

Photo Source: Cory Bain-Buote, alltrails.com

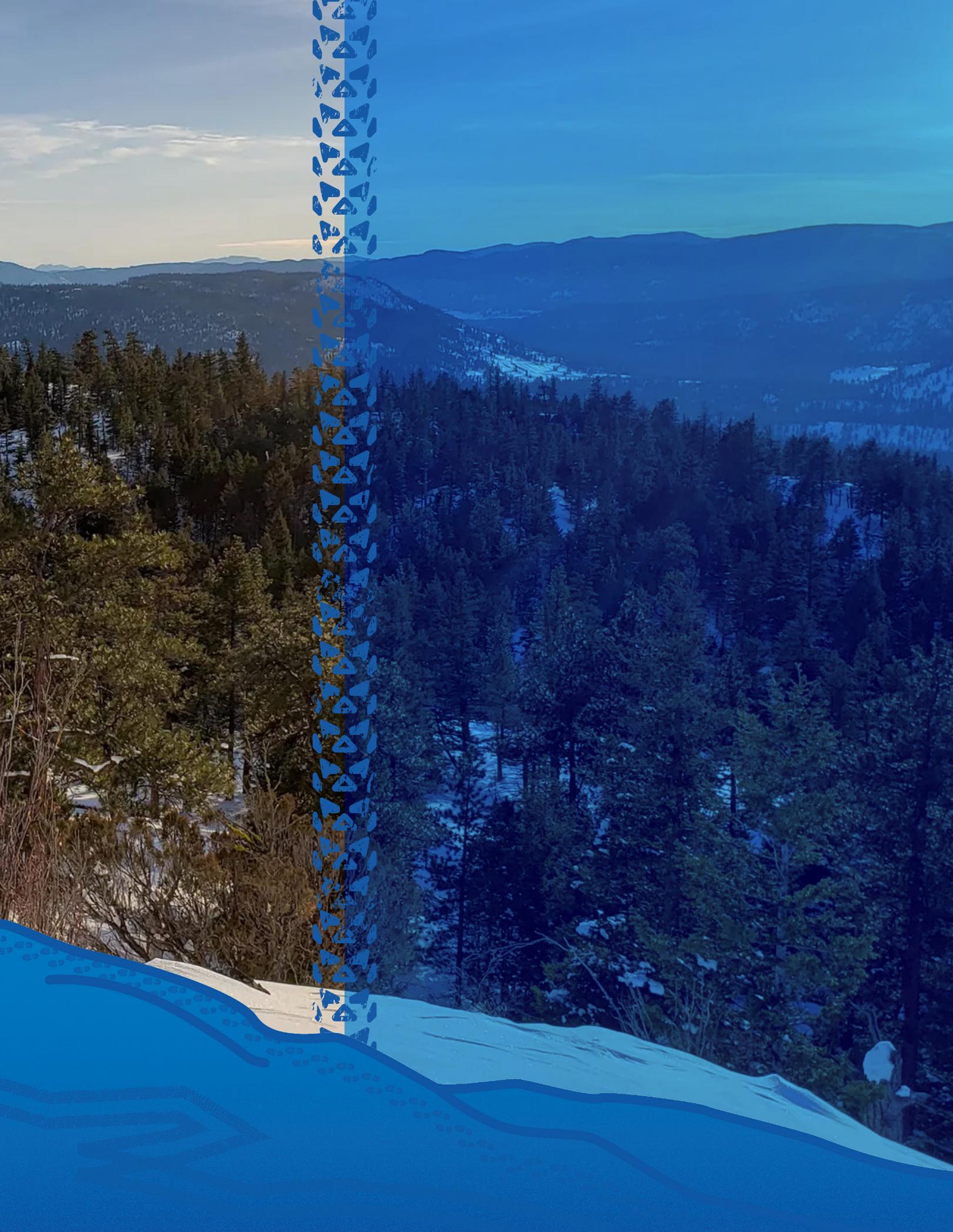
CARTWRIGHT MOUNTAIN TRAIL PLAN

# WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

DATE: FEBRUARY 2025









# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cartwright Mountain trail system is one of the most desired year-round recreation assets in the District of Summerland (District). In keeping with direction from the [District's Trails Master Plan \(2019\)](#), the District is working collaboratively with trail users, First Nations, landowners / managers, and interested organizations to prepare a trail plan for the Cartwright Mountain trail network.

To inform the plan, the District undertook a robust engagement process which began September 4 and closed on October 17, 2024. The community had the opportunity to share their ideas, concerns and input through an online survey, onsite sounding boards, an interactive online web map, stakeholder interviews, and written submissions.

## SNAPSHOT OF KEY LEARNINGS

While the learnings are significant, the following represent a brief snapshot of what was heard:

- The trail system is highly valued and supports a variety of activities year-round
- Participants were very satisfied with their recreational experience on the trail system

### Top Amenity Improvements

- Signage (wayfinding, educational, regulatory, interpretive)
- On-trail amenities (benches, repair stations)
- Provide new parking areas and improve trailhead amenities (wildlife-proof garbage cans, picnic tables, vault toilet, bike parking)
- Participants want to ensure amenities are basic and compliment the natural setting

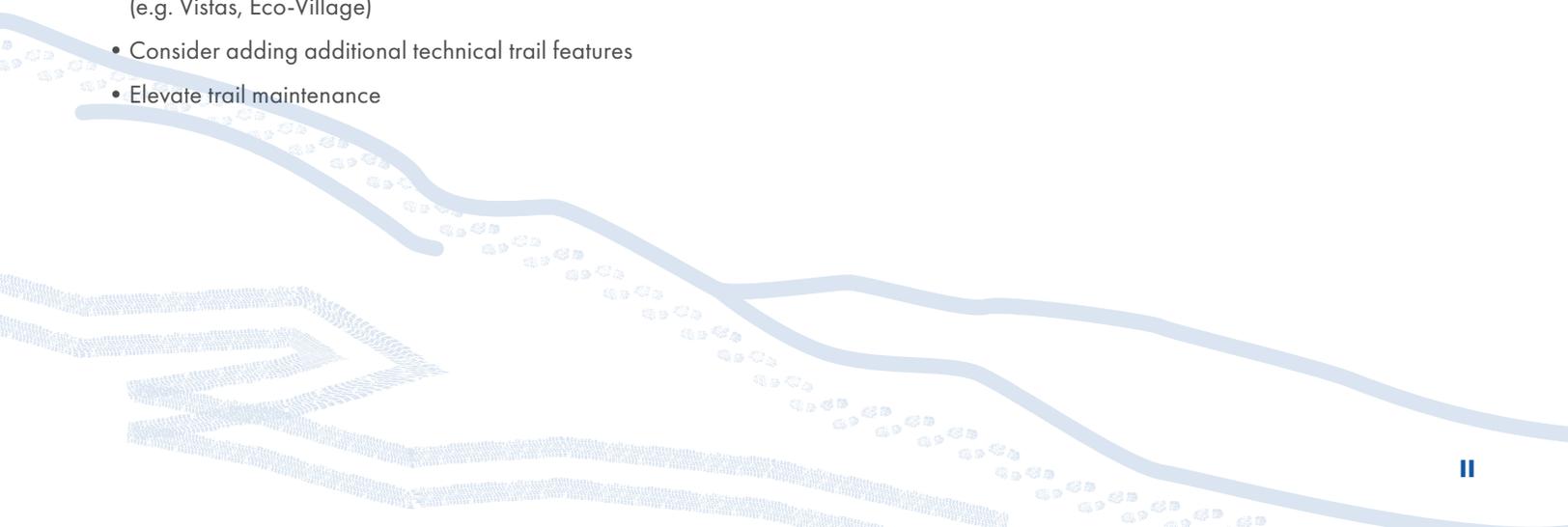
### Top Trail Improvements

- Clearly identify the network of non-motorized and mixed-use trails
- Reroute trails off private property where landowners do not support trail access
- Ensure that the connectivity of the most popular trails will be integrated into and retained through future land developments (e.g. Vistas, Eco-Village)
- Consider adding additional technical trail features
- Elevate trail maintenance

### Future Opportunities to Improve Governance, Trail & Visitor Management

- Collaborate with the Province and the owners or large private land parcels to explore options to formalize the trails on Crown and maintain trail connectivity on private lands
- Manage risk and liability to private landowners that authorize trails to cross their properties
- Address gaps in ecological and archaeological inventories
- Establish a volunteer stewardship group for trail maintenance
- Elevate environmental awareness and responsible recreation
- Address trail conflicts with motorized users, dog walkers, and equestrian/mountain bikers

For further details on the key learnings, please see section 2. For details on the input received by each engagement tactic, please see section 3.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT	3
1.2 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS & TACTICS	4
1.3 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS COMMUNICATIONS & PROMOTIONS	6
1.4 FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT STATUS	7
<b>2. SUMMARY OF EMERGING THEMES</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>3. ENGAGEMENT INPUT BY ENGAGEMENT TACTIC</b>	<b>12</b>
3.1 ONLINE PUBLIC SURVEY	13
3.2 ONLINE INTERACTIVE CROWDSOURCE MAP	45
3.3 SOUNDING BOARDS	48
3.4 STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS & WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS	49
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>53</b>
REFERENCES	54



# 1.

## INTRODUCTION



Photo Source: alain cloutier, alltrails.com

The Cartwright Mountain trail system is one of the most desired year-round trail systems in the District of Summerland. The trail system supports a diversity of trail-based activities such as walking, hiking, trail running, horseback riding, mountain biking, fat biking, and dog walking. Offering stunning vistas of Giants Head Mountain, Okanagan Lake, and the rolling hills, open forest lands, and grasslands that the Okanagan Valley is renowned for, the Cartwright Mountain trail system is also a popular tourism destination that attracts trails-based visitors to the community and is the stage for numerous trail-based special events and races. Over the past decade, residents and visitor's awareness of the trail system has grown and visitation has and continues to increase as the popularity of trails-based outdoor recreation continues to climb.

Hosting thousands of visits each year, the Cartwright Mountain trail system enables residents, who are ardent outdoor enthusiasts, to lead the healthy, active, outdoor lifestyles that are a cornerstone of living in Summerland. However, the Cartwright Mountain trail system has evolved organically over the past few decades and without the benefit of a clear and community supported plan. As a result, many of the trails in the system are unsanctioned by landowners / managers and trail related management issues are on the rise.

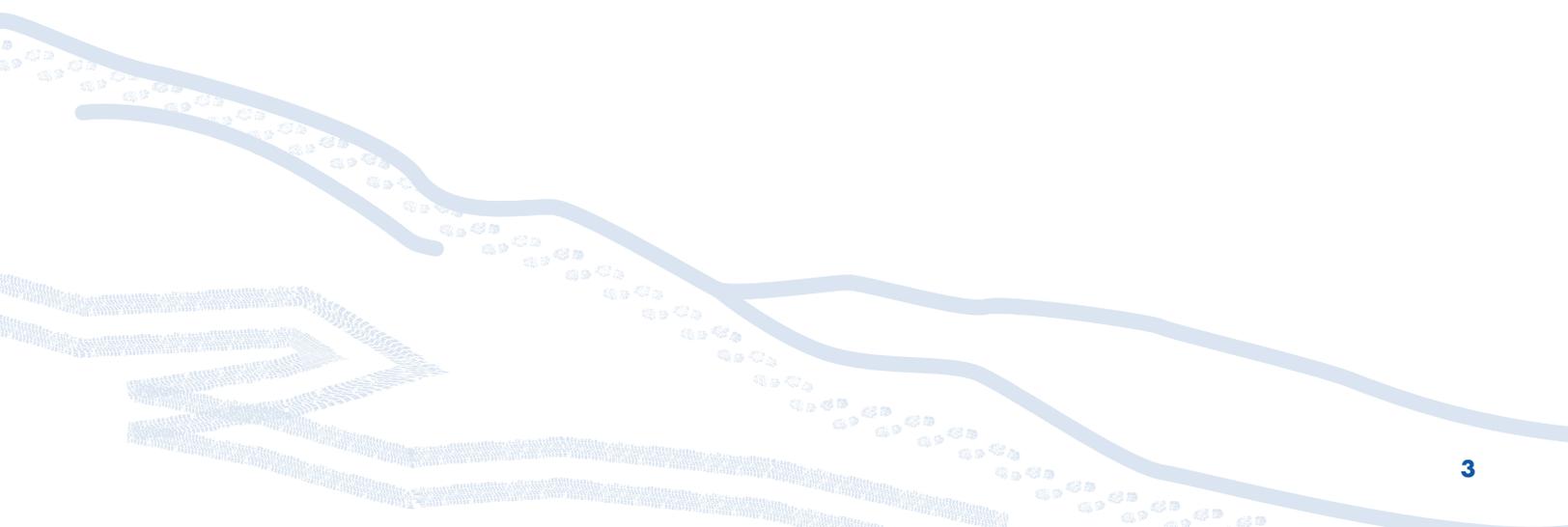
The recently completed **District of Summerland Trails Master Plan** indicated that conflicts between users (e.g. bikes, equestrian, motorized vehicles), lacking visitor infrastructure, lacking signage and wayfinding, and unauthorized trail building and trespass on private lands and Crowns lands are growing management issues and that a plan was needed to address them. In addition, Cartwright Mountain is ecologically important and provides habitat for many different species, including species at risk. Trails and trail use have the potential to negatively impact these ecological values.

Recognizing the growing popularity of the trail system, the evolving interests and new uses (e-bikes) that are occurring on the trail systems, and the increasing management issues and challenges, the District identified the need to work collaboratively with trail users, First Nations, residents, landowners and interested organizations to prepare a trail plan for the network.



## 1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present the analysis and key findings from the engagement process and to provide an official documentation of the breadth and volume of input received during the engagement process. This report helps to ensure transparency in sharing the input that was received and used to inform the trail plan.



# 1.2 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS & TACTICS

To inform the Cartwright Mountain trail plan, stage 1 of a robust engagement process was launched on September 4 and concluded October 17, 2024. Targeting recreational users of the area, general public, adjacent landowners, District staff, Government of BC staff and many diverse interested parties (e.g. recreation / trail groups, accessibility / adaptive recreation, conservation, tourism, youth). The Stage 1 engagement process was designed to introduce the planning process and generate insights to help inform the trails plan. More specifically, the engagement process was designed to:

- Introduce and generate interest in helping to inform the plan.
- Understand current and future recreational use of the mountain, visitor motivations, and visitor satisfaction.
- Confirm the trail inventory.
- Identify the type and location of management concerns and opinions about potential solutions.
- Inform the development of desired resource conditions for the mountain.
- Gather opinions on future trail and visitor amenity needs, trail maintenance, trail diversity, trail difficulty, technical trail features supply, programming & trail maintenance and operations, and
- Gather ideas and opinions to inform a future volunteer and partnership framework.

The engagement process was designed and implemented in accordance with the International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2) best practices and core values (Figure 1).

The primary engagement tactics implemented as part of the engagement process included:

- Online public survey
- Onsite & in community sounding boards
- Stakeholder Interviews (virtual)
- Written submissions
- Online interactive crowdsourcing webmap

Multiple engagement tactics were used to elevate the accessibility of the engagement process and opportunity for interested members of the public and stakeholders to share their input. The engagement tactics, particularly the online survey, was designed to enable collected data to be desegregated, analyzed and reported on according to diverse users, community members, non-users, interested individuals, and all others whose voices and experiences have not or may not have been captured in the past.

The graphic features the IAP2 logo in the top right corner. The text is arranged in two columns, separated by a vertical dotted line. The numbers 1 through 7 are large and bold, with their corresponding descriptions to their right. The background of the graphic has a light blue, abstract pattern of overlapping lines and dots.

**CORE VALUES**

IAP2 Federation's Core Values for Public Participation professionals define the expectations and aspirations of the public participation process. Processes based on the Core Values have been shown to be the most successful and respected.

- 1** Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
- 2** Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
- 3** Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision-makers.
- 4** Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
- 5** Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
- 6** Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
- 7** Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

[www.iap2.org](http://www.iap2.org)

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Figure 1 IAP2 Core Values

# ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS



**197**

Online Public Surveys (114 completes and 83 partials)



**14**

Interviews (17 individuals for both Conkle and Cartwright Mountains)



**22**

sounding board comments



**5**

written submissions



**192**

webmap contributions (points, line, comments, likes / dislikes) from 45 unique users



# 1.3 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS COMMUNICATIONS & PROMOTIONS

To generate awareness, interest, and reach, the engagement process was promoted through the following channels:

- Direct email and project notice letter to the Penticton Indian Band (August 9, 2024).
- Direct email and project notice letter to Syilx Okanagan Nation Alliance (August 9, 2024).
- District of Summerland Newsletter and Facebook social media site.
- Summerland Trail Users Club members.
- Direct email notice to key stakeholders/groups to interview.
- Promotional posters installed at trailheads and high traffic locations throughout town.
- Promotional sounding boards displayed at key parking/access points to the trail system, and at key businesses and locations throughout the District.
- Print / web media articles (Summerland Review).

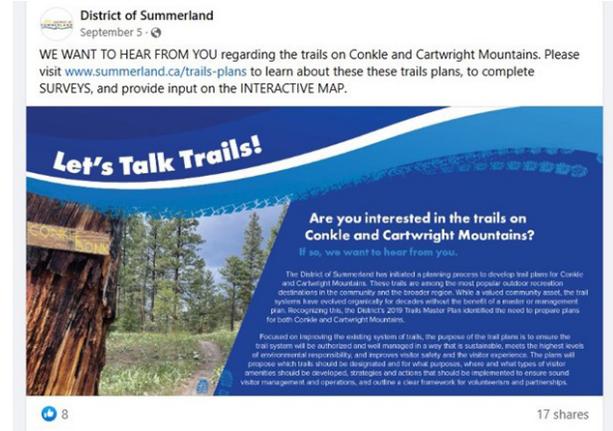


Figure 2 District Facebook Promotion



Figure 3 Community Sounding Board Promotion



Figure 4 Cartwright Sounding Board Promotion

## District looking for input on improvement to trails at Conkle and Cartwright Mountains

Hikers can look forward to two popular trail networks being improved sometime in the future.

The District of Summerland has begun the process of developing trail plans for both Conkle and Cartwright Mountains.



According to the district, the trail systems are among the most popular outdoor recreation destinations in the community.

Figure 5 Kelowna Now Print/ Web Promotion



Figure 6 Cartwright Sounding Board & Promotion

## 1.4 FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT STATUS

Engagement with the Penticton Indian Band First Nation is ongoing and is not reflected within this report. Further time is required to ensure meaningful and respectful engagement. The insights from these future engagements will be fundamental to shaping the final TMP.





# 2.

## KEY LEARNINGS FROM THE ENGAGEMENT & PRIORITIES THE PLAN SHOULD ADDRESS

Photo Source: alain cloutier, alltrails.com

Engagement input received through the online survey, sounding boards, interactive web map and interviews was carefully reviewed and analysed. While the input was wide ranging, a number of common findings emerged from the analysis. This section summarizes those key learnings. To the extent possible, the lists are presented in order of priority. For further details and the results presented by engagement tactic, please see Section 3.0.

## **THE TRAIL SYSTEM IS A HIGHLY VALUED RECREATION ASSET THAT DELIVERS DIVERSE BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY & INDIVIDUALS**

The Cartwright Mountain trail system is a highly valued recreational asset because of its:

- Diversity of trails styles / type
- Unique terrain
- Scenery & viewpoints
- Close proximity to downtown & easy access

The most common reasons respondents are motivated to enjoy the trail system include:

- Enjoying nature
- Learning about nature
- Socializing with friends & family
- Having fun & relaxing
- Quiet time & reflection

Benefits from the trail system include:

- Improves physical & mental health of individuals
- Helps to attract new / retain existing residents
- Increase community pride
- Helps to grow the local / regional economy

## **THE TRAIL SYSTEM HOSTS A DIVERSITY OF ACTIVITIES IN ALL SEASONS**

The most common activities reported to be occurring on the trails include (in order):

- Walking / Hiking
- Mountain Biking – All Mountain & Cross Country
- Off Leash Dog Walking
- Trail Running
- On Leash Dog Walking
- Snowshoeing
- Off Road Vehicle Riding



## VISITORS ARE SATISFIED WITH THEIR RECREATION EXPERIENCE ON THE TRAIL SYSTEM, BUT THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE

Participants indicated that they are satisfied with the quality of the recreation experience provided by the trail system in both the warm and colder months. While participants reported that they are generally satisfied, and acknowledging that some participants indicated that the trail system should remain much the same as possible, the majority of participants identified opportunity and need to improve both the amenities and the trail experiences available. In both cases, it was clear that participants are seeking a basic level of service and a light touch that ensures any amenity and trail improvements or additions compliment the natural environment.

### Top Amenity Improvements

- Size and location of parking area, gateway experience & formalizing community trailheads
- Basic on-trail amenities (benches, bike repair stations)
- Trailhead amenities (wildlife proof waste receptacles, picnic tables, vault toilet, bike parking)
- Signage (wayfinding, educational, regulatory, interpretive)

### Trail Experience & Future Development Improvement

- There was general support to ensure the area provides a network of both mixed-use (motorized & non-motorized) and non-motorized trails.
- General support for the trail system targeting visitors who are seeking mostly a beginner and intermediate level of difficulty with some opportunities for more challenging black rated trails.
- Demand for developing new trails was minimal. Ideas expressed included:
  - » Desire to create a connection from Cartwright Summit to Test of Humanity was identified with the goal of establishing a long-distance outer loop option.
  - » New climb trails
  - » While outside of the planning area, establishing a connection between Cartwright Mountain and Conkle Mountain trail systems was also raised.
- Trail re-routes to avoid trespass on private property.
- Recognition of the need for the region to provide adaptive mountain biking opportunity.
- Mountain bike technical skills training area.
- Integrate additional / more diverse technical trail features into existing trails.
- Elevate trail maintenance & improve some aspects of the trail design (e.g. corners, switchbacks, berms).

## WHILE NOT YET INTENSE, MANAGEMENT CONCERNS ARE GROWING & SHOULD BE ADDRESSED

While participants indicated that management concerns are not yet intense, they are growing, and participants recognized the need to get ahead and stay ahead of them now.

### Top Trail Management Problems

- Loss of trails or access to trails from private land development
- Trespass on private lands
- Unsanctioned trail building & lack of landowner / manager approvals
- Trails are being built without proper environmental & archaeological assessments or considerations
- No governance / management responsibility for the trails
- Current District & volunteer capacity to manage the trails
- Lack of staging / parking areas
- Limited wayfinding signage & trip planning information
- Lack of trailhead / on-trail visitor comfort and convenience amenities
- Wildlife displacement & disturbance
- Impacts to sensitive ecosystem & habitats

### Top Visitor Management Problems

- Limited visitor education & information on responsible recreation.
- Unauthorized use of trails & trail damage from motorized / off road vehicles & Class 2 & 3 e-bikes
- Designating permitted & prohibited activities on trails
- Insufficient parking availability / access & congestion on nearby roads from overflow parking
- Dog feces
- Trail damage from horses
- Trampling of vegetation from off trail travel
- Wildfire risk
- Trespass on private lands
- Visitors not following signage & rules
- Dogs off-leash

### Top Trail User Conflicts to be Addressed

- Motorized use & all other activity types
- Off-leash dog walking & all other activity types
- Equestrian & mountain biking

While not immediately relevant to the development of the plan, the following emerged during the engagement process:

- Concern about the recent trail development on Giants Head Mountain and a request to avoid repeating those types of developments on Cartwright Mountain.

## TRAIL AUTHORIZATION & CERTAINTY SHOULD BE ENHANCED

Participants (including trail users and landowners / managers) acknowledged that the trail system crosses private lands, Crown lands and District owned lands. As the trails are unauthorized, the noted there is uncertainty about the future of many of the trails. Key concerns included:

- Trespass on private lands & knowledge of private land boundaries
- Risk & liability for private landowners
- Loss of trails & trail connectivity due to private land development

## ENHANCE VOLUNTEER SUPPORT & CAPACITY

It was noted that the trail system is being operated by a very small number of dedicated volunteers with little support. Enhancing volunteer support and capacity was a clear emerging priority. Key concerns included:

- Number of volunteers
- Volunteer training
- Limited capacity support provided to volunteers from the District for trail maintenance / operations
- More deliberate governance for the trail system, trail planning and decisions





# 3.

## ENGAGEMENT INPUT BY ENGAGEMENT TACTIC

Photo Source: [alain cloutier, alltrails.com](https://www.alltrails.com)

The following sections document the input received through each engagement tactic.

## 3.1 ONLINE PUBLIC SURVEY

In total, 197 participants attempted the survey with 114 fully completed responses received, equalling a response rate of 57.9%. The survey was open from September 4 – 29, 2024. The survey was promoted to the public through the following channels:

- Posters with a QR code were displayed throughout the District.
- The DoS website, social media, and direct email invitation to community stakeholders.
- Community stakeholder groups were invited to promote the survey to their members and networks.

Responses to the questions are presented below in the order they were asked in the survey. It is important to note that not all questions were answered by all respondents. Thus, the percentages in the findings represent the number of respondents to the individual questions.

**Table 1: Key Respondent Characteristics**

<b>Age</b>	
18-24 years	0%
25-34 years	3.5%
35-44 years	17.5%
45-54 years	22.8%
55-64 years	19.3%
65-74 years	28.1%
75 years and older	5.3%
Prefer not to answer	3.5%
<b>Gender</b>	
Female	45.5%
Male	47.3%
Trans Female	0.9%
Prefer to self-describe as	0%
Prefer not to answer	6.3%
<b>Residency *</b>	
District of Summerland Resident	107
Outside of District (or unknown)	7

*\*Not all respondents completed all questions on the survey and residency was not mandatory*

### 3.1.1 Approach to Analysis

Respondents were provided with an open ended “other” options throughout the survey. The comments were analyzed and coded into themes. The major themes and examples of respondent comments are summarized for each question where relevant.

### 3.1.2 Survey Results

The following section presents the survey results for each question asked.

1. **Have you participated in a trails-based recreation activity on Cartwright Mountain in the past?**

The majority of respondents (77%) have used Cartwright Mountain for recreation in the past.

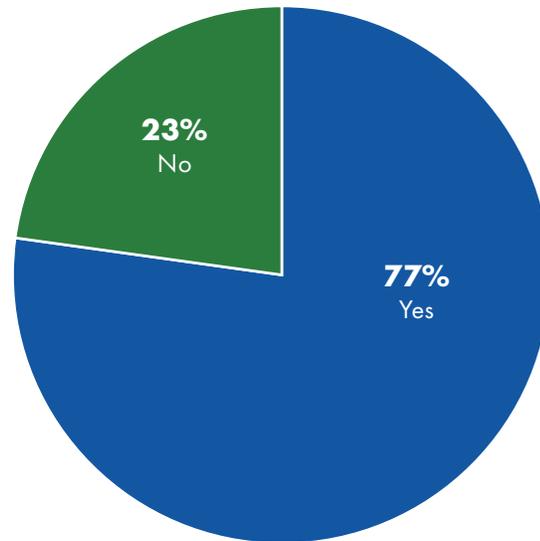


Figure 7 Participation in a Trails-based Recreation Activity



Photo Source: Pinomation, trailforks.com

2. Thinking about why you choose to recreate on the trails on Cartwright Mountain, please rate how important each of the following are to you.

Figure 8 shows the distribution of the various motivations. The majority of respondents are visiting the Cartwright Mountain trail system to enjoy nature (86%) and for physical activity and exercise (84%), followed by 80% because the site is close to home, and 76% to improve their mental wellness.

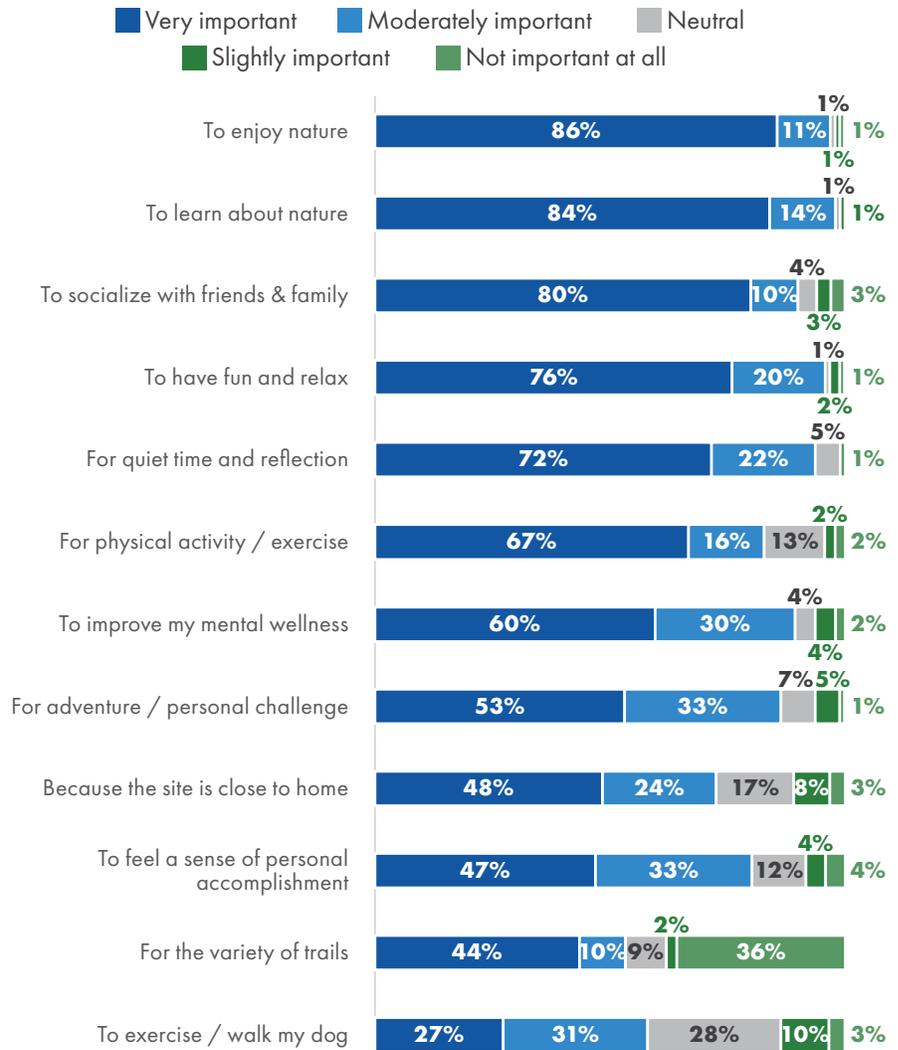
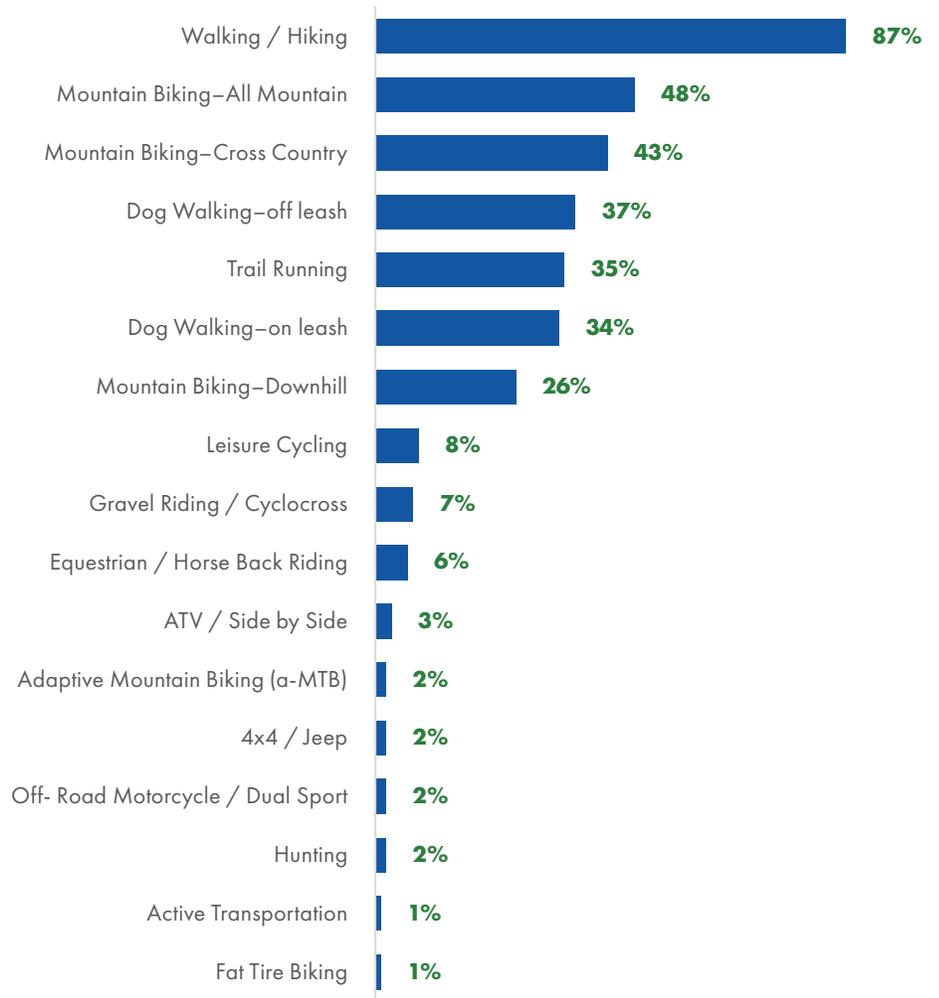


Figure 8 Reason for Recreating on Cartwright Mountain

**3. Which of the following activities do you undertake on Cartwright Mountain during a) the warmer months (April – September) and b) the colder months (October – March)? Please select the activity(ies) that represent your primary reason for visiting the Cartwright Mountain trail system.**

Participants were asked to select their primary activity undertaken when recreation on the Cartwright Mountain trail system<sup>1</sup>. As it relates to seasonality, the recreational activities differ in the winter (colder months) and the summer (warmer months). In the warmer months (Figure 9) the majority of visitors (87%) are using the site for walking/hiking, followed by mountain biking – all mountain (48%), and mountain biking – cross country (43%). Visitors are almost equally using the site for off leash (37%) and on leash (34%) dog walking. However, trail running (35%) and mountain biking – downhill (26%) is increasing in popularity (Figure 4). It should be noted that the low reported participation in ATV / Side by Side / Off-road motorcycle is likely a reflection in survey participation more than a reflection of the amount these activities occur on the trail system.



**Figure 9 Recreation Activities during the Warmer Months (April – September)**

<sup>1</sup> Participants were asked to select their primary reason/activity; however, many people use the area for more than one activity and as such listed more than one primary activity.

In the winter (colder months) the area is primarily used for walking/hiking (83%) and snowshoeing (33%) while visitors are continuing to use the site for both off and on leash dog walking, as in the summer. However, trail running and mountain biking – all mountain continue their popularity over the colder months (Figure 10).

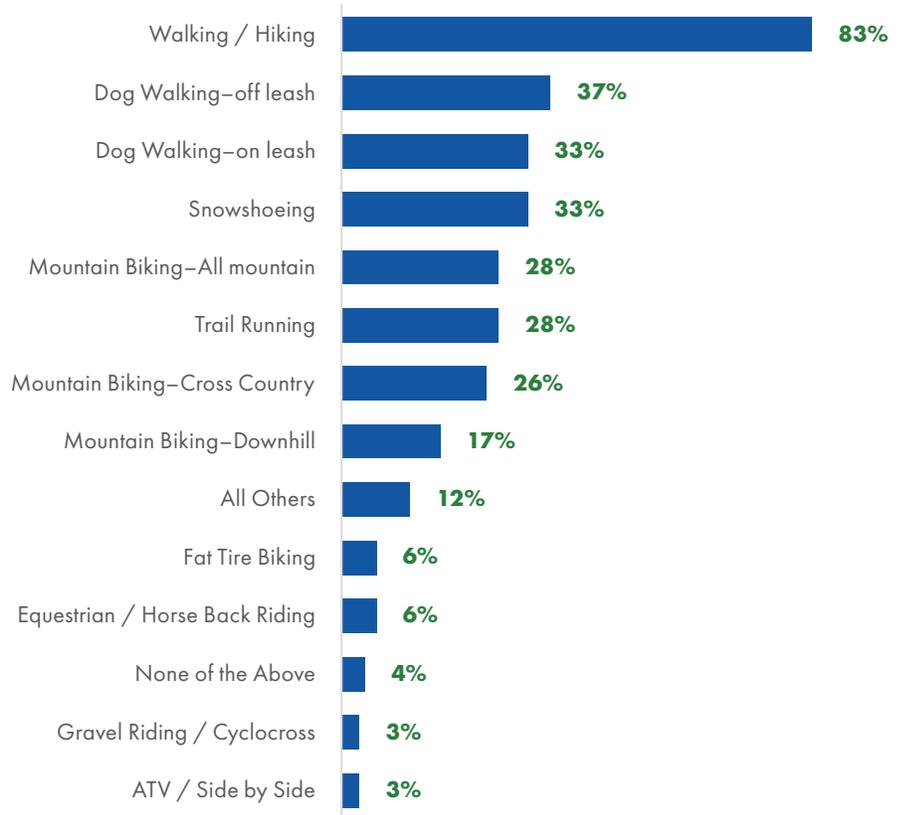


Figure 10 Recreation Activities during the Colder Months (October – March)

**4. Are there other recreational activities, not listed in the previous question, that are the primary motivator for your recreational visit to Cartwright Mountain?**

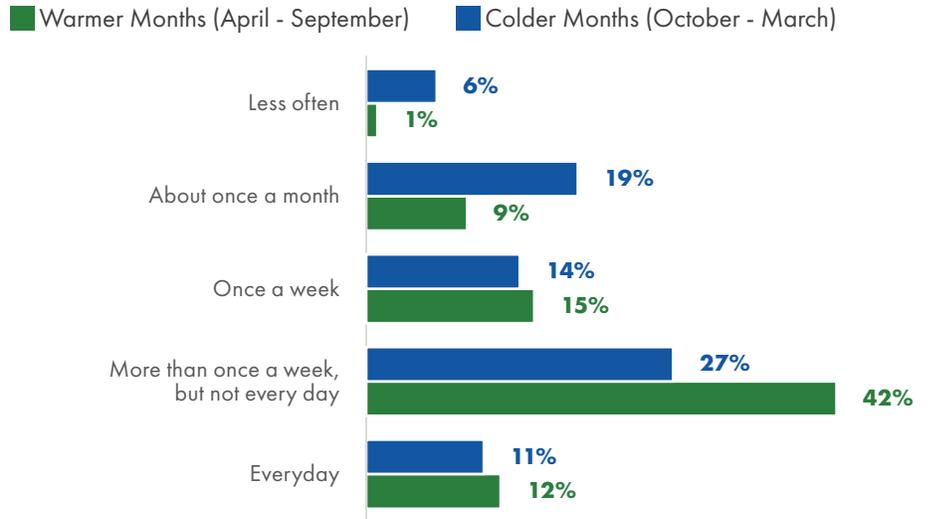
Two respondents mentioned nature observation as their motivational activity while there was one mention each for photography, trail maintenance/building, tobogganing, bird watching, and family scavenger hunt as recreational activities they participate in not included on the list.



Photo Source: vancranker, trailforks.com

**5. Thinking about the past year, which of the following best describes how often you recreated on Cartwright Mountain during a) the warmer months (April – September) and b) the colder months (October – March)?**

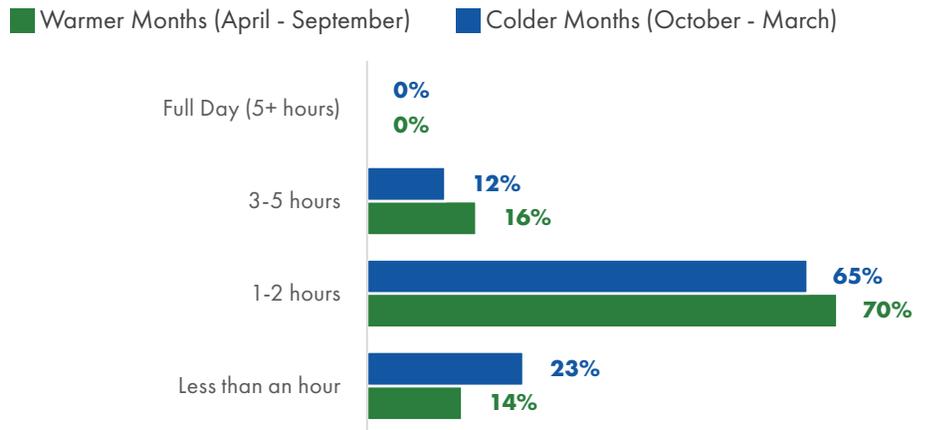
Many respondents (42%) visit the recreation area more than once a week in the warmer months (Figure 11). During the colder months the frequency of visits is distributed more broadly with about 27% of respondents indicating that they use the area more than once a week, 14% once a week, but still 10.5% everyday.



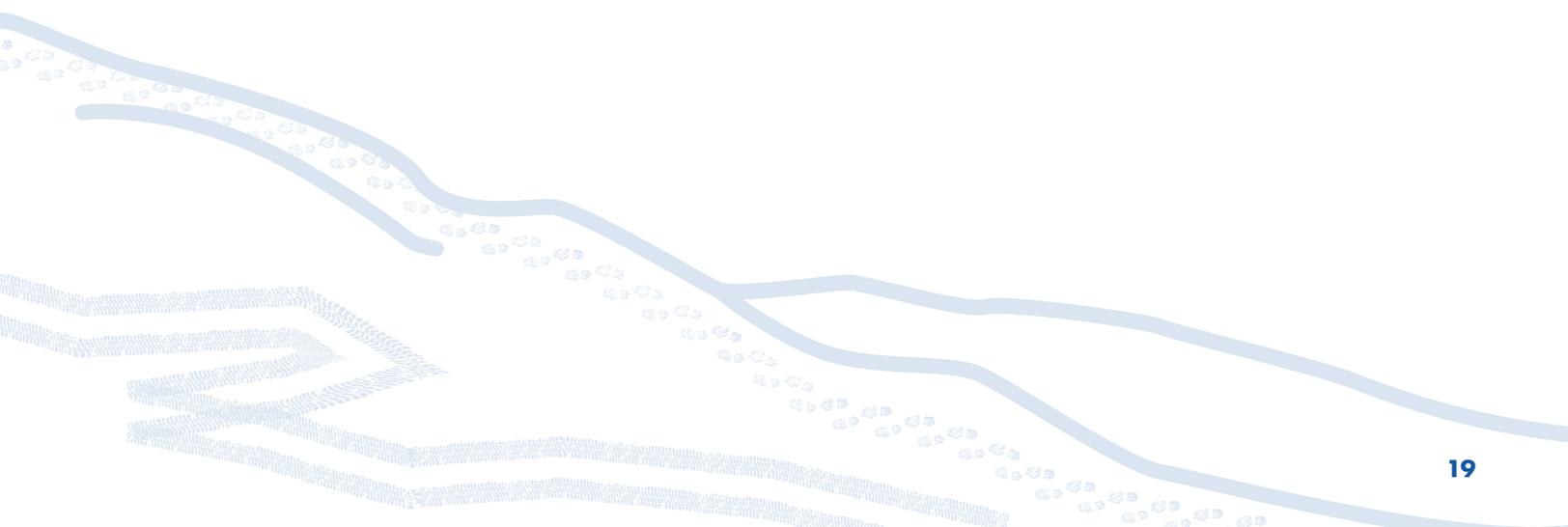
**Figure 11 Recreation by Season**

**6. Typically, how long do your recreational outings last on Cartwright Mountain last?**

The majority of respondents (65 – 70%) reported spending 1-2 hours recreating on Cartwright Mountain during both warmer and colder months (Figure 12).



**Figure 12 Length of Recreational Visit**



7. When you recreate on Cartwright Mountain, how many people are typically in your group during a) the warmer months (April – September) and b) the colder months (October – March)?

Respondents indicated that the typical group size in the warmer months is slightly larger than that in the colder months. In the warmer months, the average reported group size on Cartwright Mountain is 2.6 with the largest reported group size being 12 and lowest being 1. In the colder months, the average reported group size was 2.4 with the largest reported group size being 8 and lowest being 1.



8. Who do you typically recreate with when visiting Cartwright Mountain? (select all that apply)

The majority of respondents indicated that they are recreating on the trails alone (71%) but note there is also overlap as some people may visit some days by themselves and other days with family and friends (Figure 13). However, 67% visit with friends and 65% with family. A small proportion of respondents indicated that their visits are typically organized activities such as hiking, walking, biking, and running/race club events. Note, there were 6 mentions on walking alone with their dog in the open-ended response option.

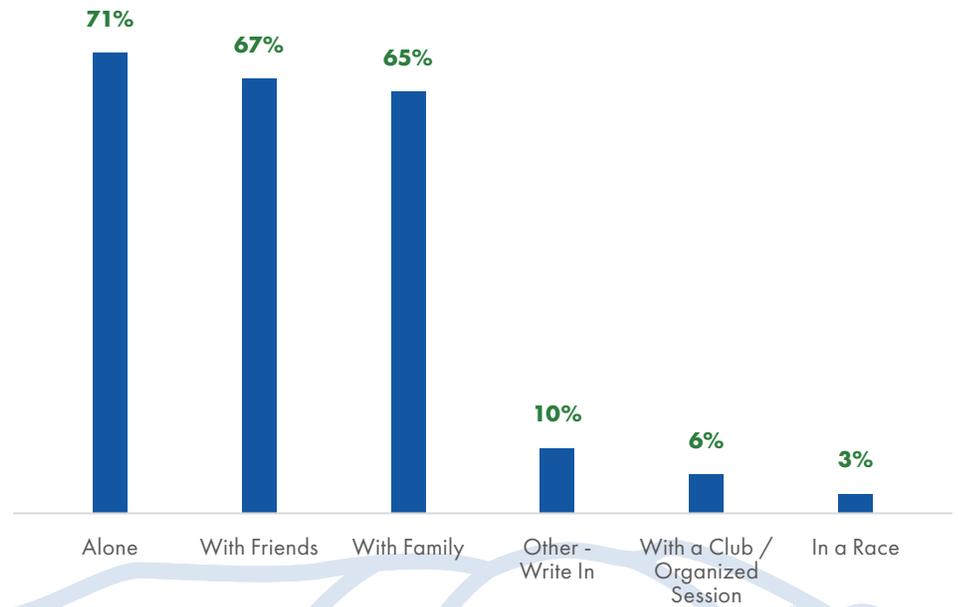
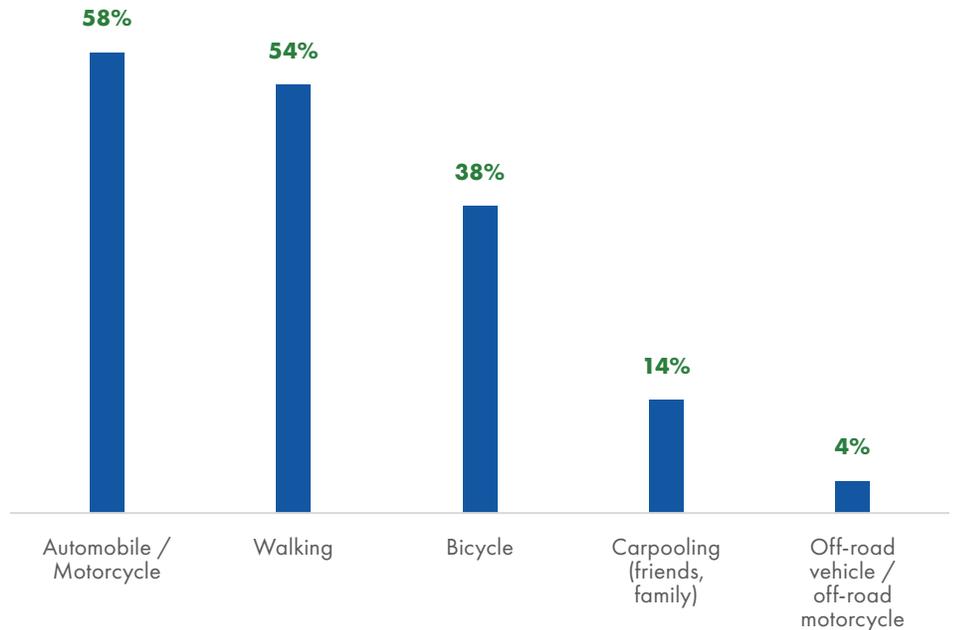


Figure 13 People who Respondents Typically Recreate With

**9. Typically, what mode of transportation do you use to travel to the trails on Cartwright Mountain?**

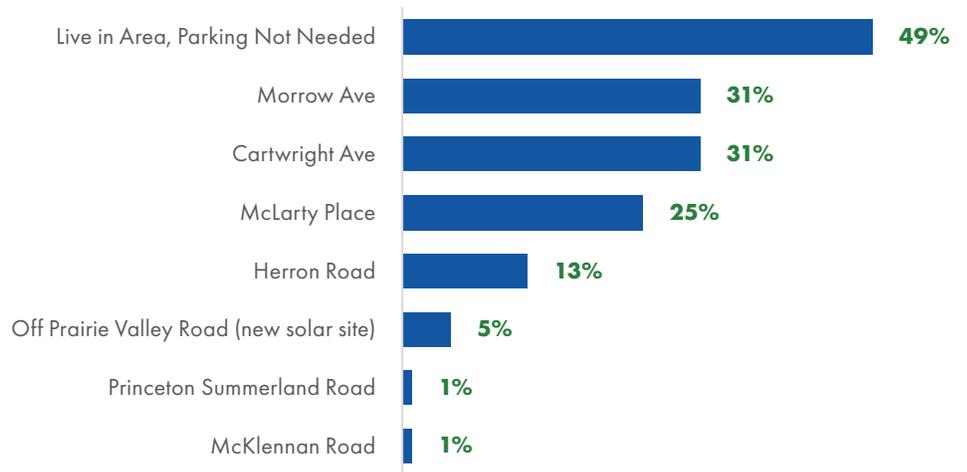
Most respondents (58%) travel to the Cartwright Mountain trail system by automobile / motorcycle, while less than 54% walk, 38% cycle, and 14% reported carpooling.



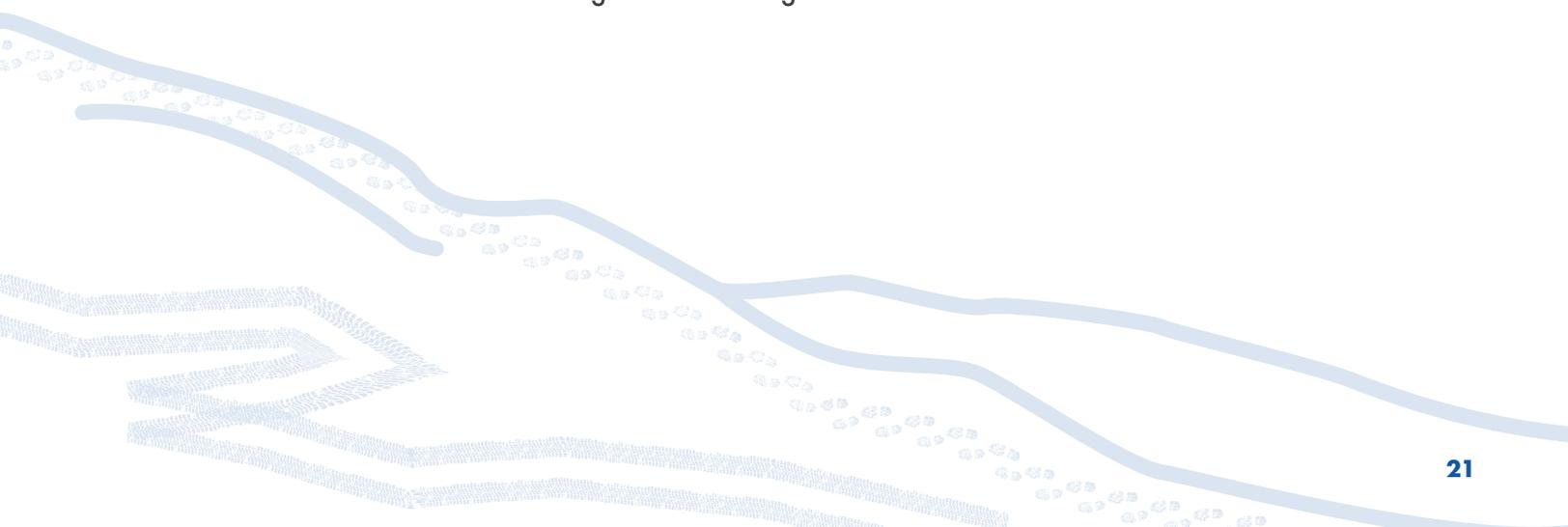
**Figure 15 Transportation Modes Most Used by Visitors**

**10. Typically, where do you park when you visit Cartwright Mountain?**

As shown in Figure 14, forty-nine percent (49%) of respondents reported that they live in the area and do not require parking. Thirty-one percent (31%) reported parking at Cartwright Ave. and Morrow Ave. equally while 25% reported parking at McLarty Place and 13% at Herron Road (13%). Just 5% of respondents reported parking off Prairie Valley Road (5%) by the new solar site.

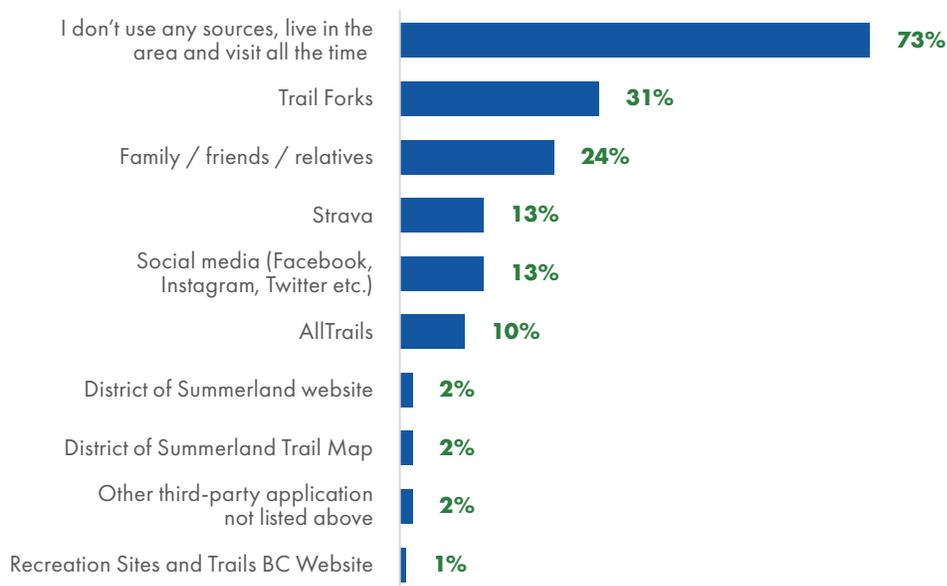


**Figure 14 Parking Locations**



**11. Which of the following sources of information do you typically or have you used in the past, when planning your visit to Cartwright Mountain? (select all that apply)**

A majority of the respondents (73%) indicated they don't use any sources as they live in the area and visit all the time. Of those that do utilize information sources to help plan their trip, Trailforks (31%) was the most frequently referenced. Other respondents rely on family / friends / relatives (24%) who are familiar with the area. Other web-based sources of information include Strava (12%), Social Media (13%) and AllTrails (10%). Figure 16 demonstrates the range of information sources used.



**Figure 16 Information Sources Used to Plan Visit**

**12. What characteristics attract you to recreate on the trails on Cartwright Mountain? Open ended question**

Open ended responses indicate that visitors choose to recreate on Conkle Mountain because of a variety of characteristics. From the 87 open ended responses provided, the most important characteristic that attracted respondents to recreate on Cartwright Mountain appears to be the ease of access to the trails (26%) followed closely by the diversity of trail styles/types (24%). The next three characteristics, reported to be of equal importance, include to enjoy the scenery of the area, the quality of trail design, and the lack of crowds, all at 10%.



13. Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of your WARM season recreation experience on the Cartwright Mountain trail system?

Most respondents (68%) are very satisfied with the quality of their warm season recreation experience on Cartwright Mountain (Figure 17) with 23% of respondents indicating they are satisfied with their visit.

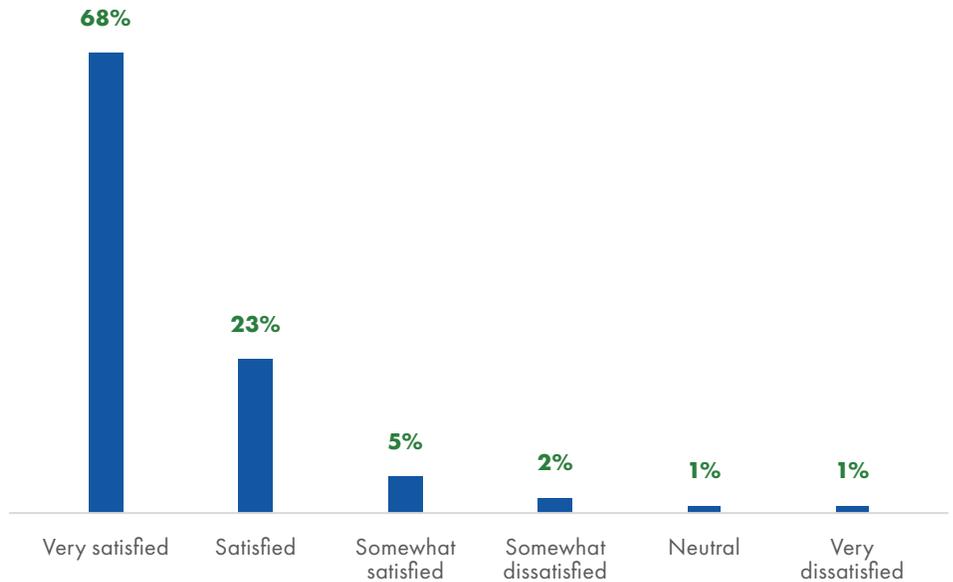


Figure 17 Satisfaction during the Warmer Season

14. Overall, how satisfied are you with the quality of your COLD season recreation experience on the Cartwright Mountain trail system?

Respondents are not as satisfied with their winter recreation experience on Cartwright Mountain, with 55% indicating they are very satisfied with their experiences and 23% being satisfied (Figure 18).

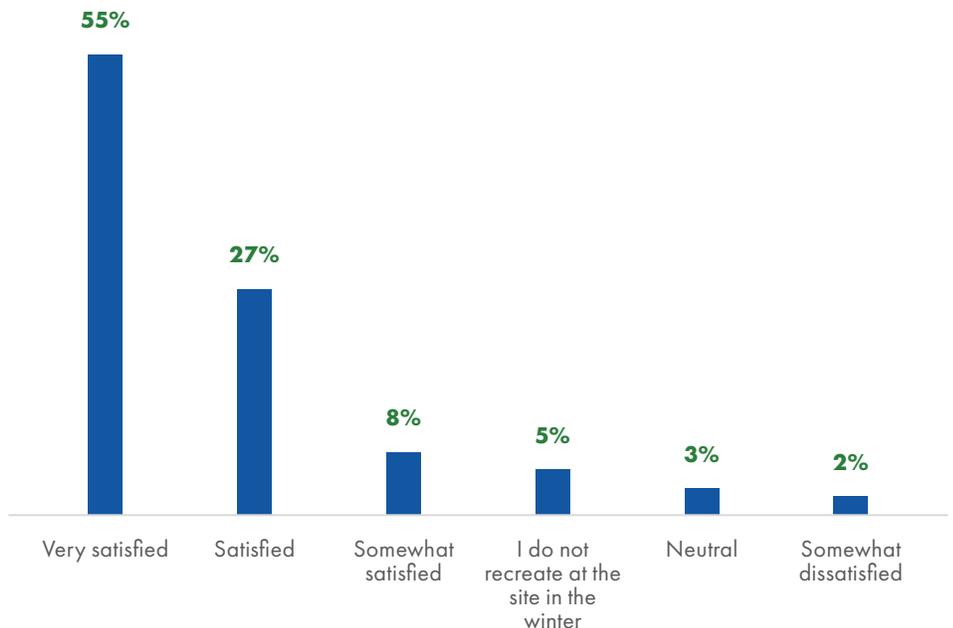


Figure 18 Satisfaction during the Colder Season

15. How likely is it that you would recommend visiting the Cartwright Mountain trail system to a friend, family member, or colleague?

From a total of 91 who completed the survey, 55 respondents (61%) reported they would be extremely likely (10 out of 10) to recommend visiting the Cartwright Mountain trail system to a friend, family member, or colleague while twenty-two respondents (24%) indicated that they would highly likely make the recommendation to visit.

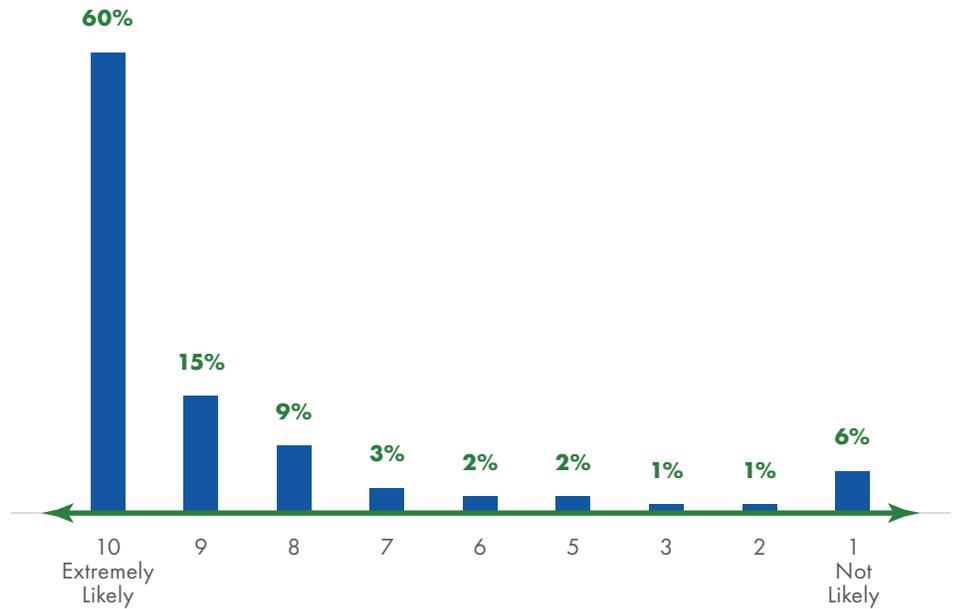


Figure 19 Likelihood of Recommending Visiting the Conkle Mountain Trail System



## 16. How satisfied are you with the following at Cartwright Mountain?

Visitors are most satisfied with the quality of the trails for hiking, walking, and trail running (91%).

The next two features visitors are most satisfied with include the total length of mountain bike optimized trails (85%), followed closely by the current distribution of trail difficulty (83%).

Other features visitors were satisfied with include the current diversity of trail styles and types (76%), followed closely by the ease and supply of climb trails (75%).

While there was general overall satisfaction, most respondent dissatisfaction appeared with the supply and quality of visitor comfort amenities and signage compared to other features of the trail system.

Over 39% of respondents are dissatisfied with the size of parking areas while 38% feel that visitor comfort amenities such as toilets, benches, and waste receptacles are lacking.

Additionally, 31% expressed equal dissatisfaction with the current amount of wayfinding signage and responsible use educational signage on the trail system.

Not to be missed however, 28% of respondents are equally dissatisfied with the amount of regulatory signage and the lack of a gateway /sense of arrival to the trail system.

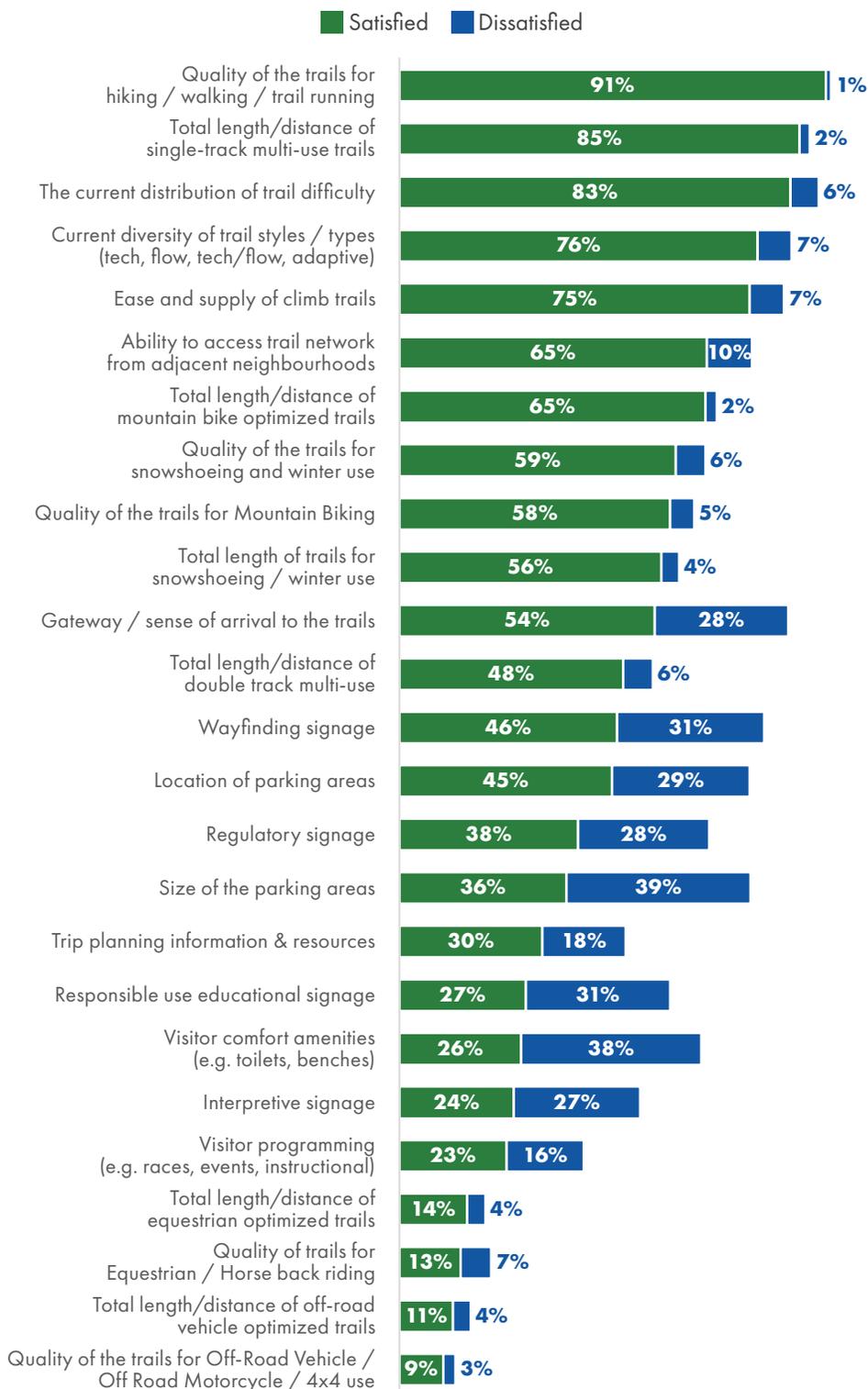


Figure 20 Visitor Satisfaction Level of features on Cartwright Mountain

17. Do you believe that more trails are needed at Cartwright Mountain to meet current and future demands?

Approximately 53% of respondents indicated that no more trails are needed at Cartwright Mountain to meet current and future demands, while 35% desire the development of more trails, and 12% of respondents are uncertain.

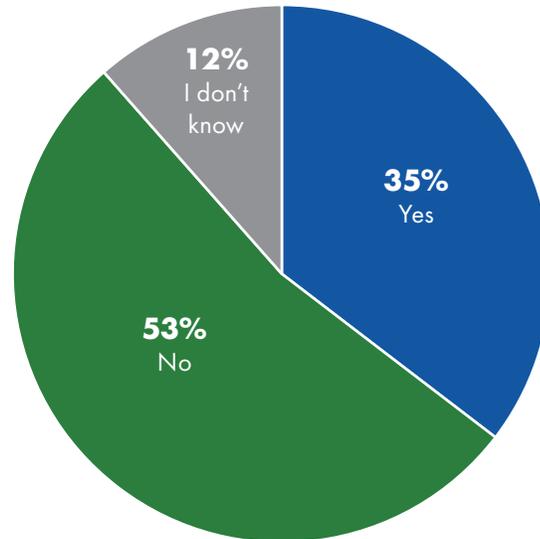
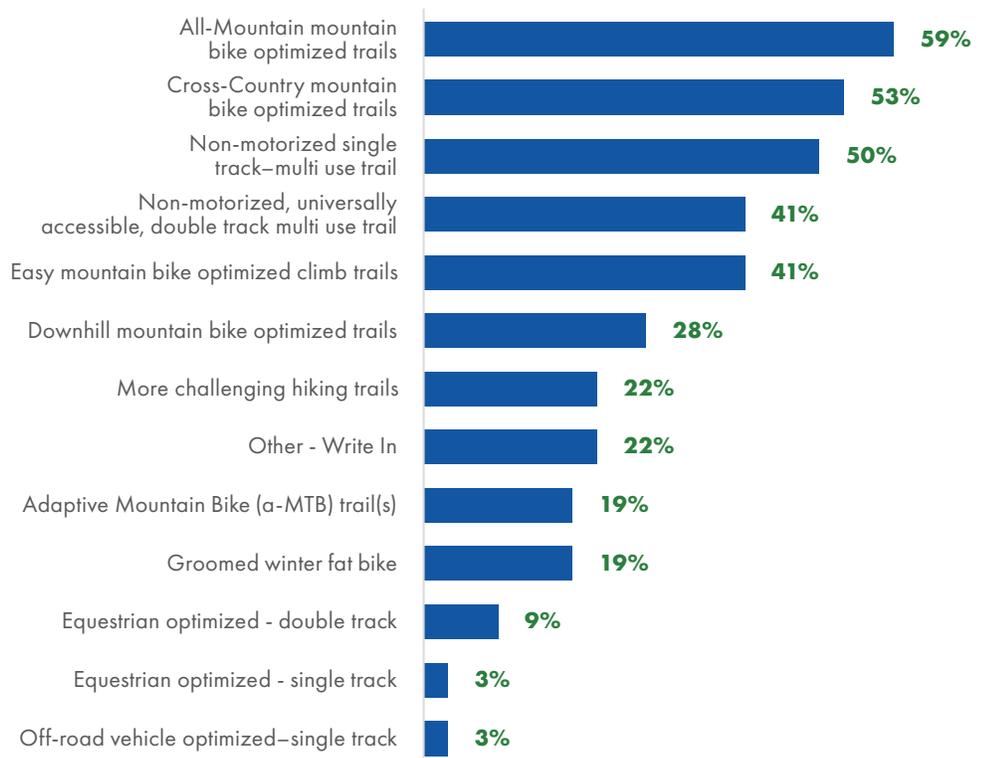


Figure 21 Desire for More Trails to Meet Current/Future Demand



**18. Thinking about the current mix of trails and what, if any, additional trails are needed to meet future demands, what types of trails do you believe should be prioritized for further development / expansion? (select all that apply)**

The variety and mix of trails are very important to users on Cartwright Mountain. Based on the respondents who indicated that more trails are needed, the following trail types were identified as most needed: 1) all-mountain mountain bike optimized trails (59%), 2) cross-country mountain bike optimized trails (53%), 3) non-motorized single track – multi use trails (50%) and, 4) both easy mountain bike optimized climb trails and non-motorized, universally accessible, double track multi use trails, both scoring 41%. Both equestrian optimized and off-road vehicle optimized single track trails (3%) rank the lowest, which is perhaps not surprising given the distribution of users/ respondents to this survey (fewer users). Figure 22 represents the ranking of the various trail's respondents believe should be prioritized.

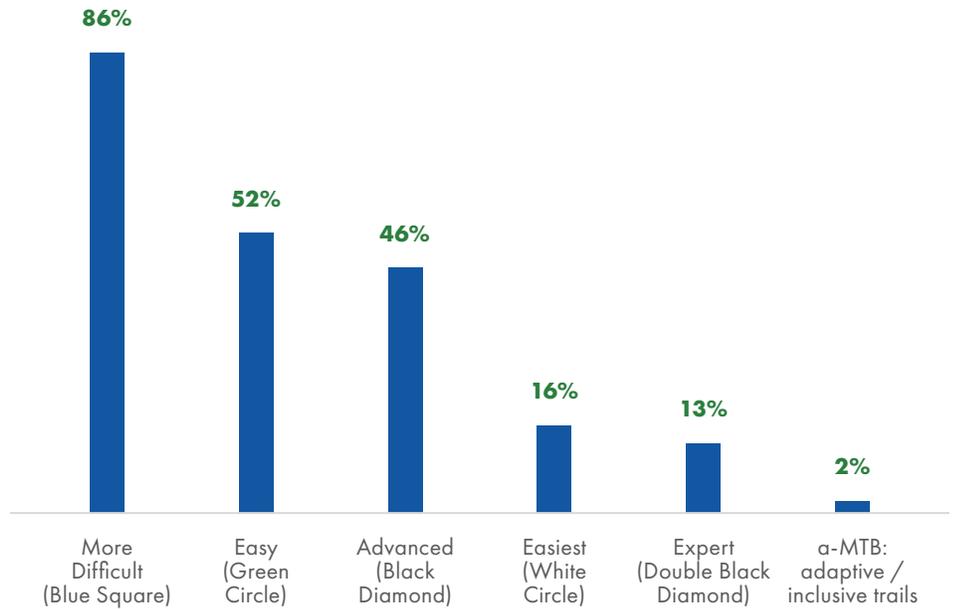


**Figure 22 Trails to be Prioritized for Future Development**



**19. Regardless of your preferred trail-based activity, please check the box(es) that describe your preferred trail difficulty level (select multiple if applicable)**

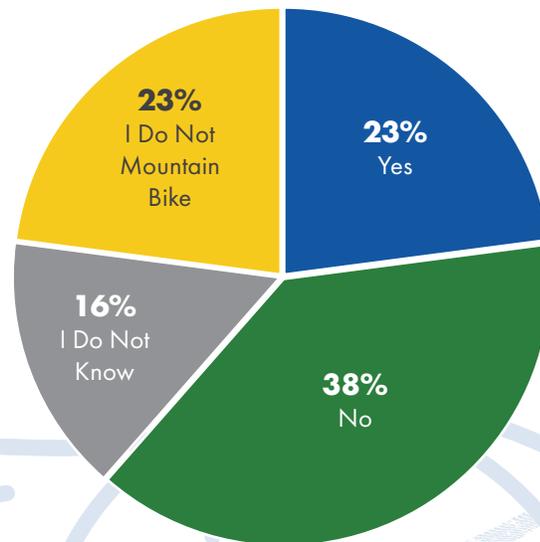
While respondents are seeking the full range of trail difficulty, there is a clear desire for the system to provide bluer rated and black rated trails than other levels of difficulty. The majority of respondents (86%) prefer more difficult / blue square rated trails, followed by easy / green circle (52%), then advanced / black diamond (46%). Much smaller proportions of respondents prefer trails rated as easiest / white circle or expert / double black diamond rated trails. Very few respondents preferred adaptive mountain bike trail. Figure 23 presents the difficulty preferences of respondents.



**Figure 23 Preferred Trail Difficulty Level**

**20. Technical Trail Features are built or natural features that are purposefully integrated into mountain bike optimized trails to elevate the fun, excitement and / or challenge of the trail. Do you feel that more technical trail features are needed in the trail system?**

Nearly 39% of respondents felt that no additional technical trail features (TTF) are needed in the trail system while 23% indicated support for new TTFs and 23% reported that they do not mountain bike on Cartwright Mountain. A much smaller proportion of respondents (16%) did not know.



**Figure 24 Demand for More Technical Trail Features**

**21. What types of Technical Trail Features do you feel the trail system requires more of? (select all that apply)**

Based on those that indicated new TTFs are needed, the most preferred TTFs include both natural rolls and natural drops (71% each), followed by wooden drops and skinnies/log ride – ground level (57% each). The least preferred are double rollers, elevated bridges/skinnies, wall ride, teeter totters, and over unders. Figure 25 provides further detail for all listed TTFs.

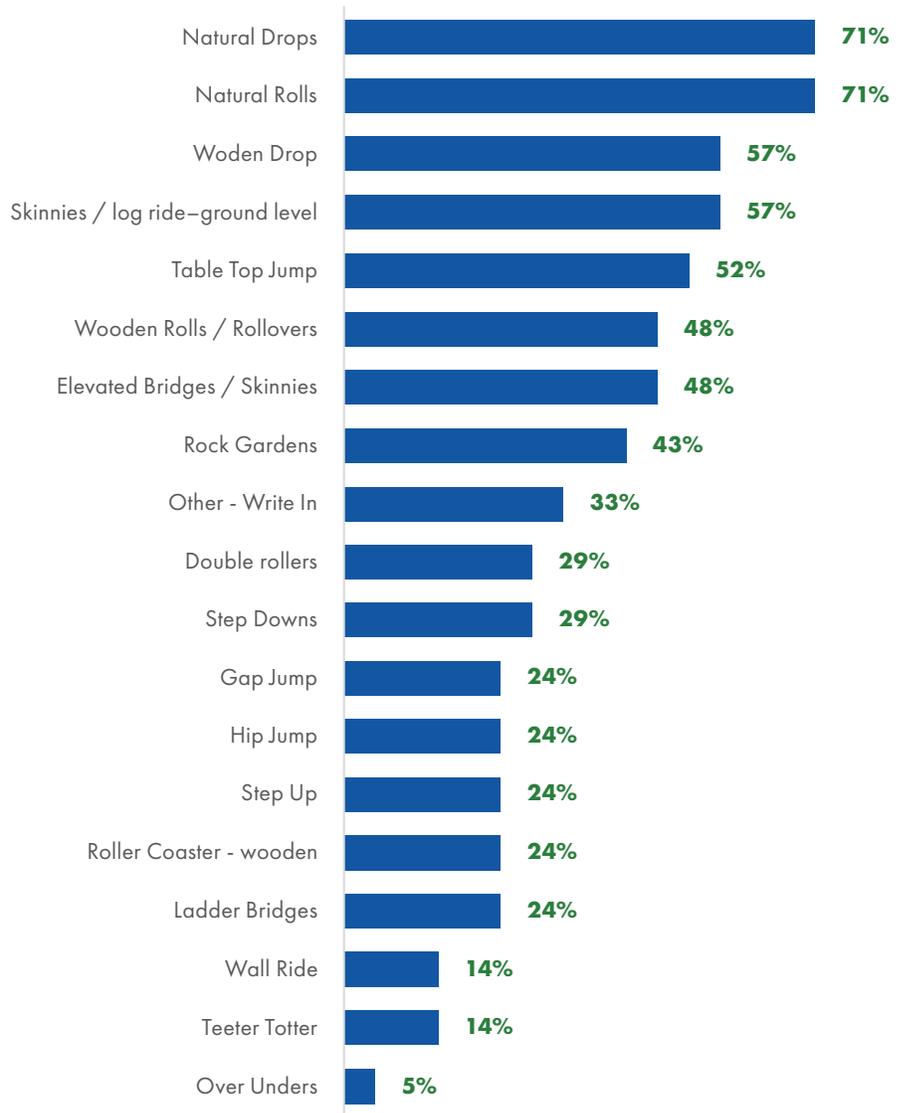
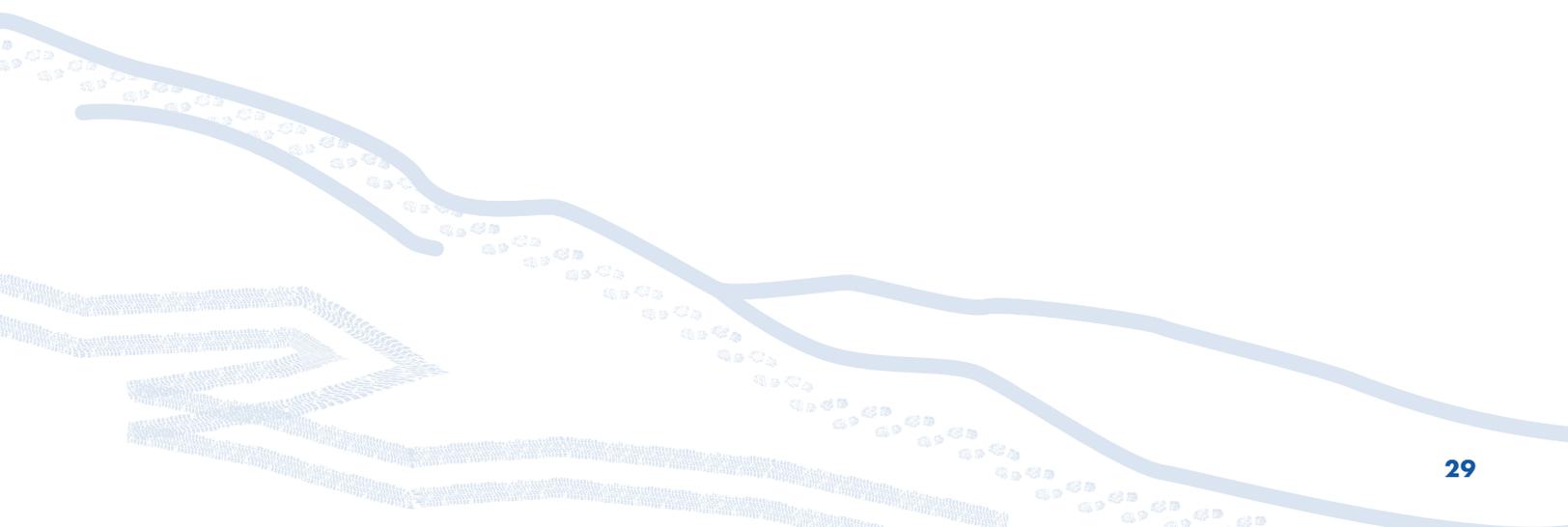


Figure 25 Demand for Technical Trail Features by Type



## 22. Overall, what do you think could be done to improve the quality of your recreational experience on the Cartwright Mountain trail system?

Respondents were given the opportunity to describe in their own words what could be done to improve the recreational trail experience on Cartwright Mountain. In total 79 respondents provided open ended responses to this question. The main themes included:

### • Keep it the way it is (16 comments)

- » One of the strengths of the Cartwright Mountain planning area is the diversity of the natural and undeveloped recreational trail styles and activities the area supports.
- » Respondents feel it is a fun system of trails that currently exist and want to ensure that the trails continue to support the variety of users, and that all experiences are managed accordingly and valued equally.
- » Additional trails would be nice, but respondents were concerned that the trail system would be lost as a result of future trail and Eco Village developments.

### • Improve Parking and Access (16 comments)

- » Respondents would like to see proper, safer, and clearly marked and designated parking options (with visitor amenities) as the current Morrow parking area is seen as a hazard.
- » There is a desire to utilize the Solar Farm as a formalized parking and staging area as it was intended in the original plan verses off Prairie Road where visitor currently park.
- » Respondent would like more access to the trails at the intersection of Cartwright Ave and Prairie Valley Road and better trail head access at the top of Herron Road as conditions are consistently wet.
- » Some respondents agree with stopping motorized access on the trail system to avoid further environmental impact.

### • Grow the Cartwright Mountain Trail System as a Major Asset in the Community (15 comments)

- » There is a desire to ensure that a majority of trails continue to be non-motorized multi-use between hikers, trail runners, and bikers as well as having designated trails for some different activities (e.g. mountain bikes, e-bike), and mixed-use for motorized on the western portion of the trail system on Crown land.
- » Respondents reported interest in improved opportunities for younger, entry level riders to build and develop their non-technical skills. This would make the trail system more approachable for beginner/intermediate bikers and the space more enjoyable.

- » Along with this, the addition of a skills park with wooden drops and jumps with increased sizes for progression was proposed as well as reconnecting the pump track back with the rest of the trail system.
- » Respondents suggested that building more quality trails and enhancing the diversity of trails is needed including dedicated mountain bike trails, increasing downhill sections, and adding natural features and bigger jumps to some sections.
- » It was also suggested that municipal land located just south of the Crown land portion in the west could become a destination for motorized use, providing further economic benefit and connectivity to the existing motorized trails located west of the Conkle Mountain planning area.
- » Specific to enhancing the overall quality of the trail system, the following trail developments were suggested;
  - A blue-black DH-primary descent from the Cartwright Summit to the north end of the Test of Humanity.
  - A non-motorized trail to link upper Test of Humanity with Joyride trail, alternative to the old two track.
  - A trail off the summit going to the north end of the Test of Humanity would give the network an outstanding longer loop option.
  - A more moderate mountain bike uptrack, similar to Holy Pail Up at Smith Creek in Kelowna and the uptrack in Burns Lake, BC.
  - A good flowing downhill track with more features making the climb to the summit worth it and providing the potential to attract a race each year in partnership with PACA.
- » Finally, it was noted that these developments, along with the authorization, sanctioning, and long-term management of trails across the planning area, could help grow the Cartwright Mountain trails system and the town of Summerland like the Cumberland Trail Network did for the Village of Cumberland, BC.

• **Improve Trail Maintenance and Management (12 comments)**

- » Respondents indicated that trail maintenance for berms/switchbacks, areas where the trails are worn down and difficult to climb need to occur as well as maintenance specific to the Test of Humanity trail.
- » There was a desire for the District to address the issue of some users building more trails, particularly in the last 6 months, further impacting the environment and limiting their appeal, as the trails being cut into the side of the mountain are exposed.
- » More focus should be on maintaining existing trails and stopping the expansion of trails that cause erosion, overuse in sensitive areas, and degrade the environment with the introduction of invasive plant species.
- » It was also raised that the unsanctioned and poor-quality trail building is illegal and unsustainable which makes navigating the trail system risky and unreliable.

• **Add/Improve/Update Signage (11 comments)**

- » More effective signage, information boards, and clearly marked wayfinding is needed to improve the visitor experience at parking/staging areas, trailheads, and along the trails, especially newer ones and those on the western side of Cartwright.
- » Improved mapping of the entire planning area that incorporates type of usage of trail (single use or mixed-use) and identified trail activity.
- » Specific reference was made to providing welcome/educational signage on trail etiquette and how best to avoid conflicts on mixed-use trails as well as regulatory signage that ensures users stay off and respect private property.

• **Visitor Comfort and Convenience Amenities (10 comments)**

- » The visitor experience could be enhanced with support for enhancing or developing some key amenities.
- » The most proposed by respondents included garbage cans and dog waste bag dispensers, followed by public washrooms, benches and water stations.

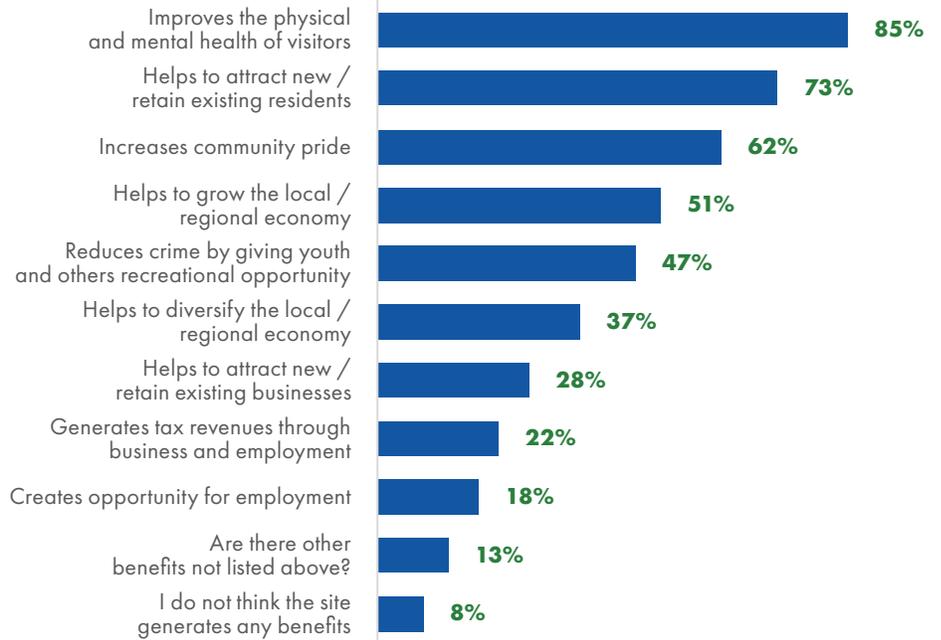
• **Trespassing on Private Property (6 comments)**

- » Respondents indicated that more could be done to ensure users stay off private property, and respect private property signage.
- » The biggest problem seems to be lack of clarity about trails extending into private property without signage.
- » However, one respondent was interested in protecting the existing trails on private property for continued use, inquiring as to what the District can do when approving the next stages of development, making trail protection a part of future neighbourhood plans.



**23. In your opinion, what benefits does visitation to the Cartwright Mountain trail system generate for the District and the Region? Check all that apply.**

Respondents identified that visitation to the Cartwright Mountain trail system generates a wide range of benefits for the District and the region. The most frequently cited benefits include improving the physical and mental health of visitors (85%), followed by the ability to attract and retain new residents (73%), and increasing community pride (62%). There is also a recognition that trails-based recreation helps to grow (51%) and diversify (37%) the local and regional economy, followed by reducing crime (47%). Figure 26 presents the types of benefits respondents believe trails-based recreation visitation to the Cartwright Mountain trail system generate for the District and the Region.



**Figure 26 Benefits of Trails-based Recreation**



## 24. To what extent do you believe the following trail management concerns are a problem and should be addressed by the trail plan?

A list of 19 possible trail management concerns were provided to respondents to review and provide feedback on the level of concern they had for a given issue. The top five concerns of respondents indicating they believed the factor to be a problem are summarized below.

The most significant concern is the potential loss of trails or access to trails due to private land development with 76% of respondents indicating this issue is the biggest problem. The next two trail management concerns considered as problems include the lack of staging / parking areas (67%) followed by the fact that there is no clear governance / management responsibility for the trails (60%).

Finally, respondents indicated that the capacity of the District and volunteers to manage the site (54%), followed closely by the lack of wayfinding signage (53%) are considered problems on the trail system that need to be addressed.

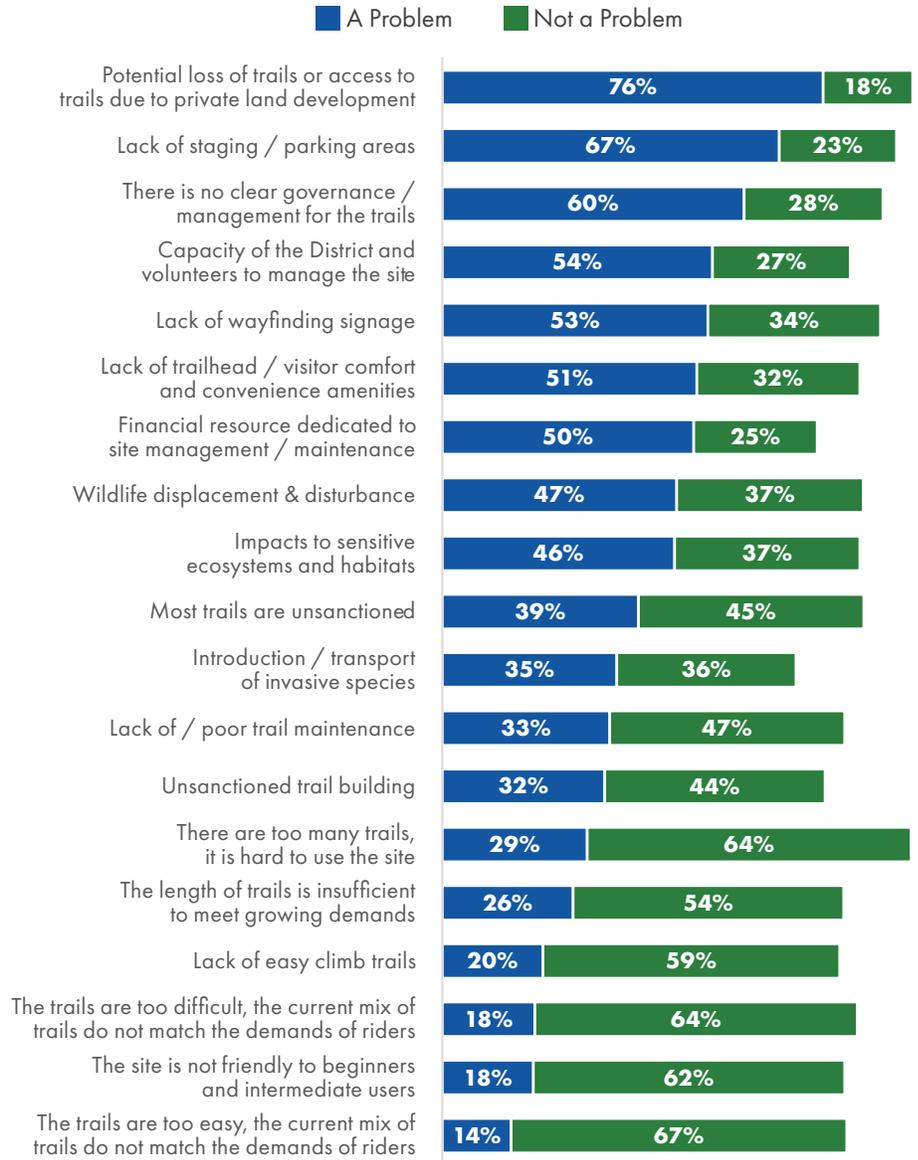


Figure 27 Trail Management Concerns

## 25. To what extent do you believe the following visitor management concerns are a problem and should be addressed by the trail plan?

A list of 28 possible visitor management concerns were provided to respondents to review and provide feedback on the level of concern they had for each given issue. The top five concerns of respondents indicating they believed the factor to be a problem are summarized in Figure 28.

An equal amount of respondents (69%) indicated that trail damage due to motorized / off road vehicles and the unauthorized use of trails are the biggest problems when it comes to visitor management.

The next three management concerns respondents considered as problems that should be addressed include insufficient parking availability / access (60%), followed by the use of class 2 & 3 e-bikes (58%), and dog feces (55%).

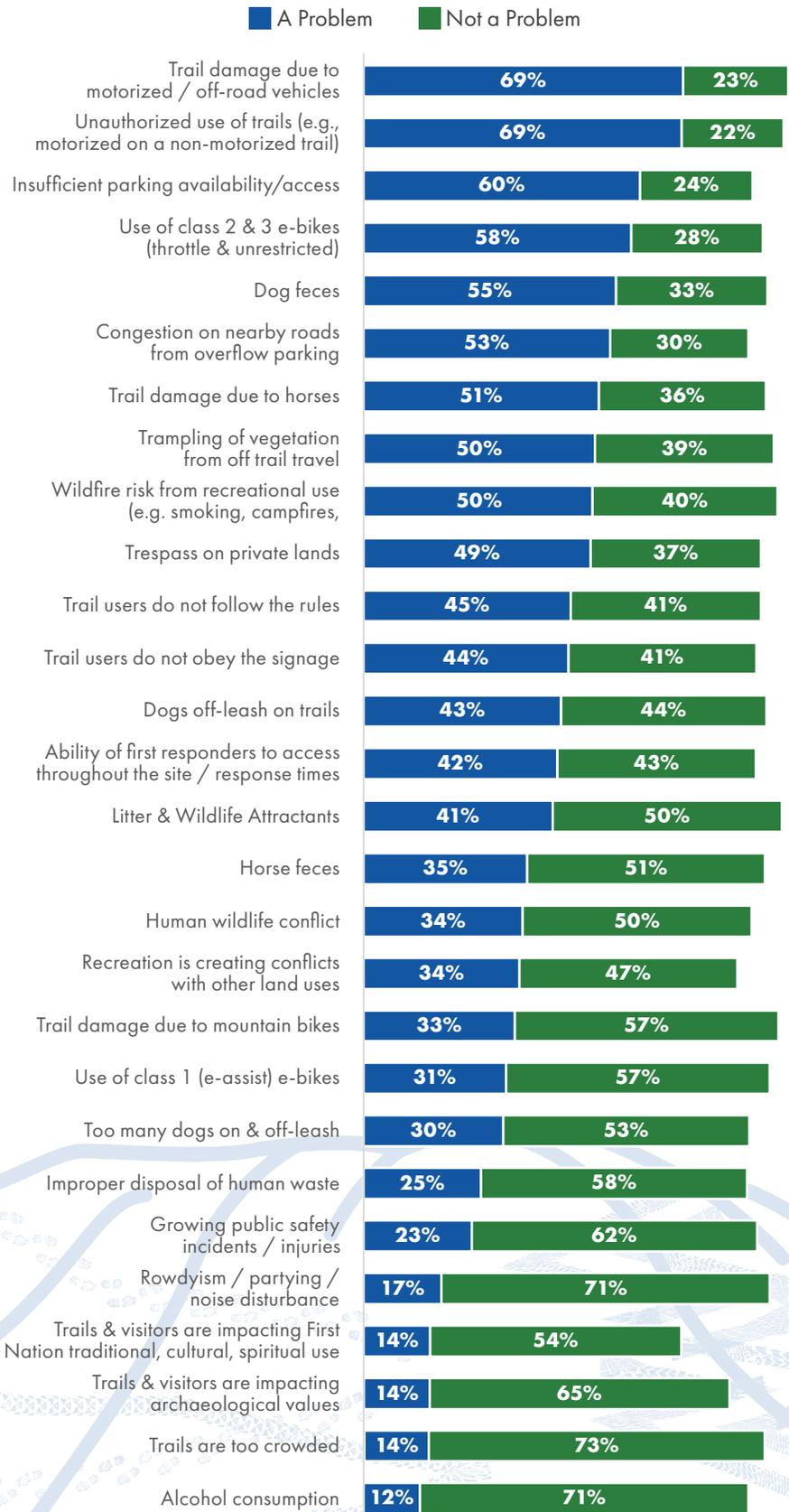


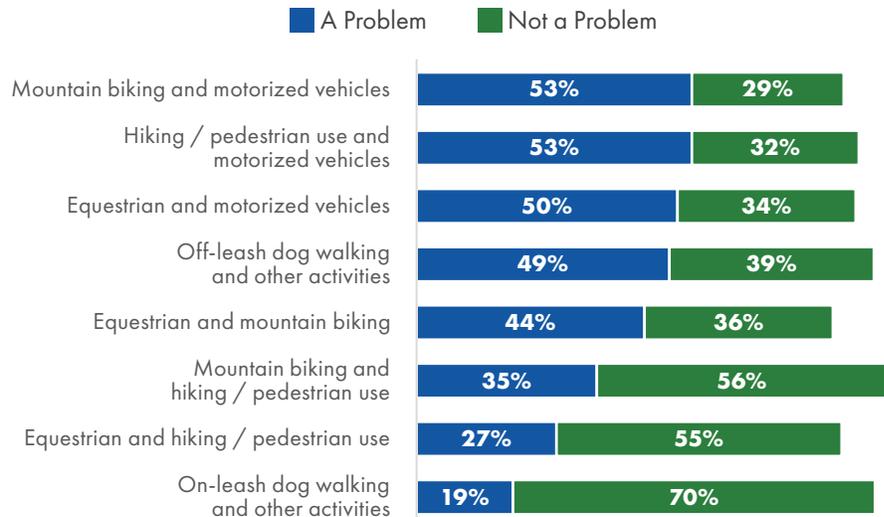
Figure 28 Visitor Management Concerns

**26. To what extent do you agree that the following visitor conflicts are a problem that needs to be managed on the trail system?**

A list of 8 possible visitor conflicts were provided to respondents to review and rank the extent to which they believed the conflict was a problem on the Cartwright Mountain trail system. Figure 29 presents the results. The top three conflicts of respondents indicating the conflict was a problem are summarized below.

The two most significant conflicts on the trail system are between mountain biking and and motorized vehicles and between hiking / pedestrian use and motorized vehicles, both identified by respondents (53%) as being problems that need to be managed.

The next most significant conflict is between equestrian and motorized vehicles with 50% of respondents indicating this is a problem.



**Figure 29 Visitor Conflict Concerns**



## 27. Are there any other management issues or concerns, not already identified in the last two questions, that are creating undesirable conditions on or near the Cartwright Mountain trails system? (open ended)

This open-ended question received 52 unique responses, some comments stressed the importance of the already identified issues and concerns, and others were to elaborate on the already identified issues.

Three themes emerged from the responses to this question. Each are presented below. were the need to address concerns over access and parking, trail building and use on private property, and the need to provide better maintenance with the recognition that all trails are unsanctioned.

- **Access & Parking** - There were 16 unique comments made regarding access and parking. The access comments were primarily focused on motorized vehicles with 5 respondents indicating their concern with OHV use accessing the trail system. Three others commented on experiencing issues with gaining accessing to the trail system through private land at the end of Hermiston Road, the end of Summergate Drive, and off of Cartwright Avenue. The remaining comment reported that access to the park by pedestrians/cyclists/equestrian is poor based on poor land use choices over the years, suggesting opportunities should be sought to create Statutory Rights of Way (SRWs) on park edges to provide better access. Respondents also raised concerns over parking (10 comments), specifically when accessing the trail system off Herron Road, Morrow Avenue, and Hermiston Drive. All three locations impact private property owners, become congested, and experience safety issues when cyclists and motorists drive too fast impacting visibility of pedestrians.

- **Understanding Where Private Land Exists & Respecting Private Land** - The second main theme was focused on the lack of understanding where public and private lands exist, guidance for trail use, and respect for private property. There were 10 unique comments made indicating they would like to see the private land marked consistently even though trespassing is occurring on unsanctioned trails where signage is present but ignored. Concerns of unsanctioned trail use causing or leading to injury, liability, wildfire, noise, animal waste, and sense of entitlement were raised that need to be addressed in advance of any new development or promotion.
- **Improved Management & Maintenance** - The third main theme was focused on the need to provide better maintenance and management of the trail system. There were 8 comments made that suggested some trails need properly built descent trails with real corners and berms and tree/brush clean up is required at some trailhead entrances. Other have expressed that the wilderness experience has been hampered with dog owners not picking up after their dogs, increased congestion and conflicting use on the trails, users not obeying signage, and the heavy use of unsanctioned trails.

There were additional comments made regarding the following topics:

- Impact on wildlife (3 comments)
- Trail etiquette (2 comments)
- Risk of wildfire (2 comments)

## 28. In your opinion, what should be done to address the most pressing management issues on Cartwright Mountain?

This open-ended question received 72 unique responses and ideas on potential solutions to address the most pressing management issues. The following themes emerged from this feedback:

### • Access and Parking (26 comments)

- » Access has been identified as the most pressing issue with respondents wanting to retain recreational use of as much land as possible. Addressing the loss of trails from future residential development should highlight the need to ensure existing trails remain and support for newly established recreational trails and access is a planning priority.
- » With respect to parking, respondents acknowledged that this is also a key issue and is a burden placed on the local residents with parking occurring on adjacent roads. These respondents feel the solution to the issue of limited parking and congestion at the various trailheads off residential roads causing impacts to private landowners is to centralize parking at the Eco Village site and on Crown land west of McLarty Place.

### • Improve Trail Maintenance and Management (15 comments)

- » Respondents emphasized that these are shared use trails, all users need respect one another, and that no user group has more rights over the network than another. However, there was indication that better management and a shared approach to maintaining the existing trails is needed.
- » There was a desire for the District to work to protect what the community has built in this area, have ongoing conversations with the community, and be more transparent regarding current trails impacting property owners and land managers, followed by actions in response.
- » It was recommended that a trail user group that has participation from all users (bikers, hikers, horses, motorized) be supported and formed to provide one voice for the potential maintenance and management of the trail system.
- » Finally, it was recommended to work together on limiting unsanctioned trail access and use while pursue the sanctioning of some of the trail system with partnership agreements and approvals from all landowners and managers including in the planning area.

### • Trespassing on Private Property (6 comments)

- » The majority of comments stated that clarity on the use of trails on private land is required so these trails are properly closed to the public and appropriate signage located at private property boundaries.
- » Respondents proposed the District secure land use/permissions, buy out parcels of private land, or reroute the trail off of private property as solutions to avoid conflict and trespassing.
- » There is also agreement not to promote/ improve trails that lead onto private property, including the flume line as this would create unnecessary landowner liability risk.
- » Having this clarity would enable recreational trails to be in a better position to be sanctioned or assigned designated/allowable activity use.

### • Add/Improve/Update Signage (6 comments)

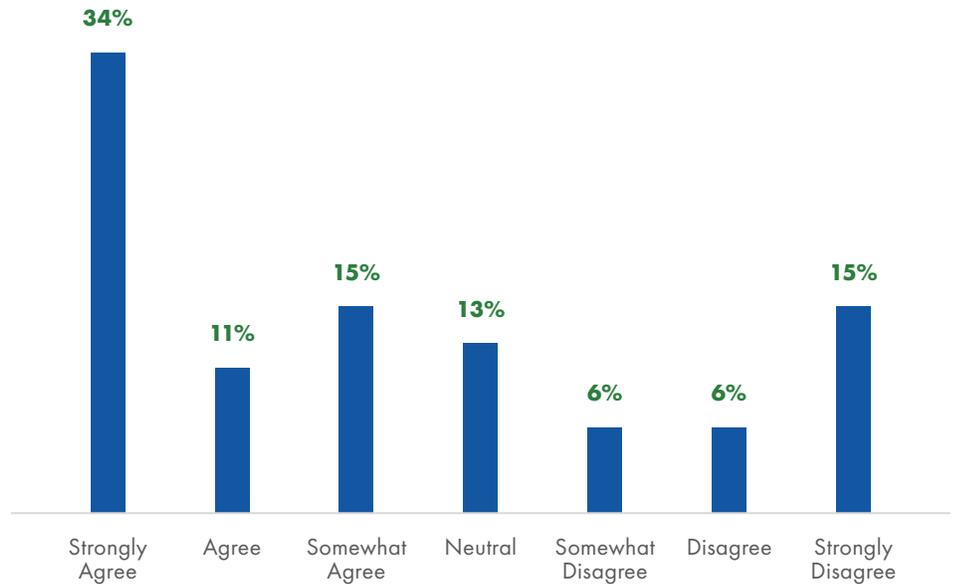
- » More and effective signage, wayfinding, and maps (with difficulty) was suggested to improve the visitor experience at parking, trailheads, and within the trail system.
- » Specific reference was made to providing educational signage on user trail etiquette as well as regulatory signage indicating no motorized vehicle use.

There were additional comments made regarding the following topics:

- There are no management issues (3 comments)
- Save the area from residential development (2 comments)

**29. To what extent do you agree that the Cartwright Mountain trail system could and should become a more significant trails tourism destination and attraction for visitors to the region?**

Trails tourism is important to many respondents. Almost 60% agree that the trail system should become a more significant trails tourism destination and work to attract visitors to the region. However, not all agree as almost 28% of respondents indicated that they do not believe that the trail system should become a more significant tourism destination and attraction (Figure 30).



**Figure 30 Extent you Agree the Cartwright Mountain Trail System could be a Trails Tourism Destination/Attraction**

**30. Please feel free to share any other input or ideas you have about how the quality of the trail system and /or the management of recreational use can be improved on Cartwright Mountain.**

This was the final open-ended question, and most respondents had shared detailed ideas, suggestions, and experience in the previous questions. However, 54 comments were provided. The majority of these comments focused on previous stated issues and improvement ideas.

Respondents again reiterated their concerns with parking and accessing the trail system to relieve the stress put on the local community (cars/trucks parked on neighbourhood streets and blocking access to private property).

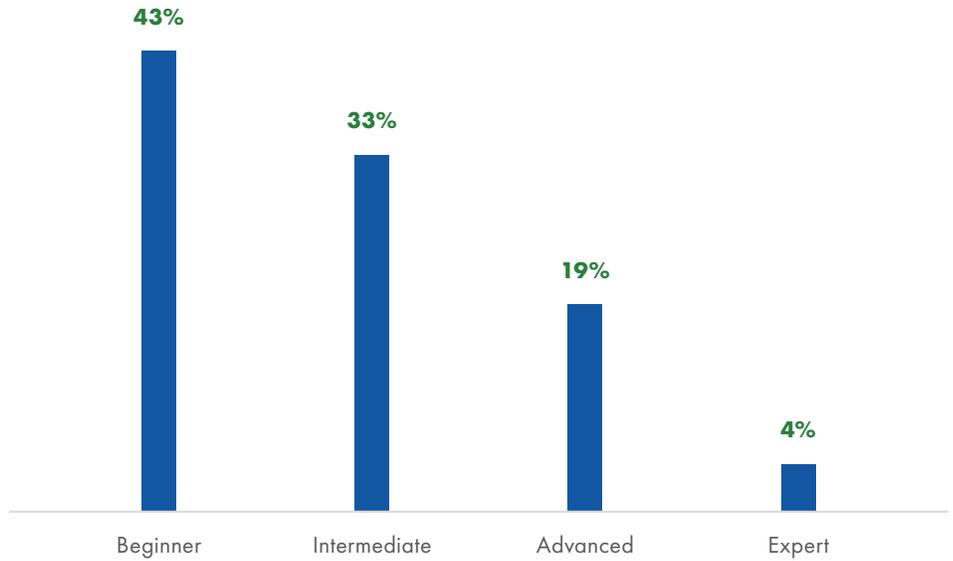
An equal number of respondents appealed to leave the Cartwright Mountain trail system in its current natural state while others stated a desire for trail developments, maintenance, and management to enhance the visitor experience and attract visitation. Those for development indicated that with the inclusion of new features on

the uphill climbs and downhill descents would make it more fun and challenging along with improvements to the Test of Humanity. Those against expressed concern that more development would attract more visitors and the perception the system will be overrun by tourists, thereby detracting from the experience that the majority of Summerland residents have come to expect.

Additionally, respondent comments regarding the need to resolve the use of unsanctioned trails and trespassing onto private lands were well represented. Protecting the land as public and against additional residential development was proposed with the solution to designate the entire planning area as a District Park. Input also reiterated the importance of trail planning and maintenance, controlling / designating access for specific activities and the provision of ample and safe parking areas.

**31. Which statement best reflects your level of expertise and experience as a trail user?**

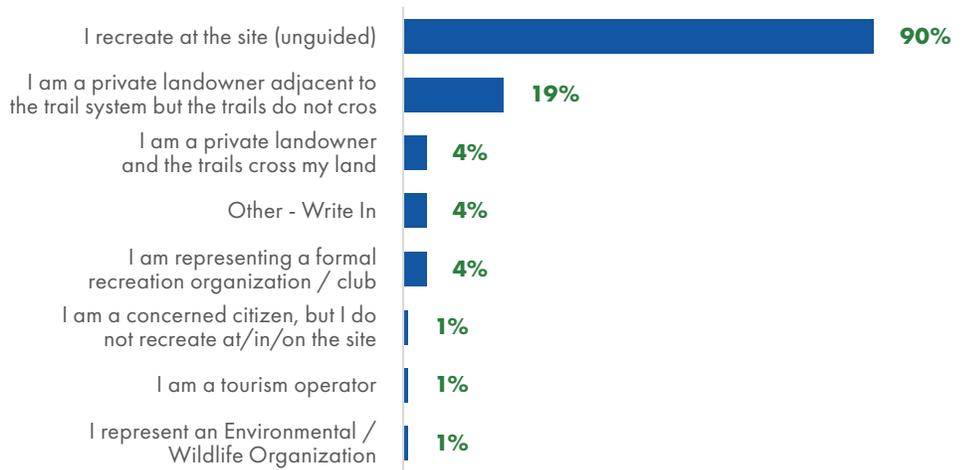
From a total of 114 respondents, 43% indicated their level of expertise and experience as a trail user on Cartwright Mountain to be advanced while 33% reported their level to be intermediate, followed by 19% at the expert level. Figure 31 demonstrates the respondents interests in the area.



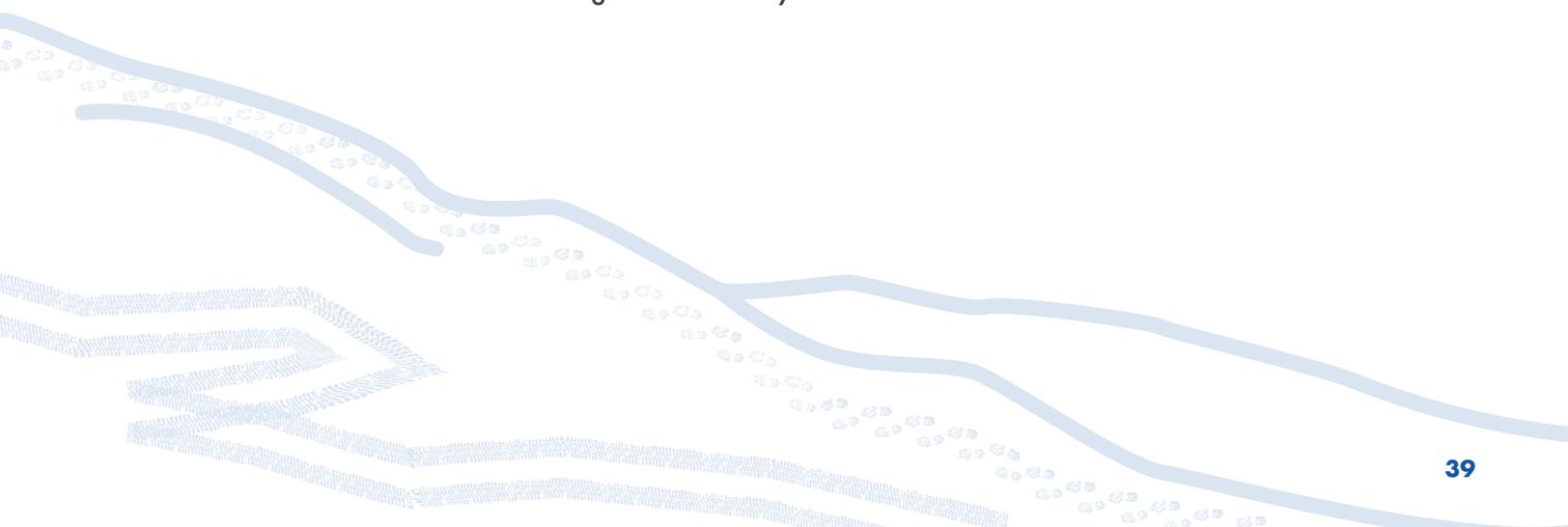
**Figure 31 Level of Expertise**

**32. Which statement below best represents your interest in the trails on Cartwright Mountain? Check all that apply.**

The majority of respondents (90%) recreate on Cartwright Mountain unguided, while 19% reported they are a private landowner adjacent to the trail system. A small percentage (4%) indicated the trails cross their private land while 3% reported they were representing a formal recreation organization/club. Figure 32 demonstrates the respondents interests in the area.



**Figure 32 Primary Interest in the Trails on Conkle Mountain**



### 33. In which age category do you fall?

The largest portion of respondents (28%) are between the ages of 65-74, followed by the ages of 45-54 (23%), 55-64, and 35-44. Figure 33 highlights the age distribution of respondents.

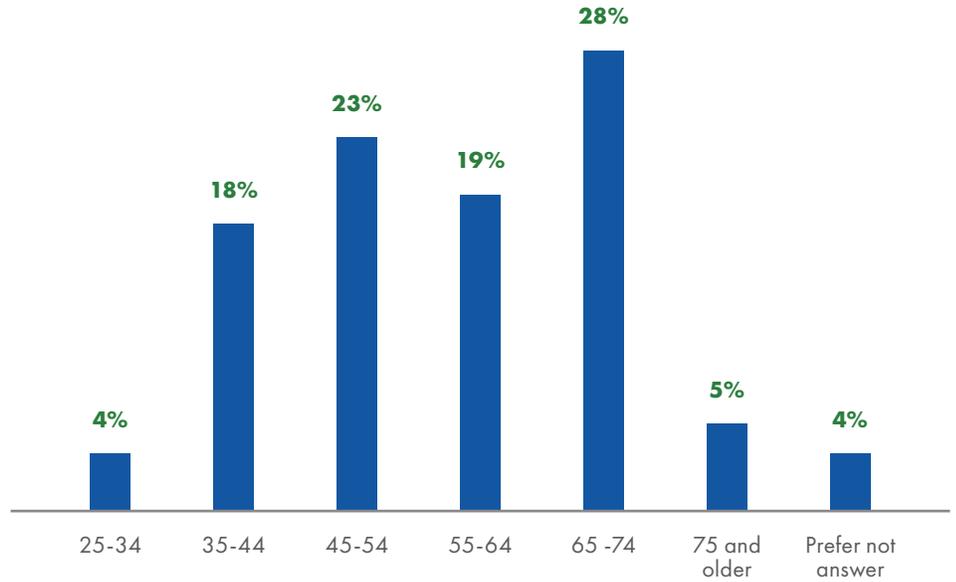


Figure 33 Age Distribution

### 34. What is the postal code for your permanent residence?

Of the total completed surveys, 94% of respondents are from the District of Summerland while just over 3% of participants are from Penticton. Two respondents participated from other parts of the Okanagan while one participated from Alberta.



### 35. What gender do you most identify with?

Male participation totalled 53 representing 47% of total respondents while female participation totalled 51 representing 46% of total respondents. A total of 7 participants preferred not to answer the question. Figure 34 highlights the gender distribution.

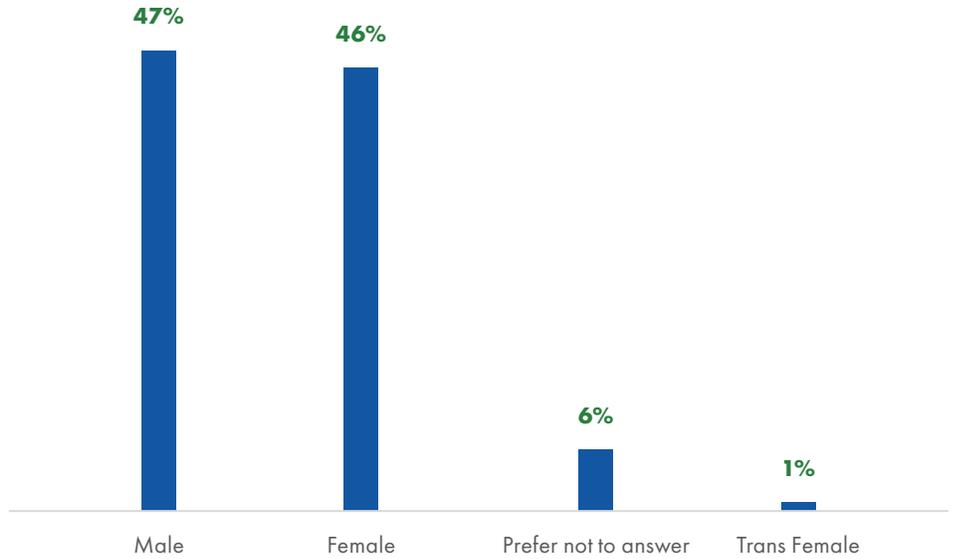


Figure 34 Gender Distribution

### 36. Do you identify as a person experiencing disability or a person with impairment?

The majority of respondents (91%) do not identify as a person living with a disability with 4 respondents reporting as a person experiencing disability or person with impairment. A total of 6 participants preferred not to answer the question. Figure 35 summarizes the distribution of respondents.

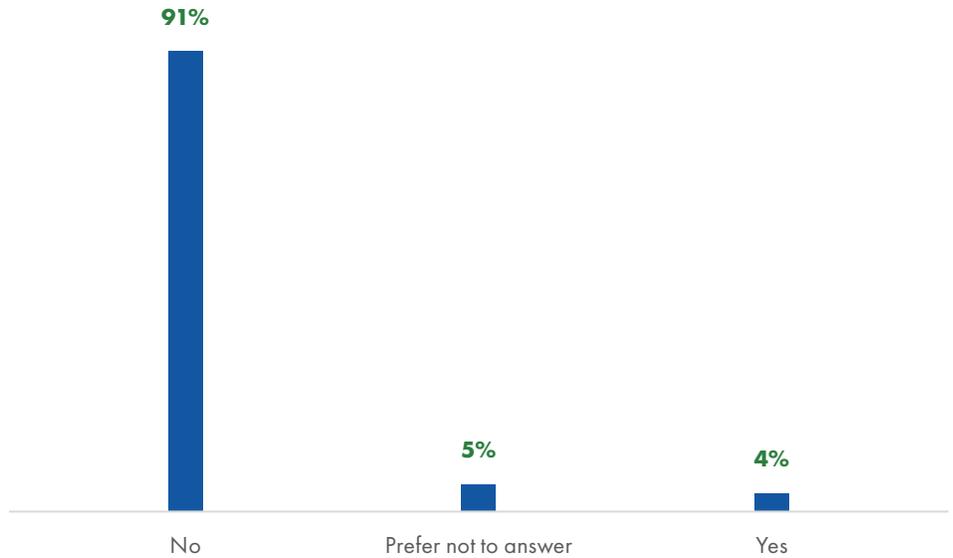


Figure 35 Persons with Disabilities

### 37. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

More than 85% of respondents have some level of post secondary education, with the majority (42%) having completed a university bachelor's degree. A total of 9 participants preferred not to answer the question. Figure 36 highlights the levels of education amongst respondents.

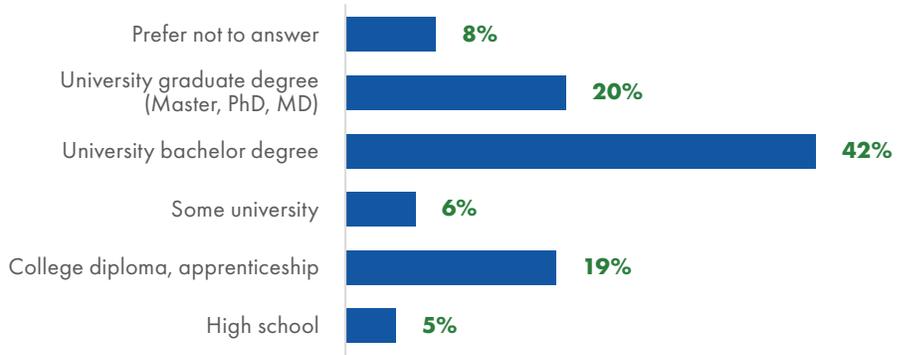


Figure 36 Highest Level of Education Completed

### 38. Which of the following best represents your household income before tax?

Household (combined) income levels of more than \$150,000 per year were represented the most by respondents at 21%, followed by respondents who reported household (combined) income levels of \$100,000 to less than \$125,000 per year at 18%. Figure 37 provides a more detailed breakdown of respondents' household income.

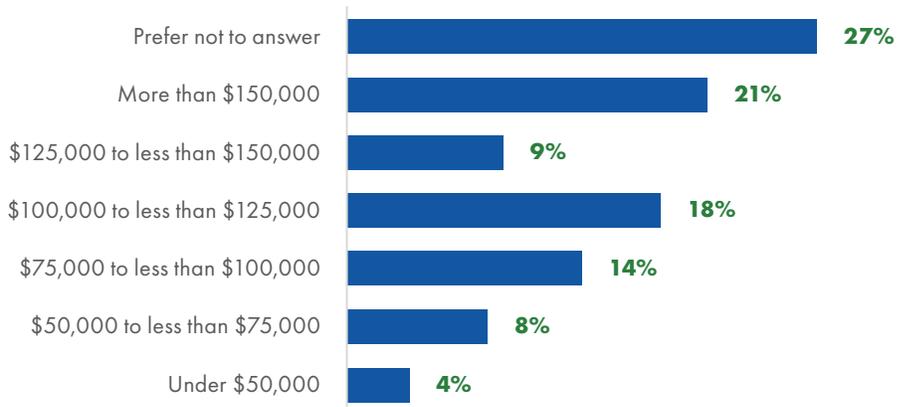
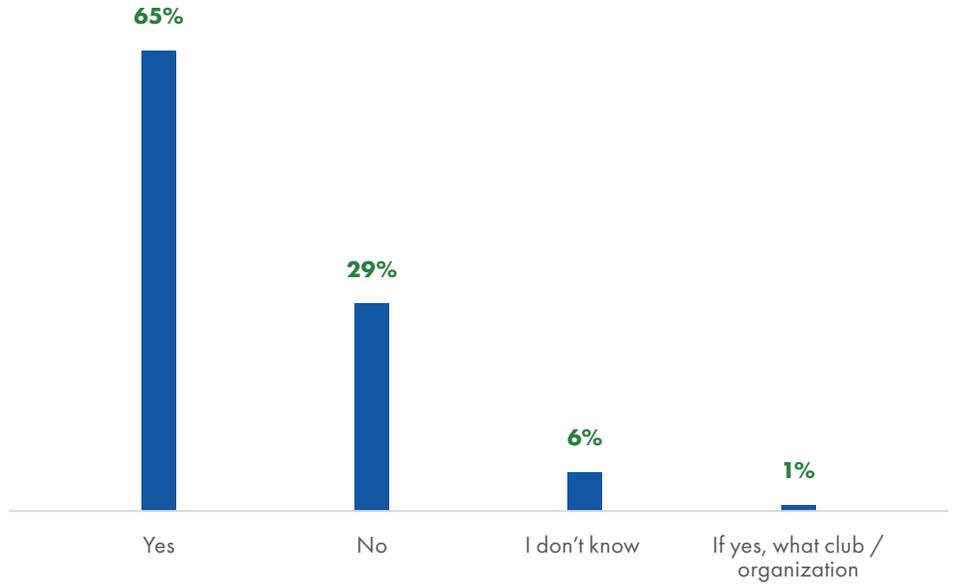


Figure 37 Household Income

**39. Are you an active member of a local trail club / organization / trail maintenance volunteer?**

The majority of respondents (64%) indicated they were not an active member of a local trail club, organization, or trail maintenance volunteer however, over 29% indicated they are, of which included 15 respondents who are active with the Penticton and Area Cycling Association.



**Figure 38 Trail Membership**



## 3.2 ONLINE INTERACTIVE CROWDSOURCE MAP

An online interactive web map was available for people to add comments spatially. The map was available from September 4 – 29, 2024.

The map allowed people to add five different types of points or lines:

- **Build**
  - » This pin was used to identify where new infrastructure should be developed.
- **Improve**
  - » This pin was used to identify where existing infrastructure needs to be improved.
- **Issue/Concern**
  - » This pin was used to identify and describe where a recreation related management concern or issue exists that should be dealt with.

In addition to dropping points and drawing lines, participants were able to react to points / lines already on the map indicating whether they agreed or disagreed with the point and to provide further comment. It is important to note that some points were “dropped” in an area with no feedback or description. In total 192 interactions with the site occurred resulting in 48 unique points, 12 lines, and an additional 113 “agrees” and 19 “disagrees” which were added to points / lines and comments made on the site.

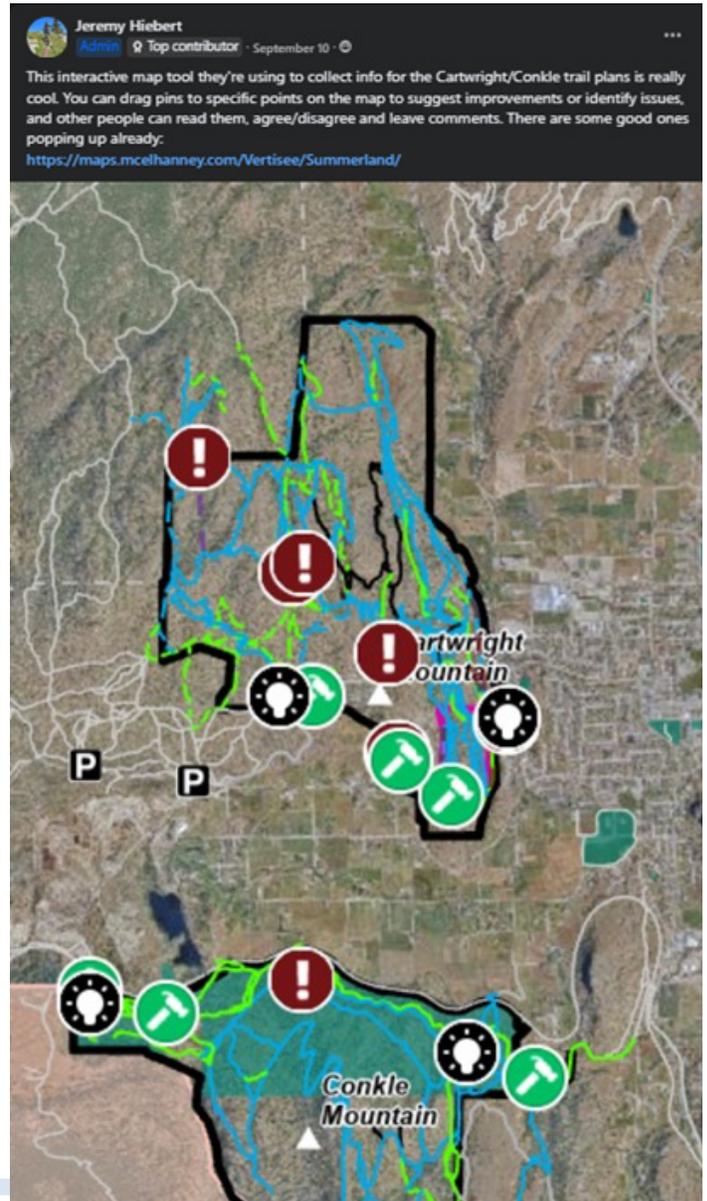


Figure 39 On-line Webmap Tool Feedback

The following presents, by input type, the themes that emerged from the analysis.

## Build

- The desire for adding washroom, bike repair station and water bottle filler amenities at the Morrow Avenue trailhead including a designated parking area was the most frequently mentioned with 6 comments, 7 agrees, and 7 disagrees captured. More respondents disagreed than agreed with the idea of adding a designated parking area here.
- The need to develop a new parking area at the Eco Village site to provide access to the trail system regardless of future residential development was the second most frequently mentioned and supported idea with 3 comments, 10 agrees, and 0 disagrees. It was felt this location should also include amenities such as a bike park to replace the old dirt TOH bike park, toilets, a bike station with chargers for e-bikes (to be consistent with the solar field), and parking for horse trailers as well.
- Third, with 2 comments, 5 agrees, and 0 disagrees, was the request to provide a bench on the ridge of Test of Humanity Best to admire the views and rest by the rock along with some signage about vegetation and the history of the area.

## Improve

- The main theme, with 4 comments, 12 agrees, and 3 disagrees, focused on the desire to add a pump track and bike skills park west of McClarty Place on Crown land to encourage more youth involvement. Related to this, others requested to reinstate entry level routes with limited grade changes as part of the re-development as the planned location for the Eco Village will eliminate the only beginner section of this trail network. Finally, although many supported the need for a skills park and new beginner friendly trails at this location, some also felt a site at the Rodeo Grounds is better suited as there is already parking and an established trailhead.
- One other comment with 2 agrees suggest improvements are needed to Joyride DH, a section of Joyride due to its steepness.

## Issue/Concern

There was a mix of comments ranging from trespassing and prohibiting public access on private property to providing better management of animal feces on trails and the development of better signage.

- The most common issue, with 8 comments, 24 agrees, and 0 disagrees, reported the use of unsanctioned trails and the need to manage unauthorized access onto private property that is occurring across the trails system. One comment stated the bulk of the trails considered in the planning area are on private property while others have indicated that flagging, gates, and signage clearly indicating 'No Trespassing' have been ignored. Also noted was that the 'flume line' trail continues into several private properties and should signal that public access be prohibited due to privacy and liability concerns.
- The second most common concern, with 4 comments, 13 agrees and 0 disagrees, was the desire to place a garbage can for dog feces near the popular trailhead off of Morrow Avenue as dog walking is popular in this area. Along with this, the other major concern at this location centered around the need for off road/street parking as mountain bikers are parking along the roadway here and use it as a staging area for entering the trail system. Final comments regarding this area questioned whether moving this trail head and associated parking/staging further down off of Denike has been approved as per the Eco-village and Solar site planning proposals to address safety and addition of other amenities.
- The third most common issue/concern, with 4 comments, 13 agrees and 0 disagrees, was need for better signage the end of Hermiston Road to ensure people park in the cul-de-sac and not on the gravel road blocking driveways. Also for consideration at this site was the desire to provide better private property signage, preferably put up by the District, as the gravel driveway leading from the end of Hermiston is not a road and not part of the trail system.
- And finally, 1 comment and 5 agrees raised concern with an old skidder made by dirt bikes and ATVs straight up/down the fall line connecting Meadow Shortcut to Hawkeye should be closed and reclaimed.

## 3.3 SOUNDING BOARDS

### 3.3.1 Overview

Three “sounding boards” were set-up at higher traffic locations on Cartwright Mountain and popular outdoor retail businesses including:

- McLarty Place
- Morrow Avenue
- Herron Road

Sounding boards were used to provide information on the project, encourage participation in the online survey and web map (via a QR code), and to enable participants to provide immediate input directly on panel in response to the question “What should be done to improve the quality and sustainability of the trails on Cartwright Mountain?”

### 3.3.2 Results

In total, 22 comments (or threads of comments) were provided on the sounding boards. The themes that emerged from the analysis of received comments are as follows:

1. **Improve Signage** - Increase and improve signage (including interpretive (1), wayfinding (2) and regulatory signage (4) (7 total comments/support).
2. **Improve Amenities** - Increase amenities including garbage cans (3), washrooms (2), parking (3), and bike skills park (1) (9 total comments/support).
3. **Leave it as is & Keep it Natural** - Leave as is (4) and focus more on the maintenance of trails including partnering with PACA (2), rather than development of more trails, (6 total comments/support).



Figure 40 McLarty Place Trailhead



Figure 41 Herron Road Trailhead

## 3.4 STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS & WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Twelve virtual interviews were held with 15 individuals that have an interest in Cartwright Mountain. One additional written response was also received from a member of the general public. Interview participants included local recreation organizations or activity representatives (including motorized recreation, hiking, trail running, equestrian, and trail building/maintenance), private land owners, historian, qualified environmental professional, Government of BC and the Regional District. Interviews lasted between 60 - 120 minutes and were held virtually. Using a common interview guide, the interview questions were focused on 3 main topics:

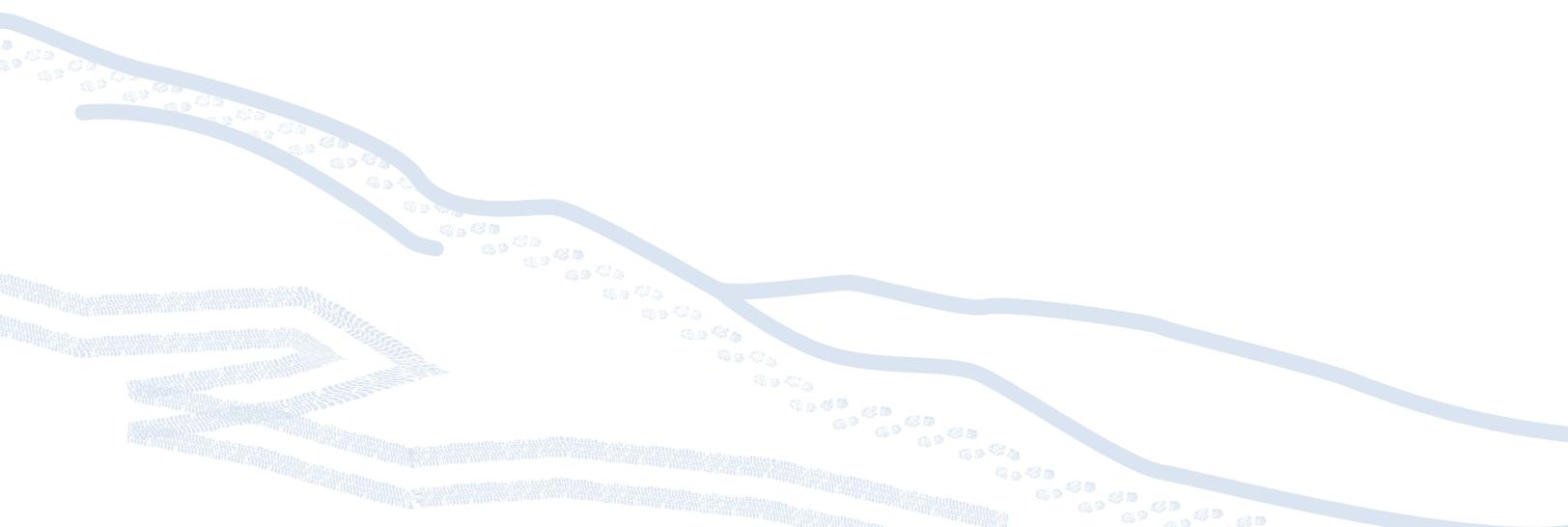
1. Strengths of the Cartwright Mountain trails system
2. Management Issues and Opportunities to Improve
3. Future Priorities (including trails, parking, facility)

Participants included local recreation organizations and representatives from key user groups, (including motorized recreation, hiking, trail running, equestrian, and trail building/maintenance), Government of BC representative, Regional District representative, and local residents. Of the 15 individuals that were invited to participate, 14 interviews were held (17 individuals) and 5 additional written responses were also received.

The main themes that emerged from the interviews and written feedback are as follows.

### INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS:

- 5 Recreation-based Users/Groups including;
  - » 2 equestrian
  - » 1 mtn biking
  - » 2 trail running/ hiking
  - » 2 trail maintenance
  - » 1 motorized
- 1 Historian
- 1 Environmental Professional
- 3 Private Landowners
- 1 Provincial Government Representative
- 1 Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen Representative



## 1. STRENGTHS OF THE CARTWRIGHT MOUNTAIN TRAILS SYSTEM

All participants noted the uniqueness of the Cartwright Mountain planning area, commenting on the geography, diversity of terrain, scenic views, close proximity to downtown Summerland, and for tourists visiting. Participants noted that much of the trail system is located on private lands, District of Summerland owned lands and provincial Crown land. The trail system is viewed by locals as a community asset that is integral to supporting quality of life for many residents. Specifically, having multi-use nature-based outdoor recreation that provides residents the opportunity to experience the restorative properties of the area through active recreation is highly valuable to residents, visitors, and municipal officials.

In addition to the convenient location and physical environment, participants noted the value of the diverse mixed-use and non-motorized trail system. Participants indicated that a key strength of Cartwright Mountain trail system is that it supports a diverse range of recreational activities including ORV use, hiking, trail running, equestrian, and mountain biking (down hill, cross country). In the winter there are groomed trails for fat biking and snowshoeing. This range of activities and inclusive nature of the area was identified as a major strength, and respondents want to ensure the area is well managed, maintained and continues to support the breadth of recreational activities but on sanctioned / designated trails.

## 2. MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE

Trespassing on private property, collaboration, governance model and operational responsibilities, access and parking, and visitor amenities emerged as the primary management issues and opportunities to improve. A brief overview of each theme is provided below.

### • Trespassing on Private Property & Unauthorized Trails

- » Three participants, whose private property (residence/land) is being impacted by trail users, provided written feedback indicating their concerns with the increased unauthorized use that is occurring. Concerns raised included erosion/damage, taking down of signs, building of new trails, and liability. These property owners expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to provide feedback but think all affected private property owners should be engaged formally to provide input prior to any decisions being made. Also, they do not want the trail plan to indicate the trails on private property are open for public use and hope a reasonable solution for the trail system can be achieved.
- » Interview feedback from 2 private landowners and one developer also stated their concerns with trespassing including liability, as insurance requires signs for trespassing, the building of new trails causing ecological damage and soil erosion, and potential litigation if people get hurt.
- » Also noted is the long-term public misconception that the land is a free-for-all for recreational users, the sense of public ownership trail users are developing, and potential future opposition to development.
- » Private landowner interviewees indicated a willingness to collaborate with the District on maintaining trail connectivity through future development recognizing that future residents will want these trails as well as a willingness to explore short term solutions for authorizing the current unauthorized trails before development occurs. However, private landowners noted that in some cases trails will need to be moved around to accommodate future residential development and they want to see the trail systems tied into and moving through the neighbourhoods.

## • Collaboration

- » Participants highlighted the diversity of uses on Cartwright Mountain as a strength, but also a potential issue/ weakness. Currently, the planning area and its trails are perceived to be built and maintained by one user group (mountain biking). Some participants noted that, while the volunteers are doing a good job, there is a desire to see a broader multi-interest group provide guidance and management direction for the trail system as this will broaden perspectives and increase capacity.
- » Participants would like to see a more collaborative approach that directly involves broader communication and representation from more user groups, other interested parties, and private landowners.
- » Participants noted that there is no clear coordinated and collaborative approach to design, development, and management of trails leading to misconceptions about responsibilities for maintenance.
- » There is a lack of understanding or appreciation of trail maintenance that all user types undertake while some trail builders may feel they are the only ones doing maintenance.
- » The Penticton Area Cycling Association (PACA) was mentioned multiple times by respondents who are current members and enjoy the trail system. These members could be further engaged to advance collaboration and active support (e.g. management, funding) between the District of Summerland, Government of BC, private landowners and other active user groups.

## • Governance Model and Operational Responsibilities

- Decisions about new trail development, trail redevelopment, maintenance and operations are currently being made by a very small number of dedicated and motivated volunteers.
- Based on the uncoordinated approach to trail development, there is a need to address unauthorized trail development to ensure collaboration and liability and to avoid risks.
- As there is no current authorized management body in place, people don't understand the governance of who has management responsibility for the various trails on the different parcels of land.
- The issue of land ownership, landowner support, management, access, and operations need to be addressed.
- Currently, the solutions would all require a thorough review and understanding of land designations, maintenance of roads, and access points as there is a mix of Crown land, private land, and District of Summerland options suggested by respondents.

## • Access and Parking Capacity

- » Regardless of participants connection to the planning area (government, local recreation user groups, community members, etc.) most agreed that parking and access is a management issues that need to be addressed through the trails plan.
- » Most visitors walk to trail system and access the system at the nearest trailhead to their residence. Community trailheads are currently informal.
- » Those who drive to the trail system can choose a number of locations to park and access the trail system but the parking supply is informal, has insufficient capacity and does not offer a welcoming experience or sufficient signage, mapping, and wayfinding.
- » Parking adjacent to the Herron Road, Cartwright Avenue, Prairie Valley Road, Hermiston Drive, and McLarty Place trailhead entrances has been raised as major concerns including Morrow Avenue which some participants noted can have up to 50 cars parked at one time
- » Consolidating parking into 2 main areas, addressing congestion, parking conflicts with homeowner/ landowners, and improvements to the gateway experience and trailhead amenities, emerged as priorities.
- » Many participants indicated that a making the McLarty staging area mixed-use staging area makes sense and should people who drive to the trailhead as well as those who will walk, ride, ATV / dirt bike direct from nearby residences. It was acknowledged that that most ORV use and equestrian use will still stage from Trappers.

## • Visitor Amenities & Signage

- » Most participants noted the need to improve the visitor amenities available at staging areas, community trailhead and on-trail. The most common comfort and convenience amenity improvements included:
  - Addition of waste bags/bins.
  - Addition of formal staging / parking areas that would include toilet facilities and other basic amenities like benches, picnic tables, bike repair station. Locations mentioned most by participants included the Eco-Village (non-motorized) and McLarty location (mixed-use).
  - Addition of new and improved signage and wayfinding throughout the trail system including regulatory signage indicating no trespassing on private land.
- » First Nations place naming and languages are not reflected in existing signage.
- » Interpretation is limited throughout the trail system.



### • Environmental Impacts & Lack of Data

- » Ecological inventories, including inventories of invasive species, are lacking and insufficient to support sound trail planning and decision making regarding trail development.
- » Most trails have been constructed without authorization and without appropriate environmental impact assessments. Trail development and trail use (e.g. off-leash dogs) may be posing risks to a variety of species, including species at risk.
- » Trails have the potential to introduce and spread invasive species. Best management practice should be applied during trail construction to limit introduction of invasive species, and invasive species monitoring and control is needed on trails and at trailheads after construction.
- » Use of trails in the spring or during overly wet conditions should be avoided / managed to limit trail and environmental impacts.

### • Visitor Use Management

- » Greater attention to managing trail use and visitor behaviours is needed.
- » Visitor education should be increased to address environmental concerns and conflicts.
- » Enforcement / compliance assurance is needed to address environmental concerns, unauthorized trail building, and off-road vehicle use.

### 3. FUTURE PRIORITIES (INCLUDING TRAILS, PARKING, FACILITY)

In general, interview participants felt that Cartwright Mountain provides a good mix and diversity of trails that are appreciated by the local community and visited by a wide range of users which is healthy.

#### Focus on Beginner & Intermediate Trails

There were a few comments that if new trails were to be developed or new amenities included in the planning area, then the focus should be on beginner and intermediate (green and blue) level non-motorized trails. As to not lose trails through this planning process, the focus should continue to enhance maintenance and management of the existing network as a re-distribution of difficulty / diversity is not needed other than consideration for directional trails and designated uses to manage for safety.

#### Designate Uses of Trails

With respect to the motorized use trails, it was reported that the current network and connections on Cartwright should be maintained, sustained but clearly designated for this use and non-motorized trails should clearly prohibit motorized use. There was a request for the development of a mixed-use trail connection from the viewpoint in the north over Dragon's Back and out the north end to Garnet Valley Dam to avoid the steep road descent to the Test of Humanity and conflict with non-motorized use.

#### Multi-Interest Governance Model

Interviewees noted that there would likely/possibly be interest in the community for a more formalized trail building, operations, and maintenance group with support from the District (training, funding, supplies). They felt the formation of a multi-interest stakeholder governance group would be healthy and have merit in making the trails system more sustainable. One of the benefits would be having a collaborative and unifying voice to share information, equipment, and expertise but also foster the synergies that come with supporting each other. This would ensure the multi-use trail ecosystem is connected to identify, support, and combine resources. It was noted that the RDOS would be interested participating in a multi-stakeholder oversight group managing the trails and would be well situated to be the lead on this sometime in the future.

#### Trail Authorizations on Private Lands in the Near Term

Interviewed private landowners indicated a willingness to explore the idea of a formal agreement between themselves and the DoS that would transfer the liability and provide the ability to formalize a trail on private lands. Such an arrangement would then terminate when residential development is proposed with trail connectivity looking to be secured through the land development process and land transfers to the District.

