



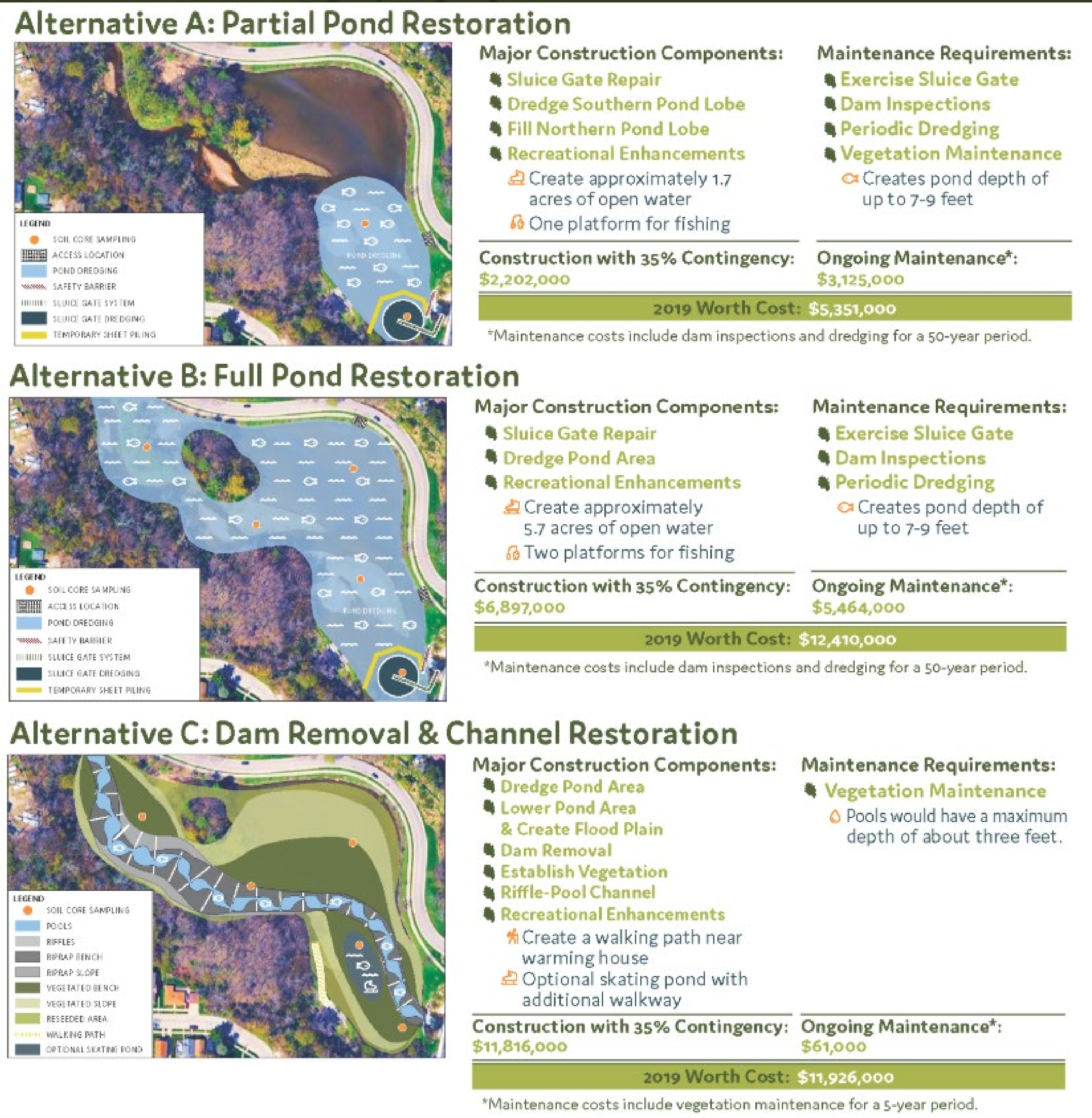
Oak Creek Parkway Mill Pond & Dam Project Update

June 10, 2025



Background:

- 2012 - DNR issues order to replace sluice gate
- 2013 – AECOM performs inspection of dam masonry
- 2015 – AECOM develops preliminary plans to repair the dam sluice gate
- 2021 - SEWRPC publishes Restoration Plan for Oak Creek Watershed
- 2022 – AECOM conducts sediment sampling
- 2023 – Board authorizes public input and potential design alternatives as part of scope
- 2024 – Public Engagement regarding concepts



Public Engagement Objectives:

1. Identify and actively involve stakeholders
2. Solicit input to ensure that the project will best meet the needs of the community
3. Communicate remaining alternatives to enhance community understanding and build consensus

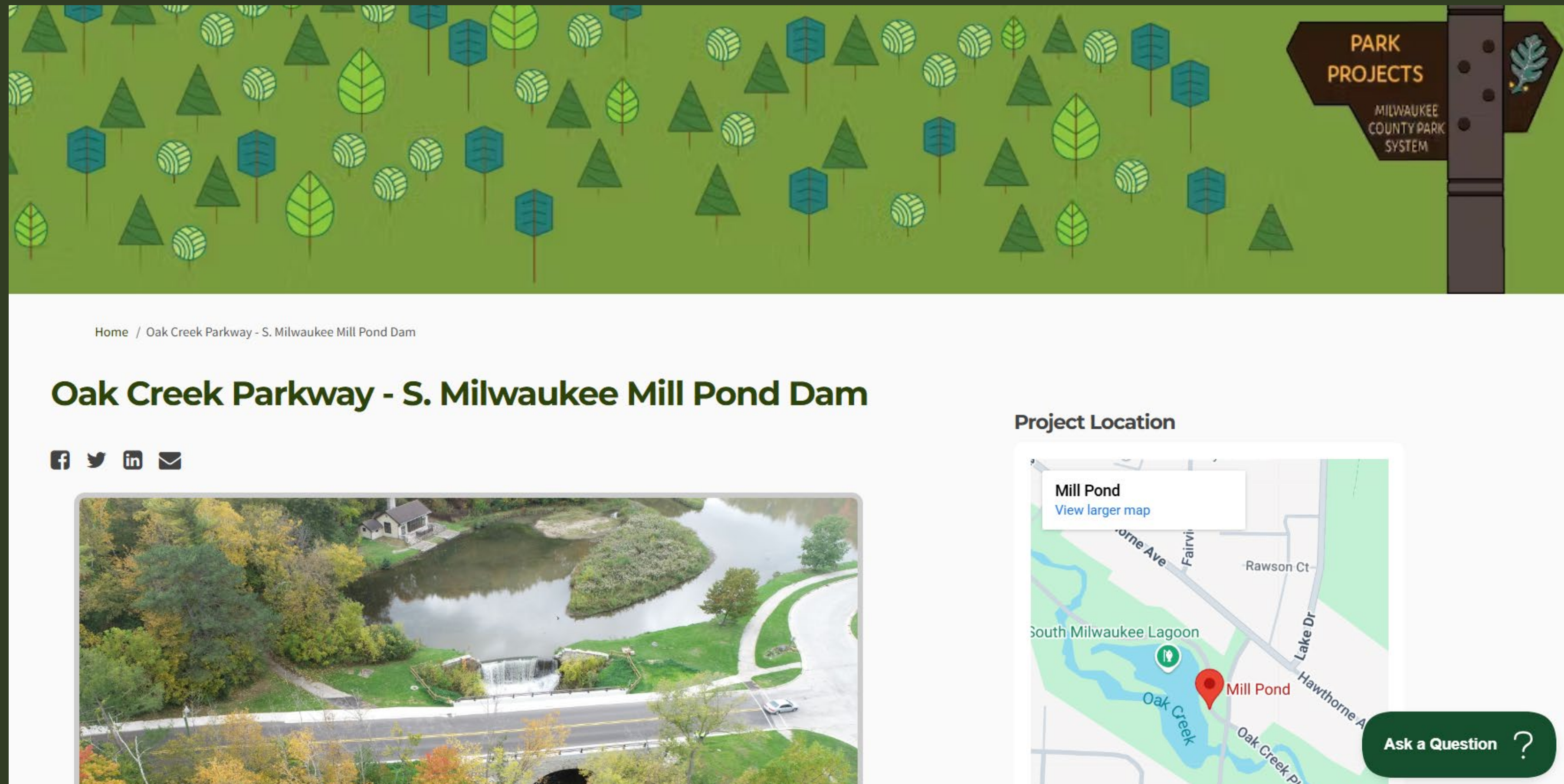


Parks Project Webpage

[Oak Creek Parkway - S. Milwaukee Mill Pond Dam](#) | [Projects](#) | [Milwaukee County Parks](#)



- 2,172 webpage visitors
- 32 comments *(5 of those comments were from repeat commenters)*

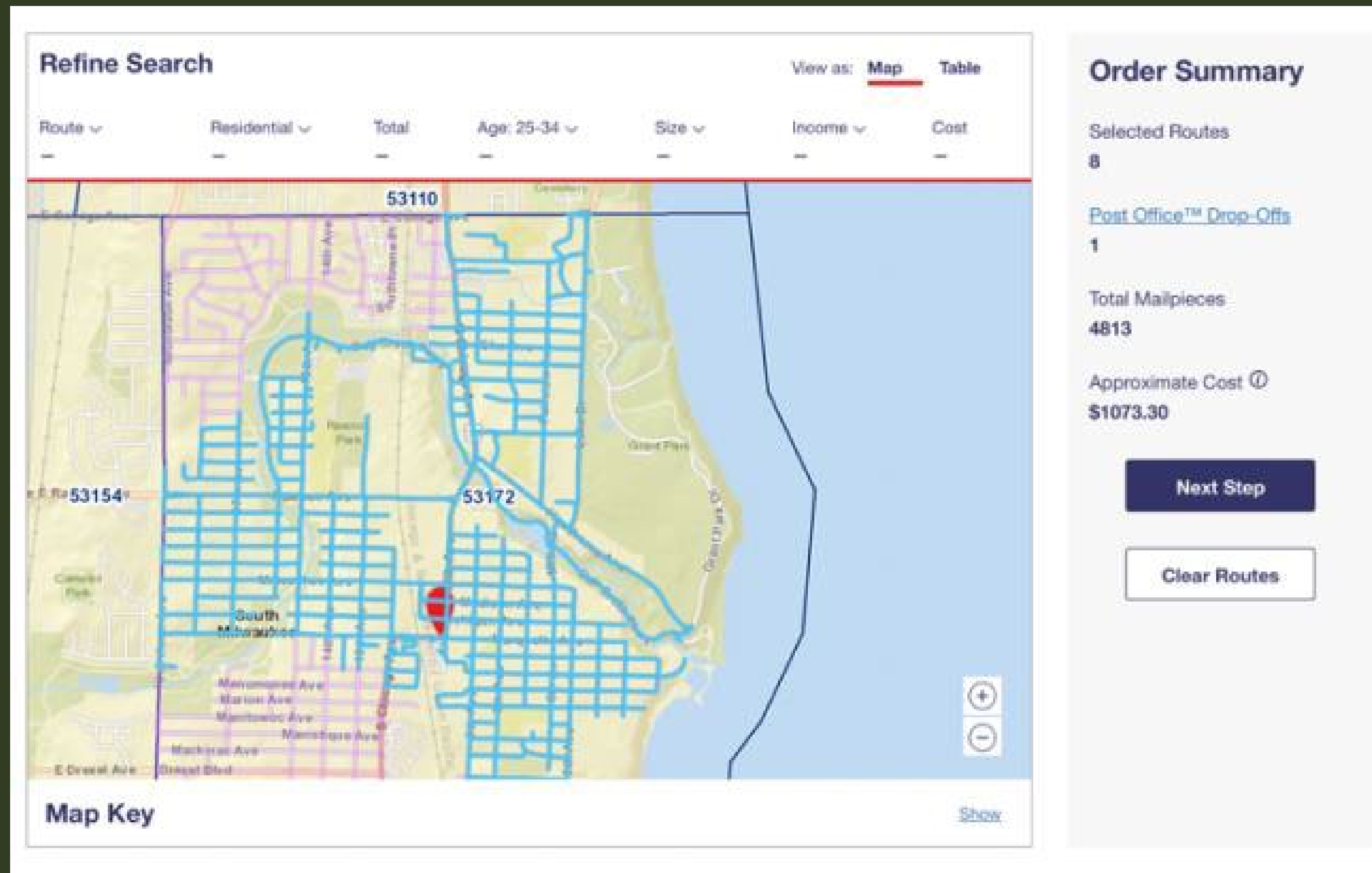


Community Survey



- Promoted via 10 yard signs in the area
- QR code for the survey was included on the nearly 5,000 direct mail pieces that were sent out inviting the public to the first public information meeting.
- The survey garnered 865 responses with over 500 of those providing an email address to receive updates about the project.

Public Information Mtg #1



In addition to email invitations and yard signs, the USPS Every Door Direct Mail program was utilized to mail Public Information Meeting invites to 4,813 residents living closest to Mill Pond. The postcard included information about the Public Information Meeting as well as a call to take the survey.

Public Information Mtg #1



On December 3, 2024 from 4 - 6 pm, a public open house at Wil-O-Way Grant was held. Nearly 100 neighbors visited to review project boards, ask questions of the staff, and leave written comments.



Public Information Mtg #2



On February 19, 2025 from 4 - 6 pm, a public open house at Grant Clubhouse was held. Approximately 50 neighbors visited to review boards, project boards, ask questions of the staff, and leave written comments.



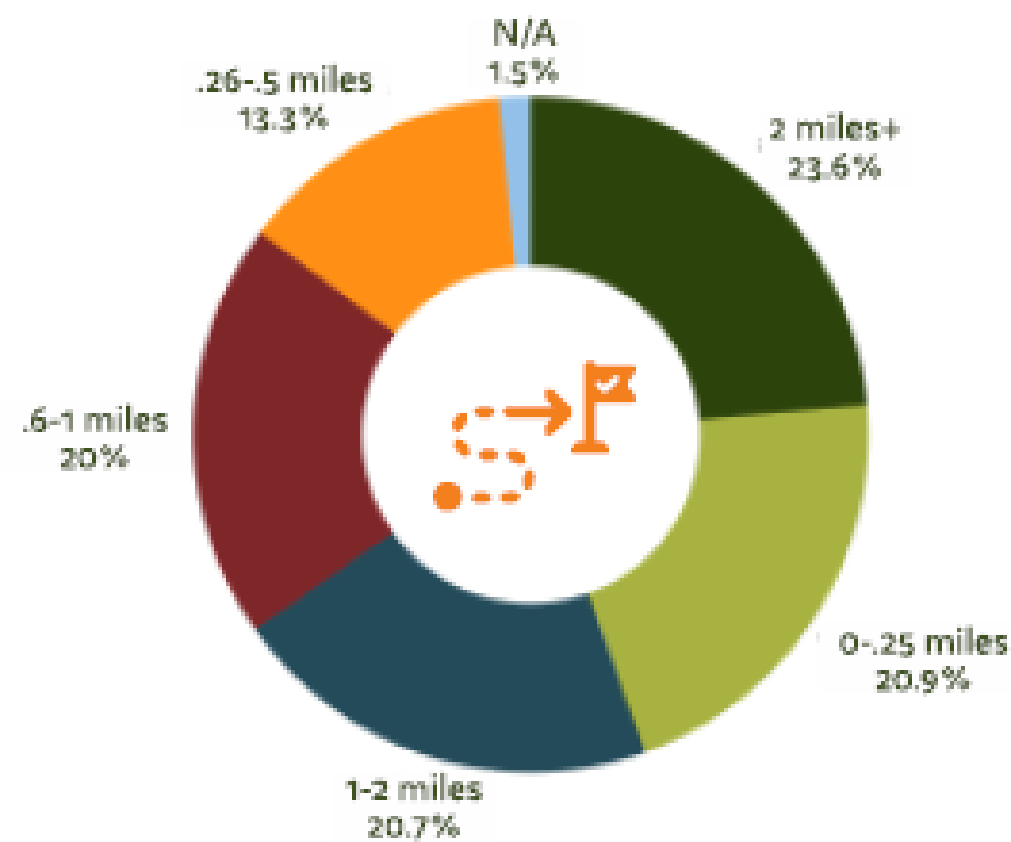


SURVEY RESULTS

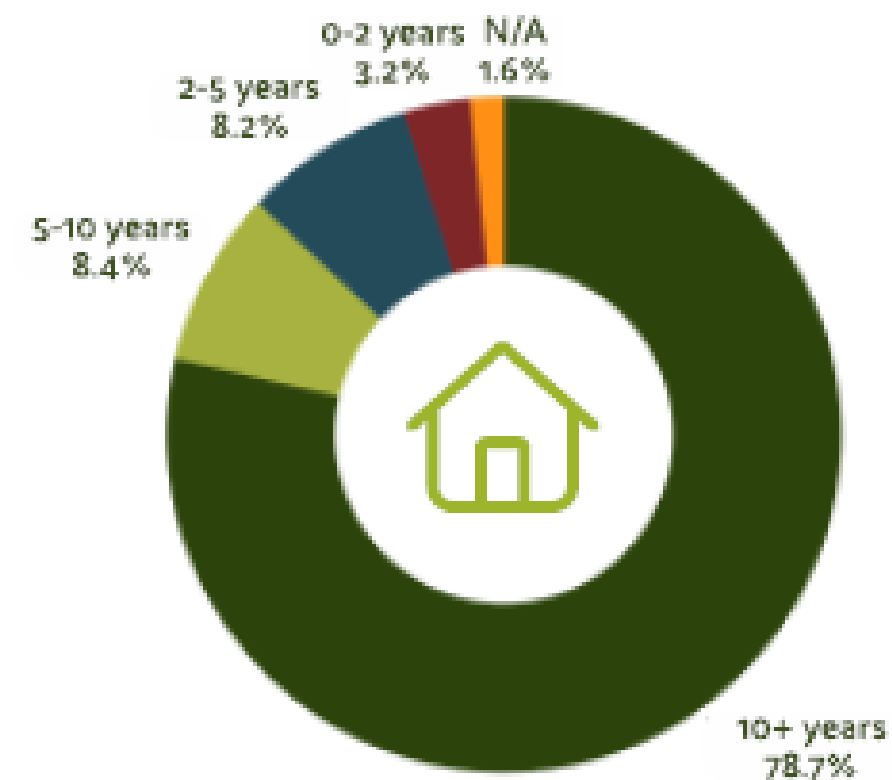
865 Respondents



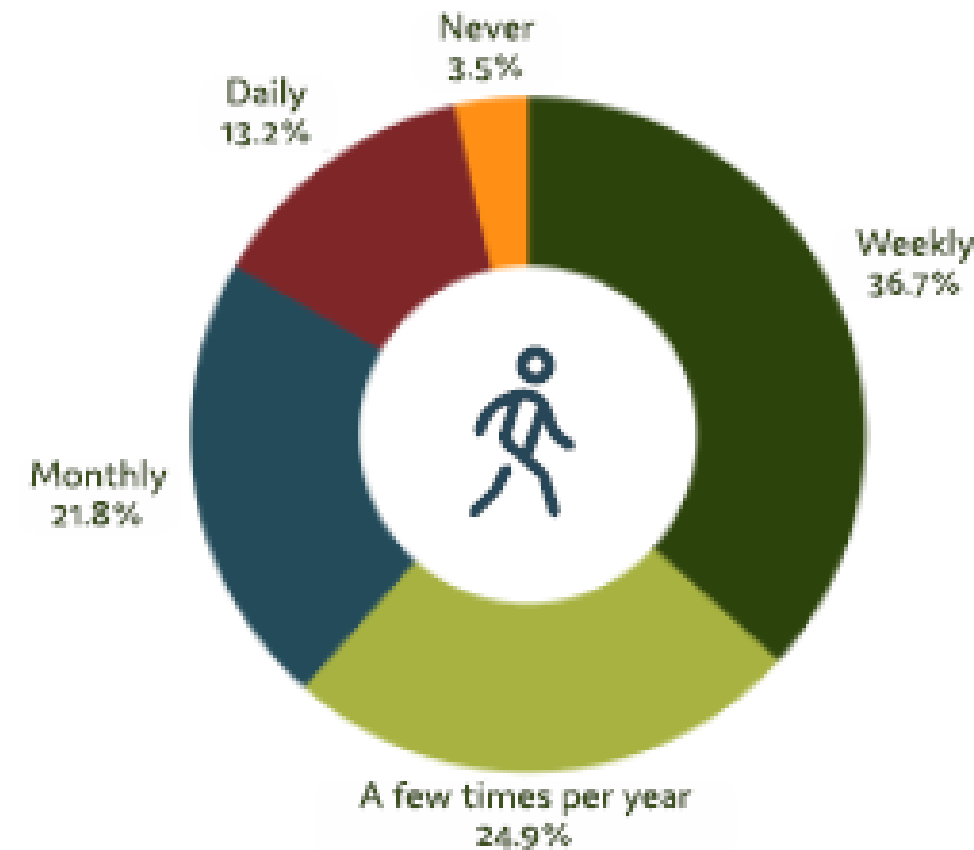
How far do you live from Mill Pond?



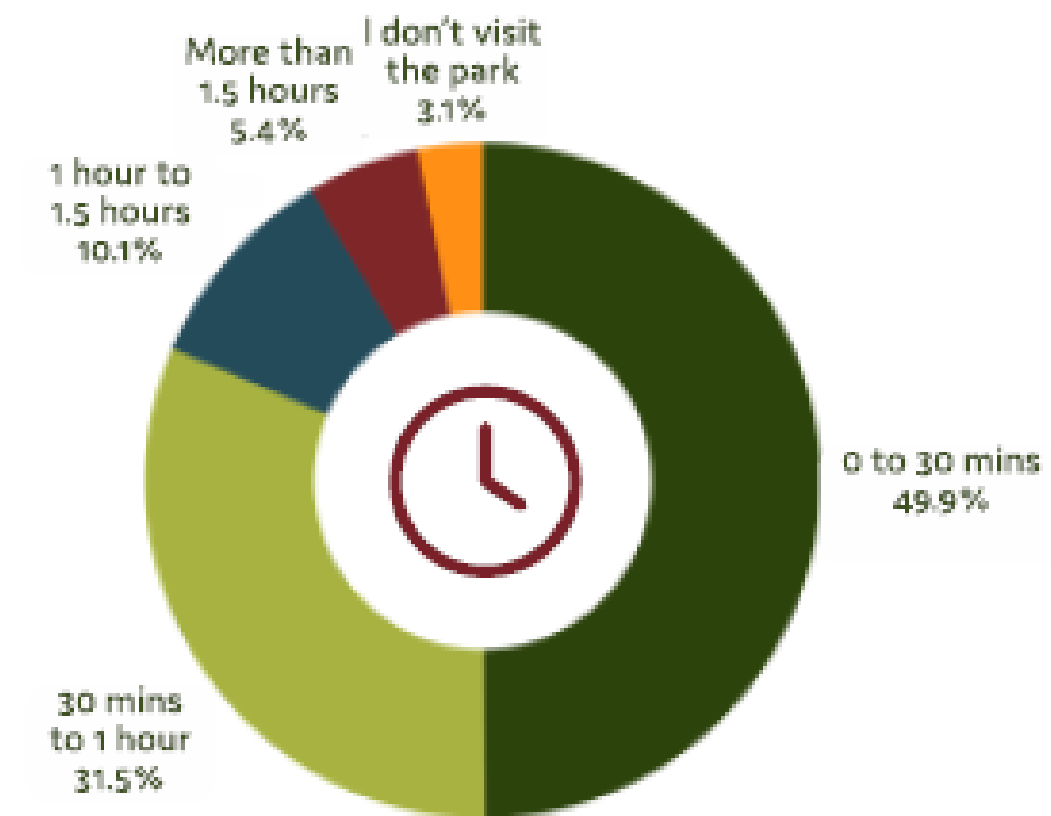
How long have you lived in the area?



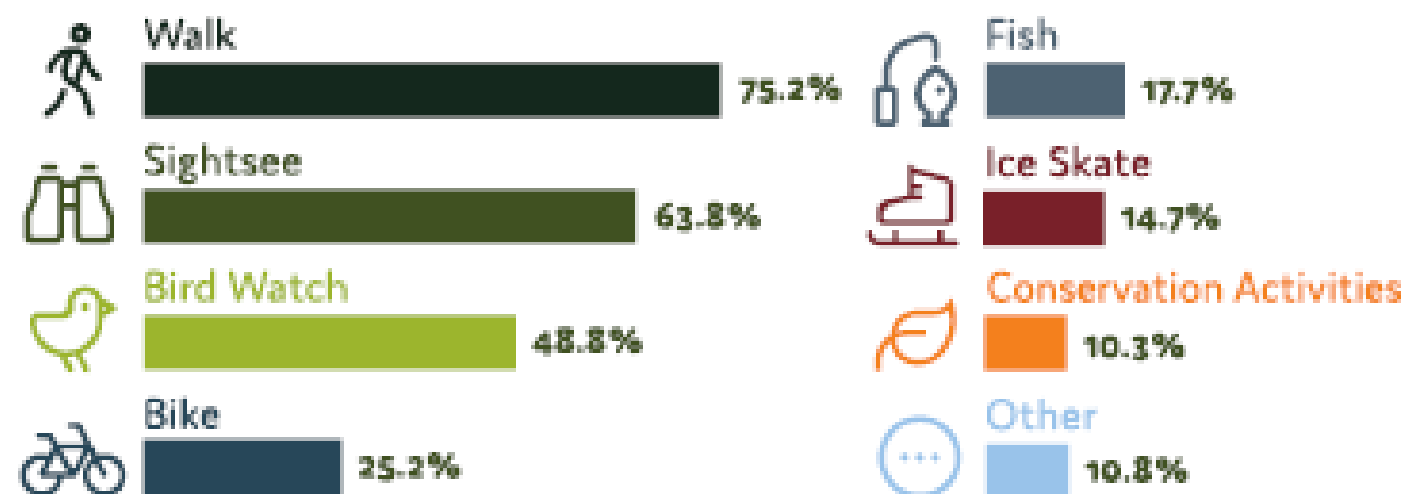
How often do you visit Mill Pond?



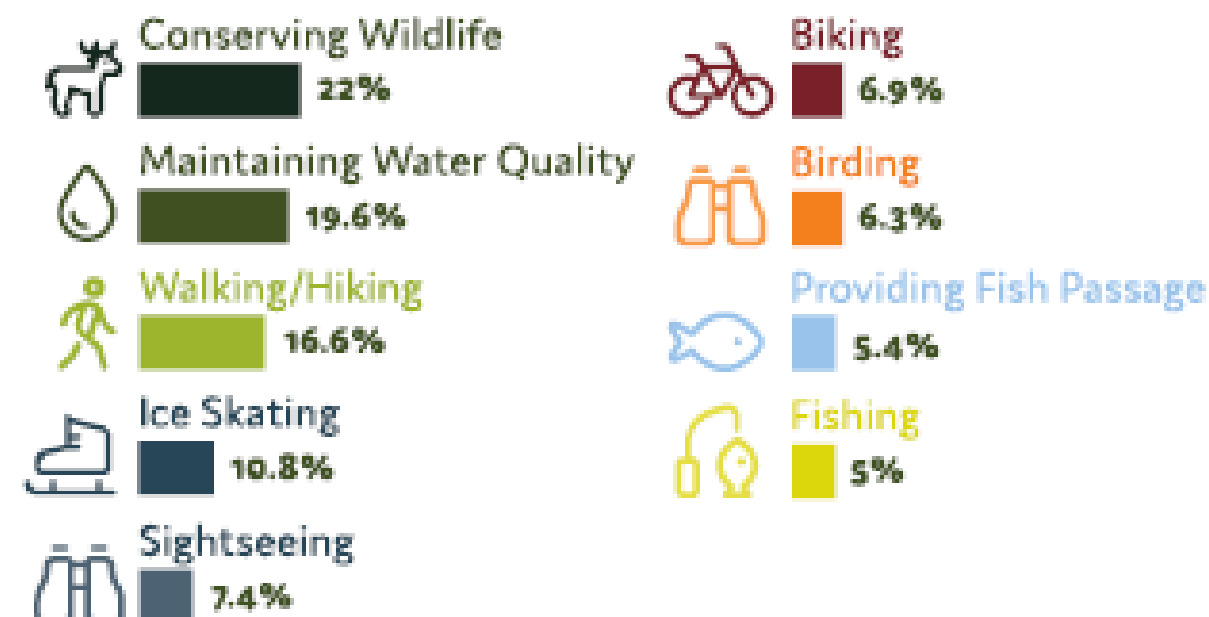
How much time do you spend at Mill Pond?



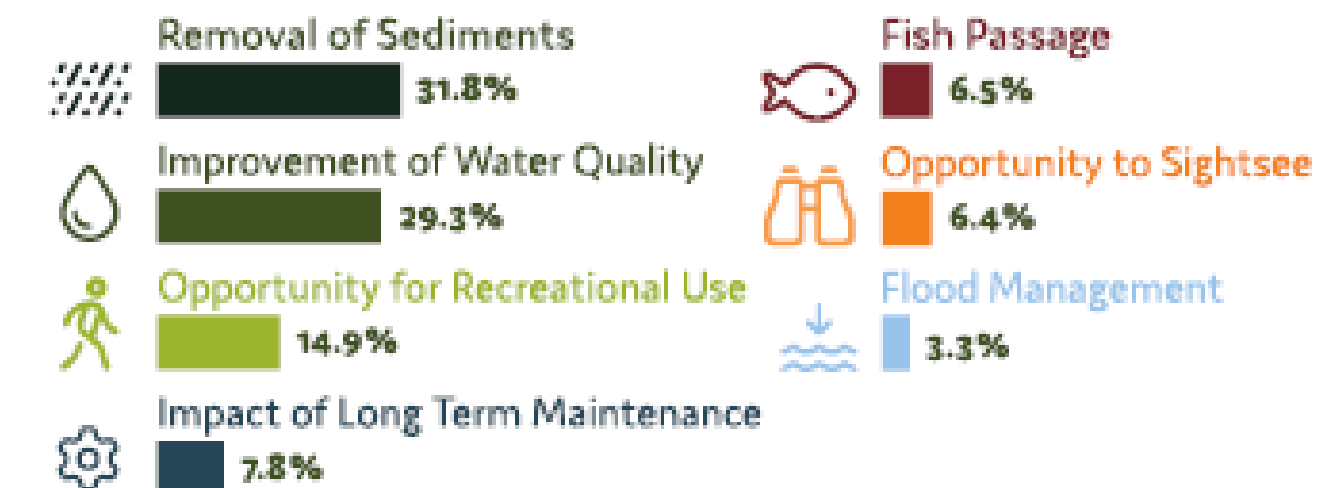
What do you do when you are at Mill Pond?



What do you value most about the Mill Pond and Oak Creek Watercourse area?



When thinking about improvements to the Mill Pond and Oak Creek Watercourse area, what do you value most?



Takeaways



- Public opinion on dam removal with stream restoration vs pond dredging and dam maintenance was essentially split.
 - *Those in favor of restoration discussed long-term maintenance costs, and habitat benefits*
 - *Those in favor of pond dredging discussed historical uses like skating*
- Due to contamination, costs for disposal of sediment will likely have a multimillion-dollar impact on the project costs.
- Grant opportunities are more readily available for stream and habitat restoration than dam maintenance.

Next Steps



- Target project objectives to meet community input – environmental cleanup, passive recreation, resource appreciation.
- Seek grant opportunities.
- Accurately estimate total project costs to be borne by County versus grant monies.
- Communicate with DNR and project stakeholders regarding next steps and timelines.