

## Results of Survey on Accessible Trails

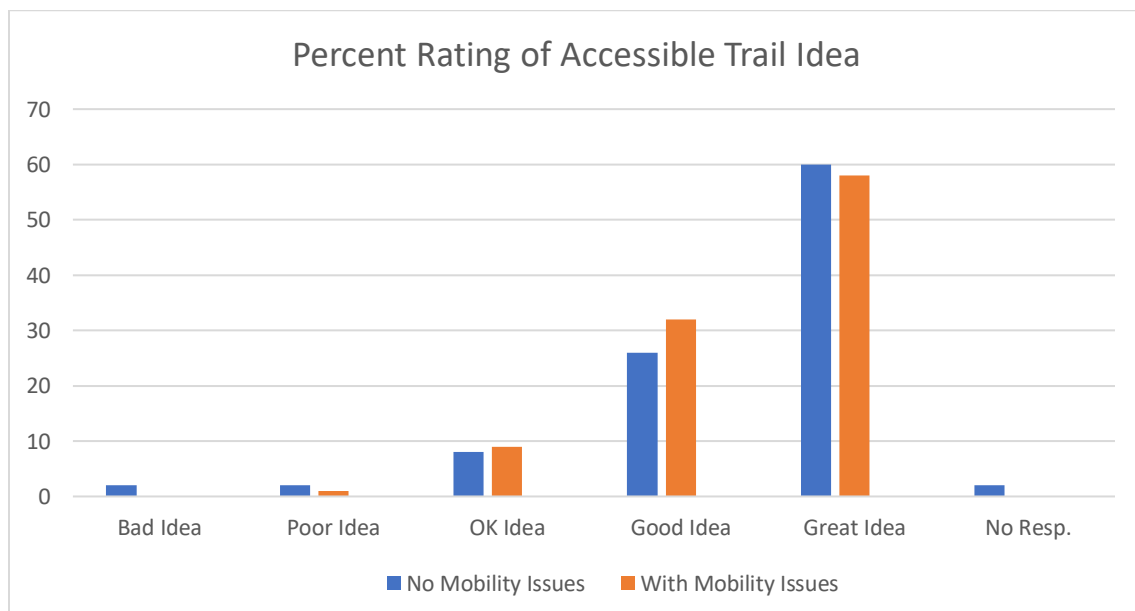
At the CRA meeting on March 2, 2020, Terry Borton, Trails Chair, gave a short PowerPoint presentation about Accessible Trails. The idea proposed was to create paved trails through the woods and/or the meadows that anyone could use, including those in powerchairs, wheelchairs and walkers. Two possibilities were discussed, a trail east along the Creek, starting at the community gardens; and a trail up from Audland to the West Meadow. (A second presentation was planned for Audland and Firbank residents who did not attend the CRA meeting, but it had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 restrictions.)

Surveys were distributed after the CRA meeting. The back of the survey contained a short description of the proposal, so it was also distributed to Audland/Firbank residents who did not see the CRA presentation. In total, 141 surveys were returned. Sixty percent of the respondents described themselves as having No Mobility Issues that currently keep them off the trails. Forty percent said they do have such Mobility Issues—the same percentage that Health Services estimates.

Here are the results of the survey, divided by those with “No Mobility Issues,” and those “With Mobility Issues.”

### Interest:

Eighty-six percent of respondents with No Mobility Issues thought Accessible Trails was either a “Good” or “Great” Idea. Four percent thought it was a “Bad” or “Poor” idea. Ninety percent of residents With Mobility Issues (the right-hand bar in the chart) thought Accessible Trails was a “Good” or “Great” idea.



**Preferred Trail:**

Fifty six percent of residents Without Mobility Issues preferred the Meadows Trail; 66% of those With Mobility Issues also preferred the Meadows Trail.

**Usage:**

Residents Without Mobility Issues said they would use their preferred trail in good weather at the following rate: Daily, 4%; Weekly, 33%; a Few Times a Month, 28%; Monthly, 4%; a Few Times a Year, 17%; Never, 13%.

Those With Mobility Issues said they would use their preferred trail at the following rates: Daily, 9%; Weekly, 26%; a Few Times a Month, 35%; Monthly, 9%; a Few Times a Year, 11%; Never 9%.

**Comments in the Survey:**

Fifty seven percent of residents had comments.

Eighty four percent of those who commented made positive remarks, usually of a general nature: "Fantastic!" "Let's go!" "Thank you." "Please, Please, Please."

Three percent had negative comments, all of them about money: "Stop wasting our money."

Twelve percent had suggestions or concerns, such as alternative trail proposals, worry about getting up and down to the Creek trail, specific alternatives to the proposed use of the Gardens, safety issues such as snow and cell phone coverage. All these items will be worked on with affected/interested residents as the final plan is developed.

**Survey Conclusion:**

Clearly there is strong support for Accessible Trails, and for the Meadows Trail in particular, both among those With and those Without Mobility Issues. Regarding usage: There may well be a difference between how much people say they would use their preferred trail and their actual use. But 65% of residents Without Mobility Issues and 70% of those With Mobility Issues at least say that they would use their preferred trail Daily, Weekly, or a Few Times a Month. That certainly suggests some good level of future Trail usage.

**Thank You:**

Thanks to all who participated in this survey, and especially to those who made so many useful suggestions.

**CRA Action:**

The CRA Board will decide whether to recommend an Accessible Trail for upcoming administration action.