

Old Erie Canal Survey

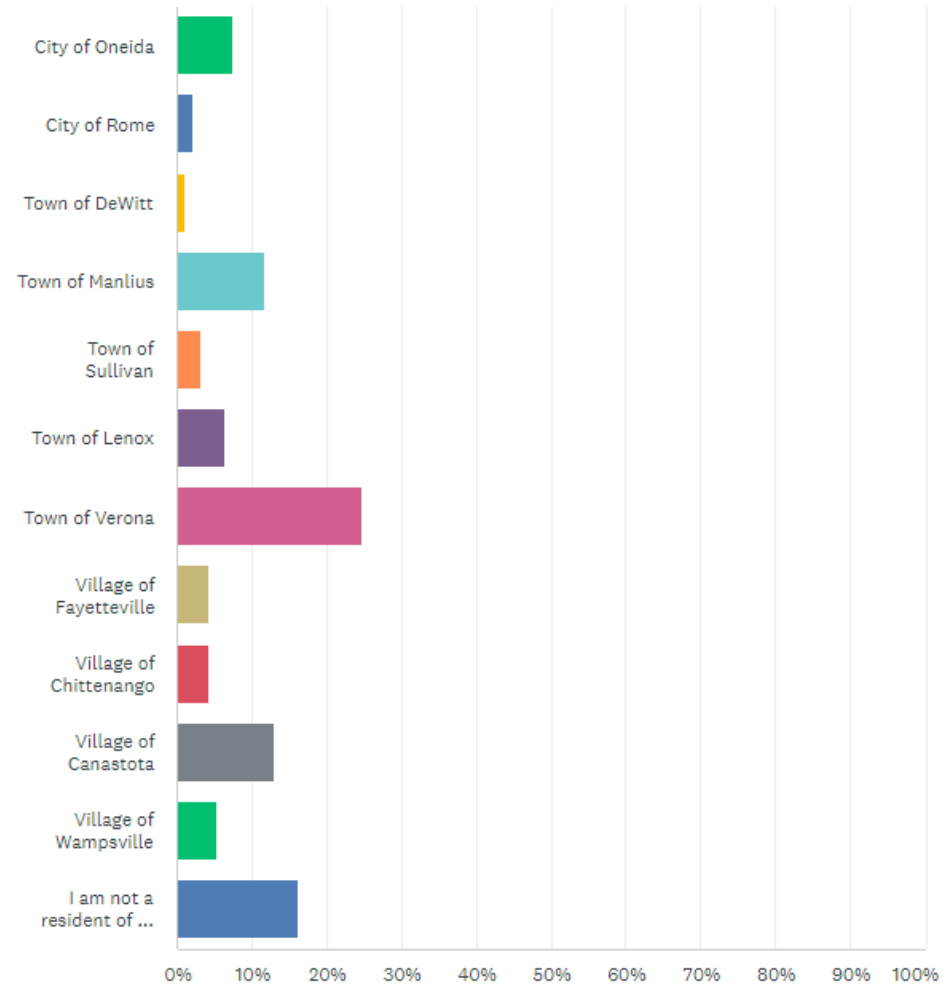
Survey open May 19, 2022 to June 14, 2022

Respondents

- Total: 95 responses
- Responses received from every community along Old Erie Canal corridor

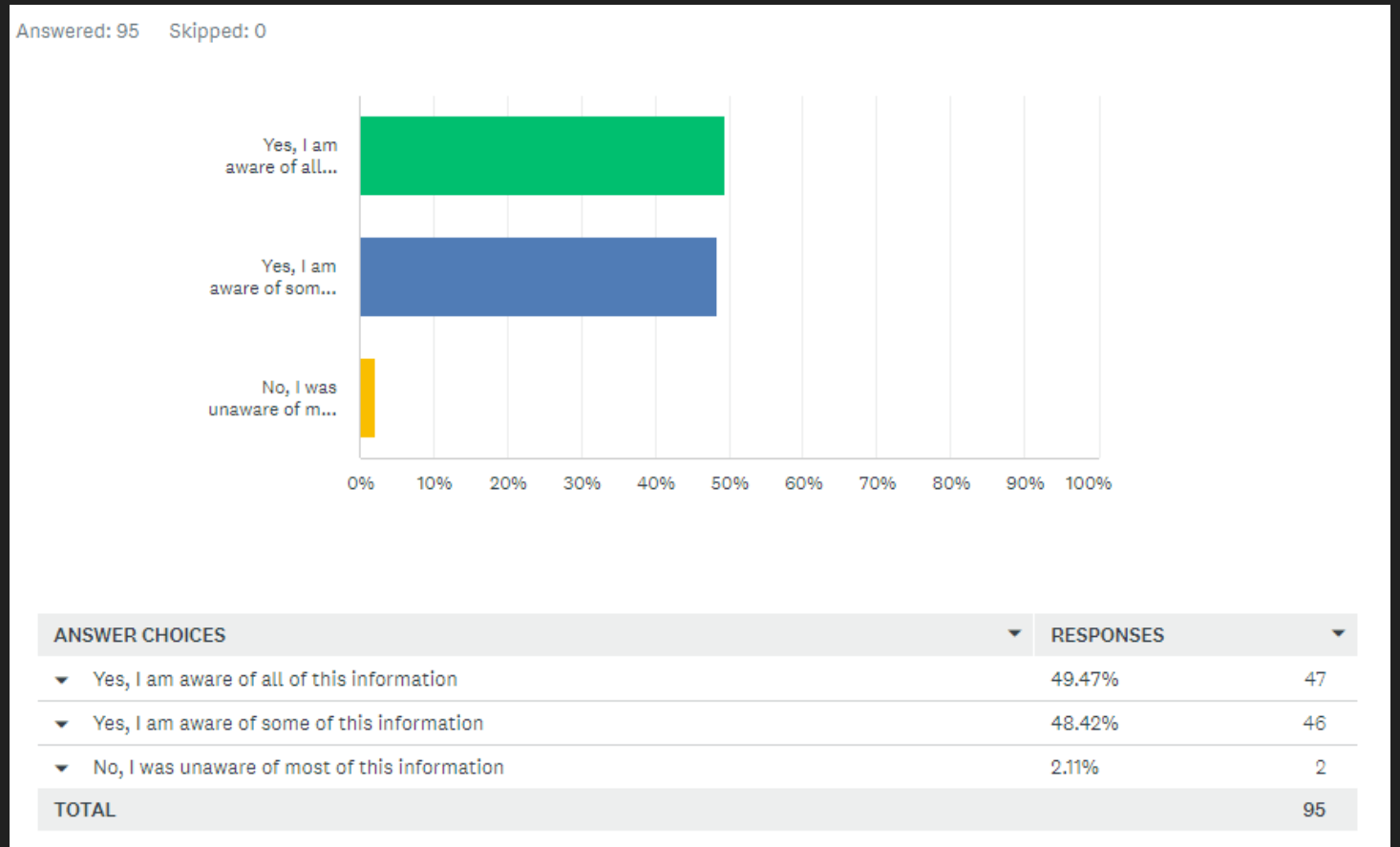
Which of the following communities do you live in along the Old Erie Canal?

Answered: 93 Skipped: 2



1. The Old Erie Canal waterway in Central New York is the longest, intact portion of the historic Erie Canal (constructed in 1825 and enlarged in 1862). In 1917, the Erie Canal was shifted north in Central New York to go through Oneida Lake bypassing this man-made section of canal, now known as the Old Erie Canal. Today, the Old Erie Canal waterway sits within a New York State Park (Old Erie Canal State Historic Park) which stretches 36 miles connecting two cities (Oneida and Rome), five towns (DeWitt, Manlius, Sullivan, Lenox, Verona), and four villages (Fayetteville, Chittenango, Canastota, Wampsville) across three separate counties (Onondaga, Madison, and Oneida). While the waterway is maintained by the New York State Canal Corporation, the trail and surrounding parkland is maintained by NYS Parks. The Old Erie Canal waterway is open to paddling and the trail along the Old Erie Canal waterway is a part of the larger 360-mile Erie Canalway Trail and the 750 mile Empire State Trail. Just as it did during its heyday, the Old Erie Canal corridor continues to be a link for communities both physically and economically while at the same time, providing year round opportunities for various recreational activities. **As a resident or visitor of the communities listed above, were you aware of this information?**

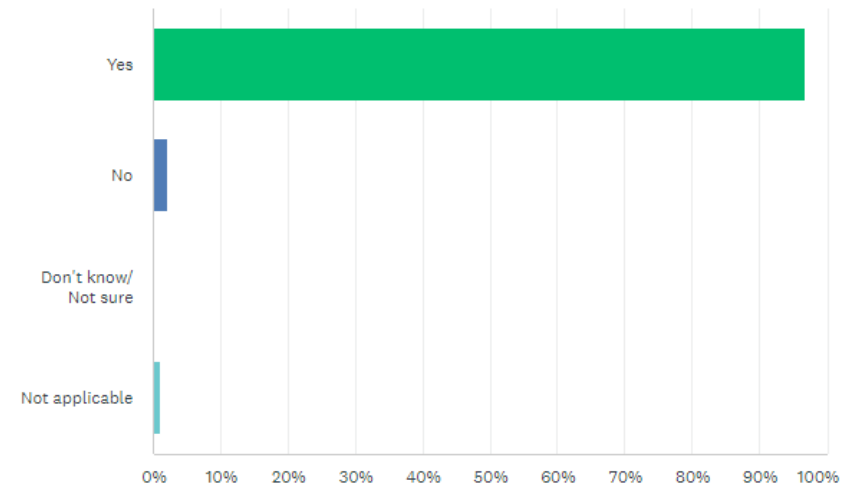
- Respondents are knowledgeable about the Old Erie Canal - **98% understand important context and background regarding the corridor**



2. Do you consider the Old Erie Canal and its history an important part of your community's identity and your community's sense of place?

- Almost universal: the Erie Canal is important to community identity and sense of place

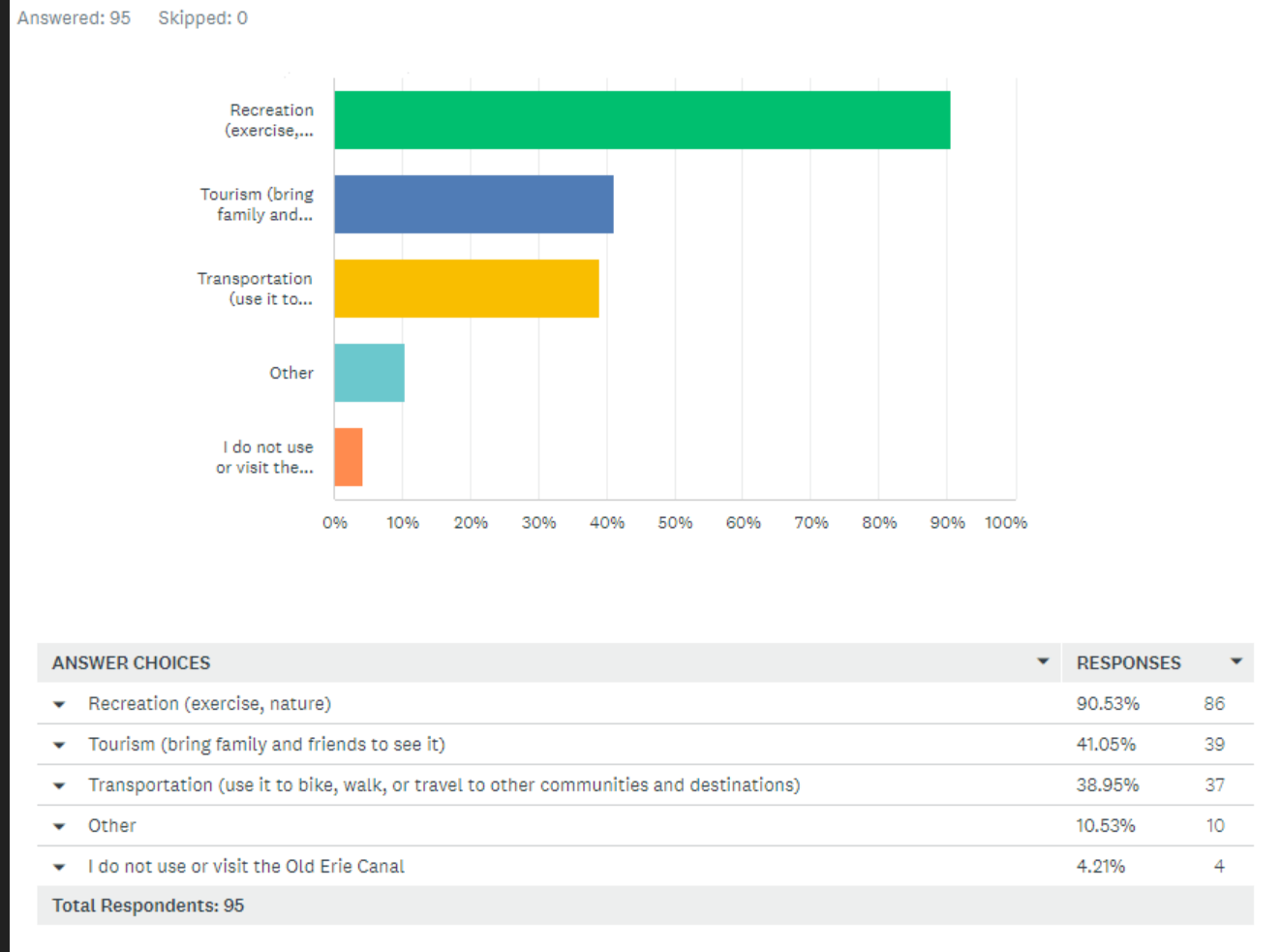
Answered: 93 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Yes	96.77% 90
▼ No	2.15% 2
▼ Don't know/ Not sure	0.00% 0
▼ Not applicable	1.08% 1
TOTAL	93

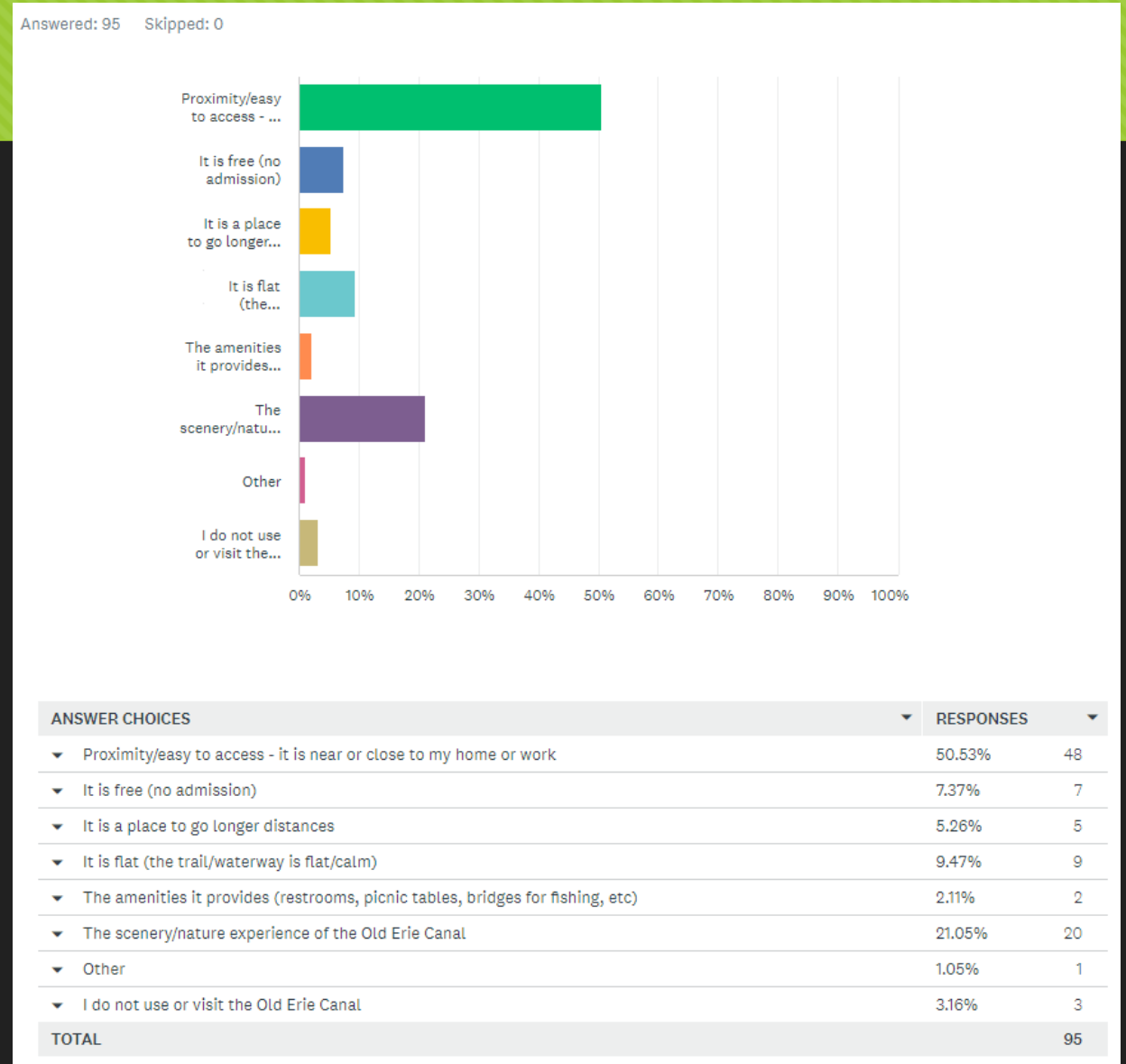
3. What are your reasons for visiting the Old Erie Canal? (Please select all that apply)

- Almost everyone comes for **recreation** but tourism and transportation are closely tied for second place.



4. When making a decision on where to go for recreation, what makes you choose the Old Erie Canal for recreation over other parks/trails? (Please choose only one)

- Half of the respondents choose to visit the Old Erie Canal over other parks/trails because of its **proximity/easy ability to access**



5. How would you rate the maintenance and upkeep of the following features? (Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, or Don't Know)

Respondents rate the features along the Old Erie differently:

- The trail: **Good** (47%)
- **The waterway: Poor** (55%)
- The surrounding parkland: **Fair** (41%)

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL
▼ The trail itself (only the trail)	19.15% 18	46.81% 44	24.47% 23	7.45% 7	2.13% 2	94
▼ The Old Erie Canal waterway itself (only the waterway)	1.05% 1	12.63% 12	29.47% 28	54.74% 52	2.11% 2	95
▼ The surrounding parkland (i.e. parking areas, restrooms, surrounding greenspace, etc)	6.32% 6	34.74% 33	41.05% 39	13.68% 13	4.21% 4	95

6. How safe do you feel when using the Old Erie Canal?

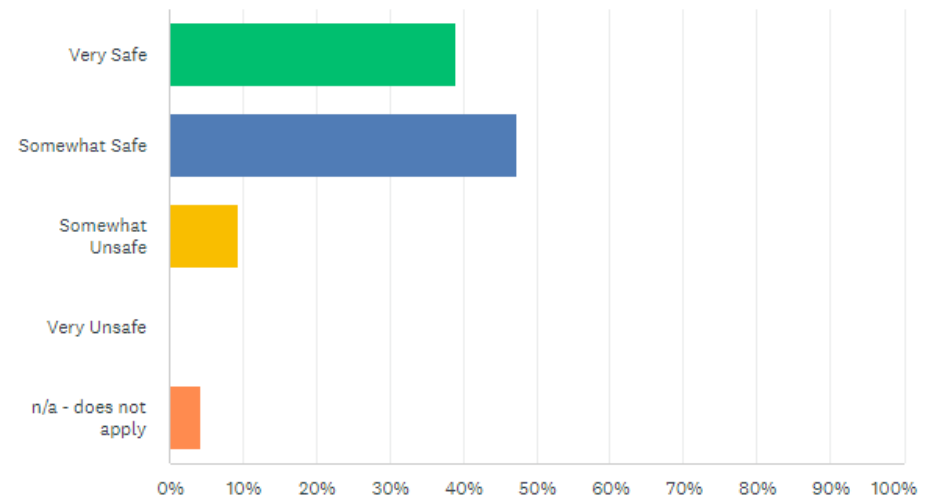
The majority (86%) of **park users feel safe** along the Old Erie Canal

7. If you have felt unsafe, why?

use know never also alone people dogs snowmobiles trail
never felt unsafe walk areas time felt unsafe feel unsafe

How safe do you feel when using the Old Erie Canal?

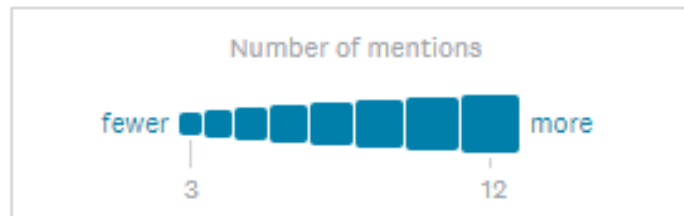
Answered: 95 Skipped: 0



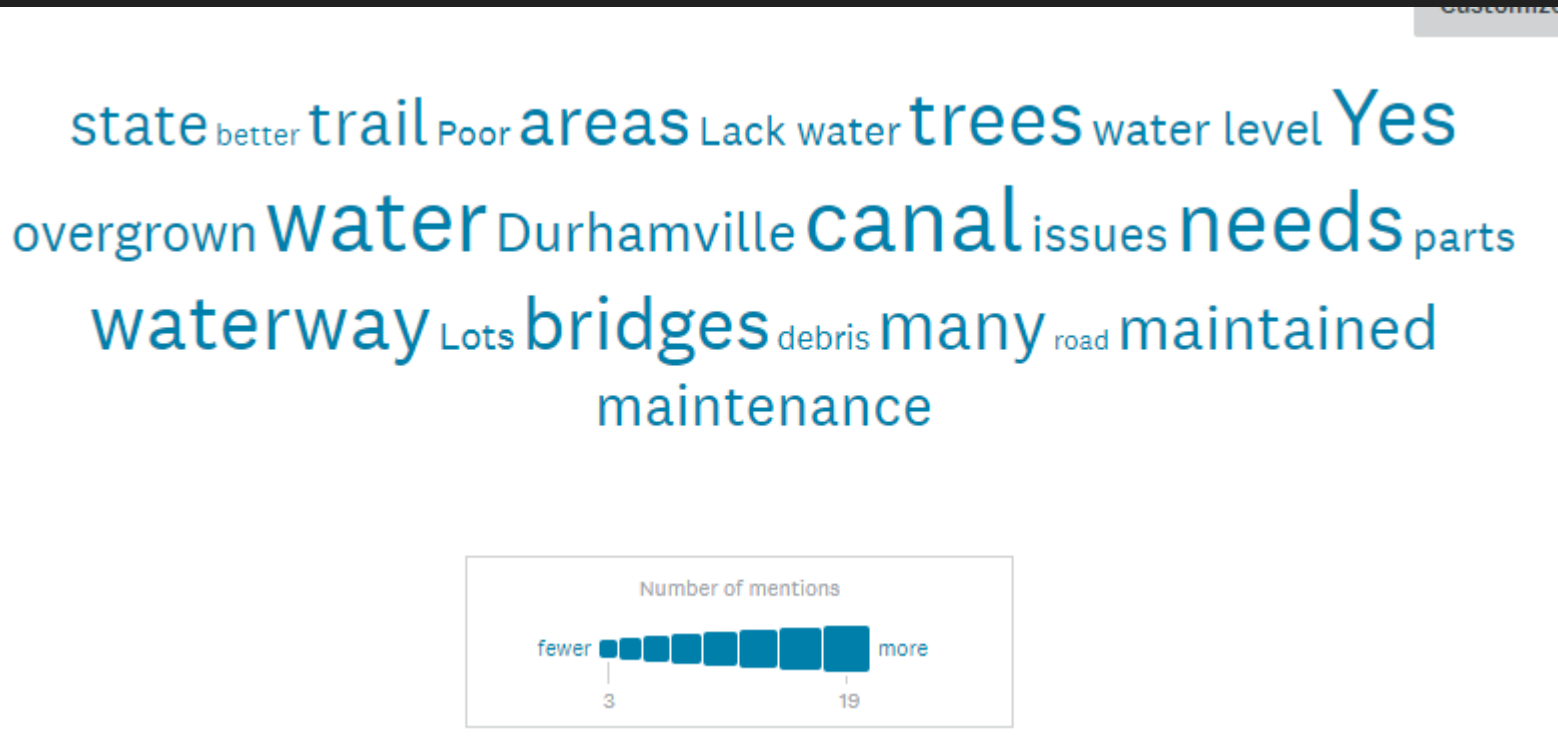
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Very Safe	38.95% 37
Somewhat Safe	47.37% 45
Somewhat Unsafe	9.47% 9
Very Unsafe	0.00% 0
n/a - does not apply	4.21% 4
TOTAL	95

8. In a few words, how would you describe the Old Erie Canal?

bike Peaceful canal walk Historic section local Needs cleaning great
New York experience piece trail piece history history
Old Erie Canal needs maintained beautiful place area
part history S water treasure NY important along waterway trees



9. Are you aware of any issues at or along the Old Erie Canal? (For example, natural issues, man-made issues, political issues)



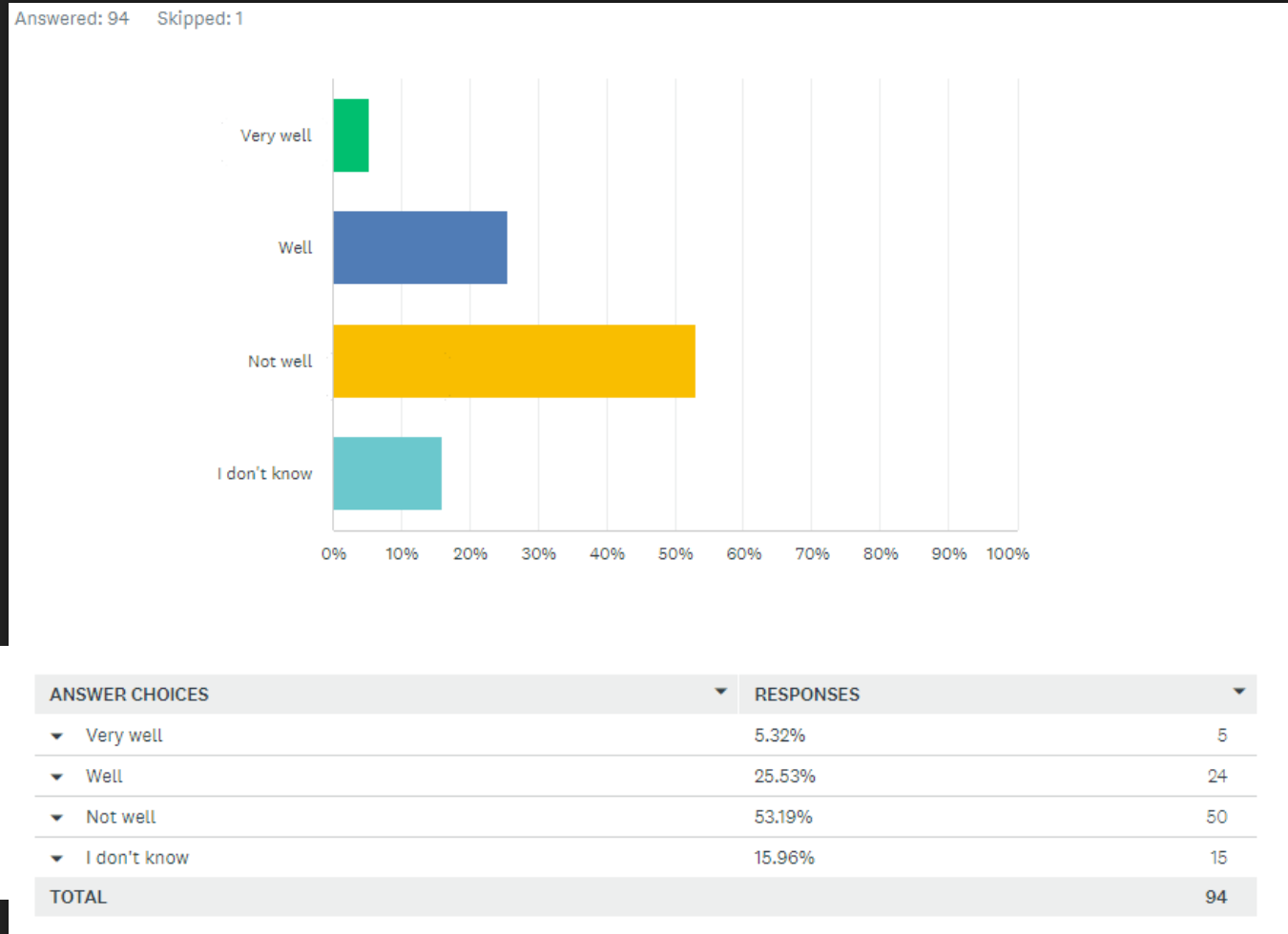
10. According to a 2014 report, the ECT generates approximately \$253 million in sales, 3,440 jobs, \$78 million in labor income, and \$28.5 million in taxes annually for the Upstate economy. In terms of job creation and tax/sales revenue generation, how well do you think your community has done using the Old Erie Canal as a method for economic development?

Room for improvement:

The majority (53%) feel that there is more opportunity for communities to benefit from and use the Old Erie Canal for economic development

11. What are ways the Old Erie Canal can be used better local economics?

biking Communities kayaking Better signage parks signage use boating
 trail needed canal Clean local better area make people
 along water nice fishing



12. Using the map above, please tell us which location along the Old Erie Canal you most typically start from.

In order of popularity:

1. Durhamville/#14 (10 people)
2. Wampsville/N Court St/#17 (9 people)
3. DeWitt/#26 (8 people)
4. Canastota (east)/#19 (7 people)
5. Limestone Creek Trail connection/#34 (6 people)
6. CLCBM and Canastota (west)/20 (both 5 people)



Projects

- This second part of the survey focused on the canal-related projects identified in each community.
- Across the board, projects were supported: for each project listed, the majority of respondents indicated they were “in favor”
- **While responses showed that all projects were supported, to help to prioritize projects, the project that was most favored in each community is circled in red.**

13. Village of Canastota Projects

	IN FAVOR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOR	DON'T KNOW/UNSURE	TOTAL
▼ Enhance public access to the Old Erie Canal Waterway trail through the installation of hand launches for kayaks and other non motorized boats	91.04% 61	7.46% 5	0.00% 0	1.49% 1	67
▼ Reconnect the Erie Canalway Trail through the downtown along Canal Street	86.57% 58	11.94% 8	0.00% 0	1.49% 1	67
▼ Develop the canal and Canal Street in downtown Canastota into a destination waterfront, a place visitors and residents alike seek out to walk, dine, and spend time in.	83.58% 56	14.93% 10	1.49% 1	0.00% 0	67
▼ Redevelop underused and vacant properties around the canal	86.15% 56	6.15% 4	4.62% 3	3.08% 2	65
▼ Extend the Lenox Rail Trail west to connect to Beebe Bridge Road to improve and expand the trail network through and around Canastota (the Lenox Rail Trail compliments the Erie Canalway Trail and provides opportunities to create a loop trail)	73.13% 49	14.93% 10	4.48% 3	7.46% 5	67
▼ Work with NYS Canals to undertake projects to improve the water quality and appearance of the Canal waterway	92.54% 62	5.97% 4	1.49% 1	0.00% 0	67
▼ Continue to make the canal a focus of the community's identity and branding	92.42% 61	4.55% 3	3.03% 2	0.00% 0	66

14. Village of Chittenango Projects

	IN FAVOR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOR	DON'T KNOW/UNSURE	TOTAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the community to create a redevelopment plan for the canal waterfront (generally between the Chittenango Creek aqueduct on the west to CCP business on east) to inform ways to reactivate and reuse the waterway and surrounding land for tourism and quality of life 	76.47% 39	9.80% 5	3.92% 2	9.80% 5	51
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance public access to the Old Erie Canal Waterway trail through the installation of hand launches for kayaks and other non motorized boats 	84.00% 42	2.00% 1	4.00% 2	10.00% 5	50
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to improve the Creek Walk Trail to make a direct link between the downtown and Old Erie Canal/ Erie Canalway Trail 	81.63% 40	8.16% 4	4.08% 2	6.12% 3	49
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with NYS Canals to undertake projects to improve the water quality and appearance of the Canal waterway 	85.71% 42	4.08% 2	6.12% 3	4.08% 2	49
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on canal related tourism and marketing to strengthen Chittenango's visibility as a hub and destination for the thousands of visitors along the Erie Canalway Trail in Central New York (For example, with the gap in the Erie Canalway Trail now closed through Syracuse, Chittenango is uniquely positioned to promote itself as a popular day-trip destination.) 	78.43% 40	9.80% 5	5.88% 3	5.88% 3	51

15. Village of Fayetteville Projects

	IN FAVOR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOR	DON'T KNOW/UNSURE	TOTAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an assessment for the long-term management and functionality of the Limestone Creek Feeder canal and its Feeder Sluice Gate (when the dam was removed in 2009 water no longer was able to flow into the feeder) 	74.55% 41	10.91% 6	5.45% 3	9.09% 5	55
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to enhance the Limestone Creek Trail as the premier gateway that connects the Erie Canalway Trail to downtown/Limestone Plaza; a priority is consistent signage and wayfinding elements 	75.93% 41	12.96% 7	3.70% 2	7.41% 4	54
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to expand uses and opportunities within Canal Landing Park and Fietta Park 	68.52% 37	11.11% 6	5.56% 3	14.81% 8	54
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install a hand launch for kayaks and other non-motorized watercraft along the Limestone Feeder (which would allow people to paddle to the Old Erie Canal waterway as well) 	77.78% 42	12.96% 7	3.70% 2	5.56% 3	54
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on projects that connect visitors and residents to the rich local history of the Old Erie Canal in Fayetteville 	72.22% 39	16.67% 9	3.70% 2	7.41% 4	54
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the village as a hub and destination for visitors along the State-wide Erie Canalway Trail 	75.47% 40	16.98% 9	3.77% 2	3.77% 2	53

16. Town of Lenox Projects

	IN FAVOR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOR	DON'T KNOW/UNSURE	TOTAL
▼ Enhance public access to the Old Erie Canal Waterway trail through the installation of hand launches for kayaks and other non motorized boats	78.00% 39	10.00% 5	4.00% 2	8.00% 4	50
▼ The Town, with NYS Parks and NYS Canals, will work with CSX to improve the passage for paddlers under the CSX railroad tracks (currently passable but could be improved as railroad bridge is replaced)	82.00% 41	10.00% 5	2.00% 1	6.00% 3	50
▼ Extend the Lenox Rail Trail west to connect to Beebe Bridge Road (the Lenox Rail Trail compliments the Erie Canalway Trail and provides opportunities to create a loop trail)	70.00% 35	12.00% 6	8.00% 4	10.00% 5	50
▼ Work with NYS Parks to improve wayfinding and create streetscape improvements for a portion of the Old Erie Canal trail that goes on-road along the North Court Spur Road, near the intersection with N Court St.	78.43% 40	5.88% 3	3.92% 2	11.76% 6	51
▼ Work with NYS Parks to develop and provide amenities at the N Court St trailhead (the State owns 10 acres in this location). Opportunities include kayak launch, camping, restrooms, picnic facilities, etc	80.00% 40	6.00% 3	4.00% 2	10.00% 5	50

17. Town of Manlius Projects

	IN FAVOR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOR	DON'T KNOW/UNSURE	T
▼ Work with NYS Canals to preserve the Limestone Creek Aqueduct	80.43% 37	8.70% 4	4.35% 2	6.52% 3	
▼ Work with NYS Parks, NYS Canals, and Village of Fayetteville to conduct an assessment for the long-term management and functionality of the Limestone Creek Feeder canal and its Feeder Sluice Gate (when the dam was removed in 2009 water no longer was able to flow into the feeder)	69.57% 32	13.04% 6	4.35% 2	13.04% 6	
▼ Continue to work with the Village of Fayetteville to enhance the Limestone Creek Trail as the premier gateway that connects the Erie Canalway Trail to downtown/Limestone Plaza; a priority is consistent signage and wayfinding elements	65.22% 30	19.57% 9	6.52% 3	8.70% 4	
▼ Enhance public access to the Old Erie Canal Waterway trail through the installation of hand launches for kayaks and other non motorized boats	76.09% 35	13.04% 6	4.35% 2	6.52% 3	
▼ Work with NYS Parks to improve public access, amenities, and overall experience at OEC SHP Park nodes such as Cedar Bay, N. Burdick St, Manlius Center, Kirkville, and Pool's Brook.	71.74% 33	17.39% 8	4.35% 2	6.52% 3	
▼ Work with NYS Parks to strengthen the connection to and between the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park and Green Lakes State Park	71.74% 33	17.39% 8	4.35% 2	6.52% 3	
▼ Assess the lime kiln remnants located along the feeder (such as the Sheedy Lime Kiln) to inform preservation and restoration efforts.	71.74% 33	15.22% 7	4.35% 2	8.70% 4	
▼ Create connecting trails to link neighborhoods such as Summerhaven Drive, Towne Center Retirement Community and others to the Erie Canalway Trail.	68.09% 32	14.89% 7	8.51% 4	8.51% 4	

18. City of Oneida Projects

	IN FAVOR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOR	DON'T KNOW/UNSURE	TOTAL
▼ Work with NYS Canals to preserve the Cowaselon Creek Aqueduct and the Oneida Creek Aqueduct	85.96% 49	7.02% 4	1.75% 1	5.26% 3	57
▼ Work with NYS Parks to develop the public lands around Oneida Creek aqueduct into a more prominent node/parklette with increased access and amenities (similar to Cedar Bay, Manlius Center, Pool's Brook on western end of the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park)	87.27% 48	7.27% 4	0.00% 0	5.45% 3	55
▼ Enhance public access to the Old Erie Canal Waterway trail through the installation of hand launches for kayaks and other non motorized boats, parking, and signage, as well as projects that identify and interpret important ecological or historic features of the waterway	82.14% 46	10.71% 6	0.00% 0	7.14% 4	56
▼ Create streetscape enhancements and installation of amenities and wayfinding that facilitate pedestrians and bicyclists off the Erie Canalway Trail and into downtown Oneida	80.36% 45	14.29% 8	1.79% 1	3.57% 2	56
▼ Focus on projects that connect visitors and residents to the rich local history of the Old Erie Canal in Oneida and the former Oneida feeder Canal	83.93% 47	10.71% 6	0.00% 0	5.36% 3	56
▼ Work with NYS Parks to create an official trailhead with parking on State-owned property at the intersection of Lake Street and Canal Road (currently no formal parking exists here)	85.71% 48	10.71% 6	0.00% 0	3.57% 2	56
▼ Focus on canal related tourism and marketing to strengthen Oneida's visibility as a hub and destination for the thousands of visitors along the Erie Canalway Trail in Central New York	83.93% 47	10.71% 6	0.00% 0	5.36% 3	56

19. City of Rome Projects

	IN FAVOR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOR	DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the community to create a redevelopment plan for the Old Erie Canal waterfront (located on the western side of the city) to inform ways to reactivate and reuse the waterway and surrounding land for tourism and quality of life 	73.33% 33	6.67% 3	4.44% 2	15.56% 7	45	0.82
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create interpretive and place making projects to celebrate the City of Rome being the first construction location of the Erie Canal 	68.89% 31	11.11% 5	4.44% 2	15.56% 7	45	0.76
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with NYS Parks to elevate the eastern gateway to the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park (located near the Rome Sports Hall of Fame) into a highly visible and welcoming trailhead and destination 	73.91% 34	10.87% 5	2.17% 1	13.04% 6	46	0.82
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the existing Erie Canal Trail along Wood Creek (approximately 1.1 miles) 	72.34% 34	14.89% 7	4.26% 2	8.51% 4	47	0.74
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a new off-road trail connection between the Old Erie Canal State Historic Park and the Barge Canal by developing a trail along existing railbeds and enhancing Muck Road 	63.04% 29	15.22% 7	4.35% 2	17.39% 8	46	0.71
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redevelop underused and vacant properties around the Old Erie Canal 	65.12% 28	18.60% 8	4.65% 2	11.63% 5	43	0.68
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct an assessment and undertake projects to improve the water quality and appearance of the Old Erie Canal waterway 	80.43% 37	6.52% 3	2.17% 1	10.87% 5	46	0.88

20. Town of Sullivan Projects

	IN FAVOR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOR	DON'T KNOW/UNSURE	TOTAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with NYS Canals and NYS Parks to preserve the Chittenango Creek Aqueduct as well as explore opportunities to formalize access to Chittenango Creek from the aqueduct for uses such as fishing 	70.00% 28	12.50% 5	5.00% 2	12.50% 5	40
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the community to create a redevelopment plan for the canal waterfront (generally between the Chittenango Creek aqueduct on the west to CCP business on east) to inform ways to reactivate and reuse the waterway and surrounding land for tourism and quality of life 	64.86% 24	13.51% 5	5.41% 2	16.22% 6	37
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with NYS Parks to improve public access, amenities, and overall experience at OEC SHP Park nodes such as White Bridge Road, Bolivar Road, Lakeport Road, Canaseraga Road, Harsh Road, and Kimberlee Road 	69.23% 27	7.69% 3	5.13% 2	17.95% 7	39
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with NYS Parks, NYS Canals, and Village of Chittenango to interpret, preserve, and maintain the Chittenango Creek feeder and associated infrastructure (dam and sluice gate) which is one of the only remaining sources of water for the Old Erie Canal 	73.68% 28	10.53% 4	2.63% 1	13.16% 5	38
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities to enhance connections between adjacent residential areas and the canal/Erie Canalway Trail including White Bridge Road, Bolivar Road, Kinderhook Road, and Kimberlee Road 	65.00% 26	12.50% 5	7.50% 3	15.00% 6	40
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance public access to the Old Erie Canal Waterway trail through the installation of hand launches for kayaks and other non motorized boats 	70.00% 28	10.00% 4	5.00% 2	15.00% 6	40

[Comments \(2\)](#)

21. Town of Verona Projects

	IN FAVOR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOR	DON'T KNOW/UNSURE	TOTAL
▼ Work with NYS Canals and NYS Parks to preserve the Oneida Creek Aqueduct (a portion is located in the Town of Verona)	83.61% 51	6.56% 4	0.00% 0	9.84% 6	61
▼ Fully assess the hydrology and canal infrastructure to better understand the severe water loss and water quality issues along the eastern end of the Old Erie Canal water system and to inform solutions	86.89% 53	3.28% 2	0.00% 0	9.84% 6	61
▼ Enhance park amenities at the DOT rest area (4.5 acres) along the Old Erie Canal near the intersection of Mills Road and Route 46 and remove the chain link fence to open access to the Old Erie Canal waterway in this location	85.25% 52	4.92% 3	0.00% 0	9.84% 6	61
▼ Create interpretive signs or projects that connect visitors and residents to the rich local history of the Old Erie Canal in Verona	83.61% 51	4.92% 3	0.00% 0	11.48% 7	61
▼ Make streetscape and wayfinding improvements to further enhance the Erie Canalway Trail through Verona specifically the trail along two Town Roads: Canal Road (2 miles) and Lock Road (0.6 miles)	85.00% 51	3.33% 2	0.00% 0	11.67% 7	60
▼ Continue to develop the Town of Verona Community Park as a destination for residents and visitors along the Erie Canalway Trail	80.33% 49	6.56% 4	0.00% 0	13.11% 8	61
▼ Work with NYS Canals to explore opportunities to redevelop where the Old Erie Canal feeds into the Barge Canal at New London	83.61% 51	3.28% 2	1.64% 1	11.48% 7	61
▼ Work with NYS Canals to further enhance the Lock 21 park area to create a destination for residents and visitors as well as to welcome and orient boaters along the Barge Canal to Verona and Old Erie Canal State Historic Park	80.33% 49	6.56% 4	0.00% 0	13.11% 8	61

22. Village of Wampsville Projects

	IN FAVOR	NEUTRAL	NOT IN FAVOR	DON'T KNOW/UNSURE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
▼ Create streetscape enhancements and installation of amenities and wayfinding that facilitate pedestrians and bicyclists off the Erie Canalway Trail and into "downtown" Wampsville	82.35% 42	5.88% 3	3.92% 2	7.84% 4	51	0.85
▼ Focus on interpretative projects that connect visitors and residents to the rich local history of the Old Erie Canal in Wampsville	76.00% 38	14.00% 7	2.00% 1	8.00% 4	50	0.80
▼ Make streetscape and wayfinding improvements to further enhance the Erie Canalway Trail through Wampsville specifically the trail on road along the North Court St Spur Rd and N Court St Road	80.00% 40	8.00% 4	4.00% 2	8.00% 4	50	0.83
▼ Work with NYS Parks to develop and provide amenities at the N Court St trailhead (the State owns 10 acres in this location). Opportunities include kayak launch, camping, restrooms, picnic facilities, etc	83.67% 41	6.12% 3	2.04% 1	8.16% 4	49	0.89