

Public Involvement Results

**Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham
Kickoff Phase Public Involvement Results – November 2023**

A scenic view of a rocky cliffside covered in lush green trees, overlooking a body of water. The text "Kickoff Phase Results" is overlaid in the center.

Kickoff Phase Results

Public Involvement Participation

Visioning Survey

- **Open from to July 11 through October 31**
- **Online and hard copies**
- **146 respondents**

Kickoff Open House

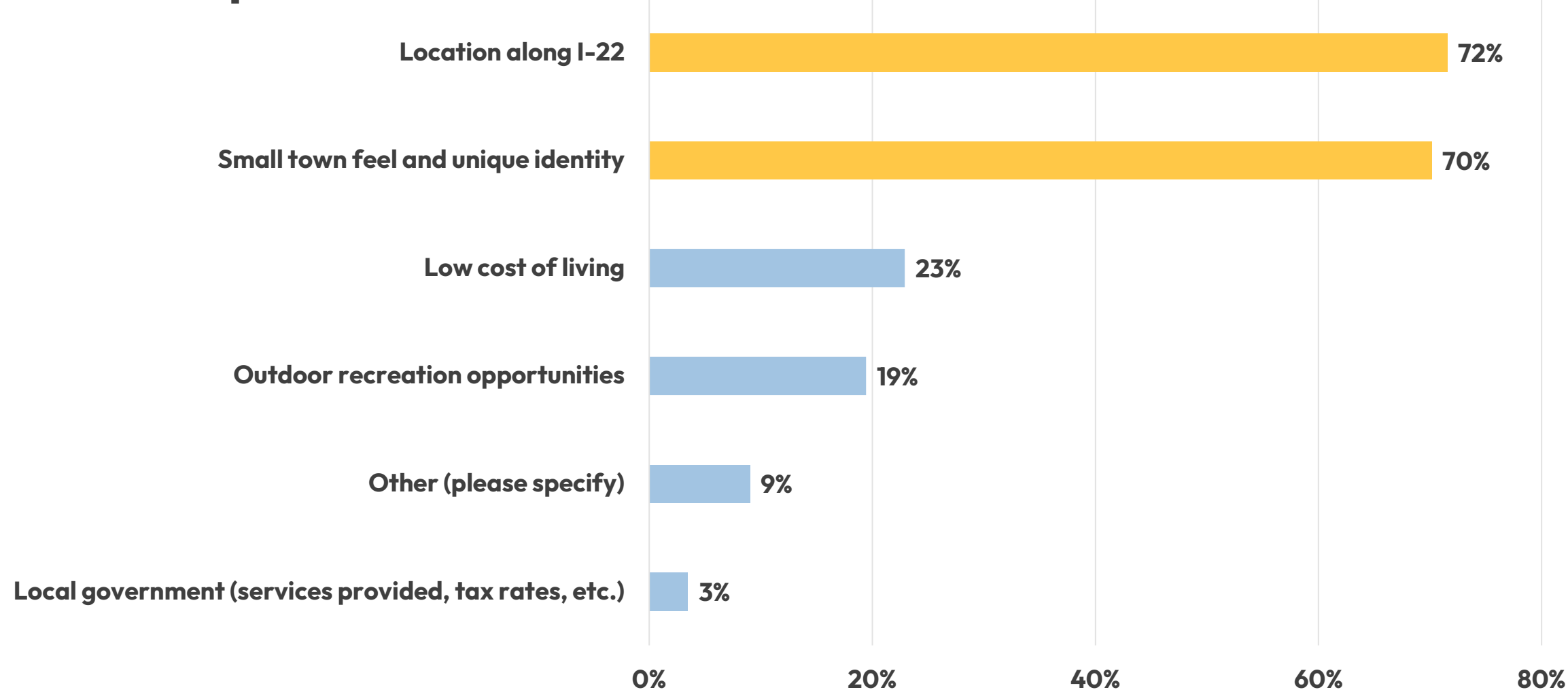
- **September 26, 2023**
- **31 attendees**

An aerial photograph showing a large body of water on the right side, with a road curving through a forested area on the left. The water is a light brownish-yellow color, and the surrounding land is covered in dense green trees. A few small structures and a boat are visible near the water's edge.

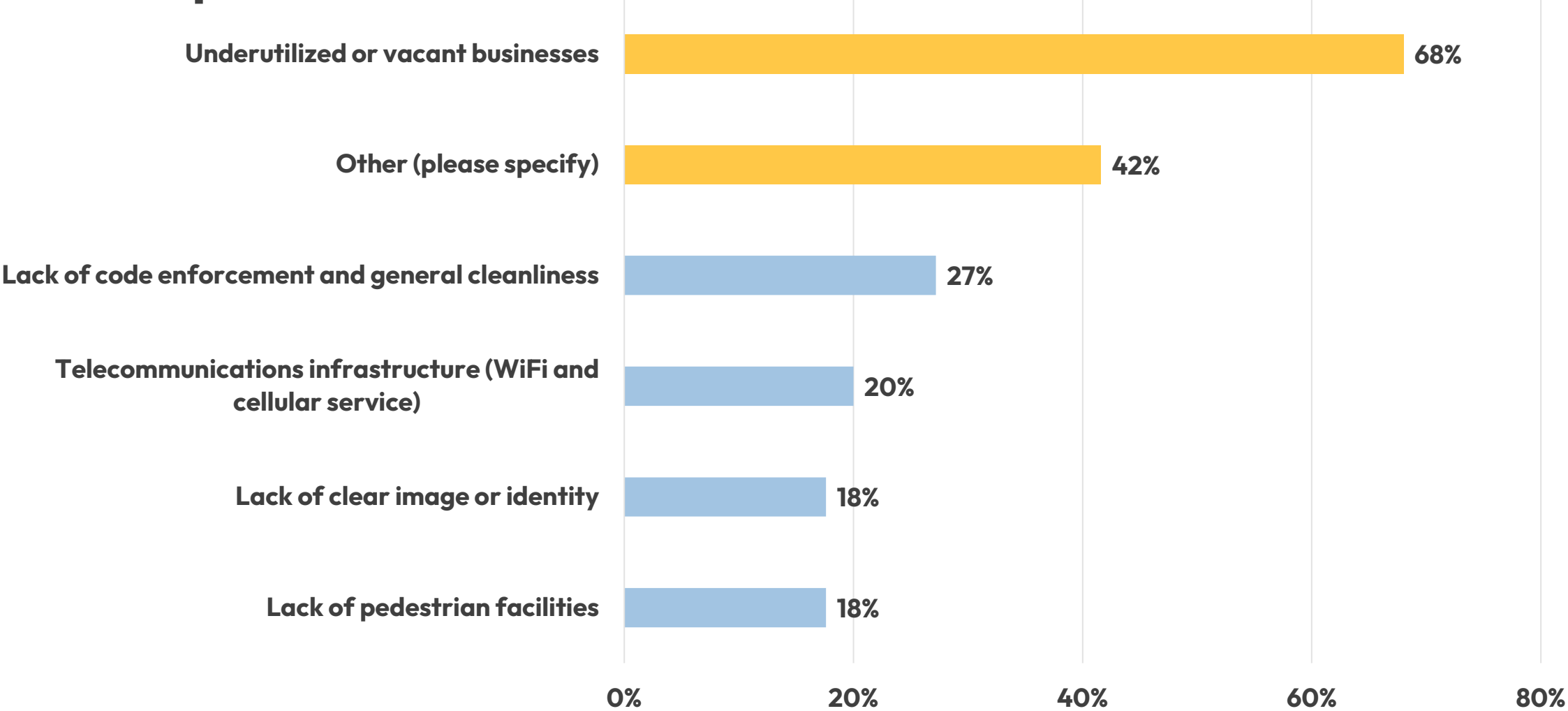
Visioning Survey Results

Open from July 11 through October 31 2023

Q1: What do you consider to be Cordova's top 2 strengths? (Choose up to 2)



Q2: What do you consider to be Cordova's top 2 weaknesses? (Choose up to 2)



Q2: What do you consider to be Cordova's top 2 weaknesses?

“Other” responses included:

- Lack of businesses
- Lack of housing choices
- Road conditions
- Not annexing to I-22

Q3: How should Cordova address these issues?

- Code enforcement
 - Condemn/demolish dilapidated structures
- Attract new businesses
 - Frequent mentions of I-22 here
- Downtown redevelopment
- Annexation
 - Some mentions of I-22 here
- Build new homes

Q4: Where do you think future development should be directed in Cordova?

- Toward I-22 (both exits)
- Downtown / Main Street / business district
- Around the river
- Longview area
- Indian Head property

Q5: What areas in Cordova should be protected from development?

- Around waterways / natural resources
- Historic properties
- Residential areas

Q6: Based on your experience, what is working well or not working well regarding the Town's zoning and subdivision regulations? What needs to change?

- Code enforcement / lack of enforcement
- Manufactured homes (both for and against, discussion of sizes)
- Tiny homes (for)

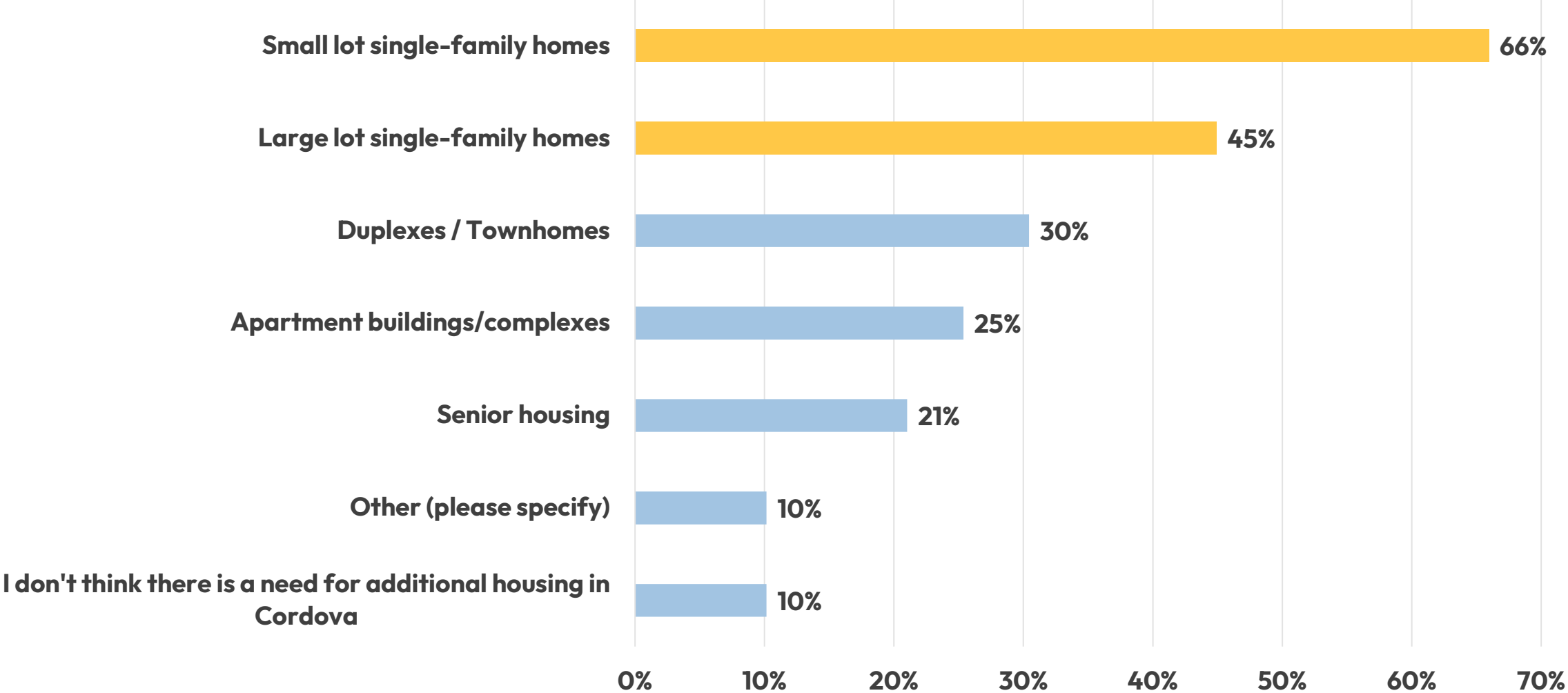
Q7: What types of businesses and/or additional services and amenities do you think are needed in Cordova?

- Restaurants
- Pharmacy
- Small business retail, e.g., hardware store, boutique
- Personal service, e.g., salon
- Social services, e.g., substance counseling, job training, tutoring
- Library

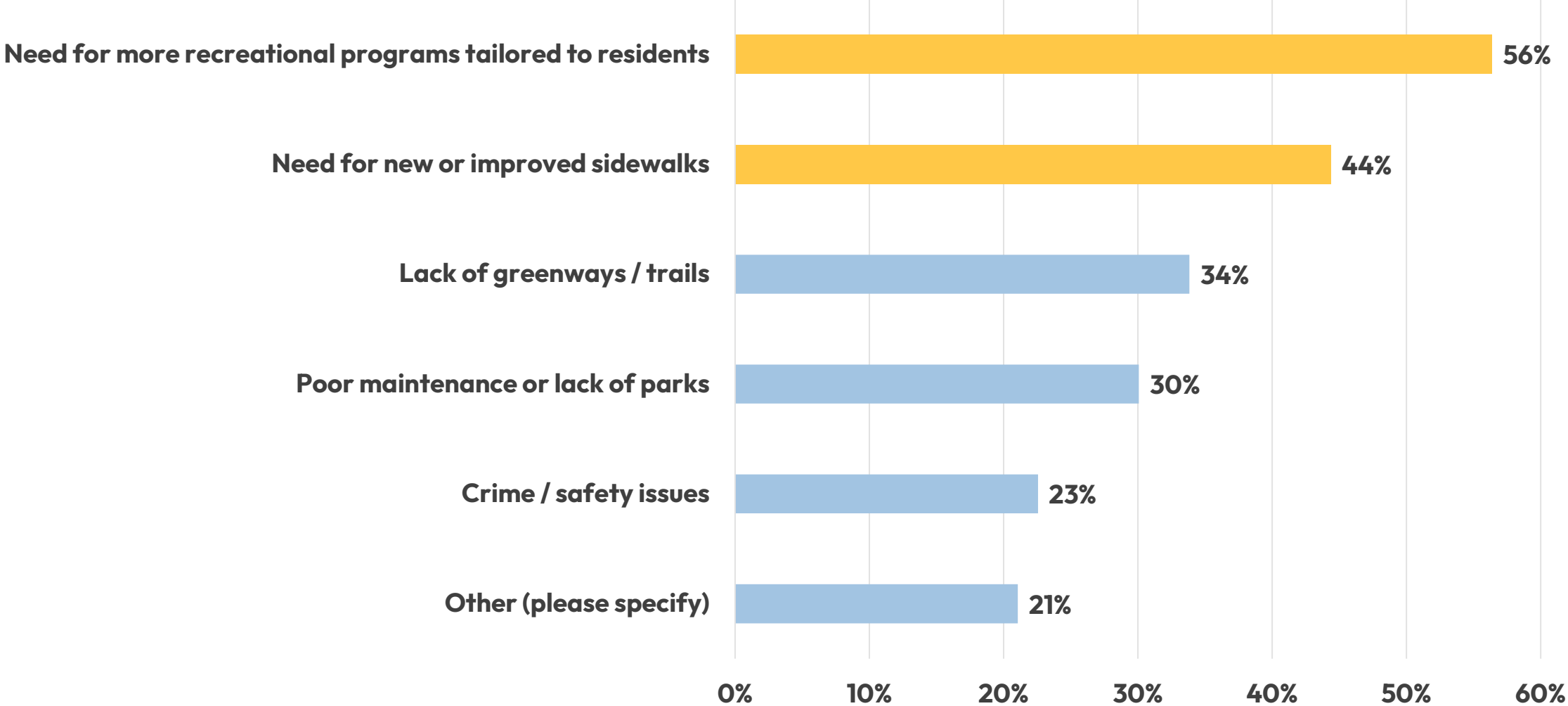
Q8: The Comprehensive Plan will include catalytic project ideas for the downtown area of Cordova. What ideas do you have for the future development and redevelopment of the downtown area?

- Beautification, e.g., plantings and street furniture (lamp posts)
- Walkability
- Entertainment and shopping
 - Family friendly options
- Housing, including apartments
- Focus on I-22 exits

Q9: Which of the following housing types are most needed in Cordova? (Choose all that apply)



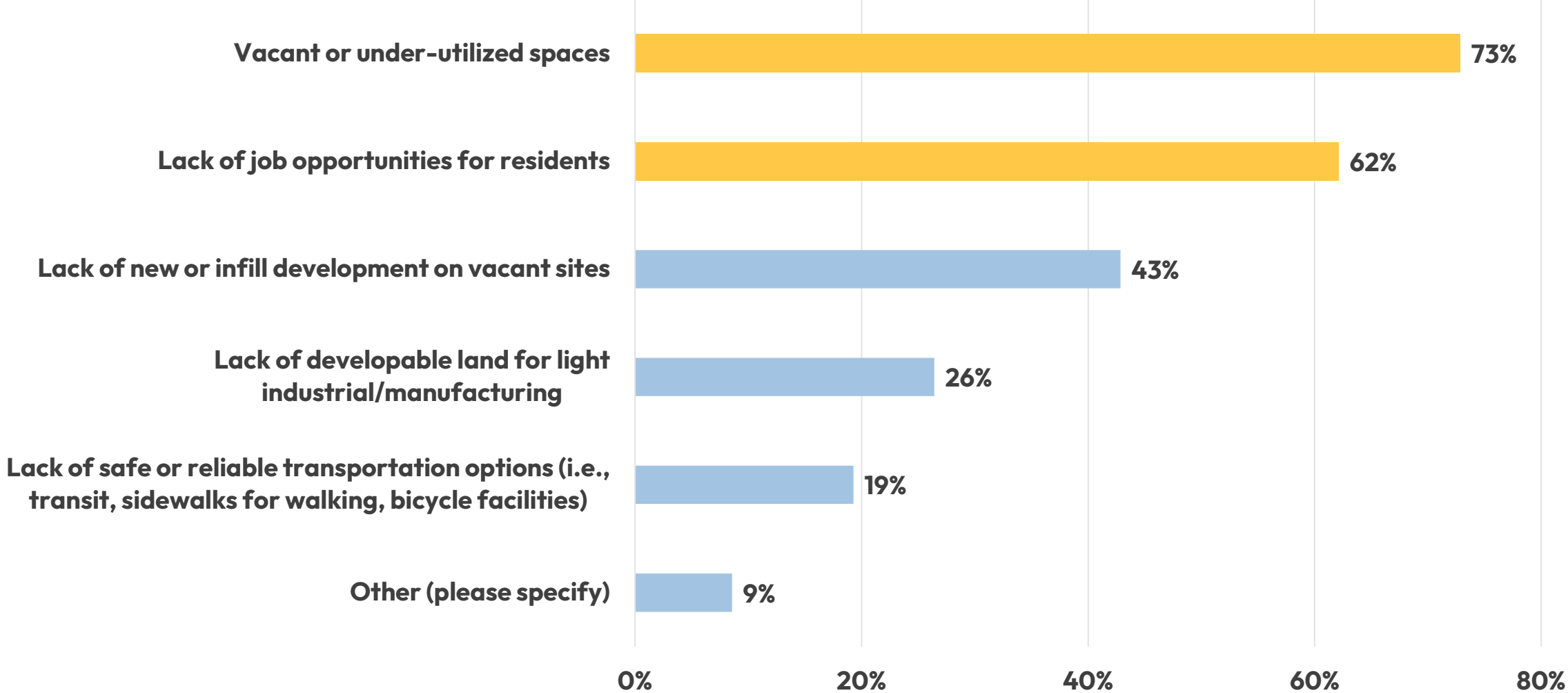
Q10: What do you feel are the biggest barriers to recreational opportunities in Cordova? (Choose all that apply)



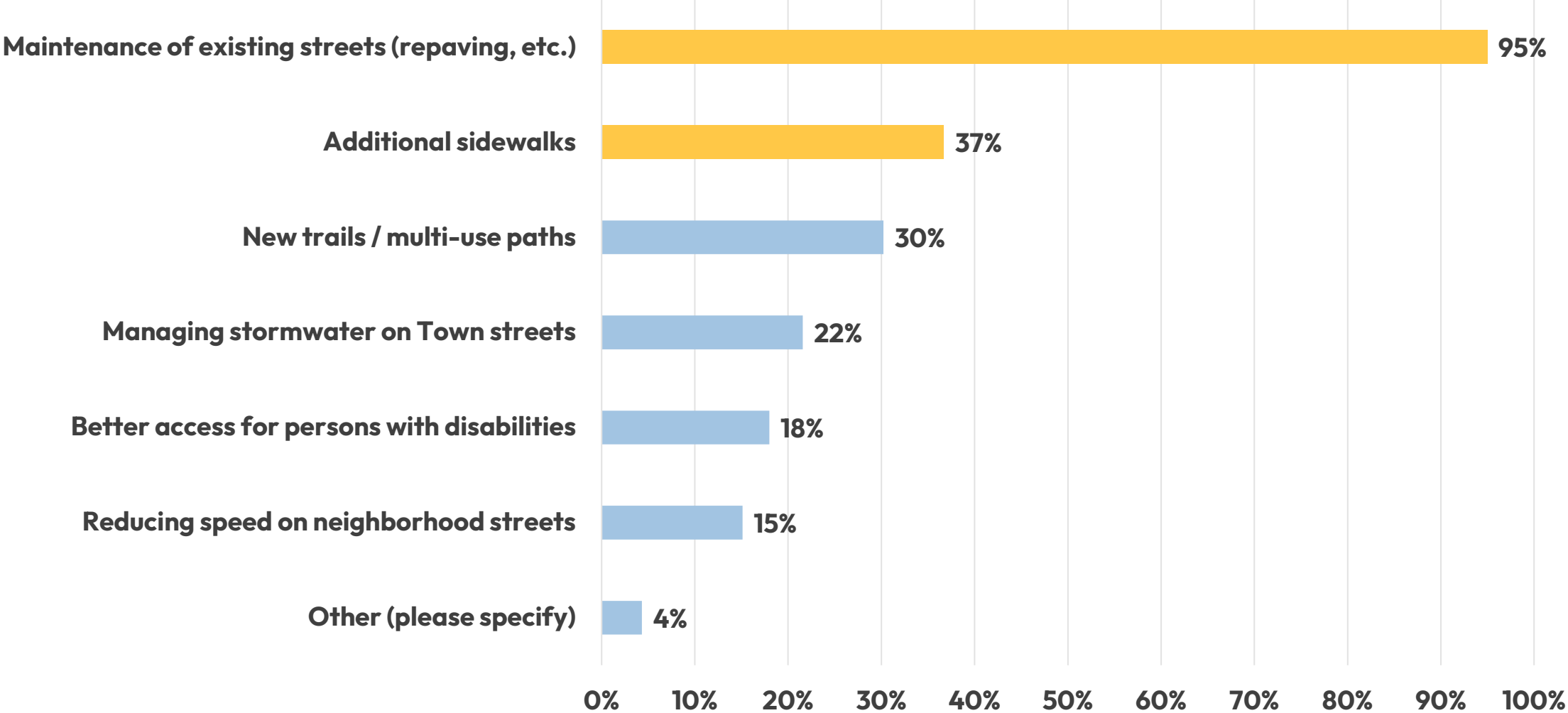
Q11: Are there any specific improvements or changes you would like to see at city-owned parks? Please be specific and reference the park name you have an idea for.

- General maintenance at all parks
- Shade at all parks
- Desire for splash pad
- Accessibility
- Indian Head Mill Park:
 - Upgrade restrooms and walking track
 - Expand lighting and concession stand
- Reservoir Park:
 - Seating and lights needed
- Blueway:
 - Better advertising and more events

Q12: What do you feel are the biggest challenges to economic development in Cordova? (Choose top 2)



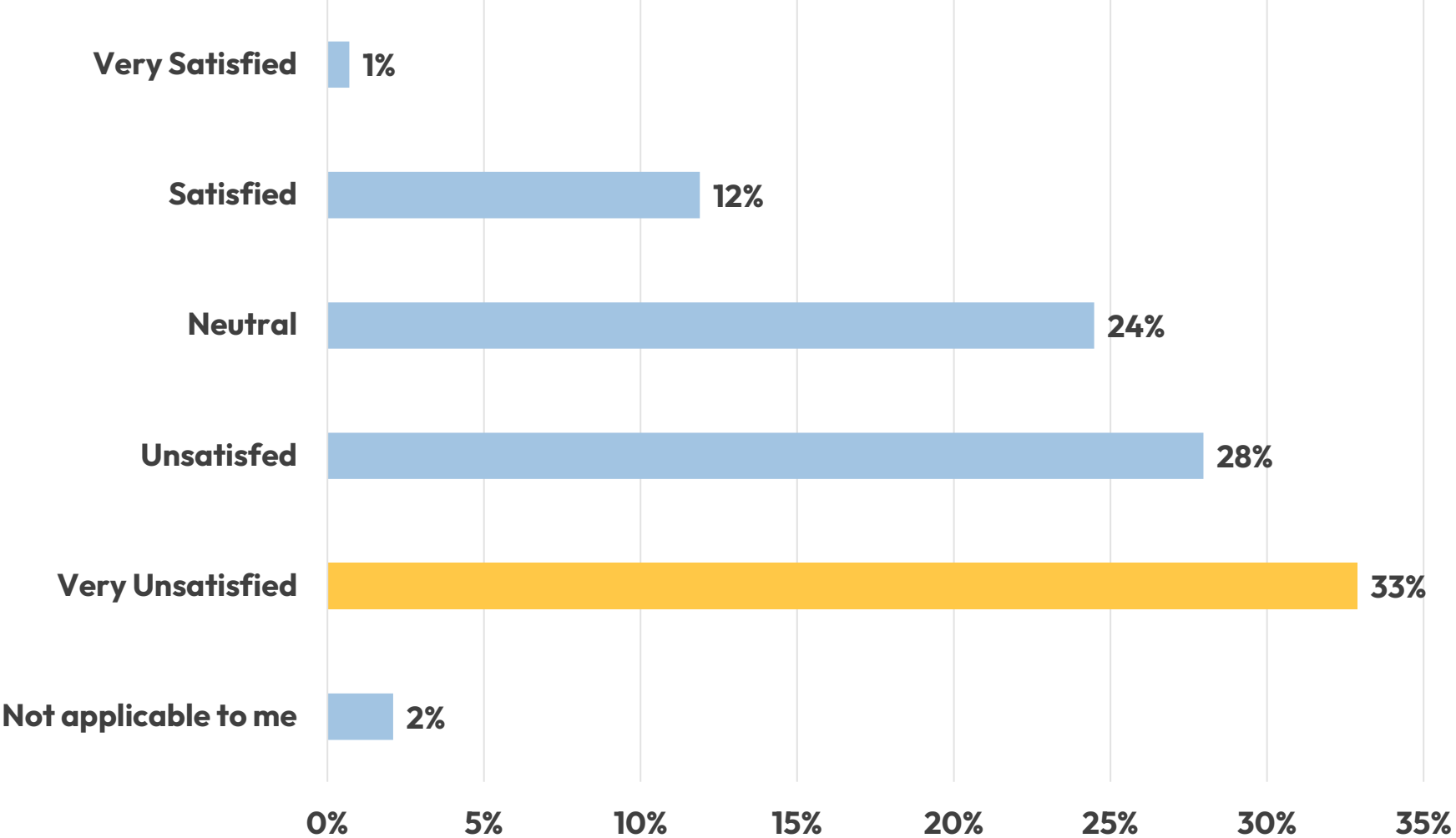
Q13: What should be the community's highest priority transportation investments? (Choose all that apply)



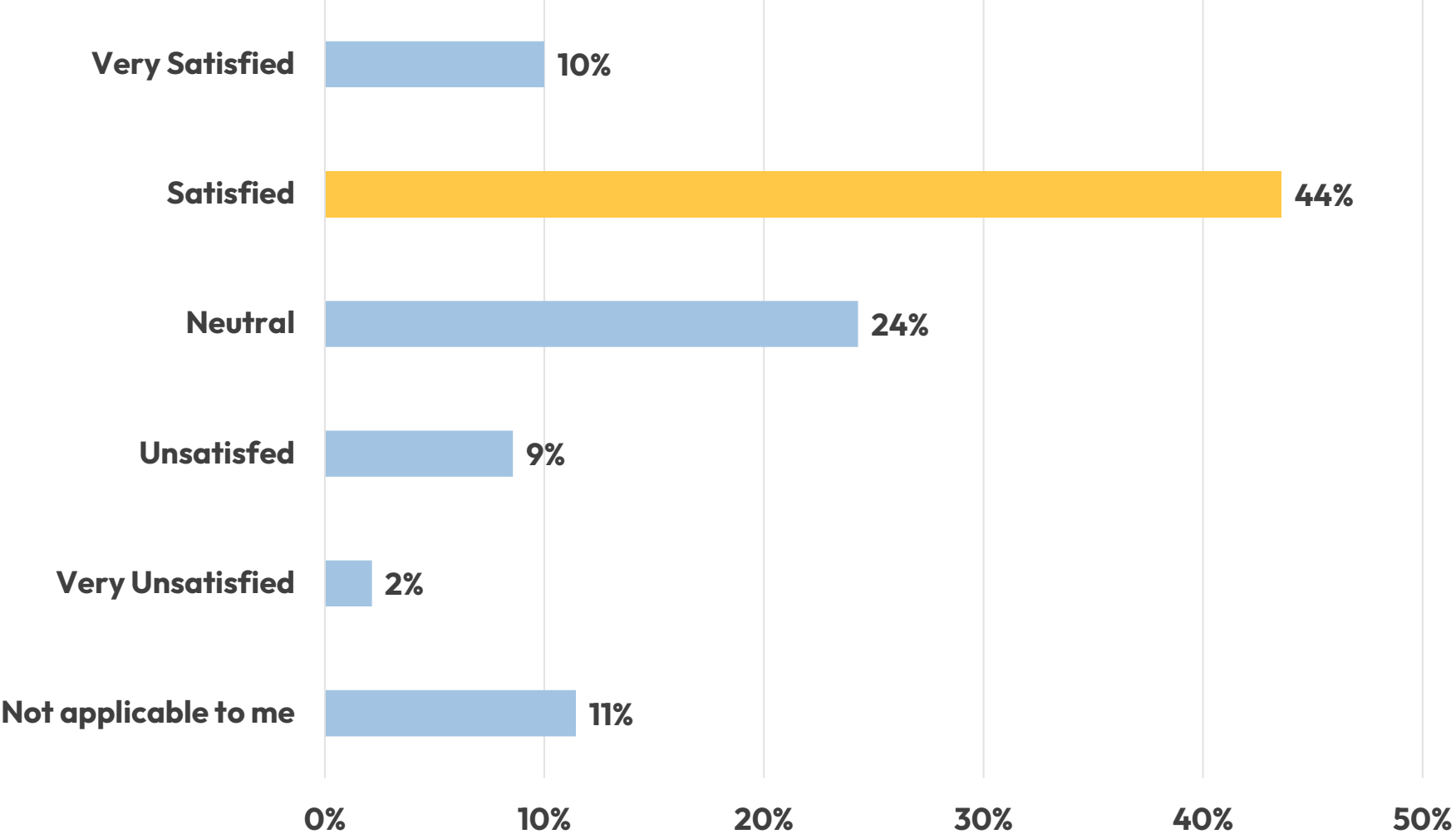
Q14: Which roads in Cordova, if any, need repairs and/or upgrades? Please be specific on the type of repair needed.

- Roads around schools and senior apartments
- Green Ave
- Moseley St / Brewer St
- Highland St
- Hill St
- Stewart St
- Massachusetts Ave / Gardners Gin Rd
- McCrory St
- Walker County roads:
 - Cordova-Gorgas Rd

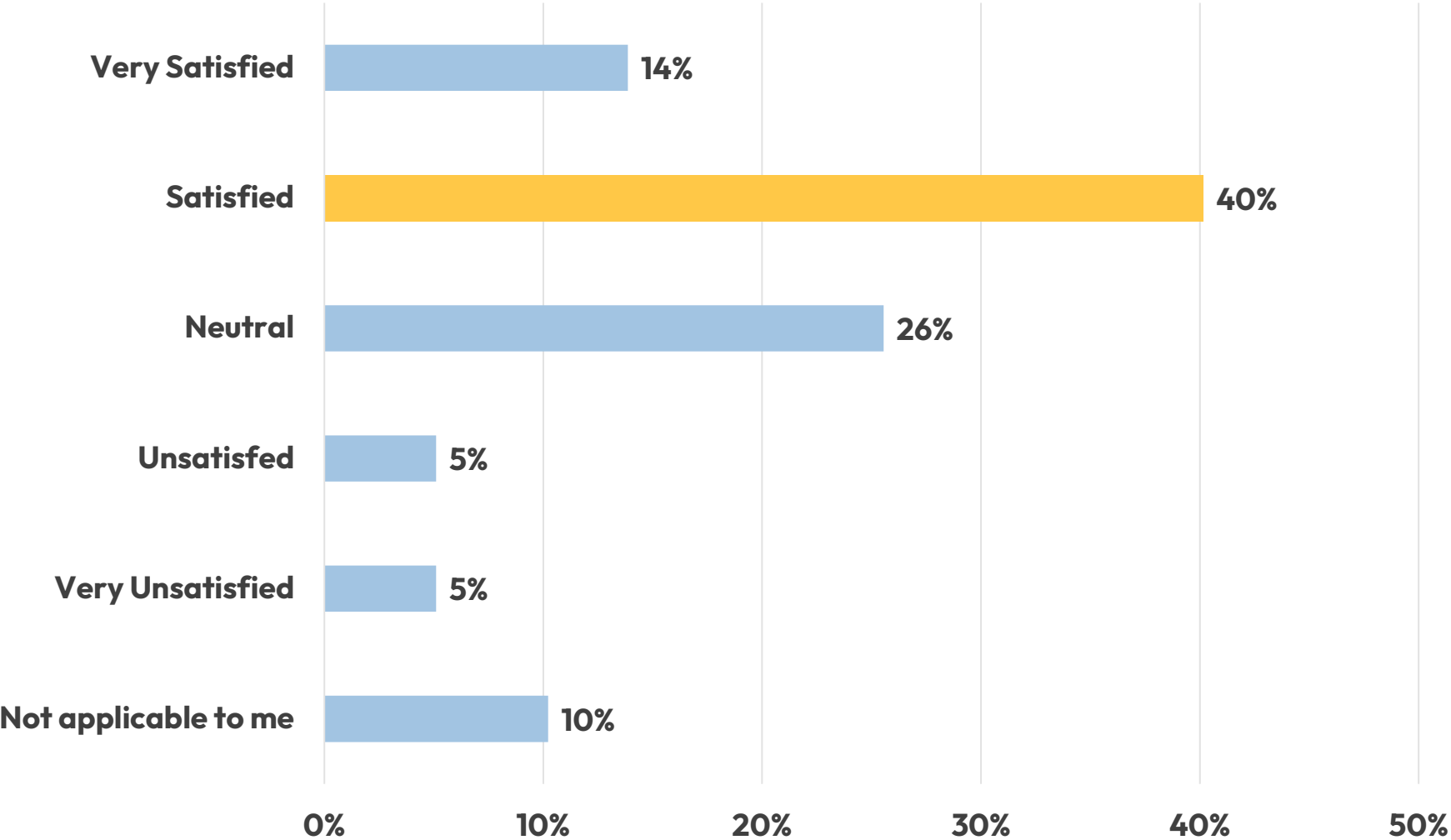
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Maintenance of local roads (potholes, paving, sidewalks)



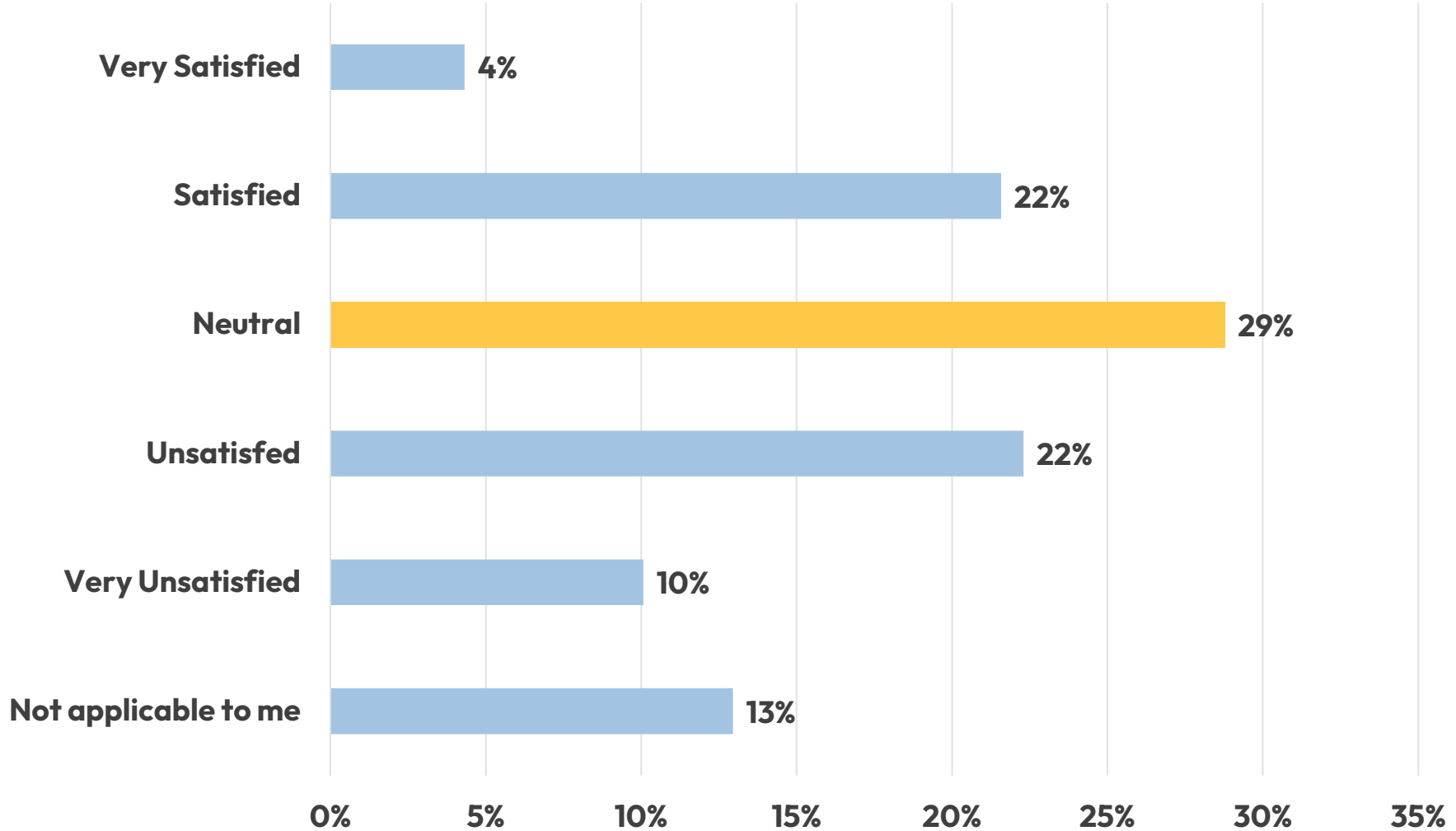
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Sanitation Department (trash and debris)



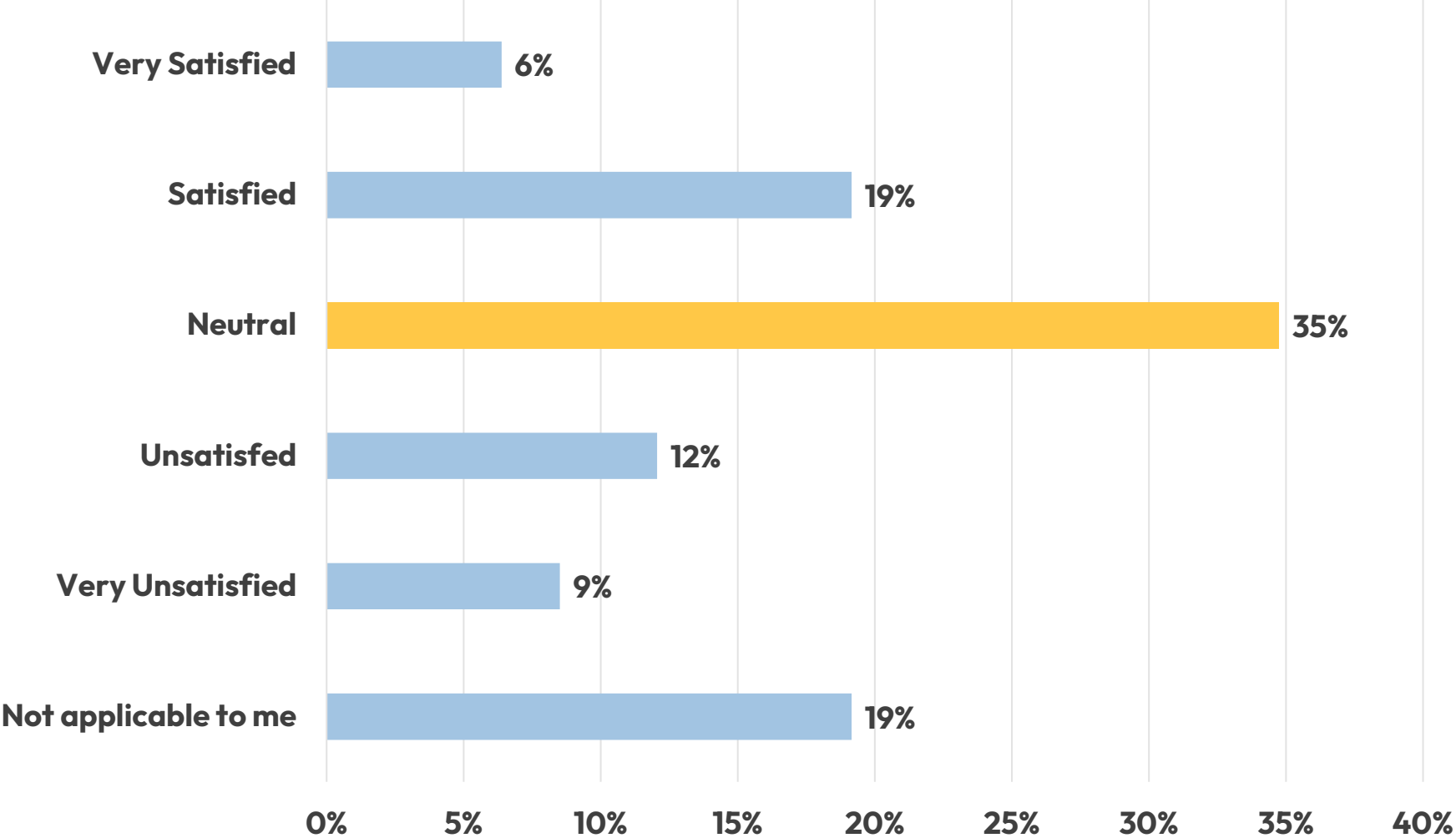
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Public Works Department



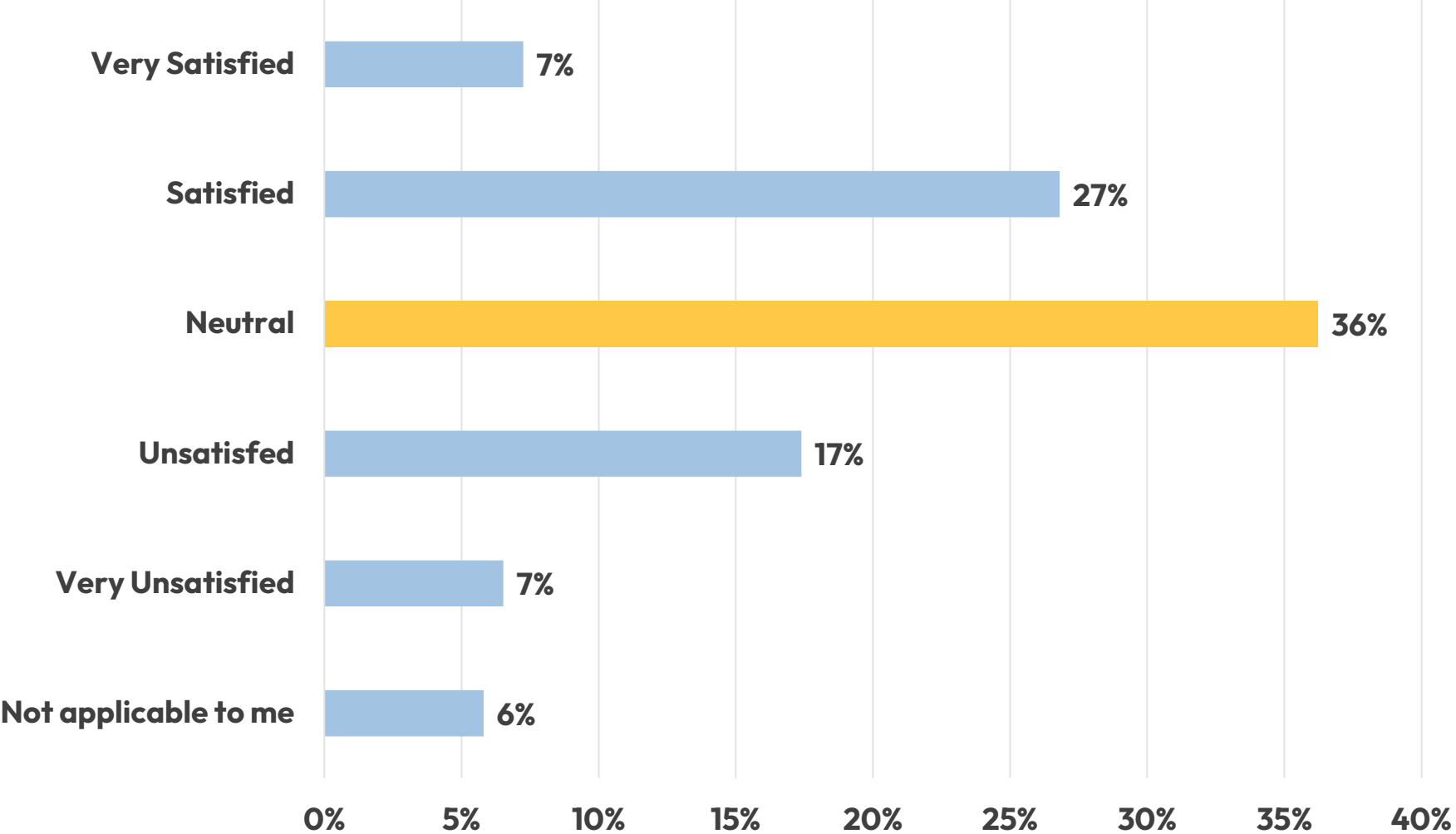
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Property code enforcement



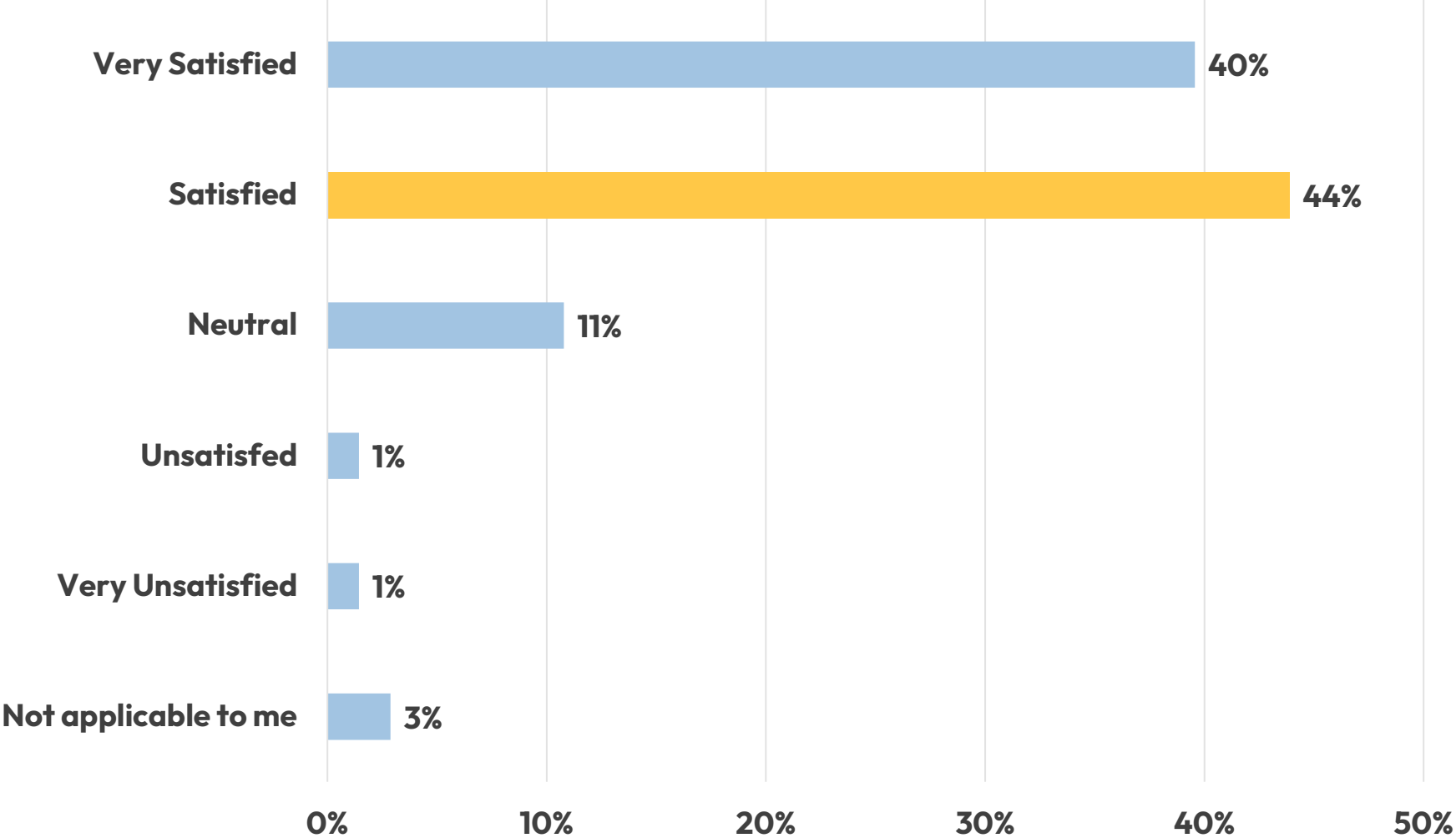
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Responsiveness by the Town to formal complaints



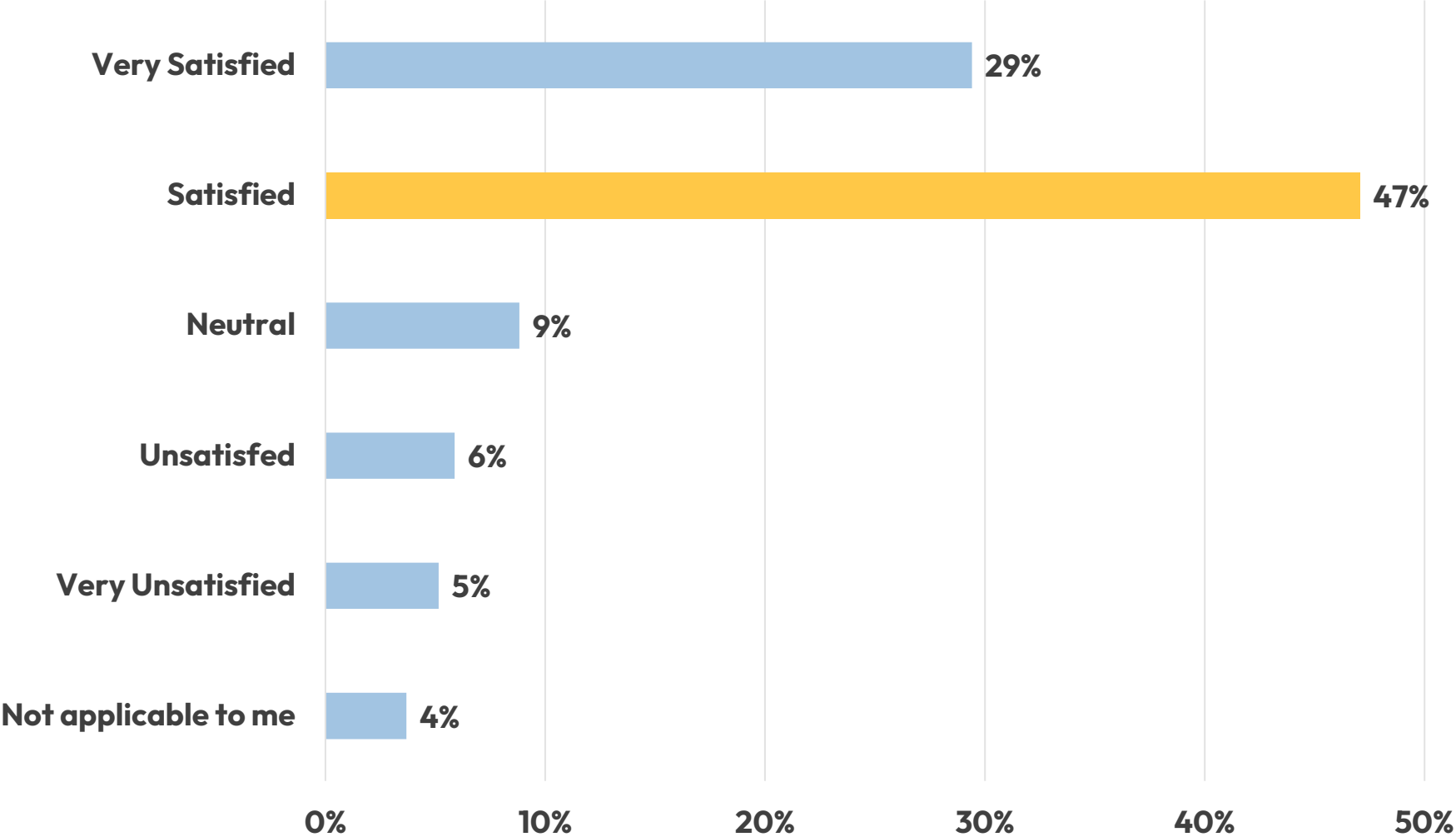
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Public facilities



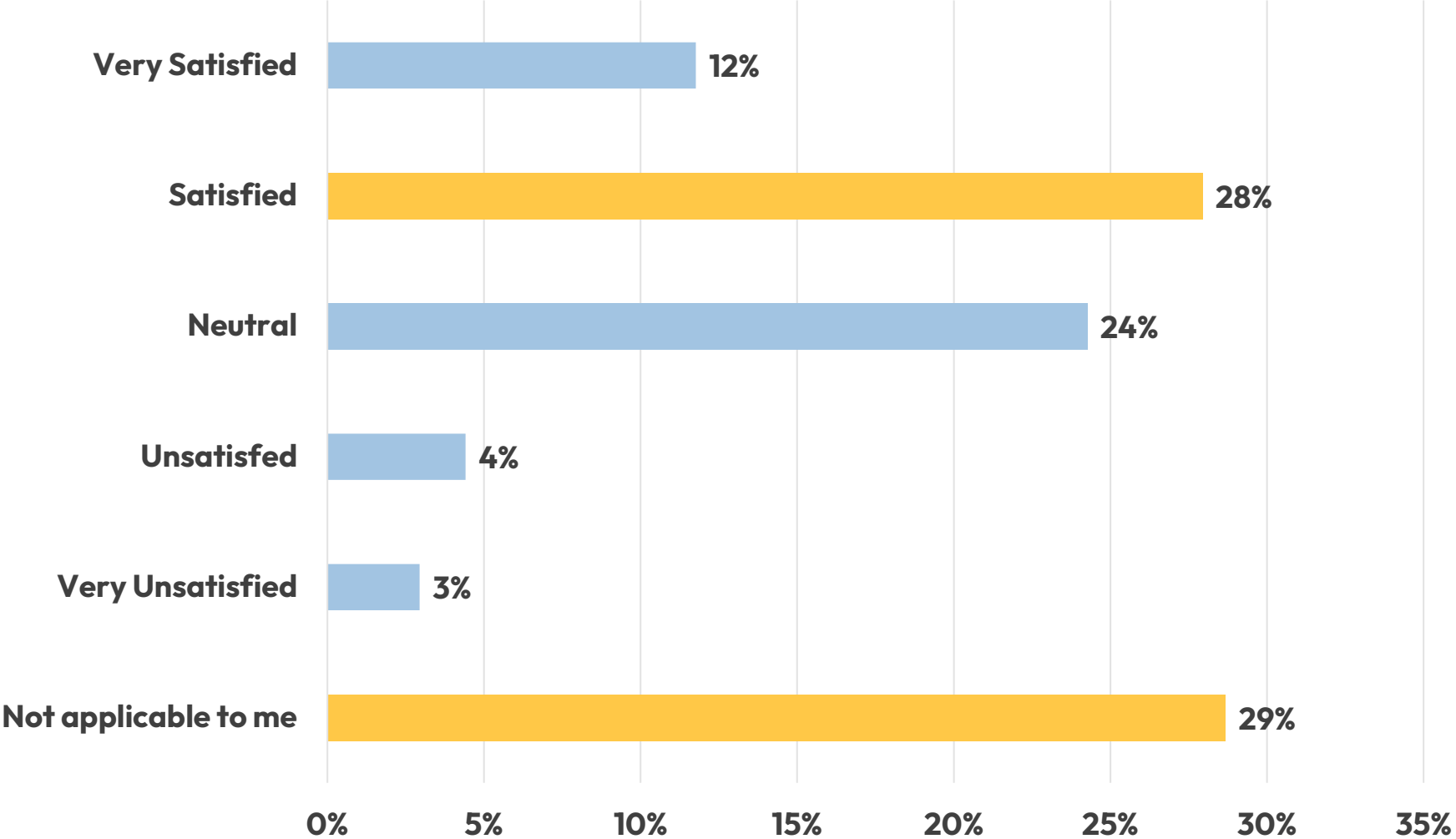
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Fire Department



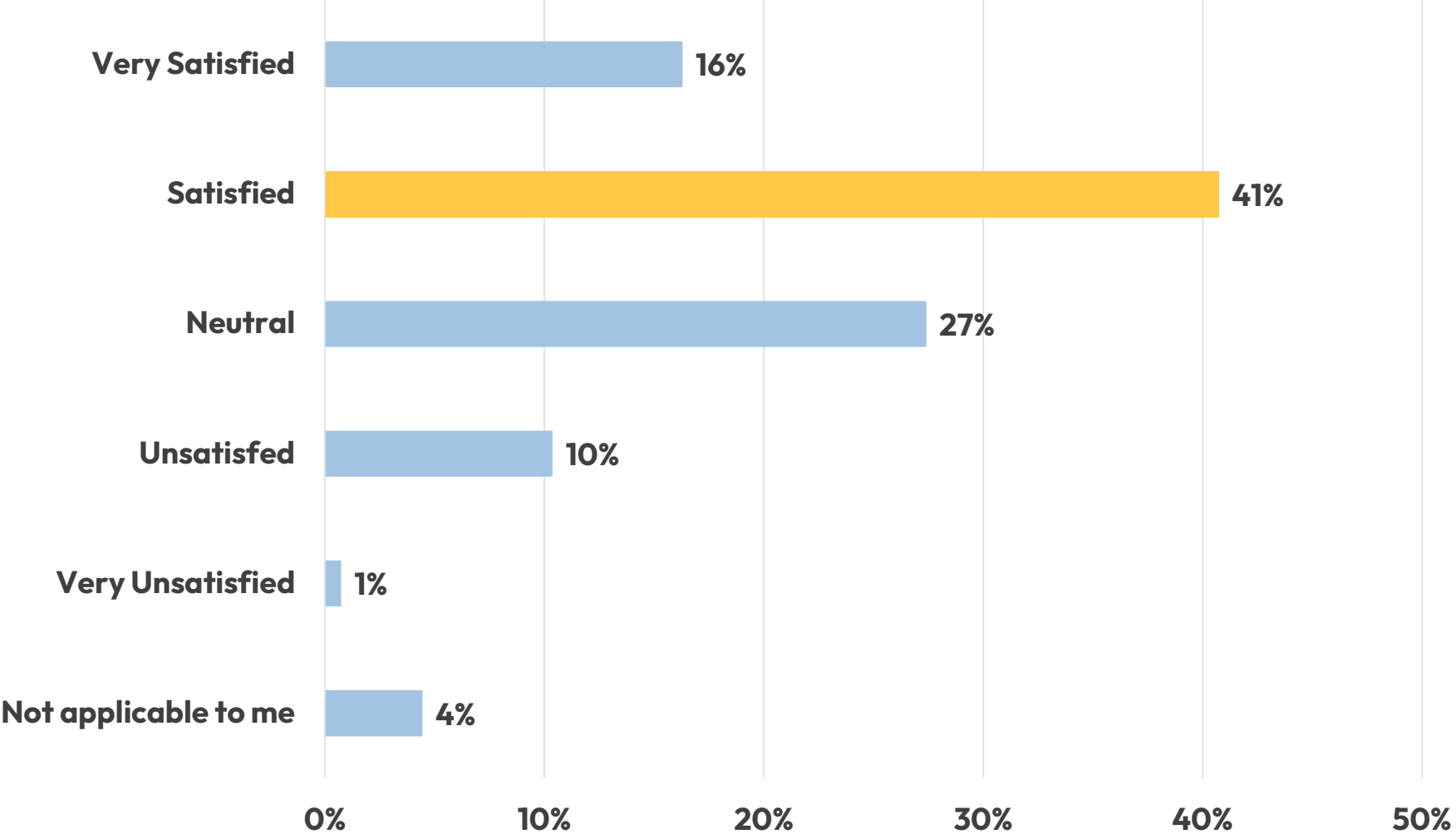
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Police Department



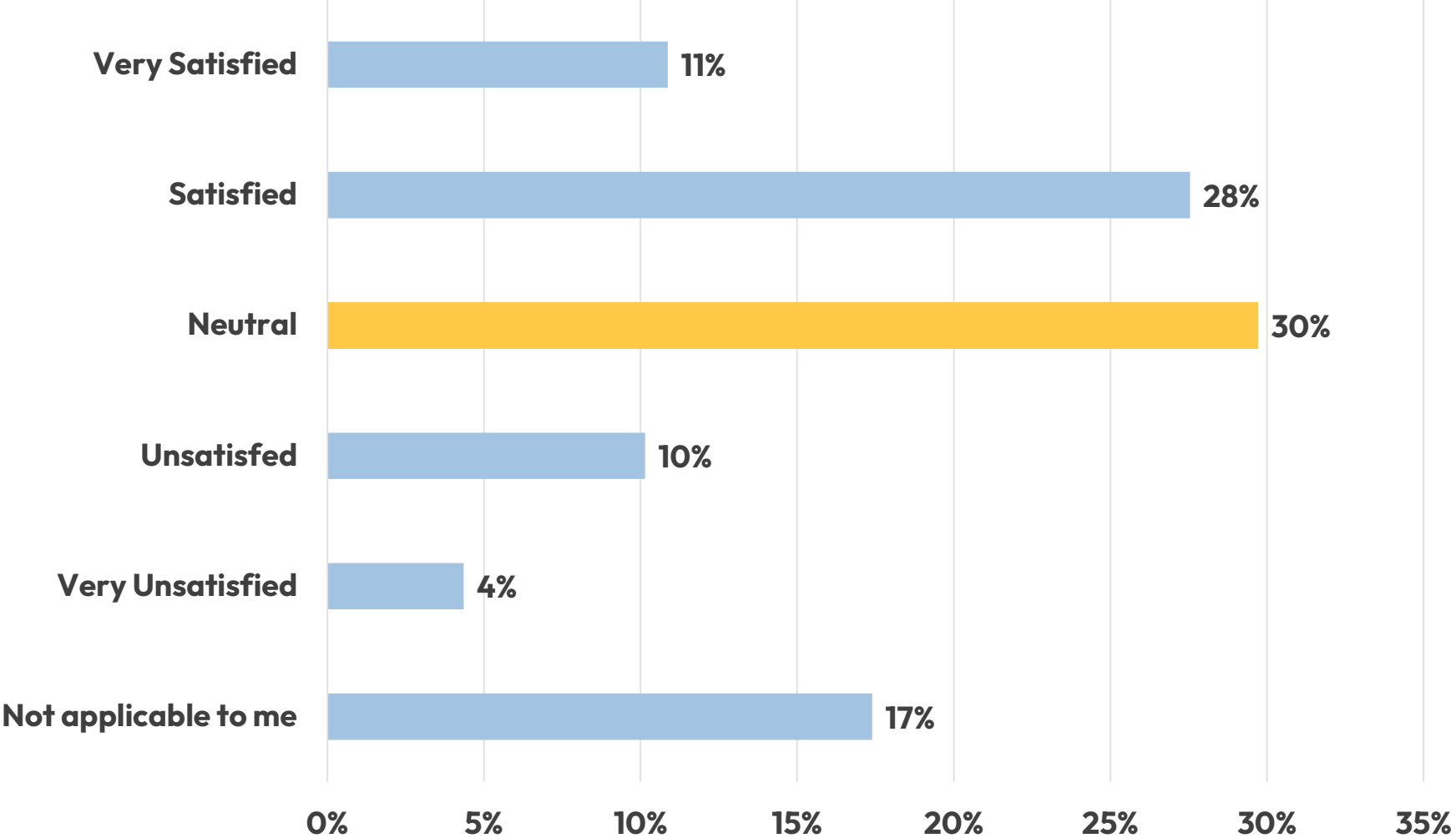
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Cordova Municipal Court



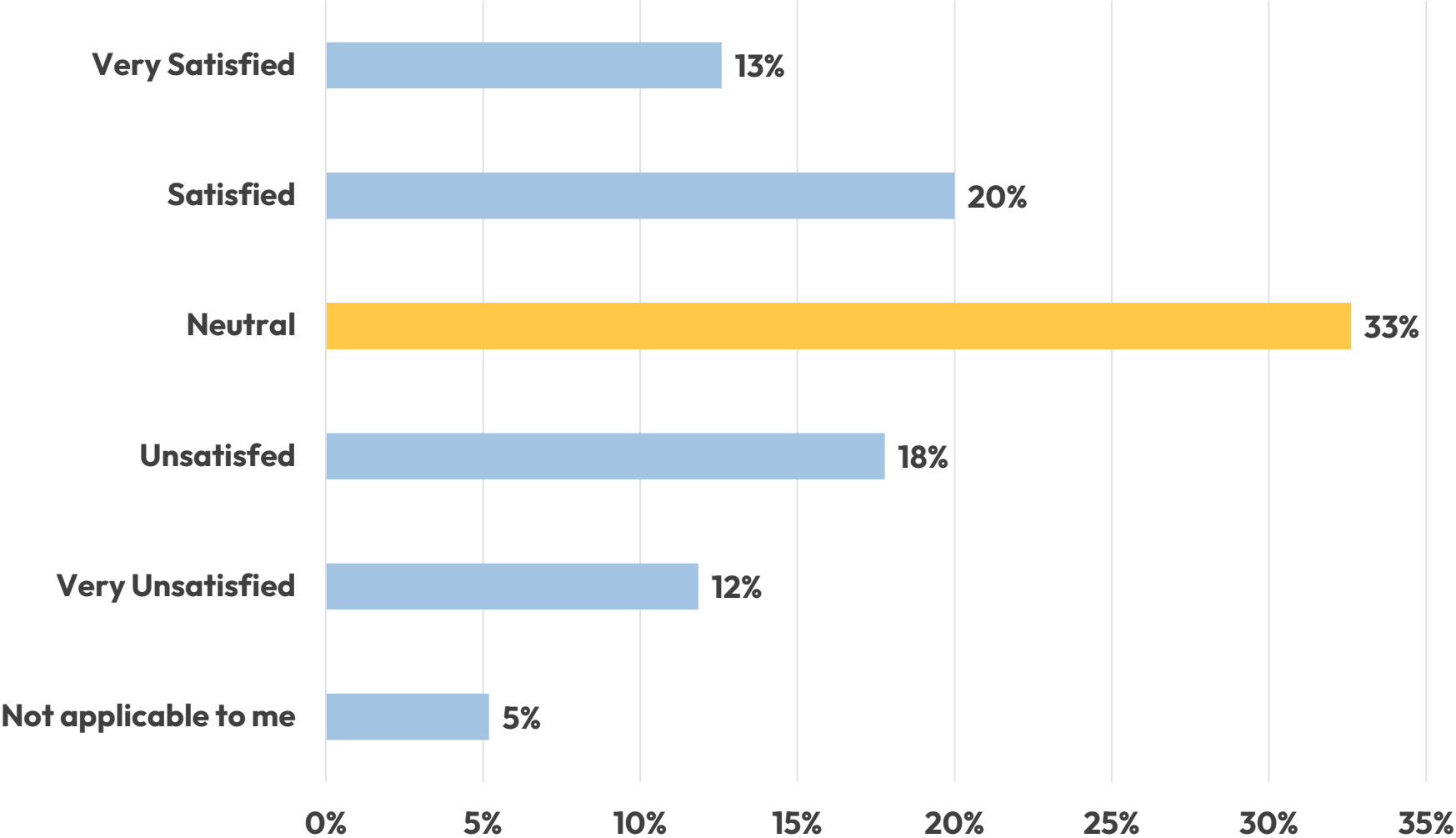
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Parks and Recreation Department



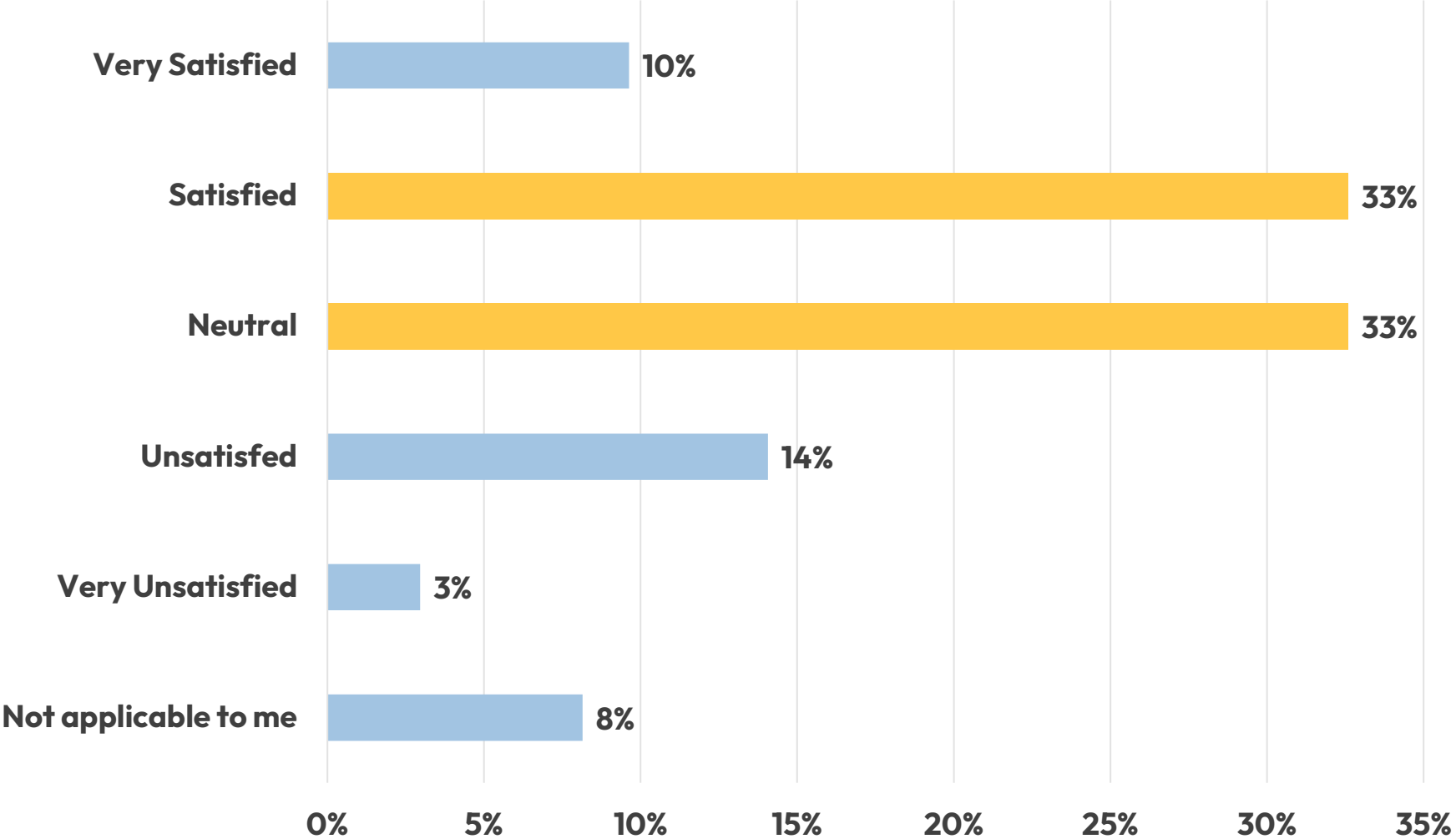
Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Senior and children's programs



Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Economic Development Department



Q15: Please rate your satisfaction with the following public services: Town website / E-services



Q16: Please feel free to elaborate on your satisfaction with public services here:

- Room for improvement:
 - Street maintenance desired
 - Code enforcement
 - Roadside cleanliness, e.g., debris
 - Online presence (praised, but more desired)
 - Too much focus on sports
- High marks:
 - Fire Department
 - Indian Head Mill Park

Q17: Are there any additional public services you would like to see in Cordova?

- Childcare
- Senior services
- Parks and Rec Department expansion
- Library
- Animal control
- EV charging
- Improved internet
- Food bank
- Community garden

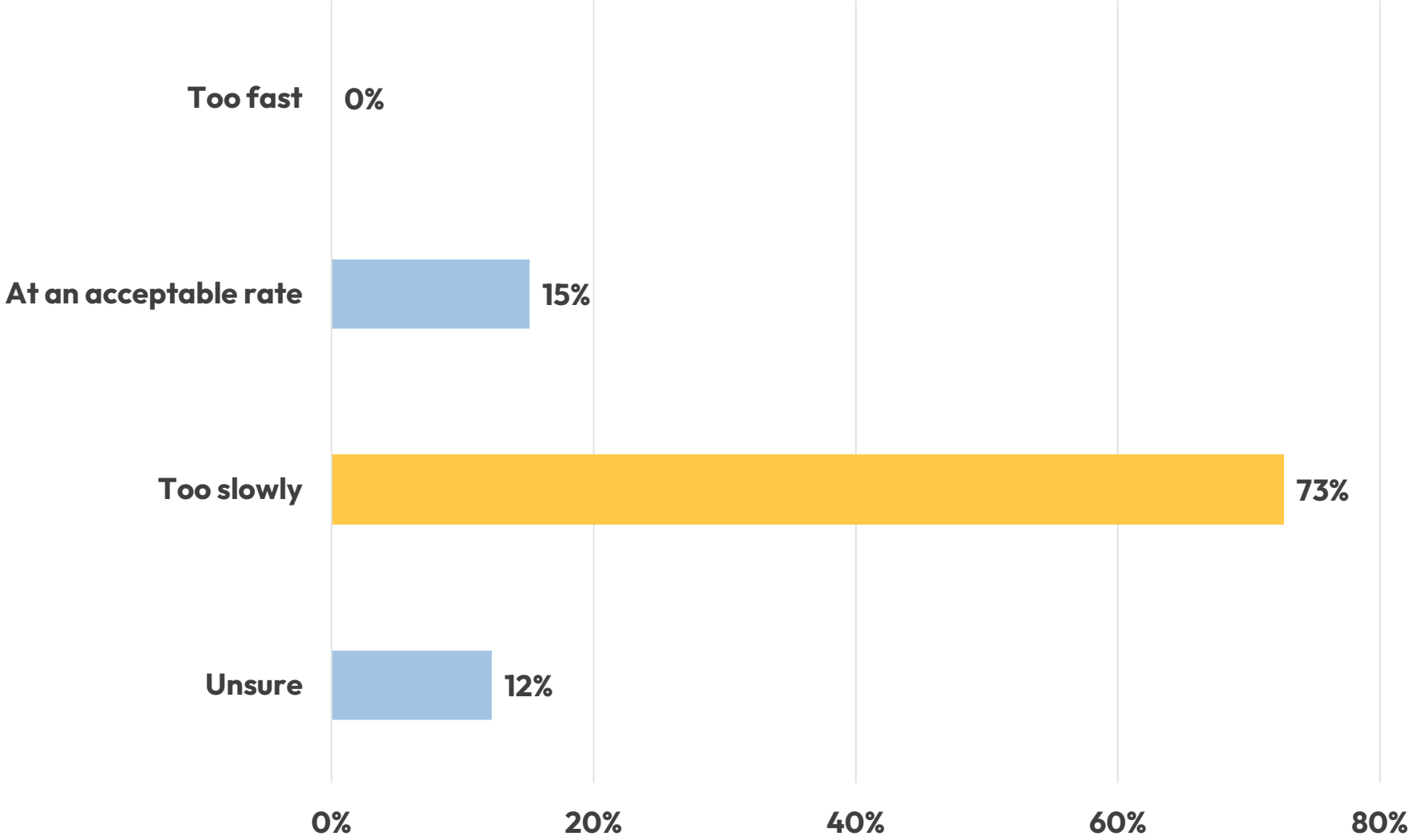
Q18: My BIG IDEA for the future of my community is...

- Higher occupancy and population growth
- Expanded local job opportunities
- Downtown revitalization
- More small businesses
- Transition to service economy
- Outdoor recreation, e.g., the river
- More housing options

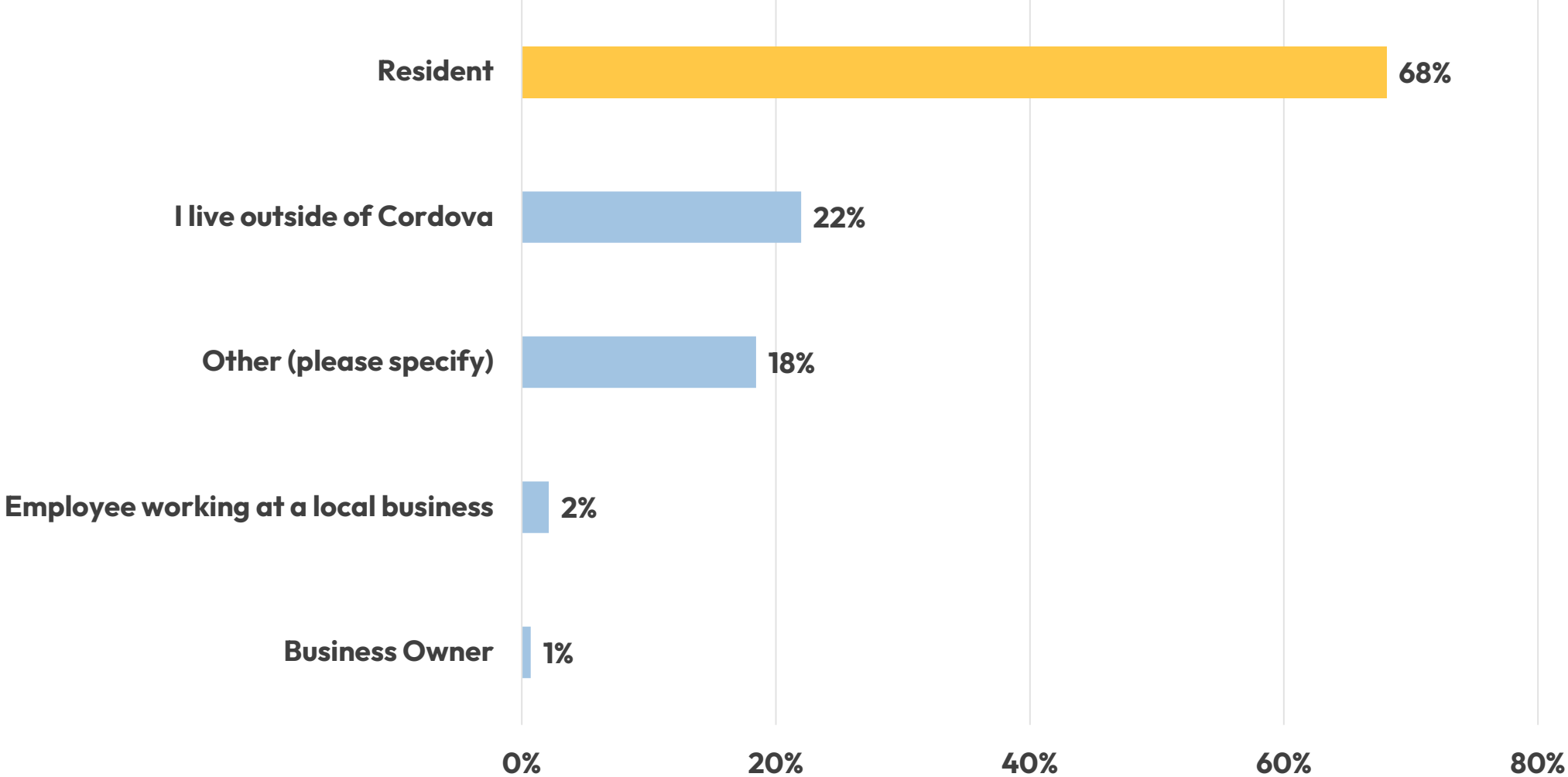
Q19: Do you have any other comments, ideas, suggestions, or recommendations that you would like to share with the planning team?

- General beautification of the public realm
- Code enforcement needed
- Desire for more businesses

Q20: Cordova is growing....



Q21: Please describe your relationship to the Town of Cordova. (Choose all that apply)



An aerial photograph of a scenic landscape. In the foreground, there's a dense forest of tall, thin trees, some with bare branches and others with green foliage. A winding road or path cuts through the trees. In the middle ground, a large, calm lake with a brownish tint is visible. The lake is surrounded by more trees and a few small structures. In the background, rolling hills covered in a mix of green and brown trees stretch towards the horizon under a clear blue sky. On the right side of the image, a large, two-story house with a brown roof and a covered porch is visible. A white car is parked in a driveway in front of the house. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Open House Results

September 26, 2023

Issues & Opportunities Banners

Participants were asked to write, in their own words:

- What is working
- What is not working
- What is needed

Regarding the following topics:

- Economic development
- Quality of life
- Community development
- Transportation & infrastructure

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING?	WHAT'S NOT WORKING?	WHAT'S NEEDED?
<p>Business Opportunities (What types of businesses is Cordova best positioned to attract? What new types of businesses would you like to see?)</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail • Restaurants • Retail businesses (variety) more restaurants/ options
<p>Partnerships & Organizations</p>			
<p>Local Government Support (Financial incentives, permitting process, tax credits, regulatory assistance, etc.)</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attract businesses to rent city owned buildings with competitive pricing so that the city can get additional revenue from rent and taxes.
<p>Business Recruitment / Retention Efforts</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing to bring people into existing businesses.
<p>Workforce Development (Is there a sufficient talent pool for companies in Cordova? How can Cordova residents become more competitive employees?)</p>			

QUALITY OF LIFE

ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING?	WHAT'S NOT WORKING?	WHAT'S NEEDED?
<p>Placemaking</p> <p>(What's missing that would make Cordova even better? I.e., gathering places, wayfinding, streetscaping, street furniture)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic tables at Indian Mill Park • Music at the Pig 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More housing.
<p>Community Facilities</p> <p>(City Hall, Community Center, storm shelters, Library, etc.). What types of programming would you like to see in a new library?</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kid programs • Library programs - storytime for littles, arts and crafts • Summer reading program for kids • Educational classes
<p>Municipal Services</p> <p>(Public Works Department, garbage and debris removal, stormwater management, etc.)</p>			
<p>Parks & Recreation</p> <p>(Indian Head Mill Park, Disney Lake Park, City of Cordova Ballfield and other public facilities, park maintenance, programming, senior and children programs, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New developments for parks and playgrounds are looking good. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My fear is the park seem spread out. Will parents feel safe letting kids play on the playground while the other kid plays baseball? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put the skate park back up! • Maybe add some shade and seating to the playground area.
<p>Entertainment, Shopping, and Dining Opportunities</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need shopping and entertainment - coffee shop, restrooms, barber shop • More dining options would be great!
<p>Access to Childcare and Healthcare Services</p>			

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

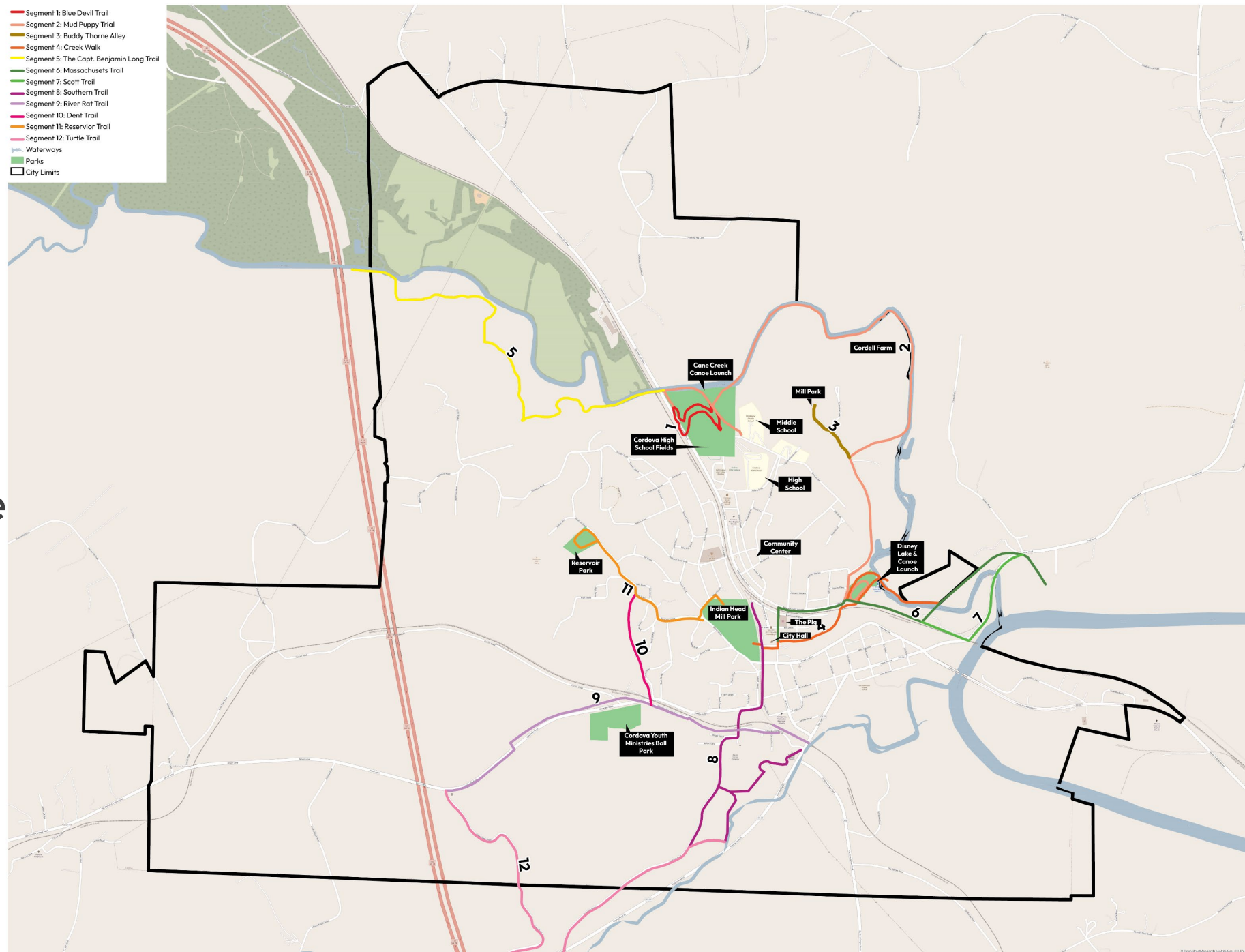
ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING?	WHAT'S NOT WORKING?	WHAT'S NEEDED?
<p>Housing</p> <p>(Diversity of housing sizes, prices, etc. What new types are desired and where?)</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need more homes built! People are ready to buy. • People need a reason to come here, they are less likely to decide to build their own homes, but if there was new construction they would come here.
<p>Senior Housing</p> <p>(Is senior housing needed? What kind? I.e., assisted living, 55+ communities, etc.)</p>			
<p>Code Enforcement: Residential Areas</p> <p>(Are there issues with how property maintenance codes are enforced?)</p>			
<p>Code Enforcement: Commercial Areas</p> <p>(Are there issues with how property maintenance codes are enforced?)</p>			
<p>Public Safety, Police, Fire & Municipal Court</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe have a paid fulltime fireman per shift to help cover calls that the volunteers can't get to when they are at work.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

ELEMENTS	WHAT'S WORKING?	WHAT'S NOT WORKING?	WHAT'S NEEDED?
<p>Mobility Options (Where are new sidewalks and bicycle facilities needed?)</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the main roads need safe sidewalks. • New sidewalks (all roads)
<p>Street Maintenance (Note areas where improvements are needed, bad pavement conditions, etc.)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old roads not paved in 10+ years. If its been paved recently don't repave before the others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3-way intersection infront of white house needs to be a 4 way. It is not safe.
<p>Other Traffic Issues (Please be specific)</p>			
<p>Speeding Areas and Other Traffic Issues</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding on new Amory Avenue. 	
<p>Utilities / Internet Access</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet availability outside of city limits.

Trail Priority Activity

Participants were asked to indicate their top 3 most desired trail segments from the Cordova Trail Master Plan



Trail Priority Activity

Trail Segment	Percent of Participants Indicating Segment as a Priority
Segment 1: Blue Devil Trail	7%
Segment 2: Mud Puppy Trail	25%
Segment 3: Buddy Thorne Alley	0%
Segment 4: Creek Walk	21%
Segment 5: The Capt. Benjamin Long Trail	7%
Segment 6: Massachusetts Trail	0%
Segment 7: Scott Trail	0%
Segment 8: Southern Trail	18%
Segment 9: River Rat Trail	0%
Segment 10: Dent Trail	0%
Segment 11: Reservoir Trail	18%
Segment 12: Turtle Trail	4%

Aerial Mapping Activity

Using a large aerial map of Cordova, participants were asked to identify sites or areas that:

- Are assets
- Have issues
- Present an opportunities
- Need improvement



Aerial Mapping Activity

Indian Head Mill Park:

- Great community asset
- Needs improvement (general maintenance, lighting around the track, and shade)

Downtown:

- Opportunity for housing

Land adjacent to state dock:

- Desire to see this developed

