

Denver's Outdoor Downtown

Public Meeting #1 Summary

Meetings occurred December 9, 2014

- 145 total participants
- 71 attended morning session
- 74 attended evening session
- Results shown are by questions and responses have been combined from both sessions



Public Meeting #1 Summary

Description: The public meetings that took place on December 9th, 2014 aimed to capture the public's input on planning for Denver's Outdoor Downtown. In very initial project planning stages, it is especially important to understand the public's values and collect their ideas. A variety of methods were utilized to advertise to the public (see included outreach methods memo for details). Most participants reported that they heard about the meetings through a personal invitation, email from an organization or social media. Two meetings were held, one prior to typical office hours and a second, in the evening after work. This was done in an effort to provide options in order to maximize participation. At each meeting, attendees engaged in several activities and listened to a presentation about the existing conditions and the master planning process. Activities were completed both as individuals and at tables in small groups. Each group had approximately ten people who worked together to answer five questions with a volunteer facilitator recording their input. Individually, attendees completed a key pad polling exercise that consisted of 16 questions. No significant differences in the responses emerged from the two sessions, so for the purposes of this report, the combined results are presented.

Representative Participation: 145 participants attended the public meetings (71 in the morning and 74 in the evening). The demographic keypad polling question results provide insight that a diverse cross-section of the Downtown Outdoors users were represented at the meeting. Of those who attended the planning meeting, the largest groups were Downtown workers (27 percent) and Downtown visitors (23 percent). Representing the residential population, 16 percent live near Downtown and 12 percent live in Downtown.

Groups that had lower percentages of representation include students, those who own a business Downtown, as well as those who own or manage property Downtown. These are important stakeholders whose needs may differ from those of the other populations. At future meetings, it may be important to reach out more to these groups to ensure a larger representation.

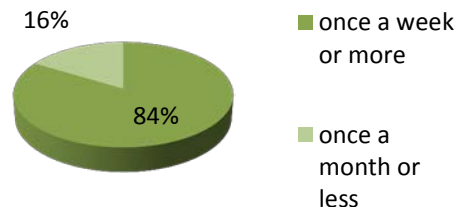
Polling showed that the most frequented outdoor spaces by meeting participants are located in the districts of Lower Downtown, Commercial Core and Cultural Core. All ten Downtown districts were represented by meeting participants



Individuals were encouraged to "imagine Denver's Outdoor Downtown" by writing or drawing on paper leaves. Some also took leaves with them in order to gain feedback from others who were not able to attend the meetings and a hashtag (#dnhvoutdoors) was provided in order to collect those ideas. Below, is an example of a resident sharing their ideas outside of the meeting.



How often do you typically visit a Downtown park or public space?



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that indicated they visit, live in, or work in these areas. Meeting participants also indicated a high rate of use of outdoor spaces, with 84 percent using these spaces at least once a week or more.

Satisfaction levels with existing conditions and room for improvement: A series of keypad polling questions were asked to gauge participants' levels of satisfaction of various elements that compose the Downtown Outdoors. In general, only 17 percent of participants indicated they were not at all satisfied or extremely satisfied with outdoor spaces, and the remainder fell within a middle range. In summary the resulting categories of satisfaction are:

Less satisfaction with:

- Amenities within parks and public spaces
- Inviting/interesting qualities of parks and public spaces
- Safety
- Proximity to where participants live/work
- The amount of recreation courts/sports fields
- The amount of green space and plantings

More satisfied with:

- Number of large public parks or plazas
- Large event offerings

There is a high level of desire in the future for more:

- Small outdoor spaces to form a network
- Outdoor public art
- Improvement to physical elements in existing parks and public spaces
- More daily activities in outdoor spaces
- Trees

There was far less consensus within the participant group for satisfaction/dissatisfaction question topics of the amount of trails/pathways, amount of park land and number of dog parks.

All modes of travel to outdoor spaces need improvement (except for cars): Keypad polling results show that most participants feel that walking/running, biking, bus/shuttle, train, and ADA accessibility travel modes should all be improved within the next 20 years.

Enough large events, but more diversity and daily activation needed: In addition, groups felt there is a need for more diversity in the size and types of events. This information is aligned with the results of a keypad polling question which asked what the focus of improvements to events should be in Downtown Denver in the next 20 years. The top three answers, all with about a 20 percent response, were spreading events to locations throughout Denver, diversifying the types of events and programming public spaces for daily activities.

Most and least enjoyable outdoor spaces: The small group table conversation captured input regarding what participants felt were the most enjoyable outdoor spaces, as well as those which they feel need the most improvement. The percentage represents the number of groups (out of 23) who mentioned each park or public space.

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Top 10 Most Enjoyable Outdoor Spaces

<u>Wynkoop Plaza</u>	100%
<u>Commons Park</u>	91%
<u>Cherry Creek Trail</u>	78%
<u>Civic Center Park</u>	78%
<u>16th Street Mall</u>	70%
<u>Skyline Park</u>	61%
<u>Confluence Park</u>	52%
<u>Larimer Square</u>	48%
<u>Millennium Bridge</u>	30%
<u>Benedict Fountain Park</u>	30%

Top Most Enjoyable Parks and Trails

<u>Cherry Creek Trail</u>	70%
<u>Commons Park</u>	65%
<u>Civic Center Park</u>	57%
<u>Confluence Park</u>	39%
<u>Platte River Trail</u>	26%

Top Most Enjoyable Plazas, Streets, etc.

<u>Wynkoop Plaza</u>	61%
<u>Larimer Square</u>	43%
<u>Millennium Bridge</u>	39%
<u>16th Street Mall</u>	35%
<u>14th Street</u>	17%

Places Most In Need of Improvement

<u>Civic Center Park</u>	52%
<u>Skyline Park</u>	48%
<u>16th Street Mall</u>	17%
<u>Cherry Creek Bike</u>	17%
<u>15/16/17/18 Street Area</u>	13%
<u>Sonny Lawson Park</u>	13%

This information is useful for understanding which outdoor spaces are working well for people as well those the public perceives as needing improvement. Some of the reasons why people commonly suggested these places are enjoyable is because of their multi-modal trail connectivity, provision of nature in the city, multitude of activity offerings, central locations, history, diversity of people that use the spaces, views and people watching opportunities. Some of the needs listed for the places desired for improvement are access to drinking water, bathrooms, shade and safety. In another group question, participants were asked to highlight amenities that they would like to see in their Outdoor Downtown. The amenities most often selected by the groups (80% of the groups or more selected items within these categories) are bike lanes, artwork, public restrooms, trees and plants. Other notable comments pertained to the need for night lighting, protected bike lanes, solar/electric access in parks, legal and safe space for the homeless to sleep, as well as more pianos, signage, wayfinding and historical information. The entire results are summarized in the attached graph.

Other creative ideas suggested by meeting participants that were provided on the capture sheet checklist include camping for school children, more participatory lunchtime activities, public/interactive art using LED

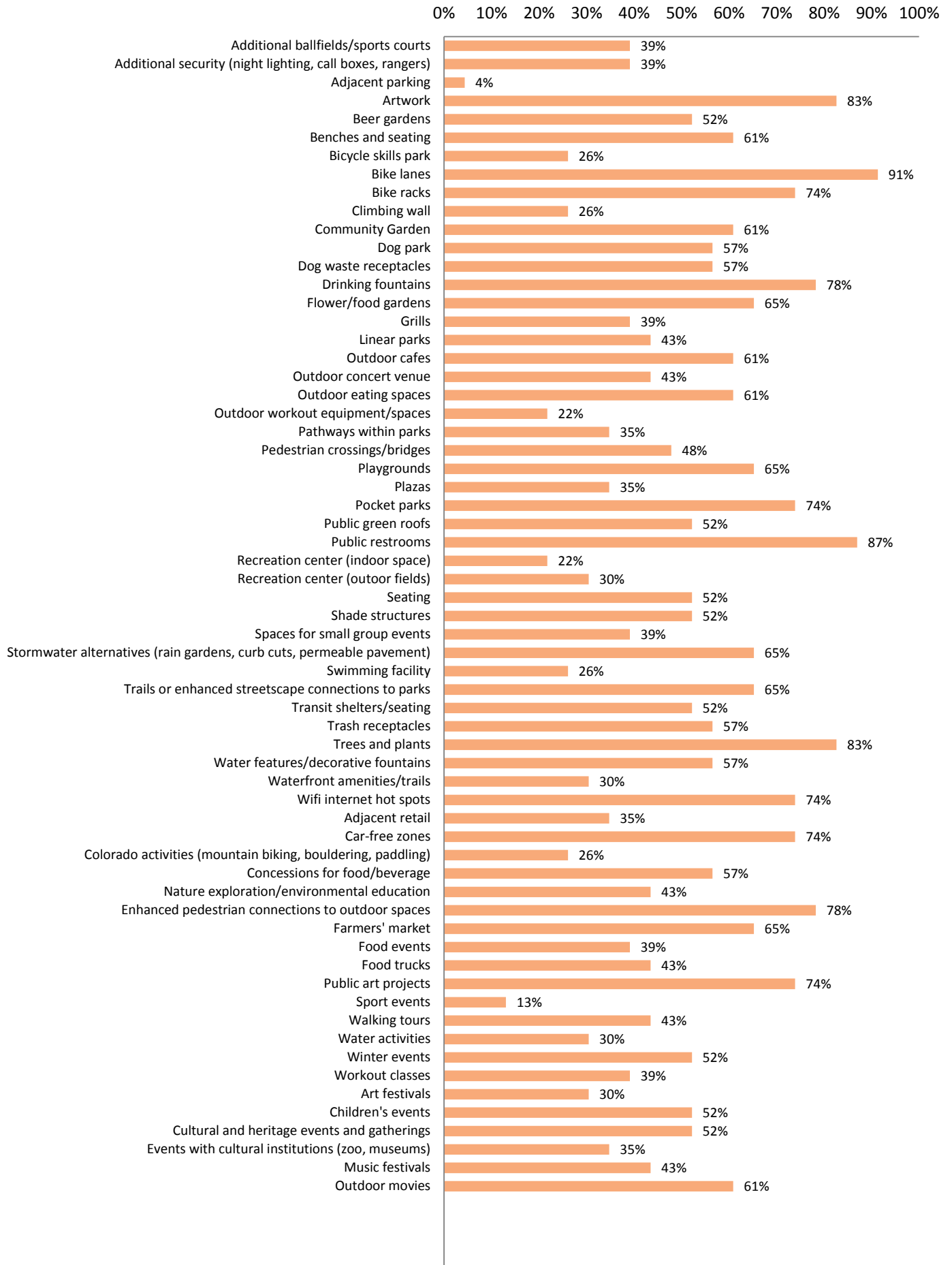
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screens, bike repair stations, library drop boxes, mini-market/produce stands, small retail and more public/private partnerships.

The results of this meeting inform and will be taken into consideration in the development of plan concepts. At this time they do not represent priorities or recommendations and will be further refined in future input sessions.

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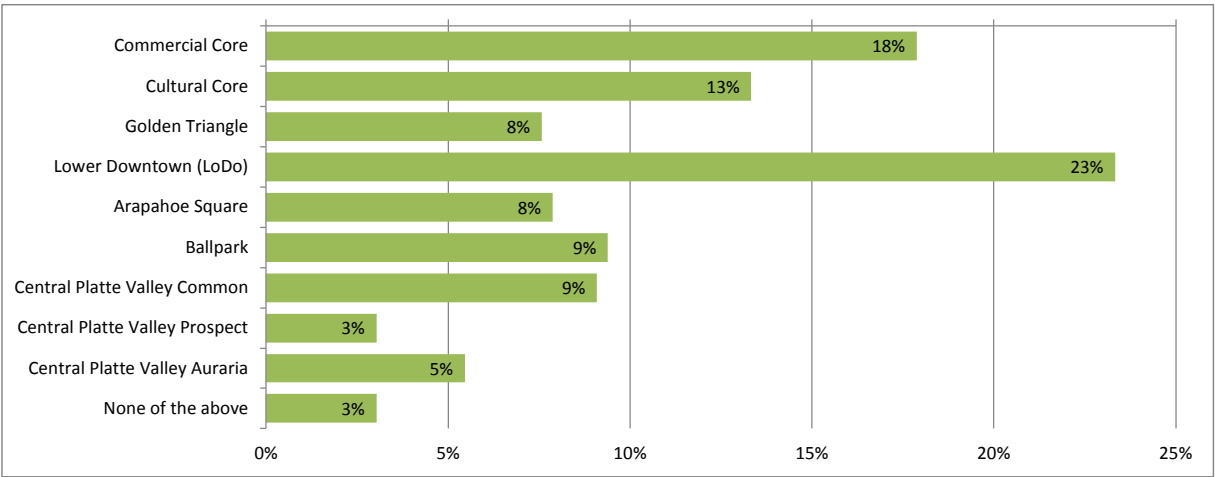
Responses to the question: "What do you wish would be added to Denver's Outdoor Downtown?"



KEYPAD POLLING QUESTION RESULTS
 (combined morning and evening session results)

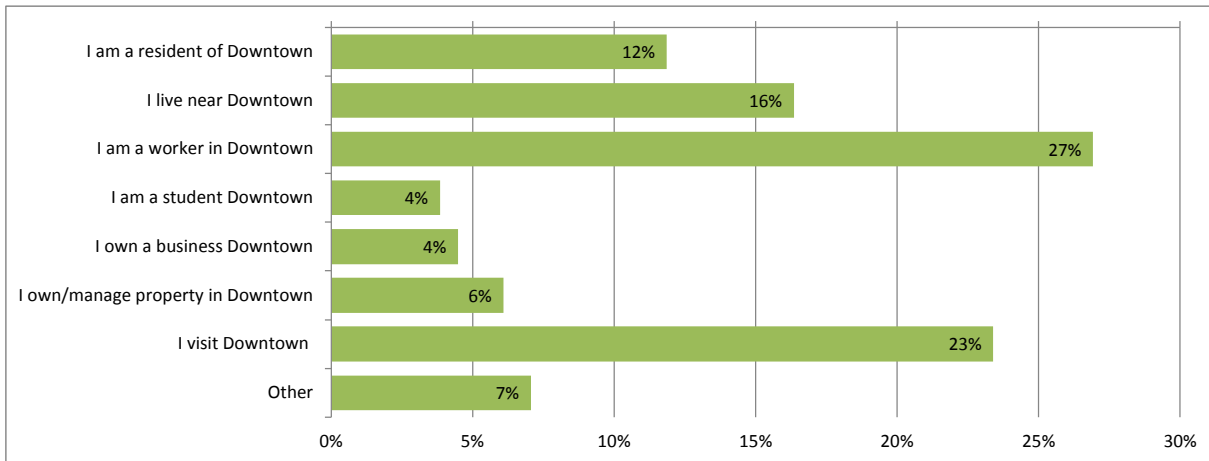
1. Which Downtown district(s) do you live in, work in or visit often?
 (select all answers that apply) (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Commercial Core	17.88%	59
Cultural Core	13.33%	44
Golden Triangle	7.58%	25
Lower Downtown (LoDo)	23.33%	77
Arapahoe Square	7.88%	26
Ballpark	9.39%	31
Central Platte Valley Common	9.09%	30
Central Platte Valley Prospect	3.03%	10
Central Platte Valley Auraria	5.45%	18
None of the above	3.03%	10
Totals	100%	330



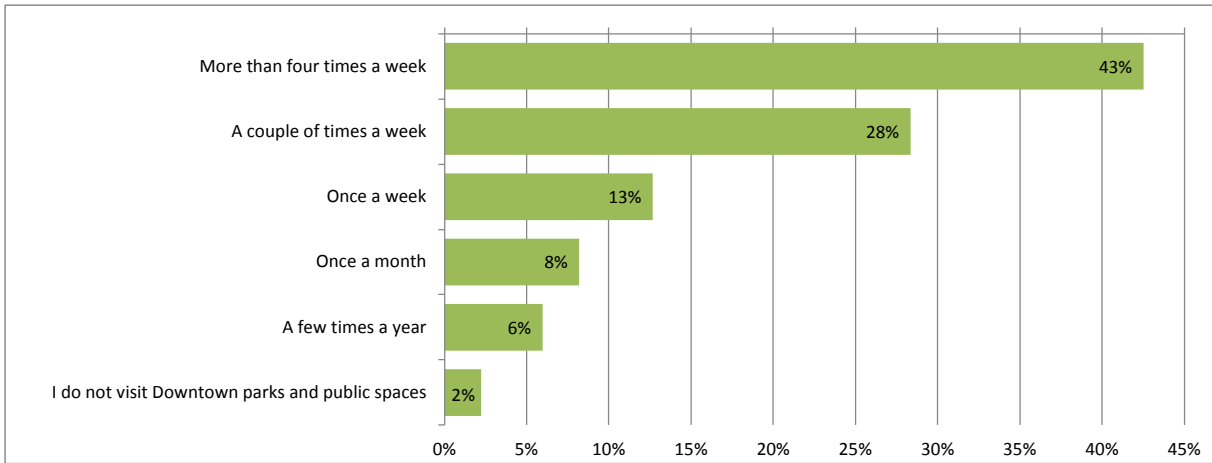
2. What are your interests in Denver's Outdoor Downtown Spaces?
 (select all answers that apply) (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
I am a resident of Downtown	11.86%	37
I live near Downtown	16.35%	51
I am a worker in Downtown	26.92%	84
I am a student Downtown	3.85%	12
I own a business Downtown	4.49%	14
I own/manage property in Downtown	6.09%	19
I visit Downtown	23.40%	73
Other	7.05%	22
Totals	100%	312



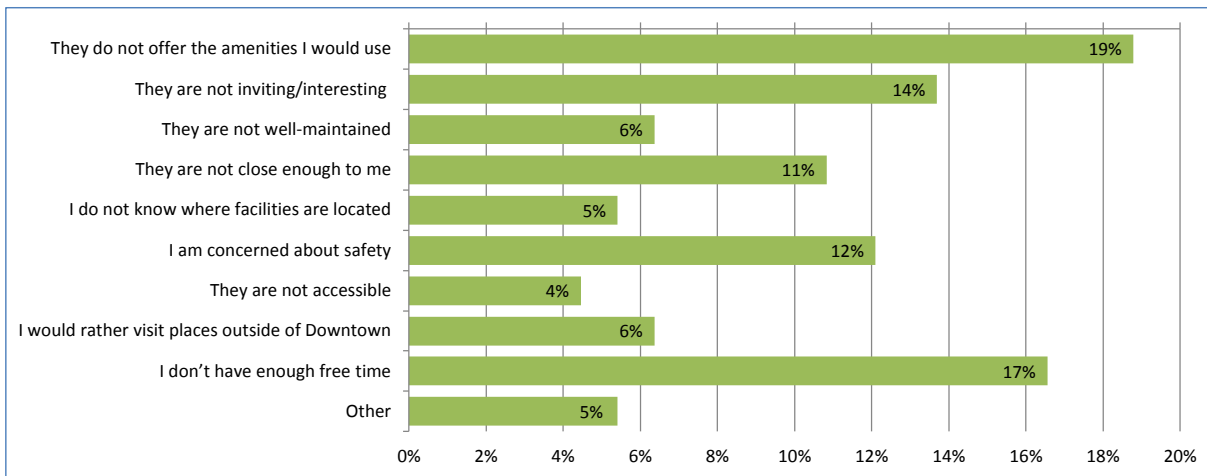
3. How often do you typically visit a Downtown park or public space?
 (select one answer) (Multiple Choice)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
More than four times a week	42.54%	57
A couple of times a week	28.36%	38
Once a week	12.69%	17
Once a month	8.21%	11
A few times a year	5.97%	8
I do not visit Downtown parks and public spaces	2.24%	3
Totals	100%	134



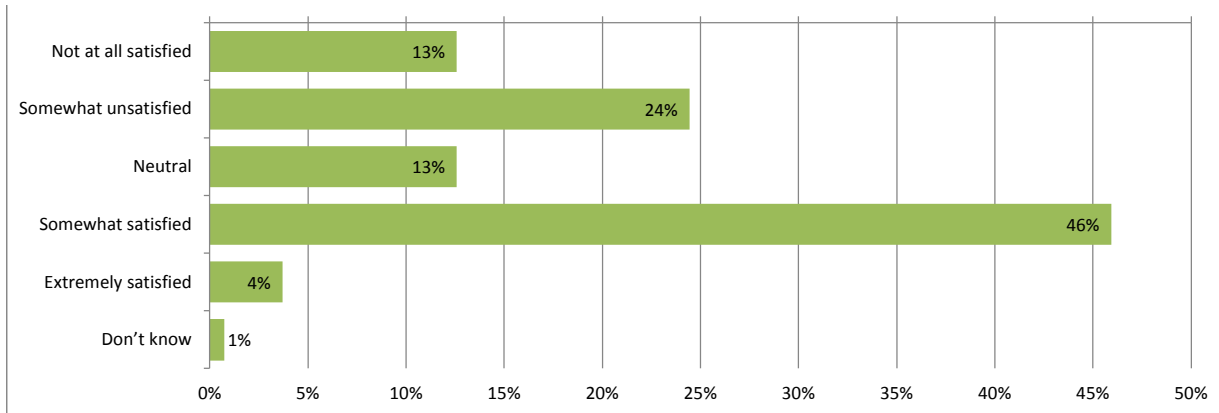
4. Which reasons best describe why you do not spend more time in parks and public spaces Downtown? (select up to three answers) (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
They do not offer the amenities I would use	18.79%	59
They are not inviting/interesting	13.69%	43
They are not well-maintained	6.37%	20
They are not close enough to me	10.83%	34
I do not know where facilities are located	5.41%	17
I am concerned about safety	12.10%	38
They are not accessible	4.46%	14
I would rather visit places outside of Downtown	6.37%	20
I don't have enough free time	16.56%	52
Other	5.41%	17
Totals	100%	314



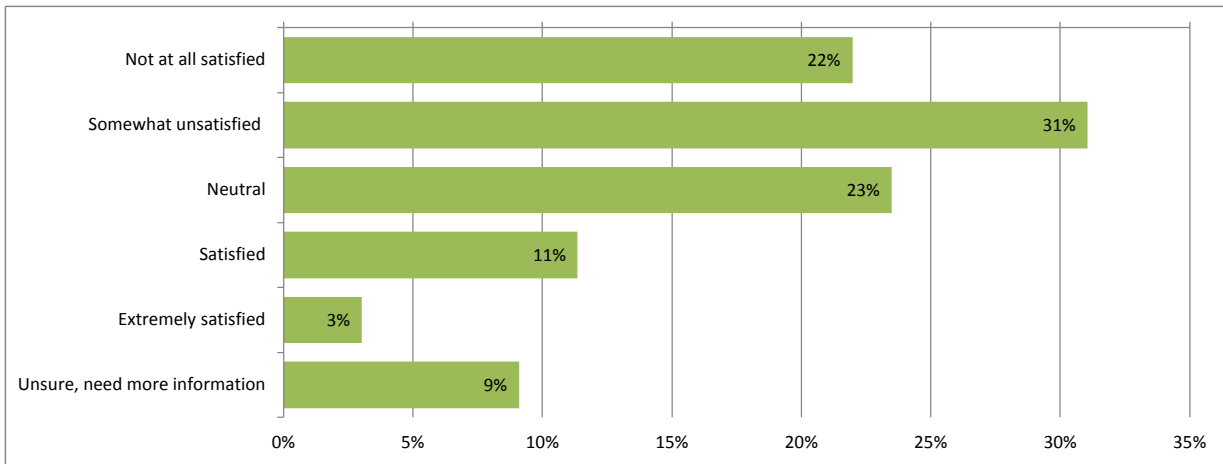
5. How satisfied are you with the outdoor spaces Downtown?
 (select one answer) (Multiple Choice)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Not at all satisfied	12.59%	17
Somewhat unsatisfied	24.44%	33
Neutral	12.59%	17
Somewhat satisfied	45.93%	62
Extremely satisfied	3.70%	5
Don't know	0.74%	1
Totals	100%	135



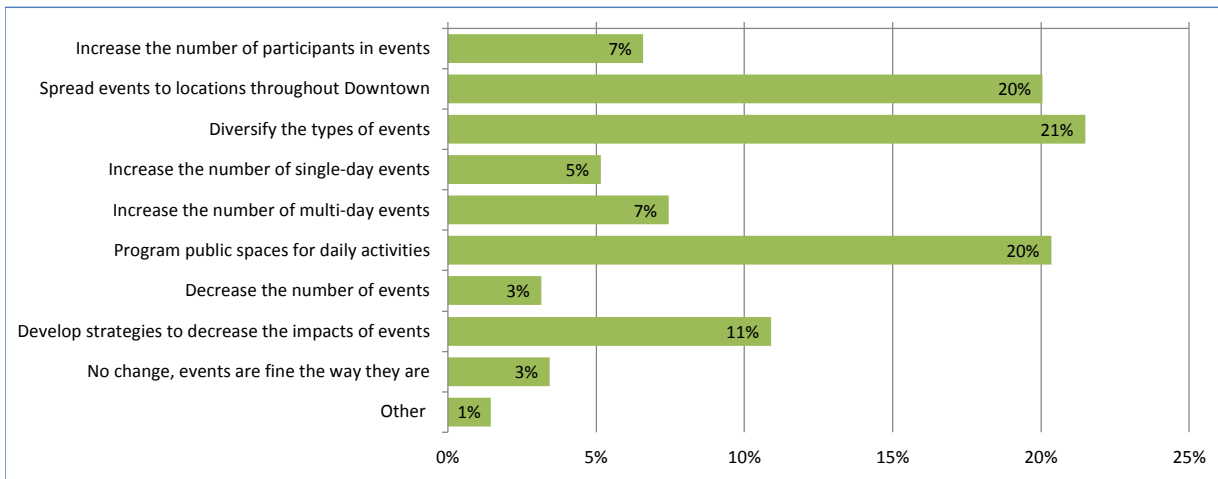
6. How satisfied are you with the amount of recreation courts/sports fields available to serve Downtown Denver for the next 20 years? (select one answer) (Multiple Choice)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Not at all satisfied	21.97%	29
Somewhat unsatisfied	31.06%	41
Neutral	23.48%	31
Satisfied	11.36%	15
Extremely satisfied	3.03%	4
Unsure, need more information	9.09%	12
Totals	100%	132



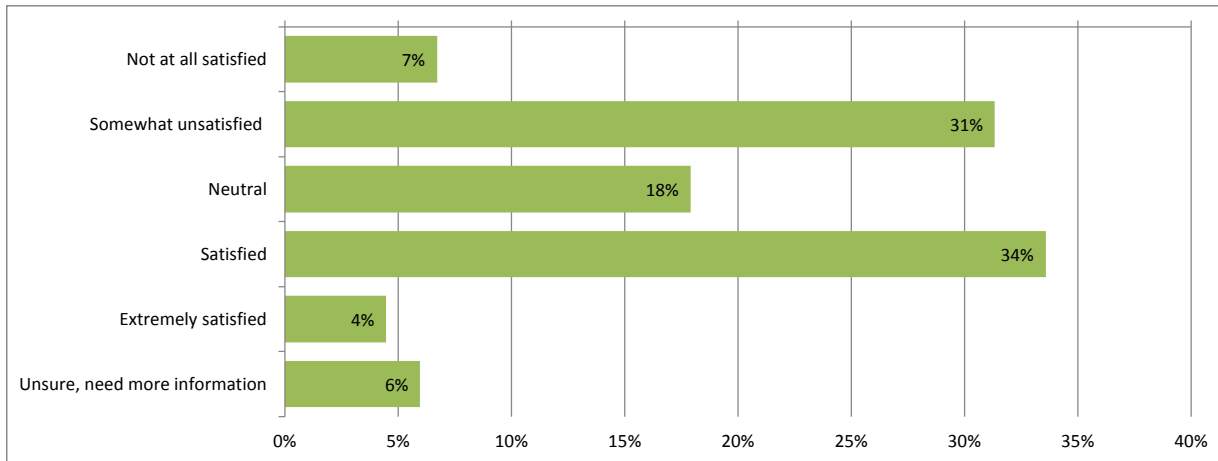
7. What should be the focus of improvements to events in Downtown Denver to serve the population over the next 20 years? (select all that apply) (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Increase the number of participants in events	6.59%	23
Spread events to locations throughout Downtown	20.06%	70
Diversify the types of events	21.49%	75
Increase the number of single-day events	5.16%	18
Increase the number of multi-day events	7.45%	26
Program public spaces for daily activities	20.34%	71
Decrease the number of events	3.15%	11
Develop strategies to decrease the impacts of events	10.89%	38
No change, events are fine the way they are	3.44%	12
Other	1.43%	5
Totals	100%	349



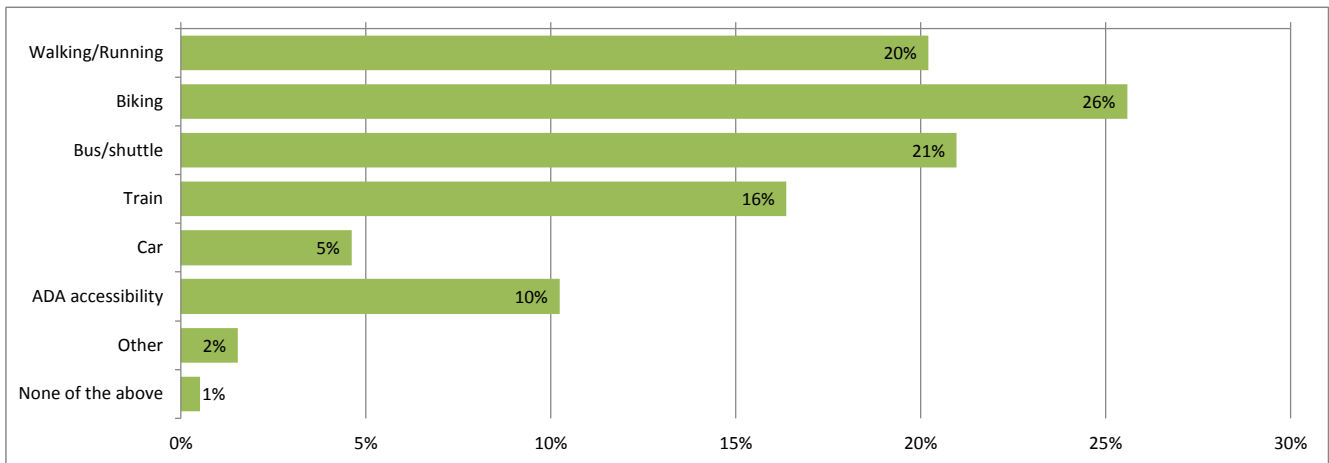
8. How satisfied are you with the amount of trails/pathways available to serve the Downtown for the next 20 years? (select one answer) (Multiple Choice)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Not at all satisfied	6.72%	9
Somewhat unsatisfied	31.34%	42
Neutral	17.91%	24
Satisfied	33.58%	45
Extremely satisfied	4.48%	6
Unsure, need more information	5.97%	8
Totals	100%	134



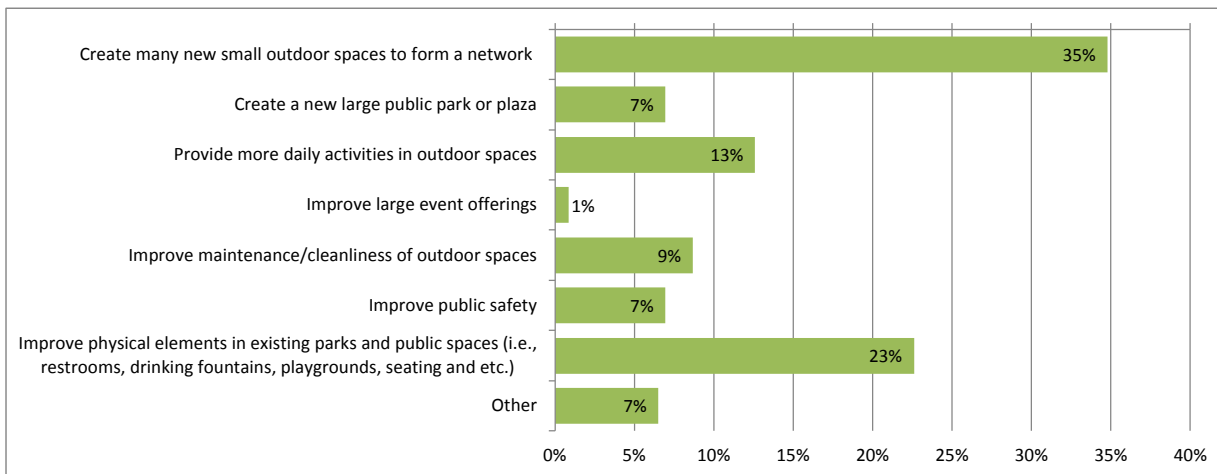
9. Which mode of travel to outdoor spaces needs improvement over the next 20 years?
 (select all answers that apply) (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Walking/Running	20.20%	79
Biking	25.58%	100
Bus/shuttle	20.97%	82
Train	16.37%	64
Car	4.60%	18
ADA accessibility	10.23%	40
Other	1.53%	6
None of the above	0.51%	2
Totals	100%	391



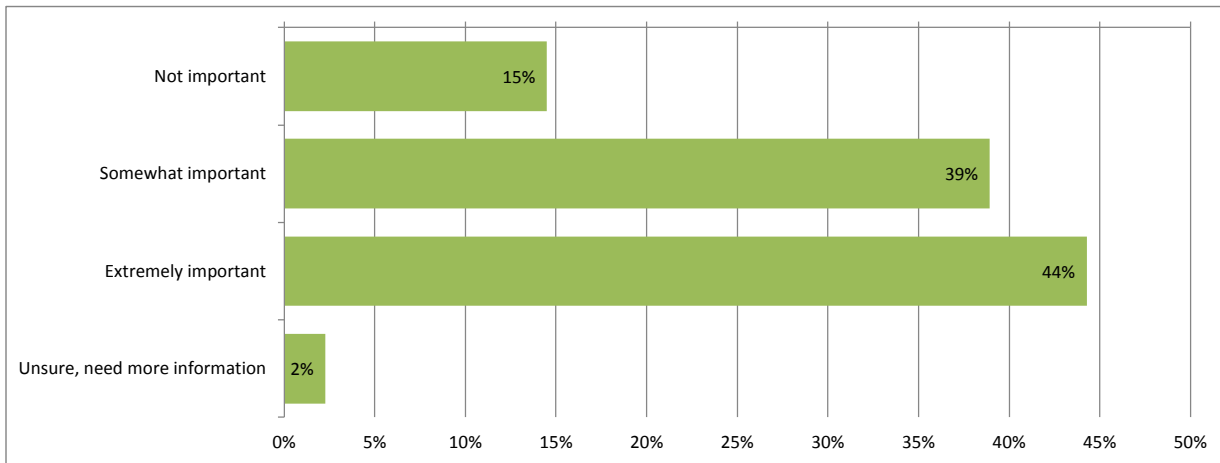
10. What should be the primary focus of public investment in parks and public spaces Downtown over the next ten years? (select up to two answers) (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Create many new small outdoor spaces to form a network	34.78%	80
Create a new large public park or plaza	6.96%	16
Provide more daily activities in outdoor spaces	12.61%	29
Improve large event offerings	0.87%	2
Improve maintenance/cleanliness of outdoor spaces	8.70%	20
Improve public safety	6.96%	16
Improve physical elements in existing parks and public spaces (i.e., drinking fountains, playgrounds, seating and etc.)	22.61%	52
Other	6.52%	15
Totals	100%	230



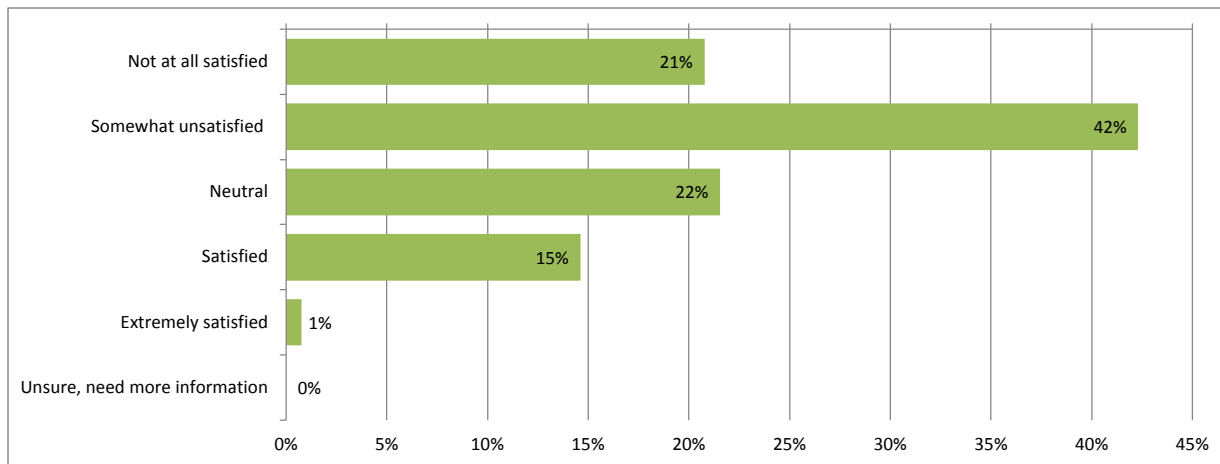
11. How important to you is increasing the amount of outdoor public art Downtown over the next 20 years? (select one answer) (Multiple Choice)

	Responses	
	Percent	Count
Not important	14.50%	19
Somewhat important	38.93%	51
Extremely important	44.27%	58
Unsure, need more information	2.29%	3
Totals	100%	131



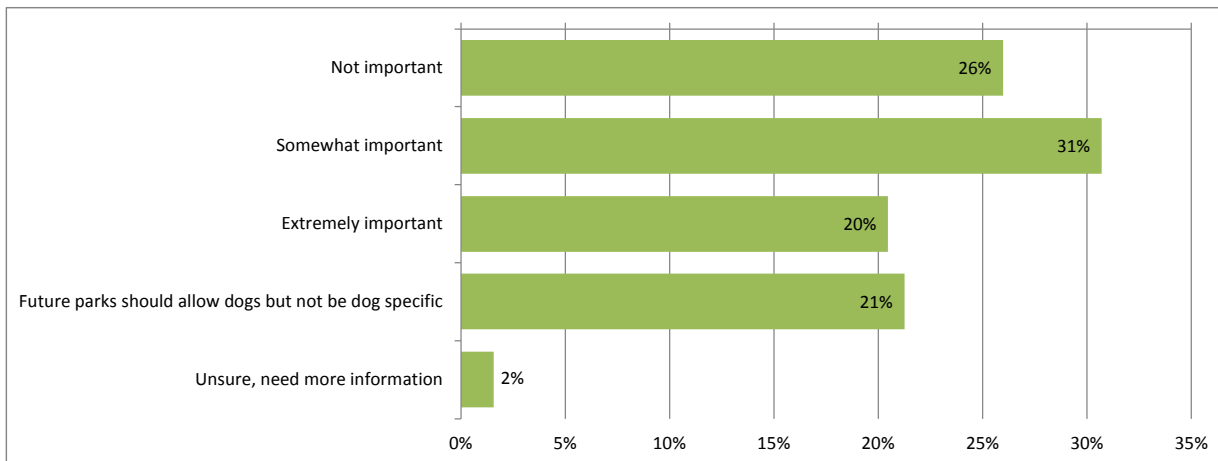
12. How satisfied are you with the amount of park land available to serve the Downtown for the next 20 years? (select one answer) (Multiple Choice)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Not at all satisfied	20.77%	27
Somewhat unsatisfied	42.31%	55
Neutral	21.54%	28
Satisfied	14.62%	19
Extremely satisfied	0.77%	1
Unsure, need more information	0.00%	0
Totals	100%	130



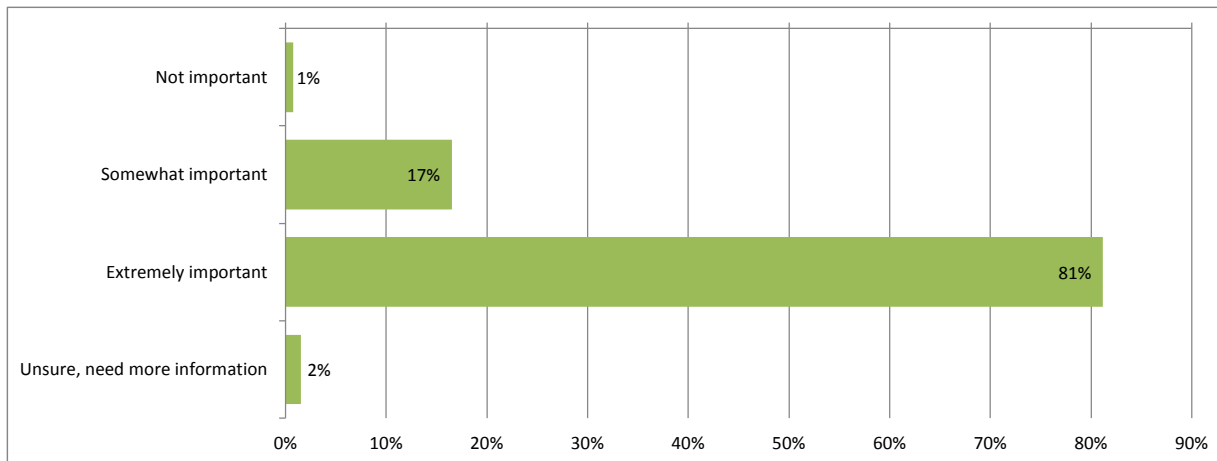
13. How important to you is increasing the amount of dog parks in Downtown over the next 20 years? (select one answer) (Multiple Choice)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Not important	25.98%	33
Somewhat important	30.71%	39
Extremely important	20.47%	26
Future parks should allow dogs but not be dog specific	21.26%	27
Unsure, need more information	1.57%	2
Totals	100%	127



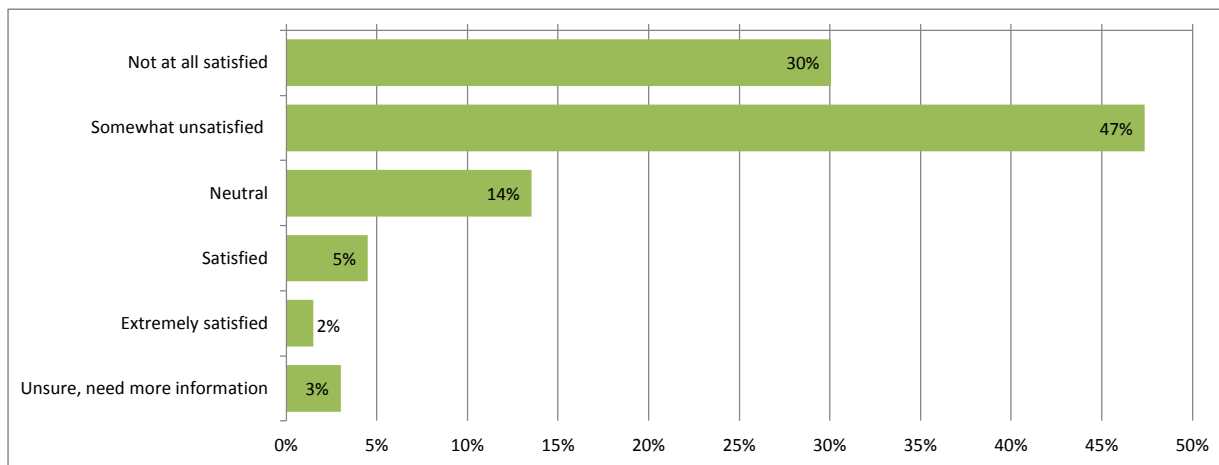
14. How important to you is increasing the amount of trees in Downtown over the next 20 years? (select one answer) (Multiple Choice)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Not important	0.75%	1
Somewhat important	16.54%	22
Extremely important	81.20%	108
Unsure, need more information	1.50%	2
Totals	100%	133



15. How satisfied are you with the amount of green space and plantings available to serve the Downtown for the next 20 years? (select one answer) (Multiple Choice)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Not at all satisfied	30.08%	40
Somewhat unsatisfied	47.37%	63
Neutral	13.53%	18
Satisfied	4.51%	6
Extremely satisfied	1.50%	2
Unsure, need more information	3.01%	4
Totals	100%	133



16. How did you hear about this meeting? (select all answers that apply)
 (Multiple Choice - Multiple Response)

Responses		
	Percent	Count
Newspaper advertisement	2.47%	4
Social media (e.g., Facebook)	12.96%	21
Website	4.32%	7
Poster or sign advertisement	1.85%	3
Personal invite	27.16%	44
Word of mouth	9.88%	16
Email from an organization	37.65%	61
Other	3.70%	6
Totals	100%	162

