

Recreation in Guilford

Bringing together all the energy: a multi-group meeting

January 21, 2024

Guilford Recreation Commission

Agenda

Introductions

Recreation survey results

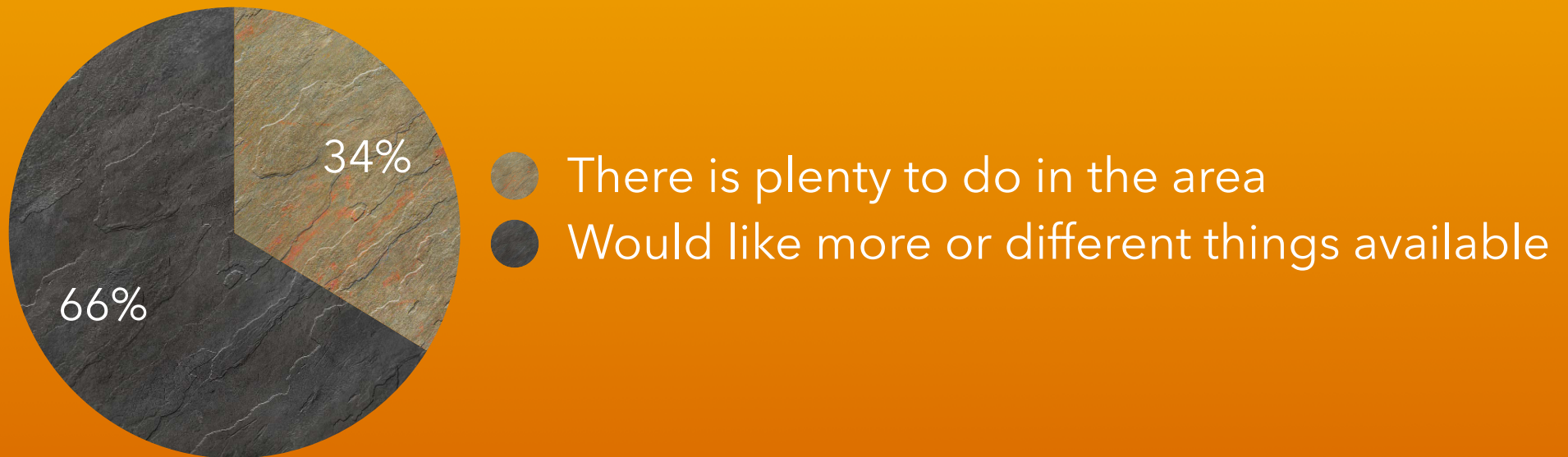
Resource map

Community calendar

Creation of new activities

Open discussion

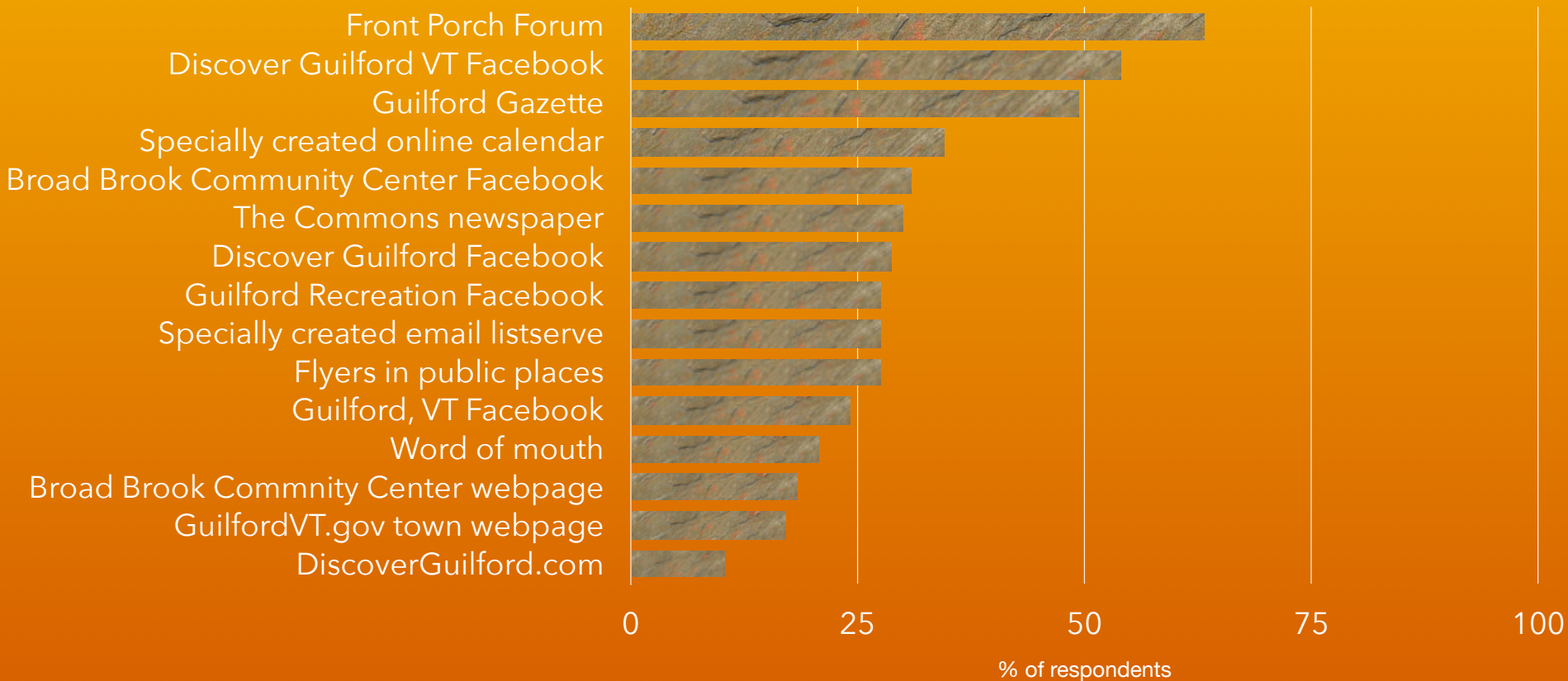
Are there enough recreation and leisure opportunities in Guilford?



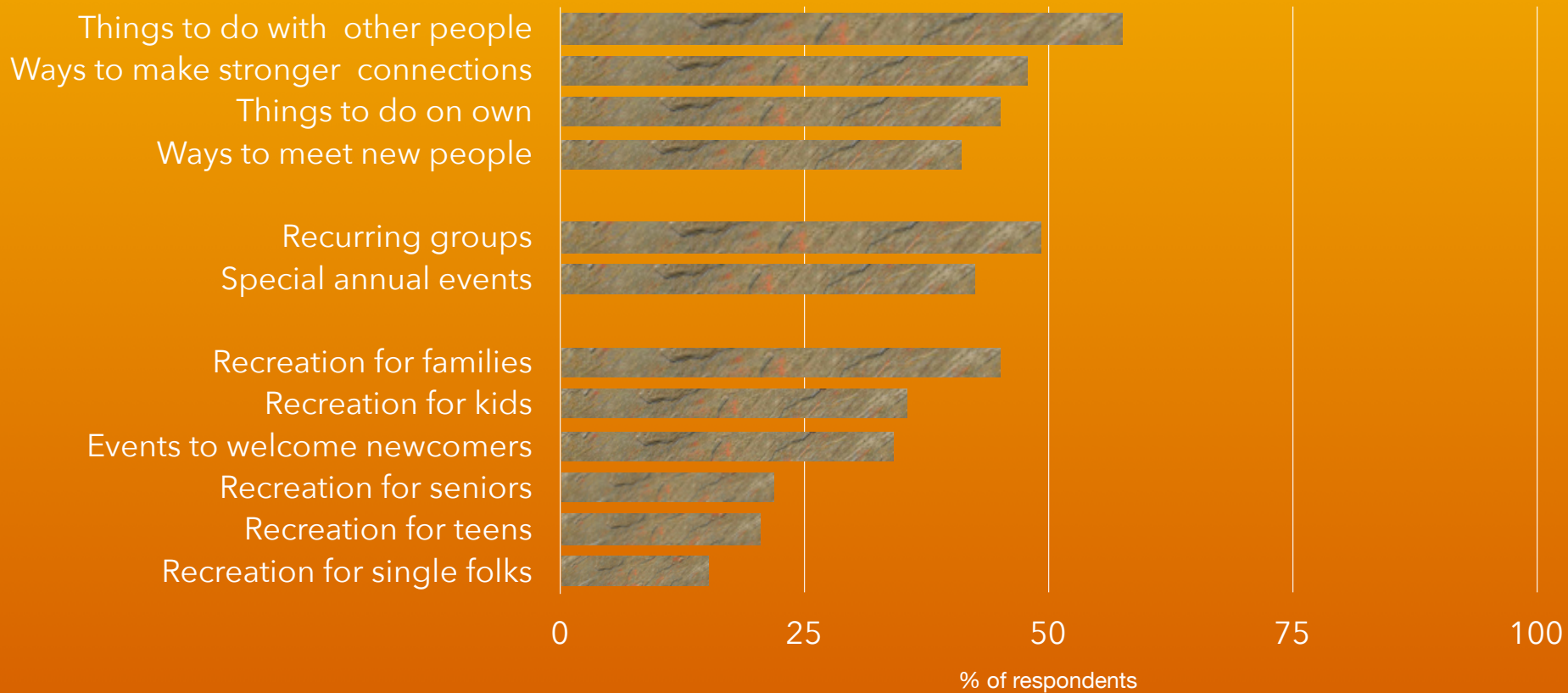


Types of recreation you would like to see that are not currently available?

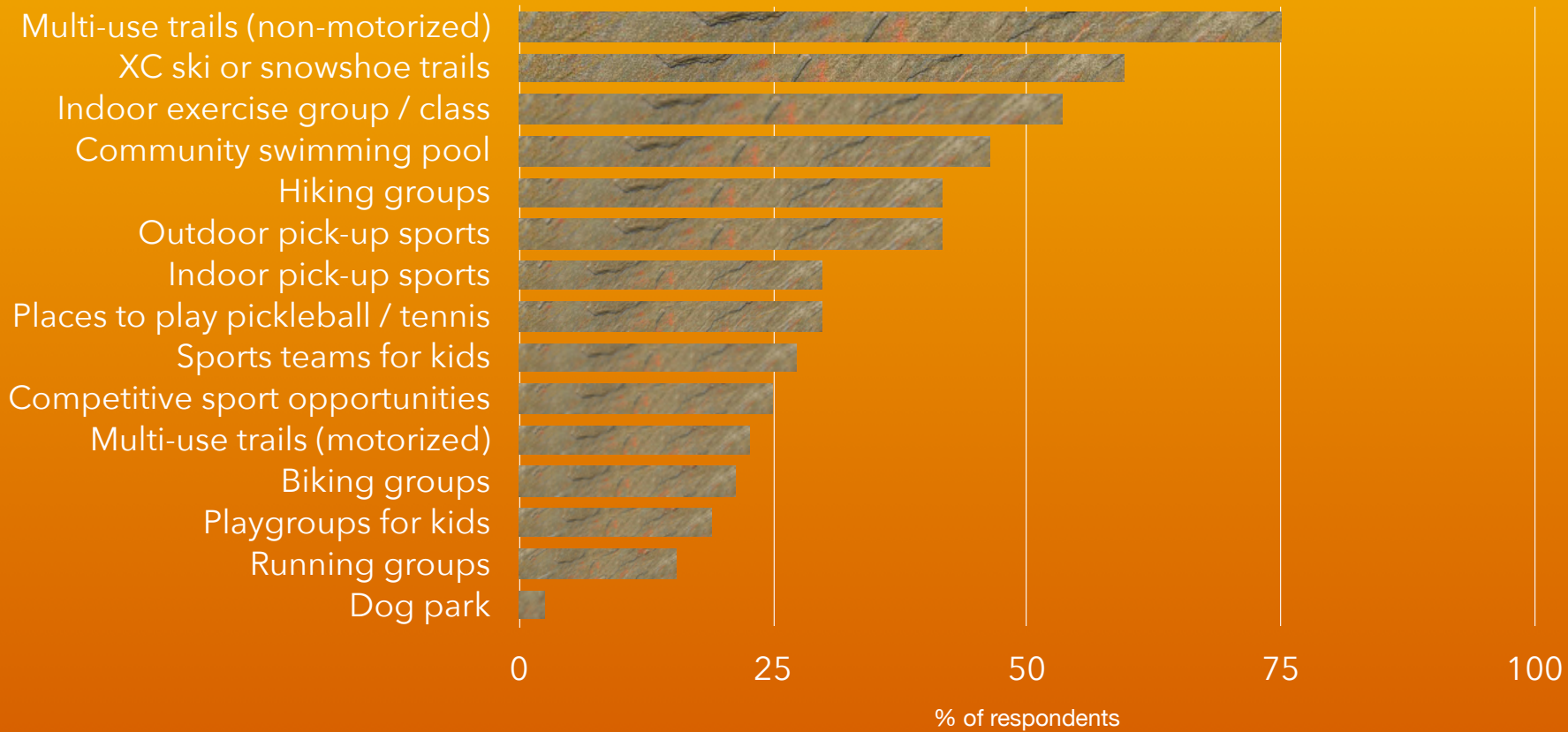
Best way to stay informed about recreation events in Guilford?



Community interests: broad types of recreation



Recreation for the BODY: what would people like to see?



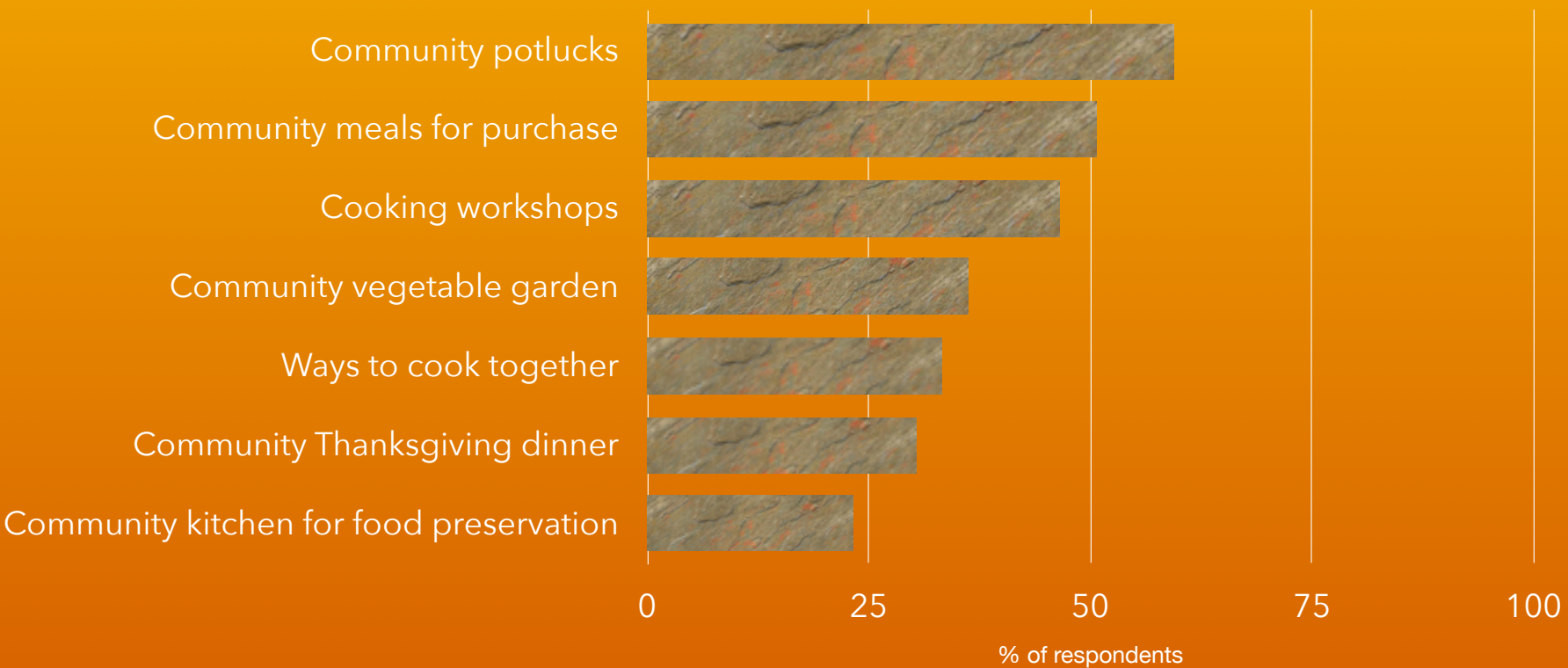
Recreation for the MIND: what would people like to see?



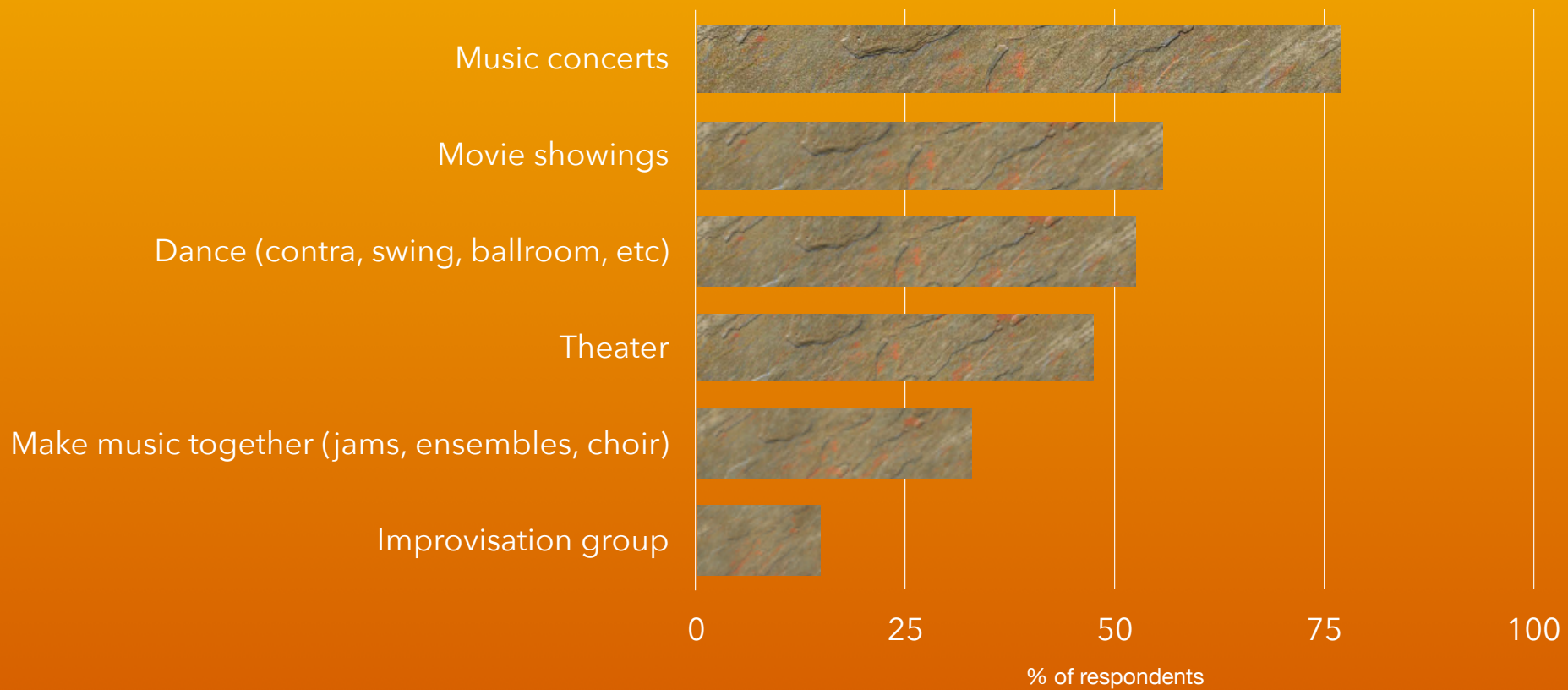
Recreation for the HANDS: what would people like to see?



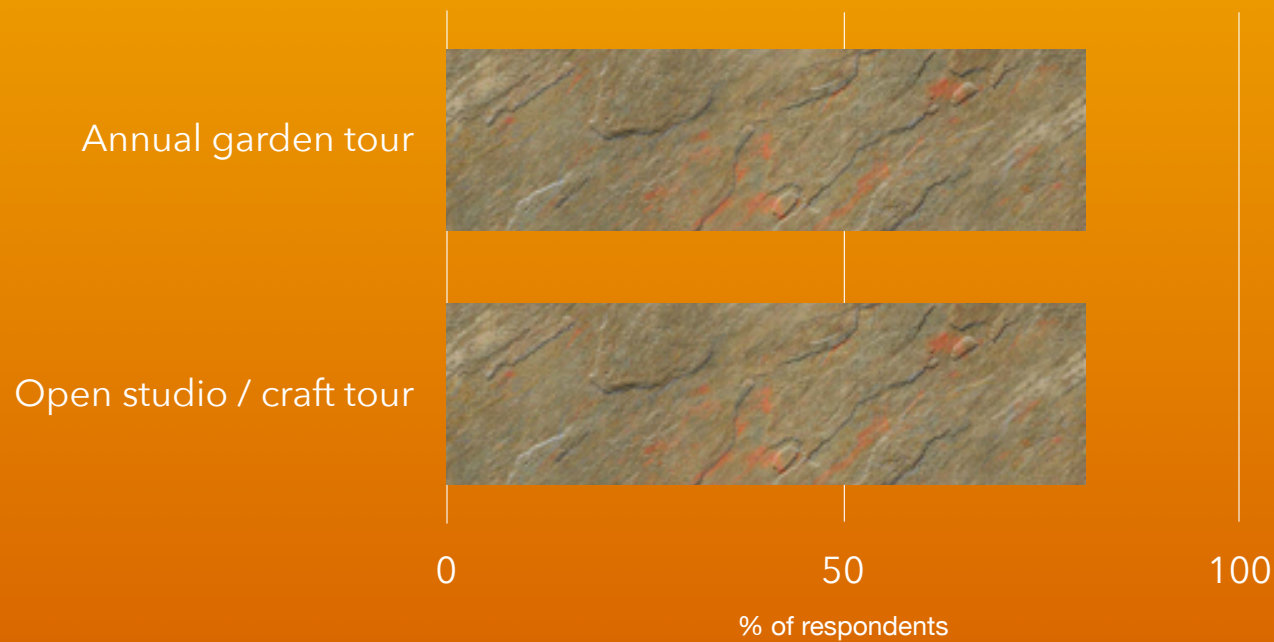
Recreation involving FOOD: what would people like to see?



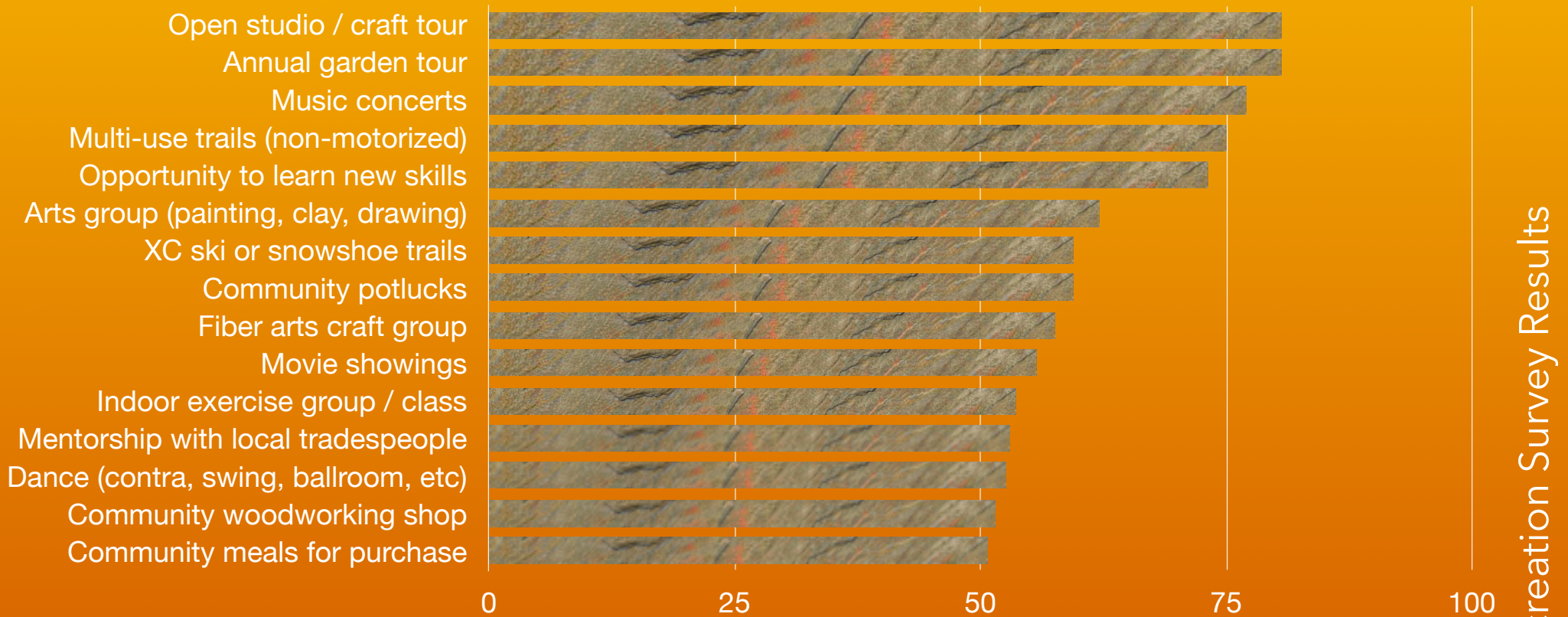
Recreation involving PERFORMING ARTS: what would people like to see?



Recreation involving OUR NEIGHBORS: what would people like to see?



And the winners are >50% interest in the community



Recreation Survey Results

Some concerns expressed:

Focus on existing town services / infrastructure instead of recreation

Recreation is available in nearby towns, don't need to duplicate

Don't want to lose Guilford's essential nature by becoming a city

Concern that increased recreation will increase taxes

Notable Write-in Comments

Not all events have a community-wide invitation

More intergenerational opportunities: why limit to seniors?

More places like the Weeks Forest — kudos!

Guilford Town should have a Facebook page

Trail entrance isn't marked — it feels like we are trespassing

ATVs/UTVs as aids for those with limited mobility, a way to be in nature

Resource Mapping:

what already exists?

Annual events

Recurring groups

Places to gather or recreate

Groups involved with recreation

Resource Mapping:

annual events

Annual Events	When	Location	Organized by	Cost
Thanksgiving Dinner		BBCC	Grange	Free
Trunk or Treat	Late October	Guilford Fairgrounds	Recreation Commission	Free
Guilford Free University			Guilford Folk	
Guilford Fair	Labor Day		Guilford Fair committee	
Bike Night	Late June	Guilford Central School	Recreation Commission	Free
Welcome spring	Early spring	Springs Farm	Recreation Commission	Free

Resource Mapping:

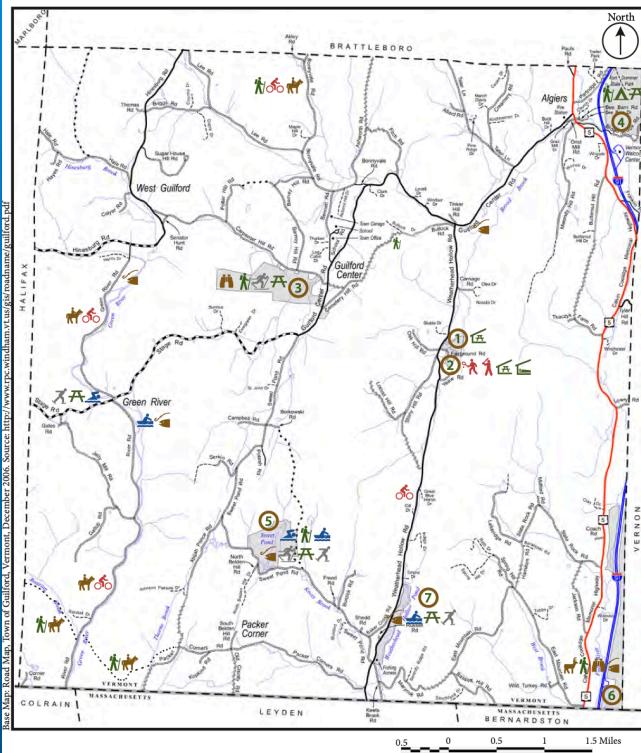
recurring groups

Recurring Events	When	Location	Organized by	Cost
Tai Chi			Guilford CARES	
Contradances		BBCC		
Talk About Books adult book group	3rd Wednesday, 6:30 pm	Library or Zoom	Library	Free
Story Time (book group for kids)	Tuesdays, 2 pm	Library, sometimes Zoom	Library	Free

Resource Mapping:

places to recreate

Road Map & Recreational Resources, Town of Guilford, Vermont



Map Key

Parks & Recreation Areas

- ① Guilford Fair Grounds
- ② Whittemore Park
- ③ Weeks Memorial Forest
- ④ Fort Dummer State Park
- ⑤ Sweet Pond State Park
- ⑥ Roaring Brook Wildlife Management Area
- ⑦ Weatherhead Hollow Pond

Recreational Activities

- ▲ Camping
- 👤 Hiking
- 🍷 Picnicking
- 🛖 Picnic Shelter / Tables
- 🛖 Sleeping Shelter
- 🎣 Fishing
- 🐎 Horseback Riding
- 🏹 Hunting
- 🦋 Wildlife Viewing
- ⚾ Baseball
- 🚲 Biking
- 🎾 Tennis
- 🛶 Paddling
- 🏊 Swimming
- 🛷 Ice skating
- 🎿 Snowshoeing / Cross-country Skiing

Road Map Symbols

- 🛣 Interstate Highway
- 🛤 Federal Highway
- 🛤 Class 2 town highway (paved)
- 🛤 Class 2 Town Highway (unpaved)
- 🛤 Class 3 Town Highway (paved)
- 🛤 Class 3 Town Highway (unpaved)
- 🛤 Class 4 Town Highway (unpaved)
- 🛤 Legal Town Trail
- 🛤 Private Road/Drive
- 🌊 Stream
- 🌊 River or Pond
- 🛤 Impassable Road

Guilford's Recreational Resources



Presented to the citizens of the Town of Guilford, Vermont, by the Guilford Conservation Commission in celebration of our town's 250th anniversary.



The mission of the Guilford Conservation Commission is to identify, inventory, foster education about, and help protect Guilford's natural and cultural resources for the public good. As part of our mission we have prepared this guide in the hopes that people will appreciate, enjoy, and protect our resources for the future.

Resource Mapping:

places to recreate

Parks & Recreation Areas

Guilford Fair Grounds

Best known for the annual Guilford Fair, the fair grounds are owned by the Guilford Fair Association. All Guilford citizens are members of the Fair Association. The grounds and buildings can be rented for special occasions. Contact David Franklin at 802-254-2228 to make arrangements.

Whittemore Park

Adjacent to the Guilford Fair Grounds, this park is owned and maintained by the Guilford Recreation Club. All Guilford residents are members of the Club. The park includes the following recreational resources which are available for use by members:

- Tennis court (walk up around locked gate for access)
- Baseball field
- Picnic shelter and table
- Log cabin with bunk beds for 8, wood heat, gas stove and lights. The Boy Scouts hold the key for the cabin and use it for meetings. Contact Bevan Quinn, troop leader, at 254-6171 for reservations and access to the cabin.

Weeks Memorial Forest

The Andrew G. Weeks Memorial Forest consists of 171 acres given in his memory to the New England Forest Foundation and the Vermont Land Trust in 1992 for demonstration harvests. A lovely trail lined with sugar maples follows the brook and is suitable for all ages and hiking abilities. Another trail located across the brook is suitable for experienced hikers. This trail, traversing a sizeable area that has been logged, offers great opportunities for wildlife viewing. A map is available at www.newenglandforestry.org.

Fort Dummer State Park

The 217-acre park is located in the towns of Guilford, Vernon, and Brattleboro. The park has a campground with 50 tent/trailer sites and 10 lean-to sites, a picnic area, hiking trails, and a large open field. It is open for camping from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend and for hiking and other activities from dawn to dusk throughout the year. A park map and guide are available at

www.vtstateparks.com and at the entrance on Old Guilford Road in Brattleboro. An entrance fee is charged from Memorial Day to Labor Day. *Note: A free day pass for Fort Dummer State Park is available to Guilford residents at the Town Clerk's office.*

Sweet Pond State Park

This 100-acre state park in Guilford offers a quiet 1.3-mile woodland trail around Sweet Pond, paddling, and swimming from the dam. A park map and guide are available at www.vtstateparks.com.

Weatherhead Hollow Pond

This 33-acre pond, completed in 1965, is maintained by the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife. It includes a fishing and boating access area.

Roaring Brook Wildlife Area

This 1401-acre Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the towns of Guilford and Vernon is managed by the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. It is open to regulated hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing. The WMA is accessible only from Vernon. A map and guide are available online at www.vtfishandwildlife.com (type "Roaring Brook" in the search box).

Recreational Activities

Baseball

A baseball field is located at Whittemore Park.

Biking

Although many roads in Guilford offer pleasant cycling, the following roads are relatively level and have little or moderate traffic:

- Ashworth Road (unimproved)
- Green River Road (unpaved)
- River Road (unpaved)
- Weatherhead Hollow Road (paved)

Camping

Camping facilities are found at:

- Fort Dummer State Park (tent/trailer sites and lean-tos)
- Whittemore Park (log cabin)

Fishing

A fishing license is required for those over 14 years old. Licenses are available at the Guilford Town Clerk's office and online. For more information go to www.vtfishandwildlife.com or call Vermont Fish & Wildlife at 802-241-3700. Guilford's favorite fishing spots are:

- Green River and its tributaries
- Weatherhead Hollow Pond
- Sweet Pond
- Broad Brook

Hiking

The following trails in Guilford are marked:

- Guilford School Nature Trail, built by Guilford Central School students, is located on private land. Guilford citizens are permitted to walk the trail during school hours and when accompanied by a student.
- Sweet Pond State Park trail
- Fort Dummer State Park trails
- Weeks Memorial Forest

Guilford's trails and old roads also offer pleasant hiking. The following old roads, although not marked with trail signs, are easily followed:

- Burrows Plain Road
- Stark Road
- Bullock Road to Guilford Center
- Ashworth Road

Horseback Riding

Many of Guilford's unpaved roads, old roads, and hiking trails may be used for horseback riding.

Hunting

A hunting license is required. More information is available at www.vtfishandwildlife.com or call Vermont Fish & Wildlife at 802-241-3700.

Ice Skating

Although Guilford does not maintain any skating areas, favorable conditions offer good skating at:

- Sweet Pond
- Weatherhead Hollow Pond
- Green River Dam Mill Pond

Paddling

Non-motorized boating is permitted in:

- Sweet Pond
- Weatherhead Hollow Pond
- Green River (seasonal canoeing and kayaking)

Picnicking

Quiet picnic spots are abundant throughout town and include the following sites. (*Note: Only Fort Dummer and Whittemore Park have picnic facilities.*)

- Fort Dummer State Park
- Sweet Pond State Park
- Green River Dam
- Weatherhead Hollow Pond
- Whittemore Park

Snowmobiling

The Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) trails in Guilford are maintained by the Guilford Pistoppers. Many trails cross private land with permission granted for use only during the snow season and only by VAST members. They are not open to ATVs, four-wheelers, motor or mountain bikes, hiking, horseback riding or other uses, unless authorized by landowners. A Guilford snowmobile trail map and contact information are available at www.pistoppers.com. (*Note: Because the trails sometimes change, they are not shown on this guide's map.*)

Snowshoeing & Cross-country Skiing

Favorite sites include:

- Guilford's hiking trails and old roads
- 1-mile trail at Sweet Pond State Park

Swimming

Favorite swimming spots include:

- The Green River Dam is a National Historic Site maintained by the Green River Village Preservation Trust. Swimming is open to all Guilford residents in the millpond above and the pools below the dam.
- Sweet Pond. The best access is at the dam.

Tennis

A tennis court is located at Whittemore Park.

Wildlife Viewing

Two favorite sites are:

- Roaring Brook Wildlife Management Area
- Weeks Memorial Forest

Resource Mapping:

places to recreate

Places for Recreation	Need to reserve to use?	Maintained by	Cost to use	Description of amenities	Online Presence
Guilford Community Park					
Playscape			Free		
Bill Koch Trails					
Broad Brook Community Center					
Guilford Library					
Fairgrounds					
Recreation Club courts					
Guilford Central School / Gym					

Resource Mapping:

recreation groups

Recreation Groups	Mission	Contact Info	Online Presence	Offshoots
Recreation Commission			In process, being updated	
Recreation Club				
Guilford Folk				
Guilford CARES				
Conservation Commission				Trails Committee
Broad Brook Community Center			https://www.broadbrookcommunitycenter.org/	Guilford Center Stage
Neighborhood Roots				
Guilford Central School				

Getting the Word Out: calendars & listerves

Cross-posting: FB, FPF and Gazette

Barriers:

- FPF is great for single events, but is challenged with recurring events
- Which FB to use?
- Gazette, widely read but limited by quarterly publication

Notable interest in a specially created calendar / listserve

Getting the Word Out: calendars & listerves

The screenshot shows the Guilford Recreation website's Events Calendar. At the top, the logo features the text "Guilford Recreation" with a colorful graphic of stylized human figures in various colors (yellow, green, blue, purple, orange) arranged in a circle. Below the logo, the text "Events Calendar" is displayed, followed by a red-bordered button that says "Submit a Community Event". A search bar with the placeholder text "Search for events" and a green "Find Events" button is present. To the right of the search bar are tabs for "List", "Month" (which is selected), and "Day". Below the search bar, the calendar is set to "This Month" and "January 2024". The calendar grid shows the days of the week (Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat) and the dates 31, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

GuilfordVT.gov



Guilford Recreation

Expanding Recreation:

responding to community interest

How to make new events sustainable

Hosted versus un-hosted events

Free versus Fee

Gaining momentum for recurring events

Enlisting help from community members who are not part of a recreation group

Barriers

Grants listserve: ANR.FPRRecreationGrants@vermont.gov

Expanding Recreation:

hiking, biking, skiing trails

Trail maps

Trail markers

Trail work-group

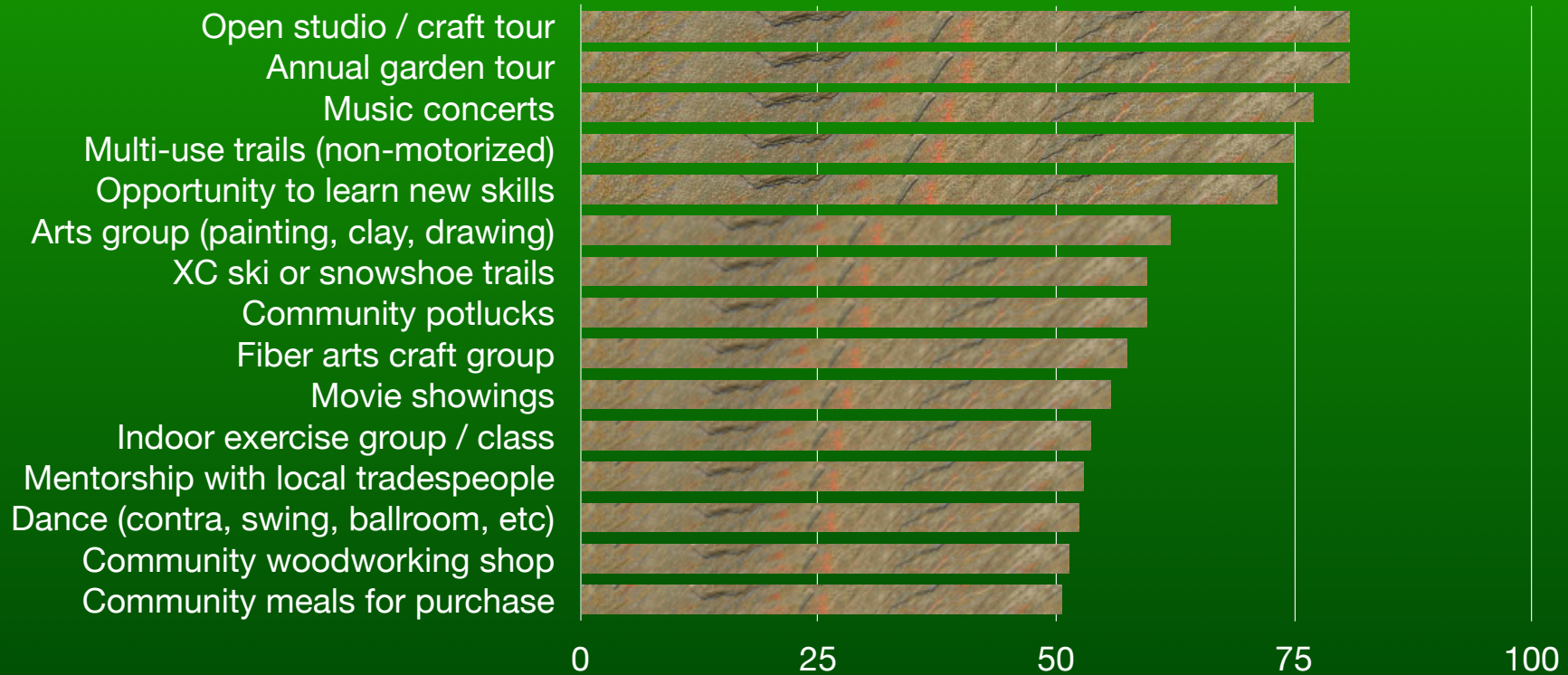
Feasibility study of new multi-use trails – outcome of study?

Trail Grant: <https://fpr.vermont.gov/recreation/recreation-grants>

Option to groom XC trails?

Expanding Recreation:

brainstorming new ideas



Open Discussion