

2023 Community Survey Results

Summary

Soil Management of Residential Yards in Trail



The Trail Area Health & Environment Program (THEP) undertook a survey of community members to understand their perceptions of the soil management program in 2019, and again in 2023.

The 2023 survey was administered online through Survey Monkey and open from October 23 to November 5. It was shared by social media and email lists via City of Trail, Village of Warfield, RDKB, Family Action Network, FAIR, Trail and District Chamber of Commerce, THEC community members, internal networks at Teck, Interior Health and THEP’s Community Program Office, and advertised in the Trail Times (three paid print ads between October 26 and November 5). An independent consultant was engaged to analyze the results.

In total, 158 individuals completed one or more survey questions in 2023. After data cleaning, 142 eligible responses remained, an increase of 32% over the 2019 survey response (108).¹

While respondents remained overwhelmingly supportive of the soil management program in 2023, the share of supportive individuals was slightly below 2019 results. In 2023, 92% of respondents said they were either very supportive or supportive of increased soil management of yards in Trail. 8% were either neutral or did not know enough about the program to answer, while 1% (1 person) was opposed to soil management. In contrast, 96% of respondents in 2019 were supportive of soil management, 4% were either neutral or did not know enough about the program to answer, and none were opposed to the program. Notably, the share of *highly* supportive individuals in 2023 (59%) was considerably lower compared to 2019 (81%).

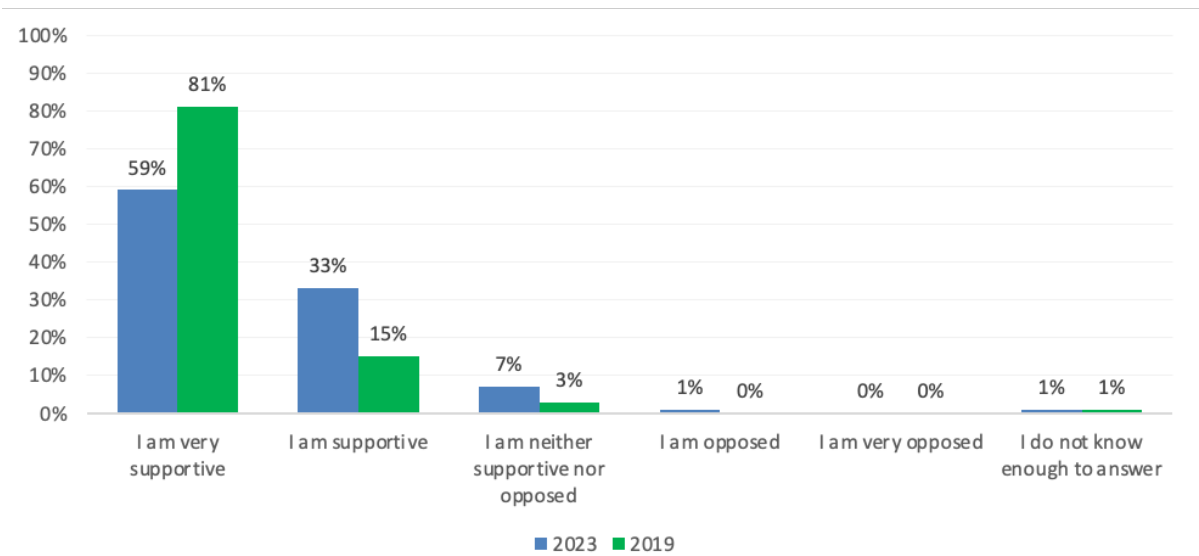


Figure 1: Respondent answers to “How supportive or opposed are you to increased soil management of yards in Trail?” (2023 vs. 2019)

¹ Data cleaning is a process to remove “ineligible” responses to improve the integrity of survey results. 16 responses were removed – 15 answered an insufficient number of questions (one or two questions only) and there was one duplication.

General reasons mentioned by 2023 respondents for supporting the program include a reduction of lead in the soil ensures the community is safe for both people (with particular concern for children's health) and animals including wildlife, it improves land and yard ecosystems which promotes healthy plants, and soil management beautified the community which enhances property values.

There were some concerns around noise (16% reported noise was a big concern or somewhat of a concern), dust (30% reported dust was a big concern or somewhat of a concern), and increased traffic (16% reported increased traffic was a big concern or somewhat of a concern). These concerns were all higher than those reported by 2019 respondents, which were 5%, 10% and 11% respectively.

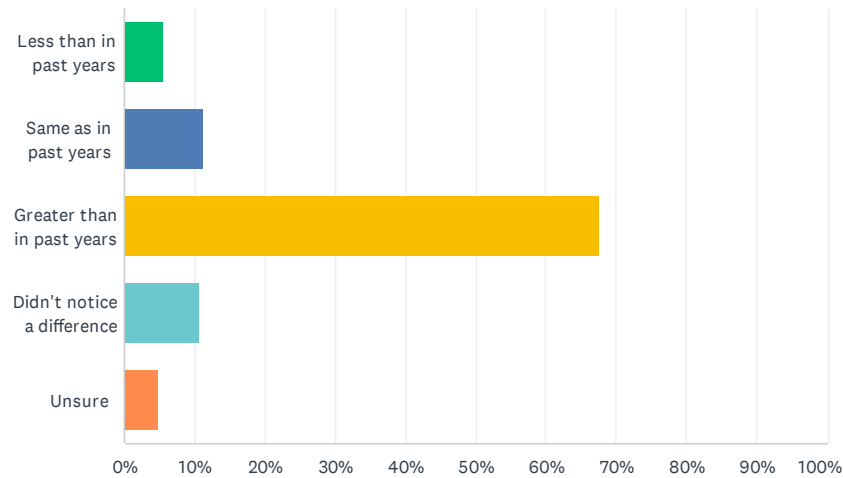
Most respondents (67%) noticed safe practices of contractors and workers for the soil management program in 2023, while 12% said they did not. In 2019, safe practices were noticed by the majority respondents (69%) and very few (5%) did not notice safe practices. 95% of respondents said that they never felt unsafe when passing properties undergoing soil management work in 2023, which is on par with the 2019 response.

Most responses and comments were positive and supportive of the program in 2023. While many respondents were impressed by the work being done, some individuals expressed disappointment at being excluded from program. There were some suggestions for improvement such as scheduling of work times, controlling types of vehicles that enter the community, notifying residents ahead of time, supervision by safety personnel, and opening the program to all residents.

A summary of survey results follows with comments removed to protect anonymity of respondents.

Q1 From my perspective, I noticed that soil management work in residential yards in Trail this year was:

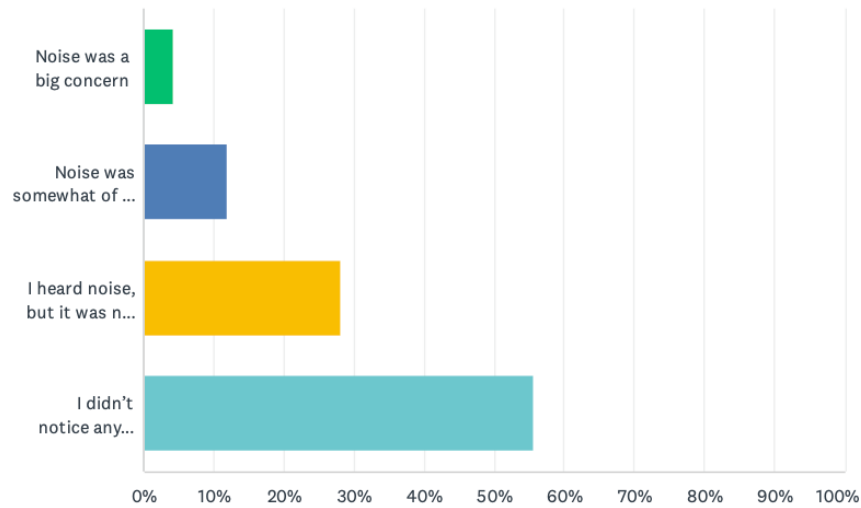
Answered: 142 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Less than in past years		5.63%	8
Same as in past years		11.27%	16
Greater than in past years		67.61%	96
Didn't notice a difference		10.56%	15
Unsure		4.93%	7
TOTAL			142

Q2 Related to noise from soil management, please check the answer that best applies.

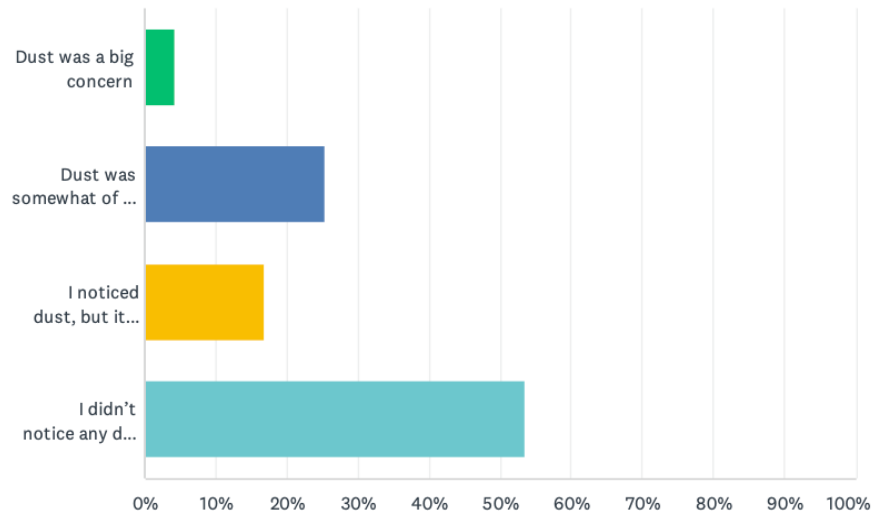
Answered: 142 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Noise was a big concern	4.23%	6
Noise was somewhat of a concern	11.97%	17
I heard noise, but it was not a concern	28.17%	40
I didn't notice any noise related to soil management in yards	55.63%	79
TOTAL		142

Q4 Related to dust from soil management, please check the answer that best applies.

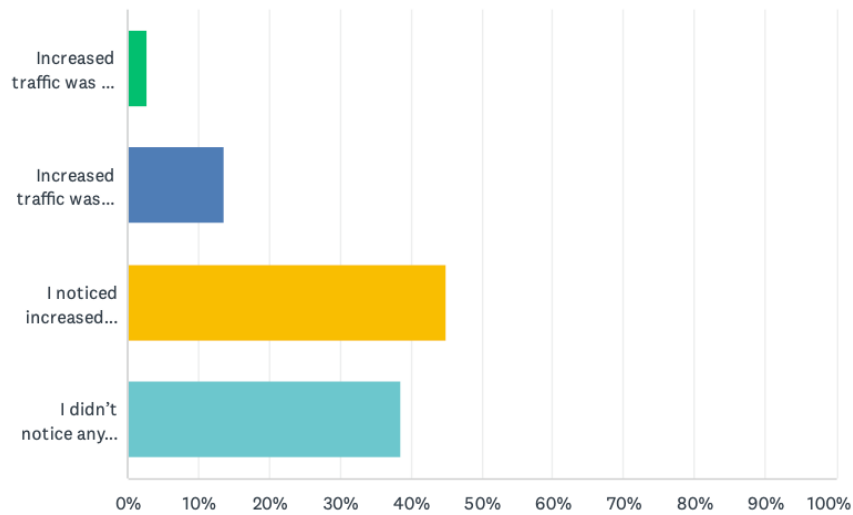
Answered: 142 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Dust was a big concern	4.23%	6
Dust was somewhat of a concern	25.35%	36
I noticed dust, but it was not a concern	16.90%	24
I didn't notice any dust related to soil management in yards	53.52%	76
TOTAL		142

Q5 Related to traffic from soil management, please check the answer that best applies.

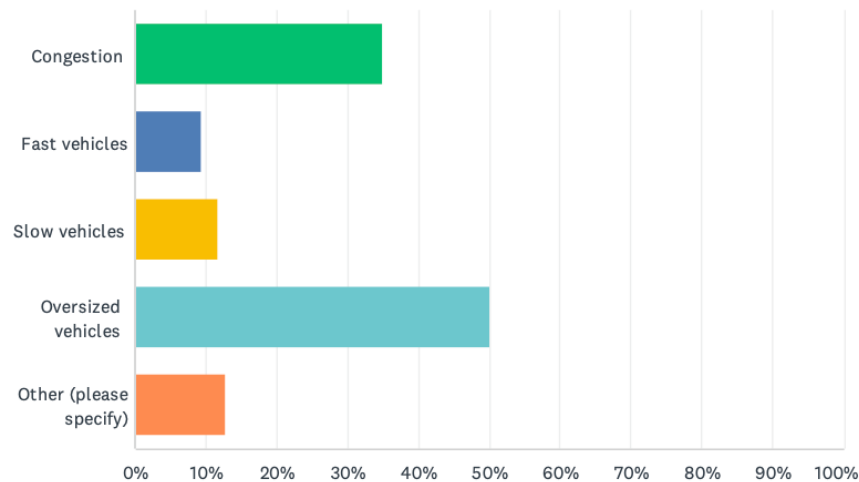
Answered: 140 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increased traffic was a big concern	2.86%	4
Increased traffic was somewhat of a concern	13.57%	19
I noticed increased traffic, but it was not a concern	45.00%	63
I didn't notice any increased traffic related to soil management in yards	38.57%	54
TOTAL		140

Q6 What were some of the biggest issues related to traffic from soil management?

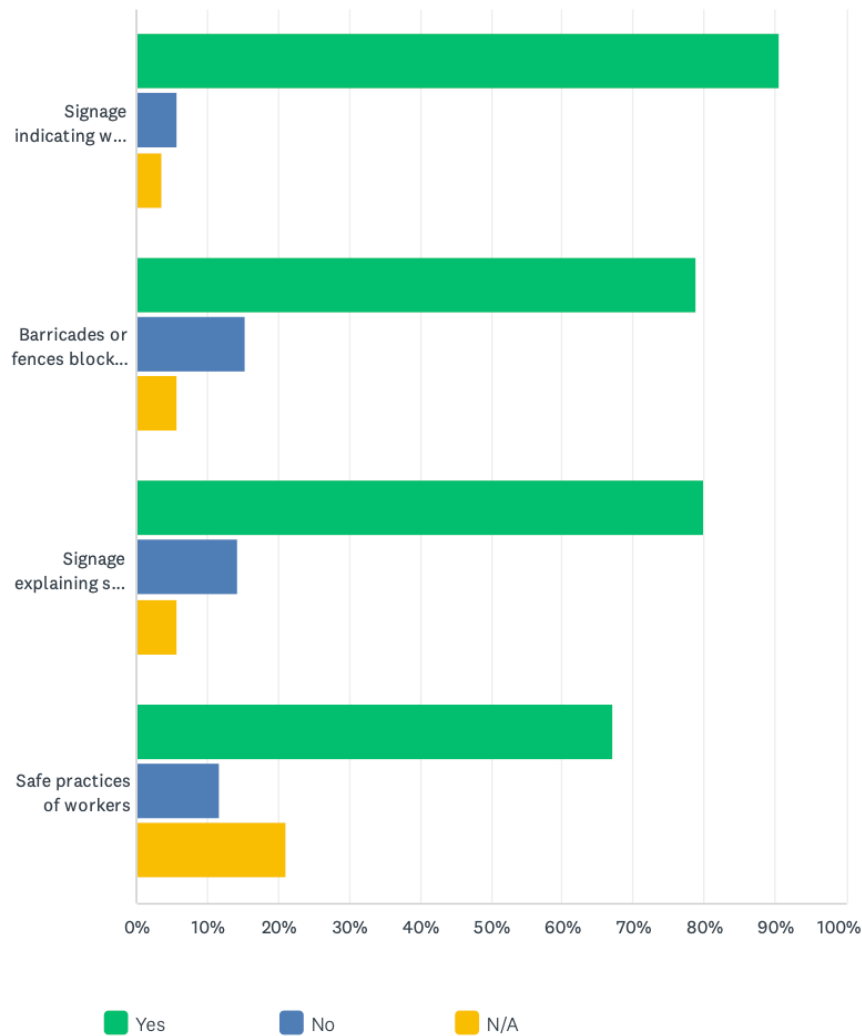
Answered: 86 Skipped: 56



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Congestion	34.88%	30
Fast vehicles	9.30%	8
Slow vehicles	11.63%	10
Oversized vehicles	50.00%	43
Other (please specify)	12.79%	11
Total Respondents: 86		

Q7 When passing properties undergoing soil management, please indicate if you have noticed any of the following:

Answered: 139 Skipped: 3



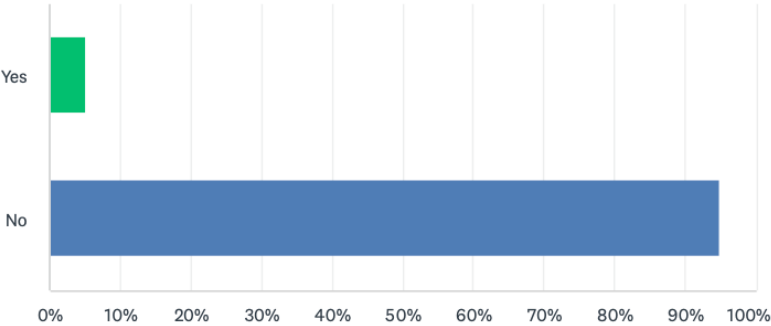
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SurveyMonkey

	YES	NO	N/A	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Signage indicating work site	90.58% 125	5.80% 8	3.62% 5	138	1.06
Barricades or fences blocking off work site	78.83% 108	15.33% 21	5.84% 8	137	1.16
Signage explaining soil management	79.86% 111	14.39% 20	5.76% 8	139	1.15
Safe practices of workers	67.15% 92	11.68% 16	21.17% 29	137	1.15

Q8 Have you ever felt unsafe when passing properties undergoing soil management work?

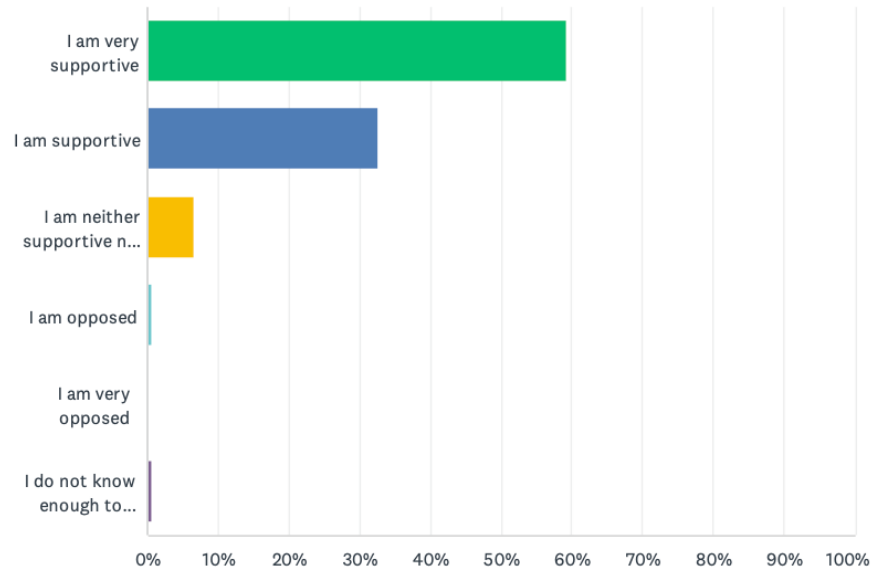
Answered: 139 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	5.04%	7
No	94.96%	132
TOTAL		139

Q10 How supportive or opposed are you to increased soil management of yards in Trail?

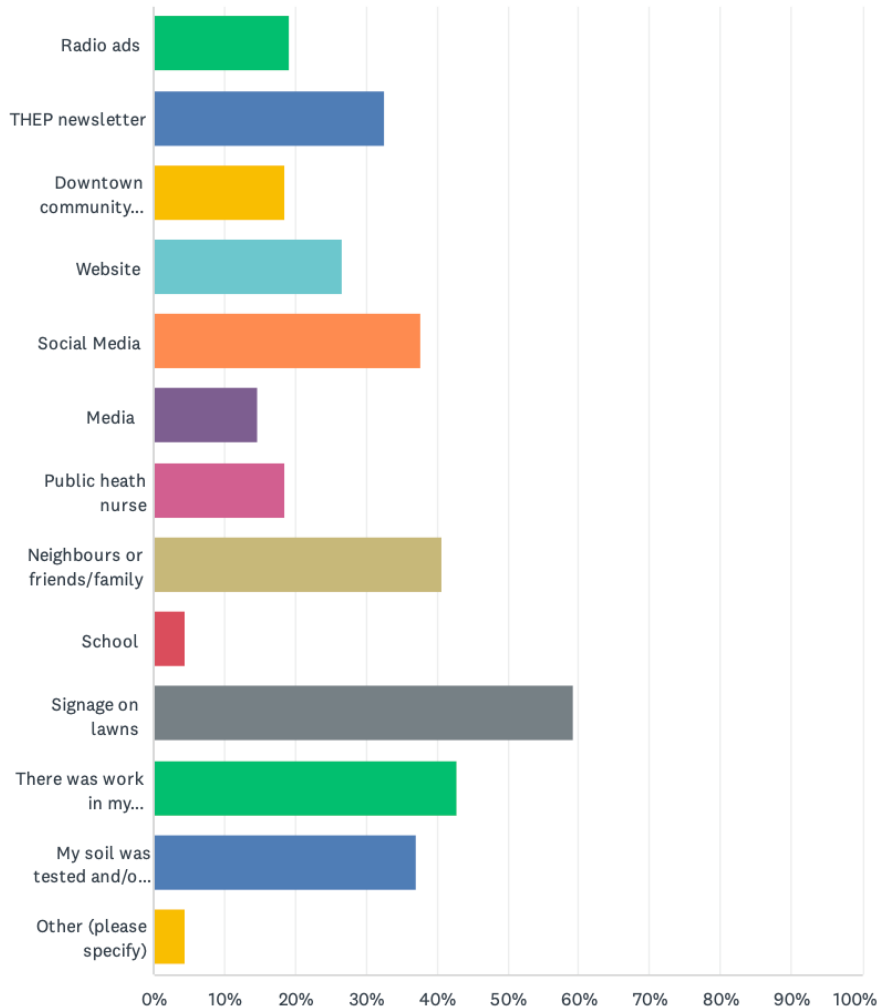
Answered: 135 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am very supportive	59.26%	80
I am supportive	32.59%	44
I am neither supportive nor opposed	6.67%	9
I am opposed	0.74%	1
I am very opposed	0.00%	0
I do not know enough to answer	0.74%	1
TOTAL		135

Q12 Where have you seen or heard about the soil management program of the Trail Area Health & Environment Program?

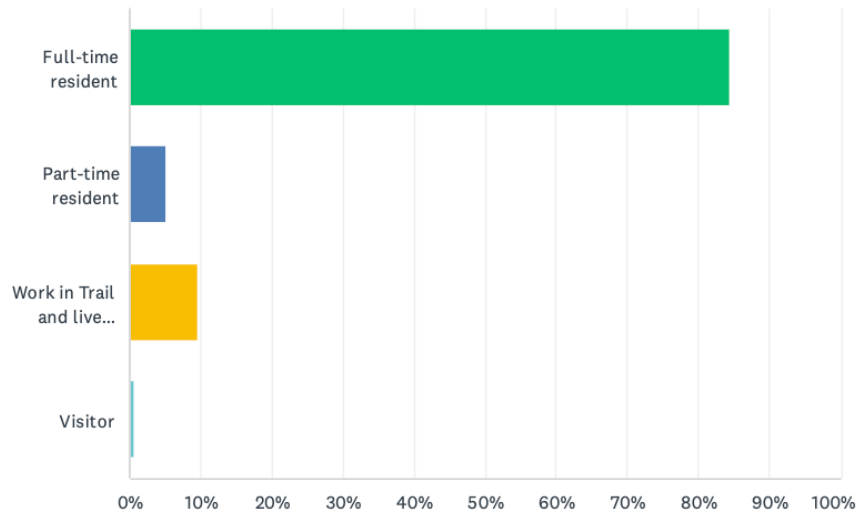
Answered: 135 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Radio ads	19.26%	26
THEP newsletter	32.59%	44
Downtown community program office	18.52%	25
Website	26.67%	36
Social Media	37.78%	51
Media	14.81%	20
Public health nurse	18.52%	25
Neighbours or friends/family	40.74%	55
School	4.44%	6
Signage on lawns	59.26%	80
There was work in my neighbourhood	42.96%	58
My soil was tested and/or remediated	37.04%	50
Other (please specify)	4.44%	6
Total Respondents: 135		

Q13 Which option most applies to you?

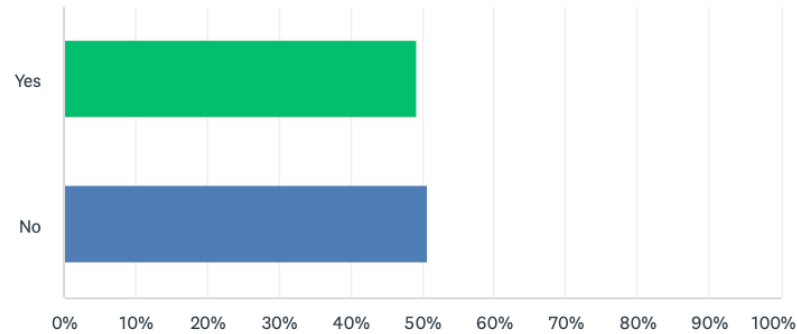
Answered: 135 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Full-time resident	84.44%	114
Part-time resident	5.19%	7
Work in Trail and live elsewhere	9.63%	13
Visitor	0.74%	1
TOTAL		135

Q14 Would you be willing to participate in a follow up interview?

Answered: 132 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	49.24%	65
No	50.76%	67
TOTAL		132