

High Woodlands Neighborhood Drainage Survey – Summary & Analysis

Overview

The following document summarizes the results of the 2023 “Drainage in Your Neighborhood” survey sent to Kirkland residents in the High Woodlands basin of the Juanita Creek watershed. The survey is an initial step of a larger public involvement effort for the High Woodlands Rainwater Project, designed to engage key stakeholders and provide residents in the High Woodlands basin with ample opportunity to inform the selection of drainage retrofit facility sites.

Survey goals include:

- Gauging level of awareness and support for rainwater management projects.
- Identify existing drainage issues in the High Woodlands basin.
- Identify community services that can be added to rainwater management projects.

City of Kirkland distributed the survey to approximately 1,409 High Woodlands basin households on May 19, 2023 via direct mail. There were 132 total survey respondents. 16% of survey recipients completed the survey online and 84% completed the hardcopy survey and returned to the City via postage-paid return mail.

Significantly higher response rates via paper survey indicate that future communications and surveys should have a paper/mail component. A full copy of the survey results is included in **Appendix A** of this document for reference. Contact information and email addresses of participants has been removed from the survey appendix.

Analysis

The following analysis summarizes the compiled survey results and presents associated graphical summaries, maps, and key themes.

Awareness

64% of respondents knew that rainwater runoff flows to creeks, lakes, and wetlands. 52% of respondents reported that polluted rainwater runoff is either a moderate or a big problem in Kirkland’s creeks. 60% of respondents reported that their daily actions have at least a moderate impact on the health of Kirkland’s creeks.

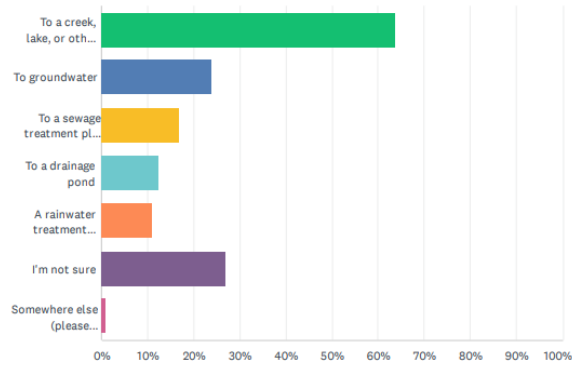
These results are substantially higher than a similar awareness survey conducted as part of another retrofit effort in Kirkland in 2021 and are consistent with another recent citywide rainwater runoff awareness survey, indicating that continued education and outreach efforts are helping to increase awareness of rainwater runoff.

While these results are encouraging, work remains to be done to raise awareness of rainwater runoff, pollution impacts, and the benefits of retrofit projects on cleaning and slowing down rainwater runoff. This messaging will be included in future outreach for the High Woodlands Retrofit Project.

Full results from the awareness questions are included below:

Q7 In your neighborhood, where does the water that runs off your lawn and pavement (such as from rain, outdoor washing, or lawn watering) go after it enters a storm drain or roadside ditch? Check all that apply.

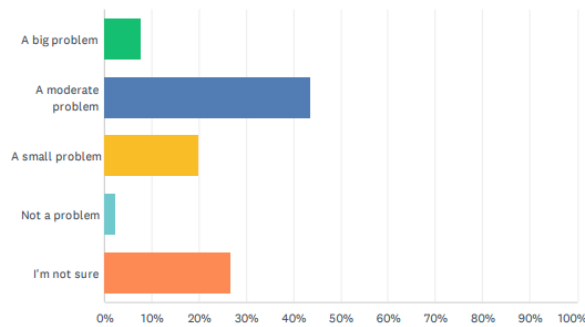
Answered: 130 Skipped: 2



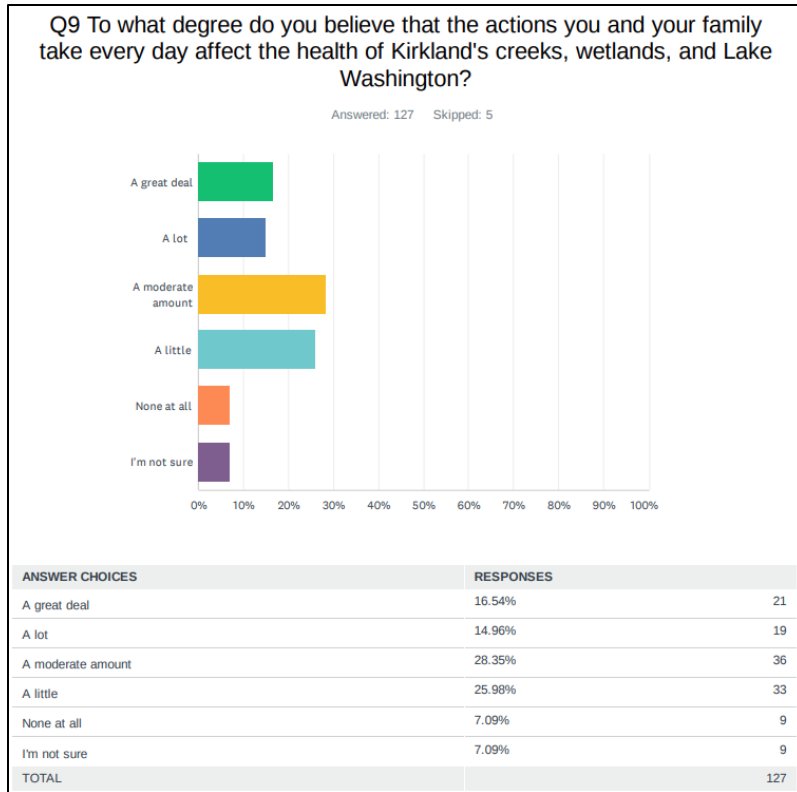
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
To a creek, lake, or other body of water	63.85%	83
To groundwater	23.85%	31
To a sewage treatment plant - the same place where water from your toilets, showers, and sinks goes.	16.92%	22
To a drainage pond	12.31%	16
A rainwater treatment plant, separate from sewage treatment.	10.77%	14
I'm not sure	26.92%	35
Somewhere else (please describe):	0.77%	1
Total Respondents: 130		

Q8 In your opinion, how big of a problem is pollution in Kirkland's creeks and lakes?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A big problem	7.63%	10
A moderate problem	43.51%	57
A small problem	19.85%	26
Not a problem	2.29%	3
I'm not sure	26.72%	35
TOTAL		131



Reported Drainage Issues

Respondents were asked how often they see excess or standing water on their street, their property, or in their basement/crawlspace.

84% of respondents reported no drainage issues. Of the 16% who reported drainage issues, their responses were categorized as follows:

	Every Time it Rains	Several Times Per Year	1-2 Times Per Year	Rarely	Total
On My Street	2	4	0	1	7
On My Property	3	3	1	0	7
In My Basement/Crawlspace	1	2	2	1	6
Total	6	9	3	2	20

A map highlighting geographic locations of the responses to drainage issues questions is located in **Appendix B** and online at

<https://maps.kirklandwa.gov/cityhub/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=60e0d4a48eb341e2ad7cb9c0471a0edb&extent=-122.2061,47.7273,-122.1489,47.7471>

Potential Neighborhood Improvements

Drainage improvement projects have the potential to create additional neighborhood improvements. Respondents were asked to rate potential improvements by the importance for their neighborhood, from “not at all important” to “extremely important.”

A weighted scale was applied to rank each potential project overall, with one point for improvements ranked as “not at all important” and five points per respondent for projects ranked “extremely important. Using the weighted average of responses, the preference for potential neighborhood improvements ranked as follows (n=131).

		Weighted average
1	Pothole repair and pavement condition improvements	4.02
2	Improvement to parks and open spaces	3.43
3	Greenery/vegetation along streets	3.26
4	Additional sidewalk and pedestrian street crossings	3.17
5	Bike lanes and paths	2.75
6	Public art	2.08

Respondents were also provided with an open-ended option to provide other improvements that would be important for the neighborhood. Comments were organized into general themes and are reported below. Only themes with two or more comments are reported here. Note that we included individual responses into multiple themes as needed. All comments are available in **Appendix C**.

Pedestrian/Bike Safety - sidewalk repair, safety etc	13
Street Safety - speed, lighting, etc	7
Trees/Vegetation - planting, maintenance, etc	6
Recreation - Parks, playgrounds, etc	4
Repave/Repair Pavement/Potholes	4
Solving Drainage Issues	3
Parking - not enough, enforcement, etc	3
Other - water pressure, USPS mailboxes	3
Litter	2
Homelessness	2

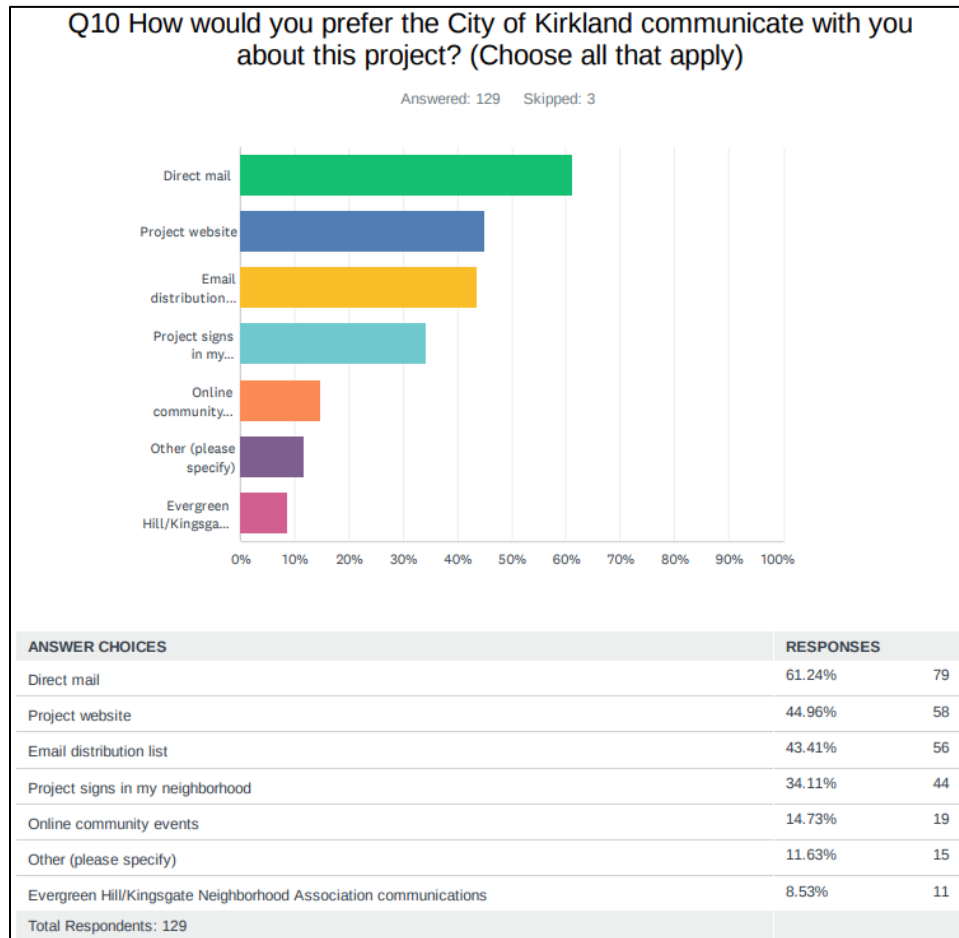
Those comments which are pertinent to the High Woodlands Stormwater Retrofit Planning Project will be incorporated into the community engagement information to be used in the prioritization process. Comments that are not pertinent to the project will be assigned to the appropriate City of Kirkland staff for follow-up, as needed.

Overall, survey participants expressed support for pavement repair/rehabilitation, street and pedestrian/bike safety, and improvements to parks, greenery, and vegetation. These priorities will be communicated to the project designers to consider and incorporate during the preliminary design.

Communications Preferences

The top preference for future communication about the High Woodlands Rainwater Project was direct mail, with 61% of respondents indicating that as their preferred communication method.

Communications preferences are summarized in the chart below. Note that respondents were able to choose more than one communication method.



Appendices

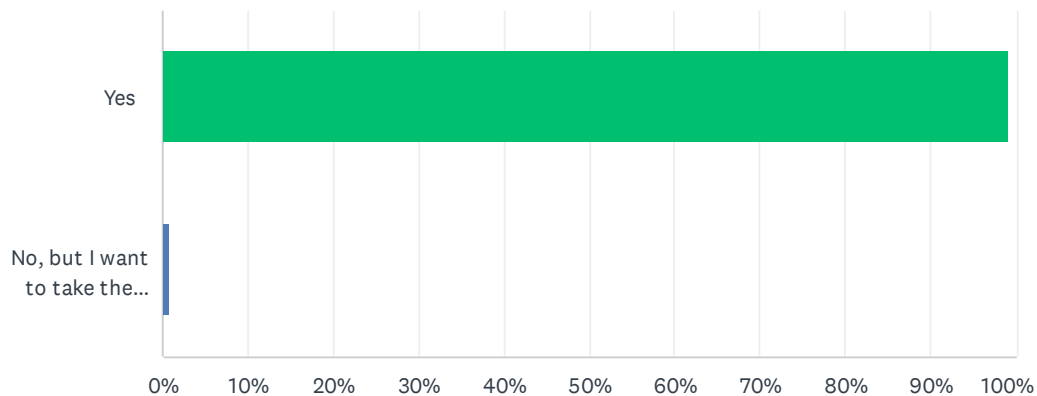
Appendix A – Survey Instrument and Results

Appendix B - Locations of respondents who observed excess water on their street, property, and basement/crawl space more than twice per year (*map*).

Appendix C – Question 6 Responses

Q1 This survey is intended for people living in the City of Kirkland. Do you live in Kirkland?

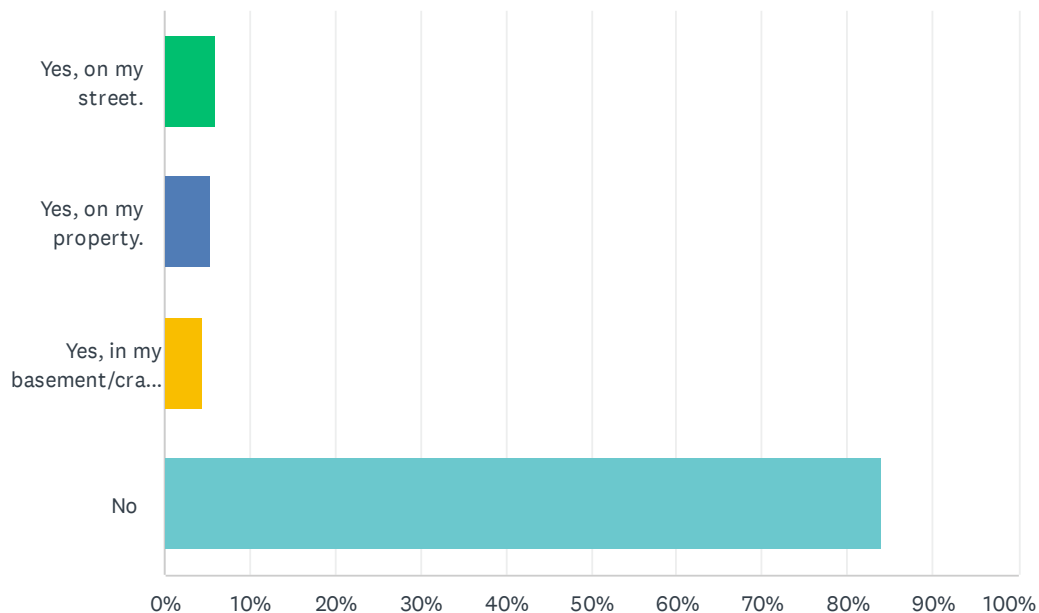
Answered: 131 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	99.24%	130
No, but I want to take the survey.	0.76%	1
TOTAL		131

Q2 When it rains, do you have excess or standing water that last for several days in any of the following areas?

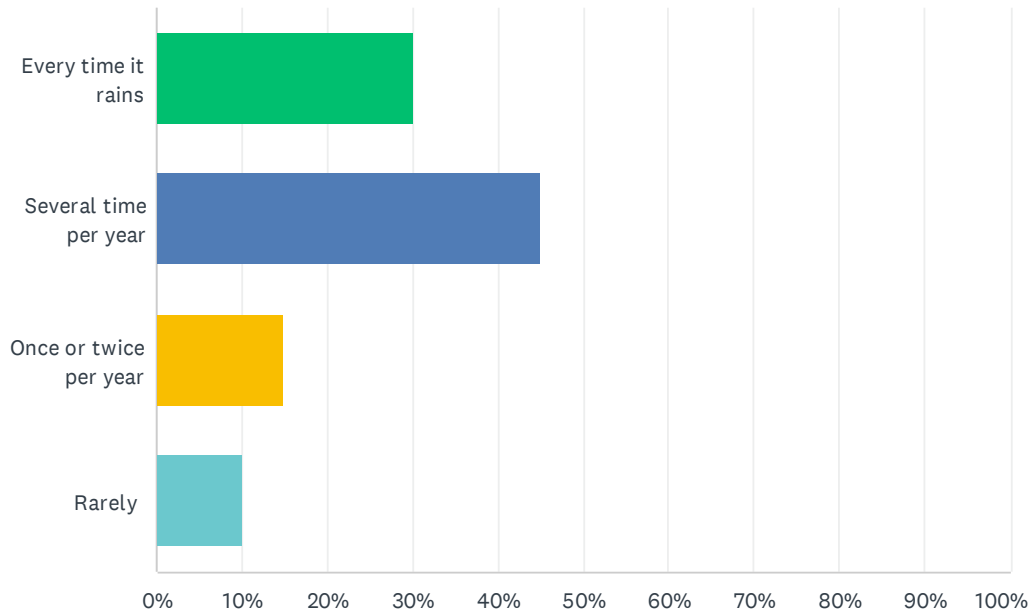
Answered: 132 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, on my street.	6.06%	8
Yes, on my property.	5.30%	7
Yes, in my basement/crawlspace.	4.55%	6
No	84.09%	111
TOTAL		132

Q3 You answered that you experience excess of standing water on your street, property, or in your basement/crawlspace. How often do you experience this excess or standing water?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 112



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Every time it rains	30.00%	6
Several time per year	45.00%	9
Once or twice per year	15.00%	3
Rarely	10.00%	2
TOTAL		20

Q4 What is the nearest street intersection to where you live in Kirkland?
We will use this information to help identify where common drainage issues are occurring across your neighborhood.

Answered: 21 Skipped: 111

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Street you live on	100.00%	21
Neareast cross-street	95.24%	20

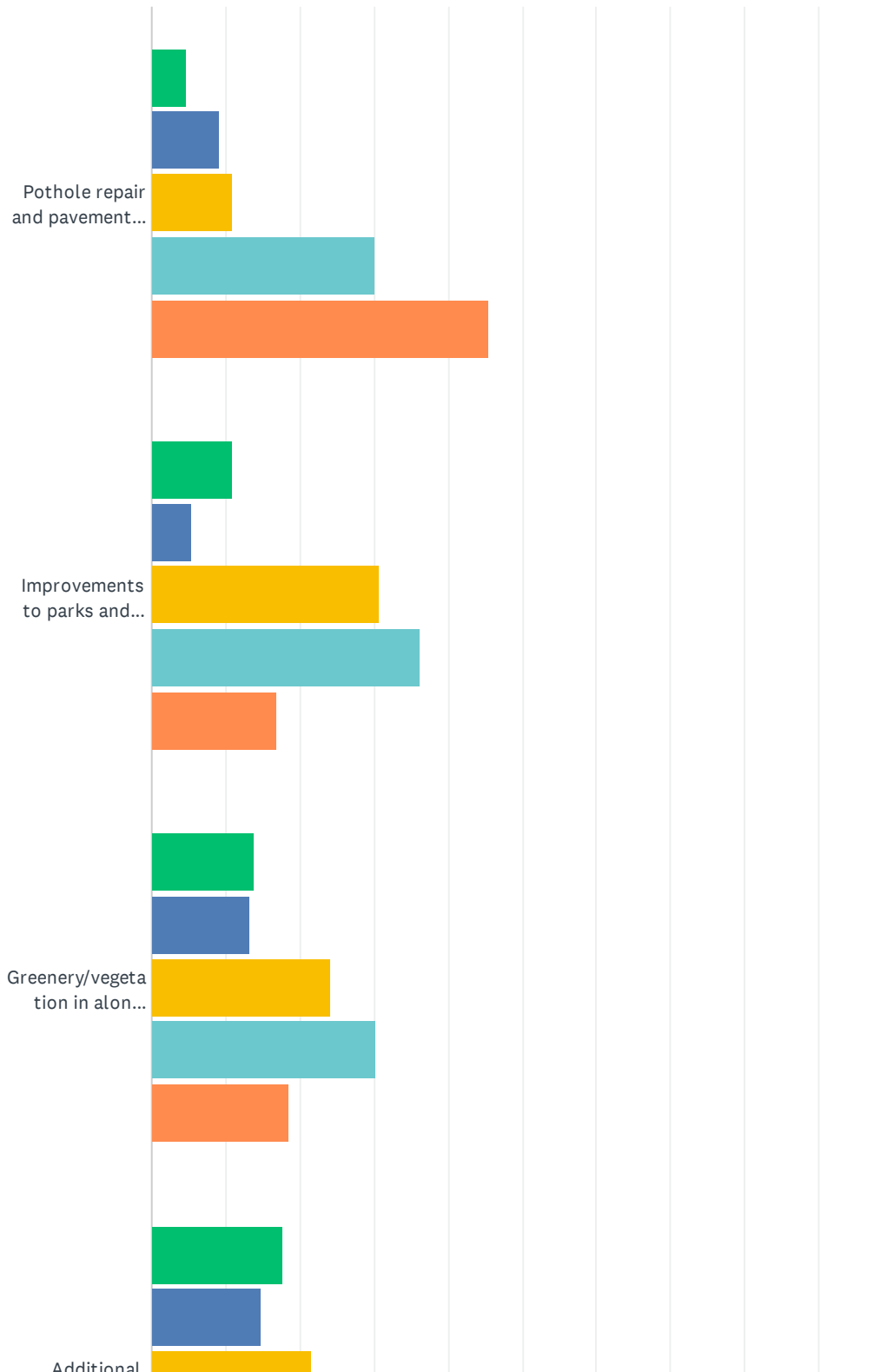
#	STREET YOU LIVE ON	DATE
1	117th PL NE	6/27/2023 4:25 PM
2	NE 148th ct	6/24/2023 11:15 AM
3	NE 151st PL	6/13/2023 1:11 PM
4	151st St	6/6/2023 3:25 PM
5	NE 149th CT	6/6/2023 3:22 PM
6	127th Ave NE	6/6/2023 3:19 PM
7	NE 149th Ct	6/6/2023 3:10 PM
8	117th PL NE	6/6/2023 2:31 PM
9	NE 148th ST	6/6/2023 2:29 PM
10	NE 155th ST	6/6/2023 2:26 PM
11	NE 150TH CT	5/31/2023 12:02 PM
12	14425 123rd LN	5/31/2023 11:42 AM
13	NE 147th CT	5/31/2023 11:32 AM
14	124th AVE NE	5/31/2023 11:30 AM
15	126th AVE NE	5/31/2023 11:26 AM
16	119th PL NE	5/30/2023 10:18 AM
17	124TH NE	5/30/2023 10:16 AM
18	14445 124th AVE NE	5/30/2023 9:59 AM
19	126TH AVE NE	5/30/2023 9:40 AM
20	NE 150TH ST	5/30/2023 9:39 AM
21	NE 144th Way	5/26/2023 9:10 AM
#	NEAREAST CROSS-STREET	DATE
1	NE 155 St	6/27/2023 4:25 PM
2	119th PL NE	6/24/2023 11:15 AM
3	119TH	6/13/2023 1:11 PM
4	149th St & 124th Ave	6/6/2023 3:25 PM
5	123RD AVE NE	6/6/2023 3:22 PM

Drainage in Your Neighborhood - High Woodlands Basin

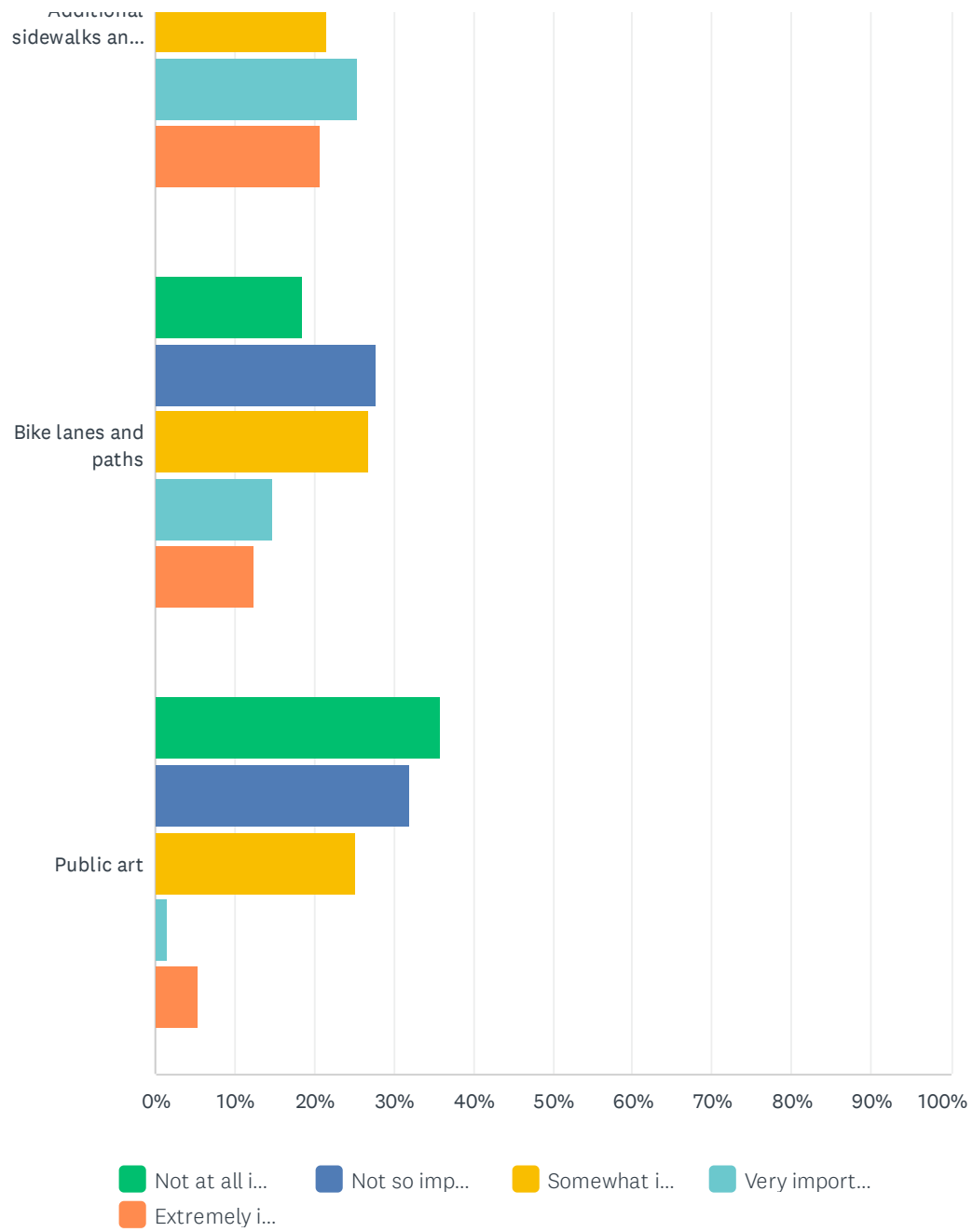
6	123rd Ave NE	6/6/2023 3:10 PM
7	NE 150th PL	6/6/2023 2:31 PM
8	119TH	6/6/2023 2:29 PM
9	117th PL NE	6/6/2023 2:26 PM
10	123rd AVE NE	5/31/2023 12:02 PM
11	124th Ave NE	5/31/2023 11:42 AM
12	123RD AVE NE	5/31/2023 11:32 AM
13	NE 144th ST	5/31/2023 11:30 AM
14	142ND LN	5/31/2023 11:26 AM
15	NE 148TH ST	5/30/2023 10:18 AM
16	124TH	5/30/2023 10:16 AM
17	NE 144TH ST	5/30/2023 9:59 AM
18	124 & 144	5/30/2023 9:40 AM
19	122ND AVE NE	5/30/2023 9:39 AM
20	130th Ave Ne	5/26/2023 9:10 AM

Q5 Many projects to improve drainage can be designed to create additional neighborhood improvements. How would you rank the importance of the following potential improvements for your neighborhood?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 1



Drainage in Your Neighborhood - High Woodlands Basin



Drainage in Your Neighborhood - High Woodlands Basin

	NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT	NOT SO IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Pothole repair and pavement condition improvements	4.62% 6	9.23% 12	10.77% 14	30.00% 39	45.38% 59	130	4.02
Improvements to parks and open spaces	10.77% 14	5.38% 7	30.77% 40	36.15% 47	16.92% 22	130	3.43
Greenery/vegetation in along streets	13.95% 18	13.18% 17	24.03% 31	30.23% 39	18.60% 24	129	3.26
Additional sidewalks and pedestrian street crossings	17.69% 23	14.62% 19	21.54% 28	25.38% 33	20.77% 27	130	3.17
Bike lanes and paths	18.46% 24	27.69% 36	26.92% 35	14.62% 19	12.31% 16	130	2.75
Public art	35.88% 47	32.06% 42	25.19% 33	1.53% 2	5.34% 7	131	2.08

Q6 Are there other improvements that would be important for your neighborhood?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 90

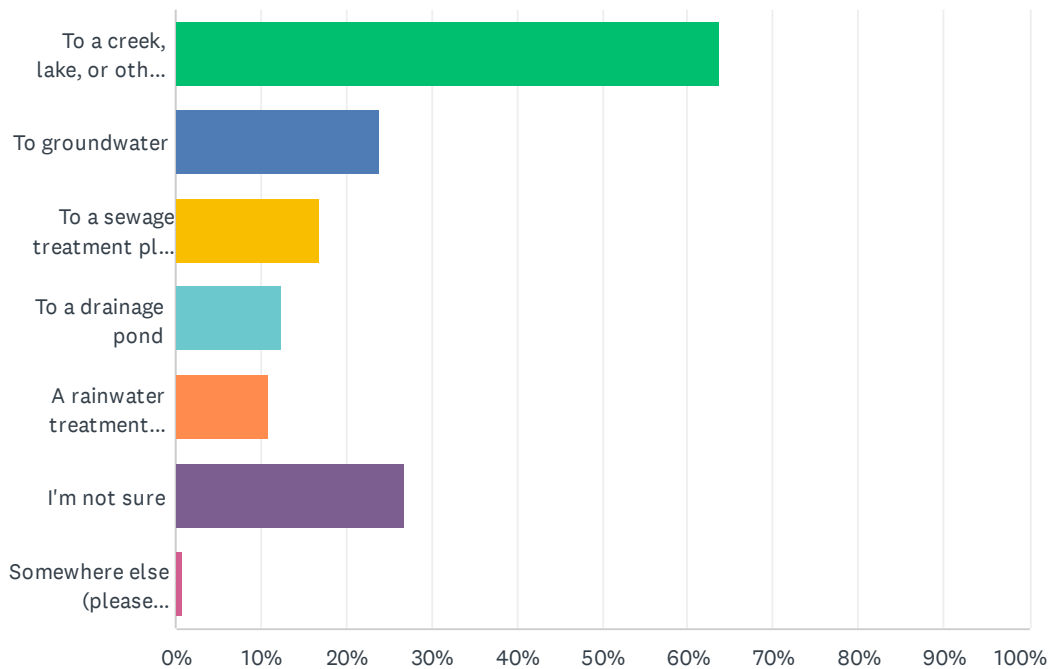
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Remove "Bump" Signs. If needed, paint bump indicator on street	7/6/2023 1:18 PM
2	Better street lights	6/27/2023 4:25 PM
3	Safer school routes/bike lanes are the most important.	6/27/2023 8:02 AM
4	N/A	6/24/2023 11:16 AM
5	Some of the sidewalk has uneven spots. People walk with strollers. Hopefully, the sidewalk conditions can be improved.	6/16/2023 8:50 AM
6	More lighting	6/16/2023 8:47 AM
7	Playgrounds in the High Woodlands neighborhood that do not require an HOA membership. Reduces our commute to other playgrounds.	6/13/2023 1:20 PM
8	Drains will occasionally be plugged - nothing important for my area	6/13/2023 1:16 PM
9	We live in a small cul de sac and have issues with too many cars trying to park on our street.	6/13/2023 1:12 PM
10	Improvement of storm drain system - especially keeping drains clear of leaves, mud, and other obstructions. There are a few properties on the north side of 148th st that drain onto the street from sub-surface groundwater.	6/13/2023 1:08 PM
11	Keep out trees, tree maintenance	6/6/2023 3:19 PM
12	IMPROVED WATER PRESSURE!!! 118th Ave NE & NE 143RD ST What will rainwater management facilities look like? Buildings? Please address this.	6/6/2023 3:17 PM
13	Removal of English Ivy along creek. It is very invasive and is killing trees. It is out of control!	6/6/2023 3:16 PM
14	My neighborhood has sidewalks, greenery, private parks, no room for bike lanes without ripping out sidewalks. My husband put in extensive drainage tying it into the storm drain. And, we use organic products for yard care. Doing our part.	6/6/2023 3:15 PM
15	Pedestrian seating along sidewalks!	6/6/2023 3:12 PM
16	Better bike lane marking, stripes	6/6/2023 3:11 PM
17	Safety and homeless sleeping in public areas leaving unclean garbage etc	6/6/2023 3:09 PM
18	Litter cleanup in East & South Norway Hill Park	6/6/2023 3:08 PM
19	More trees and flowers!	6/6/2023 3:05 PM
20	Repave the street blacktop 14319 116th PL NE	6/6/2023 2:47 PM
21	Speed bump and crosswalk on 119th for Bud Homan Park, also crosswalks for Tolt Pipeline Trail on 119th and 124th Ave NE	6/6/2023 2:46 PM
22	enforce many extra cars parked everywhere but in their garage	6/6/2023 2:41 PM
23	Replace the crosswalk light in front of the caribbean casino. It's still incandescent light & can't be seen hardly in the last 20 years. I have almost been hit on many occasions. People claim they didn't see it.	6/6/2023 2:34 PM
24	Increased street cleaning during winter/fall/spring	6/6/2023 2:28 PM
25	The water ponding on street is caused by improper grading along the curb line. There is a catch basin but the low point is not located at the CB but like 10 feet away.	6/6/2023 2:27 PM

Drainage in Your Neighborhood - High Woodlands Basin

26	USPS Public mail boxes	6/6/2023 2:25 PM
27	There are 2 homes that have planted lawn/flower beds ON the sidewalk. This blocks pedestrians from walking safely. Isn't this illegal? Make them clear it.	5/31/2023 12:06 PM
28	A lot of my neighborhood is controlled by my HOA - Lendemain	5/31/2023 12:03 PM
29	Education about runoff issues, e.g. car washing	5/31/2023 11:38 AM
30	Remove homeless people from the South Norway Hill Park. They use it for drugs usage and crime.	5/31/2023 11:30 AM
31	Roads and sidewalks improved/restored would be great, the new park on 132nd is great, things that renew this area and make it feel less like we are on the "fringe" would be great.	5/31/2023 11:28 AM
32	I would like to see more environmental speed control on Kirkland's streets (example: narrower streets, more plants near street, planters in the median) as well as protected bike lanes that separate cars from bikes.	5/31/2023 11:27 AM
33	Leveling the gutters along the curbs. Some have been pushed up by tree roots so they no longer drain properly.	5/30/2023 3:19 PM
34	The pothole improvement really needs consideration not in the High Woodlands area but on the major roads. (i.e. NE 132nd)	5/30/2023 2:30 PM
35	trees trimmed	5/30/2023 10:16 AM
36	street lighting	5/30/2023 10:03 AM
37	Put in covered bus stops w/ benches with storm drains. Cars/buses can splash pedestrians. Also maybe less cars getting nasty road water in ground from splashes. In general, if the buses suck less so people use them.	5/30/2023 10:00 AM
38	119th AVE NE is a high speed freeway because there is a school on 124th NE so drivers avoid 124th & use 119th to get south. Speeding has been a problem for 50 years. So far mitigations have done NOTHING. We need ROUNDABOUTS regardless of medic one & fire objections	5/30/2023 9:58 AM
39	Require commercial construction (Apts, condos) to create green spaces for recreation & not just for dogs. Sensible plantings - irrigate to establish. Plant trees where they don't obstruct utility lines. Dense housing = more local open spaces for recreation. NO obstructions in parking spaces in parks by farmers market vendors. Parents & seasons need access to parks w/o having to cross busy arterials or park in neighborhoods.	5/30/2023 9:53 AM
40	We have an ENORMOUS problem with traffic...so solution is roundabouts where you cut down maybe 100 trees???? & they destroy our City & you think we should be happy for more housing??? - How many council members live in condos/apts?? I bet none. Why not just go straight to the developers = that's who you like.	5/30/2023 9:42 AM
41	Adding swings and a slide to the East Norway Hill Park.	5/24/2023 11:33 AM
42	ADA accessibility, especially on sidewalks. Sidewalks on both sides of the street between Woodmoor Elementary and Kingsgate Safeway.	5/23/2023 10:01 AM

Q7 In your neighborhood, where does the water that runs off your lawn and pavement (such as from rain, outdoor washing, or lawn watering) go after it enters a storm drain or roadside ditch? Check all that apply.

Answered: 130 Skipped: 2

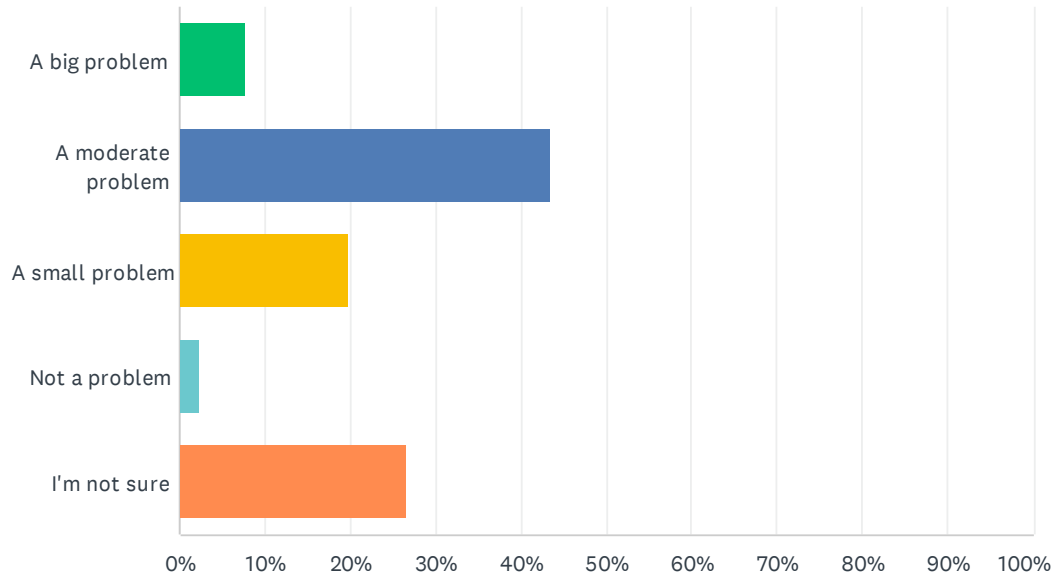


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
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To groundwater	23.85%	31
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To a drainage pond	12.31%	16
A rainwater treatment plant, separate from sewage treatment.	10.77%	14
I'm not sure	26.92%	35
Somewhere else (please describe):	0.77%	1
Total Respondents: 130		

#	SOMEWHERE ELSE (PLEASE DESCRIBE):	DATE
1	Our drain says "creek"	5/30/2023 9:54 AM

Q8 In your opinion, how big of a problem is pollution in Kirkland's creeks and lakes?

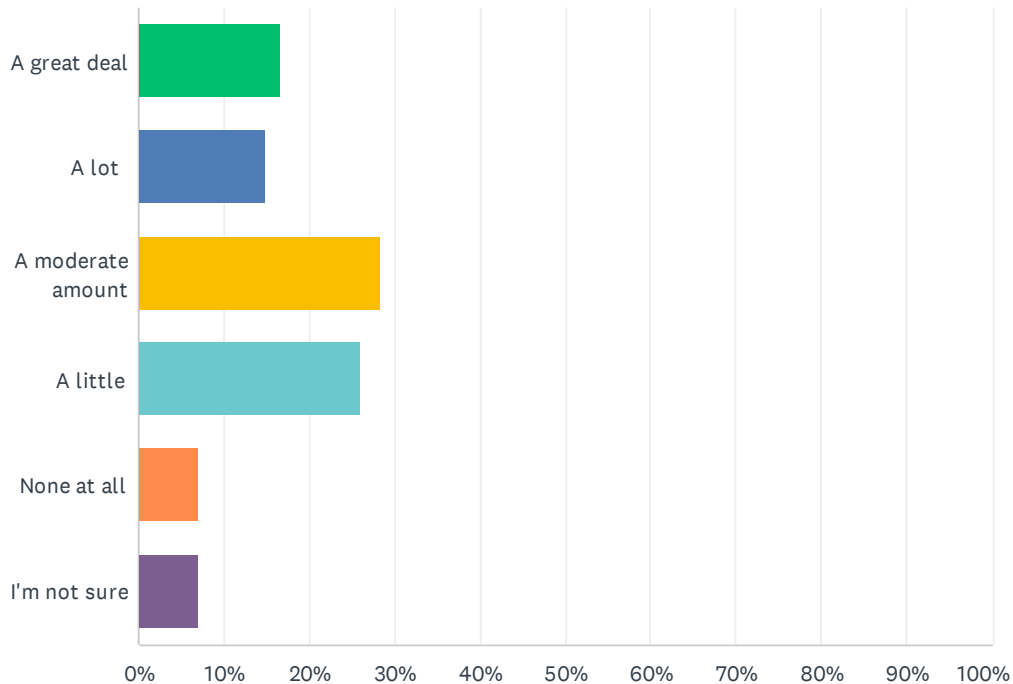
Answered: 131 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
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A moderate problem	43.51%	57
A small problem	19.85%	26
Not a problem	2.29%	3
I'm not sure	26.72%	35
TOTAL		131

Q9 To what degree do you believe that the actions you and your family take every day affect the health of Kirkland's creeks, wetlands, and Lake Washington?

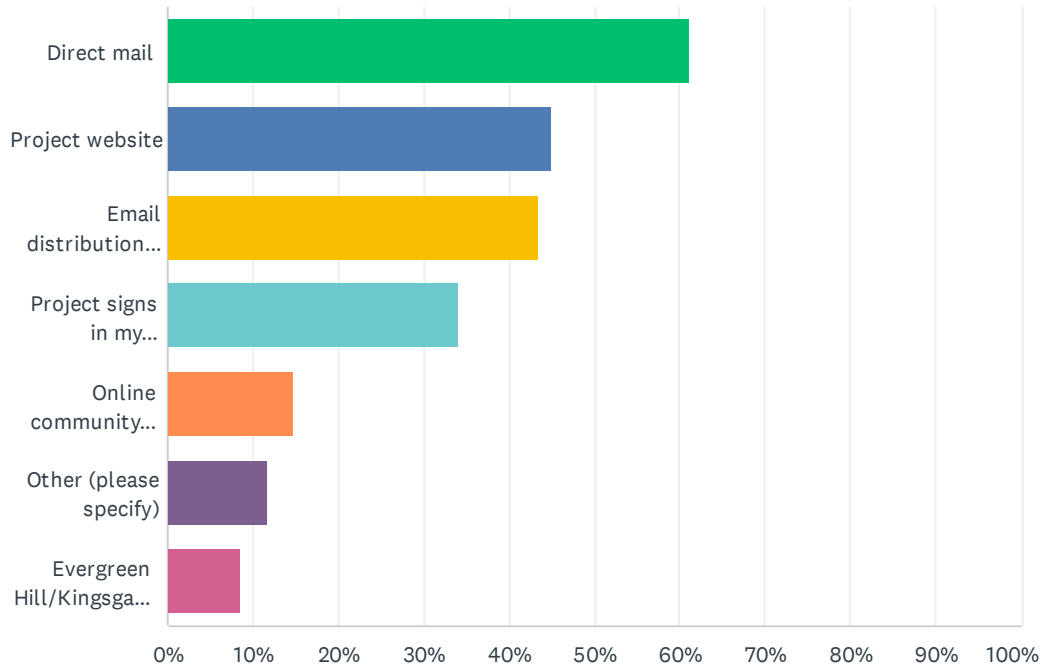
Answered: 127 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
A great deal	16.54%	21
A lot	14.96%	19
A moderate amount	28.35%	36
A little	25.98%	33
None at all	7.09%	9
I'm not sure	7.09%	9
TOTAL		127

Q10 How would you prefer the City of Kirkland communicate with you about this project? (Choose all that apply)

Answered: 129 Skipped: 3

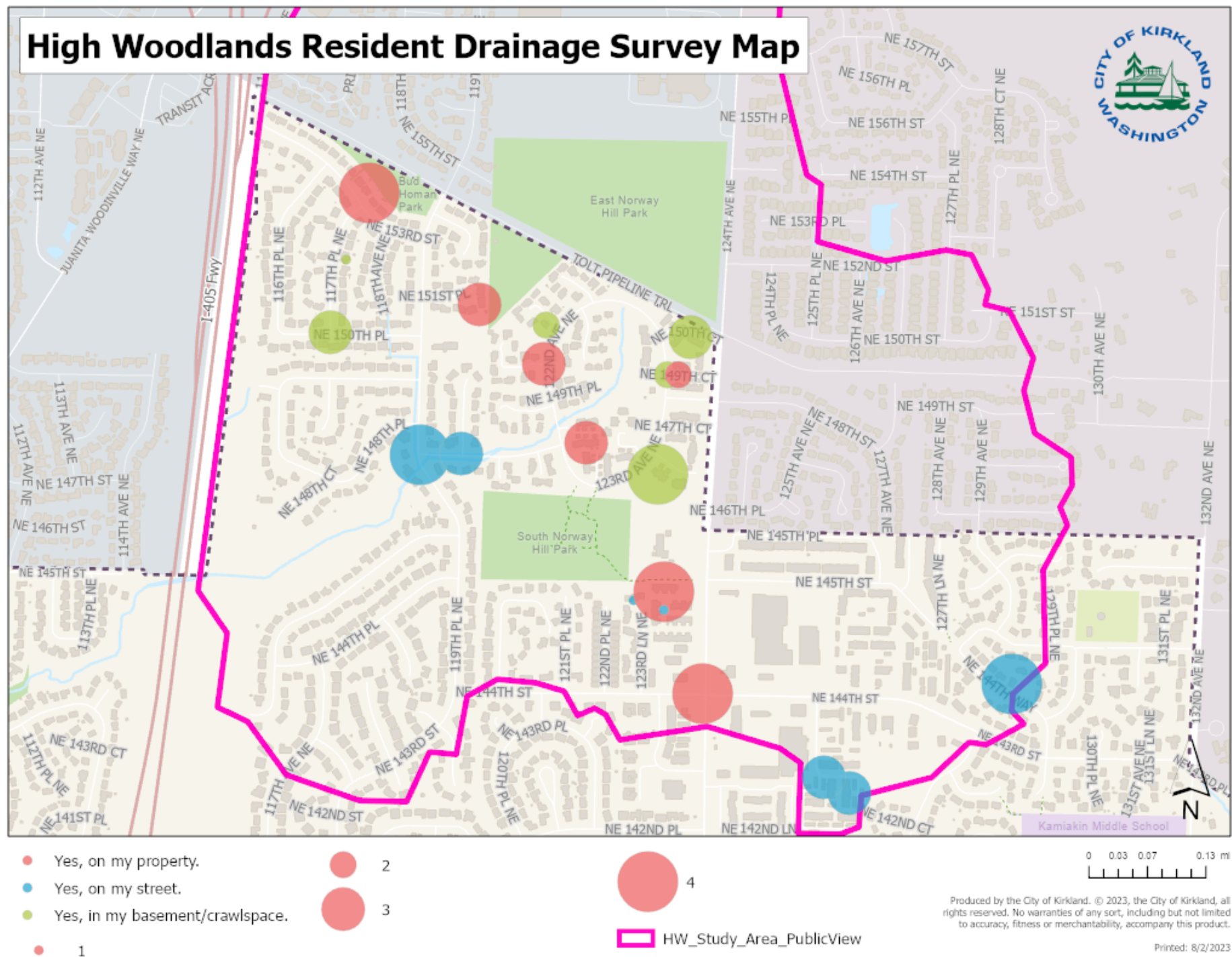


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Direct mail	61.24%	79
Project website	44.96%	58
Email distribution list	43.41%	56
Project signs in my neighborhood	34.11%	44
Online community events	14.73%	19
Other (please specify)	11.63%	15
Evergreen Hill/Kingsgate Neighborhood Association communications	8.53%	11
Total Respondents: 129		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	High Woodlands HOA	6/27/2023 8:03 AM
2	Kirkland Gov't Facebook Group	6/13/2023 1:21 PM
3	High Woodlands	6/13/2023 1:14 PM
4	High Woodlands	6/13/2023 1:13 PM
5	Lendemain	6/6/2023 3:13 PM
6	Text alerts	6/6/2023 3:06 PM

Drainage in Your Neighborhood - High Woodlands Basin

7	Lendemain, Nextdoor	6/6/2023 3:03 PM
8	High Woodlands	6/6/2023 3:03 PM
9	High Woodlands	6/6/2023 2:51 PM
10	Queensgate	6/6/2023 2:41 PM
11	Kingsgate 5	5/31/2023 11:44 AM
12	High Woodlands	5/31/2023 11:36 AM
13	High Woodlands	5/30/2023 10:06 AM
14	Lendemain (I am president of Lendemain HOA)	5/30/2023 9:38 AM
15	High Woodlands HOA communication	5/25/2023 8:28 PM



Q6 Are there other improvements that would be important for your neighborhood?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 90

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10	Improvement of storm drain system - especially keeping drains clear of leaves, mud, and other obstructions. There are a few properties on the north side of 148th st that drain onto the street from sub-surface groundwater.	6/13/2023 1:08 PM
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Drainage in Your Neighborhood - High Woodlands Basin

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27	There are 2 homes that have planted lawn/flower beds ON the sidewalk. This blocks pedestrians from walking safely. Isn't this illegal? Make them clear it.	5/31/2023 12:06 PM
28	A lot of my neighborhood is controlled by my HOA - Lendemain	5/31/2023 12:03 PM
29	Education about runoff issues, e.g. car washing	5/31/2023 11:38 AM
30	Remove homeless people from the South Norway Hill Park. They use it for drugs usage and crime.	5/31/2023 11:30 AM
31	Roads and sidewalks improved/restored would be great, the new park on 132nd is great, things that renew this area and make it feel less like we are on the "fringe" would be great.	5/31/2023 11:28 AM
32	I would like to see more environmental speed control on Kirkland's streets (example: narrower streets, more plants near street, planters in the median) as well as protected bike lanes that separate cars from bikes.	5/31/2023 11:27 AM
33	Leveling the gutters along the curbs. Some have been pushed up by tree roots so they no longer drain properly.	5/30/2023 3:19 PM
34	The pothole improvement really needs consideration not in the High Woodlands area but on the major roads. (i.e. NE 132nd)	5/30/2023 2:30 PM
35	trees trimmed	5/30/2023 10:16 AM
36	street lighting	5/30/2023 10:03 AM
37	Put in covered bus stops w/ benches with storm drains. Cars/buses can splash pedestrians. Also maybe less cars getting nasty road water in ground from splashes. In general, if the buses suck less so people use them.	5/30/2023 10:00 AM
38	119th AVE NE is a high speed freeway because there is a school on 124th NE so drivers avoid 124th & use 119th to get south. Speeding has been a problem for 50 years. So far mitigations have done NOTHING. We need ROUNDABOUTS regardless of medic one & fire objections	5/30/2023 9:58 AM
39	Require commercial construction (Apts, condos) to create green spaces for recreation & not just for dogs. Sensible plantings - irrigate to establish. Plant trees where they don't obstruct utility lines. Dense housing = more local open spaces for recreation. NO obstructions in parking spaces in parks by farmers market vendors. Parents & seasons need access to parks w/o having to cross busy arterials or park in neighborhoods.	5/30/2023 9:53 AM
40	We have an ENORMOUS problem with traffic...so solution is roundabouts where you cut down maybe 100 trees???? & they destroy our City & you think we should be happy for more housing??? - How many counsel members live in condos/apts?? I bet none. Why not just go straight to the developers = that's who you like.	5/30/2023 9:42 AM
41	Adding swings and a slide to the East Norway Hill Park.	5/24/2023 11:33 AM
42	ADA accessibility, especially on sidewalks. Sidewalks on both sides of the street between Woodmoor Elementary and Kingsgate Safeway.	5/23/2023 10:01 AM