

APPENDIX III. COMMUNITY SURVEY DETAILED RESULTS

As part of the Urban Forest Master Plan development process, the authors engaged with over 350 community members to understand community perspectives on trees and to gather input about urban forestry needs in the city. One method of gathering input was an online survey distributed to community members to understand people's attitudes toward trees in East Palo Alto. The survey was conducted between April and August of 2021. Chapter 5 of the Urban Forest Master Plan describes the overall engagement approach and findings. This appendix contains the summarized survey results for all questions asked. Bolded question text is as-used in the survey, and exact answer options are given in the summary tables.

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Summary of respondents

A total of 208 unique responses were submitted to the online community survey, which was available in four languages.

Language of survey	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
English	192	92%
Spanish	14	7%
Samoan	1	0.5%
Tongan	1	0.5%
TOTAL	208	100%

Survey questions

Section 1: Survey landing page

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this survey!

The survey will take about 15 minutes to complete and will ask you what you think about trees in your neighborhood and in the city of East Palo Alto. Your participation is voluntary, and you may skip any question and stop at any time.

Everyone who completes the survey will have the chance to enter a raffle for a free fruit tree (courtesy of Canopy) and one of 15 \$50 Visa gift cards! A link to enter will be provided when you submit your responses.

The results of this survey will inform the City's Urban Forest Master Plan and guide future tree maintenance and planting plans in East Palo Alto.

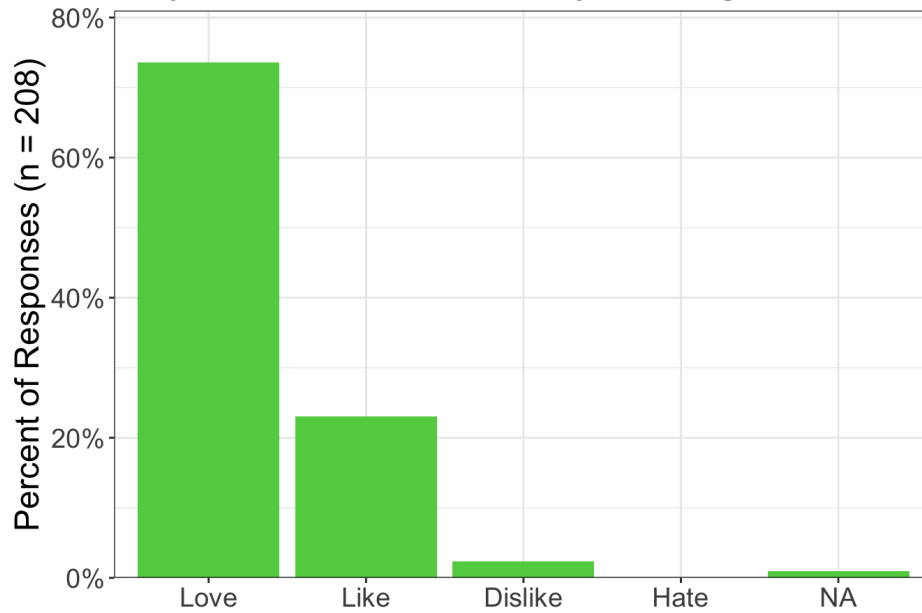
There are no right or wrong answers.

Section 2: Trees in your neighborhood

1. How do you feel about trees in your neighborhood?

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Love them	153	74%
Somewhat like	48	23%
Somewhat dislike	5	2%
Hate them	0	0%
Left blank	2	1%

How do you feel about trees in your neighborhood?



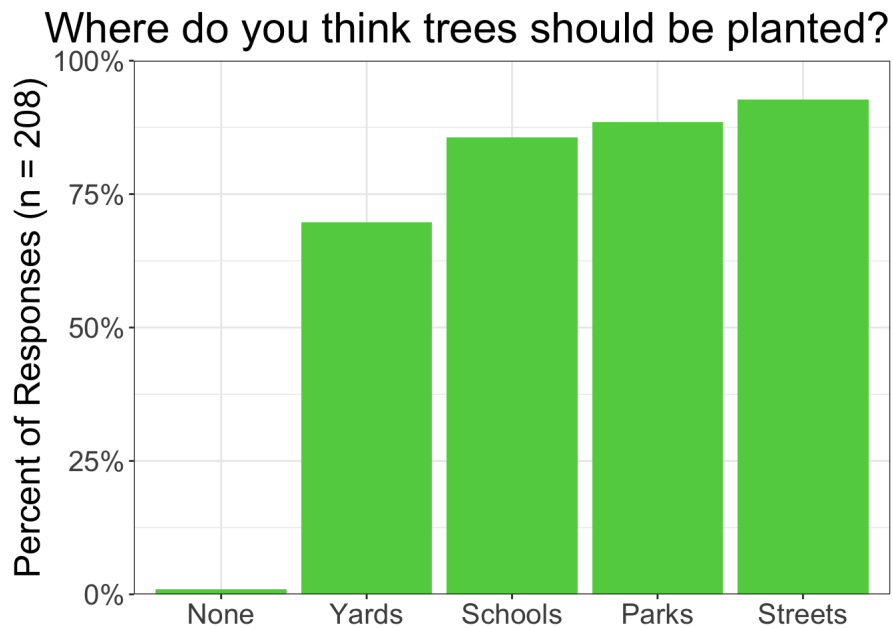
2. In a few words, tell us what you like or dislike about trees in your neighborhood.

a. *Free response*

193 respondents wrote in an answer.

3. Where do you think new trees should be planted? (select all options that you agree with)

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
In private yards	145	70%
Along streets	193	93%
In parks	184	88%
Around schools	178	86%
I don't think new trees should be planted	2	1%



4. Where do you think more trees are most needed? (Below map provided with question)

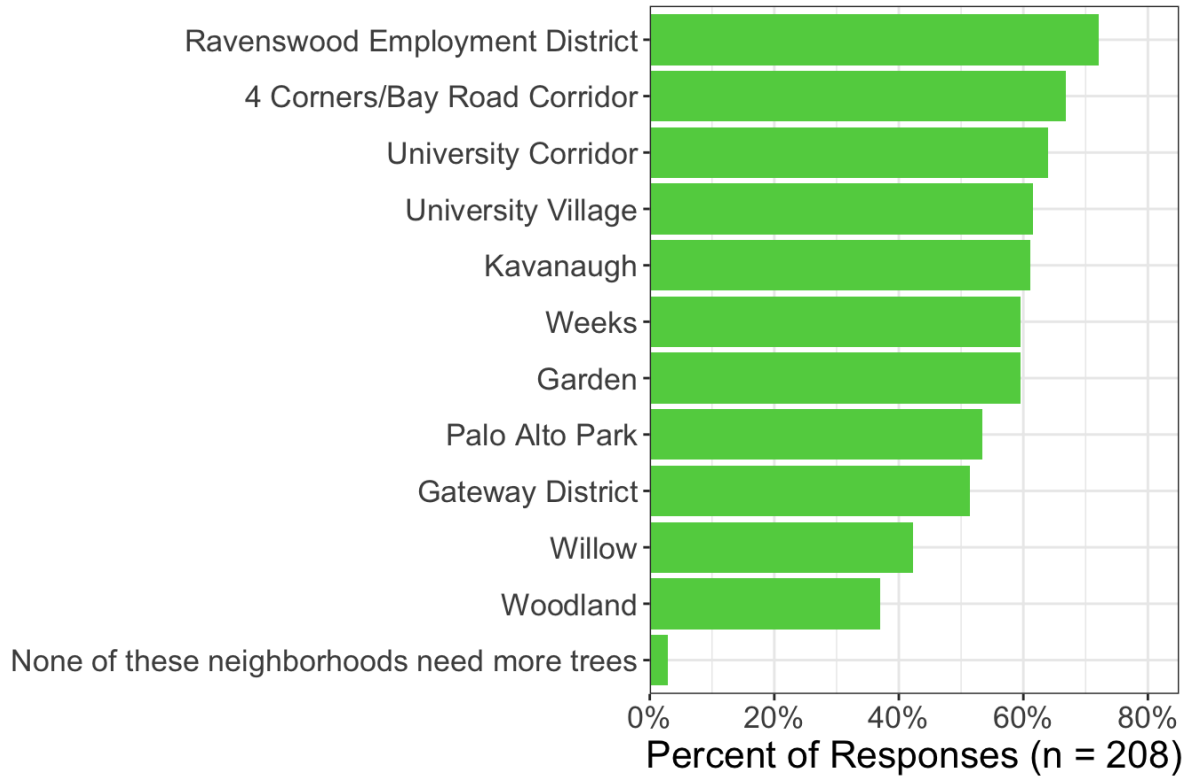
Figure 4-3: Neighborhoods and Districts Map



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Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
None of these neighborhoods need more trees	6	3%
4 Corners/Bay Road Corridor	139	67%
Garden	124	60%
Gateway District	107	51%
Kavanaugh	127	61%
Palo Alto Park	111	1%
Ravenswood Employment District	150	72%
University Corridor	133	64%
University Village	128	62%
Weeks	124	60%
Willow	88	42%
Woodland	77	37%

Where do you think more trees are most needed?



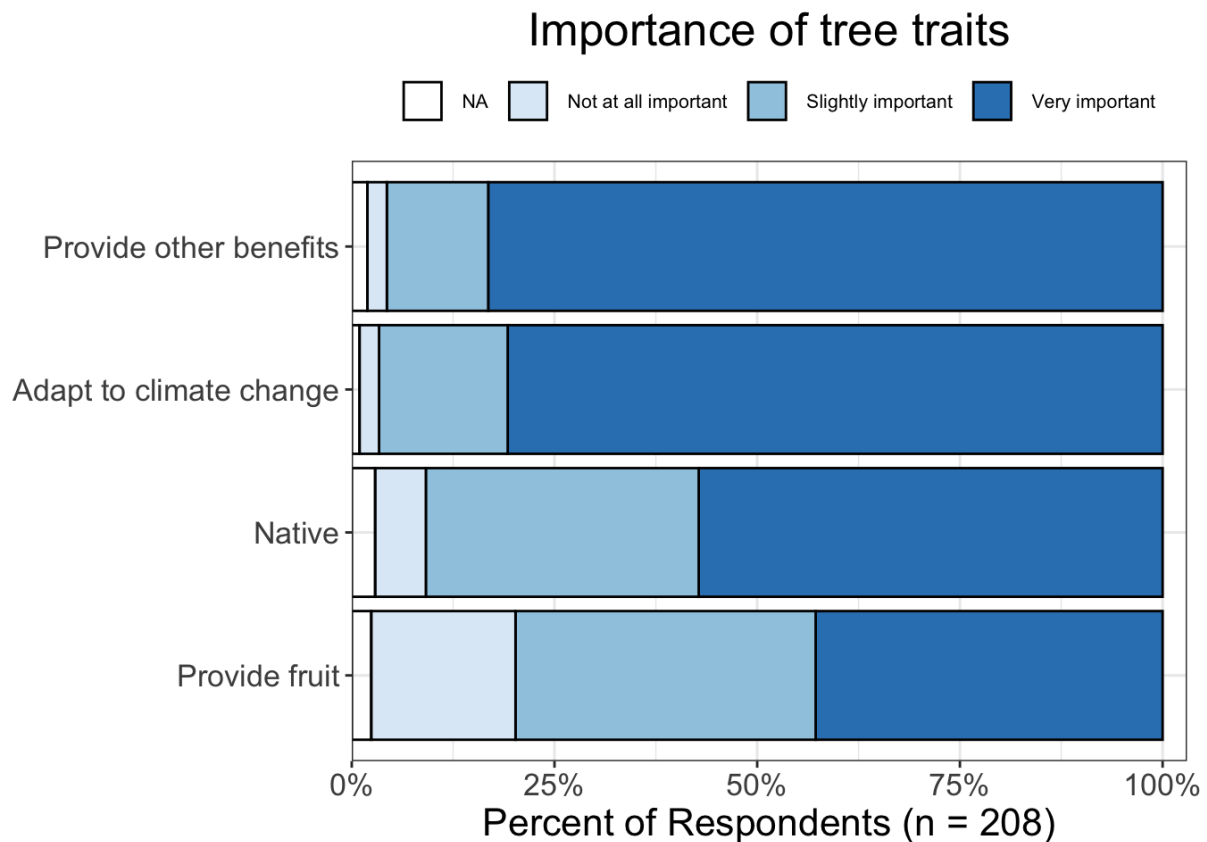
Section 3: Trees in East Palo Alto

In 2018, about 13% of East Palo Alto was covered by trees. In comparison, Palo Alto is about 38% covered by tree canopy.

5. How important would you say each of the following traits are for new public trees being planted in parks and along streets in East Palo Alto?

Tree trait	Not at all important	Slightly important	Very important	Left blank
Adapt to future climate change	5 (2%)	33 (16%)	168 (81%)	2 (1%)
Native to the region	37 (18%)	77 (37%)	89 (43%)	5 (2%)
Provide fruit for people to harvest	13 (6%)	70 (34%)	119 (57%)	6 (3%)
Provide things other than fruit, like shade or beauty	5 (2%)	26 (13%)	173 (83%)	4 (2%)

Values show number of respondents who selected each answer, with percent of respondents in parentheses



6. Here are four images of what a street in East Palo Alto could look like. Which ones do you like best?



	Best	2nd	3rd	Worst
Street 1	2 (1%)	1 (<1%)	7 (3%)	198 (95%)
Street 2	3 (1%)	6 (3%)	185 (89%)	1 (<1%)
Street 3	17 (8%)	177 (85%)	7 (3%)	0 (0%)
Street 4	184 (88%)	19 (9%)	3 (1%)	3 (1%)
No selection	2 (1%)	5 (2%)	6 (3%)	6 (3%)

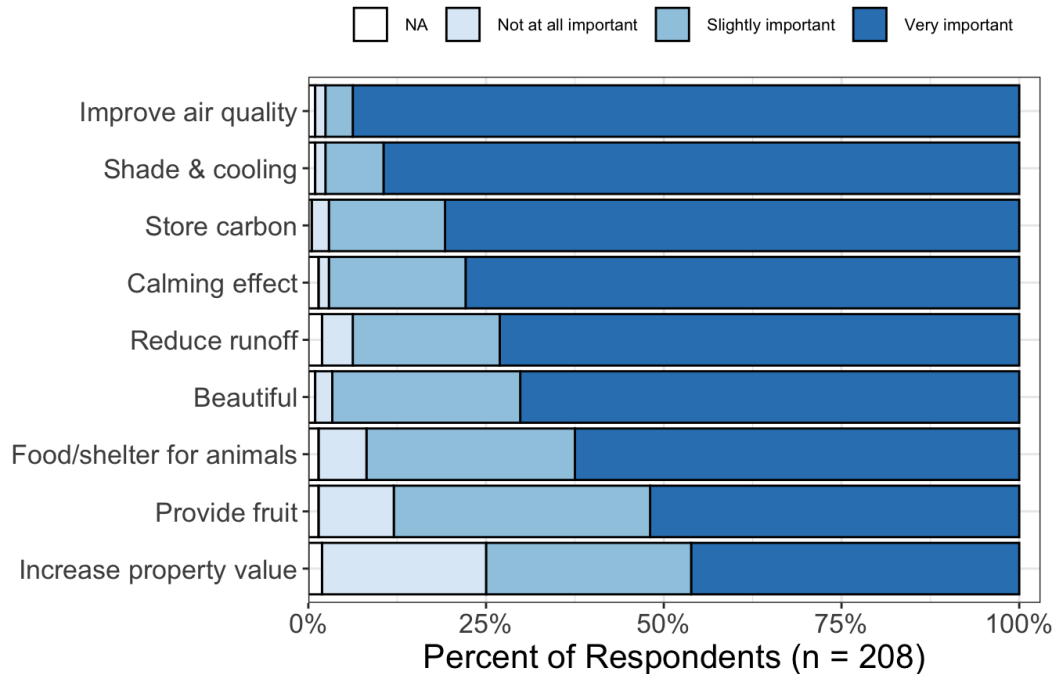
Values show number of respondents who selected each answer, with percent of respondents in parentheses

7. Trees can benefit people. How important do you think each of the following benefits of trees are for East Palo Alto? In your answer, consider trees planted in parks, along streets, and in private yards.

Benefit	Not at all important	Slightly important	Very important	Left blank
Provide shade and cooling	3 (1%)	17 (8%)	186 (89%)	2 (1%)
Improve air quality	3 (1%)	8 (4%)	195 (94%)	2 (1%)
Combat climate change by storing carbon	5 (2%)	34 (16%)	168 (81%)	1 (<1%)
Provide fruit or other food for people	22 (11%)	75 (36%)	108 (52%)	3 (1%)
Provide food and shelter for animals	14 (7%)	61 (29%)	130 (63%)	3 (1%)
Look beautiful	5 (2%)	55 (26%)	146 (70%)	2 (1%)
Create a calming effect	3 (1%)	40 (19%)	162 (78%)	3 (1%)
Increase property value	48 (23%)	60 (29%)	96 (46%)	4 (2%)
Reduce stormwater runoff	9 (4%)	43 (21%)	152 (73%)	4 (2%)

Values show number of respondents who selected each answer, with percent of respondents in parentheses

Benefits of trees

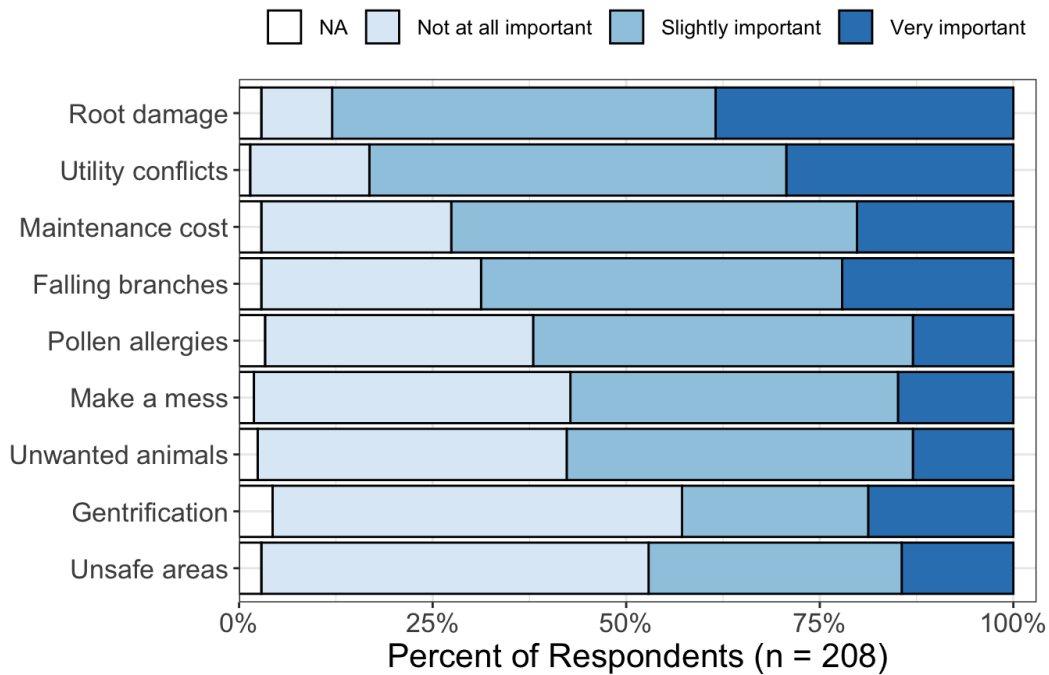


8. Trees can also create problems. Which of the following problems are you concerned about?

Problem	Not at all concerned	Slightly concerned	Very concerned	Left blank
Cause root damage to underground utilities, foundations, or walkways	19 (9%)	103 (50%)	80 (39%)	6 (3%)
Cause harm from falling branches	59 (28%)	97 (47%)	46 (22%)	6 (3%)
Conflict with overhead utility wires	32 (15%)	112 (54%)	61 (29%)	3 (1%)
Cost of pruning, maintenance, or removal	51 (25%)	109 (52%)	42 (20%)	6 (3%)
Worsen allergies to tree pollen	72 (35%)	102 (49%)	27 (13%)	7 (3%)
Attract unwanted animals or insects	83 (40%)	93 (45%)	27 (13%)	5 (2%)
Make a mess with fallen leaves, flowers, or fruit	85 (41%)	88 (42%)	31 (15%)	4 (2%)
Create areas that feel unsafe	104 (50%)	68 (33%)	30 (14%)	6 (3%)
Increase gentrification	110 (53%)	50 (24%)	39 (19%)	9 (4%)

Values show number of respondents who selected each answer, with percent of respondents in parentheses

Problems of trees



9. Are there other benefits or problems associated with trees that you think are important? If so, please tell us here.

a. *Free response*

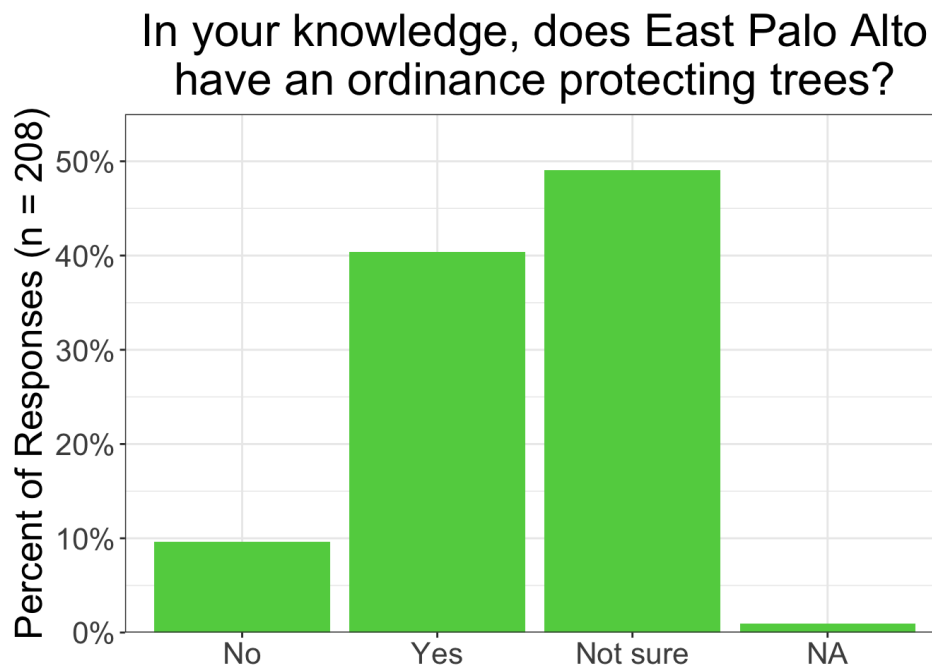
79 respondents wrote in an answer.

Section 4: Tree protections and policy

Next are some questions about how the City could protect trees from damage or removal.

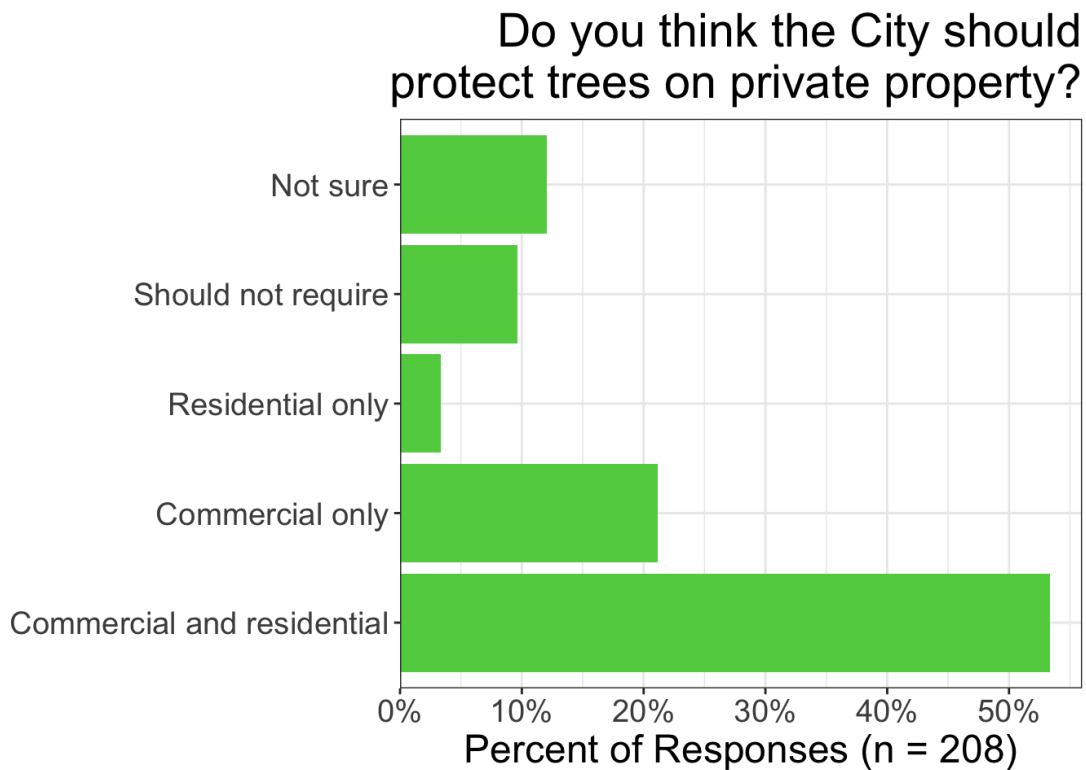
10. Some cities have Tree Ordinances that prevent trees from being removed without a permit. In your knowledge, does East Palo Alto have an ordinance protecting trees?

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Yes, it does	84	40%
No, it does not	20	10%
Not sure	102	49%
Left blank	2	1%



11. Do you think the City should protect trees on private property? This protection would require a professional arborist’s assessment (with a cost associated) before cutting down trees, to ensure that only dangerous or unhealthy trees would be removed.

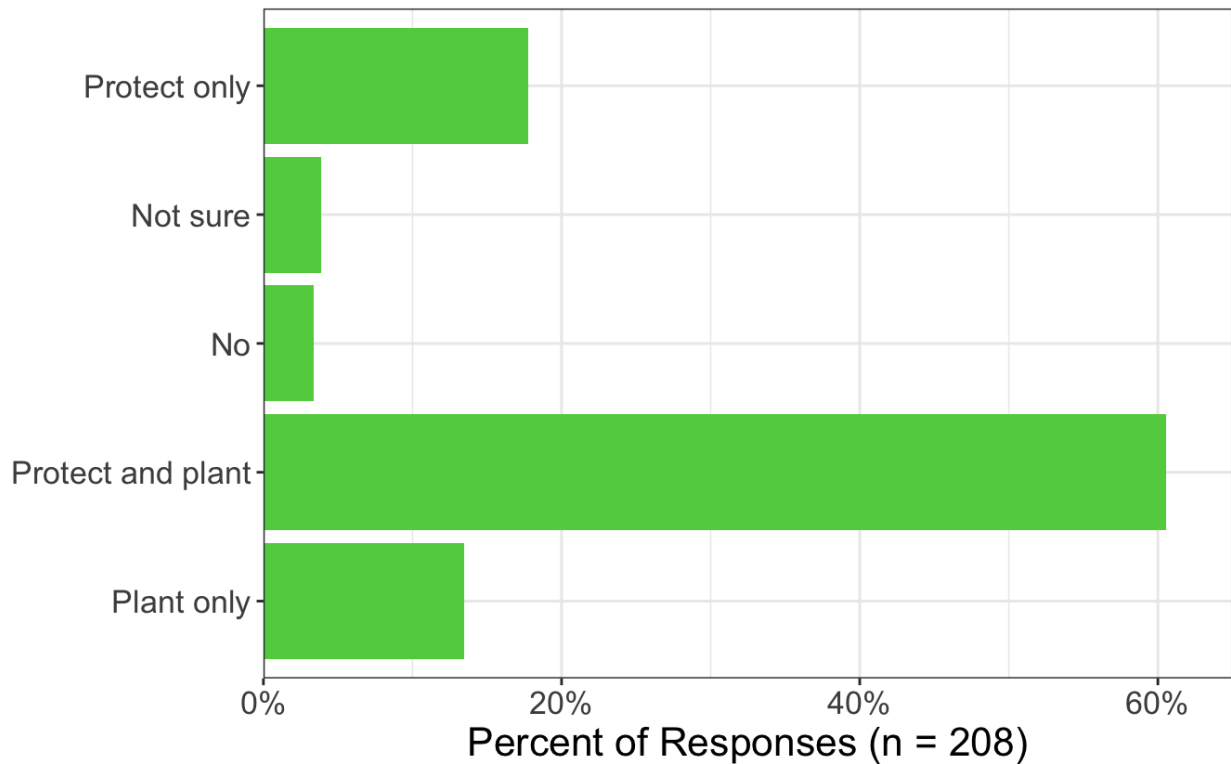
Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Yes - require on commercial property only (e.g., trees near businesses or on church grounds)	44	21%
Yes - require on residential property only (e.g., trees in front and back yards)	7	3%
Yes - require on both commercial AND residential property	111	53%
No - should not require	20	10%
Not sure	25	12%
Left blank	1	0.5%



12. Do you think new construction and redevelopment projects should have requirements for tree protection or planting?

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Yes - protect trees during construction if there are trees on the site	37	18%
Yes - require new trees to be planted and maintained	28	14%
Yes - protect trees AND require planting	126	61%
No - should not have requirements	7	3%
Not sure	8	4%
Left blank	2	1%

Do you think new construction and redevelopment projects should have requirements for tree protection or planting?



East Palo Alto actually has a Tree Protection Ordinance. Currently, it says it is unlawful for any person to destroy or remove any protected tree on private or public property without first having obtained a permit to do so.

For more information, see the City's handout here:

https://www.cityofepa.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning/page/3751/tree_removal_handout_updated_on_11.19.2020.pdf

13. If you have other ideas, thoughts or questions about how the City is or should be investing in or protecting trees, please share them here.

a. Free response

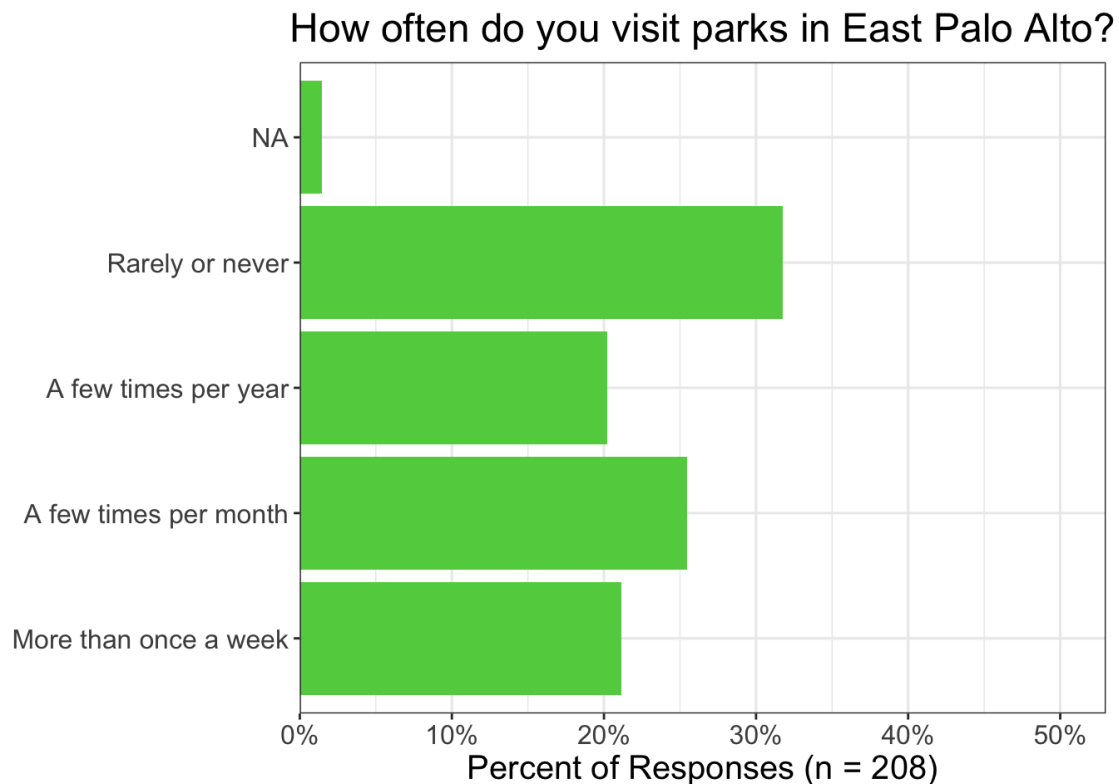
60 respondents wrote in an answer.

Section 5: Beyond trees - parks and other issues

Trees can be one part of solutions for some community concerns. The following questions aim to understand how trees fit into broader community priorities, including parks in the city.

14. How often do you visit parks in East Palo Alto?

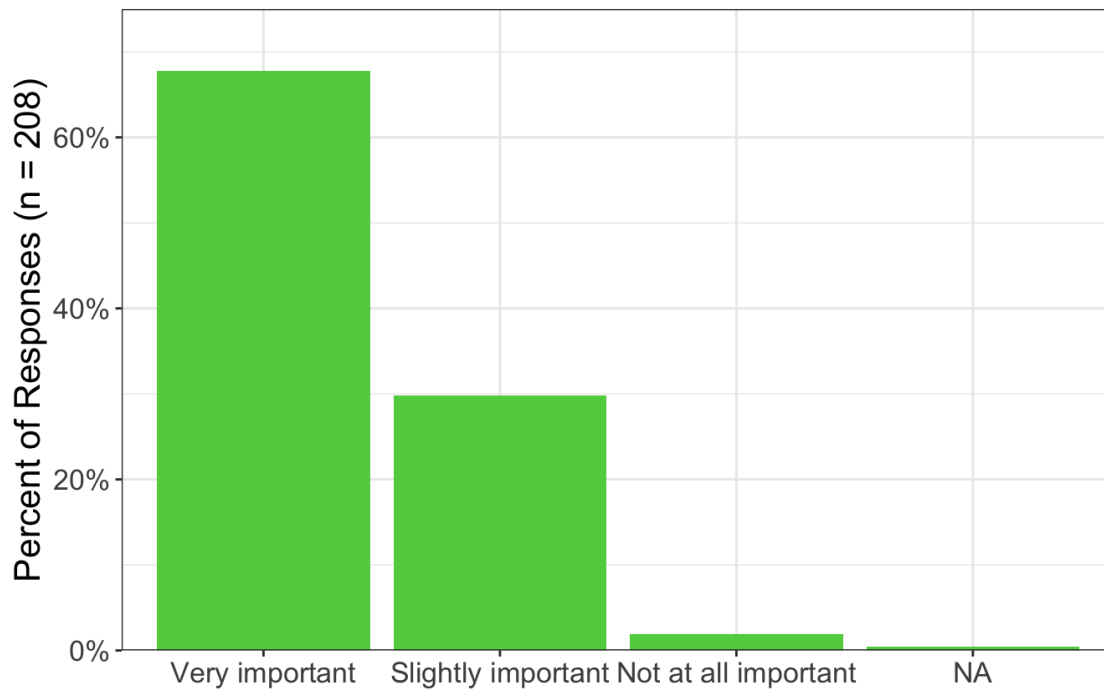
Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
More than once a week	44	21%
A few times per month	53	26%
A few times per year	42	20%
Rarely or never	66	32%
Left blank	3	1%



15. How important is it to you to have a park within walking distance of your home?

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Not at all important	141	68%
Slightly important	62	30%
Very important	4	2%
Left blank	1	0.5%

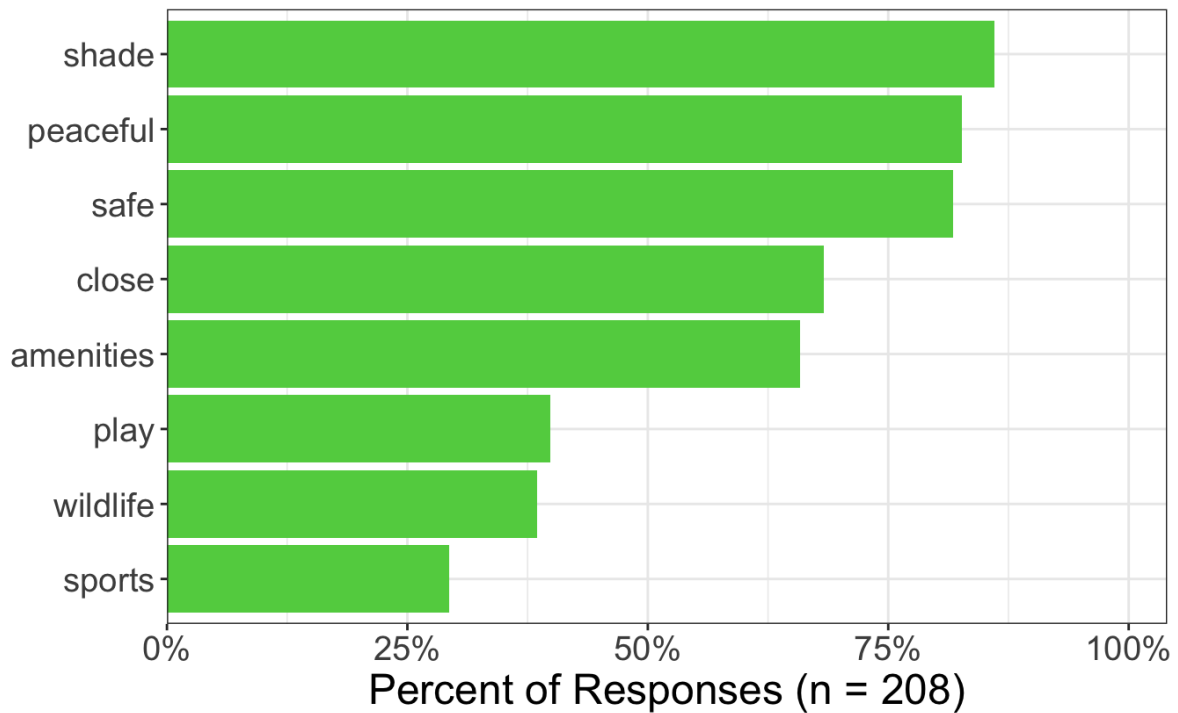
How important is it to you to have a park within walking distance of your home?



16. What characteristics do you look for when you choose a park to visit? Select all that apply.

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Bathrooms, picnic tables, and/or BBQ grills	137	66%
Play equipment	83	40%
Sports facilities or fields	61	29%
Shady and cool	179	86%
Feels safe	170	82%
Close to my house	142	68%
Opportunities to see wildlife	80	38%
Peaceful and relaxing	172	83%

What characteristics do you look for when you choose a park to visit?

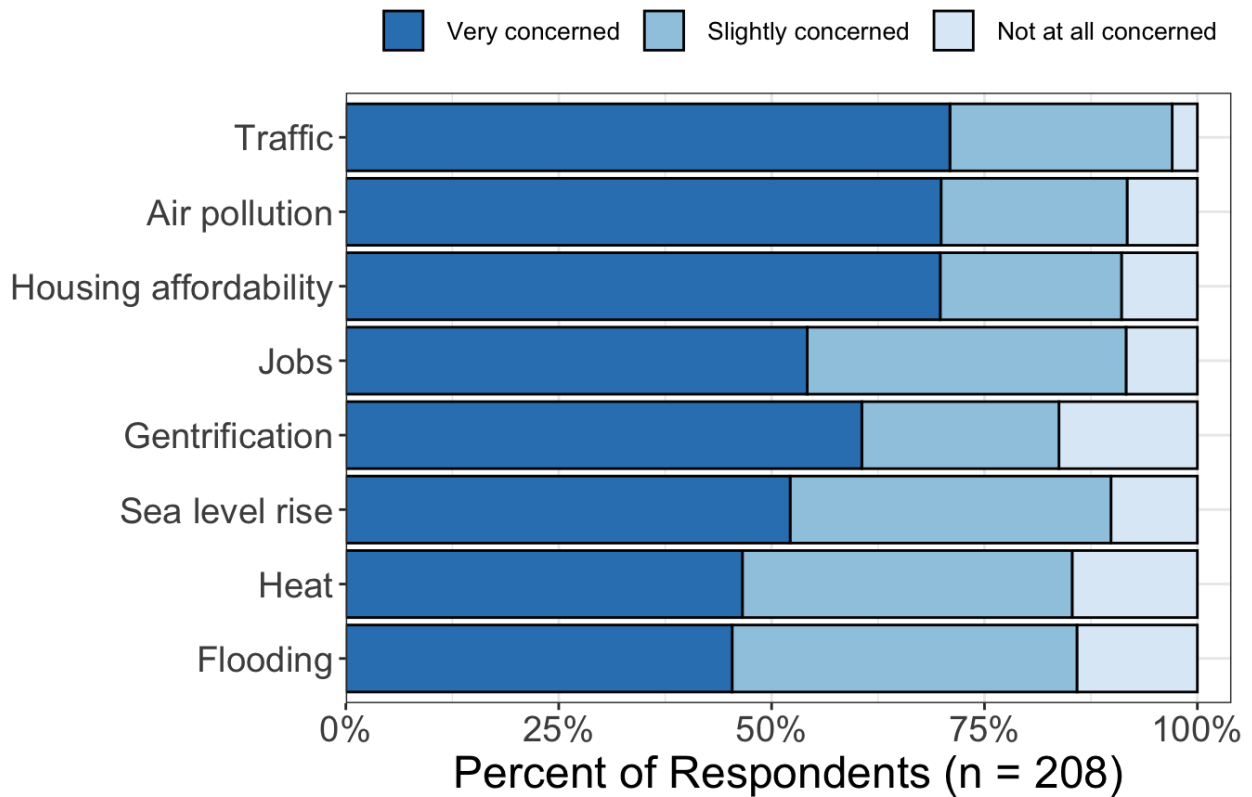


17. How concerned are you about the following issues in East Palo Alto?

Issue	Not at all concerned	Slightly concerned	Very concerned	Left blank
Air pollution	17 (8%)	45 (22%)	144 (69%)	2 (1%)
Heat waves	30 (14%)	79 (38%)	95 (46%)	4 (2%)
Flooding	29 (14%)	83 (40%)	93 (45%)	3 (1%)
Sea level rise	21 (10%)	78 (38%)	108 (52%)	1 (0.5%)
Gentrification and displacement	33 (16%)	47 (23%)	123 (59%)	5 (2%)
Housing affordability	18 (9%)	43 (21%)	141 (68%)	6 (3%)
Traffic	6 (3%)	53 (26%)	144 (69%)	5 (2%)
Jobs and unemployment	17 (8%)	76 (37%)	110 (53%)	5 (2%)

Values show number of respondents who selected each answer, with percent of respondents in parentheses

How concerned are you about the following issues?

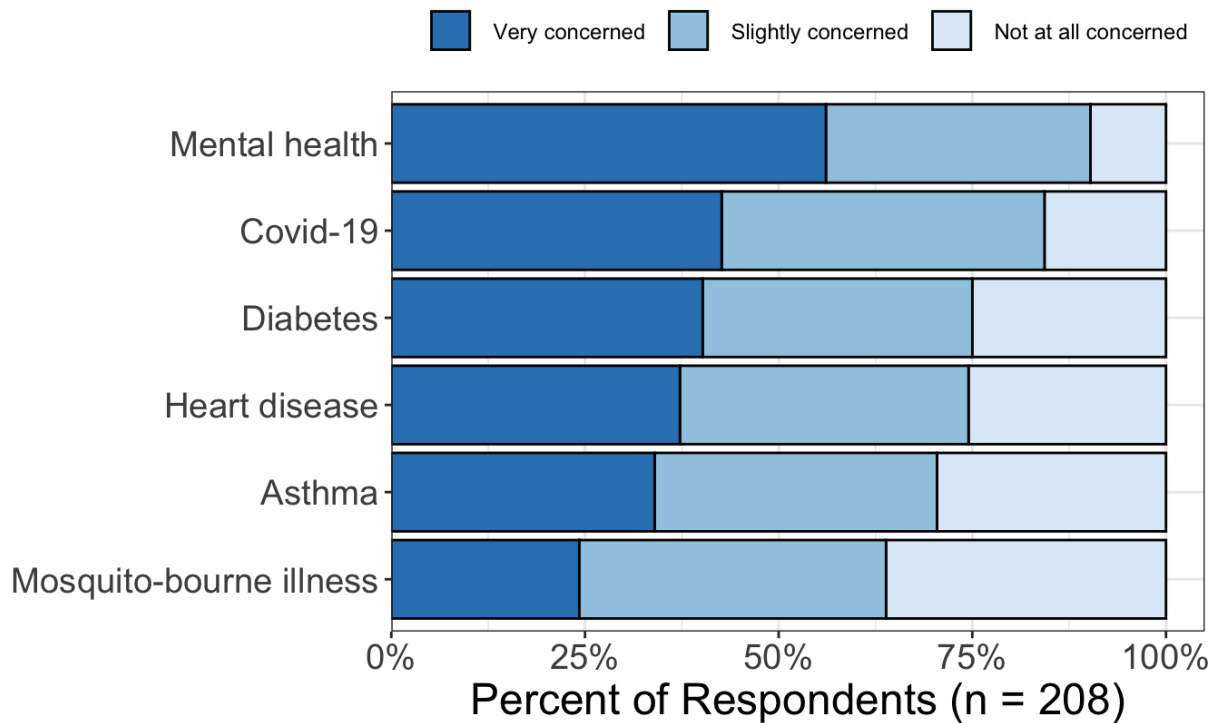


18. How concerned are you about the following health-related issues for your family?

Issue	Not at all concerned	Slightly concerned	Very concerned	Left blank
Asthma	60 (29%)	74 (36%)	69 (33%)	5 (2%)
Heart disease	52 (25%)	76 (37%)	76 (37%)	4 (2%)
Diabetes	51 (25%)	71 (34%)	82 (39%)	4 (2%)
Stress, anxiety, or depression	20 (10%)	70 (34%)	115 (55%)	3 (1%)
Covid-19	32 (15%)	85 (41%)	87 (42%)	4 (2%)
Mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus	73 (35%)	80 (39%)	49 (24%)	6 (3%)

Values show number of respondents who selected each answer, with percent of respondents in parentheses

How concerned are you about the following health-related issues?



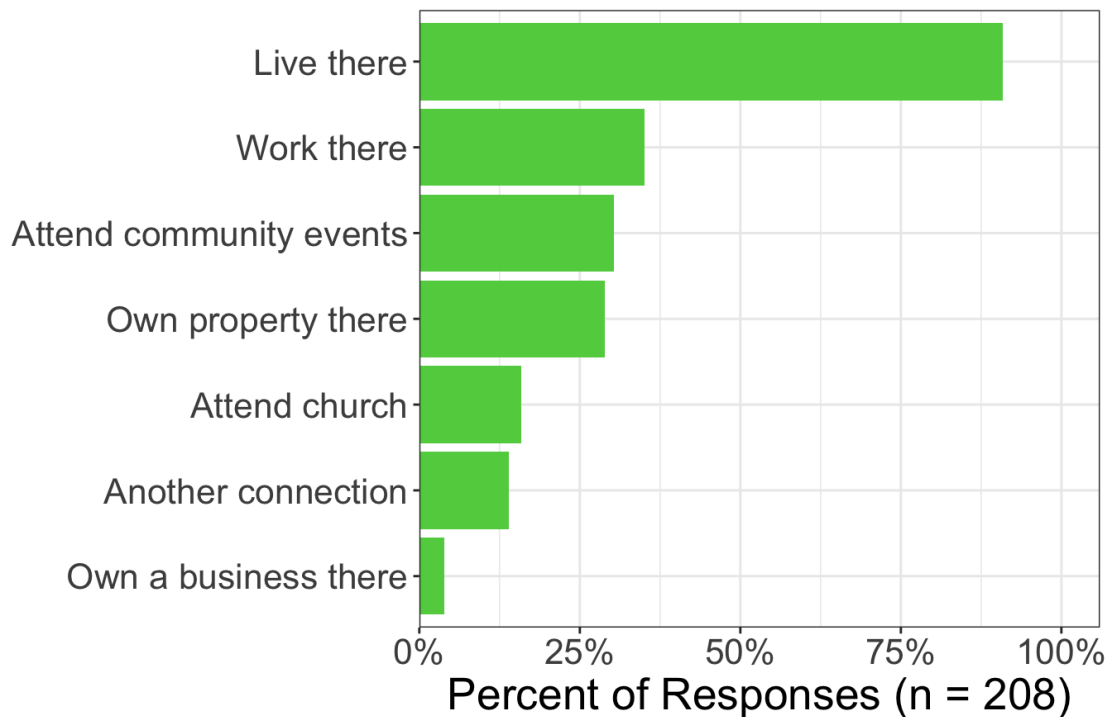
Section 6: A little more about you

Help us understand who is providing input!

19. What is your connection to East Palo Alto? *Select all that apply*

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
I live there	189	91%
I work or volunteer there	73	35%
I own a business there	8	4%
I own property there	60	29%
I attend church there	33	16%
I participate in other community events	63	30%
I consider myself part of the community in another way	29	14%

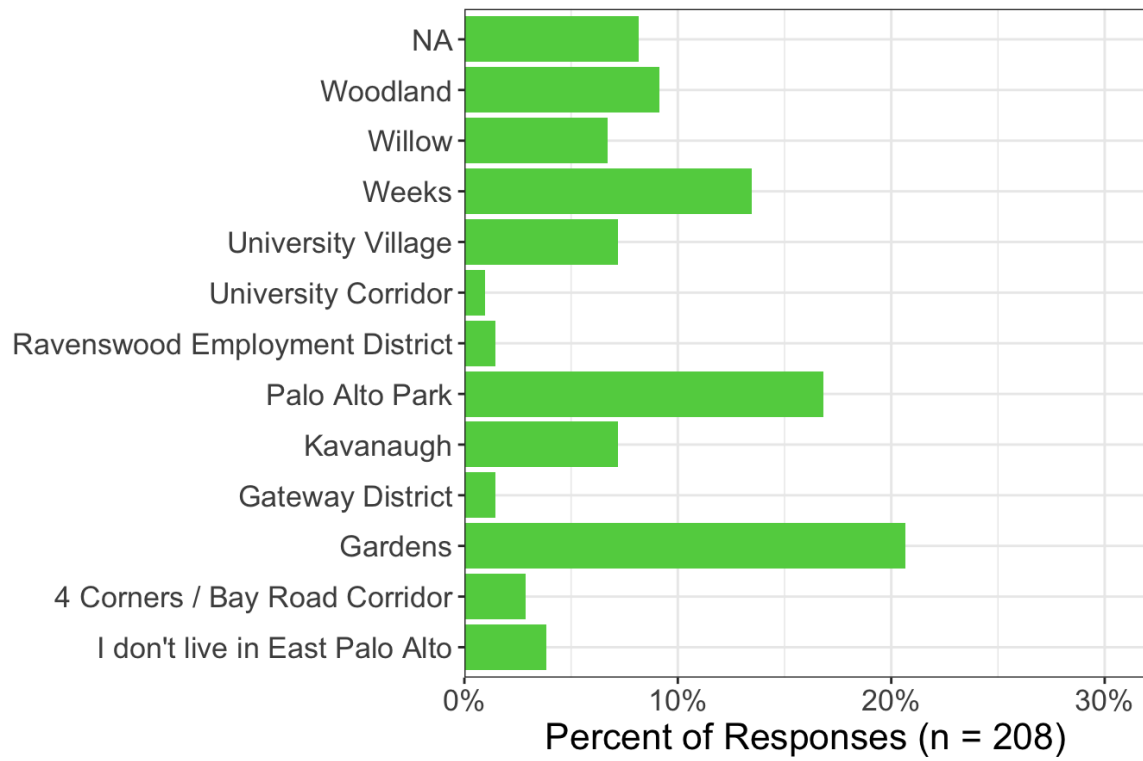
What is your connection to East Palo Alto?



20. If you live in East Palo Alto, in which neighborhood do you currently live?

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
I don't live in East Palo Alto	8	4%
4 Corners/Bay Road Corridor	6	3%
Garden	43	21%
Gateway District	3	1%
Kavanaugh	15	7%
Palo Alto Park	35	17%
Ravenswood Employment District	3	1%
University Corridor	2	1%
University Village	15	7%
Weeks	28	14%
Willow	14	7%
Woodland	19	9%
Left blank	17	8%

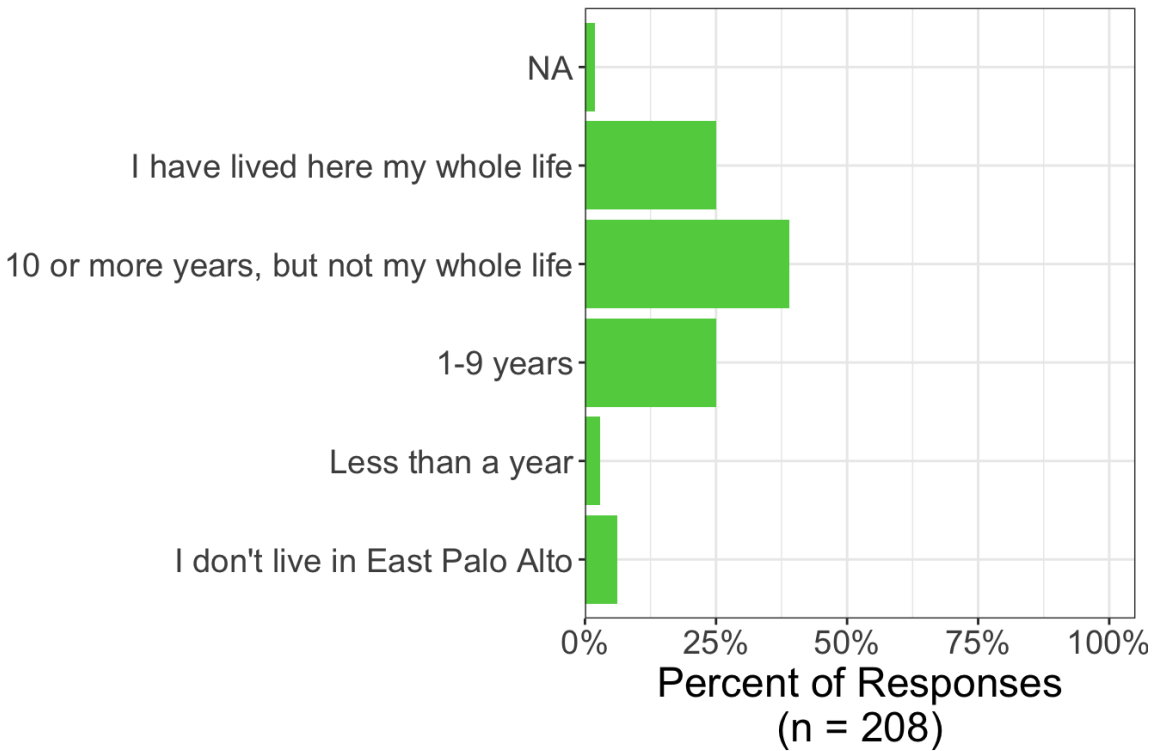
In which neighborhood do you currently live?



21. How long have you lived in East Palo Alto?

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
I don't live in East Palo Alto	13	6%
Less than a year	6	3%
1-9 years	52	25%
10 or more years, but not my whole life	81	39%
I have lived here my whole life	52	25%
Left blank	4	2%

How long have you lived in East Palo Alto?



22. Do you rent or own your residence in East Palo Alto?

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
I don't live in East Palo Alto	12	6%
I own the space where I live	109	52%
I rent the space where I live	68	33%
I have another living arrangement	15	7%
Left blank	4	2%

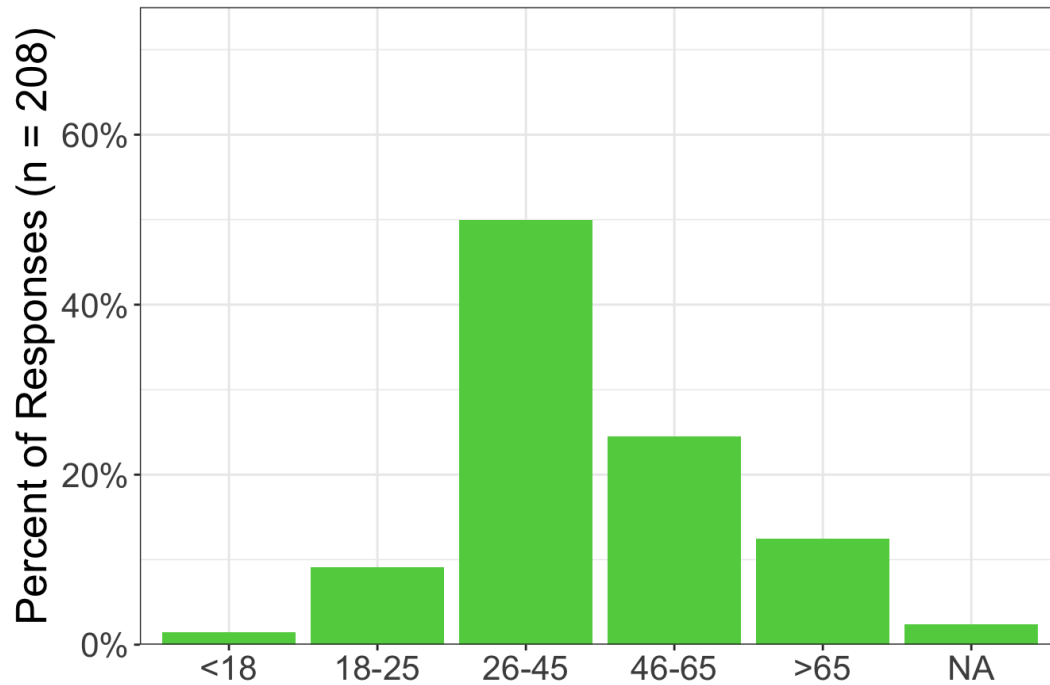
Do you rent or own your residence in EPA?



23. What is your age?

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Under 18 years	3	1%
18-25 years	19	9%
26-45 years	104	50%
46-65 years	51	25%
Over 65 years	26	13%
Left blank	5	2%

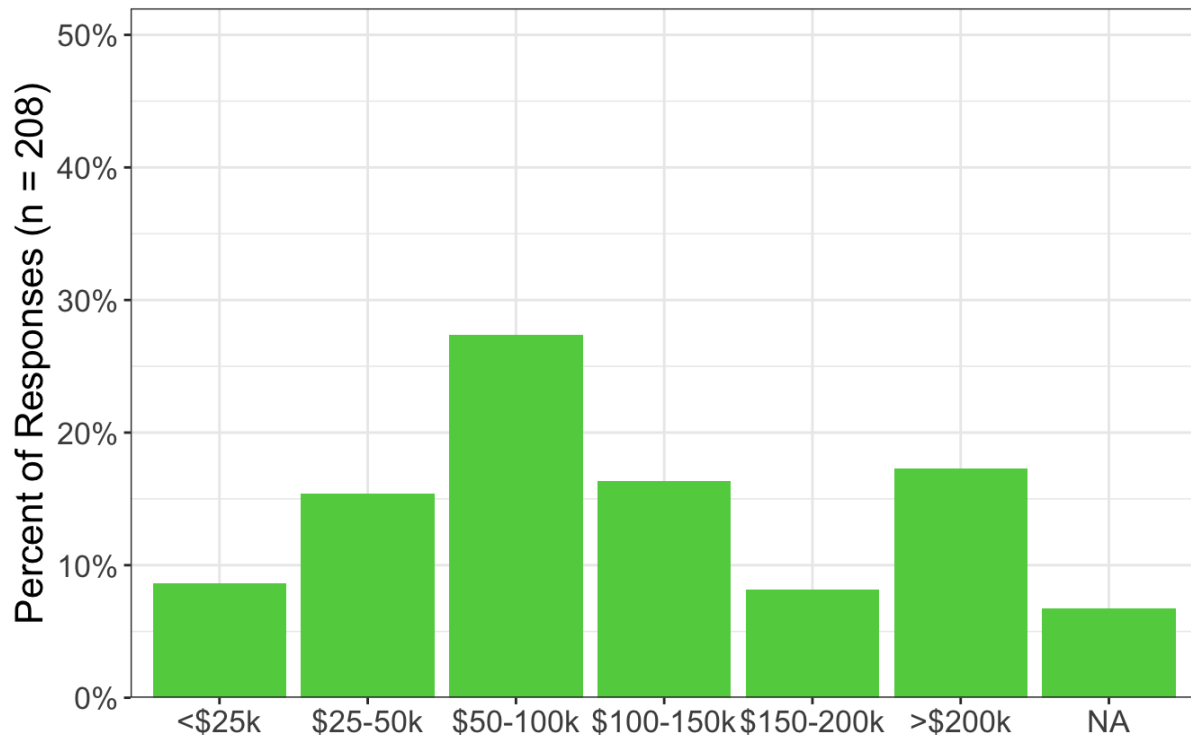
What is your age?



24. Which category below best represents the total combined income before taxes for all the people in your household for 2020?

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
\$24,999 and under	18	9%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	32	15%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	57	27%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	34	16%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	17	8%
More than \$200,000	36	17%
Left blank	14	7%

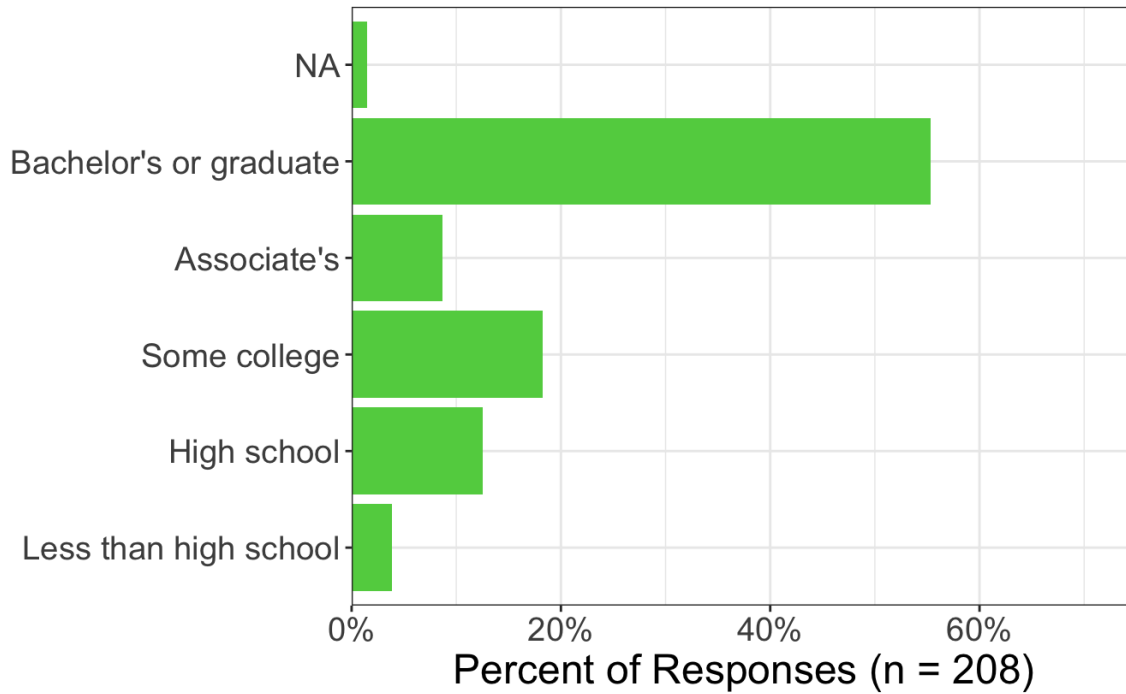
Which category best represents the total combined income for your household for 2020?



25. What is the highest level of school you have completed?

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Less than high school	8	4%
Grade 12, high school, or GED	26	13%
Some college, no degree	38	18%
Associate's degree	18	9%
Bachelor's or graduate degree	115	55%
Left blank	3	1%

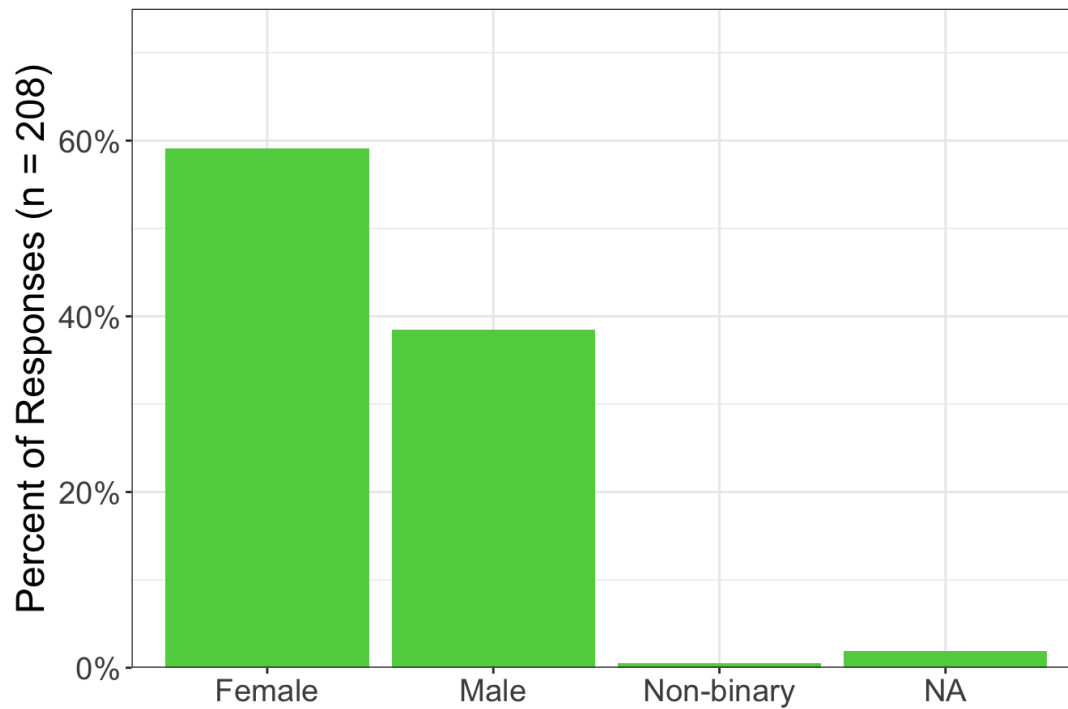
What is the highest level of school you have completed?



26. What is your gender?

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Male	80	39%
Non-binary	1	0.5%
Female	123	59%
Another identity not listed	0	0%
Left blank	4	2%

What is your gender?



27. What racial/ethnic group do you consider yourself part of or feel closest to?

Response	Number of respondents	Percent of respondents
Latino/Hispanic/Mexican	94	45%
African-American/Black	32	15%
Caucasian/White	54	26%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	10	5%
Asian	15	7%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2	1%
Mixed Heritage	11	5%
Another identity not listed	11	5%

What racial/ethnic group do you consider yourself part of or feel closest to?

