

San Antonio Oxbow Bluffs (SAOB)

(Poole Property)



**ONE
ALBUQUE
RQUE** parks & recreation

For information www.cabq.gov/open-space
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Purposes of Major Public Open Space

- ❖ Conservation of natural resources and environmental features
- ❖ Provision of opportunities for outdoor education and recreation
- ❖ Shaping of the urban form
- ❖ Conservation of archaeological resources
- ❖ Provision of trail corridors
- ❖ Protection of the public from natural hazards



SAOE is 23 acres of MPOS
Located at the east end of
Namaste RD SW on
Albuquerque's Westside
(5001 Namaste Rd NW)



San Antonio Oxbow Overlook

- San Antonio Oxbow is about 58.9 acres of open space.
- The San Antonio Oxbow is the most important, and most sensitive, ecological area within the Rio Grande Valley State Park, and one of the most important sites in the entire central reach of the Rio Grande.
- The Oxbow wetlands is the only remaining river connected wetlands between Bernalillo and Bernardo and an important habitat complex that includes the Oxbow, Rio Grande, Bosque and sites across the river including the Rio Grande Nature Center State Park and the Candelaria Nature Preserve (also owned by the City).
- The San Antonio Oxbow is home to a variety of wildlife species including migratory birds, reptiles, beavers and more.
- The San Antonio Oxbow overlook consists of a 400 foot trail that leads you to a beautiful view of the Sandia mountains and Rio Grande River.



San Antonio Oxbow Extension aka Poole property

- Susan and Rufus Poole Moved to New Mexico in 1957 and build a 6,000 square foot, adobe revival house on the once privately owned property.
- However, after the death of Susan in 2012 the property was sold to local developer (Gamma Development LLC) and was slated to be developed into 69 cluster homes.
- Unfortunately the house burnt down due to a fire in March of 2020



Characteristics of the SAOE:

- The property offers scenic value and relief from the urban environment for the visitor, and has unique or interesting geologic features.
- Arid grasslands provide critical habitat for native birds and pollinators. Over 179 bird species have been identified in the area
- Like the overlook the Poole property has good public access, including access from public transportation (#155 City bus on Coors Blvd.) and will offer increased recreation opportunities.
- The property will contribute significantly to the functions and public benefit of the existing MPOS.
- The site protects public assets and investments and offers ecological services such as flood protection, noise abatement, dark sky protections, buffers to industrial or other incompatible uses.
- The Poole land provides natural filtering of contaminants and soil stabilization/erosion control



Fight for the Poole Property



- Members of the community and adjacent neighborhoods advocated for the property to be preserved instead of developed.
- Numerous individuals including neighborhood associations, state senators and a long list of organizations fought vigorously, dedicating personal time and money, sitting through hearings in efforts to save the land from development.
- After the Integrated Development Ordinance was creating and zoning codes were rewritten it allowed for more input from neighbors in the development process.
- 2020 New Mexico Legislature approved 4.5 million to go toward the acquisition.
- Another 2.2 million from the city Open Space Trust Fund money made it possible to obtain.
- On March 18, 2021 the City of Albuquerque purchased the 23-acre lot for 6.7 million

Current Events on the SAOE

- The Open Space Division is currently cleaning up the area and minimizing hazards, including removing standing dead trees, loose wires, exposed piping, and other debris.
- Site tours and Public listening sessions to solicit ideas about how the property should be opened to the public.
- Volunteer clean up event
- Survey to provide additional feedback:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V22VYSZ>
- Native Plant Society study



Site Tours, Public Listening Sessions and Volunteer Clean-up



Volunteer Clean-up

September 4th, 2021

- 87 volunteers
- 20 bags of trash and weeds
- Many pieces of fencing, PVC and other piping, rebar, metal, bricks and other debris
- 1 tire and rim
- 1 very full bag of aluminum cans
- 1 full bag of plastic recycling
- 3 overfilled 5 gallon buckets of glass







Guided Site tour

September 15th, 2021
52 guests joined us
on a beautiful guided
tour down the oxbow
wetland area



Public Feedback via Survey

Q1: How should this property connect to the adjacent San Antonio Oxbow property?

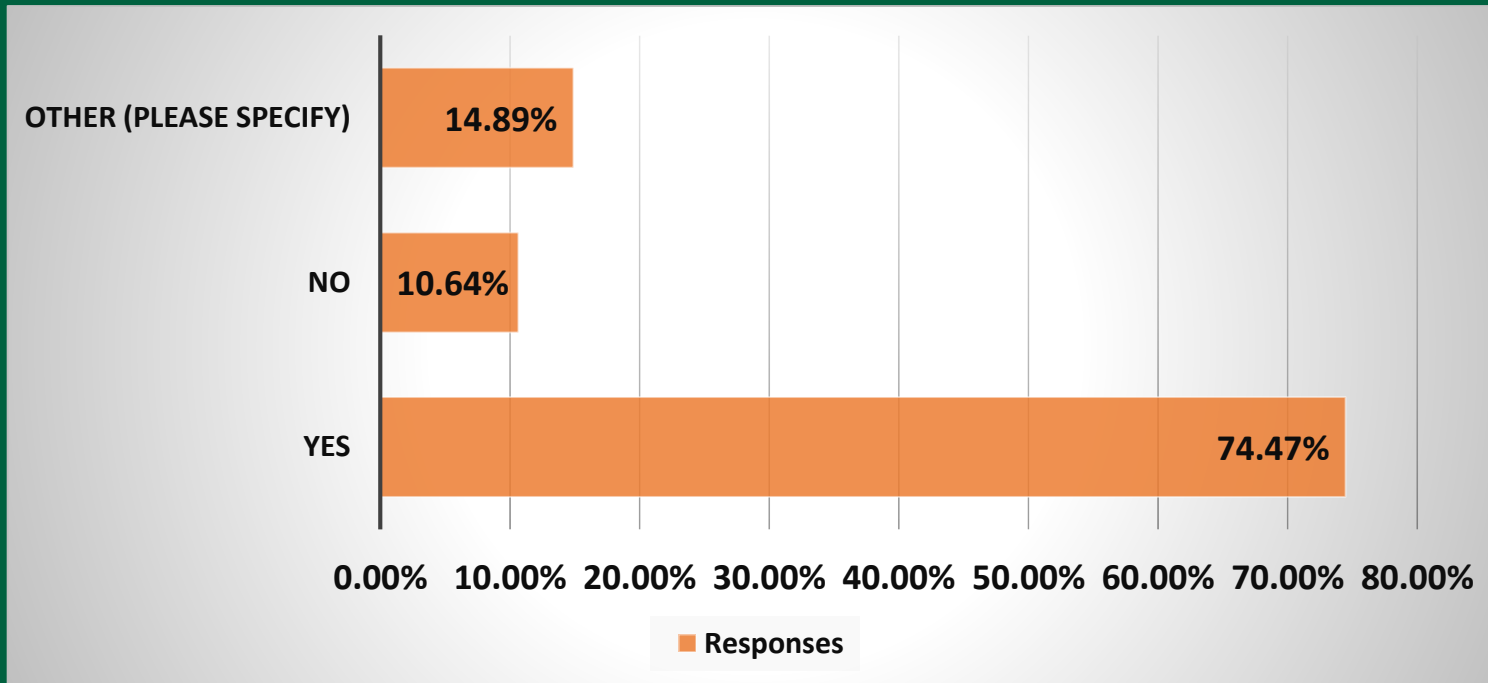
Common responses:

- ❖ Remain as natural as possible to support wildlife
- ❖ Pedestrian only trail system
- ❖ Natural walking paths/trails
- ❖ Connecting the trails from the adjacent overlook
- ❖ Join as one property by trail system

Notable responses:

- ❖ Should not be connected to preserve the natural ecosystem.
- ❖ Only one entrance from Namaste RD.
- ❖ Signage that describes the area as connected
- ❖ Only one direct path from the adjacent overlook to the terrace in front of the oxbow on the Poole property
- ❖ No fence, leave the space open to public access

Q2: Would you like to see a continuation of the adjacent trail system?

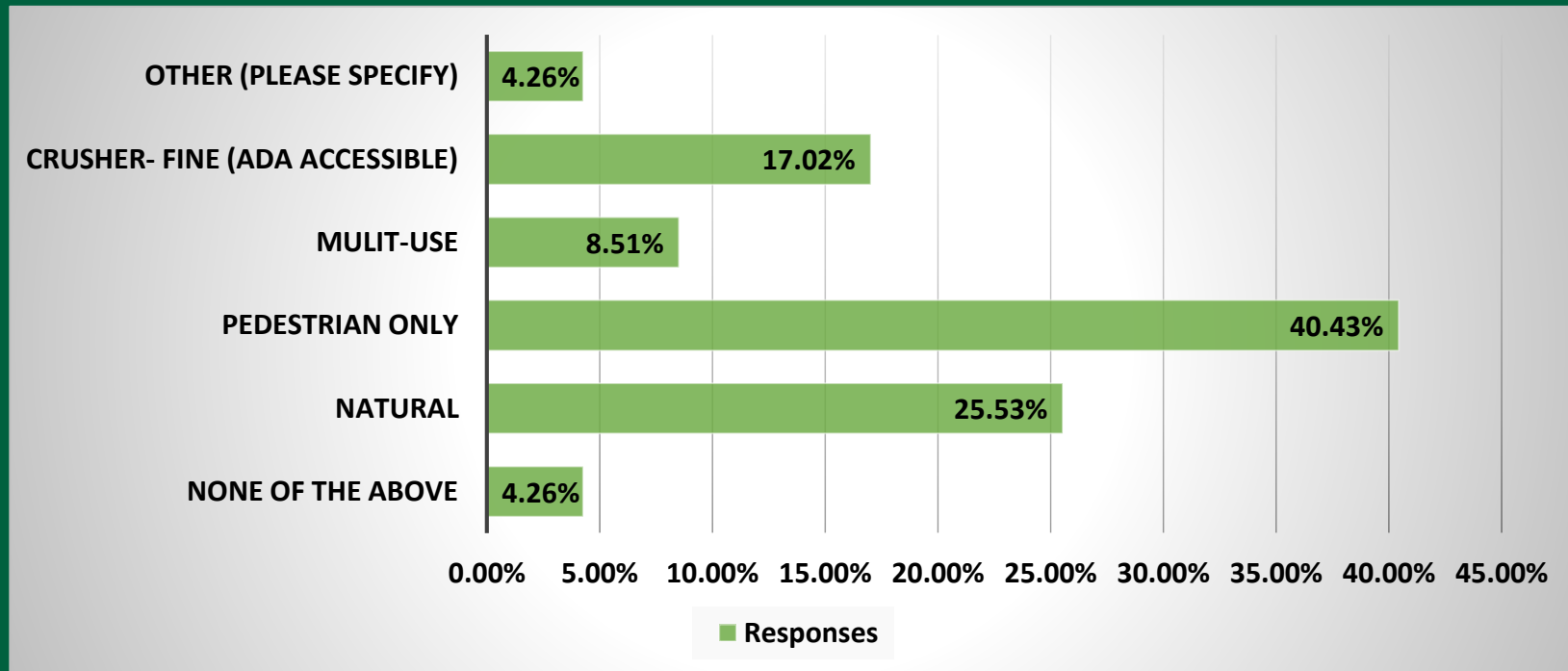


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	74.47%	35
No	10.64%	5
Other (please specify)	14.89%	7
	Answered	47
	Skipped	0

Other (please specify):

- ❖ Only minimally to reduce impacts
- ❖ Limit to walking only, no bikes
- ❖ Separate trails
- ❖ Adjacent trails should extend into the Poole Property and new trails should be added
- ❖ Continued but very carefully

Q3: What kind of trail should be provided?

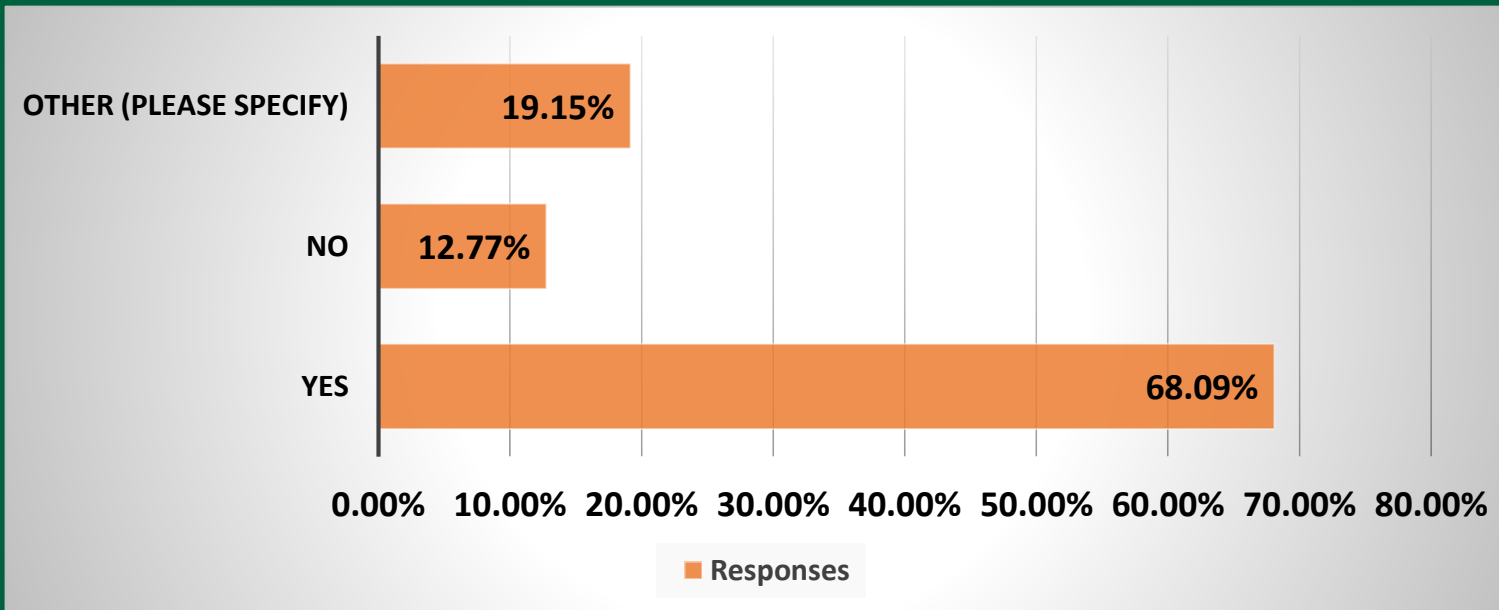


Answer Choices	Responses	
None of the above	4.26%	2
Natural	25.53%	16
Pedestrian only	40.43%	23
Mulit-use	8.51%	4
Crusher- fine (ADA Accessible)	17.02%	10
Other (please specify)	4.26%	2
	Answered	57
	Skipped	0

Other (please specify):

- ❖ A bridge to Rio Grande Nature Center
- ❖ Combination of natural and crusher-fine
- ❖ Consideration of a multi-use pedestrian/bicycle path

Q4: Do you want to keep the existing infrastructure/furnishings? (Kiva, adobe wall, seating area)

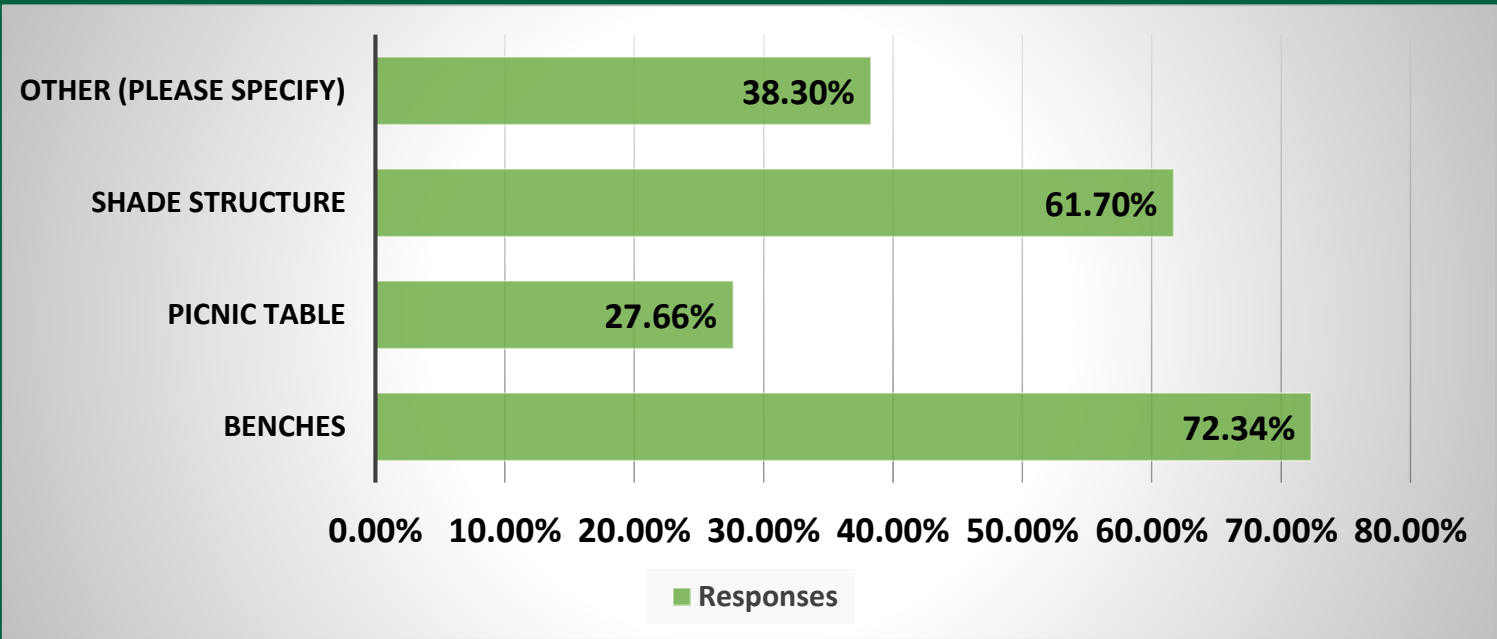


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	68.09%	41
No	12.77%	7
Other (please specify)	19.15%	9
	Answered	57
	Skipped	0

Other (please specify):

- ❖ Only items still intact that provide a significant historical perspective
- ❖ Not sure, but I think seating areas might be nice.
- ❖ Yes, if graffiti can be cleaned off walls
- ❖ Please keep the terrace overview
- ❖ Possibly some can be kept, but in other areas new infrastructure
- ❖ Whatever is best for the natural environment

Q5:What other types of outdoor furnishings would you like to see? (Check all that apply)

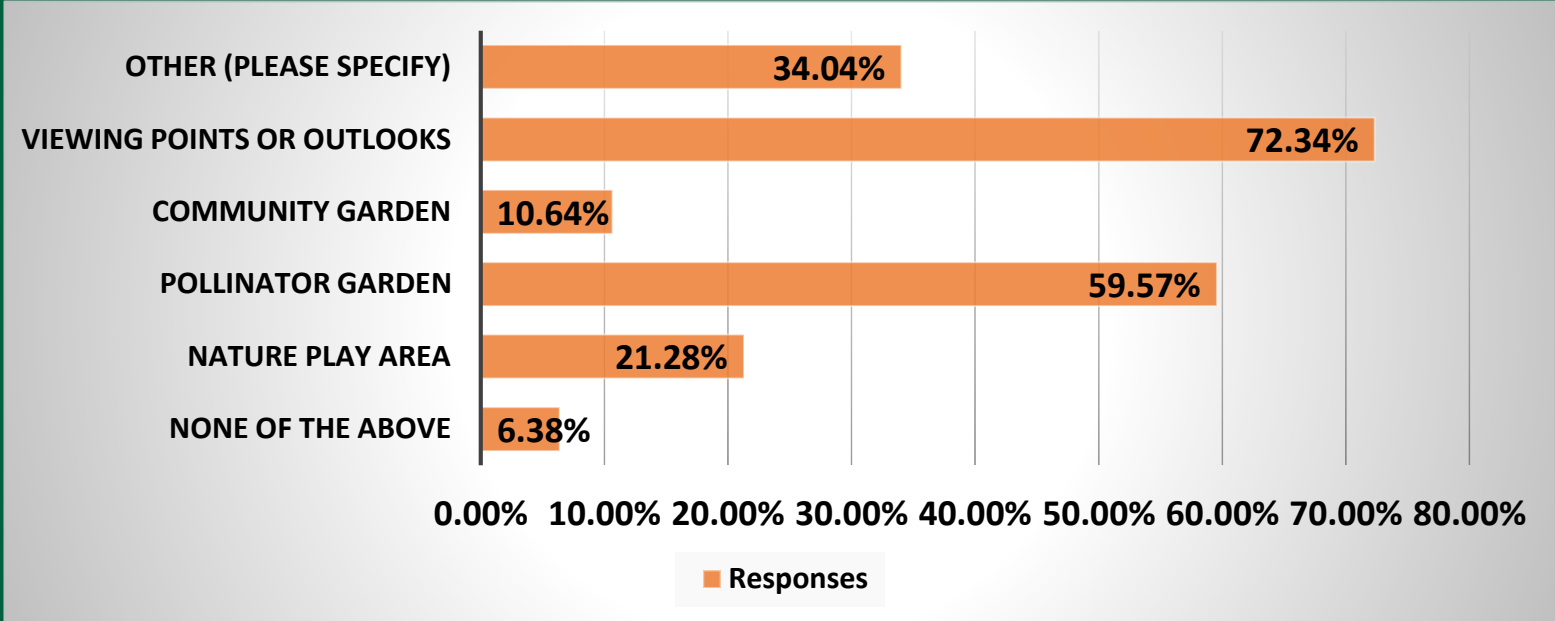


Answer Choices	Responses	
Benches	72.34%	41
Picnic table	27.66%	17
Shade structure	61.70%	35
Other (please specify)	38.30%	20
	Answered	57
	Skipped	0

Other (please specify):

- ❖ Leave natural
- ❖ Viewing platform
- ❖ Restrooms
- ❖ None. Leave everything natural
- ❖ Bike rack
- ❖ Wildlife/bird viewing blinds
- ❖ Quite spaces for solitude, bird & view watching
- ❖ Trash cans, dogs waste bins
- ❖ Interpretive signage
- ❖ Skating rink
- ❖ Park
- ❖ Larger seating area
For small groups/classes

Q6: What other features would you like to see added to the property? (Check all that apply)

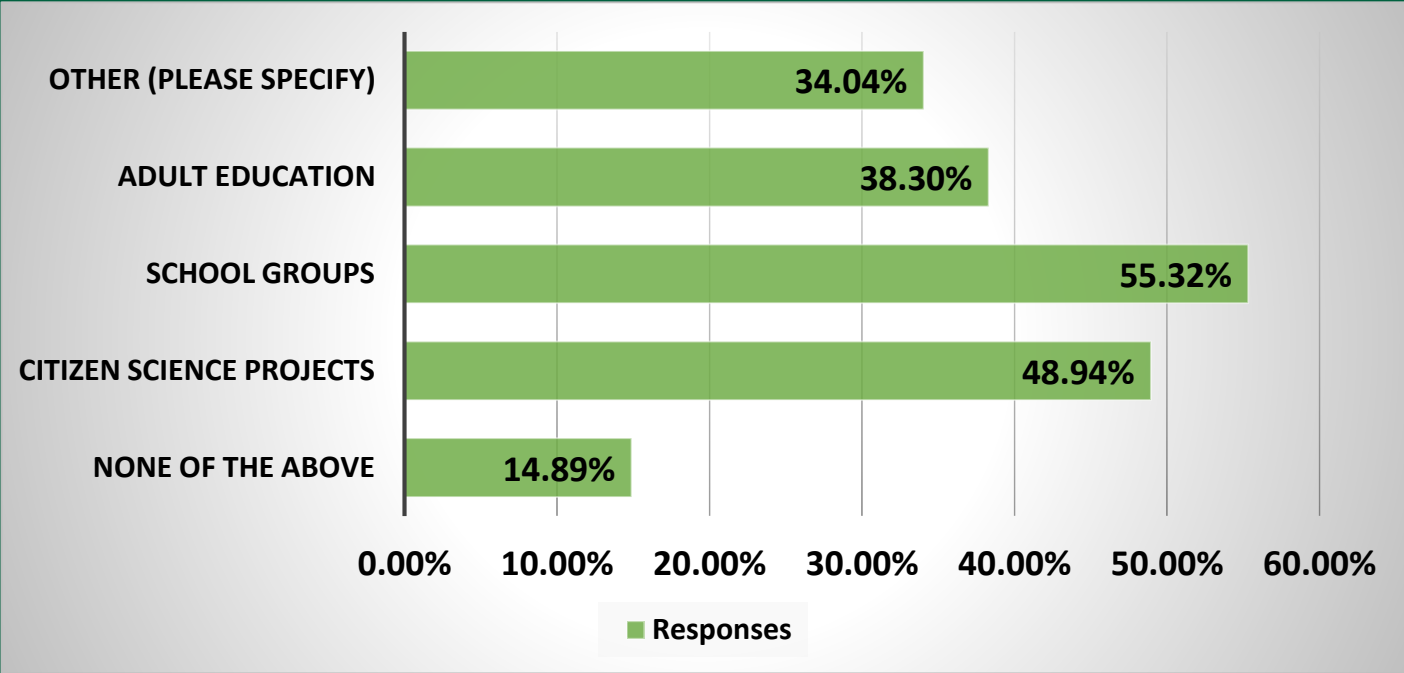


Answer Choices	Responses	
None of the above	6.38%	3
Nature Play Area	21.28%	14
Pollinator Garden	59.57%	35
Community Garden	10.64%	7
Viewing Points or Outlooks	72.34%	41
Other (please specify)	34.04%	16
	Answered	57
	Skipped	0

Other (please specify):

- ❖ Minimally invasive parking area on the NE side
- ❖ Nature play area/pollinator garden/community garden to the west of the Poole structures
- ❖ Replace dead/dying trees to enhance wildlife
- ❖ Signage that acknowledges the history of the property
- ❖ Learning Center
- ❖ Restrooms
- ❖ Off leash dog park

Q7: What type of educational programs should be offered on site? (Check all that apply)



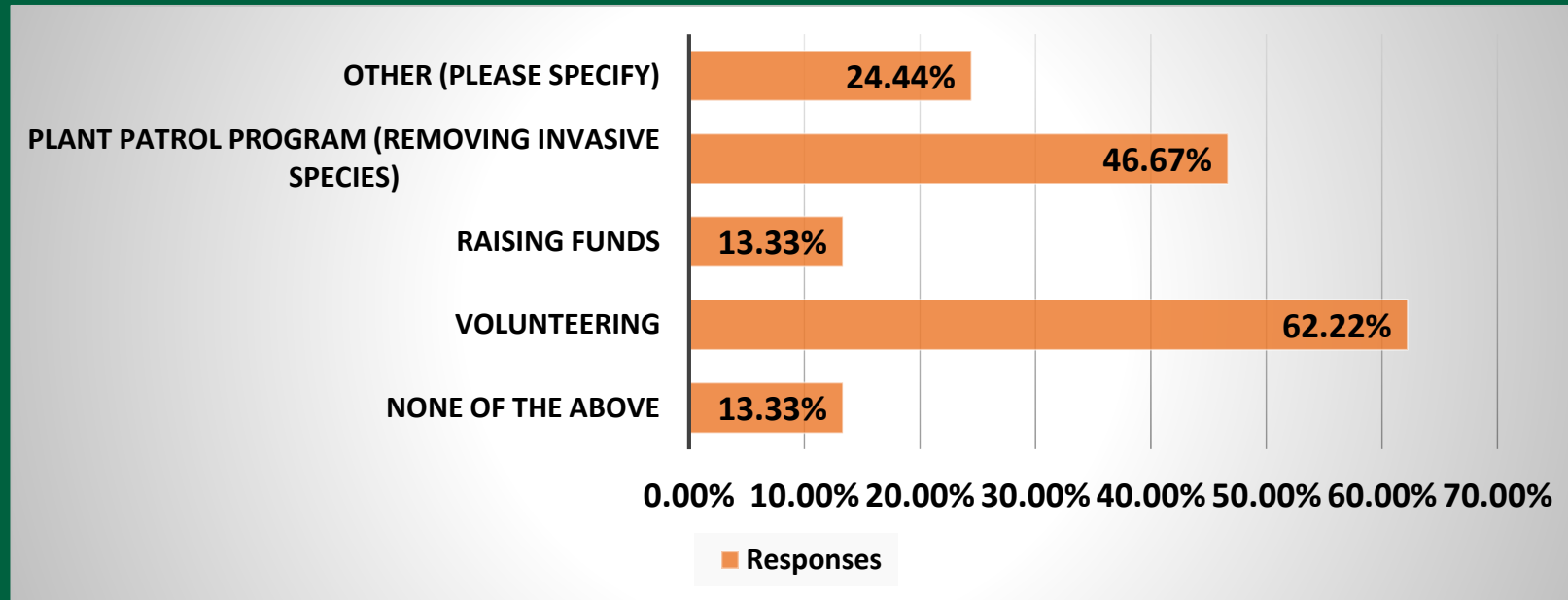
- ❖ Conservation vocational education
- ❖ Nature Conservancy

Answer Choices	Responses	
None of the above	14.89%	7
Citizen Science Projects	48.94%	31
School Groups	55.32%	33
Adult Education	38.30%	25
Other (please specify)	34.04%	17
	Answered	57
	Skipped	0

Other (please specify):

- ❖ Cultural and Natural History of the middle Rio Grande Valley. Map of historic sites
- ❖ Terrace could be used for lectures about various aspects of the San Antonio oxbow
- ❖ Nature walks
- ❖ Creative nature exhibits of explanation and lots of guided/self guided activities.
- ❖ Small school group outings

Q8: How do you see yourself participating in the future? (Check all that apply)



Answer Choices	Responses	
None of the above	13.33%	6
Volunteering	62.22%	34
Raising Funds	13.33%	6
Plant Patrol Program (removing invasive species)	46.67%	25
Other (please specify)	24.44%	13
	Answered	57
	Skipped	2

Other (please specify):

- ❖ Leading flower walks (Native Plant Society)
- ❖ Clean up during the begging phase
- ❖ Planting to enhance natural beauty
- ❖ Trail work, citizen science
- ❖ Collaboration with BioPark

Q9: Additional Comments

- ❖ "Use water trucks to keep existing trees alive from the Poole home."
- ❖ "Hot air balloon launch/landing space"
- ❖ "Many of us have hopes that the site remains mostly "undeveloped", and kept in a "natural state" to provide sanctuary for the resident wildlife in the vicinity. Thank you for offering this opportunity for input into future planning!"
- ❖ "Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I look forward to seeing what develops for this unique property."
- ❖ "The Poole Property is a relatively small area and should be relatively untouched. It's unique nature lies in its view of the San Antonio Oxbow and the river and bosque beyond."
- ❖ "The existing infrastructure is perfect for the history of the property similar to a mix of the Bachechi Center and the picnic area and trailhead near Montano and Coors"
- ❖ "Lots of potential! Would love to see it as wildlife friendly as possible."
- ❖ "Extensive native plants are the key for pollinators and birds!"
- ❖ "The mural must be preserved. It is amazing."
- ❖ "Very excited that land will be kept for outdoor space"
- ❖ "A beautiful space. Congratulations to the city on an important great purchase."

Next Steps

1. Compiling the rest of the survey feedback
2. Preserving the art wall



Questions?