Businesses and Landowners

Key Themes
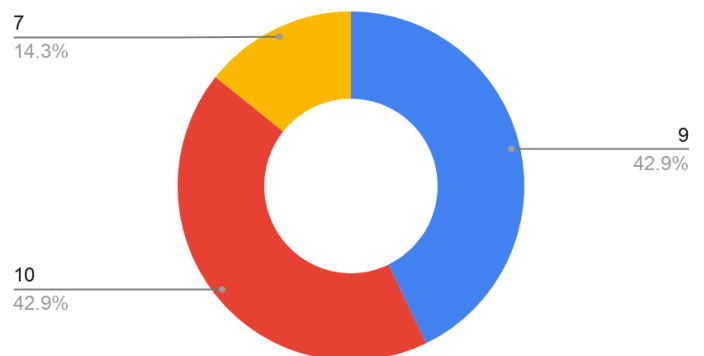
1. Importance of trees in well-being and mental health
2. Trees as a way to "soften" the aesthetic and increase the desirability or attractiveness of different areas
3. Trees as a way to combat climate change and increase sustainability; Opportunities for long term environmental benefit, biodiversity, suitability based on type of land/area
4. Importance of community involvement in tree planting and maintenance, including an educational program, creating an urban connection to nature
5. Sense of place, pride in community, sense of ownership and incentive to care for trees
6. Focus tree efforts along new roads and developments, coastal areas, communities in need

Survey Breakdown

Question 1. *Value of trees as a measure to address the effects of climate change*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a high value in addressing climate change
- 3 respondents ranked a 10, 3 respondents ranked a 9, and 1 respondent ranked a 7
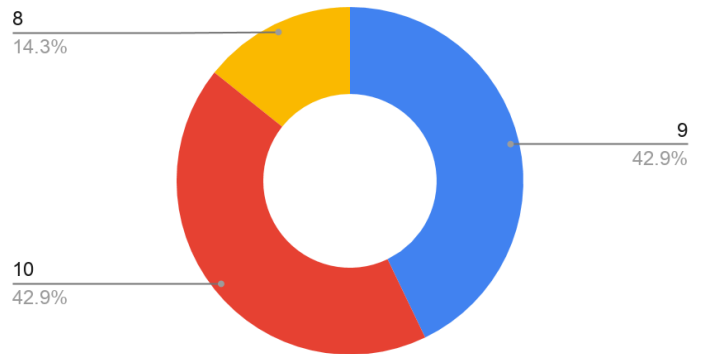
Trees and the Effects of Climate Change

7
14.3%

9
42.9%

10
42.9%

Question 2. *Value of trees as a measure to enhance the attractiveness of our living and working environment*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a high value in addressing the attractiveness of the county's living and working environment
- 3 respondents ranked a 10, 3 respondents ranked a 9, and 1 respondent ranked an 8
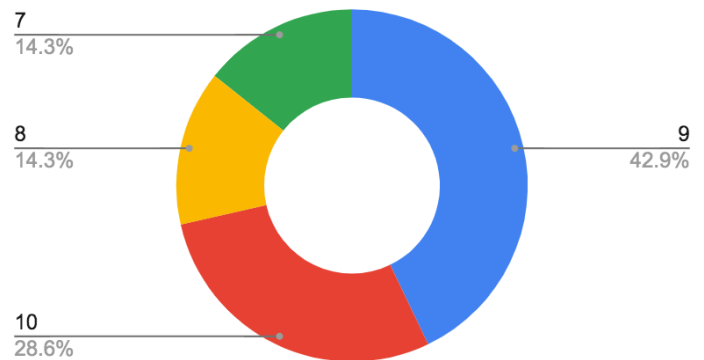
Trees and Attractiveness of Environment

8
14.3%

9
42.9%

10
42.9%

Question 3. *Value of trees as a measure to enhance the happiness of people in their environment*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a high to medium value in enhancing people's happiness
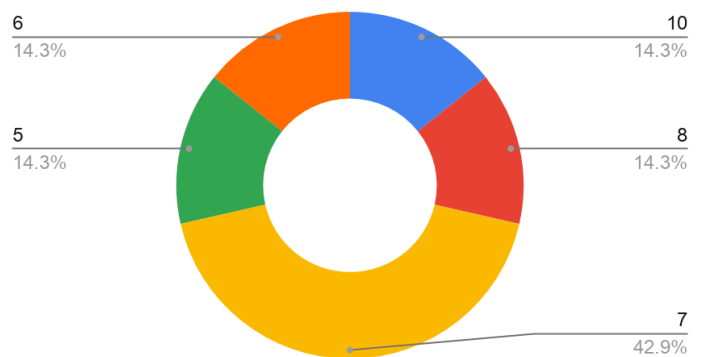- 3 respondents ranked a 9, 2 respondents ranked a 10, 1 respondent ranked an 8, and 1 respondent ranked a 7

Trees and Level of Happiness

7
14.3%

8
14.3%

9
42.9%

10
28.6%

Question 4. *Value of trees as a measure to increase commerce and business activity*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a medium to high value in enhancing business activity
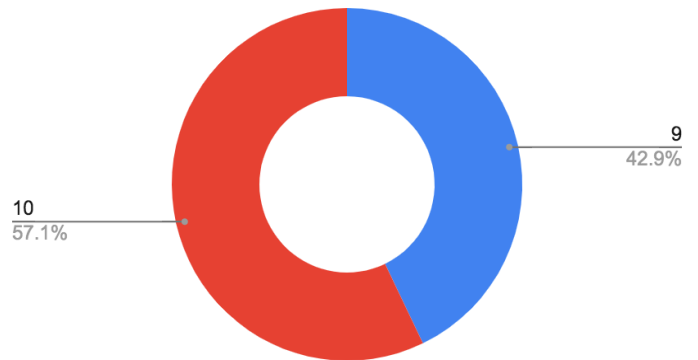- 3 respondents ranked a 7 and 1 respondent ranked a 10, 8, 5, and 6 each

Trees and Commerce

6
14.3%

10
14.3%

5
14.3%

8
14.3%

7
42.9%

Trees and Improving Quality of Place

Question 5. *Value of trees as a measure to improve the quality of a place*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a very high value in enhancing quality of a place
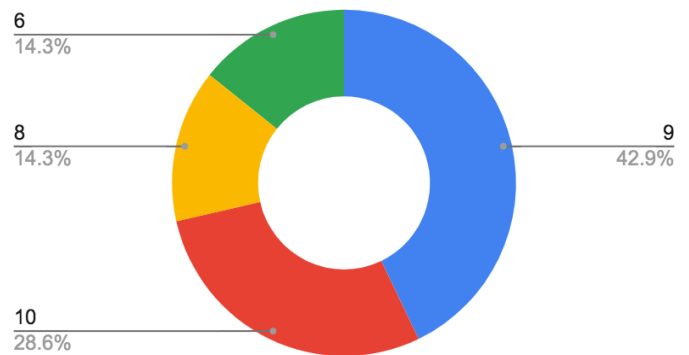- 4 respondents ranked a 10 and 3 respondents ranked a 9

9
42.9%

10
57.1%

Trees and Habitat Loss

Question 6. *Value of trees as a measure to address the loss of habitats for plants and animals*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a high to medium value in addressing climate change
- 3 respondents ranked a 9, 2 respondents ranked a 10, and 1 respondent ranked a 7 and 8 each

6
14.3%

8
14.3%

9
42.9%

10
28.6%

Question 7. *What other benefits or value of trees are we missing?*

- The most common answer surrounded well-being and mental health. Sample comment: "true value trees have on the mental state of mind is underestimated".
- Contributing to a sense of place
- Two respondents mentioned how trees may act as commodities and how, through proper tree management and species diversification, forests could become a sustainable source of fuel and timber
- One respondent mentioned the long term benefits of trees and alluded to the town's legacy

Question 8. *Thinking of commercial places in particular, what do you think is the value of trees in relation to shopping centres, business districts, and the like?*

- The majority of respondents listed benefits relating to aesthetic
  and ambience including softening the hardness of concrete and large buildings,
  the pleasantness and calmness of the area, encouraging nature in
  urban settings, and enhancing the overall shopping experience
- One respondent cited the importance of reversing climate change

Question 9. *From your perspective, are there any areas in the county where you think the tree cover should be increased? If so, what areas?*

- Respondents cited broad areas including along motorways,
  coastal regions, new housing developments, educational facilities,
  business parks, and along hillsides
- They also mentioned specific locations including the new roads in the
  Sandyford-Ballyogan area, Dún Laoghaire Town Centre, Stillorgan Town
  Centre, Sandyford Business District, and Foxrock

Question 10. *Often there is a correlation between lack of tree cover and areas of social-economic deprivation. Are there any specific areas/streets in the county where this comes to mind?*

- Specific areas include Ballyogan and Jobstown,
  while one respondent said "almost everywhere"
- Two respondents mentioned the need to involve and educate the community on
  tree maintenance as a way to increase pride and self-esteem related to place of
  residence

Question 11*. Do trees come into play in your work currently? If so, please share a few brief examples here to give us more contex*t.
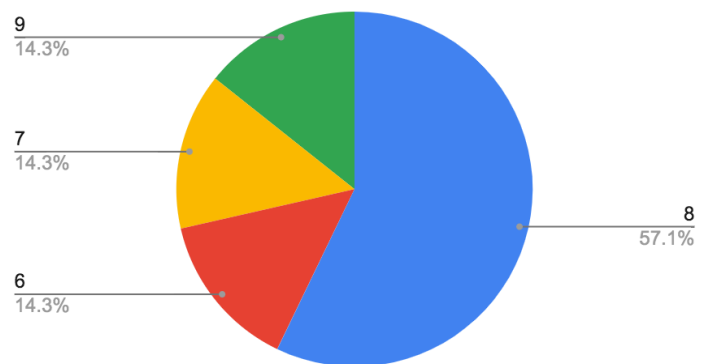
- "I have been designing and printing books on Forestry for many years for the
  Dept of Agriculture and the Society of Irish Foresters and have become very
  interested in the subject."
- "In Sandyford Business District they are essential to the landscape and we
  actually put over 30,000 little Christmas lights on over 200 tree trunks from
  early December 2020 to end of February 2021 - this project received a great
  response from both people living, working and visiting the district"

- "In the past I planted Blackrock Clinic, and have left a nice row of Norway Maple from the entrance up. I am still involved in the Biodiversity planting in Dundrum Town centre."
- "Yes, as we live in a rural area, surrounded by trees. In the middle of this Pandemic and the 5 km travel restriction, this has encouraged much higher numbers of visitors to the Coillte owned forests. However, as private forest owners, after the opening up of the Dublin Mountain forests by Coillte, we have all witnessed uninvited access and trespass by ever increasing numbers of visitors to our private commercial plantations. This is caused by the lack of clear communication by Coillte and the DMP that there are other afforested areas in the Dublin mountains that have closed access to visitors. The increasing numbers of visitors crossing private forests and farmland with dogs has resulted in stray dogs killing sheep on adjacent farms."

Question 12. *What do you think is the current level of interest on a scale of 0 to 10 among others such as yourself (other businesses or landowners in the county, respectively) to support tree initiatives or tree related projects?*

- The majority of respondents (4) ranked an 8, indicating a high level of interest in supporting tree initiatives

Tree Initiatives Level of Interest

9
14.3%

7
14.3%

8
57.1%

6
14.3%

Question 13. *Thinking forward, what initial ideas or suggestions do you have to make sure that our trees and tree cover are maintained, valued and increased?*

- The most mentioned topic related to matching the suitability of tree species to specific locations and the use of a variety of species with a focus on native trees
- To increase community participation, respondents suggested making a clear and concise tree strategy, educating the community about maintenance, and overall communicating the importance of trees on the environment, community, and individual levels
- Logistically, respondents mentioned regular maintenance and surveys, quick replacement of rotted and fallen trees, and using a combination of high quality ground cover membrane and compost.
  - "Good gardens begin with good foundations"
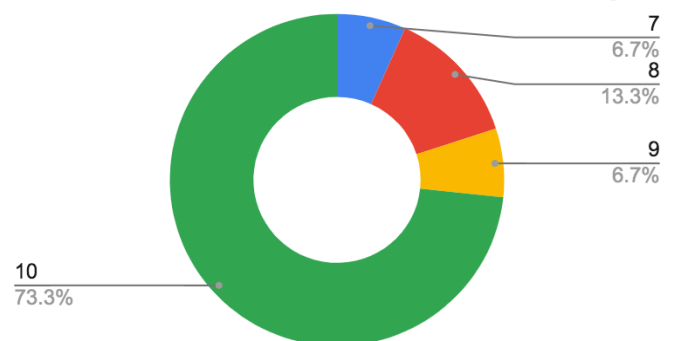
Community Groups

Key Themes

1. The need for coordination and commitment from all community levels including individuals, government, task forces, community groups, and County Council
2. There needs to be an educational component of the tree strategy to ensure sustained community engagement. Topics should include the importance and benefits of trees, native tree species.
3. Broad understanding of how trees affect animals, soil, environment generally, as well as how they affect people and social interactions
4. High density areas should be focus for tree strategies, and residential areas with little access to parks
5. Proactive maintenance and opportunities to care for or replant fallen or damaged trees
6. Planting programs with educational components for all ages, involving youth, schools, and awareness through social media

Survey Breakdown

Question 1. *Value of trees as a measure to address the effects of climate change*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a high value in addressing climate change
- 11 respondents ranked a 10, 2 ranked an 8, and 1 ranked a 7 and 9 each
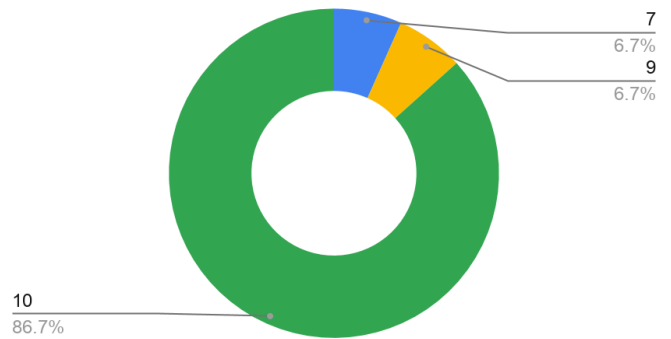
Trees and the Effects of Climate Change

- 7 — 6.7%
- 8 — 13.3%
- 9 — 6.7%
- 10 — 73.3%

Question 2. *Value of trees as a measure to enhance the attractiveness of our living and working environment*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a very high value in addressing the attractiveness of the county's living and working environment
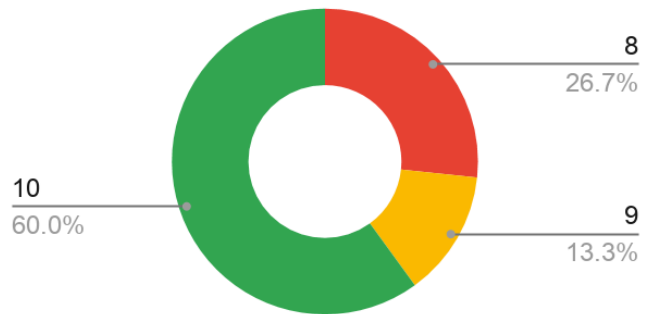- 13 respondents ranked a 10 while 9 and 7 each received one rank

Trees and Environment Aesthetic

7
6.7%

9
6.7%

10
86.7%

Question 3. *Value of trees as a measure to enhance the happiness of people in their environment*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a high value in enhancing people's happiness
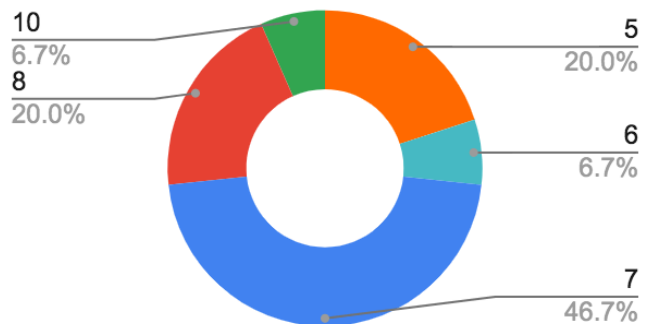- 9 respondents ranked a 10, 4 respondents ranked an 8, and 2 respondent ranked a 9

Trees and Level of Happiness

8
26.7%

9
13.3%

10
60.0%

Question 4. *Value of trees as a measure to increase commerce and business activity*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a medium value in enhancing business activity
- 7 respondents ranked a 7, 3 respondents ranked an 8, and 3 respondents ranked a 5
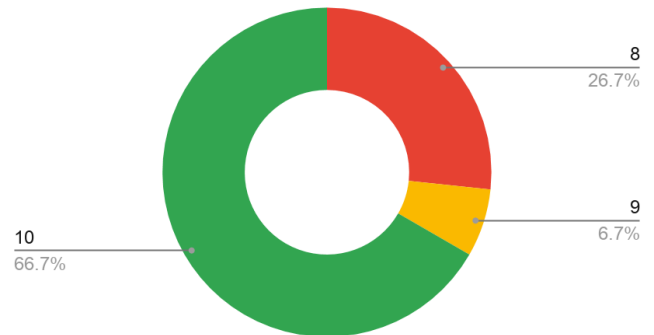
Trees and Commerce

10
6.7%

8
20.0%

5
20.0%

6
6.7%

7
46.7%

Question 5. *Value of trees as a measure to improve the quality of a place*
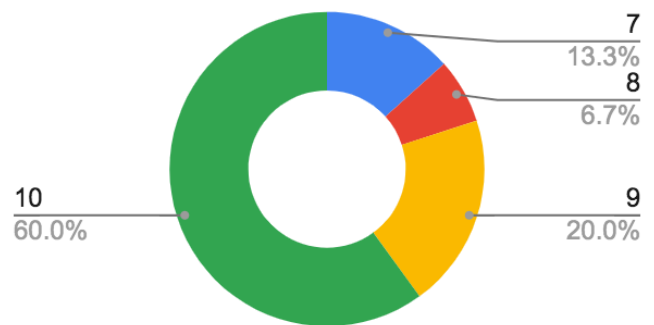
- Overall, respondents said trees have a high value in enhancing quality of a place
- 4 respondents ranked a 10, 4 respondents ranked an 8, and 1 respondent ranked a 9

Trees and Quality of Place

8
26.7%

9
6.7%

10
66.7%

Question 6. Value of trees as a measure to address the loss of habitats for plants and animals

- Overall, respondents said trees have a high to medium value in addressing climate change
- 9 respondents ranked a 10, 3 respondents ranked a 9, and 2 respondents ranked a 7

Trees and Habitat Loss

7
13.3%

8
6.7%

9
20.0%

10
60.0%

Question 7. *What other benefits or value of trees are we missing? Do share with us here.*

- The most common response related to biodiversity and habitat protection for animals
- The second most common response related to shelter for humans
- Two respondents mentioned a relation to other possible, including the Forestry Grant to plant native trees
- Other responses included soil stabilisation, food, child development, increased property values, reduced crime and anti-social behaviour, and an increase in community trust

Question 8. *From your perspective, are there any areas in the county where you think the tree cover should be increased?*

- Respondents cited broad areas including the countryside, parks, urban areas, areas for proposed development, new housing developments, government housing, roadsides with wide verges, edges of playing fields
- They also mentioned specific locations including Dún Laoghaire, Seafront Dún Laoghaire to Glasthule, in Moreen/Blackthorn Sandyford beside the football field, Newtownsmith on Sandycove seafront, Clarinda Park, Salthill gardens between the path and the coast road railings, the green space at the bottom of West Pier, Soldiers and Sailors Field, Kilbogget Park, Sandyford Industrial Estate, Central Park Leopardstown, Dundrum, the area opposite Kilcross in Sandyford, Hillview area from Dundrum to Marlay, and near the Ballinteer swimming pool

Question 9. *Often there is a correlation between lack of tree cover and areas of social-economic deprivation. Are there any specific areas/streets in the county where this comes to mind?*

- Broad areas cited include by dense housing without nearby parks, areas of high density construction, and former council housing areas
- Specific areas include George's Street DL, between George's Street and seafront Dún Laoghaire, Patrick Street DL, Mulgrave Street DL, Ballybrack, Solders and Sailors field near Monkstown Farm, Monkstown Farm, Council Housing Estates, Nutgrove Ave, and Hillview

Question 10. *Can you share some ways in which trees come into play in your work or projects? Just a few brief examples here would be perfect to give us more context.*

- "Woodland walks, biodiversity and habitats, landscape enhancement, sensory areas, teaching and learning environment for lecturers and students"
- "At the moment for Green Week we are running a student competition - submit any environmental projects that have been worked on recently - Silvology/Pollinators/Wilding have all been submitted as a project"
- Shankill has a long history of trees and they are important defining feature of the area - projects include planting more trees and preserving what trees at risk, such as the magnificent tree-lined approach roads now threatened by the BusConnects proposal to un-bypass Shankill"
- "We are a TidyTowns group: streetscaping, urban orchards, bio diverse projects"
- "We seek to protect existing trees and encourage biodiversity"

- "I work with Dlr County Fora and we work with twelve estate management volunteer groups who receive funding to work on environment projects within their community. Trees can be a big issue in some areas and the groups would encounter problems with residents on how best to manage trees and their growth and replanting of trees that have been damaged or vandalised. The County Fora would support the groups in working with the county council and the Parks Department in promoting the planting of trees and maintaining trees that are causing light issues and path issues"
- "As a volunteer for TidyTowns and through my involvement with Dún Laoghaire Central Residents' Association, when doing cleanups damaged trees come to my attention, also as a resident cleaning up after particularly bad storms. On a personal level I am greatly interested in Urban Orchards, especially as a means of introducing children to an awareness of trees and nature"
- "In cooperation with DLR, we are planting native hedgerow trees at Monkstown Castle. Have arranged with DLR for tree planting in Richmond Park, to enhance biodiversity and amenity. Also arranging more native trees in Vesey Park with DLR."
- "Crann - Trees for Ireland's objective is to enhance the environment of Ireland through planting, promoting, protecting and increasing awareness about trees and woodlands. e.g. Advocating for the planting of the right trees in the right places and providing an educational programme with that in mind."
- "Planting trees in the school Ground and the Surrounding residential area"
- "My principal experience is based on living in an area of Dundrum/ Ballinteer for the past 53 years. Inappropriate and often weak trees were planted by developers resulting in a regular loss of trees in our Estate (almost 200 houses). As Chairperson of the residents Assoc. Tidy District Committee for ten years, we initiated a strategy to select trees and plant them over a five year period. we have continuously up until 2021 maintained them."
- "As a volunteer in the community I have been involved in biodiversity projects for children and adults."
- "I was a member of the Friends of FitzSimons woods committee."

Question 11. *What are the key work relations with other Council departments or sections that you think are very helpful in managing and growing the tree cover in the county?*

- Half of the respondents mentioned the Parks Department in DLRCC
- Other departments included the Roads Planning Dept, Heritage Office, Biodiversity Office, and Street Maintenance
- Two respondents mentioned a need for better coordination between community members, Council members, and planners

- Two respondents said there needs to be more cross-over between departments and suggested a cross-departmental tree strategy task force

Question 12. *Thinking broader to outside the Council, what thoughts do you have on ways that citizens and/or community groups can get involved in supporting work around trees? We'd love to hear them.*

- The majority of respondents suggested planned planting programmes with an educational component about how to plant and maintain trees and encouraging native tree usage
- The second most common answer regarded awareness and education about the importance of trees, including getting youth involved through school projects
- Other suggestions included the TidyTowns urban orchards initiatives, streetscaping initiatives, "tree week" or a "tree planting day", creating a sitting area around a tree for shade in the summer, persuade the Residents' Associations to plant more trees, initiatives with organisations like Crann-Trees for Ireland, Easy Treesie and Tidy Towns, planting trees in remembrance of those who passed from Covid-19 and for those who survived, and a rule that developers must include a certain amount of space and trees
- One respondent thought to invoke the idea of "cathedral thinking" in that those who planned and built them were never able to see their final product in reference to legacy and the life span of trees

Question 13. *Thinking forward, what initial ideas or suggestions do you have to make sure that our trees and tree cover are maintained, valued and increased?*

- The majority responses included the need for a proactive maintenance plan including replanting, pruning, removal of dead branches, tree replacement, preserving existing trees, and watering
- Respondents mentioned that it would take a joined effort from individuals, community groups, Residents' Associations, and County Council
- A common response was the need for a community education and awareness campaign through schools and social media on the importance of trees and how to maintain them
- Other responses include the need to consult with residents and community groups when planning for new trees and a ownership program to attract and retain interest from community members of all ages
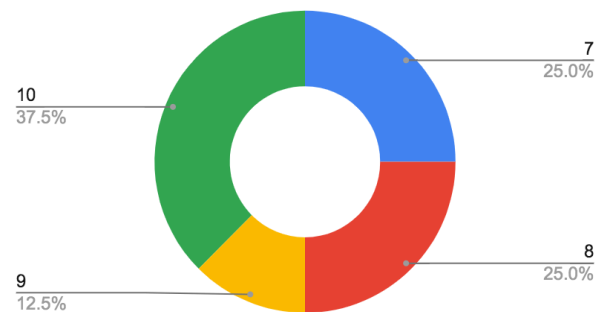
Internal Staff

Key Themes

1. The importance of working across community groups and government departments, which could be united under a cause relating to trees
2. The need for increasing sense of ownership/care over trees, educational programs in schools
3. Calming nature of trees and how they positively affect an area, importance of shade
4. Implications for health and wellbeing

Survey Breakdown

Question 1. *Value of trees as a measure to address the* effects of climate change

- Overall, respondents said trees have a high to medium value in addressing climate change
- 3 respondents ranked a 10,
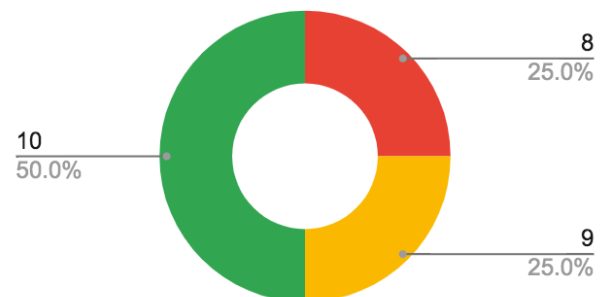 2 ranked an 8 and 7 each, and 1 ranked a 9

Trees and the Effects of Climate Change

7
25.0%

10
37.5%

8
25.0%

9
12.5%

Question 2. *Value of trees as a measure to enhance the attractiveness of our living and working environment*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a high value in addressing the attractiveness of the county's living and working environment
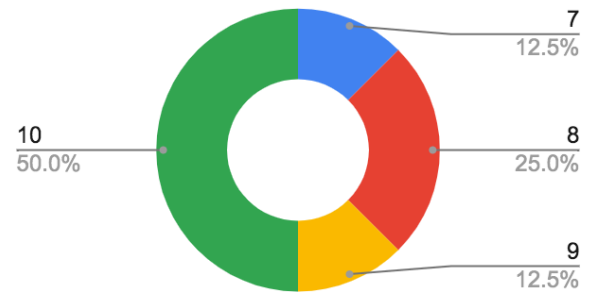- 4 respondents ranked a 10 while 8 and 9 each received two votes

Trees and Environment Aesthetic

8
25.0%

10
50.0%

9
25.0%

Question 3. *Value of trees as a measure to enhance the happiness of people in their environment*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a high to medium value in enhancing people's happiness
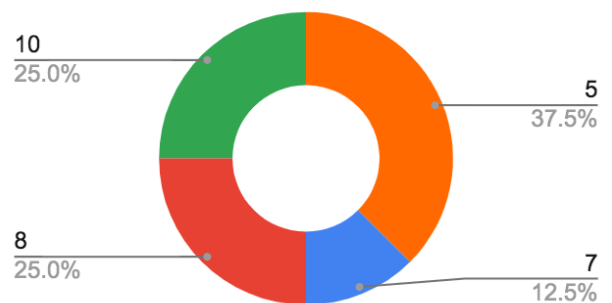- 4 respondents ranked a 10, 2 respondents ranked an 8, and 9 and 7 each received one vote

Trees and Level of Happiness

7 — 12.5%
8 — 25.0%
9 — 12.5%
10 — 50.0%

Question 4. *Value of trees as a measure to increase commerce and business activity*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a medium value in enhancing business activity
- 3 respondents ranked a 5, 2 respondents ranked an 8 and 10 each, and 1 respondents ranked a 7
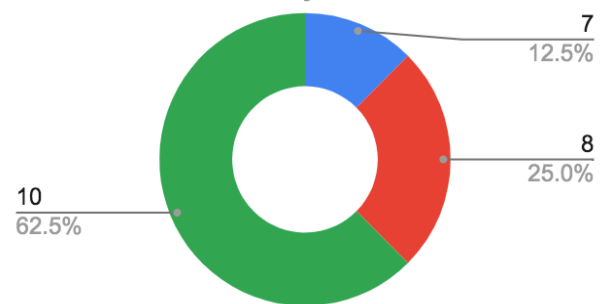
Trees and Commerce

10 — 25.0%
5 — 37.5%
8 — 25.0%
7 — 12.5%

Question 5. *Value of trees as a measure to improve the quality of a place*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a high value in enhancing quality of a place
- 5 respondents ranked a 10, 2 respondents ranked an 8, and 1 respondent ranked a 7
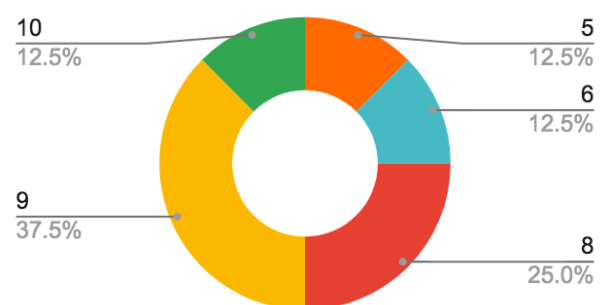
Trees and Quality of Place

7 — 12.5%
8 — 25.0%
10 — 62.5%

Question 6. *Value of trees as a measure to address the loss of habitats for plants and animals*

- Overall, respondents said trees have a medium to high value in addressing climate change
- 3 respondents ranked a 9, 2 respondents ranked an 8, and 10, 6, and 5 each received one vote

Trees and Habitat Loss

10 — 12.5%
5 — 12.5%
6 — 12.5%
9 — 37.5%
8 — 25.0%

Question 7. *What other benefits or values of trees are we missing? Do share with us here.*

- The most common response related to the calming effect of trees and the positive effects on health and well-being
- Other responses included the use of shade to reduce energy use, enhanced play environments for children, screening less attractive areas, and their educational value
- One respondent mentioned the connection to the self-regulating streets concept and how trees can be strategically positioning to control speed and parking

Question 8. *From your perspective, are there any areas in the county where you think the tree cover should be increased?*

- Respondents cited broad areas including the parks, council estates and ex-council estates, village areas, recreational spaces, urban areas, residential streets, and the areas of highest deprivation shown in the Dublin tree canopy study
- They also mentioned specific locations including the N11 median area, Ballyogan Village, and Kilbogget Park

Question 9. *Often there is a correlation between lack of tree cover and areas of social-economic deprivation. Are there any specific areas/streets in the county where this comes to mind?*

- Specific areas include Loughlinstown, Ballyogan, Sallynogin, Ballybrack, Coolevin, Ashlawn Park, Cyress Ct, Cedar Ct, Glenavon Park, Holly Ct, Cuirt Anninn, Inagh Ct, Sheelin Ave, Glencar Lawn, O'Rourke Park, Rollins Villas, Sarsfiled Street, St. Kevins Villas, Glenageary Road Upper, and Monkstown Farm

Question 10. *Can you share some ways in which trees come into play in your work or projects? Just a few brief examples here would be perfect to give us more context.*

- "Most of my work with trees involves cutting them back - badly chosen tree species or planting locations from developers lead to long term effects on other infrastructure and multiple complaints from stakeholders."

- "Placemaking. Christmas lighting."
- "I'm a planner. Street trees - scale, traffic calming, place making. Reducing heat island effect. Reducing wind tunnel effect eg Sandyford. Urban greening, SUDS"
- Supporting activities in Parks, Green spaces   "
- "It's a fundamental part of my work as a landscape architect."

Question 11. *What are the key work relations with other Council departments or sections that you think are very helpful in managing and growing the tree cover in the county?*

- The most common groups mentioned were the Parks Dept, Architects, and Planners
- Other departments cited include Municipal Services, Housing, Infrastructure, Climate Change, Economic Development, Roads, Traffic, Public Lighting, and Water & Drainage

Question 12. *Thinking broader to outside the Council, what thoughts do you have on ways that citizens and/or community groups can get involved in supporting work around trees? We'd love to hear them.*

- The most common suggestions were to work with community groups, residents' associations, and schools to increase involvement and education surrounding the tree initiative
- One respondent suggested a to start seedlings of native tree near schools so the students can feel ownership and ties to the environment

Question 13. *Thinking forward, what initial ideas or suggestions do you have to make sure that our trees and tree cover are maintained, valued and increased?*

- Multiple respondents referenced the need for involvement and coordination on multiple levels through partnership arrangements, education and planting programs in schools through grants, tree information clinics,
- Other suggestions included an adopt a tree program, the importance of good tree selection, the incorporation of tree bio-retention pits in new water and drainage systems, and more requirements for planting for developers with incentives for developers to plant over the required amount