



The 2022 Quality of Life Survey for Houghton City Residents



Survey Tracking Tag	
Survey Period	From September 14 to October 14, 2022
Report Presented	February 21, 2023
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The 2022 Quality of Life Survey for Houghton City Residents

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1. Background & Objectives



Background and Objectives

As part of the 2023 update of the City of Houghton's Master Plan, the 2022 Quality of Life Survey of Houghton residents has been conducted. The 2022 survey results cover the following topics.

(Section A)

Characteristics of Survey
Participants

(Section B)

Neighborhood and
Community Environment

(Section C)

Recreation and Culture

(Section D)

Mobility

(Section E)

Sustainable Practices

(Section F)

City Services

(Section G)

City Facilities

(Section H)

Future of
Downtown Houghton

(Section I)

Suggestions for
the City's Future





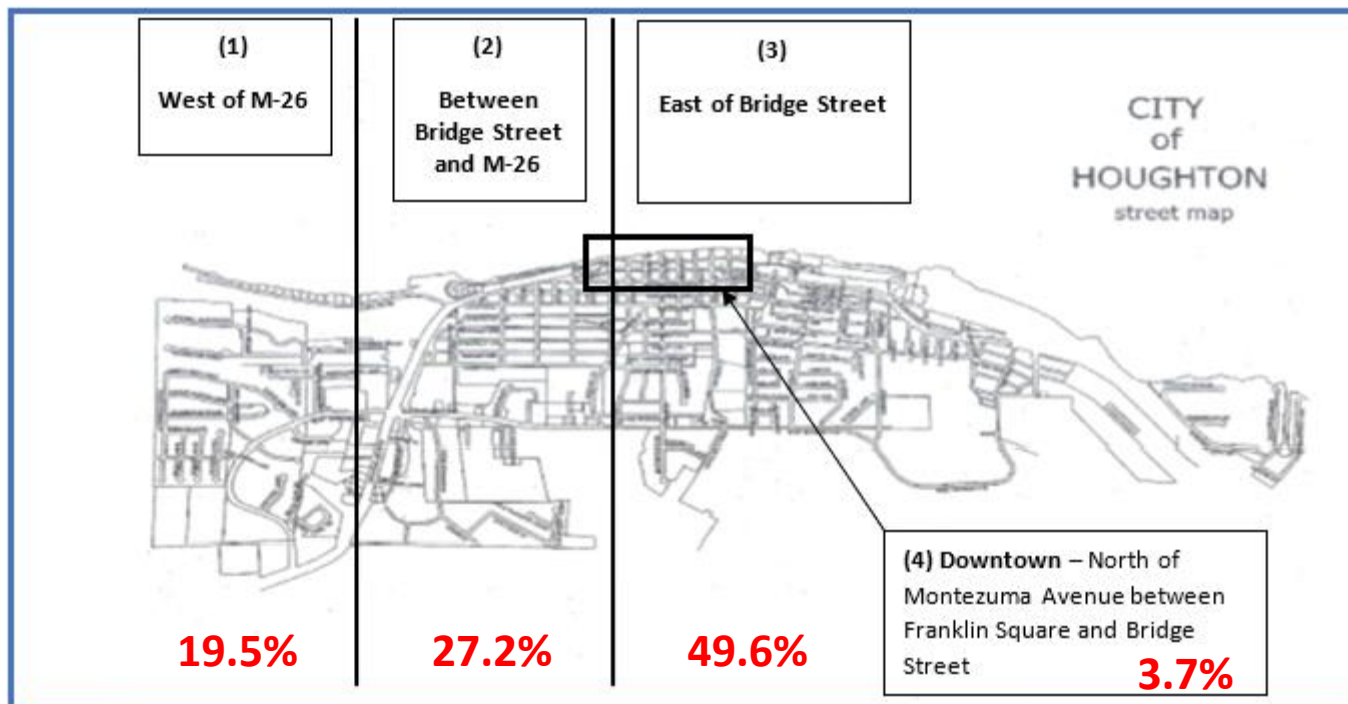
2. Survey Design



Survey Participants

- **Participants:** those who currently live in the **City of Houghton**
- **Total number of surveys sent out: 1,922**
- **Total number of surveys returned: 627**
- **Response rate: 33%** (31.7% in 2017)

* Where survey participants reside:

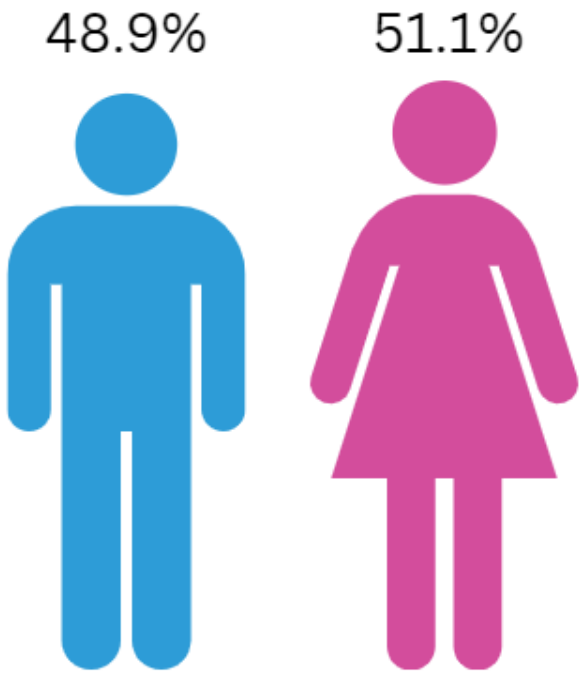




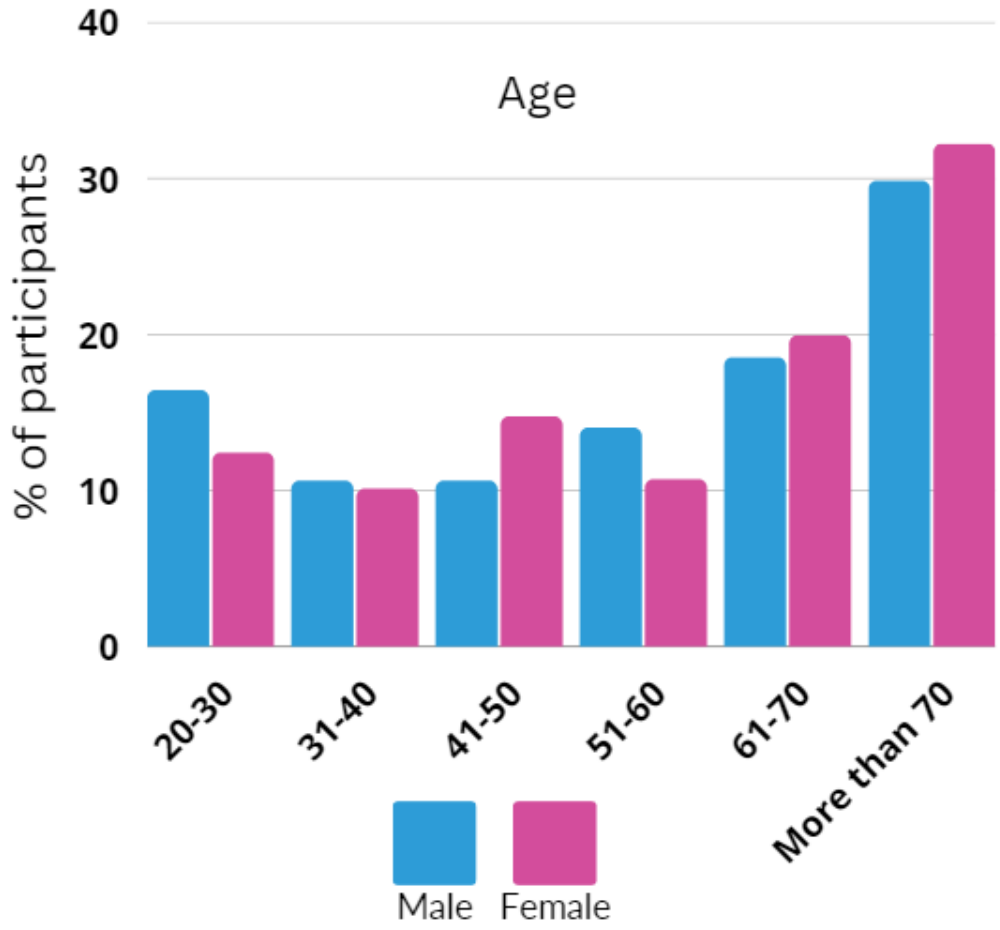
Results (Section A)

Characteristics of Survey Participants

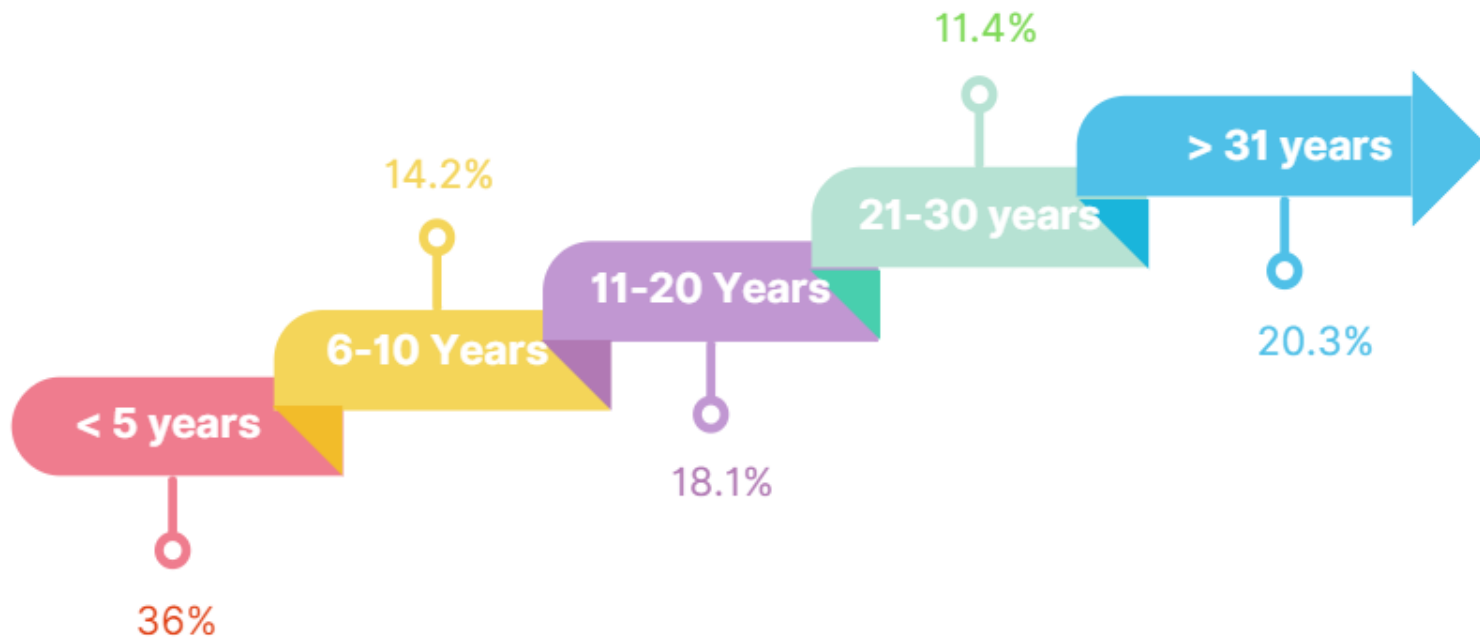
2022 Survey Participants



* no statistical difference in gender ratio



Years Lived in Houghton



If living in Houghton less than five years,

What brought you here?

Michigan Tech (42.3%)

Employment (17.8%)

Retirement (12.7%)

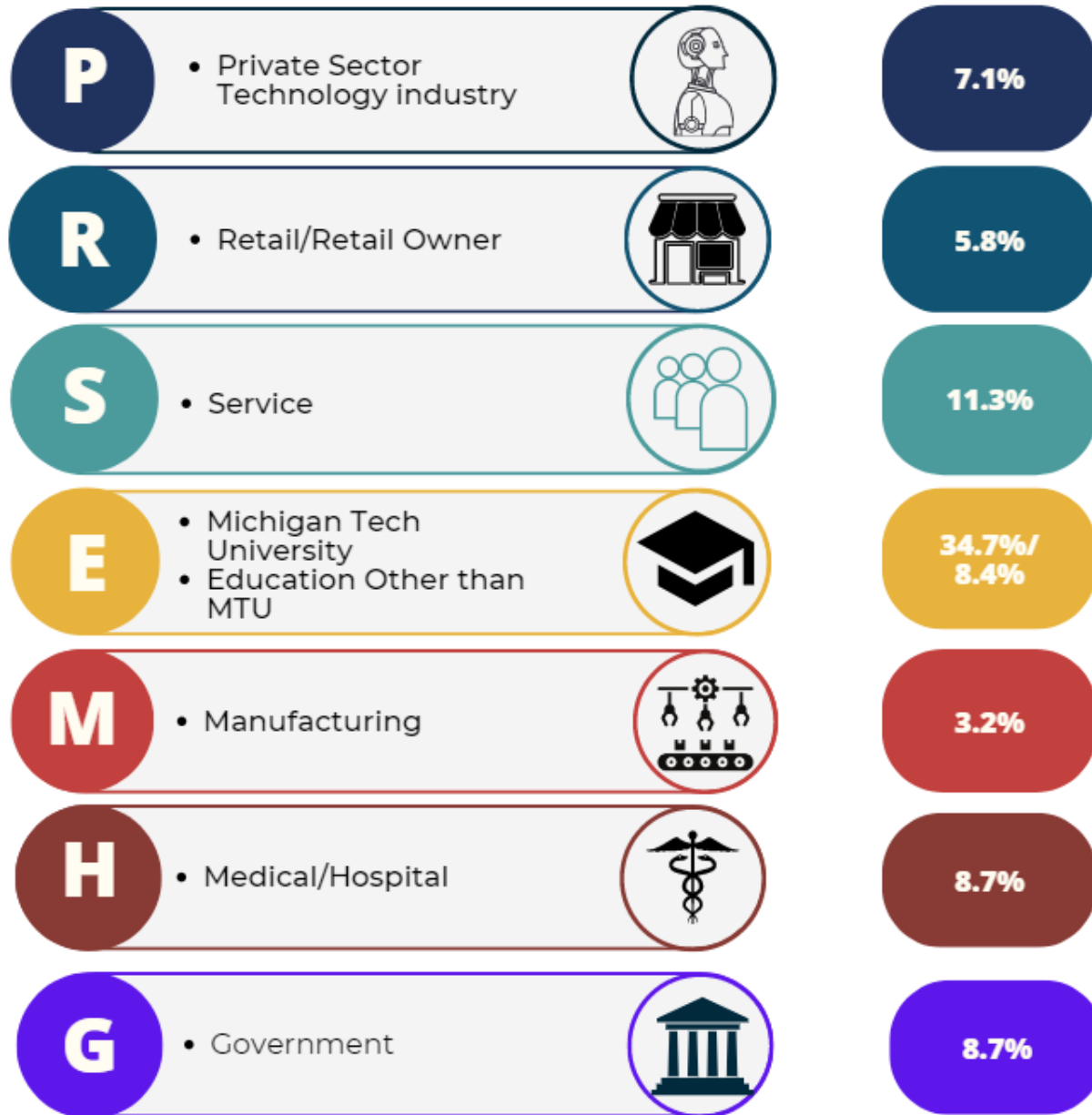
Other reasons (27.2%)

e.g., family, low cost housing



- Employed (44.6%)
- Self-employed (4.8%)
- Unemployed (8.1%)
- Retired (42.2%)

OCCUPATION



Note: other (16.1%) e.g.,
accounting, banker,
religion, volunteer, writer



Results (Section B)
Neighborhood and Community Environment

Overall Improvement in Neighborhood and Community Environment within the Last 5 Years

Worse



The Same



Better



31.7%

51.9%

ASPECTS OF NEIGHBORHOOD

Respondents who answered either "somewhat satisfied" or "extremely satisfied"

**Building Exterior
Appearance**
66.3%



**City
Maintenance**
65.8%



**Community
Environment**
76.2%



**Feeling of
Security**
88%



**Peaceful
Environment**
83.2%



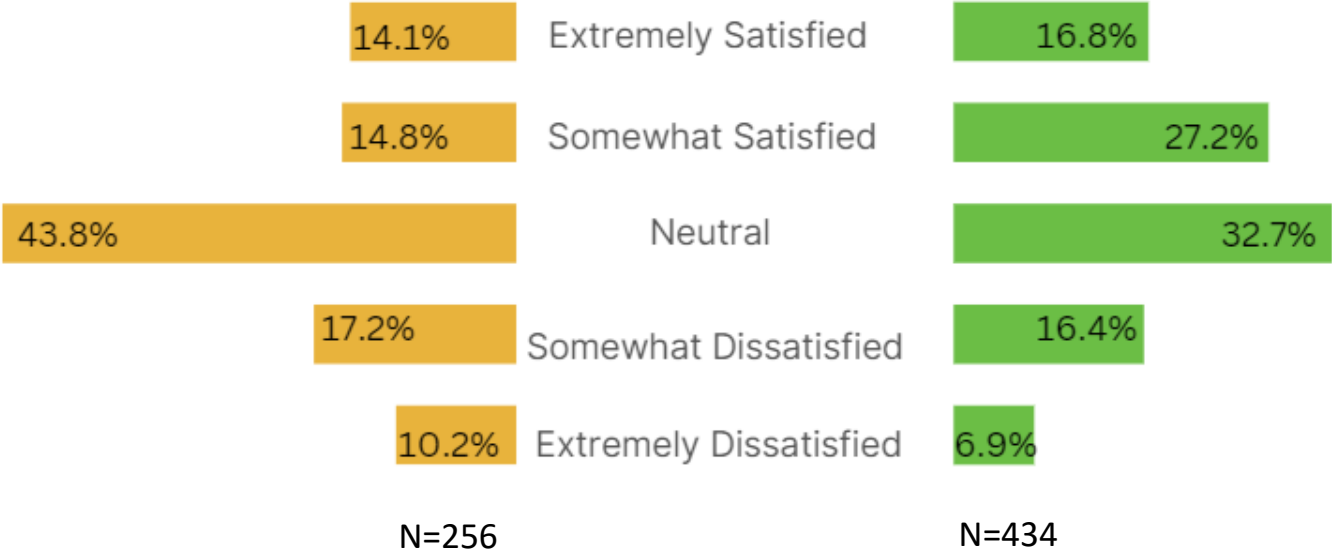
Satisfaction with the impact of rental properties



Short-term rental



Long-term rental



65.4% of participants own the unit where they currently live



Results (Section C)

Recreation and Culture

Overall Improvement in city parks and recreation within the Last 5 Years

Worse



The Same

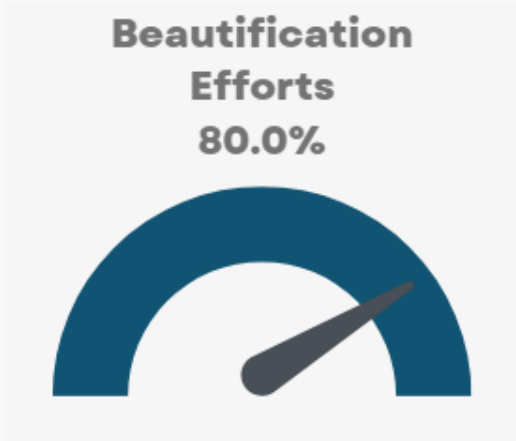
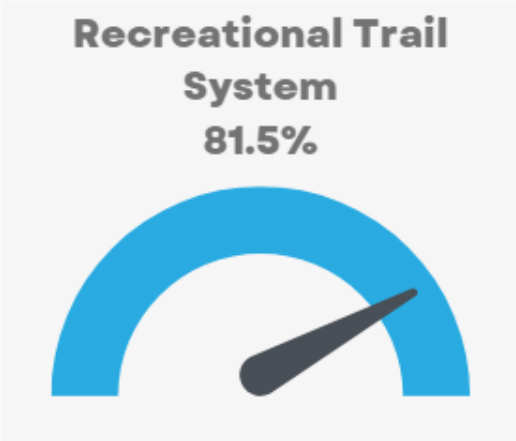
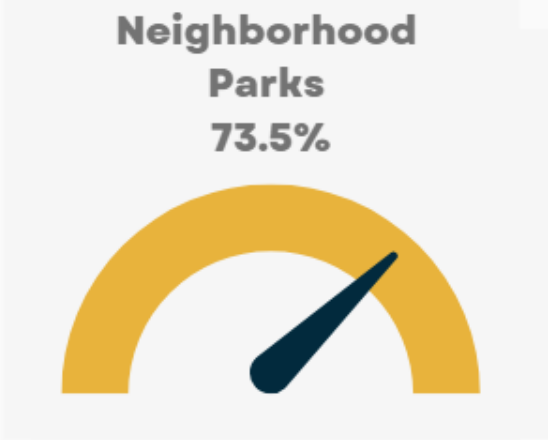
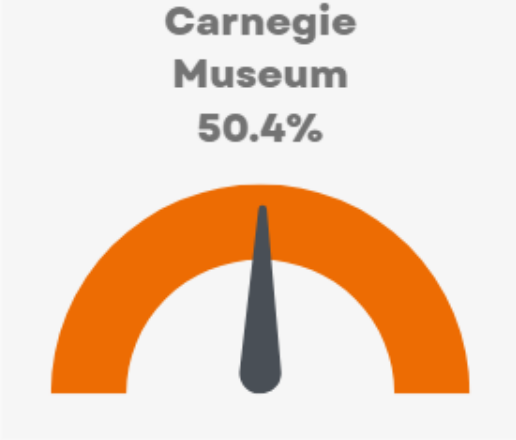
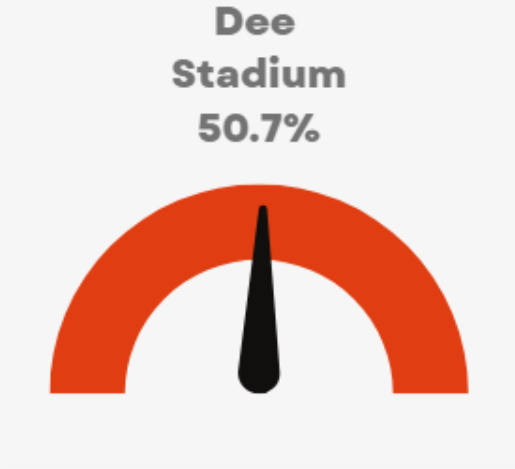


Better



SATISFACTION WITH THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

Respondents who answered either "somewhat satisfied" or "extremely satisfied"





Results (Section D)

Mobility

Overall Improvement in Mobility within the Last 5 Years

Worse



The Same



Better



AGREEMENT

Respondents who answered either "agree" or "strongly agree"

Sidewalks

Sidewalks are well maintained
33.2%



Sidewalks in good condition
34.8%



Enough sidewalks in my area
37.4%



Roads

Roads in good condition
23.6%



Roads are well maintained
38.9%



Bike Paths

Bike paths are in good condition
39.9%



Bike paths are well maintained
41.0%



Commuting Methods

Commuting pattern

Within the city: 52.3% | Outside of the city: 13.8%

At least once a week

Personal vehicle (24.1%)
Public transportation (3.4%)
Walking or Bicycling (24.2%)
Carpooling (10.9%)
Ride-hailing (0.5%)

At least once a year

Personal vehicle (0.3%)
Public transportation (5.7%)
Walking or Bicycling (8.0%)
Carpooling (7.0%)
Ride-hailing (10.2%)

Never

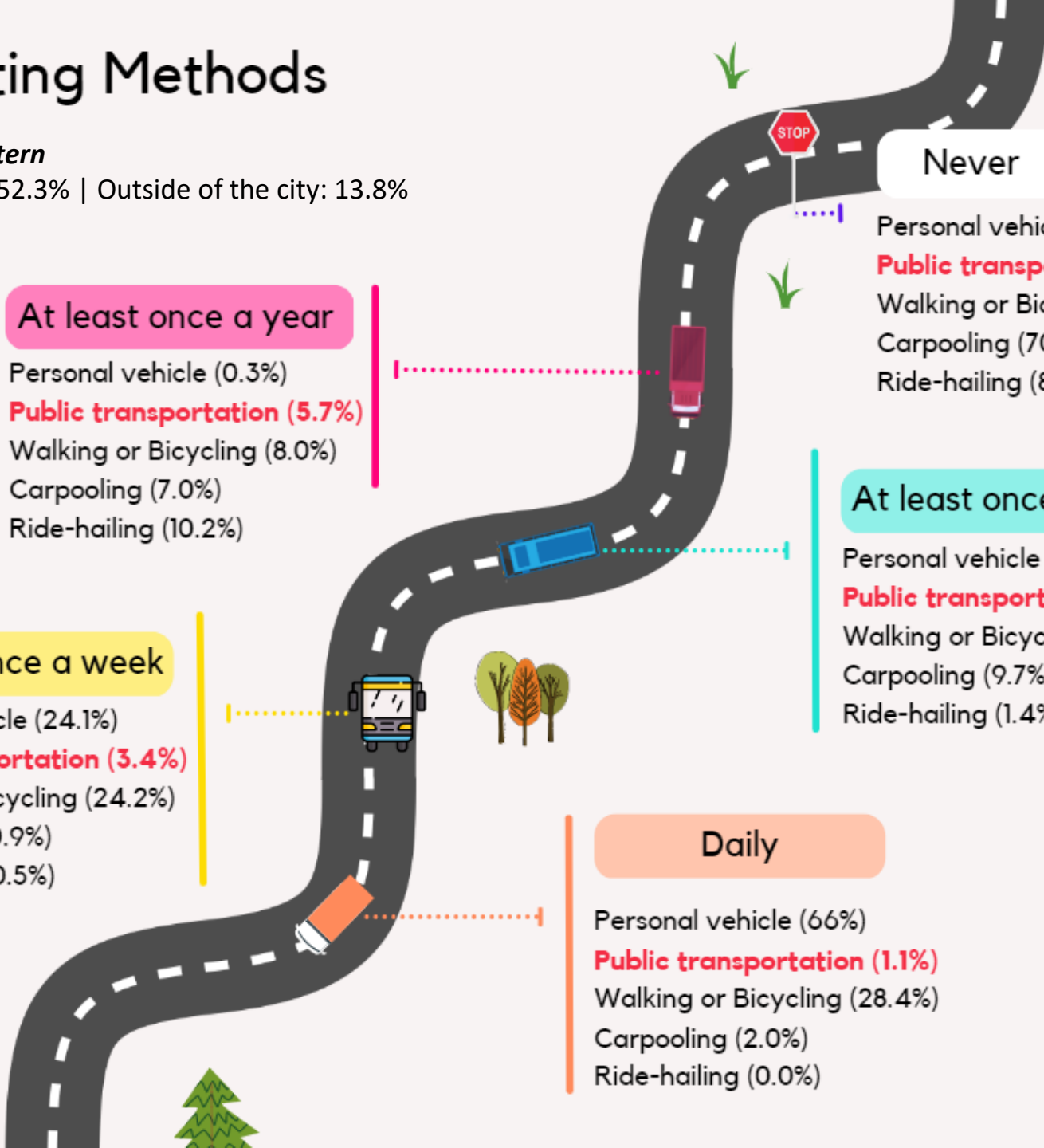
Personal vehicle (6.8%)
Public transportation (86.4%)
Walking or Bicycling (28.2%)
Carpooling (70.4%)
Ride-hailing (87.9%)

At least once a month

Personal vehicle (2.7%)
Public transportation (3.4%)
Walking or Bicycling (11.1%)
Carpooling (9.7%)
Ride-hailing (1.4%)

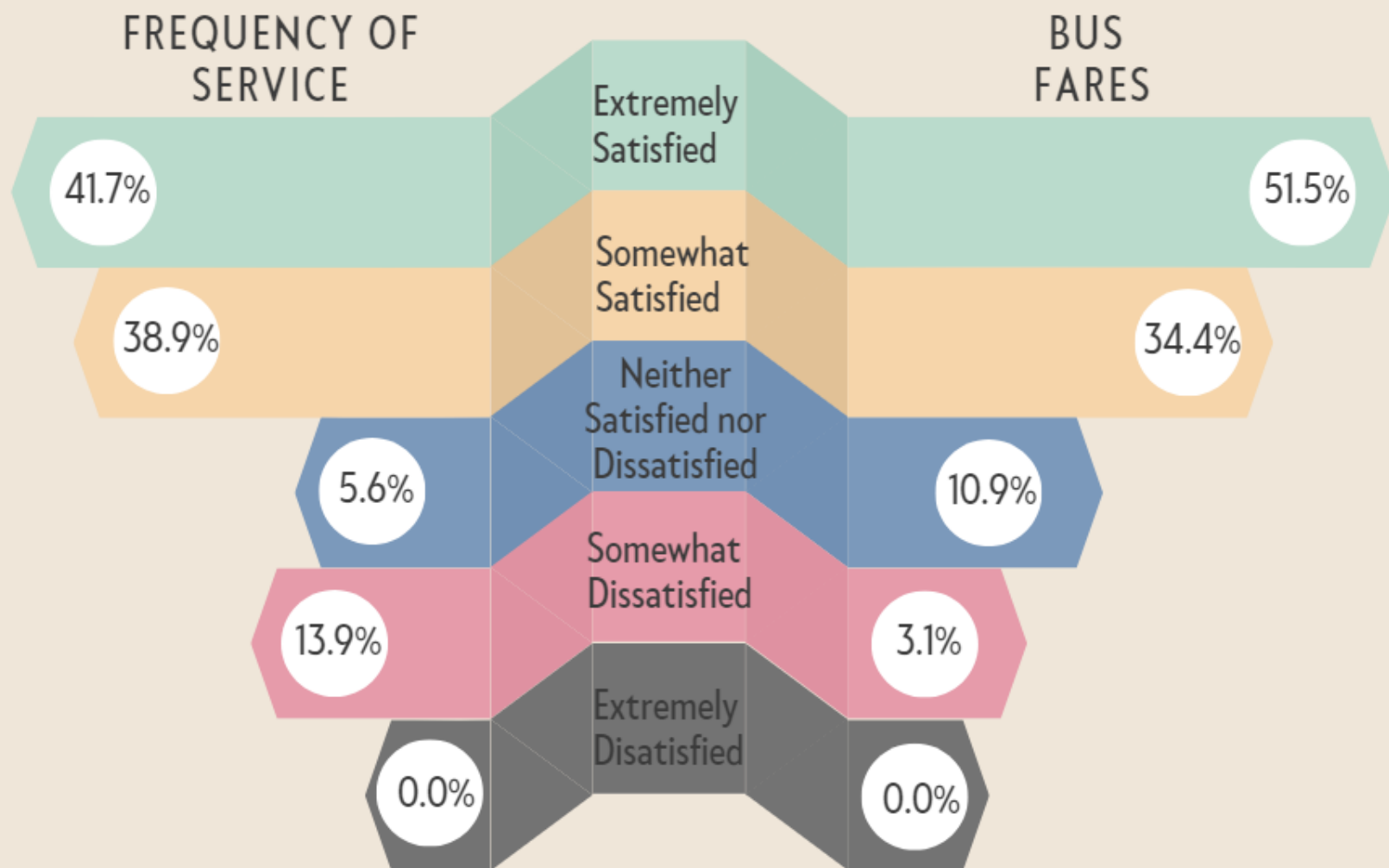
Daily

Personal vehicle (66%)
Public transportation (1.1%)
Walking or Bicycling (28.4%)
Carpooling (2.0%)
Ride-hailing (0.0%)



Satisfaction with Public Bus Service

(Survey Participants Who Use it)



Reasons for Never Using Houghton Public Transit Bus

42.9%

Stops (Locations) are not convenient

29.9%

I was not aware of the service

13.0%

Service hours are not available when I need a ride

9.1%

Service is not frequent enough

5.2%

Waiting takes too much time



Results (Section E) Sustainable Practices

Overall Improvement in Sustainable Practices within the Last 5 Years

Worse



1.0%

The Same



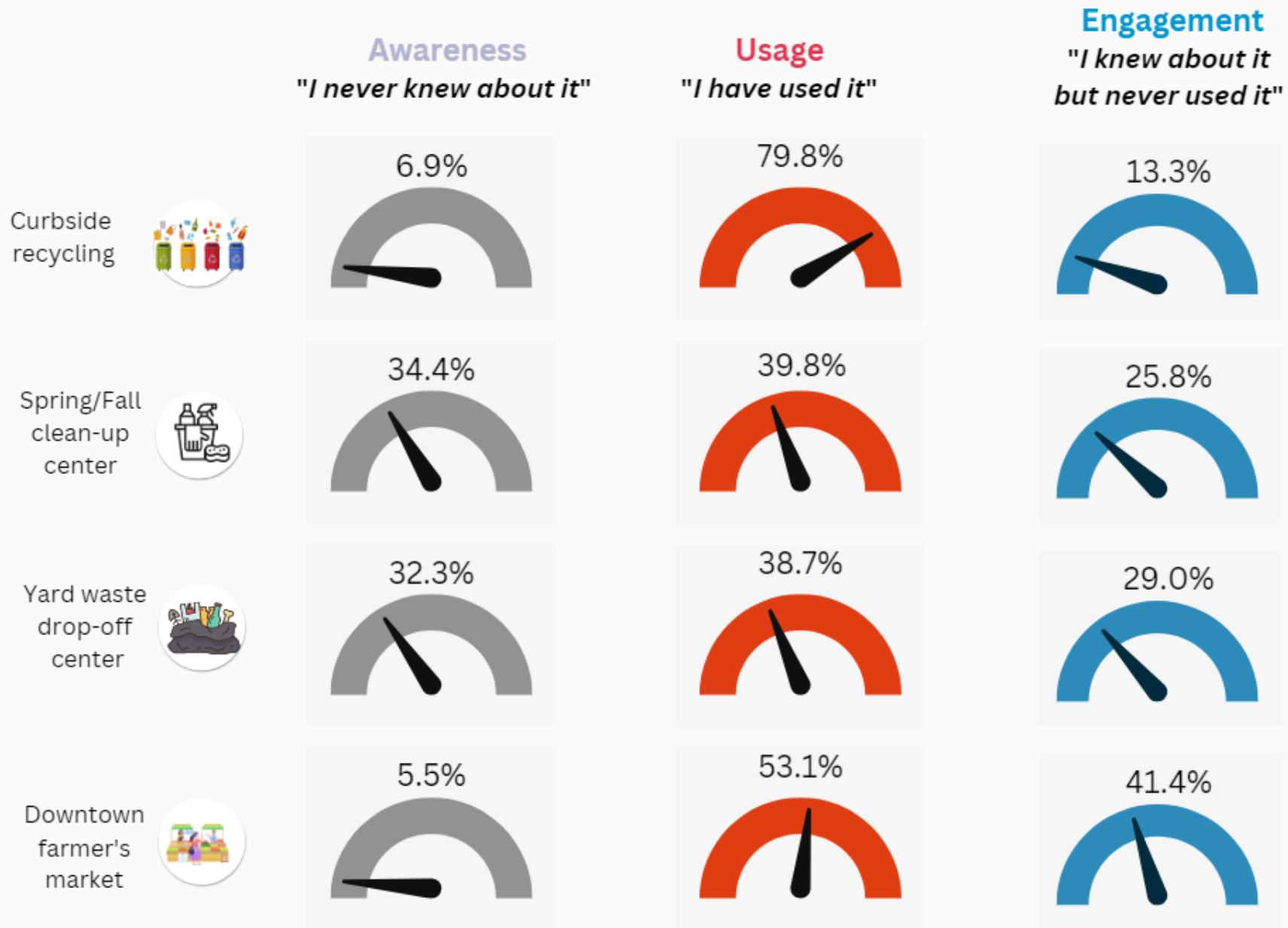
16.3%

Better

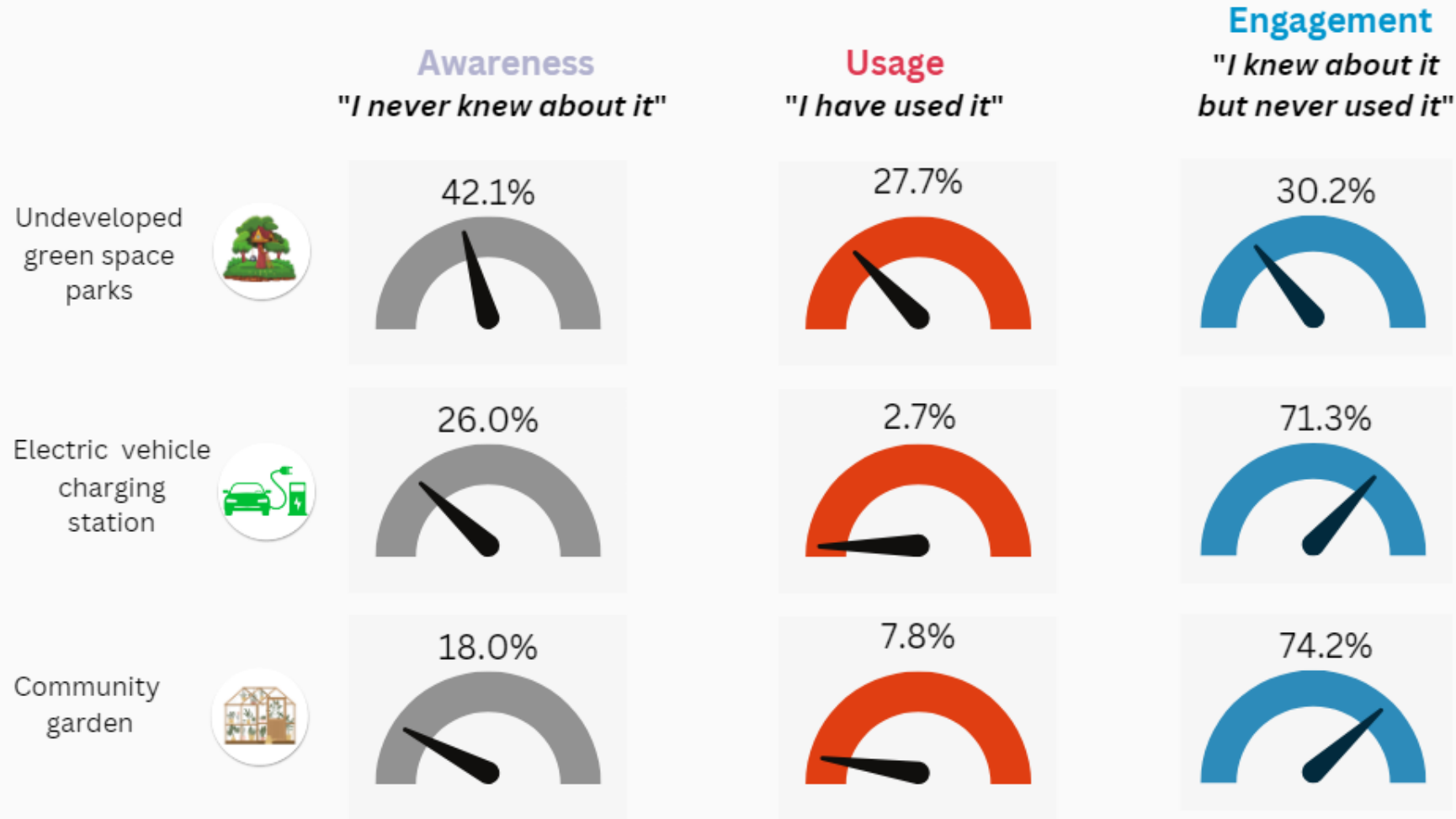


82.8%

AWARENESS, USAGE, AND ENGAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES



AWARENESS, USAGE, AND ENGAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES



Importance of Sustainable Practices

Respondents who answered either "somewhat important" or "extremely important"

Curbside recycling



89.4%

Spring/Fall clean-up center



82.8%

Yard waste drop-off center



81.6%

Downtown farmer's market



80.6%

Undeveloped greenspace parks



70.2%

Community garden



68.1%

Electric vehicle charging stations



56.9%



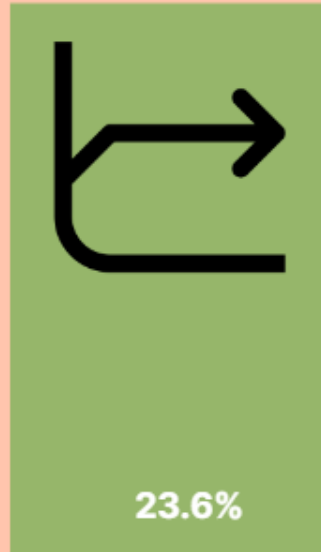
Results (Section F)
City Service

Overall Improvement in City Services within the Last 5 Years

Worse



The Same



Better



SATISFACTION WITH CITY SERVICES

Respondents who answered either "somewhat satisfied" or "extremely satisfied"

**Parking
Enforcement**
43.5%



**Public Works
Maintenance**
67.4%



**Water and Sewer
Service**
70.1%



**The Police
Department**
74.2%



**The Fire
Department**
74.9%





Results (Section G)

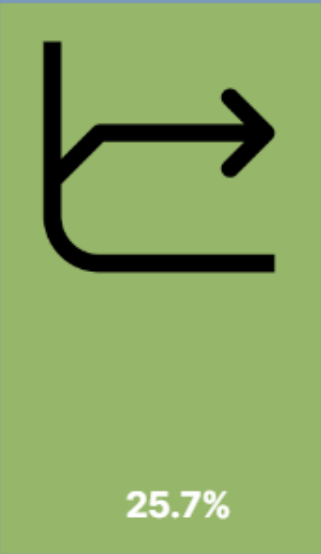
City Facilities

Overall Improvement in City Facilities within the Last 5 Years

Worse



The Same



Better



QUALITY OF CITY FACILITIES

Respondents who answered either "somewhat satisfied" or "extremely satisfied"

**Downtown Parking
Decks**
47.2%



**Public
Restrooms**
49.3%



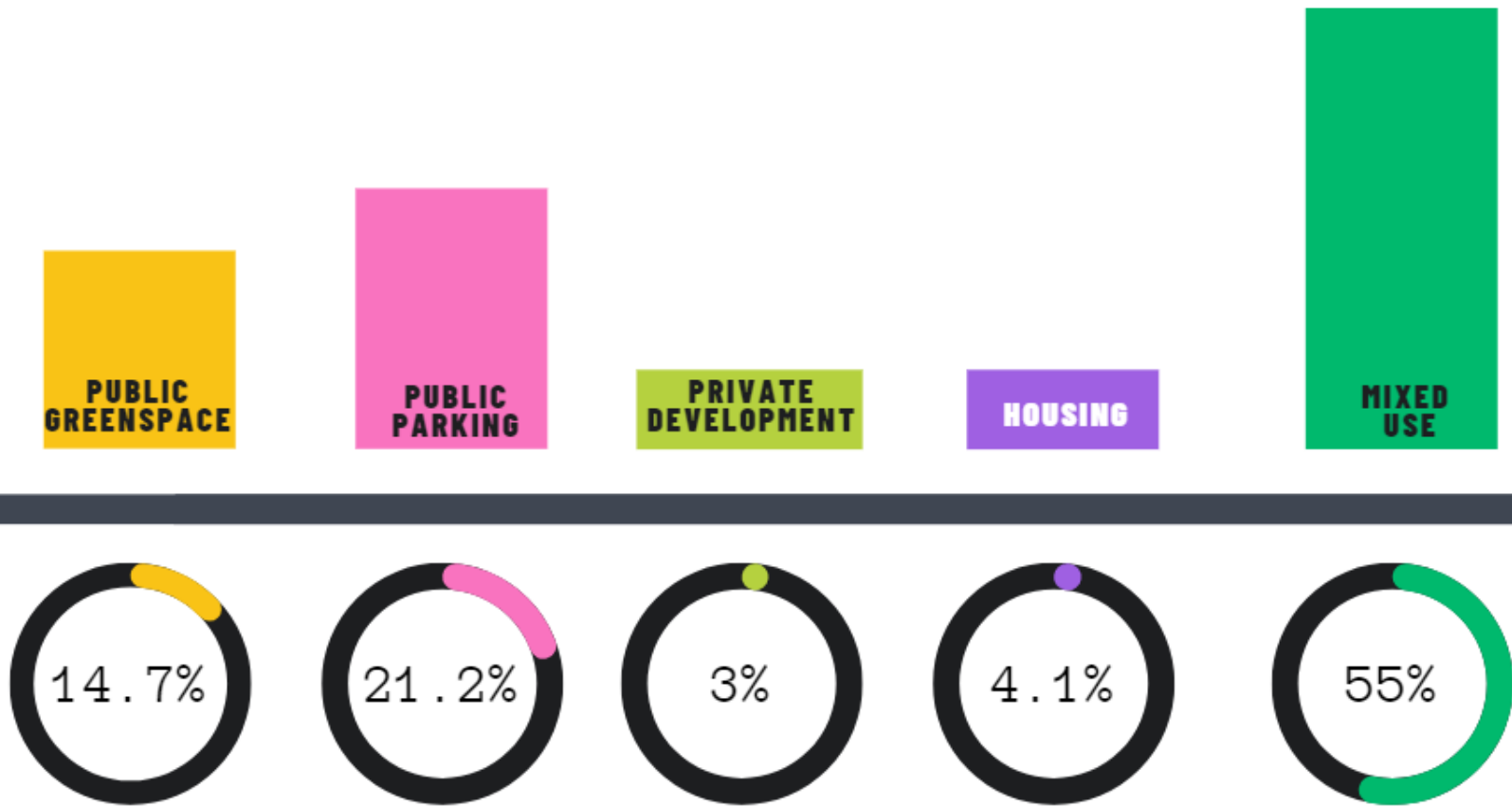
**Public
Shoreline**
79.7%





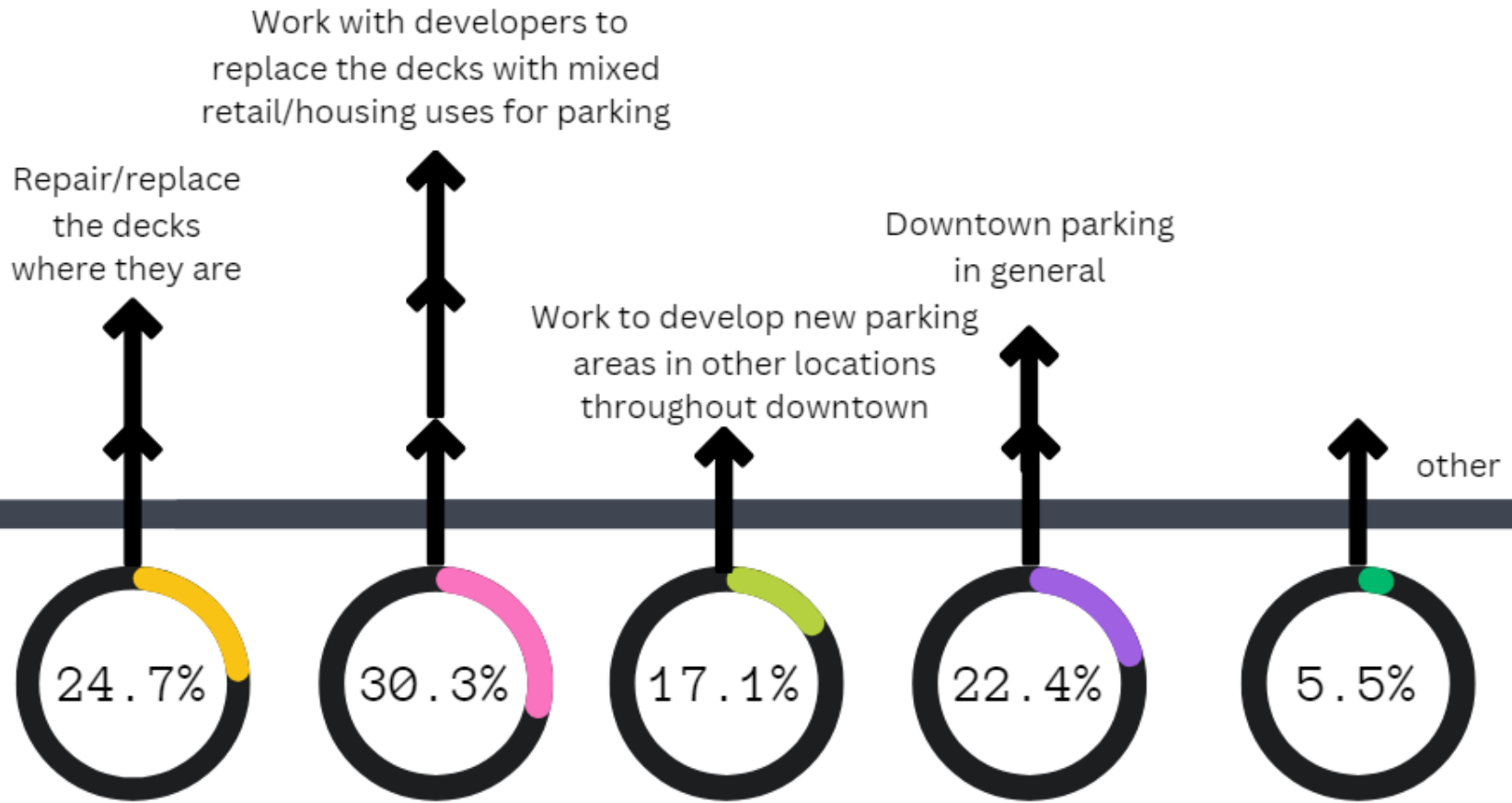
Results (Section H)
Future of Downtown Houghton

Question: After the big parking deck between the waterfront trail and Shelden Avenue is removed, the property currently occupied by the deck will be open and has opportunities for a number of uses. What do you think the best use of that property would be?



Others (2%): specific verbatims can be provided upon request

Question: As the City's downtown parking structures age, they may present opportunities for redevelopment, which could provide additional retail, business, housing, and parking opportunities within the downtown. What do you think is the most important consideration for the City in deciding how to treat the aging parking decks?



Others (5.5%): specific verbatims can be provided upon request



Results (Section I)
Suggestions for the City's Future



10 Most Popular Suggestions

Need for Dog Park

Splash Pad

Snow Removal

Playground near skatepark

Deer Signs

Keep historic look of Business

Need for retail and Dining

Accessibility

Sidewalks and roads

Enforcement of Speed Limits



4. Discussion

Q & A ? !