

A Beach within Reach

An Accessibility Initiative of Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard, Martha's Vineyard Community Services Disability Services, and the Dukes County Associate Commissioner for Disabilities

February 2024

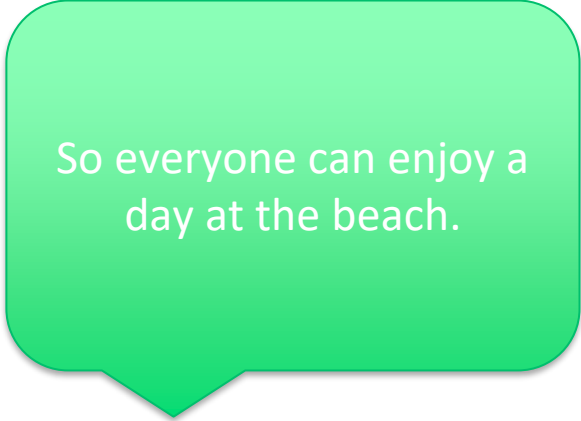
30

Total Responses

Survey Created: May 2023

Data Collection: June – October 2023

Data Analysis: November 2023 – January 2024



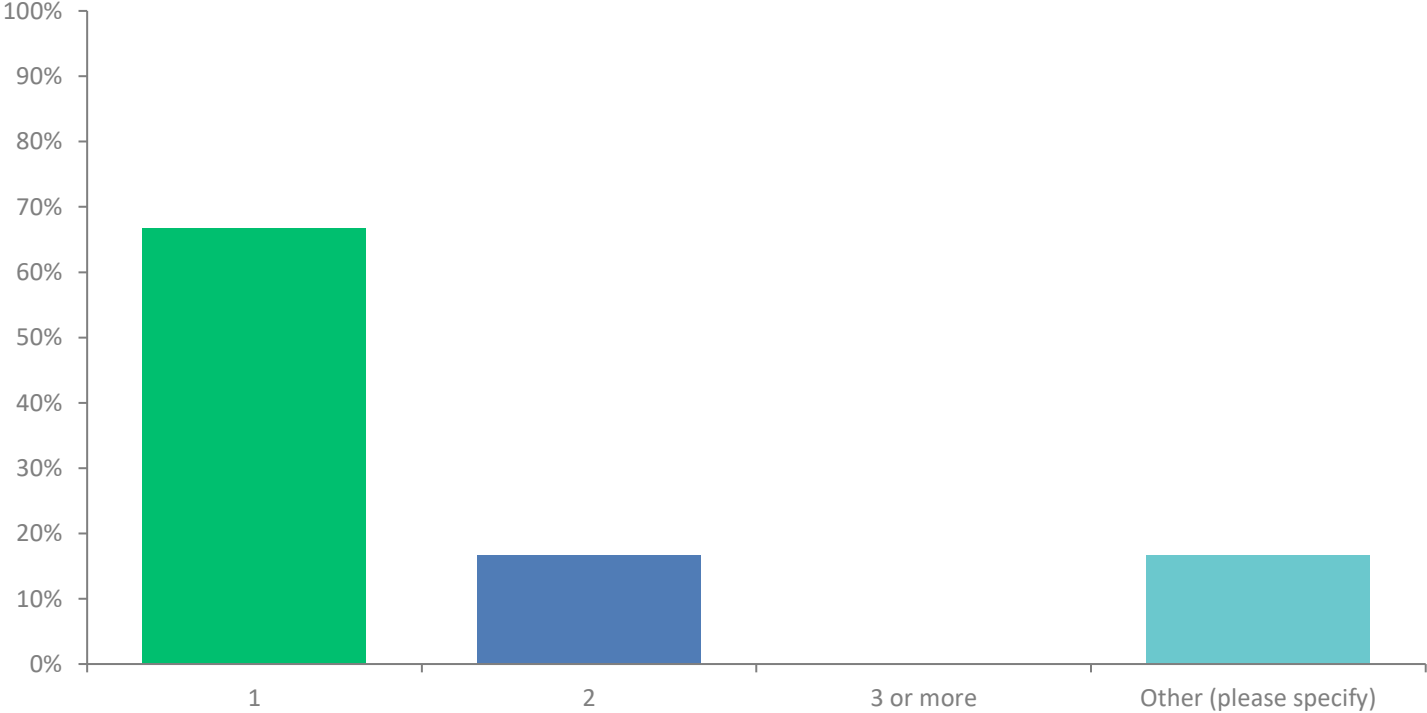
So everyone can enjoy a
day at the beach.

Q1: Select the beach for which you are filling out this survey? All questions apply to the beach selected below. Remember if you own or operate more than one beach, fill out a separate survey for each.

1. Bend in the Road Beach
2. Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge
3. Chappy Point Beach
4. Chilmark Pond Preserve
5. Eastville Point Beach
6. Edgartown Great Pond Beach
7. Great Rock Bight Preserve
8. Hillman's Point Preserve
9. Joseph Sylvia State Beach
10. Lake Street Beach
11. Lambert's Cove Beach
12. Little Beach
13. Lobsterville Beach
14. LongPoint Wildlife Refuge
15. Lucy Vincent Beach
16. Marinelli Beach
17. Menemsha Beach
18. Moshup Beach
19. Norton Point Beach
20. Oak Bluffs Town Beach
21. Owen Little Way
22. Owen Park
23. Philbin Beach
24. Red Beach
25. Sepiessa Point Reservation
26. Seth's Pond
27. South Beach State Park
28. Squibnocket Beach
29. Wasque Reservation
30. Wilfred's Pond Preserve Beach

Q2: How many entrances are available to the public?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



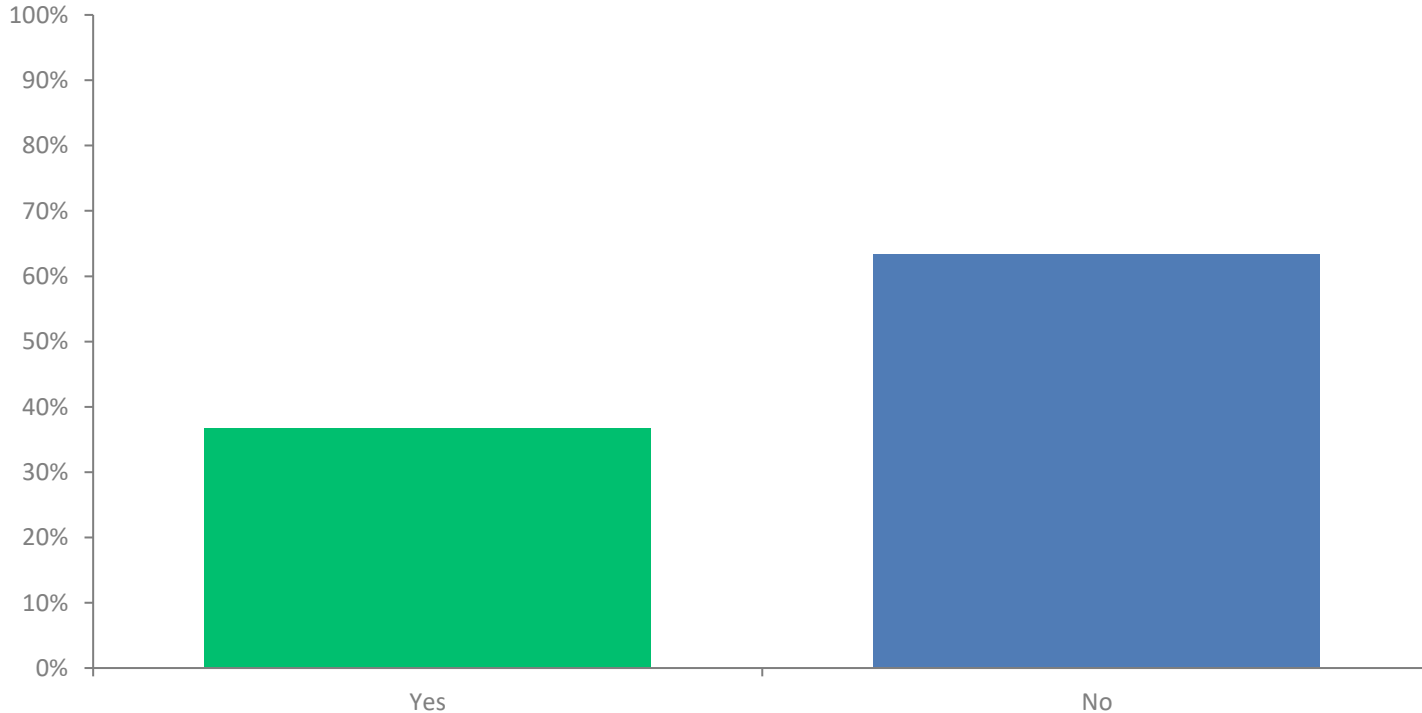
Q2: How many entrances are available to the public?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	66.67%	20
2	16.67%	5
3 or more	0%	0
Other (please specify)	16.67%	5
TOTAL		30

Q3: Is there an accessible route to get to the water's edge (for a lake, pond, or reservoir) or high tide level (for a tidal beach) from the beach entrance? This could include things like a mobility mat, a wooden walkway, or a firm and stable surface made of other materials.

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



Q3: Is there an accessible route to get to the water's edge (for a lake, pond, or reservoir) or high tide level (for a tidal beach) from the beach entrance? This could include things like a mobility mat, a wooden walkway, or a firm and stable surface made of other materials.

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

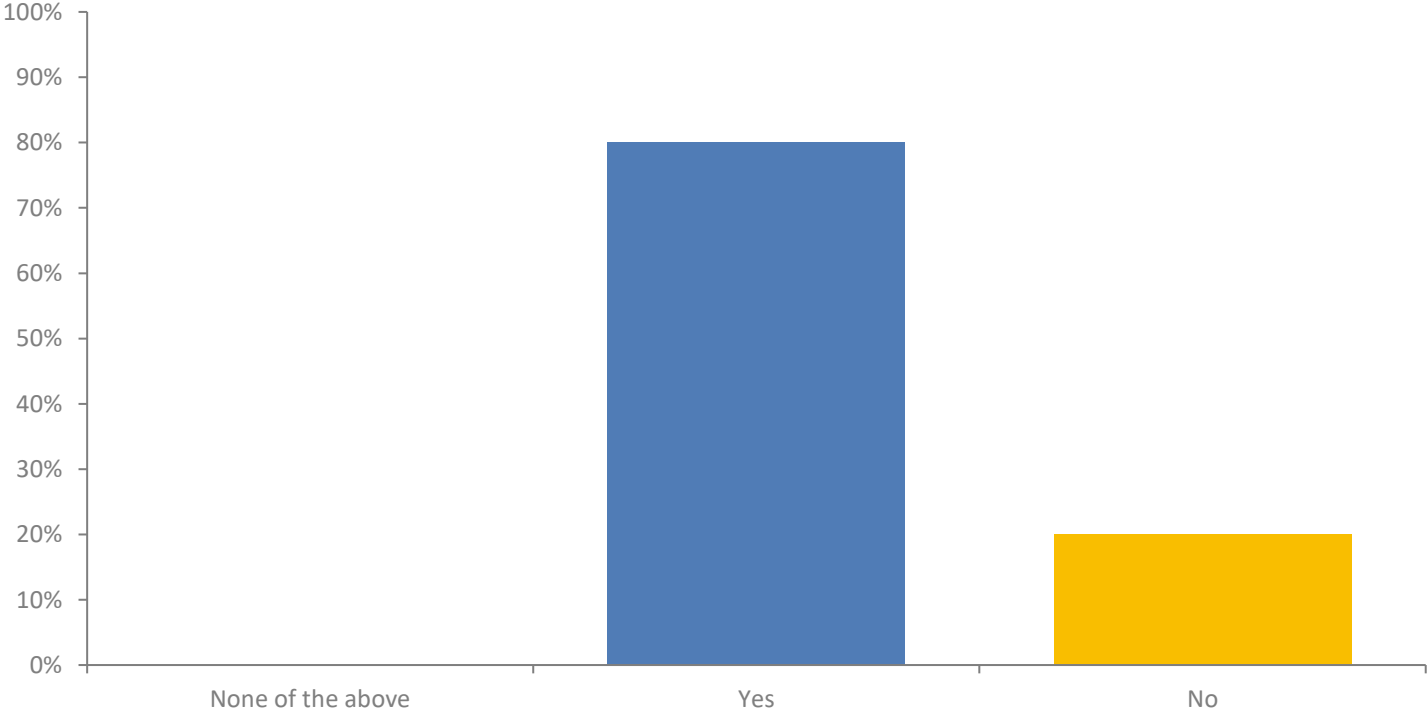
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	36.67%	11
No	63.33%	19
TOTAL		30

Q4: Please specify/describe the accessible route to get to the water's edge (for a lake, pond, or reservoir) or high tide level (for a tidal beach) from the beach entrance.

- There is a board walk through the dune to the entrance of Swimming Beach at Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge. We offer a beach wheelchair at the entrance as well.
- Portable wooden *walkway* (South Beach State Park)
- Built-in wooden slatted walkway by the entrance to the left of the lifeguard stand, marked No. 1. (*Bend in the Road Beach*)
- Grass, hard sand (Seth's Pond)
- Wood boardwalk (Lambert's Cove Beach)
- Town has constructed a wooden walkway to the beach from the parking lot. (Philbin Beach)
- Beach entrance is from diagonal parking area on roadway. Access is graded per guidelines to the waters edge and a handicap wheelchair is available for use/ (Lobsterville Beach)
- Inkwell/Pay Beach: There is a handicap parking space with curb cut on Seaview Avenue just before the Tuckernuck cross street. Once on the paved sidewalk, you travel north about 100ft till you reach the main beach entrance at the first guard tower. From there Mobi Mats connect down to Inkwell beach (50' Sometimes at a steep grade due to erosion) and out to Pay Beach (200' at a much gentler grade). The other entrances have stairs to bring you down to the beach off the paved sidewalk, but there are no other improved surfaces to get you to the shoreline. North Bluff Beach: There is a handicap van accessible parking space located at both ends of the boardwalk. At the northern end, there is a ramp that brings you down to the lower beach level. Unfortunately, due to poor engineering, from here there is a slight upward grade to traverse over sand before being on the bathing beach itself. At the southern end, there is a stairway that brings you down to the high tide line, but railings and stairs disappear into the sand at the very bottom.
- Marinelli Beach: There is a handicap van accessible space (No longer well marked) located on East Chop Drive. You leave the paved road/sidewalk and follow a crushed shell driveway (East Chop Beach Club property) for about 300' before entering Town property. Once on Town property there is a wooden sand ladder that gets you approximately 150' to the toe of the dune. There are no other improved surfaces to get you to the shoreline.
- There are couple entrances with wooden walkway from road to beach, however none of the wooden walkways goes all the way to high tide level. (Joseph Sylvia State Beach)
- We have beach wheelchairs and our rangers will also escort individuals onto the beach via ATV or Golf Cart (Long Point Wildlife Refuge)

Q5: Do you own or operate a parking lot(s)/area(s) at or near your beach that beachgoers use for parking?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



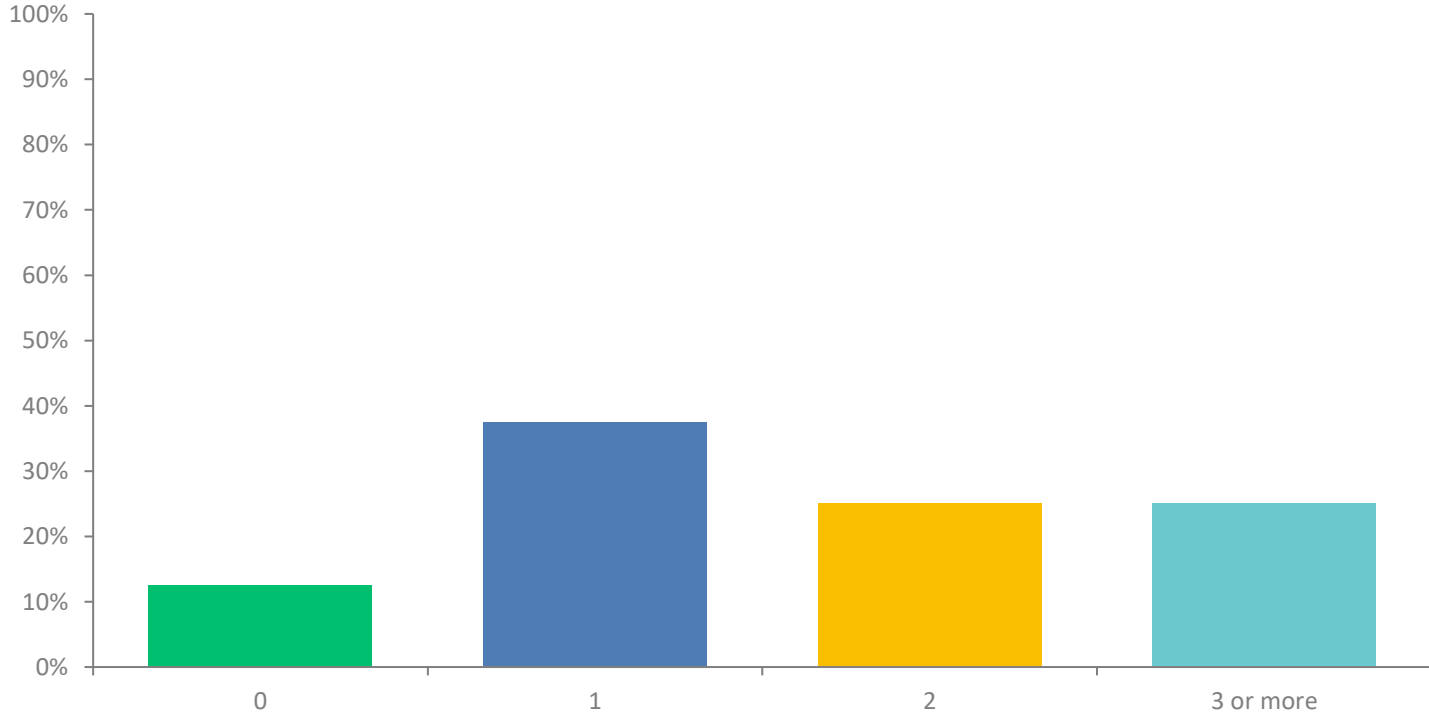
Q5: Do you own or operate a parking lot(s)/area(s) at or near your beach that beachgoers use for parking?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	0%	0
Yes	80.0%	24
No	20.0%	6
TOTAL		30

Q6: How many spaces are designated as accessible in the lot/area?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 6



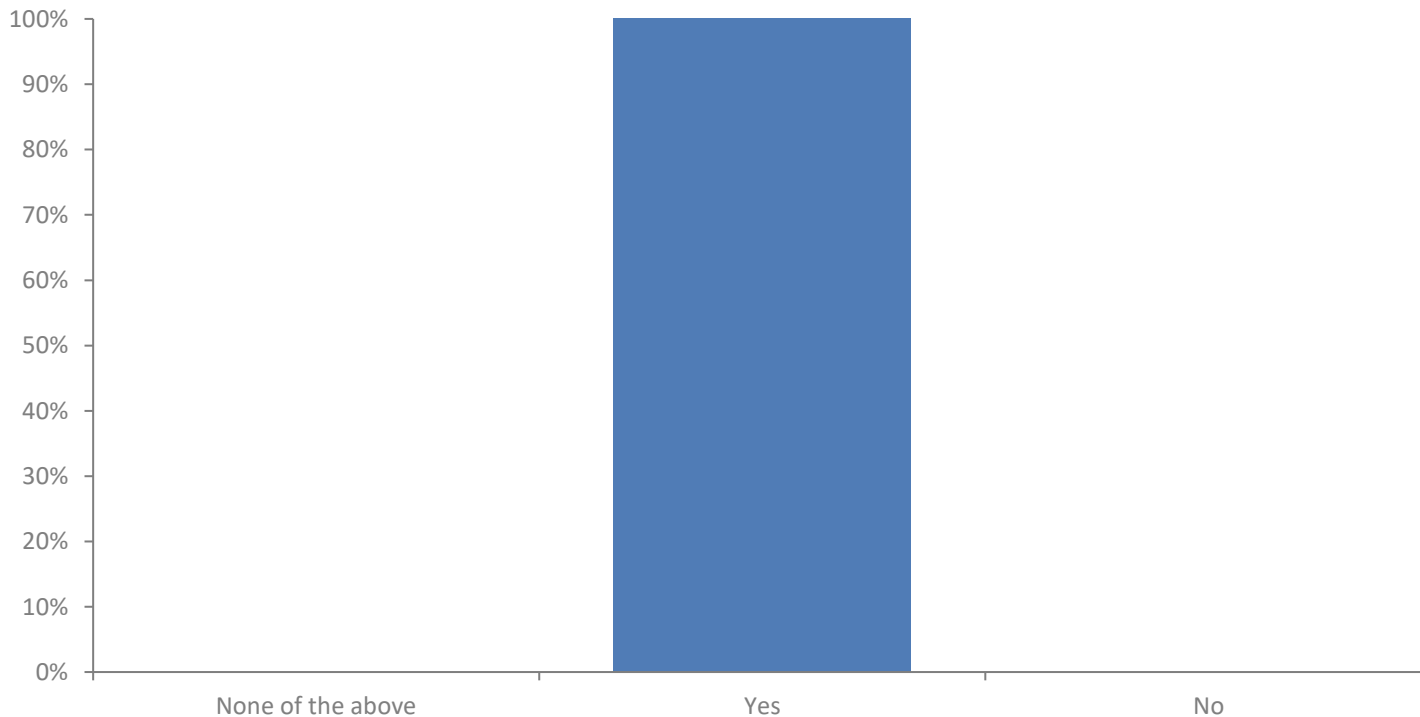
Q6: How many spaces are designated as accessible in the lot/area?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0	12.50%	3
1	37.50%	9
2	25.00%	6
3 or more	25.00%	6
TOTAL		24

Q7: If you do not own or operate a parking lot at or near the beach, is there public parking at or near your beach that beachgoers commonly use?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 24



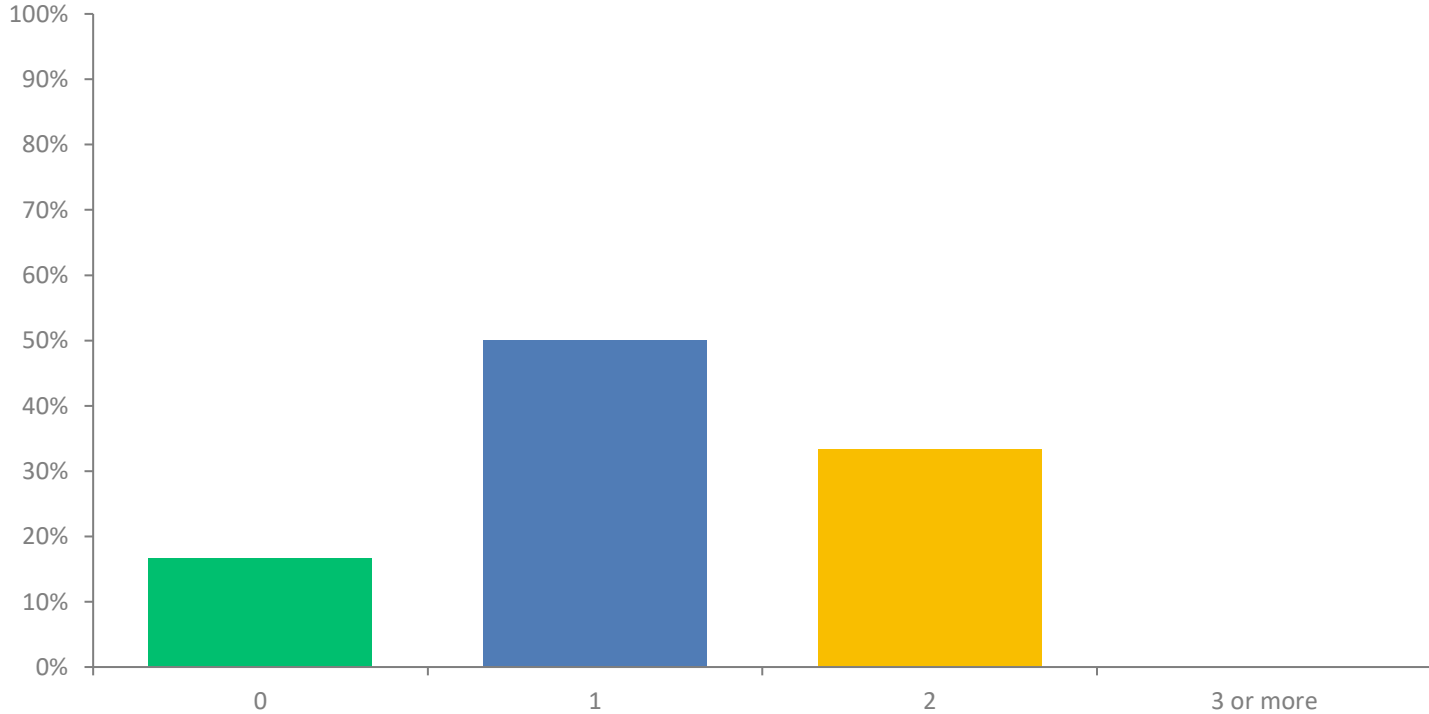
Q7: If you do not own or operate a parking lot at or near the beach, is there public parking at or near your beach that beachgoers commonly use?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 24

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	0%	0
Yes	100%	6
No	0%	0
TOTAL		6

Q8: How many spaces are designated as accessible in the lot/area?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 24



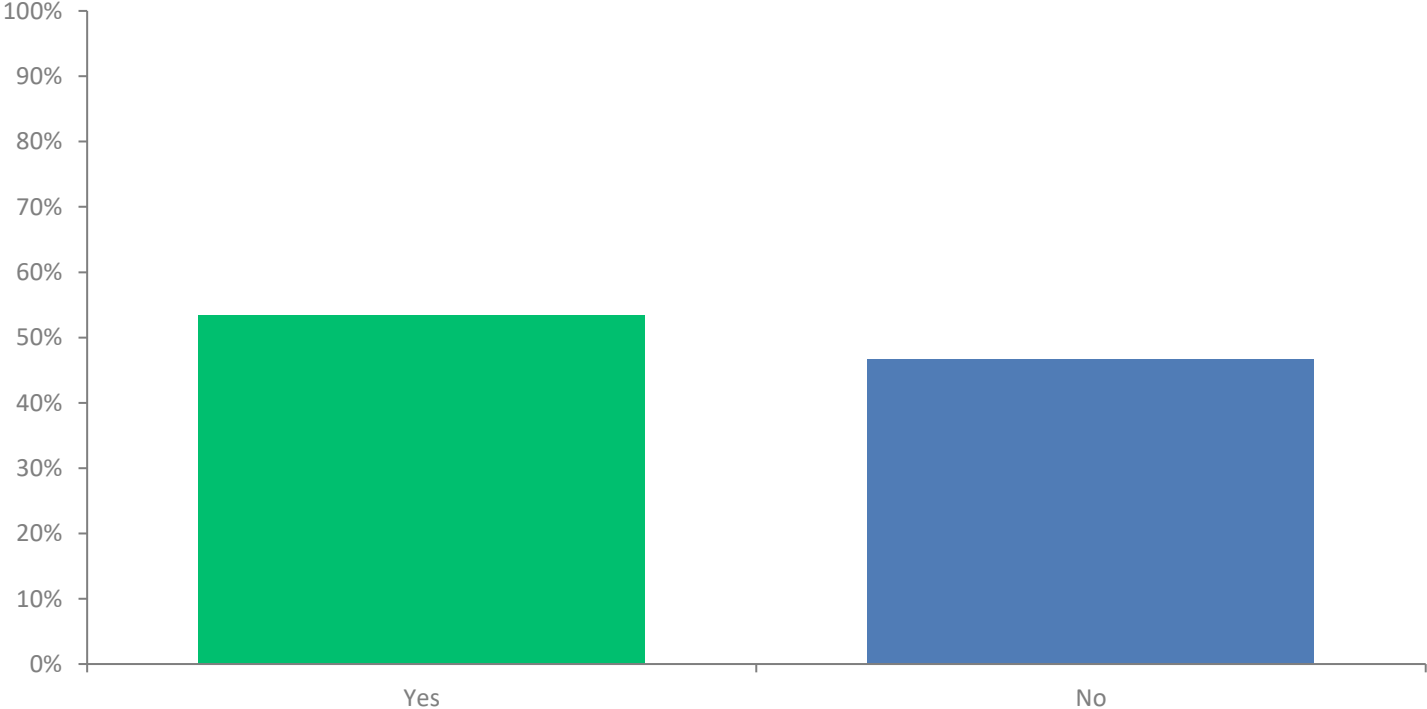
Q8: How many spaces are designated as accessible in the lot/area?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 24

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0	16.67%	1
1	50.0%	3
2	33.33%	2
3 or more	0%	0
TOTAL		6

Q9: Is there a bus/public transit or vehicle drop-off area at or near the beach that beachgoers commonly use?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



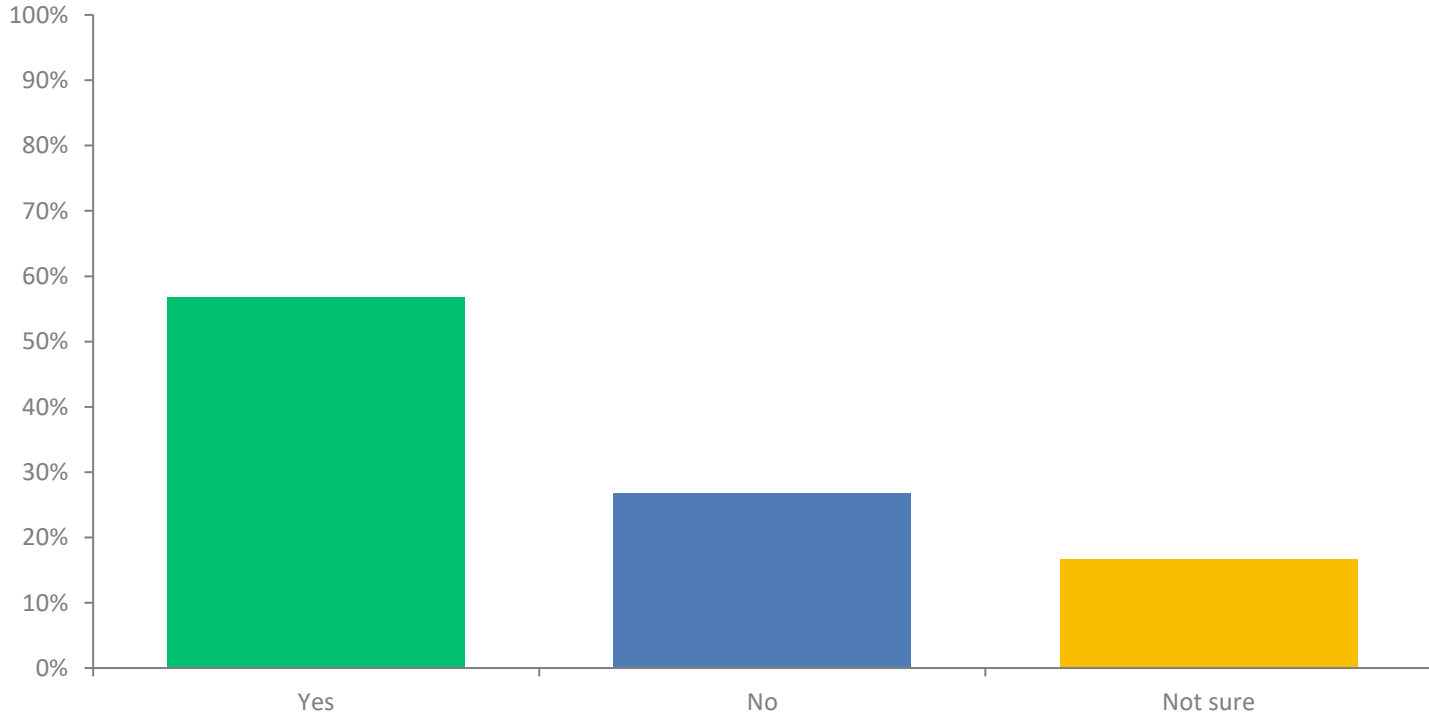
Q9: Is there a bus/public transit or vehicle drop-off area at or near the beach that beachgoers commonly use?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	53.33%	16
No	46.67%	14
TOTAL		30

Q10: Is the route from the parking lot/area or transit stop (whether you own it or not) to the beach entrance accessible to people of all abilities/disabilities?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0



Q10: Is the route from the parking lot/area or transit stop (whether you own it or not) to the beach entrance accessible to people of all abilities/disabilities?

Answered: 30 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	56.67%	17
No	26.67%	8
Not sure	16.67%	5
TOTAL		30

Q11: Please provide any elaboration or explanation you feel is needed for your answers related to parking or the route from the parking or transit stop to the beach entrance.

- Folks can request assistance at the Mytoi gatehouse to have a ranger bring people with disabilities or mobility challenges to the beach via UTV or truck. Folks can also request this at the Dike Bridge gatehouse but only 4 WD vehicles can get to the Dike bridge gatehouse. Alternatively, Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge and Leland Beach are OSV beaches making them accessible to those who have an OSV and a permit.
- As the Norton Point beach which is 2 miles in length is generally reached through Over Sand vehicles. Once driving on the beach there are no designated accessible spaces, nor once you park on or along the beach are there accessible routes onto the beach and to the high-water mark. There is an accessible route from the beginning entrance to the beach of at the left fork of South Beach which does have street parking, including an accessible space.
- Both at the left and right fork, the route from the parking and transit stop area is accessible to the beach entrance. (South Beach)
- The parking is by and large parallel parking on the road next to the beach. The road and the parking area, including signage and handicapped designations are therefore state, not Town of Edgartown, controlled. (Bend in the Road Beach)
- The parking lot the County operates is accessible and there are two accessible spaces for people with disabilities on each side of the main beach entrance. There is then about a 20 foot feet of firm pathway from the parking lot onto the beach. It is about 24 inches wide. It looks like overgrowth has narrowed it for the standard 36" to 48" wide. After the 20 feet of pathway, the beach opens up and there is no firm walkway to the high water mark. The closest drop off spot for the MV transit buses is at the hospital. The new multi-use path, which is accessible, runs from the hospital to and by the beach though a person would have to cross the street to get onto the parking lot and the beach. (Eastville Point Beach)
- The parking spots are along the road parallel to the road so there is no cars parked side by side. The surface is a paved road. (Seth's Pond)

Q11: Please provide any elaboration or explanation you feel is needed for your answers related to parking or the route from the parking or transit stop to the beach entrance.

- There is a pathway with some kind of mat but too tight for a wheelchair (I think) (Owen Little Way)
- There are stairs to reach the beach so not fully accessible. (Lake Street Beach)
- There is a mobi mat but it doesn't actually go to the water (referencing earlier question) (Owen Park)

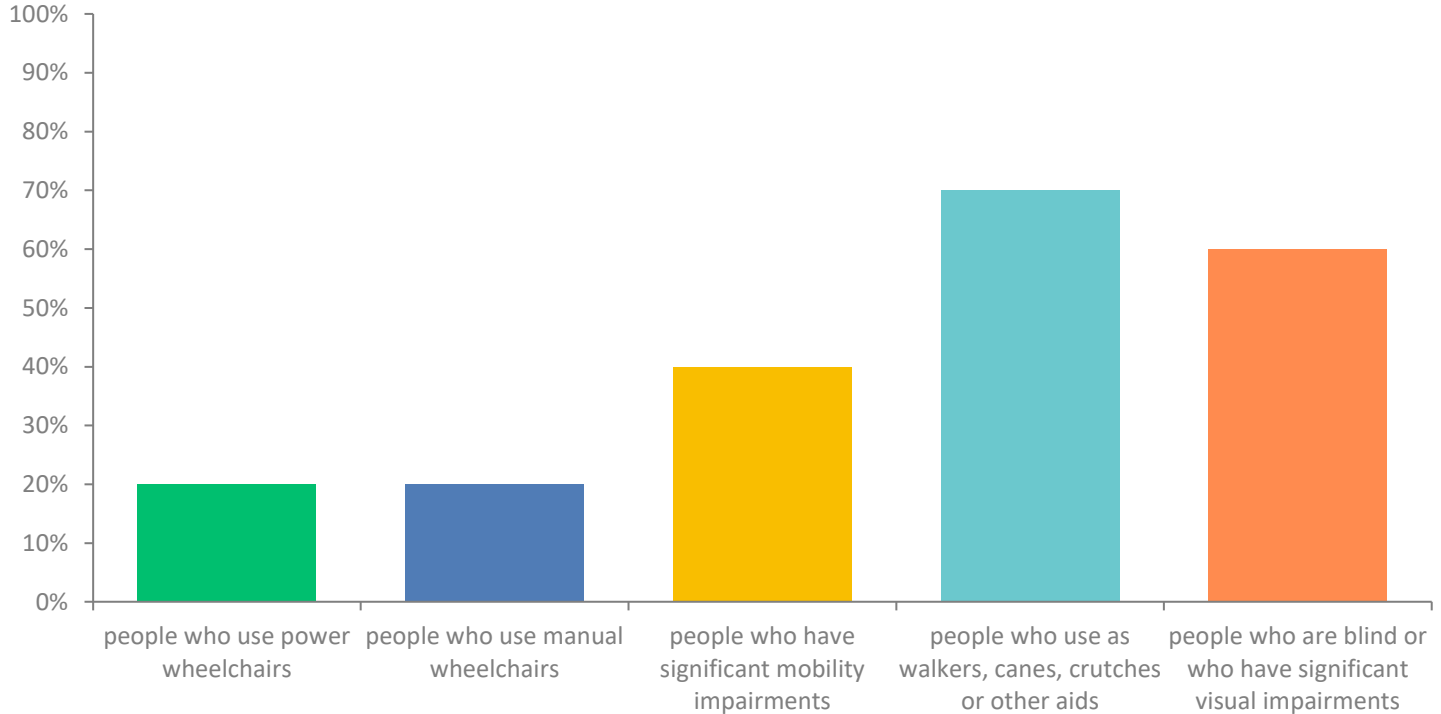
- Access areas that had degraded by storm runoff over the years were improved by placing fill to the appropriate grade. this year. Access routes were trimmed of vegetation. Handicap wheelchair is provided. (Lobsterville Beach)
- The parking along Seaview Ave for Inkwell and Pay Beach is on a state highway, therefor we do not have total control of the parking spaces and curb cuts. (Oak Bluffs Town Beach)

- Marinelli Beach: There is a handicap van accessible space (No longer well marked) located on East Chop Drive (Town Owned). You leave the paved road/sidewalk and follow a crushed shell driveway (East Chop Beach Club property) for about 300' before entering Town property. Once on Town property there is a wooden sand ladder that gets you approximately 150' to the toe of the dune. There is currently a plan in the works by the East Chop Beach Club in consultation with the Town to create a designated pathway to the Town beach access point behind their parking lot. As currently designed it will be 5' wide and have Mobi Mats for the entire length. This will keep people from having to walk through a busy parking lot and improve pedestrian safety. Once it reaches town property, we have funding approved to replace the sand ladders with Mobi Mats to the water's edge.

- It is a hardened surface parking lot with a wooden slatted walkway to the beach entrance. (Chappy Point Beach)
- Hopefully the bus would be willing to stop at a location of handicapped access, otherwise the person would have potentially longer way to go...(Joseph Sylvia State Beach)
- The entrance from the parking area to the beach itself is a soft sand dune trail. We have two beach wheelchairs and rangers also bring individuals via UTV or Golf Cart to the beach area. (Long Point Wildlife Refuge)

Q12: Please indicate whether the route from the transit stop or the parking lot/area (whether you own it or not) to the beach entrance is accessible to: (check all that apply)

Answered: 10 Skipped: 20



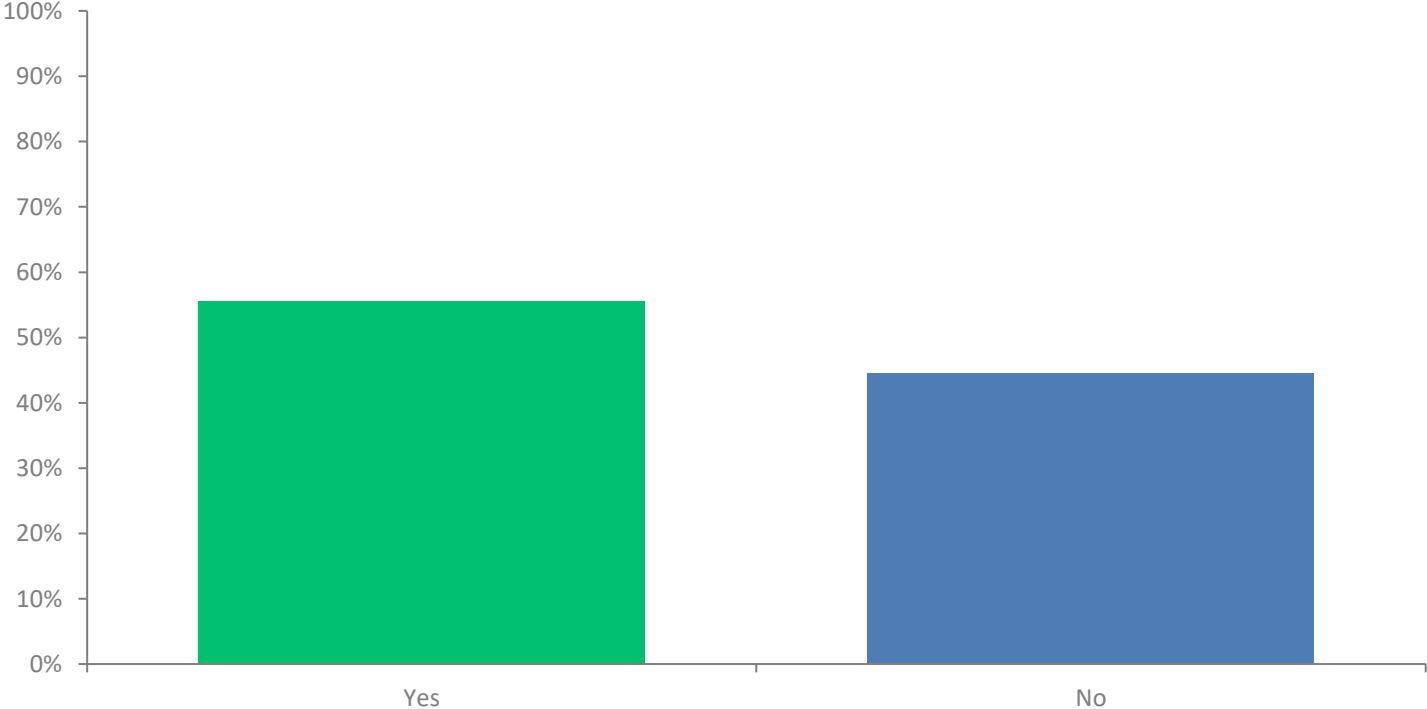
Q12: Please indicate whether the route from the transit stop or the parking lot/area (whether you own it or not) to the beach entrance is accessible to: (check all that apply)

Answered: 10 Skipped: 20

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
people who use power wheelchairs	20.0%	2
people who use manual wheelchairs	20.0%	2
people who have significant mobility impairments	40.0%	4
people who use as walkers, canes, crutches or other aids	70.0%	7
people who are blind or who have significant visual impairments	60.0%	6
TOTAL		21

Q13: Do you have beach wheelchairs with large wheels designed to go over sand available for beachgoers who may require them?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 3



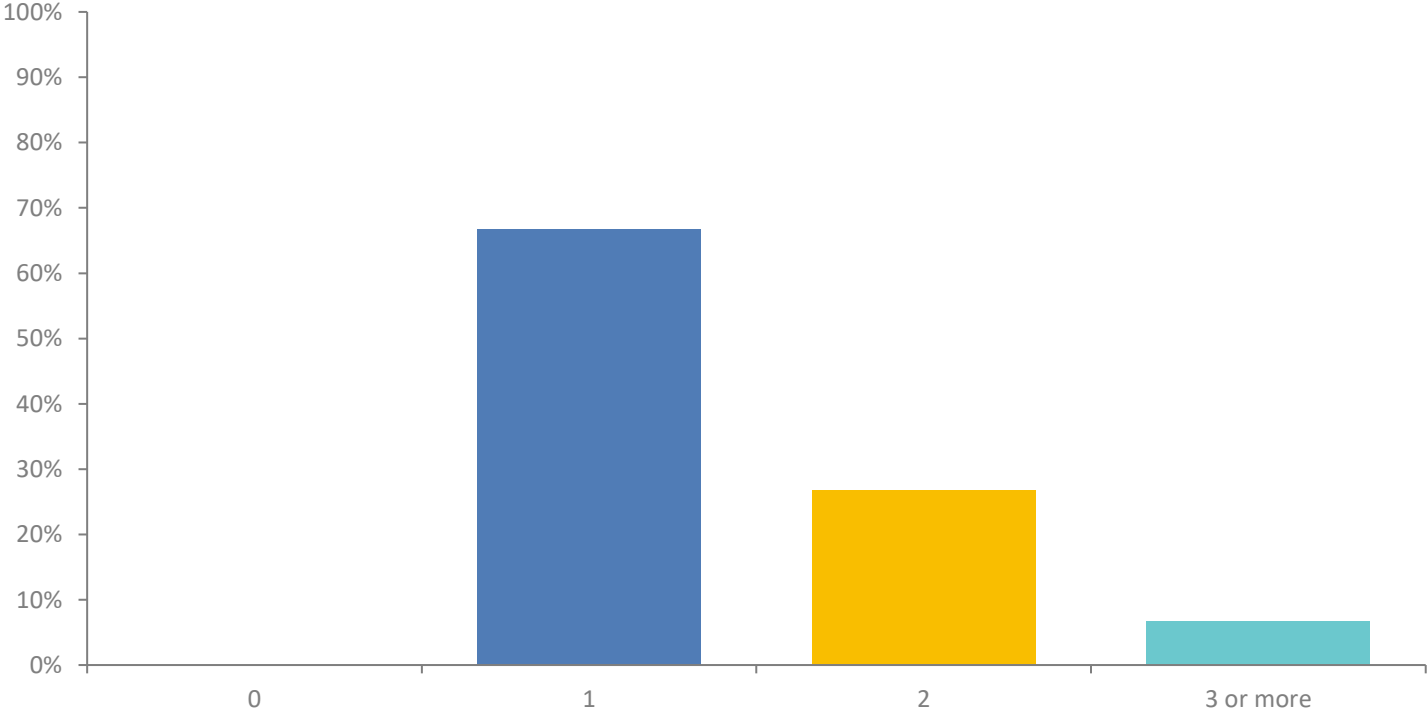
Q13: Do you have beach wheelchairs with large wheels designed to go over sand available for beachgoers who may require them?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	55.56%	15
No	44.44%	12
TOTAL		27

Q14: How many beach wheelchairs are available?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 15



Q14: How many beach wheelchairs are available?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 15

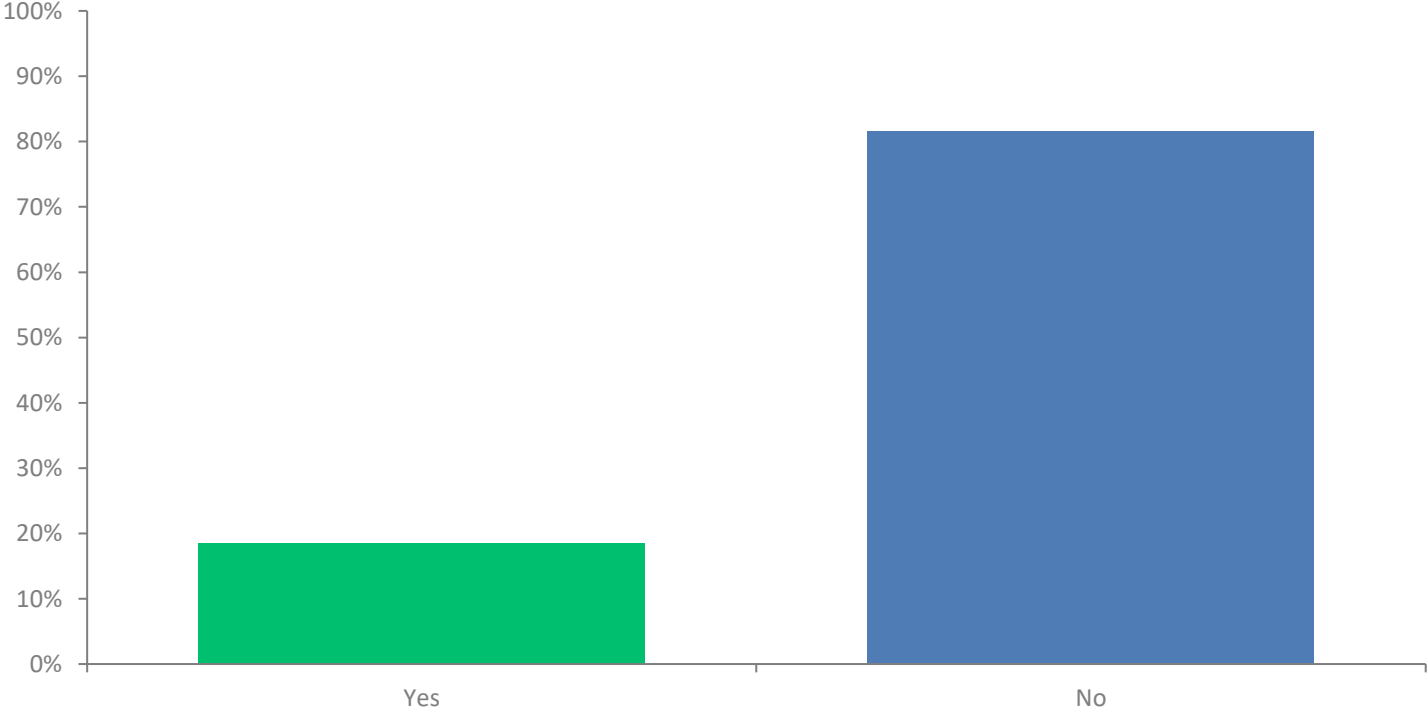
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0	0%	0
1	66.67%	10
2	26.67%	4
3 or more	6.67%	1
TOTAL		15

Q15: Please indicate how and where the beach wheelchairs are reserved, located, and made available.

- We have two gatehouses at the entrance of Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge, Mytoi and Dike Bridge. Individuals can go to the gatehouse and ask a ranger to bring them to the beach via UTV. We do this all the time. At both gatehouses, we have signs with the wheelchair icon, stating that if folks need assistance, ask a ranger. We are also seeking to buy more beach wheelchairs for this beach.
- There is one beach wheelchair at the left fork, at the right fork and at a middle entrance way. They are on site first come, first serve. And they can be from the lifeguard or other onsite staff or by calling Jessica McGroarty, Parks Administrator. (South Beach State Park)
- They are on site first come, first serve. And they can be from the lifeguard or other onsite staff or by calling Jessica McGroarty, Parks Administrator. (Bend in the Road Beach)
- It is referred to as an "ADA trike" which is chained to the sign right next to the beach entrance. John doesn't know how to get the key to use it. (Owen Little Way)
- It is on the beach for anyone to use - wheelchair can go into the water. (Owen Park)
- The beach wheel chair is available at the shed in the parking lot. It can be reserved ahead by calling the office or simply asking staff for assistance at the time of need. (Lambert's Cove Beach)
- Beach wheelchair is available first-come-first-served at the parking lot. (Philbin Beach)
- Wheelchair is located at the entrance to the beach. (Lobsterville Beach)
- The wheelchairs are located at the main lifeguard stand on Town Beach. They are available while lifeguards are on duty 9-5 and can be reserved or made available at Marinelli or North Bluff Beaches by contacting the Parks Department at 508-693-0072 or parksmanager@oakbluffsma.gov.
- Beach wheelchairs are available at the parking lot gatehouse which is staffed during open hours. If all wheelchairs are being used, then rangers will also bring individuals via UTV or golf cart to the beach. (Long Point Wildlife Refuge)

Q16: Do you have floating beach wheelchairs available for beachgoers who may require them?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 3



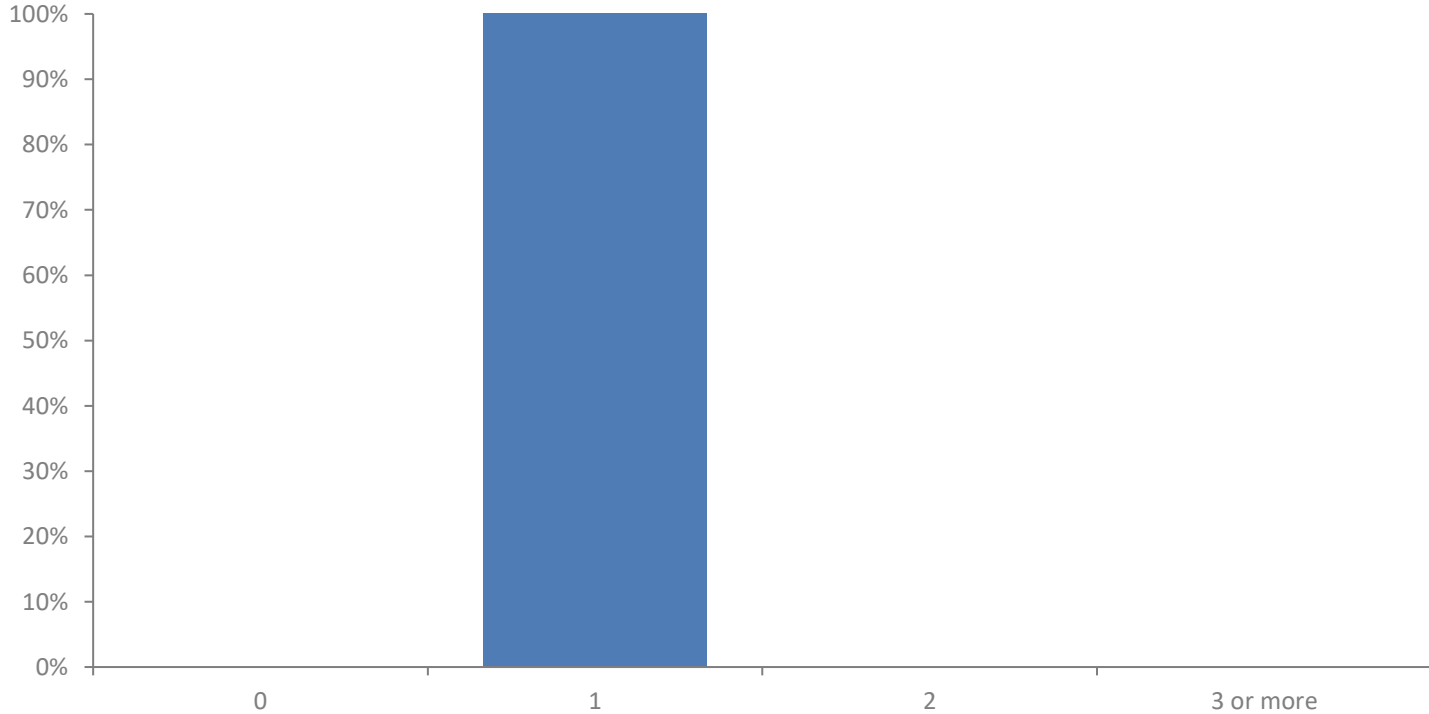
Q16: Do you have floating beach wheelchairs available for beachgoers who may require them?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	18.52%	5
No	81.48%	22
TOTAL		27

Q17: How many floating beach wheelchairs are available?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 25



Q17: How many floating beach wheelchairs are available?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 25

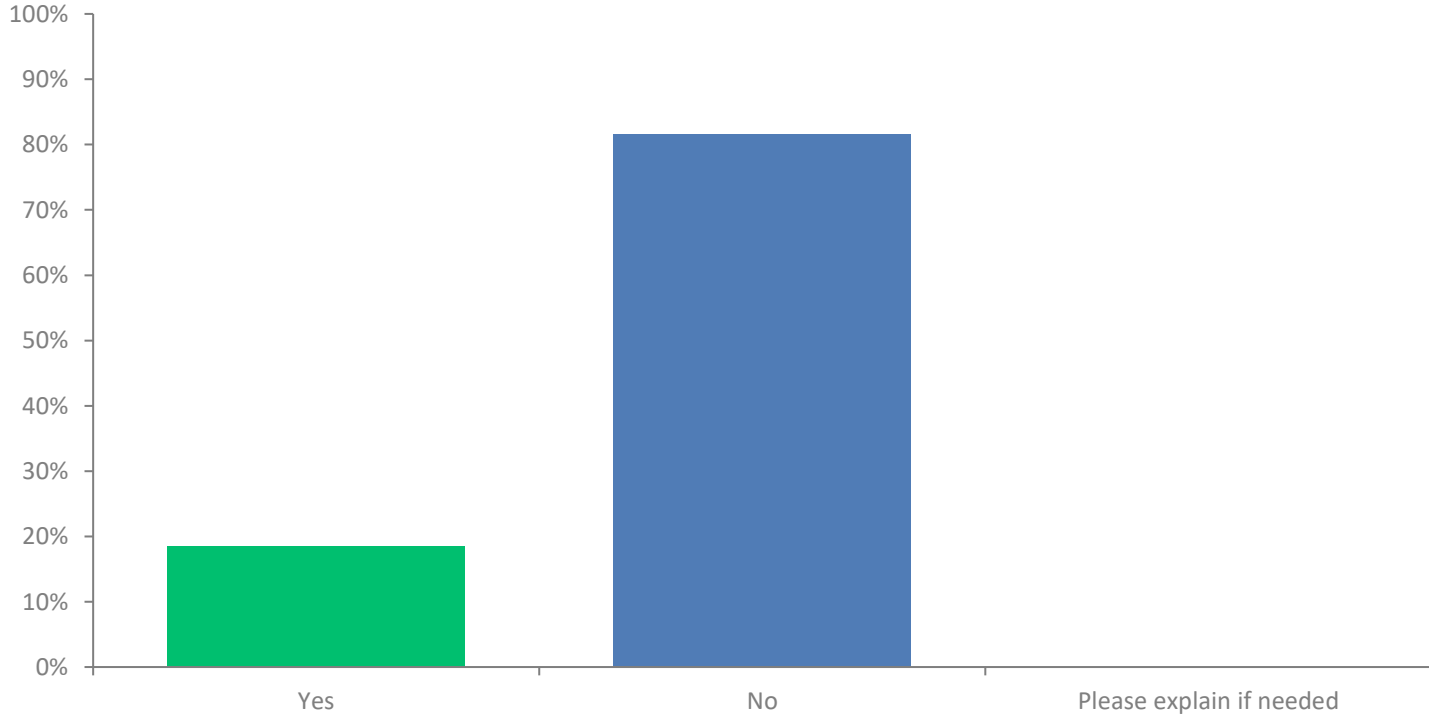
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0	0%	0
1	100%	5
2	0%	0
3 or more	0%	0
TOTAL		5

Q18: Please indicate how and where the floating beach wheelchairs are reserved, located, and made available.

- They are on site first come, first serve. And they can be from the lifeguard or other onsite staff or by calling Jessica McGroarty, Parks Administrator. (South Beach State Park)
- They are on site first come, first serve. And they can be from the lifeguard or other onsite staff or by calling Jessica McGroarty, Parks Administrator. (Bend in the Road Beach)
- It is the same wheelchair as mentioned before. (Owen Park)
- The wheelchairs are located at the main lifeguard stand on Town Beach. They are available while lifeguards are on duty 9-5 and can be reserved or made available at Marinelli or North Bluff Beaches by contacting the Parks Department at 508-693-0072 or parksmanager@oakbluffsma.gov.
- The wheelchairs are located at the main lifeguard stand on *Town Beach*. They are available while lifeguards are on duty 9-5 and can be reserved or made available at Marinelli or North Bluff Beaches by contacting the Parks Department at 508-693-0072 or parksmanager@oakbluffsma.gov.

Q19: Are some or all staff or volunteers required to offer assistance to wheelchair users or others with disabilities if requested or needed in accessing or using the beach and its various features and elements?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 3



Q19: Are some or all staff or volunteers required to offer assistance to wheelchair users or others with disabilities if requested or needed in accessing or using the beach and its various features and elements?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 3

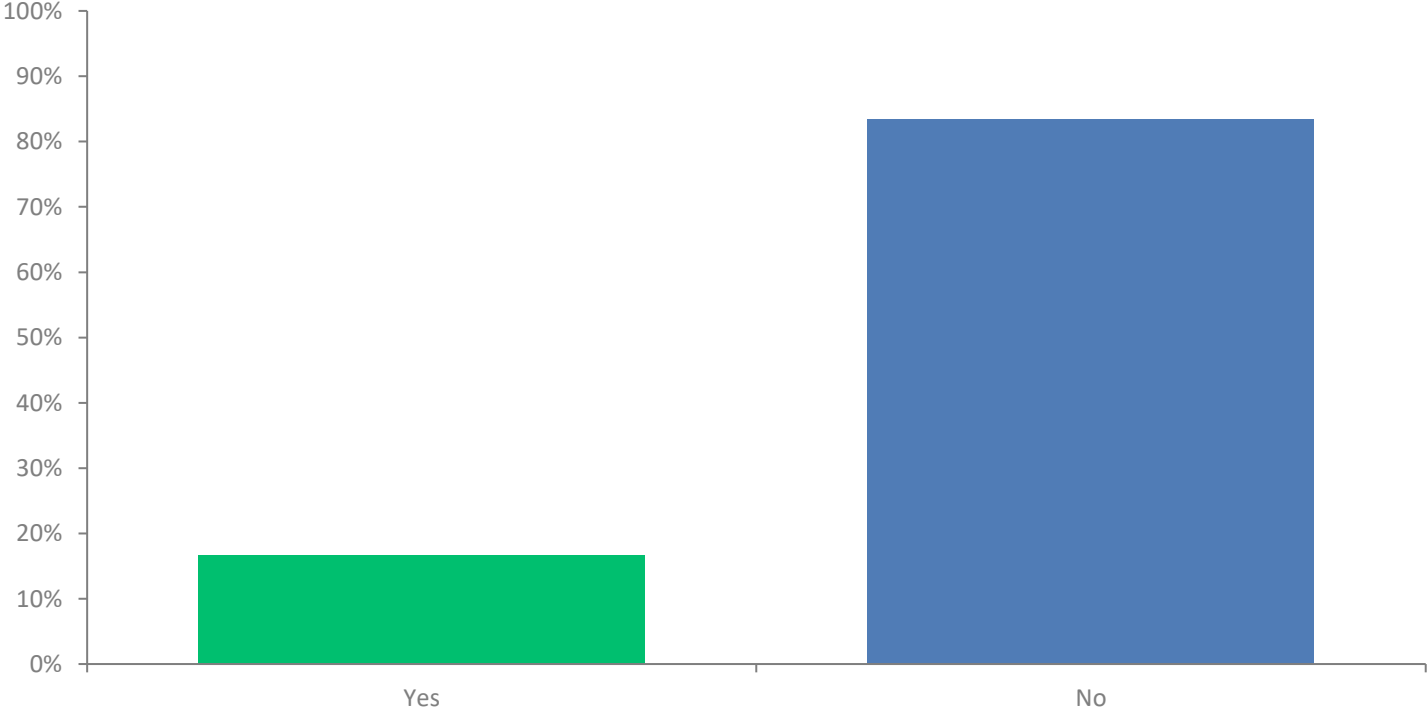
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	18.52%	5
No	81.48%	22
Please explain if needed	0%	0
TOTAL		27

Q20:Please explain the above if needed.

- Signs at the gatehouse with the wheelchair icon stating that if visitors need assistance, ask a ranger. We provide rides for individuals with any mobility challenges or disability. (Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge)
- It is not necessarily required as it is not part of the job duties per se, but staff will provide assistance. (South Beach State Park)
- Not necessarily required i.e. not part of the job duties per se, but will offer assistance. (Bend in the Road Beach)
- There are no lifeguards or volunteers on the beach. (Eastville Point Beach)
- Seth's Pond is not a manned beach. It is swim at your own risk.
- Nobody mans this facility. (Owen Little Way)
- Availability of staff is very limited. (Lake Street Beach)
- No lifeguard on the beach; harbormaster and others are there from 8- 4 pm 7 days a week.
- Not required to assist, but will to help.(*Owen Park*)
- Wheelchair has been available for several years. (Philbin Beach)
- There is no beach attendant at this beach. (Lobsterville Beach)
- Lifeguards will assist when on duty. (Inkwell/Pay Beach)
- Marinelli Beach is currently not staffed.
- They are not required, but we would certainly expect our employees to aide when necessary. (Chappy Point Beach)
- There is no staff on the beach majority of the time, limited beach patrol hours during the summer. (Joseph Sylvia State Beach)
- We do not staff Little Beach- it is not a swimming beach and is closed for most of the summer due to nesting shorebirds.

Q21: Are the staff/volunteers that are providing assistance given training on assisting wheelchair users or others with disabilities?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 24



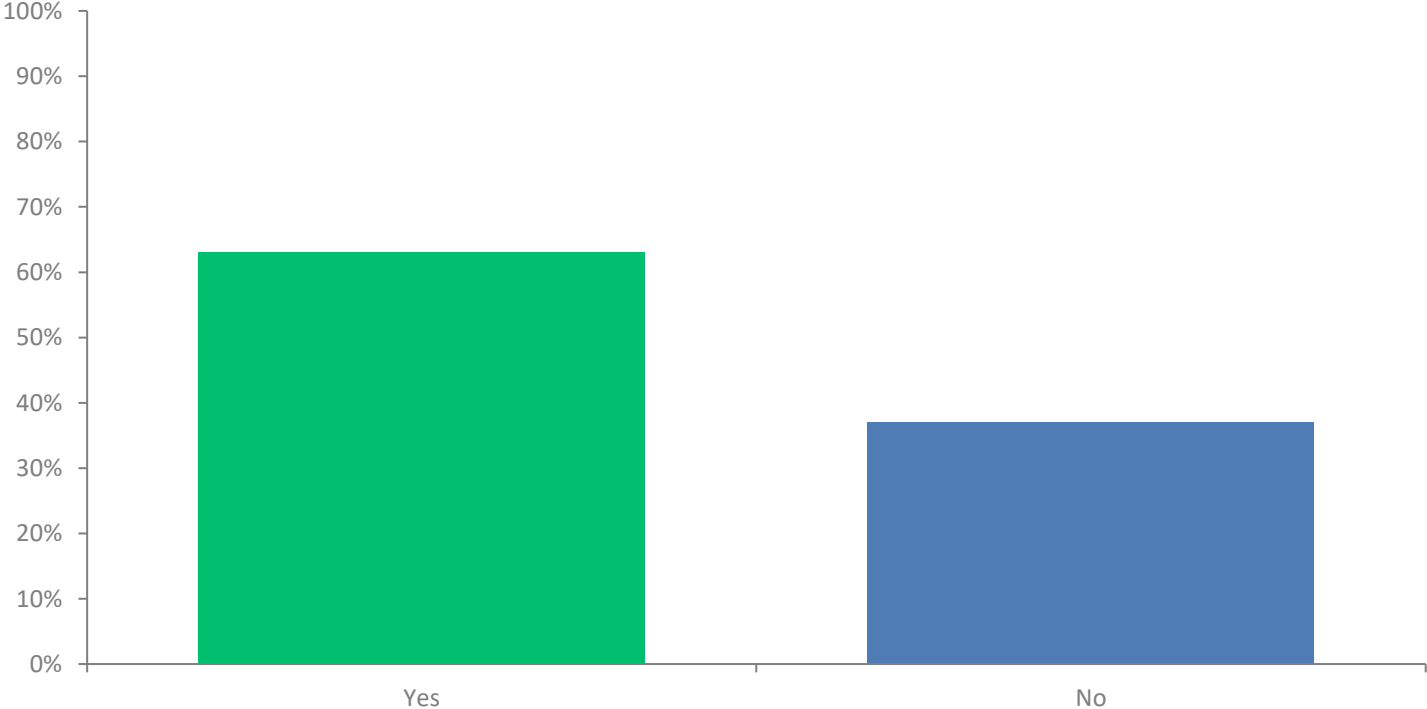
Q21: Are the staff/volunteers that are providing assistance given training on assisting wheelchair users or others with disabilities?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 24

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	16.67%	1
No	83.33%	5
TOTAL		6

Q22: Are there toilet facilities, including porta potties, available to the public onsite either on the beach, in the parking or other adjacent area you control?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 3



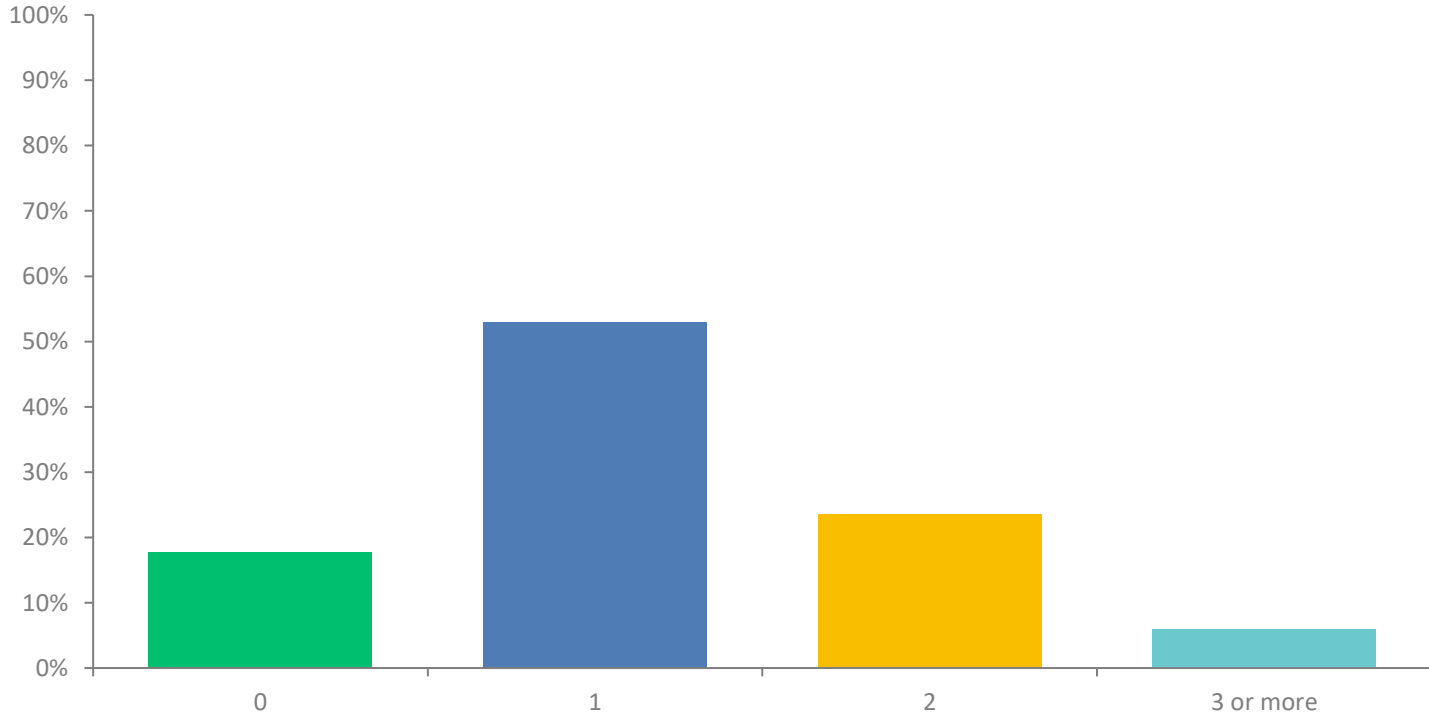
Q22: Are there toilet facilities, including porta potties, available to the public onsite either on the beach, in the parking or other adjacent area you control?

Answered: 27 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	62.96%	17
No	37.04%	10
TOTAL		27

Q23: How many toilet facilities are accessible to people with disabilities?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 13



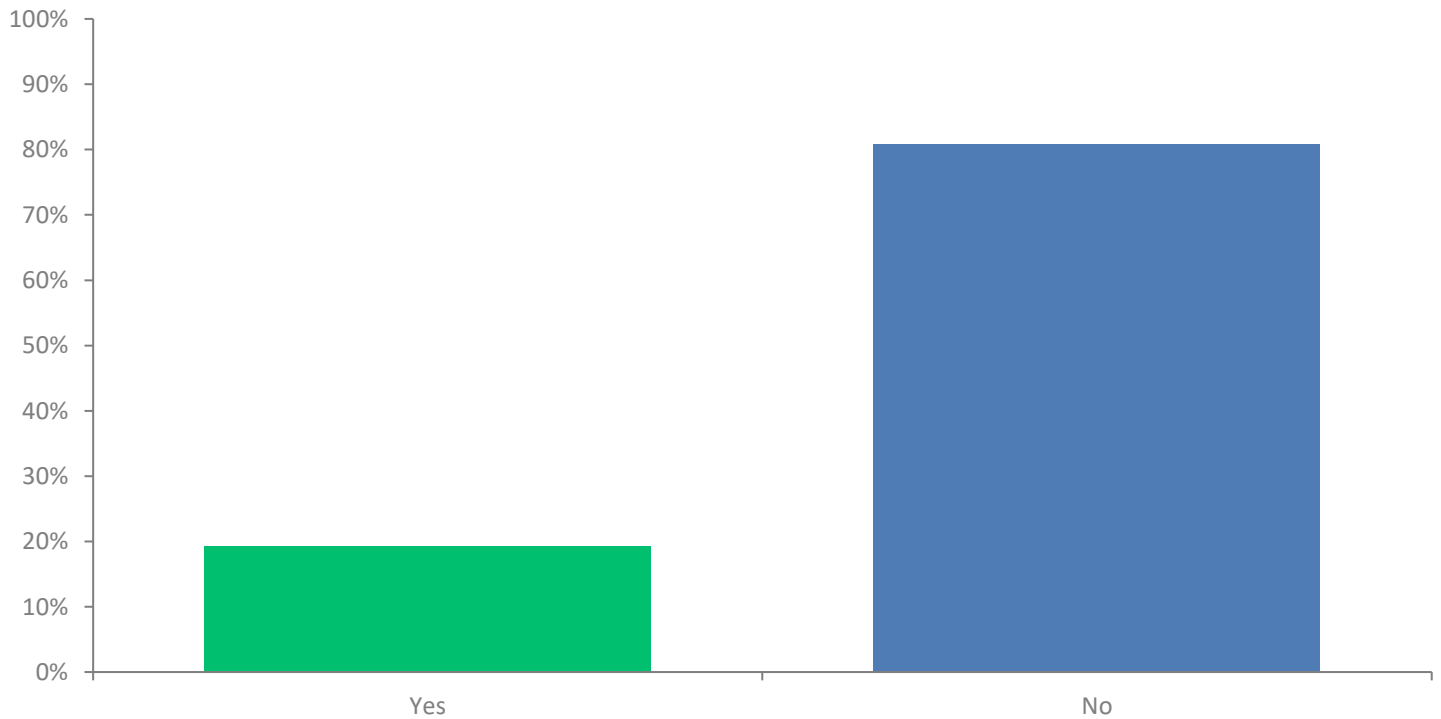
Q23: How many toilet facilities are accessible to people with disabilities?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 13

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0	17.65%	3
1	52.94%	9
2	23.53%	4
3 or more	5.88%	1
TOTAL		17

Q24: If you have any of the accessible elements and features referenced in this survey, do you publicize or otherwise let the public know about them such as through pamphlets, publications, social or traditional media, websites, signage etc?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 4



Q24: If you have any of the accessible elements and features referenced in this survey, do you publicize or otherwise let the public know about them such as through pamphlets, publications, social or traditional media, websites, signage etc?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 4

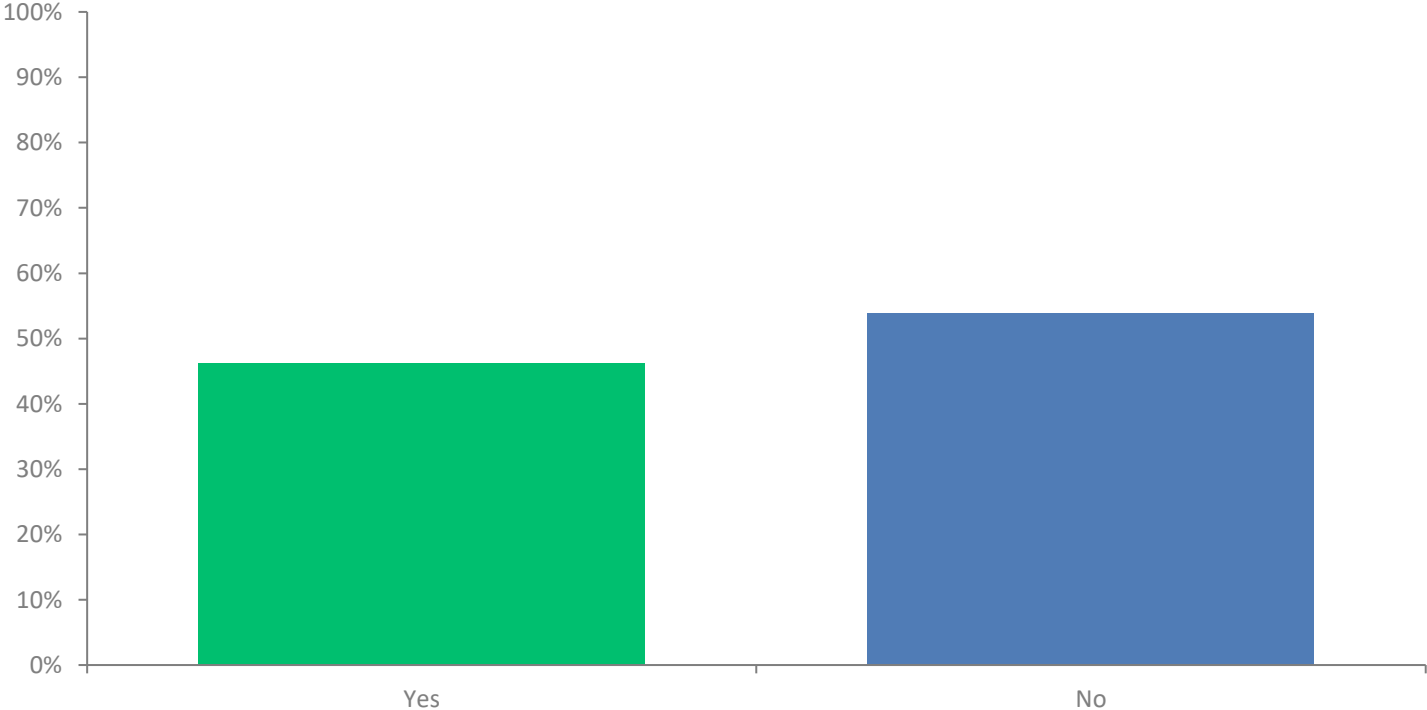
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	19.23%	5
No	80.77%	21
TOTAL		26

Q25: Please explain how you publicize or otherwise let the public know about them such as through pamphlets, publications, social or traditional media, websites, signage etc?

- Signs at the gatehouses with wheelchair icon stating that if folks need assistance to ask a ranger. (Cape Poge Wildlife Refuge)
- Information is on our website and our summer flyer. (Lambert's Cove Beach)
- Website (Wilfred's Pond Preserve Beach)
- This year, per Dick Cohen's suggestion, we have posted a flyer at all our beach gatehouses for folks seeking assistance in getting to the beach to ask a ranger. (Long Point Wildlife Refuge)

Q26: Have you performed your own assessment or evaluation of the accessibility of your beach to and for people with disabilities or others?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 4



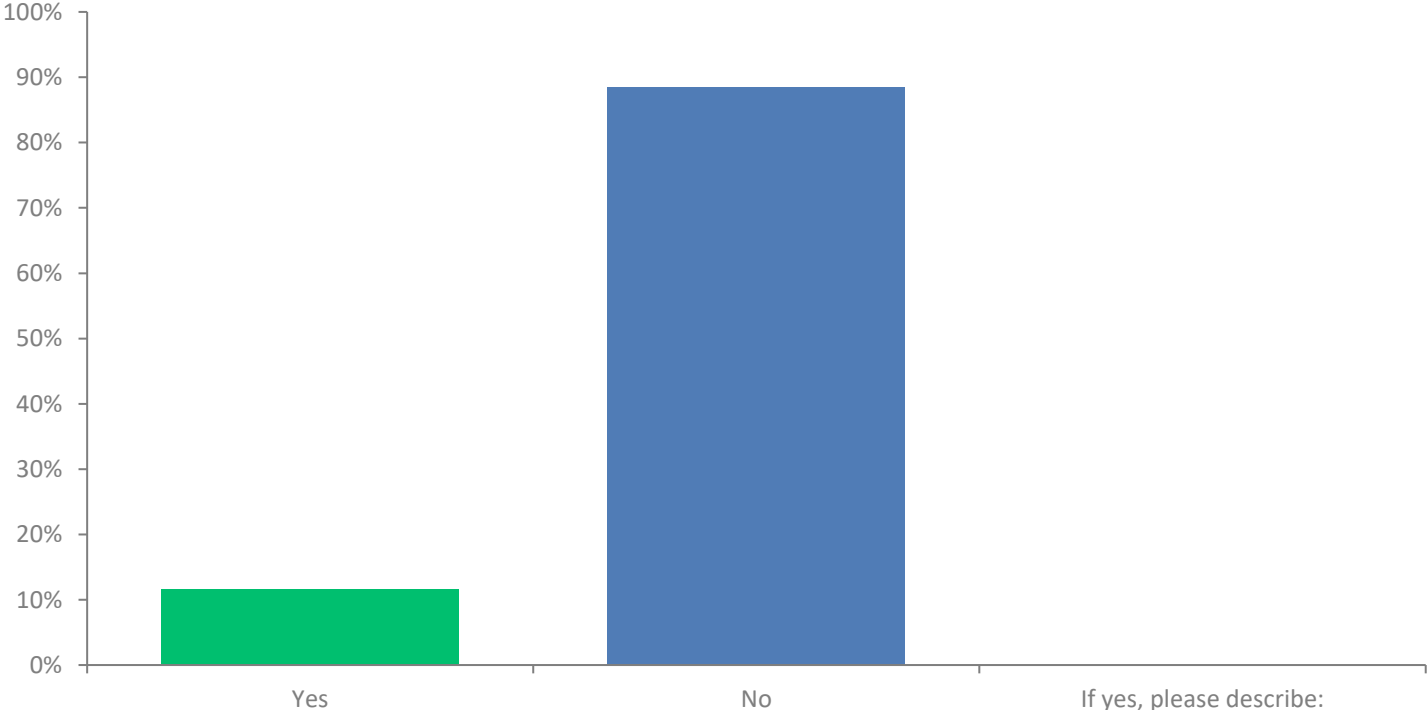
Q26: Have you performed your own assessment or evaluation of the accessibility of your beach to and for people with disabilities or others?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	46.15%	12
No	53.85%	14
TOTAL		26

Q27: Do you have a transition or compliance plan or any other plans related to achieving accessibility at these properties?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 4



Q27: Do you have a transition or compliance plan or any other plans related to achieving accessibility at these properties?

Answered: 26 Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	11.54%	3
No	88.46%	23
If yes, please describe:	0%	0
TOTAL		26

Space for additional comments, including what you may need to implement any new accessibility features.

We are currently in the process of applying for funds to increase our accessibility at our beaches. Wasque is in significant need!

We are working to secure more funds to increase our infrastructure and equipment for more accessible beaches! We are excited and committed to this. (Cape Poge)

While there is no regular publication of accessible beach elements and features, there is an occasional Facebook posting. (South Beach State Park)

As to publicizing accessible beach elements and features, this is not done on regular or systematic basis, but there is an occasional Facebook posting. (Bend in the Road Beach)

We have a section on the county website dedicated to Eastville beach where we have rules and regulations of the beach posted. We do not do any advertising. There is some signage on various beach related topics in the kiosk at the beginning of the parking lot. (Eastville Point Beach)

John doesn't know this beach as well so not certain on how information is publicized or how to get the trike unlocked. (Owen Little Way)

People can get to the pier and the floats in a wheelchair and don't have to use the stairs but not actually to the water. (Lake Street Beach)

We have funding approved and available July 1 to build an adjustable solution to the North Bluff beach ramp. While we hope it can be completed this summer, it will depend on staff availability and Conservation Commission approval. We also have funding currently available to purchase additional Mobi Mats for Inkwell beach access and extending Town Beach Access. Once the beach is graded and raked, current mats will be adjusted to better serve the public. (Oak Bluffs Town Beach)

As previously mentioned, we are currently working with the East Chop Beach Club to create a new designated path with Mobi Mats to improve access to Marinelli Beach for all. The plans are currently before the conservation commission and funding for the Town portion of it has been approved and will be available July 1st. The entire project will not be ready till summer 2024.

For further information:

Cindy Trish, Executive Director, Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard,
ctrish@hamv.org

Kate Lefer, Program Director, Disability Services, Martha's Vineyard
Community Services, klefer@mycommunityservices.org

Richard Cohen, Dukes County Associate Commissioner for Disabilities,
racohen65@aol.com