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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 28, 2024

TO: Sean Dougan, Trails Program Manager

FROM: Rourke Healey, Planner

SUBJECT: Summary of Feedback on Briones Pilot Project Check-In Meeting (June 15, 2024)

PAGES: 3

The two-year [Pilot Project](#) is over halfway complete. On June 15th, 2024 the Park District held an in-person meeting at Alhambra Creek Staging area to provide an update for the public on the status of the Pilot and to receive feedback regarding next steps. This event was part of an ongoing and multifaceted effort to collect data from common types of park users (bikers, hikers, and equestrians). The methods used to collect feedback include: 1) the June 15, 2024 community check-in & breakout groups; 2) in-person quick survey; and 3) [online survey](#) & [interactive map](#).

The survey and interactive map will remain open and accessible on our web page throughout the summer

Generally, comments regarding the first year of the Pilot Project have reflected a positive response and have described a noticeable reduction in trail user conflict since the Pilot Project started. Each user group also had outstanding concerns that could be addressed.

Common positive comments include:

- Improved etiquette from biking community
- Enhanced stewardship of trails
- Reduced conflict and more positive interactions

Common areas of concern include:

- Compliance with pilot rules
- Etiquette and safety concerns
- Ongoing resource concerns

Outstanding hotspot issues include:

- Additional signage
- More progressive biking trails
- Interactions on connecting trails

Feedback type (as of June 25 th , 2024)	Number of Respondents
• In Person "Quick Survey" (June 15, 2024)	35
• In-Person Community Check-in Attendees	70
• Online Mid-Pilot Survey	106

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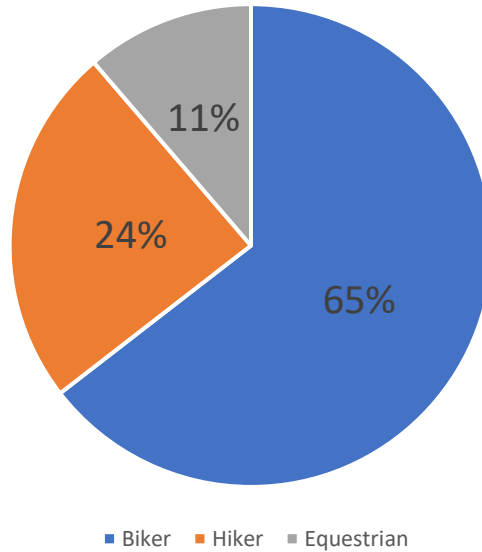
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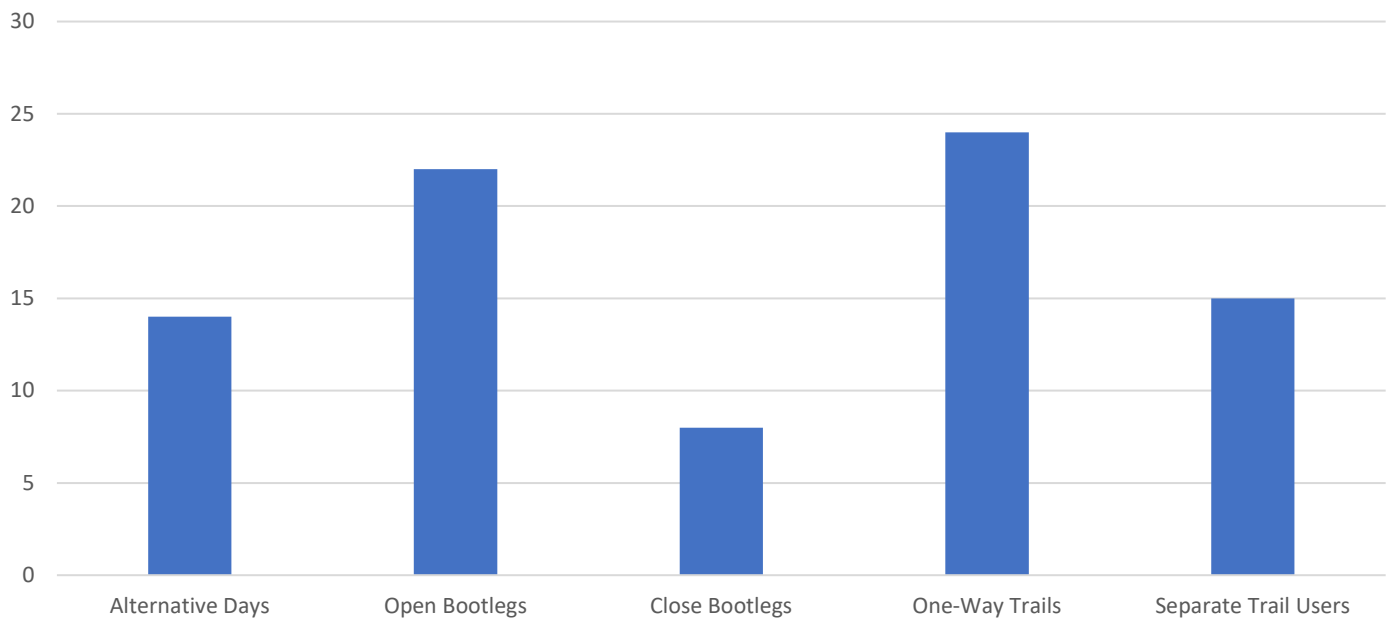
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Park Users at Check-In Meeting (70 total)



Quick Survey Responses (6/15/24)
Management Strategies to Keep (35 Responses)



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Responses have captured a wide variety of sentiments and demonstrated the complexity of the Pilot Project. Below are some examples of feedback received about how their experience has changed over the last year in the Pilot Zone, and how they would like to see the Park District move forward after the Project Pilot:

Supportive

- *I think everything is going well, the parks have been great in supporting the mountain bike community. We do need more trail open for mountain bikes as the usage has increased massively.*
- *I think it has been great. Everyone seems to enjoy “their” time and having dedicated downhill lines for MTB has greatly reduced speed runs on other trails.*
- *The management strategy seems to be working very well, especially separating users by opening up one-way, downhill, bike only trails. I would like to see the pilot expand within Briones, and to other parks. These changes have been needed for decades. It's so great to see trail access for bikes finally get addressed. Thank you!*

Critical

- *Don't like it. Cyclist don't follow rules. They go fast and force hikers to give rest of the way. Always go on even days!*
- *There are bikes in the pilot area on the hiker only weekend days. I even saw an electric unicycle speeding down the middle of Old Briones Rd. I wish the Bench Trail was for hikers only so hikers would have a scenic and safe place to hike seven days of the week.*
- *I would like to see the Briones Pilot changes be continued, since Briones Park users have gotten used to the rules after one year, and the pilot is generally regarded as successful. However, some improvements are needed: 1. Mounted police present on even-numbered "horse" days, as noted. 2. Attention given to the hazardous areas of the Pinetree Trail, where bicycles need to be kept off the narrow trail below Old Briones Road. 3. Poor signage needs to be improved*

Neutral

- *I think the strategies have been very effective, the interactions I have had with other users has been very positive. The one way and separate user trails are excellent and much safer. I do question the alternate day strategy, mainly because I have witnessed folks who came from far away, were not aware they came on the wrong day, were angered by this and decided to ride anyway. This has created an unavoidable situation and in turn reflects badly on the program to those inclined to want to see it fail.*
- *I think it went really well however I feel like splitting in the weekends up between equestrians and mountain bikers is a little unnecessary. I think the so-called "conflict" between mountain bikers and equestrians is blown out of proportion. I was on a volunteer dig day which wasn't a bicycle riding day but they allowed us to ride our bikes with the vest, I didn't see one equestrian the entire day.*
- *I honestly wish I could go anytime as a mountain biker but to be fair, I truly understand that we need to share trails with hikers/etc. So far so good!*

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