding transportation and/or safety? Select responses below.

- Roundabout added at Canandaigua Rd. & Gananda Parkway
- I'd love to see a roundabout put in on the Y at 441/West Walworth Rd
- Please do not create unnecessary roundabouts, such as those in Ontario County.
- More police presence in the town would help deter people speeding through town
- A nice walking track on the lower level of Ginegaw Park would be nice.
- More traffic controls such as 4-way stops are needed to slow traffic on major roads
- 4 way stops in the area - it creates more problems than it solves
- We also could use street lights in the developments
- Sidewalk to Tops from the town and to finish up the randomly ending sidewalks in town near the apartments - high street, and center street could use them. Sidewalk on Sherburne as well.
- Install speed bumps on Waterford in Gananda
- There should be a bus that goes to Penfield, Macedon & Walmart
- Wider shoulders would make biking safer on 55mph roads
- Both parks are great but the ability to safely walk to either is non-existent.



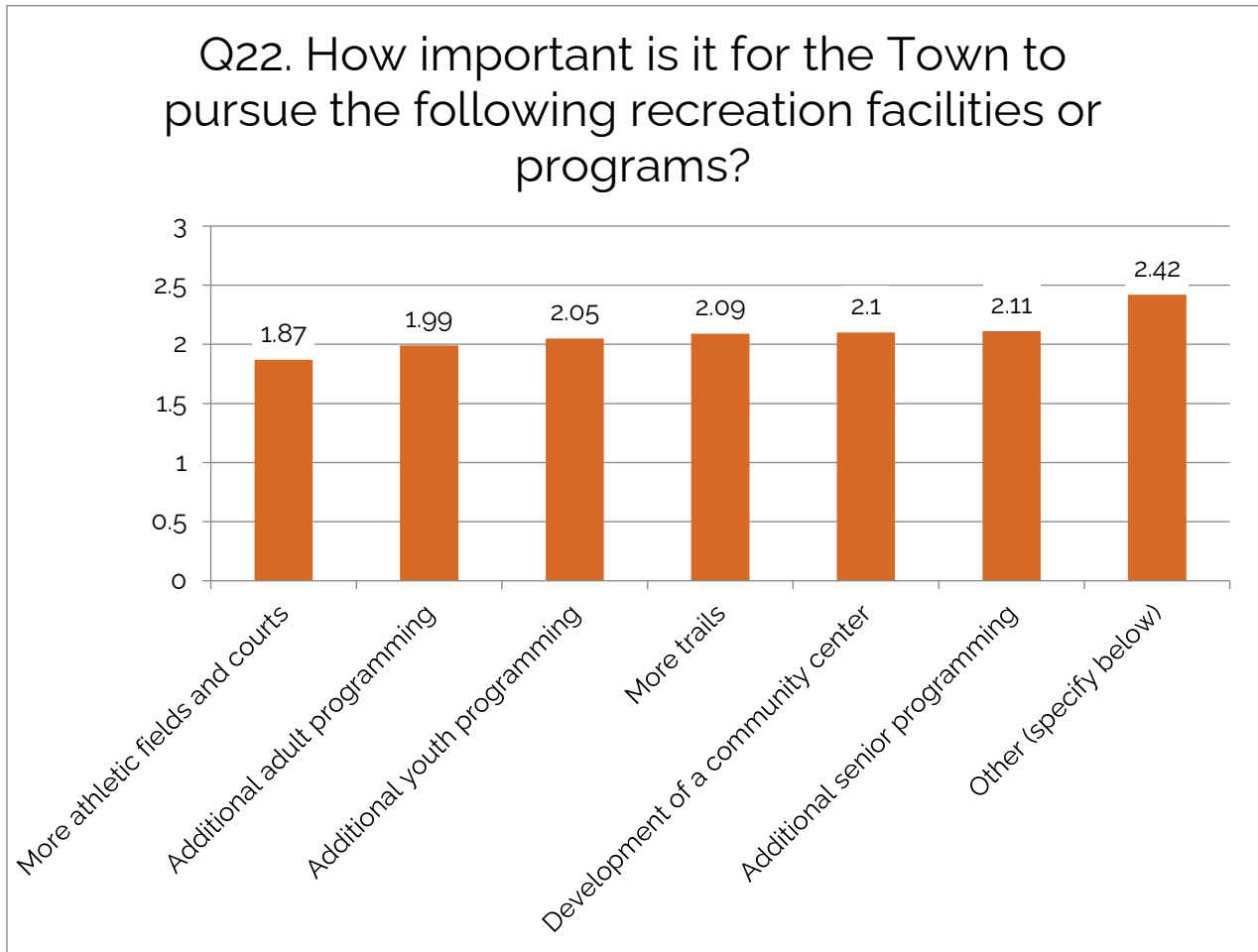
RECREATION: QUESTIONS 21 - 23

Question 21 asks respondents which recreational offerings they most utilize. Nearly 78% of respondents indicated that they utilize Ginegaw Park and over 36% indicated they utilize Sherburne Park. The use of trails, pavilions, and lodges, as well as playgrounds are popular amongst respondents. The least popular recreation offerings for respondents were summer day camp, senior recreation planning, and Dolomite Park.





Question 22 gauges resident interested in additional recreational offerings. On average, all listed recreational offerings were considered "Somewhat important."



	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not At All Important	No Opinion	Total	Weighted Average
More athletic fields and courts	17.32% 22	40.16% 51	28.35% 36	14.17% 18	127	1.87
Additional adult programming	16.28% 21	51.16% 66	17.05% 22	15.50% 20	129	1.99
Additional youth programming	23.20% 29	43.20% 54	19.20% 24	14.40% 18	125	2.05
More trails	29.60% 37	44.00% 55	20.80% 26	5.60% 7	125	2.09
Development of a community center	30.08% 40	40.60% 54	21.05% 28	8.27% 11	133	2.1
Additional senior programming	22.56% 30	45.86% 61	13.53% 18	18.05% 24	133	2.11
Other (specify below)	31.58% 12	7.89% 3	10.53% 4	50.00% 19	38	2.42



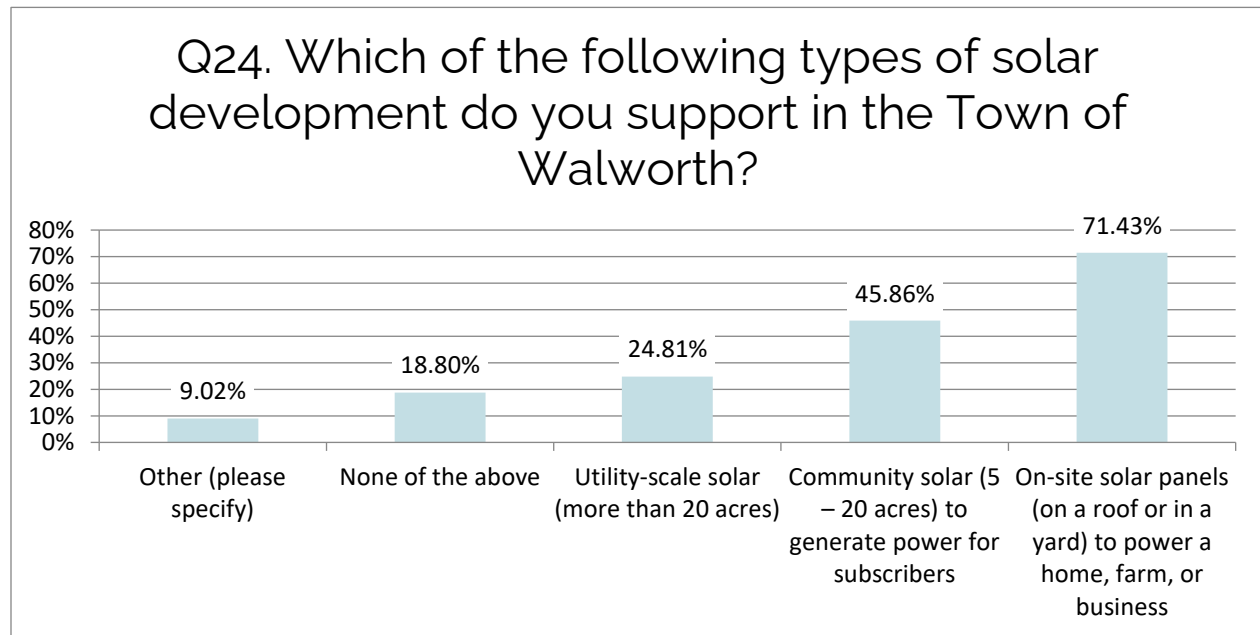
Q23. Do you have any additional comments regarding parks and recreation? Select responses below.

- There should be more concerts in the evenings during the summer than the 2-4 that are usually there. Also throw in some bingo nights
- No dog park.
- I am concerned about the amount of lighting at any new recreation fields.
- It would be nice to see more playgrounds in the town
- There could be another trail on the north west part of sherburn road park .A north west loop,it would utilize more of the property.
- More picnic shelters with grills etc.
- I feel there is no need to develop more athletic fields unless all current facilities are being utilized. I have not seen the wayne brown baseball field on 441 used in the last 5 yrs as example.
- The parks are very well kept. I appreciate the dog stations at both parks and the availability of bags at those stations
- Splash pad
- Spread them throughout the town like Perinton, one central park is inconvenient
- For those of us that live on Gananda Parkway, it would be nice if a community center or park were closer to our end of town
- We love Ginegaw and Sherbern parks. Any additional youth programming is nice, ideally with evening or weekend offerings for those of us who work/have littles in school/daycare
- Generally town has/is doing very well in this regard
- The parks are beautiful here, I consider it quite an asset to the town of Walworth.
- Very good programs by reading the town topics. Helpful staff.
- So many great upgrades have been made and are still being made to the parks and sports fields. Very pleased with the direction of the parks and recreation depts
- Excellent programs! Parks and Rec are covered very well!
- Our parks are beautiful and well-maintained. We use them all the time and are grateful for them.





ENERGY: QUESTIONS 24 - 25

Questions 24 and 25 asked respondents about their thoughts on solar development. As outlined below, over 71% of respondents indicated that they were supportive of small scale on-site solar panels powering a home, farm, or business. Nearly 46% indicated support for community solar occupying between 5 to 20 acres. Almost 25% support utility-scale solar occupying more than 20 acres while roughly 19% of respondents to not support any form of solar development in the Town of Walworth.



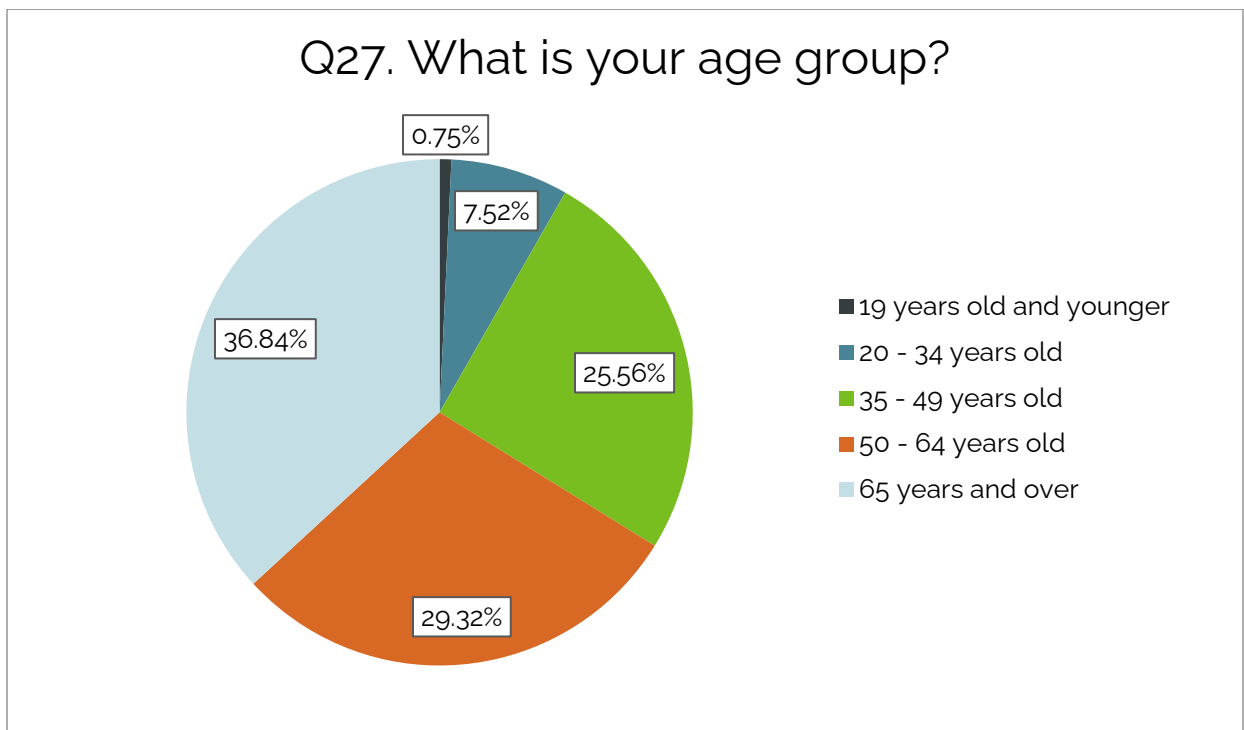
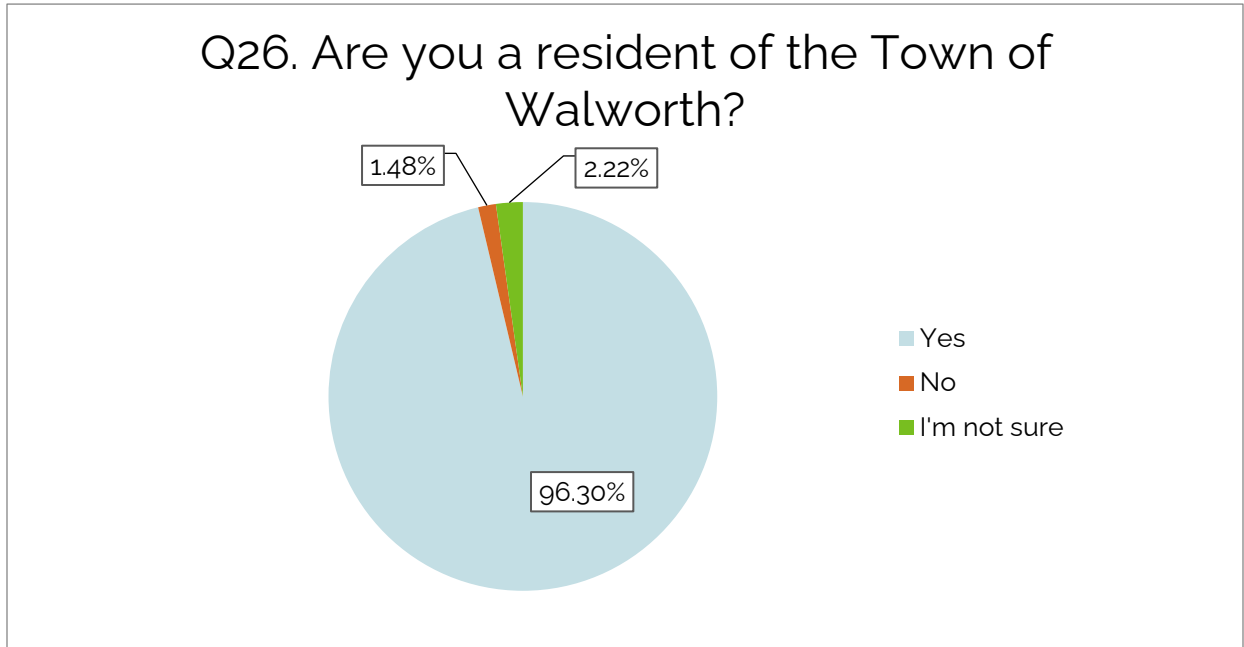
Q25. Do you have any additional comments regarding solar energy development? Select responses below.

	
<i>The more, the better</i>	<i>They are a blight on rural NY</i>
<i>I love seeing the solar that is already installed around Walworth! Let's be a mostly solar powered community!</i>	<i>What is long term effect? How are decommissioned panels recycled? Going all electric is short sighted. Old saying, don't put all your eggs in one basket!</i>
<i>Incentive programs for residents to be more energy efficient.</i>	<i>Do not use farmland for large solar arrays.</i>
<i>All existing town facilities should have roof tops converted to solar panels.</i>	<i>Not a fan - terrible eyesore for the limited energy they produce. Private property solar is fine.</i>
<i>Support for Walworth residence to invest in residential solar panel installation- potential community sharing of the solar resources collected?</i>	<i>Would hate to lose the rural charm of our area by having large expanses of solar fields scattered all over. Don't know if i believe the positive value of these over the environmental impact they present. more honest research needs to be presented .</i>



DEMOGRAPHICS: QUESTIONS 26 - 28

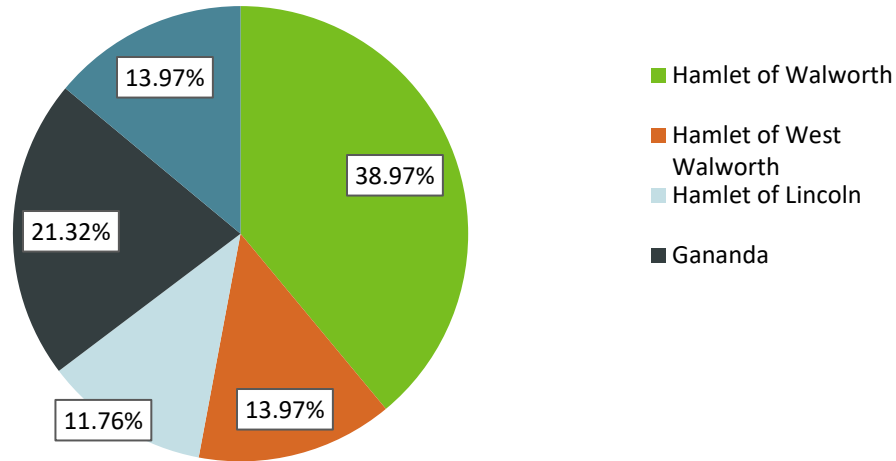
The last major section of the community input survey includes demographic questions to help the Committee understand who responded (and who did not respond) to the survey. The vast majority (96.30%) of respondents were residents of the Town of Walworth.



Respondents skewed older, which is typical of many community input surveys, with almost 37% of respondents within the 65 years and over age category. Less than 9% of respondents were 34 years old or younger.



Q28. Which hamlet or area best describes how you are connected to the Town of Walworth?



The greatest number of respondents (38.97%) state the Hamlet of Walworth is their geographic point of connect with the Town. This was followed by Gananda (21.32%), Hamlet of West Walworth (13.97%), and Hamlet of Lincoln (11.76%).

GENERAL COMMENTS: QUESTIONS 29 & 30

The last substantial question (Question 29) was very broad asking respondents if they had any other project ideas or concerns that should be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. Having his open-ended question at the end of the survey gave respondents the opportunity to provide any additional feedback they either forget to include earlier in the survey or did not fit into any of the previously provided categories. The responses were wide-reaching and are included as an attachment to this document.

The final question (Question 30) asked respondents to include their contact information if they would like to receive updates in the Town's comprehensive plan process. This was an optional question which received 59 responses.