

SWRPC
Southwest Region Planning Commission

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Due to the Public Health Emergency, SWRPC's physical offices are closed to the public. We remain available via telephone and email. Please call us at 603-357-0557 or click the "About", "Contact Staff" tab located in the upper left of this screen for a list of staff email addresses. Stay safe. Stay well.

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[Video of Hinsdale Brattleboro Existing Bridges Forum Oct. 15, 2020](#)

[Accompanying survey.](#)

[Cheshire Rail Trail Planning Project](#)

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Planning for the Hinsdale-Brattleboro Existing Bridges and Island Area

Credit: Carter Roy, LA397D Studio, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Overview

Public Feedback on the Re-use of the Anna Hunt Marsh & Charles Dana Bridges and Hinsdale Island

WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR...

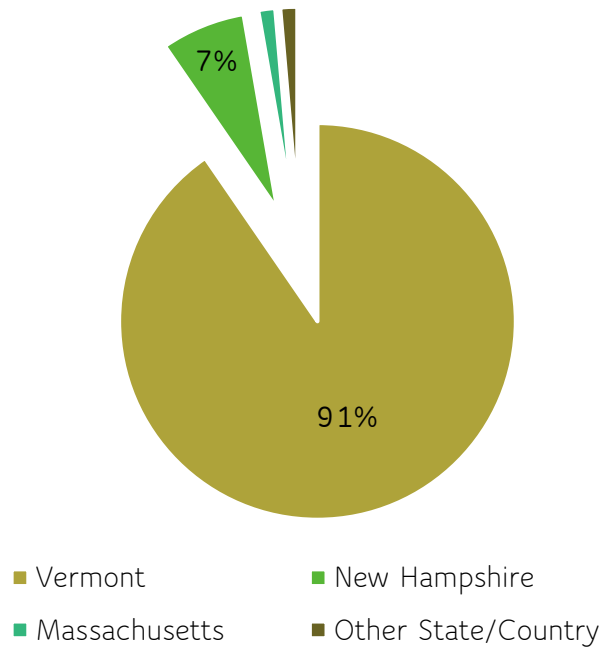
http://www.swrpc.org/hinsdale-brattleboro_planning

December 2, 2020

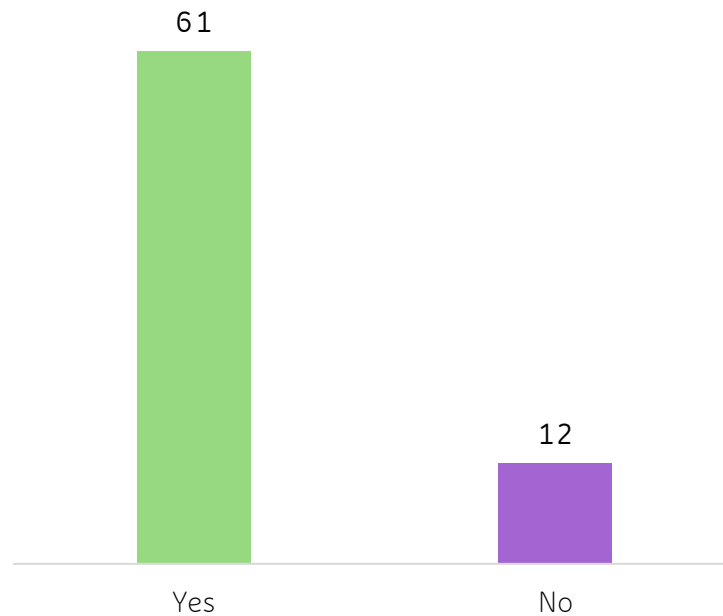
Survey

73 responses as of 11/30/20

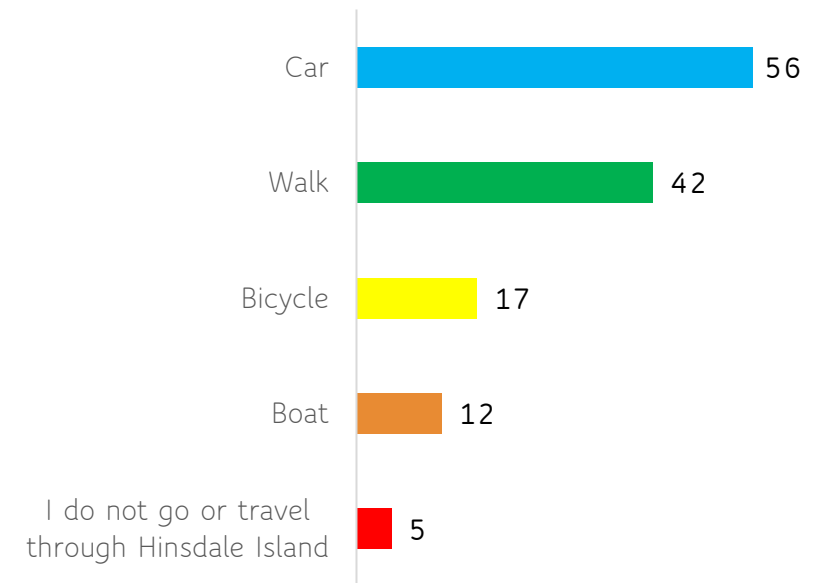
Respondent's Place of Residence



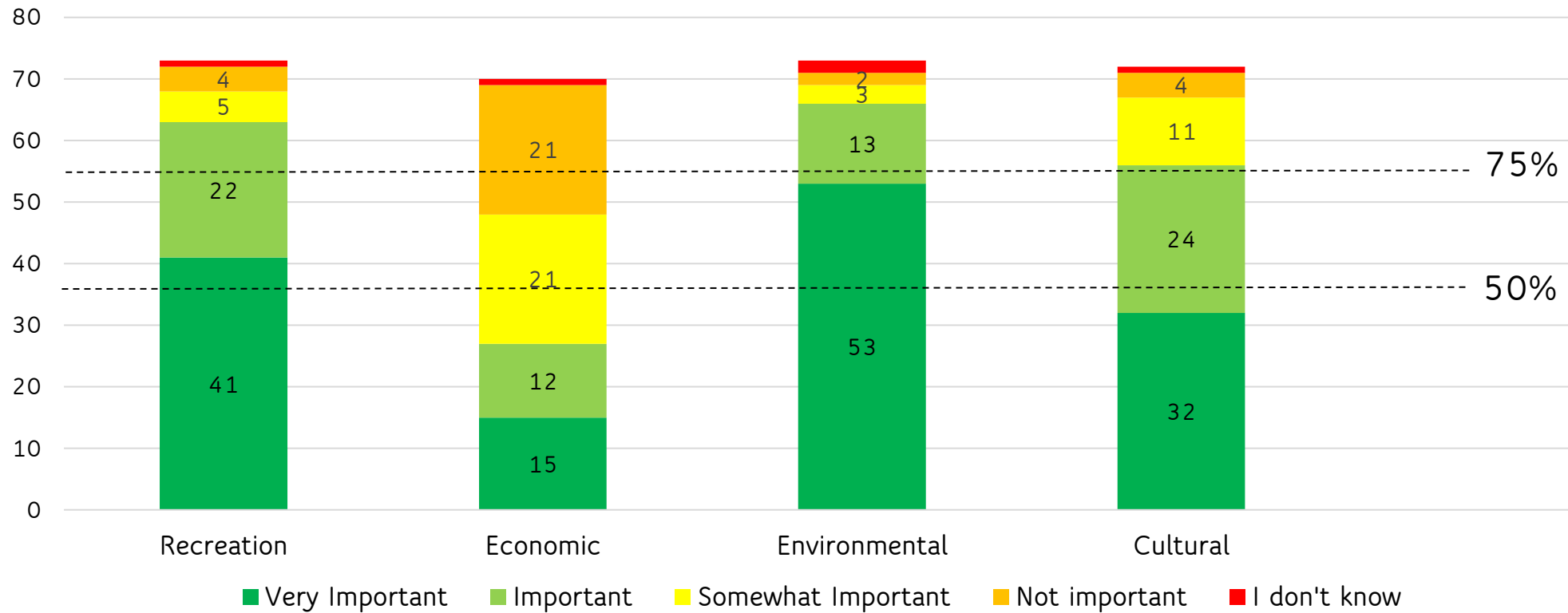
Have you ever been to Hinsdale Island?



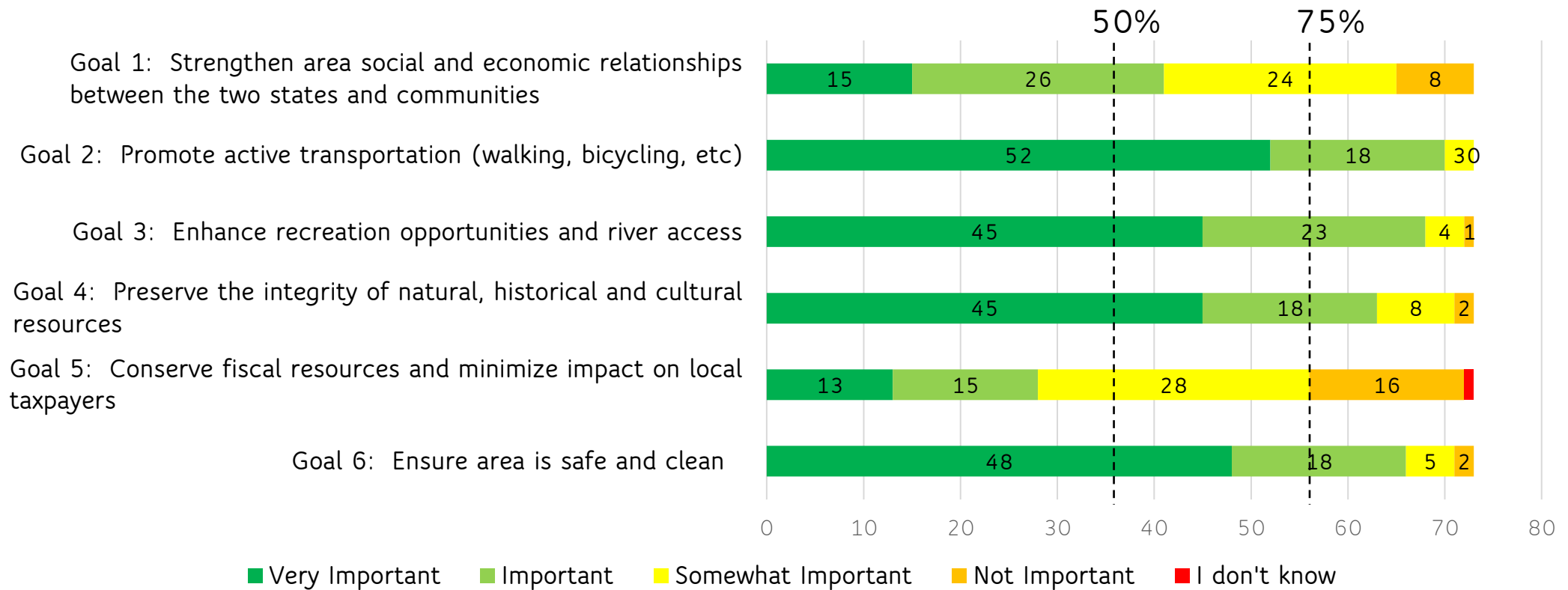
How do you get to or travel through Hinsdale Island (click all that apply)?



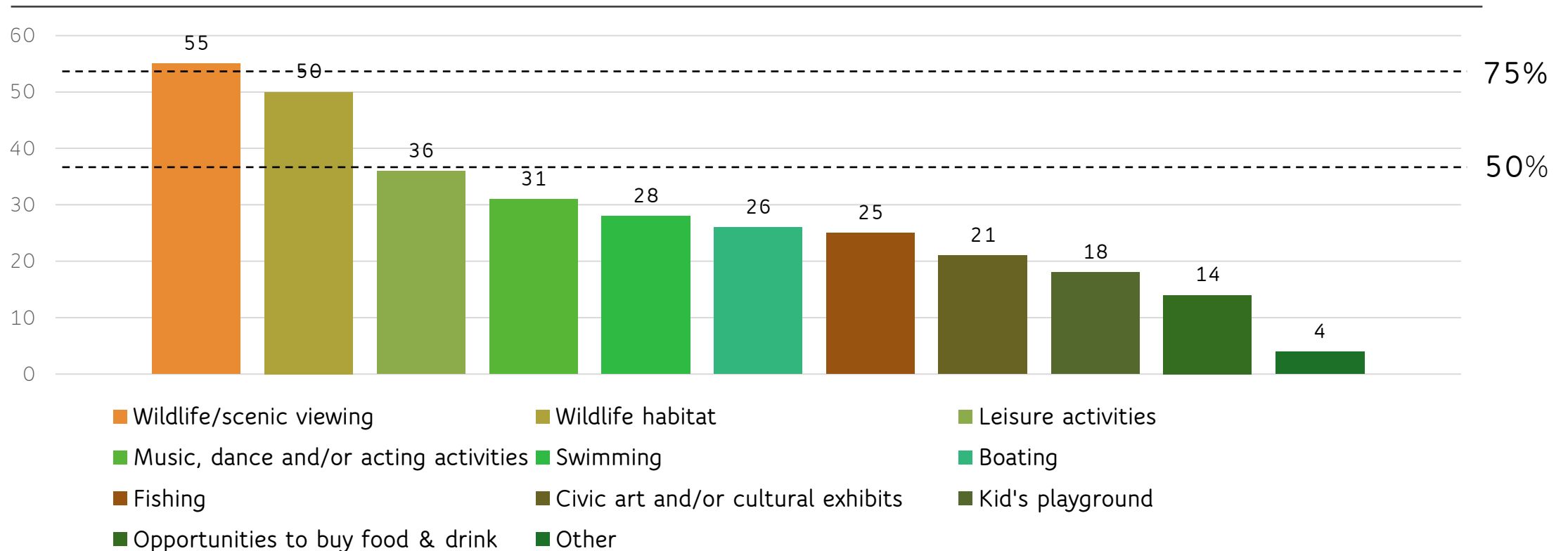
How important to you would it be for Hinsdale Island to provide the following benefits to Hinsdale and Brattleboro residents and visitors?



Please rate the following draft goals identified by the Existing Bridges Subcommittee for driving a future vision for the existing bridges and island area:

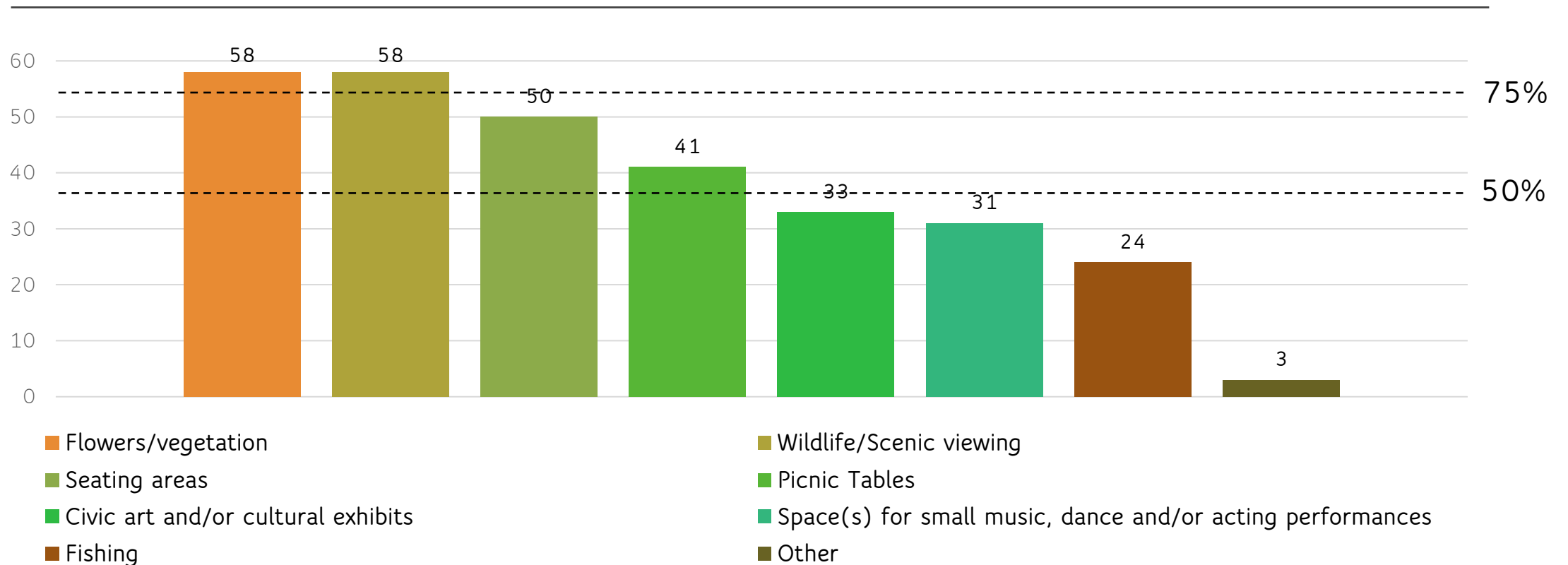


What experiences/activities do you think the HINSDALE ISLAND should promote other than walking/bicycling/jogging? (choose up to 5 that you think are the most important)



Other: Kayak rentals; Historical, cultural, and environmental education (including input from Abenaki community); Goofy canoe race around the two bridges!!!; Skatepark.

What experiences/activities do you think the BRIDGES should promote other than walking/bicycling/jogging? (choose up to 5 that you think are the most important)



Other: Kayak rentals; Historical, cultural and environmental education (including input from the Abenaki community); Native species/biology or natural resources information.

If you would like to leave other input, leave it here.

“What I care about most is for there to be river access for canoes, kayaks, etc at the area that your draft sketch calls the “Brattleboro Welcome Area”.”

“Preserve wildlife on the island and in the river.”

“Artistic signage can be part of the educational component suggested above.”

“I just saw a play hill at the Outer Harbor in Buffalo, NY, similar to the one proposed here and it is great!”

“Please manage the area as a sanctuary for wildlife! It would be terrible if it turned into mostly lawn where it is now an important refuge for birds and other creatures. Also a real kayak/canoe boat launch would be incredible.”

If you would like to leave other input, leave it here.

“If I'm not mistaken, Hinsdale Island is the previous location of (or at least, very near to) the original Island Park, a historical institution that was both an economic and cultural icon of the area. I grew up hearing legends of the big-band stand and sparkling carnival on the river that sank before I was born-- a mystical part of the area's mythos. I think it would be incredible to make the island an homage to Island Park-- by cultivating a small, carnival-like energy there. The dreamiest use I could think of, which would pay homage to its festive past, would be to install a carousel on the island (imagine the picturesque views of a carousel by the water, lights reflecting off the river as the horses rose and fell!). It would be an instant tourist destination, plus honor a vibrant part of our town's past, resurrecting our own carnival Atlantis.”

“Linkage to surrounding trail networks is very important. Fort hill, West River Trail, Whetstone walkway, Mt Wantasticuit”

Feedback from the October 15th Online Forum (during)

Consider project area connection with Fort Hill Rail Trail as part of vision

Ensure nearby parking is available, especially handicapped parking

Consider how bridges could be used for public events

Consider potential riverfront plans, Amtrak and Brattleboro Museum plans

Consider bright, unique bridge paints to help communities stand out

Consider power/whether power lines should be on island

Consider Connecticut River Paddler's Trail and nearby Wantastiquet campsite

Like idea of natural boardwalk through wetland area

Consider incorporation of Brattleboro Words Trail (brattleborowords.org)

Audio on Island Park that recreates circuses held there using material from local writer, Kevin O'Keefe

Consider noise levels from new bridge

Consider maintenance costs; what will be the model for maintaining the project in the future?

Feedback from the October 15th Online Forum (after)

Consider Connecticut River boating activity around existing bridges, island and the new bridge. Jetskiing is becoming more popular on the river. There may be potential conflicts between motorized and unmotorized water craft and consideration should be made about boating activity.

Consider other bridges as case studies/examples. Examples shared included Shelburne Falls, MA Bridge of Flowers, the River Bank Park in Wilmington, VT and a proposed Nature Walk design for the Brooklyn Bridge.

Questions or comments?

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The screenshot shows the SWRPC (Southwest Region Planning Commission) website. The header includes the SWRPC logo and navigation tabs for ABOUT, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEV., REGIONAL DATA & GIS, LOCAL PLANNING, HAZARD MITIGATION, and NATURAL RESOURCES. Below this are sub-tabs for TRANSPORTATION, BROWNFIELDS, and BROADBAND. The main content area features a 'WHAT'S NEW AT SWRPC?' section with a Facebook 'Like us on Facebook' button and a COVID-19 notice. The notice states: 'Due to the Public Health Emergency, SWRPC's physical offices are closed to the public. We remain available via telephone and email. Please call us at 603-357-0557 or click the "About", "Contact Staff" tab located in the upper left of this screen for a list of staff email addresses. Stay safe. Stay well.' Below the notice are links for 'COVID-19 Resources Page', 'Monadnock Vital Economies', 'Monadnock Broadband Implementation Guide', 'Video of Hinsdale Brattleboro Existing Bridges Forum Oct. 15, 2020', 'Accompanying survey.', 'Cheshire Rail Trail Planning Project', and 'Plan for Ashuelot Rail Trail: A Pilot Project'. The main article is titled 'Planning for the Hinsdale-Brattleboro Existing Bridges and Island Area' and includes an aerial map of the island with various planning features labeled, such as 'Hinsdale Island Event Space', 'River Hook', 'Existing Vegetation', 'Mountain Crests', 'Wetland Walk', 'Existing Wetland', 'Proposed Bridge Expansion', 'Hinsdale Community Bridge', 'Amphitheatre', 'Hinsdale River-Front', 'Boardwalk', 'Scout/Barn Welcome Area', and 'Hinsdale Community Bridge'. The article credit reads: 'Credit: Carter Roy, LA397D Studio, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, University of Massachusetts, Amherst'. The word 'Overview' is visible at the bottom of the article content.

http://www.swrpc.org/hinsdale-brattleboro_planning

<https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/hinsdalebrattleboro12210/index.htm>