

Deer Management Project

Engagement #2 Summary : June 18 – July 19, 2024



ARLINGTON
VIRGINIA

Parks & Recreation



Who Has Participated?



Online Feedback Form

601 Online Survey Responses

*Through these responses,
we received **1,091 comments.***

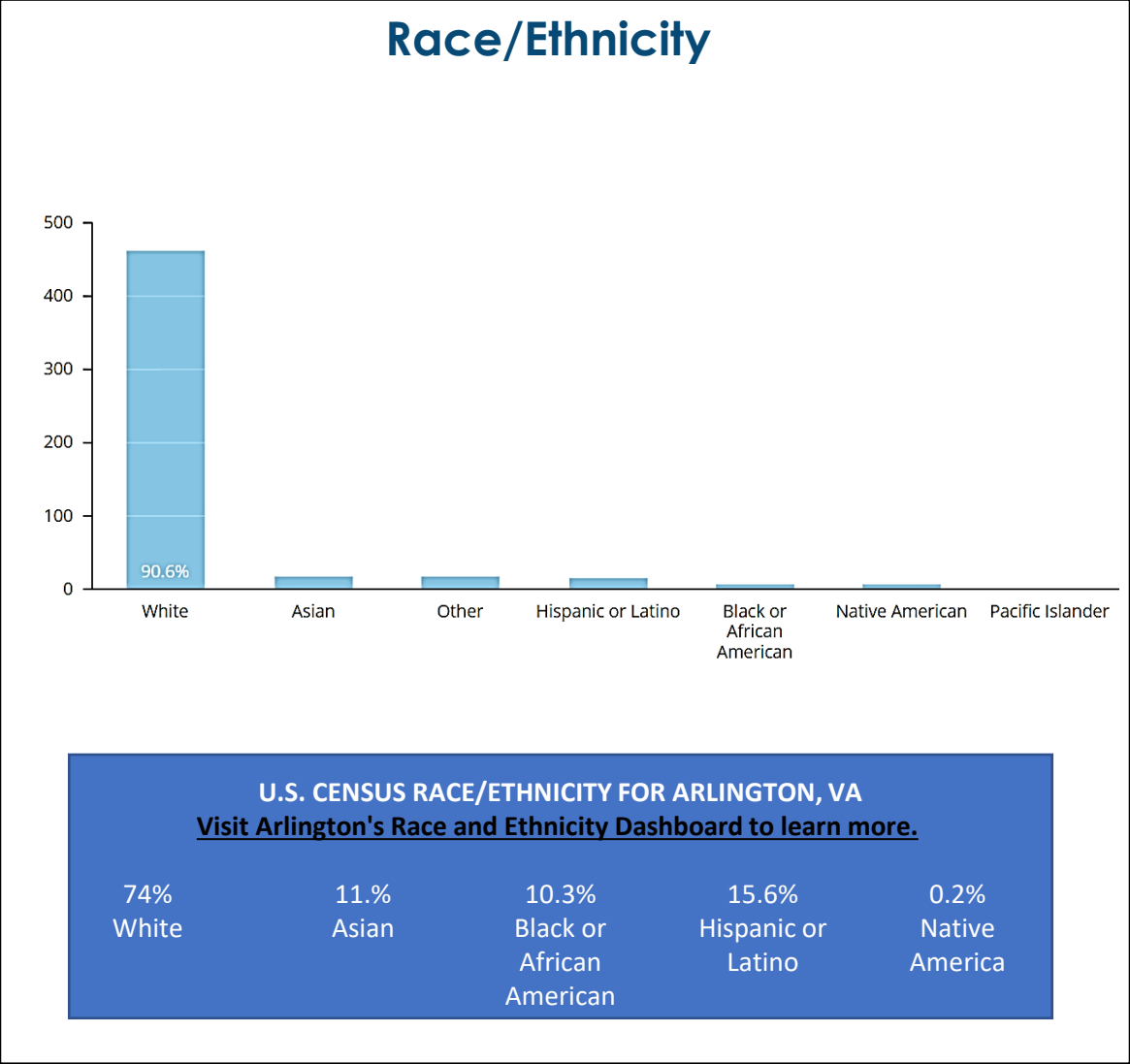
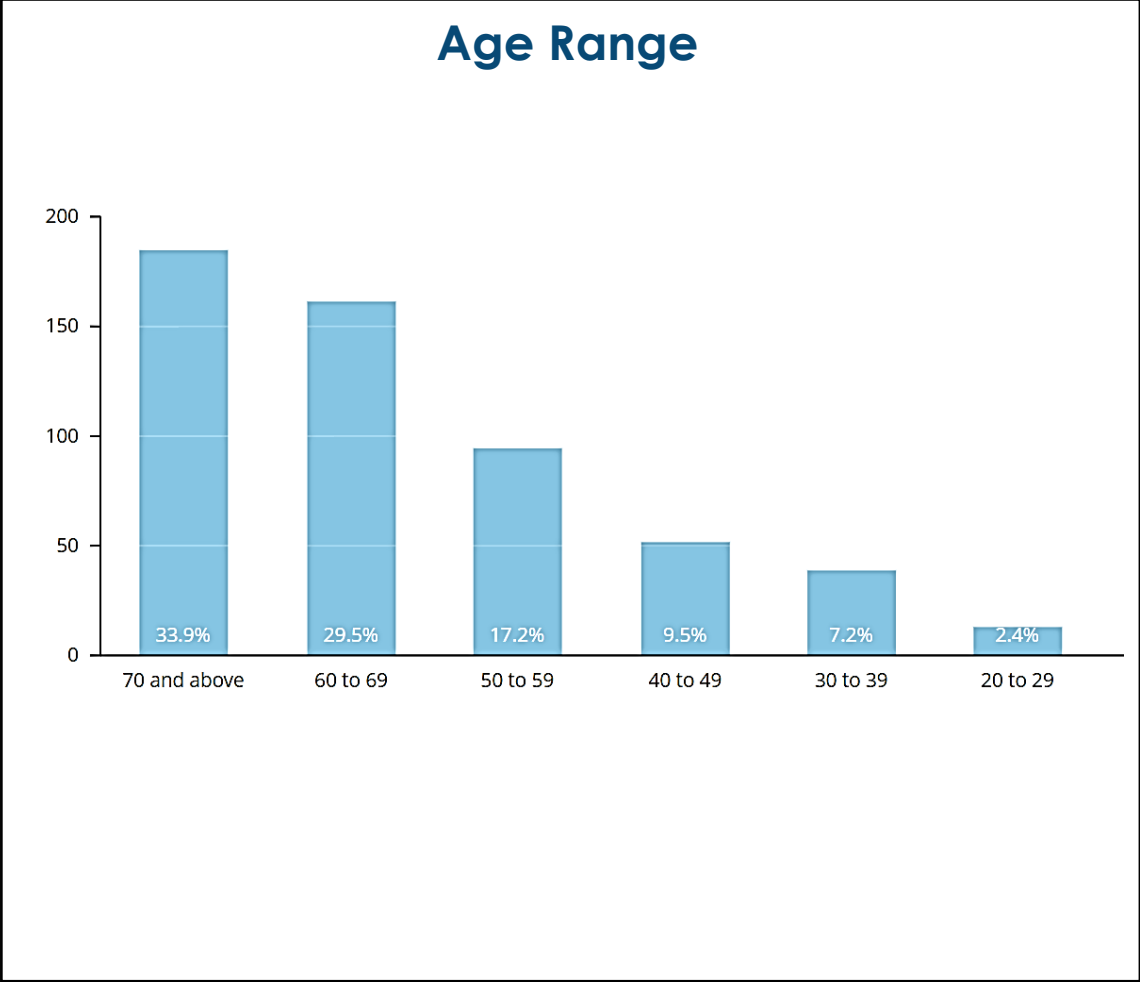


Virtual Community Meeting

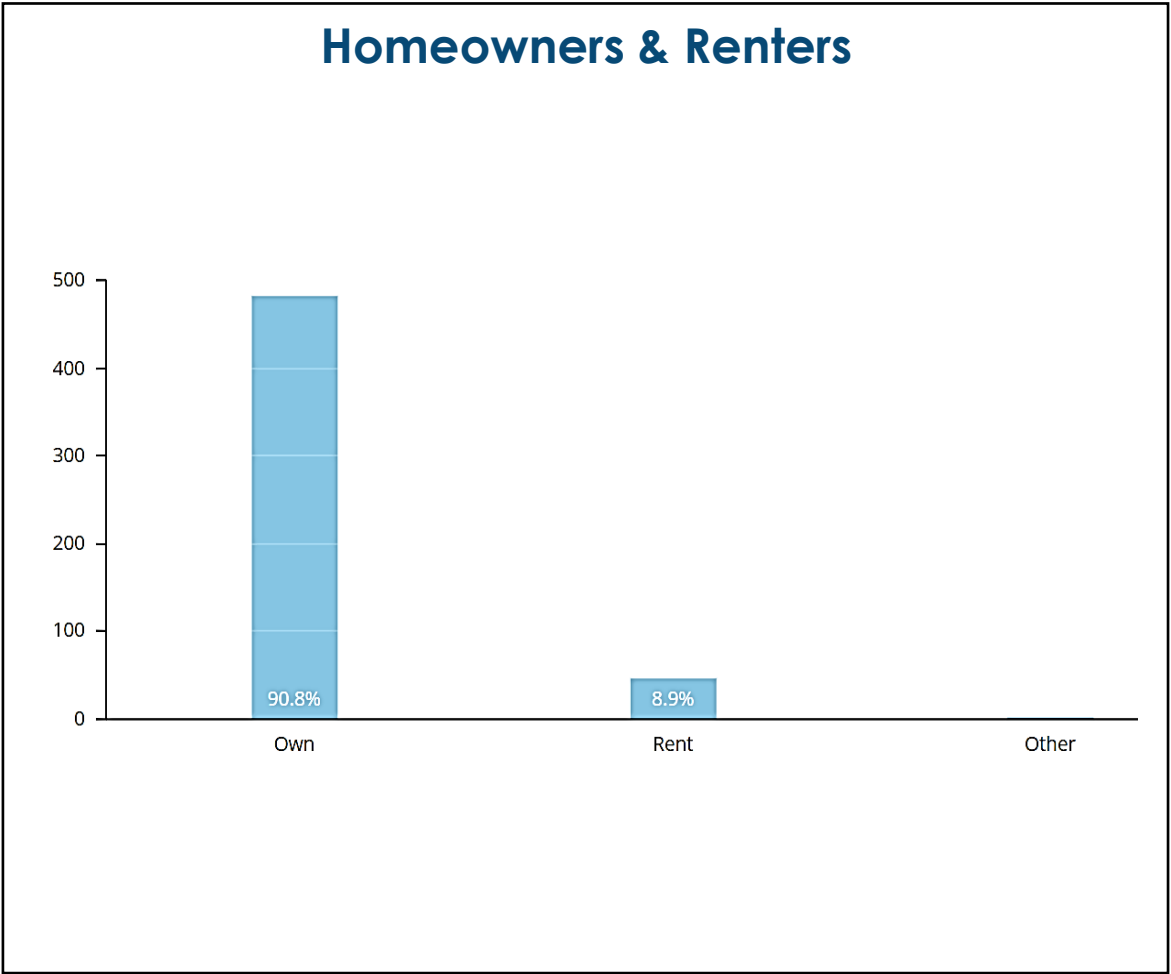
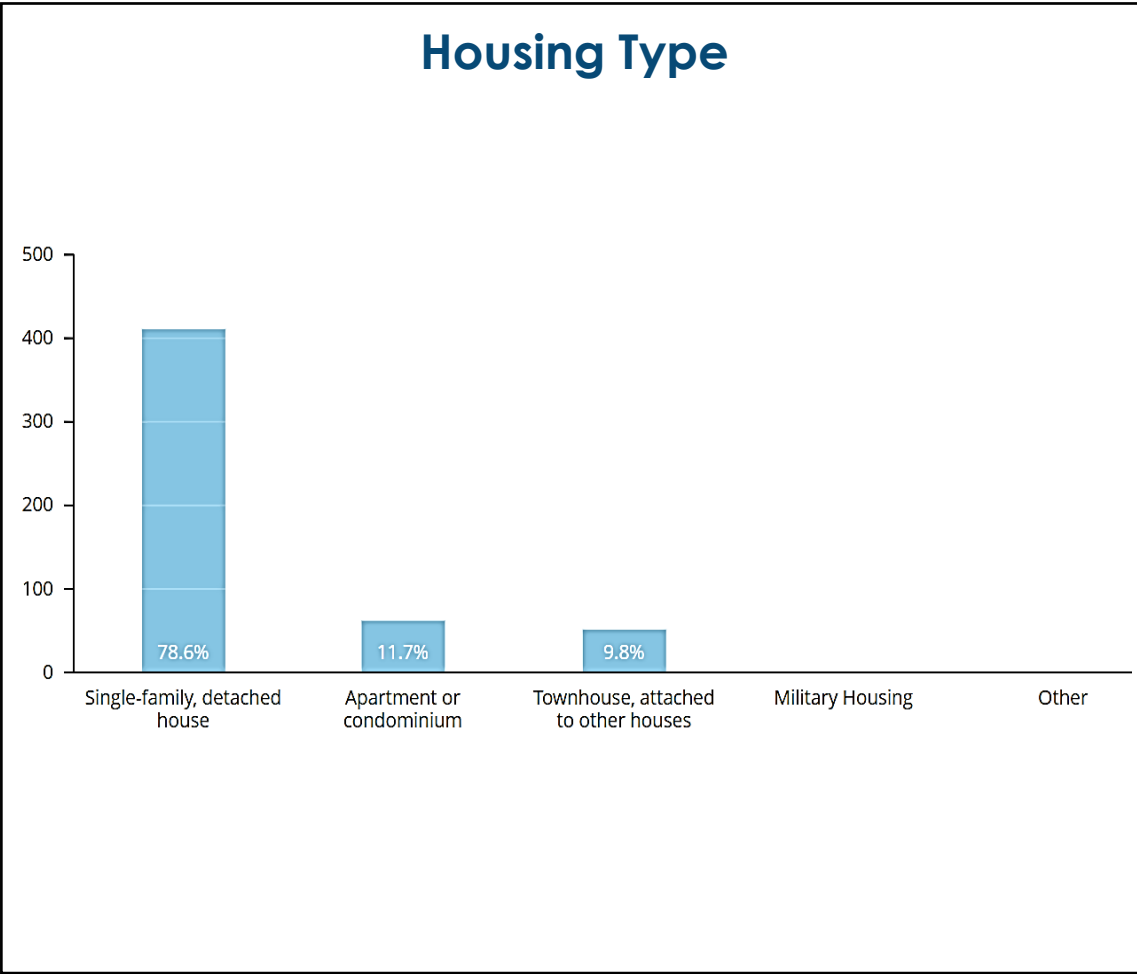
158 Attendees

*Offered an opportunity for
participants to ask questions to the
project staff and learn more about
the recommendations.*

Who Has Participated: Online



Who Has Participated: Online



Who Has Participated: Online

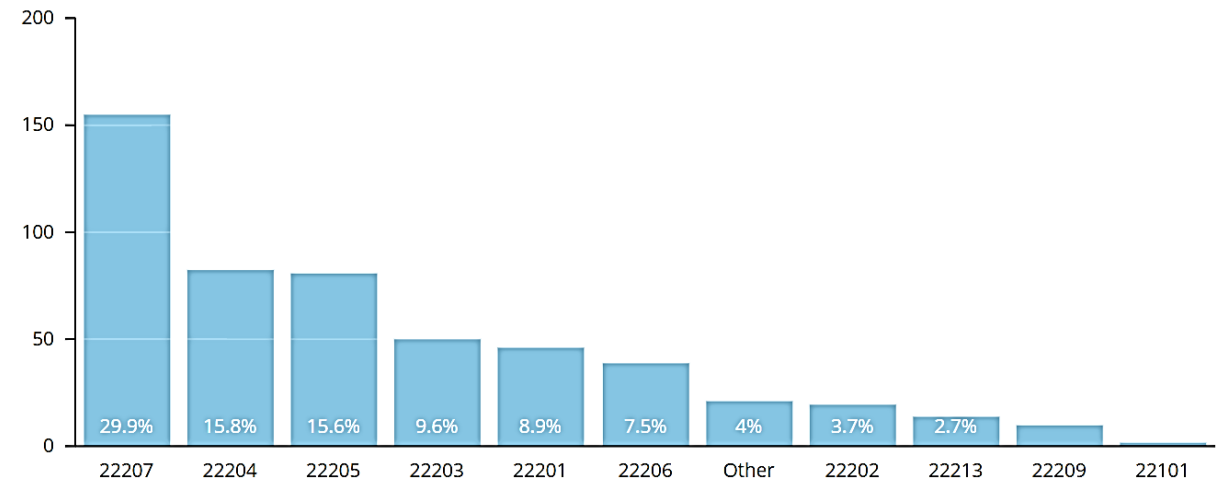
Neighborhoods

In total, the project team heard from respondents located in **46 out of 62** Arlington civic associations.

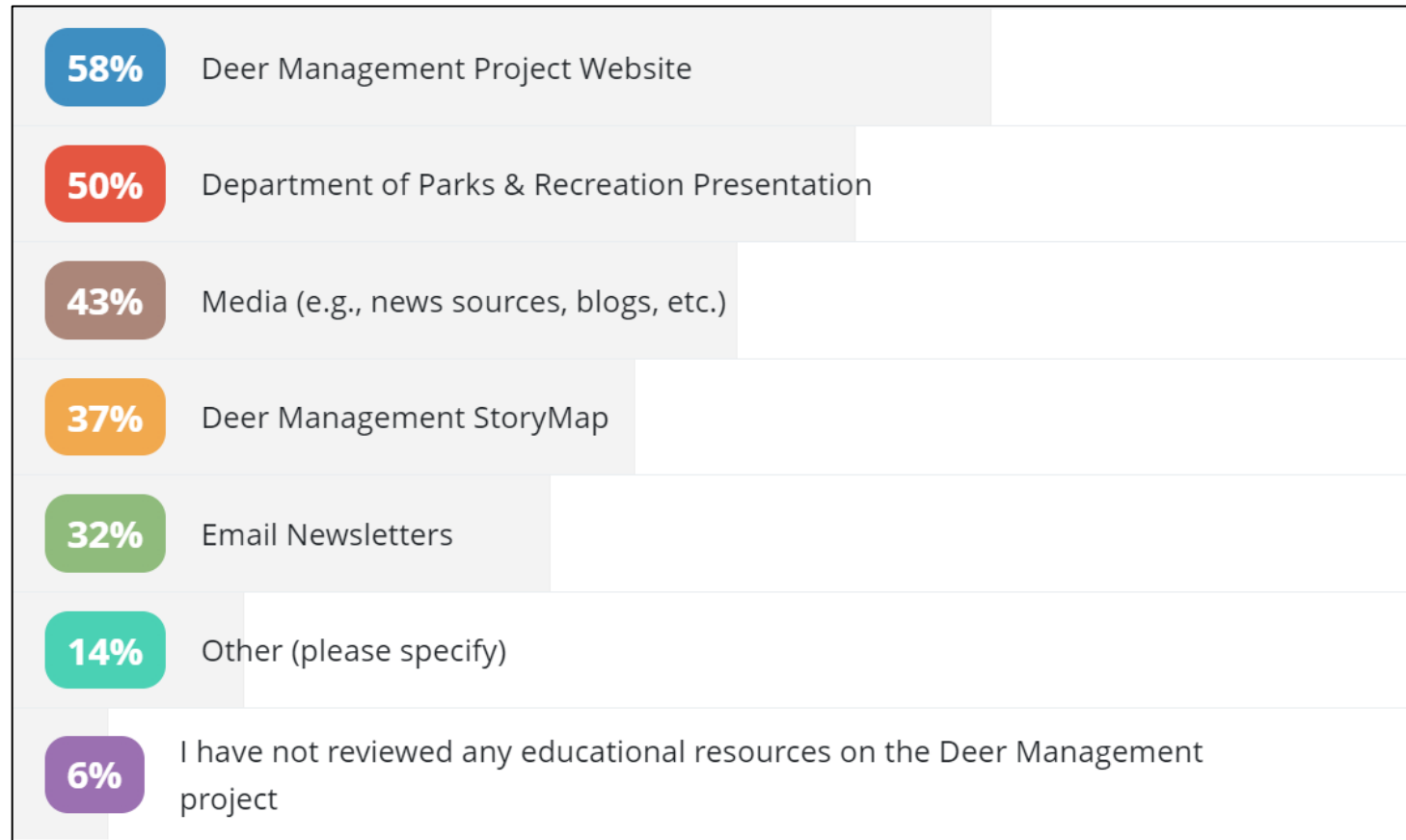
Top Neighborhood Responses

- **Bluemont (7%)**
- **Donaldson Run (7%)**
- **Arlington East Falls Church (4%)**
- **Arlington Forest (4%)**
- **Yorktown (4%)**
- **Ashton Heights (4%)**
- **Fairlington (4%)**
- **Barcroft (4%)**

Zip Code



Over the past year, the County has developed multiple educational resources for the Deer Management Project. Which of the following resources have you used to learn about the project? Please select all that apply.



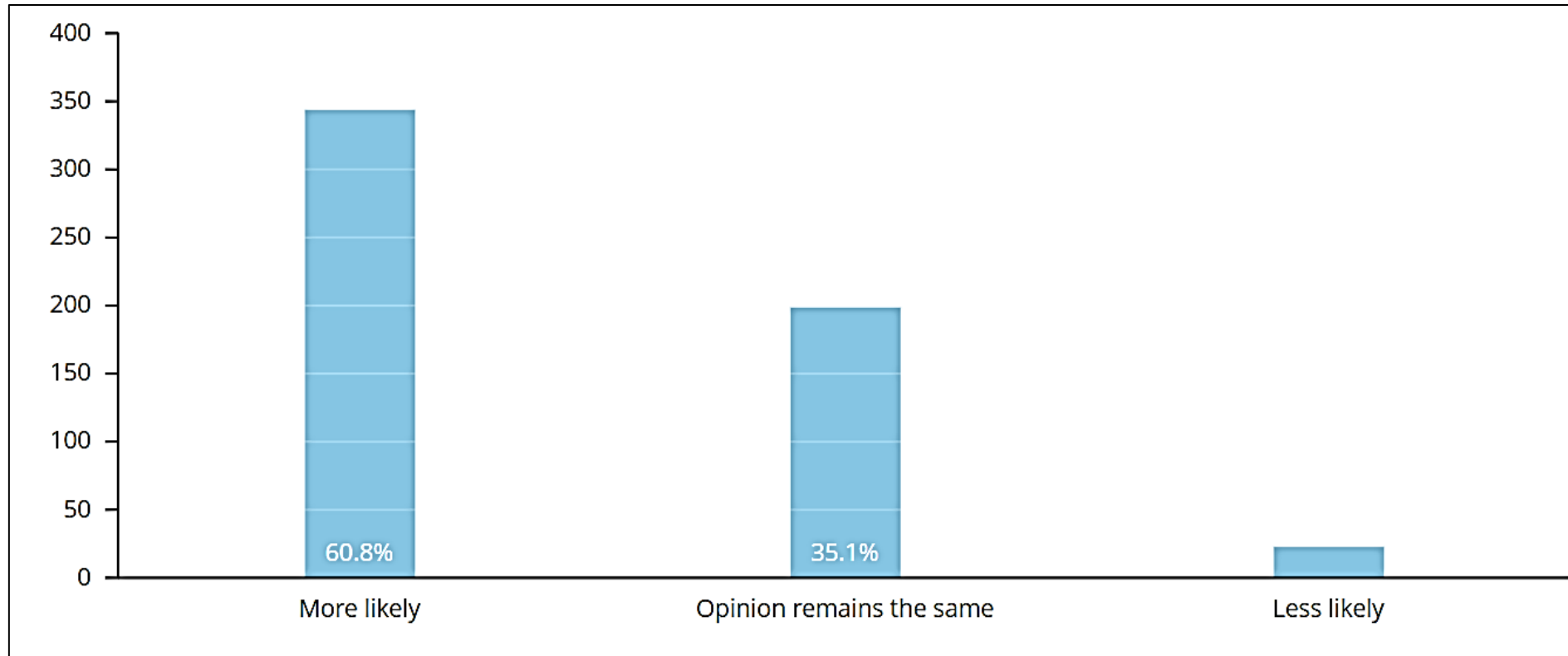
Which option best characterizes your opinion on a County program to manage the deer population?

Very Supportive	Supportive	Neutral	Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive	Unsure
73%	12%	3%	5%	6%	1%
Very Supportive	Supportive	Neutral	Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive	Unsure

The County recommends professional sharpshooting to manage the deer population in County-owned natural land parks. Which option best describes your opinion on an Arlington County professional sharpshooting program?

Very Supportive	Supportive	Neutral	Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive	Unsure
70%	10%	3%	4%	12%	1%
Very Supportive	Supportive	Neutral	Unsupportive	Very Unsupportive	Unsure

Professional sharpshooting is taking place in neighboring areas, such as Fairfax County, Washington D.C., Montgomery County, and Prince George's County, to successfully manage deer populations. With this information are you more or less likely to support a lethal sharpshooting program in Arlington County?



If you had to use one word to describe your opinion on the use of professional sharpshooting for deer management in County-owned natural land parks, what word would you use?

Below is a word cloud from the responses. The words heard most often used included Effective, Necessary, Humane, Supportive, Efficient, and Overdue.



Did we miss anything?

Below are some of the themes we heard from the open-ended comments, starting with the most common themes and in descending order.

Theme	Support for the Project	Ensure Meat is Donated to Food Banks	Speed Up the Process	Property Damage from Deer Browse	Prefer Surgical Sterilization Instead
Summary	A core theme of responses was on the need to reduce deer overpopulation. Many commenters noted their belief that deer management is long overdue in Arlington, and some responses thanked project staff for their efforts during the engagement process.	Commenters requested that if professional sharpshooting is the chosen deer management strategy, then the resulting venison be donated to local food banks like AFAC to address food insecurity and support the community. This should occur only after testing for disease.	Respondents expressed frustration at how long the Deer Management Project has taken to move forward. They asked that action is taken swiftly to manage the deer population.	Anecdotes were shared from community members that their gardens, yards, or other green spaces have been browsed and/or damaged by deer in the area.	Some commenters noted their preference for surgical sterilization as the strategy to manage Arlington's deer population. Reasons ranged from opposition to lethal methods in County parks, belief that surgical sterilization should be attempted before considering moving to sharpshooting, or belief that sterilization offers better long-term control of deer populations, among others.

A full list of this question's comments is linked [here](#)

Did we miss anything? (continued)

Below are more of the themes we heard from the open-ended comments.

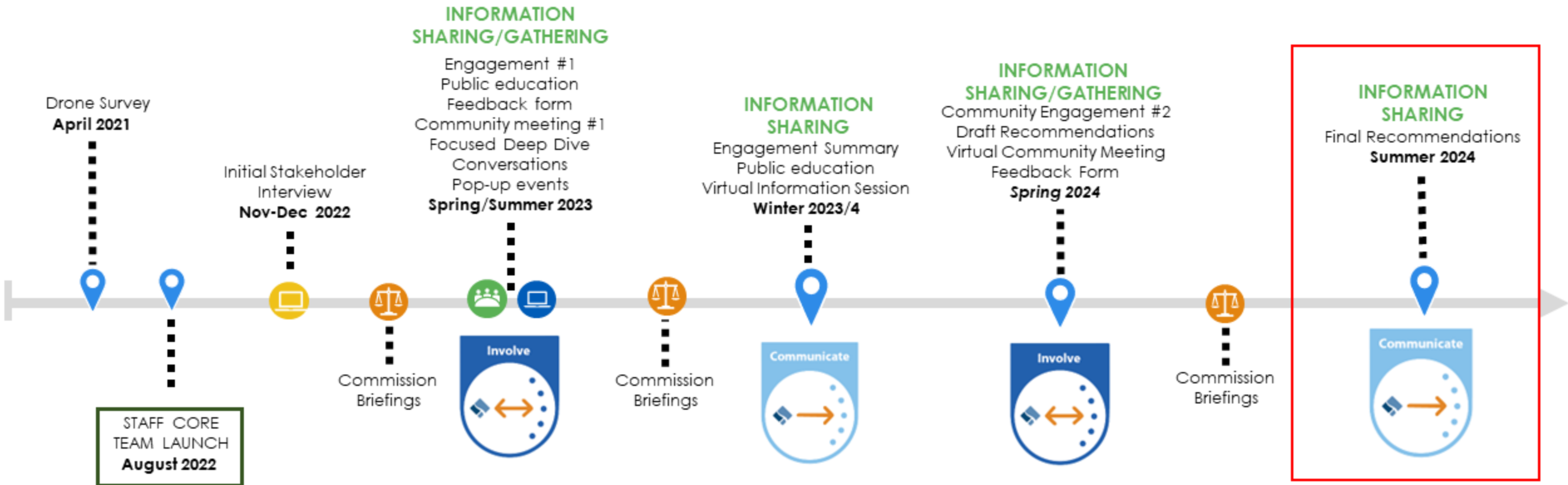
<i>Theme</i>	Prefer Public Archery Hunting	Safety is Paramount	Need More Data	Concern about Diseases
<i>Summary</i>	Community members asked why public archery hunting could not be a component of the deer management plan. They cited a lack of opportunity to hunt in Arlington and the potential revenue generation for the County as reasons to reconsider this approach.	Concerns were raised about the safety of a professional sharpshooting plan in Arlington. Community members asked for partnership with law enforcement to ensure empty parks, proactive communication with neighbors nearby, and signage detailing the dates and times of sharpshooting operations.	Some comments asked for data that shows deer are overpopulated in Arlington. Others asked for data detailing the expected costs between different management options.	Respondents identified a concern for deer overpopulation leading to higher chances of contracting Lyme disease or Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Arlington.


Deer Management Project Timeline


Origin: Natural Resources Management Plan


Funding: General Fund

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 **Online Feedback**
(e.g., questionnaire, feedback form, etc.)

 **In-Person Engagement and Pop-Ups**
(e.g., community meeting, roundtable, tabling, walking/bus tour, deliberative dialogue, etc.)

 **Virtual Meeting**
(e.g., TEAMS, TEAMS live, Zoom, etc.)

 **County Board Engagement**
(e.g., public hearing, Board work session, open door Monday, commission meeting, etc.)

 **Key Milestone**