

Thompson Falls Community Survey

Tuesday, July 22, 2025



96

Total Responses

Date Created: Wednesday, May
28, 2025

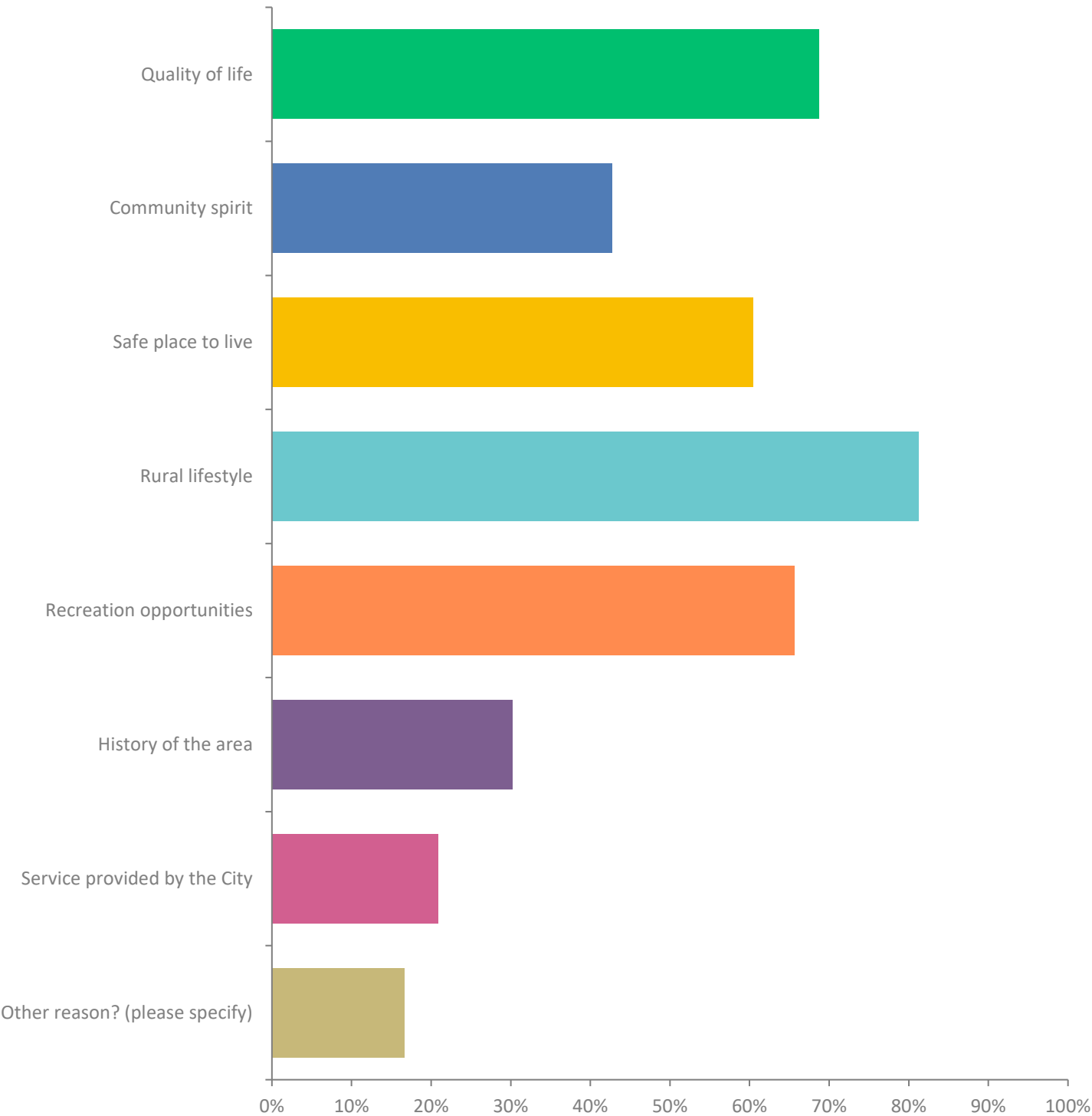
Complete Responses: 96



The following are results of the Thompson Falls Community Survey. These results will assist the City in facilitating the City's Growth Policy update, as well as guide the development of the goals, objectives, and actions within the Growth Policy.

Question 1: What do you like about living in Thompson Falls? Check all that apply.

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



Question 1: What do you like about living in Thompson Falls? Other

Answered: 16

- My mom doesn't know where I am
- It is really nice and calm here with beautiful scenery
- peacefulness the hunting and fishing in the mountains with dirt roads. The minimal stores and restaurants. Love the small town vibe.
- Our Friends
- Small town attitude - dirt roads are ok, people park on the wrong side or wrong way on a street and its okay. And you have great neighbors.
- A peaceful quiet place to live.
- The beauty of the area (NW Montana)
- The beauty surrounding us.
- People are so kind
- Proximity to 3 airports (Missoula, Kalispell, Spokane)
- The opportunity to personally know the people and businesses.
- Quiet life along the Clark Fork
- Soul healing beauty
- Away from the WOKE politics of California
- Wonderful climate and scenery
- close to family

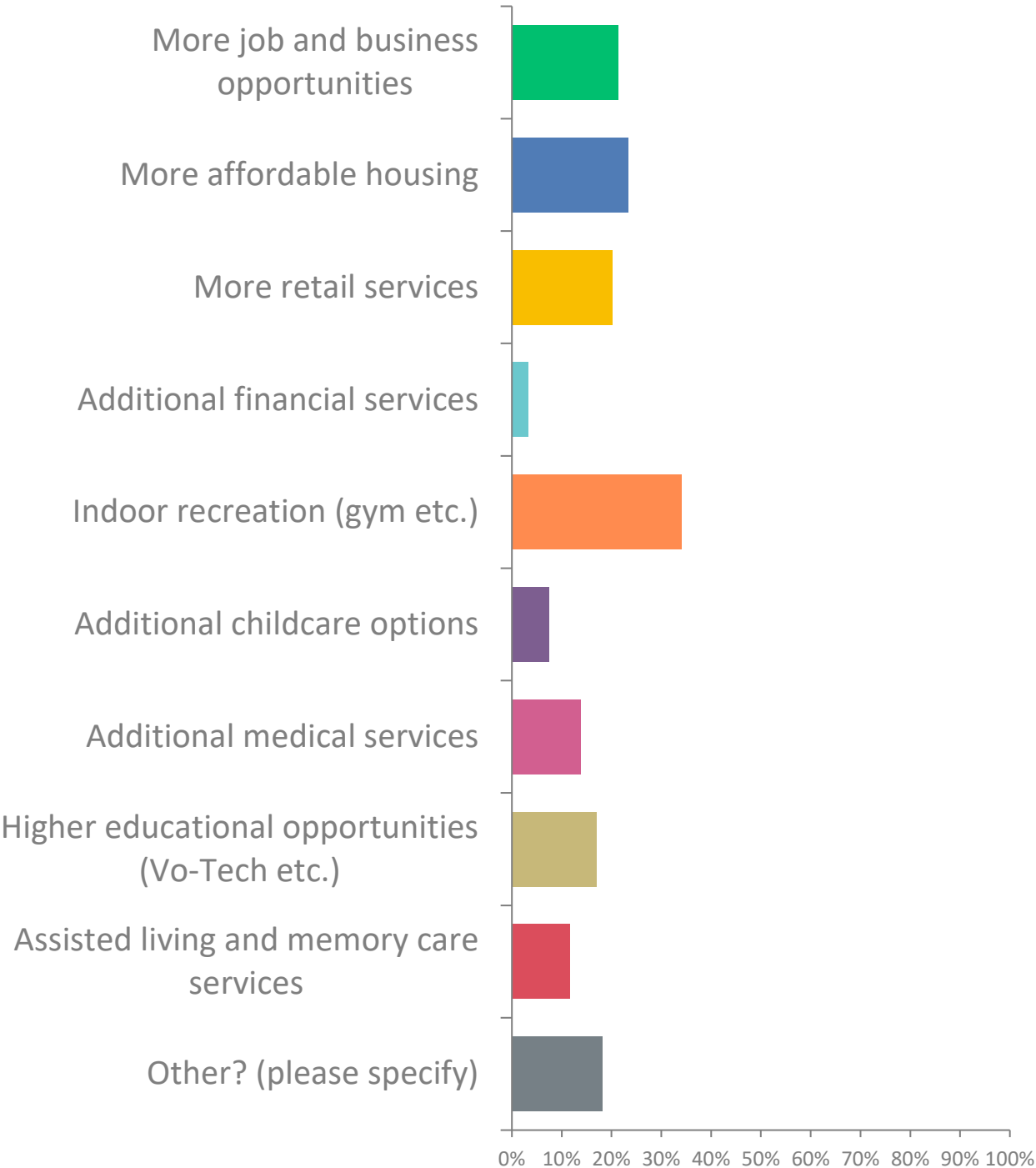
Question 1: What do you like about living in Thompson Falls? Check all that apply.

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Quality of life	68.75%	66
Community spirit	42.71%	41
Safe place to live	60.42%	58
Rural lifestyle	81.25%	78
Recreation opportunities	65.62%	63
History of the area	30.21%	29
Service provided by the City	20.83%	20
Other reason? (please specify)	16.67%	16
TOTAL		371

Question 2: What is the single most important thing that would make living in the City better for you? Please select one of the following.

Answered: 94 Skipped: 2



Question 2: What is the single most important thing that would make living in the City better for you? Other

Answered: 17

- More free money
- Fast Food
- Swimming spots
- More affordable of everything
- The softening of the lights, the jake brakes in town and fast trains/loud horns in the middle of the night
- Ask every resident homeowner if they would like the law to say they can do what they want on their property without permits if it doesn't encroach on someone else's property
- I would like to be part of a fair election to be able to elect mayor, city council representatives and major changes to the city such as sewer and water projects, zoning changes instead of the city council appointing their own choice of individuals. If someone drops out then the interim member only has to complete the term and then the public election chooses.
- I would like to see a fair election process to elect a mayor, city council, representatives plus major issues in the City i.e. sewer and water projects, zoning changes instead of the city council appointing their own choice of candidates! If someone drops out then the interim member completes the term. Then public election chooses. A successful city manager to help run the city appropriately and successfully.
- Lower taxes
- Strict enforcement of speed limit in city limits & esp. ele. school area.
- Closer to various specific medical services.
- Pave the streets!!!!
- Go back in time when people were not trying to change things
- Trails and recreation, and keeping neighborhoods intact (no tiny homes or trailers squeezed onto existing lots with houses),
- More business friendly
- Improve appearance of the city
- Recroom

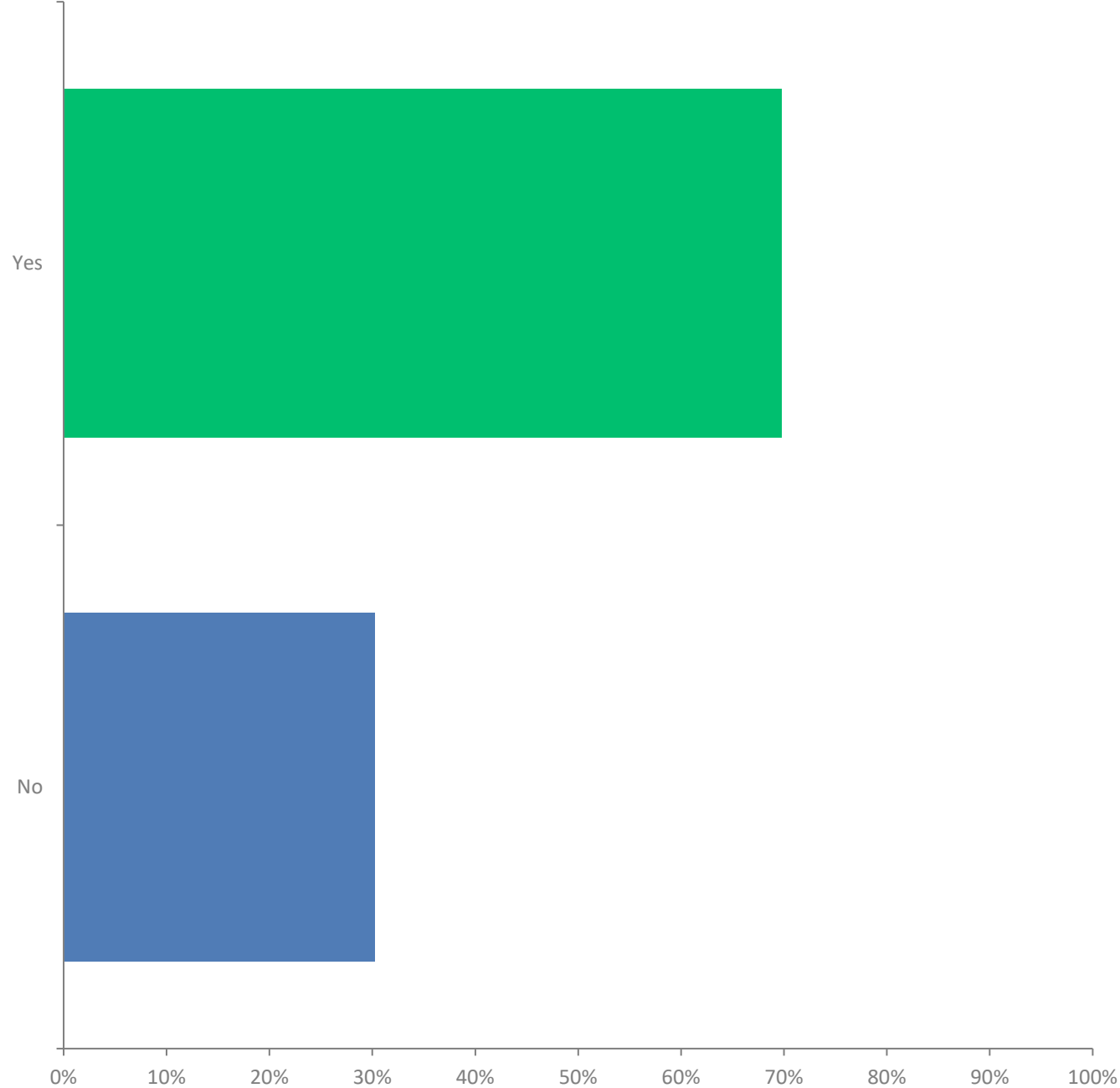
Question 2: What is the single most important thing that would make living in the City better for you? Please select one of the following.

Answered: 94 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
More job and business opportunities	21.28%	20
More affordable housing	23.40%	22
More retail services	20.21%	19
Additional financial services	3.19%	3
Indoor recreation (gym etc.)	34.04%	32
Additional childcare options	7.45%	7
Additional medical services	13.83%	13
Higher educational opportunities (Vo-Tech etc.)	17.02%	16
Assisted living and memory care services	11.70%	11
Other? (please specify)	18.09%	17
TOTAL		160

Question 3: Do you live within the City limits?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



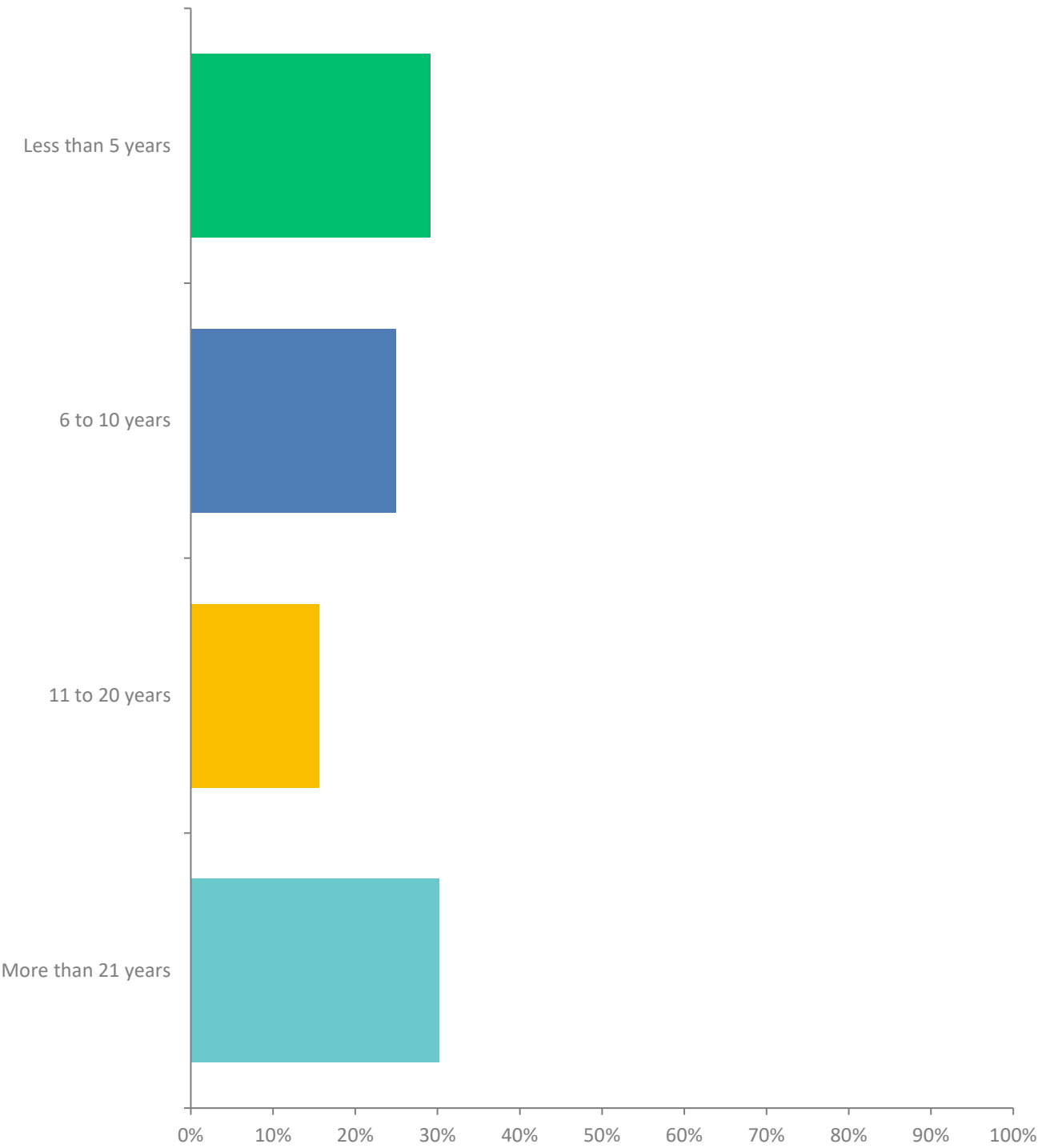
Question 3: Do you live within the City limits?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	69.79%	67
No	30.21%	29
TOTAL		96

Question 4: How long have you lived in Thompson Falls?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



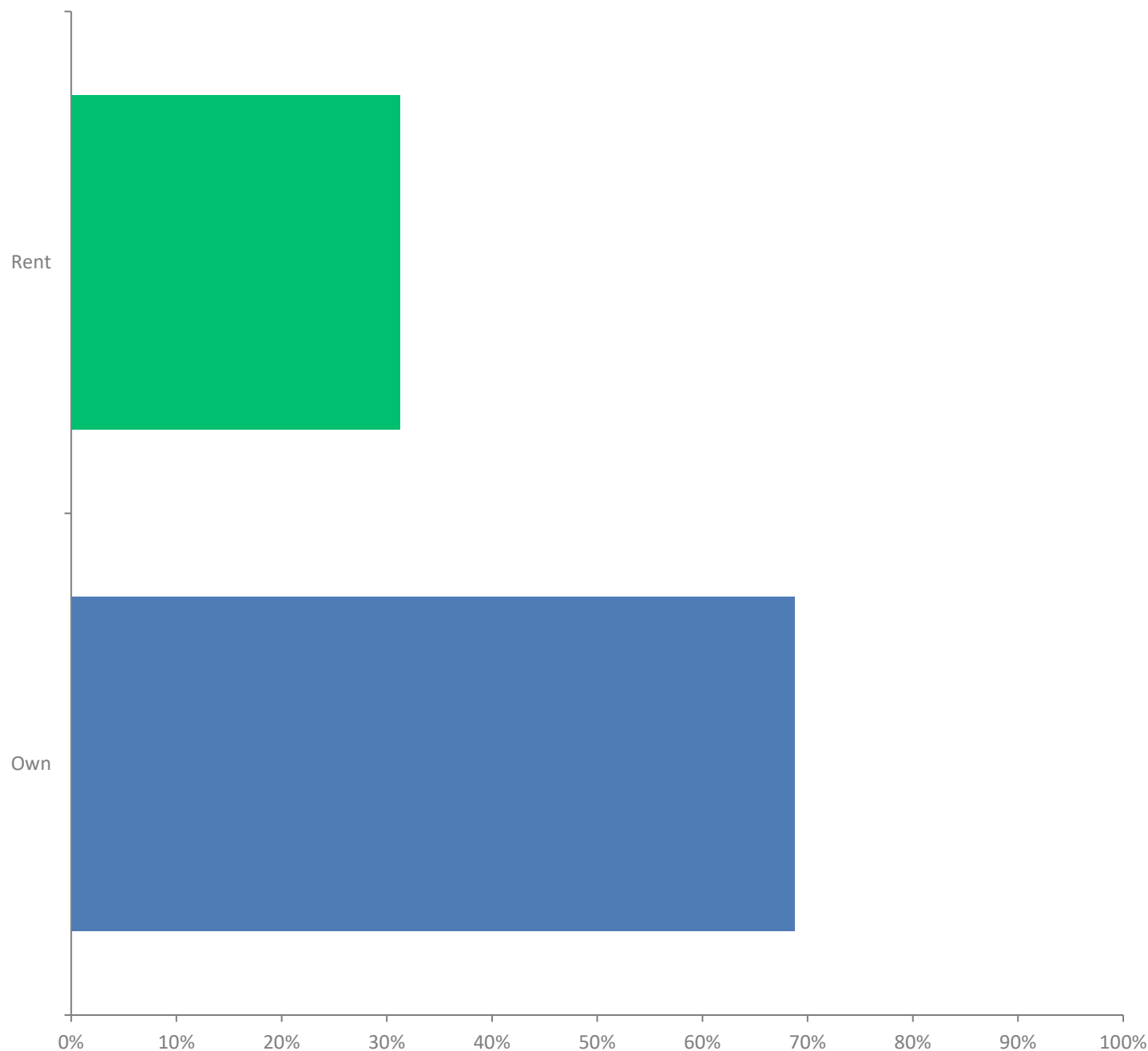
Question 4: How long have you lived in Thompson Falls?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 5 years	29.17%	28
6 to 10 years	25.00%	24
11 to 20 years	15.62%	15
More than 21 years	30.21%	29
TOTAL		96

Question 5: Do you rent or own your housing?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



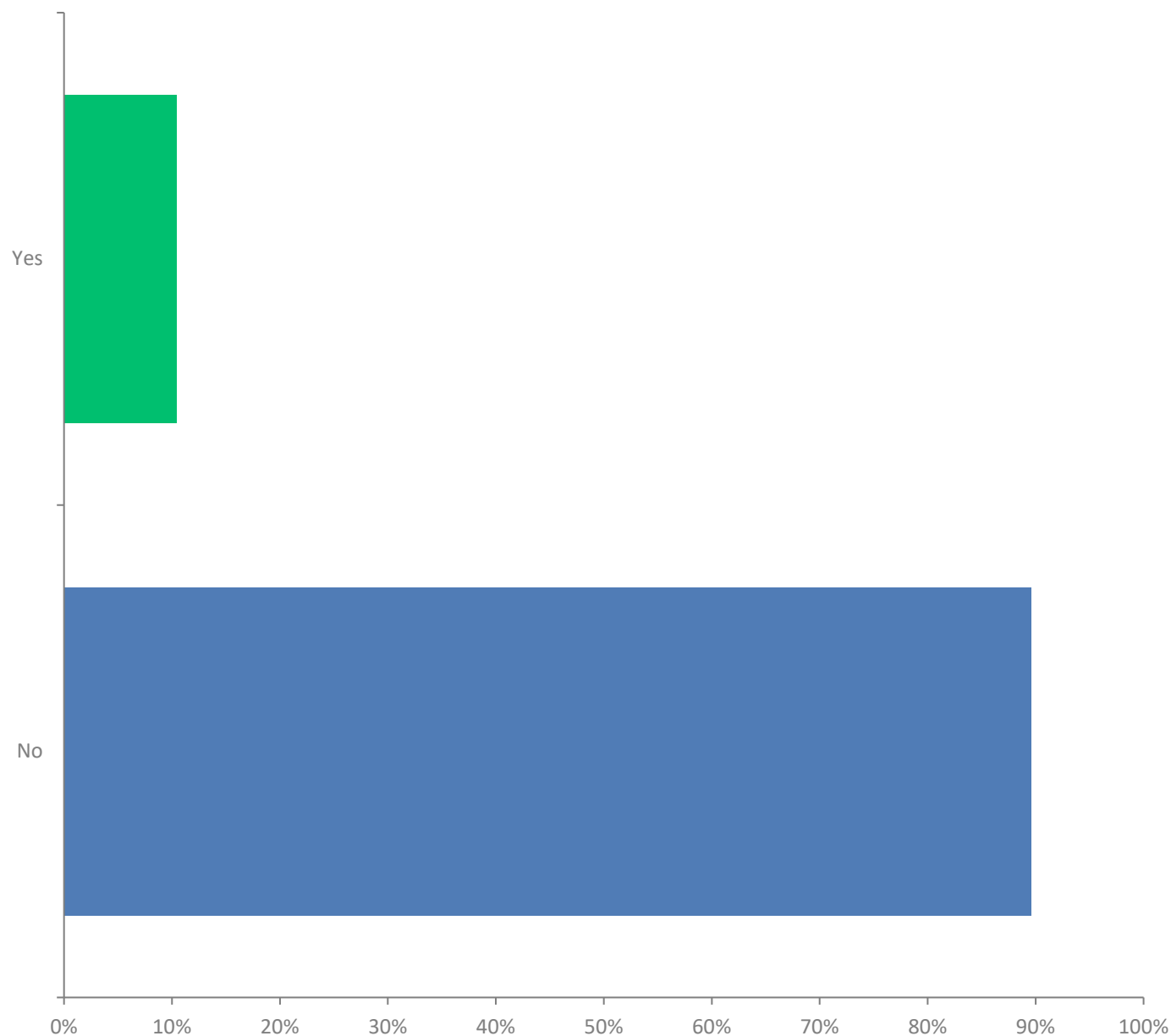
Question 5: Do you rent or own your housing?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rent	31.25%	30
Own	68.75%	66
TOTAL		96

Question 6: Do you own rental or commercial property within the City?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



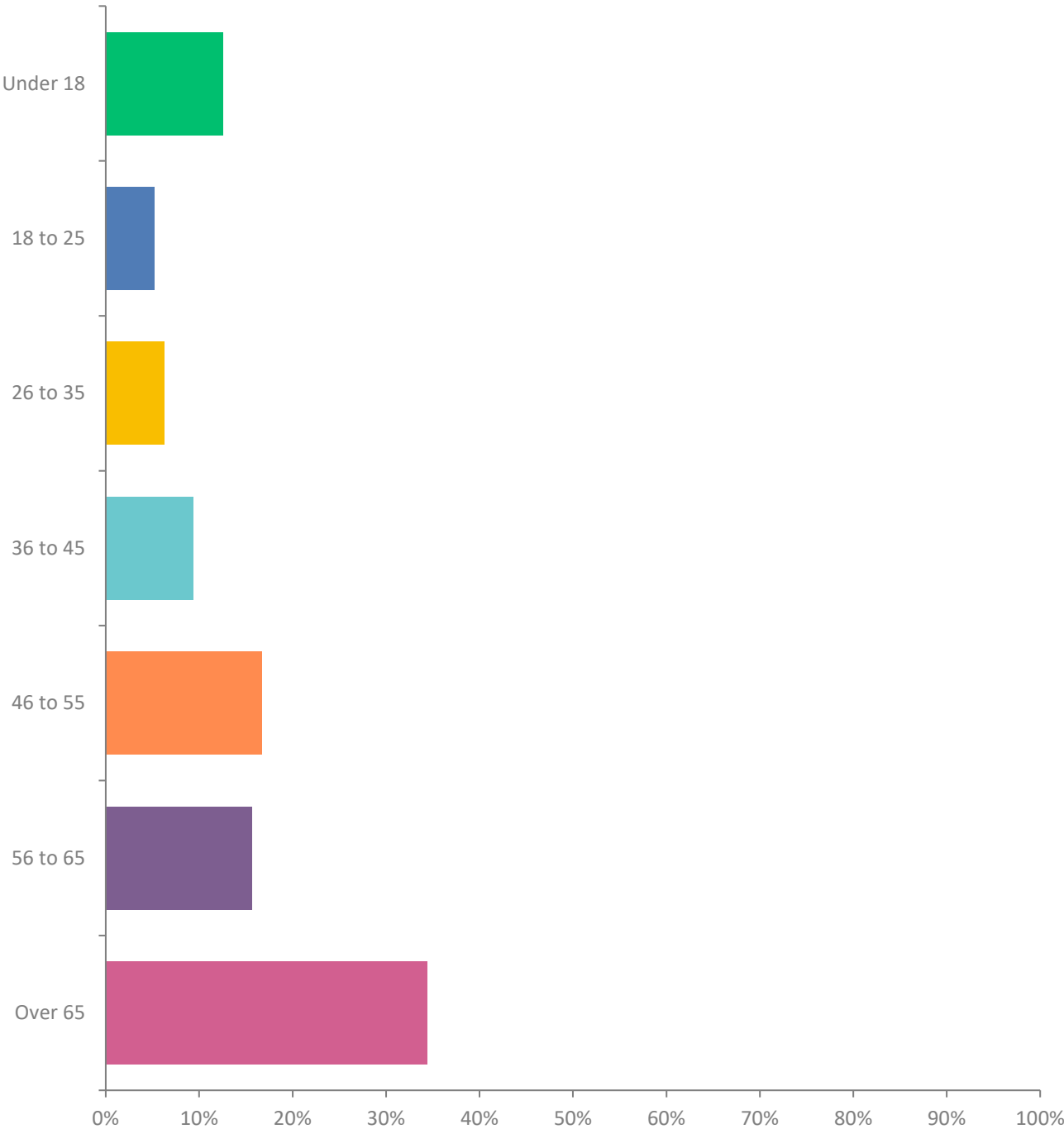
Question 6: Do you own rental or commercial property within the City?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	10.42%	10
No	89.58%	86
TOTAL		96

Question 7: What is your age?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



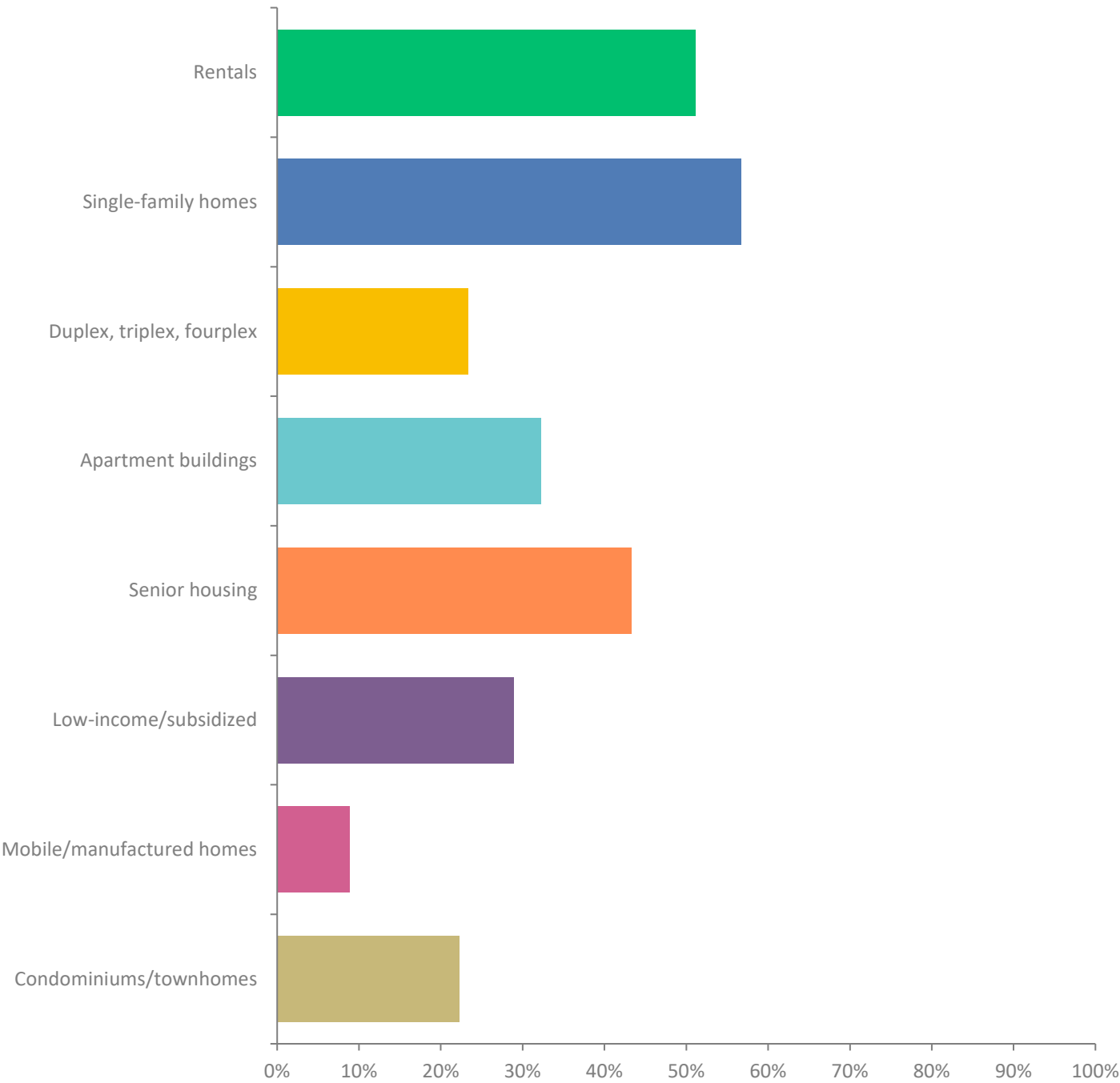
Question 7: What is your age?

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	12.50%	12
18 to 25	5.21%	5
26 to 35	6.25%	6
36 to 45	9.38%	9
46 to 55	16.67%	16
56 to 65	15.62%	15
Over 65	34.38%	33
TOTAL		96

Question 8: What types of type of residential development does Thompson Falls need more of? Please select all that apply.

Answered: 90 Skipped: 6



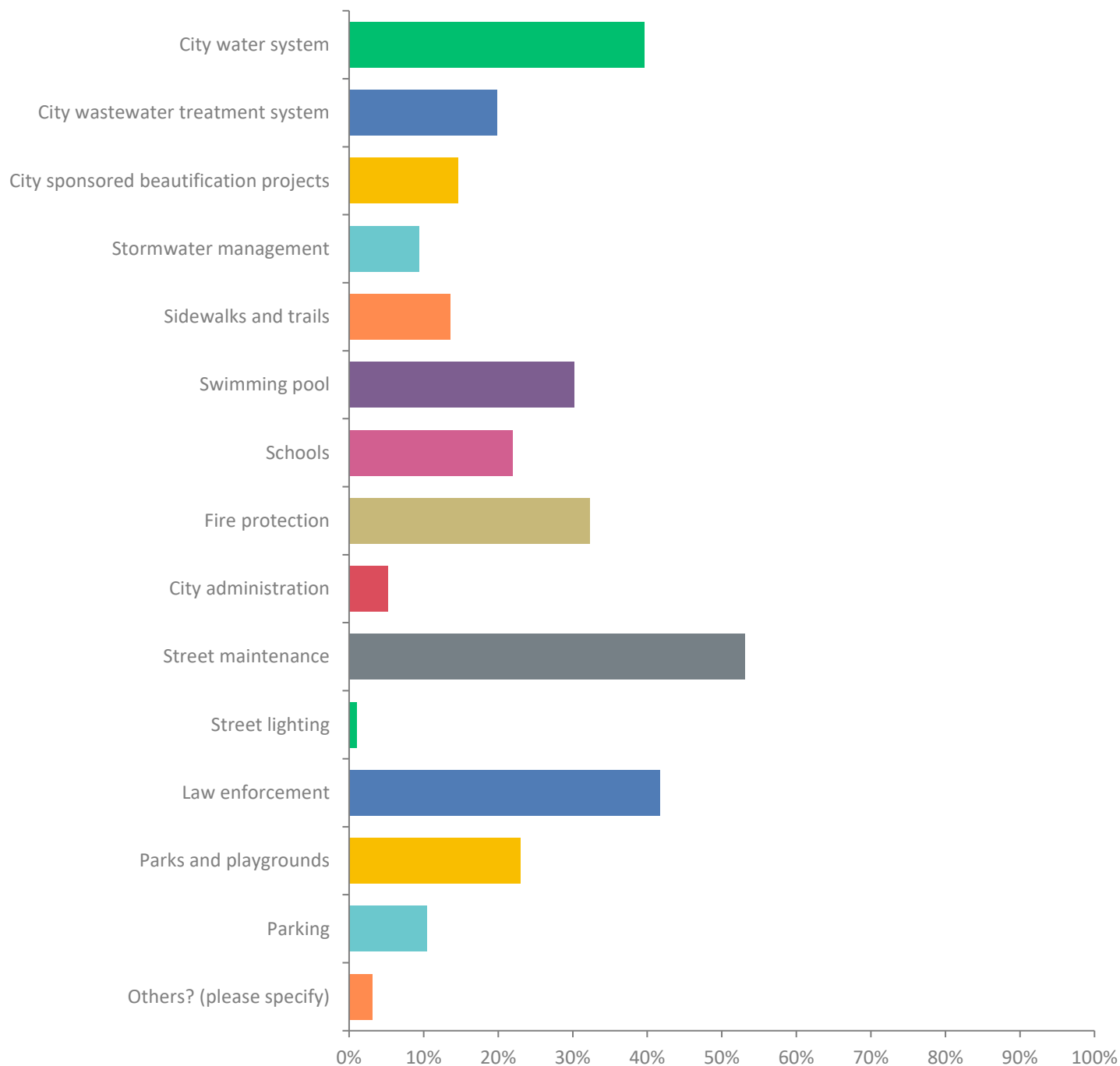
Question 8: What types of type of residential development does Thompson Falls need more of?
Please select all that apply.

Answered: 90 Skipped: 6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rentals	51.11%	46
Single-family homes	56.67%	51
Duplex, triplex, fourplex	23.33%	21
Apartment buildings	32.22%	29
Senior housing	43.33%	39
Low-income/subsidized	28.89%	26
Mobile/manufactured homes	8.89%	8
Condominiums/townhomes	22.22%	20
TOTAL		240

Question 9: Which of the following City infrastructure and services are the most important to you? Please select your top 3.

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0



Question 9: Which of the following City infrastructure and services are the most important to you? Other

Answered: 3

- Better roads
- Paved streets
- Archery range

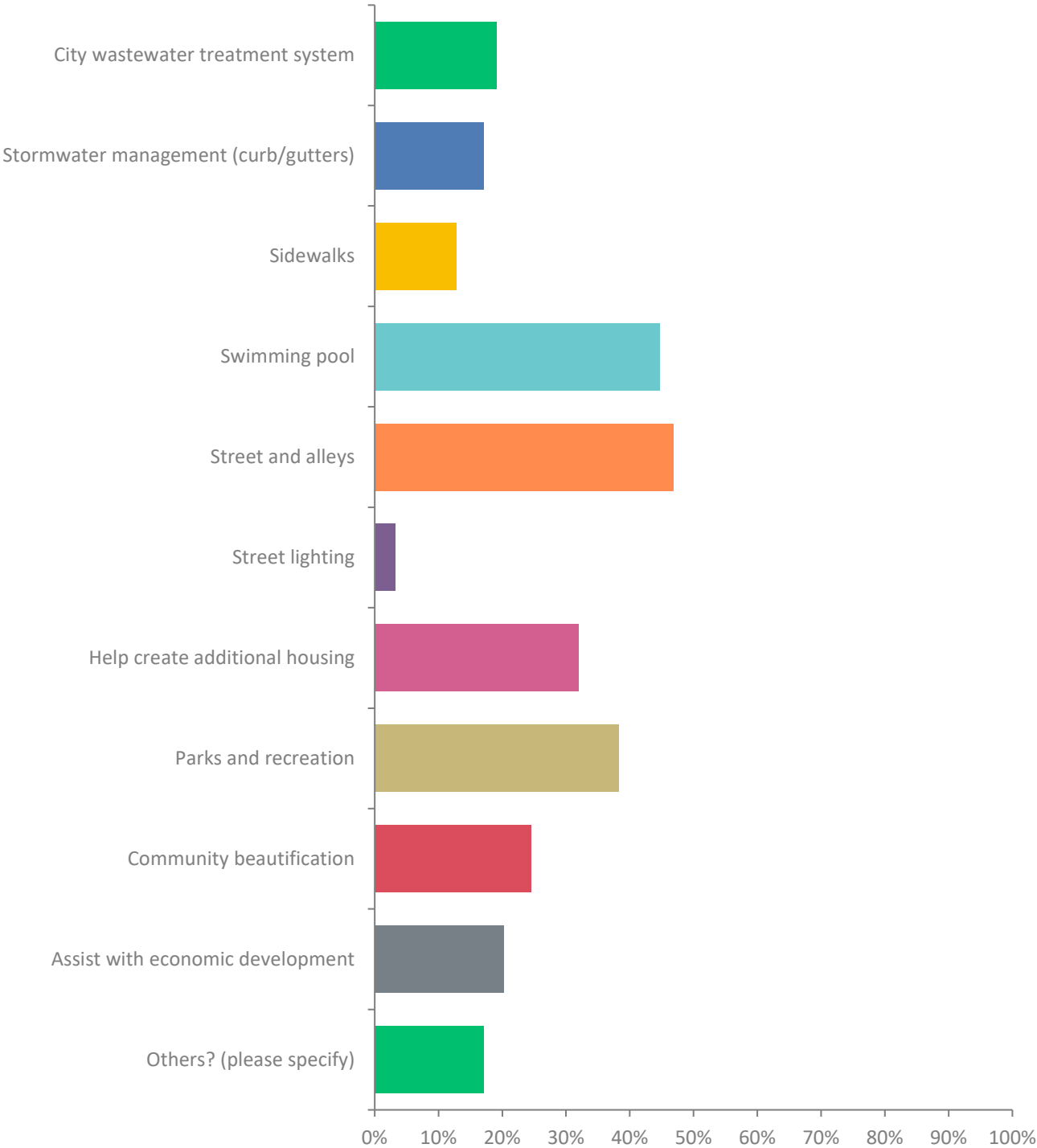
Question 9: Which of the following City infrastructure and services are the most important to you? Please select your top 3.

Answered: 96 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City water system	39.58%	38
City wastewater treatment system	19.79%	19
City sponsored beautification projects	14.58%	14
Stormwater management	9.38%	9
Sidewalks and trails	13.54%	13
Swimming pool	30.21%	29
Schools	21.88%	21
Fire protection	32.29%	31
City administration	5.21%	5
Street maintenance	53.12%	51
Street lighting	1.04%	1
Law enforcement	41.67%	40
Parks and playgrounds	22.92%	22
Parking	10.42%	10
Others? (please specify)	3.12%	3
TOTAL		306

Question 10: Please select the top 3 projects that you would like the City to focus on.

Answered: 94 Skipped: 2



Question 10: Please select the top 3 projects that you would like the City to focus on.

Answered: 16

- Better drinking water with a pumping system so no restrictions
- light pollution/ even in Sandpoint the lighting is dim - to enjoy the mountain stars - Town pump Whitefish and Mulvaney bright lights - fire, ambulance, paramedics.
- land swap w school - city can't properly maintain the fields
- Get better water supply to fix the shortage every summer
- Improve city water system
- Proper care and maintenance of what we have. Roads, parks, bathrooms, law enforcement
- speeding & reckless driving on main street & throughout the residential areas.
- Pave streets
- Parking
- Archery Range
- Road asphaltic overlays
- junk removal ordinances
- Indoor rec ctr
- Enforce community decay ordinance.
- Something for the youth to do. I don't have any kids but there is nothing for the kids in the community to do...Sorry that the skate park was voted down.
- Improving City water quality, quantity and upgrade the system

Question 10: Please select the top 3 projects that you would like the City to focus on.

Answered: 94 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City wastewater treatment system	19.15%	18
Stormwater management (curb/gutters)	17.02%	16
Sidewalks	12.77%	12
Swimming pool	44.68%	42
Street and alleys	46.81%	44
Street lighting	3.19%	3
Help create additional housing	31.91%	30
Parks and recreation	38.30%	36
Community beautification	24.47%	23
Assist with economic development	20.21%	19
Others? (please specify)	17.02%	16
TOTAL		259

Question 11: Please provide any other comments you have.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 64

- I enjoy living here and would love to see more growth with shops and recreational activities.
- Please add more fast food places.
- We need also jake braking within city limits mostly loud coming from west. Trains @night their speed and loudness of horns and their sitting inbiding towns.
- The pool is important needs to be maintained for kids safety and recreation. Need swimming lessons
- We live here because of the small-town atmosphere, like most of the residents. Please don't invite big-city attitudes by promoting big businesses, and no fast food joints please we like our pizza and Minnie's as they are.
- I do not like seeing offensive political flyers posted around town.
- Stop the lies and cheating that is going on in the election of the mayor and city council and other city affairs. We need you to be transparent all the time about everything that goes on in the City of Thompson falls. Stop hiding info from everyone about law suites going on.
- We still have this in this country the freedom of election and we need to be allowed to elect the most important people that control Thompson Falls. It is we the people.
- We the people... in the United States have the freedom of elections. Therefore we should be allowed to elect the most important people to successfully operate Thompson Falls!
- It's a nice town, but too much junk - specially down alleys and in some yards. Lots of rusting steel on vehicles which need recycling.
- Constant talk of "improvements" while we continue to ignore the elephant in the room, the train whistle. We should be working with the railroad to install safe crossings (which are proven safer) or as an alternative direction whistles that blow downward at the crossings. The loud sound of those trains is positively a detriment to "quality of life". It's silly to continue to tolerate it when alternatives are out there. Additionally "no jake brakes" signs would help tremendously to cut down on our noise pollution problem.
- Money made by the town goes towards the town and the needs of the town. Stop this overspending of money onones has. Use funding per what's voted on by the people of the city/town.
- "Caution signs for reduced speed limit around the ele. school district are pathetic . Can't the city afford better signage than that? Most important area of town where speeding laws should be strictly enforced."

Question 11: Please provide any other comments you have.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 64

- Obviously the city wastewater treatment must be completed first. After that, we need stormwater management along with decent paved streets. That can create more pride about our town with in the residents of the town. Thus promoting individual owners to desire better up keep of their own residences. We've seen it happen in the small rural town we lived in prior to moving to Thompson Falls. What an improvement it all makes!!
- Feel is.is ridiculous to have a main street in Thompson Falls that supposedly was supposed to be a new and improved main street but is so poorly done at a great cost of tax player's expense. Who was the inspector on such.a poorly done job that runs through the middle of our county seat???
- Local politicians should start working for the community and quit acting like they are above the law.
- Seriously stop pushing all the growth. Why do people move here and then want to change things?
- Need to find a way to lower water and sewer bills, city taxes and listen to the citizens at meetings and vote according to what the citizens want, not to what you already have planned.
- Stop catering the wants of 1 specific person who isn't on the council but seems to have a lot of pull in this town.
When putting on events please don't cram them all in 1 weekend. Spread them out over different weekends.
- Explore a way for the city to develop a public-private partnership to create a community/co-working center to be another attractive opportunity to recruit young remote workers and their families.
- The Mule Pasture can get might crowded. Work with LOLO to add parking and trail in the "Orchard" (many people don't realize it's public land.
Also, in winter the opportunity to cross country ski is suppressed by not being able to park near areas like Brush Gulch. Work with hiway department and LOLO to make this type of thing accessible - good for locals and draw in tourists.
One more thing: Get BNSF to shorten the blasts and tone down the volume when going through Thompson Falls.
- Indoor events center with mixed use: community meetings, rentals, indoor sports such as soccer, pickle ball; performance & convention space.
- The roads in TFalls suck. Too many roads that cause suspension problems in vehicles.....really bad in heavily traveled areas. This from a retired Road Maintenance Manager.
- It is such a shame that there are no laws that prohibit junk yards in city or county. Everywhere you look, you can find disgraceful junk!!!
- I would like to let the citizens vote on whether or not they really want the zoning policy as it stands. I would like to decrease/limit/do away with the zoning policy. I think it is really wrong that people who are not hooked up to the sewer are having to pay for the service anyway.

Question 11: Please provide any other comments you have.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 64

- Too many streets & alley ways are in poor or substandard condition. Water & especially the sewer service rates & billing strict is way too expensive compared to many other cities & communities. Far too many residential properties (especially up on the hill) are in unkempt, unsightly condition with long term accumulations of junk vehicles & equipment, etc., some dilapidated structures, trash and or grossly neglected yard areas. This hurts the rest of us who have some pride in their homes and try to take good care of our properties. Seems the City Administration has little concern to do anything concrete about it.
- The city does a great job maintaining the parks and also the roads during the winter months. Kudos to the couple of guys responsible for that.

In my mind the city is responsible for safety, infrastructure and maintaining infrastructure.

If you do this well, business will come. Community will prosper and private citizens will drive the fun stuff!

- The city does a great job with the resources they have. You have created a safe and prosperous community built on a rich and wonderful history. Thank you!
- As someone who grew up, Thompson hasn't changed much but I feel like it needs to
- I think the Mule Pasture would be a great place to build a David Thompson trading post museum, with mountain men, civil war reenactors, Indian camp, and beer garden. And live music venues and weddings and etc
- I don't want TF to necessarily grow in size, but I would like to see more outside activities for kids to enjoy. I don't want this town to be seen as just a retirement community.
- Question 9 should be divided into two parts. One being the "wants" to make life more enjoyable and the other should be the "needs" of necessary items to live safely. The 3 items I selected are "needs" in my opinion. Had the question been divided into two parts I would have selected parks/playgrounds; swimming pool; community beautification.

Necessary infrastructure must always be top priority without question, and should include city water, city wastewater, street maintenance, fire protection and law enforcement. These should be the City Council's top priorities at all times without having to put the question out to the community.