

Otay Regional Trail Alignment Study

Public Workshop #1 Summary

A public workshop was held at Arroyo Vista Charter Elementary School, in the city of Chula Vista, on March 14, 2017 in an effort to engage members of the public early in the trail planning process. A total of 72 members from the general public and local interest groups, as well as 10 additional agency representatives, attended the meeting. Stakeholder groups that attended the meeting included local community planning groups, user groups, private developers, and environmental organizations including members from the Otay Valley Regional Park (OVRP) Citizen Advisory Committee, Jamul Community Planning Group, Jamul Trails Subcommittee, San Diego Mountain Bike Association, Bonita Bikers, Bonita Valley Horsemen, Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association, Jackson Pendo, RH Consulting Group, Friends of OVRP, Friends of San Diego Wildlife Refuges, and Southwest Wetland Interpretive Association.

During the public workshop members of the public responded to two questionnaires regarding user demographics and preferences for the trail system. These questionnaires were also available prior to the workshop and after, in which responses are combined in attachment 1. In addition to these surveys the public also identified 25 potential trailhead and staging areas recommended within the study area, at an interactive geographic information system (GIS) station.

User Demographics Results Summary

- User type varies amongst the respondents, with a majority being cyclists (35%), hikers (30%), or walkers (20%). Only 2% of respondents identified themselves as equestrians.
- A majority of respondents identified themselves as residents of various communities with the City of Chula Vista and City of San Diego.
- Users span all age ranges and use trails during all times of day, with most users preferring to use trails during the early to mid-morning hours (55%).
- A majority of users anticipate using the trail system weekly (47%).
- A majority of respondents use trails in groups of 2 to 5 (46%) or alone (30%).
- A majority of respondents will be travelling [to trailhead or staging area] by car (55%) or by bike (31%).

Preferences for Trail System Results Summary

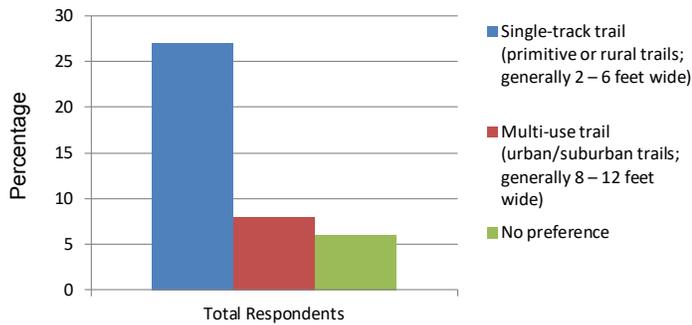
- A majority of respondents would prefer single-track trails which were defined as primitive or rural trails, generally 2 to 6 feet wide (66%) and are very comfortable transitioning from single-track to doubletrack (68%).
- A majority of respondents would prefer moderate (rolling to hilly terrain with shorter, steeper slopes; 44%) or challenging (steeper slopes; 30%) trails.
- Scenic overlooks are very important to 30% of respondents, and somewhat important to 24% of respondents.
- A majority of respondents would prefer trail experiences that can accommodate 1-2 hour hikes (29%) or 3-4 hour hikes (24%).

In addition to the surveys and interactive GIS stations, the public was also able to provide verbal and written comments during the workshop. Public comments included the following:

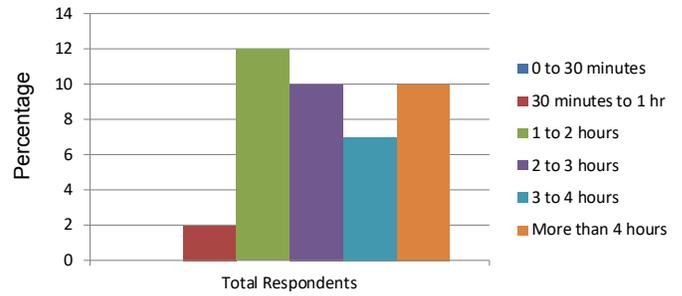
- Numerous commenters requested natural trails (as opposed to decomposed granite) for bike riding, as well as bike-specific trails with contour changes.
- Commenters requested trails connections to:
 - Public parks such as Otay Lakes County Park for events such as trail rides;
 - Existing trail systems in Hollenbeck Canyon Wildlife Area to Upper or Lower Otay Reservoir;
 - The Community of Eastlake to Upper Otay Reservoir, with a possible connection via the Stephen & Mary Birch House; and
 - The western OVRP trail system to Lower Otay Reservoir.
- Numerous commenters requested a loop trail around Lower Otay Reservoir. One commenter suggested this could be accomplished by a floating bridge.
- Directional signage is needed to clarify trails in the eastern OVRP [not currently open to the public].
- Mileage markers would be useful for law enforcement and safety personnel.
- Bike tool stations with air pumps were suggested, as they have had success in other parts of San Diego County.
- Trails should take into consideration wildlife corridors to avoid habitat fragmentation.
- The SkyDive San Diego lease should not be renewed due to wetland and drinking water impacts.
- Conflicting comments were received regarding permitting use on the California Riding and Hiking Trail.
- A staging area near Otay Lakes should be included to make connections to eastern Otay. Potential locations include the SkyDive San Diego site and/or expanding Otay Lakes County Park with equestrian staging.

ATTACHMENT 1

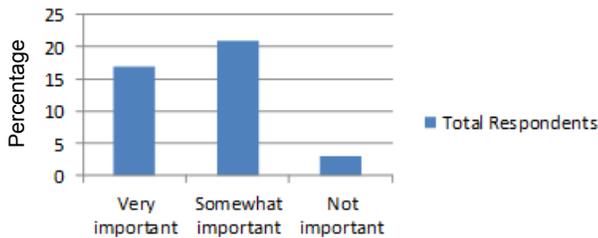
Which trail type do you prefer?



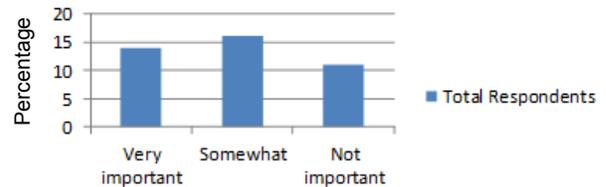
What duration would you prefer for trail use?



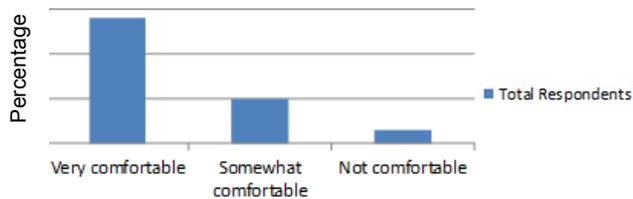
How important is it to have overlook areas along trails?



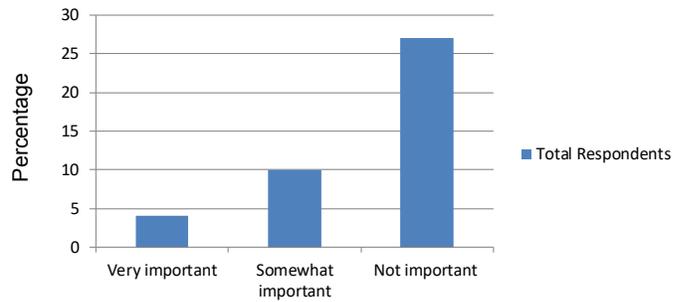
How important is it to be able to access trailheads via major thoroughfares?



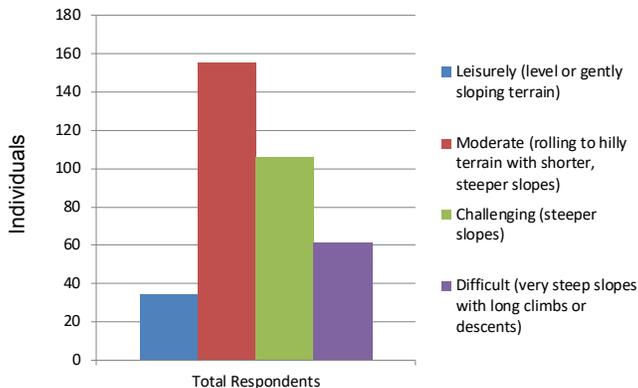
How comfortable are you traveling on paths that transition from single-track (primitive or rural trails) to multi-use (urban/suburban trails)?



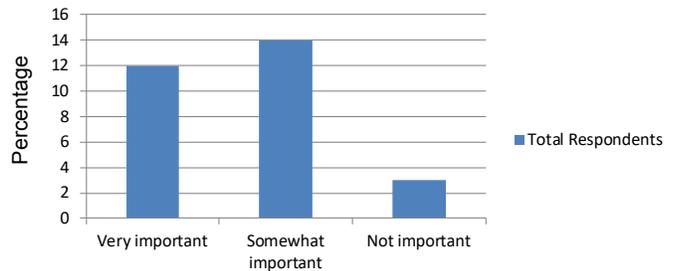
How important is it to have access to a staging area that can accommodate horse trailers?



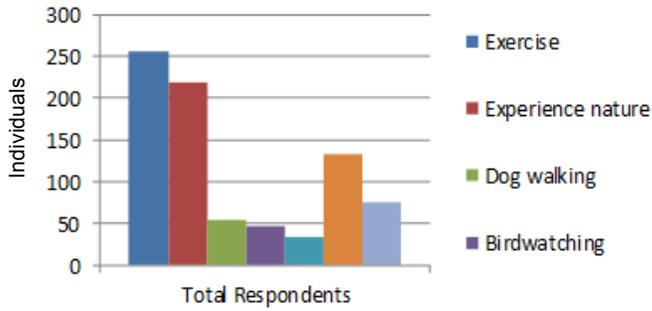
What level of difficulty would you prefer for trails in the study area?



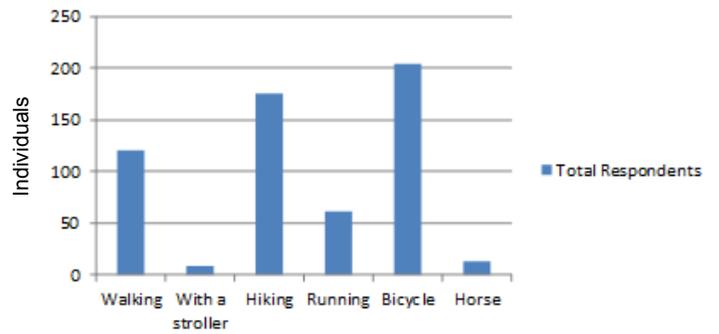
How important is it to have access to a designated parking lot?



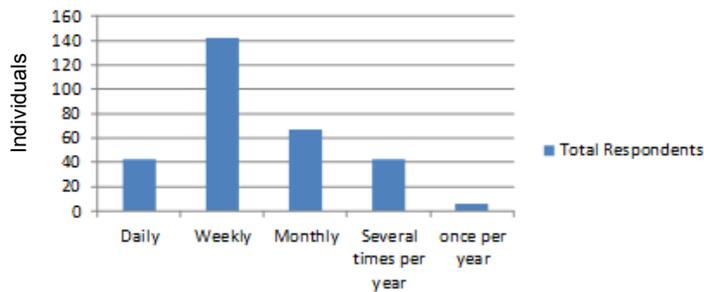
Why do you visit trails?



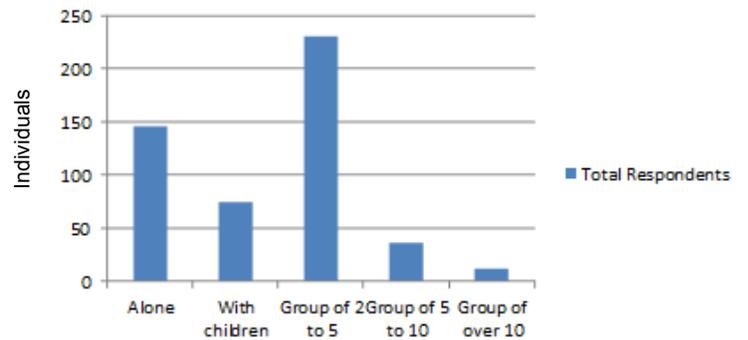
How do you enjoy trails?



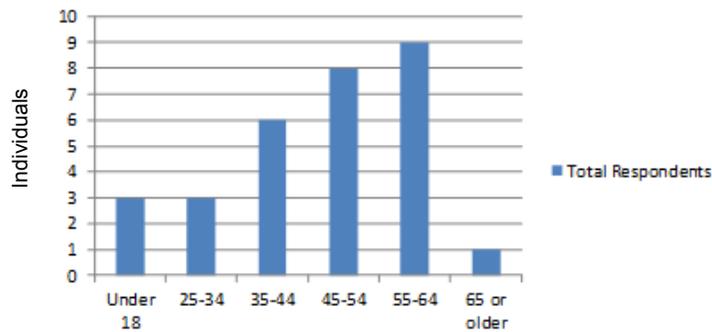
How often would you likely visit trails in the study area?



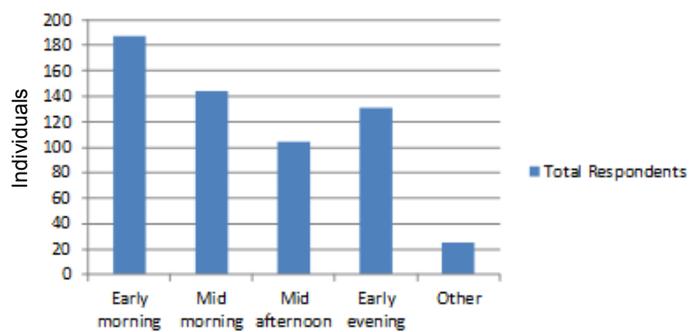
Who do you typically visit trails with?



What's your age range?



When do you like to visit trails?



Assuming trailheads are located in the vicinity of Chula Vista, Jamul, and/or Otay Mesa, what method(s) of transportation are you likely to take to the trailhead?

