



Healthy and Valued Ecosystems Online Survey Summary March 30, 2021

Introduction

In the spring of 2018, the City of Sherwood launched the Sherwood 2040 Comprehensive Plan Vision, a city-wide community engagement process that outlines a desired future for the Sherwood community in the year 2040. As part of the community-wide 2040 Comprehensive Plan Vision, the Sherwood community developed vision and goal statements for healthy and valued ecosystems in Sherwood's future. In 2019, the City launched the Comprehensive Planning Process to develop draft goals for the Comprehensive Plan. The City conducted outreach at local events and community committees to help develop policies and objectives to reach these goals. On March 10, 2021, the City of Sherwood launched a community-wide survey to share draft policy concepts for healthy and valued ecosystems and receive feedback from residents.

Survey Summary

The Healthy and Valued Ecosystem Survey presented draft policy concepts for Sherwood's Comprehensive Plan Update. Respondents had the ability to indicate whether they supported, did not support or felt neutral about each policy concept. There were three open-ended questions for respondents to share their thoughts about the policy concepts as well as a general open-ended question where respondents could share additional thoughts or ideas. The City will use this input to guide its goals and policies for the healthy and valued ecosystem theme in the Sherwood 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update.

The survey was available between **March 10 and March 24, 2021**. In this timeframe, the survey received **155 responses**. The results of this survey are not statistically representative, meaning the respondent sample is not predictive of the opinions of the Sherwood community. This report summarizes the responses and comments collected from community members using the survey.

Key Takeaways

The following key takeaways were observed from the survey results:

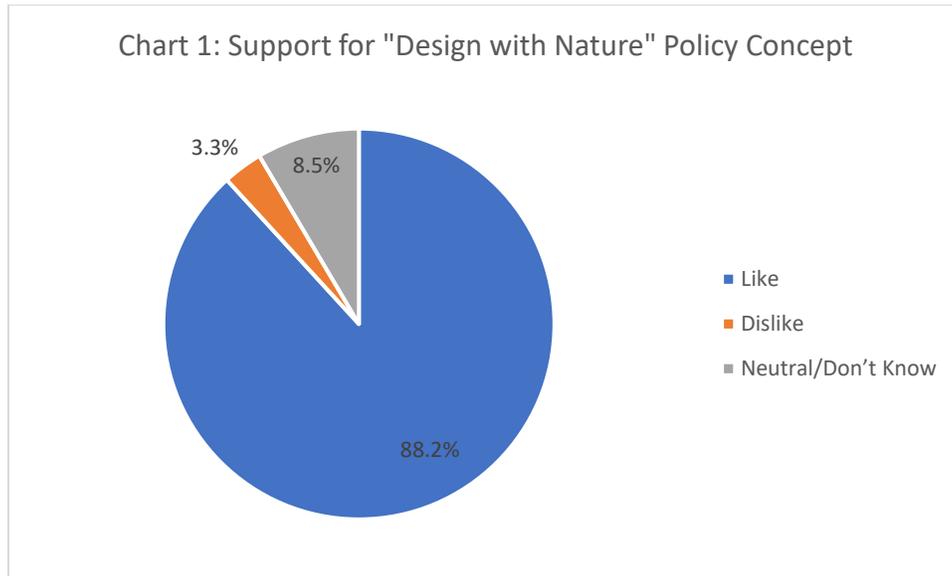
- A large majority of respondents supported all three policy concepts.
 - Approximately the same proportion of respondents liked, disliked or were neutral on each policy concept. This implies that people largely had the same opinion of all three policies. However, the Light Pollution Concept was slightly less popular than the other two concepts.
- Respondents supported preserving natural spaces and ecosystems throughout Sherwood.
- Respondents thought it important that Sherwood maintain its unique characteristics, including its small-town feel and easy access to nature, while implementing these policy concepts.

Summary of Responses by Survey Question

Question 1

Respondents were presented with the following policy concept: Support site development and design practices that “design with nature,” by incorporating and promoting natural ecosystem elements, including native trees and vegetation, minimizing effects on natural resources, and avoiding the degradation or loss of wetland, watershed, and ecosystem services.

They were asked: **To what extent do you support this policy concept?** Their responses are shown in Chart 1.



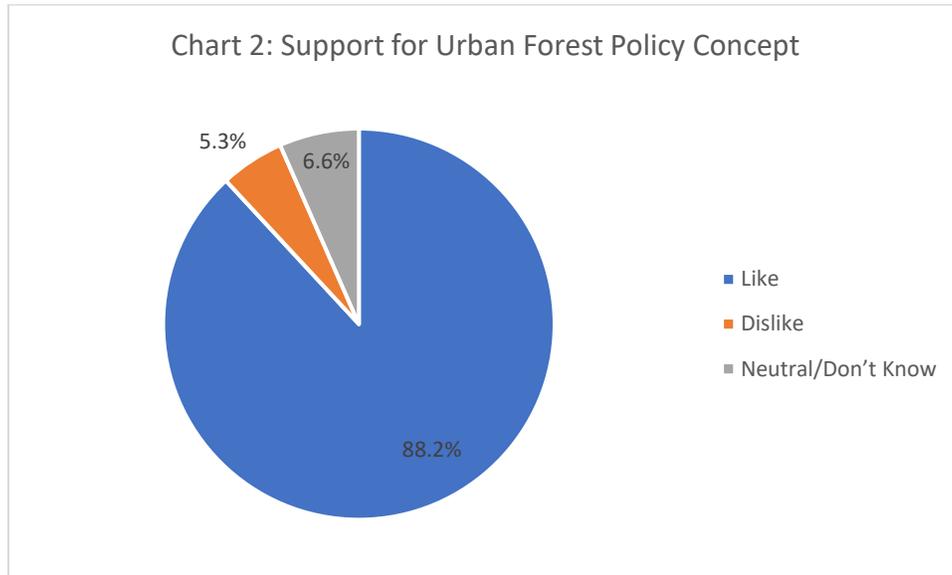
Respondents were also given the chance to provide open-ended comments on this policy concept. Comments included:

- Commenters emphasized the importance of preserving natural spaces.
 - Some of these commenters specifically emphasized their displeasure with how development in Sherwood is taking away natural spaces.
- Commenters noted that access to nature is what makes Sherwood special and asked for more parks and open space with recreation activities (including additional bicycle and pedestrian access to and through open space).

Question 2

Respondents were presented with the following policy concept: Protect Sherwood’s urban forest by preserving tree canopy, inventorying significant tree stands and working with partners to plant more native trees.

They were asked: **To what extent do you support this policy concept?** Their responses are shown in Chart 2.



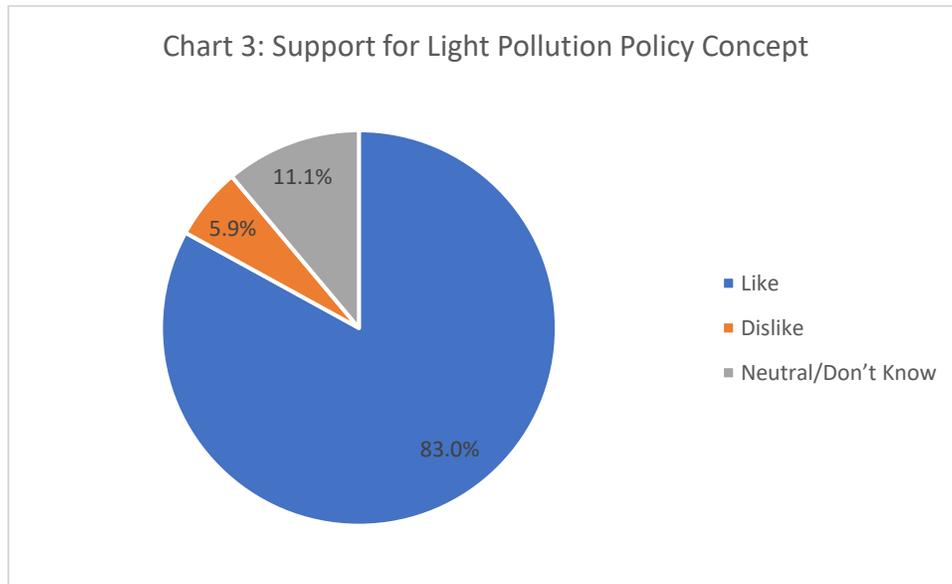
Respondents were also given the chance to provide open-ended comments on this policy concept. Comments included:

- Commenters noted the importance of keeping the urban forest healthy and ensuring that Sherwood has the resources to maintain the health of individual tree stands so they do not cause damage to local infrastructure.
- Commenters made specific suggestions on ways to support Sherwood’s urban forest, including providing a free tree planting program in low-income neighborhoods, limiting the number of large trees that can be removed for development and requiring homeowners to plant trees when they cut others down.

Question 3

Respondents were presented with the following policy concept: Reduce the negative impacts of light pollution on human health and safety, wildlife and ecosystem health, energy conservation, and night sky viewing by regulating the fixture, direction, and temperature of outdoor lighting.

They were asked: **To what extent do you support this policy concept?** Their responses are shown in Chart 3.



Respondents were also given the chance to provide open-ended comments on this policy concept. Comments included:

- Commenters suggested that Sherwood needs to address light pollution without compromising public safety.
- Commenters had concerns about the impact of light pollution on quality of life and Sherwood's small-town feel.

Question 4

Respondents were given the chance to provide open-ended comments to the following question: Do you have any additional thoughts or ideas? Commentor responses included:

- Commenters again emphasized the importance of preserving natural spaces and asked for more outdoor recreation options in parks and natural spaces.
- Commenters were concerned that Sherwood is losing its small-town feel.
- Commenters asked for additional bike and pedestrian infrastructure.
- Some commenters opposed growth in Sherwood while others thought that Sherwood needs to find a way to balance growth while also preserving natural spaces.