

**Montgomery Planning** DownCounty

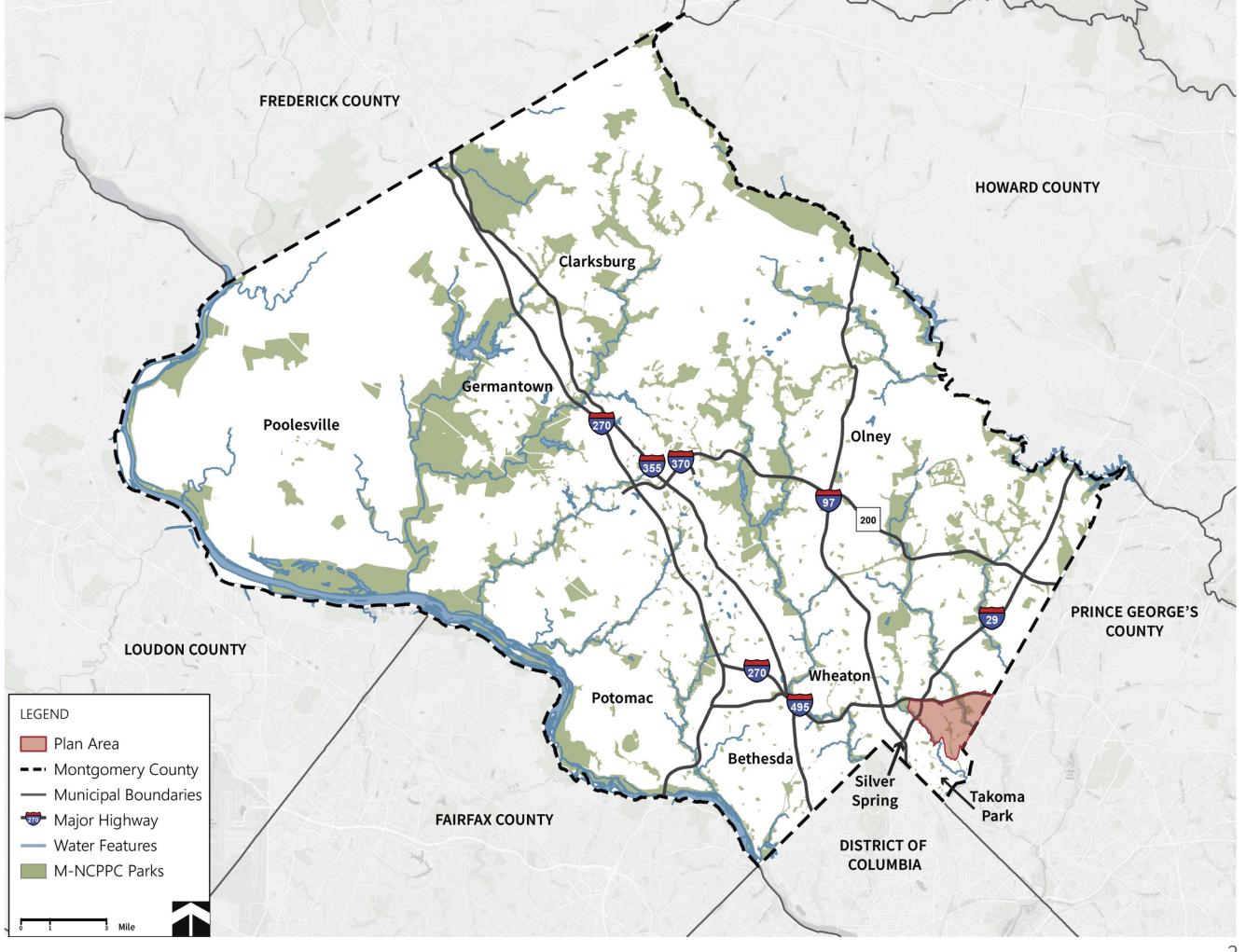


## Eastern Silver Spring Communities Plan

Visioning Update

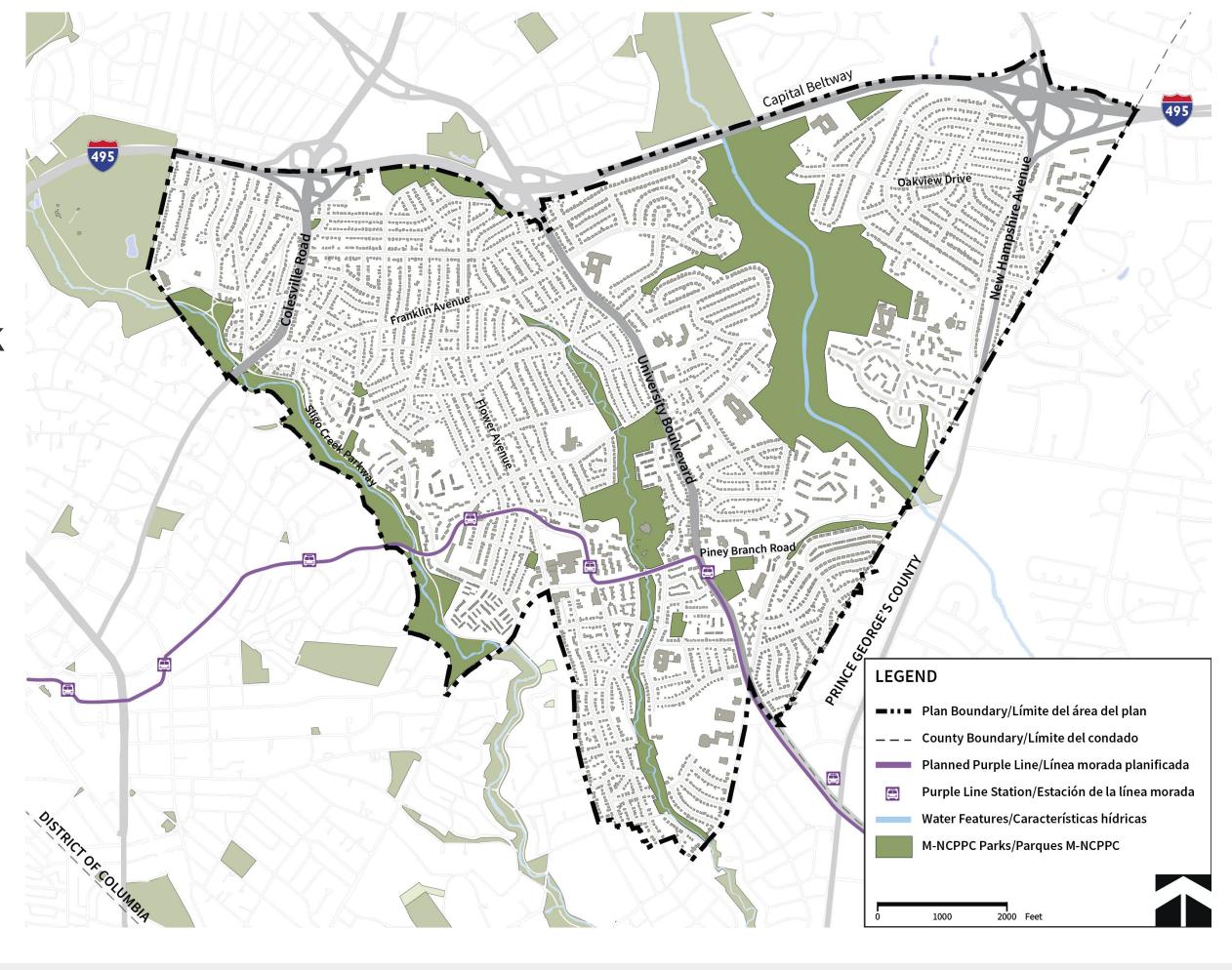
2/27/2025

## Plan Context



#### Plan Area

Planning Board approved Scope of Work and Plan Boundary on May 16, 2024



#### Plan Timeline

Existing Conditions Analysis and Scope of Work

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Scope of Work Approved by Planning Board

Spring 2024

Community Visioning

Fall 2024 – Summer 2025

Share Preliminary Recommendations with Community and Planning Board

Winter 2025

Present Working Draft to Planning Board

Spring 2026

Planning Board Public Hearing, Work Sessions and Draft

Summer 2026 – Fall 2026

County Council Public Hearing, Work Sessions and Approval

Winter 2026 – Spring 2027

Commission Adoption

Spring 2027



# COMMUNITY VISIONING

## Community Visioning to Date

- Began in Fall 2024
- Partnership with Brick & Story, engagement consultant
- Focus on plan-wide topics
- Reached 700+ community members through:
  - Online questionnaire
  - Community events and pop-ups
  - Open houses
  - Engagement with business owners
- All materials available in English and Spanish;
  additional languages as requested



Clifton Park Baptist Health Fair, October 2024





Long Branch Festival, September 2024



### Long Branch Festival + Community Pop ups

- Interactive engagement with prompts in English and Spanish
- Community members had the opportunity to share:
  - Where they live
  - What their community needs
  - Where the important places in the Plan Area are located
  - What brings them to Long Branch area and how often





Giant Pop-up, October 2024



Long Branch Festival, September 2024



## Fall Open Houses

- Opportunity for all community members to:
  - Interact with entire planning team
  - Learn about master plan process and important planning concepts
  - Provide input on the future of their community
- Promoted through:
  - Digital advertising
  - 12,000+ postcards (sent to every address in Plan Area)
  - 250+ letters to commercial and multifamily property owners







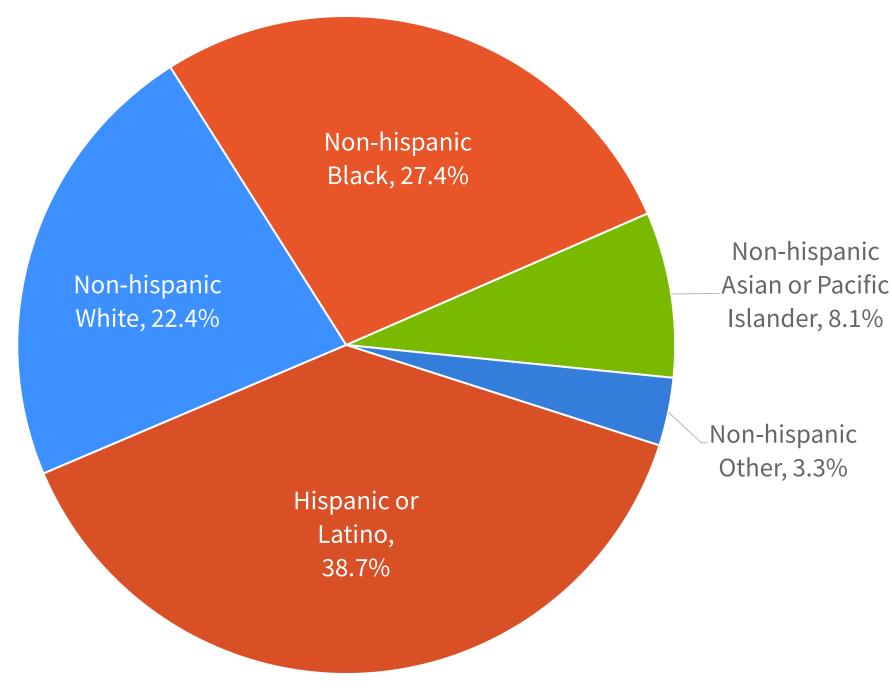


# WHO WE REACHED

ESSCP Study Area Race and Ethnicity

Study Area Demographics

- Study Area is diverse
- 45% of the population is foreign-born
- Most common foreign language spoken in the Study Area is Spanish (61%)





## Demographics of Who We Reached

- Over 700 community members
- Estimated race and ethnicity:
  - 59% Hispanic/Latino
  - 29% White
  - 9% Black or African
  - Other: Asian, Eastern European and Middle Eastern
- Housing status:
  - 2/3 renters
  - 1/3 homeowners
- Variety of ages represented

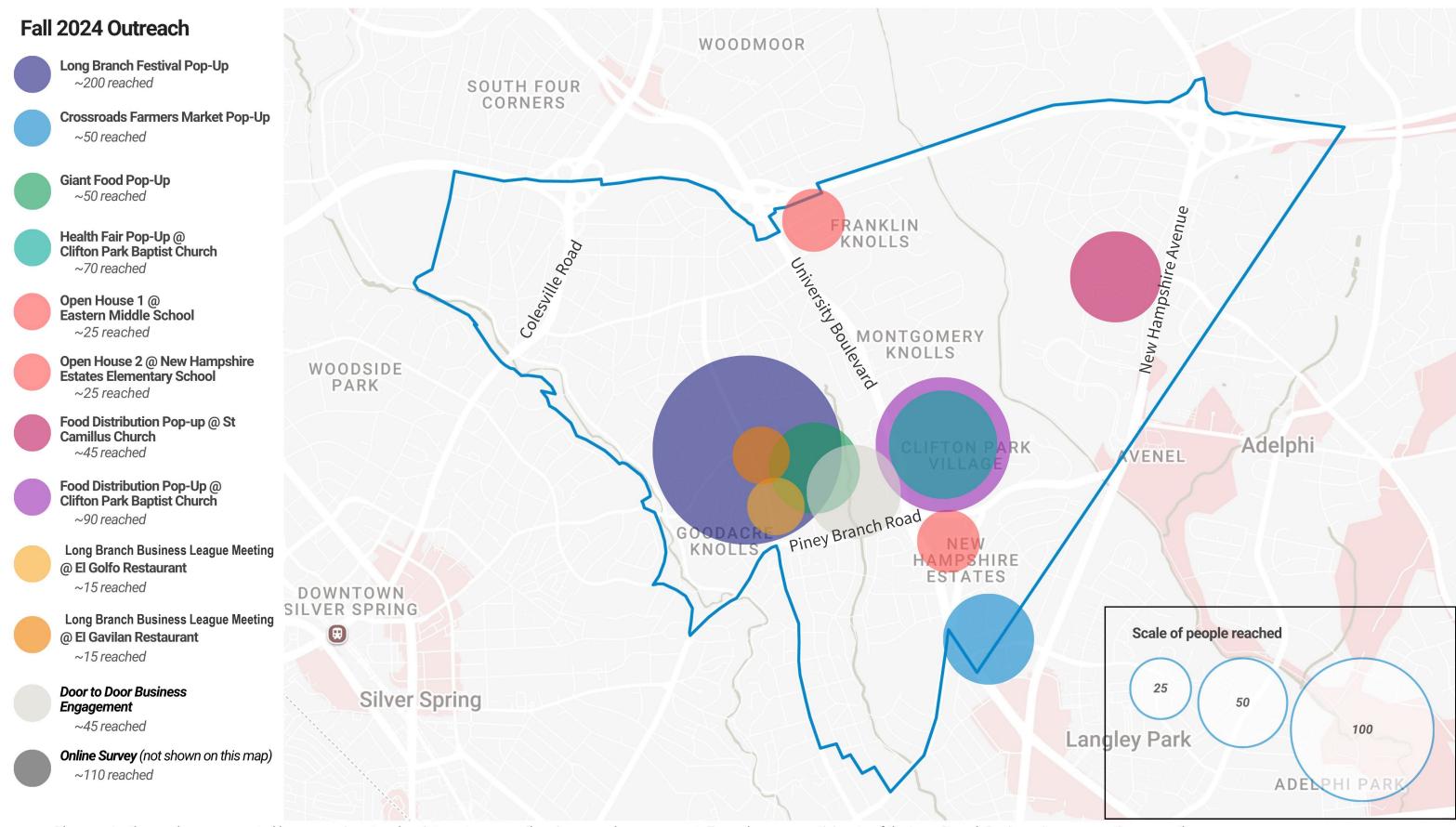


Long Branch Festival, September 2024



#### **ESSCP Fall 2024 Engagement Reach By Engagement Activity**

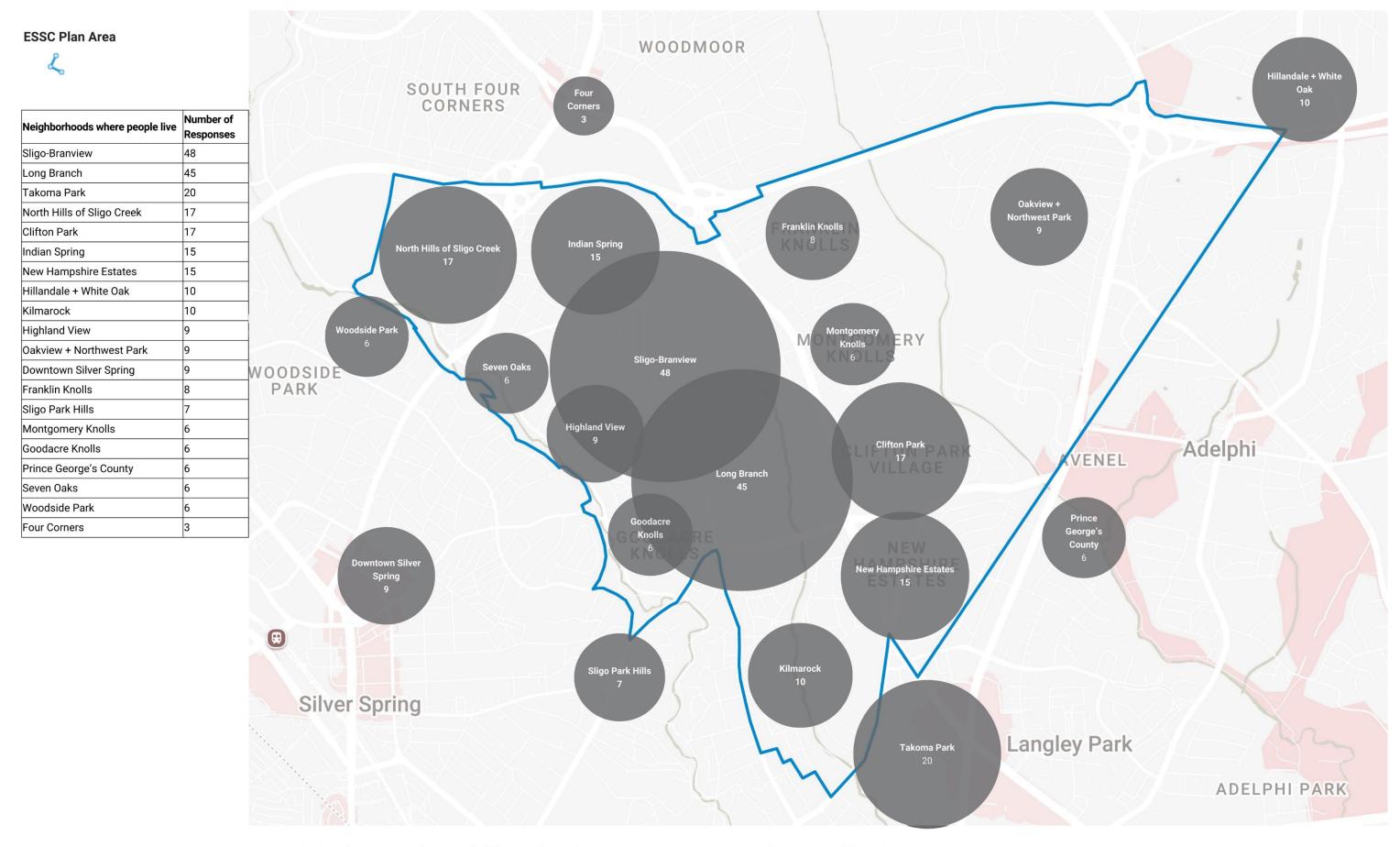
Bubble size reflects number of people reached through each engagement effort.



Please note: the numbers represented here are unique touch points, not necessarily unique people engagement. Example: some participants of the Long Branch Business League meetings were the same people reached at both meeting 1 and 2 shown on this map.



#### ESSCP Fall 2024 Resident Reach: Survey Respondents + Open House Participants + 4 Pop-ups\*



<sup>\*4</sup> Pop-ups included: Long Branch Festival, Clifton Park Baptist Health Fair, Crossroads Farmer's Market, and Giant Grocery Store

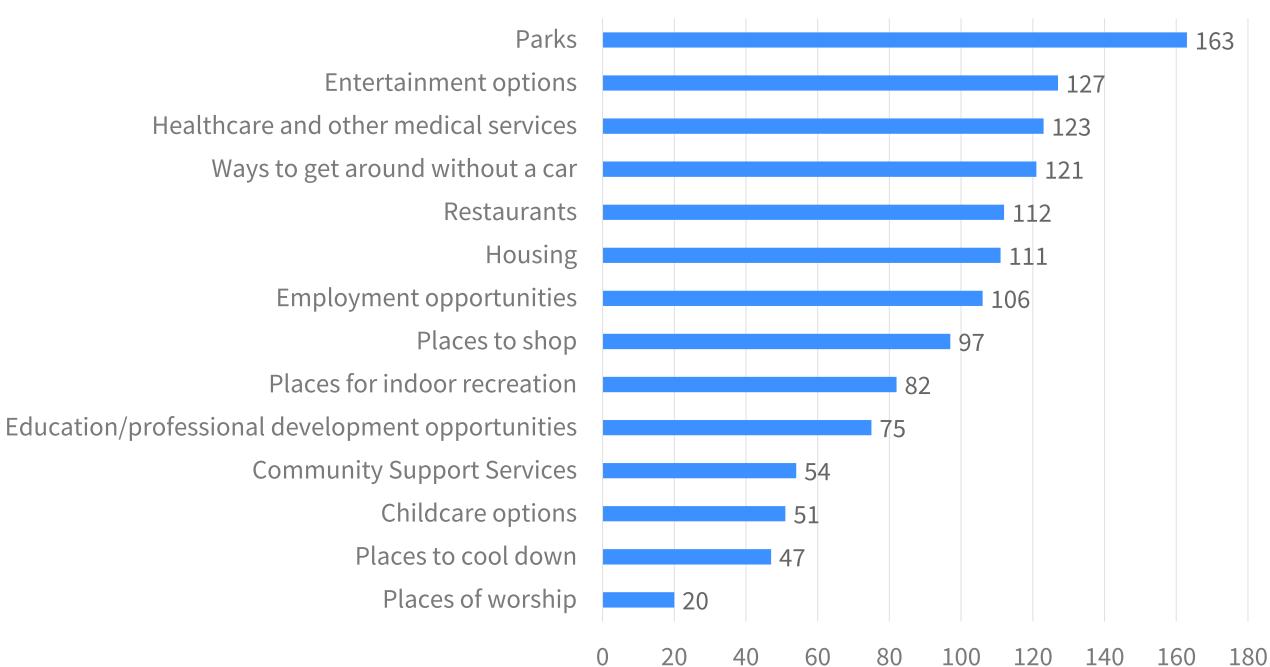


# WHAT WE HEARD

## Community Needs



What does your community need most?





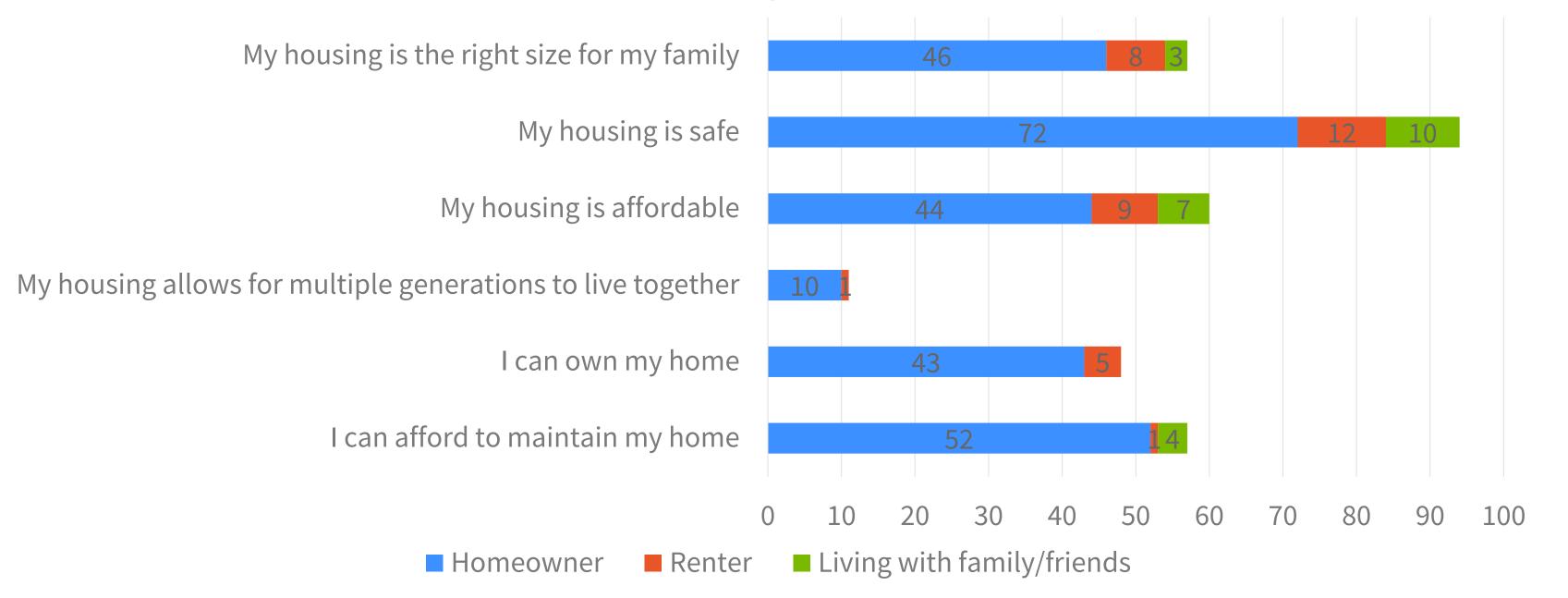
Example of Community Needs "Board" from Long Branch Festival



## Housing



When you think of your family's housing needs, what is most important to you?

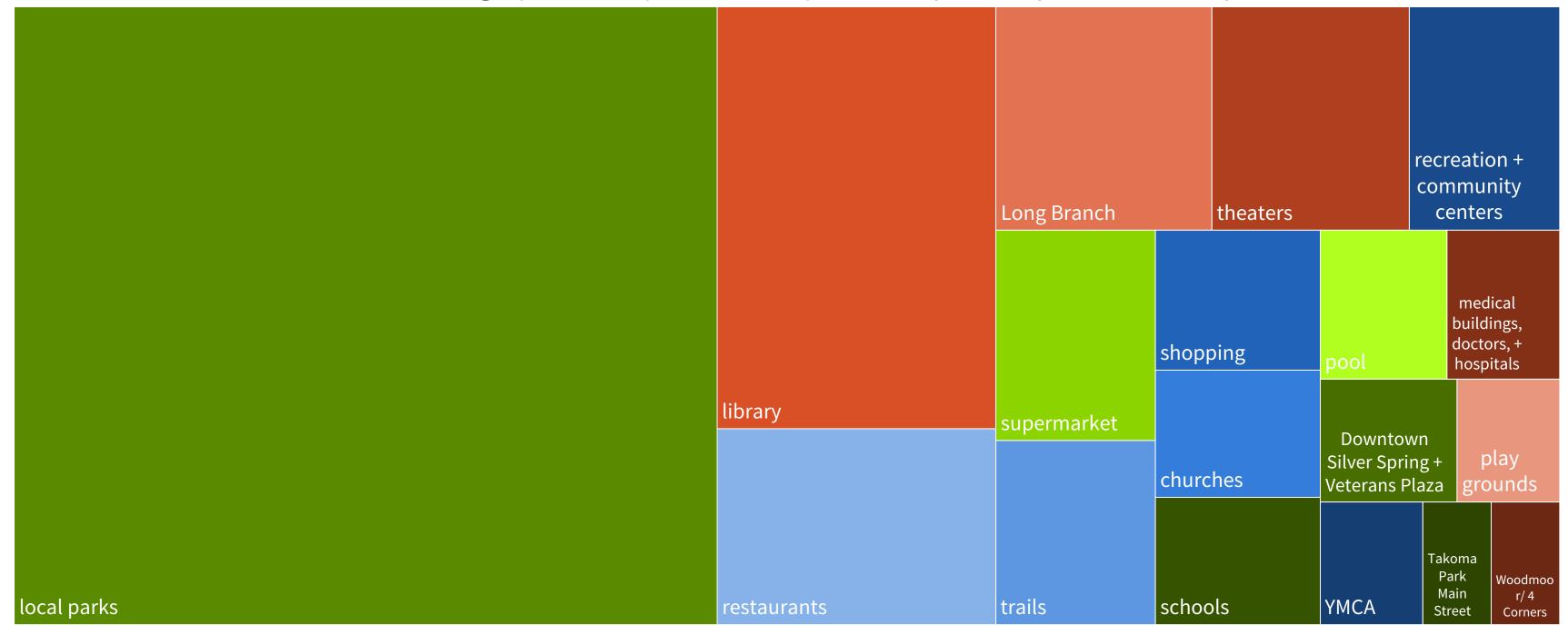




## Important Places



What buildings, parks and places are important to you and your community?

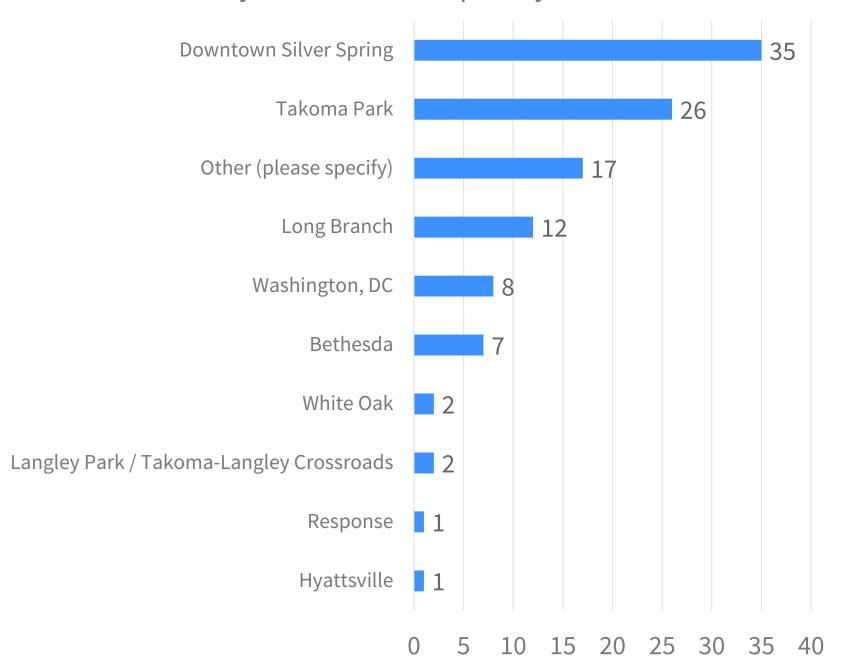




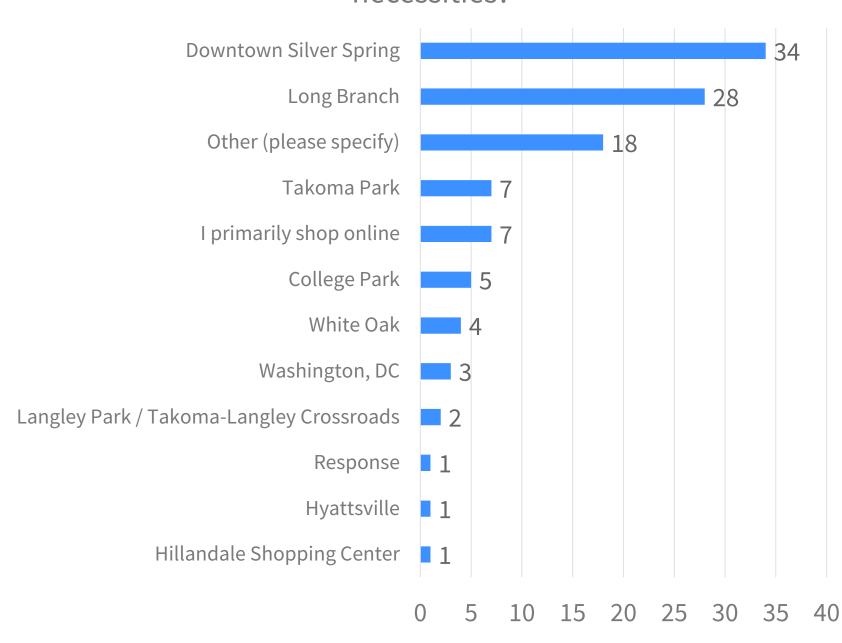






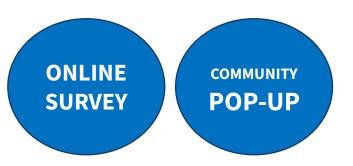


#### Where do you most often go to shop for necessities?

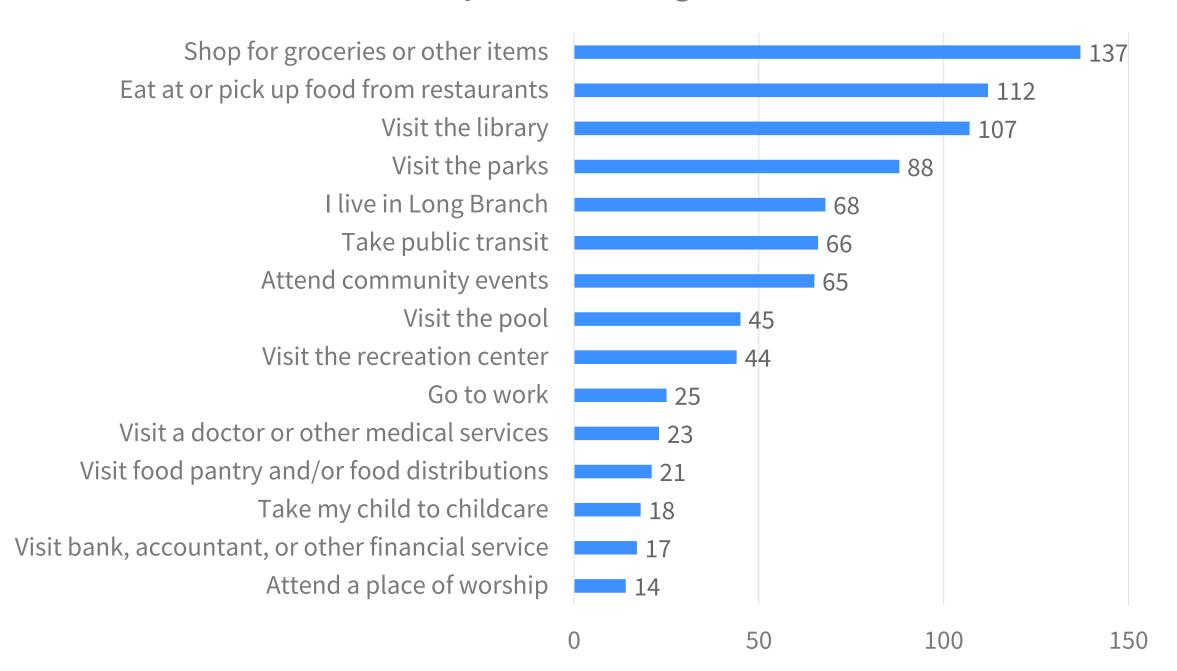




# Long Branch



#### What do you do in Long Branch?





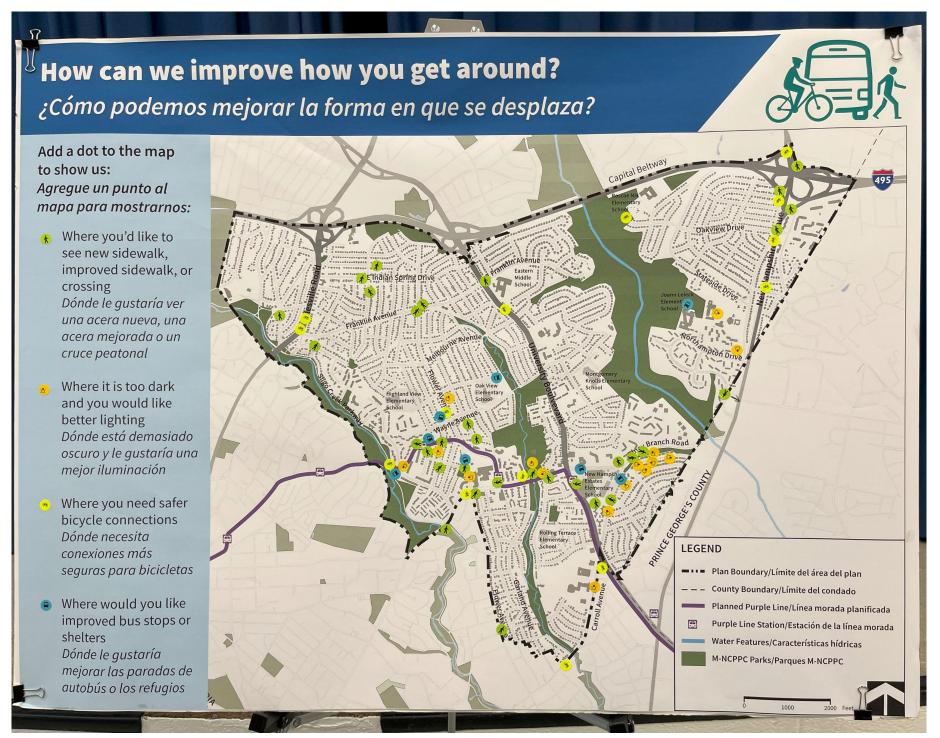
Clifton Park Baptist Health Fair





## Transportation

- Concerns about pedestrian safety
- Improved transit, bike and pedestrian facilities on Piney **Branch Road**
- Challenges getting to/from Eastern Middle School



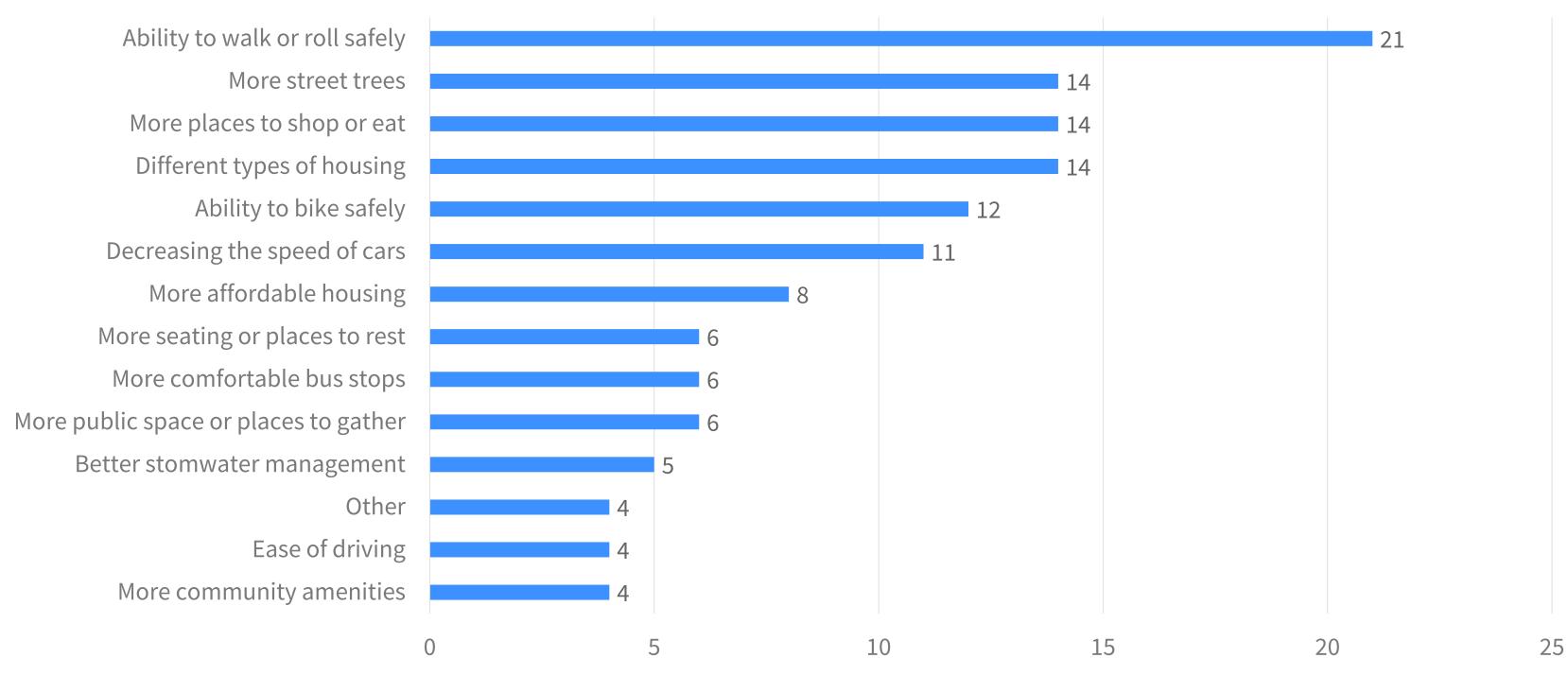
Board from November 2 Open House



#### OPEN HOUSES

#### Growth Corridors

When you think about the future of Growth Corridors in this area, what is most important to you?

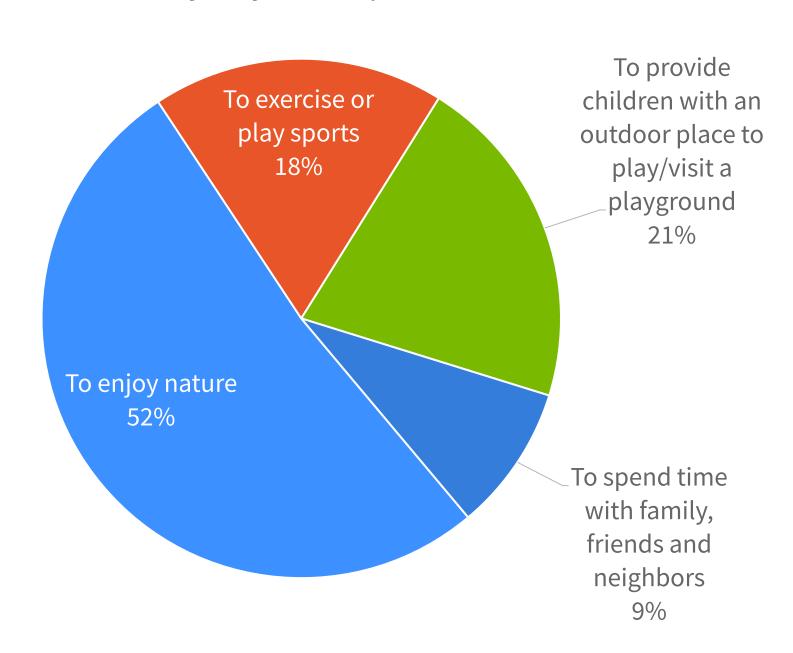


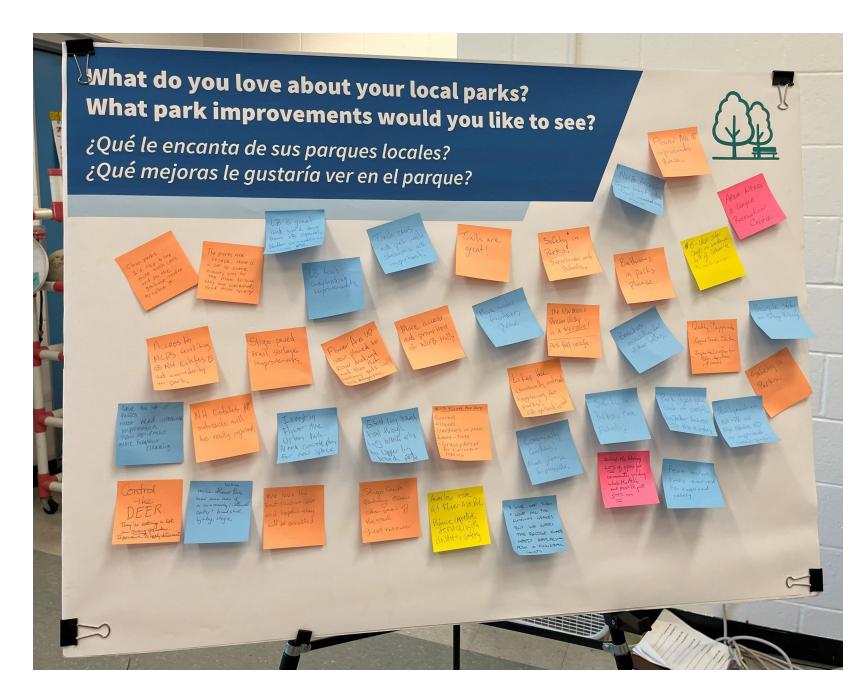


#### Parks



#### Why do you visit parks?





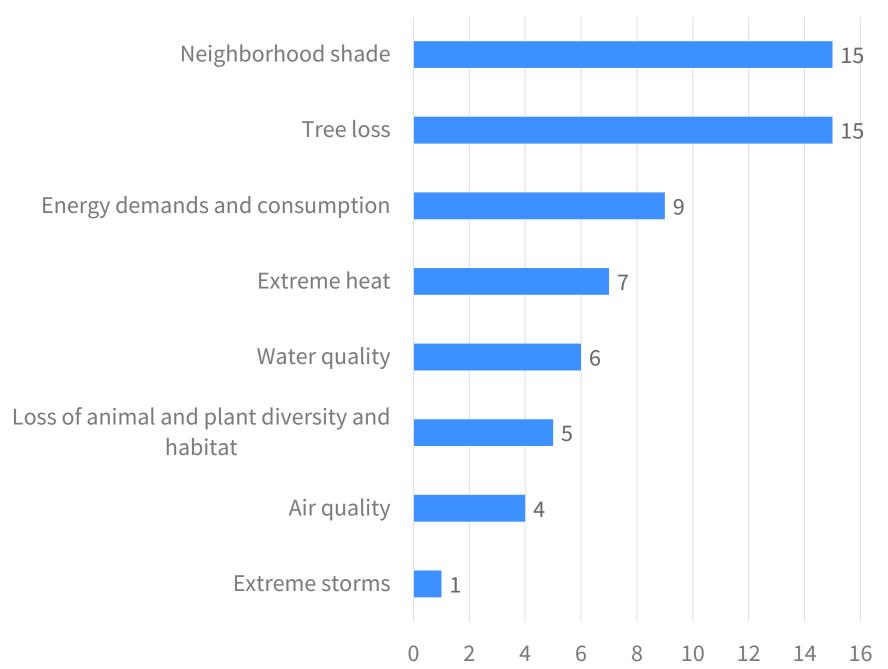
Board from November 2 Open House





#### Environment

What are your top environmental concerns?





Environment board from Open House



#### Businesses

- Conversations with 20+ business owners and Long Branch Business League
- Major themes:
  - Challenges with ongoing Purple Line construction
  - Both hope and concern about Purple Line
  - Challenges of neighborhood
    - Vagrancy
    - Uninviting and unsafe streetscapes
  - 75% of business owners feel their square footage is "just right"





Businesses in Long Branch



#### What's Next

- Community visioning will continue through the Summer
  - Geographic and topic-based conversations
  - Continued partnership with community organizations and business owners
- Placemaking opportunities
- Preliminary recommendations by Winter 2025