

Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan

Online Survey Results Summer 2020

Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan Community Survey Results Summer 2020

Bastrop County is currently drafting a 10 years Parks and Open Space Master Plan to guide the development of County owned parks in the unincorporated area, which include Stony Point Park, Cedar Creek Park and the Bastrop County Nature Park. As part of this an online survey was conducted to gain input from county residents during the month of May, 2020.

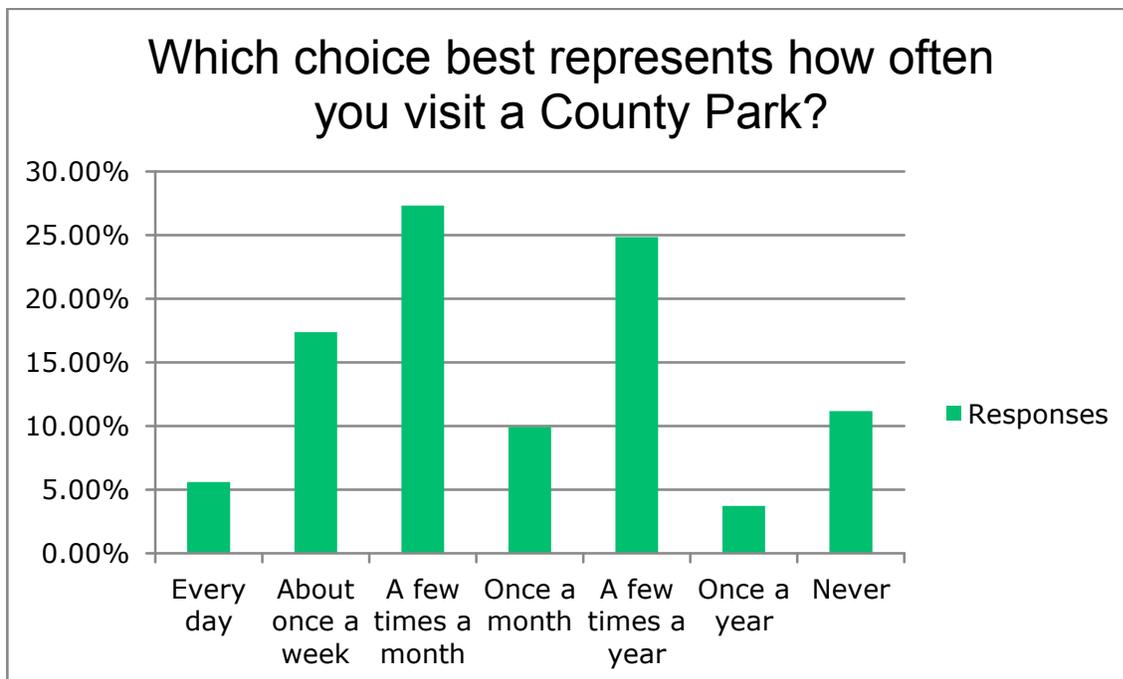
This survey comprised the initial round of public consultation for the plan. It was conducted over the course of 1 month and was available online in English and in Spanish. 161 responses were received, of which 2 were in Spanish

Unfortunately, the in-person component of the public outreach was delayed due to COVID-19, and will be replaced with digital workshops commencing Fall 2020.

The responses from the survey will be used to identify specific capital improvements for the park, as well as ideas for the long term management and maintenance of the parks, programming, and volunteering partnerships.

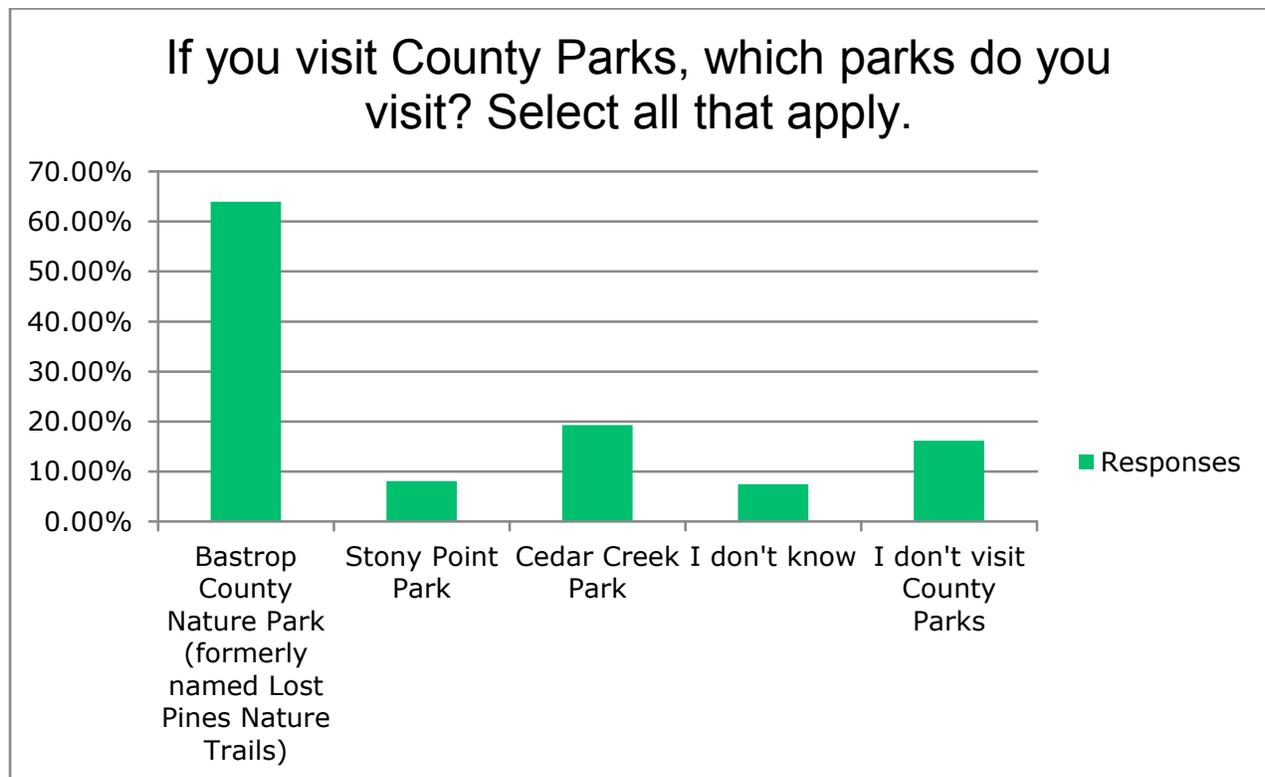
1. Which choice best represents how often you visit a County Park?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Every day	5.59%	9
About once a week	17.39%	28
A few times a month	27.33%	44
Once a month	9.94%	16
A few times a year	24.84%	40
Once a year	3.73%	6
Never	11.18%	18
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0



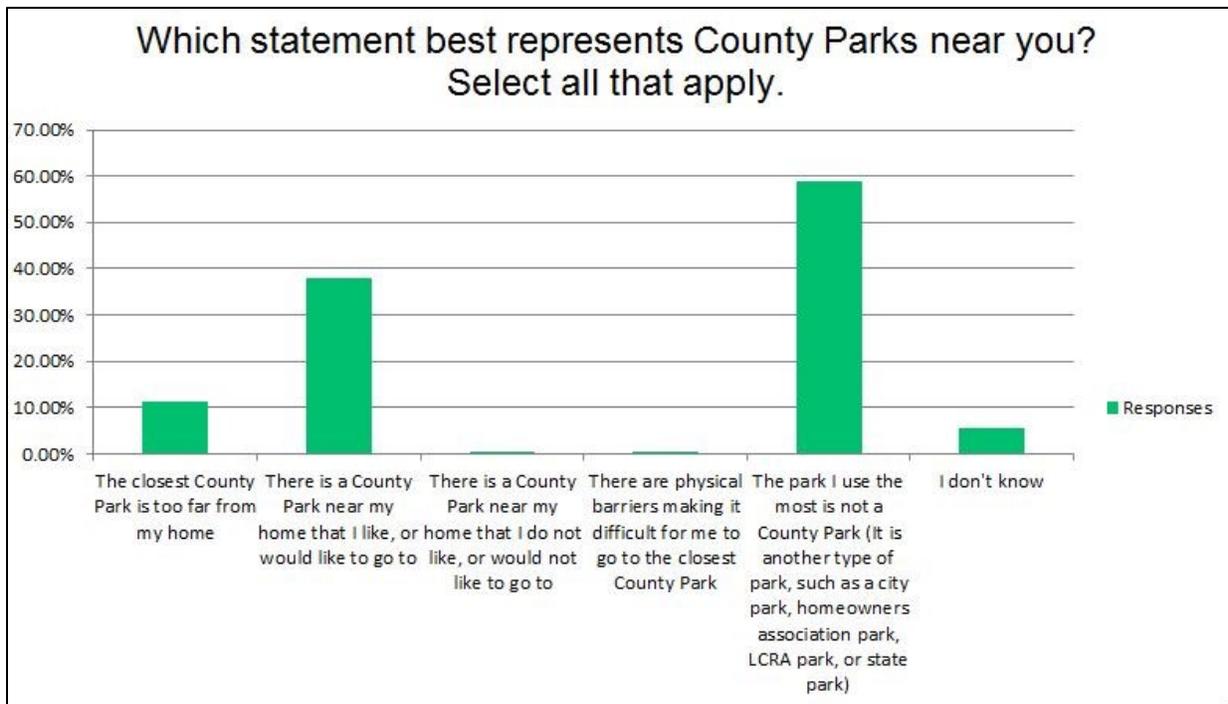
2. If you visit County Parks, which parks do you visit? Select all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Bastrop County Nature Park (formerly named Lost Pines Nature Trails)	63.98%	103
Stony Point Park	8.07%	13
Cedar Creek Park	19.25%	31
I don't know	7.45%	12
I don't visit County Parks	16.15%	26
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0



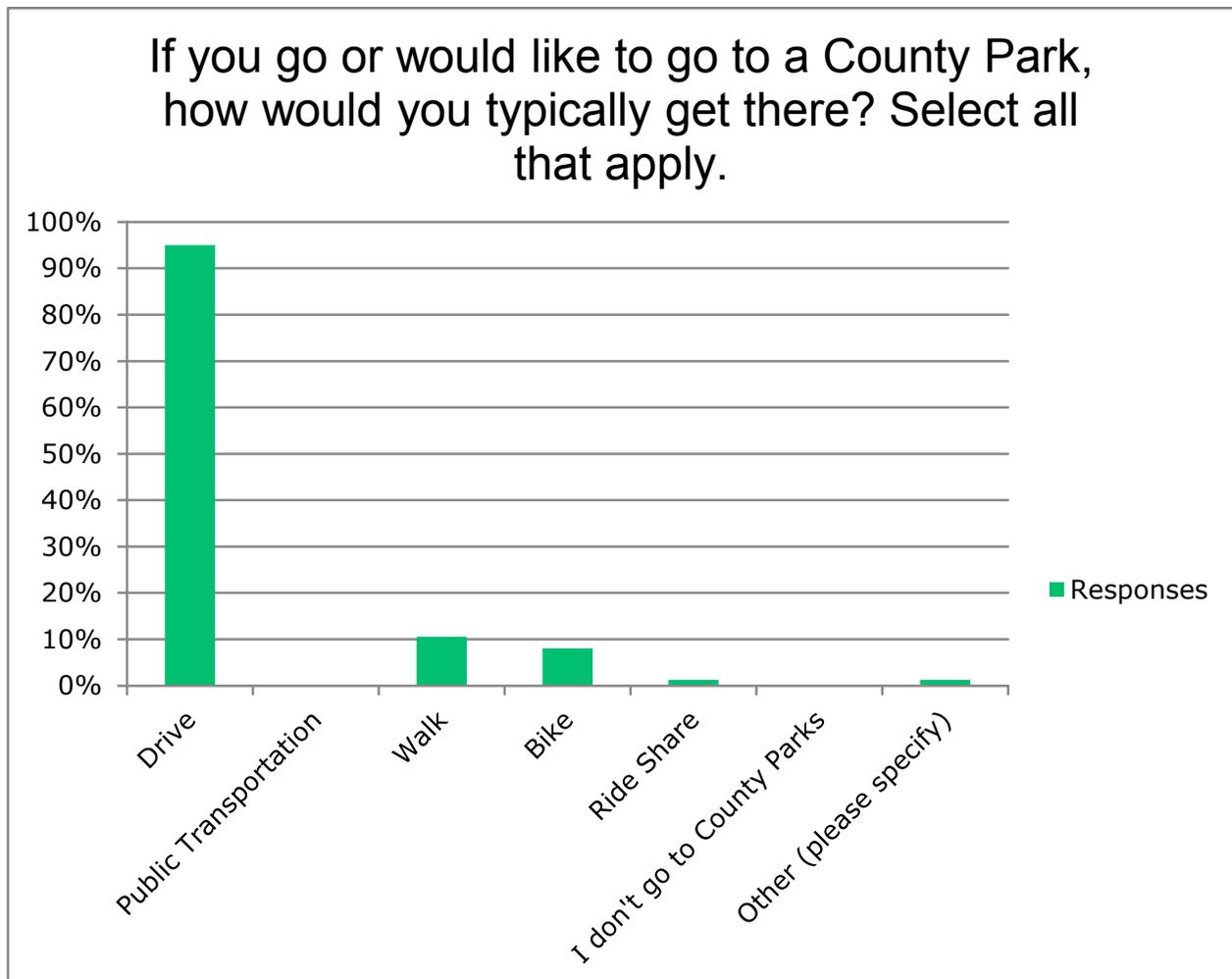
3. Which statement best represents County Parks near you? Select all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
The closest County Park is too far from my home	11.18%	18
There is a County Park near my home that I like, or would like to go to	37.89%	61
There is a County Park near my home that I do not like, or would not like to go to	0.62%	1
There are physical barriers making it difficult for me to go to the closest County Park	0.62%	1
The park I use the most is not a County Park (It is another type of park, such as a city park, homeowners association park, LCRA park, or state park)	59.01%	95
I don't know	5.59%	9
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0



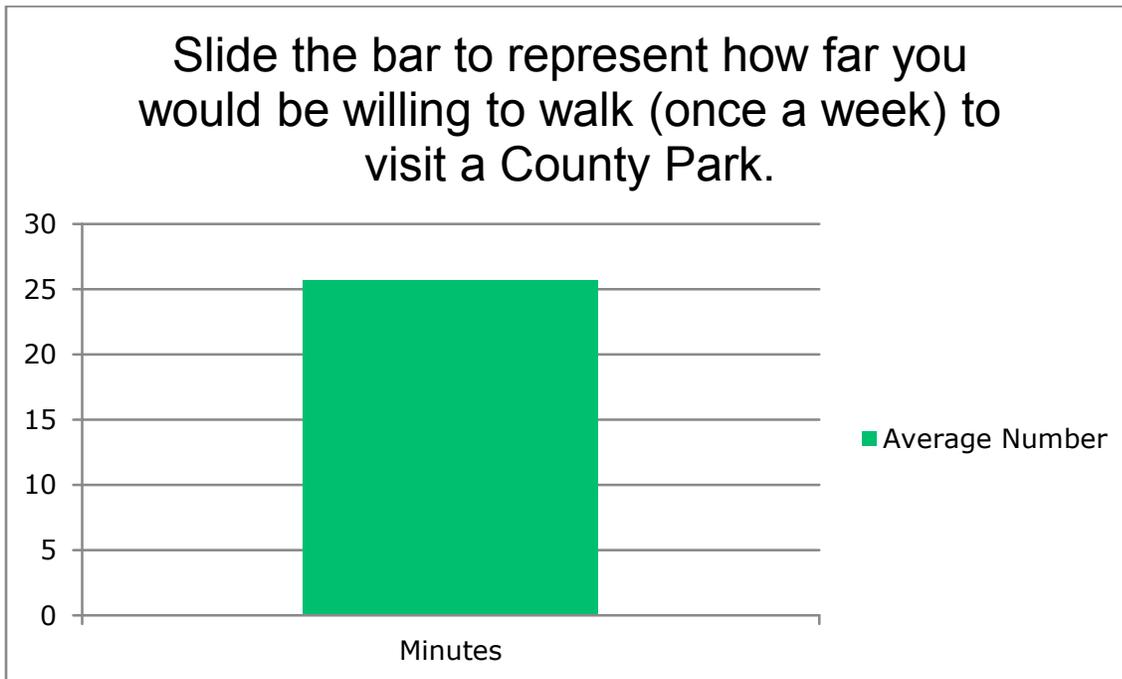
4. If you go or would like to go to a County Park, how would you typically get there? Select all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Drive	95.03%	153
Public Transportation	0.00%	0
Walk	10.56%	17
Bike	8.07%	13
Ride Share	1.24%	2
I don't go to County Parks	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	1.24%	2
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0



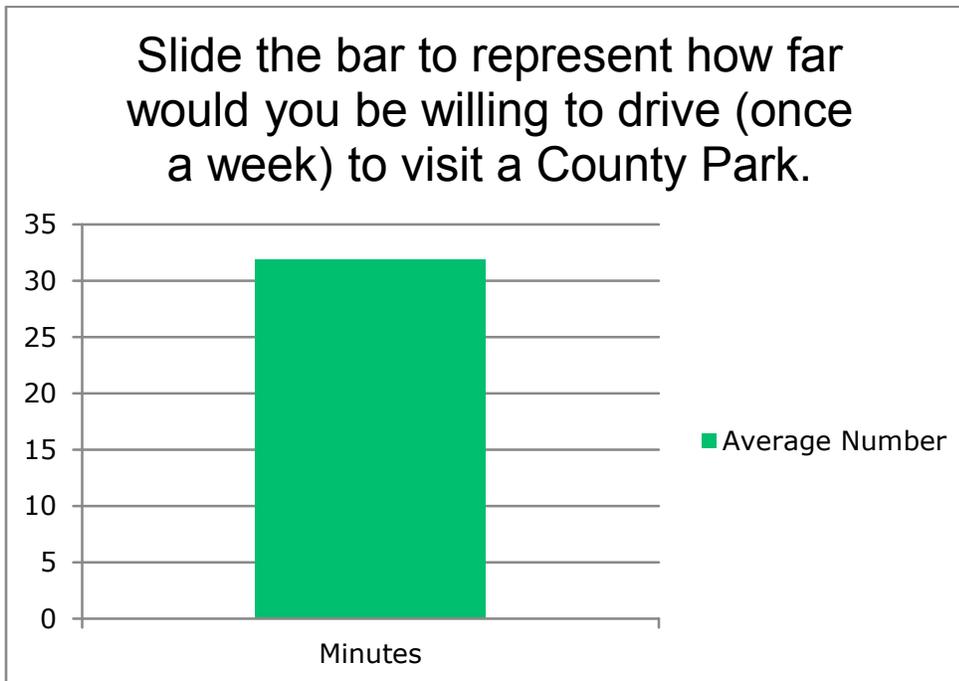
5. Slide the bar to represent how far you would be willing to walk (once a week) to visit a County Park.

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses	
Minutes	25.7012987	3958	100.00%	154
			Answered	154
			Skipped	7



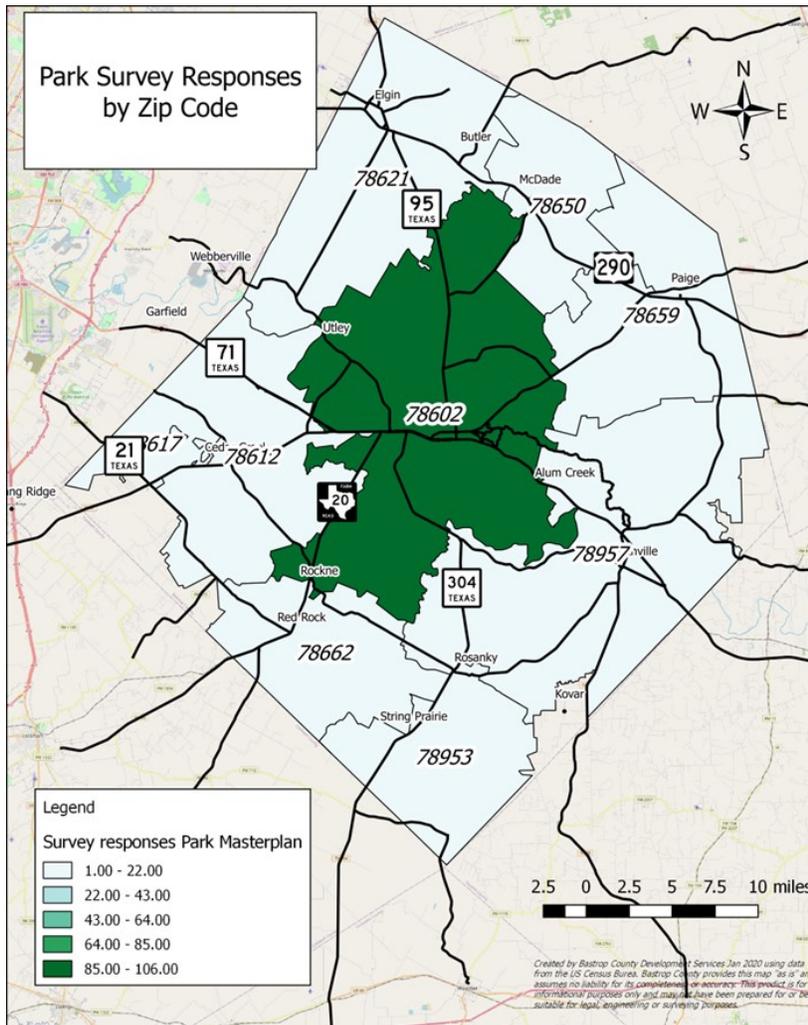
6. Slide the bar to represent how far would you be willing to drive (once a week) to visit a County Park.

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses	
Minutes	31.85	5096	100.00%	160
			Answered	160
			Skipped	1



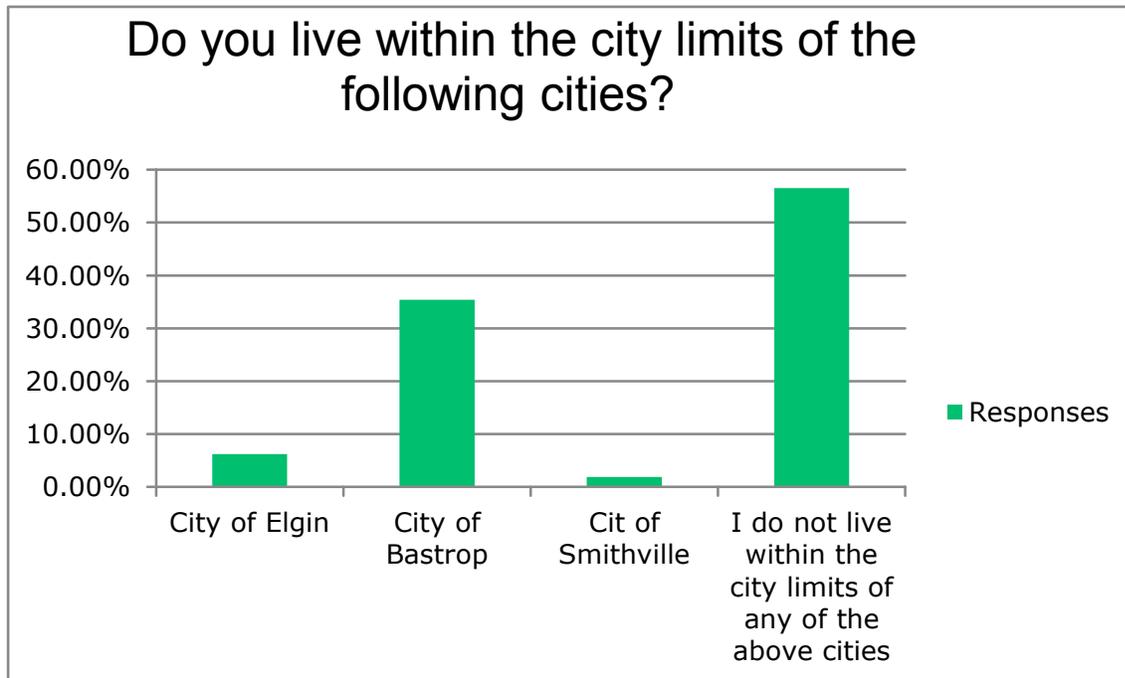
7. What is your zip code?

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
Bastrop	78602	106	66.7%
Cedar Creek	78612	14	8.8%
Elgin	78621	13	8.2%
Smithville	78957	8	5.0%
Red Rock	78662	6	3.8%
Paige	78659	5	3.1%
Del Valle	78617	4	2.5%
Rosanky	78953	1	0.6%
McDade	78650	1	0.6%
Hutto	78634	1	0.6%
		159	100%



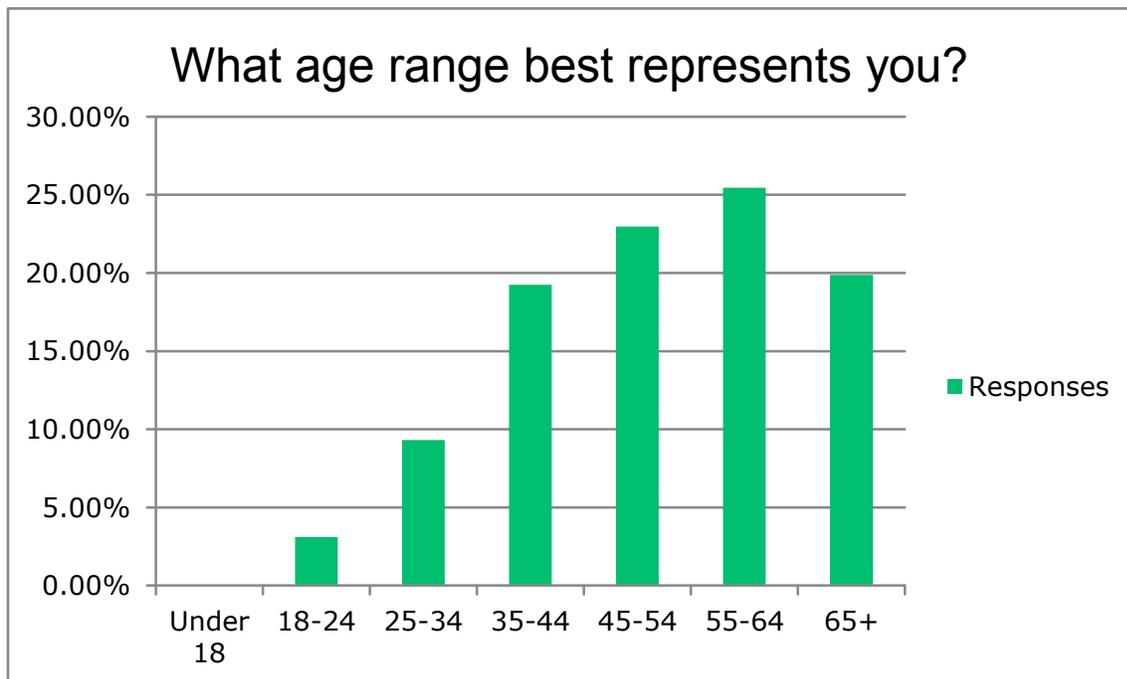
8. Do you live within the city limits of the following cities?

Answer Choices	Responses	
City of Elgin	6.21%	10
City of Bastrop	35.40%	57
Cit of Smithville	1.86%	3
I do not live within the city limits of any of the above cities	56.52%	91
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0



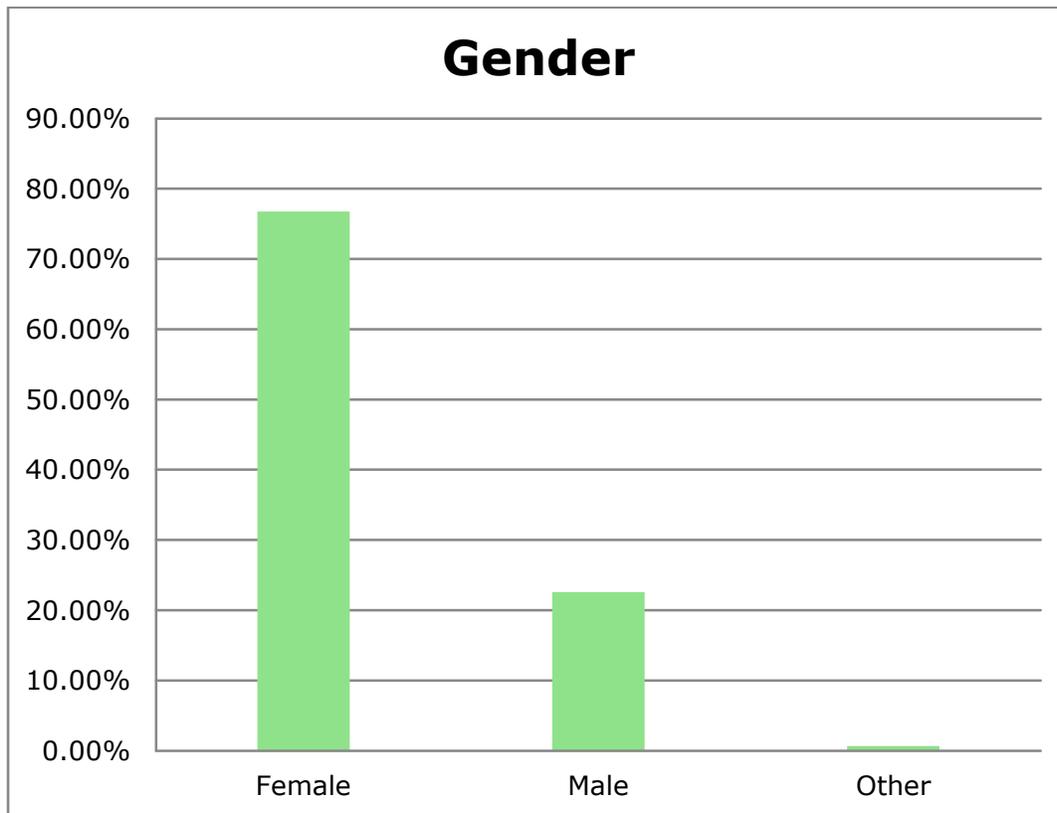
9. What age range best represents you?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	3.11%	5
25-34	9.32%	15
35-44	19.25%	31
45-54	22.98%	37
55-64	25.47%	41
65+	19.88%	32
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0



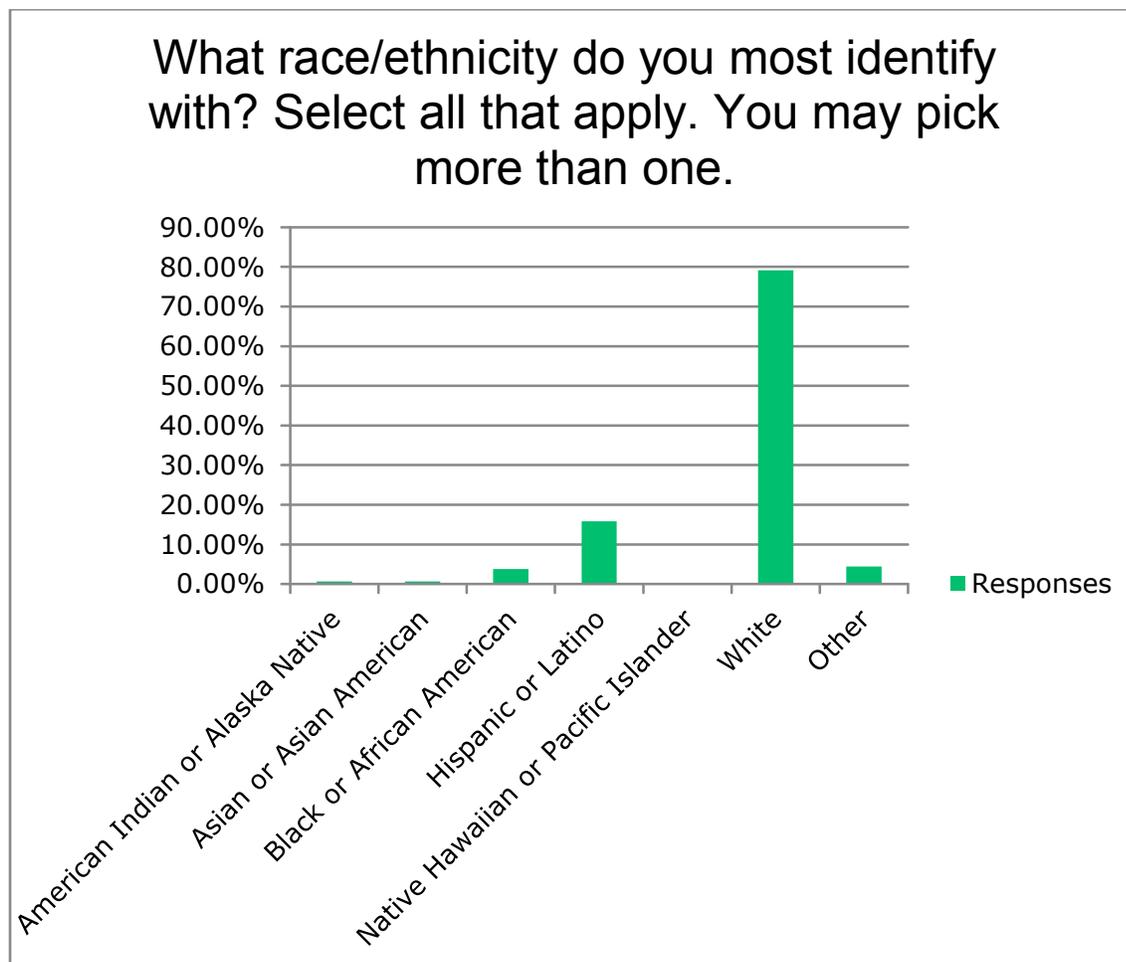
10. What is your gender?

Female	Male	Other	Total
76.77%	22.58%	0.65%	
119	35	1	155
Answered	156		
Skipped	5		



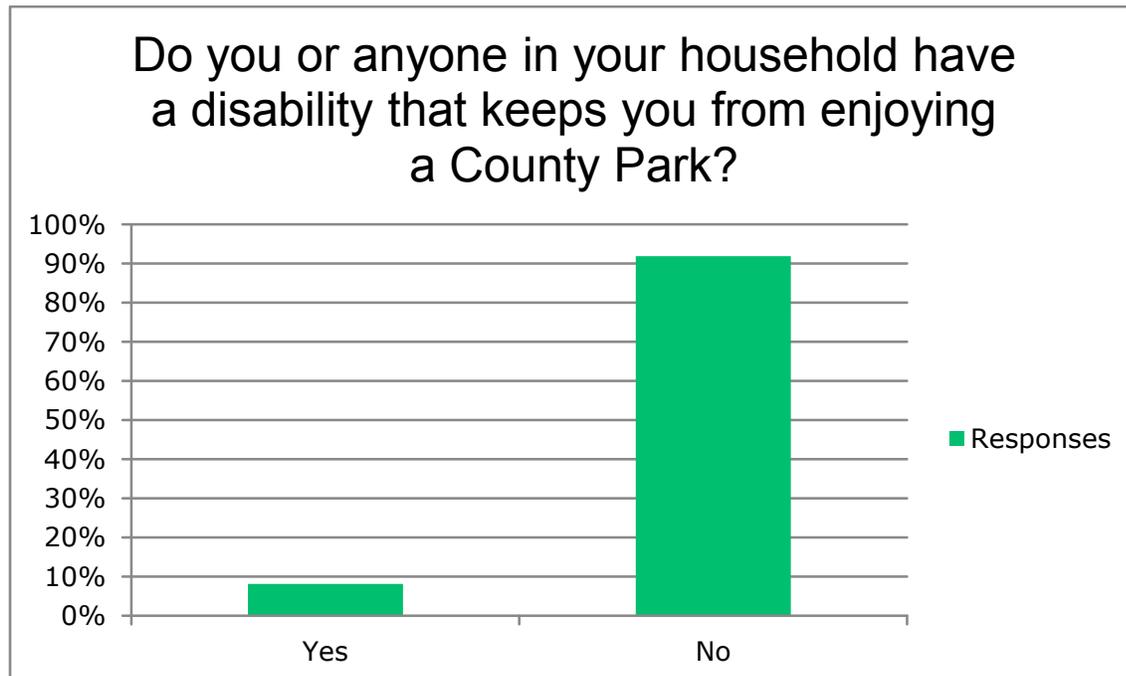
11. What race/ethnicity do you most identify with? Select all that apply. You may pick more than one.

Answer Choices	Responses	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.63%	1
Asian or Asian American	0.63%	1
Black or African American	3.80%	6
Hispanic or Latino	15.82%	25
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
White	79.11%	125
Other	4.43%	7
	Answered	158
	Skipped	3



12. Do you or anyone in your household have a disability that keeps you from enjoying a County Park?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	8.13%	13
No	91.88%	147
If yes, please specify		6
	Answered	160
	Skipped	1



Specific answers

- Not a disability, but we have young children who do not walk yet
- I have to use a walker
- I use a cane to walk
- Surgery on my wife's disability
- Physical – can only use paved or pretty even trails
- Amputation

13. If amenities such as sidewalks were available, would you consider walking to a County Park from your home?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	73.13%	117
No	26.88%	43
	Answered	160
	Skipped	1



**14. Do any of these things prevent you from going to County Parks?
Select all that apply.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Biting insects	18.92%	28
Too hot	29.73%	44
Too much sun	20.27%	30
Not physically safe	14.19%	21
Lack of transportation	0.68%	1
Too far away	29.73%	44
Lack of time	18.24%	27
Lack of amenities	24.32%	36
I don't need to go to a County Park because I am already served by other types of parks near me (such as a city park, homeowners association park, LCRA Park or a state park)	27.70%	41
Other (please specify)	11.49%	17
	Answered	148
	Skipped	13

Specific answers

- You have to pay to enter
- The County Judge closing the parks
- Since Tahitian have (*given the park to the?*) county too many drug paraphernalia and booze litter left along river
- Too much poison ivy
- None of the above we love our park
- Snakes and critters
- The gates are not always opened, especially on weekends. Don't know why there are gates. City and State parks do not have gates but still have operating hours
- Too sterile/ cleared of trees and vegetation; not enough natural habitat
- Too isolated
- Nothing preventing me from going
- I go to my county park. Though I would like other amenities
- Trails not maintained well
- No outdoor exercise equipment for adults
- Poison Ivy or Oak
- Sometimes CC park is mowed enough especially on the wooded trails and I'm afraid of snakes. Trails need mowing more often. The other Bastrop parks are too far away.
- No sidewalks to our closest park
- Scary people

15. What are your favorite things about the County Parks? Select all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Trails	77.50%	124
Playgrounds	28.13%	45
Trees	70.00%	112
Birds	54.38%	87
Benches	44.38%	71
Picnic tables	40.63%	65
Sports courts	15.00%	24
Peacefulness	61.88%	99
Creeks/river access	61.88%	99
Meeting with others	21.25%	34
Pavilion space	21.88%	35
Fresh air	68.75%	110
Ball fields	10.63%	17
Not applicable	6.88%	11
Other (please specify)	8.75%	14
	Answered	160
	Skipped	1

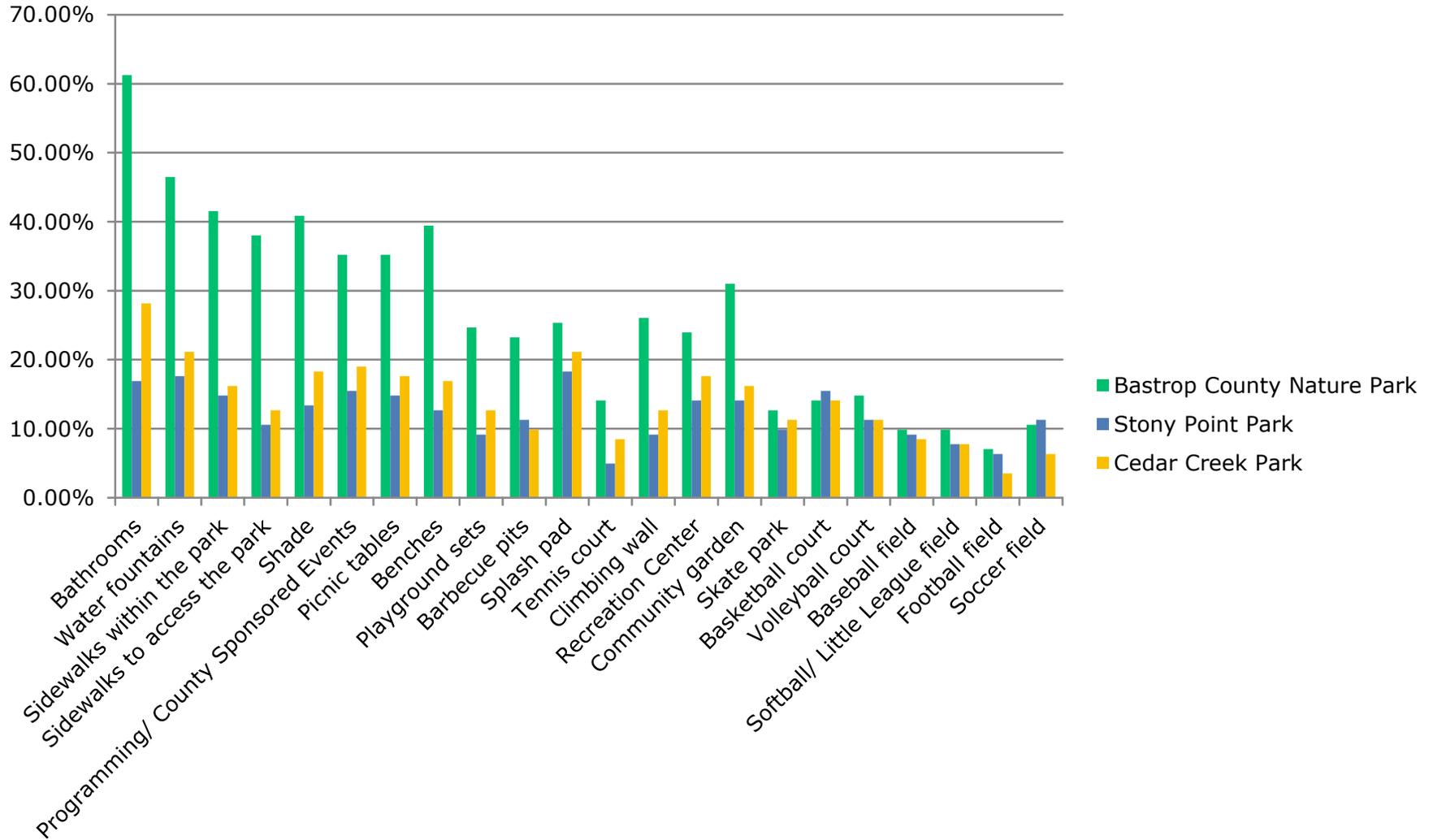
Specific answers

- Fishing
- Safe
- Swimming pools
- Nature kept natural as much as possible
- Restrooms
- Biking, cabins with A/C
- Pet friendly
- Native habitat
- The only County park I visit is the Nature Park and I like it over the other two parks because it is still wild – not polished like a city park.
- Other wildlife (deer, turtles)
- Need playground equipment, picnic tables
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Fish

16. Please use the matrix below to identify things you would like to see more of at each of the County Parks you go to. Only answer for the County Parks relevant to you. Select all that apply.

	Bastrop County Nature Park		Stony Point Park		Cedar Creek Park		Total
Bathrooms	61.27%	87	16.90%	24	28.17%	40	112
Water fountains	46.48%	66	17.61%	25	21.13%	30	88
Sidewalks within the park	41.55%	59	14.79%	21	16.20%	23	71
Sidewalks to access the park	38.03%	54	10.56%	15	12.68%	18	65
Shade	40.85%	58	13.38%	19	18.31%	26	78
Programming/ County Sponsored Events	35.21%	50	15.49%	22	19.01%	27	65
Picnic tables	35.21%	50	14.79%	21	17.61%	25	64
Benches	39.44%	56	12.68%	18	16.90%	24	69
Playground sets	24.65%	35	9.15%	13	12.68%	18	47
Barbecue pits	23.24%	33	11.27%	16	9.86%	14	44
Splash pad	25.35%	36	18.31%	26	21.13%	30	59
Tennis court	14.08%	20	4.93%	7	8.45%	12	30
Climbing wall	26.06%	37	9.15%	13	12.68%	18	50
Recreation Center	23.94%	34	14.08%	20	17.61%	25	52
Community garden	30.99%	44	14.08%	20	16.20%	23	57
Skate park	12.68%	18	9.86%	14	11.27%	16	33
Basketball court	14.08%	20	15.49%	22	14.08%	20	40
Volleyball court	14.79%	21	11.27%	16	11.27%	16	37
Baseball field	9.86%	14	9.15%	13	8.45%	12	26
Softball/ Little League field	9.86%	14	7.75%	11	7.75%	11	27
Football field	7.04%	10	6.34%	9	3.52%	5	20
Soccer field	10.56%	15	11.27%	16	6.34%	9	27
Other or notes:							27
						Answered	142
						Skipped	19

Please use the matrix below to identify things you would like to see more of at each of the County Parks you go to. Only answer for the County Parks relevant to you. Select all that apply.



Specific answers to question 16

- More fun for kids all ages
- Fishing ponds
- More/longer trails to hike/run.
- Peaceful and quiet running, biking and kayaking park.
- Regular Police patrols!! Both in vehicle and foot or bicycle patrols. Park not safe
- More dog friendly amenities would be nice. I primarily use the parks to exercise my dogs. Especially when the city dog park is still closed by the local tyrants.
- Year round swimming pool.
- It's a "nature" park. So maybe more nature and less amenities
- Please don't mess up bastrop nature park with any concrete structures or playgrounds. Kids can. Learn about nature from nature. Don't junk it up please!!! Nothing needed but rest room and drinking fountain. Occasional benches. Period.
- They can find playgrounds where they can scream and jump around in other areas. You mess this one up and it's gone forever. Please don't. "
- I like for kids to have some activities but I love the peacefulness
- Small stocked fishing lake would be awesome
- Educational signage about the wildlife and nature.
- Off leash pet area.
- Programming.
- nature related displays, habitat restoration areas, nature education
- Butterfly garden
- The current playground set is for mainly toddlers
- I would use the park for walking, nature watching, not other recreation.
- I don't know which park is which
- Bastrop County Nature Park is just fine the way it is. Adding all those other things would take the nature out of the nature park and make it too much like a city park.
- Butterfly or pollinator garden area(s), bluebird houses, other nest boxes.
- Increase features at Cedar Creek.
- It would be great to create a group to Park Clean Up... some rude people litter, however we can work together to keep things clean!
- The homeless invading the park asking for things
- We love our BCNP just as it is
- Volleyball field w/o sand as it gets too hot to use in summer
- Addt'l trails. Current one is only 1/3 mile

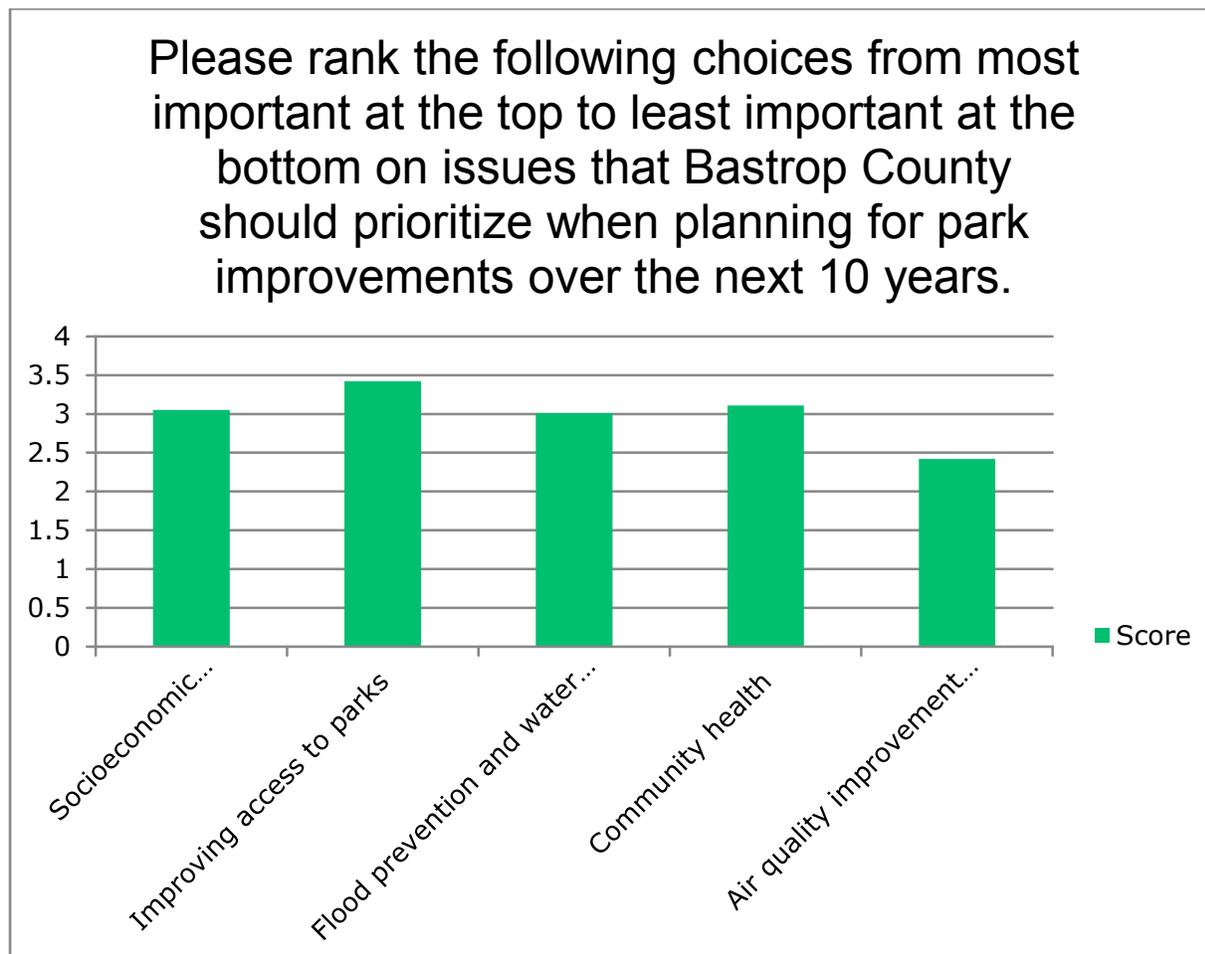
17. If more County sponsored events and programming were created, what kind of events would interest you? Select all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Small concerts	70.00%	105
Food events	62.00%	93
Kids events	44.00%	66
Sports events	20.00%	30
Senior events	34.67%	52
Farmers market	62.67%	94
Other (please specify)	13.33%	20
	Answered	150
	Skipped	11



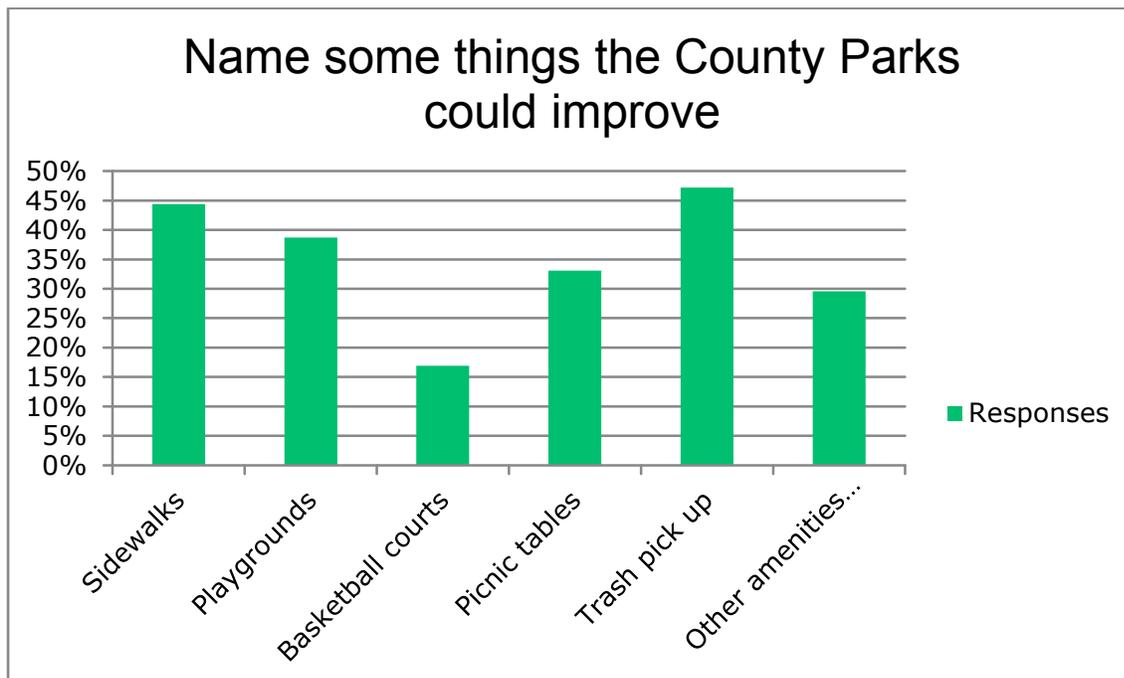
18. Please rank the following choices from most important at the top to least important at the bottom on issues that Bastrop County should prioritize when planning for park improvements

	Total	Score
Socioeconomic vulnerability- prioritize economically and social disadvantaged areas. E.g. ethnic minorities, low income, etc.	151	3.05
Improving access to parks	149	3.42
Flood prevention and water quality improvement	150	3.01
Community health	146	3.11
Air quality improvement and "heat-island" prevention	153	2.42
	Answered	157
	Skipped	4



19. Name some things the County could improve.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Sidewalks	44.37%	63
Playgrounds	38.73%	55
Basketball courts	16.90%	24
Picnic tables	33.10%	47
Trash pick up	47.18%	67
Other amenities (please specify)	29.58%	42
	Answered	142
	Skipped	19



Specific responses

- Fishing ponds
- Build Recreational Center
- Safety
- Safety
- Water on trails
- Swimming pool
- Don't use anything but nature park. Never would. Don't want to be around children unless they are involved in nature and off the plastic junk

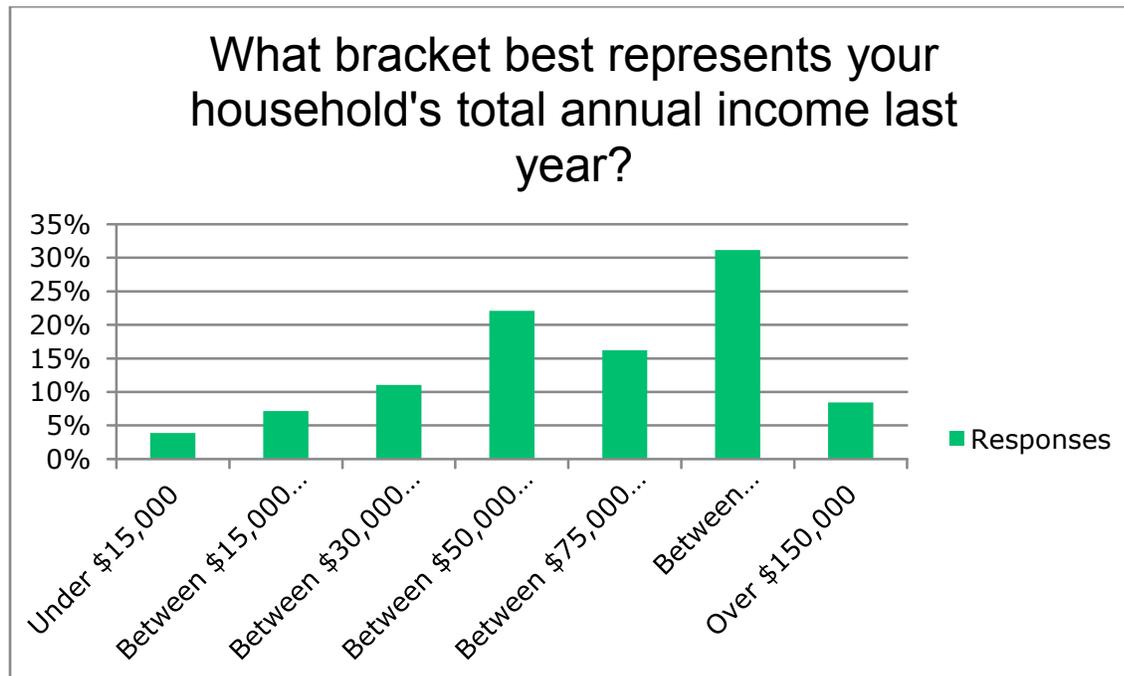
- Small stocked fishing pond with dock
- N/a
- Patrolling by law enforcement
- restrooms
- More of both
- Restrooms
- Swimming pools
- Pickle ball courts
- Opening gates
- Trails
- Programming
- Native habitat - it can be incorporated into the design if it's a typical park setting (sterile, few trees, etc.)
- Bathrooms and add water play area for children. The closest one is the small located in Fisherman's park.
- Security/preventing homeless populations
- trail and parking lot improvements
- Soccer fields
- Law enforcement patrol
- Restrooms, potable water
- Bastrop County Nature Park still has openings in traffic barriers

where vehicles are still getting down on the beach

- Parking
- Don't know as I've never been to one
- Lighting
- Native plants and tree identification as a learning tool.
- Irrigation
- more parks
- Another playground would be good
- pool
- Parking and Safety
- Adding outdoor exercise equipment for adults
- At BCNP - remove some flood debris and create pocket meadows to diversity habitat.
- Trails
- would love to have tennis courts
- Longer trails w/ safe access to creek
- Sports courts, lighting, keeping the homeless from sleeping or loitering
- BATHROOMS

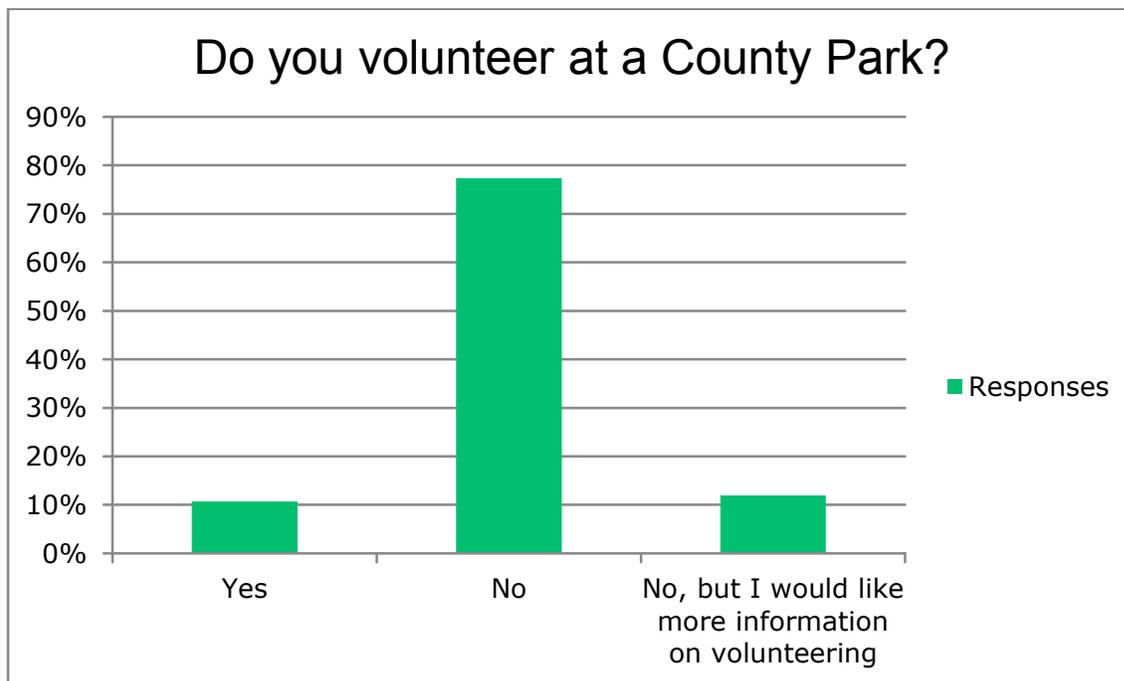
20. What bracket best represents your household's total annual income last year?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under \$15,000	3.90%	6
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	7.14%	11
Between \$30,000 and \$49,999	11.04%	17
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	22.08%	34
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	16.23%	25
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000	31.17%	48
Over \$150,000	8.44%	13
	Answered	154
	Skipped	7



21. Do you volunteer at a County Park?

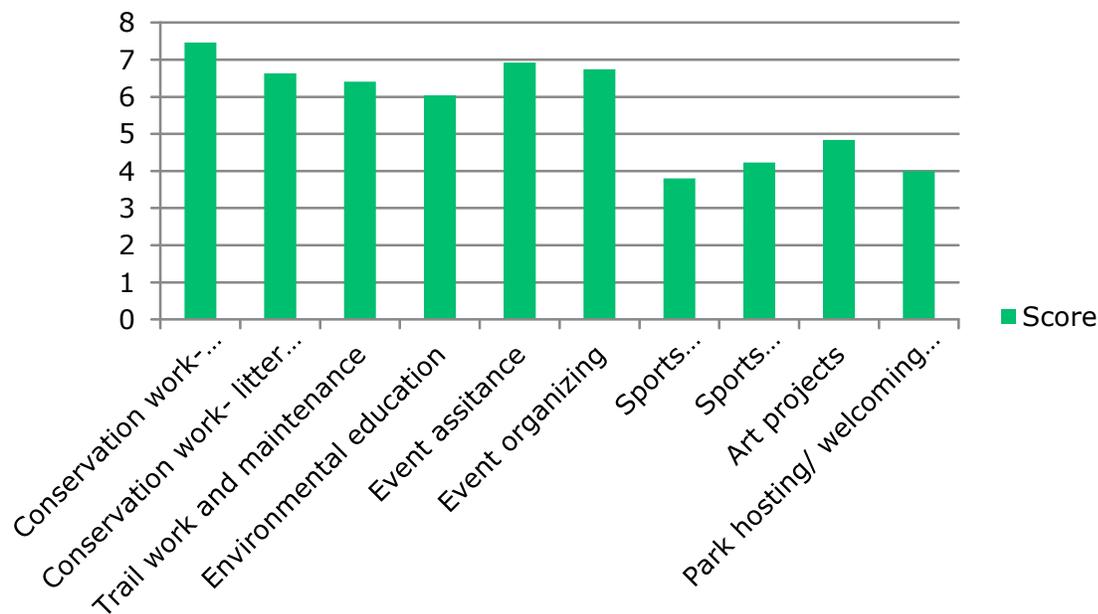
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	10.69%	17
No	77.36%	123
No, but I would like more information on volunteering	11.95%	19
	Answered	159
	Skipped	2



22. (Volunteering section) Please rank the following work from what you are most interested in at the top to what you are least interested in at the bottom.

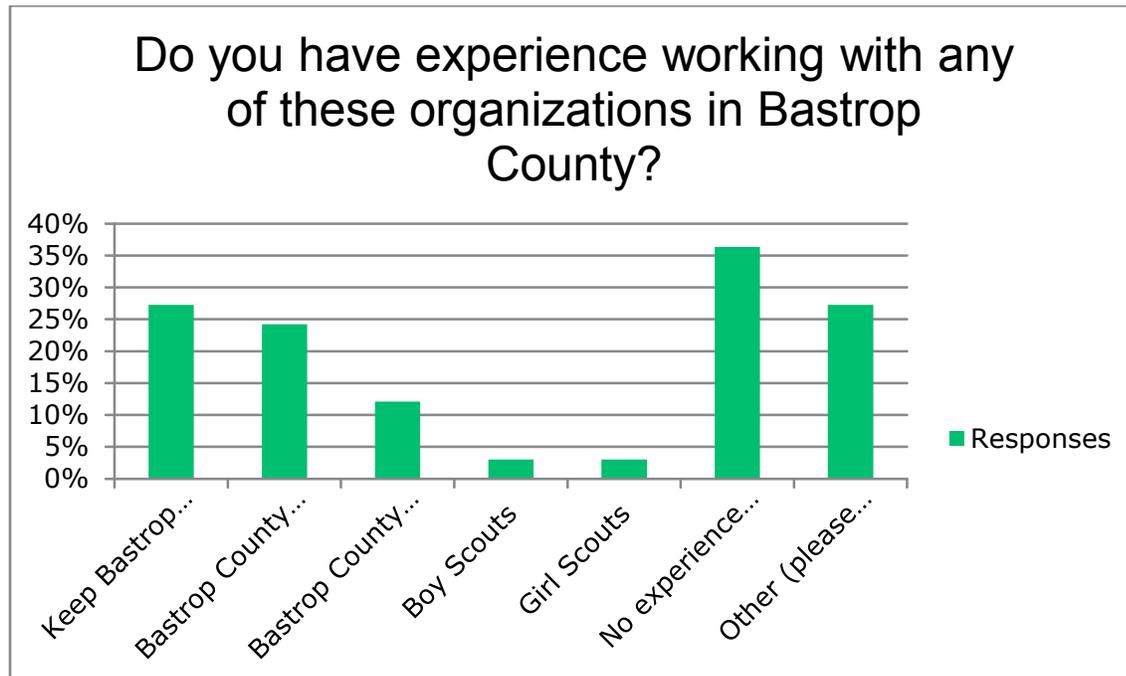
	Total	Score
Conservation work- gardening	29	7.46
Conservation work- litter pick up/ recycling	28	6.63
Trail work and maintenance	30	6.41
Environmental education	28	6.04
Event assistance	26	6.92
Event organizing	28	6.74
Sports coaching/refereeing- adults	26	3.8
Sports coaching/refereeing- youth	27	4.23
Art projects	26	4.84
Park hosting/ welcoming and assisting the public	28	4
	Answered	31
	Skipped	130

Please rank the following work from what you are most interested in at the top to what you are least interested in at the bottom.



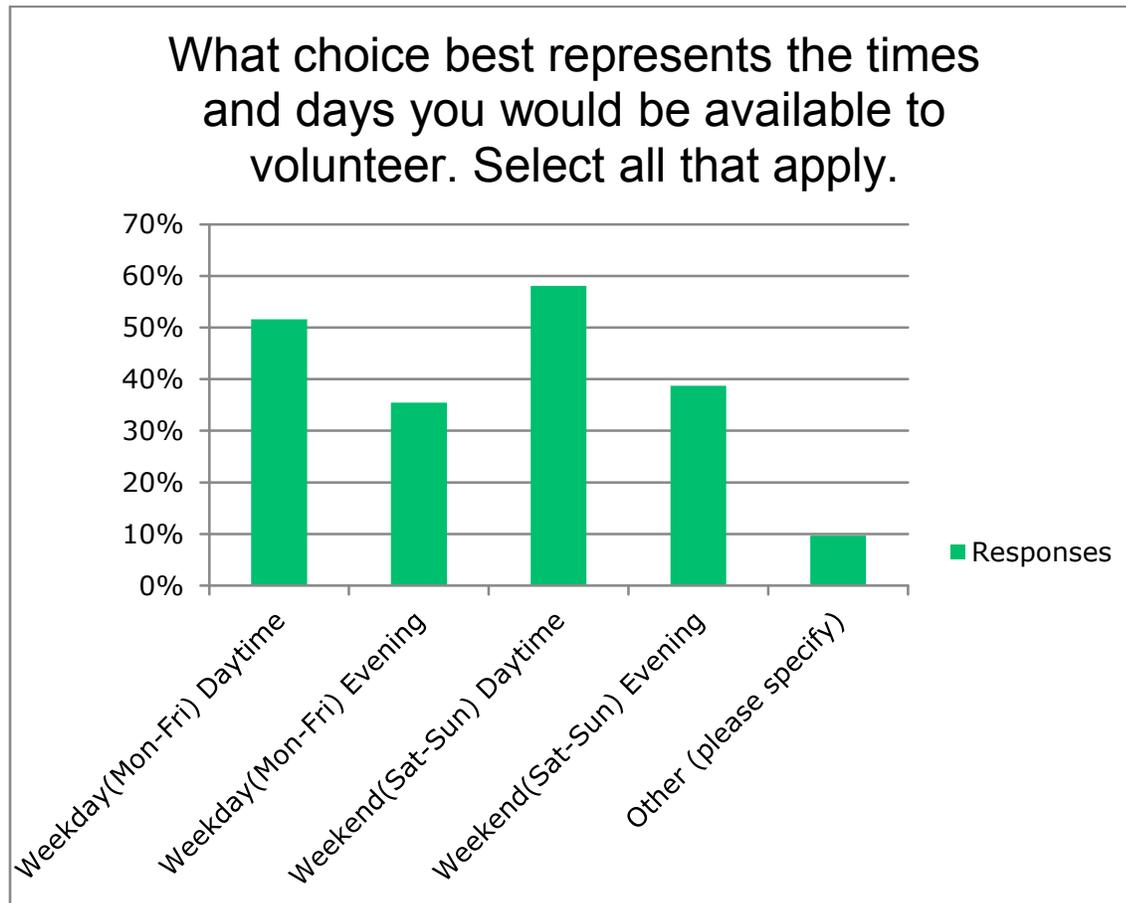
23. Do you have experience working with any of these organizations in Bastrop County?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Keep Bastrop County Beautiful	27.27%	9
Bastrop County Master Naturalists	24.24%	8
Bastrop County Master Gardeners	12.12%	4
Boy Scouts	3.03%	1
Girl Scouts	3.03%	1
No experience with any Bastrop County volunteering	36.36%	12
Other (please specify)	27.27%	9
	Answered	33
	Skipped	128



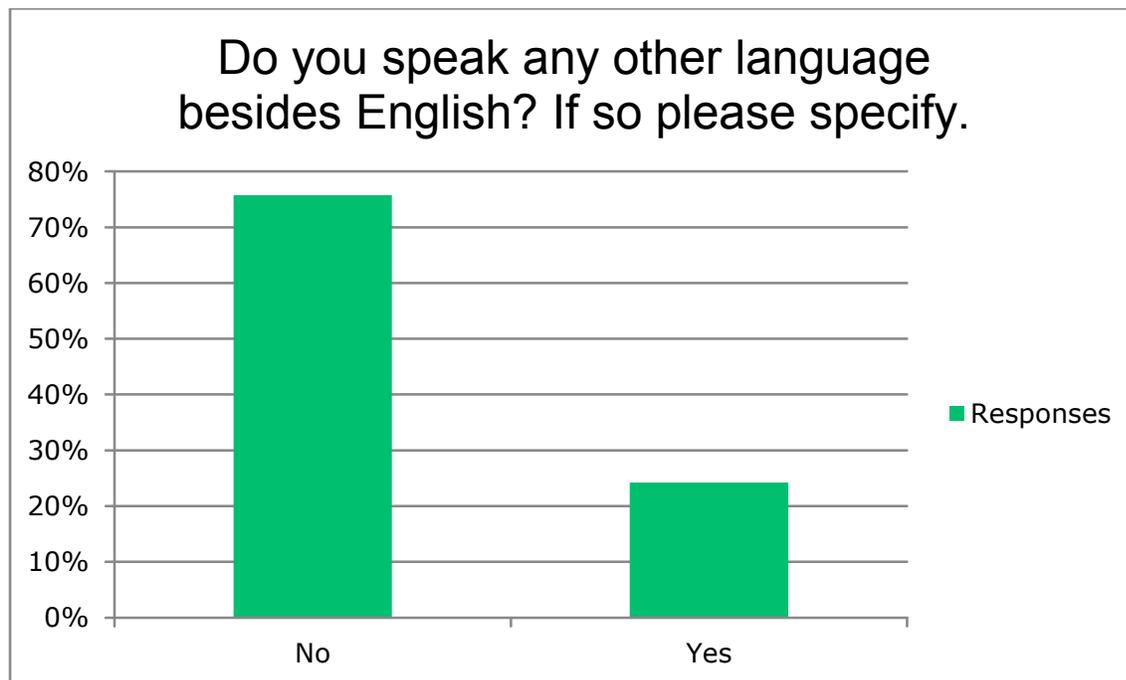
24. What choice best represents the times and days you would be available to volunteer. Select all that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Weekday(Mon-Fri) Daytime	51.61%	16
Weekday(Mon-Fri) Evening	35.48%	11
Weekend(Sat-Sun) Daytime	58.06%	18
Weekend(Sat-Sun) Evening	38.71%	12
Other (please specify)	9.68%	3
	Answered	31
	Skipped	130



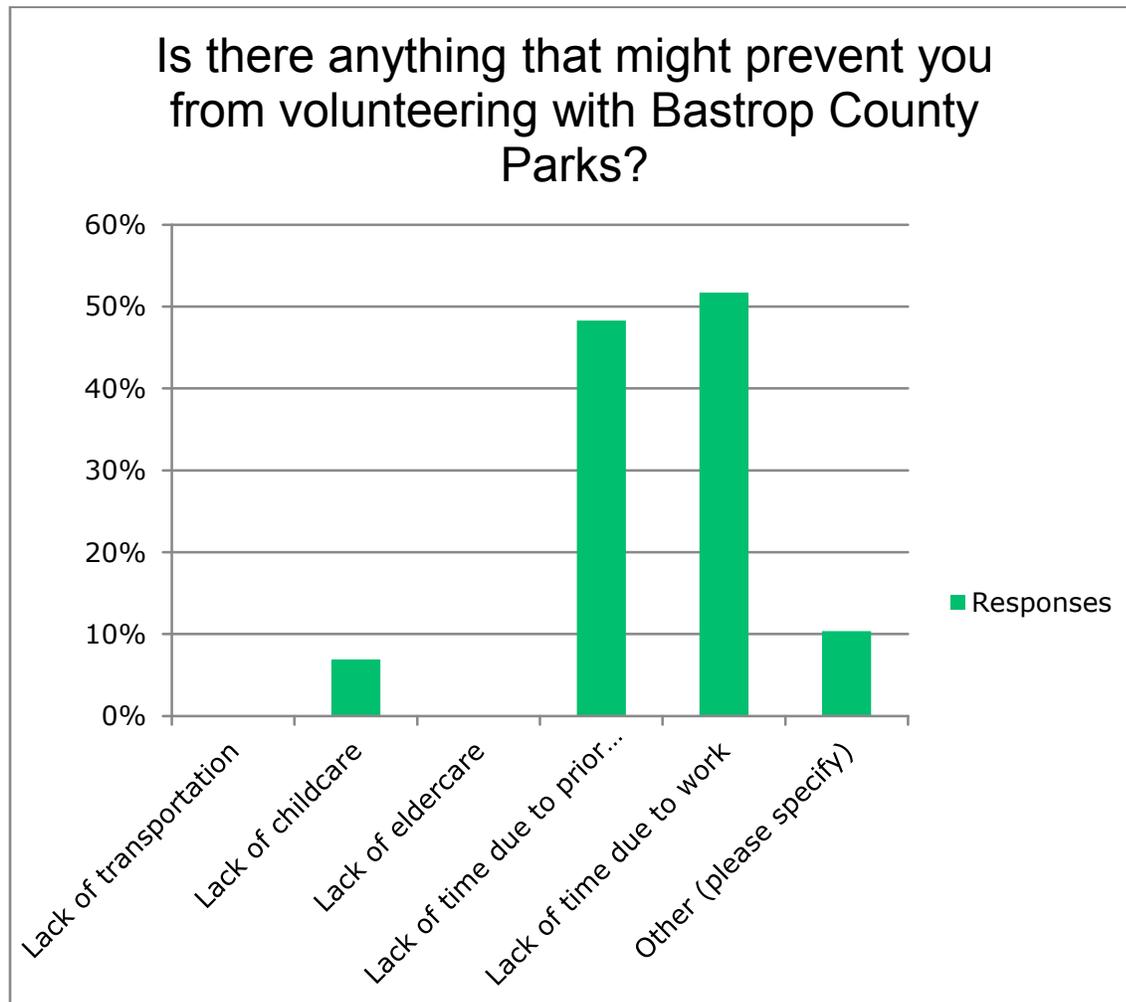
25. Do you speak any other language besides English? If so please specify.

Answer Choices	Responses	
No	75.76%	25
Yes	24.24%	8
(please specify)		6
	Answered	33
	Skipped	128



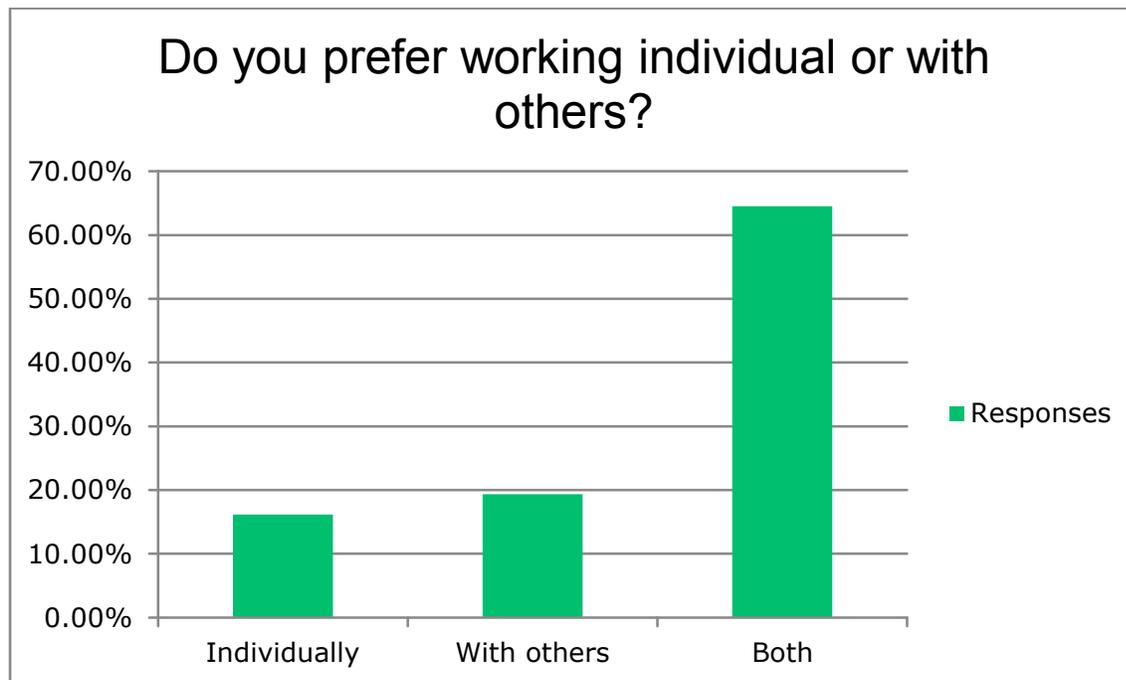
26. Is there anything that might prevent you from volunteering with Bastrop County Parks?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Lack of transportation	0.00%	0
Lack of childcare	6.90%	2
Lack of eldercare	0.00%	0
Lack of time due to prior commitments	48.28%	14
Lack of time due to work	51.72%	15
Other (please specify)	10.34%	3
	Answered	29
	Skipped	132



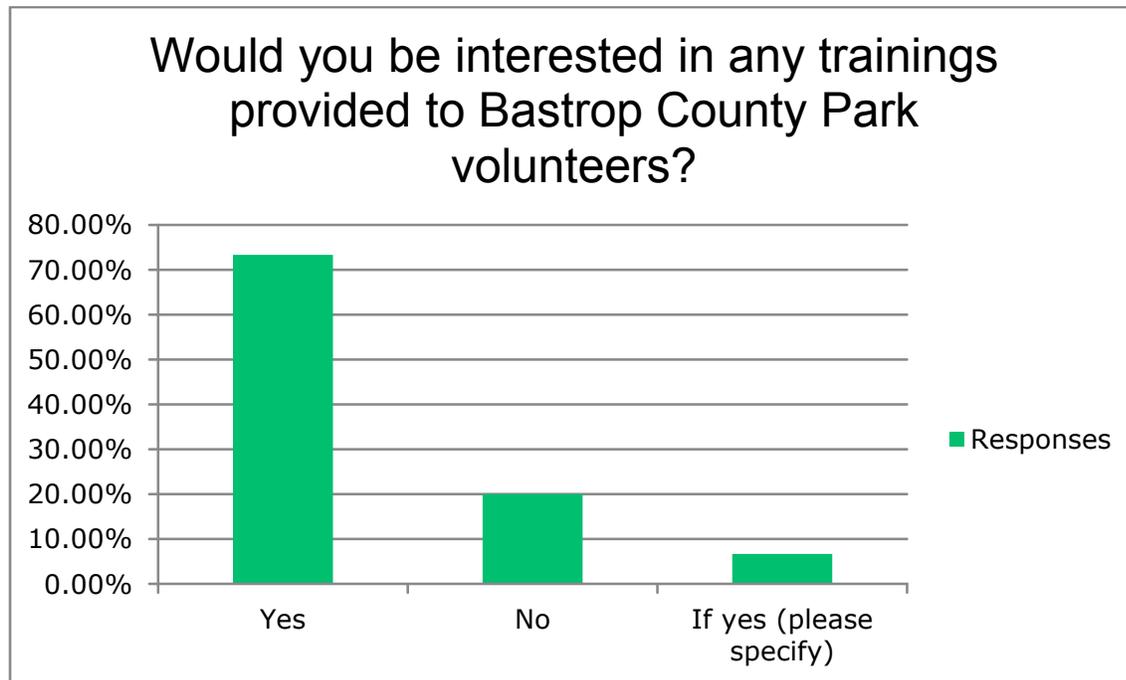
27. Do you prefer working individually or with others?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Individually	16.13%	5
With others	19.35%	6
Both	64.52%	20
	Answered	31
	Skipped	130



28. Would you be interested in any trainings provided to Bastrop County Park volunteers?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	73.33%	22
No	20.00%	6
If yes (please specify)	6.67%	2
	Answered	30
	Skipped	131



Specific responses

- Trail maintenance
- Leading nature or bird hikes, any other training

29. Do you have any feedback or know of additional resources that Bastrop County Parks should be aware of to run a successful volunteer program?

- Dedicated staff
- More fun
- Community badly needs understanding of these aged trees as a resource needing protected. 400 year old trees can be killed with improper use of chemicals. (Weeds and feed on lawns around post oaks for instance, as post packs are technically weeds)
- Appreciation for the natural habitats to protect it at home and in park usage.
- Contact the Lost Pines Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists
- I know the Master Naturalists do a lot of volunteering. Maybe Master Gardeners do, too? Also Bastrop County Cares. Reaching out to the high schools, there might be a good number of students that would be interested in volunteer projects.
- The County should identify and interface with organizations/groups that have service requirements, including some high schools. Getting volunteers and keeping them active requires motivation, which in turn requires meaningful engagement (making a difference on something that matters). Good organization, adequate support (training, clear tasks/roles, engaging leadership), structure/with flexibility and feedback/recognition help.