



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County Master Plan  
**2017 Community Input Summary**



**Forest Preserve District of DuPage County**







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# Introduction

**I**n 2017 the Forest Preserve District began work on a new master plan, which when completed in late 2018 will guide the development of the agency's natural areas and its educational and recreational efforts over the next five years.

The first critical step in the process – and the one summarized in this report – was gathering input from the general public and internal and external stakeholders. For this step, the master plan committee, comprised of Forest Preserve District employees, worked with a consultant.

In August 2017 the Forest Preserve District went out to bid for a consultant to assist with surveys and group meetings. It awarded the contract to Public Research Group of Naperville, Illinois. The master plan committee formulated a strategy to work collaboratively with the consultant and performed much of the production work to reduce costs.

Between August and November 2017 the Forest Preserve District held public, volunteer, staff, commissioner and special-interest-group meetings. It offered a cumulative voting activity; collected email comments; and conducted community, volunteer and staff surveys. When its efforts were completed, it had received comments and opinions from over 6,500 individuals.

In general, there is strong support for the mission of the Forest Preserve District and the services it provides. The sentiment from across the community is that people value Forest Preserve District services and believe the agency should focus on restoring, improving and maintaining its current resources.





# Public Input Meetings

**P**ublic meetings bring residents into the planning process, promote additional components (such as surveys) and provide a quick overview of community concerns.

Successful public meetings have focused agendas and consistent leadership and formats. Therefore, after deciding to hold one meeting in each of the county's six voting districts, the master planning committee invited volunteers to help test the proposed format and agenda.

Eighteen people representing a range of Forest Preserve District volunteer programs attended the test meeting on Aug. 22 at Forest Preserve District headquarters. Consistent with the proposed agenda for public meetings, moderators asked the volunteers to participate in a cumulative voting activity (see Page 15) and then gave a short introduction to the master plan process. They encouraged volunteers to complete the forthcoming survey and after the meeting asked for detailed comments on the agenda, process and flow.

Because the volunteers represented departments actively engaged in master plan meetings and the comment-review process, the committee determined the meeting provided accurate guidance for slight revisions and reworked trigger questions to better focus discussions and improve the value

of open-ended comments. After conversations with the consultant, a review of literature, and discussions with staff, the committee established the following agenda:

- Arrival greetings and refreshments
- Request to participate in cumulative voting activity before the group discussion
- Welcome and introduction by the Forest Preserve District president and the commissioner from the relevant district
- Staff explanation of the master plan process
- Staff-moderated discussion of four questions ("How do you use the forest preserves?" "What do you like about the forest preserves?" "What don't you like about the forest preserves?" and "What would you like to see in the future at the forest preserves?") with replies written and displayed on flip charts for participants' review
- Opportunity for general comments (also displayed on flip charts)
- Reminder to call or email Forest Preserve District staff with comments and ideas not expressed at the meeting



Prior to scheduling each meeting the committee reviewed school, park district and library calendars to identify conflicting events that might affect attendance. It then selected dates and venues based on centralized locations, availability and accessibility.

District 1	Sept. 19 7 – 8:30 p.m. Itasca Community Library in Itasca
District 2	Sept. 26 7 – 8:30 p.m. Mayslake Peabody Estate in Oak Brook
District 3	Oct. 30 7 – 8:30 p.m. Indian Prairie Public Library in Darien
District 4	Oct. 25 7 – 8:30 p.m. College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn
District 5	Oct. 18 7 – 8:30 p.m. Naperville Municipal Center in Naperville
District 6	Oct. 3 7 – 8:30 p.m. West Chicago Park District ARC Center in West Chicago

Because successful public meetings also have advanced publicity, the Forest Preserve District used an ongoing multimedia strategy to promote attendance:

- Press release to all Forest Preserve District media contacts
- Content on Forest Preserve District website
- Facebook postings
- Flyers and postcards distributed via library and park district websites and bulletin boards
- Flyers posted in grade K – 12 virtual backpacks
- Flyers posted in information kiosks at DuPage forest preserves
- Postcard packets placed at volunteer log-in desks at education sites for distribution by volunteers
- Press release posted on environmental groups' websites and bulletin boards
- Personal phone calls by staff and commissioners to community contacts
- Flyer emailed to township and municipal offices for posting and distribution
- Invitations to DuPage mayors and managers requesting to spread the word in their municipalities
- Informal word of mouth
- Signs posted at meeting locations and on the host agencies' websites or calendars where possible

## Results

	Attendees	Comments
District 1	19	91
District 2	17	120
District 3	22	157
District 4	54	207
District 5	44	205
District 6	32	131
<b>Totals</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>911</b>

At the end of each meeting, participants could share comments on any topic. The following is a recap from all six meetings. These comments do not provide statistically valid data (attendees may not have commented on a topic already addressed, may not have felt comfortable commenting, etc.) but do offer some anecdotal insight into community perspectives.

	Percent of All Comments Given
Better communication, outreach and transparency	29
Preserve improvements, programs and amenities	23
General, favorable comments about the Forest Preserve District	20
More collaboration, cooperation and coordination	15
More land acquisition and natural resource restoration	13

## HELP US PLAN FOR THE FUTURE!

The Forest Preserve District invites DuPage County residents and forest preserve fans to help it determine which projects to address over the next five years as part of a master plan. Join a meeting at convenient locations around the county, and help us to plan the future in your DuPage forest preserves! For more information, call 630-871-6404

**Community Meetings**

**Tues., Sept. 19 • 7 p.m.**  
Itasca Community Library • Itasca

**Tues., Sept. 26 • 7 p.m.**  
Mayslake Peabody Estate • Oak Brook

**Tues., Oct. 3 • 7 p.m.**  
West Chicago Park District ARC Center  
West Chicago

**Wed., Oct. 18 • 7 p.m.**  
Naperville Municipal Center • Naperville

**Wed., Oct. 25 • 7 p.m.**  
College of DuPage, Health & Science Center  
Room 1301 • Glen Ellyn

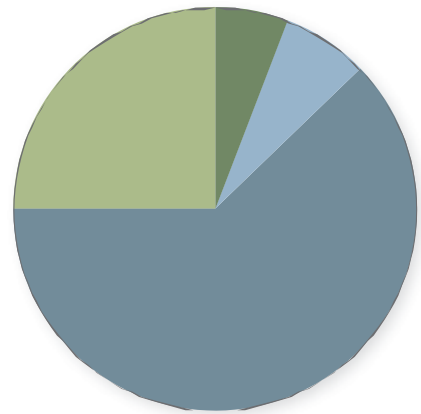
**Mon., Oct. 30 • 7 p.m.**  
Indian Prairie Public Library • Darien

 [dupageforest.org/master-plan](http://dupageforest.org/master-plan)

# Input Gathered

## Question 1

How do you use the forest preserves?

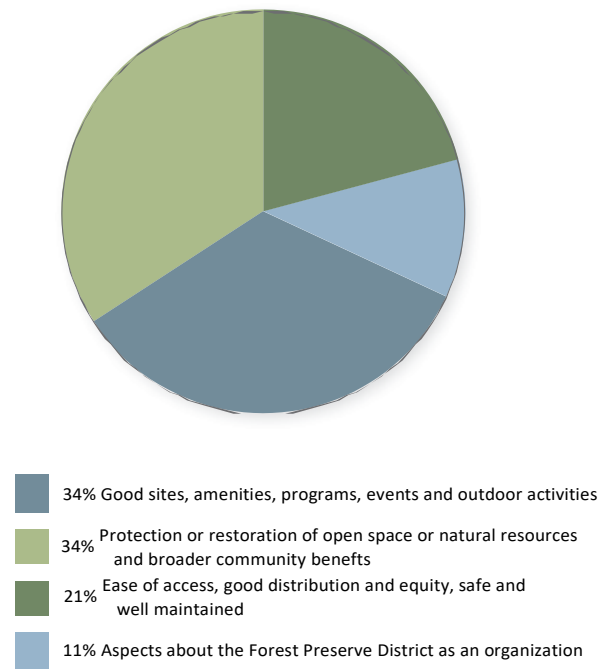


- 62% To participate in an outdoor activity
- 25% To visit an education site, attend a program or event
- 7% To volunteer or spend time with family and friends
- 6% To spend time in nature or passively enjoy the benefits of open space



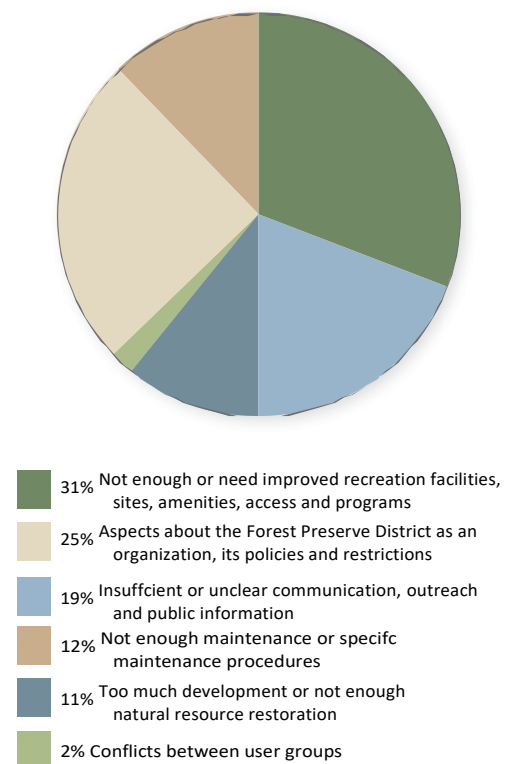
## Question 2

What do you like about the forest preserves?



## Question 3

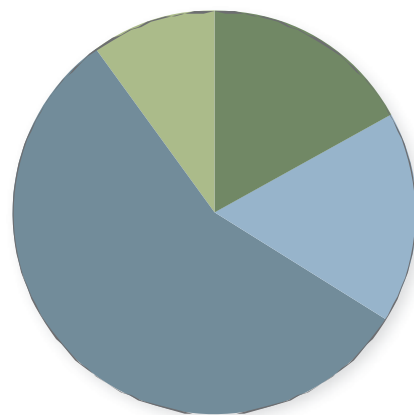
What don't you like about the forest preserves?





#### Question 4

What would you like to see in the future at the forest preserves?



- 56% Better access, preserve improvements, amenities, maintenance, programs and security
- 17% Better outreach, communication and promotion
- 17% More land acquisition, natural resource restoration and scientific research
- 10% Better transparency, collaboration, partnerships and policy changes







# Volunteer Input Meetings

**B**ecause volunteers are highly engaged individuals with high levels of familiarity with the organization, the Forest Preserve District felt it was important to provide separate input meetings so volunteers could be more involved with planning for the future.

The meetings allowed volunteers to share their ideas and experiences, highlighted additional components of the master planning process (such as the survey), and gave the Forest Preserve District additional insight into community concerns.

The format was similar to the public meetings:

- Arrival greetings and refreshments
- Request to participate in cumulative voting activity before the discussion
- Welcome, introduction and explanation of the master plan process by staff
- Staff-moderated discussion of three questions (“What do you like about the forest preserves?” “What don’t you like about the forest preserves?” and “What would you like to see in the future at the forest preserves?”) with replies written and displayed on flip charts for participants’ review

- Opportunity for general comments (also displayed on flip charts)
- Reminder to call or email Forest Preserve District staff with comments and ideas not expressed at the meeting

The first meeting started with a fourth warm-up question (“What does volunteering mean to you?”) but because volunteers readily shared information without much prompting, to conserve time and better focus the discussion the committee did not use the question in subsequent meetings.

Prior to scheduling the meetings, the master plan committee consulted with the Forest Preserve District’s Volunteer Services department about dates, times and locations that would generally accommodate all groups. It then scheduled one daytime meeting on the east side of the county and one daytime and one evening meeting in the center. Volunteer Services distributed invitations and left promotional postcards at each volunteer site. Volunteers were encouraged to call or email if they planned on attending so staff could appropriately plan for the size of the group and determine if additional meetings would be necessary.



Nov. 13 1 p.m.

Mayslake Peabody Estate  
in Oak Brook

Nov. 14 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Forest Preserve District  
Headquarters in Wheaton

Results\*

	Attendees	Comments
Nov. 13 at 1 p.m.	28	290
Nov. 14 at 1:30 p.m.	18	170
Nov. 14 at 6 p.m.	16	99
Totals	62	559

\*The 18 volunteers at the Aug. 22 test meeting gave an additional 128 comments.

At the end of each meeting, participants could share comments on any topic. The following is a recap from all three meetings. These comments do not provide statistically valid data (attendees may not have commented on a topic already addressed, may not have felt comfortable commenting, etc.) but do provide some anecdotal insight into community perspectives.

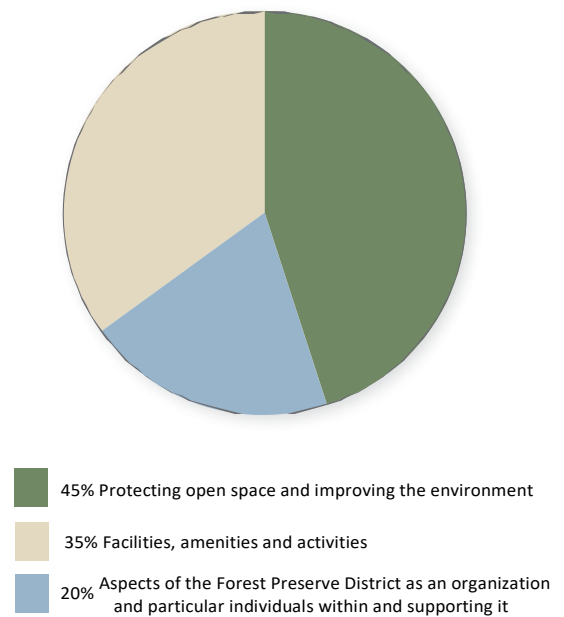
	Percent of All Comments Given
Better communication, policies and procedures, staff and volunteer concerns	58
More land acquisition and natural resource restoration	22
Preserve improvements, programs and events	13
General, favorable comments about the Forest Preserve District	7



# Input Gathered

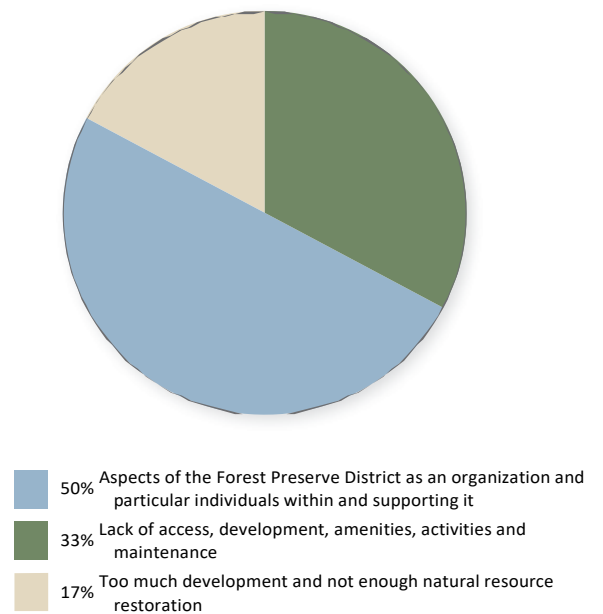
## Question 1

What do you like about the forest preserves?



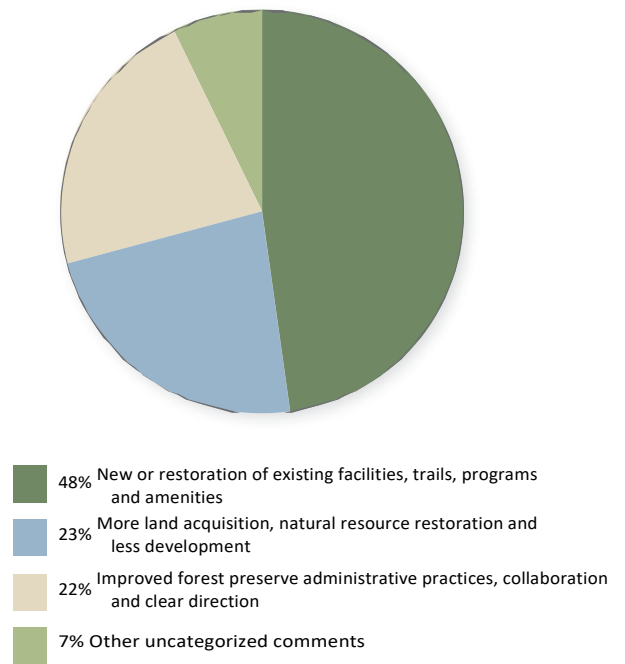
## Question 2

What don't you like about the forest preserves?



### Question 3

What would you like to see in the future at the forest preserves?







# Cumulative Voting

Over a 10-week period, the Forest Preserve District held cumulative voting activities at several locations to engage the public and gauge community interest in five categories: trails; historic buildings and sites; prairies, woods and wetland restoration; educational facilities and programs; and recreation.

Participants were asked which categories the Forest Preserve District should focus on over the next five years. Each then received 10 tokens and “voted” by placing the tokens in ballot boxes representing each category. They could place all 10 chips in one box to show strong support for a single category or could divide the chips among the boxes in any way.

Similar to its test of the public meeting agenda, the master plan committee tested the cumulative voting activity at Medinah Park District’s summer festival on Aug. 19 and again at the Aug. 22 public input test meeting with Forest Preserve District volunteers (see Page 5). In addition to the two tests and the public and volunteer input meetings in September, October and November (see Page 5 and 11) the Forest

Preserve District used the cumulative voting activity at the following events:

Kline Creek Farm Country Fair	Sept. 2 and 3 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
St. James Farm Dairy Day	Sept. 9 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Graue Mill Corn Fest	Sept. 10 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Mayslake Peabody Estate	Sept. 23 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Danada Fall Festival	Oct. 8 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fullersburg Woods Halloween Night Walks	Oct. 29 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.



## Results

A total of 3,016 individuals participated in the cumulative voting exercise. Because the two test events were conducted with members of the public and the actual voting process did not change afterward, results from the two tests are included in the total.

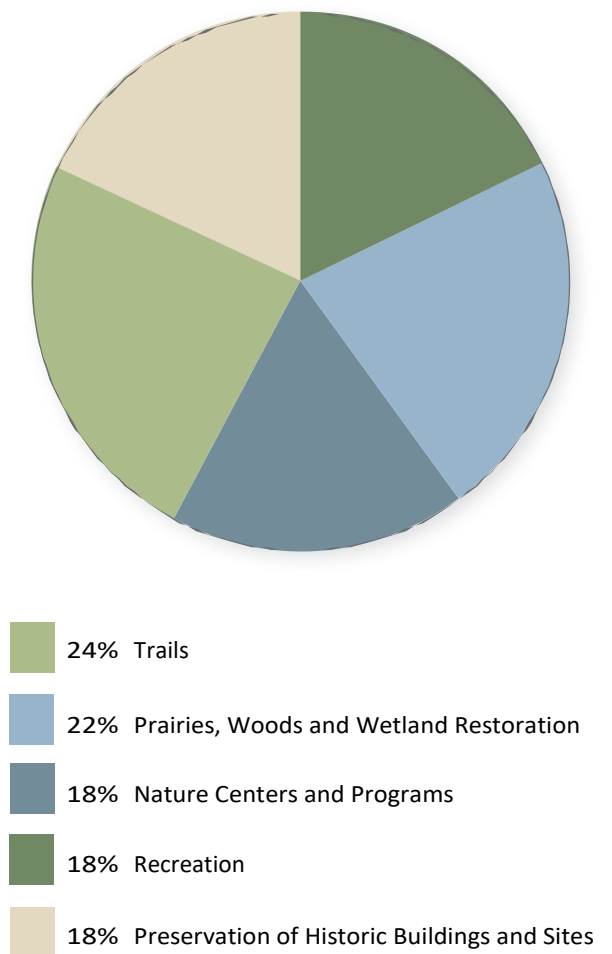
While lacking the scientific rigor of more quantitative input methods, cumulative voting has several advantages. Among them is the ability to quickly receive feedback from people who actively use the areas assessed. The activity is inexpensive, fast and simple to execute and offers immediate results. Data produced by cumulative voting can be used to validate (or disclaim) other more scientifically rigorous data by comparing the results of both methods. There is also value in “taking the public’s temperature” by giving visitors an opportunity to quickly provide opinions on key issues. Cumulative voting further benefits the Forest Preserve District by creating awareness of both the agency and the planning process.

People who participate in cumulative voting genuinely enjoy the activity, and the Forest Preserve District’s activity was no exception. People routinely commented that they enjoyed the chance to “provide input quickly and simply,” that it was “a good way to get feedback,” and that it was nice to be able to “have an opinion without needing to stop and complete a paper survey.”



# Input Gathered

## Cumulative Voting Results









# Email Comments

To receive comments from people unable to participate in any other master plan outreach activities, the Forest Preserve District set up a special email address and posted it on the master plan page of its website. The following is a recap of messages received as of April 30, 2018:

Subject	Emails	Percent of All Emails Received
Miscellaneous (spam, duplicates, test emails, questions or comments about meetings or surveys, etc.)	17	39
Trail development or improvements	14	32
Off-leash dog area improvements	6	14
Outdoor recreation facility improvements	4	9
More land acquisition or natural resource restoration	3	7







# Surveys

**T**he master plan committee worked with Forest Preserve District employees from several departments to craft questions for community, volunteer and staff surveys.

## Community

The Forest Preserve District conducted two community surveys: a random sample and a general population. For both, it produced and promoted the survey materials and accepted responses. For the random sample survey, the Forest Preserve District obtained the addresses and recruited volunteers to collate and prepare the surveys for mailing. Public Research Group's *Community Survey and Assessment Report* in appendix A summarizes the results of these surveys and lists responses for each question from the random sample.

## Volunteers

The Forest Preserve District crafted another survey to gather input from its more than 900 volunteers. The format was similar to the community survey but contained more open-ended questions and one on volunteers' perceptions of forest preserve visitor interests.

The Forest Preserve District sent the survey to all volunteers on Nov. 17. It emailed most but sent paper copies to people who did not have email addresses on file. It received 172 completed surveys in return (163 online and nine mailed). Select questions are featured in the *Community Survey and Assessment Report* in appendix A; responses for all questions are in appendix B.

## Staff

In recognition of the distinct perspective dedicated staff can bring to a master plan process, the Forest Preserve crafted a survey specifically for its 300 employees. The format was similar to the community survey but contained more open-ended questions and one on employees' perceptions of forest preserve visitor interests.

The Forest Preserve District sent the survey to all employees on Nov. 17. It emailed most but sent paper copies to employees who did not have email access. It received 178 completed surveys in return (171 online and seven printed). Select questions are featured in the *Community Survey and Assessment Report* in appendix A; responses for all questions are in appendix C.







# Meetings for Staff, Commissioners and Special Interest Groups

## *Staff Workshop*

On Aug. 24 Public Research Group facilitated a staff workshop at Mayslake Peabody Estate from 8 to 11:30 am. Fifty-one employees attended. They were divided into six groups and asked to provide their thoughts on four questions. The master plan committee documented the discussions and produced a summary of the replies, which is in appendix D.

## *Commissioner Visioning Sessions*

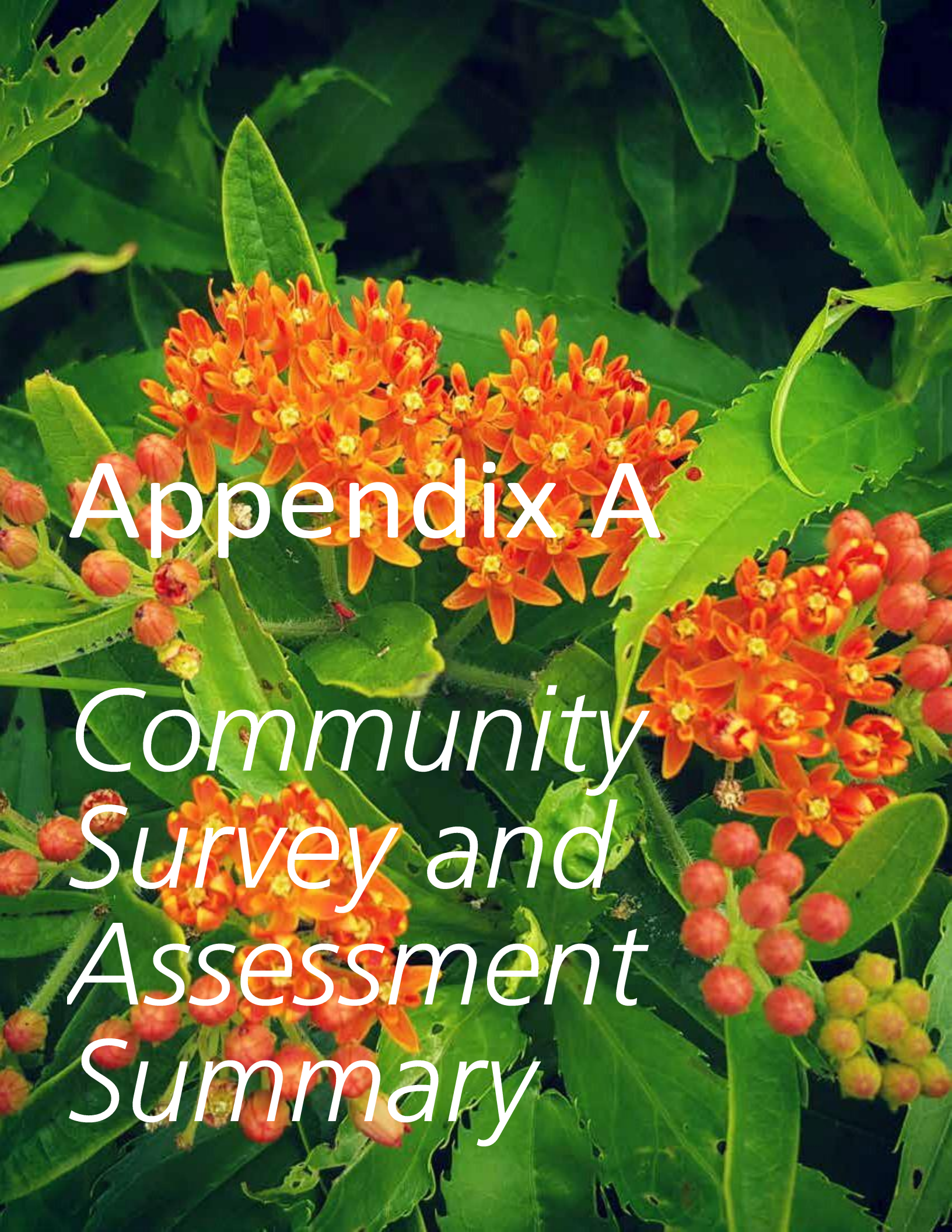
Public Research Group held a series of sessions for Forest Preserve District commissioners to hear their individual opinions and gain an understanding of their short-term priorities. The *Community Survey and Assessment Report* in appendix A provides a brief summary of the sessions.

## *Special-Interest-Group Meetings*

As a way to gather anecdotal information to complement the random sample community survey, the Forest Preserve District arranged for nine meetings with special-interest groups – people with interests in off-leash dog areas, historic and cultural resources, outdoor recreation, programs for visitors with special needs, etc. Public Research Group's *Community Survey and Assessment Report* in appendix A provides a brief summary of the meetings.







# Appendix A

## *Community Survey and Assessment Summary*





# Community Survey and Assessment



Forest Preserve District of DuPage County



**PUBLIC  
RESEARCH  
GROUP**







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# Executive Summary

DuPage County is the second largest county in Illinois with 932,126 residents. The County is comprised of 9 townships, portions of 39 municipalities, and 336 square miles. DuPage is a major employment center for north eastern Illinois, home to over half a million jobs, 19 colleges, 7 hospitals, 2 national laboratories (Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator), 300 miles of bikeways and nearly 26,000 acres of forest preserve property. Over 20% of the county is open space.

The Public Research Group assisted the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County in the fall of 2017 by preparing and administering a random survey that was sent to 5,000 DuPage County households via US Mail on October 27, 2017 and responses were received until December 20, 2017. In addition, a random email sample was sent out to 5,000 DuPage County households on November 2, 2017 to supplement the outgoing mailing sample using a technology touch to offset the traditional US Mail delivery method. The survey was also translated into Spanish and was made available to those who requested it. There were no requests to distribute it to interested households.

The random survey solicited responses from households with no preconceived notice of forest preserve survey. From that random sample the District received and compiled 705 mail, and 77 email surveys. The sample of 782 households provides a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5% at a 95% confidence level. This exceeds the typical industry standard and ensures that findings are representative of the sentiments across the County.

In addition to the random survey, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and the Public Research Group conducted additional surveys to assist the District in securing follow up information in the development of a Master Plan. The general population survey was posted on the Forest Preserve District's website as well as made available in hardcopy format from November 3, 2017 to December 13, 2017 and captured the opinions of 1,982 households that may or may not live within the District's jurisdiction, but were interested enough in the priorities and operation of the Forest Preserve District to take the time to answer the questions posed in the survey. This sample was not combined with the primary random sample, but was compared to the statistically valid for additional insight into the survey findings. This data can be found in the Appendix.

## **Major Survey Findings**

The survey contained a series of targeted questions that were crafted to measure attitudes and behaviors as well as perceptions by residents of DuPage County regarding the Forest Preserve. The survey allowed for opportunities for participants to provide specific comments from “open ended” comments. The survey contained 25 questions with approximately 215 variables, leading to over 170,000 possible survey data points for analysis from the 782 respondents.

### **Administration**

- 90% of the respondents believe that the protection of natural areas is the most important value for the forest preserves to achieve

### **Visitation**

- Nearly one out of two respondents visit a preserve at least once a month. Only 11% have never visited a preserve.
- The top three preserves visited were Blackwell (43%), Herrick Lake (39%), and Danada (34%).

### **Activities**

- The most common activities were trail use (76%), enjoying nature (63%), and sitting/relaxation (40%).
- Many respondents are happy with the way the preserves are now, and prefer to focus on maintaining what the Forest Preserve District has

### **Travel/Transportation**

- The vast majority of respondents of the random survey responded that they typically “drive” (83%) to a forest preserve.
- In terms of traveling to visit the preserves, 65% of those surveyed indicated they travel “3 – 10 miles”.

### **Communication**

- The top response in terms of how households receive information was “I don’t” (32%). The second most selected option was “at a forest preserve” (27%).
- Nearly one out of four visitors (25%) use a smart phone in a forest preserve.

### **Land Acquisition**

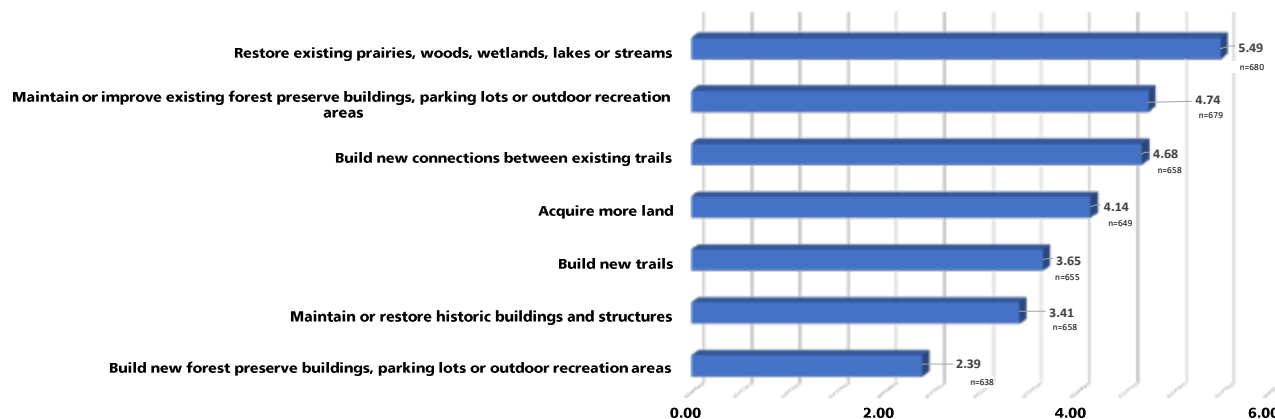
- The most important reason the Forest Preserve District should acquire land in the future is to “protect sensitive natural areas” (37%). Similarly, 33% of the respondents felt “preserve open space” was the most important reason.

## Priorities

The respondents clearly ranked the choices related to existing resources at the top of their list. This includes choosing “restore existing prairies, woods, wetlands, lakes or streams” as the number one selection. The next two most selected options were “maintain or improve existing forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas” and “build new connections between existing trails”.

### 15: Considering the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County does not have unlimited resources, what should it focus on over the next five years?

#### Rankings (Weighted)



2017 Random Survey

## Demographics

The findings of the survey in this area reasonably reflect the County demographics and the most likely persons using and enjoying the preserves.

- 43.2 average age of individual in the household.
- 47% female/52% male gender breakdown.
- 72% married/11% single/5% widowed.
- 29.2 years living in DuPage County.
- The largest age group to respond to the survey was the 45-64 age range at 35.6%.
- The largest race to respond to the survey was White/Caucasian at 80.2%.



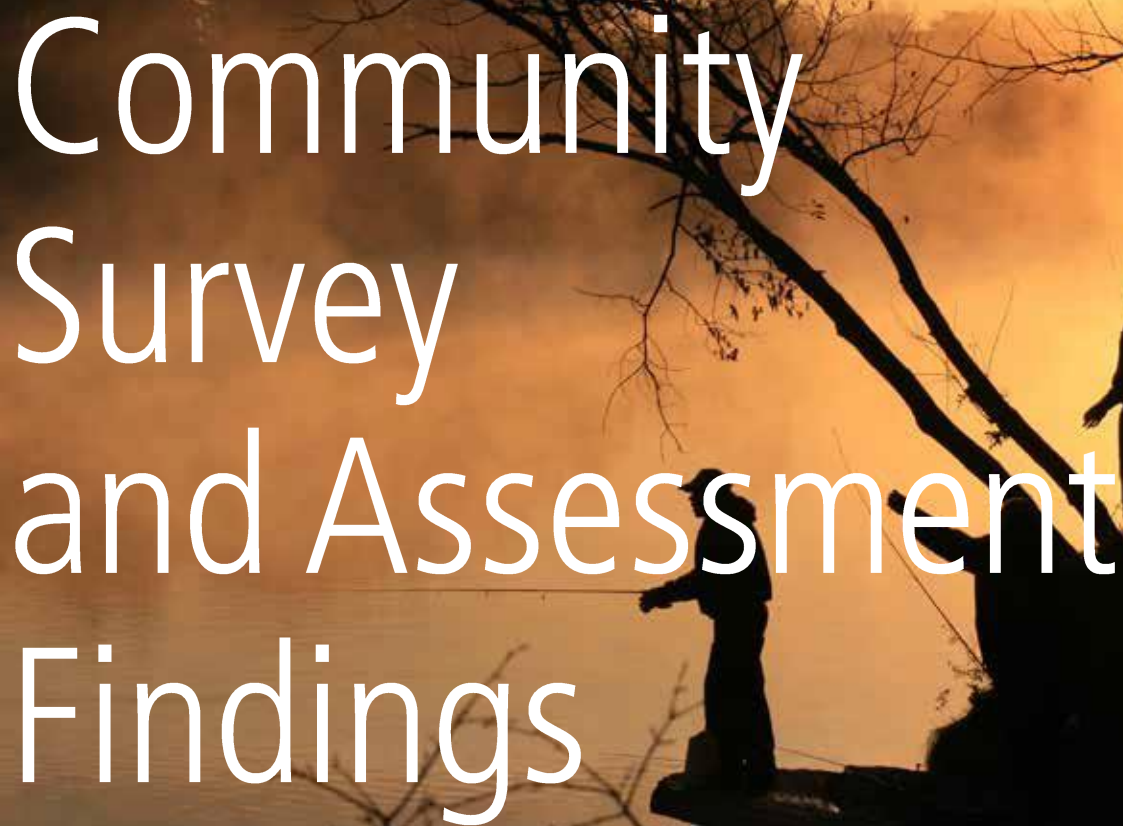
## **Conclusions**

The survey findings suggest that the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has a strong and satisfied user base that offers unique natural settings within a highly suburban and ever increasing urban environment. The statistical as well as anecdotal data collected would suggest that the public is generally supportive of the Forest Preserve and places value in its mission.

The following statements provide a summary of the survey conclusions:

- The protection of natural areas and experiencing nature is what the preserves do best.
- The Forest Preserve are good neighbours and looked favourably upon in terms of increasing home value.
- Strong visitation rates with Blackwell, Herrick Lake and Danada comprising the highest visits.
- The activities most enjoyed among visitors are walking, running or biking on a trail, enjoying nature and simply sitting and relaxing.
- Many are happy with the preserves just as they are.
- The majority of users of the preserves travel between 3 to 10 miles by car.
- There is a desire for an increase in both bike riding and walking in terms of transportation in the future.
- While many do not use a smart phone in a preserve, 25% do.
- Over two out of three respondents receive information about the Forest Preserve, but nearly one out of three don't.
- Land acquisition should not be a major focus in the short term future, but the protection high quality natural areas are important.
- The protection and restoration of natural areas is a top priority followed by maintaining the valuable assets the Forest Preserve has and finally seeking out opportunities for trail connectivity.



A photograph showing the silhouettes of several people standing in a forest. The background is a bright, warm orange glow from a low sun, creating a strong backlight effect. The people are positioned at various heights, some standing on the ground and others possibly on a fallen log or branch. The trees are dark and their branches are visible against the bright sky.

# Community Survey and Assessment Findings

**P**ublic Research Group of Naperville, IL assisted the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County in the fall of 2017 by preparing and administering a random survey that was sent to 5,000 DuPage County households via US Mail on October 27, 2017 and responses were received until December 20, 2017. In addition, a random email sample was sent out to 5,000 DuPage County households on November 2, 2017 to supplement the outgoing mailing sample using a technology touch to offset the traditional US Mail delivery method. The survey was also translated into Spanish and was made available to those who requested it. There were no requests to distribute it to interested households.

The random survey solicited responses from households with no preconceived notice of forest preserve survey. From that random sample the District received and compiled 705 mail, and 77 email surveys. The sample of 782 households provides a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5% at a 95% confidence level. This exceeds the typical industry standard and ensures that findings are representative of the sentiments across the County.

In addition to the random survey, the Forest Preserve District and the Public Research Group conducted supplementary surveys to assist in gathering additional information for use in a Master Plan.

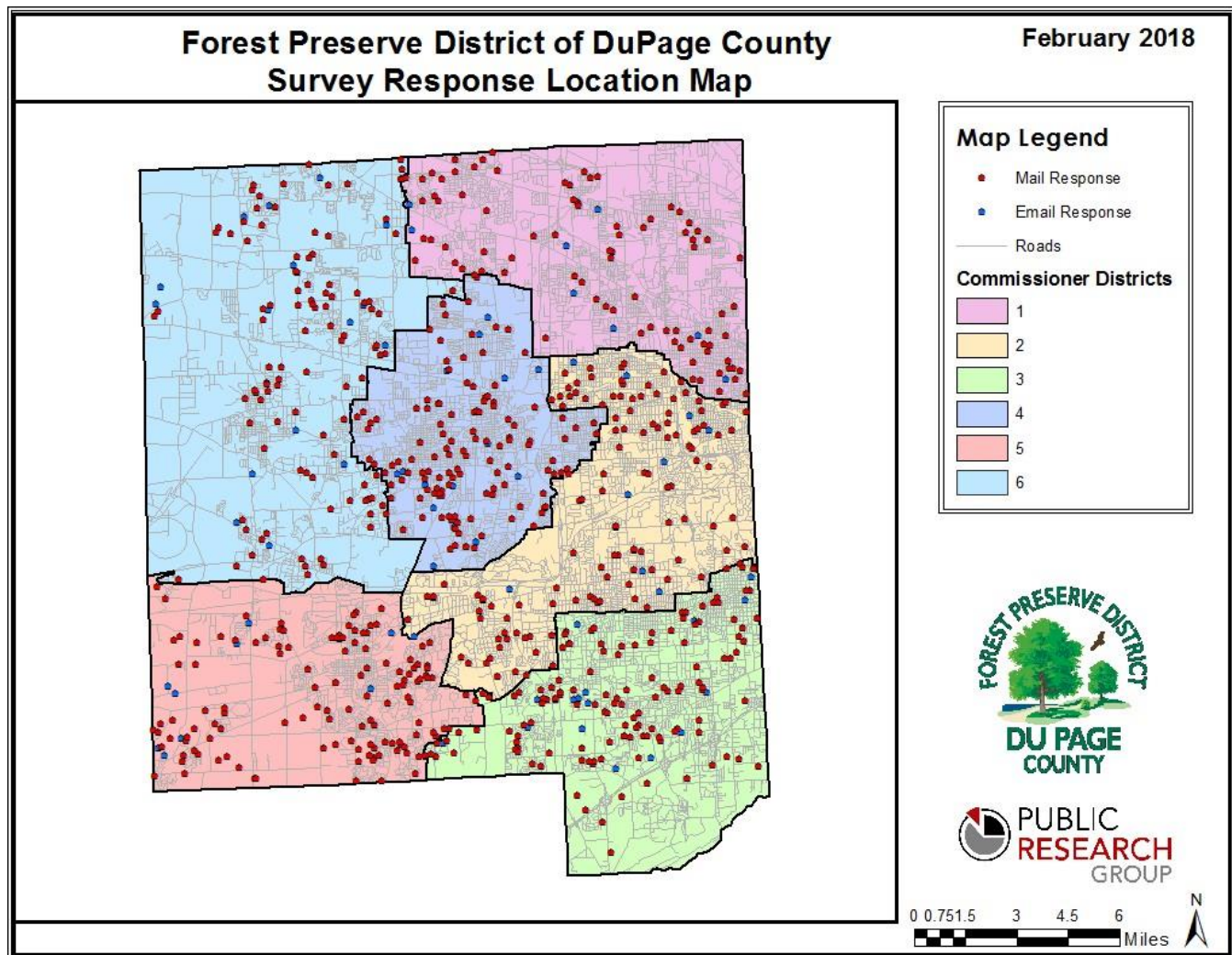
The following were the additional surveys administered in the fall of 2017:

- General Population Survey
- Employee Survey
- Volunteer Survey

The general population survey was posted on the Forest Preserve District's website as well as made available in hardcopy format from November 3, 2017 to December 13, 2017 and captured the opinions of 1,982 households that may or may not live within the District's jurisdiction, but were interested enough in the priorities and operation of the Forest Preserve District to take the time to answer the questions posed in the survey. It is important to remember there is a distinction between the random survey and the general population survey. The complete data set can be found in the Appendix with highlight comparisons between the two separate surveys in the body of the report. While the random sample survey is completely a matter of chance being selected, participation in the general population survey was completely open. 15% of responses to the general population survey came from outside the boundaries of DuPage County.

A similar survey was made available to the employees of the Forest Preserve District during this same period of time. The employee survey received 178 responses. Finally, the District wanted to hear from their large group of dedicated volunteers. This survey received 172 responses.

The map that is shown below was generated using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software showing the locations and types of surveys responses within DuPage County with an overlay background of the six political districts of the Forest Preserve. The map illustrates that the sample return of the random survey is equally distributed among the six districts and the county as a whole.



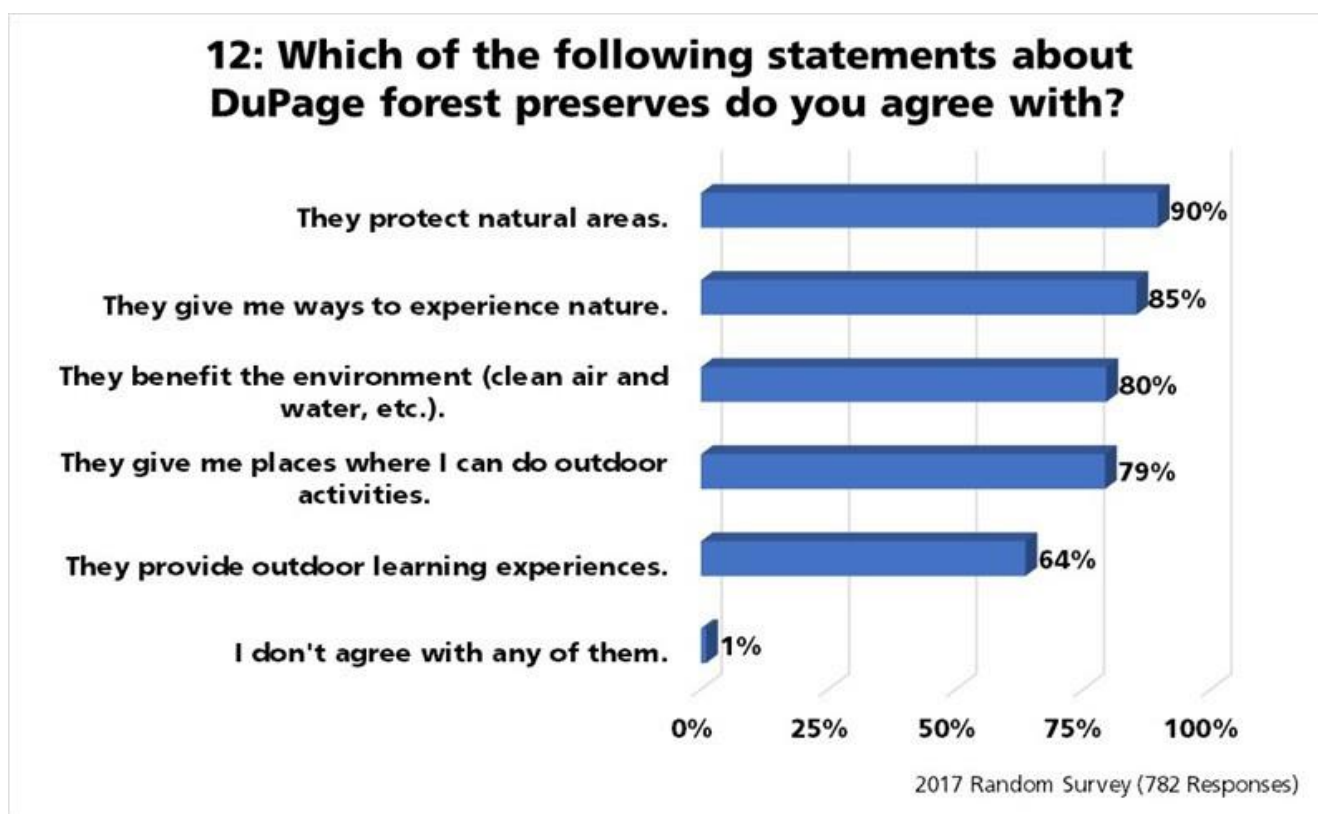


## Administration

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is interested in seeking resident opinions on the mission of the agency and their insight to future directives. These questions begin to provide valuable information to the District.

### Question 12: Which of the following statements about DuPage forest preserves do you agree with?

More than 60% of the 782 respondents indicated they agreed with all of the statements, including 90% of respondents indicating they agree with the statement “they protect natural areas”. In comparison, the general population survey data also illustrates high scores for all of the statements, but placed a slightly higher value in the preserves with the statement “they give me places where I can do outdoor activities”.



### Question 13: Please rank your choices from Question 12 based on their value to you.

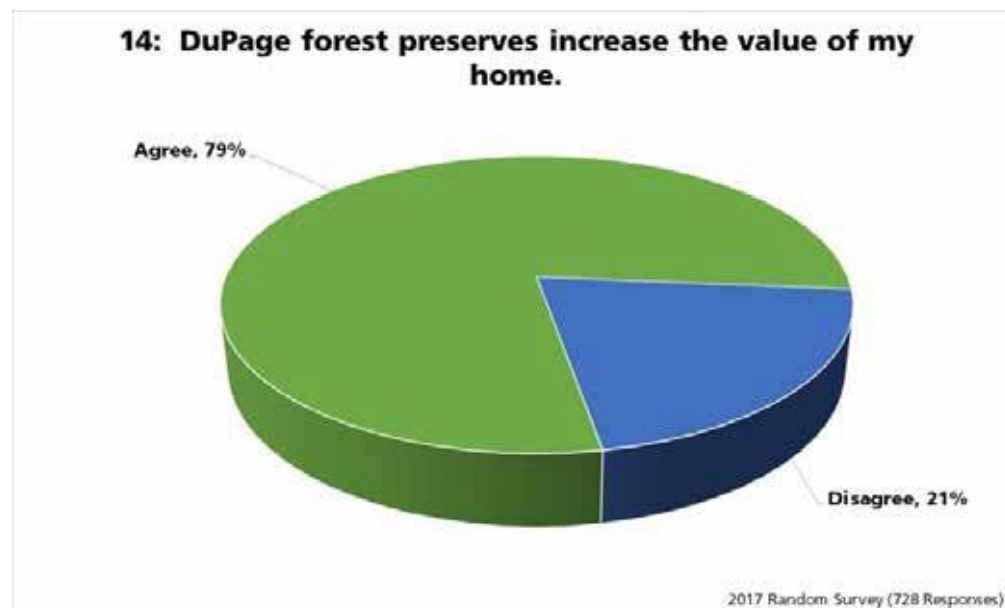
Respondents were then asked to take Question 12 into a little further detail, by ranking the statements based on their value to their households. Respondents from the random sample again selected “they protect natural areas”, as their first choice. This selection was also the highest ranking choice for the general population survey.

#### 13: Please rank your choices (from Question 12) based on their value to you. Rankings (Weighted)



### Question 14: DuPage forest preserves increase the value of my home?

Question 14 is rather straight forward in asking respondents if they feel the forest preserves increase the value of homes in DuPage County. The majority (79%) of respondents from the random sample felt the forest preserves increase their home values. The survey data is consistent with research that shows natural green spaces have a positive impact helping communities thrive which increases property values. Open space, trails and preserves help tourism spending and investment<sup>1</sup> stay locally as well as aid in reducing health care costs by offering public outdoor fitness opportunities<sup>2</sup>. The general population survey also agreed with these findings but showed a slightly stronger agreement at 87%.



1: The Economic Impact of Local Parks. (2015). Retrieved February 12, 2018, from [http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications\\_and\\_Research/Research/Papers/Economic-Impact-Study-Summary.pdf](http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Publications_and_Research/Research/Papers/Economic-Impact-Study-Summary.pdf)

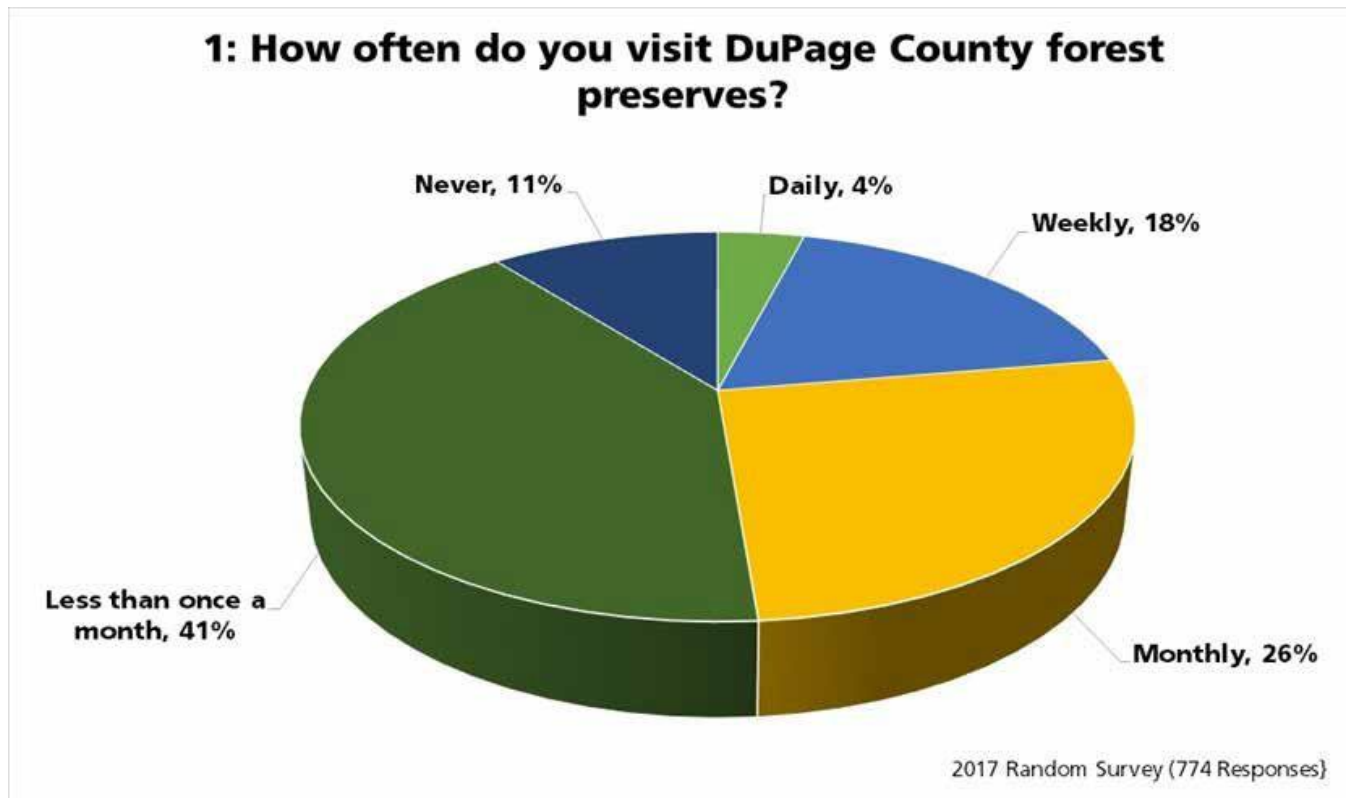
2: Comparative effectiveness of exercise and drug interventions on mortality outcomes: metaepidemiological study. (2013, August 22). Retrieved February 12, 2018, from <http://www.bmj.com/content/347/bmj.f5577>

## Visitation

The questions that follow concentrated on determining the usage of the DuPage forest preserves and facilities. These questions were written to assist the agency in determining how and why the forest preserves are used by the public.

### Question 1: How often do you visit DuPage County forest preserves?

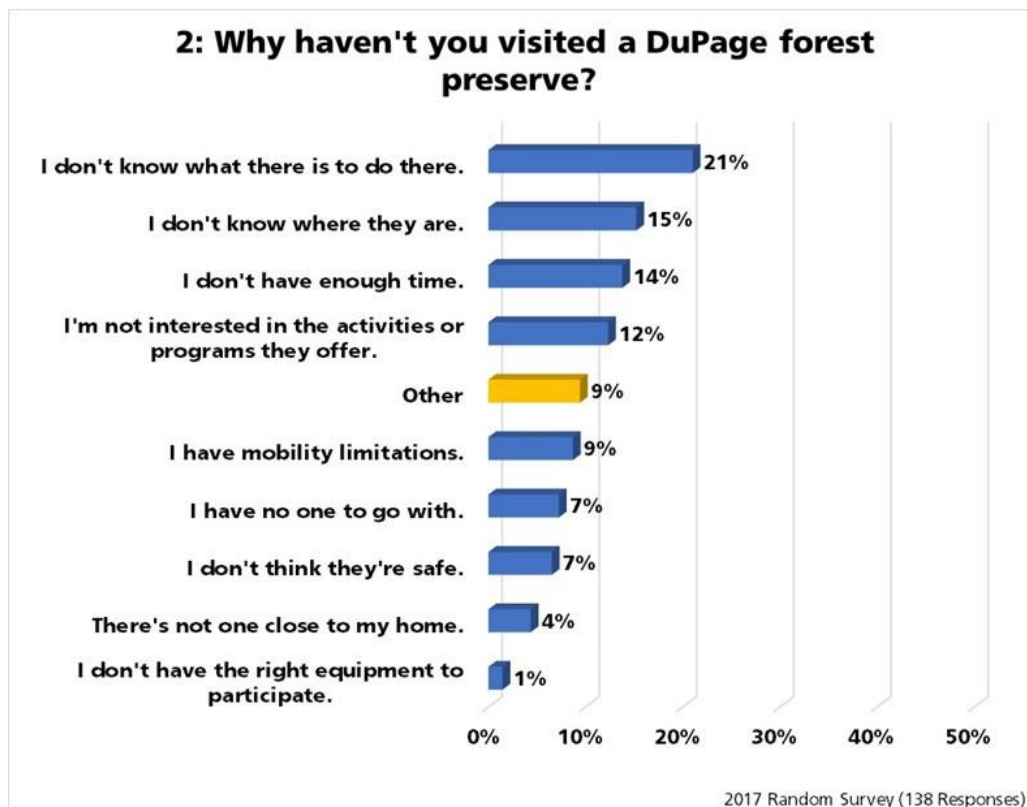
Question 1 begins by asking those surveyed how often they visit the DuPage County forest preserves. The pie chart compares the percentages of the 774 responses of the random sample. The data in the graph below shows that visitation is relatively high with the majority of those surveyed visit the forest preserves “daily” (4%) “weekly” (18%) and “monthly” (26%). A visit would include a picnic in a preserve, a visit to a nature center, a walk along a trail, a round of golf or use of any other amenity within a preserve and/or facility during the past year. Only 11% of those surveyed said they never visit a DuPage County forest preserves. In comparison, the data collected from the general population shows a higher visitation rate, which was expected.





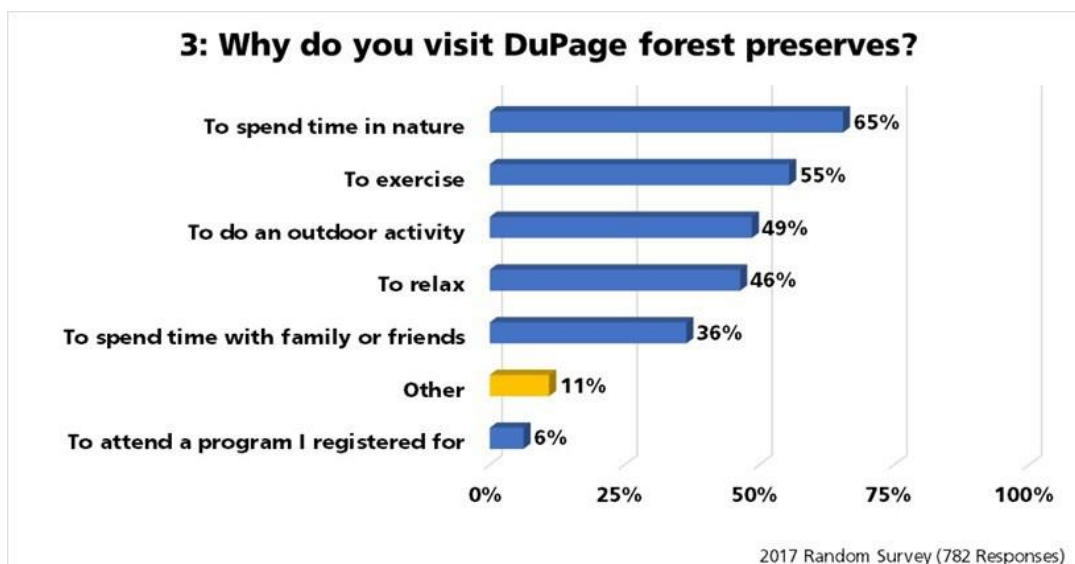
## Question 2: Why haven't you visited a DuPage forest preserve?

Question 2 follows up on the previous question. The bar chart below provides valuable information on the 138 survey respondents who do not use the DuPage forest preserves. Almost a quarter of the respondents (21%) indicated that they do not use a forest preserve because they “don’t know what there is to do there”, 15% of the respondents said they “don’t know where the forest preserves are”, 14% said they “didn’t have the time to visit,” and 12% of the surveyed respondents “weren’t interested in the activities or programs the DuPage forest preserve offer”. The general population survey findings are similar to those of the random sample.



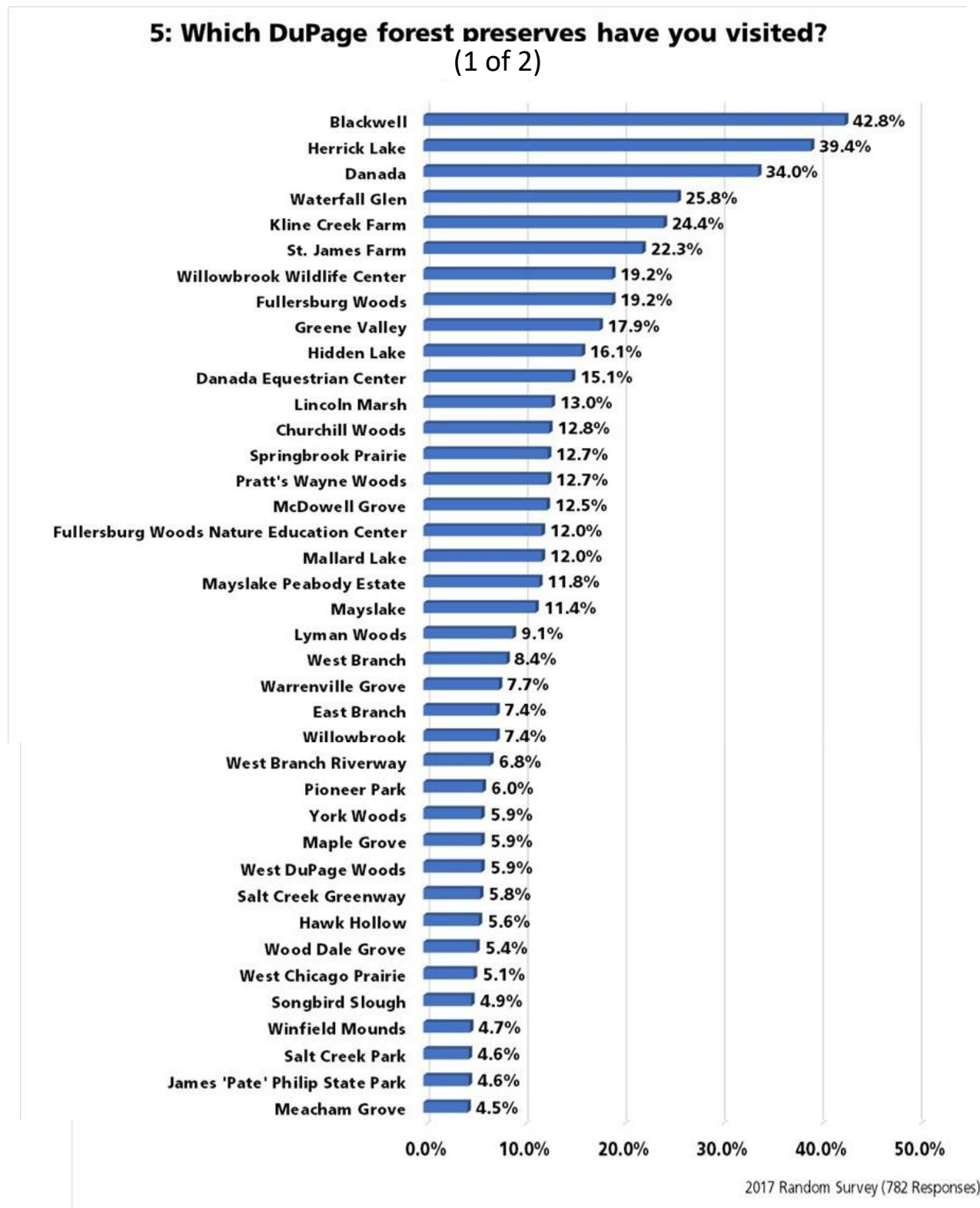
## Question 3: Why do you visit DuPage forest preserves?

Question 3 continues the exploration into the usage of the forest preserves. The bar chart below provides some insight into how the forest preserves are used by the 782 survey respondents. The top three responses were “to spend time in nature” (65%), “to exercise” (55%), and “to do an outdoor activity” (49%). The majority of “other” comments were dog related. The general population survey findings are similar to those of the random sample. A summary of the “other” responses can be found in the Appendix.

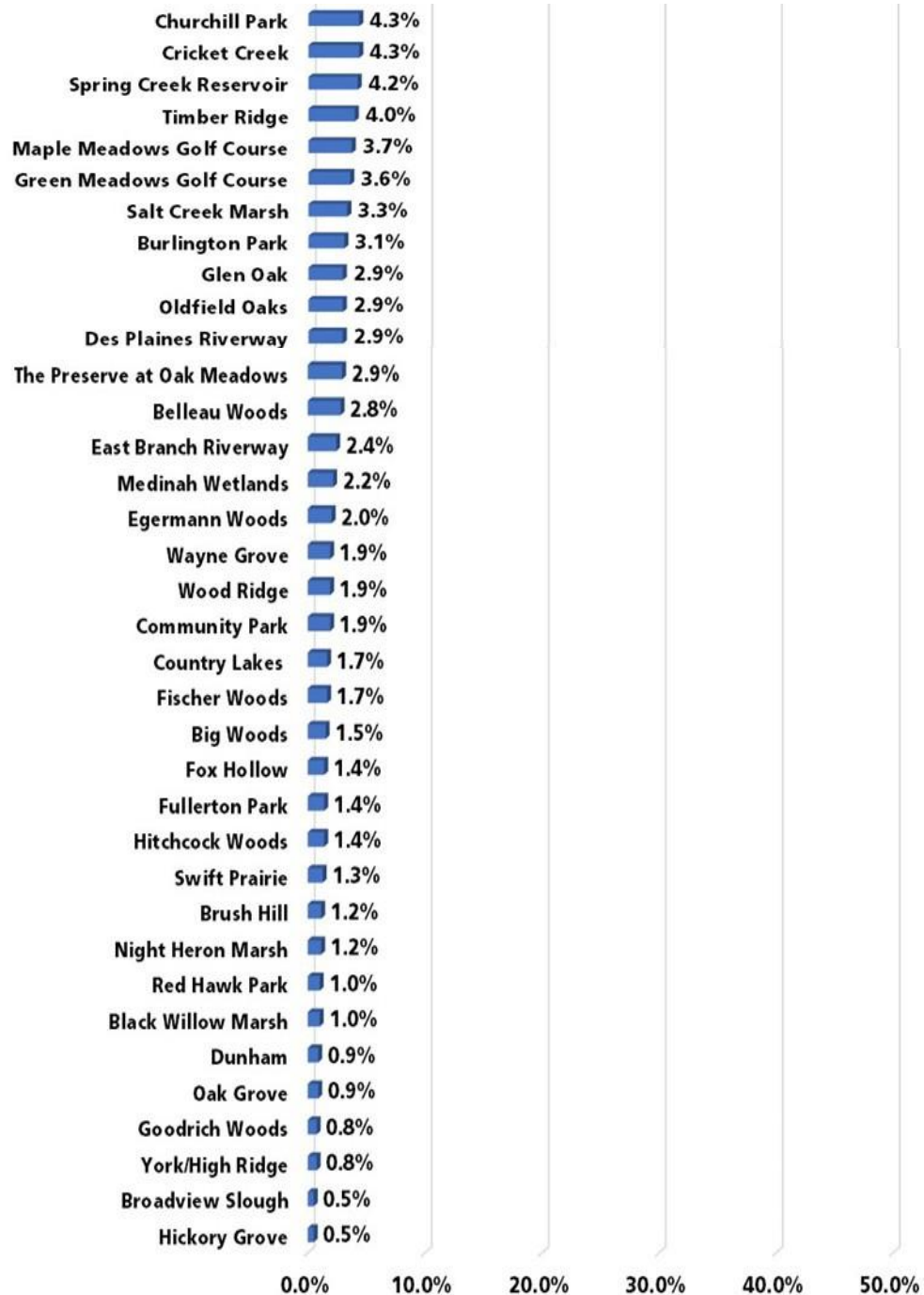


## Question 5: Which DuPage forest preserves have you visited?

Question 5 concludes the exploration of visitation with asking those surveyed which DuPage forest preserves they visit. The charts compares the percentages of the 782 responses from the random sample. The data shows that the three most visited forest preserves are Blackwell (42.8%), Herrick Lake (39.4%), and Danada (34%). The least visited forest preserves with under 1% of respondents visiting them are Dunham, Oak Grove, Goodrich Woods, York/High Ridge, Broadview Slough, and Hickory Grove. The general population survey findings are similar to those of the random sample with the top three being Blackwell, Danada and Herrick Lake. The top two DuPage forest preserves that were selected in the survey are consistent with the visitor data collected by the District.



## 5: Which DuPage forest preserves have you visited? (2 of 2)



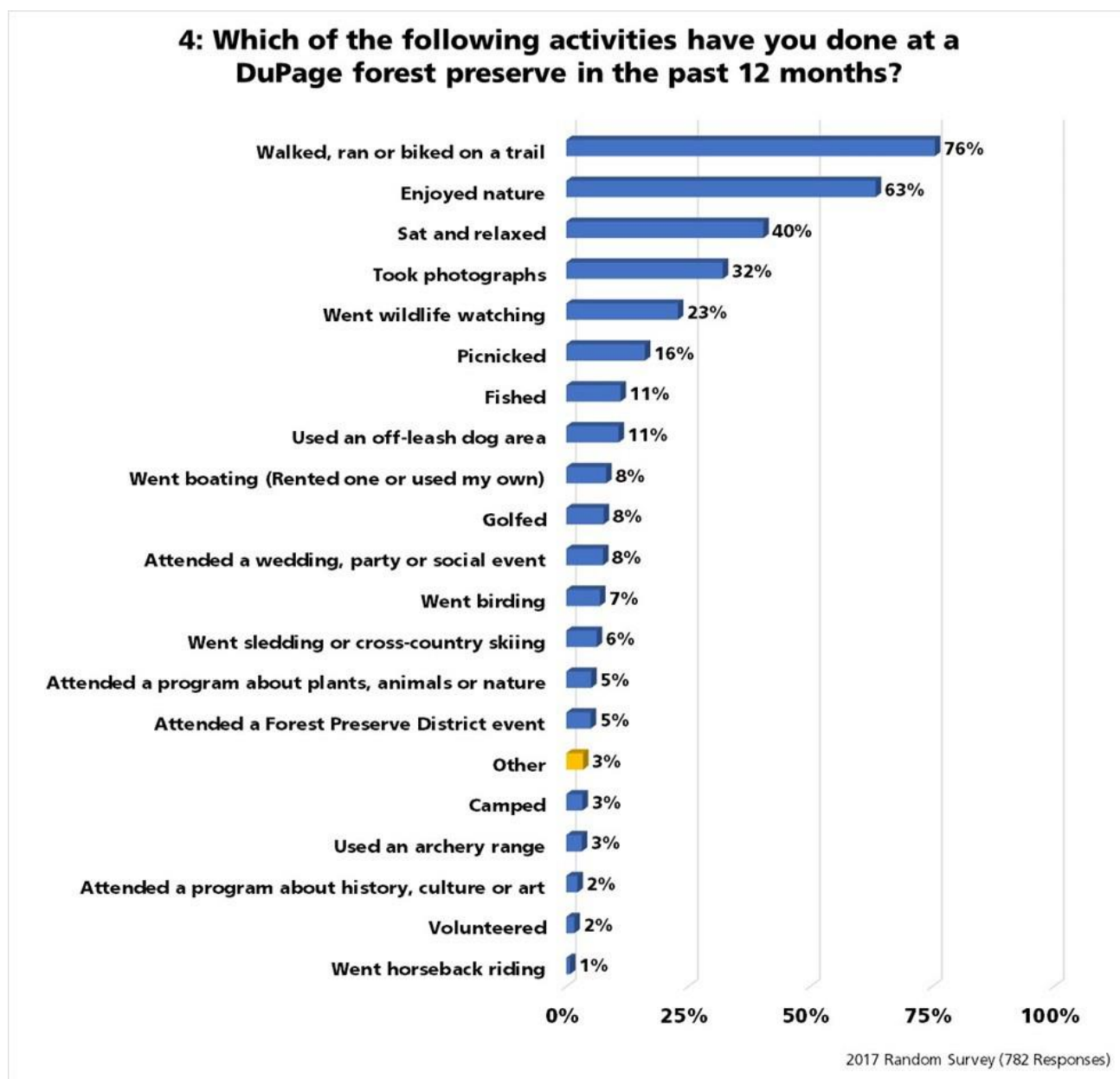
2017 Random Survey (782 Responses)

## Activities

The next set of questions from the random survey focused on what type of activities patrons of the forest preserves like to do now and what they would like to do in the future. A diverse list of activities that are available to be enjoyed by the users of the preserves has a direct correlation to the rate of visitation of the preserves and adds value to the overall experience<sup>3</sup>.

### Question 4: Which of the following activities have you done at a DuPage forest preserve in the past 12 months?

Question 4 explores the types of activities at the forest preserves. The bar chart provides data on the following activities that the 782 survey respondents have done at a DuPage forest preserve in the past 12 months. The most common activities were “trail use” (76%), “enjoying nature” (63%), and “sitting/relaxation” (40%). The least used activities were “attending a history, culture, or art program” (2%), “volunteer work” (2%), and “horseback riding” (1%). The general population survey findings are similar to those of the random sample with both ranked “walked, ran or biked on a trail” as the highest rated activity.



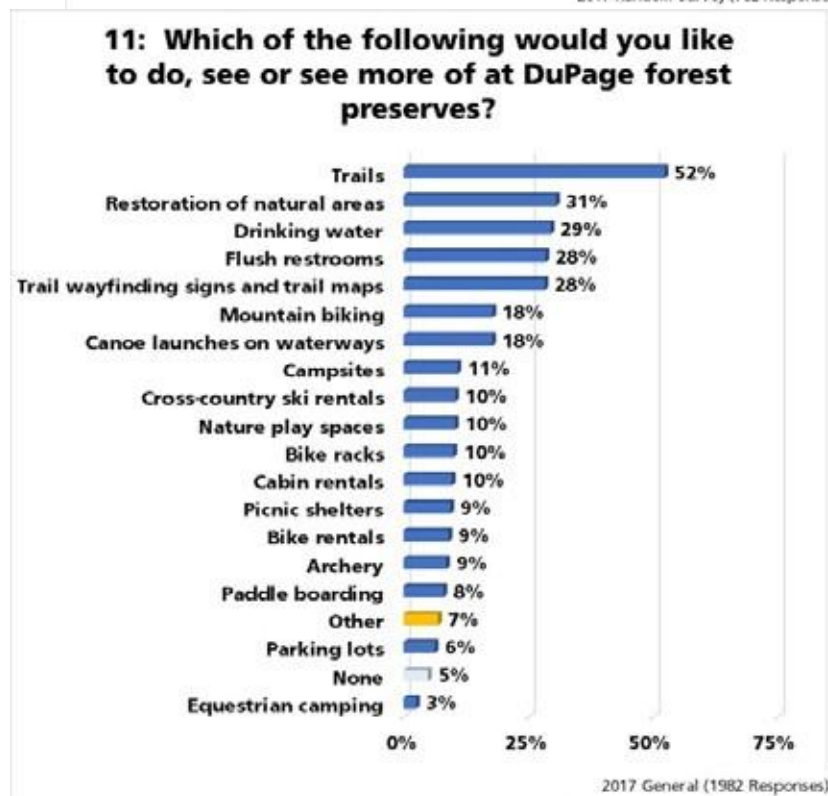
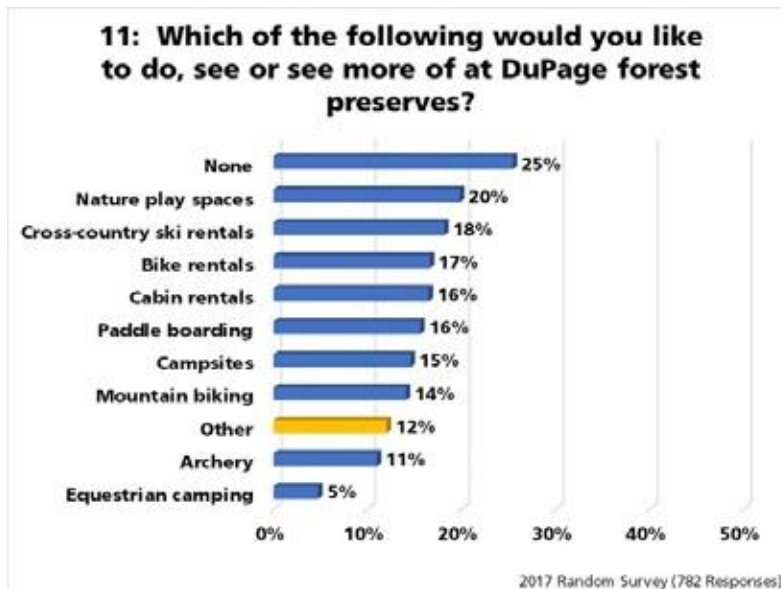
3: Visits to national parks: Effects of park characteristics and spacial demand. (2009, October 12). Retrieved February 12, 2018, from [http://m.metla.eu/metinfo/monikaytto/lvvi/julkaisut/Neuvonen\\_et\\_al\\_2010\\_J\\_of\\_Nature\\_Conservation\\_1.pdf](http://m.metla.eu/metinfo/monikaytto/lvvi/julkaisut/Neuvonen_et_al_2010_J_of_Nature_Conservation_1.pdf)



## Question 11: Which of the following would you like to do, see or see more of at DuPage forest preserves?

In Question 11, those surveyed were given a short list of items and asked to select all the items they would like to see, or see more of, at the DuPage forest preserves. Many of the options were selected by the 782 households in the random survey. However, the most frequent selection was “none” at 25%. This indicates that approximately 195 of the 782 respondents did not feel the District needs to add any amenities in the immediate future to the forest preserves. A summary of the “other” responses can be found in the Appendix.

The results tabulated from the general population survey yielded notable differences from the results of the random survey. In order to gather additional information, these survey respondents were given a larger list of options to select from which included 20 items versus a list of 11 items. In fact, in the general population survey, the first five most popular selections were not options in the random survey question. The top three general population survey findings include “trails” (52%), “restoration of natural areas” (31%) and “drinking water” (29%) at the DuPage forest preserves.

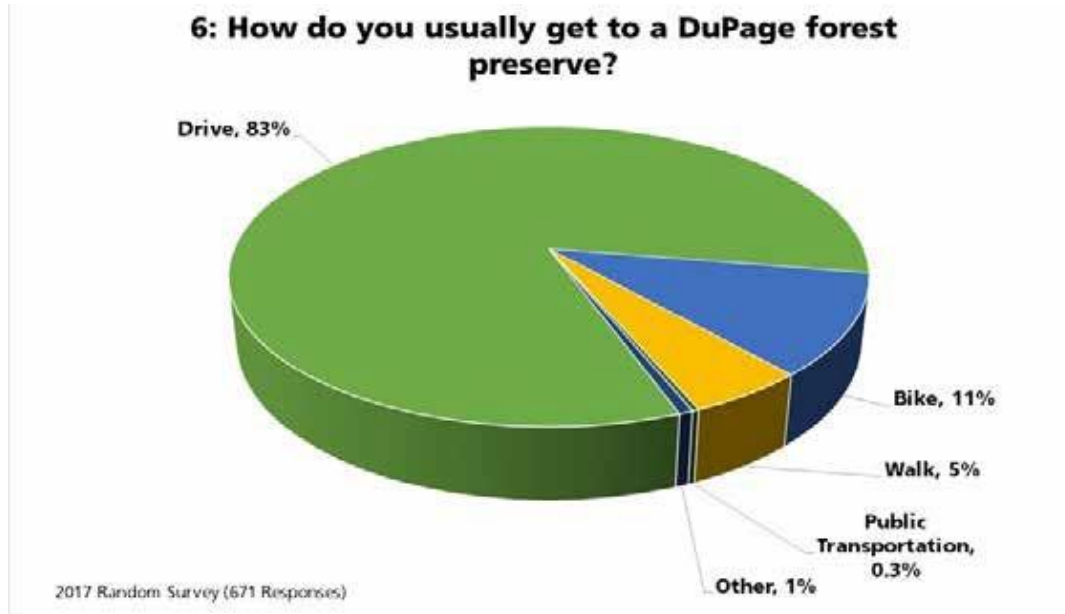


## Travel/Transportation

These series of questions asked respondents how they get to and from the forest preserves in terms of modes of transportation and distances covered.

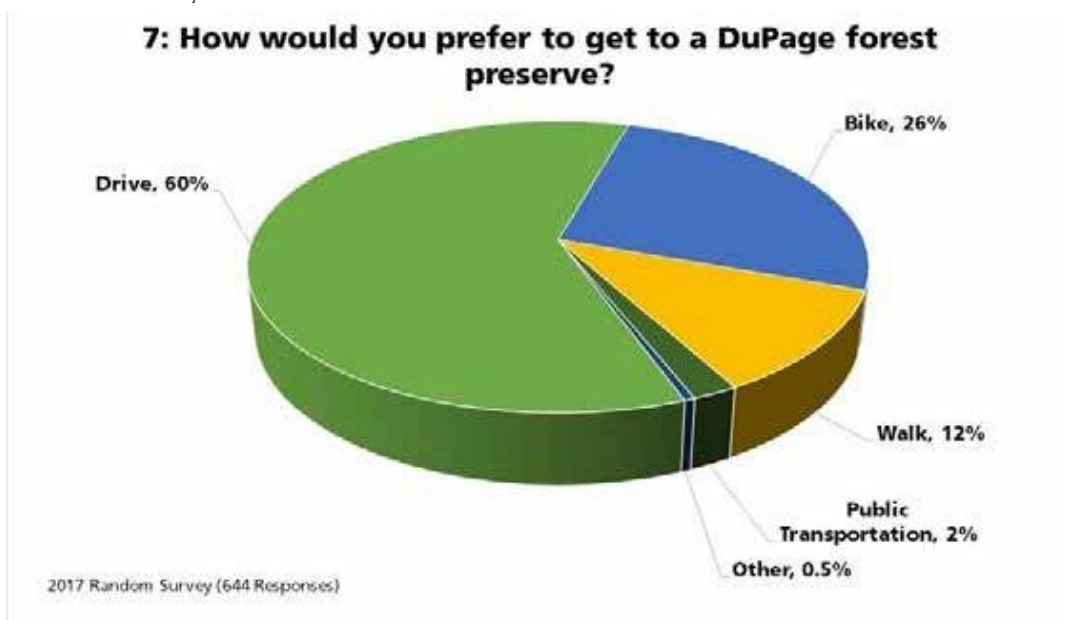
### Question 6: How do you usually get to a DuPage forest preserve?

The survey respondents were given several options on how they travel to the forest preserves, including drive, bike, walk and public transportation. The vast majority of respondents of the random survey responded that they typically “drive” (83%) to a forest preserve. In fact, this percentage is nearly the same as the results of the general population survey, where the respondents said they usually “drive” 82% of the time. The second most selected response in both surveys was the use of a “bike” (11%).



### Question 7: How would you prefer to get to a DuPage forest preserve?

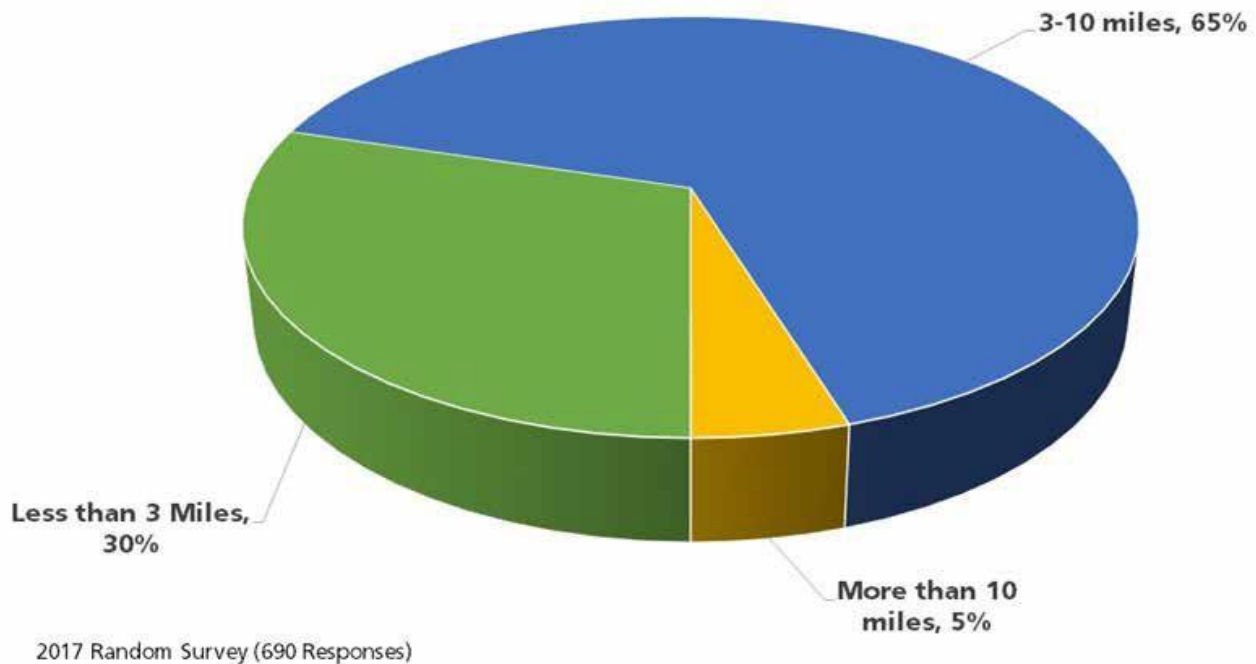
After establishing how respondents currently travel to the forest preserves, the District is also interested in finding out how visitors would prefer to get to the forest preserves. The data collected seems to illustrate that in most cases, visitors are already utilizing their preferred mode of travel. 60% of the respondents indicated they would prefer to “drive”, rather than “bike” (26%) or “walk” (12%). However, alternate means of travel (Biking and/or walking) other than the automobile did have a strong increase in value as compared to the responses in Question 6. The general population survey results provided similar percentages to those found in the random survey.



### Question 8: How far do you typically travel to visit a DuPage forest preserve?

DuPage County covers nearly 336 square miles and is roughly 18 miles from one end of the county to the other. When asked how far households typically travel to visit the preserves, 65% of those surveyed indicated they travel “3 – 10 miles”. This seems to illustrate that preserves are diverse sites with a regional draw. This percentage, along with the percentages of the 2nd and 3rd selected choices, were comparable to the results received in the general population survey.

#### 8: How far do you typically travel to visit a DuPage forest preserve?



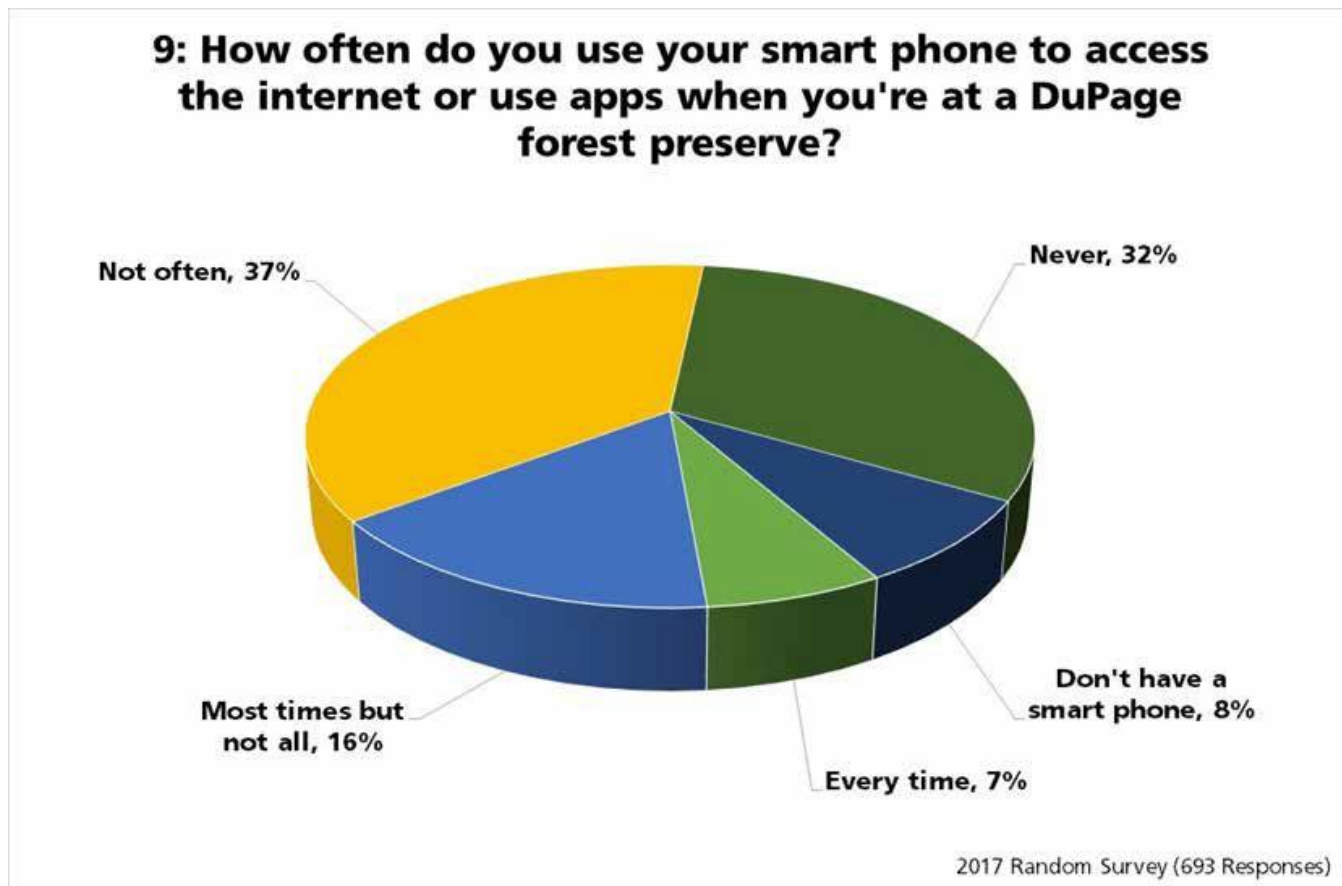


## Communication

The next series of questions asked respondents how they receive information about the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and the use of mobile technology such as a smart phone at a forest preserve.

**Question 9: How often do you use your smart phone to access the internet or use apps when you're at a DuPage forest preserve?**

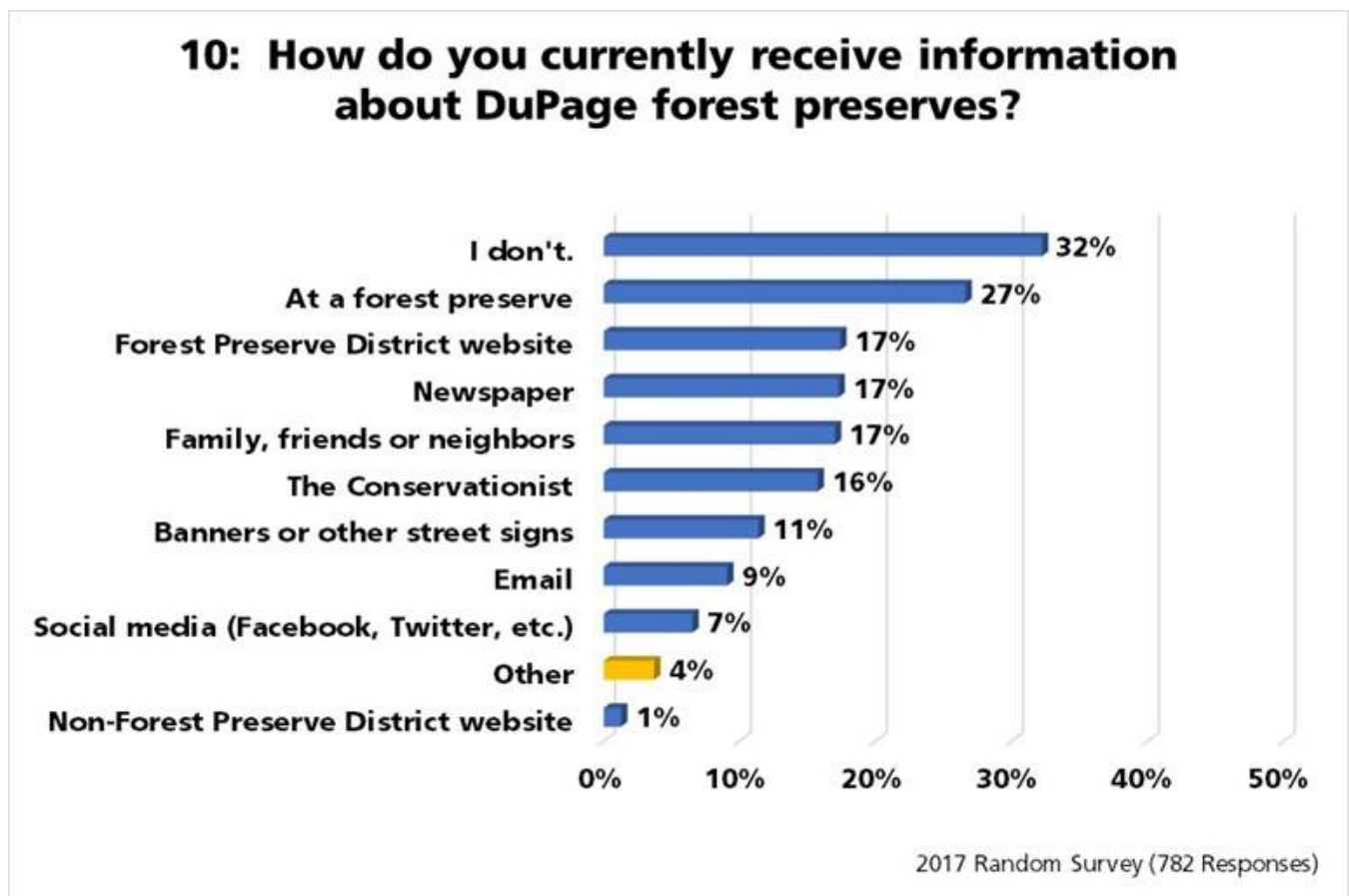
The Forest Preserve District was interested in learning how technology is being used in the forest preserves, specifically smart phones. Those surveyed indicated the majority are typically not using their smart phones when at a forest preserve, with 37% selecting "not often", 32% selecting "never", and 8% "don't have a smart phone" at all. This was again fairly consistent with the results compiled from the general population survey.



## Question 10: How do you currently receive information about DuPage forest preserves?

Multiple media outlets are used to ensure that the users are aware of the services, events and programs offered by the Forest Preserve District. Households were asked to select all the ways they receive information. While there were multiple options available to the respondents, the top response from those randomly surveyed selected “I don’t” (32%). The second most selected option was “at a forest preserve” (27%).

While technology-based marketing methods (e.g., Forest Preserve District website, email, social media) do not appear to be the primary source of information for respondents of the random survey, this is not the case for those submitting responses to the general population survey. There is a noticeable difference in the responses from the households that were randomly surveyed and the responses of those from the voluntary, general population survey. The biggest difference is the use of “Email” to receive information. Only 9% of those from the random survey indicated they receive information from “Email”. However 45% of those in the general population felt “Email” was their most relevant way to receive information.

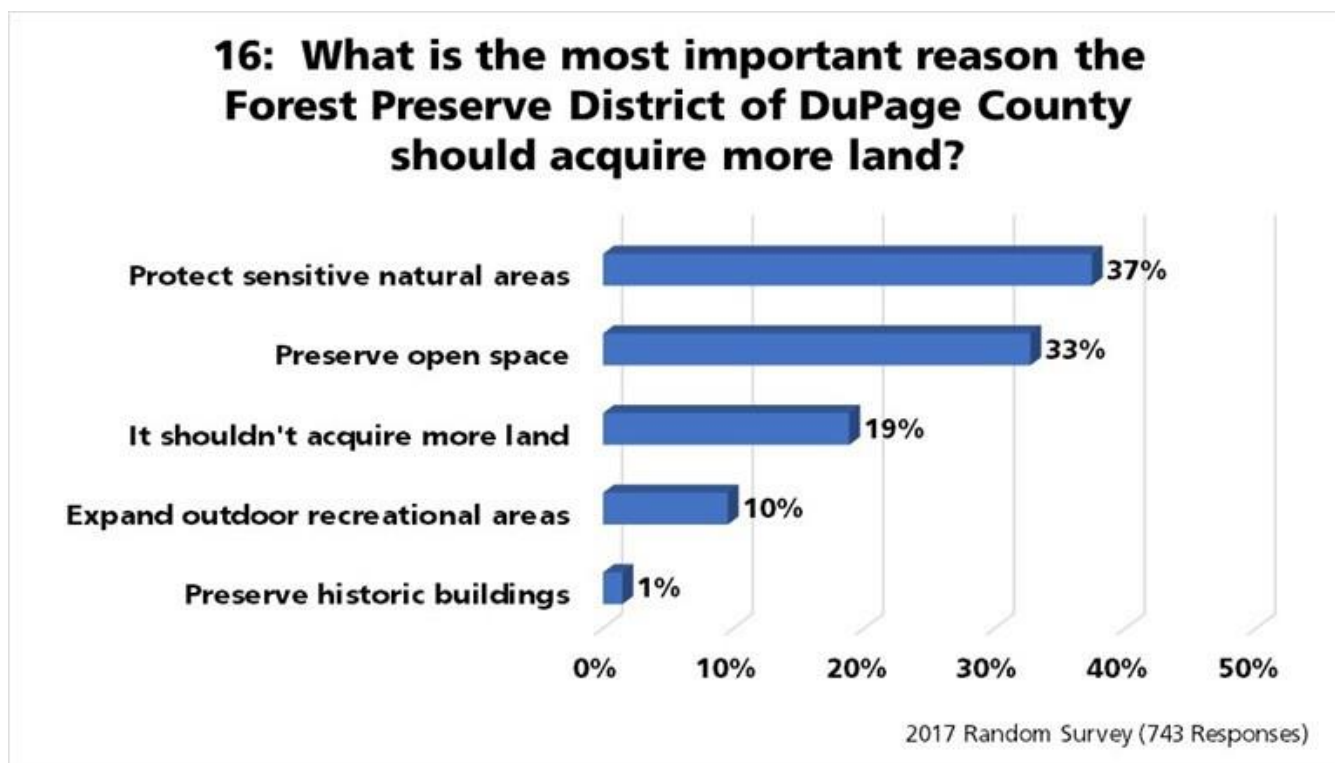


## **Land Acquisition**

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County is a governmental unit that is a likely candidate to pursue land acquisition to preserve open space that is ever disappearing within the county. The questions that follow gather meaningful data in regards to the future direction of land acquisition.

### **Question 16: What is the most important reason the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County should acquire more land?**

The results from Question 16 indicate that the 743 respondents from the random survey feel the most important reason the Forest Preserve District should acquire land is to “protect sensitive natural areas” (37%). Similarly, 33% of respondents felt to “preserve open space” was the most important reason. Conversely, there were only 11 of 743 (1%) households that felt to “preserve historic buildings” was the reason to acquire land. Finally, a sizeable group of respondents at 19% selected “it shouldn’t acquire more land”.

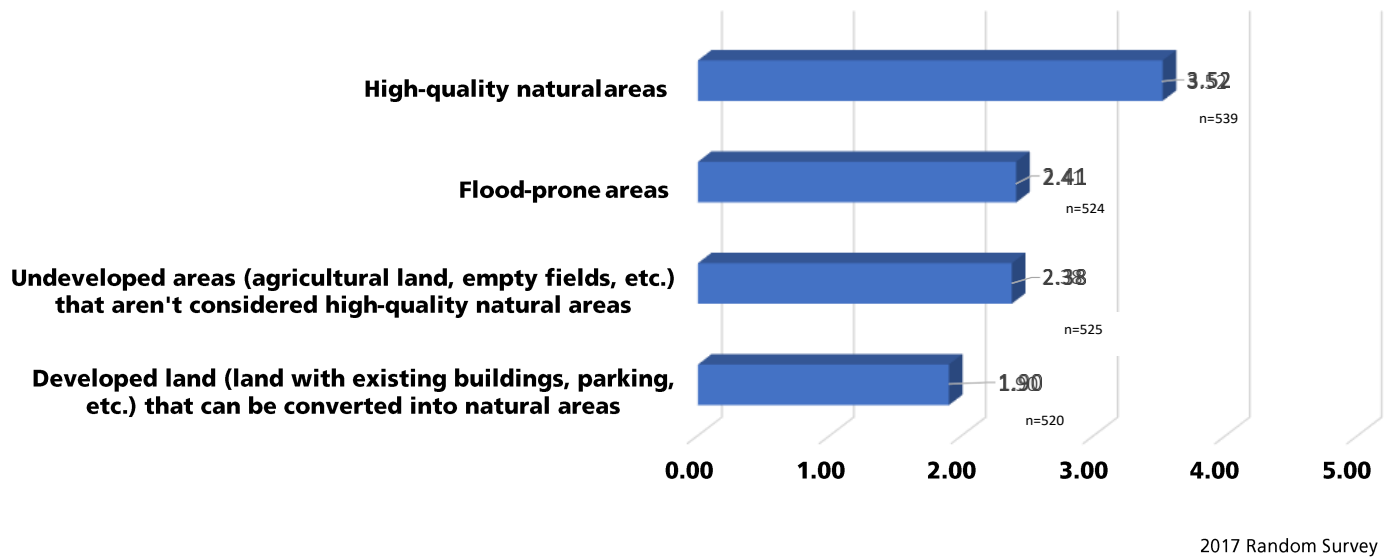




## Question 17: If the Forest Preserve of DuPage County were to acquire land, what type of land should it acquire?

As a follow-up to Question 16, respondents were then asked to tell the District what type of land should be acquired if the District were to acquire land. The answers to Question 17 were consistent with the sentiment in Question 16, in which a majority felt the District should target “high-quality natural areas” if it acquires land. This was consistent with the results compiled from the general population survey.

### 17: If the Forest Preserve of DuPage County were to acquire land, what type of land should it acquire? Rankings (Weighted)

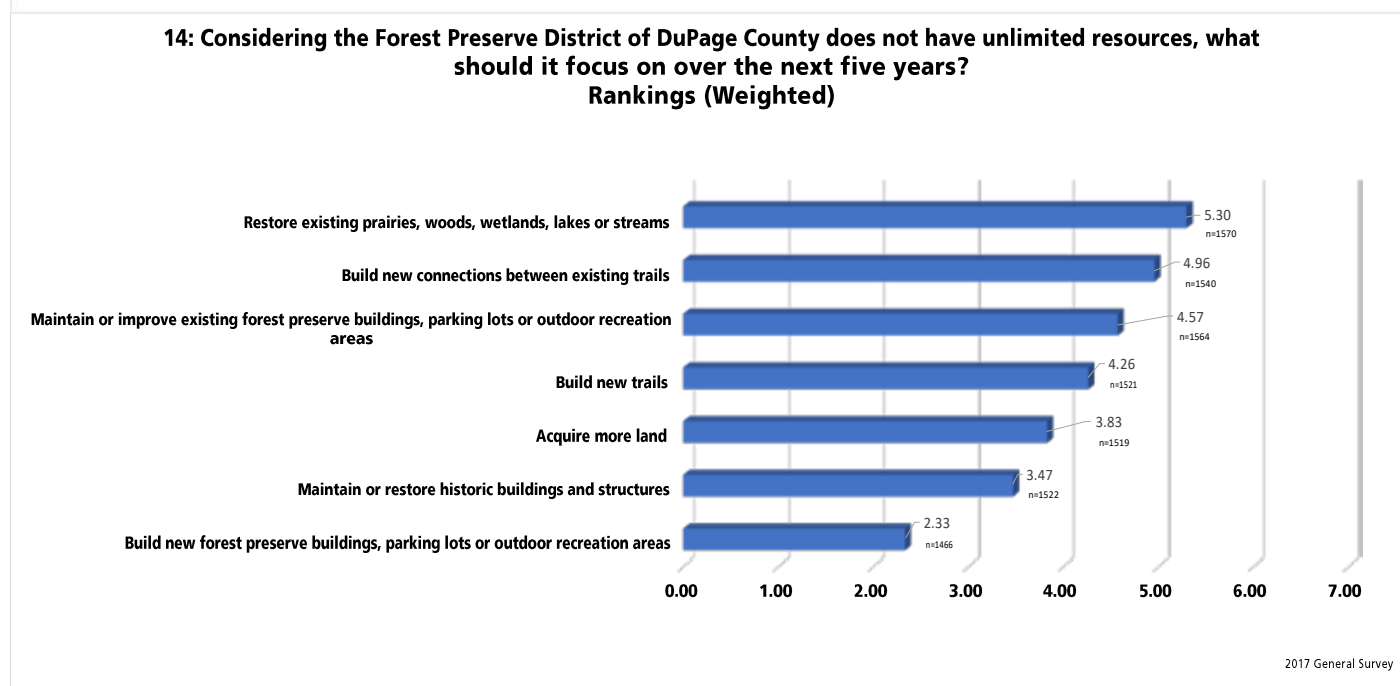
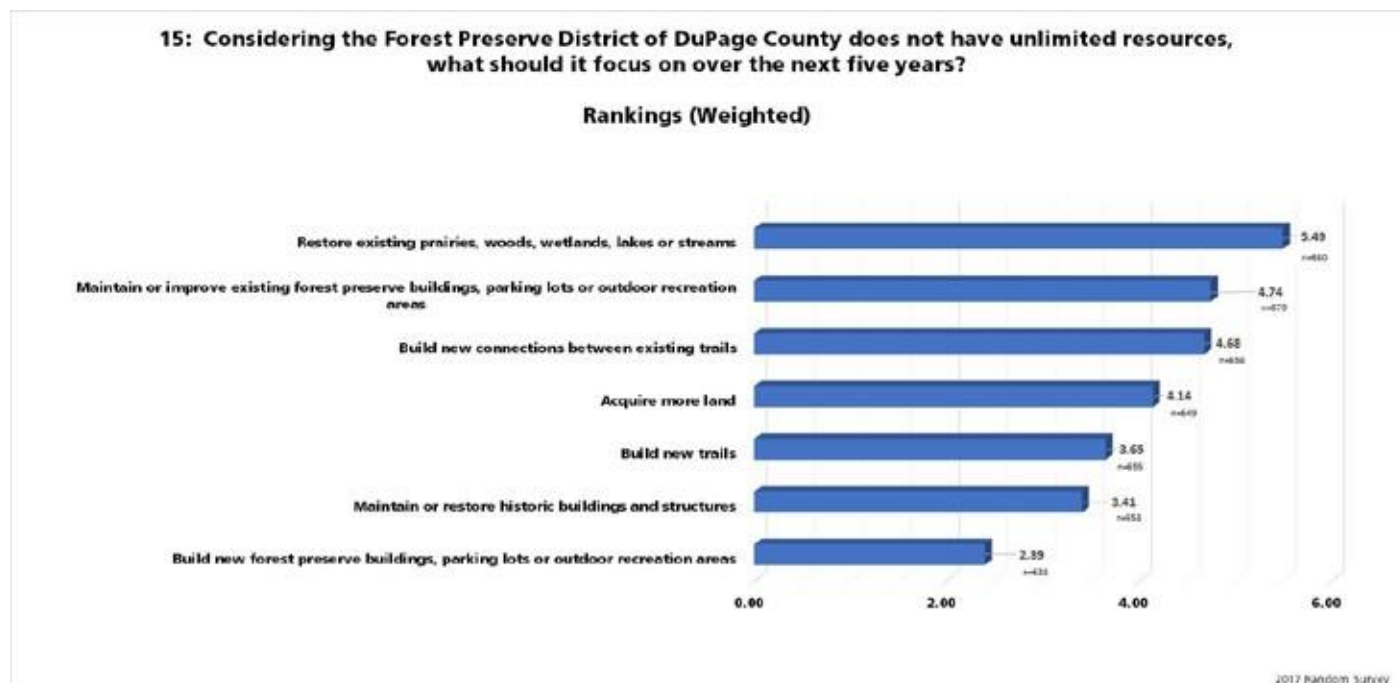


## Priorities

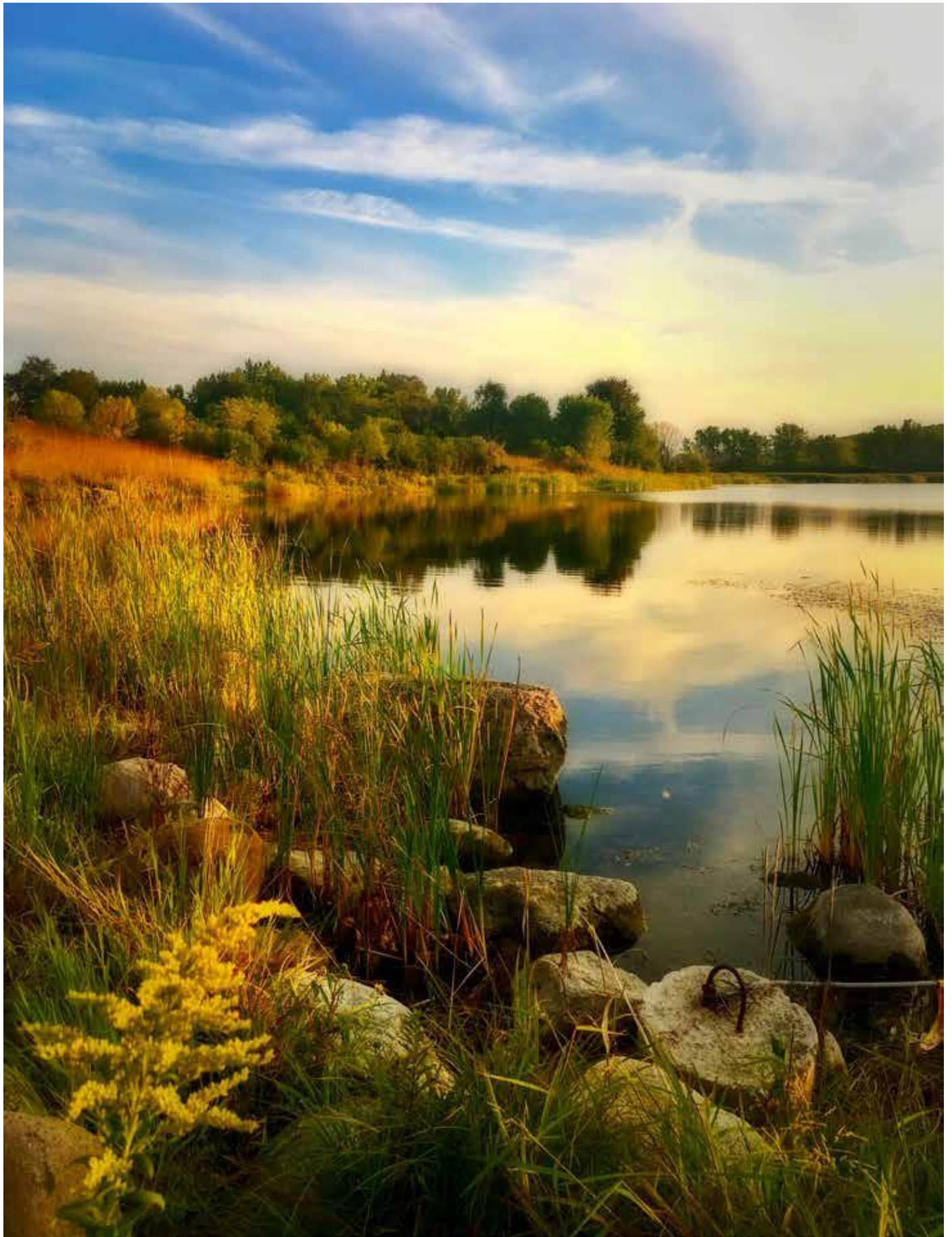
This last question of this report focuses on the priorities for the future.

**Question 15:** Considering the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County does not have unlimited resources, what should it focus on over the next five years? Rank the following choices.

The Forest Preserve District is seeking an understanding on what areas it should focus on over the next several years. The findings from this question will aid in the development of priorities for the future. The question asked the respondents to rank a list of seven possible options to consider. The graph below shows the most important ranking of the seven possibilities. The respondents clearly ranked the choices related to existing “resources” at the top of their list. This includes selecting “restore existing prairies, woods, wetlands, lakes or streams” as the number one choice. The next two most selected options were “maintain or improve existing forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas” and “build new connections between existing trails”. The General Population Survey results are shown below. The top choices are identical between the two surveys.









## Demographics

The following page highlights the demographic findings of the survey reasonably reflect the County demographics.

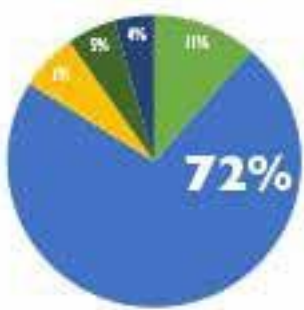
# 43.2 years

Average age of survey household  
(39.1 years average age of DuPage County household Data USA)



## 47%

of respondents were female  
(51% U.S. Census)



## 72% Married

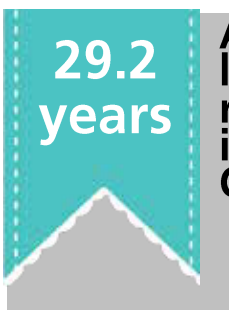
11% Single  
6% Separated/Divorced  
5% Widowed  
4% N/A



1/3 had a yearly household income less than

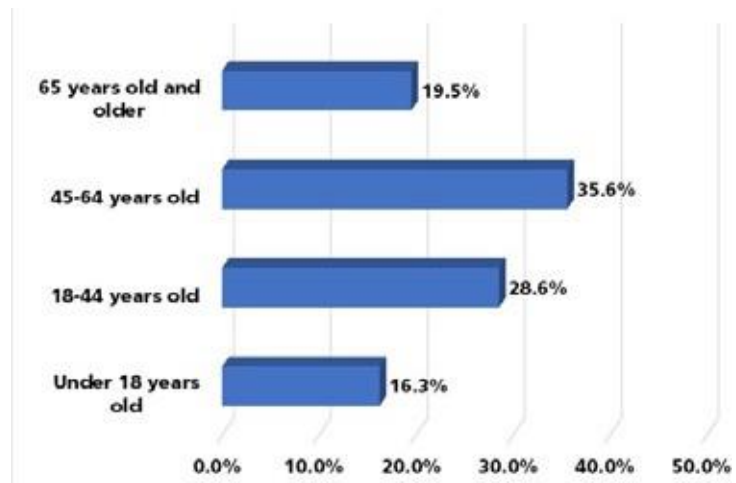
## \$100k

(\$81,521 median household income U.S. Census)



Average length of residence in DuPage County

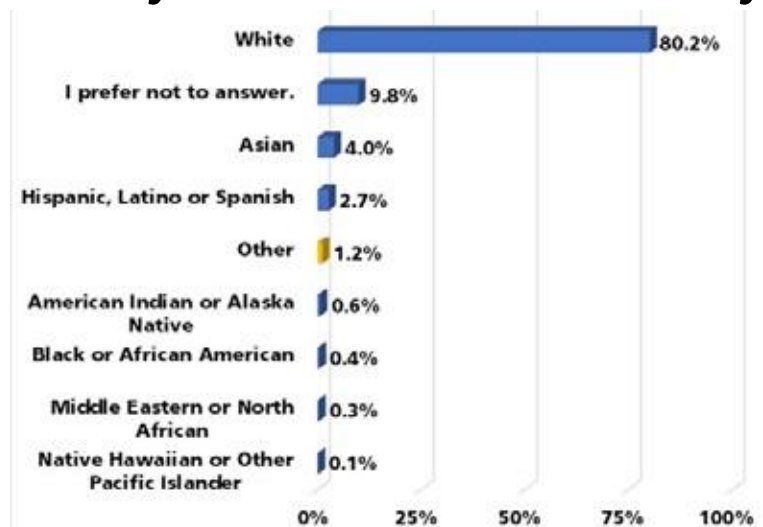
## Survey Household Ages



## DuPage County Age Groups (2010)

65+ 11.6%  
45-64 28.6%  
18-44 35.0%  
Under 18 24.8%

## Survey Household Race/Ethnicity



## DuPage County Race/Ethnicity (2016)

White Alone (Persons only Reporting one Race) 80.6%  
White (Not Hispanic or Latino) 67.4%  
Hispanic 14.3%  
Asian 11.4%  
Black 4.8%  
Other 0.2%

## **Summary of Qualitative Research**

The Public Research Group assisted the Forest Preserve District on additional data gathering opportunities to supplement the quantitative survey research methods. The amount of information collected over the three month span was substantial with all of the raw data forwarded to the District for evaluation. The information is important in the role to both validate the survey findings as well as provide a slightly different viewpoint worthy of analysis of those differences.

## **Staff Input**

Early into the research phase of the project, select staff assembled for a half day workshop to provide thoughts and opinions regarding the current culture of the District as well as direction for the future. The general consensus was that the District had many positives in terms of qualities of employment and values in the workplace as well as the ways that employees impact residents and users of the preserves. In terms of future priorities, the top three were restoring existing prairies, woods, wetlands, lakes or streams followed by maintain or improving existing forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas and finally acquiring more land. Building new trails ranked the lowest. In those conversations with the District staff regarding the culture of the agency, there is a noticeable shift in the way employees view their current workplace and outlook towards the future in comparison to the past. The following are the key findings from the Employee Survey.

### **Top 3 employee responses top Question 11: "What would you like to do, see or see more of at DuPage forest preserves?"**

1. Restoration of natural areas (54%)
2. Flush restrooms (34%)
3. Drinking water (31%)

### **Top 3 employee responses to Question 12: "If you have regular interactions with visitors, what do they tell you they'd like to see more of at DuPage forest preserves?"**

1. Flush restrooms (39%)
2. Restoration of natural areas (34%)
3. Drinking water (29%)

### **Employee rankings based on Question 13: "Considering the Forest Preserve District does not have unlimited resources, what should it focus on over the next five years?"**

1. Restore existing prairies, woods, wetlands, lakes or streams
2. Maintain or improve existing forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas
3. Build new connections between existing trails
4. Acquire more land
5. Build new trails
6. Maintain or restore historic buildings and structures
7. Build new forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas

### **Employee rankings based on Question 15: "What is the most important reason the Forest Preserve District should acquire land?"**

1. Preserve open space
2. Preserve historic buildings
3. Protect sensitive natural areas
4. It shouldn't acquire more land
5. Expand outdoor recreational areas

### **Employee rankings based on Question 16: "If the Forest Preserve District were to acquire land, what type of land should it acquire?"**

1. High-quality natural areas (73%)
2. Flood-prone areas (12%)
3. Developed land that can be converted into natural areas (9%)
4. Undeveloped areas that aren't considered high-quality natural areas (6%)

## **Commissioner Visioning Sessions**

The Board of Commissioners had an opportunity to share ideas and express opinions during this research project. The facilitators from Public Research Group held a series of visioning sessions with two Commissioners at a time to listen to individual opinions and gain an understanding of the short term future priorities of the Board. Each of the Commissioners has a keen awareness as to the success of the District as a whole as well as vested interest in the individual areas that they represent. A few of the important areas of discussion during the sessions were centralized on trail expansion, the desire to finish started projects before launching into new ones, and keeping the District on solid financial ground. Board members thought the focus should be on getting more people into the preserves, and further evaluating existing structures to improve utilisation and efficiency.

## **Special Interest Group Meetings**

As another way to gather anecdotal, non-statistically valid information to complement the quantitative survey research, the Forest Preserve District arranged nine meetings with special interest groups. Meetings were held with individuals interested in off-leash dog areas, historic and cultural issues, natural resources, outdoor recreation, seniors and active adults, users with special needs, teachers and educators, active transportation and youth. A total of 51 people attended the meetings.

Almost all groups, regardless of specific purpose, stressed that the District should provide significant natural resources for the health, physical and psychological well-being of DuPage County residents and visitors in some form or fashion. Other suggestions included continuing and improving partnerships, increasing and improving programs, amenities and trail connectivity, and improving accessibility.



## **Volunteer Survey**

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County relies on the generosity of its volunteers to help accomplish its mission. District volunteers introduce school groups and families to nature, bring history to life, and care for animals. They restore habitats and help visitors explore forest preserve trails and discover interesting outdoor activities such as archery, kayaking and fishing. The data collected through the Volunteer Survey expressed a generally positive outlook on spending time assisting the District. The following are the key findings from the Volunteer Survey.

### **Top 3 volunteer responses to Question 10: "Which of the following would you like to do, see or see more of at DuPage forest preserves?"**

1. Restoration of natural areas (54%)
2. Trails (38%)
3. Flush restrooms (27%)

### **Top 3 volunteer responses to Question 11: "If you have regular interactions with forest preserve visitors, which do they tell you they'd like to see more of at DuPage forest preserves?"**

1. I don't interact with visitors (29%)
2. Nothing (19%)
3. Flush restrooms (15%)

### **Volunteer rankings based on Question 12: "Considering the Forest Preserve District does not have unlimited resources, what should it focus on over the next five years?"**

1. Restore existing prairies, woods, wetlands, lakes or streams
2. Maintain or improve existing forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas
3. Build new connections between existing trails
4. Acquire more land
5. Maintain or restore historic buildings and structures
6. Build new trails
7. Build new forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas

### **Volunteer rankings based on Question 16: "If the Forest Preserve District were acquire land, what type of land should it acquire?"**

1. High-quality natural areas
2. Undeveloped areas that aren't considered high-quality natural areas
3. Flood-prone areas
4. Developed land that can be converted into natural areas

## **Conclusions**

The survey findings suggest that the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has a strong and satisfied user base that offers unique natural settings within a highly suburban and ever increasing urban environment. The statistical, as well as anecdotal, data collected would suggest that the public is generally supportive of the Forest Preserve and places value in its mission.

The following statements provide a summary of the survey conclusions:

- The protection of natural areas and experiencing nature is what the preserves do best.
- The Forest Preserve are good neighbours and looked favourably upon in terms of increasing home value.
- Strong visitation rates with Blackwell, Herrick Lake and Danada comprising the highest visits.
- The activities most enjoyed among visitors are walking, running or biking on a trail, enjoying nature and simply sitting and relaxing.
- Many are happy with the preserves just as they are.
- The majority of users of the preserves travel between 3 to 10 miles by car.
- There is a desire for an increase in both bike riding and walking in terms of transportation in the future.
- While many do not use a smart phone in a preserve, 25% do.
- Over two out of three respondents receive information about the Forest Preserve, but nearly one out of three don't.
- Land acquisition should not be a major focus in the short term future, but the protection high quality natural areas are important.
- The protection and restoration of natural areas is a top priority followed by maintaining the valuable assets the Forest Preserve has and finally seeking out opportunities for trail connectivity.





Appendix A1





## Random Sample Survey Cover Letter



35580 Naperville Road  
P.O. Box 5000  
Wheaton, IL 60189

630.933.7200  
Fax 630.933.7204  
TTY 800.526.0857  
[dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)

October 27, 2017

Dear Fellow DuPage Resident,

As president of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and a father of two young boys, I know that time can be scarce, so let me get straight to the point: The Forest Preserve District is developing a plan to guide its efforts over the next five years and we want to hear from you!

For over 100 years, the Forest Preserve District has been striving to protect and improve the county's prairies, forests and wetlands while providing great ways for people to experience, enjoy and learn more about these incredible areas. To date, we manage nearly 26,000 acres across 60 different forest preserves. We may not offer ballfields or playgrounds, but we do offer some of the most beautiful open spaces in northern Illinois with some of the best ways to relax and soak up the scenery.

That's why I hope you'll take a few minutes to answer the enclosed survey and return it to us by Nov. 20 using the enclosed postage-paid envelope. These surveys are anonymous, so feel free to share your candid opinions. Your response will be a valuable part of our planning process and greatly appreciated.

If you'd like to learn more about our planning process, you can read the latest on our website at [dupageforest.org/master-plan](http://dupageforest.org/master-plan), where we'll post findings from this survey and our other community outreach efforts. And if you have any questions, please contact Jessica Ortega at 630-871-6404 or [jortega@dupageforest.org](mailto:jortega@dupageforest.org).

Thank you for taking the time to make your forest preserves even better places to visit, and have a fantastic fall!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph F. Cantore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph F. Cantore  
President

Enclosures

Si desea recibir una copia de esta encuesta en español, envíe un correo electrónico con su dirección de correo a [jortega@dupageforest.org](mailto:jortega@dupageforest.org)





# Random Sample Survey Instrument



## Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

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### Instructions

- This survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.
- When answering questions 1 – 19, take into account all of the members of your household. When answering questions 20 – 25 think just about yourself.
- When you are finished, please place the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope and drop it in the mail by Nov. 20.
- All responses are anonymous and confidential. If you have any questions, please call us at 630-871-6404.
- Si desea recibir una copia de esta encuesta en español, envíe un correo electrónico con su dirección de correo a [jortega@dupageforest.org](mailto:jortega@dupageforest.org).

---

### Questions

1. How often do you visit DuPage County forest preserves? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Daily    ☐ Weekly    ☐ Monthly    ☐ Less than once a month    ☐ Never

**If you answered "Never" to question 1, please answer question 2.**

**If you gave an answer other than "Never," skip to question 3.**

2. Why haven't you visited a DuPage forest preserve? **Choose all that apply and then skip to question 10.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> I don't know where they are. | <input type="radio"/> I don't know what there is to do there.                      |
| <input type="radio"/> I have no one to go with.    | <input type="radio"/> There's not one close to my home.                            |
| <input type="radio"/> I don't have enough time.    | <input type="radio"/> I don't have the right equipment to participate.             |
| <input type="radio"/> I don't think they're safe.  | <input type="radio"/> I'm not interested in the activities or programs they offer. |
| <input type="radio"/> I have mobility limitations. | <input type="radio"/> Other <i>Please specify.</i> _____                           |

3. Why do you visit DuPage forest preserves? **Choose all that apply.**

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> To exercise                        | <input type="radio"/> To relax                | <input type="radio"/> To attend a program I registered for |
| <input type="radio"/> To do an outdoor activity          | <input type="radio"/> To spend time in nature | <input type="radio"/> To spend time with family or friends |
| <input type="radio"/> Other <i>Please specify.</i> _____ |   |  |

4. Which of the following activities have you done at a DuPage forest preserve in the past 12 months?

**Choose all that apply.**

- |   |                                      |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Walked, ran or biked on a trail | <input type="radio"/> Enjoyed nature | <input type="radio"/> Attended a program about plants, animals or nature |
| <input type="radio"/> Took photographs                | <input type="radio"/> Golfed         | <input type="radio"/> Went boating (rented one or used my own)           |
| <input type="radio"/> Went horseback riding           | <input type="radio"/> Camped         | <input type="radio"/> Attended a Forest Preserve District event          |
| <input type="radio"/> Sat and relaxed                 | <input type="radio"/> Picnicked      | <input type="radio"/> Attended a wedding, party or social event          |
| <input type="radio"/> Used an archery range           | <input type="radio"/> Volunteered    | <input type="radio"/> Went sledding or cross-country skiing              |
| <input type="radio"/> Used an off-leash dog area      | <input type="radio"/> Fished         | <input type="radio"/> Attended a program about history, culture or art   |
| <input type="radio"/> Went wildlife watching          | <input type="radio"/> Went birding   | <input type="radio"/> Other <i>Please specify.</i> _____                 |

**MORE ►**



## Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

5. Which DuPage forest preserves have you visited? There's a map on the back of the cover letter if you need one.

**Choose all that apply.**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Belleau Woods                                | <input type="radio"/> Goodrich Woods                 | <input type="radio"/> The Preserve at Oak Meadows |
| <input type="radio"/> Big Woods                                    | <input type="radio"/> Green Meadows Golf Course      | <input type="radio"/> Red Hawk Park               |
| <input type="radio"/> Black Willow Marsh                           | <input type="radio"/> Greene Valley                  | <input type="radio"/> Salt Creek Greenway         |
| <input type="radio"/> Blackwell                                    | <input type="radio"/> Hawk Hollow                    | <input type="radio"/> Salt Creek Marsh            |
| <input type="radio"/> Broadview Slough                             | <input type="radio"/> Herrick Lake                   | <input type="radio"/> Salt Creek Park             |
| <input type="radio"/> Brush Hill                                   | <input type="radio"/> Hickory Grove                  | <input type="radio"/> Songbird Slough             |
| <input type="radio"/> Burlington Park                              | <input type="radio"/> Hidden Lake                    | <input type="radio"/> Spring Creek Reservoir      |
| <input type="radio"/> Churchill Park                               | <input type="radio"/> Hitchcock Woods                | <input type="radio"/> Springbrook Prairie         |
| <input type="radio"/> Churchill Woods                              | <input type="radio"/> James "Pate" Philip State Park | <input type="radio"/> St. James Farm              |
| <input type="radio"/> Community Park                               | <input type="radio"/> Kline Creek Farm               | <input type="radio"/> Swift Prairie               |
| <input type="radio"/> Country Lakes                                | <input type="radio"/> Lincoln Marsh                  | <input type="radio"/> Timber Ridge                |
| <input type="radio"/> Cricket Creek                                | <input type="radio"/> Lyman Woods                    | <input type="radio"/> Warrenville Grove           |
| <input type="radio"/> Danada                                       | <input type="radio"/> Mallard Lake                   | <input type="radio"/> Waterfall Glen              |
| <input type="radio"/> Danada Equestrian Center                     | <input type="radio"/> Maple Grove                    | <input type="radio"/> Wayne Grove                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Des Plaines Riverway                         | <input type="radio"/> Maple Meadows Golf Course      | <input type="radio"/> West Branch                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Dunham                                       | <input type="radio"/> Mayslake                       | <input type="radio"/> West Branch Riverway        |
| <input type="radio"/> East Branch                                  | <input type="radio"/> Mayslake Peabody Estate        | <input type="radio"/> West Chicago Prairie        |
| <input type="radio"/> East Branch Riverway                         | <input type="radio"/> McDowell Grove                 | <input type="radio"/> West DuPage Woods           |
| <input type="radio"/> Egermann Woods                               | <input type="radio"/> Meacham Grove                  | <input type="radio"/> Willowbrook                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Fischer Woods                                | <input type="radio"/> Medinah Wetlands               | <input type="radio"/> Willowbrook Wildlife Center |
| <input type="radio"/> Fox Hollow                                   | <input type="radio"/> Night Heron Marsh              | <input type="radio"/> Winfield Mounds             |
| <input type="radio"/> Fullersburg Woods                            | <input type="radio"/> Oak Grove                      | <input type="radio"/> Wood Dale Grove             |
| <input type="radio"/> Fullersburg Woods Nature<br>Education Center | <input type="radio"/> Oldfield Oaks                  | <input type="radio"/> Wood Ridge                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Fullerton Park                               | <input type="radio"/> Pioneer Park                   | <input type="radio"/> York Woods                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Glen Oak                                     | <input type="radio"/> Pratt's Wayne Woods            | <input type="radio"/> York/High Ridge             |

6. How do you usually get to a DuPage forest preserve? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Drive   ☐ Bike   ☐ Walk   ☐ Public transportation   ☐ Other Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_

7. How would you prefer to get to a DuPage forest preserve? (This answer may be different than your answer for question 6.) **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Drive   ☐ Bike   ☐ Walk   ☐ Public transportation   ☐ Other Please specify. \_\_\_\_\_

8. How far do you typically travel to visit a DuPage forest preserve? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Less than 3 miles   ☐ 3 – 10 miles   ☐ More than 10 miles

9. How often do you use your smart phone to access the internet or use apps when you're at a DuPage forest preserve? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Every time   ☐ Most times but not all   ☐ Not often   ☐ Never   ☐ I don't have a smart phone.

---

10. How do you currently receive information about DuPage forest preserves? **Choose all that apply.**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Email                | <input type="radio"/> Banners or other street signs        | <input type="radio"/> Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) |
| <input type="radio"/> The Conservationist  | <input type="radio"/> Family, friends or neighbors         | <input type="radio"/> Other <i>Please specify.</i> _____     |
| <input type="radio"/> Newspaper            | <input type="radio"/> Forest Preserve District website     | <input type="radio"/> I don't.                               |
| <input type="radio"/> At a forest preserve | <input type="radio"/> Non-Forest Preserve District website |  |

11. Which of the following would you like to do or see more of at DuPage forest preserves? **Choose all that apply.**

- |   |                                       |                                     |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Nature play spaces        | <input type="radio"/> Mountain biking | <input type="radio"/> Archery       | <input type="radio"/> None                               |
| <input type="radio"/> Equestrian camping        | <input type="radio"/> Bike rentals    | <input type="radio"/> Campsites     | <input type="radio"/> Other <i>Please specify.</i> _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Cross-country ski rentals | <input type="radio"/> Paddle boarding | <input type="radio"/> Cabin rentals |  |

12. Which of the following statements about DuPage forest preserves do you agree with? **Choose all that apply.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> <b>A</b> They protect natural areas.                | <input type="radio"/> <b>D</b> They benefit the environment (clean air and water, etc.) |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>B</b> They give me ways to experience nature.    | <input type="radio"/> <b>E</b> They give me places where I can do outdoor activities.   |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>C</b> They provide outdoor learning experiences. | <input type="radio"/> <b>F</b> I don't agree with any of them. (Skip to question 14.)   |

13. Rank your choices from question 12 based on their value to you. **For the one you value most, write the letter corresponding to that statement next to the 1 below. For the one you value second-most, write that letter next to the 2, continuing until you've ranked all of your choices.**

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_

14. DuPage forest preserves increase the value of my home. **Choose only one.**

- ☐ I agree.     ☐ I disagree.

15. Considering the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County does not have unlimited resources, what should it focus on over the next five years?

**Rank from 1 to 7 with 1 being the first topic it should focus on, 2 the second topic, etc.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Acquire more land
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build new trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build new connections between existing trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Restore existing prairies, woods, wetlands, lakes or streams
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain or improve existing forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build new forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain or restore historic buildings and structures

16. What is the most important reason the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County should acquire more land? **Choose only one.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Preserve open space               | <input type="radio"/> Protect sensitive natural areas |
| <input type="radio"/> Expand outdoor recreational areas | <input type="radio"/> It shouldn't acquire more land. |
| <input type="radio"/> Preserve historic buildings       |   |

**MORE ►**





## Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

If you answered "It shouldn't acquire more land" to question 16, please skip to question 18.

17. If the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County were to acquire land, what type of land should it acquire?

**Rank from 1 to 4 with 1 being the most important type, 2 the second-most important type, etc.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ High-quality natural areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Developed land (land with existing buildings, parking, etc.) that can be converted into natural areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Flood-prone areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Undeveloped areas (agricultural land, empty fields, etc.) that aren't considered high-quality natural areas

18. Beginning with yourself, what are the ages of the people in your household?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. How much total combined income did the members of your household earn last year?

- ☐ \$0 – \$24,999
- ☐ \$25,000 – \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 – \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 – \$199,999
- ☐ \$200,000 or more
- ☐ I prefer not to answer.

20. How many years have you lived in DuPage County? \_\_\_\_\_

21. What is your marital status? ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Separated/Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐ I prefer not to answer.

22. What is your gender? \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I prefer not to answer.

23. What is your race or ethnicity? **Choose all that apply.**

- ☐ White
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Hispanic, Latino or Spanish
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Other *Please specify.* \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ Middle Eastern or North African
- ☐ I prefer not to answer.

24. What is the highest level of school you completed?

- ☐ None
- ☐ Some college or professional training
- ☐ I prefer not to answer.
- ☐ Preschool – 12th grade
- ☐ College degree or professional certification
- ☐ High school diploma or GED
- ☐ College degree beyond a bachelor's degree

25. Is there something you'd like to tell us about DuPage forest preserves that we didn't ask?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<<1>>

## General Population Sample Survey Cover Letter



**Forest Preserve District  
of DuPage County**

35580 Naperville Road  
P.O. Box 5000  
Wheaton, IL 60189

630.933.7200  
Fax 630.933.7204  
TTY 800.526.0857  
[dupageforest.org](http://dupageforest.org)

October 27, 2017

Dear Fellow DuPage Resident,

As president of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and a father of two young boys, I know that time can be scarce, so let me get straight to the point: The Forest Preserve District is developing a plan to guide its efforts over the next five years and we want to hear from you!

For over 100 years, the Forest Preserve District has been striving to protect and improve the county's prairies, forests and wetlands while providing great ways for people to experience, enjoy and learn more about these incredible areas. To date, we manage nearly 26,000 acres across 60 different forest preserves. We may not offer ballfields or playgrounds, but we do offer some of the most beautiful open spaces in northern Illinois with some of the best ways to relax and soak up the scenery.

That's why I hope you'll take a few minutes to answer the enclosed survey and return it to us by Nov. 20 using the enclosed postage-paid envelope. These surveys are anonymous, so feel free to share your candid opinions. Your response will be a valuable part of our planning process and greatly appreciated.

If you'd like to learn more about our planning process, you can read the latest on our website at [dupageforest.org/master-plan](http://dupageforest.org/master-plan), where we'll post findings from this survey and our other community outreach efforts. And if you have any questions, please contact Jessica Ortega at 630-871-6404 or [jortega@dupageforest.org](mailto:jortega@dupageforest.org).

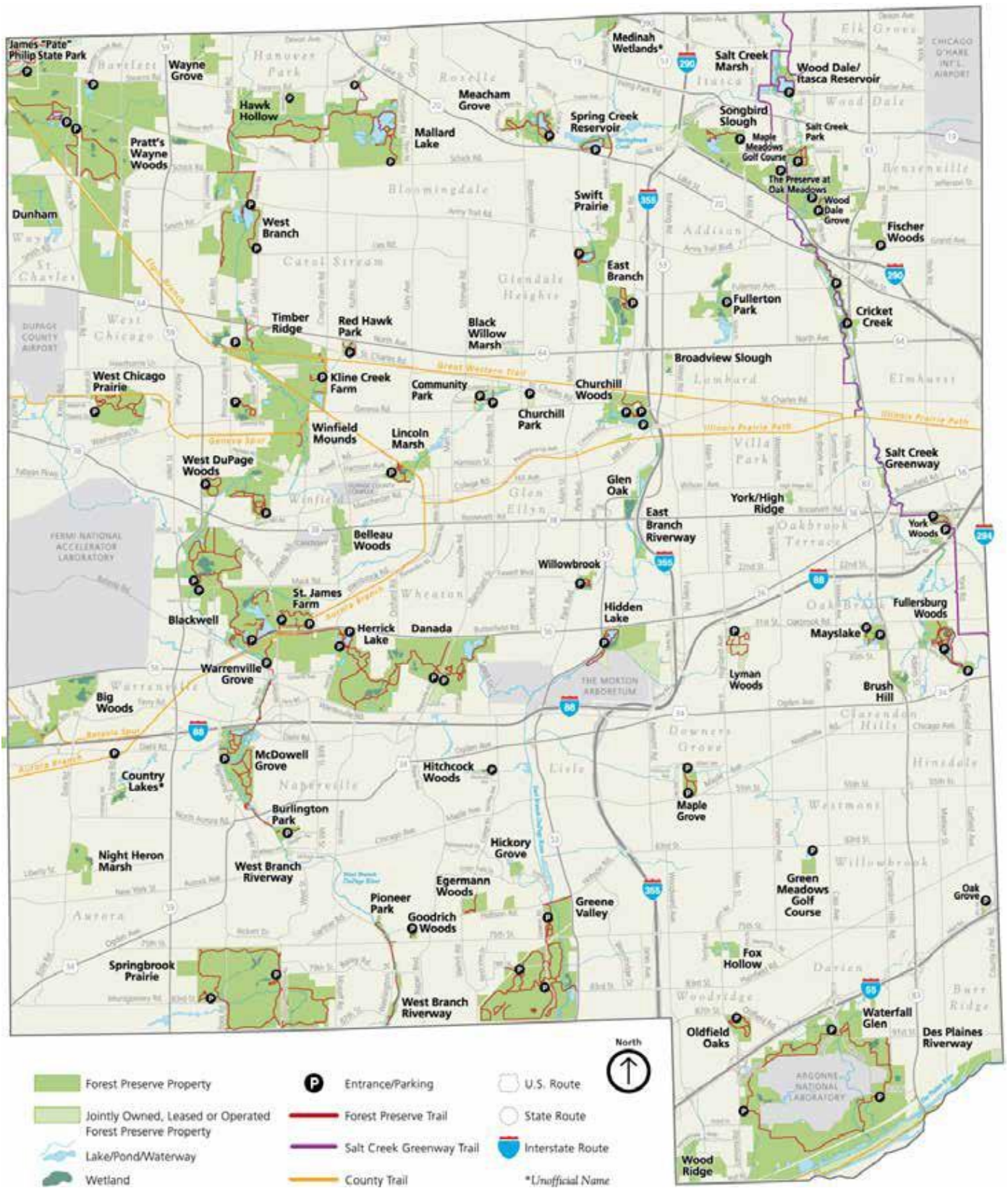
Thank you for taking the time to make your forest preserves even better places to visit, and have a fantastic fall!

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Cantore  
President

Enclosures

Si desea recibir una copia de esta encuesta en español, envíe un correo electrónico con su dirección de correo a [jortega@dupageforest.org](mailto:jortega@dupageforest.org)





# General Population Sample Survey Instrument



## Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

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### Instructions

If it's more convenient, you can complete this same survey online through Dec. 10 at [dupageforest.org/master-plan-survey](http://dupageforest.org/master-plan-survey). If you wish to complete this paper survey:

- This survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.
- When answering questions 1 – 16, take into account all of the members of your household. When answering questions 17 – 27 think just about yourself.
- When you are finished, please return this survey by Dec. 10 to Danada Equestrian Center, Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center, Kline Creek Farm, Mayslake Peabody Estate, Willowbrook Wildlife Center or Forest Preserve District headquarters (hours vary by location) OR via U.S. mail to Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Master Plan Survey, 35580 Naperville Road, Wheaton IL 60189.
- All responses are anonymous and confidential. If you have any questions, please call us at 630-871-6404.

---

### Questions

1. How often do you visit DuPage County forest preserves? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Daily    ☐ Weekly    ☐ Monthly    ☐ Less than once a month    ☐ Never

**If you answered "Never" to question 1, answer question 2.**

**If you gave an answer other than "Never," skip to question 3.**

2. Why haven't you visited a DuPage forest preserve? **Choose all that apply and then skip to question 10.**

- ☐ I don't know where they are.    ☐ I don't know what there is to do there.  
☐ I have no one to go with.    ☐ There's not one close to my home.  
☐ I don't have enough time.    ☐ I don't have the right equipment to participate.  
☐ I don't think they're safe.    ☐ I'm not interested in the activities or programs they offer.  
☐ I have mobility limitations.    ☐ Other *Please specify.* \_\_\_\_\_

3. Why do you visit DuPage forest preserves? **Choose all that apply.**

- ☐ To exercise    ☐ To relax    ☐ To attend a program I registered for  
☐ To do an outdoor activity    ☐ To spend time in nature    ☐ To spend time with family or friends  
☐ Other *Please specify.* \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which of the following activities have you done at a DuPage forest preserve in the past 12 months?

**Choose all that apply.**

- |   |                                      |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Walked, ran or biked on a trail | <input type="radio"/> Enjoyed nature | <input type="radio"/> Attended a program about plants, animals or nature |
| <input type="radio"/> Took photographs                | <input type="radio"/> Golfed         | <input type="radio"/> Went boating (rented one or used my own)           |
| <input type="radio"/> Went horseback riding           | <input type="radio"/> Camped         | <input type="radio"/> Attended a Forest Preserve District event          |
| <input type="radio"/> Sat and relaxed                 | <input type="radio"/> Picnicked      | <input type="radio"/> Attended a wedding, party or social event          |
| <input type="radio"/> Used an archery range           | <input type="radio"/> Volunteered    | <input type="radio"/> Went sledding or cross-country skiing              |
| <input type="radio"/> Used an off-leash dog area      | <input type="radio"/> Fished         | <input type="radio"/> Attended a program about history, culture or art   |
| <input type="radio"/> Went wildlife watching          | <input type="radio"/> Went birding   | <input type="radio"/> Other <i>Please specify.</i> _____                 |

**MORE ►**



## Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

5. Which DuPage forest preserves have you visited? **Choose all that apply.**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Belleau Woods                                | <input type="radio"/> Goodrich Woods                 | <input type="radio"/> Red Hawk Park               |
| <input type="radio"/> Big Woods                                    | <input type="radio"/> Green Meadows Golf Course      | <input type="radio"/> Salt Creek Greenway         |
| <input type="radio"/> Black Willow Marsh                           | <input type="radio"/> Greene Valley                  | <input type="radio"/> Salt Creek Marsh            |
| <input type="radio"/> Blackwell                                    | <input type="radio"/> Hawk Hollow                    | <input type="radio"/> Salt Creek Park             |
| <input type="radio"/> Broadview Slough                             | <input type="radio"/> Herrick Lake                   | <input type="radio"/> Songbird Slough             |
| <input type="radio"/> Brush Hill                                   | <input type="radio"/> Hickory Grove                  | <input type="radio"/> Spring Creek Reservoir      |
| <input type="radio"/> Burlington Park                              | <input type="radio"/> Hidden Lake                    | <input type="radio"/> Springbrook Prairie         |
| <input type="radio"/> Churchill Park                               | <input type="radio"/> Hitchcock Woods                | <input type="radio"/> St. James Farm              |
| <input type="radio"/> Churchill Woods                              | <input type="radio"/> James "Pate" Philip State Park | <input type="radio"/> Swift Prairie               |
| <input type="radio"/> Community Park                               | <input type="radio"/> Kline Creek Farm               | <input type="radio"/> Timber Ridge                |
| <input type="radio"/> Country Lakes                                | <input type="radio"/> Lincoln Marsh                  | <input type="radio"/> Warrenville Grove           |
| <input type="radio"/> Cricket Creek                                | <input type="radio"/> Lyman Woods                    | <input type="radio"/> Waterfall Glen              |
| <input type="radio"/> Danada                                       | <input type="radio"/> Mallard Lake                   | <input type="radio"/> Wayne Grove                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Danada Equestrian Center                     | <input type="radio"/> Maple Grove                    | <input type="radio"/> West Branch                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Des Plaines Riverway                         | <input type="radio"/> Maple Meadows Golf Course      | <input type="radio"/> West Branch Riverway        |
| <input type="radio"/> Dunham                                       | <input type="radio"/> Mayslake                       | <input type="radio"/> West Chicago Prairie        |
| <input type="radio"/> East Branch                                  | <input type="radio"/> Mayslake Peabody Estate        | <input type="radio"/> West DuPage Woods           |
| <input type="radio"/> East Branch Riverway                         | <input type="radio"/> McDowell Grove                 | <input type="radio"/> Willowbrook                 |
| <input type="radio"/> Egermann Woods                               | <input type="radio"/> Meacham Grove                  | <input type="radio"/> Willowbrook Wildlife Center |
| <input type="radio"/> Fischer Woods                                | <input type="radio"/> Medinah Wetlands               | <input type="radio"/> Winfield Mounds             |
| <input type="radio"/> Fox Hollow                                   | <input type="radio"/> Night Heron Marsh              | <input type="radio"/> Wood Dale Grove             |
| <input type="radio"/> Fullersburg Woods                            | <input type="radio"/> Oak Grove                      | <input type="radio"/> Wood Ridge                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Fullersburg Woods Nature<br>Education Center | <input type="radio"/> Oldfield Oaks                  | <input type="radio"/> York Woods                  |
| <input type="radio"/> Fullerton Park                               | <input type="radio"/> Pioneer Park                   | <input type="radio"/> York/High Ridge             |
| <input type="radio"/> Glen Oak                                     | <input type="radio"/> Pratt's Wayne Woods            |   |
|  | <input type="radio"/> The Preserve at Oak Meadows    |   |

6. How do you usually get to a DuPage forest preserve? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Drive   ☐ Bike   ☐ Walk   ☐ Public transportation   ☐ Other *Please specify.* \_\_\_\_\_

7. How would you prefer to get to a DuPage forest preserve? (This answer may be different than your answer for question 6.) **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Drive   ☐ Bike   ☐ Walk   ☐ Public transportation   ☐ Other *Please specify.* \_\_\_\_\_

8. How far do you typically travel to visit a DuPage forest preserve? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Less than 3 miles   ☐ 3 – 10 miles   ☐ More than 10 miles

9. How often do you use your smart phone to access the internet or use apps when you're at a DuPage forest preserve? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Every time   ☐ Most times but not all   ☐ Not often   ☐ Never   ☐ I don't have a smart phone.

---

10. How do you currently receive information about DuPage forest preserves? **Choose all that apply.**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Email                | <input type="radio"/> Banners or other street signs        | <input type="radio"/> Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) |
| <input type="radio"/> The Conservationist  | <input type="radio"/> Family, friends or neighbors         | <input type="radio"/> Other <i>Please specify.</i> _____     |
| <input type="radio"/> Newspaper            | <input type="radio"/> Forest Preserve District website     | <input type="radio"/> I don't.                               |
| <input type="radio"/> At a forest preserve | <input type="radio"/> Non-Forest Preserve District website |  |

11. Which of the following would you like to do, see or see more of at DuPage forest preserves? **Choose all that apply.**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Nature play spaces        | <input type="radio"/> Campsites                             | <input type="radio"/> Drinking water                     |
| <input type="radio"/> Equestrian camping        | <input type="radio"/> Cabin rentals                         | <input type="radio"/> Flush restrooms                    |
| <input type="radio"/> Cross-country ski rentals | <input type="radio"/> Trails                                | <input type="radio"/> Bike racks                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Mountain biking           | <input type="radio"/> Parking lots                          | <input type="radio"/> Restoration of natural areas       |
| <input type="radio"/> Bike rentals              | <input type="radio"/> Picnic shelters                       | <input type="radio"/> Other <i>Please specify.</i> _____ |
| <input type="radio"/> Paddle boarding           | <input type="radio"/> Trail wayfinding signs and trail maps | <input type="radio"/> None                               |
| <input type="radio"/> Archery                   | <input type="radio"/> Canoe launches on waterways           |  |

12. Which of the following statements about DuPage forest preserves do you agree with? **Choose all that apply.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> <b>A</b> They protect natural areas.                | <input type="radio"/> <b>D</b> They benefit the environment (clean air and water, etc.) |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>B</b> They give me ways to experience nature.    | <input type="radio"/> <b>E</b> They give me places where I can do outdoor activities.   |
| <input type="radio"/> <b>C</b> They provide outdoor learning experiences. | <input type="radio"/> <b>F</b> I don't agree with any of them. (Skip to question 14.)   |

13. Rank your choices from question 12 based on their value to you. **For the one you value most, write the letter corresponding to that statement next to the 1 below. For the one you value second-most, write that letter next to the 2, continuing until you've ranked all of your choices.**

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_

14. Considering the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County does not have unlimited resources, what should it focus on over the next five years?

**Rank from 1 to 7 with 1 being the first topic it should focus on, 2 the second topic, etc.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Acquire more land
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build new trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build new connections between existing trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Restore existing prairies, woods, wetlands, lakes or streams
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain or improve existing forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build new forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain or restore historic buildings and structures

15. What is the most important reason the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County should acquire more land?

**Choose only one.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Preserve open space               | <input type="radio"/> Protect sensitive natural areas |
| <input type="radio"/> Expand outdoor recreational areas | <input type="radio"/> It shouldn't acquire more land. |
| <input type="radio"/> Preserve historic buildings       |   |

**MORE >**





## Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

If you answered "It shouldn't acquire more land" to question 15, skip to question 17.

16. If the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County were to acquire land, what type of land should it acquire?

**Rank from 1 to 4 with 1 being the most important type, 2 the second-most important type, etc.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ High-quality natural areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Developed land (land with existing buildings, parking, etc.) that can be converted into natural areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Flood-prone areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Undeveloped areas (agricultural land, empty fields, etc.) that aren't considered high-quality natural areas

17. Do you live in DuPage County? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered "Yes" to question 17, answer questions 18 and 19. If you answered "No," skip to 20.

18. How many years have you live in DuPage County? \_\_\_\_\_

19. DuPage forest preserves increase the value of my home. **Choose only one.** ☐ I agree. ☐ I disagree.

20. What is your zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Beginning with yourself, what are the ages of the people in your household?

\_\_\_\_\_

22. How much total combined income did the members of your household earn last year?

- ☐ \$0 – \$24,999 ☐ \$50,000 – \$99,999 ☐ \$200,000 or more
- ☐ \$25,000 – \$49,999 ☐ \$100,000 – \$199,999 ☐ I prefer not to answer.

23. What is your marital status? ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Separated/Divorced ☐ Widowed ☐ I prefer not to answer.

24. What is your gender? \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ I prefer not to answer.

25. What is your race or ethnicity? **Choose all that apply.**

- ☐ White ☐ Asian ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Hispanic, Latino or Spanish ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native ☐ Other *Please specify.* \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Black or African American ☐ Middle Eastern or North African ☐ I prefer not to answer.

26. What is the highest level of school you completed?

- ☐ None ☐ Some college or professional training ☐ I prefer not to answer.
- ☐ Preschool – 12th grade ☐ College degree or professional certification
- ☐ High school diploma or GED ☐ College degree beyond a bachelor's degree

27. Is there something you'd like to tell us about DuPage forest preserves that we didn't ask?

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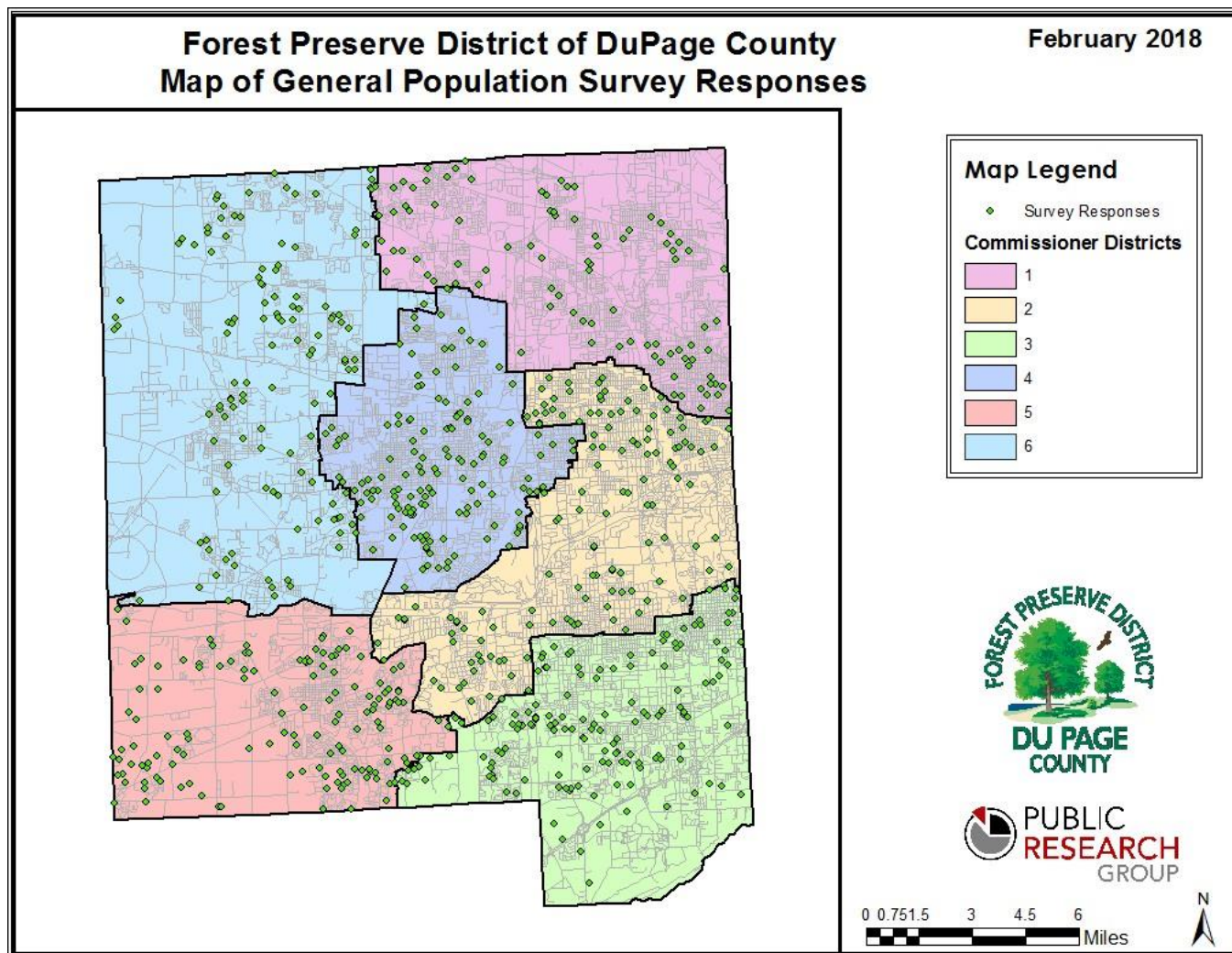
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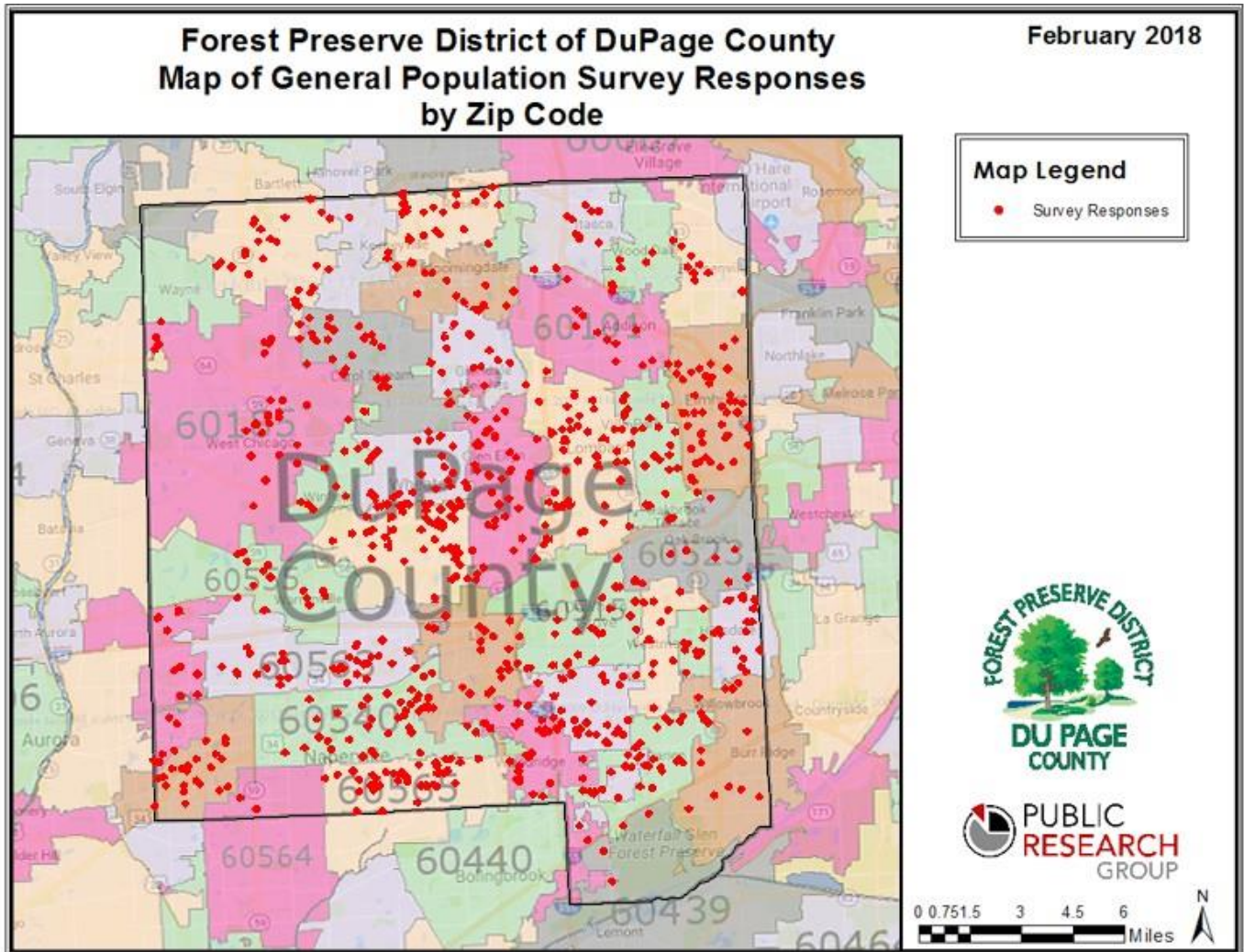
## General Population Survey Data

The following consists of survey data for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County General Population survey completed in the late fall of 2017. The survey was available online from November 3rd to December 13th and was also made available to individuals in a hardcopy format. Public Research Group has compiled 1956 online and 26 hardcopy surveys.

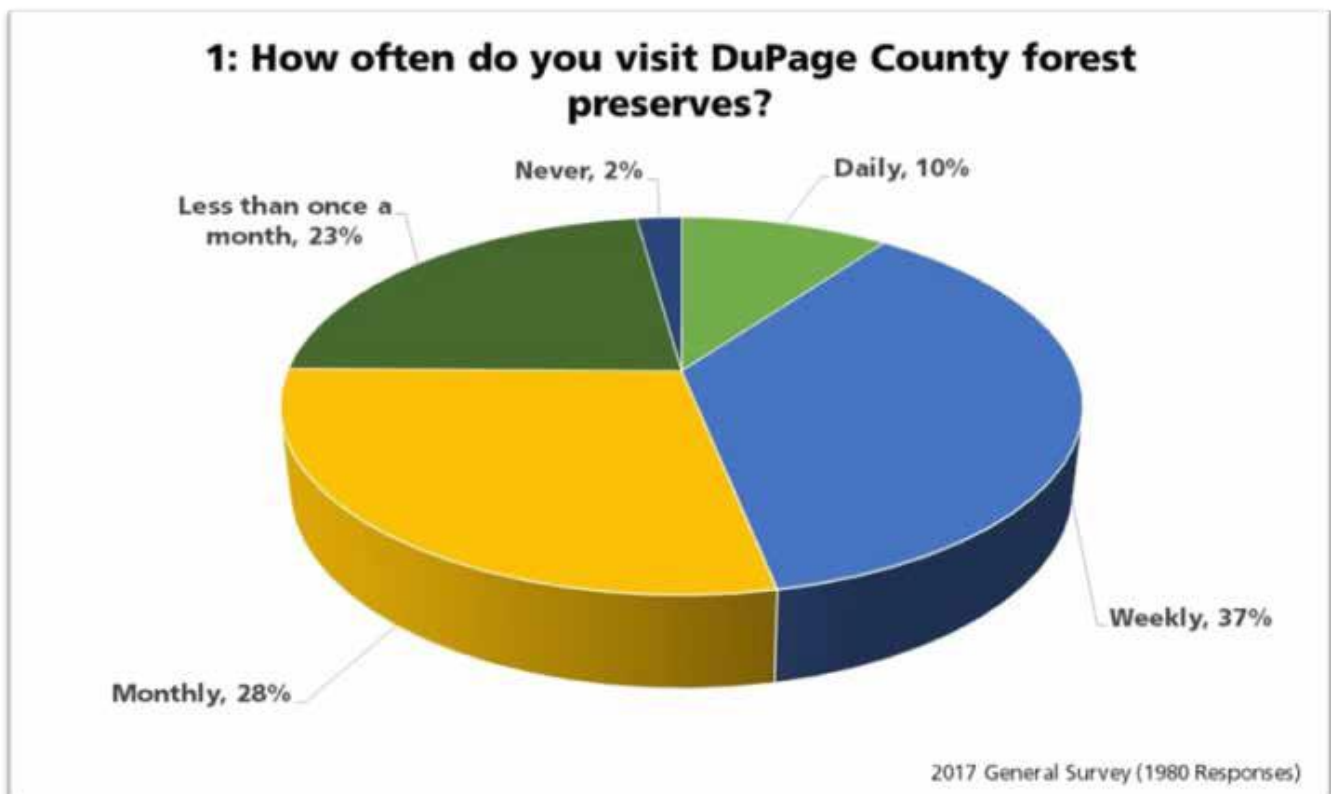
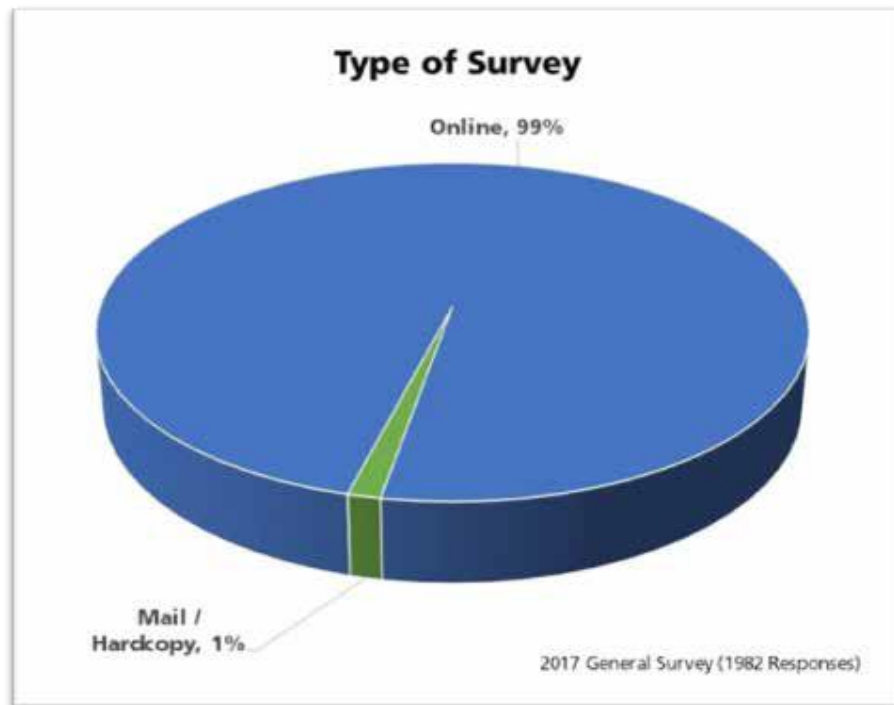
The first map that is shown below was generated using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software showing the locations of general population surveys responses within DuPage County with an overlay background of the six political districts of the Forest Preserve.



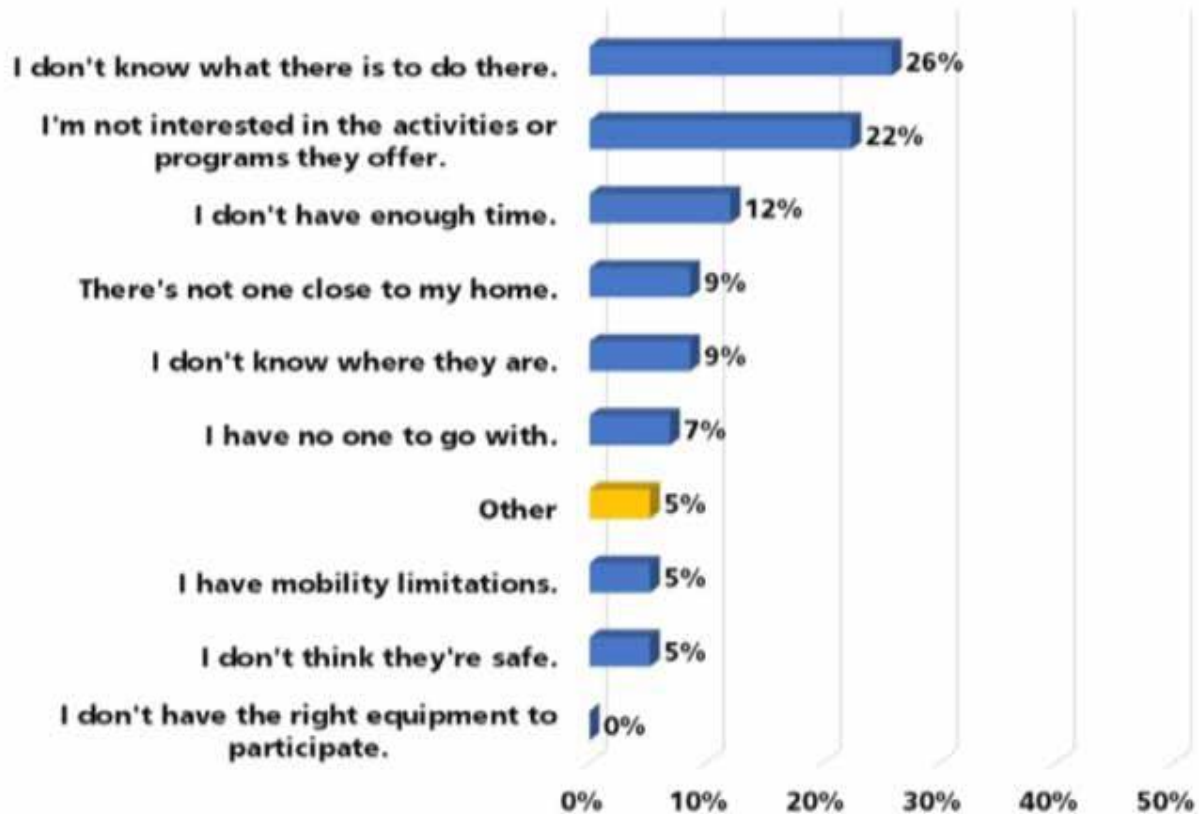
The second map shows the survey locations in relation to the zip codes found within DuPage County.





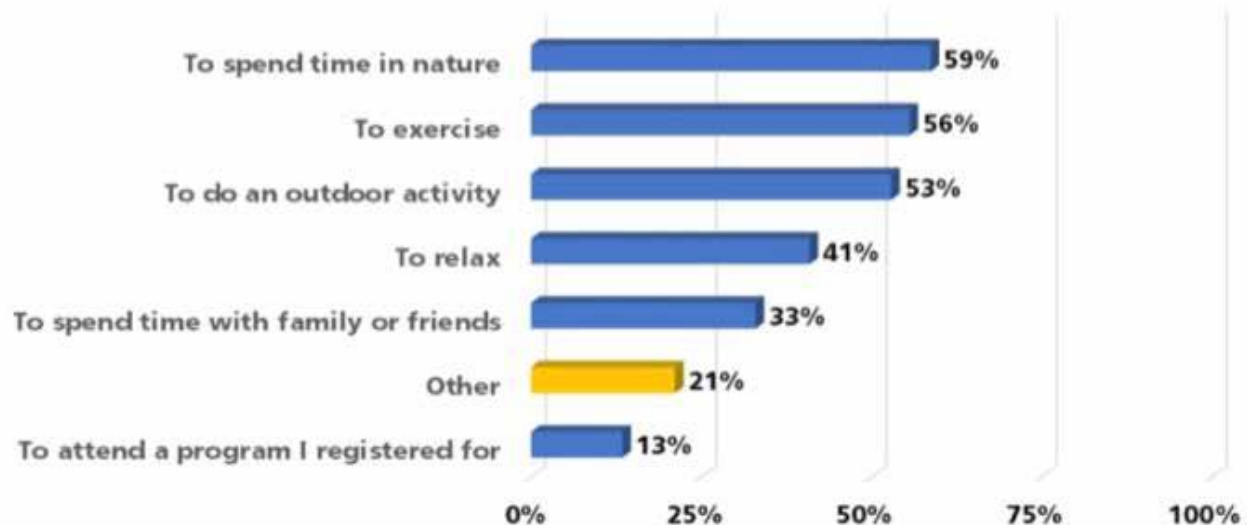


## 2: Why haven't you visited a DuPage forest preserve?



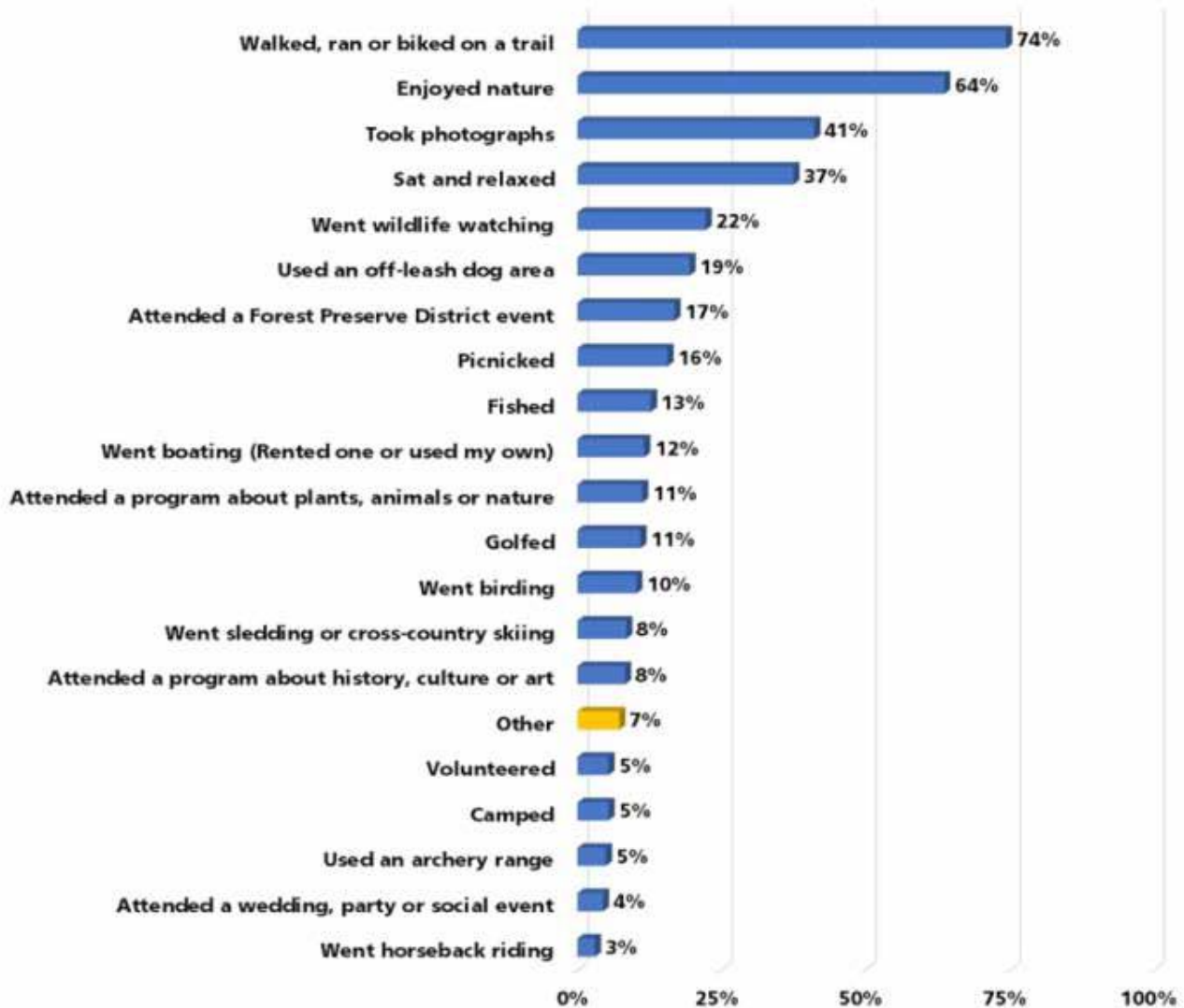
2017 General Survey (58 Responses)

## 3: Why do you visit DuPage forest preserves?



2017 General Survey (1982 Responses)

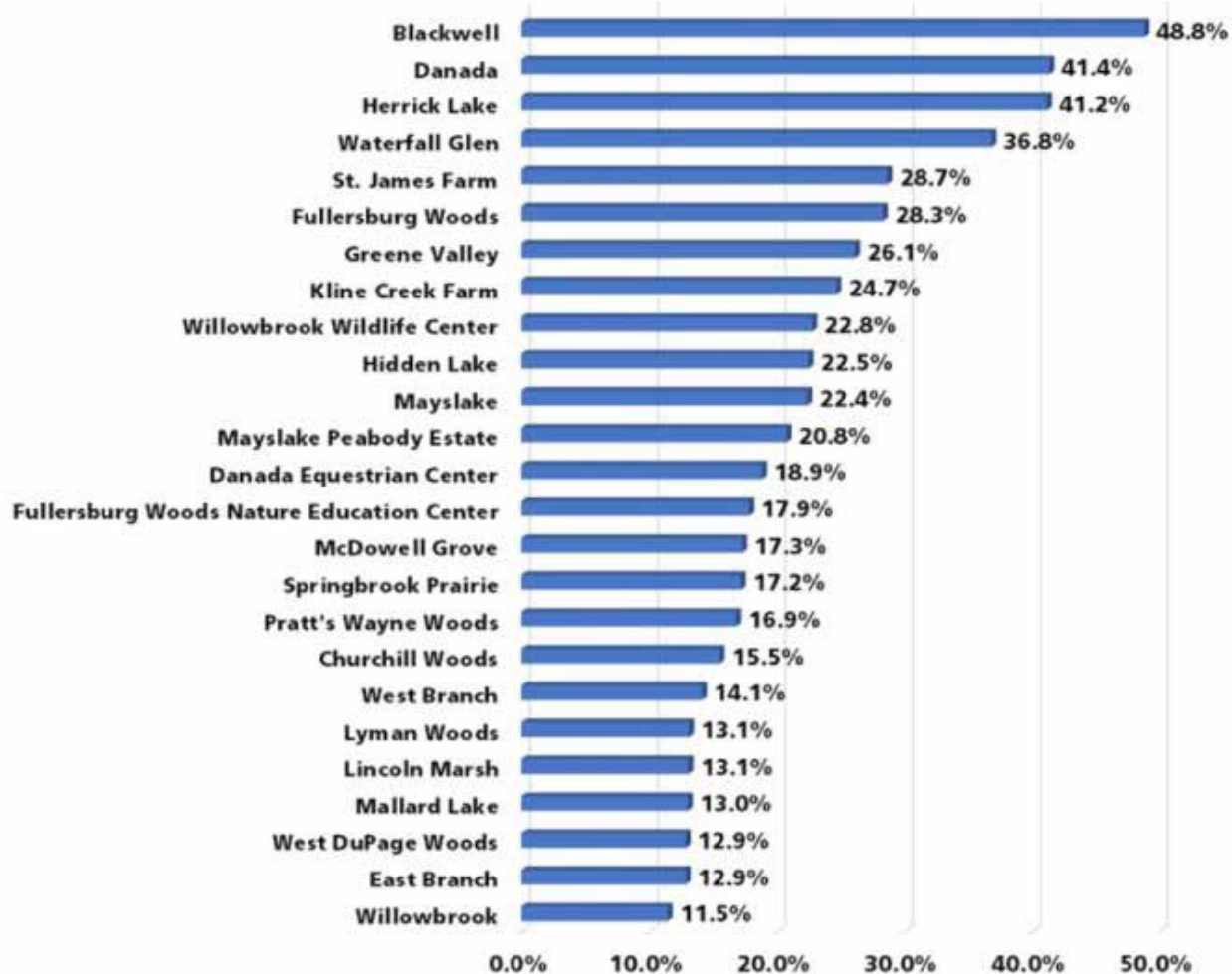
#### 4: Which of the following activities have you done at a DuPage forest preserve in the past 12 months?



2017 General Survey (1982 Responses)

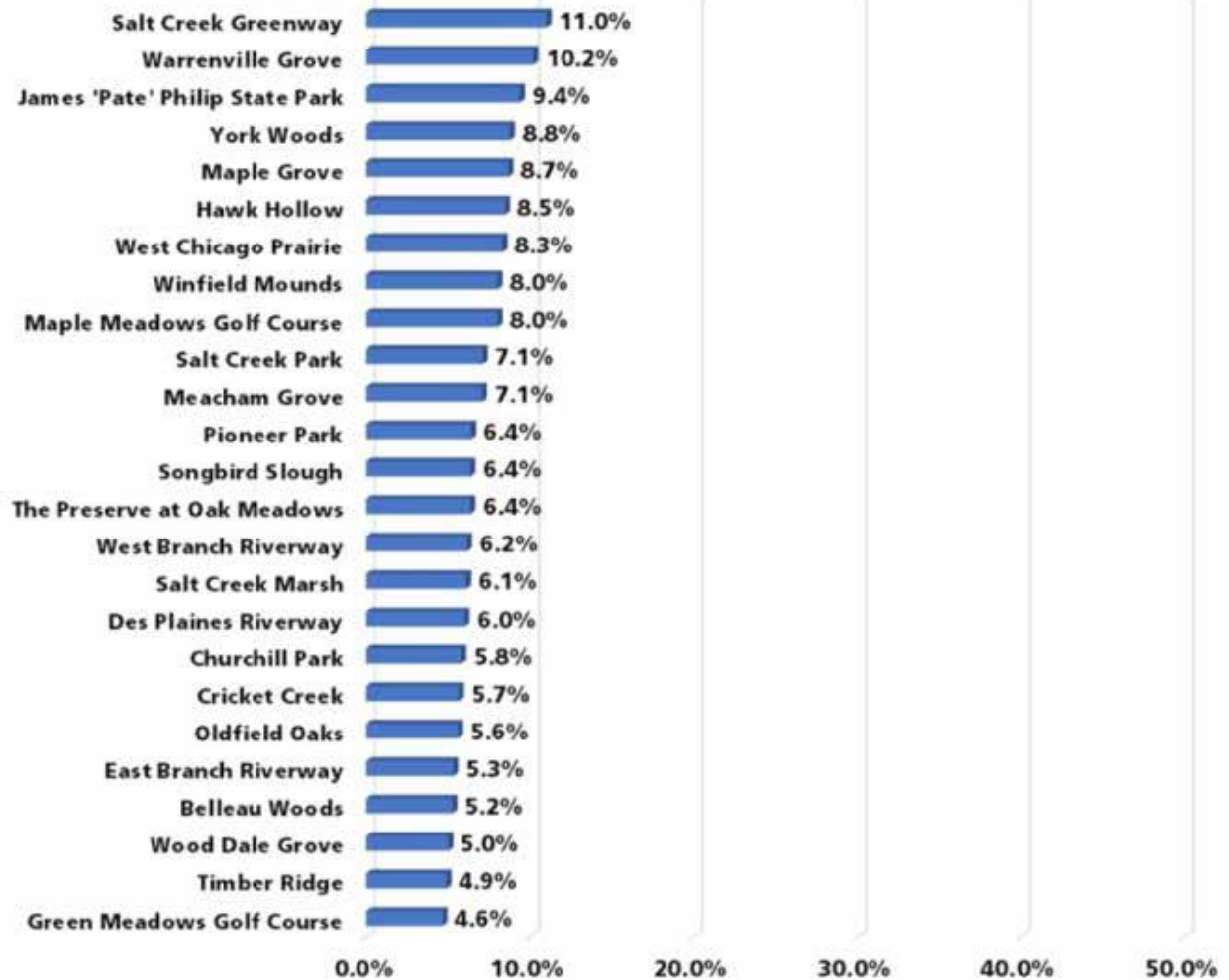


## 5: Which DuPage forest preserves have you visited? (1 of 3)



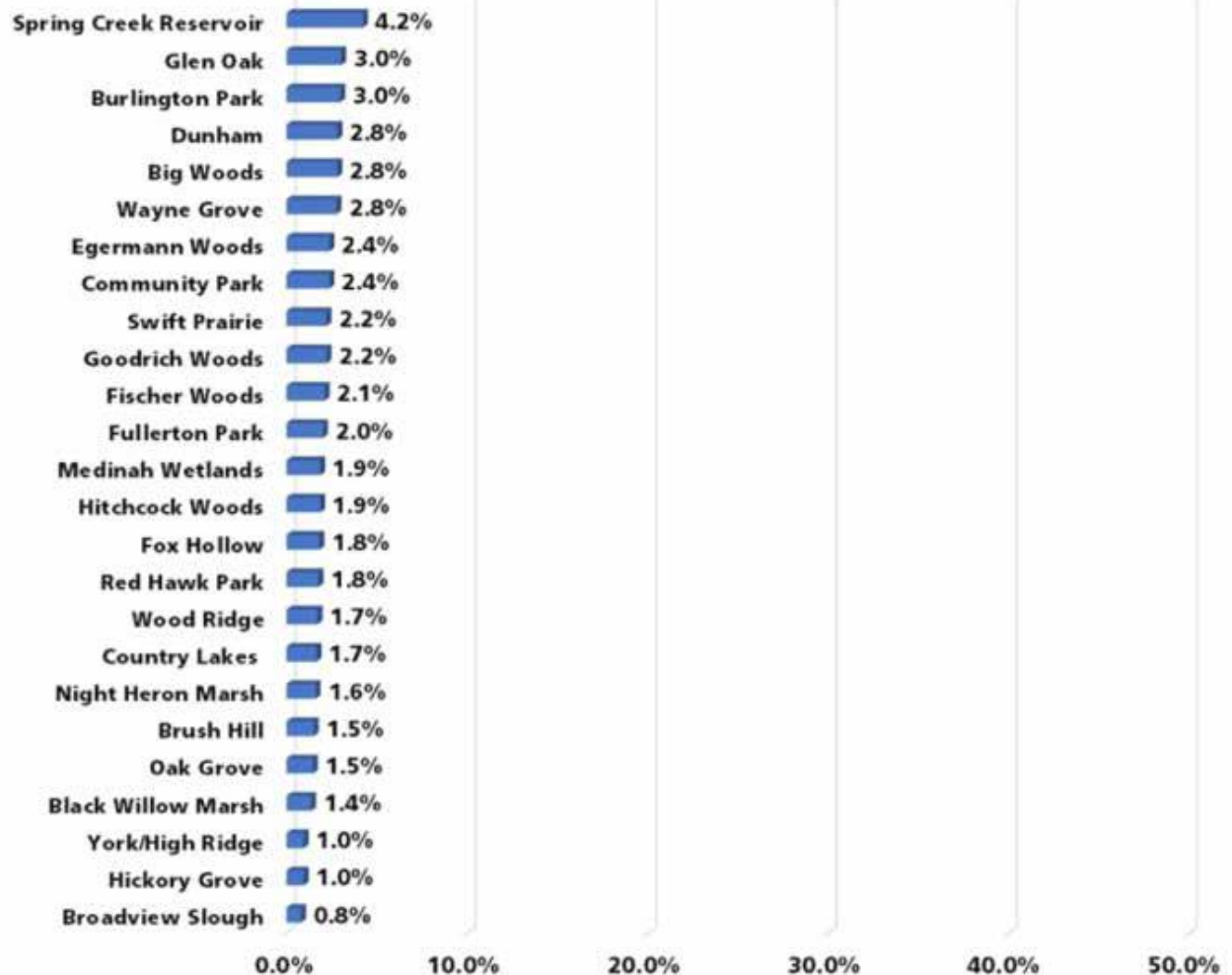
2017 General Survey (1982 Responses)

## 5: Which DuPage forest preserves have you visited? (2 of 3)



2017 General Survey (1982 Responses)

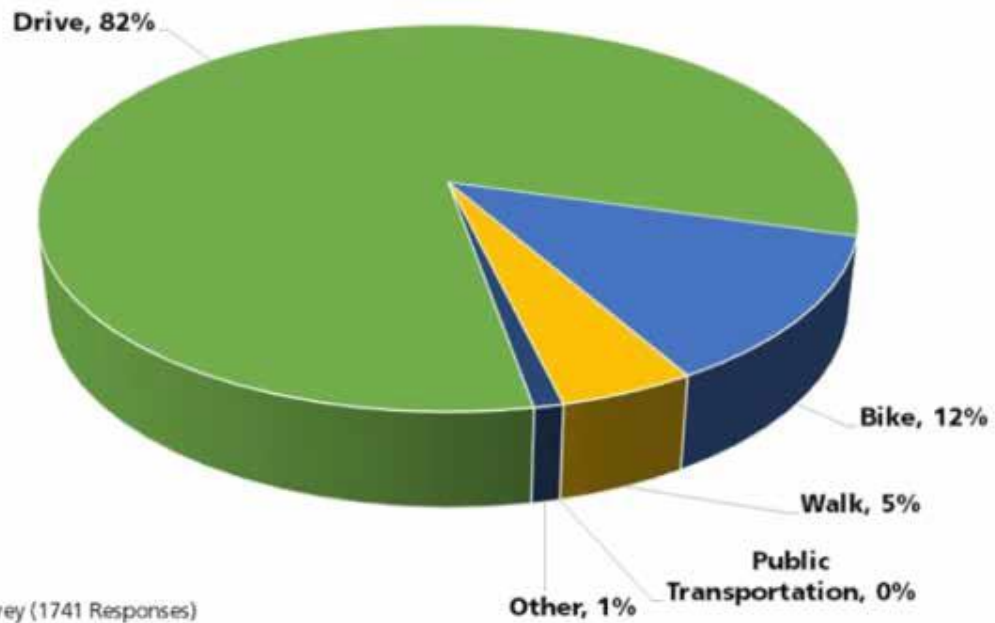
## 5: Which DuPage forest preserves have you visited? (3 of 3)



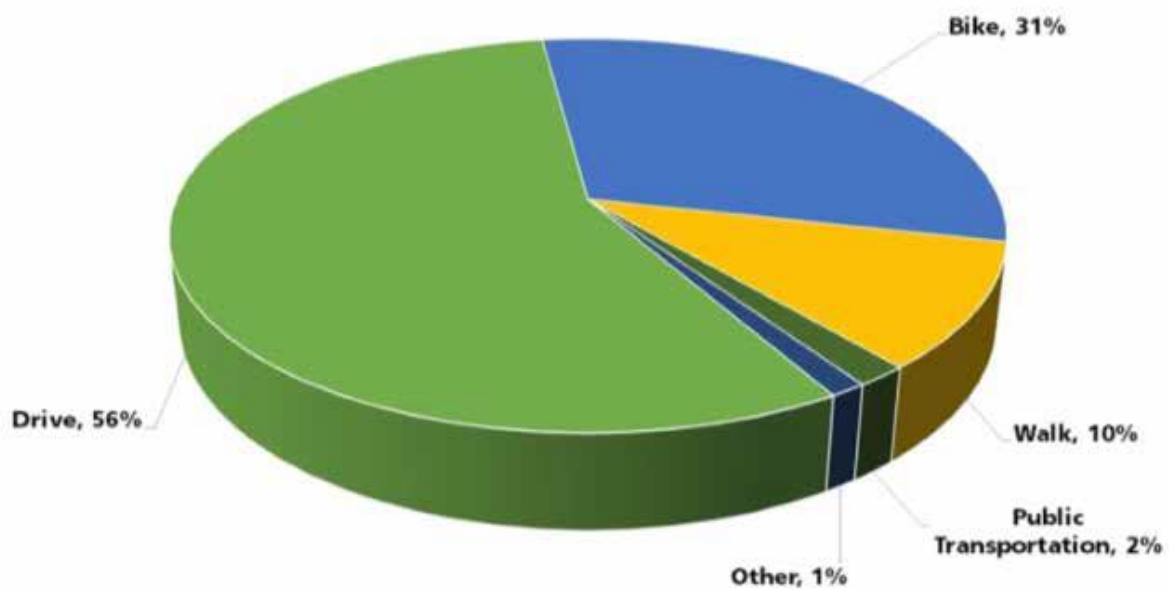
2017 General Survey (1982 Responses)



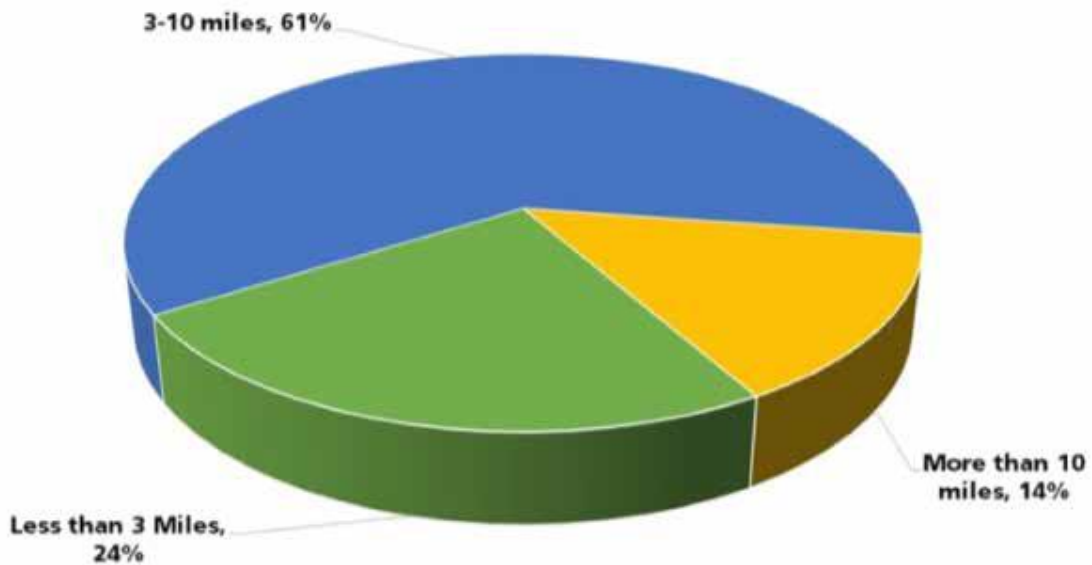
### 6: How do you usually get to a DuPage forest preserve?



### 7: How would you prefer to get to a DuPage forest preserve?

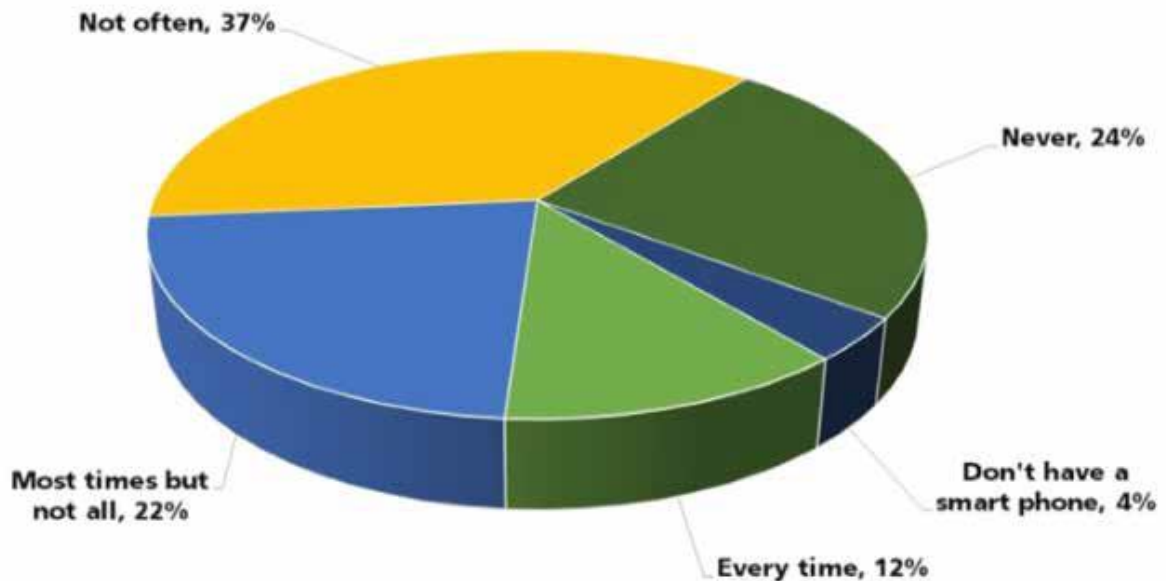


**8: How far do you typically travel to visit a DuPage forest preserve?**



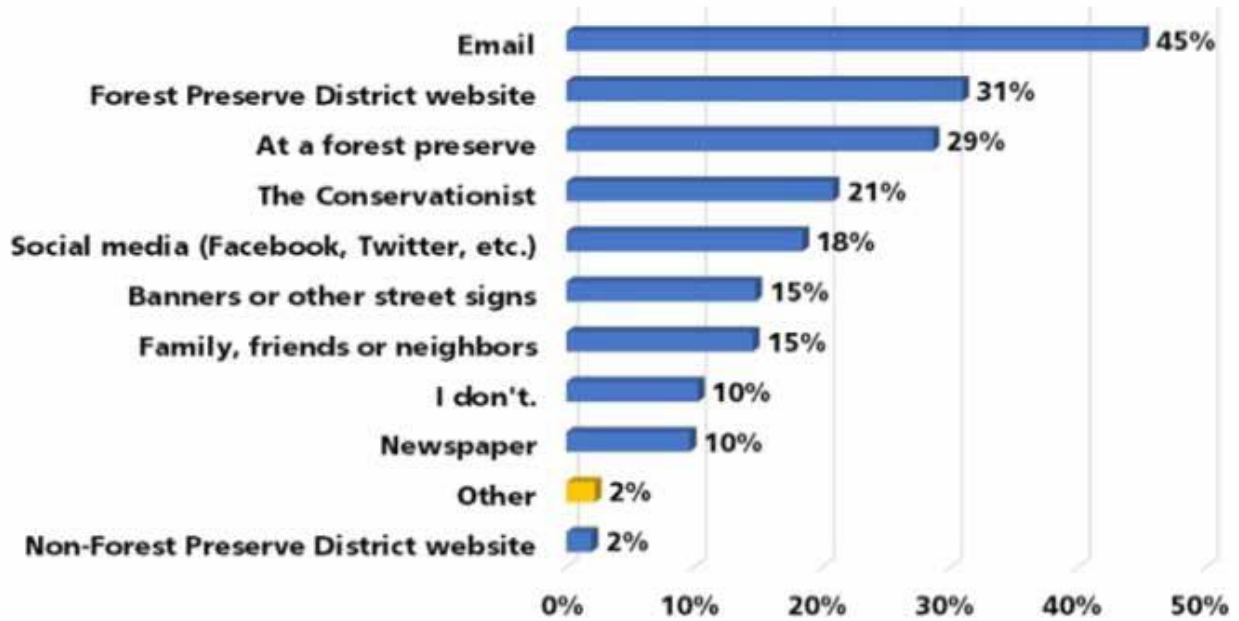
2017 General Survey (1734 Responses)

**9: How often do you use your smart phone to access the internet or use apps when you're at a DuPage forest preserve?**



2017 General Survey (1735 Responses)

## 10: How do you currently receive information about DuPage forest preserves?



2017 General Survey (1982 Responses)

# **11: Which of the following would you like to do, see or see more of at DuPage forest preserves?**

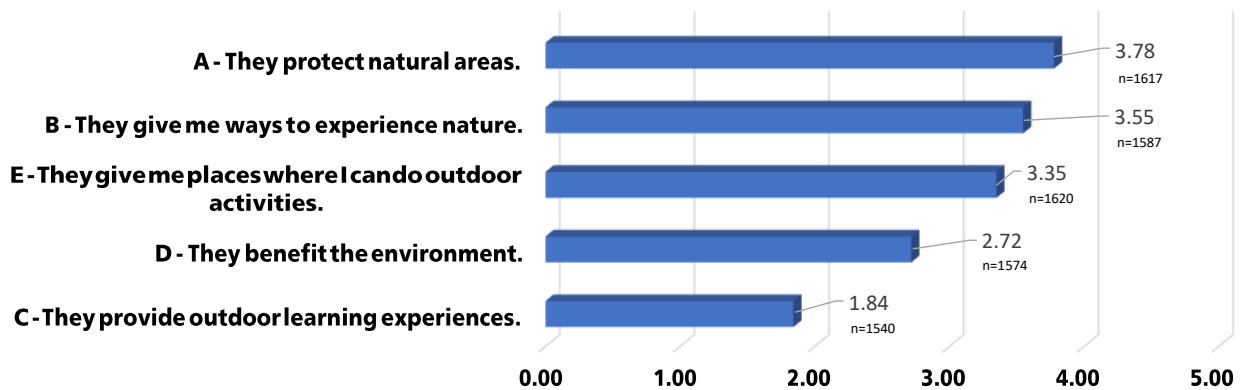




## 12: Which of the following statements about DuPage forest preserves do you agree with?

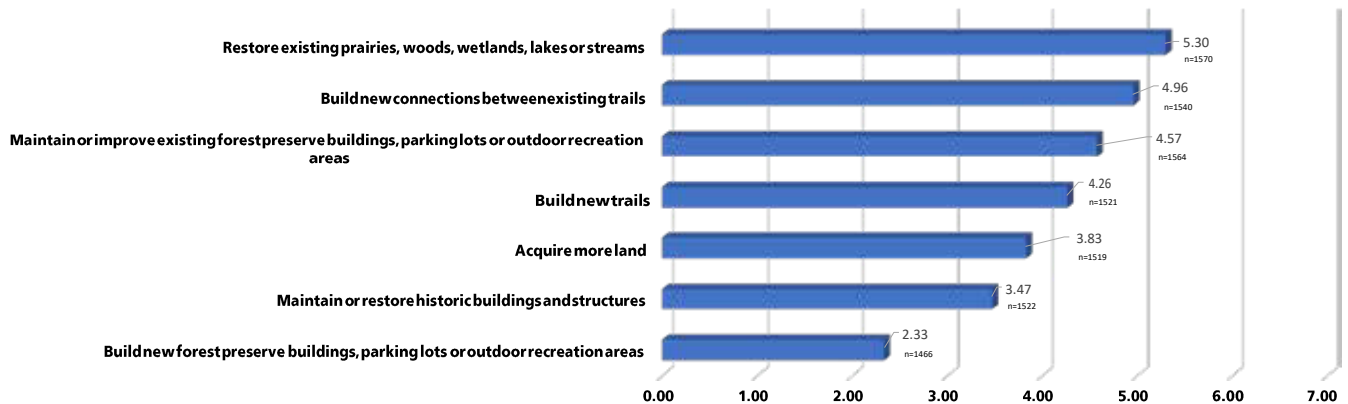


## 13: Please rank your choices (from Question 12) based on their value to you. Rankings (Weighted)



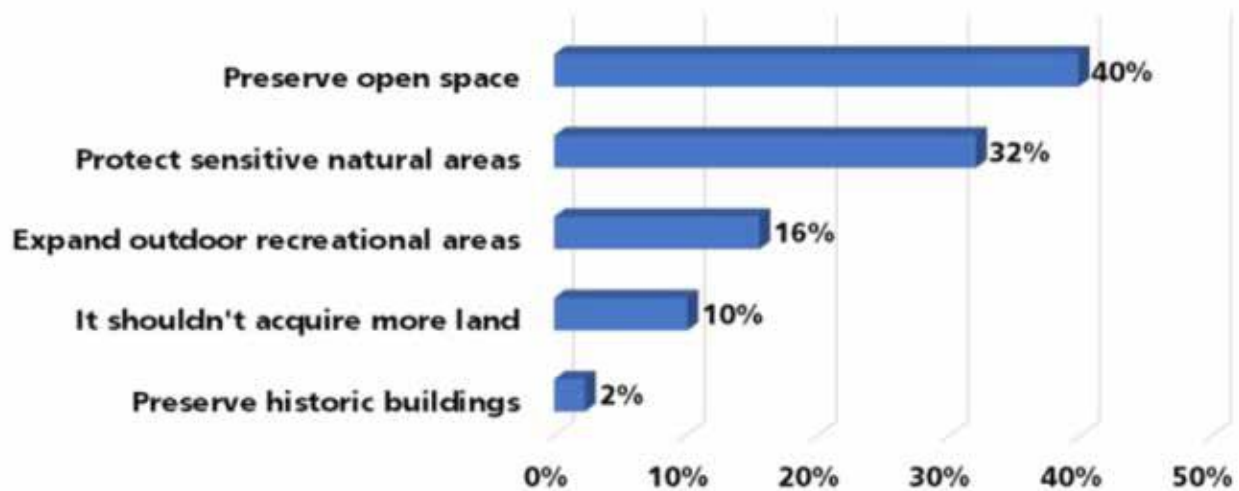
2017 General Survey

**14: Considering the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County does not have unlimited resources, what should it focus on over the next five years?**  
**Rankings (Weighted)**



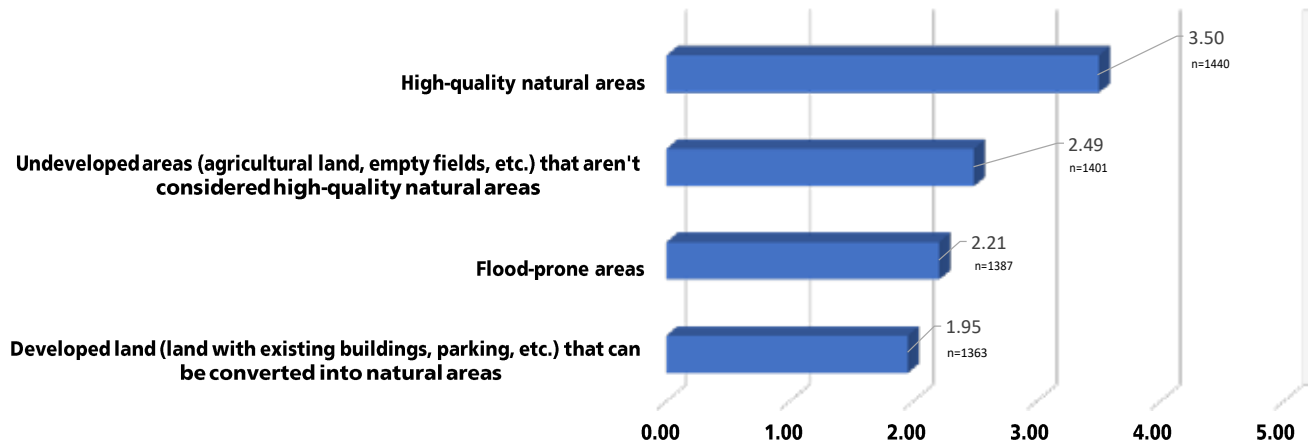
2017 General Survey

**15: What is the most important reason the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County should acquire more land?**



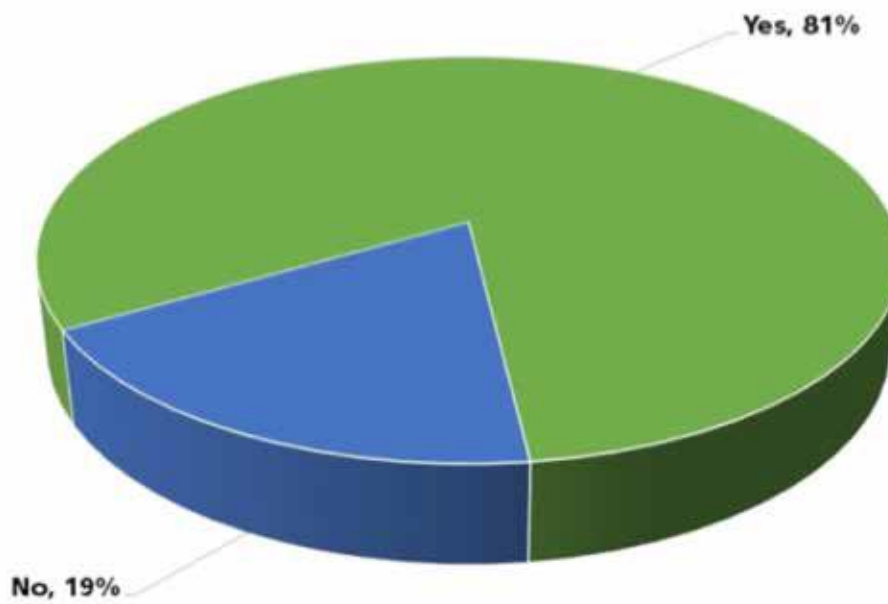
2017 General Survey (1718 Responses)

**16: If the Forest Preserve of DuPage County were to acquire land, what type of land should it acquire?  
Rankings (Weighted)**



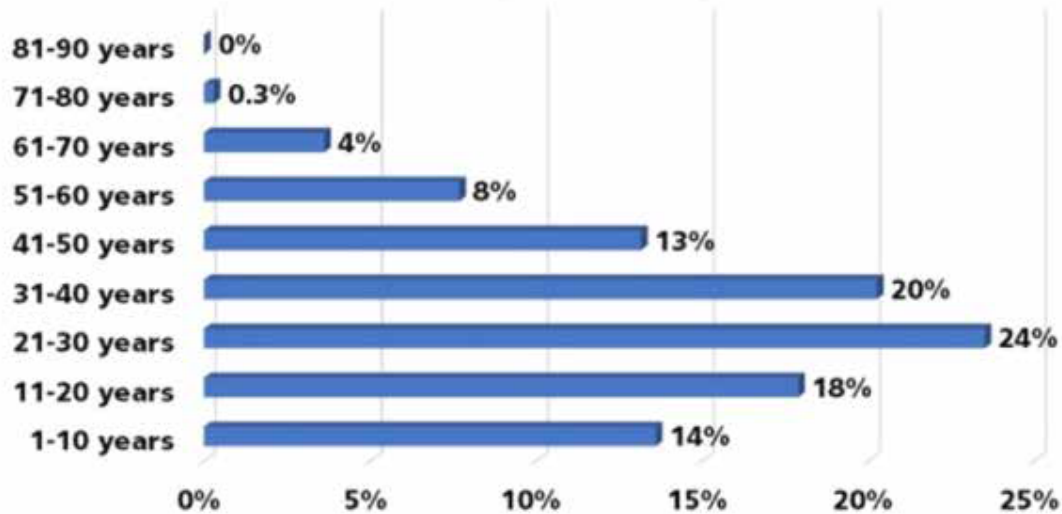
2017 General Survey

**17: Do you live in DuPage County?**



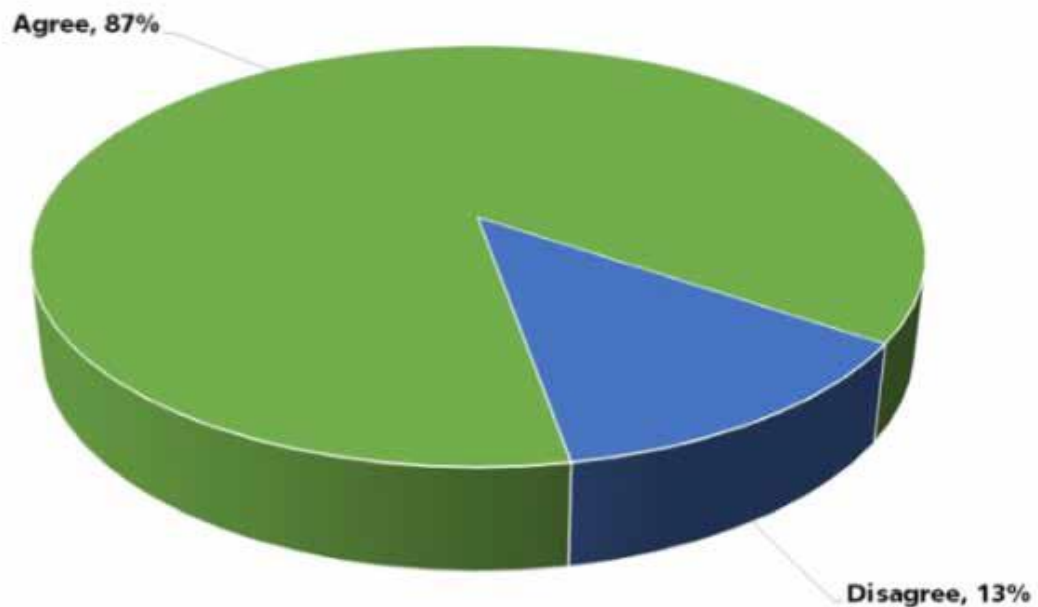
2017 General Survey (1697 Responses)

### 18: How many years have you lived in DuPage County?



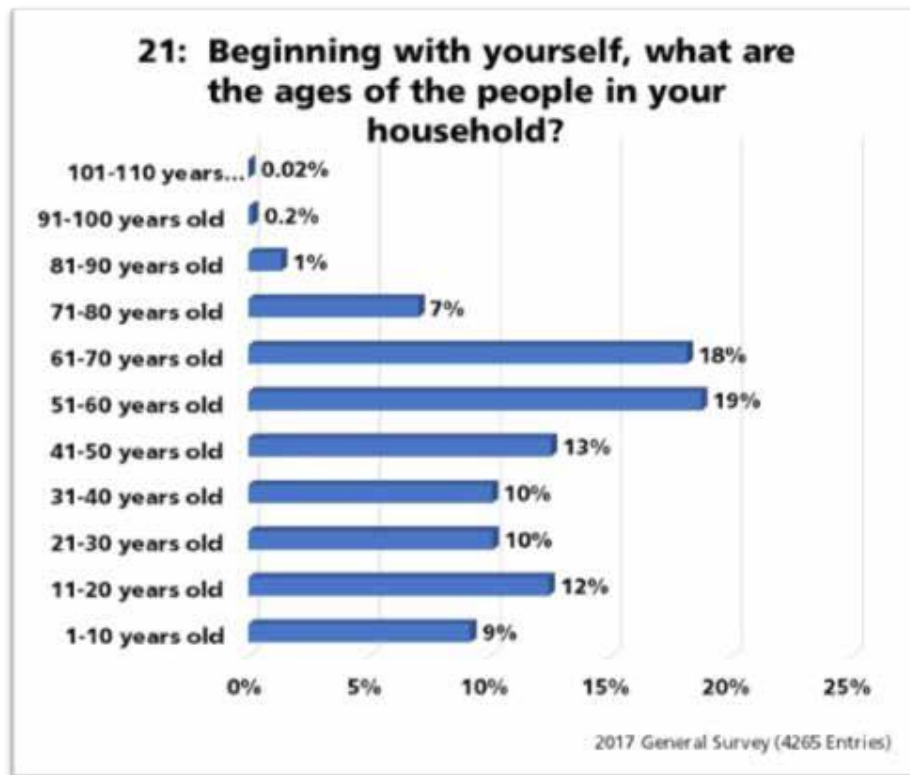
2017 General Survey (1353 Responses)

### 19: DuPage forest preserves increase the value of my home.



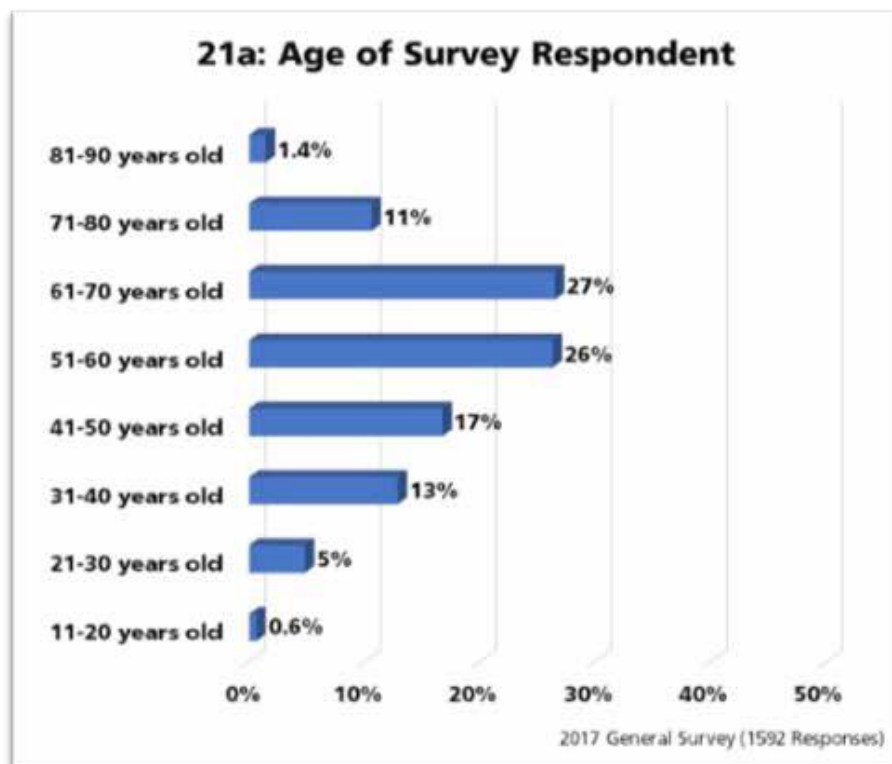
2017 General (1369 Responses)



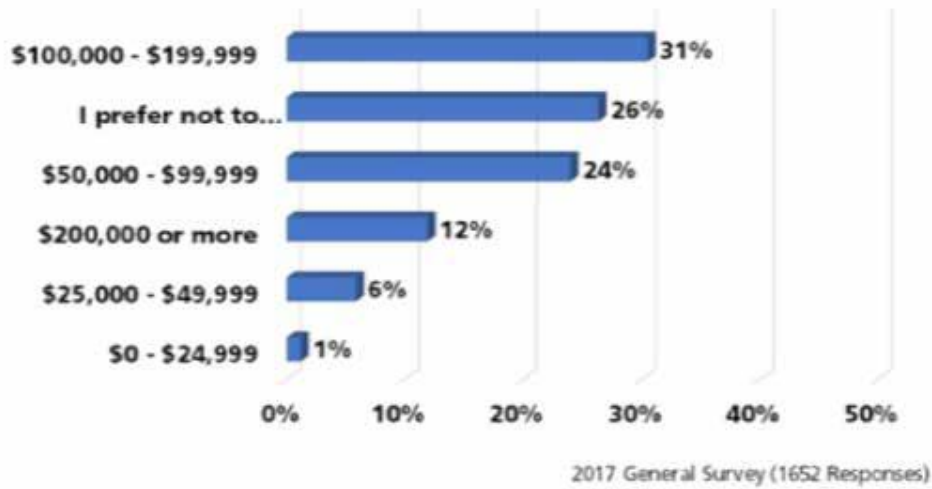


Of the 1982 Households Surveyed, 38% have a child under the age of 18.

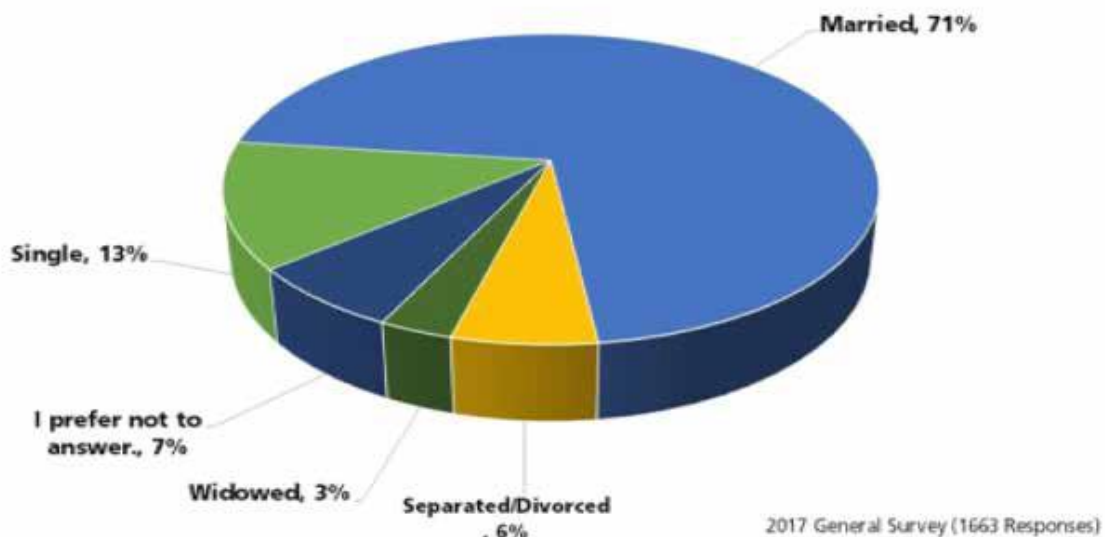
Of the 1982 Households Surveyed, 55% are active adult/senior citizen households with an adult 61 years or older.



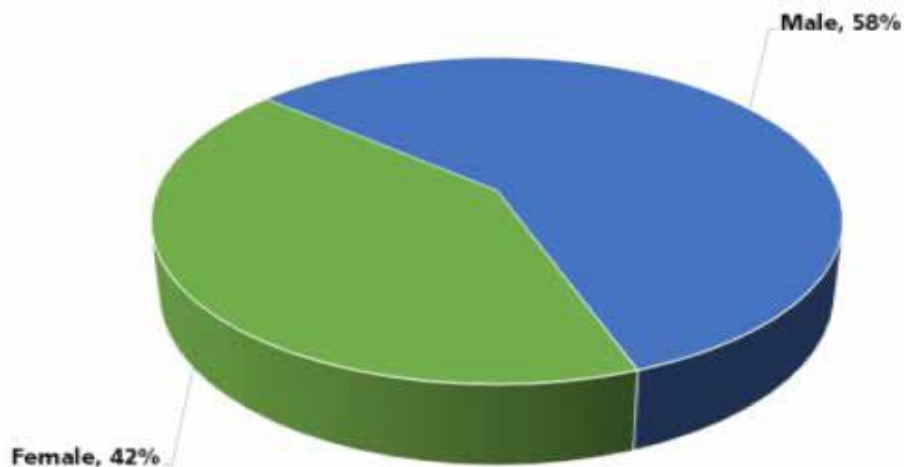
**22: How much total combined income did the members of your household earn last year?**



**23: What is your marital status?**

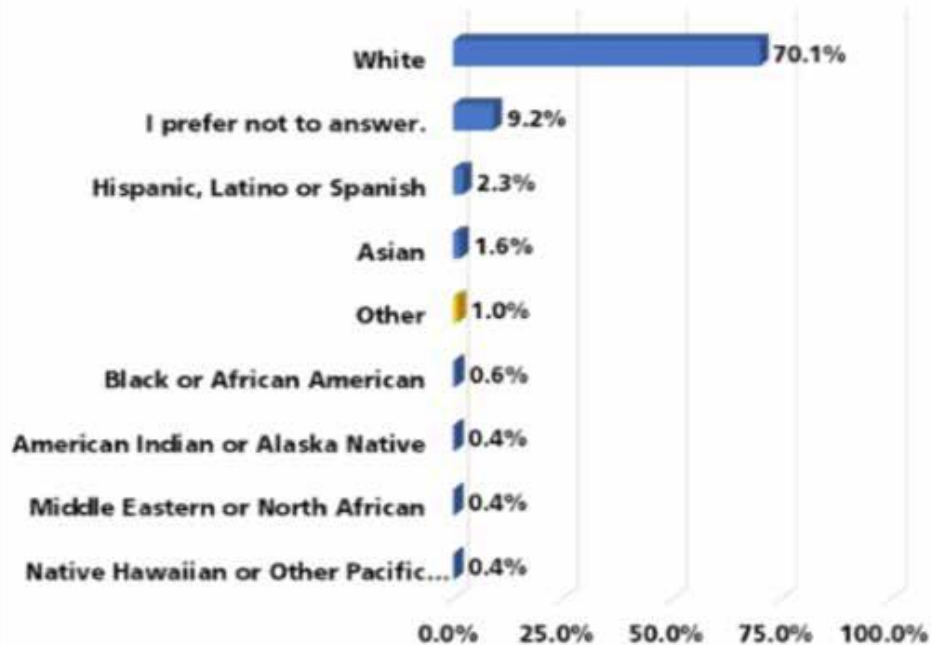


## 24: What is your gender?



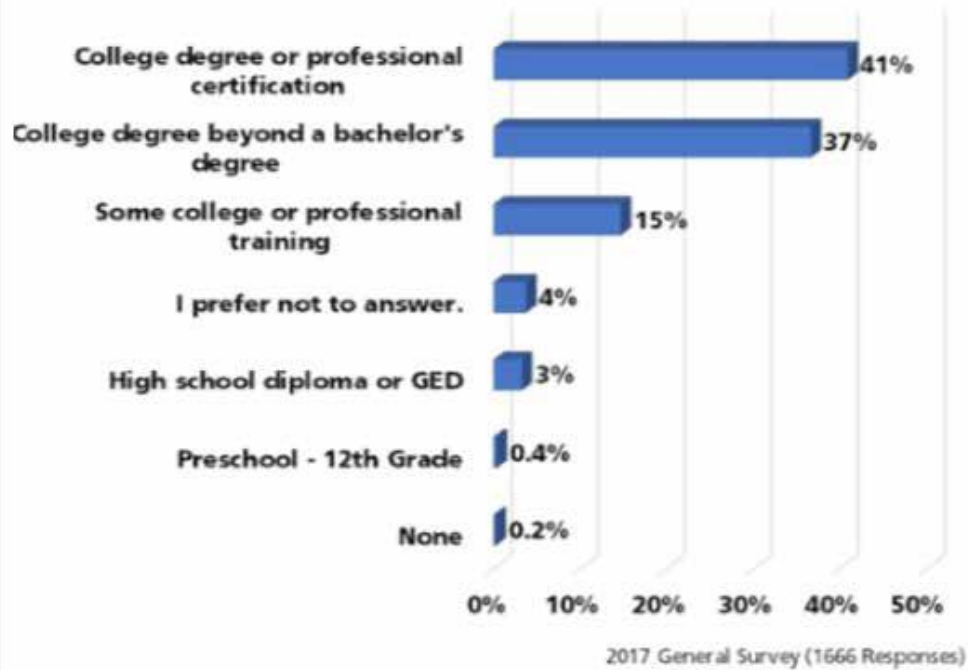
2017 General Survey (1401 Responses)

## 25: What is your race or ethnicity?



2017 General Survey (1982 Responses)

## 26: What is the highest level of school you completed?





## **Survey Open-Ended Response Summary**

Questions 3 and 11 on the random sample and general population surveys allowed respondents to select “other” and write in their answers, which fell into the general categories below. (Some respondents may have been able to answer the same way by selecting one of the other answer options but chose not to.)

### **Random Sample Survey**

Question 3: Why do you visit DuPage forest preserves?

“Other” (11% of all responses to this question)

To do an outdoor activity (other than trail use)	43%
To do an outdoor activity (trail use)	37%
Attend a third-party program or event	10%
Attend a forest preserve program or event or visit an education center	4%
Spend time in nature	4%
Volunteer	2%

Question 11: Which of the following would you like to do, see or see more of at DuPage forest preserves?

“Other” (12% of all responses to this question)

Recreation opportunities and preserve amenities (outdoor recreation activities, rentals, drinking water and restrooms)	57%
More trail development	20%
Other outdoor recreation currently not offered (youth activities, metal detecting, hunting)	9%
Increase existing programs and events	8%
Unrelated or other uncategorized comments	7%

### **General Population Survey**

Question 3: Why do you visit DuPage forest preserves?

“Other” (21% of all responses to this question)

To do an outdoor activity (other than trail use)	45%
To do an outdoor activity (trail use)	34%
Volunteer	8%
Spend time in nature	5%
Attend a forest preserve program/event or visit an education center	4%
Attend a third-party program or event	3%

Question 11: Which of the following would you like to do, see or see more of at DuPage forest preserves?

“Other” (7% of all responses to this question)

Recreation opportunities	54%
Preserve amenities (restrooms, drinking water, benches, garbage cans, etc.)	23%
Other outdoor recreation currently not offered (mountain bike trails, hunting, recreational shooting)	10%

Increase existing programs and events	8%
More natural resource restoration/wildlife rehabilitation	3%
Unrelated or other uncategorized comments	2%

Questions 25 on the random sample survey and 27 on the general population survey were optional and open-ended. Responses fell into the general categories below.

### **Random Sample Survey**

Questions 25: Is there something you'd like to tell us about DuPage forest preserves that we didn't ask?

271 responses (35% of all completed surveys)

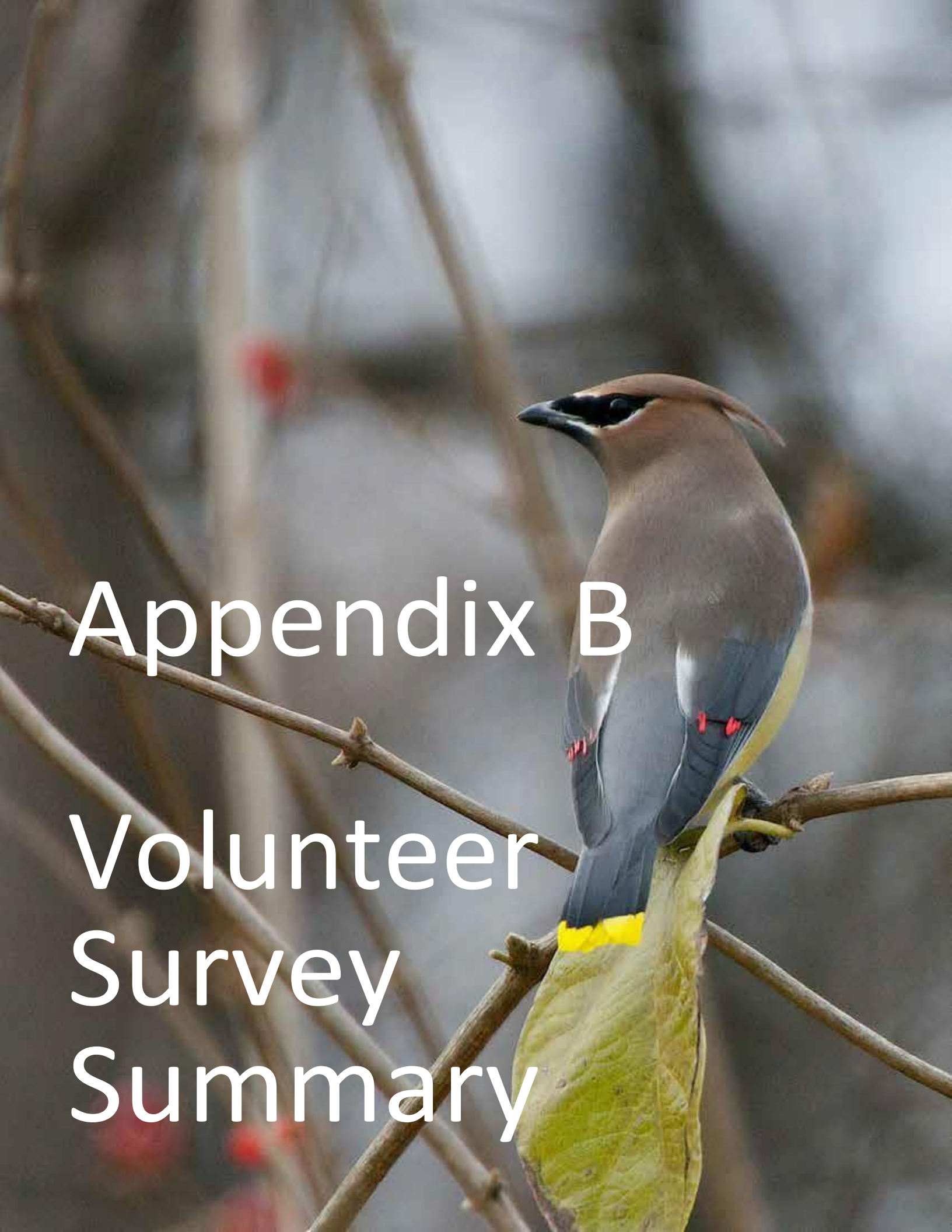
General appreciation	38%
Expand or improve outdoor recreation opportunities and preserve amenities (outdoor recreation facilities, rentals, drinking water and restrooms)	13%
More trail development	8%
Budget/fee/tax concerns	8%
Communication and signage concerns	6%
Safety, trail etiquette and enforcement concerns	6%
More natural resource restoration/less development	5%
Unrelated or other uncategorized comments	5%
Organization, regulation and policy concerns	4%
Increase existing programs and events	3%
Specific maintenance concerns	3%
Acquire/preserve land	2%

### **General Population Survey**

Questions 27: Is there something you'd like to tell us about DuPage forest preserves that we didn't ask?

787 responses (40% of all completed surveys)

General appreciation	27%
Expand or improve outdoor recreation opportunities and preserve amenities (outdoor recreation activities, rentals, drinking water and restrooms)	25%
Mountain bike trail development	10%
Increase existing programs and events	7%
Safety, trail etiquette and enforcement concerns	6%
More natural resource restoration/less development	5%
Organization, regulation and policy concerns	5%
Specific maintenance concerns	5%
Budget/fee/tax concerns	4%
Communication and signage concerns	2%
Acquire/preserve land	2%
Unrelated or other uncategorized comments	2%



# Appendix B

## Volunteer Survey Summary



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### Instructions

- This survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.
- All responses are anonymous and confidential. If you have any questions, please call or email Jessica Ortega at 630-871-6404 or [jortega@dupageforest.org](mailto:jortega@dupageforest.org).

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### Questions

1. How long have you volunteered for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Less than a year      ☐ 1 – 5 years      ☐ 6 – 10 years      ☐ 11 – 20 years      ☐ Over 20 years

2. In which program do you currently volunteer? **Choose all that apply.**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danada Equestrian Center                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Services                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center | <input type="checkbox"/> St. James Farm                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golf                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Patrol                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kline Creek Farm                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Ranger Program          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayslake Peabody Estate                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Willowbrook Wildlife Center       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>Please specify</i> _____ |

3. What do you value about volunteering for the Forest Preserve District?

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4. How likely would you be to recommend volunteering at the Forest Preserve District to a friend or family member?  
**Choose 0 to 10 with 0 being not at all and 10 being very likely.**

- 0      1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

5. How often do you visit DuPage County forest preserves outside of your volunteer hours? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Daily      ☐ Weekly      ☐ Monthly      ☐ Less than once a month      ☐ Never

**If you answered “Never” to question 5, skip to question 10.**

6. Why do you visit DuPage forest preserves outside of your volunteer hours? **Choose all that apply.**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> To exercise                       | <input type="checkbox"/> To relax                | <input type="checkbox"/> To attend a program I registered for |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To do an outdoor activity         | <input type="checkbox"/> To spend time in nature | <input type="checkbox"/> To spend time with family or friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>Please specify</i> _____ |  |   |

7. How far do you typically travel to visit a DuPage forest preserve outside of your volunteer hours? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Less than 3 miles      ☐ 3 – 10 miles      ☐ More than 10 miles





## Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

8. Which DuPage forest preserves or sites do you visit outside of your volunteer hours? **Choose all that apply.**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belleau Woods                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Glen Oak                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Pratt's Wayne Woods         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Big Woods                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Goodrich Woods                 | <input type="checkbox"/> The Preserve at Oak Meadows |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Willow Marsh                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Meadows Golf Course      | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Hawk Park               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackwell                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Greene Valley                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Creek Greenway         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broadview Slough                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Hawk Hollow                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Creek Marsh            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brush Hill                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Herrick Lake                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Creek Park             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burlington Park                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Hickory Grove                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Songbird Slough             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Churchill Park                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Lake                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Creek Reservoir      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Churchill Woods                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Hitchcock Woods                | <input type="checkbox"/> Springbrook Prairie         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Park                               | <input type="checkbox"/> James "Pate" Philip State Park | <input type="checkbox"/> St. James Farm              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Country Lakes                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Kline Creek Farm               | <input type="checkbox"/> Swift Prairie               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket Creek                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln Marsh                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber Ridge                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danada                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Lyman Woods                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Warrenville Grove           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danada Equestrian Center                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Mallard Lake                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfall Glen              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Des Plaines Riverway                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple Grove                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Wayne Grove                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dunham                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple Meadows Golf Course      | <input type="checkbox"/> West Branch                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Branch                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayslake                       | <input type="checkbox"/> West Branch Riverway        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Branch Riverway                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayslake Peabody Estate        | <input type="checkbox"/> West Chicago Prairie        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egermann Woods                               | <input type="checkbox"/> McDowell Grove                 | <input type="checkbox"/> West DuPage Woods           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fischer Woods                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Meacham Grove                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Willowbrook                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fox Hollow                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Medinah Wetlands               | <input type="checkbox"/> Willowbrook Wildlife Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fullersburg Woods                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Night Heron Marsh              | <input type="checkbox"/> Winfield Mounds             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fullersburg Woods Nature<br>Education Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Oak Grove                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Dale Grove             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fullerton Park                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Oldfield Oaks                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Ridge                  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer Park                   | <input type="checkbox"/> York Woods                  |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> York/High Ridge             |

9. Which of the following activities have you done at a DuPage forest preserve in the past 12 months outside of your volunteer hours? **Choose all that apply.**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walked, ran or biked on a trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Enjoyed nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Attended a program about plants, animals or nature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Took photographs                | <input type="checkbox"/> Golfed         | <input type="checkbox"/> Went boating (rented one or used my own)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Went horseback riding           | <input type="checkbox"/> Camped         | <input type="checkbox"/> Attended a Forest Preserve District event          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sat and relaxed                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicked      | <input type="checkbox"/> Attended a wedding, party or social event          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Used an archery range           | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteered    | <input type="checkbox"/> Went sledding or cross-country skiing              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Used an off-leash dog area      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fished         | <input type="checkbox"/> Attended a program about history, culture or art   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Went wildlife watching          | <input type="checkbox"/> Went birding   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>Please specify.</i> _____                 |

10. Which of the following would you like to do, see or see more of at DuPage forest preserves? **Choose all that apply.**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature play spaces        | <input type="checkbox"/> Campsites                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian camping        | <input type="checkbox"/> Cabin rentals                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Flush restrooms                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country ski rentals | <input type="checkbox"/> Trails                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike racks                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking           | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking lots                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration of natural areas        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike rentals              | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic shelters                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>Please specify</i> . _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paddle boarding           | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail wayfinding signs and trail maps | <input type="checkbox"/> None                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe launches on waterways           |  |

11. If you have regular interactions with forest preserve visitors, what do they tell you they'd like to see more of at DuPage forest preserves? **Choose all that apply.**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature play spaces        | <input type="checkbox"/> Campsites                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian camping        | <input type="checkbox"/> Cabin rentals                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Flush restrooms                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country ski rentals | <input type="checkbox"/> Trails                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike racks                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking           | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking lots                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration of natural areas        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike rentals              | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic shelters                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>Please specify</i> . _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paddle boarding           | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail wayfinding signs and trail maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe launches on waterways           | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't interact with visitors.     |

12. Considering the Forest Preserve District does not have unlimited resources, what should it focus on over the next five years? **Rank from 1 to 7 with 1 being the first topic it should focus on, 2 the second topic, etc.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Acquire more land
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build new trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build new connections between existing trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Restore existing prairies, woods, wetlands, lakes or streams
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain or improve existing forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build new forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain or restore historic buildings and structures

13. What three programs or projects in particular should the Forest Preserve District focus on over the next five years?

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14. What is a major challenge facing the Forest Preserve District?

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15. What is the most important reason the Forest Preserve District should acquire more land? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Preserve open space      ☐ Preserve historic buildings      ☐ It shouldn't acquire more land.  
☐ Expand outdoor recreational areas      ☐ Protect sensitive natural areas

**If you answered "It shouldn't acquire more land" to question 15, skip to question 17.**

16. If the Forest Preserve District were to acquire land, what type of land should it acquire?

**Rank from 1 to 4 with 1 being the most important type, 2 the second-most important type, etc.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ High-quality natural areas  
\_\_\_\_\_ Developed land (land with existing buildings, parking, etc.) that can be converted into natural areas  
\_\_\_\_\_ Flood-prone areas  
\_\_\_\_\_ Undeveloped areas (agricultural land, empty fields, etc.) that aren't considered high-quality natural areas

17. What ideas do you have that would help the Forest Preserve District connect more people to nature?

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18. What's one thing about DuPage forest preserves that you think more people should know about?

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19. What are three programs or projects that the Forest Preserve District should stop doing?

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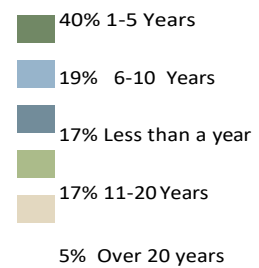
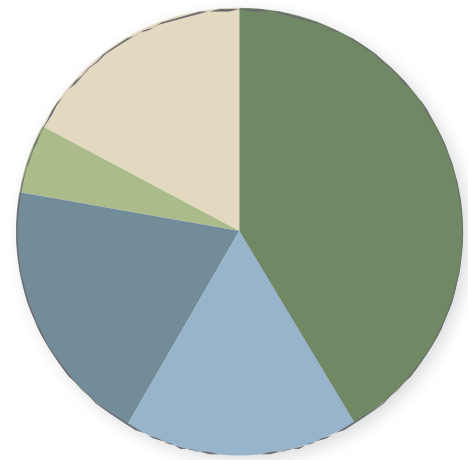
20. Is there something you'd like to tell us about DuPage forest preserves that we didn't ask?

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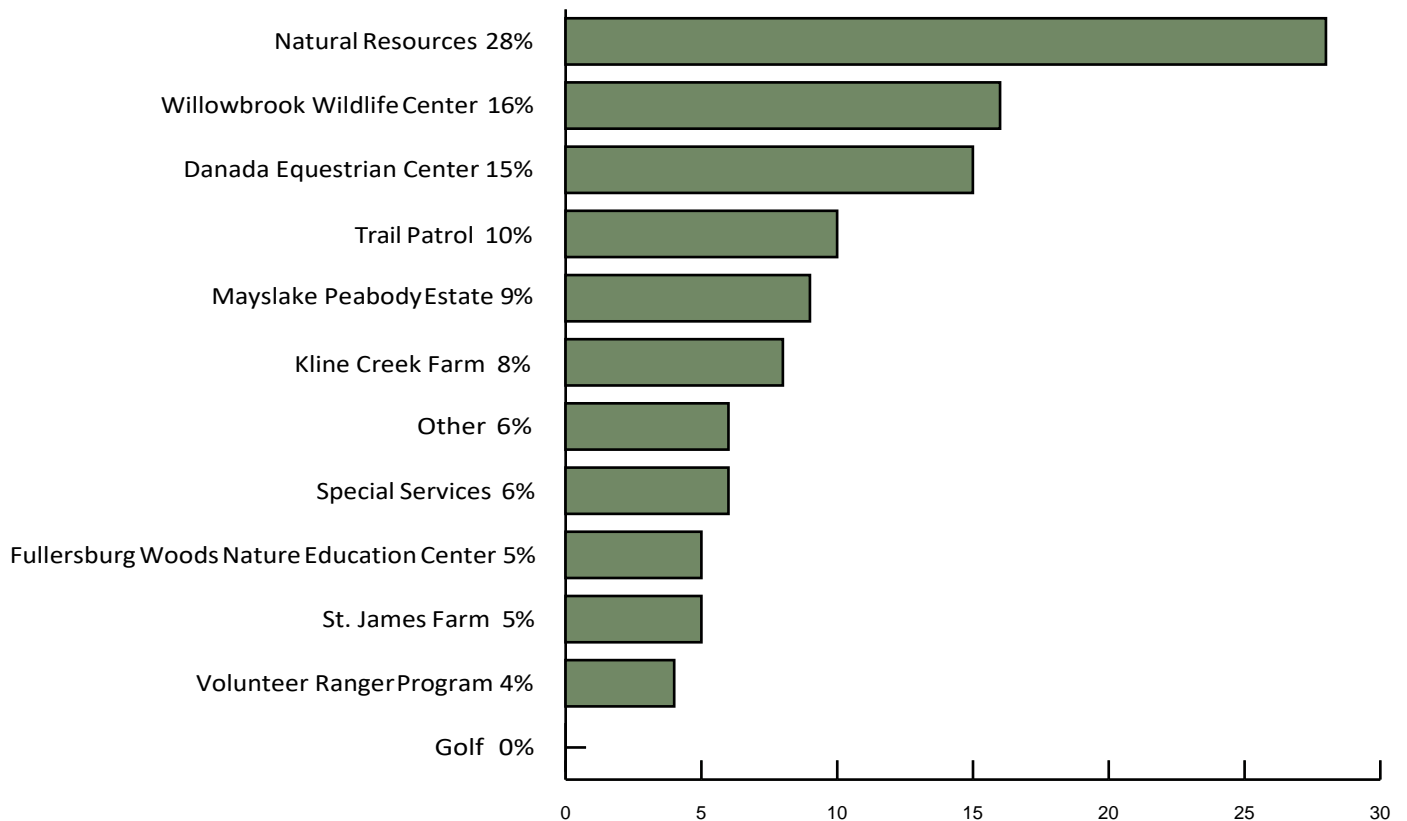
### Question 1

How long have you volunteered for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County?



### Question 2

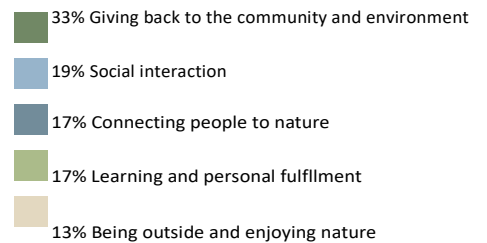
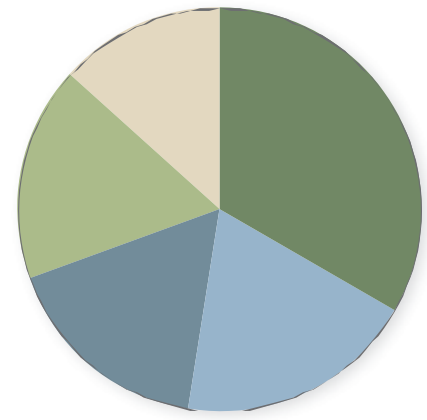
In which program do you currently volunteer?





### Question 3

What do you value about volunteering for the Forest Preserve District?



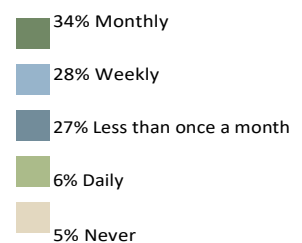
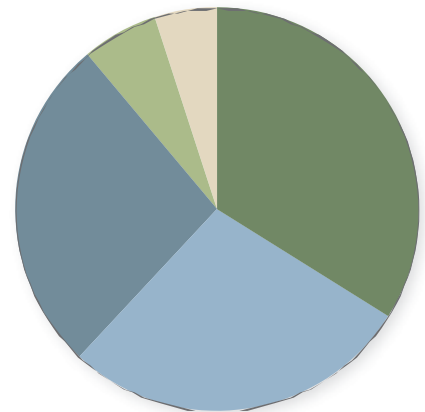
### Question 4

How likely would you be to recommend volunteering at the Forest Preserve District to a friend or family member?

On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being very likely, 90% of volunteer respondents indicated a likelihood of six or greater to recommend volunteering at the Forest Preserve District.

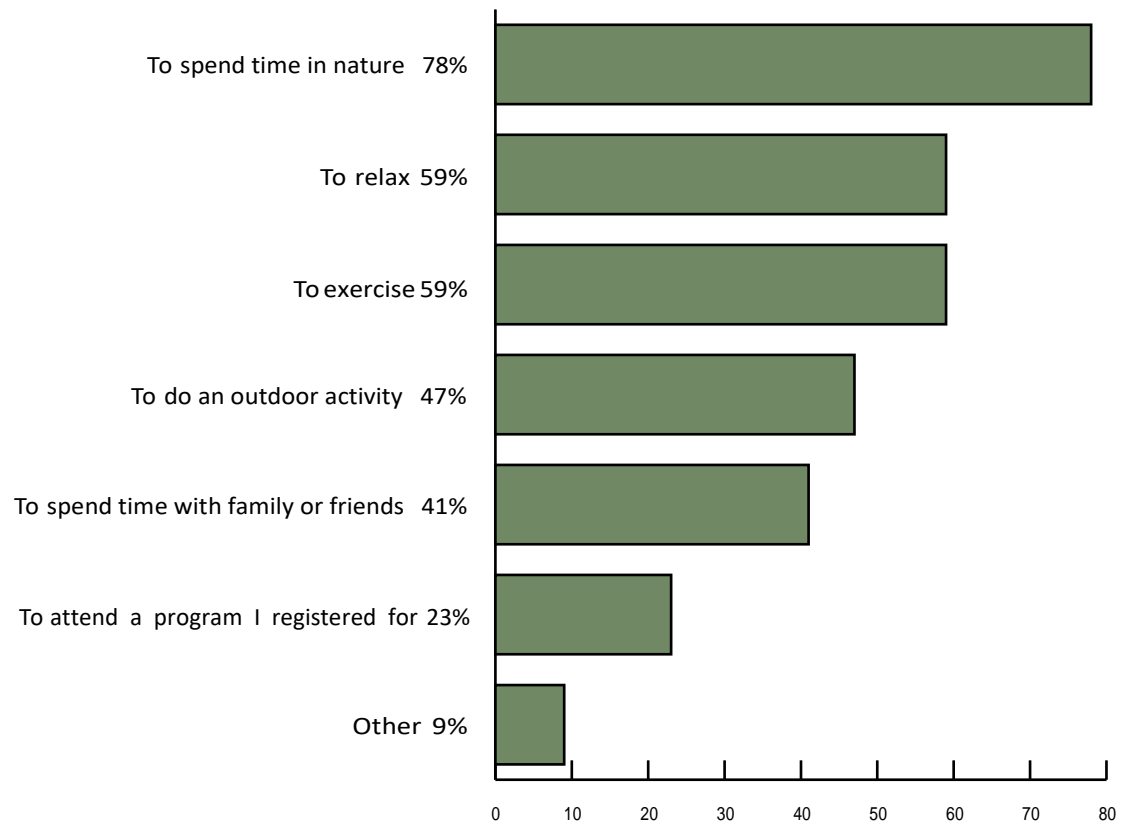
### Question 5

How often do you visit DuPage forest preserves outside of your volunteer hours?



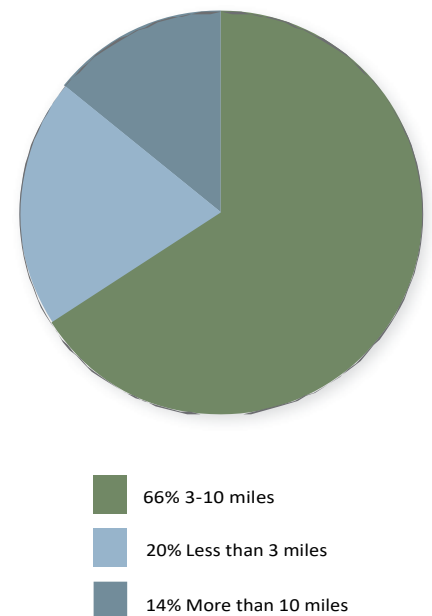
### Question 6

Why do you visit DuPage forest preserves outside of your volunteer hours?



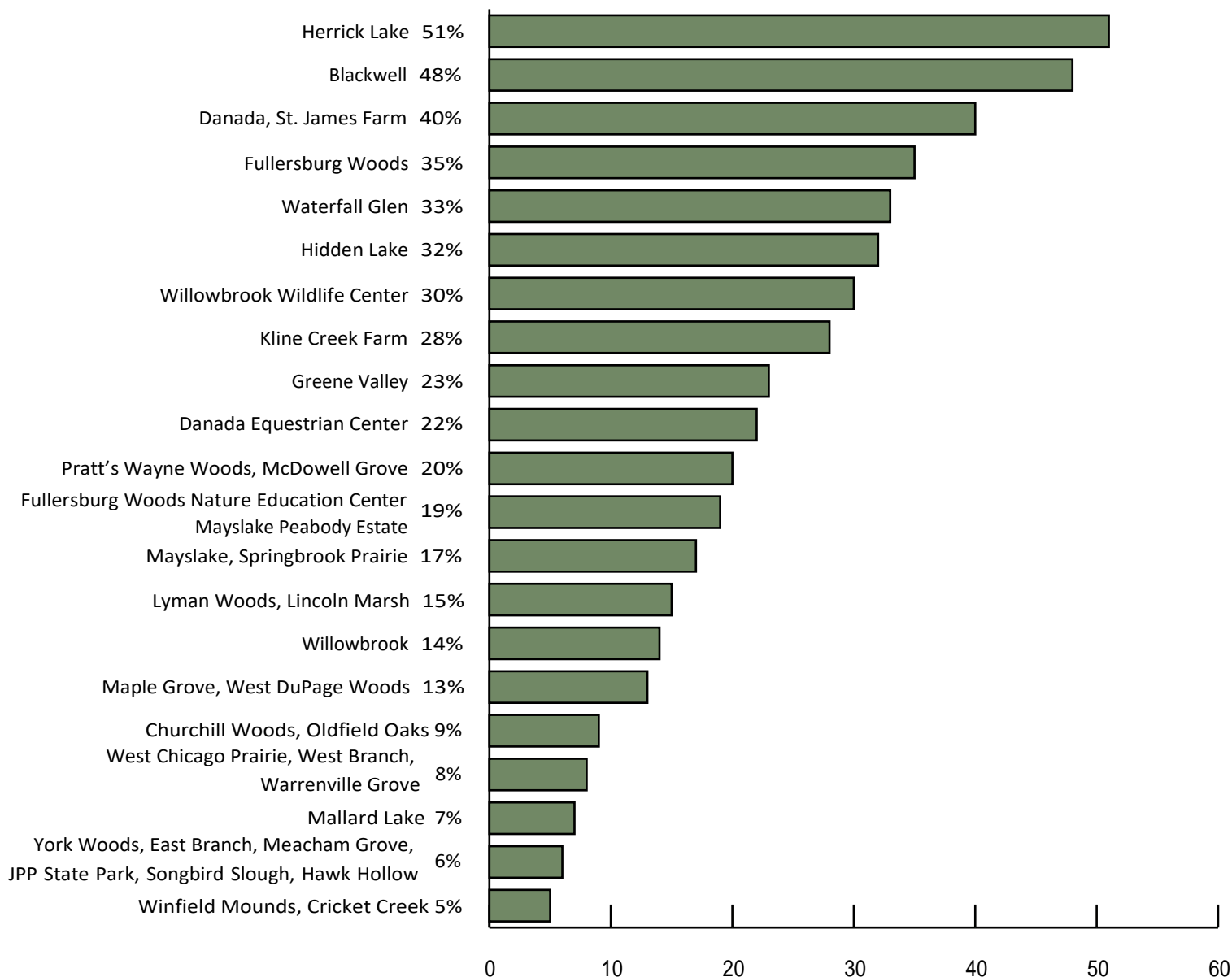
### Question 7

How far do you typically travel to visit a DuPage forest preserve outside of your volunteer hours?



## Question 8

Which DuPage forest preserves or sites do you visit outside of your volunteer hours?



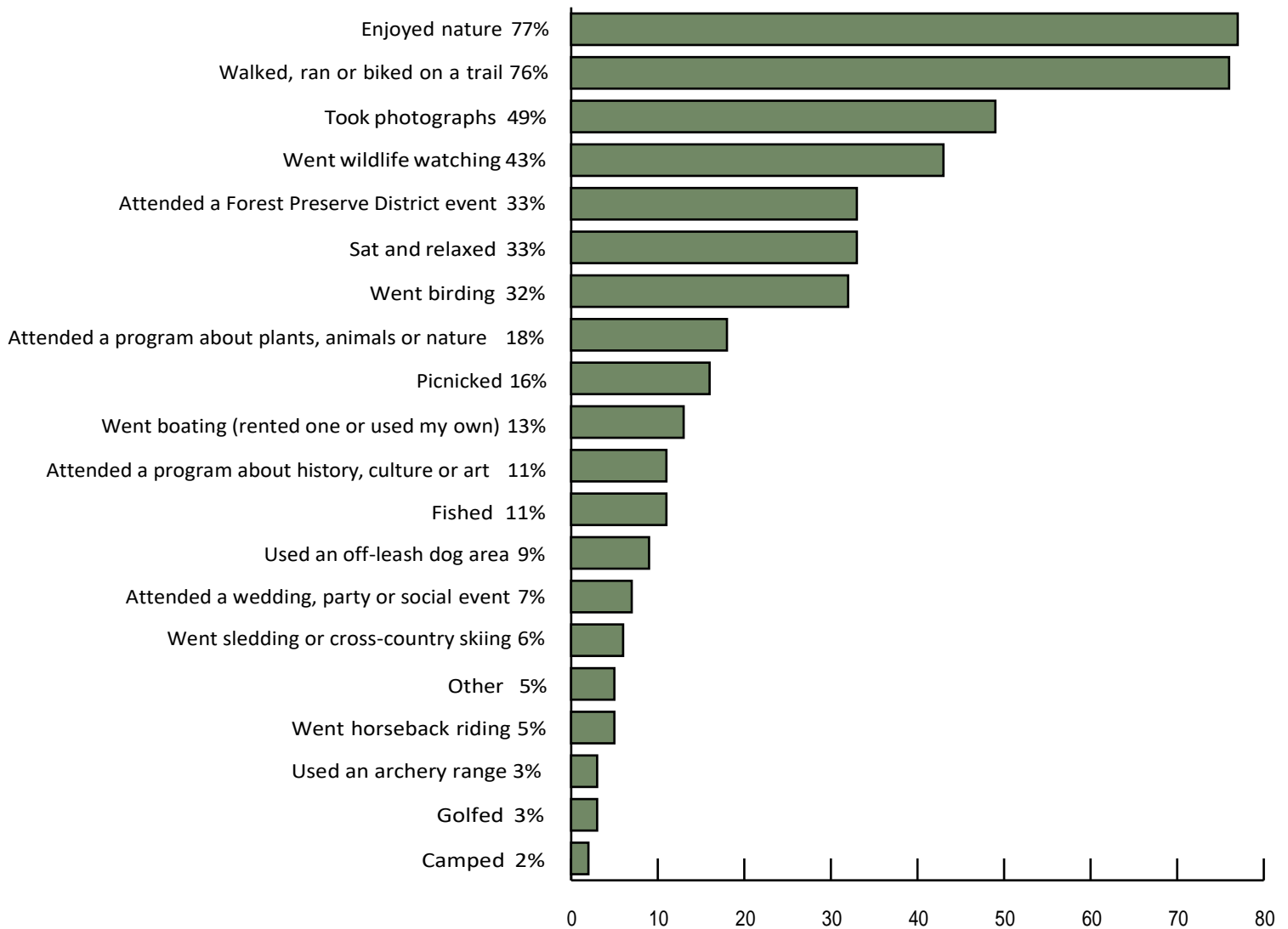
### Note:

Less than 5% visited the following: Pioneer Park, Timber Ridge, Salt Creek Greenway, Wood Dale Grove, Belleau Woods, East Branch Riverway, Egermann Woods, West Branch Riverway, Des Plaines Riverway, Churchill Park, Salt Creek Park, Big Woods, Night Heron Marsh, Spring Creek Reservoir, Burlington Park, Salt Creek Marsh, The Preserve at Oak Meadows, Goodrich Woods, Glen Oak, Fullerton Park, Fox Hollow, Dunham, Maple Meadows Golf Course, Brush Hill, Red Hawk Park, Green Meadows Golf Course, Wood Ridge, Oak Grove, Medinah Wetlands, Fischer Woods, Country Lakes, Swift Prairie, Community Park and Hitchcock Woods.

No visits were recorded at York/High Ridge, Wayne Grove, Hickory Grove, Broadview Slough and Black Willow Marsh.

### Question 9

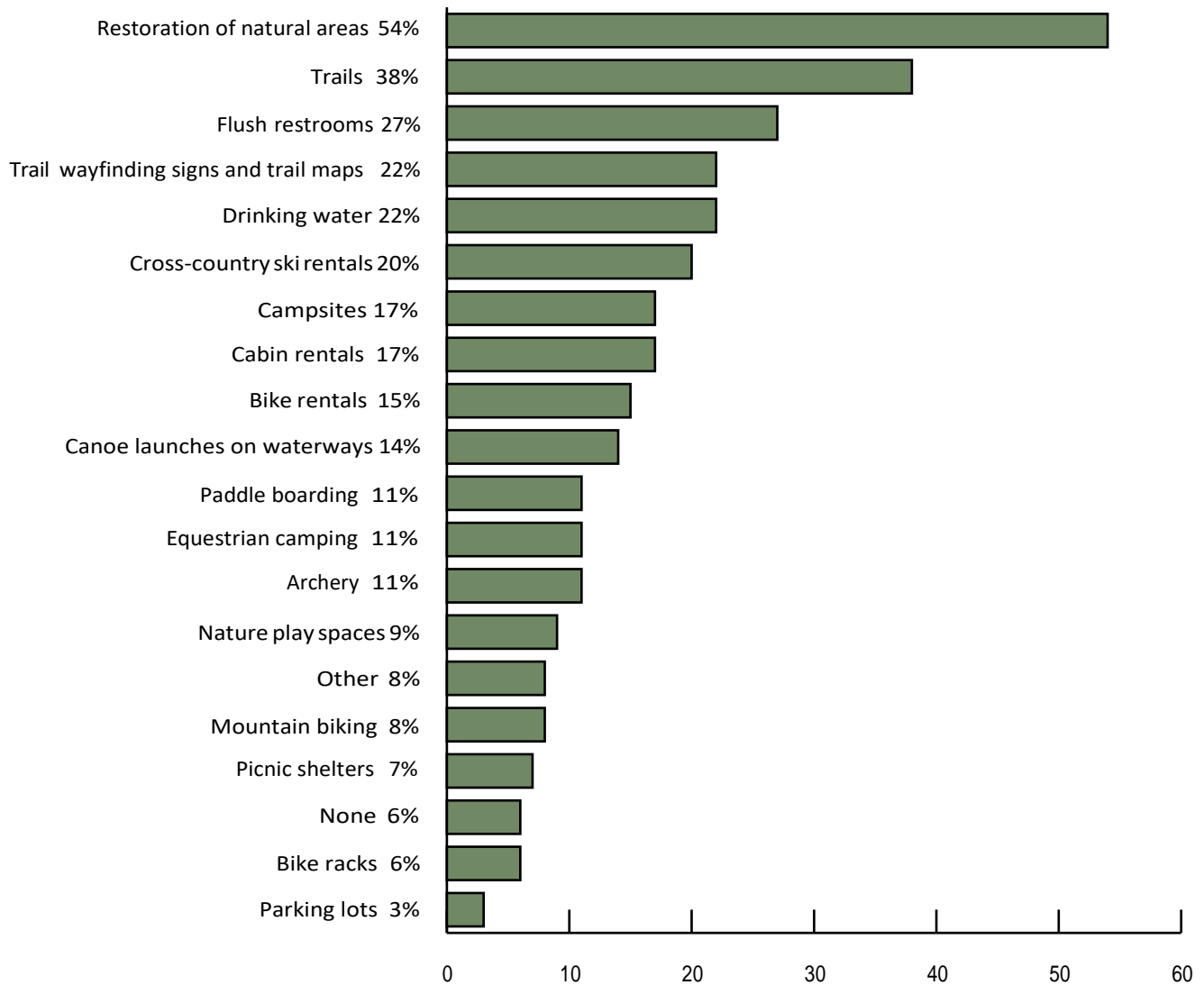
Which of the following activities have you done at a DuPage forest preserve in the past 12 months outside of your volunteer hours?





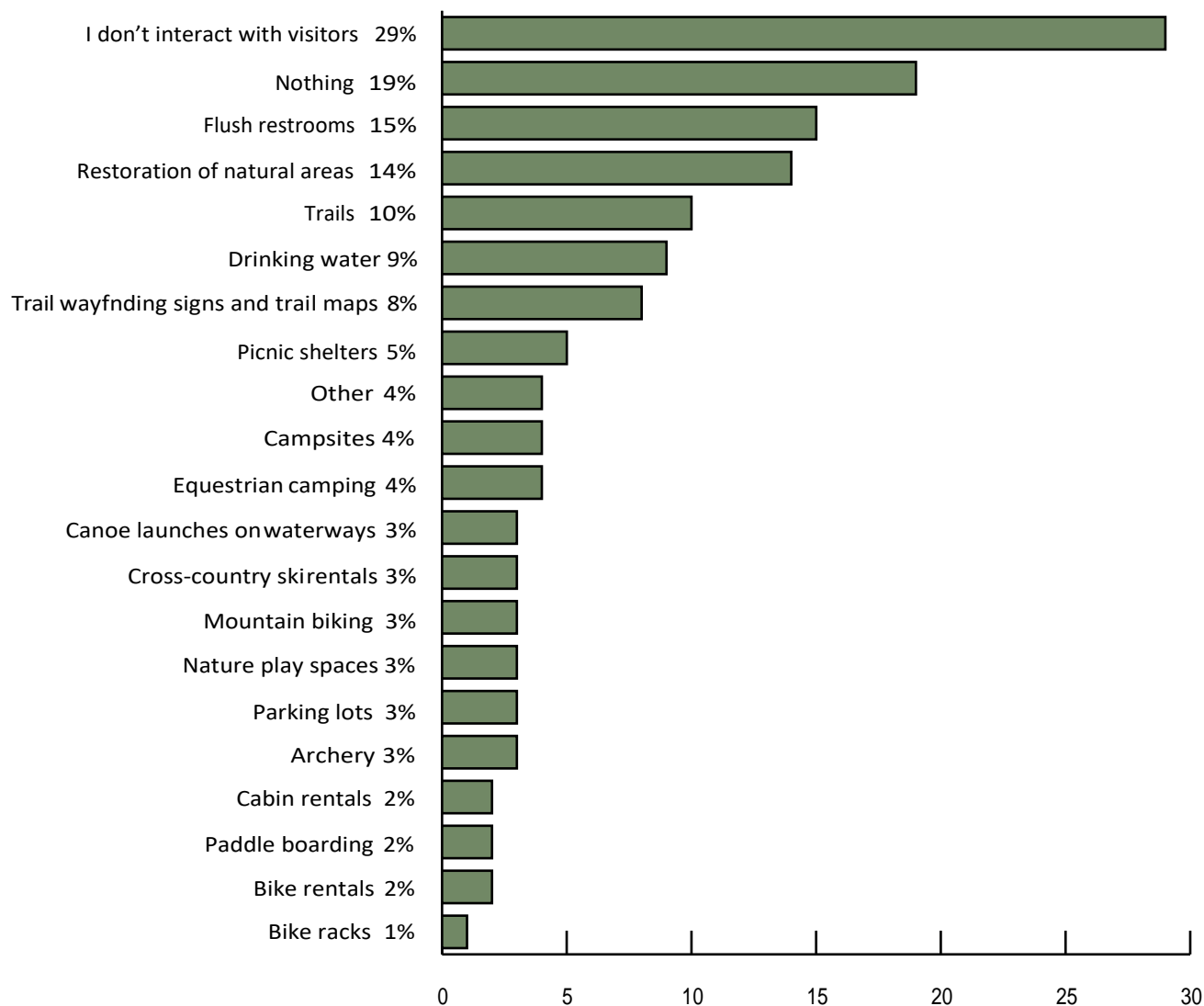
## Question 10

Which of the following would you like to do, see or see more of at DuPage forest preserves?



### Question 11

If you have regular interactions with forest preserve visitors, what do they tell you they'd like to see more of at Dupage forest preserves?



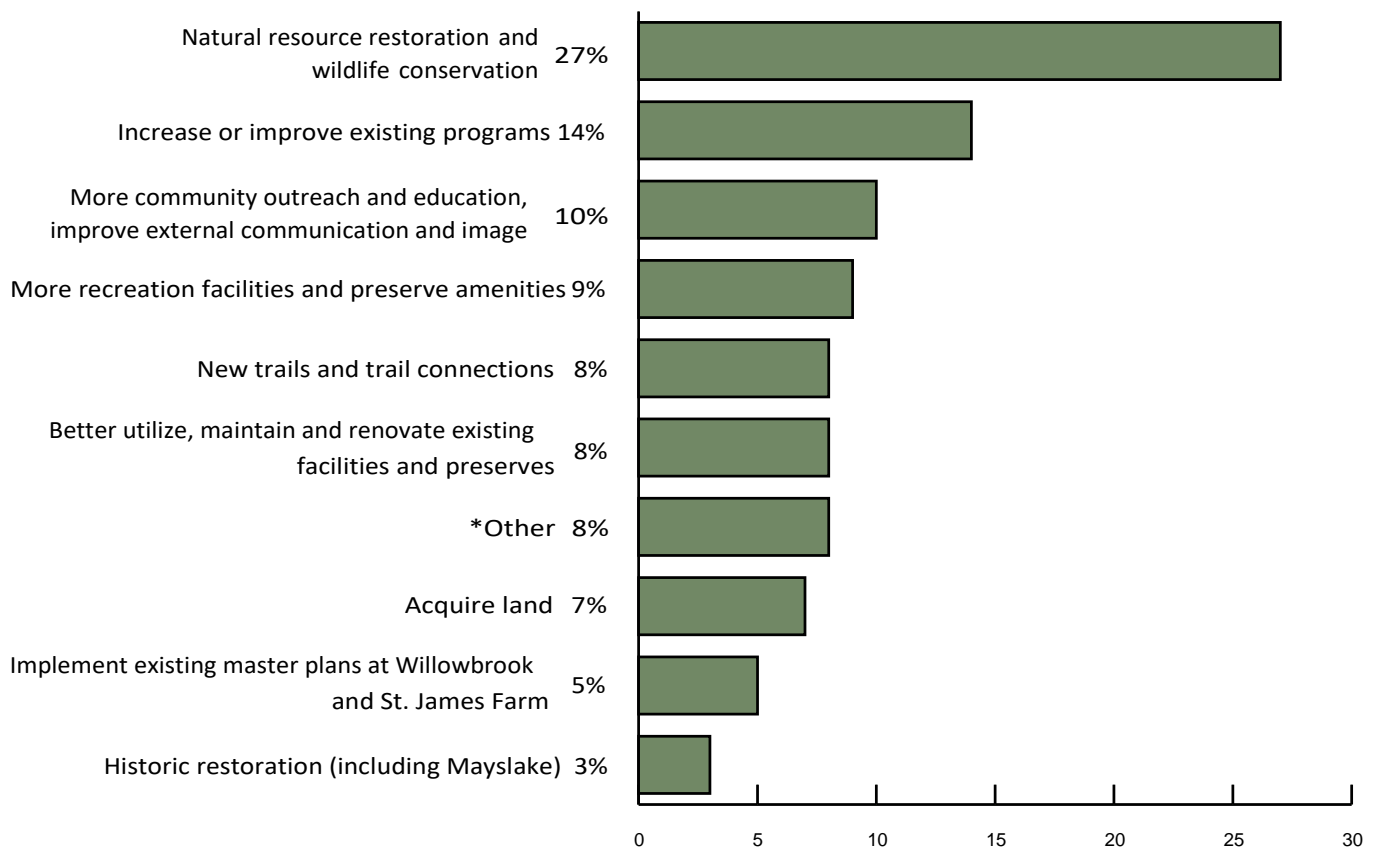
### Question 12

Considering the Forest Preserve District does not have unlimited resources, what should it focus on over the next five years?

- #1** Restore existing prairies, woods, wetlands, lakes or streams
- #2** Maintain or improve existing forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas
- #3** Build new connections between existing trails
- #4** Acquire more land
- #5** Maintain or restore historic buildings and structures
- #6** Build new trails
- #7** Build new forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas

### Question 13

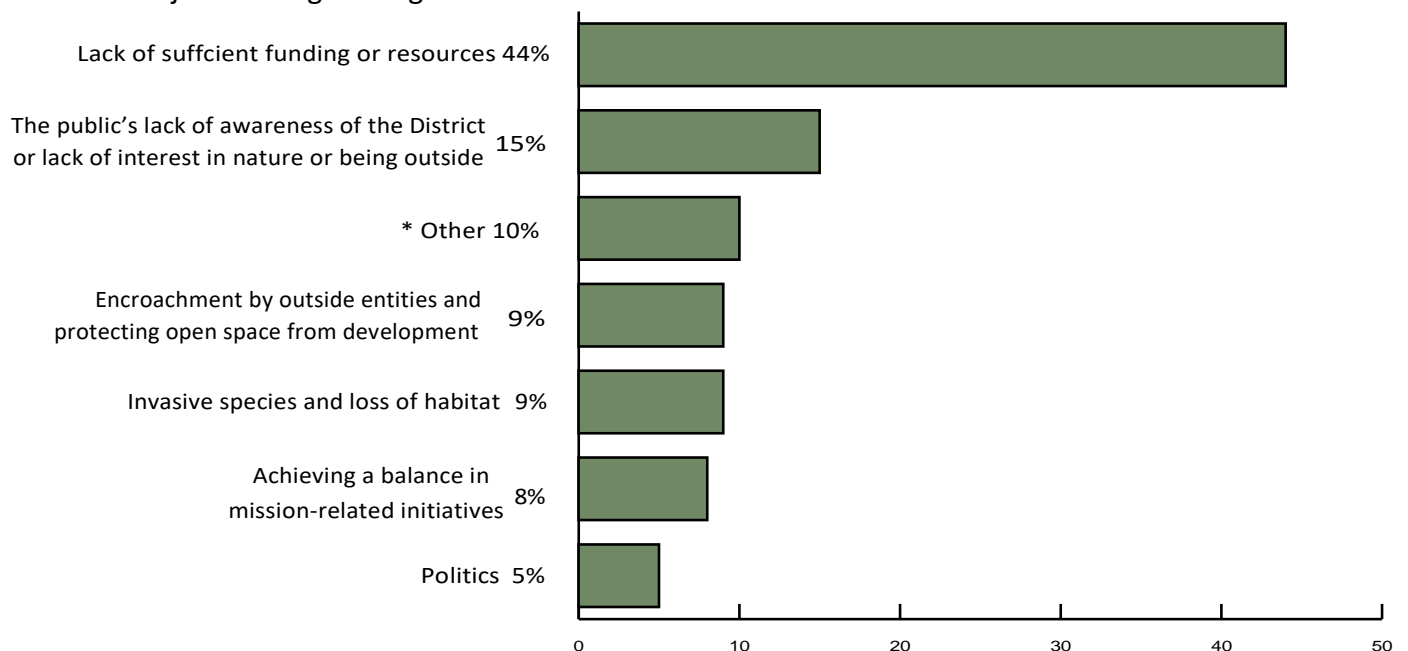
What three programs or projects in particular should the Forest Preserve District focus on over the next five years?



\*Other includes internal organizational improvements, achieving a balance in mission-driven initiatives, security, and other unrelated comments.

### Question 14

What is a major challenge facing the Forest Preserve District?



\*Other includes comments about over use, organizational issues and other uncategorized comments

### Question 15

What is the most important reason the Forest Preserve District should acquire more land?

- #1** Preserve historic buildings
- #2** Preserve open space
- #3** Protect sensitive natural areas
- #4** It shouldn't acquire more land
- #5** Expand outdoor recreational areas

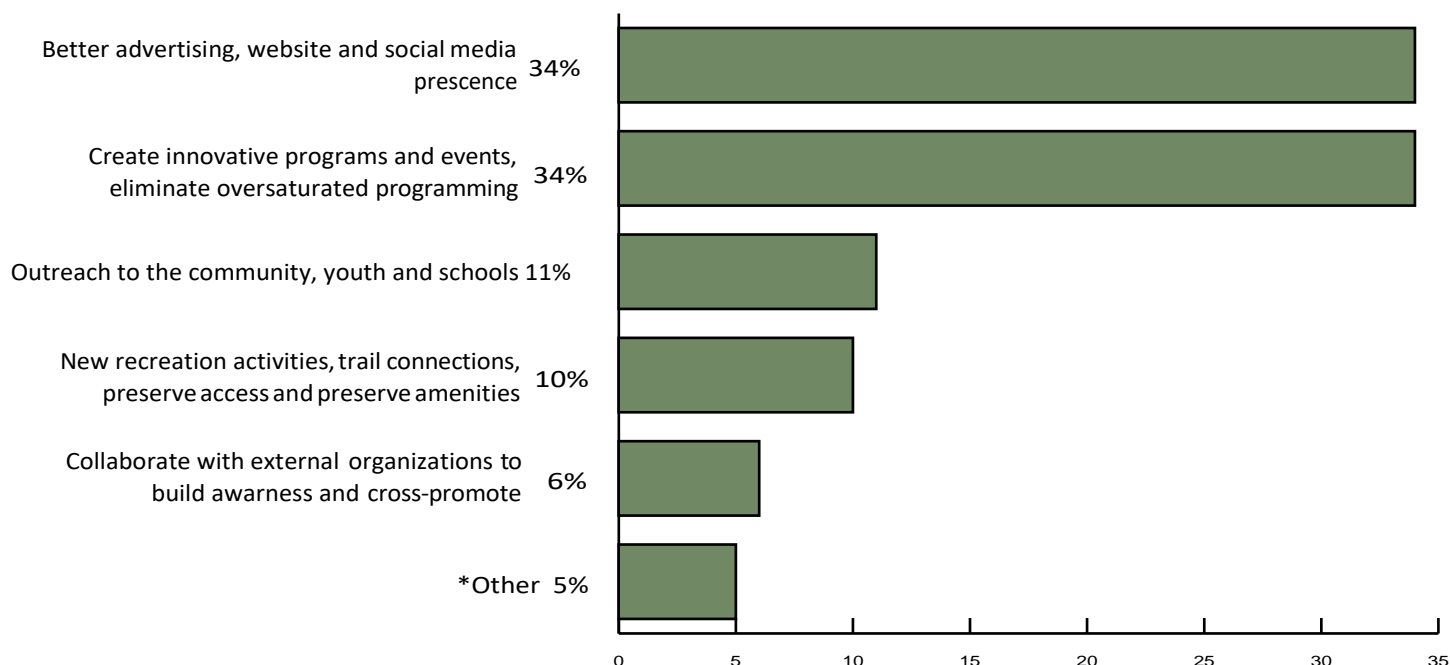
### Question 16

If the Forest Preserve District were to acquire land, what type of land should it acquire?

- #1** High quality natural areas
- #2** Undeveloped areas that aren't considered high-quality natural areas
- #3** Flood-prone areas
- #4** Developed land that can be converted into natural areas

### Question 17

What ideas do you have that would help the Forest Preserve District connect more people to nature?

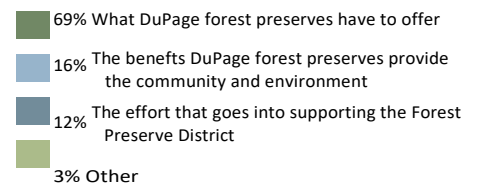
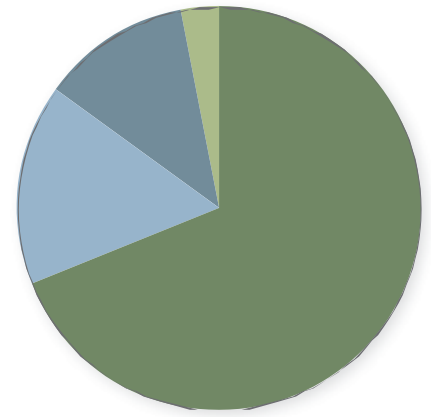


\*Other includes better volunteer utilization, and other unrelated comments.



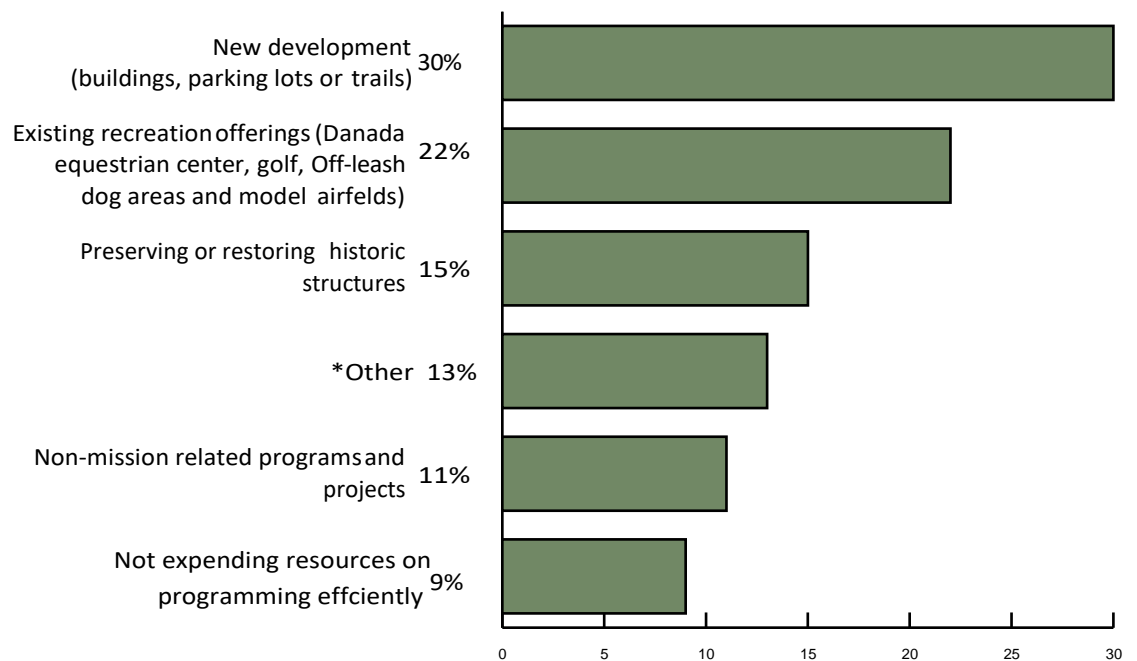
### Question 18

What's one thing about DuPage forest preserves that you think more people should know about?



### Question 19

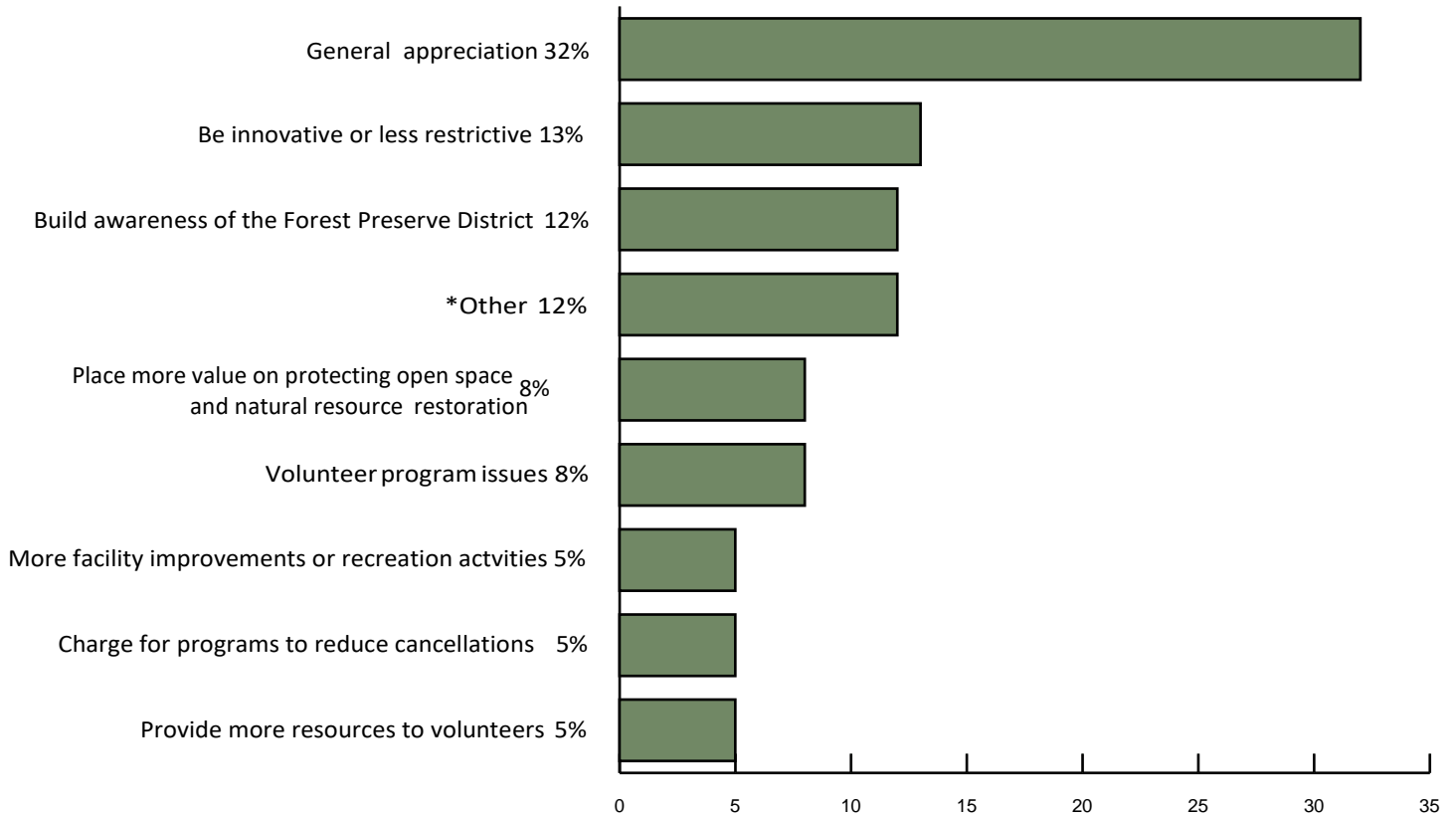
What are three programs or projects that the Forest Preserve District should stop doing?



\*Other includes organizational issues and other uncategorized comments

## Question 20

Is there something you'd like to tell us about DuPage forest preserves that we didn't ask?



\*Other includes removing horse droppings on trails, keeping the Forest Preserve District Board and County Board separate and other uncategorized comments

A photograph of several small, five-petaled purple flowers with white centers, growing from a bed of brown, dried leaves and twigs. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, and their green stems are visible. The background is a dense layer of forest floor debris.

# Appendix C

## Staff Survey Summary



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### Instructions

- This survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete.
- All responses are anonymous and confidential. If you have any questions, please call or email Jessica Ortega at 630-871-6404 or [jortega@dupageforest.org](mailto:jortega@dupageforest.org).

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### Questions

1. How long have you worked for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County? **Choose only one.**  
☐ Less than a year      ☐ 1 – 5 years      ☐ 6 – 10 years      ☐ 11 – 20 years      ☐ Over 20 years
2. What is your primary work site? **Choose only one.**  
☐ Administrative headquarters  
☐ Blackwell (Facilities Management, Fleet Management, Grounds & Resources, Natural Resources or West Division)  
☐ Churchill (East Division or Fleet Management)  
☐ Danada Equestrian Center, Fullersburg Woods Nature Education Center, Kline Creek Farm, Mayslake Peabody Estate, St. James Farm or Willowbrook Wildlife Center  
☐ Green Meadows, Maple Meadows or The Preserve at Oak Meadows  
☐ Other *Please specify.* \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do you value about the Forest Preserve District?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How likely would you be to recommend employment at the Forest Preserve District to a friend or family member?  
**Choose 0 to 10 with 0 being not at all and 10 being very likely.**  
0      1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10
5. What is a major challenge facing the Forest Preserve District?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How often do you visit DuPage County forest preserves outside of work hours? **Choose only one.**  
☐ Daily      ☐ Weekly      ☐ Monthly      ☐ Less than once a month      ☐ Never

**If you answered "Never" to question 6, skip to question 11.**





**7. Which DuPage forest preserves or sites do you visit outside of work hours? Choose all that apply.**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belleau Woods                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Goodrich Woods                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Hawk Park               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Big Woods                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Meadows Golf Course      | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Creek Greenway         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Willow Marsh                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Greene Valley                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Creek Marsh            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackwell                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hawk Hollow                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Creek Park             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broadview Slough                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Herrick Lake                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Songbird Slough             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brush Hill                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hickory Grove                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Creek Reservoir      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burlington Park                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Hidden Lake                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Springbrook Prairie         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Churchill Park                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Hitchcock Woods                | <input type="checkbox"/> St. James Farm              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Churchill Woods                              | <input type="checkbox"/> James "Pate" Philip State Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Swift Prairie               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Park                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Kline Creek Farm               | <input type="checkbox"/> Timber Ridge                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Country Lakes                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Lincoln Marsh                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Warrenville Grove           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket Creek                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Lyman Woods                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfall Glen              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danada                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mallard Lake                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Wayne Grove                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Danada Equestrian Center                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple Grove                    | <input type="checkbox"/> West Branch                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Des Plaines Riverway                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Maple Meadows Golf Course      | <input type="checkbox"/> West Branch Riverway        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dunham                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayslake                       | <input type="checkbox"/> West Chicago Prairie        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Branch                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mayslake Peabody Estate        | <input type="checkbox"/> West DuPage Woods           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Branch Riverway                         | <input type="checkbox"/> McDowell Grove                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Willowbrook                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eggermann Woods                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Meacham Grove                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Willowbrook Wildlife Center |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fischer Woods                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Medinah Wetlands               | <input type="checkbox"/> Winfield Mounds             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fox Hollow                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Night Heron Marsh              | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Dale Grove             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fullersburg Woods                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Oak Grove                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood Ridge                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fullersburg Woods Nature<br>Education Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Oldfield Oaks                  | <input type="checkbox"/> York Woods                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fullerton Park                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer Park                   | <input type="checkbox"/> York/High Ridge             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glen Oak                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Pratt's Wayne Woods            |  |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> The Preserve at Oak Meadows    |  |

**8. Why do you visit DuPage forest preserves outside of work hours? Choose all that apply.**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> To exercise                        | <input type="checkbox"/> To relax                | <input type="checkbox"/> To attend a program I registered for |
| <input type="checkbox"/> To do an outdoor activity          | <input type="checkbox"/> To spend time in nature | <input type="checkbox"/> To spend time with family or friends |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>Please specify.</i> _____ |  |   |

**9. Which of the following activities have you done at a DuPage forest preserve in the past 12 months outside of work hours? Choose all that apply.**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walked, ran or biked on a trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Enjoyed nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Attended a program about plants, animals or nature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Took photographs                | <input type="checkbox"/> Golfed         | <input type="checkbox"/> Went boating (rented one or used my own)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Went horseback riding           | <input type="checkbox"/> Camped         | <input type="checkbox"/> Attended a Forest Preserve District event          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sat and relaxed                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicked      | <input type="checkbox"/> Attended a wedding, party or social event          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Used an archery range           | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteered    | <input type="checkbox"/> Went sledding or cross-country skiing              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Used an off-leash dog area      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fished         | <input type="checkbox"/> Attended a program about history, culture or art   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Went wildlife watching          | <input type="checkbox"/> Went birding   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>Please specify.</i> _____                 |

**MORE ►**



## Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

10. How far do you typically travel to visit a DuPage forest preserve outside of work hours? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Less than 3 miles      ☐ 3 – 10 miles      ☐ More than 10 miles

11. Which of the following would you like to do, see or see more of at DuPage forest preserves? **Choose all that apply.**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature play spaces        | <input type="checkbox"/> Campsites                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian camping        | <input type="checkbox"/> Cabin rentals                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Flush restrooms                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country ski rentals | <input type="checkbox"/> Trails                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike racks                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking           | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking lots                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration of natural areas        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike rentals              | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic shelters                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>Please specify</i> . _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paddle boarding           | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail wayfinding signs and trail maps | <input type="checkbox"/> None                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe launches on waterways           |  |

12. If you have regular interactions with forest preserve visitors, what do they tell you they'd like to see more of at DuPage forest preserves? **Choose all that apply.**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nature play spaces        | <input type="checkbox"/> Campsites                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equestrian camping        | <input type="checkbox"/> Cabin rentals                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Flush restrooms                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country ski rentals | <input type="checkbox"/> Trails                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Bike racks                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking           | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking lots                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration of natural areas        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike rentals              | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic shelters                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>Please specify</i> . _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paddle boarding           | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail wayfinding signs and trail maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Nothing                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archery                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe launches on waterways           | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't interact with visitors.     |

13. Considering the Forest Preserve District does not have unlimited resources, what should it focus on over the next five years? **Rank from 1 to 7 with 1 being the first topic it should focus on, 2 the second topic, etc.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Acquire more land
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build new trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build new connections between existing trails
- \_\_\_\_\_ Restore existing prairies, woods, wetlands, lakes or streams
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain or improve existing forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Build new forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain or restore historic buildings and structures

14. What three programs or projects in particular should the Forest Preserve District focus on over the next five years?

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MORE ►



## Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

15. What is the most important reason the Forest Preserve District should acquire more land? **Choose only one.**

- ☐ Preserve open space      ☐ Preserve historic buildings      ☐ It shouldn't acquire more land.  
☐ Expand outdoor recreational areas      ☐ Protect sensitive natural areas

**If you answered "It shouldn't acquire more land" to question 15, skip to question 17.**

16. If the Forest Preserve District were to acquire land, what type of land should it acquire?

**Rank from 1 to 4 with 1 being the most important type, 2 the second-most important type, etc.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ High-quality natural areas  
\_\_\_\_\_ Developed land (land with existing buildings, parking, etc.) that can be converted into natural areas  
\_\_\_\_\_ Flood-prone areas  
\_\_\_\_\_ Undeveloped areas (agricultural land, empty fields, etc.) that aren't considered high-quality natural areas

17. What ideas do you have that would help the Forest Preserve District connect more people to nature?

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18. In what ways could you as an employee help improve the Forest Preserve District?

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19. What's one thing about DuPage forest preserves that you think more people should know about?

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20. What are three programs or projects that the Forest Preserve District should stop doing?

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21. Is there something you'd like to tell us about DuPage forest preserves that we didn't ask?

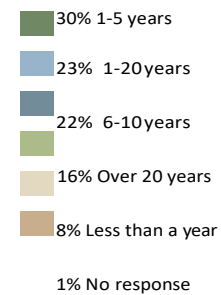
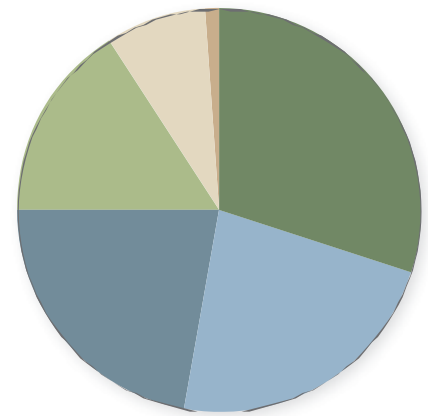
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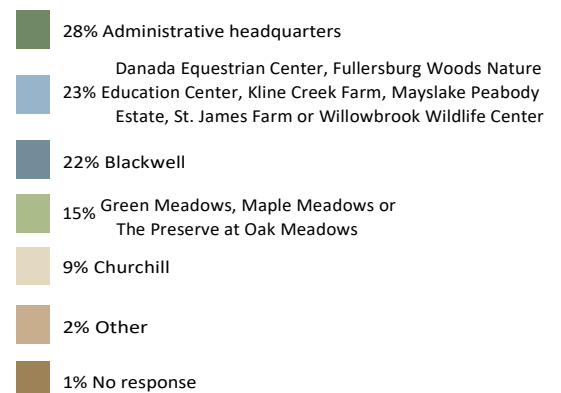
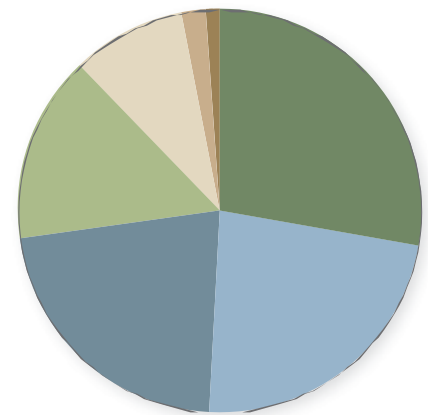
### Question 1

How long have you worked for the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County?



### Question 2

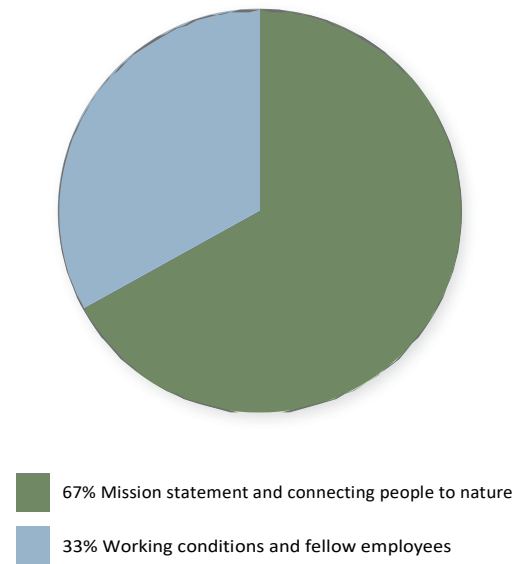
What is your primary work site?





### Question 3

What do you value about the Forest Preserve District?



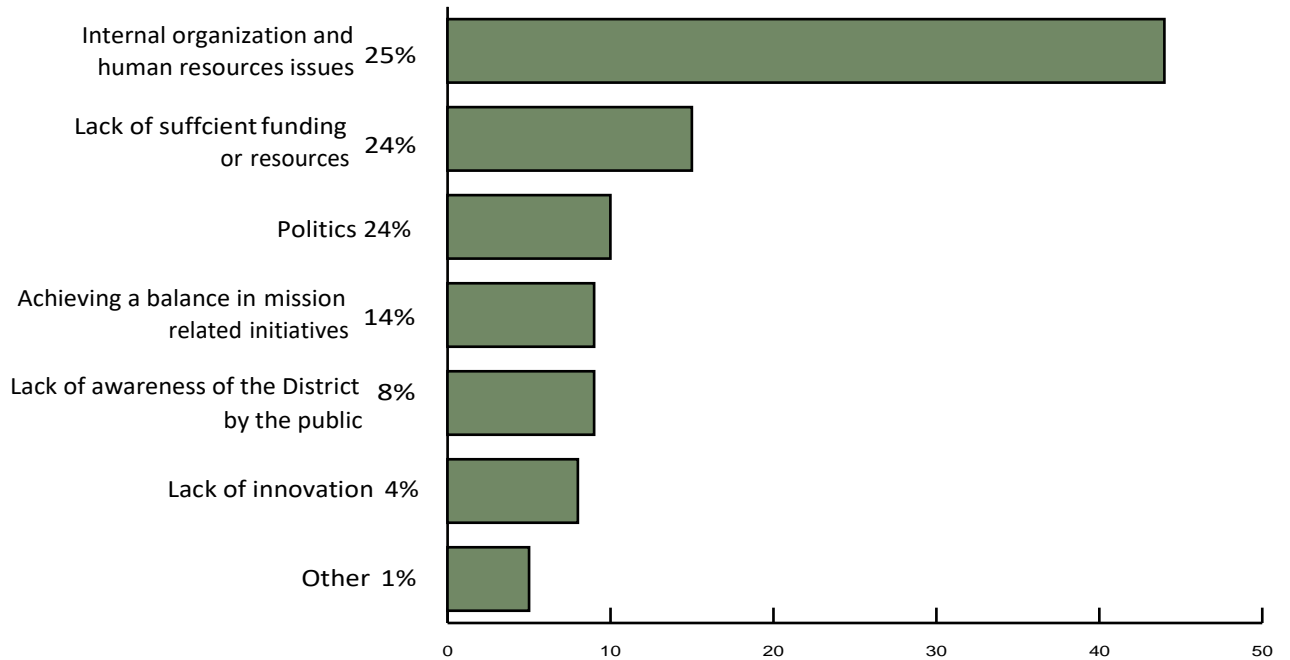
### Question 4

How likely would you be to recommend employment at the Forest Preserve District to a friend or family member?

On a scale of 1-10 with 10 being very likely, 72% of staff respondents indicated a likelihood of six or greater to recommend employment at the Forest Preserve District.

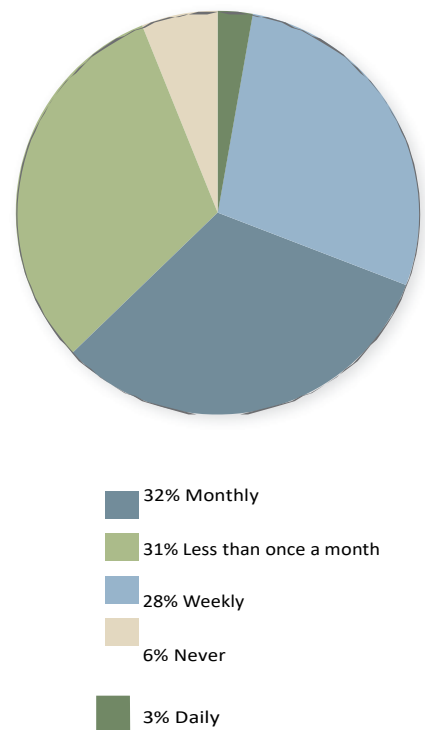
### Question 5

What is a major challenge facing the Forest Preserve District?



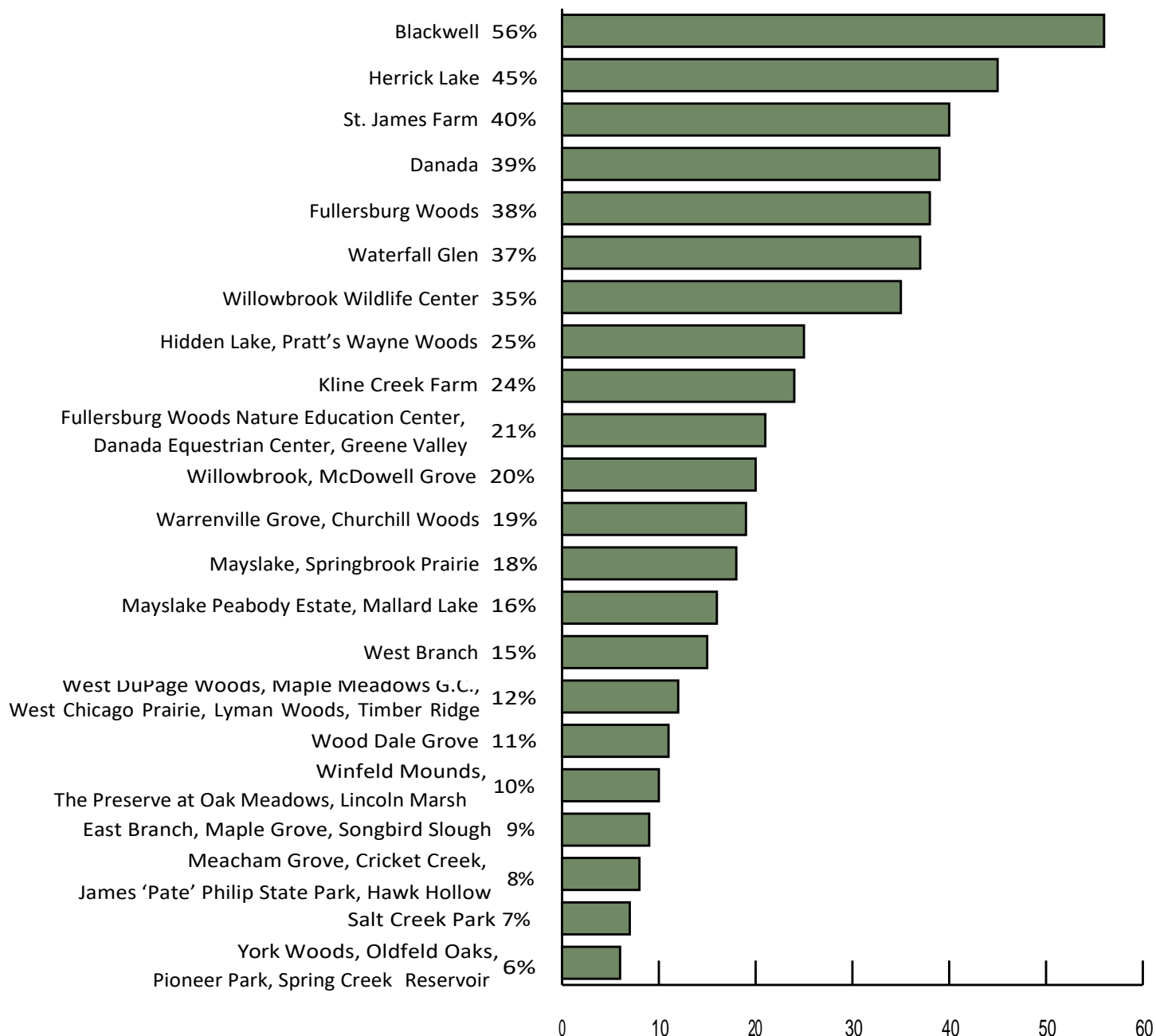
### Question 6

How often do you visit DuPage forest preserves outside of work hours?



## Question 7

Which DuPage forest preserves or sites do you visit outside of work hours?

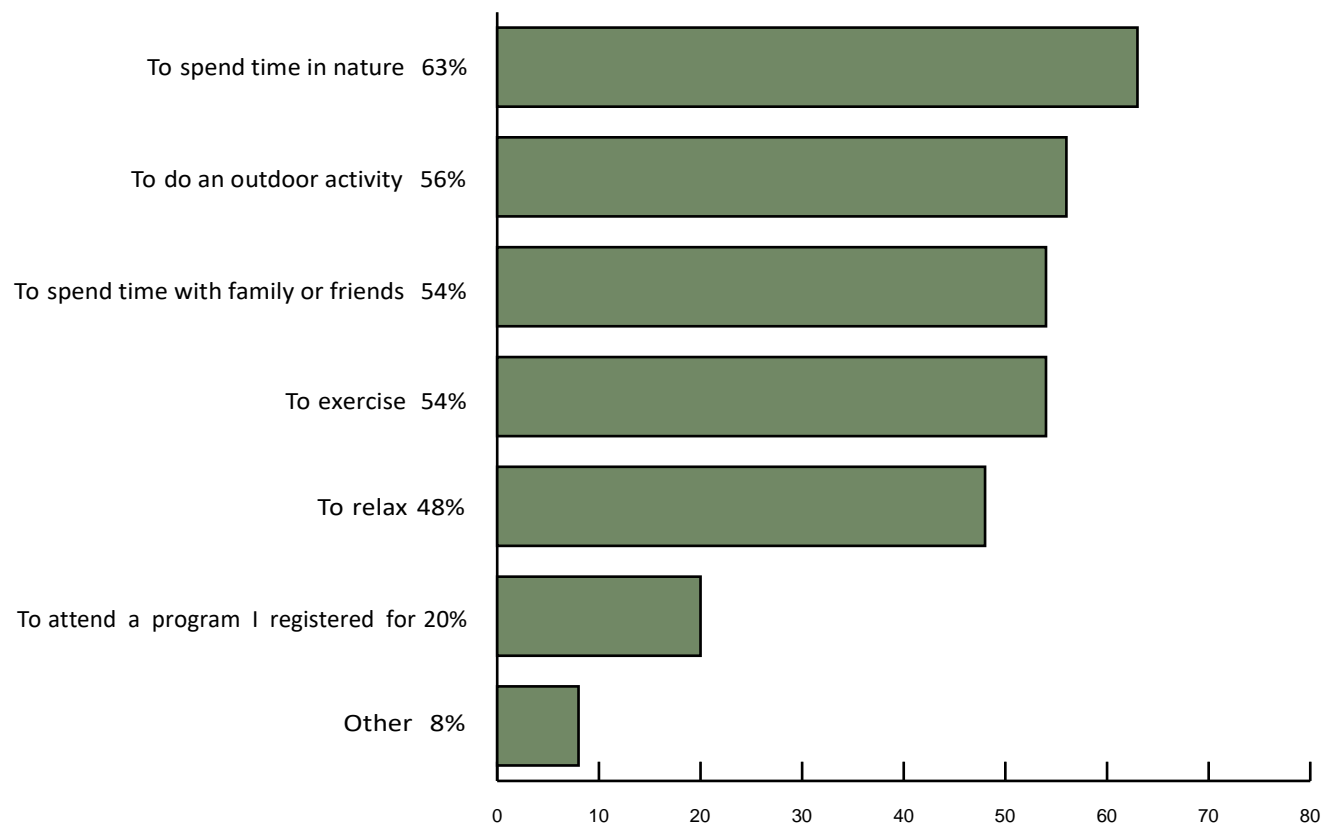


Note: Less than 5% visited the following: Belleau Woods, Burlington Park, West Branch Riverway, Dunham, Green Meadows Golf Course, Goodrich Woods, East Branch Riverway, Churchill Park, Salt Creek Marsh, Salt Creek Greenway, Red Hawk Park, Fullerton Park, Swift Prairie, Big Woods, Fischer Woods, Hitchcock Woods, Brush Hill, Glen Oak, Night Heron Marsh, Community Park, Black Willow Marsh, York/High Ridge, Medinah Wetlands, Egermann Woods, Des Plaines Riverway, Wayne Grove and Country Lakes.

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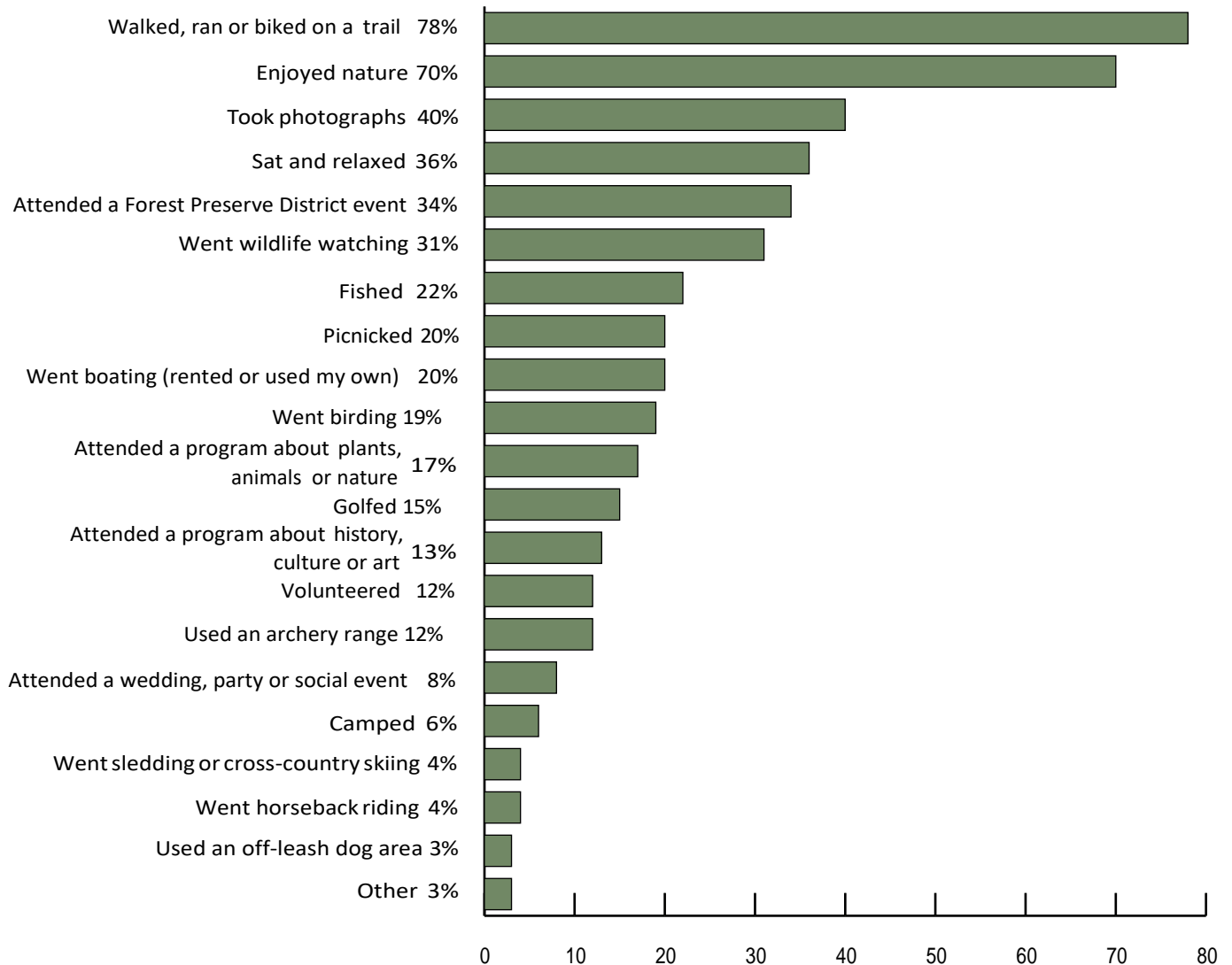
## Question 8

Why do you visit DuPage forest preserves outside of work hours?



## Question 9

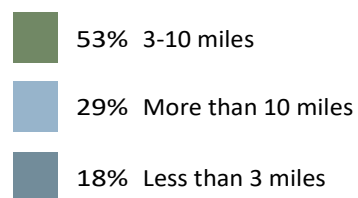
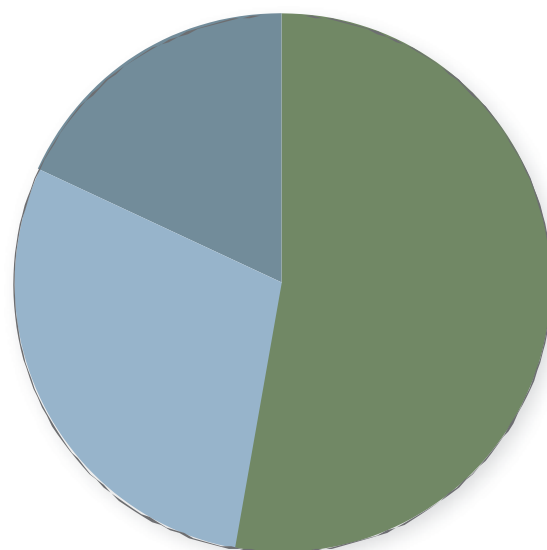
Which of the following have you done at a DuPage forest preserve in the past 12 months outside of work hours?





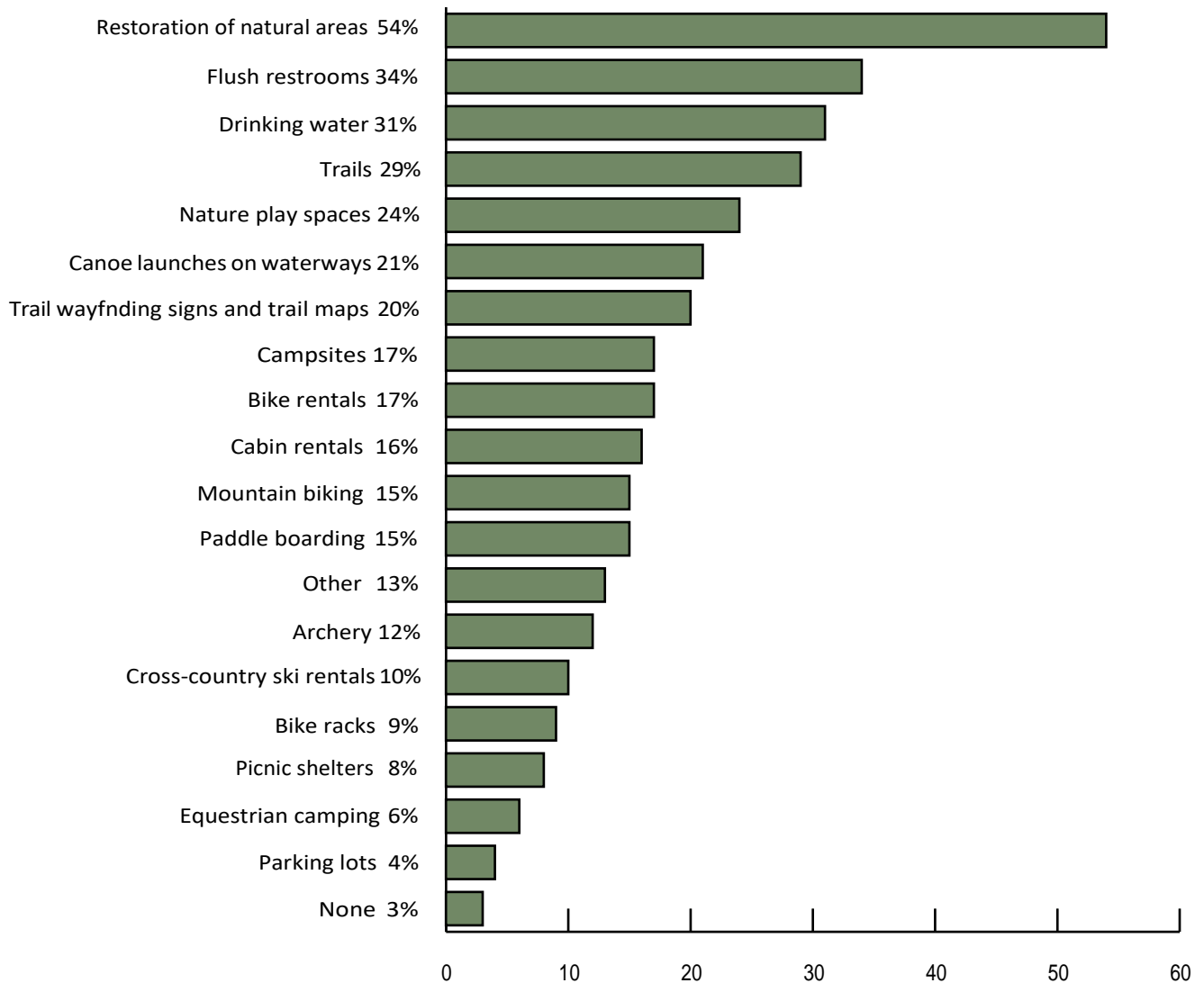
### Question 10

How far do you typically travel to visit a DuPage forest preserve outside of work hours?



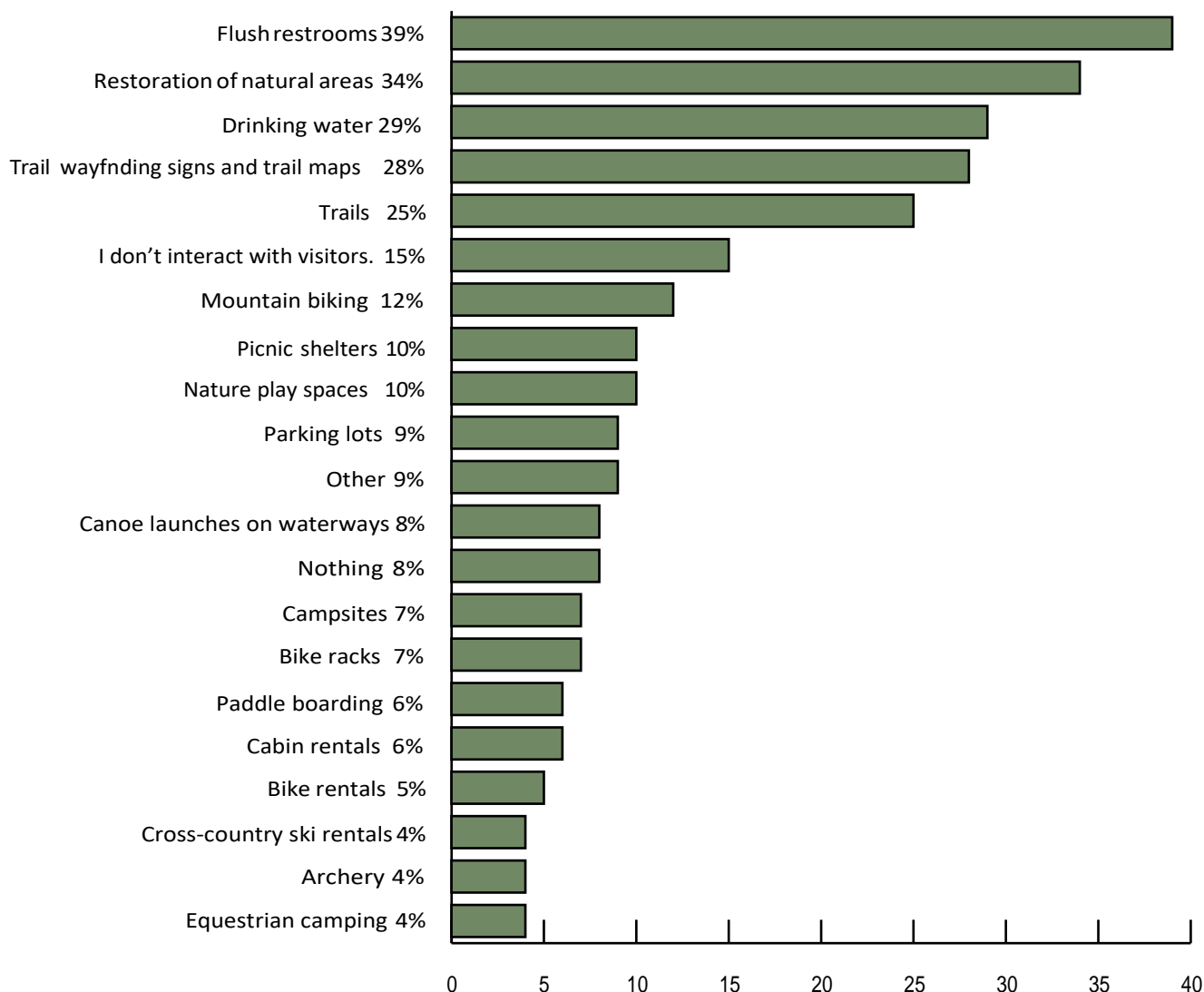
## Question 11

Which of the following would you like to do, see or see more of at DuPage forest preserves?



## Question 12

If you have regular interactions with forest preserve visitors, what do they tell you they'd like to see more of at DuPage forest preserves?



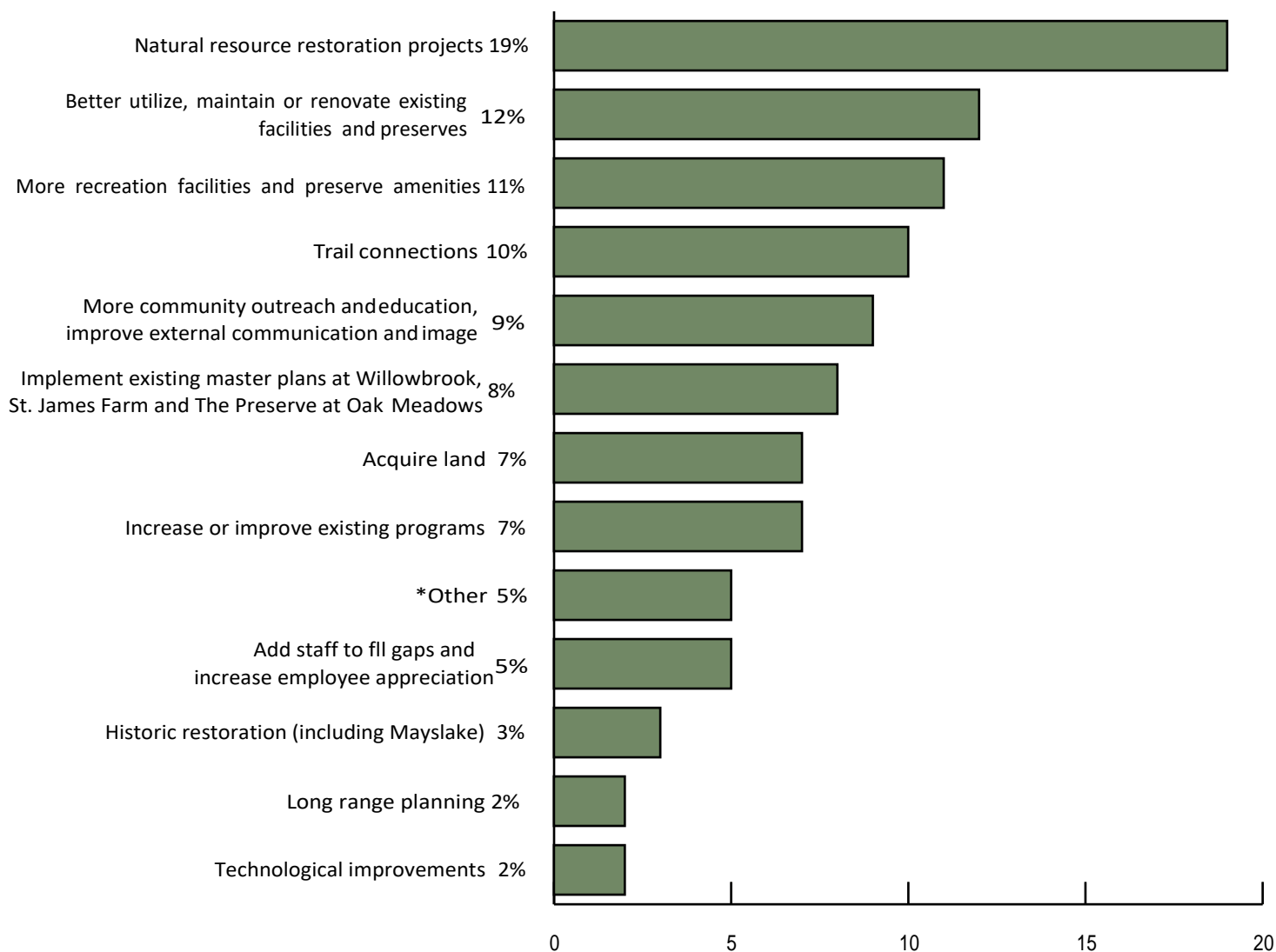
## Question 13

Considering the Forest Preserve District does not have unlimited resources, what should it focus on over the next five years?

- #1** Restore existing prairies, woods, wetlands, lakes or streams
- #2** Maintain or improve existing forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas
- #3** Build new connections between existing trails
- #4** Acquire more land
- #5** Build new trails
- #6** Maintain or restore historic buildings and structures
- #7** Build new forest preserve buildings, parking lots or outdoor recreation areas

## Question 14

What three programs or projects in particular should the Forest Preserve District focus on over the next five years?



\*Other includes internal organizational improvements, flooding improvements, achieving a balance in mission-driven initiatives, research and other unrelated comments.

## Question 15

What is the most important reason the Forest Preserve District should acquire more land?

- #1** Preserve open space
- #2** Preserve historic buildings
- #3** Protect sensitive natural areas
- #4** It shouldn't acquire more land
- #5** Expand outdoor recreational areas

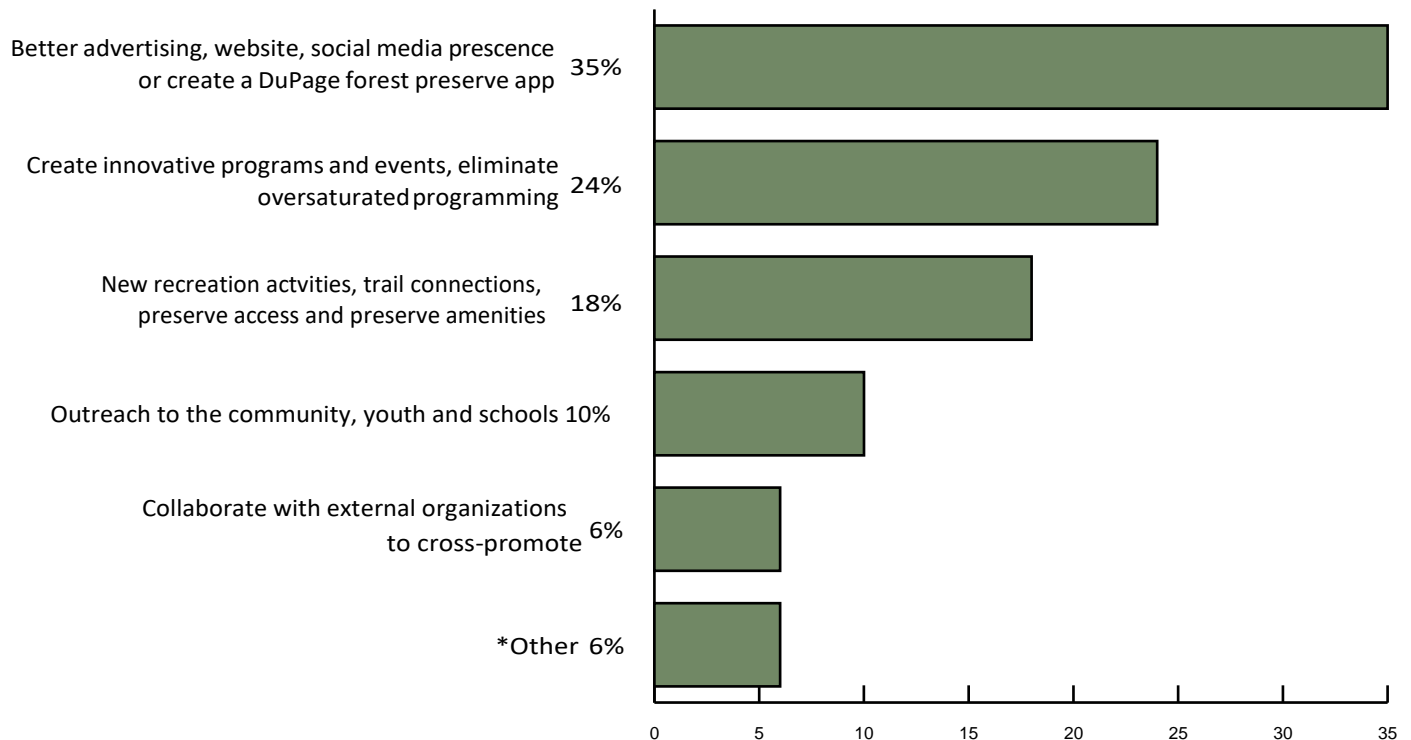
### Question 16

If the Forest Preserve District were to acquire land, what type of land should it acquire?

- #1** High quality natural areas
- #2** Flood-prone areas
- #3** Undeveloped areas that aren't considered high-quality natural areas
- #4** Developed land that can be converted into natural areas

### Question 17

What ideas do you have that would help the Forest Preserve District connect more people to nature?

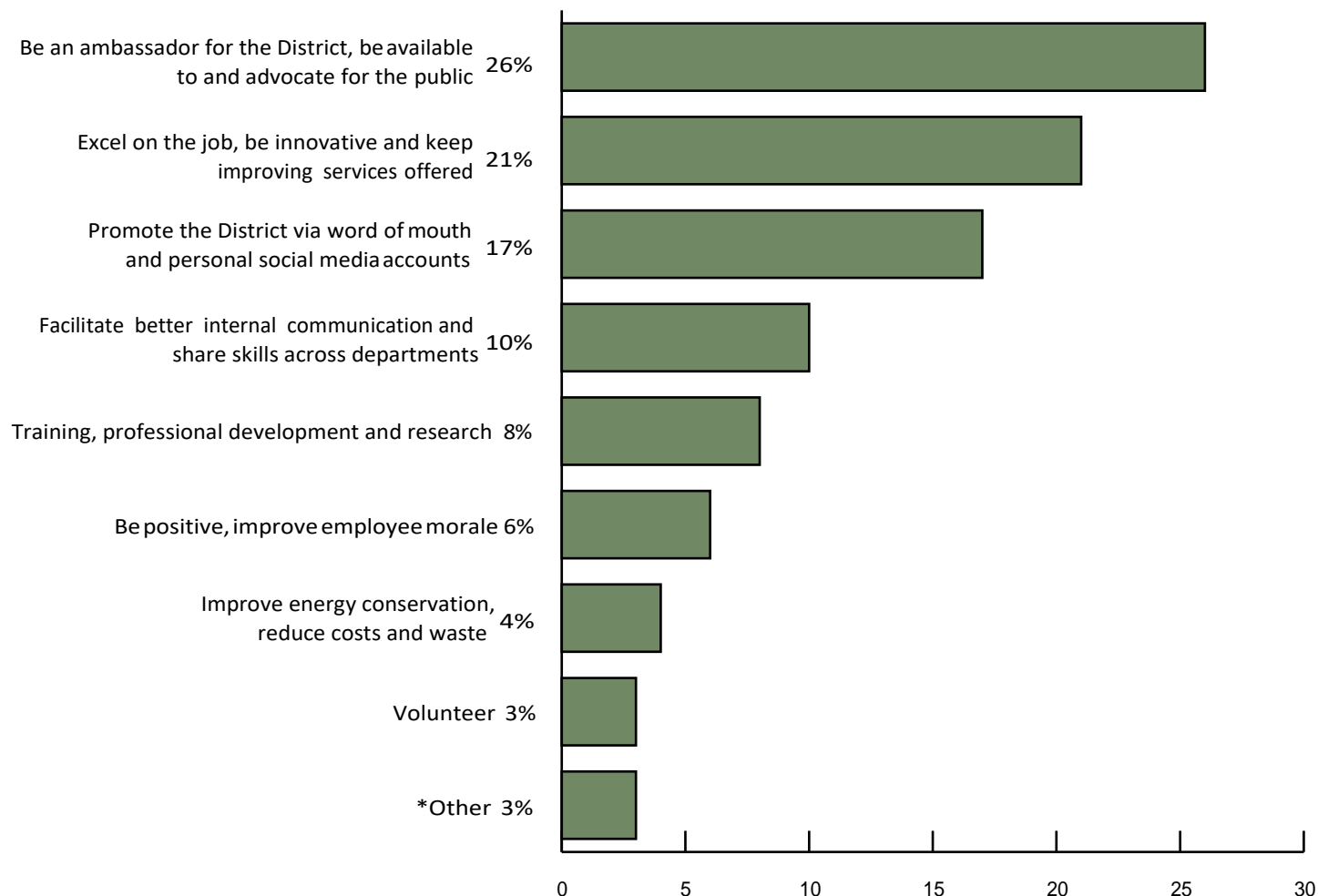


\*Other includes internal organization/policy improvements, maintaining good preserve upkeep and appearance, and other uncategorized comments.



## Question 18

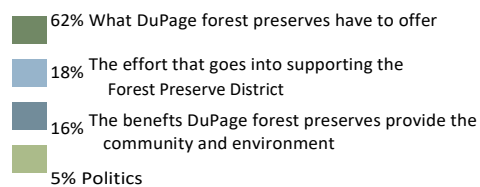
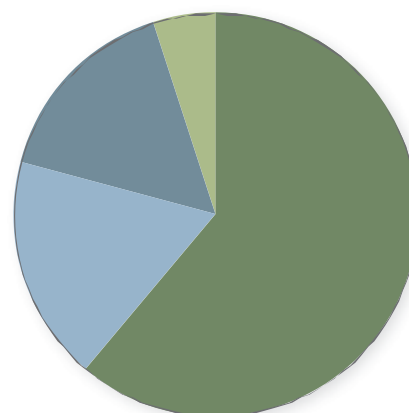
In what ways could you as an employee help improve the Forest Preserve District?



\*Other includes greater autonomy in decision making and leaving no trace in the preserves

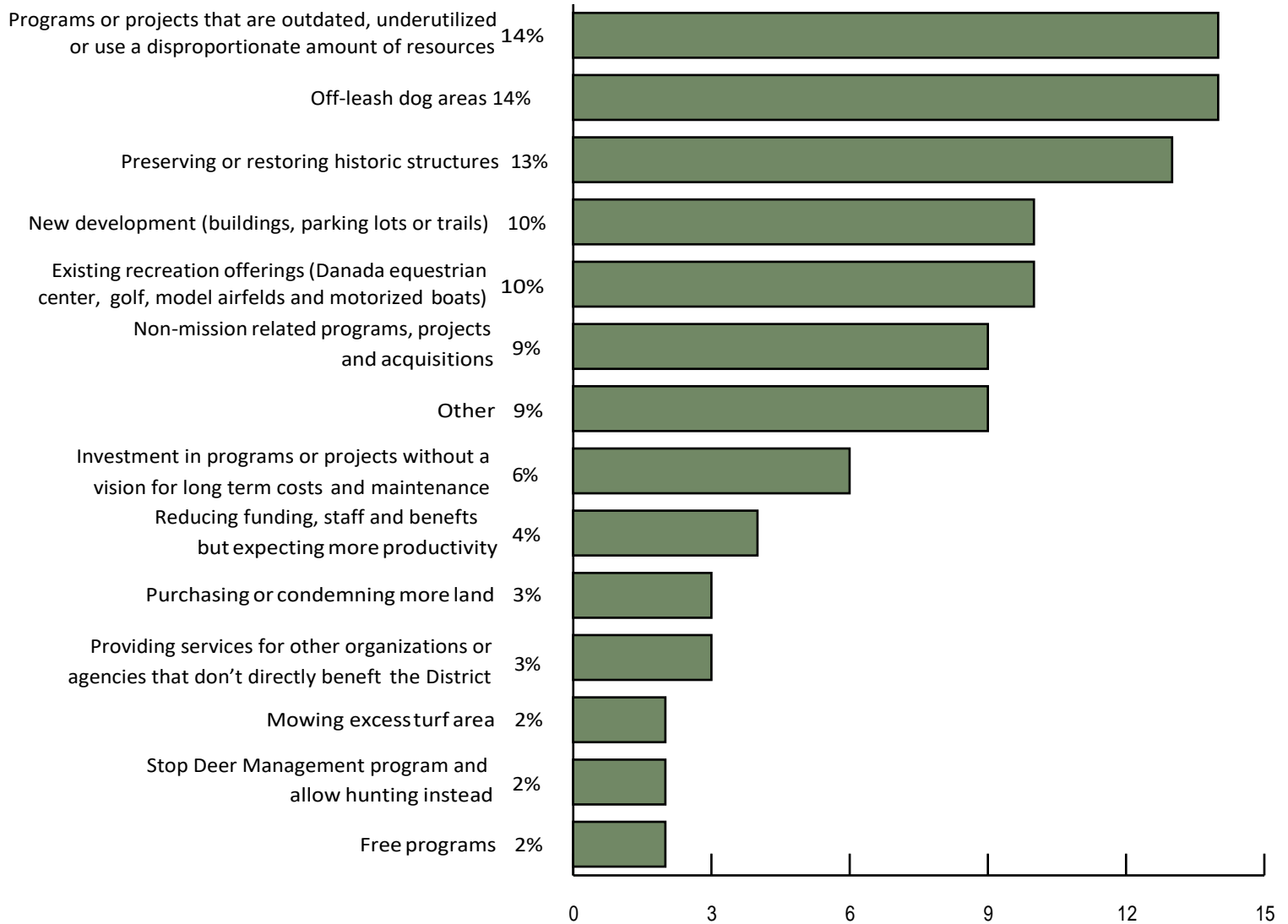
## Question 19

What's one thing about DuPage forest preserves that you think more people should know about?



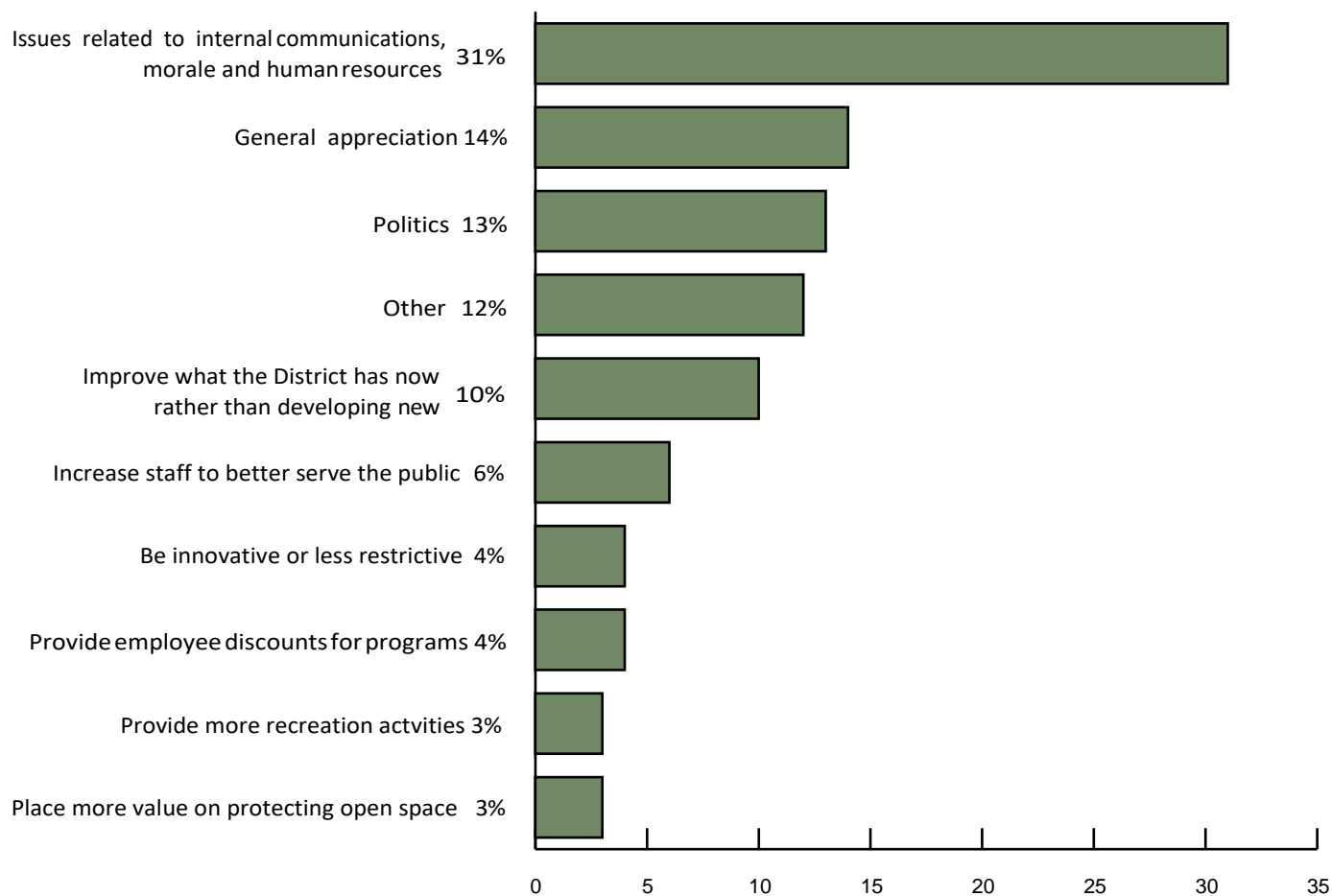
## Question 20

What are three programs or projects that the Forest Preserve should stop doing?



## Question 21

Is there something you'd like to tell us about DuPage forest preserves that we didn't ask?







# Appendix D

# Staff Workshop Summary

## *Question 1*

What do I really value about being a staff member at the District? How does that translate into overall District values?

- a. The mission of the District
  - Protecting nature, stewards of the land
  - Educating
  - Unique recreation opportunities
- b. Being a public servant
  - Take pride in work to provide places for people to enjoy outdoors
  - Share knowledge with the public
  - Improve the environment for public benefit
  - Provide high quality experiences and programs
- c. Working conditions and fellow employees
  - Productive working environment with high quality co-workers who are professional, highly trained experts in their field
  - Diverse and interesting work
  - Stable hours, benefits and pension
  - Good work/life balance, family-oriented
- d. Fulfillment of my professional goals
  - Learning new things from colleagues
  - Sustainable projects with involvement over the

long-term, creates a sense of pride and personal investment

- Enjoy outside work, working in natural areas

## *Question 2*

What are the opportunities for staff to contribute to make the District stand out to county residents?

- a. Customer service/daily interactions with the public
- b. Improved marketing
  - Improve social media presence
  - Support content development for all types of media
  - Get our message out of what we offer – media, personal interactions, etc.
  - Promote our innovative projects
- c. Community outreach
  - Attend events/meet and greet
  - Educate residents about the how and why of projects/initiatives
- d. Collaboration between agencies
  - Reach new audiences
  - Regional partner to promote protection and restoration of natural resources



- e. Good appearances/high level of maintenance/public perception
  - High level of upkeep for buildings and landscape
  - All buildings and amenities in good condition for users to enjoy
  - Projects completed on time and in budget
  - Awareness of surroundings when working – how is the work impacting the public and what do they see? Explain work being done to the public out in the field.
  - Proper balance between development and the amount of staff and funding needed to maintain high level of upkeep
- f. Assess, improve and innovate
  - Solicit feedback from users, assess program/initiative relevancy, reduce programs/initiatives that don't work, focus on the mission
  - Need freedom to take risks to improve and innovate
  - Tap into new markets
  - Be a conservation agency leader
  - Develop inspiring programs and experiences
  - Be proactive
- g. Internal cooperation
  - Intradepartmental cooperation to support and promote our mission
  - Communication to make sure we are all working toward the same goals
  - Assist with events outside of the department to ensure adequate staffing and fresh perspectives
  - Utilize expertise across departments

### Question 3

What are the upcoming challenges for the District and how can staff help?

- a. How to maintain more with less
  - More to do with less staff and funding (infrastructure, buildings and growing/improving programs) – the District is growing, but staff is not
  - A plan to deal with all the accumulated deferred maintenance
  - Eliminate excess infrastructure and buildings to reduce maintenance needs
  - Collaborate with local agencies to reduce redundancies
  - Prioritize and focus on what is most important
- b. Need better technology
- c. Need better external communications
  - Need to reach millennials
  - Educate the public on the value of the Forest Preserve

- Unified social media presence
- d. Need better internal communications
  - Clear setting and communication of goals by leadership to all staff. Support to implement goals from leadership
  - Build trust of staff by leadership and Board - allow staff to implement policy
  - Closer working relationships at management level and communication between departments
- e. Be cutting edge and proactive
  - Allow and support risk taking to improve the organization
  - Connect with new users, underserved populations, changing demographics
  - Assess public needs and trends
  - Provide training and professional development for staff
  - More aggressive natural resource management (more acres burned, rare species protected)
  - Develop creative and innovative programs to compete
  - Develop a niche and do it well
- f. Low staff morale and changing leadership
  - Lack of staff recognition
  - Atmosphere of uncertainty/instability – layoffs, department restructuring, benefit changes
  - Micromanagement of staff
  - Loss of institutional knowledge due to retirements
  - Staff turnover and need to educate new staff
- g. Need to stay on mission
- h. Better implementation of 90/10 policy
- i. No “park district” type development
- j. Potential consolidation with the county

### Question 4

What priorities should we as staff hold in high importance moving into the future?

- a. Conservation
- b. Stay on mission
- c. Educate the public
- d. Staff development/improve morale
- e. Internal communications
- f. High level of facility and infrastructure maintenance
- g. Customer service
- h. Be innovative
- i. Improve technology
- j. Improve efficiency
- k. Community outreach
- l. Make the forest preserves more accessible