



DELAWARE CENTER FOR THE
INLAND BAYS
Research. Educate. Restore.

DIRICKSON CREEK SURVEY RESULTS

Thursday, October 6,
2015

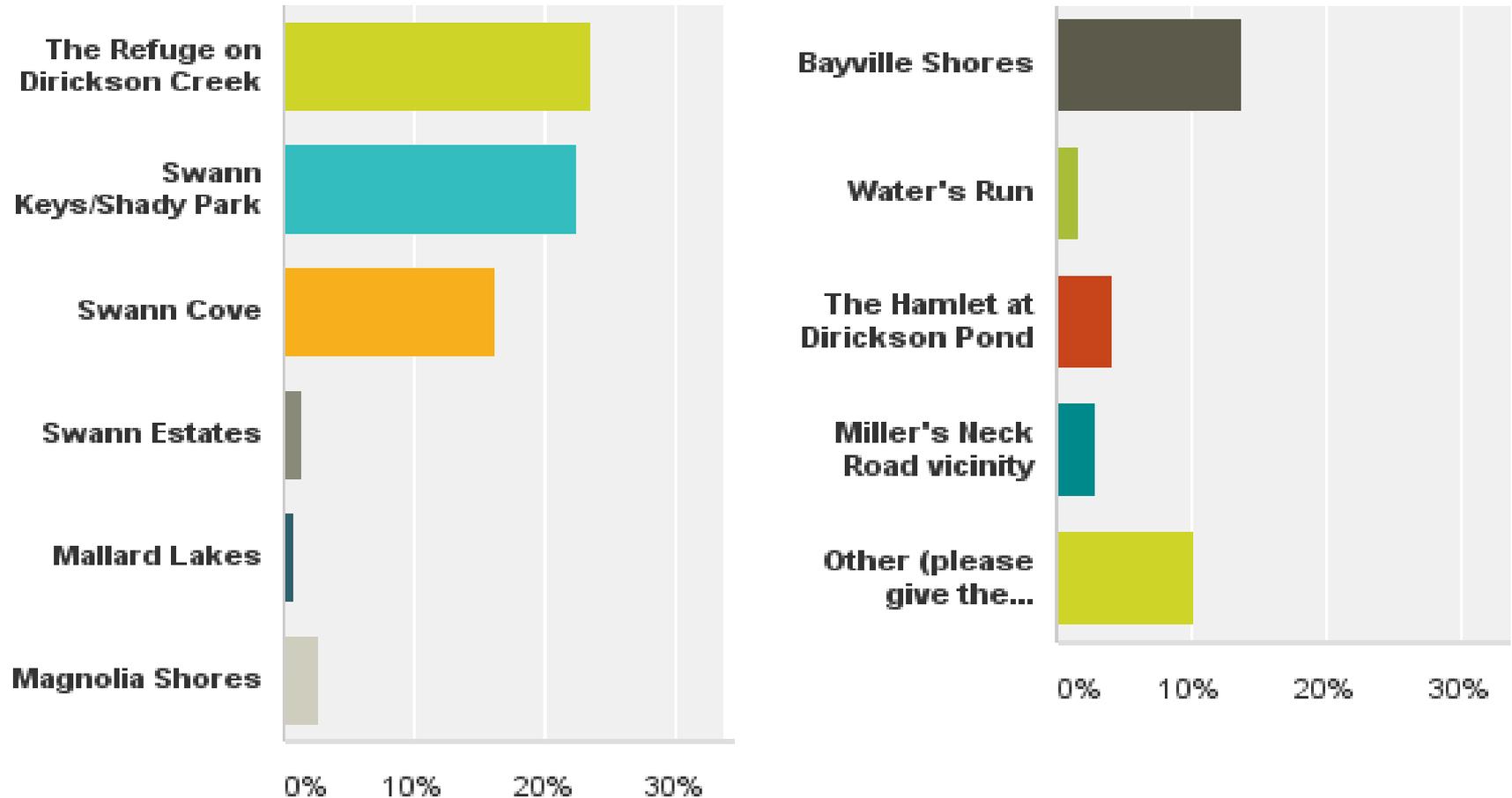
372

**Total Survey Responses collected
between April and September 30th
2015**



Q1: Which community or neighborhood do you live in or near?

Answered: 364 Skipped: 8



Over half of respondents are residents of The Refuge on Dirickson Creek, Swan Keys/ Shady Park or Swann Cove

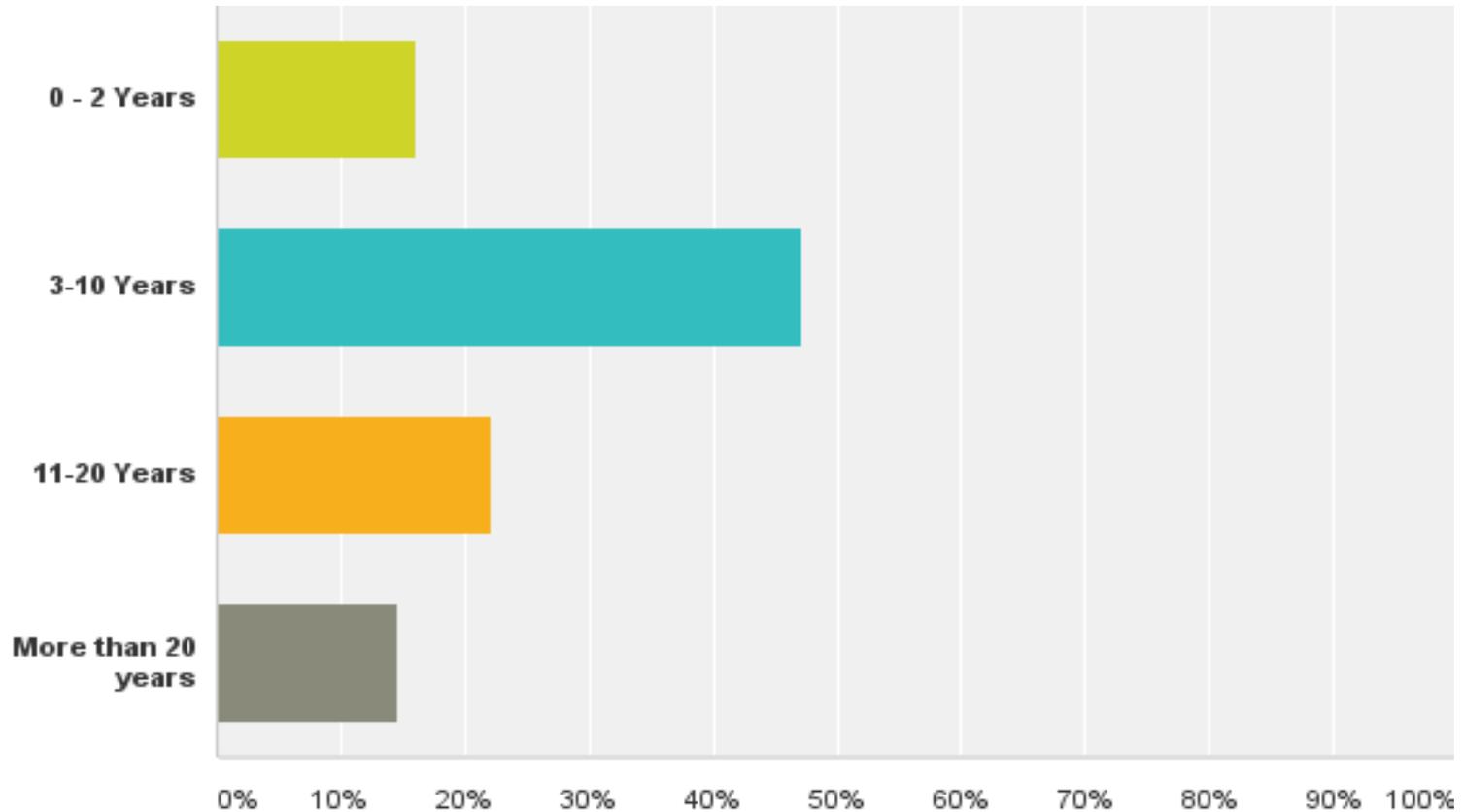
Q1: Which community or neighborhood do you live in or near?

Answered: 364 Skipped: 8

Answer Choices	Responses
The Refuge on Dirickson Creek	23.63% 86
Swann Keys/Shady Park	22.53% 82
Swann Cove	16.21% 59
Swann Estates	1.37% 5
Mallard Lakes	0.82% 3
Magnolia Shores	2.75% 10
Bayville Shores	13.74% 50
Water's Run	1.65% 6
The Hamlet at Dirickson Pond	4.12% 15
Miller's Neck Road vicinity	3.02% 11
Other (please give the nearest crossroad or intersection to your home in the box below)	10.16% 37
Total	364

Q2: About how long have you lived or owned property in the Dirickson Creek area?

Answered: 371 Skipped: 1



Nearly half of respondents have lived or owned property in the area for 3-10 years.

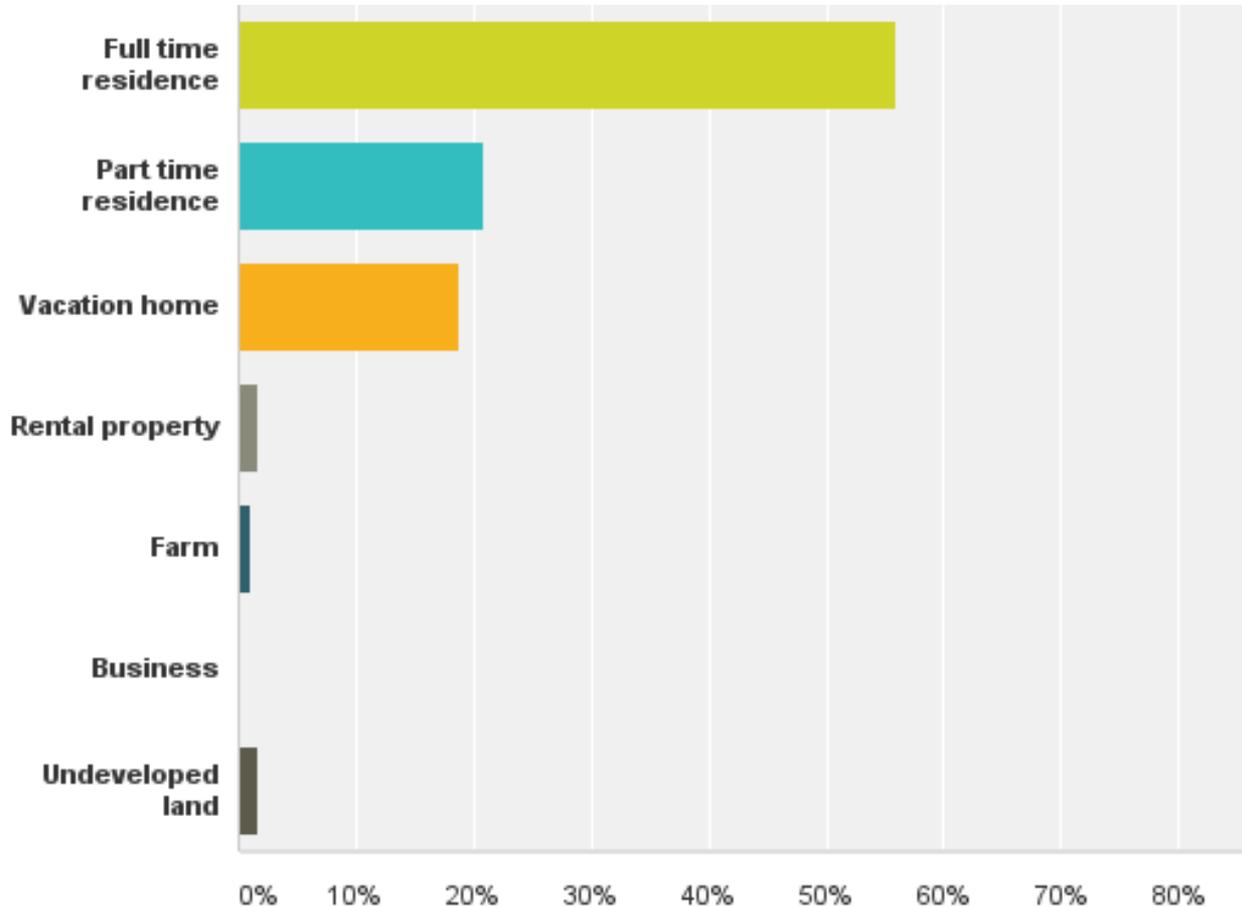
Q2: About how long have you lived or owned property in the Dirickson Creek area?

Answered: 371 Skipped: 1

Answer Choices	Responses
0 - 2 Years	16.17% 60
3-10 Years	47.17% 175
11-20 Years	22.10% 82
More than 20 years	14.56% 54
Total	371

Q3: How is your property used? Check all that apply.

Answered: 368 Skipped: 4



More than half of respondents are **full time residents**.

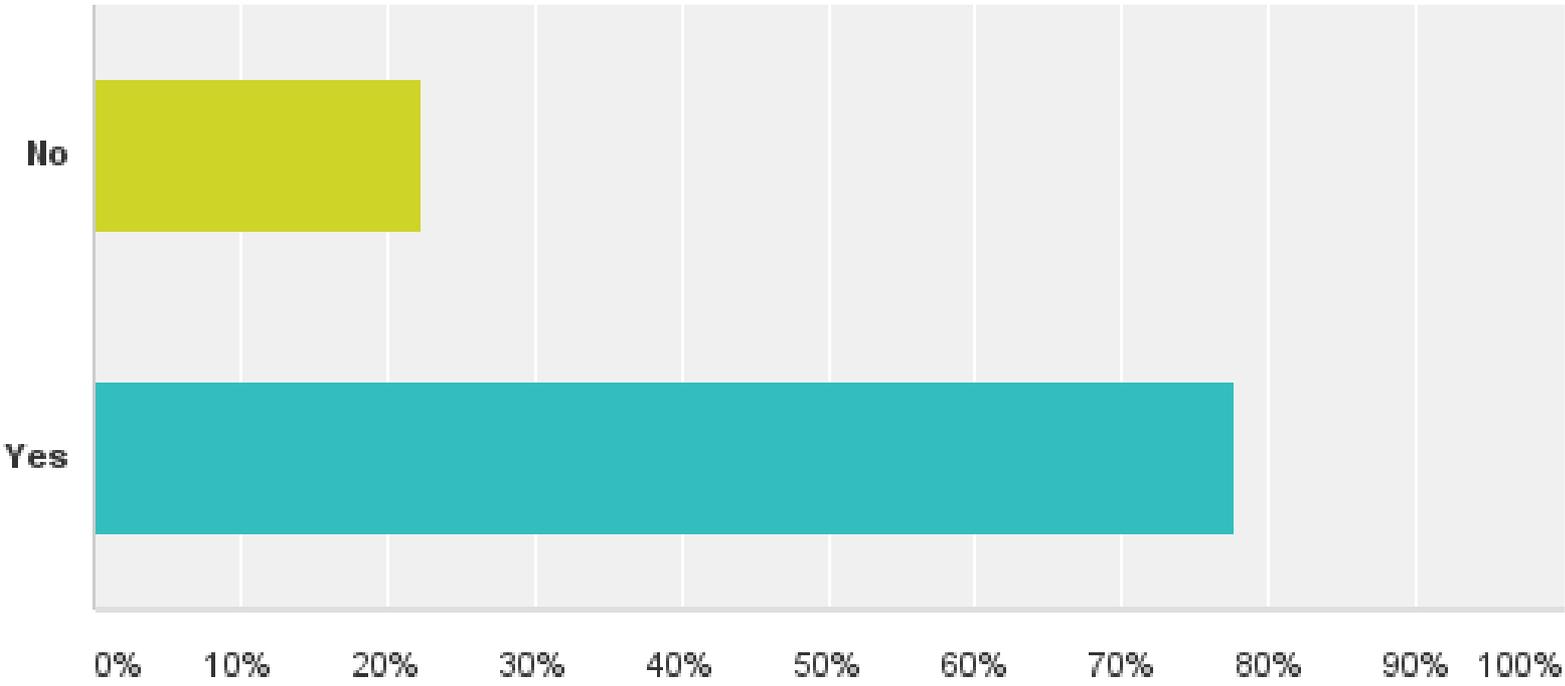
Q3: How is your property used? Check all that apply.

Answered: 368 Skipped: 4

Answer Choices	Responses
Full time residence	55.98% 206
Part time residence	20.92% 77
Vacation home	18.75% 69
Rental property	1.63% 6
Farm	1.09% 4
Business	0.00% 0
Undeveloped land	1.63% 6
Total	368

Q4: Do you use Dirickson Creek for recreation? If yes, answer question 5.

Answered: 368 Skipped: 4



78% of respondents use Dirickson Creek for recreation.

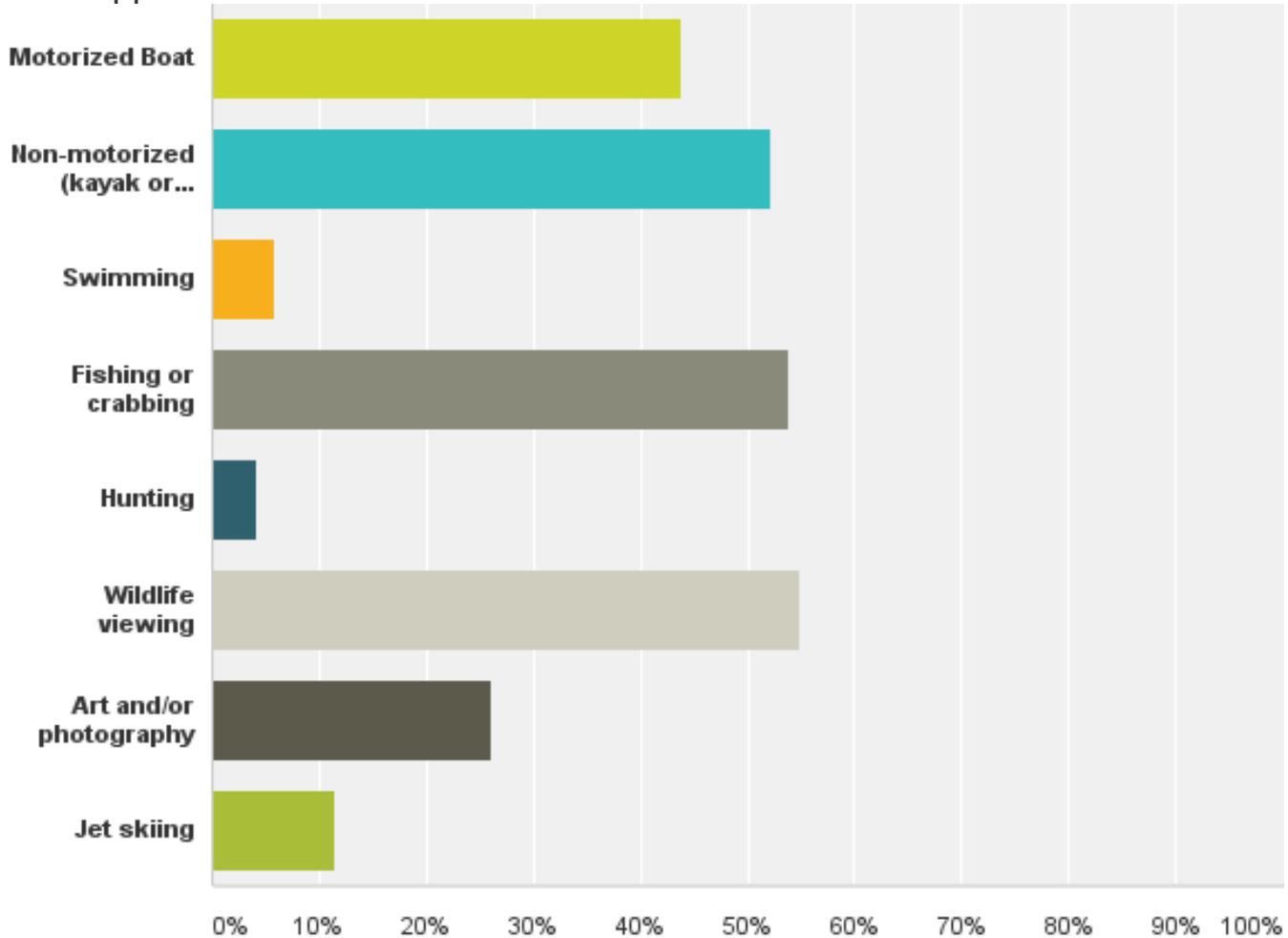
Q4: Do you use Dirickson Creek for recreation? If yes, answer question 5.

Answered: 368 Skipped: 4

Answer Choices	Responses	
No	22.28%	82
Yes	77.72%	286
Total	368	

Q5: How do you use Dirickson Creek? Check all applicable answers.

Answered: 306 Skipped: 66



Boating, fishing/crabbing and wildlife viewing are the top uses of the creek by respondents

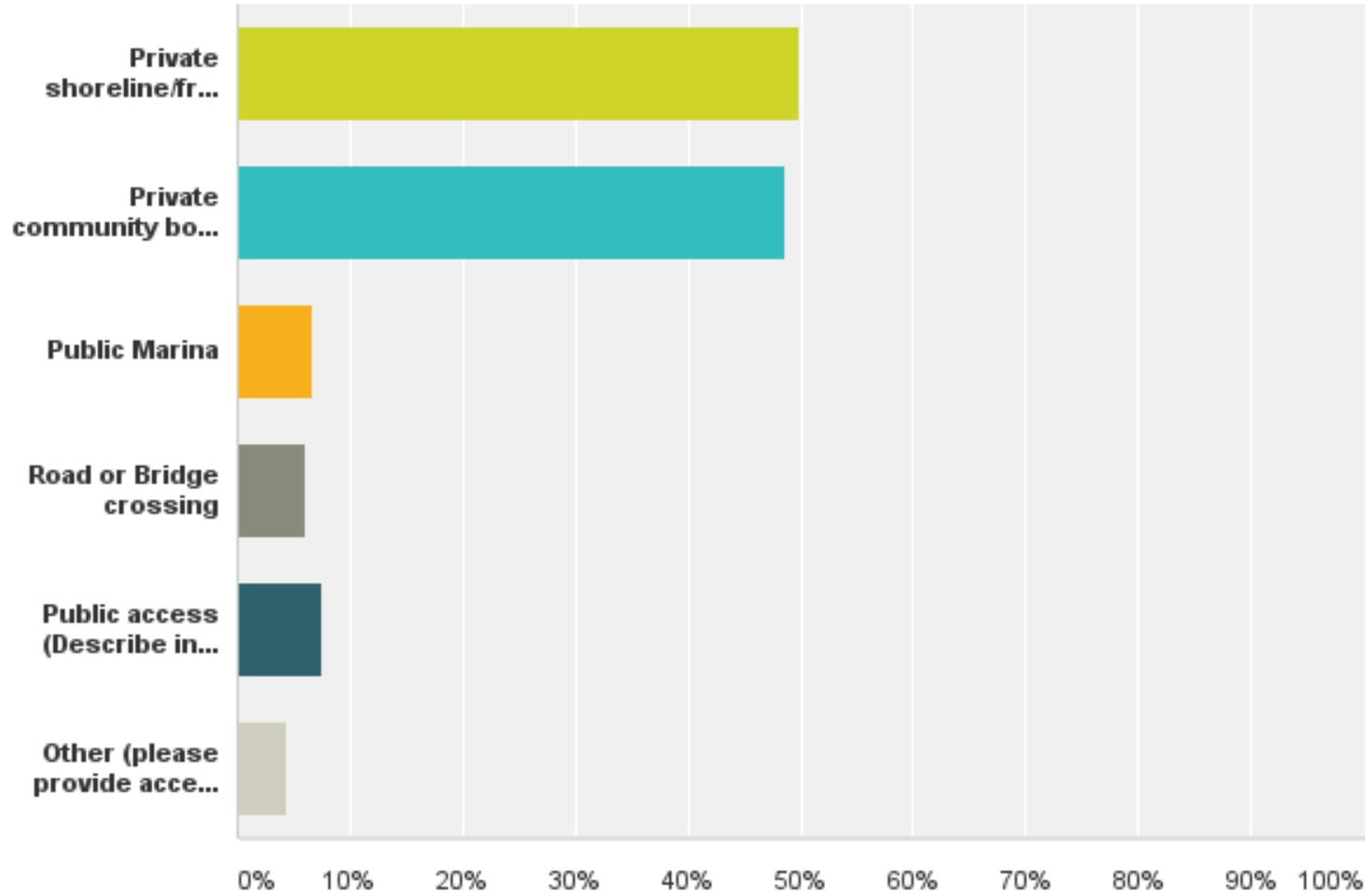
Q5: How do you use Dirickson Creek? Check all applicable answers.

Answered: 306 Skipped: 66

Answer Choices	Responses
Motorized Boat	43.79% 134
Non-motorized (kayak or canoe)	52.29% 160
Swimming	5.88% 18
Fishing or crabbing	53.92% 165
Hunting	4.25% 13
Wildlife viewing	54.90% 168
Art and/or photography	26.14% 80
Jet skiing	11.44% 35
Total Respondents: 306	

Q6: If you use Dirickson Creek for recreation, how do you get on to, or access the creek? Check all applicable answers.

Answered: 296 Skipped: 76



Half of respondents access the creek from private shorelines or private community access.

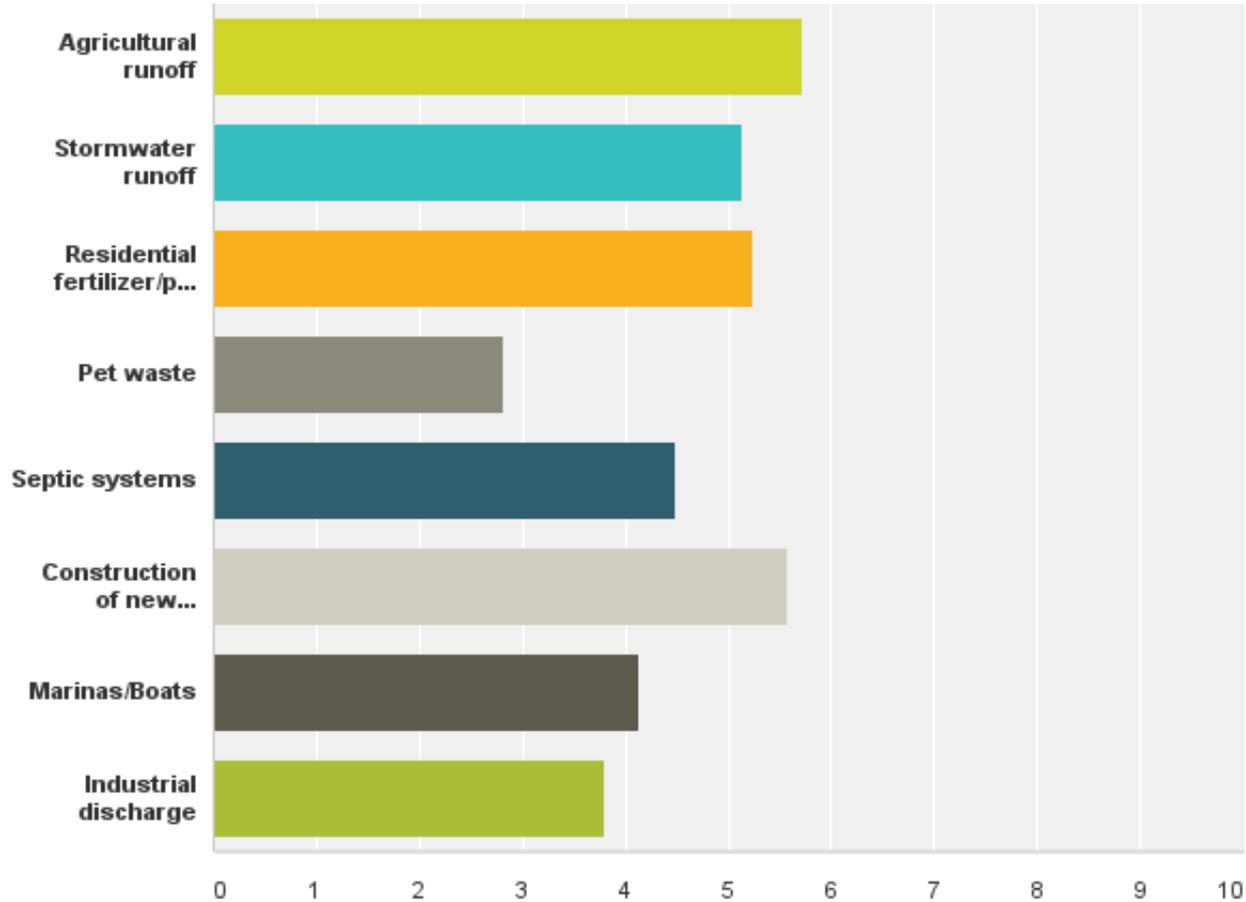
Q6: If you use Dirickson Creek for recreation, how do you get on to, or access the creek? Check all applicable answers.

Answered: 296 Skipped: 76

Answer Choices	Responses	
Private shoreline/frontage or dock	50.00%	148
Private community boat ramp or dock	48.65%	144
Public Marina	6.76%	20
Road or Bridge crossing	6.08%	18
Public access (Describe in box below)	7.43%	22
Other (please provide access location in the box below)	4.39%	13
Total Respondents: 296		

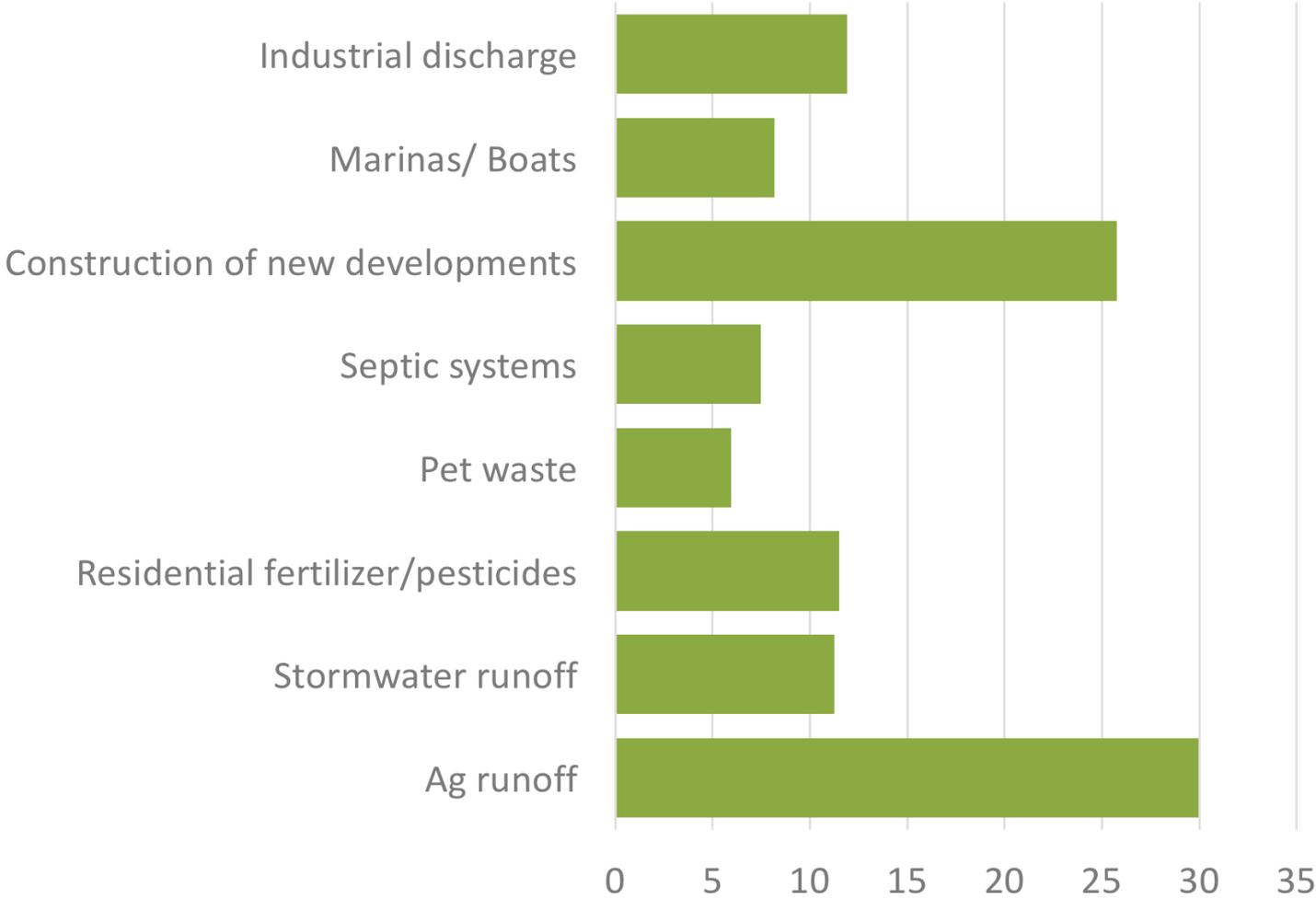
**Q7: What do you think are the biggest threats or sources of pollution to Dirickson Creek?
Rank from 1 to 8 with 1 being the biggest threat and 8 being the least.**

Answered: 340 Skipped: 32



Respondents rate agricultural, residential and stormwater runoff and construction of new developments as biggest sources of pollution to the creek

Respondents reported #1 as biggest threat to pollution



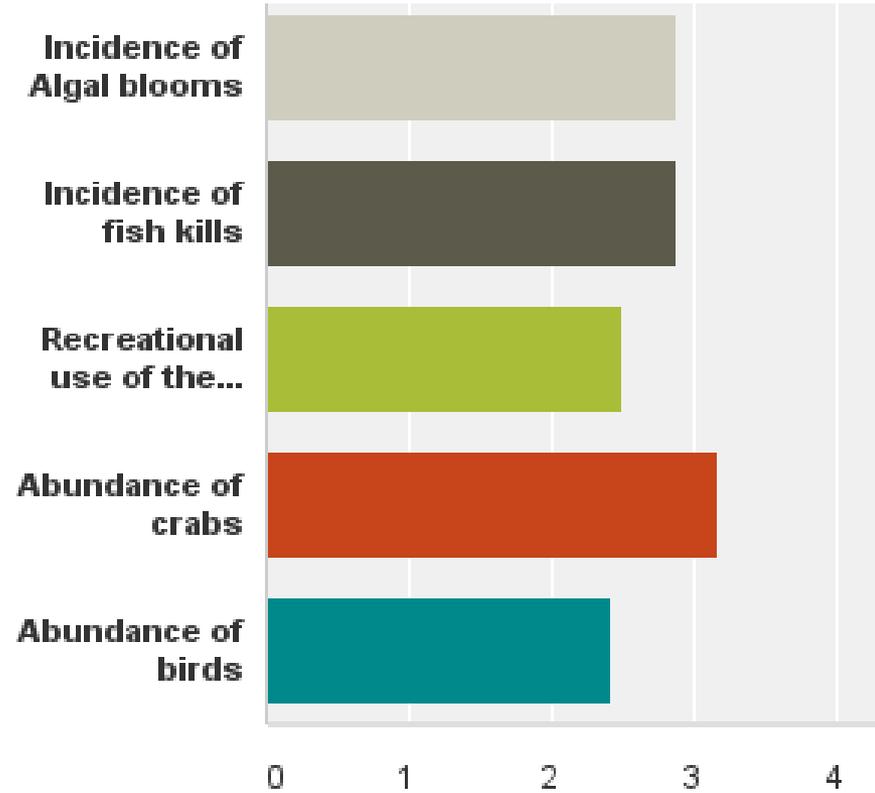
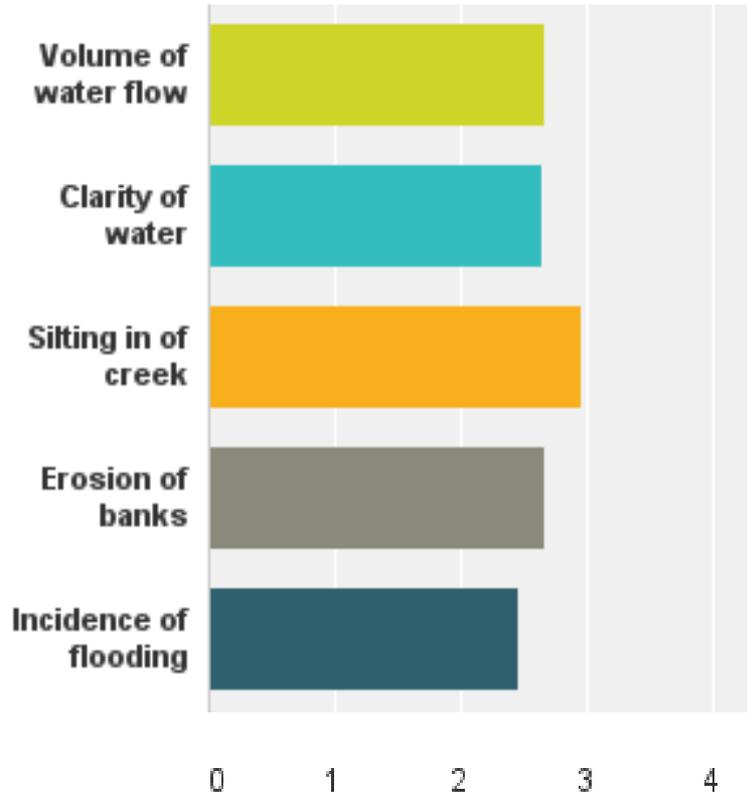
Q7: What do you think are the biggest threats or sources of pollution to Dirickson Creek? Rank from 1 to 8 with 1 being the biggest threat and 8 being the least.

Answered: 340 Skipped: 32

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Score
Agricultural runoff	29.96% 83	16.97% 47	13.36% 37	10.47% 29	10.47% 29	6.86% 19	7.22% 20	4.69% 13	277	5.73
Stormwater runoff	11.24% 30	21.72% 58	16.85% 45	13.48% 36	12.36% 33	9.74% 26	8.99% 24	5.62% 15	267	5.13
Residential fertilizer/pesticides	11.51% 32	19.42% 54	17.27% 48	19.06% 53	12.23% 34	10.79% 30	7.19% 20	2.52% 7	278	5.25
Pet waste	5.97% 16	4.85% 13	6.34% 17	5.60% 15	5.97% 16	10.07% 27	19.40% 52	41.79% 112	268	2.82
Septic systems	7.46% 20	10.45% 28	15.30% 41	12.69% 34	20.15% 54	17.91% 48	10.07% 27	5.97% 16	268	4.49
Construction of new developments	25.77% 75	13.40% 39	12.37% 36	16.84% 49	14.09% 41	10.31% 30	4.81% 14	2.41% 7	291	5.58
Marinas/Boats	8.19% 24	9.22% 27	11.60% 34	10.58% 31	15.70% 46	17.75% 52	18.09% 53	8.87% 26	293	4.14
Industrial discharge	11.90% 35	9.18% 27	8.50% 25	10.20% 30	7.48% 22	10.54% 31	15.31% 45	26.87% 79	294	3.81

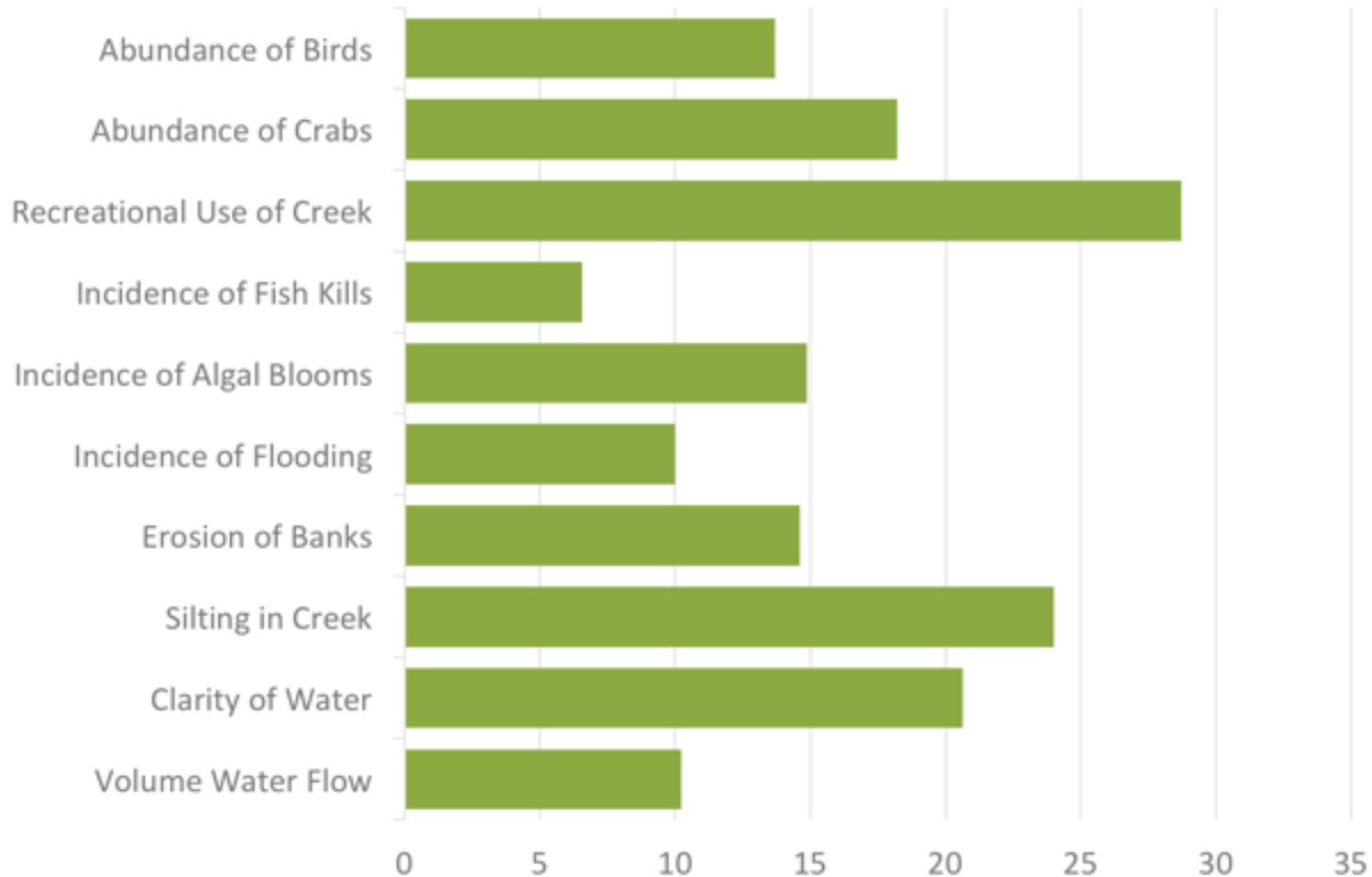
Q8: Have you seen changes in Dirickson Creek?

Answered: 369 Skipped: 3



The most reported changes in Dirickson Creek include **abundance of crabs, silting, and incidence of algal blooms and fish kills** with other issues not far behind.

Q 8 Respondents reported 'A lot of change'



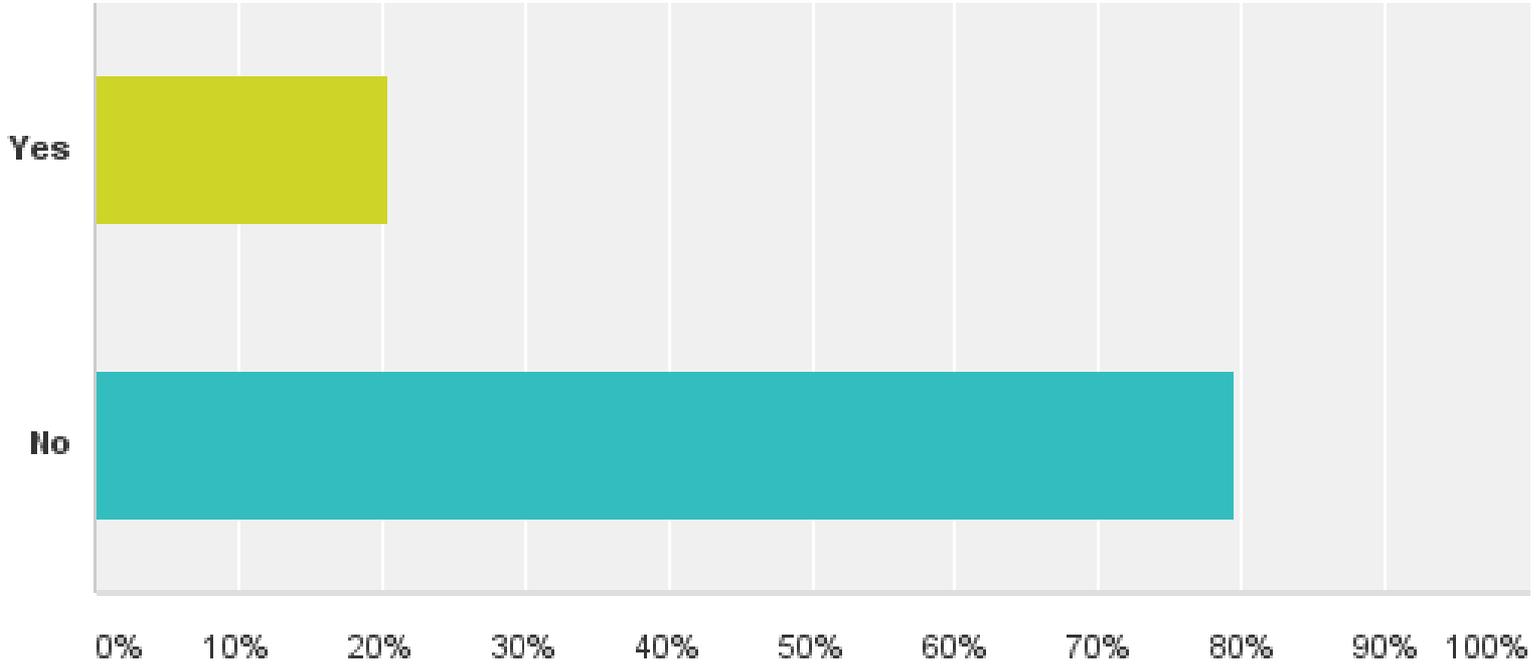
Q8: Have you seen changes in Dirickson Creek?

Answered: 369 Skipped: 3

	No change	Some change	A lot of change	Not something I would be aware of	Don't know	Total	Weighted Average
Volume of water flow	28.18% 102	27.35% 99	10.22% 37	17.13% 62	17.13% 62	362	2.68
Clarity of water	24.86% 88	27.40% 97	20.62% 73	10.73% 38	16.38% 58	354	2.66
Silting in of creek	16.20% 58	25.14% 90	24.02% 86	15.36% 55	19.27% 69	358	2.96
Erosion of banks	23.03% 82	33.43% 119	14.61% 52	11.52% 41	17.42% 62	356	2.67
Incidence of flooding	37.43% 131	24.57% 86	10.00% 35	9.43% 33	18.57% 65	350	2.47
Incidence of Algal blooms	24.86% 87	23.14% 81	14.86% 52	13.14% 46	24.00% 84	350	2.88
Incidence of fish kills	37.61% 132	10.54% 37	6.55% 23	15.95% 56	29.34% 103	351	2.89
Recreational use of the Creek	21.69% 77	33.24% 118	28.73% 102	4.79% 17	11.55% 41	355	2.51
Abundance of crabs	17.92% 62	19.65% 68	18.21% 63	15.32% 53	28.90% 100	346	3.18
Abundance of birds	36.86% 129	25.14% 88	13.71% 48	8.00% 28	16.29% 57	350	2.42

Q9: Do you have a private well at your home that is your primary source of water?

Answered: 365 Skipped: 7



20% of survey participants have a private well.

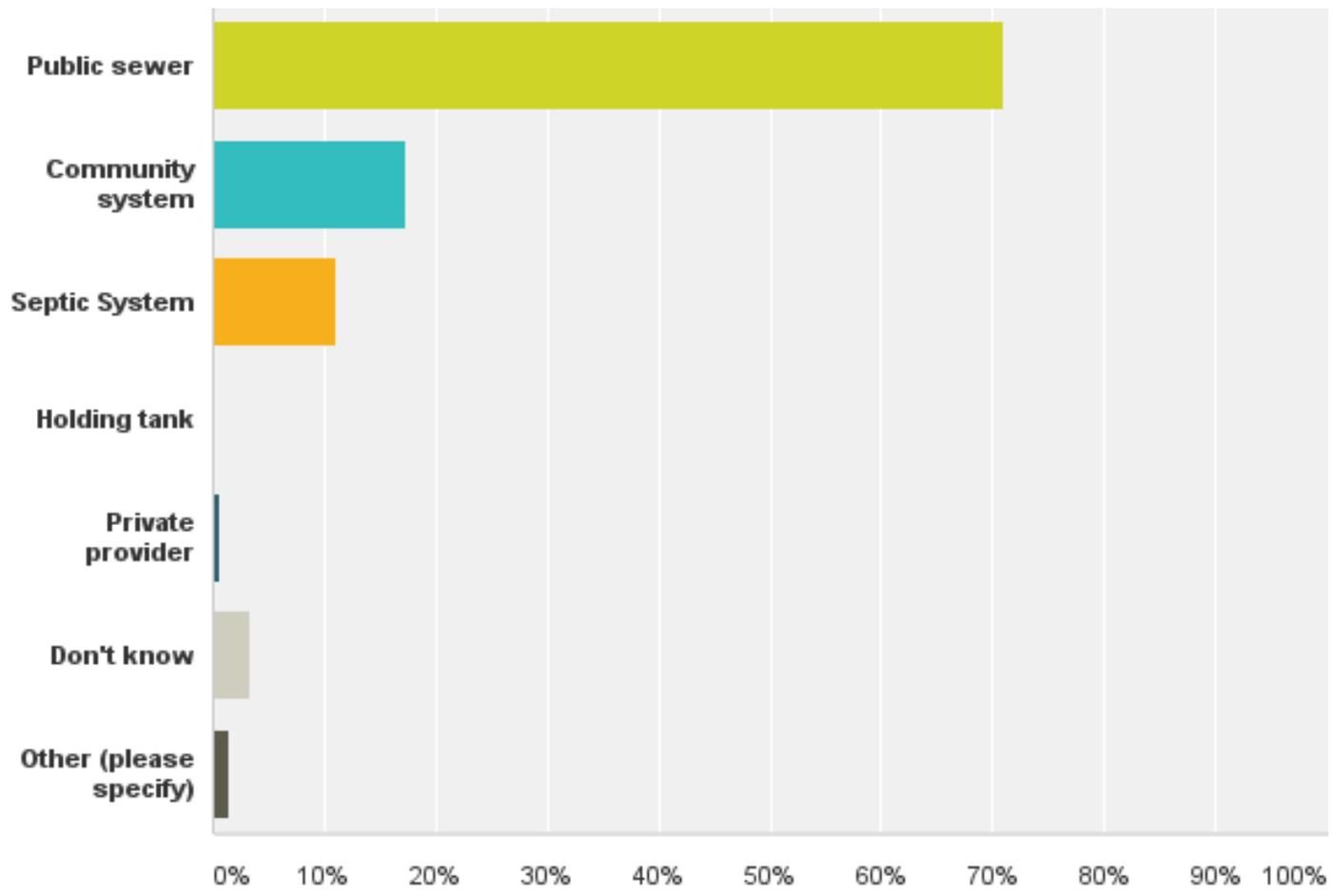
Q9: Do you have a private well at your home that is your primary source of water?

Answered: 365 Skipped: 7

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	20.55% 75
No	79.45% 290
Total	365

Q10: What kind of waste water treatment system do you have?

Answered: 368 Skipped: 4



71% of respondent's homes have public sewer whereas only 11% have a septic system.

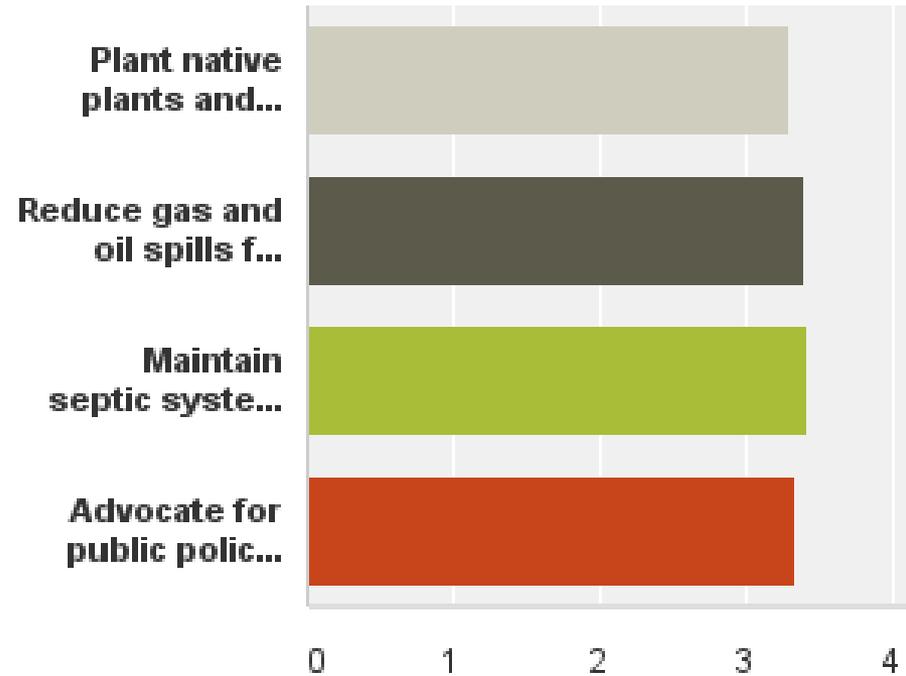
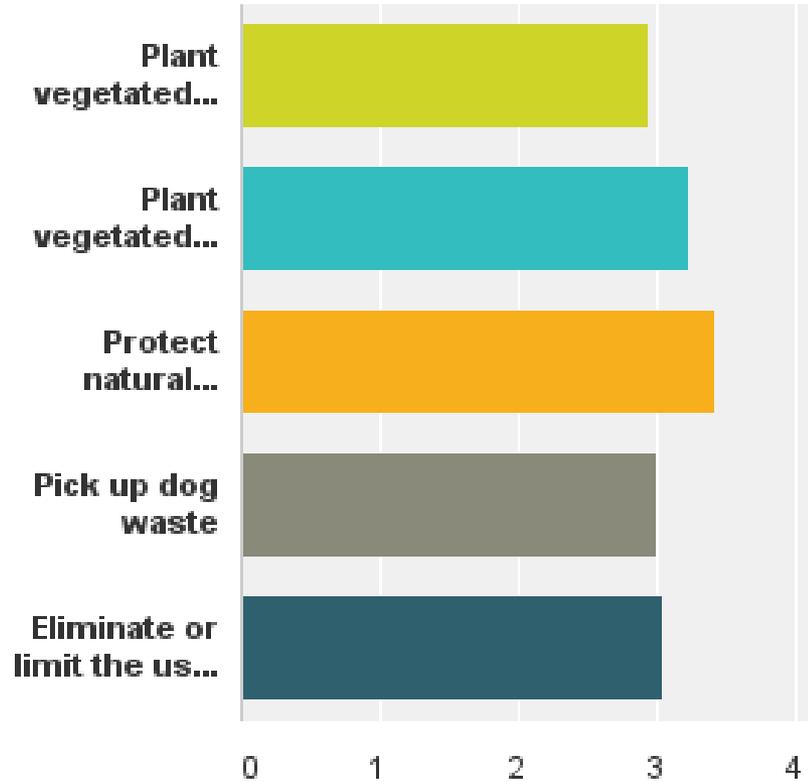
Q10: What kind of waste water treatment system do you have?

Answered: 368 Skipped: 4

Answer Choices	Responses
Public sewer	70.92% 261
Community system	17.39% 64
Septic System	11.14% 41
Holding tank	0.27% 1
Private provider	0.54% 2
Don't know	3.26% 12
Other (please specify)	1.36% 5
Total Respondents: 368	

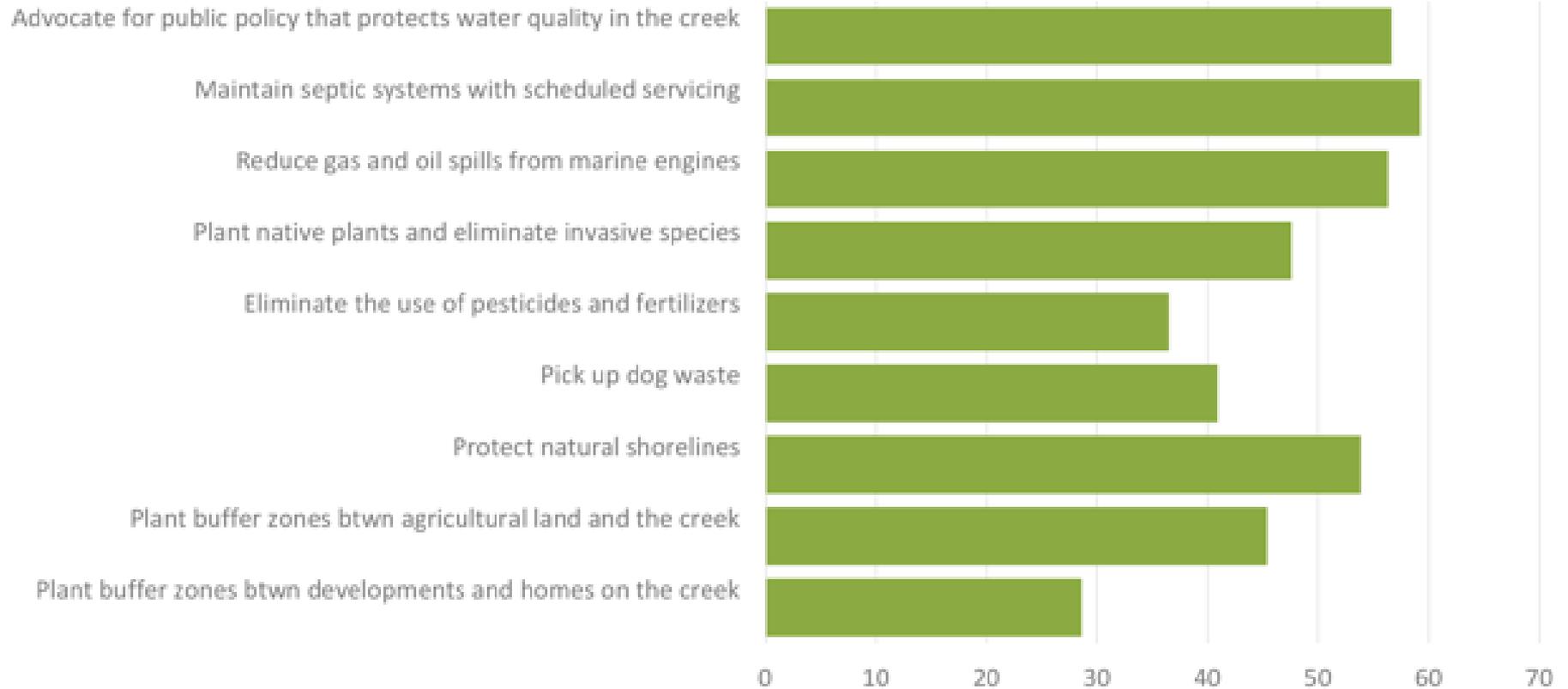
Q11: What do you think are the most important steps that people who live in the Dirickson Creek watershed can do to improve water quality in the creek?

Answered: 353 Skipped: 19



Recommended steps for improvement are weighted very evenly

Respondents reported 'Very important' in terms of most important steps people can take



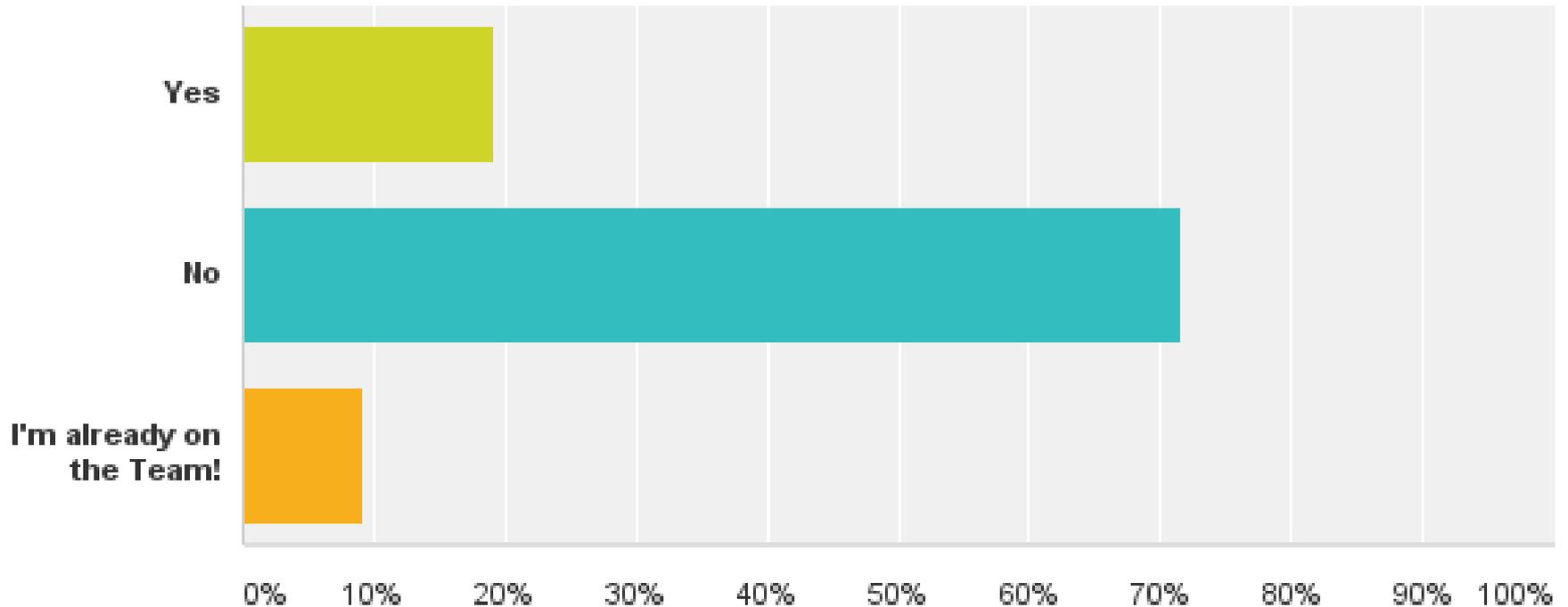
Q11: What do you think are the most important steps that people who live in the Dirickson Creek watershed can do to improve water quality in the creek?

Answered: 353 Skipped: 19

	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Very important	Total	Weighted Average
Plant vegetated buffer zones between housing developments and homes and the creek	5.90% 20	22.42% 76	43.07% 146	28.61% 97	339	2.94
Plant vegetated buffer zones between agricultural land and the creek	3.20% 11	14.83% 51	36.63% 126	45.35% 156	344	3.24
Protect natural shorelines	1.48% 5	7.99% 27	36.69% 124	53.85% 182	338	3.43
Pick up dog waste	10.37% 36	18.73% 65	29.97% 104	40.92% 142	347	3.01
Eliminate or limit the use of pesticides and fertilizers	3.77% 13	24.64% 85	35.07% 121	36.52% 126	345	3.04
Plant native plants and eliminate invasive species	3.75% 13	11.53% 40	37.18% 129	47.55% 165	347	3.29
Reduce gas and oil spills from marine engines	2.59% 9	10.92% 38	30.17% 105	56.32% 196	348	3.40
Maintain septic systems with scheduled servicing	3.47% 12	9.54% 33	27.75% 96	59.25% 205	346	3.43
Advocate for public policy that protects water quality in the creek	5.17% 18	11.49% 40	26.72% 93	56.61% 197	348	3.35

Q13: Would you like to work with the Dirickson Creek Team and the Center for Inland Bays to protect and restore water quality in the creek?

Answered: 345 Skipped: 27



66 participants of this survey would like to assist the cause to protect Dirickson Creek. 32 are already on the Dirickson Creek Team! Could increase the size of the Team by 2/3

Q13: Would you like to work with the Dirickson Creek Team and the Center for Inland Bays to protect and restore water quality in the creek?

Answered: 345 Skipped: 27

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	19.13% 66
No	71.59% 247
I'm already on the Team!	9.28% 32
Total	345

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Visit us online at www.inlandbays.org to learn more.



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