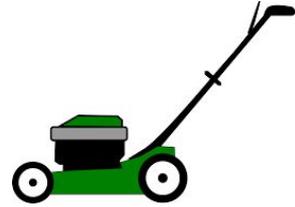




ANN ARBOR PARKS & RECREATION
GIVE
365



No Mow May Survey

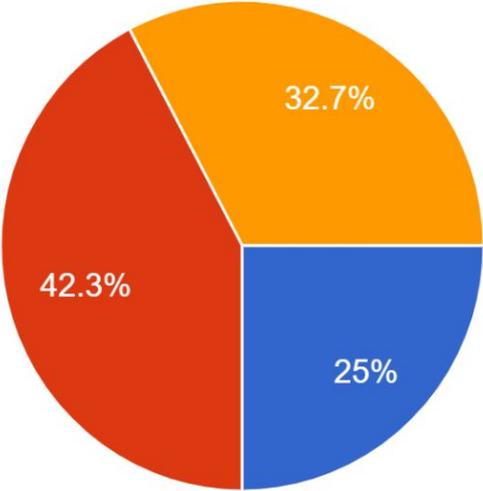
Recap + Analysis

Survey Details

- Responses from 4/29 to 5/31
- 171 respondents
- 5 questions
 - **Are you in favor** of the Parks Department not mowing any city parks for one month to seven weeks (this would include the time it would take to get caught up)?
 - What **concerns** would you have if the Parks Department did not mow some or all parks for one month to seven weeks?
 - What **benefits** do you think our community would gain if the Parks Department did not mow some or all parks for one month to seven weeks?
 - At **which parks** do you think it would be appropriate to try a no-mow month?
 - What **other ideas** do you have for how the Parks Department can support pollinators and reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

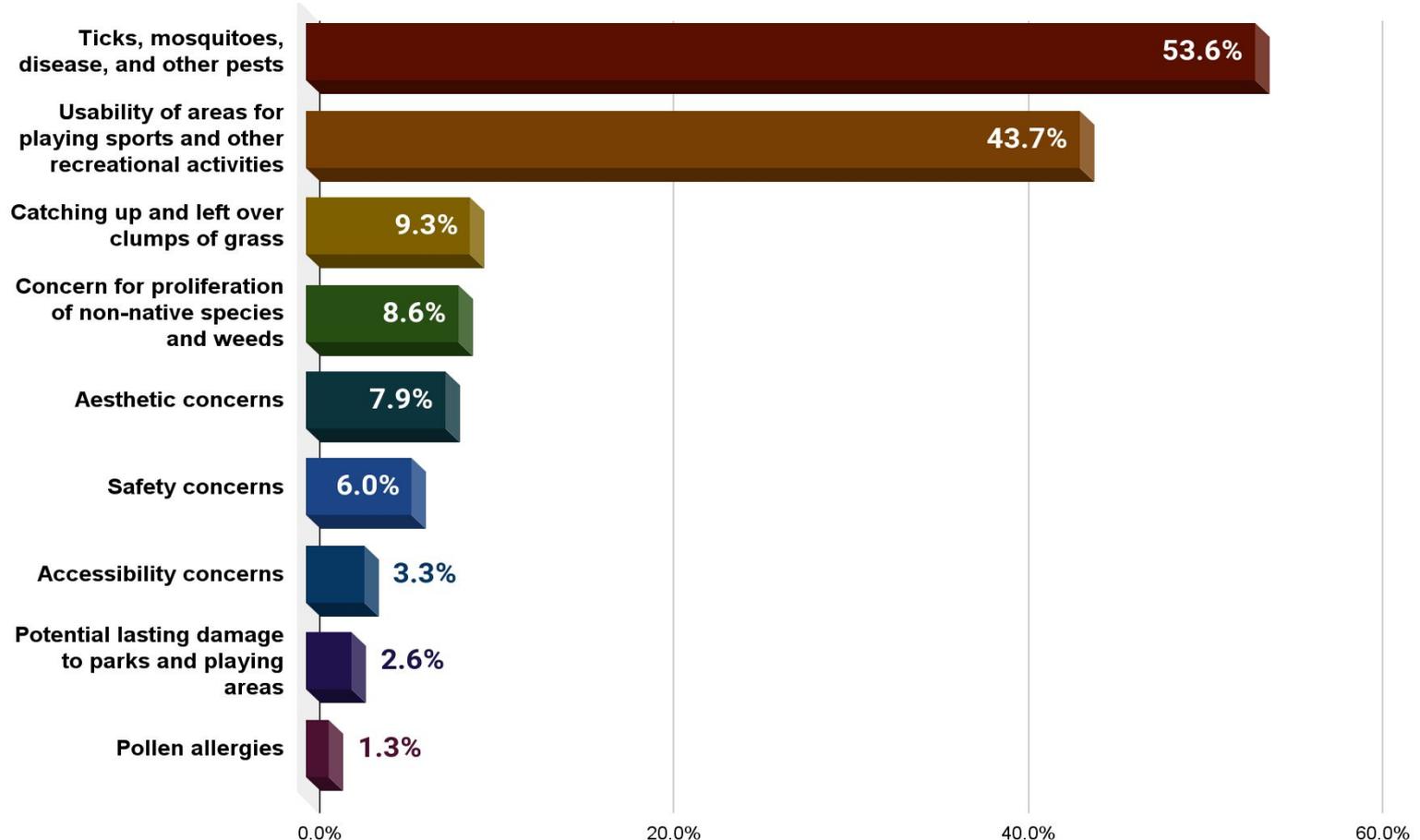
Are you in favor of the Parks Department not mowing any city parks for one month to seven weeks (this would include the time it would take to get caught up)?

168 responses



- Yes
- No
- Only some parks or park areas

What concerns would you have if the Parks Department did not mow some or all parks for one month to seven weeks? (151 responses)



What concerns would you have if the Parks Department did not mow some or all parks for one month to seven weeks? (151 responses)

Ticks and other pests (81 respondents)

“As much as I love pollinators and local species, there are still dangerous insects in grasses (like **ticks**) and the longer grass discourages use which is one of the main reasons for the park”

Proliferation of weeds and non-native species (13 respondents)

“unwanted **invasive plants** could get energized as well as the plants we want”

“primarily benefits **non-native dandelions** and generalist bees”

Usability of areas for sports and other recreational activities (66 respondents)

“Having grassy areas in parks turn into hay fields diminishes the **use of the park** - children playing, picnics, running around, frisbee - all are negatively impacted if folks are running in a field instead of grass”

Catching up / left over grass clumps (14 respondents)

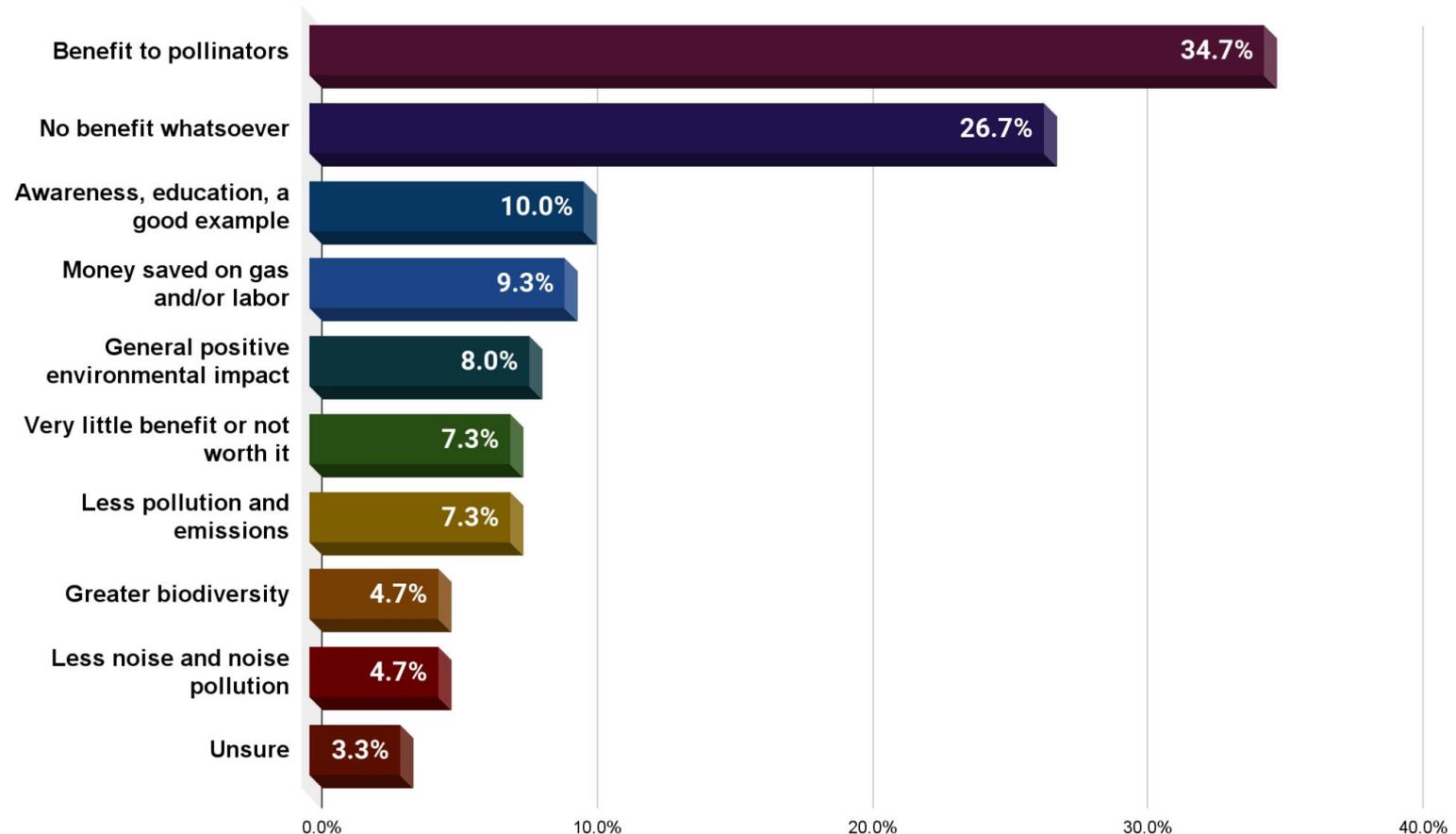
“When the grass is finally cut, there are **HUGE clumps of clippings** left that then rot and make it difficult to still use the park.”

Aesthetic concerns (12 respondents)

“it would look like urban blight. When people see overgrown areas, it looks neglected and encourages illegal dumping.”

“It looks **unkept**”

What benefits do you think our community would gain if the Parks Department did not mow some or all parks for one month to seven weeks? (149 responses)



What benefits do you think our community would gain if the Parks Department did not mow some or all parks for one month to seven weeks? (149 responses)

Benefit to pollinators (52 respondents)

“More flowering weeds for **pollinators**”

“More natural food sources and habitat for **pollinators!**”

No benefit whatsoever (40 respondents)

“**NO BENEFITS!!** (except to make some people "feel good" about not mowing.) Parks would look unkept and Parks Department would get behind on maintenance.”

Awareness, education, setting an example (15 respondents)

“**Greater awareness** of value of pollinators to our food supply and although many areas would still be mowed, at least some help would be given.”

Money saved on gas and/or labor (14 respondents)

“Some **gas and labor** saved...”

“Saves tax dollars on staff time, fuel, equipment maintenance, etc.”

General positive environmental impact (12 respondents)

“The **environmental impact** would be favorable”

At which parks do you think it would be appropriate to try a no-mow month? (129 responses)

areas in **West Park, Hunt Park, Hanover Park, Vets Park, Gallop Park**

Allmendinger and **Wurster**

None (x32)

Most parks would be appropriate, I think. Especially the large parks that don't have high mow-dependent activity, like **Buhr, Mary Beth Doyle, West, Fuller**, and most parts of **Lillie and Burns**, to name a few.

Parts of **Leslie, Olson, and Bandemer Parks**

Some areas of **Hunt, Olsen** not including the dog park or soccer field, some sections of **Bandemer**

Parts of **Furstenburg, Gallup, West**, maybe others, can't think of them offhand

Virginia Park and **Waterworks Park** in my neighborhood.

At which parks do you think it would be appropriate to try a no-mow month? (129 responses)

“Definitely ALL **Natural Areas**. There should be no manicured lawns in Natural Areas. Also OK in parks with paved paths through them like West Park, Gallup, etc. No reason to mow there. ... The only park spaces that should be mowed are the soccer fields and other playing fields. And don't mow those until just before the active playing season starts.”

“Find areas to **permanently remove from mowing.**”

“Most parks **not adjacent to schools, or playground areas.**”

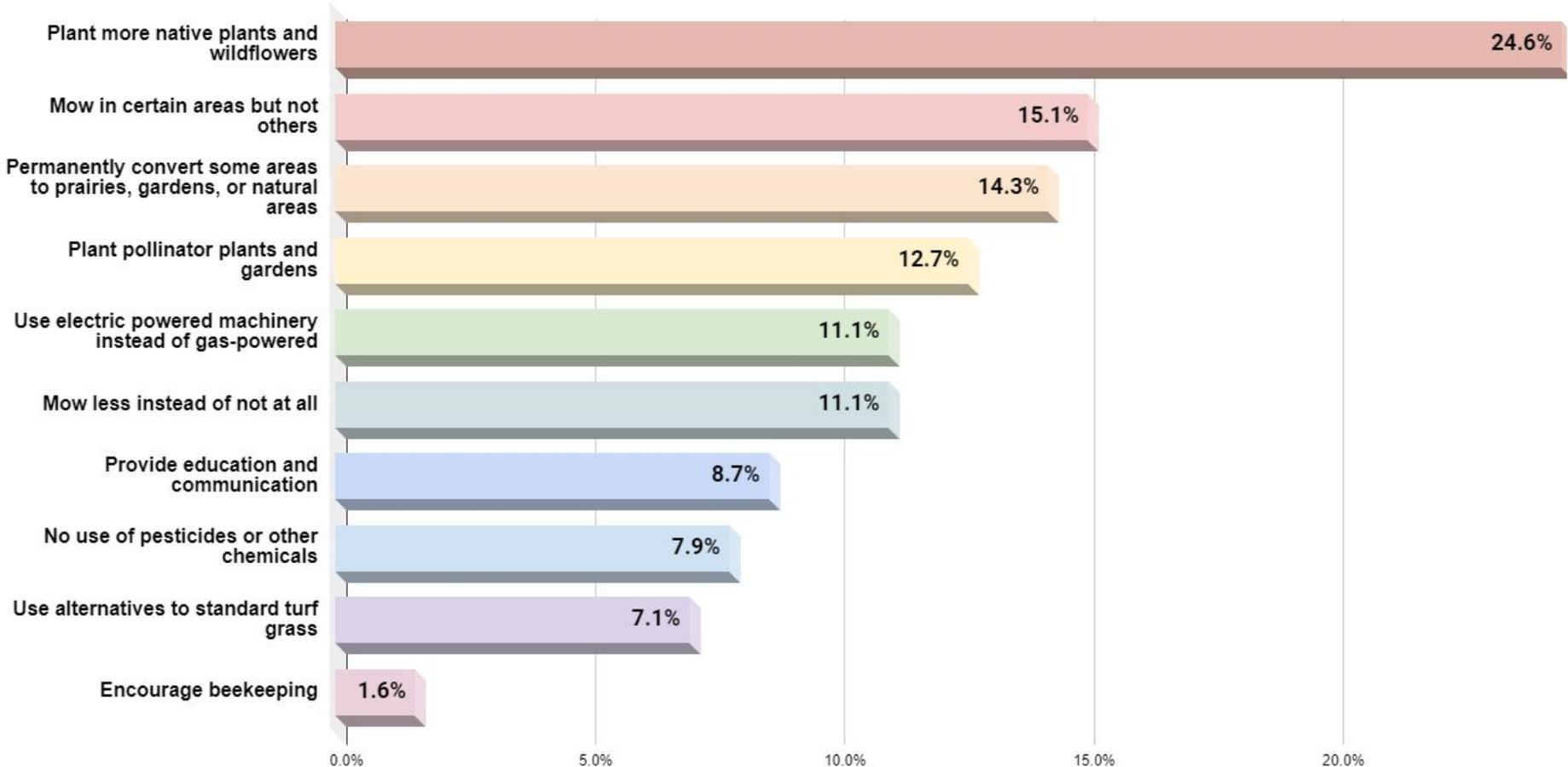
“There are **parts of neighborhood parks** that could perhaps go without mowing, especially around the edges. Kind of like a golf course, where the central part of the park is mowed for soccer, picnicking, etc., but it is surrounded by rough.”

“I would not like it at **downtown adjacent parks** as that's where visitors come and people want picnics”

“Not sure. Those that don't have sports fields, golf courses or trails (narrower paths could be mowed if efficient). Parks with **infrequently used areas** in the spring”

None (32 respondents)

What other ideas do you have for how the Parks Department can support pollinators and reduce greenhouse gas emissions? (126 responses)



What other ideas do you have for how the Parks Department can support pollinators and reduce greenhouse gas emissions? (126 responses)

Plant more native plants and wildflowers (31 respondents)

“City should greatly reduce planting of non-native plants, using **natives** only.”

“Replace landscaping with **beautiful native plants**”

Plant pollinator plants and gardens (16 respondents)

“Plant **pollinator gardens** in appropriate spaces.”

“Plant **pollinator friendly plants.**”

Mow in certain areas but not others (19 respondents)

“I don't think it's necessary to avoid mowing entirely in May, but I'd appreciate trying the experiment in **some areas.**”

“... there are definitely areas where people picnic, play frisbee, etc. that **should be mowed.**”

Permanently convert some areas to prairies, gardens, or natural areas (18 respondents)

“Create additional park areas that are designated (as natural fields, or wildflower areas) that **never get mowed.**”

“Convert unused turf to native plants and **natural areas.**”

Use electric powered machinery instead of gas-powered (14 respondents)

“Look into purchasing **electric mowers.** I don't know if they make them that large but worth exploring”

“Ban **gas-powered mowers.**”

Any questions regarding the survey itself or the responses?



Discussion / Brainstorming

