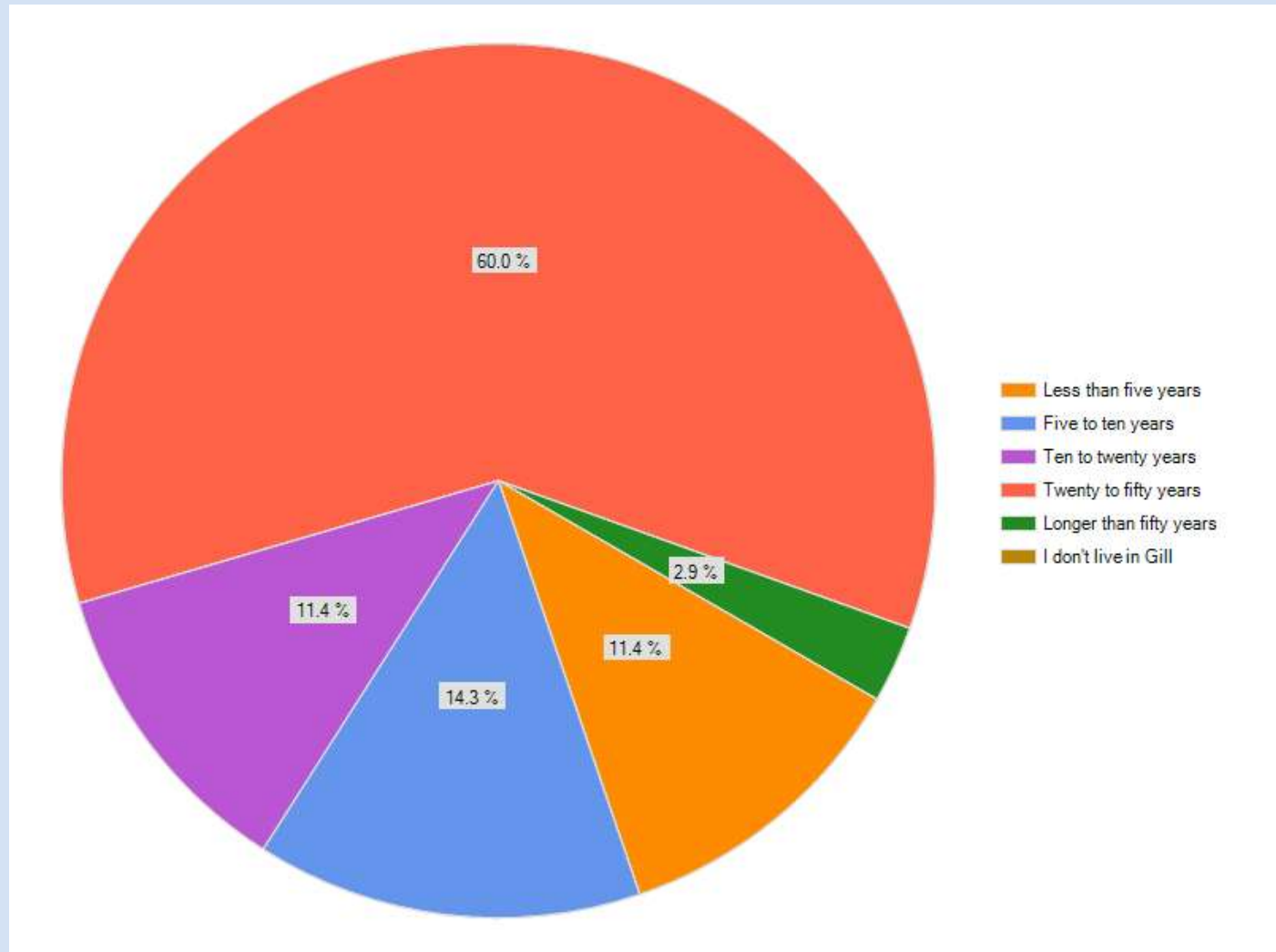




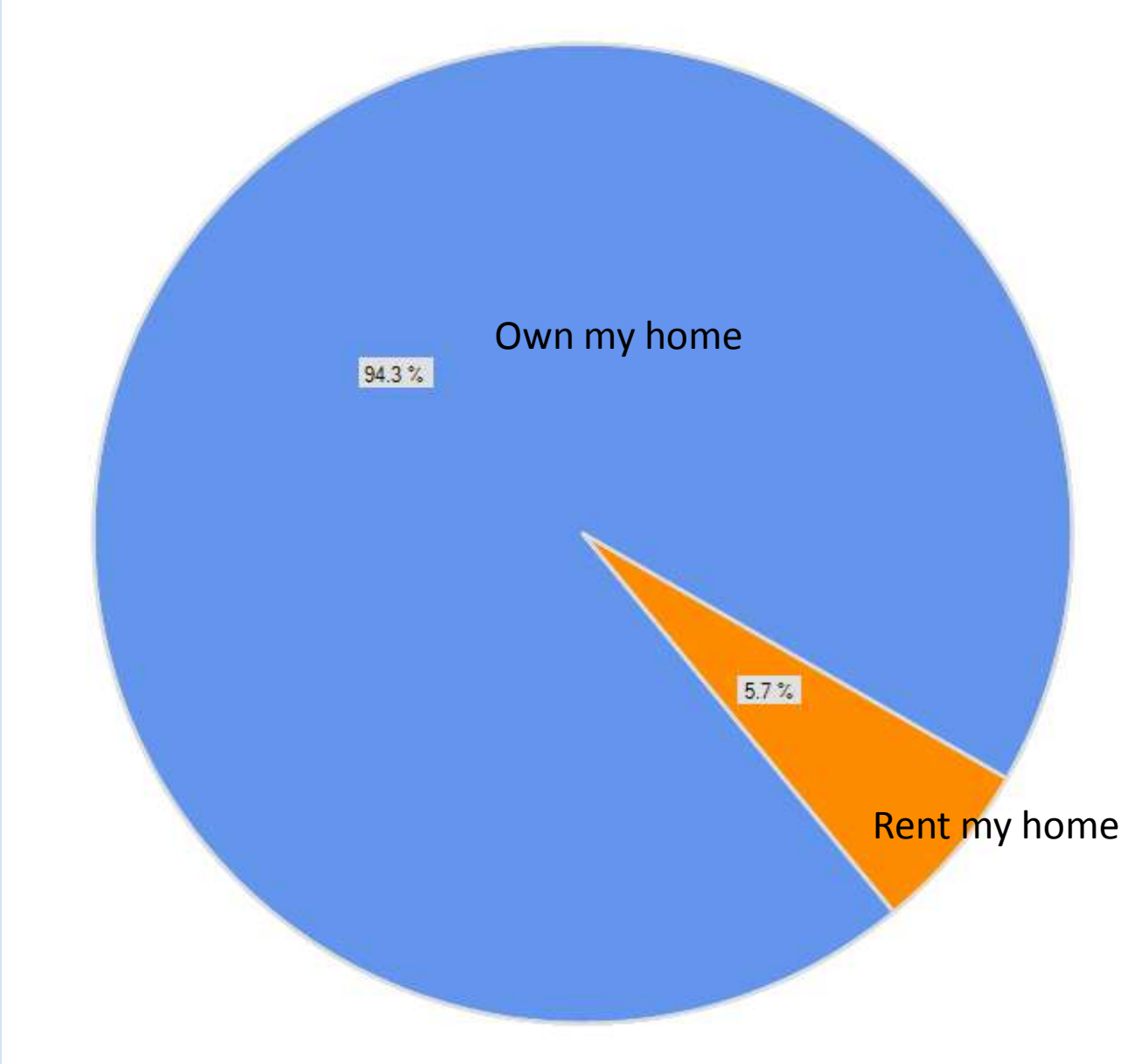
Town of Gill
2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan
PUBLIC FORUM
Survey Results: 36 Respondents

About the 36 respondents:

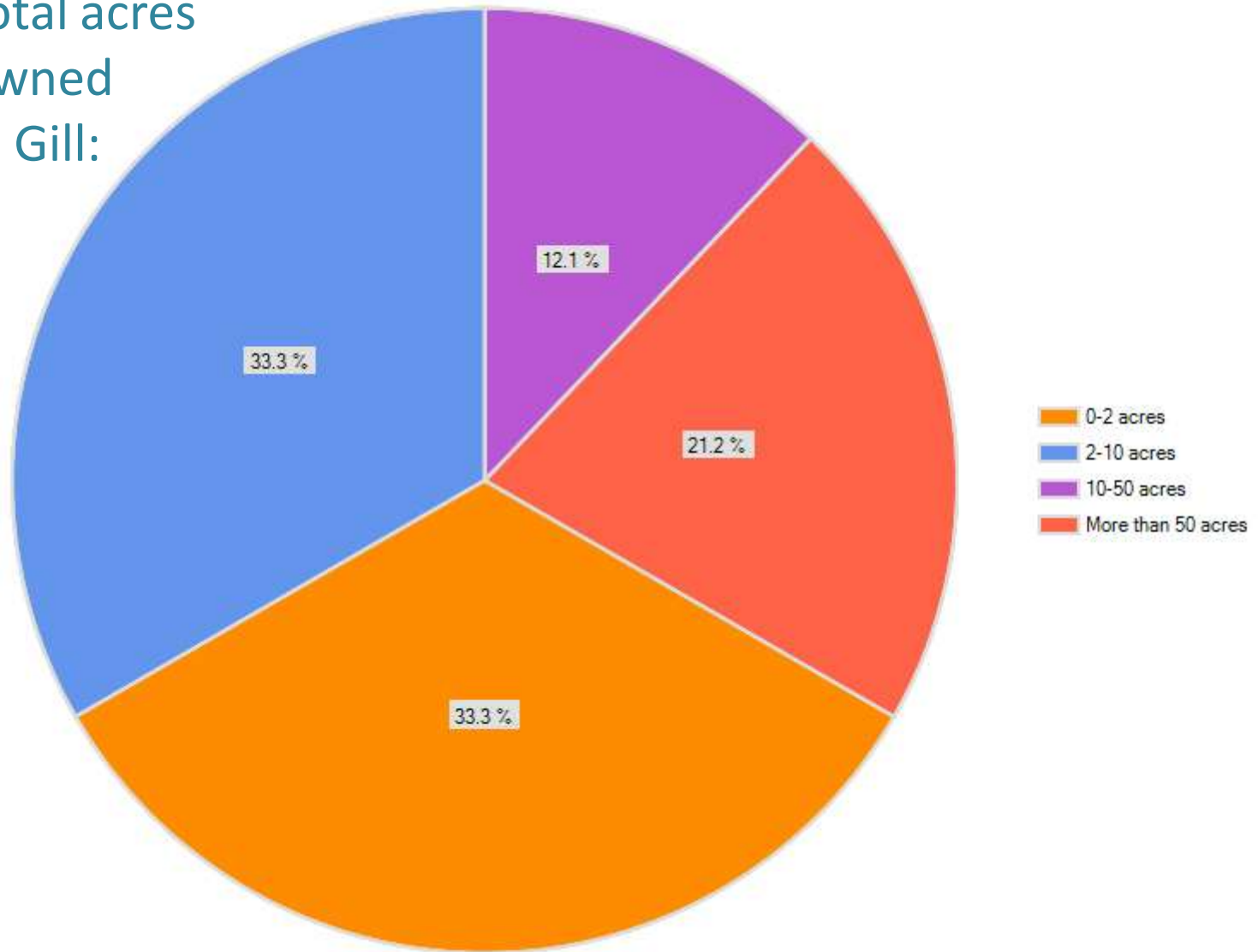
Have lived in town:



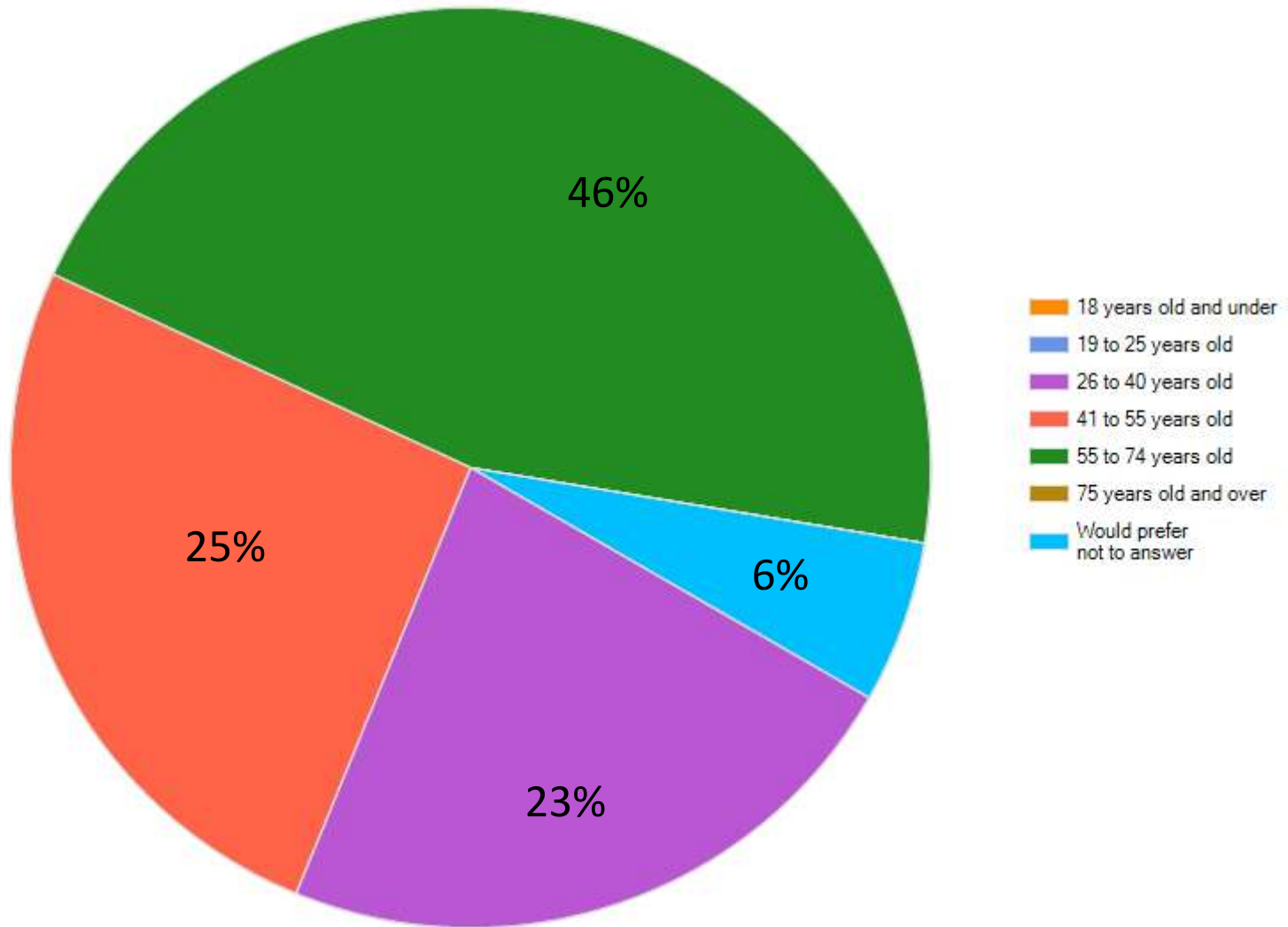
Home
ownership:



Total acres owned in Gill:

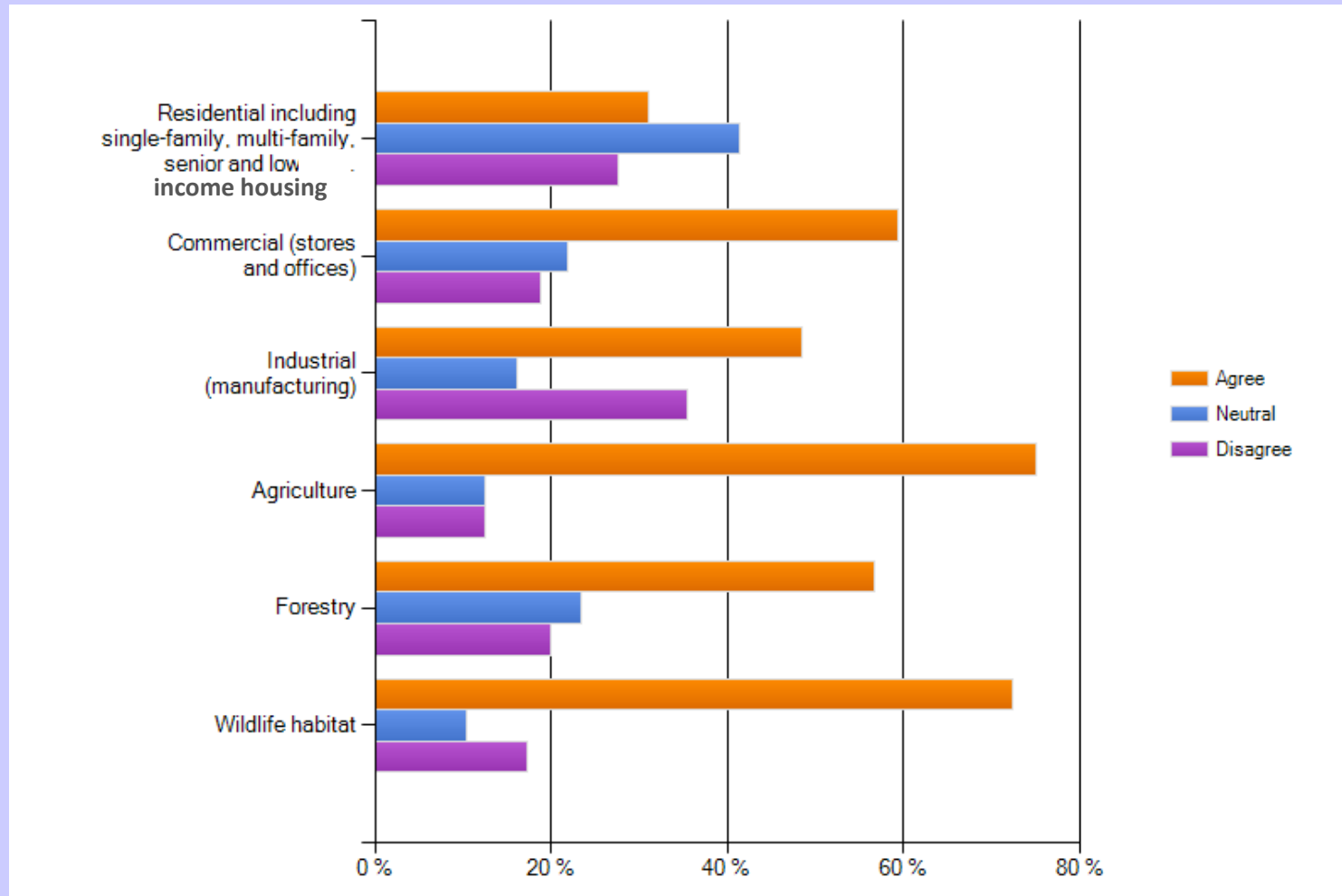


Age:



About open space:

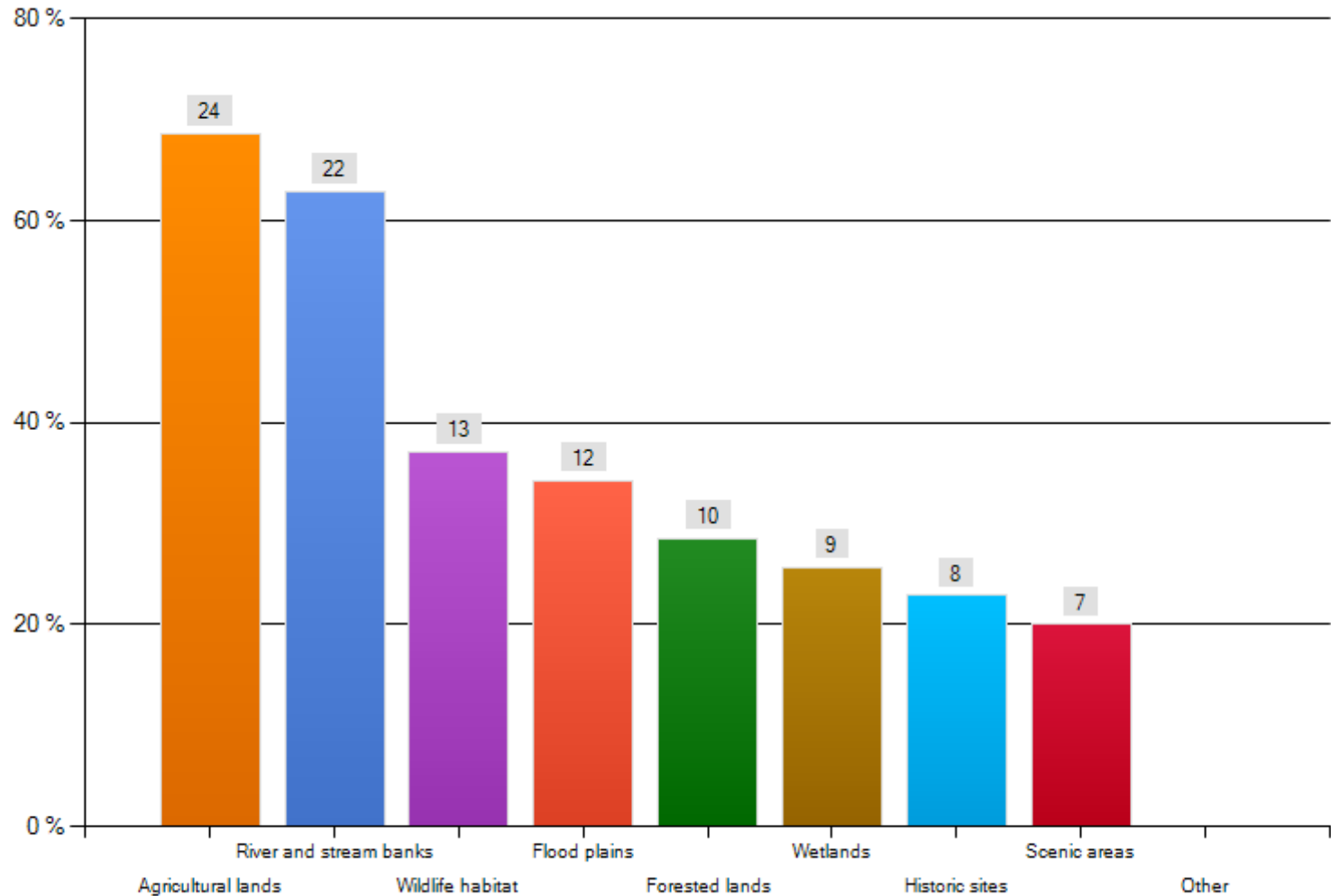
More of Gill's land should be used for:



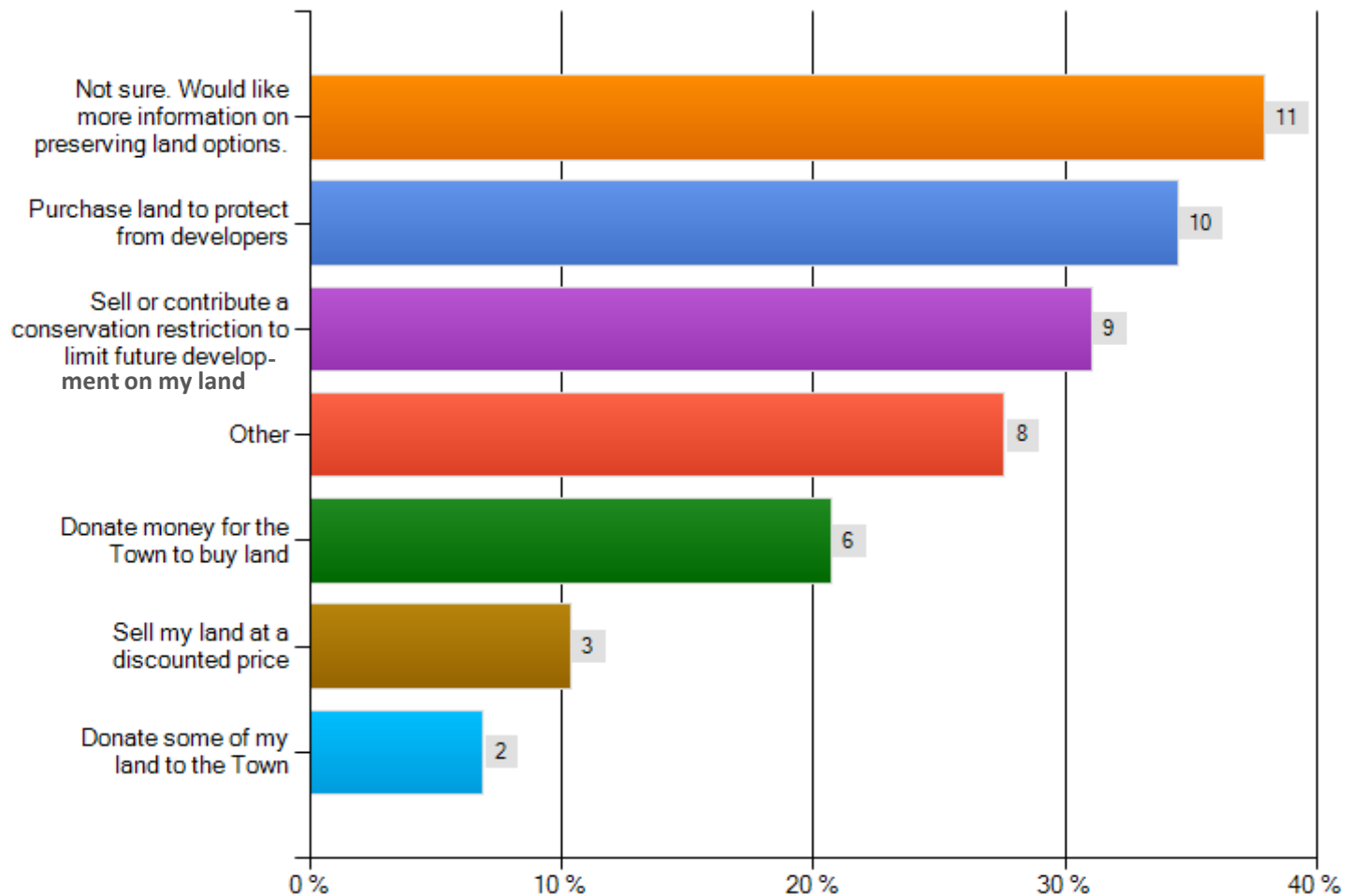
Other responses include:

- Some industrial would help if strategically located, but does not impair our rural charm. Same with commercial.
- Agricultural should be encouraged.
- Industrial - depends on environmental impact from plant.
- Recreational (4-wheeling, snowmobile, walks, cross country skiing)

Which of the following types of land should the Town PRIORITIZE to permanently protect? (choose your top three)



To permanently preserve open spaces in my town, I would be willing to (check all that apply):

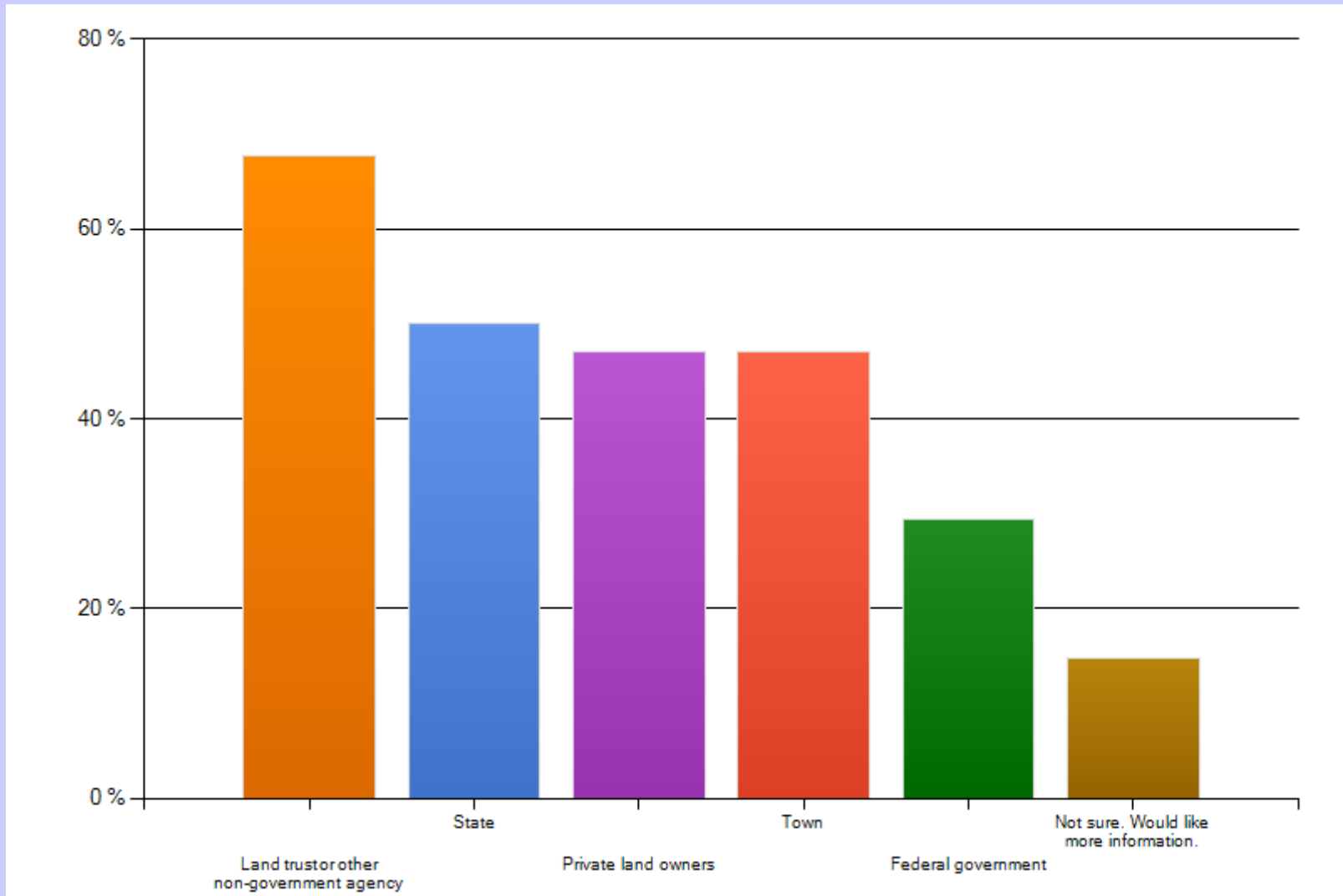


Other responses include:

- Nothing...we are already too land locked!
- Enough preserving, lets get a tax base
- Would not do any of the above.

- Donate \$ to a land preservation agency.
- I would donate if I approved of the purchase.
- Work with land trusts to achieve these actions.

Open space land in Gill should be protected by (check all that apply):

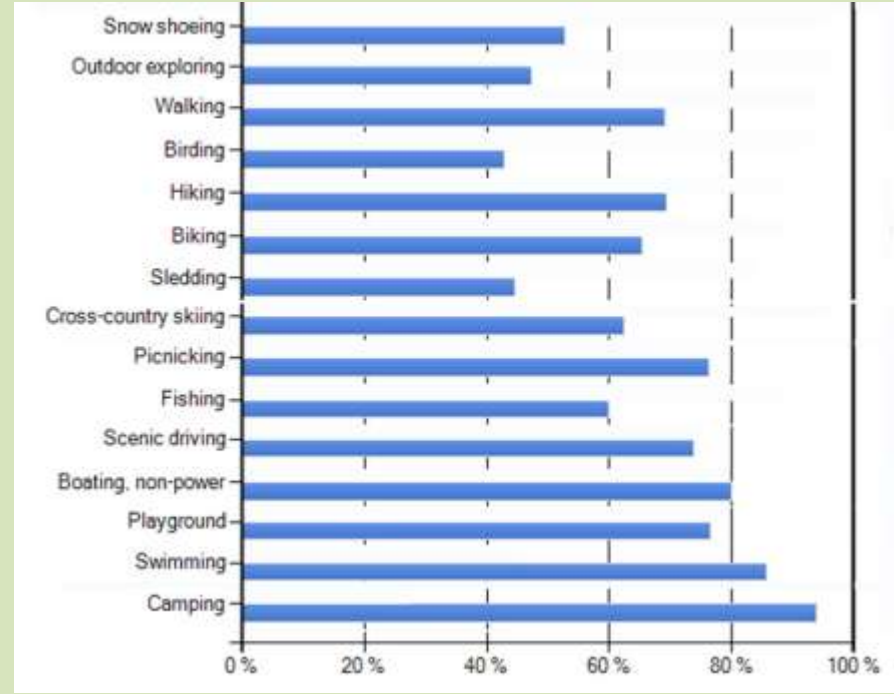
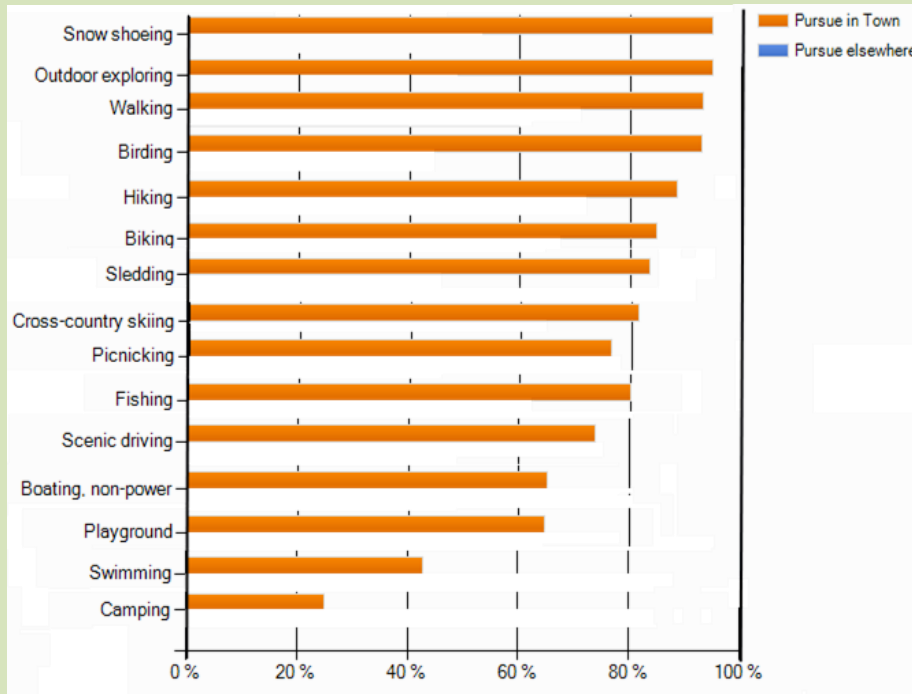


**Other
response :**

I don't believe we need any land protected.

About recreation:

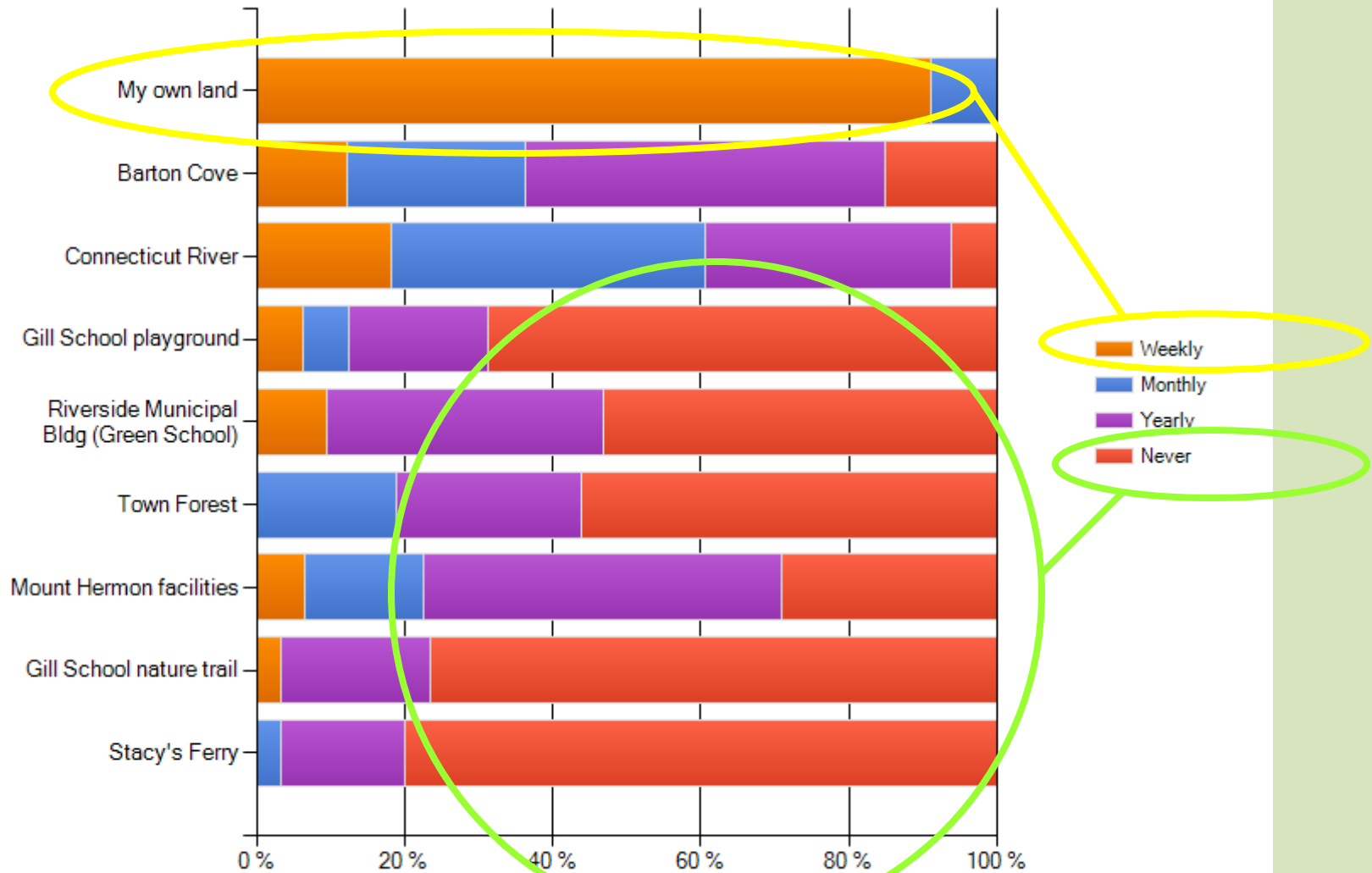
I and/or my family pursue the following recreational activities in Gill and elsewhere:



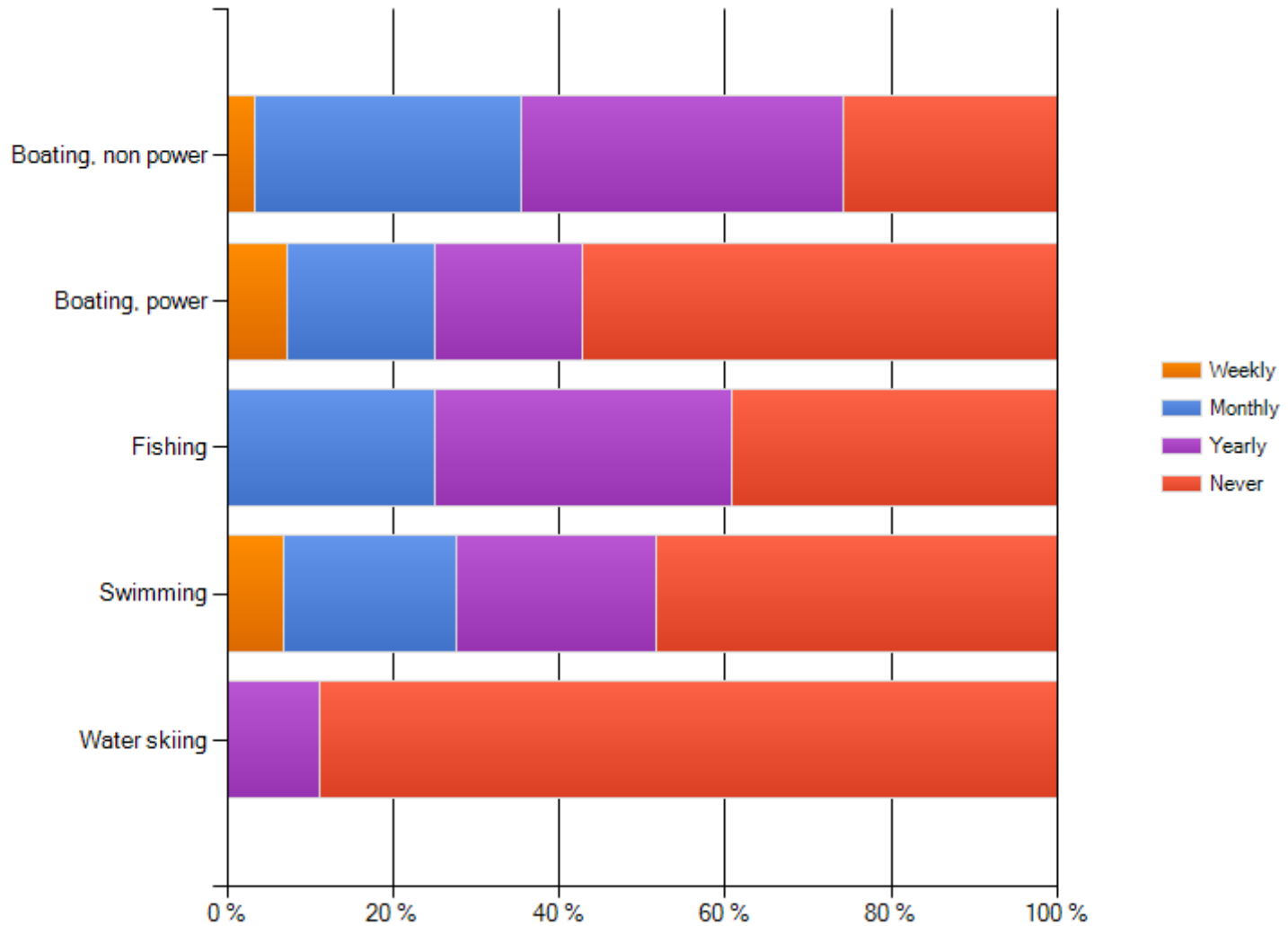
Other response :

Gill is fantastic for dog walking, because of its extensive off-road trail systems (much across private land, with owner's permission). We're spoiled here in terms of our access to local agricultural products, and to undeveloped land for non-motor-powered recreation. Let's keep it that way!

I and/or my family use the following recreation areas or programs:



I and/or my family use the Connecticut River for the following activities:



Are Gill recreational areas and programs well-publicized?

NO: 45

YES: 55

Are Gill recreational areas and programs well-maintained?

NO: 3

YES: 97

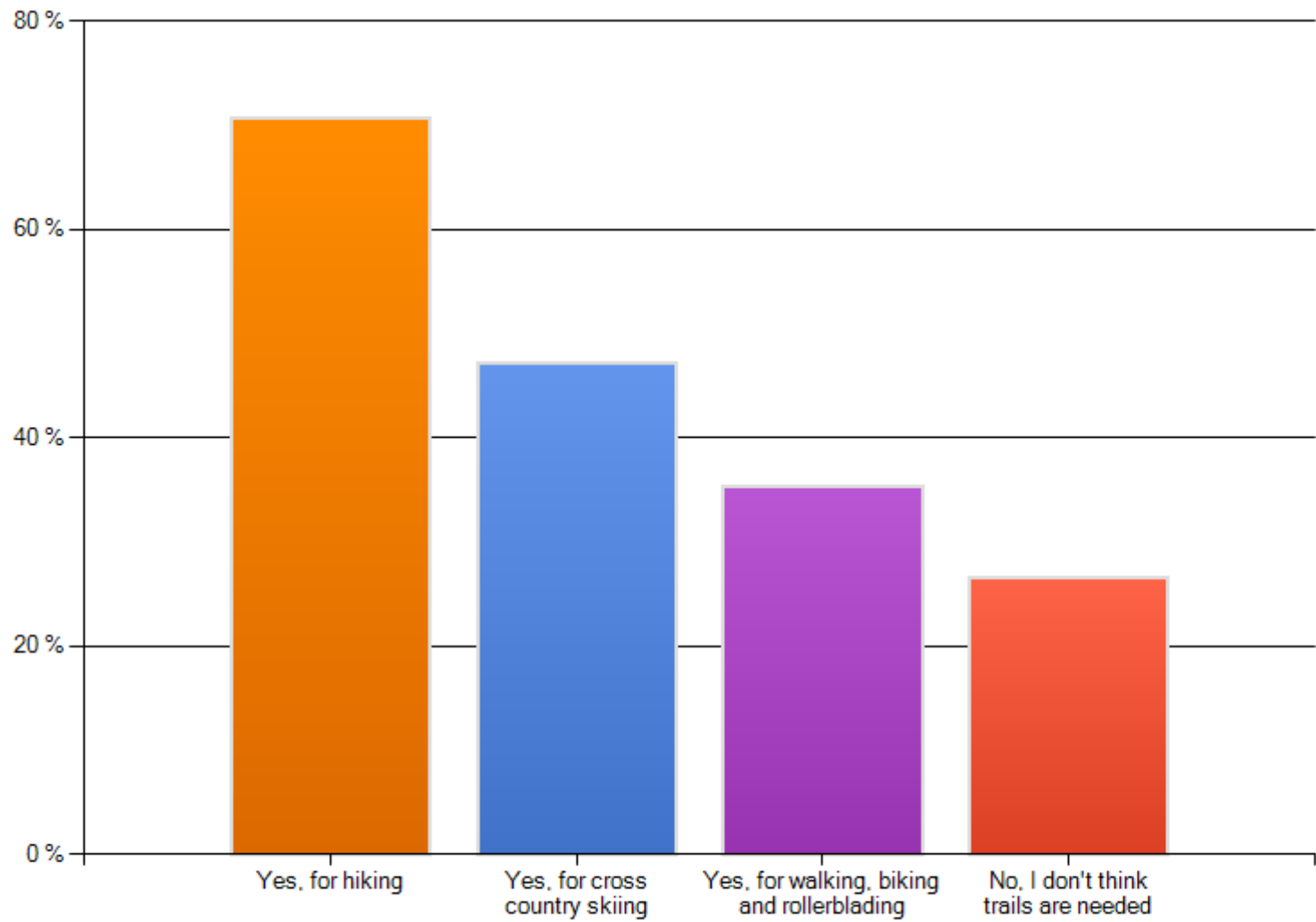
**Other
responses:**

- Not sure
- Most people do not know much about the town forest. Is the conservation area next to the school maintained?

I would like the following recreational facilities or programs in Gill:

- Cross country skiing and biking and we need to have cross country skiing without snowmobiles ruining the trails.
- Zumba
- Gym for the Gill Elementary School so we wouldn't have to work around NMH schedule...Swimming/pool area, a place to play basketball, path for walking, biking, cross country skiing or snow shoeing
- Good maps for cross-country skiing/ hiking
- Red Sox trip

Should a system of trails be developed in Gill?

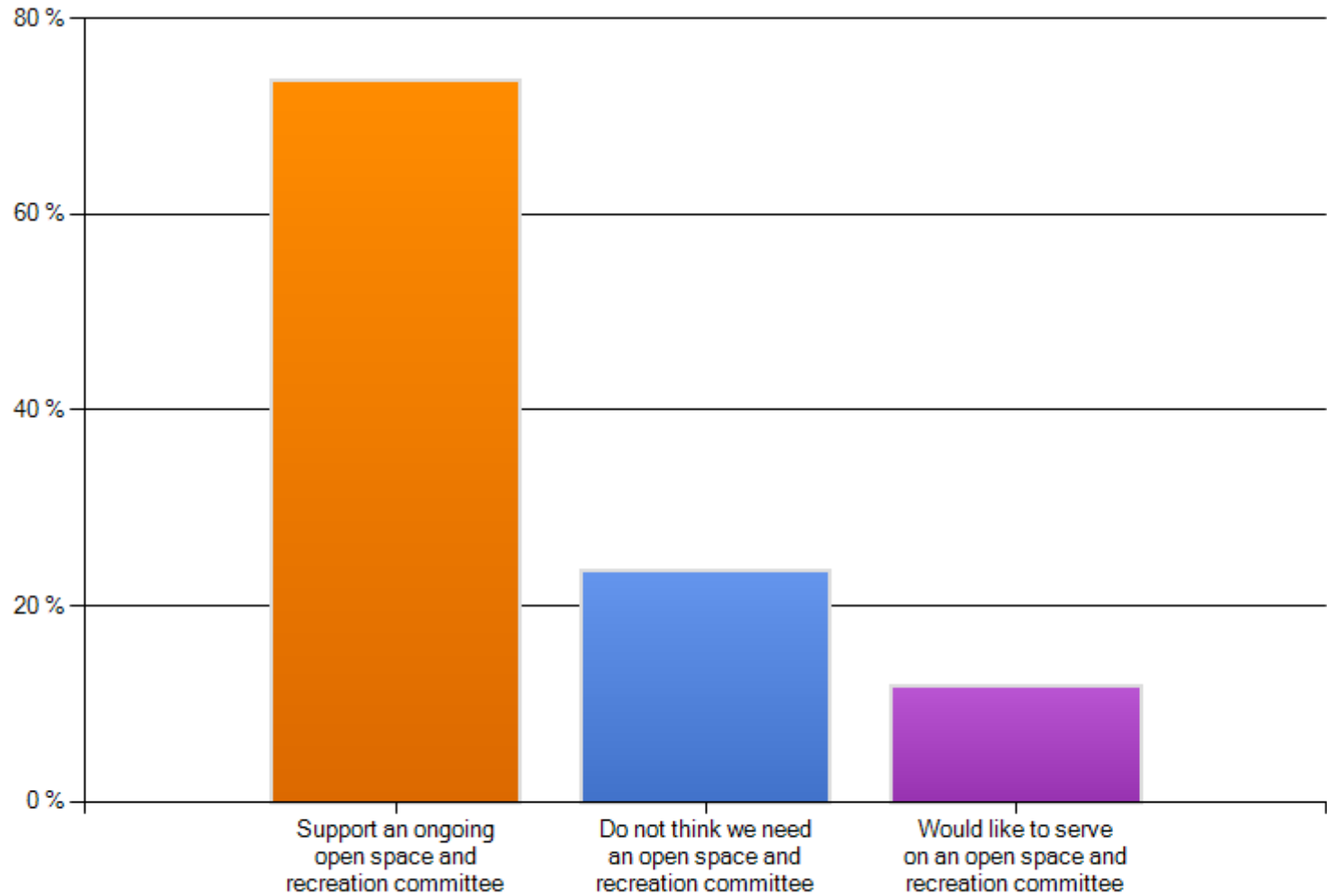


About open space and recreation:

Please share any additional comments you may have about open space and recreation in Gill: (excerpts)

- We have enough (protected land) tied up already, NO more!
- Please have a committee to bring some business into town
- Regarding the trail system: it would be good to have some formal connectors for x-country ski trails (and a map?).
- I do not believe more open space is needed. I strongly feel that we need more business revenue in the town.
- We have enough open space and developing trails costs money.
- Getting permission to hike through someone's corn field makes for the best hike.
- I believe the town should provide much more focus on developing business in our community.
- How awesome it would be to have a booklet with everything in it. It would be nice if residents had access to the Falls River.
- Existing snowmobile trails already provide great access for cross country skiing, at least in the Main Road, West Gill Road, and River Road vicinity.
- I would like to see a little more caution exercised in regards to the amount of land that is set aside for open spaces. We need to see some sort of industry brought into this community.

To encourage ongoing Town efforts concerning open space and recreation planning, I would:



Town of Gill
2011 Open Space and Recreation Plan
Goals and Objectives



Goals and Objectives

<i>GOAL #1</i>	<i>OBJECTIVE</i>
	<p>Ensure that the Town of Gill maintains or improves the integrity of streams and wetlands, wildlife habitats, farms and forestlands and other agricultural resources, the diversity and integrity of native fauna and flora, drinking water, clean air, scenic views, geological resources, and historical and archaeological sites, structures, locations, and landscapes (“natural and cultural resources”) through the conservation of locally important natural and open space resources.</p>
	<p>Prioritize areas with significant “natural and cultural resources” so that town officials and residents can act efficiently when a parcel of land becomes available for protection.</p>
	<p>Encourage landowners interested in protecting their land from development to work with local land trusts, with state and federal conservation agencies, and with the Town.</p>
	<p>Be responsive to the needs of farm and forest landowners and other agricultural businesses in town. Consider ways that the town might support agricultural operations as they would other commercial or industrial businesses in town.</p>
	<p>Use the annual Biodiversity Days as a means for building a comprehensive biological and geological inventory in Gill using community volunteers.</p>
	<p>Support the training of local volunteers in vernal pool certification.</p>
	<p>Explore revisions to Gill’s zoning bylaw that would result in greater protection of valued “natural and cultural resources” to ensure any land development provides benefits that reflect the town’s natural resource conservation goals.</p>
	<p>Explore the potential for developing a private conservation land trust or fund for Gill.</p>

<i>GOAL #2</i>	<i>OBJECTIVE</i>
	Ensure that the Town of Gill maintains or improves the quality and accessibility of all its recreational facilities and programming.
	Evaluate the needs of all municipal recreational facilities and properties.
	Explore the feasibility of developing recreational facilities and uses that are in demand.
	Promote existing and future recreational facilities and services by developing a guide to facilities, programs, and trail systems in town, based upon needs expressed during OSRP planning process and the 2011 OSRP Survey.
	Continue to cooperate with private entities in town such as FirstLight, Gill-Montague School District, The Nature Conservancy, and Northfield Mount Hermon School that provide recreational facilities used by Gill residents.
	Support the development of multi-use and limited-use trail systems, which can be accessed from publicly owned land or private lands with permission.
	Identify recreational needs of residents of all ages and develop new programs and facilities as appropriate.
	Evaluate the needs of all municipal recreational facilities and properties.

<i>GOAL #3</i>	<i>OBJECTIVE</i>
	Ensure that the Town of Gill residents and Town officials successfully work together and with others to guide the conservation of open space and recreation resources.
	Cause the town to constitute a permanent Open Space Advisory Committee that would have the responsibility of implementing the 2011 Gill Open Space and Recreation Plan.
	Explore opportunities to partner with local, regional, and statewide land conservation organizations and agencies to better leverage limited town dollars and volunteer hours towards the conservation of priority resource areas.
	Explore opportunities for partnering with the open space committees of surrounding towns on land conservation projects that protect landscape-scale resources like contiguous forests, aquifers, core habitat areas, and trail systems.

Goals and Objectives

<i>GOAL #4</i>	<i>OBJECTIVE</i>
	Identify ways to balance open space preservation in Gill with commercial and industrial development to ensure an adequate tax base to support the Town.
	Provide support to individuals wishing to start new commercial or industrial businesses in the form of public outreach and education.
	Establish a working committee to identify suitable areas to pursue additional commercial or industrial businesses in Town.
	Identify businesses needed in town through public outreach.



Thank you for attending!