

City of Franklin

Department of City Development

Date: April 27, 2022
To: City of Franklin Environmental Commission
From: Department of City Development – Associate Planner Ecks
RE: Results of Community Input Survey on Buckthorn

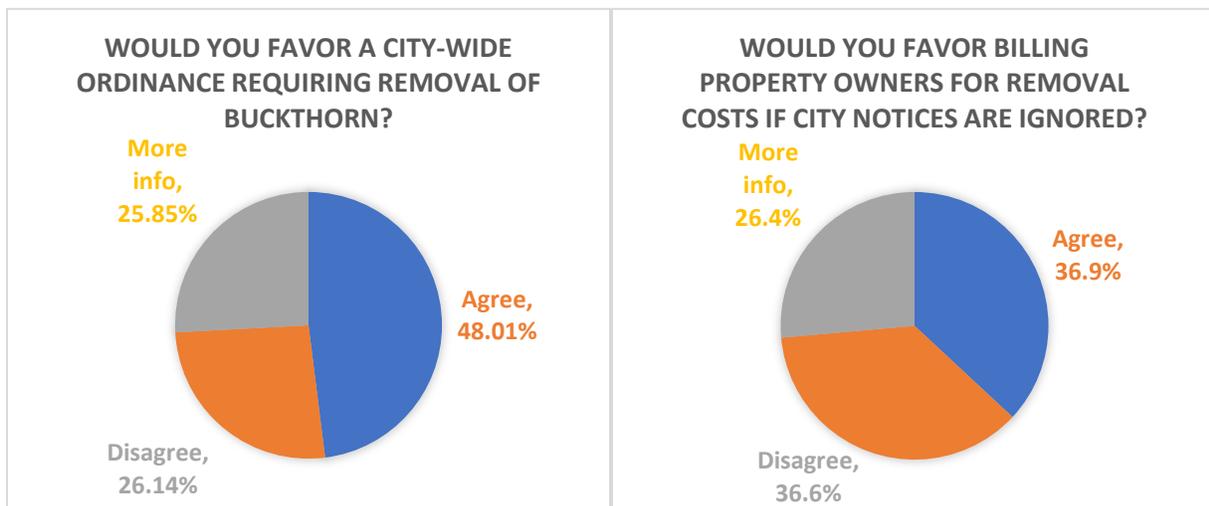
The Environmental Commission’s Buckthorn Survey was produced by the Buckthorn Subcommittee. The Survey was distributed to the public by a link to an online form in the City of Franklin newsletter. Paper surveys were also made available at the Franklin Library and the counter for the Department of City Development. The newsletter is distributed by mail carriers on their routes and are placed in each residential mailbox, to PO boxes, and then to the addresses in the Franklin Business Park (about 230 businesses).

The survey was open from February 20, to March 31, 2022. It received a total of 353 responses: 289 were completed online and 64 paper surveys were received and input by City staff on April 5, 2022.

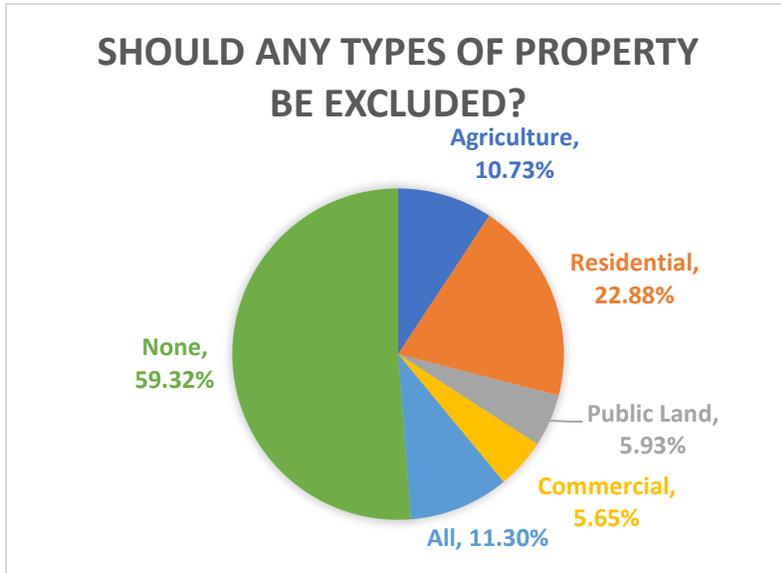
The survey consisted of 10 questions (see attached) indented to gauge the public’s level of information about invasive buckthorn in the City, and their level of support for possible City regulations requiring the removal of buckthorn. The online form included links to information about buckthorn, its identification, and how to remove it.

Results

The majority of respondents (93.2% versus 6.5%) considered themselves to be familiar with buckthorn in general, and 82.5% (versus 17.2%) felt that they were able to identify it. 41.8% felt they were certain had a good understanding of how to remove or destroy buckthorn. Most people (76%) acknowledge that buckthorn is a threat to native plants and wildlife, but less than

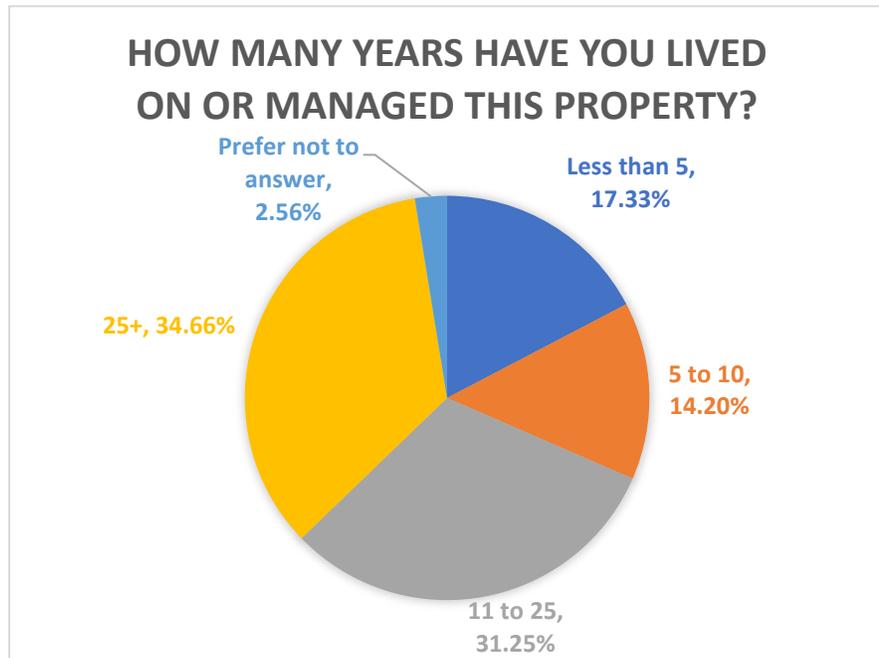


half (48%) agreed that would support an ordinance requiring its removal, and only 37% agreed that fines or fees would be appropriate. Of both groups, about a quarter felt that they needed more information to make a recommendation.



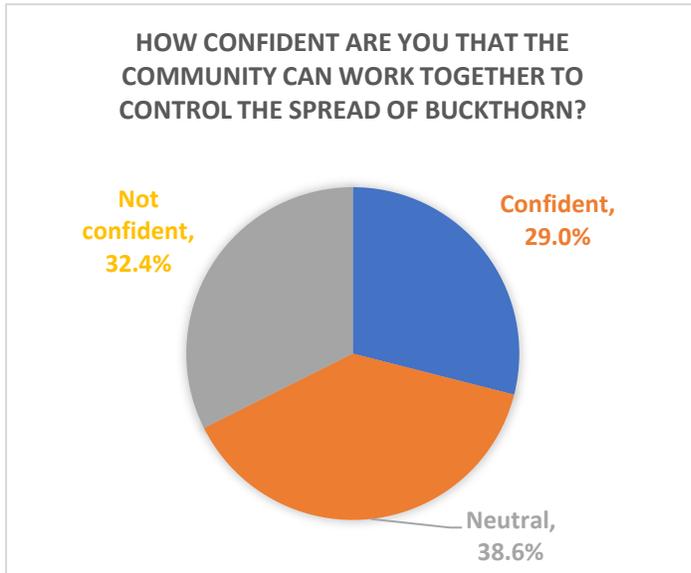
A small majority (59%) felt that no category of property should be excluded from regulation, although there was some support specifically for excluding residential property; less so for other categories.

96% of respondents own or manage property in the City of Franklin, and the majority have done so for more than 10 years.



Commissioner Cieslak compiled a review of the “free space” written comments provided, which is attached. In addition, Staff has had several conversations with members of the public, whose concerns were similar to those expressed in the comments, or who were inquiring what next steps would be after the results were available. Valuable suggestions included publishing the

results in newsletter, compiling a list of resources for grants or nonprofit resources available to individuals and organizations like HOA's to aid in education and removal.



The respondents were divided on whether they thought the community could work together to address the control of buckthorn, the largest group being “neutral.”

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BUCKTHORN SURVEY COMMENTS REVIEW

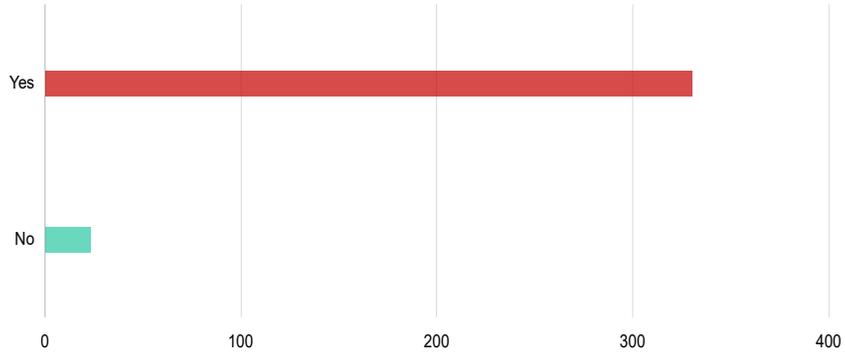
James Cieslak

With over 130 responses to the last question, we have lots of interesting themes in them. The more repetitive, the more meaningful they become. The hard part is to **not** read into a response more than there is. I ranked the themes from least favorable to most favorable, in terms of co-operation. I read each comment and kept a tally sheet. I started out with 6 themes and, as you can see, I landed up with 15. A few comments actually included 3 to 5 themes, and I left out a few that seemed too weird. I was impressed by how many people actually understand some of the problems with buckthorn.

	#	Rank
Don't tell me what to do	11	9
Should not be a priority	6	13
Want to keep buckthorn-privacy	6	14
Fighting a losing battle	15	5
City and county should focus on public lands	16	4
Educate citizens on why and how to remove it	35	1
City should pay for removal, no tax increase	9	10
Subsidize removal costs	13	7
Willing to have it removed by volunteers	12	8
Willing to remove it but can't afford to	7	11
Willing to remove it but need help	21	2
I will/am doing my part on my own	15	6
What to do with cut plants	7	12
Neighboring property issues	17	3
And then what do I do?	5	15

Environmental Commission buckthorn survey

Are you familiar with buckthorn? *

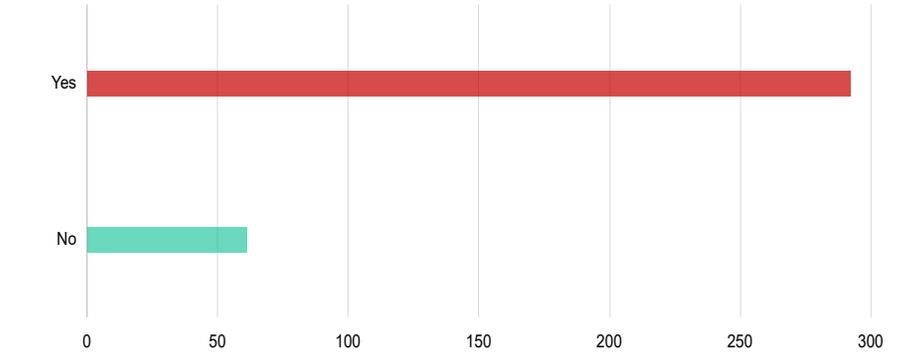


Answers **Count** **Percentage**

Yes	330	93.22%
No	23	6.5%

Answered: 353 Skipped: 1

Do you know how to identify buckthorn? *

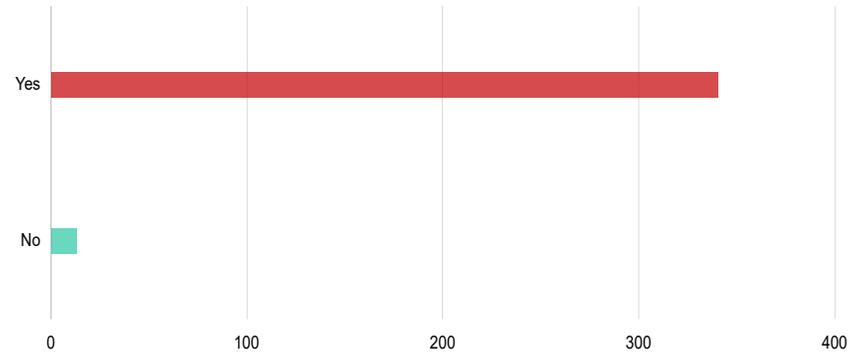


Answers **Count** **Percentage**

Yes	292	82.49%
No	61	17.23%

Answered: 353 Skipped: 1

Do you own or manage property in the City of Franklin? *

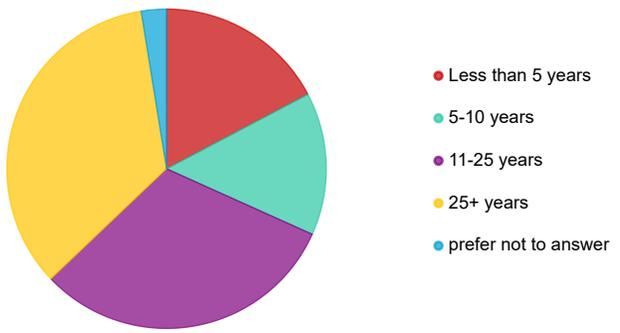


Answers **Count** **Percentage**

Yes	340	96.05%
No	13	3.67%

Answered: 353 Skipped: 1

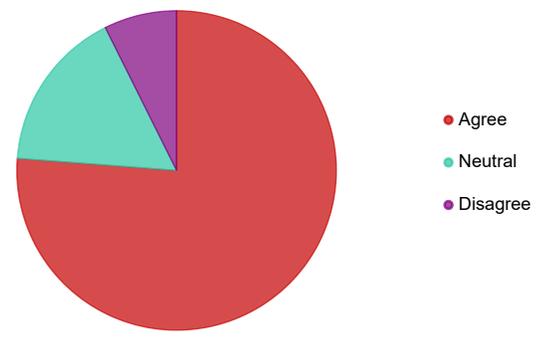
How long have you lived on or managed this property? *



Answers	Count	Percentage
Less than 5 years	61	17.23%
5-10 years	51	14.41%
11-25 years	110	31.07%
25+ years	122	34.46%
prefer not to answer	9	2.54%

Answered: 353 Skipped: 1

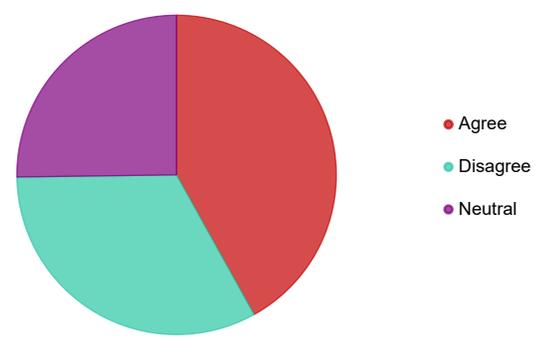
Do you believe buckthorn poses a risk to Wisconsin's native plants or... *



Answers	Count	Percentage
Agree	269	75.99%
Neutral	58	16.38%
Disagree	26	7.34%

Answered: 353 Skipped: 1

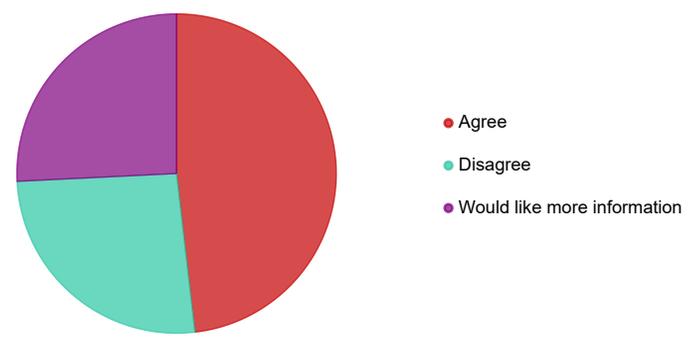
Do you feel you have the knowledge and resources to kill buckthorn safely... *



Agree	148	41.81%
Disagree	116	32.77%
Neutral	89	25.14%

Answered: 353 Skipped: 1

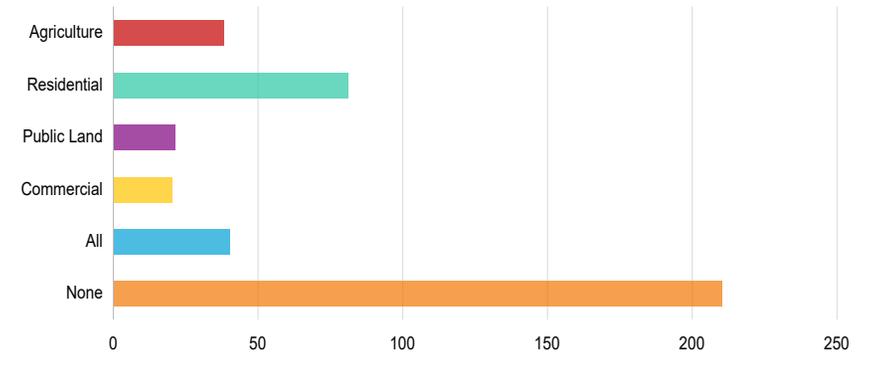
Would you favor a city-wide ordinance requiring removal of buckthorn? *



Answers	Count	Percentage
Agree	170	48.02%
Disagree	92	25.99%
Would like more information	91	25.71%

Answered: 353 Skipped: 1

If a City-wide ordinance requiring buckthorn removal is adopted, should it exclude any ...



Answers	Count	Percentage
Agriculture	38	10.73%
Residential	81	22.88%
Public Land	21	5.93%
Commercial	20	5.65%
All	40	11.3%
None	210	59.32%

Answered: 343 Skipped: 11

Should a City-wide ordinance on buckthorn removal pass, would you favor... *

