

# Grays Harbor County 2027 Comprehensive Land Use Plan

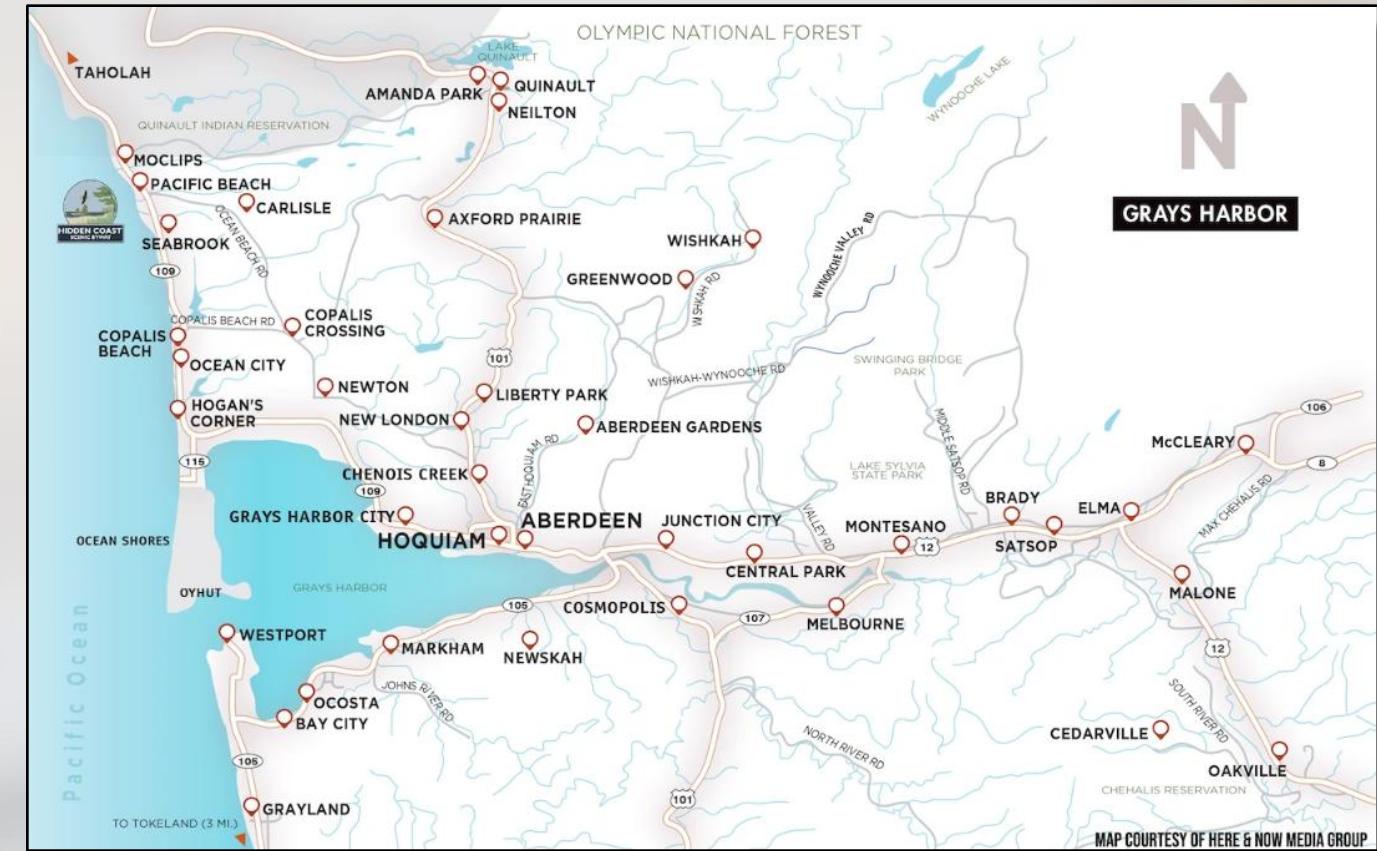
County Planning Commission

September 9, 2025



# Project Overview

- New Comprehensive Land Use Plan and development regulations
- Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements
- Public engagement throughout the process – from visioning, to drafting, to finalizing the Comp Plan





# Engagement in key project phases

Project phase	Engagement approach
<b>Visioning and Draft EIS scoping</b> Jun – Sept 2025	<b>Involve:</b> Visioning and Comp Plan comment periods allow public/stakeholders to share feedback on what they want to see in the future Comp Plan <i>Robust public engagement in the Visioning process is critical to ensure community input informs the new land use plan</i>
<b>Draft Comp Plan and regulations and Draft EIS comment periods</b> Feb - Mar 2026	<b>Involve:</b> Public comment periods allow public/stakeholders to share their desires, values, ideas
<b>Final Comp Plan and regulations and Final EIS</b> Apr - Sept 2026	<b>Inform:</b> Share final EIS and Comp Plan with public/stakeholders



# Public Engagement Results

# Engagement Overview

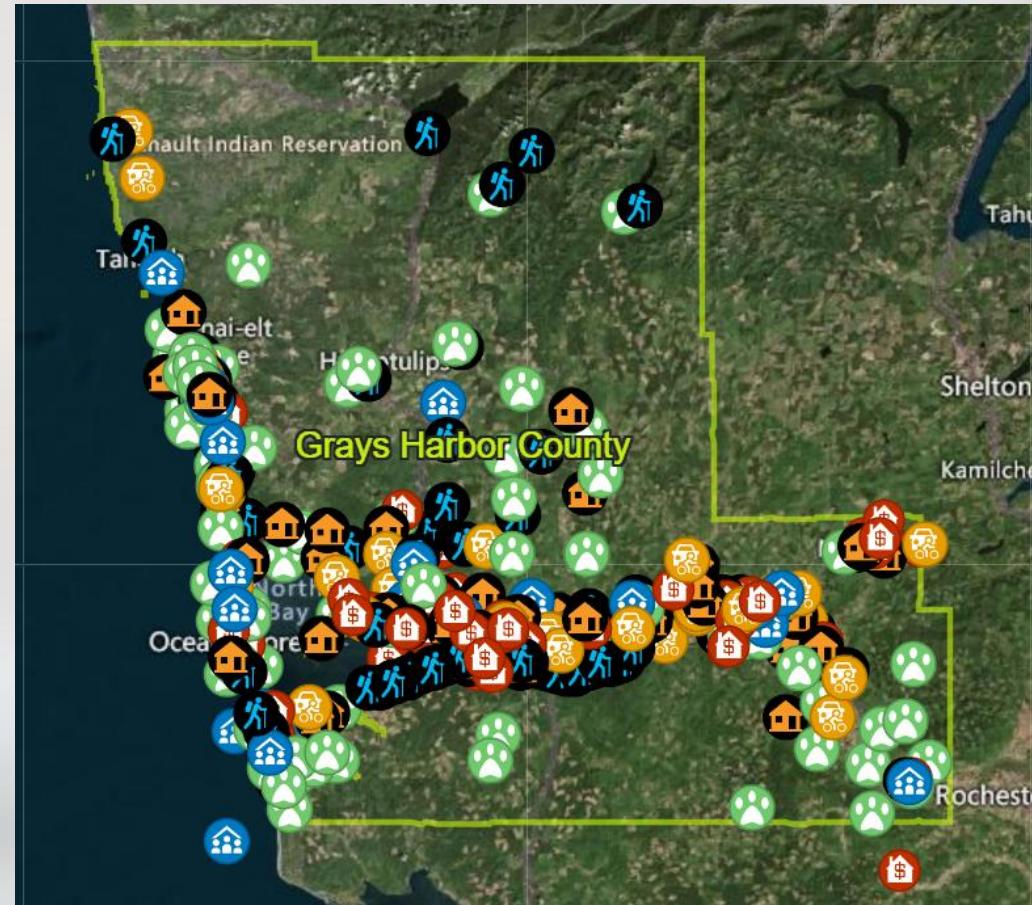
**576 people reached**

## In-person events

- 4 events
- 53 attendees

## Online survey

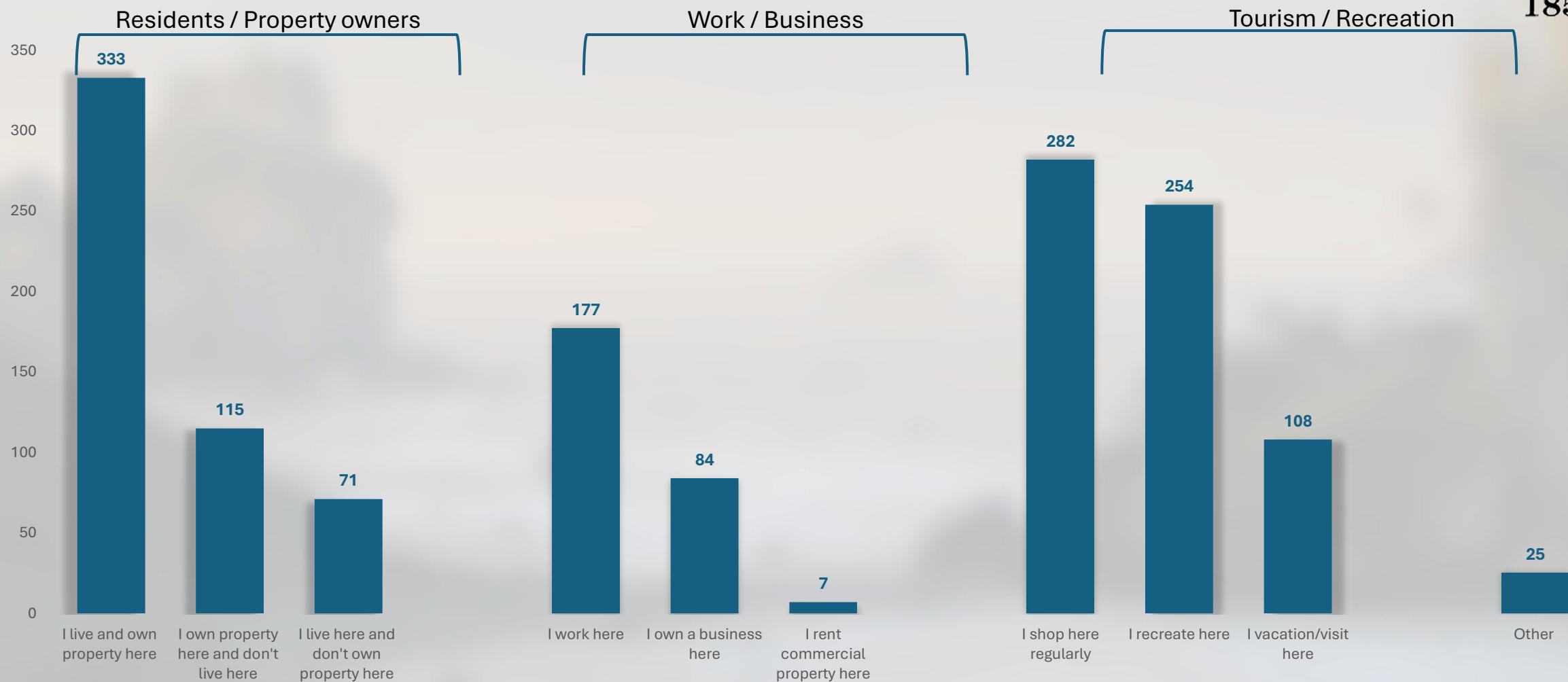
- 526 survey responses
- Survey concluded Aug. 15



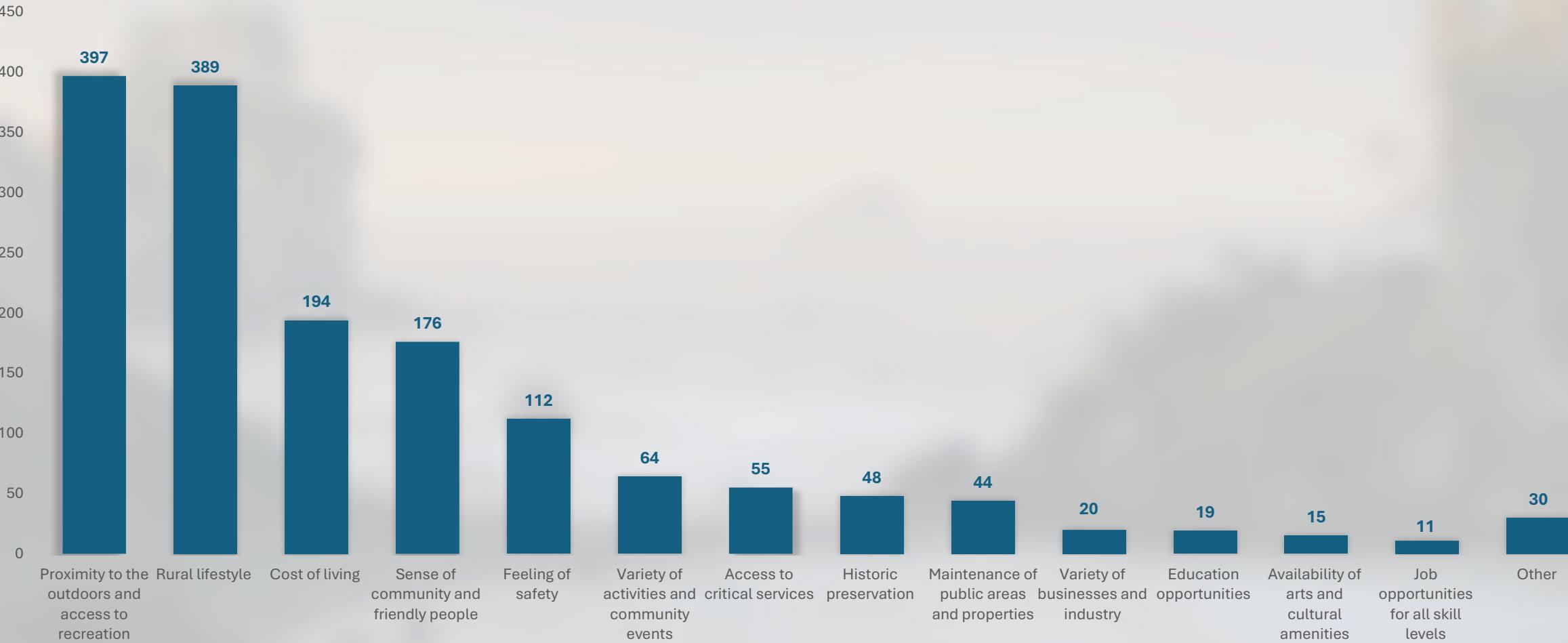
[Link to interactive map](#)



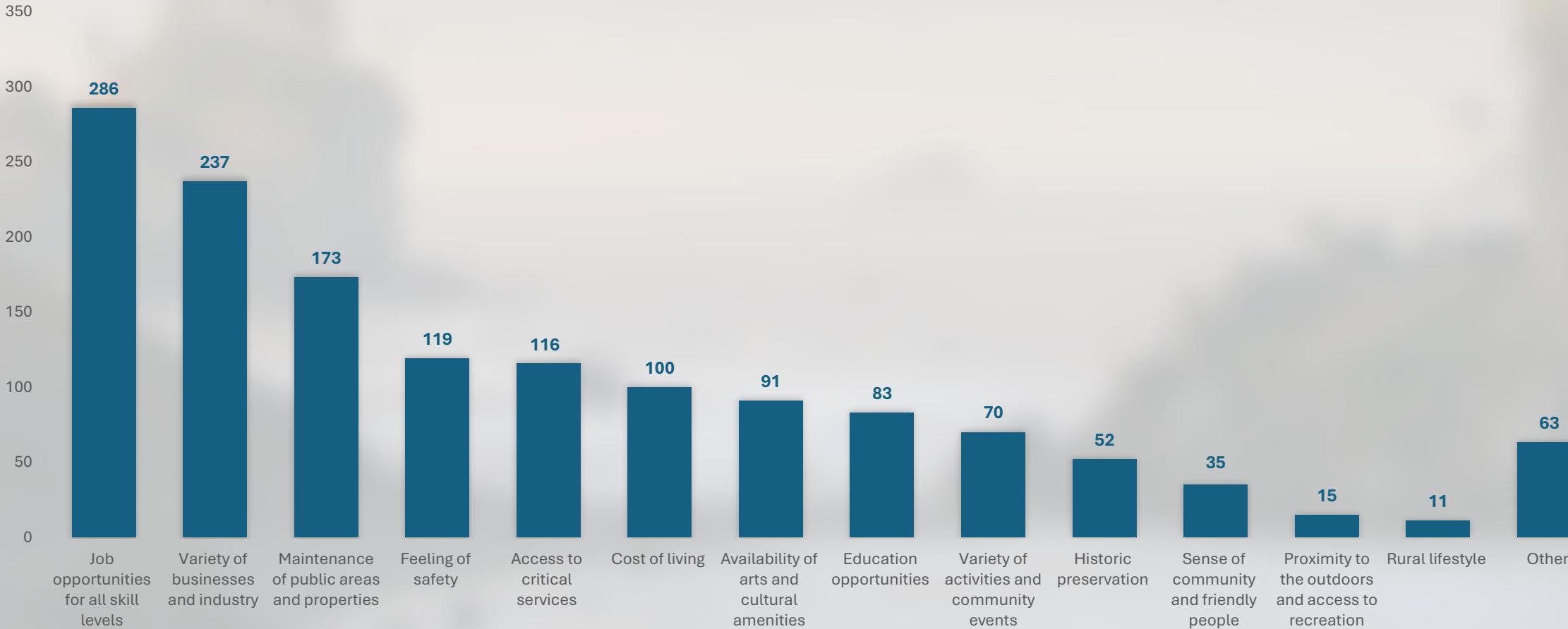
# What's your connection to Grays Harbor County?



# When you think of Grays Harbor County today, what are the top 3 strengths?



# When you think of Grays Harbor County today, what are the top 3 weaknesses?

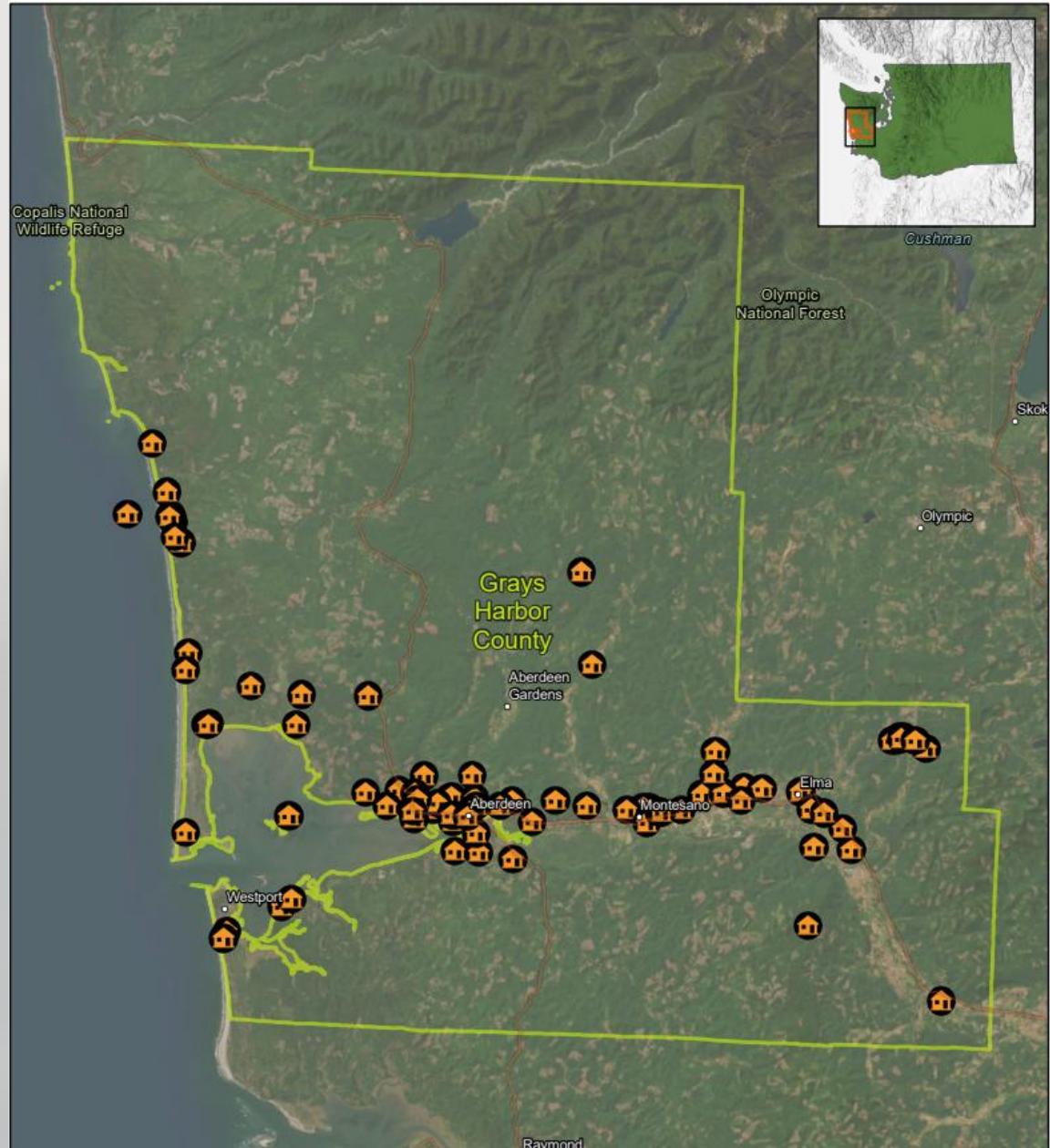


# When you envision the future of Grays Harbor County, what would you like to see?\*



- Preservation of rural lifestyle
- Affordable and variety of housing across income levels
- More job growth and living wage jobs
- Opportunities for economic development and revitalization
- Improved public infrastructure and services
- Protected nature and wildlife
- Increased public safety, and solutions for crime and homelessness
- More community gathering spaces and activities, especially youth focused
- More transportation options, including non-motorized
- Improved internet services and access
- Support for thoughtful tourism and coastal development
- Deregulation and more government transparency
- Community-led decision making

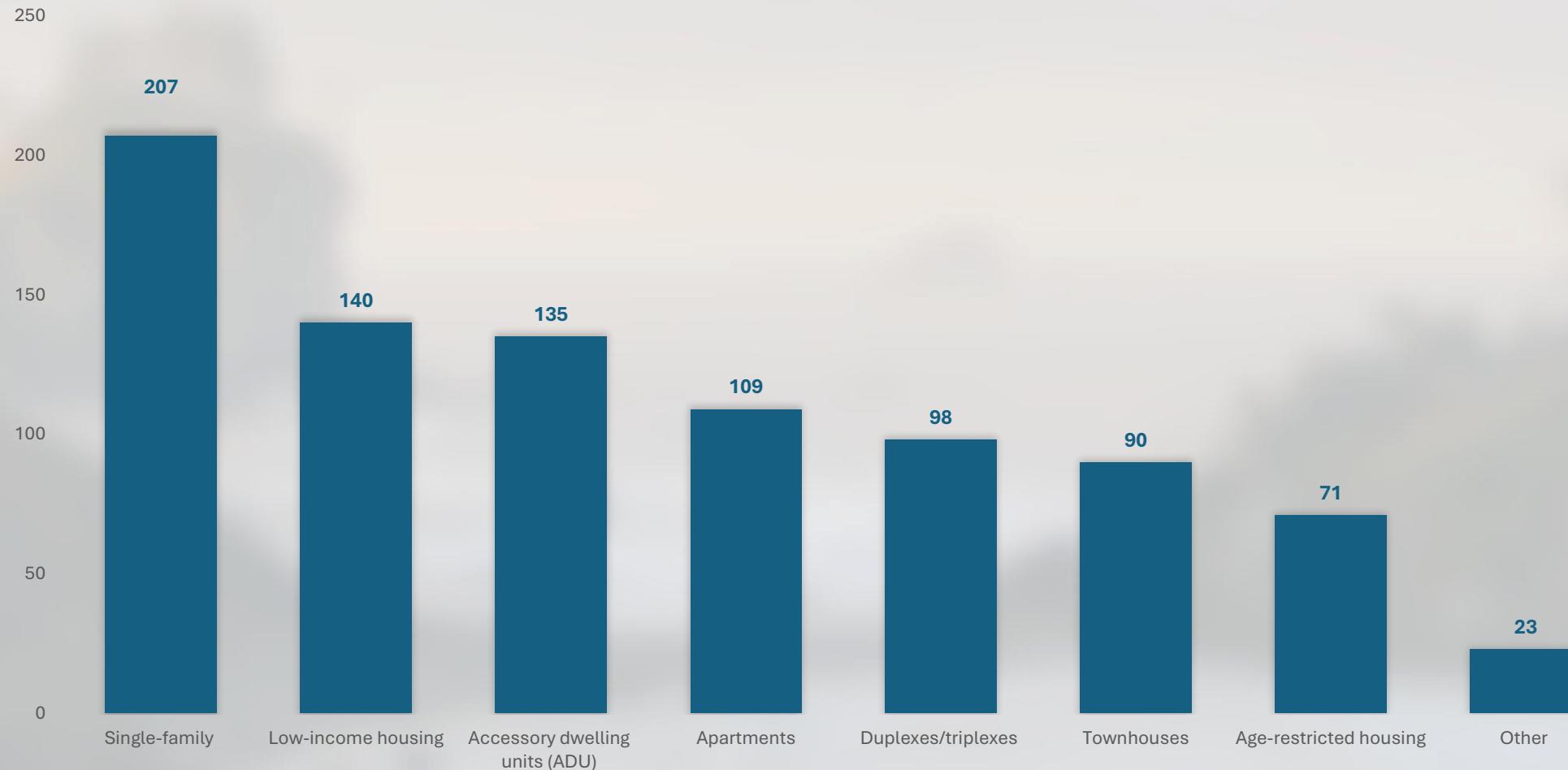
*\*open ended question*

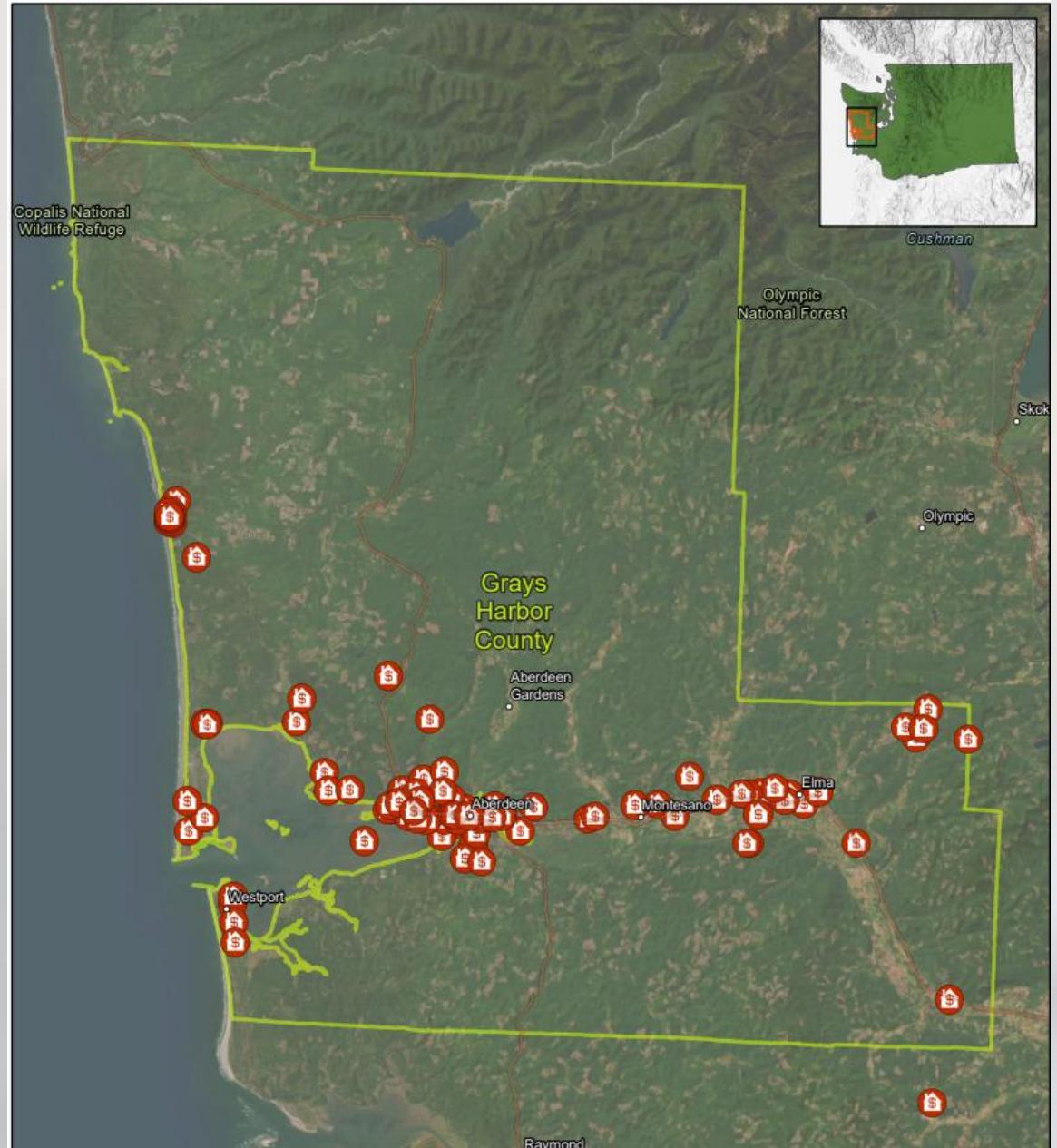


**61% of respondents think  
more housing is needed.**



# What types of housing would you like more of in Grays Harbor County?



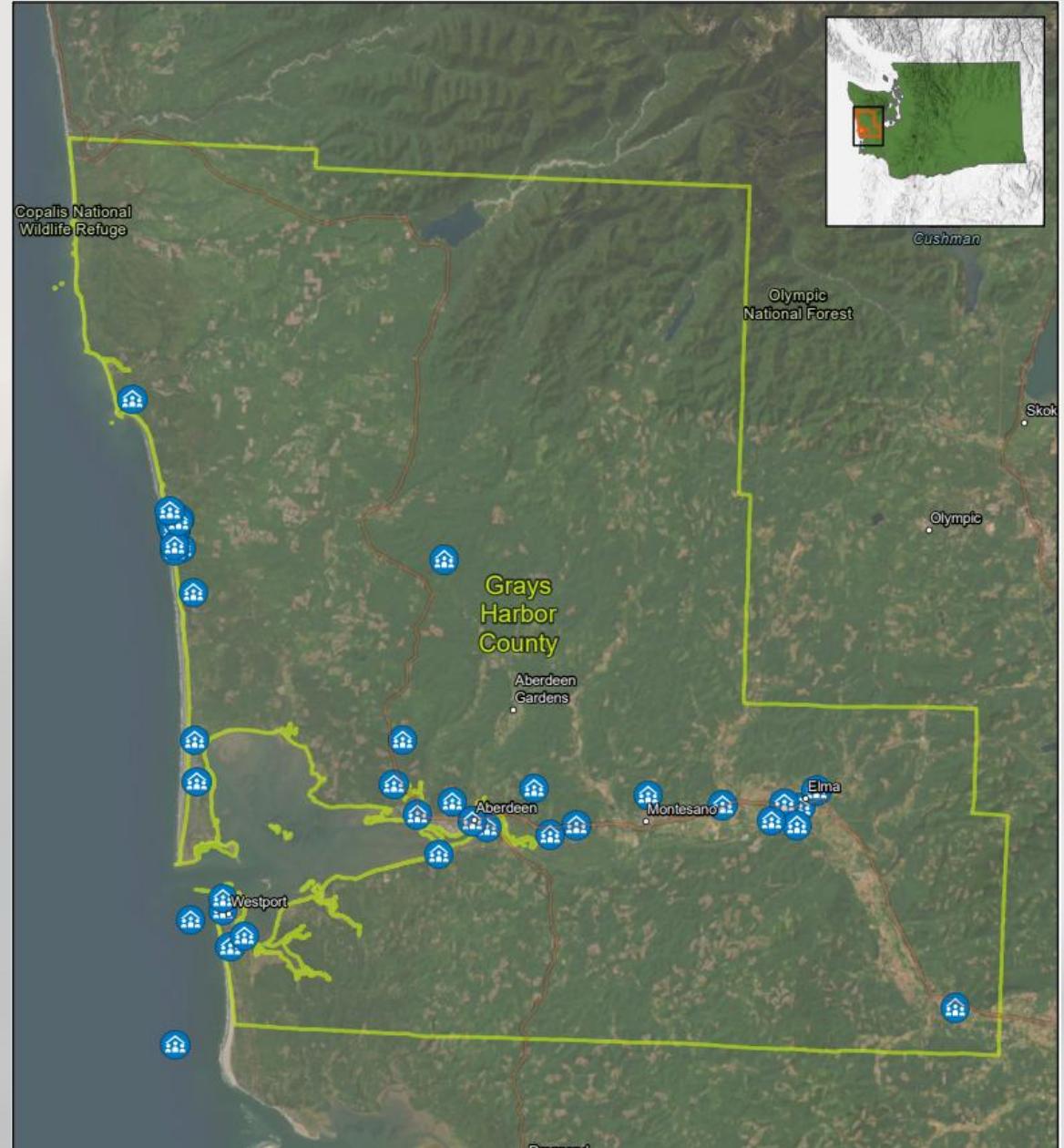


**89% of respondents  
think more jobs and  
businesses are needed.**



# What types of jobs and businesses would you like more of in Grays Harbor County?

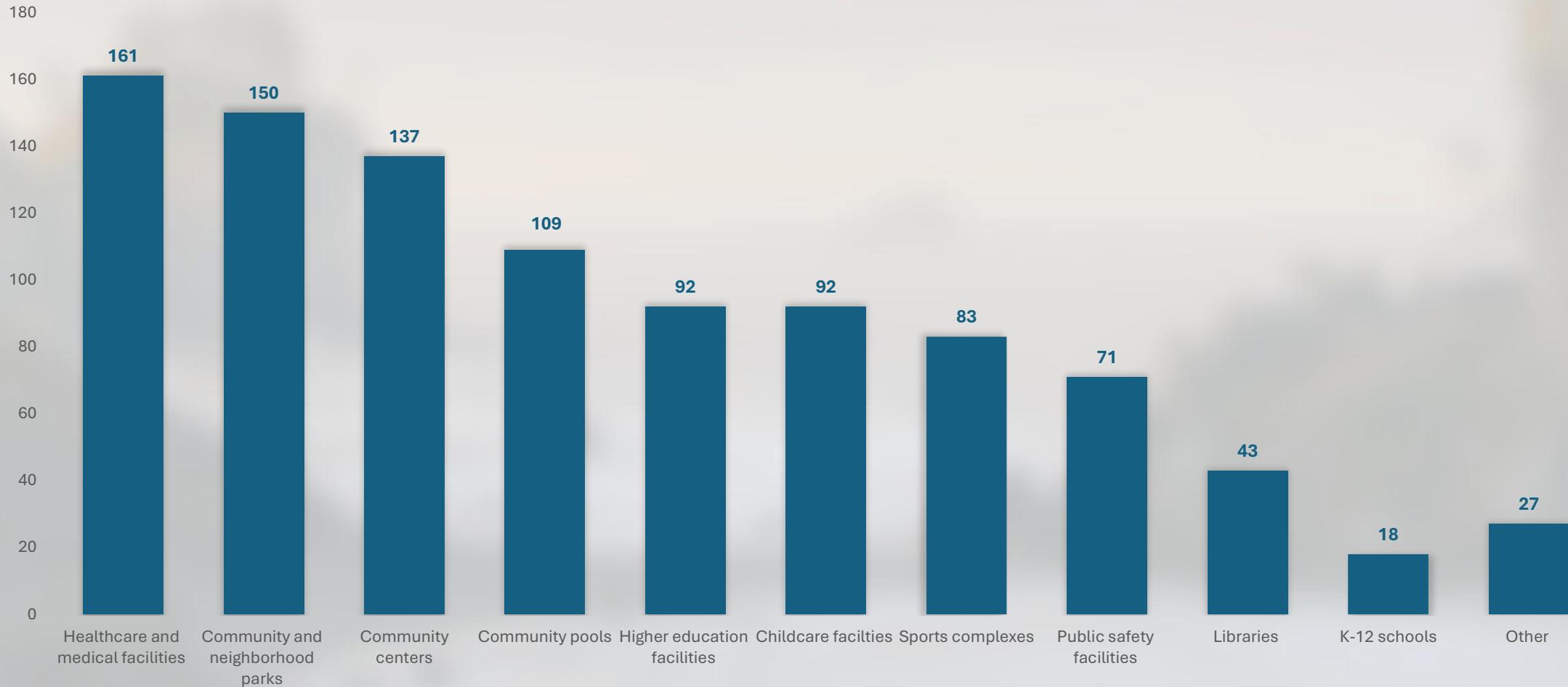


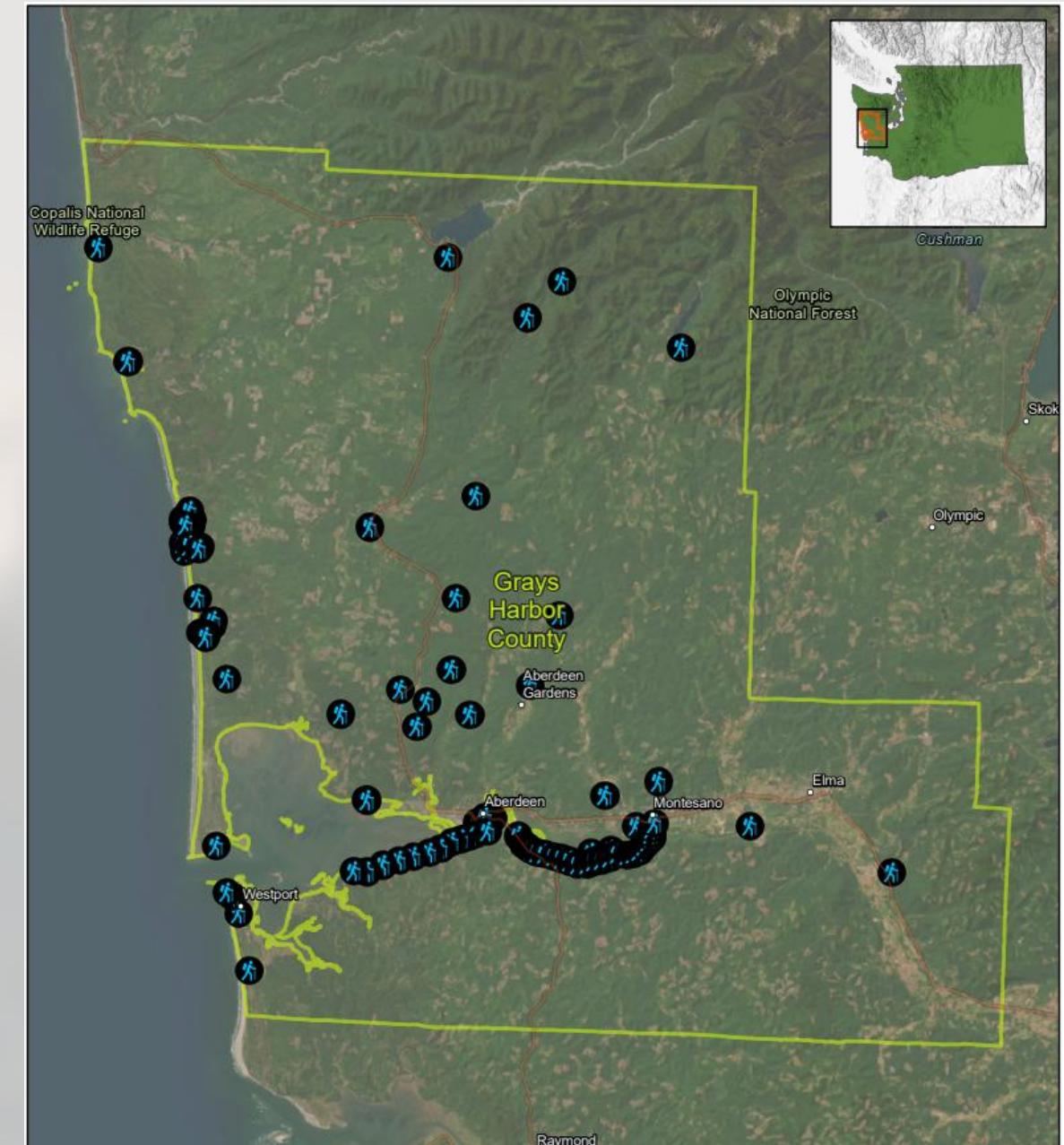


**64% of respondents think  
more community facilities  
are needed.**



# What types of community facilities would you like more of in Grays Harbor County?

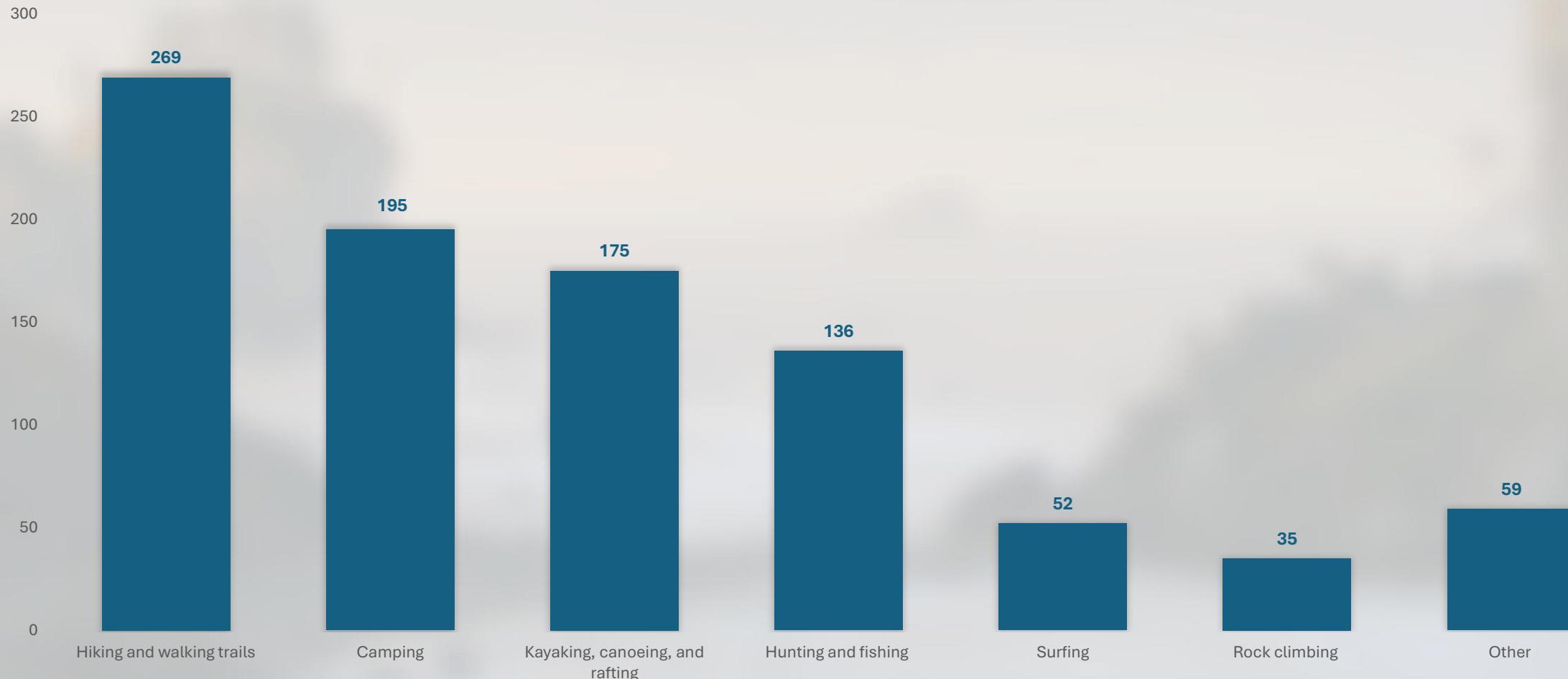


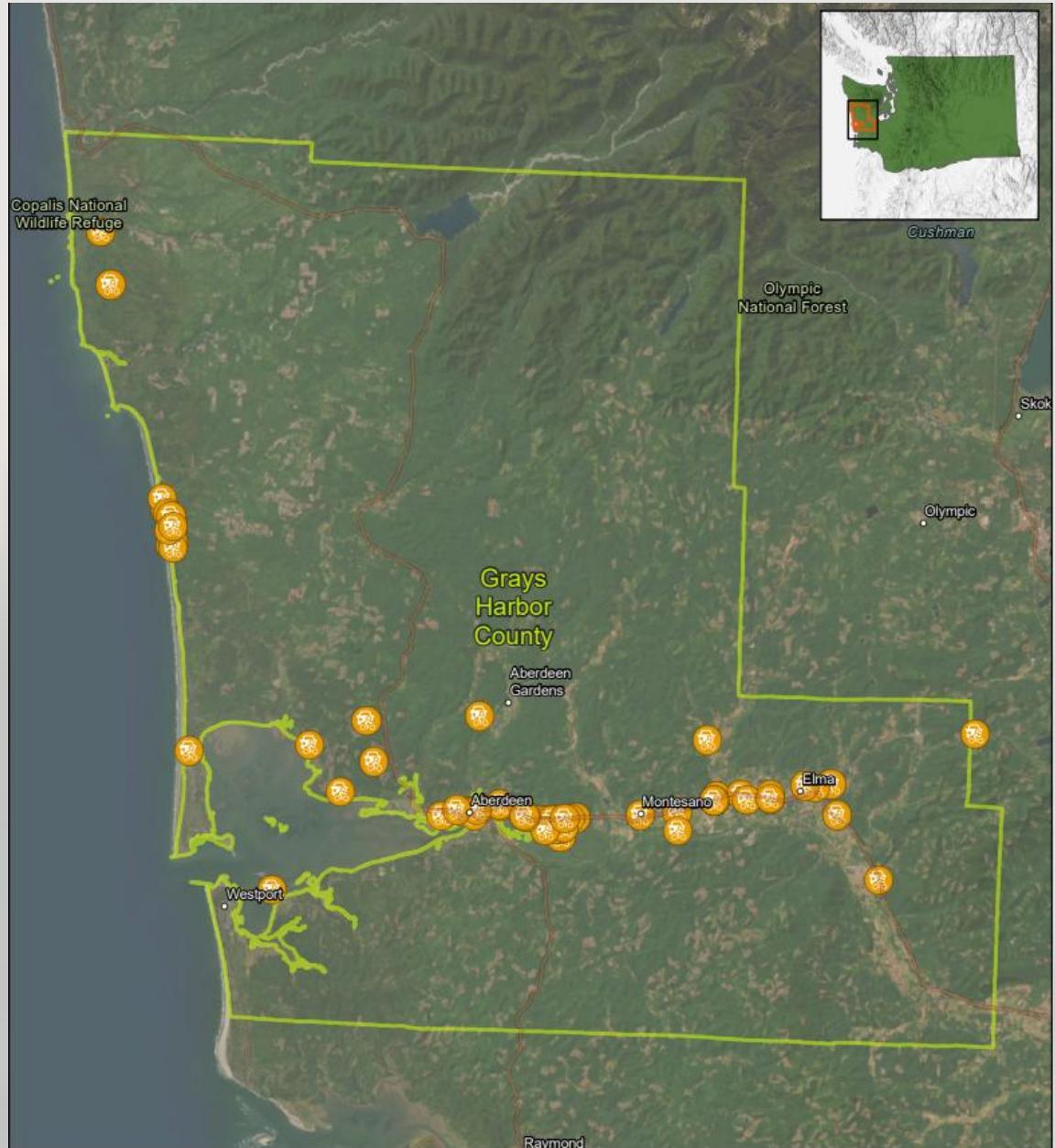


**63% of respondents think  
more outdoor recreation is  
needed.**



# What types of outdoor recreation would you like more of in Grays Harbor County?

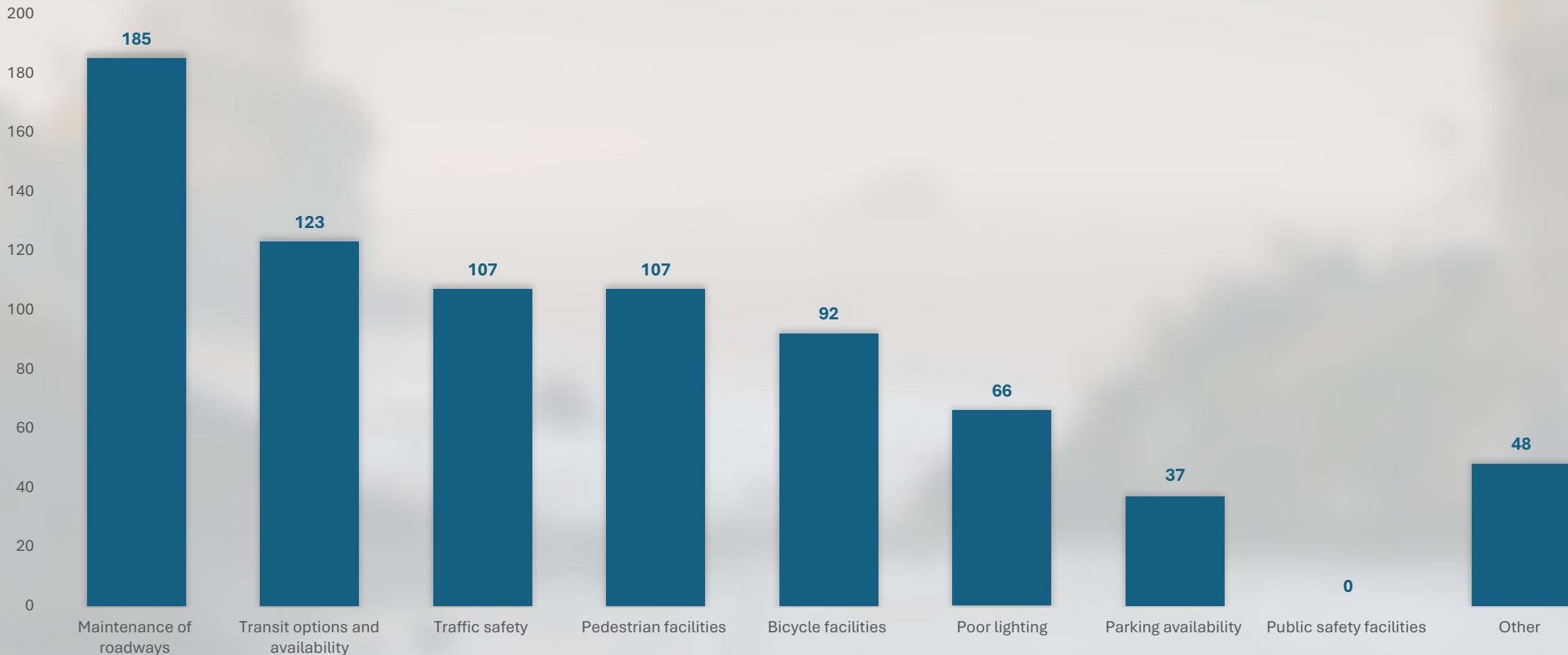


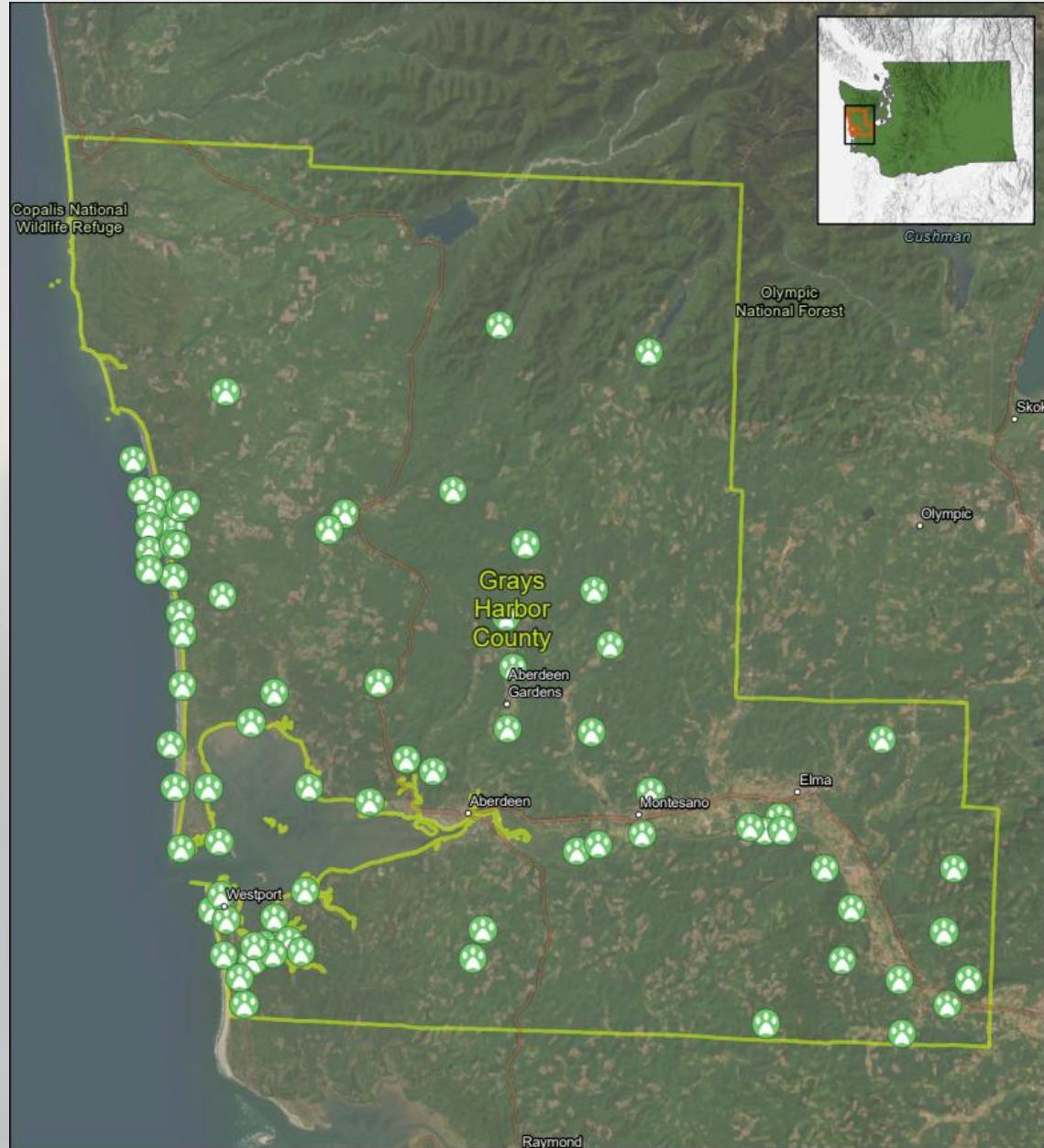


**65% of respondents think  
transportation  
improvements are needed.**



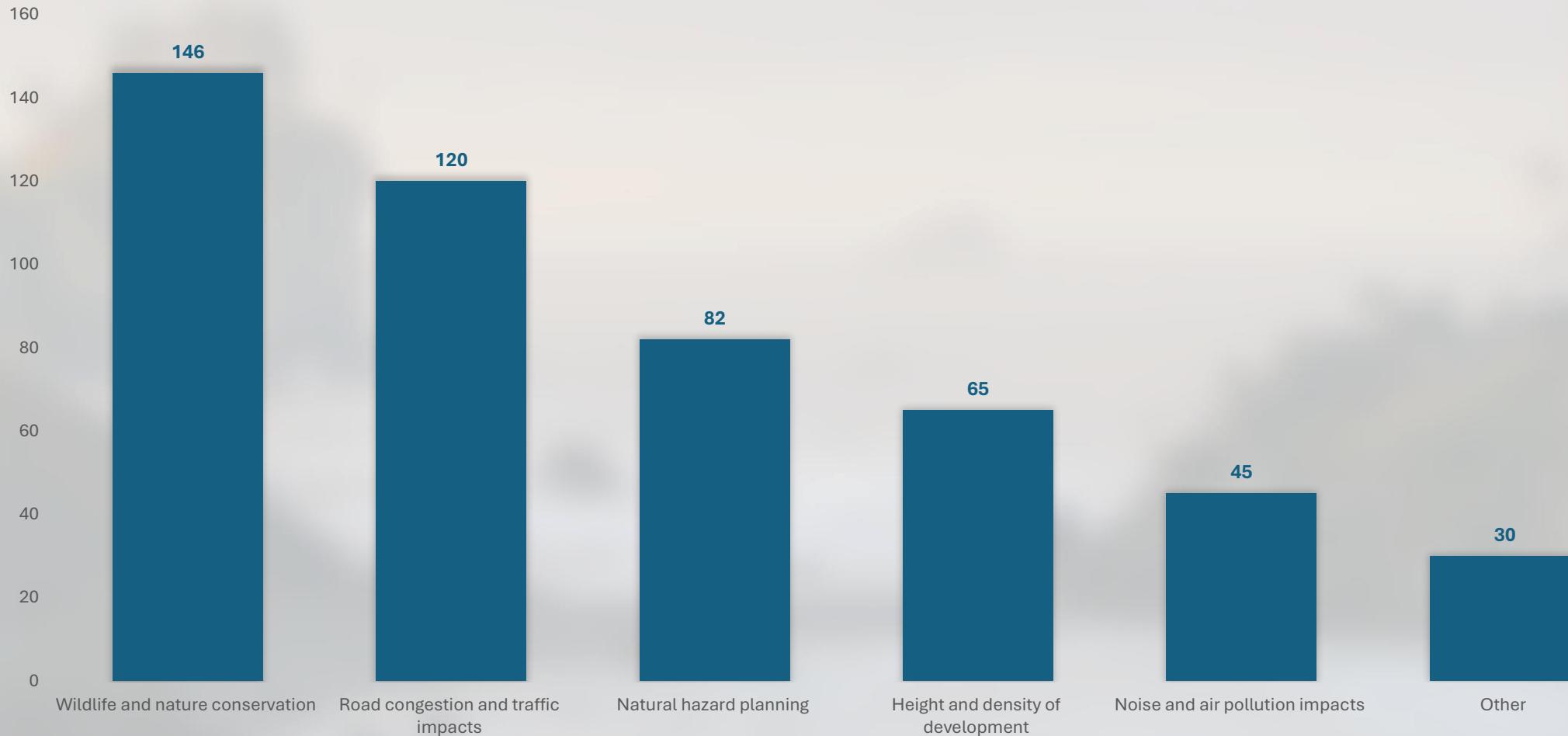
# What are the most important transportation issues in Grays Harbor County?





**81% of respondents think  
areas should be preserved  
for wildlife and nature.**

# What types of regulations is most important to you?





# Are there other topics you would like us to consider?\*

- **Preserve rural character:** Desire to maintain rural environment, including large parcels
- **Environmental regulation:** Interest in balancing nature conservation with development
- **Road safety & traffic:** Support for reducing congestion and increasing road safety
- **Flooding & water levels:** Support for proactive planning and tsunami infrastructure
- **Outdoor access:** Desire for more trails, bike paths, and public recreation areas
- **Tourism development:** Support for beautification and strategic planning to attract visitors
- **Trade education:** Desire for local vocational programs
- **Business support:** Interest in new policies and regulations to attract and retain a variety of businesses, especially small and local
- **Community amenities:** Support for community centers, amenities for youth/families, venues, parks, and more

\*open ended question



# Are there other topics you would like us to consider?\* (continued)

- **Affordable housing:** Need for a variety of housing that serves residents and workers
- **Vacant/rundown properties:** Desire to revitalize rundown and vacant properties
- **Homelessness:** Concerns about homeless encampments, drug use, and safety
- **Mental health & addiction:** Interest in more mental health and addiction services
- **Hospital access:** Interest in more hospitals, especially for the aging population
- **Emergency services:** Support for more police, fire, and medical services
- **Internet access:** Interest in high-speed broadband for rural living and economic growth

*\*open ended question*



# Community Visioning



# Community Vision

## What is a community vision?

- A community vision is a shared understanding of what a community wants to be like in the future, serving as a guide for strategic planning efforts and decision-making. It is a collaborative process where the community explores their aspirations and priorities for the future.

## Visioning efforts will:

- Use meaningful community engagement to understand the needs and challenges of the area
- Align land use alternatives with the values and goals of the community
- Build community relationships to support implementation of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Develop a community supported vision for long-term planning



# Vision Statement - draft

*Grays Harbor County will be a vibrant community that preserves its rural character and local identity while embracing new opportunities and well-planned growth. We highly value our beautiful natural surroundings and recognize the importance of balancing land uses to protect environmentally sensitive areas while supporting development. A variety of housing options, living wage jobs, and shops, services and community spaces will make Grays Harbor County a pleasant and thriving place to live, work and visit. A mix of vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit options will provide efficient and accessible connections throughout the area. We will achieve our vision through community-guided decision making, by working closely with residents, businesses, and project partners.*



# Next steps

## **Create community vision (Sept. – Oct. 2025)**

- Finalize community vision statement

## **Develop land use alternatives (Fall 2025)**

- Based on community vision
- Planning Commission worksessions

# Thank you

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