



# 2025 City of Sparks, City of Reno, and Washoe County Parks and Recreation Service Plan Feasibility Study Findings Report

February 2026



# Contents

<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>Section 1: Charts and Graphs</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Section 2: Tabular Data</b> .....	<b>50</b>
<b>Section 3: Survey Instrument</b> .....	<b>83</b>

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# 2025 Reno, Washoe, Sparks Parks and Recreation Service Plan Feasibility Study Executive Summary

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## Overview

ETC Institute administered a survey on behalf of the three neighboring Reno area park systems, that include Reno Parks and Recreation, Washoe County Parks and Recreation, and Sparks Parks and Recreation. The survey is being administered as part of a Parks and Recreation Service Plan Feasibility Study that will evaluate the potential for developing a single service district governance model. This system-wide survey asked respondents from throughout Washoe county questions related to establishing a new Parks, Recreation and Trails Service District. The responses will assist the leaders of the three existing park and recreation systems while evaluating the feasibility of forming a single park service district.

## Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in Washoe County with goals for Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County residents. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. After the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute followed up with respondents to encourage participation.

The goal was to collect a minimum of 700 surveys from randomly selected households, 400 from the City of Reno, 150 from the City of Sparks, and 150 from Washoe County outside of Reno and Sparks. The goal was exceeded with 748 total surveys collected with 400 from Reno, 184 from Sparks, and 164 from Washoe County outside of Reno and Sparks. The overall results for the sample of 748 surveys have a precision of at least +/- 3.6 at the 95% level of confidence.

This report contains the following:

- Charts showing the overall results of the survey (Section 1)
- Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey (Section 2)
- Survey instrument (Section 3)

The major findings of the survey are summarized below and on the following pages.

## Major Findings

**Condition of Facilities.** Respondents were asked to rate the condition of the parks and recreation facilities that they have used in Washoe County, City of Reno, and City of Sparks. Based upon “excellent” and “good” percentages from overall respondents, Washoe County was the highest rated location of parks or recreation facilities with 73% rating the condition of facilities as either “excellent” (18%) or “good” (55%).

**Frequency of Use.** Respondents were asked to indicate how frequently they use recreation facilities in Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County. Overall results show that most respondents (42%) use facilities weekly and 21% of overall respondents use facilities monthly.

Results by area:

- Reno respondents
  - 17% use facilities daily, 45% use facilities weekly, 19% use facilities monthly, 17% use facilities a few times a year, and 3% never use facilities
- Sparks respondents
  - 17% use facilities daily, 41% use them weekly, 24% use them monthly, and 18% use them a few times a year
- Washoe County
  - 14% use facilities daily, 35% use them weekly, 23% use them monthly, 28% use them a few times a year, and 1% never use facilities

**Satisfaction with Value.** Respondents were told how much each area spends per person per year on Parks and Open Space operations. They were then asked to rank how satisfied they were with the value they received for the taxes paid. For Washoe county, 74% of overall respondents are “very satisfied” (21%) or “satisfied” (55%) with the value they receive. Sixty percent (60%) of overall respondents are “very satisfied” (13%) or “satisfied” (47%) with the value they receive for taxes paid in the City of Reno. Sixty-four percent of overall respondents (64%) are “very satisfied” (14%) or “satisfied” (50%) with the value they receive for taxes paid in the City of Sparks.

Results by area:

- Reno respondents
  - 76% of respondents in the Reno area are “very satisfied” (24%) or “satisfied” (53%) with the value they receive in Washoe County, 63% are “very satisfied” (15%) or “satisfied” (48%) with the value they receive in the City of Reno, and 66% are “very satisfied” (14%) or “satisfied” (51%) with the value they receive in the City of Sparks.
- Sparks respondents
  - 76% of respondents in the Sparks area are “very satisfied” (15%) or “satisfied” (61%) with the value they receive in Washoe County, 62% are “very satisfied” (14%) or “satisfied” (48%) with the value they receive in the City of Reno, and

64% are “very satisfied” (16%) or “satisfied” (49%) with the value they receive in the City of Sparks.

- Washoe County respondents
  - 67% of respondents in Washoe County are “very satisfied” (20%) or “satisfied” (48%) with the value they receive in Washoe County, 50% are “very satisfied” (8%) or “satisfied” (43%) with the value they receive in the City of Reno, and 60% are “very satisfied” (11%) or “satisfied” (48%) with the value they receive in the City of Sparks.

**Most Used Recreational Amenities.** Respondents were asked to select which recreational amenities they use most often. The most selected amenities by overall respondents were multi-use paved trails (70%), natural-surface hiking/biking trails (70%), and trailheads with parking & restrooms (60%). Respondents were then asked to select which organizations they use for the recreation amenities they indicated. The most common organizations were Washoe County (80%), City of Reno (78%), and City of Sparks (%).

- Reno respondents
  - Respondents in Reno selected multi-use paved trails as their most used recreational amenities (76%), and 89% of those respondents selected City of Reno as the organization where they most often use this amenity.
- Sparks respondents
  - Respondents in Sparks also selected multi-use paved trails as their most used recreational amenities (75%), and 95% of those respondents selected City of Sparks as the organization where they most often use this amenity.
- Washoe County respondents
  - Respondents in Washoe County selected natural surface hiking/biking trails as their most used amenity (65%), and 83% selected Washoe County as the organization where they most often use this amenity.

**Regional Park Service District.** Respondents were asked to indicate how supportive they would be of creating a dedicated funding source to fund a regional Parks Service District. Twenty-eight percent (28%) of overall respondents were very supportive, 44% were supportive, 15% were not supportive, and 14% were not at all supportive.

- Reno respondents
  - 32% of Reno respondents were very supportive of a dedicated fundings source, 43% were supportive, 13% were not supportive, and 12% were not at all supportive.
- Sparks respondents
  - 23% of Sparks respondents were very supportive, 45% were supportive, 19% were not supportive, and 13% were not at all supportive.

- Washoe County respondents
  - 23% of Washoe County respondents were very supportive, 42% were supportive, 15% were not supportive, and 20% not at all supportive

Respondents were then asked to indicate how likely they would be to vote to establish a regional Parks Service District. Twenty-six percent (26%) of overall respondents were very likely to vote to establish a regional Parks Service District, 24% were likely, 31% were not sure, 9% were not likely, and 10% were not at all likely.

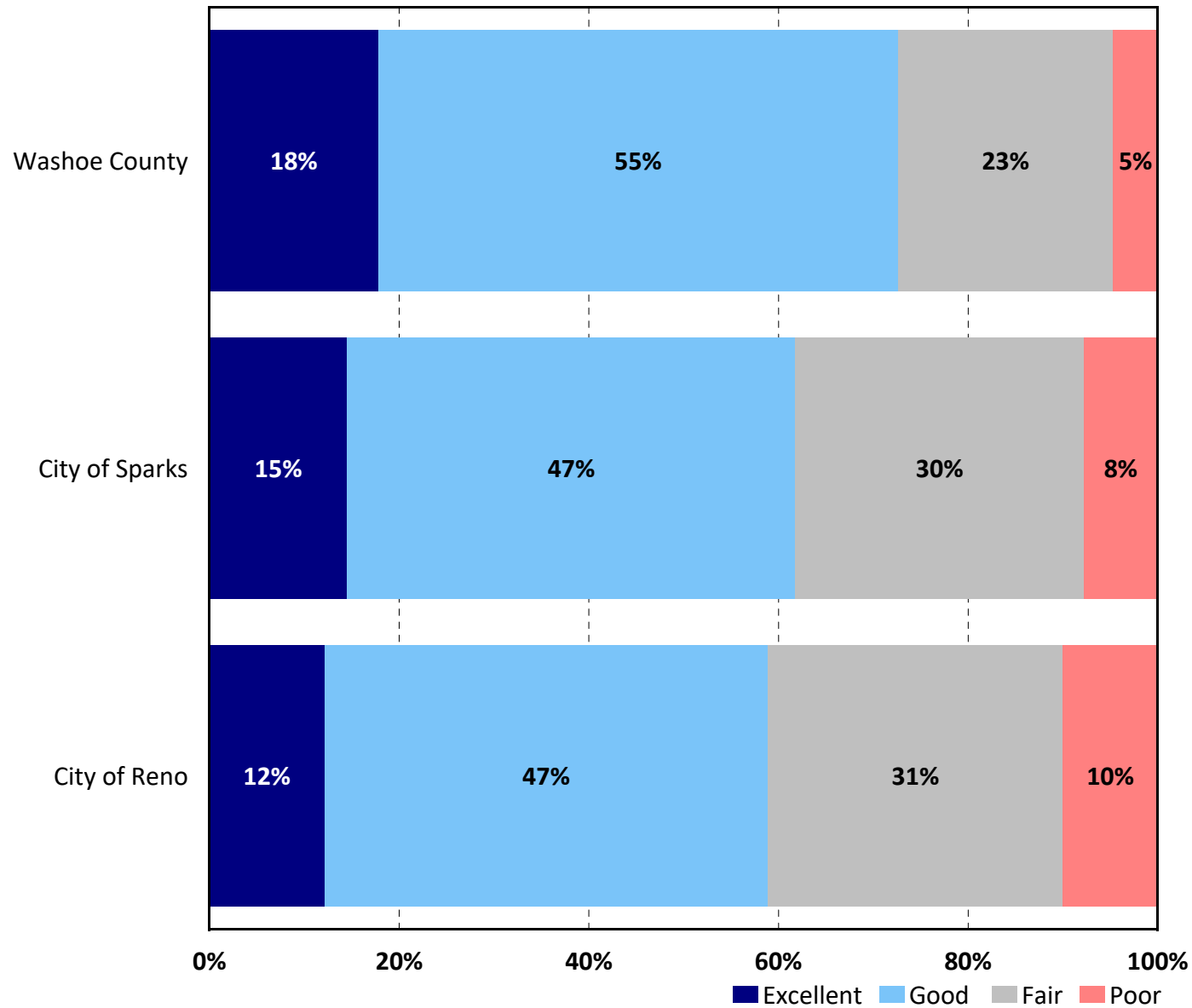
- Reno respondents
  - 31% of Reno respondents would be very likely to vote to establish a regional Parks Service District, 24% would be likely, 30% were not sure, 7% were not likely, and 9% were not at all likely.
- Sparks respondents
  - 25% of Sparks respondents would be very likely, 26% would be likely, 28% were not sure, 13% were not likely, 9% were not at all likely.
- Washoe County respondents
  - 17% of Washoe County respondents would be very likely, 24% would be likely, 36% were not sure, 10% were not likely, and 13% were not at all likely.



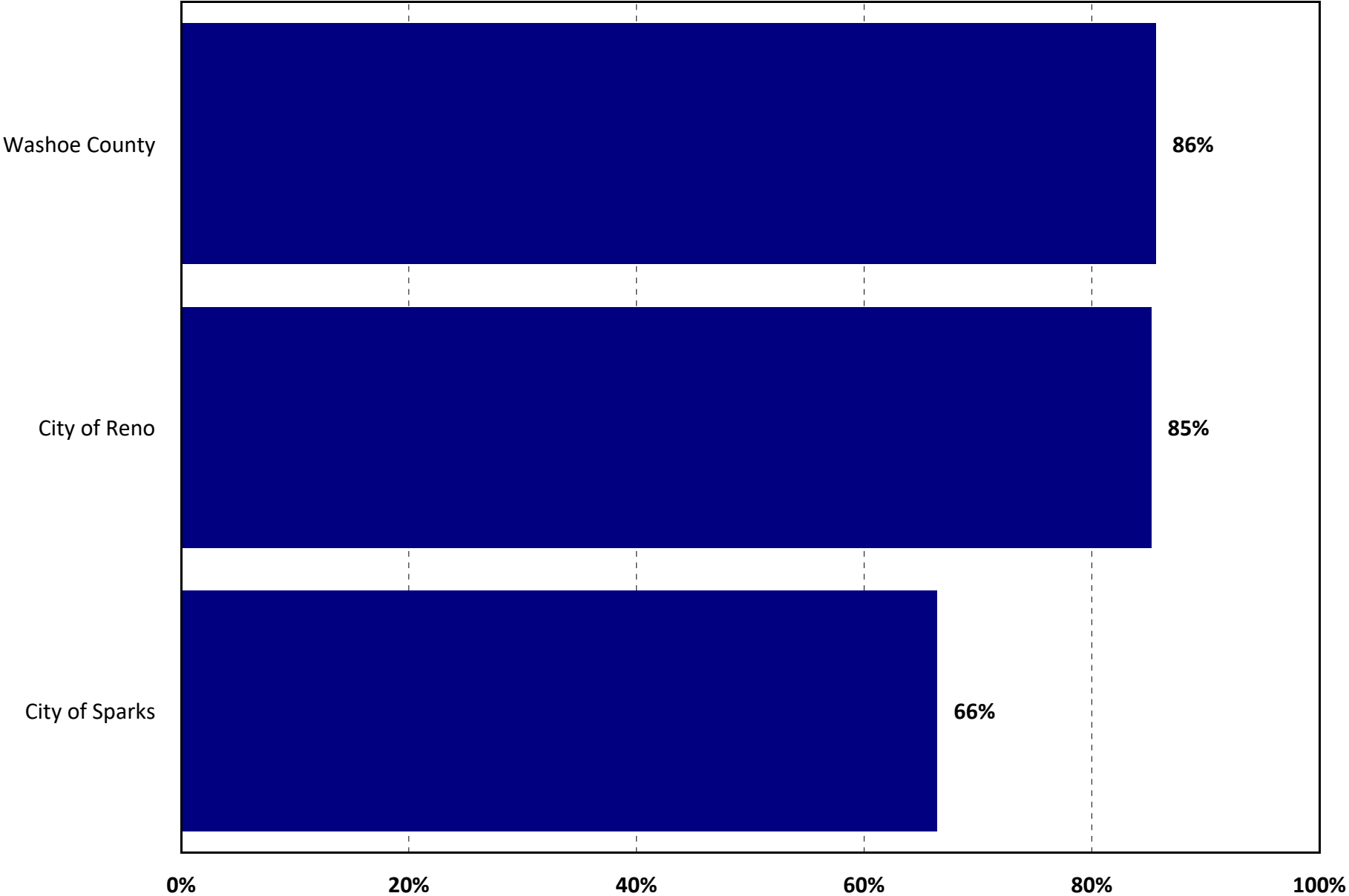
# Charts and Graphs

# Q1. Please rate the condition of the parks or recreation facilities that you have used in each of the following locations

by percentage of respondents who have visited (excluding "have not used")

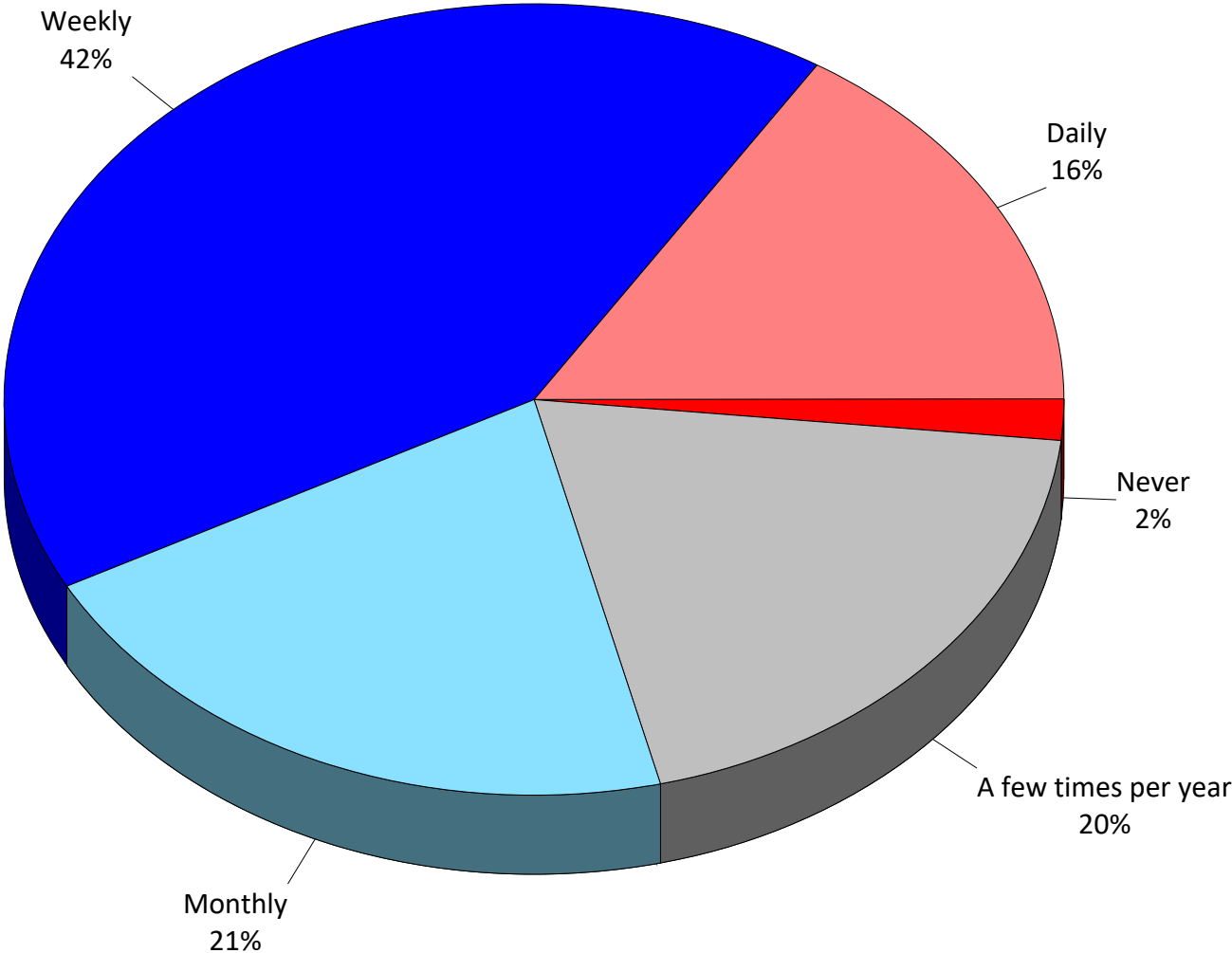


# Q1. Percentage of respondents that have visited parks or recreation facilities by percentage of respondents who have visited



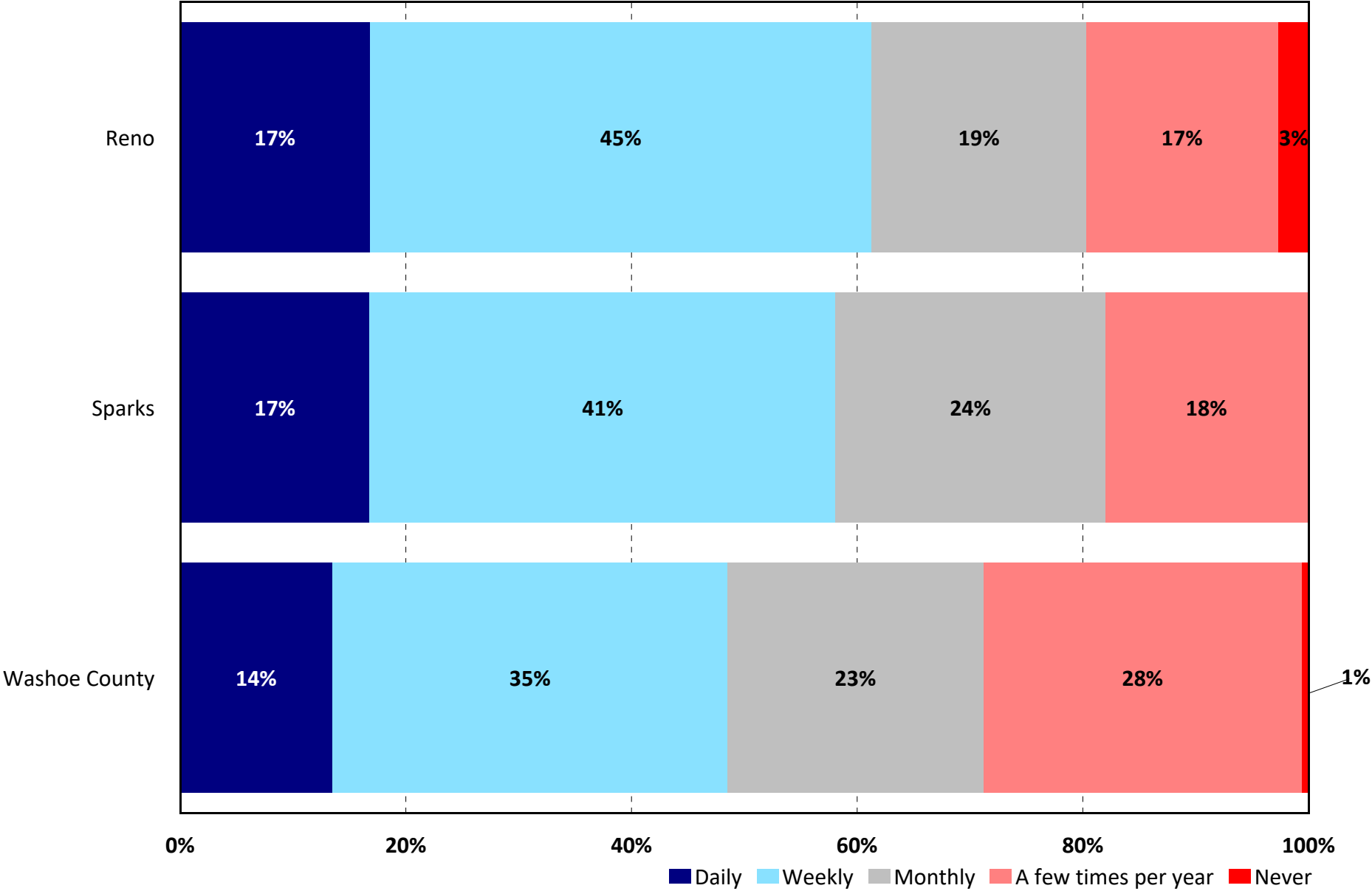
# Q2. Overall, how frequently do you use parks or recreation facilities in Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County?

by percentage of respondents that have used facilities (excluding "not provided")



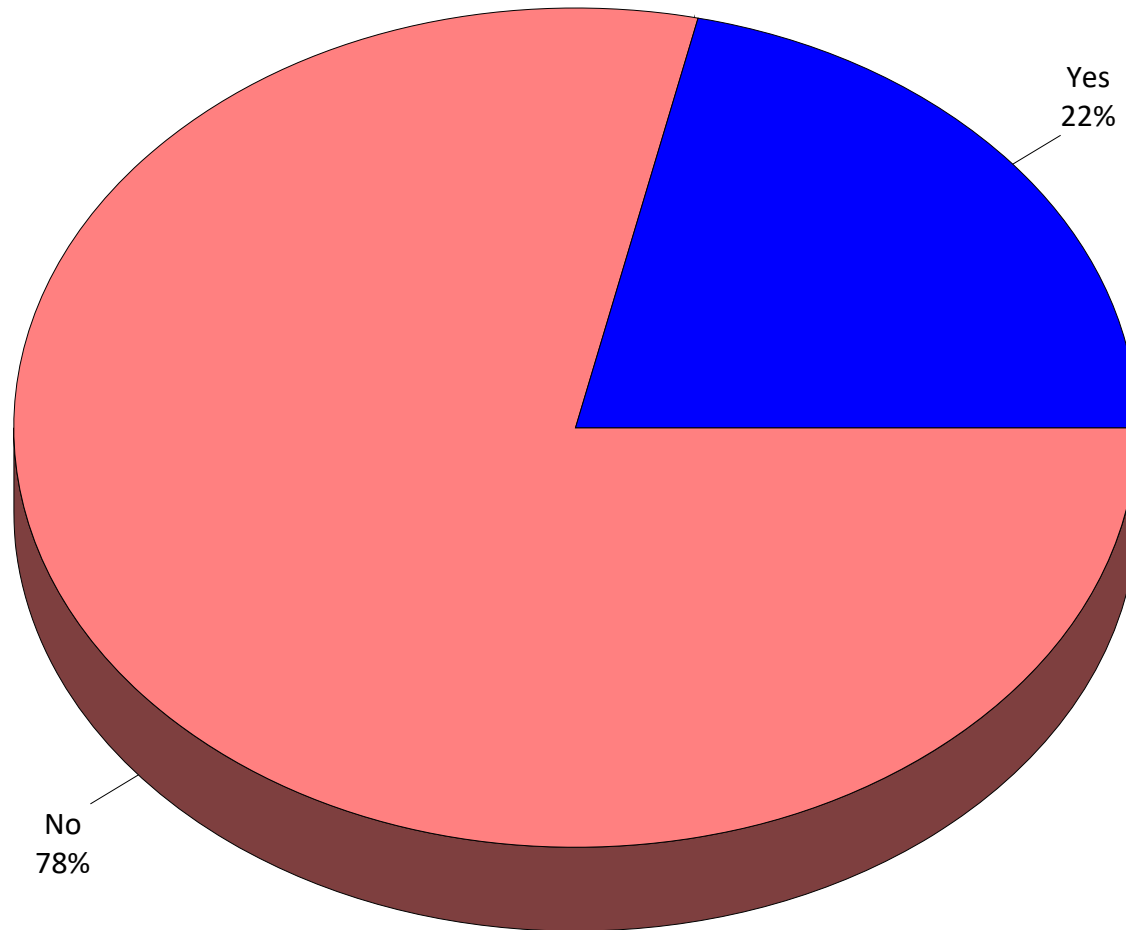
# Q2. How frequently do you use parks or recreation facilities in Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County?

by location of respondents

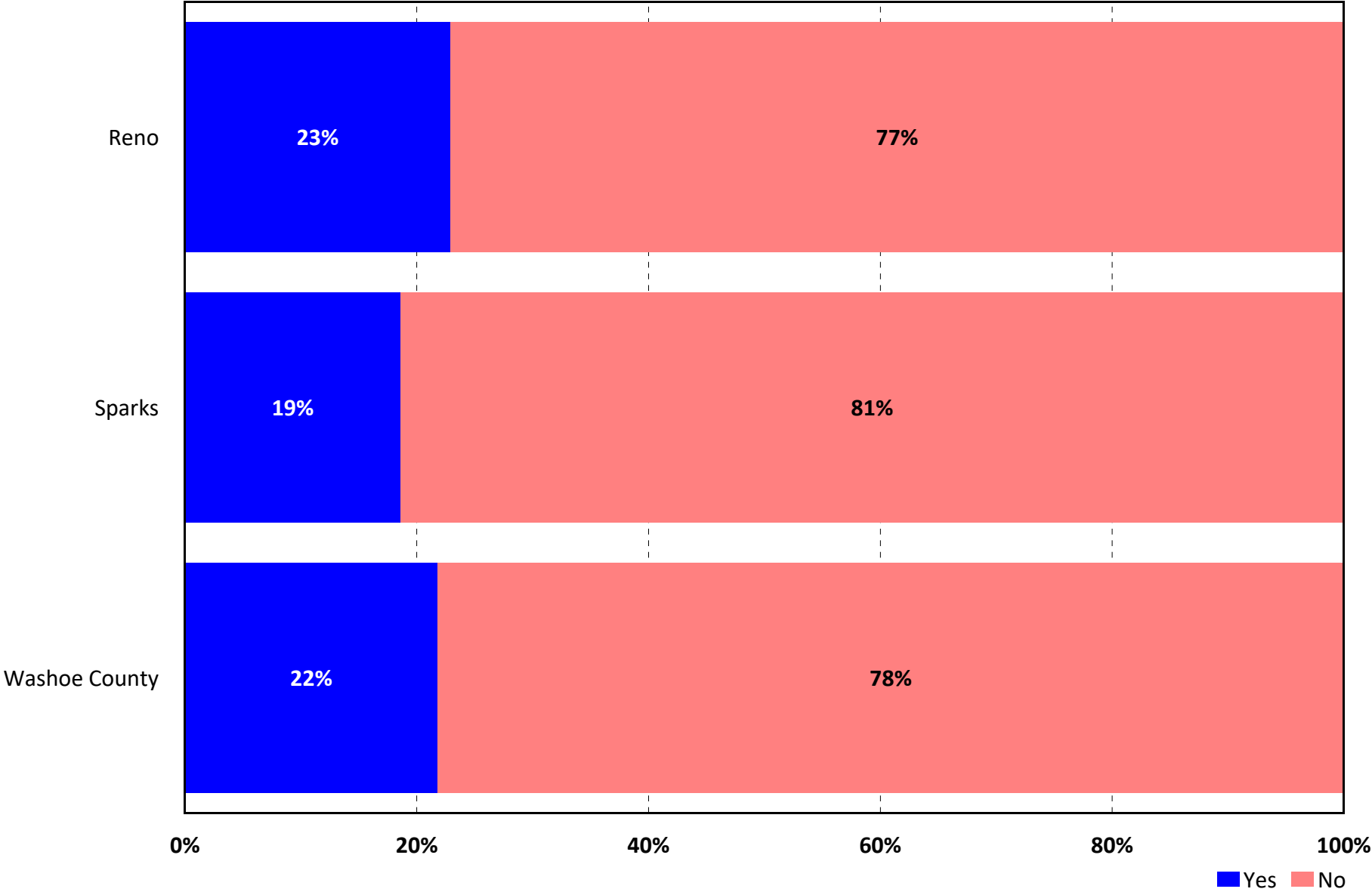


### Q3. Do you believe that parks and recreation services are consistent across neighborhoods throughout the region?

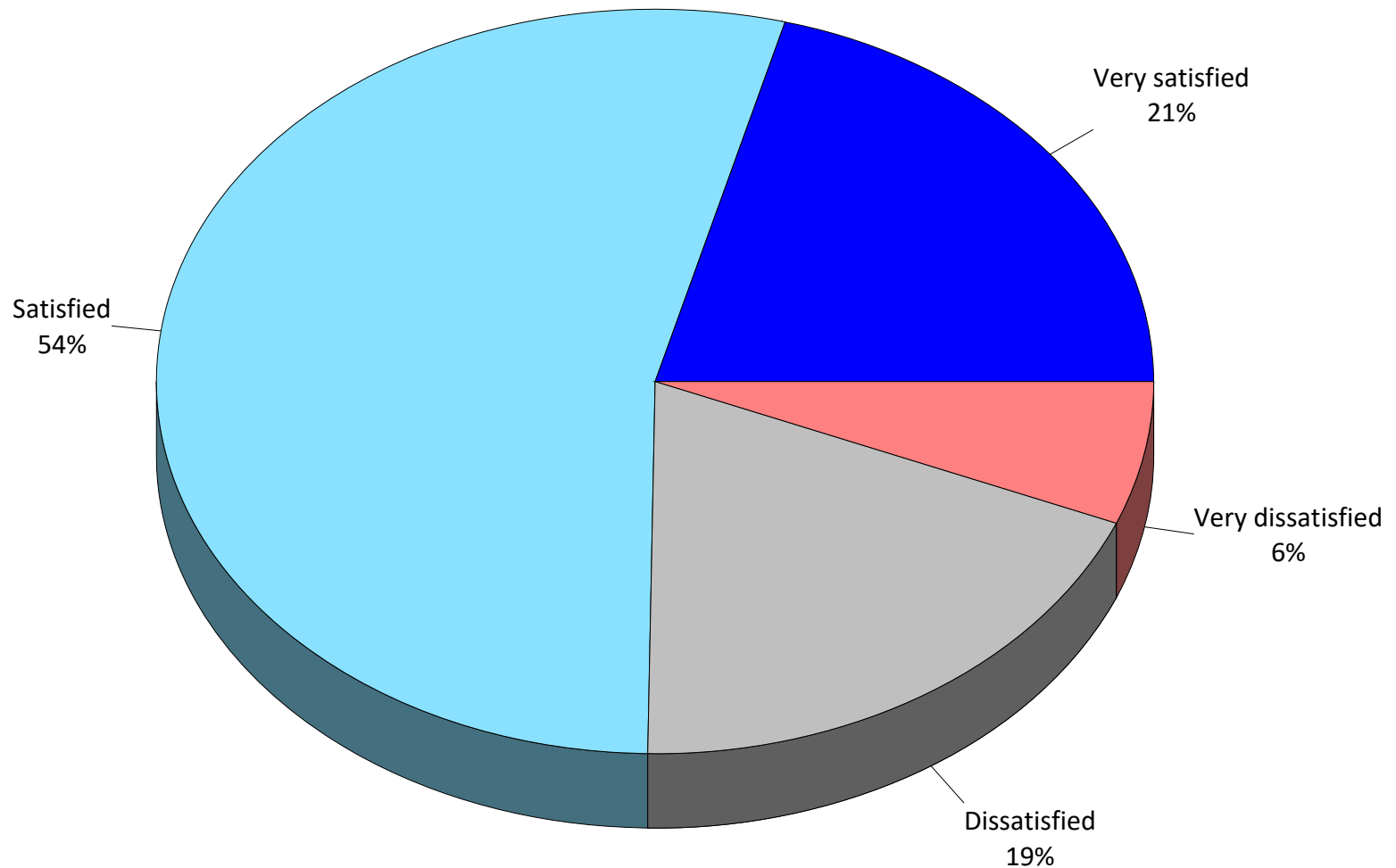
by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know/not sure")



### Q3. Do you believe that parks and recreation services are consistent across neighborhoods throughout the region? by location of respondents (excluding "don't know/not sure")

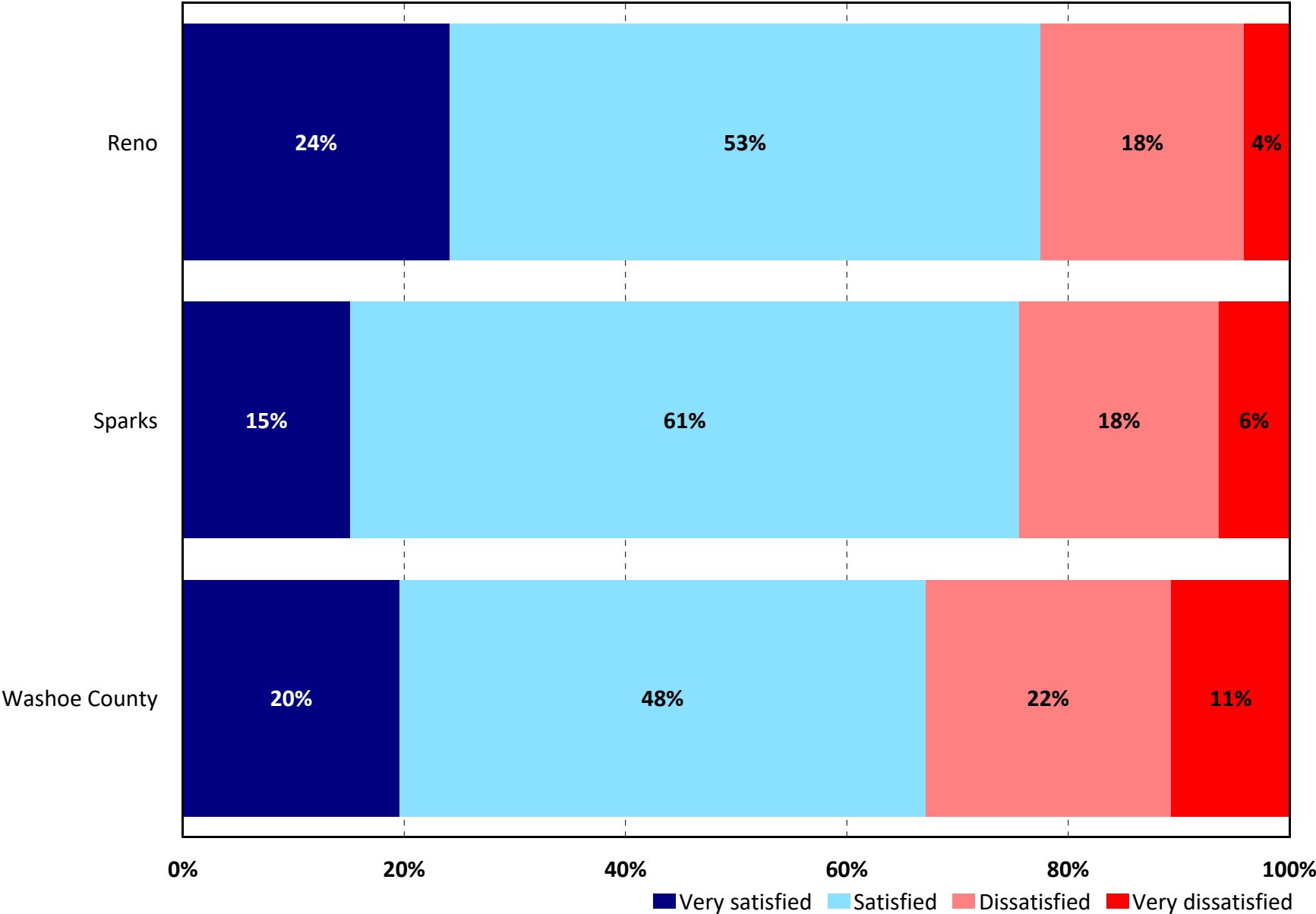


**Q4. Currently, WASHOE COUNTY spends approximately \$21.18 per resident per year on Parks and Open Space operations. Knowing this, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in Washoe County?**  
by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



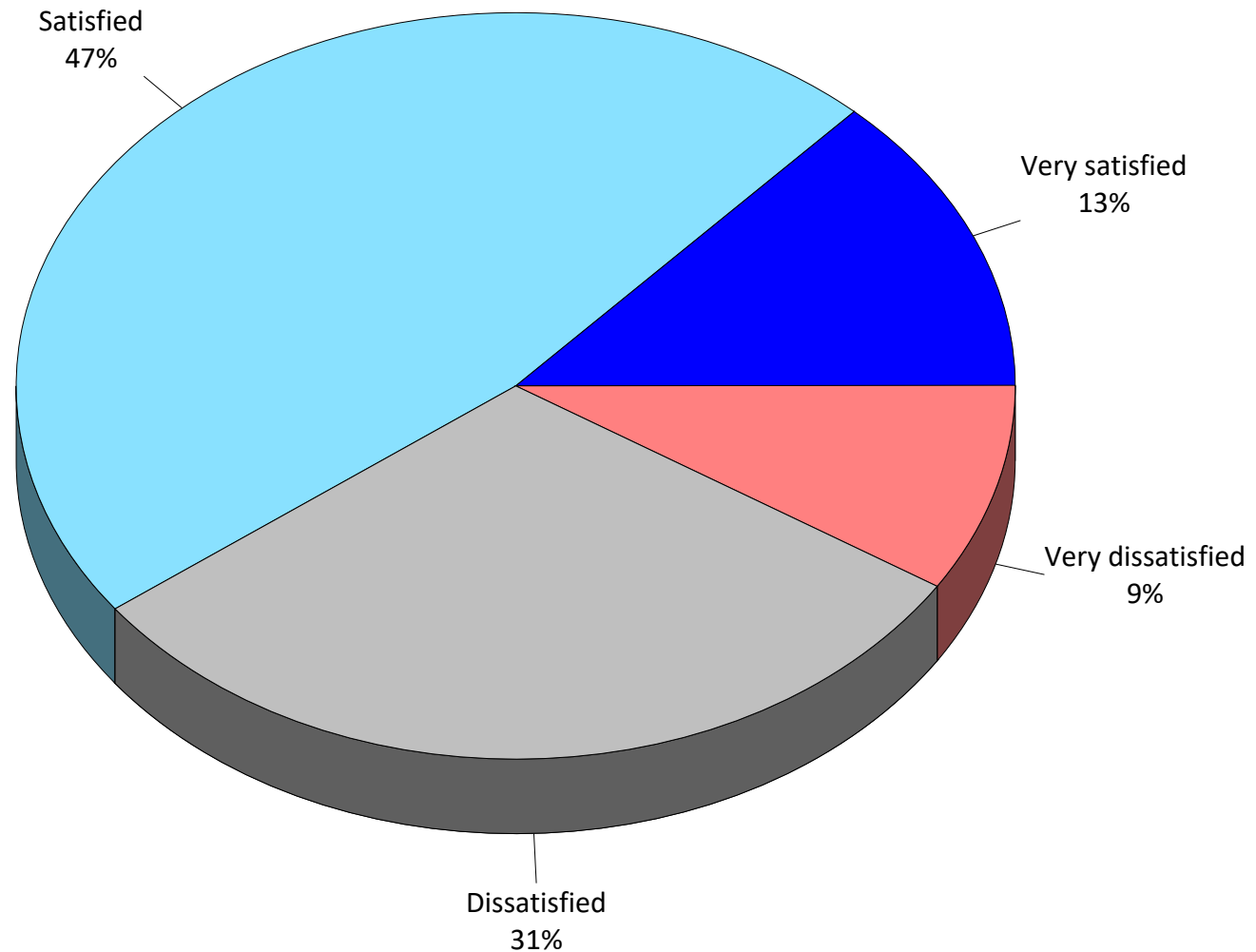
# Q4. How satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in Washoe County?

by location of respondents



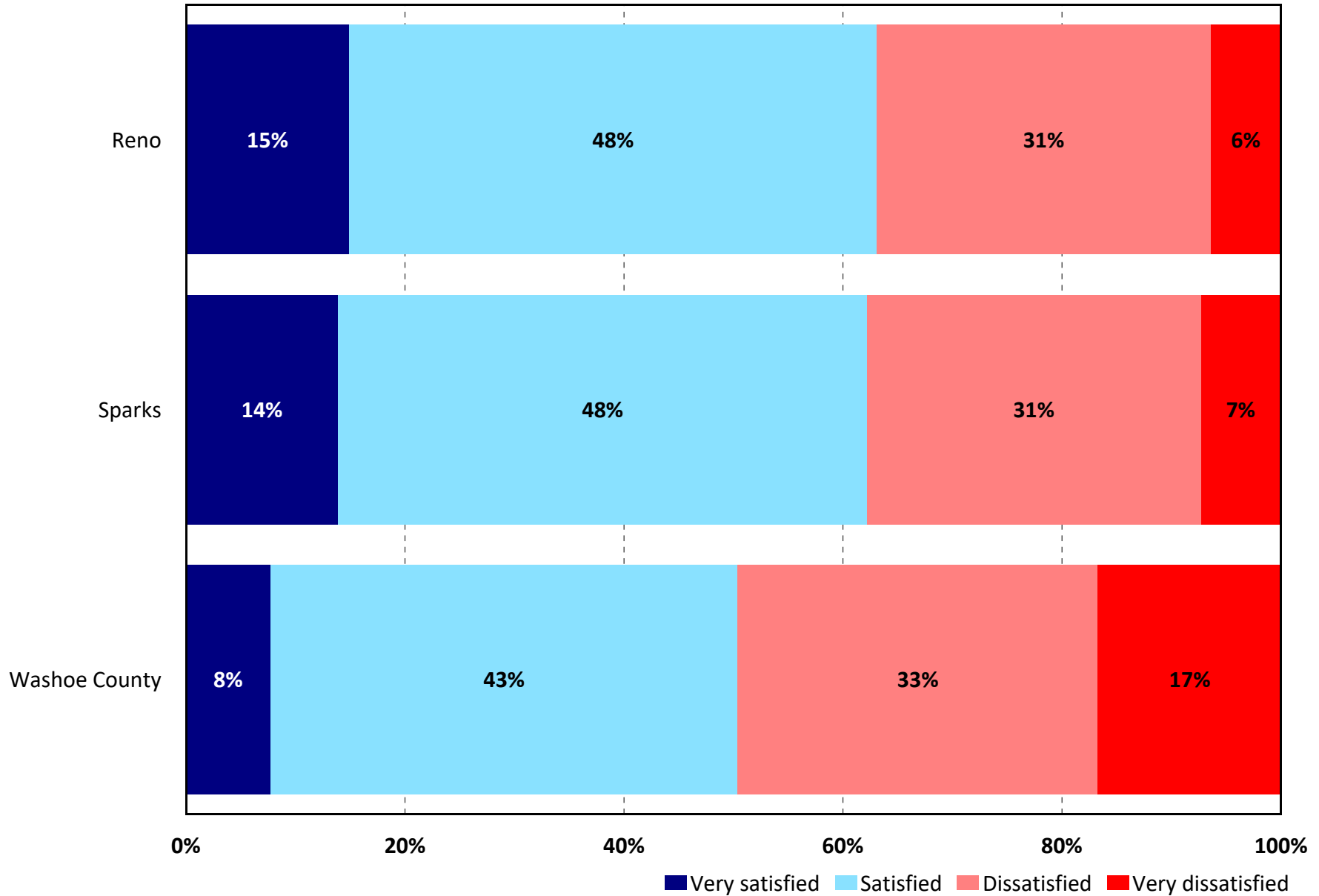
**Q5. Currently, the CITY OF RENO spends approximately \$53.17 per resident per year on Parks and Open Space operations. Knowing this, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in the City of Reno?**

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")

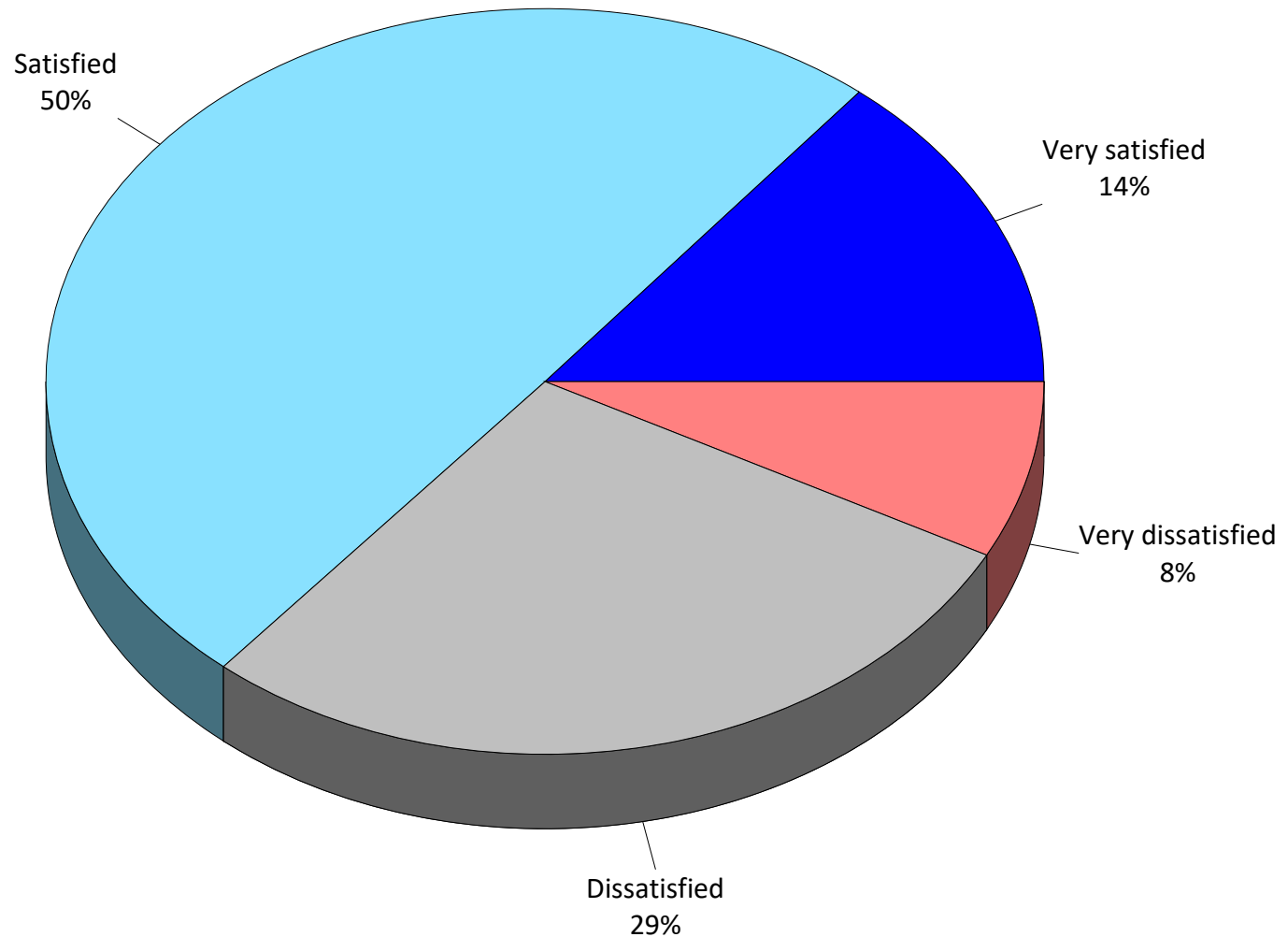


## Q5. How satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in the City of Reno?

by location of respondents

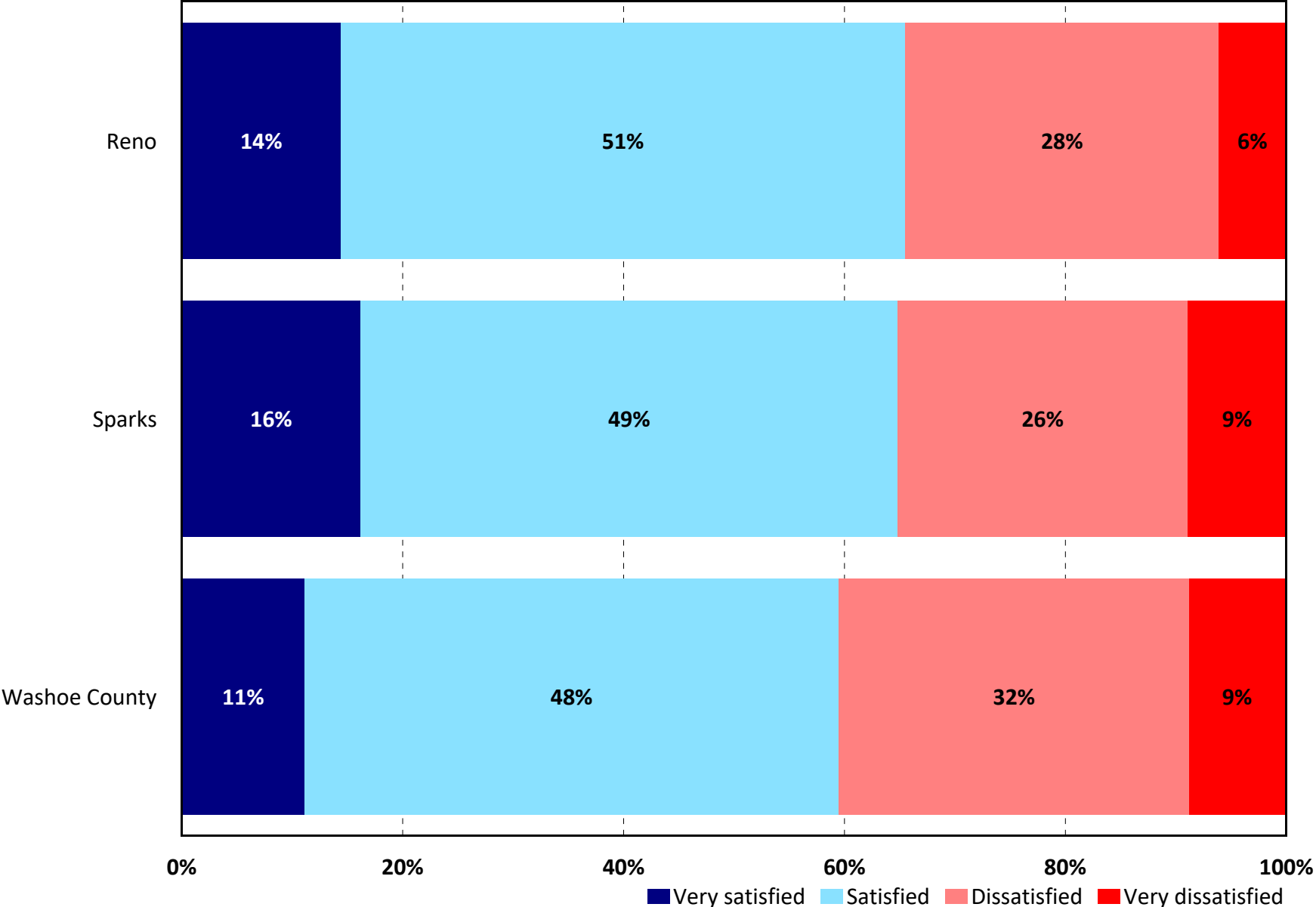


**Q6. Currently, the CITY OF SPARKS spends approximately \$42.33 per resident per year on Parks and Open Space operations. Knowing this, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in the City of Sparks?**  
by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



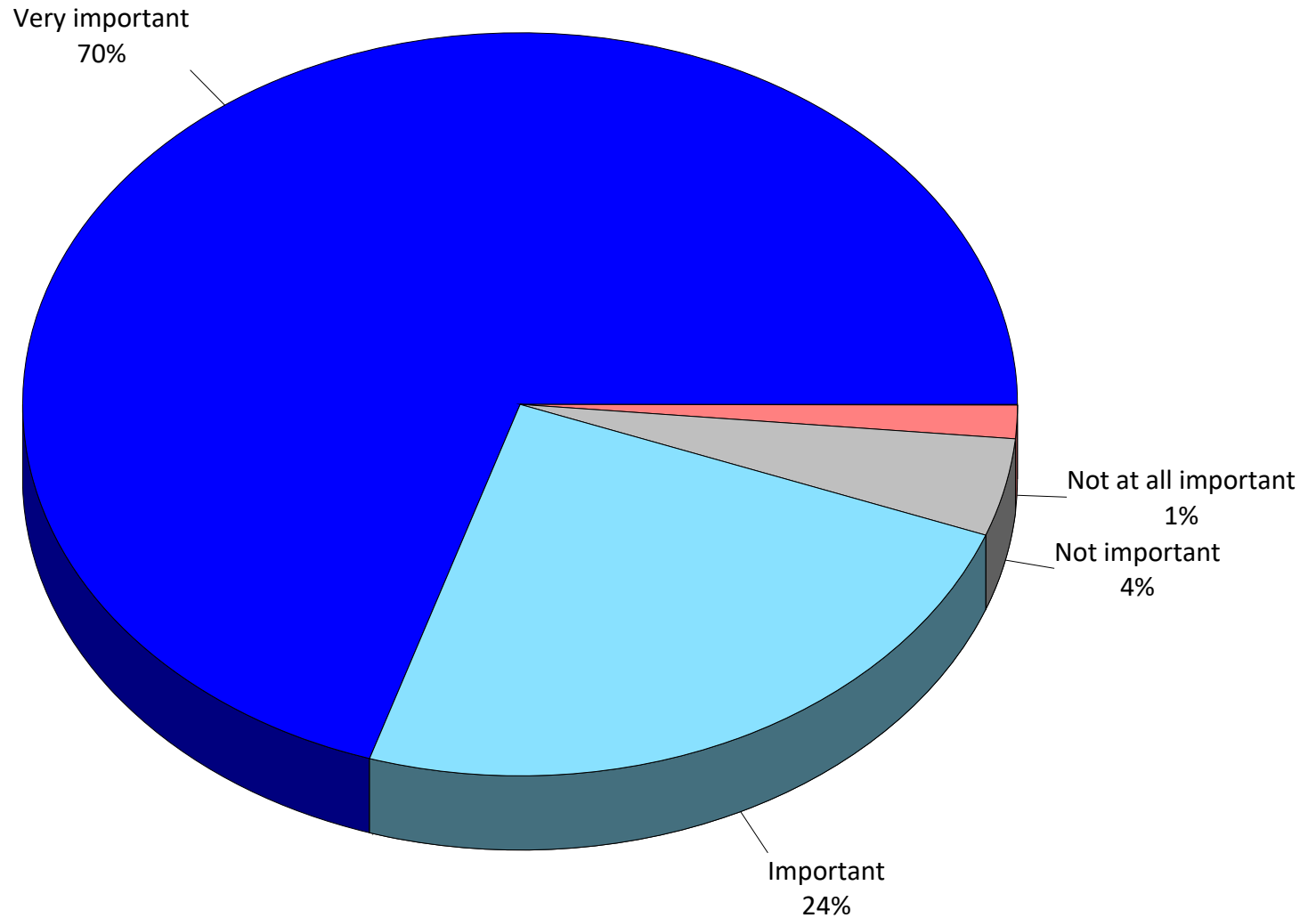
# Q6. How satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in the City of Sparks?

by location of respondents



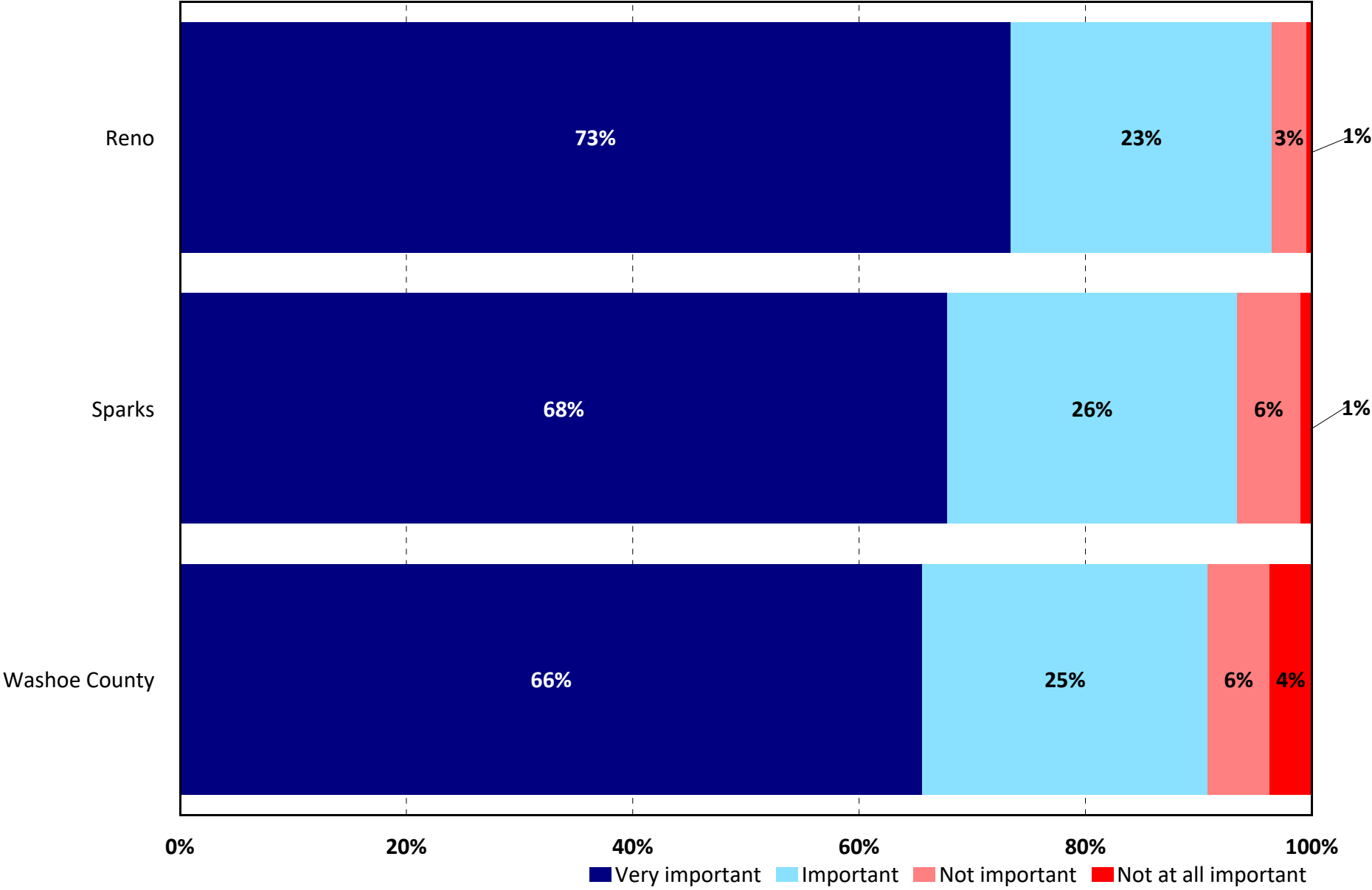
# Q7. How important is it to your quality of life that all residents in the region have equal access to quality parks and recreation opportunities?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



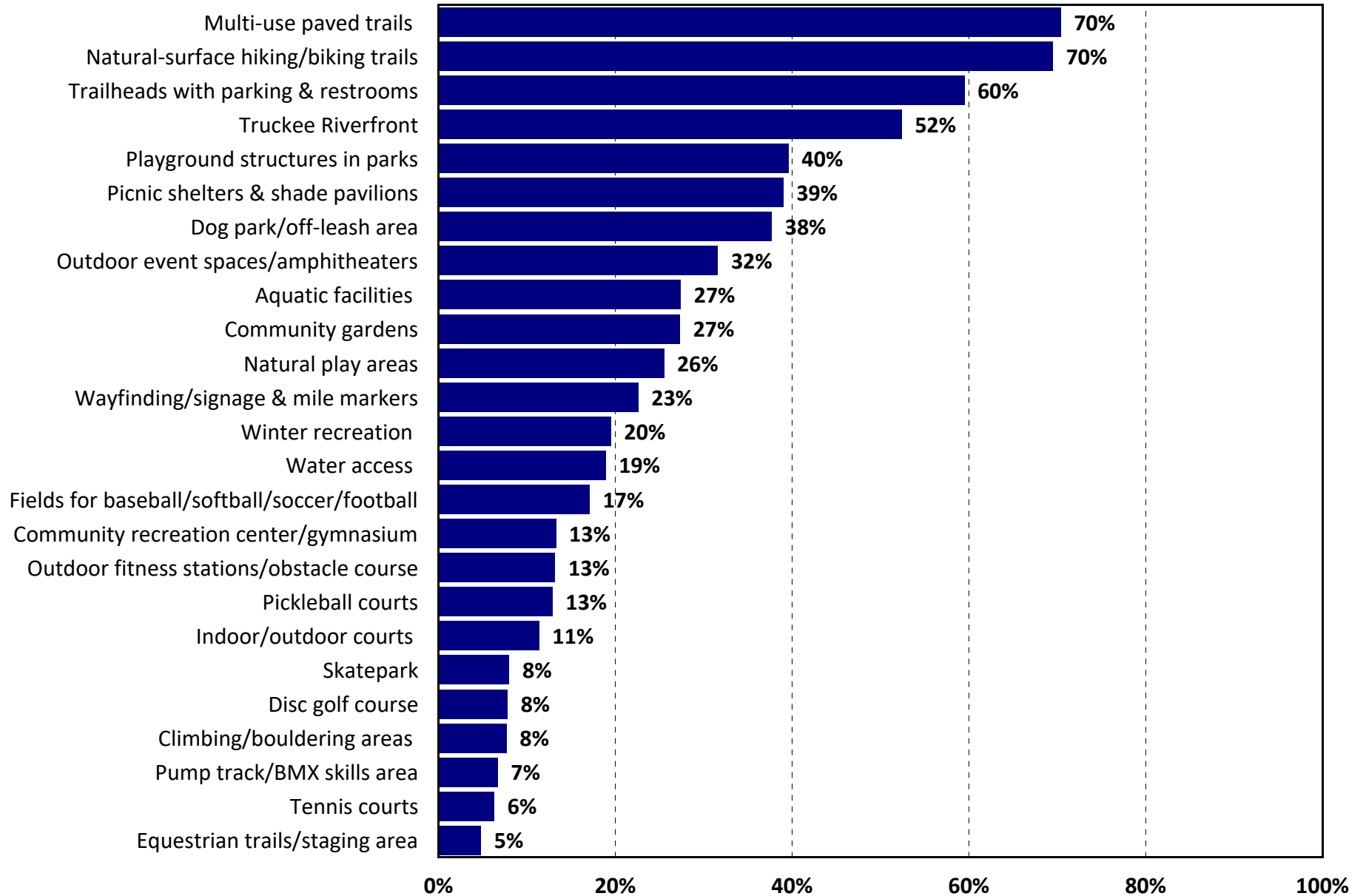
# Q7. How important is it to your quality of life that all residents in the region have equal access to quality parks and recreation opportunities?

by location of respondents (excluding "not provided")



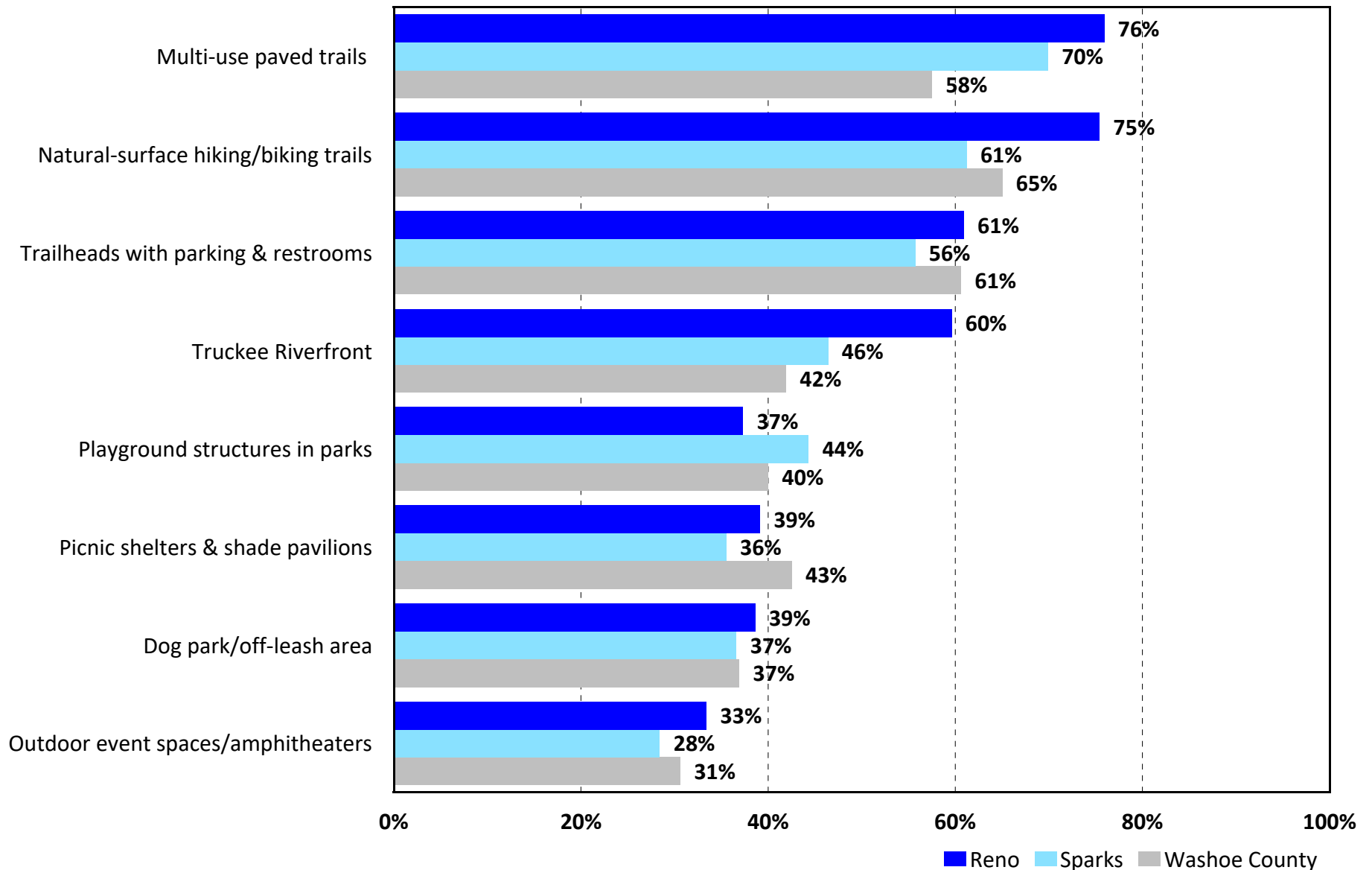
## Q8. What types of recreational amenities do you and your family use MOST OFTEN?

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections allowed) (excluding "none")



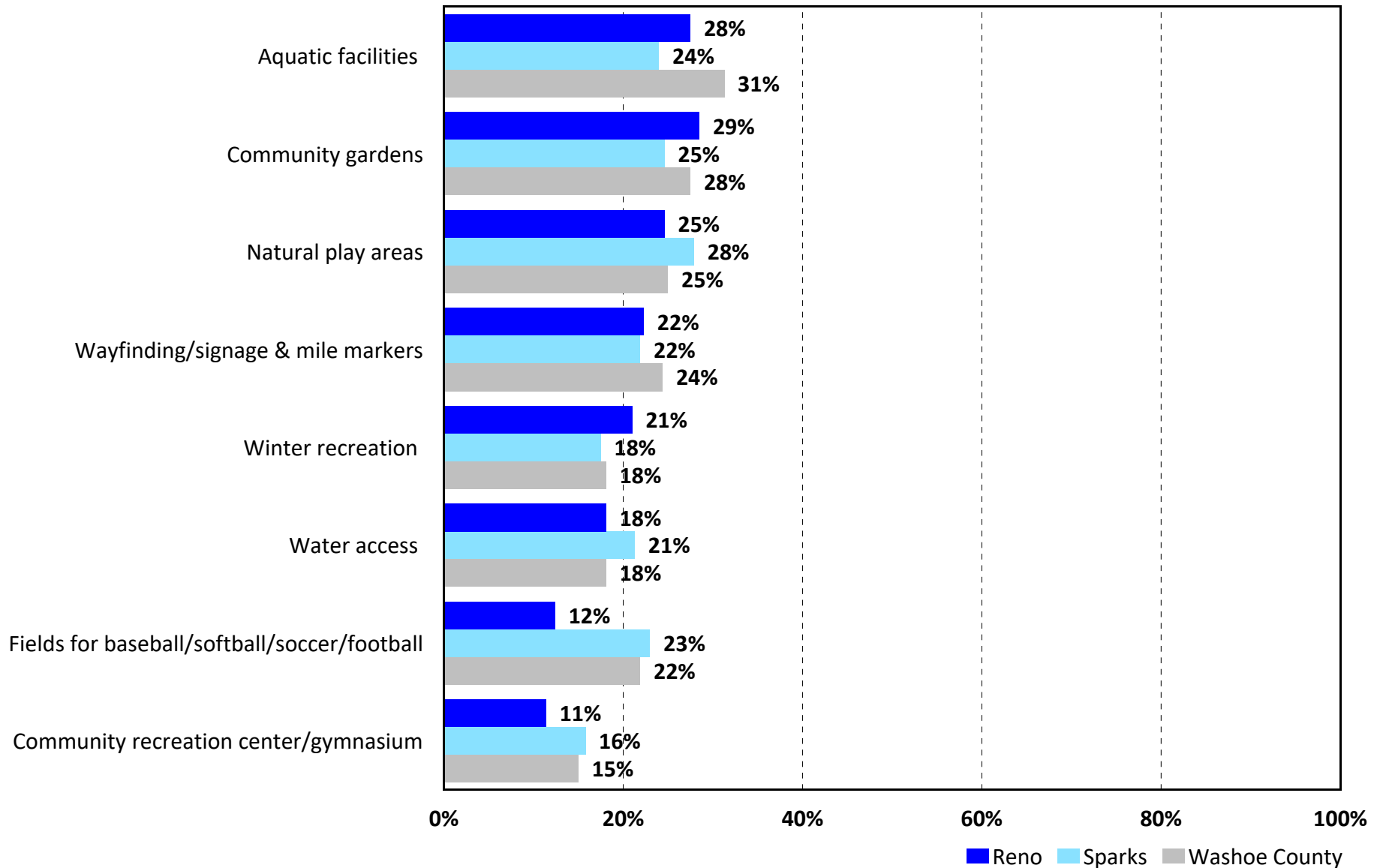
## Q8. What types of recreational amenities do you and your family use MOST OFTEN?

by location of respondents (multiple selections allowed) (excluding "none")



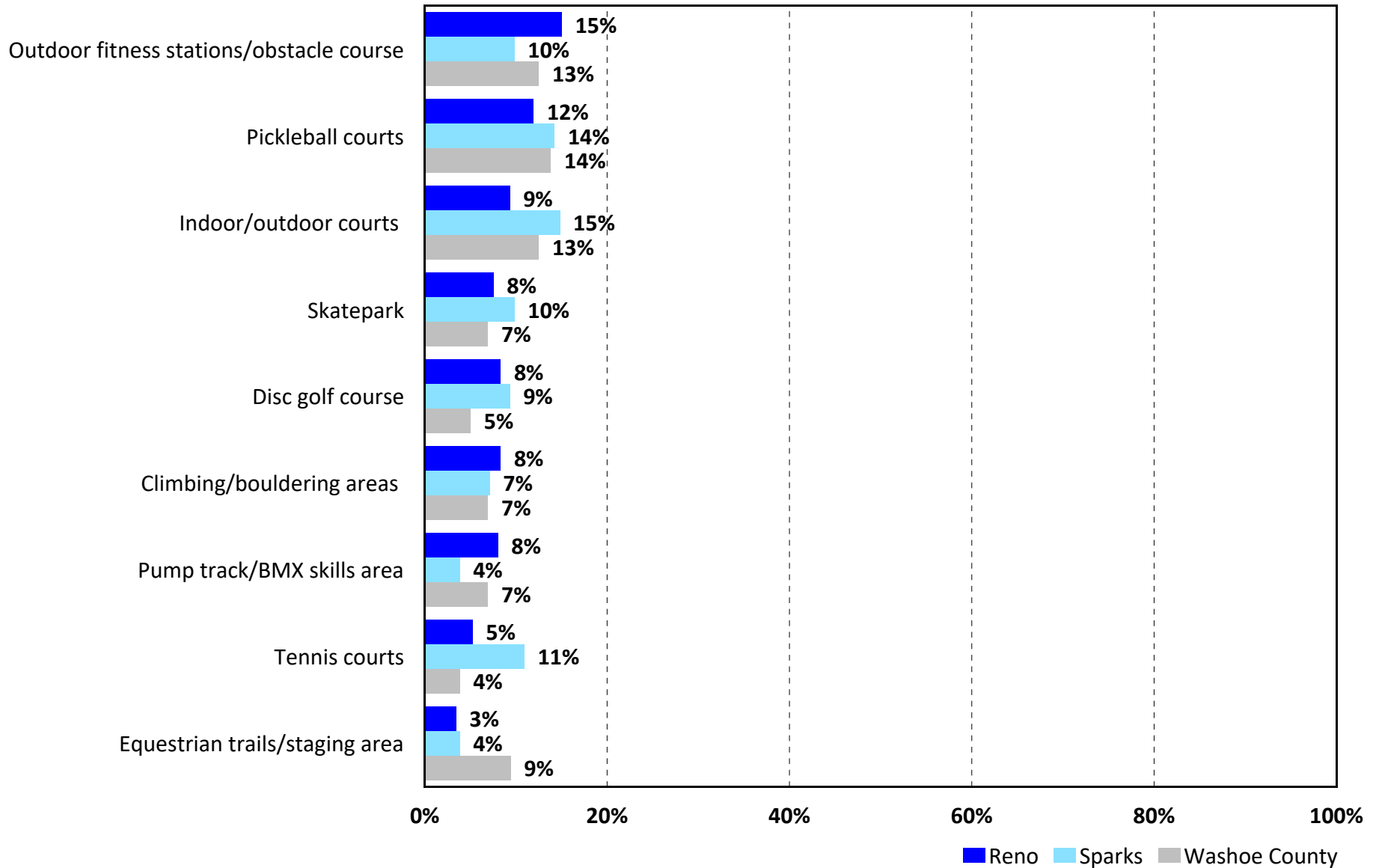
# Q8. What types of recreational amenities do you and your family use MOST OFTEN?

by location of respondents (multiple selections allowed) (excluding "none")



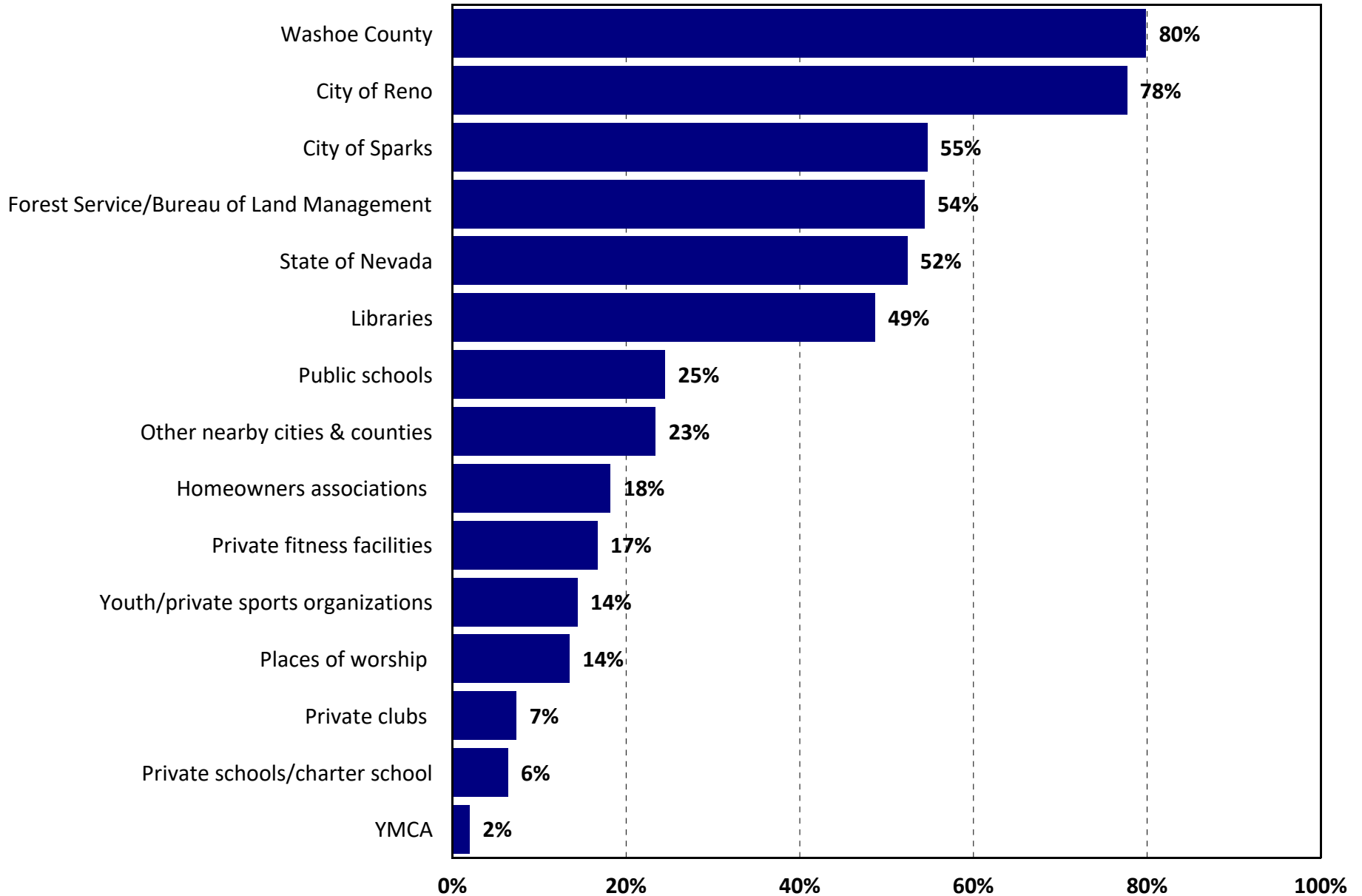
# Q8. What types of recreational amenities do you and your family use MOST OFTEN?

by location of respondents (multiple selections allowed) (excluding "none")



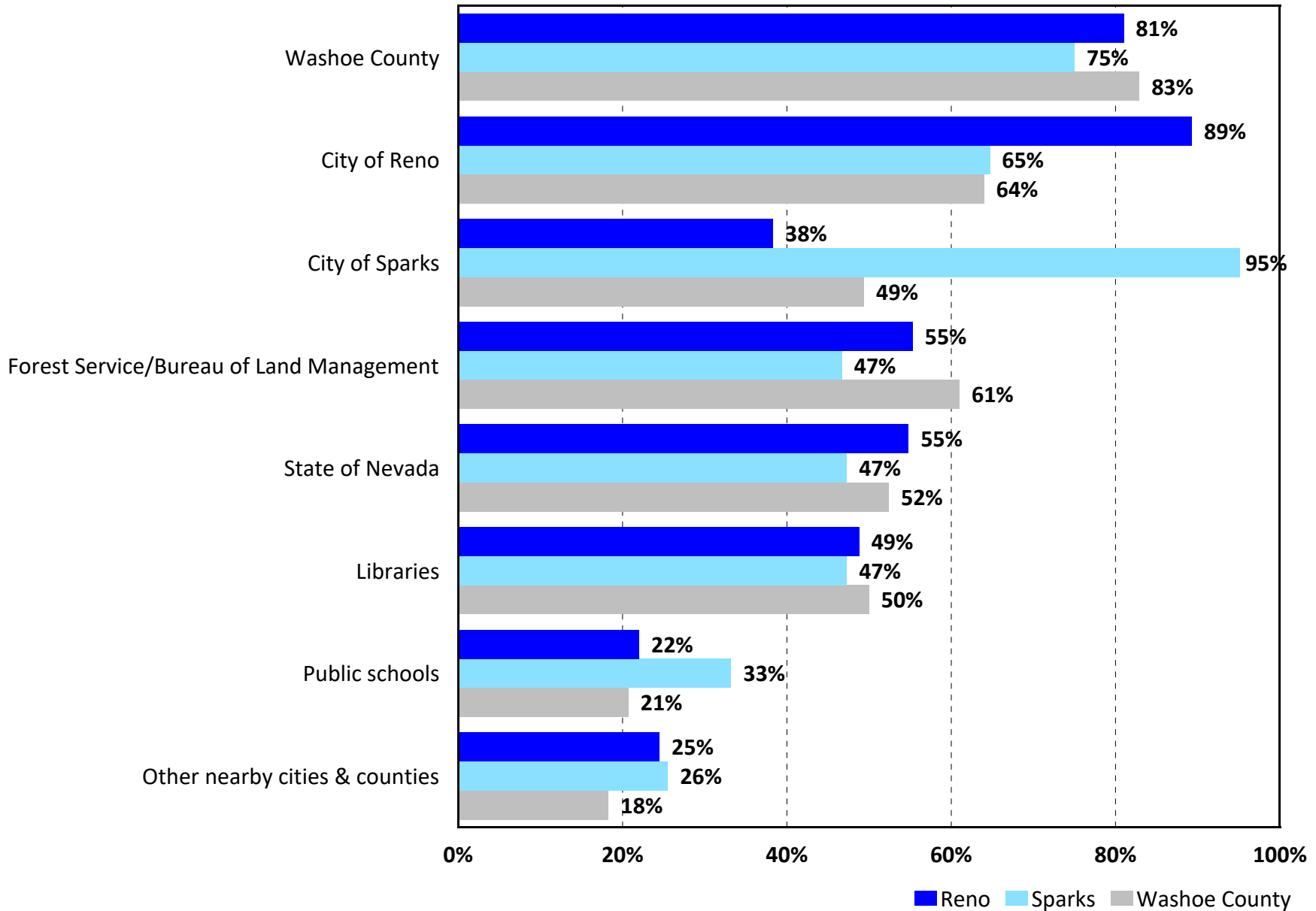
## Q9. Please CHECK ALL the organizations you or members of your household have used for the recreation amenities you indicated you use most often in Question 8

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections allowed)

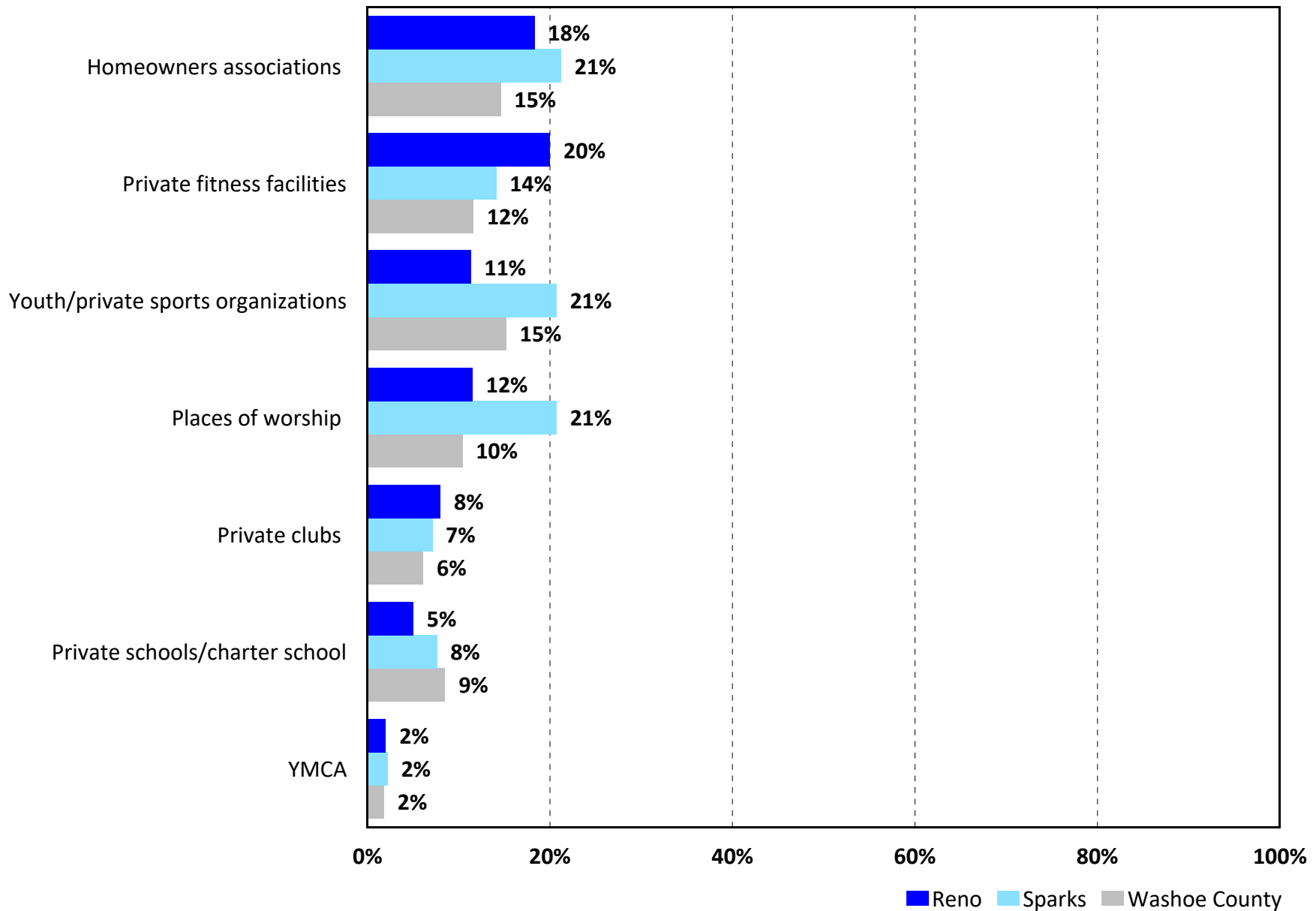


# Q9. Please CHECK ALL the organizations you or members of your household have used for the recreation amenities you indicated you use most often in Question 8

by location of respondents (multiple selections allowed)

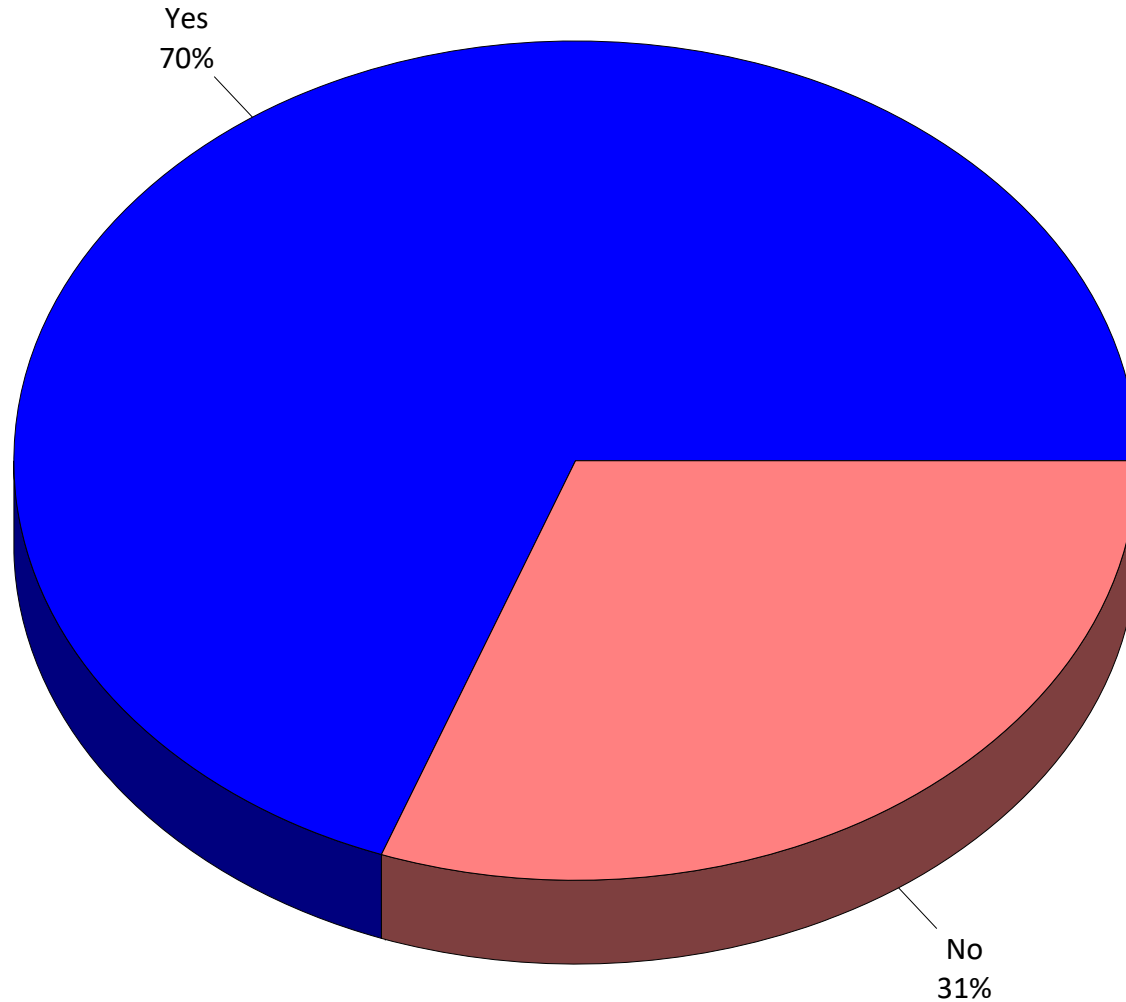


**Q9. Please CHECK ALL the organizations you or members of your household have used for the recreation amenities you indicated you use most often in Question 8 by location of respondents (multiple selections allowed)**



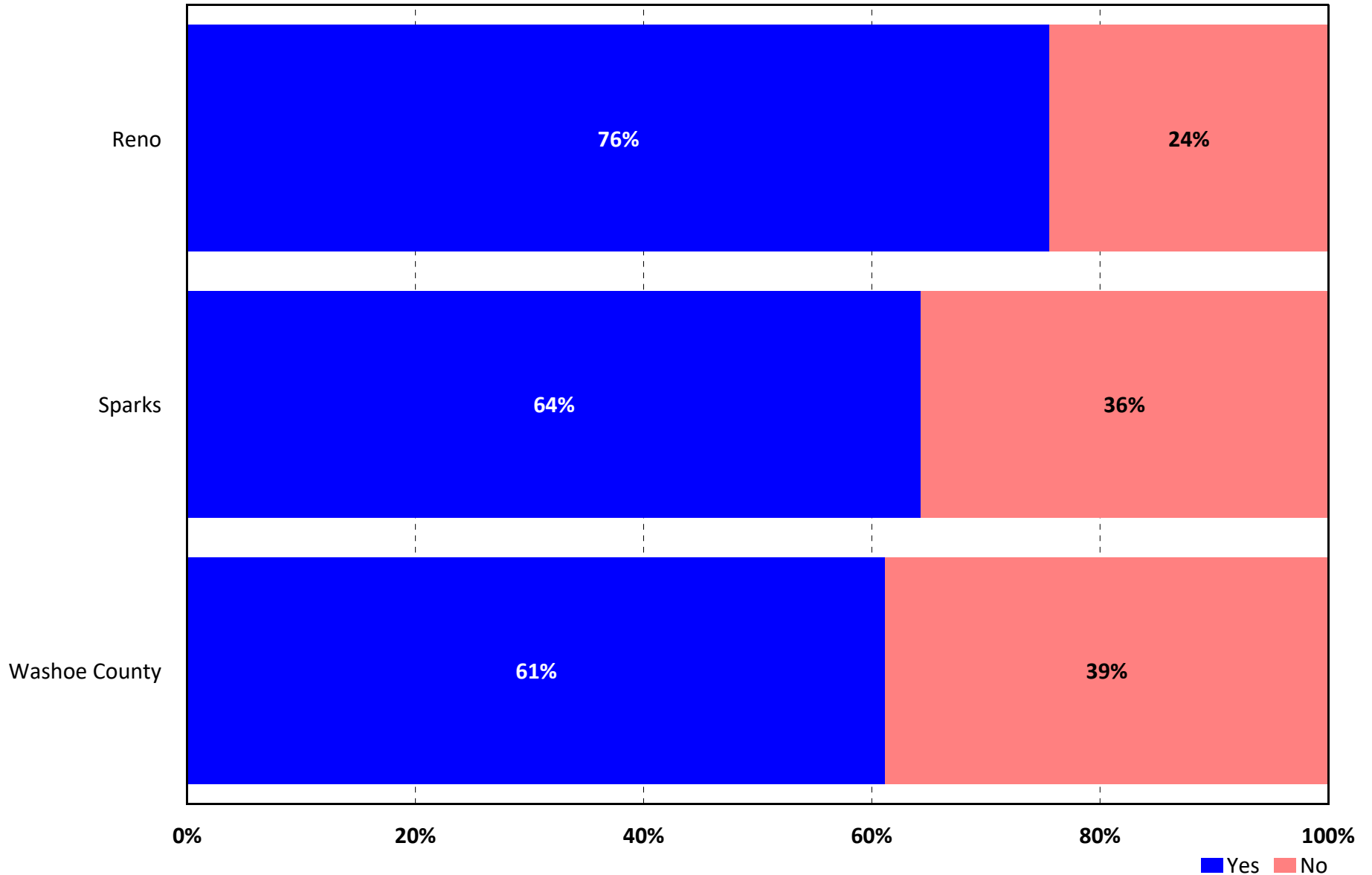
# Q10. Do you believe a single Parks Service District, that serves the entire region, could improve the efficiency and quality of parks and recreation services in the community?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")



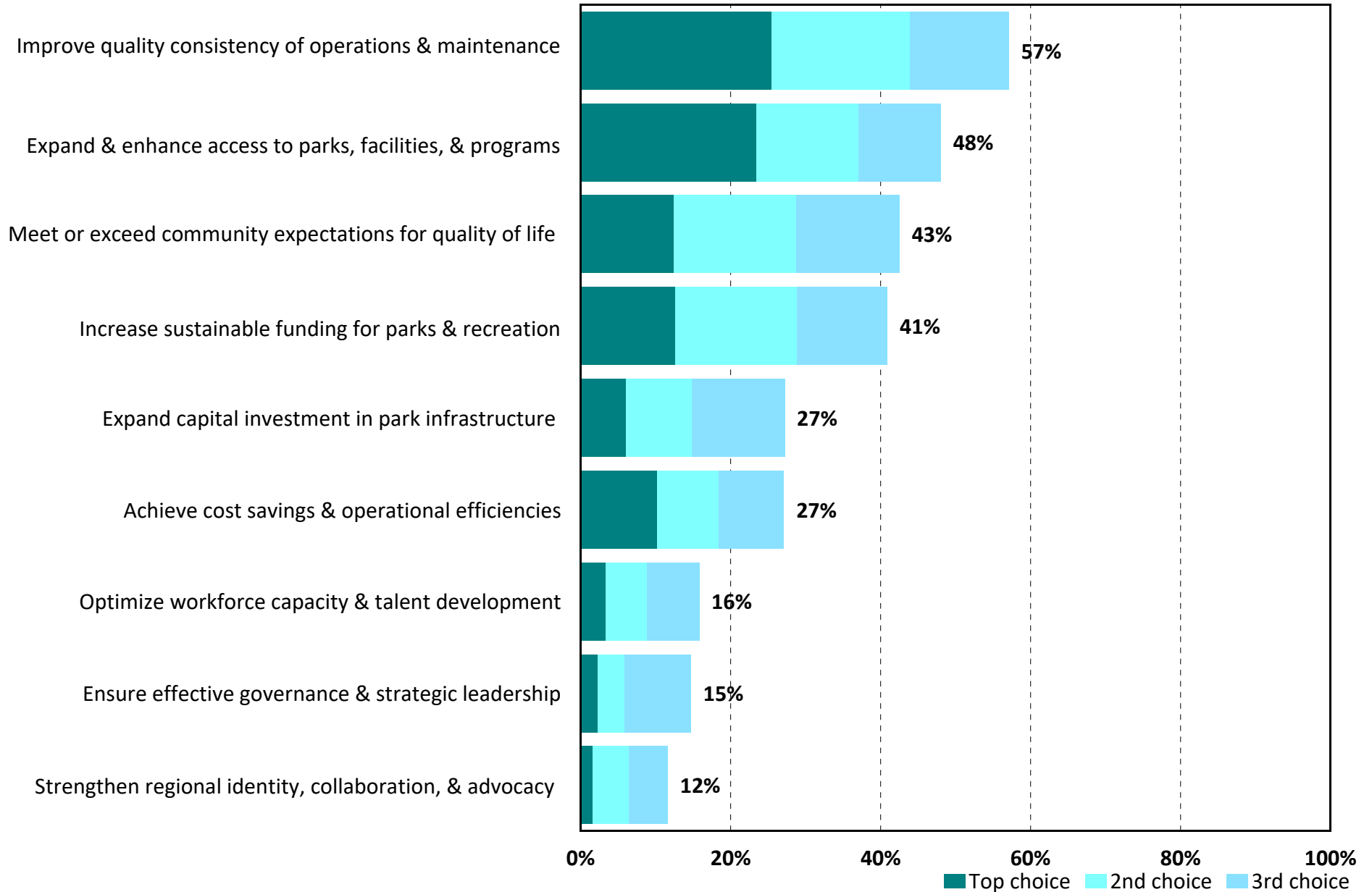
# Q10. Do you believe a single Parks Service District, that serves the entire region, could improve the efficiency and quality of parks and recreation services in the community?

by location of respondents (excluding "don't know/not sure")



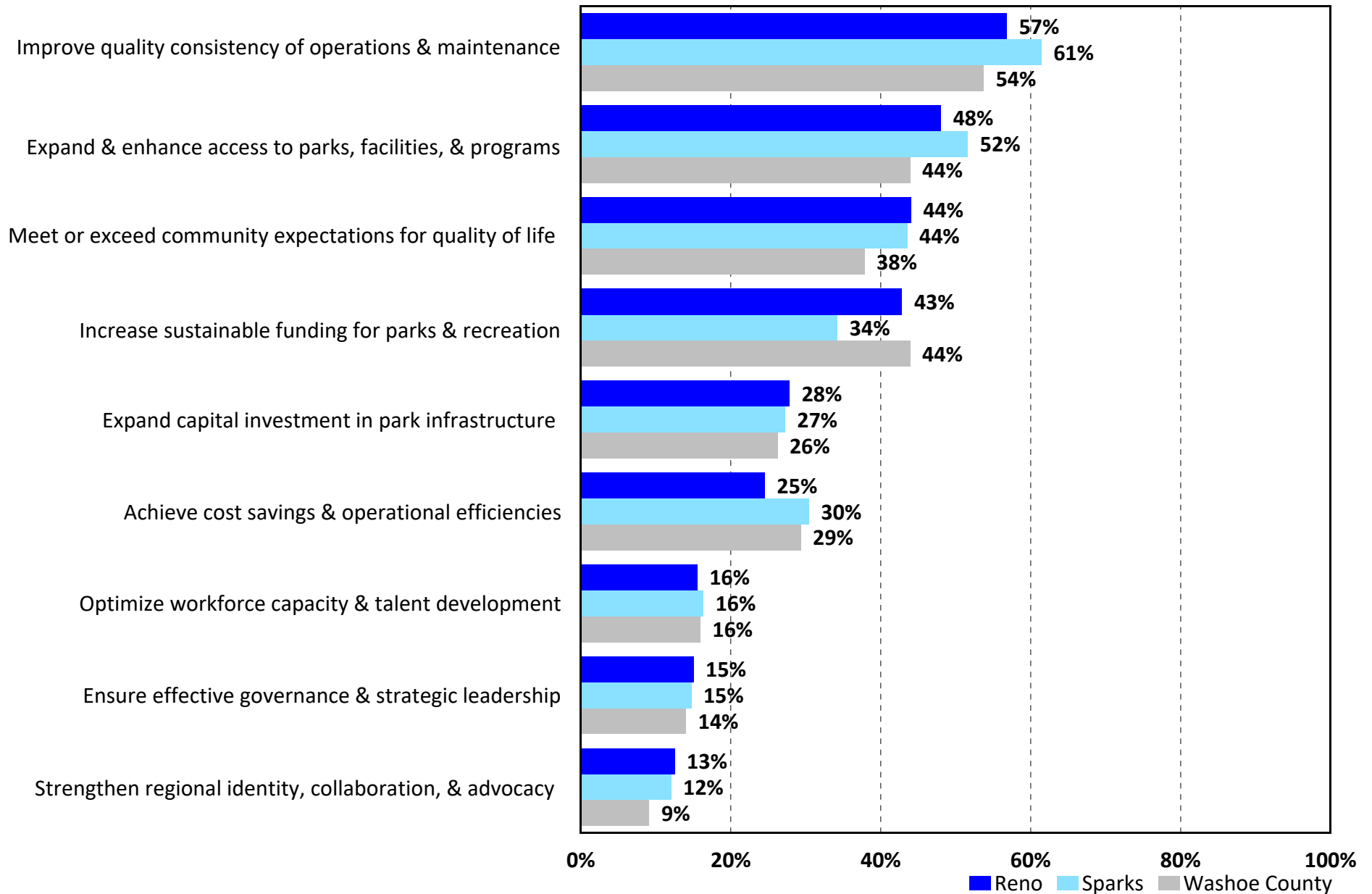
# Q11. Which THREE of the goals that could be achieved by creating a regional Parks Service District do you believe are MOST IMPORTANT?

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top three choices



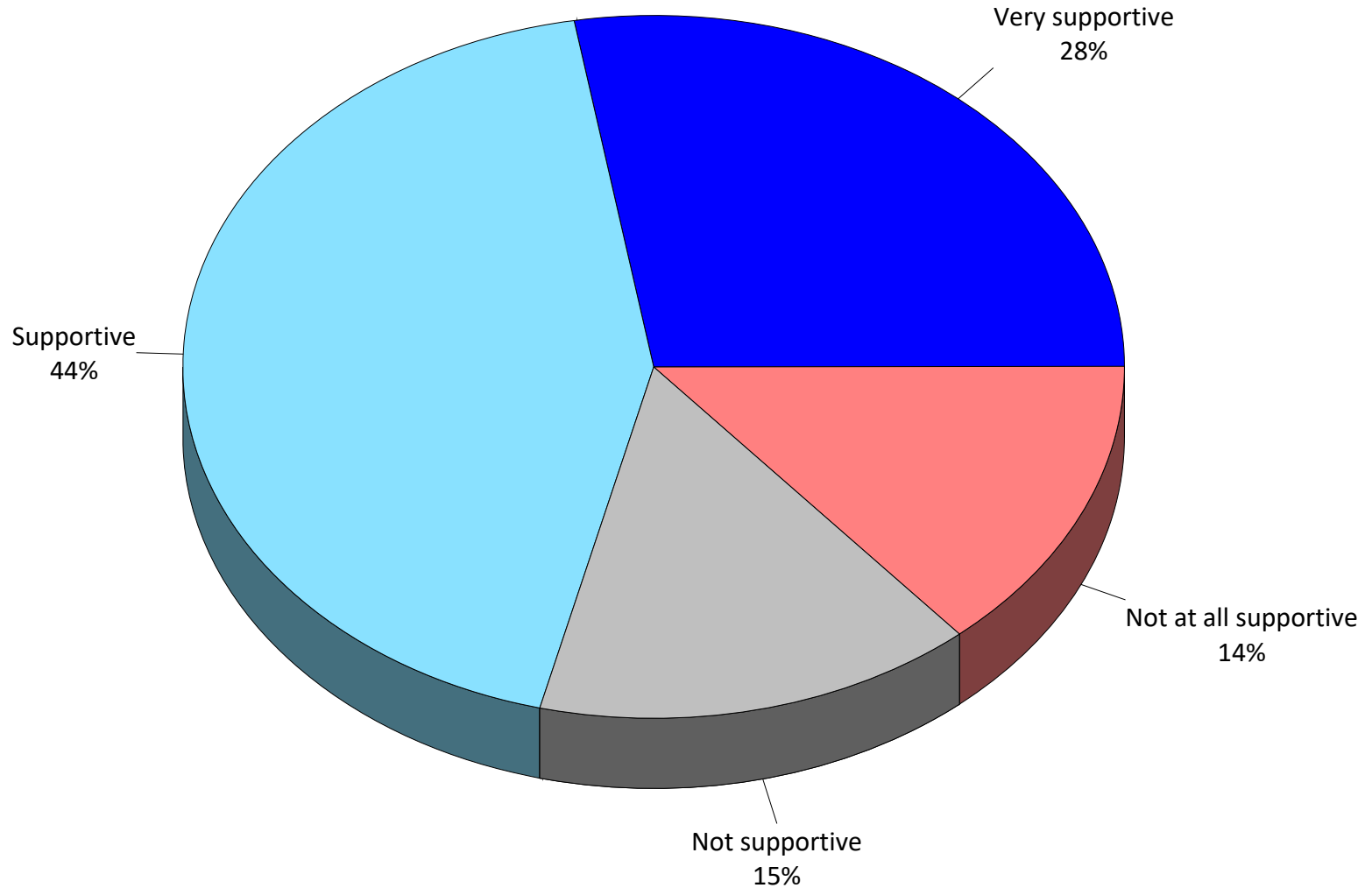
# Q11. Which THREE of the goals that could be achieved by creating a regional Parks Service District do you believe are MOST IMPORTANT?

by the sum of the top three choices



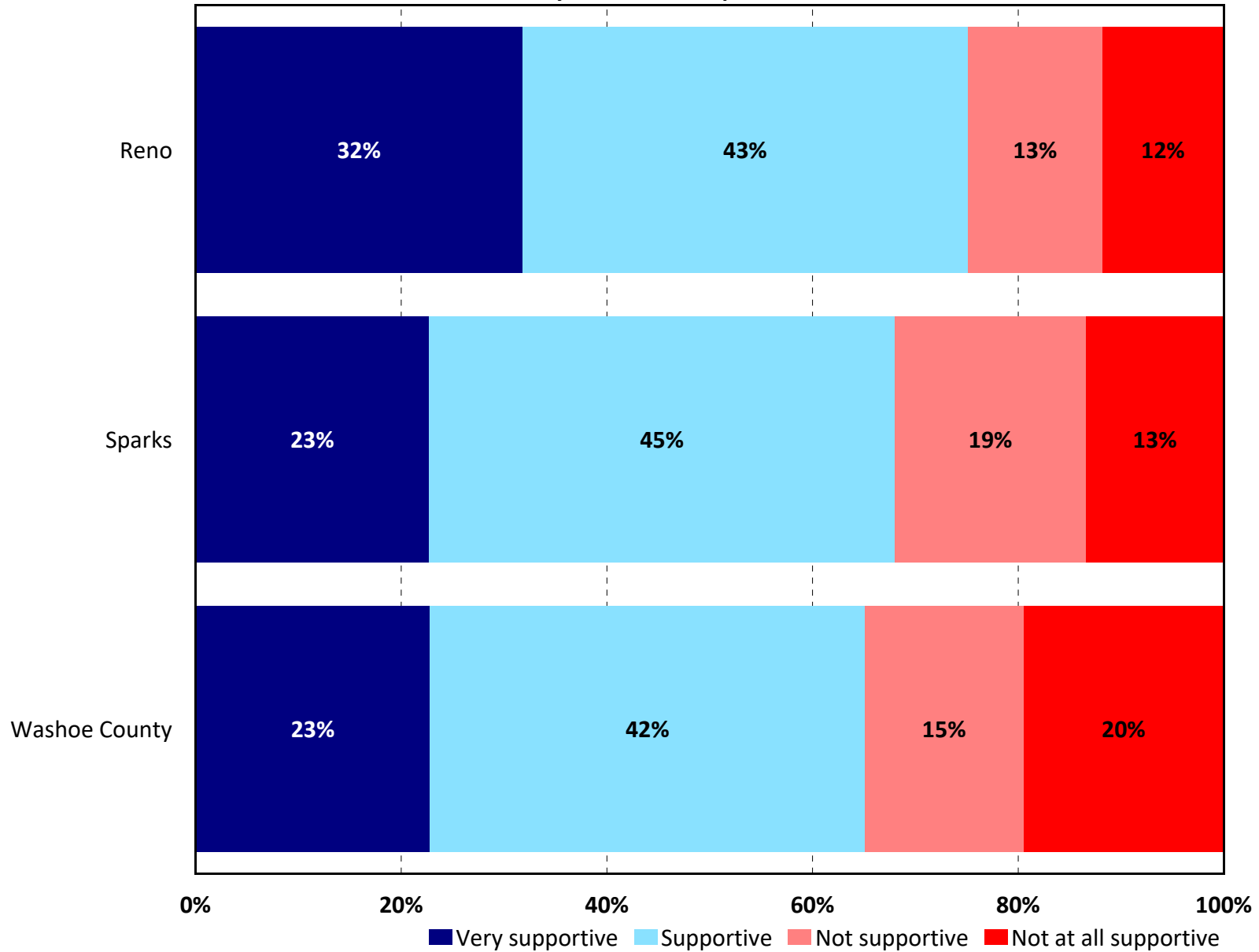
# Q12. How supportive would you be of creating a dedicated funding source to fund a regional Parks Service District?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")

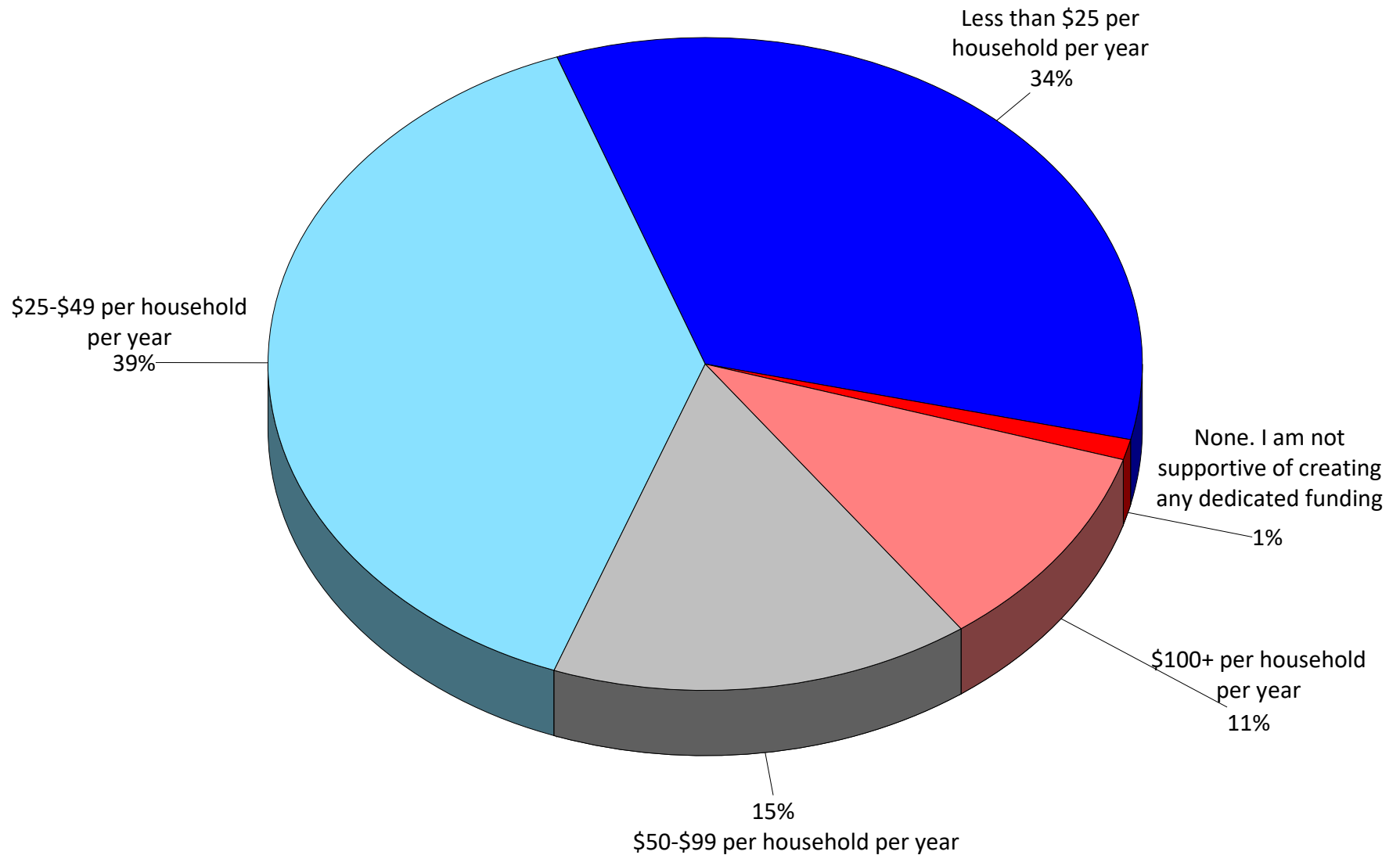


## Q12. How supportive would you be of creating a dedicated funding source to fund a regional Parks Service District?

by location of respondents

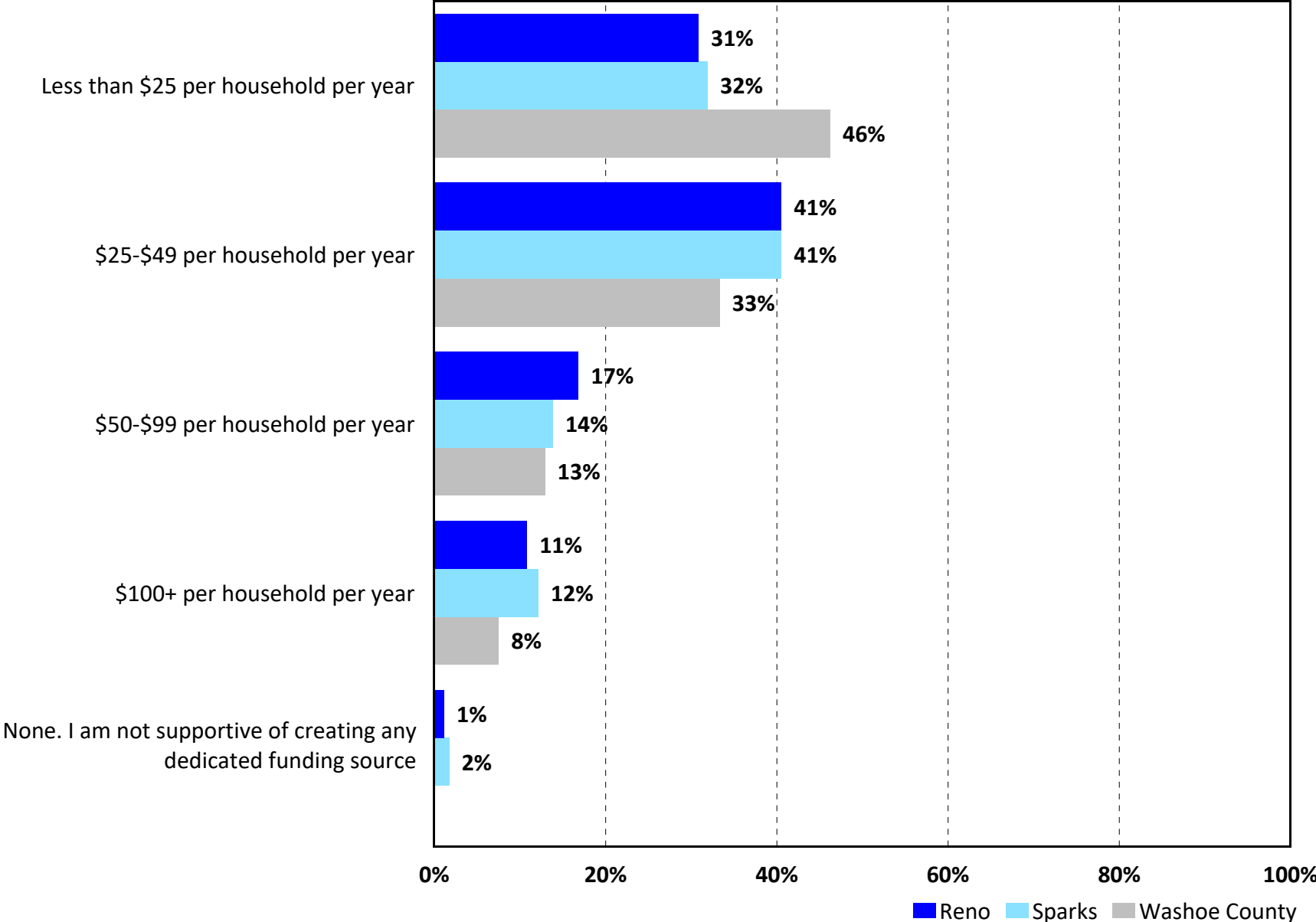


### Q12a. What level of additional annual cost would you be comfortable with? by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



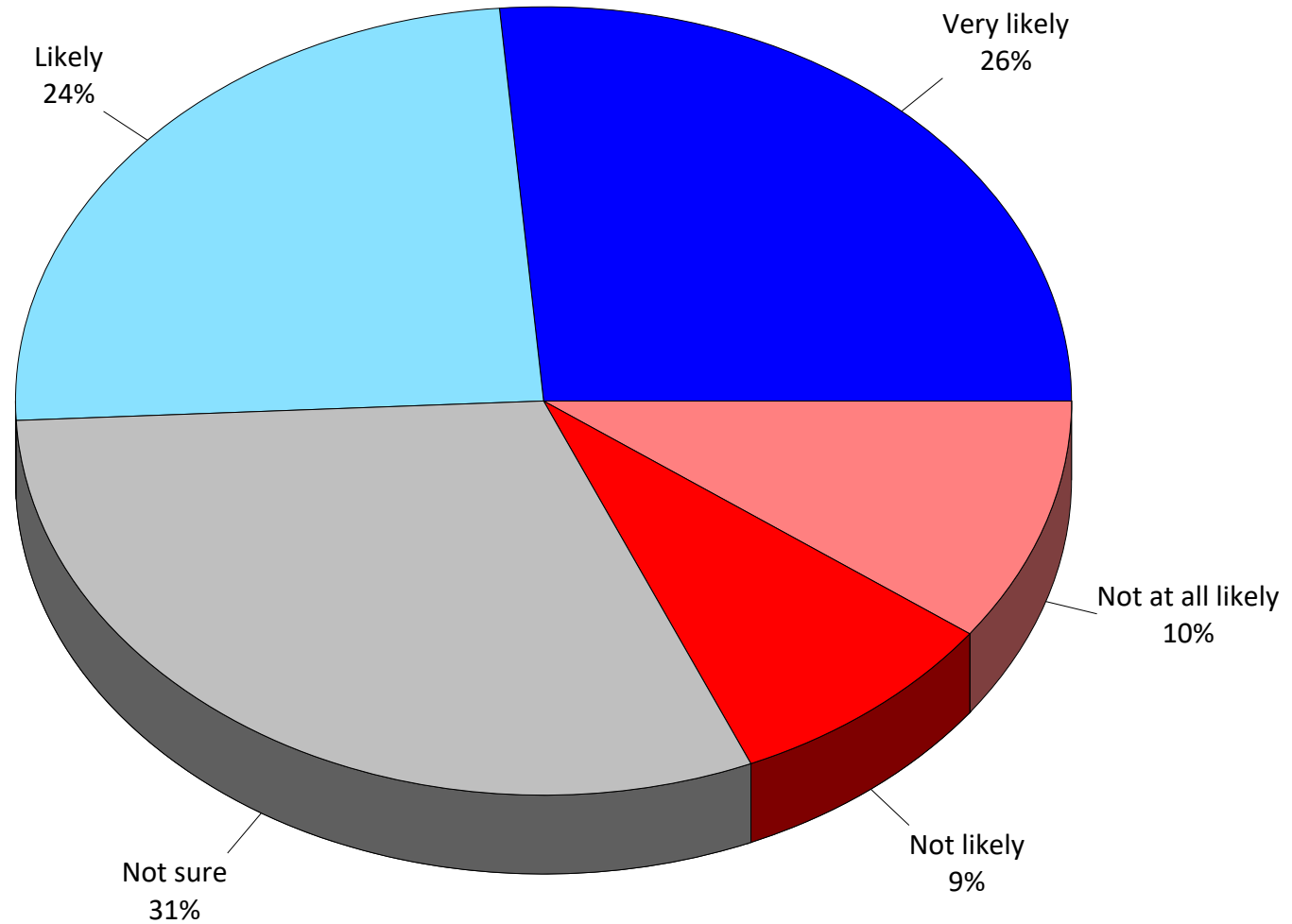
# Q12a. What level of additional annual cost would you be comfortable with?

by location of respondents (without "not provided")



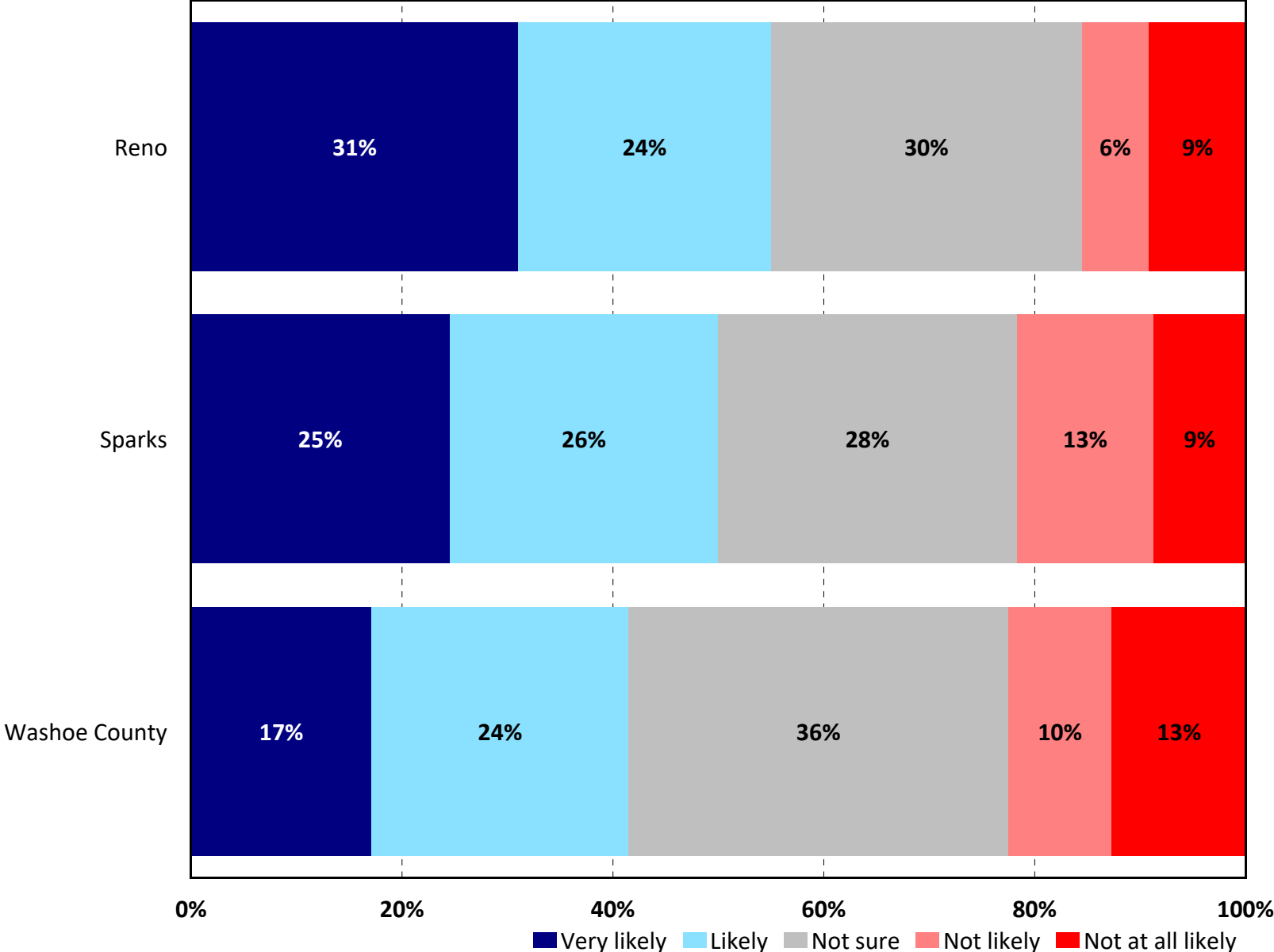
# Q13. How likely would you be to vote to establish a regional Parks Service District?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")

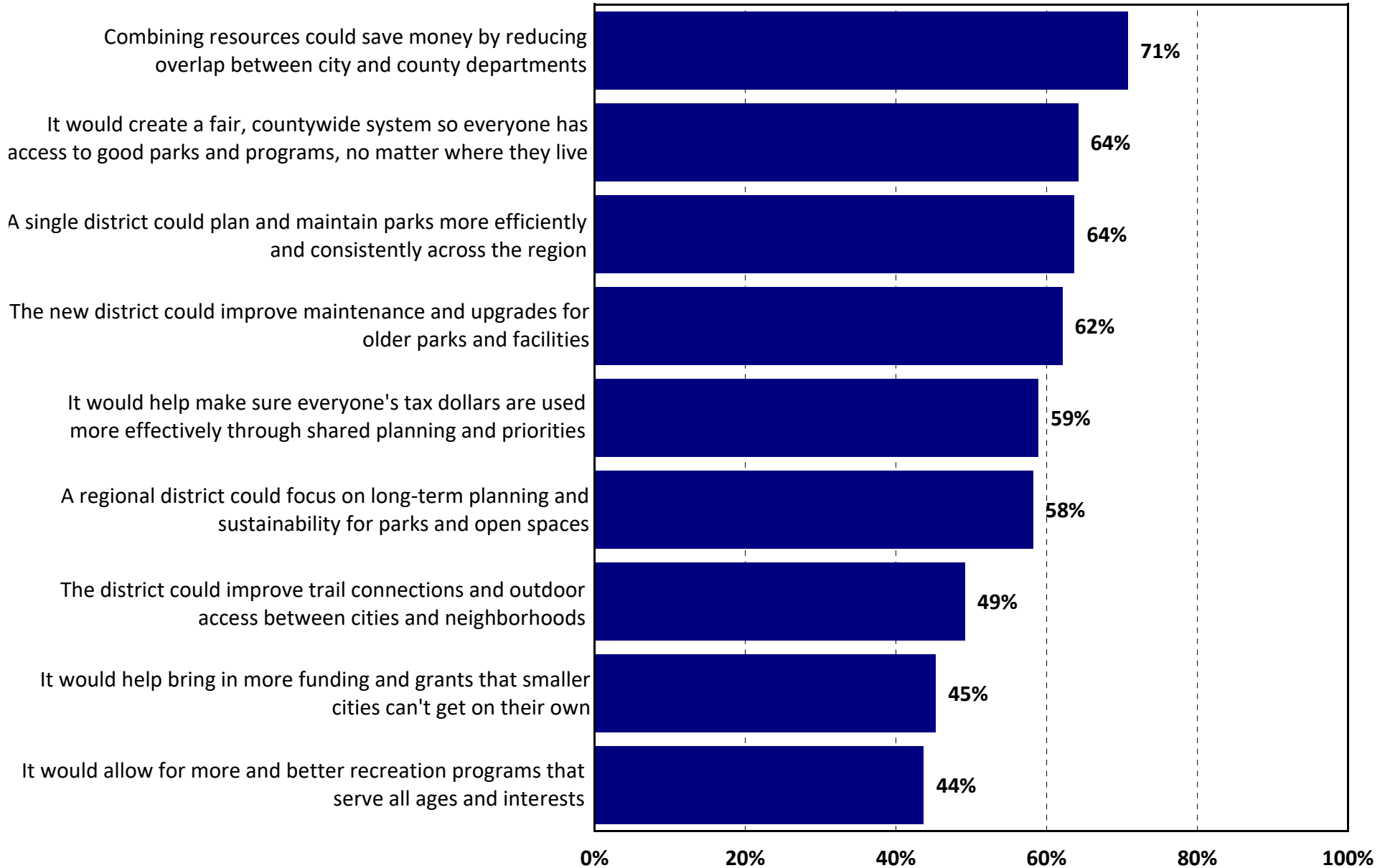


# Q13. How likely would you be to vote to establish a regional Parks Service District?

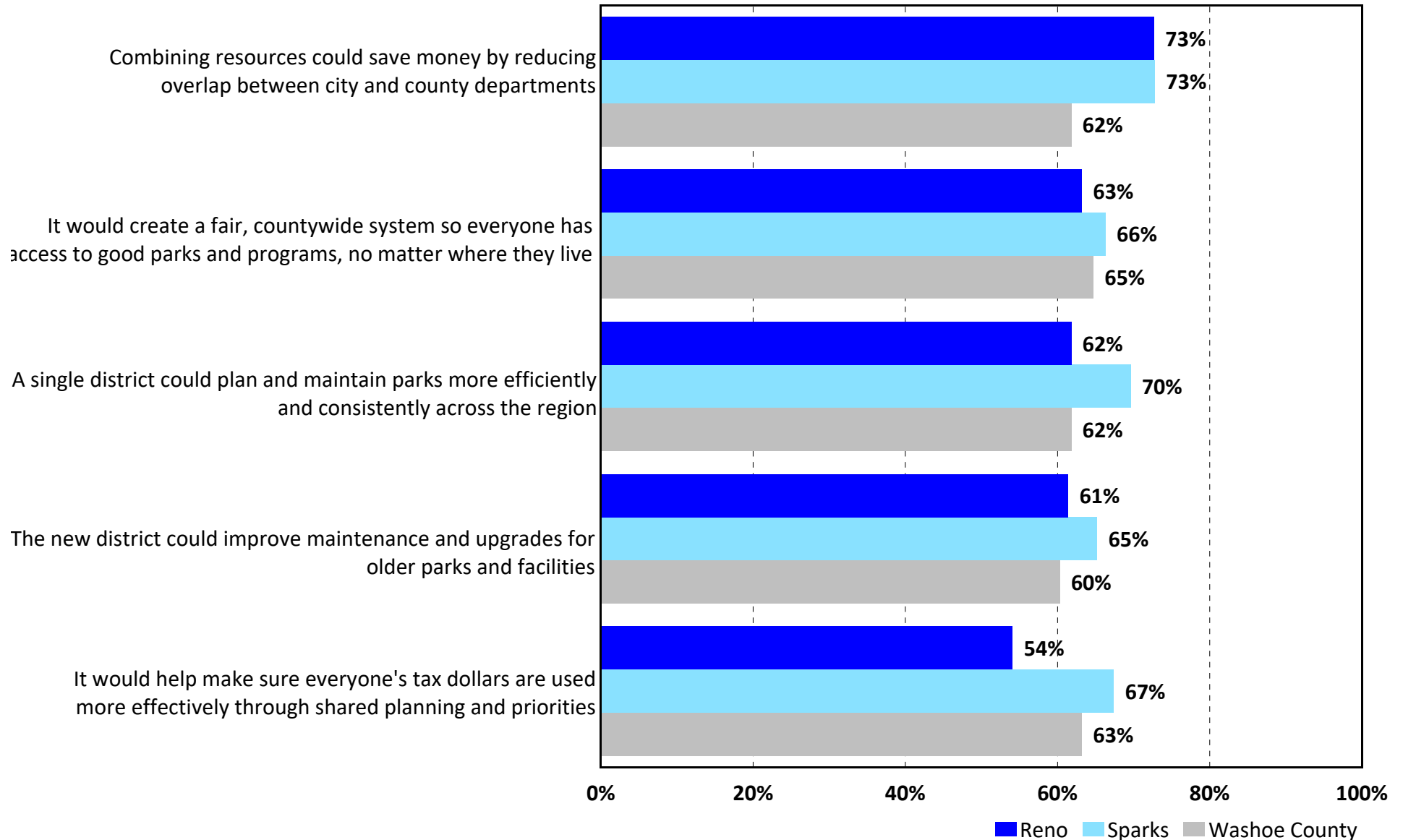
by location of respondents



**Q13a. If you indicated that you were very likely or likely to vote in favor of establishing a regional Parks Service District, please check ALL the reasons why**  
 by percentage of respondents who answered “very likely” or “likely” to Q13 (multiple selections allowed)

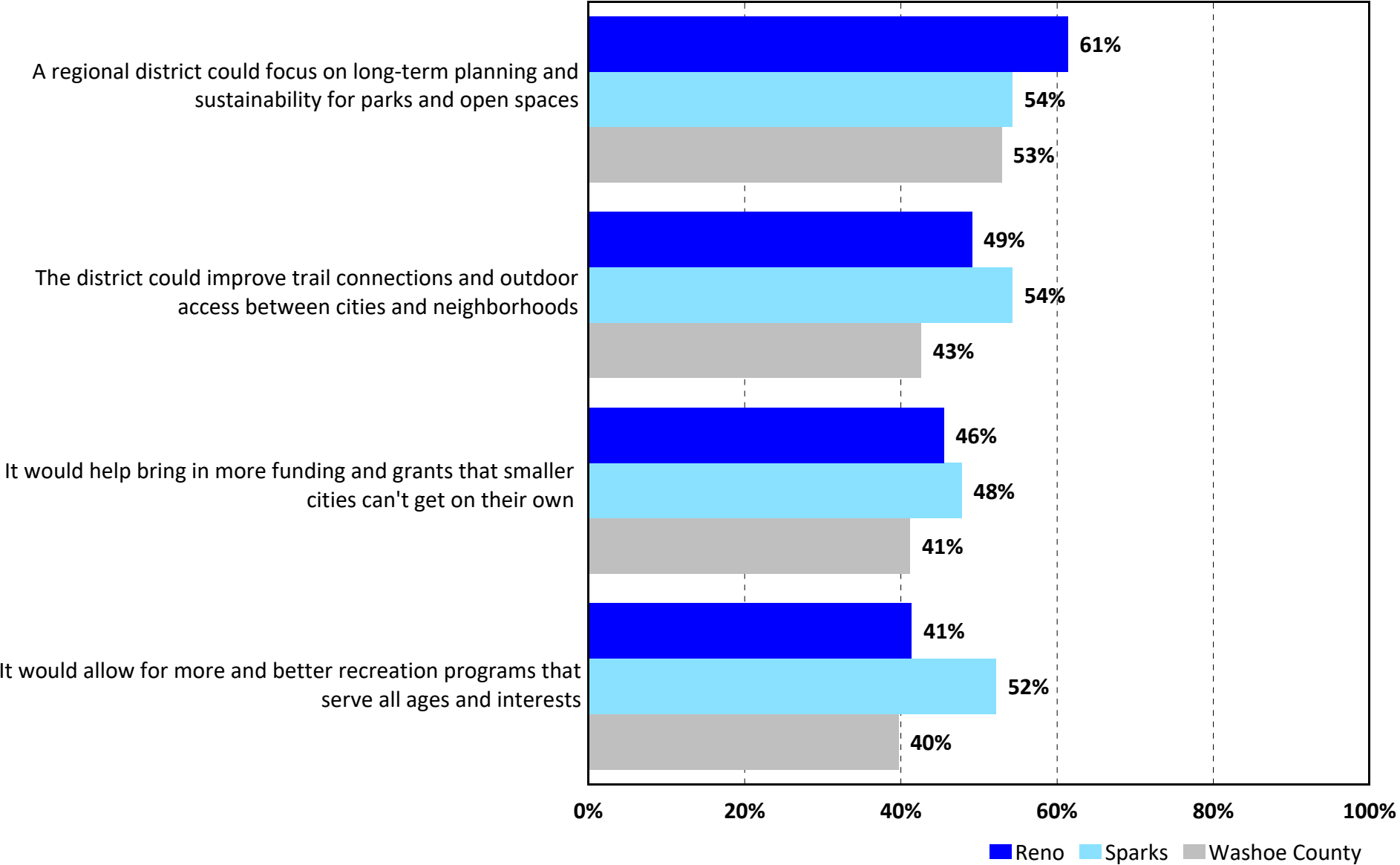


**Q13a. If you indicated that you were very likely or likely to vote in favor of establishing a regional Parks Service District, please check ALL the reasons why**  
 by location of respondents who answered "very likely" or "likely" to Q13 (multiple selections allowed)



# Q13a. If you indicated that you were very likely or likely to vote in favor of establishing a regional Parks Service District, please check ALL the reasons why

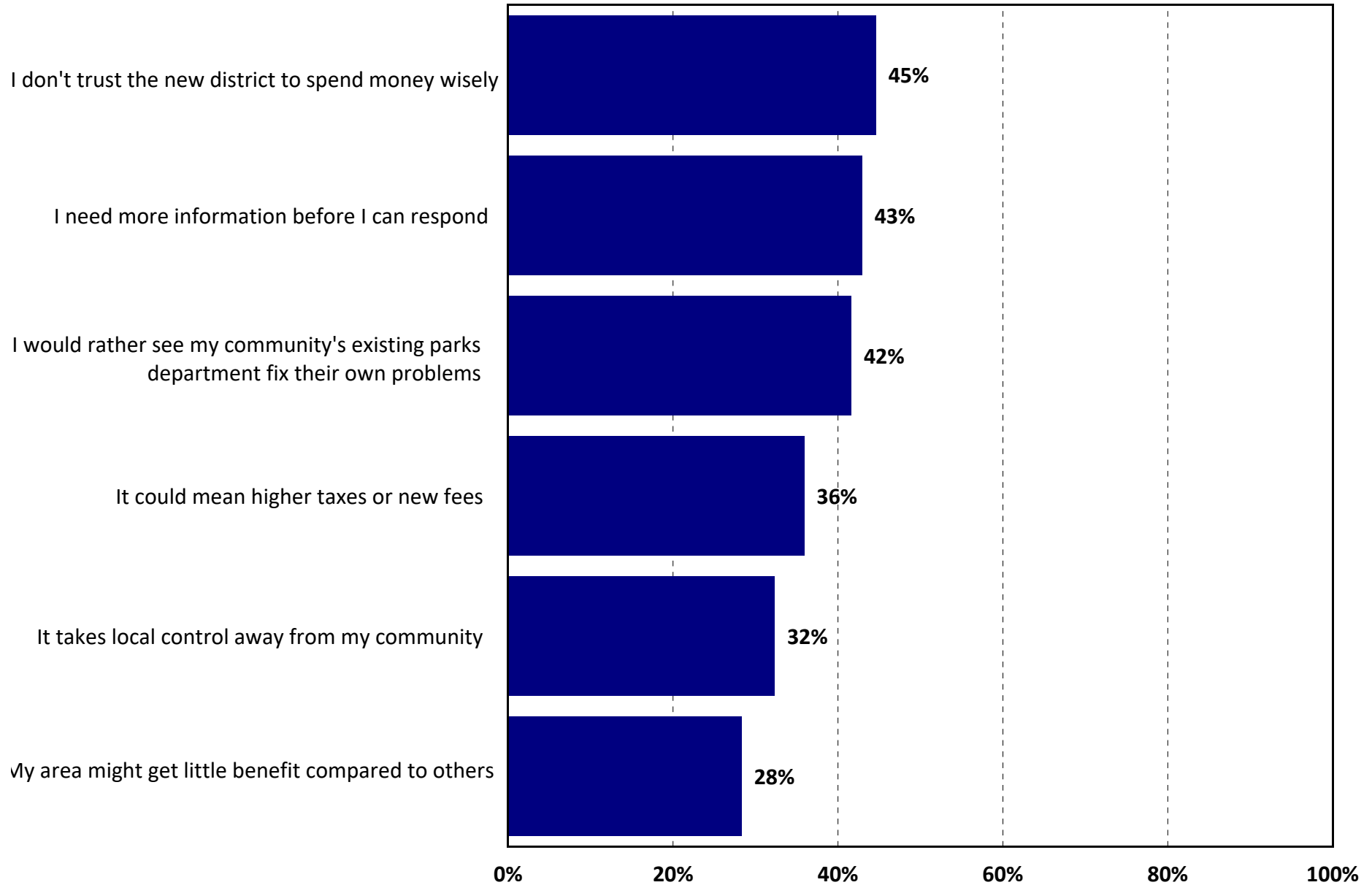
by location of respondents who answered "very likely" or "likely" to Q13 (multiple selections allowed)



# Q13b. If you indicated that you were either not sure or not likely how you would vote for to establish a regional Parks Service District, please select ALL the reasons

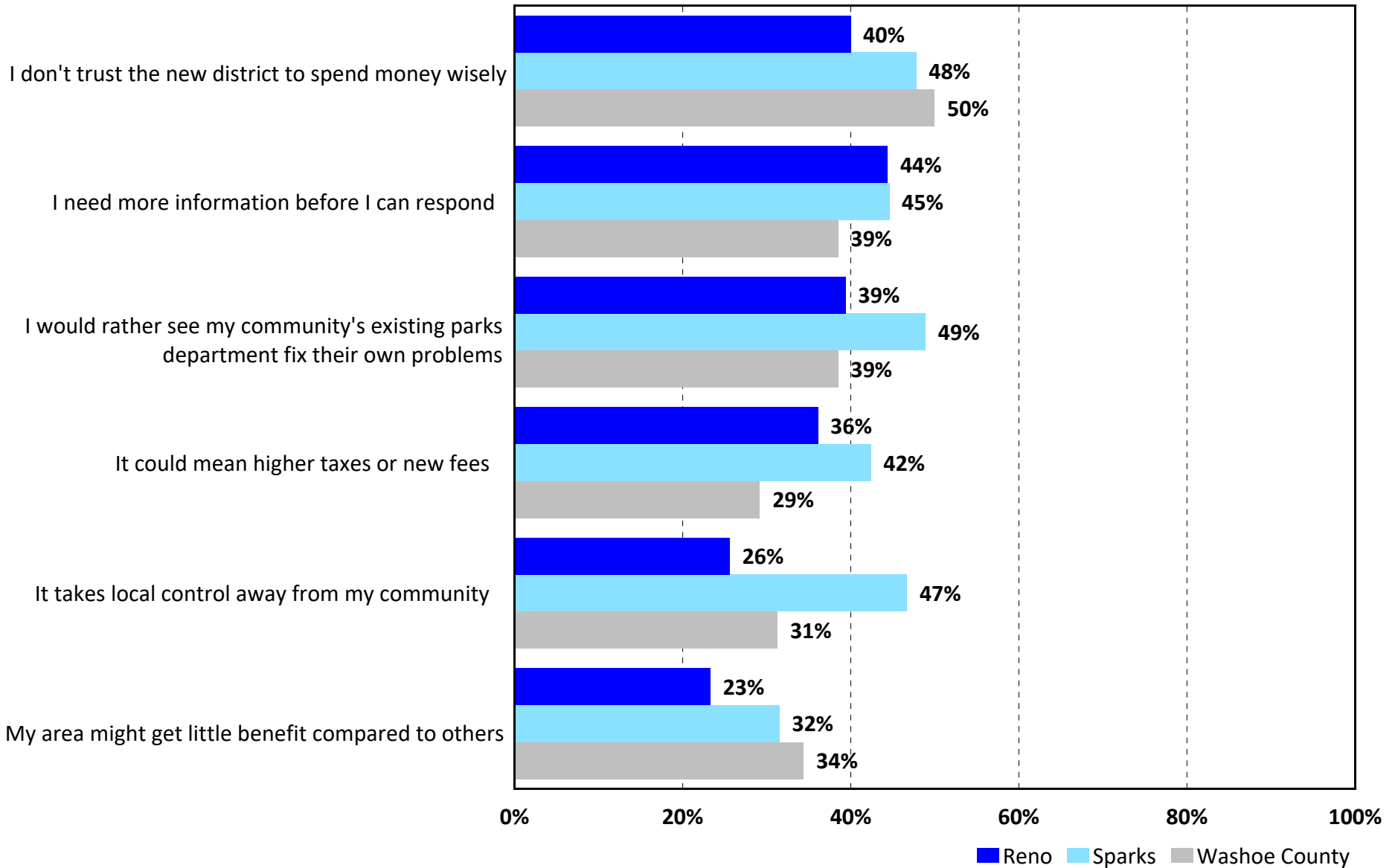
## why

by percentage of respondents who answered "not sure", "not likely", and "not at all likely" in Q13 (multiple selections allowed)



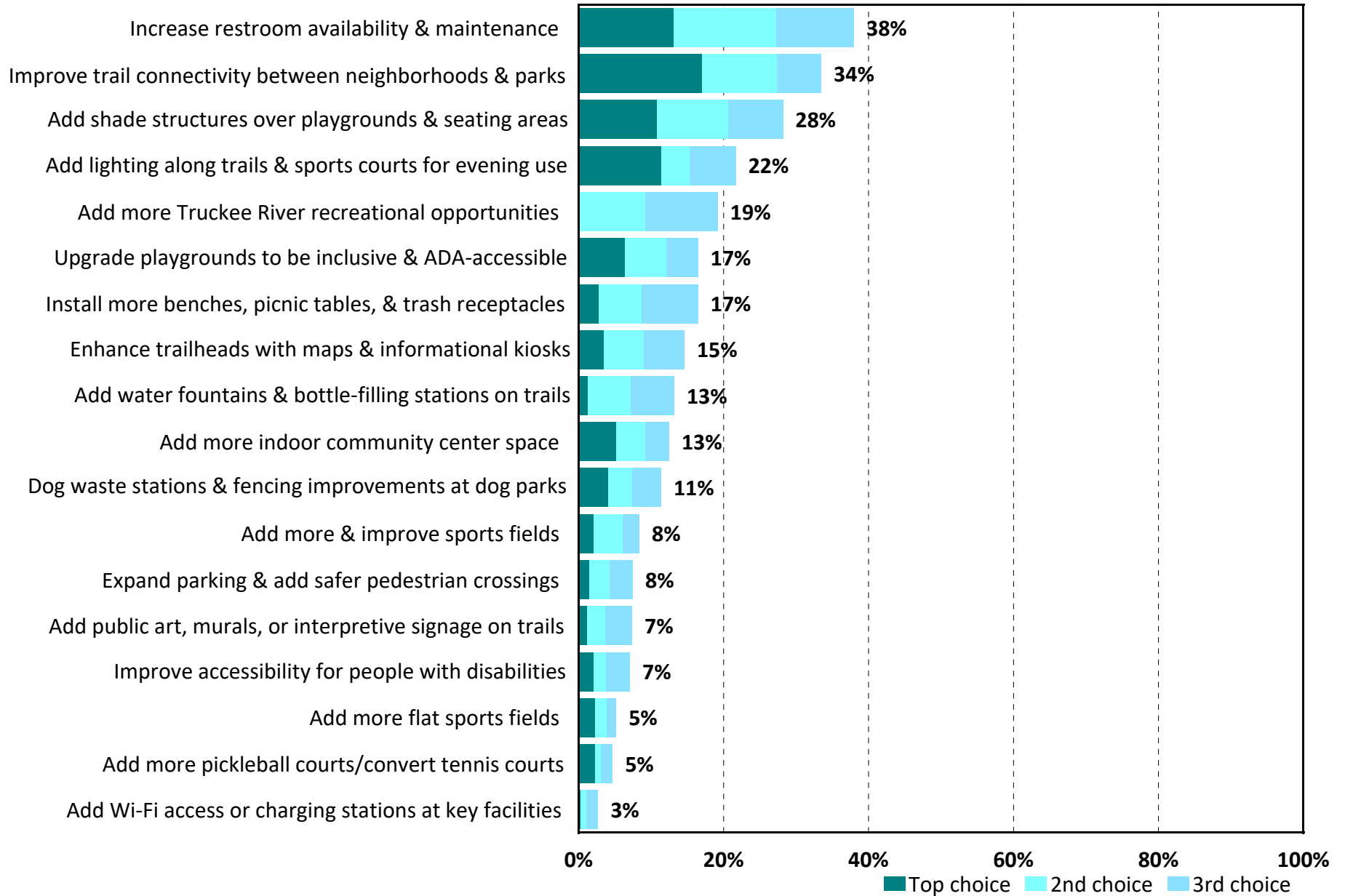
# Q13b. If you indicated that you were either not sure or not likely how you would vote for to establish a regional Parks Service District, please select ALL the reasons why

by location of respondents who answered "not sure", "not likely", and "not at all likely" in Q13 (multiple selections allowed)



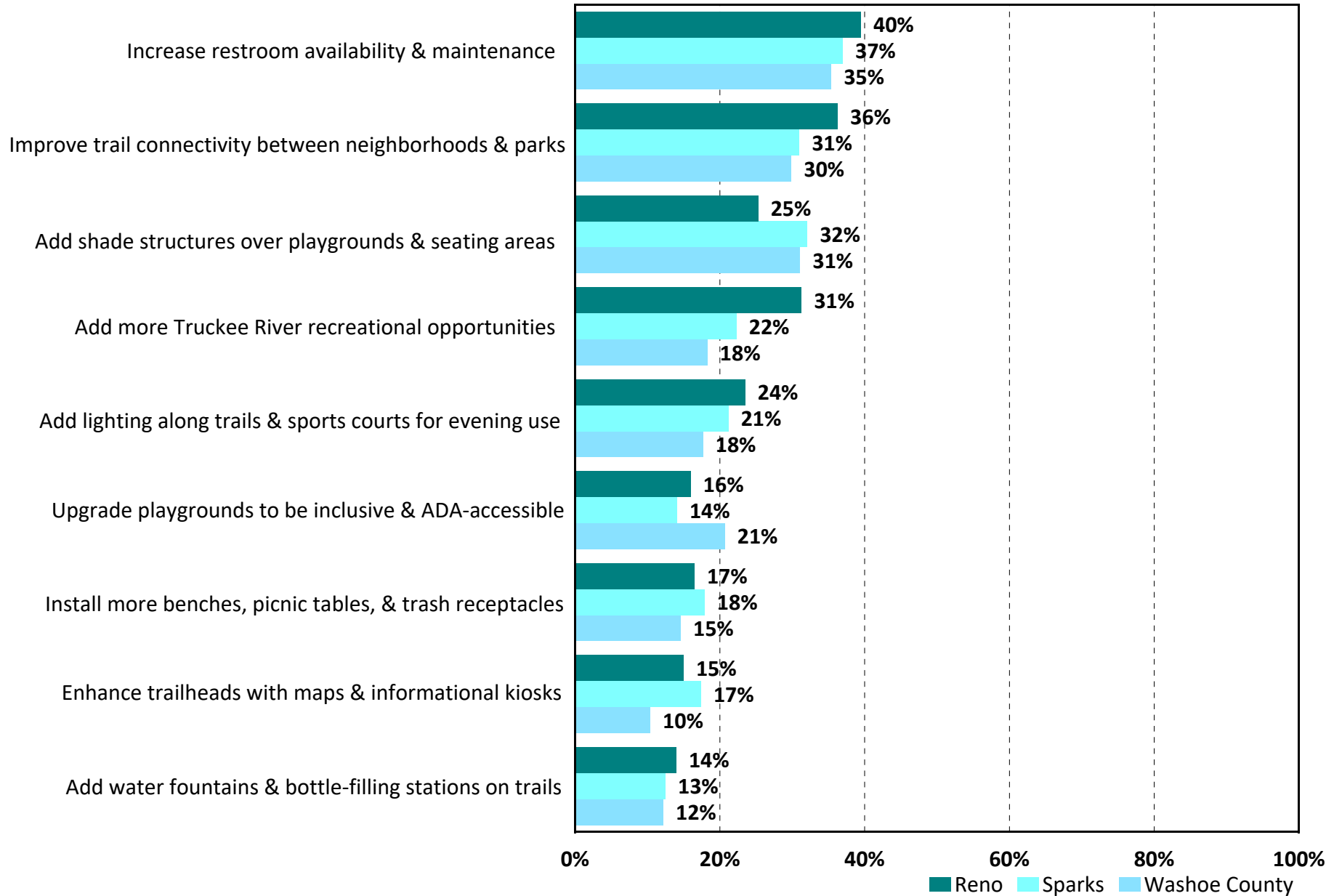
# Q14. Which THREE improvements do you believe are MOST NEEDED?

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top three choices



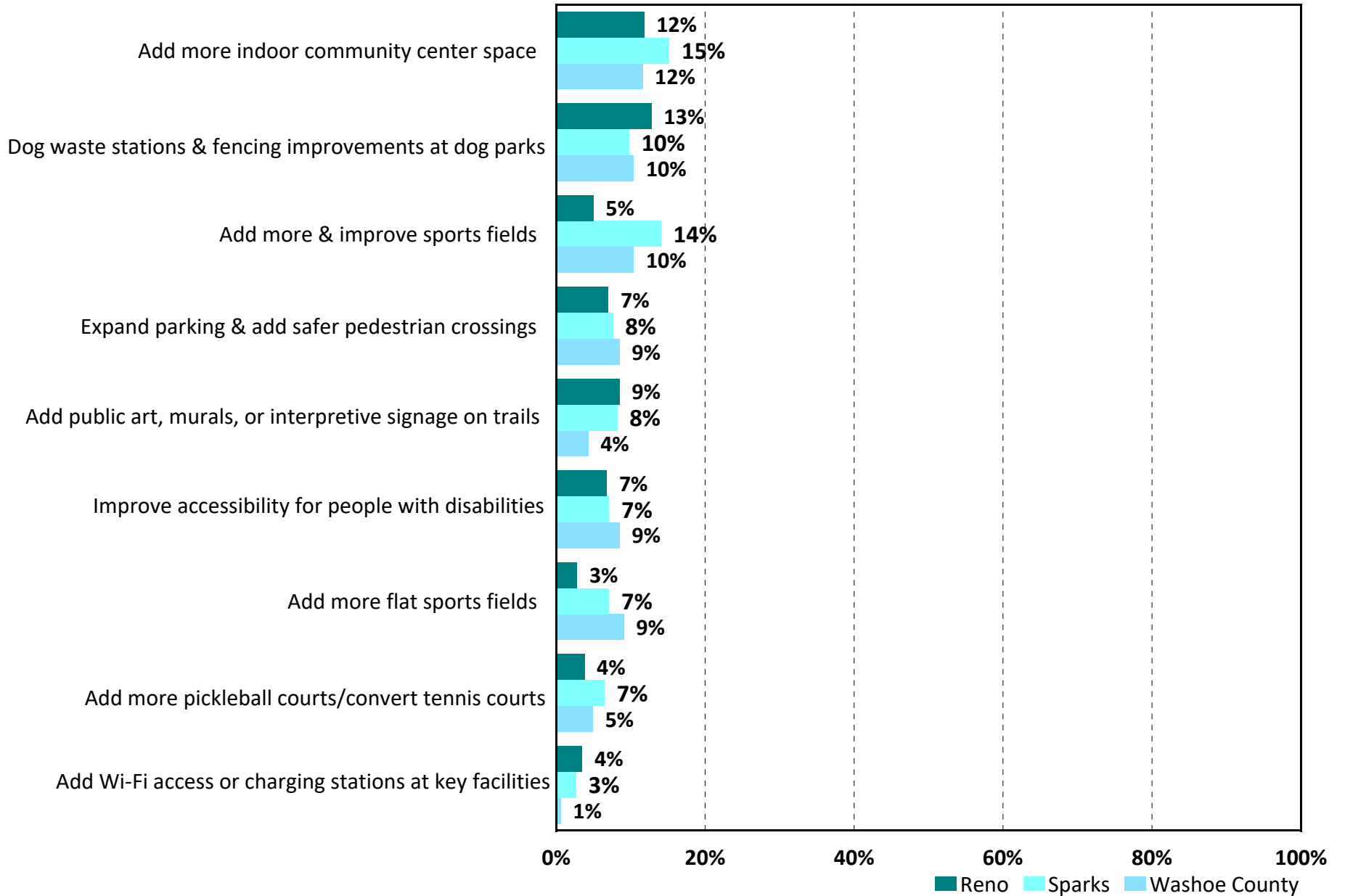
# Q14. Which THREE improvements do you believe are MOST NEEDED?

by sum of top three choices



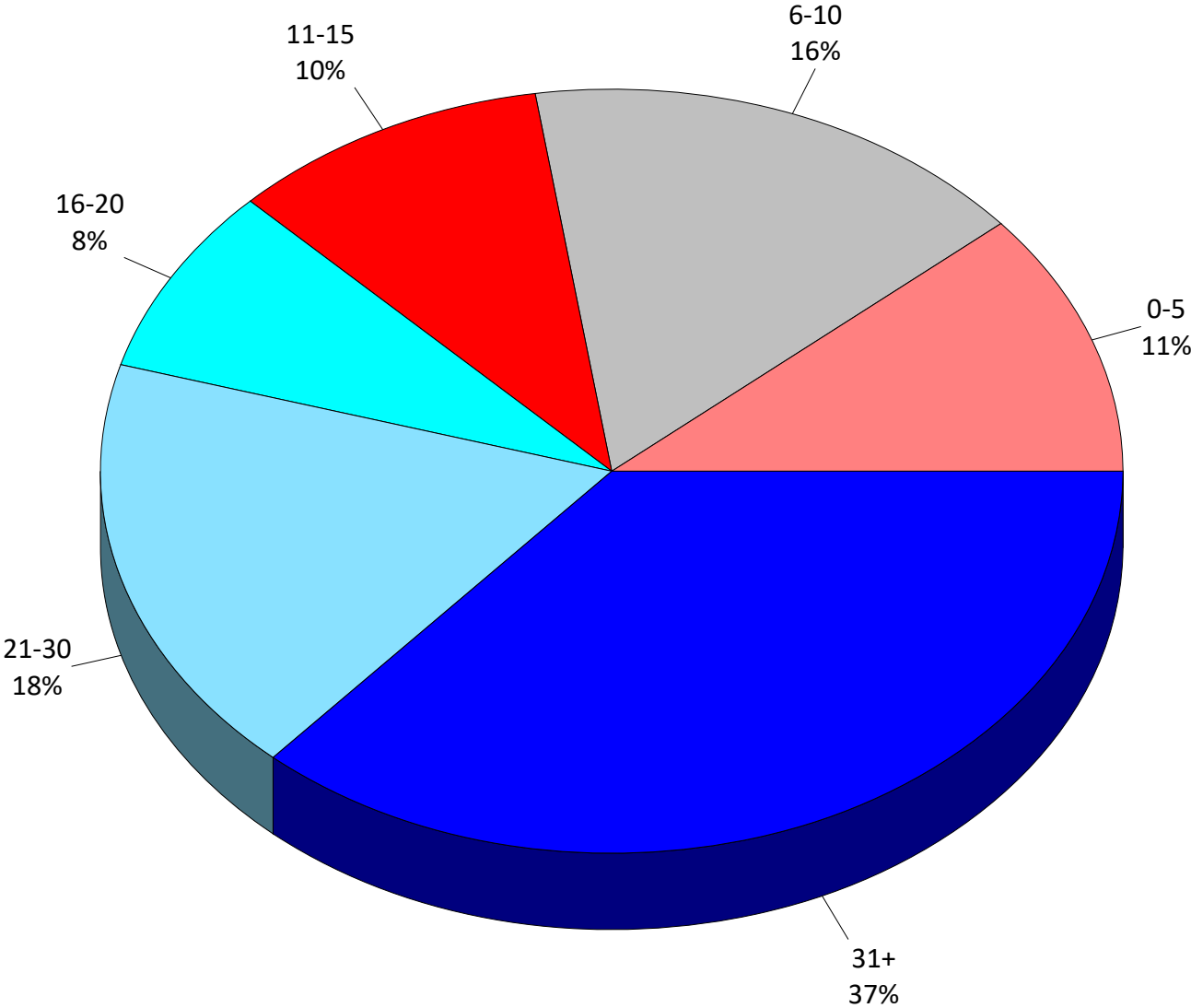
# Q14. Which THREE improvements do you believe are MOST NEEDED?

by sum of top three choices

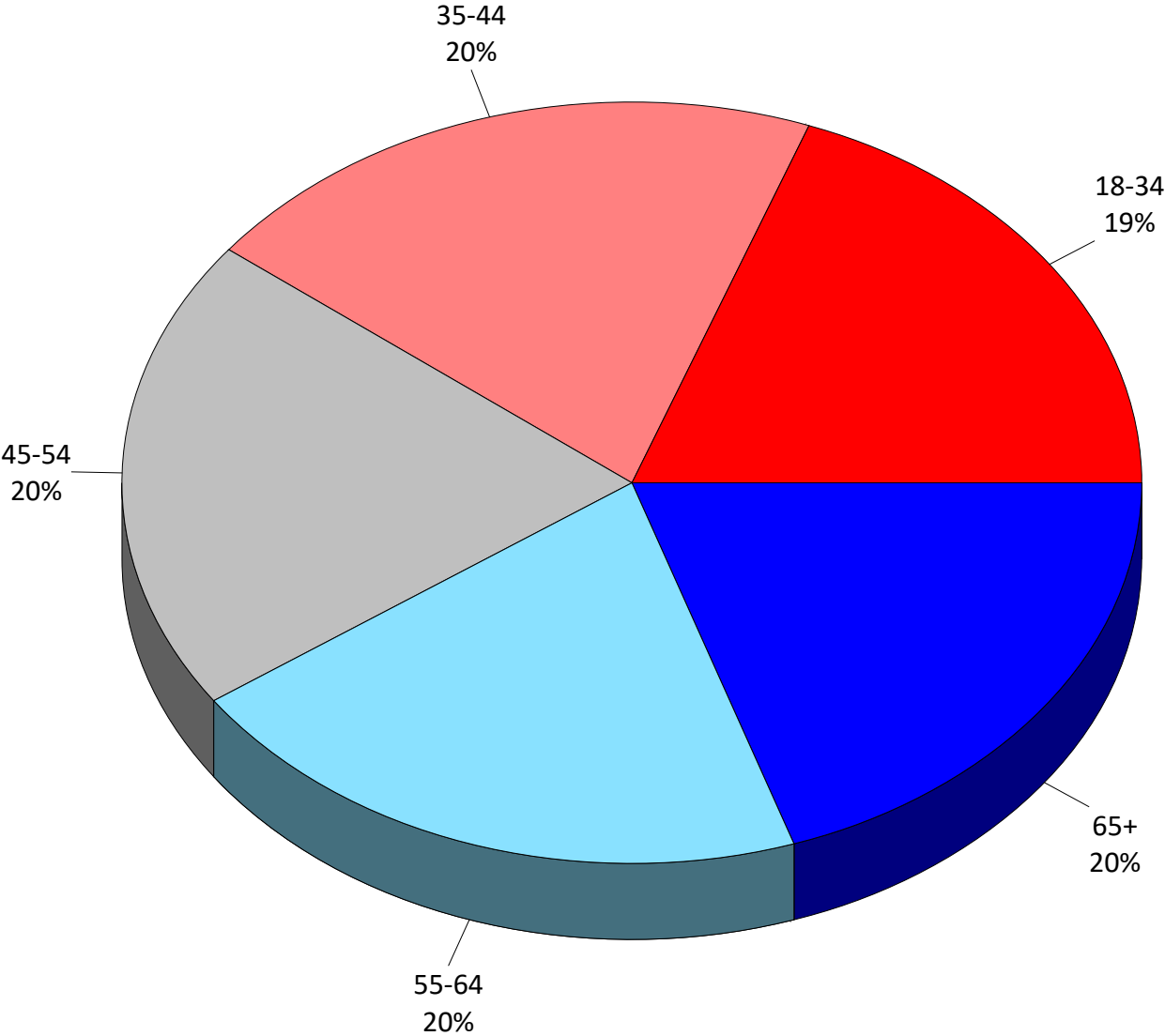


# Q16. How long have you lived in Washoe County?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")

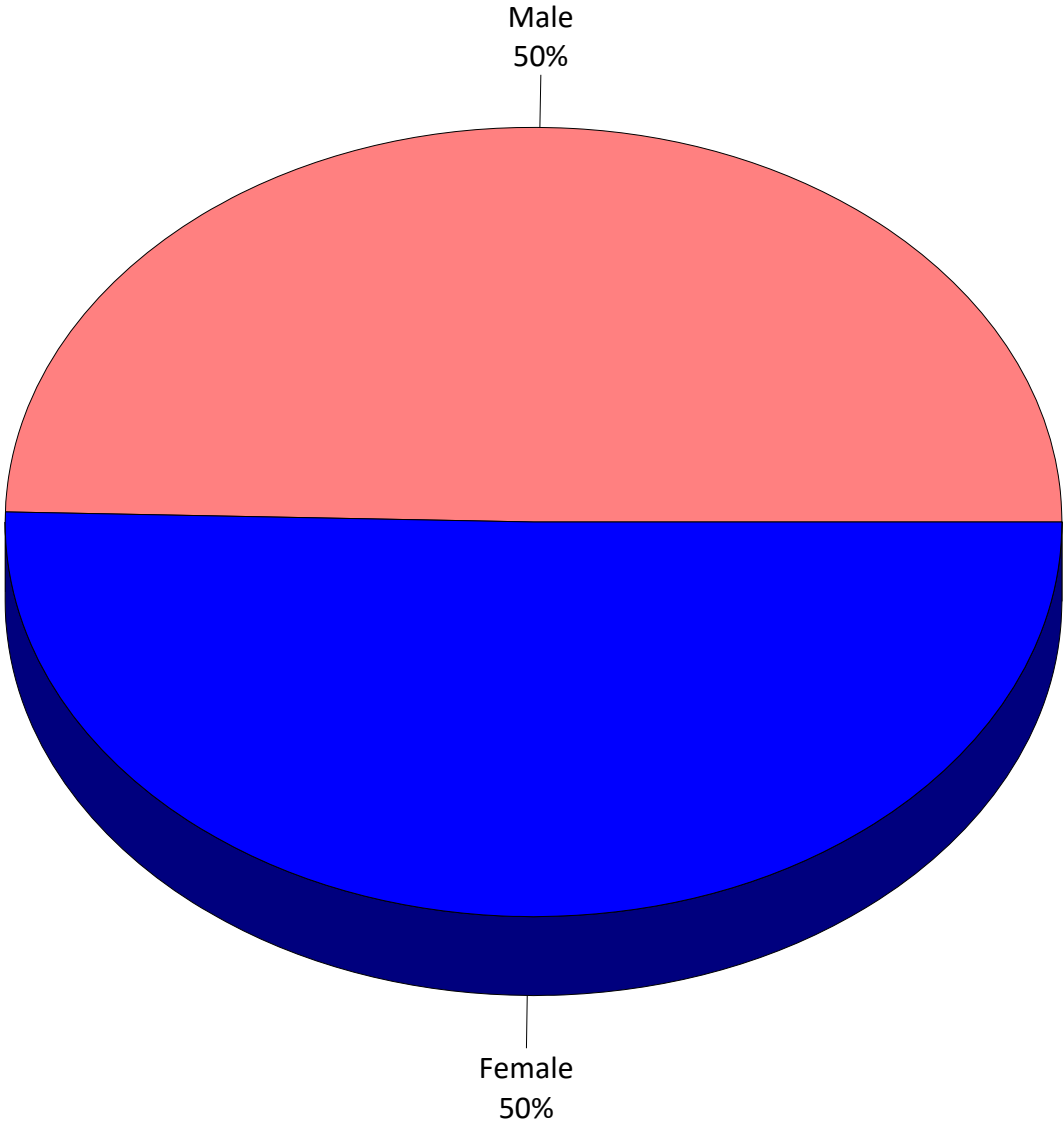


### Q17. Your age: by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



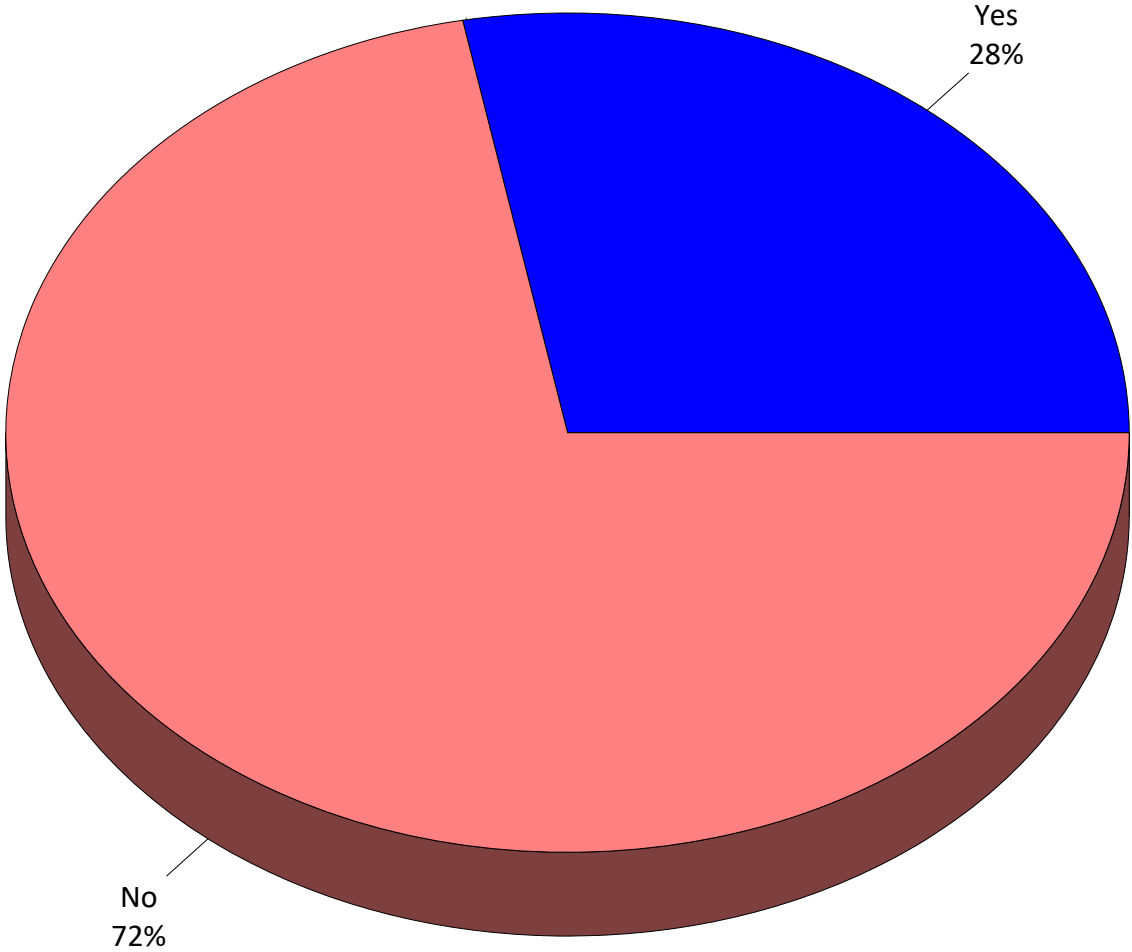
# Q18. How do you identify yourself?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



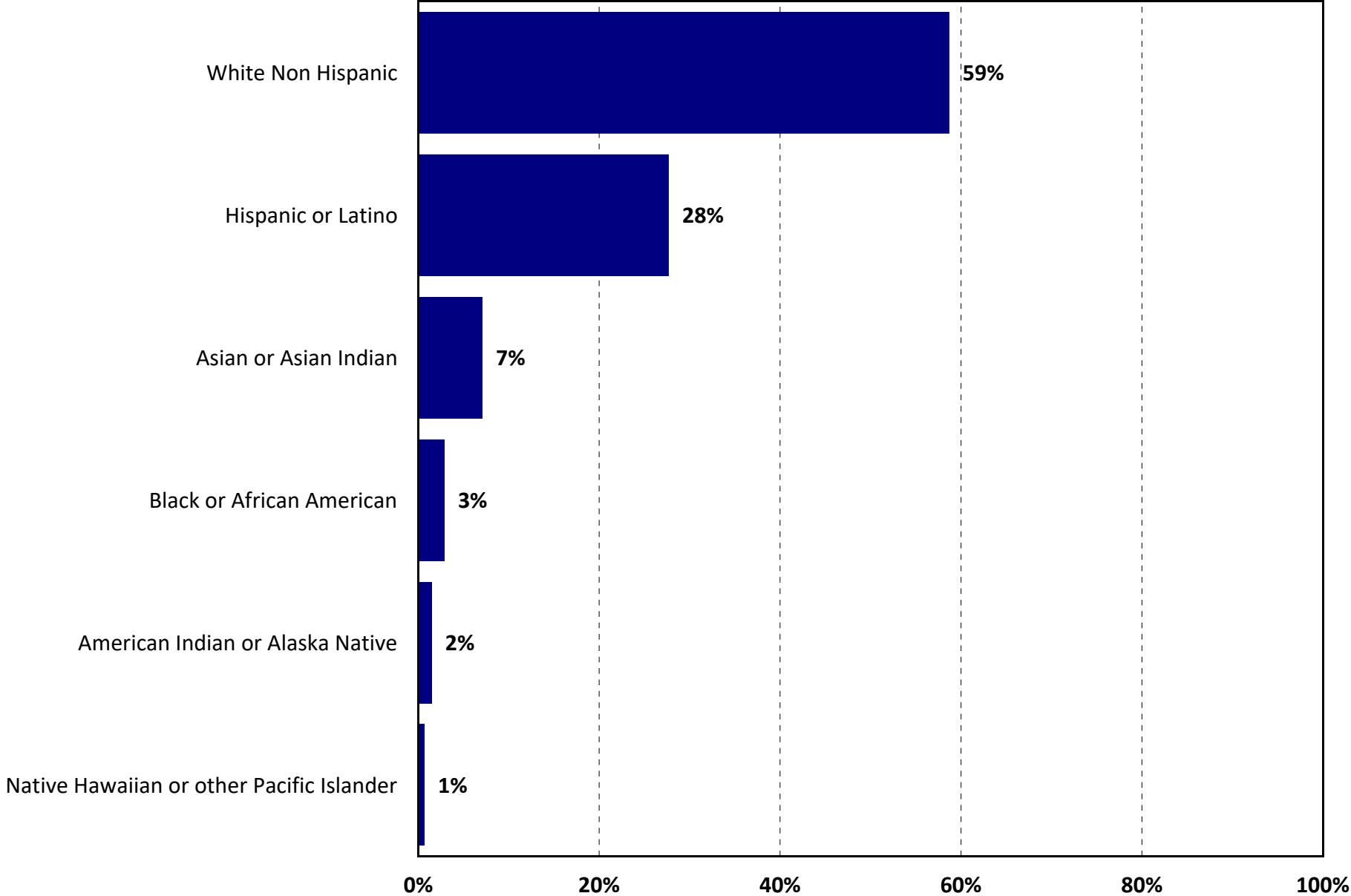
# Q19. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic or Latino ancestry?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



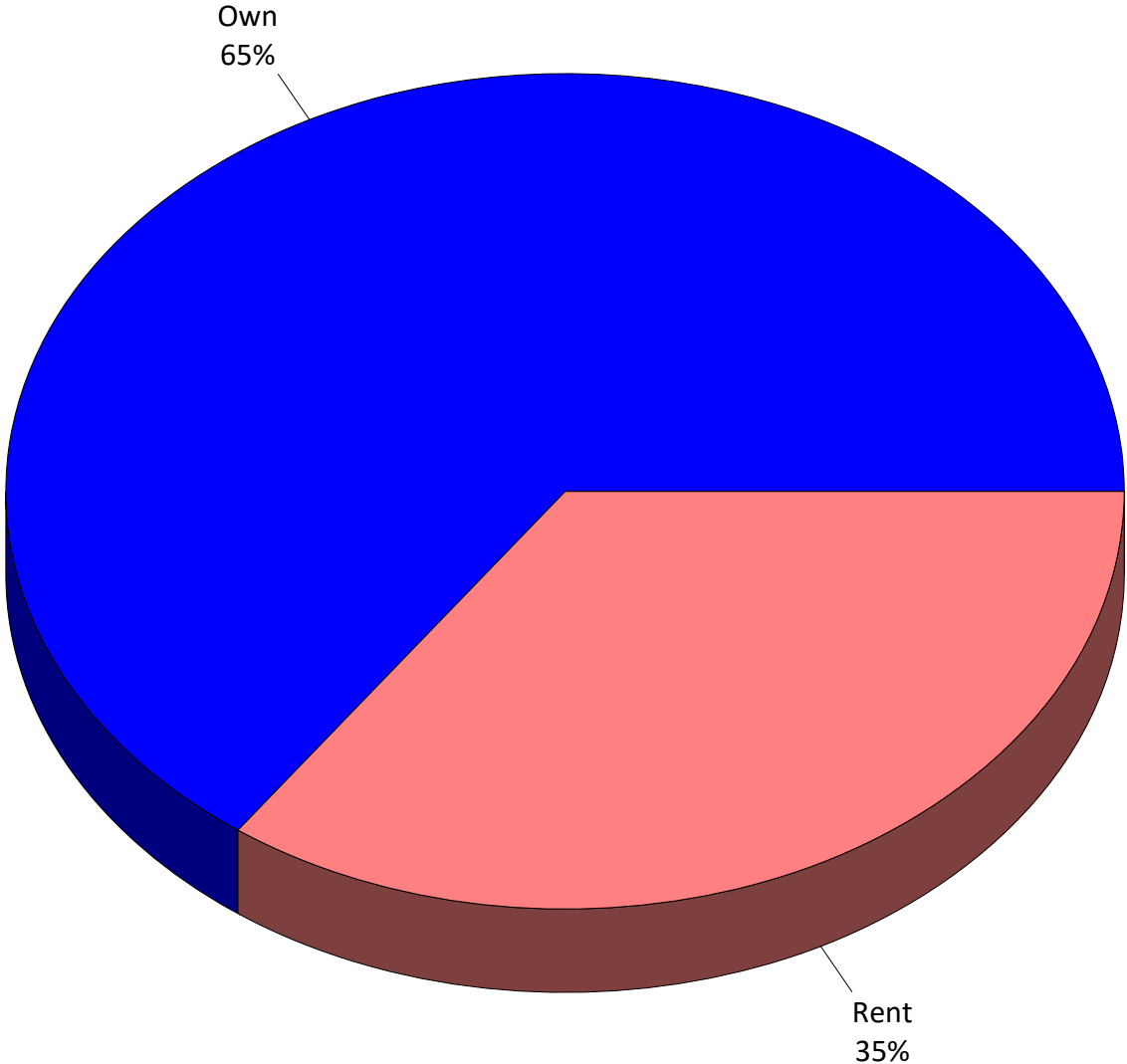
# Q20. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?

by percentage of respondents (multiple selections allowed)



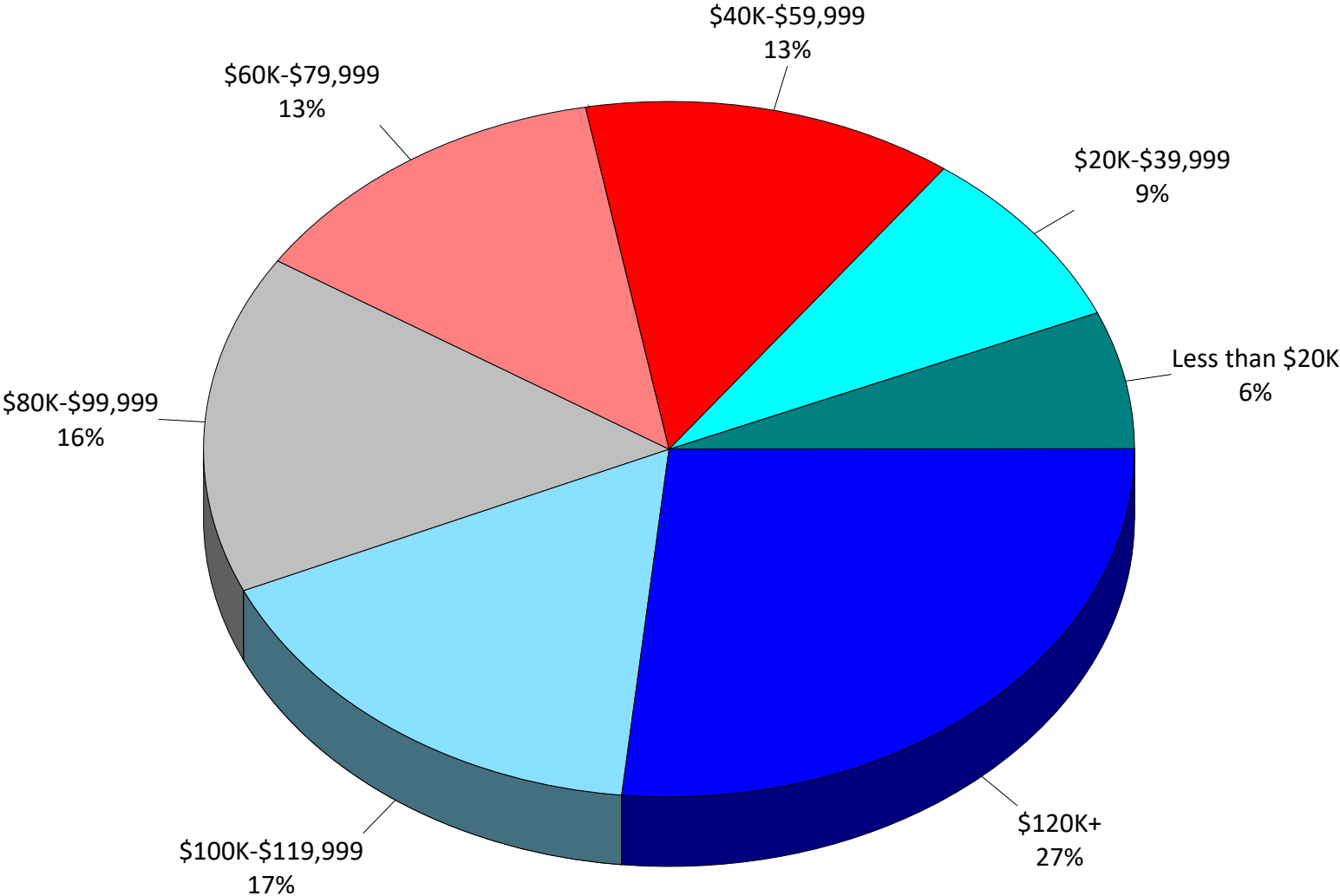
# Q21. Do you own or rent your home?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



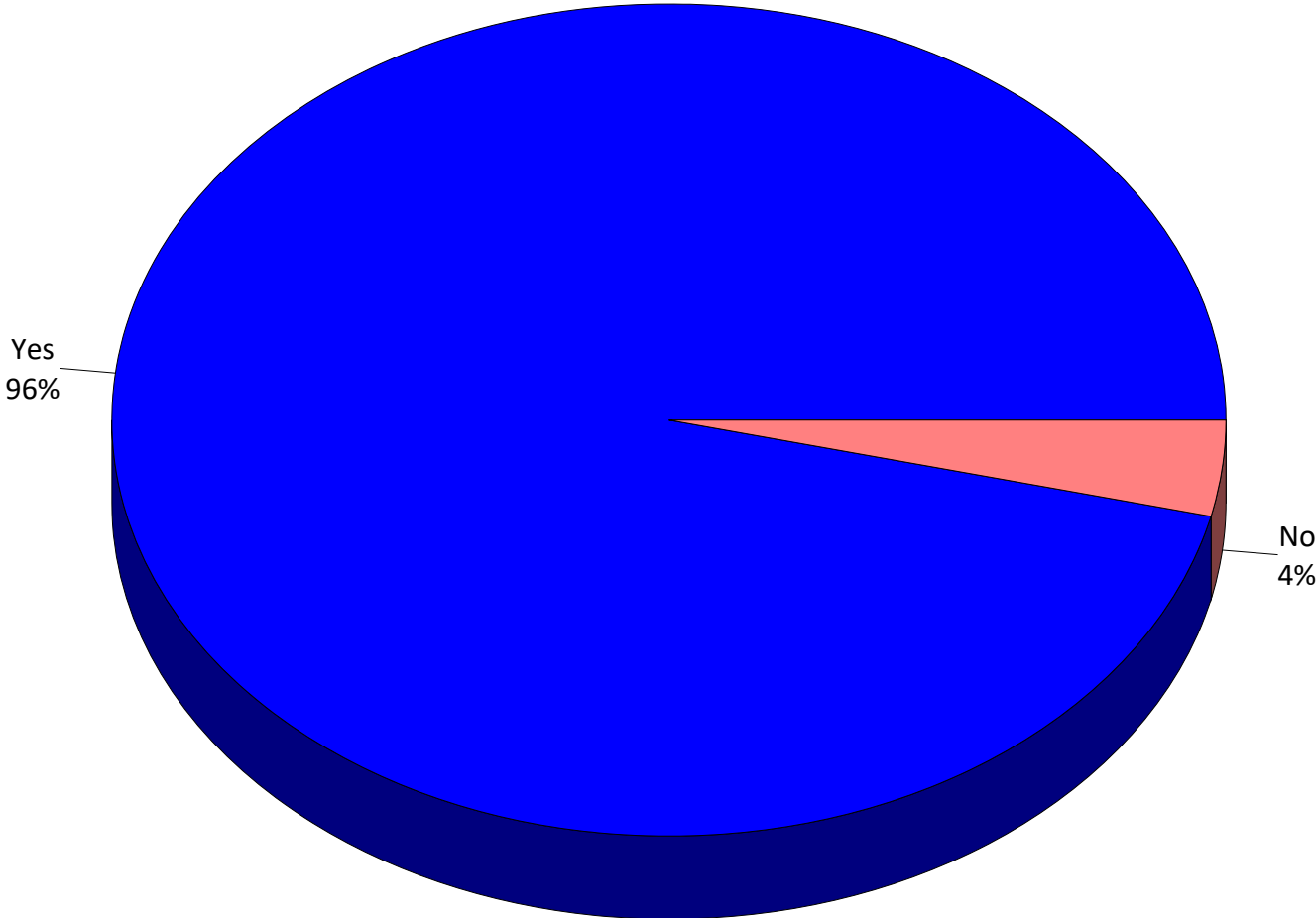
# Q22. What would you say your total annual household income is?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



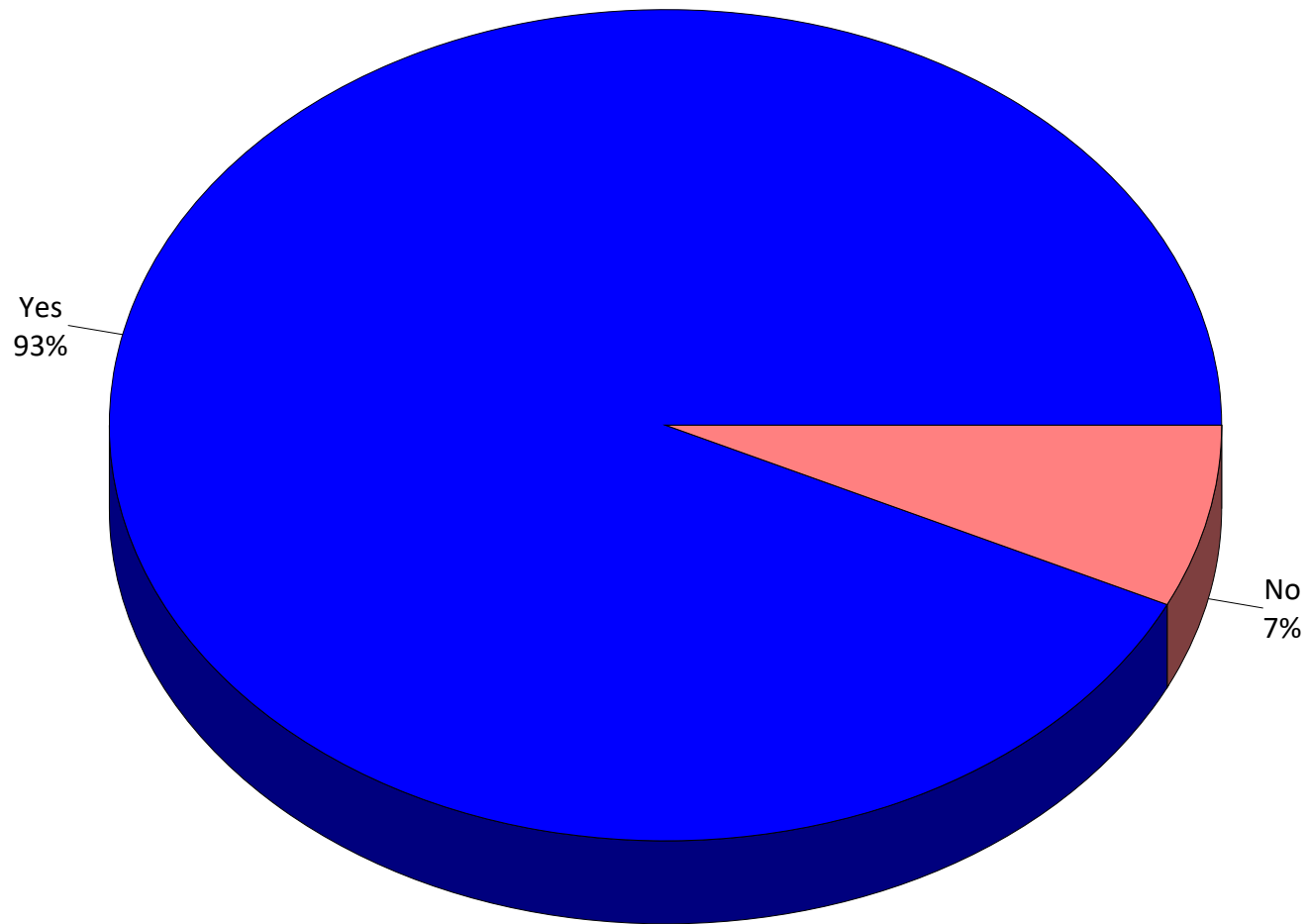
### Q23. Are you registered to vote in Washoe County?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



## Q23a. Did you vote in the most recent municipal and/or county election?

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")





# 2

## Tabular Data

**Q1. Please rate the condition of the parks or recreation facilities that you have used in each of the following locations.**

(N=748)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Have not used
Q1-1. Washoe County	15.2%	46.9%	19.4%	4.0%	14.4%
Q1-2. City of Reno	10.3%	39.8%	26.5%	8.6%	14.8%
Q1-3. City of Sparks	9.6%	31.4%	20.2%	5.2%	33.6%

**WITHOUT HAVE NOT USED**

**Q1. Please rate the condition of the parks or recreation facilities that you have used in each of the following locations. (without "have not used")**

(N=748)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Q1-1. Washoe County	17.8%	54.8%	22.7%	4.7%
Q1-2. City of Reno	12.1%	46.8%	31.1%	10.0%
Q1-3. City of Sparks	14.5%	47.3%	30.4%	7.8%

**Q2. Overall, how frequently do you use parks or recreation facilities in Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County?**

Q2. How frequently do you use parks or recreation facilities in Reno, Sparks, or Washoe

County	Number	Percent
Daily	120	16.0 %
Weekly	311	41.6 %
Monthly	157	21.0 %
A few times per year	147	19.7 %
Never	12	1.6 %
Not provided	1	0.1 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED****Q2. Overall, how frequently do you use parks or recreation facilities in Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County? (without "not provided")**

Q2. How frequently do you use parks or recreation facilities in Reno, Sparks, or Washoe

County	Number	Percent
Daily	120	16.1 %
Weekly	311	41.6 %
Monthly	157	21.0 %
A few times per year	147	19.7 %
Never	12	1.6 %
Total	747	100.0 %

**Q3. Do you believe that parks and recreation services are consistent across neighborhoods throughout the region?**

Q3. Do you believe that parks & recreation services are consistent across neighborhoods throughout the region

	Number	Percent
Yes	118	15.8 %
No	429	57.4 %
Don't know/not sure	201	26.9 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE****Q3. Do you believe that parks and recreation services are consistent across neighborhoods throughout the region? (without "don't know/not sure")**

Q3. Do you believe that parks & recreation services are consistent across neighborhoods throughout the region

	Number	Percent
Yes	118	21.6 %
No	429	78.4 %
Total	547	100.0 %

**Q4. Currently, WASHOE COUNTY spends approximately \$21.18 per resident per year on Parks and Open Space operations. Knowing this, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in Washoe County?**

Q4. How satisfied are you with the value you receive for taxes paid to support Parks & Open Space operations in Washoe County

	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	150	20.1 %
Satisfied	385	51.5 %
Dissatisfied	137	18.3 %
Very dissatisfied	44	5.9 %
Not provided	32	4.3 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED**

**Q4. Currently, WASHOE COUNTY spends approximately \$21.18 per resident per year on Parks and Open Space operations. Knowing this, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in Washoe County? (without "not provided")**

Q4. How satisfied are you with the value you receive for taxes paid to support Parks & Open Space operations in Washoe County

	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	150	20.9 %
Satisfied	385	53.8 %
Dissatisfied	137	19.1 %
Very dissatisfied	44	6.1 %
Total	716	100.0 %

**Q5. Currently, the CITY OF RENO spends approximately \$53.17 per resident per year on Parks and Open Space operations. Knowing this, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in the City of Reno?**

Q5. How satisfied are you with the value you receive for taxes paid to support Parks & Open Space operations in City of Reno

	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	90	12.0 %
Satisfied	322	43.0 %
Dissatisfied	212	28.3 %
Very dissatisfied	60	8.0 %
Not provided	64	8.6 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED**

**Q5. Currently, the CITY OF RENO spends approximately \$53.17 per resident per year on Parks and Open Space operations. Knowing this, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in the City of Reno? (without "not provided")**

Q5. How satisfied are you with the value you receive for taxes paid to support Parks & Open Space operations in City of Reno

	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	90	13.2 %
Satisfied	322	47.1 %
Dissatisfied	212	31.0 %
Very dissatisfied	60	8.8 %
Total	684	100.0 %

**Q6. Currently, the CITY OF SPARKS spends approximately \$42.33 per resident per year on Parks and Open Space operations. Knowing this, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in the City of Sparks?**

Q6. How satisfied are you with the value you receive for taxes paid to support Parks & Open Space operations in City of Sparks

	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	81	10.8 %
Satisfied	283	37.8 %
Dissatisfied	162	21.7 %
Very dissatisfied	43	5.7 %
Not provided	179	23.9 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED**

**Q6. Currently, the CITY OF SPARKS spends approximately \$42.33 per resident per year on Parks and Open Space operations. Knowing this, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in the City of Sparks? (without "not provided")**

Q6. How satisfied are you with the value you receive for taxes paid to support Parks & Open Space operations in City of Sparks

	Number	Percent
Very satisfied	81	14.2 %
Satisfied	283	49.7 %
Dissatisfied	162	28.5 %
Very dissatisfied	43	7.6 %
Total	569	100.0 %

**Q7. How important is it to your quality of life that all residents in the region have equal access to quality parks and recreation opportunities?**

Q7. How important is it to your quality of life that all residents in the region have equal access to quality parks & recreation opportunities

	Number	Percent
Very important	518	69.3 %
Important	178	23.8 %
Not important	31	4.1 %
Not at all important	10	1.3 %
Not provided	11	1.5 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED**

**Q7. How important is it to your quality of life that all residents in the region have equal access to quality parks and recreation opportunities? (without "not provided")**

Q7. How important is it to your quality of life that all residents in the region have equal access to quality parks & recreation opportunities

	Number	Percent
Very important	518	70.3 %
Important	178	24.2 %
Not important	31	4.2 %
Not at all important	10	1.4 %
Total	737	100.0 %

**Q8. What types of recreational amenities do you and your family use MOST OFTEN?**

Q8. Types of recreational amenities you and your family use most often	Number	Percent
Multi-use paved trails (shared-use paths)	513	68.6 %
Natural-surface hiking/biking trails	507	67.8 %
Trailheads with parking & restrooms	434	58.0 %
Wayfinding/signage & mile markers	165	22.1 %
Picnic shelters & shade pavilions	284	38.0 %
Playground structures in parks	289	38.6 %
Dog park/off-leash area	275	36.8 %
Pickleball courts	94	12.6 %
Tennis courts	46	6.1 %
Indoor/outdoor courts (volleyball, basketball, pickleball)	83	11.1 %
Truckee Riverfront	382	51.1 %
Fields for baseball/softball/soccer/football	125	16.7 %
Disc golf course	57	7.6 %
Pump track/BMX skills area	49	6.6 %
Skatepark	58	7.8 %
Outdoor fitness stations/obstacle course	96	12.8 %
Aquatic facilities (lap pool/leisure pool/splash pad)	200	26.7 %
Community recreation center/gymnasium	97	13.0 %
Equestrian trails/staging area	35	4.7 %
Water access (boat launch, kayak/SUP launch, fishing pier)	138	18.4 %
Winter recreation (sledding/snow-play hill or groomed paths)	142	19.0 %
Community gardens	199	26.6 %
Natural play areas	186	24.9 %
Outdoor event spaces/amphitheaters	230	30.7 %
Climbing/bouldering areas (outdoor/indoor)	56	7.5 %
None, we do not use any of these	19	2.5 %
Total	4759	

**WITHOUT NONE****Q8. What types of recreational amenities do you and your family use MOST OFTEN? (without "none")**

Q8. Types of recreational amenities you and your family use most often	Number	Percent
Multi-use paved trails (shared-use paths)	513	70.4 %
Natural-surface hiking/biking trails	507	69.5 %
Trailheads with parking & restrooms	434	59.5 %
Truckee Riverfront	382	52.4 %
Playground structures in parks	289	39.6 %
Picnic shelters & shade pavilions	284	39.0 %
Dog park/off-leash area	275	37.7 %
Outdoor event spaces/amphitheaters	230	31.6 %
Aquatic facilities (lap pool/leisure pool/splash pad)	200	27.4 %
Community gardens	199	27.3 %
Natural play areas	186	25.5 %
Wayfinding/signage & mile markers	165	22.6 %
Winter recreation (sledding/snow-play hill or groomed paths)	142	19.5 %
Water access (boat launch, kayak/SUP launch, fishing pier)	138	18.9 %
Fields for baseball/softball/soccer/football	125	17.1 %
Community recreation center/gymnasium	97	13.3 %
Outdoor fitness stations/obstacle course	96	13.2 %
Pickleball courts	94	12.9 %
Indoor/outdoor courts (volleyball, basketball, pickleball)	83	11.4 %
Skatepark	58	8.0 %
Disc golf course	57	7.8 %
Climbing/bouldering areas (outdoor/indoor)	56	7.7 %
Pump track/BMX skills area	49	6.7 %
Tennis courts	46	6.3 %
Equestrian trails/staging area	35	4.8 %
Total	4740	

**Q9. From the following list, please CHECK ALL the organizations you or members of your household have used for the recreation amenities you indicated you use most often in Question 8.**

Q9. Organizations your household members have used for recreation amenities you use most often	Number	Percent
City of Reno	581	77.7 %
City of Sparks	409	54.7 %
Washoe County	598	79.9 %
State of Nevada	392	52.4 %
Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management	407	54.4 %
Other nearby cities & counties	175	23.4 %
Private clubs (tennis, health, swim)	55	7.4 %
Private fitness facilities	125	16.7 %
Libraries	364	48.7 %
YMCA	15	2.0 %
Youth/private sports organizations	108	14.4 %
Homeowners associations (HOAs)	136	18.2 %
Places of worship (synagogues, churches)	101	13.5 %
Private schools/charter school	48	6.4 %
Public schools	183	24.5 %
Total	3697	

**Q10. Do you believe a single Parks Service District, that serves the entire region, could improve the efficiency and quality of parks and recreation services in the community?**

Q10. Do you believe a single Parks Service District could improve efficiency & quality of parks & recreation services in the community

	Number	Percent
Yes	314	42.0 %
No	138	18.4 %
Don't know/not sure	296	39.6 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE**

**Q10. Do you believe a single Parks Service District, that serves the entire region, could improve the efficiency and quality of parks and recreation services in the community? (without "don't know/not sure")**

Q10. Do you believe a single Parks Service District could improve efficiency & quality of parks & recreation services in the community

	Number	Percent
Yes	314	69.5 %
No	138	30.5 %
Total	452	100.0 %

**Q11. Listed below are several goals that could be achieved by creating a regional Parks Service District that would serve the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County. Which THREE of the items below do you believe are MOST IMPORTANT?**

<u>Q11. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Expand & enhance access to parks, facilities, & programs	175	23.4 %
Improve quality & consistency of operations & maintenance	191	25.5 %
Optimize workforce capacity & talent development	25	3.3 %
Achieve cost savings & operational efficiencies	76	10.2 %
Strengthen regional identity, collaboration, & advocacy	12	1.6 %
Meet or exceed community expectations for quality of life & livability	93	12.4 %
Increase sustainable funding for parks & recreation maintenance & operations	94	12.6 %
Expand capital investment in park infrastructure & facilities	46	6.1 %
Ensure effective governance & strategic leadership	17	2.3 %
None chosen	19	2.5 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**Q11. Listed below are several goals that could be achieved by creating a regional Parks Service District that would serve the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County. Which THREE of the items below do you believe are MOST IMPORTANT?**

<u>Q11. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Expand & enhance access to parks, facilities, & programs	102	13.6 %
Improve quality & consistency of operations & maintenance	138	18.4 %
Optimize workforce capacity & talent development	41	5.5 %
Achieve cost savings & operational efficiencies	61	8.2 %
Strengthen regional identity, collaboration, & advocacy	36	4.8 %
Meet or exceed community expectations for quality of life & livability	122	16.3 %
Increase sustainable funding for parks & recreation maintenance & operations	122	16.3 %
Expand capital investment in park infrastructure & facilities	65	8.7 %
Ensure effective governance & strategic leadership	27	3.6 %
None chosen	34	4.5 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**Q11. Listed below are several goals that could be achieved by creating a regional Parks Service District that would serve the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County. Which THREE of the items below do you believe are MOST IMPORTANT?**

<u>Q11. 3rd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Expand & enhance access to parks, facilities, & programs	82	11.0 %
Improve quality & consistency of operations & maintenance	99	13.2 %
Optimize workforce capacity & talent development	52	7.0 %
Achieve cost savings & operational efficiencies	65	8.7 %
Strengthen regional identity, collaboration, & advocacy	39	5.2 %
Meet or exceed community expectations for quality of life & livability	103	13.8 %
Increase sustainable funding for parks & recreation maintenance & operations	90	12.0 %
Expand capital investment in park infrastructure & facilities	93	12.4 %
Ensure effective governance & strategic leadership	66	8.8 %
None chosen	59	7.9 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**TOP THREE**

**Q11. Listed below are several goals that could be achieved by creating a regional Parks Service District that would serve the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County. Which THREE of the items below do you believe are MOST IMPORTANT? (top 3)**

<u>Q11. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Expand & enhance access to parks, facilities, & programs	359	48.0 %
Improve quality & consistency of operations & maintenance	428	57.2 %
Optimize workforce capacity & talent development	118	15.8 %
Achieve cost savings & operational efficiencies	202	27.0 %
Strengthen regional identity, collaboration, & advocacy	87	11.6 %
Meet or exceed community expectations for quality of life & livability	318	42.5 %
Increase sustainable funding for parks & recreation maintenance & operations	306	40.9 %
Expand capital investment in park infrastructure & facilities	204	27.3 %
Ensure effective governance & strategic leadership	110	14.7 %
None chosen	19	2.5 %
Total	2151	

**Q12. How supportive would you be of creating a dedicated funding source (e.g., property tax or sales tax) to fund a regional Parks Service District?**

Q12. How supportive would you be of creating a dedicated funding source to fund a regional Parks

Service District	Number	Percent
Very supportive	194	25.9 %
Supportive	306	40.9 %
Not supportive	105	14.0 %
Not at all supportive	97	13.0 %
Not provided	46	6.1 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED**

**Q12. How supportive would you be of creating a dedicated funding source (e.g., property tax or sales tax) to fund a regional Parks Service District? (without "not provided")**

Q12. How supportive would you be of creating a dedicated funding source to fund a regional Parks

Service District	Number	Percent
Very supportive	194	27.6 %
Supportive	306	43.6 %
Not supportive	105	15.0 %
Not at all supportive	97	13.8 %
Total	702	100.0 %

**Q12a. What level of additional annual cost would you be comfortable with?**

Q12a. Additional annual cost you would be comfortable with	Number	Percent
Less than \$25 per household per year	166	33.2 %
\$25-\$49 per household per year	191	38.2 %
\$50-\$99 per household per year	75	15.0 %
\$100+ per household per year	51	10.2 %
None. I am not supportive of creating any dedicated funding source to fund a regional Parks Service District	5	1.0 %
Not provided	12	2.4 %
Total	500	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED****Q12a. What level of additional annual cost would you be comfortable with? (without "not provided")**

Q12a. Additional annual cost you would be comfortable with	Number	Percent
Less than \$25 per household per year	166	34.0 %
\$25-\$49 per household per year	191	39.1 %
\$50-\$99 per household per year	75	15.4 %
\$100+ per household per year	51	10.5 %
None. I am not supportive of creating any dedicated funding source to fund a regional Parks Service District	5	1.0 %
Total	488	100.0 %

**Q13. How likely would you be to vote to establish a regional Parks Service District?**

Q13. How likely would you be to vote to establish  
a regional Parks Service District

	Number	Percent
Very likely	197	26.3 %
Likely	183	24.5 %
Not sure	229	30.6 %
Not likely	65	8.7 %
Not at all likely	74	9.9 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**Q13a. If you indicated that you were very likely or likely to vote in favor of establishing a regional Parks Service District, please check ALL the reasons why.**

Q13a. Reasons why you were very likely or likely  
to vote in favor of establishing a regional Parks  
Service District

	Number	Percent
It would create a fair, countywide system so everyone has access to good parks & programs, no matter where they live	244	64.2 %
Combining resources could save money by reducing overlap between City & County departments	269	70.8 %
A single District could plan & maintain parks more efficiently & consistently across the region	242	63.7 %
It would help bring in more funding & grants that smaller cities can't get on their own	172	45.3 %
New district could improve maintenance & upgrades for older parks & facilities	236	62.1 %
It would allow for more & better recreation programs that serve all ages & interests	166	43.7 %
The District could improve trail connections & outdoor access between cities & neighborhoods	187	49.2 %
A regional district could focus on long-term planning & sustainability for parks & open spaces	221	58.2 %
It would help make sure everyone's tax dollars are used more effectively through shared planning & priorities	224	58.9 %
Total	1961	

**Q13b. If you indicated that you were either not sure or not likely how you would vote for to establish a regional Parks Service District, please select ALL the reasons why.**

Q13b. Reasons why you were either not sure or not likely you would vote for to establish a regional Parks Service District	Number	Percent
It could mean higher taxes or new fees-I don't want to pay more	132	35.9 %
I don't trust the new district to spend money wisely-mismanagement concerns	164	44.6 %
My area might get little benefit compared to others-current services are meeting needs	104	28.3 %
It takes local control away from my community-our voices may not be heard	119	32.3 %
I would rather see my community's existing parks department fix their own problems-no new layers of government	153	41.6 %
I need more information before I can respond	158	42.9 %
Other	13	3.5 %
Total	843	

**Q14. Listed below are several improvements that could be made to the region's parks and recreation offerings with the creation of a single Parks Service District. Which THREE improvements do you believe are MOST NEEDED in a parks and recreation facilities throughout the region?**

<u>Q14. Top choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Add lighting along trails & sports courts for evening use	85	11.4 %
Add more indoor community center space	39	5.2 %
Improve trail connectivity between neighborhoods & parks	127	17.0 %
Upgrade playgrounds to be inclusive & ADA-accessible	48	6.4 %
Add shade structures over playgrounds & seating areas	81	10.8 %
Increase restroom availability & maintenance	98	13.1 %
Expand parking & add safer pedestrian crossings	11	1.5 %
Install more benches, picnic tables, & trash/recycling receptacles	21	2.8 %
Add water fountains & bottle-filling stations along trails	10	1.3 %
Add more flat sports fields	17	2.3 %
Add more pickleball courts or convert underused tennis courts	17	2.3 %
Provide dog waste stations & fencing improvements at dog parks	31	4.1 %
Add public art, murals, or interpretive signage along trails	9	1.2 %
Enhance trailhead amenities with maps & informational kiosks	26	3.5 %
Add Wi-Fi access or charging stations at key facilities	2	0.3 %
Improve accessibility & wayfinding for people with disabilities	16	2.1 %
Add more & improve sports fields	16	2.1 %
Add more Truckee River recreational opportunities	52	7.0 %
None chosen	42	5.6 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**Q14. Listed below are several improvements that could be made to the region's parks and recreation offerings with the creation of a single Parks Service District. Which THREE improvements do you believe are MOST NEEDED in a parks and recreation facilities throughout the region?**

<u>Q14. 2nd choice</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Add lighting along trails & sports courts for evening use	29	3.9 %
Add more indoor community center space	30	4.0 %
Improve trail connectivity between neighborhoods & parks	78	10.4 %
Upgrade playgrounds to be inclusive & ADA-accessible	43	5.7 %
Add shade structures over playgrounds & seating areas	73	9.8 %
Increase restroom availability & maintenance	106	14.2 %
Expand parking & add safer pedestrian crossings	21	2.8 %
Install more benches, picnic tables, & trash/recycling receptacles	44	5.9 %
Add water fountains & bottle-filling stations along trails	44	5.9 %
Add more flat sports fields	12	1.6 %
Add more pickleball courts or convert underused tennis courts	6	0.8 %
Provide dog waste stations & fencing improvements at dog parks	25	3.3 %
Add public art, murals, or interpretive signage along trails	19	2.5 %
Enhance trailhead amenities with maps & informational kiosks	41	5.5 %
Add Wi-Fi access or charging stations at key facilities	6	0.8 %
Improve accessibility & wayfinding for people with disabilities	13	1.7 %
Add more & improve sports fields	30	4.0 %
Add more Truckee River recreational opportunities	69	9.2 %
None chosen	59	7.9 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**Q14. Listed below are several improvements that could be made to the region's parks and recreation offerings with the creation of a single Parks Service District. Which THREE improvements do you believe are MOST NEEDED in a parks and recreation facilities throughout the region?**

Q14. 3rd choice	Number	Percent
Add lighting along trails & sports courts for evening use	48	6.4 %
Add more indoor community center space	25	3.3 %
Improve trail connectivity between neighborhoods & parks	46	6.1 %
Upgrade playgrounds to be inclusive & ADA-accessible	33	4.4 %
Add shade structures over playgrounds & seating areas	57	7.6 %
Increase restroom availability & maintenance	80	10.7 %
Expand parking & add safer pedestrian crossings	24	3.2 %
Install more benches, picnic tables, & trash/recycling receptacles	58	7.8 %
Add water fountains & bottle-filling stations along trails	45	6.0 %
Add more flat sports fields	10	1.3 %
Add more pickleball courts or convert underused tennis courts	12	1.6 %
Provide dog waste stations & fencing improvements at dog parks	30	4.0 %
Add public art, murals, or interpretive signage along trails	28	3.7 %
Enhance trailhead amenities with maps & informational kiosks	42	5.6 %
Add Wi-Fi access or charging stations at key facilities	12	1.6 %
Improve accessibility & wayfinding for people with disabilities	25	3.3 %
Add more & improve sports fields	17	2.3 %
Add more Truckee River recreational opportunities	75	10.0 %
None chosen	81	10.8 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**TOP THREE**

**Q14. Listed below are several improvements that could be made to the region's parks and recreation offerings with the creation of a single Parks Service District. Which THREE improvements do you believe are MOST NEEDED in a parks and recreation facilities throughout the region? (top 3)**

Q14. Top choice	Number	Percent
Add lighting along trails & sports courts for evening use	162	21.7 %
Add more indoor community center space	94	12.6 %
Improve trail connectivity between neighborhoods & parks	251	33.6 %
Upgrade playgrounds to be inclusive & ADA-accessible	124	16.6 %
Add shade structures over playgrounds & seating areas	211	28.2 %
Increase restroom availability & maintenance	284	38.0 %
Expand parking & add safer pedestrian crossings	56	7.5 %
Install more benches, picnic tables, & trash/recycling receptacles	123	16.4 %
Add water fountains & bottle-filling stations along trails	99	13.2 %
Add more flat sports fields	39	5.2 %
Add more pickleball courts or convert underused tennis courts	35	4.7 %
Provide dog waste stations & fencing improvements at dog parks	86	11.5 %
Add public art, murals, or interpretive signage along trails	56	7.5 %
Enhance trailhead amenities with maps & informational kiosks	109	14.6 %
Add Wi-Fi access or charging stations at key facilities	20	2.7 %
Improve accessibility & wayfinding for people with disabilities	54	7.2 %
Add more & improve sports fields	63	8.4 %
Add more Truckee River recreational opportunities	196	26.2 %
None chosen	42	5.6 %
Total	2104	

**Q16. How long have you lived in Washoe County?**

<u>Q16. How long have you lived in Washoe County</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0-5	82	11.0 %
6-10	118	15.8 %
11-15	75	10.0 %
16-20	59	7.9 %
21-30	131	17.5 %
31+	267	35.7 %
Not provided	16	2.1 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED****Q16. How long have you lived in Washoe County? (without "not provided")**

<u>Q16. How long have you lived in Washoe County</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
0-5	82	11.2 %
6-10	118	16.1 %
11-15	75	10.2 %
16-20	59	8.1 %
21-30	131	17.9 %
31+	267	36.5 %
Total	732	100.0 %

**Q17. What is your age?**

<u>Q17. Your age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
18-34	142	19.0 %
35-44	147	19.7 %
45-54	147	19.7 %
55-64	149	19.9 %
65+	145	19.4 %
Not provided	18	2.4 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED****Q17. What is your age? (without "not provided")**

<u>Q17. Your age</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
18-34	142	19.5 %
35-44	147	20.1 %
45-54	147	20.1 %
55-64	149	20.4 %
65+	145	19.9 %
Total	730	100.0 %

**Q18. How do you identify yourself?**

<u>Q18. Your gender</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	365	48.8 %
Female	371	49.6 %
Prefer to self-describe	2	0.3 %
Not provided	10	1.3 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED****Q18. How do you identify yourself? (without "not provided")**

<u>Q18. Your gender</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Male	365	49.5 %
Female	371	50.3 %
Prefer to self-describe	2	0.3 %
Total	738	100.0 %

**Q18-3. Self-describe your gender:**

<u>Q18-3. Self-describe your gender</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Queer	1	50.0 %
Non Binary	1	50.0 %
Total	2	100.0 %

**Q19. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic or Latino ancestry?**

Q19. Are you or any members of your family of

<u>Hispanic or Latino ancestry</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	207	27.7 %
No	534	71.4 %
Not provided	7	0.9 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED****Q19. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic or Latino ancestry? (without "not provided")**

Q19. Are you or any members of your family of

<u>Hispanic or Latino ancestry</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	207	27.9 %
No	534	72.1 %
Total	741	100.0 %

**Q20. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity?**

<u>Q20. Your race/ethnicity</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Asian or Asian Indian	53	7.1 %
Black or African American	22	2.9 %
American Indian or Alaska Native	11	1.5 %
White Non Hispanic	439	58.7 %
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	5	0.7 %
Hispanic or Latino	207	27.7 %
Other	14	1.9 %
Total	751	

**Q20-7. Self-describe your race/ethnicity:**

<u>Q20-7. Self-describe your race/ethnicity</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Mexican	4	28.6 %
Mixed	3	21.4 %
Multi-racial	1	7.1 %
White mixed with Native	1	7.1 %
Northern European/French Canadian	1	7.1 %
Polish Spaniard American	1	7.1 %
Latino	1	7.1 %
Italian, Spanish	1	7.1 %
Hispanic/Latino	1	7.1 %
Total	14	100.0 %

**Q21. Do you own or rent your home?**

<u>Q21. Do you own or rent your home</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Own	478	63.9 %
Rent	256	34.2 %
Not provided	14	1.9 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED****Q21. Do you own or rent your home? (without "not provided")**

<u>Q21. Do you own or rent your home</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Own	478	65.1 %
Rent	256	34.9 %
Total	734	100.0 %

**Q22. What would you say your total annual household income is?**

<u>Q22. Your total annual household income</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Less than \$20K	40	5.3 %
\$20K-\$39,999	55	7.4 %
\$40K-\$59,999	81	10.8 %
\$60K-\$79,999	84	11.2 %
\$80K-\$99,999	99	13.2 %
\$100K-\$119,999	107	14.3 %
\$120K+	169	22.6 %
Not provided	113	15.1 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED****Q22. What would you say your total annual household income is? (without "not provided")**

<u>Q22. Your total annual household income</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Less than \$20K	40	6.3 %
\$20K-\$39,999	55	8.7 %
\$40K-\$59,999	81	12.8 %
\$60K-\$79,999	84	13.2 %
\$80K-\$99,999	99	15.6 %
\$100K-\$119,999	107	16.9 %
\$120K+	169	26.6 %
Total	635	100.0 %

**Q23. Are you registered to vote in Washoe County?**

<u>Q23. Are you registered to vote in Washoe County</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	693	92.6 %
No	26	3.5 %
Not provided	29	3.9 %
Total	748	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED****Q23. Are you registered to vote in Washoe County? (without "not provided")**

<u>Q23. Are you registered to vote in Washoe County</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	693	96.4 %
No	26	3.6 %
Total	719	100.0 %

**Q23a. Did you vote in the most recent municipal and/or county election?**

Q23a. Did you vote in most recent Municipal and/  
or County election

	Number	Percent
Yes	626	90.3 %
No	47	6.8 %
Not provided	20	2.9 %
Total	693	100.0 %

**WITHOUT NOT PROVIDED****Q23a. Did you vote in the most recent municipal and/or county election? (without "not provided")**

Q23a. Did you vote in most recent Municipal and/  
or County election

	Number	Percent
Yes	626	93.0 %
No	47	7.0 %
Total	673	100.0 %



# Survey Instrument



December 2025

Dear Washoe County Resident:

***Why this survey is important:***

The three neighboring Reno area park systems that includes Reno Parks and Recreation, Washoe County Parks and Recreation, and Sparks Parks and Recreation are conducting a *Parks and Recreation Service Plan Feasibility Study* to evaluate the potential for developing a single service district governance model for the region. This system-wide survey has questions related to establishing a service district. Your answers will be valuable to assist the leaders of all three existing park and recreation systems during evaluations and all aspects of the feasibility of forming a single park service district.

***Why your response matters:***

Your household is one of a limited number selected at random to receive the enclosed survey and share your thoughts about a single park service district. We appreciate your time and realize this survey will take approximately 10 – 12 minutes to complete, and whether you are an active user of any of the three park systems and their services or not, your answers will be one of the tools used to determine the viability of a Service District for parks and recreation in the region. Your responses to this survey will be combined with the results from focus group and stakeholder interviews that were recently conducted. These two methods will pull together valuable input from residents in Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County in a manner that reflects the recreational values and needs of the region. Your response to this survey will remain confidential and will be reported in group form only.

***What this survey will accomplish:***

Each question is important, and the time you invest in completing this survey will help the three park systems to ensure that community input is the foundation to the *Service District Plan Feasibility Study*. Please return your completed survey within the next two weeks using the enclosed postage-paid return-reply envelope addressed to the survey administration company; ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061. If you prefer to take the survey online, please visit [WashoeRegionalRecreationDistrictSurvey.org](http://WashoeRegionalRecreationDistrictSurvey.org). You may also call ETC Institute toll-free to complete the survey over the phone and in additional languages at 1-888-801-5368. If you have questions, please contact ETC Institute's project manager, Ryan Murray, [ryan.murray@etcinstitute.com](mailto:ryan.murray@etcinstitute.com) or 913-254-4598.

***At the end of this survey, you will have an opportunity to opt-in for a chance to win one (1) \$500 prepaid Visa gift card for fully completing your survey.***

The administration of Reno Parks and Recreation, Washoe County Parks, Sparks Parks and Recreation, their staff members, and the advisory committee for the *Parks and Recreation Service Plan Feasibility Study* are committed to taking an objective view of a potential new park service district. They appreciate your time and assistance by completing this survey. Thank you for sharing your thoughts and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Nathan Ulliyot, Director of Parks and Recreation: email [ullyotn@reno.gov](mailto:ullyotn@reno.gov) phone: 775-657-4653

Eric Crump, Washoe County Director of Community Services Dept: email [ECrump@WashoeCounty.gov](mailto:ECrump@WashoeCounty.gov) phone: 775-328-3625

Nancy O'Connor, CPRP | Sparks Parks and Recreation Director email [noconnor@cityofsparks.us](mailto:noconnor@cityofsparks.us) phone: 775.353.7836

Sincerely,

Nathan Ulliyot, Director  
City of Reno  
Parks and Recreation

Eric Crump, Director  
Washoe County  
Community Services

Nancy O'Connor, Director  
City of Sparks  
Parks and Recreation

# 2025 Parks and Recreation Service Plan Feasibility Study

This Parks and Recreation Service Plan Feasibility Study is to examine how the regional community and individual residents of the city of Sparks, the city of Reno, as well as Washoe County feel about establishing a future governance structure called a Parks Service District to combine these agencies into one overall park and recreation system.

The survey results will help leaders to establish a potential policy framework and funding for the level of collaboration the citizens would like to see between these parks and recreation agencies in the formation of a Parks Service District to support greater collaboration and consistency on how parks and recreation services are delivered to residents in the region.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey. Your input is an important part of an on-going effort to involve residents in long-range planning and investment decisions. You may also complete your survey online at [WashoeRegionalRecreationDistrictSurvey.org](http://WashoeRegionalRecreationDistrictSurvey.org). **At the end of this survey, you will have an opportunity to opt-in for a chance to win one (1) \$500 prepaid Visa gift card for fully completing your survey.** Thank you for your time!

- 1. Please rate the condition of the parks or recreation facilities that you have used in each of the following locations. If you have not used a park or recreation facilities offered in one of the locations listed, please circle 9 for "Have Not Used."**

Location	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Have Not Used
1. Washoe County	4	3	2	1	9
2. City of Reno	4	3	2	1	9
3. City of Sparks	4	3	2	1	9

- 2. Overall, how frequently do you use parks or recreation facilities in Reno, Sparks, or Washoe County?**

\_\_\_(5) Daily    \_\_\_(4) Weekly    \_\_\_(3) Monthly    \_\_\_(2) A few times per year    \_\_\_(1) Never

- 3. Do you believe that parks and recreation services are consistent across neighborhoods throughout the region?**

\_\_\_(1) Yes    \_\_\_(2) No    \_\_\_(9) Don't know/Not sure

- 4. Currently, WASHOE COUNTY spends approximately \$21.18 per resident per year on Parks and Open Space operations. Knowing this, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in Washoe County?**

\_\_\_(4) Very satisfied    \_\_\_(3) Satisfied    \_\_\_(2) Dissatisfied    \_\_\_(1) Very dissatisfied

- 5. Currently, the CITY OF RENO spends approximately \$53.17 per resident per year on Parks and Open Space operations. Knowing this, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in the City of Reno?**

\_\_\_(4) Very satisfied    \_\_\_(3) Satisfied    \_\_\_(2) Dissatisfied    \_\_\_(1) Very dissatisfied

- 6. Currently, the CITY OF SPARKS spends approximately \$42.33 per resident per year on Parks and Open Space operations. Knowing this, how satisfied are you with the value you receive for the taxes paid to support Parks and Open Space operations in the City of Sparks?**

\_\_\_(4) Very satisfied    \_\_\_(3) Satisfied    \_\_\_(2) Dissatisfied    \_\_\_(1) Very dissatisfied

- 7. How important is it to your quality of life that all residents in the region have equal access to quality parks and recreation opportunities?**

\_\_\_(4) Very important    \_\_\_(3) Important    \_\_\_(2) Not important    \_\_\_(1) Not at all important

**8. What types of recreational amenities do you and your family use MOST OFTEN? [Check ALL that apply.]**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) Multi-use paved trails (shared-use paths)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> (14) Pump track/BMX skills area                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) Natural-surface hiking/biking trails                          | <input type="checkbox"/> (15) Skatepark  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Trailheads with parking and restrooms                         | <input type="checkbox"/> (16) Outdoor fitness stations/obstacle course                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) Wayfinding/signage and mile markers                           | <input type="checkbox"/> (17) Aquatic facilities (lap pool/leisure pool/splash pad)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Picnic shelters and shade pavilions                           | <input type="checkbox"/> (18) Community recreation center/gymnasium                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Playground structures in parks                                | <input type="checkbox"/> (19) Equestrian trails/staging area                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Dog park/off-leash area                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> (20) Water access (boat launch, kayak/SUP launch, fishing pier)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Pickleball courts   | <input type="checkbox"/> (21) Winter recreation (sledding/snow-play hill or groomed paths) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (09) Tennis courts   | <input type="checkbox"/> (22) Community gardens  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (10) Indoor/outdoor courts<br>(volleyball, basketball, pickleball) | <input type="checkbox"/> (23) Natural play areas   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Truckee Riverfront  | <input type="checkbox"/> (24) Outdoor event spaces/amphitheaters                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Fields for baseball/softball/soccer/football                  | <input type="checkbox"/> (25) Climbing/bouldering areas (outdoor/indoor)                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Disc golf course  | <input type="checkbox"/> (26) None, we do not use any of these                             |

**9. From the following list, please CHECK ALL the organizations you or members of your household have used for the recreation amenities you indicated you use most often in Question 8. [Check ALL that apply.]**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (01) City of Reno                             | <input type="checkbox"/> (09) Libraries                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (02) City of Sparks                           | <input type="checkbox"/> (10) YMCA                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (03) Washoe County                            | <input type="checkbox"/> (11) Youth/private sports organizations       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (04) State of Nevada                          | <input type="checkbox"/> (12) Homeowners Associations (HOAs)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (05) Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management | <input type="checkbox"/> (13) Places of worship (synagogues, churches) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (06) Other nearby cities and counties         | <input type="checkbox"/> (14) Private schools/charter school           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (07) Private clubs (tennis, health, swim)     | <input type="checkbox"/> (15) Public schools                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (08) Private fitness facilities               |  |

**10. Do you believe a single Parks Service District, that serves the entire region, could improve the efficiency and quality of parks and recreation services in the community?**

- (1) Yes       (2) No       (9) Don't know/Not sure

**11. Listed below are several goals that could be achieved by creating a regional Parks Service District that would serve the City of Reno, City of Sparks, and Washoe County. Which THREE of the items below do you believe are MOST IMPORTANT? [Write in your responses using the numbers from the list below. For example, if your first choice is to 'Optimize workforce capacity and talent development' then write in '3' in the 1st Choice spot.]**

1. Expand and enhance access to parks, facilities, and programs
2. Improve quality and consistency of operations and maintenance
3. Optimize workforce capacity and talent development
4. Achieve cost savings and operational efficiencies
5. Strengthen regional identity, collaboration, and advocacy
6. Meet or exceed community expectations for quality of life and livability
7. Increase sustainable funding for parks and recreation maintenance and operations
8. Expand capital investment in park infrastructure and facilities
9. Ensure effective governance and strategic leadership

1st Choice: \_\_\_\_\_      2nd Choice: \_\_\_\_\_      3rd Choice: \_\_\_\_\_



**14. Listed below are several improvements that could be made to the region's parks and recreation offerings with the creation of a single Parks Service District. Which THREE improvements do you believe are MOST NEEDED in a parks and recreation facilities throughout the region? [Write in your responses using the numbers from the list below. For example, if your first choice is to 'Improve trail connectivity between neighborhoods and parks' then write in '3' in the 1st Choice spot.]**

- 01. Add lighting along trails and sports courts for evening use
- 02. Add more indoor community center space
- 03. Improve trail connectivity between neighborhoods and parks
- 04. Upgrade playgrounds to be inclusive and ADA-accessible
- 05. Add shade structures over playgrounds and seating areas
- 06. Increase restroom availability and maintenance
- 07. Expand parking and add safer pedestrian crossings
- 08. Install more benches, picnic tables, and trash/recycling receptacles
- 09. Add water fountains and bottle-filling stations along trails
- 10. Add more flat sports fields
- 11. Add more pickleball courts or convert underused tennis courts
- 12. Provide dog waste stations and fencing improvements at dog parks
- 13. Add public art, murals, or interpretive signage along trails
- 14. Enhance trailhead amenities with maps and informational kiosks
- 15. Add Wi-Fi access or charging stations at key facilities
- 16. Improve accessibility and wayfinding for people with disabilities
- 17. Add more and improve sports fields
- 18. Add more Truckee River recreational opportunities

1st Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

**15. What ONE change would you most like to see in how parks and recreation services are managed today?**

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**Demographics**

**16. How long have you lived in Washoe County?** \_\_\_\_\_ years

**17. What is your age?** \_\_\_\_\_ years

**18. How do you identify yourself?**

- \_\_\_\_(1) Male                      \_\_\_\_ (3) Prefer to self-describe: \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_(2) Female

**19. Are you or other members of your household of Hispanic or Latino ancestry?**

- \_\_\_\_(1) Yes      \_\_\_\_ (2) No

**20. Which of the following best describes your race/ethnicity? [Check all that apply.]**

- \_\_\_\_(01) Asian or Asian Indian                      \_\_\_\_ (04) White
- \_\_\_\_(02) Black or African American                      \_\_\_\_ (05) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- \_\_\_\_(03) American Indian or Alaska Native                      \_\_\_\_ (99) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**21. Do you own or rent your home?** \_\_\_\_ (1) Own      \_\_\_\_ (2) Rent

**22. What would you say your total annual household income is?**

- \_\_\_\_(1) Less than \$20,000                      \_\_\_\_ (4) \$60,000-\$79,999                      \_\_\_\_ (7) \$120,000 or more
- \_\_\_\_(2) \$20,000-\$39,999                      \_\_\_\_ (5) \$80,000-\$99,999
- \_\_\_\_(3) \$40,000-\$59,999                      \_\_\_\_ (6) \$100,000-\$119,999

**23. Are you registered to vote in Washoe County?**

\_\_\_\_(1) Yes [Answer Q23a.]      \_\_\_\_ (2) No

**23a. Did you vote in the most recent municipal and/or county election?**

\_\_\_\_(1) Yes      \_\_\_\_ (2) No

**24. OPTIONAL: Would you like to be entered for a chance to win one (1) prepaid \$500 Visa Gift Card? The gift card will be sent via email and is limited to one entry per household.**

\_\_\_\_(1) Yes [Answer Q24a.]      \_\_\_\_ (2) No [End Survey.]

**24a. Please provide your contact information.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**This concludes the survey. Thank you for your time!**  
Please return your completed survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope addressed to:  
ETC Institute, 725 W. Frontier Circle, Olathe, KS 66061

Your responses will remain completely confidential. The information printed to the right will ONLY be used to help identify which areas of the City are having problems with City services. If your address is not correct, please provide the correct information. Thank you.