



Golden Ears Provincial Park Recreation Facility Plan

Community Input Summary
June, 2024



BC Parks



A photograph of a lush forest with moss-covered tree trunks and ferns. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue horizontal bar and a vertical bar, which frame the title and text.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that Golden Ears Park is within the ancestral territory of the Coast Salish and Interior Salish peoples, including many First Nations communities.

BC Parks is committed to conducting this project in a manner that contributes to lasting reconciliation with the First Nations of this region and in alignment with the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Engagement Summary

Park Strengths

- Variety of recreation opportunities including front-country, backcountry and lake activities close to urban areas
- Diverse habitats, forests, wildlife, and extensive undeveloped areas
- Beautiful scenery and views

Park Challenges

- Not enough and poor condition of trails and facilities, including unclear signage
- Boat launch is congested at peak times
- Lack of transportation options to park such as transit, bike

Top Objectives

- Protect environmental values
- Incorporate Indigenous voices and values
- Improve facilities and access options

Top Facility Suggestions

- Improve and maintain trails for various types of users
- Improve the condition of roads and infrastructure
- Increase and improve amenities, including signage and wayfinding

Engagement



237 surveys,
1,003 comments

66 workshop
participants



A scenic photograph of a calm lake with dark blue water, surrounded by steep, forested mountains under a clear sky with a few clouds. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue cross-shaped graphic that serves as a design element.

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Background


- BC Parks is working on a Recreation Facility Plan to identify what facilities and services are needed to:
 - provide a range of enjoyable, high-quality, and safe outdoor recreation opportunities for visitors, and
 - help manage the increasing number of visitors to protect the environmental and cultural integrity of the park.
- The Recreation Facility Plan will identify and recommend facility improvement projects to potentially complete in the future. The plan will consider existing visitor use challenges and recommend facilities that provide practical solutions to problems.
- An online survey was hosted on the Let's Talk BC Parks website from May 10 to July 24, 2023 to collect community input on this project. The survey responses will help guide the Recreation Facility Plan.
- Virtual workshops, summarized here, were held with interest holder and resident groups in May and June, 2023.
- Engagement with First Nations governments is happening separately to ensure BC Parks meets its commitments in alignment with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. The results of that engagement are not included in this report.
- Engagement with equity, diversity, and inclusion groups will be happening separately to help BC Parks improve accessibility and inclusion in keeping with the BC Parks Commitment to Inclusion.

Engagement Process

First Nations Engagement

 **Initial stage**
informing and
emails /
conversations
Spring 2023

Preliminary review stage
sending and reviewing
draft text related to First
Nations interests
 Fall 2023

 **Plan review
stage**
circulation of
draft plan for
review

Communications



**Let's Talk BC Parks'
Project Page**



**Park
webpages**



**BC Parks social
media (Facebook
and Instagram)**

Community Survey



**Community survey with
mapping tool**

May – July 2023
237 respondents
1,003 comments

Outreach



**Direct emails to
interest holders and Snap
Ad mail mailing inviting
residents to participate
in workshops**
March 2023

In the Wild



**In-park
posters**

Workshops and Interviews



**Interest Holder
Workshops**

May 2023
28 participants



**Resident
Workshops**

June 2023
38 participants



**Interviews with
key interest
holders,
park operators**



**Community Survey
Summary posted**



**Public posting
of Draft Plan**



**Public posting
of Final Plan**

Results

Workshops Summary



The following is a synthesis of workshop input. The details of individual workshops will be in the final project report.



Park Strengths

- Proximity to Vancouver, Maple Ridge, and services/amenities, with access for pedestrians and bikes from local communities
- Easily accessible nature including frontcountry and backcountry opportunities
- Great variety of terrain including low and high elevation recreation opportunities, busier and quieter areas
- Beautiful and varied nature, , including forests, wildlife, and extensive undeveloped areas
- Great and popular trails for many users and abilities including accessible trails and connections to broader community
- Access to beaches, lakes, and boating, including boat access-only beaches
- Community pride, engagement with visitors, volunteer opportunities
- Free day use pass and parking
- Great and varied recreation opportunities (e.g., campgrounds, day-use, horseback riding, mountain biking)
- Positive relationship with park rangers, staff; good maintenance
- Indigenous culture and spiritual significance

Park Challenges and Barriers

- Trails in poor condition and unsafe, road unsafe for biking
- Not enough facilities in park (e.g., toilets, tent pads, food caches, backcountry trails, horse amenities)
- Boat launch is congested and unsafe; safety issues with motorized watercraft and non-motorized recreation (swimming, paddling)
- Lack of clarity and communication with signage
- Facilities are overcapacity including trails, garbage, washrooms, and campgrounds
- Not enough enforcement (e.g., fires during fire ban, illegal parking)
- Rely on volunteers for trail maintenance
- Condition of infrastructure, e.g., bridges, main road, washrooms
- Limited parking and access at peak times; day-use pass demand is high and a barrier to access in summer
- Traffic congestion on roads, can limit emergency access; only one road in/out; road safety
- Park closures in winter due to weather and lack of snow plowing; no signs to communicate closures
- Lack of public transit into the park



Objectives for New Facilities

- Protect biodiversity and wildlife; balance visitor access and park values
- Safety of road, trails, and infrastructure; water safety
- Cultural safety for Indigenous peoples
- More and better facilities to keep pace with population growth
- Accessibility for all ages and abilities
- Variety of recreation options for a variety of users; backcountry and front country
- More access for all modes of transport during all season and to more of the park
- More collaboration – governments, groups
- More education, information and enforcement – resources, etiquette, risks, access
- Better communication, clear signs and wayfinding

Ideas for the Future

- More and better trails with improved maintenance
- Infrastructure improvements – more/better toilets, camping facilities, boat launch, day use areas, horse amenities, bike racks, backcountry facilities, mountain biking trails
- Road improvements - traffic calming, road cycling lanes or bike path, another road access
- More amenities - cell phone coverage, rentals (bikes, paddling), water and power for campsites, concession, interpretive centre and/or program venue
- Cultural recognition
- Better signs and maps with distances, use types/levels; interpretive signage
- Signage on park capacity
- More parking for day use pass holders
- Transit to park and shuttle bus through park

Community Survey Summary



A photograph of a group of hikers walking away from the camera on a dirt trail through a dense forest. The hiker in the foreground is wearing a black backpack and a blue shirt. The trail is surrounded by tall trees and green foliage.

Community Survey Summary

Most Popular Activities: Day hiking, walking, swimming

Most Used Areas: Alouette (South Beach) and Gold Creek, Mike Lake

Most Popular Trails: Mike Lake area trails and the Lower Falls trail

Important Values:

- Retaining locations for peaceful enjoyment and views
- Supporting recreation opportunities
- Avoiding impacts to environmental resources

Facilities Satisfaction: Hiking/running trails, parking locations, day use areas

Facilities Dissatisfaction: Parking availability, road cycling, washrooms

Park Services Strengths: Year-round opportunities, summer day use pass, dog walking

Park Services Challenges: Campground reservation system, summer day use pass, bike access, transit service

Top Strategies:

- Improving existing park facilities (e.g., washrooms, signage, trails)
- Protecting environmental values
- Maximizing the use of existing park facilities

Top Facility Suggestions:

- More trails
- Improved road safety for cyclists
- More horse facilities

Response Rate



237

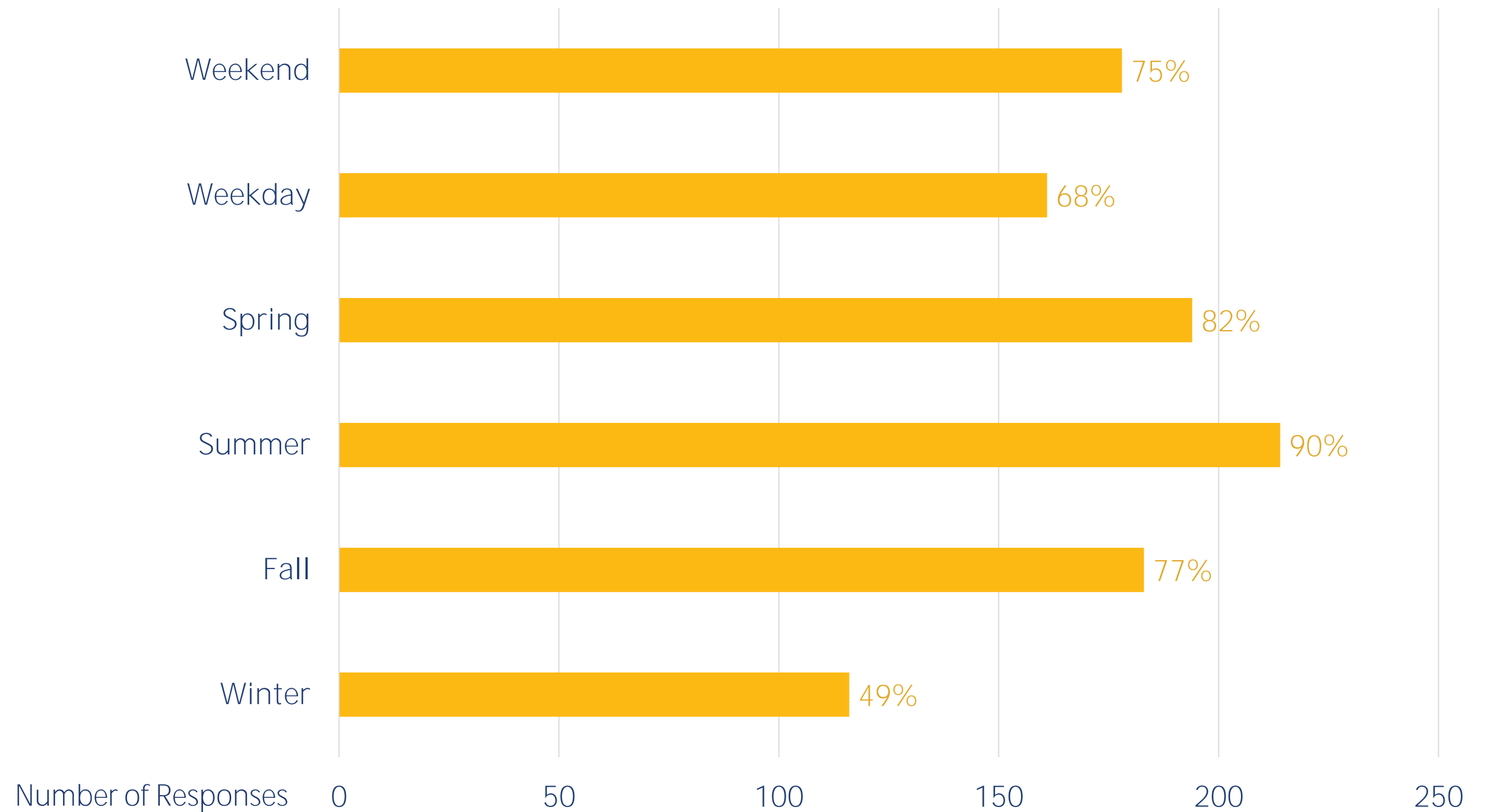
RESPONDENTS



1,003

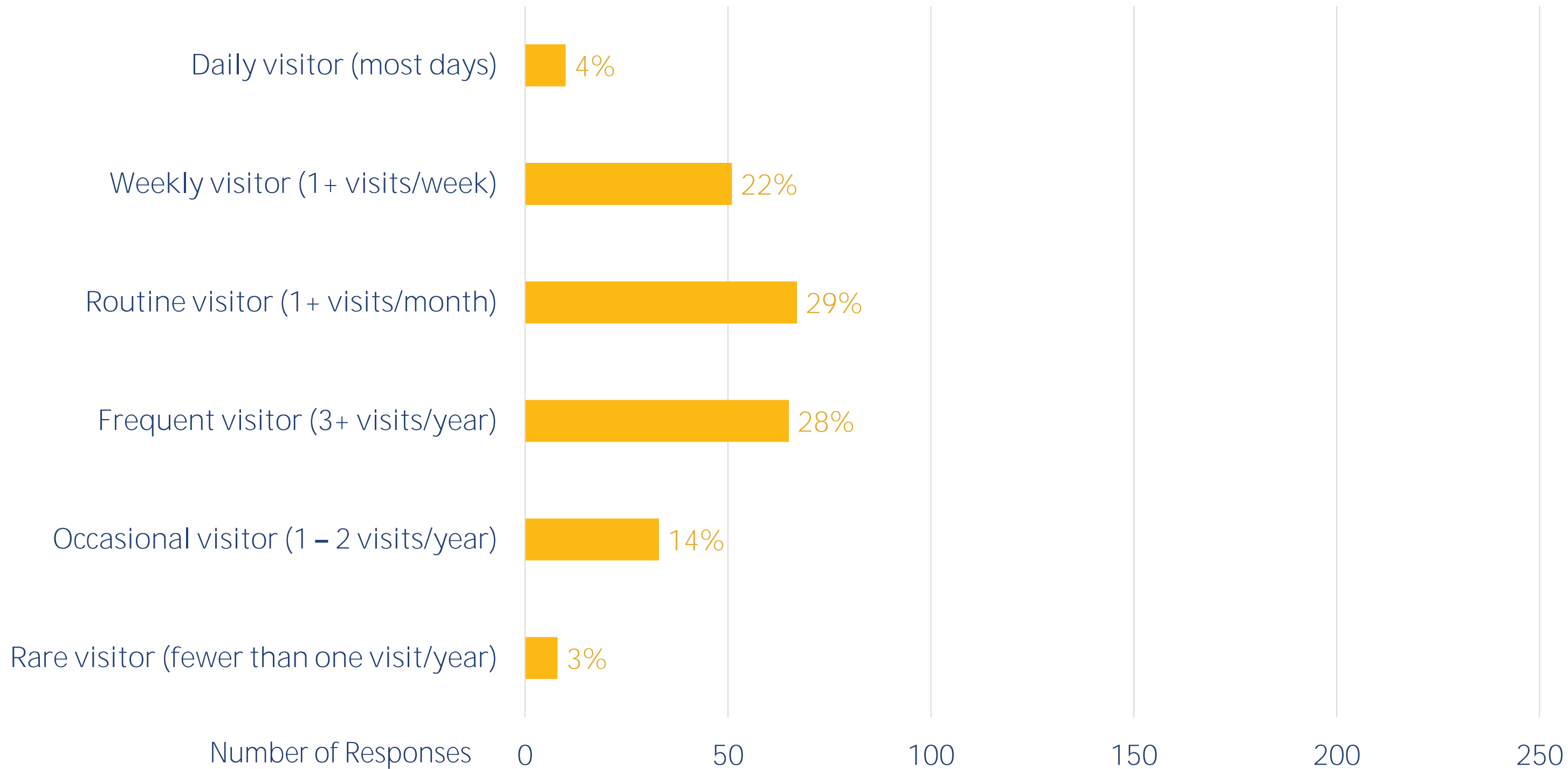
COMMENTS

Timing of Visit



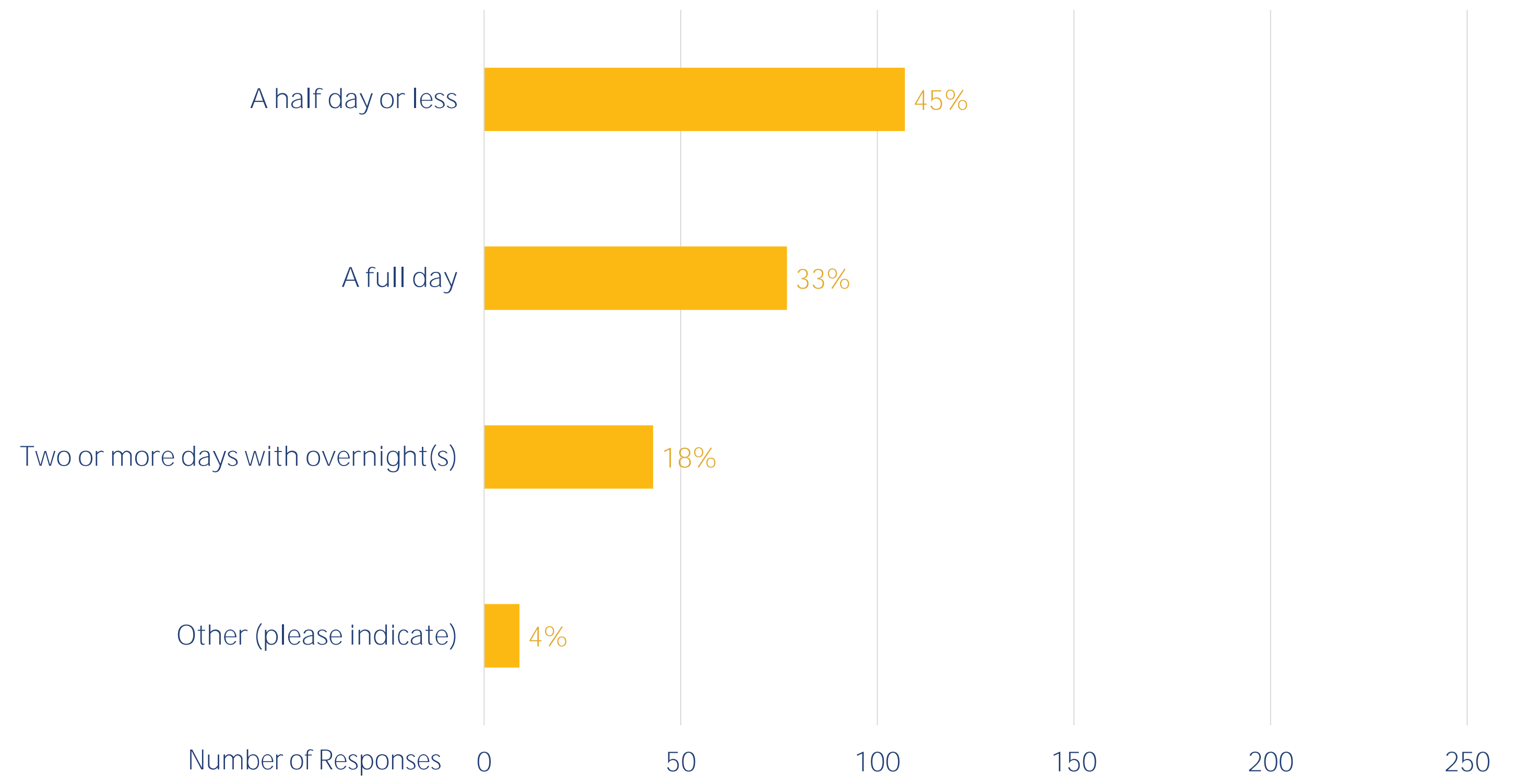
Q: When do you typically visit Golden Ears Provincial Park? (check all that apply)
N (Number of responses): 236

Frequency of Visit



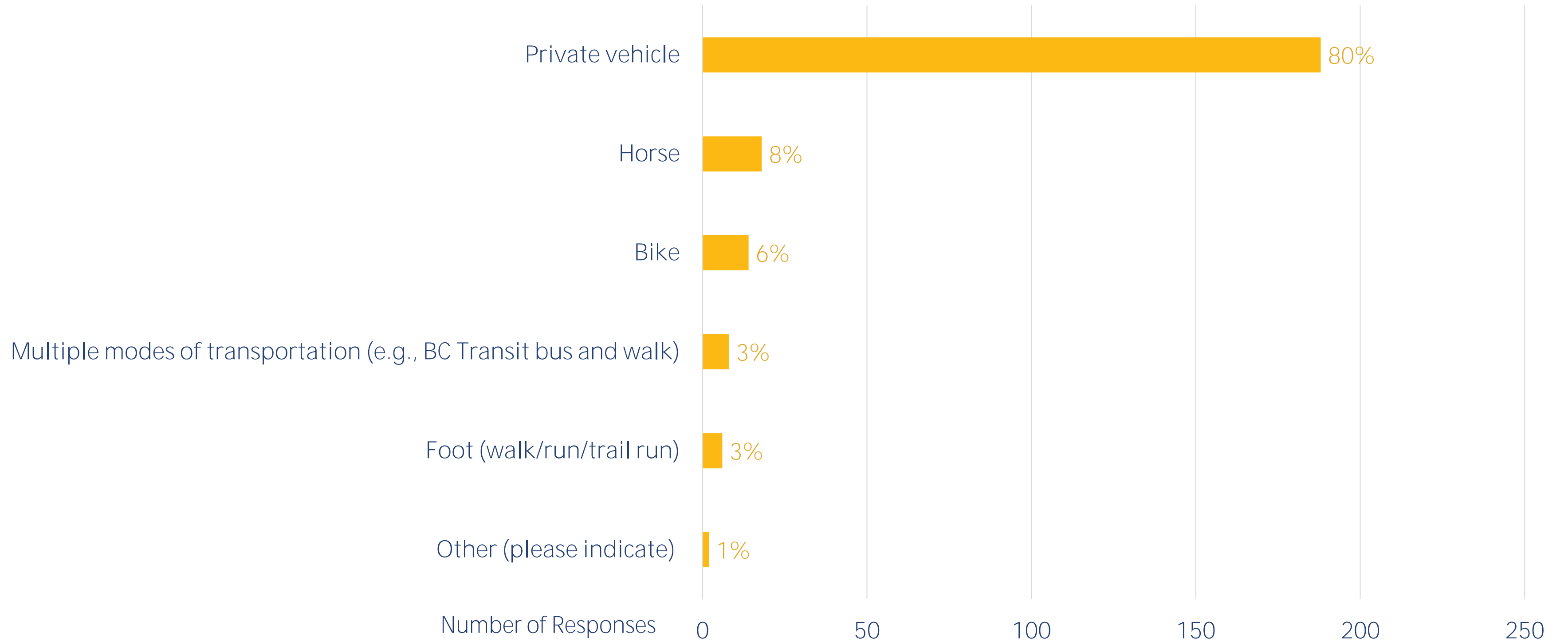
Q: How often do you visit Golden Ears Provincial Park?
N: 234

Length of Visit



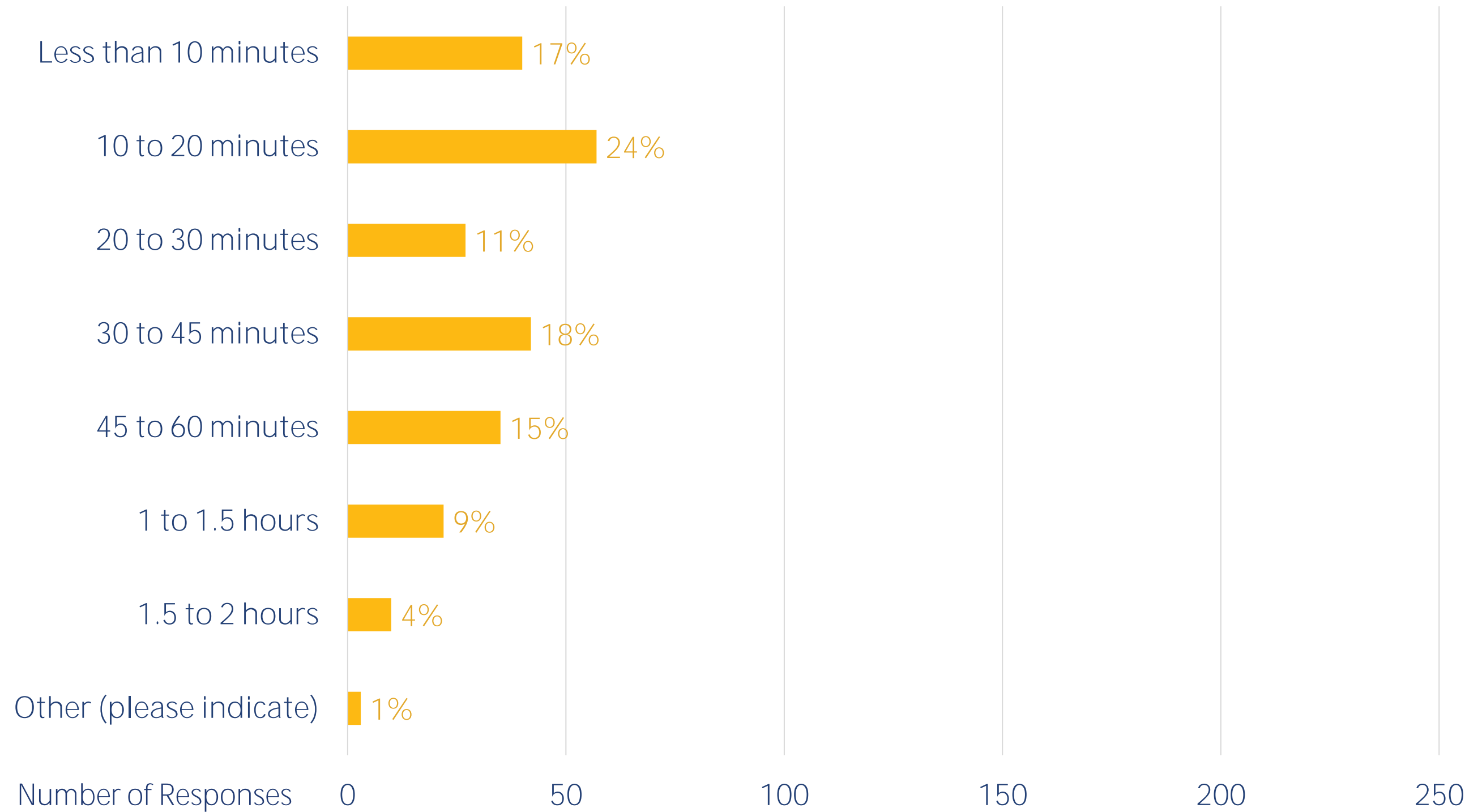
Q: How long is your typical visit to Golden Ears Provincial Park?
N: 227

Mode of Access



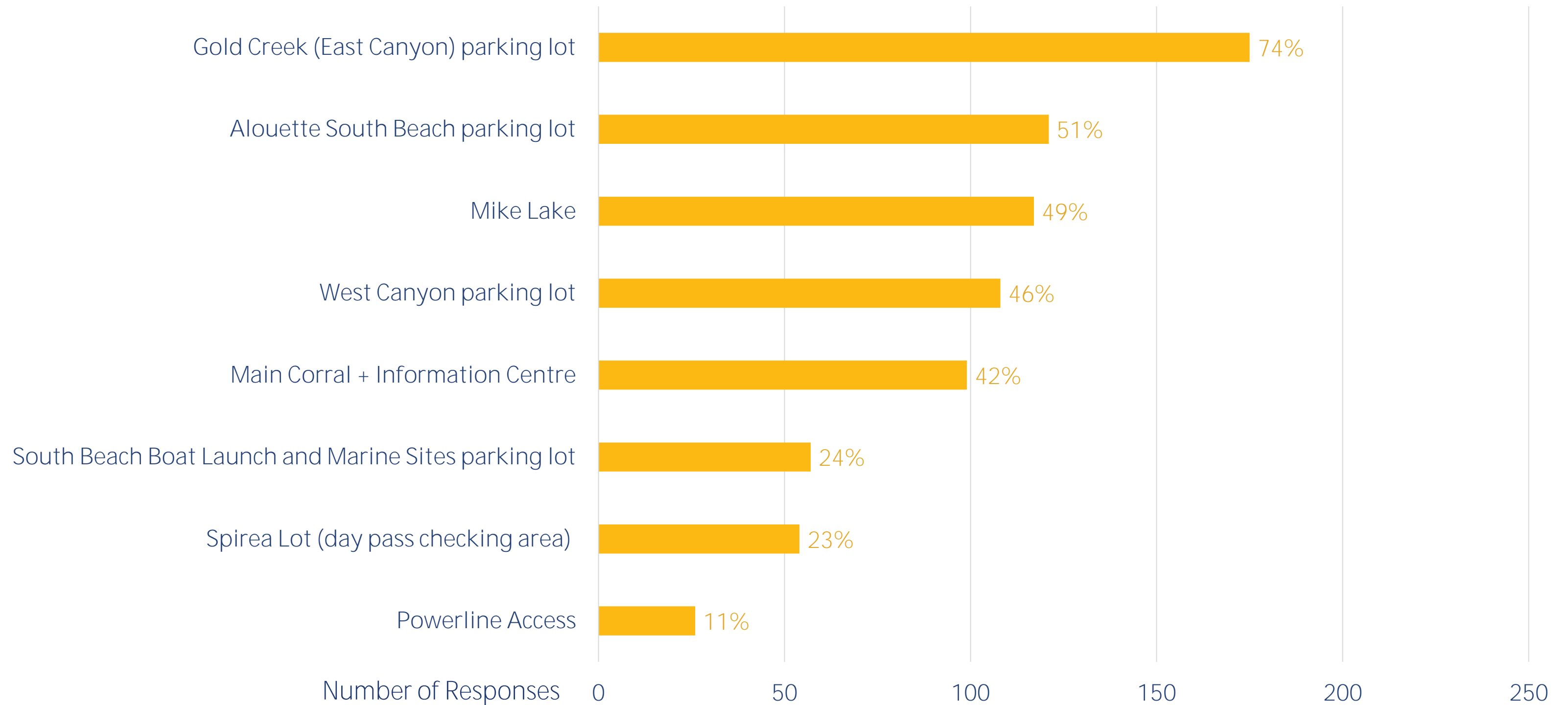
Q: How do you most often access Golden Ears Provincial Park?
N: 234

Travel Time to Park



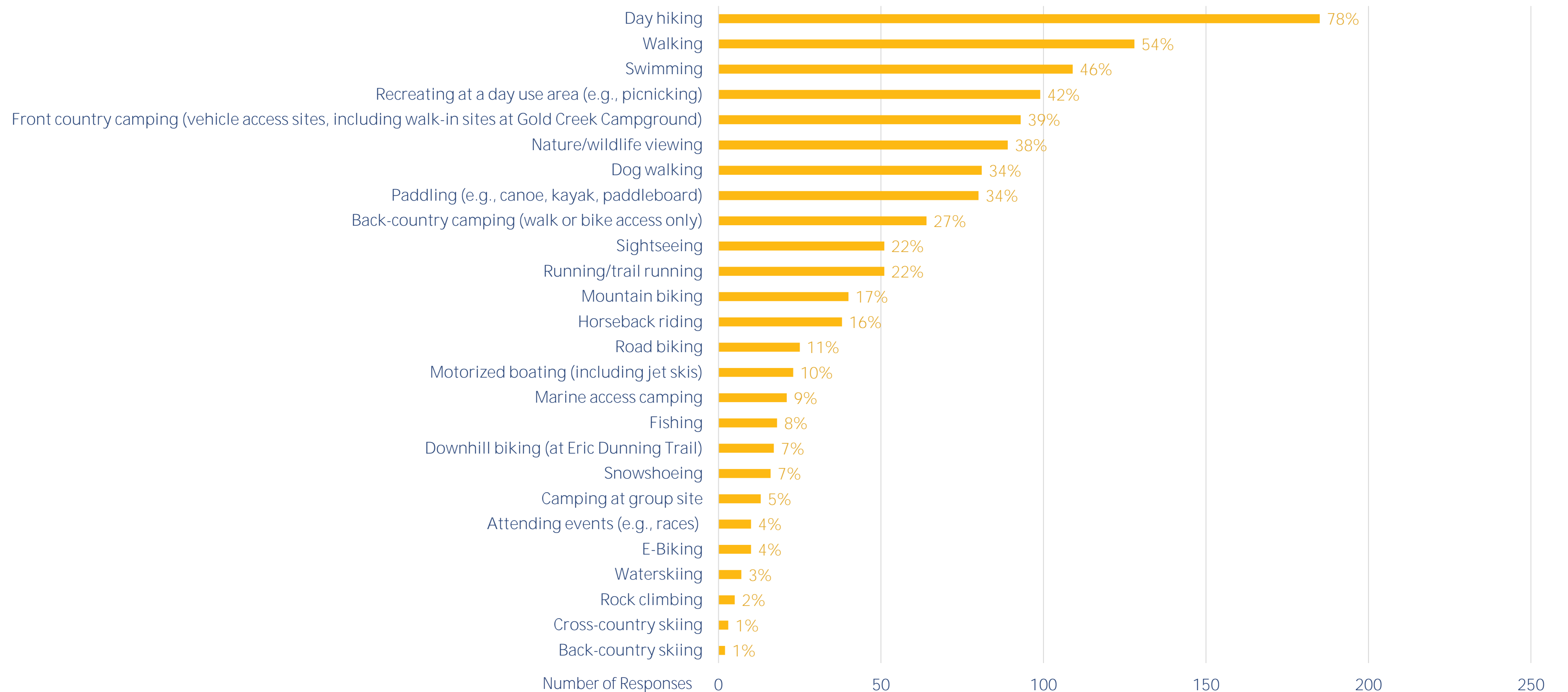
Q: On average, how long is your trip from your home to Golden Ears Provincial Park (for the travel mode you identified in the previous question)?
N: 233

Parking Location



Q: Which parking lots in Golden Ears Provincial Park do you use? (check all that apply)
N: 161

Outdoor Activities



Q: What activities do you participate in when visiting Golden Ears Provincial Park? (check all that apply)
N: 236

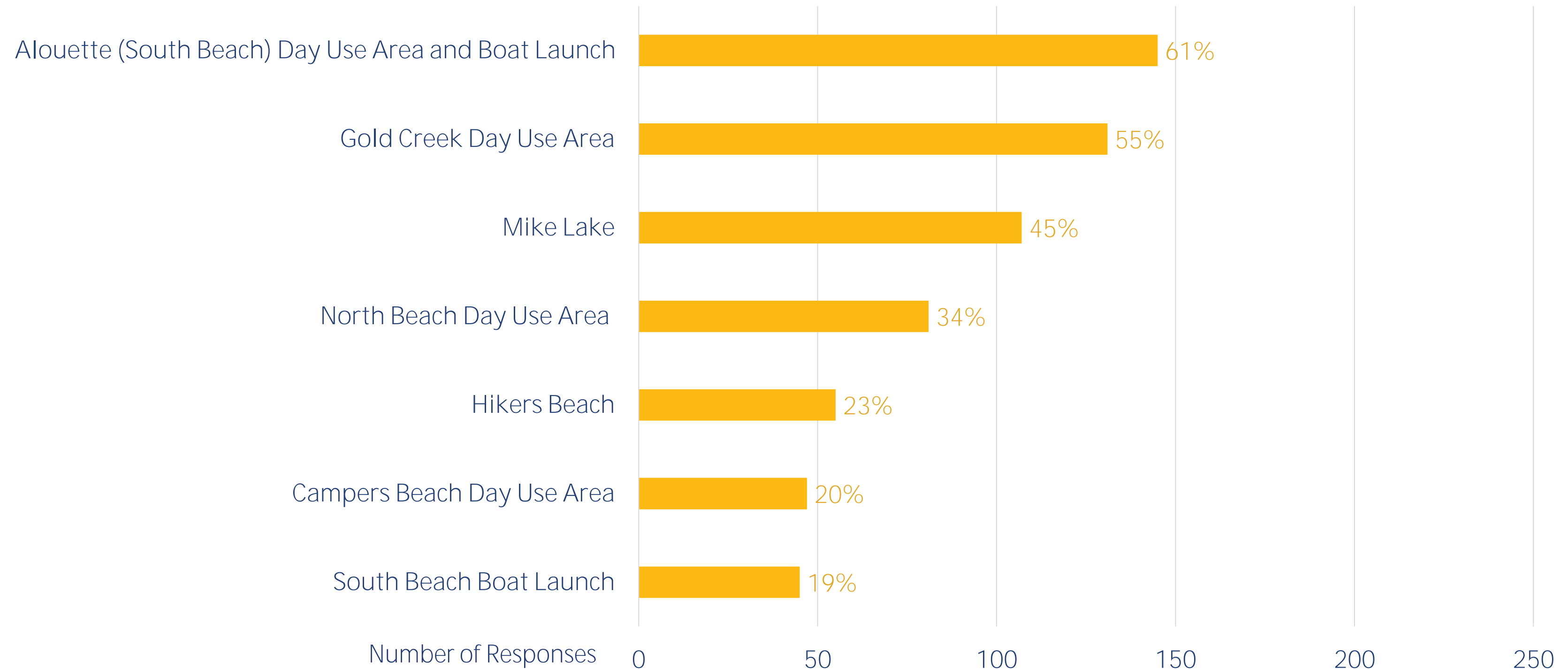
Other Activities

- Photography (2)

Comments mentioned once:

- Geocaching
- Leisure driving
- Meditation
- Playing with radio-controlled toys

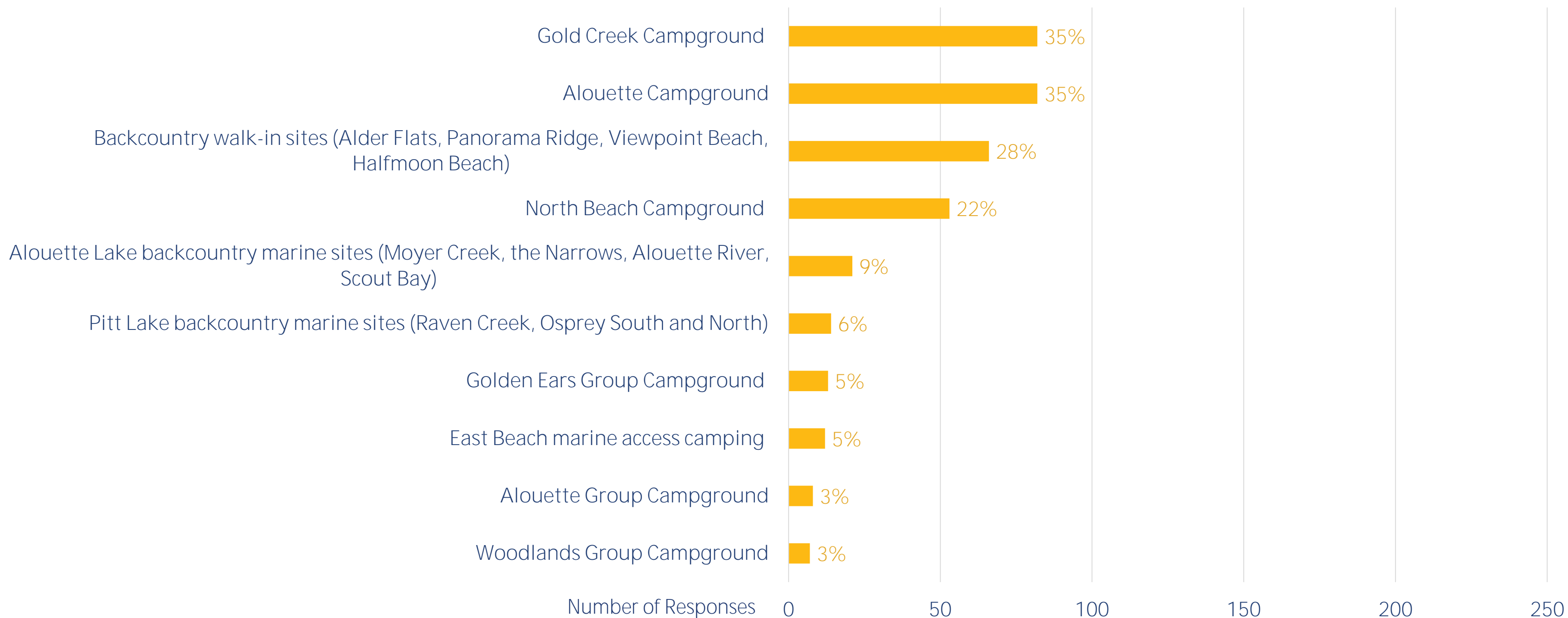
Day Use Areas Used



Q: Which day use areas in Golden Ears Provincial Park do you use? (Check all that apply)

N: 210

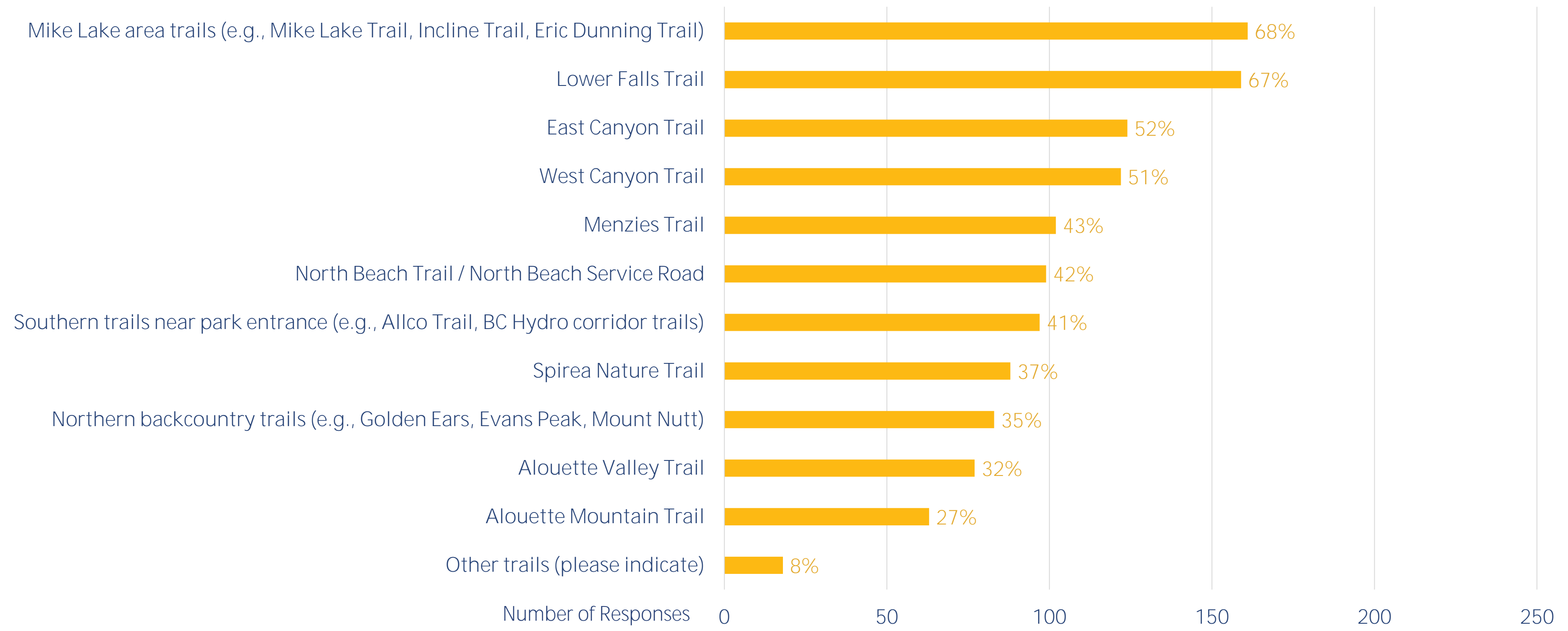
Campgrounds Used



Q: Which campgrounds in Golden Ears Provincial Park do you use? (Check all that apply)

N: 161

Trails Used



Q: Which trails in Golden Ears Provincial Park do you use? (check all that apply)
N: 227

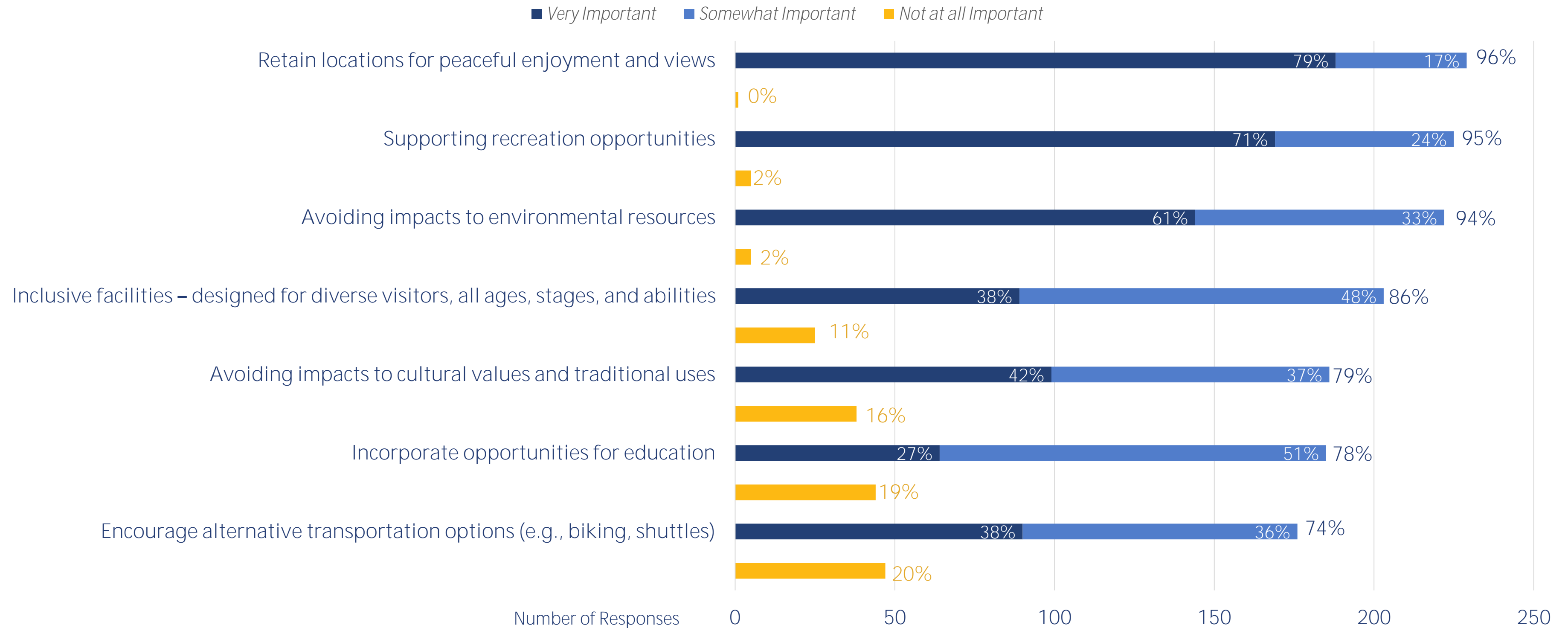
Other Trails Used

- Incline and Whisky West Loop trail (3)
- All horse trails (2)
- Hector Fergusson Lake trail (2)
- Half Moon Beach trail (2)
- Mount Robie Reid trail (2)
- Scout Bay trail (2)

Comments mentioned once:

- All trails
- Trail of Fallen Giants
- Whisky West and Memorial trail loop

Values



Q: How important is each of the following values to planning future facilities of Golden Ears Provincial Park?
N: 236

Responses are shown only for those with important values or not, and exclude those who are not sure.

Other Values

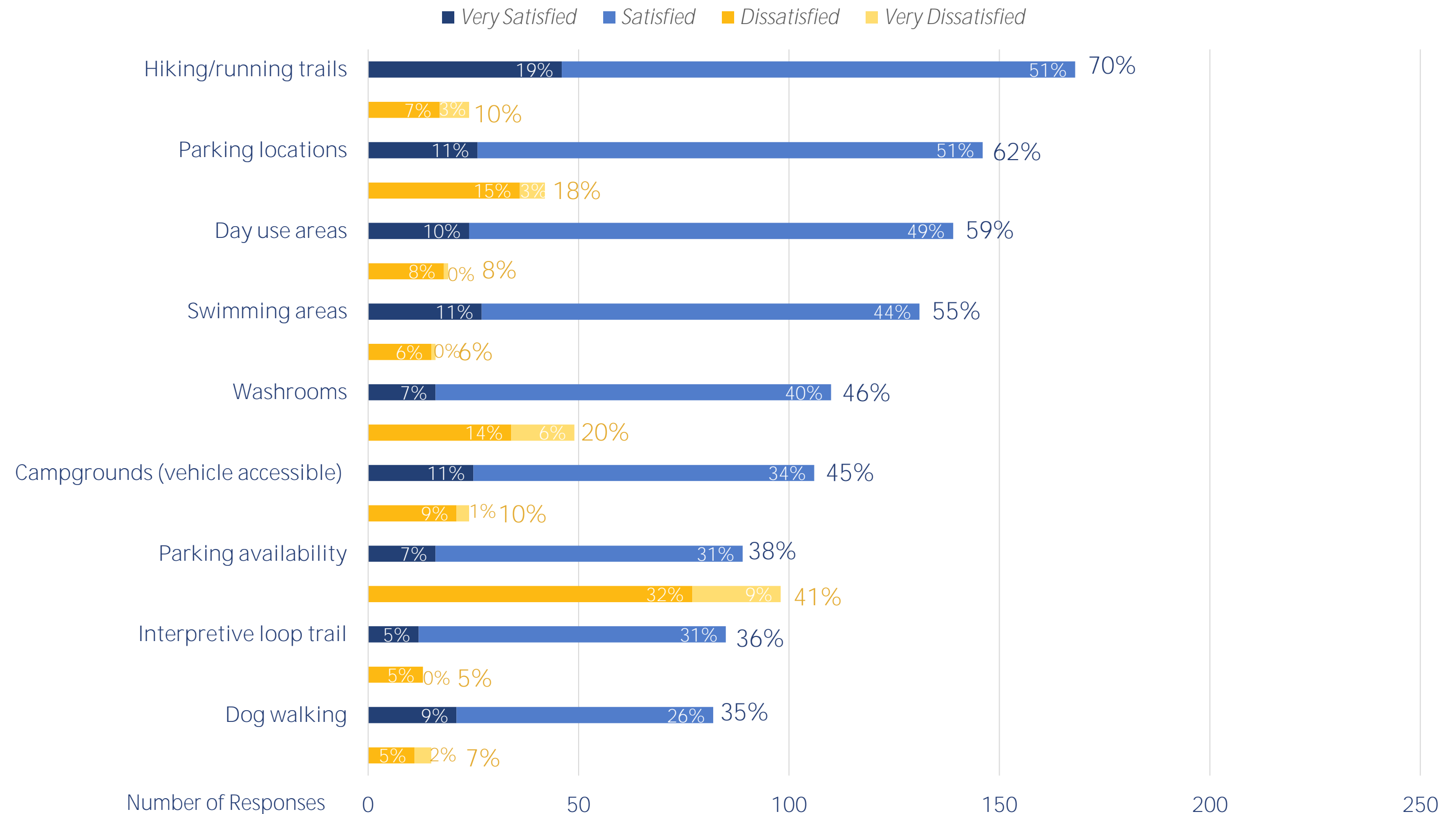
- Improve road safety for cyclists (18)
- Horse facilities (corrals, manure bins, trailer parking, marked trails) (15)
- Support local residential use (11)
- Revamp day pass system (9)
- Improve accessibility (8)
- Protect nature (8)
- Reduce traffic (8)
- Another road access (7)
- More trails (6)
- Maintain facilities (5)
- Encourage safety education (5)
- Maintain park quietness (4)
- Improve trail and boardwalk maintenance (4)
- Shuttle bus / transit through park (4)

- More diverse recreation opportunities (3)
- More dog-friendly opportunities (3)
- Keep park rural (3)
- More parking (3)
- More / better signage – maps, names, distances, users, interpretation, etiquette (3)
- Signage on parking capacity (incl Mike Lake) and traffic times (2)
- Encourage park etiquette (2)
- More / better backcountry facilities (camping, access) (2)
- More playgrounds (2)
- Support day pass system (2)
- Better cell phone coverage (2)
- Reduce speeding (2)
- Support active outdoor recreation (2)
- Support Indigenous use and values (2)

Comments mentioned once:

- Bike racks
- Bus into park from Maple Ridge
- Consider pay parking
- Ensure capacity meets demand
- High quality experience
- Improve boat launch including parking area
- More / better camping
- More / better camping including Alouette Mountain, potable water, power, showers, paved roads
- Enforcement of park rules
- Partner with volunteers to maintain backcountry trails and facilities
- Upgrade trails

Satisfaction with Facilities

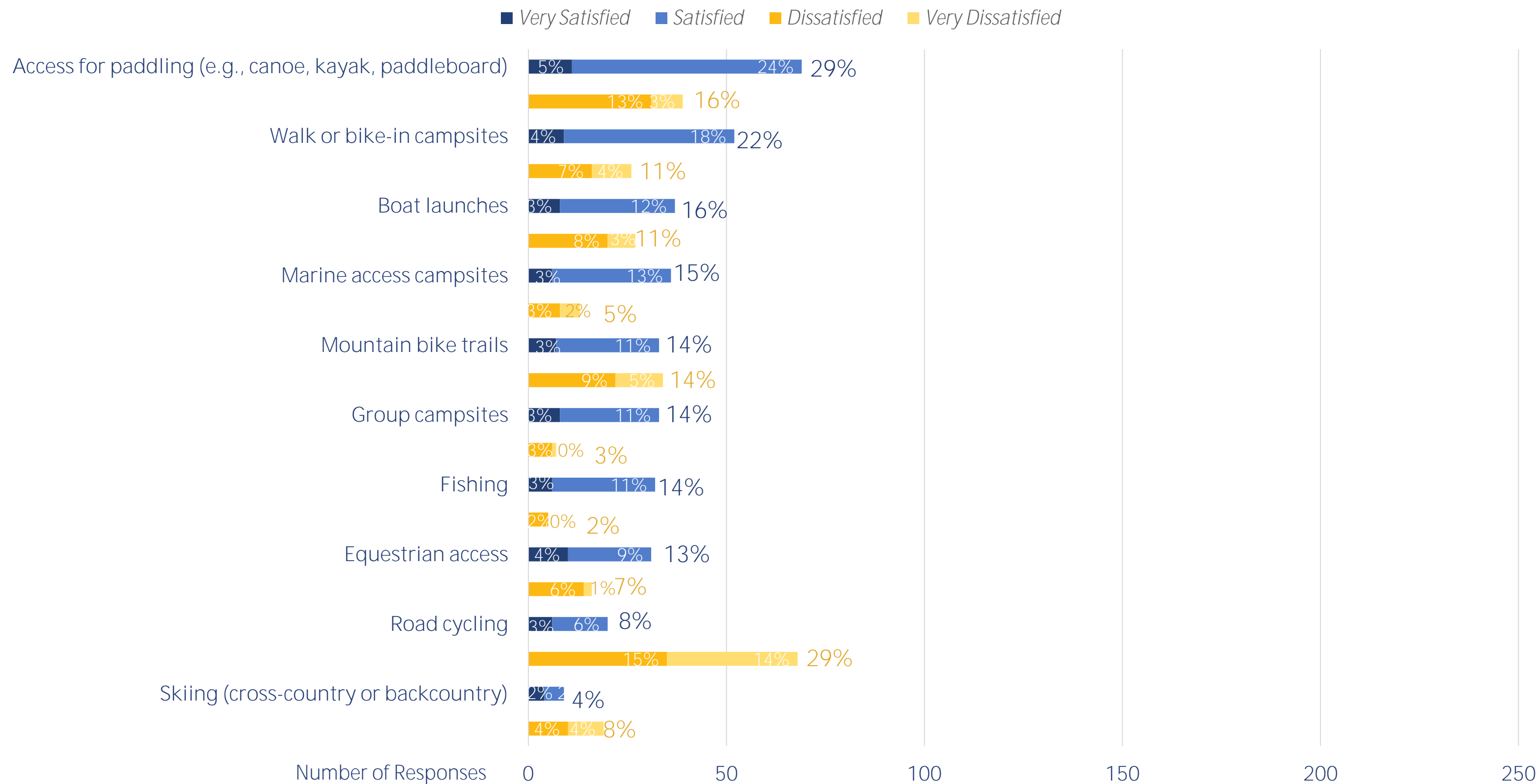


Q: What is your level of satisfaction with the following facilities and opportunities in Golden Ears Provincial Park?
N: 236

Responses are shown only for those satisfied or not, and exclude those who do not use certain facilities or services.

Satisfaction with Facilities

(continued)



Q: What is your level of satisfaction with the following facilities and opportunities in Golden Ears Provincial Park?
N: 236

Responses are shown only for those satisfied or not, and exclude those who do not use certain facilities or services.

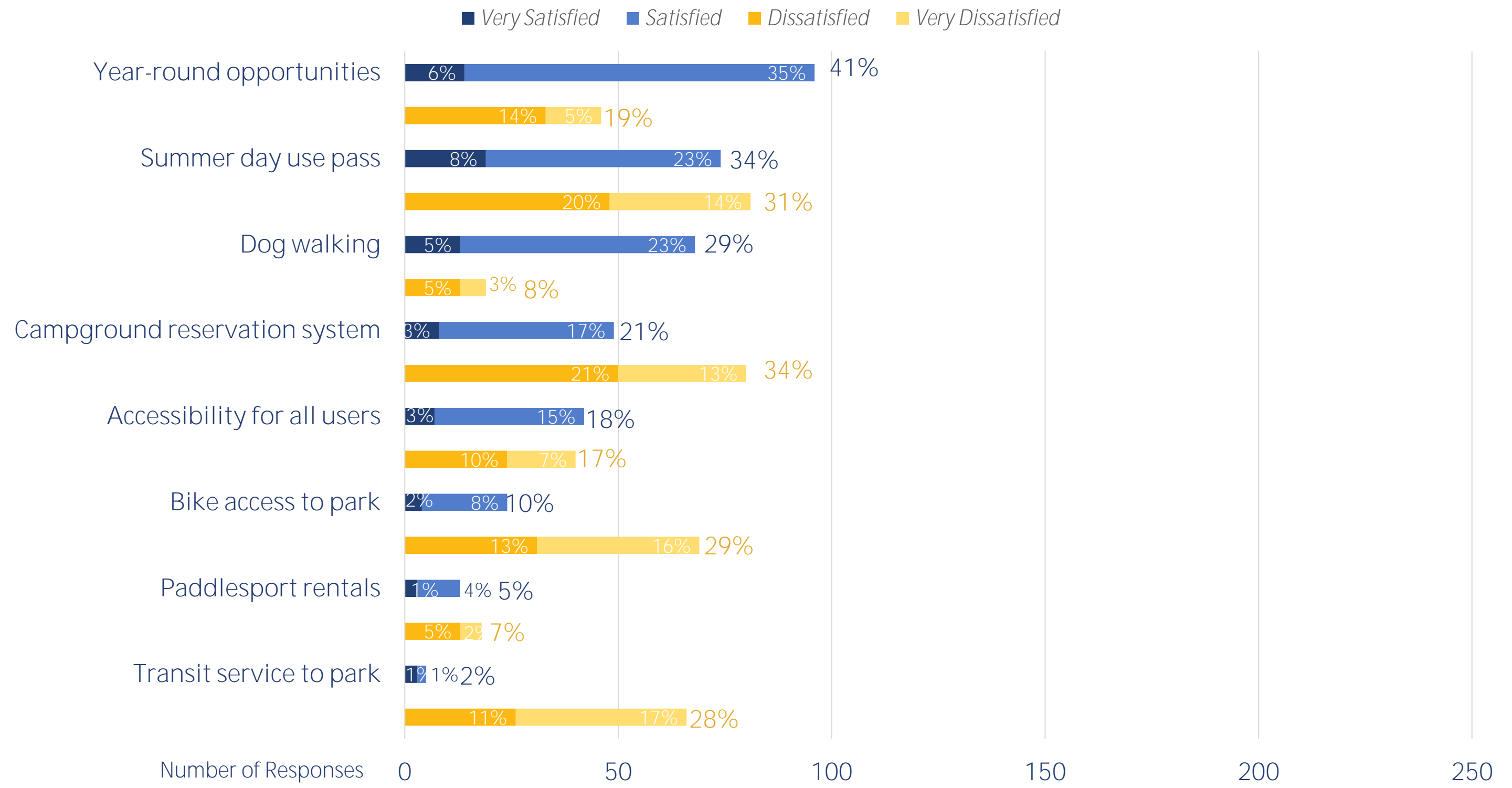
Comments on Facility Satisfaction

- Dissatisfied with road safety for cyclists (25)
- Insufficient facilities maintenance (20)
- Dissatisfied with boat launch (18)
- Dissatisfied with horse facilities (16)
- Need more trails (13)
- Dissatisfied with parking (13)
- Insufficient trail maintenance (10)
- More / better backcountry facilities (camping, access) (9)
- Insufficient signage (8)
- More / better camping (8)
- Lacking dog-friendly opportunities (6)
- Improve accessibility (6)
- Insufficient washrooms (5)
- Insufficient shuttle bus / transit through park (5)
- Satisfied with park (4)
- Maintain park quietness (4)
- Repair all roads (4)
- Upgrade trails (4)
- More facilities (3)
- Consider pay parking (3)
- Dog management, especially on cycling and equestrian trails (3)
- More parking (3)
- Maintain roads during winter (3)
- Reduce speeding (3)
- Dissatisfied with camping reservation system (3)
- More spaces for paddlers (3)
- Dissatisfied with day pass system (2)
- More diverse recreation opportunities (2)
- Encourage park etiquette (2)

Comments mentioned once:

- Another road access
- Better cell phone coverage
- Encourage safety education
- Ensure capacity meets demand
- Interpretive / cultural centre with program space
- Maintain beach
- More accessible trails, viewpoints, docks, etc.
- More outdoor equipment rentals (bikes, paddling)
- More playgrounds
- Reconfigure and repair South Beach facilities (paths, camping, parking)
- Reduce crowding
- Repair parking lots
- Repair road to main gate
- Satisfied with trails
- Satisfied with washrooms
- Upgrade facilities

Satisfaction with Services



Q: What is your level of satisfaction?
N: 232

Responses are shown only for those satisfied or not, and exclude those who do not use certain facilities or services.

Comments on Services Satisfaction

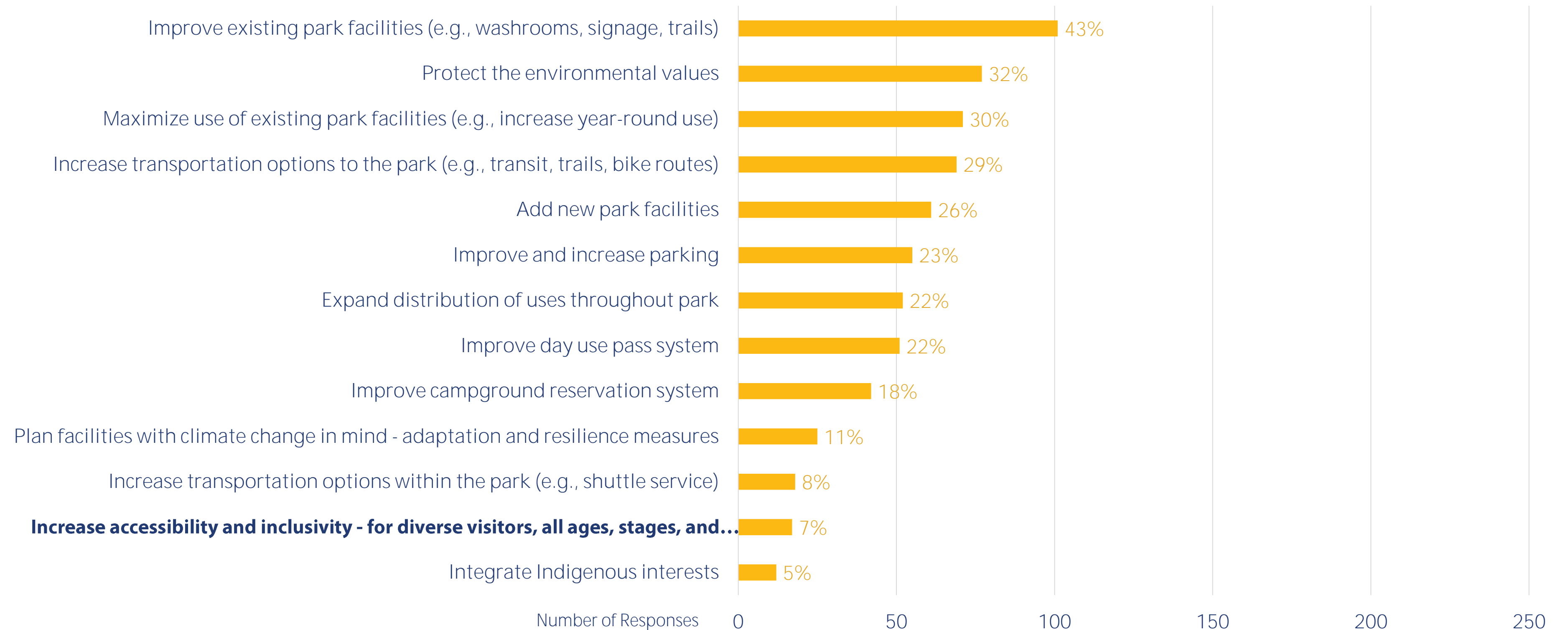
- Dissatisfied with day pass system (37)
- Dissatisfied with road safety for cyclists (33)
- Maintain roads during winter (21)
- Dissatisfied with camping reservation system (19)
- Insufficient shuttle bus / transit through park (18)
- Satisfied with day pass system (11)
- More dog-friendly opportunities (6)
- Improve accessibility (6)

- More outdoor equipment rentals (bikes, paddling) (6)
- Dissatisfied with horse facilities (4)
- Reduce crowding (2)
- More trails (2)
- Satisfied with trails (2)
- Satisfied with park (2)
- Dissatisfied with parking (2)
- More / better camping (2)

Comments mentioned once:

- Another road access
- Consider pay parking
- Dog management, especially on cycling and equestrian trails
- Insufficient facilities and maintenance
- More / better backcountry facilities (camping, access)
- More fire safety management
- Protect nature
- Reduce speeding
- Repair all roads
- Satisfied with camping reservation system
- Signage on parking capacity (incl Mike Lake) and traffic times

Strategies



Q: Please select your top three priorities.
N: 232

Comments on Strategies

- More trails (17)
- Revamp day pass system (14)
- Improve road safety for cyclists (11)
- Shuttle bus / transit through park (9)
- More parking (8)
- Improve trail and boardwalk maintenance (8)
- More / better camping (7)
- Another road access (6)
- Maintain roads during winter (6)
- More horse facilities (5)
- Maintain facilities (4)
- Upgrade facilities (4)
- Protect nature (4)
- More / better backcountry facilities (camping, access) (3)
- Revamp camping system (3)
- More / better signage (3)
- Enforcement of park rules (3)
- Bus into park from Maple Ridge (3)
- Improve boat launch including parking area (3)
- Ensure capacity meets demand (2)
- Bigger and better beach at North Beach (2)
- More and accessible washrooms (2)
- Better cell phone coverage (2)
- Support day pass system (2)
- Expand park development farther north (2)
- Indigenous cultural recognition projects, programs (2)
- Interpretive / cultural centre with program space (2)
- Support local residential use (2)
- More fire safety management (2)
- More accessible trails, viewpoints, docks, etc. (2)

Comments mentioned once:

- Dog management, especially on cycling and equestrian trails
- Encourage park etiquette
- Improve accessibility
- Keep park rural
- More dog-friendly opportunities
- More facilities at south end
- More outdoor equipment rentals (bikes, paddling)
- Reconfigure and repair South Beach facilities (paths, camping, parking)
- Repair all roads
- Upgrade trails

Q: Please select your top three priorities. Please elaborate on the strategies above or suggest additional strategies if you wish. *Other* (Please Indicate).

N: 153

Number in brackets represent the number of times a comment was mentioned

Facility Suggestions

- More trails (30)
- Improve road safety for cyclists (18)
- More horse facilities (corrals, manure bins, trailer parking, marked trails) (14)
- More / better camping (13)
- More parking (12)
- More / better backcountry facilities (camping, access) (8)
- More and accessible washrooms (7)
- Improve boat launch including parking area (7)
- Upgrade facilities (5)
- Bike racks (3)
- Repair all roads (3)
- Improve trail and boardwalk maintenance (3)
- More playgrounds (3)
- More / better day use areas (picnic, swimming facilities, concession, food trucks) (2)
- Maintain facilities (2)
- More accessible trails, viewpoints, docks, etc. (2)

Comments mentioned once:

- Bigger and better beach at North Beach with changeroom, accessible trail
- E-bike charging stations
- More / better signage - maps, names, distances, users, interpretation, etiquette

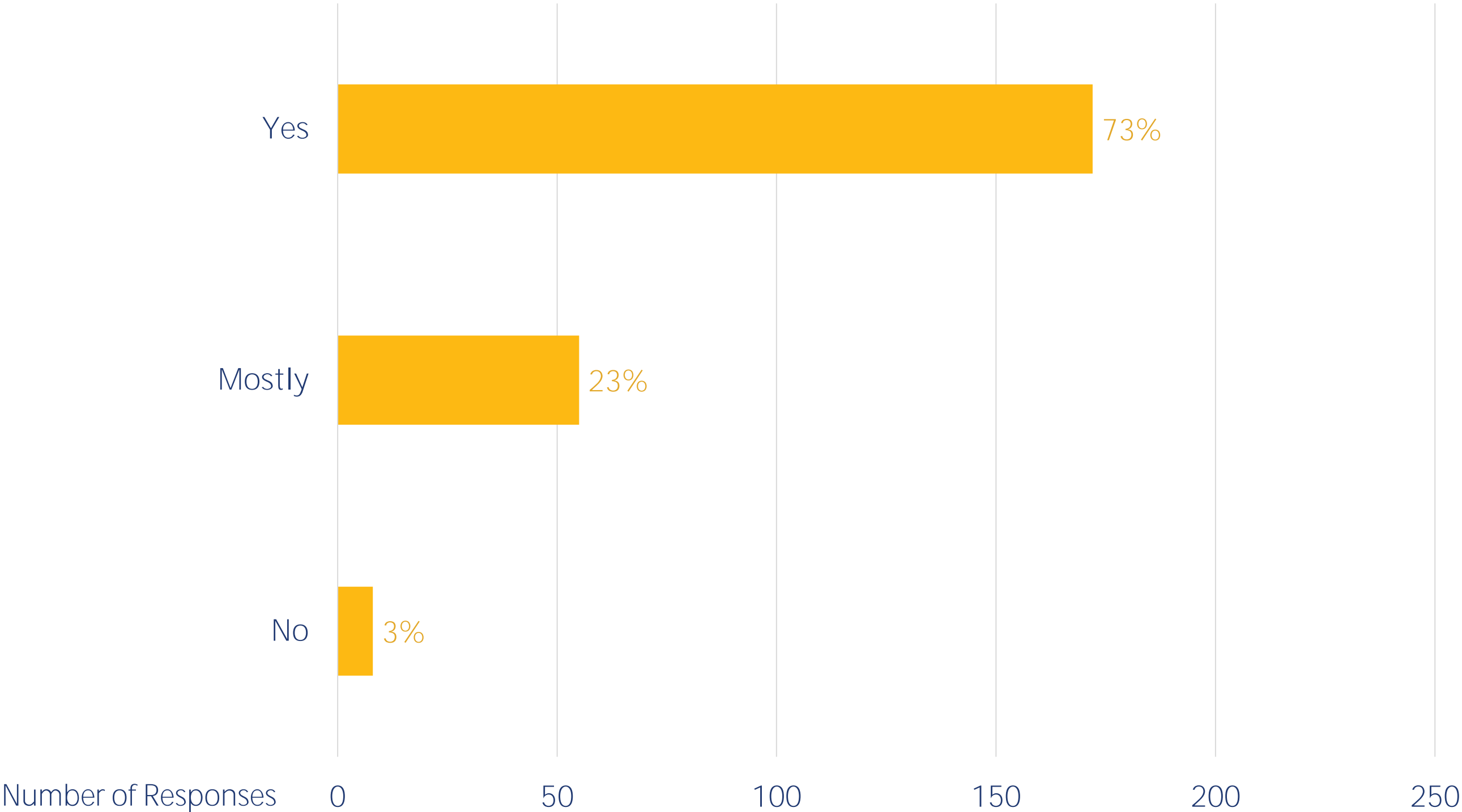
Strategy Suggestions

- Another road access (8)
- Shuttle bus / transit through park (8)
- Interpretive / cultural centre with program space (8)
- More food options (7)
- Better cell phone coverage (5)
- Protect nature (4)
- Support local residential use (4)
- Revamp day pass system (4)
- More diverse recreation opportunities (3)
- Improve accessibility (3)
- Dog management, especially on cycling and equestrian trails (3)
- Reduce speeding (3)
- Encourage park etiquette (2)
- Consider pay parking (2)
- Enforcement of park rules (2)
- More spaces for paddlers (2)
- Encourage safety education (2)
- More dog-friendly opportunities (2)
- More outdoor equipment rentals (bikes, paddling) (2)

Comments mentioned once:

- Better collaboration among agencies
- Ensure capacity meets demand
- Expand park development farther north
- Maintain roads during winter
- More fire safety management
- Revamp camping system
- Support day pass system

Park Safety



Q: Do you feel safe while visiting Golden Ears Provincial Park?
N: 235

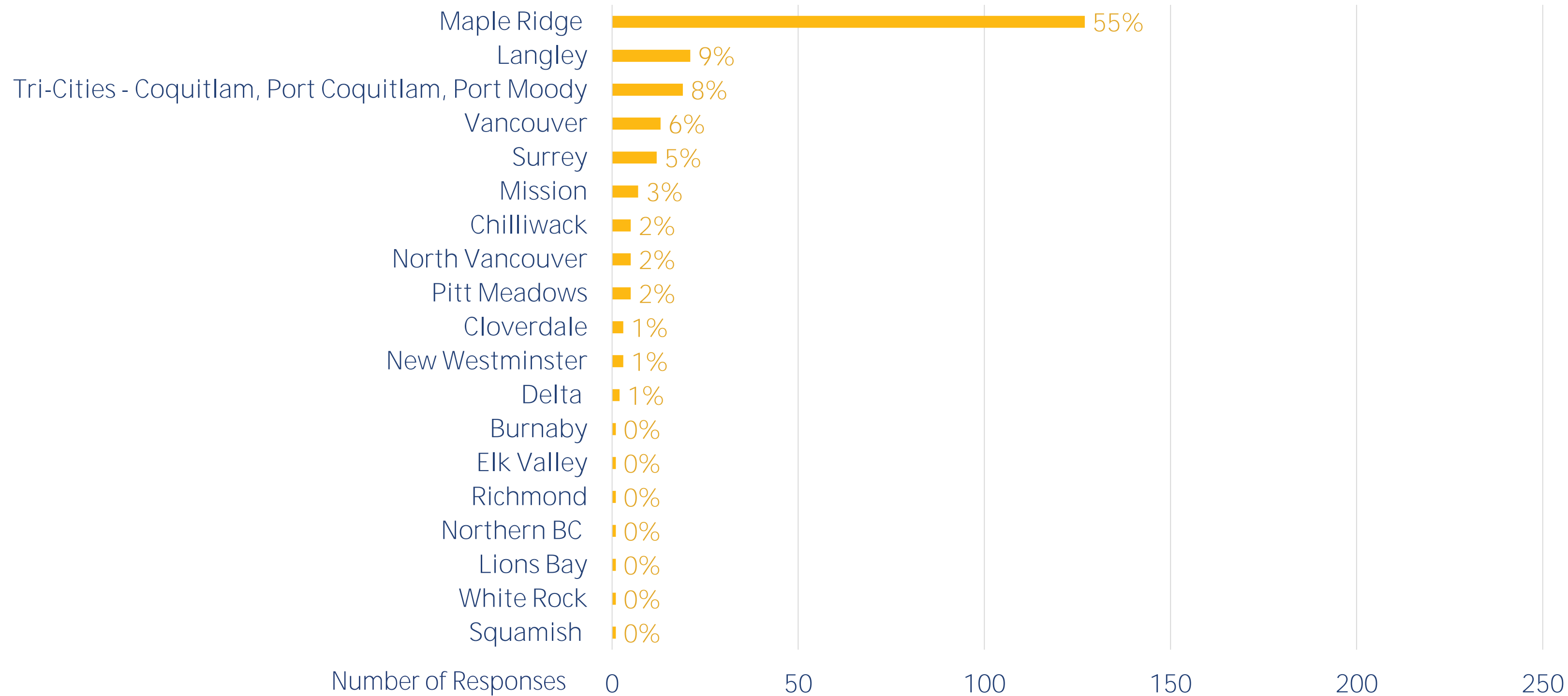
Comments on Park Safety

- Improve road safety for cyclists (16)
- Better cell phone coverage (9)
- Enforcement of park rules (6)
- More park staff on-site (4)
- Encourage safety education (4)
- Improve trail and boardwalk maintenance (2)
- Dog management, especially on cycling and equestrian trails (2)
- Security cameras in parking lots (2)
- Reduce speeding (2)
- More fire safety management (2)

Comments mentioned once:

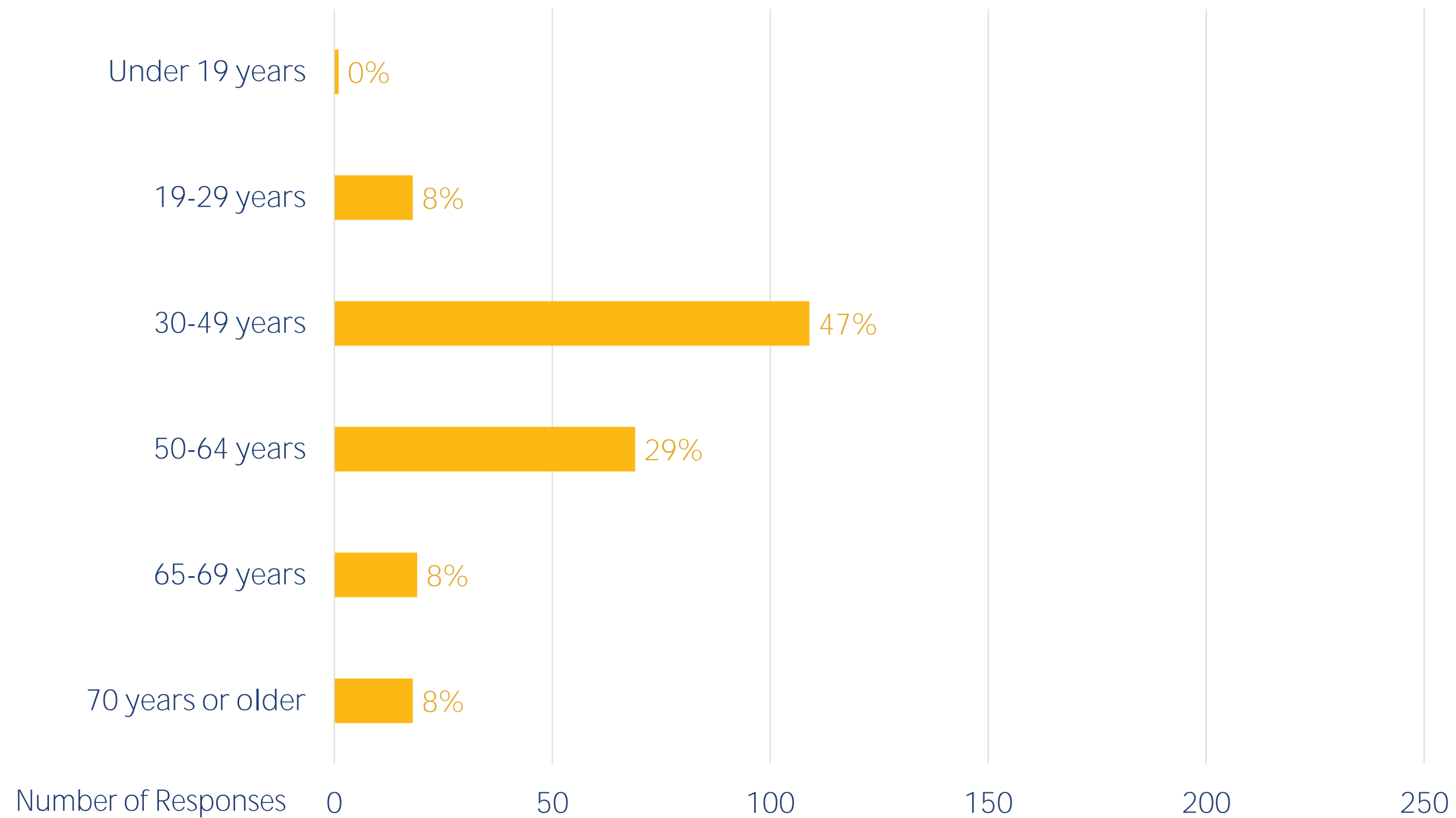
- Another road access
- Better multiuse collaboration
- More backcountry monitoring
- Safety education for boaters
- Shuttle bus / transit through park

Location of Residence



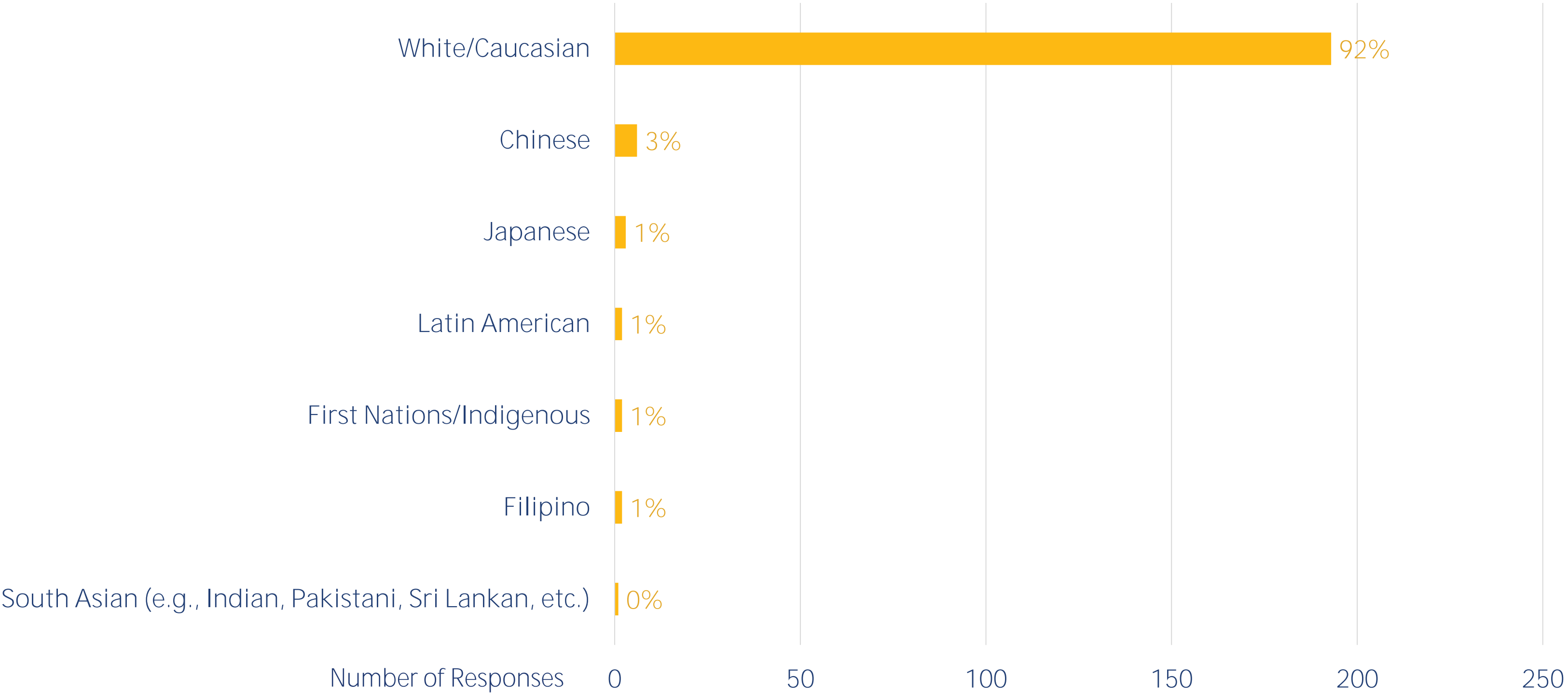
Q: Where do you live?
N: 229

Age



Q: What is your age?
N: 234

Culture

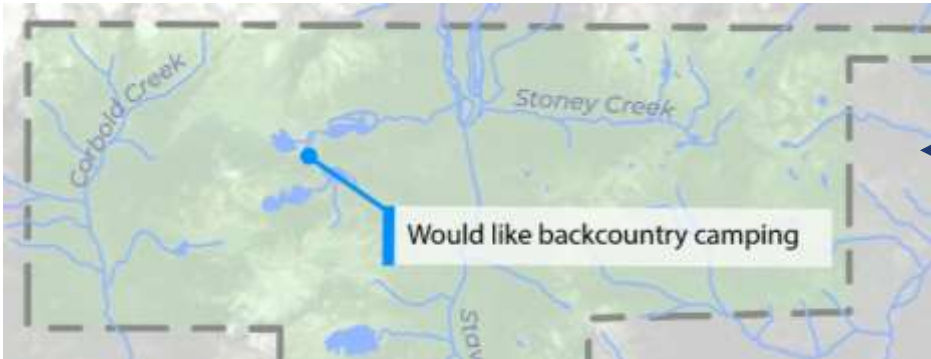


Q: Which of the following best describes you?
N: 209

Interactive Mapping Summary



Interactive Map Comments



49
COMMENTS

Number in brackets represent the number of times a comment was mentioned

