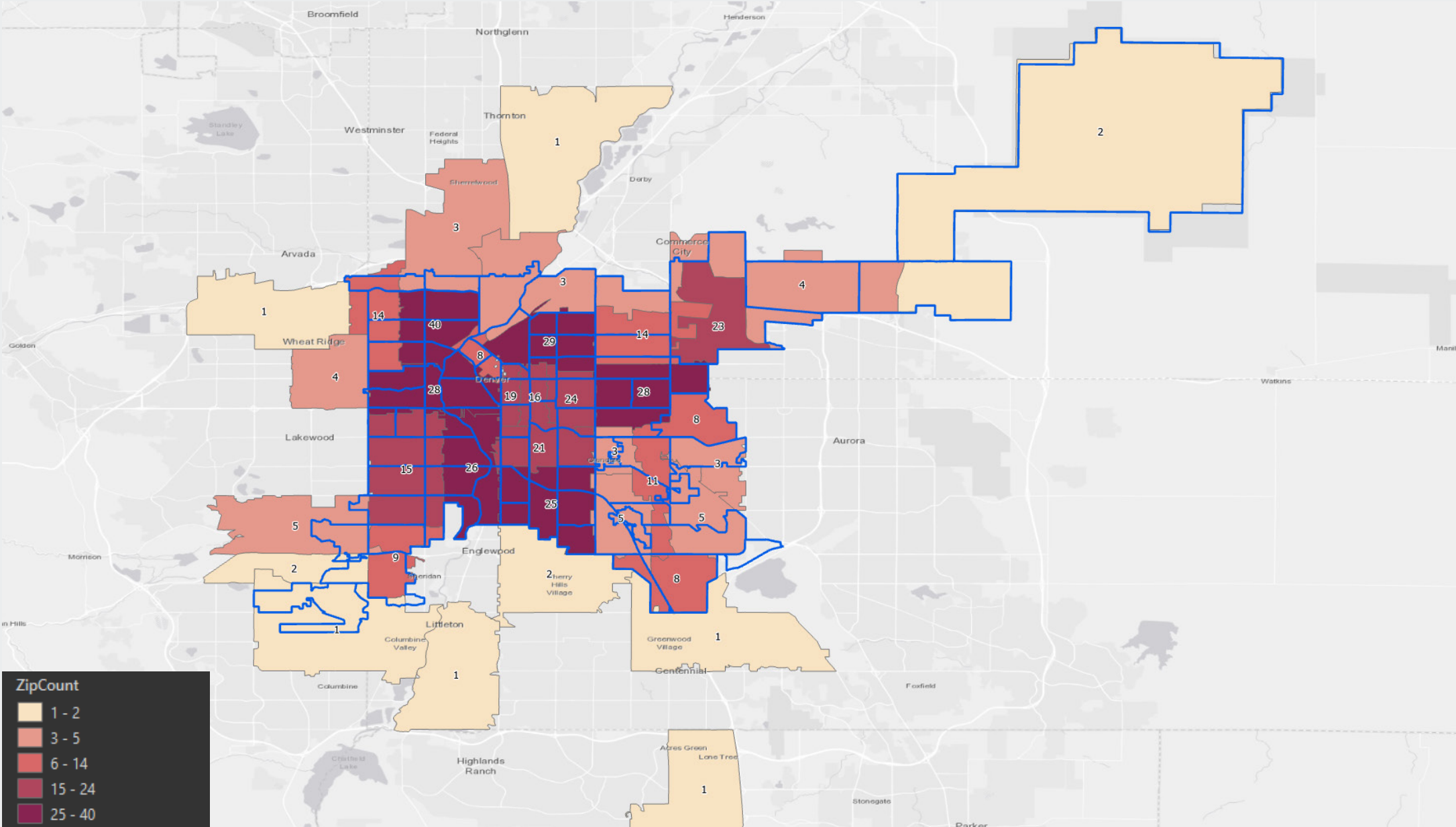


Denver Resilient Landscapes

Survey #1 Summary

June 27 - August 17, 2025

Geography of Responses



Survey Objective

This survey was created and distributed to gather information on the community's priorities and ideas for landscape in the city.

Survey Distribution

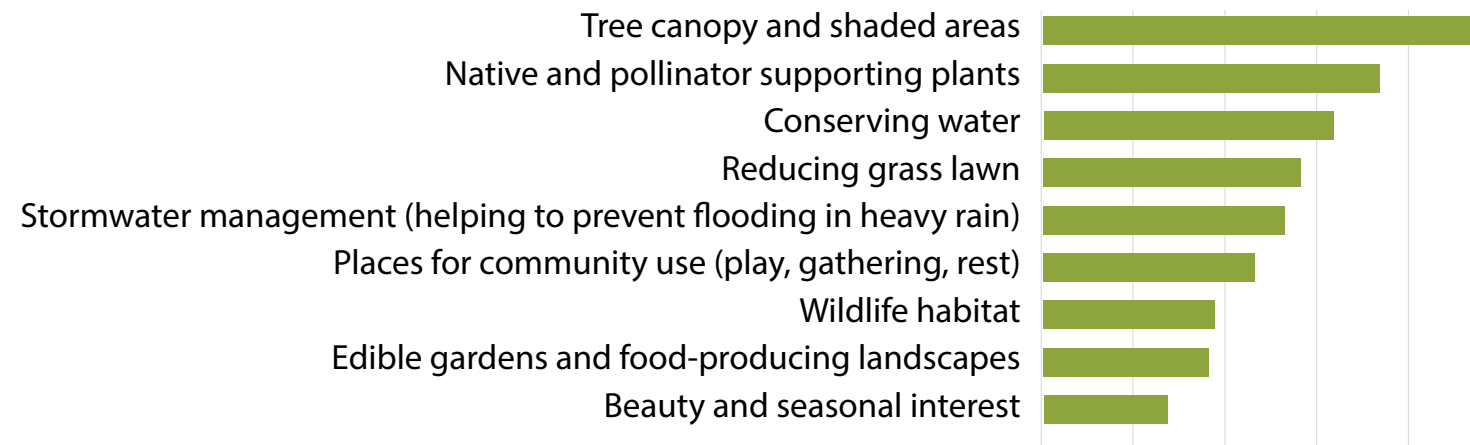
The survey was available online beginning on June 27th and was distributed through the project newsletter, webpage, social media, City Council offices, Registered Neighborhood Organizations, and professional organizations. The survey was completed by 478 individuals.




Number of responses: 478

Landscape Priorities

What landscape requirements should we prioritize to promote a more climate resilient city?




What should be prioritized for new front yards?




Trees and Shade

Many participants expressed the desire for shade, tree canopy, and the replacement of lost trees.




Water Conservation

Participants expressed a general preference for native, drought-resistant plants, reducing grass lawns, and efficient irrigation systems.




Native Plants and Pollinator Support

Many participants expressed that native grasses, wildflowers, and other plants that support wildlife would be good replacement for grass lawns.




Green, Living Landscapes

Participants called for low-water use landscapes that are green and living. Many participants discouraged 'rockscaping' because it increases urban heat, does not support wildlife, and is not aesthetically pleasing.



Support and Education







Several participants highlighted the need for public education, as well as incentives and programs to help residents transform and maintain their landscapes.



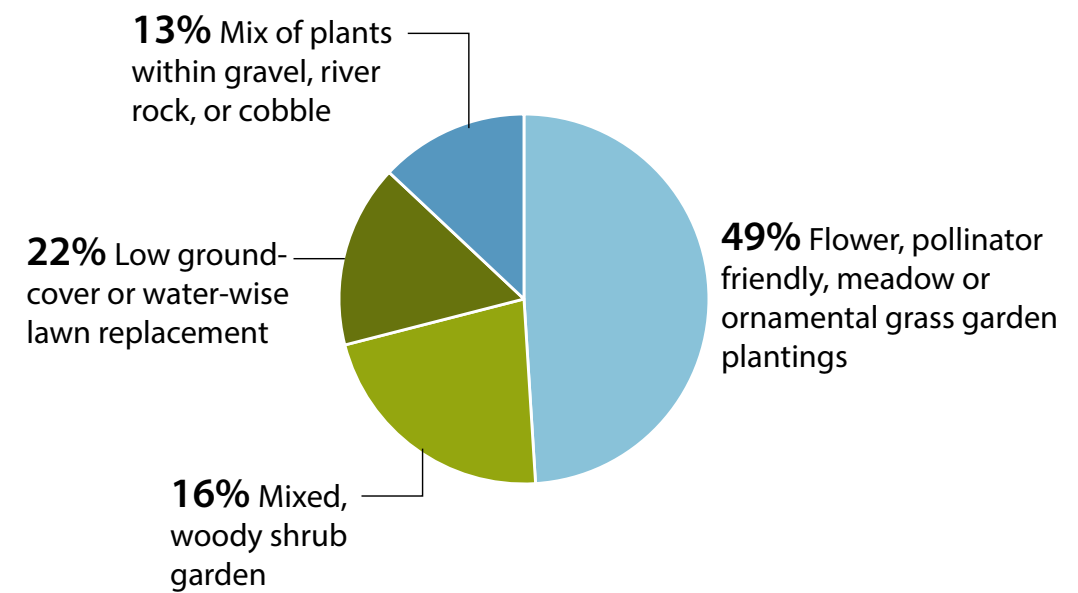
Flexibility and Equity

Some participants expressed that the rules should not be a "one size fits all approach" and must consider the type of property and burden to homeowners.

What should be prioritized for non-residential landscapes?

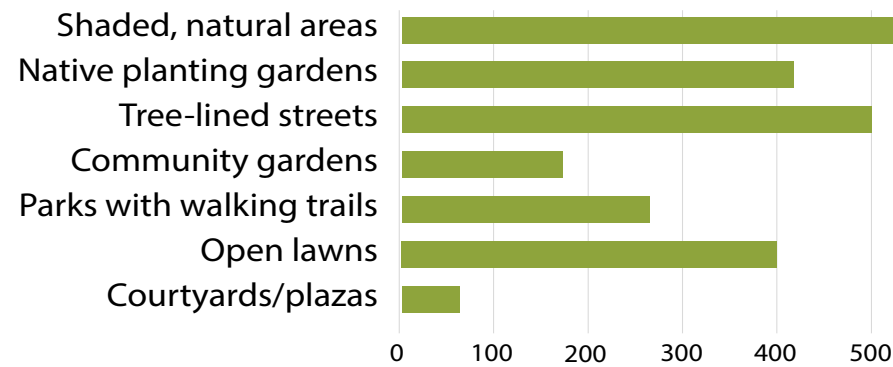
-  Trees and shade - many participants expressed the desire for shade, tree canopy, and the replacement of lost trees.
-  Water conservation – participants supported minimizing water use, mostly through reducing grass lawns and using drought-tolerant plant species.
-  Functional landscape and community spaces – participants expressed the desire for non-residential landscapes and outdoor areas to be comfortable and usable, not just decorative.
-  Native plants and pollinator support – participants support landscaping that is native and pollinator and wildlife friendly.
-  Stormwater management and permeability – participants expressed the importance of managing runoff, reducing the urban heat island effect, and making sure landscape features allow water to return to the ground.
-  Maintenance and enforcement – some participants highlighted the importance of maintaining landscape and enforcing rules. New plantings often die due to lack of care.

In areas where grass lawn is not needed or sustainable, what would you like to see instead?



Landscape Vision

What types of outdoor spaces in Denver do you find most enjoyable or inspiring?



The City and County of Denver and the State of Colorado are moving toward landscapes that are more resilient, climate-adapted, and need less water. What ideas do you have to achieve this goal?

Water conservation

- Reduce high water use lawns and incentivize drought-tolerant and native plants.
- Public education around xeriscaping, rain gardens, and smart irrigation.

Policy reform

- Require new developments to use water-wise landscaping.
- Stricter regulation and higher water rates for big users and tying landscape upgrades to redevelopment.

Equity and access

- Make incentives or resources accessible to lower-income neighborhoods.
- Address under maintained landscape and enforcement issues.

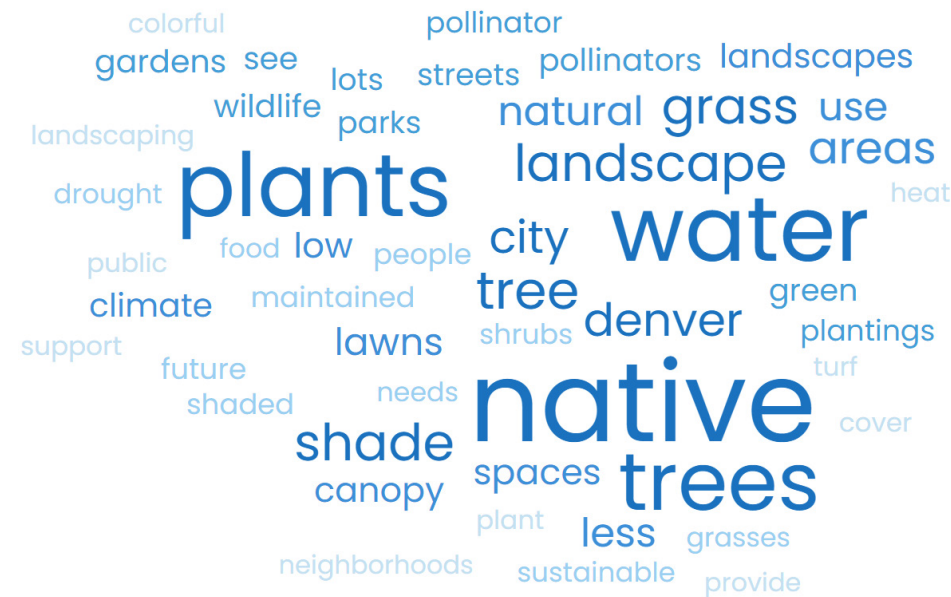
Community involvement and education

- More opportunities to see resilient landscapes in action, like demonstration gardens, neighborhood workshops, and public buildings with native landscaping.
- Include practical, step by step support, not generic resources.
- Partner with community groups, universities, and local experts.

Tree canopy

- Plant more trees for shade.
- Favor native plants and biodiversity over manicured turfgrass lawns.

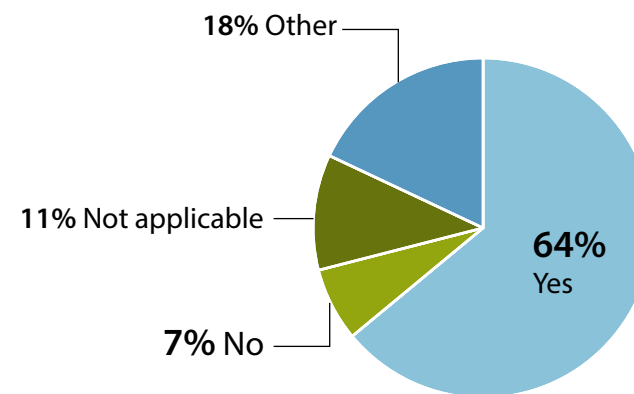
In one sentence, describe your ideal future landscape for Denver in 10 years—especially in light of climate challenges and water use.



Many participants used the following descriptors to talk about their ideal future landscape for Denver.

- Low-water and drought resistant
- Trees and shade
- Pollinator-friendly
- Green spaces that are accessible, safe, and distributed equitably throughout the city
- Community spaces, including community gardens, public seating, and plazas

The city is also putting together a list of existing resources for Denver residents and property owners who want to change their landscapes. Would you be interested in changing your landscaped areas to be more resilient and use less water if financial and education resources were available?



What do you want Denver's landscape to feel like when you walk around your neighborhood and look around?

