

City of Bloomington Common Council

Legislative Packet –Addendum

Posted on Wednesday, 26 July 2023

Wednesday, 26 July 2023

Regular Session at 6:30 pm



Results for the City of Bloomington, IN 2023 Resident Survey

July 2023





Civic Communication & Analytics Platform

Smarter, better connected communities. A civic surveying, policy polling, and constituent communication tech platform.



Advanced Survey Science & Performance Analytics

Data insights to help communities move forward. The premiere provider of professional civic surveys and performance benchmarking analyses.

Questions about our product?

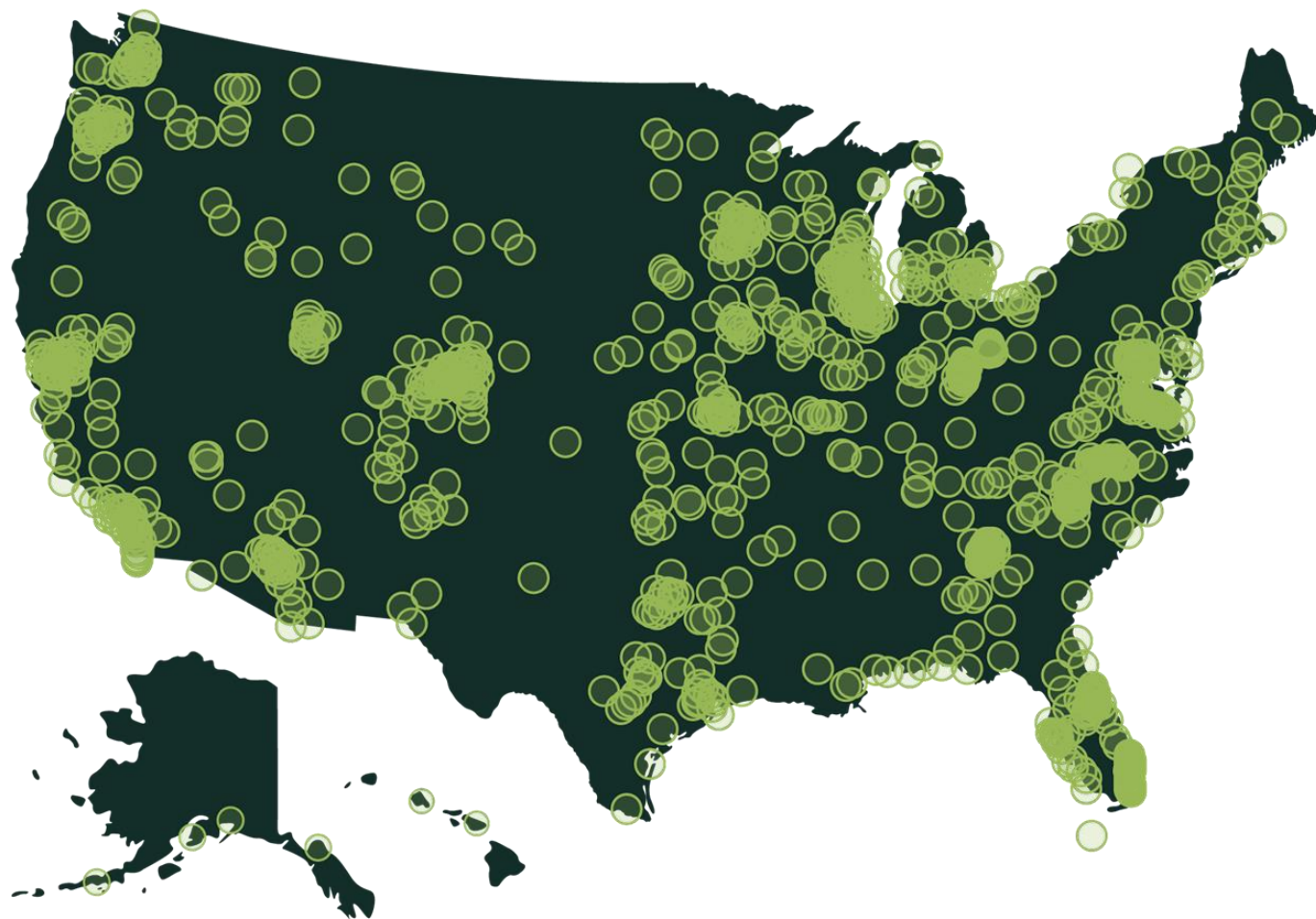
Visit www.polco.us to learn more

Exclusive partners of:

ICMA

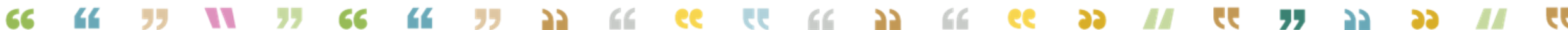
NLC NATIONAL
LEAGUE
OF CITIES

Polco's Benchmarking Database



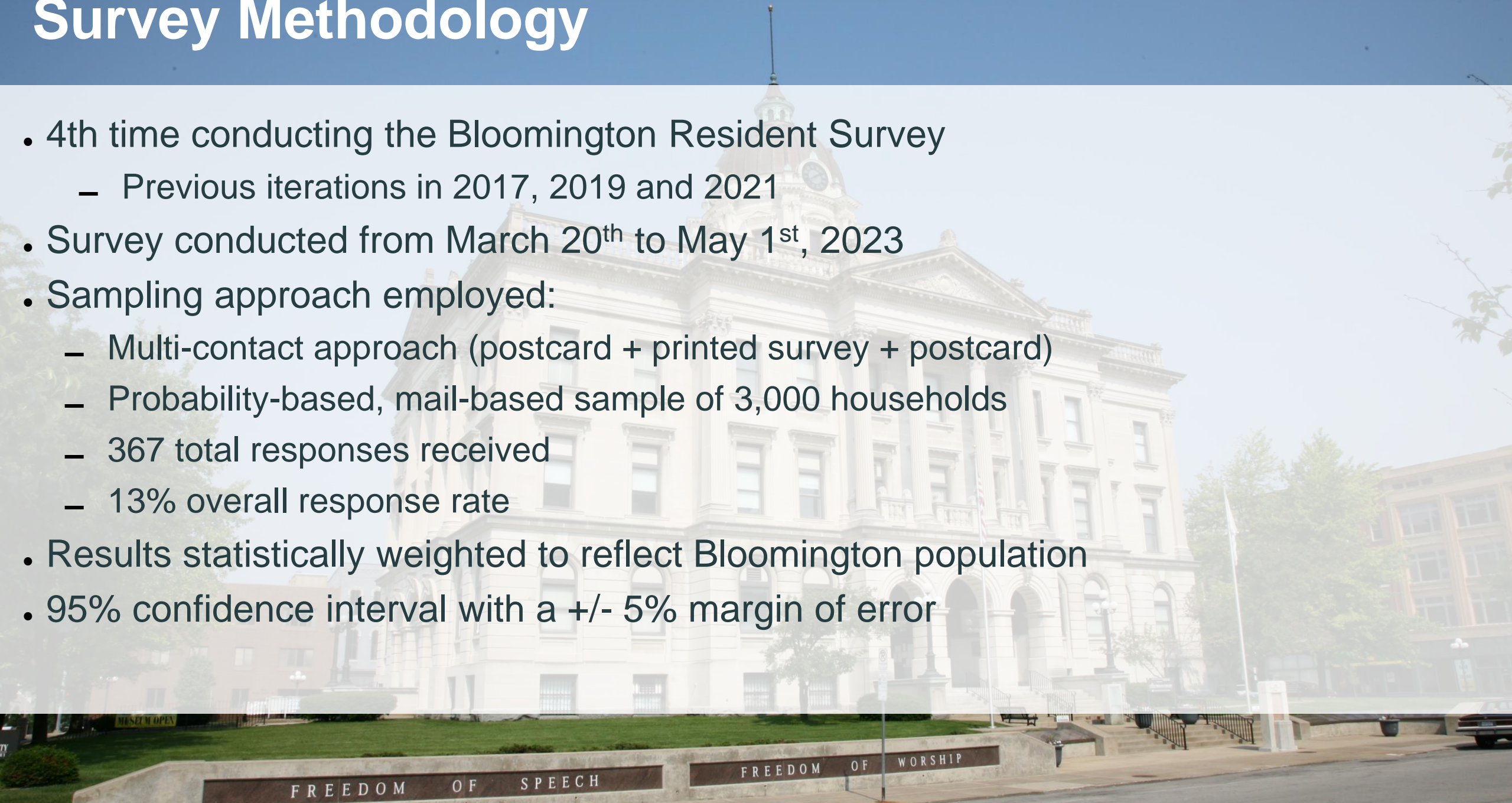
More than **500**
comparison communities
across the nation.

Representing the opinions
of more than **50 million**
residents.



Survey Methodology

- 4th time conducting the Bloomington Resident Survey
 - Previous iterations in 2017, 2019 and 2021
- Survey conducted from March 20th to May 1st, 2023
- Sampling approach employed:
 - Multi-contact approach (postcard + printed survey + postcard)
 - Probability-based, mail-based sample of 3,000 households
 - 367 total responses received
 - 13% overall response rate
- Results statistically weighted to reflect Bloomington population
- 95% confidence interval with a +/- 5% margin of error



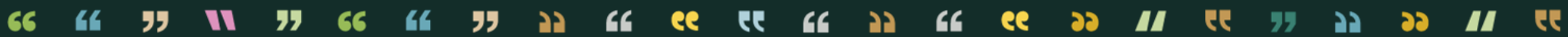
FREEDOM OF SPEECH

FREEDOM OF WORSHIP



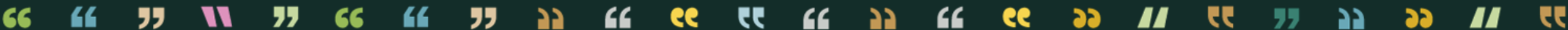
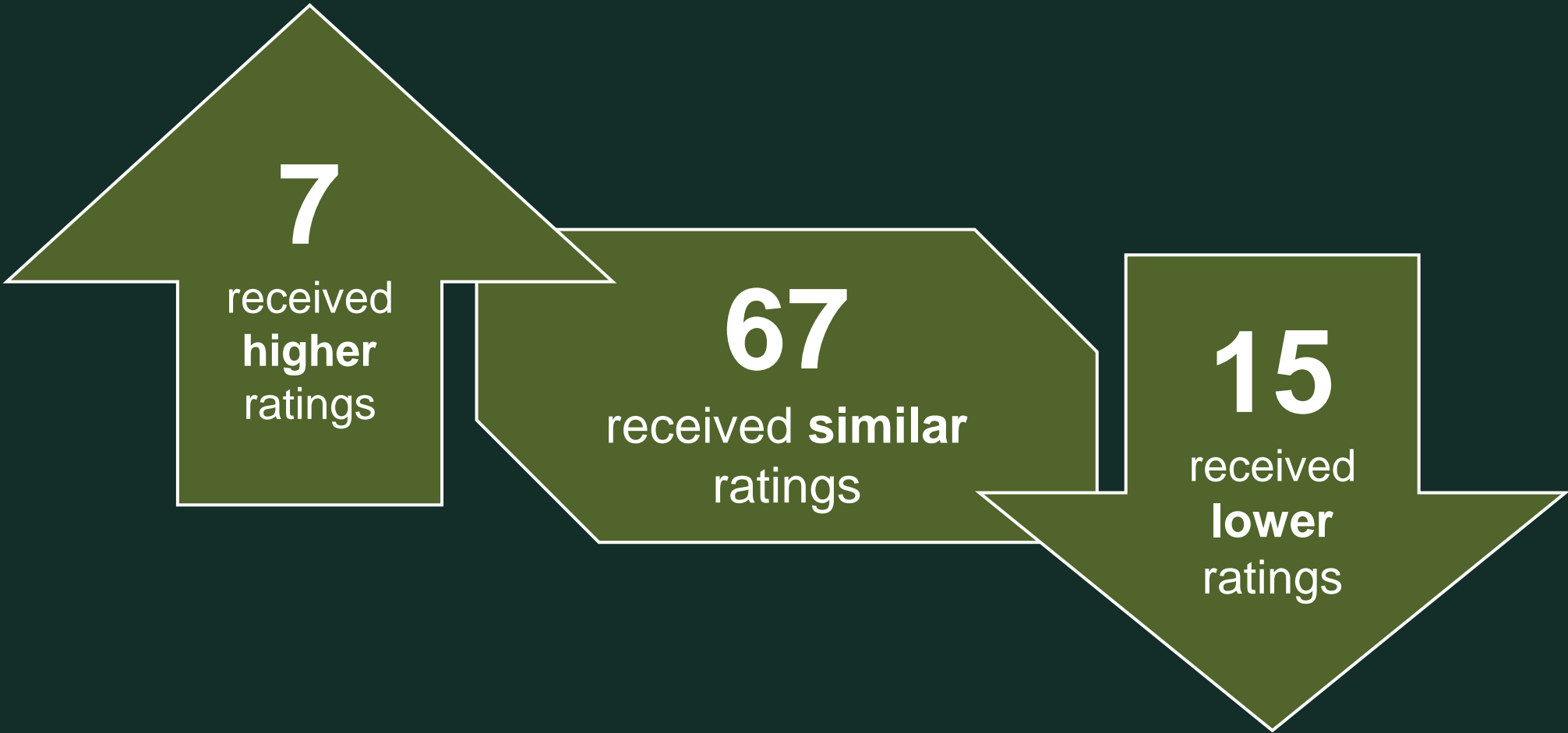
Overview of Survey Results

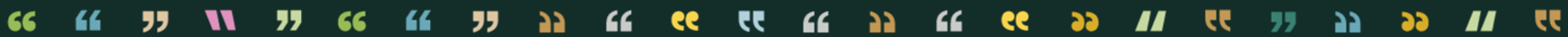




Comparisons to Peer Benchmarks

Communities with universities and similar median annual household incomes







Key Findings





Key Finding #1:

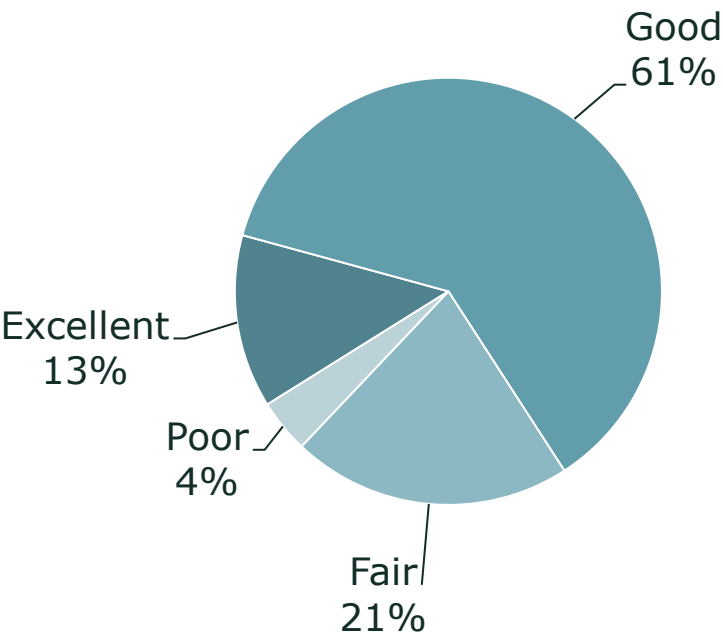
**Bloomington
residents continue
to have a positive
quality of life.**



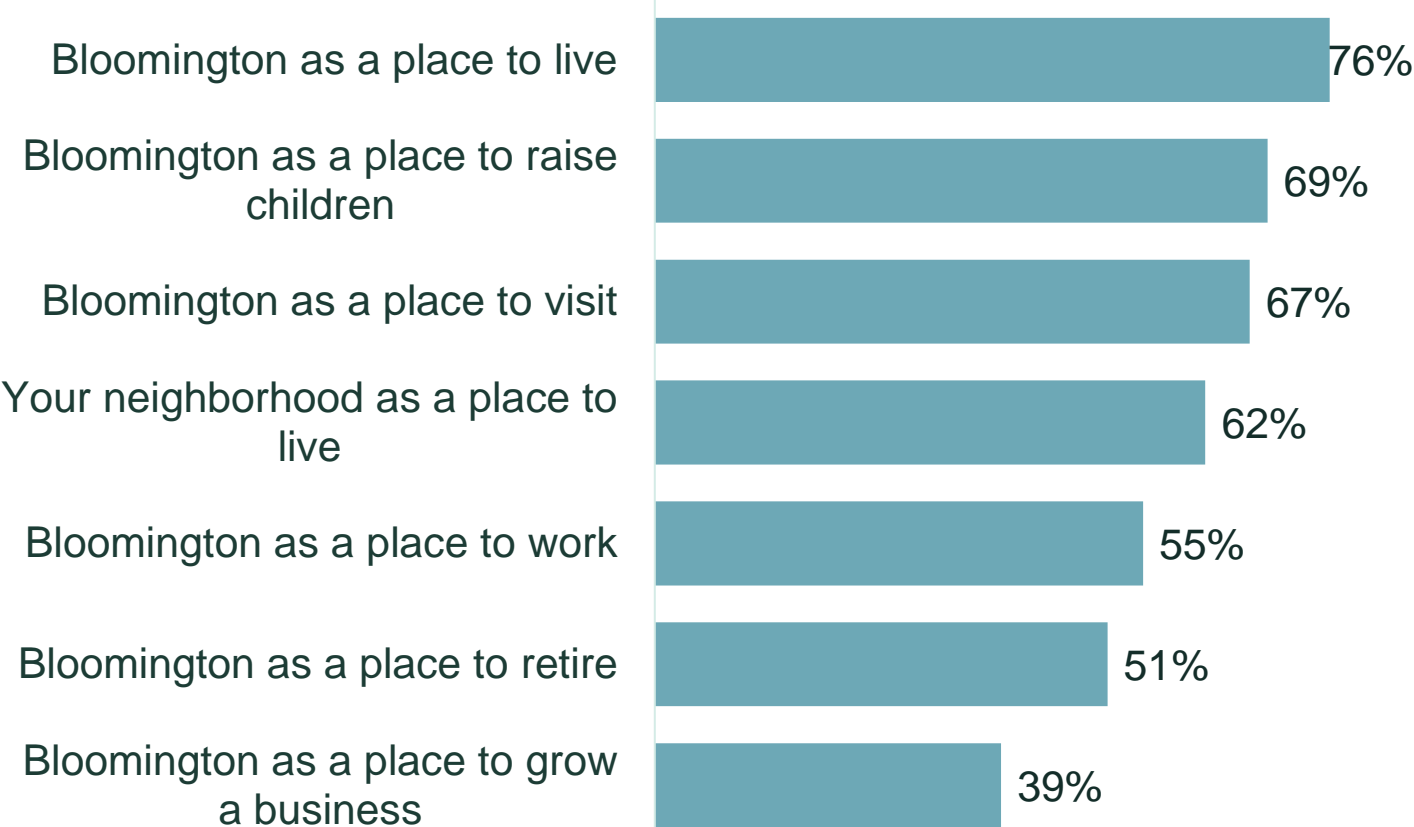
Quality of Life in Bloomington



Overall Quality of Life, 2023



Quality of Life Measures



Percent excellent or good



7 in **10** residents:

Would recommend living in Bloomington



6 in **10** residents:

Planned to remain in Bloomington for the next 5 years





Key Finding #2:

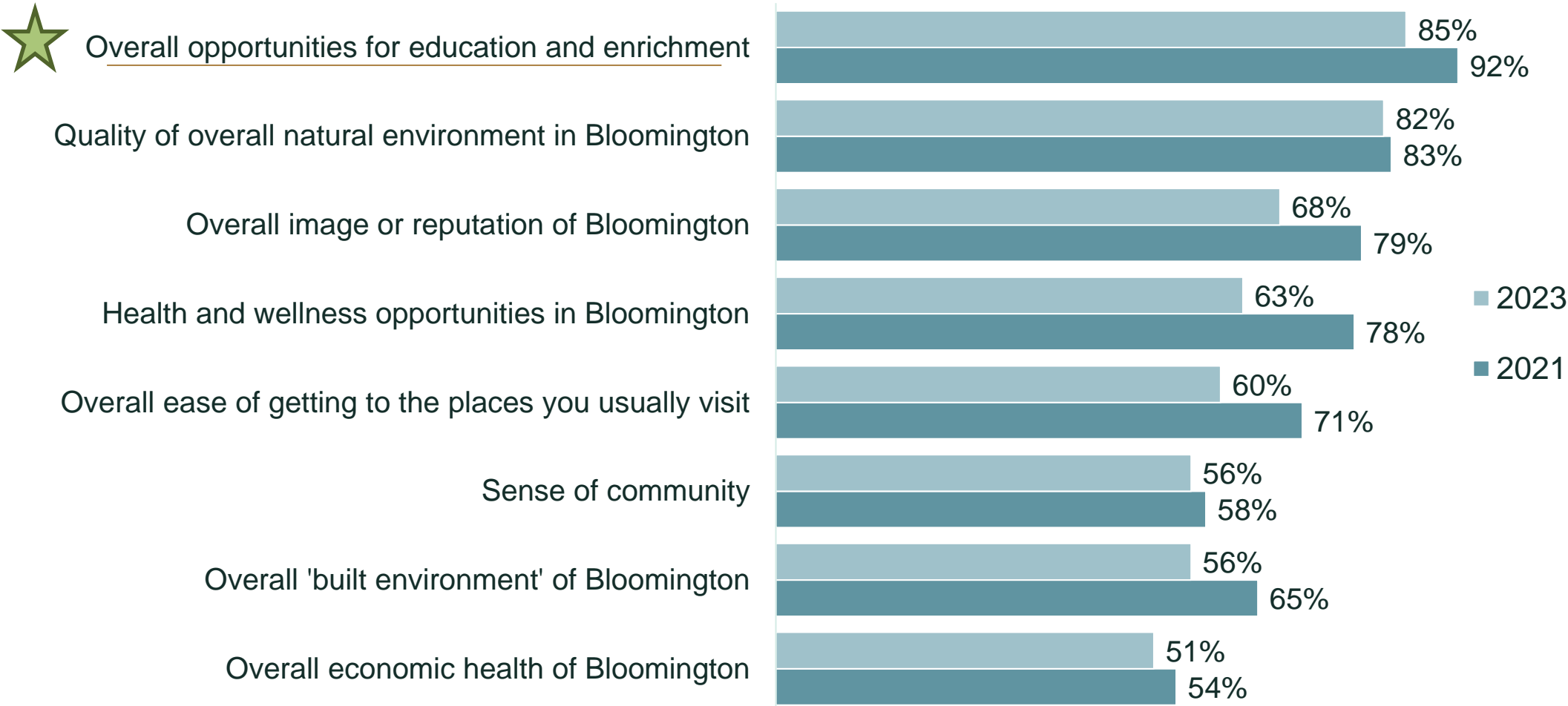
Overall opportunities
for education
contribute to the
quality of life in
Bloomington.



Community Characteristics Ratings, 2021-2023



Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Bloomington as a whole:



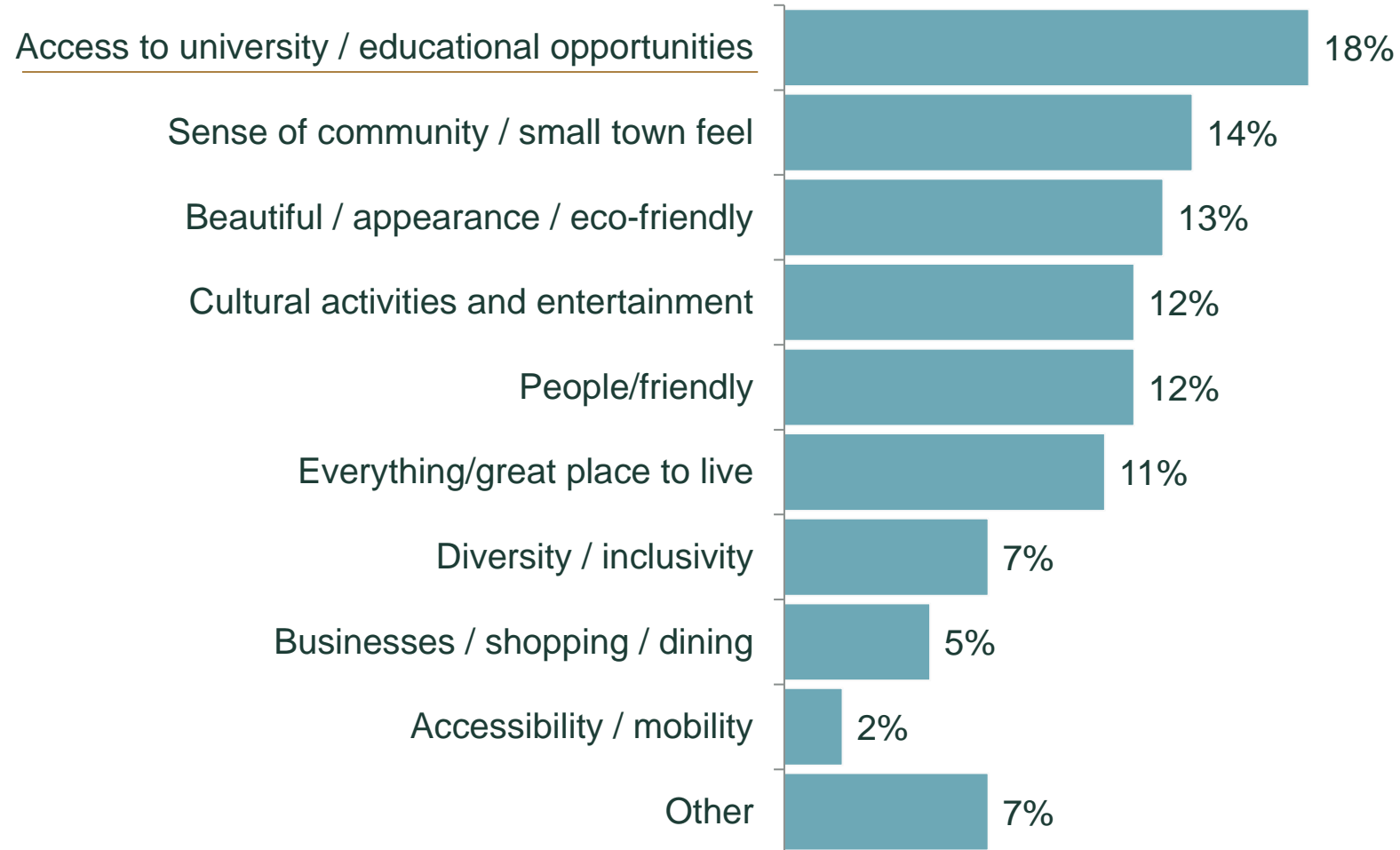
= Higher than the National and Peer Benchmark

Percent excellent or good

Like Most about Living in Bloomington, 2023



What is one thing you like most about the City of Bloomington?





Key Finding #3:

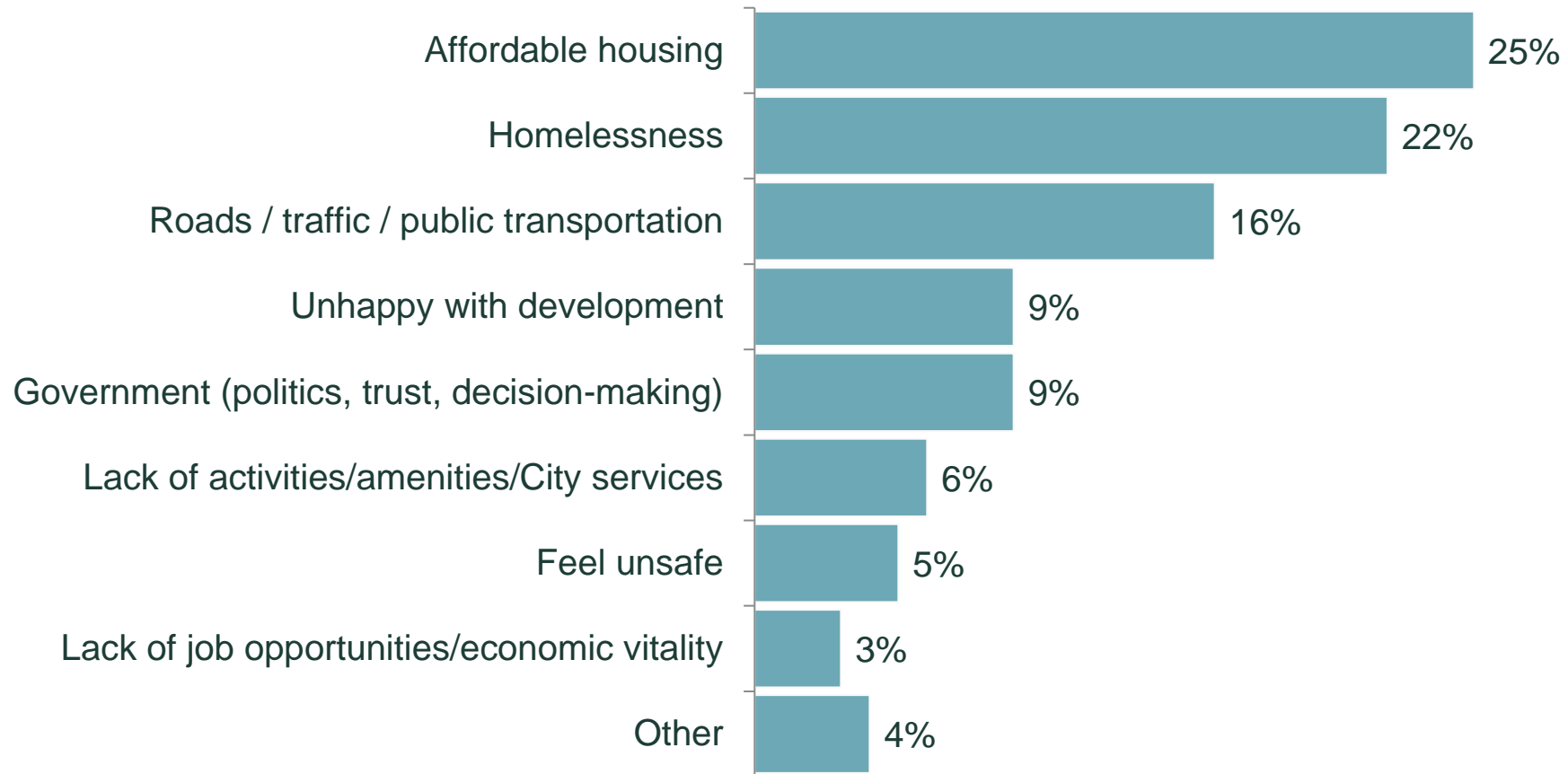
**Homelessness
remains a City
challenge.**



Like Least about Living in Bloomington, 2023



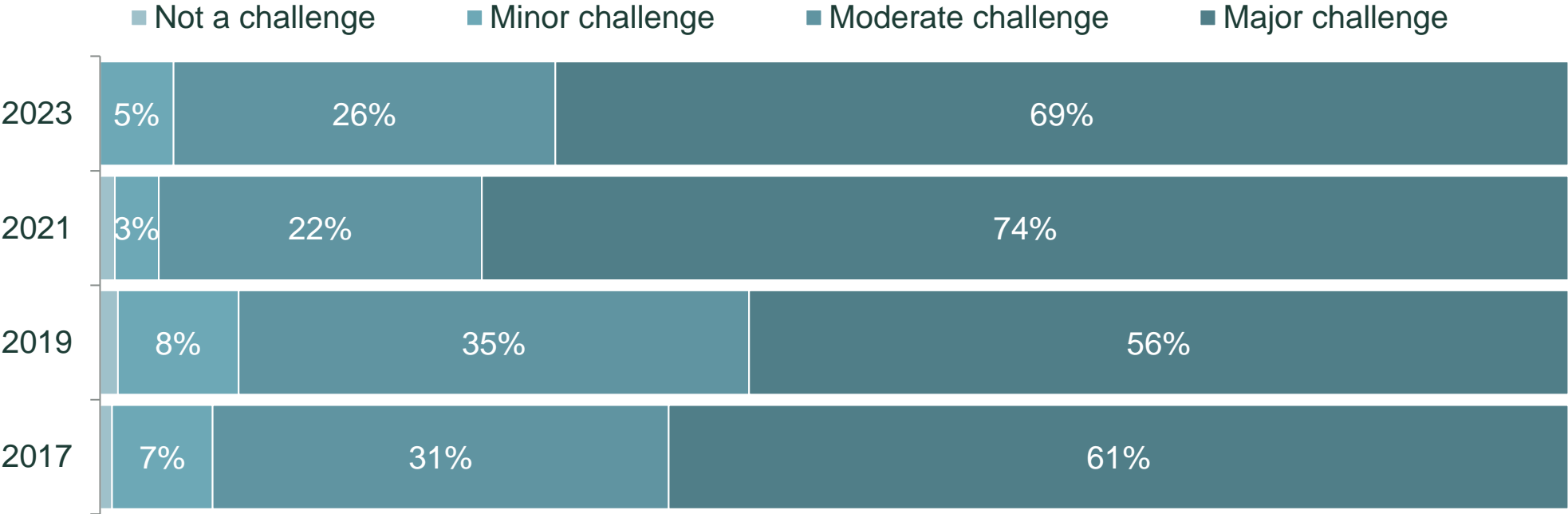
What is one thing you like least about the City of Bloomington?



Challenge posed by Homelessness, 2017-2023



To what degree, if at all, do you think homelessness is a challenge in the City of Bloomington?





Key Finding #4:

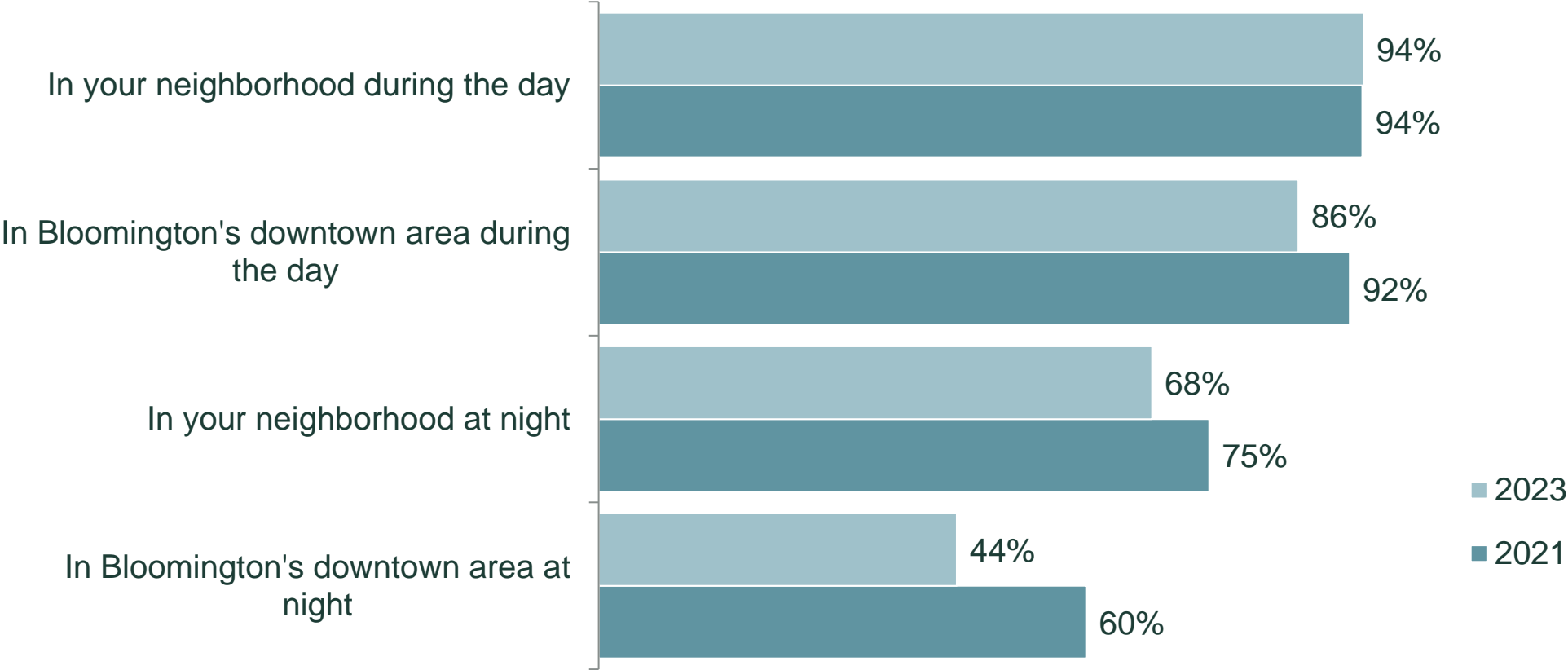
Some safety-related ratings have decreased since 2021.



Feelings of Safety, 2021-2023

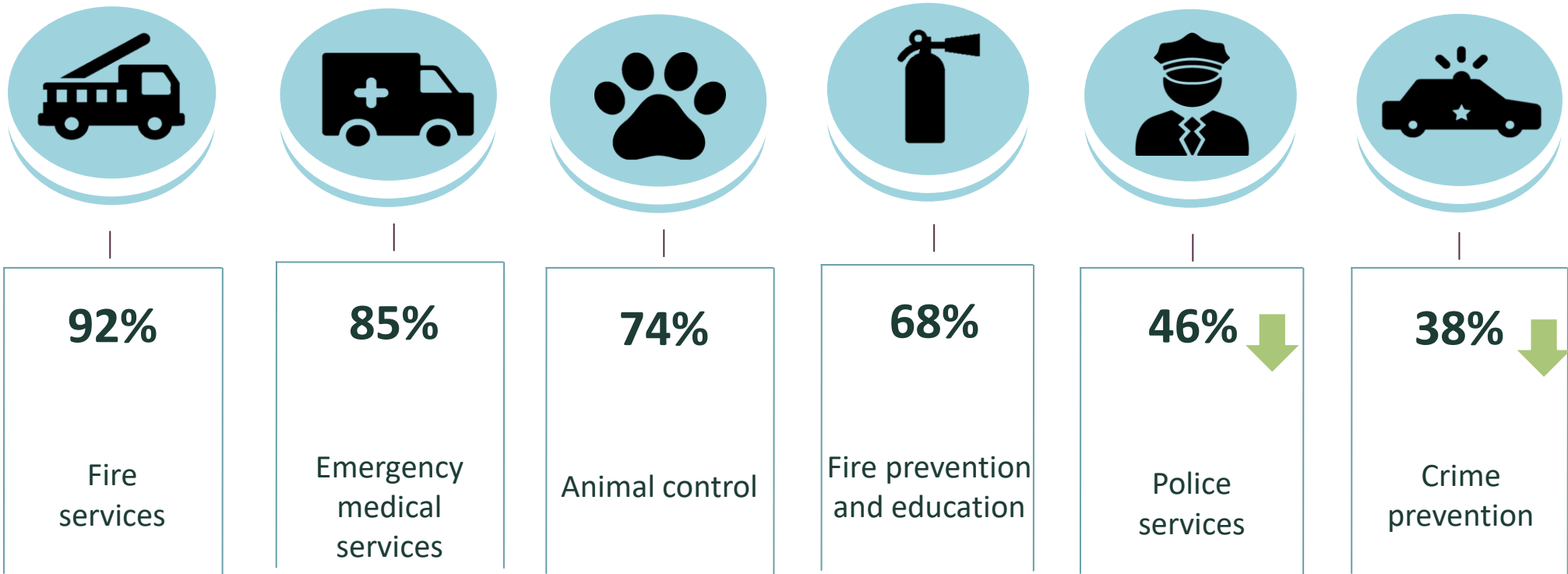



Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:



Percent very or somewhat safe

Perceptions of Safety Services



 Lower than
National Benchmarks

Percent excellent or good



Key Finding #5:

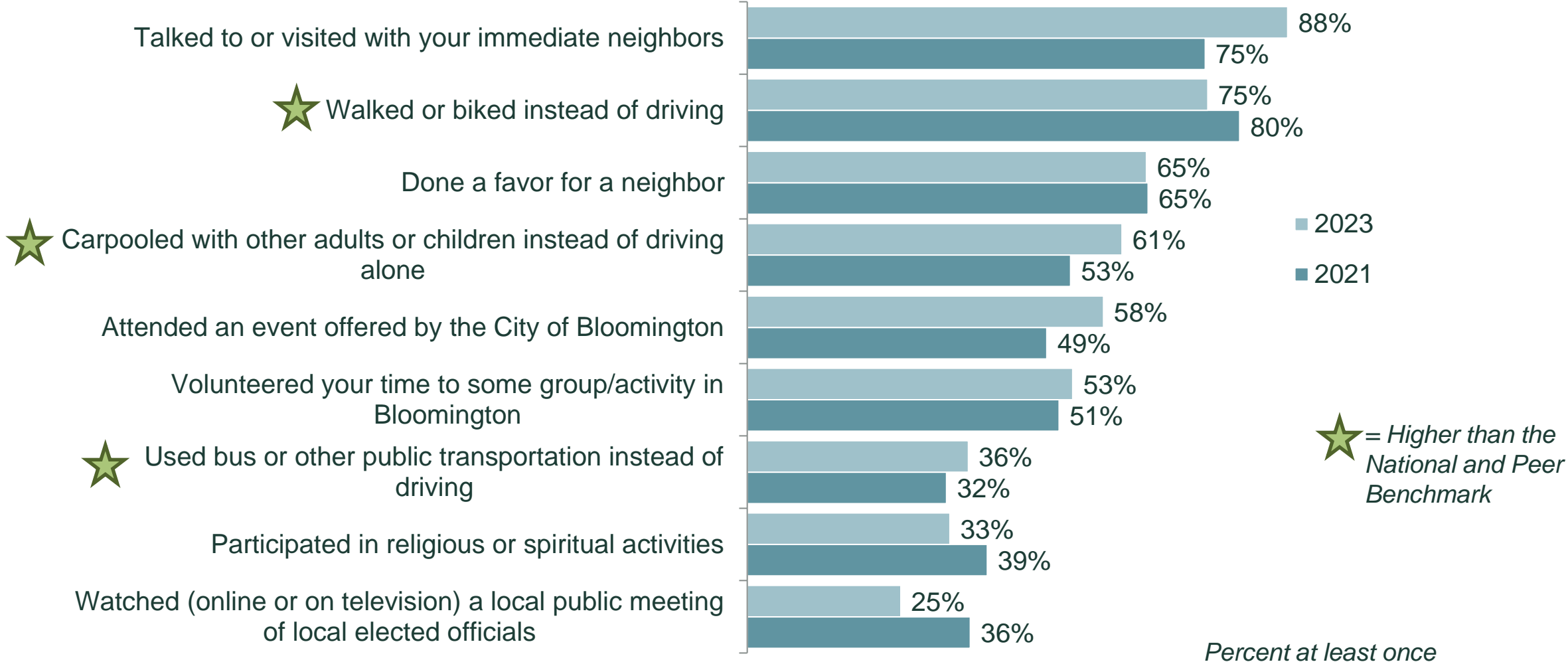
**Community
engagement in
Bloomington
remains high.**



Community Engagement Activities, 2021 -2023



In the last 12 months, about how many times, if at all, have you or other household members done any of the following in the City of Bloomington?





Key Finding #6:

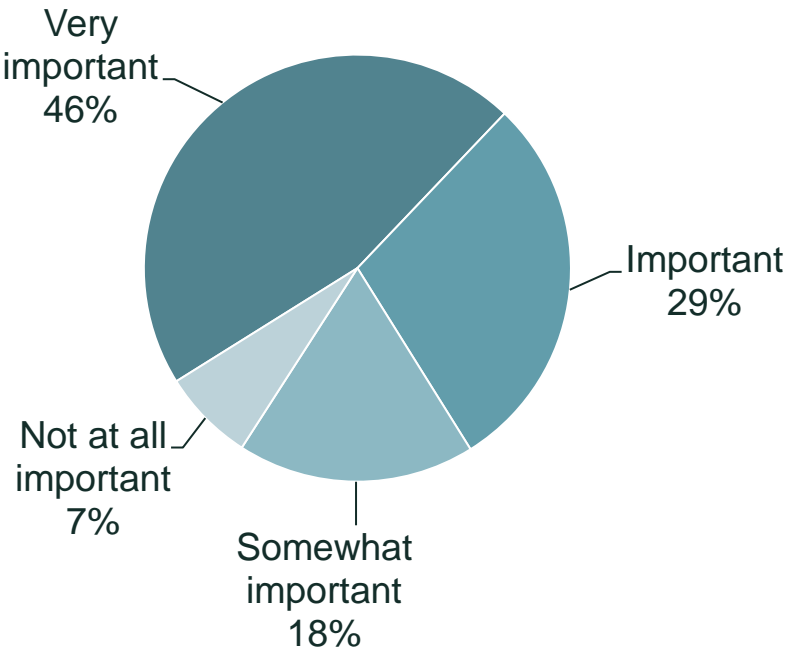
City-wide high-speed internet access is a top priority.



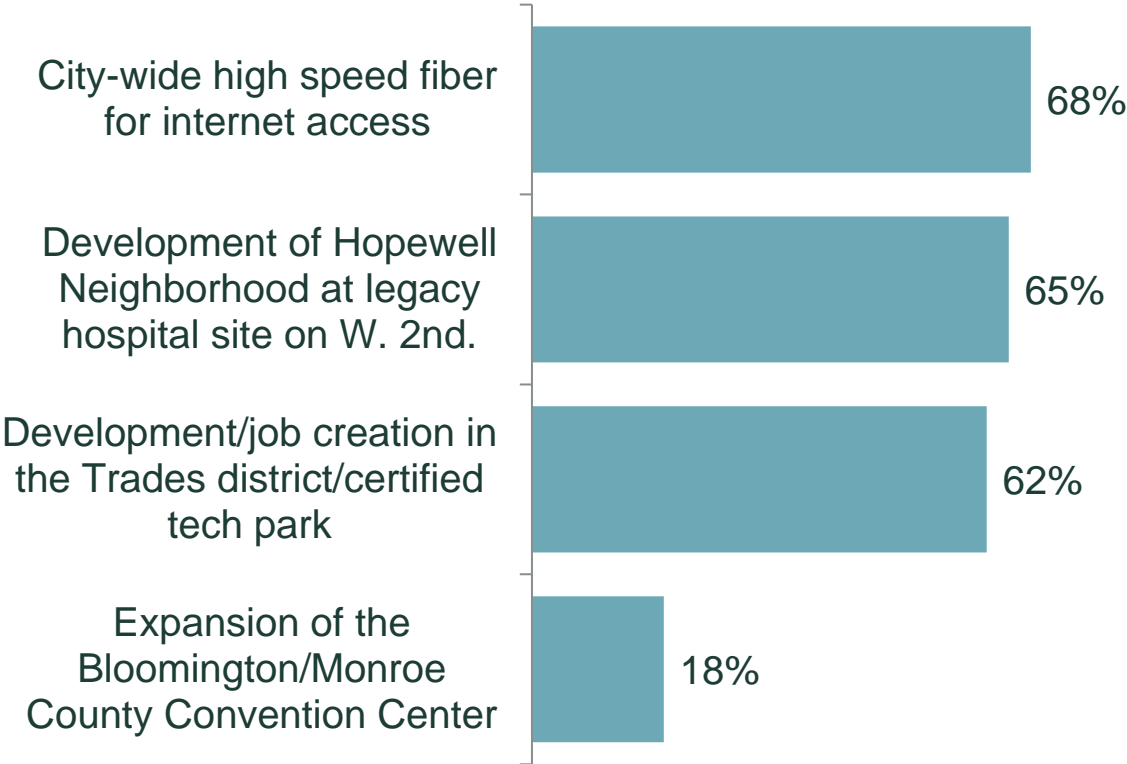
High-speed Internet Importance



Importance of assuring high speed internet access for all households regardless of income



Projects Prioritization



Percent essential or very important



Key Finding #7:

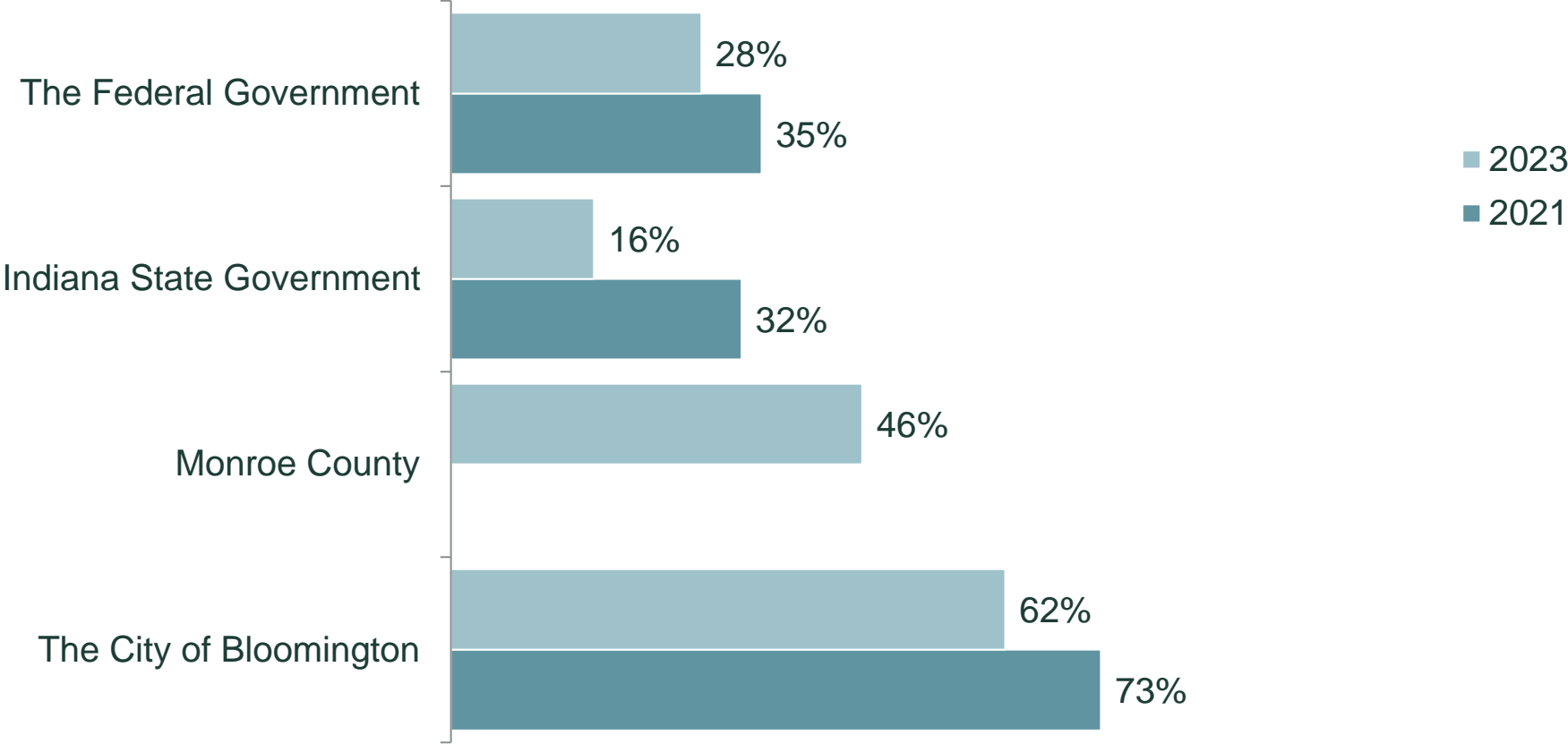
While ratings for government performance have declined, residents are highly satisfied with Bloomington City staff.



Quality of Government Services, 2021-2023



Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?

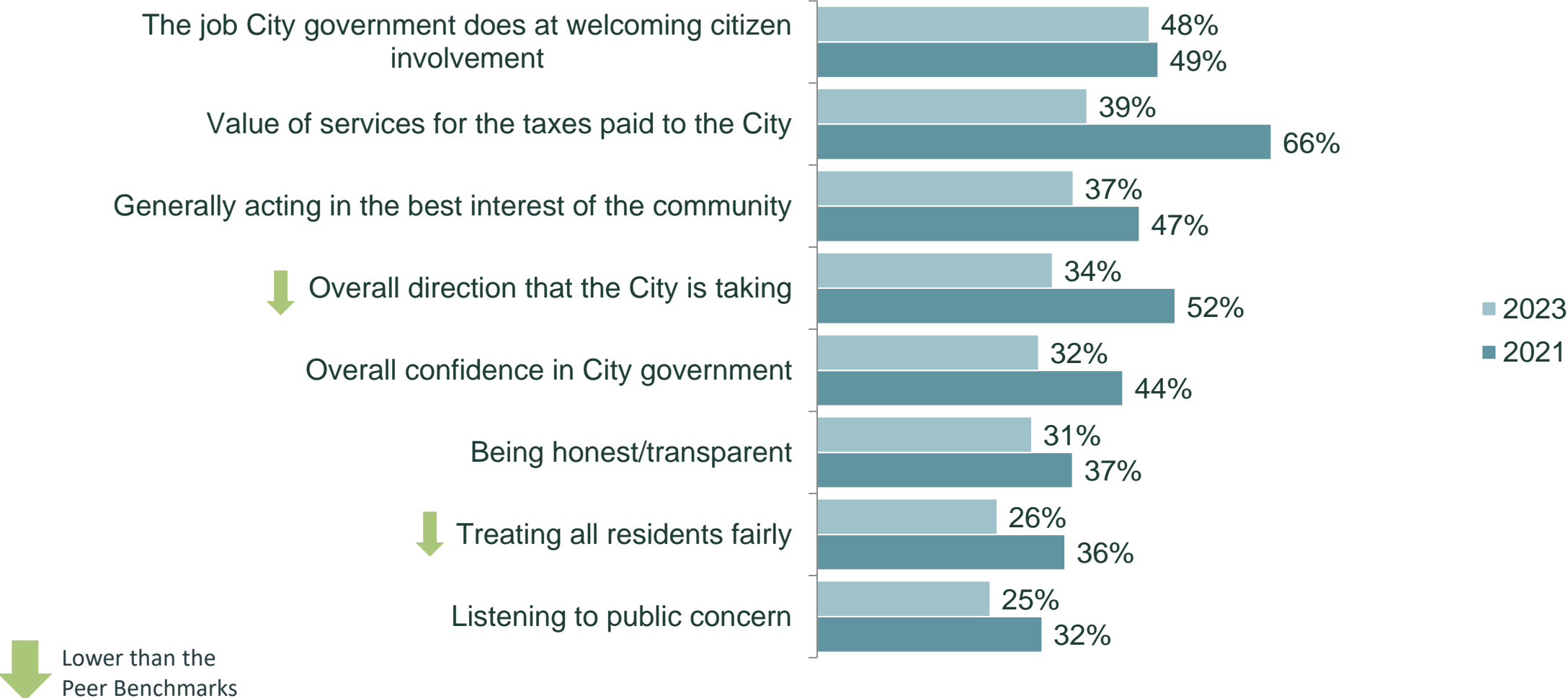


Percent excellent or good

City of Bloomington Performance, 2021-2023



Please rate the performance of the City of Bloomington government in the following categories

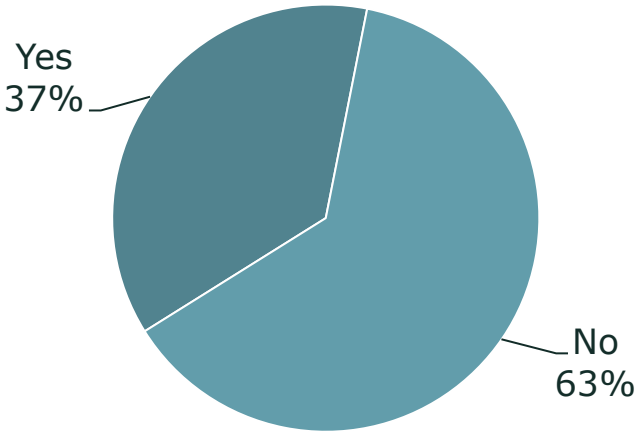


Percent excellent or good

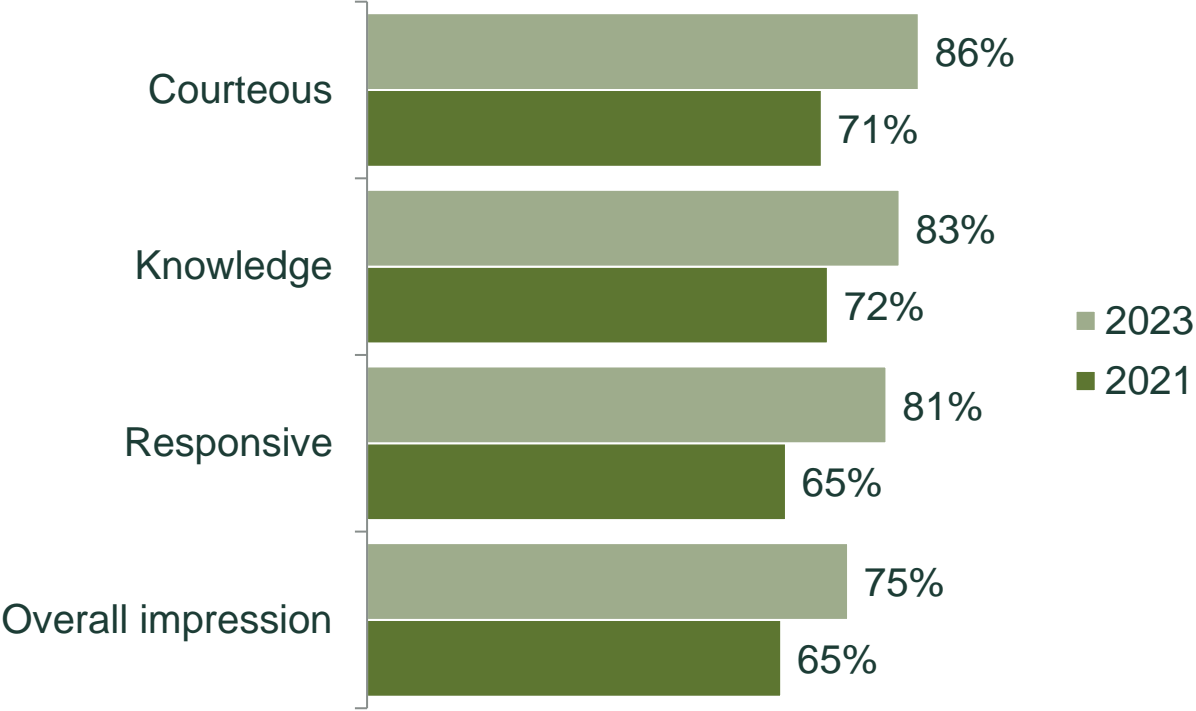
Impression of Contact with Bloomington Staff



Have you contacted any City of Bloomington staff within the last 12 months?



Impression of Contact with Staff



Percent Excellent or good



Summary of Key Findings

1. Bloomington residents continue to have a positive quality of life.
2. Overall opportunities for education contribute to the quality of life in Bloomington.
3. Homelessness remains a City challenge.
4. Some safety-related ratings have decreased since 2021.
5. Community engagement in Bloomington remains high.
6. City-wide high-speed internet access is a top priority.
7. While ratings for government performance have declined, residents are highly satisfied with Bloomington City staff.



Debriefing The Survey Results

**What findings
did you expect?**

**What findings were
surprising?**

**Are there areas
where you need to
dig deeper?**

**In what areas
should you
focus?**

Continue Resident Engagement on Polco



Don't let the community input and dialogue conclude with the survey.

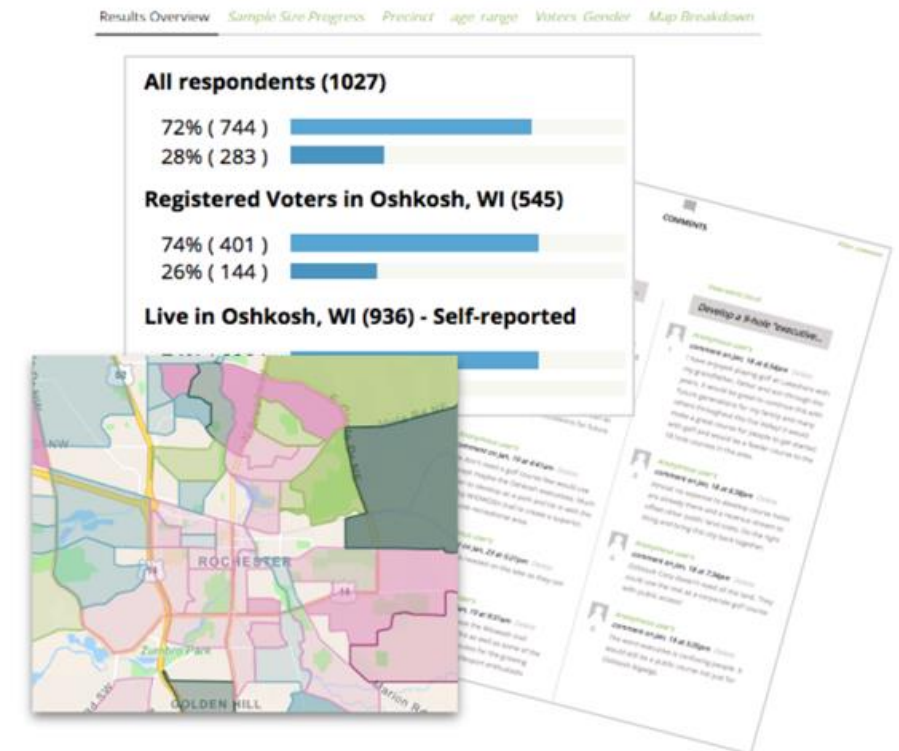
Post



Share



Analyze



- Library of professional civic content
- Easily post custom surveys & polls

- Representative samples of households
- Accumulating residents on digital panels

- Maps, trendlines and dashboards
- Advanced benchmarking analyses

Polco Performance Dashboards



More participation



Good government



More informed participation



Data driven performance management



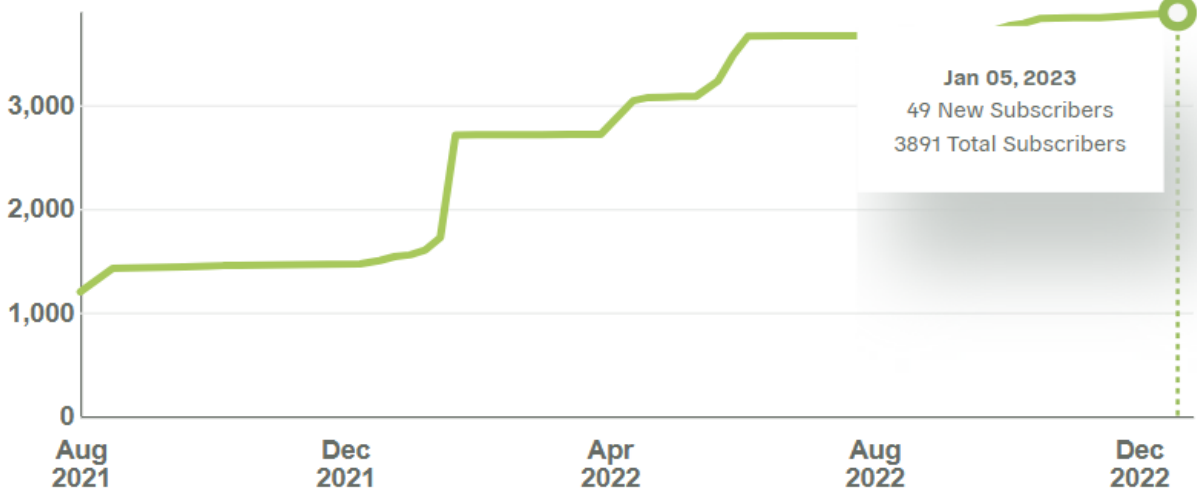
Better balanced participation



Save staff time and effort

Subscriber Growth Over Time (per week)

What's This?



ENGAGEMENT

Participants

Content

Outreach

Polco Library

ACCOUNT

Profile

Settings

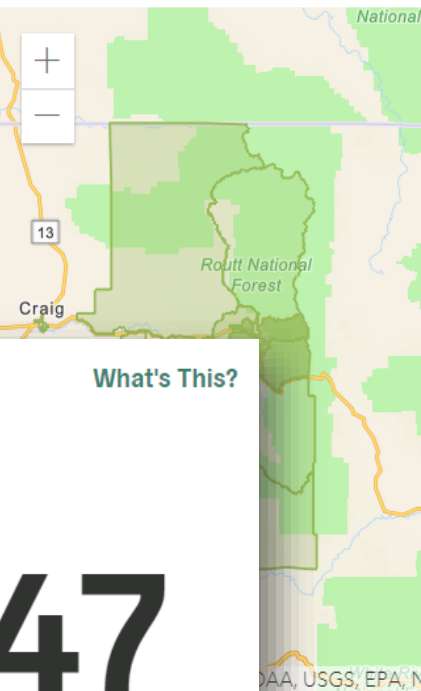
Superadmin

Configuration

Benchmark Requests

Participants

Residence of verified subscribers



Total Responses

What's This?

1,147

UNCHANGED

in the last 30 days

Questions?



Thank you!

Jade Arocha
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Polco/National Research Center
jade@polco.us





City of Bloomington
Bloomington Environmental Commission

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 26, 2023

To: Bloomington Common Council

From: Bloomington Environmental Commission

Subject: Environmental importance to Old State Road 37 and Lower Cascades Park

The purpose of this memo is to convey the Environmental Commission's (EC) thoughts regarding the environmental impacts and other sustainability factors (environmental protection, economic viability, and social equity) used to consider changes made to Old 37 and Lower Cascades Park.

As we know, the decision as to whether to keep the road as it is, close it, or design something in-between is a complex and contentious topic. Therefore, the EC does not intend to promote any of the four options, per se, but merely list issues they believe should go into making the choice. This park is the oldest in Bloomington, and deserves to be protected and available to everyone, which translates into choosing the alternative with the least environmental and economic impacts, and the least obstacles to park-visitor access.

In no particular order, here are some issues to consider:

1. Stream stabilization will be required for all options, but disturbing the least amount is best.
2. Utility improvements will also be required for all options, but disturbing the least new ground is best.
3. All choices will require maintenance, but the less new construction, the easier and cheaper it will be.
4. Choose the minimum disturbance for new stream work.
5. Pick the option that will leave room for riparian buffer improvement.
6. Conserve the most vegetation, especially mature trees, needed for climate-change mitigation.
7. Preserve the greatest amount of habitat connectivity.
8. Minimize additional impervious surface disturbance.
9. Maximum protection for sensitive soils.
10. Prevent disturbance to wetland and flood plain areas.
11. Avoid karst features, as that could change the flow of the waterfalls and the creek downstream.
12. Steer clear of any disturbance to additional steep slopes.
13. Choose the option that uses the least amount of new pavement material. Environmental and financial.
14. Disturb the smallest amount of wildlife habitat.

15. Reduce damaging vehicular emissions the most.
16. Prevent further flooding downstream by not adding more impervious surfaces or straightening the creek.
17. Provide the most pedestrian and bicycling accessibility.
18. Use the most existing hardscape.
19. Consider safety risks for non-motorists.
20. Bear in mind all aspects of sustainability.
21. Remember that the many different City plans and feasibility studies that called for better trail connections, better bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, and few automobile emissions were examined, scrutinized, and chosen by the public and local leaders.
22. Take into account the unsafe situation of pedestrians and bicycles sharing the road with weekend, game-day cut-through vehicles.
23. Consider the parallel roads very close on both sides of Old SR 37 that can be used.
24. Use permeable pavement for all new surfaces.