

Sugar Land's Sidewalk Pilot Program

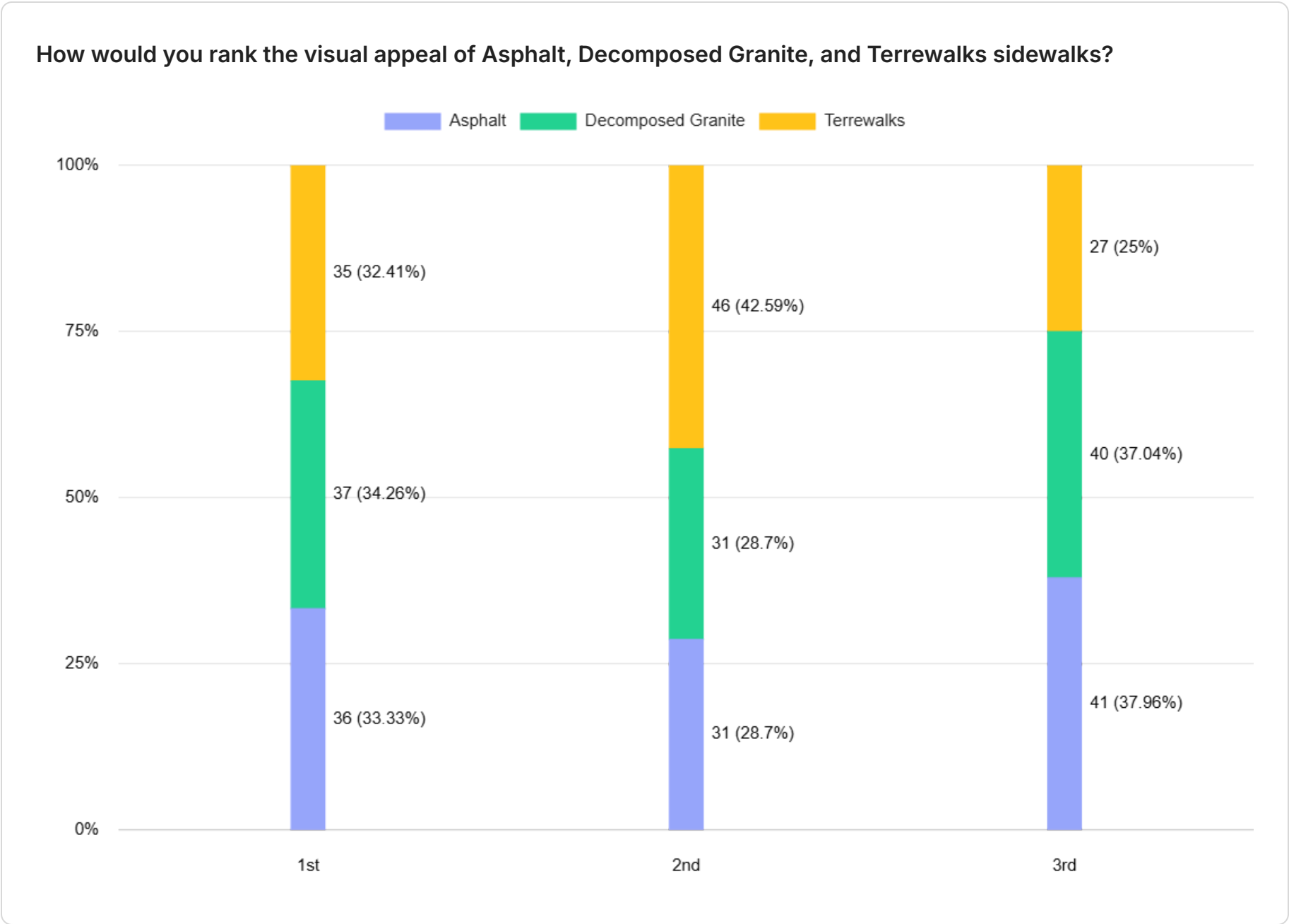
Date range: Jan 01, 2026-May 01, 2026

Total submissions: 314

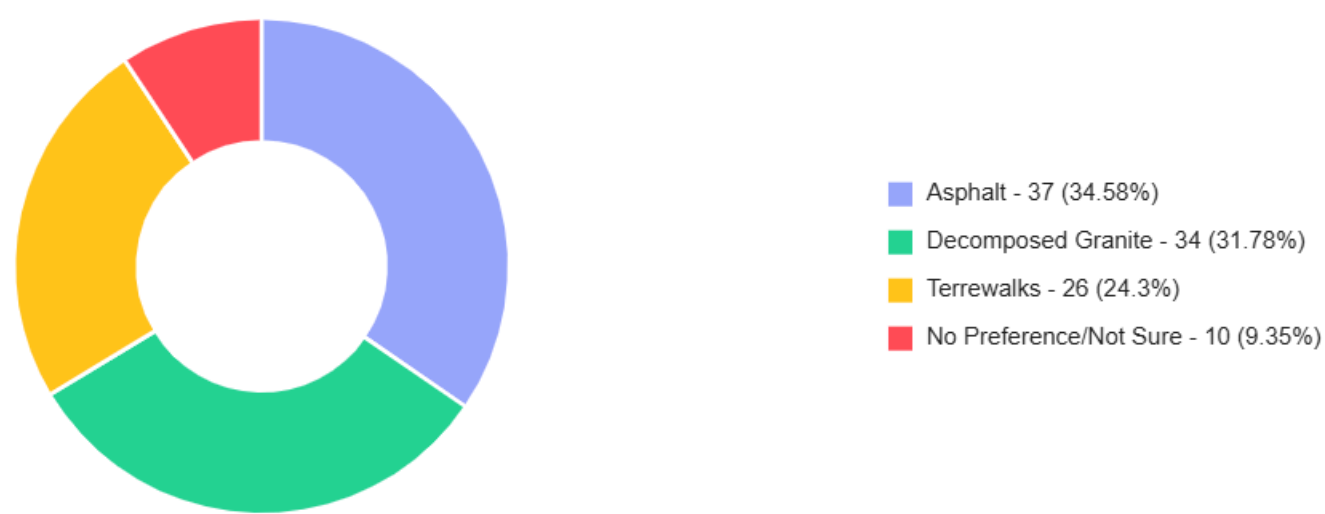
Total responses: 1397

Key findings and takeaways from the pilot program:

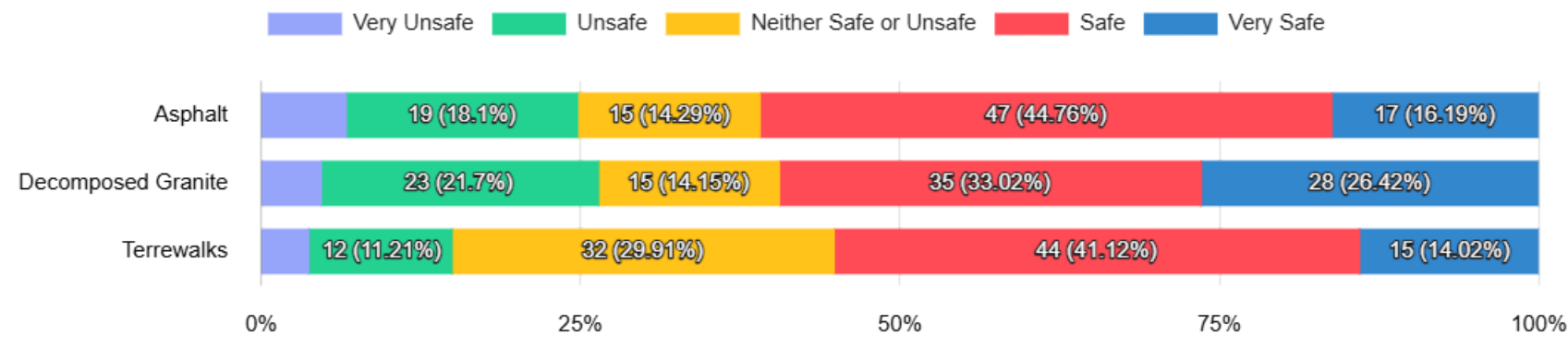
- Residents were divided on asphalt and decomposed granite as either the most or least preferred alternative material, while Terrewalks was the most common 2nd choice.
- 68% of respondents preferred to keep the tree and use an alternative sidewalk material.



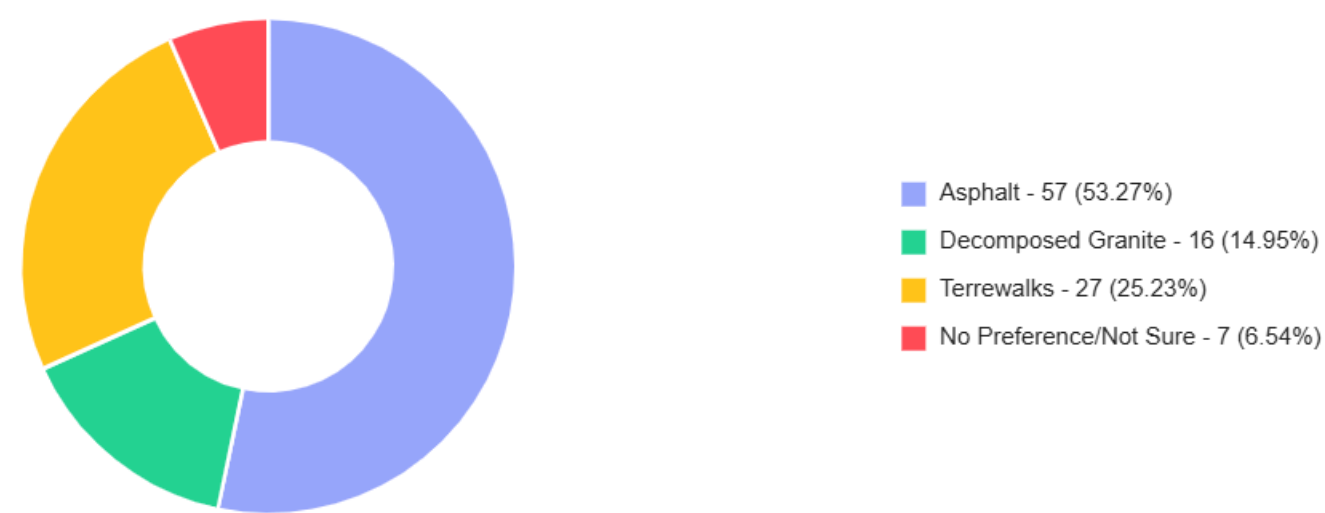
Which material feels most comfortable for general use?



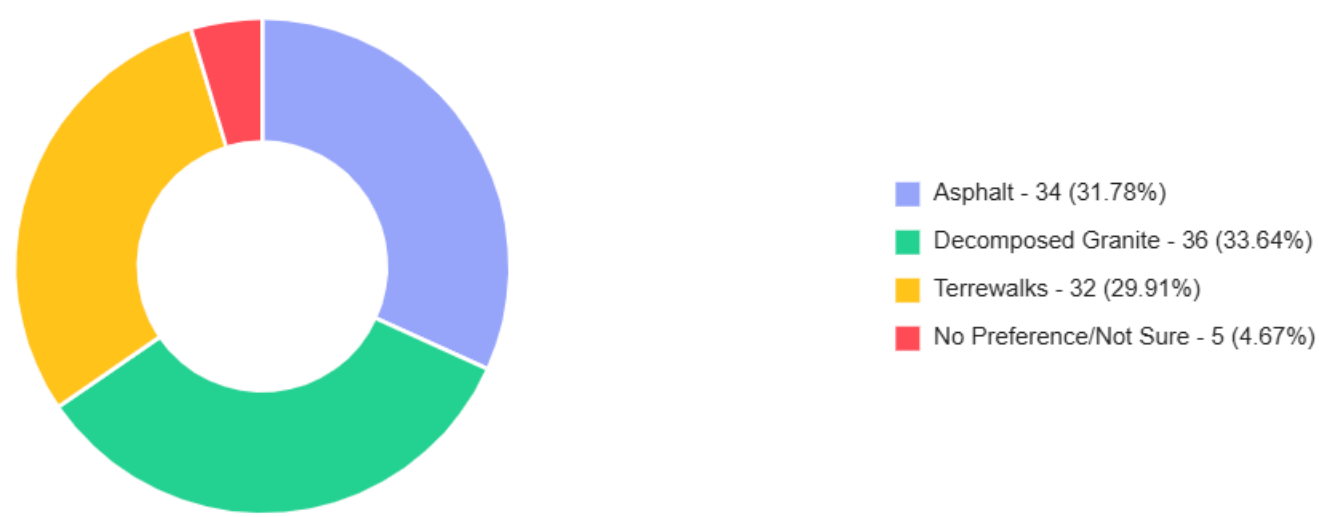
How do you perceive the safety of each material in wet or slippery conditions? (1 = Very unsafe, 5 = Very safe)



Which material do you think is more suitable for wheelchair users or strollers?

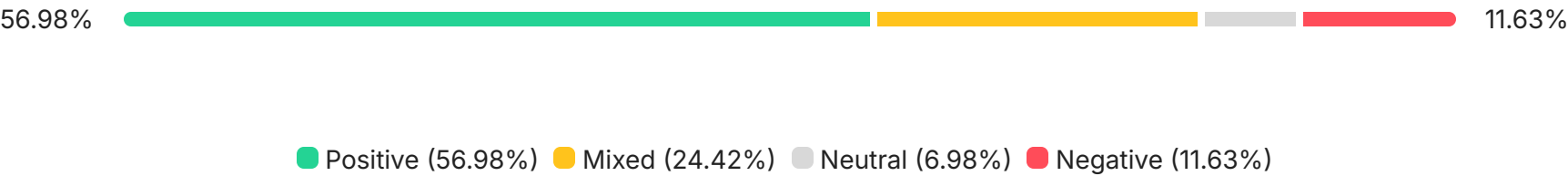


Which material do you prefer overall?



Please explain why you chose the specific material above.

Sentiment Analysis



Topic Analysis · Run on: May 1, 2026

Sidewalk Material Considerations

+ 8 Sub Topics

81 responses · 94.19%

Filters applied reduced participants from 108 to 108 (100%) · 86 of them responded to this question (80%)

Organized Open-Ended Survey Responses

1. Terrewalks (Modular Pavers / Recycled Plastic)

- "In addition to being visually pleasing, it's also very comfortable to walk on for both me and my dog."
- "It looks easy to repair. Also, it seems to have a little cushioning effect."
- "Durable. Easy to repair."
- "As a wheelchair user, it will be easier to navigate. It is easier to fix, which means repairs are more timely, and because it is light, people can see it in the dark if they have night blindness."
- "Seems like it would be the most level when biking or walking on it, without worrying about square tiles shifting from tree root issues, and it looks better than asphalt."

"Preserves permeable base, looks nice, doesn't get as hot as asphalt."

"The Terrewalk is easiest on impact. I noticed the difference in my knees when walking the blvd."

"I like the aesthetic look of the Terrewalks sidewalk. They fit into our community better and are lighter so will not get as hot."

"Easy to replace or adjust one or a few units. Uses 100% waste plastic. ADA compliant. Shallow intrusion allows storm drainage underneath."

"Less heat in the summer and flexible enough to bend and mold with heat and root growth beneath it."

"Terrewalk - Appearance, sharper lines, and edges should be easiest to maintain. Cost-effective as they should be easily repairable since it is modular."

"More flexible for tree root growth. High sustainability of recycled materials."

"I see the Terrewalks surface having faster maintenance options... fixable compared to asphalt."

"From a drainage perspective, I like the Terrewalks because I think it's a good combination of draining but also stability."

"The Terrewalk system represents a progressive attempt at utilizing recycled content, optically giving the appearance of sustainable decisions while preserving aesthetics."

"Terrewalks is the best solution out of the three options."

2. Asphalt (Strengths, Weaknesses, & Accessibility Concerns)

"Asphalt will be 1 million degrees in July and deeply uncomfortable for walking."

"Asphalt is ugly as hell, but better than the other two options for wheels."

"Because I have a baby, asphalt is the best for a stroller, bikes, scooters, etc. Granite would be the best for walking and running."

"Asphalt looks really cheap and cheapens the neighborhood."

"Asphalt is easily replaceable. Can be used by bikes, scooters, wheelchairs. Drains well."

"We use that sidewalk regularly with a stroller, kids' bikes, and roller blades... Asphalt will heave less and can be used with wheels as well as walking."

"Asphalt gets very hot during our summers and can burn feet/paws. People walking their dogs will be forced off the sidewalks."

"Stroller access and bike access is critical, especially on school routes. Asphalt is the best option for these needs."

"The asphalt is smoother and repair is faster."

"In my country, we only use asphalt... softer for running and deals well with tree roots. *Note:* If not in shady areas, asphalt gets very hot. In Japan, they use light-colored asphalt to reduce heat."

"I think asphalt is the lowest cost overall."

"As a runner, I think asphalt is better for your joints."

"Asphalt retains heat, the manufacturing process is horrible for the environment, the smell is horrendous when being installed, aesthetics look cheap, and when wet it is slippery."

3. Decomposed Granite (Pros, Cons, & Environmental Feedback)

"I feel like decomposed granite is the best eco-friendly option to use. It's easy for strollers and wheelchairs and would blend in a lot better."

"The granite can stick to shoes or wheels. It might be hotter than concrete in summer for those walking dogs."

"Decomposed granite kicks tiny rocks up into your shoes."

"Decomposed granite sidewalk is not filled enough and puddles in areas. It looks like a mess when there are puddles."

"Anyone that uses strollers, wheelchairs, or walkers: decomposed granite hinders mobility. Sharp fragments can cause harm if someone falls, and little pieces make walking in open-toed shoes difficult. It may wash away with heavy rain."

"I like the more natural look of the granite."

"The decomposed granite is impossible to traverse with roller blades and stroller wheels."

"Kids or people with strollers would not be able to use the sidewalk if it had crushed granite. Plus, it could be a mess with rain."

"DG offers a natural slip-resistant walkway and may be lower cost/easier to maintain. However, monthly checkups may be required to ensure a leveled surface."

"We are having a hard time riding bikes on it with kids because it's similar to sand and bikes lose traction. It is not safe for bike riding!"

"Granite gets in your shoes when you walk on it and hurts dogs' feet."

"Decomposed granite has the least harmful environmental impact, isn't susceptible to root cracking, and is the most cost-effective long term."

4. Tree Management, Roots, & Systemic Urban Planning

"The more natural, the better, as it reduces strain on the body compared to harder surfaces like asphalt and concrete."

"Concrete would be better overall if the trees were removed. Majority of sidewalks are buckled due to tree growth."

"Just continue to maintain the concrete and do not harm the trees for heaven's sakes. None of these materials will perform any better."

"We can easily fix the sections that are damaged by tree roots."

"Remove trees, fix sidewalks one final time, and be done with it."

"No pavement material installed directly over an active root system will remain stable long term. As tree roots expand, they create surface displacement. Interlocking pavers become uneven, granite washes out, and asphalt deforms. The only long-term solution for a safe, ADA-compliant sidewalk is to remove the trees; otherwise, continued maintenance is unsustainable."

"We absolutely need to keep the trees! This state is getting way too hot, and cutting trees is like shooting ourselves in the foot."

5. General Usability, Safety, & Miscellaneous Feedback

"For safety."

"Looks good. Can easily be repaired."

"Easier to fix."

"Nicer looking and easier on bare feet. We feel it would last longer than other options."

"Asphalt and granite are too dark."

"Not sure of the lifespan of asphalt, but looks good and feel it would be better. Just don't want the great old trees to be chopped."

"It will stay level the longest and require the least ongoing maintenance."

"It's smooth and not loud when walking. Drains well so I'm not walking in mud."

"Looks best."

"It's more conducive to the Houston heat and shouldn't be too big an issue with tree roots."

"N/A"

"Looks nice and seems better for bike riders, strollers, and dog walking."

"Smooth and functional."

"Allows movement."

"Safety and ease of use."

"Best look/feel overall, including stroller jogging in consideration."

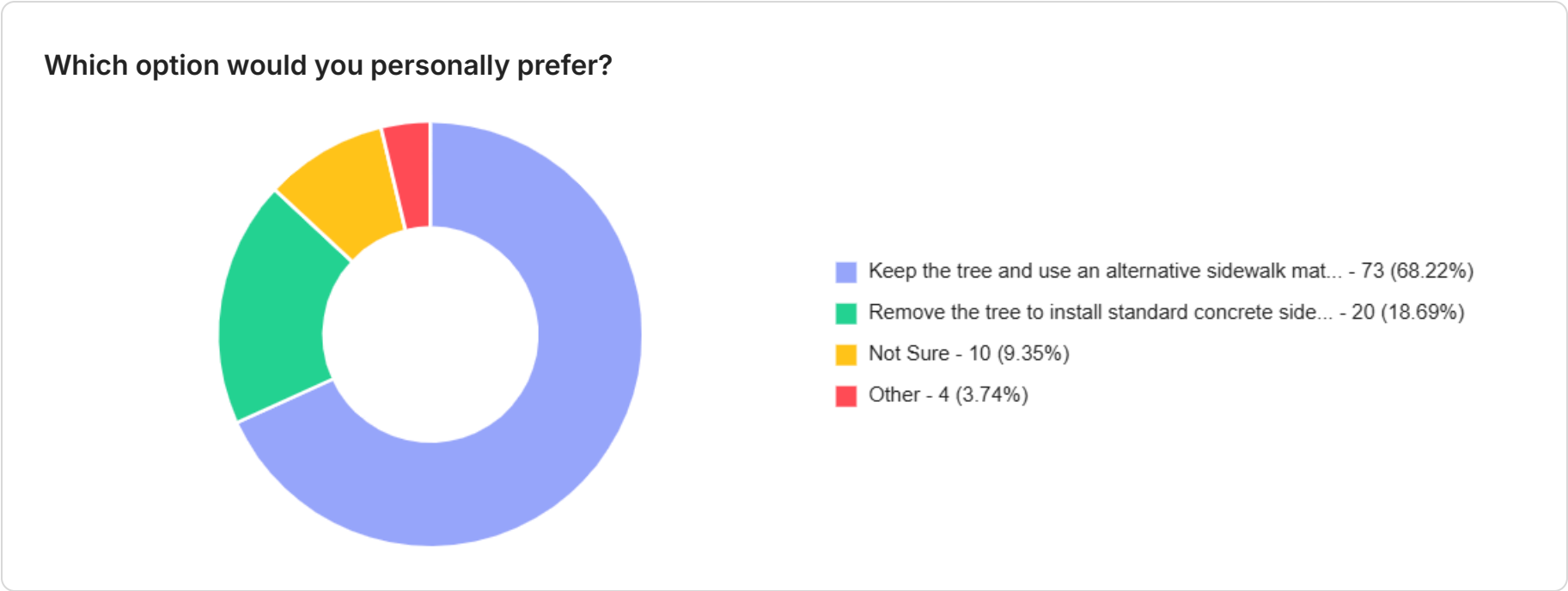
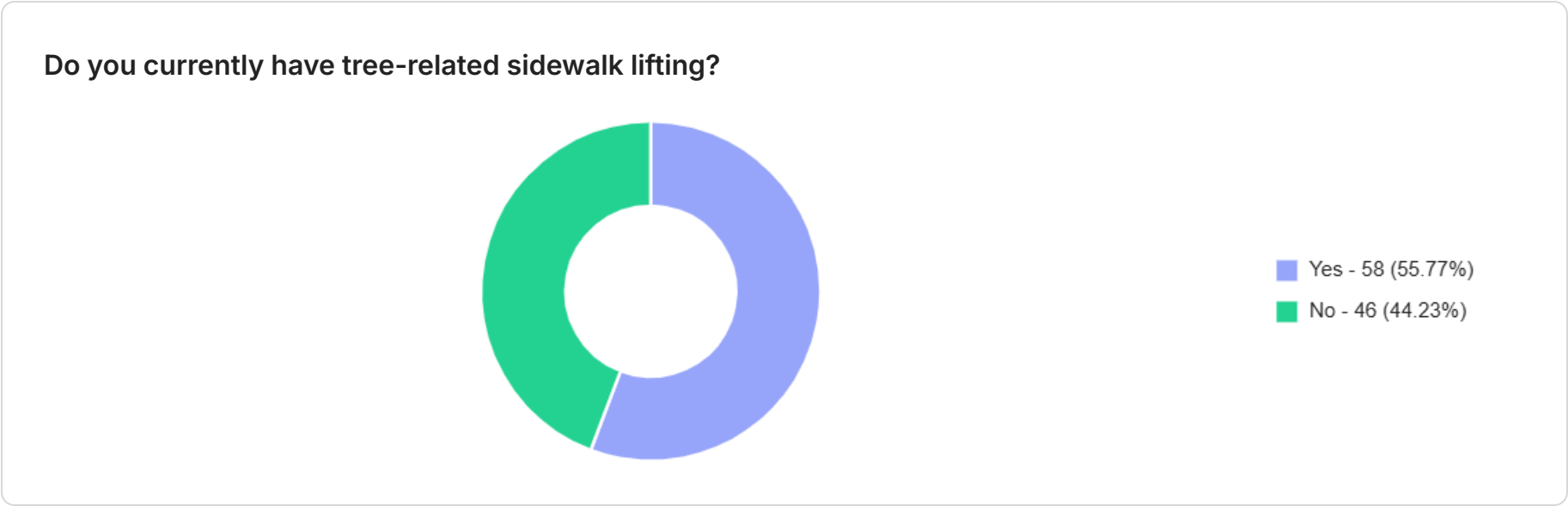
"Looks the nicest and smoothest."

"I live right next to this area and walk it multiple times a day with my disabled son."

"It's been the best and easiest for any shoes I wear. And safest for Dad, whether he's using a walking stick, cane, or walker."

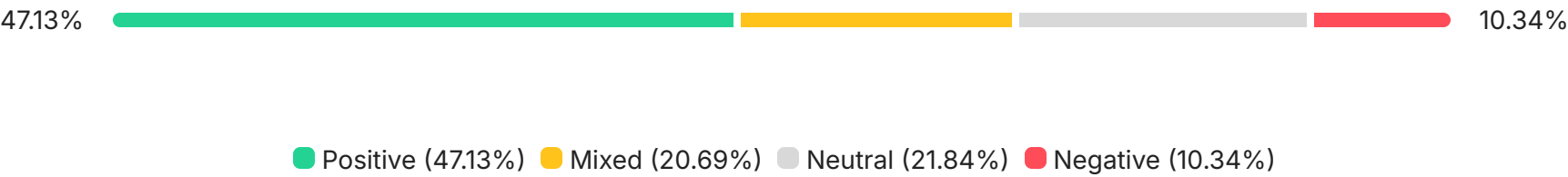
"Curb appeal. Looks better and is probably safer when it rains."

"Any of these options are way better than concrete in my mind as a runner. And as a resident who moved to Sugar Land largely because of all the mature trees, I am all for any option that can help us avoid cutting down more of them."

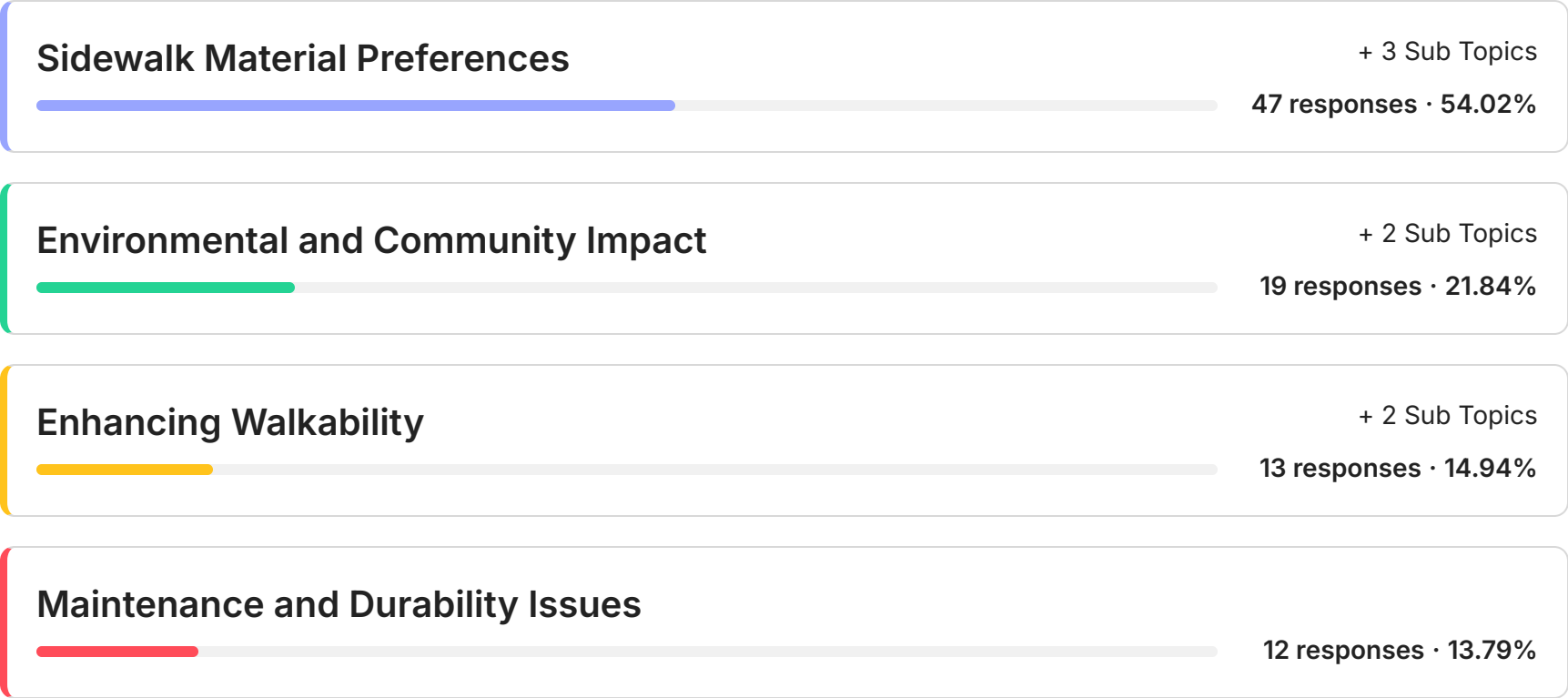


How would you feel seeing these materials in residential neighborhoods?

Sentiment Analysis



Topic Analysis · Run on: May 1, 2026



Filters applied reduced participants from 108 to 108 (100%) · 87 of them responded to this question (81%)

Organized Open-Ended Survey Responses

1. Terrewalks (Modular Pavers)

- "Terrewalk looks good so I prefer it in residential neighborhoods. The other two are less desirable in residential areas."
- "For residential, I definitely only want to see Terrewalks. The other material options do not look good in residential neighborhoods."
- "Terrewalks and granite are fine. Asphalt is a nonstarter for me."
- "I think the Terrewalks would be best. The decomposed granite may be ok, but I don't feel that the asphalt will be appropriate at all."
- "I'd be good with the Terrewalks."
- "Terrewalk would look nicer and last longer."
- "I would like to see Terrewalks replace concrete sidewalks."

"I live in Settlers Park, and I prefer the Terrewalks to the asphalt or crushed granite. They allow the trees to stay and reduce the amount of repairs needed."

"I run throughout the area... The seams in the Terrewalk seem like a hazard where feet could catch if it becomes uneven."

2. Asphalt (Mixed Preferences & Concerns)

"No asphalt."

"Asphalt often looks low budget."

"Hard NO on asphalt in residential neighborhoods. TOO hot and looks horrible."

"Asphalt is the best option. I do not like the others because they will force strollers and children on bikes to use the road, which could result in injury or death."

"Asphalt would be great! Trees are important in this neighborhood since we are near a swamp."

"Asphalt is a hard no; granite would be great."

"Asphalt would be the ugliest, the other two I think would be great."

"Terrewalk would be great. Asphalt is terrible, looks cheap, smells, is extremely hot, and slippery when wet. I would move to a different area if asphalt sidewalks or streets were installed to replace concrete."

3. Decomposed Granite / Crushed Rock

"Crushed rock option will track dirt, mud, and kick up tiny rocks all over shoes."

"Would not want granite. The other two are fine."

"I would welcome decomposed granite, which I have in my home's landscaping. Only issue is some weed control may be necessary."

"Crushed stone only belongs in possibly a park."

"I think the gravel is a poor man's alternative, and I'd be pretty upset seeing that in a neighborhood."

"The granite would look great and be cooler in the heat."

"Ok with it. But neighborhood needs to be clean and can't be muddy after rain."

4. Tree Preservation, Environment, & City Planning

"I love our trees and would prefer to keep them and use either asphalt or decomposed granite for sidewalks."

"Great. Again, the more natural, the better."

"I also think it would be absolutely devastating to the entire community of Sugar Land if you started removing trees. It would just be another cow pasture turned into neighborhoods..."

"I absolutely LOVE the trees in our town, they make it mature and beautiful. The sidewalks are man-made and can adjust, so I'm happy with these trials."

"Welcome. I would appreciate keeping the beautiful shade trees along our streets. Trees are also good for air quality, and encourage people to walk under their shade when it's hot outside."

"Good! We need to work with the trees!!"

"Trees help our community stay cool in the summer... However residential neighborhood sidewalks get more use and should probably stay concrete. They don't have as many problems as these sidewalks along major streets close to trees."

"We would rather keep the trees in the long run."

"Move the sidewalk, jog it, use Terrewalk... anything is better than removing the tree or putting cheap asphalt down."

"If the sidewalk is ok, leave it. Cut down some of the old trees that have lived past their prime and use concrete."

5. Material Alternatives, Concrete, & General Maintenance

"Prefer concrete to match building guidelines."

"Fine. Please work on the sidewalk on Williams Trace from Lexington to Hwy 6."

"I think they look terrible, won't last as long as concrete, and will cost more in the long run."

"I could care less about the aesthetics, they are meant to be used and if they become usable then that's a win!"

"On my street, we do not have tree-related sidewalk lifting, but have shifting of the ground from droughts."

"If it's uniform in the neighborhood I think it would look okay."

"They feel cheap and temporary. I think it would destroy the character of the neighborhoods, decrease our home values, and require constant maintenance."

"I'm okay with these materials. Good maintenance programs are needed for any type of material choice."

"Concrete is the only material that is acceptable unless someone can show me another alternative."

"Would love to see it. Concrete cracks under the slightest disruption."

"If you don't try new things nothing will improve even if there are short term disasters."

"I prefer concrete over anything else for roads or sidewalks."

"I would be fine with the use of new materials; however, somehow they would have to blend in with the existing walkways so that the sidewalks would not look like part of some kind of patchwork."

6. Safety, Community Usability, & Satisfaction

"It would make me feel great about my choice of place to live."

"So long as it is installed neatly, I'm good."

"Please use any new material! We are in New Territory and the sidewalks are such a hazard! We have elderly walking on the streets because the sidewalks are uneven... Kids cannot ride their bikes, roller skate, etc."

"Safer for the elderly, especially in daytime visible."

"Happy to see progress and troubleshooting take place."

"As long as sidewalk is flat."

"I just want a solid sidewalk that remains level."

"Anything we do to improve our crumbling sidewalks and streets will help."

"I would be happy that the neighborhood leadership was putting our safety first while not disregarding their responsibility to be good stewards of our environment."

"This would be an upgrade badly needed across all neighborhoods."

"Sidewalks need to be safe over appearance, so granite or Terrewalks work for me."

"Great! May encourage residents to participate in more outdoor activities."

Please provide any additional comments below

Sentiment Analysis

52%  18%

 Positive (52%)  Mixed (12%)  Neutral (18%)  Negative (18%)

Organized Open-Ended Survey Responses

1. Material & Aesthetic Preferences

"No asphalt for street repair. Ugly and sub-par. Lowers property value."

"Please do not install any asphalt or decomposed granite (gravel)."

"Glad to see we are experimenting with other materials."

"The Woodlands is replacing their trails with asphalt in some areas. The City should reach out to them to get their feedback."

"The trees are what give Sugar Land its charm and character, and the combination of sidewalks and street lamps are truly one of the reasons that we bought a home in Sugar Land. We love being able to walk to the town center, bike to church, and roller blade or scooter to school. Please preserve the high-quality concrete sidewalks and the trees as well!"

"Continue to maintain the concrete. It's not that hard. This is a false dichotomy. We do not have to change materials, just maintain it better."

"I'm a frequent walker. I walked on these said roads above because I live in Chimneystone Subdivision. Both asphalt and granite feel comfortable in my opinion. As far as looks concern, I like the beige granite better. Both feel safe to me. I noticed the granite is less muddy than when it was paved. But, if we're talking about cost effectiveness, I leave it up to the city's decision."

"Use concrete in heavy foot traffic areas for now. Put the Terrewalks in areas where people can get used to them and see how they wear and do in different weather situations. Small changes are accepted better."

"Try the Terrewalks on my street (Acacia Drive). Our sidewalks are pretty heavily used by walkers and we have lots of problems with the sidewalks being uneven due to trees."

"Black asphalt would literally be the opposite of helpful... pouring black petrochemical asphalt on our tree roots would defeat the purpose. Easier to add more granite and tamp than constantly having to cut asphalt and pour patches. Please no asphalt."

"The asphalt can be made with even lighter color stones to keep it cooler and look nicer (e.g., Oyster Creek Trails)."

"Asphalt is the most accommodating for strollers, wheelchairs, and other mobility devices, and with family members needing each, that is what we are considering."

2. Tree Preservation & Environmental Concerns

"Thank you for looking for ways to keep our beautiful trees while improving our sidewalks!"

"Please reduce construction of retail/commercial and residential developments. There is more than enough of everything here except nature. Trees produce oxygen and green spaces help prevent flooding. Both also help to keep the temperatures lower."

"Do not remove trees! The trees are so great for shade, and it is disappointing when they are removed."

"We have lost a lot of our trees in Settlers Park in the last 15 years. With summers as hot here as they are, the shade the trees provide is much appreciated. Please do what you can to preserve the remaining trees in the neighborhoods."

"Tree shade is critical to protect against the heat. It's important to provide safe shaded pathways for children and strollers, especially on school routes. Failing to do so will result in pedestrians being forced into the street."

"Please keep some trees for shade and the value of the neighborhood."

"Keep the oak trees and others as much as possible."

"It's best to overall leave the trees, which are precious, especially here in Texas. They are beautiful and give a unique yet classic look to the area. Try to do everything possible to not affect the tree's drip line, which will cause damage to the tree and risk losing it long term."

"Need more trees."

"Please keep the trees! The best thing about Sugar Land is the trees overhang most sidewalks to keep it a tad bit shaded for walks at all times of the day (or night) and assists with a little less rain drops during the weird sprinkles."

"Please don't cut down trees just because of a sidewalk... we must have them to support our native wildlife, for their beauty, and for their importance in reducing heat zones."

"Trees not only enhance property value, they provide habitat for wildlife, shade for people walking and jogging, reduce carbon, absorb excess rain, reduce the heat island effect, and purify air. Cutting trees down for a sidewalk should never be an option in our community."

3. Safety, Accessibility, & Maintenance

"This work needs to be done ASAP"

"I live in Settlers Park off Timber View and Green Fields. It would be lovely to be able to go on longer walks where I don't have to lift my son's stroller so much."

"The separation and lifting from tree roots is a crazy tripping hazard, but we love the tree coverage, so I appreciate the city considering these alternatives."

"Please incorporate more driver awareness signs, paint, lights, etc., for pedestrians at intersections, especially in school zones."

"Sidewalks damaged by tree roots are a nightmare for bikers. It's awesome to see repair and updates. There are more on Settlers Parkway that need the same thing."

"Sidewalks can also sink and have standing water, which can get slippery with mud or acorns. It may not look slippery, but it's like wet ice when you least expect it."

"I love that we are updating our roads and sidewalks for our community. We need to focus on Austin Parkway and the street between Settlers Way Boulevard and Williams Trace Boulevard. The street and sidewalks are in terrible condition."

"I'd like the sidewalk on Settlers Way to be wide like Williams Trace with lots of lighting in the middle islands for safety. Btw, please fix Chimneystone's sidewalks; they are terrible, extremely unsafe, and uneven."

"The raised sidewalks on Highlands from the bridge to Highway 6 have rats under the raised areas."

"Please take our disabled neighbors into account for this project, as well as those who use bikes and other wheeled modes of transportation!"

"Wider sidewalks would be good for bikers to use too, so motorists don't get frustrated when cyclists bike in the actual bike lane. Share sidewalks with scooters too!"

4. Design, Planning, & Alternative Removal Views

"Price and longevity should be highly considered."

"The tree is not going to die if you remove the root that causes damage to the sidewalk."

"Stop planting everything too close together! Look at University Blvd between Memorial Park and Highway 59. All those expensive plants and trees are too close together!"

"The trees between the curbside and sidewalk were planted too close together with inadequate space to grow."

"Get creative when designing the path. Everything doesn't have to be straight lines. Where lifting appears, move the walkway tight to the fence line to keep pedestrians away from traffic."

"I would like any kind of sidewalk on Oyster Creek. The block is full of older citizens and we have no sidewalks at all."

"Seeing those trees planted along Settlers Way was lacking horticultural logic. Those trees require a tremendous amount of room and have massive root systems that disrupt concrete. No trees should be planted in an area 4 to 5 feet wide between a sidewalk and a street. The most intelligent solution: remove the trees, grind the stumps, repair the sidewalks one last time, and plant grass."

"Remove the trees, keep using concrete, or remove the sidewalks."

"Stop wasting city time and money on feel-good garbage projects and fix our infrastructure."

"What are new developments designing with for this purpose?"

"Sustainability of materials used and ability to handle tree roots should be of high consideration in construction of sidewalks."

5. General Appreciation & Acknowledgments

"Thank you for the opportunity to participate."

"Thanks for asking."

"Thank you for doing this! Your work is always appreciated!"

"Really do appreciate being asked for my feedback. Thank you for taking such good care of us as residents."

"Thank you for putting in the work and asking the community for feedback!"

Based on the results of the survey, as well as our own research and communications with other Cities, we will be recommending that Terrewalks is used as the alternative material of choice. As the survey reaffirmed that the majority of people would prefer to keep the tree in place, Terrewalks is also the material that is best suited to accommodate tree roots. Staff also discussed other considerations such as ease of installation, maintenance, safety, and expected material lifespan to come to this conclusion.