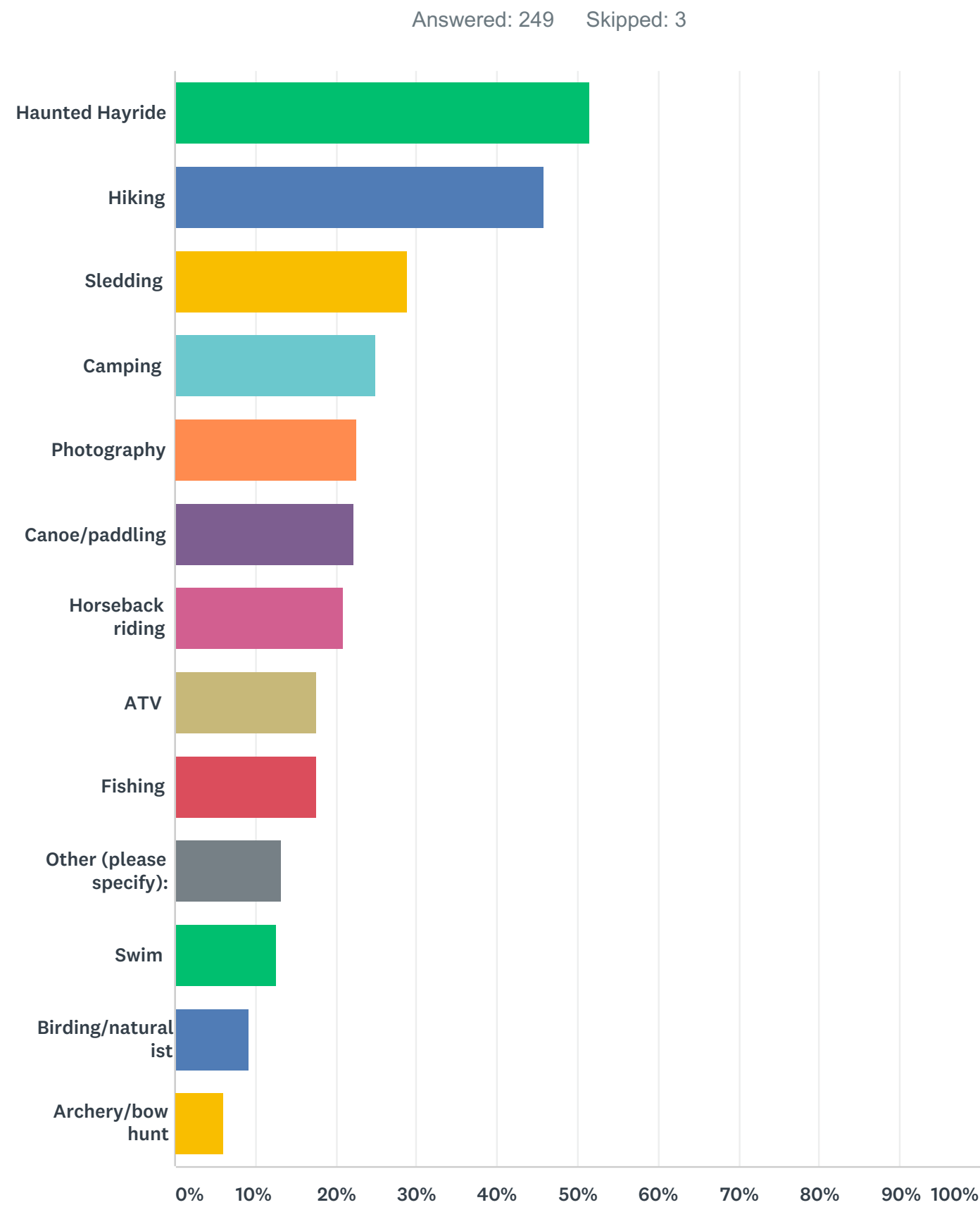
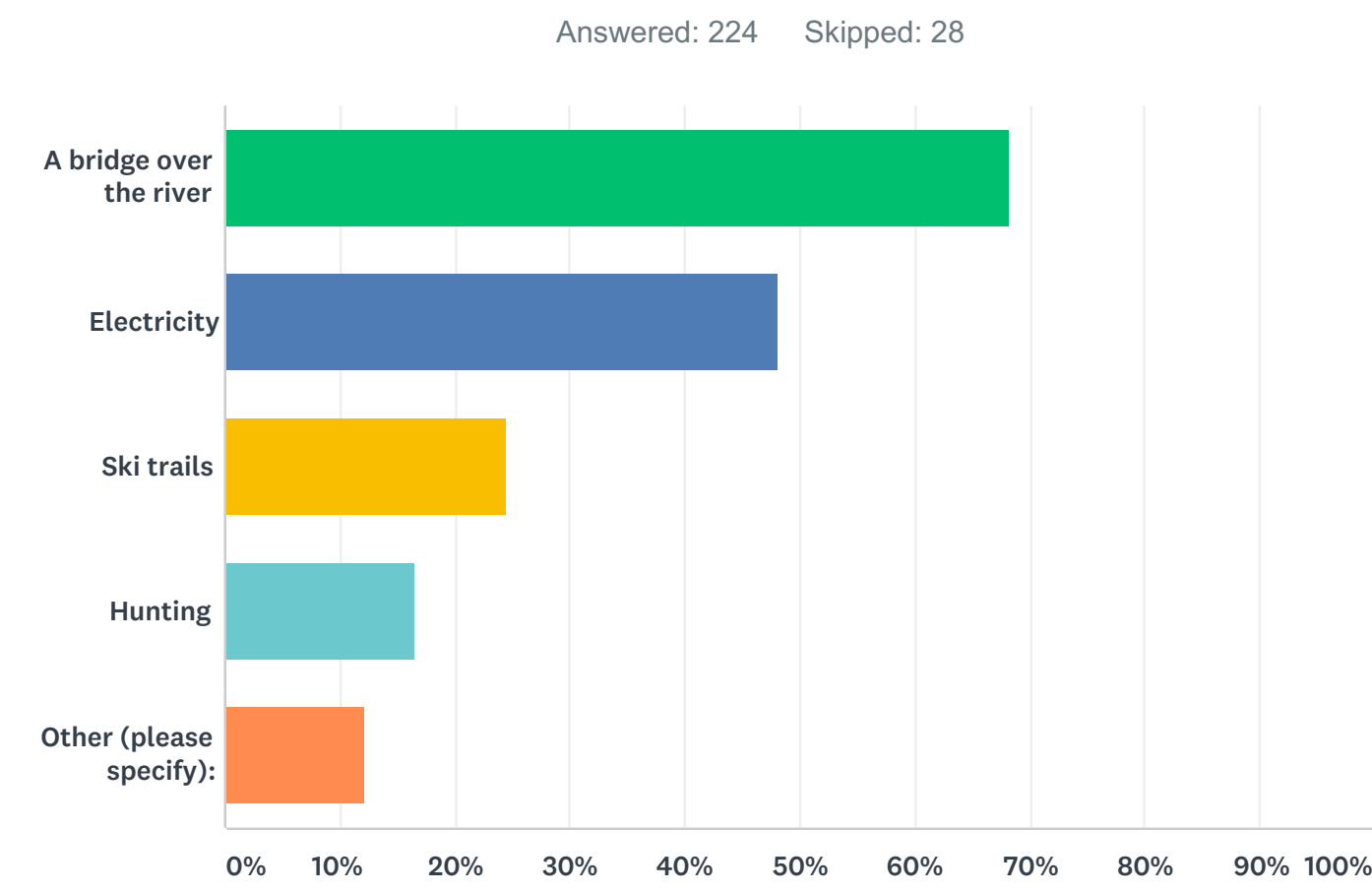


# SURVEY RESPONSES

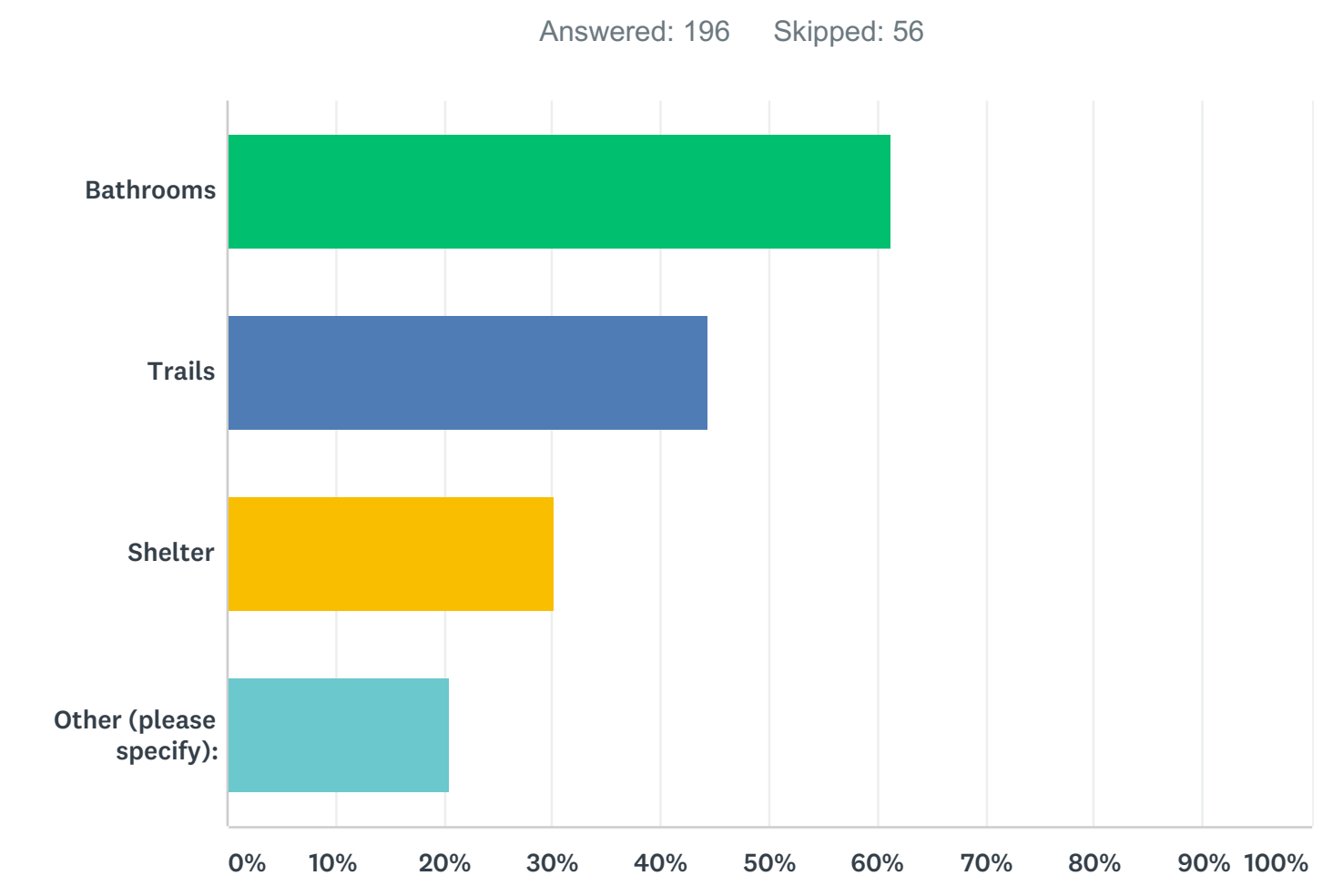
## What do you do at the park?



## What additional amenities would you like to see at the park?



## What should be improved at the park?



## COMMON THEMES, TRENDS, AND VALUES OF THE PUBLIC

Comments were that the park is rustic and peaceful. Feedback was to make the park more accessible, enhance what is there, and to add amenities sparingly.

## IDENTIFY THE DEMAND

Users are currently all ages. They hike, horseback ride, run, canoe and use ATVs. They want a bridge, electricity, bathrooms and better trails. Hiking and the Haunted Hayride were the highest use in the park.

## PRIORITIES

- Keep people safe
- Enhance visitor experience
- Make the park accessible to the public
- Signage
- Trail improvements, especially for runners.
- Clarify usage of the mixed uses of the park - ATV, horses, humans.
- Reduce invasive species.
- The park should be attractive to those who will take good care of it.

## MISSION STATEMENT

“

*The Lac qui Parle County Park: preserving a rich heritage while educating today's generation and conserving substantial pristine natural resources for future generations.*

”

## GOALS (WHAT WE'VE HEARD)

- 1.** ACCESS: Make the park more accessible to visitors by strengthening the connections between the North and South side of the park, designating trail use, and implementing way finding.
- 2.** ECOLOGY: Protect and reduce impacts to existing ecological assets while improving degraded habitat and restoring ecological function.
- 3.** AMENITIES: Improve park facilities to expand uses in the park, promote year around use, and attract visitors that won't abuse it.

## GREATER MINNESOTA REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

### **Regional Parks Must:**

1. Provide settings with high quality natural resources;
2. Offer outdoor recreation facilities and activities that are primarily natural resource based;
3. Offer evidence that the park serves at least a regional clientele (currently or potentially).

### **Master Plan Requirements:**

- A master plan is required for a park or trail to receive formal regional designation. (and funding)
- Having a Master Plan is vital to affirming that a park or trail is well-vetted, regionally significant and merits formal regional designation.
- Ensures that the applicant understands its own obligations and responsibilities, especially for funding, ongoing operations, maintenance and programming.

**We need to answer: What makes this park a place that people will want to go to time and again?**

### **Master Plan Content**

- Vision statement
- Trends – demographic demand and recreational trends
- Values – public health, economic and tourism, interest groups, define resolutions of conflict
- Development master plan – the proposed design features with a site plan
- Ecological/land resources plan – describe natural and land resources, and the strategy for protection
- Implementation, management, and sustainability plan – priorities, costs projections, and maintenance.
- Programming plan – detail programs and who will do the programming

# 1. ACCESS

Develop trails in areas already influenced by human activity.

Connect north and south side of park.

Ensure that trails remain sustainable.

Create a looped trail network with varied difficulties.

Separate trail uses where user conflicts could occur

Create ADA accessible loops.

Develop clear wayfinding on site.

Provide access to remote areas of the park.

# 2. ECOLOGY

Remove and restore undesirable trail locations to their appropriate biotic communities.

Route trails to bisect ecotones to limit disturbance, avoid erosive ridge-top locations, and provide low-impact stream crossings that supports in-stream habitat.

Utilize boardwalks, raised trails, and other topologies that respond to sensitive vegetation and reduce erosion.

Stabilize stream bank erosion by restoring shoreline plant communities and using bio-engineering interventions on severe cutbanks.

Provide and restore 100' buffers along riparian zones to reduce overland flows and provide upstream stormwater catchment in an effort to reduce nutrient flow, sedimentation, and promote infiltration.

Remove invasive species and enhance existing native communities to support wildlife habitat and functioning plant communities shoreline, woodland, and upland zones

Restore prairie habitat in open fields to support soil health & reduce overland flow, support grassland birds and pollinator habitat , and support native haying activities

Limit development activities in floodplains, sensitive ecological areas, and provide instream-interventions that support in-stream habitat

Introduce management regimes to regularly monitor and manage invasive species, and support long-term native plant establishment

# 3. AMENITIES

Promote year round use by providing facilities that can be heated in the winter.

Provide facilities that do not require staffing.

Consider the maintenance of proposed improvements and sustainable funding.

Park amenities should highlight cultural and environmental resources while providing an opportunity for education/interpretation.

Developed areas should avoid flood prone and ecologically sensitive areas.