

**University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll – Topline Results**  
**74% of Americans Prefer a Yard over a Park, 43% Prefer Working by Themselves**  
**March 2, 2026**  
**November poll of U.S. Adults**

**Sample:** 1002 voting-age residents in the United States, margin of error +/-3.3%.

**About:** The Hawkeye Poll was fielded November 14 - November 20, 2025.

The poll was conducted by the Hawkeye Poll Cooperative, comprised of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in the Political Science departments. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project, and is directed by Frederick J. Boehmke, professor of political science. The Department of Political Science provides financial support for the poll.

The Iowa Center for Social Science Innovation (CSSI) assisted with survey programming and data collection. The CSSI contracted with Verasight to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of about 1000 respondents. Respondents invited to complete the web survey were U.S. adults, aged 18+, recruited for participation via web panel.

To further ensure data quality, the Verasight data team implements a number of post-data collection quality assurance procedures, including confirming that all responses correspond with U.S. IP addresses, confirming no duplicate respondents, verifying the absence of non-human responses, and removing any respondents who failed in-survey attention and/or straight-lining checks. The Verasight data team also reviewed open-ended items to ensure no responses contained nonsensical, inappropriate, or non-sequitur text. Respondents that completed the survey in less than 30% of the median completion time were removed.

**Student Research Team:** Martin Viles assisted with the preparation of this release.

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**Respondent Identification:** Verasight recruited participants from their community members of U.S. adults 18 years or older via email. All respondents who provided active consent and who passed a series of data quality assurance checks were included in the sample.

**Weighting:** The data are weighted to match the August 2025 Current Population Survey on age, race/ethnicity, sex, income, education, region, and metropolitan status, as well as to a running three-year average of partisanship distributions from the Pew Research Center NPORS benchmarking surveys and population benchmarks of 2024 vote.

**Questions:**

Note: for the first question in the collective action module, respondents were randomly split 50-50. One group was asked the following question about a house with a yard or a park while the other half was asked the subsequent question about working alone or in a group.

*Let's say you are moving to a new home and have narrowed the choice to two homes. The two homes are similar in every other factor, except one has a large personal yard that you can do with as you please, and the other has a park managed by the local community. If you were to choose the area with the park you would have a larger area to relax, with more amenities (a garden/basketball court/etc.) which you wouldn't be able to afford on your own, but you would have to share the space with others and compromise with them when choosing what to do with the park. Which home would you prefer?*

	%
Definitely yard	51.9
Probably yard	21.5
No preference	8.8
Probably park	11.9
Definitely park	4.0
Don't Know	1.7
Decline To Answer	0.2
Total	100.0

*Let's say you are moving to a new home, with responses grouped into "The Yard" and "The Park".*

	%
The Yard	73.4
No Preference	8.8
The Park	15.9
Don't Know	1.7
Decline To Answer	0.2
Total	100.0

*Imagine you are in a situation where if you were to work together with a group of people you could achieve more, but you would have to compromise with others in the group. Would you prefer working on your own or working with the group?*

	%
Always on my own	11.5
Usually on my own	30.0
No preference	17.3
usually with others	31.2
Always with others	5.9
Don't Know	4.1
Decline To Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*Working together with a group of people with responses grouped into "On my own" and "With others".*

	%
On My Own	41.4
No Preference	17.3
With Others	37.1
Don't Know	4.1
Decline To Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

Note: after being asked the previous questions, respondents for this module were again randomly split with equal probability, this time into three groups. One group was asked the follow up questions to explain their choices. The second group was asked whether a series of scenarios would change their mind.

Results for those in the first third:

*For those that chose the house with a yard:*

*We are interested in understanding your choice. Which of the following best explains your choice?*

	%
I simply prefer being able to choose what I want	53.9
I believe it is more efficient to work on my own	7.4
I do not believe I could do what I wanted to in a group	2.0
I want privacy	36.2
Other	0.4
Don't Know	0.0
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose the house with a park:*

*We are interested in understanding your choice. Which of the following best explains your choice?*

	%
I simply prefer working in a group	11.5
I believe it is more efficient to work as a group	34.7
I do not believe I could do what I want to do on my own	16.6
I want to be with others	29.9
Other	7.3
Don't Know	0.0
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose to work by themselves:*

*We are interested in understanding your choice. Which of the following best explains your choice?*

	%
I simply prefer being able to choose what I want	39.4
I believe it is more efficient to work on my own	44.5
I do not believe I could do what I wanted to in a group	1.4
I want privacy	13.8
Other	0.9
Don't Know	0.0
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose to work with a group:*

*We are interested in understanding your choice. Which of the following best explains your choice?*

	%
I simply prefer working in a group	5.3
I believe it is more efficient to work as a group	82.4
I do not believe I could do what I want to do on my own	1.8
I want to be with others	1.6
Other	5.2
Don't Know	3.7
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

Results for those in the second third:

*For those that chose the house with a yard:*

*For each of the following scenarios, please let us know how they would affect your choice: The community has shown interest in hearing what the new neighbors want done with the park*

	%
More Certain	25.3
No Effect	44.7
Less Favorable, but Unchanged	14.7
Would Change My Mind	6.8
Don't Know	8.5
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose the house with a park:*

*For each of the following scenarios, please let us know how they would affect your choice: The community has shown interest in hearing what the new neighbors want done with the park*

	%
More Certain	38.0
No Effect	32.6
Less Favorable, but Unchanged	14.0
Would Change My Mind	12.1
No Response/Don't Know	3.3
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose to work by themselves:*

*For each of the following scenarios, please let us know how they would affect your choice: The people you would work with are interested in hearing what you want and compromising with you.*

	%
More Certain	20.5
No Effect	32.1
Less Favorable, but Unchanged	22.5
Would Change My Mind	21.6
Don't Know	3.4
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose to work with a group:*

*For each of the following scenarios, please let us know how they would affect your choice: The people you would work with are interested in hearing what you want and compromising with you.*

	%
More Certain	57.3
No Effect	20.1
Less Favorable, but Unchanged	7.1
Would Change My Mind	7.3
No Response/Don't Know	3.5
Decline to Answer	4.7
Total	100.0

*For those that chose the house with a yard:*

*For each of the following scenarios, please let us know how they would affect your choice: The current council is quite rigid and unwilling to change much about the park.*

	%
More Certain	35.1
No Effect	42.1
Less Favorable, but Unchanged	12.9
Would Change My Mind	9.8
Don't Know	0.0
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose the house with a park:*

*For each of the following scenarios, please let us know how they would affect your choice: The current council is quite rigid and unwilling to change much about the park.*

	%
More Certain	6.0
No Effect	8.6
Less Favorable, but Unchanged	48.2
Would Change My Mind	25.3
Don't Know	11.9
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose to work by themselves:*

*For each of the following scenarios, please let us know how they would affect your choice: The group is quite rigid, and is unlikely to listen to your opinion.*

	%
More Certain	47.2
No Effect	26.1
Less Favorable, but Unchanged	14.3
Would Change My Mind	8.9
Don't Know	3.5
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose to work with a group:*

*For each of the following scenarios, please let us know how they would affect your choice: The group is quite rigid, and is unlikely to listen to your opinion.*

	%
More Certain	3.1
No Effect	15.3
Less Favorable, but Unchanged	41.0
Would Change My Mind	34.4
Don't Know	6.2
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose the house with a yard:*

*For each of the following scenarios, please let us know how they would affect your choice: The community focuses on keeping the costs of the park low.*

	%
More Certain	18.9
No Effect	53.5
Less Favorable, but Unchanged	15.4
Would Change My Mind	5.5
Don't Know	6.8
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose the house with a park:*

*For each of the following scenarios, please let us know how they would affect your choice: The community focuses on keeping the costs of the park low.*

	%
More Certain	38.2
No Effect	27.9
Less Favorable, but Unchanged	4.5
Would Change My Mind	16.9
Don't Know	12.4
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose the house with a yard:*

*For each of the following scenarios, please let us know how they would affect your choice: The park is rarely used, meaning you're likely to be left alone.*

	%
More Certain	14.0
No Effect	53.2
Less Favorable, but Unchanged	18.2
Would Change My Mind	12.0
Don't Know	1.9
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

*For those that chose the house with a park:*

*For each of the following scenarios, please let us know how they would affect your choice: The park is rarely used, meaning you're likely to be left alone.*

	%
More Certain	36.9
No Effect	30.1
Less Favorable, but Unchanged	11.6
Would Change My Mind	11.8
Don't Know	9.6
Decline to Answer	0.0
Total	100.0

Cross-tabulations of house versus yard preference:

*Prefer house or yard, by respondent age group*

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
The Yard	62.4	75.8	79.1	79.7	73.4
No Preference	10.6	11.7	4.2	6.0	8.8
The Park	23.6	11.5	14.2	14.4	15.9
Don't Know	3.3	1.0	1.8	0.0	1.7
Decline to Answer	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Prefer house or yard, by respondent gender*

	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
The Yard	65.5	80.0	100.0
No Preference	11.3	6.7	0.0
The Park	21.7	11.0	0.0
Don't Know	1.5	1.9	0.0
Decline to Answer	0.0	0.3	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Cross-tabulations of working alone or with a group preference:

*Prefer to work alone or with others, by respondent age group*

	18-34	35-54	55-69	70+	Total
	%	%	%	%	%
On My Own	45.7	43.7	41.7	26.7	41.4
No Preference	20.0	20.5	13.6	10.9	17.3
With Others	30.1	30.2	41.7	60.1	37.1
Don't Know	4.2	5.6	2.9	2.3	4.1
Decline to Answer	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Prefer to work alone or with others, by respondent gender*

	Male	Female	Total
	%	%	%
On My Own	36.5	46.7	41.4
No Preference	19.1	15.1	17.3
With Others	42.3	32.0	37.1
Don't Know	2.2	6.2	4.1
Decline to Answer	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0