

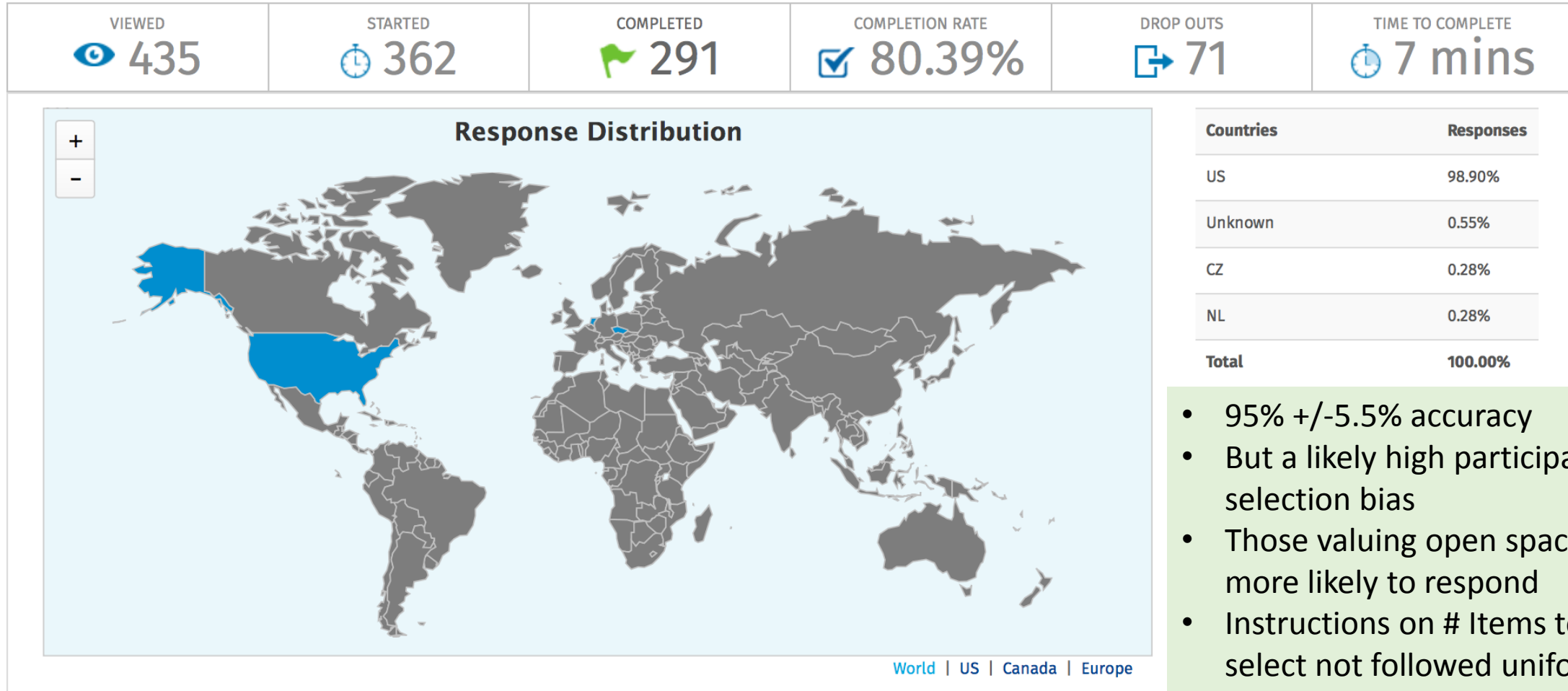
Bolton 2016

Open Space Plan

Survey Results

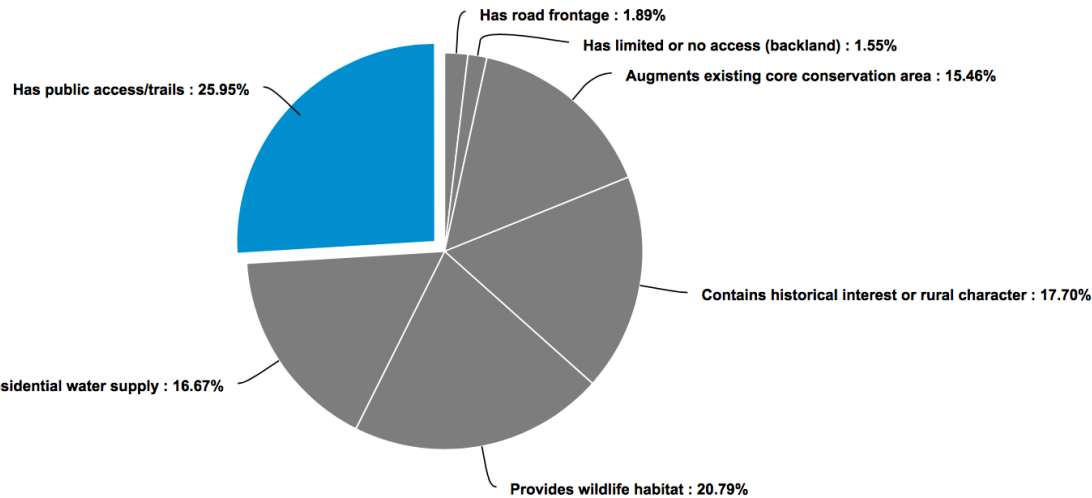
Dashboard – Summary Statistics

Open Space Plan 2016 - Dashboard



Goal 1: Preserve the Rural & Historical Character of Bolton.

When Bolton acquires land for conservation, it should focus on land that: (Please select the 2 most important items.)

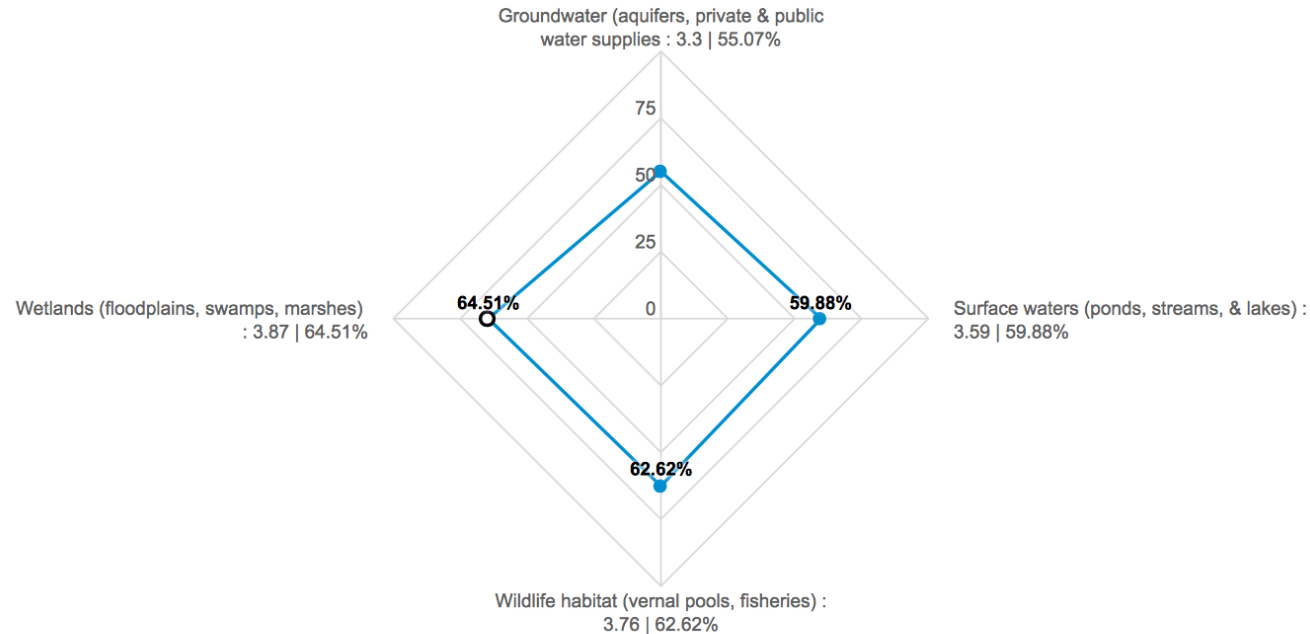


- Public access or trails more important
- Next 4 options got fairly even selection (15-21%)
- Road frontage and backland of no interest.

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
Has road frontage	11	1.89%					
Has limited or no access (backland)	9	1.55%					
Augments existing core conservation area	90	15.46%					
Contains historical interest or rural character	103	17.7%					
Provides wildlife habitat	121	20.79%					
Would protect aquifers for municipal or residential water supply	97	16.67%					
Has public access/trails	151	25.95%					
Total	582	100 %					

Goal 2: Protect Water Resources of Bolton

How well do you feel these laws are administered to protect:
(Select the point on the scale below that matches your views.)

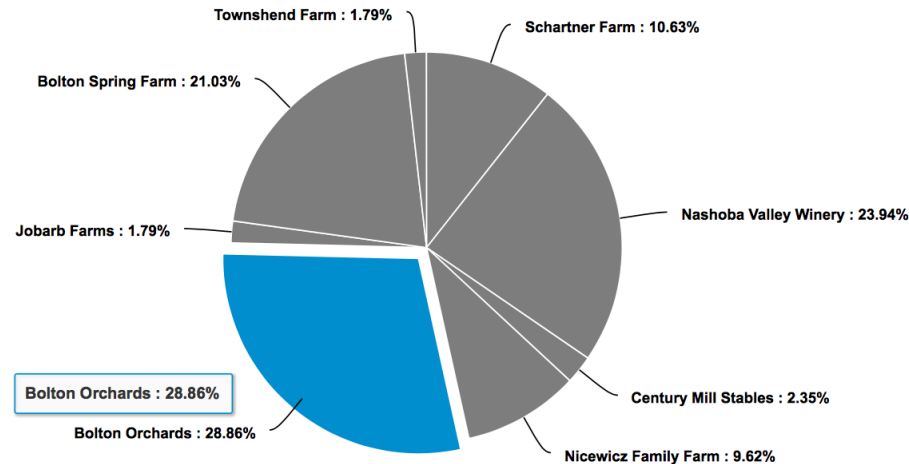


- Scores ranged from 3.3 to 3.9
- Roughly 50% Don't Know for all 4 items, indicating a high lack of knowledge about the laws' administration by public

Question	Count	Score	1	2	3	4	5	Don't Know
Groundwater (aquifers, private & public water supplies	279	3.3						
Surface waters (ponds, streams, & lakes)	278	3.59						
Wildlife habitat (vernal pools, fisheries)	279	3.76						
Wetlands (floodplains, swamps, marshes)	279	3.87						
Average		3.63						

Goal 3: Preserve and Encourage Agriculture

Bolton is a Right to Farm community. Three farms (Nashoba Valley Winery, Schartner Farm, Nicewicz Family Farm) are protected by a conservation restriction or agricultural restriction, which allows the land to remain in private ownership with limited future development. Which of the following farms have you visited in the past 6 months? (Please check all that apply.)

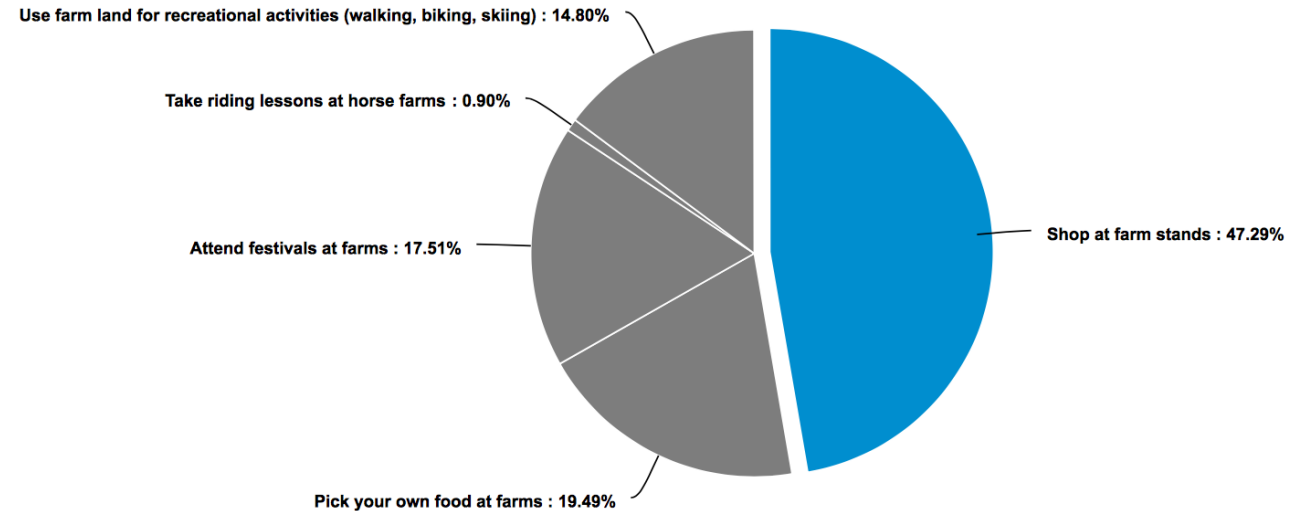


Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
Schartner Farm	95	10.63%					
Nashoba Valley Winery	214	23.94%					
Century Mill Stables	21	2.35%					
Nicewicz Family Farm	86	9.62%					
Bolton Orchards	258	28.86%					
Jobarb Farms	16	1.79%					
Bolton Spring Farm	188	21.03%					
Townshend Farm	16	1.79%					
Total	894	100 %					

- Bolton Orchard, the Winery, and Bolton Spring Farms by far most visited.

Goal 3: Preserve and Encourage Agriculture

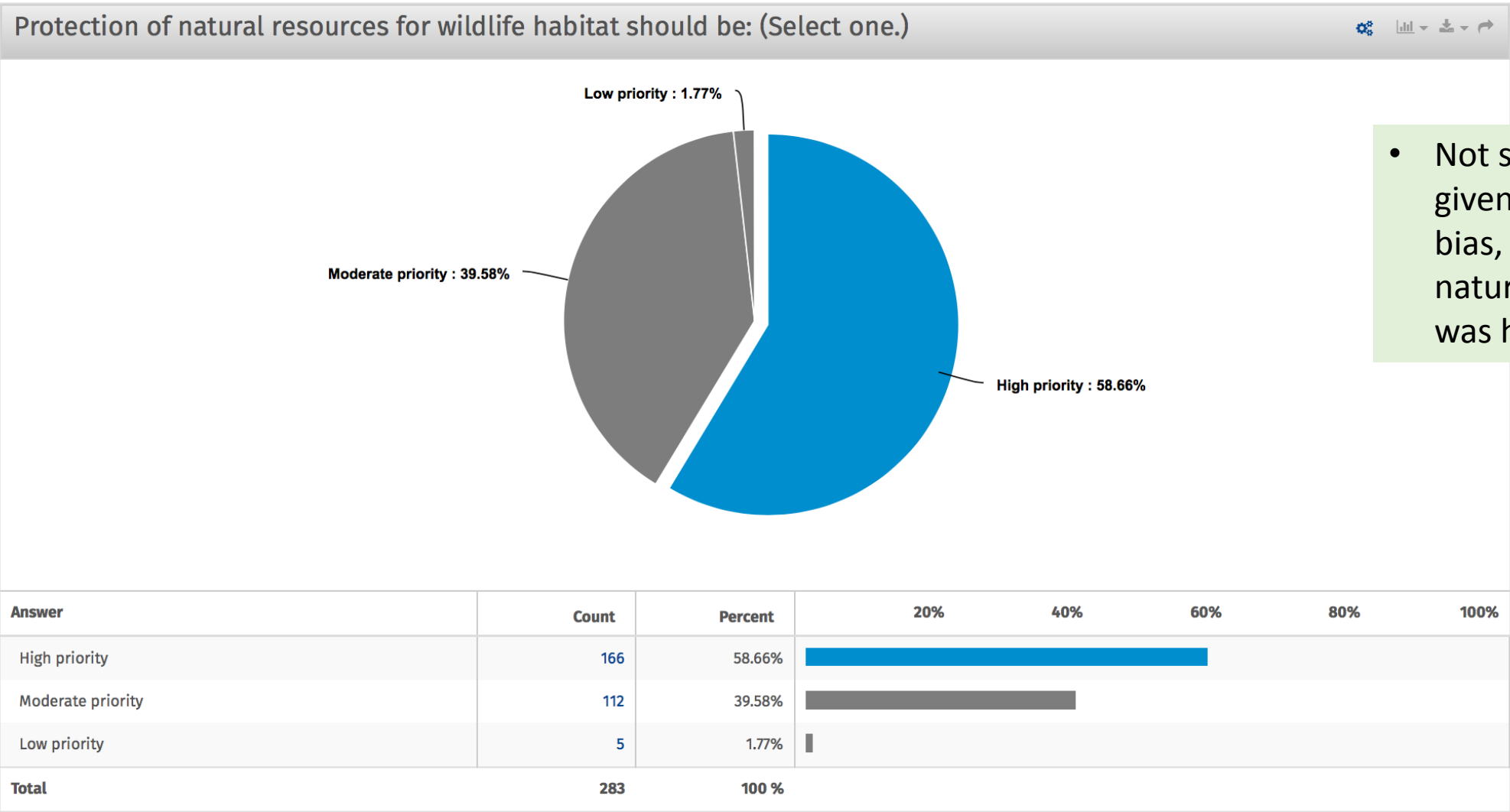
Why are the farms important to you? Please select the 2 most often done activities.



- Shopping at farm stands selected by almost half of respondents.
- PYO, attend festivals, and recreational use selected by 15-20% of respondents.

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
Shop at farm stands	262	47.29%	<div></div>				
Pick your own food at farms	108	19.49%	<div></div>				
Attend festivals at farms	97	17.51%	<div></div>				
Take riding lessons at horse farms	5	0.9%	<div></div>				
Use farm land for recreational activities (walking, biking, skiing)	82	14.8%	<div></div>				
Total	554	100 %					

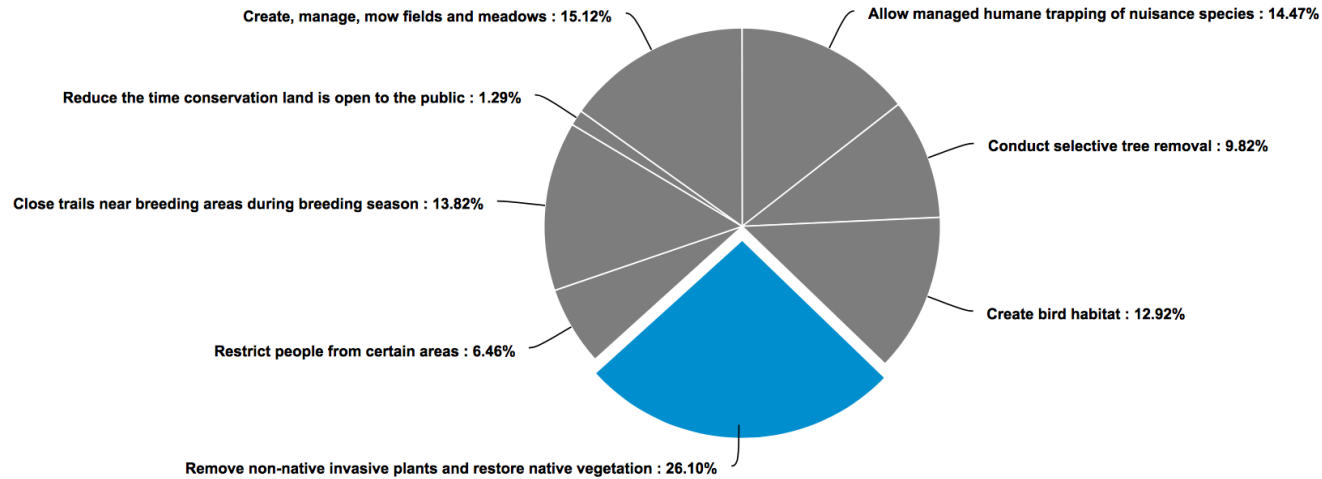
Goal 4: Protect Natural Resources and Wildlife Habitats



- Not surprisingly given the selection bias, protecting natural resources was high priority.

Goal 4: Protect Natural Resources and Wildlife Habitats

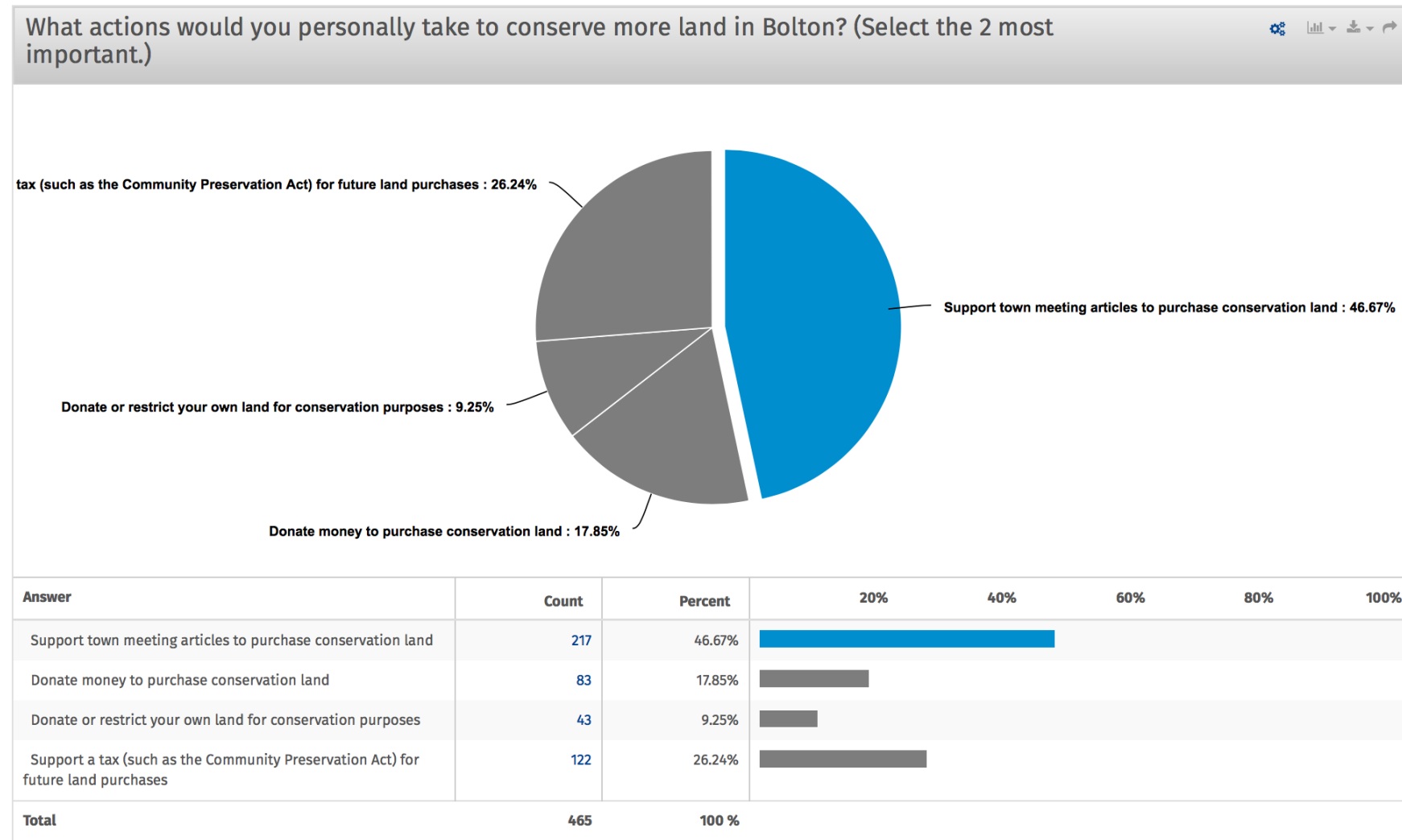
Which of the following management activities should Bolton perform to protect natural resources and habitat on existing conservation areas? (Please select the 3 most important.)



Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
Allow managed humane trapping of nuisance species	112	14.47%	<div></div>				
Conduct selective tree removal	76	9.82%	<div></div>				
Create bird habitat	100	12.92%	<div></div>				
Remove non-native invasive plants and restore native vegetation	202	26.1%	<div></div>				
Restrict people from certain areas	50	6.46%	<div></div>				
Close trails near breeding areas during breeding season	107	13.82%	<div></div>				
Reduce the time conservation land is open to the public	10	1.29%	<div></div>				
Create, manage, mow fields and meadows	117	15.12%	<div></div>				
Total	774	100 %					

- Removal of invasives and nuisance were top choices
- Maintenance activities – bird habitat, meadows – next in importance
- Restrictions were lowest choices.

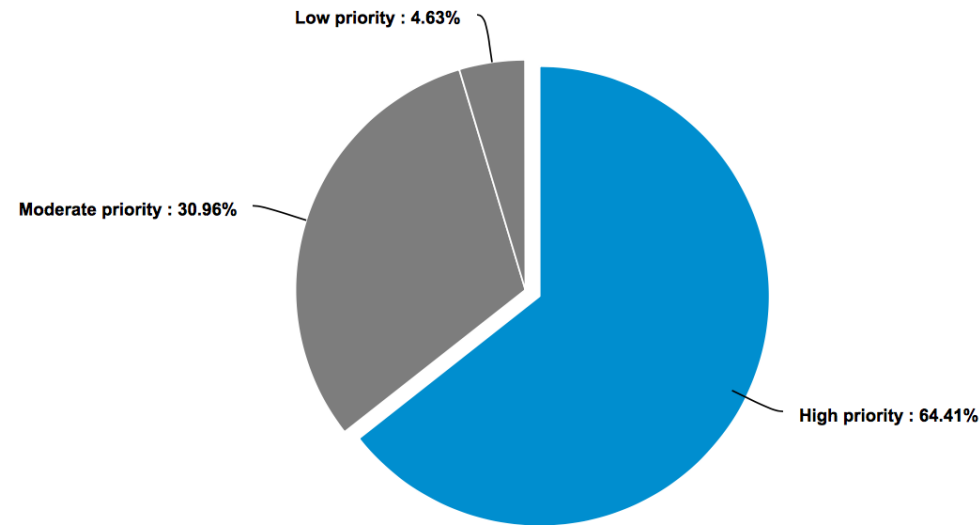
Goal 4: Protect Natural Resources and Wildlife Habitats



- Respondents seem willing to spend tax money.
- Note: ~120 people only selected one option.

Goal 5: Conserve Open Space for Public Use

Protection of land for public use (walking, horseback riding, bike riding, bird watching, cross-country skiing) should be: (Select one.)

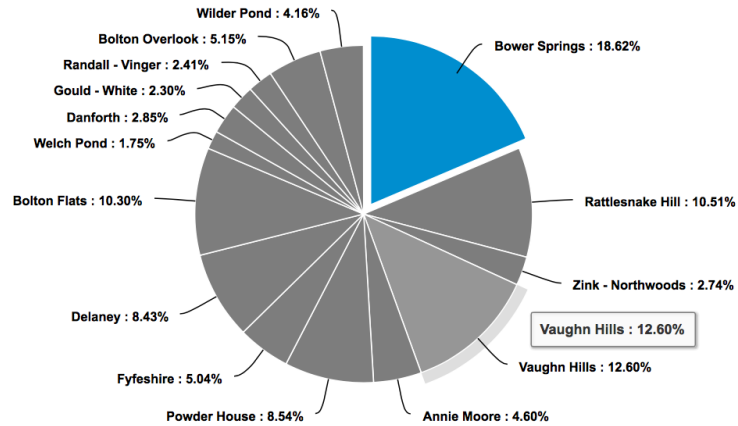


- Not surprisingly, preserving open space was a high priority.

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
High priority	181	64.41%	<div></div>				
Moderate priority	87	30.96%	<div></div>				
Low priority	13	4.63%	<div></div>				
Total	281	100 %					

Goal 5: Conserve Open Space for Public Use

What conservation properties have you visited within the past 6 months? (Check all that apply.)



Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
Bower Springs	170	18.62%					
Rattlesnake Hill	96	10.51%					
Zink - Northwoods	25	2.74%					
Vaughn Hills	115	12.6%					
Annie Moore	42	4.6%					
Powder House	78	8.54%					
Fyfeshire	46	5.04%					
Delaney	77	8.43%					
Bolton Flats	94	10.3%					
Welch Pond	16	1.75%					
Danforth	26	2.85%					
Gould - White	21	2.3%					
Randall - Vinger	22	2.41%					
Bolton Overlook	47	5.15%					
Wilder Pond	38	4.16%					
Total	913	100 %					

- Bower Springs most used (17%)
- Rattlesnake Hill (11%), Vaughn Hill (13%), and Bolton Flats (10%) next most used
- Many saw little use.

Areas of town lacking in conservation land? (1 of 2)

- "1. Although there are small sections of conservation land there now, the areas along either side of Berlin Rd southbound to the Town of Berlin need to be expanded and conjoined.
- 2. Part of that effort needs to be the elimination of the the massive illegal lumbering operations on the Coolidge lands at Berlin and Farm roads which is zoned for farming only with a costly restriction to limit its use to agricultural purposes only and would do wonders for restoring the natural habitat and soundscape of farming areas - not the injurious loud sounds of buzz saws, chain saws, lumber cutters that completely destroy the environment of that area. It also destroys the conservation of fauna and is a terrible eye-sore that has all but eliminated what once was a tranquil, farming area with a once idyllic cross-roads at Farm and Berlin Roads. It now resembles an unzoned Appalachian district and has become a laughingstock of our restrictions programs. We need strong enforcement of our farming zones and restrictions - something that Bolton sorely ignores for fear of engagement. It is an embarrassment that the selling of a handful of produce purchased elsewhere on a small table is allowed to act as a waiver under the 25% farming revenue variance when the lumbering operation is accounting for 99% of the activity and revenues."
- Additional parcels or easements are needed to complete the Bolton Loop Trail.
- Adjacent to i495
- area around West and Little Ponds -- very badly needed for raising the town's real estate values
- Between old Bolton Fair Grounds and Frye Rd/South Bolton Cemetery
- bolton pan
- Bolton/Stow line.
- Complete the loop trail
- East Bolton
- East Bolton, Route 85
- Behind School/memorial park
- Bolton beach"
- Frye road
- Fryeville
- I believe Bolton has property all over town.
- I believe our town has enough conservation land
- "I don't think land should be protected because it's in a certain area of town. I think land most important for wildlife and water resources should be the priorities.
- I feel we are lacking conservation land where we can make connections with existing conservation land or conservation land in adjacent towns.
- I have conservation land near me but it's not accessible by horseback due to the bridges. When I first moved to town 17 years ago I was able to ride all over town but now I never leave my own property due to the higher number of cars on the street and due to the fact that I can't get through the conservation land because of the bridges.
- I need a map

Areas of town lacking in conservation land? (2 of 2)

- I think Bolton has enough conservation land for a town of it's size.
- I think there is currently a very good distribution
- I think we just need to look for opportunities to protect land from development wherever they arise.
- Intersection of rt117 and i495
- My take on this issue is that it would be wise for Bolton to concentrate on linking it's available properties to enable walking/biking/hiking/skiing across these properties. That creates a sense of a larger space overall and gets individuals to access these spaces.
- Near rt 110
- No area is completely lacking.
- No area of Bolton is lacking conservation land. We have plenty of conservation land.
- none. we have enough conservation land and need more local businesses to help support our taxes
- Not too much available in the South Bolton area other than by Randall.
- Protect farms and limit building density, such as no townhouses and 2-5 acre building lots only. Taxes are very high, no new conservation lands needed.
- South Bolton (4)
- South Bolton Rd, Berlin Rd areas
- South of 117
- South-Central Bolton
- Southeast portion of town along the Hudson & Stow borders, as well as northeast in the area west of Corn Rd.
- Southwest corner (between Wilder and Wattaquaddock Hill Rds) and Southeast corner (between Berlin and Hudson Rds)
- the area of town near the Hudson line
- The Hudson side of Bolton
- The east side adjacent to Stow/Harvard. There is no formal trail access to Delaney from East End Rd.
- The issue is not which areas of our small town lack conservation areas, as one could easily make an argument that conservation land is always close at hand. The biggest threat to the environment and to the rural character of our town is the destruction of woods or conversion of farmland into large, unattractive housing tracts.
- The western side of town to complete a great Bolton loop trail
- West Pond/Little Pond Area
- Don't know (5), Not sure (4), no idea (1)

Properties needing protection (1 of 2)

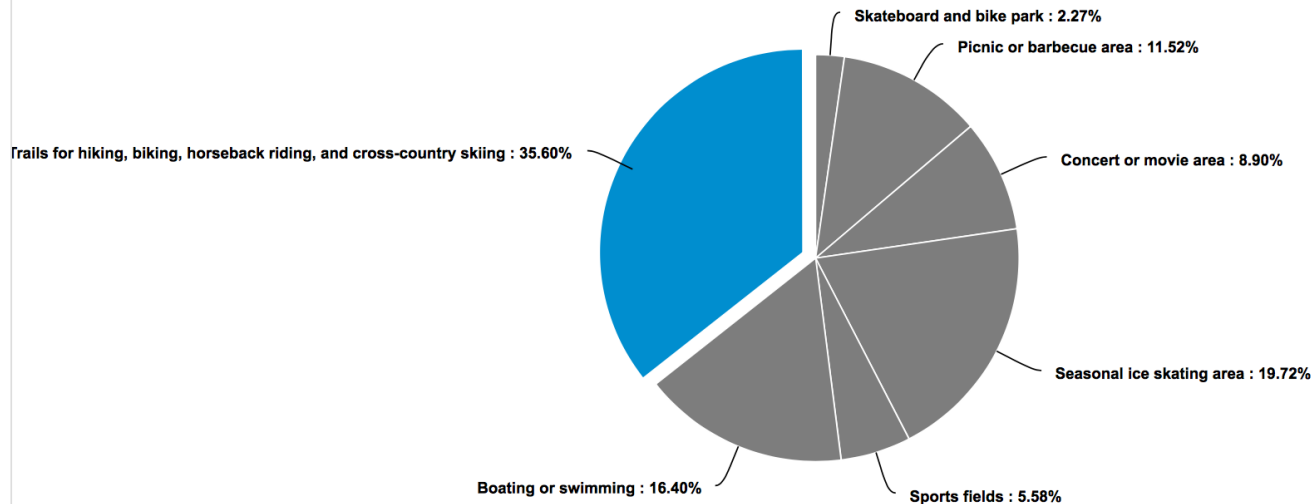
- "1. What I call the 'Indian Springs Trail' the stretch of land that runs from Case farm down the ravine between Old Bay Rd and Berlin Rd, along the ravine's brook and amazing wetlands, past the old dump along to the brook's exit next to Coolidge home spilling into the conservation land on the other side.
- 2. See previous text box re the Coolidge farm lands that are already designated as protected lands but are operated as a lumber yard in flagrant violation of said restrictions. We need to hold people accountable to the often costly restrictions that were purchased in good faith to serve the citizenry but which are so often allowed to be abused. Citizens should not be required to confront fellow land owners in cases of flagrant violations. That only encourages conflict and can spur the perpetrators to violence."
- Vaughn Hills adjoining property at
- ALL FOREST/FARM LAND.
- All properties need a plan regarding dogs. There needs to be clear guidelines posted on properties informing owners to control/leash their dogs at all times and to pick up after them. It is a shame how much dog crap can be found on our trail system. The town of Stow worked on this issue years go. We must do the same.
- All public conservation areas need to be protected from snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. Signage alone does not accomplish the job.
- Any large orchard or farm property that goes up for sale.
- Bolton Overlook
- Bolton spring Farm and The horse farm on wattaquaddock
- Bolton town beach
- Bolton Town Common, Case Farm, Farm on long hill rd, Bolton Spring Farm, Bolton Orchids, Camp Virginia, Boy Scout Camp
- Bowers (4)
- "Callahan 034/005.C-0000-0011.0 landlocked 75 acres abutting town and Trust land, Ettinger land on Long Hill Road, Lord's Orchard on Annie Moore
- Vespa and Taggert land near Wilder Road"
- Camp Virginia (21)
- Danforth stream between Century Mill Stables and Hudson
- delaney, bowers
- Downtown main street area.
- High traffic areas on main roads since further residential/commercial development would impact the quality of life via traffic, noise, etc
- horse farm at Old bay and Wattaquausdock Rd
- Horse farm old bay, Bolton spring farms
- I have noticed Bower Springs has foot traffic damage and dog poop. Delaney also has an issue with dog poop as well.

Properties needing protection (1 of 2)

- I would like to see our farming community protected. I fear when current farmers retire and their families don't want to continue with the business, the acres they own will be developed into homes. I would like to see the town purchase some of that land to protect the beautiful land the town has.
- I'm very worried about the beaver damage to the trees at Bower Springs. I'm also concerned that properties might be built between Harvard Rd and Sugar Rd.
- Intersection of rt117 and i495
- Kain property near i495 - prevent over development in this area to preserve Bolton's rural character
- Old Bay - One of the most scenic roads in Bolton. (2)
- Perhaps you could share an easy to read map showing what is still available for protection and where existing protected lands are, so people can respond to this in a meaningful way.
- Phillip Phillips
- Powers Land
- properties off of Golden Run Rd
- The area on Farm Rd and any other open space around Century Mill
- The areas that connect Bowers Spring and the Vaughn Hills with the Bolton Flats: 1) the area northeast of Nashaway Rd and west of Vaughn Hill Rd, 2) the area at the north end of the Vaughn Hills east of 110, and 3) all areas surrounding Bower Springs. Also the areas north of the Town Common, west of Harvard Rd/south of Golden Run/east of Sugar Rd.
- The Callahan land on Harvard Rd. I know Conservation Trust has for more than a decade made a concerted effort to obtain this important property that stretches from the town center back. I send my good wishes that sooner or later the town is successful in obtaining and protecting in perpetuity as open space
- The most important Initiative for me in our town is to save and protect natural lands. I would like to save any and all lands that are available and I would pay more money to be able to do so whether via tax or donation or whatever. Even though I can't use much of the land due to the horseback accessibility issues I would still always vote to preserve as much land as possible. It's alarming how much land has been developed in the past 17 years and I advocate saving however much is left that we can.
- Townsend Farm (8)
- Trails
- "We walk past the 15 acre field on Nourse Road every day. My heart broke to see it being broken up into housing lots. Small open spaces like that keep this town feeling more rural -- I think we underestimate the importance of small breaks in the houses. Although I certainly want the larger conservation areas as well."
- West Pond (2)
- Wetlands/Watersheds
- Wilder Pond, Randall-Vinger, Bower Springs, Dunnell's Gift, Butternut.
- "Would be easier to answer some of these questions if a few areas were proposed and we could pick from those. I just don't know. I'm not an environmental engineer.
- No new conservation property or recreation property needed. No new taxes, no higher taxes.
- None, Don't know (5) , Not sure (5)

Goal 6: Provide Recreation Opportunities to Bolton Citizens

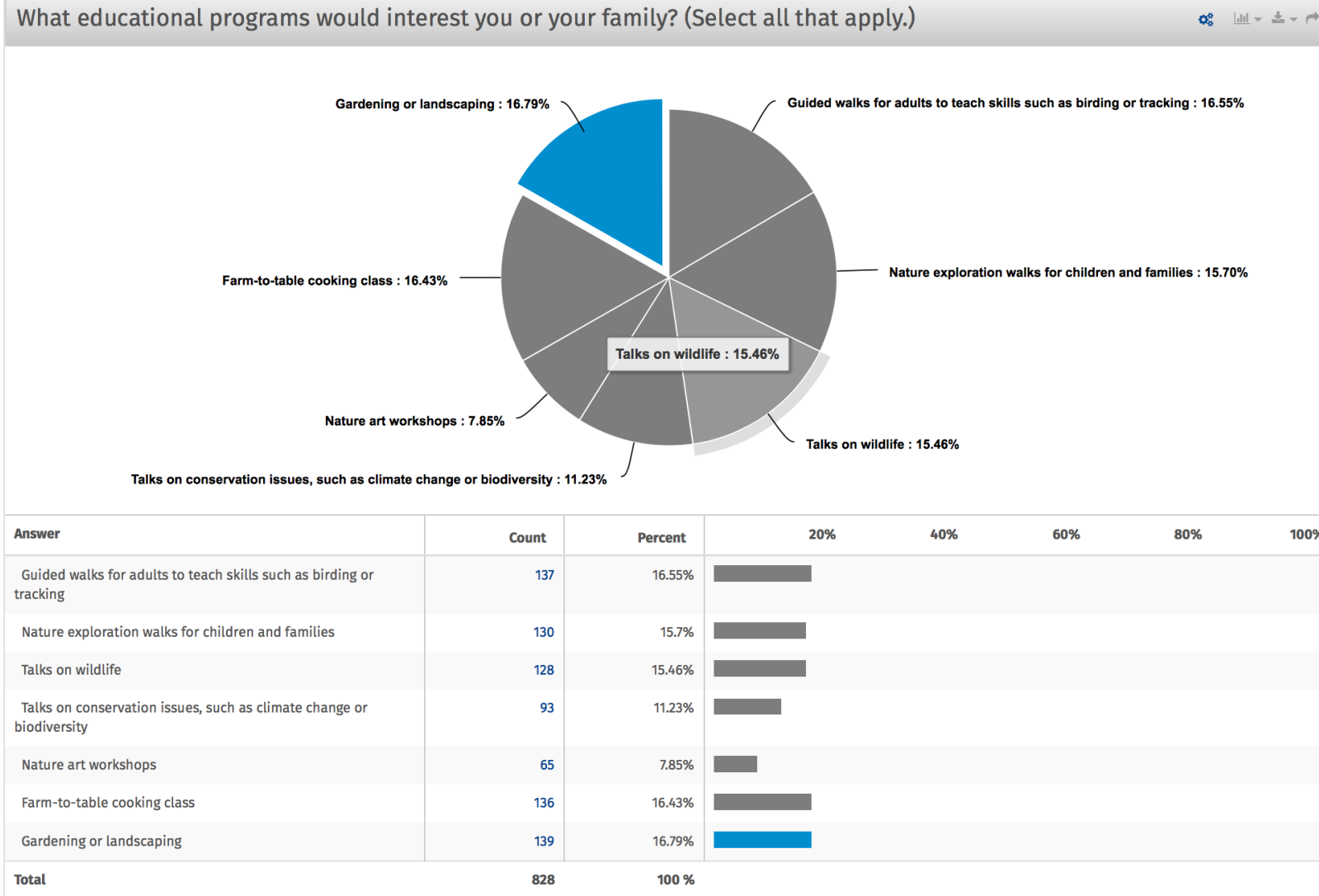
What type of recreational activities – both passive and active – would you like to see in existing recreational space? (Please select the 2 most important.)



- Trails most popular (36%)
- Ice skating (20%), boating/swimming (16%), picnic (12%) next in interest

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
Skateboard and bike park	13	2.27%					
Picnic or barbecue area	66	11.52%					
Concert or movie area	51	8.9%					
Seasonal ice skating area	113	19.72%					
Sports fields	32	5.58%					
Boating or swimming	94	16.4%					
Trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing	204	35.6%					
Total	573	100 %					

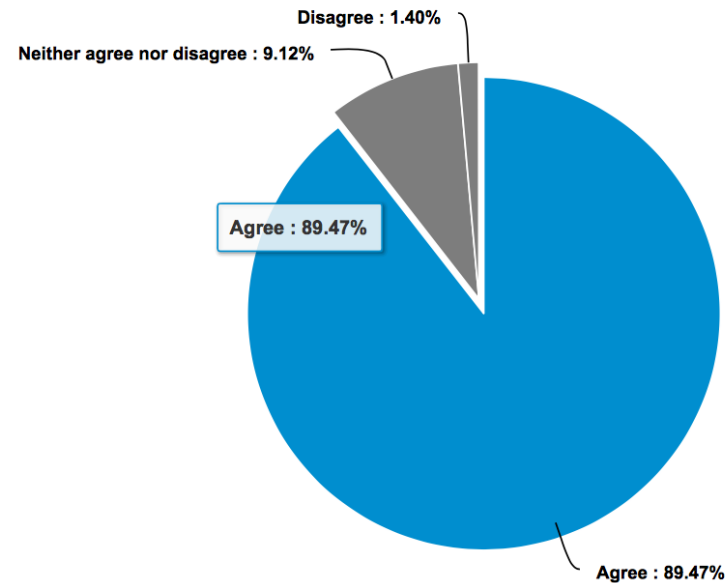
Additional Questions



- Fairly equal interest, perhaps because the question did not ask for most important.

Additional Questions

Do you agree with scientists who tell us that preservation of biodiversity – the variety of organisms found on Earth – is important for human well-being? (Select one.)

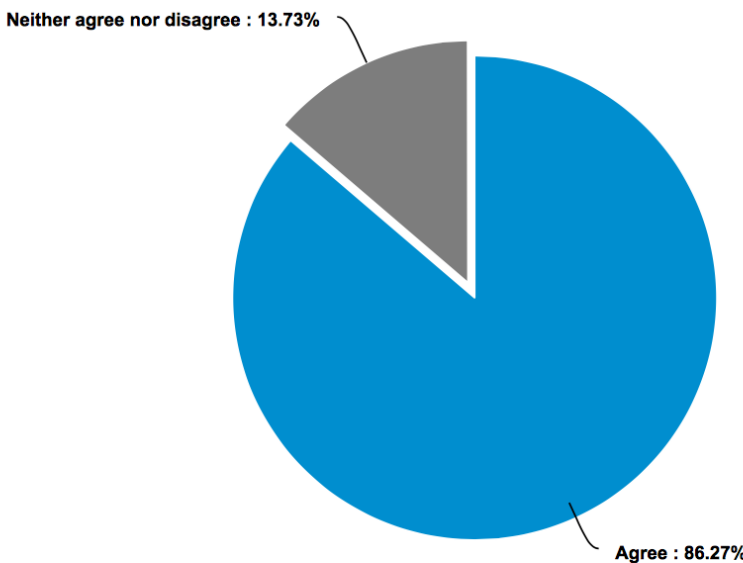


- Even with the leading wording toned down from previous versions, the selection bias led to 90% agreement

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
Agree	255	89.47%	<div></div>				
Neither agree nor disagree	26	9.12%	<div></div>				
Disagree	4	1.4%	<div></div>				
Total	285	100 %					

Additional Questions

Do you agree that protecting wildlife habitat is a good approach to protecting biodiversity. (Select one.)

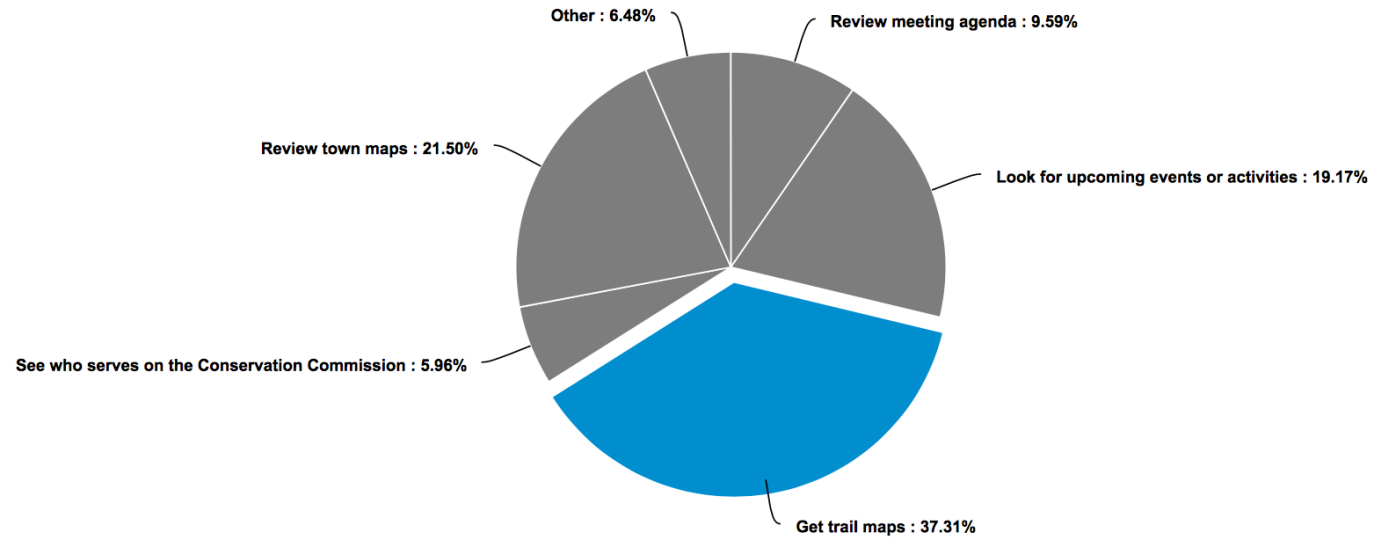


- Leading language from previous question likely led to extremely high agreement

Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
Agree	245	86.27%	<div></div>				
Neither agree nor disagree	39	13.73%	<div></div>				
Disagree	0	0%	<div></div>				
Total	284	100 %					

Additional Questions

In the past 6 months, have you visited the Conservation page on the town's website to do any of the following? (Select all that apply.)



Answer	Count	Percent	20%	40%	60%	80%	100%
Review meeting agenda	37	9.59%					
Look for upcoming events or activities	74	19.17%					
Get trail maps	144	37.31%					
See who serves on the Conservation Commission	23	5.96%					
Review town maps	83	21.5%					
Other	25	6.48%					
Total	386	100 %					

- Trail maps (37%), town maps (21%) and activity search (19%) most frequent use

“Other” option (p. 1 of 2) – used as open-ended comment box

- No new taxes please. There are enough trails, farms and protected areas in Bolton.
- Conservation activities need to include a high priority on noise and light pollution. The unbridled, disrespectful use of very loud machines, chain saws, 500 watt security spotlights aimed without care upwards and outwards at other properties without shades and other related abuses destroy the natural environments with great and destructive efficacy and need to be addressed with just as much vigor and investment as we apply to the preservation of flora, fauna, and geology. the natural habitats of Bolton should be our sacred trust to preserve. It is part of our identity, value system, and a key reason why so many have chosen to live here and pay the high taxes that we do. It is time to put the taxes to work for us, the people of Bolton.
- not a 'browser' of web sites.
- NOTE: Schultz Farm was omitted in Goal 3; did the International fail to complete the AR/CRestrictions in process in 2006?
- Comment: Would not support any purchases that result in restricted use like soccer fields and their associated ongoing costs...
- No, I have not.
- BATV on commission meetings
- Just bought a copy of the Bolton Trail Guide..great!
- We would like to know what the conservation Commission has done about the Bylaw violations of the Dipetro property on 110 Teele Rd. The DEP had visited his property.
- Look up rules for dog walking in conservation areas
- Beekeeping (could not find)

“Other” option (page 2 of 2)

- Find which areas allow legal hunting
- none of the above
- See if there is a leash law for conservation lands in Bolton. I believe that there should be and have stopped visiting several conservation areas in Bolton with my children because of encounters with unleashed and uncontrolled dogs. It is very sad that I don't feel safe walking these trails with my children.
- no, but I will, didn't know it had maps
- Thank for new trail maps
- I know you are a group of hardworking volunteers, but please, try to hold back on spending. Taxes in this town are going to make me move out soon. And I do realize that your dedicated group is not the big-spender in this town, but every dime helps. Thanks.
- One additional comment: please have all dog owners put their dogs on a leash, this is standard practice everywhere else to protect wildlife and small children using the conservation land. There is now weekend when my daughter would not be jumped at and licked by a dog against her will, with the dog owner arriving a few minutes later. Very scaring, especially for people being afraid of dogs. Also, unleashed dogs will almost certainly run after wildlife if they see it.
- Try regular articles and maps in the Bolton Independent.
- never visited town's website
- For future land purchases, please stop buying wetlands.... They have no value other than to the seller to get money from the town.... The land is useless.
- "BOLTON has enough conservation land. We can't afford more. Property taxes are out of control, even with all the ""help"" from the Commonwealth. The state money comes from sales tax and income tax. Stop taxing us to death.
- This questionnaire was slanted for conservation land development. Basically an unfair approach."