



# CITY OF CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA

## Urban Forest Master Plan Community Survey Results

Forest & Beach Commission

April 11, 2024



# Background

- Survey was conducted 9/17-11/13, 2023 to provide input on UFMP
- Survey available in online (Survey Monkey) and paper formats
- Surveys received

	Total All Surveys Received	Total Complete Surveys Received
Online	308	268
Paper	40	34
Total	348*	302

\* Net surveys received after 8 surveys removed due to data discrepancy: 8 surveys submitted on same IP address over 15 minutes on 11/14/23



# Survey Summary

- 295 complete surveys are included in this analysis

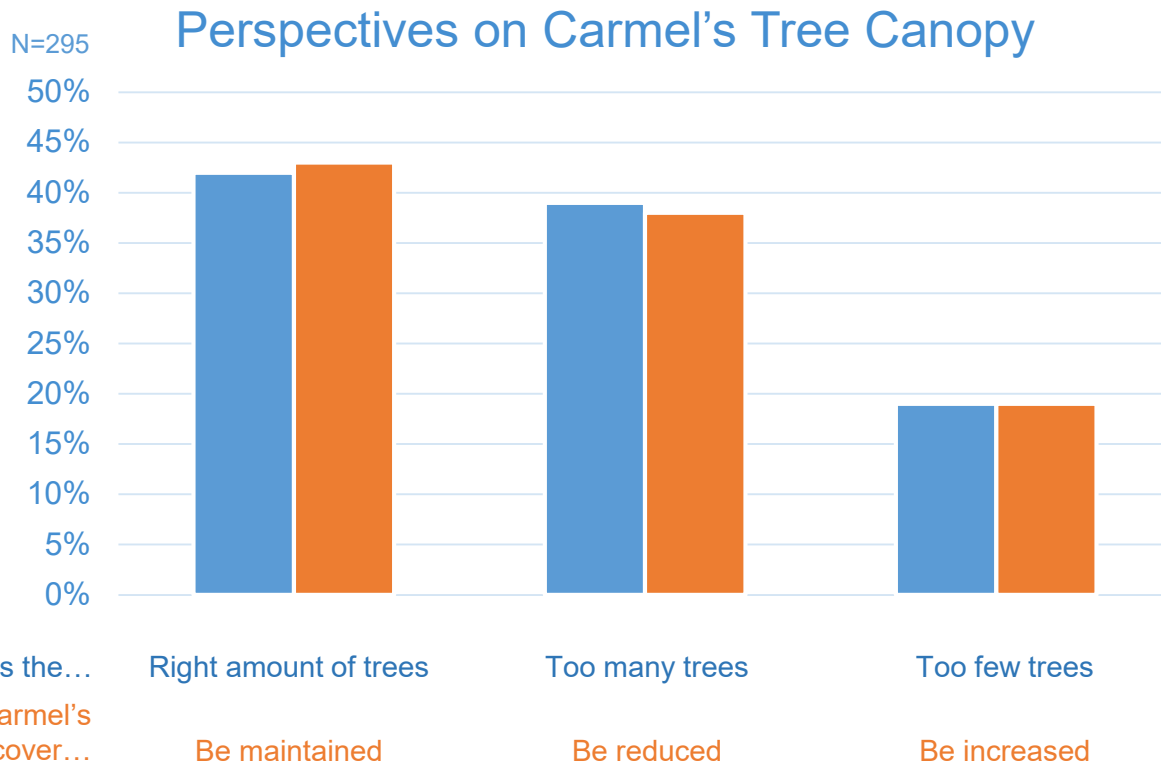
Relation to Carmel-by-the-Sea	Received*	Analyzed
Resident and property owner	245	241**
Resident but not-property owner	23	23
Not resident or property owner, live locally in broader Carmel/MP area	25	25
Not resident but work or own business in Carmel	6	6
Not resident, do not live locally	3	0
Total	302	295

\* Completed surveys received include 25 duplicate IP addresses: 2 duplicates (20); 3 duplicates (2); 4 duplicates (3); \*\*4 surveys DQ'd for data inconsistency



# Carmel's Tree Canopy

Overall, most of Carmel's residents believe the current 36% tree canopy is either about right or could be reduced. Less than 20% of respondents feel Carmel needs more trees.

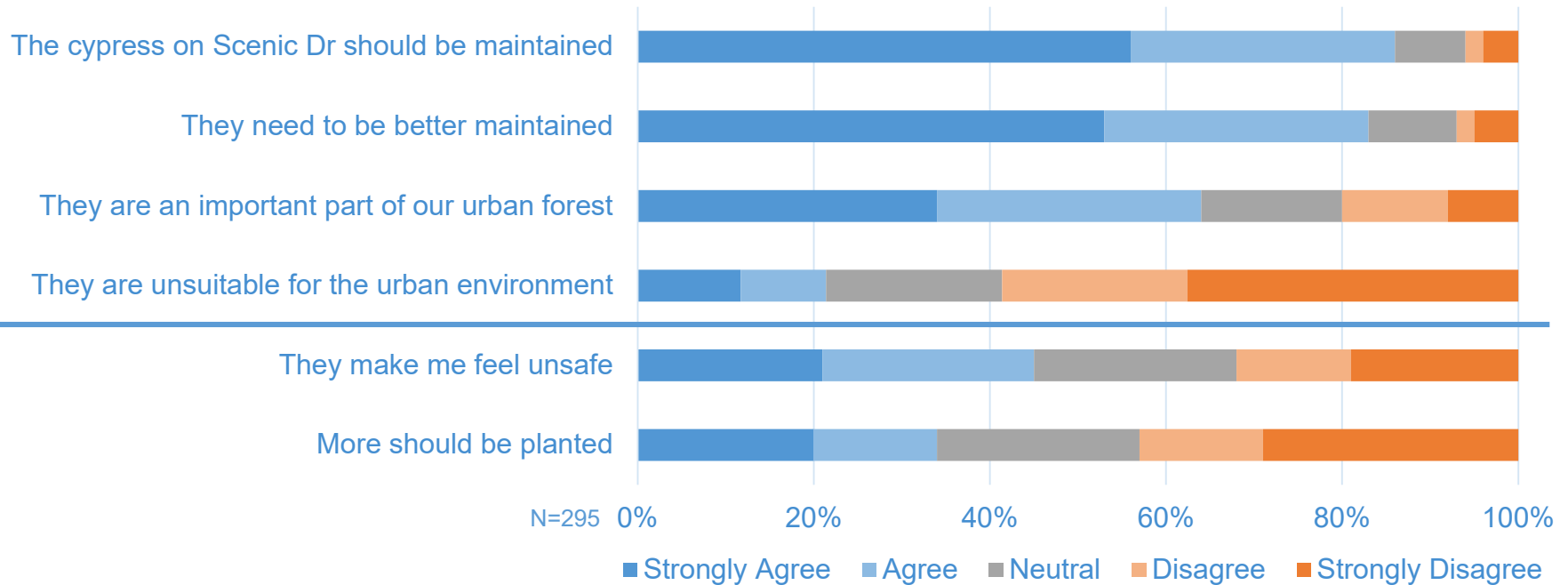




# Tree Attitudes

Carmel residents believe its upper canopy trees are important and strongly need to be better maintained. However, there are mixed views on their safety and whether more should be planted.

% Statement Agreement

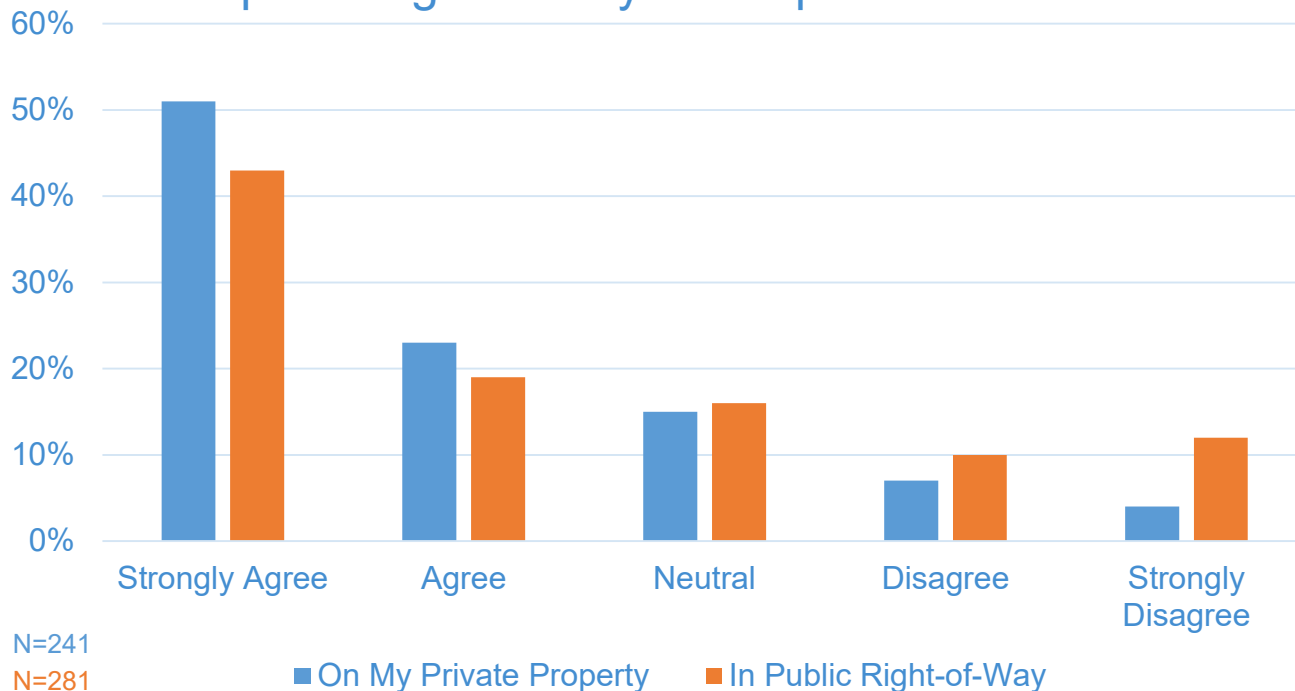




# Tree Attitudes

Carmel residents strongly believe trees growing on their private property and public right-of-way are important, with 75% and 60% agreement respectively.

Trees growing on my private property or in the public right-of-way are important to me...

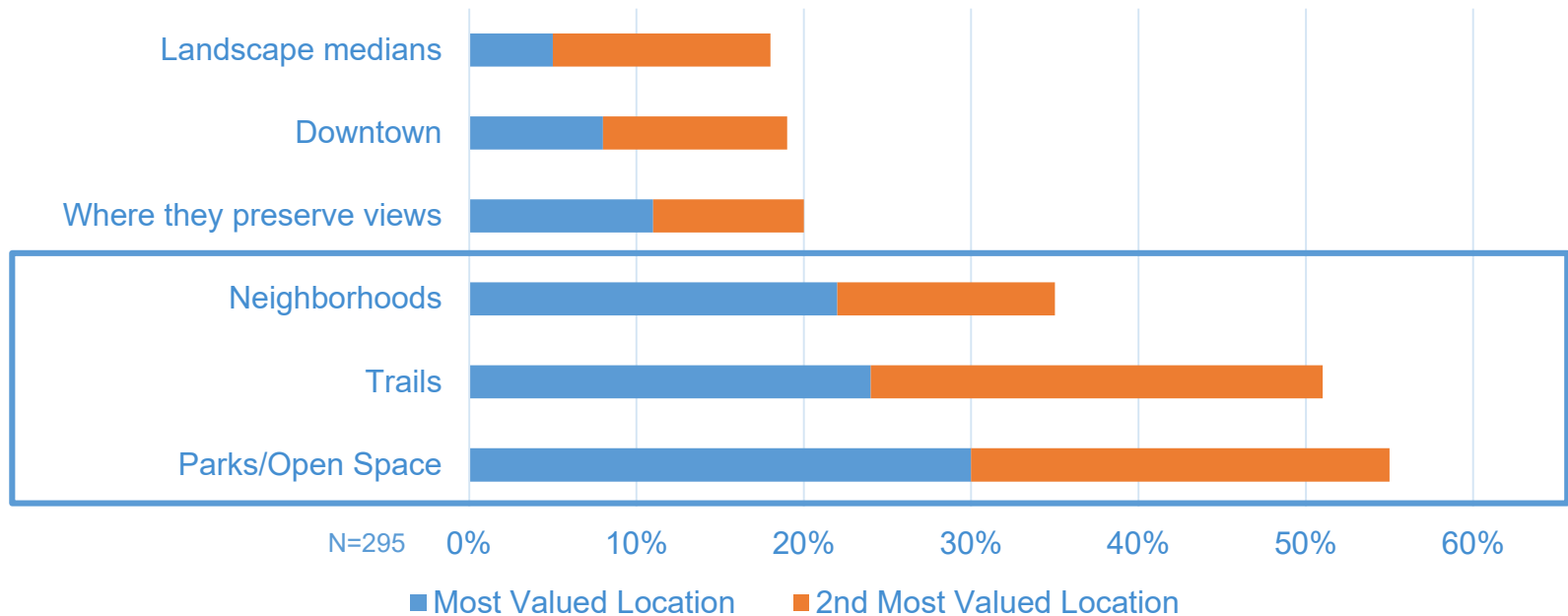




# Tree Attitudes

Carmel residents most value trees in parks/open space and trails, followed by neighborhoods.

% of Residents Rating as Top 2 Places Value Trees

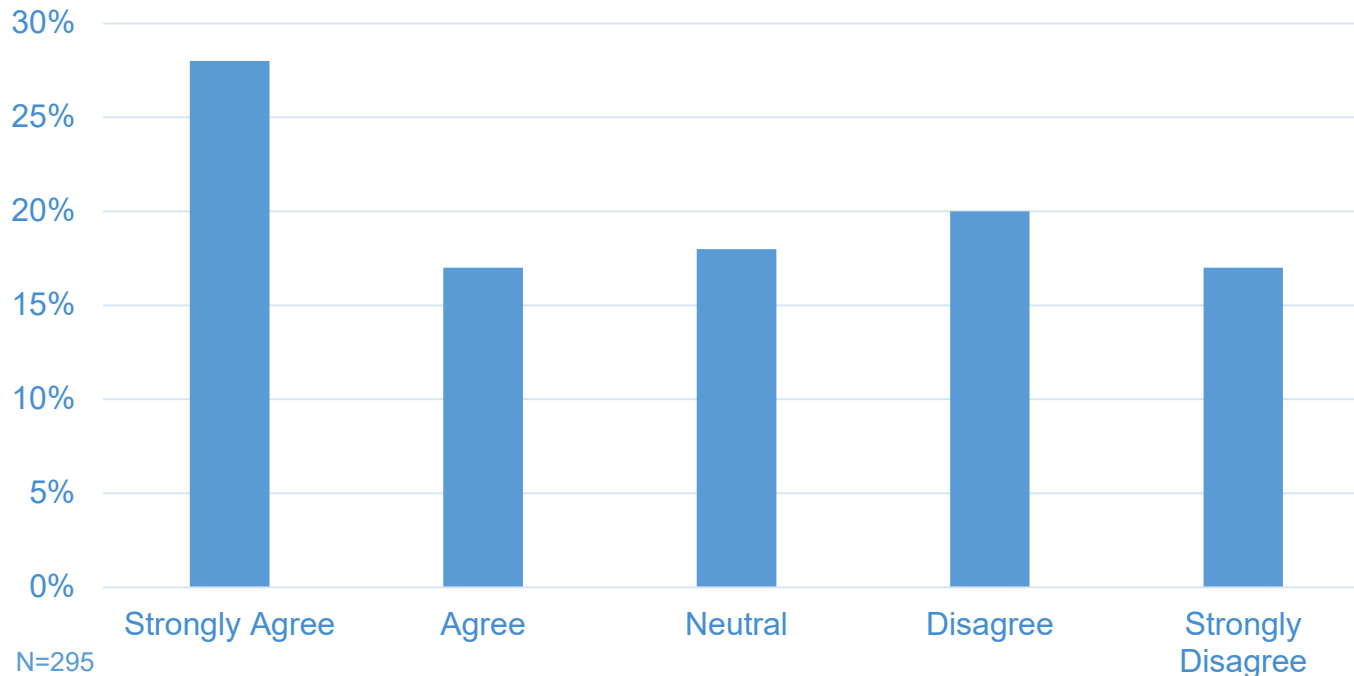




# Tree Attitudes

Carmel residents have mixed views about whether trees should always be replaced, with a slight preference for replacing them.

If a tree is removed in Carmel, whether it is on public or private property, it should always be replaced with another tree...



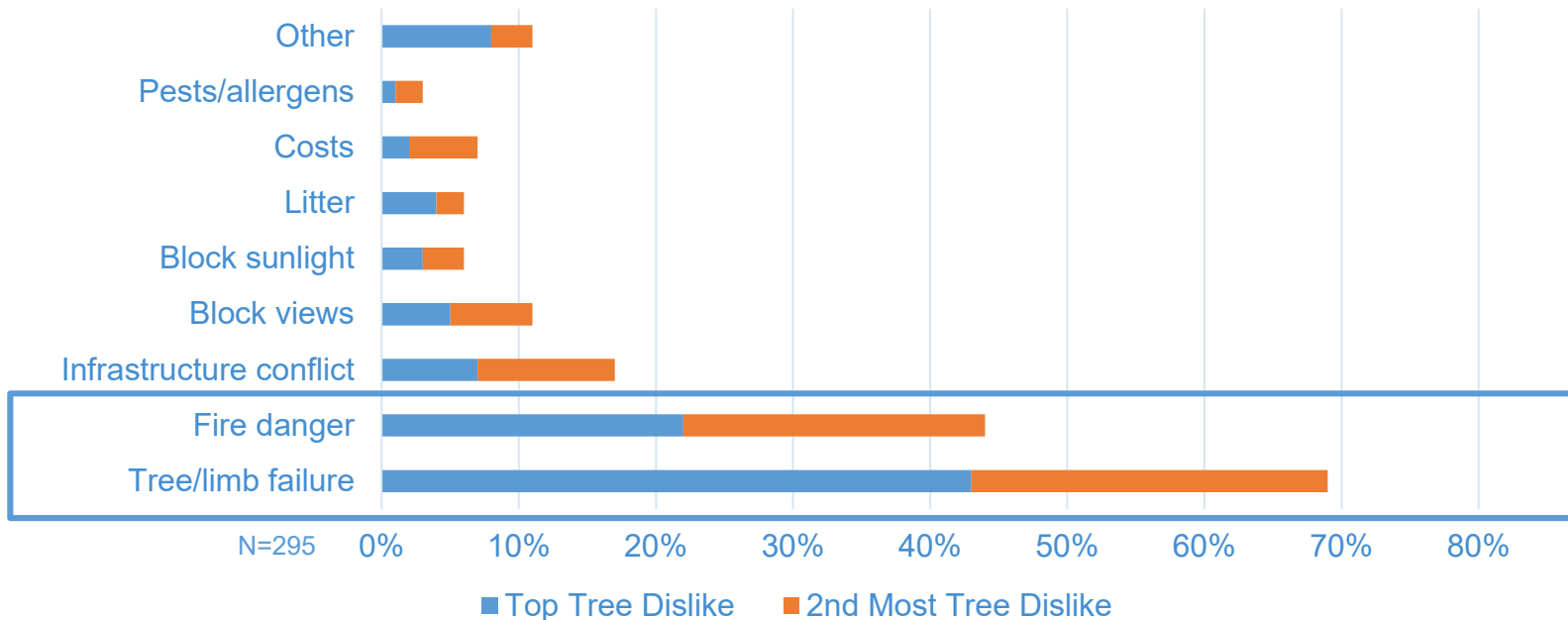




# Tree Attitudes

When asked about what tree characteristics are disliked, Carmel residents express overwhelming concerns about tree/limb failure and fire risk.

% of Residents Rating as Top 2 Tree Dislikes

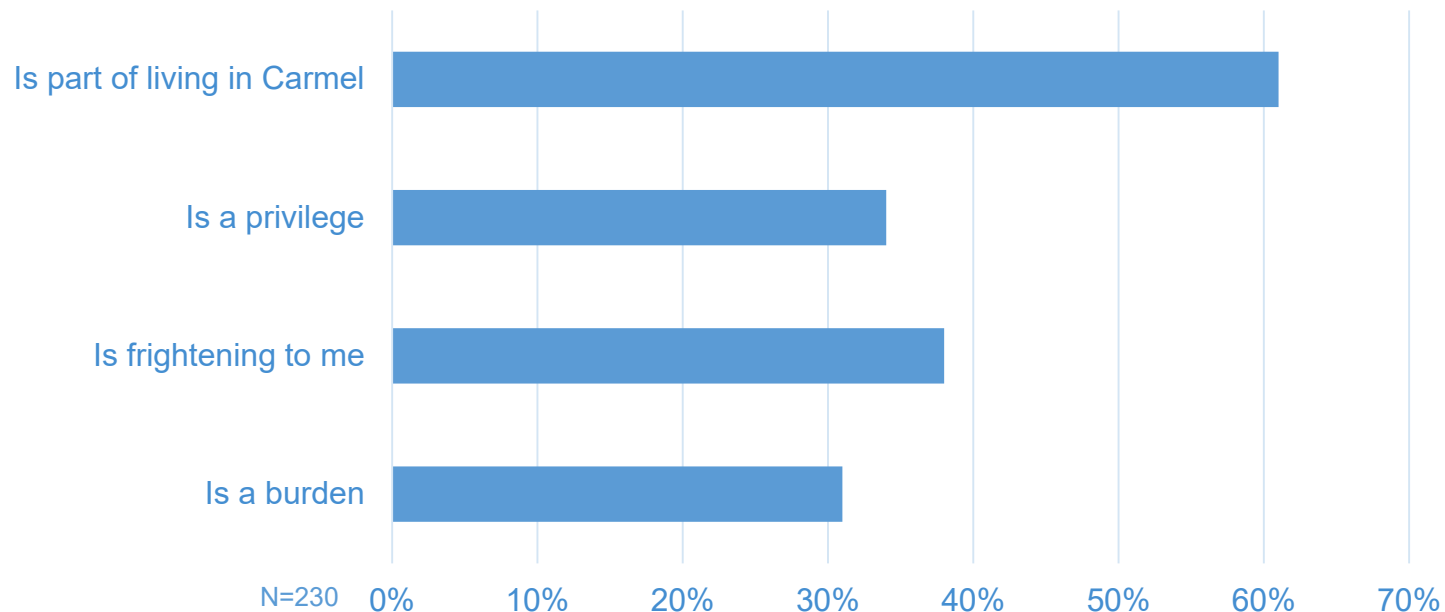




# Private Property Trees

While many residents view having large trees on their property as part of living in Carmel, there are mixed views about them: Some view them as a privilege, others view them as a burden and frightening and some view them as both.

Having large trees on my property in Carmel...

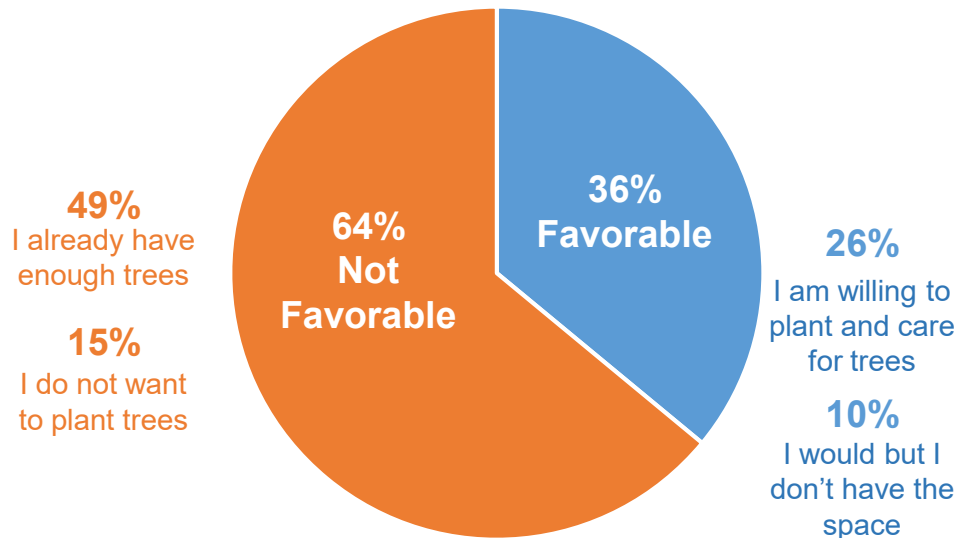




# Private Property Trees

Two-thirds of property owners feel they already have enough trees and/or do not want to plant more trees on their property. Concerns are mostly safety and fire hazard related to upper canopy trees.

## My willingness to plant trees on my property...



N=241

## What they said...

*"Fewer upper canopy, more lower"*

*"More lower canopy, not pines"*

*"Upper canopy trees in residential neighborhood = fire hazard"*

*"Fire danger is a major concern"*

*"I currently exceed code!"*

*"Would be willing to replace not add"*



# Private Property Trees

Not surprisingly, over half of property owners surveyed would like to see Carmel's current 4 trees (3 upper canopy and 1 lower canopy) requirement per 4,000 square foot be decreased.

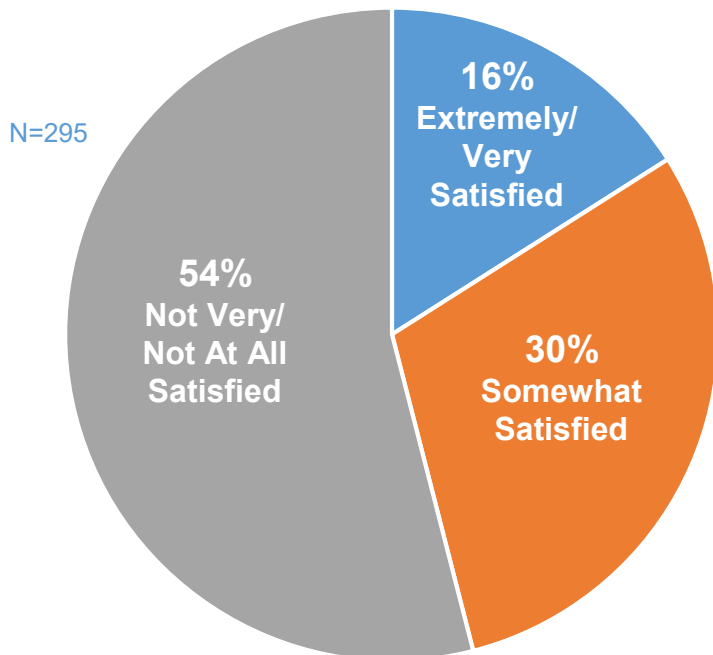




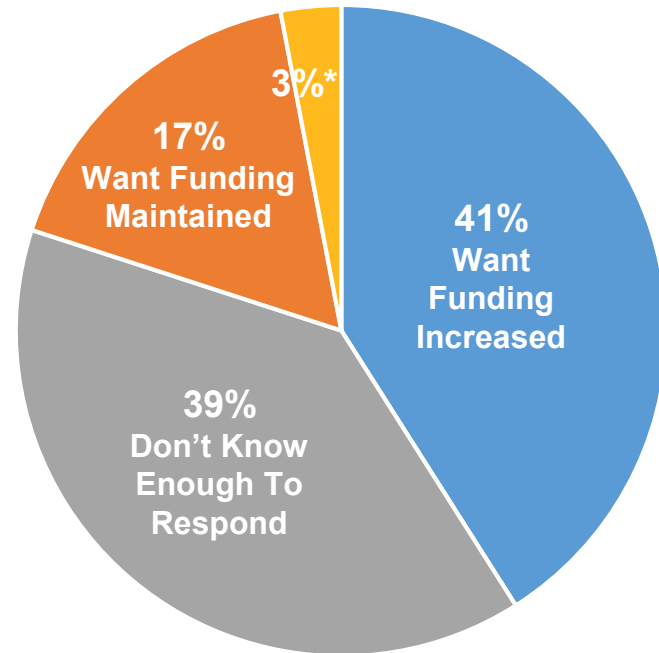
# City Forestry Attitudes

Residents are generally dissatisfied with the City's current level of care for public trees, and 40% would support increased resources/funding.

Satisfaction with City care of public trees...



How I feel about resources City allocates to care of public trees...



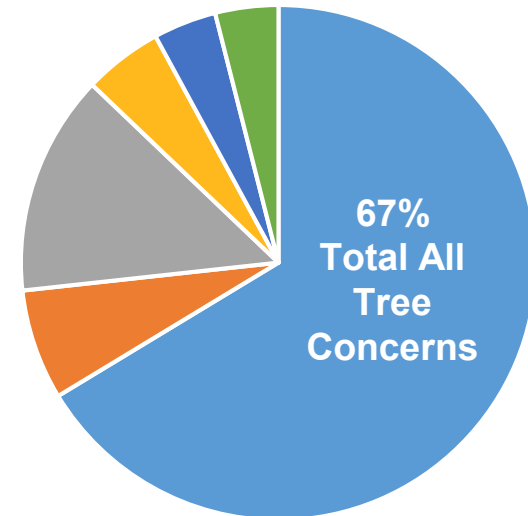
\*3% Want Funding Decreased



# City Forestry Attitudes

Not surprisingly, when residents provided open-ended responses to their satisfaction with the City's care of public trees, feedback overwhelmingly skewed to concerns about tree maintenance, health and safety (67% of comments). Notably, net tree concerns were 6 times the level of Admin concerns.

Open Response Comment Summary		
N=295	#	%
Total All TREE Related Concerns	312	67%
TREE Related Positive	31	7%
<b>NET Total Tree Concerns Ratio</b>	<b>10:1</b>	<b>60%</b>
Total ADMIN Concerns	63	14%
ADMIN Positive	22	5%
<b>Net Total Admin Concerns Ratio</b>	<b>3:1</b>	<b>11%</b>
Miscellaneous Comments	19	4%
Specific Experience Comments	17	4%
<b>TOTAL ALL Comments</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>100%</b>



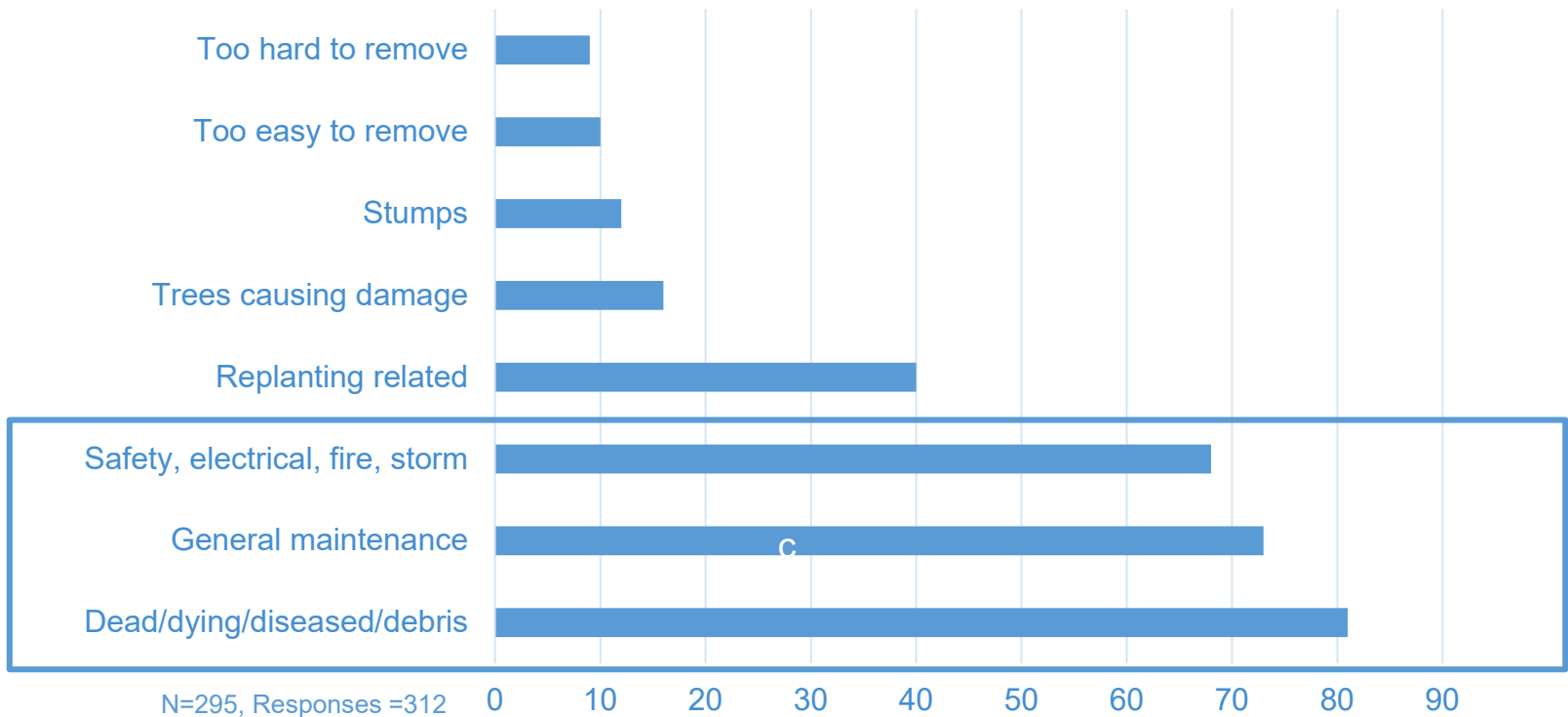
- Tree concerns
- Tree positive
- Admin concerns
- Admin positive
- Miscellaneous
- Specific experience



# City Forestry Attitudes

Most tree concerns related to care of dead/dying/diseased trees, lack of general maintenance and safety, followed by replanting.

## Resident Concerns with City Forestry Care of Trees

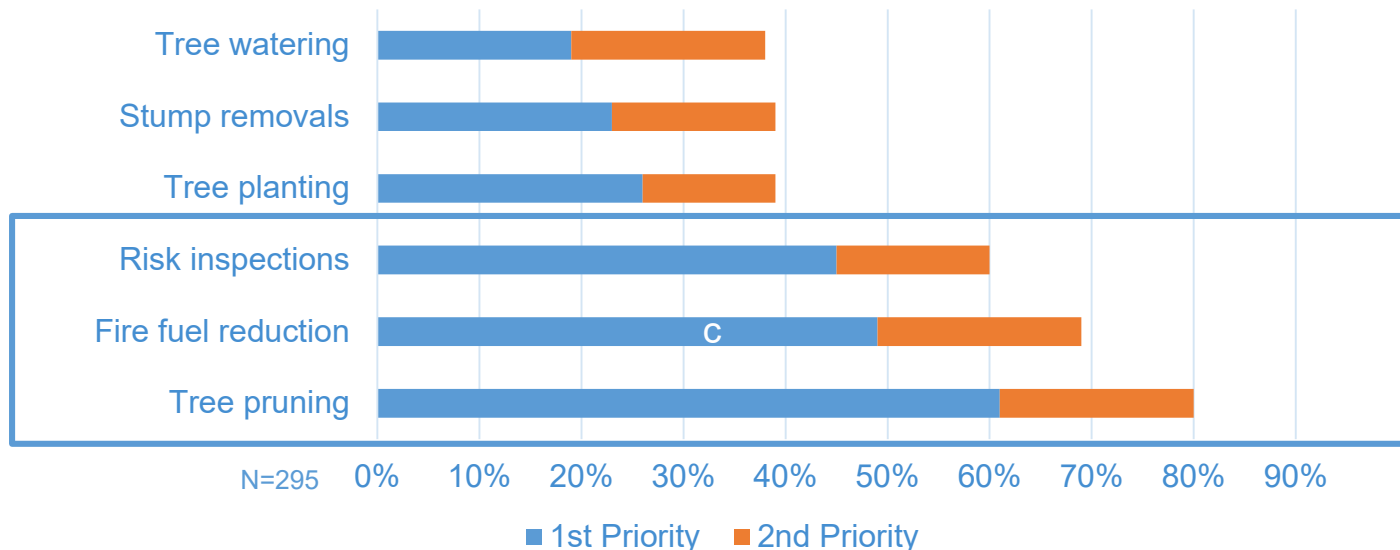




# City Forestry Priorities

Correspondingly, residents rated maintaining the City's current trees as the most important priorities for City Forestry. These priorities are rated at nearly twice the priority of planting new trees, stump removals and tree watering.

% of Residents Rating as Top 2 Priorities







# City Forestry Attitudes

## Resident concerns about public tree care...

*“Old and unkept trees are a safety risk to residents and the community.”*

*“While large mature trees are important and add character to our village they require attention to dead limbs and care to stay healthy. The trees around our home have many dead branches and are not cared for and will be dangerous in the winds.”*

*“Trees are not well maintained, unhealthy, too much work for staff to keep up.”*

*“They came and cut down a dead tree for us. I can sense a renewed interest in trees. I like this and hope to see a proactive approach to the trees that are aging out and dying of disease.”*

*“I realize that the staff has been working extremely hard. The aging canopy poses a potential fire hazard, not just a hazard from trees falling.”*

*“Carmel by the Sea is not placing enough importance on replacing/replanting trees that have fallen or have been removed..”*

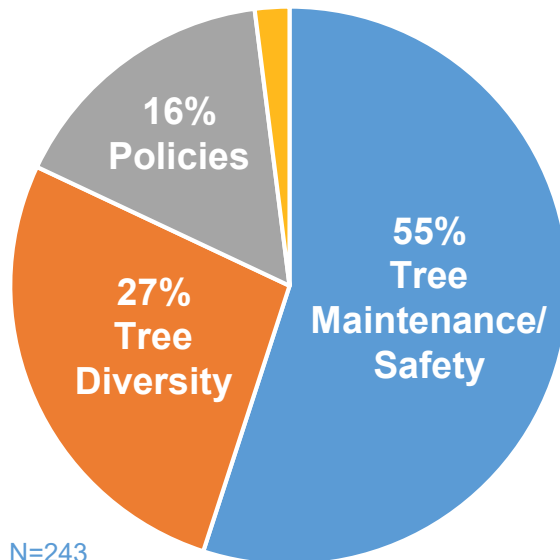
*“We need to promote more native trees and care for them better. Invasive trees should be discouraged..”*



# UFMP Priorities

Residents would like to see maintenance and safety concerns related to Carmel's aging upper canopy trees addressed, while also preserving and promoting diversity in Carmel's urban forest for the future

## Most Important Issue UFMP Should Address...



*"The most important issue to address is the proper maintenance of the forest, keeping trees healthy to protect safety of the citizens."*

*"Trim and remove dangerous trees/limbs that have a high likelihood of causing harm to life, people/wildlife and homes."*

*"Upper canopy is unworkable..better to add Oak to upper canopy or go small/med...Needs to be more varied trees."*

*"It is all about the right tree in the right place..high canopy trees belong in parks and trails."*

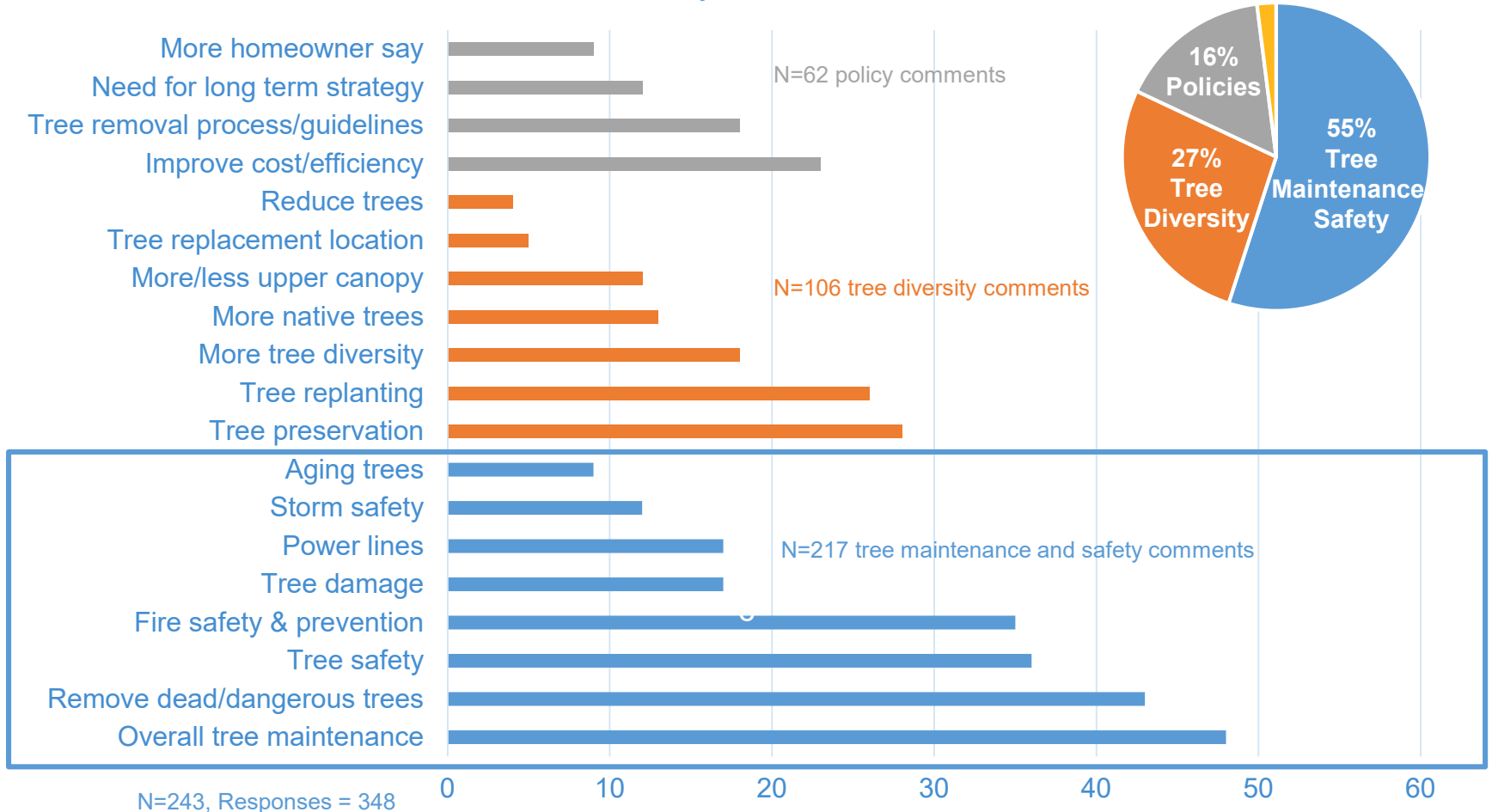
*"Permit process discourages owners to maintain trees, and too many oversized trees per 4,000 sq ft lot."*

*"Carmel is beautiful because it is gloriously green because of Monterey Pines and its adjacent greenery. That's why I moved to Carmel."*



# UFMP Priorities

## Most important issue UFMP should address... Summary of Comments





# UFMP Priorities

- **Maintenance and Removal:** Residents are keenly interested in improving the maintenance of existing trees and removal of hazardous ones.
- **Safety:** Is a very high concern for older/dead trees, storms and fire hazards. Residents are calling for proactive measures for tree trimming and removal of dead trees.
- **Diversification of Tree Species:** There are concerns about too many Monterey Pines and Cypress trees due to their perceived dangers and maintenance issues. Residents are asking for a greater variety of trees, including oaks and flowering trees.
- **Urban Forest Preservation:** Many residents express a desire to enhance Carmel's urban forest with more diversity while balancing safety concerns. Many prefer replanting with native trees.
- **Community Involvement:** Many residents would like to see greater community involvement in decision making, and property owners would like fewer tree requirements on a 4k sq ft lot, as well as the opportunity to participate in decisions over trees in the public right-of-way adjacent to their property.