

Outdoor Recreation in Thompson Falls

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

14 January 2022 - 25 August 2022

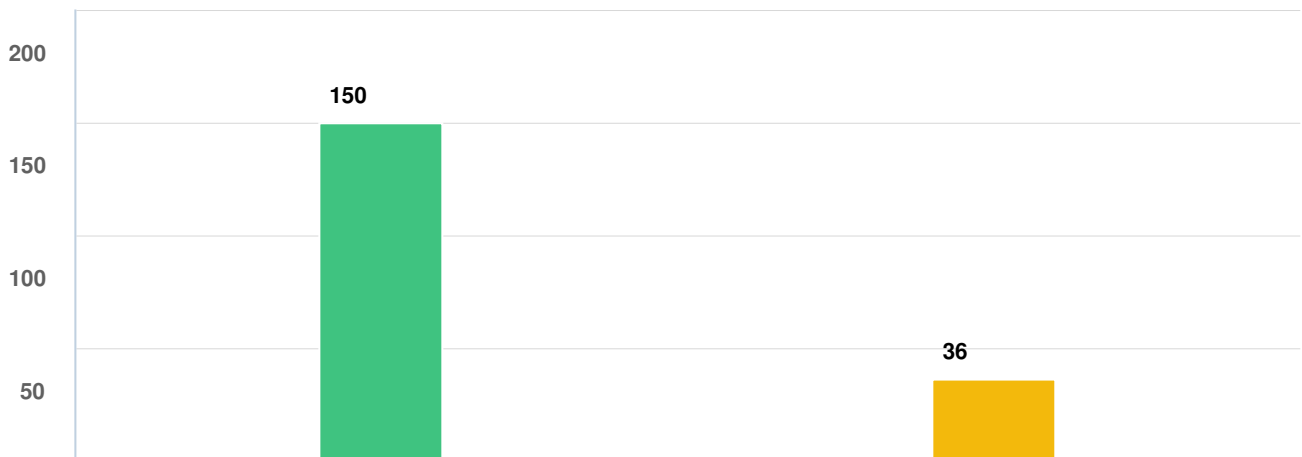
PROJECT NAME:

Land Use Improvements for "The Orchard"



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Q1 Do you reside in Thompson Falls?

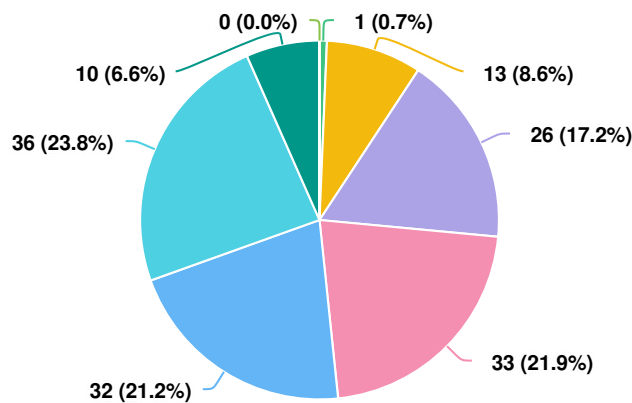


Question options

- Yes
- No

Optional question (186 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Checkbox Question

Q2 What is your age?

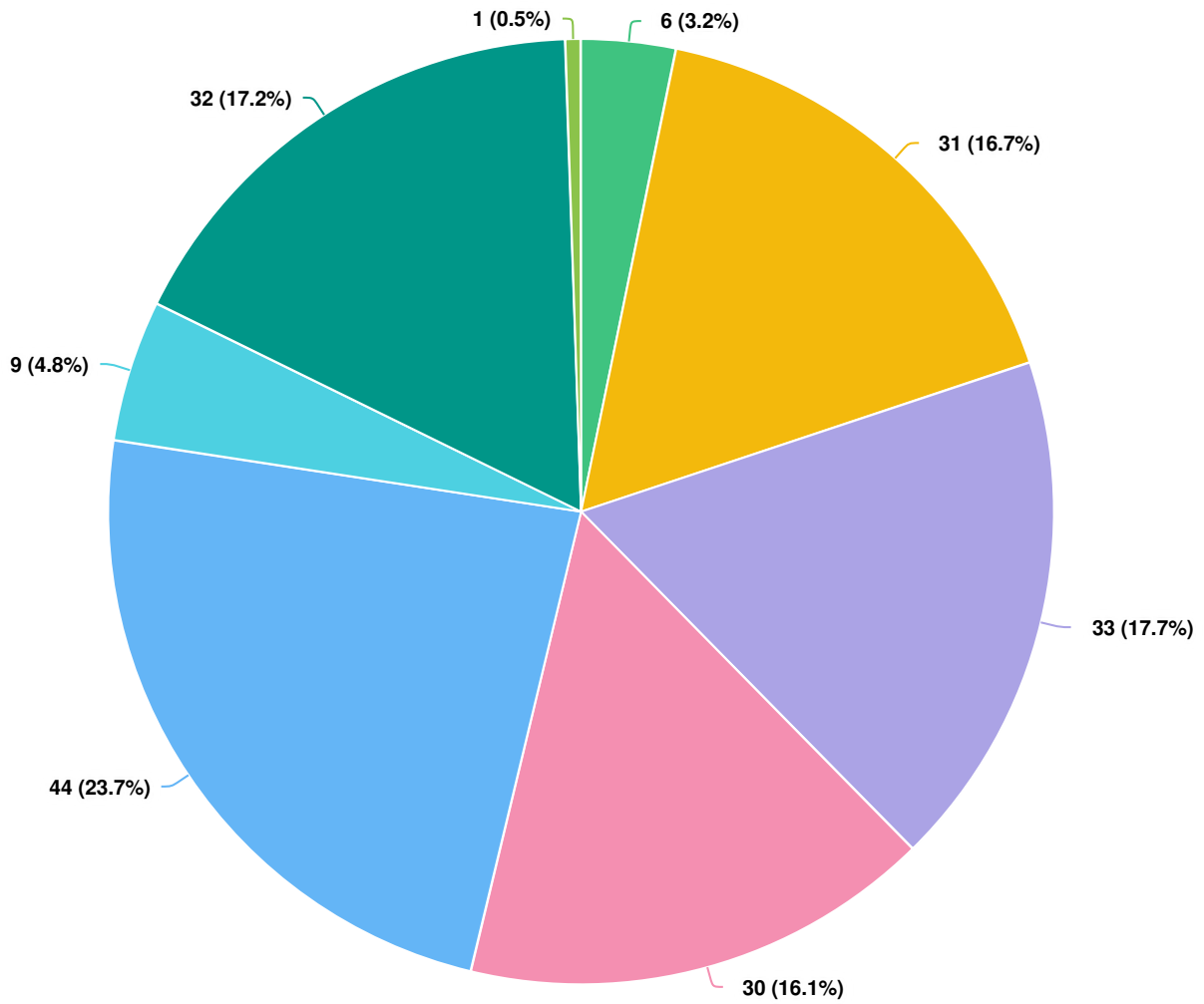


Question options

- 11-17 yrs
- 18-25 yrs
- 26-35 yrs
- 36-45 yrs
- 46-55 yrs
- 56-69 yrs
- 70+ yrs
- 0-10 yrs

Optional question (151 response(s), 36 skipped)
Question type: Dropdown Question

Q3 How many days per week do you participate in outdoor recreation activities?

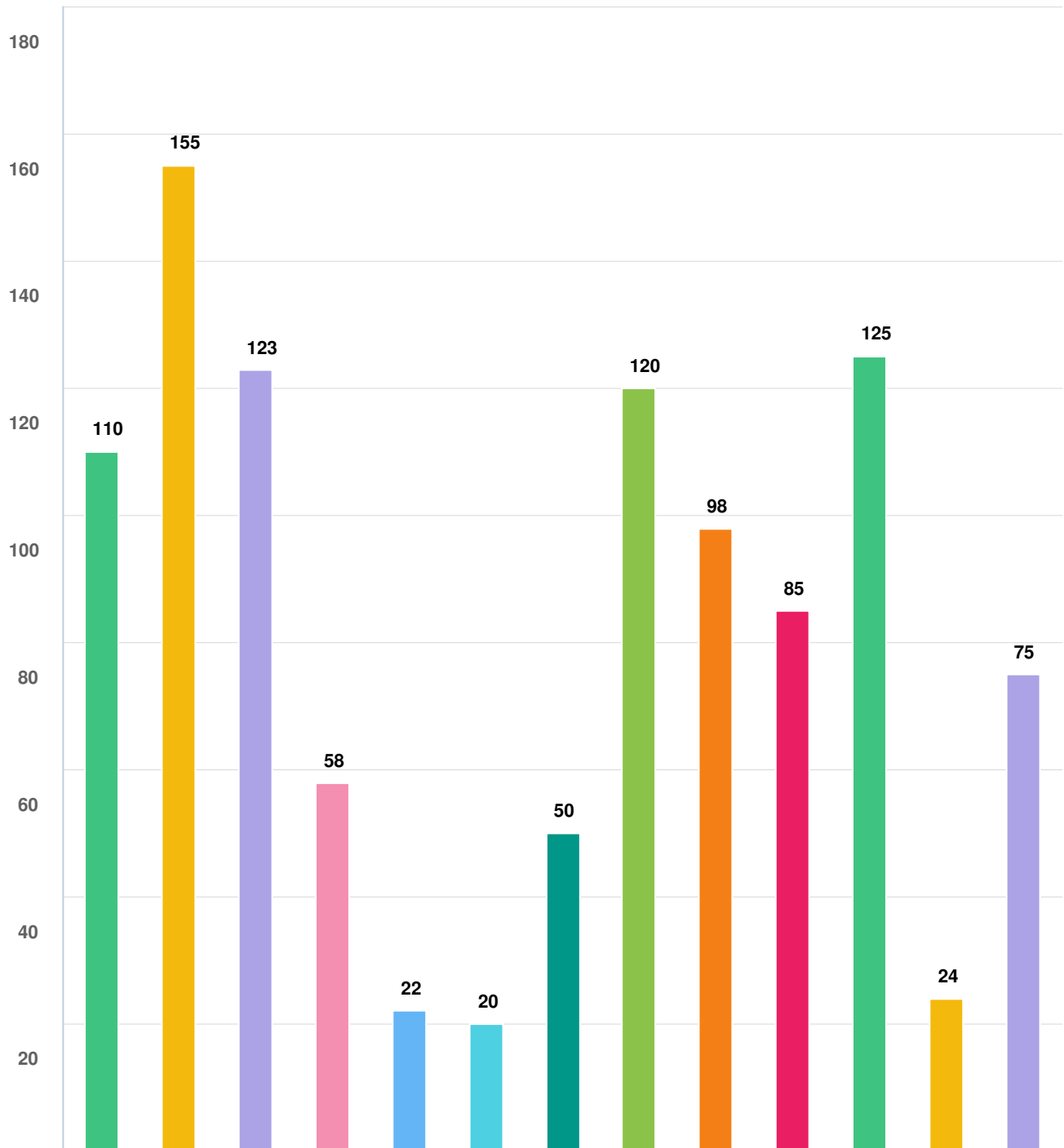


Question options

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- None

Optional question (186 response(s), 1 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q4 What recreational activities do you engage in around the Thompson Falls area? (Pick all that apply)



Question options

- Camping
 ● Hiking
 ● Fishing
 ● OHV/ATV Riding
 ● XC Skiing
 ● Horseback Riding
 ● Bird Watching
- Wildlife Viewing
 ● Canoe/Kayak/SUP
 ● Boating
 ● Scenic Driving
 ● Snowmobiling
 ● Biking

Optional question (186 response(s), 1 skipped)
 Question type: Checkbox Question

Q5 How often do you use the following trails? Please refer to the map.



Optional question (183 response(s), 4 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

Q5 | How often do you use the following trails? Please refer to the map.

Mule Pasture Trail System

4-7 times per week : 12



1-3 times per week : 49



Twice per month : 28



Once per month : 35



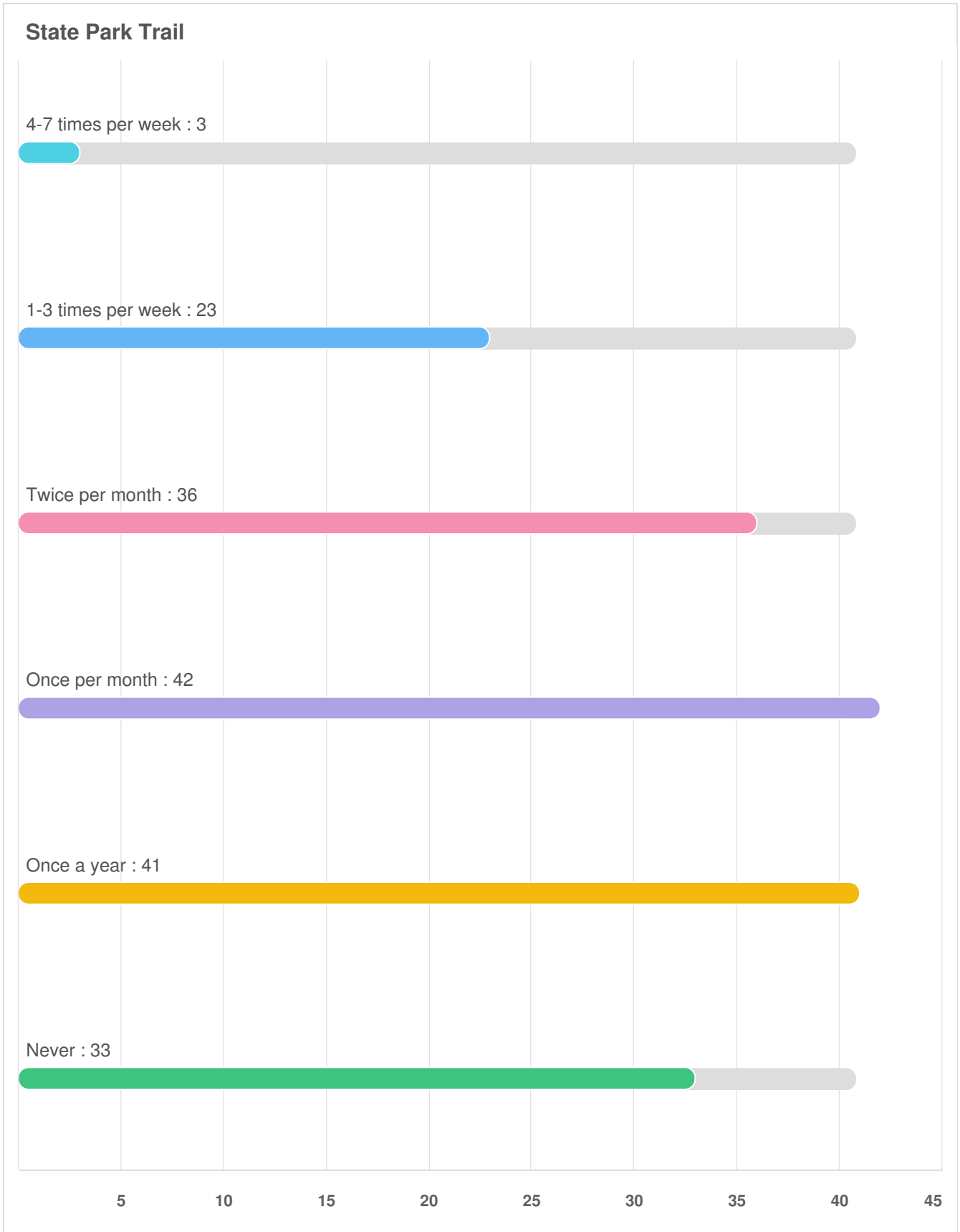
Once a year : 27

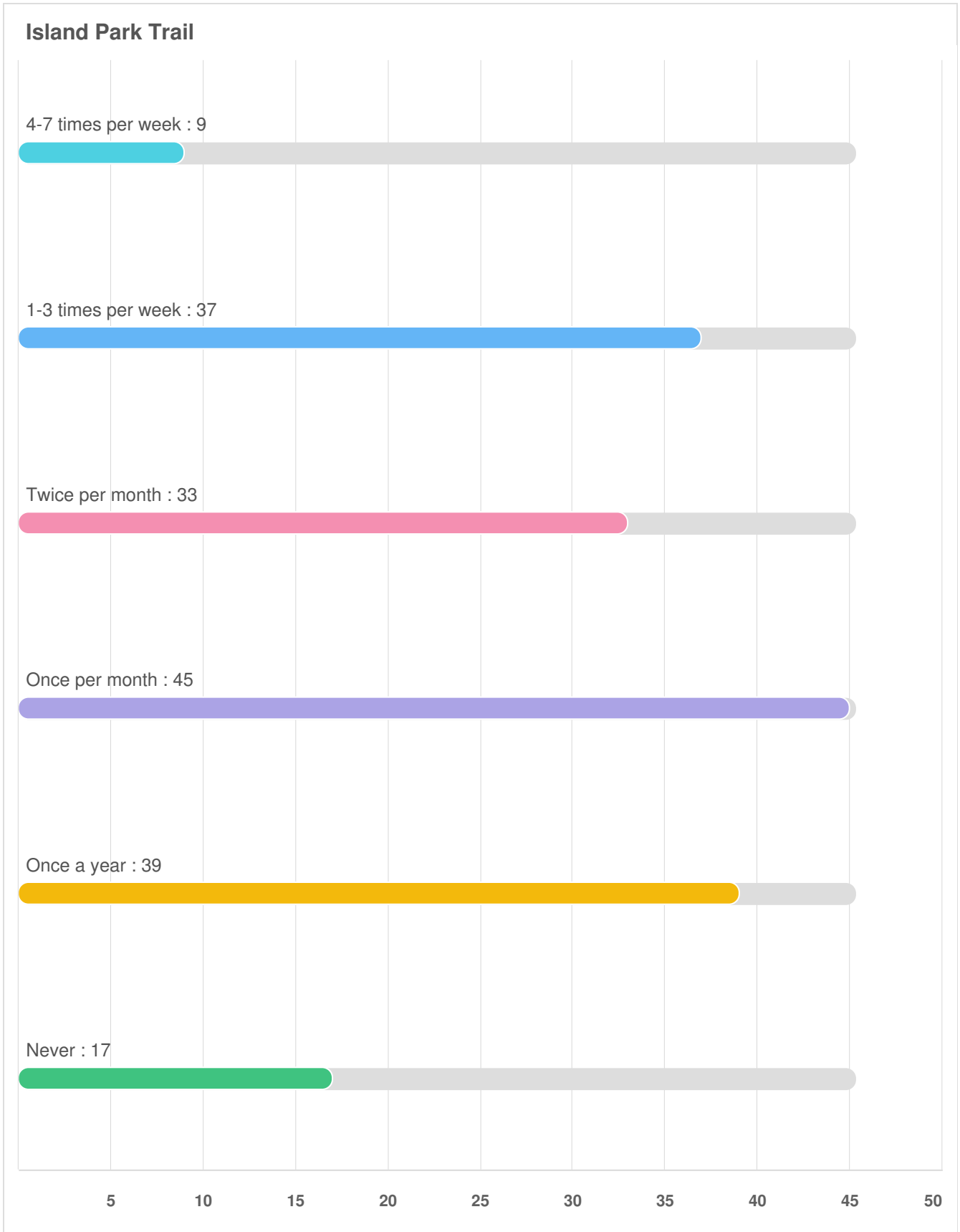


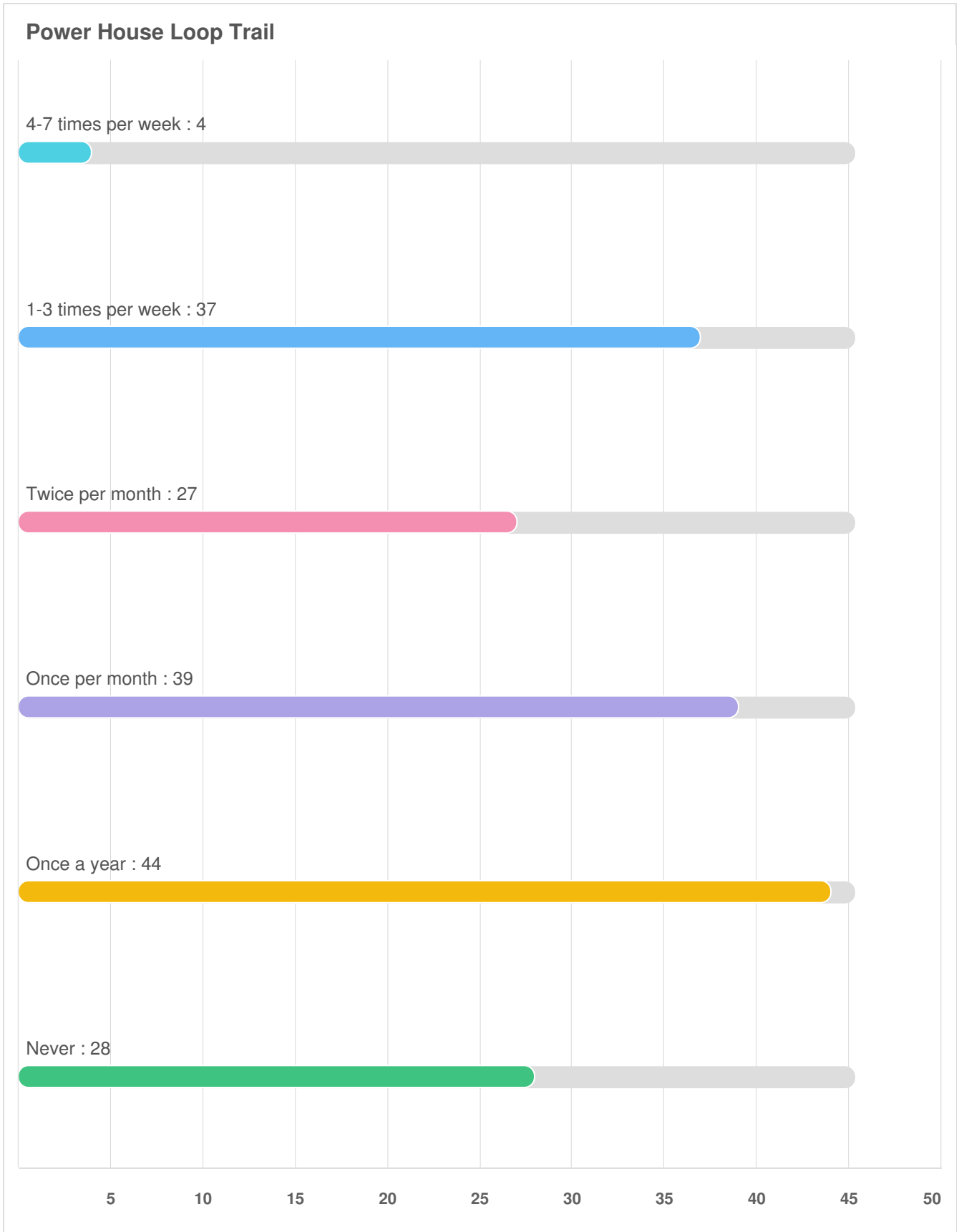
Never : 31



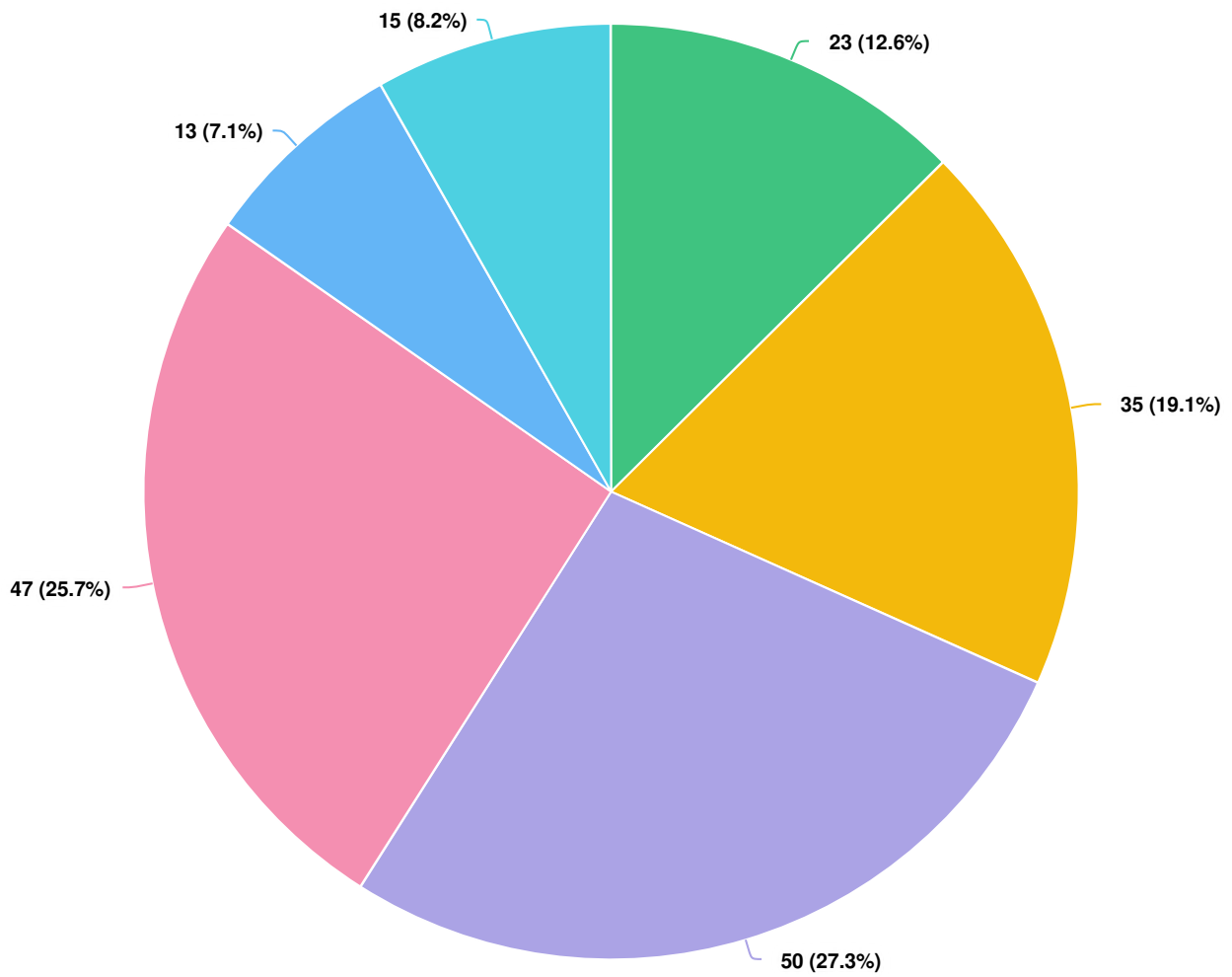
5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55







Q6 How often do you go to the Mule Pasture?

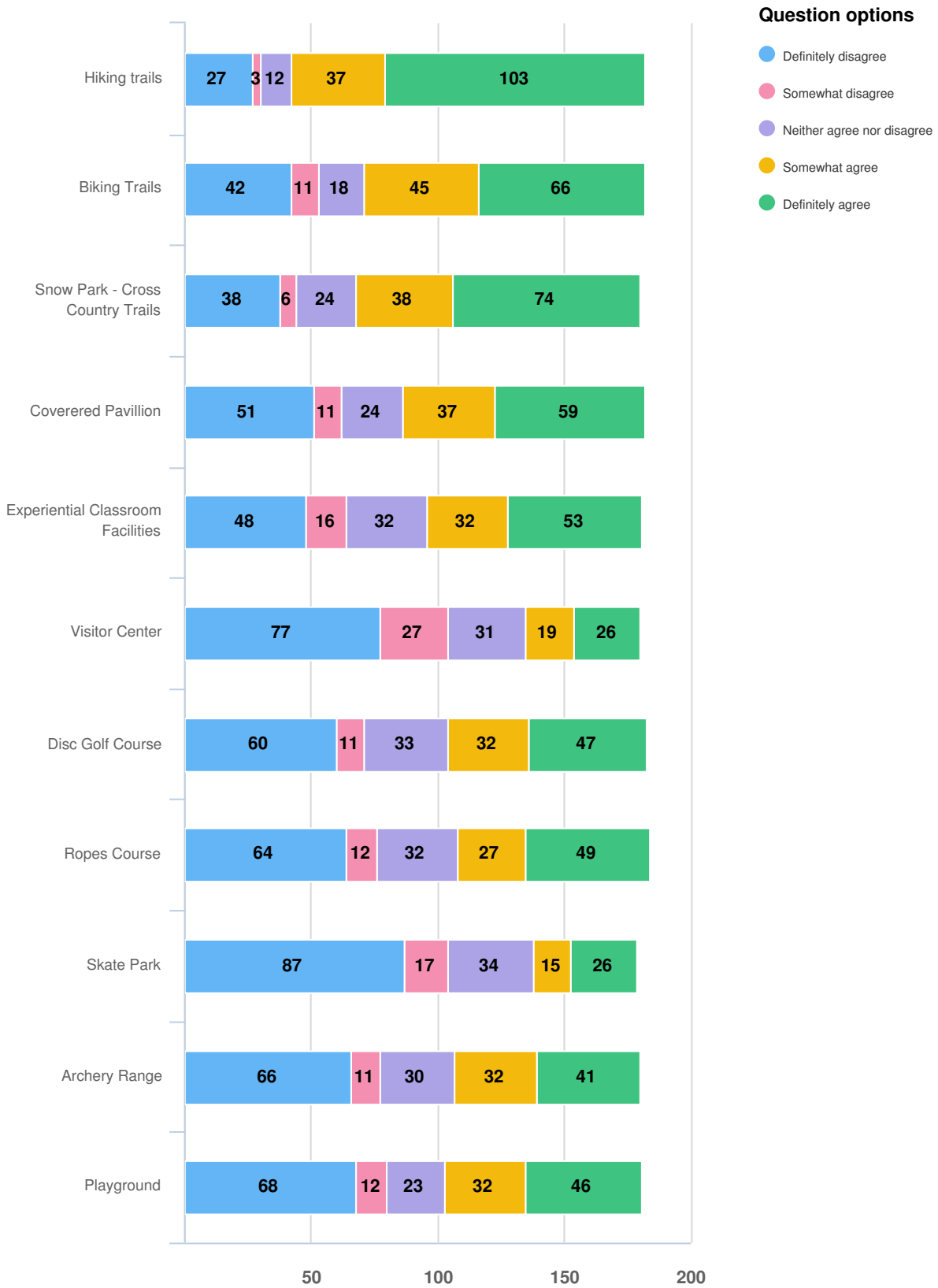


Question options

- Everyday
- 4-6 times per week
- 1-3 times per week
- Once a month
- Once a year
- I've never been

Optional question (183 response(s), 4 skipped)
Question type: Radio Button Question

Q7 At The Orchard, I would support the construction of...



Optional question (185 response(s), 2 skipped)
Question type: Likert Question

Q7 | At The Orchard, I would support the construction of...

Hiking trails

Definitely disagree : 27



Somewhat disagree : 3



Neither agree nor disagree : 12



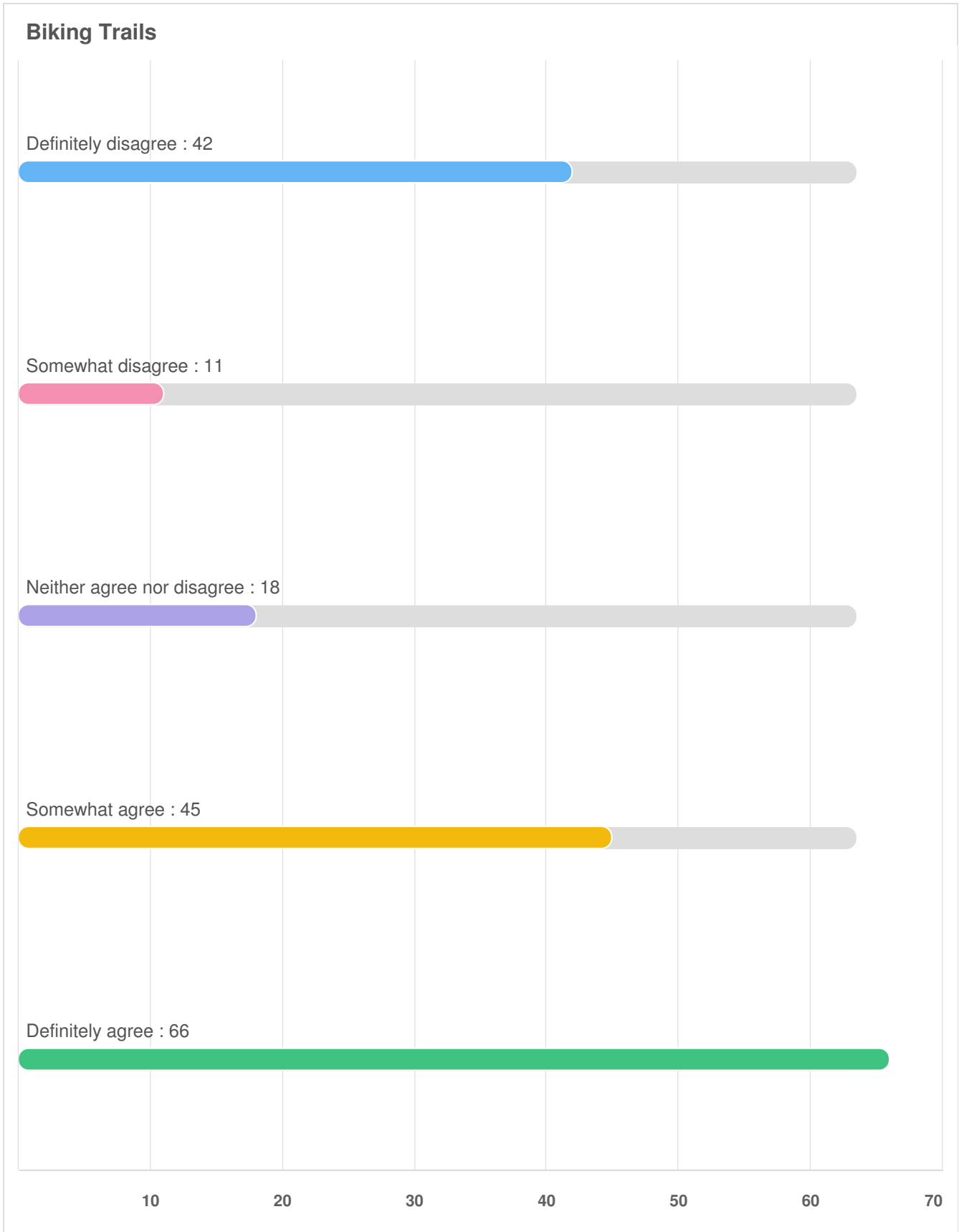
Somewhat agree : 37

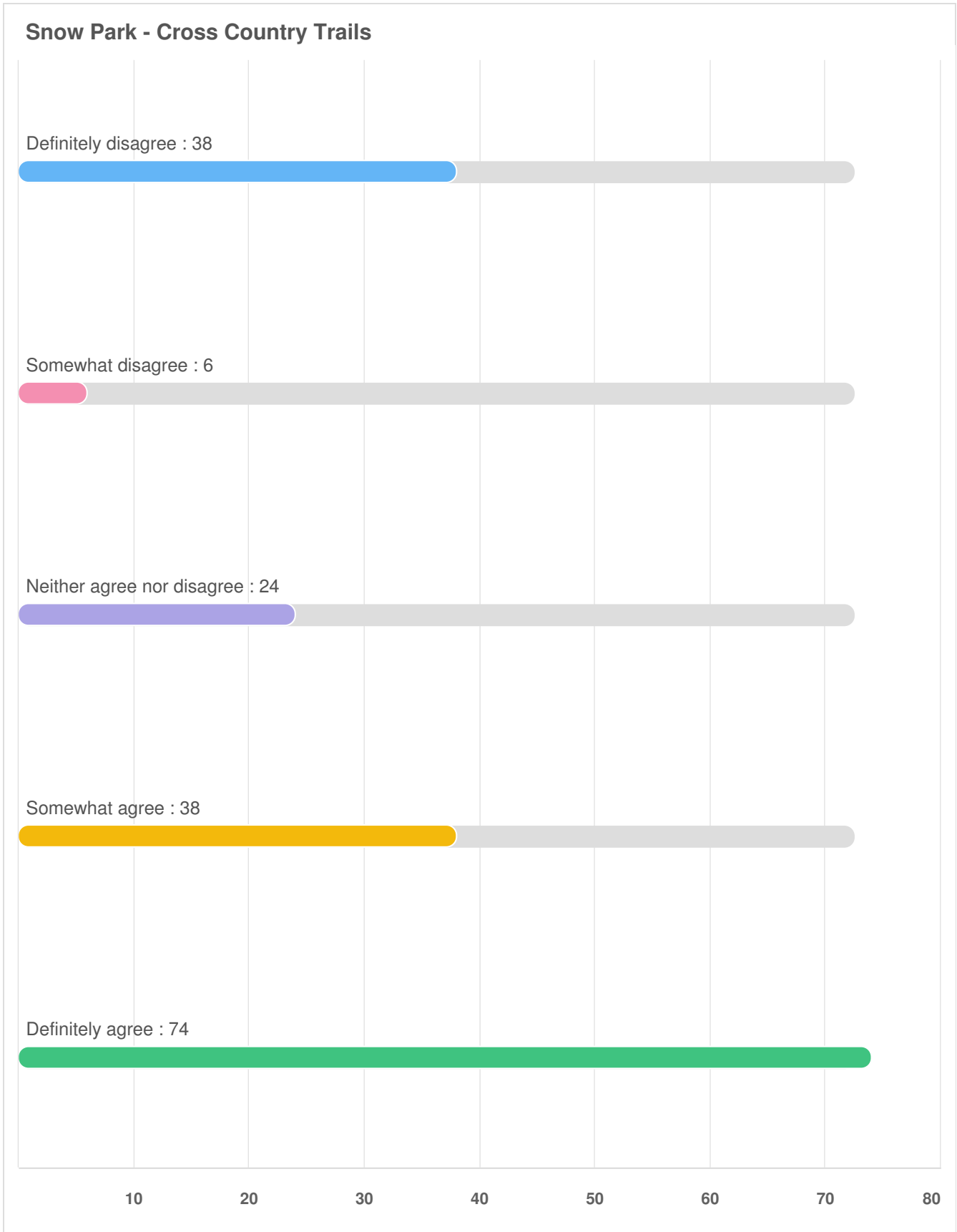


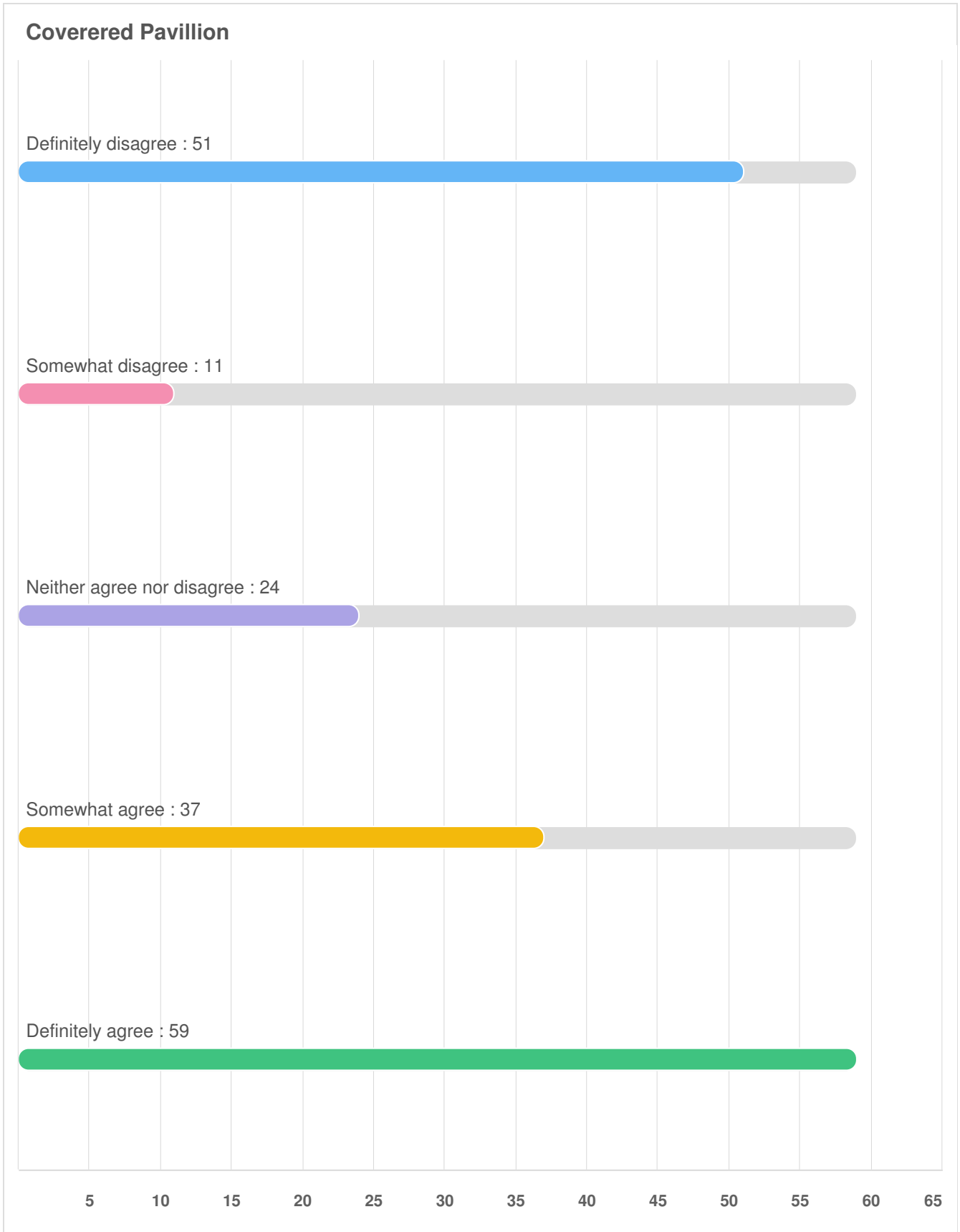
Definitely agree : 103



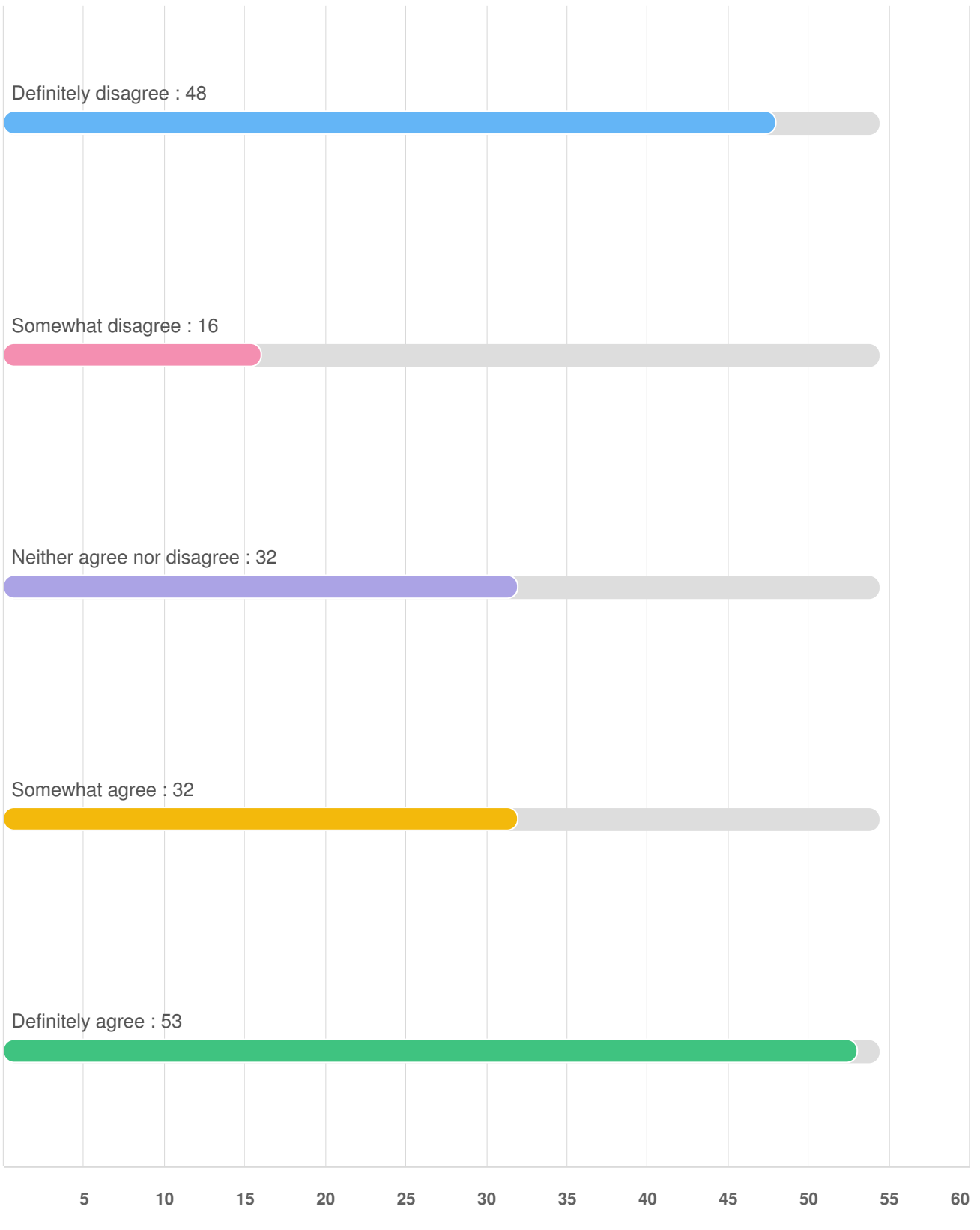
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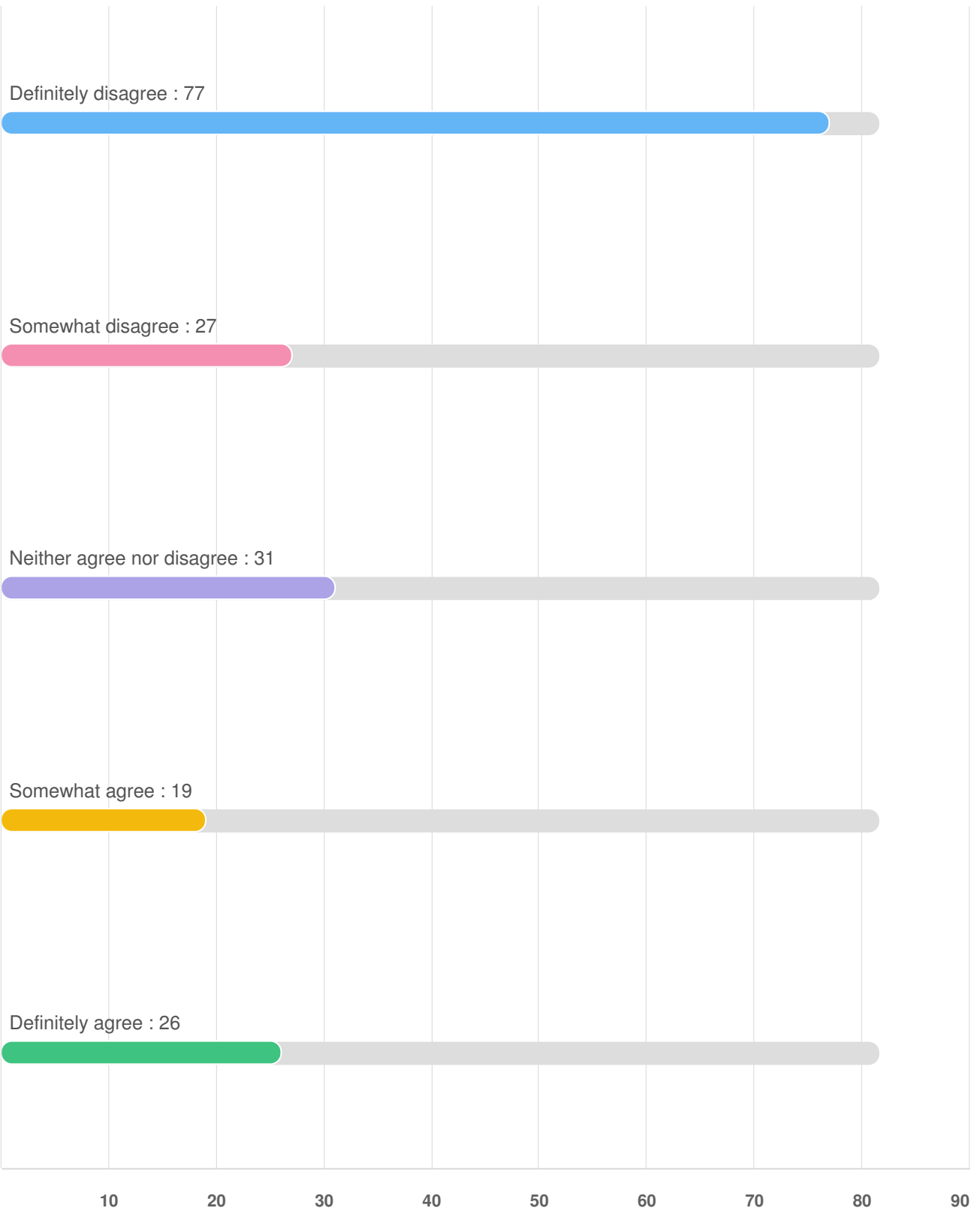




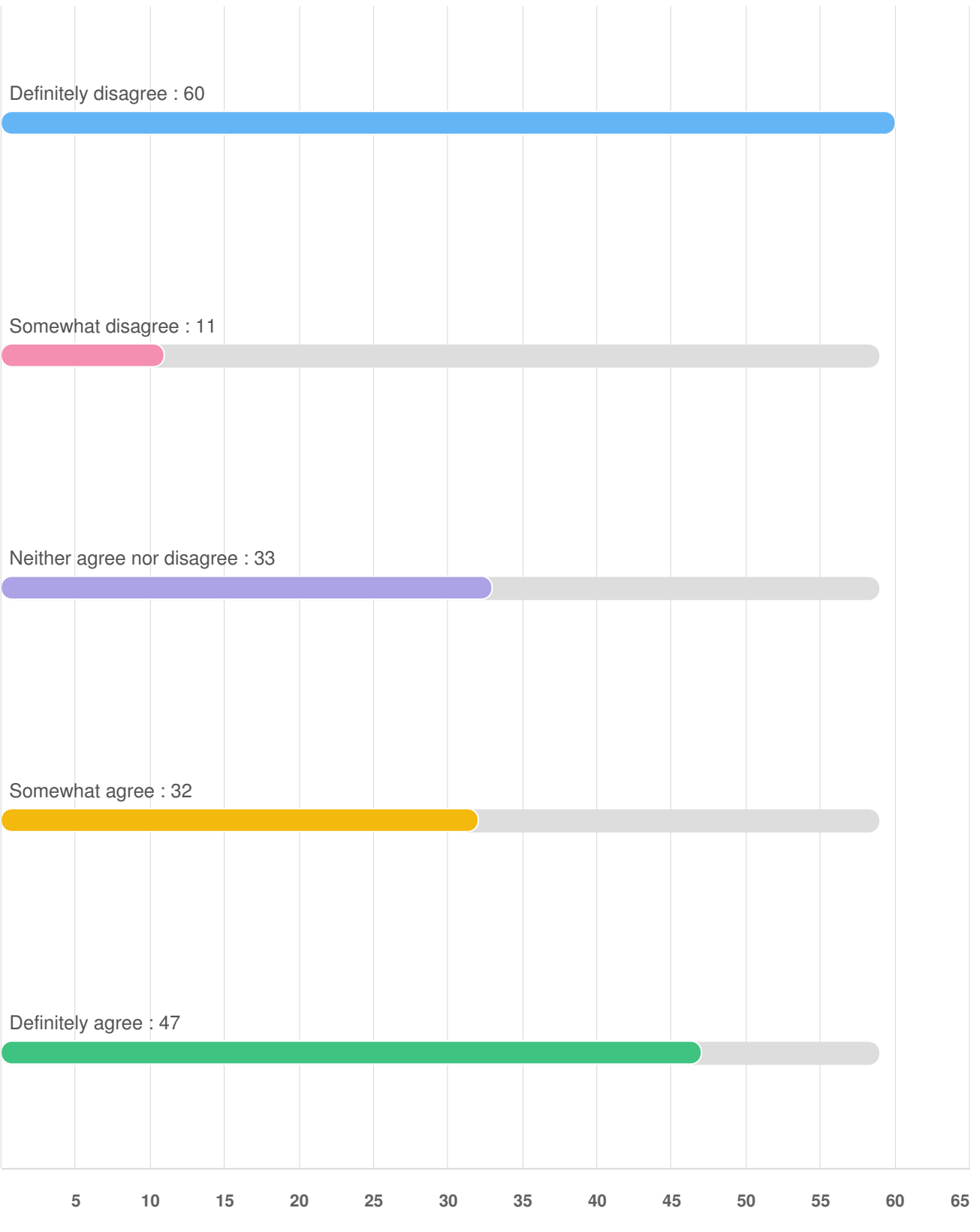
Experiential Classroom Facilities

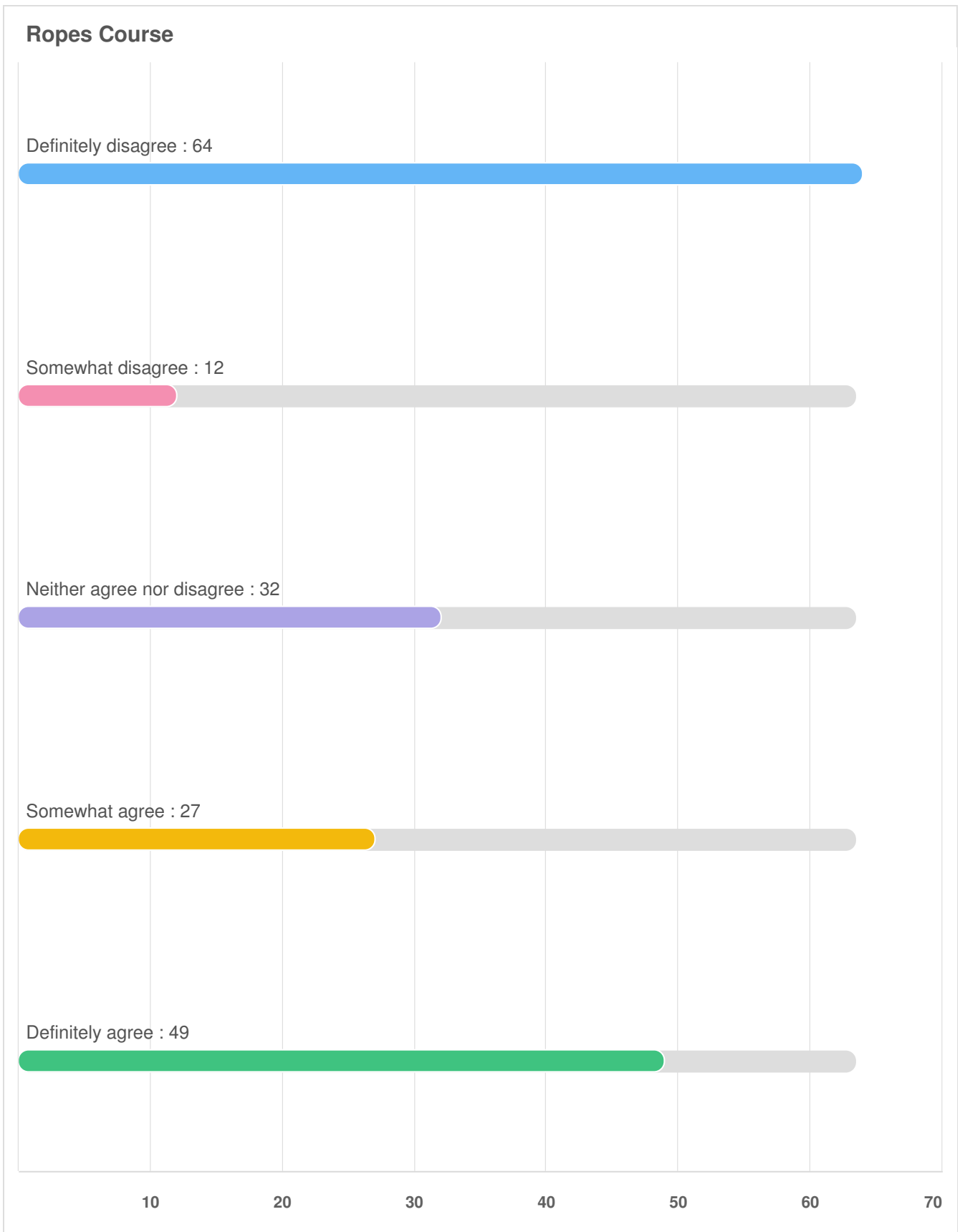


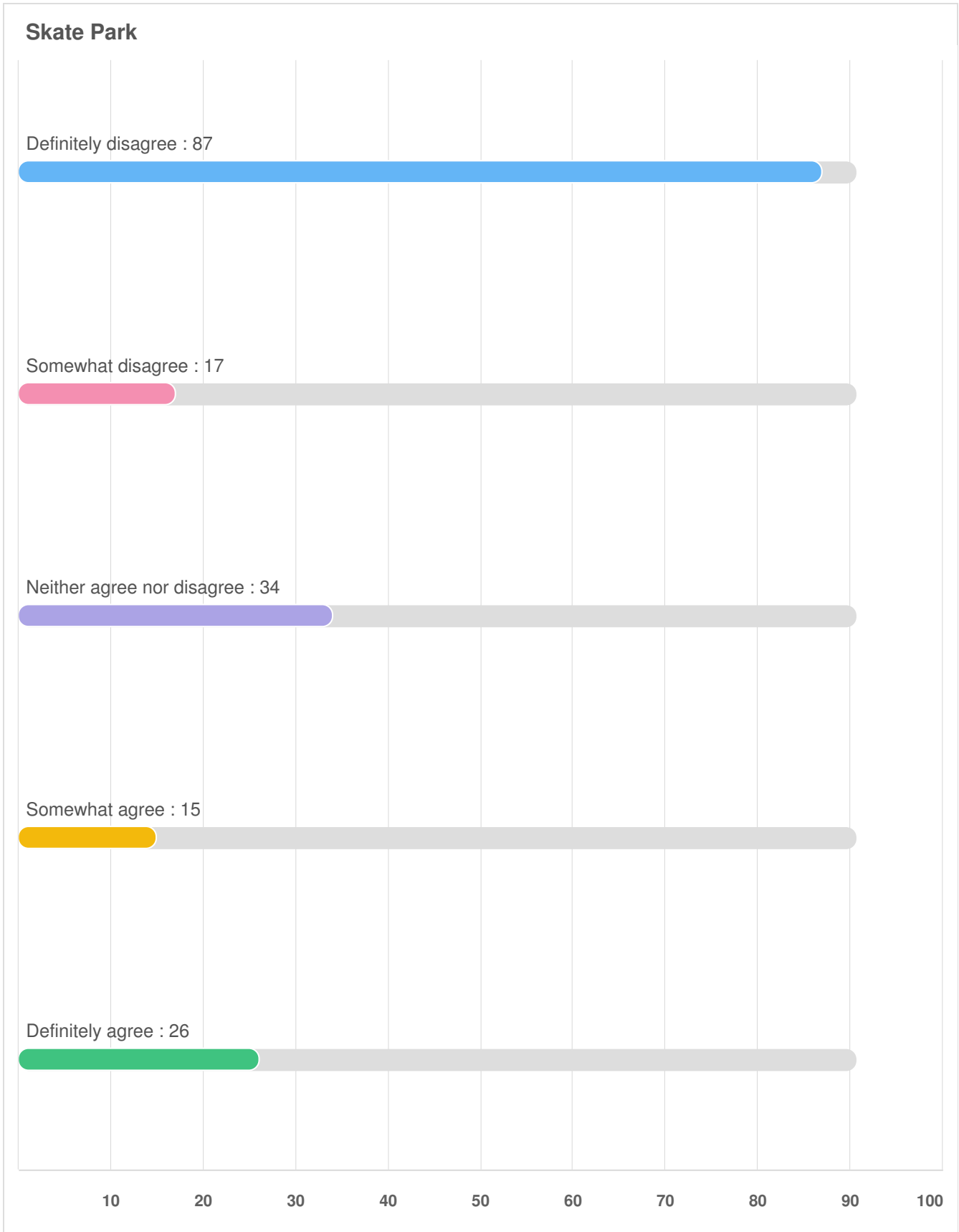
Visitor Center

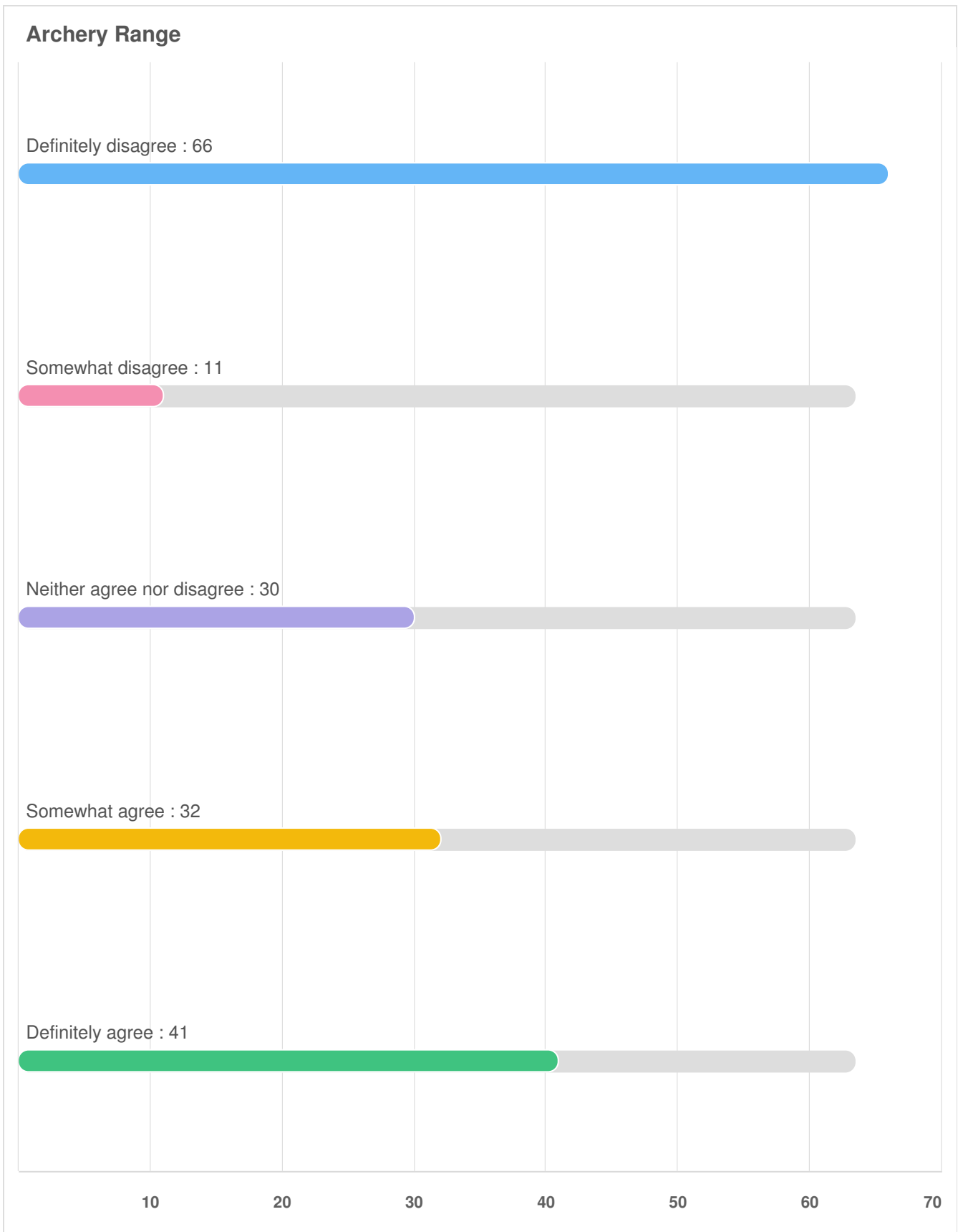


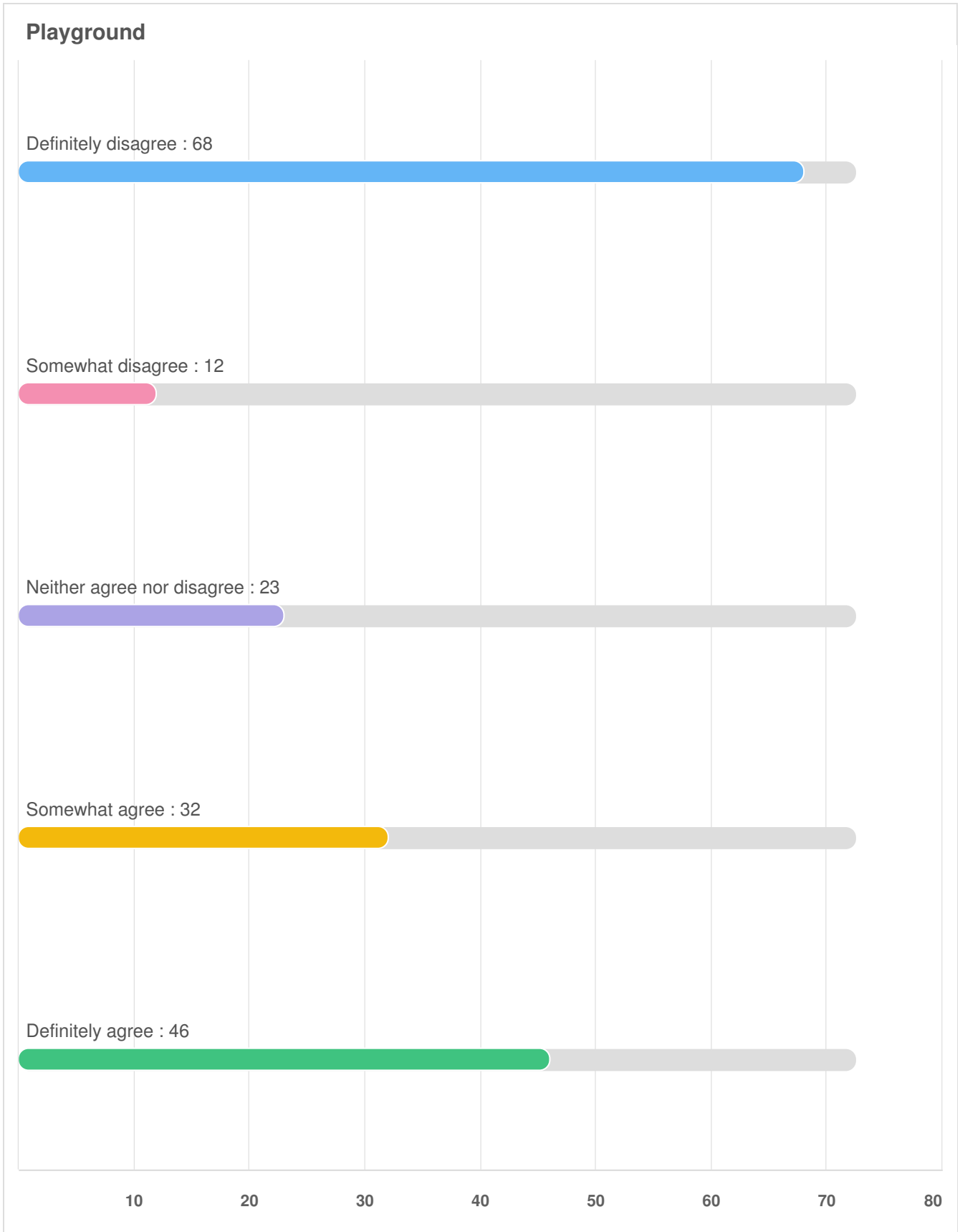
Disc Golf Course











Q8 What recreation opportunities would you like to see offered in The Orchard?

Anonymous

6/13/2022 05:39 PM

I think a disc golf course would be perfect.

Anonymous

6/15/2022 10:08 AM

Frisbee golf for sure, outdoor Ed learning center would be cool!

Anonymous

6/27/2022 11:09 AM

I love the idea of a disc golf or biking trails, something that we don't already have in the area. I think an archery range would be difficult to have there.

Anonymous

6/30/2022 02:43 PM

Hiking and biking trails

Anonymous

6/30/2022 08:20 PM

Fold, skating, cross country skiing

Anonymous

6/30/2022 10:49 PM

To clarify, my usage is 2-4 times a year in these areas. I live in plains.

Anonymous

7/01/2022 11:52 AM

Community garden

Anonymous

7/02/2022 11:05 AM

Airsoft field

Happy Feet

7/02/2022 12:28 PM

None actually. I have viewed and myself included the joy of walking or driving by this Orchard. As a avid photographer I enjoy taking pictures of the natural surroundings and would be opposed to any demolition that would hinder wildlife of any nature and those of us who enjoy just walking, viewing and enjoying as a walker. Many are just discovering the area and enjoy walking there.

Anonymous

7/02/2022 04:12 PM

1 The open field should be reclaimed to its natural state. 2 The "Orchard" partition should be made to more resemble a natural Forrest. 3. A section could then be set aside for a nature trail that would be wheelchair and handicapped friendly. 4. There could also be horse pits (bring your horse shoes), an area suitable for Corn holing (bring your own equipment). 5. A real fitness trail with stations

along the way for doing chin-ups, parallel- bars etc. There was something similar in the Mule Pasture Trail system years ago. 6. Also in keeping with the rules of the Mule Pasture Trail system rules NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES!

Anonymous

7/03/2022 05:51 PM

Open to almost anything in this huge open area.

Anonymous

7/07/2022 11:49 AM

I feel strongly in multiple use of a great piece of property. All of the activities above will need regular maintenance for someone or some group. (a paid person works best) That needs to be budgeted for. How often do we build something, few years down the road the core group of people get burnt out or have other interests with know one to maintain the facilities. Don't get me wrong these are great ideas, but maintenance is key. In most cases grants won't be awarded unless the cost of maintenance is covered by another means.

Anonymous

7/09/2022 10:08 AM

A skate park would definitely be good for teens.

Anonymous

7/11/2022 11:55 AM

I support developing The Orchard as long as the original Mule Pasture is left ALONE

Anonymous

7/12/2022 05:32 PM

Dog Park

Anonymous

7/12/2022 06:01 PM

Any outdoor recreation

Anonymous

7/12/2022 06:13 PM

Biking trails, skate park, archery range

Anonymous

7/12/2022 09:30 PM

Soccer baseball softball field

Anonymous

7/12/2022 09:41 PM

I would love to see outdoor usage with keeping buildings and motorized bikes or ATV access out of it.

Anonymous

7/12/2022 11:02 PM

In Mule Pasture so many trees are cut but not removed and it looks trashy

Anonymous

7/13/2022 12:40 AM

Keep it as natural as possible!

Anonymous

7/13/2022 07:53 AM

The area west of the cleared area has been managed by the FS in the past, commercially thinned and then underburned, and is now a nice open forest. Perhaps using the old road at the south edge of the orchard area, this area could be accessed with a trail and added to the Mule Pasture system.

Anonymous

7/14/2022 05:35 PM

Should be left as is

Anonymous

7/14/2022 05:58 PM

Things with a smaller impact to wildlife like disc golf and hiking trails. Things that may be louder and more disruptive like classrooms or playgrounds are a hard no

Anonymous

7/14/2022 10:10 PM

Whatever is the lowest impact and foot print for the neighbors and wildlife.

Anonymous

7/15/2022 06:11 AM

Something for pre-teens and younger teens to do. Skate park, pump track, etc

Anonymous

7/15/2022 04:53 PM

Do not touch the mule pasture

Anonymous

7/15/2022 05:04 PM

I would it left alone. It is quiet and peaceful the way it is.

Anonymous

7/15/2022 05:05 PM

Nothing

Anonymous

7/15/2022 05:35 PM

Anything for youth!

Anonymous

7/15/2022 07:23 PM

NOTHING just leave it alone the way it is now!!! STOP trying to change this area.

Anonymous

7/16/2022 08:19 AM

I enjoy being able to walk my kids and dog and not worry about too many people. If you are going to do a playground you need to finish the one on Main Street first as we were promised swings that still are

not there. I'd like to keep it a forest with some type of trails.

Anonymous

7/16/2022 09:11 AM

Thompson Falls area welcomes new opportunities, as mentioned above, with open arms. Our kids, our families need a place to hang out, have fun & adventure to get them out of their houses from playing video games or screen time. Please consider greatly, the above options, with by following through! ♥

Anonymous

7/16/2022 11:30 AM

Activities that offer outdoor woodsy pursuits.

Anonymous

7/16/2022 09:41 PM

Leave as is

Anonymous

7/16/2022 10:23 PM

An extended nature trail joining the mule pasture would be nice, especially if well packed/paved to make it more easily accessible for strollers and bikes.

Anonymous

7/16/2022 11:38 PM

None. Leave the land alone. Thompson has plenty of recreational trails, areas, etc. Some aren't even used for the purpose they were made.

Anonymous

7/17/2022 09:55 PM

Skate park for the kids

Anonymous

7/18/2022 02:32 AM

Leave is as it is. There is no need to further "develop " another area for recreation. The area has plenty of areas for that. Leave this for nature.

Anonymous

7/18/2022 07:27 PM

Outdoor Hockey Rink. Roller in the summer and Ice Hockey and Skating in winter

Anonymous

7/18/2022 07:57 PM

Nothing leave it alone

Anonymous

7/18/2022 08:24 PM

Any recreational activities the youth and tourists can enjoy

Anonymous

Better bike trails and kid friendly

7/18/2022 08:31 PM

Anonymous

Nothing unless they fix all city streets

7/18/2022 08:50 PM

Anonymous

A Skatepark

7/18/2022 08:52 PM

Anonymous

Low intensity hiking with interpretive signing. It's too small of an area to develop for multiple activity types without creating a conflict.

7/18/2022 08:55 PM

Anonymous

None

7/18/2022 08:56 PM

Anonymous

A nice trail for walking or riding horses. No biking or motorized vehicles

7/18/2022 10:13 PM

Anonymous

Please leave our remaining wild spaces Wild. There are enough playgrounds and picnic spots without destroying this space.

7/18/2022 11:42 PM

Anonymous

Anything that gets people outside

7/19/2022 05:45 AM

Anonymous

Year-round use is ideal. Bike trails in summer, Xcountry ski trails in winter, for example. Walking/hiking trails already exist in the mule pasture as well as everywhere else, don't need more of those. We need more active and engaging areas. Skate park is too limiting though, only a few could enjoy that.

7/19/2022 06:43 AM

Anonymous

I have just moved back to the area and am looking forward to outdoor hiking/biking.

7/19/2022 06:54 AM

Anonymous

Mountain biking, xc skiing, hiking, running trails.. not sure how those all can coincide, but would be great to have summer and winter activities there!

7/19/2022 09:03 AM

Anonymous

Disc golf and xc skiing trails are opportunities that are hard to access in our area. I support adding new recreation opportunities in our area. Please don't allow the naysayers against change to prevent progress. My family lives in the area beyond the proposed upgrades.

7/19/2022 09:37 AM

Anonymous

7/19/2022 11:34 AM

We looked at it for an outdoor classroom for Project Learning Tree in 2010s but Ranger District never completed the work to get it done as Regional Office had funding for it until 2018 when I retired.

Anonymous

7/19/2022 12:13 PM

Any and (nearly) every!

Anonymous

7/19/2022 04:00 PM

I'd love a cross country ski trail - we are building our retirement home in the area but now only stay on weekends. That's why I answered no I do not reside there but I do owns property in Thompson Falls

Anonymous

7/19/2022 04:05 PM

None leave nature alone quit trying to make it a city no wonder animals Are being pushed out so much cause people want to keep building stupid pointless stuff

Anonymous

7/19/2022 04:12 PM

I think something for kids is a great idea! I like the ropes course and playground idea the most. Thanks :)

Anonymous

7/19/2022 08:23 PM

None.. no need, plenty of open state lands to roam already

Anonymous

7/19/2022 09:16 PM

I would love for the town to build a state of the art play ground for parents with kid 2-10 maybe some climbing rocks definitely biking trails. Make it nice so the kids ask there parents to go back. Better than those the school has.

Anonymous

7/19/2022 09:31 PM

This area is very close to homes. The activities here need to be day time only. Quiet, not large groups. No fires, bbqs, etc. A Frisbee golf area might work if care is taken to monitor and keep clean if garbage. No smoking! Too much fire danger Or just make it a nice small walking path. Why does everything have to be a Big deal. It's snack dab in housing area. Keep it a small and natural area

Anonymous

7/19/2022 09:43 PM

Whatever is done it is important that all age groups can use. Ex.....trails can be used for walking,running,biking, hiking.... It is important we contribute equally and you will get more support. 😊

Anonymous

None!!! The city crew can not keep up with what they have. As a tax

7/19/2022 09:47 PM

payer, taxes shouldn't be increased when we already have parks!!!

Anonymous

7/19/2022 10:19 PM

This area is an important and frequently used part of the elk's movement pattern. They are in the open field of the "orchard" every other day fall through spring. Evidence of the elk using this area as a grazing area can be seen by walking through and noticing the elk scat and prints. My family has also spent 20 plus years watching them through our windows. The deer, coyotes, bears, raccoons, skunks, squirrels, and many species of birds also call this area home. It would be nice to see kids be able to learn about the local animals and their habitats and walk to observe them.

Anonymous

7/19/2022 10:45 PM

Activities that will be utilized by both locals and visitors.

Anonymous

7/20/2022 06:29 AM

I would love to see trails for X country skiing. I love our little town, but I do feel that we lack opportunities for the winter season. Those trails could also be used for biking/walking in the off-season,

Anonymous

7/20/2022 08:09 AM

An archery range or more trails and a pavilion would be really nice. I also think a classroom of sorts would be nice.

Anonymous

7/20/2022 10:19 AM

Both the Mule Pasture & the Orchard should be left to hiking trails only. There is a lot of wildlife that frequent the area and they DO NOT need bikes, skate boards, disc golf or arrows flying around !!!!!!!

Anonymous

7/20/2022 06:12 PM

Hiking, disc golf, and picnic tables would be nice.

Anonymous

7/20/2022 09:40 PM

Mainly hiking trails.

Anonymous

7/21/2022 12:40 PM

I don't see much need for recreation there.

Anonymous

7/21/2022 07:11 PM

Sport biking

Anonymous

7/21/2022 07:59 PM

Obstacle course

Anonymous

7/22/2022 02:33 PM

I'd like the activities to remain free. This community really needs wholesome family places for kids to go and enjoy that parents can be confident in. We don't have a wealthy county and not everything is about making money. Sometimes the most important thing is providing a safe place to raise a family.

Anonymous

7/22/2022 07:21 PM

I go to many of our neighboring communities for soccer. Libby, Noxon, St. Regis, Missoula, etc. all have wonderful parks for our kids to play soccer and they serve as multi-purpose outdoor facilities. It would be nice to have something much like Libby's J. Neils Memorial Park--Someplace for TF to host events and central gathering for families (with clean bathrooms!!!) Having a cross country ski area/snow shoe trails would be a plus. Also having a great, safe space for teaching outdoors would be a big plus.

Anonymous

7/24/2022 12:45 PM

There's already enough walking trails around the town of Thompson Falls. Nobody skates in this town. Children have a play ground on main street and at the schools. We need a motocross track. There are so many kids/ families that have dirt bikes that I think it would be such a great thing to have near our town. We need something for the kids in this town to do and have an interest in. Another idea would be a par 3 golf course or a mini golf course. We have a nine hole golf course off of Blue Slide road, but I think it would be great for kids to do, and not that far of a walk for the ones who live in town. Nobody plays disc golf as much.

Anonymous

7/25/2022 05:30 PM

If anything is done in the orchard no one will use it or maintain it. It is better off staying wild

Anonymous

7/25/2022 10:43 PM

None. Preserve it as is

Anonymous

7/29/2022 04:13 PM

Since it is owned by the people, it should be whatever the people and local residents decide. A community garden, actual fruit orchards, park with shade trees and tables/benches, hiking trails, & biking trails. Some of the existing trees could be transplanted to other parks in the area.

Anonymous

7/29/2022 06:24 PM

None. Leave it alone for the wildlife. Mule Pasture and other trails are barely used, and those that do use them are leaving more and more garbage daily. I raised my kids in TF...there is plenty for them to do in the wild without messing up another location.

CLaws

7/30/2022 10:14 AM

I'd prefer it stay the way it is. Our community has already added a park/pavilion at the Ainsworth girl and the Montana Power Park is being reconstructed. However, if this area is used, a low impact walking trail, located near the southern boarder would be fine. I have grown up in Thompson Falls, and watched the land in question go from heavily timbered and inhabited on a daily basis by elk, to what it is today. This land is frequented by elk, coyotes, wolves and mountain lions (to name a few). Development will impact their home. Is this what we want to do? The increased development in our area is already changing the wildlife movement. By our choice, we have it in our power to not impact the movements of the elk and other wildlife. We don't need another development to engage people. We already have so much around us. I'd hope you consider the wildlife impact as you plan. The elk movement will be impacted greatly.

Anonymous

7/30/2022 10:15 AM

This proposal concerns me greatly. I live south of the Orchard/tree farm, and I just see these proposals leading to an uptick in trash, vandalism and general Criminal Mischief. Additionally, we constantly have problems with bears in town, so no we want to disturb more of their habitat? This administration just recently announced it wants to plant 1.2 billion trees throughout the west, yet there is a shortage of seedlings. Wouldn't it make more sense for the Forest Service to put the orchard/tree farm to it's original use for seedling trees?

Anonymous

7/30/2022 11:34 AM

More opportunities for biking, hiking, bird watching

Anonymous

7/30/2022 11:45 AM

Very little beyond walking as this is a well used migration route for deer, elk and bear. Turkeys also inhabit the area heavily. Local property owners have worked hard to maintain this wildlife habitat.

Anonymous

7/30/2022 11:49 AM

An extension of the Mule Pasture trail, we do not want to disrupt game movements.

Anonymous

7/30/2022 12:41 PM

trails

Anonymous

7/30/2022 01:29 PM

Because of the elk pattens and other animals whose habitat would be effected, I would like to see the developments kept as least disruptive to the animals. . A continuation of the mule pasture trail system that people could also cross country in the winter. An opportunity for students to use the area as an extension of the classroom for outdoor

observation and leaning. No motorized vehicles or large group areas.

Anonymous

7/30/2022 05:45 PM

Public use. It needs to stay quiet and peaceful with the least amount of disturbance.

Anonymous

7/31/2022 02:50 PM

I would like to see things happen to the property that will enhance the natural nature and beauty of it. Not the addition of any buildings...

Anonymous

7/31/2022 02:51 PM

Anything but buildings that have to be maintained

Anonymous

8/01/2022 12:31 PM

None, concerned about traffic, burglary, littering.

Anonymous

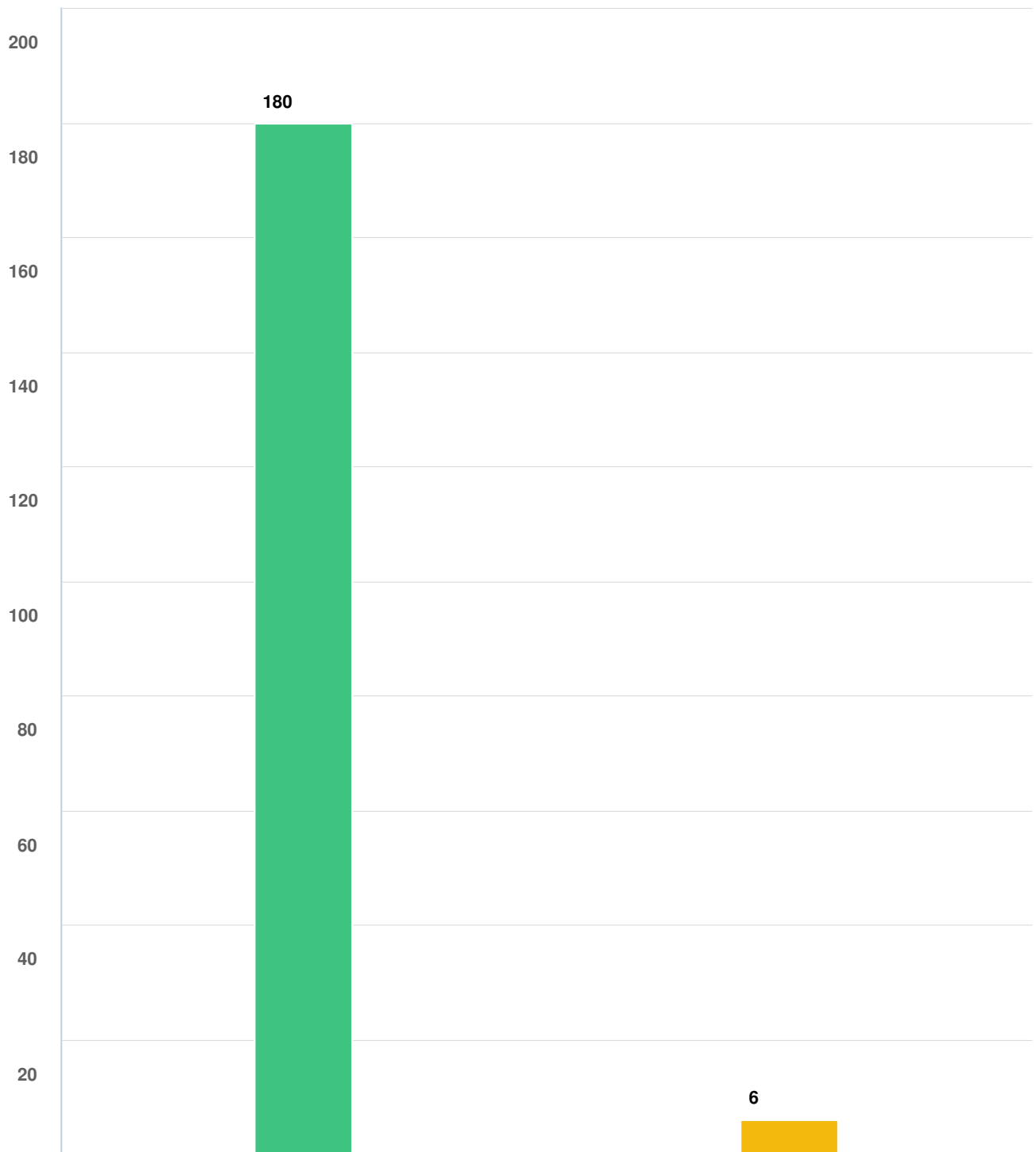
8/01/2022 08:15 PM

Groomed trails that are wheelchair accessible.

Optional question (93 response(s), 94 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Q9 Are you a resident of Sanders County?



Question options

- No
- Yes

Mandatory Question (186 response(s))
Question type: Checkbox Question