



# PINELLAS 2019 TRAIL SURVEY

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# **Forward Pinellas 2019 Pinellas Trail Users Survey**

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June 2019

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**A survey of Pinellas Trail users** was conducted in the field on Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27, 2019. Six survey stations were used along the Pinellas Trail where previous surveys yielded a high percentage of user responses.

The surveys were conducted for 11 hours on both days, from 7:30 am until 6:30 pm, with most stations staffed with at least two people. The people collecting survey responses included volunteers and Forward Pinellas staff.

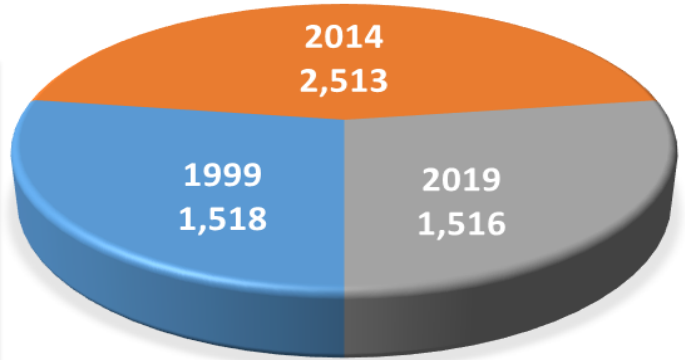
In addition to the field survey effort, an online survey form was created to accommodate trail users who were unable to participate in the field survey. A total of 1,516 field and online surveys were completed.



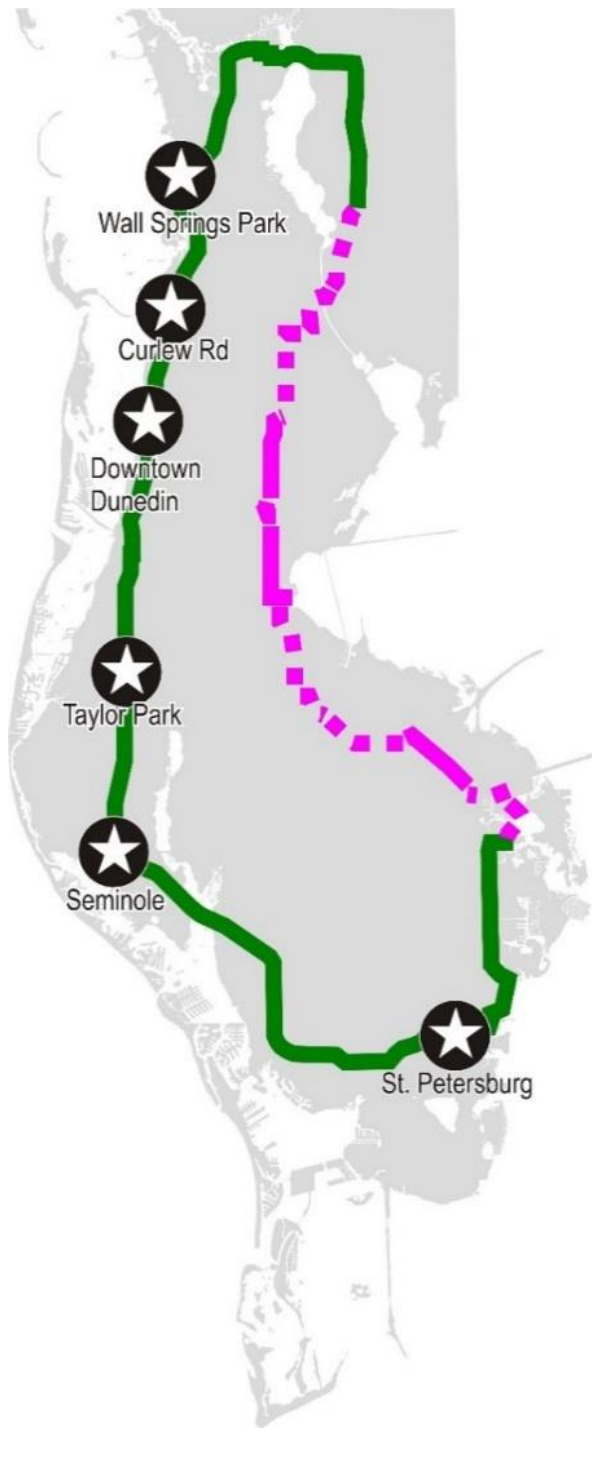
*Pinellas Trail User Survey 2019, Taylor Park station*

*Forward Pinellas*

The chart to the right compares the total number of surveys completed in April 2019 with the two prior survey efforts in 2014 and 1999. It should be noted that the Wall Springs location was not included in the 1999 survey and that the 1999 and 2014 surveys did not include online responses.



Clockwise: Bicyclist on the Trail; Families using Trail to elementary school; Survey station in Dunedin; Trail users completing surveys.



## Survey Stations

**Wall Springs Park:** This location was used for the 2019 and 2014 surveys. The 201-acre Wall Springs Park is located at 3725 DeSoto Boulevard in Palm Harbor. The immediate area is primarily low density residential, with recreational and employment opportunities.

**Curlew Road:** This location has been used for all three surveys. The Trail in this area is located near a Publix grocery store, several retail buildings, pharmacy, restaurants and banks. There is also a community trail at this location connecting the Pinellas Trail to Honeymoon Island State Park in Dunedin. Surrounding these commercial uses is predominantly low density residential. An automated trail counter is located approximately one mile south of this intersection, and consistently reports some of the highest monthly user counts.

**Downtown Dunedin:** This location has been used for all three surveys. The Trail passes through downtown Dunedin, which was selected as the First Florida Trail Town in July 2018. The Trail has been a catalyst for downtown redevelopment activity since its arrival in the early 1990s. This area has become one of the more popular trail destinations with a high concentration of local restaurants, breweries, and retail shops. The Pinellas Trail is lighted between downtown Dunedin and SR 580.

**John S. Taylor Park:** Located at 1100-8th Avenue SW in Largo, this park has been used for all three surveys. The Trail is directly adjacent to the park, which has been the site of the its 10th and 20th-year anniversary celebrations. The park has ample parking and restroom facilities and is surrounded by single-family residential areas and the Pinecrest Golf Club.

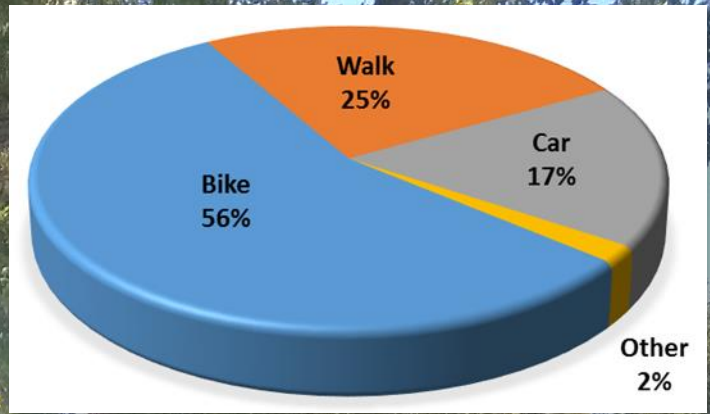
**Seminole City Park:** This location has been used for all three surveys. An automated trail counter is installed adjacent to this 10.6-acre park at 7464 Ridge Road in Seminole, which yields some of the highest user counts each month. The park offers restroom facilities, as well as other amenities, and is surrounded by large residential areas.

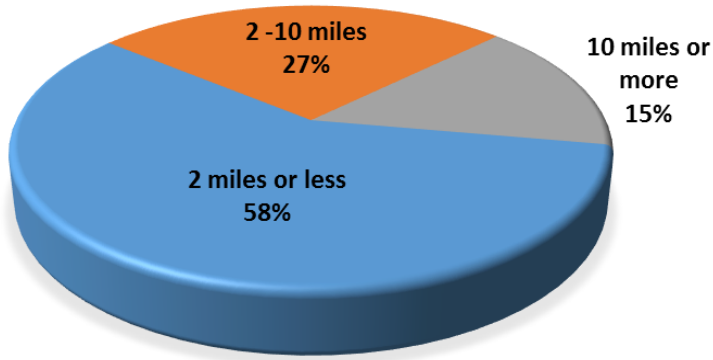
**Downtown St. Petersburg:** This location was also used for the 2014 survey. A different location within the City, Azalea Park (490 1st Avenue South), was used for the 1999 survey. As in 2014, the City of St. Petersburg staff conducted the surveys for this location. Staff observed many bicyclists who did not stop to complete a survey due to time limitations, as they were commuting to or from employment or school. The Trail cuts through the downtown core business district on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue South.

### How did you get to the Trail today?

There were 1,508 responses to this question. The majority of respondents bicycled to the Trail (56%), 25% walked, 17% arrived by motor vehicle, and 2% traveled by another mode.

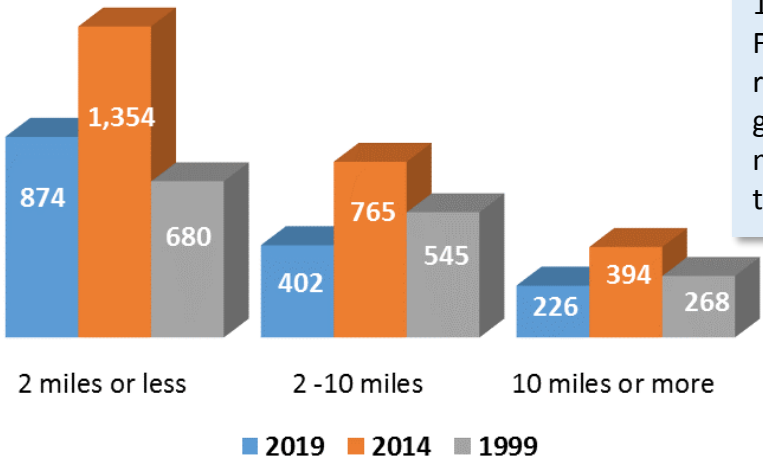
In 2014, 59% biked to the Trail, 20% walked, 17% arrived by vehicle, and 4% traveled by other means. In 1999, 46% biked to the Trail, 26% walked, 28% arrived by vehicle, and 1% traveled to the Trail by another mode.





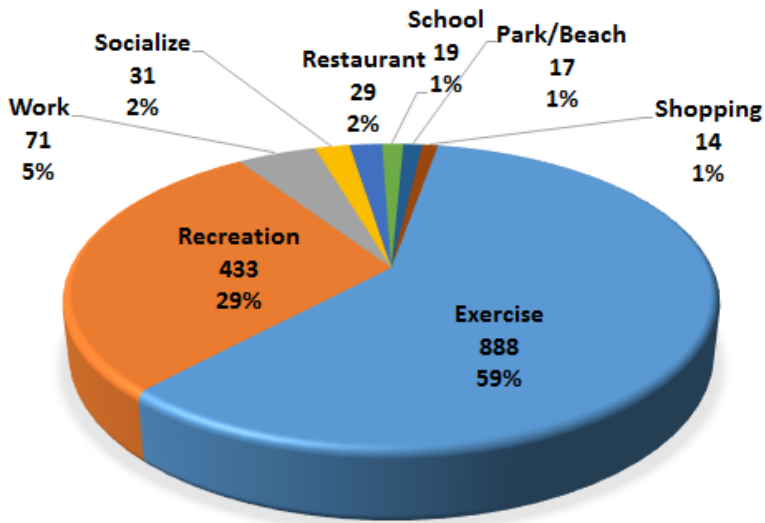
**How far did you travel to get to the Trail?**  
 There were 1,502 responses to this question. The majority of respondents traveled 2 miles or less to the Trail (58%), 27% traveled 2 to 10 miles, and 15% traveled 10 miles or more to get to the Trail.

There were 2,513 responses to this question in 2014, and 54% of the respondents traveled 2 miles or less to get to the Trail, 30% traveled 2 to 10 miles, and 16% traveled more than 10 miles. For the 1999 survey, there were 46% of respondents who traveled less than one mile to get to the Trail, 37% traveled between one and 5 miles, and 18% traveled more than 5 miles to get to the Trail.



Taylor Park survey station

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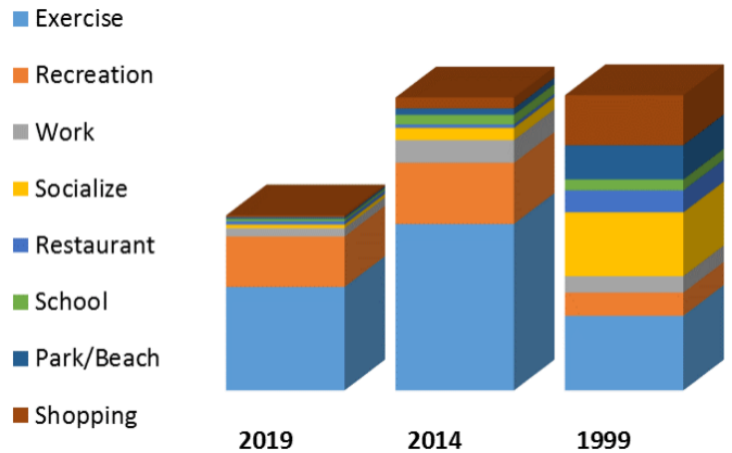


### Why do you typically use the Trail?

There were 1,502 responses to this question. The majority of respondents used the Trail for exercise (59%), 5% for work trips, 2% each for traveling to restaurants, school, or to socialize. A total of 3% used the Trail for going shopping, to the park or to the beach.

In 2014, 57% of users reported exercise as their primary use, 21% used it for recreation, 8% for work trips, and 4% each for socializing, shopping and school trips.

In the 1999 survey, 25% of respondents used the Trail for exercised, 22% for social purposes, 17% to go shopping, and 12% to go to a park or the beach. Recreation and restaurant trips accounted for 8% each, work trips 6%, and school trips 4%.



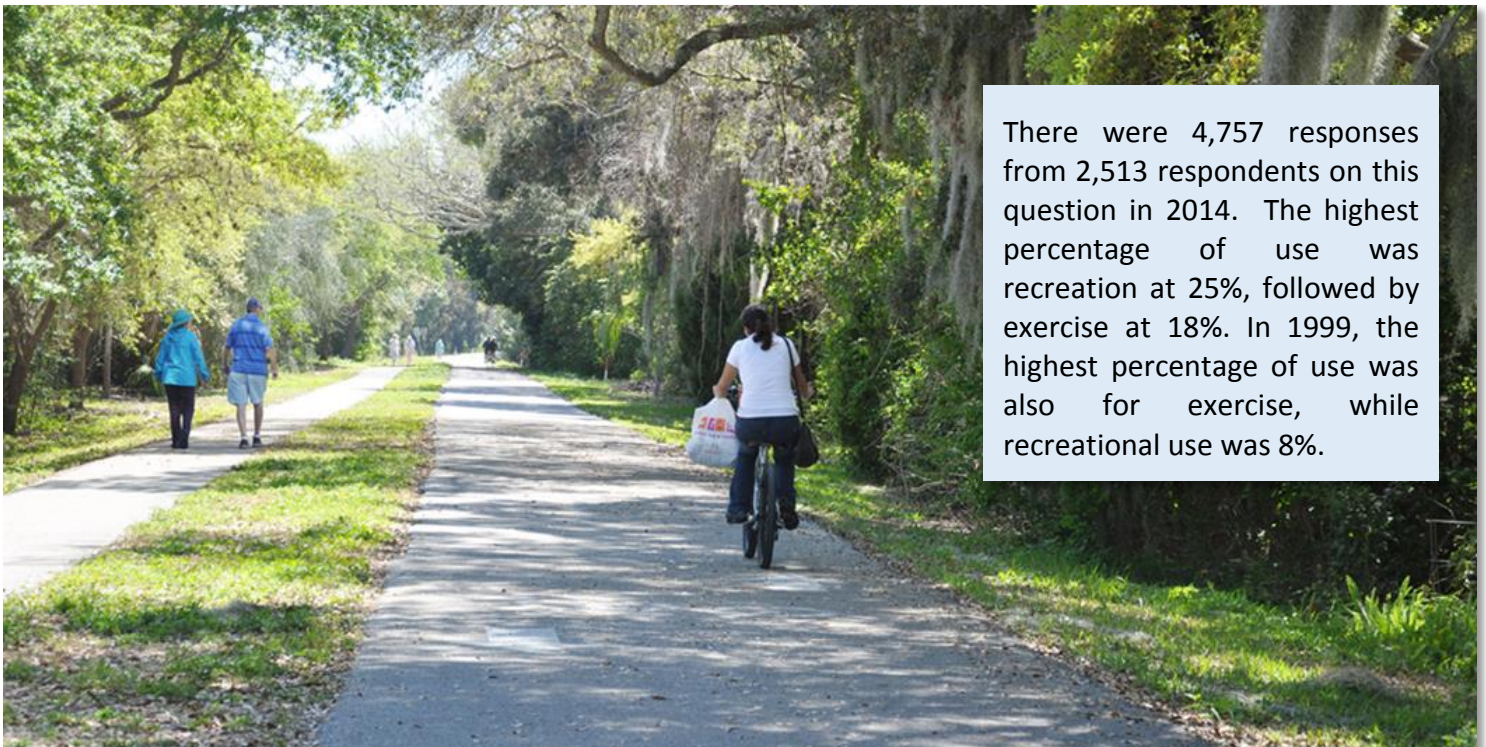
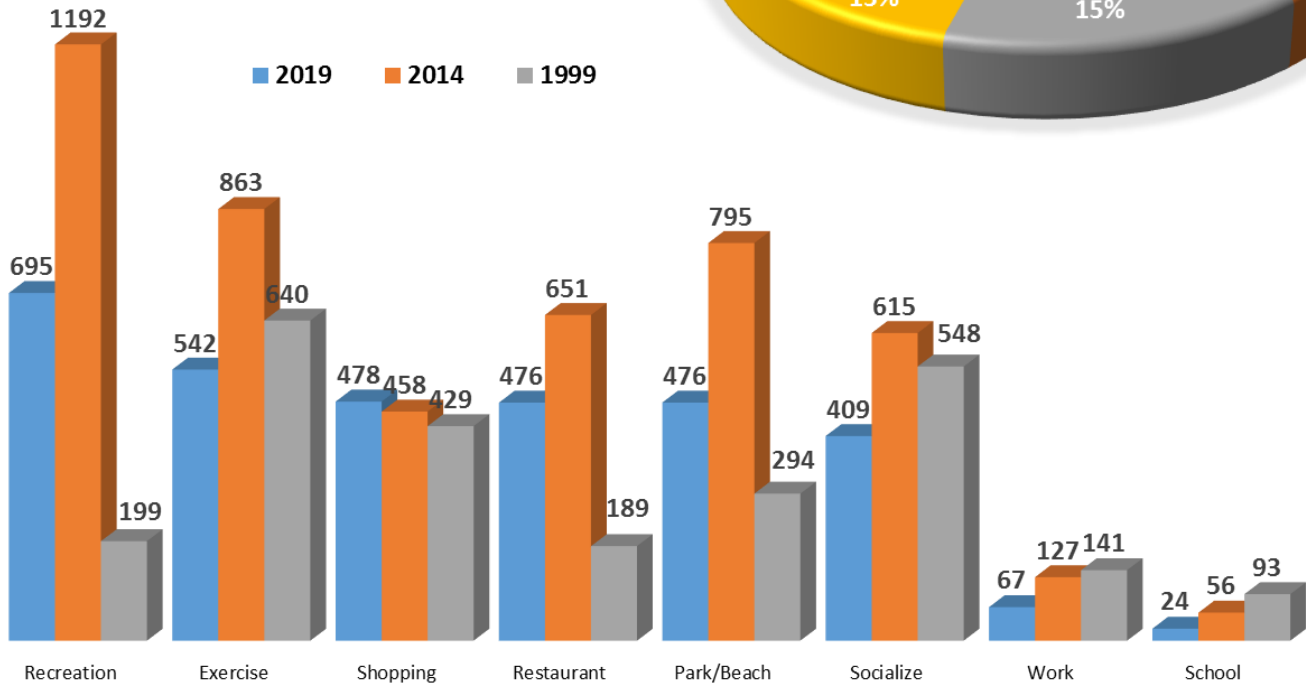
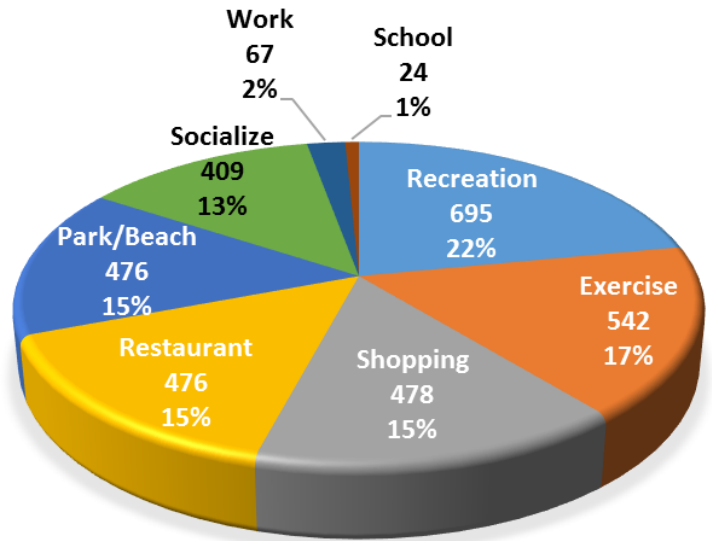
Pinellas Trail Users Survey 2019 Curlew Road Survey Station 2019

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### What other ways do you use the Trail?

There was a total of 3,167 responses to this question from 1,385 respondents. The highest use indicated was recreation at 22%, followed by exercise (17%). Shopping, traveling to a restaurant, park or beach totaled 15% each, with 13% using the Trail for social purposes. Work trips totaled 2%, and school trips 1%.



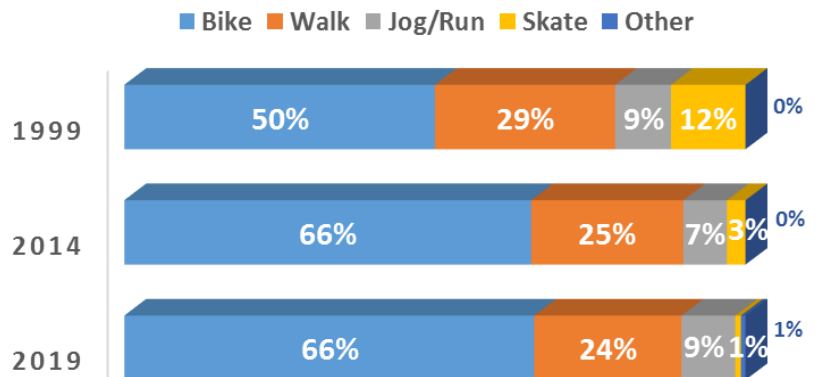
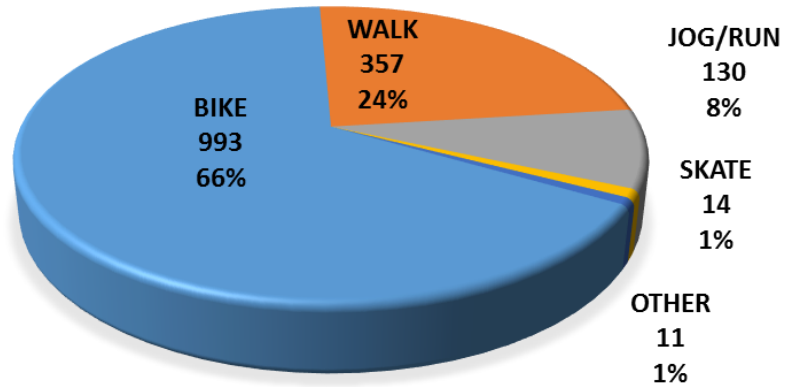
There were 4,757 responses from 2,513 respondents on this question in 2014. The highest percentage of use was recreation at 25%, followed by exercise at 18%. In 1999, the highest percentage of use was also for exercise, while recreational use was 8%.

Shopping trip on the Trail.

### On the Trail, do you usually....?

This question was intended to capture the user's preferred trip mode. Survey results showed 66%, or 993 users traveled by bicycle. All three surveys showed that bicycling remains the majority mode choice for traveling on the Trail.

Walkers totaled 357 or 24% in 2019. Those who jogged or ran totaled 130, or 8%, and there were 14, or 1% inline skaters. In the 2014 survey, 23% walked, 7% jogged or ran and 3% skated. While the number of Trail users who skate has decreased, the percentage of users who bike or walk has remained comparable. In 1999, 22% of survey respondents walked, 10% jogged/ran and 15% skated.

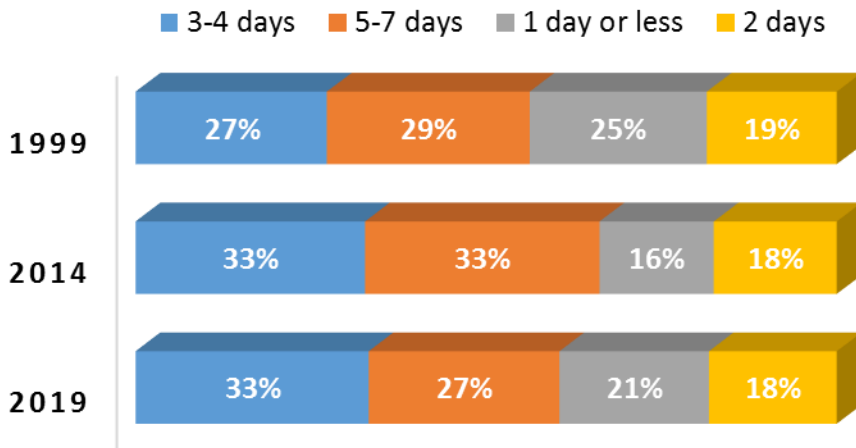
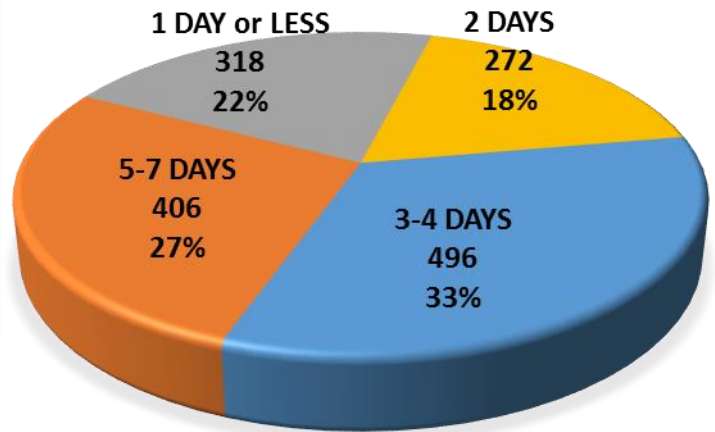


Taylor Park survey station

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## How many days per week do you typically use the Trail?

There were 1,492 survey responses to this question. The highest percentage of users typically are on the Trail 3 to 4 days each week. Slightly fewer use the Trail 5 to 7 days per week (27%). 22% of users are on the Trail 1 day or less, and 18% use the Trail about 2 days per week.



When comparing the results from the previous surveys, most users were on the Trail more than once each week, with the 2014 results showing two-thirds of users spent between 3 and 7 days per week on the Trail. Slightly fewer users spent one day or less on the Trail in 2019 than in 1999 (21% v. 25%), but those on the Trail about 2 days per week remained very similar (18% & 19%).

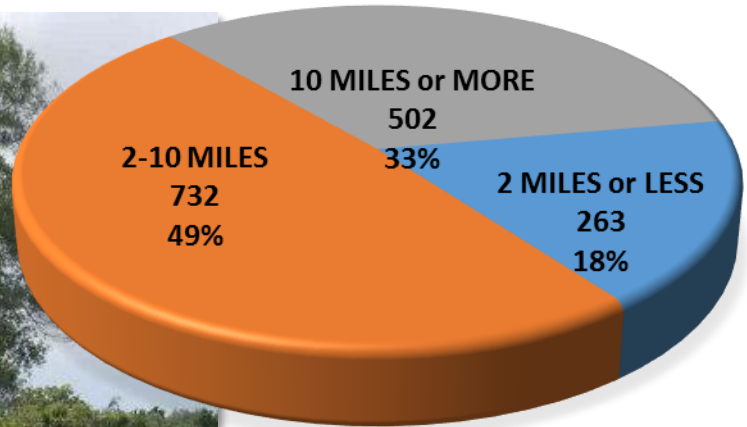


Downtown Dunedin

Forward Pinellas



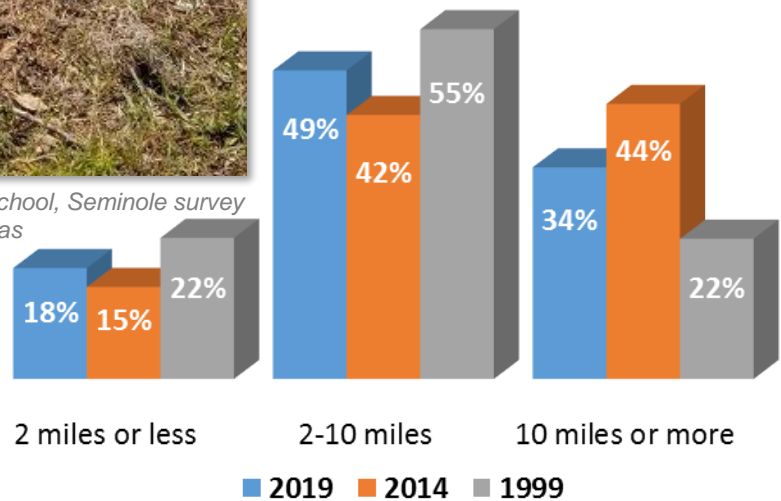
Staff assisting students with bike repairs on their way to school, Seminole survey station. Forward Pinellas



### How far (one-way) do you typically travel on the Trail?

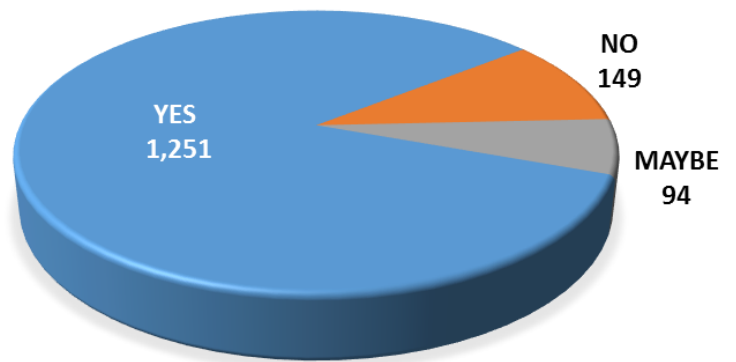
There were 1,497 responses to this question. Nearly half of the respondents (49%) traveled between 2 and 10 miles each trip, one-third (33%) traveled 10 miles or more, and one-fifth (18%) said they traveled 2 miles or less on the Trail each visit.

The average distance traveled by respondents in 2014 compared with the 1999 results reveal a higher percentage of Trail users traveling longer distances, while the results of the most recent survey indicate slightly fewer users traveling 10 miles or more.



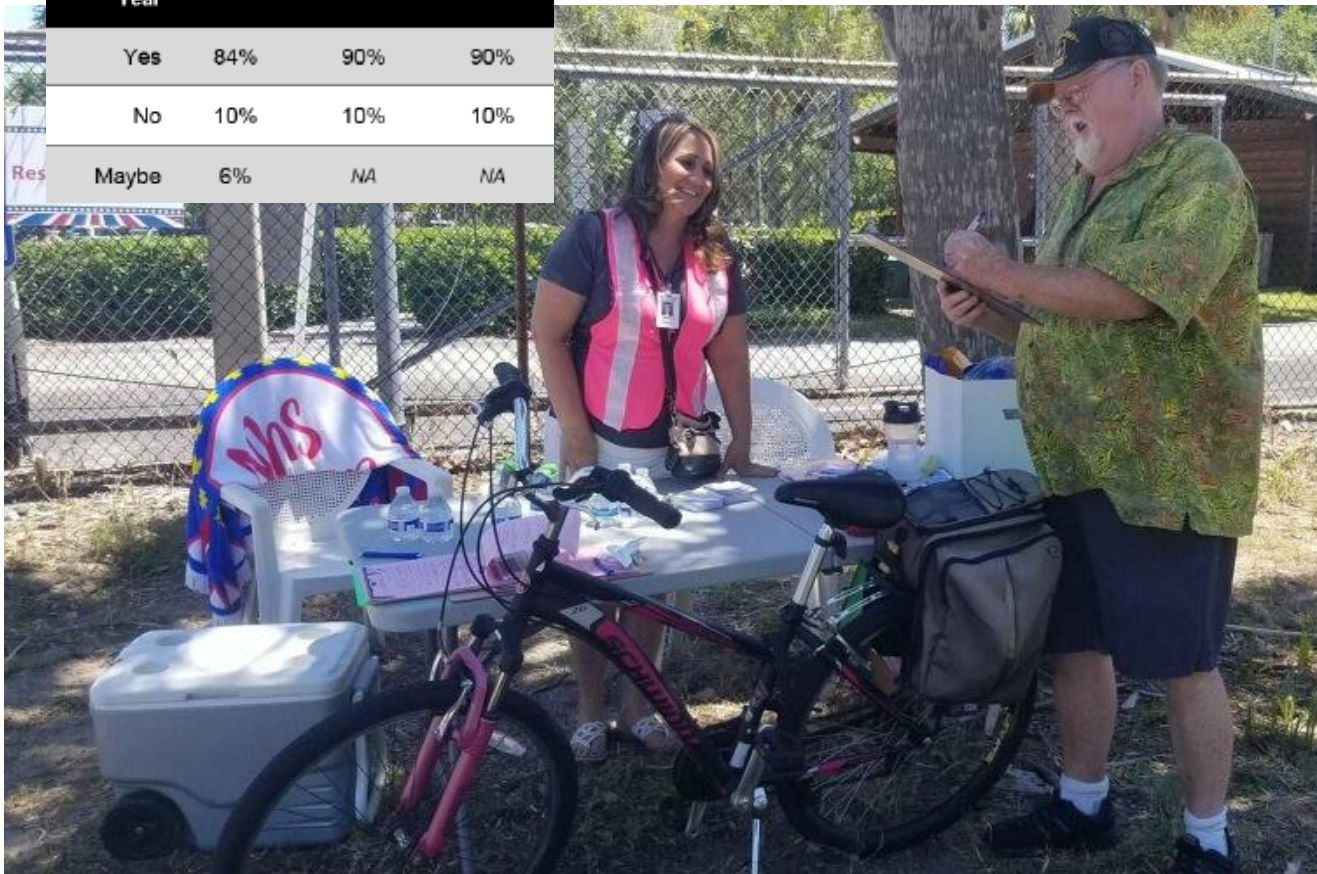
## Would you use more trails countywide?

As with the previous surveys, users were asked if they would use more trails countywide. There were 1,494 responses to this question. A large majority of them indicated they would use other trails (1,251 or 84%). About 10% (149) indicated they would not use other trails, and 6% or 94 users were noncommittal.



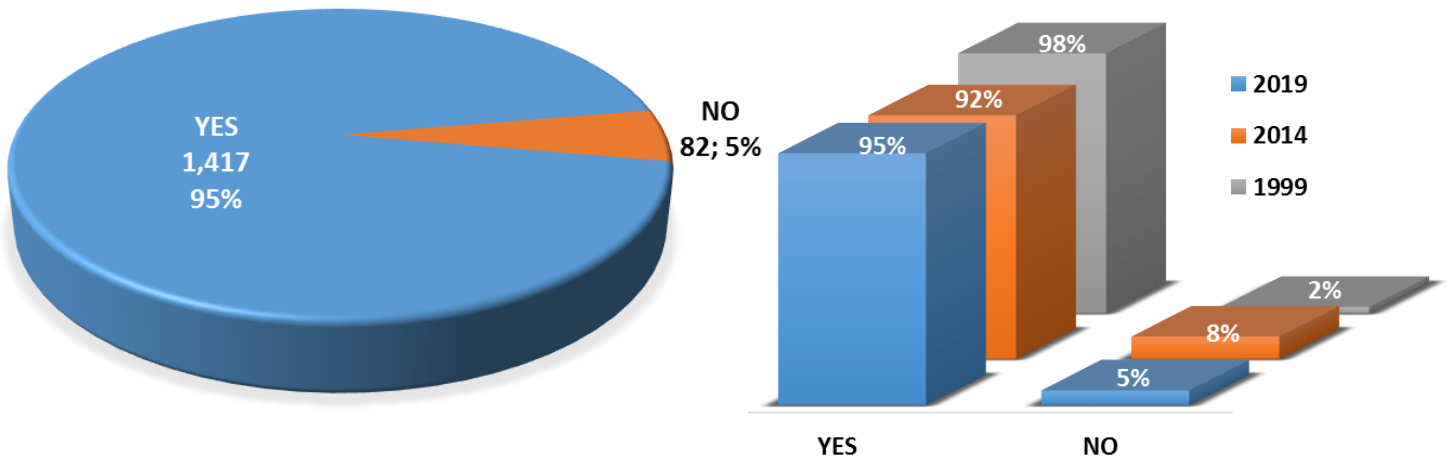
Responses from the 2014 and 1999 users surveys both recorded 90% of respondents would use other trails countywide. Based on staff observations at the survey stations, those who indicated they would not use other trails primarily tended to be residents who live close to the Trail, and use it regularly for its convenience. The “maybe” choice was not available on the previous surveys. These results would indicate that many trail users like to take advantage of off-road facilities countywide, while a small percentage are more comfortable traveling within their own neighborhoods and communities.

Survey Year	2019	2014	1999
Yes	84%	90%	90%
No	10%	10%	10%
Maybe	6%	NA	NA



Seminole City Park survey station

Forward Pinellas



**Overall, do you feel safe on the Trail?**

An overwhelming percentage of the respondents to this question see the Trail as a safe and secure corridor (95%). About 5% of respondents indicated they did not feel safe all of the time. Comments from those who answered negatively explained they felt unsafe after dark in secluded areas of the Trail or were unaccompanied females.

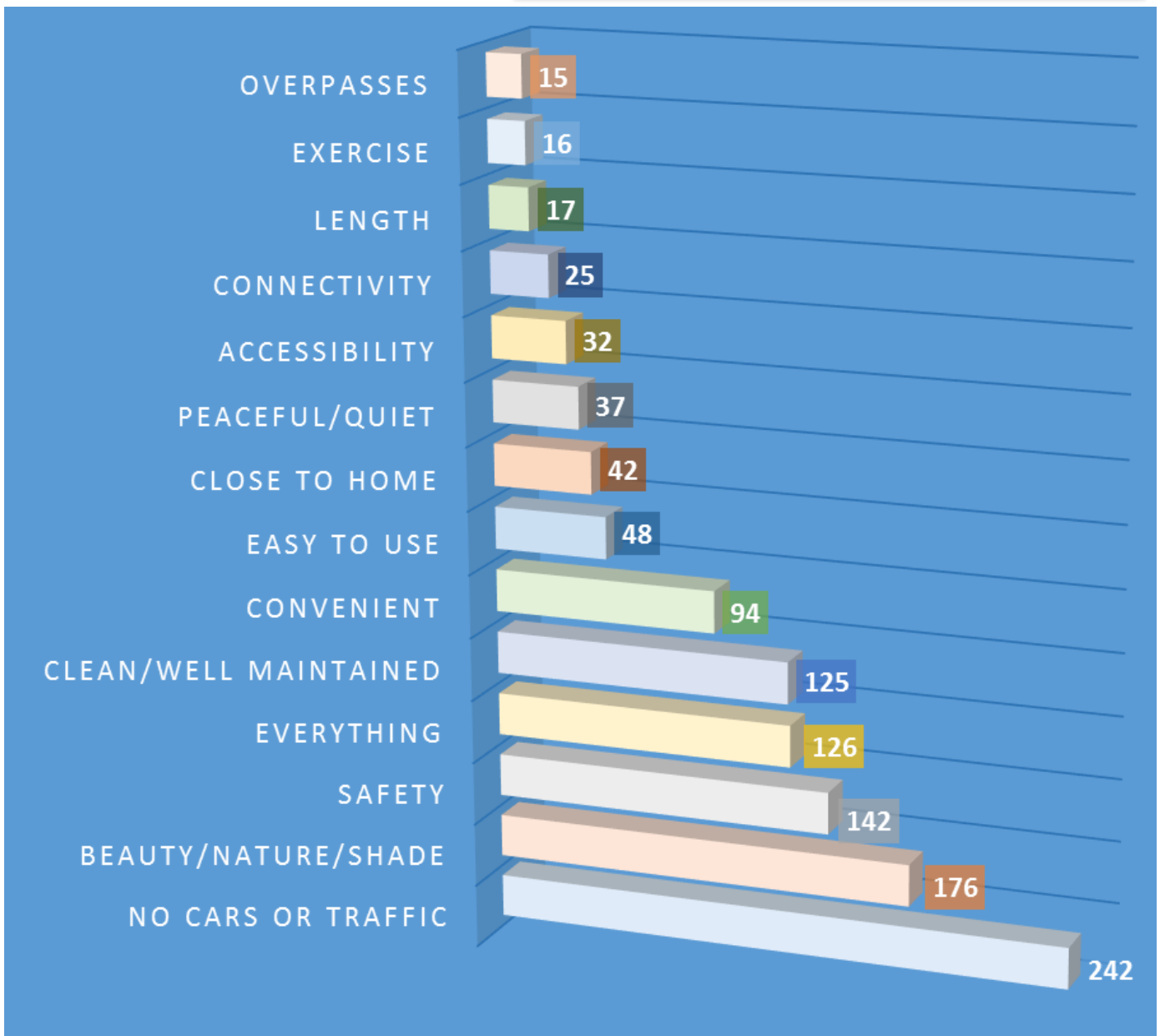
The vast majority of Trail users from all three surveys revealed they felt safe on the Trail: 98% in 1999; 92% in 2014; and 95% in 2019

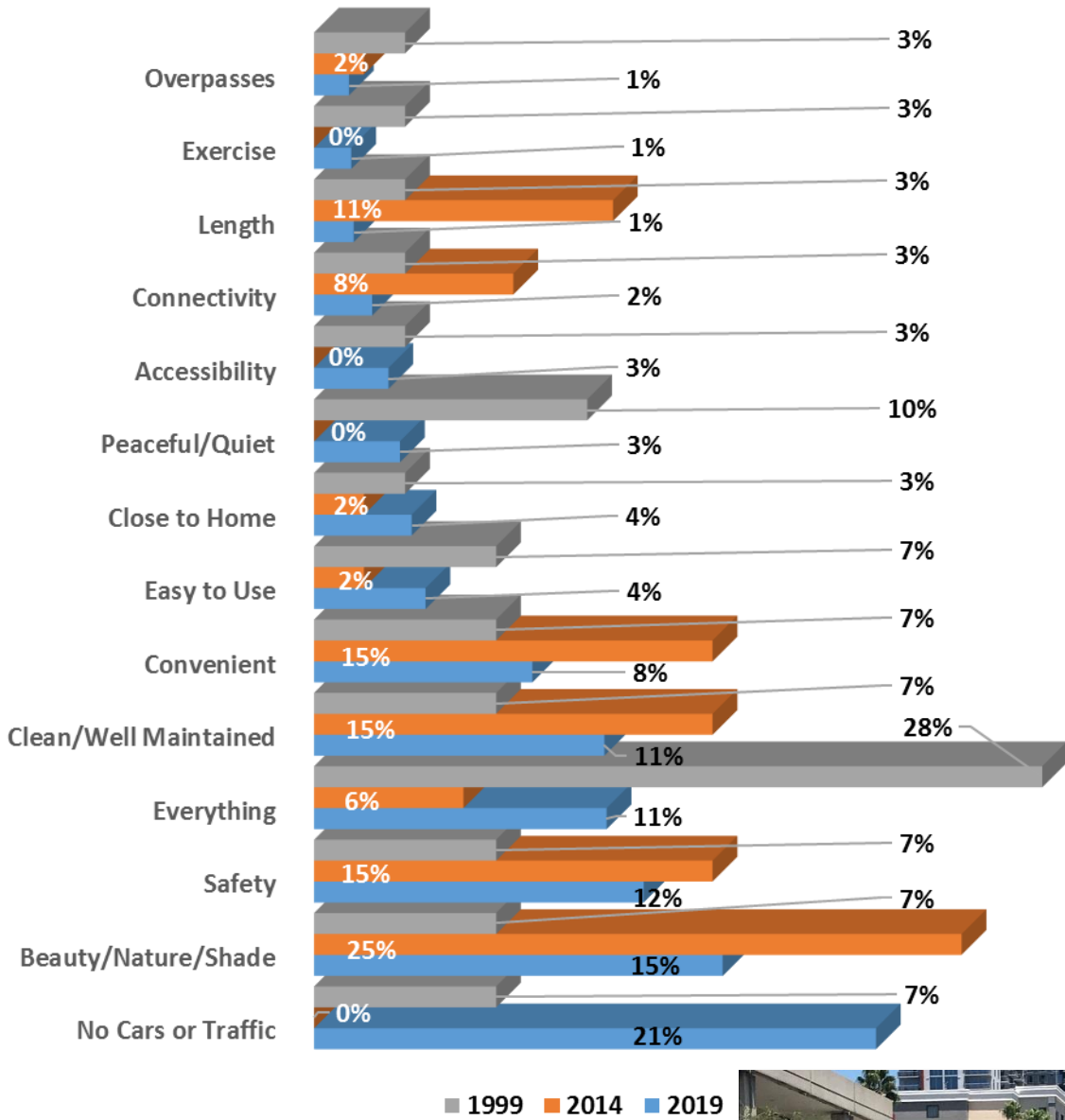
Downtown Dunedin survey station Forward Pinellas

### What do you like about the Trail?

This question and the following one asked respondents to briefly explain what they liked or disliked about the Trail. The result was a wide array of comments that were not easily measured.

In the 2019 survey, there were a total of 1,376 responses aggregated into 14 basic categories, with 239 seldom used responses that were not categorized.





### What do you like about the Trail?

*(continued)*

Answers to this question from the previous two surveys also resulted in an array of comments. For the purpose of comparison, comments from the 2014 and 1999 survey were summarized and charted with similar categories as the 2019 responses (by percentage). The responses are compared above.

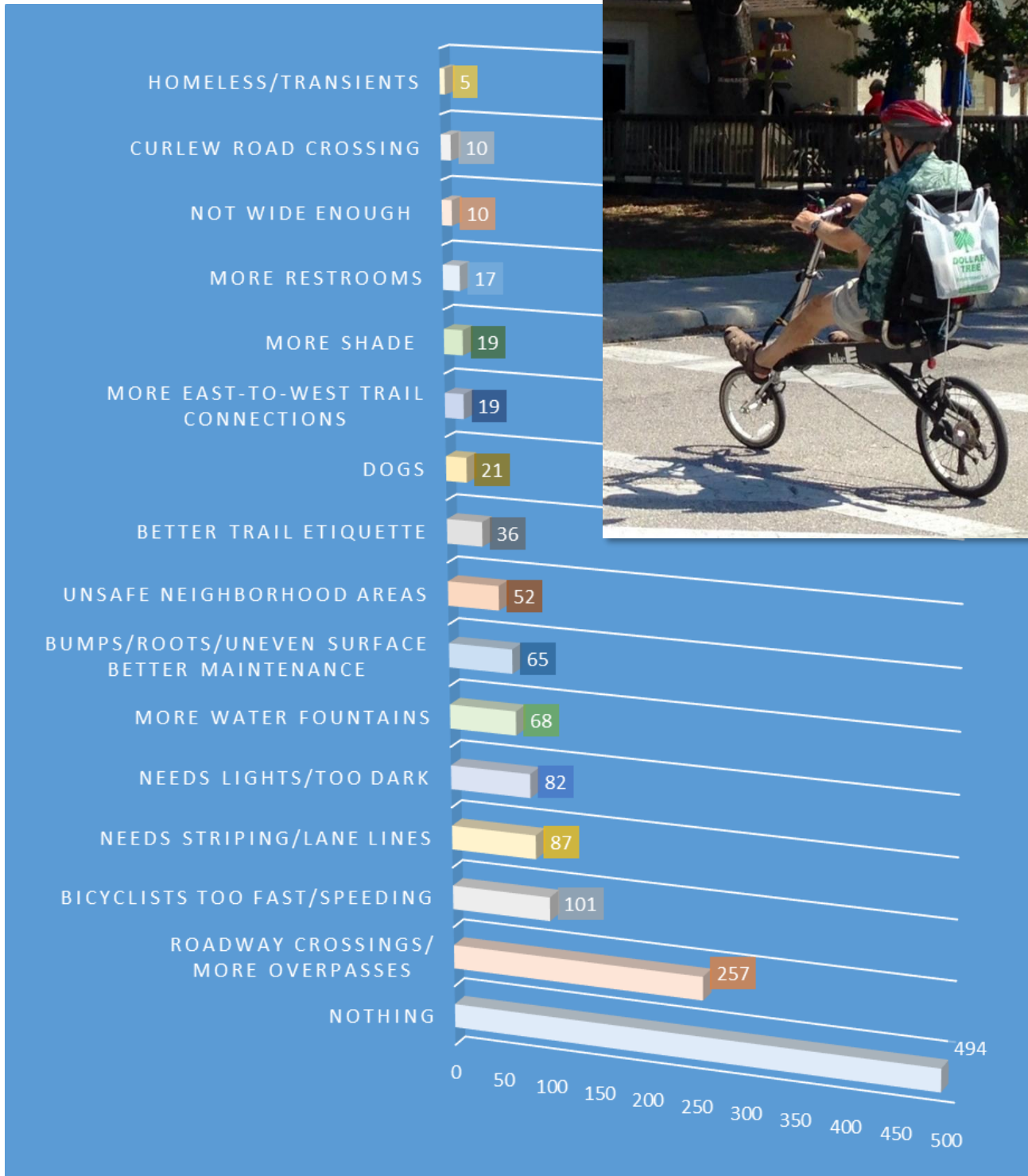


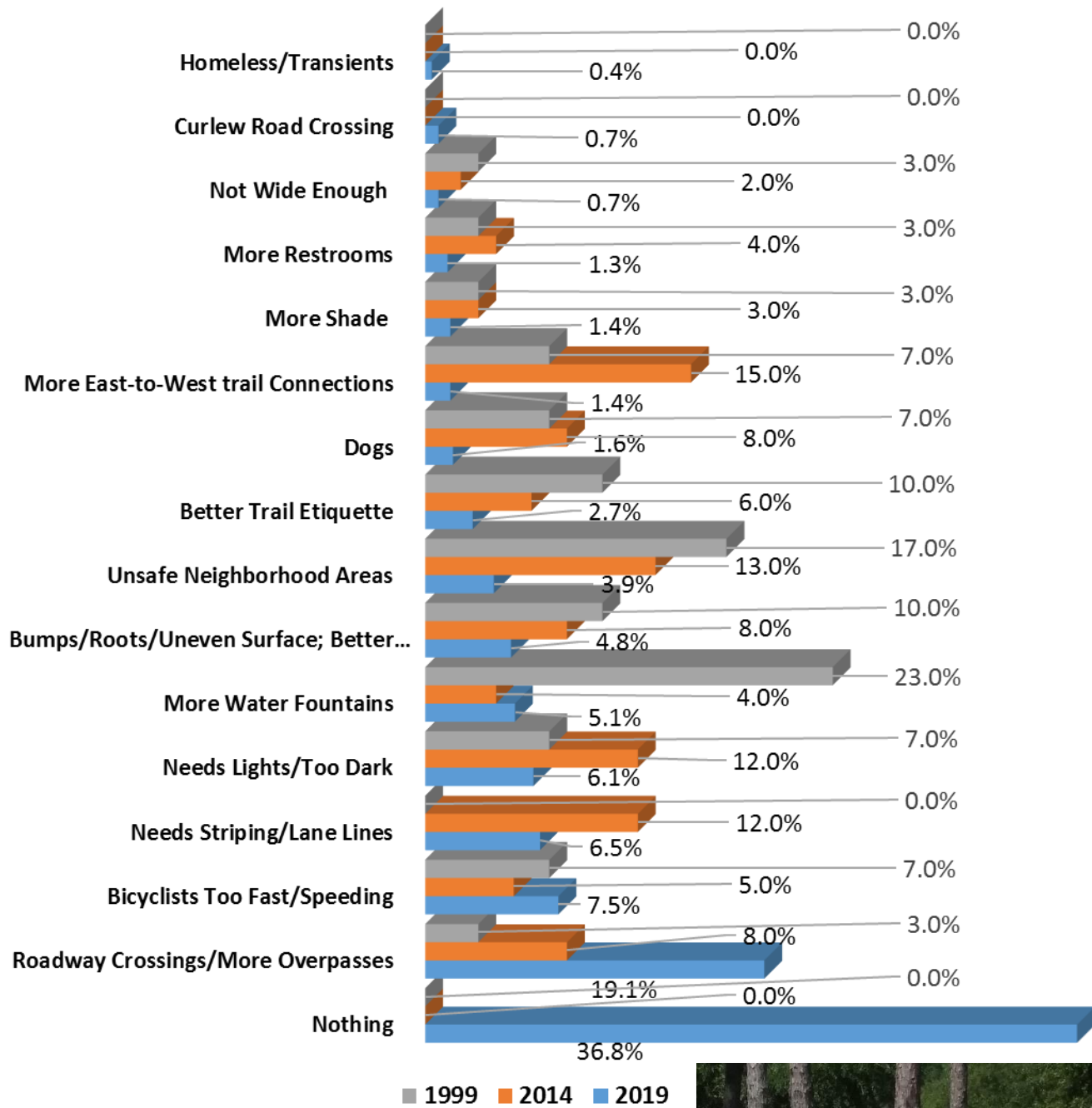


## What do you dislike about the Trail?

There were 1,382 total responses to this question, and 1,342 were assimilated into 16 categories, with 40 seldom used responses that weren't categorized.

The reasons users didn't like the Trail ranged from road crossings to bad Trail user etiquette and a shortage of water fountains and restrooms.





■ 1999 ■ 2014 ■ 2019

**What do you dislike about the Trail?** *(continued)*

Responses from the 2014 and 1999 surveys were summarized and charted with the 2019 categories above (by percentage of responses).



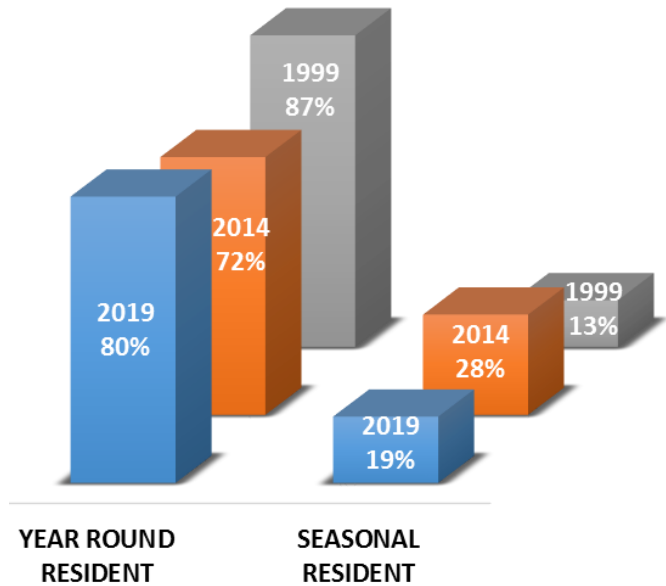
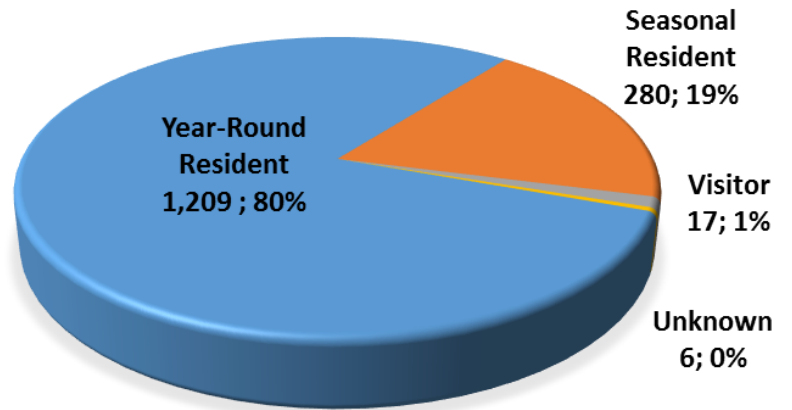
Wall Springs Park Survey Station  
Forward Pinellas

## Residency

80% of the survey respondents were year-round Pinellas County residents. Seasonal residents totaled 19%, with 1% indicating they were visitors.

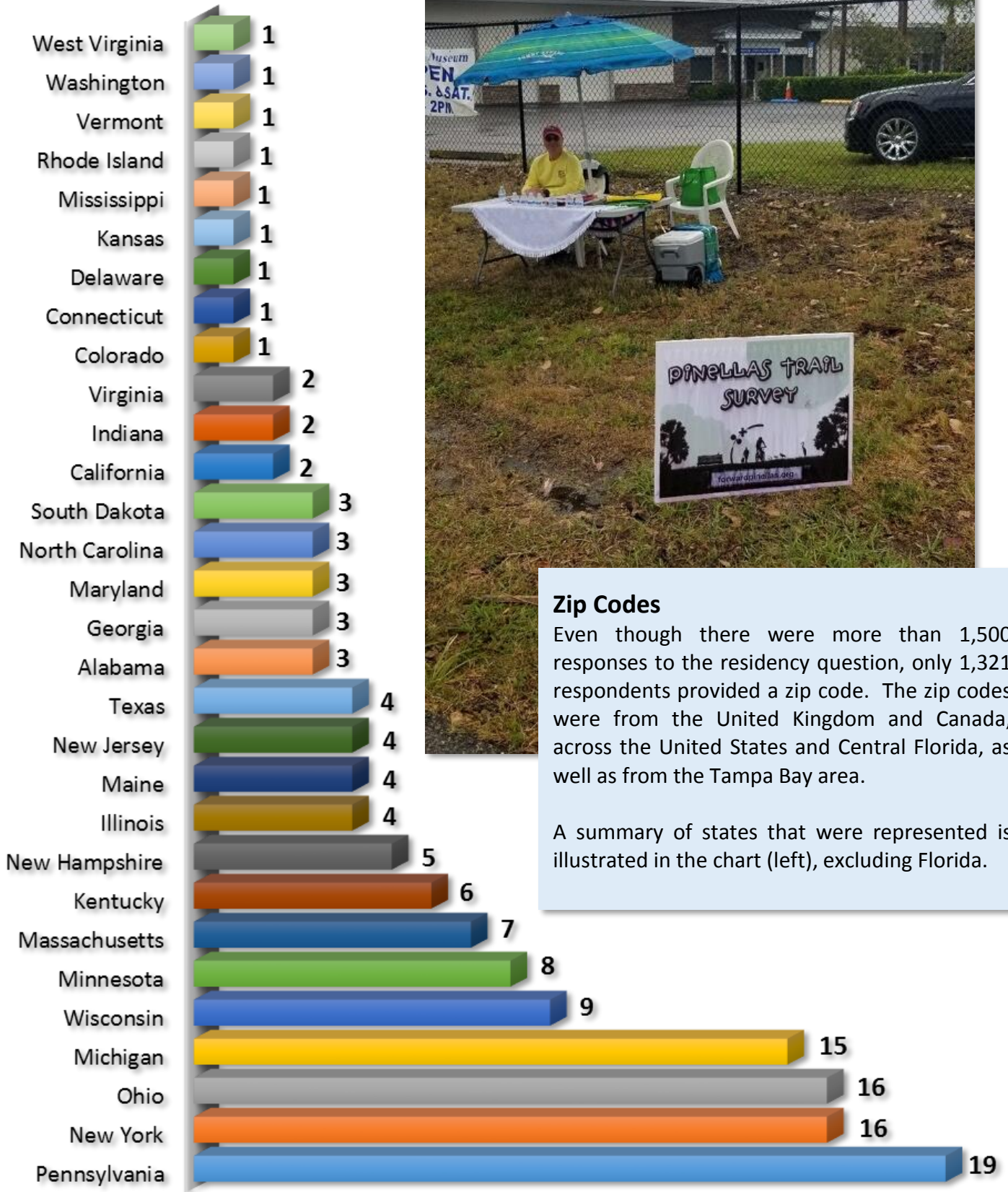
The percentage of year-round residents was 8% higher than in 2014, but 7% less than in 1999.

It should be noted that by the end of April, most seasonal residents have already returned to their summer residences out of state. The results of the three survey-years is compared in the chart to the right.



Downtown Dunedin survey station

Forward Pinellas



### Zip Codes

Even though there were more than 1,500 responses to the residency question, only 1,321 respondents provided a zip code. The zip codes were from the United Kingdom and Canada, across the United States and Central Florida, as well as from the Tampa Bay area.

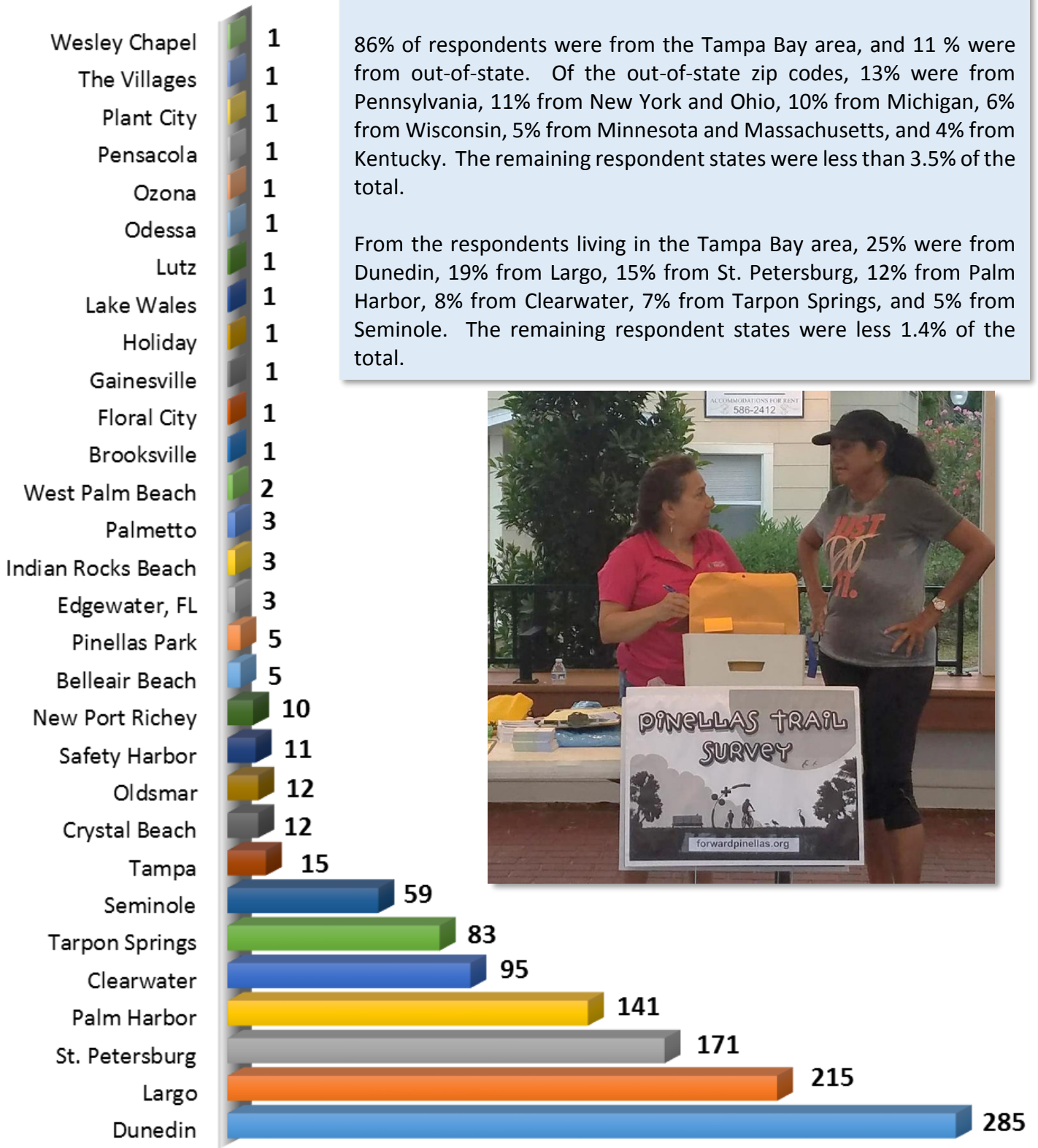
A summary of states that were represented is illustrated in the chart (left), excluding Florida.

### Zip Codes *(continued)*

A summary of respondent cities in the Tampa Bay area is illustrated in the chart (left). In addition, there were several unknown zip codes that were not included in either chart.

86% of respondents were from the Tampa Bay area, and 11 % were from out-of-state. Of the out-of-state zip codes, 13% were from Pennsylvania, 11% from New York and Ohio, 10% from Michigan, 6% from Wisconsin, 5% from Minnesota and Massachusetts, and 4% from Kentucky. The remaining respondent states were less than 3.5% of the total.

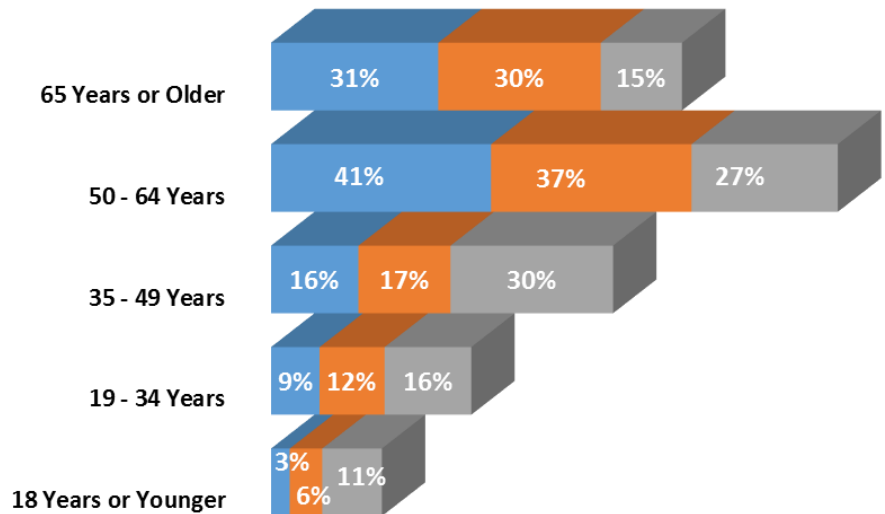
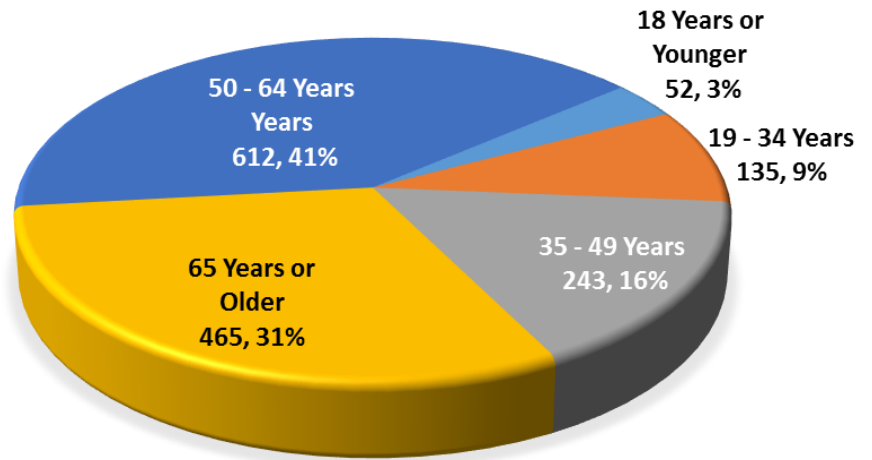
From the respondents living in the Tampa Bay area, 25% were from Dunedin, 19% from Largo, 15% from St. Petersburg, 12% from Palm Harbor, 8% from Clearwater, 7% from Tarpon Springs, and 5% from Seminole. The remaining respondent states were less 1.4% of the total.



## Age Group

For statistical comparisons, the same age groupings were used for each survey of the three surveys. There were 1,507 responses to the 2019 survey. As shown on the right, 41% (or 612) persons reported being between 50 and 64 years of age, 31% (or 465) were 65 years of age or older, 16% (or 243) were 35 to 49 years of age, 9% (or 135) were 19 to 34 years of age, and 3% (52) were 18 years of age or younger.

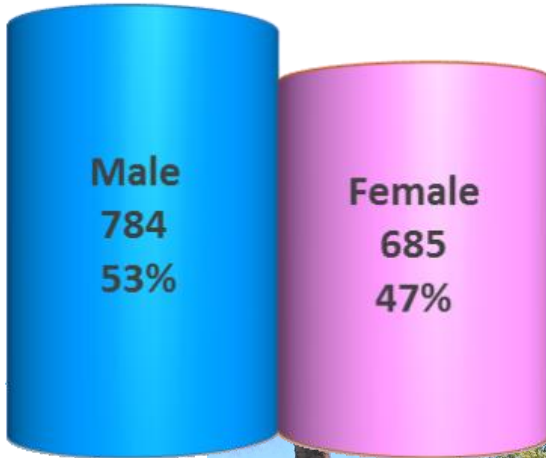
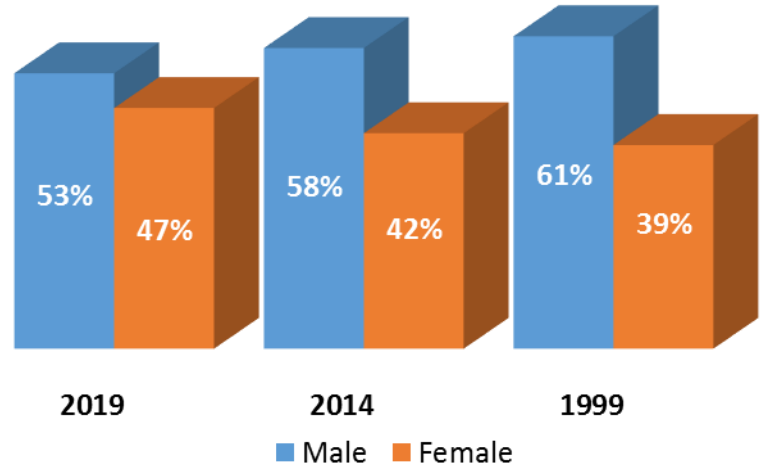
The percentage of user age groups from the three surveys is compared in the chart to the right.

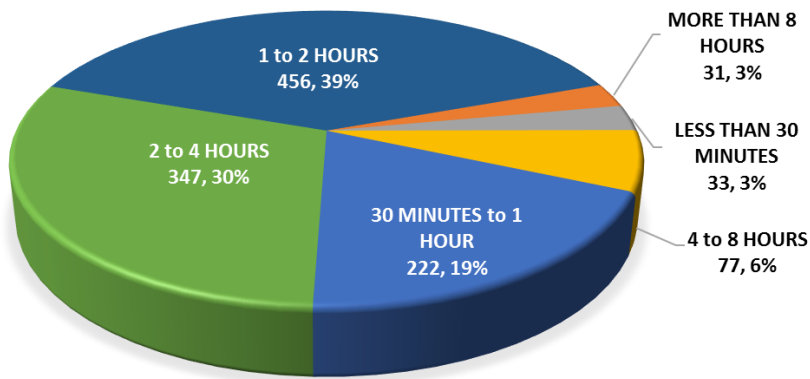


## Gender

There were 1,469 respondents who indicated their gender. 53% or 784 of respondents were male, and 47% or 685 were female.

When comparing the results of the three surveys, the percentage of female Trail users increased from 39% in 1999 to 42% in 2014, and 47% in 2019. This trend suggests an increasing comfort level for females using the Trail.





## How much time do you spend, on average, on the Trail?

In late November 2018, FDOT staff contacted Forward Pinellas for input on the impact of non-motorized trails. In coordination with FDOT's *Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Transportation Use Survey*, five questions were included with the 2019 survey to gauge the economic impact of the Trail. These questions were identified as 'bonus' questions, since they were only included in the 2019 survey.

### FDOT 'Bonus' Questions:

There was a total of 1,166 responses to the FDOT question. The majority of respondents, 39%, or 456 users, stated they used the Trail for one to two hours each visit. 30%, or 347 users, spent from 2 to 4 hours on the Trail, 19% or 222 users spent 30 minutes to one hour on the Trail. 6% or 77 respondents spent between 4 and 8 hours on the Trail each visit, and 3% or 31 users stated they spent more than 8 hours on the Trail. About 3% or 33 users, spent less than 30 minutes on the Trail.

1. How much did you spend on beverages, snacks and meals combined as part of your typical Trail visit?
2. Has your use of the Trail influenced your purchase of any of the following? (*Bicycle; Bicycle Accessories; Footwear; Clothing; Other*)
  - 2b. If yes: How much do you spend annually to visit the Trail? (*purchase of shoes, clothing, bicycle-related expenses, other equipment*)
3. If your visits to the Trail include overnight stays, how much do you spend for accommodations annually? (*hotel, motel, campground, etc.*)
4. How much time do you spend, on average, on this Trail each visit? (*Less than 30 minutes; 30 minutes to 1 hour; 1 to 2 hours; 2 to 4 hours; 4 to 8 hours; More than 8 hours*)



Pinellas Trail Users Survey Seminole City Park station

Forward Pinellas