

Zim Smith Trail

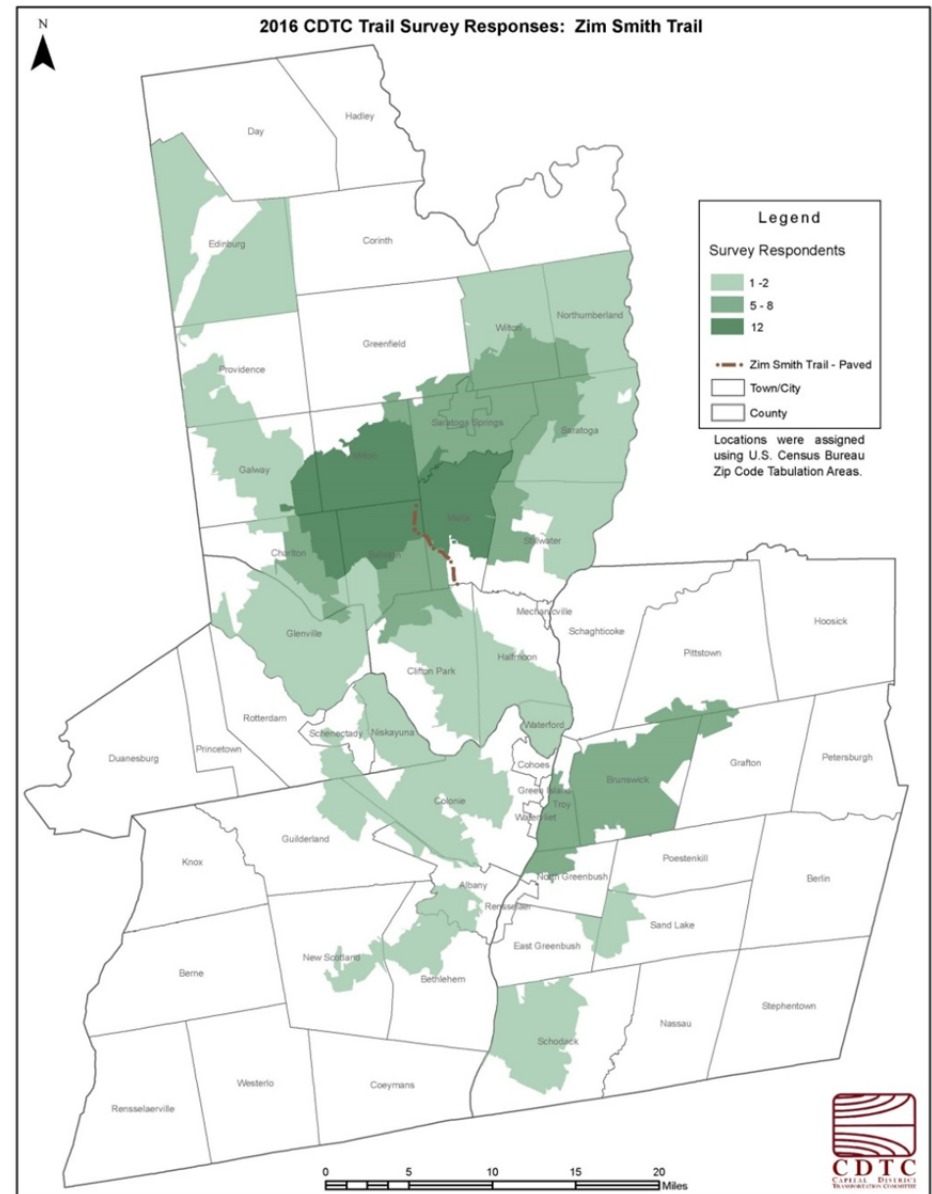
The Zim Smith Trail (ZST) is a 10-mile multi-use trail that connects Ballston Spa to Coon's Crossing in Halfmoon through the Towns of Ballston, Malta, and Clifton Park and the Village of Round Lake in Saratoga County. It is often referred to as the "backbone of the county trail system." It is the only trail in New York State to be designated a National Recreation Trail by the U.S. Department of Interior and National Park Service. An extension of the trail from Coon's Crossing into the City of Mechanicville is planned and will be constructed in the near future.

Volunteers collected 21 surveys at locations along the trail and 36 trail users indicated using the ZST on the online survey. Of the 36 surveys mailed to adjacent residential landowners, 17 were returned. The trail attracted users from 23 different zip codes. The highest number of trail users came from Ballston Spa, Ballston, Saratoga Springs, and Troy.

The ZST runs through predominantly suburban and rural communities of Saratoga County, connecting multiple parks and natural areas. Similar to other trails surveyed, there were more bicyclists than other modes and more male than female trail users.

Trail use increased at both count locations since 2006, but more than tripled at the Goldfoot Road / Round Lake Road area of the trail from.

Zim Smith Trail Users by Zip Code



Zim Smith Trail

Malta and Round Lake

Trail length – 10 miles

Estimated Annual Usage

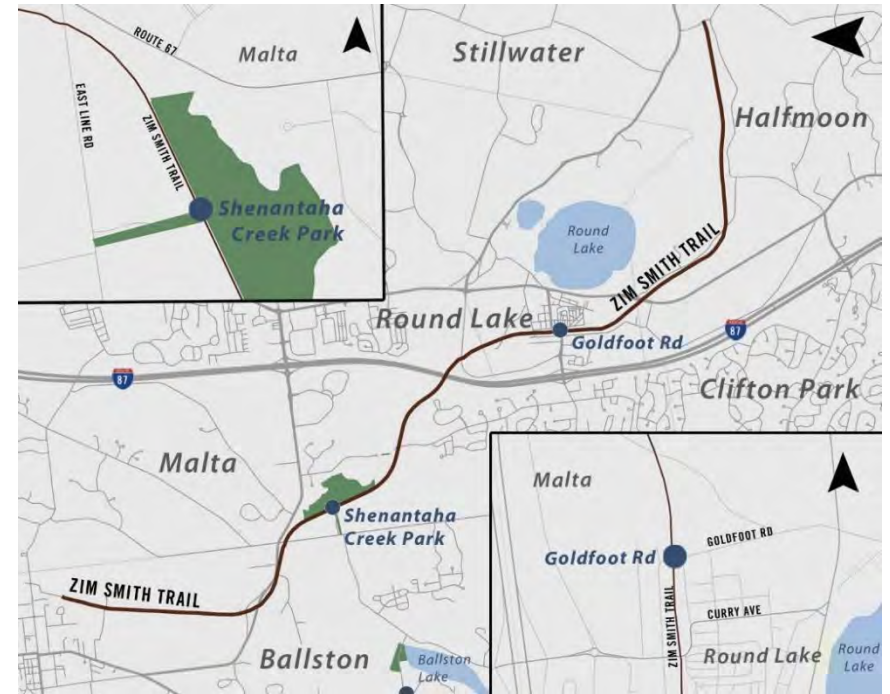
Shenantaha Creek Park	53,781
Goldfoot Road	79,677

Estimated Seasonal Usage

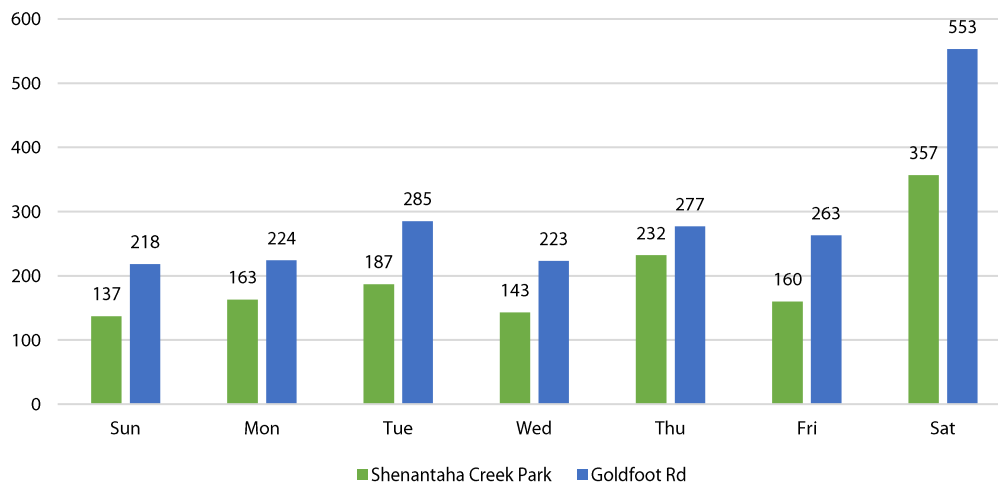
	Shenantaha Creek Park	Goldfoot Road
Winter	6,282	9,306
Spring	17,398	25,776
Summer	20,614	30,540
Fall	9,487	14,055

Usage Mode Split

	Shenantaha Creek Park	Goldfoot Road
Bicyclists	65%	51%
Pedestrians	34%	48%
Other	1%	1%



Daily Usage

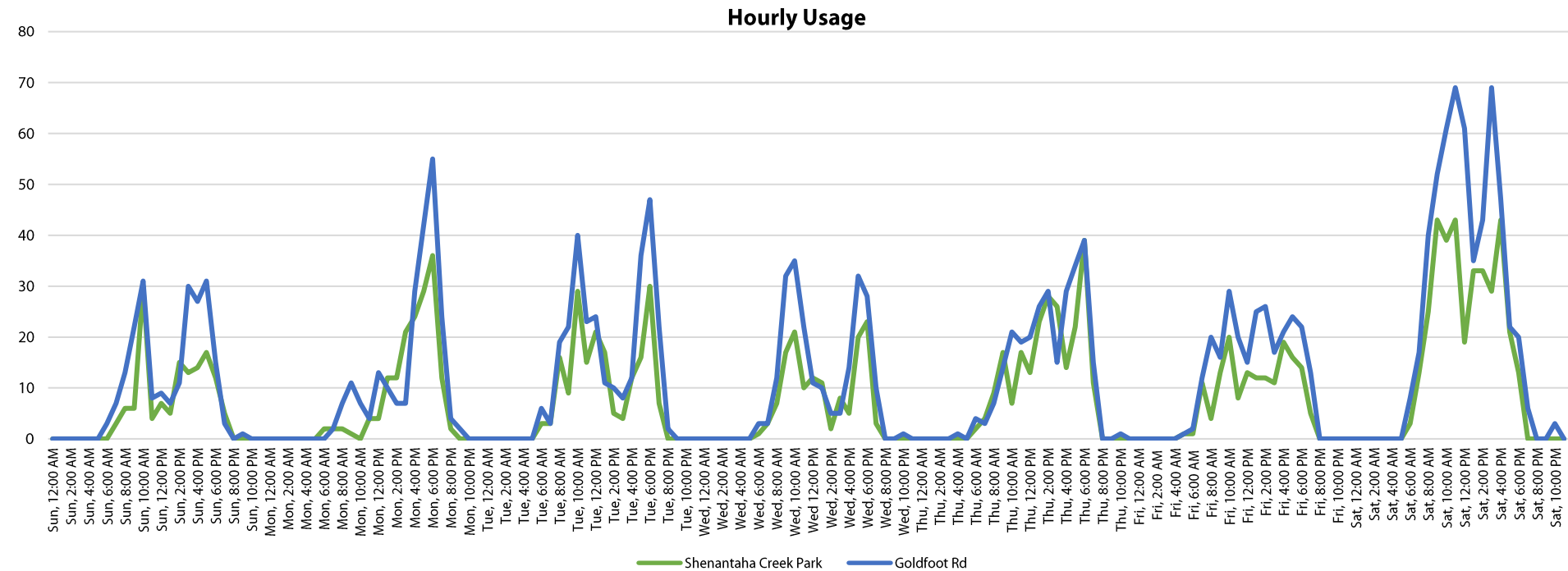


Daily Usage Profile

	Shenantaha Creek Park	Goldfoot Road
Average weekday	177	254
Average weekend	247	386
Maximum weekday	Thursday	Tuesday
Maximum weekend	Saturday	Saturday
Peak weekday usage	Monday, 5-7 PM	Monday, 5-7 PM
Peak weekend usage	Saturday, 9-11 AM	Saturday, 10 AM-12 PM

Estimated Monthly Usage		
	Shenantaha Creek Park	Goldfoot Road
January	1,613	2,390
February	1,613	2,390
March	3,765	5,577
April	5,916	8,764
May	5,916	8,764
June	6,454	9,561
July	6,992	10,358
August	7,529	11,155
September	5,916	8,764
October	3,227	4,781
November	3,227	4,781
December	1,613	2,390
Annual	53,781	79,677

Usage Gender Split				
	Shenantaha Creek Park		Goldfoot Road	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Bicyclists	25%	40%	23%	28%
Pedestrians	19%	16%	23%	25%
Overall	44%	56%	46%	54%

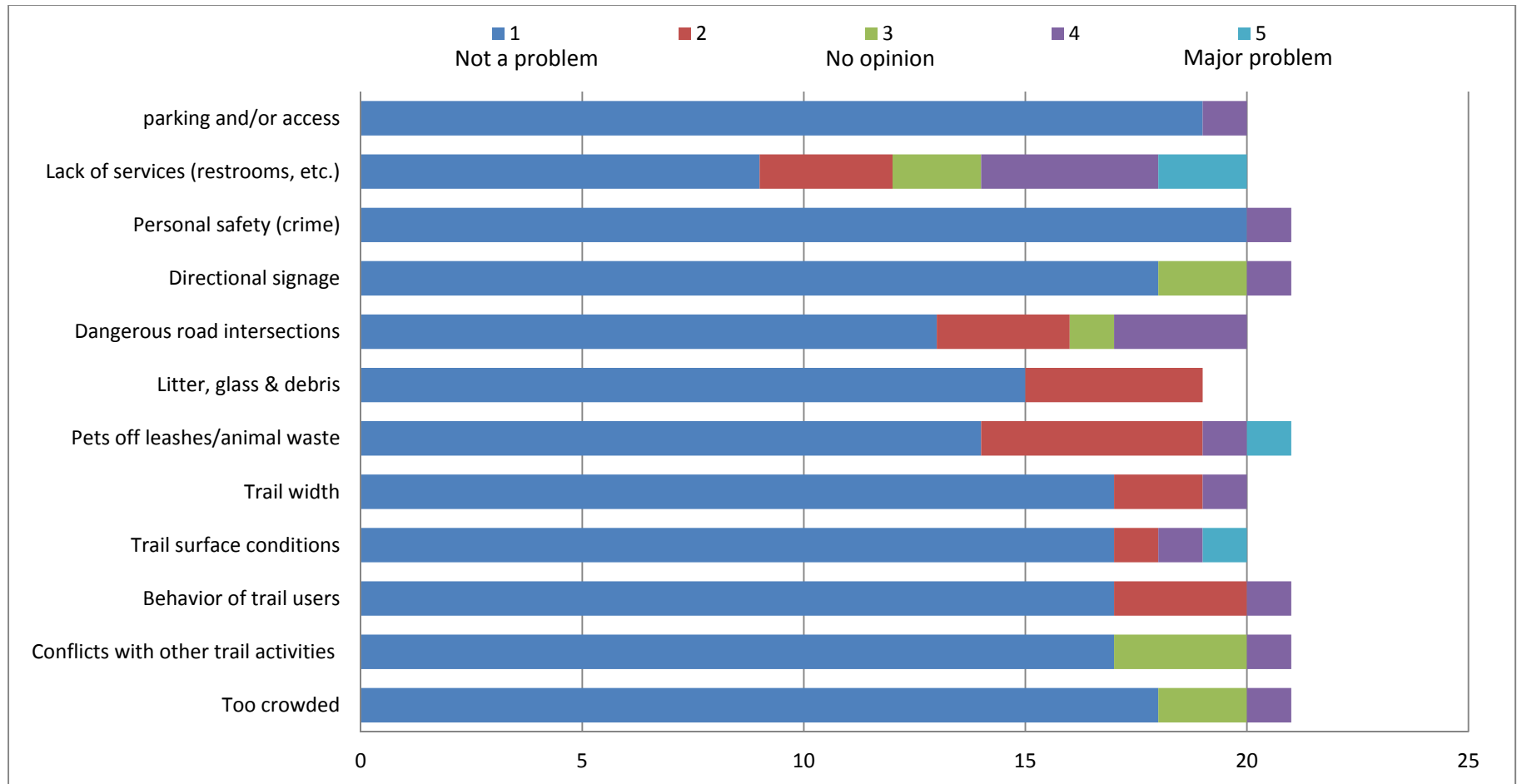


Trail User Survey Summary

Gender		
Male	8	38.1%
Female	13	61.9%
Age		
Under 16	1	4.8%
16-24	1	4.8%
25-44	5	23.8%
45-64	10	47.6%
65 or over	4	19.0%
How did you get to the trail today?		
Drove	19	90.5%
Bicycle	1	4.8%
Walk/Run	1	4.8%
Other	0	0.0%
How did you get to the trail today?		
Drove	19	90.5%
Bicycle	1	4.8%
Walk/Run	1	4.8%
Other	0	0.0%
What is your primary purpose for using this trail?		
Recreation	10	47.6%
Health/Exercise	17	81.0%
Commute to school/work	0	0.0%
Other	1	4.8%

About how many times have you used the trail during the past twelve months?		
Less than 5 days	5	23.8%
5-10 days	3	14.3%
11-24 days	8	38.1%
25-49 days	1	4.8%
50-100 days	0	0.0%
More than 100 days	4	19.0%
Are there sections of the trail that you avoid due to poor trail conditions or general concerns about trail maintenance?		
Yes	1	4.8%
No	20	95.2%
Is your visit to this trail part of an overnight trip away from home?		
Yes	1	4.8%
No	20	95.2%
How would you rate your current health status		
Excellent	6	28.6%
Very Good	9	42.9%
Good	5	23.8%
Fair	0	0.0%
Poor	0	0.0%

On a scale of 1-5, to what extent do you feel the following items are problems on the Zim Smith Trail?



Adjacent Residential Survey Summary

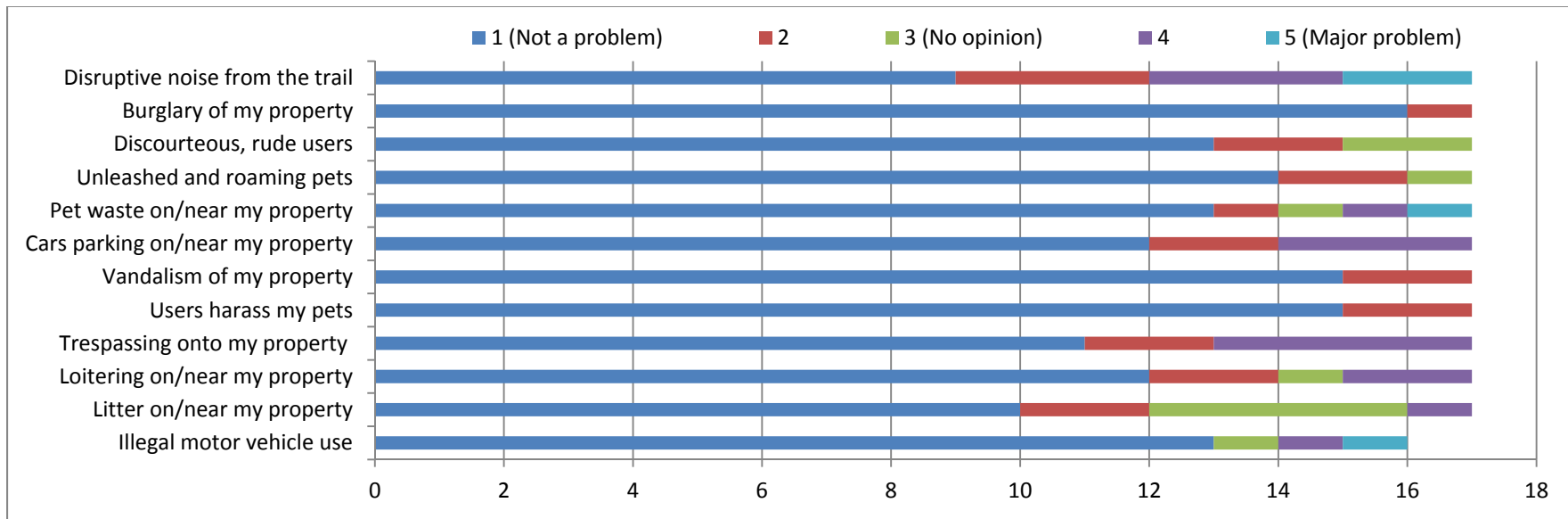
Which of the following most accurately describes how you use your property near the Trail?		
It is my primary residence	16	94.1%
I rent to a tenant, and do not occupy the residence	0	0.0%
It is my second home	0	0.0%
It is unoccupied	1	5.9%
Other	0	0.0%
Where is the trail in relation to your property line?		
The trail runs through my property	1	5.9%
the trail runs along the edge of my property	13	76.5%
The trail is near my property but not touching it	3	17.6%
Don't know	0	0.0%
Approximately how far (in feet) is the rail trail from your house?		
Less than 100 ft.	4	23.5%
100 ft. to 199 ft.	7	41.2%
200 ft. to 499 ft.	3	17.6%
500 ft. or more	2	11.8%
No answer	1	5.9%
Approximately how large is your property?		
Less than 1/2 acre	7	41.2%
Between 1/2 and 1 acre	1	5.9%
Between 1 and 3 acres	0	0.0%
3 acres or more	9	52.9%

What is the approximate current value of your property		
Less than \$99,999	0	0.0%
\$100,000-199,999	5	29.4%
\$200,000-299,999	5	29.4%
\$300,000-399,999	2	11.8%
\$400,000-\$499,999	3	17.6%
\$500,000 or more	1	5.9%
No answer	1	5.9%
How would you describe the setting of your house near the trail?		
Urban	0	0.0%
Suburban	9	52.9%
Rural	7	41.2%
No answer	1	5.9%
When did you acquire your house?		
After the trail was built	6	35.3%
Before the Trail was built	11	64.7%
Compare your initial reaction to the idea of living near the trail to how you feel about living near the trail today. Would you say that living near the trail is better or worse than you expected it to be?		
Much better	4	23.5%
Better	3	17.6%
Same	6	35.3%
Worse	2	11.8%
Much worse	1	5.9%
No answer	1	5.9%

Do you feel the trail poses a risk to your own or your family's safety due to the activities of trail users?		
Yes	2	11.8%
No	14	82.4%
No opinion	1	5.9%
If you were to try and sell your property, do you think being near the trail will make it harder or easier to sell?		
Much easier	1	5.9%
Easier	6	35.3%
Same	6	35.3%
Harder	3	17.6%
Much harder	0	0.0%
No answer	1	5.9%
How do you think being located near the trail has affected the resale value of this property?		
Lowered the resale value	2	11.8%
Increased the resale value	4	23.5%
No effect on the resale value	6	35.3%
No opinion	5	29.4%
Overall, how satisfied are you with having the trail as a neighbor?		
Very satisfied	9	52.9%
Satisfied	3	17.6%
Indifferent	3	17.6%
Unsatisfied	2	11.8%
Very unsatisfied	0	0.0%

How do you feel the trail has affected the quality of your neighborhood?		
Highly improved	2	11.8%
Improved	8	47.1%
No impact	6	35.3%
Worsened	1	5.9%
Completely deteriorated	0	0.0%
Do you feel your proximity to the trail has improved your physical activity levels?		
Yes	9	52.9%
No	7	41.2%
Not sure	1	5.9%
Do you feel that the development and management of trail is a good use of public funds?		
Yes	14	82.4%
No	1	5.9%
No opinion	2	11.8%
How often do the members of your household use the trail?		
Daily	2	11.8%
Frequently	7	41.2%
Occasionally	4	23.5%
Rarely	3	17.6%
Never	1	5.9%

To what extent do you feel the following items are problems for your household as a result of the trail and its users?



To what extent do you feel that the trail is important in providing the following benefits to the surrounding community?

