

SUMMIT LAKE

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS

Neighborhood Task Force
September 16, 2021



Welcome!

Today's Agenda

- Choice Neighborhoods activities update
- Land Use activities update
- Review of workshop input
- Review of survey results
- Next steps

Schedule



TASK FORCE MEETING #4

PLAN COMPLETE

PLAN COMPLETE

LAND USE

ASSESSMENT ENGAGEMENT PRELIMINARY IDEAS FINAL PLAN

IMPLEMENTATION

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS

ASSESSMENT ENGAGEMENT VISIONING PRELIMINARY IDEAS FINAL PLAN

AKRON CIVIC COMMONS

ENGAGEMENT & DESIGN (Continuing Work)



Choice Activities to Date

REVIEW OF NEIGHBORHOOD CONDITIONS



SURVEYS COMPLETED:

132

Summit Lake Apartment Residents



INTERVIEWS 

22 *Apartment residents*

21 *Service providers*

7 *Stakeholders*

WEBSITE 

<https://www.akronciviccommons.org/choice-neighborhood>

FIRST ROUND OF COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

68 *Participants signed in*



Land Use Plan Activities to Date



Overview of Our Summit Lake Engagement Actions Timeline



- PHASE 1: ASSESSING EXISTING CONDITIONS
- PHASE 2: UNDERSTANDING OPTIONS
- PHASE 3: REFINING THE PLAN

TODAY

Land Use Plan Upcoming Event

Our Summit Lake +
**COMMUNITY
WORKSHOP**

+ Tuesday, September 28, 2021 • 6:00-7:30 p.m. +

The REACH Center, 390 West Crosier Street



RSVP at: OurSummitLake.com



WE HAD A GREAT TIME AT OUR FIRST
SUMMIT LAKE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP!

HISTORY +
BACKGROUND

COLLABORATIVE
MAP

FOOD +
DRINK

SPIN WHEEL

KIDS STATION

SURVEYS



A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT

to our resident volunteers and Y on the Fly!



WELCOME TO THE **SUMMIT LAKE** COMMUNITY WORKSHOP!

RAFFLE

A CHANCE TO WIN \$25!
To be entered into the raffle you must collect **three stamps** from completing the activities below:

<input type="checkbox"/>	1. WRITE YOUR PERSONAL HISTORY OF SUMMIT LAKE
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. SHOW US ON THE COLLABORATIVE MAP
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. GIVE A SPINWHEEL TESTIMONIAL
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. FILL OUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY (this one is worth two stamps!)

Your Name:

Email OR phone number:

YOU MUST include your contact information above to be eligible to win!

Once you've collected your stamps, return this card to the sign in station and you will be contacted if you win.

and to Akron Civic Commons for the raffle!

Summit Lake on July 20





SUNMIT
LAKE
MAKE NEIGHBORHOODS

SUNMIT
LAKE
MAKE NEIGHBORHOODS

"I'VE TASTED THE DIFFERENCE!"

"I'VE TASTED THE DIFFERENCE!"

"I'VE TASTED THE DIFFERENCE!"

"I'VE TASTED THE DIFFERENCE!"

"I'VE TASTED THE DIFFERENCE!"

Let's Grow Ake
Community Fair

Joe's
Ticket

LIVIN'



I ❤️ SUMMIT LAKE

I ❤️ SUMMIT LAKE

BE A HERO FOR MOUNT LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD

SHARE YOUR VOICES

LET'S TAKE LIFE AND PLAY TO THE NEXT LEVEL

ARTS & CRAFTS

When You're Done, Please Recycle

CRAYOLA

64 Crayola Crayons

98 Crayola Crayons

SHARPIE

CRAYOLA

SHARPIE

SHARPIE





TO THE
IT LAKE
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP!

2
COLLABORATION
SUMMIT LAKE
OUR SUMMIT LAKE
DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOODS

2
neighborhoods

What would the neighborhood
be like
if we could
change it?
What do you
want to see
in the neighborhood?
What do you
like about it?
What do you
not like about it?

Champion

Front Porch Fellowship on July 21







\$\$\$

Your neighborhood won the LOTTERY!
How would you spend that money to improve your community?

Double take!

What about your neighborhood makes you feel...

You have been ELECTED, Mayor for a day!
What's the most important thing you would do during your short tenure to improve the community?

Yay! Choose Pick any 2 questions to answer.

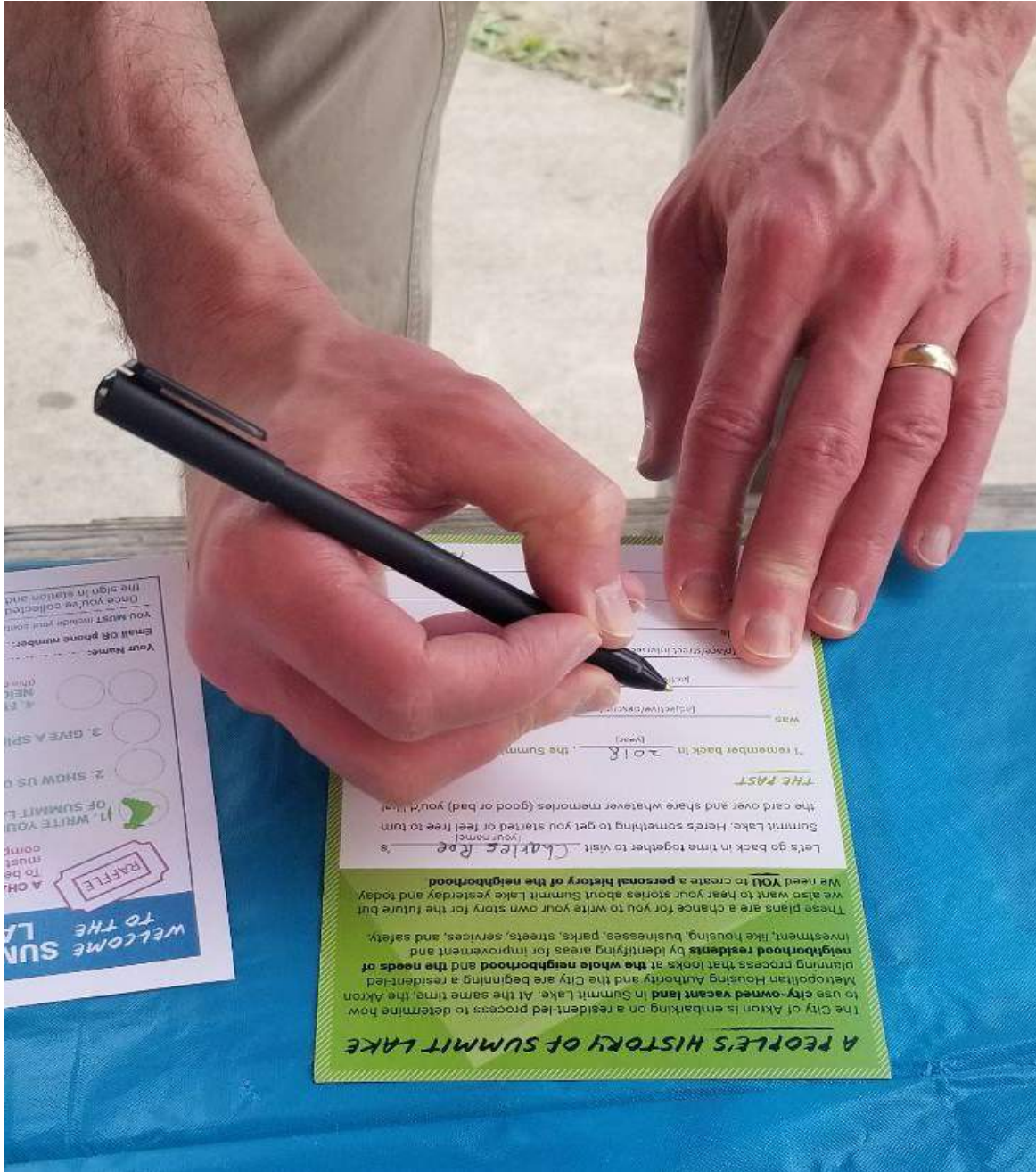
What about your neighborhood makes you feel...

Double take!

What about your neighborhood makes you feel...

I'M AMAZING!!

Neighborhood history and background



Neighborhood history and background

[58 cards]

A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF SUMMIT LAKE

The City of Akron is embarking on a resident-led process to determine how to use **city-owned vacant land** in Summit Lake. At the same time, the Akron Metropolitan Housing Authority and the City are beginning a resident-led planning process that looks at **the whole neighborhood** and **the needs of neighborhood residents** by identifying areas for improvement and investment, like housing, businesses, parks, streets, services, and safety.

These plans are a chance for you to write your own story for the future but we also want to hear your stories about Summit Lake yesterday and today. We need **YOU** to create a **personal history of the neighborhood**.

Let's go back in time together to visit [your name]'s Summit Lake. Here's something to get you started or feel free to turn the card over and share whatever memories (good or bad) you'd like!

THE PAST

"I remember back in late 90's [year], the Summit Lake Neighborhood was active [adjective/description]. We used to play night baseball [activity] in the Park [place/street intersection]. My fondest memory from that time is playing under the lights. [description]

TURN OVER →

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THE PAST

"I remember back in 2009 [year], the Summit Lake Neighborhood was very active [adjective/description]. We used to ride bikes around [activity] in where neighborhood [place/street intersection]. My fondest memory from that time is going to play in the woods besides the trail, [description] playing water kitchen and house.

TURN OVER →

A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF SUMMIT LAKE

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THE PAST

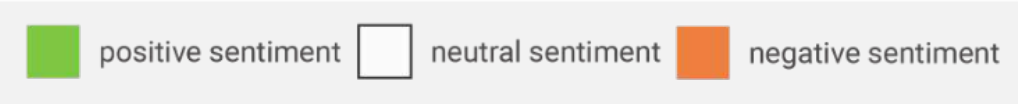
"I remember back in 2018 [year], the Summit Lake Neighborhood was cool [adjective/description]. We used to build make table garden & chairs [activity] in the Summit lake community center [place/street intersection]. My fondest memory from that time is building 2 huge chairs [description] with the build corps and Leo. one of the chair is in S.L the big blue one ☺ in the corner facing the lake

TURN OVER →

Neighborhood history and background

IN THE PAST

"The Summit Lake neighborhood was..."



1980s



VIBRANT, ALIVE, FUN

1990s



UNSAFE, DANGEROUS, LOUD



FULL OF PEOPLE, HOUSES, BUSINESSES, FUN, GREAT, ACTIVE

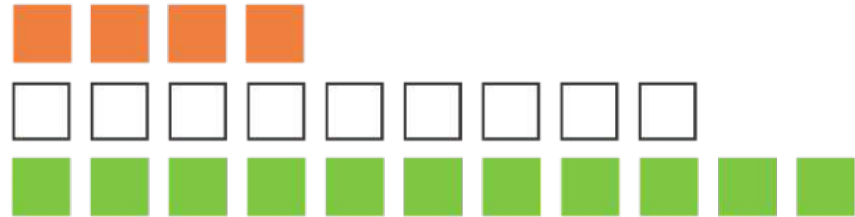
2000s



SCARY

SAFE, VERY ACTIVE

2010s - today



SCARY, DEPRESSING, INTIMIDATING

GOOD, CLEAN, DIFFERENT, FUN, TRANSFORMING, FRIENDLY, BOOMING

Neighborhood history and background

IN THE PAST

"We used to...."

FISH PARK CHURCH GARDENS LAUGH
PLAY LAKE BALL
HANGOUT FAMILY
LIVE FRIENDS
KIDS RIDE BIKES
WALK BASEBALL
FOOTBALL RUNNING AROUND

"My fondest memory is...."

"NEIGHBORS HELPING MOVE OUR FAMILY BELONGINGS INTO OUR NEW HOME"

"WATCHING THE DUCKS SWIM"

"MY GRANDPARENTS WENT TO THE DANCEHALL ON A DATE"

"EVERY OTHER FRIDAY WE WENT SWIMMING AT LINCOLN ELEMENTARY"

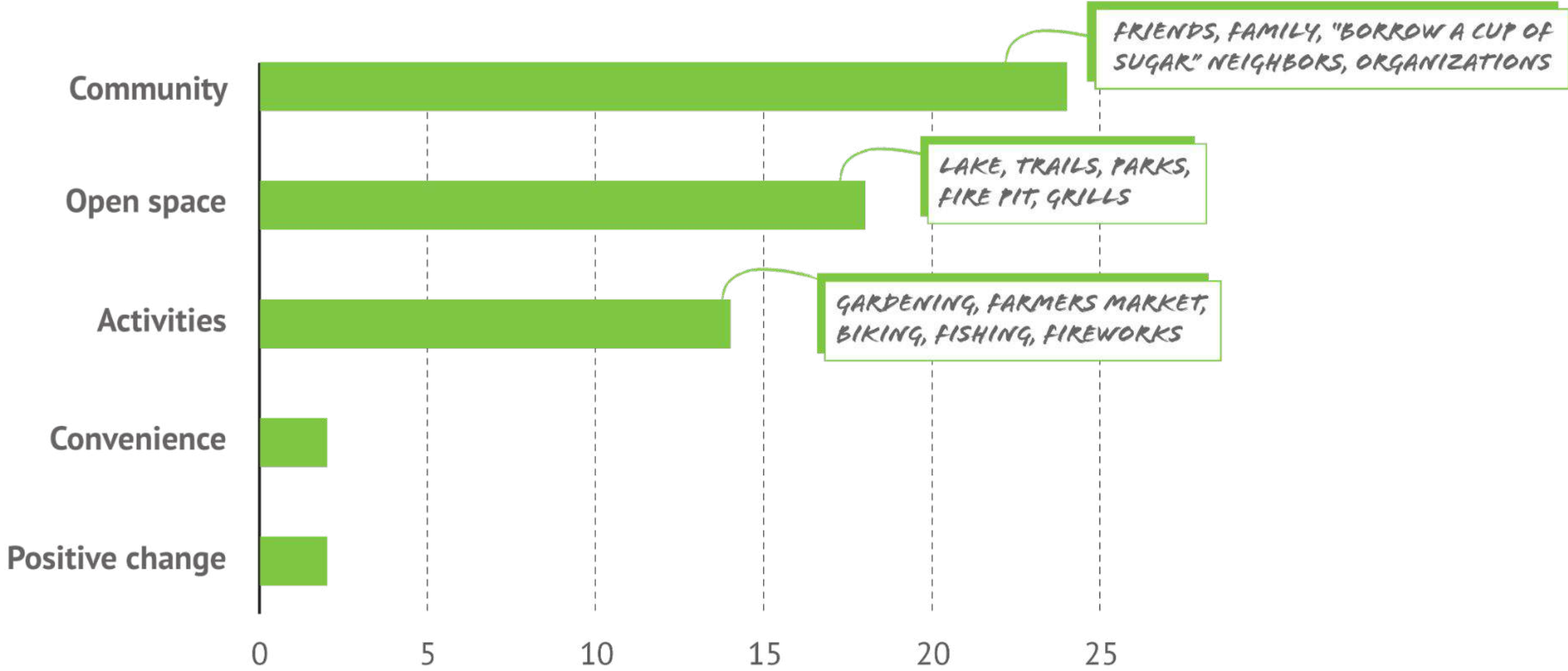
"BUILDING TWO HUGE CHAIRS WITH THE BUILD CORPS AND LEO"

"RIDING BIKES WITH ALL THE KIDS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND GOING TO ALL THE CORNER STORES GETTING CANDY"

Neighborhood history and background

IN THE PRESENT

"My favorite thing in the neighborhood is...."



Collaborative map

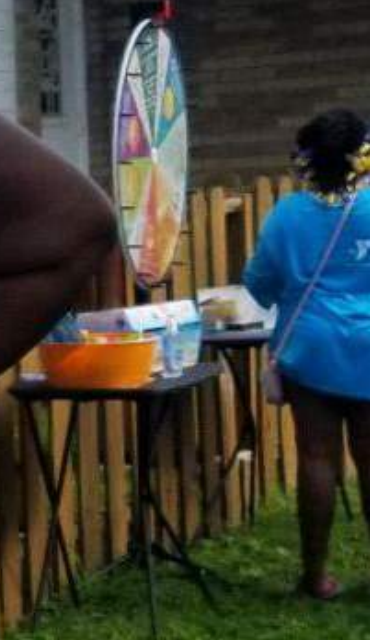


STEP 2
Place the  home sticker where you live
Use the  heart sticker to show us a neighborhood place you love

STEP 3
Use the  numbered sticker to highlight a neighborhood issue you would like to plan to solve
Place the  corresponding sticker below to explain your issue or idea



What is an issue you would like to see this neighborhood plan solve?
Please write your answer below.



Collaborative map

What is an issue you would like to see this neighborhood plan solve?

Place one sticker on the map and the matching one below with your answer.

! Don't forget to get your card stamped for the

RAFFLE

- I think we need more pavilions and playgrounds. (like community spaces)
- More Life / More Attractions in Kenmore / a coffee shop
- More community events. Like music festivals
- more public events
- More learning opportunities / Summer Camps
- We need a dog park
- Some sort of Lake Events
- Go Sweeping
- Tear down vacant houses
- Get rid of old vacant houses
- Consistent easy access onto the water (include kayaking, canoes)
- No one stops at the 4-way stop sign
- Community gardens on vacant lots
-
-
- Need more swings
- More Programs / MORE Outings + events
- There is few opportunities for children to be creative
-
- We need more places just for kids to hang out.
- Plow side street in winter (Oberlin St)
- They need to stop problems in Kenmore.
- more boats
- More restaurants.
- Plow side streets
- New Housing!
- Build a swimming pool.
-
-

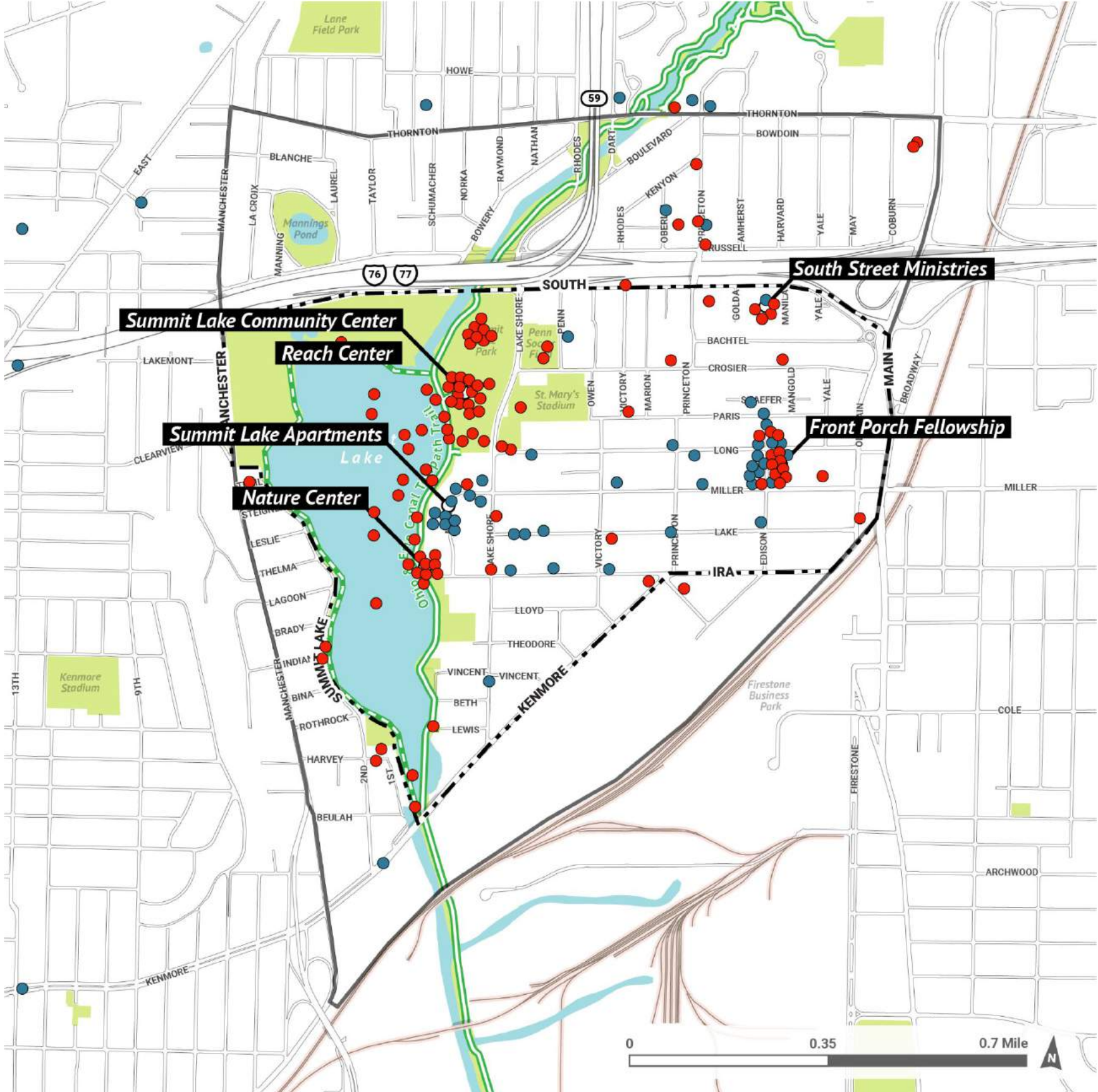
Collaborative map



where you live [52 stickers]



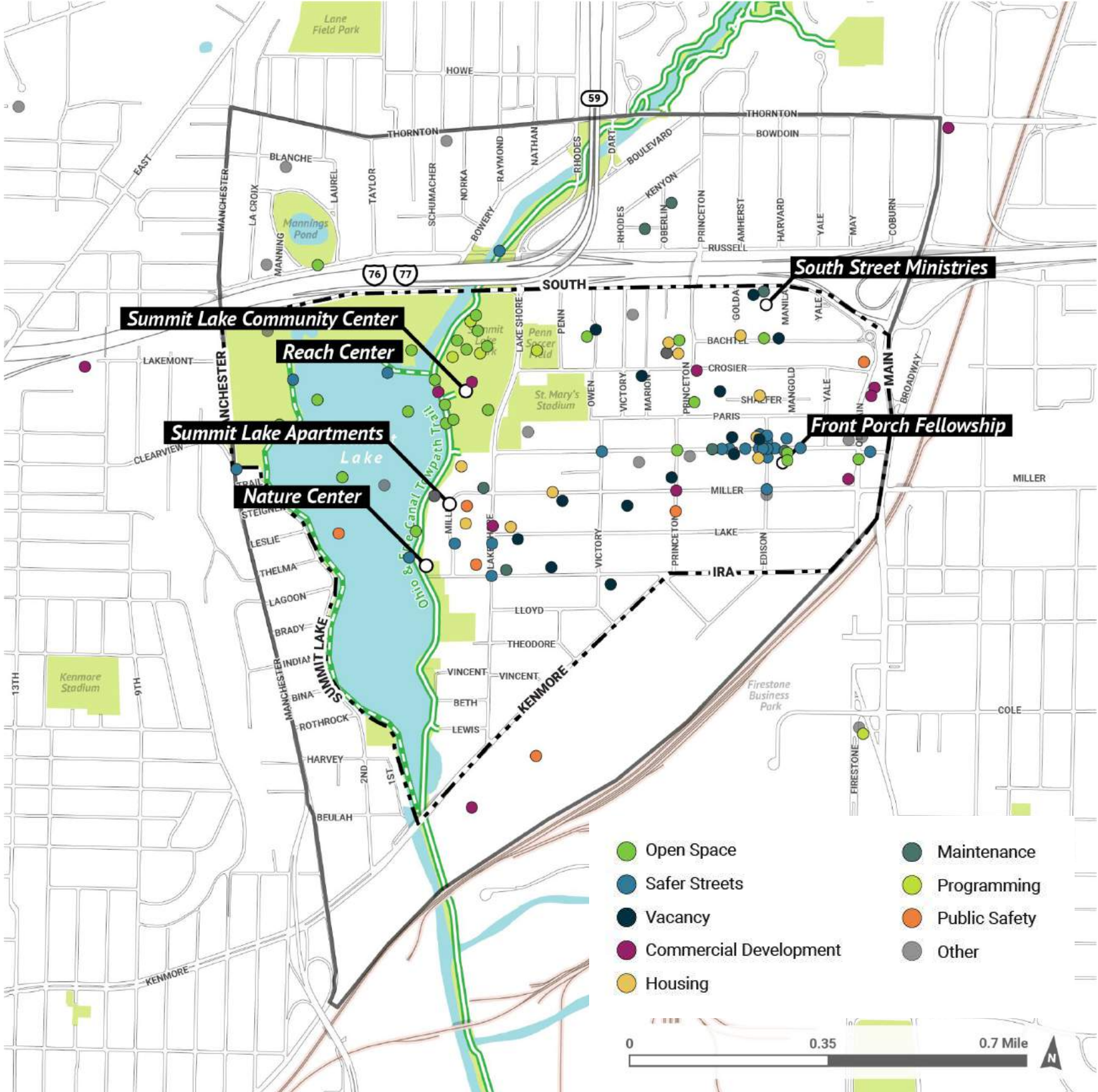
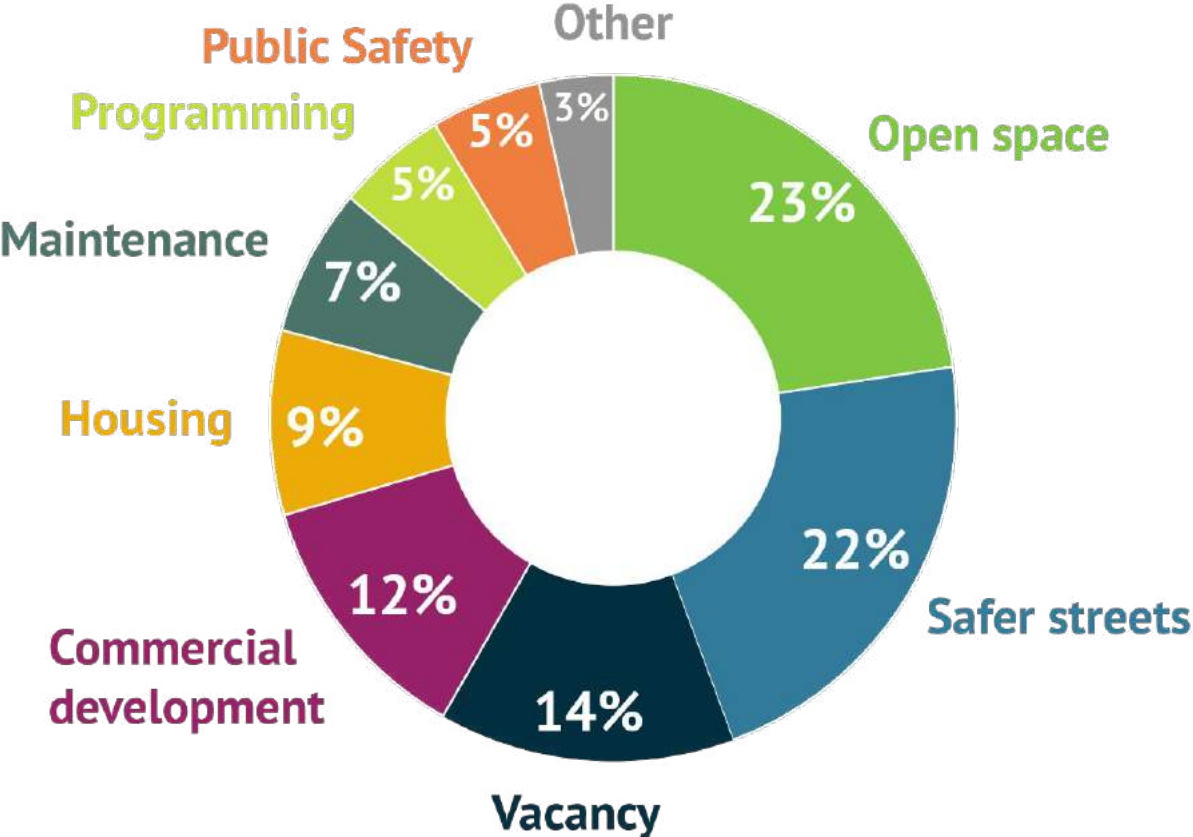
a place you love [104 stickers]



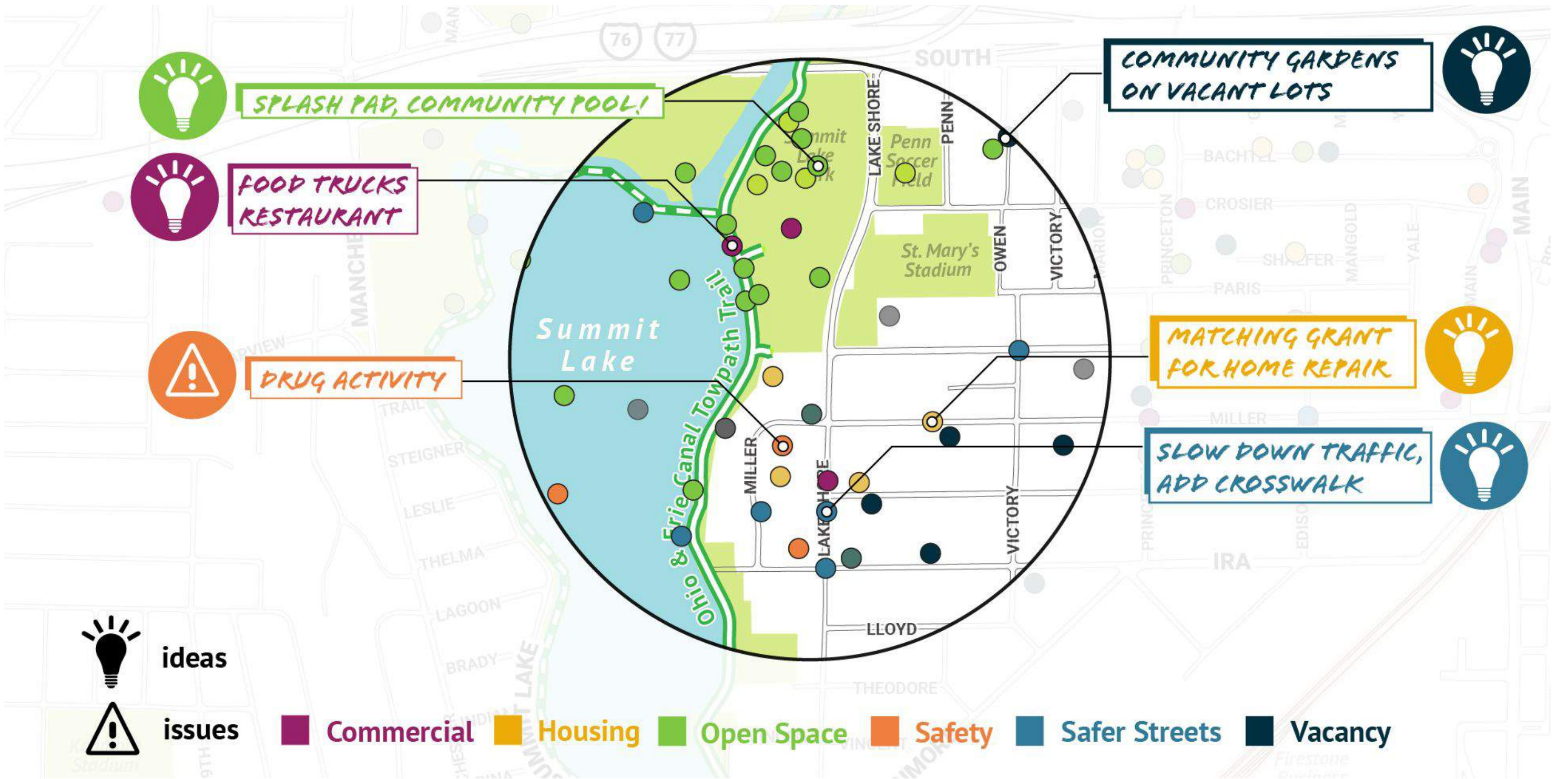
Collaborative map

What is an issue you would like to see this plan solve?

[115 comments]



Collaborative map



Spin wheel

[73 comments]



\$\$\$
Your neighborhood won the LOTTERY!
How would you spend that money to improve your community?

2
You! Choose 2. Pick any 2 questions to answer.

How do you feel...

You have been MAYOR for a day!
What's the most important thing you would do during your short tenure to improve your community?

2
YOU'RE TRYING TO BE A FRIENDLY MOVIE STAR!

Make me a house

Spin wheel



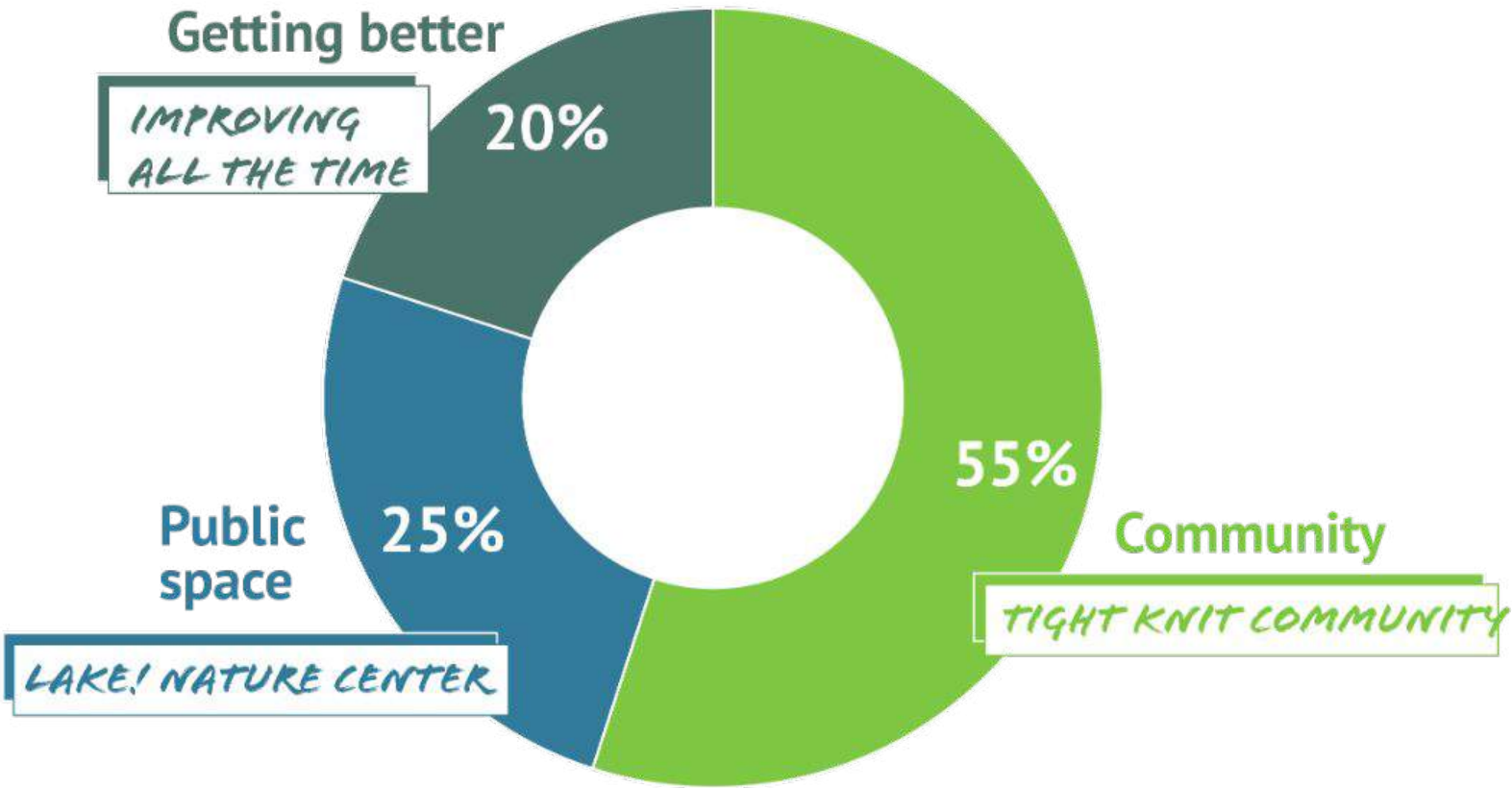
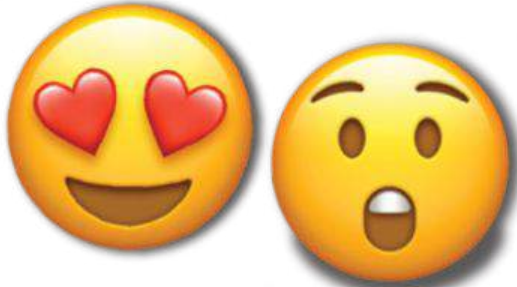
WHAT ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD MAKES YOU FEEL...



Spin wheel

What about the neighborhood makes you feel...

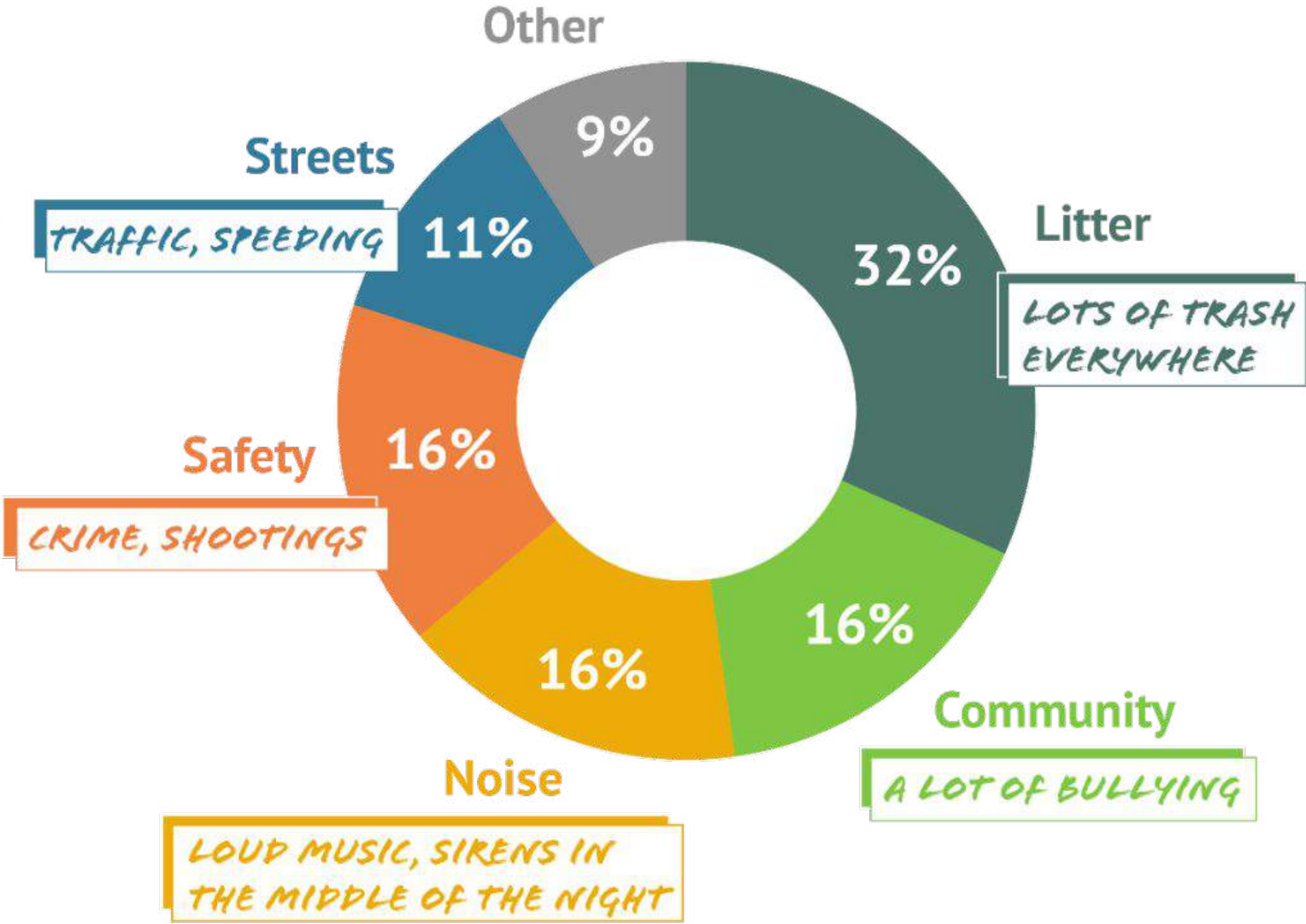
[20 comments]



Spin wheel

What about the neighborhood makes you feel...

[20 comments]



Spin wheel



\$\$\$
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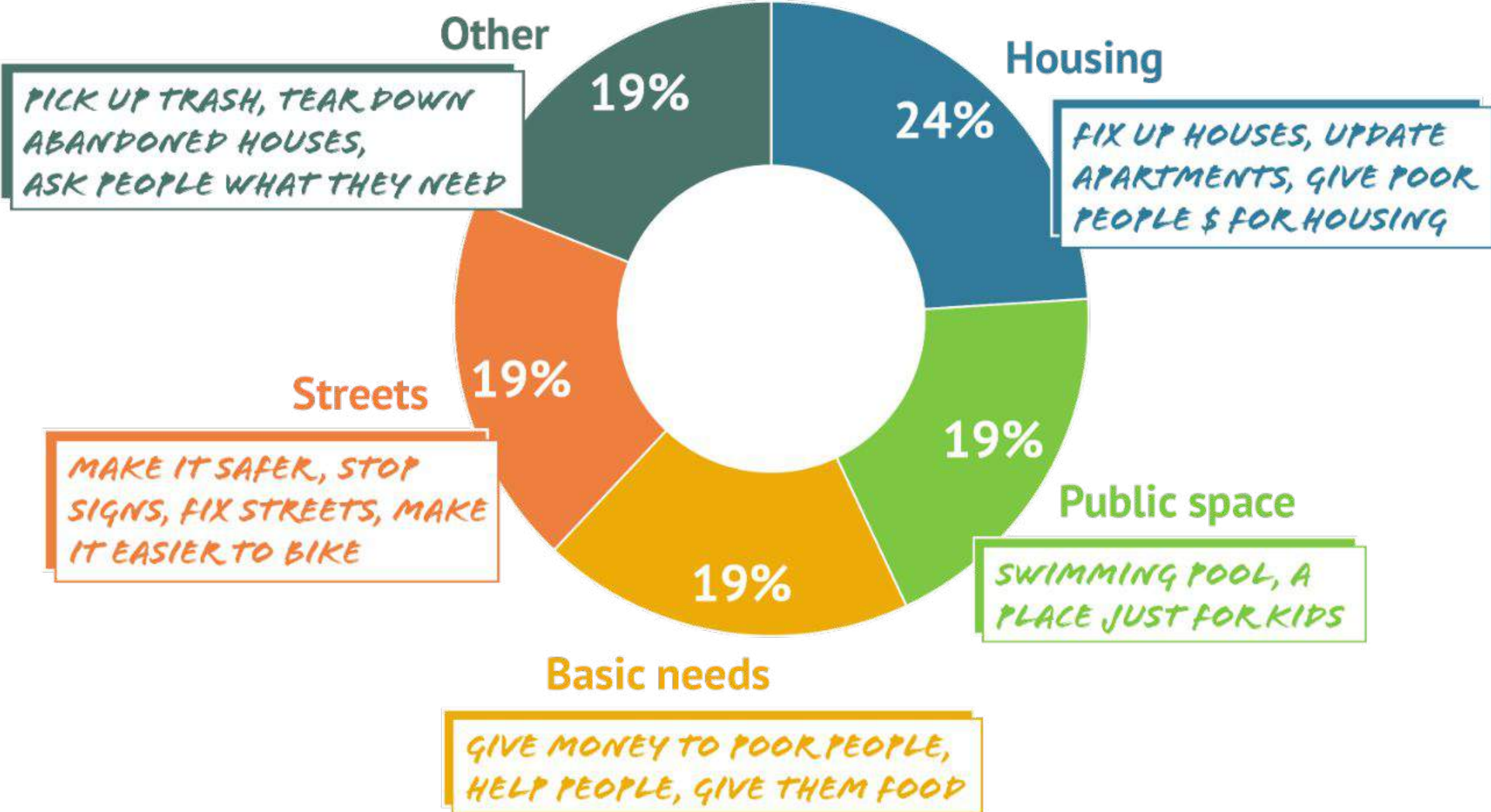
Spin wheel

What would you do to improve your community?

[21 comments]

\$\$\$
Your neighborhood won the LOTTERY!

You have been **ELECTED** Mayor for a day!



Summary: *what we've most frequently heard*

Community

There is a lot of pride in Summit Lake with committed residents and organizations looking to improve the community.

"THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY HERE."



Summary: *what we've most frequently heard*

Open space

The Civic Commons has brought the community to the water - the programming and activities on Summit Lake are invaluable.

However, what is happening on the lake often feels separate from the rest of the community.

There are great park spaces around Summit Lake but fewer opportunities on the hill.



"SUMMIT LAKE FEELS SO FAR AWAY. IF YOU DON'T LIVE A BLOCK AWAY IT FEELS SO FAR AWAY. YOU AREN'T CONNECTED. IT'S JUST FAR."

Summary: *what we've most frequently heard*

Streets

Streets and sidewalks are in poor condition and cars move too fast!

"PEOPLE FLY UP AND DOWN THE STREETS (SPEEDING) ON IRA. YOU CAN HEAR IT AT NIGHT. I WATCH PEOPLE BLOW RIGHT THROUGH THE STOP SIGNS.."



Summary: *what we've most frequently heard*

Quality of life

The overgrown lots, unsealed buildings and trash are major quality of life issues for neighbors.

Property owners need help to maintain houses.

The neighborhood safer now but there is still work to do and there's still a perception of Summit Lake as a dangerous place.

"THE NEIGHBORHOOD HAS GOTTEN BETTER, THE DRUG ACTIVITY HAS GONE DOWN BUT HOMELESS CAMPS ARE TUCKED AWAY IN THE COMMUNITY."



Summary: what we've most frequently heard

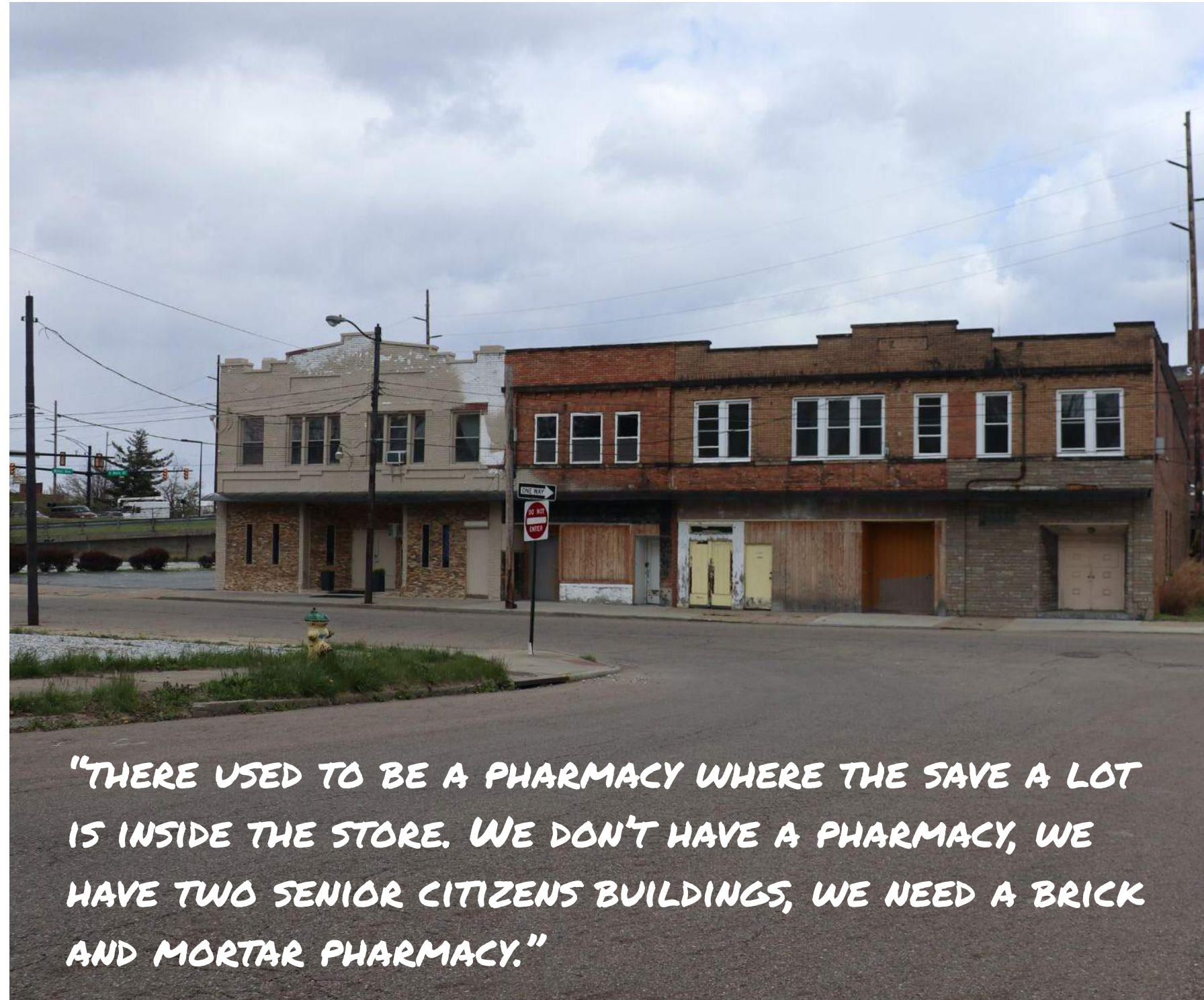
Basic needs

There are not enough retail amenities in Summit Lake. You have to leave the community to take care of basic shopping and needs.

It's difficult to get a loan or land for housing in the neighborhood.

Basic needs must be met first, people are in survival mode.

"THERE ARE NO AMENITIES AROUND HERE. IF YOU WANT A CUP A COFFEE YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK. TO GET LUNCH, YOU HAVE TO UBER OR DOOR DASH.



"THERE USED TO BE A PHARMACY WHERE THE SAVE A LOT IS INSIDE THE STORE. WE DON'T HAVE A PHARMACY, WE HAVE TWO SENIOR CITIZENS BUILDINGS, WE NEED A BRICK AND MORTAR PHARMACY."

Summit Lake Apartments Resident Survey Results



Summit Lake Community Workshop



Summit Lake Apartment pop-ups

04

What *THREE* things do you like *MOST* about the neighborhood ?

[127 responses]

Housing is affordable

74%

Parks and recreational spaces

60%

Access to public transportation

31%

Close to family/friends

26%

Access to neighborhood social services

23%

Location

18%

Access to youth and early learning programs like Head Start

15%

05 What *THREE* things are the biggest problems with the neighborhood?

[123 responses]

High crime/I don't feel safe here

51%

Lack of shopping/retail store option

43%

Poor street lighting

29%

Number of vacant/abandoned properties

15%

Too few school options

13%

Nothing - I like everything about this neighborhood

11%

"I DON'T FEEL SAFE AFTER DARK, AND PEOPLE THROW THEIR TRASH ON THE GROUND AND THE DUMPSTER AREA IS FILTHY"

06 How do you rate the following public services in the neighborhood?

[132 responses]

GOOD SERVICES

Public transportation options

56%

Ambulance/EMS response

48%

Quality of parks and recreational spaces

47%

POOR SERVICES

Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection

35%

Street cleaning / Snow removal

23%

Street and sidewalk conditions

22%

08

How safe do you feel in the following situations?

[132 responses]

VERY SAFE

Inside your apartment/home

52%

Walking to and from the Reach Opportunity Center and/or Summit Lake Community Center

41%

In the neighborhood during the day

38%

VERY UNSAFE

Walking around the lake at night

32%

In the neighborhood at night

21%

Walking to and from the Save A Lot or Aldi

11%

09

Have you personally seen or been a victim of any of the following crimes while living in the neighborhood?

[127 responses]

Gunshots

51%

Domestic violence/Fighting between family members

31%

Assault/Physical Attack

23%

Vandalism

20%

Drug Activity (buying, selling, using)

19%

Burglary/Theft

17%

Car break-ins

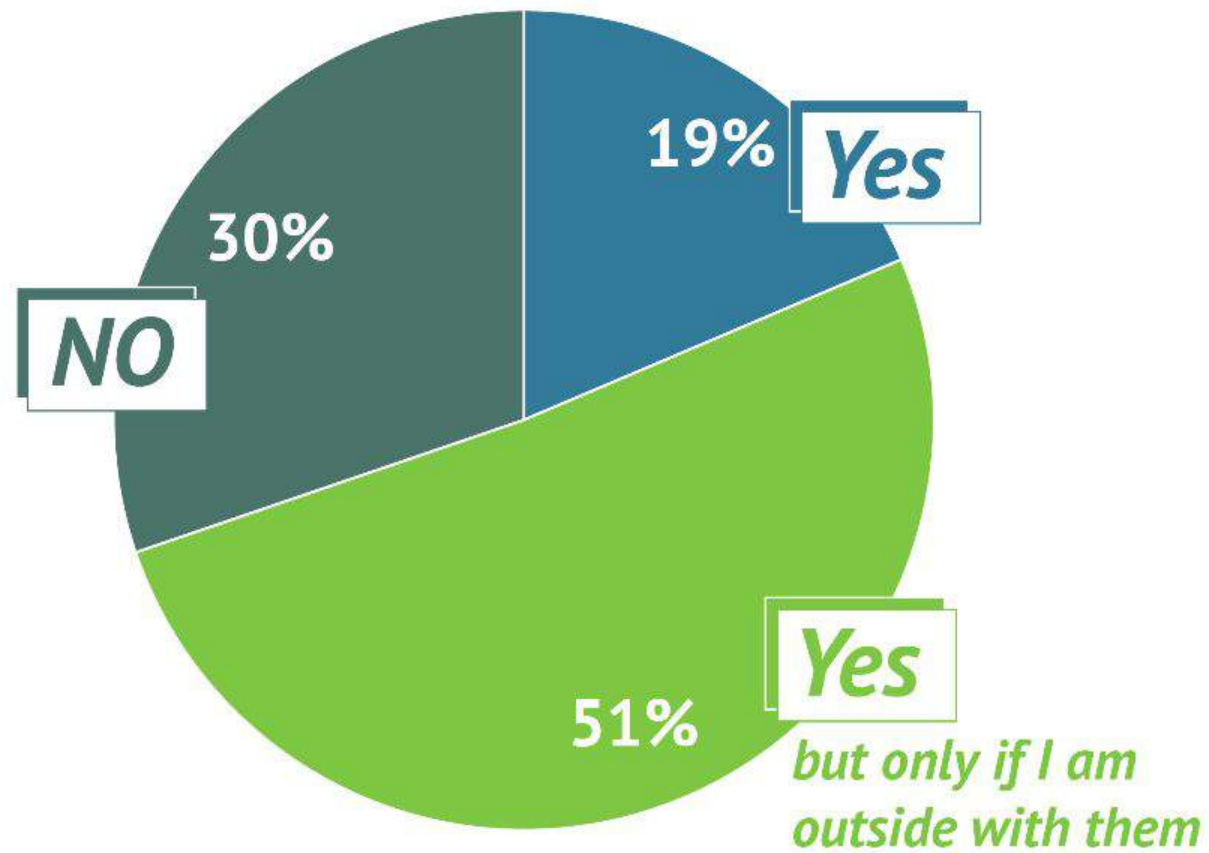
15%

Teenage violence

12%

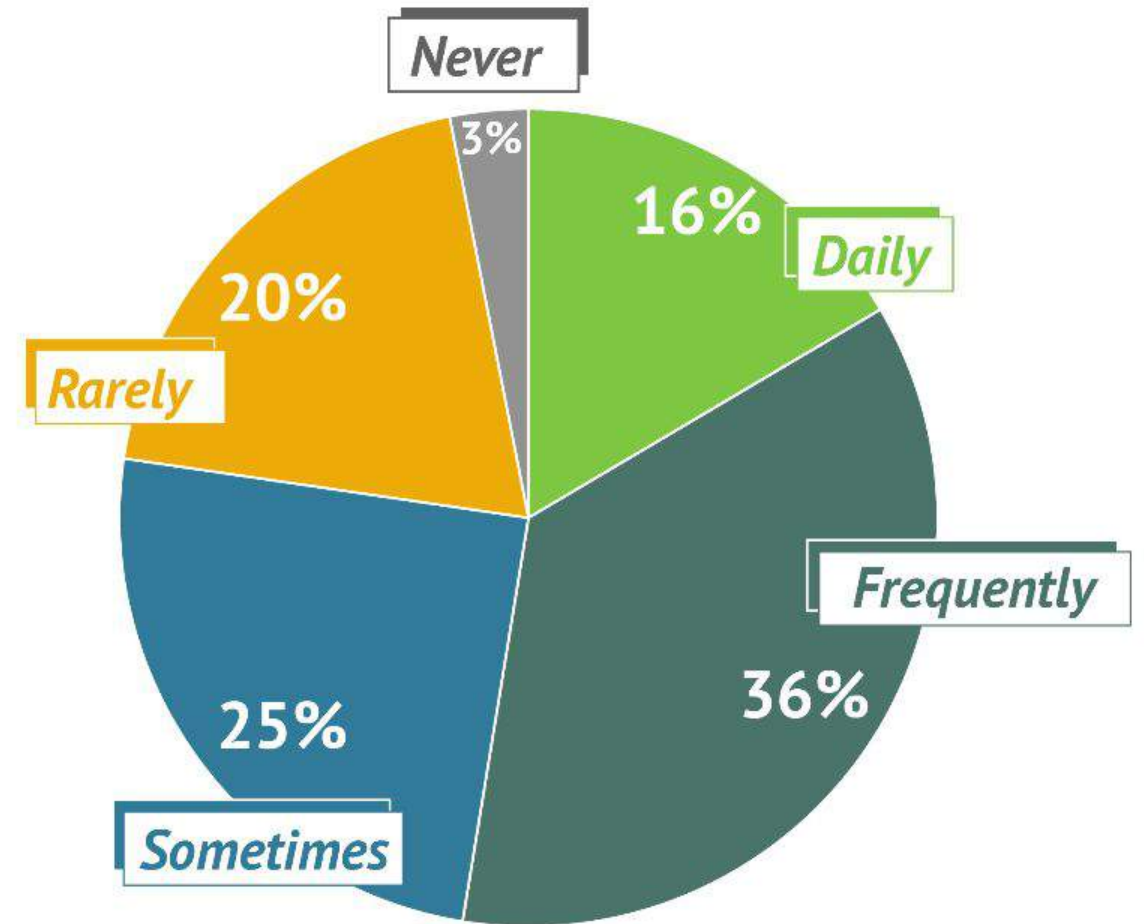
10 Do you allow your child(ren) to play outside your home?

[86 responses]



11 How often do you feel crime occurs in the neighborhood?

[97 responses]



12**The following questions are about police and community relations (mark one answer in each row)**

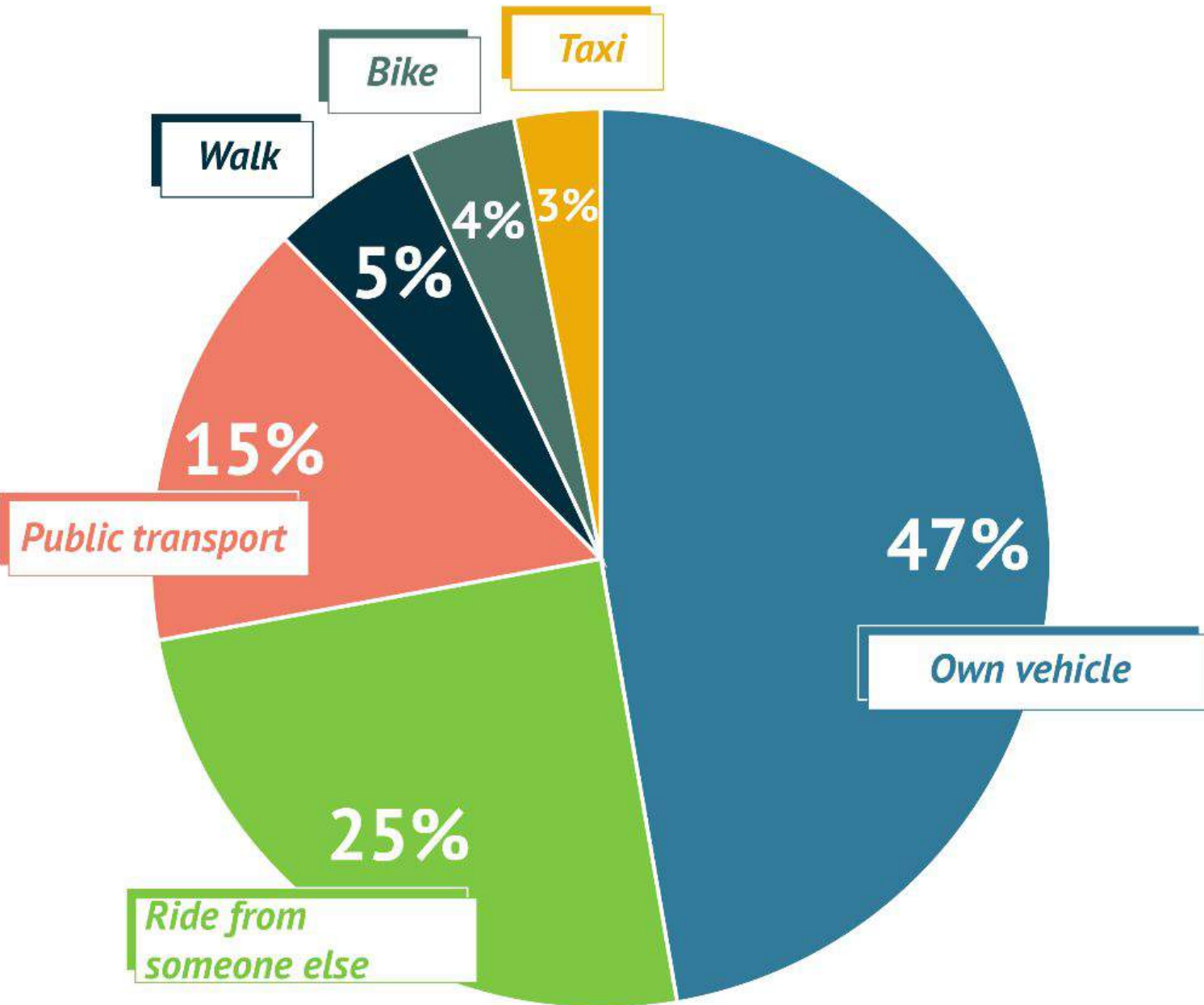
[132 responses]

	RESPONDENTS WHO SAID "YES"
Do you see the police as someone to call when you need help?	72%
Do you feel safe providing information and evidence to the police?	60%
Have you had a negative interaction with the police?	23%
Have you ever felt threatened by the police?	17%

16

What is the main way you get around ?

[129 responses]



17

How much of a problem is transportation when trying to get to work, school, appointments, shopping, etc.?

[132 responses]

	RESPONSE
No problem - I always have access to transportation	39%
Not very big - I usually have access to transportation	36%
Somewhat big - I have unreliable access to transporta-	19%
Very big - I have no access to transportation	7%

19 What makes it difficult for you to use the services that are available

[129 responses]

53% of the respondents have **no difficulty** in getting the services they need.

For those who do have difficulty, these are the top reasons why:

I do not know what services are available

42%

Services are offered at times that do not work for me

34%

I don't have transportation or don't know how to get to the services I need

31%

There are too many expectations and tasks to follow up on when I get services

21%

It takes too long to get services; there is a waitlist

19%

22

If you are working or looking for work, what makes it hard to keep or find work?

[128 responses]

38% of the respondents have **no difficulty** in finding/keeping a job.

For those who do have difficulty, these are the top reasons why:

Affordable childcare / childcare in general

42%

Lack of transportation

34%

Disability, medical / health limitations

31%

Lack of job skills/training / job experience

21%

Lack of a high school diploma / ged

19%

31

Do your children participate in any organized after school programs (e.g. sports, dance, art, music, or other after school program)?

[37 responses]

87% of children do not participate in any organized after school programs

32

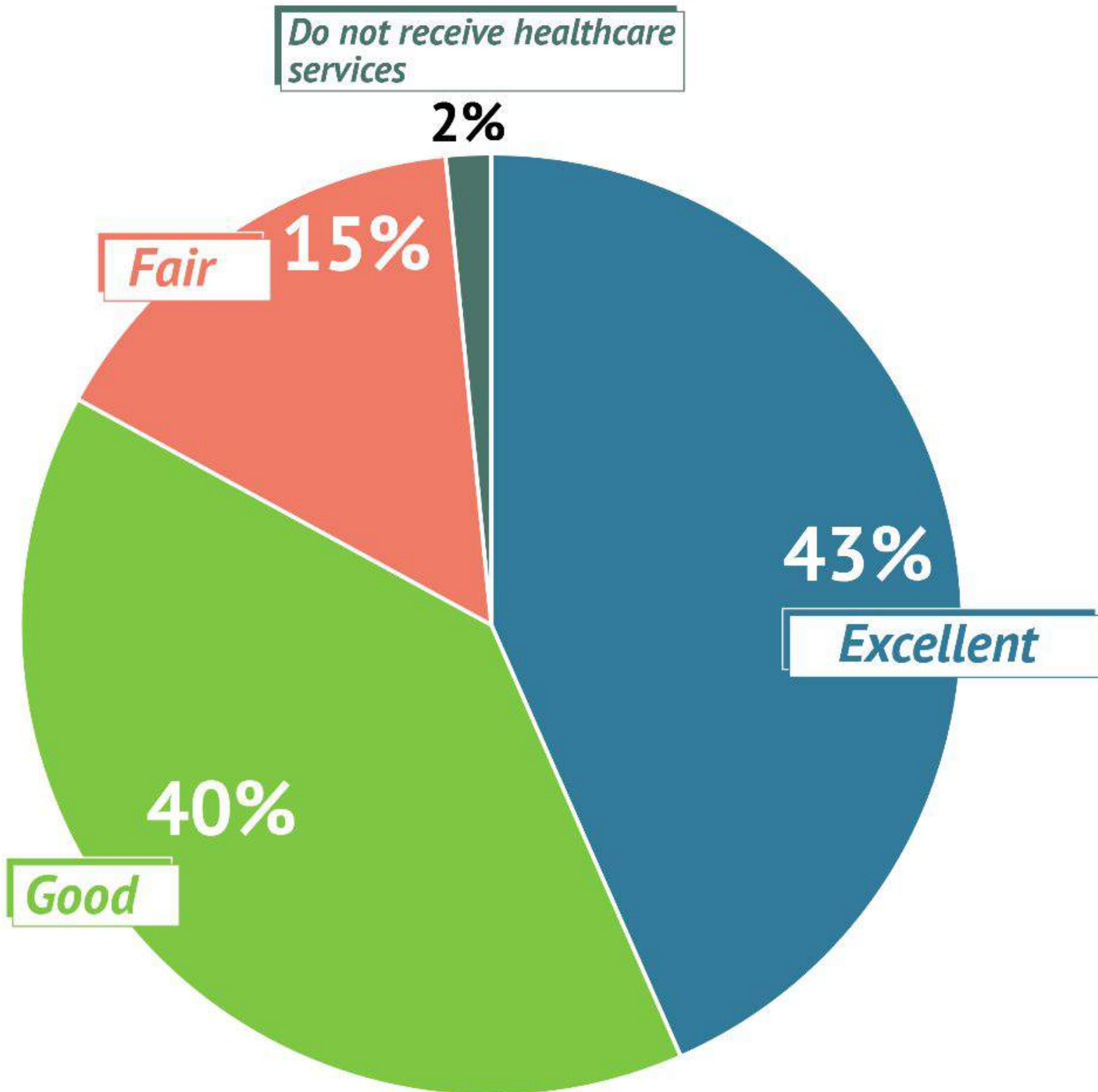
Why don't your children participate in afterschool programs? (check all that apply)

[32 responses]

	RESPONSES	
I don't know what programs are available	34%	11
No reliable transportation to get to and from programs	25%	8
Program hours don't work with my schedule	16%	5
Available programs don't address my child's interests	16%	5
Programs cost too much	16%	5
I am concerned about gangs and/or neighborhood violence	9%	3
I have no need for or interest in activities for my children	3%	1

39 How do you rate the healthcare you receive ?

[129 responses]



40 What makes it hard for you to get quality healthcare?

[129 responses]

64% of the respondents have *no difficulty* in accessing quality healthcare.

For those who do have a difficulty, these are the top reasons why:

Lack of transportation

43%

Long waiting room times

33%

Waitlist for services / too long to get an appointment

30%

Finding doctors that accept my health plan

28%

Offices are not open when I need them

15%

46 During the past week, how many times did you eat fruits and/or vegetables?

[127 responses]

	Never	Once most days	Once every day	2 times/day	3-4 times/day	5+ times/day
Self/Head of household	6% 8	21% 27	28% 35	19% 24	17% 22	9% 11
Children in household	3% 2	17% 12	25% 17	17% 12	22% 15	16% 11

47 If you are not eating as many fruits and vegetables as you would like, what are the reasons? (check all that apply)

[122 responses]

73% of the respondents gave no specific reason, for the rest, these are the top reasons why:

Fruits and vegetables in local stores are of low quality

48%

Cost of fruits and vegetables

39%

Do not like fruits or vegetables

12%

48 Where do you do most of your grocery shopping? (check only one)

[128 responses - hard copy surveys had multiple responses]

Save a lot

38%

Acme

29%

Walmart

19%

Aldi

17%

Giant Eagle

17%

50

What are the top FIVE improvements that you want to see at Summit Lake Apartments? (select 5)

[125 responses]

	RESPONSES	
Features like front porches, balconies, outdoor lighting, or fences	64%	80
Apartment features that are good for the environment	42%	52
More parking	37%	46
More recreational/exercise areas (indoor & outdoor)	34%	43
Apartments that are affordable at different income levels	26%	33
More trees, bushes, grass, and flower/outdoor space	23%	29
Apartments specifically for seniors	19%	24
Taller buildings (4 stories tall or more with an elevator)	14%	18
More indoor community space (community room, community center)	14%	18
Public art (e.g. murals and sculptures)	14%	18
Smaller buildings (3 stories or less)	7%	9
Other (please specify)	23%	30

Washers & dryers in our units

Better security & management

Private outdoor spaces for relaxing or grilling

Air conditioning

Updated appliances

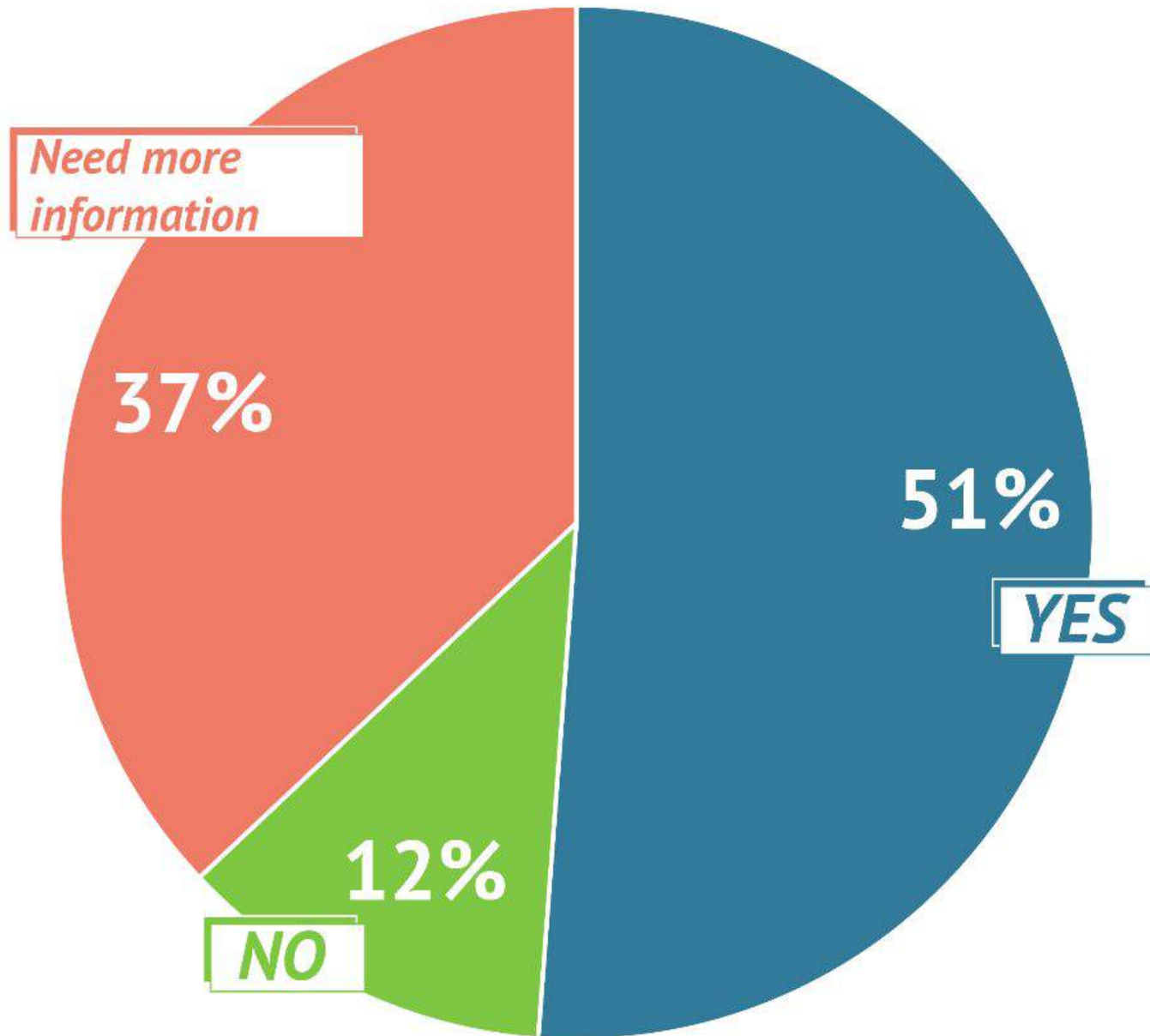
Carpeting

"CARPETS IN UNITS. MY DEAR DAUGHTER FELL AND HIT HER HEAD WHEN SHE WAS ABOUT 6 MONTHS OLD AND HAD A CRACKED HER SKULL WITH A SMALL BRAIN BLEED".

52

If Summit Lake Apartments is improved, would you be interested in returning to a new and improved unit?

[127 responses]



53

Are you interested in purchasing a home or condominium in the future?

[126 responses]

55% of the respondents are **very interested** in purchasing a home or condominium in the future

54**Are you involved with the following associations/organizations in the community? (check all that apply)**

[127 responses]

	RESPONSES	
Summit Lake Apartments Resident Meetings	20%	26
Church group/faith-based organization (specify below)	8%	10
Summit Lake Neighborhood Association	5%	6
Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at your child's school	3%	4
Neighborhood Watch	3%	4
Summit Lake Community Council	2%	2
Summit Lake Community Development Corporation (CDC)	2%	2
Senior or Social Club	0%	0
Exercise group	2%	2
None	74%	94

26% of residents indicate they are involved with an organization or association in their community

55

How do you get information about what is happening in the neighborhood? (check all that apply)

[127 responses]

	RESPONSES	
AMHA meetings/newsletters/fliers	58%	74
Word of mouth (family/friends/neighbors)	30%	38
Internet/e-mail	22%	28
Facebook	20%	25
TV	18%	23
Text Messages from an organization/group	13%	17
Bulletin Board in front of the Community Center	13%	17
Summit Lake Community Council	13%	17
Next Door	9%	12
Newspaper	8%	10
Radio	7%	9
Twitter	2%	2
Instagram	2%	2
None	8%	10

56

What is your preferred way to get information about what is happening in the community? (select one)

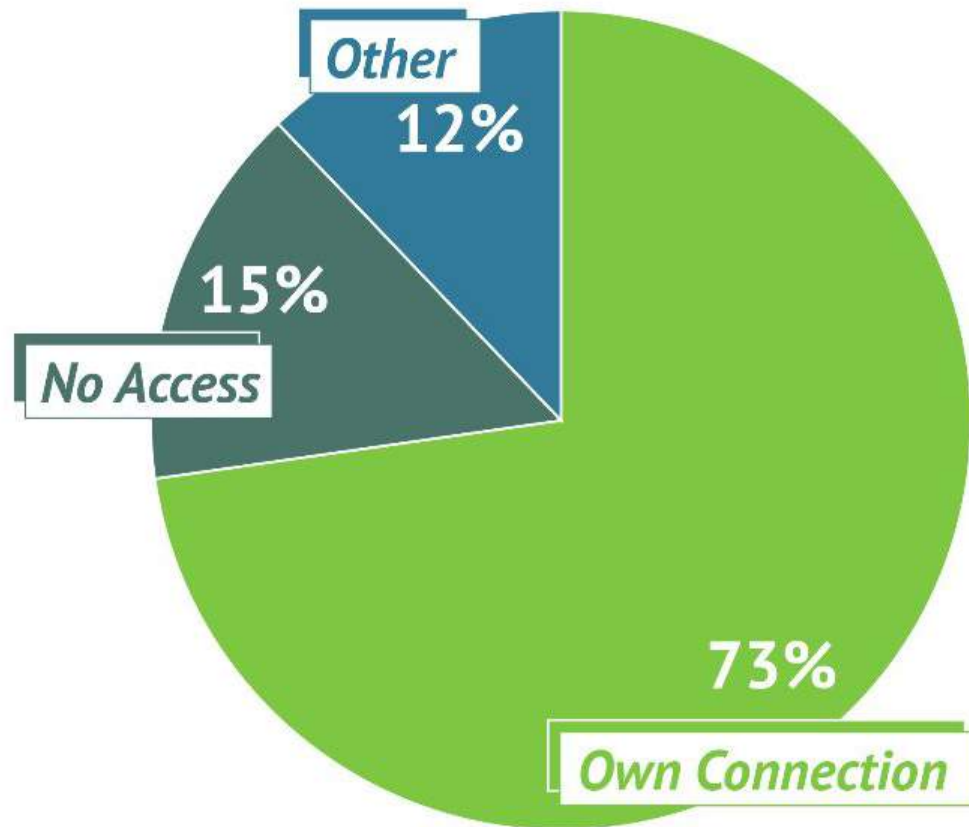
[127 responses - hardcopies marked more than one]

	RESPONSES	
AMHA meetings/newsletters/fliers	39%	50
Text Messages from an organization/group	17%	22
Internet/e-mail	17%	21
TV	13%	16
Word of mouth (family/friends/neighbors)	12%	15
Facebook	10%	13

13

How do you MOST OFTEN access the internet ?

[132 responses]



14

What device(s) do you use to access the internet ?

[130 responses]

Smartphone - 85%

Laptop Computer - 41%

Tablet / ipad - 28%

57

What is the one thing you like and one thing you dislike the MOST about the neighborhood?

[119 responses]

LIKE

clean quiet
 neighborhood transportation
 stores management
 my unit location
 safe people
 services activities
 affordable everything
 lake/path/
 open space

DISLIKE

vacant lots & homes
 nature amenities
 lighting
 traffic my unit
 nothing parking
 not child friendly noisy
 trash everything
 services
 people
 crime

Emerging themes for a neighborhood vision of the future



Summit Lake will be a safe and desirable place to live.

There will be a strong sense of community where people look for out for each other.

Residents will have what they need to be healthy and independent.

Natural assets will be an integral part of the community and will help make it unique.

Next Steps

- **Workshop #2 for Land Use planned for September 28 at Reach Opportunity Center**
- **Round 2 Choice workshops planned for late October**
- **Services focus groups with residents and providers in the Fall/Winter**