

An Analysis of the 2015 Trail User Survey & Count



NEW YORK
STATE OF
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Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

An Analysis of the 2015 Trail User Survey & Count

Report Prepared by the
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation,
Planning Bureau

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Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Rose Harvey, Commissioner

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1. Introduction

Throughout New York State there are over 15,000 miles of trail. Over 700 of these miles exist on rail trails and another 300 miles of trails were created on historic corridors such as canal tow paths and parkway right of ways. Most notably these trails include the Erie Canalway Trail, the longest shared use trail in the state, which is built on a canal towpath as well as on an abandoned railroad right of way. With an extensive array of multi-use trails found in almost every region of the state, more attention has been given recently to those who use New York's network of shared use trails and what they spend.

The benefits of multi-use trails have been well documented both in terms of human health and economic impacts to the communities that host these trails. A 2014 study prepared by Clough Harbor Associates (CHA) for the New York State Canal Corporation estimated that the Erie Canalway Trail provides over 6 billion dollars of total economic impact. A study released the same year by Dr. Scipione at the State University of New York at Geneseo for Parks and Trails New York (PTNY) found that 253 million dollars in sales is generated from roughly 1.6 million visits to the Erie Canalway Trail each year. Average spending per person per visit ranged from \$26.37 for day trips to \$531.47 for overnight visits.

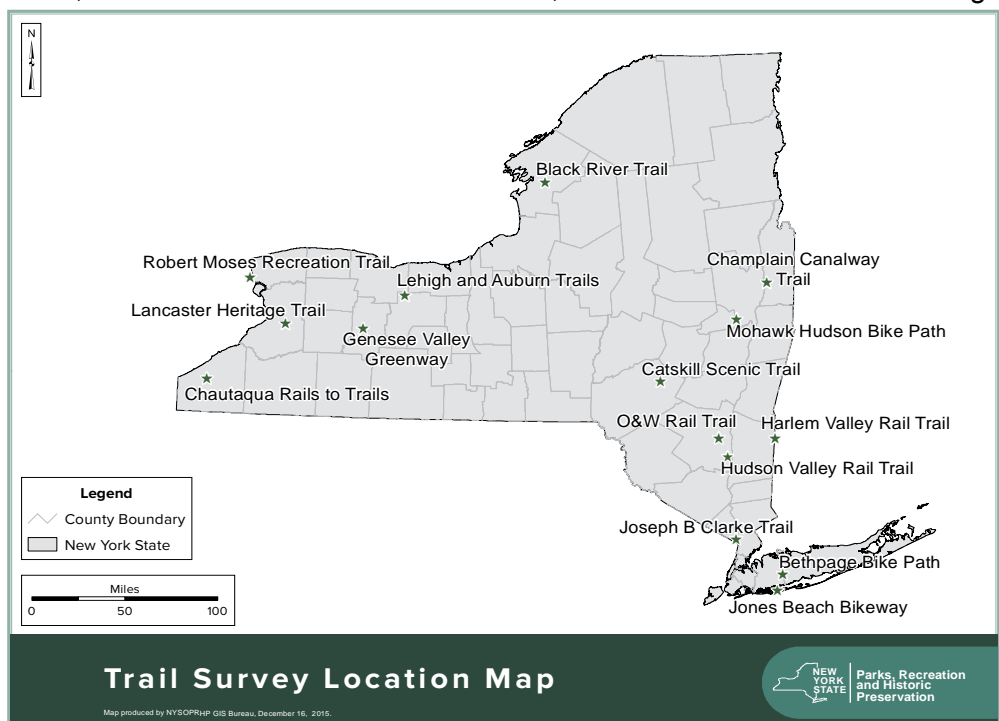
Utilizing similar methods to those developed within these studies and what was completed for the 2010 Statewide Trails Plan, user surveys and counts were undertaken by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) on 15 multi-use trails during the summer of 2015. The survey data leads to conclusions about trail needs, who uses these trails, where trail patrons come from, how far do they travel to a trail, how far do they travel on a trail, how much do they spend and on what items. With this information in hand, combined with estimates of overall trail use, estimates of economic impacts to communities across the state are made.

2. Trail User Survey

Fifteen trails were selected for this study. The trails were located throughout the state and are under various forms of management. The list of trails included: The Bethpage Bike Path, the Black River Trail, the Catskill Scenic Trail, the Champlain Canalway Trail, Chautauqua Rails to Trails, the Genesee Valley Greenway, the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, the Hudson Valley Rail Trail, the Jones Beach Bikeway, the Joseph B. Clarke Trail, the Lancaster Heritage Trail, Lehigh and Auburn Trails, the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail, the O&W Rail Trail/ D&H Heritage Corridor, and the Robert Moses Recreation Trail. A description of each trail can be found later in this report. While trail surface varied, a majority of the trails selected were built on abandoned railroad corridors or canal towpaths and all tended to support similar summer recreational activities accommodated by the trail surface.

Methodology

The survey methodology modified the efforts of the 2008 Trail User Survey that was conducted by OPRHP in the preparation of the 2010 Statewide Trails Plan. The results of the 2008 survey



and count can be found in the report, *Every Mile Counts: An Analysis of the 2008 Trail User Surveys*. As in 2008, a voluntary survey printed on letter size paper accompanied a postage paid envelope for return to New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Planning Bureau, Albany, New York 12238. Surveys were numbered to correspond to each trail to facilitate sorting upon return to the agency. These were placed in survey boxes along the trails.

In addition to paper surveys, the agency also deployed an online version of the survey. This was accomplished by displaying the QR code (a barcode that when scanned by a personal device, such as a smart phone, takes the user to a designated website) and survey link on the box and providing reminder cards in the box containing the same information. This allowed users to take the survey at home or on the trail using a personal device, such as a smart phone.

The surveys contained 24 questions on trail use and 5 demographic questions. The 24 questions were revised versions of the 2008 survey and similar to the visitor surveys conducted in State Parks. The intent was to create data that would be comparable to the 2008 survey and other trails throughout the country. An additional question was added to the online survey to identify the trail for which the survey was being completed. A copy of the survey can be found at the end of this report.

In the spring of 2015, OPRHP staff began soliciting for volunteers to assist with the survey implementation through a variety of sources, including past stewards, the New York State Trails Council and PTNY. The volunteers were responsible for putting up the survey boxes and keeping them filled. Individuals and groups associated with the 15 trails across the state expressed interest in helping with the agency's efforts.

The 2015 survey was conducted during the months of August and September, 2015. Materials were sent to volunteers the first week of August. This included paper surveys unique to each location, paid postage envelopes, reminder cards with the QR code and survey link and a plastic survey box. The box was preloaded with a laminated poster announcing the presence of the survey. A copy of the reminder card and poster can be found in the appendix. The amount of materials provided to each volunteer depended on the length of the trail, perceived visitation, and the number of boxes provided in 2008, if applicable. The least amount of boxes provided to a volunteer was one and the most was six. Screws, zip ties and suggested locations for the boxes were also provided. Volunteers were asked to check the boxes weekly and refill the materials as needed. Responses were accepted through the end of October to allow all mailed-in surveys to be received.



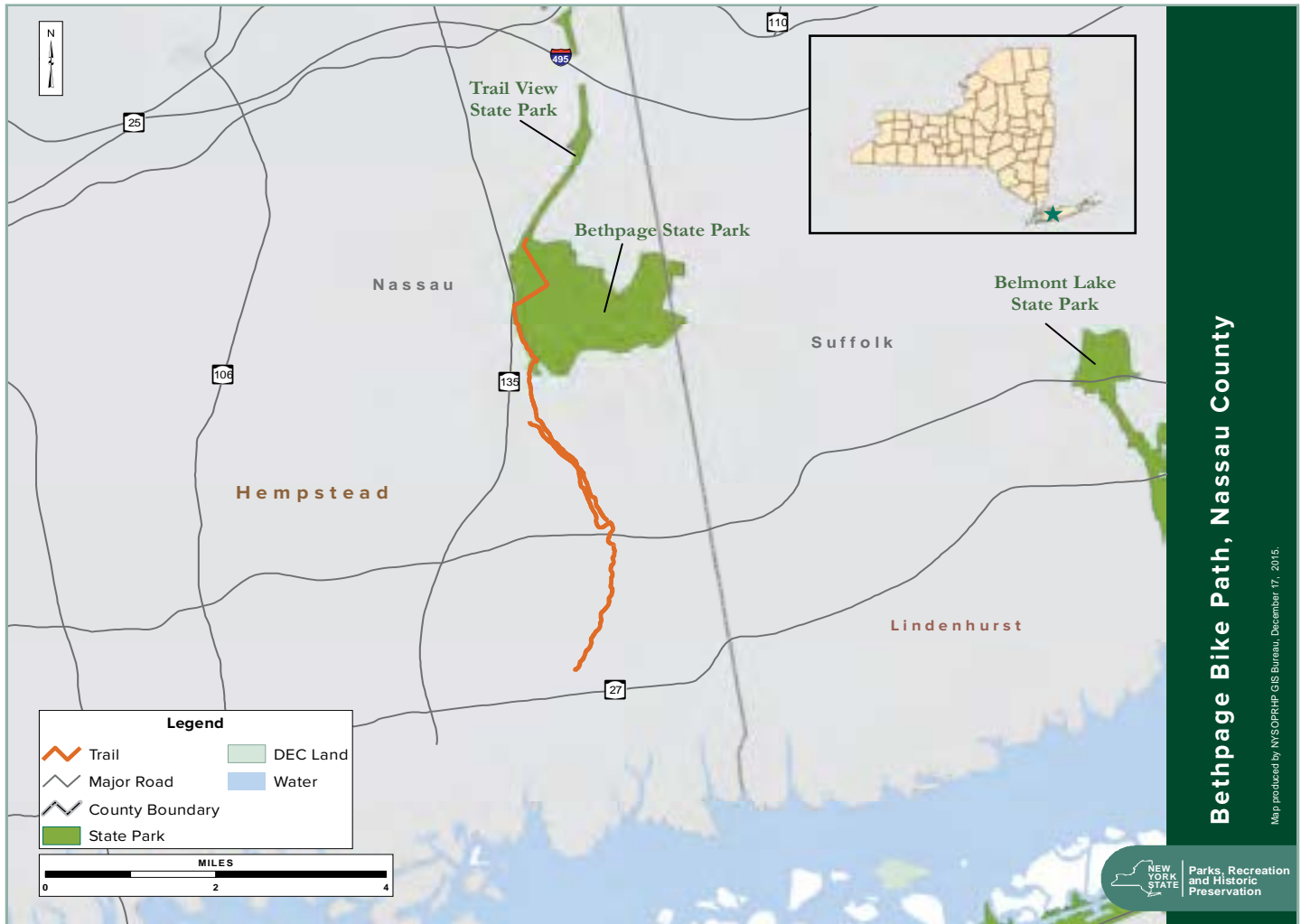
No in-person surveys were conducted with the exception of the Mohawk Hudson Bike Path. In-person surveys on the Mohawk Hudson Bike Path were conducted by OPRHP staff from the Albany Office. Just like the other locations, paper surveys were also provided in boxes in two locations along the trail for users to complete at their leisure. However, on four occasions, staff members also conducted in-person surveys using a tablet computer. Parks' staff was instructed to approach only persons who appeared to be over the age of 18 and only 1 person from a group. This method produced 54 surveys. Staff did not complete an interview if the person had already submitted a paper or online survey or had previously taken a survey at this location during the summer. A laminated copy of the survey was presented to trail users to assist in the interview. On all but one occurrence, two staff members (each at one survey box location) were surveying trail users. The times and dates of the in-person survey corresponded to the times and dates the trail user counts were collected.

Results

A brief description of each trail and the survey results for that trail can be found below. A statewide analysis of the aggregated results follows the results from the individual trails.

Bethpage Bike Path

The Bethpage Bikeway is a 12.5 mile long multi-use trail in Nassau County, New York. It is managed and maintained by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) under an agreement with OPRHP. This popular Long Island trail was extended in 2014 and now stretches from the Syosset trail station in the north through Trailview State Park and Bethpage State Park, ending in Massapequa to the south. The trail accommodates bicycling, walking/jogging, in-line skating in the summer and cross country skiing and snow shoeing in the winter.



Bethpage Bike Path Fact Sheet

The information presented here shows the results of the 110 complete survey forms collected from the Bethpage Bike Path on Long Island. The surveys included in the analysis only represent the surveys collected online. The paper forms were mixed with the Jones Beach forms upon distribution, making it impossible to tell which trail the completed survey was from. For this reason, the paper forms were excluded from the trail specific analysis but included in the statewide analysis.

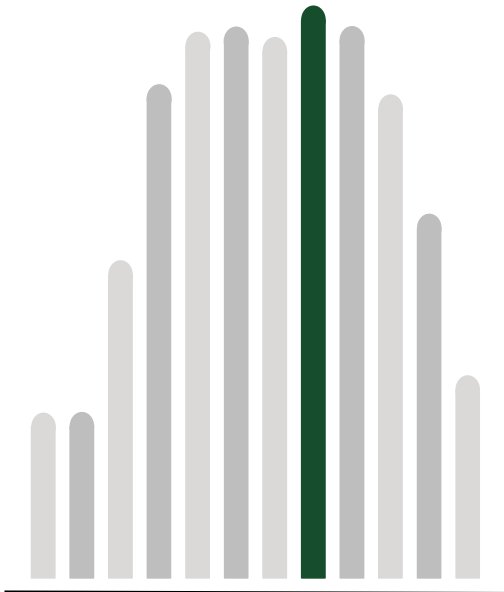
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	45	41%	Skiing/snowshoeing	2	2%
Jogging/running	36	33%	Horseback Riding	0	0%
Biking	106	96%	(Own a horse)	0	0%
Snowmobiling	0	0%	Other	4	4%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Bethpage Bike Path

Months of Trail Use



97% August



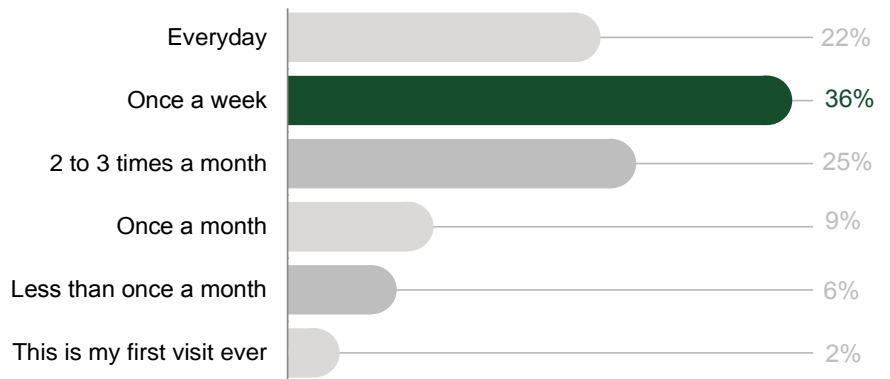
Days of Trail Use

15% Weekdays
22% Weekends
64% Both

Health and exercise was the primary reason for a visit to this trail by 58% of the survey respondents. Recreation was the second highest reason at 22%. This is similar to the statewide responses, which listed health and exercise and recreation at 60% and 30% respectively.

Of the 110 surveys collected at Bethpage Bike Path, 109 provided usable zip codes. Seventeen percent came from the zip code immediately bordering the trail. There were zero visitors from out of state or from a foreign country. See the map below for the full distribution of survey respondents.

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors used the trail during the summer months, with the greatest number coming in the month of August, and at a frequency of at least once a week. The average time spent on the Bethpage Bike Path was between one and two hours. Visitors traveled an average distance of 4.7 miles to reach the trail compared to the statewide average of 8.9. Zero survey respondents stayed overnight in conjunction with their trip to this trail. In the past 12 months, visitors spent an average of 21 days on trails within New York State other than the Bethpage Bike Path, and 4 days on trails outside of the state. This is slightly under the statewide average of 26 days within the State of New York and 9 days elsewhere.

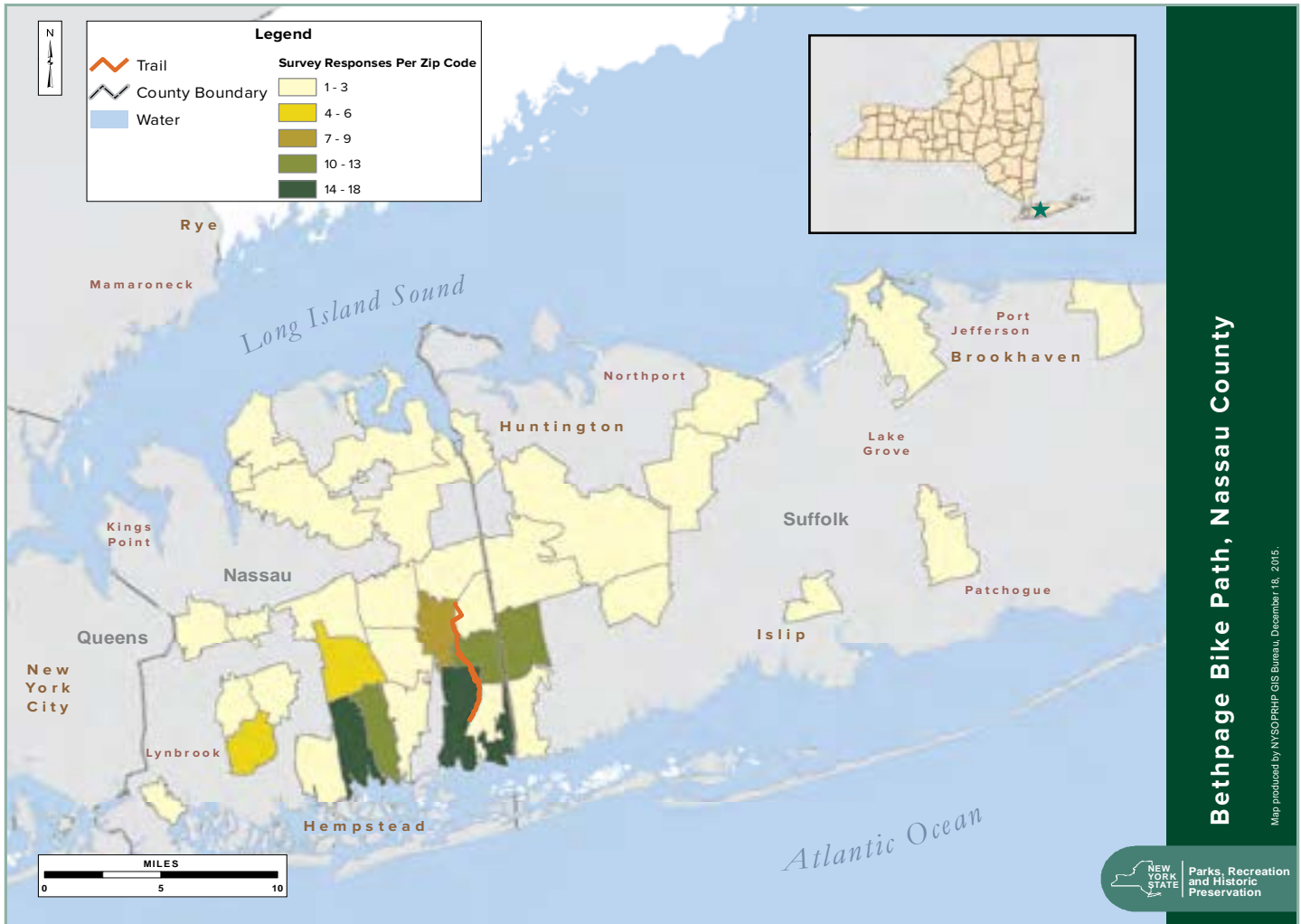
Just over 1/3 (34%) of users responded that they visited the trail in the mornings. The majority (64%) indicated they visited the trail on both weekdays and weekends. The average group size was two people, equal to the statewide average. Fifty-nine percent of survey respondents indicated that their use of this trail had influenced the purchase of a bike and another 58% had purchased bike supplies.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Bike	81%
Hike/walk/jog	20%
Dog Walking	5%
From the trail, visit another place	3%
Fish/boat/water recreation	1%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Bethpage Bike Path



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	63%	Parks & Trails NY	7%
Word of mouth	31%	Newspaper	5%
Driving past	18%	Bike shop	5%
Internet website	10%	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	2%
Other	10%	Tourism office	0%
Roadside signage	8%	New York or local government agency	0%

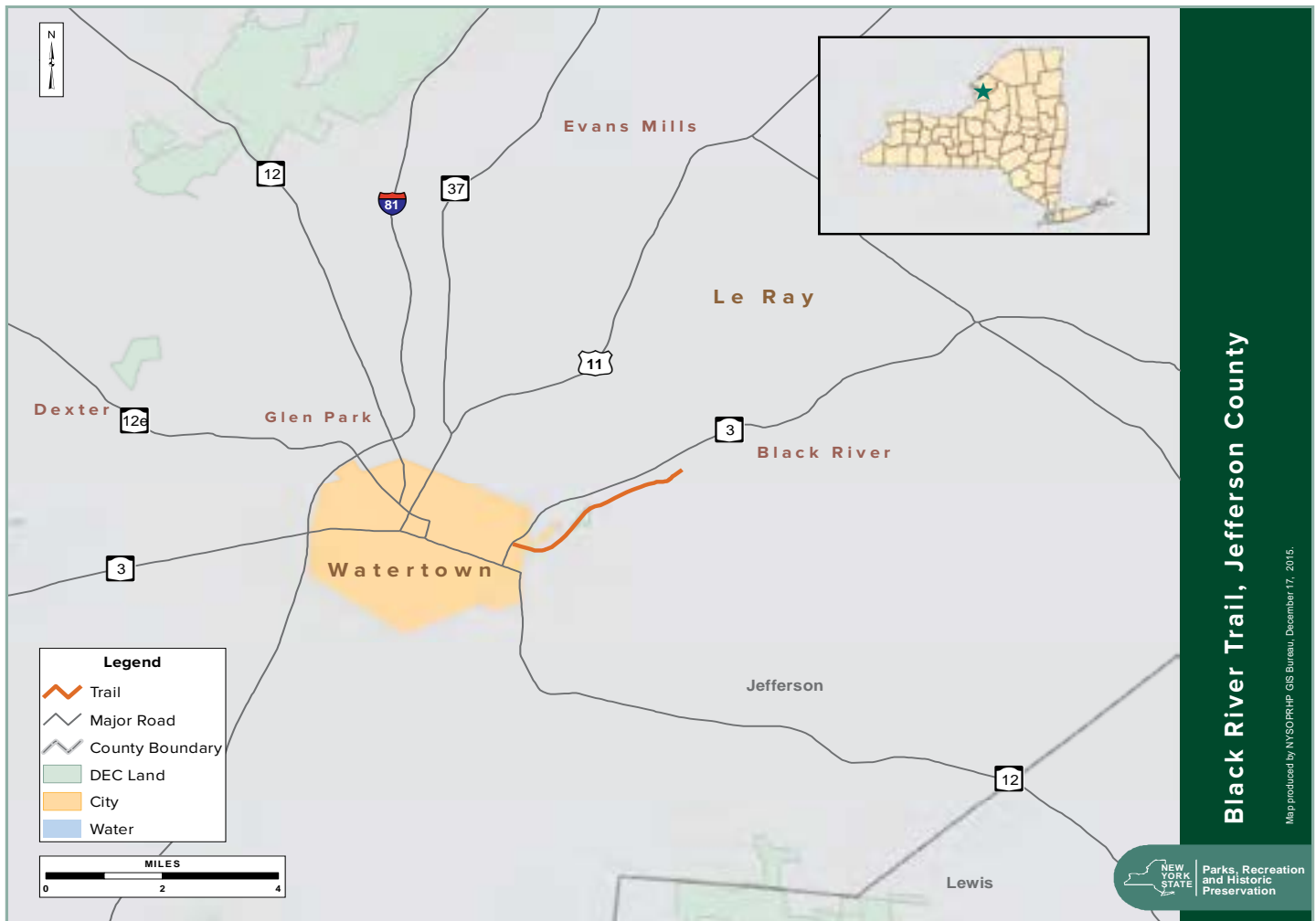
(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

The Bethpage Bike path was rated “excellent” or “good” by 80% of visitors for maintenance and 92% for cleanliness. Thirty percent of respondents would like to see trail surface improvements made and another 26% would like to see more restrooms available. Trail users were also asked which factors influenced their visit to the trail. Proximity to home has the greatest influence at 75% and familiarity with the trail was chosen by 61% of the users. Fifty-eight percent of the users reached the trail by other means besides driving, 94% of which was by walking or biking.

The average age of the Bethpage Bike Path user completing the survey was 50. Eighty-six percent of survey respondents were male. Seventy-two percent of survey respondents were employed full time, retirees made up 13%, and the remaining 15% was split between self-employed, employed part-time, and prefer not to answer. Four percent indicated they were a person with a disability. The majority of respondents (71%) indicated that they had an annual household income of over \$75,000.

Black River Trail

The Black River Trail is a 3.5-mile long trail that runs from the Village of Black River to the City of Watertown in Jefferson County, New York. This year-round recreation trail is owned and managed by OPRHP and follows an abandoned rail corridor near the scenic Black River. The asphalt-surfaced trail is predominantly flat and well suited for walking, bicycling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing and features an accessible parking lot at both the northern and southern end. Future plans include extension of the trail toward the Watertown city trail system.



Black River Trail Fact Sheet

The results from the survey on the Black River Trail are presented below. Only 44 completed surveys were collected during the survey period, 28 (64%) of which were completed on paper and sent to the Albany Office. Because of the low response, caution should be exercised when using this data to represent all users of this trail.

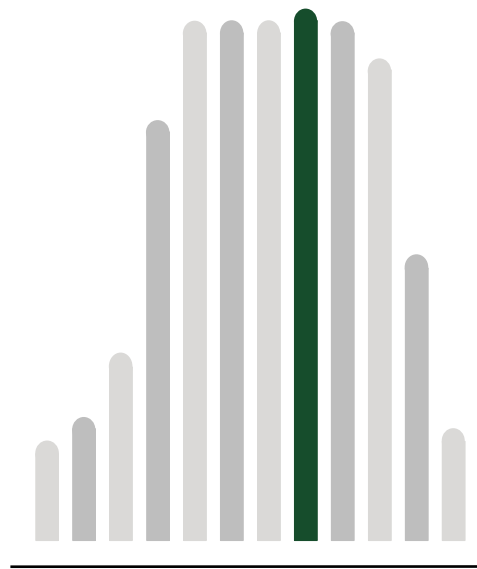
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	35	80%	Skiing/snowshoeing	11	25%
Jogging/running	15	34%	Horseback Riding	0	0%
Biking	28	64%	(Own a horse)	0	0%
Snowmobiling	0	0%	Other	6	14%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Black River Trail

Months of Trail Use



95% August

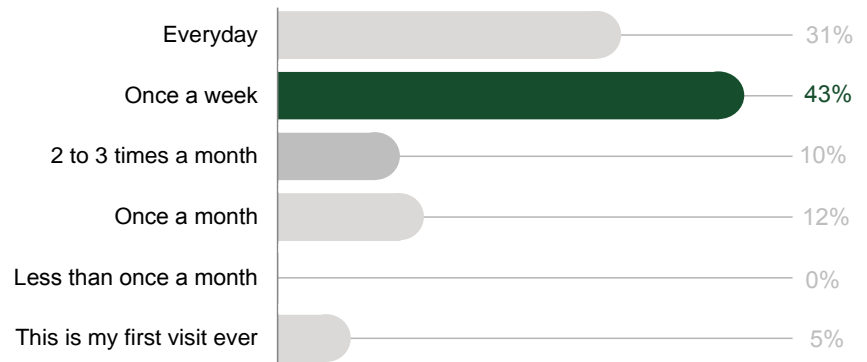


7% Weekends
14% Weekdays
80% Both

Health and exercise was the primary use of this trail for 64% of users. Twenty-six percent indicated that recreation was the primary use. This is very similar to the statewide findings of 60% for health and exercise and 30% for recreation.

Of the 44 surveys collected from the Black River Trail, 42 provided usable zip code information. One visitor came from Ohio and there were zero international visitors. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors to the trail visited during the summer months at a frequency of at least once a week. The average amount of time spent on the trail each visit was between one and two hours. Visitors traveled an average distance of 19 miles to reach the trail, which is over double the statewide average of 8.9 miles. Only one person surveyed indicated that they stayed overnight with a length of stay of three nights. In the past 12 months, visitors to the Black River Trail spent an average of 11 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 12 on trails outside of the state. The statewide average was 26 days within New York and nine days elsewhere.

Forty-three percent of users responded that the time of day they use the trail varies while 33% predominantly use it in the morning. The majority of users (80%) use the trail both weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on the Black River Trail was 1.8 people, just under the statewide average of 2.0. Fifty-two percent of survey respondents indicated that their use of the Black River Trail had influenced their purchase of footwear, and another 41% had purchased clothing.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Hike/walk/jog	55%
Bike	45%
Dog Walking	11%
Birding/studying wildflowers	9%
Rollerblade	5%

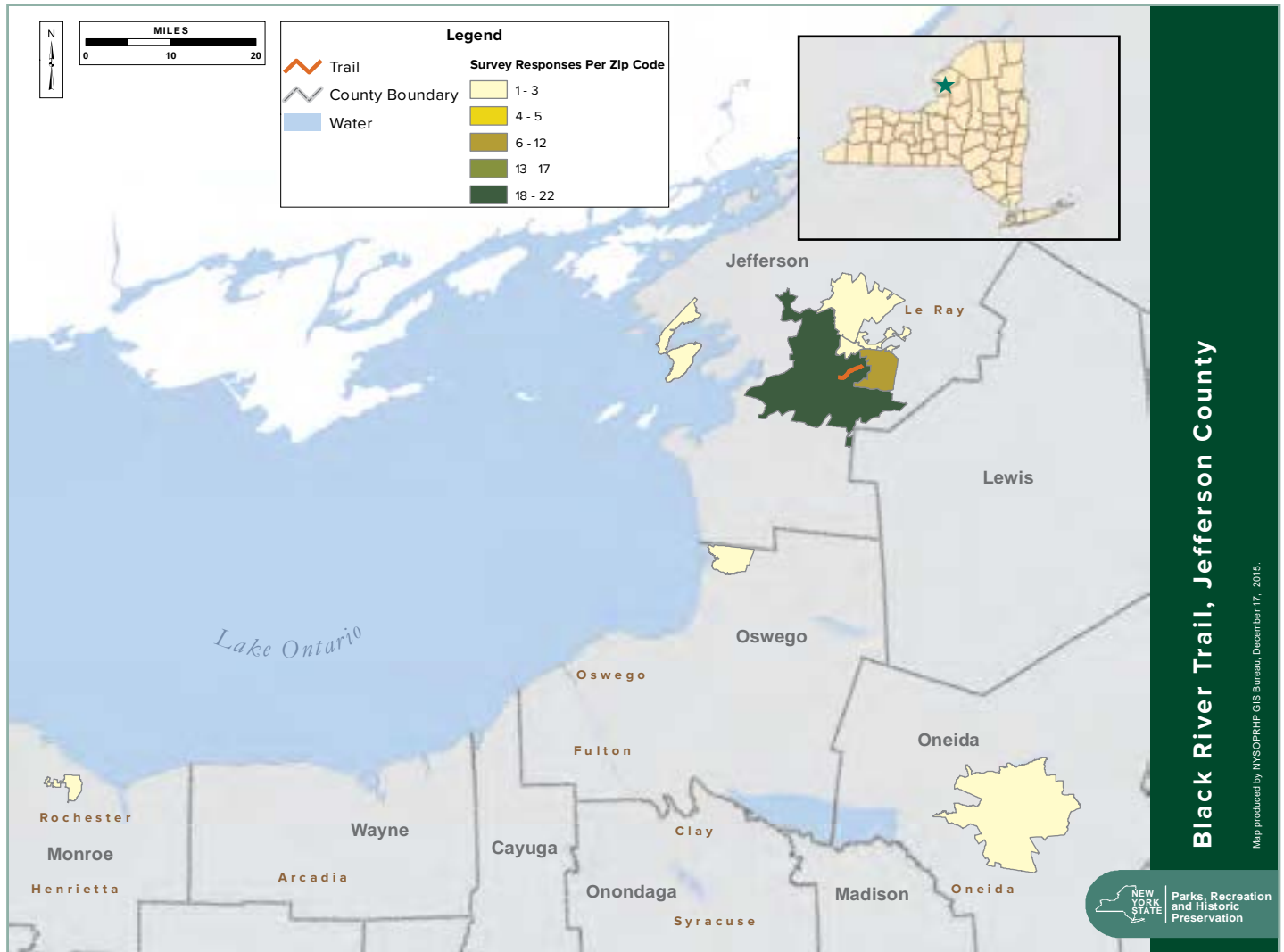
(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Word of mouth	41%	Newspaper	5%
Local knowledge	39%	Parks & Trails NY	2%
Driving past	23%	New York or local government agency	2%
Roadside signage	16%	Bike shop	0%
Other	7%	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	0%
Internet website	5%	Tourism office	0%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Black River Trail

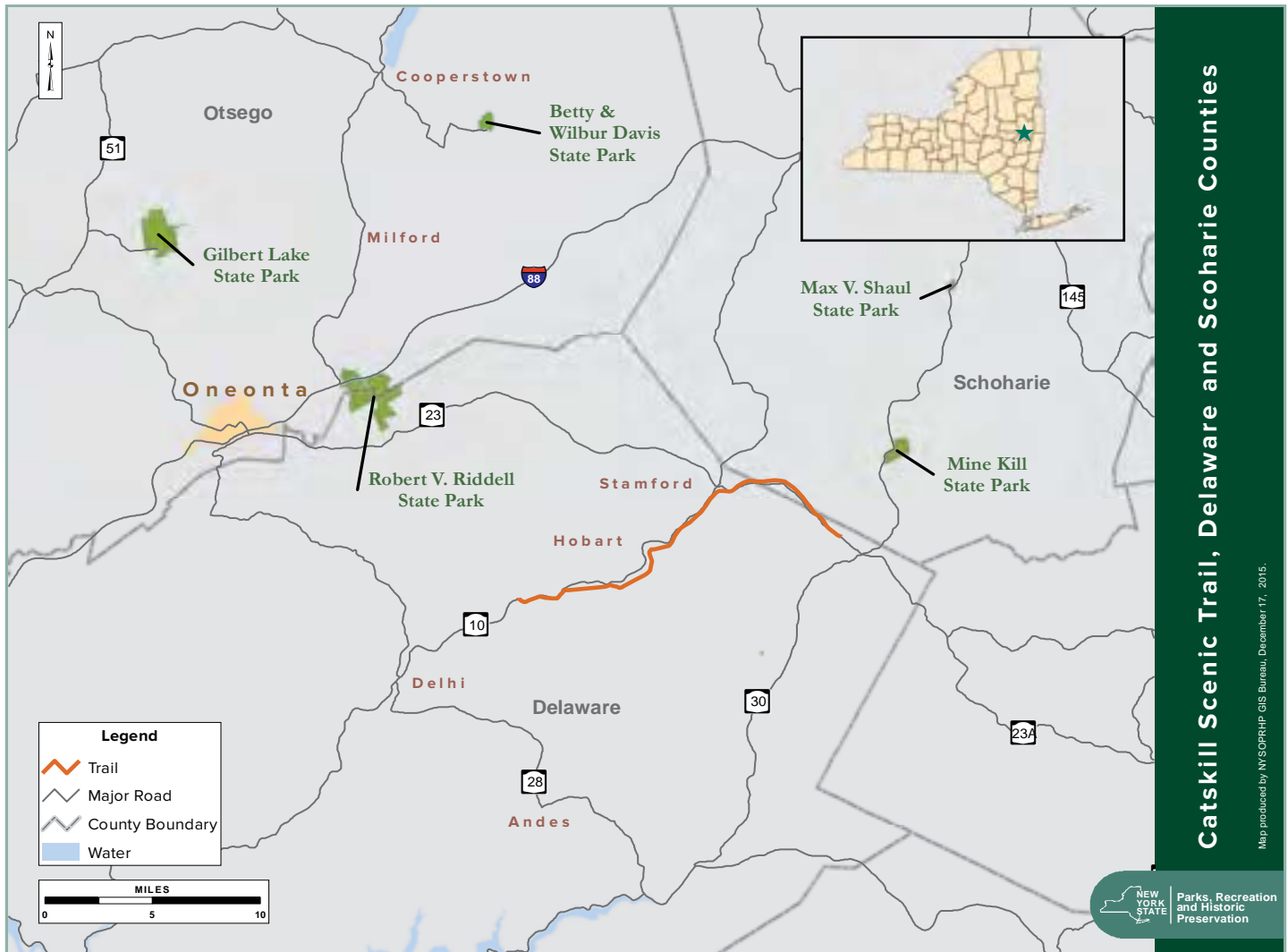


The Black River Trail was rated “excellent” or “good” by 79% of visitors for maintenance and 77% for cleanliness. Thirty-two percent would like to see more restrooms available and 42% would like to see other improvements, such as pet waste bags and receptacles, and plowing during the winter. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the Black River Trail, familiarity with trail and the trail’s proximity to their home were both chosen by 61% of survey respondents. Even though the majority of respondents use this trail because of the proximity to home, only 14% of respondents walked or biked to the trail; the remaining 86% drove.

The average age of the survey responder was 56. Exactly 50% of the respondents were female. Forty-three percent of the respondents reported that they were retired, another 36% reported they were employed full-time, and 14% were employed part-time. Seven percent identified themselves as a person with a disability. Only 18% of respondents reported an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Catskill Scenic Trail

The Catskill Scenic Trail is a rural multi-use trail that travels 26 miles between Roxbury, Stamford, and Bloomville in Schoharie and Delaware Counties. The trail follows the former Ulster & Delaware Railroad and is owned and managed by the Catskill Revitalization Committee. The trail surface consists of compact cinder and is open to equestrians, cyclists, walkers, hikers, and winter uses such as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. More information, including directions, maps and the communities nearby can be found at: <http://catskillscenictrail.org/>.



Catskill Scenic Trail, Delaware and Schoharie Counties

Map produced by NYSOPRHP GIS Bureau, December 17, 2015.



Catskill Scenic Trail Fact Sheet

The results from the survey on the Catskill Scenic Trail are presented below. Only 19 completed surveys were collected during the survey period, 8 (42%) of which were completed via paper and sent to the Albany Office. Because of the low response, caution should be exercised when using this data as it may not be representative of all users of this trail.

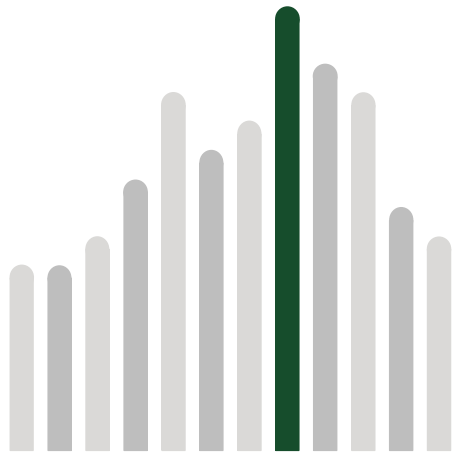
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	11	58%	Skiing/snowshoeing	3	16%
Jogging/running	1	5%	Horseback Riding	2	11%
Biking	12	63%	(Own a horse)	2	11%
Snowmobiling	0	0%	Other	1	5%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Catskill Scenic Trail

Months of Trail Use



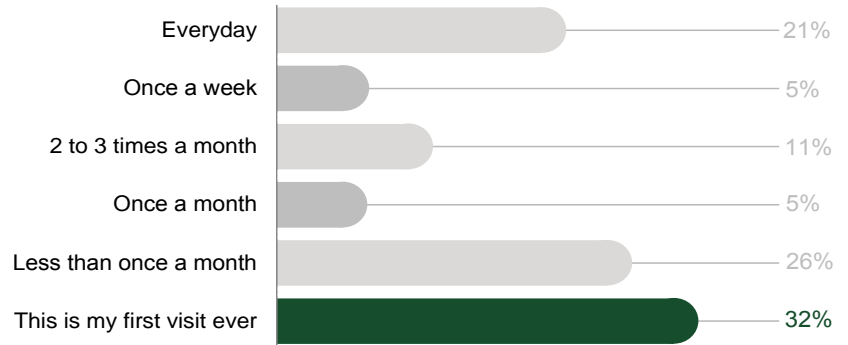
79% August



Days of Trail Use

21% Weekends
21% Weekdays
58% Both

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors to the trail visited during the summer months with the greatest visitation coming in the month of August. For almost a third (32%) of the survey respondents, this was their very first visit to the Catskill Scenic Trail. Another 26% visit the trail less than once a month. Most users spent more than two hours on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 35 miles to reach the trail, which is almost four times the statewide average of 8.9 miles. Twenty-one percent of survey respondents indicated that they stayed overnight with an average length of stay of 3.25 nights. In the past 12 months, visitors to the Catskill Scenic Trail spent an average of 29 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 11 on trails outside of the state. This is just over the statewide average of 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.

Nearly half (47%) of trail users visited the Catskill Scenic Trail in the morning. The majority of users (58%) use the trail both weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on the Catskill Scenic Trail was 2.4 people, just over the statewide average of 2.0. Twenty-one percent of survey respondents indicated that their use of the Catskill Scenic Trail had influenced their purchase of footwear, and another 16% had purchased bike supplies.

Recreation was the primary use of this trail for 53% of users. Health and exercise was the second most popular choice at 42%. In comparison, the statewide findings show that health and exercise was the primary choice at 60% and 30% chose recreation.

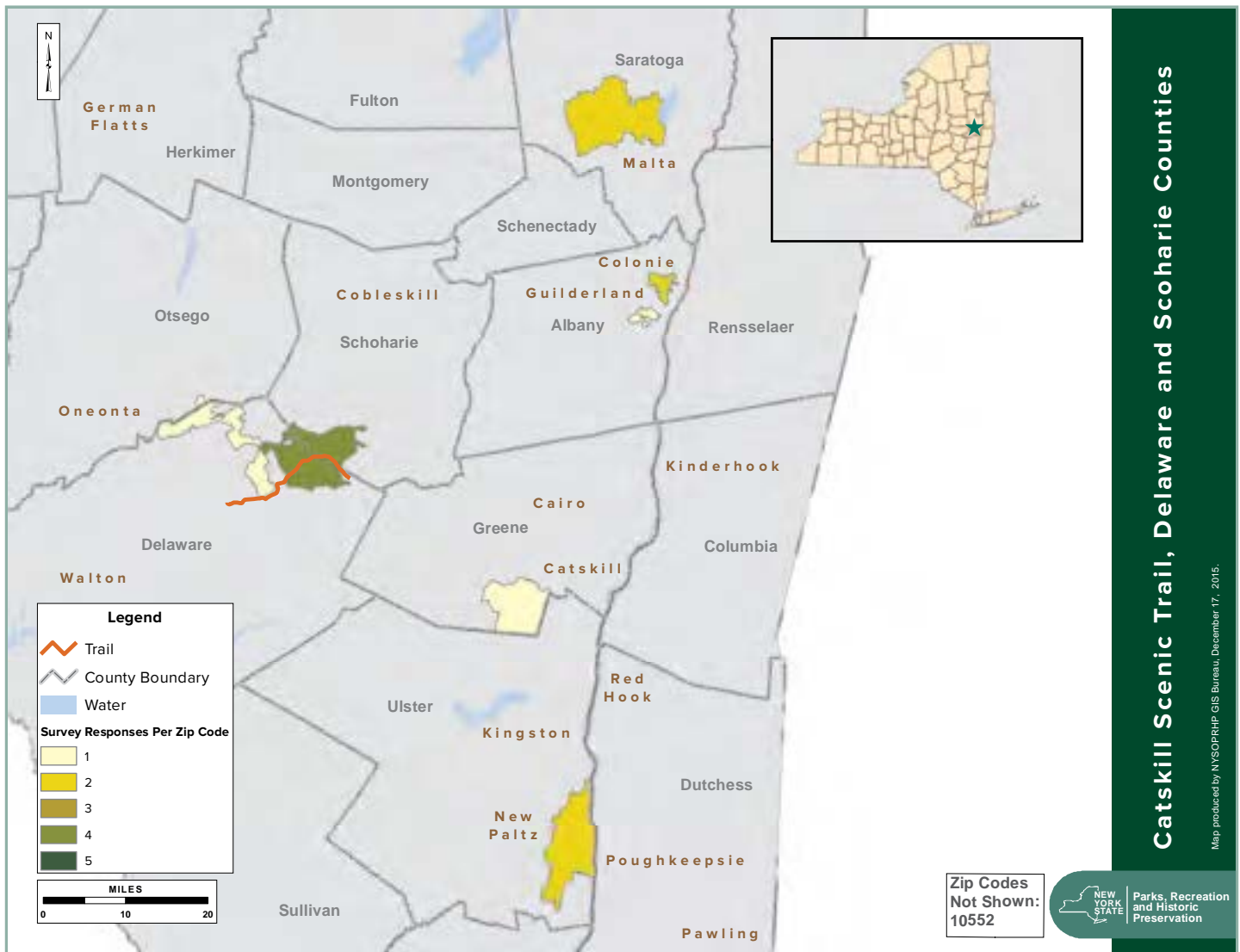
Of the 19 surveys collected from the Catskill Scenic Trail, 18 provided usable zip code information. Three visitors traveled from out of state; one each from Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. There were zero international visitors. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Bike	53%
Dog Walking	37%
Hike/walk/jog	21%
Birding/studying wildflowers	16%
Ride a horse	11%
From the trail, visit another place	5%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Catskill Scenic Trail



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	47%	Newspaper	5%
Driving past	21%	Tourism office	5%
Word of mouth	16%	Other	5%
Internet website	16%	Bike shop	0%
Roadside signage	11%	Parks & Trails NY	0%
Rails-to-Trails Con	11%	New York or local government agency	0%

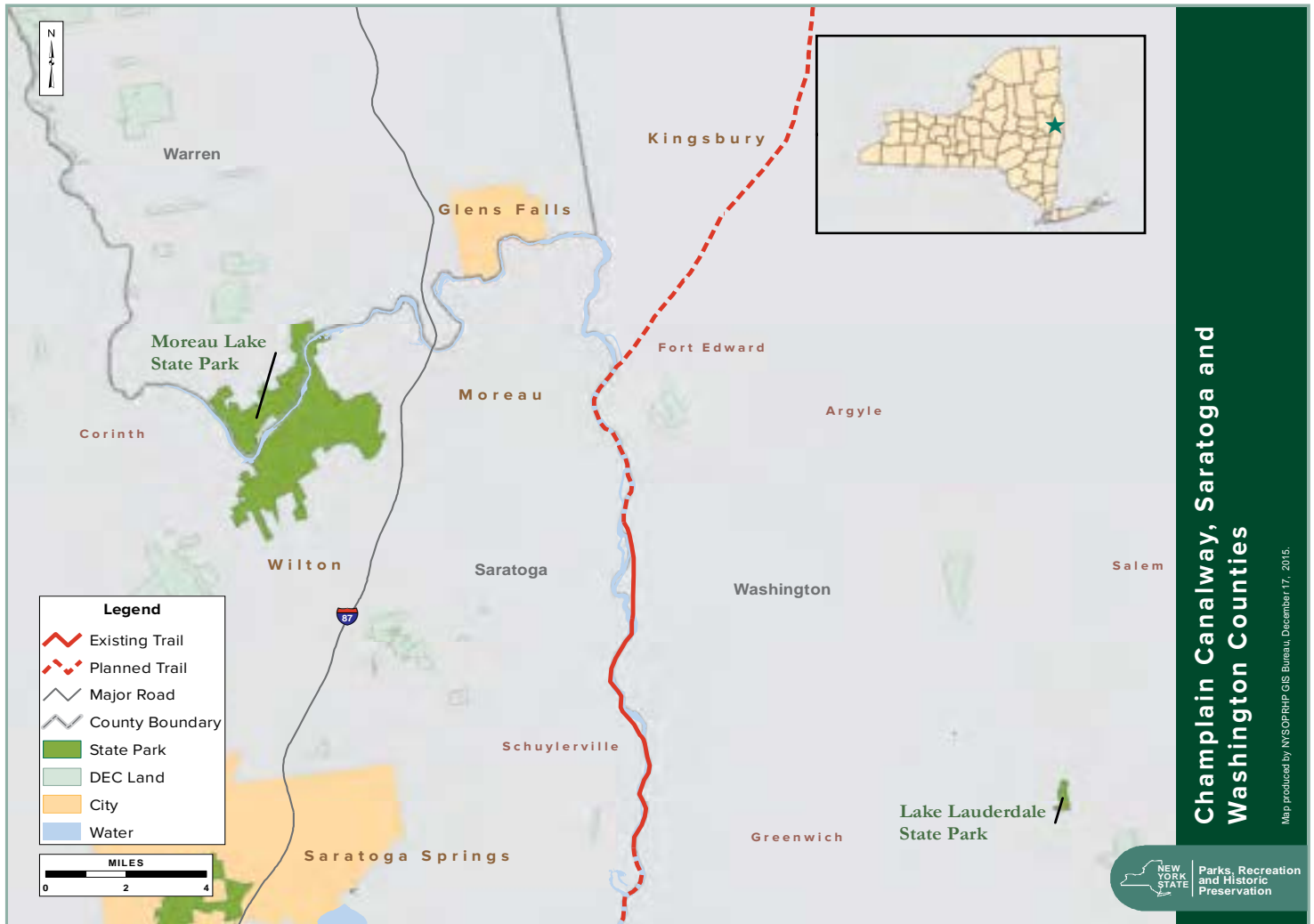
(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

The Catskill Scenic Trail was rated “excellent” or “good” by 79% of visitors for maintenance and 94% for cleanliness. Twenty-nine percent would like to see more restrooms available and 21% would like to see trail surface improvements. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the Catskill Scenic Trail, 53% were exploring a new location, while 42% listed familiarity with the trail as factor. When accessing the trail, 72% of trail users drove to the trail, while the remaining 28% walked or biked.

The average age of the survey responder was 52. Forty-seven percent of respondents were female. Forty-four percent were employed full-time and another 39% were retired. Zero visitors identified themselves as a person with a disability. Approximately one third (35%) of survey respondents reported an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Champlain Canalway Trail

The Champlain Canalway Trail is an emerging multi-use trail that follows the scenic Hudson River and historic Champlain Canal through Washington and Saratoga Counties. At this time, shorter sections of the trail are open for public use, totaling approximately 15 miles. A three-mile section of trail at Dix Bridge and Hudson Crossing Park near Schuylerville was used for the trail survey and count. Once complete, the trail will travel 62 miles between the Erie Canalway Trail and Village of Waterford in the south to the Village of Whitehall and Lake Champlain to the north. The trail is open for walking, running, and bicycling in most sections, as well as snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in winter months. For more information on the trail, contact the Champlain Canalway Trail Working Group or visit: <http://www.champlaincanalwaytrail.org>.



Champlain Canalway Trail Fact Sheet

The results from the survey on the Champlain Canalway Trail are presented below. A total of 55 completed surveys were collected during the survey period, 30 (55%) of which were completed via paper and sent to the Albany Office. Because of the low response, caution should be exercised when using this data to represent all users of this trail.

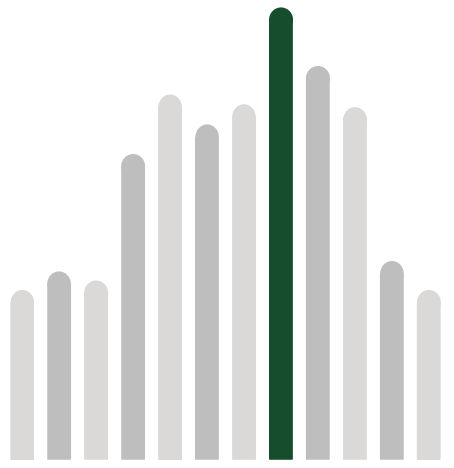
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	50	91%	Skiing/snowshoeing	11	20%
Jogging/running	19	35%	Horseback Riding	1	2%
Biking	17	31%	(Own a horse)	0	0%
Snowmobiling	2	4%	Other	8	15%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Champlain Canalway Trail

Months of Trail Use



82% August



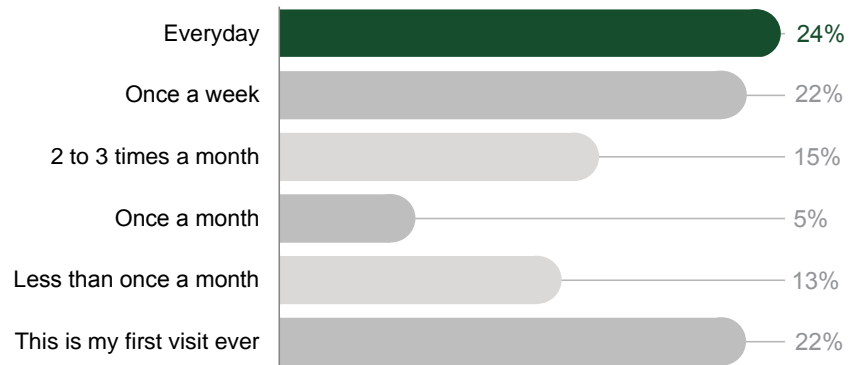
Days of Trail Use

6% Weekends
22% Weekdays
72% Both

Health and exercise was the primary use of this trail for 55% of users. Recreation was the second most popular choice at 42%. In comparison, the statewide findings show that health and exercise was the primary choice for 60% of the users and recreation was the primary reason for 30%.

Of the 55 surveys collected from the Champlain Canalway Trail, all provided usable zip code information. Three visitors traveled from out of state; one each from Connecticut, Florida, and Virginia. There was also one visitor from Canada. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors to the trail visited during the summer months, with the most use coming in the month of August. Forty-six percent of users visit the trail at least once a week but for almost a quarter (22%) of the survey respondents, the day on which they completed the survey was their very first visit to the Champlain Canalway Trail. Most users spent between 30 minutes and 1 hour on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 8.6 miles to reach the trail, which is similar to the statewide average of 8.9 miles. Five percent of survey respondents indicated that they stayed overnight with a length of stay of three nights. In the past 12 months, visitors to the Champlain Canalway Trail spent an average of 31 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 18 on trails outside of the state. This is just over the statewide average of 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.

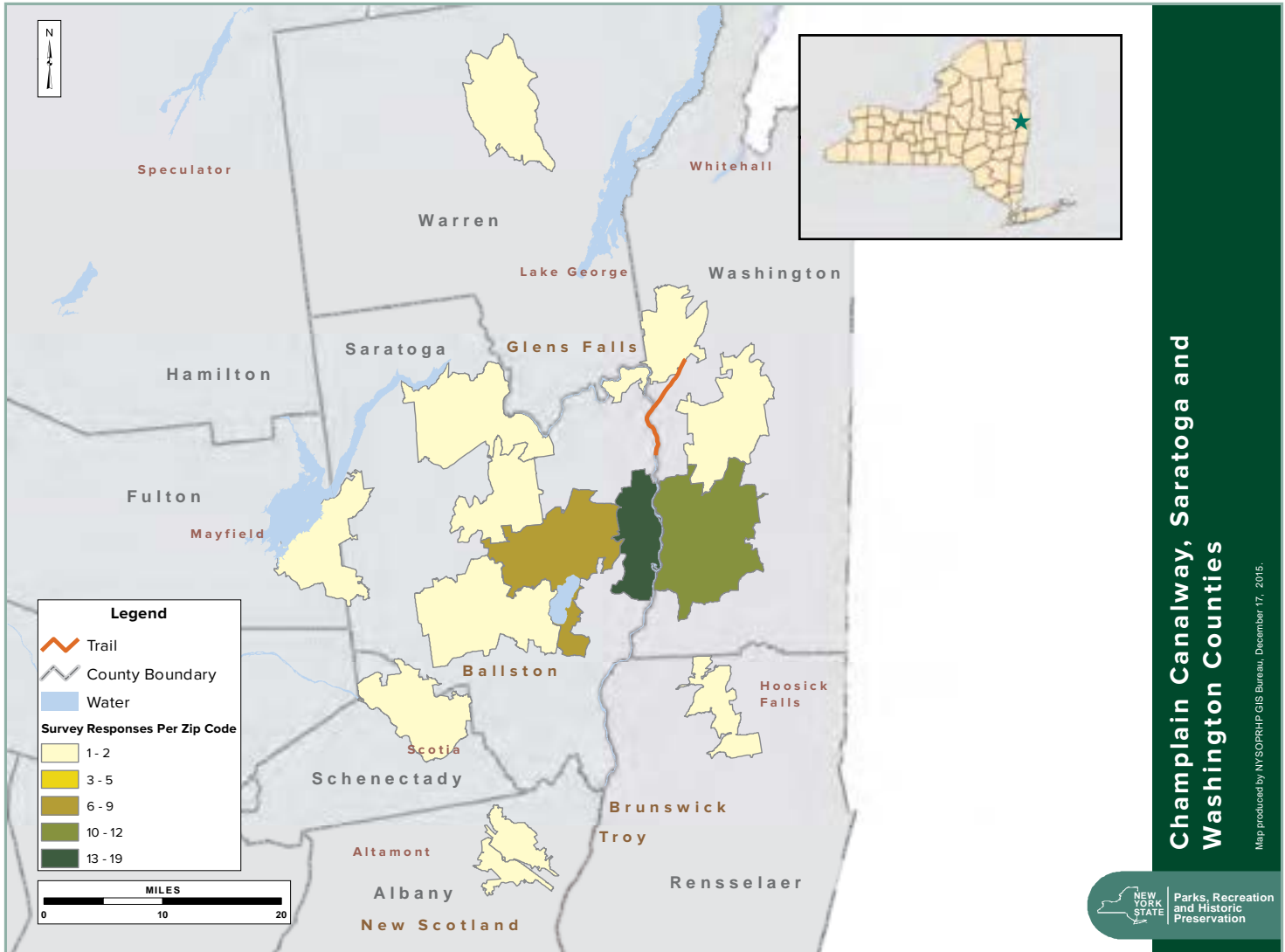
Nearly half (44%) of trail users visited the Champlain Canalway Trail in the morning. The majority of users (72%) use the trail both weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on the Champlain Canalway Trail was 3.3 people, compared to the statewide average of 2.0. Twenty-seven percent of survey respondents indicated that their use of the Champlain Canalway Trail had influenced their purchase of footwear, and another 11% had purchased clothing.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Hike/walk/jog	60%
Dog Walking	31%
Bike	18%
Birding/studying wildflowers	15%
From the trail, visit another place	7%
Fish/boat/water recreation	4%
Rollerblade	2%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Champlain Canalway Trail



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	56%	Internet website	7%
Word of mouth	35%	Parks & Trails NY	4%
Driving past	24%	Tourism office	0%
Roadside signage	15%	Bike shop	0%
Other	13%	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	0%
Newspaper	9%	New York or local government agency	0%

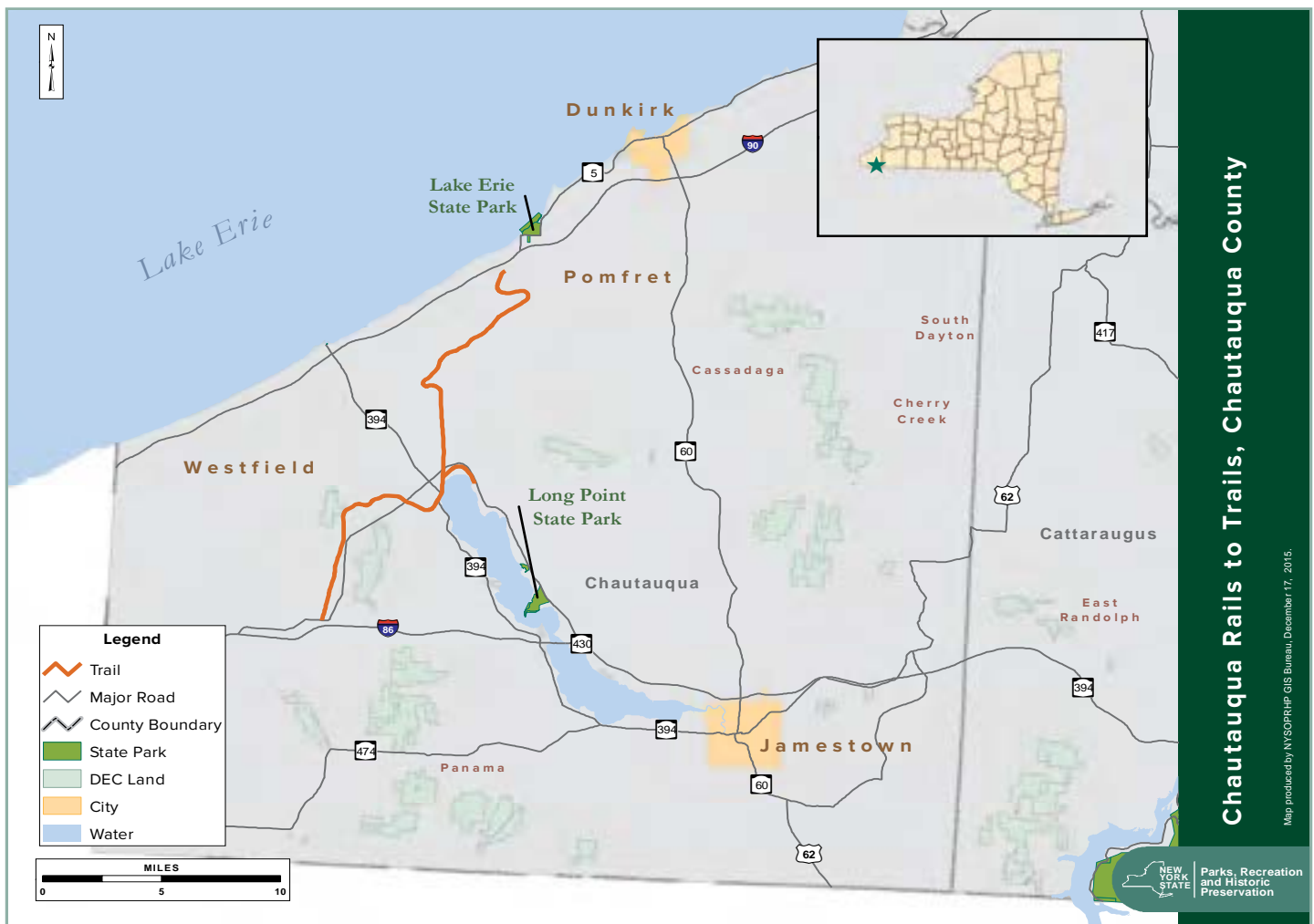
(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

The Champlain Canalway Trail was rated “excellent” or “good” by 98% of visitors for both maintenance and cleanliness. Thirty-two percent would like to see more restrooms available and 24% would like to see water fountains installed along the trail. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the Champlain Canalway Trail, 71% listed proximity to home as a factor and 49% were familiar with the trail. Over half (58%) of trail users drove to the trail, while the remaining 42% walked or biked.

The average age of a visitor to the Champlain Canalway Trail was 57. Fifty-six percent of the visitors were female. Over half (51%) of the survey respondents were retired, and only 29% were employed full-time. Four percent of visitors identified themselves as a person with a disability. Forty-seven percent of survey respondents reported having an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Chautauqua Rails to Trails

The Chautauqua Rails to Trails was one of the eight trails surveyed in 2008. This trail is a 30-mile shared-use trail system in western New York State. It is located almost entirely on private land which has been voluntarily opened to the public by the land owners. It primarily follows the alignments of the abandoned Pennsylvania Railroad between the communities of Brocton and Sherman by passing close to Chautauqua Lake in Mayville. Allowable uses during the summer include hiking, biking and horseback riding. The trail is open for winter recreation including cross-country skiing, snow shoeing and parts are open for snowmobiling. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and other motorized recreation are prohibited. The trails are managed by Chautauqua Rails to Trails, Inc. More information as well as maps can be found on their website at: <http://chaurtt.org>.



Chautauqua Rails to Trails Fact Sheet

The results from the survey on Chautauqua Rails to Trails are presented below. Only 21 completed surveys were collected during the survey period, 15 (71%) of which were completed via paper and sent to the Albany Office. Because of the low response, caution should be exercised when using this data.

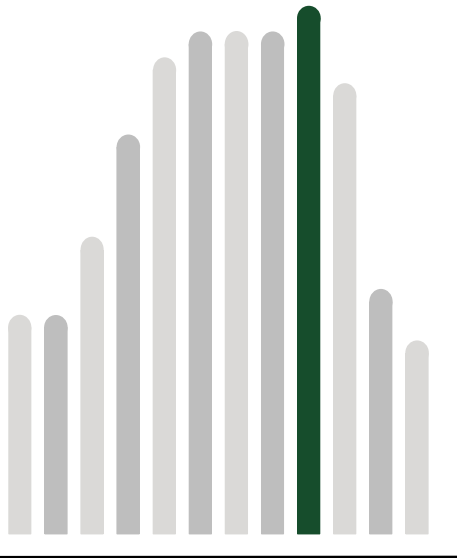
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	21	100%	Skiing/snowshoeing	6	29%
Jogging/running	3	14%	Horseback Riding	1	5%
Biking	3	14%	(Own a horse)	1	5%
Snowmobiling	1	5%	Other	0	0%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Chautauqua Rails to Trails

Months of Trail Use

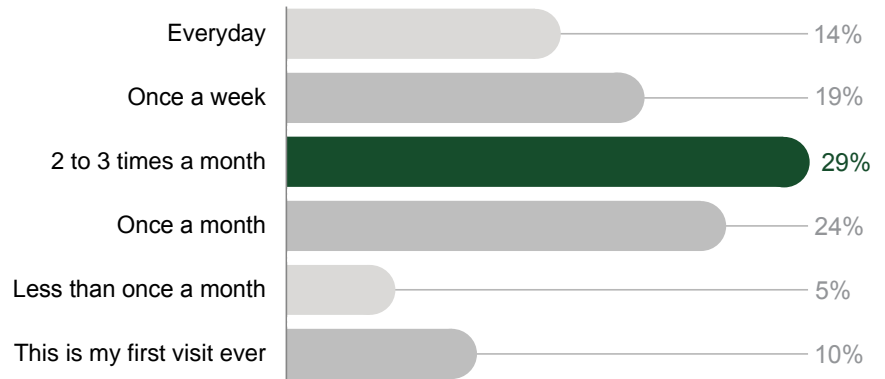


95% September



10% Weekdays
24% Weekends
67% Both

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors to the trail visited during the summer months with the largest percent of use occurring in September. One third of survey responders visit the trail at least once a week and most spent one to two hours on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 7 miles to reach the trail, which is just under the statewide average of 8.9 miles. Ten percent of survey respondents indicated that they stayed overnight with an average length of stay of two nights. In the past 12 months, visitors to Chautauqua Rails to Trails spent an average of 14 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 8 on trails outside of the State. This is less than the statewide average of 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.

Over a third (38%) of trail users visited Chautauqua Rails to Trails during various times of the day, while another third visit mostly in the afternoon. The majority of users (67%) use the trail both weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on Chautauqua Rails to Trails was 2.7 people, compared to the statewide average of 2.0. Fifty-seven percent of survey respondents indicated that their use of the Chautauqua Rails to Trails had influenced their purchase of footwear, and another 24% had purchased clothing.

Health and exercise was the primary use of this trail for 67% of users. The remaining 33% of visitors used the trail for recreation. This is very similar to the statewide average of 60% for health and exercise 30% for recreation.

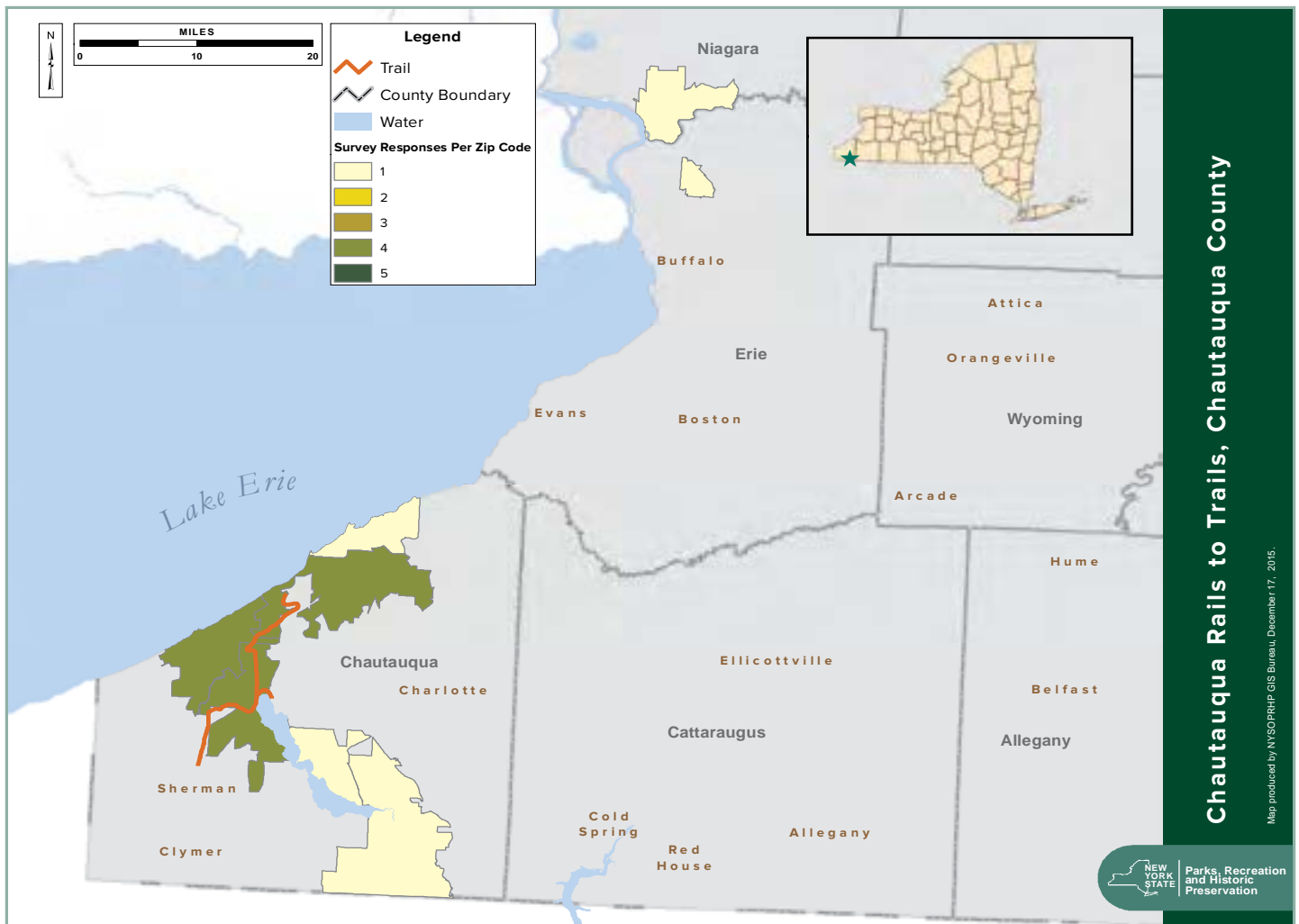
Of the 21 surveys collected from Chautauqua Rails to Trails, all provided usable zip code information. Two visitors traveled from out of state; one each from Maine and Ohio. There were zero international visitors. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Hike/walk/jog	67%
Dog Walking	24%
Bike	10%
Birding/studying wildflowers	5%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Chautauqua Rails to Trails



Chautauqua Rails to Trails, Chautauqua County

Map produced by NYSOPRHP GIS Bureau, December 17, 2015.



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Word of mouth	38%	Internet website	5%
Local knowledge	33%	Bike shop	5%
Roadside signage	24%	Tourism office	0%
Driving past	14%	Parks & Trails NY	0%
Other	10%	Newspaper	0%
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	10%	New York or local government agency	0%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Chautauqua Rails to Trails was rated “excellent” or “good” by 90% of visitors for maintenance and by 95% of visitors for cleanliness. Thirty percent would like to see trail surface improvements made on the trail and more restrooms were requested by 25% of visitors. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit Chautauqua Rails to Trails, 71% listed proximity to home as a factor and 67% were familiar with the trail. Ninety percent of trail users drove to the trail, while the remaining 10% walked or biked.

The average age of the survey responder was 53. Eighty-one percent of visitors were female. Over half (57%) were employed full-time and 19% were retired. Five percent of visitors identified themselves as a person with a disability. Just over half (52%) of respondents reported having an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Genesee Valley Greenway

The Genesee Valley Greenway was also one of the trails surveyed in 2008. This trail is a 90-mile system of trails running from the City of Rochester in the north to Cuba, NY near the Pennsylvania border in the south. The Trail has been constructed on both the remnants of the Genesee Canal which was closed in 1878 and the Pennsylvania Railroad which began abandoning the line in the early 1960's. This property is now under the jurisdiction of OPRHP. The Agency's efforts are greatly enhanced by the work of the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway (<http://www.fogvg.org>). This trail is open to hikers, bikers and horseback riders. Winter recreation is also popular and snowmobiles are permitted on certain sections of the trail. More information can be found on the OPRHP website at: <http://nysparks.com/parks/189/details.aspx>.



Genesee Valley Greenway Fact Sheet

The results from the survey on the Genesee Valley Greenway are presented below. Only 33 completed surveys were collected during the survey period, 26 (79%) of which were completed via paper and sent to the Albany Office. Because of the low response, caution should be exercised when using this data as it may not be representative of all users of the trail.

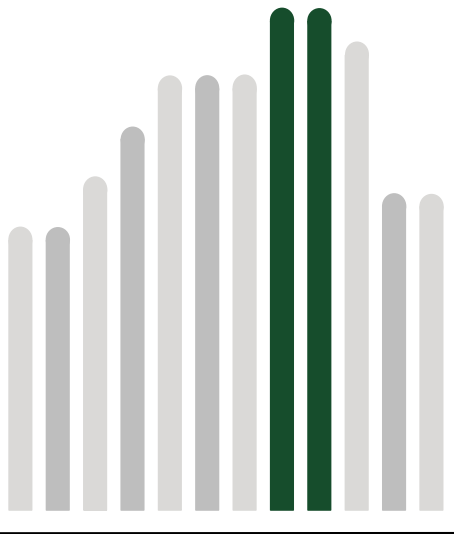
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	28	85%	Skiing/snowshoeing	6	18%
Jogging/running	3	9%	Horseback Riding	1	3%
Biking	9	27%	(Own a horse)	1	3%
Snowmobiling	1	3%	Other	2	6%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Genesee Valley Greenway

Months of Trail Use



88% August & September



Days of Trail Use

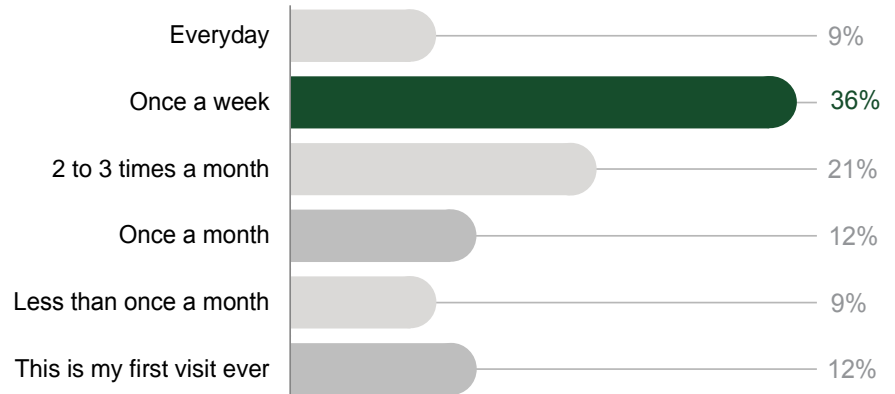
16% Weekdays
19% Weekends
66% Both

Greenway was 1.7 people, just under the statewide average of 2.0. Fifty-five percent of survey respondents indicated that their use of the Genesee Valley Greenway had influenced their purchase of footwear, and another 39% had purchased clothing.

Health and exercise was the primary use of this trail for 61% of users while 33% listed recreation as the primary use of this trail. This is very similar to the statewide average of 60% for health and exercise 30% for recreation.

Of the 33 surveys collected from the Genesee Valley Greenway, all provided usable zip code information. Two visitors traveled from out of state; one each from New Jersey and Virginia. There were zero international visitors. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors to the trail visited during the summer months. Forty-five percent visit the trail at least once a week and most spent one to two hours on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 16.2 miles to reach the trail, almost double the state-wide average of 8.9 miles. Nine percent of survey respondents indicated that they stayed overnight with an average length of stay of three nights. In the past 12 months, visitors to the Genesee Valley Greenway spent an average of 37 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 12 days on trails outside of the state. This is slightly more than the statewide average of 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.

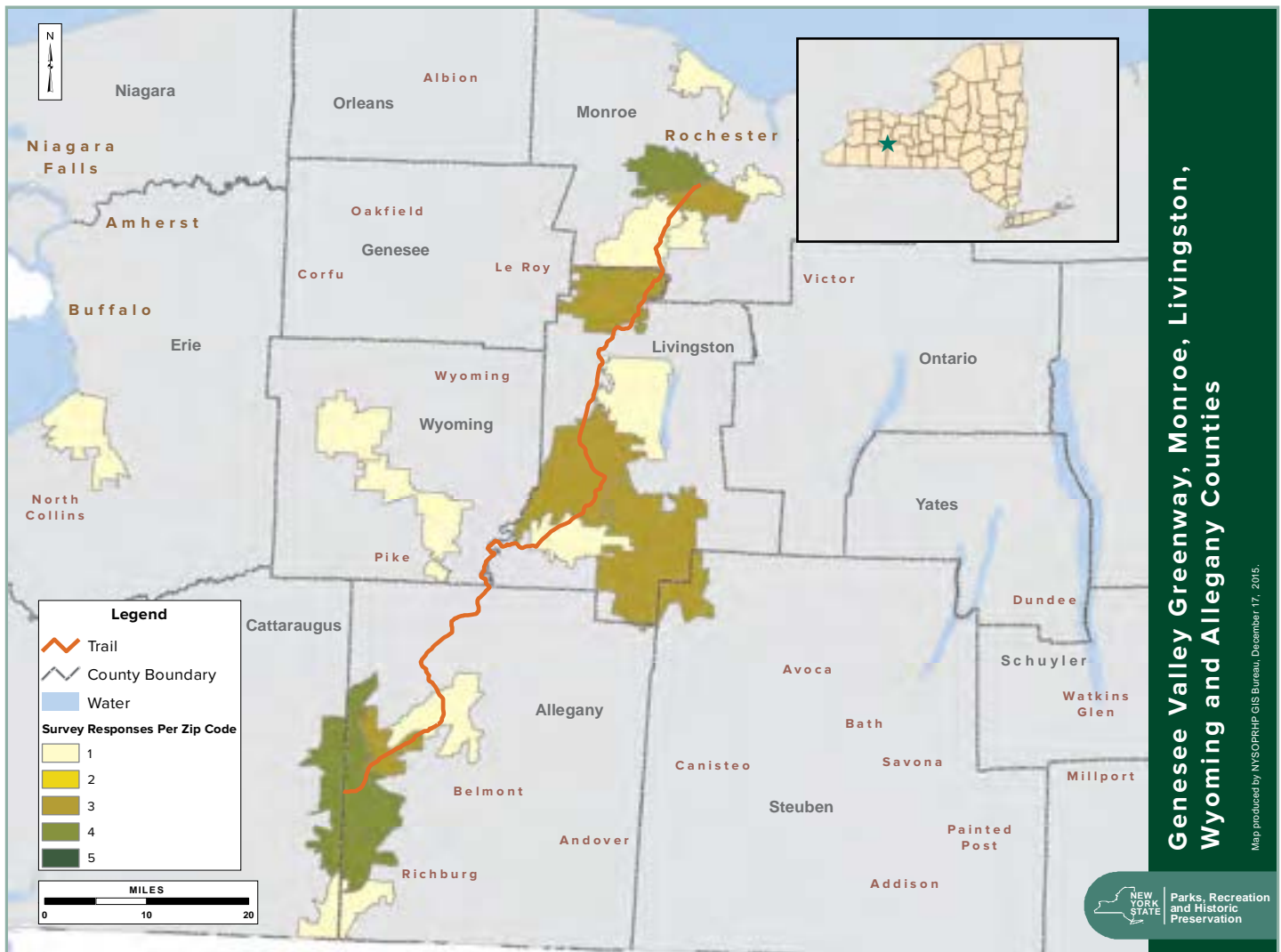
Just over half (52%) of trail users visited the Genesee Valley Greenway during various times of the day, while another third (36%) visit mostly in the morning. Two-thirds use the trail both weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on the Genesee Valley

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Hike/walk/jog	55%
Dog Walking	33%
Birding/studying wildflowers	21%
Bike	18%
From the trail, visit another place	9%
Fish/boat/water recreation	3%
Ride a horse	3%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Genesee Valley Greenway



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	48%	Internet website	9%
Word of mouth	30%	Tourism office	6%
Driving past	21%	Parks & Trails NY	6%
Roadside signage	15%	Newspaper	6%
Other	15%	Bike shop	3%
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	9%	New York or local government agency	0%

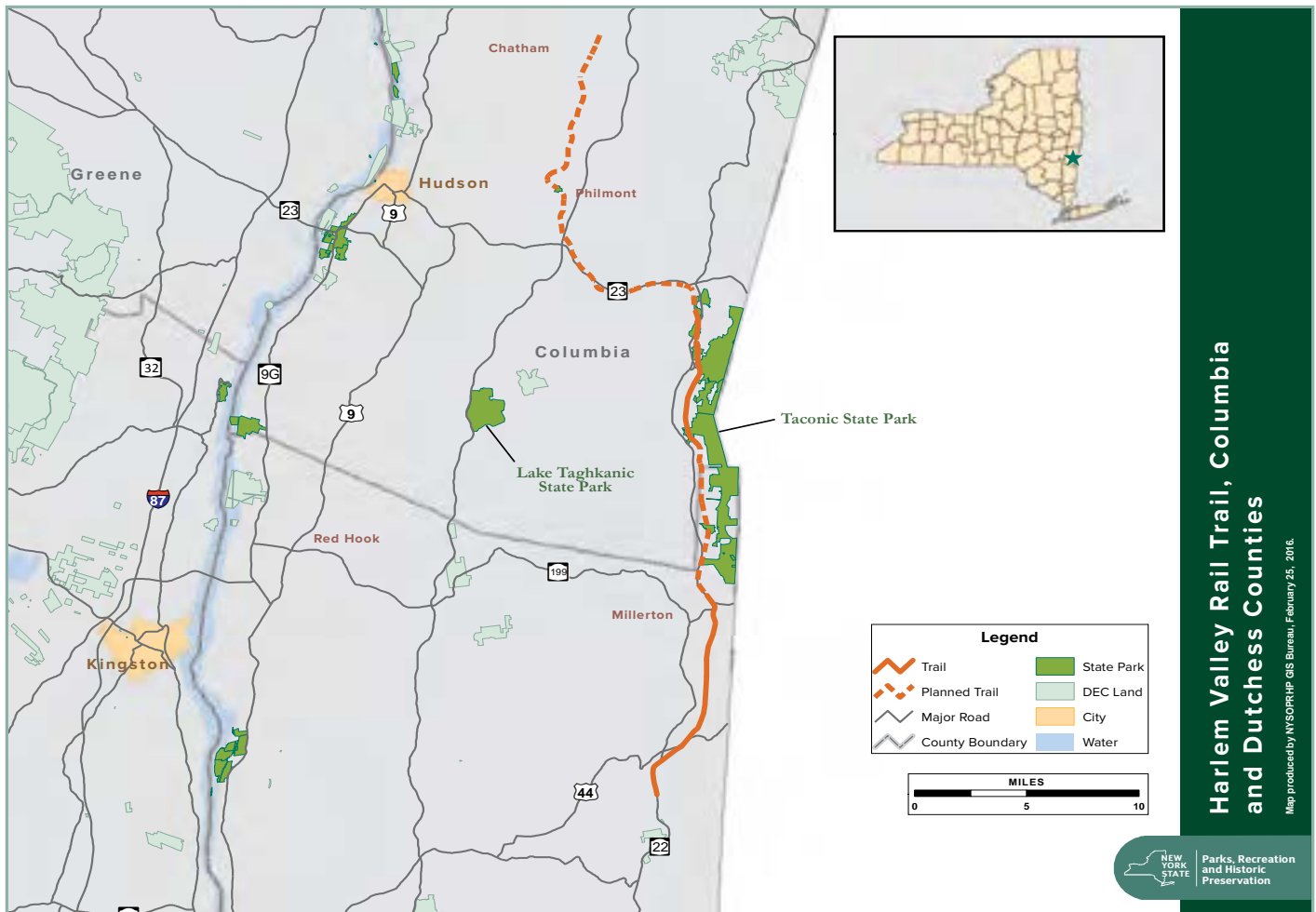
(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

The Genesee Valley Greenway was rated “excellent” or “good” by 75% of visitors for maintenance and by 94% of visitors for cleanliness. A quarter would like to see trail surface improvements made on the trail and more restrooms were requested by another 25% of visitors. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the Genesee Valley Greenway, 64% listed proximity to home as a factor and 55% were familiar with the trail. Seventy-six percent of trail users drove to the trail. Of the remaining 24%, 88% walked or biked to the trail.

The average age of the Genesee Valley Greenway user completing the survey was 58. Forty-eight percent of respondents were male. Less than half (42%) were retired and a third were employed full-time. Zero visitors identified themselves as a person with a disability. Approximately one-third (29%) reported having an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Harlem Valley Rail Trail

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail currently has 17 miles of trail available in 3 sections in Columbia and Dutchess Counties; 1.5 miles recently completed in Hillsdale, 4 miles between Copake Falls and Taconic State Park, and 11 miles from Millerton to Amenia. The trail is open year-round for hiking, walking, running, and biking. Winter use includes cross country-skiing and snowshoeing. Once completed, 46 miles of trail is planned to reach from the Village of Chatham to the Town of Wassauc. The trail is managed by various groups including OPRHP, the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association and Dutchess County Department of Public Works. More information is available from the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association’s website at <http://hvrt.org>.



Harlem Valley Rail Trail Fact Sheet

The results from the survey on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail are presented below. Seventy-seven completed surveys were collected during the survey period, 51 (66%) of which were completed via paper and sent to the Albany Office. Because of the low response, caution should be exercised when using this data.

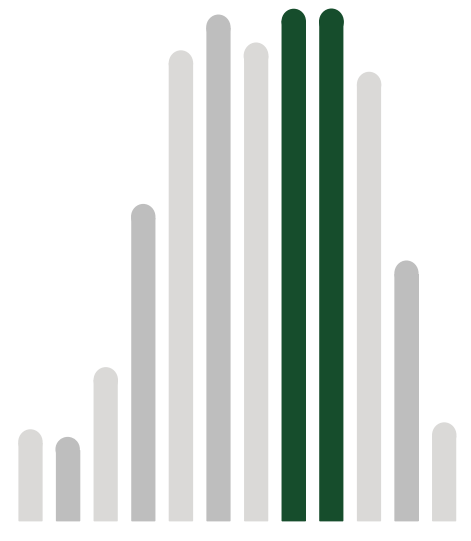
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	32	42%	Skiing/snowshoeing	5	6%
Jogging/running	7	9%	Horseback Riding	0	0%
Biking	60	78%	(Own a horse)	0	0%
Snowmobiling	0	0%	Other	4	5%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Harlem Valley Rail Trail

Months of Trail Use



92% August & September



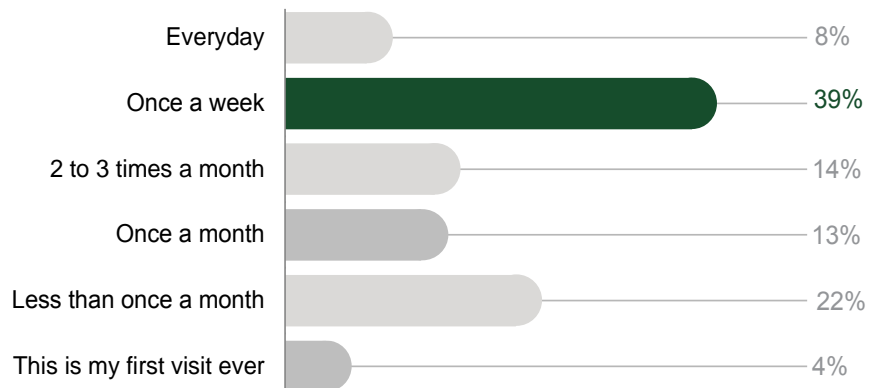
Days of Trail Use

18% Weekends
20% Weekdays
62% Both

Recreation was the primary use of this trail for 60% of users. Health and exercise was the primary use for 37% of users. This is nearly opposite of the statewide average, which found 60% of visitors listing health and exercise as the primary use while 30% chose recreation.

Of the 77 surveys collected from the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, all provided usable zip code information. Seventeen visitors traveled from out of state; 15 were from Connecticut, and two were from New Jersey. There were zero international visitors. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors to the trail visited during the summer months. Forty-seven percent of survey responders visit the trail at least once a week and most spent one to two hours on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 22.1 miles to reach the trail, over double the statewide average of 8.9 miles. Ten percent of users responded that they stayed overnight with an average length of stay of nine nights. In the past 12 months, visitors to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail spent an average of 10 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 13 days on trails outside of the state. In comparison, the statewide average is 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.

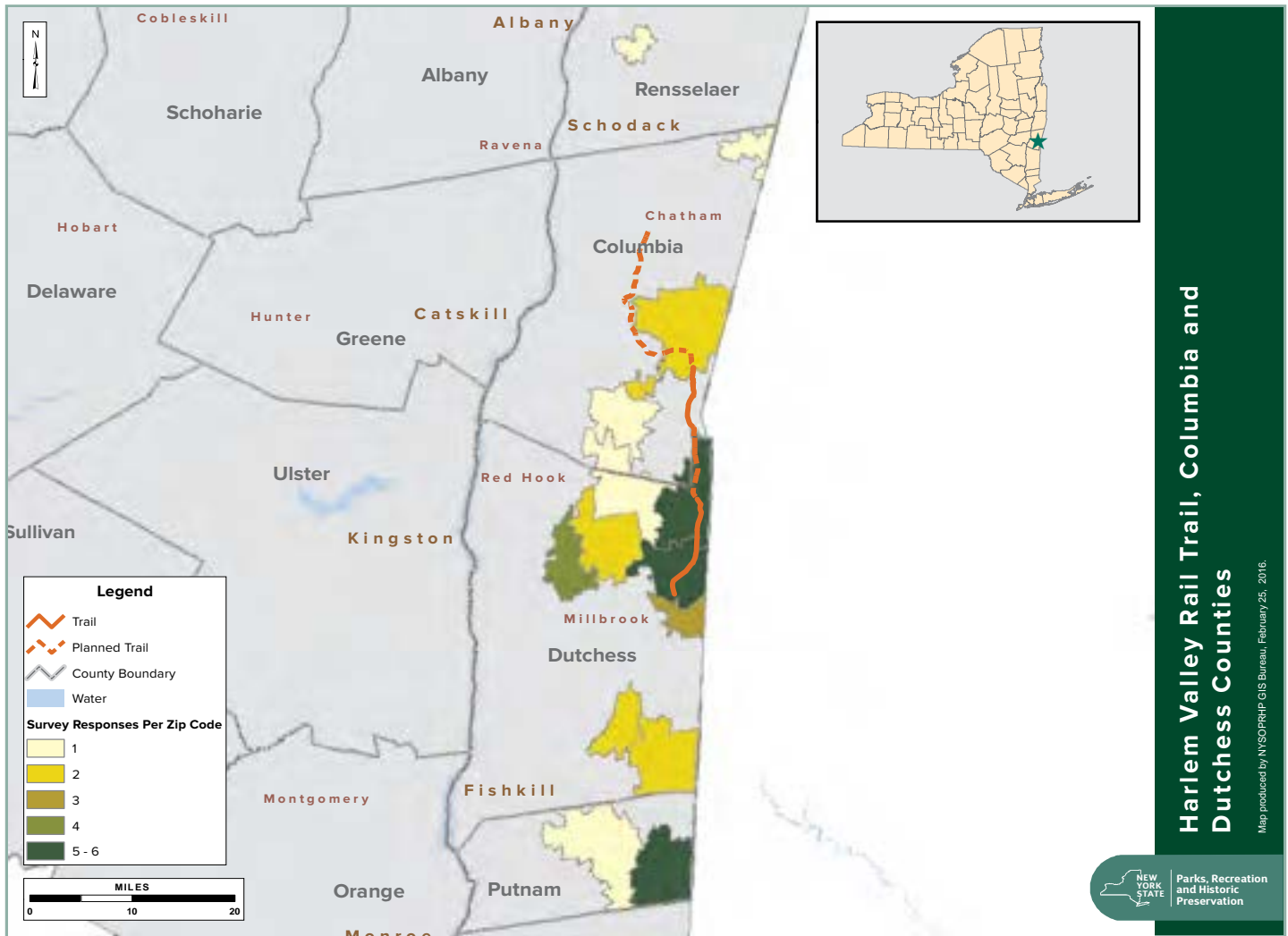
Just under half (45%) of trail users predominately visit the Harlem Valley Rail Trail during the morning, while a third (31%) visit at various times of the day. Nearly two-thirds (62%) use the trail both weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail was 2.3 people, just over the statewide average of 2.0. Forty-three percent of survey respondents indicated that their use of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail had influenced their purchase of a bike, and another 43% had purchased bike supplies.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Bike	69%
Hike/walk/jog	18%
Dog Walking	9%
From the trail, visit another place	8%
Birding/studying wildflowers	6%
Rollerblade	3%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Harlem Valley Rail Trail



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	48%	Parks & Trails NY	13%
Word of mouth	30%	Other	6%
Roadside signage	23%	Newspaper	5%
Driving past	21%	New York or local government agency	4%
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	19%	Bike shop	1%
Internet website	13%	Tourism office	1%

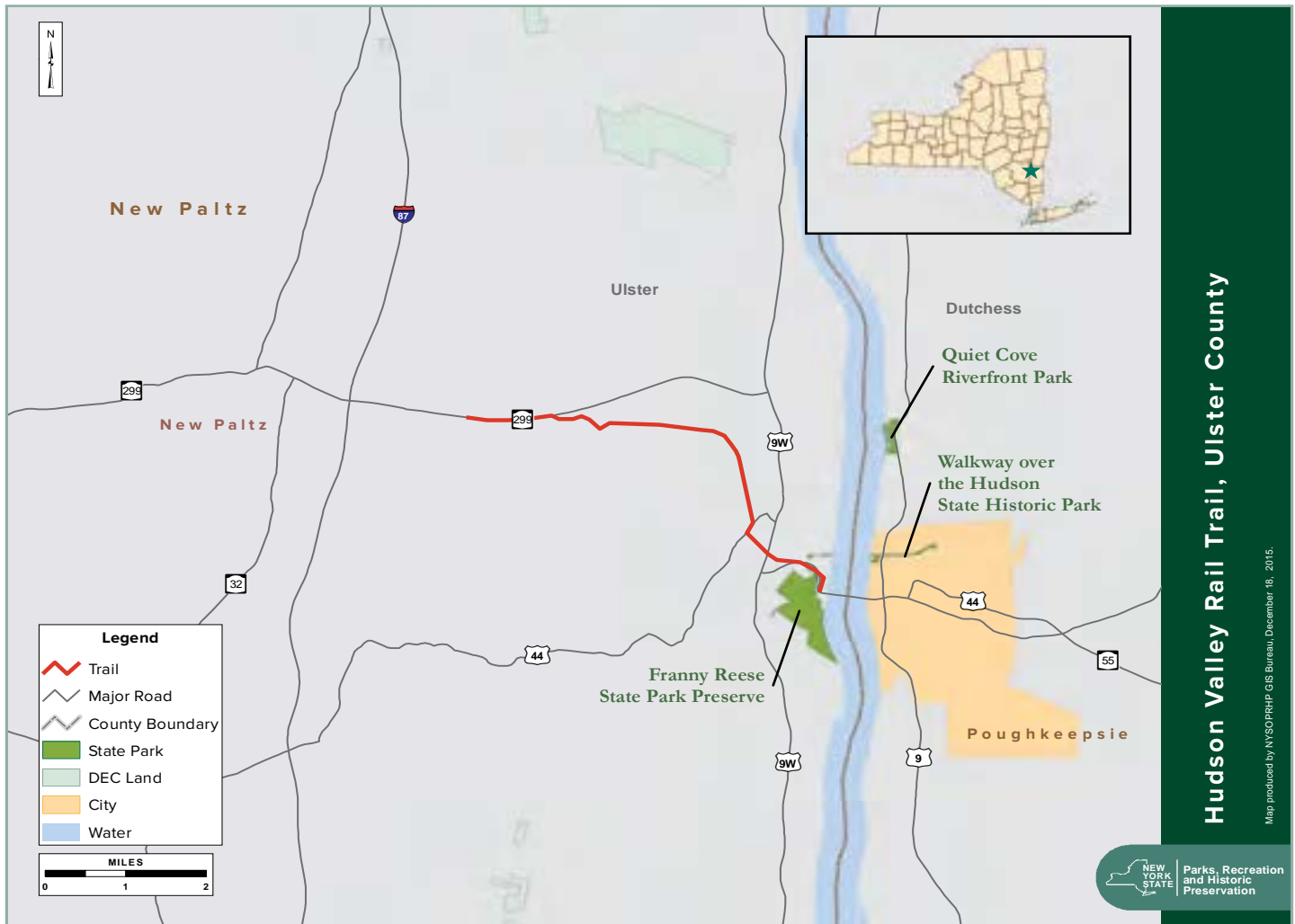
(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail was rated “excellent” or “good” by 91% of visitors for maintenance and by 96% of visitors for cleanliness. Twenty-six percent would like to see more restrooms made available along the trail. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, familiarity with the trail was a factor for 78% of the visitors who completed the survey. Proximity to home was also a factor for 53% of respondents. Ninety-two percent of trail users arrived to the trail by car. Of the remaining 8%, all walked or biked to the trail.

The average age of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail user completing the survey was 62. Just over half (57%) of survey respondents were male. Just under half (45%) were retired and a third (32%) were employed full-time. Three percent of visitors identified themselves as a person with a disability. Forty-one percent of visitors reported having an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Hudson Valley Rail Trail

The Hudson Valley Rail Trail is a 4-mile multi-use trail in Ulster County, New York. The scenic trail follows an abandoned rail bed east through the towns of Lloyd and Highland where it meets the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park. The trail features a paved surface and allows walking, running, bicycling, in-line skating, and equestrian use. More information as well as a map can be found at: <http://hudsonvalleyrailtrail.net>.



Hudson Valley Rail Trail, Ulster County

Map produced by NYSOPREHP GIS Bureau, December 16, 2015.



Hudson Valley Rail Trail Fact Sheet

The results from the survey on the Hudson Valley Rail Trail are presented below. Twenty-eight completed surveys were collected during the survey period, 18 (64%) of which were completed via paper and sent to the Albany Office. Because of the low response, caution should be exercised when extrapolating this data to all users of this trail.

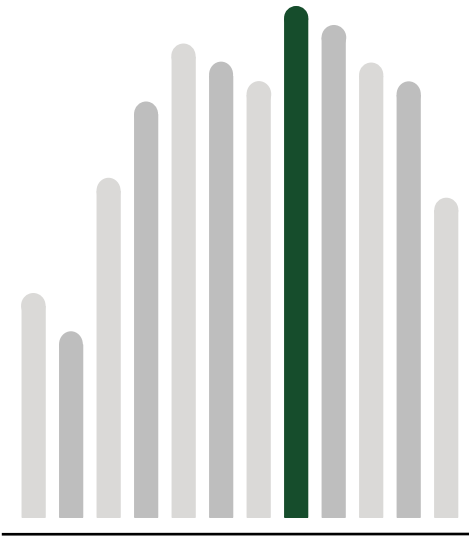
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	20	71%	Skiing/snowshoeing	1	4%
Jogging/running	13	46%	Horseback Riding	0	0%
Biking	22	79%	(Own a horse)	0	0%
Snowmobiling	0	0%	Other	3	11%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Hudson Valley Rail Trail

Months of Trail Use



93% August

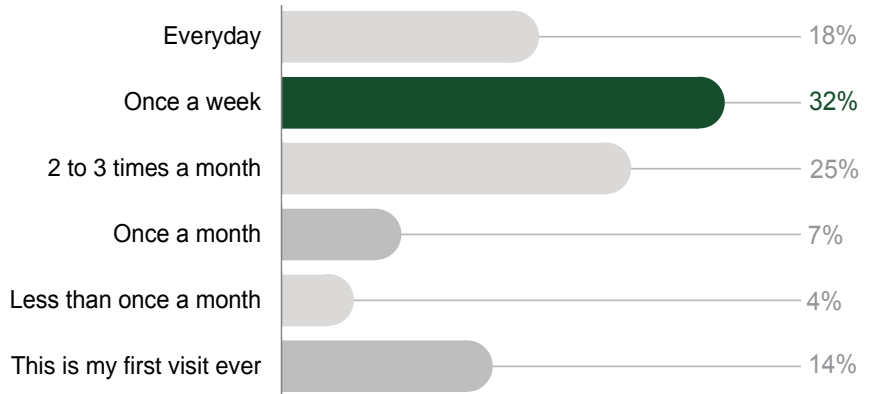


18% Weekends
18% Weekdays
64% Both

Half of the survey respondents primarily used this trail for health and exercise. Recreation was the primary use of this trail for 36% of users. This is similar to the statewide findings of 60% of visitors listing health and exercise as the primary use of trails while 30% chose recreation as the primary use.

Of the 28 surveys collected from the Hudson Valley Rail Trail, all provided usable zip code information. Two visitors traveled from out of state; one visitor each from Connecticut and New Jersey. There were zero international visitors. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Frequency of Trail Use



Most users visited the trail during the summer months with the highest visitation occurring in August. Half of the survey responders visit the trail at least once a week and most spent between 30 minutes and 1 hour on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 21.6 miles to reach the trail, over double the statewide average of 8.9 miles. Eleven percent of survey respondents indicated that they stayed overnight in conjunction with their trip to this trail with an average length of stay of two nights. In the past 12 months, visitors to the Hudson Valley Rail Trail spent an average of 55 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 6 days on trails outside of the state. In comparison, the statewide average is 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.

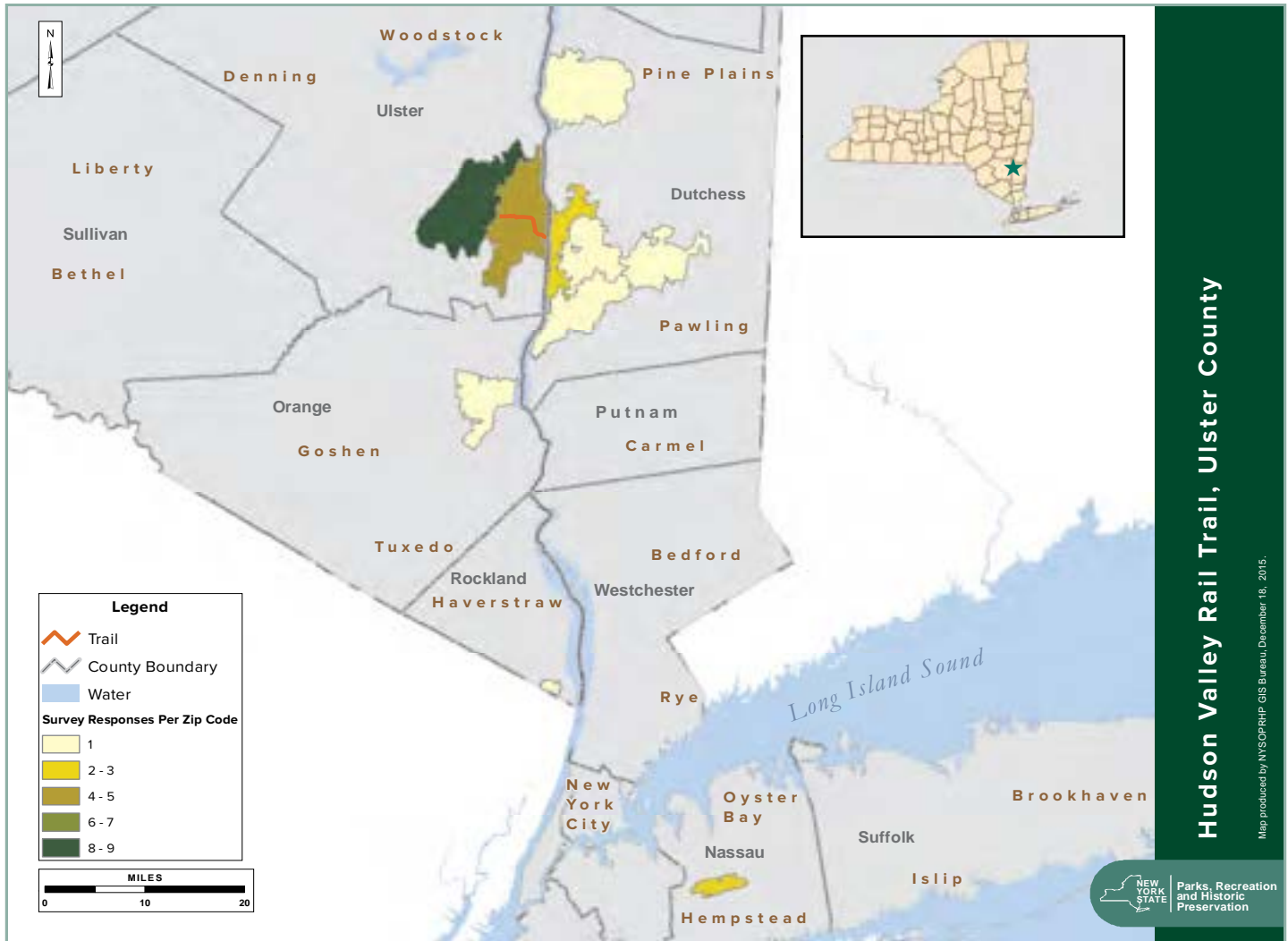
Just over half (57%) of trail users visit the Hudson Valley Rail Trail at various times throughout the day, while a third (39%) predominantly visit in the morning. Nearly two-thirds (64%) use the trail both weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on the Hudson Valley Rail Trail was 3.5 people, much larger than the statewide average of 2.0. Fifty-four percent of visitors indicated that their use of the Hudson Valley Rail Trail had influenced their purchase of footwear, and another 54% had purchased clothing.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Hike/walk/jog	61%
Bike	36%
From the trail, visit another place	18%
Birding/studying wildflowers	14%
Dog Walking	7%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Hudson Valley Rail Trail



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	57%	Parks & Trails NY	7%
Driving past	32%	Other	7%
Roadside signage	25%	Internet website	7%
Word of mouth	18%	New York or local government agency	0%
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	18%	Bike shop	0%
Newspaper	14%	Tourism office	0%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

The Hudson Valley Rail Trail was rated “excellent” or “good” by 100% of visitors for both maintenance and for cleanliness. Thirty percent of users who completed the survey would like to see more water fountains made available along the trail. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the Hudson Valley Rail Trail, 57% responded that familiarity with the trail was a factor. Proximity to home was also a factor for 57% of respondents. Eighty-two percent of trail users arrived to the trail by car. Of the remaining 18%, 80% walked or biked to the trail.

The average age of the Hudson Valley Rail Trail user completing the survey was 56. Half of the survey respondents were female. Thirty-nine percent responded they were employed full-time and another 39% were retired. Fourteen percent of visitors identified themselves as a person with a disability. Forty-two percent of respondents reported having an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Jones Beach Bikeway (Ellen Farrant Memorial Bikeway)

The Jones Beach Bikeway, also known as the Ellen Farrant Memorial Bikeway or Wantagh State Parkway Shared-Use Path, is a 6-mile multi-use path in Nassau County, New York. The trail follows the Wantagh State Parkway on Long Island from Cedar Creek Park to the scenic coastline and Jones Beach State Park. From Jones Beach, the Ocean Parkway Coastal Greenway reaches another 3.5 miles east to Tobay Beach. The Bike-way is a paved trail open to walkers, runners, in-line skaters, and bicyclists.



Jones Beach Bikeway Fact Sheet

The information presented here shows the results of the 151 complete survey forms collected from the Jones Beach Bikeway. The surveys included only represent the surveys collected online. The paper forms were mixed with the Bethpage Bike Path forms upon distribution, making it impossible to tell which trail the survey was completed for. Because of this, the paper forms were excluded from the trail specific analysis but included in the statewide analysis.

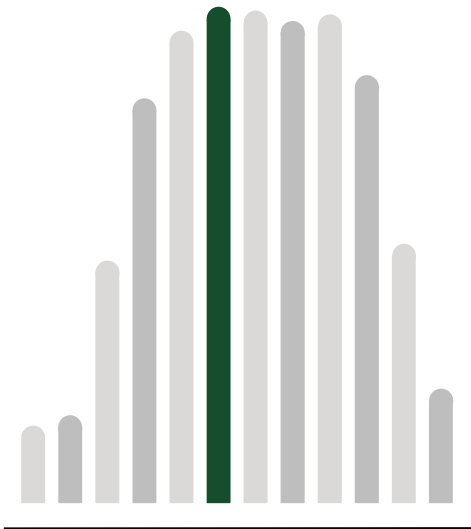
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	29	19%	Skiing/snowshoeing	3	2%
Jogging/running	36	24%	Horseback Riding	0	0%
Biking	144	95%	(Own a horse)	0	0%
Snowmobiling	0	0%	Other	14	9%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Jones Beach Bikeway

Months of Trail Use



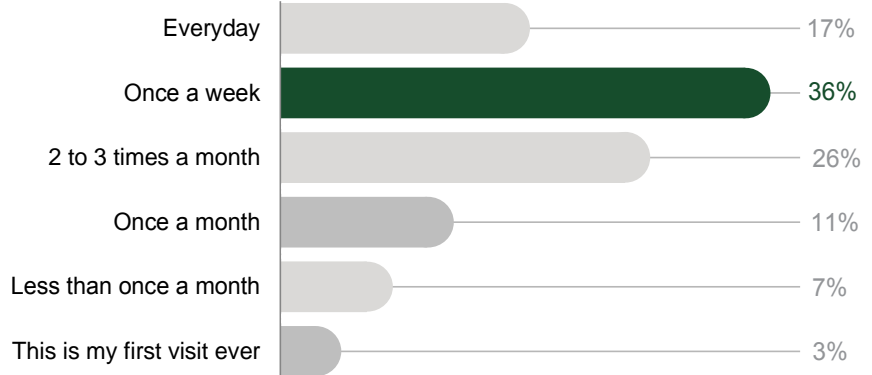
95% June



Seventy-one percent of the survey respondents primarily used this trail for health and exercise. Fitness training was the primary use of this trail for 16% of users, followed by recreation at 13%. In comparison, the statewide findings show 60% of visitors listing health and exercise as the primary use of trails while 30% chose recreation as the primary use.

Of the 151 surveys collected from the Jones Beach Bikeway, 148 provided usable zip code information, all from the state of New York. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors to the trail visited during the summer months with the highest visitation occurring in June. Fifty-three percent of users visit the trail at least once a week and most spend one to two hours on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 8.6 miles to reach the trail, slightly less than the statewide average of 8.9 miles. Zero survey respondents indicated that they stayed overnight in conjunction with their trip to this trail. In the past 12 months, visitors to the Jones Beach Bikeway spent an average of 20 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 6 days on trails outside of the state. This is just under the statewide average of 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.

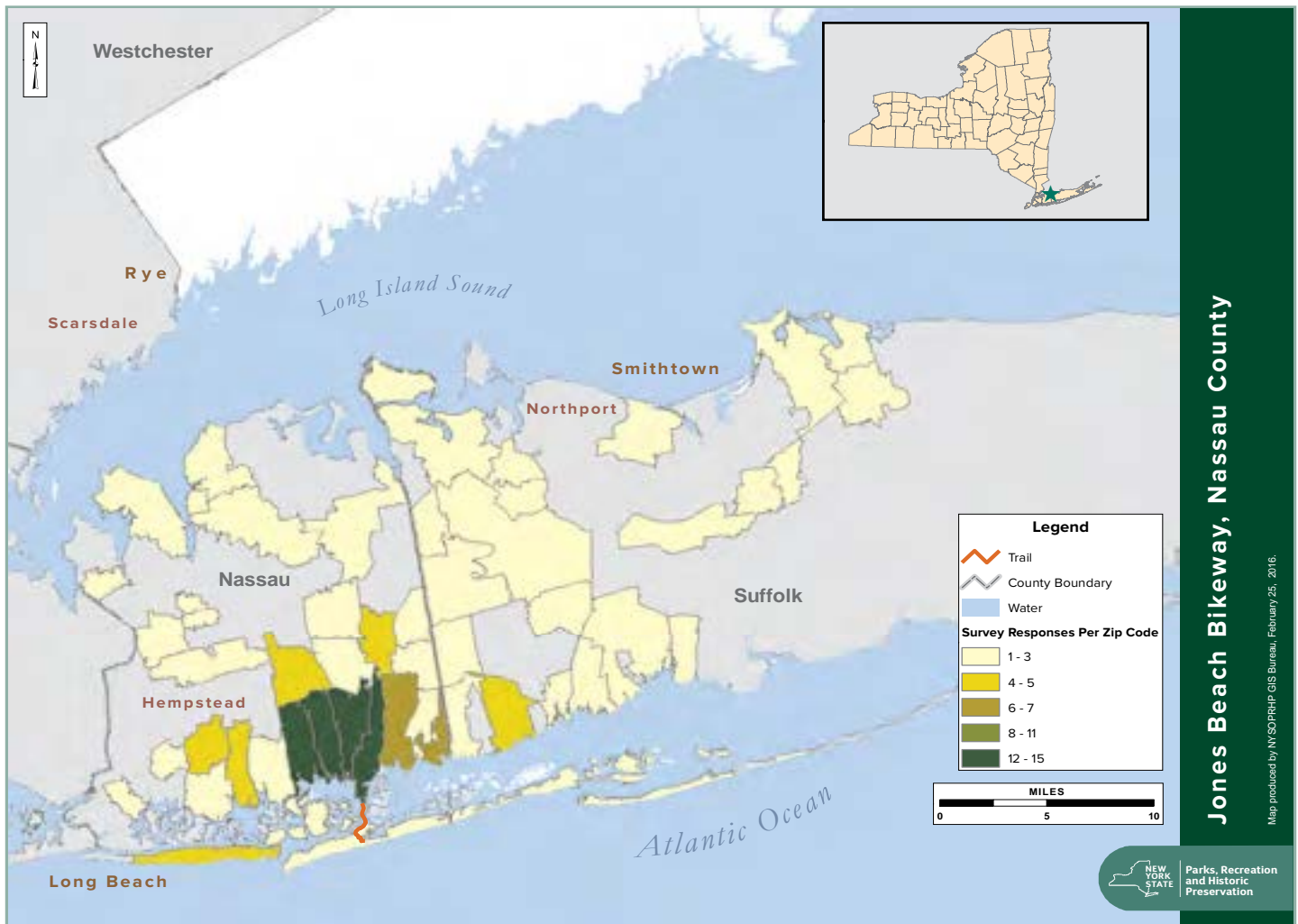
Thirty-nine percent of trail users responded that the time of day they visit the Jones Beach Bikeway varies, while another 37% predominantly visit in the morning. Seventy-one percent use the trail both on weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on the Jones Beach Bikeway was 2.3 people, just over the statewide average of 2.0. Use of the Jones Beach Bikeway had influenced 54% to purchase a bike and 48% had purchased bike supplies.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Bike	87%
Hike/walk/jog	11%
From the trail, visit another place	6%
Rollerblade	5%
Dog Walking	1%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Jones Beach Bikeway



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	59%	Roadside signage	4%
Word of mouth	34%	Newspaper	3%
Driving past	28%	Parks & Trails NY	3%
Bike shop	12%	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	1%
Other	8%	New York or local government agency	1%
Internet website	7%	Tourism office	0%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

The Jones Beach Bikeway was rated “excellent” or “good” by 97% of visitors for both maintenance and for cleanliness. Thirty-two percent of users who completed the survey would like to see more water fountains made available along the trail. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the Jones Beach Bikeway, 56% responded that proximity to home was a factor. Familiarity with the trail was also a factor for 56% of respondents. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of trail users arrived to the trail by car. Of the remaining 34%, 98% walked or biked to the trail.

The average age of the Jones Beach Bikeway user completing the survey was 50. Seventy-four percent of survey respondents were male. Seventy-one percent responded they were employed full-time and another 12% were retired. Six percent of visitors identified themselves as a person with a disability. Just over half (55%) reported having an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Joseph B. Clarke Trail

The Joseph B. Clarke Trail is a 2.5-mile multi-use trail in the town of Orangetown and Hamlet of Sparkill, in Rockland County, New York. The trail is managed by the Town of Orangetown and has sections of both asphalt and crushed stone suitable for walking, hiking, and running. The trail was recently extended another 1.5 miles northwest into the Hamlet of Blauvelt. For more information, contact the Town of Orangetown at 845-359-5100 or on the web at: <http://www.orangetown.com/>.



Joseph B. Clarke Trail, Rockland County

Map produced by NYSOPRHP GIS Bureau, December 17, 2015.



Joseph B. Clarke Trail Fact Sheet

The results from the survey on the Joseph B. Clarke Trail are presented below. The agency collected 108 complete surveys during the survey period, 58 (54%) of which were completed via paper and sent to the Albany Office.

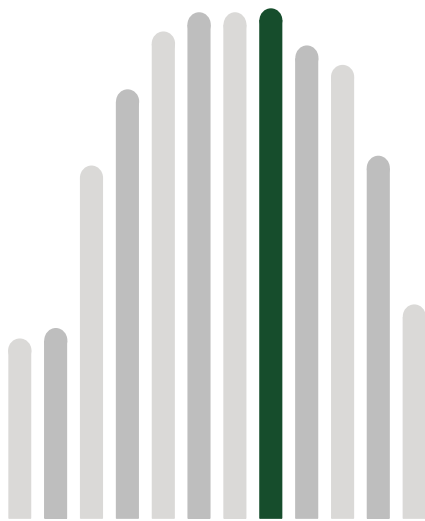
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	59	55%	Skiing/snowshoeing	5	5%
Jogging/running	32	30%	Horseback Riding	0	0%
Biking	77	71%	(Own a horse)	0	0%
Snowmobiling	0	0%	Other	7	6%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

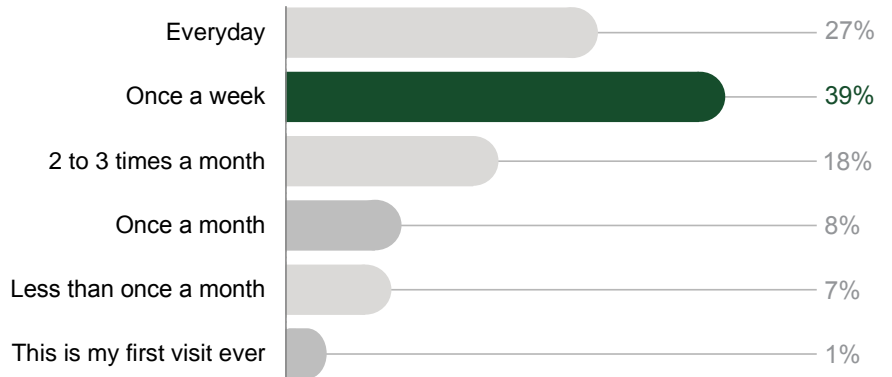
Joseph B. Clarke Trail

Months of Trail Use



96% August

Frequency of Trail Use



Most trail users visited during the summer months with the highest visitation occurring in August. Two-thirds of survey responders visit the trail at least once a week and most spent between 30 minutes and 1 hour on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 5.3 miles to reach the trail, less than the statewide average of 8.9 miles. Zero survey respondents indicated that they stayed overnight in conjunction with their trip to this trail. In the past 12 months, visitors to the Joseph B. Clarke Trail spent an average of 25 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 10 days on trails outside of the state. This is similar to the statewide average of 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.



Just under half (46%) of trail users visit the Joseph B. Clarke Trail at various times throughout the day, while a quarter (26%) predominantly visit in the afternoon. Seventy-one percent use the trail both weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on the Joseph B. Clarke Trail was 1.6 people, less than the statewide average of 2.0. Thirty percent of survey respondents indicated that their use of the Joseph B. Clarke Trail had influenced their purchase of footwear, and another 28% had purchased a bike.

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of the survey respondents primarily used this trail for health and exercise. Recreation was the primary use of this trail for 21% of users. These results are comparable to the statewide findings which show 60% of visitors listing health and exercise as the primary use of trails while 30% chose recreation as the primary use.

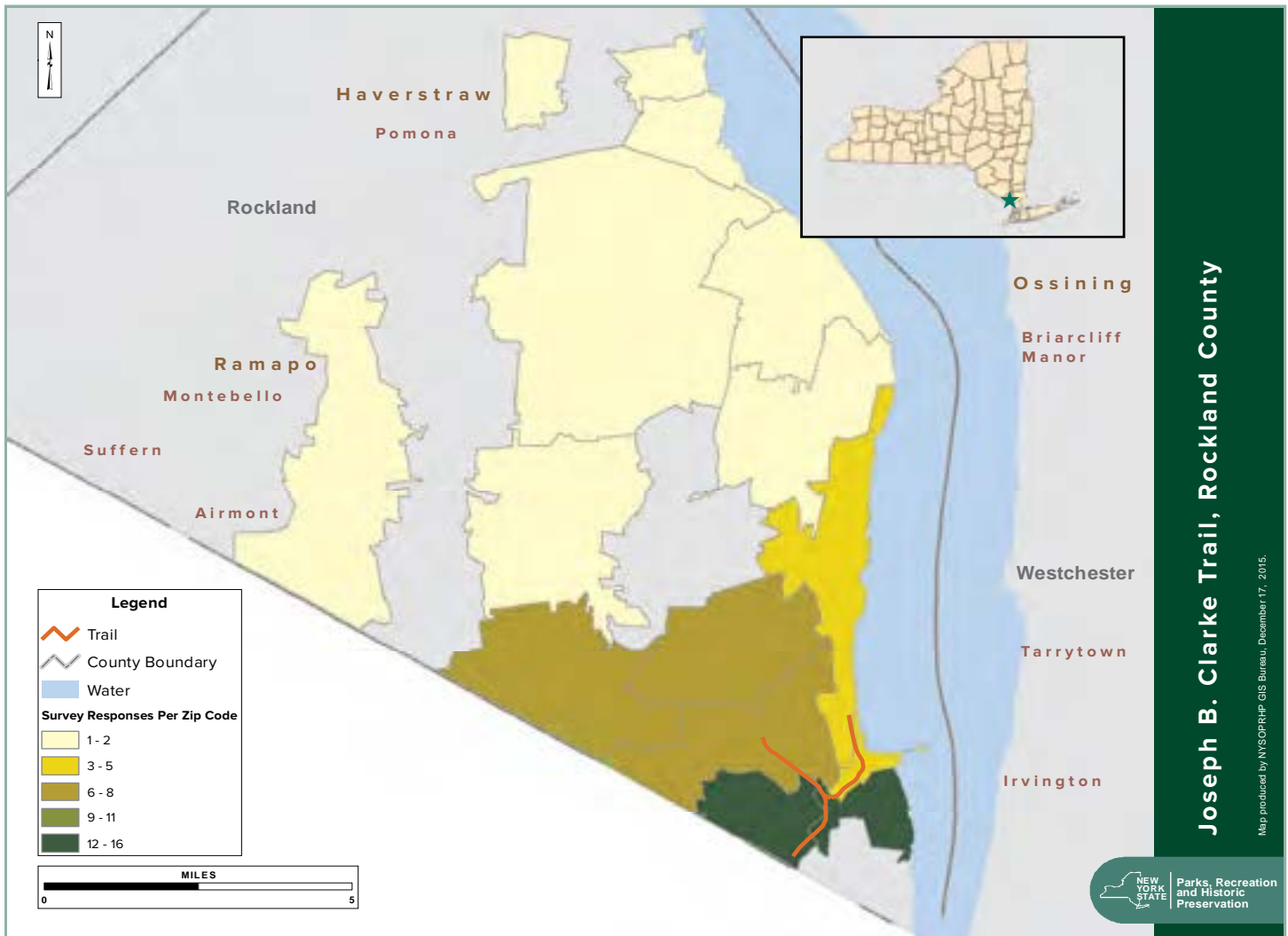
Of the 108 surveys collected from the Joseph B. Clarke Trail, 107 provided usable zip code information. Thirty-four visitors were from New Jersey and there were zero international visitors. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Bike	58%
Hike/walk/jog	35%
From the trail, visit another place	9%
Dog Walking	8%
Birding/studying wildflowers	5%
Rollerblade	2%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Joseph B. Clarke Trail



Joseph B. Clarke Trail, Rockland County

Map produced by NYS OPRHP GIS Bureau, December 17, 2015.



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	49%	Newspaper	7%
Word of mouth	40%	Parks & Trails NY	6%
Driving past	23%	Internet website	6%
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	15%	Other	6%
Roadside signage	11%	New York or local government agency	2%
Bike shop	7%	Tourism office	2%

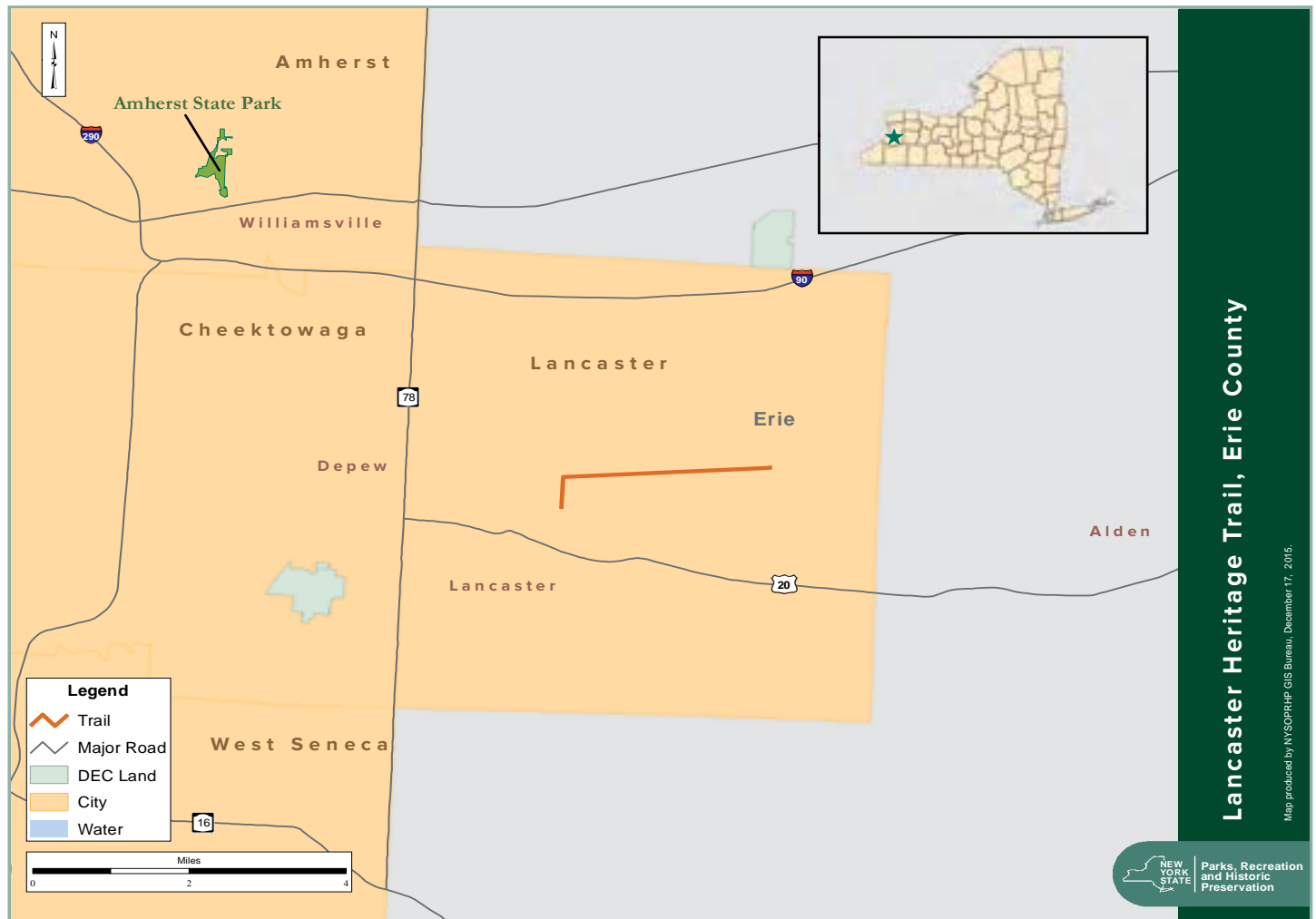
(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

The Joseph B. Clarke Trail was rated “excellent” or “good” by 96% of visitors for maintenance and by 94% for cleanliness. Twenty-four percent of users who completed the survey would like to see more water fountains made available along the trail and 21% would like to more restrooms. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the Joseph B. Clarke Trail, 75% responded that proximity to home was a factor. Familiarity with the trail was also a factor for 59% of respondents. Just over half (52%) of trail users arrived to the trail by car. Of the remaining 48%, 94% walked or biked to the trail.

The average age of the Joseph B. Clarke Trail user completing the survey was 56. Sixty-nine percent of survey respondents were male. Fifty-five percent responded they were employed full-time and another 22% were retired. Six percent of visitors identified themselves as a person with a disability. Fifty-seven percent of trail users reported having an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Lancaster Heritage Trail

The Heritage Trail is a 4-mile long multi-use trail in Erie County, New York. The trail follows an abandoned rail bed from Town Line Road to Walter Winter Drive in the Town of Lancaster. The Heritage Trail has an asphalt surface and is well suited for walking, cycling, and in-line skating and is open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing during winter months. The trail is managed and maintained by the Town of Lancaster. More information can be found on their website here: <http://lancasterny.gov>.



Lancaster Heritage Trail Fact Sheet

The results from the survey on the Lancaster Heritage Trail are presented below. Fifty completed surveys were collected during the survey period, 28 (56%) of which were completed via paper and sent to the Albany Office. Because of the low response from this trail, caution should be exercised when using this data.

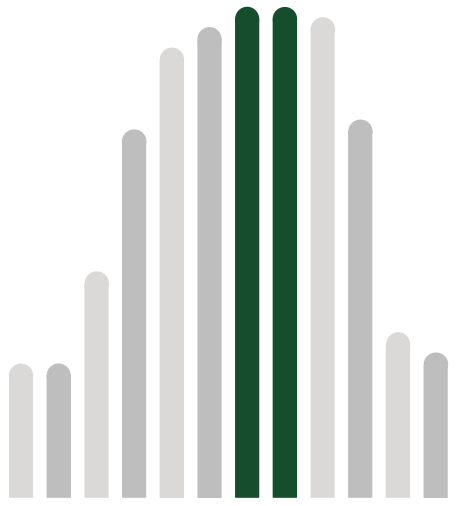
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	33	66%	Skiing/snowshoeing	2	4%
Jogging/running	18	36%	Horseback Riding	0	0%
Biking	37	74%	(Own a horse)	0	0%
Snowmobiling	0	0%	Other	4	8%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Lancaster Heritage Trail

Months of Trail Use



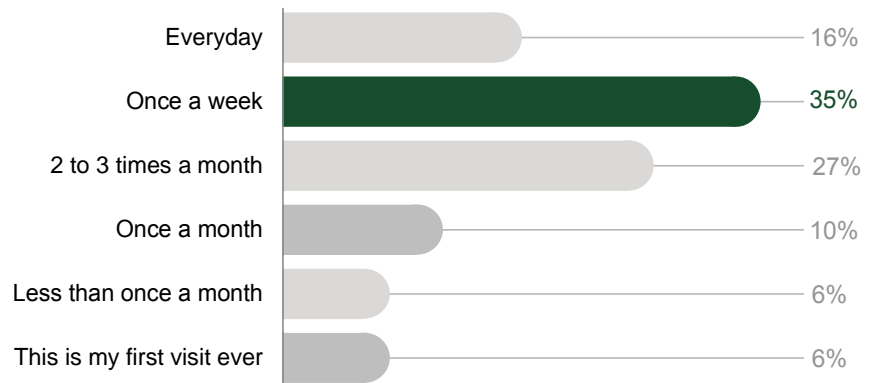
94% July & August



Days of Trail Use

8% Weekdays
12% Weekends
80% Both

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors to the trail visited during the summer months with the highest visitation occurring in July and August. Just over half (51%) of survey responders visit the trail at least once a week and most spent between 30 minutes and 1 hour on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 4.2 miles to reach the trail, less than half of the statewide average of 8.9 miles. Zero survey respondents indicated that they stayed overnight in conjunction with their trip to this trail. In the past 12 months, visitors to the Lancaster Heritage Trail spent an average of 16 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 4 days on trails outside of the state. This is less than the statewide average of 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.

Over a third (36%) of trail users indicated that the time of day they visit the Lancaster Heritage Trail varies, while another 32% predominantly visit in the morning. Eighty percent use the trail both weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on the Lancaster Heritage Trail was 1.7 people, a little under the statewide average of 2.0. Forty-four percent of survey respondents indicated that their use of the Lancaster Heritage Trail had influenced their purchase of bike supplies and 36% had purchased a bike.

Health and exercise was the primary use of this trail for 70% of visitors. Recreation was the primary use by 18%. In comparison, the statewide findings show 60% of visitors listing health and exercise as the primary use of trails while 30% stated recreation as the primary use.

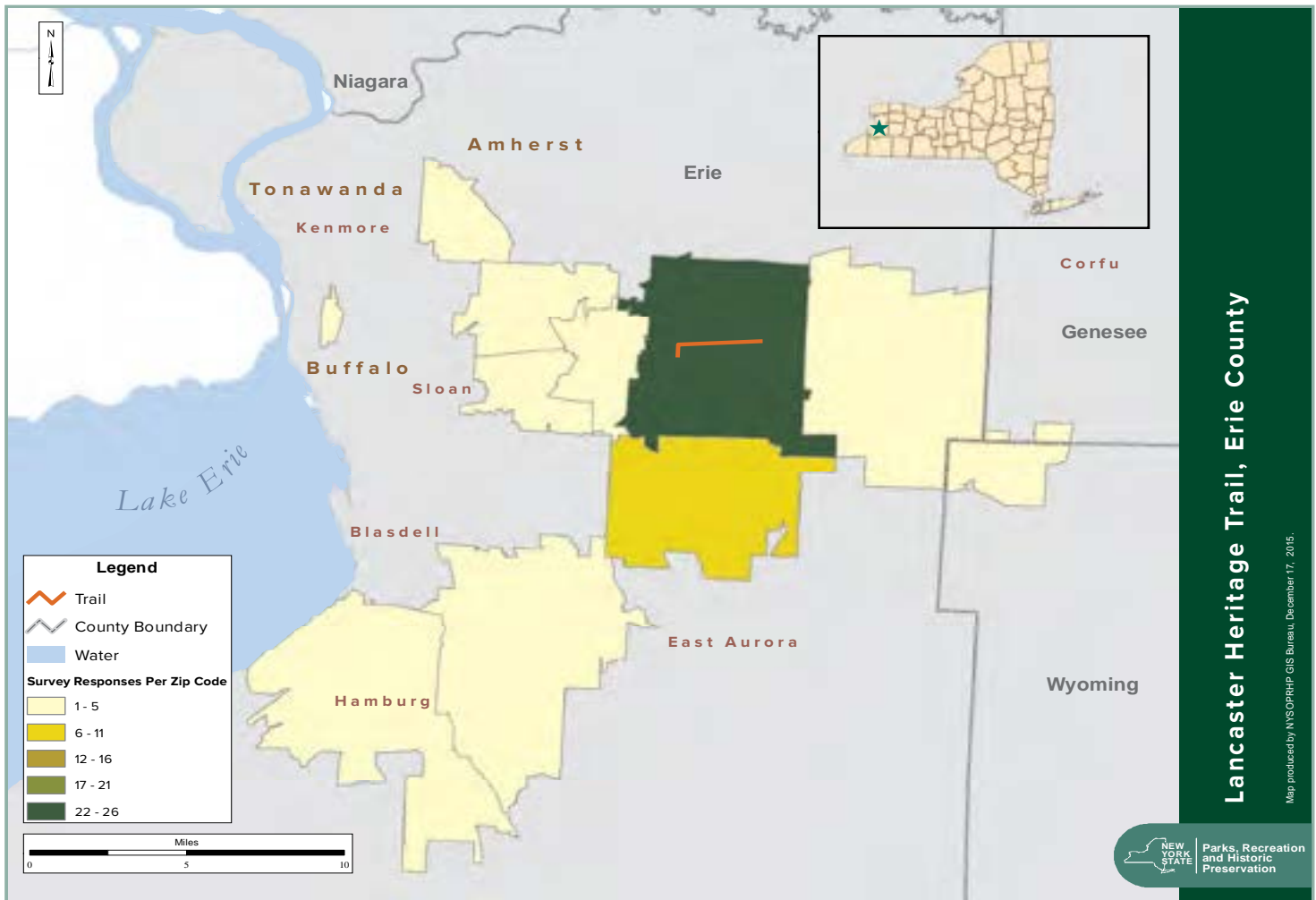
Of the 50 surveys collected from the Lancaster Heritage Trail, 49 provided usable zip code information. Two of the surveys were completed by visitors from out of state, both of which were from Maine. There were no international visitors that completed the survey. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Bike	58%
Hike/walk/jog	20%
Dog Walking	20%
Rollerblade	8%
From the trail, visit another place	2%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Lancaster Heritage Trail



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	38%	Bike shop	4%
Driving past	34%	New York or local government agency	2%
Word of mouth	30%	Parks & Trails NY	2%
Newspaper	14%	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	0%
Roadside signage	12%	Other	0%
Internet website	8%	Tourism office	0%

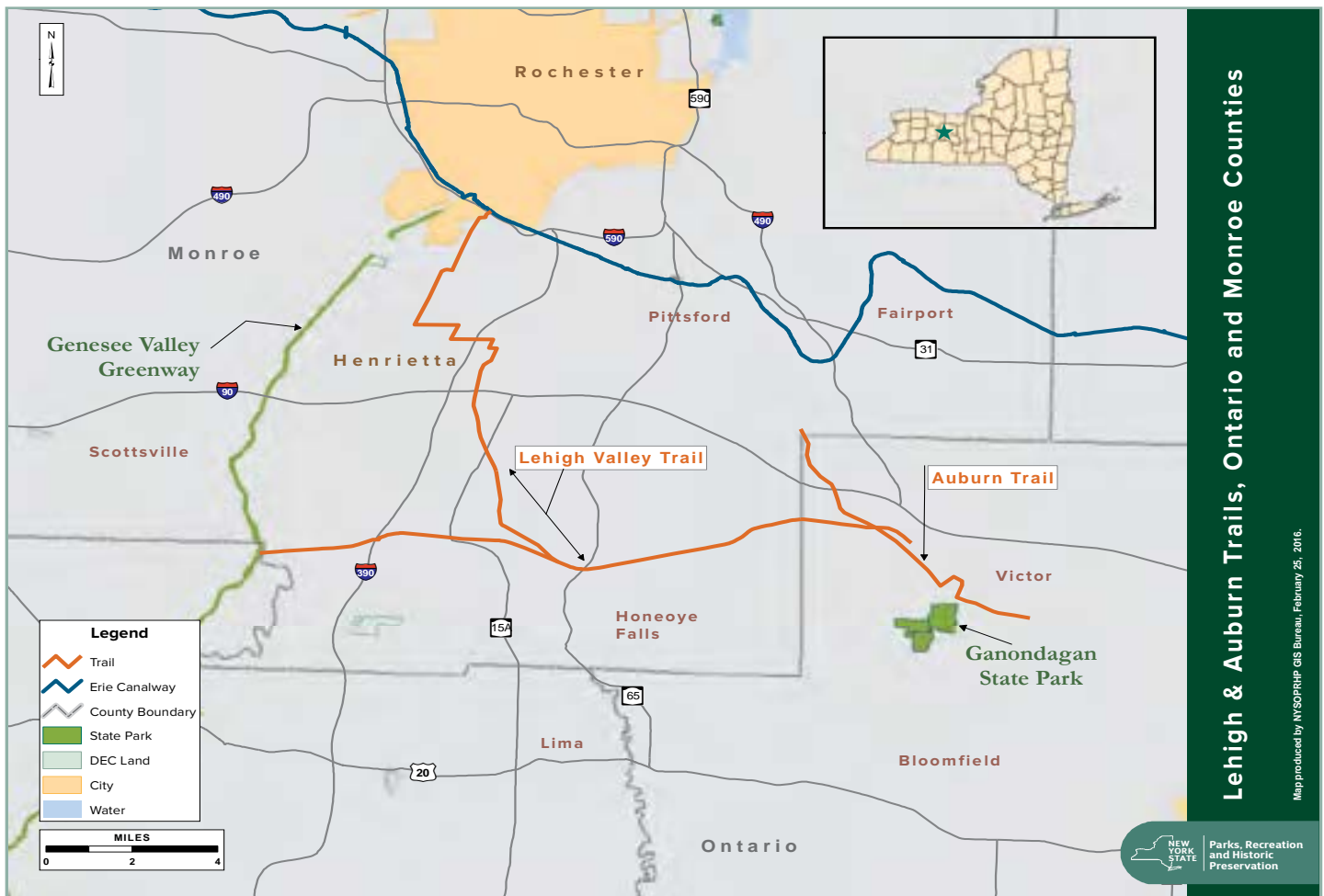
(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

The Lancaster Heritage Trail was rated “excellent” or “good” by 94% of visitors for maintenance and by 100% of visitors for cleanliness. Forty-one percent of users who completed the survey would like to see more restrooms made available along the trail. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the Lancaster Heritage Trail, familiarity with the trail, proximity to home and the trail accommodates my fitness level or accessibility needs were all factors for two-thirds of the users. Seventy percent of trail users arrived to the trail by car. Of the remaining 30%, all walked or biked to the trail.

The average age of the Lancaster Heritage Trail user completing the survey was 53. Sixty percent of survey respondents were male. Forty-eight percent were employed full-time and another 38% were retired. Two percent of visitors identified themselves as a person with a disability. Over one-third (39%) of respondents reported having an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Lehigh and Auburn Trails

The Lehigh and Auburn Trails were also a part of the group surveyed in 2008. Located in the northwest corner of Ontario County, Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. in partnership with the Town of Victor have developed a network of rail trails in their town. Built on a rail line that ran from Auburn, NY to Rochester, the Auburn Trail was first opened in 1993. The Lehigh Trail, built upon the Lehigh Valley Railroad corridor and opened in 1995, extends to the west connecting both the Erie Canalway and the Genesee Valley Greenway many miles away. The Auburn crosses the Lehigh and extends the trail system to the east. Allowable uses on the trails include hiking, biking, and horseback riding at the western end of the Lehigh. Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. is responsible for the promotion, stewardship and development of the trail system within the town. More information as well as maps are available on their website at: <http://victorhikingtrails.org/>.



Lehigh and Auburn Trails Fact Sheet

The results from the survey on the Lehigh and Auburn Trails are presented below. The agency collected 120 complete surveys during the survey period, 63 (53%) of which were completed via paper and sent to the Albany Office.

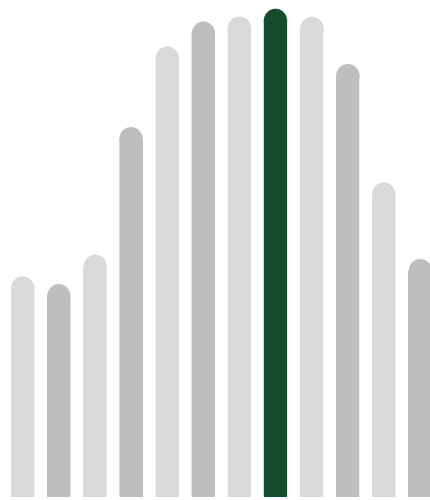
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	95	79%	Skiing/snowshoeing	31	26%
Jogging/running	39	33%	Horseback Riding	0	0%
Biking	83	69%	(Own a horse)	0	0%
Snowmobiling	1	1%	Other	1	1%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Lehigh and Auburn Trails

Months of Trail Use



93% August

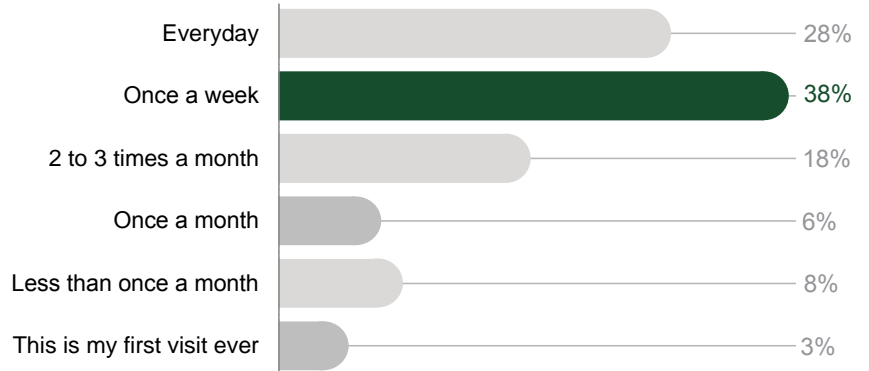


6% Weekends
14% Weekdays
80% Both

Health and exercise was the primary use of this trail for 65% of visitors. Recreation was the primary use for 26%. Statewide, 60% of visitors listed health and exercise as the primary use of the trail and 30% stated recreation as the primary use.

Of the 120 surveys collected from the Lehigh and Auburn Trails, 118 provided usable zip code information. Five surveys were completed by visitors from out of state, one each from Florida, Missouri, Virginia, and two from the State of Washington. There were no international visitors that completed the survey. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors to the trail visited during the summer months with the highest visitation occurring in August. Two thirds of survey respondents visited the trail at least once a week and most spent between 30 minutes and 1 hour on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 2.9 miles to reach the trail, considerably less than the statewide average of 8.9 miles. One survey respondent indicated that they stayed overnight in conjunction with their trip to this trail, with a length of stay of 10 nights. In the past 12 months, visitors to the Lehigh and Auburn Trails spent an average of 47 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 11 days on trails outside of the state. The statewide average is 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.

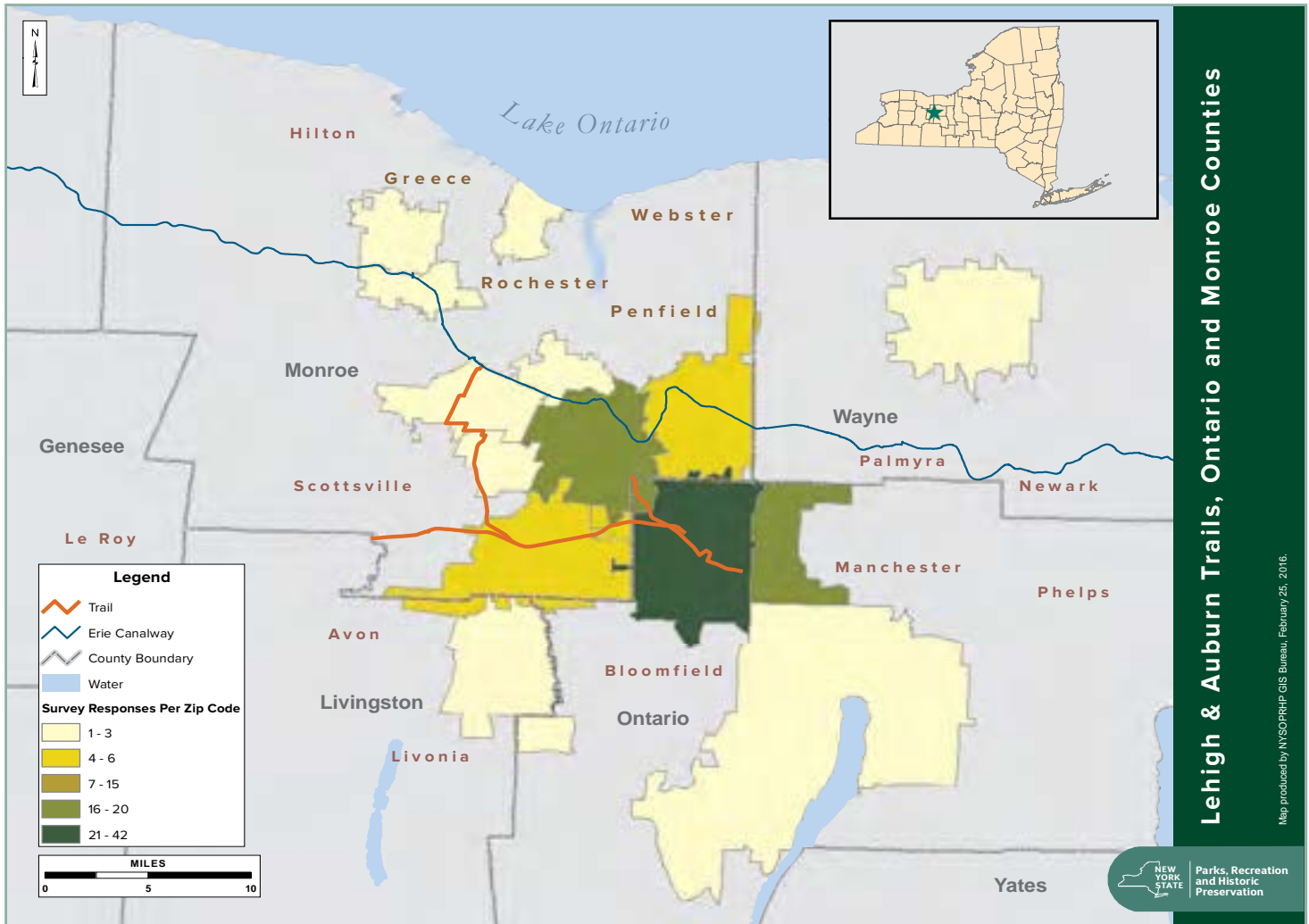
Over half (55%) of trail users visit the Lehigh and Auburn Trails at various times throughout the day, while another 28% predominantly visit in the morning. Eighty percent use the trail both on weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on the Lehigh and Auburn Trails was 1.7 people, a little under the statewide average of 2.0. Thirty-six percent of survey respondents indicated that their use of the Lehigh and Auburn Trails had influenced their purchase of footwear and 33% had purchased a bike.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Bike	45%
Hike/walk/jog	38%
Dog Walking	22%
Birding/studying wildflowers	11%
From the trail, visit another place	3%
Rollerblade	1%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Lehigh and Auburn Trails



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	68%	Parks & Trails NY	8%
Word of mouth	39%	Other	5%
Driving past	27%	Bike shop	3%
Roadside signage	25%	New York or local government agency	3%
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	12%	Newspaper	2%
Internet website	8%	Tourism office	1%

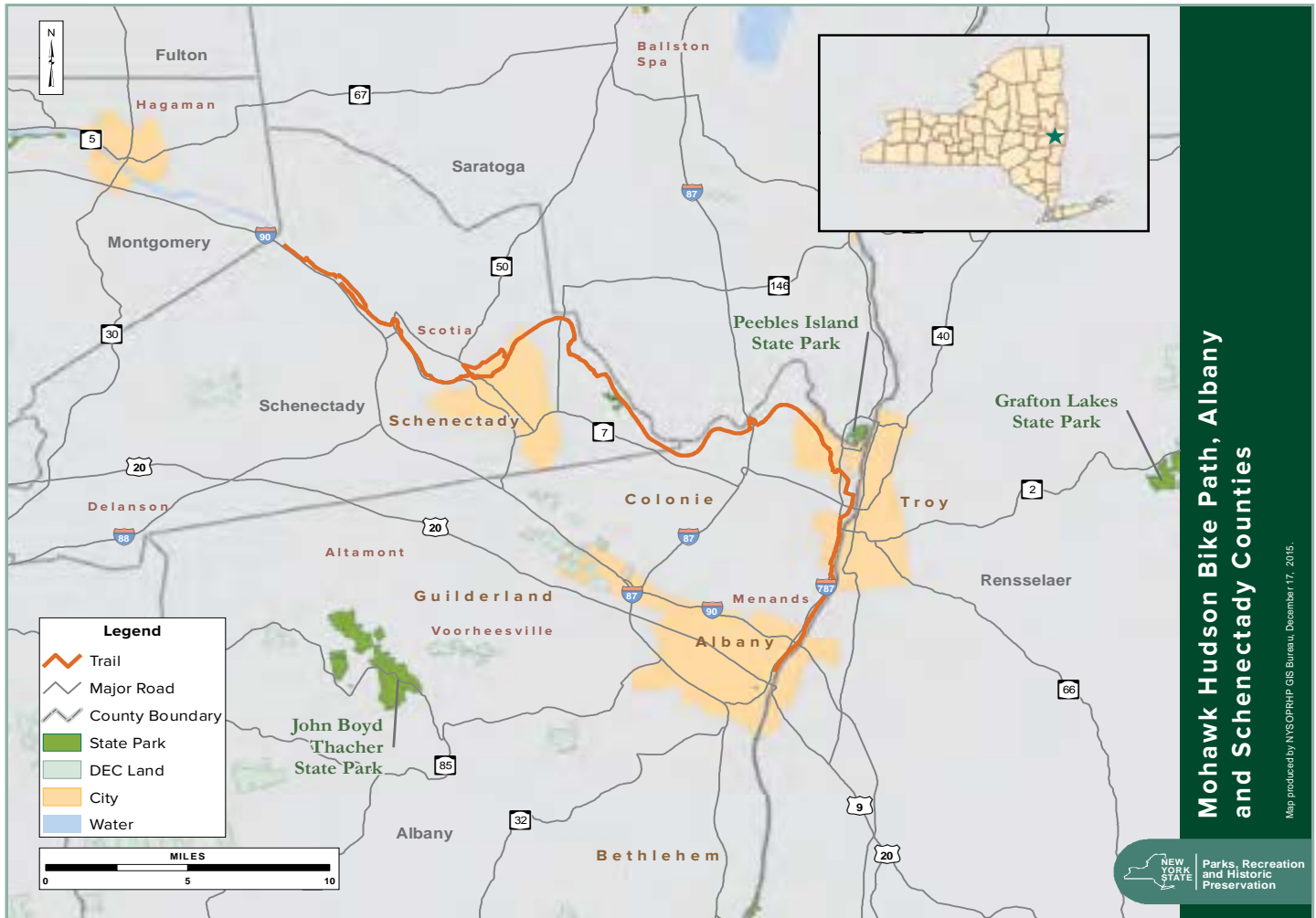
(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

The Lehigh and Auburn Trails were rated “excellent” or “good” by 97% of visitors for maintenance and by 100% of visitors for cleanliness. Thirty-four percent of users who completed the survey would like to see more restrooms made available along the trail and another 23% would like to see trail surface improvements. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the Lehigh and Auburn Trails, proximity to home was a factor for 85% and another 63% were familiar with the trail. Just over half of trail users arrived to the trail by car. Of the remaining 49%, almost all walked or biked to the trail.

The average age of the Lehigh and Auburn Trails user completing the survey was 57. Just over half (52%) of the respondents were female. Forty-four percent responded they were employed full-time and another 35% were retired. Three percent of visitors identified themselves as a person with a disability. Half of the survey respondents reported having an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail

The Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail is another trail surveyed both in 2008 and 2015. The Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail was built during the late 1970's and early 1980's. The trail makes up the most eastern part of the Erie Canalway Trail passing through several communities including the Town of Niskayuna for a distance of 42 miles. The trail is for the most part, owned and maintained by the Towns in which it is contained. This section was developed on an abandoned railroad corridor along the Mohawk River (State Canal) at the site of an abandoned railroad station.



Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail Fact Sheet

The information presented here shows the results of the 104 complete survey forms collected from the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail in the Town of Niskayuna. As discussed previously, this is the only trail that conducted intercept surveys. Fifty-nine surveys (57%) were collected in person via face-to-face interview on tablets and 31 (30%) were completed via paper and mailed to the Albany Office. The remainder was submitted online.

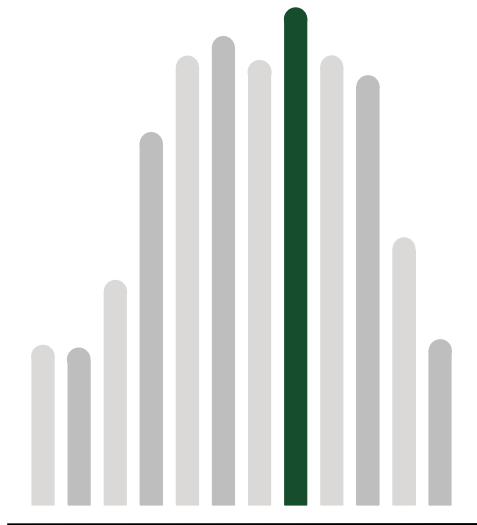
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	73	70%	Skiing/snowshoeing	11	11%
Jogging/running	32	31%	Horseback Riding	1	1%
Biking	58	56%	(Own a horse)	1	1%
Snowmobiling	0	0%	Other	12	12%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail

Months of Trail Use



97% August



Days of Trail Use

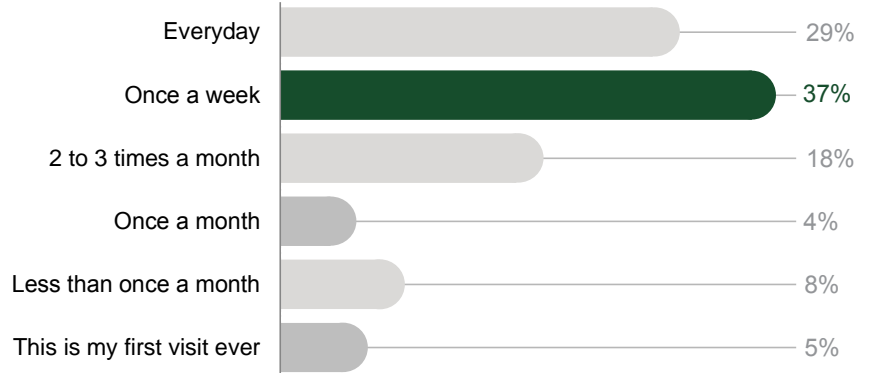
- 9% Weekends
- 17% Weekdays
- 74% Both

ends. The average group size on the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail was 1.8 people, a little under the statewide average of 2.0. Twenty-eight percent of survey respondents indicated that their use of the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail had influenced their purchase of footwear and 21% had purchased a bike.

Health and exercise was the primary use of this trail for 68% of visitors. Recreation was the primary use for 25%. Statewide, 60% of visitors listed health and exercise as the primary use of the trail and 30% stated recreation as the primary use.

Of the 104 surveys collected from the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail, 102 provided usable zip code information, all from the State of New York. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors to the trail visited during the summer months with the highest visitation occurring in August. Sixty-five percent of survey responders visit the trail at least once a week and most spent between one and two hours on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 5.3 miles to reach the trail, less than the statewide average of 8.9 miles. One survey respondent indicated that they stayed overnight in conjunction with their trip to this trail, with a length of stay of one night. In the past 12 months, visitors to the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail spent an average of 29 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 9 days on trails outside of the state. The statewide average is 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.

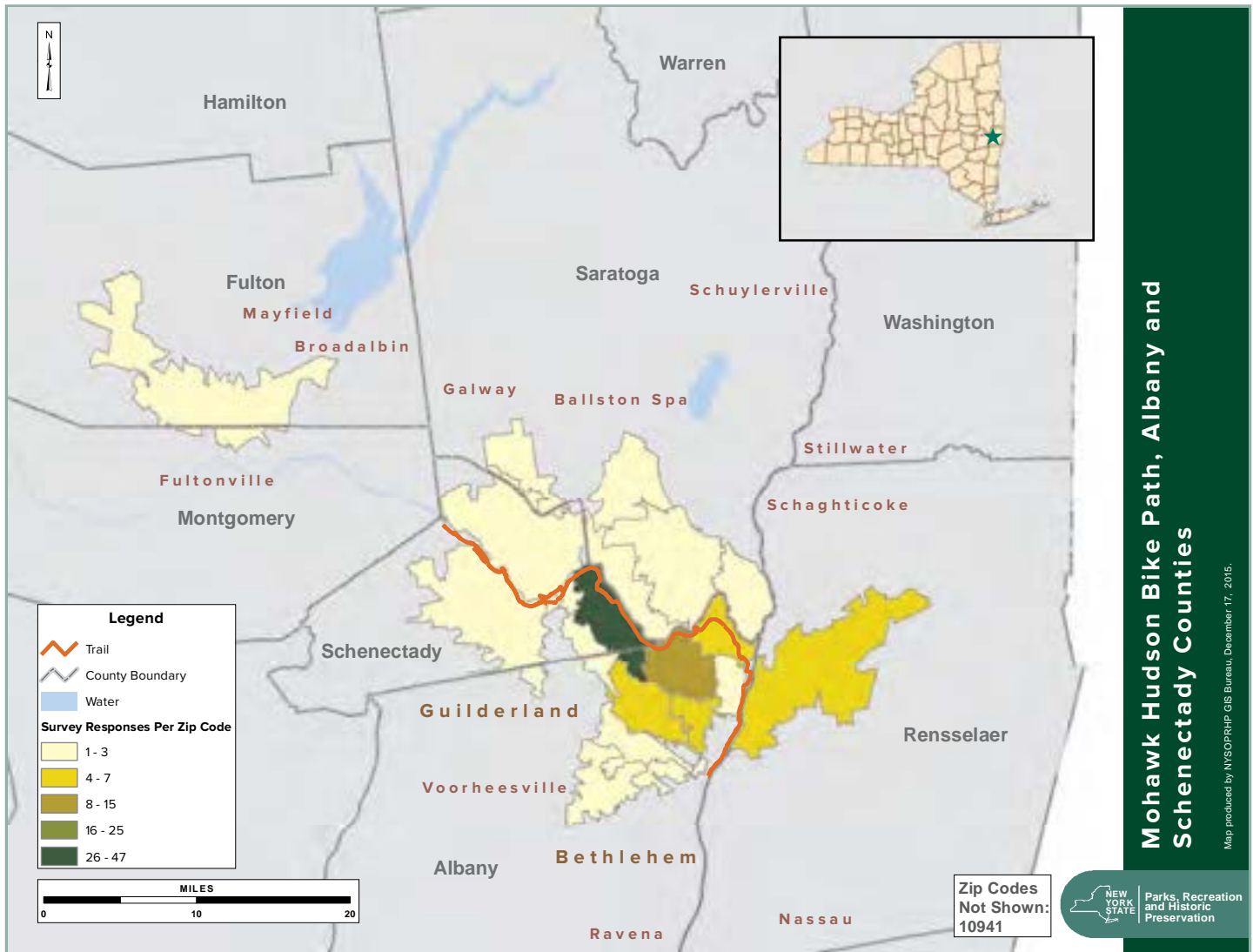
For 46% of trail users, the time of day they visit the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike varies, while 20% predominantly visit in the afternoon. Seventy-four percent use the trail both on weekdays and on week-

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Hike/walk/jog	58%
Bike	38%
Birding/studying wildflowers	13%
Dog Walking	7%
Rollerblade	3%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	63%	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	3%
Word of mouth	28%	Newspaper	2%
Driving past	17%	Parks & Trails NY	2%
Roadside signage	10%	Bike shop	1%
Internet website	6%	New York or local government agency	1%
Other	5%	Tourism office	0%

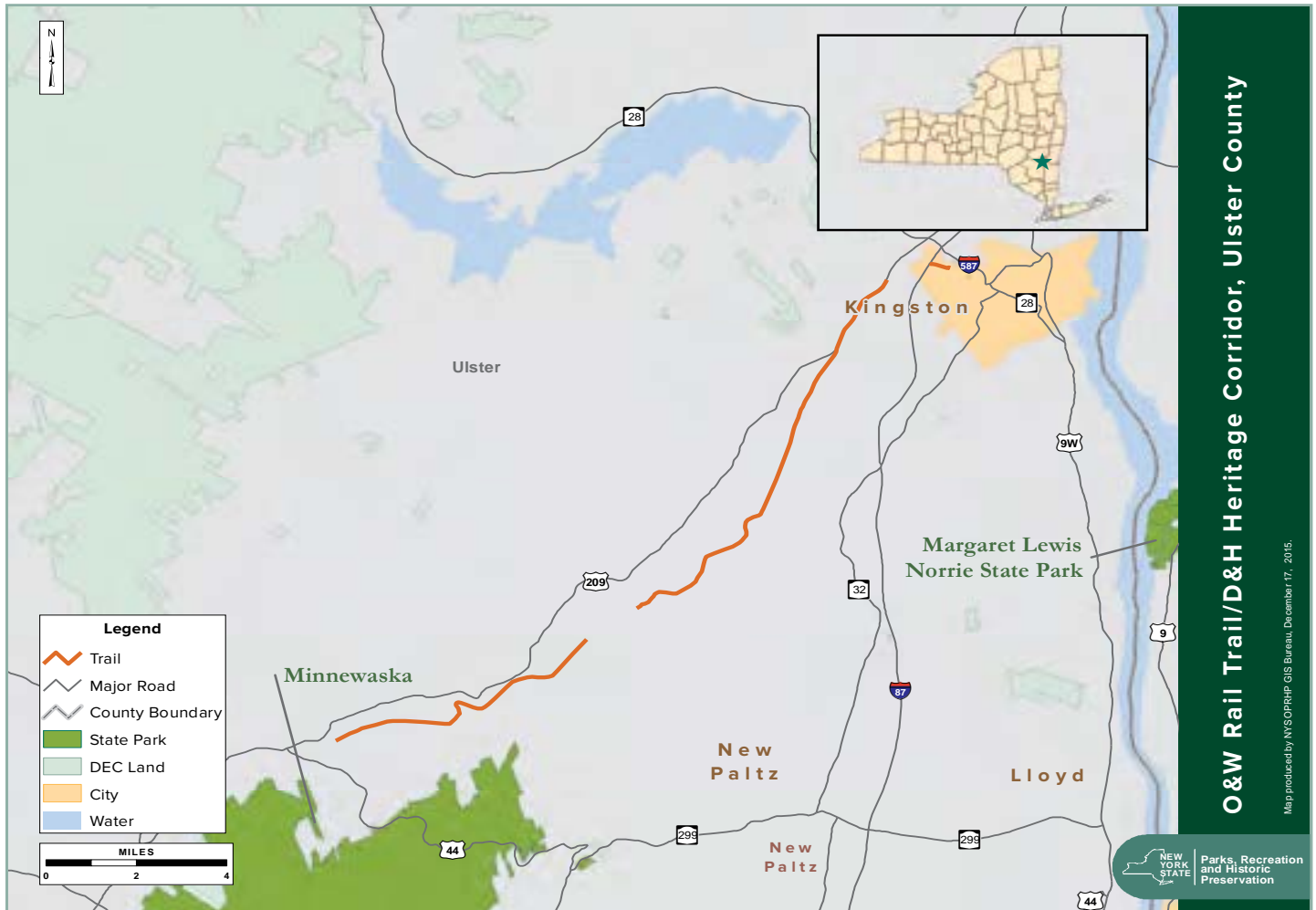
(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

The Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail was rated “excellent” or “good” by 98% of visitors for maintenance and by 94% of visitors for cleanliness. Additional water fountains along the trail were requested by 35% of users who completed the survey. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail, proximity to home was a factor for 61% and another 48% were familiar with the trail. Seventy-four percent of trail users arrived to the trail by car. The remaining 26% all walked or biked to the trail.

The average age of the Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail user completing the survey was 54. Fifty-three percent of survey respondents were male. Fifty-six percent responded they were employed full-time and another 29% were retired. Two percent of visitors identified themselves as a person with a disability. Forty-two percent (42%) of respondents reported having an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

O&W Rail Trail/ D&H Heritage Corridor

The O&W Rail Trail is the final trail surveyed in both 2008 and 2015. The trail follows the historic Ontario & Western Railroad route in Ulster and Sullivan Counties and is part of the D&H Heritage Corridor. There are currently over 20 miles of trail open for public use. Local municipalities and trail committees manage and maintain the sections of the O&W Trail including the Town of Hurley and the Marbletown Rail Trail Committee. The trail is open for hiking, jogging, and biking, as well as equestrian use in some sections. Winter uses such as snowshoeing and cross country skiing are also allowed. More information on the individual trail sections can be found at the following web links: Town of Hurley: http://www.townofhurley.org/plan/html/rail_trails.html; Marbletown O&W Rail Trail Committee: <http://www.marbletown.net/government/committees-commissions/marbletown-rail-trail-committee/>; D & H Heritage Corridor Alliance: <http://www.dandhcorridor.org>.



O&W Rail Trail/ D&H Heritage Corridor Fact Sheet

The results from the survey on the O&W Rail Trail are presented below. The agency collected 119 completed surveys during the survey period, 77 (65%) of which were completed via paper and sent to the Albany Office.

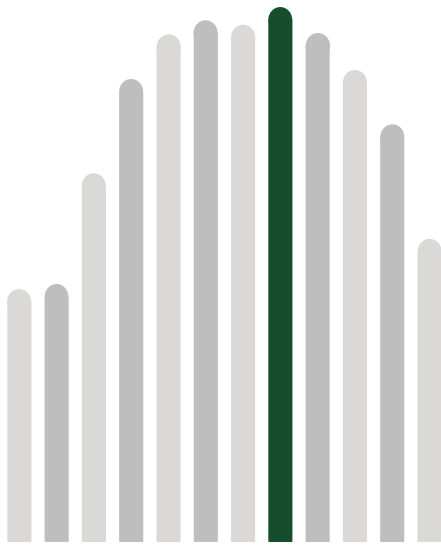
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	100	84%	Skiing/snowshoeing	27	23%
Jogging/running	41	34%	Horseback Riding	0	0%
Biking	67	56%	(Own a horse)	0	0%
Snowmobiling	0	0%	Other	11	9%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

O&W Rail Trail/ D&H Heritage Corridor

Months of Trail Use

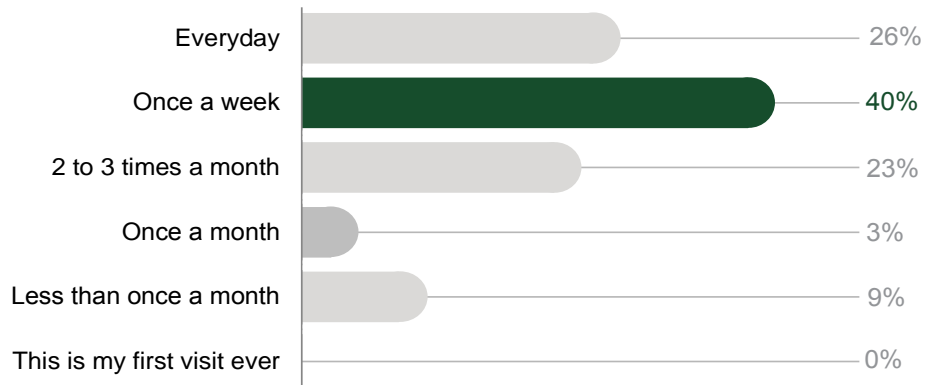


97% August



6% Weekends
13% Weekdays
82% Both

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors to the trail visited during the summer months with the highest visitation occurring in August. Sixty-six percent (66%) of survey responders visit the trail at least once a week and most spent between 30 minutes and 1 hour on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 5.6 miles to reach the trail, less than the statewide average of 8.9 miles. One survey respondent indicated that they stayed overnight in conjunction with their trip to this trail with a length of stay of five nights. In the past 12 months, visitors to the O&W Rail Trail spent an average of 26 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 4 days on trails outside of the state. This is fairly close to the statewide average of 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.

Just under half (47%) of trail users visit the O&W Rail Trail at various times throughout the day, while a third (39%) predominantly visit in the morning. Eighty-two percent use the trail both weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on the O&W Rail Trail was 1.8 people,

less than the statewide average of 2.0. Use of the O&W Rail Trail had influenced 40% of trail users to purchase footwear, and another 34% had purchased a bike.

Half of the survey respondents primarily used this trail for health and exercise. Recreation was the primary use of this trail for 42% of users. In comparison, the statewide findings show 60% of visitors listing health and exercise as the primary use of trails while 30% chose recreation as the primary use.

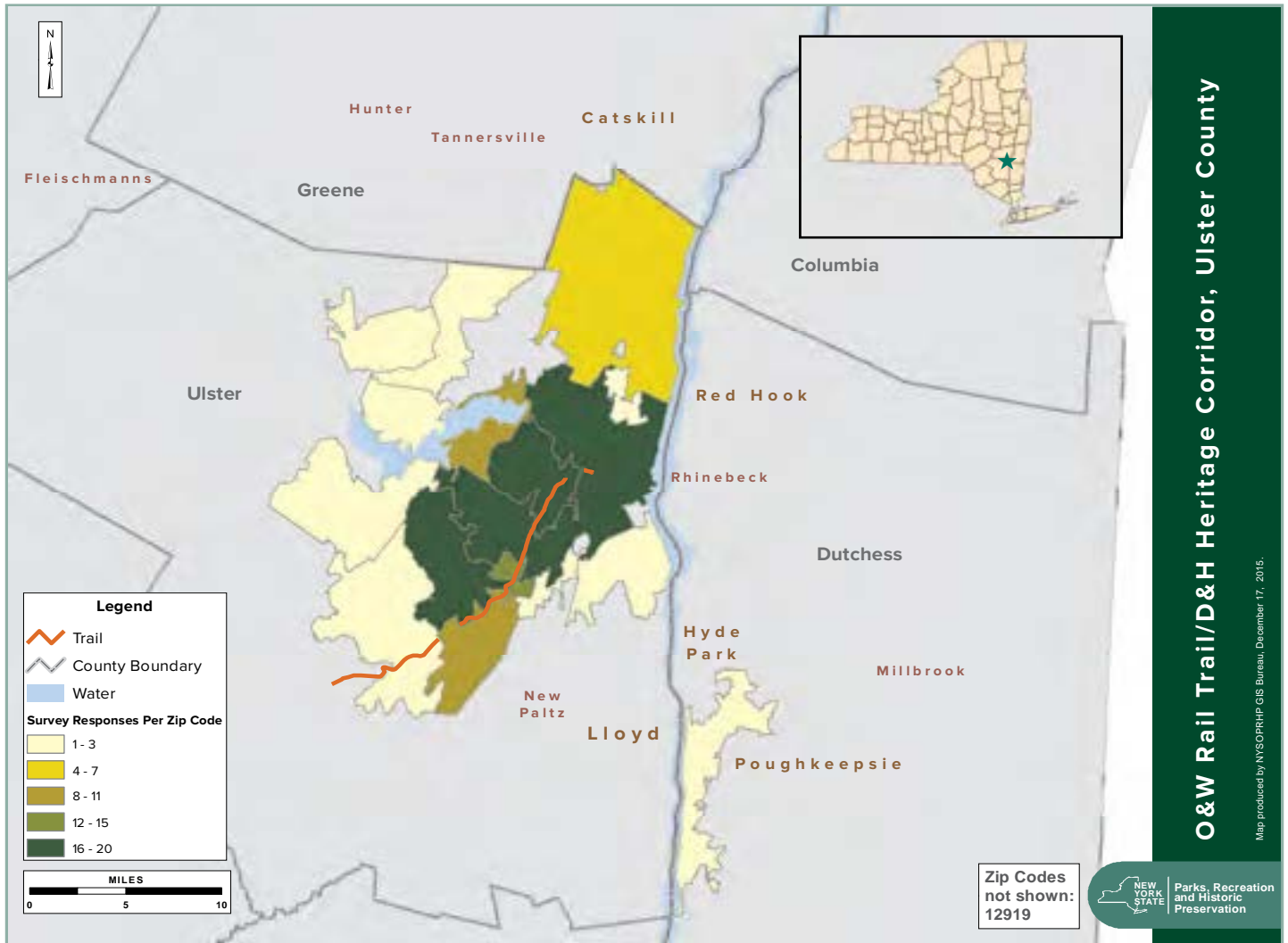
Of the 119 surveys collected from the O&W Rail Trail, 116 provided usable zip code information. One visitor traveled from California and there were no international visitors. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Bike	36%
Hike/walk/jog	35%
Dog Walking	34%
Birding/studying wildflowers	13%
From the trail, visit another place	3%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

O&W Rail Trail/ D&H Heritage Corridor



How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	65%	Parks & Trails NY	3%
Word of mouth	39%	New York or local government agency	3%
Driving past	31%	Internet website	2%
Roadside signage	15%	Bike shop	2%
Other	6%	Tourism office	2%
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	4%	Newspaper	0%

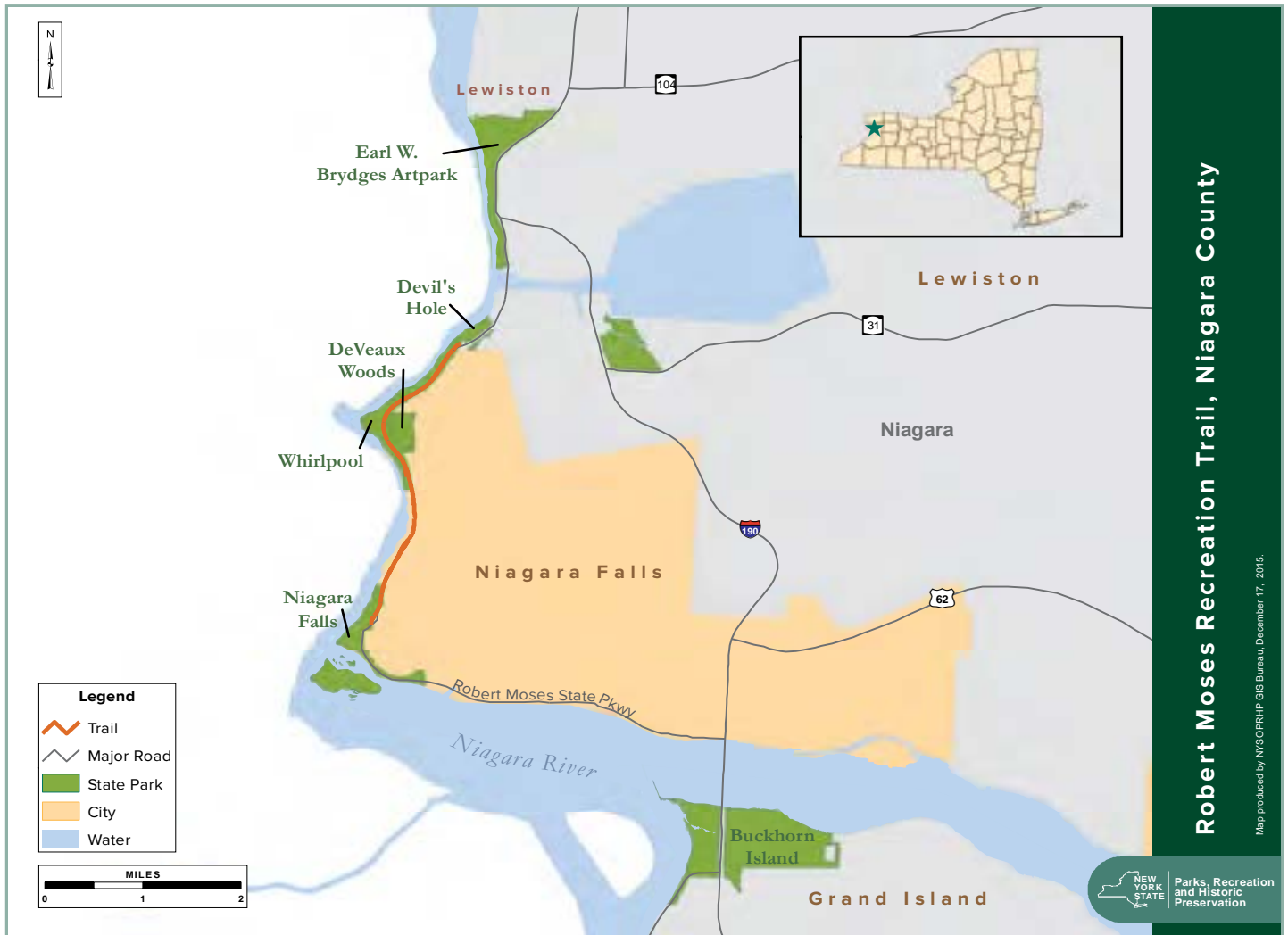
(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

The O&W Rail Trail was rated “excellent” or “good” by 97% of visitors for maintenance and by 98% for cleanliness. Thirty-one percent of users who completed the survey would like to see more restrooms made available along the trail and 23% would like to see trail surface improvements. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the O&W Rail Trail, 81% responded that proximity to home was a factor. Familiarity with the trail was also a factor for 65% of respondents. Seventy-seven percent of trail users arrived to the trail by car. Of the remaining 23%, 89% walked or biked to the trail.

The average age of the O&W Rail Trail user completing the survey was 55. Just over half (51%) of survey respondents were female. Forty-two percent responded they were employed full-time and another 32% were retired. Thirteen percent of visitors identified themselves as a person with a disability. Fifty-five percent (55%) of respondents reported having an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Robert Moses Recreation Trail

The Robert Moses Recreation Trail is a 3.2-mile, multi-use path in Niagara County, NY. The trail provides a recreation corridor that connects Niagara Falls State Park, Whirlpool State Park, De Veaux Woods State Park, and Devil's Hole State Park along the Niagara River Gorge. The trail is paved and accommodates walking, jogging, cycling, and skating. In the winter months it can also be used for cross-country skiing.



Robert Moses Recreation Trail Fact Sheet

The results from the Robert Moses Recreation Trail in the City of Niagara Falls are presented below. Twenty-eight surveys were completed during the survey period, of which 9 (32%) were completed via paper form and mailed to the Albany Office. Because of the low number of survey responses, caution should be exercised when using this data to represent all users of the Robert Moses Recreation Trail.

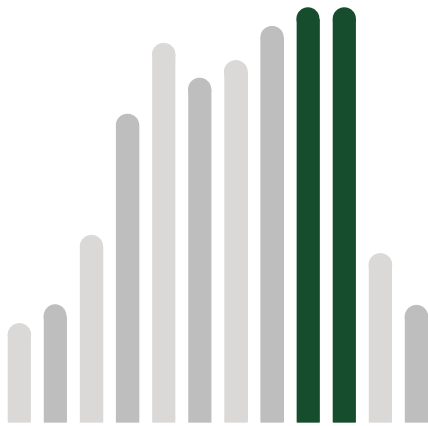
In which activities have you participated in on this trail in the previous 12 months?

Activity	# of Surveys	Percent	Activity	# of Surveys	Percent
Walking/hiking	27	96%	Skiing/snowshoeing	2	7%
Jogging/running	10	36%	Horseback Riding	0	0%
Biking	9	32%	(Own a horse)	0	0%
Snowmobiling	0	0%	Other	4	14%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Robert Moses Recreation Trail

Months of Trail Use



82% September & October

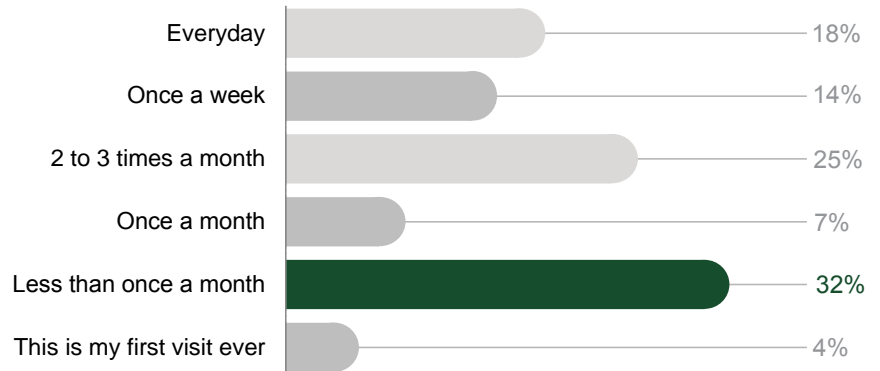


14% Weekdays
25% Weekends
61% Both

Health and exercise was the primary use of this trail for 50% of visitors. Recreation was the primary use for 39%. Statewide, 60% of visitors listed health and exercise as the primary use of the trail and 30% stated recreation as the primary use.

Of the 28 surveys collected from the Robert Moses Recreation Trail, 27 provided usable zip code information. The only out of state respondent was from Ohio and another came from Canada. The map below shows the distribution of local visitors to this trail.

Frequency of Trail Use



Most visitors to the trail visited during the fall months with the highest visitation occurring in September and October. Thirty-two percent of survey responders visit the trail at least once a week while another 32% visit less than once a month. Most visitors spent between one and two hours on the trail each visit. Visitors traveled an average distance of 19.1 miles to reach the trail, over double the statewide average of 8.9 miles. One survey respondent indicated that they stayed overnight in conjunction with their trip to this trail, with a length of stay of one night. In the past 12 months, visitors to the Robert Moses Recreation Trail spent an average of 39 days on trails other than this one within New York State and 19 days on trails outside of the state. This is greater than the statewide average of 26 days within New York and 9 days elsewhere.

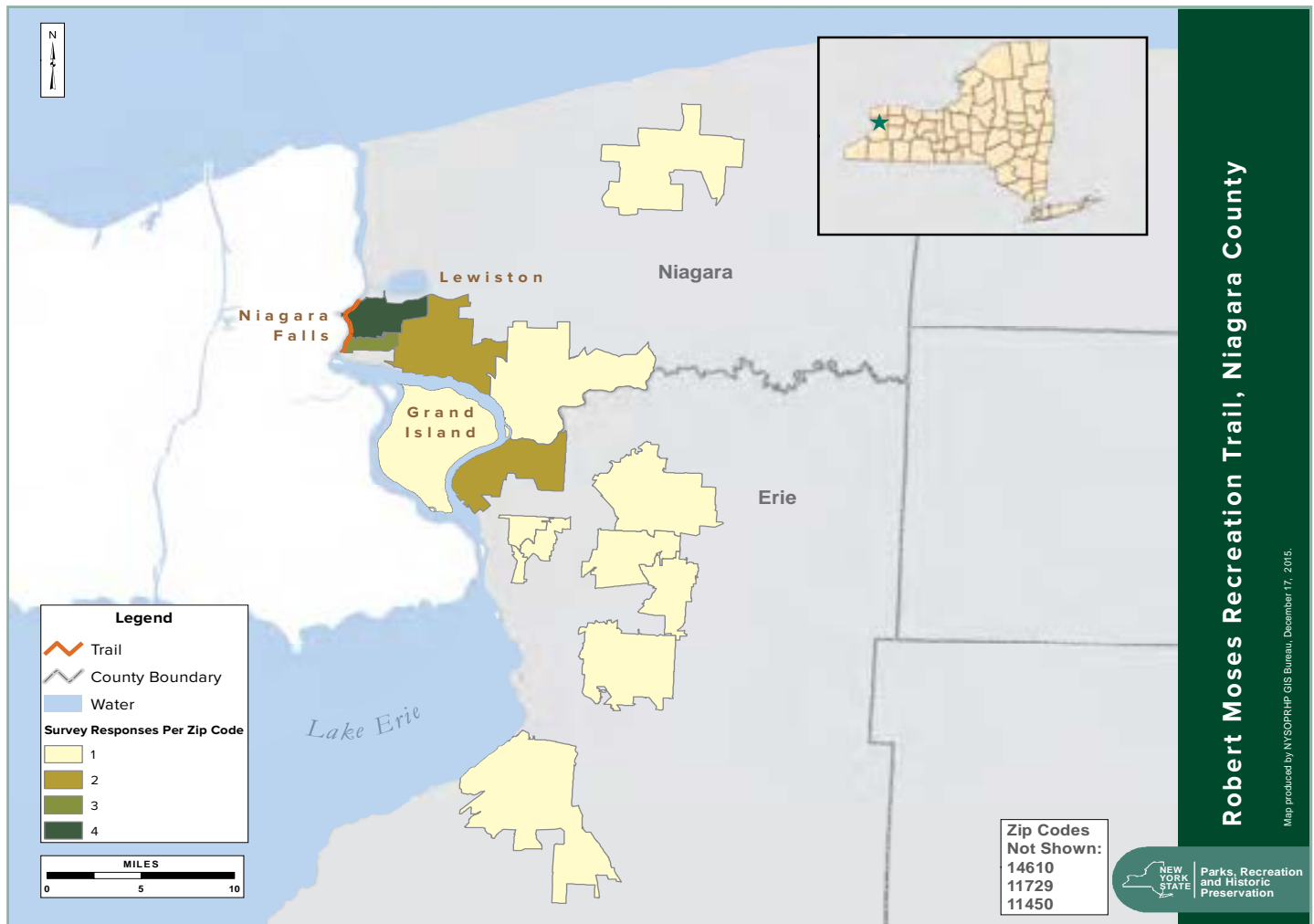
Half of trail users visit the Robert Moses Recreation Trail at various times throughout the day, while 25% predominantly visit in the morning. Sixty-one percent use the trail both on weekdays and on weekends. The average group size on the Robert Moses Recreation Trail was 2.8 people, a bit over the statewide average of 2.0. Sixty-four percent of survey respondents indicated that their use of the Robert Moses Recreation Trail had influenced their purchase of footwear and 46% had purchased clothing.

Activities Participated in on Day of Survey

Activity	%
Hike/walk/jog	75%
Dog Walking	21%
From the trail, visit another place	11%
Bike	7%
Birding/studying wildflowers	7%
Rollerblade	4%
Fish/boat/water recreation	4%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

Robert Moses Recreation Trail



The Robert Moses Recreation Trail was rated “excellent” or “good” by 62% of visitors for maintenance and by 85% of visitors for cleanliness. Trail surface improvements were

How did you find out about this trail?

Response	%	Response	%
Local knowledge	61%	Tourism office	4%
Word of mouth	25%	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	4%
Driving past	14%	Internet website	0%
Other	14%	Parks & Trails NY	0%
Roadside signage	11%	Newspaper	0%
New York or local government agency	7%	Bike shop	0%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because multiple answers were allowed.)

requested by 29% of users who completed the survey. When asked which factors influenced their decision to visit the Robert Moses Recreation Trail, 68% were familiar with the trail. Proximity to home was also a factor for 64% of users. Eighty-two percent of trail users arrived to the trail by car. The remaining 18% all walked or biked to the trail.

The average age of the Robert Moses Recreation Trail user completing the survey was 50. Fifty-seven percent of respondents were male. Fifty-four percent responded they were employed full-time and 18% were retired. None of the survey respondents identified themselves as a person with a disability. Twenty-two percent of respondents reported having an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

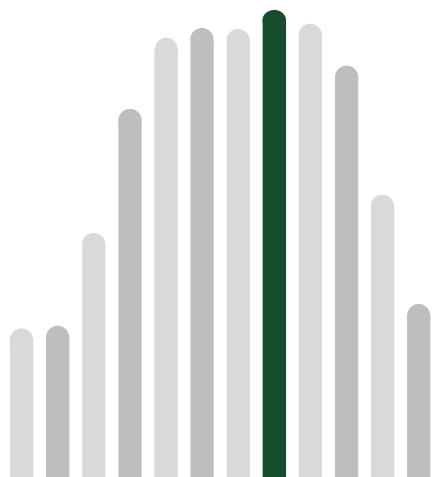
Statewide Findings

A total of 1,188 usable surveys were collected from the 15 trails across the state. Five hundred sixty-three (563) surveys (47%) were completed via paper form and mailed to the Albany Office. The number of surveys completed for each trail is below.

Trail	# Surveys	%	Trail	# Surveys	%
Bethpage Bike Path	172*	14%	O&W Rail Trail/ D&H Heritage Corridor	119	10%
Black River Trail	44	4%	Jones Beach Bikeway	210*	18%
Catskill Scenic Trail	19	2%	Joseph B Clarke Trail	108	9%
Champlain Canalway Trail	55	5%	Lancaster Heritage Trail	50	4%
Chautaugua Rails to Trails	21	2%	Lehigh and Auburn Trails	120	10%
Genesee Valley Greenway	33	3%	Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail	104	9%
Harlem Valley Rail Trail	77	6%	Robert Moses Recreation Trail	28	2%
Hudson Valley Rail Trail	28	2%	Statewide	1188	100%

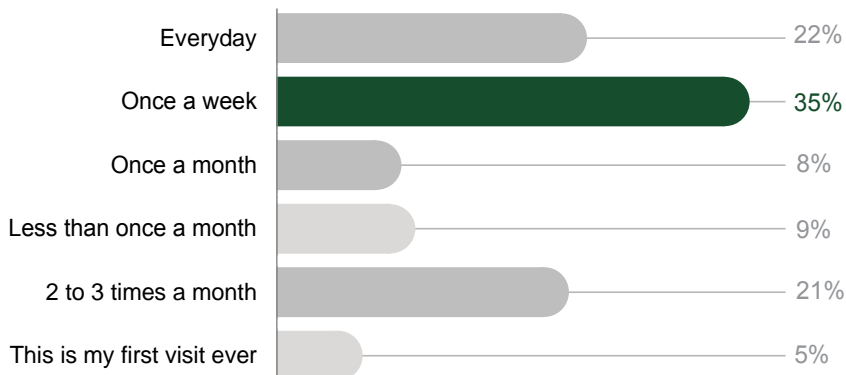
*The Bethpage Bike Path and Jones Beach Bikeway paper survey forms were mixed up during the survey period. It is unknown if the paper forms received (59 from Jones Beach and 62 from Bethpage) are actually filled out for the correct trail. For this reason, they were excluded from the individual trail analysis but are included in the statewide analysis.

Months of Trail Use



93% August

Frequency of Trail Use



The majority of trail use occurs in the month of August and at a frequency of at least once a week. The time of day trail use occurs varies for nearly half of the visitors but trails are used on both the weekdays and weekends by 72% of visitors. The average distance traveled during each visit was 10.2 miles. This translated to more than half of trail users taking this survey spending one to two hours on the trail per visit.



14% Weekdays
14% Weekends
72% Both

Sixty-five percent of users reached the trail by car. The other 35% largely walked or biked to the trail. It is unsurprising then that 68% of visitors stated proximity to home as an influencing factor in their decision to visit that trail. Another 60% said familiarity with the trail was also a factor.

Statewide

Trail Use				
Trail	Frequency of Trail Use	Distance Traveled on Trail (miles)	Distance Traveled to Trail (miles)	Most Recent Visit-Time on Trail
	Most Common	Average	Average	Most Common
Bethpage Bike Path	Every day	14	4.7	1 to 2 hours
Black River Trail	Every day	6.4	19.0	1 to 2 hours
Catskill Scenic Trail	This is my first visit ever	9.7	35.0	More than 2 hours
Champlain Canalway Trail	Every day	3	8.6	30 minutes to 1 hour
Chautaugua Rails to Trails	2 to 3 times a month	3.4	7.0	1 to 2 hours
Genesee Valley Greenway	Once a week	5.9	16.2	1 to 2 hours
Harlem Valley Rail Trail	Once a week	14.9	22.1	1 to 2 hours
Hudson Valley Rail Trail	Once a week	10.4	21.6	30 minutes to 1 hour
Jones Beach Bikeway	Once a week	5.4	5.3	30 minutes to 1 hour
Joseph B Clarke Trail	Once a week	17.1	8.6	1 to 2 hours
Lancaster Heritage Trail	Once a week	7.2	4.2	1 to 2 hours
Lehigh and Auburn Trails	Once a week	8.1	2.9	30 minutes to 1 hour
Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail	Once a week	11	5.3	1 to 2 hours
O&W Rail Trail/ D&H Heritage Corridor	Once a week	5.9	5.6	30 minutes to 1 hour
Robert Moses Recreation Trail	Less than once a month	6.2	19.1	1 to 2 hours

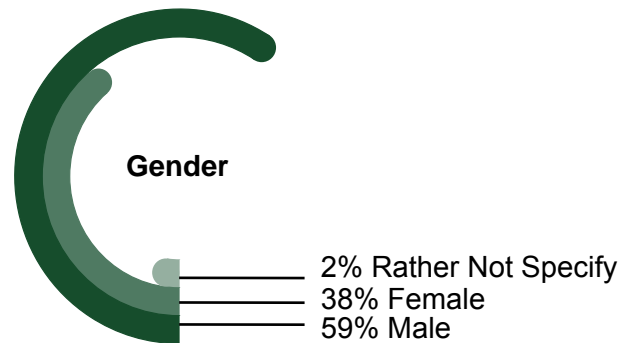
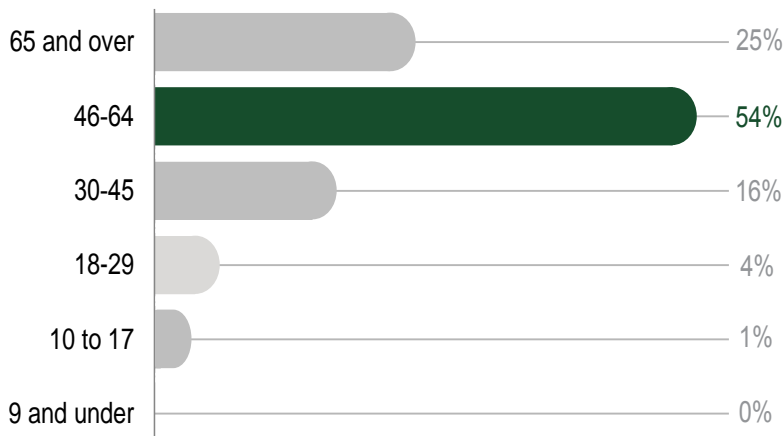
Biking was the most popular activity taking place on these 15 trails. Seventy percent of survey respondents indicated that they had biked on that trail in the past 12 months. Sixty percent (60%) also said they had walked/hiked on the trail and 28% responded they had jogged/ran on the trail in the past 12 months. This is very similar to the types of trail use observed during the trail count. It should be noted that this survey was only conducted during the summer months so individuals who only participate in winter activities would not have had the opportunity to complete the survey. Because of this, winter usage is under represented in this survey.

Health and exercise was chosen to be the primary reason for using the trail by 60% of survey respondents. This surpassed recreation, which was chosen by only 30% of the respondents. It should be noted that from the comments received, respondents were using the trail for multiple purposes, including both health and exercise and recreation, or recreation and commuting. However, respondents were only asked to select their primary use of the trail, so secondary motivations were not captured.

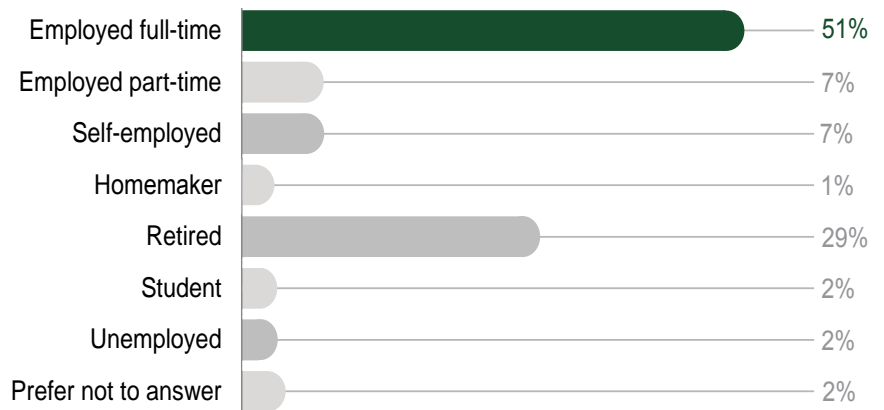
Only 41% of survey respondents reported that the availability of multiuse trails have influenced where they live, but 55% responded it had influenced where they vacation. However, only 2% of trail visits captured in this survey involved an overnight stay. Seventy-one percent of those nights were at a second home or a friend or relative's home. Thirty-six percent of visitors said their use of these trails had influenced their purchase of a bike and 34% had purchased footwear.

The average group size for trail users was 2.0. The minimum average group size was 1.6 at Joseph B. Clarke Trail and the largest average was 3.5 at Hudson Valley Rail Trail. The average age of the respondent was 55. Five percent of trail users taking the survey indicated they were a person with a disability. Fifty-one percent were employed full-time and half reported an annual household income greater than \$75,000.

Age of All Group Members



Employment Status



Overall, these results are very similar to what was discovered in the 2008 Trail User Survey. Walking and biking were the two main activities for both surveys, with the primary use of the trail being for health and exercise. However, the average distance traveled to the trail nearly doubled from 4.8 miles in 2008 to 8.9 in 2015. This could be due to the fact that different trails were surveyed between the two years or users are more willing to travel to reach trails. Further repetitions of this survey would allow for trends in trails use to be analyzed.

3. Trail User Counts

In addition to surveys, trail counts were also done on 14 of the 15 trails surveyed across the state. The purpose of the count was twofold; to document how many of each user group are on the trails and to serve as an input into the economic impact calculations.

Methodology

The Trail User Counts were conducted using the National Bike and Pedestrian Documentation (NBPD) Project methodology. While this is a different method than what was used in 2008, the NBPD was used in 2012 in with partnership with PTNY.

The trail volunteers were mailed count sheets at the same time as the survey materials and provided instructions on how and where to perform the count. Two-hour counts were to be performed four times during the month of August at the times and dates provided by the NBPD methodology. Count locations and exact times were left to the discretion of the trail volunteer. Longer trails were suggested to have more count locations. While it is recognized that the national count times occur in September, counts for this study were performed in August to be consistent with the count done in 2012. The categories observed were modified slightly from what NBPD

requires and what PTNY collected in 2012. A copy of the count form can be found in the appendix. After all the counts were completed for that trail, stewards were asked to mail or scan and email the forms back to the Agency for analysis.

Once count forms were received, the Planning Bureau recorded and aggregated the count data. In previous count years, weekly, monthly and annual estimates had to be extrapolated by hand using the factors provided by the NBPD. These factors included adjustments for the start time of the count, day of the week, and month of the year. Conveniently, the NBPD has provided a worksheet that had the adjustment factors built in. The worksheet requires the date, time, and number of observed counts for each occurrence as inputs. The only departure from the standard worksheet is the assumption that five percent of usage occurs between the hours of 10PM and 6AM and therefore the counts were multiplied by 1.05. As in 2012, this calculation was omitted due to the rural location of many of the trails and to produce more conservative estimates. All calculations were made using the long winter- short summer and walking path (as opposed to pedestrian district) settings.

Results

Trail counts were conducted in 9 out of the 11 OPRHP regions, excluding New York City and Central regions. Table 1 lists all of the trail locations and the total amount of users observed at each count. The Catskill Scenic Trail does fall in the Central Region; however, no count results were received from that trail.

Volunteers observed a total of 10,558 users, estimating a total of 3,522,114 yearly users on the 30 trail segments. This is shown in Table 2. As expected, trails located in higher population areas have higher usage than rural areas. The obvious examples are Jones Beach Bikeway and Bethpage Bike Path, both on Long Island. Together, they see over one million users annually. In comparison, sections of the Chautauqua Rails to Trails and Genesee Valley Greenway only see between a few and ten thousand users annually.

Table 1

Trail Name	Surface	Count Location(s)	County	OPRHP Region	Number of Count Days	Total Users Observed
Bethpage Bike Path	Asphalt	Linden St., Massapequa Lake Preserve	Nassau	Long Island	7	2383
Black River Trail	Asphalt	Weaver Rd., Watertown	Jefferson	Thousand Islands	2	50
Catskill Scenic Trail	-	-	Delaware	Central	0	-
Champlain Canalway Trail	Stone Dust	Lock 5, Town of Saratoga	Saratoga	Saratoga-Capital	4	95
	Asphalt	West Side of Dix Bridge, Town of Northumberland	Saratoga	Saratoga-Capital	4	82
Chautauqua Rails to Trails	Gravel	Barnet, Town of Portland	Chautauqua	Allegany	4	19
	Other	Pratt Street & Route 394, Village of Mayville	Chautauqua	Allegany	4	119
	Grass	Titus Road, Town of Sherman	Chautauqua	Allegany	4	11
Genesee Valley Greenway	Stone Dust	GVG & Lehigh Valley Trail, Town of West Rush	Monroe	Genesee	4	37
	Grass	Lake Rd Mile 79, Town of Belfast	Allegany	Allegany	5	15
	Grass/Gravel	Oakland Road, Town of Portage	Livingston	Genesee	4	8
	Grass	Sickles Ave, Village of Mount Morris	Livingston	Genesee	4	24
	Asphalt	Vixette & Genesee Street, City of Rochester	Monroe	Genesee	4	266
Harlem Valley Rail Trail	Asphalt	Rt. 44 & Main Street, Village of Millerton	Dutchess	Taconic	4	410
Hudson Valley Rail Trail	Asphalt	Route 9W, Town of Llyod	Ulster	Palisades	3	0
	Asphalt	New Paltz Rd, Town of Highland	Ulster	Palisades	4	0
Jones Beach Bikeway	Asphalt	Cedar Creek Park, Seaford	Nassau	Long Island	5	2349
Joseph B Clarke Trail	Asphalt	South Greenbush & Highview, Town of Orangeburg	Rockland	Palisades	4	180
Lancaster Heritage Trail	Asphalt	Walter Winter Road, Town of Lancaster	Erie	Niagara Frontier	4	340
Lehigh-Auburn Trail	Stone Dust	Main St. & Fishers, Town of Victor	Ontario	Finger Lakes	4	159
	Stone Dust	Maple Ave, Town of Victor	Ontario	Finger Lakes	4	174
	Stone Dust	Mertensia Park, Town of Farmington	Ontario	Finger Lakes	4	134
	Stone Dust	NYS Route 251, Town of Victor	Ontario	Finger Lakes	4	136
	Stone Dust	Old Dutch Road, Town of Victor	Ontario	Finger Lakes	4	137
	Stone Dust	Wollston Road, Town of Victor	Ontario	Finger Lakes	4	151
Mohawk Hudson Bikeway	Asphalt	Blatnick Park, Town of Niskayuna	Schenectady	Saratoga-Capital	4	518
	Asphalt	Lions Park, Town of Niskayuna	Schenectady	Saratoga-Capital	4	894
O&W Rail Trail	Gravel	Leggett Road, Town of Marbletown	Ulster	Palisades	4	111
	Gravel	Marcott Road, Town of Marbletown	Ulster	Palisades	4	123
	Asphalt	Russell Road, Town of Hurley	Ulster	Palisades	4	335
Robert Moses Recreation Trail	Asphalt	Findly Drive, City of Niagara Falls	Niagara	Niagara Frontier	6	169
Total					124	10,558

Table 2

Trail Name	Estimate of Yearly Use
Bethpage Bike Path	434,973
Black River Trail	23,383
Catskill Scenic Trail	-
Champlain Canalway Trail - Lock 5	41,374
Champlain Canalway Trail - West Side Dix Bridge	29,735
Chautauqua Rails to Trails - Barnet	6,716
Chautauqua Rails to Trails - Mayville	54,821
Chautauqua Rails to Trails - Titus Rd	2,783
Genesee Valley Greenway - Belfast	4,773
Genesee Valley Greenway - Mt. Morris	9,897
Genesee Valley Greenway - Portage	4,057
Genesee Valley Greenway - Rochester	95,506
Genesee Valley Greenway - West Rush	13,088
Harlem Valley Rail Trail	136,365
Hudson Valley Rail Trail - Highland	192,700
Hudson Valley Rail Trail - Lloyd	350,308
Jones Beach Bikeway	721,144
Joseph B Clarke Trail	52,282
Lancaster Heritage Trail	122,312
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Main St. & Fishers	62,506
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Maple Ave	68,102
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Mertinsia	63,873
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - NYS Rt 251	66,987
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Old Dutch Rd	64,617
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Wollston Rd	58,591
Mohawk Hudson Bikeway - Blatnick Park	207,911
Mohawk Hudson Bikeway - Lions Park	373,647
O&W Rail Trail - Hurley	130,535
O&W Rail Trail - Leggett Rd., Marbletown	44,207
O&W Rail Trail - Marcott Rd., Marbletown	40,531
Robert Moses Recreation Trail	44,390
Total	3,522,114

A few of the locations for the 2015 count were also used in 2012. Generally, the 2015 estimates were higher at the same locations. This could be due to a number of factors, including more favorable weather during the counts (the average temperature was 79 degrees during the 2015 counts) or an overall trend in higher participation in trail-related recreation use.

Table 3

Trail Name	Predominant Use	Surface
Bethpage Bike Path	Cyclists	Asphalt
Black River Trail	Walkers/Joggers	Asphalt
Catskill Scenic Trail	-	-
Champlain Canalway Trail - Lock 5	Walkers/Joggers	Stone Dust
Champlain Canalway Trail - West Side Dix Bridge	Walkers/Joggers	Asphalt
Chautauqua Rails to Trails - Barnet	Walkers/Joggers	Gravel
Chautauqua Rails to Trails - Mayville	Walkers/Joggers	Other
Chautauqua Rails to Trails - Titus Rd	Walkers/Joggers	Grass
Genesee Valley Greenway - Belfast	Walkers/Joggers	Grass
Genesee Valley Greenway - Mt. Morris	Walkers/Joggers	Grass
Genesee Valley Greenway - Portage	Walkers/Joggers	Gravel/Grass
Genesee Valley Greenway - Rochester	Cyclists	Asphalt
Genesee Valley Greenway - West Rush	Cyclists	Stone Dust
Harlem Valley Rail Trail	Cyclists	Asphalt
Hudson Valley Rail Trail - Highland	Cyclists	Asphalt
Hudson Valley Rail Trail - Lloyd	Walkers/Joggers	Asphalt
Jones Beach Bikeway	Cyclists	Asphalt
Joseph B Clarke Trail	Cyclists	Asphalt
Lancaster Heritage Trail	Cyclists	Asphalt
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Main St. & Fishers	Cyclists	Stone Dust
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Maple Ave	Walkers/Joggers	Stone Dust
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Mertinsia	Walkers/Joggers	Stone Dust
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - NYS Rt 251	Cyclists	Stone Dust
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Old Dutch Rd	Cyclists	Stone Dust
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Wollston Rd	Cyclists	Stone Dust
Mohawk Hudson Bikeway - Blatnick Park	Cyclists	Asphalt
Mohawk Hudson Bikeway - Lions Park	Cyclists	Asphalt
O&W Rail Trail - Hurley	Walkers/Joggers	Asphalt
O&W Rail Trail - Leggett Rd., Marbletown	Walkers/Joggers	Gravel
O&W Rail Trail - Marcott Rd., Marbletown	Cyclists	Gravel
Robert Moses Recreation Trail	Walkers/Joggers	Asphalt

Table 3 shows the predominant use on each trail segment. Sixteen out of the 30 trail segments saw predominately foot traffic (walking and jogging). However, foot traffic only accounted for 36% of the users observed while cyclists accounted for 62%. Table 4 shows the percentage of each user group for each trail segment. It also shows that on 25 out of the 30 trails, the majority of the cyclists were wearing helmets. The five remaining trails: Robert Moses Recreation Trail, Lancaster Heritage Trail, Jones Beach Bikeway, Champlain Canalway Trail – Lock 5, and Bethpage Bike Path, ranged in helmet use from 26% to 48%.

Table 4

Trail	Surface	Walkers/hikers	Joggers	Cyclists	Bike with trailer/child	Tandem bike	Recumbent cycle	Tricycle	Hand-powered cycle	Baby Carriages	Wheelchair users	Skateboarders	In-line Skaters	Equestrians	Other	% Helmet Use
Bethpage Bike Path	Asphalt	10%	16%	68%	2%	0.3%	0.1%	-	-	1%	-	1%	0.2%	-	-	39%
Black River Trail	Asphalt	46%	14%	28%	4%	-	-	-	2%	6%	-	-	-	-	-	100%
Catskill Scenic Trail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Champlain Canalway Trail - Lock 5	Stone Dust/Asphalt	58%	19%	23%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41%
Champlain Canalway Trail - West Side Dix Bridge	Asphalt/Stone Dust	60%	7%	33%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70%
Chautauqua Rails to Trails - Barnet	Gravel	89%	-	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%
Chautauqua Rails to Trails - Mayville	Other	81%	3%	15%	-	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	-	-	-	78%
Chautauqua Rails to Trails - Titus Rd	Grass	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Genesee Valley Greenway - Belfast	Grass	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Genesee Valley Greenway - Mt. Morris	Grass	79%	8%	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100%
Genesee Valley Greenway - Portage	Gravel/Grass	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Genesee Valley Greenway - Rochester	Asphalt	18%	9%	72%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69%
Genesee Valley Greenway - West Rush	Stone Dust	16%	11%	73%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85%
Harlem Valley Rail Trail	Asphalt	46%	1%	51%	-	0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	-	1%	-	-	-	-	-	76%
Hudson Valley Rail Trail - Highland	Asphalt	19%	8%	68%	2%	1%	0.2%	1%	0.2%	1%	-	0.2%	-	-	-	54%
Hudson Valley Rail Trail - Llyod	Asphalt	38%	13%	46%	-	-	-	0.2%	-	1%	0.2%	1%	1%	-	-	55%
Jones Beach Bikeway	Asphalt	6%	10%	76%	1%	0.3%	0.3%	-	0.1%	0.2%	-	1%	5%	-	0.1%	48%
Joseph B Clarke Trail	Asphalt	21%	8%	69%	-	-	-	-	-	1%	-	-	2%	-	-	89%
Lancaster Heritage Trail	Asphalt	25%	9%	56%	2%	1%	-	-	-	2%	1%	-	2%	-	1%	26%
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Main St. & Fishers	Stone Dust	29%	11%	56%	-	-	1%	-	-	3%	-	-	-	-	-	76%
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Maple Ave	Stone Dust	44%	24%	30%	1%	-	-	-	-	1%	-	-	-	-	-	60%
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Mertinsia	Stone Dust	43%	22%	4%	24%	-	-	-	-	7%	-	-	-	-	-	100%
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - NYS Rt 251	Stone Dust	25%	18%	57%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	77%
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Old Dutch Rd	Stone Dust	17%	15%	67%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1%	83%
Lehigh-Auburn Trail - Wollston Rd	Stone Dust	19%	16%	60%	1%	1%	-	-	-	1%	-	-	-	-	1%	78%
Mohawk Hudson Bikeway - Blatnick Park	Asphalt	27%	11%	59%	2%	-	0.2%	-	-	1%	-	-	0.2%	-	0.2%	83%
Mohawk Hudson Bikeway - Lions Park	Asphalt	32%	13%	50%	0.2%	-	0.4%	-	-	1%	-	-	3%	-	-	73%
O&W Rail Trail - Hurley	Asphalt	50%	13%	33%	1%	-	-	-	-	3%	-	-	1%	-	-	69%
O&W Rail Trail - Leggett Rd., Marbletown	Gravel	60%	22%	17%	1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60%
O&W Rail Trail - Marcott Rd., Marbletown	Gravel	20%	23%	49%	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73%
Robert Moses Recreation Trail	Asphalt	36%	23%	37%	2%	-	-	-	-	2%	-	-	1%	-	-	48%

4. Economic Contribution

There are many ways in which to calculate the economic impacts of trails. One such method, the Money Generation Model Version 2 (MGM2) calculates the total economic benefit to the local area from visitor spending at National Parks. This model, a set of excel sheets, can be manipulated any number of ways to become more applicable. While it is no longer being used by the National Park Service (NPS), it was selected for use in this study due to its recent use in other similar studies and its flexibility. In order to estimate the economic contribution from each of the trails, the MGM2 needs three pieces of information: spending by users on each of the trails, annual trail counts, and spending multipliers. The spending information was captured in the trail user survey and the annual counts were collected as well for all but the Catskill Scenic Trail. The spending multipliers were obtained from New York State Empire State Development (ESD) and used to update the MGM2 model. Many of

Trail	Number of Usable Surveys	% Non-local
Bethpage Bike Path	109	2%
Black River Trail	42	12%
Catskill Scenic Trail	18	61%
Champlain Canalway Trail	55	7%
Chautaugua Rails to Trails	21	19%
Genesee Valley Greenway	33	18%
Harlem Valley Rail Trail	77	51%
Hudson Valley Rail Trail	28	29%
Jones Beach Bikeway	148	2%
Joseph B Clarke Trail	107	33%
Lancaster Heritage Trail	49	4%
Lehigh and Auburn Trails	119	8%
Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail	102	3%
O&W Rail Trail	116	7%
Robert Moses Recreation Trail	27	19%
Statewide	1051	14%

the trails received low numbers of usable surveys; therefore, caution should be used when interpreting the economic impacts of the trail.

The results from the model can be seen in the table below. Spending per party night is the average amount that each party spent per night. This figure takes into account the percent of survey responders who stayed overnight (and for how long) vs. those taking a day trip. The average amount spent for each of the visitor segments were then compared using visitation numbers and the size of the party. For trails that had multiple segments counted, those counts were averaged for use in this model.

Few trails had high percentages of non-local visitors. For the Catskill Scenic Trail, 61% of users who took the survey were non-local, defined as residing in a zip code 30 miles or

more from the trail. Over half of the users from the Harlem Valley Rail Trail were also non-locals. In comparison, 7 out of the 15 surveyed trails had less than 10% of visitors who were identified as non-local. Jones Beach Bikeway had the highest amount of spending per party night at nearly \$88 and yet was almost entirely visited by locals.

Because of the high number of local visitors, it could be interpreted that much of this spending would have occurred anyways. However, it is possible that some spending was influenced by the presence of the trail, as evident by survey comments received. It was clear some visitors combined trips, making purchases since they were already out or they always get coffee

Trail	Spending Per Party Night	Total Sales (000's)
Bethpage Bike Path	\$ 37.63	\$ 6,100
Black River Trail	\$ 26.74	\$ 275
Catskill Scenic Trail	\$ 26.39	\$ -
Champlain Canalway Trail	\$ 66.30	\$ 854
Chautaugua Rails to Trails	\$ 4.72	\$ 39
Genesee Valley Greenway	\$ 31.17	\$ 488
Harlem Valley Rail Trail	\$ 22.82	\$ 1,991
Hudson Valley Rail Trail	\$ 27.46	\$ 2,720
Jones Beach Bikeway	\$ 87.95	\$ 18,421
Joseph B Clarke Trail	\$ 48.31	\$ 1,309
Lancaster Heritage Trail	\$ 2.67	\$ 161
Lehigh and Auburn Trails	\$ 11.56	\$ 474
Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike Trail	\$ 14.78	\$ 1,557
O&W Rail Trail	\$ 23.38	\$ 551
Robert Moses Recreation Trail	\$ 28.33	\$ 527

after their trail visit. As such, the greatest impacts come from non-locals staying overnight. Only a few of these trips occurred across the 15 trails, suggesting, along with other survey responses, that many of these trails are not destination trails but rather they play an important role in health and exercise for members of the local community.

5. Conclusion

Trails provide important recreational and health benefits to users across the State of New York. In order to find out more about the visitors to trails and their needs, OPRHP conducted a trail user survey and count in the summer of 2015. Fifteen trails across the state were surveyed and counted, resulting in 1,188 surveys returned and 10,558 users counted. The results indicate that biking was the most popular activity on the trails and health and exercise was the primary reason for their visit to that trail. The majority spent between one to two hours on the trail, but traveled five miles or less to reach the trail. From this and geographical information systems (GIS) analysis based on zip code data, it is clear many of the trails serve local populations. As such, the economic contribution is not as large as if they served large populations of non-local visitors staying overnight.

6. References

CHA. New York State Canal Corporation Report on Economic Benefits of Non-Tourism Use of the NYS Canal System. Albany: New York State Canal Corporation. 2014. Print.

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Scipione, P.A. The Economic Impact of the Erie Canalway Trail: An Assessment and User Profile of New York's Longest Multi-Use Trail. Albany: Parks & Trails New York. 2014. Print.

Stynes, D.J., Propst, D.B., Chang, W.H., and Sun, Y. 2000. Estimating National Park Visitor Spending and Economic Impacts; The MGM2 Model. East Lansing, MI: Department of Park, Recreation and Tourism Resources, Michigan State University.

Appendices

A: 2015 Trail User Survey Form

B: Survey Box Poster

C: Survey Reminder Card

D: Survey Box Instructions

E: Trail Count Form

F: Trail Count Instructions

G: OPRHP Regions

Appendix A: 2015 Trail User Survey Form

Trail User Survey

Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation

Thank you for taking a few minutes to participate in this trail user survey, which is being conducted by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. This trail is one of many across the state being surveyed. Your input and comments are important to us and will be shared with those who maintain this trail. Please include comments on your entire visit including surrounding services, such as food, lodging and other attractions. Again, thank you for helping us to improve our New York trail system.

****Please do not complete this form if you or a member of your party have already completed one.****

Please fill in your answers and comments and place the survey in the prepaid envelope which was provided and place it in a mailbox. If you did not receive a prepaid envelope, please see the mailing instructions at the bottom of the reverse side of this form. **An online version of this survey can also be found at:**

<http://surveys.parks.ny.gov/s/trail-users/> if you prefer to complete it electronically.

Your Use of This trail

1. How often did you use this trail in the past 12 months? Everyday Once a week
 2 to 3 times a month Once a month Less than once a month This is my first visit ever
2. Please circle any months during which you use this trail:
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
3. Please check all of the activities in which you participated in on this trail during the past 12 months (not all uses may be allowed on this trail):
 Walking/Hiking Biking Horseback Riding (I own a horse)
 Jogging/Running Snowmobiling XC Skiing/Snowshoeing Other _____
4. Generally, when do you use this trail? (Check one) Weekdays Weekends Both
5. Generally, what time of day do you use this trail? (Check one) Morning Afternoon Evening Varies
6. On average, how much time do you spend on this trail each visit? (Check one)
 Less than 30 minutes 30 minutes to 1 hour 1 to 2 hours More than 2 hours
7. Would you consider your use of the trail to be for...(Check one)
 Recreation Commuting Health & Exercise Fitness Training Physical Therapy
 Other _____
8. How did you find out about this trail? (Check all that apply)
 Word of mouth Roadside signage Driving past Newspaper Bike Shop
 Tourism office Parks & Trails NY Rails-To-Trails Conservancy Internet web site
 New York or local government agency Local knowledge Other _____
9. Has your use of this trail influenced your purchase of: (Check all that apply)
 Bike Bike supplies Footwear Clothing Camping gear Auto accessories related to trail use
 Nothing Other _____
10. The maintenance of this trail is: (Check one) Excellent Good Fair Poor
11. The cleanliness of this trail is: (Check one) Excellent Good Fair Poor
12. What amenity, if any, would you like to see added to this trail? (Check one) Restrooms
 Water fountains Benches Trail surface improvements Parking Other _____
13. Which of the following influenced your decision to visit this trail today? (Check all that apply)
 Familiar with trail Proximity to home Exploring new location
 Trail accommodates my fitness level or accessibility needs Other _____

Your Most Recent Visit to this Trail

14. The date on which you most recently used this trail: ___ / ___ / ____

OR

If your visit to this trail was for 2 or more consecutive days, please indicate the beginning ___ / ___ / ____ and ending dates ___ / ___ / ____.

Please proceed to the other side

15. Including yourself, how many were in your party when you visited the trail?
A party is defined by as a group (e.g. family) that travels together and shares expenses¹.
 _____ Adults (65 & over) _____ Adults (46 to 64) _____ Adults (30 to 45)
 _____ Adults (18-29) _____ Teens (10 to 17) _____ Children (9 & under)
16. During this trail visit did you: (Check all that apply)
 Hike/walk/jog (with dog) Bike Rollerblade Fish/boat/other water recreation
 Birding/studying wildlife or flowers Ride a horse From the trail, visit another place _____
17. How many total miles (out and back, if applicable) did you travel on this trail during this visit? _____
18. How far did you travel to reach the trail? _____ miles. Did you arrive by car? Yes No
 If you arrived by car, was parking adequate? Yes No
 If you did not arrive by car, what other transportation mode(s) did you use to reach the trail?
 Walked/biked Bus Boat Train Airplane Other _____
 Total cost of other transportation for your party (train/airline tickets, etc.) \$ _____
 Cost for your party to use public transportation in the local area in conjunction with your trip \$ _____ N/A
19. Please indicate how much money your party spend in the following categories in the local community in conjunction with your trip to this trail.
 Souvenirs & other exp \$ _____ N/A Restaurant/bar \$ _____ N/A Clothing \$ _____ N/A
 Groceries/take out \$ _____ N/A Admission & fees \$ _____ N/A Gambling \$ _____ N/A
 Sporting goods \$ _____ N/A Other vehicle exp \$ _____ N/A Gas and oil \$ _____ N/A
20. Did this visit to the trail involve an overnight stay? Yes No
 If yes, what type of accommodation did you use?
 Motel, hotel, B&B or cabin Second home or a friend or relative's home Campground
 Backcountry camping Other (Please specify) _____
21. How many nights did your party stay in conjunction with your visit to this trail? _____
22. Approximately how much did your party spend on overnight accommodations per night? \$ _____

Your Use of this and other Trails

23. Has the availability of multi-use trails ever influenced:
 Where you live? Yes No Where you vacation? Yes No
24. During the past 12 months, approximately how many days did you use a trail other than this one?
 Within New York State? _____ Elsewhere? _____ I have not visited other trails in the past 12 months

Demographics (Personal information is not shared)

- S1. If you are a U.S. Resident, please enter your zip code _____
 If not, please indicate your Canadian postal code or other foreign country of residence _____
- S2. Age: _____ Gender: Male Female Rather not specify
- S3. Please check your employment status: Employed full-time Employed part-time Self-employed
 Unemployed Retired Student Homemaker Prefer not to answer
- S4. Are you a person with a disability? Yes No
- S5. (OPTIONAL) Approximately what is your household's total annual income?
 Under \$15,000 \$15,000 to \$29,999 \$30,000 to \$49,999 \$50,000 to \$74,999
 \$75,000 to \$124,999 \$125,000 to \$199,999 \$200,000 or more Prefer not to answer

THANK YOU

A paid postage envelope should have been provided to you at the time you received this survey. We apologize if you do not have one but you can still participate by mailing this survey form to:

NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation
 Planning Bureau
 625 Broadway, 2nd Floor
 Albany, NY 12238

If you have any questions, please call (518) 474-0235

¹Thomas, C. C., Huber, C. and Koontz, L. (2014). 2012 National Park Visitor Spending Effects: Economic Contributions to Local Communities, States and the Nation. Retrieved from http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/docs%5CNPSVSE2012_final_nrss.pdf

Appendix B: Survey Box Poster



Trail User Survey



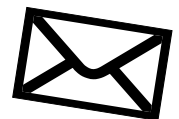
We need your input!

To participate, use your smart phone to scan this QR code or visit:

<http://surveys.parks.ny.gov/s/trail-users/>



Don't have a smartphone? Take a paper copy from inside the box or a card and fill out the survey at home.



Appendix C: Survey Reminder Card



Trail User Survey

Scan the QR code above or type in the link:

<http://surveys.parks.ny.gov/s/trail-users/>

Appendix D: Survey Box Instructions

Dear Trail Steward:

Thank you for your assistance in conducting the 2015 Trail User Survey! This survey is designed to be passive and will not require any one-on-one interaction with trail users. You or someone from your organization will be required to install the plastic brochure boxes at two or more locations on your trail(s), fill the boxes, and check them at least once a week during the month of August.

Signage on the box will direct users to complete the survey online, take a reminder card, or take a paper copy, complete it, and mail it in. The goal is to have the majority of surveys completed online in order to save paper and data entry.

For each trail you will receive:

- One or more survey boxes (based on trail length)
- Survey invitation sign (extras will be supplied)
- Paper copies of surveys, reminder cards, and pre-paid return envelopes
- Screws and nylon cable ties for installation



Survey boxes should be located at or near a popular trail head or parking area where trail users would begin or end their trip. For a 4 mile trail, for instance, installing a box at each end of the trail would be most appropriate. For longer trails, boxes should be spaced at parking areas or trail heads along the longest portion of the trail that you or your organization will steward for this survey. Because you are familiar with the trail, selecting the best location for the boxes will ultimately be your decision.

Boxes should be installed conspicuously in close proximity to the trail and be affixed to an existing post, pole, or kiosk using the supplied screws or nylon cable ties. We recommend filling the survey boxes with approximately 25% of the supplied surveys and cards to start; returning to the boxes at least once a week to monitor and refill them as needed. This will ensure that you have enough surveys to last for 4 weeks, that we get a representative sample for the entire month, and that not all surveys are lost in the event of severe weather, vandalism, or mischief. Our office will hold extra trail boxes in reserve and they can be requested as replacement in the event of damage or vandalism. Placing the boxes in visible locations at high-traffic spots on the trail should help reduce the chances of this happening.



Survey boxes should be installed and filled as soon as possible after receiving them. The boxes should remain in place for 4 weeks after installation. After that point the boxes can be removed. We ask that you please properly recycle any remaining surveys, envelopes, and cards. The plastic survey boxes DO NOT need to be returned to NY State Parks and may be kept for your future use, with our thanks.

Should any issues come up during the survey period please feel free to contact Christopher Morris at 518-474-0235 or christopher.morris@parks.ny.gov. Thank you again for your help!

New York State 2015 Trail User Count Form

Please use a new form for each count.



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Surveyor Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Date: _____

To: _____

Trail: _____

Nearest cross street: _____

Location/Village: _____

Trail surface: asphalt stone dust gravel grass cobble wood/sand/silt partly cloudy cloudy partly rainy rain appropriate temperature

Make one "tic mark" for each person engaged in each activity, passing in either direction. Note helmet use for cyclists and skaters and mark them in the appropriate column.

User Type

Counts

	With helmets	Without helmets								
Bicycles										
Bicyclist with child in seat or trailer (one tic for each person)										
Tandem bicycle (one tic for each person)										
Recumbent cycle										
Tricycle										
Hand-powered cycle										
In-line skater										
Walkers		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Baby carriage/stroller (one tic for each person in stroller. Count person pushing as walker.)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wheelchair user</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Equestrian</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other (specify)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Baby carriage/stroller (one tic for each person in stroller. Count person pushing as walker.)		Wheelchair user		Equestrian		Other (specify)	
Baby carriage/stroller (one tic for each person in stroller. Count person pushing as walker.)										
Wheelchair user										
Equestrian										
Other (specify)										
Runners/Joggers										

Thank you for counting! Please collect and return your completed count forms by mail to Chris Morris, Planning Bureau, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Albany, NY, 12238. You may also scan and email ALL forms to: christopher.morris@parks.ny.gov (please make sure scanned forms are clear and readable)

Appendix F: Trail User Count Instructions

2015 New York State Trail User Count Instructions

What is a count?

For our purposes, a "count" will consist of one person collecting quantities and attributes of trails users on your selected trail. You may have multiple counts (people) at various locations on your trail or, if you are counting at a location with significant trail traffic, it may be advisable to have two people conduct counts and average their results.

Count Locations

Count locations are left to the discretion of the organization conducting the counts. If a trail head/parking area is selected, do not conduct counts at the trail head itself. Instead select a location approximately fifty yards away so as to ensure those counted are actively using the trail.

Frequency and Schedule of Counts

1. User counts should be conducted during the month of August.
2. Four counts should be taken at each count location. (same location on the trail, 4 times)
3. Three of the counts should be a weekday count and one should be a weekend count.
4. Weekday counts should be done on a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of one week. OR on the same day for 3 consecutive weeks (e.g. each Tuesday for 3 weeks)
5. Weekend counts can be done on either Saturday or Sunday.
6. Never count on a holiday, Monday, or Friday.
7. Count for two full hours at a time that you judge to be the time of peak activity. You may determine the time of peak activity from your experience or that of others who are familiar with the trail. It is expected that the weekend time of peak activity will be different from the weekday time of peak activity. For help determining peak count times, please contact our office at 518-474-0235

Conducting Counts

- Arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled count time.
- Stand or sit in a spot where you will not block the trail, but can easily observe users as they pass.
- Use a new sheet for each 2-hour count and record your name, date, time of your count, and other details at the top of the count form.
- To count, log trail users as they approach or pass you by making a tick in the appropriate box.
- For a tandem bicycle, make a tick for each rider. For someone pushing a baby carriage or stroller, make a tick for each child and record the person pushing the carriage or stroller as a walker. Record other user types in the "Other" space and specify.
- Do not worry if you count someone twice because they pass you going in both directions. The formulas used at the end will take that into consideration.

Materials:

- Count Forms (Count protocol is on back)
- Pencil or Pen (and a spare)
- Clipboard

Other:

- Sun protection
- Water
- Snacks
- Sunglasses
- Chair

After conducting all four counts, collect all of your trail's forms and return them to

Planning Bureau, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation – Albany, NY, 12238

You may also scan and email forms to: christopher.morris@parks.ny.gov

(please make sure scanned forms are clear and readable)

Appendix G: OPRHP Regions

