

EAST BAY REGIONAL



PARK DISTRICT



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use policy decisions. However, additional study will be necessary to fully understand and utilize the results. Overall findings that can be reported at this time are:

Trail Use Satisfaction

- When asked if the Park District's trail system was meeting their overall expectations, 97% trail users reported they were "somewhat or extremely satisfied."
- When asked how they felt about the courtesy shown to them by other trail users, 88% reported they were "somewhat or extremely satisfied."
- Only 8% of the trail users reported that they were "somewhat or extremely dissatisfied" with compliance of trail use rules and regulations by other trail users.

Trail User Information

- Top four responses when asked their primary purpose for visiting the trail system were: (The top four responses varied by individual trail head and park.)
 - 34% Dog Walking
 - 32% Hiking
 - 13% Running
 - 11% Biking
- 46% of trail users reported that they typically bring a dog with them when visiting a regional park trail.
- 38% of equestrians reported that they typically bring their dog.
- 74% of those that bring dogs reported typically bringing one dog; 20% bring two dogs; and 6% bring more than two dogs.

Trail User Conflicts

- 21% of the 1,649 trail users report having experienced a trail use conflict incident. However, 75% of the 105 equestrians surveyed report having experienced a conflict incident.
- Equestrians reported a slightly higher level of severity in regards to conflict incidents.
- Aggressive dogs and speeding bikes were reported as the leading causes of trail conflict.
- 68% of trail users responded "strongly support or somewhat support" for the current practice of having on leash and off leash trails.

Interpreting Survey Results

Great care should be taken in interpreting this survey and making generalizations about the results. Several questions required a certain response in order to be asked a series of follow-up questions. Keep in mind that percentages represented in these summaries reflect the percentage of respondents to each specific question. Several questions were only asked if the respondent answered affirmatively to the previous question.

Summary Documents Available

Summaries of the results of Trail Use Survey and the subsequent Equestrian Survey are contained in three documents available on the East Bay Regional Park District web site at www.ebparks.org. The Documents include:

Trail Use Survey Summary – This is the original survey document with the summarized results inserted immediately following each question. This document summarizes the results of the 1,649 surveys taken at 20 trail locations during the summer of 2004. The Equestrian Survey results are not included in this summary. (9 pages)

Findings from a Survey of Trail Users Summer 2004 – This document is a series of tables that breaks down the results of Trail Use Survey Summary by ten different trail head locations or groups of locations. Survey questions may be paraphrased. Refer to other documents for the full text of the survey questions. Some survey questions require several tables to fully report the results. The total number of surveys taken appears at the top of each table. However, many tables may represent far fewer responses because several questions were only asked if the respondent answered affirmatively to the previous question. Use great care in drawing conclusions and making generalizations based on these tables. (52 pages)

Equestrian Survey Summary – This is the subsequent equestrian survey document with the summarized results inserted immediately following each question. This document includes instructions to the survey taker and the full text of all questions that were read verbatim to respondents by the survey taker. This document summarizes the results of the 105 surveys taken by equestrians in late December 2004 at Skyline Ranch Equestrian Center, Piedmont Stables, and Anthony Chabot Equestrian Center. The results are reported by stable facility. (7 pages)

Board Operations Committee Meeting - March 18, 2005

Survey results were compiled by Dr. George Manross and the Strategy Research Institute. Operations Division staff members and Dr. Manross will be making a presentation and answering questions about the survey at the Board Operations Committee meeting on March 18, 2005, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Park District office, 2950 Peralta Oaks Court, Oakland, CA.

Staff is recommending that the Board Operations Committee simply receive this report on the survey results of the Trail Use Survey. This presentation will be for information purposes only. The staff will not be making any recommendations to the Board Operations Committee at this meeting based on the results of the survey. Trail use rule changes, if any result, would be placed on the agenda and thoroughly discussed at a future Board Operations Committee meeting. There will be opportunity for public comment at this meeting.

John Escobar
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Operations