

# Expanding Our Conservation Region

*Serving the Broader Valley*



# Our Impact

Stowe Land Trust has helped protect more than 7,000 acres of land since 1987.

## *Our Core Values*

- **Access for All**
- **Community**
- **Sustainability**
- **Collaboration**
- **Innovation**
- **Next Generation**
- **Equity & Inclusion**



# Who we are ...

**Our expanding conservation region coincides with our recent expanded capacity.**

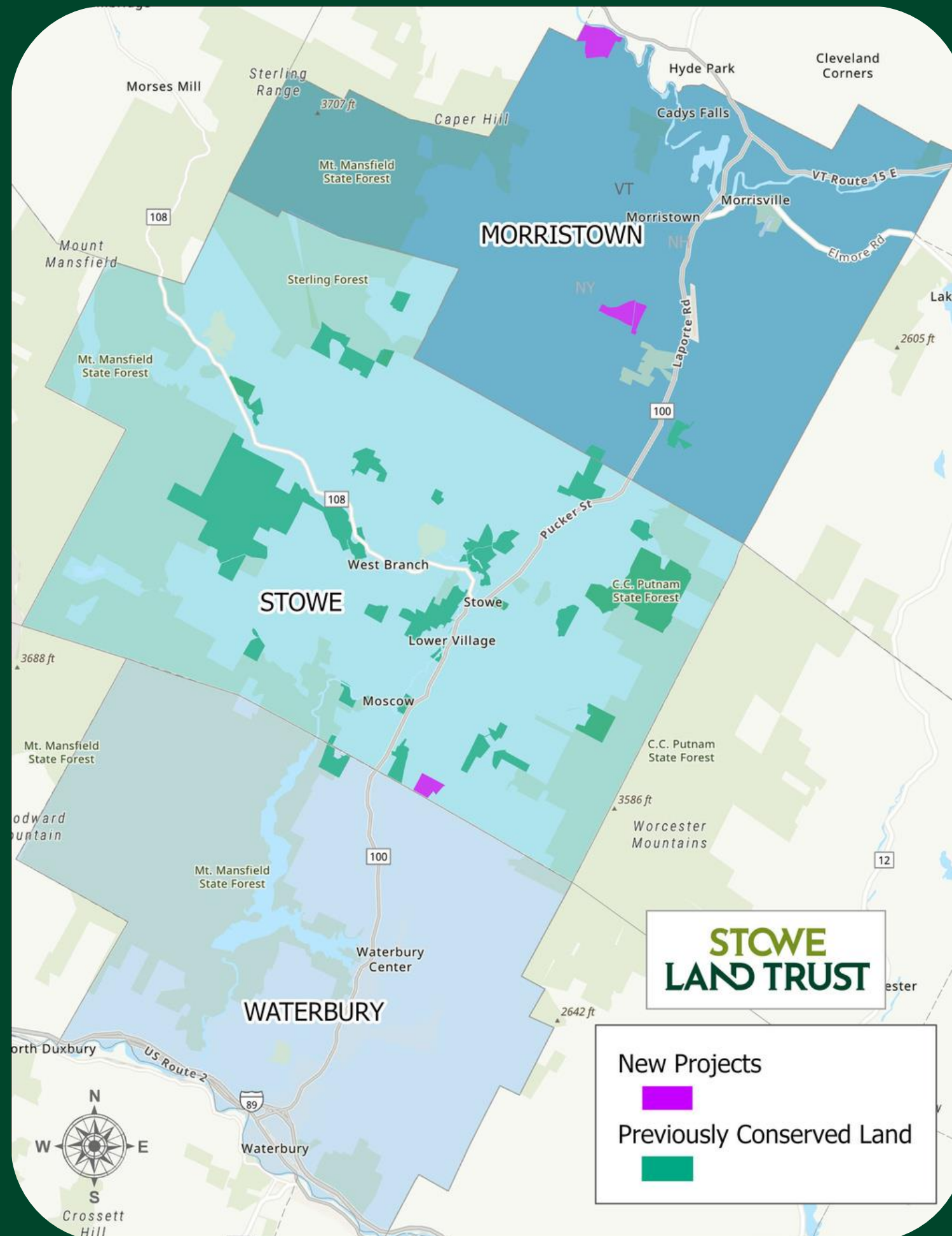
**From 3 staff members in 2010 → 6 full-time staff in 2026 + a new Fellow and AmeriCorps member**



# Why Expand?

By working together to protect land across the valley, we can:

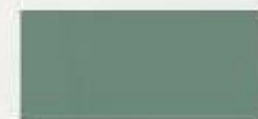
- *Lift all communities*
- *Ease pressure on popular trailheads*
- *Protect wildlife*
- *Expand access to nature*
- *Tackle shared challenges around development, affordability, & recreation*



# Where we work . . .

## Conservation Region – “Rivers to Ridges”

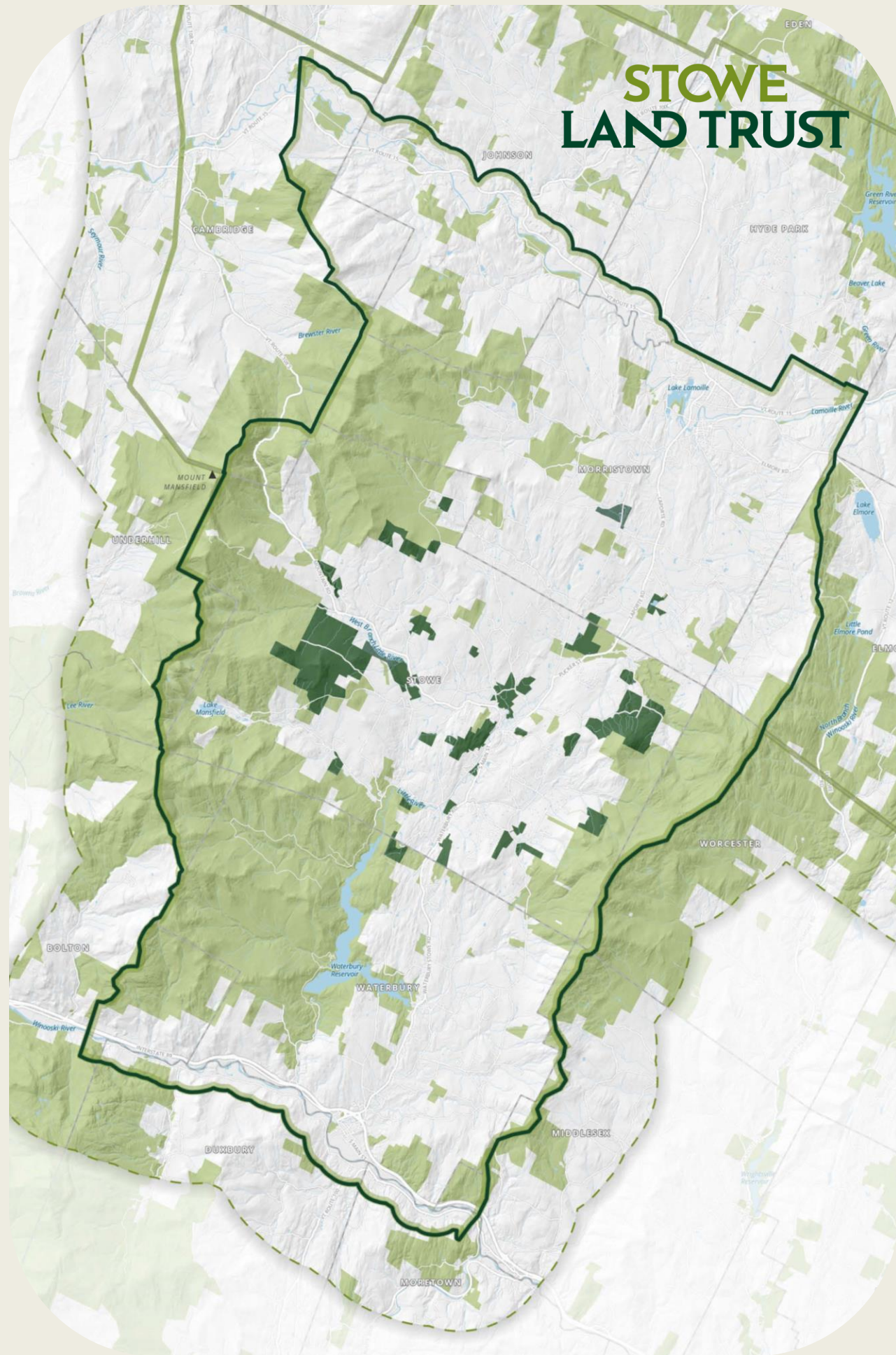
**North to Lamoille River**  
**South to Winooski River**  
**West to Green Mountains**  
**East to Worcester Range**



SLT Fee & Easement



Conserved Lands



# What we protect . . .

Lands with high conservation values along five categories:

- *Working Farms*
- *Working Forests*
- *Wildlife/Biodiversity*
- *Recreation*
- *Flood Resilience*



# How we work . . .

## *Willing Landowners!*

### *Project Selection*

- GIS analysis
- Community priorities
- Landowner goals

### *Conservation Method*

- Fee simple acquisition
- Conservation easement

### *Other Considerations*

- Partnerships (WLI, VLT, VHCB, etc.)
- Land Trust Alliance standards
- Fundraising lift
- Community support



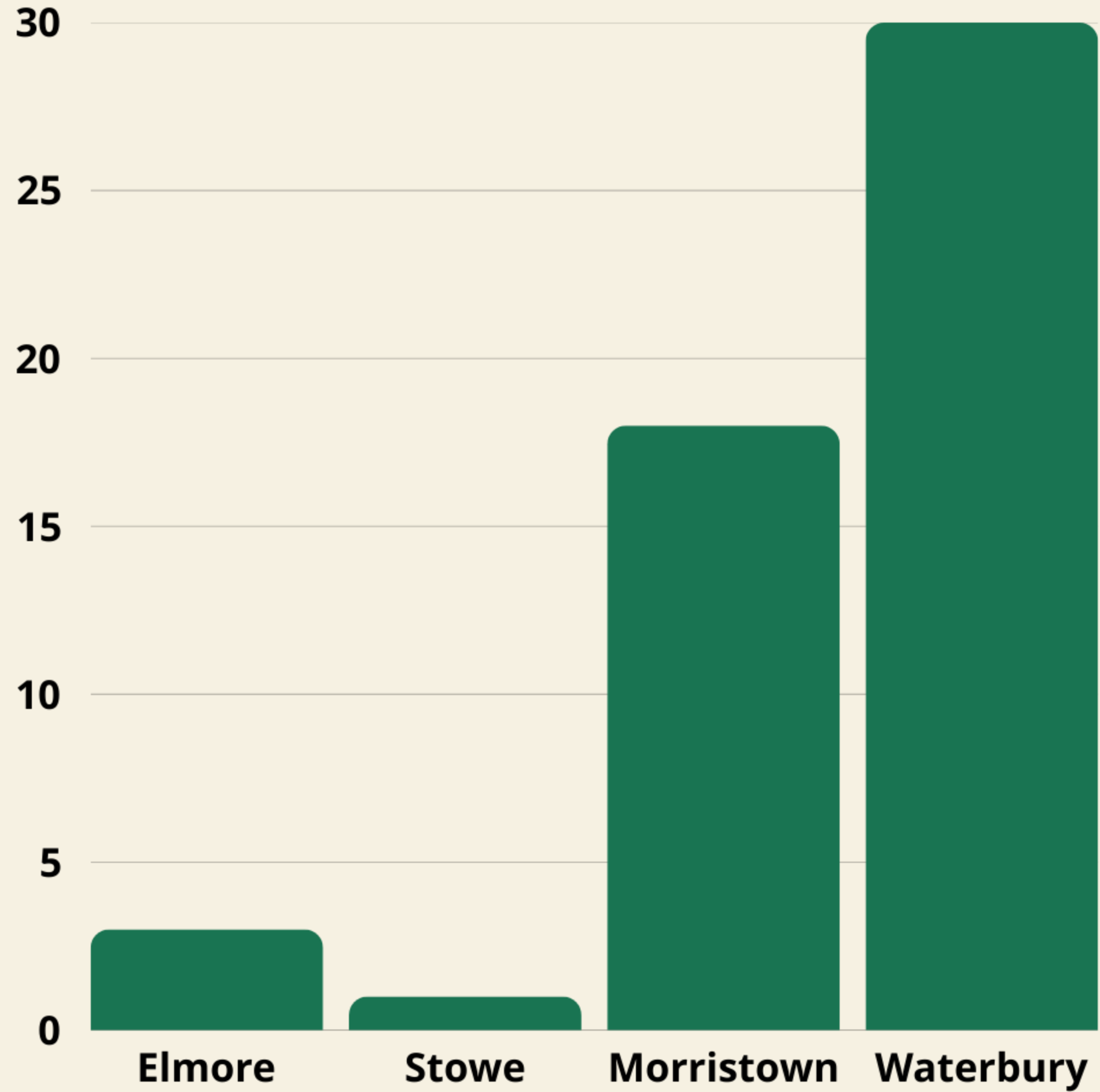
# Community Survey

We created a brief survey to:

- *Learn more about residents' values and priorities*
- *Identify conservation projects that will make the biggest positive impact in those communities*



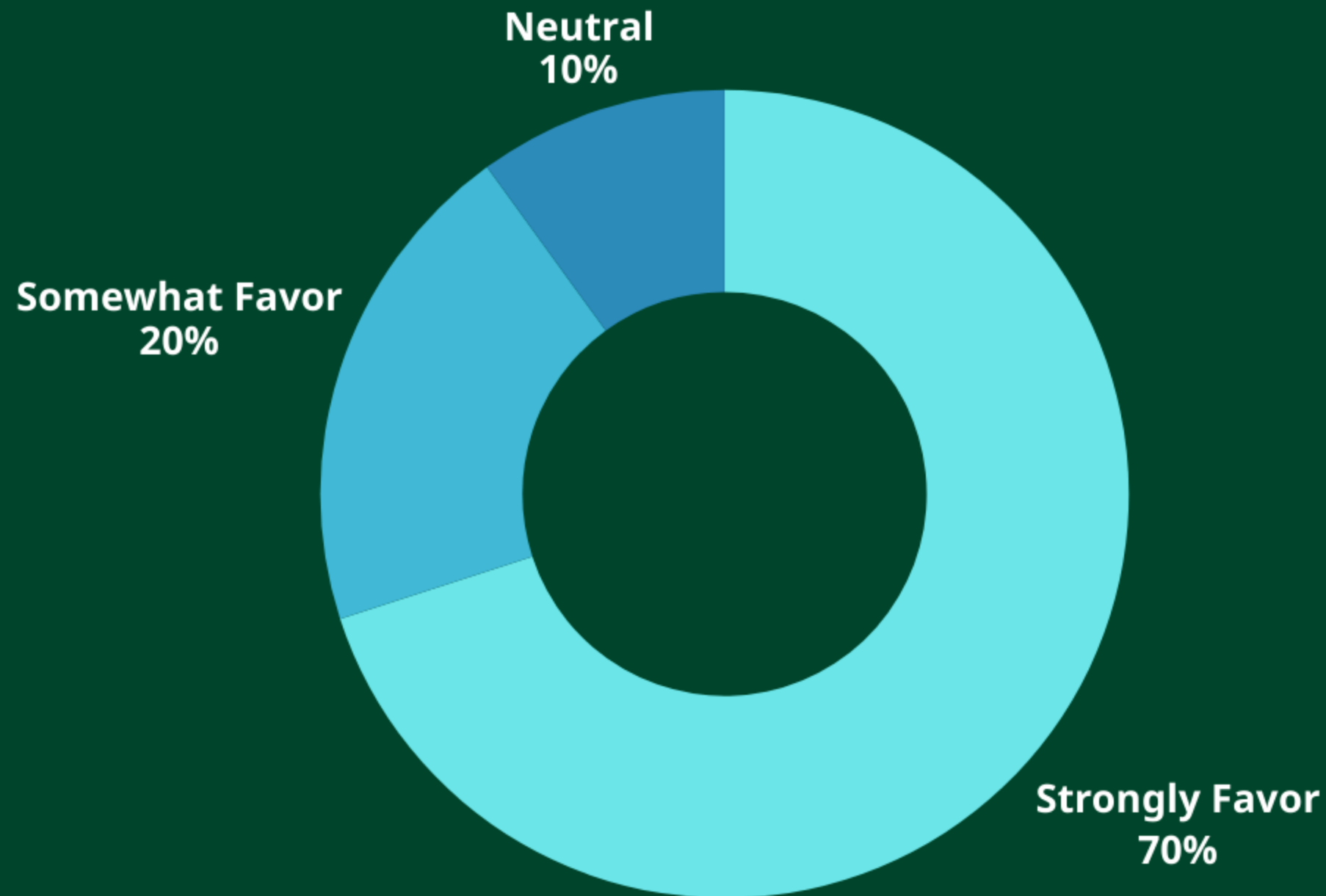
# Preliminary Responses by Town Thus Far



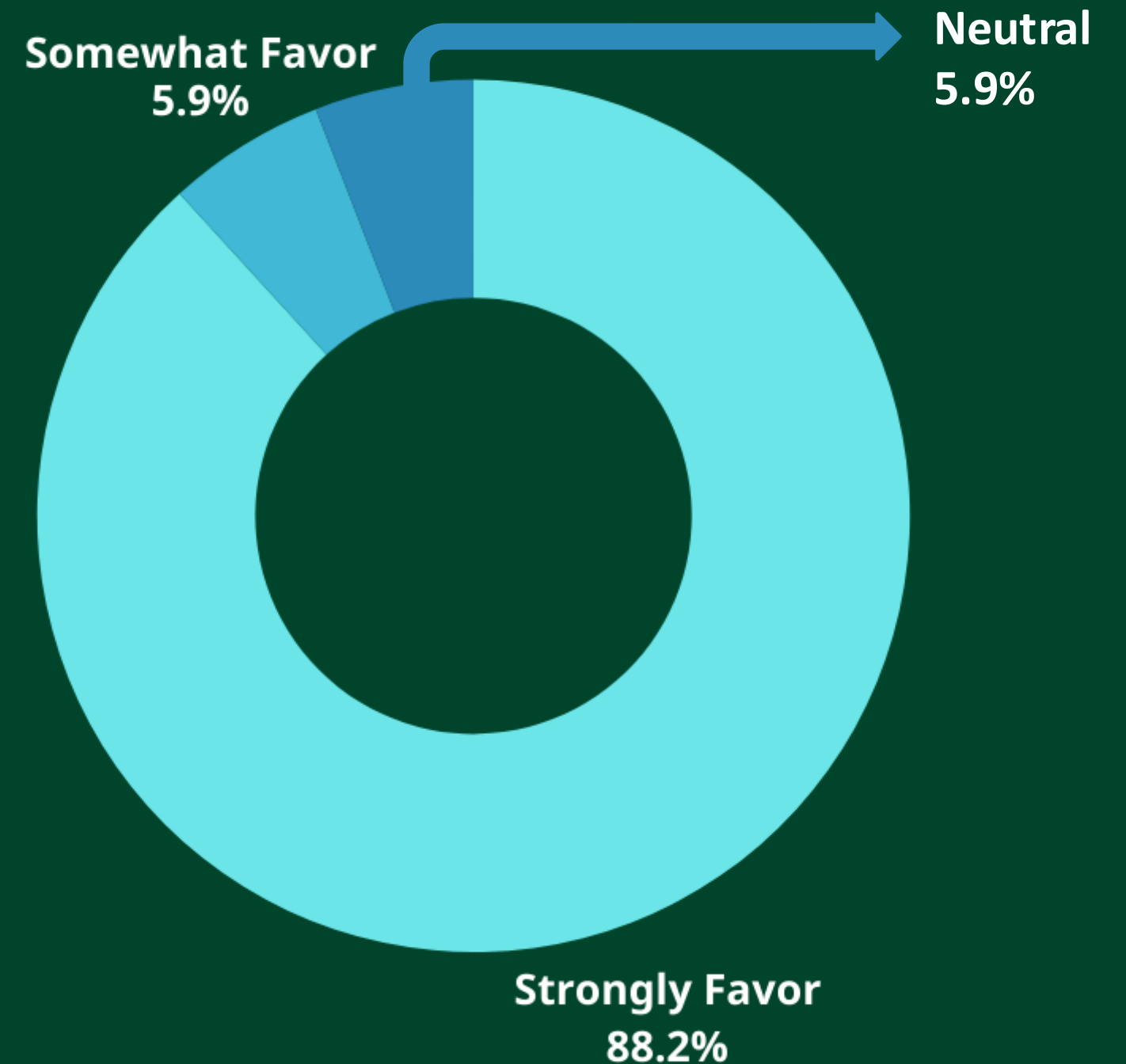


How do you feel about Stowe Land Trust working with the conservation commission and landowners in your town on land protection projects?

**Waterbury Community Members**



**Morristown Community Members**



“ How do you think Stowe Land Trust could best serve your community?

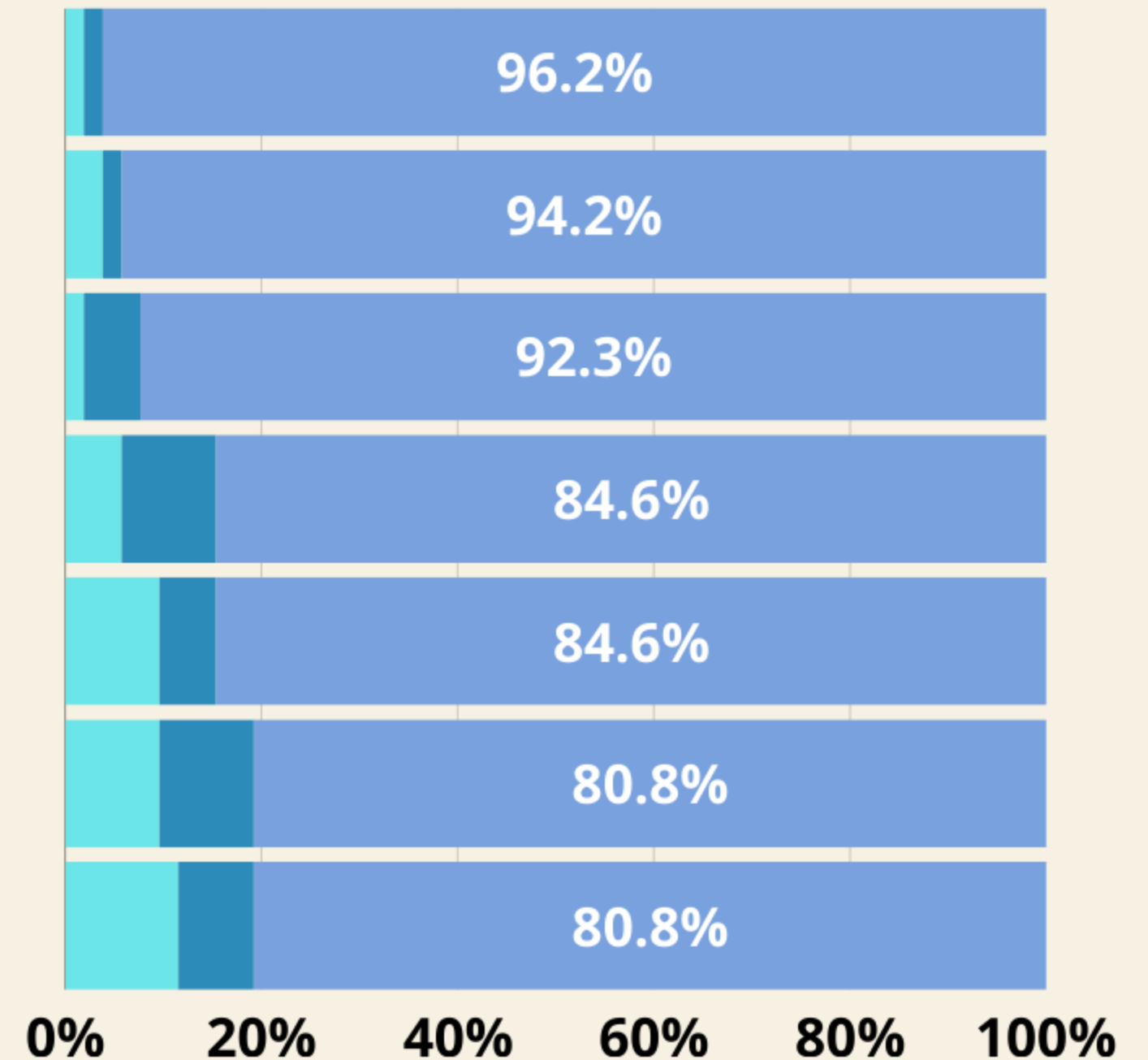




Please indicate how important each of the following items is to you:

● No/Low Importance  
● Neutral  
● Important

- Protect river corridors & floodplains
- Protect forests for climate resilience & carbon sequestration
- Protect working farms
- Protect working forests
- Protect/create town-owned forests, parks, green spaces
- Promote community housing & affordability
- Protect/expand outdoor recreation





What are your biggest concerns about land use or development in your town?

Public Access & Recreation

4

Flooding, Water Quality, Environmental Resilience

5

Housing Pressure, Affordability, Poor Planning

15

Loss of Open Space

8

Wildlife Habitat & Corridors

7

# Moving Forward

**Facilitate community meetings in Morristown & Waterbury**

**Finalize the new Strategic Conservation Plan**

**Work with partner organizations to continue protecting natural and working landscapes**

# Thank You!



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