

Quick statistics

Survey 369648 'Feb 2018 Tree Survey'

Results

Survey 369648

Number of records in this query:	265
Total records in survey:	265
Percentage of total:	100.00%

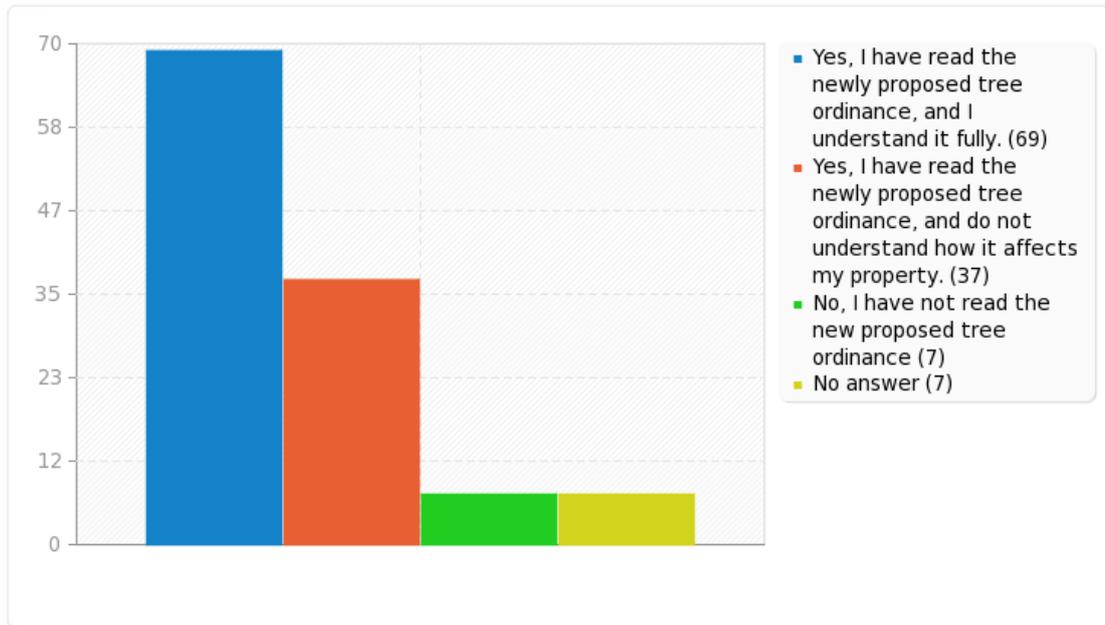
Field summary for Q1

Have you read the attached newly proposed tree ordinance?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes, I have read the newly proposed tree ordinance, and I understand it fully. (A1)	69	57.50%
Yes, I have read the newly proposed tree ordinance, and do not understand how it affects my property. (A2)	37	30.83%
No, I have not read the new proposed tree ordinance (A3)	7	5.83%
No answer	7	5.83%

Field summary for Q1

Have you read the attached newly proposed tree ordinance?



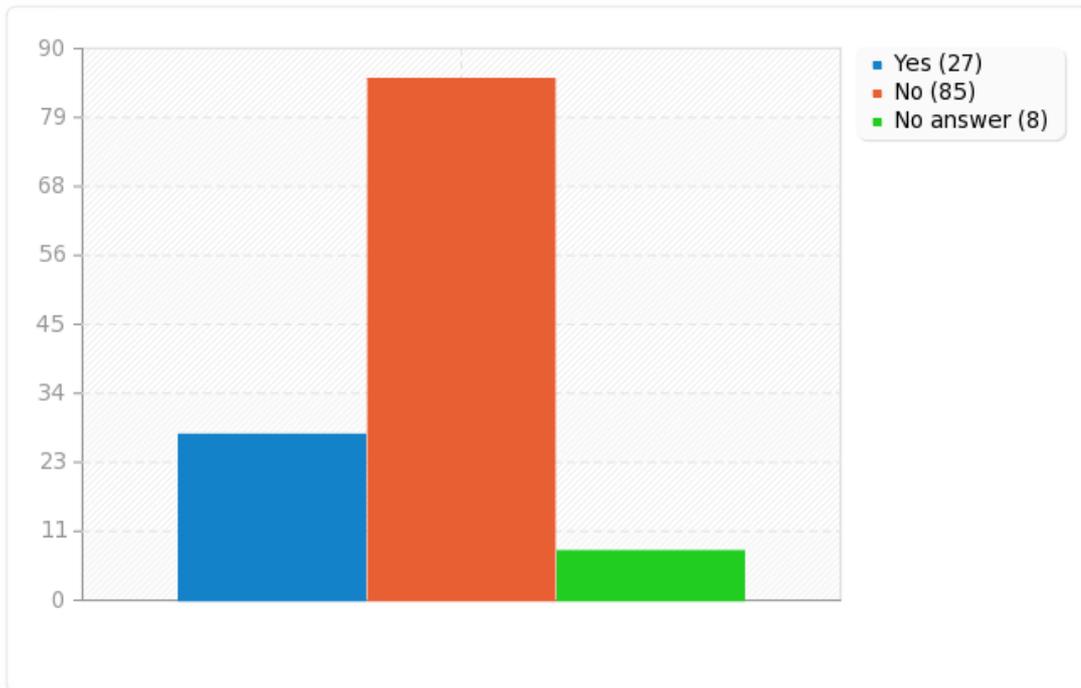
Field summary for Q2

Do you feel Sky Valley benefits from the newly proposed tree ordinance?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (A1)	27	22.50%
No (A2)	85	70.83%
No answer	8	6.67%

Field summary for Q2

Do you feel Sky Valley benefits from the newly proposed tree ordinance?



Field summary for Q3

After reading the newly proposed tree ordinance. please tell us how you feel about the new proposed tree ordinance, and how would you like the council to vote?

Answer	Count	Percentage
I do not agree with the newly proposed tree ordinance and request the City Council not pass the newly proposed tree ordinance. (A1)	88	73.33%
I do agree with the newly proposed tree ordinance, and requests the City Council pass and implement the newly proposed tree ordinance (A2)	22	18.33%
Comments	73	60.83%
No answer	10	8.33%

ID	Response
5	This has been a disaster for inception. I hope this council will put an end this!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
14	Since this is not a deed restricted community, I believe that a homeowner should have control of his property.
15	The proposed ordinance is a vast improvement over the existing ordinance. It is the culmination of many hours of work and incorporates input by many of the city's residents. If you fail to adopt this ordinance we will stuck with the existing ordinance.
16	In general, I agree the "Tree Portion" of the proposed ordinance is much better than the existing "Tree" ordinance. However, the inclusion of the "Shrub" portion is far overreaching. I would support adopting the "Tree" portion of the ordinance to replace the existing "Tree" ordinance and work on a new "Shrub" ordinance to replace or amend the existing Shrub ordinance. I do not think we need a shrub ordinance at all but if it is felt we do need one it needs to be a separate ordinance. Combining the two issues Tree and Shrub make permitting, mitigation, etc. just too complex and overreaching. My major concern with both the tree and the shrub ordinance is the "Mitigation" requirements.
19	I wish we had no ordinance at all if not accepting this one does that mean the old one is still good?if other areas such as highlands does not need one why should we. When I bought here we had no idea that we would be policed like this I think every real estate agent should tell prospective buyers about this. Not wait they buy and be blindsided with this as e were years ago I hate living in a police state and hope we can be here long enough to finally live in peace and stop all the bickering. Jackie Bell
28	There is nothing wrong with the old ordinance. We do not need any more restrictions
33	I believe everyone should have the right to control their own property. What is the problem in the first place. There appears to be more people getting permits to cut trees in fear of this ordinance.
37	I feel like the proposed tree ordinance is too restrictive and confusing. It seems like it was prepared by an attorney so that only an attorney could truly understand it. Make it plain & simple in plain English so everyone can understand it. It seems like we cannot cut trees down to continue or improve our view. The VIEW is what sells Sky Valley!
41	I replied to and then read the responses to Chip's survey in 2016, and only a few were in support, it totally amazed me that they didn't listen to us then. I hope you are all listening NOW, we don't a new tree ordinance
45	Dear Councilman, The only purpose of the "new ordinance " was to assist our permitting officer in his job. All it does is to broaden definitions of the current ordinance. You want the expanded definitions in the event of litigation. It is broader than what we have. Please support this; you want this change! We all own property in Sky Valley and only want what is best! As a leader you know we need rules. As a former insurance agent , all of my cities had rules; rules protect what we have here in this most beautiful place . No one is trying to tell property owners what they can do ; however, we do not want to see clear cutting just so it's to their benefit. Every city has rules! Also, if we are implementing workshops, if you do not act in support of a two year workshop consisting of property owners and input from the citizens it will be very disappointing. The committee recommended to approve ; if you do not listen to the recommendations of your committee what's the point? Councilman Al and his wife mentioned they had researched this issue with my he Forestry Department; they were not here when th committee had someone ,speak from th Forestry department. A lot of work ; two years into the updated Tree Ordinance ; it will serve the City in providing

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	the expanded definitions in the event of litigation.
	I applaud your request; I was fearful you would not listen to others. Thank you!
49	Ordinance to restrictive.
51	I do not think we need a tree ordinance at all. Our property is our responsibility.
52	I see no reason to change the current tree ordinance,
53	Too much city control on our property. When our property was built, It had a wonderful view. Now we have, as it is often referred to, a winter View. We are now overgrown with trees that are no more than weeds and full of kudzu. How does that benefit the city? Why do I need permits to repair things that are a problem and devalue our property? Why were some people been allowed to maintain a decent View, and others were denied and force to live surrounded by too many trees that are problematic in storms and ice? No, under no circumstances pass this relic of the old Council masquerading as a new ordinance. We have made a substantial investment into this community, we would like the privilege of being able to maintain its value.
64	I have a large investment in my property. I do not need someone to tell me how to take care of it. REGULATIONS REGULATIONS REGULATIONS
66	My thoughts are: 1. I appreciate the time and effort put into the proposed ordinance by the committee. It is understandable with that much time they would be expected to and want to make changes. 2. I see not one reason to change what is in place today so please do not vote for the proposed tree ordinance.
68	Propose more meetings when the majority of taxpayers are available to attend. Clarification is needed. Every homeowner has different problems and most just want to maintain the beauty of their property and the value of their investment. This is not an unreasonable expectation nor should we worry or have to jump through hoops to attain it.
74	We have to have the new tree ordinance to keep what happened in Towns County Ga., if you cut all the trees you have, they will stick out like Honeybear above us. Vote for the new tree ordinance. Thank you
78	Too complicated and too restrictive
80	I'm not sure some of the information is a little difficult to understand I am going to try to be at the meeting Tuesday
81	Having been involved with tree ordinances in the past I find this one to be beneficial to the residents ok Sky Valley. It has been hashed and rehashed for two years. The resident have had their input. Why continue to revisit it again. I implore the current administration pass the ordinance as presented.
91	One of the most complicated ordinance I have ever read. Overreaching, too specific in some areas and too general in others. As an aside, I have been crying out for years about the most serious problem looming over SV-Kudzu. It has now invaded the western parts of the city and will make the tree ordinance unnecessary as no trees will be left. Just look at the area below the waterfall.
95	Sky Valley needs to work with the US Forestry Service to "thin" the density of our forest. They have programs to reduce the chance and severity of forest fires. That seems to be much more important instead of City's attempt to control homeowners. Bob Sprecher
98	Citizens had ample opportunity to provide input at public hearings and appropriate adjustments were made to address public concerns.
105	I believe guidelines are very necessary to assist the property owner and the city enforcement officer to help decide how many trees in one area should be allowed to cut/trim and that replacing unwanted tall trees with shorter less intrusive tree varieties will enhance the beauty of properties both for the owner and other citizens who view that property from afar. helen kleiber
107	This represents government interference at its worst. The Code Enforcement officer is a virtual dictator with discretion to rule as he or she sees fit, subject to a complicated and time consuming appellate process. There are plenty of definitions and rules and few standards applicable to the decision making of the code enforcement officer/dictator. Personally, I'd rather pay a \$1000 fine than have to try and navigate this unwieldy and burdensome maze. Every property owner recognizes the contribution the trees make to the area, and few will destroy it. However, each property owner knows what works best for his or her property, what trees need to be trimmed, and what trees need to be removed for legitimate construction or to improve the view. To suggest, as this ordinance does, that individual property owners are incapable of these decisions without "big brother's" rules, without a dictatorship, is to suggest

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- that freedom of choice is on the decline. If similar rules were proposed for gun owners, all hell would break loose-and rightly so. Jimmy Hightower 1291 Saddleback Cir.
- 118 The new ordinance is much better than the current one. This should be very obvious to anyone who is also familiar with the current ordinance. I believe that many people may not be. Your survey would be much better if you also asked that question. This seems a bit one sided, would you not agree?
- 119 The City of Sky Valley has more control over the tax payers property. The losers here are the tax payers! We loose value, and it would decrease opportunity of any future buyers.
- 124 The proposed ordinance requires a Ph.D. Arborist to understand what it says and means. Since we only have 4 trees on our property it has no direct impact.
- 125 I would like to thank you for hearing from us who are not in residence year round. No, we can't vote, but, unless I am mistaken, we make up most of the tax revenue in the city yet many issues are brought to the council in winter. I was very against the previous version but find this one more clear and reasonable
- 129 I have read it several times over the last year as it was "improved." I've questioned the intention of wanting to control the trees and shrub on the private property in SV. Massive overkill. What's wrong with what we have? Where are current "abuses" in their mind?
- 140 TOOOOOO intrusive, bureaucratic, unnecessary and wasn't asked for. STOP wasting time on this issue and bury it deep!!
- 141 The existing tree ordinance is poor at best and the new one should be approved and worked with to allay mistakes.
- 148 It is confusing and to restrictive. If people can't take advantage of the beautiful sky's valley views, they will resist buying property there .
- 151 I don't believe in clear cutting property, however, I can't tolerate government telling me what I can do with my property. The ordinance appears to be written by a lawyer and difficult to follow. Nothing wrong with the old ordinance lets just keep things simple.
- 152 The ordinance seems overly complicated to understand by layman (property owners) , with difficult to follow rules that will lead to many fines (revenue for city) and even more expense by property owners having to find contractors who qualify. The few who do will charge higher rates. It seems to me that the city will be the only winner it this new ordinance is adopted.
- 156 First off, at every meeting where tree ordinance proposal was discussed, the residents were against it. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". Secondly, this is another example of the bureaucratic gov't expanding itself to justify it's means. This is the city's way of the utilizing the Code Enforcement Officer at an additional unnecessary expense.
- 157 The City of Sky Valley is the only one that benefits from this ordinance. The tax payers loose, we loose value on our property, we loose future new residents wanting to live in Sky Valley. This ordinance should not be passed!
- 166 I don't fully understand it, but there was not a choice, I've read the ordinance and somewhat understand it. However, it appears to be significantly more acceptable than the first ordinance proposal I reviewed last year.
- 170 The ordinance is way too complicated . Explanation of procedures helpful.
Allowed removal: danger to property, cut and replace, no clear cutting, no more than 50% removal.
- 175 I think there are some "flat-landers" who would clear-cut everything if allowed too. Sky Valley does not need that.
- 176 I do not agree excessive verbiage .
Hank and Maranell Fleming
Sky High Drive
- 180 too much government intervention
- 181 Even though I agree that homeowners should not be able to clear cut or top trees just to improve their view I think that this regulation is a bit too restrictive in it's regulations in numerous areas. I think that the City Council needs to review this ordinance . I just had about twenty trees either cut down or trimmed of limbs around our house in Sky Valley. Some of the trees were dead and some were removed to help our view and thin out around the house. I told the inspector that I agreed with some of the new ordinance when he was at our house to give us a permit. What's interesting is I then pointed to the property above us on Ridgepole where the homeowner clear cut a large amount of trees next to their house. He acted surprised that there were that many trees cut! This is unacceptable that your inspector didn't realize that this had occurred.
- 191 We bought and built a house in Sky Valley BECAUSE there were strict ordinances on house size, trees, naturalness, etc. We WANT good restrictions to increase because they help keep the area more natural and thus, more valuable. It seems that the last election was stirred by those that "want to do whatever on their property they want" which is a big mistake. The tree ordinance is just common sense to conform to the Georgia Mountains ACT and preserve the natural surroundings.

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- 195 We have enough rules — let's try more common sense and less regulations.
- 196 I do not understand what was wrong with the original tree ordinance. I bought my home in 2003 and ever since there has been a move to change this ordinance. Why cant we j ust leave things alone.
- 197 I'm most appreciative of you taking the time to listen to fellow homeowners. We need a lot less bureaucracy at Sky Valley. Sky Valley is a place where you come to relax and unwind - not where you come to get wound up. A 2" tree restriction is a JOKE!!
Some people have way too much time on there hands to write such a lengthy and ridiculous tree ordinance. Stupid is as stupid does!
- 202 Mayor and Council:
Regarding the city tree ordinance: Sky Valley is virtually awash with trees. Common sense would dictate that an ordinance limiting a property owner's rights to control his own landscape is totally redundant in our community. I would not like to see ridgelines denuded of trees, but other than that it would seem that no legal binding is necessary. Thus it would seem that the appropriate thing for the city Council to do is to repeal the existing tree ordinance and then consider one which would accomplish the above. Yours truly, Reuel Hamilton, 476 Alex Mountain Drive.
- 203 The city inspector requested more specific guidelines than the current ordinance provides. After two years of discussion, most attendees in the last P&Z meeting agreed they could live with the proposed new ordinance, with the provision that guidelines on shrubbery replacement are revised. The proposed ordinance is certainly longer than the current one but can be revised in the future if needed. Please pass this version to support your city inspector.
- 211 We have been a small incorporated city for 35 years and have been without an ordinance of this venture, do you really think we need it at this time. Most everyone has moved here for the beauty of the area and not one person would intentionally cut or disrupt the value of the property.
- 218 This is an unnecessarily cumbersome ordinance. I only understand it because I attended all the workshops and followed its drafting closely. I believe that most of the ordinance is completely unnecessary. Mitigation is ridiculous. The only thing that I think should be in an ordinance is prohibiting clear cutting.
- 219 I understand the need for a tree ordinance in Sky Valley. I just wish the new proposal was less complex and overbearing. I also, understand the old tree ordinance needs to be changed, clarified or updated and this may be the best tree ordinance for Sky Valley . I was only able to attend one of the discussion meetings, so I will need to trust you and the others on the board make the correct/best decision for Sky Valley, with the least burden on the taxpayers.
- Secondarily and not related to tree ordinance, I am concerned with the lack of the to city to clean out/maintain ditches, drains and washout areas around our roadways and driveways. I was previously told the leaf machine was not in service but when it is working, the crew does a poor job getting up leaves/sticks and storm debris.
- Thank you very much for reaching out to the taxpayer for our opinion. I appreciate your concern with our views and needs.
- 223 I do not understand what problem(s) have arisen that need to be addressed with changes to the existing ordinance. The Council should define exactly what matters need to be fixed and then craft an ordinance that addresses those in the least restrictive manner possible. And if it ain't broke don't fix it.
- 231 The power it conveys is much too sweeping and permits too much control to City Hall.
- 234 We do not have a copy of the tree ordinance-how can we get one to read and vote? Don Brown @ Lyds1823@Yahoo.com
- 236 What was the issue with the previous ordinance?. I am not in favor of any ordinance that is more restrictive in nature.
- Ed Manthey
- 240 We need afar less restrictive tree ordinance however we do need to maintain some restrictions decisions and standards
Cuttings do impact the community and consideration for neighbors is important but if we are buying a view then we should have that opportunity to enhance both for enjoyment and to increase property values
- 242 I didn't know how to answer these questions and you can ignore my answers. I have read the proposed ordinance and it would take an army of lawyers, forresters, and arborists to understand it. An explanation in layman's terms would be nice. How is the proposed ordinance different from the old one??
- 251 I not sure I agree with the newly proposed tree ordinance? Does the city really have a

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	problem with this?
	I had a neighbor come onto my property and cut trees to improve his view without asking. I think this is what the city should be looking out for.
	I do want to tell you that I appreciate your keeping the taxpayers informed and asking for input. This is a refreshing change. Thank You.
253	See separate email.
255	I believe that the EXISTING (not proposed) ordinance is appropriate and adequate. While I absolutely do not believe that lots should be clear cut to create views , I do believe each homeowner should have the ability to responsibly choose which trees to remove in order to maintain their views and enjoyment of their property; as well as to protect their property value without having to mitigate. The reason for having to obtain a permit (under the existing ordinance) is to allow the homeowner to collaborate with the city in order to implement a responsible solution. This is more than adequate. Additionally, Sky Valley does not have a proper "streetscape plan" to add to during the mitigation process. Sky Valley is not an urban environment, and most homes in Sky Valley are closer to overgrown than in need of additional tree canopy between the home and the road. I am not only a concerned homeowner, but I also practiced for many years as a licensed Landscape Architect in the state of Georgia. I worked on projects across the US, and successfully worked within the constraints tree ordinances in several states/local jurisdictions across the country. Thank you for your consideration.
257	Since we own the land our houses reside on, we also own our trees & should legally be able to do anything we want with our trees. If this ordinance passes it could open up a hornets nest & a possible class action lawsuit.
258	I believe that the repeal of the recently passed Tree Ordinance is beneficial to residents/property owners of the City. The recently passed Tree Ordinance does not adequately recognize that there are two distinct types of property owners in the City: those in wooded areas and those in essentially cleared areas.
260	After reading the ordinance, I just don't get "it" (the word "it", means why). As the old saying goes, if it ain't broke, don't fix it. While the P & Z committee has worked on this for 2 years, they came back with a more restrictive ordinance that favors a few and hinders many. Is the city willing to pay me for the "lost money" that will not, in all probability, be recouped because there is no view. We bought this property, mainly due to the view. So, now you say, "Sorry, this is what a few of us want and this is how it should be". Of course the P&Z committee used many of the recommendations from the Forestry Service, that's what they do, they preserve the forest. So their word is gospel. I believe that the property owners are responsible enough and should be allowed to maintain their property within certain guidelines. But to have a 13 page document with more "cannot do" than "can do". We are not a gated community, we are not a subdivision. We are individual property owners that simply want a place in the mountains, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Heck, we don't even have a grocery store. Sky Valley may be called a "city" but it's actually just a quaint little area of the mountains that is trying to enforce rules and regulations that they have in their "hometown " into the mountains. We don't have skyscrapers, Fortune 500 companies that we are trying to impress, we simply want our community to be what it was originally intended to be, a mountain getaway where we can relax and enjoy the peace and quiet and visit with our neighbors. By imposing this new set of regulations which ends up causing neighbors to disagree because of others views and it will eventually cause Sky Valley to be so restrictive, that no one will want to move there. Leave we'll enough alone. Many people that we have talked to have said that they would not consider a place in Sky Valley due to the number of restrictions it has. Sky Valley has more restrictions, across the board, than most small towns in Georgia have. How about gathering up all of the existing ordinances and sit down, one ordinance at a time and ask yourself, "Is this really necessary for Sky Valley and does it promote growth for the coming years?" That is the question you should be asking yourselves. Thank you, Steve Messer
263	I would like to not see any ridge lines clear cut. Otherwise, rescind the old and any new ordinances. Sky Valley has an abundance of trees...we are not going to run out of trees!! I believe the residents want their properties to look nice and are not going to damage their yards. I understand Highlands, NC has no tree ordinance. This new ordinance is about 50 pages too long. Just use some common sense!
264	I believe the ordinance is far too restrictive. I also believe each property issue should be handled on an individual basis rather than blanket the rules for all.
	Steve Powell
265	OVERLY COMPLICATED FOR WHAT IT IS TRYING TO SAY. SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF

- 267 **LAWYERS SAT DOWN AND DID THEIR BEST TO MUDDY UP THE WATERS**
I agree with the majority of the proposed ordinance, but the it needs to address the use of the felled trunks as erosion control devices on heavily sloped land or land not easily accessible. For instance, if a homeowner wishes to fell a dead or diseased tree on his property, but the trunk is not easily removed from the property (or erosion zones are created by the removal) the owner will simply let the tree fall on its own so he doesn't have to pay to have the trunk removed. Why penalize an owner for taking down dead/ dangerous trees by forcing him to pay costly removal fees when the trunk can be positioned to slow runoff on a steep slope?
- 268 I think that the proposed tree ordinance is a well thought out position that covers most every situation that I can think of and does a much better job of defining the situations with regard to tree cutting. The only fault I can see in the new ordinance is the removal of all tree cutting within the 14 day period following cutting of a tree. In many instances it would be far better to let nature (as was intended) to dispose of all the cuttings as long as it does not create an unsightly mess that would be seen by the neighbors. The branches, if cut up, would provide assistance to the soil and help in the prevention of erosion.
Bob Larsen
- 269 Kiss, keep it simple stupid. This ordinance is way, way overdone.
- 271 There is way too much subjectivity in the application. It doubt with it will pass Constitution scrutiny. It was apparently not reviewed an attorney that is familiar with the concepts of due process. Why should the City open itself to more litigation that should occur. The current ordinance is more than adequate if properly followed.
- 272 Not the time of year to vote on this needless change of the ordinance. Knowing this wasted foolishness would be presented for a vote, I would have bought outside of Sky Valley. If I sell, will the City compensate me for loss of rights and value?

Field summary for Q3

After reading the newly proposed tree ordinance. please tell us how you feel about the new proposed tree ordinance, and how would you like the council to vote?

