



Centre for
Trail Excellence

National Survey Results

May 2020





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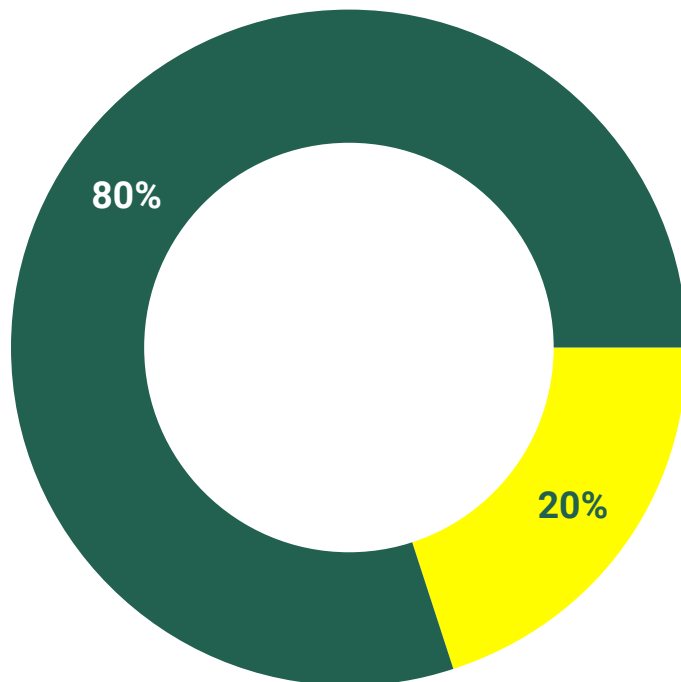
A close-up photograph of a tree trunk covered in vibrant green moss. The bark is deeply textured with vertical ridges and grooves. A dark green, rounded rectangular overlay is positioned in the upper left quadrant, containing the word "Respondents" in white, sans-serif font.

Respondents

Respondents

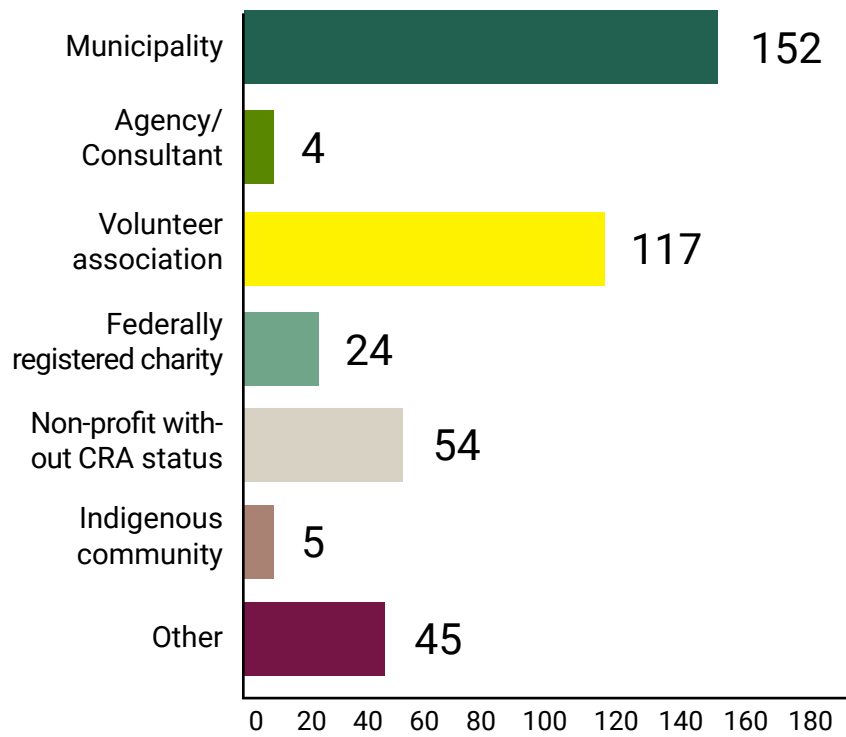


Affiliation

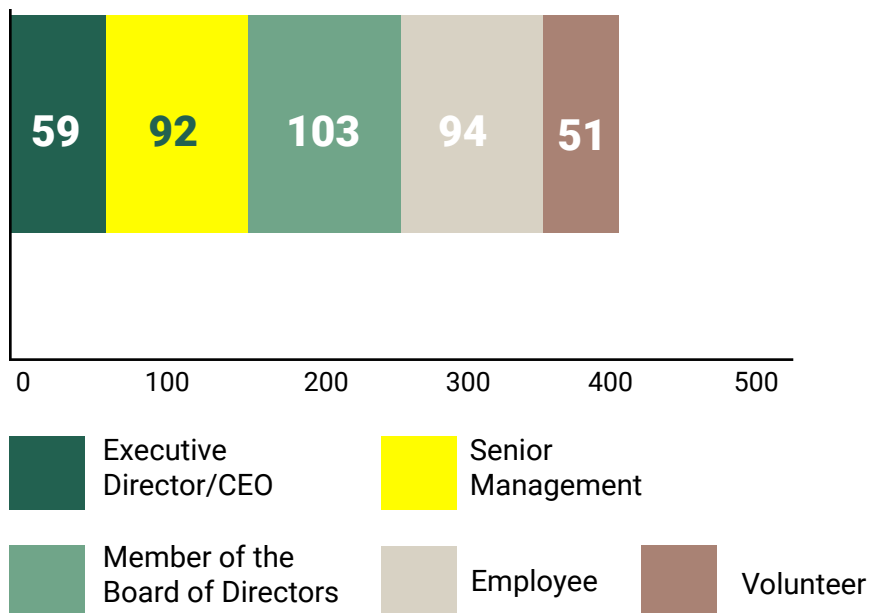


- Part of The Great Trail network
- Other

Type of organization



Role of respondents



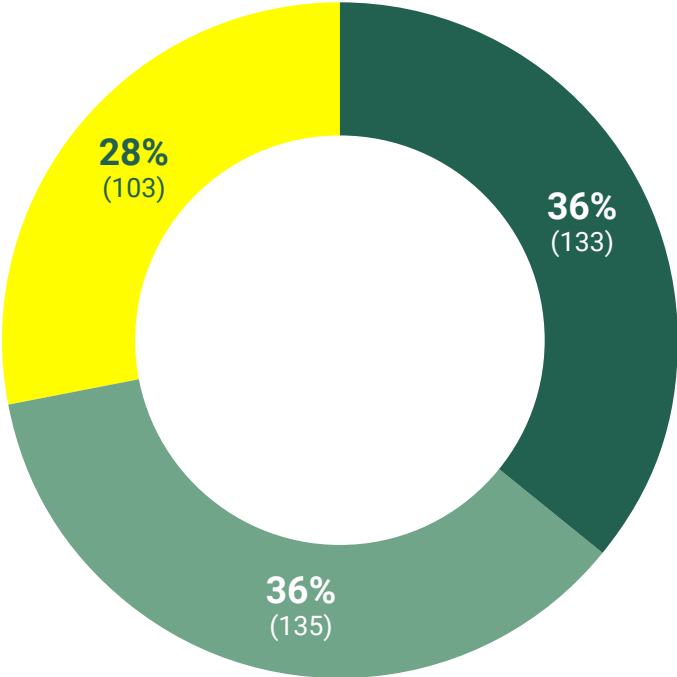
A photograph of a forest path with tall trees and sunlight filtering through the canopy. The path is dirt and covered with fallen leaves and moss. The trees are tall and thin, with some large tree stumps in the foreground. The sunlight creates a warm, golden glow on the path and the trees.

State of the Trail

State of infrastructure

64% of trail infrastructure is considered at risk without immediate or short-term investment

80% of groups need financial support to address decaying infrastructure

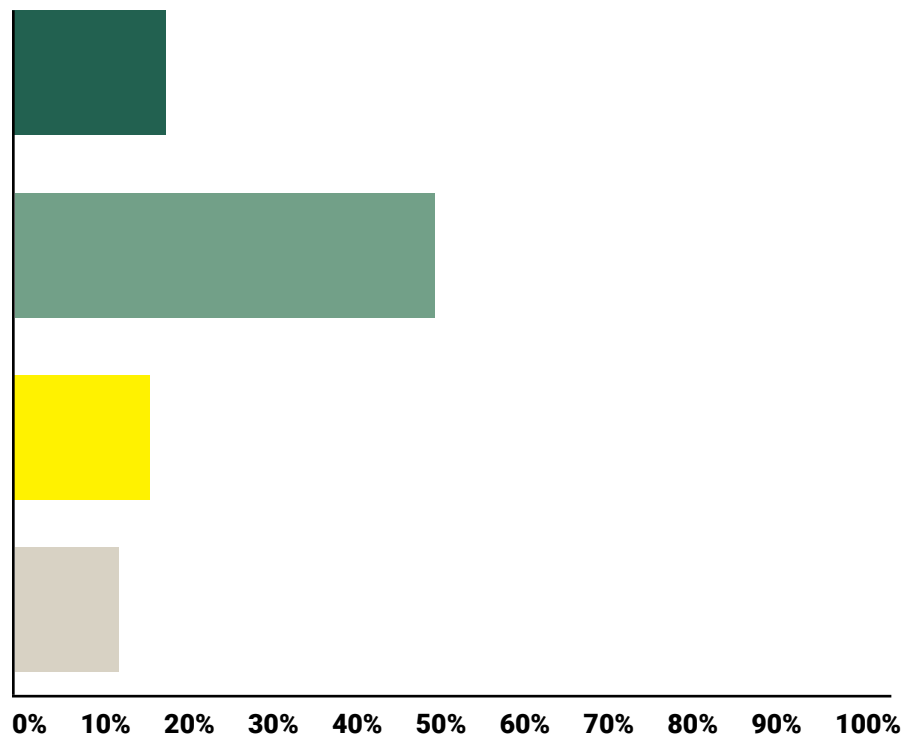



- Yes, we face such concerns at the moment.
- We do not face these concerns at the moment, but they will become a reality if we don't make the appropriate investments in the near future.
- This is not a concern. We have a plan in place, and we follow it.

Trail maintenance capacity


50% only have capacity to do *minimum* maintenance

29% lack capacity. Trail is gradually degrading and/or needs major investment to bring the trail up to a minimum standard



 Yes, everything is good (maintenance and capital capacities).

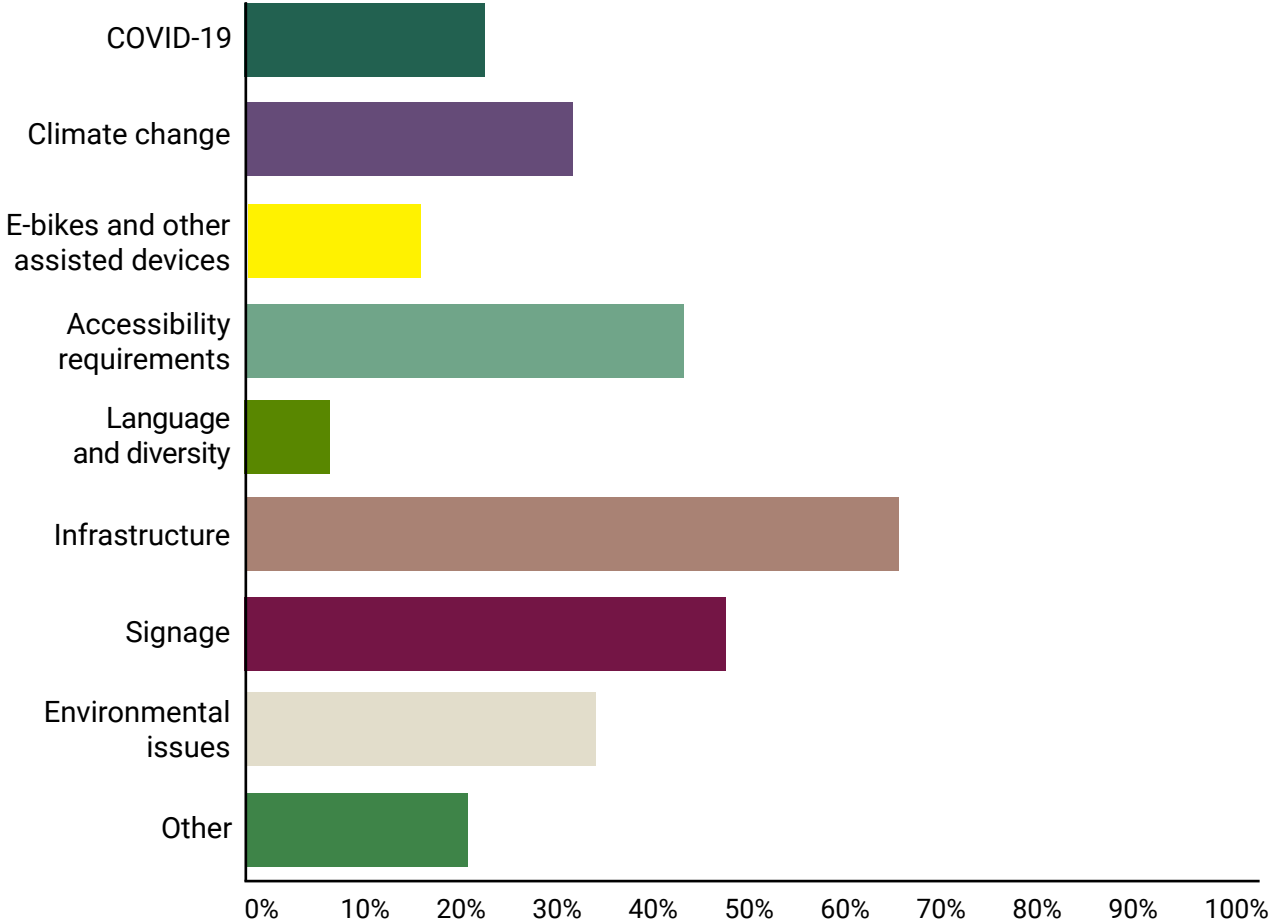
 Yes, to a minimal standard.

 No, the trail is gradually degrading.

 No, need major investment to bring trail back to a minimum standard.

Impacts on trail

Matters that may necessitate additional investment and/or work needed to meet user expectations and local trail building standards.



An aerial photograph of a forest. The left side shows a dense green forest. The right side shows a snow-covered path or clearing with many bare trees and long shadows cast across the snow. A small orange object, possibly a person or a vehicle, is visible on the snow-covered path.

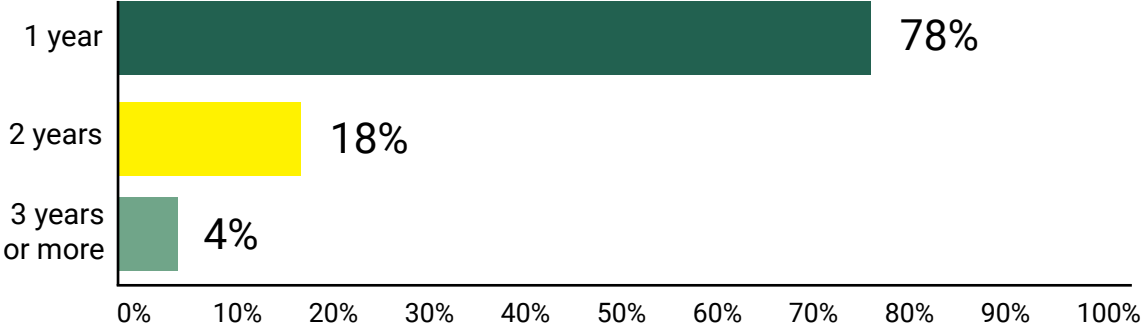
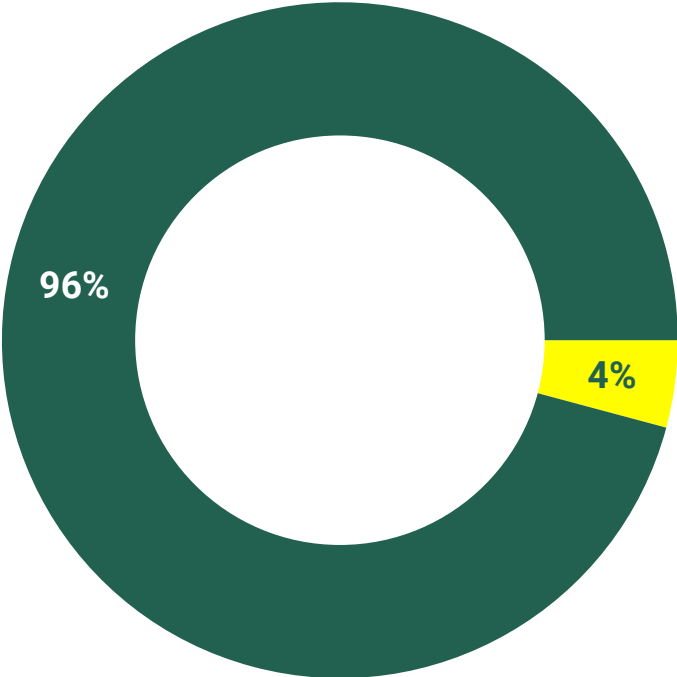
Ready-to-go Projects

Scope and timeliness

96% of respondents plan to complete a project within the next two years

41% of projects are costed under \$50K

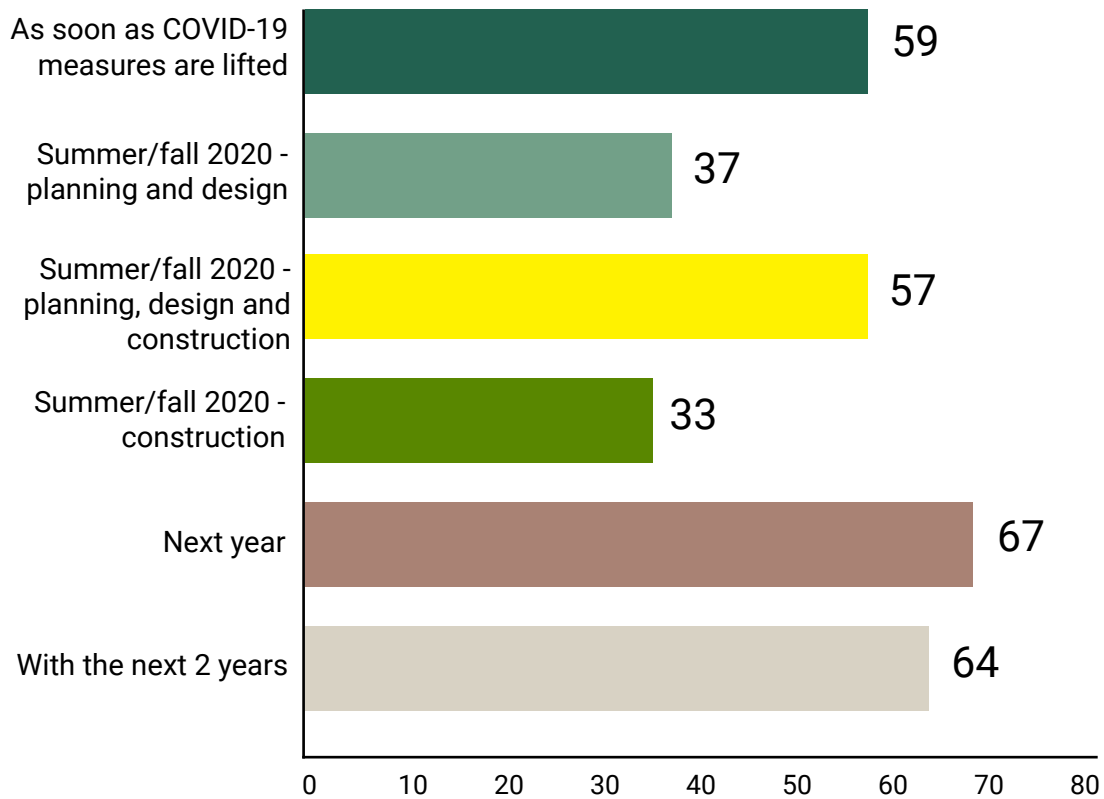
78% of projects can be shovel ready within one year



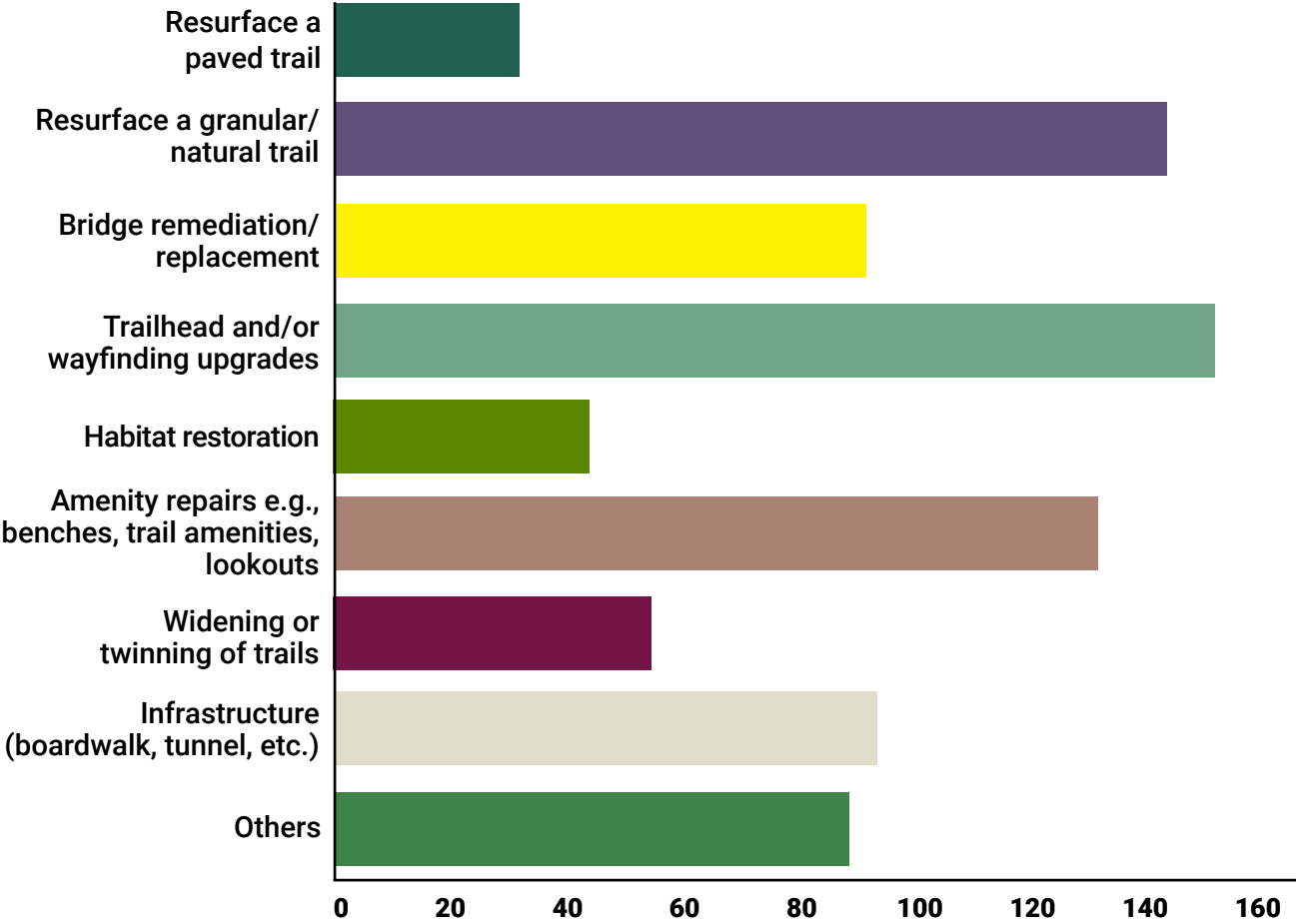
Project readiness

With adequate financial support, the majority of trail groups would be ready to start work this year, and start new projects.

Nationally, 48% currently access provincial or territorial funding.



Ideal project areas, if new funding available

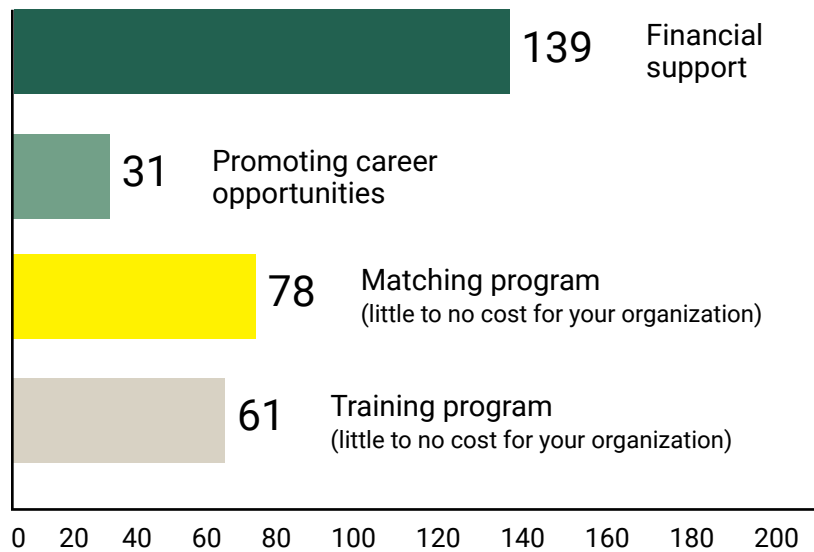


Workforce Capacity

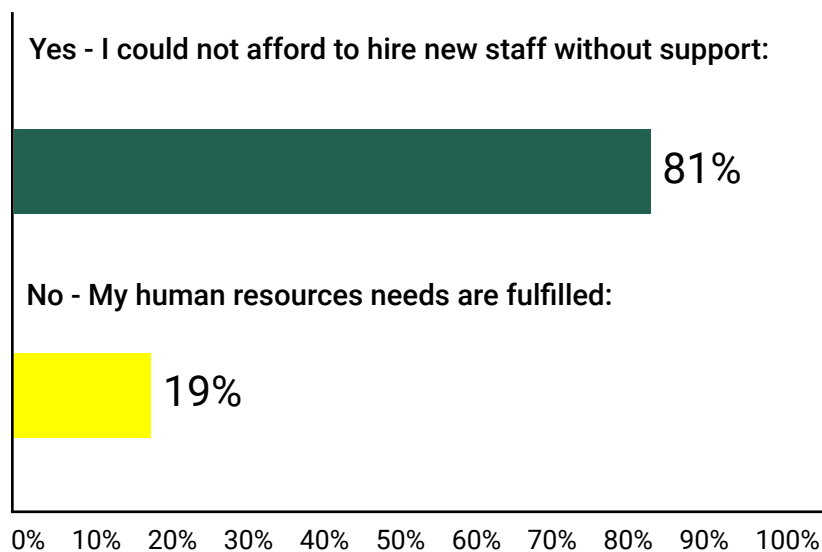


Staffing capacity

Funding, procurement and training are the most significant impediments.



81% of respondents are ready to embrace a summer job program.

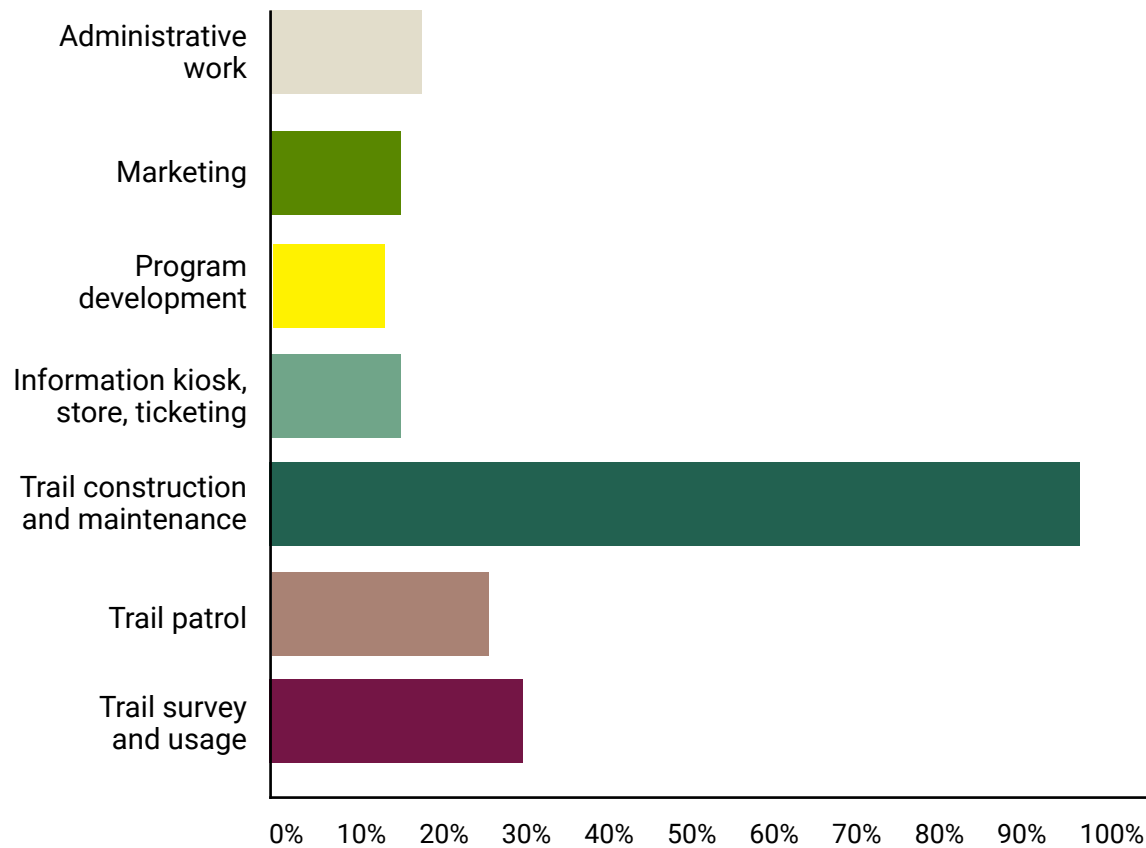


Recruitment and assignments

Average duration of contracts = **4-5 months**

50% of trail groups hire temporary/seasonal workers

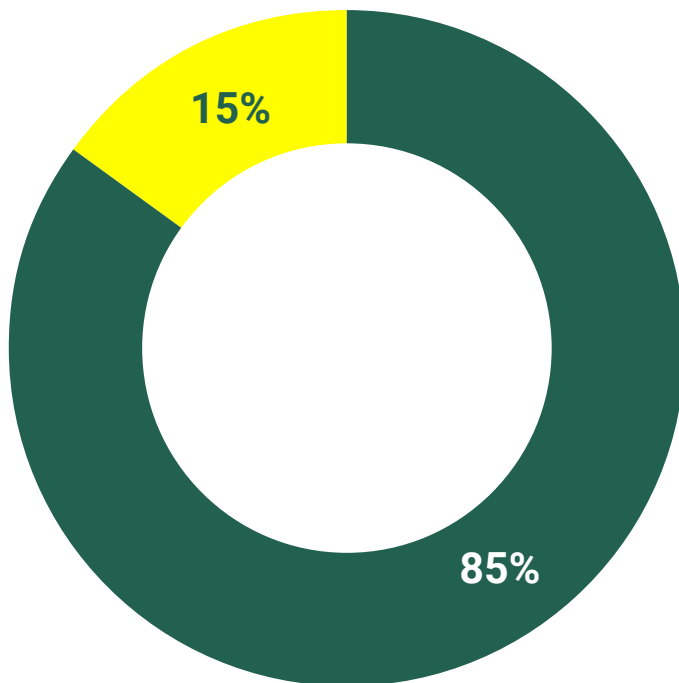
95% of temporary workers are assigned to construction and maintenance



Volunteers remain essential

85% of trail groups recruit volunteers

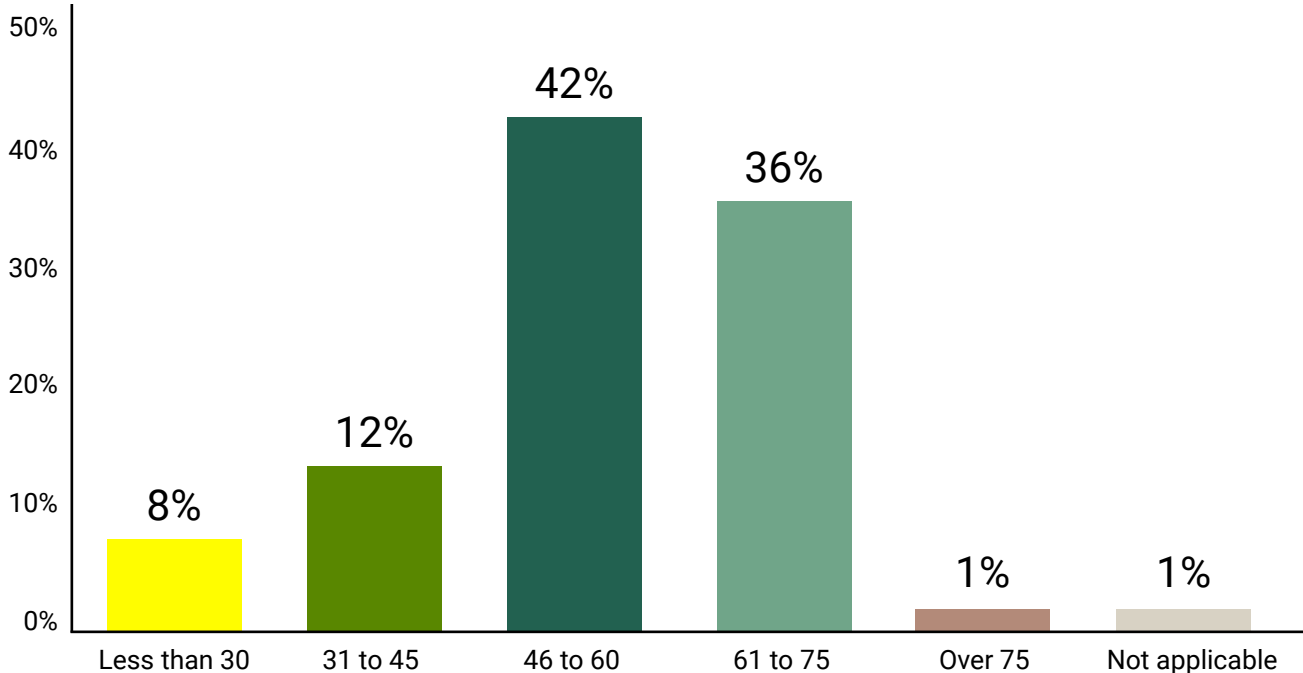
60% of respondents rely on at least 4 weeks of volunteer service annually



Volunteers are essential for trail maintenance, administration and project planning.

But volunteers are difficult to find... and are aging

Only 20% of volunteers are under 45 years old

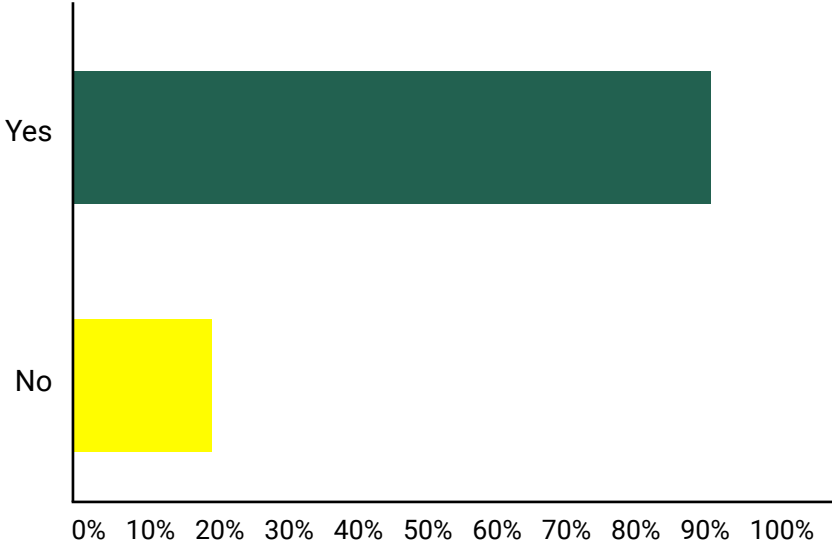


A long wooden boardwalk bridge stretches across a dense forest. Two people and a dog are walking away from the camera on the bridge. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of late afternoon or early morning. The sky is a clear, pale blue. A dark green rounded rectangle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title text.

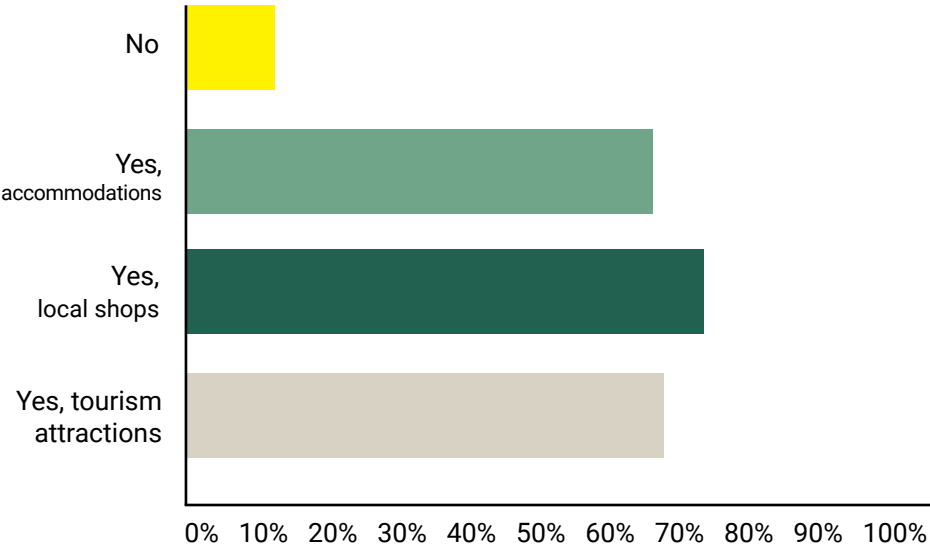
Supporting Local Tourism

Respondents see their trails as destinations

78% consider their trail a one-day tourist destination.

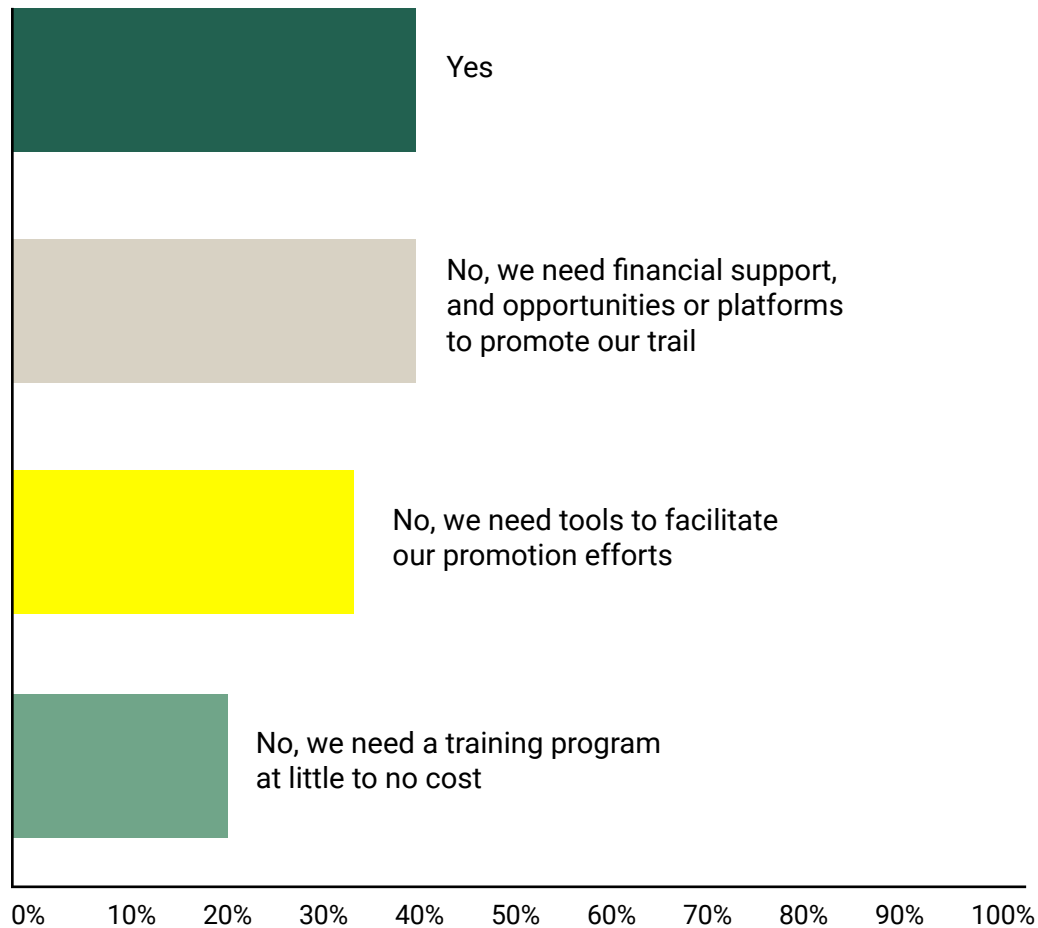


With the majority indicating benefits to local businesses and tourism attractions.



Promotion capacity

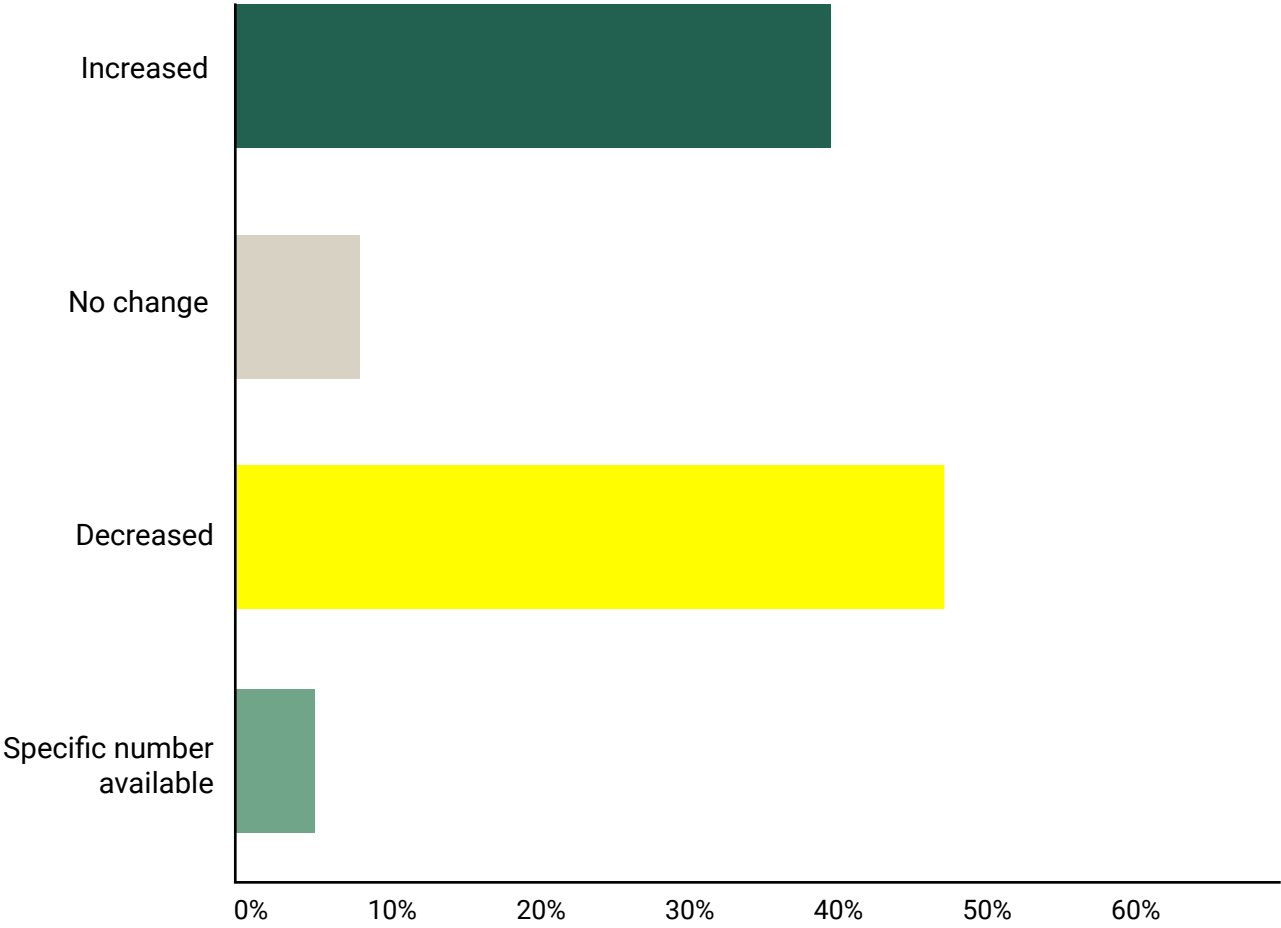
For many, adequate promotion remains a condition for success, but **60%** of respondents need financial support, tools and adequate training.



A photograph of a forest path with a green text overlay. The path is made of brown mulch and leads through a dense forest of tall, thin trees. The ground is covered in green moss and ferns. The text "Trail Usage - Public Health" is written in white on a dark green background that is semi-transparent and has a rounded bottom right corner.

Trail Usage - Public Health

Change in trail use resulting from COVID-19

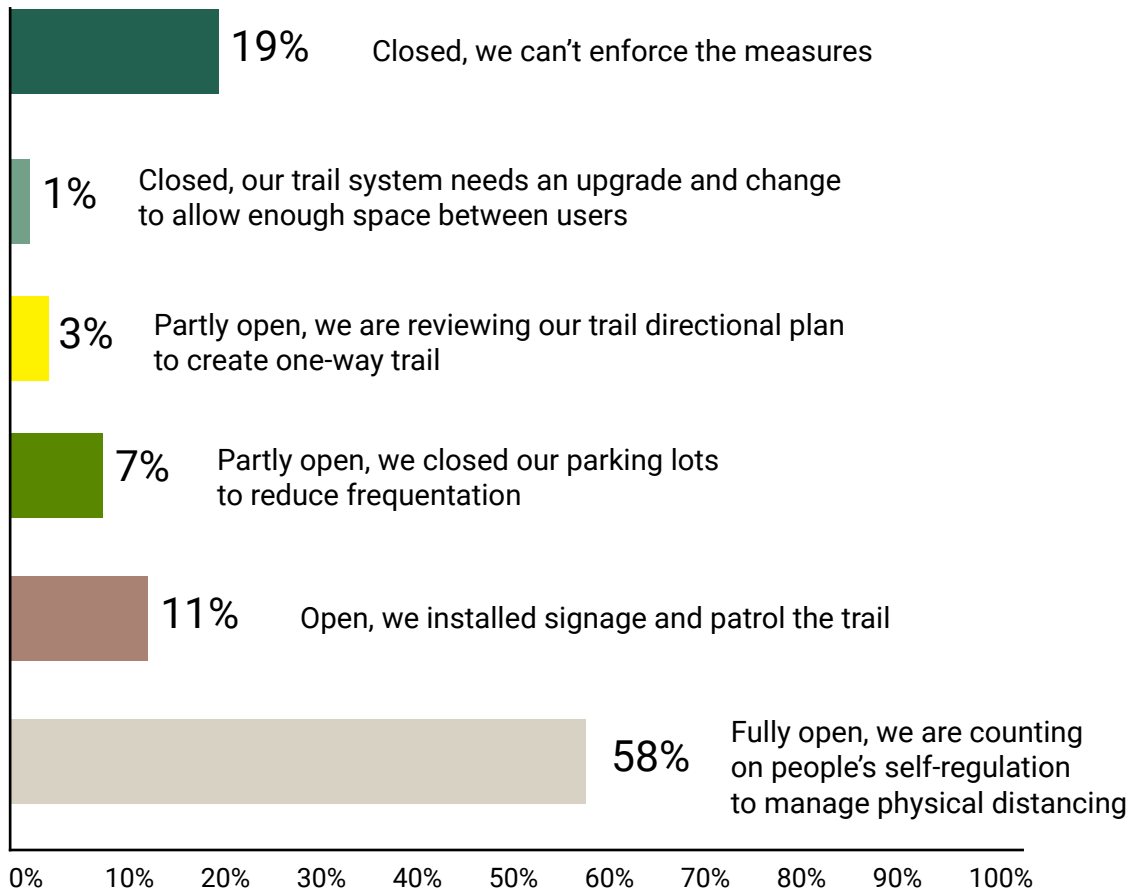


COVID-19: Managing physical distancing

58% of respondents say they are fully open and are counting on users' self-regulation to follow guidelines.

11% say they have installed signage and/or are patrolling their trails.

10% are open but have implemented measures like closing parking lots or uni-directional plans.



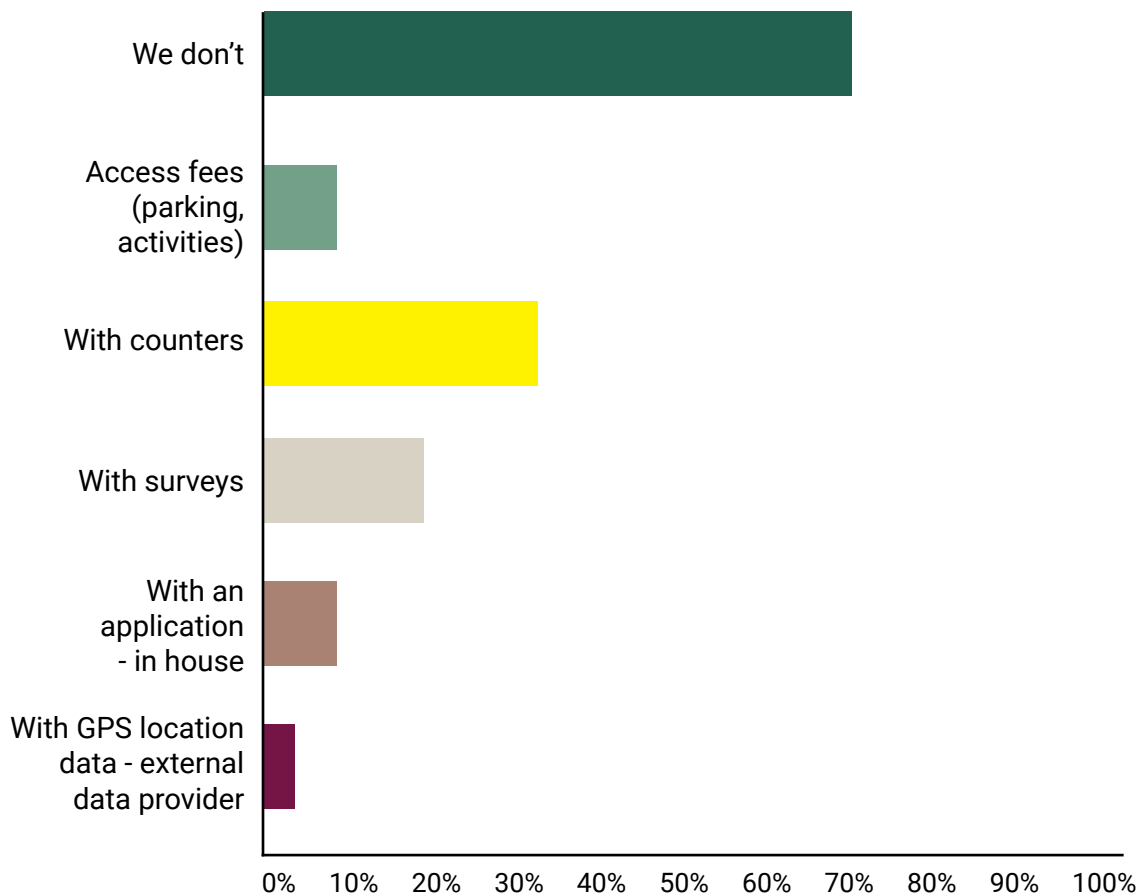
Question: How do you manage physical distancing on your trail section?

How do you measure trail usage?

More than **60%** of respondents have no capacity to do so

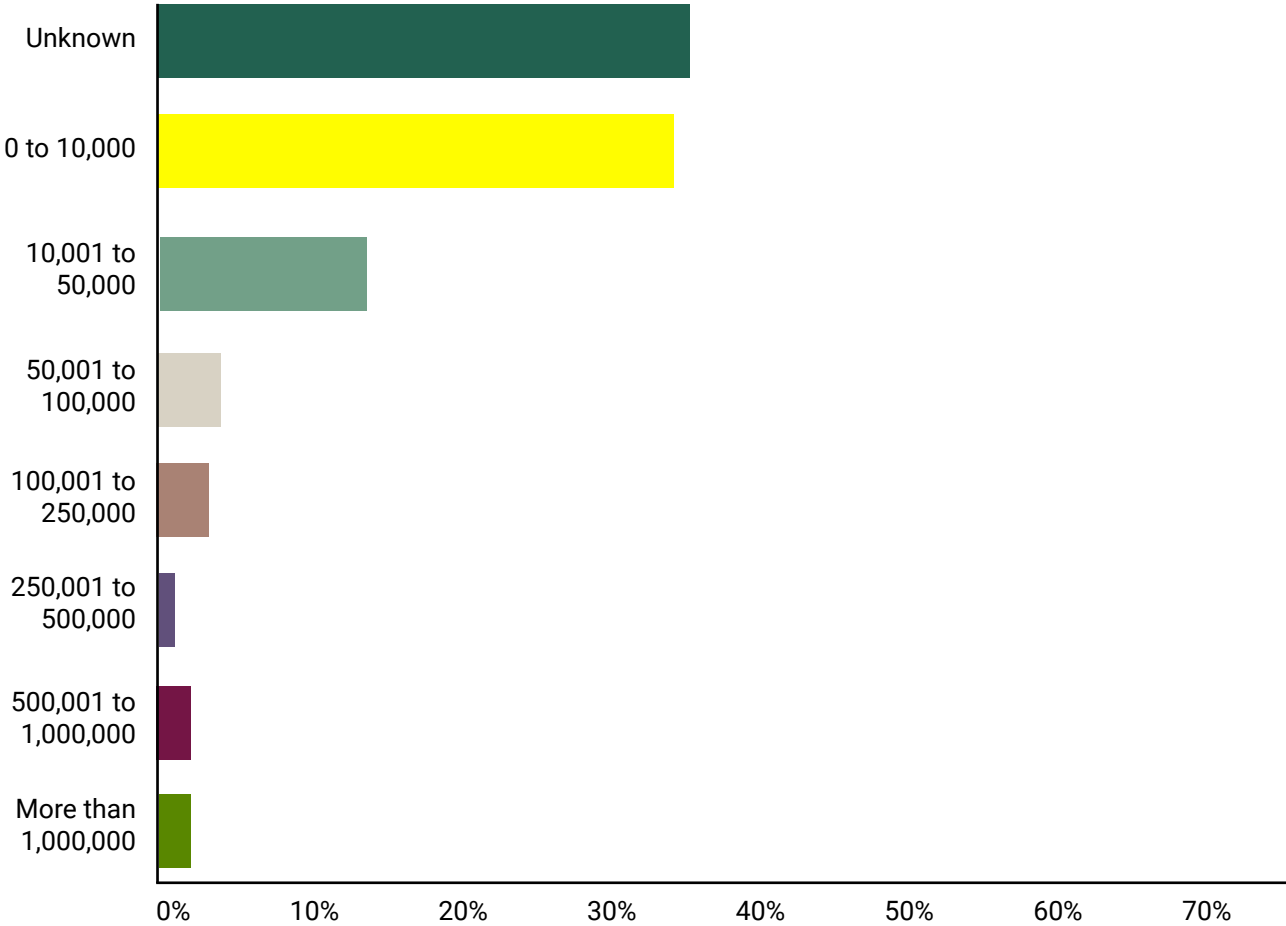
26% use counters

14% use surveys



Question: How do you measure usage on your trail? Check all that apply.

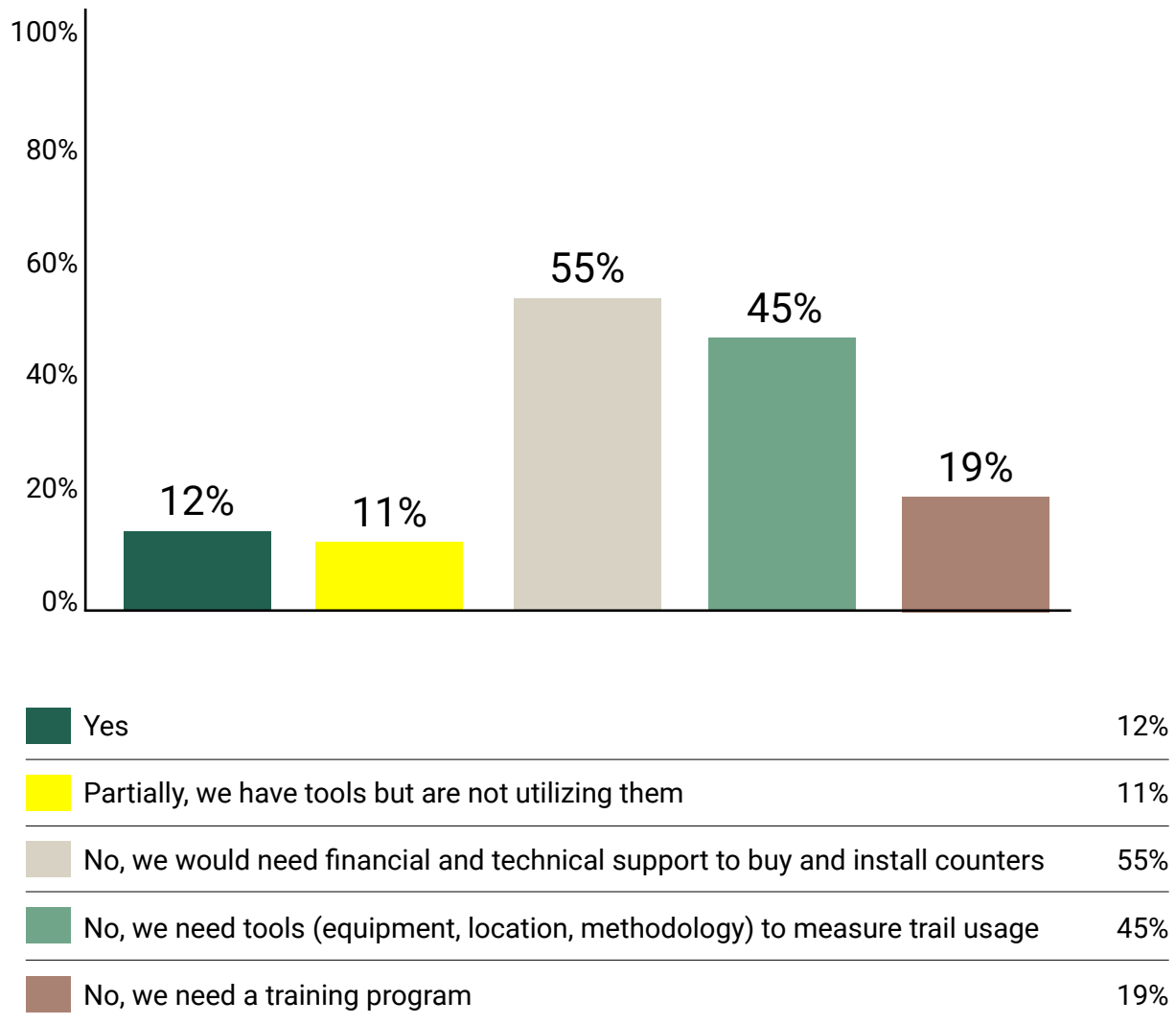
Usage data



Question: How many users were recorded last year on your trail network - best estimate?

Measurement - capacity

To close the capacity gap in terms of measuring trail users, funding, technical support and equipment are what respondents say is needed most.



Question: Do you have enough capacity to measure usage on your trail efficiently?
Check all that apply.

Thank you for responding!

If you have questions,
please contact:
mtwigg@tctrail.ca



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