



# Skippack Township Comprehensive Plan **Public Engagement Update**

December 11, 2024  
Jamie Magaziner, AICP

# Components of Public Engagement Process

## Stakeholder Group Meetings

- Parks and Recreation
- Community Facilities
- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Transportation and Mobility

## Community Events

- Attendance and outreach at 2 community events
- Community Day on September 15<sup>th</sup>
- Skippack Days on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

## Community Survey

- Nearly 600 completed surveys so far
- Closing this month

# Tonight's Presentation



STAKEHOLDER AND  
COMMUNITY MEETINGS



COMMUNITY SURVEY



NEXT STEPS

# Input from Stakeholder Meetings and Community Events



# Favorite thing about Skippack





# Natural & Cultural Resources

# Natural Resources

Woodlands, streams, and open space are major assets

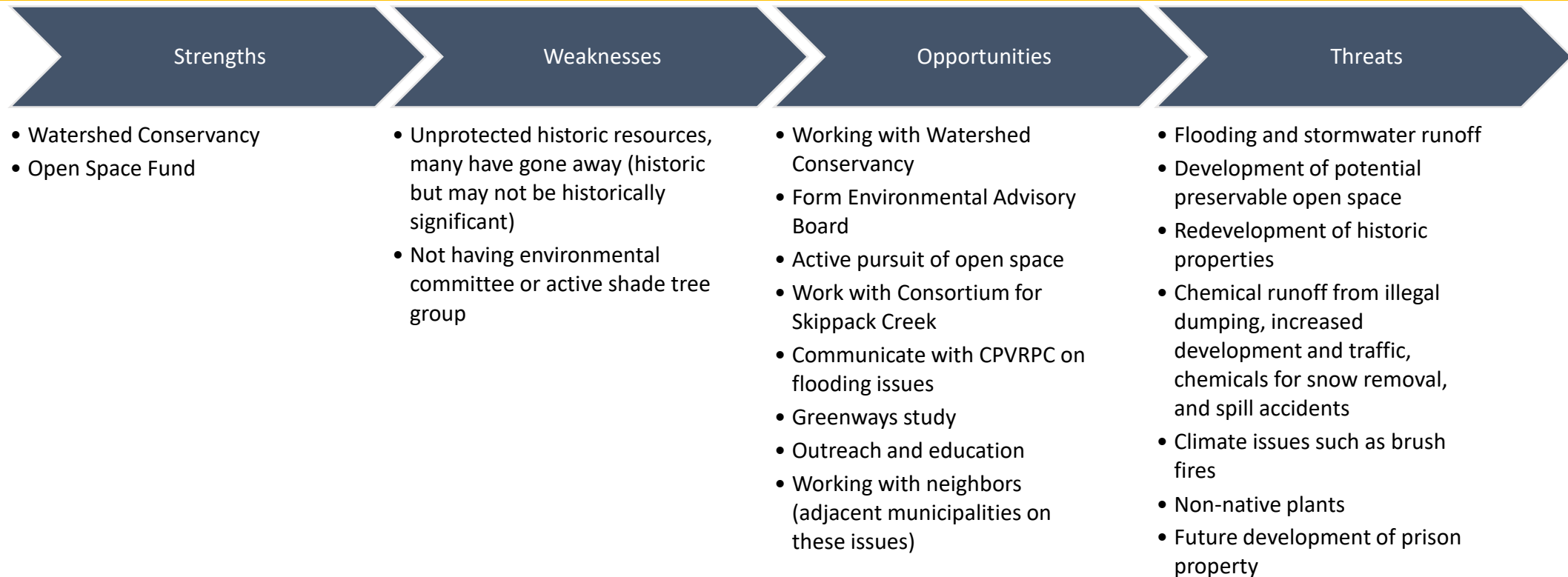
## Concerns

- Flooding issues
- Overdevelopment
- Light pollution from prison
- Water quality
- Lawn chemicals

## Potential Solutions

- More open space – focus on preservation and acquisition
- Replanting trees due to ash borer issues – focus on native species and partnering with local growers

# Natural Resources







# Historic Resources

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Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Long term residents and people who have grown up in the community</li><li>Artifacts and personal narratives</li><li>Engaging events</li><li>Plenty of historically relevant properties</li></ul>
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No strong collaboration between township, schools, and community partners</li><li>Lack of protection in zoning</li></ul>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Many properties that could be adapted for reuse</li><li>Interest groups in area to partner with (other historical societies and foundations)</li></ul>
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Continued flooding in area</li><li>Overdevelopment</li><li>Migration of people who are stakeholders in historic preservation leaving the area</li></ul>



# Parks & Recreation



# Parks & Recreation

People seem generally very satisfied with Skippack's parks and recreation opportunities

Trail connections are a major asset

People love Lenape and Palmer Parks

Ensure park amenities meet the needs of all ages and abilities

Potential improvements

- More passive open space
- Playgrounds need updating
- Splash pad
- Lights on tennis courts
- Safer pedestrian connections to and from parks

# Parks & Recreation

## Strengths

Breadth of recreation opportunities  
Active use recreation activities, natural areas  
Blessed by availability of parks, trails, and connectivity that extends far outside of the community

## Weaknesses

2 parks are underutilized and less accessible by walking  
Lack of pickleball courts

## Opportunities

Pickleball court location – Hallman’s Grove  
Better outreach/marketing for underutilized parks such as Hallman’s Grove  
Lenape Park – more sheltered areas for picnics in natural setting

## Threats

Lenape pavilion – some flooding issues  
Graffiti problems many years ago that were resolved partly from a trail being put in.

# Economic Development

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# Economic Development

- People love the opportunities for arts and culture, music venues, and events
- Plan appropriately so that Skippack prospers now and into the future
- Concerns and potential improvements
  - Business turnover and storeowners leaving
  - Parking
  - Keep the village shops full and maintain vibrancy
  - Would like to see coffee shop and grocery store
  - How to enhance the commercial areas of Skippack
  - Increase lighting along 73

# Economic Development



## Strengths

The village downtown



## Weaknesses

Decline in quality of retail post pandemic



## Opportunities

Develop the periphery of the downtown to support it and to provide additional services



## Threats

Vulnerability of retail to economic challenges, especially small businesses

# Housing



# Housing

Concerns about high density housing, overcrowding, and losing the current small-town character of the township

People seem generally satisfied with housing variety

People take pride in their homes and in their community

How to balance maintaining the character of the community, and ensuring there is enough housing to support the business community and serve the needs of residents

Focus on maintaining the quality of existing housing through architectural standards

# Housing

## Strengths

- Pride of ownership and well-maintained properties

## Weaknesses

- Diversity of cost

## Opportunities

- Create architectural design guidelines
- Develop unoccupied spaces with housing consistent with existing character

## Threats

- Development of housing inconsistent with community character

# Transportation & Mobility

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# Transportation and Mobility

## Concerns

- Congestion backups along Skippack Pike at rush hours
- Street paving needed in residential areas
- Speeding in the downtown
- Narrow sidewalks
- Ensure circulation is not overly impacted by development

## Potential Improvements

- Increase pedestrian safety in the downtown, especially by adding safer, more high visibility crossings
- Do a speed study
- Traffic calming along 73

# Transportation and Mobility

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## Strengths

- Well maintained roads and well defined ways to get around

## Weaknesses

- Traffic and congestion

## Opportunities

- Explore alternatives to sidewalks and options for traffic calming in the downtown area

## Threats

- Overdevelopment



# Community Facilities



- The main issues we heard about pertaining to community facilities are regarding:
  - Funding
  - Personnel
  - Infrastructure

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## Community Facilities & Utilities

# Community Facilities & Utilities

## Strengths

- Fire and EMS – great working relationship, exceptional level of service, variety of services provided, strong interpersonal skills
- Great librarians who are sensitive to needs of the community and connection to the Montgomery County library system

## Weaknesses

- Fire and EMS - Funding and personnel
- Library – building is old and in need of updating

## Opportunities

- Fire and EMS – long range plan to move to paid services and volunteer attraction
- Applying for grants for the library to make building improvements

## Threats

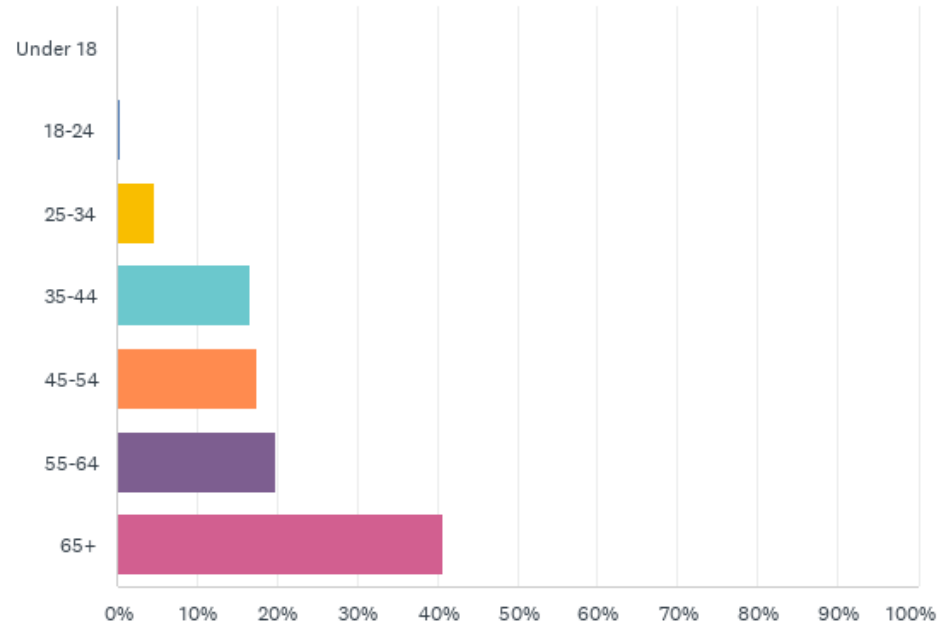
- Lack of funding threatens future of services
- Infrastructure of library building



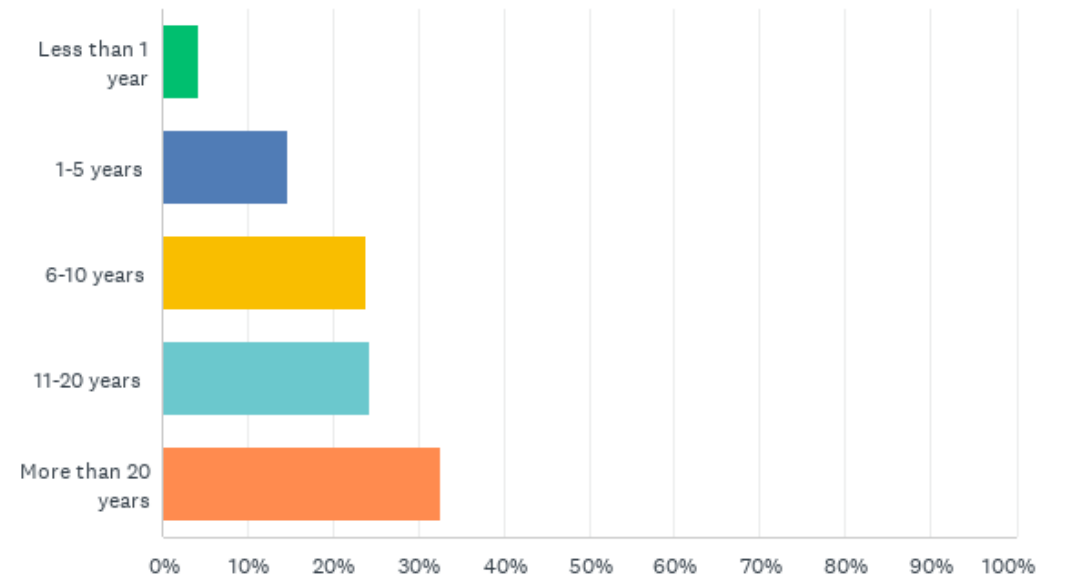
# Community Survey Results



Q21 Within which age group do you fall?



Q2 How long have you lived in Skippack?



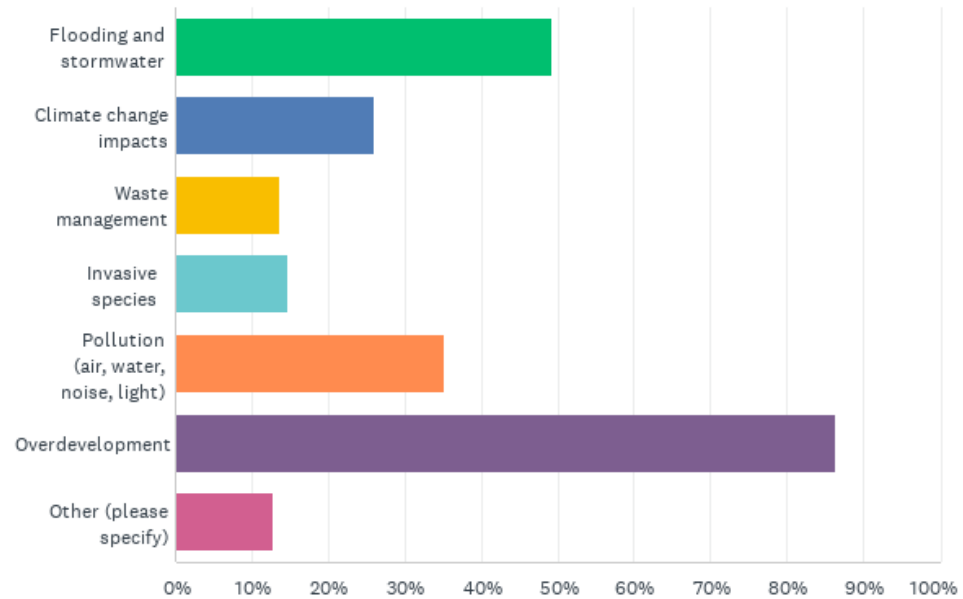
# Survey Respondents

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# Natural Resources

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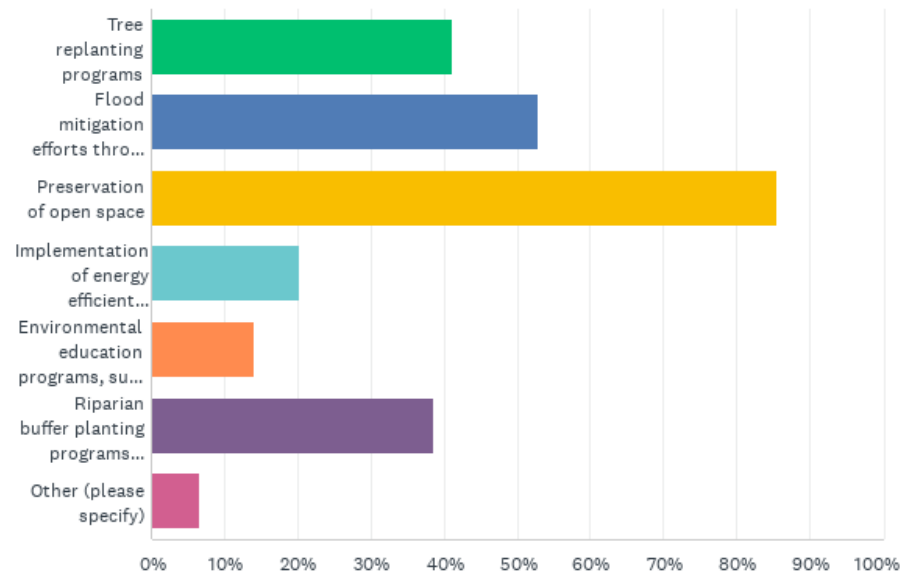
Which of the following environmental issues are you most concerned about in Skippack Township? Please select your top 3 choices.



1. Overdevelopment
2. Flooding and stormwater
3. Pollution

# Natural Resources Initiatives

Which of the following initiatives should Skippack focus on regarding natural resources?  
Please select your top 3 choices.

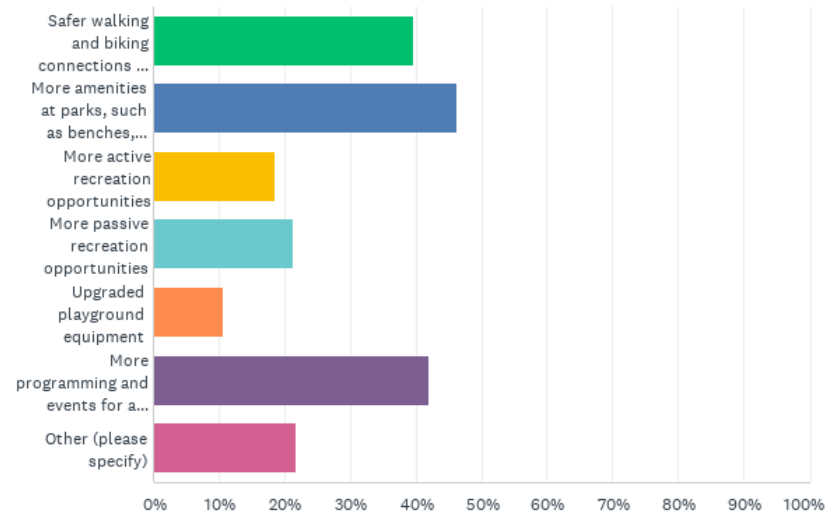


1. Preservation of open space
2. Flood mitigation efforts through collaboration with adjacent municipalities
3. Tree replanting programs

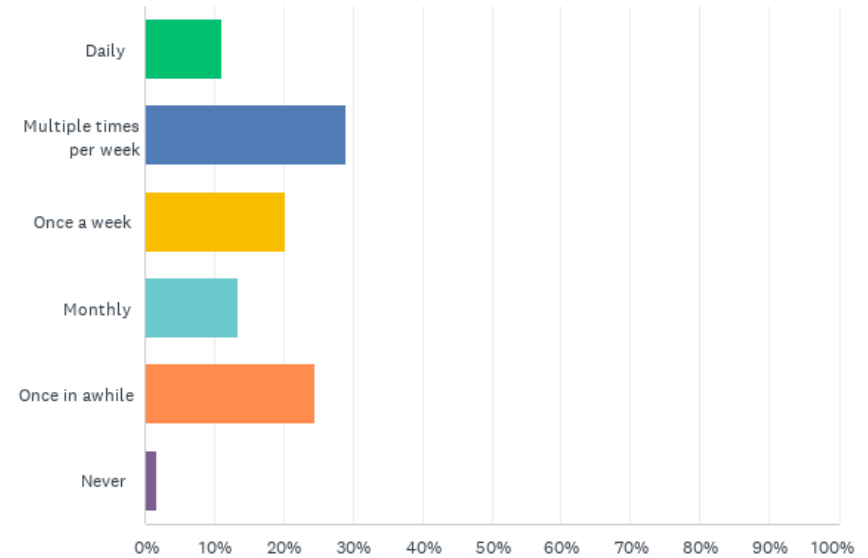
# Parks and Recreation



I would visit Skippack parks more often if there were... (Please select your top 3 choices)



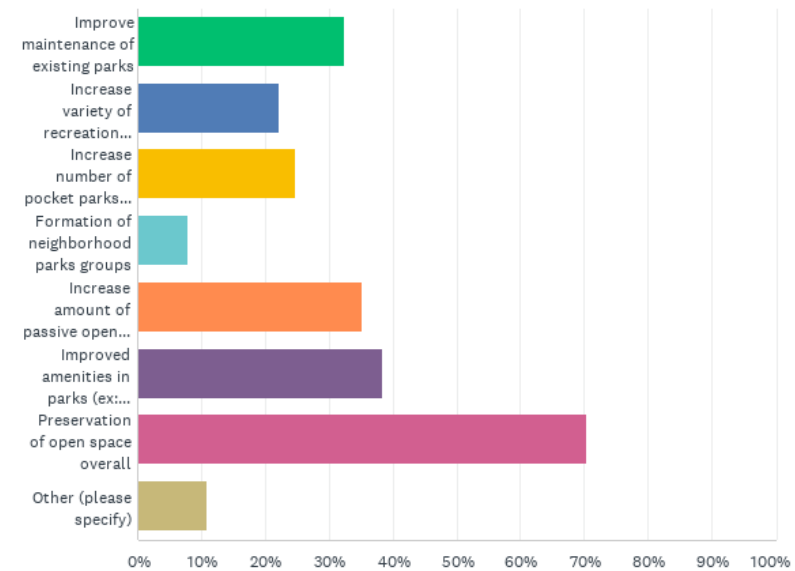
How often do you visit parks and recreation locations in Skippack Township?



# Parks and Recreation Initiatives

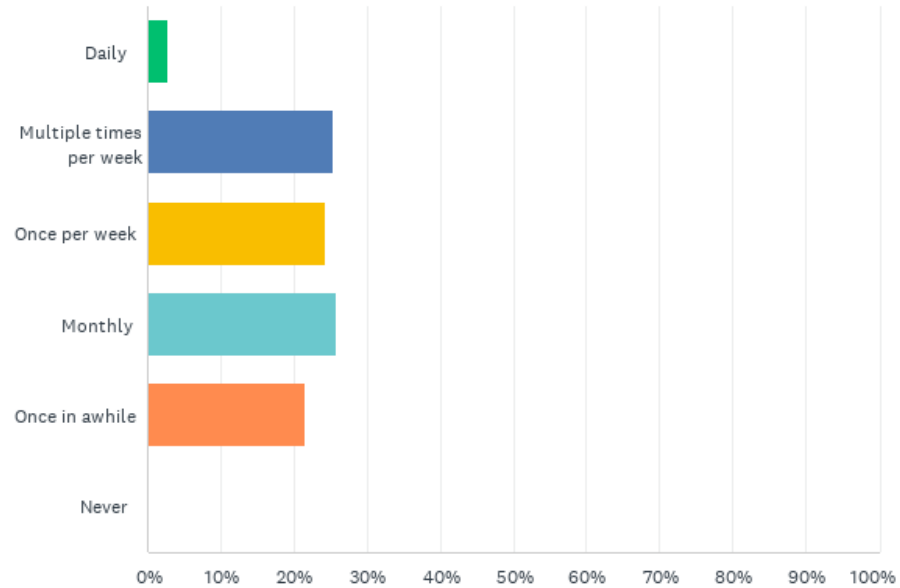
1. Preservation of open space overall
2. Improved amenities in parks
3. Increase amount of passive open space
4. Improve maintenance of existing parks

Which of the following initiatives should Skippack prioritize regarding parks and recreation? Please select your top 3 choices.

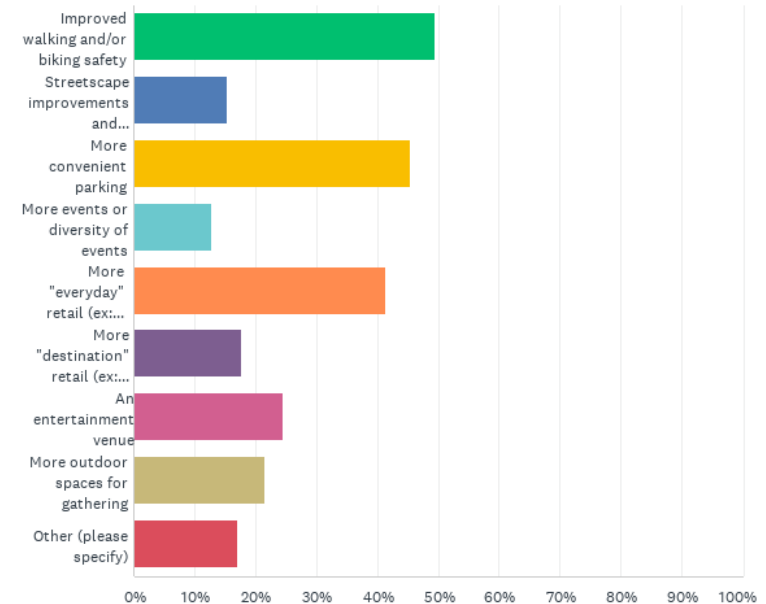


# Economic Development

Q11 How often do you visit businesses in downtown Skippack?



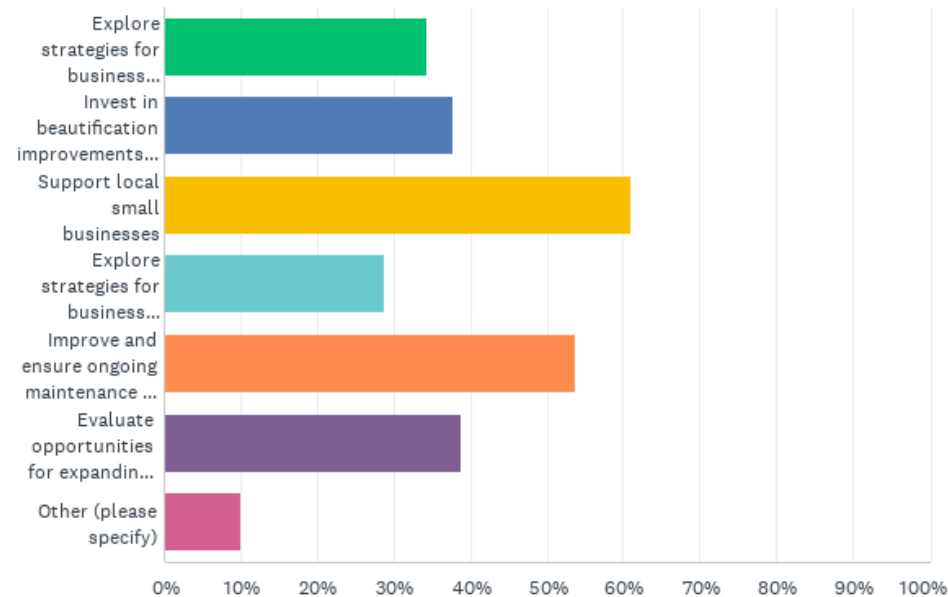
I would visit downtown Skippack more often if there were... (Please select your top 3 choices)



# Economic Development Initiatives

1. Support local small businesses
2. Improve and ensure ongoing maintenance of sidewalks and crosswalks
3. Evaluate opportunities for expanding parking or do a parking study

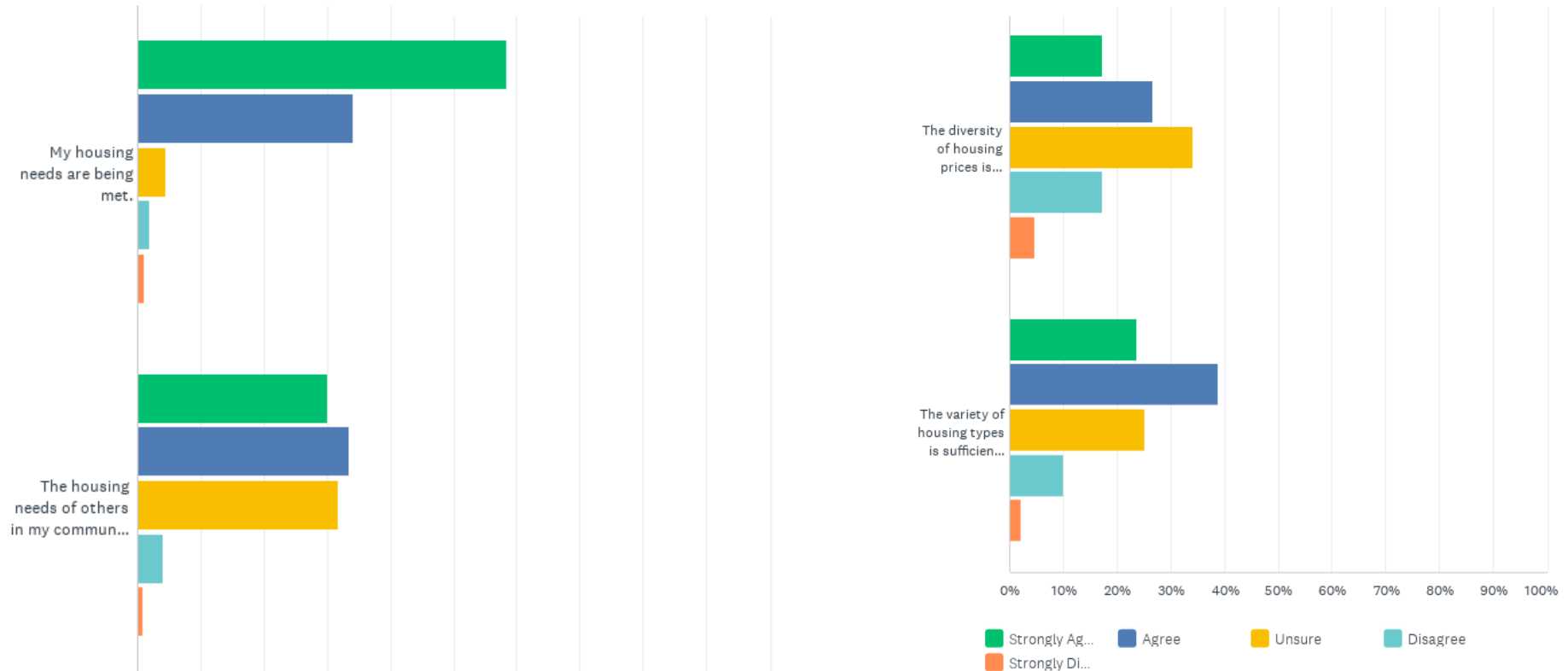
Which of the following economic development initiatives should Skippack focus on?  
Please select your top 3 choices.





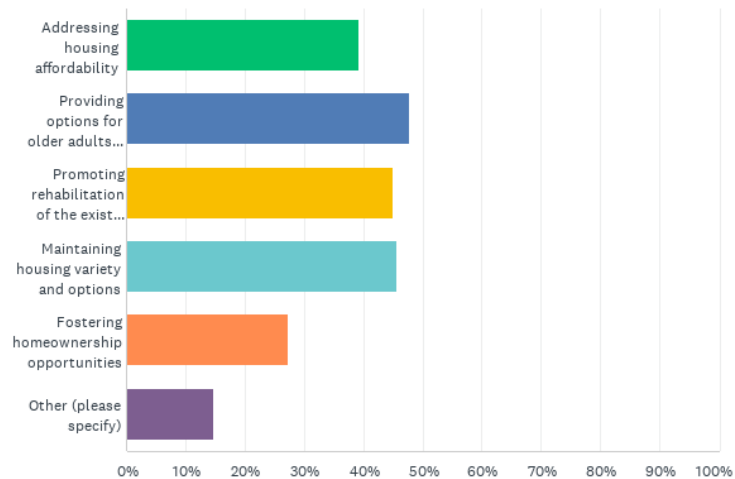
# Housing

My housing needs are being met.



# Housing Initiatives

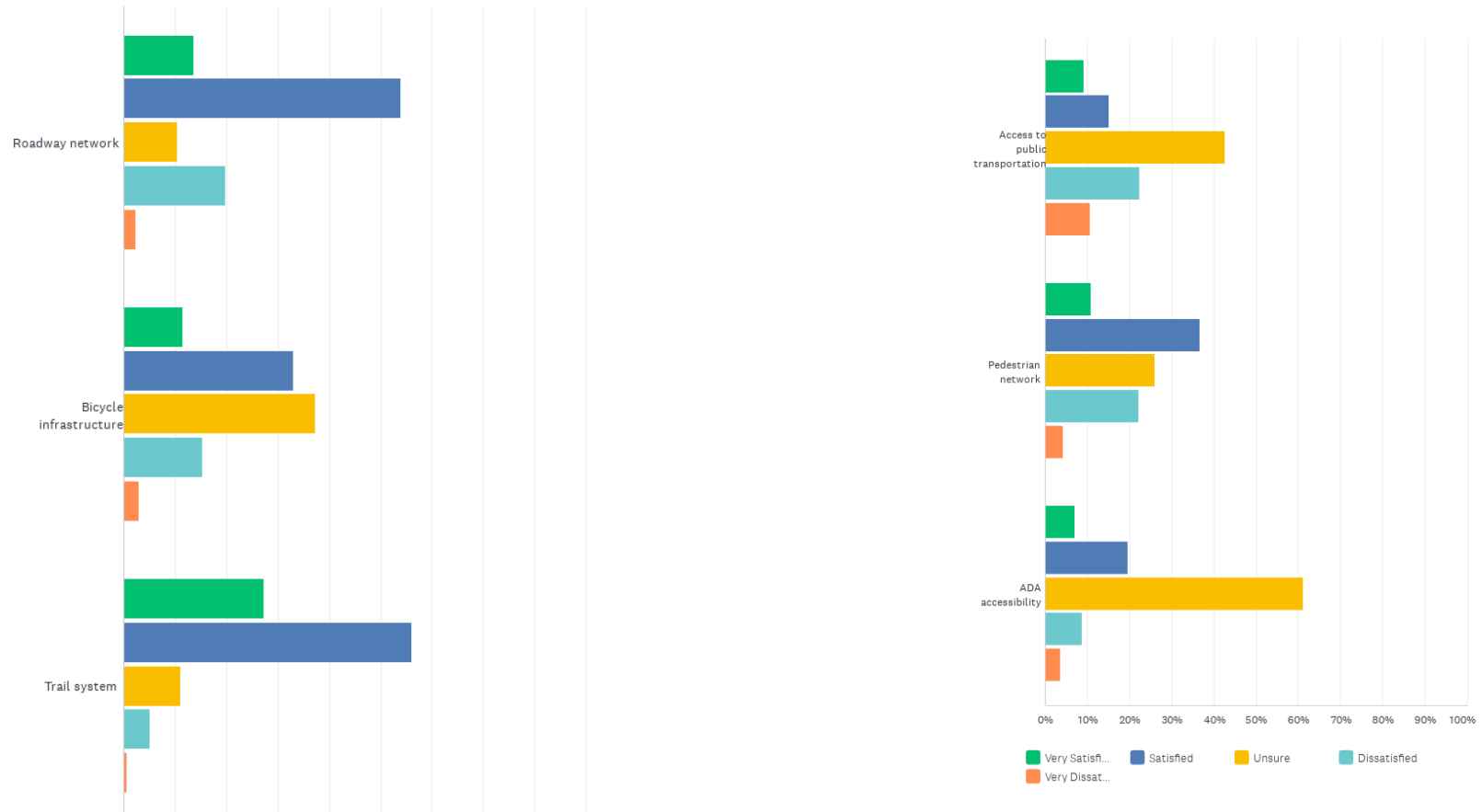
Which of the following housing initiatives should Skippack prioritize? Please select your top 3 choices.



1. Providing options for older adults to age in place
2. Maintaining housing variety and options
3. Promoting rehabilitation of the existing housing stock

# Transportation and Mobility

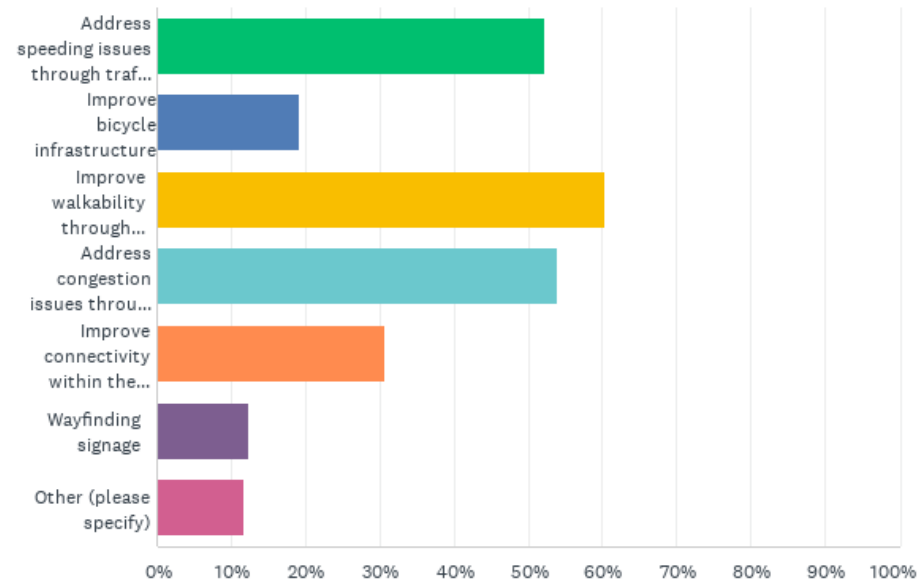
How satisfied are you with the following transportation infrastructure in Skippack?



# Transportation and Mobility Initiatives

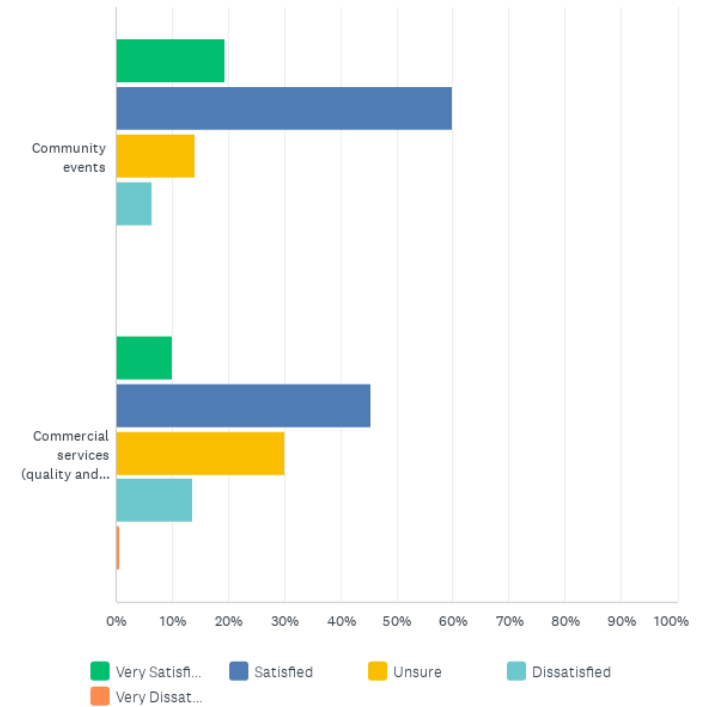
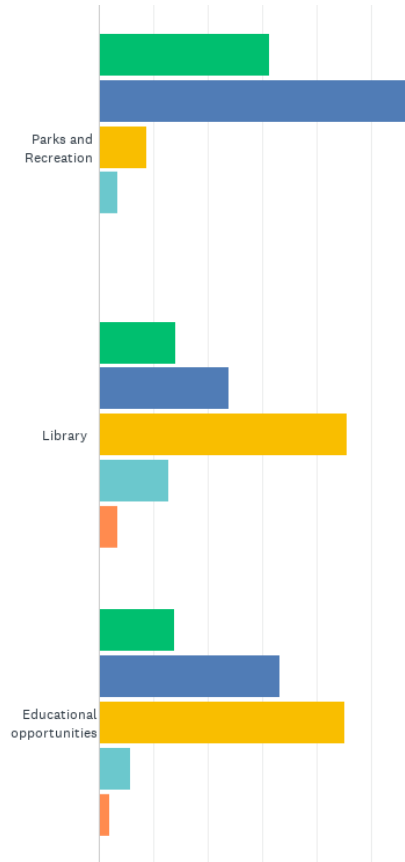
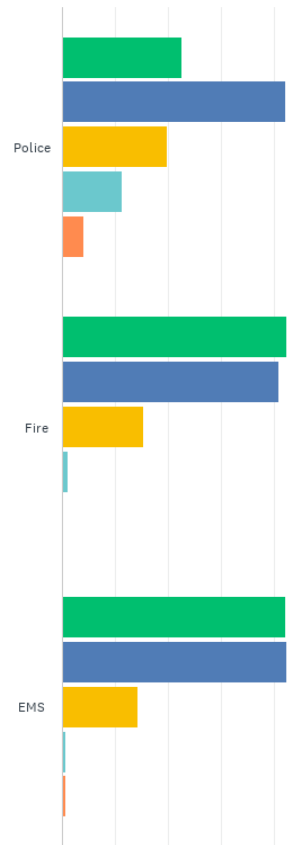
1. Improve walkability through streetscape improvements
2. Address congestion issues through a local transportation study
3. Address speeding issues through traffic calming measures

Which of the following transportation and mobility initiatives should Skippack prioritize?  
Please select your top 3 choices.



# Community Facilities and Utilities

How satisfied are you with the following community services and utilities?



vacant lots  
infrastructure  
traffic  
preservation  
library  
pedestrian safety  
trails  
maintain  
character  
noise pollution  
restaurants  
open space  
overdevelopment  
crosswalks  
diversify shops  
congestion  
housing options  
police  
EMS  
walkability  
no shopping center  
transit  
air pollution  
dog park  
grocery store  
Palmer Park  
fire  
repaving  
nature  
library  
biking lanes  
small town feel  
village  
no more speeding  
park variety  
floodings  
recreation  
Preserve history  
housing  
road maintenance  
sidewalks

# Next Steps



Public input will be used to help finalize goals and objectives in the plan



We will develop recommendations and a plan for implementation



Draft plan to be finalized in early 2025



The plan will be made available on the township website for public comment



Act 247 review by the county and submitted to adjacent municipalities



Once finalized it will be presented to the BOS for adoption

# Comments or Questions?

Jamie Magaziner, AICP

[jmagaziner@pennoni.com](mailto:jmagaziner@pennoni.com)