

Rural Survey 2.0

Summary of Survey Responses

7/20/2025

A. Executive Summary

Kitsap County is currently developing a new Rural and Resource Lands chapter of its Comprehensive Plan, to be adopted at the end of 2025. To support this work, in June-July 2025 Kitsap County conducted the Rural and Resource Lands Chapter Survey 2.0 to gather public input on rural land use, conservation, economic development, and quality of life. This survey followed an earlier round of survey outreach (Survey 1.0), and public workshops held in June 2025. A total of 104 individuals participated in Survey 2.0, representing a diverse cross-section of rural residents, landowners, and stakeholders. Participants provided both quantitative and narrative responses on a range of topics including development policy, conservation tools, rural business opportunities, and environmental values.

The survey results revealed widespread support for preserving rural character, open space, and ecological functions. A strong majority of respondents (91%) identified as rural homeowners or landowners, with many also viewing themselves as stewards of the land. Most respondents expressed that protecting working farms, forests, and natural habitats is essential, with 82% rating long-term environmental maintenance as “important” or “very important.” Conservation tools such as open space tax incentives and land use coordination were generally supported, though many respondents stressed the need for stricter enforcement and better implementation.

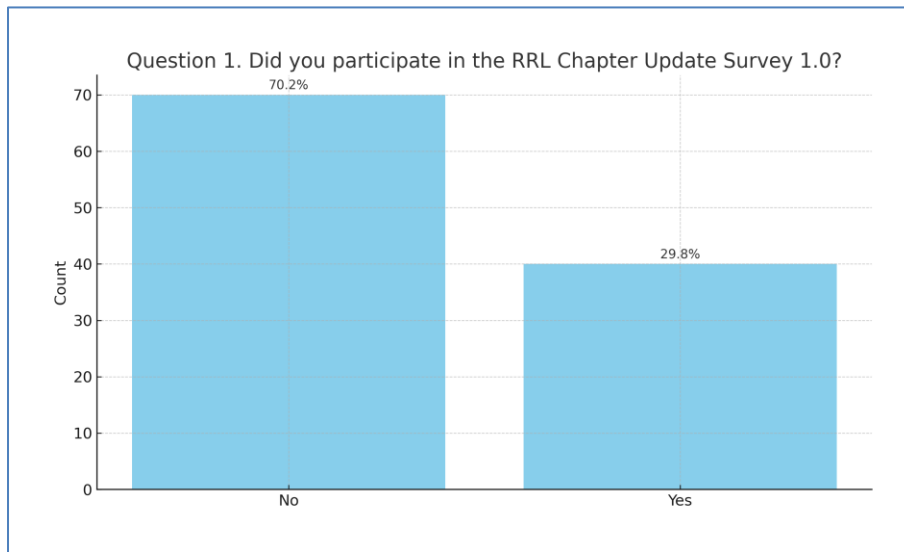
Opinions on rural development were mixed. While some respondents supported limited business or housing growth under strict conditions, others were concerned about cumulative impacts on infrastructure, traffic, and habitat. Cluster development, Transfer Development Rights (TDR) programs, and middle housing in Limited Areas of More intense Rural Development (LAMIRDs) drew cautious interest but were met with strong calls for clearer guidelines and compatibility standards. Barriers to owning rural businesses or childcare facilities were identified with zoning restrictions, infrastructure gaps, and regulatory complexity.

When asked about land conservation strategies, respondents emphasized the importance of habitat protection, water quality, wildlife corridors, and control of invasive species. Many supported permanent conservation easements and incentive-based programs to encourage private land stewardship. Respondents also highlighted transportation challenges and the need for rural connectivity, including safer roads, additional public transit, and better links to essential services. The final open-ended responses revealed deep concerns about unchecked development, inconsistent policy enforcement, and a desire for greater transparency from the County. Many respondents called for bold, coordinated action to protect the rural landscape, promote climate resilience, and uphold the values that define Kitsap County’s rural identity.

B. Questions and Results

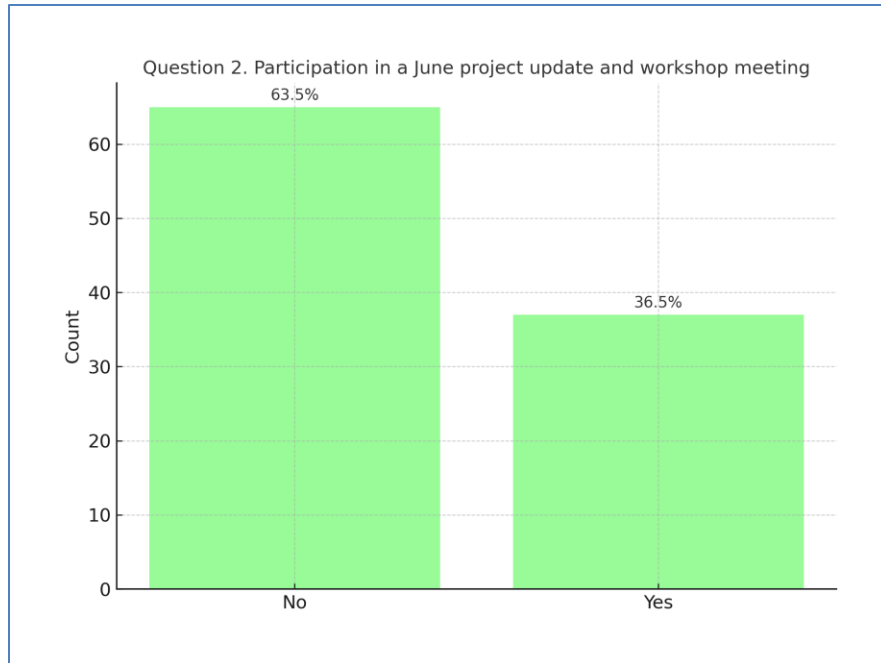
01. Did you participate in the Rural and Resource Lands Chapter Update Survey 1.0 in February/March 2025?

Response	Count	Percent
No	73	70.2%
Yes	31	29.8%



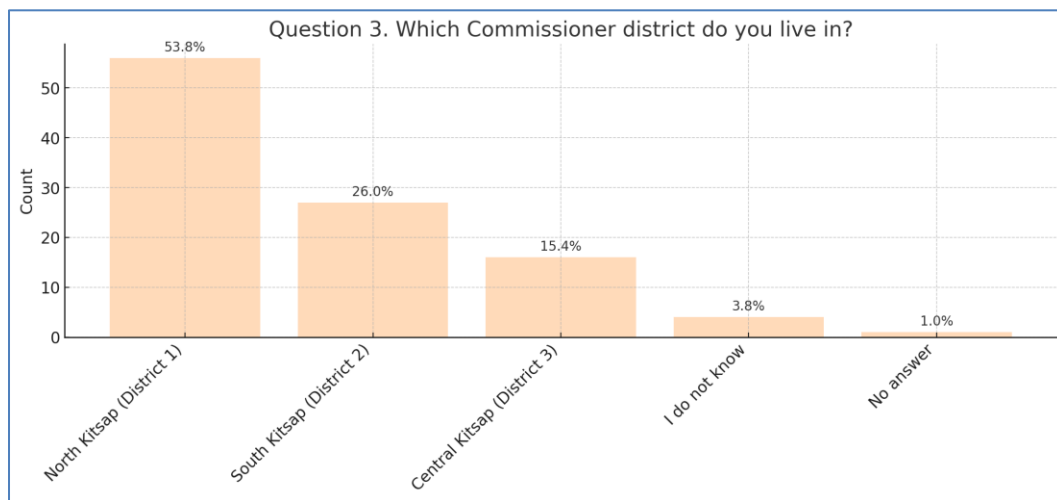
02. Did you or do you plan to participate in one of the June project update and workshop meetings?

Response	Count	Percent
No	66	63.5%
Yes	38	36.5%



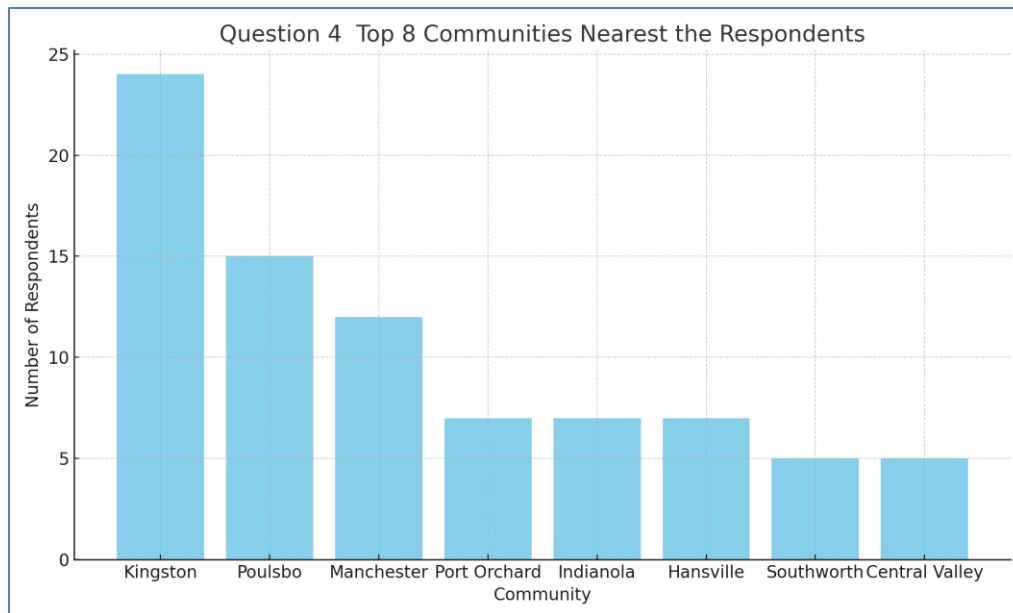
03. Which Commissioner District do you live in?

Response	Count	Percent
North Kitsap (District 1)	56	53.8%
South Kitsap (District 2)	27	26.0%
Central Kitsap (District 3)	16	15.4%
I do not know	4	3.8%
No answer	1	1.0%



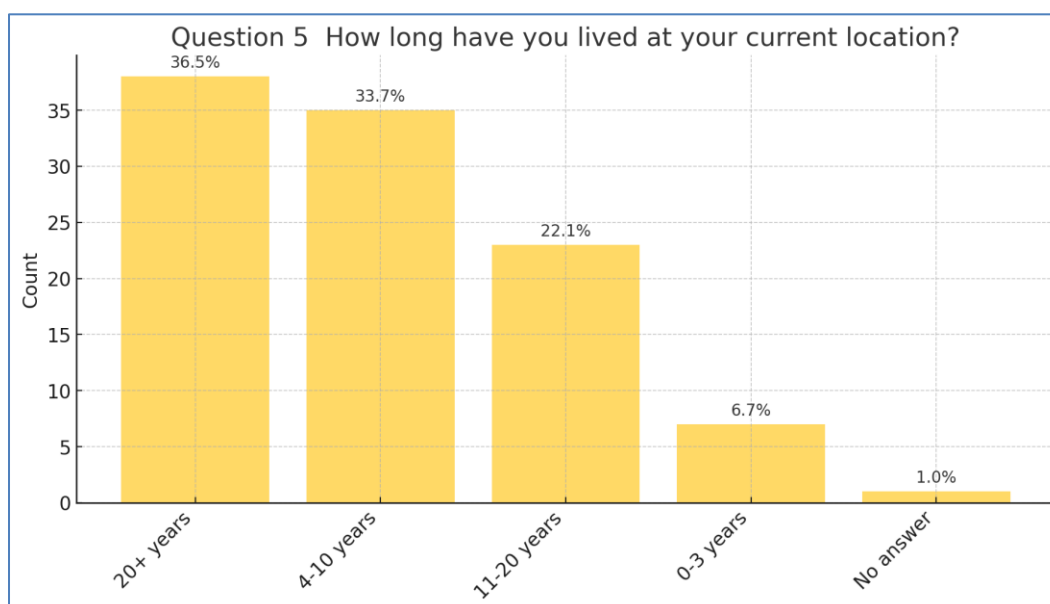
04. Which of these communities do you live nearest?

Response	Count	Percent
Kingston	24	23.1%
Poulsbo	15	14.4%
Manchester	12	11.5%
Port Orchard	7	6.7%
Indianola	7	6.7%
Hansville	7	6.7%
Southworth	5	4.8%
Central Valley	5	4.8%
Suquamish	4	3.8%
Port Gamble	3	2.9%
Seabeck	3	2.9%
Olalla	2	1.9%
Silverdale	2	1.9%
Bremerton	2	1.9%
Bainbridge Island	2	1.9%
Illahee	1	1.0%
Silverdale	1	1.0%
Waterman	1	1.0%
No answer	1	1.0%



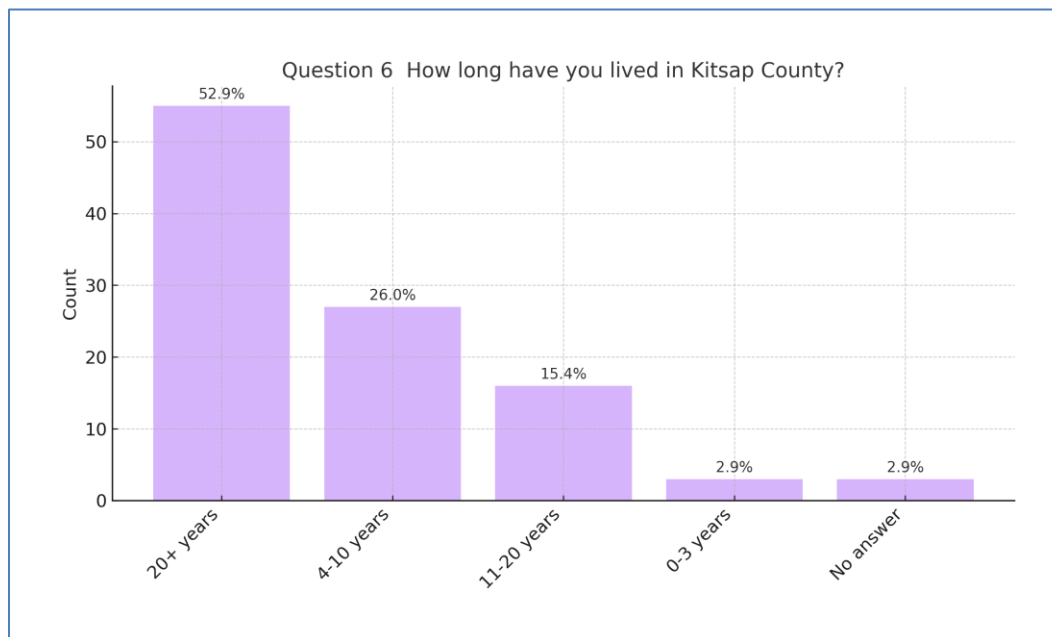
05. How long have you lived at your current location?

Response	Count	Percent
20+ years	38	36.5%
4-10 years	35	33.7%
11-20 years	23	22.1%
0-3 years	7	6.7%
No answer	1	1.0%



06. How long have you lived in Kitsap County?

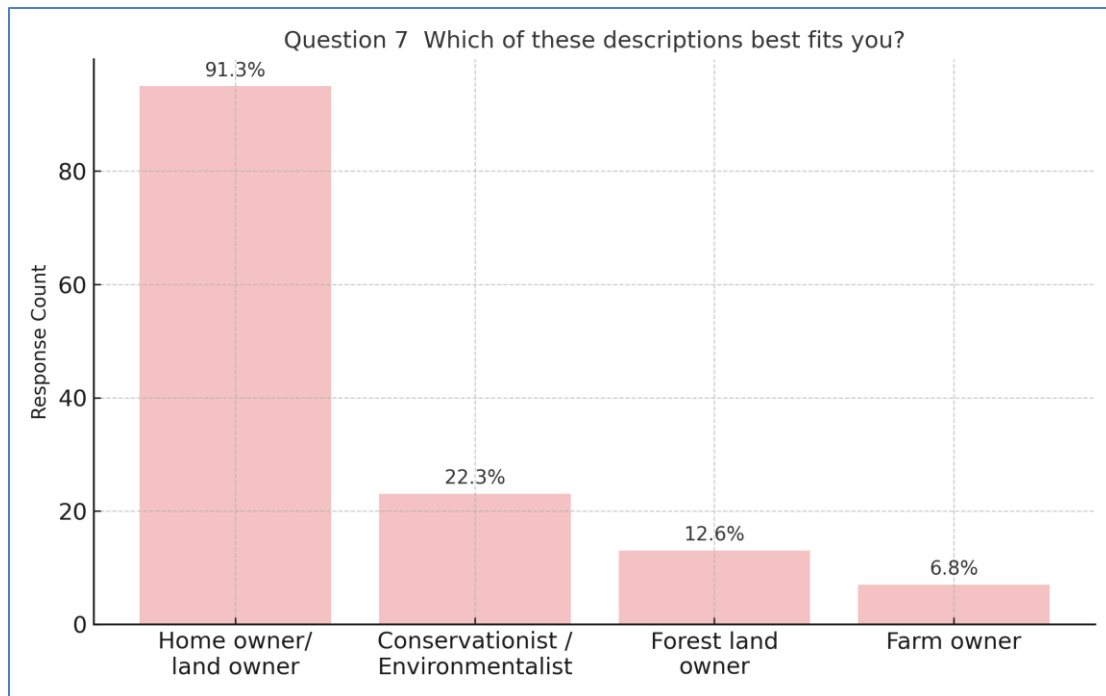
Response	Count	Percent
20+ years	55	52.9%
4-10 years	27	26.0%
11-20 years	16	15.4%
0-3 years	3	2.9%
No answer	3	2.9%



07. Which of these descriptions best fit you? Choose all that apply.

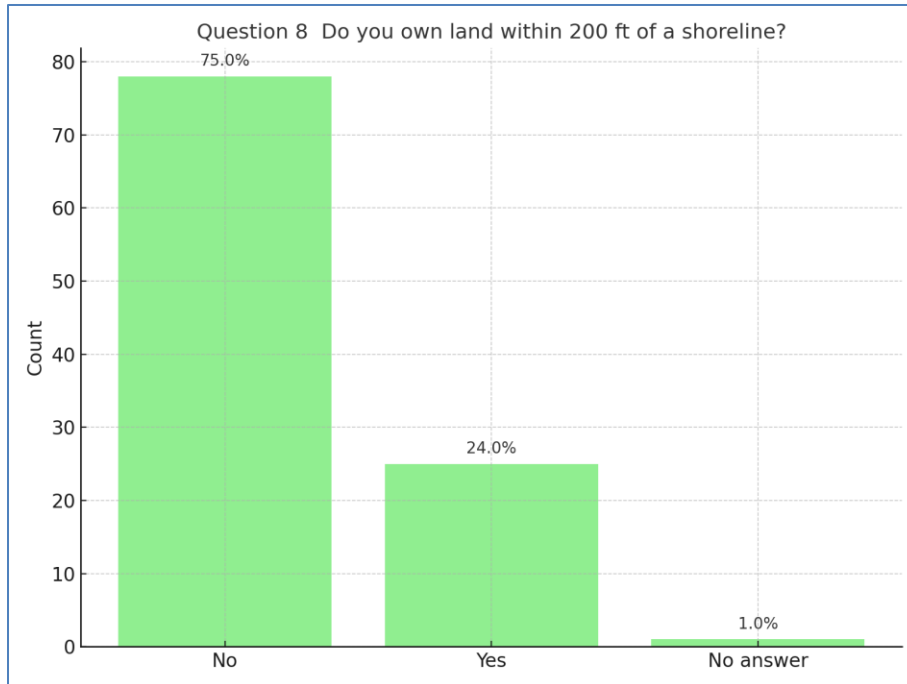
Question 7 asked respondents to identify which descriptions best fit them, with the option to select multiple categories. The great majority—94 out of 103 respondents (91.3%)—identified as home owner/land owner, underscoring the predominance of private property ownership among participants. This was followed by conservationist/environmentalist (22.3%), forest land owner (12.6%), and farm owner (6.8%), reflecting a strong secondary involvement among the respondents in land stewardship, forestry, and agricultural uses.

Notably, nearly one-third of respondents (30.1%) selected more than one category, suggesting overlapping identities within the rural community. Many individuals view themselves not only as landowners, but also as active stewards of rural resources.



08. Do you own land within 200ft of a shoreline?

Response	Count	Percent
No	78	75.0%
Yes	25	24.0%
No answer	1	1.0%



09. Do you own land within 200ft of a stream?

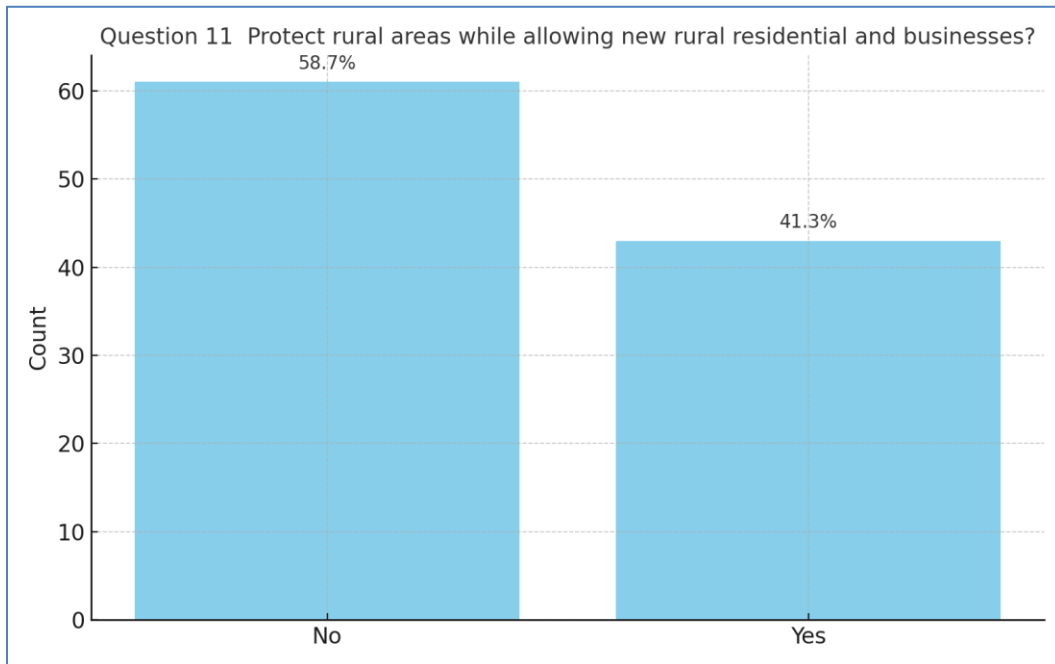
Response	Count	Percent
No	62	59.6%
Yes	33	31.7%
No answer	3	2.9%
Underground springs on my property	1	1.0%
wet lands nearby	1	1.0%
We have a seasonal creek that is the main tributary to Little Anderson Creek running through our property	1	1.0%
Creek	1	1.0%
not sure	1	1.0%
Seasonal creek on west boundary and NW corner crossing.	1	1.0%

10. Do you agree with the DRAFT Rural Vision?

Many respondents expressed strong support for the draft Rural Vision, particularly its emphasis on preserving Kitsap County's natural beauty, open spaces, and rural identity. People appreciated the acknowledgment of agriculture, forestry, and traditional rural lifestyles as key values. Some noted that the vision statement effectively captures their lived experience and hopes for the future. However, a segment of respondents voiced concern that the vision, while well-written, lacks the strength of enforceable policy. A few individuals were skeptical about the County's long-term commitment to upholding the principles laid out in the vision and cautioned that words must be backed by action. There were also calls to make the vision more explicit about how to manage growth and regulate incompatible uses that threaten rural character.

11. Can rural areas be protected while allowing new rural residential and business development?

Response	Count	Percent
No	61	58.7%
Yes	43	41.3%



12. Please explain your answer.

Views were split on whether rural areas can be protected while still allowing new development. Many respondents were conditionally supportive of development if it adhered to strict design standards, clustered housing models, or performance-based frameworks that preserve open space and natural resources. These individuals believed

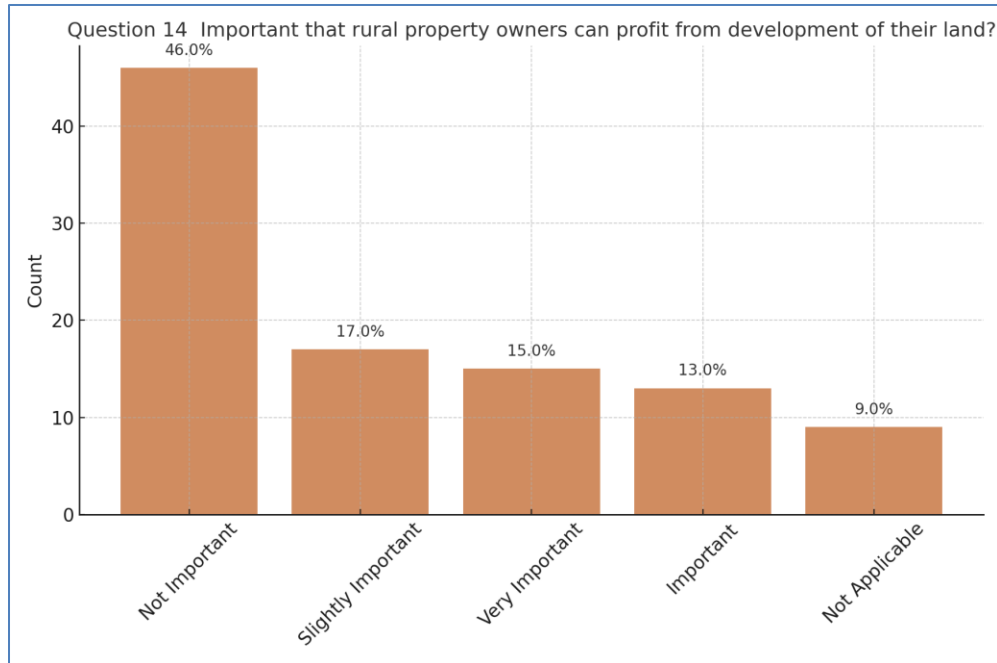
that with careful planning, economic and residential needs can coexist with environmental protection and rural identity. Others were more skeptical, arguing that any expansion of residential or commercial activity inevitably leads to urban sprawl, traffic congestion, and habitat degradation. This group tended to advocate for significantly tighter restrictions, stronger enforcement, and prioritization of conservation over growth. Several respondents expressed concern that even well-intentioned development proposals often result in unforeseen cumulative impacts on the landscape and rural quality of life.

13. What is your definition of a rural lifestyle?

Respondents offered rich and diverse definitions of what a rural lifestyle means to them. Common themes included peace and quiet, privacy, low-density living, connection to nature, space for gardening or raising animals, and the freedom to use and steward land without urban constraints. Several people emphasized self-sufficiency, describing rural life as one where individuals rely more on themselves and their neighbors and less on institutional infrastructure. Others focused on the importance of maintaining a sense of community, where rural living fosters informal social ties and mutual support. A few respondents highlighted rural character as a refuge from urban development pressures and expressed concern that this way of life is becoming harder to maintain in the face of encroaching growth.

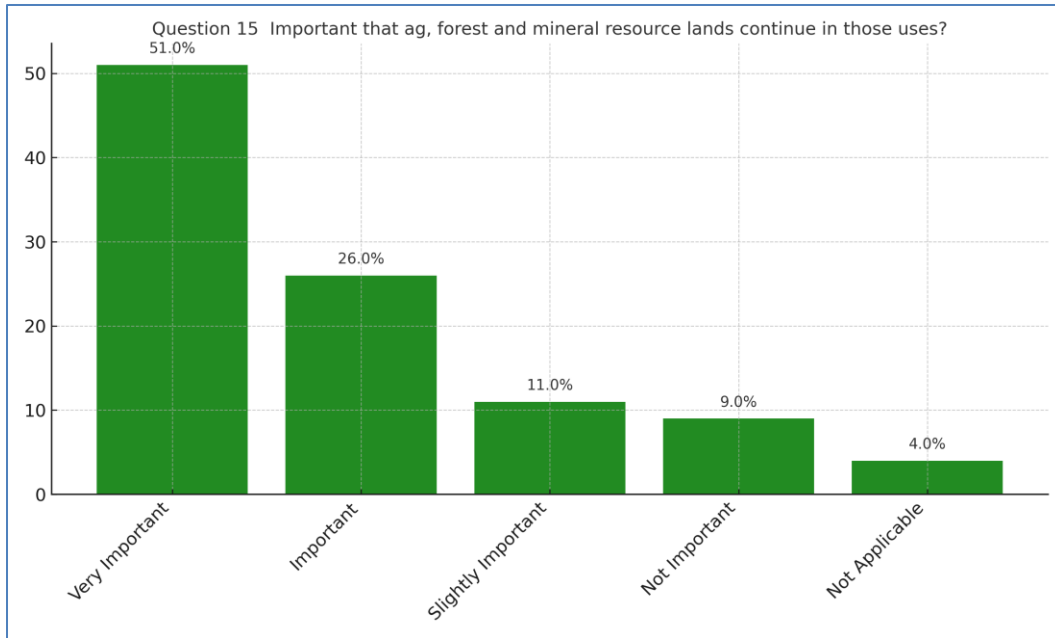
14. How important is it to you that rural property owners be able to profit from the development (e.g. housing) of their land?

Response	Count	Percent
Not Important	48	46.0%
Slightly Important	18	17.0%
Very Important	16	15.0%
Important	13	13.0%
Not Applicable	9	9.0%



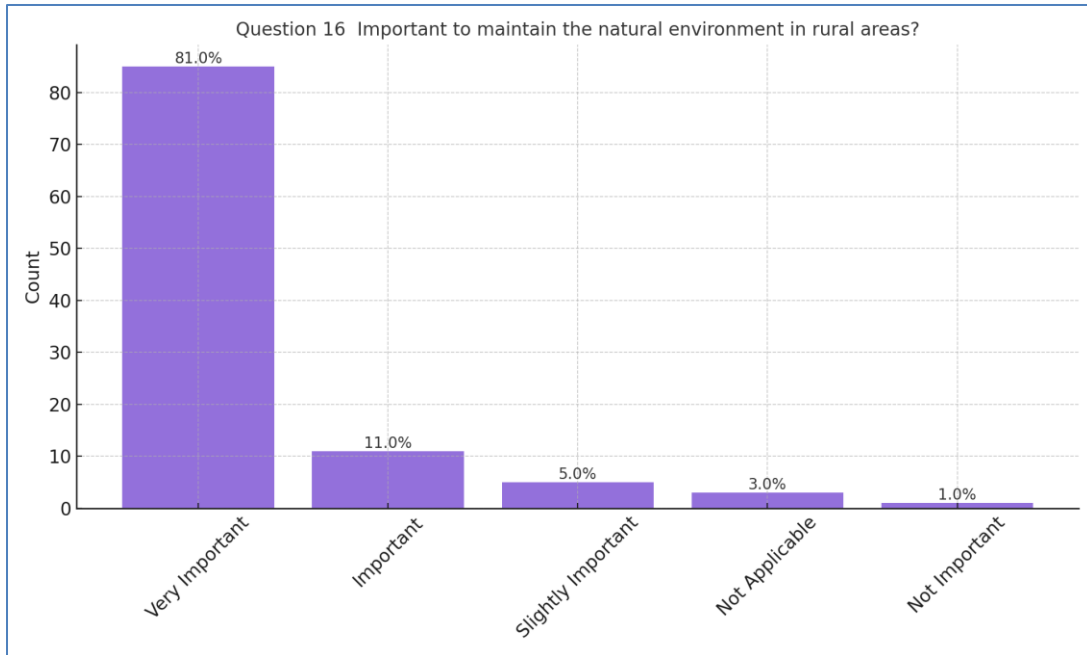
15. How important is it to you that agricultural, forestry and mineral resource lands continue in those uses instead of being converted to other uses such as residential?

Response	Count	Percent
Very Important	53	51.0%
Important	27	26.0%
Slightly Important	11	11.0%
Not Important	9	9.0%
Not Applicable	4	4.0%



16. How important is it to you that the natural environment in rural areas be maintained over the long term?

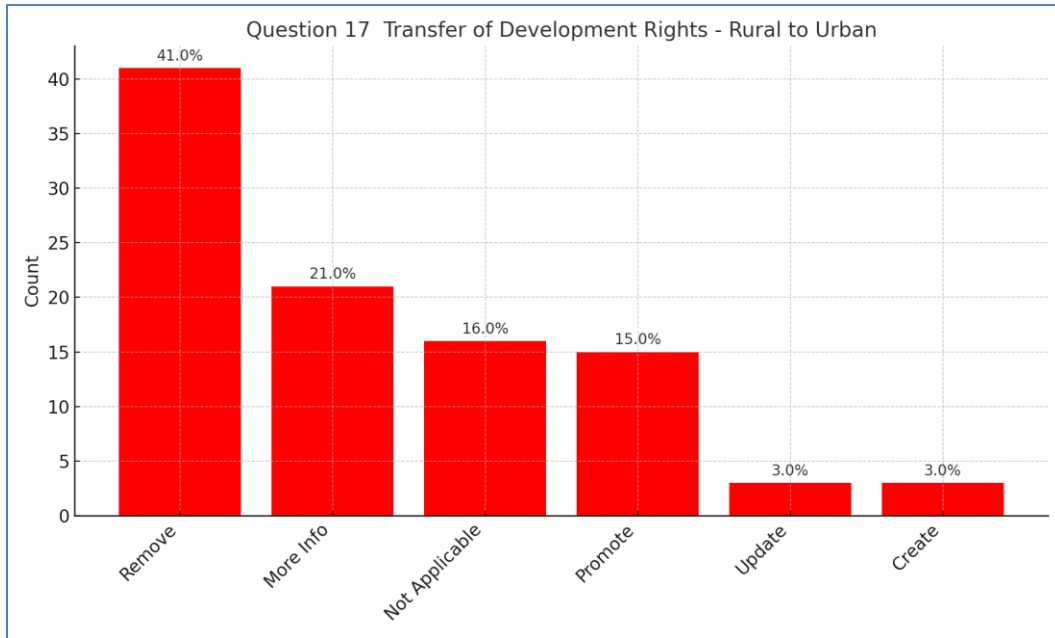
Response	Count	Percent
Very Important	84	81.0%
Important	11	11.0%
Slightly Important	5	5.0%
Not Applicable	3	3.0%
Not Important	1	1.0%



How should the following rural land development and conservation tools and policies be applied in Kitsap County?

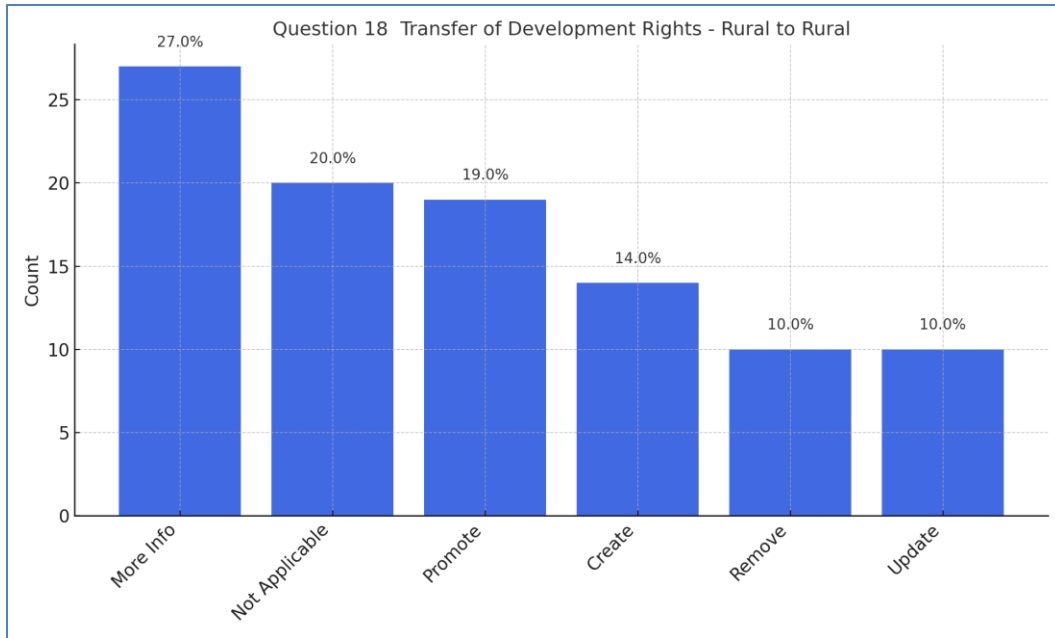
17. Transfer of Development Rights - Rural to Urban

Response	Count	Percent
Remove	43	41.0%
More Info	22	21.0%
Not Applicable	17	16.0%
Promote	16	15.0%
Update	3	3.0%
Create	3	3.0%



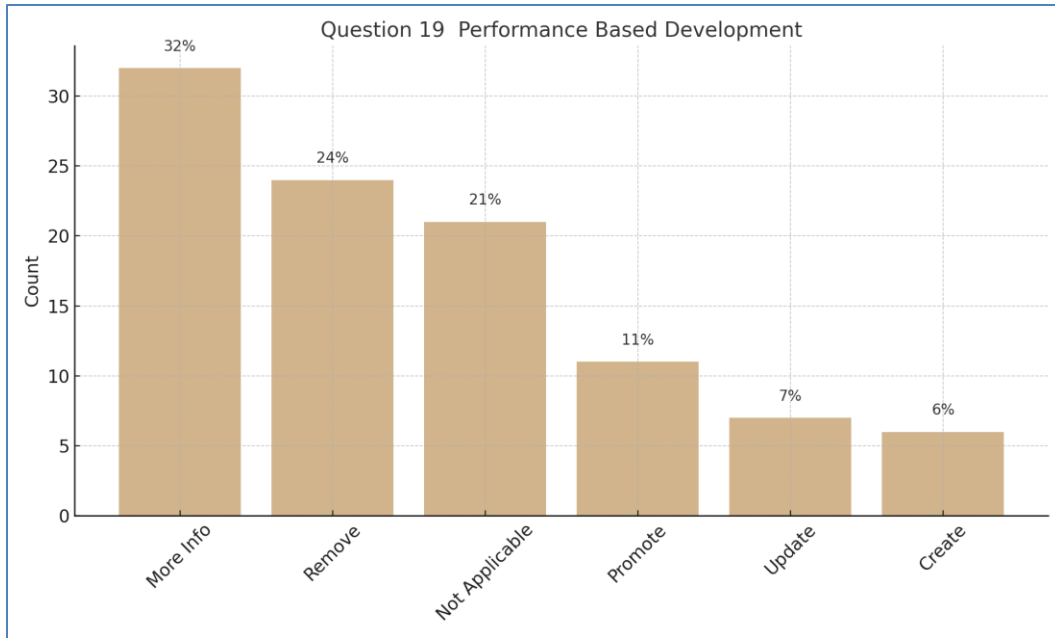
18. Transfer of Development Rights - Rural to Rural

Response	Count	Percent
More Info	28	27.0%
Not Applicable	21	20.0%
Promote	20	19.0%
Create	15	14.0%
Remove	10	10.0%
Update	10	10.0%



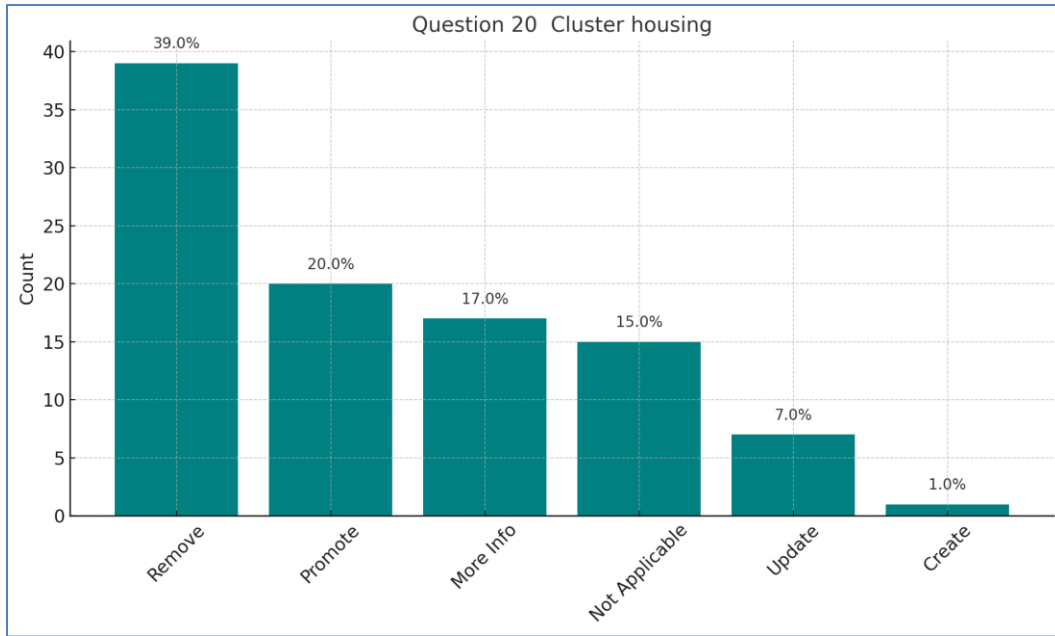
19. Performance Based Development

Response	Count	Percent
More Info	33	32.0%
Remove	25	24.0%
Not Applicable	22	21.0%
Promote	11	11.0%
Update	7	7.0%
Create	6	6.0%



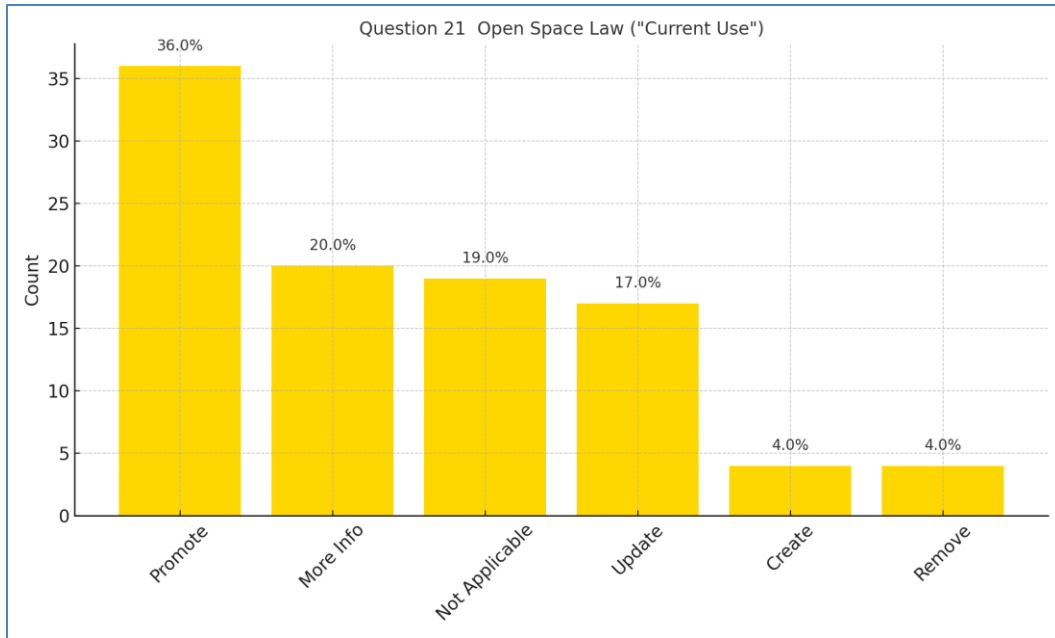
20. Cluster housing

Response	Count	Percent
Remove	41	39.0%
Promote	21	20.0%
More Info	18	17.0%
Not Applicable	16	15.0%
Update	7	7.0%
Create	1	1.0%



21. Open Space Law ("Current Use")

Response	Count	Percent
Promote	37	36.0%
More Info	21	20.0%
Not Applicable	20	19.0%
Update	18	17.0%
Create	4	4.0%
Remove	4	4.0%



22. Please explain your answer.

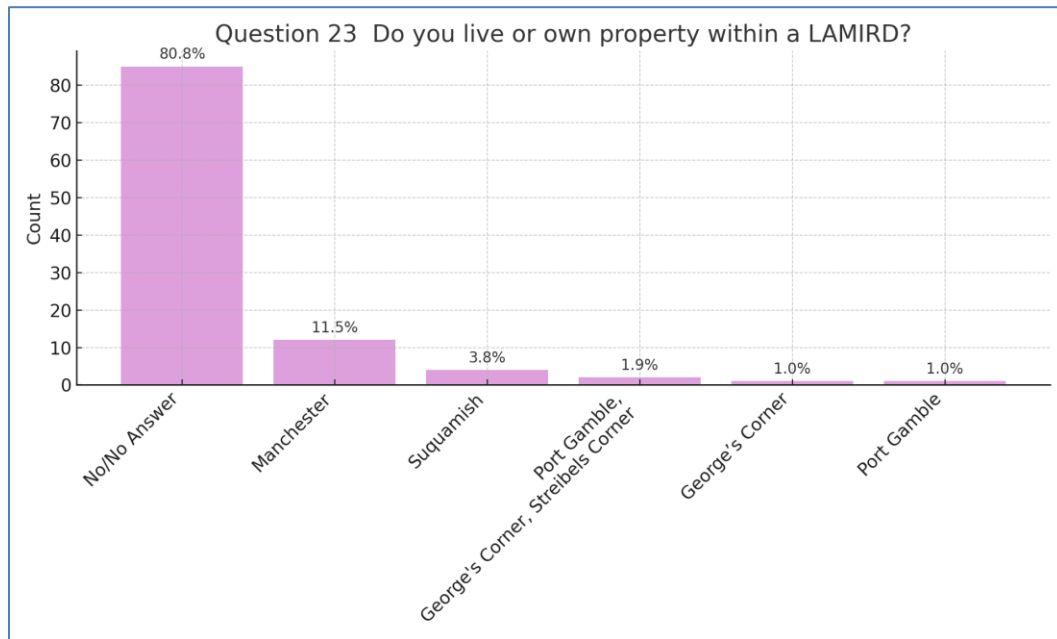
Many respondents expressed cautious support for rural development tools such as Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), cluster housing, performance-based development, and the Open Space Current Use program. However, a consistent theme was concern about how these tools are implemented. Several respondents emphasized that while these mechanisms have potential to reduce sprawl and conserve land, they often fall short if not tied to strict design standards, meaningful conservation outcomes, and transparent oversight.

Some respondents questioned the effectiveness of the current TDR framework, especially the rural-to-urban model, and suggested it needs better incentives or simplification. Others were skeptical of cluster development, warning that without careful regulation it can result in suburban-style subdivisions that undermine rural character. The Open Space program was generally viewed favorably, with some calling for expanded use and better outreach to landowners. Across the responses, there was a clear desire for Kitsap County to apply these tools thoughtfully, ensuring they support rural preservation rather than unintentionally promoting more intensive development.

23. Do you live or own property within a LAMIRD? Check all that apply.

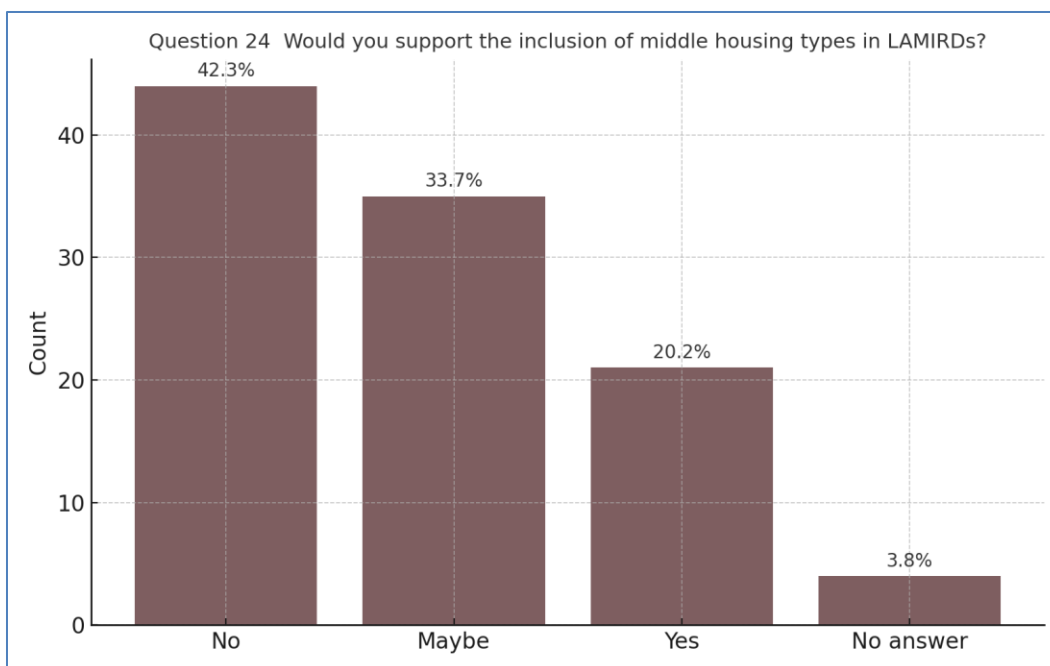
Response	Count	Percent
No/No Answer	84	80.8%
Manchester	12	11.5%
Suquamish	4	3.8%

Port Gamble, George's Corner, Streibels Corner	2	1.9%
George's Corner	1	1.0%
Port Gamble	1	1.0%



24. Would you support the inclusion of middle housing types in LAMIRDs?

Response	Count	Percent
No	44	42.3%
Maybe	35	33.7%
Yes	21	20.2%
No answer	4	3.8%



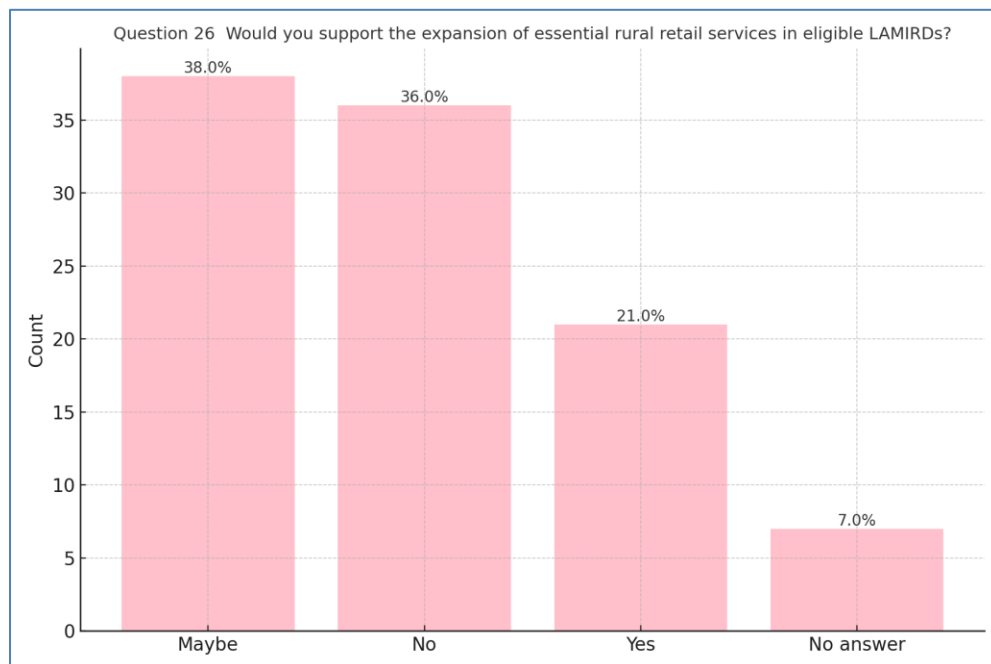
25. Please explain your answer.

Responses to this question revealed a broad spectrum of views, with notable caution from many respondents. Those opposed to middle housing in LAMIRDs often emphasized concerns about preserving rural character, infrastructure limitations, and the risk of setting a precedent for more intensive development in rural areas. They argued that even within LAMIRDs—areas already designated for more intensive use—introducing duplexes, fourplexes, and cottage clusters could accelerate suburbanization and strain rural roads, water systems, and community identity.

Others expressed conditional support, suggesting that middle housing could be appropriate if limited to certain locations, scaled appropriately, and designed to fit rural aesthetics. These respondents saw value in promoting housing diversity and affordability but stressed the need for design guidelines, lot size requirements, and occupancy controls. A smaller segment of participants expressed full support, citing the need for additional housing options and the potential for middle housing to help meet growth targets without expanding urban boundaries. Overall, the responses reflected a cautious but nuanced dialogue about balancing housing needs with the distinct purpose and limitations of LAMIRDs.

26. Would you support the expansion of more or larger essential rural retail services in eligible LAMIRDs?

Response	Count	Percent
Maybe	39	38.0%
No	37	36.0%
Yes	22	21.0%
No answer	6	7.0%



27. Please explain your answer.

Responses to this question reflected a moderate level of support tempered by concern about scale and compatibility. Those in favor generally viewed essential rural retail services—such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and hardware stores—as valuable amenities that improve quality of life and reduce long travel times for rural residents. They emphasized that allowing these services within LAMIRDs could meet legitimate local needs without undermining rural preservation goals, particularly if development remains within the existing size and use limitations.

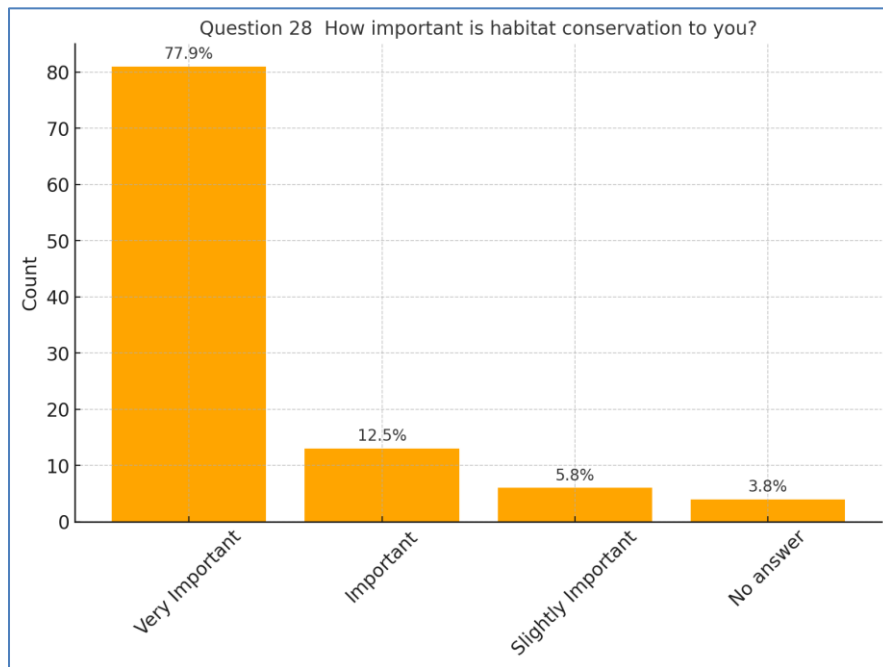
At the same time, many respondents cautioned against broad or loosely defined expansion. Several worried that increasing square footage allowances or the number of permitted commercial uses could open the door to larger-scale development incompatible with the character and infrastructure of rural communities. Others stressed the importance of limiting commercial growth to what is truly “essential,” with strict oversight to prevent

mission creep. Overall, while some respondents supported expanded services, they strongly emphasized the need for clear boundaries, design standards, and enforcement to maintain the balance between rural function and commercial access.

How important are the following initiatives for conservation to you? Rank their importance.

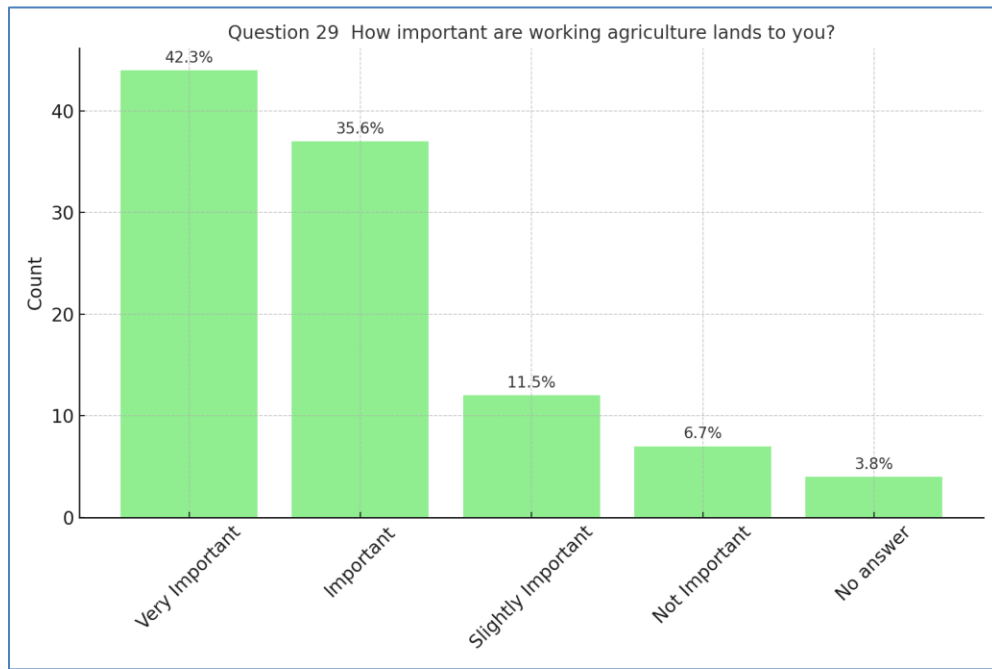
28. Habitat

Response	Count	Percent
Very Important	81	77.9%
Important	13	12.5%
Slightly Important	6	5.8%
No answer	4	3.8%



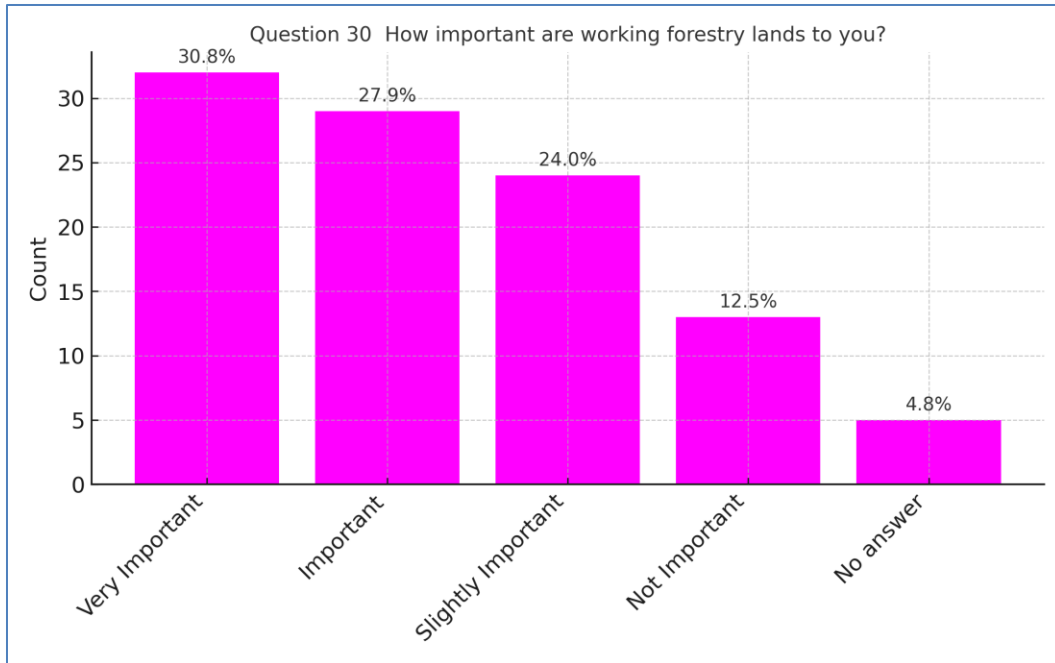
29. Working Agriculture Lands

Response	Count	Percent
Very Important	44	42.3%
Important	37	35.6%
Slightly Important	12	11.5%
Not Important	7	6.7%
No answer	4	3.8%



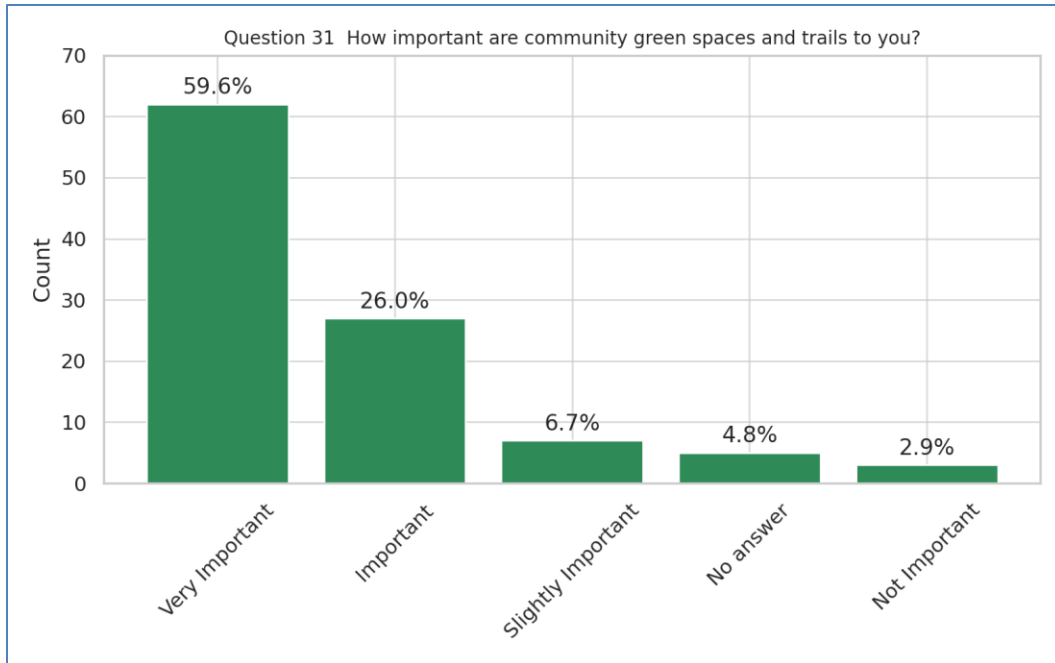
30. Working Forestry Lands

Response	Count	Percent
Very Important	32	30.8%
Important	29	27.9%
Slightly Important	25	24.0%
Not Important	13	12.5%
No answer	5	4.8%



31. Community Green Spaces and Trails

Response	Count	Percent
Very Important	62	59.6%
Important	27	26.0%
Slightly Important	7	6.7%
No answer	5	4.8%
Not Important	3	2.9%



32. What are some barriers or ideas to move land conservation initiatives forward?

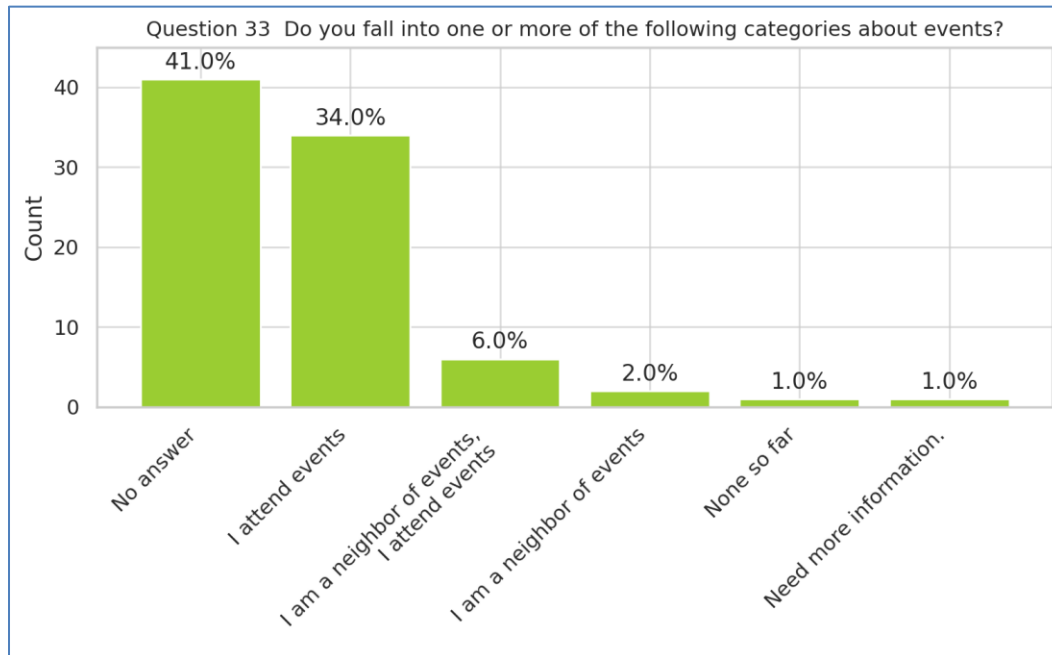
Respondents identified several recurring barriers to advancing land conservation in Kitsap County. Chief among them were high land values, limited funding for conservation easements or acquisitions, and insufficient incentives for private landowners to preserve their property. Some also pointed to a lack of public understanding or awareness about conservation programs, as well as concerns over regulatory burdens that may discourage participation. A few respondents expressed frustration with perceived inconsistencies or weaknesses in the County’s current approach to long-term land stewardship.

To overcome these barriers, many respondents suggested expanding incentive-based programs, such as tax relief or cost-sharing for conservation practices. Others recommended increasing outreach efforts to educate landowners and the public on available tools and benefits and strengthening partnerships with local land trusts and conservation organizations. A number of responses called for a more proactive role by the County—setting clearer conservation goals, improving coordination across agencies, and integrating land conservation more directly into the Comprehensive Plan and zoning policies. Overall, the comments reflected broad support for conservation but underscored the need for improved funding, awareness, and implementation.

33. Do you fall into one of the following categories about events? (check all that apply)

Response	Count	Percent
No answer	43	41.0%

I attend events	35	34.0%
I am a neighbor of events, I attend events	6	6.0%
I am a neighbor of events	2	2.0%
None so far	1	1.0%
Need more information.	1	1.0%



34. What considerations should be taken for the safety and well-being of the guests and the impact on the neighborhood?

Respondents emphasized a variety of safety, environmental, and neighborhood compatibility concerns related to rural event facilities. Chief among these were traffic and parking management, emergency access, noise control, and sanitation. Many respondents stressed the importance of ensuring that rural roads can accommodate increased traffic volumes and that on-site parking is sufficient to avoid overflow into surrounding areas. Emergency services access—particularly for fire or medical response—was also frequently mentioned as a critical consideration.

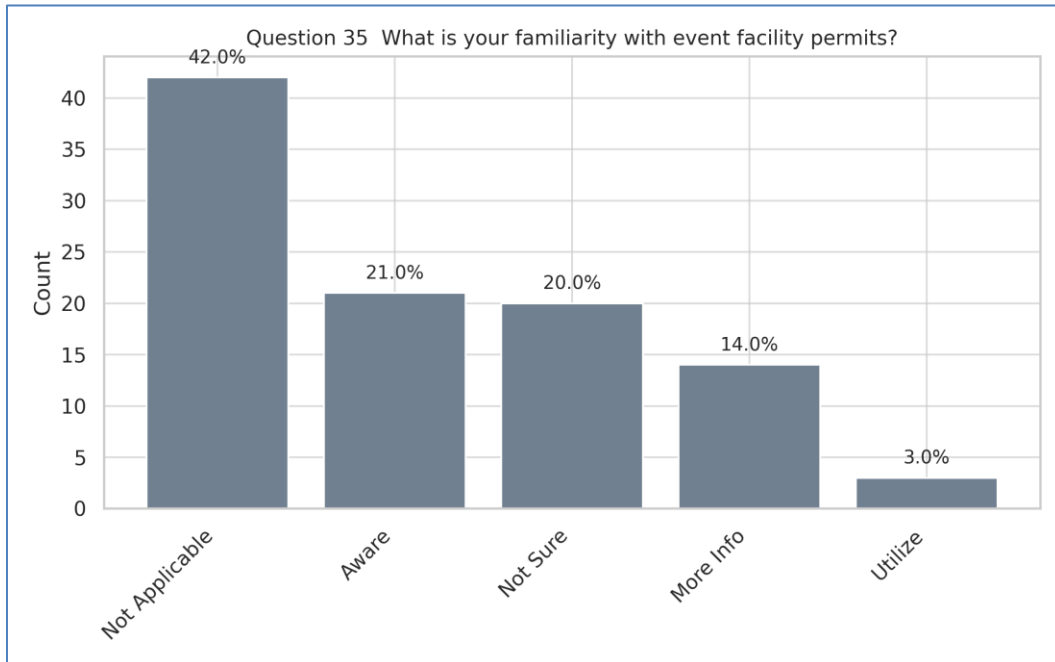
Neighborhood impacts, especially related to noise and light pollution, were a prominent concern. Respondents recommended limiting event hours, enforcing noise ordinances, and requiring buffers or setbacks to reduce disturbances to adjacent properties. Some also highlighted the need for adequate restroom facilities, waste disposal, and crowd management, particularly for larger events. Several called for clearer permit requirements, regular enforcement, and the involvement of neighbors in the review process. Overall,

respondents supported a cautious, regulated approach to rural events that prioritizes safety and respects the quiet, low-impact character of surrounding communities.

Rank your familiarity with the following event tools:

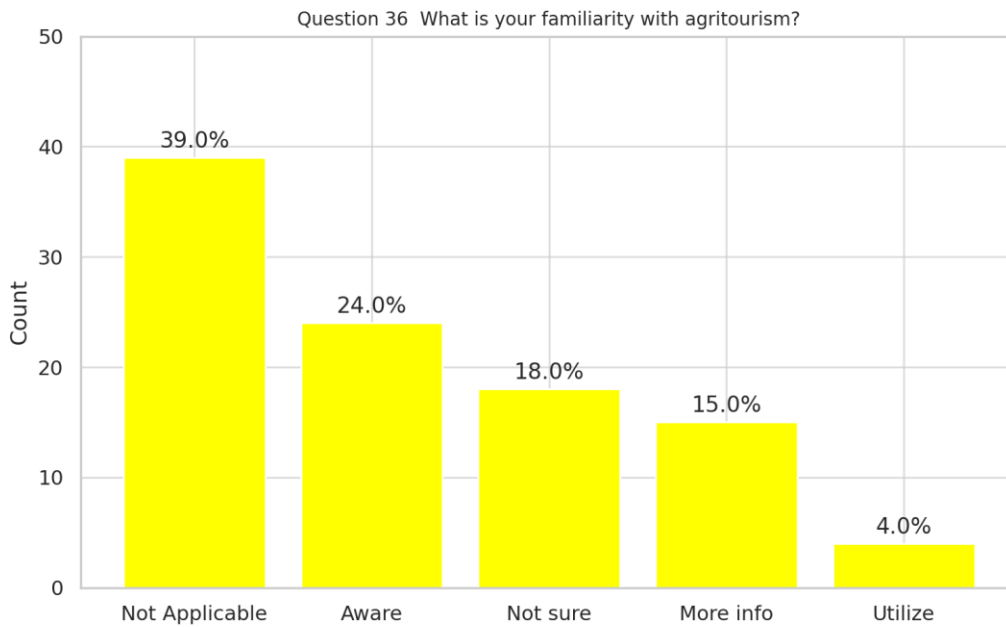
35. Event facility permit

Response	Count	Percent
Not Applicable	44	42.0%
Aware	22	21.0%
Not sure	21	20.0%
More info	14	14.0%
Utilize	3	3.0%



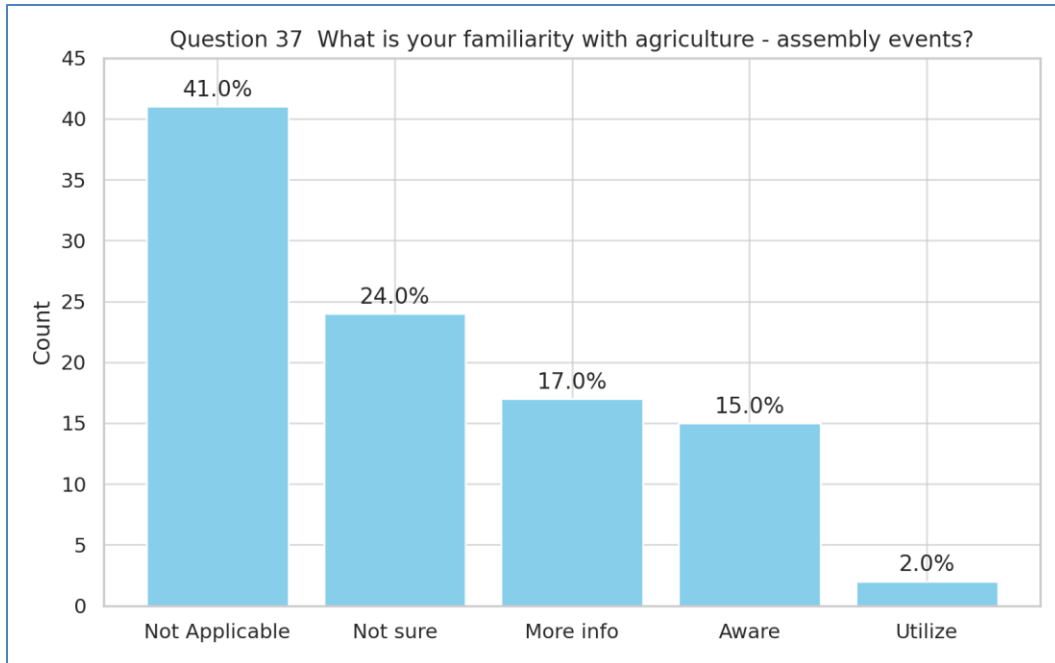
36. Agriculture - agritourism

Response	Count	Percent
Not Applicable	41	39.0%
Aware	25	24.0%
Not sure	19	18.0%
More info	16	15.0%
Utilize	3	4.0%



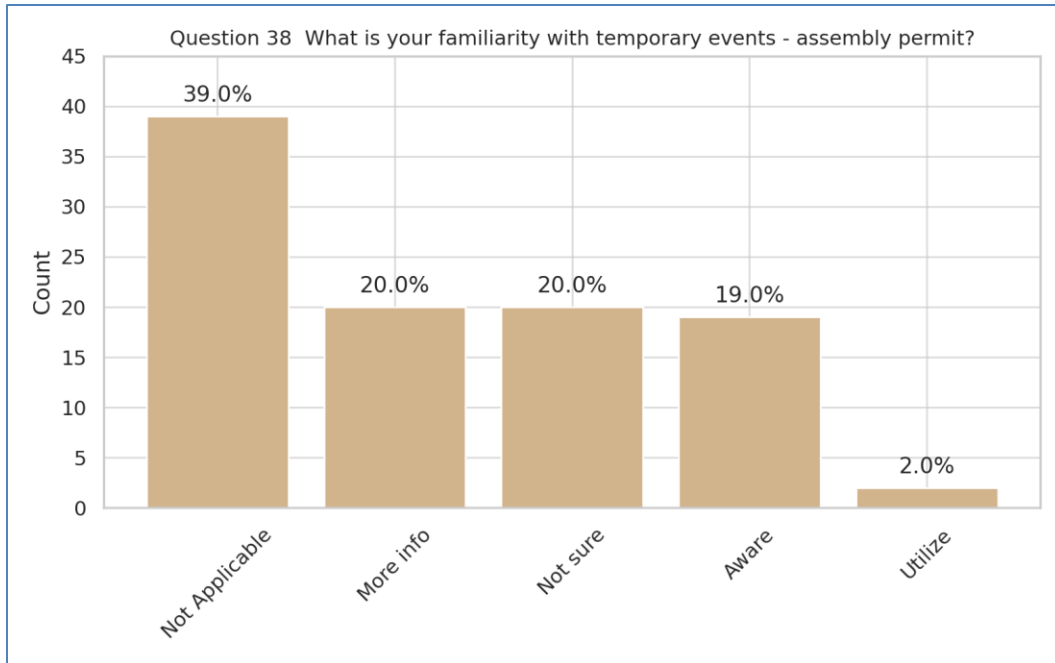
37. Agriculture - assembly event

Response	Count	Percent
Not Applicable	43	41.0%
Not sure	25	24.0%
More info	18	17.0%
Aware	16	15.0%
Utilize	2	2.0%



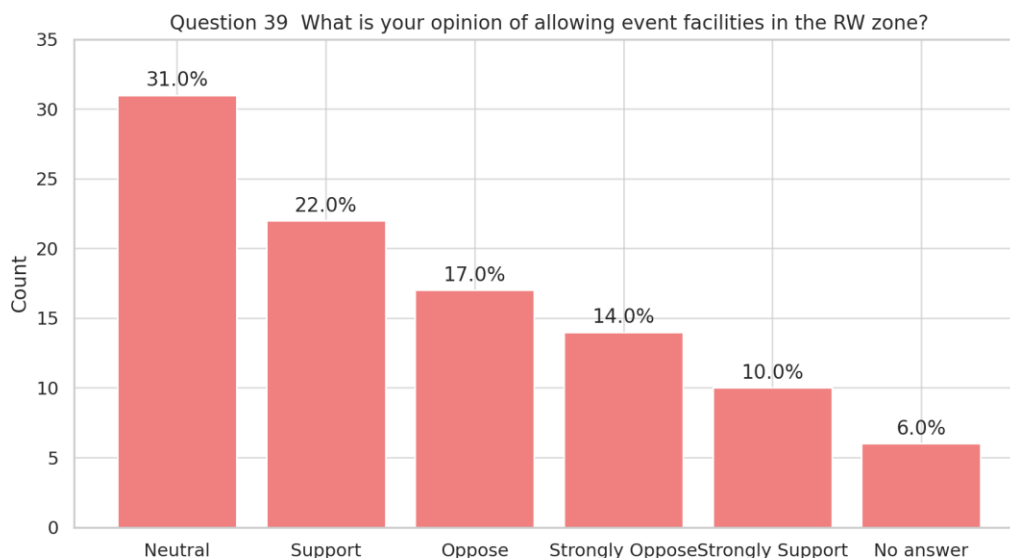
38. Temporary Events - assembly permit

Response	Count	Percent
Not Applicable	40	39.0%
More info	21	20.0%
Not sure	21	20.0%
Aware	20	19.0%
Utilize	2	2.0%



39. Kitsap County is exploring the option of allowing event facilities (e.g., weddings, retreats, or community gatherings) in the Rural Wooded zone. How concerned or supportive are you of this potential land use change?

Response	Count	Percent
Neutral	32	31.0%
Support	23	22.0%
Oppose	18	17.0%
Strongly Oppose	15	14.0%
Strongly Support	10	10.0%
No answer	6	6.0%



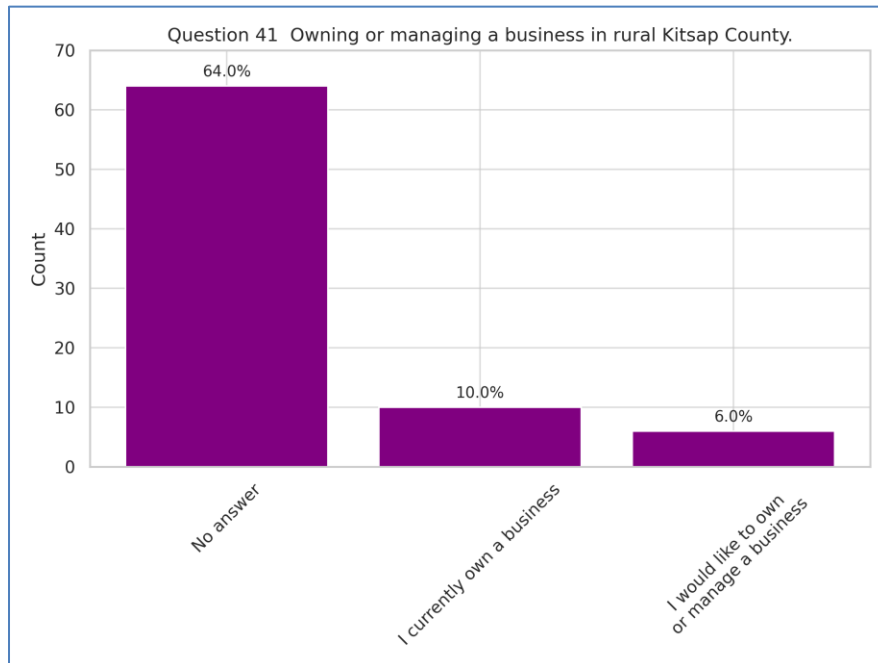
40. What do you think could minimize impacts of event facilities on neighbors and the environment?

Respondents offered a variety of strategies to reduce the potential impacts of rural event facilities, with a strong emphasis on clear operational limits and site design standards. Common suggestions included enforcing restrictions on noise levels, event hours, and the number of attendees. Many respondents called for buffer zones or vegetative screening to reduce visual and acoustic impacts on nearby homes, along with minimum setback requirements from property lines.

Several respondents highlighted the need for traffic control and adequate on-site parking to prevent congestion on rural roads. Others emphasized environmental safeguards, such as erosion control, stormwater management, and protection of sensitive habitats. A recurring theme was the need for a robust and transparent permitting process, coupled with consistent enforcement of conditions and penalties for violations. Some respondents also proposed seasonal limits, event caps, or location-based criteria to restrict high-intensity uses in more remote or ecologically sensitive rural areas. Overall, the feedback reflected cautious acceptance of rural events if tightly regulated and well-sited to avoid degradation of neighboring properties or the environment.

41. Owning or Managing a Business in rural Kitsap County.

Response	Count	Percent
No answer	66	64.0%
I currently own a business	10	10.0%
I would like to own or manage a business	6	6.0%



42. What are some barriers to owning or managing a business in rural Kitsap County?

Respondents identified several practical and regulatory challenges to operating businesses in rural areas. The most frequently cited barriers included restrictive zoning regulations, limited infrastructure (such as broadband internet, sewer, and water systems), and lengthy or unclear permitting processes. Many respondents expressed frustration with land use codes that they felt were designed for urban contexts and did not account for the realities of rural entrepreneurship, particularly for home-based, agricultural, or small-scale enterprises.

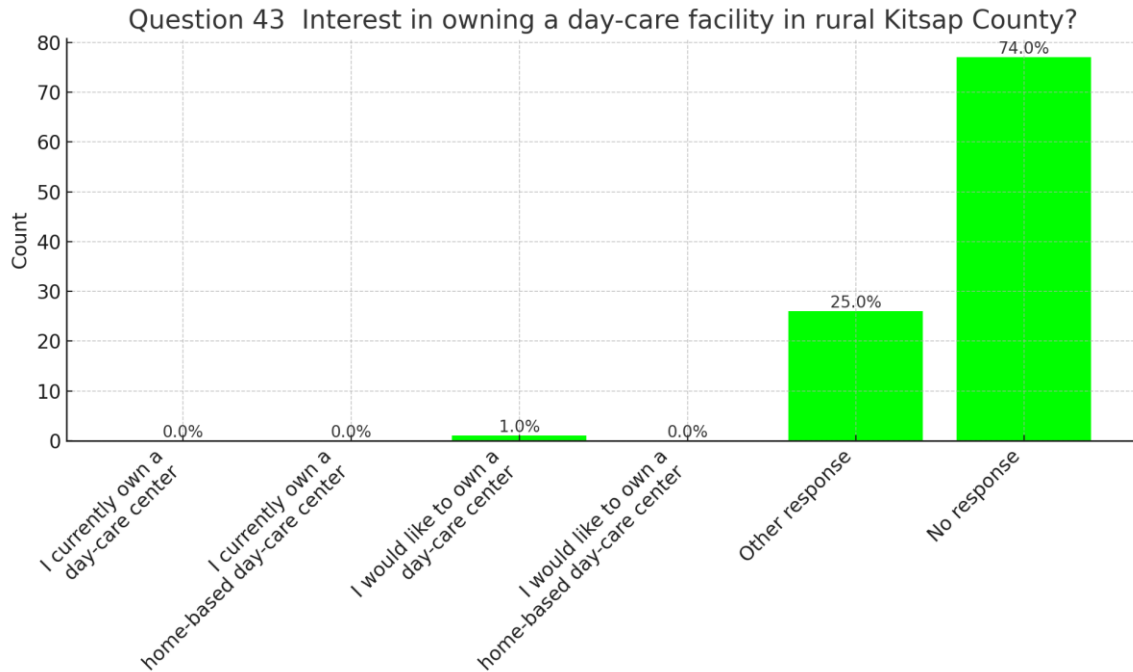
A number of participants also mentioned high start-up costs, inconsistent application of regulations, and a lack of support or outreach from the County. Others pointed to limited access to commercial space, poor road access, and the difficulty of meeting environmental or building standards in rural settings. Some called for reforms such as streamlined permitting, clearer guidance, and more flexibility in allowed uses. Overall, responses

reflected a perception that the regulatory environment and infrastructure gaps pose significant hurdles for rural business owners and discourage local economic development.

43. Do you or have you considered owning or managing a day-care center or a day-care center, home-based in rural Kitsap?

Response	Count	Percent
I currently own a day-care center	0	0.0%
I currently own a home-based day care center	0	0.0%
I would like to own a day-care center	1	1.0%
I would like to own a home-based day-care center	0	0.0%
Other response	26	25.0%
No response	77	74.0%

For those respondents who provided free-form “Other” responses to this question, most indicated no personal interest in owning or managing a day-care center in rural Kitsap County, with many responses simply stating “No” or “None.” A few respondents expressed general support for rural day-care availability, provided proper permitting and oversight are in place. Others shared personal or professional experiences, such as having worked as a nanny or previously owning a day-care center. Some comments raised concerns about regulatory hurdles or visual impacts on the rural landscape, and one respondent noted that permitting barriers have made it difficult for others to establish day-care centers. Overall, the responses reflect limited personal interest in owning a day-care center, along with a mix of supportive views and concerns about implementation in rural areas.



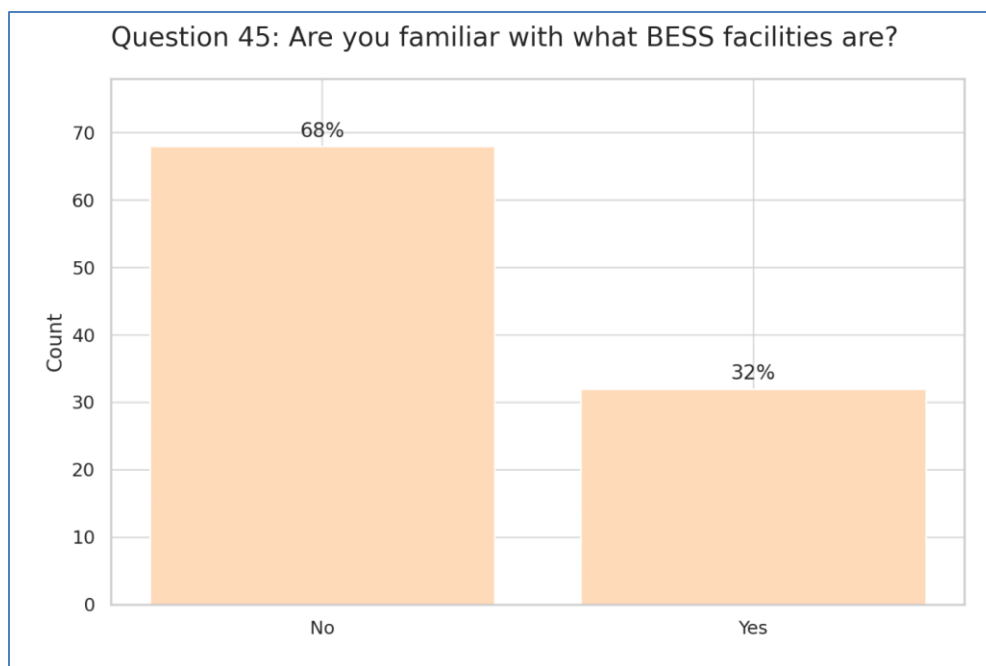
44. What are some barriers to owning or managing a day-care center or home-based day-care center in rural Kitsap County?

Respondents identified multiple barriers to operating rural child-care facilities, most notably zoning restrictions and regulatory complexity. Many noted that land use codes and licensing requirements make it difficult to establish day-care centers in residential or agricultural zones. Some described the permitting process as lengthy or unclear, particularly for home-based care providers who may not have the resources to navigate compliance requirements.

Other frequently mentioned challenges included lack of infrastructure—such as reliable internet, road access, and utilities—as well as high insurance and operational costs. A few respondents also highlighted staffing difficulties and low demand density in rural areas, which can make rural day-care operations financially unviable. Several called for the County to simplify the regulatory path, provide clearer guidance, and offer incentives or technical assistance to those seeking to expand rural child-care options.

45. Are you familiar with what BESS facilities are?

Response	Count	Percent
No	71	68.0%
Yes	33	32.0%



46. Please share any concerns you have about having a BESS facility near you/in the rural area?

Respondents expressed a range of concerns about locating Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities in rural Kitsap County. The most common worries centered on fire risk, potential explosions, and the safety of nearby residents, particularly in areas without nearby emergency services. Many respondents emphasized that rural locations may lack the infrastructure or response capacity to manage potential accidents associated with large-scale energy storage systems.

Environmental impacts were also a recurring theme, with concerns about potential chemical leaks, groundwater contamination, and disruption to sensitive wildlife areas. Some respondents raised questions about visual and noise impacts, property devaluation, and lack of transparency about long-term risks. A few participants indicated unfamiliarity with BESS technology and called for public education and detailed siting criteria before any facilities are approved. Overall, while some acknowledged the importance of energy resilience, respondents emphasized the need for strict safety standards, careful siting, and public involvement in the review process.

47. What are the biggest transportation challenges you experience in your rural area, and how do they impact your daily life?

Respondents identified a variety of transportation challenges affecting rural areas, with safety and infrastructure deficiencies as dominant concerns. Many cited narrow, poorly maintained roads lacking shoulders or sidewalks, which create hazards for both drivers and non-motorized users such as pedestrians, cyclists, and schoolchildren. Speeding and blind

corners were frequently mentioned as specific dangers, especially on rural roads not designed for current traffic volumes.

Several respondents noted a lack of public transportation options, which limits access to work, services, and medical care—particularly for seniors, youth, and those without reliable vehicles. Others mentioned congestion during peak hours, long travel times, and deteriorating pavement conditions. These issues were described as contributing to daily stress, limited mobility, and safety risks. Overall, there was a clear call for improved road maintenance, expanded non-motorized infrastructure, and more equitable transportation access in rural communities.

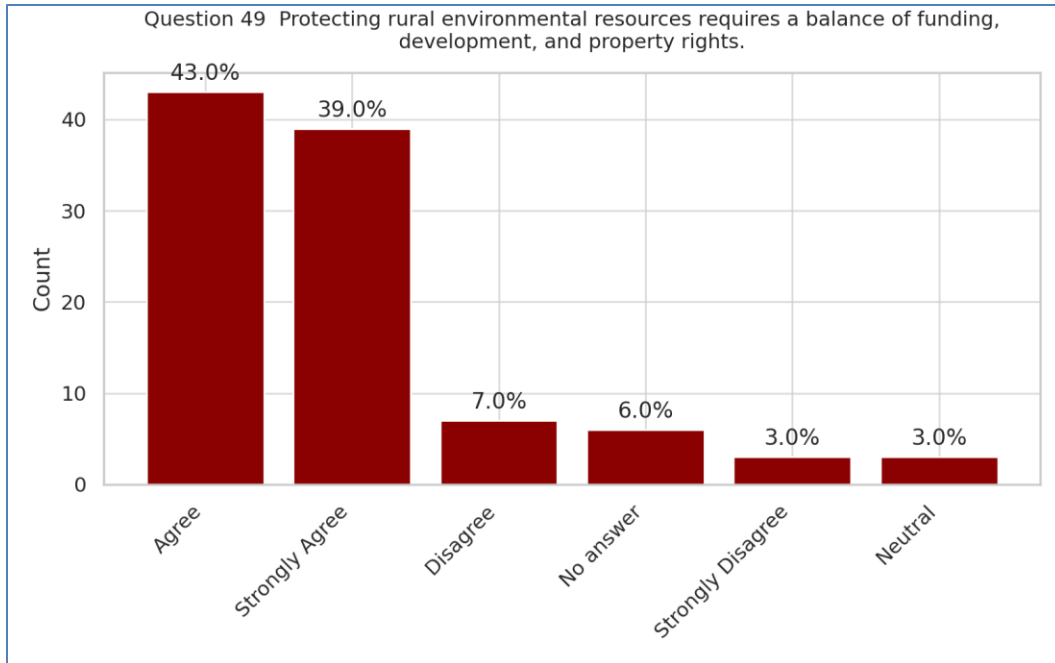
48. How important is it to have better connections between rural neighborhoods and key service centers, and what types of transportation options would you support to make this happen?

Respondents generally agreed that improving connections between rural areas and essential services is important, especially for those without access to personal vehicles. Many emphasized the need for expanded public transportation options, including fixed-route buses, on-demand transit, or community shuttles. Suggestions also included enhanced park-and-ride infrastructure, safe biking routes, and more walkable connections within and between rural communities.

At the same time, several respondents acknowledged the challenges of implementing large-scale transit in sparsely populated areas. Some cautioned against urban-style solutions that might not be cost-effective or compatible with rural character. Others expressed concern that improving connectivity could invite unwanted growth pressure or overdevelopment. Overall, respondents favored practical, context-sensitive solutions that enhance rural mobility while respecting the area’s scale and infrastructure limits.

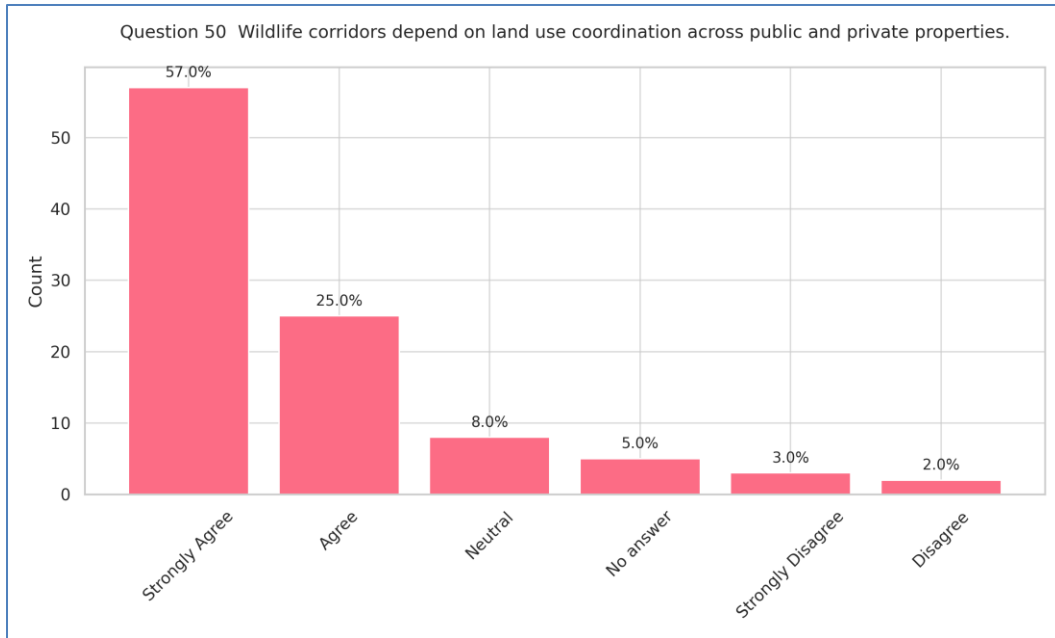
49. Protecting rural environmental resources requires balancing funding, development pressure, and private property rights.

Response	Count	Percent
Agree	45	43.0%
Strongly Agree	40	39.0%
Disagree	7	7.0%
No answer	6	6.0%
Strongly Disagree	3	3.0%
Neutral	3	3.0%



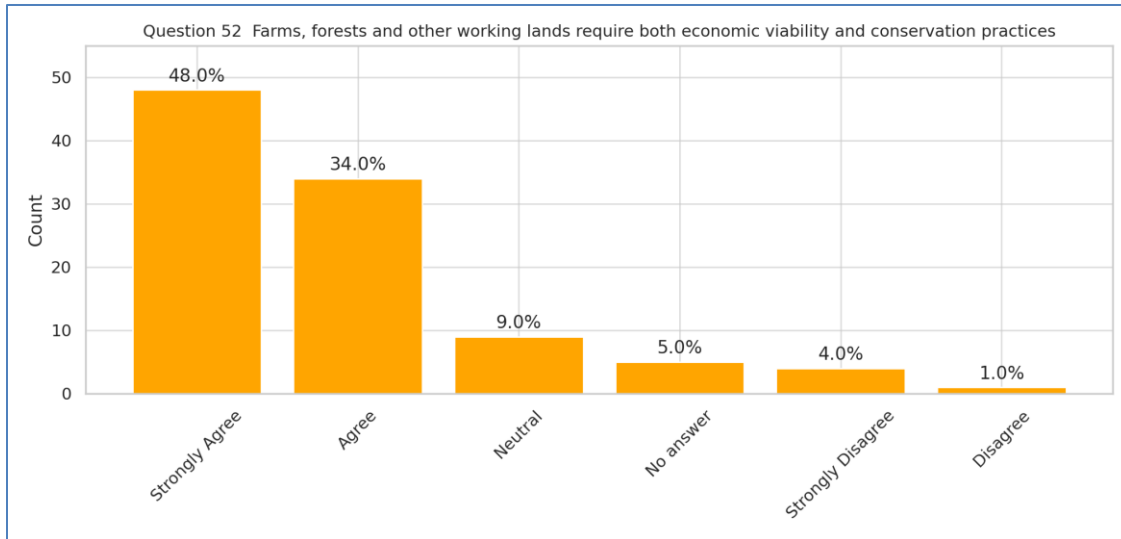
50. Maintaining wildlife corridors depends on land use coordination across public and private properties, which can be challenging but necessary.

Response	Count	Percent
Strongly Agree	60	57.0%
Agree	26	25.0%
Neutral	8	8.0%
No answer	5	5.0%
Strongly Disagree	3	3.0%
Disagree	2	2.0%



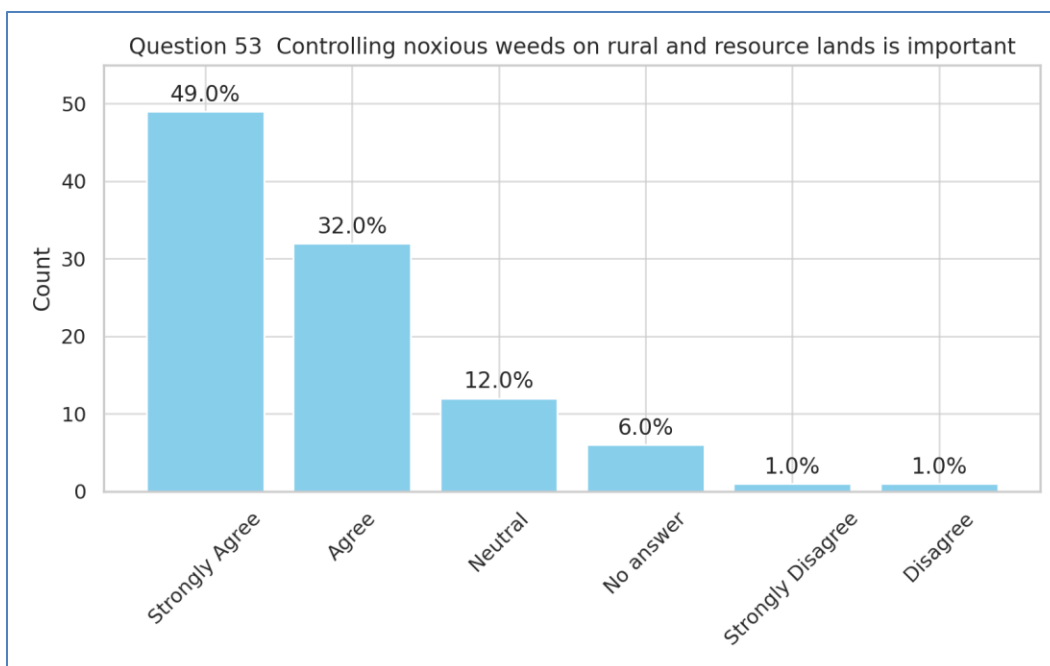
51. Supporting farms, forests, and other working lands requires policies that both protect their economic viability and encourage conservation practices.

Response	Count	Percent
Strongly Agree	50	48.0%
Agree	35	34.0%
Neutral	9	9.0%
No answer	5	5.0%
Strongly Disagree	4	4.0%
Disagree	1	1.0%



52. Controlling noxious weeds on rural and resource lands is important for protecting native ecosystems, working lands, and water quality.

Response	Count	Percent
Strongly Agree	51	49.0%
Agree	33	32.0%
Neutral	12	12.0%
No answer	5	6.0%
Strongly Disagree	1	1.0%
Disagree	1	1.0%



53. What do you believe are the most important actions or tools for protecting the natural environment and rural quality of life in our county?

Respondents expressed strong support for preserving Kitsap County’s natural environment and rural character through a combination of regulatory protections, land conservation tools, and public engagement. A central theme was the need to limit sprawling residential development by enforcing rural zoning densities, strengthening protections for critical areas, and preserving large, contiguous tracts of open space. Many respondents favored the use of conservation easements, purchase or transfer of development rights, and permanent set-asides for wildlife habitat and agricultural use.

A significant number of responses highlighted the importance of protecting ecological systems such as forests, streams, wetlands, and aquifer recharge zones. There was a clear call for maintaining wildlife corridors and native vegetation, as well as for controlling noxious weeds and invasive species. Several respondents stressed the importance of educating landowners about stewardship practices and offering incentives—such as tax breaks or technical assistance—for voluntary conservation actions.

Some also emphasized the need for stronger enforcement of existing environmental regulations and expressed frustration over perceived gaps in monitoring or compliance. Others advocated for broader community planning that includes climate resilience, green infrastructure, and intergenerational land stewardship. Overall, the feedback reflected a desire for a coordinated, forward-looking strategy that integrates regulatory measures, conservation partnerships, and local engagement to ensure the long-term health of rural lands and ecosystems in Kitsap County.

54. Share additional questions, comments, or concerns about the Rural and Resource Lands Chapter Update and/or the Potential Code Update.

Respondents provided wide-ranging feedback in this final question, offering both encouragement and critical commentary on Kitsap County's Rural and Resource Lands Chapter update. Many respondents expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate and urged the County to continue engaging residents through transparent communication, in-person meetings, and accessible updates. A recurring theme was the request for clarity—several respondents asked for more understandable explanations of the code update process, how decisions are made, and how public input will be incorporated into final policies.

Numerous comments expressed concern about the future of rural lands in the face of population growth, development pressure, and what some described as insufficient enforcement of existing rules. Respondents worried about the gradual erosion of rural character through piecemeal approvals, event facility expansion, and lack of long-term planning. Several called for the County to take a firmer stance on protecting agricultural and forest lands, implementing stronger regulations for land subdivision, and preserving open space.

Others used this space to offer targeted suggestions, including more incentives for conservation, better protections for aquifers and wildlife, stronger limits on light and noise pollution, and clearer definitions of allowable rural uses. A few voiced distrust toward the planning process, expressing concern that economic interests or development pressures could override community priorities. Despite this, many reiterated their commitment to preserving Kitsap County's rural identity and natural resources and asked for thoughtful, balanced planning that reflects the community's long-term values.