



2020 HRA Community Survey Results Report

In January 2020, the Board of the Holmes Run Acres Civic Association (HRACA) established the Holmes Run Acres Community Survey Committee. Its purpose was to conduct a survey of all adult Holmes Run Acres (HRA) residents to gather some basic demographic information about the community and to obtain information about the areas of concerns for the community in order to establish some priorities for the Board of the HRACA to address.

Over the course of several months the Committee, with feedback from the Board, created a community survey that was distributed in the fall of 2020 to all households in HRA. This was accomplished by including two copies of the community survey with the Fall HRACA membership drive materials that were given to all 351 households in HRA. Residents were also given the option to submit their survey online using SurveyMonkey.

By the end of October 2020, a total of 273 responses were received. In person follow-up to collect more community surveys was unfortunately not possible because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of responses reflect surveys submitted by individual adults residing in HRA, as opposed to whole households. Unfortunately, the Board of the HRACA does not have an accurate count of all the adults living in HRA. If we were to calculate a return percentage we would use the total number of surveys that were distributed: 702 (351 households x 2). Based on that number, the community survey had a 38.9% response rate.

For comparison in some areas, this report will utilize data that was gathered in a 1997 community survey. While that survey gathered slightly different information, there are some common areas with the 2020 survey that could prove insightful. What follows is a summary of the data gathered.

In the two principal areas of concern for the neighborhood, the Board had already taken certain steps to mitigate them:

- **Traffic** - A Traffic Calming Task Force was created to determine the best ways to mitigate speeding and promote safe driving in the Acres
- **Development** - The Friends of HRA Ad Hoc committee was formed to help preserve the uniquely built and natural character of HRA through various means, including connecting Mid-Century Modern sellers with Mid-Century Modern buyers, intervening when possible to stay tear-downs, and through the pursuit of a possible Historic Overlay District for HRA.

In other areas of concern, the Board will examine what steps it can take to help it address them:

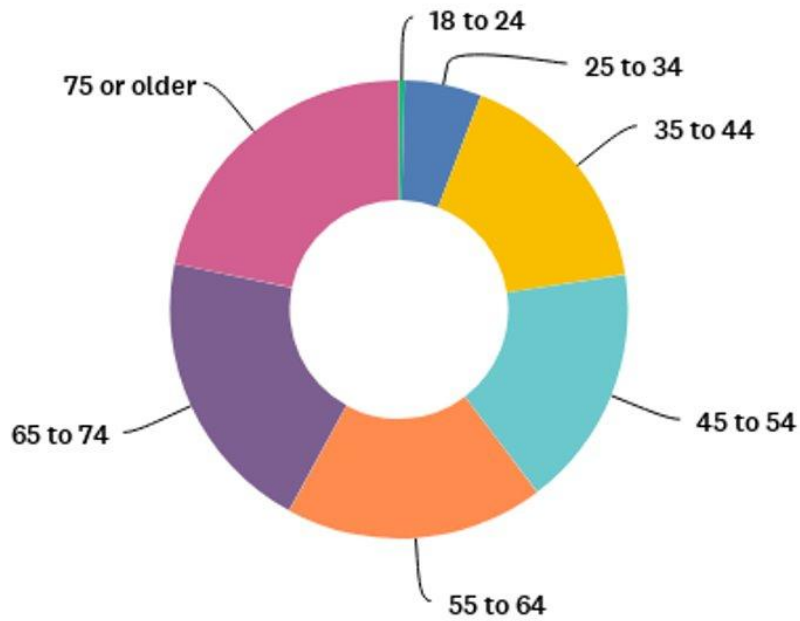
- **Noise** - While the HRACA is extremely limited in its capacity to address noise issues in the neighborhood, it can do more promotion of existing noise ordinances in Fairfax County as well as possibly suggest quiet times during the week to help minimize the noises we as neighbors can control, such as the use of leaf blowers.
- **Luria Park** - Connect with the Fairfax County park Authority to work on improvements in regards to drainage and maintenance of the natural surrounds, as well as examine what additional amenities in the park might be feasible.

Looking ahead, the Committee recommends that a community survey be conducted approximately every 10 years to serve as a tool to assist the Board of the HRACA in focusing its priorities on the needs and concerns of the community.

2020 HRA Community Survey Committee Members:

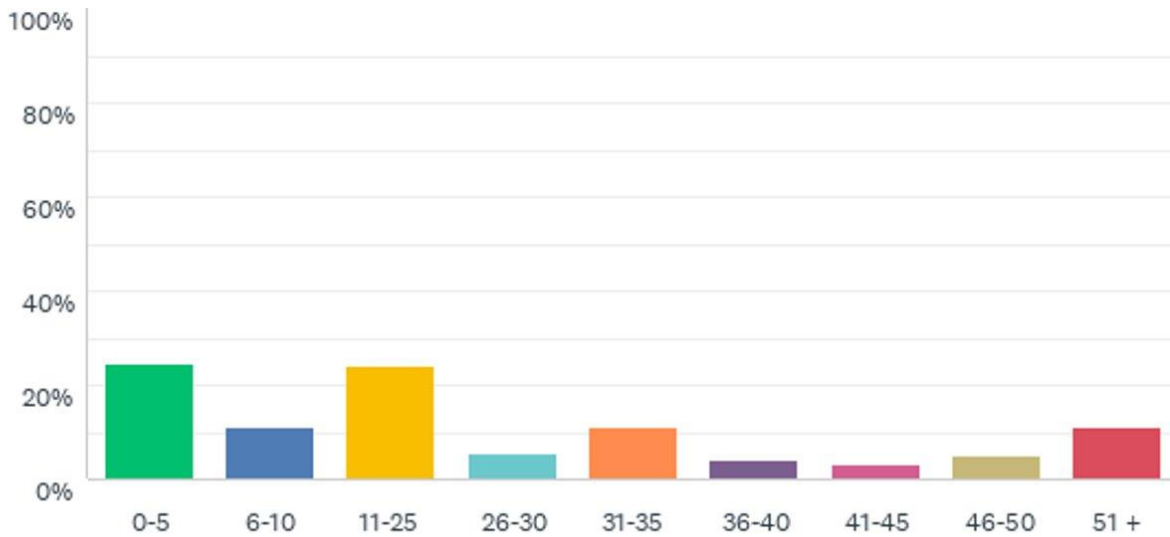
- Rob Davis
- Keith Gardiner
- Mia Gardiner
- Kerry MacQuarrie
- Mitch Toda

Ages of HRA Residents (257 Answered, 16 Skipped):



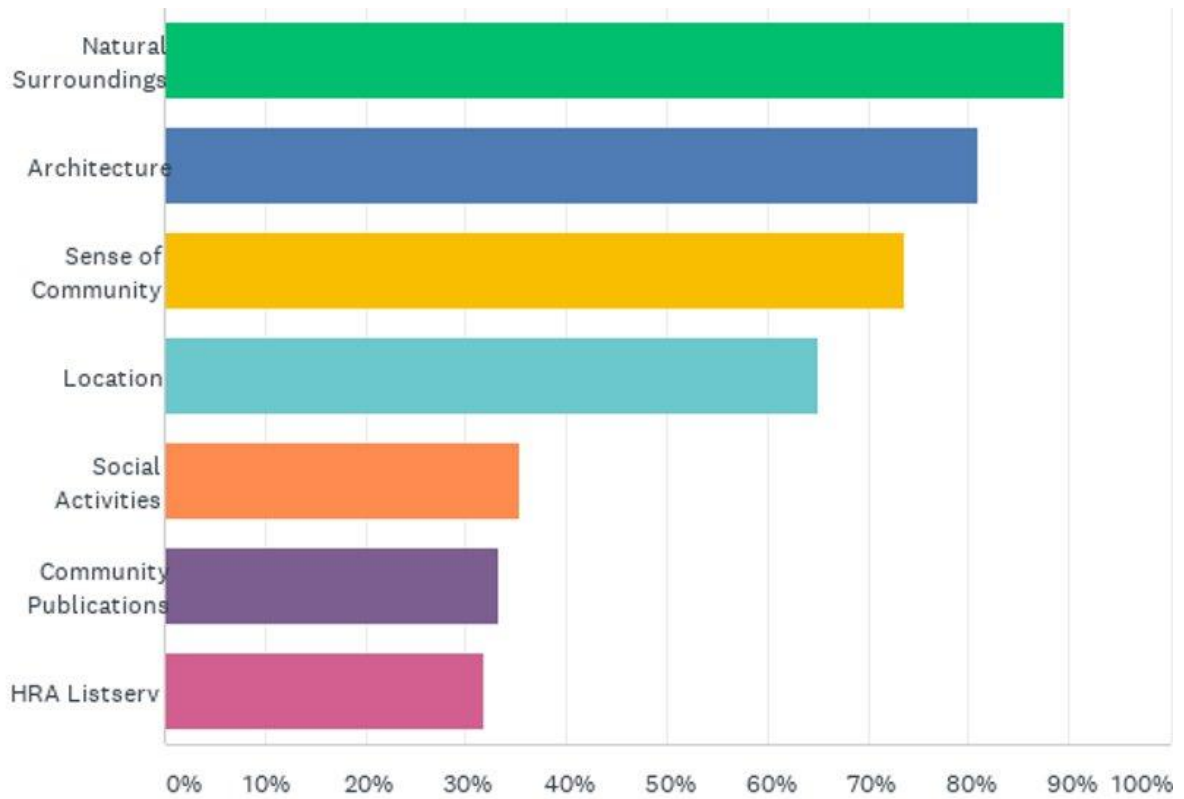
Age range	Percent	Number of Responses
18 to 24	0.39%	1
25 to 34	5.45%	14
35 to 44	16.73%	43
45 to 54	17.12%	44
55 to 64	18.29%	47
65 to 74	20.23%	52
75 or older	21.79%	56

Length of Residence in HRA (261 Answered, 12 Skipped)



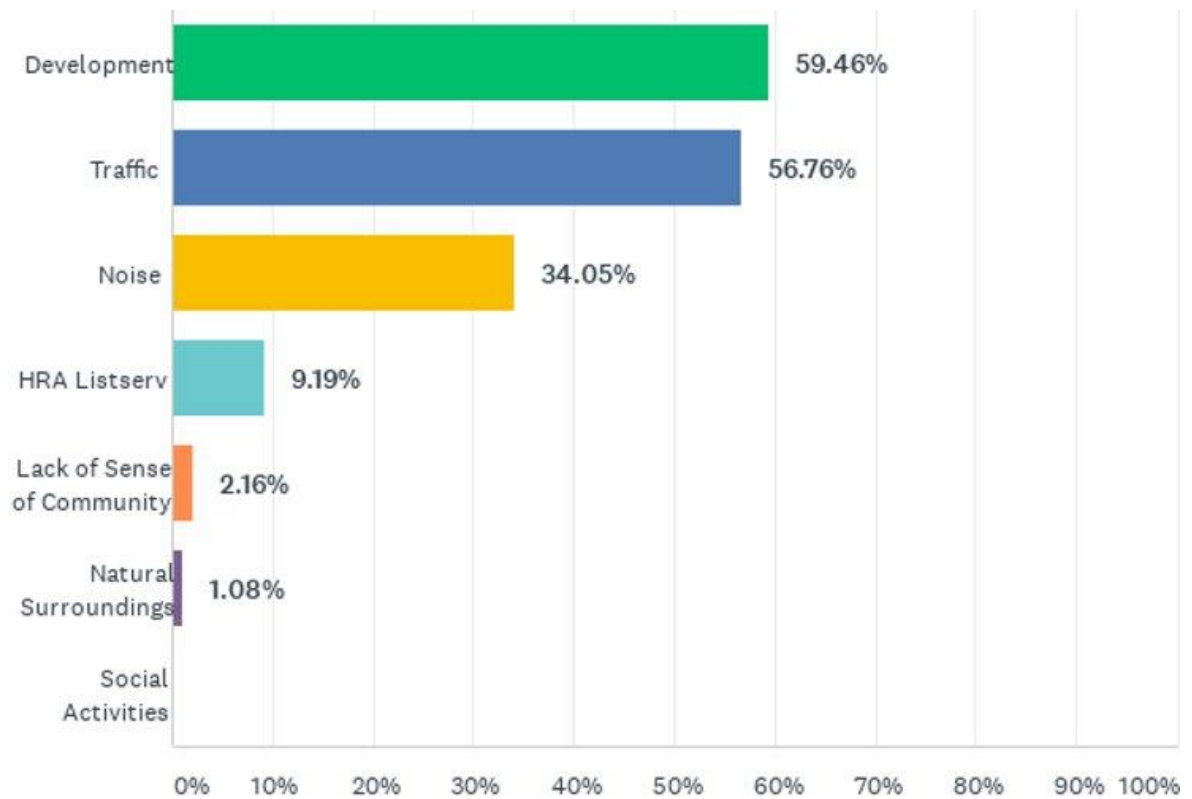
Length of Residence (in years)	Percentage	Number of responses
0-5	24.52%	64
6-10	11.11%	29
11-25	24.14%	63
26-30	5.75%	15
31-35	11.11%	29
36-40	4.21%	11
41-45	3.45%	9
46-50	4.98%	13
50+	11.11%	29

What do you like the best about living in HRA? (258 Answered, 15 Skipped)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Natural Surroundings	89.53%	231
Architecture	81.01%	209
Sense of Community	73.64%	190
Location	65.12%	168
Social Activities	35.27%	91
Community Publications	33.33%	86
HRA Listserv	31.78%	82
Total Respondents: 258		

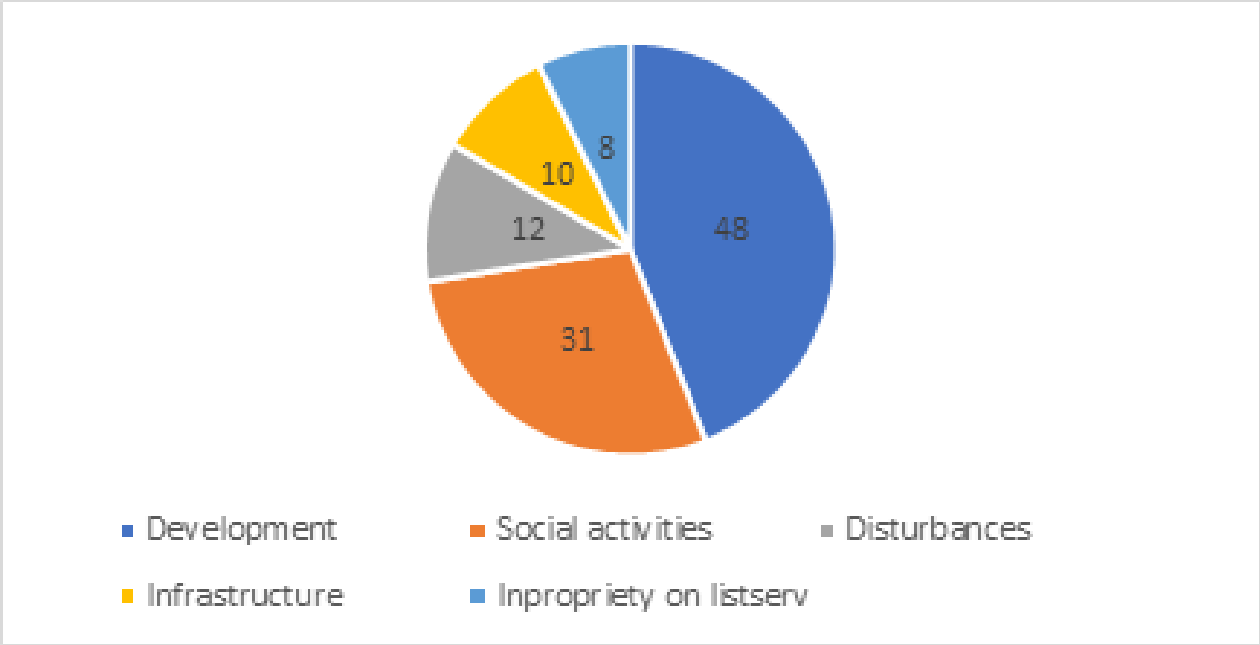
What do you see as a problem in HRA? (185 Answered, 88 Skipped)



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Development	59.46%	110
Traffic	56.76%	105
Noise	34.05%	63
HRA Listserv	9.19%	17
Lack of Sense of Community	2.16%	4
Natural Surroundings	1.08%	2
Social Activities	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 185		

What community activities, concerns, or issues are most important to you as a homeowner in Holmes Run Acres? (139 Answered, 134 Skipped)

By far the most frequently mentioned community topic was development, mentioned by 48 respondents. People were concerned about preserving the architecture and character of the neighborhood and encroaching development. The next most common category of response (n=31) was appreciation for the social and activities and cohesion of the neighborhood. A number of these respondents mentioned activities for children as well as formal and informal social events in the neighborhood. Some respondents (n=12) complained about disturbances in the neighborhood either because of speeding cars or noise from cars, helicopters, or leaf blowers. Others (n=10) complained about infrastructure issues – poor road conditions or problems caused by above-ground power lines. Still others (n=8) had complaints about inappropriate behavior on the listserv (although a few people named the listserv as one of the positive things about the neighborhood).



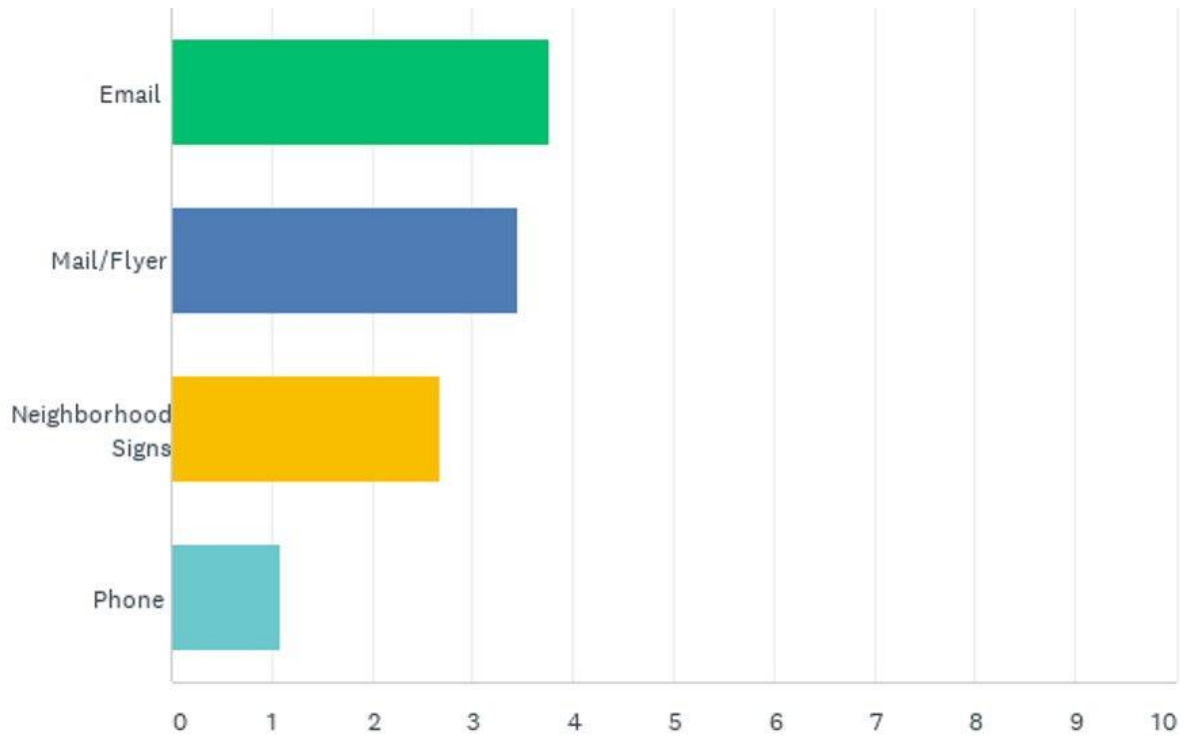
Are there upgrades or enhanced amenities you would like to see in Luria Park?

(117 Answered, 156 Skipped)

The answers to the questions about the park revealed a split in the neighborhood. The most common category of response (n=44) was to add improvements to the park. These ranged from tennis courts to a gazebo to dog runs, but the most common improvement was simply adding more benches or more shaded places to sit. In contrast, 31 respondents wanted the park to remain as is or be made even more “natural” by adding more trees in the grassy circle. Moreover, it is likely that a good number of the 156 people who took the survey and skipped this item were also happy with the status quo. Two other frequently mentioned responses were better management of the vegetation (n=15) – removing dead trees, more regular mowing of the grass - and improving drainage (n=12). Maybe there’s a way to “keep the park natural” yet still add small amenities like more places to sit or picnic that also have shade.

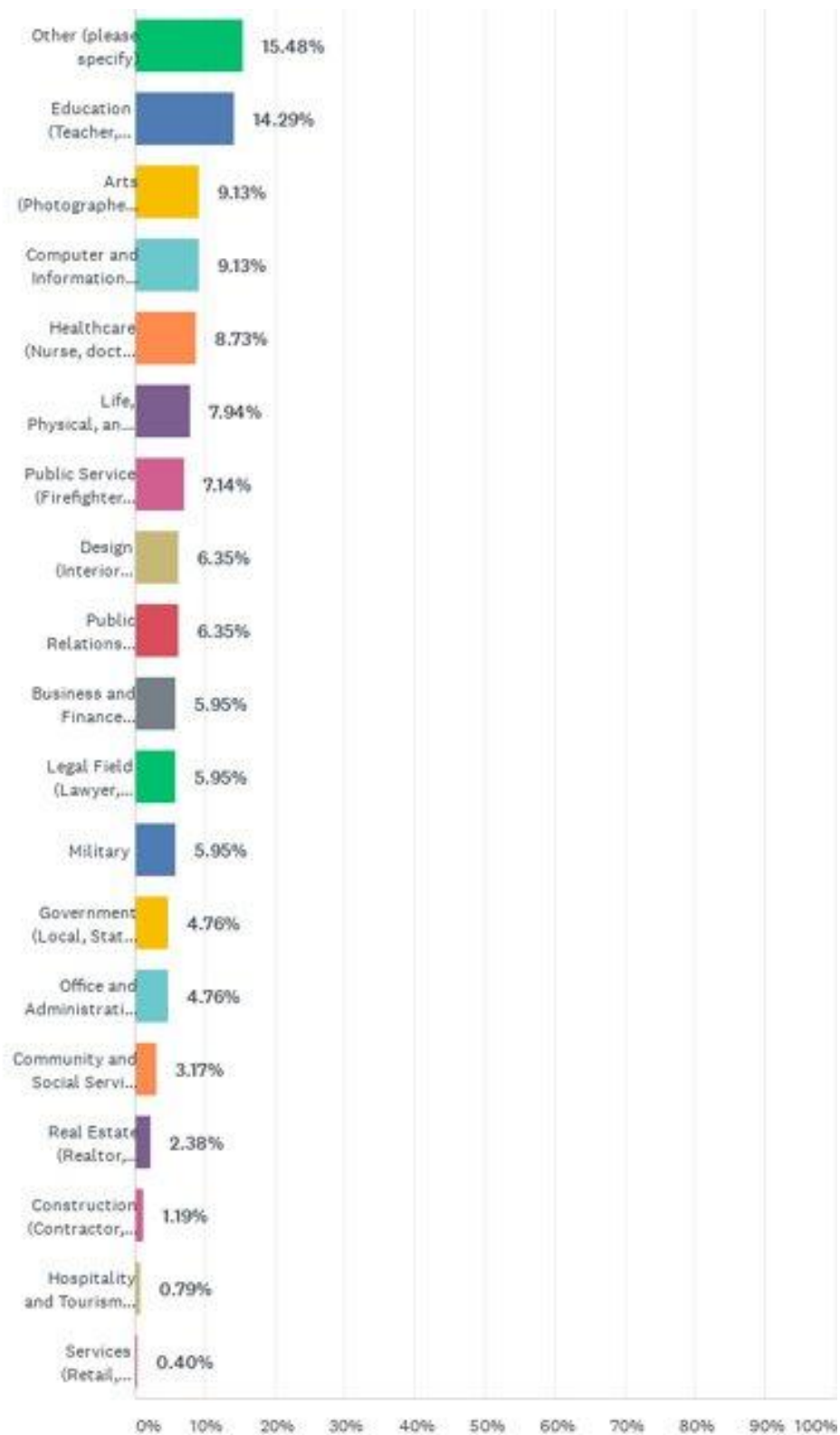
Add Improvements	Remain natural	Better Management	Improve Drainage
Seating with shade	Keep it natural and undeveloped	The "natural" areas that have been planted are overgrown messes.	Drainage of paved track
Fenced off-leash dog area	Remove all man-made items except paths, benches and bridge	Dead trees need to be cut down	Better drainage so that the lawn/field can be better utilized
Exercise stations around the periphery of the park	Take the backstop gate down	Better mowing	The field has major drainage issues
Better playground	Keep it natural!	Landscaping needs more maintenance	
Community garden	Trees inside the big circle	Trash cans at the park entrances	
A village gazebo for concerts			

How would you like information about HRA and HRACA activities/actions conveyed to you? (250 Answered, 23 Skipped)



	1	2	3	4	TOTAL	SCORE
Email	78.37% 163	20.19% 42	1.44% 3	0.00% 0	208	3.77
Mail/Flyer	64.57% 82	18.11% 23	15.75% 20	1.57% 2	127	3.46
Neighborhood Signs	3.88% 4	59.22% 61	36.89% 38	0.00% 0	103	2.67
Phone	0.00% 0	2.08% 1	4.17% 2	93.75% 45	48	1.08

Profession (252 Answered, 21 Skipped)

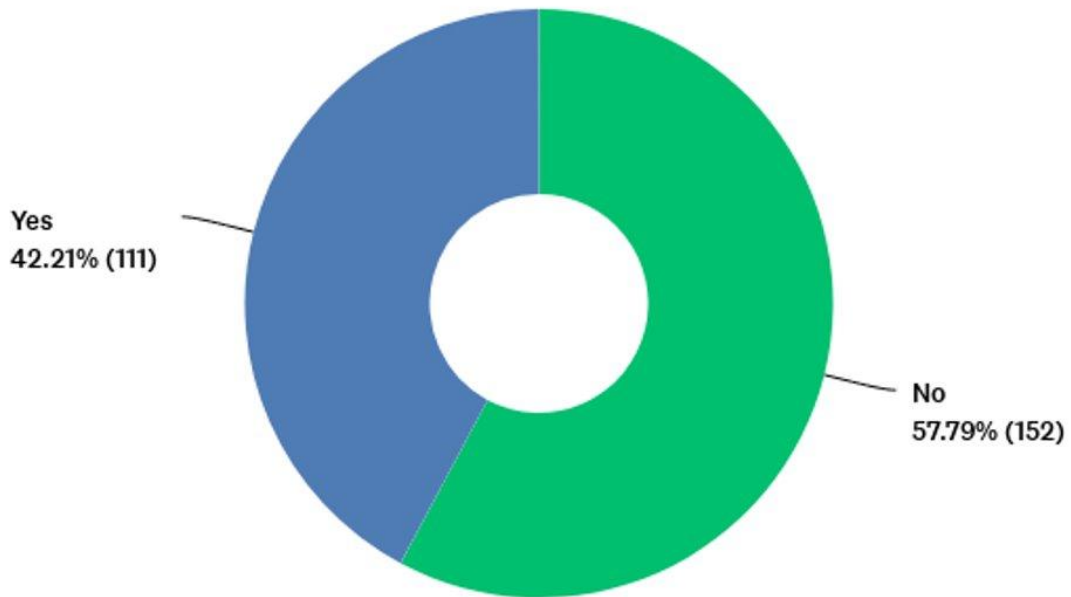


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Other (please specify)	15.48%	39
Education (Teacher, principal, counselor, tutor, student, etc.)	14.29%	36
Arts (Photographer, painter, ceramicist, sculptor, musician, etc.)	9.13%	23
Computer and Information Technology (Computer scientist, software developer, software programmer, data analyst, etc.)	9.13%	23
Healthcare (Nurse, doctor, pharmacist, veterinarian, EMT, dentist, psychiatrist, orthodontist, etc.)	8.73%	22
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations (Chemist, geologist, zoologist, physicist, engineer, researcher, public policy, public health, etc.)	7.94%	20
Public Service (Firefighter, police officer, parole officer, emergency response, utilities, librarian, politician, etc.)	7.14%	18
Design (Interior designer, landscape architect, architect, graphic designer, industrial designer, etc.)	6.35%	16
Public Relations (Marketing, advertising, speech writer, etc.)	6.35%	16
Business and Finance (Financial advisor, banking, accounting, etc.)	5.95%	15
Legal Field (Lawyer, paralegal, judge, lobbyist, etc.)	5.95%	15
Military	5.95%	15
Government (Local, State, or Federal)	4.76%	12
Office and Administrative Support (Administrative officers, management support assistant, human resources, etc.)	4.76%	12
Community and Social Services (Childcare, Social worker, therapist, behavioral health manager, crisis intervention specialist, etc.)	3.17%	8
Real Estate (Realtor, appraiser, home inspector, etc.)	2.38%	6
Construction (Contractor, electrician, plumber, carpenter, roofer, painter, etc.)	1.19%	3
Hospitality and Tourism (Hotel manager, concierge, tour leader, travel agent, etc.)	0.79%	2
Services (Retail, restaurant, store, automotive mechanic, etc.)	0.40%	1
Total Respondents: 252		

Other Profession - Responses:

Airline	Publications	Digital Media Production	Stay at home mom	Nonprofit manager
Television - Technical	Horticulture - Volunteer	Journalist	Federal grants manager	Economist with federal government
Foreign Service	Chef	Transportation	Librarian	Researcher
Editor - U.S. Public Health Service	U. S. Department of Education - Budget	Program management	Legal Interpreting and translation	Public policy research
Medical spa supervisor	Consulting	Data center engineer	Conservator at a museum	Aviation
Defense	Professional graphics designer/ illustration	Aerospace engineer	Health insurance executive	Agricultural worker
Event producer and ux designer	Sales representative			

Are you retired? (263 Answered, 10 Skipped)



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
No		57.79%	152
Yes		42.21%	111
TOTAL			263

Comparable Data from the 1997 HRA Community Survey:

Table 1. Age Distribution

Age Group	Number	Percent
19	2	0.5
20-29	8	2
30-39	58	15
40-49	88	23
50-59	98	26
60-69	43	11
70-79	39	10
80-89	19	5
90-99	1	0.3
No Response	28	7
TOTAL	384	

In looking at the age data from 1997, the age ranges from 40-49 and 50-59 have the largest number of responses, 23% and 26% of the total respectively. In 2020, the age ranges that make up the largest percentages of respondents are from 65-74 and 75 or older, 20.23% and 21.79% of the total respectively. This would track with those same residents from 1997 who remained in HRA some 23 years later.

Table 6. Year Adult Residents Moved to HRA

Year Moved	Number	Percent
1950-1959	46	13
1960-1969	54	15
1970-1979	62	17
1980-1989	91	26
1990-1997	103	29
TOTAL	356	

The length of time residents lived in HRA seems to trend the same with the data from 1997, with the largest percentages of respondents having lived in HRA for shorter periods of time.

Table 12. Positive Attributes of Life in Holmes Run Acres

Attribute	Number	Attribute	Number
Neighbors	129	Location	109
Architecture	82	Trees	72
Community	70	Quiet	40
Ecology	29	Landscaping	25
Safety	20	Park	19
Property values	18	Activities	17
Privacy	15	HRACA Board	13
Pool	13	Family life	10
School	9	<i>The Holmes Runner</i>	7
Lot size	5	No covenants	3
Other	29		
		Total Comments	734

From 1997, the top three identified positive attributes of living in HRA were:

- Neighbors
- Location
- Architecture

In 2020, the top three things respondents liked best about living in HRA were:

- Natural surroundings
- Architecture
- Sense of Community

Table 13. Negative Attributes of Life in Holmes Run Acres

Attribute	Number of Responses	Attribute	Number of Responses
Speeding	43	Properties not maintained	33
Incompatible additions	26	Traffic	25
Rapid development/land use	21	Dog excrement	20
Traffic noise	17	Safety	16
Crime	14	Park maintenance	14
Parking	13	Home design flaws	13
Property values	12	Noisy neighbors	9
Need traffic light at Gallows	8	Improve <i>Runner</i>	7
Air traffic	7	Lengthy incomplete construction	6
Road maintenance	5	Lack of sidewalks	5
Dogs off lead	5	Barking dogs	4
Stray cats	4	Unfriendly neighbors	4
Entrance sign maintenance	2	Other	68
Noisy neighbors	9		
		Total Comments	409

From 1997, the top three identified negative attributes of living in HRA were:

- Speeding
- Properties not maintained
- Incompatible additions

In 2020, the top three areas respondents identified as a problems in HRA were:

- Development
- Traffic
- Noise

Table 5. Occupation

Occupation	Number	Percent	Occupation	Number	Percent
Administrative/management	42	15	Educator	19	7
Computer	16	6	Sales	16	6
Analyst	15	5	Attorney	14	5
Homemaker	13	5	Artist	10	4
Engineer	10	4	Administrative Assistant	9	3
Medical Profession	8	3	Office worker	8	3
Small Business Owner	8	3	Accountant	6	2
Accountant	6	2	Consultant	6	2
Consultant	6	2	Government employee	6	2
Real estate	6	2	Counselor	5	2
Student	5	2	Architect	4	2
Librarian	4	2	Photographer	4	2
Scientist	4	2	Writer/editor	4	2
Construction	3	1	Insurance	3	1
Medical assistant	3	1	Economist	2	1
File clerk	2	1	Public safety	2	1
Volunteer	1	0.4	Other	17	6
			TOTAL	275	

In looking at the data from both 1997 and 2020, there are a wide variety of occupations held by those who live in HRA. The percentage of those in the fields of education and computer/information technology remain high.