



LAUFMP Engagement Community Questionnaire Summary Unincorporated LA County Responses

Overview

The County and City of Los Angeles are working together on community engagement efforts for their Urban Forest Management Plans (UFMPs). A UFMP creates a community-wide vision for the future of trees in our community and includes recommendations for how we take care of trees and grow our neighborhood forest.

The Community Questionnaire (questionnaire) was utilized as a tool to gather input from community members to inform the shared vision and community values for the UFMPs and help the County and City understand what community members know and how they feel about trees in their community.

The questionnaire was developed on a digital platform and adapted to a paper version that could be printed and made available during outreach activities. The questionnaire was promoted by the County and City through social media and other communications, at neighborhood workshops and through social media posts and emails by community partners and other community-based organizations across LA County and the City of LA, encouraging community members to take the questionnaire and share it with their friends, family, and neighbors.

The Community Questionnaire went live on October 27, 2023, when promotion began by Community Partners. The questionnaire was publicized by LA County and LA City in January 2024 alongside the announcement of the start of the LAUFMP Neighborhood Workshops. The survey closed on March 1, 2024 at 12 AM PST.

Survey Participation

The project team identified at least 382 residents of unincorporated LA County communities who completed the questionnaire. We asked respondents to self-identify their community by name—there are several communities which share a name with an incorporated city, like El Monte and Arcadia. We were only able to confirm responses from community members in these communities if they wrote in “unincorporated” with their response. These 382 responses make up the bulk of the data used in this analysis. All questionnaire responses were assessed for location and repeat submissions. More about the methods of cleaning the data can be found in the Appendix.

The project team’s analysis uses the total number of responses (n=382) from unincorporated LA County community members to calculate the percentages in the graphics that follow below.

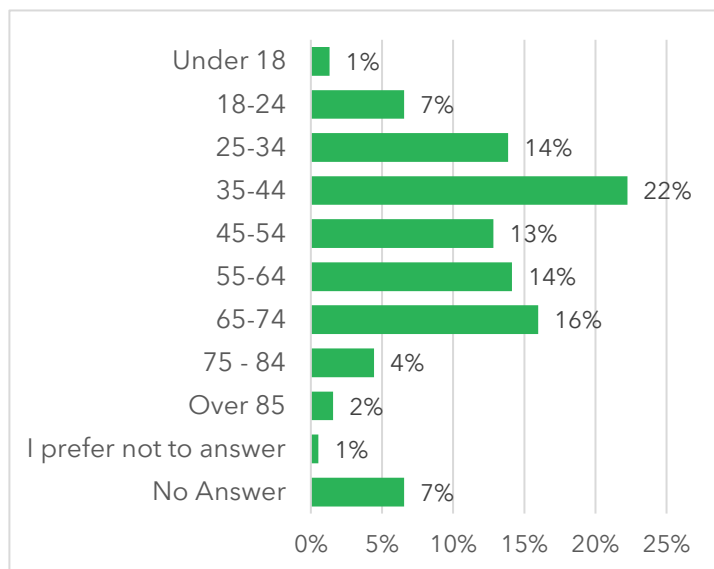
382 responses received from residents of LA County unincorporated communities

Initial Findings

Who We Heard From

Respondents were asked to self-identify their age (Figure 1), race/ethnicity (Figure 3), and homeowner/renter status (Figure 2).

Figure 1: My age is: (Select one) (Question 17, n=382)



22% of respondents 35 to 44 years old

36% are over 55 years old

59% of respondents identify as persons of color

74% say they are homeowners

Figure 2: I am a (Select one) (Question 19, n=382)

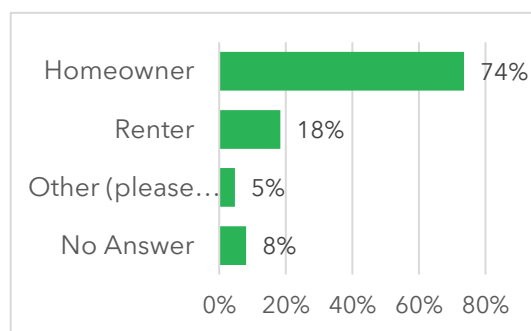


Figure 3: Which of the following most accurately describes your race and ethnic identities? (Select all that apply) (Question 18, n=382)

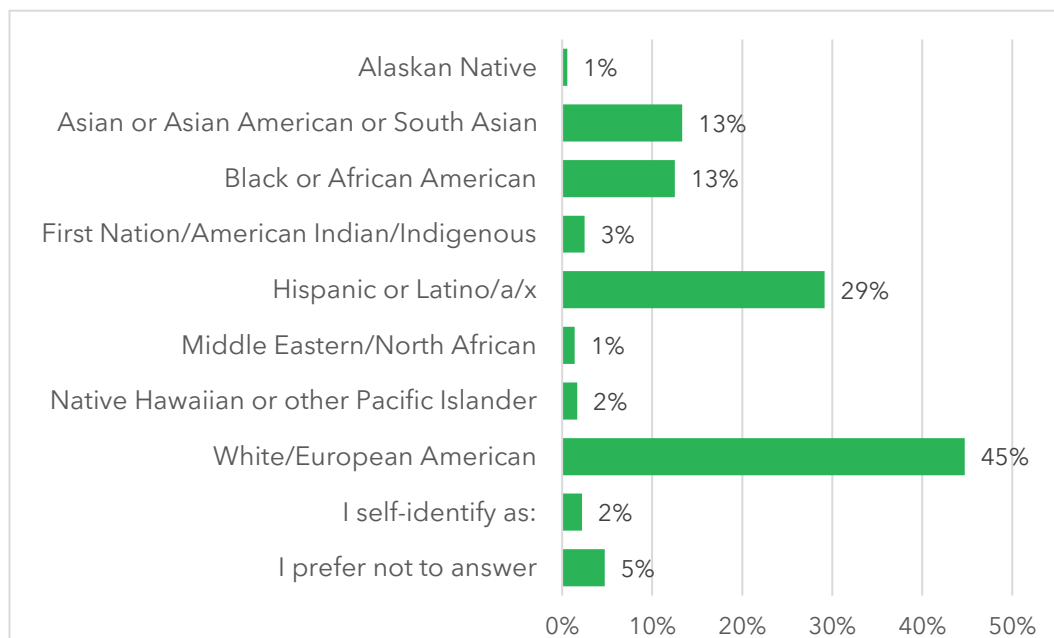
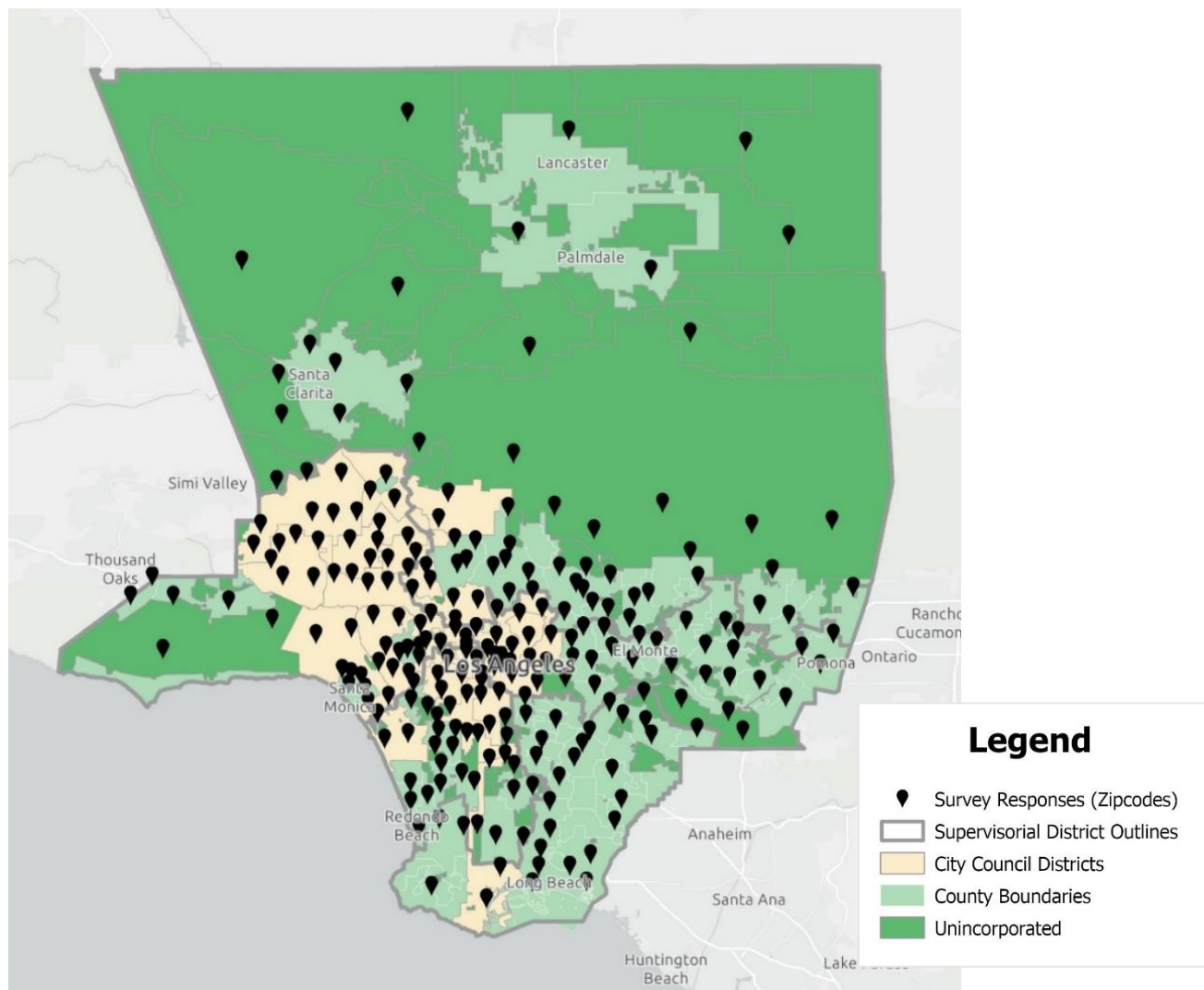


Figure 4: Map of Survey Respondents Location, by Zip Code



We heard from 256 different zip codes and 275 communities across LA County as shown in Figure 4. Respondents in this analysis represent 51 unincorporated communities in LA County. For more detailed information about zip codes and communities, refer to the Appendix.

Residents from 51 LA County unincorporated communities responded to the survey.

We asked respondents to share how they heard about the questionnaire. The project team collaborated with twenty-two community organizations to promote the questionnaire and invite members from the community to share their vision. The table below compiles the number of referrals where respondents were from an unincorporated LA County community and mentioned a LAUFMP Community Partner.

Figure 5: What is the name of the organization or community group that shared this survey with you? (Please describe) (Question 16, n=382)

Community Partner Organization	Number of Referrals
Active SGV	45
Climate Resolve	3
Community Services Unlimited	4
CultivaLA	1
Koreatown Youth Community Center (KYCC)	3
North East Trees	1
SAJE	1
SBCC	14
SCOPE	3
Streets for All	1
TreePeople	11
West Athens Westmont Task Force	15
Number of referrals that mentioned LAUFMP Community Partners	102

Our community partners were responsible for at least 102 referrals to the questionnaire from community members of unincorporated LA County communities.

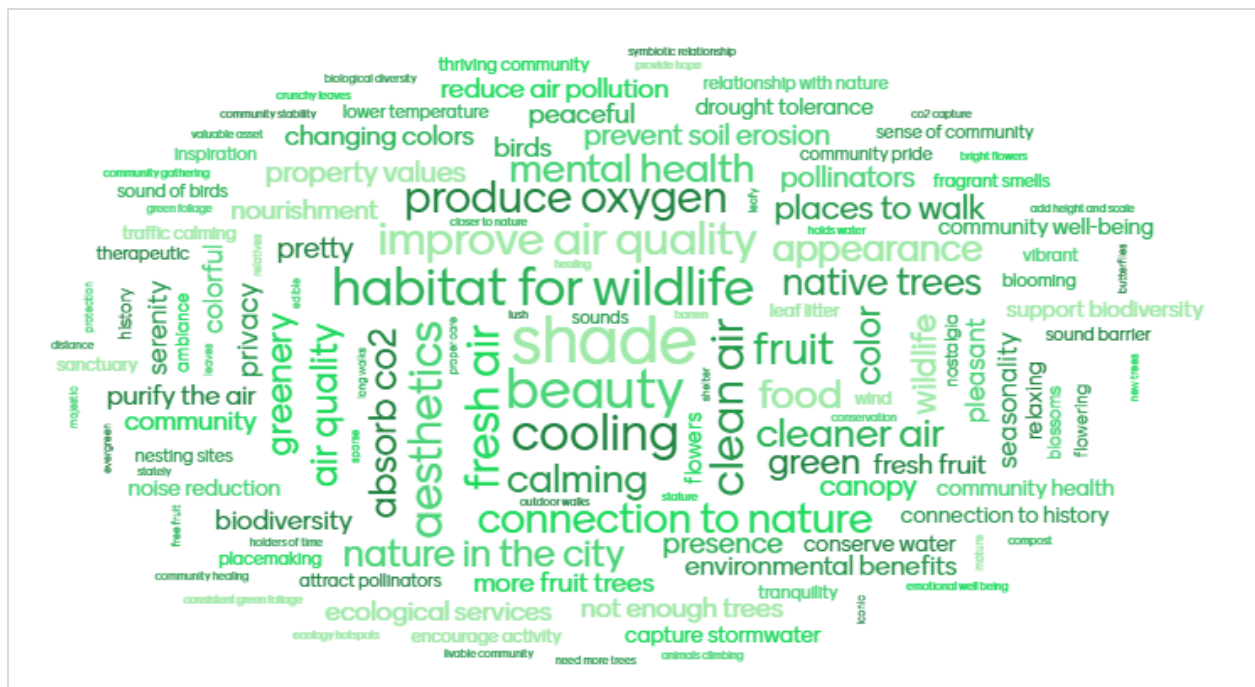
Vision and Values

The first section of the questionnaire asked community members about their vision and values for the community/urban forest.

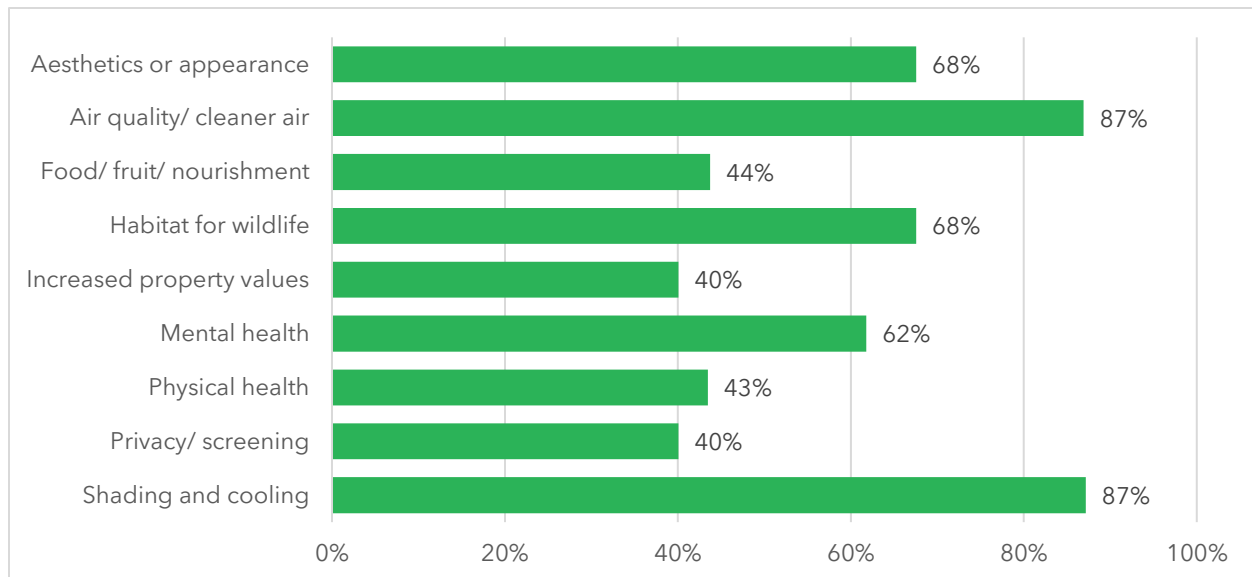
The word cloud in Figure 6 captures the range of responses shared to the first question – the larger the words and phrases appear, the more they were mentioned. Some of the most common themes among responses include:

- Shade and cooling
- Beauty, appearance and aesthetics
- Fresh or clean air, improving air quality, and absorbing CO₂
- Habitat for wildlife, biodiversity and ecological services
- Fruit and food
- Mental health benefits, community well-being
- Relaxation, calm, peace that trees bring
- Canopy foliage, greenery, colorful and vibrant
- Connection to nature and nature in the city
- Inspiring connection and activity

Figure 6: Think of the trees in your neighborhood or community. What do you value most about these trees? (Briefly describe in a few words) (Question 1, n= 348)



**Figure 7: Which of these benefits matter most to you? (Select all that apply)
(Question 2, n=382)**



When asked, "Which of these benefits from trees matter most to you?", air quality (87%) and shade and cooling (87%) were selected more often by respondents, followed by habitat for wildlife (68%) and aesthetics or appearance (68%); mental health was chosen by 62% of respondents.

Increased property value and privacy/screening were more likely to be expressed as a benefit for unincorporated LA County residents (chosen by 40% of respondents from unincorporated communities) compared to responses countywide which included more responses from renters (property value was chosen by 28% of all survey respondents, and privacy by 30% of all respondents).

Nearly nine of every ten respondents said air quality/cleaner air and shading and cooling were benefits that matter the most

Unincorporated residents chose property values and privacy as benefits more often than all survey respondents

Street Trees

This next set of questions from the community questionnaire had respondents think about the trees along the streets and in the medians in their neighborhood.

Regarding satisfaction with trees along streets and medians (Figure 8), nearly half of respondents said they were satisfied (28%) or very satisfied (18%); one-third said they were unsatisfied (20%) or very unsatisfied (12%).

When asked what respondents were most satisfied and least satisfied with related to their neighborhood street trees, the following were the top three answer choices (see Figure 9 and 10).

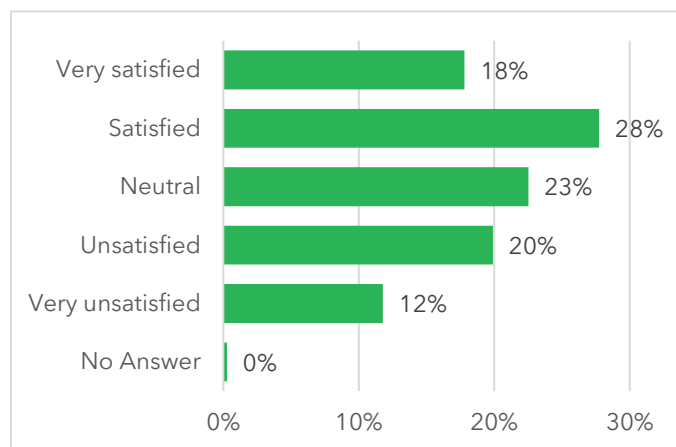
Most satisfied:

- Amount of shade
- Appearance
- Tree height or size

Least satisfied:

- Number of trees
- Sidewalk conditions
- Condition or health of trees

Figure 8: Are you satisfied with the trees along the streets and in medians in your neighborhood? (Select one) (Question 3, n=382)



46% of respondents say they are satisfied or very satisfied with street trees

44% of respondents are most satisfied with the amount of shade street trees provide

39% are least satisfied with number of trees in their neighborhood

Figures 9 and 10: What are you most satisfied (Question 4) and least satisfied (Question 5) with related to your neighborhood's street trees? (Select all that apply) (n=382)

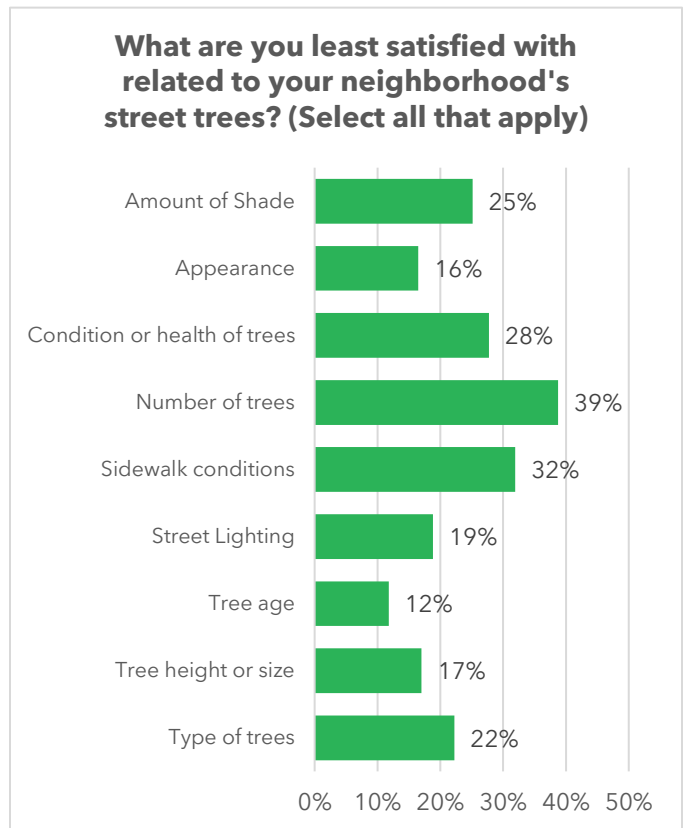
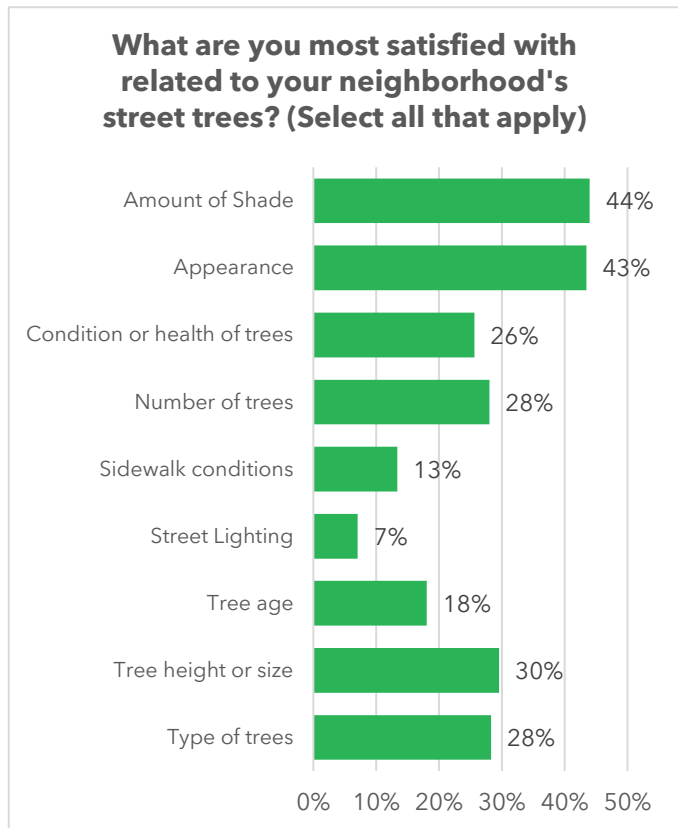
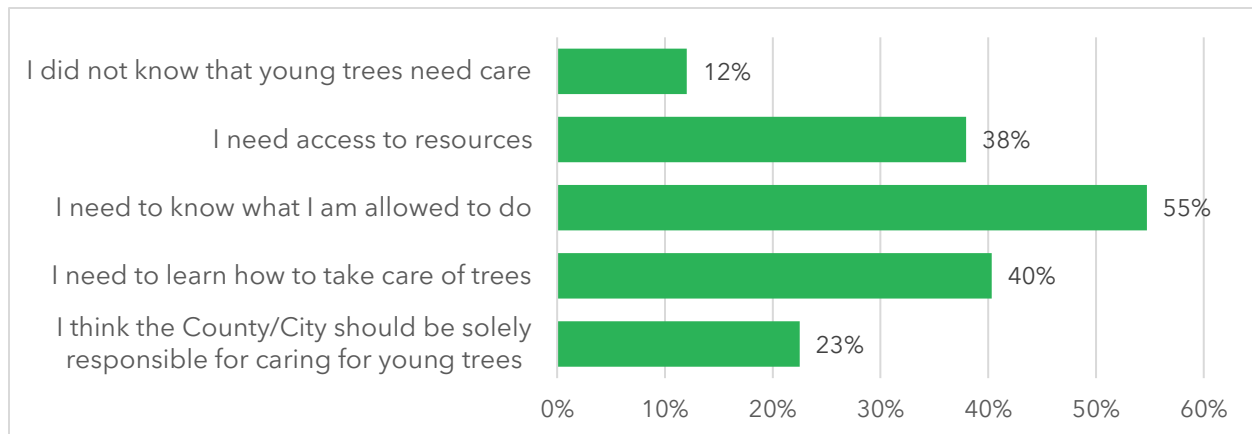


Figure 11: What would you need to care for young neighborhood street trees? (Select all that apply) (Question 13, n=382)



When asked "What would you need to care for young neighborhood street trees?" (Figure 11), more than half of respondents (55%) expressed they need to know what they're allowed to do. Forty percent of respondents shared they need to learn how to take care of trees while 38% shared they need access to resources.

Nearly one-fourth of respondents (23%) respondents shared they think the County or City should be solely responsible for caring for young trees. "I did not know that young trees need care" (12%) had the fewest responses.

More than half of respondents (55%) say they need to know what they are allowed to do to take care of street trees in their neighborhood

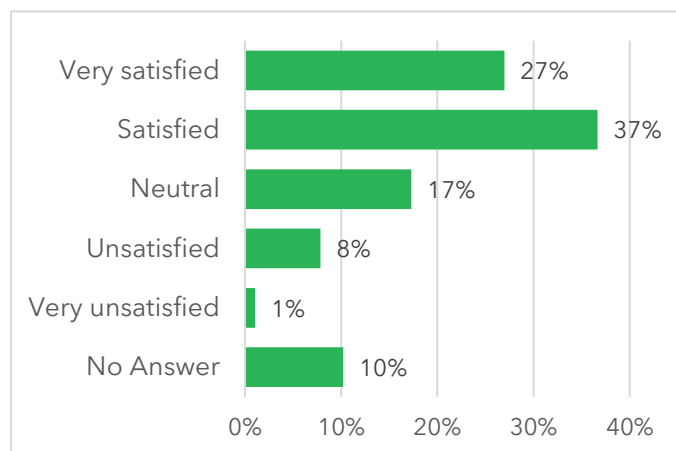
2 in 5 say they need resources (38%) or need to learn how to take care of trees (40%)

Options that focused on what the community could do if they had the right knowledge and resources were selected most often, presenting an opportunity for public education. Further, clear communication from LA County regarding tree care and what community members are allowed to do would be beneficial.

Park Trees

The following series of questions relate to respondents' satisfaction and thoughts regarding trees in parks.

Figure 12: Are you satisfied with the trees in the parks that you visit? (Select one) (Question 6, n=382)



64% of respondents say they are satisfied or very satisfied with park trees

60% of respondents are most satisfied with the amount of shade park trees provide

31% are least satisfied with number of trees in the parks they visit

Compared to trees along streets and in the medians in neighborhoods, fewer respondents answered this question (Figure 12), but more respondents expressed satisfaction with trees in parks they visit. Two-thirds of respondents said they were satisfied (37%) or very satisfied (27%) with the trees in the parks they visit.

When asked what respondents were most satisfied and least satisfied with related to the trees in the parks they visit, they were most satisfied with amount of shade and appearance but least satisfied with the number of trees, condition or health of trees, and type of trees (See Figure 13 and 14).

Figures 13 and 14: What are you most satisfied (Question 7) and least satisfied (Question 8) with related to park trees? (Select all that apply) (n=382)

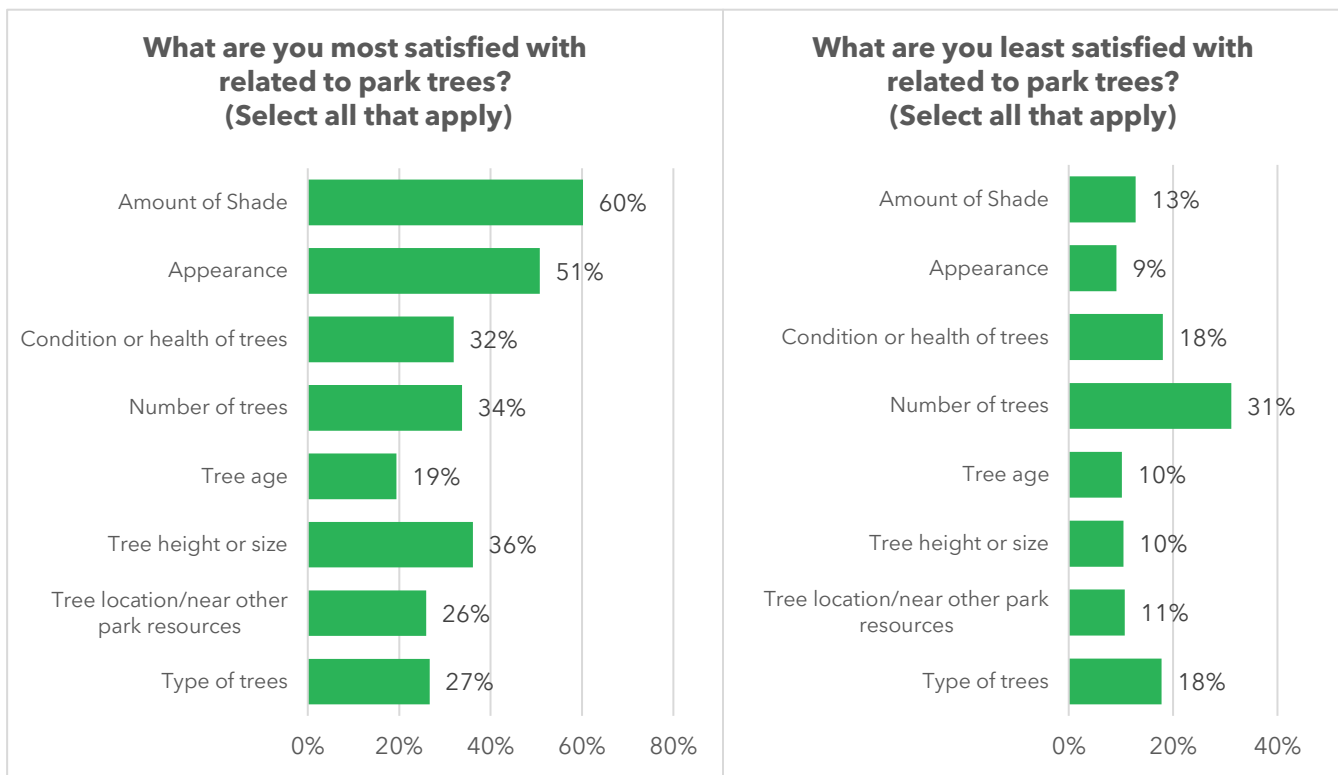
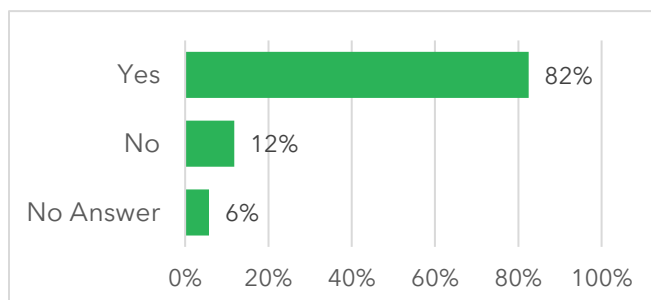


Figure 15: Are you in support of volunteer programs that create opportunities to care for trees in parks? (Select one) (Question 14, n=382)



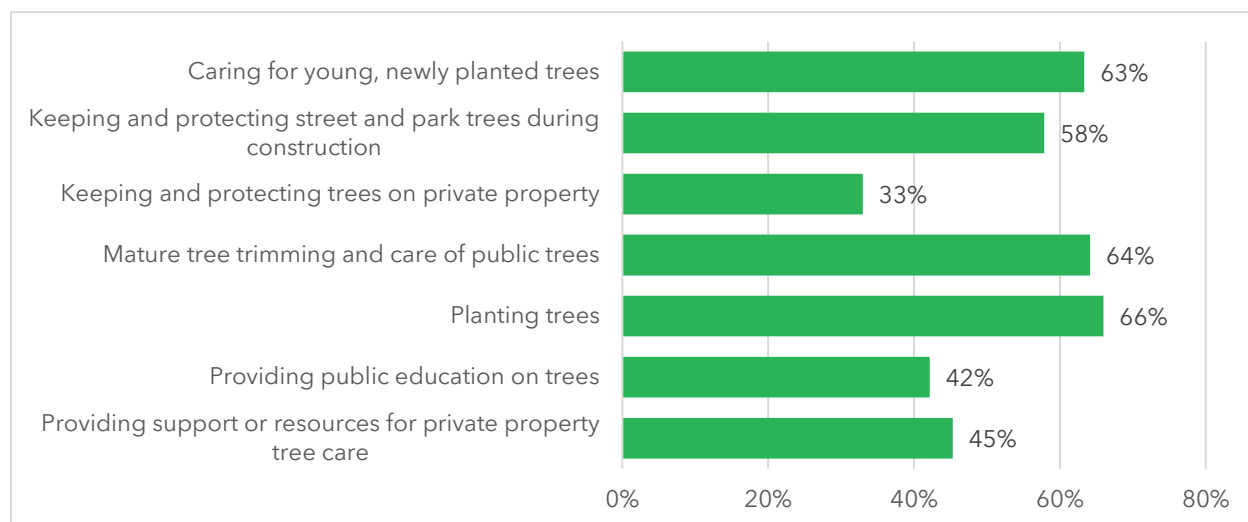
82% of respondents say they support programs that create volunteer opportunities to care for park trees

An overwhelming majority of respondents (82%) are in support of volunteer programs that would create opportunities to care for trees in parks.

Services Provided by the City/County

When asked, "Which of these activities are most important for the County or City to do more of?" (Figure 16), answer choices related to private trees were selected less often than choices related to public trees.

Figure 16: Which of these activities are most important for the County or City to do more of? (Select all that apply) (Question 9, n=382)



Planting (66%), mature tree trimming and care of public trees (64%), and caring for young, newly planted trees (63%) were the most selected answer choices. Keeping and protecting street and park trees during construction (58%) was also expressed as important for the County to do more of.

Respondents were more likely to prefer the County focus on matters related to public trees. However more community members from unincorporated areas want the County to provide more support and resources for private property tree care (45%). Only about one-third of respondents overall thought this was important.

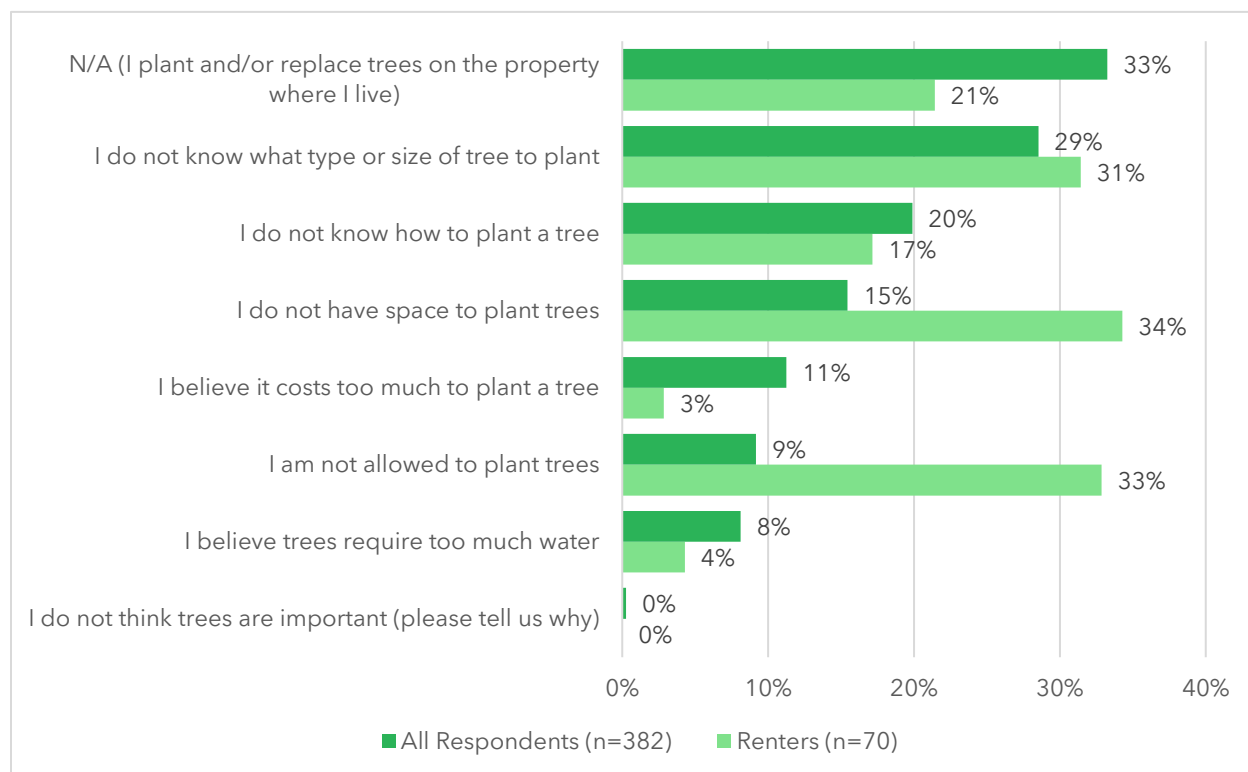
Approximately two-thirds of respondents say tree planting (66%) and related care for new trees (63%), mature tree care (64%) and protecting trees (58%) are the most important activities for the County to do more of

Nearly half of unincorporated residents say they want the county to provide support or resources for tree care on private property

Trees on Private Property

The following section discusses respondents' thoughts regarding trees in their yards and on private property. The analysis below highlights responses from renters.

Figure 17: What keeps you from planting or replacing trees on the private property where you live? (Select all that apply) (Question 10, n=382)



Approximately one in three respondents shared they already plant or replace trees on the private property where they live; 29% do not know what type of tree to plant.

One in five respondents said they do not know how to plant a tree (20%) and 15% do not have space to plant trees.

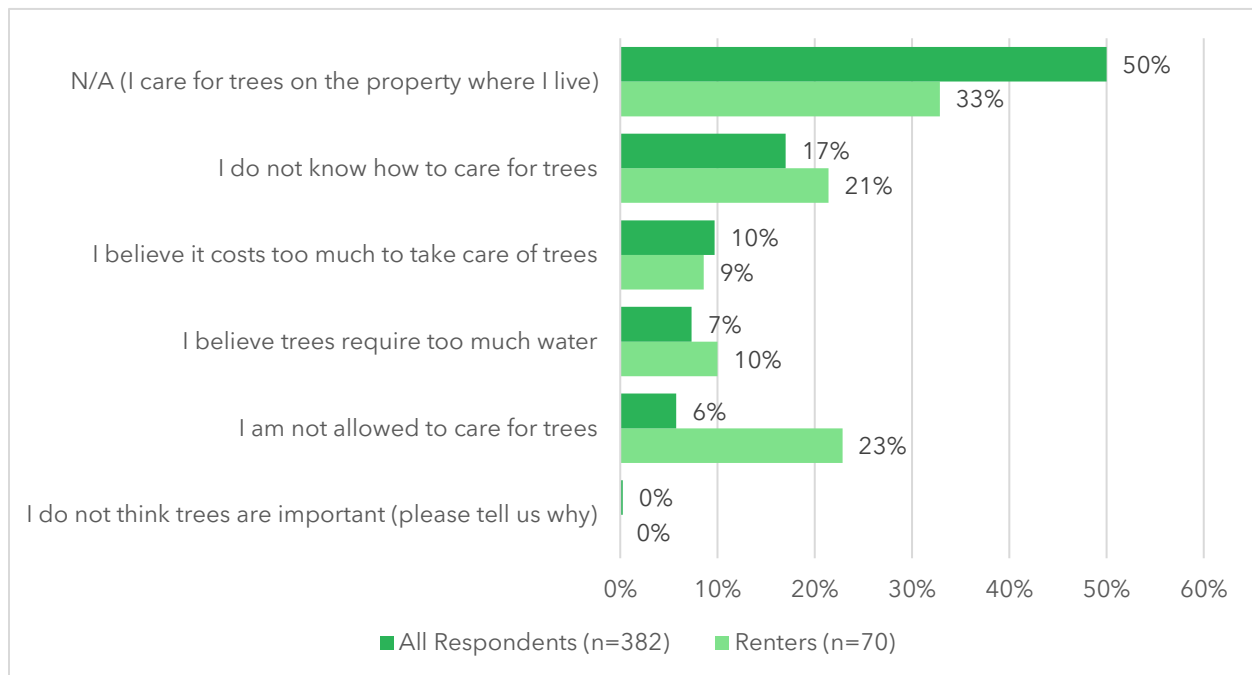
Where 9% of all respondents shared they are not allowed to plant trees, 33% of renters shared this sentiment.

Nearly one third of respondents who shared they are renters said they do not have space to plant trees (34%) and do not know what type or size of tree to plant (31%).

One-third of renters say they are not allowed to plant trees (33%) or do not have space to plant trees (34%)

29% of all respondents say they do not know what type of or size of tree to plant in their yard

Figure 18: What keeps you from taking care of trees on the private property where you live? (Select all that apply) (Question 11, n=382)



Half of respondents (50%) say they already care for trees on the property where they live.

Approximately one in six respondents shared that they don't know how to care for trees (17%); nearly one-fourth of renters said they don't know how to care for trees.

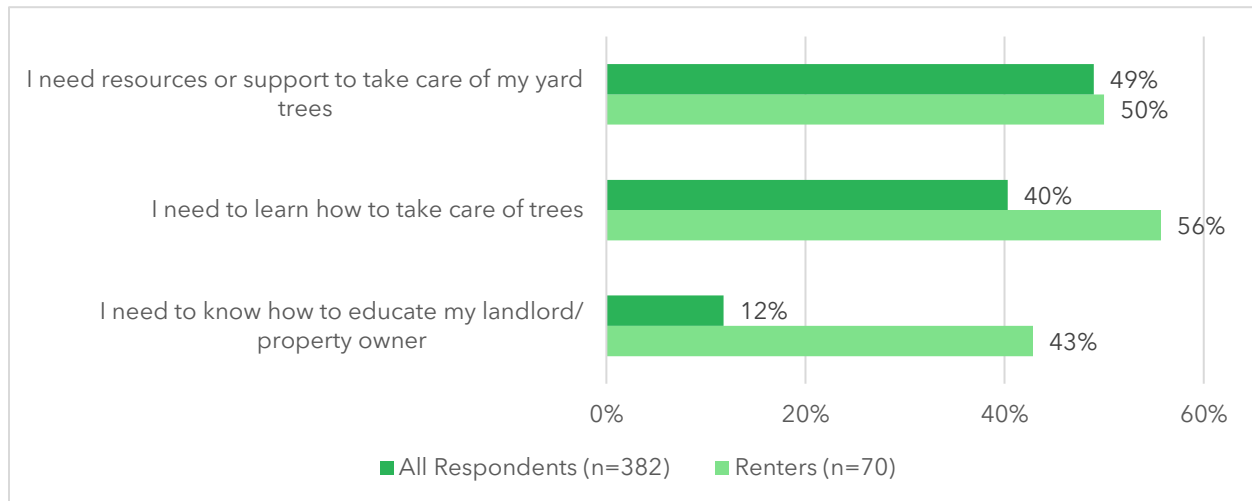
One in three renters indicated they are not allowed to care for trees (31%).

Ten percent of respondents and 12 percent of renters shared that they believe it costs too much to care for trees.

One in five renters say they are not allowed to care for trees where they live

17% of all respondents and 21% of renters say they do not know how to care for trees

Figure 19: What do you need to care for trees in your yard? (Select all that apply) (Question 12, n=382)



Learning how to take care of trees was chosen by more than half of those who identified as renters (56%). All respondents and renters similarly expressed they need resources or support to take care of trees in their yard (49% of all respondents; 50% of renters).

Forty-three percent of renters expressed a need to educate their landlord or property owner in order to care for trees in their yard.

More than half of renters (56%) and 40% of all respondents say they need to learn how to take care of trees

Half of all respondents (49%) and renters (50%) say they need resources or support to take care of their yard trees

43% of renters say they need to know how to educate their property owner about tree care

Additional Thoughts

Respondents were asked if they wanted to share any additional thoughts (Question 15). Responses received include the following themes:

Tree Maintenance and Care:

- Concerns about proper pruning and watering.
- Desire for education and training for tree maintenance personnel.

Community Involvement and Education:

- Advocacy for community volunteer groups.
- Importance of providing educational materials and resources.
- Emphasis on partnerships with schools and local organizations.

Native and Drought-Tolerant Trees:

- Advocacy for planting native and drought-tolerant tree species.
- Recognition of their environmental benefits and suitability for local conditions.

Benefits of Trees:

- Acknowledgment of the multiple benefits provided by trees, including shade, air purification, and aesthetic enhancement.

Concerns about Development and Infrastructure:

- Criticism of development practices that lead to the removal of mature trees.
- Calls for better planning to accommodate tree growth.

Access to Trees and Green Spaces:

- Desire for increased access to trees and green spaces, particularly in underserved communities.
- Calls for more tree planting in public areas like parks and streets.

Criticism of Utility Companies:

- Critique of utility companies for their tree trimming practices and the damage caused to trees.

Climate Change and Environmental Awareness:

- Recognition of the role of trees in mitigating climate change.
- Calls for greater environmental awareness and action to protect trees and green spaces.