



*Bruce*

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT  
SUMMARY**



*Part 1:*

Context

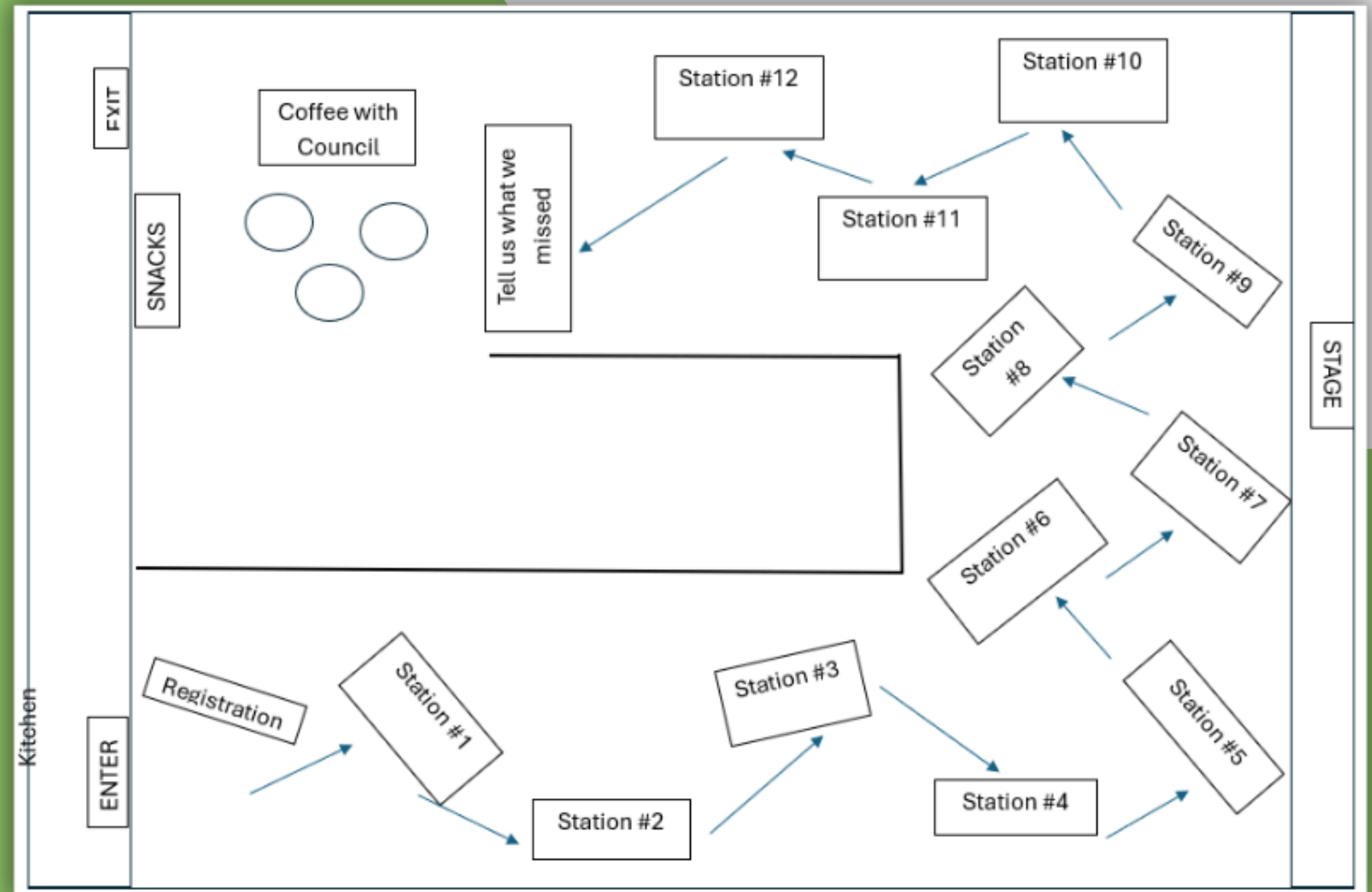
# Overview

On June 13th, we conducted a public engagement session in the Hamlet of Bruce to gather resident feedback on appropriate community standards. Our county has changed significantly over the years, and our old bylaws lack the specific metrics needed for effective enforcement. The turnout was excellent, with residents actively sharing their insights and perspectives.



# The Journey

Residents were invited to explore 13 different stations, each dedicated to various aspects of community standards. At the end of the journey, they were welcomed with coffee and snacks by Councillors and CAO Spiess, who were available to answer questions and engage in meaningful conversations.

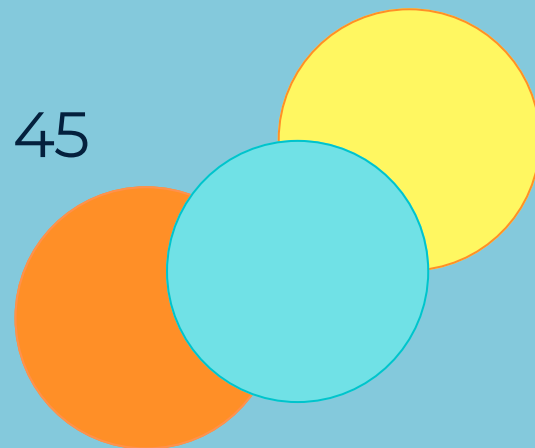




# Participants

Participants used colour-coded stickers to provide their feedback on panels placed around the hall. The stickers were coordinated by colour to indicate the different areas where participants live, making it easier to see community-specific perspectives.

We were happy to engage with over 45 County residents during the event.



## *Hamlet Residents*

People who live within a County hamlet: Bruce or Kinsella

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## *Subdivision Residents*

People who live in County rural subdivisions / acreages

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## *Rural Residents*

People who live in rural areas, farms etc.

# Facilitators



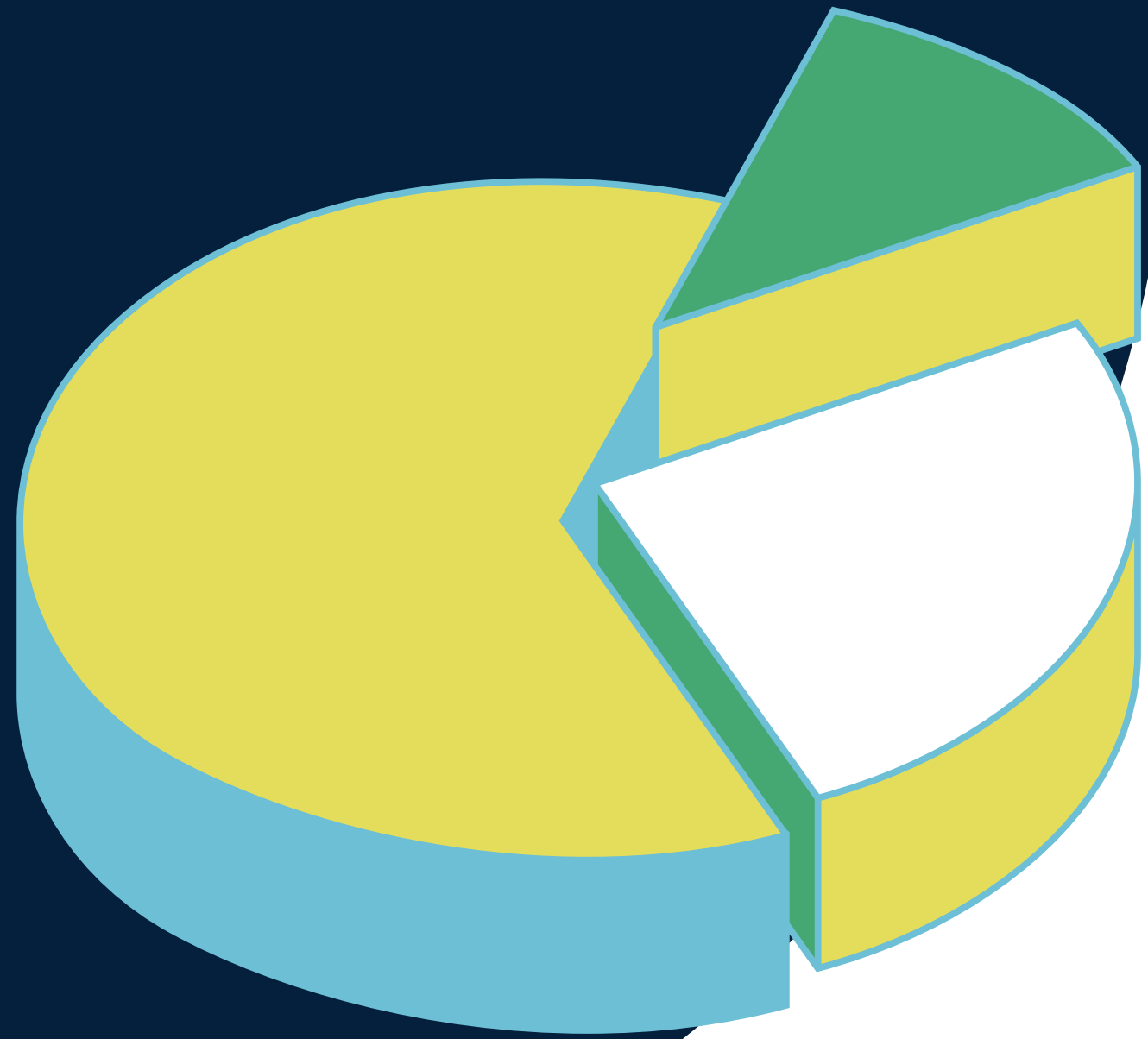
## *Councillors*

Council attended to speak with residents and answer questions

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## *Administration*

Members of the administration were stationed around the panels to assist residents and answer any questions they had.



*Part 2:*

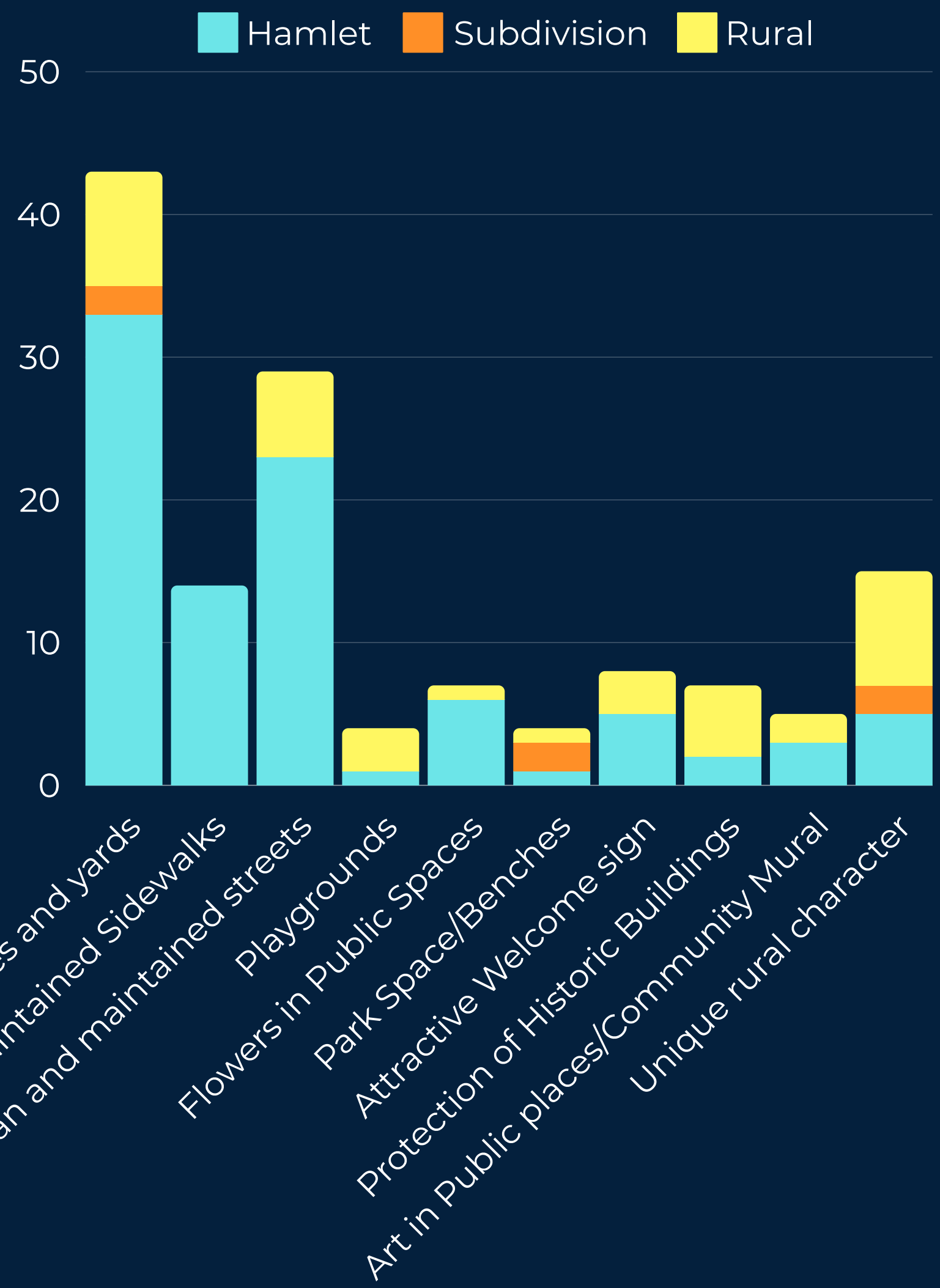
Results

# Station #1:

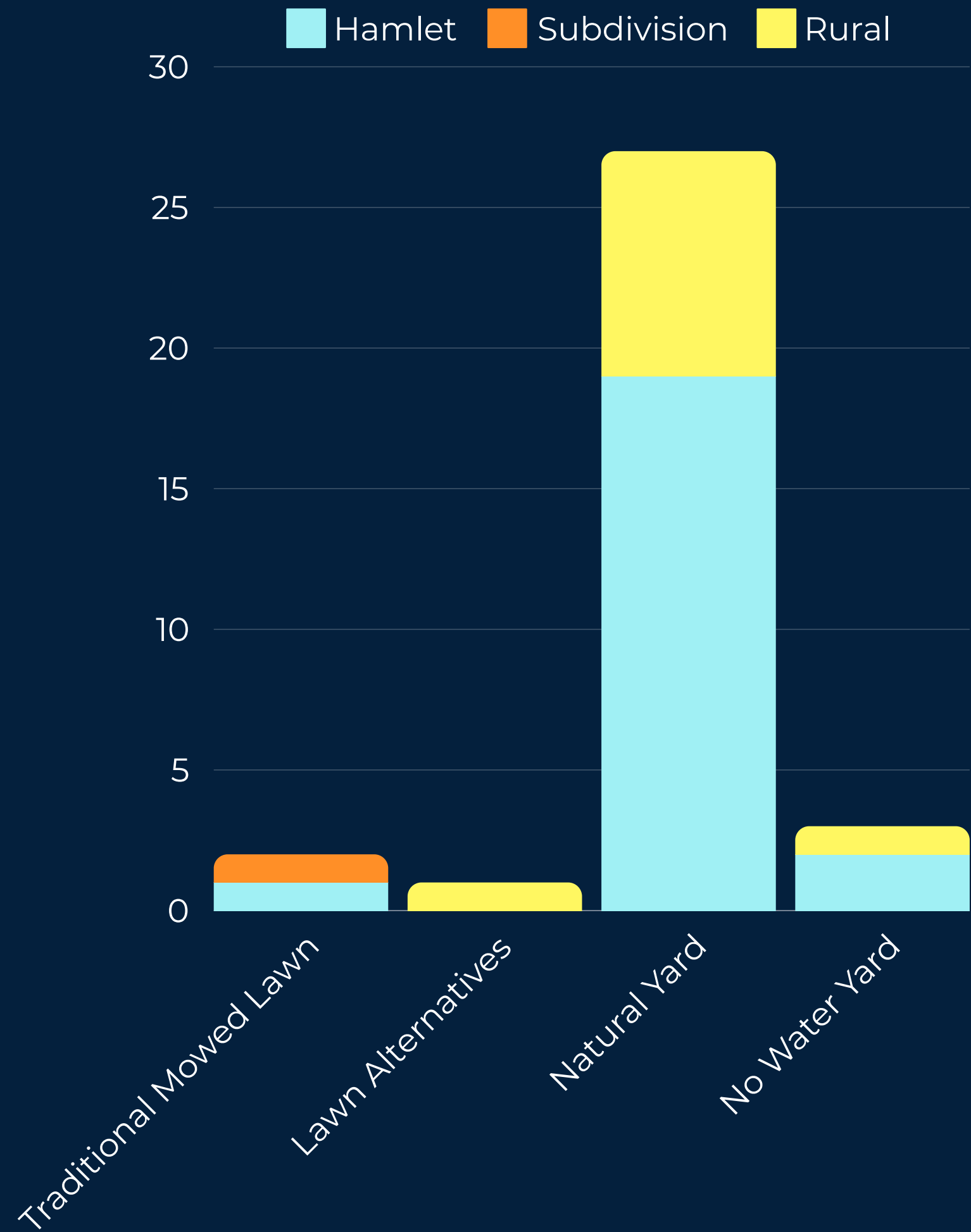
What are your TOP 3 things that make a community a nice place to live?

Station #1: What are your **TOP 3 things** that make a community a nice place to live?

- Well kept homes and yards
- Maintained Sidewalks
- Clean and maintained streets
- Playgrounds
- Flowers in public spaces
- Park Space/Benches
- Attractive Welcome sign
- Protection of Historic Buildings
- Art in public places/Community Mural
- Unique Rural Character

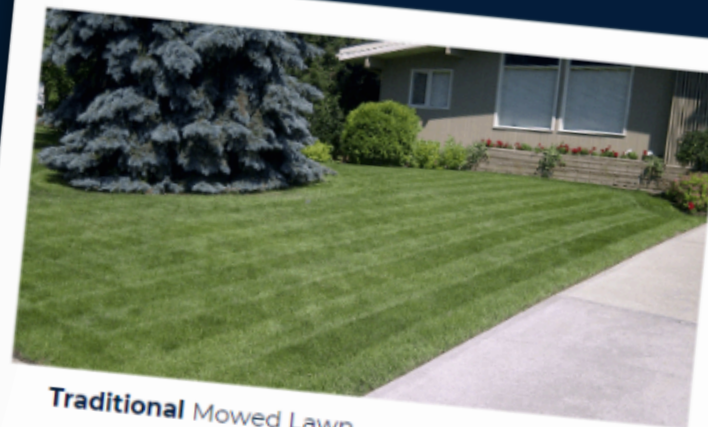




# Station #2:

When you're walking down the street, which of these front yards is unacceptable? *(if any)*

Station #2: When you're walking down the street, which of these front yards is **unacceptable**?



Traditional Mowed Lawn

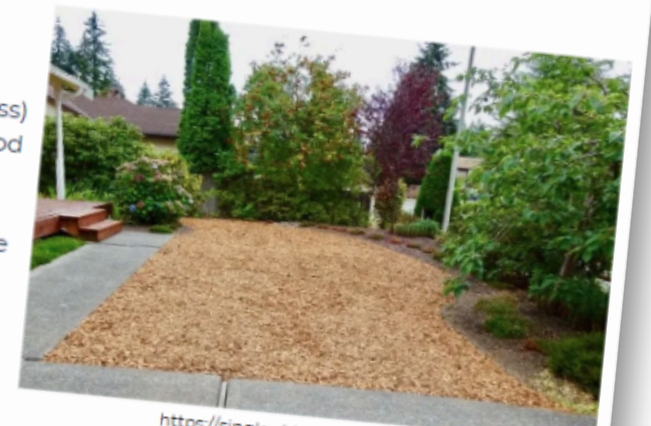


Traditional grass is eliminated and replaced with **lawn alternatives** such as rocks, drought-tolerant ground cover, artificial turf or hard scaping (not concrete slabs).

A **natural yard** is an ecologically inspired landscaping approach that emphasize native plant species, support local wildlife, and avoid chemical use when possible.



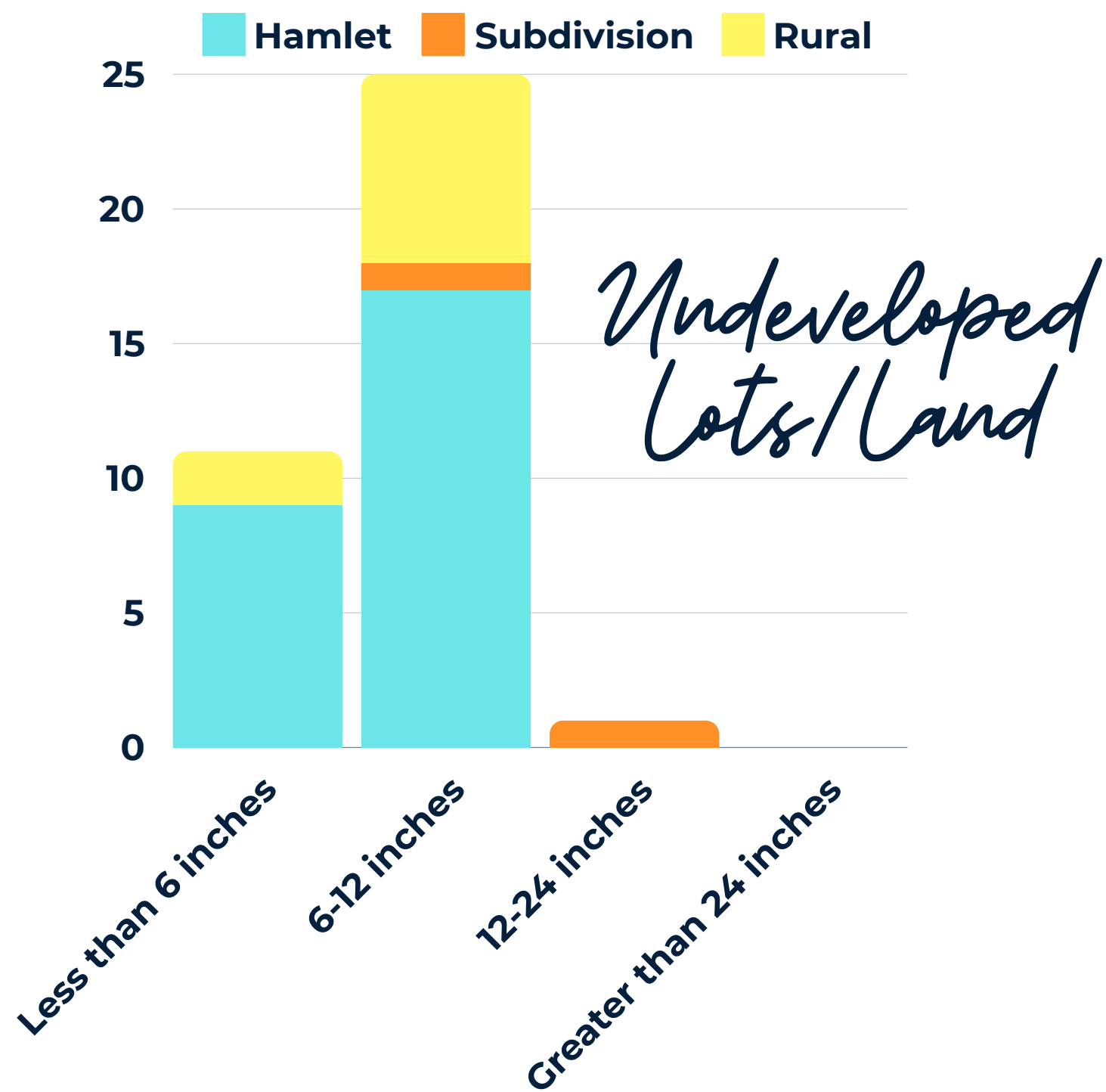
A **NO water yard** is when the lawn (grass) is replaced with wood chips/mulch for a clean, tidy look all year-round and there is very little maintenance required.



<https://singlegirlsdly.com/create-a-no-water-yard/>

# Station #3:

How tall should the grass be before it is mowed?



**Station #3:**  
How tall should the grass be before it is mowed?

Keep in mind that the more often the grass is cut there is a cost associated with it.  
See the next info board for cost estimates.

**UNDEVELOPED LOTS/LAND**

Greater than 24 inches  
12 - 24 inches  
6 - 12 inches  
Less than 6 inches

This is the height the County tries to mow at, depending on weather.

**PRIVATE RESIDENCES or BUSINESSES**

Greater than 24 inches  
12 - 24 inches  
6 - 12 inches  
Less than 6 inches

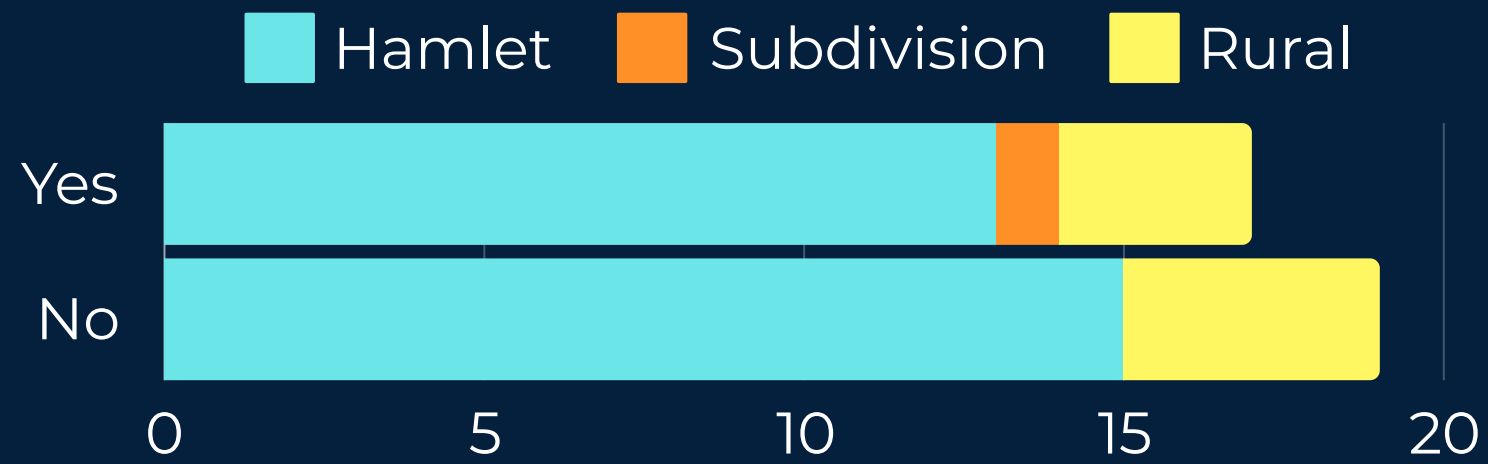
**Private residences or businesses**

Grass Height	Hamlet	Subdivision	Rural
Less than 6 inches	16	2	4
6-12 inches	10	0	6
12-24 inches	0	0	0
Greater than 24 inches	0	0	0

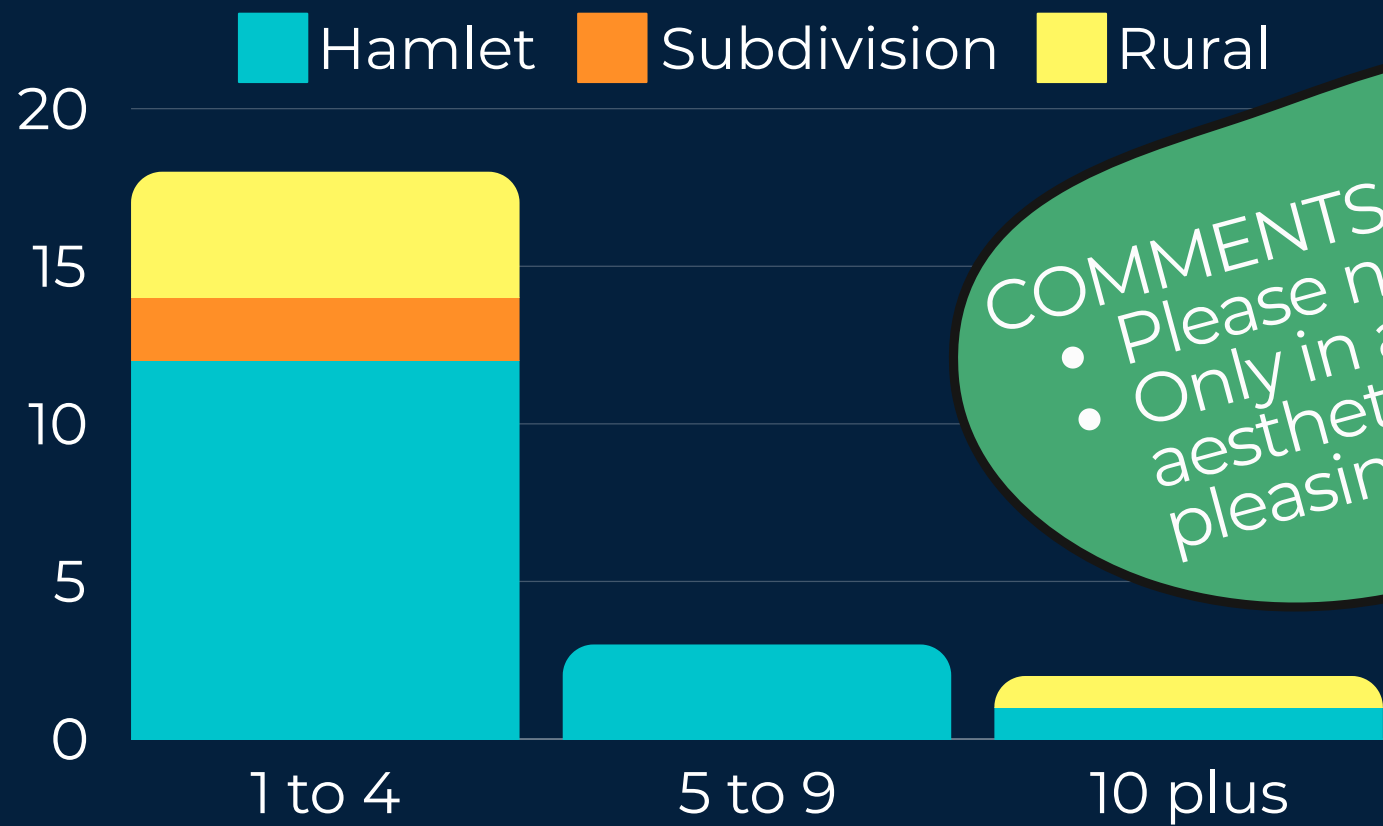


# Station #4: Should residents be allowed to have backyard chickens?

Should residents be allowed to have backyard chickens?



If yes, how many?



COMMENTS:  
 • Please no roosters!  
 • Only in an aesthetically pleasing coop!



Station #4: Should residents be allowed to have backyard chickens?

YES  NO

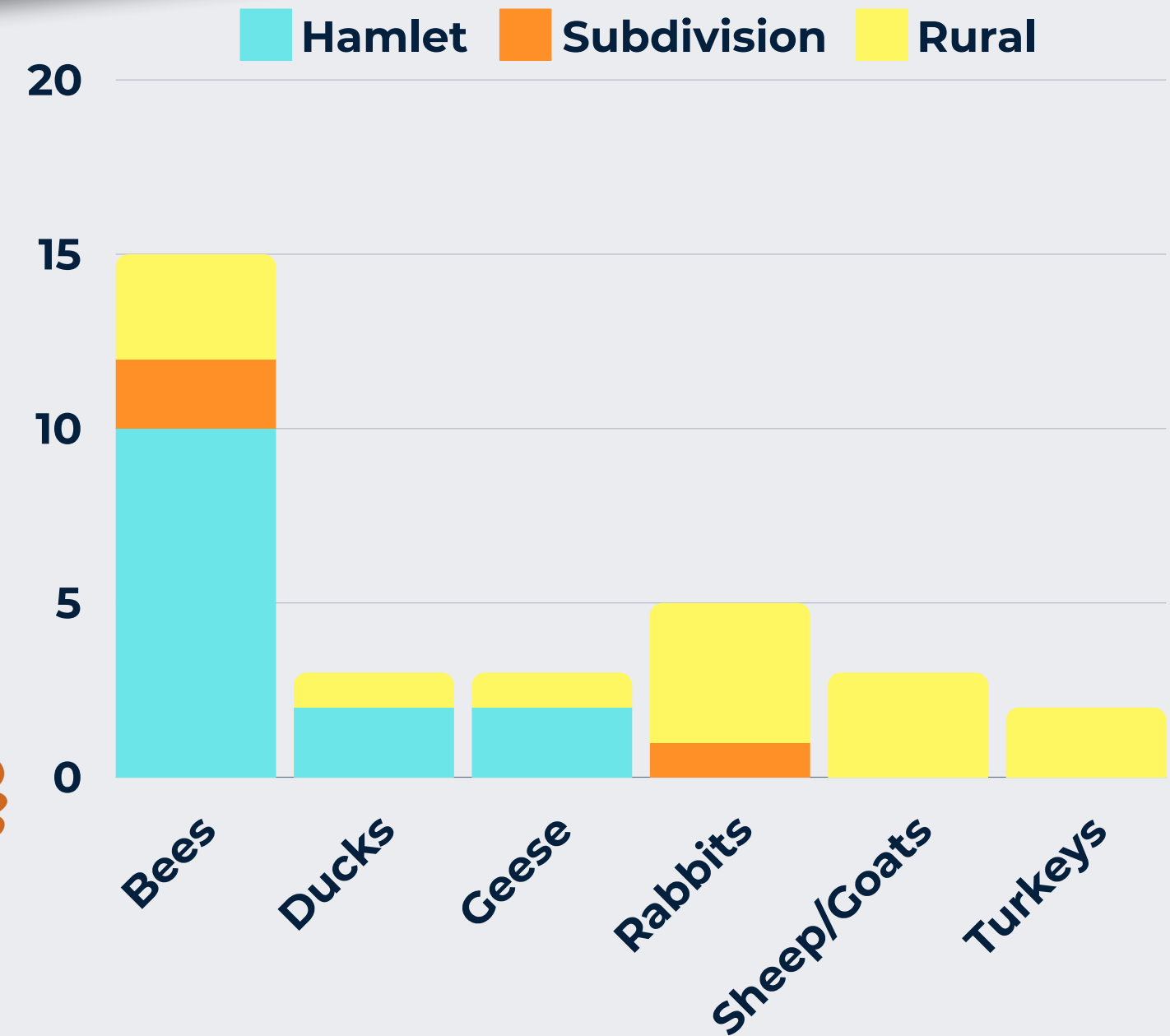
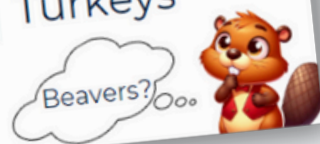


How many chickens per lot?

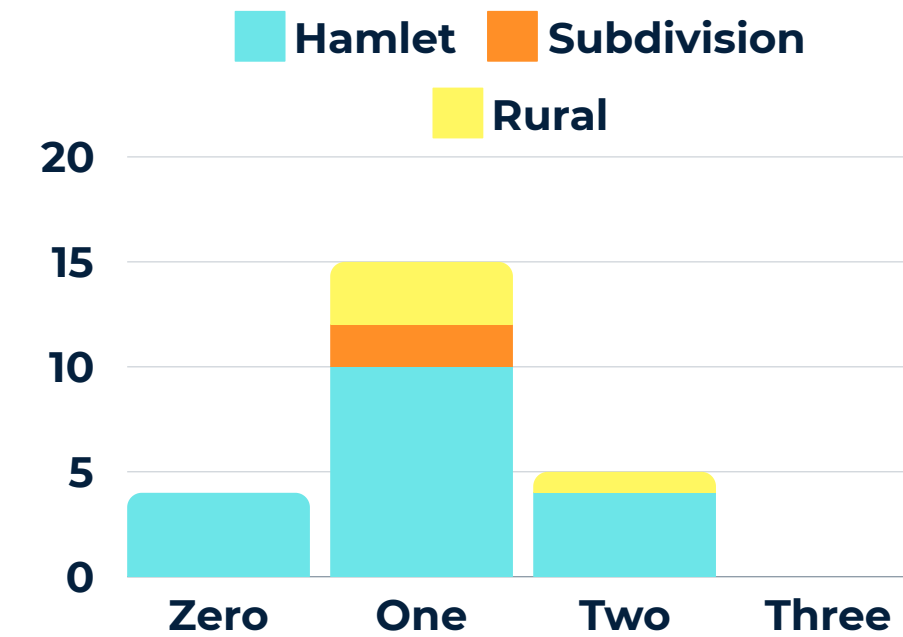
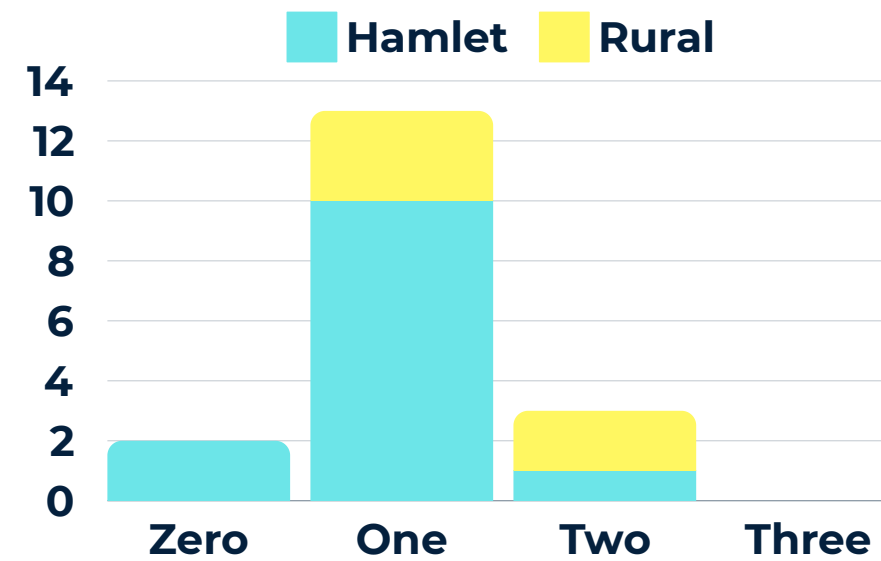
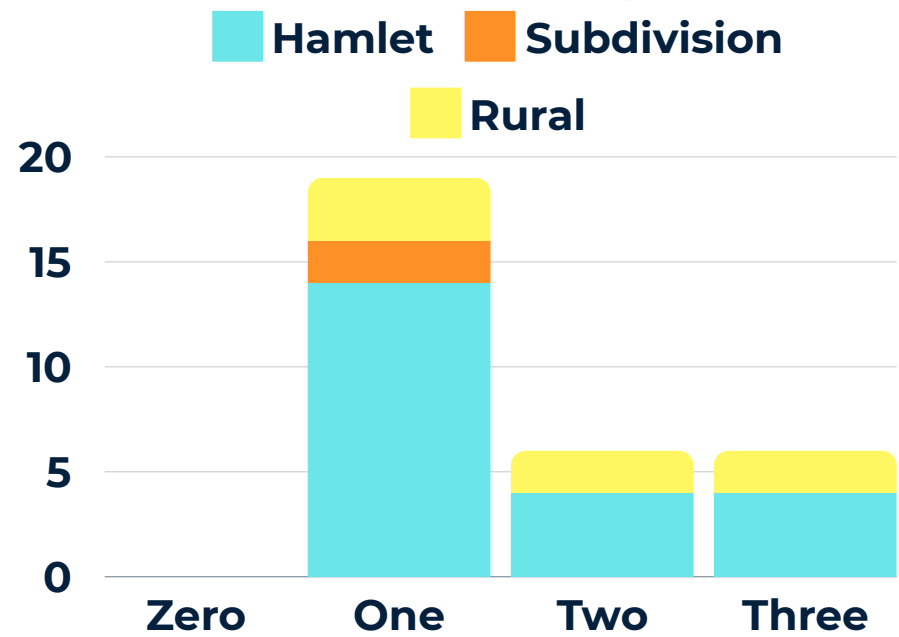
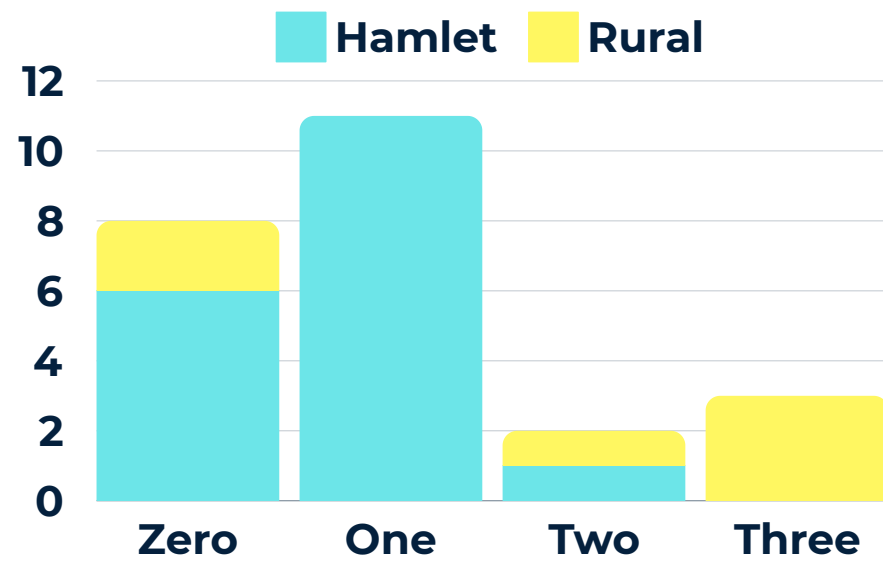
- 1-4
- 5-9
- 10+

What other species would you find acceptable?

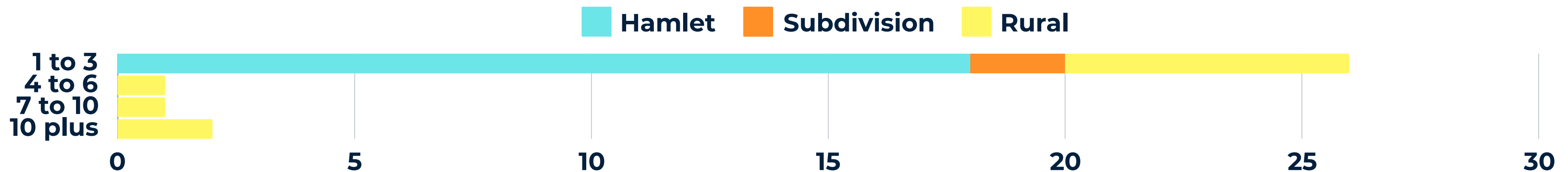
- Bees
- Ducks
- Geese
- Rabbits
- Sheep/Goats
- Turkeys



# Station #5: There are many types of storage units. How many, of each type, should be allowed?



## How many storage units in TOTAL should be allowed?



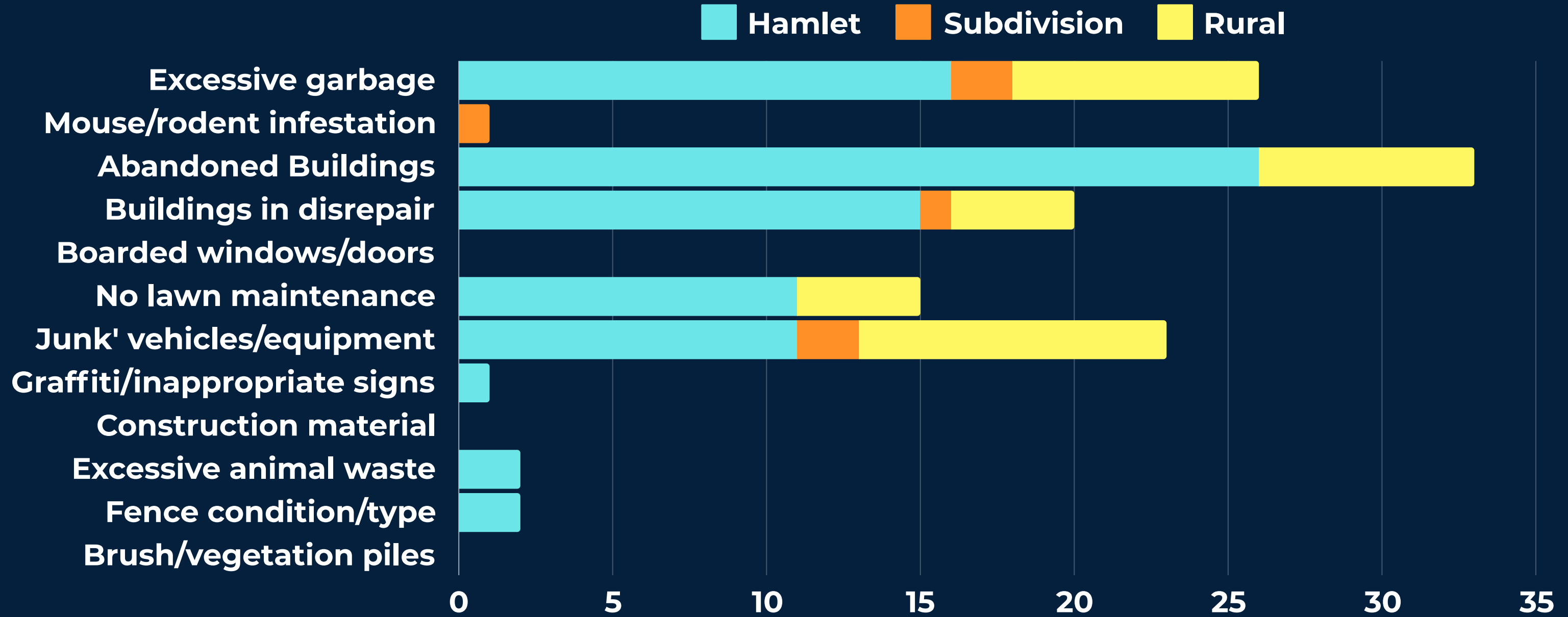


# Station #6:

In your opinion, what are the TOP 3 concerns with unsightly/nuisance properties?

Station # 6: In your opinion, what are the **TOP 3 concerns** with unsightly/nuisance properties?

- Excessive garbage
- Mouse/rodent infestation
- Abandoned buildings
- Buildings in disrepair
- Boarded windows/doors
- No lawn maintenance
- 'Junk' vehicles/equipment
- Graffiti/inappropriate signs
- Construction material
- Excessive animal waste
- Fence condition/type
- Brush/vegetation piles

# Station #7:

What is the MAIN concern with vehicle storage, including recreational vehicles, on a property?

Station # 7: What is the **MAIN** concern with vehicle storage, including recreational vehicles, on a property?

- Vehicles not parked on driveway (yard)
- Vehicles parked on the road
- Non operational vehicles
- Damaged/condition of vehicles
- Vehicle spills/odours

How many vehicles **TOTAL** should be stored on a property?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5+



Edmonton



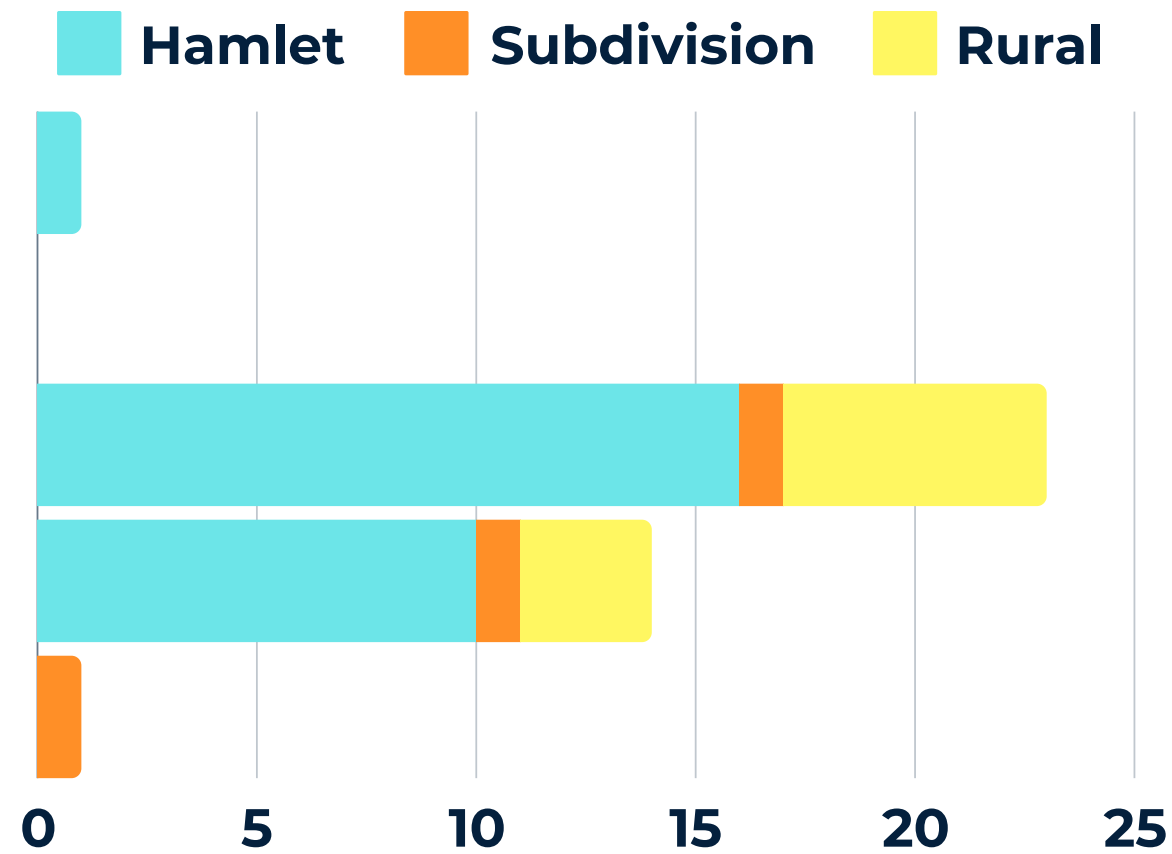
Vehicles not parked on driveway (yard)

Vehicles parked on the road

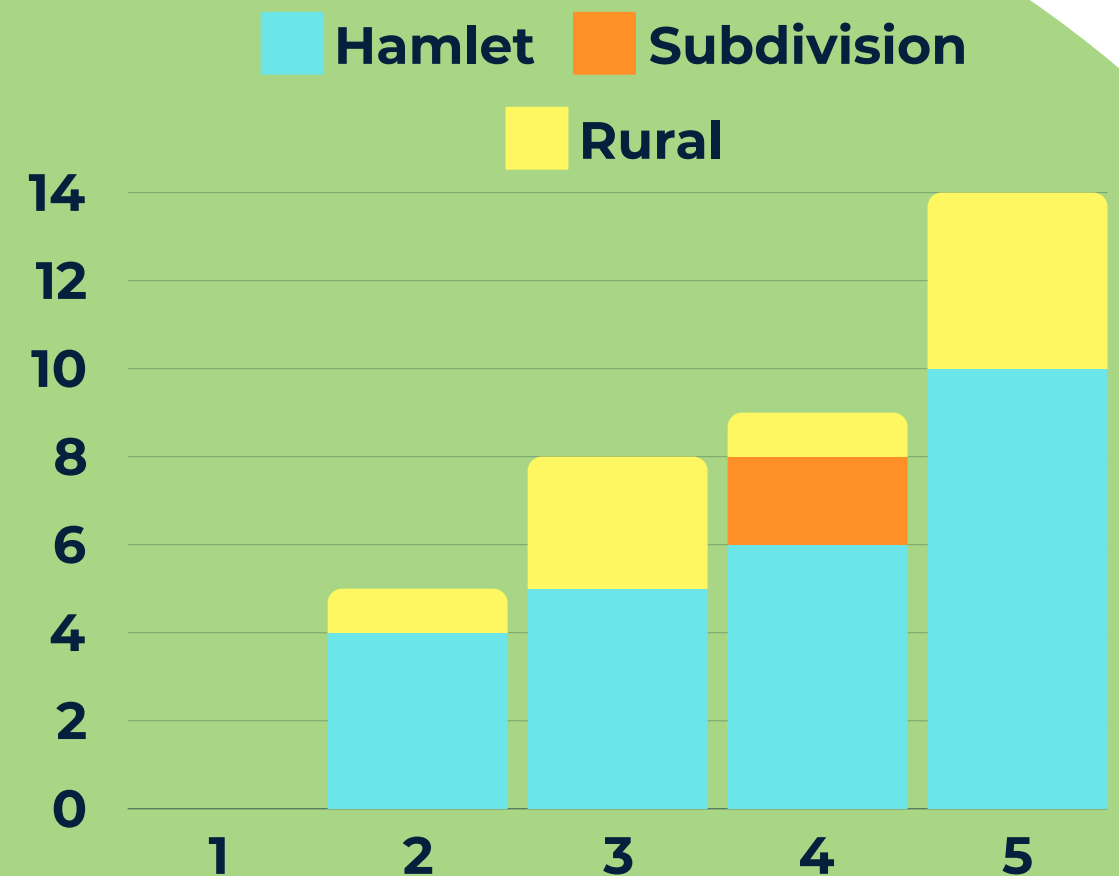
Non operational vehicles

Damaged /condition of vehicles

Vehicle spills/odours

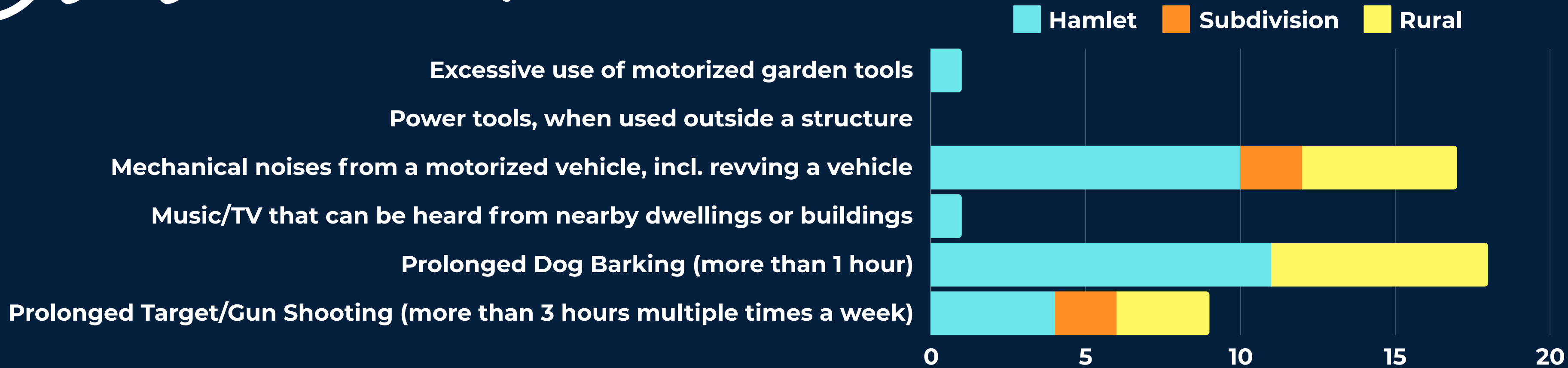


How many vehicles **TOTAL** should be stored on a property?

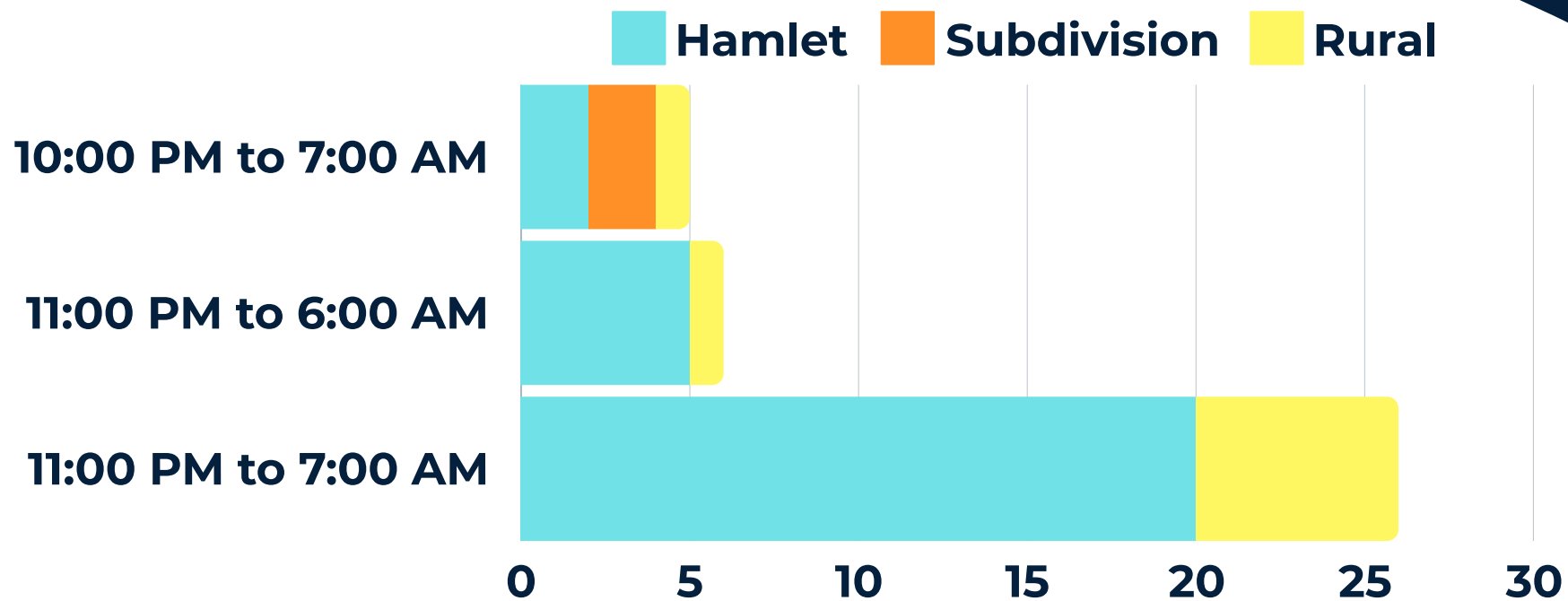




# Station #8: When it comes to noise, what are your TOP 2 concerns?



At what time should loud noises be restricted?



Station # 8: When it comes to noise, what are your TOP 2 concerns?

- Excessive use of motorized garden tools
- Power tools, when used outside a structure
- Mechanical noises from a motorized vehicle, incl. revving a vehicle
- Music/TV that can be heard from nearby dwellings or buildings
- Prolonged Dog Barking (more than 1 hour)
- Prolonged Target/Gun Shooting (more than 3 hours multiple times a week)

At what time should loud noises be restricted?

10:00 pm to 7:00 am
  11:00 pm to 6:00 am
  11:00 pm to 7:00 am

# Station #9:


How many dogs should be allowed on a property?

Station # 9: How many dogs should be allowed on a property?

Maximum of 2

Maximum of 3 (current)

Maximum of 4



Should the County allow Over-limit dog permits for properties?  
This means a resident could have more than the allowable limit for dogs on a property.

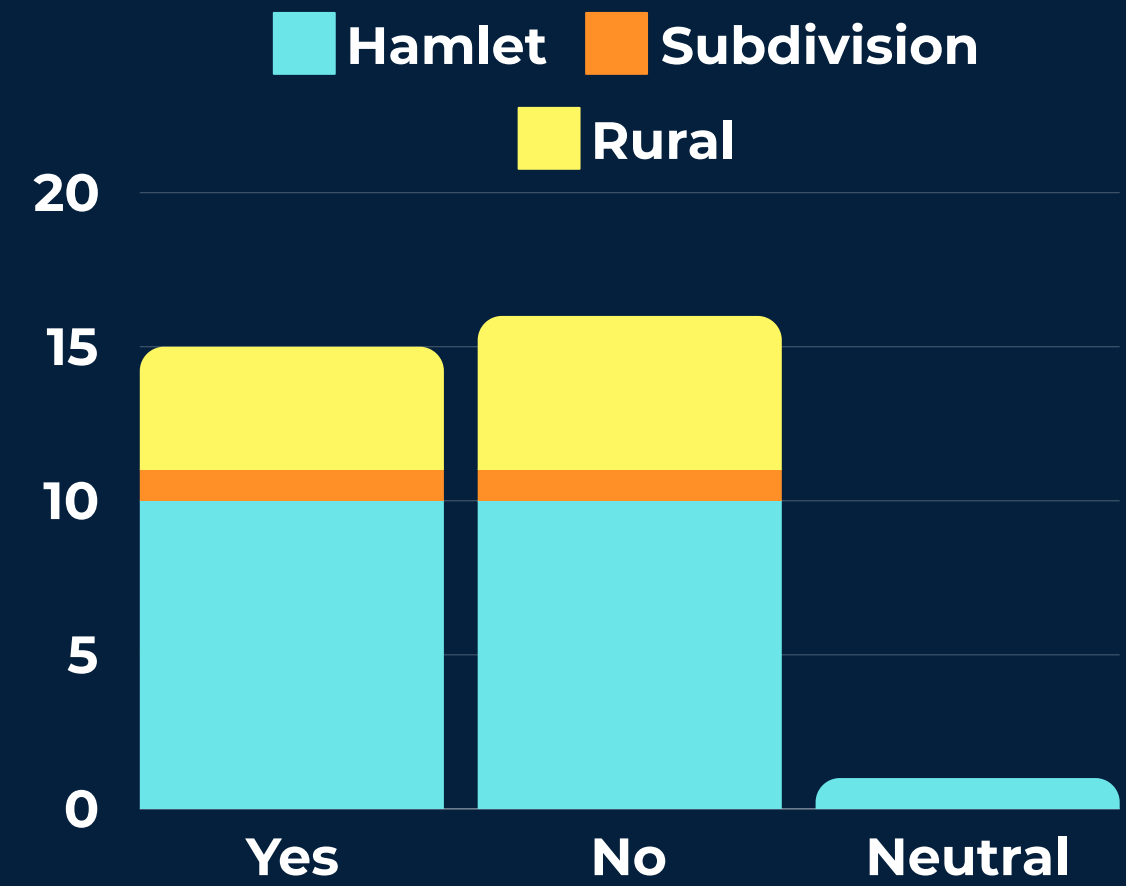
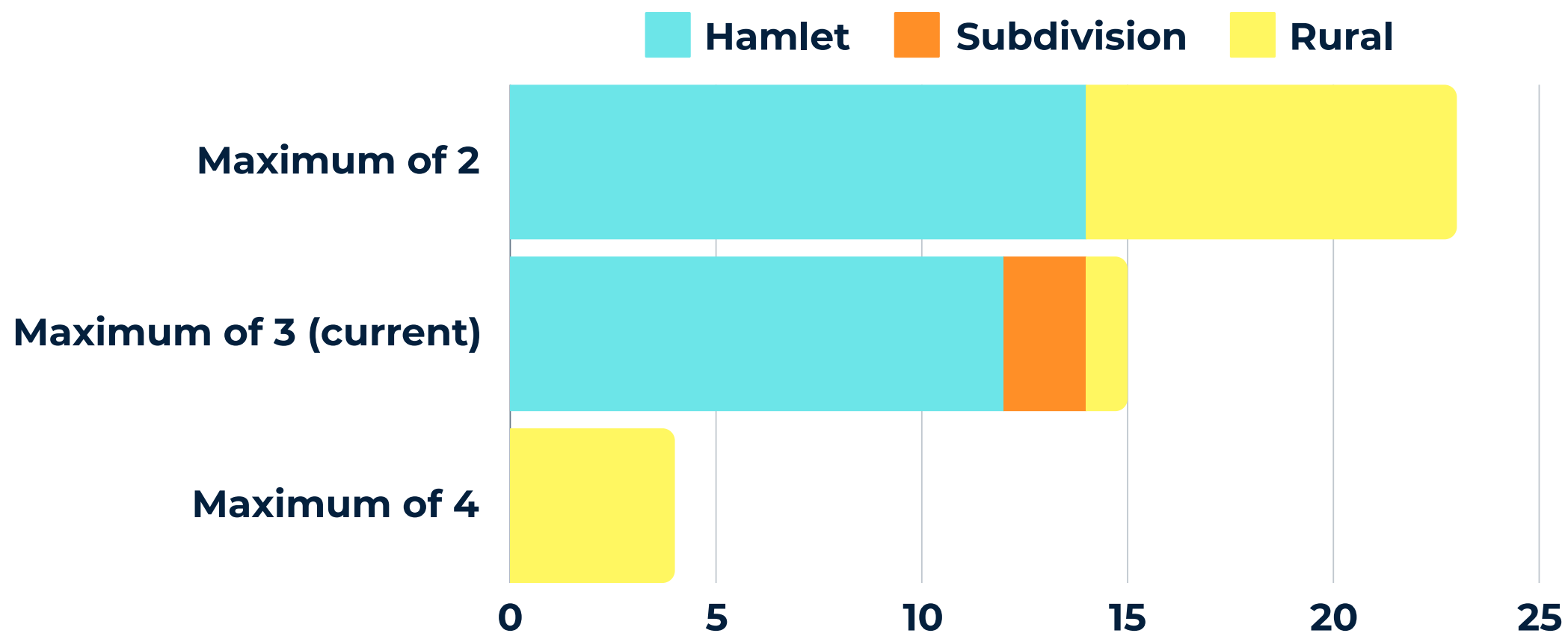
YES NO

Currently the County Bylaw states that:

- On any parcel of land within any Hamlet, or any parcel of land districted Country Residential, or any land that is within the area of an adopted Inter-Municipal Development Plan, or any residential parcel less than 0.81 ha (2.0 ac) in Size, **no more than four household pets shall be allowed, of which a maximum of 3 dogs shall be allowed.**
- On any residential parcel more than 0.81 ha (2.0 ac), agricultural, or nonresidential parcel, no more than three dogs shall be allowed.

Additional Animal/Bird Units can be allowed under certain circumstances.

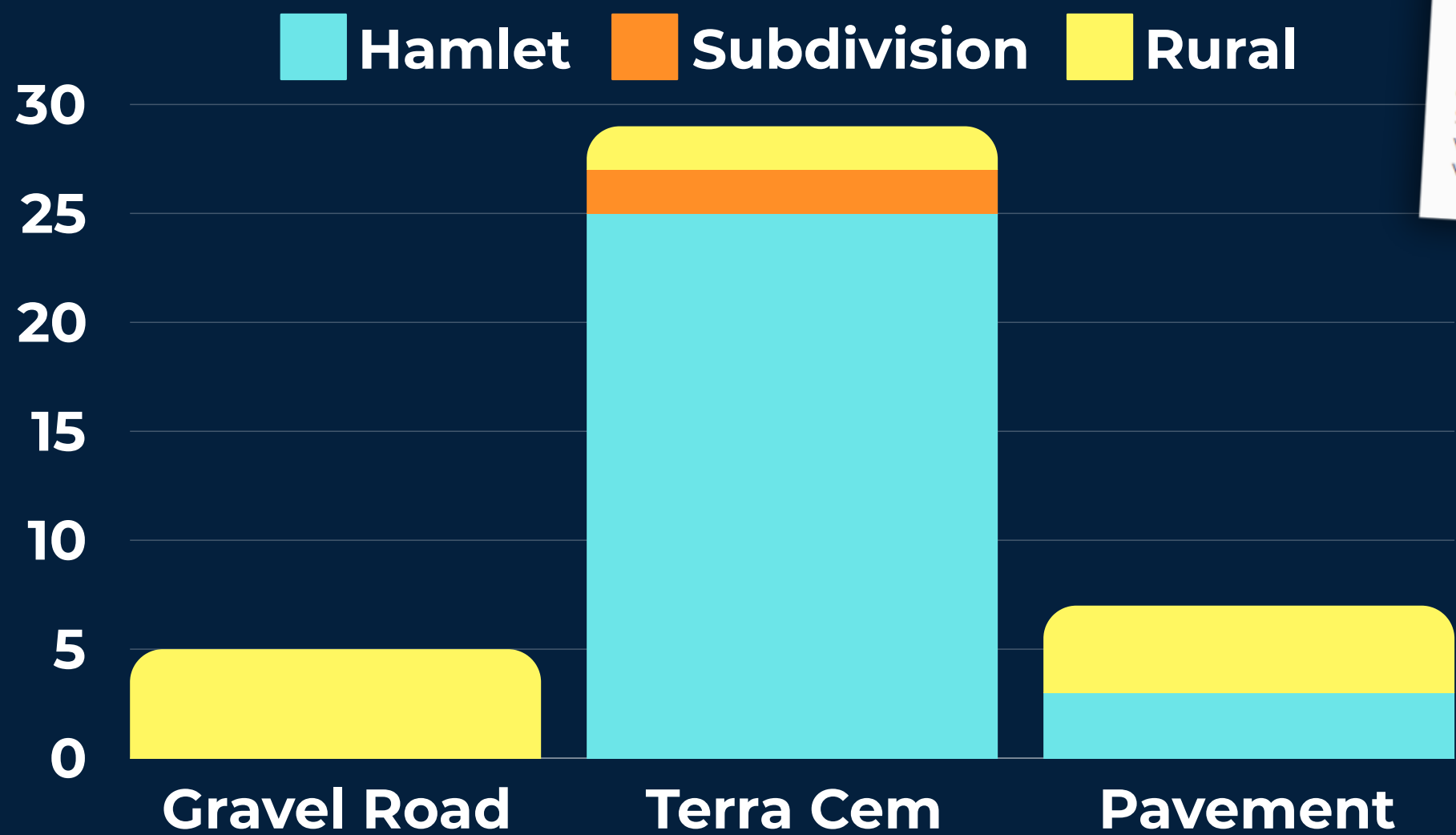
Should the County allow Over-limit dog permits for properties?





# Station #11\*

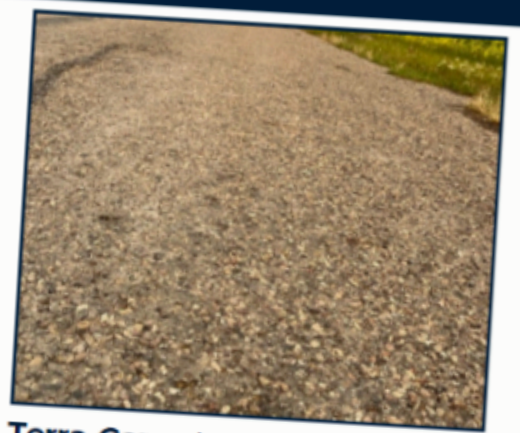
What type of road surface would you prefer?



Station # 11: What type of road surface would you prefer?  
 \*\*Numbers are calculated per block, which in Bruce is 175 metres\*\*



**Gravel Road** - built from nothing  
**a. Initial Construction Cost - \$108,696**  
**b. Average Life Cycle - 20 years** before a shoulder pull is required with added gravel every three years  
 i. Shoulder pull is \$2000/ block  
 ii. Average Gravel every three years - \$200  
**c. Estimated yearly maintenance cost -** \$1,500 for summer maintenance and winter depends on snow amounts could vary from \$1,000 - \$3,000



**Terra-Cem** - is a surface treatment added on top of an already established gravel road  
**a. Initial Construction Cost - \$38,000**  
**b. Average Life Cycle - 10 years**  
**c. Estimated yearly maintenance cost -** mostly snow removal so very dependent on weather ranges from \$2,000 - \$5,000

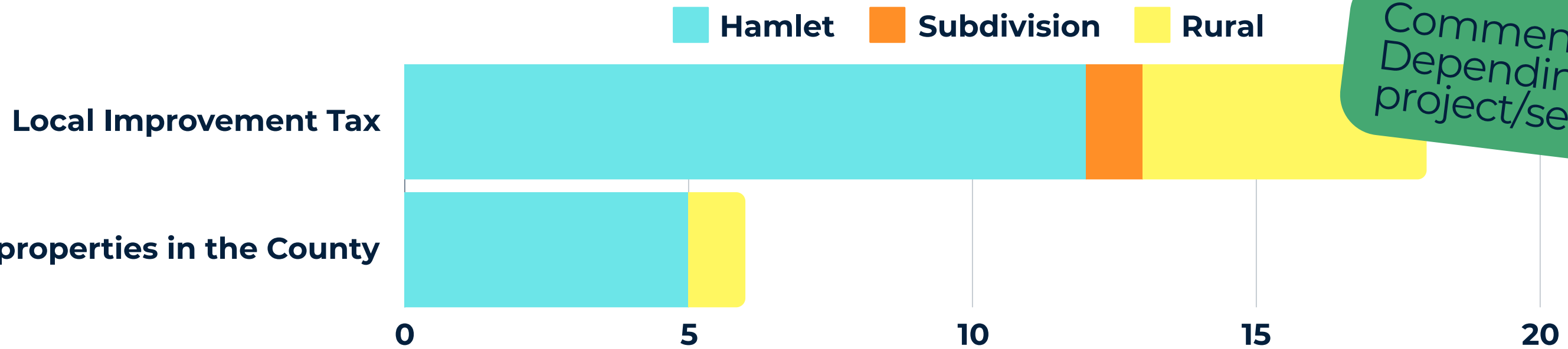


**Pavement** - is a surface treatment added on top of an already established gravel road  
**a. Initial Construction Cost - \$108,700**  
**b. Average Life Cycle - 20 years**  
**c. Estimated yearly maintenance cost -** mostly snow removal so very dependent on weather ranges from \$2,000 - \$5,000

**NOTE:**  
*Oil Surface - the County no longer provides this and it is not recommended.*

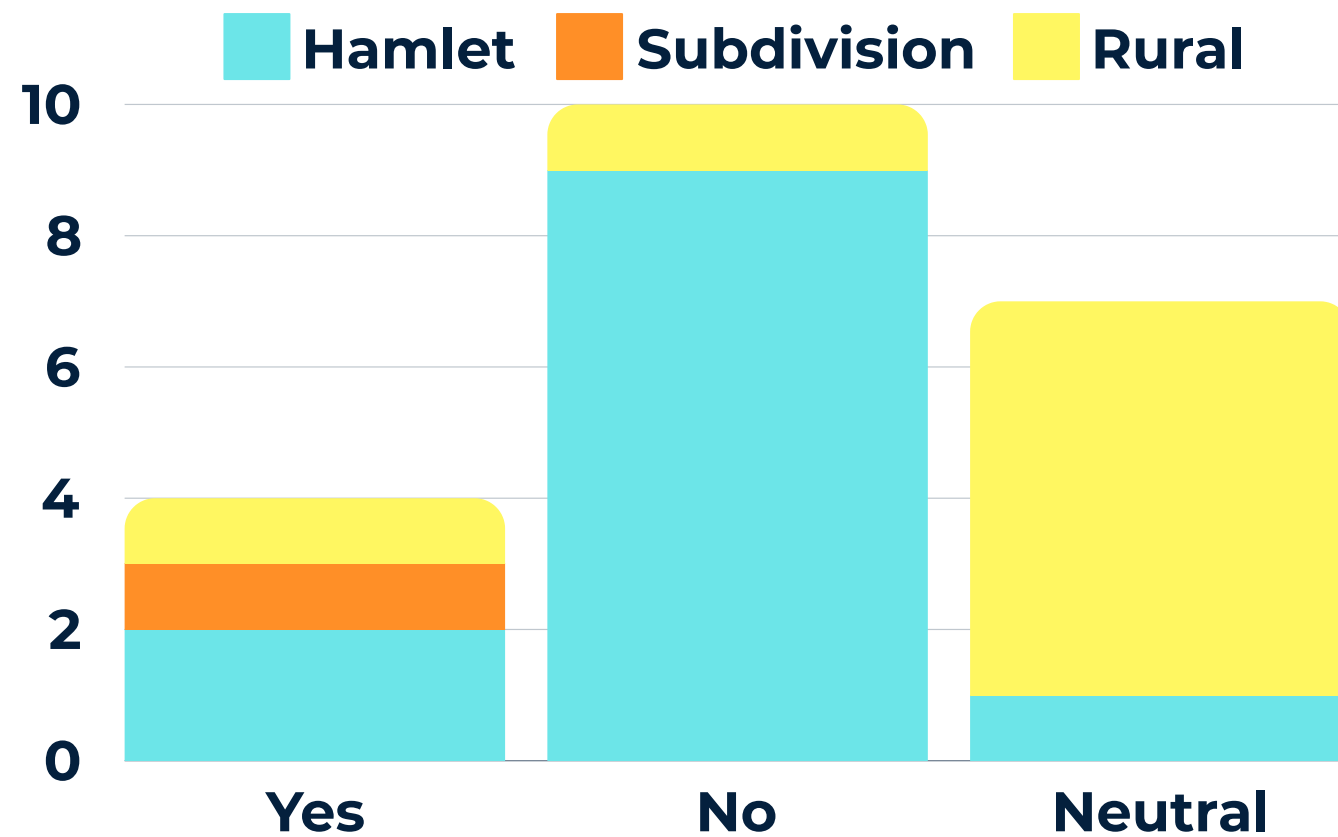
\*Station 10 was an info board, hence no results.

# Station #12: How do you propose that the County pays for increased service levels?



Comment: Depending on the project/service

Are you in favour of a tax increase to get increased services?



Station #12 : How do you propose that the County pays for increased service levels?

**LOCAL Improvement Tax**  
A local improvement tax is imposed on a specific area within a municipality to fund a service or improvement applied to a particular area only. The improvement benefits that particular area rather than the municipality as a whole. Some examples of local improvements are sidewalks, lane lighting, or paving.

**Calculation:** Project Cost/Number of properties affected, amortized over a serviceable lifetime

**Example:**

Cost to replace one block of sidewalk	\$35,000	# of properties	5	=	\$7,000	serviceable lifetime (years)	30	=	Total per property, per year	\$233
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**Tax increase for ALL properties in the County**  
If a tax increase is applied to all properties in Beaver County, then the project cost will be paid from the general pool of funds that are collected. This means that everyone in the County pays for a project that only impacts a few residents.

Are you in favour of a tax increase to get increased services?

**YES** **NO**



# What did we miss?

## Service Levels

## Potential Ideas

Ten years no property tax on new homes built. Ten years no property tax when takedown an unlive in trailer

Increase the taxes on abandoned properties.

Increased taxes or harsher fines for unsightly properties.

Punishment or recourse for things built without permits (i.e. \*\*\*\*\* fences)

Build up senior facilities and services.

Talk to BRSD about field out the back community centre.

Local improvement tax as long as every hamlet has the same minimum base service level.

This has been informative. Please offer more of these throughout the county. Thank you

Thank you great job!

Thank you for allowing the input

Copy of Bruce map and where property lines are located.

Why did you put so much money into cutting off the train whistles? It prevents accidents.



## Additional Thoughts

Old abandoned buildings need to come down.

Remove old buildings in the hamlet of Bruce that are vacant.

Abandoned RV's should not be used as green houses. Build a shed or greenhouse.

Remove whole block of abandoned houses, possibly attract new people.

Tear down at that store.

Better bylaw enforcement.

In regards to people's yards. Hard to tell people what their yard should look like. Not everyone wants a lawn.

Unsightly brush and trees impeding power lines.

Weeds in yards.

Should have asked - Are you happy with existing services?

Why are there rules for some people, and rules and permits do not apply to others.

## Note

Some people shared the same thoughts, therefore the dots indicate if more than one person agreed with the comment



# Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our community engagement process. Your valuable insights and the excellent conversations we've had will help shape the framework for future bylaw and policy development, in alignment with existing legislation.

*Your input is truly appreciated!*