Forward 2040 Survey Results

Survey was open from June – September 2016

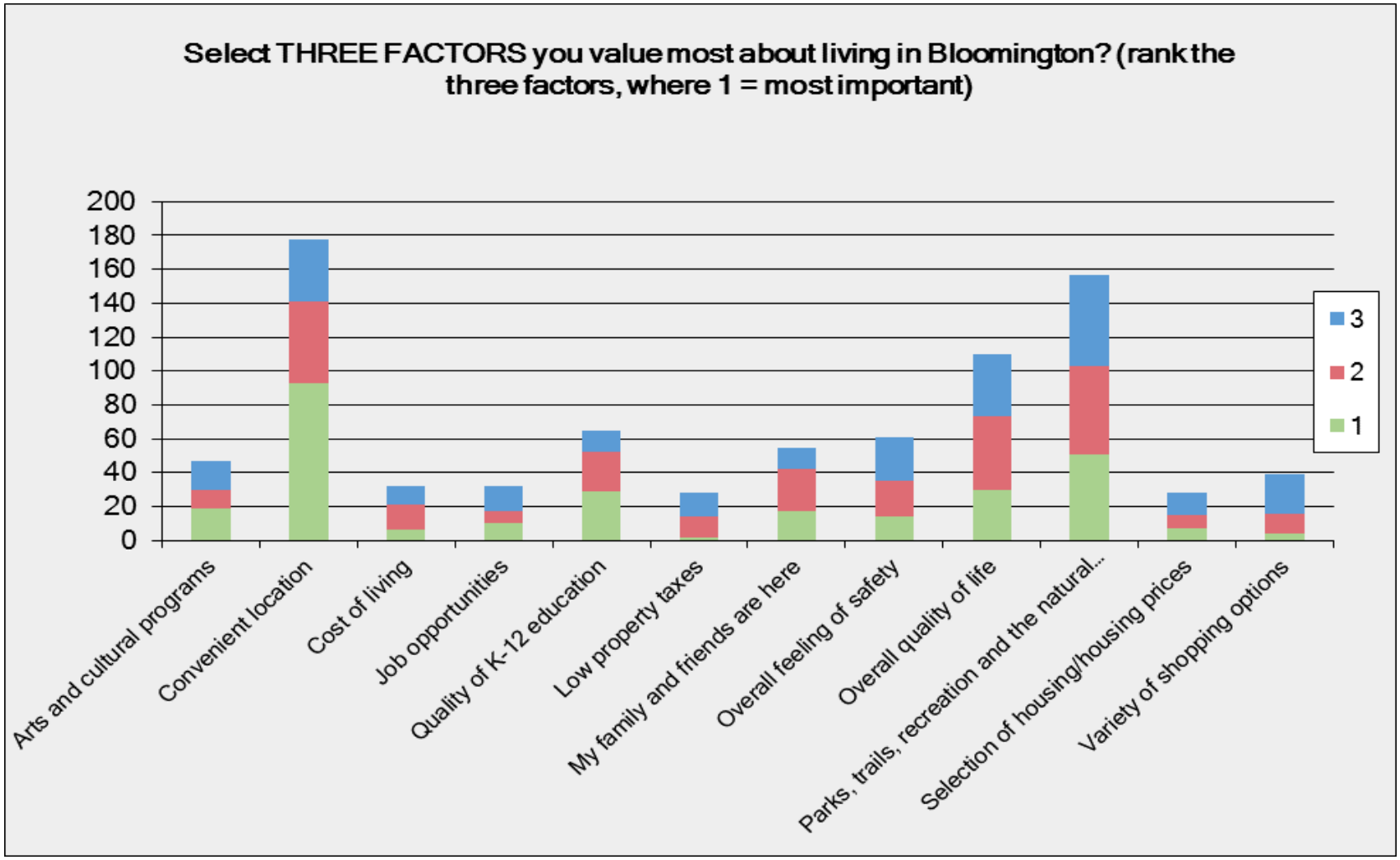
Question 1: (100% answered)

Q1 What is unique about Bloomington?

Answered: 287 Skipped: 0

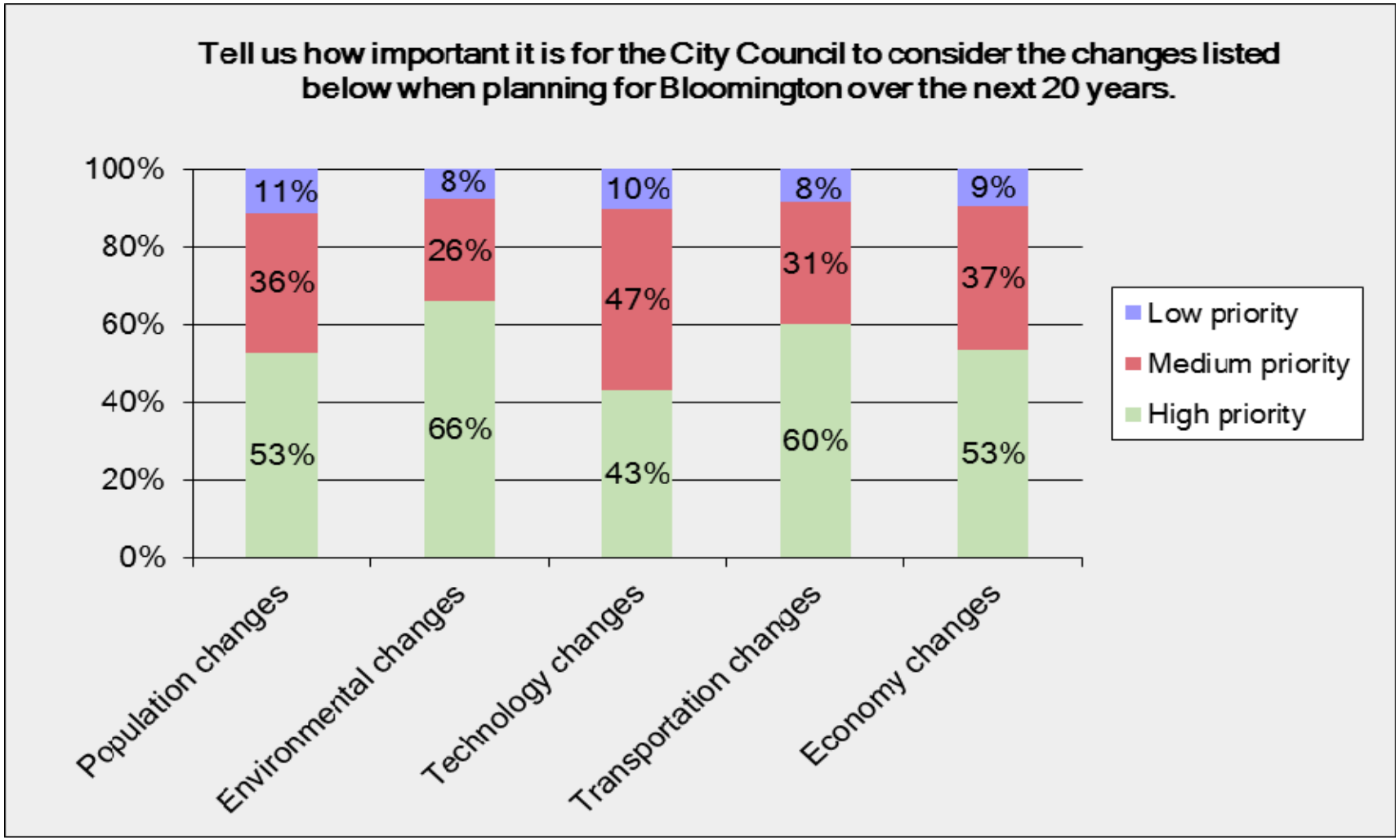
Question 2 (97.2%): **List three places in Bloomington you regularly visit for fun?**

Question 3 (100% answered):

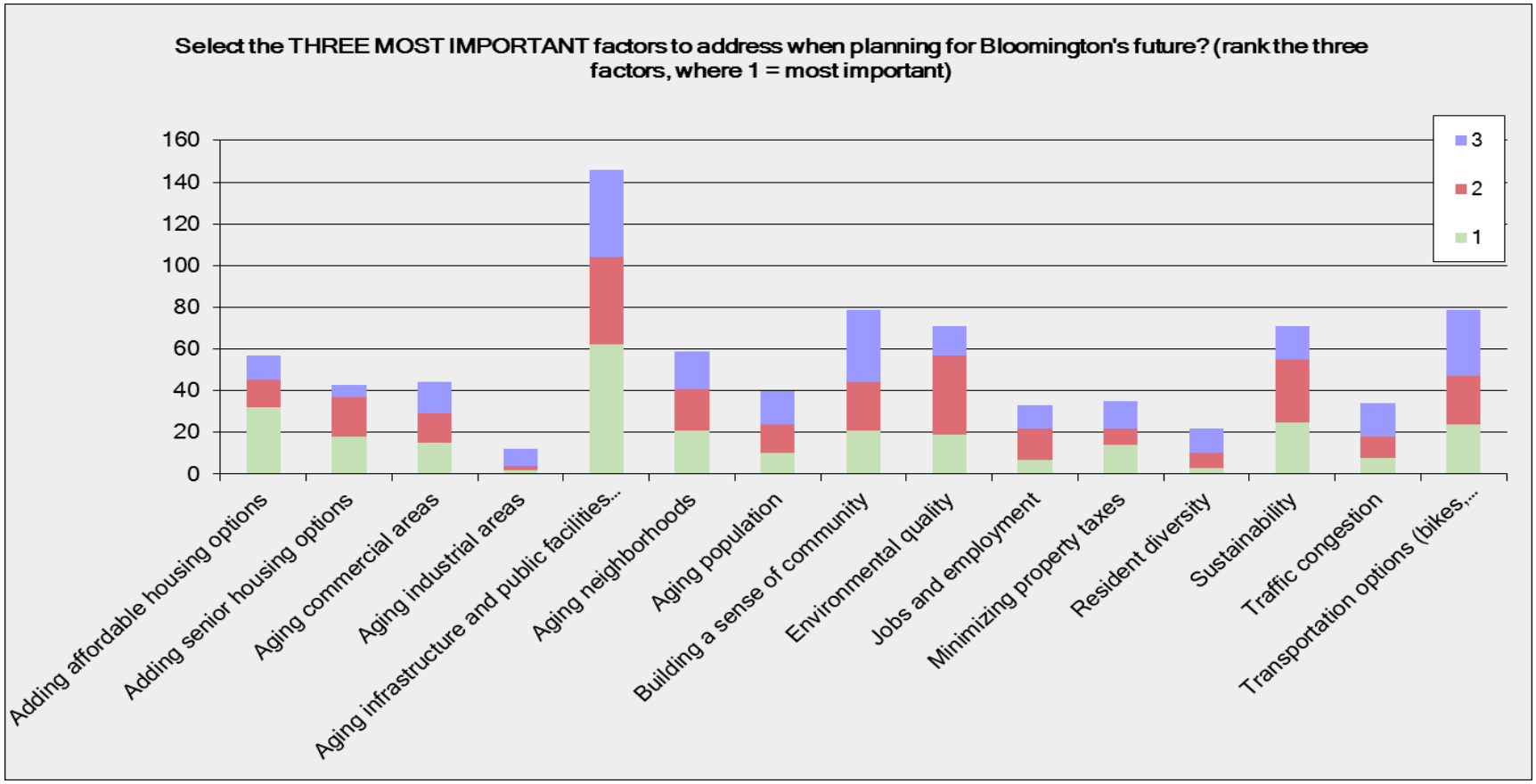


Other factors listed: close to Dakota County, great police department, quality of leadership, many reasons I love living in Bloomington, farmers market, large yard, parks, trails, love the city but within minutes we are immersed in nature, love that we live near every convenience but can be secluded in nature within minutes, love all the discount stores available in area, quality of government and services.

Question 4 (99.7% answered):



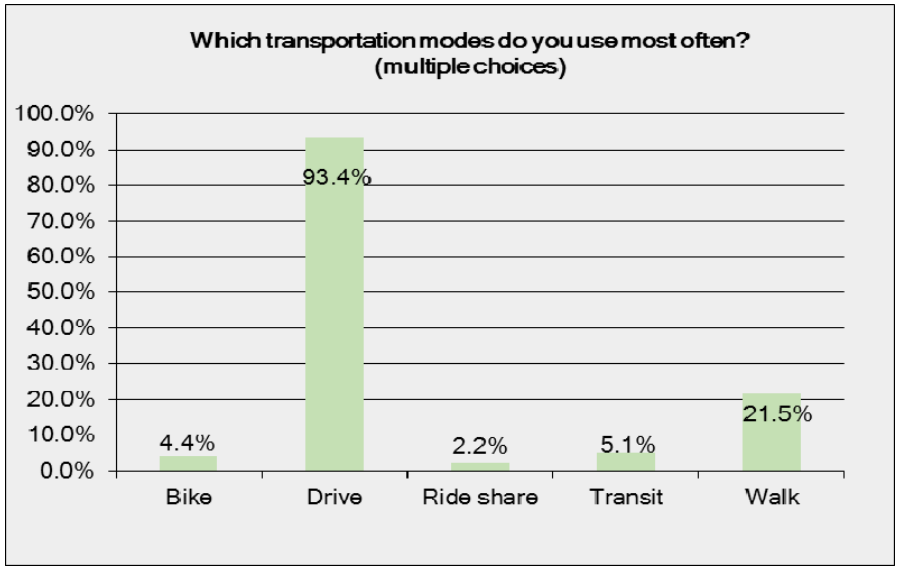
Question 5 (99.0% answered):

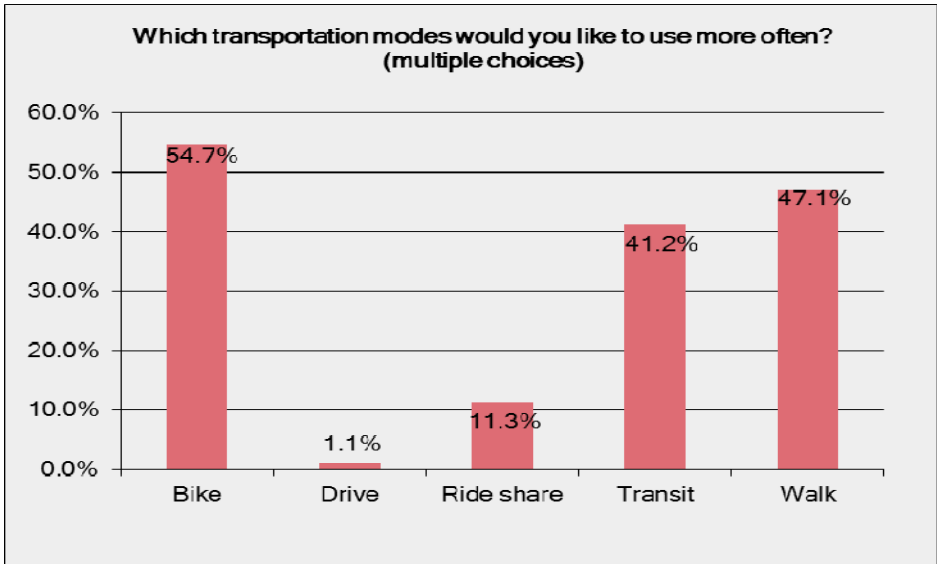


Other factors listed: education/schools (6), aging schools, community center, business environment, safety, unresponsive city council, safe places for teens, more arts and restaurants, less shabby industrial parks, raising housing values comparable to Edina, walkable neighborhoods (2), local shops/restaurants (3), climate change, not keeping pace with other communities, variety of shopping, air bnb lodging and visiting area, everything is aging, ban wood fires, screen garbage cans, no overnight parking on side streets, allow 6-ft fence in front yard, enough resources on bikeways and more on high paying jobs – not service industry, stop buidling new and update old/vacant buildings to code, east side vs. west side disparities, and attract younger families.

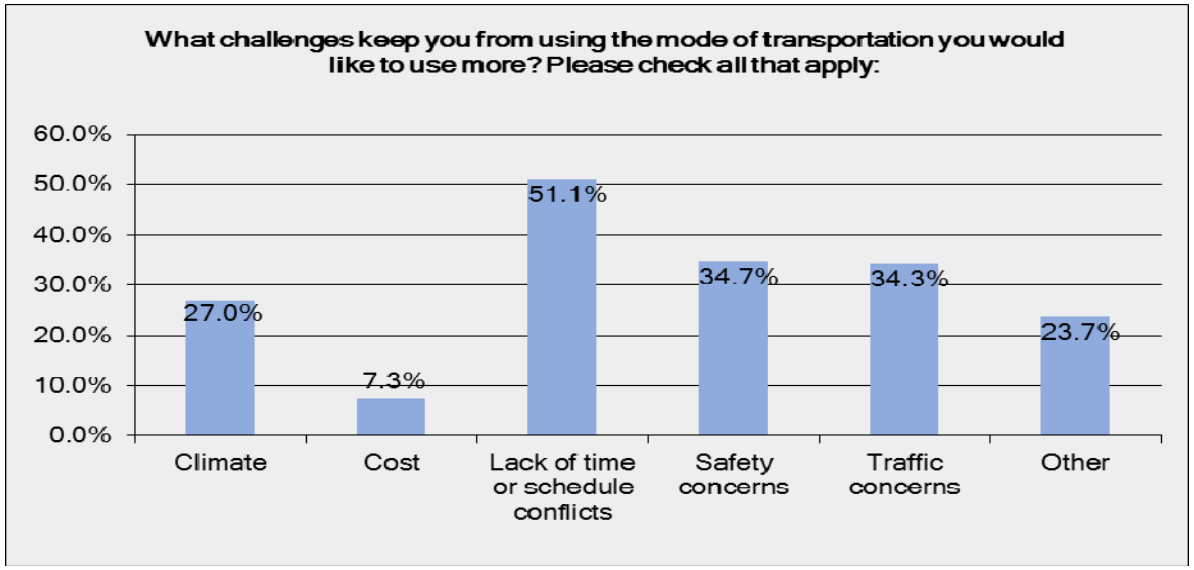
Question 6 (98.5% answered): **What three things would really improve your neighborhood?**

Question 7 (95.5 % answered):

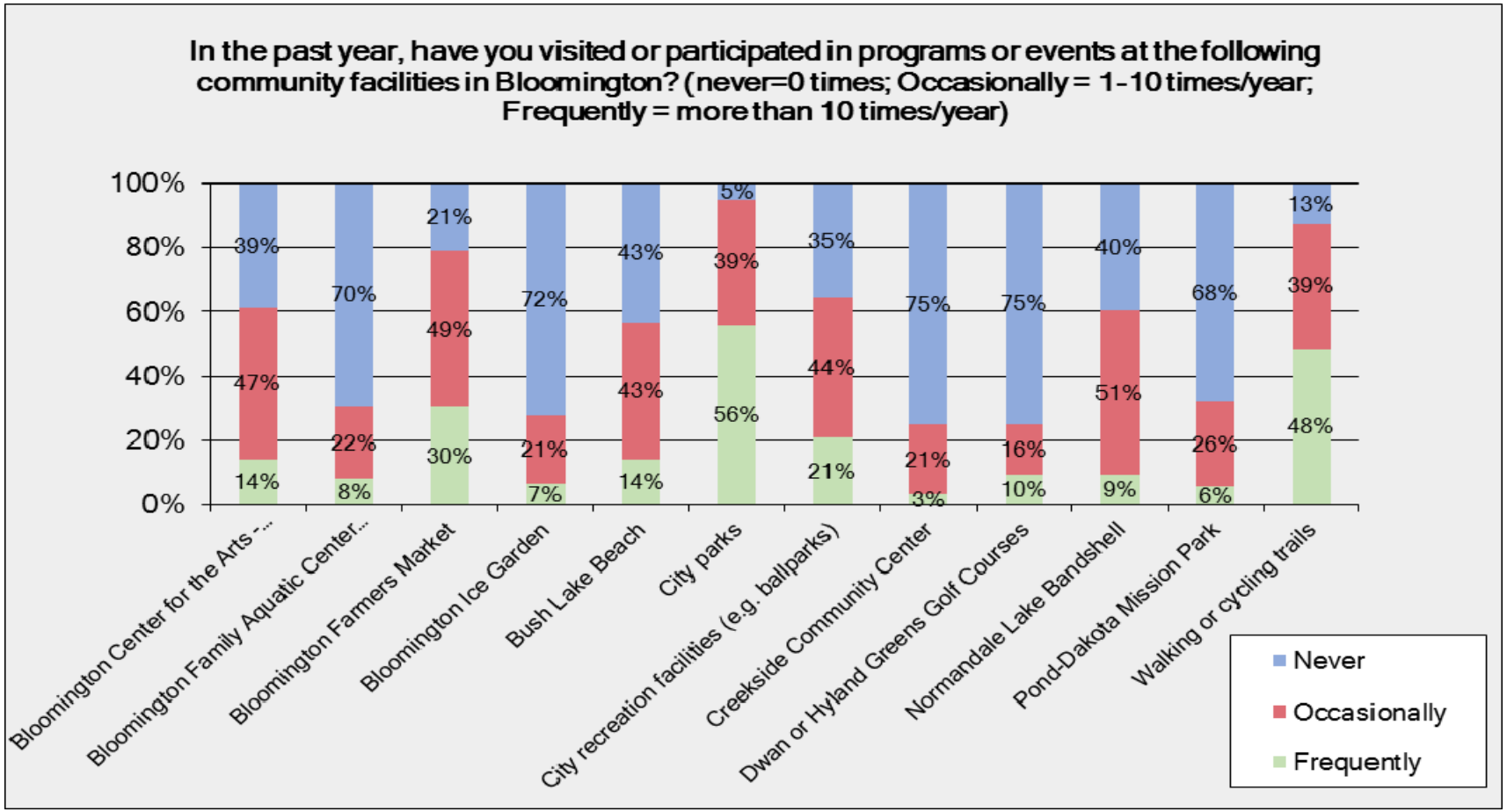




Question 8 (95.5% answered):

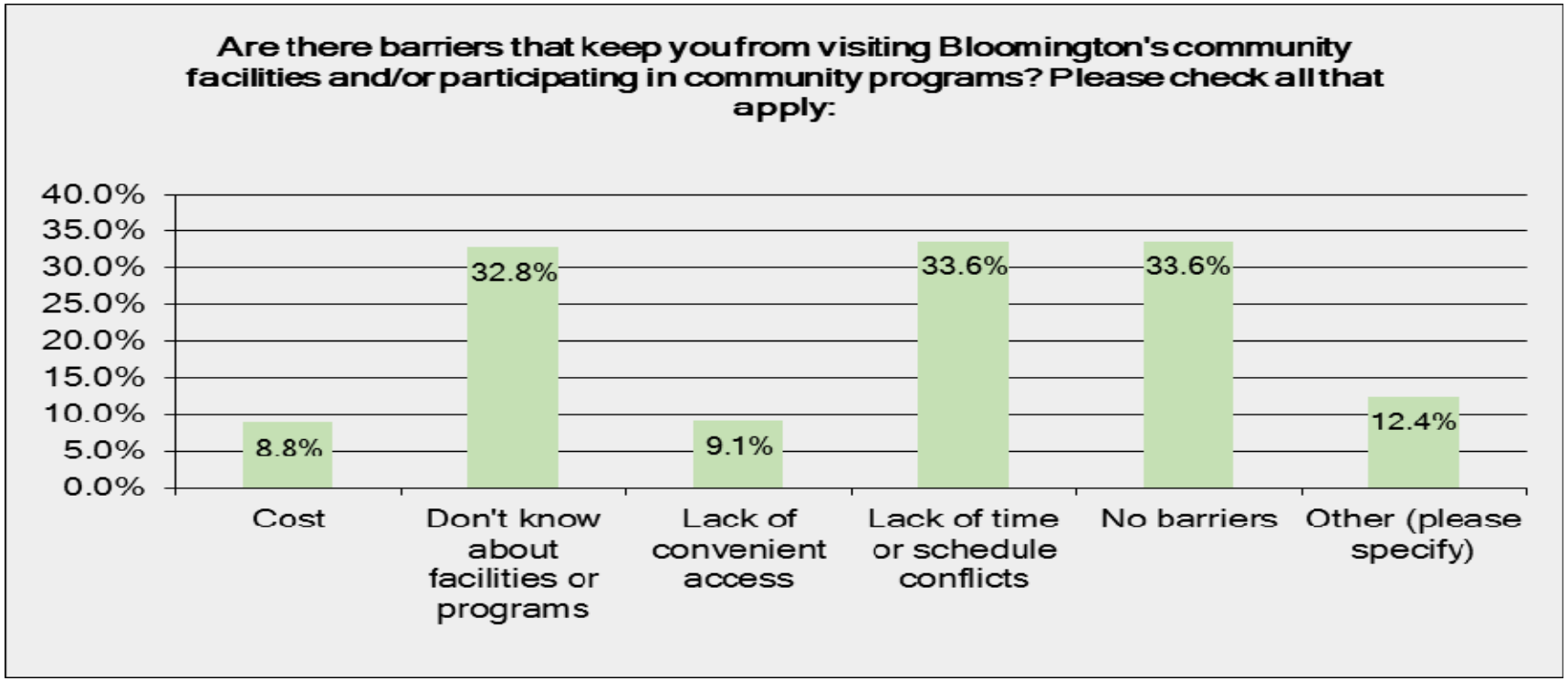


Question 9 (95.5% answered):



Other factors listed: Dog park (4), Richardson Nature Center (2), streets, MN River Valley Refuge (3), parks if kept up, Hyland Hills, Hyland Disc Golf, Normandale Lake Park (2), Kennedy HS activity center, pickle ball, recreation options geared to the 1950's and 60's – get more out of Wildlife Refuge – sell city land to Wildlife Refuge, few cycling trails to frequent – add more, nothing safe to walk to, MOA events (2), isn't Creekside a senior center?, Summer Fete, Heritage Days, St Boni's, car shows,

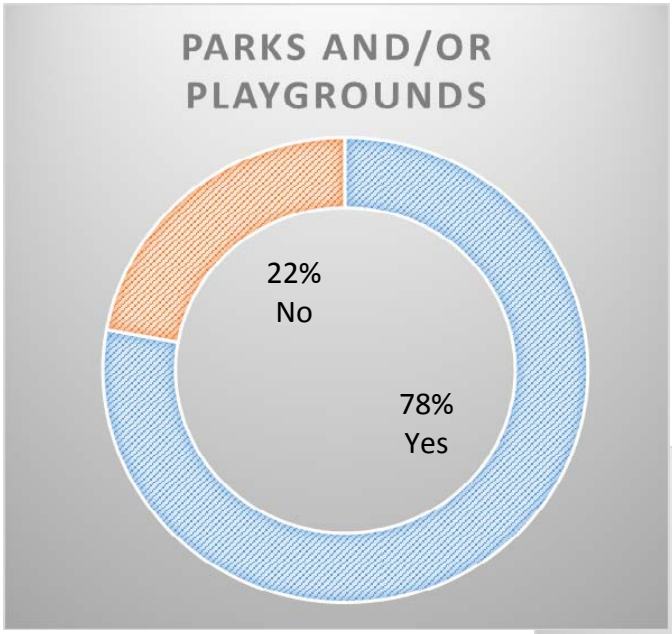
Question 10 (95.5% answered):

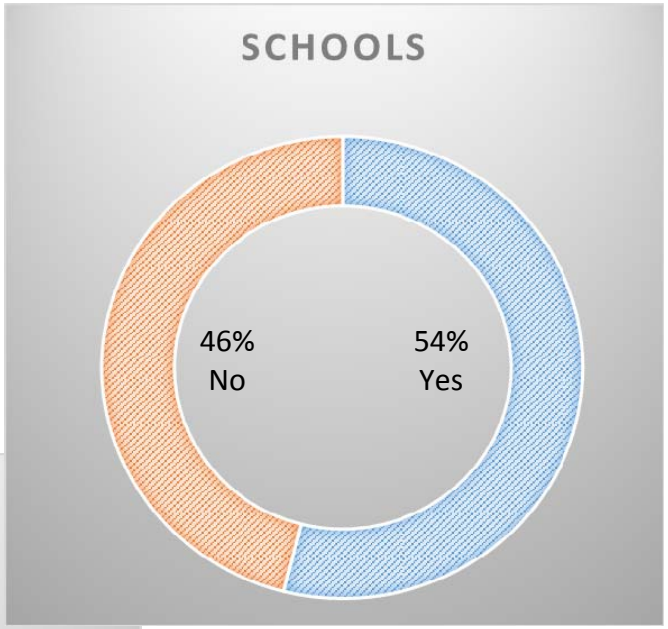


Other factors listed: no interest (4), none suit our needs (2), public transportation is too scarce and stops running from 10pm till the morning – that's unacceptable access for hose less fortunate, outdated – dirty parks, don't think about them since kids left, not enough options for nights and weekends, no programs at this stage of life, like to see more opportunities at all of these places, lack of transportation, age, language barrier, Normandale Lake bandshell is too much of a hassle to get too, no easy trail system leading to them, would bike more to parks on the east side if I didn't have to ride on the street, age – declining physical abilities, Bloomington spends a lot of time patting itself on the back as kind of a nostalgic Ozzie and Harriettland – get with the tiem and recognize the environment in changing, plays are too expensive, prefer to do other things, parent of autistic son and he doesn't enjoy going out, arts – fell it is only for rich, West Bloomington is where most are located – should be smaller local things in East Bloomington too, targeted for older citizens, quality – take my youth team out of community as our facitilies can be in poor shape and unregulated with the amount of use they receive, creekside needs improvement, my kid is older, personal health (2), doesn't fit our busy schedule, and self sufficient

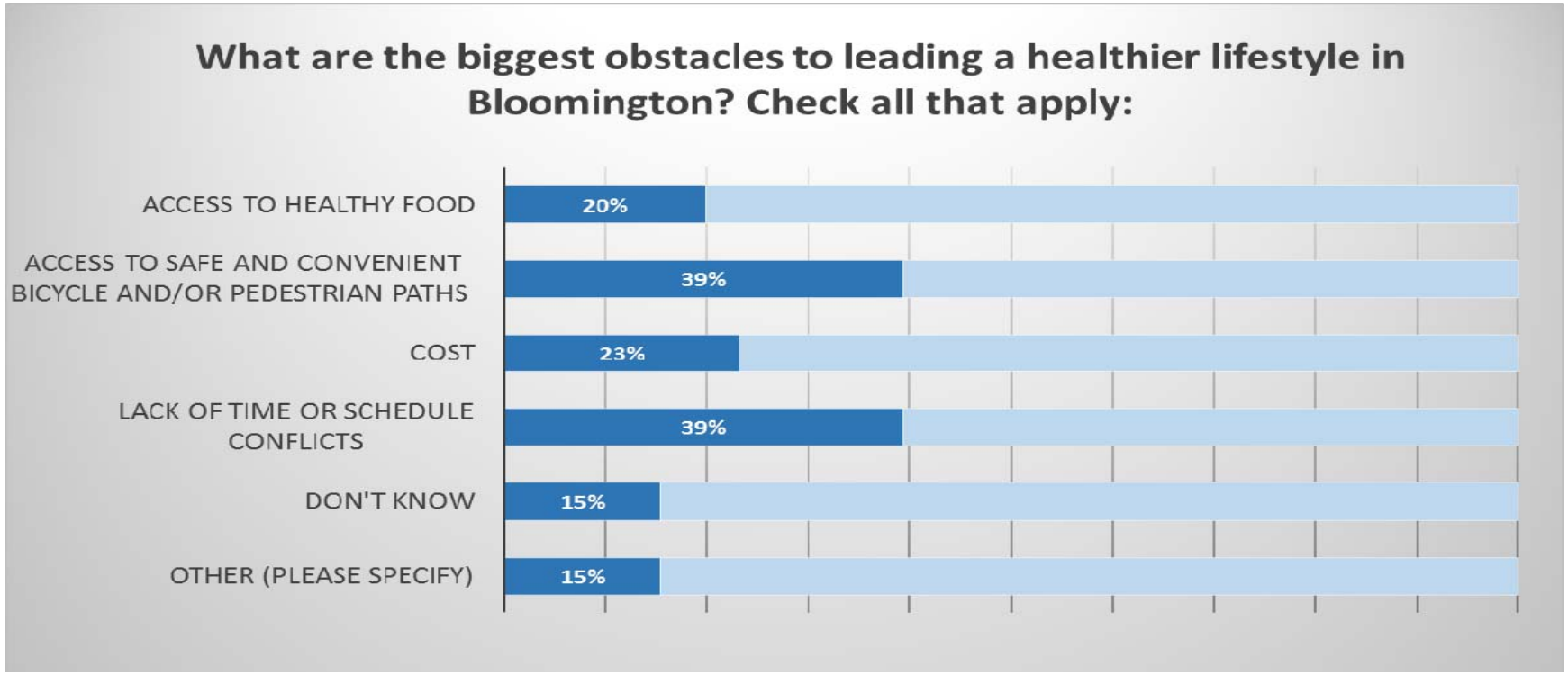
Question 11 (62.4% answered):

f you have kids or grand-kids in your home, can they easily walk or bike to any of the places listed below from your home? If not applicable, proceed to the next question.



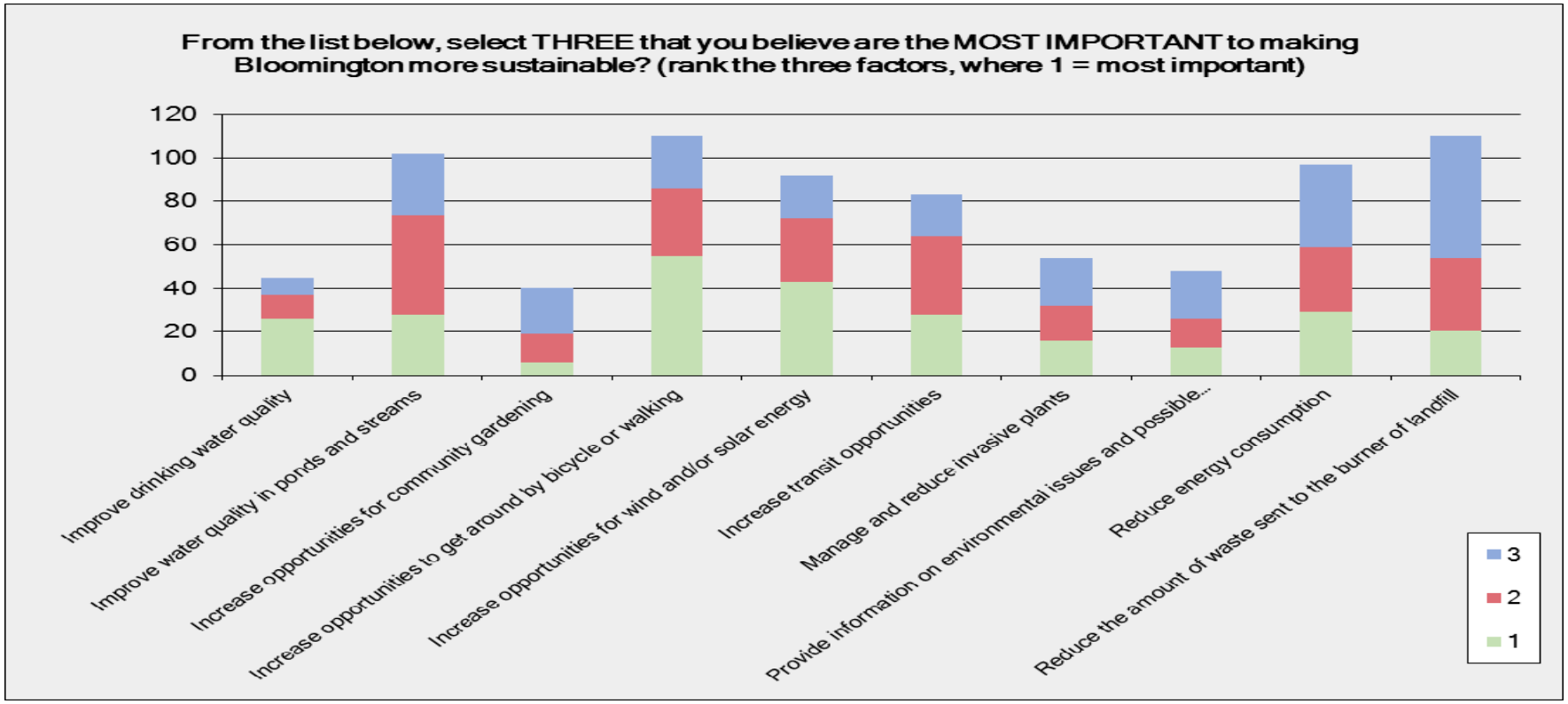


Question 12 (94.8% answered):



Other factors listed: lack of public transportation, it's a personal choice – anyone can do it, traffic is treacherous, not a walkable community, dangerous wreckless drivers, traffic patterns, too lazy (2), none (10), diet and exercise are individual issues, infrastructure – live pattern are all separate activities, own lack of initiative, community gardens, orgaznic grocery store, parks need updating, application of pesticides and herbicides, nutritional knowledge and guidance, age & physical limitations, function of traffic system is to get gas mobiles moving fast through community – EV chargers?, more programs that bring together people who want to be healthy, difficulty accessing summer programs due to cost and need to fill out paperwork in winter, love biking – but dangerous on sidewalks/trails at intersections, health – Dr. restrictions (2), small local events in aprks at a variety of times, create buffer for sid ewalks, money spent on community center openly available, indoor walking facilitiy at BIG, pet friendly areas, meeting and organizing neighbors, climate, indoor areas in the winter for physical activity, not enough crosswalks on busy streets, you are assuming there is a need?, own choice, motivation.

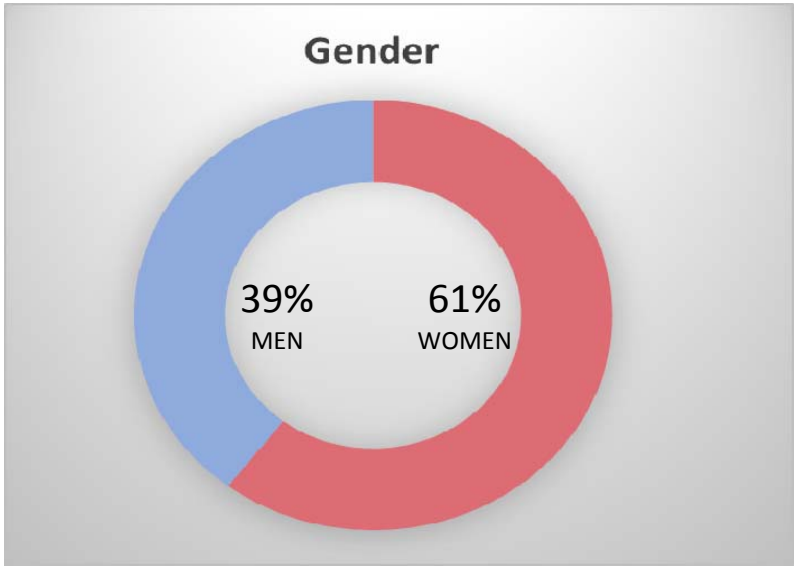
Question 13 (93.8% answered):



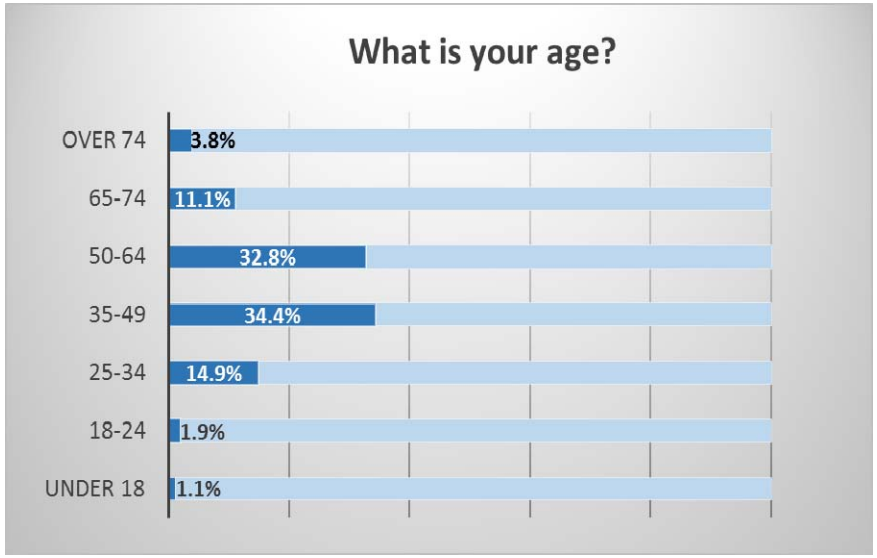
Other factors listed: water conservation, none of the above, curbside organized recycling, decreasing property taxes (2), decreasing the social engineering, drinking water quality rocks, less government, less government intrusion, restore native plants in green spaces, incentives/rebates for home energy efficiency upgrades, improve neighborhoods – East Bloomington, affordable condo/townhome development for middle income seniors, eliminate pesticides and herbicides, all of the above, cut carbon emissions by 100% by 2030, help residents make their properties more acceptable, sustainability includes economic and environmental health, promoting social equity and fostering broad-based citizen participation in planning and implementation, ban outdoor wood camp fires, screen garbage cans from view, no overnight side street parking, allow 6ft privacy fences in front yards along property lines, limit cars allowed parked in driveways to 2 max, not many options for express bus to downtown Mpls without transfers and none to North Loop area, allow grant opportunties for people to participate in sustainable opportunities, doing fine in all the above.

Optional survey questions (demographics)

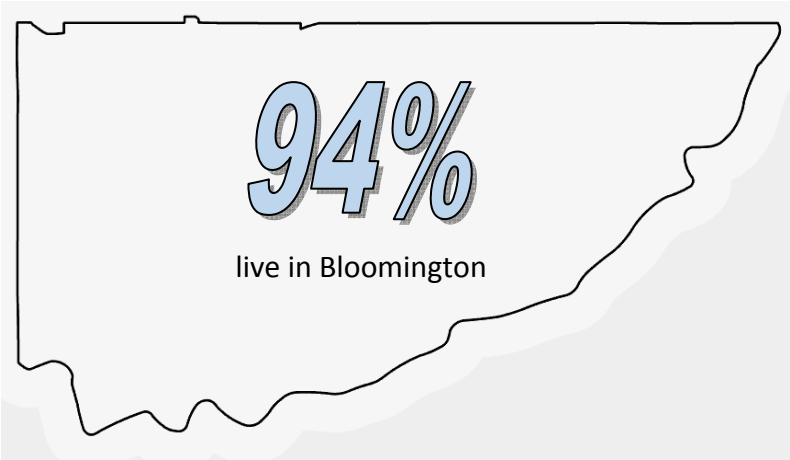
Question 14 (90.9% answered):



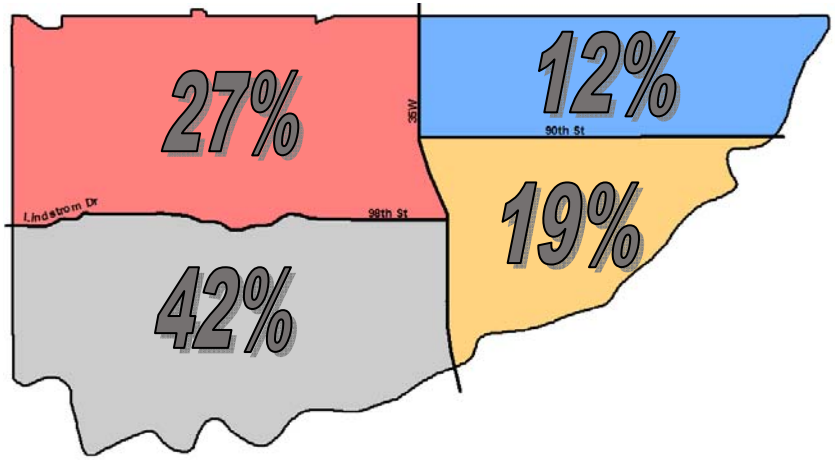
Question 15 (91.3% answered):



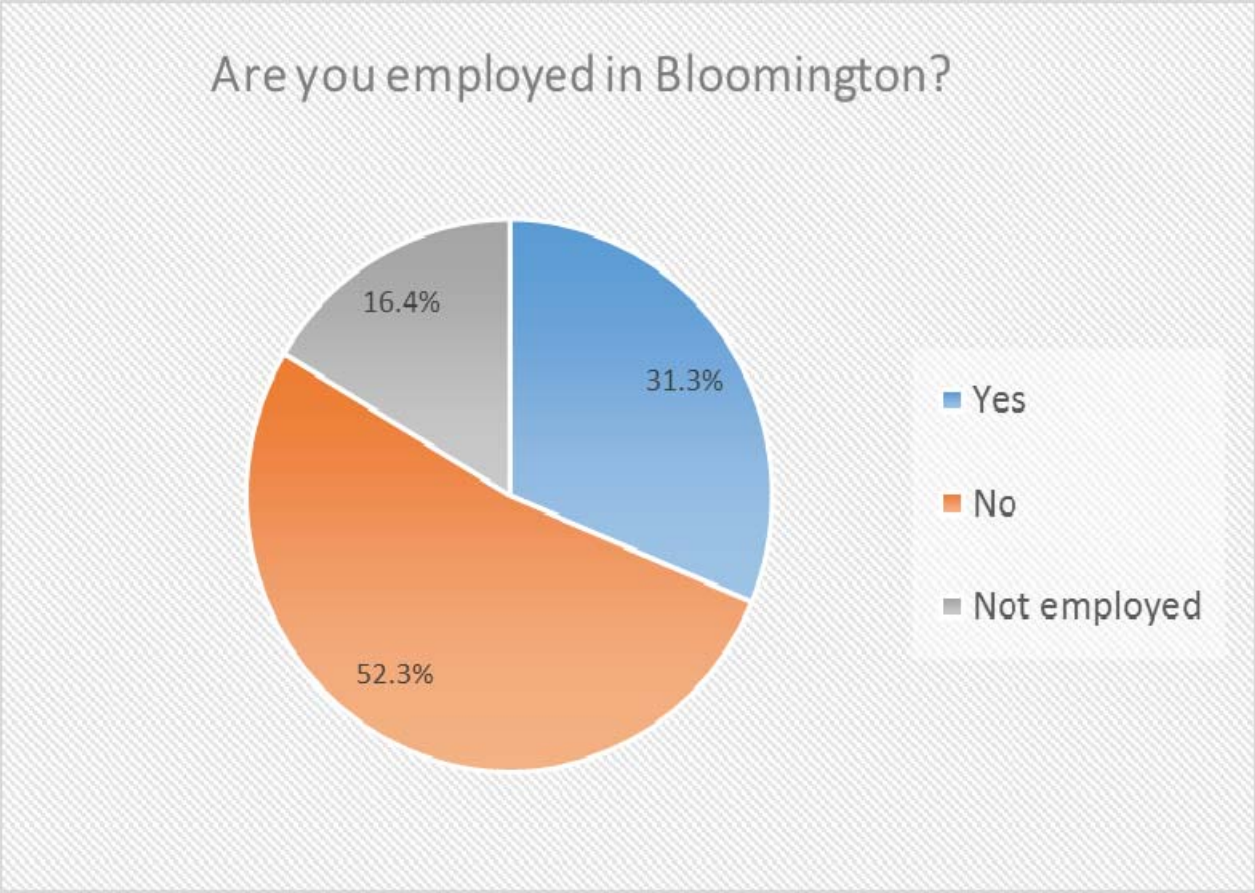
Question 16 (91.6% answered): **Do you live in Bloomington?**



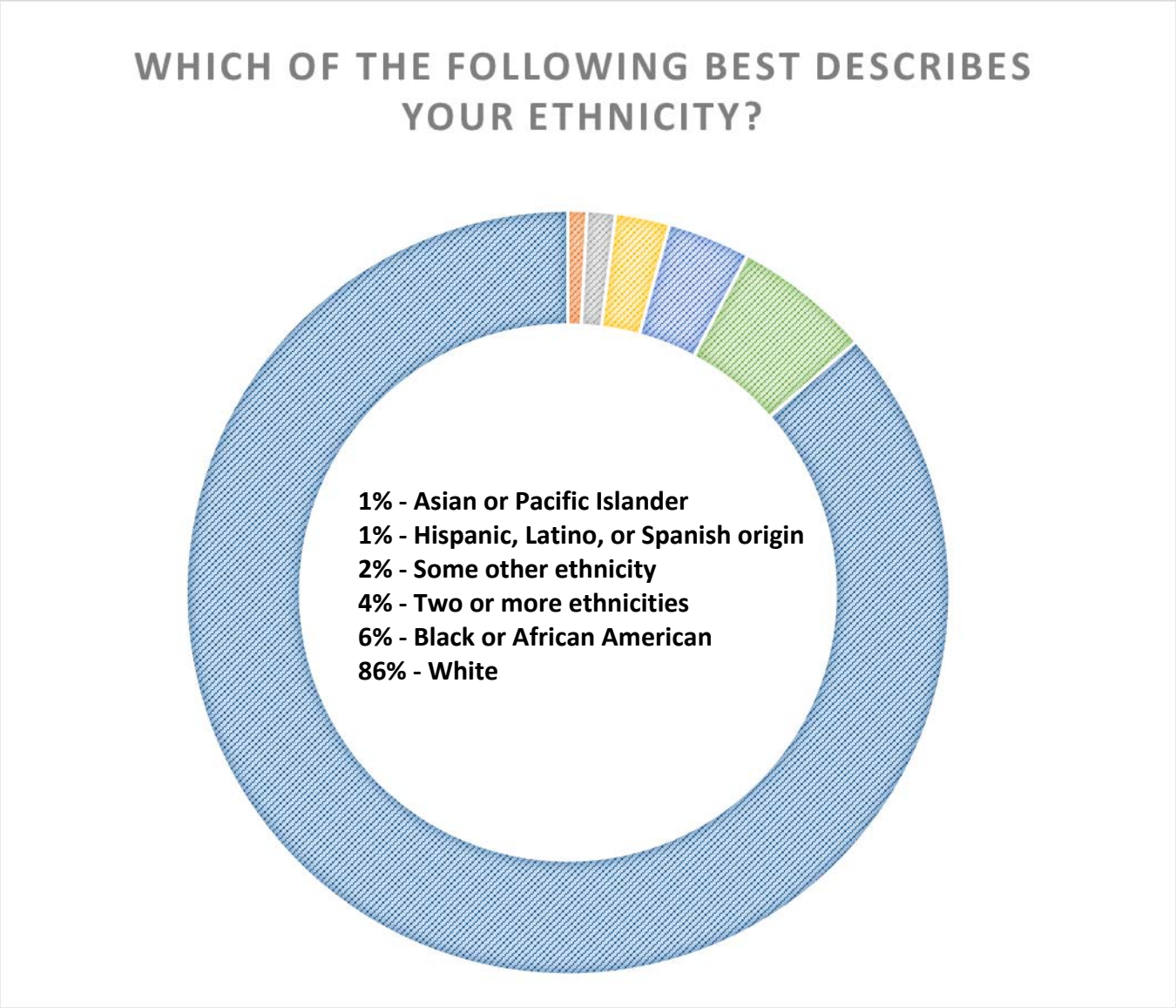
Question 17 (84.3% answered): **If you live in Bloomington, where?**



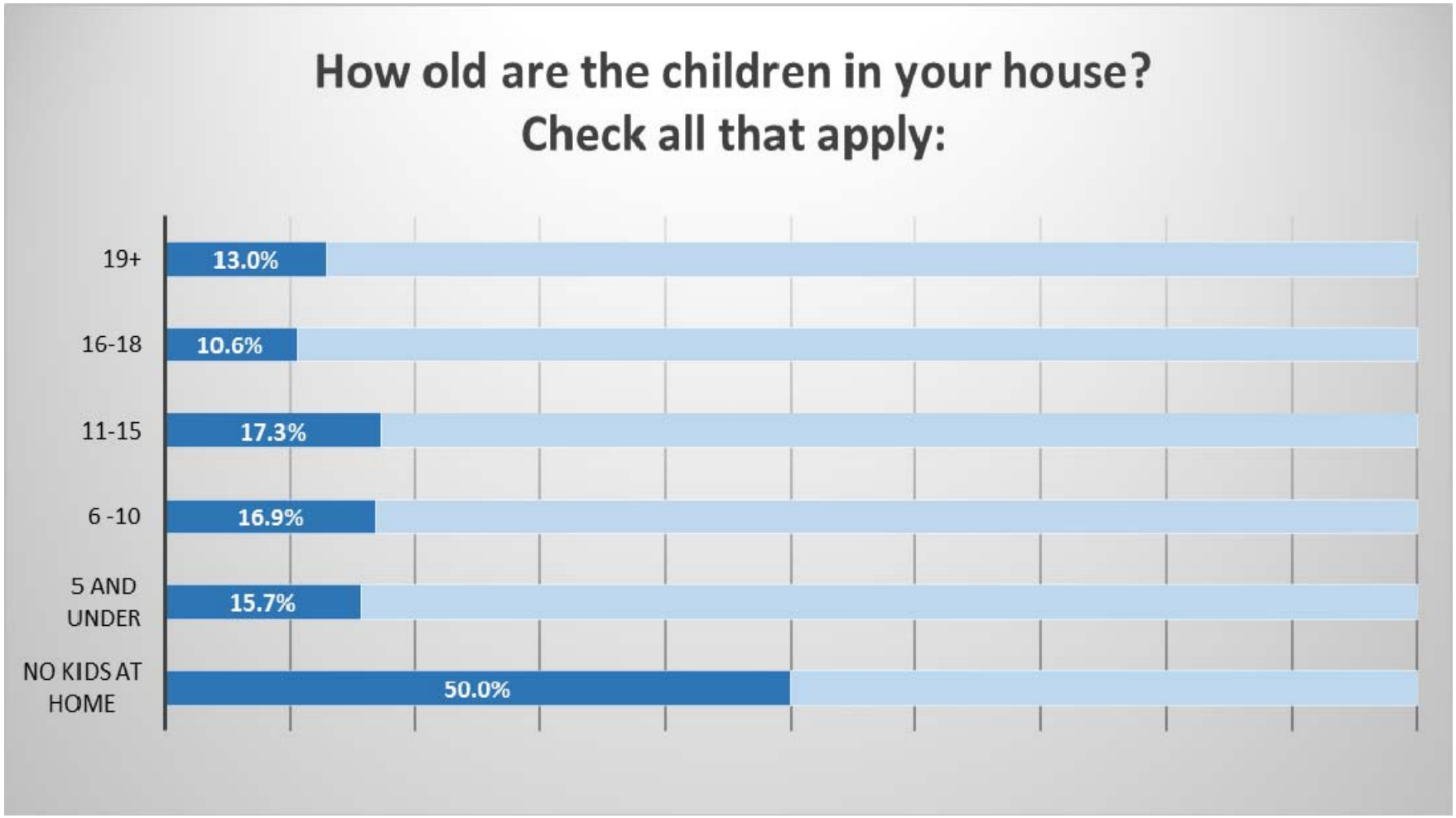
Question 18 (91.3% answered):



Question 19 (89.5% answered):



Question 20 (88.5% answered):



Question 21 (35.9% answered): **Additional Comments?**

Environment

- Bloomington must think of what kind of community forests we will have in 2040. With no management of buckthorn and other invasive species, oaks and other native species will disappear, and we will have forests of buckthorn, that are unsightly, can decrease water quality, and have little value to wildlife and the community. We contacted the city over a month ago to remove an oak tree with oak wilt on city land. Today it still stands and other oaks around it now have the disease. City staff must be more responsive to residents and natural resource issues. Other metro cities can do this, why can't we?
- Forgot to mention would like an option for compost pick-up with garbage.
- We're new to Minnesota, but Bloomington feels very comfortable. We also love seeing the city taking the initiative to be proactive about the future, especially regarding sustainability. Keep up the good work!
- Would love to see Bloomington become a Green Step City.
- All the discussion about natural resources and environmental concerns mean nothing. If we don't deal with climate change in the next 15 years, it really doesn't matter what we do. Make James Hanson's "Storms of Grandchildren" required reading for every city council member, city manger, planning commission member, sustainability commission member. Also require that they read: "Reinventing Fire: Bold Business Solutions for the New Energy Era" by Amory Lovins
- The City needs to do a better job managing invasive plants and noxious weeds. The only management I see happening is mowing, and this spreads these plants around. Soon, all Bloomington lands that aren't turf will be dedicated to non-native invasive plants. In a well-to-do, well populated city, we need a specific staff person, a Natural Resources Manager, to look at these issues and others. Many other cities in MN, smaller than ours, have Natural Resources staff. thank you for this opportunity and working to address the issues.
- I would love the opportunity to let my children raise a few hens for eggs. They live in their great grandfathers farm house and I'd love for them to feel some heritage as well as learning about where their food comes from.
- I support the creation of a City of Bloomington Sustainability Commission.
- Love Bloomington but concerned that we will slowly ruin our green spaces by encouraging more development.
- Please add A Sustainability Advisory Commission to help research, vet ideas and provide implementation oversight and adaptive management recommendations
- I took this survey because I have been active in the Minnesota River Bottoms project and while I understand that is under the DNR's jurisdiction, I really enjoy going down there and spend at least one evening a week down there. It's my favorite place in the metro and would love to see it kept the way it is, it's a gem here in the twin cities

Housing

- We love living on the East side and hope to see the number of homes turned into rental properties be limited. Due to the lower home prices, this neighborhood is at risk of losing the sense of community that comes with stable and invested homeowners vs. rental.

- Rent and homes are exceedingly high in Bloomington...something must change to make housing more affordable.... and certainly if a richly diverse community is what this city really is truly trying to create.
- City needs to emphasize more affordable condo/townhouse development for middle income seniors.
- Stop trying to control everything in peoples lives. Stop the high density apartments/Retail below them. It is not very attractive to look at. I would like to see people pay for the services they use. Stop confiscating my money will all the taxes and fees to pay for others needs. You want services, go to a church or another charitable organization, it is not up to your local government to provide for all of your needs.
- I would love to have bloomington booming like edina...homes being remodeled and new business. Fresh thyme is a wonderful addition.
- We want to stay in Bloomington but not happy with the housing availability. More remodeled one story houses. Isn't there available money to help with increase in remodels?

Schools

- Let children go to school in their own neighborhoods.
- I would like to see Bloomington do more to attract young families that care about improving the quality of the school systems. It's great to have an established city but not at the expense of young families.
- We feel there's a lack of new blood in the community - and wonder is it because of the school ratings? Or the housing options and no financial encouragement to remodel existing homes...
- We have a wide variety of schools in Bloomongton. Some are new and well equipped while others are old and dated. Updating and having all the schools equally equipped is important. Also many communities around us (Chaska and Shakopee) have community centers with year around activities for kids including swimming and gym activities.
- Improving schools should be the number 1 priority. Also adding local retail areas closer to neighborhoods. Give young families a reason to want to move to Bloomington especially as much of Bloomington neighborhoods seem to be aging out
- Bloomington is an amazing place to live with amazing programs. I have been beyond happy with the school system and care programs provided.
- One question you didn't ask about was schools, and continuing education opportunities. We attend some evening classes at the St Paul campus of the UofM. It's a long drive through traffic. Don't know of other opportunities in the SW suburbs. You also didn't mention proximity to the airport. That was a key factor when I decided to first buy in Bloomington in 1986.
- I sometimes find it slightly frustrating at times not being able to determine when the dance-floor at Jefferson activity center is available. I am aware that it is shared between 3 entities (Jefferson high school, activity center, community education) but that makes it difficult for those who staff the activity center desk to tell me if it will be available or not.
- This is a tough one, but there is an economic divide between east and west Bloomington, which depresses property values in the western part of the city. What can be done to lift the values of and improve the schools in the eastern part of the city? I want everyone to do well.

- Bloomington needs to invest in its future - young families with children - rather than its past (current senior citizens) to make the city sustainable. The schools can't thrive with a declining enrollment. Property values drop without decent schools. City & school district budgets are strained by declining (or not rising as rapidly as other cities') housing values. It's very simple - if Bloomington wants to thrive in 2040, it needs to invest to make people WANT to move to Bloomington.

Transportation

- Please more on-road bike paths throughout Bloomington, especially on the busier routes - like Old Shakopee Rd, American Blvd, Portland Ave, and Penn Ave.
- The streets around my house near Moir Park are falling apart. I hope these can be fixed soon and when that happens a sidewalk is installed on Morgan Ave from 106th St to Moir Park. Please help with this issue.
- Due to traffic congestion at 494/35w I think Bloomingtons roads have become pass throughs for non-Bloomington residents to cut through our city to avoid the freeways. Aside from maybe stopping for gas, these commuters are not adding anything to our community.
- "While I love access to bike paths I am definitely opposed to paving any part of the MN River Bottoms.
- I would love to take the bus or other transit to Southdale, Minneapolis, etc. Not an option, sadly.
- I love Bloomington, I'm 32 and have a licensed daycare. My biggest complaint is we have to cross Nicollet or lyndale to get to any park.
- I love living in Bloomington. I would like my son who has a disability to be able to live in Bloomington and work. He does not drive but walks, and uses and bus/train. He can't get a job even get a job by Southdale because of the limited bus schedule for evenings and weekends. getting the MOA is much easier.
- Keep your eye on the improvement and not the expansion of walking and biking opportunities. Cars, buses, trucks and other mechanically propelled wheeled vehicles are our future. Trains and human-propelled vehicles are wastes of community dollars.
- Need for more public transit, beyond buses.
- People frequently speed on west 102nd street between France and Normandale and they go through the red light on the stop light in front of Olson Elementary, especially in the evening going east on 102nd the sun is in their eyes and they aren't looking closely for red light. Very dangerous for pedestrians crossing at that light and there are many kids in the neighborhood that use that crosswalk to go play at the Olson Elememtary playground. Please help. My son was narrowly hit by a car.

Business

- Would love to see a new and improved Lyndale business area complete with some great bars and restaurants. Willy MCCoys is a nice start in that area.
- "In general, Bloomington is missing the independent/neighborhood restaurant/shopping scene that is found in south Minneapolis. We often leave Bloomington to go out to eat as we look for interesting, locally sourced food and drink that is not a chain.
- I really like that the third phase of the France/Old Shakopee development is near complete. However, I would have loved to have seen a MN based Blue Plate Restaurant Company anchor the new development instead of the Willy McCoys chain. Instead of finding ""B level

chain"" options for West Bloomington, why not seek higher end retailers? Something like 50th/France in Edina to attract a different market. (Locals don't want to go to the MOA for dinner). Bloomington could do this. Where is our breakfast cafe that isn't a Perkins or Dennys? Can we get Patina or Bibolot store? Where is our Centennial Lakes (a place to play mini golf, paddle boats, walk with family and friends)?

- Would love to see more businesses like Gyropolis in town.
- We need to get more money from MOA !!!!
- I think Bloomington has been well-managed in general. I'd like to continue to see the emphasis on what the community wants, with a careful balance of commercial and industrial areas. Also, the emphasis on forward looking infrastructure repairs, whether that be preventative or maintenance, is very important. Our family/kids love the great schools, and the great parks and open spaces. And I personally love the Hyland disc golf course - it is a gem to have that in our city. Prudent, common sense, putting politics aside to make Bloomington a great place for everyone is a priority. Thanks for sending this survey.
- Bloomington is a great community, but we are teetering on the edge looking like Maple Grove/Woodbury/Eden Praire with our big box stores and chain restaurants. These are not towns that have a good reputation outside themselves. We need to work on our unique identity.
- I wish that Bloomington would be able to Attract more interesting, non-chain restaurants here. Many of my Bloomington friends talk about this. Like to see more ethnic restaurants, food trucks, more food at the Farmer's Market. What barriers do restaurants have in establishing a business here?
- Really happy to hear Vertical Endeavors is coming to Bloomington. It would be nice to have a food co-op nearby and also some small business coffee shops. There are a lot of strip mall type developments happening that make the city feel more suburban.
- Thanks for this opportunity. We've lived here almost 25 years and are considering moving in about 5 years. We find ourselves doing things outside of Bloomington due to lack of interesting and unique restaurants with a neighborhood feeling. Like 50th/ France, Linden Hills, 50th/ Bryant. Thanks again.
- The survey doesn't ask about my most primary concern for Bloomington in the next 20+ years which is how to keep it vibrant and safe. As the east side ages I see more hoodlum type activity. We need to look at what causes high crime areas and take practical measures to avoid developing them. As a new resident we're impressed with Bloomington but we see the signs of heading down the path to being old and run down - coming from near Detroit this raises some red flags.
- Please stop trying to make Bloomington into a "trendy" place to live. Forget about the arts, building a sense of community, smart growth, Bike lanes, mass transit, and all that type of stuff. If I wanted that I would move to MInneapolis. Don't try to shape how the city grows, Let the market dictate what happens here, and private businesses will fill any void. Less government is best.
- "Bloomington needs to up it's urban game...more restaurants /retail within biking/walking distance!
- I appreciate the recreational opportunities in Bloomington. I would like to see Bloomington continue to offer our children a quality K-12 education as well as increase area business opportunities. I also believe there is an opportunity to revitalize neighborhoods. It is important to attract new young families to the area. Thank you for this survey, I appreciate the opportunity to supply feedback.

Infrastructure

- I feel that we need to update and improved the city in order to foster the growth of our young families. Improving areas like parks, biking & walking paths will help make Bloomington more welcoming to young families. Improvements and updates to Bloomington Ice Garden and the Aquatic Center will help to bring families in as well as retain families. I think we also need a reduction in commercial/industrial areas to make way for more residential lots. Right now there is little new construction in Bloomington to allow for young families to move into Bloomington to build homes of their choice rather than having to fully renovate a home that they don't want to take the time to do.
- I would like to see the Center for the Arts expanded to include several fully equipped rehearsal spaces (one large and several small rooms), storage for equipment owned by the various music groups, office space for the various music groups, and music storage space.
- I think the Bloomington Cemetery should be maintained at a higher level.
- "When I reach out to Bloomington residents I frequently hear the same complaint. Our city is simply a thoroughfare for cars to drive through. We have no downtown or charm within our neighborhoods. Bloomington is a large city which needs to create a feeling of livability which inevitably will bring new younger people into our community. This can be accomplished through architecturally desinged infrastructure as well as creating safe walking and biking paths for our residents. In addition, reach out and bring in new restaurants and businesses by possibly creating a position in Bloomington that would make it easier for these individuals to weed through the red tape. Thus allowing unique restaurants into our city. We also need to put more money into our Parks. Moir Park is a great example of letting a beautiful natural resource go to pot! Literally! I see so many youths smoking and dealing in the parking lot as well as near the stream. The picnic tables are gross and over 30 years old. Have some consistency...Use the green metal mesh whch is used on the benches for the tables as well as waste recepticals. Put a new sign up on 106th street for the Park. If you add boulevards which can be added before and after the nine mile creek bridge on 106th with trees and plants, this would curb speeding and create a visual into our neighborhood. This is not just a thoroughfare.....we actually live here. Somedays, I feel as though my house in on 35W!!!! And my property value shows this. On 106th there is the middle turn lane before and after the bridge which is not used whatsover. This would be an excellant area to build two boulevards....imagine the benefit to 1000's of homeowners.....(Just look at how beautiful 98th street is turning out just West of Normandale....I think us East Bloomington residents deserve the same!) Create neighborhoods like ""Linden Hills"" or Kings Highway"" in Minneapolis. in Bloomington...i.e. Glen Wilding Way...creating visual infrastructure such as decorative lighting on bridge over 9 mile creek on 106th and flower and plants as well as boulevards would be a start. Add curbs to finish off streets and speed bumps near schools and on side streets where cars careen through.
- Bloomington lacks character as a community in its infrastructure. Having smaller gathering spaces and destination areas throughout the community would improve community.
- Please start to put more money into infrastructure. We the residents are looking for a charming neighborhood feel. At this time on 106 th one feels as though I live on 35 w... Moir park is an incredible asset that we just let go to the dumps. Bring in new picnic tables that match the nice benches.. Put boulevards with trees and plants before and after 106 th street over nine Mike creek! Turn lanes are not

use there and you could create a sense of neighborhood which would benefit all of our properties . 106 th could also use wise walking/ biking path on one side. Kids cannot ride on street... Way to dangerous and you have two schools right there! We want to live in a quaint neighborhood. Not a thoroughfare for cars from burnseville to Edina! We are the forgotten quadrant! Put some time. Money. And effort into our area! New park sigh for moir park as well as boulevards entering Morgan and Penn on 106 th. This would decrease drag racing off of Penn and maybe decrease drug use and selling by creating a more neighborhood feel.

- I feel the need to upgrade revamp the ice gardens. More sitting areas that are nicer better tvs. It looks like 1970s in there and i think a revamp would look nice.
- Bloomington's amenities seem stagnant and geared toward an aging population. As the demographics of the city shift there needs to be a corresponding focus on programs and amenities for younger families.
- This is a great initiative and I appreciate the opportunity to provide input. Bloomington is a great city that needs some work. I think if we take the right steps now we can become a real standout city in the metro. This requires prioritizing most of what was covered in this survey in order to plan for the future: update existing infrastructure as well as plan for future needs/issues; be competitive economically; increase sustainability efforts; engage with our neighbors to partner on common issues; don't reinvent the wheel: see what other cities are doing and do it better.

Diversity

- While we age as a city we need to embrace the vibrancy that youth and diversity bring!"

Standard

- Thank you for all that you do!
- This survey seems geared to forcing people to want to ride bikes and fret over the environment. The city needs to worry about the basics!!
- I love Bloomington! I'm a North Dakota transplant and have lived here for more than 20 years. I'll probably retire here, too!
- Bloomington is doing great!
- Like the survey - thanks!
- Thanks!
- I recently moved to Bloomington because I liked the idea of being close to cultural venues, shopping and closer to work. It would have been nice to receive a welcome packet or ambassador visit to let me know what hidden treasures are available in the area!
- I don't want to live in an ordinary suburb...make it special.
- Thanks for the efforts to improve our community!
- None
- Need to lower city taxes or improve the city with the tax dollar. I don't see that happening at all and taxes go up every year...for what?

- This is a terribly written survey because it offers no choice and provides no real insight. It does allow you to say, 'look we have a mandate to grow government' because the only real choice you list in pretty much every case is for more public spending. If you're going to do a survey, learn the basics of how to write a survey to actually gauge whether or not people want a particular thing instead of not offering a choice whatsoever.
- Thanks for the opportunity to comment.
- We're losing the centrality and home-town feel that prevailed in the 50-60's because of size. I hope we can retrieve that spirit.
- Thanks for asking our opinion.
- Good survey
- Thank you!
- N/A
- Thanks for your efforts in this regard. This is important and will have big impact. Done right - it will help redress the mistakes Bloomington made in its past planning (or lack thereof).
- Thank you for all your effort....I look forward to seeing the changes that our Bloomington residents deserve and have been waiting for. "
- I am happy the city of bloomington is planning ahead to keep our city vital
- I think Bloomington does a wonderful job of providing services and opportunities for family activities at a reasonable cost.
- thanks for putting together the survey!
- We love living in Bloomington. Good to see you're looking at the future of this great city.
- Thanks for doing this survey.
- helpful survey; well run city.
- Thanks!
- Thank you for providing citizens an opportunity to share their thoughts about the future of our city.
- "It is time to be more aggressive in updating our city. Our neighbors, Richfield and Edina. have accomplished so much more to bring their cities into the 21st century. Much of Bloomington appears to have stalled in the 1970's
- I'm very proud to be a Bloomington Resident
- Thank you for asking for our opinion.
- A large problem facing Bloomington is a VERY over-reaching city council. The trash situation is an example of overspending and inserting themselves into a non-issue to gain control of citizens. And changing the amount the council can spend without putting it to a vote. This council's oversteps make me SICK. The trajectory of power-grabbing is BAD news for Bloomington. Give citizens freedom, give us reasons to want to stay not reasons to want to move from bad government.
- Many questions did not contain a appropriate choices.
- Love Bloomington and excellent government workers and city council
- We love Bloomington! Keep it up!

- Thank you for allowing us to have a voice in our city. My day job is promoting Bloomington and I am proud to talk about everything we have to offer in this amazing city. THANK YOU!
- Great survey - THANKS!!
- Bloomington was typically reasonable on their property taxes. In the last couple of years they have increased significantly and I feel that the city is comparing us to neighboring communities to justify increased spending and taxes. In another 10 years I will be retired and would like to stay in my home. Increasing the property taxes effects this for me.
- Love Bloomington!
- Just moved to Bloomington last year. Love it! Great place to be.
- Let's not be an outdated 70s ""suburb""""
- Glad you're doing this!
- Bloomington is a great city that I love living in and recreating in. I hope it continues to grow economically while preserving the natural beauty. And please give some love to the East side! Equalize the schools!
- I've lived in bloomington 15 years and I love it.
- I've lived in Bloomington 78 years, I'm 4th generation and have Great Grandchildren living here - that's eight generations and we will stay active if the government stays with their primary purpose.
- Be careful of using uninformed responses to complex questions.
- worry about today then worry about 20 years from now. lots of things can be improved today.
- Thanks for asking.