



**Great
Parks**

**WEST REGION BLUEWAY & TRAIL SYSTEM
PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
SUMMARY REPORT**

September 2023

Prepared for

Great Parks

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INTRODUCTION

Great Parks is leading the development of a master plan for the West Region Blueway & Trail System. This is a new initiative to bring people closer to nature and remove barriers to the natural world by expanding opportunities for water and land-based adventure in western Hamilton County. Establishing a defined blueway system and building more trails are two key priorities from the Great Parks 2019 Comprehensive Master Plan.

The master plan for the West Region Blueway & Trail System will include strategies for strengthening and expanding western Hamilton County's blueway along the Great Miami River and the Whitewater River and will identify locations and design concepts for four to five new canoe/kayak access points. It will also include plans for a new shared-use trail that will extend along the Great Miami River corridor, from the Hamilton/Butler county line to the Ohio River. In addition, planning efforts will seek opportunities to weave water and land trails together to create stronger regional recreational experiences.

PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

Great Parks places significant importance on public input during the master plan development process. To help raise awareness about the West Region Blueway & Trail System and gather public feedback to help inform the planning process, Great Parks coordinated multiple public input opportunities during summer 2023. Among these was an In-Person Public Open House and a Virtual Open House & Survey. This report summarizes these two opportunities and the input that was collected.

In-Person Public Open House

Held on July 13, 2023, the purpose of the In-Person Public Open House was to provide an opportunity to share information about the West Region Blueway & Trail System with the public. Another goal was to help build excitement for the project and foster discussions that would bring to light valuable information and ideas about the project area and opportunities from the people who know it best.

The In-Person Public Open House was held at the Whitewater Crossing Christian Church in Cleves. This location was chosen based on its easy access and central location in the study area. The meeting was held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and the public was invited to come at their convenience. More than 70 people attended.

The Open House consisted of a series of three interactive information stations divided by topic area (blueway, potential launch sites, and shared-use trail). It included a looped slideshow that provided additional information about the project and played continuously in the background on multiple screens. An area was also set up to entertain children that came to the open house with their parents.

Interactive exercises at each station gathered participants' input regarding desired amenities and design features of the blueway and shared-use trail, potential canoe/kayak launch and shared-use trail locations, and locations of challenging areas when traveling on foot, by bicycle, or on the water. Large, table-sized maps highlighting key features of the study area were also located at the various stations. Participants were encouraged to review and discuss the maps with project team representatives and annotate the maps with their comments and ideas.

Open house attendees were also given a set of three survey forms each focused on a different topic (general questions, blueway questions, and shared-use trail questions) as another means to provide their input. Questions on the survey forms reflected questions asked in the project's online survey (see Virtual Open House & Survey, below). All completed surveys collected at the meeting were entered in the online survey database to aid with tabulating results. (Note: QR codes were posted around the meeting space; attendees were invited to either complete survey questions using the hardcopy surveys or use the QR code to access the online survey).

Copies of all materials exhibited and distributed at the open house are provided in Appendix A: Open House Materials.

Virtual Open House & Survey

The Virtual Open House & Survey provided visitors with an opportunity to learn about the West Region Blueway & Trail System and share their thoughts and ideas online, which significantly expanded the reach of Great Parks' public engagement efforts. Because this input opportunity was conducted via the internet, participants had a much broader window in which they could participate – from June 26 through August 7, 2023 – and they could visit at a time most convenient to them, day or night, using a smartphone, tablet or desktop computer. Participants were also able to return to the Virtual Open House & Survey as frequently as they liked.

The Virtual Open House & Survey was a web-based information sharing and input opportunity developed using the Public Input community engagement platform. The site provided detailed content that introduced the West Region Blueway & Trail System in a narrative format. The site was divided into seven sections: Vision, Value, Blueway, Launch Sites, Shared-Use Trail, Process and About Great Parks. Each section provided information about the section topic and included interactive survey questions and mapping exercises designed to encourage engagement and gather visitors' feedback. A copy of site content is provided in Appendix A: Open House Materials.

To access the Virtual Open House & Survey, participants were directed to the project website (www.GreatParks.org/westregiontrails) and were able to click on a link posted in a pop-up box that appeared on the first page anyone visited on the website. A link was also provided on the Participate page of the website. As of August 16, 2023 (a week after the survey closed), more than 1,600 people had visited the open house site. Of these, 504 individuals went on to answer at least one question embedded throughout the site. Together, they submitted 13,842 responses which included 1,128 written comments on mapping exercises or open-ended questions. More than 172 people subscribed for updates about the project.

NOTIFICATIONS

Notification materials promoted both the In-Person Public Open House and Virtual Open House & Survey and were distributed using multiple communications channels. These materials included:

- **News release** – Great Parks distributed a news release on June 26, 2023 to media outlets throughout the tri-state region. Multiple placements were tracked and included:
 - [WLWT \(Ch. 5\)](#) – June 26, 2023
 - [WCPO \(Ch. 9\)](#) – June 27, 2023
 - *CityBeat* – June 27, 2023 (Included in Appendix B)
 - *Harrison Press* – June 28, 2023 (Included in Appendix B)
 - *Cincinnati Enquirer* – July 9, 2023 (Included in Appendix B)
- **Social media** – Multiple notices were posted on Great Parks’ Facebook and Instagram pages. These posts were shared by multiple individuals and interest groups (note: 30% of survey respondents said they heard about the open houses through social media). Posts appeared on the following dates:
 - [June 26](#)
 - [July 9](#)
 - [July 12](#)
 - [August 1](#)
- **Mailers** – Double-sided mailers were sent to 8931 residences and 433 businesses located along the Great Miami River corridor. The mailers were distributed the week of June 26, 2023. In addition, 2,000 more mailers were given to Great Parks to distribute in their parks and at events held in June and July.
- **Yard signs** – 26 yard signs were placed in popular shared-use trail and canoe/kayak locations throughout Hamilton County:
 - Campbell Lakes Preserve (kiosk)
 - Embshoff Woods (playground)
 - Fernbank Park (playground)
 - Miami Whitewater Forest (visitors center, dog park, two trailheads)
 - Shawnee Lookout (trailhead, boat launch)
 - Lake Isabella (canoe/kayak parking lot)
 - Avoca (trail head)
 - Bass Island (trail head)
 - Little Miami Scenic Trail (Columbia Connector, behind 50 West)
 - Little Miami Golf Club (trail head)
 - Route 32 Parking Lot (trail head)

- Otto Armleder Memorial Park (canoe/kayak launch, trailhead, dog park)
- Lunken Airport Trail (parking lot by Red Bike station)
- Great Miami Riverway (seven public landings)
- **Email** – Great Parks sent out a dedicated email to its master list of 45,643 e-newsletter subscribers on June 26, 2023. In addition, information about the open houses was included in the July 5 and July 18 editions of Great Parks’ *Find Your Wild* e-newsletter, which were also distributed to Great Parks’ 45,643 subscribers.
- **Website postings**
 - [GreatParks.org](https://www.greatparks.org) – Great Parks posted information about the open houses in its June and July event calendar located on its website.
 - [GreatParks.org/WestRegionTrails](https://www.greatparks.org/WestRegionTrails) – Beginning June 26, 2023, a pop-up notice announcing the open houses appeared on the first page users visited on the project’s dedicated website. Additional meeting details were posted on the Participate page of website. Once the In-Person Public Open House had concluded, the pop-up notice and the information on the Participate page was modified to promote just the Virtual Open House & Survey.
- **Paddlefest Outdoors for All Expo** – Great Parks hosted a booth at Paddlefest on Friday, August 4, 2023. Information about the West Region Blueway & Trail System was highlighted at the booth and handouts were given to those who stopped by. An estimated 150 to 200 visitors stopped by the booth during the event.

Copies of all notification materials are provided in Appendix B: Notification Materials.

KEY LEARNINGS

Key learnings from both the In-Person Public Open House and the Virtual Open House & Survey include the following:

Overall Learnings

- The Greater Cincinnati community is very excited and enthusiastic about the West Region Blueway & Trail System.
- Many open house participants were especially glad to see that outdoor recreational opportunities, similar to those offered along the Little Miami corridor in east Hamilton County, will soon be available in west Hamilton County too.
- Respondents most frequently said that they learned about the open house events through social media and email. This indicates that future outreach efforts should lean heavily on these two communications channels.

Blueway Learnings

- Approximately 79% of respondents said they either will definitely use the West Region Blueway (54%) or will probably use it (25%). When asked how often they go on paddling trips now, 23% said they go at least once or twice a month and 23% go at least once or twice a season. Another 23% said that while they don't go paddling often now, they'd like to go more frequently.
- The idea of adding more paddlecraft launches along the Great Miami River and Miami Whitewater River corridors was very well-received. Most locations suggested by the public corresponded closely with possible launch locations also identified by the project team.
- One of the biggest challenges that paddlers encounter when using the blueway is returning to their starting location with their boats and gear, especially when paddling on their own. Possible solutions that survey respondents suggested included establishing a transportation or shuttle system, creating a kayak-share system (similar to a bike-share system), and setting up paddle/peddle opportunities that would allow people to paddle down the river and bike back to their cars.
- Respondents showed a high level of interest in being able to combine paddle trips with opportunities to get off the river and explore nearby natural points of interest/historic sites (61% very interested, 28% somewhat interested), hiking (59% very interested, 26% somewhat interested) and walking (56% very interested, 34% somewhat interested). While there was also interest in combining paddling trips with biking opportunities (44% very interested, 28% somewhat interested), the levels weren't as high for hiking and walking. Also of note, 36% of respondents were very interested in combining paddling trips with camping opportunities and another 26% were somewhat interested.
- Blueway amenity options that were of most interest to respondents included restrooms (76%), signage/route maps (57%), paved parking (51%) and paved paths to water (46%). Respondents also frequently marked shade/shelters, kayak-share opportunities, and floating entry points as other amenities of interest.
- Paddlers are willing to carry their boats and gear to launch points, provided the distance is 300 feet or less; shorter distances were preferred. Paddlers would also appreciate having dollies or something similar available to help move gear between parking lots and launch sites.
- When asked about "level of accessibility" preferences for blueway launch sites during the In-Person Open House, respondents showed higher levels of interest in "constructed" launches as opposed to "natural" or "enhanced" launches.
- Also during the In-Person Open House, participants showed the most interest in images depicting the character of the following amenities (in order of preference): concrete paddlecraft ramps, ADA accessible walks or paved trails, boathouse/waterschool/storage buildings, floating docks and restrooms.

Shared-Use Trail Learnings

- There was tremendous enthusiasm for the proposed shared-use trail. Approximately 68% of respondents said “you can’t build it soon enough” and another 24% said they are interested in the trail. Only 2% said they won’t or probably won’t use the trail.
- While open house participants were excited about the trail extending from the Hamilton/Butler county line to the Ohio River, it was also important to many that the trail connect with other trails in the area to provide a wider variety of route options and lengths, more opportunities to connect with local communities and points of interest, more opportunities for traveling in a loop travel (instead of in a straight line), and more opportunities to create longer trips.
- When asked how long they typically like their bike trips to be, most respondents (68%) said they prefer between one and three hours long.
- When presented with a list of possible features that could be incorporated into the shared-use trail plans, survey respondents most often selected restrooms as their top amenity (72%). This was followed by connections to other shared-use trails (63%), managed parking lots at trail heads (59%), looped routes (47%), and connections to points of interest (45%).
- Survey respondents were most interested in combining trips along the shared-use trail with exploring nearby natural points of interest and/or historic sites followed by walking and hiking opportunities (62% very interested, 35% somewhat interested). Not too far behind was interest in visiting restaurants or entertainment venues (52% very interested, 35% somewhat interested), exploring nearby communities (41% very interested, 14% somewhat interested) and combining trips with canoeing/kayaking/paddleboarding (53% very interested, 27% somewhat interested).
- Similar to responses received through the survey, participants in the in-person meeting showed strong interest in connecting the shared-use trail with nearby point of interest or assets related to commercial/retail hubs, residential developments and population centers. Examples of these areas that were mentioned include: the Harrison Downton Development District, the commercial district between Kraus Ln and US 128, Carriage House Farm, and the Fort Scott (New Baltimore) Residential Development.

PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

The following section summarizes information gathered at the In-Person Public Open House held on July 13, 2023 and the Virtual Open House & Survey held between June 26 and August 7, 2023.

In-Person Public Open House

Nearly 70 visitors attended the In-Person Public Open House. Most were from western Hamilton County; others who attended represented the following areas of the tri-state:

- Dearborn County, Indiana
- Greendale, Indiana
- Lawrenceburg, Indiana
- Butler County, Ohio
- Cincinnati, Ohio
- Fairfield, Ohio
- Hamilton, Ohio
- Ross Township, Ohio
- Northern Kentucky

Among the attendees were representatives of the following key interest groups:

- Carriage House Farm
- Cincy Paddlers
- Great Parks Board of Park Commissioners
- Lost Bridge Beverage Co.
- Miami Group | Sierra Club
- Miamitown Improvement Civil Association
- One Dearborn
- Oxbow Inc.
- Rivers Unlimited

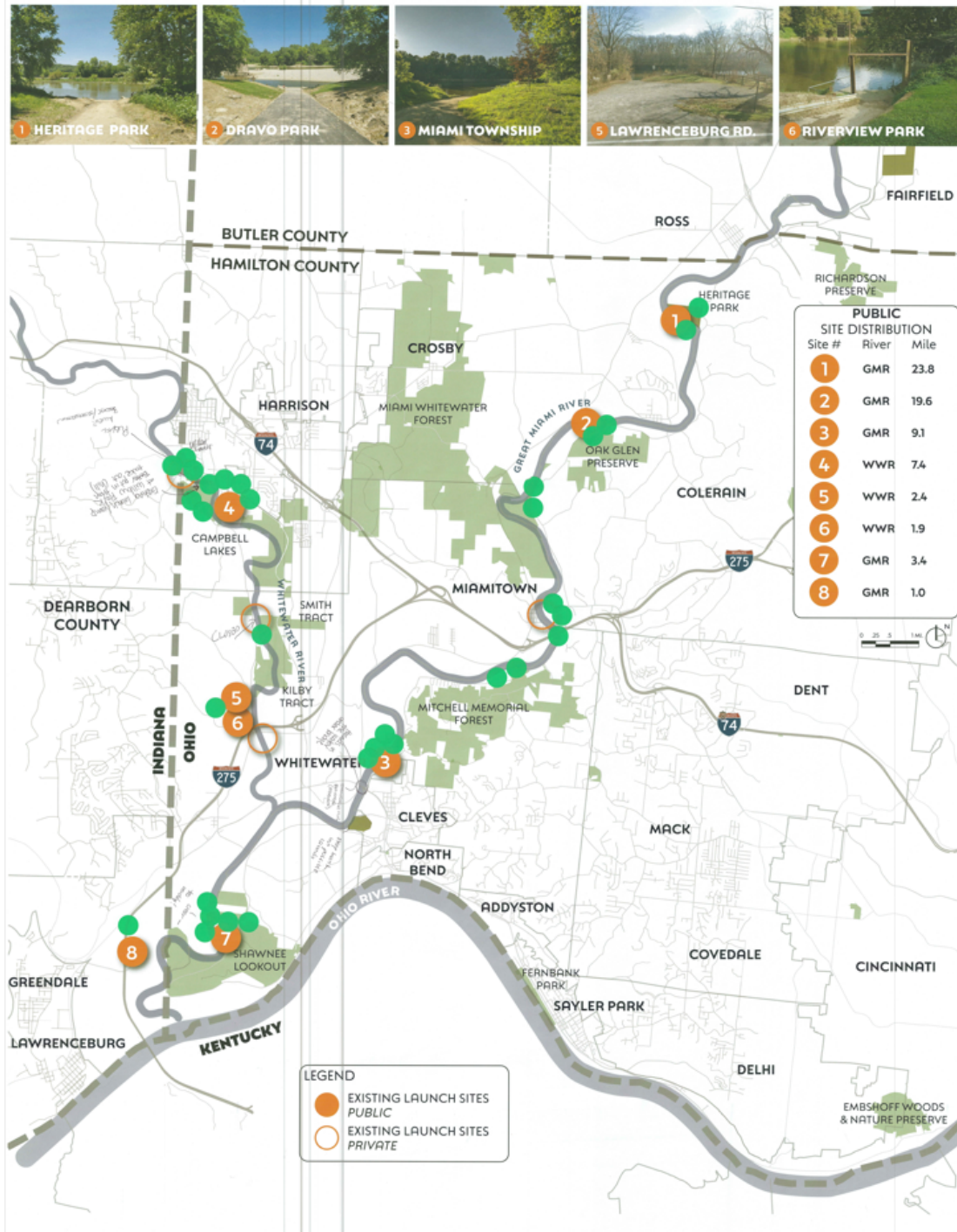
During the Open House, respondents spoke with project team representatives and participated in the multiple interactive activities located around the meeting space. Together, they provided a total of 454 responses at the various activities. The feedback received is summarized on the following pages.



Blueway Launch Locations

The first activity at the Blueway station invited participants to review a map of the study area and place green dots on areas where they suggest adding new canoe/kayak launch sites. Eighty-four responses were received, and the distribution of the dots is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. New canoe/ kayak launch site locations suggested by meeting participants (indicated by green dots on the map).



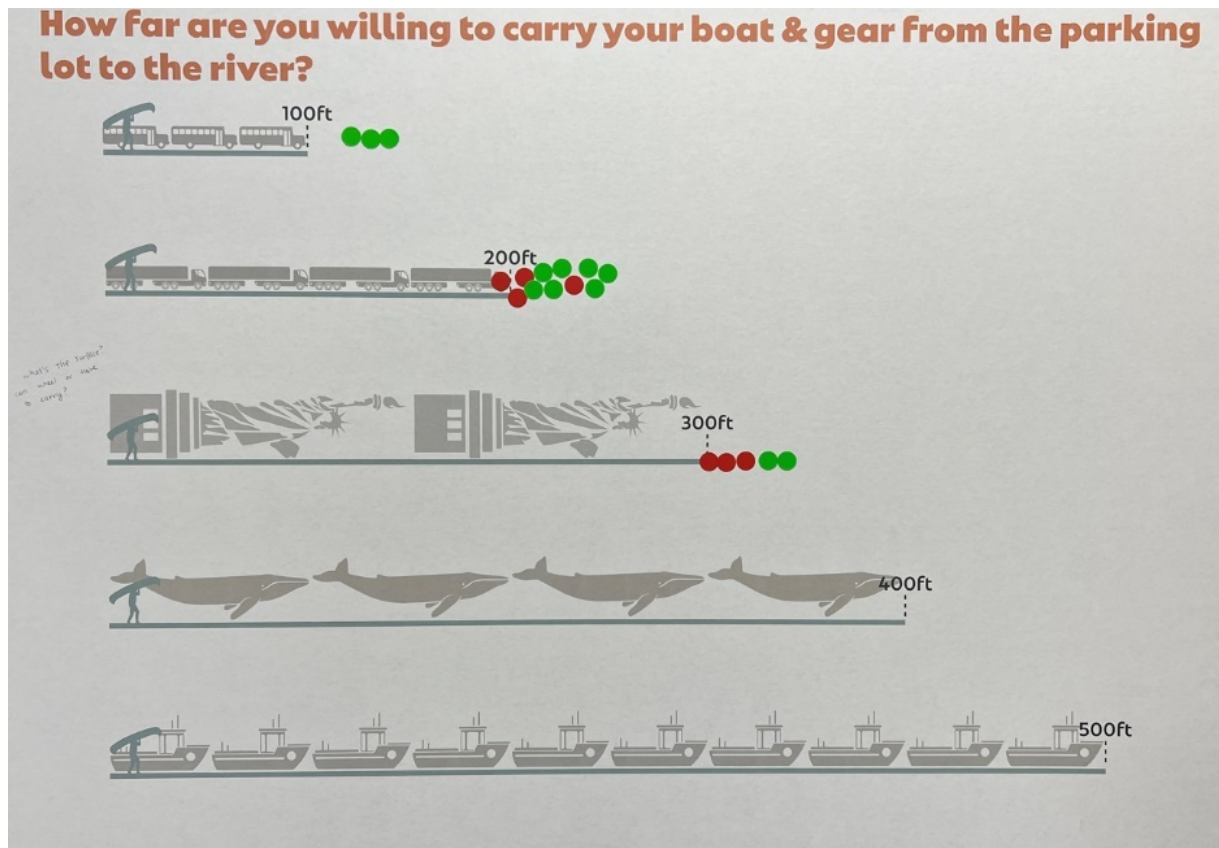
Carry Distance

A second activity at the Blueway station asked participants how far they would be willing to carry their boat and gear from a parking lot to the river. Sample distances were indicated by tape on the ground and participants could note their responses by putting dots on a board that highlighted the distances using known objects as reference points:

- 100 ft – three city buses
- 200 ft – four semi-truck trailers
- 300 ft – two Statues of Liberty
- 400 ft – four blue whales
- 500 ft – ten tugboats

Green dots represented distances participants were willing to carry their equipment; red dots signaled distances that were too far. As shown in Figure 2, the 200 ft option received the most green dots. No one selected 400 to 500 ft as an option. Some participants noted that the preferred carry distance depends on whether the path was paved or not.

Figure 2. Carry distance preferences.



Levels of Constructability

Meeting participants were asked about their launch type preferences, considering three levels of constructability – Constructed Launches (highest level of development), Enhanced Launches (medium level of development), and Natural Launches (lowest level of development). Green dots

indicated that an option was liked; yellow dots indicated possible interest; red dots indicated that an option was not liked. Figures 3, 4, and 5 show the distribution of responses.

Figure 3. Distribution of responses evaluating possible Constructed Launch types.



Figure 4. Distribution of responses evaluating possible Enhanced Launch types.



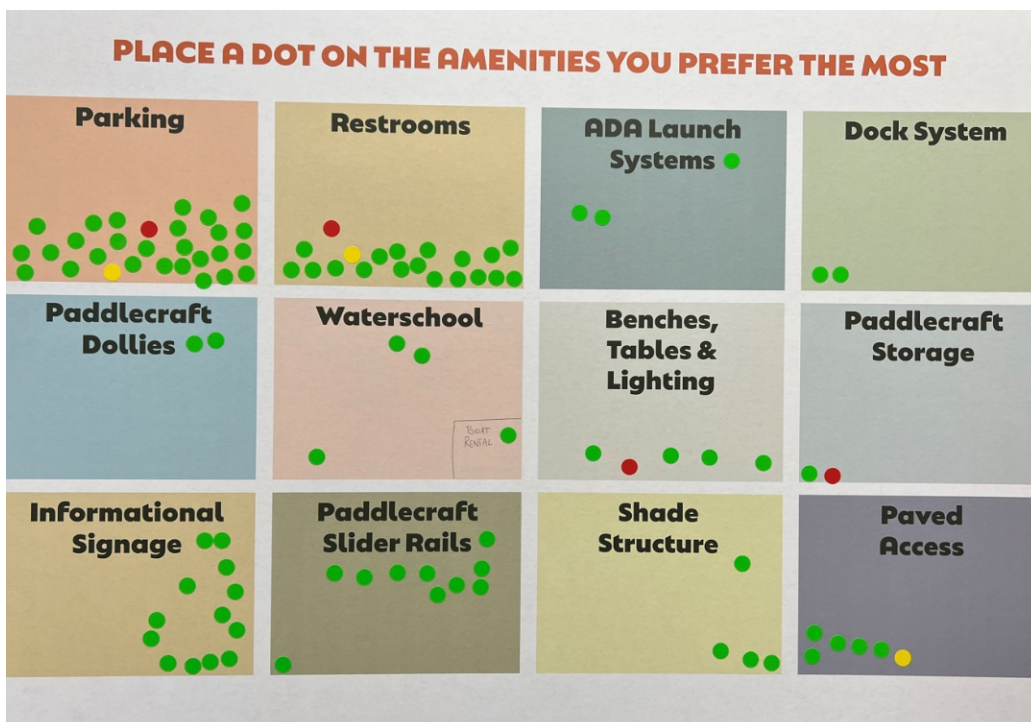
Figure 5. Distribution of responses evaluating possible Natural Launch types.



Blueway Amenities

An Amenity board was used to identify which possible blueway amenities meeting participants were most interested in. Green dots indicated interest; yellow dots indicated the respondent wasn't sure, and red dots indicated a lack of interest in an amenity. Options receiving the highest number of green dots were parking, restrooms and informational signage. Figure 6 shows the distribution of responses received.

Figure 6. Distribution of responses indicating preferred amenities for blueway trails.



Shared-Use Trail Experience Preferences

At the Shared-Use Trail station, meeting participants were invited to tell the project team what type of experiences they would like to see on a trail along the Great Miami River corridor by placing a green dot on images that represented their preferred experiences. The distribution of dots is shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7. Distribution of responses identifying preferred experiences when using the shared-use trail corridor.



Study Area Considerations

The Shared-Use Trail station also featured maps of the Great Miami River corridor in Hamilton County. Participants were asked to review the maps and share their thoughts regarding any ideas they had or challenges they were aware of related to developing a shared-use trail in the area. They were also asked to note any points-of-interest or other assets in the area that the project team should be aware of and/or to which the shared-use trail should connect. Figures 8 and 9 show the large table-sized roll plots maps of the project area that were displayed at the meeting. A list of comments written on the maps as well as closer views of the maps is provided in Appendix C: Comments Received.

Figure 8. Comments were written on a table-sized roll plot map of the southwest section of the Great Miami River corridor. Enlarged segments of the map are provided in Appendix C.

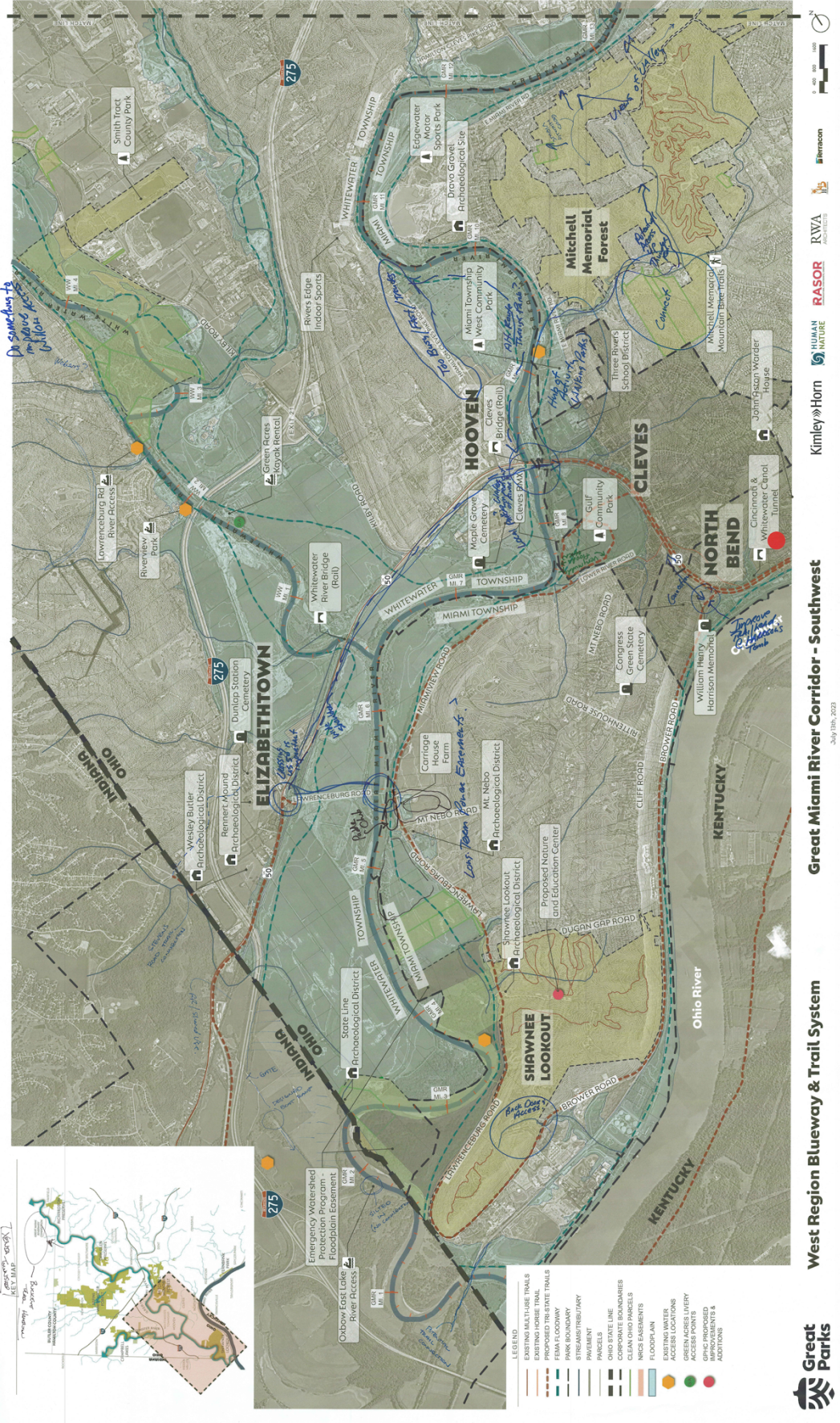
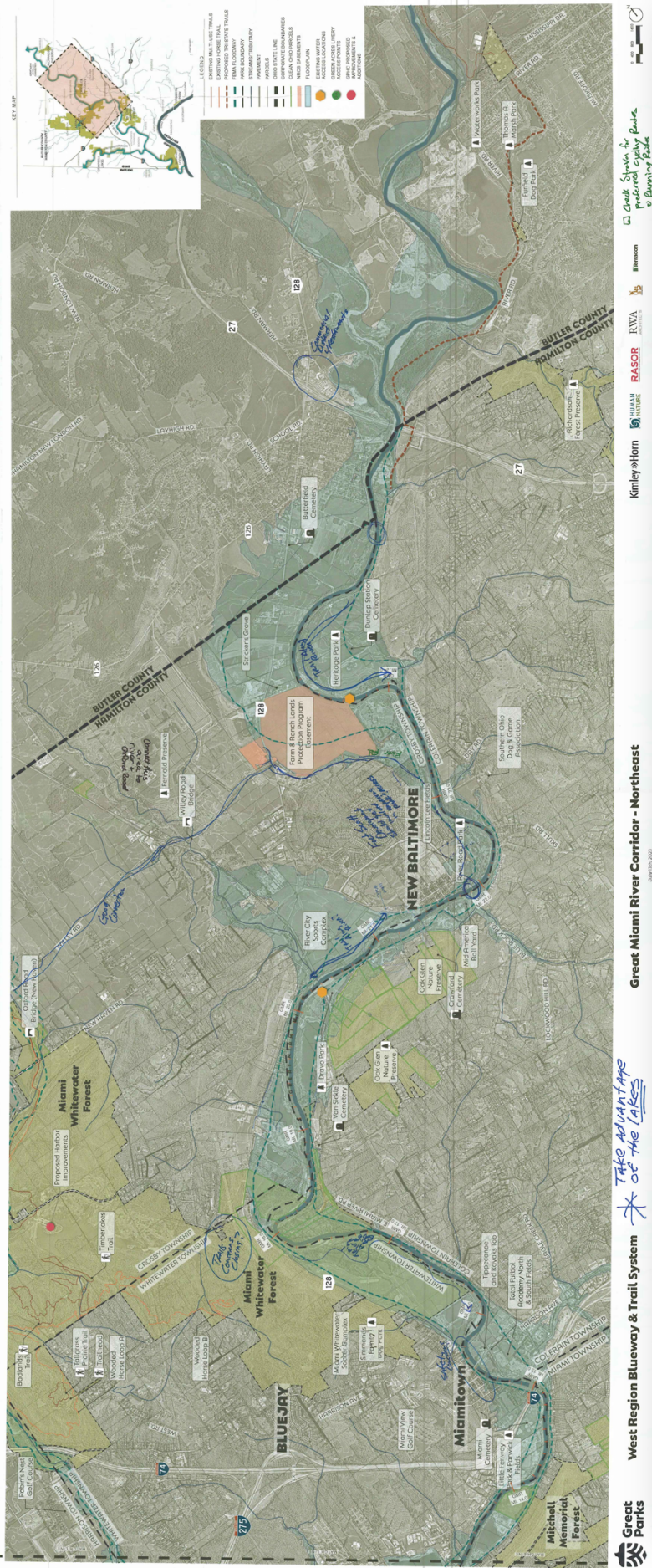


Figure 9. Comments were written on a table-sized roll plot map of the northeast section of the Great Miami River corridor. Enlarged segments of the map are provided in Appendix C.



Virtual Open House & Survey

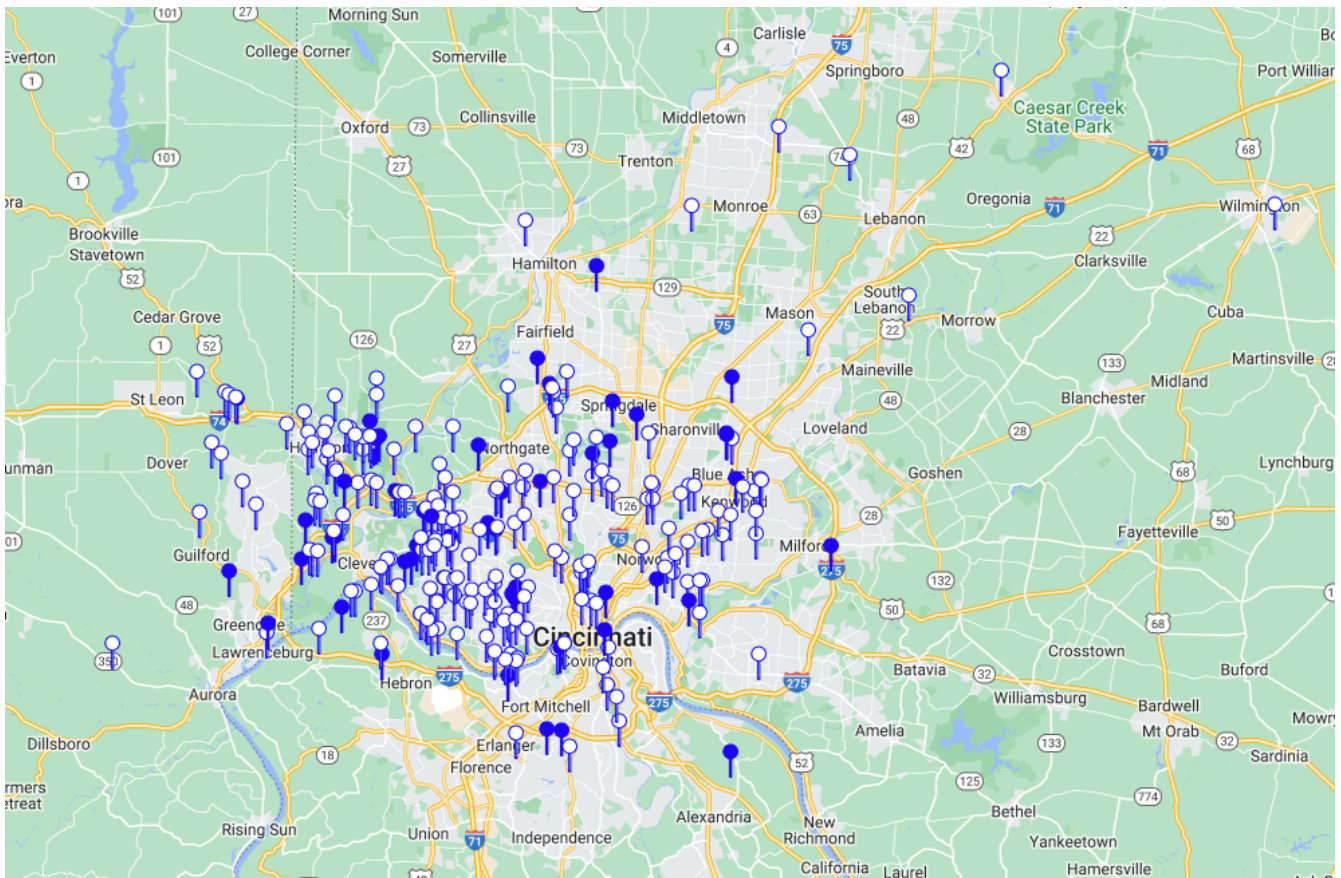
When the Virtual Open House & Survey closed on August 7, the Public Input site had received more than 1,600 views. Five hundred and four individuals answered at least one question and a total of 13,842 responses were collected. This included 1,128 written comments on mapping exercises or open-ended questions. Additionally, 172 people subscribed for updates about the project. The following pages summarize the input received for each of the questions asked. (*Note: Survey participants were able to skip questions that either didn't pertain to them or they chose not to answer. Therefore, the total number of respondents is different for each question.*)

Question 1

Where do you live? (255 Responses)

The majority of respondents were from the Greater Cincinnati metro area, though the survey reached people living as far away as Wilmington, Ohio, and Georgetown, Kentucky, north of Lexington.

Figure 10. Distribution of responses for "Where do you live?" Blue pins indicate locations for which respondent included a comment; white pins indicate locations where no comments were provided. Note: This map does not show a pin that was placed north of Georgetown, KY.



Comments

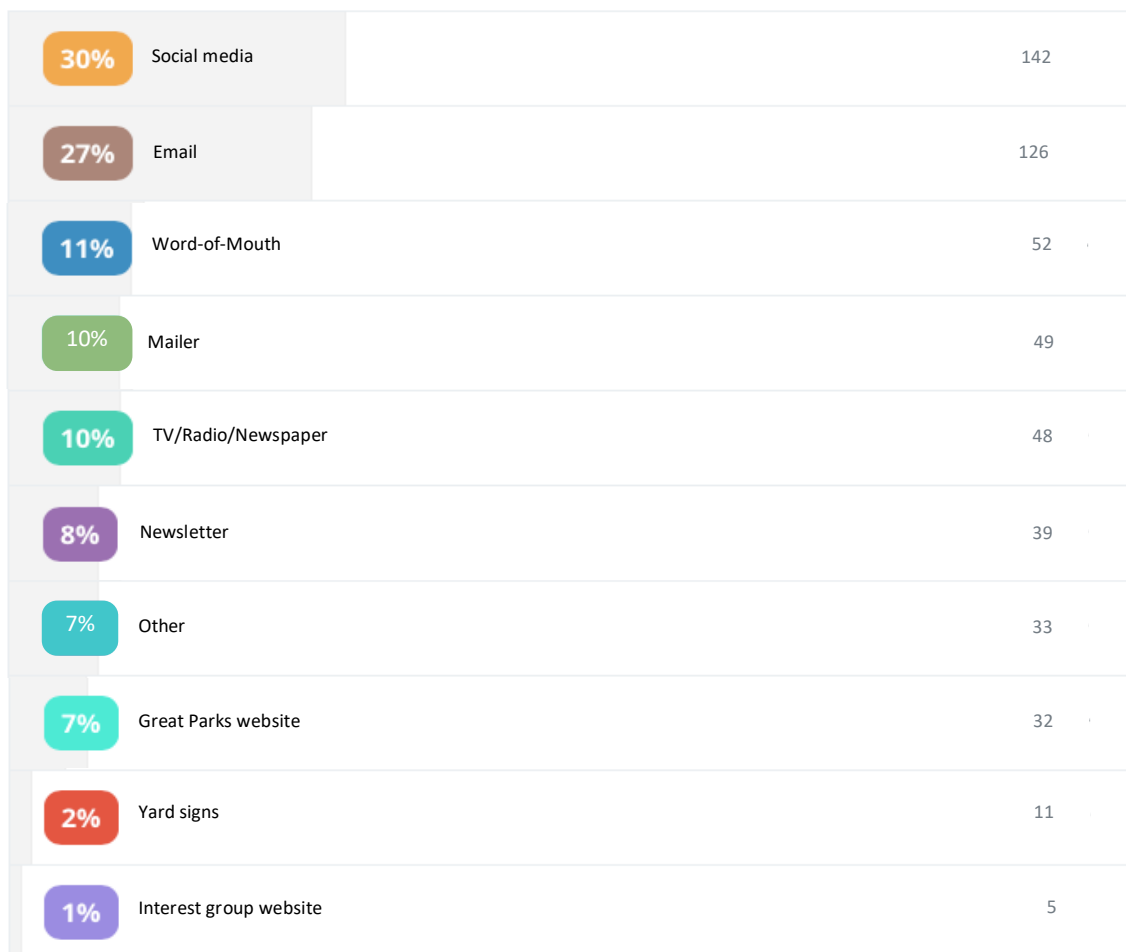
The majority of comments received for this question noted where respondents live. However, 18 respondents submitted other messages, most of which expressed support for the trail system concept. All comments received are documented in their entirety in Appendix C: Comments Received.

Question 2

How did you hear about this Open House? (check all that apply) (469 Respondents)

Respondents most frequently said that they learned about the open house events through social media and email. This indicates that future outreach efforts should lean heavily on these two communications channels. Word-of-mouth, mailers, and local news media reports were also cited as frequent information resources.

Figure 11: How did you hear about this Open House?



Other

Thirty-three respondents (7%) marked “Other” as one of their sources of information. When asked to explain their answer, respondents most frequently cited an event – either Paddlefest or the In-Person Public Open House – as their information source. All responses were reviewed and categorized by theme and a distribution of the themes is provided in Table 1. All comments received are documented in their entirety in Appendix C: Comments Received.

Table 1. Explanations provided for “Other” in Question 2: How did you hear about this Open House?

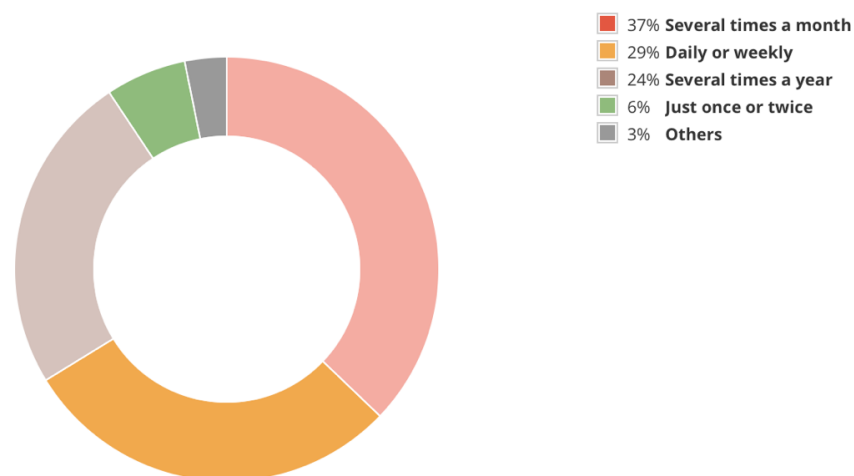
Theme	Count	Descriptors
Event	8	Paddlefest, In-person Open House
Google News	5	Google news
Family/Friend	3	Family, friend
Miscellaneous	2	Linked In, News (not categorized)
Flyer	2	Flyer
Staff	1	Becky Osinski

Question 3

In general, how often have you visited a Great Parks location/property in the past 12 months? (471 Respondents)

Approximately 66% of respondents said they have visited a Great Parks location or property in the past 12 months. Another 24% said they have visited several times in the past year. This indicates that the majority of respondents are somewhat familiar with the Great Parks’ system. (It should be noted, though, that many people in the Cincinnati area have trouble discerning which park is part of Great Parks’ system or the City of Cincinnati’s park system.)

Figure 12: Distribution of responses to Question 3: In general, how often have you visited a Great Parks location/property in the past 12 months?

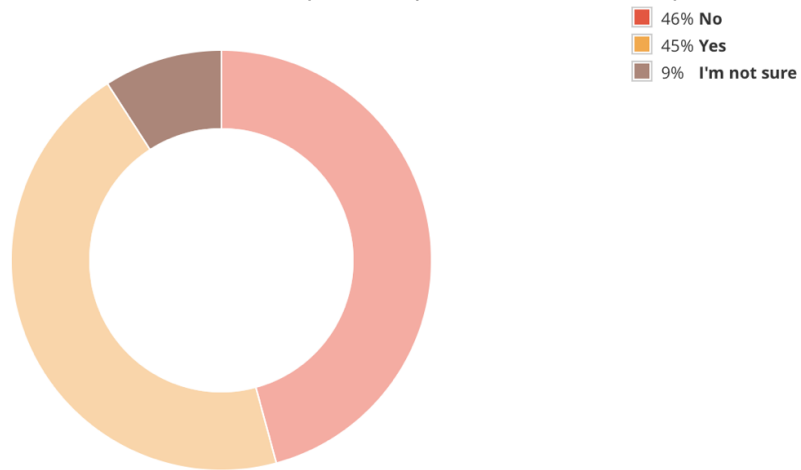


Question 4

Have you ever paddled on a blueway before? (439 Respondents)

Respondents were pretty evenly split on whether they have used a blueway before or not. Nearly 10% weren't sure.

Figure 13: Distribution of responses to Question 4: Have you ever paddled on a blueway before?

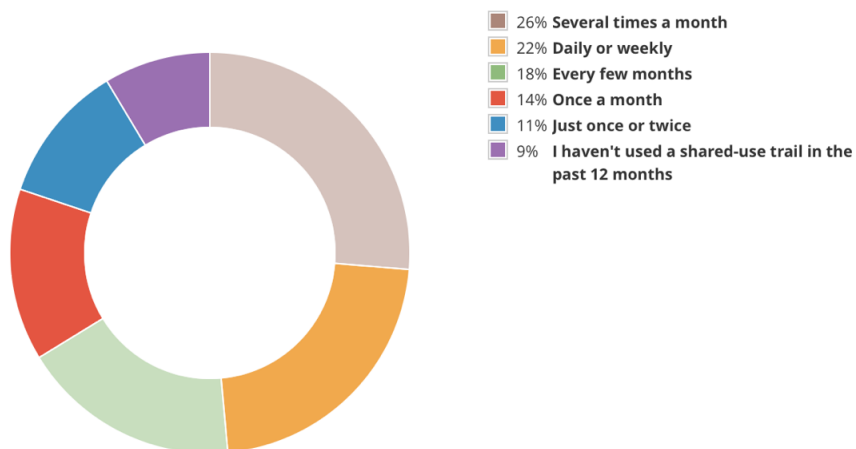


Question 5

How often have you used a shared-use trail in the past 12 months? (418 Respondents)

Nearly 50% of respondents to this question said they use a shared-use trail at least several times a month. Another 32% said they use a shared-use trail at least once every few months. This indicates that the feedback received in this survey is from individuals who are familiar with the shared-use trail concept.

Figure 14: Distribution of responses to Question 5: How often have you used a shared-use trail in the past 12 months?

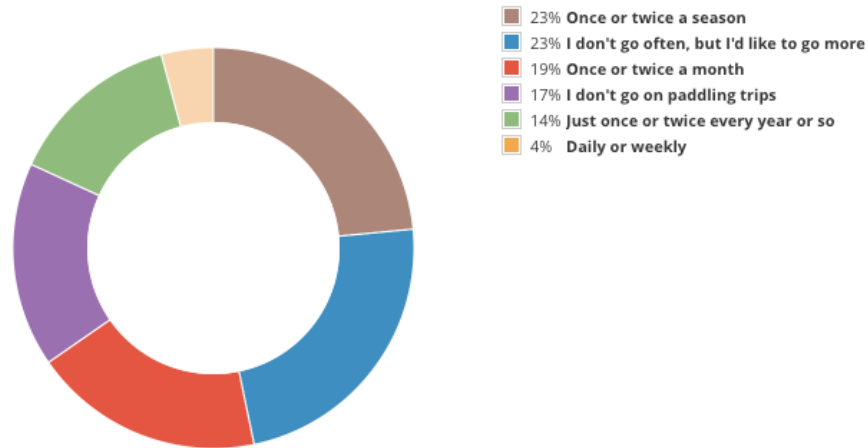


Question 6

How often do you go on paddling trips (canoe, kayak, paddleboard, etc.)? (430 Respondents)

Approximately 23% of respondents to this question said they go on paddling trips at least once a month and another 23% go at least once a season. An additional 23% said that while they don't go often, they'd like to go more. Together, these data points indicate respondents have a solid interest in paddling.

Figure 15: Distribution of responses to Question 6: How often do you go on paddling trips (canoe/kayak/paddleboard, etc.)?

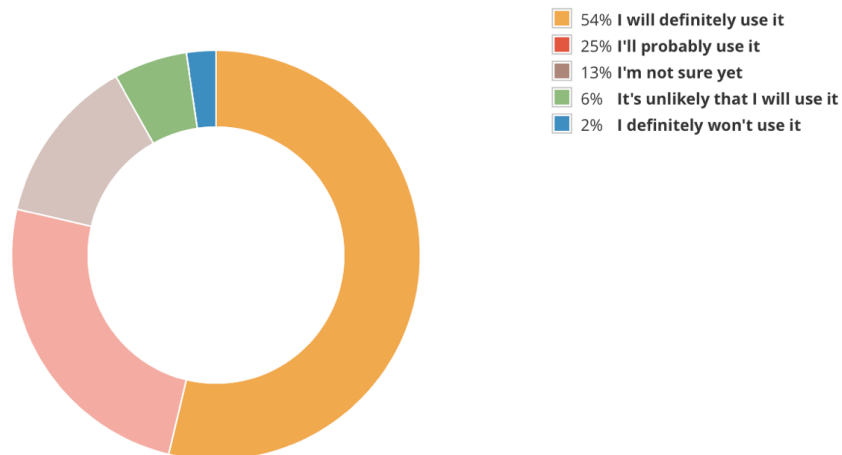


Question 7

How likely are you to use the West Region Blueway? (430 Respondents)

Nearly 80% of respondents to this question (338 people) said they will probably (25%) or definitely (54%) use the West Region Blueway. This indicates that there is strong potential support for the proposed blueway enhancements. Only 8% of respondents said that they are unlikely to use the blueway or definitely won't use it.

Figure 16: Distribution of responses to Question 7: How likely are you to use the West Region Blueway?

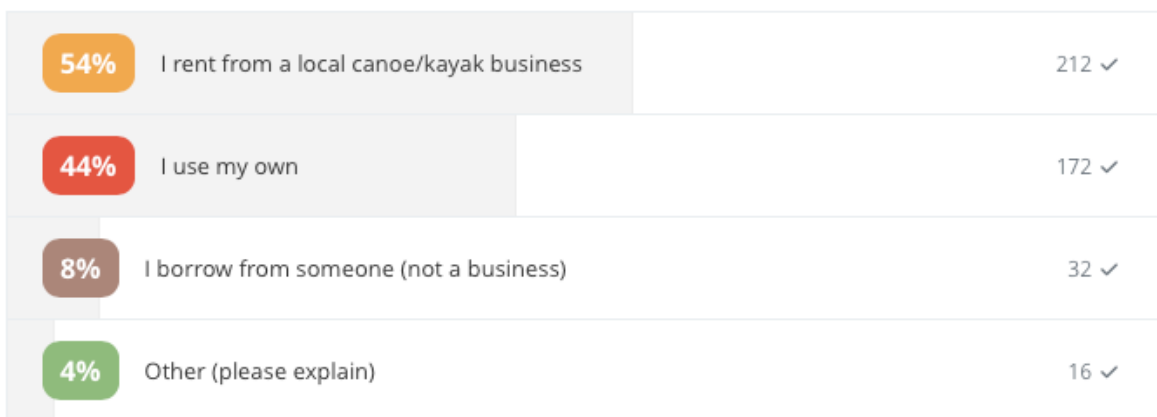


Question 8

When going on a paddling trip, whose paddlecraft (canoe, kayak, paddleboard, etc.) do you use? (check all that apply)
(391 Respondents)

While a majority of people responding to this question said they rent paddlecraft from a local business (54%), another 44% said they either use their own or borrow from a non-business entity (8%). Comments submitted for other questions throughout the survey showed an interest in being able to rent equipment from Great Parks. These were contrasted by comments noting that a solution is needed that would assist individuals not paddling with a local business with returning to their starting point.

Figure 17: Distribution of responses to Question 8: When going on a paddling trip, whose paddlecraft (canoe, kayak, paddleboard, etc.) do you use?



Other

Sixteen people selected “Other” as their responses for this question. When invited to explain their answer, six said they have never been paddling or haven’t gone yet, they don’t use paddlecraft, or the question isn’t applicable to them. One said that they paddle using a team dragonboat. The remaining individuals did not offer an explanation.

Question 9

How interested would you be in combining a paddle trip with one or more of the following activities? (410 Respondents)

Responses to this question showed strong interest in combining paddle trips with opportunities to explore nearby natural points of interest, historic sites and/or communities, as well as opportunities for hiking and walking. Approximately 35% of respondents said they were very interested in combining paddle trips with camping opportunities and another 26% said they were somewhat interested.

Figure 18: Distribution of responses to Question 9: How interested would you be in combining a paddle trip with one or more of the following activities?

	Very interested	Somewhat interested	Not sure	Not very interested	Not interested at all
Exploring nearby natural points of interest/historic sites	61% Very interested	28% Somewhat interested	6% Not sure	2% Not very interested	3% Not interested at all
Exploring nearby communities	42% Very interested	38% Somewhat interested	11% Not sure	6% Not very interested	3% Not interested at all
Hiking	59% Very interested	26% Somewhat interested	7% Not sure	4% Not very interested	4% Not interested at all
Biking	44% Very interested	28% Somewhat interested	11% Not sure	10% Not very interested	8% Not interested at all
Walking	56% Very interested	34% Somewhat interested	5% Not sure	3% Not very interested	3% Not interested at all
Camping	36% Very interested	26% Somewhat interested	14% Not sure	13% Not very interested	11% Not interested at all
Taking a paddling class (canoe, kayak, or paddle board)	20% Very interested	32% Somewhat interested	17% Not sure	21% Not very interested	11% Not interested at all
Taking an outdoor nature education class	24% Very interested	45% Somewhat interested	15% Not sure	11% Not very interested	6% Not interested at all
Other	19% Very interested	11% Somewhat interested	54% Not sure	5% Not very interested	10% Not interested at all

Question 10

If you selected "other" for the question above, please use this space to explain your answer.
(107 Respondents)

More than 100 respondents submitted a comment for Question 10 (this was notably more than the number of people who actually selected "Other" in Question 9). In their comments, many respondents cited the same activity options already suggested in Question 9, though a number of new ideas were mentioned. These included opportunities for fishing, taking local history/architecture/archaeology/nature tours, visiting or hosting music events, festivals and local markets, participating in possible work projects, going to dog parks and linking with mountain bike trails.

Multiple respondents also used this question to share some concerns, such as safety challenges for paddlers caused by poorly marked spillways and areas that require higher level paddling skills, cleanliness of the water, impacts of more people on the water, disturbances from inebriated weekend users and unleashed dogs.

All responses received were reviewed and categorized by theme. Table 2 lists each theme identified and the number of times it was mentioned. It also includes a brief description of each theme by summarizing comments submitted by respondents using their words and phrases. Multiple themes were often identified within a single response, therefore, the total number of counts documented exceeds the number of responses submitted. All responses received are documented in their entirety in Appendix C.

Table 2. Themes of comments submitted for "Other" in Question 9: How interested would you be in combining a paddle trip with one or more of the following activities?

Theme	Count*	Descriptors
<i>N/A</i>	22	Respondents misunderstood the "other" option; respondent doesn't paddle, left the comment space blank, said they had no ideas, or just said "yeah" or "ok"
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	14	Comments placed in this category didn't fit easily into other theme categories
<i>Alt Activity</i>	11	Suggested activities included fishing; history tours; botanical gardens; architectural/archaeological interests; jogging; citizen science; music, markets, arts & crafts; group activities; possible work projects; dog park access; mountain bike trails
<i>Concerns</i>	7	Noted concerns about kayaking on Great Miami due to poorly marked spillways and need for higher skill levels; cleanliness of water near Rumpke; water safety conditions; impact of more people traffic on the Miami Whitewater and waste that gets left behind; presence of homeless living along rivers; disturbances from Green Acres Canoe

<i>Theme</i>	Count*	Descriptors
		customers ("drunk-fest" and loud music on weekends); unleashed dogs
<i>Excited</i>	6	Excited about proposal; this will be great; this will get more people outside; love the idea; excited about a connection to Ohio River
<i>More WW access</i>	6	Would like more put-in/take-out locations on the Whitewater River
<i>Camping</i>	5	New campground at Miami Whitewater would be a great addition; need more camping near launch points; suggested primitive camping
<i>Fishing</i>	5	Kayak fishing is popular; people fish while paddling
<i>More access</i>	4	More access to rivers is needed in general; need more public (vs. commercial/business) access; need better launch access such as ramps, handicapped launches, parking, restrooms
<i>Paddle/Peddle</i>	4	Paddle trips combined with biking allows more independence for paddlers (provides a way to get back); would like to see bike rentals similar to Cincy Red Bikes along the way; would like places to lock up bikes, kayaks and other belongings
<i>Restaurants</i>	4	Interested in stopping at restaurants while paddling
<i>Suggestion</i>	4	Comment contains a suggestion
<i>Accessibility</i>	3	Need to provide access for disabled and mobility-challenged individuals
<i>Maintenance</i>	3	Need to maintain launch sites, particularly at Shawnee Lookout
<i>More classes</i>	3	Add classes for hunter education, nature, botany; bird watching; wildlife
<i>Picnic</i>	3	Picnicking; eating; food
<i>Transportation</i>	3	Would like easy way to travel back to car after paddling; options for round trips; shuttle service
<i>Bike trail</i>	1	Would like safer bike trails on west side
<i>Community access</i>	1	Would like to drop into communities for hiking and exploring the town
<i>Horses</i>	1	Include options for horseback riding
<i>More Oxbow access</i>	1	Provide more/better access to Oxbow area
<i>Offered help</i>	1	I would love to help any way I can
<i>Storage</i>	1	Would like way to secure storage for kayak until it can be retrieved
<i>Thank you</i>	1	Thank you

Comments categorized as “Suggestion” are listed below for easy reference. Each comment is presented as it was received; no edits were made to content, abbreviations, spelling, grammar, capitalization, or punctuation.

Suggestions (highlighted in blue)

1. I would love to see the dangerous metal under the bridge at SR 50 and 128 cleaned up so Cleves park access on the Great Miami could actually be utilized as put in for paddling.
2. Make the channel at Shawnee Lookout usable again. Such a nice place with plenty of parking and ramp facilities. Will probably need dredged yearly, but so worth it.
3. Ramps for trailers. Not everyone can load a kayak from the car and drag it, and other types of boats use the rivers as well.
4. Rivers Unlimited has 20 Old Tour Canoes for outings, lessons, team building, cleanups, etc. I can teach a paddling class ACA approved.

Question 11

If you'd like to suggest a location for a new launch site along the Great Miami or Whitewater rivers, place a point on the map to show us where it is.

Eighty-four pins were dropped on the map and Figure 19 on the next page shows the distribution of those pins. Blue pins indicate locations for which comments were submitted, most of which provided some additional thoughts relating to the location – either advantages or challenges related to the location or opportunities for improvements and/or additional connections to nearby destinations. All comments were reviewed and categorized by the community or area in which they are located and each is documented in its entirety in Appendix C.

Question 12

When going on a paddle trip, how do you typically get to river access locations?

318 Respondents

Approximately 44% of respondents to this question said they typically use a local business to get to river access locations, whereas 54% said they either travel with family and/or friends or by themselves in their own vehicle. This indicates that respondents to this survey offer a fairly balanced perspective between paddlers experiencing the blueway using both private and public means.

Other

Seven people selected “Other” for this question and all explained their response by saying that they don’t go paddling, have never been or haven’t gone yet.

Figure 19. Distribution of pins identifying suggested launch site locations.

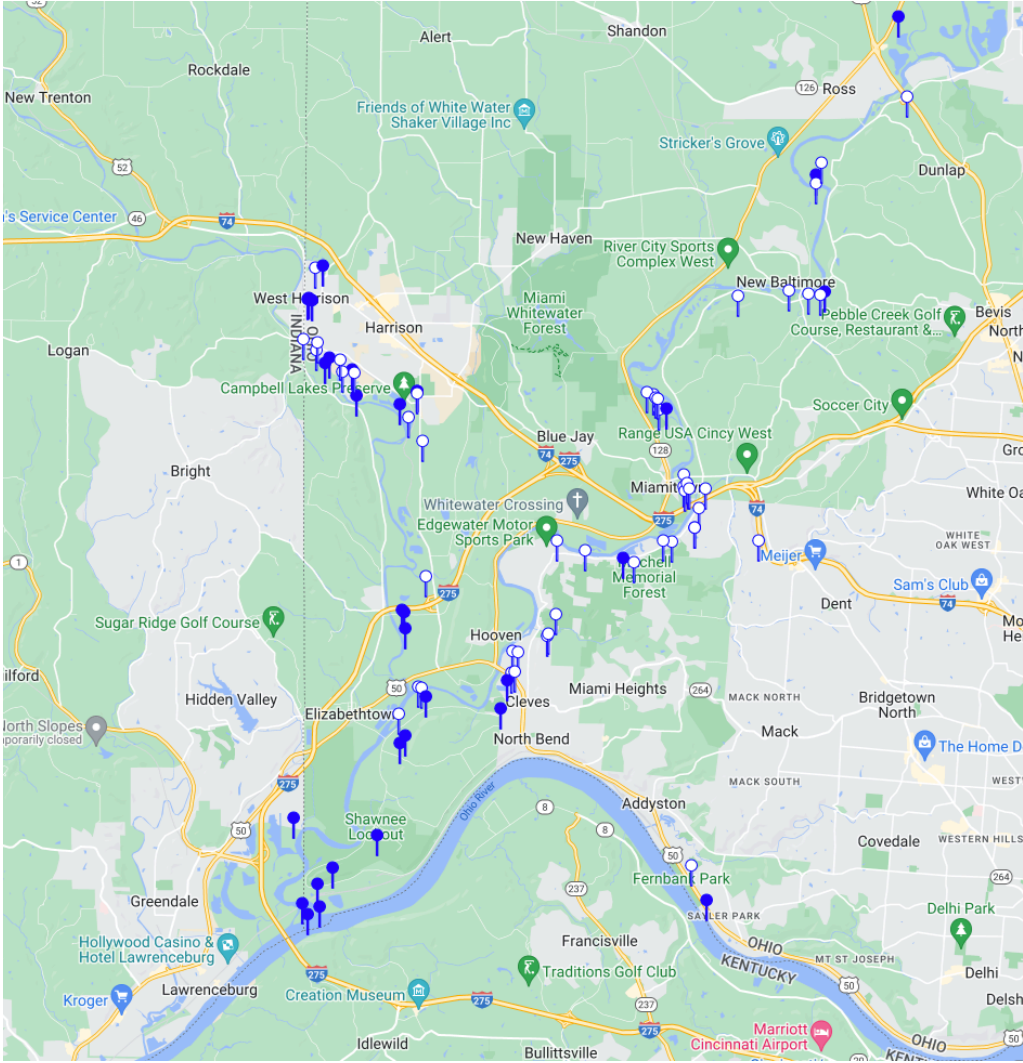
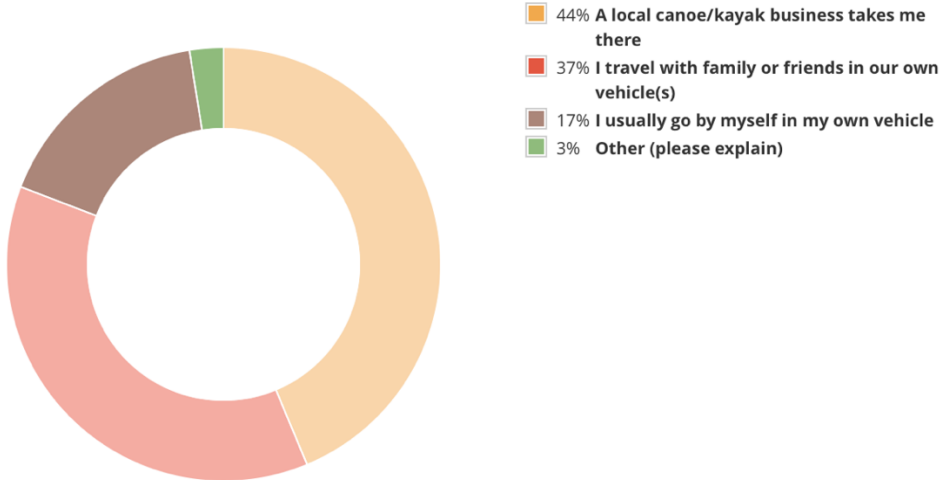


Figure 20. Distribution of responses to Question 12: When going on a paddle trip, how do you typically get to river access locations?

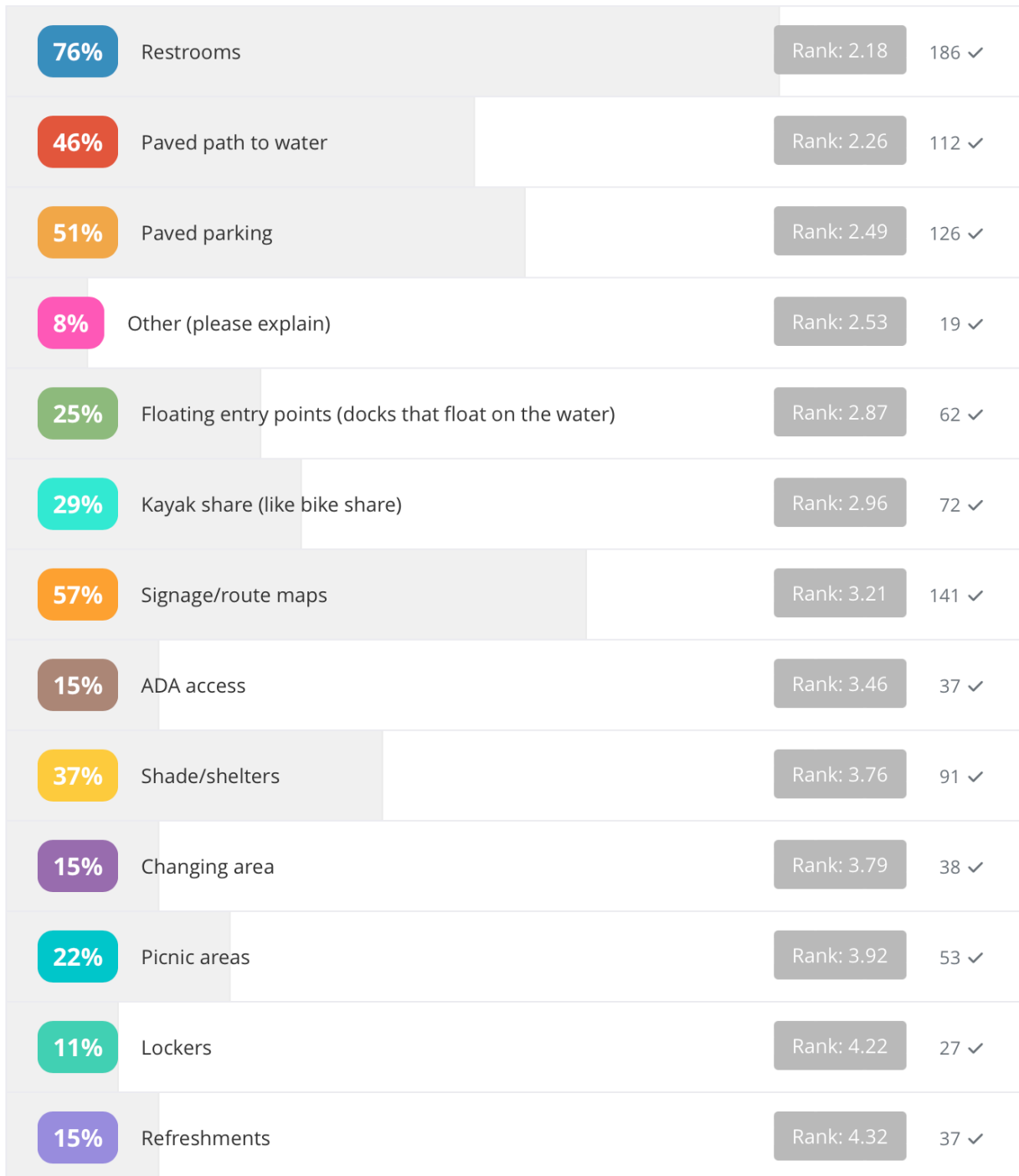


Question 13

We'd like to know which potential launch site amenities are of most interest to you. Please drag the options you're most interested in (up to six) above the line and arrange them in order of importance to you. (246 Respondents)

Amenities selected most often by respondents included restrooms (76%), signage/route maps (57%), paved parking (51%) and paved paths to water (46%).

Figure 21. Distribution of responses to Question 13.



Other

Nineteen respondents marked “Other” for Question 13 and 12 submitted explanations. All comments received were reviewed and categorized by theme, and their distribution is summarized in Table 3. All comments are documented in their entirety in Appendix C.

Table 3. Responses for “Other” in Question 13: Please drag and drop the options you are most interested in (up to six) above the live and arrange them in order of importance to you.

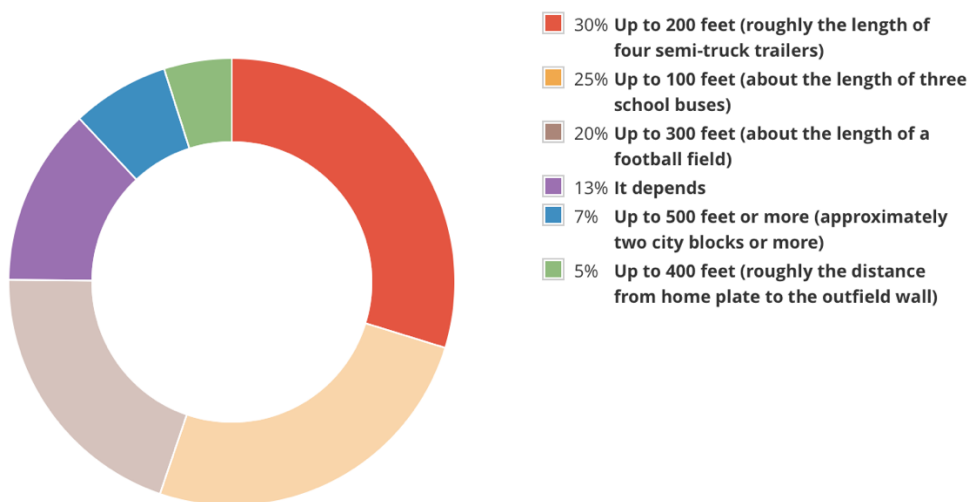
Theme	Count	Descriptors
<i>Easy Access</i>	4	Ease of getting from car to river, easy access into and out of water
<i>Security</i>	2	Boat lock-up, vehicle security
<i>Camping</i>	1	Rustic camp site
<i>Electric Car Charging</i>	1	Electric Car Charging
<i>Trailer Access</i>	1	Ramps and trailer parking
<i>Close Entertainment</i>	1	Proximity to dining and entertainment
<i>Transportation</i>	1	Ease of returning to starting point
<i>Trash cans</i>	1	Trash cans

Question 14

How far are you willing to carry your boat and gear from the parking lot to get to a launch point at the river? (298 Respondents)

Approximately 55% of respondents to this question said they’d be willing to carry their boats and gear between 100 feet (25%) and 200 feet (30%) though another 20% said they were willing to carry their boat and gear up to 300 feet.

Figure 22. Distribution of responses to Question 14: How far are you willing to carry your boat and gear from the parking lot to get to a launch point at the river?



Question 15

What would encourage you to go on more paddling trips? (157 Respondents)

All responses submitted for this question were reviewed and categorized by theme. The most frequently occurring themes centered around transportation and easy access. Comments pertaining to transportation were mostly focused on needing a solution to help private users (those not using a paddling company) return to their starting points and/or their vehicles, particularly if they were going on solo excursions. Comments regarding easy access mentioned desires for easy and/or better access to river entry and exit points and clear paths from parking areas to the rivers. Some of these comments also expressed a desire for dollies to help carry gear back and forth between the parking lots and the rivers.

Of particular note, 12 comments expressed interest in being able to rent gear (watercrafts, lifejackets, etc.), presumably without needing to sign on to a trip with a local canoe/kayak business. Another 11 expressed a desire to have water safety updates available to help better plan their trips.

All themes identified for Question 15 are summarized in Table 4. All comments received are documented in their entirety in Appendix C.

Table 4. Response themes identified for comments submitted for Question 15: What would encourage you to go on more paddling trips? The Count column identifies how many times each theme was observed.

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Descriptors</i>
<i>Transportation</i>	46	Need way to return to start; need shuttles, need help with transporting boats
<i>Easy Access</i>	44	Easy entry/exit, better access to water and watercraft, clear path from parking to river; boat dollies or carts; convenient
<i>More Launches</i>	17	More launches; more public access
<i>Parking</i>	16	Parking
<i>Lifestyle</i>	15	Need to make personal lifestyle changes (more time, less busy, retirement, own personal gear, knowing how to swim)
<i>Rental</i>	12	Equipment rental options through Great Parks or other provider- watercrafts, lifejackets, etc; reasonable prices; canoe rental; rental options
<i>Water Safety Updates</i>	11	Knowing if water is safe for paddling, check for updates online, safety points
<i>Signage</i>	10	Well-marked entry points, maps, signage along river
<i>Education</i>	9	Trip details, paddling lessons, understanding how to use sites; route information and hazards; availability of classes
<i>Close to Home</i>	5	Closer to my home

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Descriptors</i>
<i>Price</i>	5	Free or low cost
<i>Aesthetics</i>	4	Clean area, clean water, nice environment, not much mud or sediment
<i>Experiences</i>	4	Group options, Great Parks-led experiences, trip planning assistance for trips without a guide
<i>Dams</i>	3	Concerns about paddling near dams
<i>Find Others</i>	3	A group to find fellow paddlers
<i>Information</i>	3	Easily available route, rental and pickup information
<i>Kid Friendly</i>	3	Kid-friendly facilities
<i>Longer Trips</i>	3	6+ miles
<i>More Take Outs</i>	3	More take out points for solo trips
<i>Pitstops</i>	3	Places to stop along the route, check in stops, places to stop with refreshments
<i>Electric bikes</i>	2	Electric bikes
<i>Enhancements</i>	2	Paddling enhancements, like play rapids, drops, surf spots
<i>Fishing</i>	2	Good Fishing
<i>Kayak share</i>	2	Kayak share
<i>Storage</i>	2	Bike/boat storage options
<i>Camping</i>	2	Camping options; RV campground
<i>More WW access</i>	1	Put in/take out on the Whitewater
<i>N/A</i>	1	Nothing
<i>Security</i>	1	Anti-theft security

Question 16

Please use this space to share any comments you may have regarding the West Region Blueway and/or the new launch sites.

Sixty-five responses were shared for this question. All responses were reviewed and Table 5 lists each theme identified and the number of times it was mentioned. Multiple themes were often identified within a single response; therefore, the number of counts documented exceeds the number of responses submitted. All comments received are documented in their entirety in Appendix C.

Approximately 30% of respondents (20 people) to this question used it as an opportunity to express their support and excitement for the West Region Blueway. Another 10% (six people) were enthusiastic about including camping options and 8% (five people) commented on the need to remove and/or be cognizant of hazards along the river channels. Two people asked questions and one person included a suggestion for the project team’s consideration. The questions and suggestions are presented after Table 5 for easy reference. Great Parks’ responses to the questions asked are provided in Appendix C.

Table 5. Response themes comments submitted for Question 16: Please use this space to share any comments you may have regarding the West Region Blueway and/or the new launch sites.

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Descriptors</i>
<i>Excited</i>	20	Really excited; will be used if built; is needed on the west side; start soon; fully support concept
<i>Camping</i>	6	Camping would be "cool"; add campgrounds; add RV park; would love to see primitive camping; add access from "our campsite" (RV campsite); provide access from existing RV campgrounds
<i>Remove hazards</i>	5	Remove, mark, and/or map hazards; remove sewer crossings, walls and other hazards; avoid CSOs and SSOs
<i>Bike Trail</i>	3	Would use a bike trail along the river; would love bike trails connecting to existing trails and parks
<i>Concerns</i>	3	Concerns with hazards in the Great Miami; concerns with alcohol use on Whitewater; concerned with impacts to rivers; concerned with drainage from Rumpke's Bond Hill Site (currently in litigation on WWR, below Fox Run; homeowners shouldn't have to pay- those who use it should pay
<i>Conditions Updates</i>	2	Information on water conditions and/or conditions forecasts; use posts at launch sites to show high water/risk levels
<i>Locks</i>	2	Provide means to lock bikes and bike trailers near access points
<i>Maintenance</i>	2	Provide maintenance, particularly at Shawnee;
<i>Quality construction</i>	2	Ensure quality construction
<i>Question</i>	2	Comment contains a question
<i>Return solution</i>	2	Would like anything to help with returning to starting point (bike paths, bike/kayak locks, other ideas)
<i>Route Info</i>	2	Information that highlights levels of difficulty, provides guidance on where to start; highlights trip options
<i>Amenities mix</i>	1	Offers a mix of amenities, similar to what's offered in the Dayton area
<i>Better access</i>	1	Need safer places to enter and exit the rivers
<i>Better ADA</i>	1	Need better ADA access to and from the rivers

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Descriptors</i>
<i>Education</i>	1	Provide information about wildlife, ecology, natural history, culture of blueway corridors; provide interpretive opportunities
<i>Hazard location</i>	1	Confluence of Whitewater and Great Miami is a hazard area
<i>History</i>	1	Rebuild canal tunnel or lock for educational purposes
<i>Kayak share</i>	1	Kayak share option would be ideal;
<i>Launch locations</i>	1	Suggested launch locations
<i>More routes</i>	1	More routes are great- consider adding links to canals
<i>New contact</i>	1	New contact to add to our stakeholder list
<i>Paddle/Peddle</i>	1	Would be interested in combining paddling with biking
<i>Programming</i>	1	Provide nature interpretive programming
<i>Promote</i>	1	Marketing blueway will be key to helping area become a paddling destination
<i>Rentals</i>	1	Would love to use if rentals are available
<i>Restrict alcohol</i>	1	Restrict alcohol, CBD consumption
<i>Safety</i>	1	Keep blueway safe
<i>Shared-use trail</i>	1	Would love biking/hiking/running trail; connect to Lawrenceburg trails; connect to existing trails; connect trails to provide access to shopping, entertainment;
<i>Signage</i>	1	Add signage to let people where they are on the course/route
<i>Suggestion</i>	1	Comment contains a suggestion

The following comments are presented as they were received; no edits were made to content, abbreviations, spelling, grammar, capitalization, or punctuation.

Suggestions (highlighted in blue)

- 1) Whitewater River - **develop Willow Park site** (Harrison, OH) in WWR system. 2) Put up posts at launch showing risk of high water red/yellow/green expert/intermediate/novice. 3) Montlach Sports Club access of Great Parks is a good stepout in. 4) **Great Parks should show some concern for paddlers and swimmers in the WWR below Fox Run, drainage from Rumpke's Bond Hill Site in litigation.**

Questions

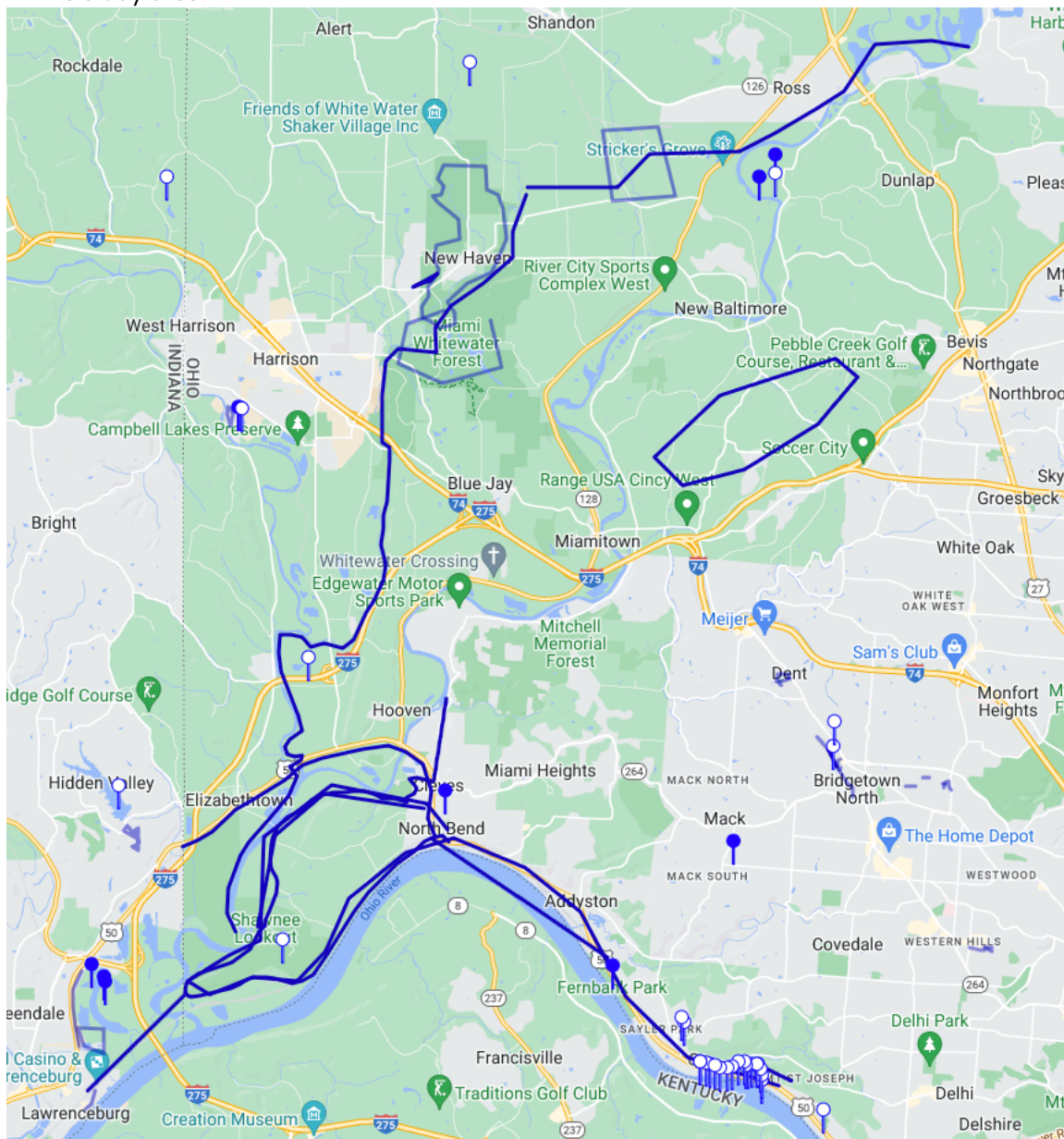
1. I am interested in connecting trails for everyday use to get to store or entertainment . Love river views. Why did you take away ours at whitewater trails . Why didn't you fix it . What is cost est of maintaining these water way lauch
2. So excited to see what comes of this! How do we learn more of the updates?

Question 17

As we develop the master plan for the shared-use trail, we are working to identify other existing or planned shared-use routes in the study area. You can help by using the map below to highlight any trails that you are aware of.

Seventy-six pins or lines were placed on the map and Figure 23 shows their distribution. Blue pins and dark blue lines indicate placements for which respondents left comments, most of which related to the location and or the opportunities the location offers. All comments were reviewed and categorized by the area in which they are located and all are documented in their entirety in Appendix C.

Figure 23. Distribution of pins identifying existing or planned shared-use routes in the study area.

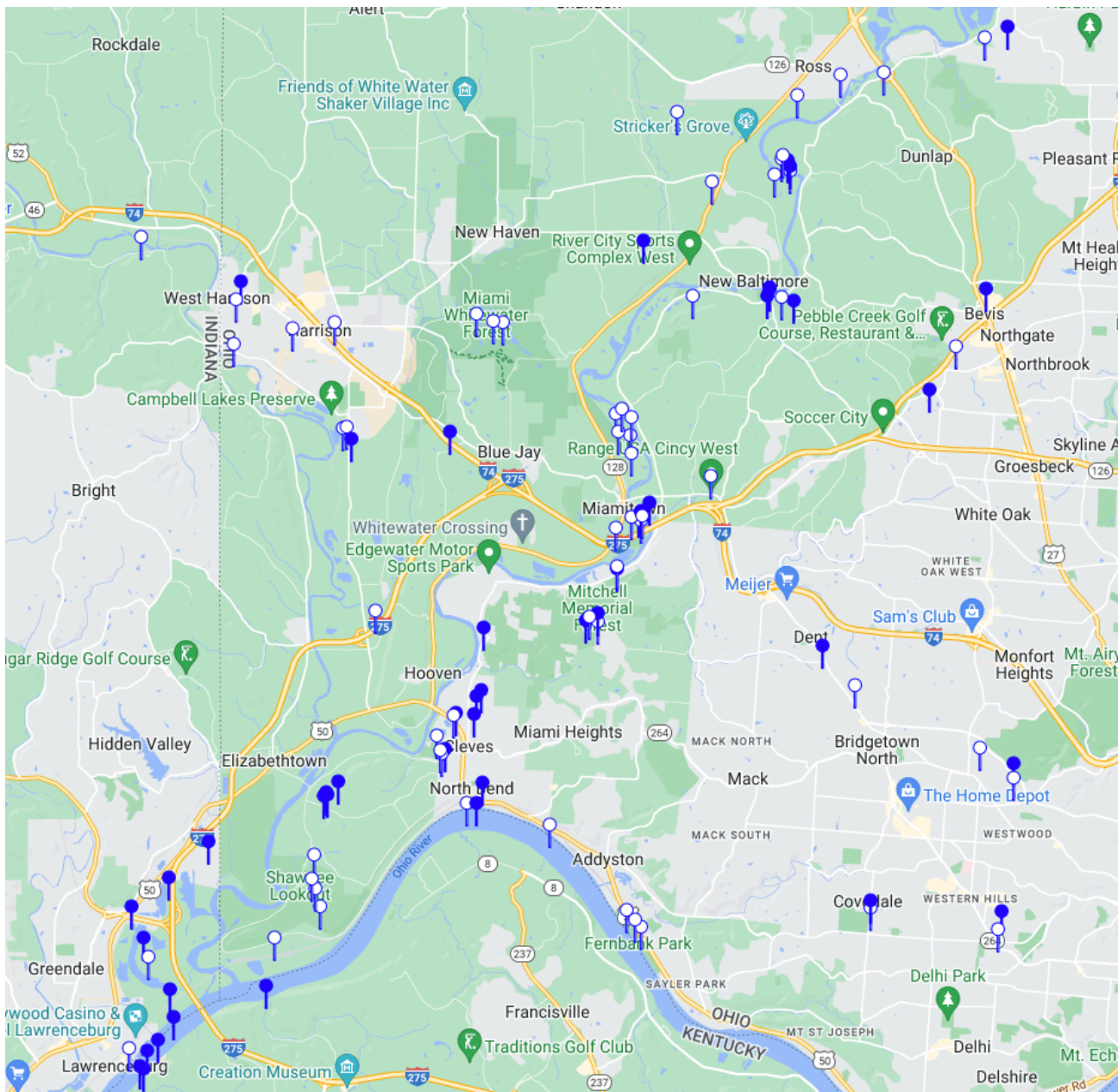


Question 18

Please use the map below to identify up to five points of interest along or near the Great Miami River Corridor to which you think the shared-use trail should connect.

The map below shows the locations of points of interest that respondents identified along or near the Great Miami River corridor. Blue pins indicate locations for which comments were shared. Most comments identified the location, though some either provided a description of the location or noted opportunities that this location offers. All comments were reviewed and categorized by the area in which they are located and all are documented in their entirety in Appendix C.

Figure 24. Distribution of points of interest along the Great Miami River corridor identified by respondents.

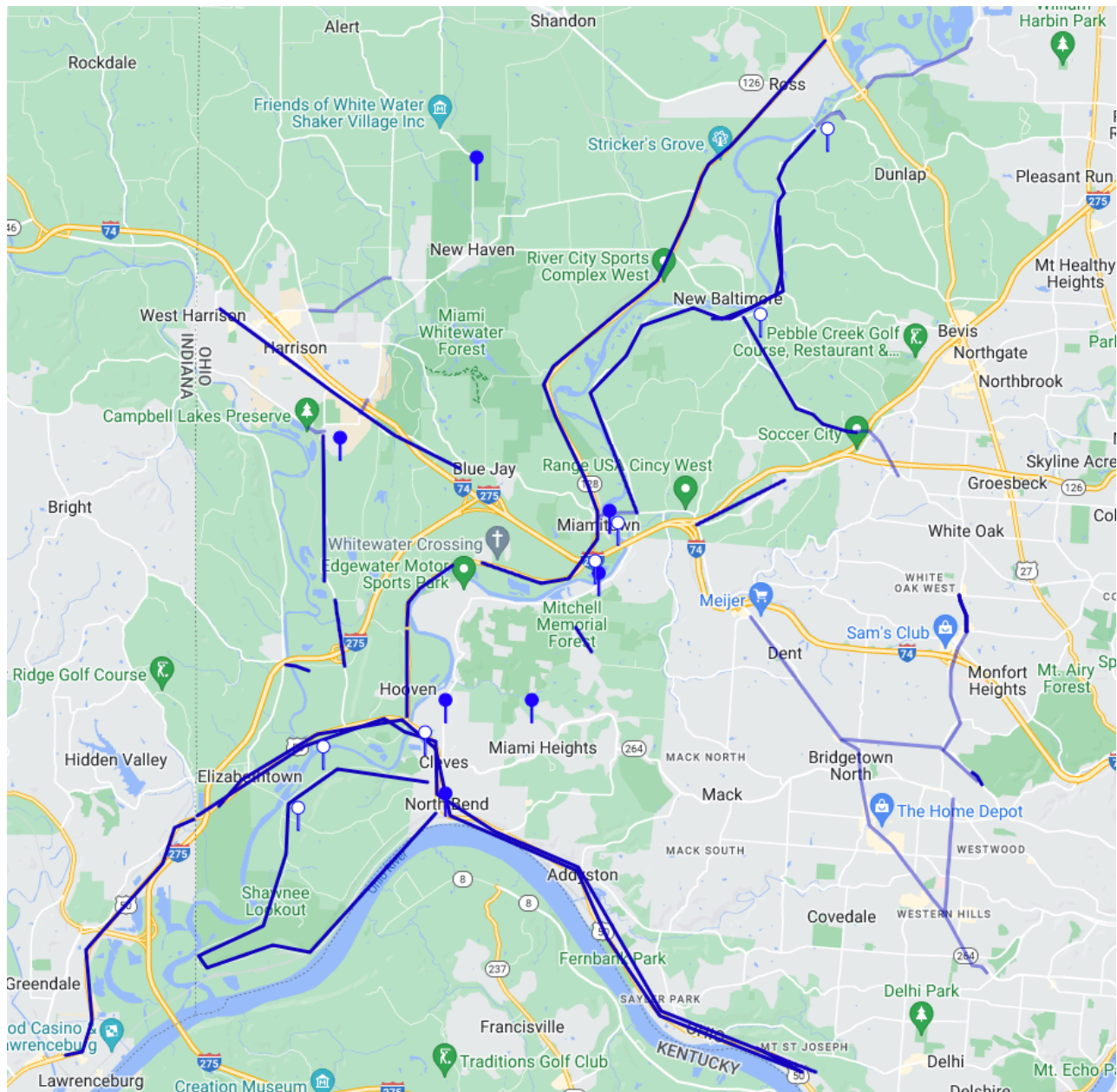


Question 19

Please use the map below to identify dangerous stretches of roadway or the locations of dangerous roadway crossings for walkers, runner and/or bicyclists, particularly along or near the Great Miami River corridor.

The map below shows the locations of dangerous stretches of roadway or dangerous roadway crossings for walkers, runner and/or bicyclists, as identified by respondents. Blue pins indicate locations for which comments were shared. All comments were reviewed and categorized by the area in which they are located and all are documented in their entirety in Appendix C.

Figure 25. Locations of dangerous stretches of roadway or the locations of dangerous roadway crossings in the study area.



Question 20

How interested are you in a new shared-use trail along the Great Miami River corridor? (319 Respondents)

An overwhelming majority of respondents to this question (92%) expressed interest and excitement for the project, with 68% saying that Great Parks “can’t build it soon enough.”

Figure 26. Distribution of responses to Question 20: How interested are you in a new shared-use trail along the Great Miami River corridor?

68%	You can't build it soon enough!	218 ✓
24%	I'm interested	77 ✓
3%	I'm curious and would like to know more	11 ✓
3%	Great idea. I may or may not use it	8 ✓
1%	I know I won't use it	4 ✓
1%	I probably won't use it	2 ✓

Question 21

If you said you may not or won't use the shared-use trail, why not? (28 Respondents)

All responses received for Question 21 were reviewed and categorized by theme; themes identified are summarized in Table 6. Multiple themes were often noted within a single response; therefore, the number of counts documented exceeds the number of responses submitted. Each comment received is documented in its entirety in Appendix C.

Only five individuals submitted an actual response to the question (why wouldn't you use the shared-use trail?), citing reasons such as the trail wouldn't be close enough to them or they are too old or infirm to use it. Most other respondents used Question 21 as an opportunity to share various comments regarding the planned shared-use trail or shared-use trails in general. Approximately 21% of the comments received focused on connecting the new shared-use path to other established trails in the region. Two comments contained suggestions; these are presented after Table 6 for easy reference.

Table 6. Response themes comments submitted for Question 21: If you said you may not or won't use the shared-use trail, why not?

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Descriptors</i>
<i>Connectivity</i>	6	Connect downtown Cincinnati through west side parks to trail in Indiana; link to CROWN network; link to Western Wildlife Corridor; would like shared-use connections so they can be used instead of driving and connected to urban areas of west side
<i>Reasons</i>	5	Trail would not be close enough; I have more convenient options; I'm too old; use is restricted due to health problems; I'm too old and feeble; depends on level of difficulty
<i>Excited</i>	4	So excited about this possibility; this will help people appreciate beauty of area; offers alternatives to riding on roads
<i>Long trails</i>	2	Need trails longer than 8 miles; would like longer trail options
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	2	Comments placed in this category didn't fit easily into other theme categories or didn't address the question.
<i>Retention</i>	2	This shared-use trail may keep me living here rather than moving to another area with a shared-use trail network
<i>Suggestion</i>	2	Comment contains a specific suggestion
<i>Will use</i>	2	I will use this trail a lot; the west side needs more trails like this
<i>Concerns</i>	1	Concerns about potential impacts to river system; need to control development
<i>Leash law</i>	1	Enforce leash law
<i>Like Eastside</i>	1	Would like to see this area grow like the east side has with the trails along the Little Miami; would like Miamitown grow like Loveland
<i>N/A</i>	1	Not applicable
<i>No tax increase</i>	1	Don't put cost burden on homeowners, use fees and fundraising to cover costs, not tax increases
<i>Offered help</i>	1	Would love to help in any way possible
<i>Security</i>	1	Depends on security
<i>Support existing</i>	1	Maintain and repair the existing trails
<i>Unpaved option</i>	1	Would like a shared-use trail option that isn't paved

Comments categorized as “Suggestion” are listed below for easy reference. The comments are presented as they were received; no edits were made to content, abbreviations, spelling, grammar, capitalization, or punctuation.

Suggestions (highlighted in blue)

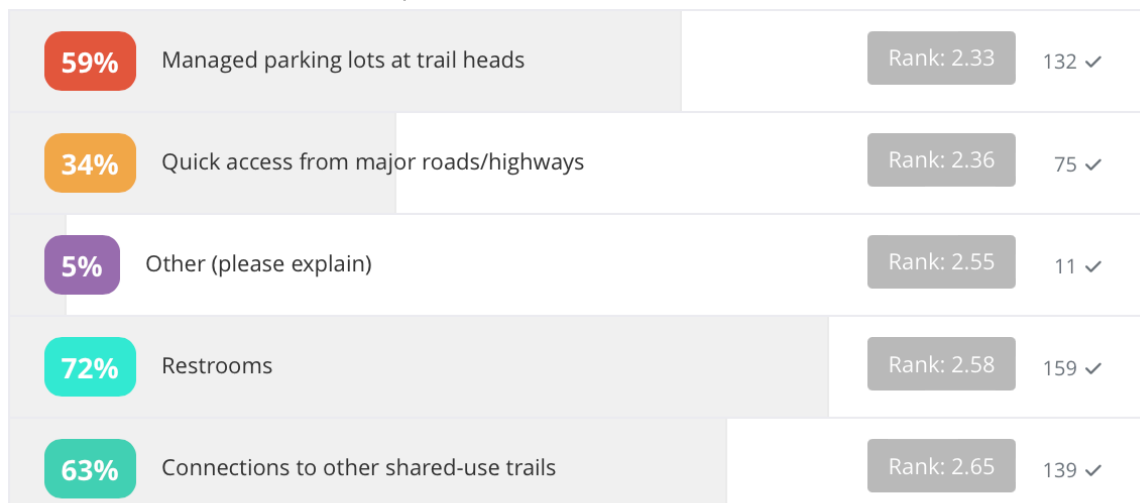
1. Have trail exit Great Miami River Valley in Crosby Township. Trail should cross Crosby Township and connect with a Whitewater River Valley Trail. Whitewater Township lack of zoning has left Great Miami Valley through Whitewater Township a disgrace!
2. I think to make this project successful, it needs to connect to the urban areas of the west side. There is already a short path in Dent between Bridgetown and Wesselmen. Connecting this to the GMT would allow so many people to access it without having to travel by car. Also, connecting to Mt St Joe via Old Delhi road would be a way to connect the path for Delhi residents. Thank you Great Parks for doing this. If this happens, it may keep me living in this area when I retire. Also, the connection of the GMT between Rentschler Park and Trenton needs to happen too, even though it’s out of your jurisdiction. Maybe this will motivate them.

Question 22

We'd like to know which shared-use trail amenities are of most interest to you. Drag the options you're most interested in (up to six) above the line and arrange them in order of importance to you. (222 Respondents)

Restrooms, connections to other shared-use trails, managed parking lots at trail heads, and trails that follow circular routes were the four suggested amenities that most frequently attracted respondents’ interest. Respondents also conveyed interest in having the new shared-use trail connect to other features, such as nearby points of interest and places where people live, work and eat.

Figure 27. Distribution of responses to Question 22: We'd like to know which shared-use trail amenities are of most interest to you.



47%	Looped routes (routes that follow a circular route, not just a straight line)	Rank: 2.69	104 ✓
14%	Bike rentals at trail heads	Rank: 3.03	32 ✓
13%	Bike racks/storage	Rank: 3.14	29 ✓
10%	Bike repair stations at trail heads	Rank: 3.64	22 ✓
31%	Access to dining/entertainment	Rank: 3.94	69 ✓
45%	Connections to local points of interest	Rank: 4.08	101 ✓
18%	Picnic areas	Rank: 4.17	40 ✓
14%	Access to lodging/camping	Rank: 4.22	32 ✓
2%	Changing areas	Rank: 5.00	5 ✓
3%	Lockers	Rank: 5.17	6 ✓

Other

Eleven respondents selected “Other” as an option for Question 22. Responses were categorized by theme and are summarized in Table 7, below. All responses received are documented in their entirety in Appendix C.

Table 7. Response themes for “Other” responses submitted for Question 22: We’d like to know which shared-use trail amenities are of most interest to you. Drag the options you’re most interested in (up to six) above the line and arrange them in order of importance to you.

Theme	Count	Descriptors
Connections	3	Connect to neighborhoods, schools, parks, business districts; connections to where people work, eat and shop; access to local communities
Breweries	1	Breweries
First aid	1	First aid stations
No tax increase	1	Do not want this to burden taxpayers living along the corridor

Theme	Count	Descriptors
Refreshments	1	Quick healthy foods (fruit, trail mix, granola bars, deli sandwiches), sport drinks, ice cream
River access	1	Connect to river access points
Water fountains	1	Would like water fountains

Question 23

How interested would you be in combining a trip on the shared-use trail with one or more of the following activities? (143 Respondents)

Respondents showed strong interest in combining trips on the shared use trail with opportunities to explore natural points of interest and/or historic sites (62%) as well as with opportunities for hiking (61%) and walking (62%). They also showed a high level of interest (53%) in combining trips with paddling opportunities and opportunities to visit a restaurant/entertainment venue (52%).

Figure 28. Distribution of responses to Question 23: How interested would you be in combining a trip on the shared-use trail with one or more of the following activities?

	Very interested	Somewhat interested	Not sure	Not very interested	Not interested at all
Exploring nearby natural points of interest and/or historic sites	62% Very interested	35% Somewhat interested	1% Not sure	1% Not very interested	1% Not interested at all
Exploring nearby communities	41% Very interested	41% Somewhat interested	10% Not sure	6% Not very interested	1% Not interested at all
Visiting a restaurant/entertainment venue	52% Very interested	35% Somewhat interested	9% Not sure	2% Not very interested	2% Not interested at all
Hiking	61% Very interested	31% Somewhat interested	5% Not sure	2% Not very interested	- Not interested at all

	Very interested	Somewhat interested	Not sure	Not very interested	Not interested at all
Walking	62% Very interested	30% Somewhat interested	6% Not sure	2% Not very interested	- Not interested at all
Camping	25% Very interested	37% Somewhat interested	15% Not sure	15% Not very interested	9% Not interested at all
Canoeing/kayaking/paddleboarding	53% Very interested	27% Somewhat interested	12% Not sure	6% Not very interested	3% Not interested at all
Taking a paddling class	18% Very interested	38% Somewhat interested	17% Not sure	19% Not very interested	8% Not interested at all
Taking an outdoor education class	23% Very interested	39% Somewhat interested	22% Not sure	15% Not very interested	2% Not interested at all
Other	28% Very interested	5% Somewhat interested	59% Not sure	8% Not very interested	- Not interested at all

Question 24

If you selected "Other" for the question above [Question 23], please use this space to explain your answer.

Twelve comments were shared for this question. All responses were reviewed and categorized by theme. Table 8 lists each theme identified and the number of times it was mentioned. Multiple themes were often identified within a single response; therefore, the number of counts documented exceeds the number of responses submitted. All comments received are documented in their entirety in Appendix C.

Table 8. Response themes for comments submitted for Question 24: If you selected “Other” for the question above [Question 23], please use this space to explain your answer.

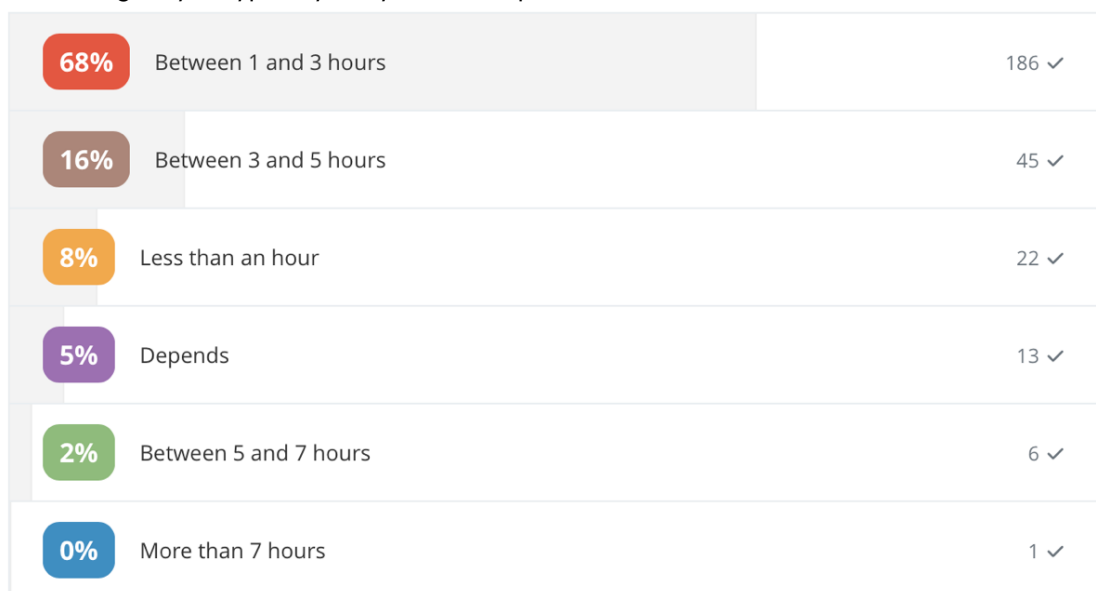
Theme	Count	Descriptors
Biking	4	Biking; mountain biking trail
Pool	2	Link to public pools
Benches	1	Would like benches for resting
Connections	1	Connect to Ohio and Erie trail
Hiking	1	Hiking trails
Taxes	1	Concerned with increasing taxes for homeowners with limited incomes
N/A	1	No answer provided
Natural surface	1	Natural surface trails

Question 25

When using a shared-use trail for biking, how long do you typically like your bike trips to be? (273 Respondents)

Most respondents to this question said they like their bike rides to be between one and three hours long.

Figure 29. Distribution of responses to Question 25: When using a shared-use trail for biking, how long do you typically like your bike trips to be?

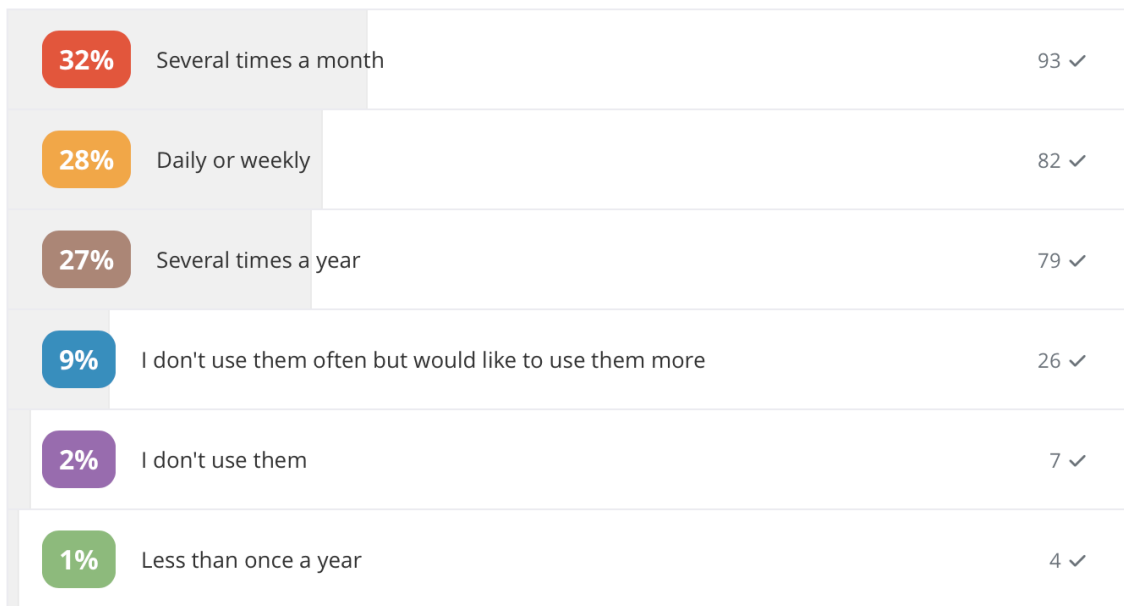


Question 26

How often do you use shared-use trails? (291 Respondents)

Sixty percent of respondents to this question said they used shared-use trails several times a month or more.

Figure 30. Distribution of responses to Question 26: How often do you use shared-use trails?



Question 27

Why do you typically use shared-use trails? (check all that apply) (289 Respondents)

Respondents most often said that they use shared-use trails for exercise (78%) and recreation (75%). Approximately 40% like to use the trails to explore new areas.

Other

For this question, 11 respondents marked "Other." Explanations received were reviewed and categorized by theme and are summarized in Table 9. All responses received are documented in their entirety in Appendix C.

Figure 31. Distribution of responses to Question 27: Why do you typically use shared-use trails (check all that apply)?

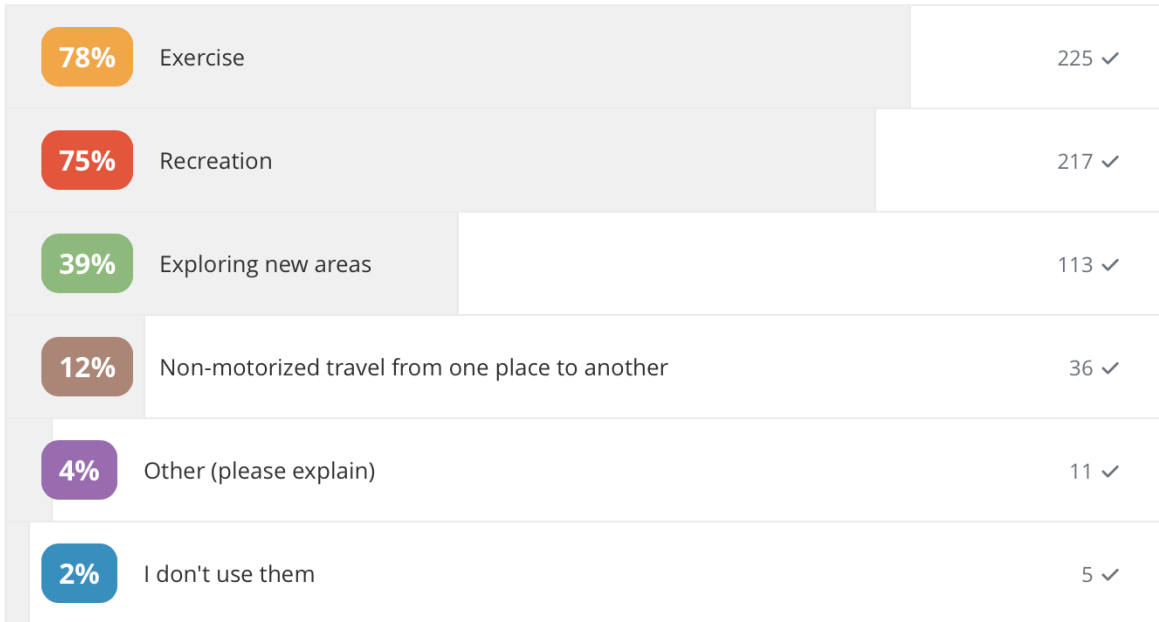


Table 9. Response themes for “Other” responses submitted for Question 27: Why do you typically use shared-use trails?

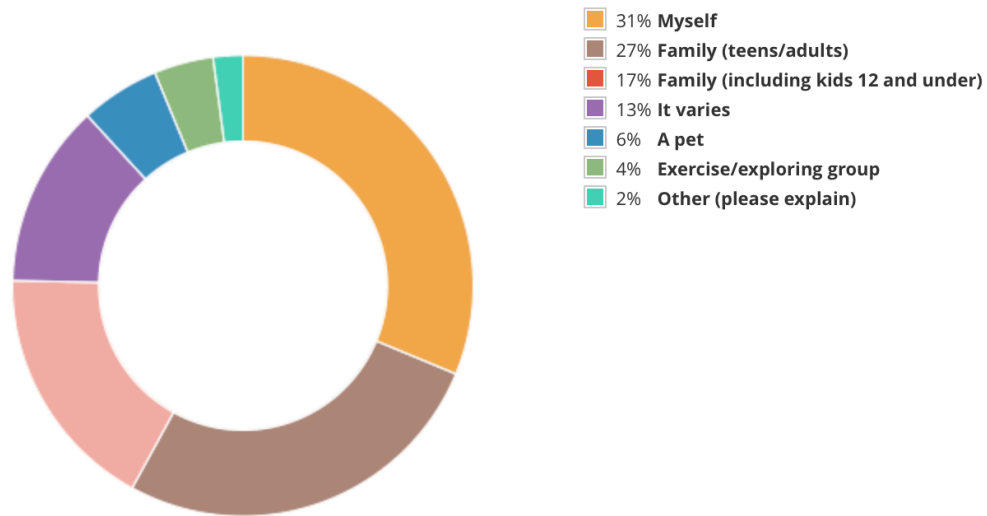
Theme	Count	Descriptors
Safety	3	Vehicles on roads are not typically bike-friendly
Commute	1	Would like to use them for commuting
Rucking	1	Walking with a weighted backpack or rucksack
Touring	1	Looking at scenic areas
Walking pets	1	Walking dogs
Stability	1	Stability of trail footing/pavement

Question 28

When using a shared-use path, who are you typically with? (288 Respondents)

Respondents said they are most often either by themselves or with family members (teens or older) with using shared-use paths. Six respondents said “Other.” Five of these said they typically use shared-use trails with friends; the other person said “spouse.”

Figure 32. Distribution of responses to Question 28: When using a shared-use path, who are you typically with?



Question 29

Please use this space to share any comments you may have regarding the proposed shared-use trail. (56 Responses)

All responses were reviewed and categorized by theme. Table 10 lists each theme identified and the number of times it was mentioned. Multiple themes were often identified within a single response; therefore, the number of counts documented exceeds the number of responses submitted. Theme descriptors were prepared using respondents' words and ideas. All responses received are documented in their entirety in Appendix C.

General comments about the proposed shared-use trail varied widely. The most frequently mentioned topic focused on the importance of connectivity. Connectivity was interpreted in multiple ways ranging from connecting with other existing trails, to connecting with communities and points of interest, to connecting with destinations and not just traveling in a loop. Related, four respondents were interested in longer bike routes which would allow them to ride for longer periods. Other respondents noted that it is important to establish a buffer between trail users and vehicular traffic for safety reasons and another four said they felt shared-use trails were safer for users in general. Some respondents asked for the shared-use trail to be paved while others asked for unpaved trails or gravel paths.

Table 10. Response themes comments submitted for Question 29: Please use this space to share any comments you may have regarding the proposed shared-use trail.

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Descriptors</i>
<i>Connectivity</i>	10	Ensure connectivity to existing trails; connect to other trails to extend length options, connect to communities; trails should "go somewhere," not just loop; good to connect with the Great Miami Riverway and gravel trail along the Whitewater River in Indiana; connect to restaurants, points of interest; connect to Great Miami Riverway and Oxbow area
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	9	Comments in this category didn't fit easily into other theme categories
<i>Suggestion</i>	6	Comments contained a suggestion for the project team's consideration
<i>Buffer</i>	5	Include a buffer between trail and vehicular traffic so users feel safe; a significant buffer between path and traffic is critical; safe trails would allow users to enjoy them more; avoid sharing path with traffic
<i>Concerns</i>	5	Funding sources, flooding in spring, dogs off leashes; conflict of young families using path with racing cyclists
<i>Horses</i>	4	Include options for horseback riding
<i>Longer distances</i>	4	Interested in longer routes for longer bike rides
<i>Safety</i>	4	Safety is a priority; level areas are better for elderly to walk; shared-use trails are safer than traveling on the road; will be safer for bicyclists
<i>Pavement</i>	2	Pave the path- blended loop at Miami Whitewater is not enjoyable for walking/running/biking; path needs to be paved
<i>Usage habits</i>	2	Respondent shared how they like to use paths.
<i>Width</i>	2	Trails should be wide enough to accommodate bicyclists and walkers/runners at the same time
<i>Excited</i>	1	Very excited about the possibilities
<i>Go west side</i>	1	The west side of the county needs this focus on trails and recreational activities; will be nice to jump on and off the trail
<i>More access</i>	1	Need more entry/exits points
<i>More breaks</i>	1	Include more breaks/ stopping opportunities (beneficial for those who can't go for long distances all at once)
<i>No pavement</i>	1	Would be nice to have unpaved/gravel paths

<i>Pets</i>	1	I use with my dog
<i>POI identification</i>	1	Include signage pointing out historical places and other points of interest
<i>Question</i>	1	Comment contained a question
<i>Signage</i>	1	Signage and wayfinding are incredibly important
<i>Start soon!</i>	1	Begin with first section within the next year
<i>User education</i>	1	Communicate rules of path with users- pets on leashes, cyclists travel at reasonable speeds, pedestrians have the right of way
<i>Water fountains</i>	1	Include water fountains for pets
<i>Water views</i>	1	Love areas with water views

Comments categorized as “Suggestion” or “Question” are listed below for easy reference. Great Parks’ response to the question asked is provided in Appendix C. Each comment is presented as it was received; no edits were made to content, abbreviations, spelling, grammar, capitalization, or punctuation.

Suggestions (highlighted in blue)

1. Connect Great Miami River Trail to Oxbow and White Water River corridor and Ohio River Trail. Consider use of the IORY Brookville Subdivision for rail to trail.
2. Would need to focus on sufficient physical separation from road traffic for majority of route to ensure safety, be beautiful/scenic/enjoyable, needs to be entirely paved. Maximize use of these unique and beautiful assets we have (rivers, large parks, rolling hills) while most of the area is still underdeveloped. Options for all-flat or routes that include modest climbs/decents would be wonderful, if possible.
3. Separating car traffic from Bikes is important but I would much rather have a "bike lane" than nothing at all. For me the bottom line is I enjoy bicycling and I enjoy it much more if I don't need to worry about car and truck traffic passing me in the same lane.
4. Coordinate with Dearborn County, Indiana communities on ideal connection point(s) to Southeast Indiana.
5. Would love a shared use trail connecting Fernbank with the Lawrenceburg–Aurora Trail. Would also like to have rise of rail line down by Kilby Rd.
6. I live in M.W. Forest Park. River adjacent shared use trail would make more sense on west side of Great Miami River: more open, established road, higher population.

Question

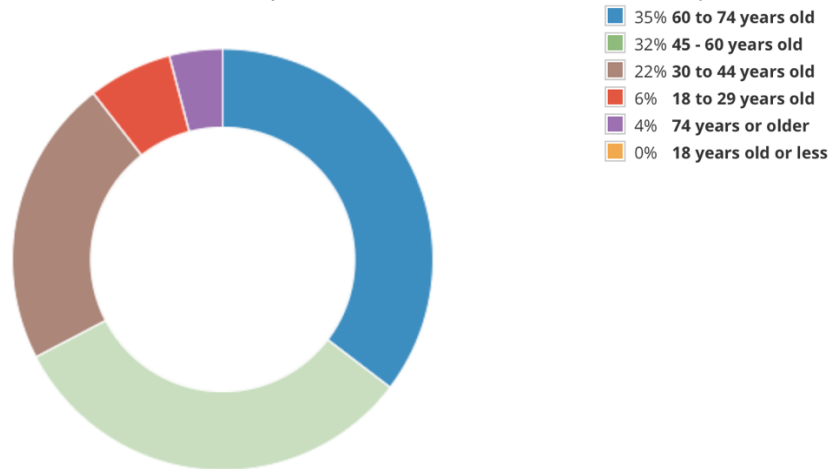
1. Curious to know about where the funding will come from? Any possible old/retired railways that can be utilized? Spring flooding plagues the area. How will the trail stay above the flood zone?

Question 30

How old are you? (294 Respondents)

Approximately 71% of respondent to this question were aged 45 years old or older.

Figure 33. Distribution of responses to Question 30: How old are you?



Question 31

What is your race? (281 Respondents)

Figure 34. Distribution of responses to Question 31: What is your race?

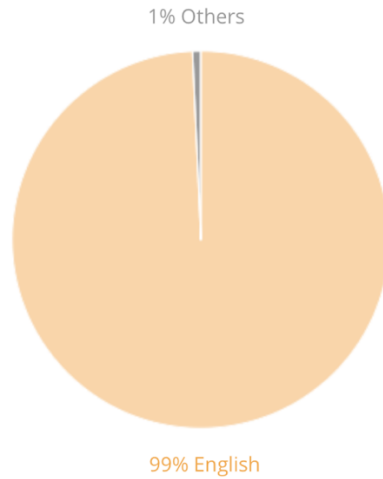
91%	White	256 ✓
6%	I prefer to self-describe	18 ✓
1%	American Indian or Alaskan Native	3 ✓
1%	Black or African American	2 ✓
0%	Asian	1 ✓
0%	Hispanic or Latino	1 ✓
0%	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0 ✓

Question 32

What is the primary language spoken in your home? (285 Respondents)

Ninety-nine percent of respondents speak English in their homes; one percent said they speak Spanish.

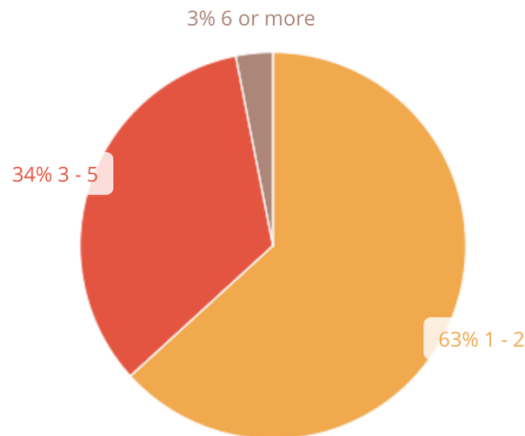
Figure 35. Distribution of responses to Question 32: What is the primary language spoken in your home?



Question 33

How many people live in your household? (291 Respondents)

Figure 36. Distribution of responses to Question 33: How many people live in your household?

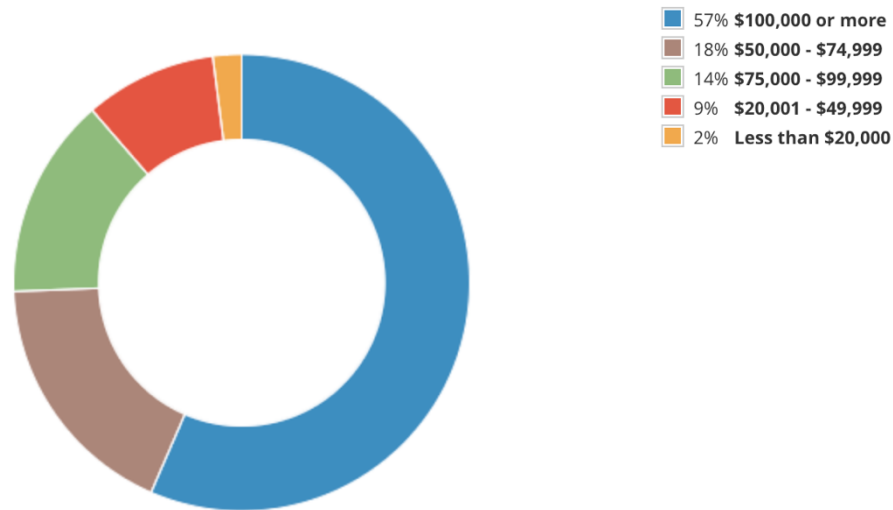


Question 34

What is your household income? (246 Respondents)

A majority of respondents have an income of \$100,000 or more.

Figure 37. Distribution of responses to Question 34: What is your household income?



Question 35

Please use this space to share any additional questions or comments you have regarding the West Region Blueway & Trail System.

All responses were reviewed and categorized by theme. Table 11 lists each theme identified and the number of times it was mentioned. Multiple themes were often identified within a single response; therefore, the number of counts documented exceeds the number of responses submitted. All responses received are documented in their entirety in Appendix C.

Fifty-one responses were shared for this question. Approximately 29% expressed excitement about the West Region Blueway & Trail System and the opportunities it will offer. Another 20% included suggestions for the project team to consider, which ranged from possible routes for the shared-use trail to amenities to include on either the shared-use trail and/or blueway. Multiple respondents were pleased to see this sort of trail system being planned for the west side of Hamilton County and felt it will attract more people to the area and raise the quality of life. A number of others used this question to thank Great Parks for exploring the possibilities.

Table 11. Response themes comments submitted for Question 35: Please use this space to share any additional questions or comments you have regarding the West Region Blueway & Trail System.

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Descriptors</i>
<i>Excited!</i>	15	This is very exciting; please hurry; can't wait; this is an economic growth opportunity; possibility of new river access is great;
<i>Suggestion</i>	10	Comment included a suggestion
<i>Go west side!</i>	6	The west side of Hamilton County needs this; this will raise the quality of life on the west side of the county
<i>Thank you!</i>	6	Thank you for exploring the possibilities; thank you for contributing to the growth the local trail network; thank you for expanding options for residents; separating bike/walk trails from vehicular traffic is important
<i>Concerns</i>	5	Cost; impact on taxpayers; lack of control of dogs off leash; impact on river environment, fishing; Green Acres patrons use alcohol and other substances- not good for kids to be around;
<i>Connections</i>	4	Would be nice to connect further east of Miamitown; would love path that connects Whitewater Forest to Fernald Preserve to Shawnee Lookout and to connect with the Great Miami Riverway; connections between downtown and western amenities are needed; would like to see a connection between Fairfield, this system and the Great Miami Riverway
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	4	Comments in this category didn't easily fit into other theme categories
<i>Partnering</i>	3	Partnering with local communities will benefit everyone; work with Indiana to connect with its existing and planned trails; Colerain Twp has a planning process for future currently taking place;
<i>Offered help</i>	2	Let us know how we can help
<i>RV</i>	2	Would like RV access, connections
<i>Funding</i>	1	Funding will be a challenge
<i>Horses</i>	1	Consider horses in your plans
<i>More launches</i>	1	Would like more kayak launch sites
<i>Negative</i>	1	Funding is being misallocated

Theme	Count	Descriptors
<i>Paddle/Peddle</i>	1	Love the idea of connecting the blueway and shared-use trails
<i>Question</i>	1	Comment included a question
<i>Return trip</i>	1	Want to better understand how paddlers will return upstream
<i>Safety</i>	1	Keeping users safe is a priority

Comments categorized as Suggestion or Question are listed below for easy reference. Great Parks' response to the question asked is provided in Appendix C. Each comment is presented as it was received; no edits were made to content, abbreviations, spelling, grammar, capitalization, or punctuation.

Suggestions (highlighted in blue)

1. Encourage multimodal micromobility including handicap access
2. The Winton Woods Campground is a wonderful campground and one of our family's favorites. Please "build it" (Great Parks RV campgrounds) in with the Blueway Trail System "and" I assure you "they will come."
3. Please include water fountains where possible; fountains and/or water spigots for dogs to drink.
4. all would be solved with a put in station at Campbell Lakes.
5. Again the City has been on the short end of the stick for decades - finish wasson way to Otto Armerder or direct from Ault Park trestle to behind Mariemont to Little miami bike trail.
6. The most critical outage for cyclists on the west side of town is US 50 between Riverside and Sedamsville and "8th and State". The only safe way to traverse this section of US 50 is to ride the poor quality sidewalk on the west-bound side of the road.

From Riverside west one can take Hillside all the way to Addyston and then onto the bike lanes to Cleves. From State St east one can ride across Eighth St viaduct into town.

If you could close that gap one could ride easily into downtown from the west side of town. It would also connect with the existing Brower Rd loop and your proposed Great Miami trail

7. If the amenities are done attractively, then this region could support a lodge similar to the lodges found at our state parks.
8. Very happy to see this initiative. At an earlier presentation this year, it was sad to see that Green and Colerain Twsp, two of the largest in Ohio, had nothing to offer. The west side of Cincinnati has been left out of the discussion. The few trails are heavily used. For my own use, biking, trails aren't the best because we tend to ride in faster groups and the popular trails can be dangerous. I still use the trails often and would love to see the possibility to ride from downtown to Sidney on trails. People that live in Western Hills, Bridgetown, wherever,

have few options that aren't dangerous roads to share to get out to more open roads. The old rail line from Dent to East Miami River Road would be one such great option.

9. would love to have a bike/hike trail from fernbank park to a picnic river site near krogers on 128
10. Would love love love a launch site from Willow Park Harrison, OH to the Whitewater

Question

1. What about a campground expansion I heard that might be coming to Miami Whitewater Forest.

Question 36

If you would like to receive email updates about the West Region Blueway & Trail System from Great Parks, please enter your email address below.

One hundred seventy-two people provided their email addresses. These addresses are not included in this report for privacy purposes but have been documented by Great Parks.