



Trail Design Preferences among Bredeesen Park Visitors

Summary #5000.11

May 2014

Background

When complete, Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail (RT) will be a two-way, multiple use paved trail that travels through Hopkins, Edina, and Richfield. Since a small portion of this regional trail will be routed within Edina's Bredeesen Park, current park users were given the opportunity to express which of the following trail design options they preferred.

Option One: Existing bike trail at Bredeesen Park designated for one-way travel except for a small portion where its route is shared with Nine Mile Creek RT.

Option Two: Existing bike trail at Bredeesen Park designated for two-way travel including a small portion where its route is shared with Nine Mile Creek RT.

Option Three: Existing bike trail at Bredeesen Park designated for one-way travel and separated from Nine Mile Creek RT.

Option Four: Existing bike trail at Bredeesen Park designated for two-way travel and separated from Nine Mile Creek RT.

Results

Figure 1 shows the majority (81%) of respondents prefer Nine Mile Creek RT and the existing city bike trail share routes where the regional trail passes through Bredeesen Park. More specifically, 49 percent of respondents favor Option One and 32 percent desire Option Two. The remaining 19 percent prefer the regional trail not share a route with the existing bike trail, with 15 percent choosing Option Three and 4 percent selecting Option Four.

Eighty-one percent of respondents were aware the existing bike trail at Bredeesen Park is designated for one-way travel (Figure 2). Two-thirds of respondents want this trail to remain one-way while one-third favor two-way travel (Figure 3). Table 1 provides suggestions for improving Bredeesen Park.

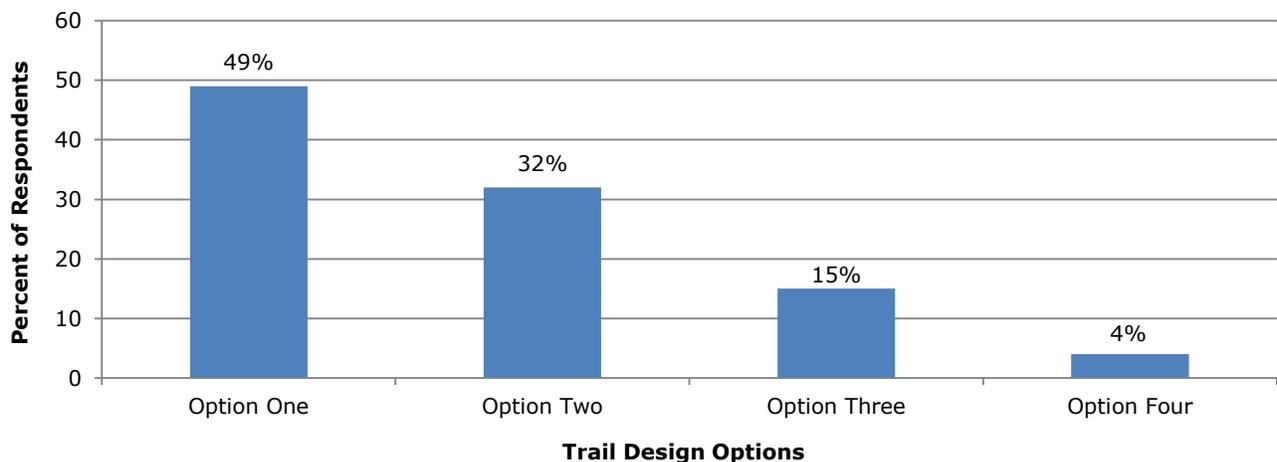


Figure 1. Preferred trail design among Bredeesen Park visitors.

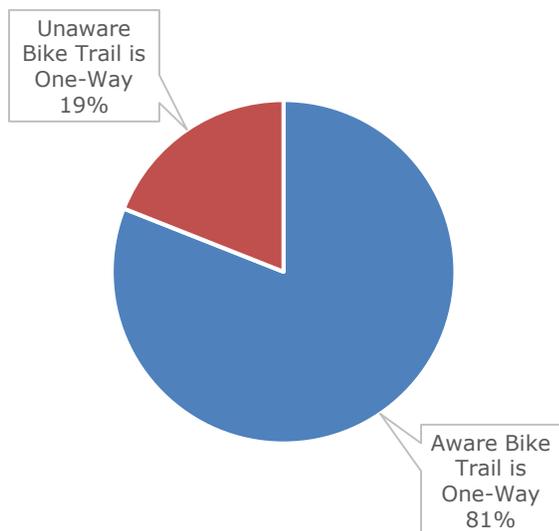


Figure 2. Awareness that existing bike trail at Bredesen Park is designated for one-way travel.

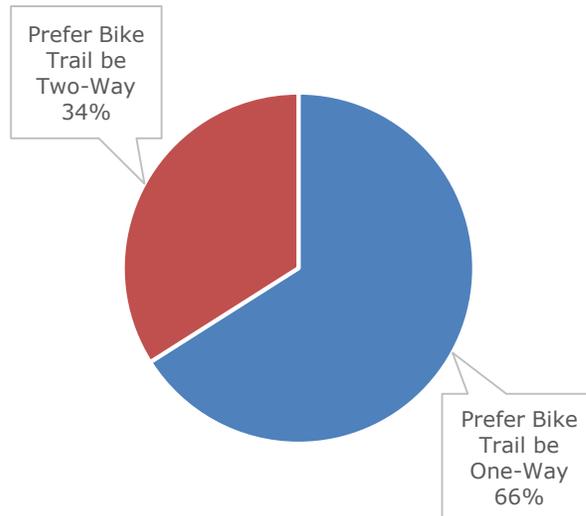


Figure 3. Preference that existing bike trail at Bredesen Park be designated for one-way or two-way travel.

Table 1. Suggestions to improve Bredesen Park.

Suggested Improvements	Number of Respondents	Percent of Respondents
No suggestion offered	28	60
Reduce water on trail due to flooding	5 ^A	11
Repair cracking/buckling in trail pavement	2	4
Remove tree debris from trail - Cleaning	2	4
Remove buckthorn	2	4
Fencing (no other details given)	2	4
Mark bike path	1	2
Add dog waste bins	1	2
Add dog waste bags	1	2
Provide a picnic area	1	2
Provide a dog park	1	2
Reduce salt on trail - hurts dogs	1	2

^A Seven additional people brought up the issue of water being on the trail when answering other questions.

Table 2. City and zip code where respondents reside.

Edina	89% (55436=70%, 55439=13%, 55424=6%)	Hopkins	2% (55343=2%)
Minneapolis	6% (55410=4%, 55418=2%)	Bloomington	2% (55437=2%)

Methods

Staff from the city of Edina conducted visitor surveys at Bredesen Park on Saturday, May 3 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm and on Tuesday, May 6 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. During these times staff observed 204 park visitors and obtained completed surveys from 47 individuals. Due to temporary flooding which covered portions of the bike trail with water, nearly all observed trail users were walking or running. None of the 47 surveys were completed by visitors riding a bike.

Because of the small sample size and the absence of any biking visitors providing feedback, survey results reported in this summary should not be assumed to be representative of all individuals visiting Bredesen Park. Rather, survey results represent the views of those completing a survey and in a more general sense, provide insight to the awareness, preferences, and suggestions of those using the park for walking or running.