

Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail Niles to Berrien Springs Extension

Phase 2 Community Engagement Report



Be Healthy Berrien, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, and Berrien County Health Department began to study the feasibility of the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail Niles to Berrien Springs Extension in the fall of 2018 with a vision for developing a non-motorized trail network in Berrien County. This summary contains input gathered from the public during the second phase of public outreach as part of the study. Phase 2 of this study's public outreach included a public meeting held on September 25, 2019 at Berrien Springs Community Library as well as an online survey. The purpose of this second phase of outreach was to provide an opportunity for the public to review the early route map, discuss design options, and to ask questions of the project team.

At the Public Meeting and via the online survey, participants were asked to identify their preferred route alternative as well as potential trailhead locations, desired trailhead amenities, and wayfinding & signage preferences. In this report, figures are presented as weighted scores (very important = 5, not important = 1) where necessary. Up-to-date project information can be found at www.BeHealthyBerrien.org/trails.

35

Public Meeting
Attendees

37

Website
Visitors

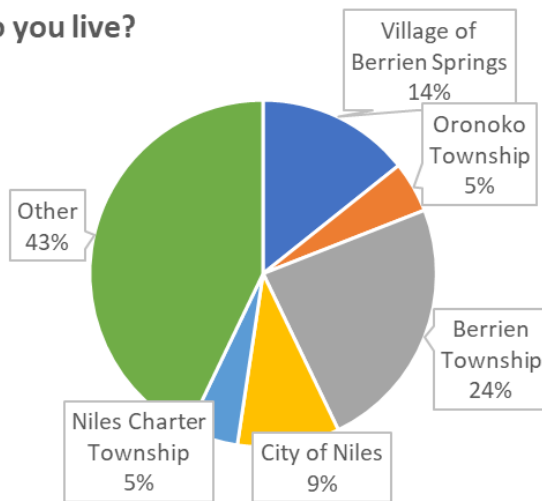
9

Online Survey
Participants

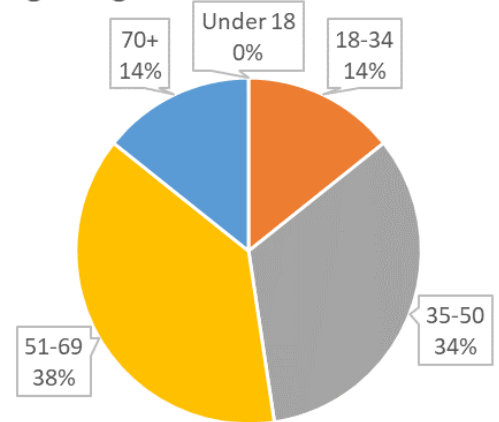
WHO DID WE HEAR FROM?



Where do you live?



What is your age range?



PREFERENCES FOR TRAILHEAD AMENITIES



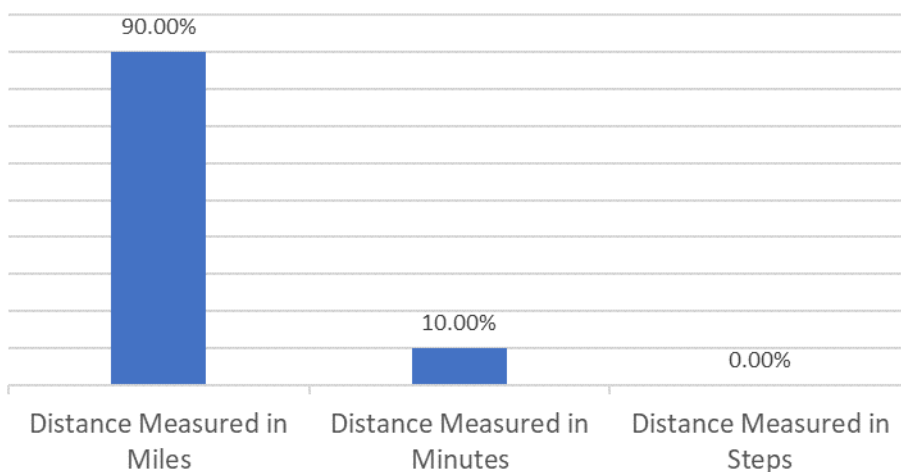
5 = Very Important, 4 = Important, 3 = Moderately Important, 2 = Slightly Important, 1= Not Important

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------|----------------------|
| Signage & Trail Maps | 4.45 | Important |
| Trash Receptacles | 4.15 | Important |
| Restrooms | 3.95 | Moderately Important |
| Drinking Fountains | 3.75 | Moderately Important |
| Benches | 3.15 | Moderately Important |
| Dog Waste Bag Dispensers | 3.12 | Moderately Important |
| Bicycle Racks | 3.10 | Moderately Important |
| Picnic Areas | 2.75 | Slightly Important |
| Dog Friendly Drinking Fountains | 2.35 | Slightly Important |
| Food Beverage Vending Machines | 1.95 | Not Important |

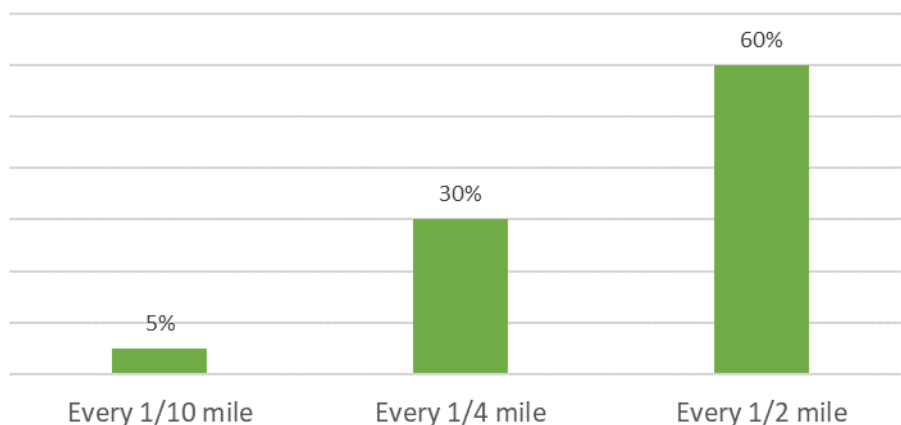
WAYFINDING & SIGNAGE PREFERENCES



People prefer distance measured in miles



People prefer to see mileage markers every 1/2 mile



How important are the following signs/maps?



5 = Very Important, 4 = Important, 3 = Moderately Important, 2 = Slightly Important, 1= Not Important

| | | |
|--|------|----------------------|
| Trail Map Kiosks posted along the trail | 4.05 | Important |
| Nearby Points of Interest | 3.91 | Moderately Important |
| Downloadable Smartphone Maps | 3.91 | Moderately Important |
| Interpretive Panels with information on natural features | 3.60 | Moderately Important |
| Printed / Handheld Maps | 3.05 | Moderately Important |

Preferred alternatives and potential trailhead locations



◆ Suggested Trailhead Location

