

## Findings from the 2008 Trail User Survey – Genesee Valley Greenway<sup>1</sup>

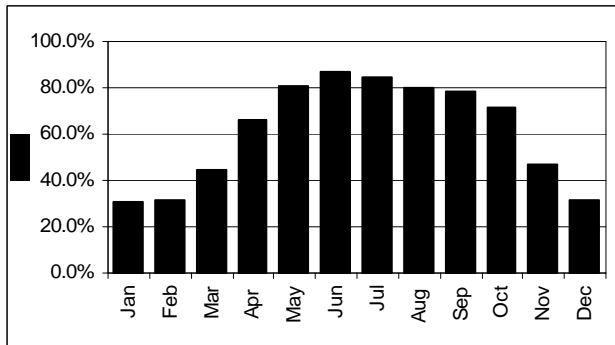
This survey was implemented on eight shared-use trails during the summer of 2008. The surveys were undertaken in partnership with the trail stewards and almost all surveys were completed between Memorial Day and Labor Day 2008.

The information presented here shows the results of 233 survey forms from the Genesee Valley Greenway which runs from the city of Rochester in the north to the city of Cuba, NY near the Pennsylvania border in the south.

In which activities<sup>2</sup> have you participated on this trail in the previous 12 months?

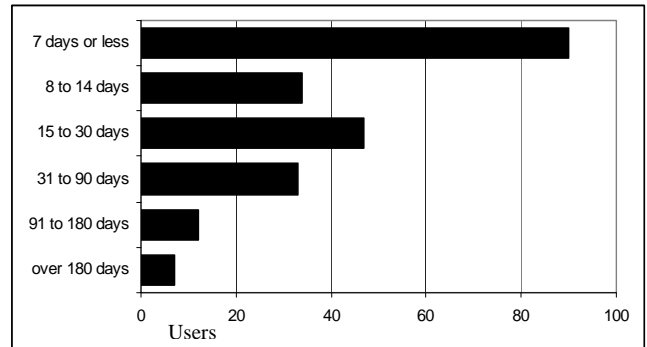
Activity	# surveys	Percent	Activity	# surveys	Percent
Hiking	149	63.9%	XC Skiing/Snowshoeing	29	12.4%
Jogging	41	17.6%	Snowmobiling	6	2.6%
Bicycling	163	70.0%	Other	9	6.0%
Horseback Riding	15	6.4%	No Answer	1	0.4%
(own horse)	13	5.6%			

Trail use by month:



The survey occurred during the summer; winter use may be underreported.

# of trail users by frequency of trail use



Average days of use/year is 53.9, median days of use is 25.0.

# of Days visitors used trail by activity and visit characteristics<sup>3</sup>:

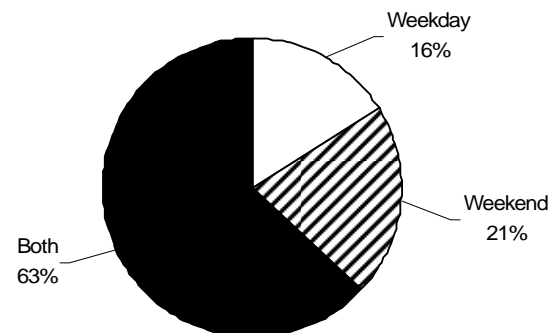
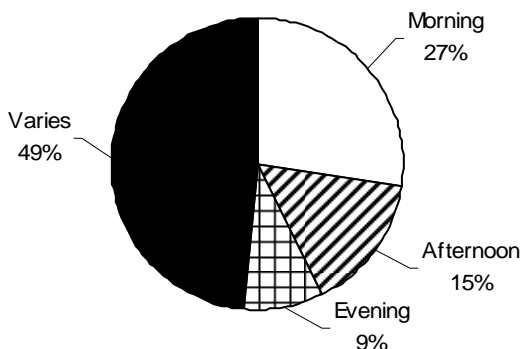
Activity Participants	Days Visited Trail (for ALL activities)		Distance travelled on Trail	Distance Travelled to Trail	Average Time when visiting trail	# of people indicating participation in activity
	Average	Median	Average	Average	Minutes	n
Hikers	39.3	15.0	8.3	10.3	103.0	82
Joggers	54.8	27.5	8.9	14.1	96.5	187
Bikers	24.6	12.0	13.7	14.1	114.0	157
Cross country skiers	44.4	14.0	9.3	9.5	107.1	29
Equestrian	20.0	10.0	7.9	7.4	135.0	15
Other	61.8	25.0	6.9	13.3	138.0	10
All Trail (GVG) Visitors	30.6	12.0	11.8	15.1	113.8	233
All Trail (Statewide) Visitors	53.9	25.0	14.4	13.9	99.5	1,250

(10.3% of visitors indicated this was their first visit to the Genesee Valley Greenway)

### When do trails users visit trails?

About 3 out of 4 visitors to this trail indicated they either visited in the morning or their visits varied as to time of day.

A majority (63.0%) said they visited the trail both during the week and on weekends.



The average group size of people using the trail was 2.3, slightly higher than the statewide average group size of 2.1. For the day on which they visited the Genesee Valley Greenway, those completing the survey form indicated they had participated in the following activities:

Hiking	43.8%
Bicycling	53.2%
Birding	16.3%
Dog Walking	17.6%

(Percentages add to more than 100% because of multiple answers).

Statewide, and for the Genesee Valley Greenway “Health & Exercise” was the main reason for using a trail and “Recreation” was the second most frequently mentioned reason. Statewide, 53.4% of the survey respondents mentioned “Health & Exercise”, while 52.6% of the Genesee Valley Greenway users cited it. “Recreation” use of the trail was mentioned more for this trail (40.1%) than statewide (23.0%).

Many of the users of this trail were from the Rochester area. Of the 233 surveys collected at the Genesee Valley Trail, 215 indicated a zip code for their residence. The most common origins were Rochester, NY (25%) and Scottsville, NY (10%). There were 5 out-of-state visitors(2.3%) and no Canadians or visitors from other foreign countries. The high usage of the trail by locals was confirmed by the percentage (52.9%) of survey respondents indicating they found out about the trail through “local knowledge.”

How did you find out about this trail?

Local knowledge	52.9%	Rails to Trails	7.6%
Word-of-mouth	35.4%	Bike shop	4.5%
Drive by	21.5%	Internet	17.5%
Road sign	24.4%	All other	28.6%

The trail was rated “excellent” or “good” by 89.8% of the users surveyed for maintenance and 95.6% of the users surveyed for cleanliness.

The average age of the Genesee Valley Greenway user completing the survey was 51.1, statistically the same as the statewide average of 52.0. Employment status was 55.0% employed full-time; 22.7% retired and the rest in the remaining categories. Three percent of those surveyed indicated that they were a person with a disability. Seventy-one percent of those indicating gender on the survey were male. Average household income for the survey is \$80,150.

<sup>1</sup>The information presented here is based on the 233 surveys collected and submitted to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation by users of the Genesee Valley Greenway on or before November 5, 2008. Since that date a few additional survey forms have been received. These will be entered into the database and included in any final report(s). However, it is not expected that these newly added survey forms will substantively change any of the results.

<sup>2</sup>The total of the percentages is greater than 100% because multiple responses were allowed. (Note that not all activities surveyed statewide are allowed on every individual trail included in the survey.)

<sup>3</sup>People were categorized as participants in an activity based on their response to Question 3 “Please check all of these activities in which you participated on this trail during the past 12 months ...”. Hence, there is some overlap with the values calculated for each activity.

Final note: The data presented here is the result of the first look at the returned survey forms. As the analysis progresses, the results may change.



David A. Paterson, Governor  
Carol Ash, Commissioner