

Parks & Trails 2006 E-News Survey Report

In November of 2004, Parks & Trails New York distributed its first electronic newsletter, Parks & Trails E-News. Today, over 2,400 registrants from across NY State receive the E-News mailing on a bi-monthly basis. The newsletter covers a breadth of subjects from parks and trails in the news to funding for parks and trails.

On November 20, 2006, Parks & Trails New York distributed a special mailing through Groundspring.com (see appendix 1) to gather feedback from its subscribers. Within the mailing, a link was provided directing readers to a survey prepared and posted on SurveyMonkey.com (see appendix 2). On December 22, 2006, the survey was closed. Two hundred thirty one surveys were completed. The survey asked readers to rate the importance of E-News features and topics. The survey also requested information on readers' viewing habits, age, level of involvement with parks and trails, activity levels and presence or absence of disabilities.

Question 1: Please rate the following trail-related topics on their importance to you.

This question was designed to determine which trail topics are important to the E-News subscribers. The survey question asked participants to rate each of the following from Very Important to Not Important:

- Design and construction
- Maintenance and operation
- Funding
- Building Partnerships
- User Conflicts
- Accessibility
- Events and programs
- Legislation and advocacy
- Health and physical activity
- Sustainability and development of nonprofit organizations

A total of 231 persons answered this question. 'Funding' had the greatest number of responses (119) in the Very Important category. 'Maintenance and operation' had the second greatest number of Very Important responses (117). The remaining rankings and number of responses for Very Important category are as follows: Design and construction (103), Healthy and physical activity (83), Accessibility (78), Legislation and advocacy (72), Sustainability and development of nonprofit organizations (69), Building partnerships (63), and User conflicts (42). 'Events and programs' received the least amount of responses (32) as Very Important. In addition, it received the greatest number of responses (26) as Not Important. See the table below or chart 1 in appendix 3 for further details.

In the Important category, ‘Health and physical activity’ ranked first with 103 responses. The remaining ranking and number of responses for Important category are as follows: Legislation and Advocacy (99), Building partnerships (96), Design and construction (91), User Conflicts (91), Accessibility (89), Sustainability and development of nonprofit organizations (87), Maintenance and operation (83), Events and programs (80), and Funding (76). See the table below or chart 1 in appendix 3 for further details.

Table 1: Question 1 Responses

	Very Important	Important	Some What Important	Not Important
Design and construction	103	91	32	5
Maintenance and operation	117	83	29	2
Funding	119	76	29	7
Building partnerships	63	96	56	16
User conflicts	42	91	79	19
Accessibility	78	89	53	11
Events and programs	32	80	93	26
Legislation and advocacy	72	99	52	8
Health and physical activity	83	103	40	5
Sustainability and development of nonprofit organizations	69	87	60	15

Question 2: Please rate the following Parks & Trails E-News features on how important they are to assisting you with getting trails built in your community.

Parks & Trails New York’s *Healthy Trails, Healthy People* program’s primary goal is to get trails built in communities. The objective of this question was to ascertain which aspects of the E-News are most useful to subscribers as they work to build trails in their community. The survey question asked survey participants to rate the following topics from Very Important to Not Important:

- Healthy Trails Healthy People-Stories about trail projects across the state
- Funding-Grants and other opportunities for financial support
- Trail Spotlight-Focus on a trail in New York State
- Legislation-Updates on federal and state legislation affecting parks and trails
- Trail and Health Resources-Links to other websites and information on trail construction health benefits of trails etc.
- Heard on the Trail-Words of wisdom from trail advocates
- Parks and Trails in the News-Links to news stories about NY parks and trails
- Calendar-Events for parks and trails

A total of 217 persons answered this question; 14 skipped the question. ‘Funding-Grants and other opportunities for financial support’ had the greatest number of responses (109) in the Very Important category, which is in line with the responses to question #1. ‘Legislation-Updates on federal and state legislation affecting parks and trails’ had the second greatest number of responses (78) in the Very Important category. The remaining

rankings and number of responses for the Very Important category are as follows: Trail Spotlight-Focus on a trail in New York State (53), Healthy Trails Healthy People-Stories about trail projects across the state (47), Calendar-Events for parks and trails (46), Trail and Health Resources-Links to other websites and information on trail construction health benefits of trails etc. (41), and Parks and Trails in the News-Links to news stories about NY parks and trails (29). The subject with the least number of responses (16) in the Very Important category was ‘Heard on the Trail-Words of wisdom from trail advocates.’ ‘Heard on the Trail-Words of wisdom from trail advocates’ had the greatest number of responses (20) in the Not Important category. See table below or chart 2 in appendix 3 for further details.

In the Important category, ‘Parks and Trails in the News-Links to news stories about NY parks and trails’ ranked first with 121 responses. The remaining rankings and number of responses for the Important category are as follows: Trail and Health Resources-Links to other websites and information on trail construction health benefits of trails etc. (112), Healthy Trails Healthy People-Stories about trail projects across the state (110), Trail Spotlight-Focus on a trail in New York State (107), Legislation-Updates on federal and state legislation affecting parks and trails (98), Heard on the Trail-Words of wisdom from trail advocates (96), and Calendar-Events for parks and trails (92). See the table below or chart 2 in appendix 3 for further details.

Table 2: Question 2 Responses

	Very Important	Important	Some What Important	Not Important
Funding-Grants and other opportunities for financial support	109	65	35	8
Legislation-Updates on federal and state legislation affecting parks and trails	78	98	38	3
Trail Spotlight-Focus on a trail in New York State	53	107	50	7
Healthy Trails Healthy People-Stories about trail projects across the state	47	110	51	9
Calendar-Events for parks and trails	46	92	68	11
Trail and Health Resources-Links	41	112	55	9

to other websites and information on trail construction health benefits of trails etc.				
Parks and Trails in the News- Links to news stories about NY parks and trails	29	121	60	7
Heard on the Trail-Words of wisdom from trail advocates	16	96	85	20

Discussion regarding Question 1 and 2 Graphs

In questions one and two, survey participants were asked to rate the level of importance of topics covered in the E-News. This provided a significant amount of data to display graphically; a radar chart was utilized to accomplish this goal.

Shape

The responses to questions 1 and 2 shown graphically in Charts 1 and 2 in appendix 3 have similar outlines and patterns. The similar shapes with a significant percentage of high scores in the ‘Very Important’ and ‘Important’ categories demonstrate that all the subjects in the E-news are generally important to the subscribers. Furthermore, the limited number of ‘Not Important’ ratings provided demonstrates that audiences see the subjects covered in the E-news as significant.

Distribution

The ranges of scores for questions 1 and 2 in the Very important category for each subject were very broad. For example, for question 1 the difference between ‘Funding’ (the highest rated response) and ‘Events and Programs’ (the lowest rated response) was 87 points. For question 2, the difference between ‘Funding’ (the highest rated response) and ‘Heard on the Trail’ (the lowest rated response) was 93 points. In contrast, the range for question 1 for the ‘Important’ category was only 27. In question 2, in the Importance category range was only 56. The range of scores in the Very important category indicates that certain subjects have a much greater importance than others do.

In the ‘Important’ category, the range of responses in both charts is much narrower than the range of responses in the “Very Important” category. In Question 1, the range of response in the Important category was 27. The highest rated response was Health and physical activity (103 points) and the lowest was Funding (76 points). In Question 2, in the Importance category, the range was 56. The highest rated response was Trail and

Health Resources (121 points) and lowest rated response was Funding (65 points). The smaller range (56 and 27 points) in the Important category demonstrates that people feel the information presented in the E-News is almost equally important.

Question 3: How did you find out about the Parks & Trails E-News?

We asked this question to help us prioritize our marketing of the E-News. Two hundred seventeen people responded to the question; fourteen skipped the question. The category ‘Parks & Trails New York member/supporter’ had the greatest number of responses (90). Parks & Trails New York’s website had the second greatest number of responses (49). The source that scored the lowest was *GreenSpace* (5). See chart 3 in appendix 3 for further details.

Question 4: How much time do you spend reading each issue of the Parks & Trails E-News?

To assess time spent on each publication, we prompted this question. Two hundred fourteen people responded to the question; seventeen people skipped the question. The greatest response was 6-15 minutes (132). The second greatest response was 16-30 minutes (37). See chart 4 in appendix 3 for further details.

Question 5: Do you have any problems viewing Parks & Trails E-News?

Different browsers and email providers display web pages differently. To ensure that subscribers’ browser or email provider has not distorted the layout, this question was included in the survey. Two hundred fourteen people responded to the question; seventeen people skipped the question. The majority of respondents (189) indicated that they did not have any problems viewing the E-News. See chart 5 in appendix 3 for further details.

Question 6: Your Age?

To better understand the demographics of our audience, we surveyed the participants age. Two hundred fourteen people responded to the question; seventeen people skipped the question. The greatest number of responses (84) were between 51 and 60. The second greatest number of responses (49) were between 61 and 70. See chart 6 in appendix 3 for further details.

Question 7: How would you describe your involvement with parks and trails?

To better understand our reader’s level of involvement with parks and trails, we asked survey participants to indicate whether they

- Simply enjoy parks and trails
- Enjoy parks and trails and volunteer for parks and trails
- Enjoy parks and trails and is a paid professional working with parks and trails, or

- Enjoys parks and trails, volunteers for parks and trails and is a paid professional working for parks and trails

Two hundred fourteen people responded to the question; seventeen people skipped the question. The greatest number of responses (110) was they just enjoy parks and trails. The second greatest number of responses (58) was they enjoy parks and trails and volunteer for parks and trails. These two results demonstrate that the majority of respondents are not individuals with careers in parks and trails, but rather volunteer or simply have an interest in parks and trails. See chart 7 in appendix 3 for further details.

Question 8: My zip code is?

To better understand where survey participants are from, we asked for their zip code. Two hundred fourteen people responded to the question; seventeen people skipped the question. Review of the codes demonstrated that the survey was represented by most major geographical regions of the state. Individuals from outside NY ranging from PA to CA completed eleven surveys. A complete listing of zip codes and geographical descriptions is in appendix 4.

Question 9: I use trails for exercise:

Two hundred fourteen people responded to the question; seventeen people skipped the question. Survey takers were asked to indicate how often they use trails for exercise. The options provided included more than once a week, once a week, once a month, occasionally and never. The greatest number of responses (74) was they use trails for exercise “Occasionally.” Unfortunately, this does not tell us much about their exact level of use of trails for exercise. The second greatest number of responses (60) indicated that they use trails more than once a week. Only 3 responded that they never use trails for exercise. See chart 8 in appendix 3 for further details.

Question 10: I engage in moderate physical activity (i.e. brisk walking, a sport, or physically active hobby) for at least 30 minutes per day

Two hundred fourteen people responded to the question; seventeen people skipped the question. Survey takers were asked to indicate how many times per week they engage in physical activity. The options provided included five or more times per week, three times per week, once a week, occasionally or never. The greatest number of responses (88) indicated they meet the Surgeon General’s recommendations by engaging in moderate physical for at least 30 minutes per day, 5 or times per week. An almost identical number of persons (87) indicated that they engage in moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day, 3 times per week, which does not meet the Surgeon General’s minimum recommendation for physical activity. One respondent indicated they never engage in moderate physical activity (i.e. brisk walking a sport or physically active hobby) for at least 30 minutes per day. See chart 9 in appendix 3 for further details.

Question 11: Do you now have any health problems that require you to use special equipment such as a cane wheelchair special bed or special telephone?

This question was specifically designed to gauge whether Parks & Trails E-News is being read by persons with disabilities. The question comes from the Center for Disease Control's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System questionnaire and developed by them to specifically to define a person with a disability. Two hundred fourteen people responded to the question; seventeen people skipped the question. Two hundred eight responded "No." Six responded "Yes." See chart 11 in appendix 3 for further details.

Question 12: Please add any other comments or questions you might have on Parks & Trails E-News.

Sixty one respondents entered additional comments; 170 declined to add any further comments. Most of the comments (29) were some form of praise, such as good job, or great newsletter. Seven comments included content ideas such as communicating the benefits of trails and information on new trails being developed. See appendix 5 for a complete listing of the comments.

Appendix 1-Mailing sent to subscribers



[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Greenways & Trails](#) | [Bike Tours](#) | [Advocacy](#) | [Canalway Trail](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Parks & Trails E-News Online Survey

Dear Parks & Trails E-News subscriber:

Help us serve you better: tell us what you think. Our E-News is sent every two months to a variety of stakeholders--including trail advocates, builders, allies, and more--and we want to know what you think. Is the information relevant and timely? Are the links helpful? Please take a moment to complete our [12 question online survey](#). It will take about 3-5 minutes. Thank you!

Survey results will be posted on the Parks & Trails New York website and featured in a future issue of Parks & Trails E-News.

If you have questions, please contact Kevin Prickett at kprickett@ptny.org or 518-434-1583.

Your input is greatly appreciated. We welcome all comments and suggestions.

Parks & Trails New York
29 Elk Street, Albany, N.Y. 12207
518-434-1583
[Website](#) | [Email](#)

Appendix 2-Survey

Parks & Trails E-News Survey [Edit Title](#) [Edit Numbering](#) [Edit Logo](#)

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*** 1. Please rate the following trail-related topics on their importance to you.**

	Very Important	Important	Some What Important	Not Important
Design and construction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintenance and operation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Funding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building Partnerships	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
User Conflicts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Events and programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Legislation and advocacy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health and physical activity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Sustainability and development of nonprofit organizations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Edit Delete Copy/Move	* 2. Please rate the following Parks & Trails E-News features on how important they are to assisting you with getting trails built in your community.			
	Very Important	Important	Some What Important	Not Important
Healthy Trails Healthy People- Stories about trail projects across the state	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Funding-	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Grants and other opportunities for financial support

Trail Spotlight- Focus on a trail in New York State

Legislation- Updates on federal and state legislation affecting parks and trails

Trail and Health Resources- Links to other websites and information on trail construction, health benefits of trails, etc.

Heard on the Trail- Words of wisdom from trail advocates

Parks and Trails in the News-Links to news stories about NY parks and trails

Calendar-Events for parks and trails

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*** 3. How did you find out about the Parks & Trails E-News?**

- Greenspace
- Parks & Trails New York member/supporter
- Another organizational newsletter
- Friend
- Web Link
- Search engine
- Parks and Trails New York's website
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

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*** 4. How much time do you spend reading each issue of the Parks & Trails E-News?**

- Less than 5 minutes
- 6-15 minutes
- 16-30 minutes
- 31 minutes to 1 hour
- Do not read

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*** 5. Do you have any problems viewing the Parks & Trails E-News?**

- Download takes too long
- Images do not appear
- Layout is distorted
- Links do not work
- No problems
- Other (please specify)

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* 6. Your age?

- Under 20
- 21-30
- 31-40
- 41-50
- 51-60
- 61-70
- 70 and over

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* 7. How would you describe your involvement with parks and trails?

- I enjoy parks and trails
- I enjoy parks and trails and volunteer for parks and trails
- I enjoy parks and trails and am a paid professional working with parks and trails
- I enjoy parks and trails, volunteer for parks and trails, and am a paid professional working with parks and trails

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* 8. My zip code is

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*** 9. I use trails for exercise:**

- a. more than once a week
- b. once a week
- c. once a month
- d. occasionally
- e. never

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*** 10. I engage in moderate physical activity (i.e. brisk walking, a sport, or physically active hobby) for at least 30 minutes per day:**

- 5 or more times per week
- 3 times per week
- once a week
- occasionally
- never

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*** 11. Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental, or emotional problems?**

Yes

No

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*** 12. Do you now have any health problems that requires you to use special equipment such as a cane, wheelchair, special bed, or special telephone?**

Yes

No

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13. Please add any other comments or questions you might have on Parks & Trails E-News.

[Add Question](#) [Add Page](#)



Survey Completed! Thank you for completing our online survey. Your feedback is appreciated.

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Appendix 3-Charts

Chart 1: Question 1-Rate the following trail-related topics on their importance to you

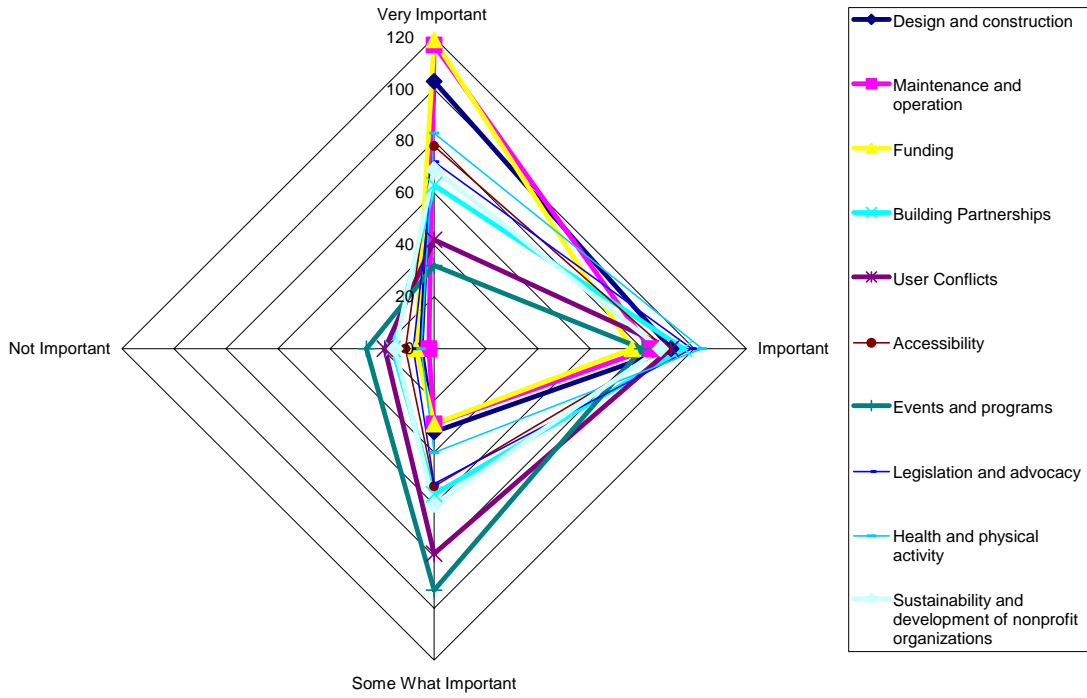


Chart 2: Question 2-Please rate the following Parks & Trails E-News features on how important they are to assisting you with getting trails built in your community.

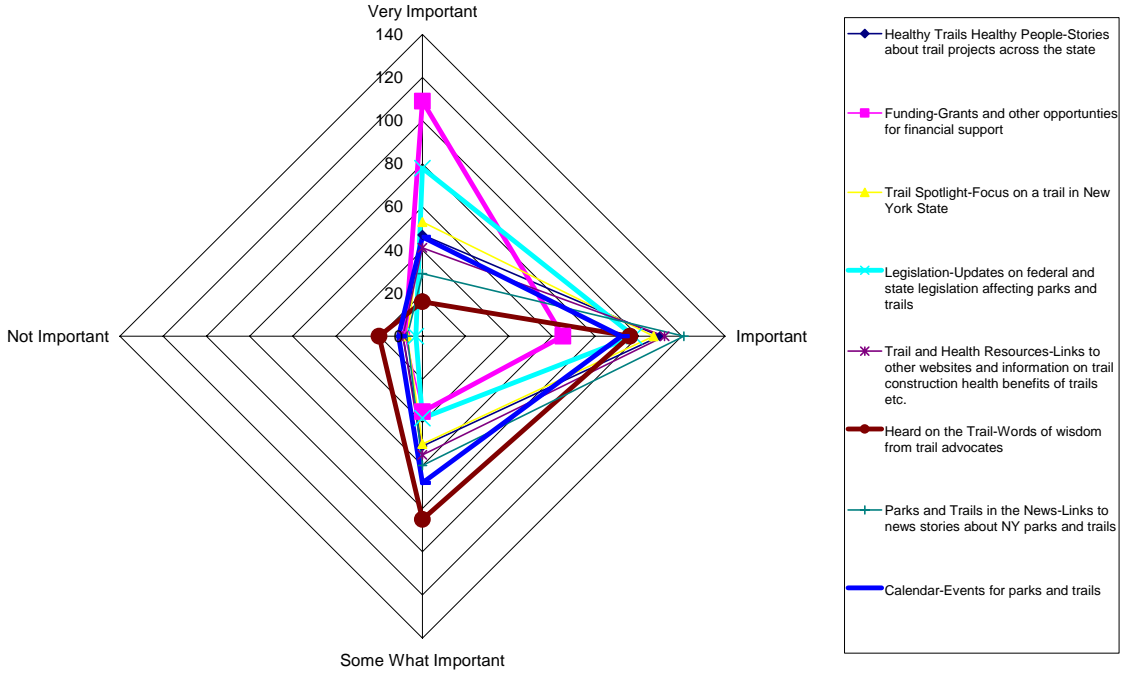


Chart 3: Question 3-How did you find out about Parks & Trails E-News?

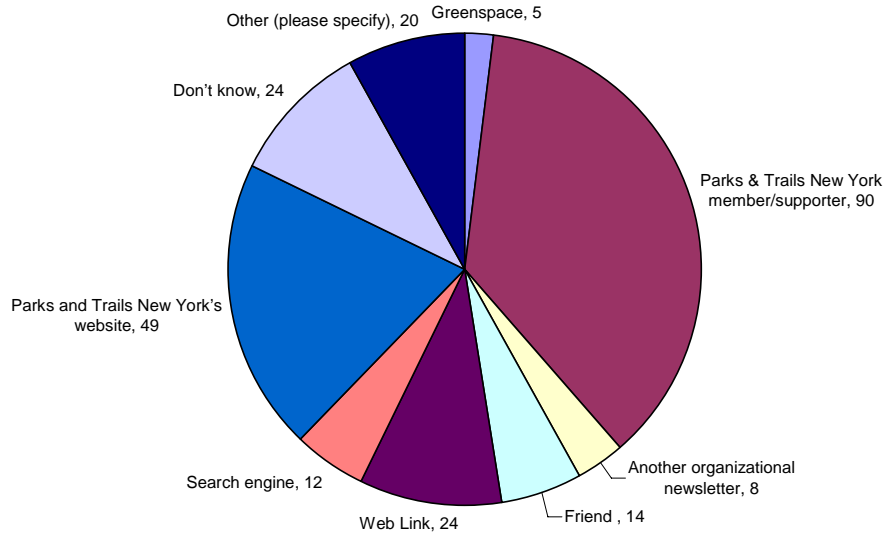


Chart 4: Question 4-How much time do you spend reading each issue of the Parks & Trails E-News?

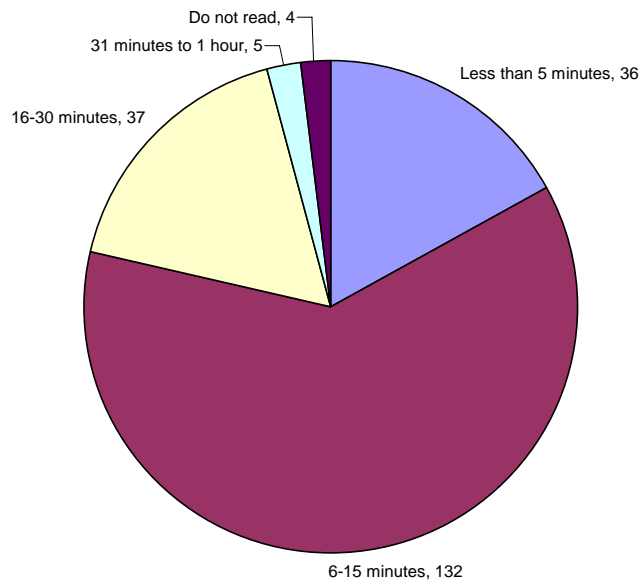


Chart 5: Question 5-Do you have any problems viewing the Parks & Trails E-news?

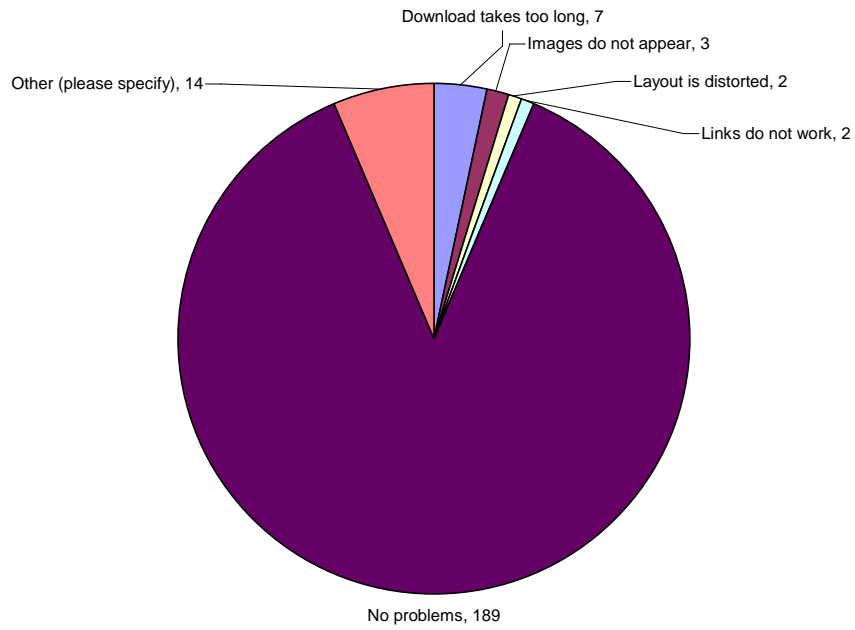


Chart 6: Question 6-Your age?

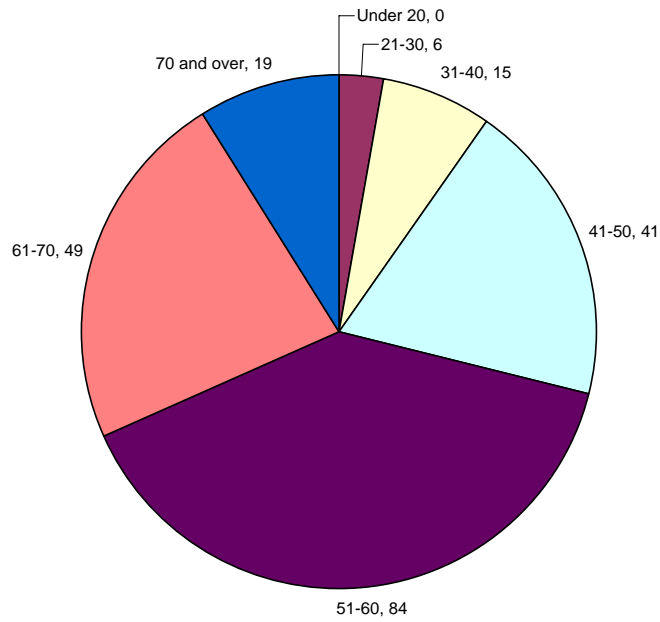


Chart 7: Question 7-How would you describe your involvement with parks and trails

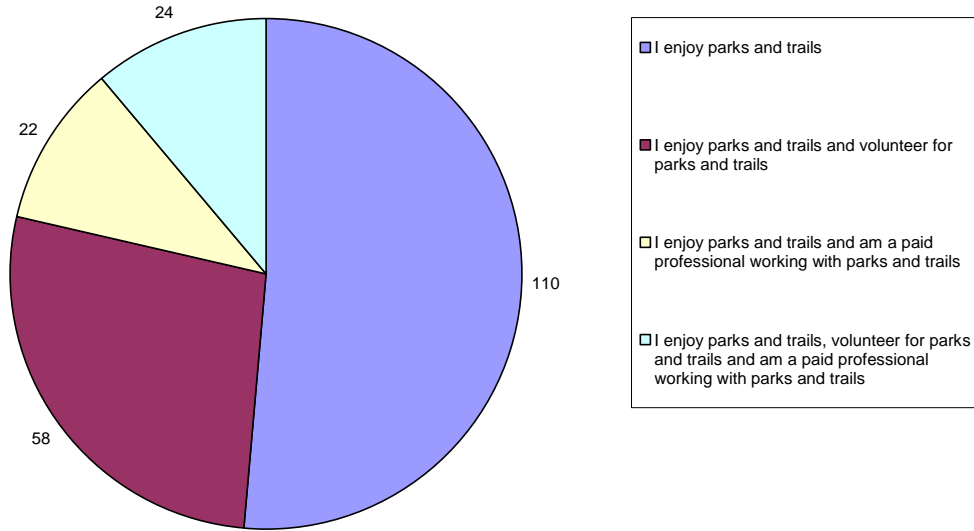


Chart 8: Question 9-I use trails for exercise

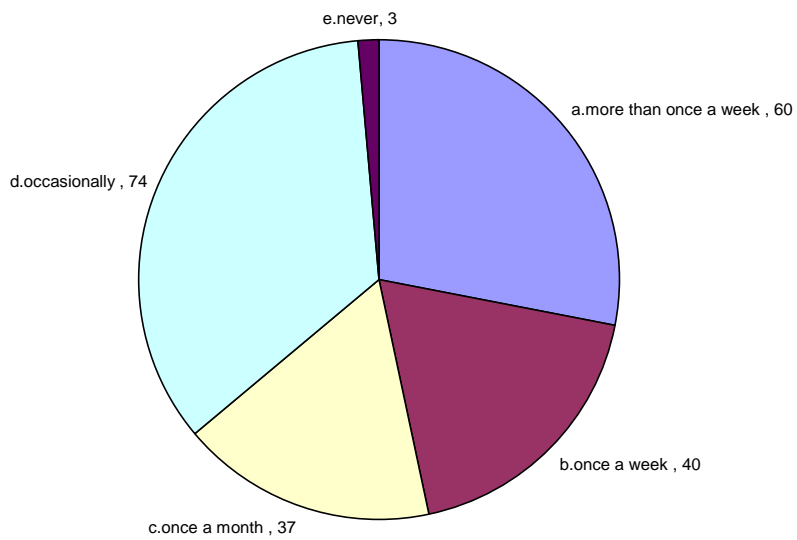


Chart 9: Question 10-I engage in moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day

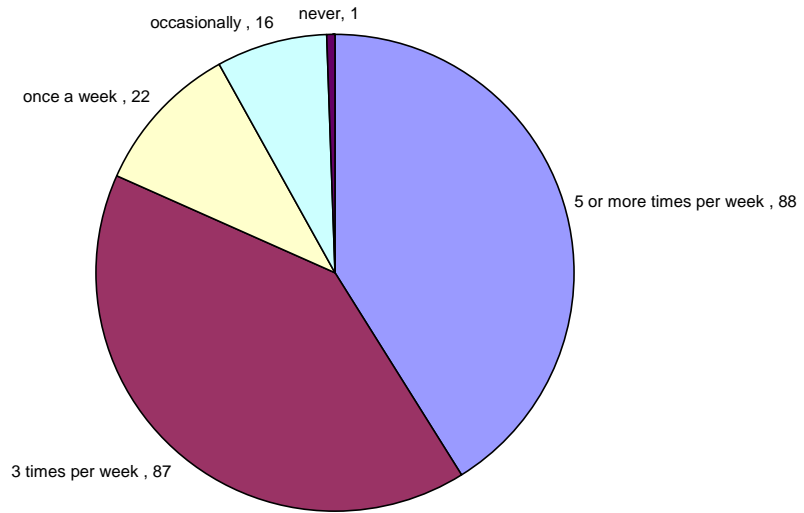


Chart 10: Question 11-Are you limited in any way in any activities because of physical, mental or emotional problems

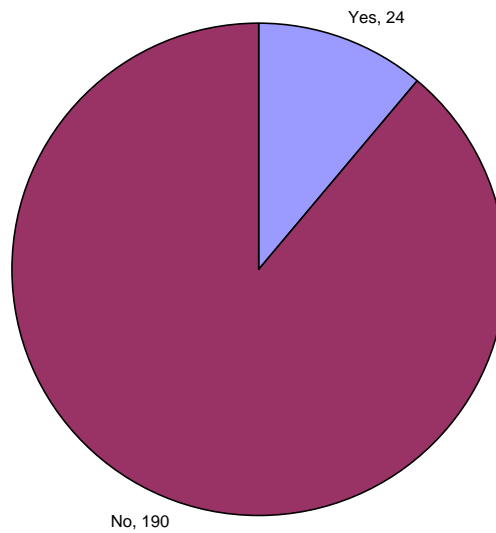
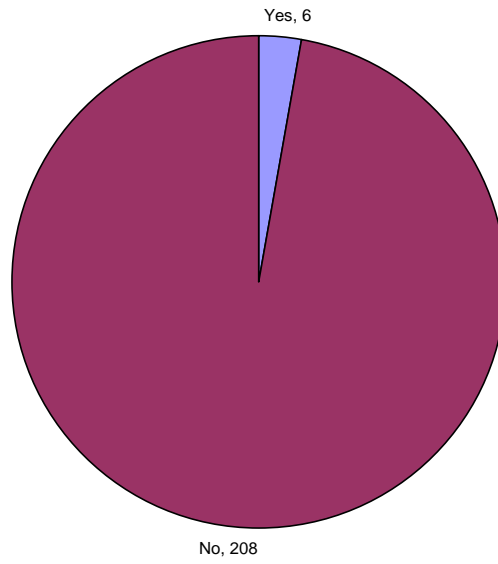


Chart 11: Question 12-Do you now have any health problems that requires you to use special equipment such as a cane wheelchair special bed or special telephone?



Appendix 4-Zipcodes

My zip code is	Town Name
1201	Errors
1520	
1760	
2540	
2790	
3852	
5477	
6357	
6379	
7087	
7430	
7451	
10014	New York City
10023	
10025	
10033	
10512	Clarkstown
10520	
10520	
10547	
10567	
10577	
10578	
10579	
10583	
10589	
10701	Yonkers
10930	Highland Mills
10970	
11010	Long Island
11050	
11104	
11201	
11365	
11378	
11520	
11545	
11561	
11731	

11743	
11746	
11746	
11788	
11792	
11797	
11965	
11965	
12019	Ballston Lake
12020	
12020	
12054	
12054	
12060	
12061	
12065	
12065	
12065	
12065	
12068	
12090	
12110	Latham
12122	
12138	
12144	
12180	
12186	
12196	
12205	Albany
12206	
12211	
12302	SCHENECTADY, NY
12304	
12309	
12309	
12309	
12345	
12401	KINGSTON, NY
12401	
12428	
12442	
12515	CLINTONDALE, NY
12521	
12528	
12533	

12534	
12546	
12561	
12561	
12561	
12561	
12566	
12571	
12572	
12583	
12586	
12589	
12601	POUGHKEEPSIE, NY
12603	
12701	MONTICELLO, NY
12701	
12777	
12801	GLENS FALLS, NY
12804	
12834	
12866	
12866	
12866	
12885	
12901	Adirondacks
12901	
12942	
12942	
12945	
13027	BALDWINSVILLE, NY
13028	
13032	
13032	
13035	
13037	
13078	
13104	MANLIUS, NY
13117	
13126	
13126	
13142	
13144	
13152	
13159	
13204	SYRACUSE, NY

13204	
13210	
13219	
13224	
13309	BOONVILLE, NY
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13685	
13820	
13827	
13901	
14000	
14052	
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14618	
14620	
14701	
14711	
14719	
14737	
14838	ERIN, NY
14850	
14850	
14850	
14869	
14886	
14891	
15363	STRABANE, PA
17011	Camp Hill, Pa
20006	Washington, DC
22203	
31069	
31410	
45432	
49544	
51104	
57702	
60646	LINCOLNWOOD, IL
84103	
94510	BENICIA, CA
129782	

Appendix 5- Other comments or questions

Praises

A good source of information on trail grants and trail planning issues

Although I live in CA, I was born and raised in NYS and enjoy knowing that the folks 'back home' care about the same issues that I care about. I often visit friends and relatives still living in NYS and bring along my Bike Friday. We also hike the Catskills and the Mid-Hudson region and Onondaga County.

Excellent source of information---well done---please keep it coming.

good newsletter, nice format.

Great job!

Value the information, suggestions and ideas provided. It's welcome to see ideas shared so positively.

Great newsletter--appreciate the good mix of state level and national interest items. Keep up the great work.

Great source of information--keeps us in touch with what is happening around the state

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

I have gained many useful ideas from this resource and passed them along to fellow volunteers and board members.

Thank you.

I have participated three times in cycling with Erie Canal bike ride and enjoyed it very much. I personally have great affection for the Erie Canal as one branch of my family were early settlers and my grandfather was an oar maker in Lockport. Each summer when I visit New York State, I take roads along the canal and it brings back wonderful, warm memories. Thank you.

I have take advantage of several of your events, please keep up the good work that you have been providing.

I like being kept up to date with projects with this newsletter. I wish I knew what to do with the Grant info you share--meaning I wish I could be sure the right people in WNY-Erie county get that kind of information. I never think we should turn down an opportunity for Grant money to develop our urban and rural park systems. Hopefully they already are aware of the info. Otherwise I love the stories and the highlights of different places--because I like to visit them when I travel.

it is an effective and worthwhile communication vehicle to increase awareness and consideration for how to use Parks & Trails resources / facilities

Keep Up the Good Work

keep up the good work - as a member of Victor Hiking Trails I find my membership in ptny very informative. I look forward to the conference in Rochester next year

keep up the good work and many thanks to Fran, Robin, and others.

Keep up the good work!

Keep up the good work.

Keep up the good work. Wish the rr tracks from Saranac Lake to Tupper Lake could be made into a rail trail!!!!

Keep up the good work. We need all the support possible to get the word out and gather support of non-motorized crowd

Keep up the great work you do.

Keep up the great work!!

No additional comments. PTNY does a great job!

Pleased with the passed issues. Very easy to navigate and link to other web sites.

Question #4 Initially 6-15 minutes, however, I review the issues several times and e-mail the links to different people when I find something that they need to see. I keep each issue and go back to them as needed. Good Job!

Thank you

Thanks to e news I have been able to pass info along to gov't officials regarding trail \$\$ and programs - thank you for a great job!

We copy E-NEWS and pass it along to members of the committee and Village Board.

You are a great source of information for the local communities and have been an asset for information.

Do More research and write reports reviewing problems with State parks!!-ESPECIALLY JONES BEACH

I was glad to see you report about conditions of State Parks. A good follow-up would be State Parks failure to complete planned and funded projects.

Keep up the good work. Let's try to get a new State Parks Commissioner and regional directors who are keen on increasing recreational activities for mountain bicyclists. The current administration is very anti-mountain biking.

Inquiries

Printing/hardcopy

Do you have an actual magazine and could I subscribe? I share with others in our non-profit 4H camp and would find it easier to have a 'real' copy of the newsletter.

Connector trails

I am a very active biker and use trails in the county as much as possible, it would be great if we could connect the trails across the state

Rides

I am advocating for a bicycle trail from NYC to the East End of Long Island, to the north (Orient Point) and/or south fork (Montauk). With the Erie Canal and Hudson River rides in place, a ride out east on Long Island seems like a continuation of an absolutely wonderful experience. Thank you for considering such a trail.

Story ideas/Content

I find the information useful. Always looking for information on why trails are a benefit to the community/neighborhood/real estate developers/ etc.

I would like to see more news on new trails being proposed or in the planning stage.

none of significance--overall, I academically dislike your non-recognition of single use hiking trails.

The question re involvement with parks & trails should include a category for municipal officials promoting parks & trails and the benefits thereof.

We desperately need help in our community in convincing elected officials of the need for parks and trails. In the Town of Manlius, we have NO PARKS or trails. Your publication is very helpful to those of us working toward this goal.

We have well organized groups working AGAINST trails. Mostly because of property rights vs. ROW issues, but also environmentalist saying trails provide access to wilderness areas and neighboring homeowners expressing fear of loss of privacy, liability, etc. P&T NY should spend significant effort educating about benefits of trails and specifically addressing the concerns on privacy, liability, etc.

would like to know more about times and places where moderate walks and talks take place

You need more article on winter trail uses such as snowmobiling - much of the state experiences a long winter!

General

I grew up in Western New York State and although I live a long way away I have visited some part of New York State at least five times in the past five years and bicycled there twice during those visits. I am encouraged to see trail development and outdoor activities promoted across the state, and I hope to visit more to take advantage of those facilities and opportunities in the future. In fact, a bicycle tour starting in Buffalo is 'in the works' for 2007.

I would use trails alot more if one was walking distance to my home. I find it redundant to drive in a car to get to a trail. However, I very much support trails and wish there were many many more connecting all neighborhoods and shopping centers and parks.

I'd use more parks and trails if there were more closer to where I live. They are a huge asset to any community especially trails... and there just aren't enough of them!

It is a pleasure to see you what you do. I also am a member of the Rails-To-Trails organization and find it very useful in my travels.

Looking forward to seeing Albany to Buffalo completed

Trails are not one lane highways

we are in the process of constructing a walking path in our village w Hampton dunes li,ny

We use the Erie Canal Trail DAILY!!!! We love it and are looking for a home closer to the trail! Keep up the great work! We need more trails! We walk and bicycle on the canal trail and rode from the Niagira River to the Hudson river 3 summers ago, in 2004. Our whole family love the Erie Canal Trail.

Wish there could be outreach to help people trying to get a trail. There should be someone assigned as guidance counselor (or other name) for each group trying to install a trail.

Would be interested in Volunteering

would youb like a CD of pictures taken during the Albany to NY bike ride?

Trail issues

my involvement with ptny is mainly financial, living in mass. i only get to ride the erie trail when visiting family in syracuse. however, i did get two 50mile rides in this summer. by the by, something has to be done about the canada geese. they are a true hazard to riders and probably to walkers and runners.

Usage

My wife and I mainly use the info in P & T to help develop our town for better walking and cycling.