

# North Kitsap Trails Association: String of Pearls Trails Survey Results

July 13, 2010

## Who Responded to the Survey and Where Do They Live?

The NKTA String of Pearls Trails Survey was completed online using Survey Monkey by 724 respondents between March 9 and May 12, 2010. A total of 438 respondents (61%) were female and 280 (39%) were male. Over one-half (58%) of the respondents were between the ages of 40 and 59, while 26% were younger than 40 and 17% were older than 59. Figure 1 shows the age group distribution of the survey respondents and the comparison of this distribution compared to the Kitsap County population.

**Figure 1. Age Group of Survey Respondents and Comparison to Kitsap County Population**

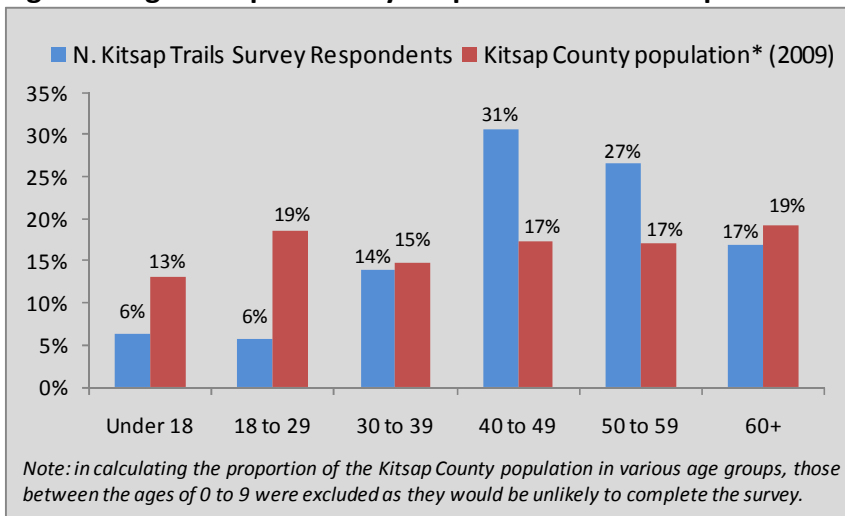
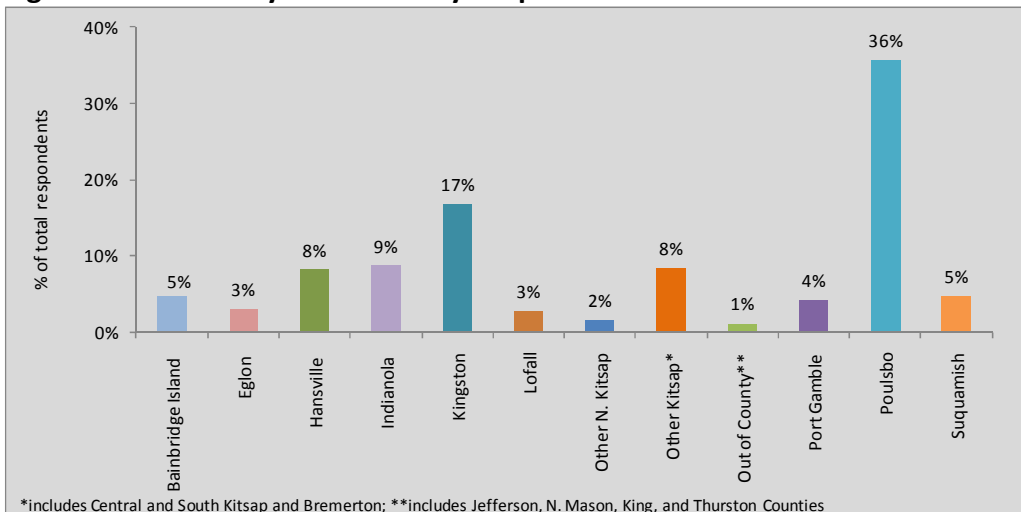


Figure 2 shows the community which survey respondents reported living in or nearest to. Over one-third (36%) of the survey respondents reported Poulsbo, while 17% reported Kingston, 9% Indianola, 8% Hansville, and 8% Other Kitsap (Central Kitsap/South Kitsap/Bremerton).

**Figure 2. Community which Survey Respondents Live in or Nearest to**



## What Activities do Respondents Enjoy Now?

Respondents were asked how frequently on average they currently participate in certain activities. Respondents who reported that they participate in activities two or more times a week are described as doing that activity on a frequent basis (Table 1).

**Table 1. Respondents who Reported Doing the Following Activities on a Frequent Basis**

<b>ON AVERAGE, how often do you do the following activities?*: Respondents who do activity two or more times per week</b>		
	<b>n</b>	<b>% of those who answered question**</b>
Walk or hike	452	67%
Bike	260	n/a
Bike on continuous road shoulders	130	22%
Bike on dirt or gravel surfaces	90	15%
Bike on paved trails separated from roadways	40	7%
Run	171	30%
Ride a horse	28	5%
Paddle or use other non-motorized watercraft	20	3%
Rollerblade/skate/skateboard	13	2%
Use a wheelchair or other assistive device	4	1%
Other activity^	35	15%

\*respondents could choose from the following frequencies: daily, 2-4x per week, 2-4x per month, 2-4x per year, or not at all; \*\*each activity had missing responses, missing responses ranged between 54 and 498 (for "other activity"); ^"other activity" included: walking a dog (on and off leash), pushing a stroller while walking or running, swimming, sailing, using a scooter, gardening, using gym machines/equipment, trail maintenance, backpacking, and biking in places not already listed (e.g. airpark or parking lots)

- Walk/hike and bike were the two activities that respondents reported doing most often on a frequent basis.
- Respondents who walk/hike were most likely to do this activity on a frequent basis with about 2 out of 3 respondents walking or hiking two or more times per week.
- About 1 in 3 respondents who run do it two or more times per week, while about 1 in 6 respondents who do any bicycling do it two or more times per week.

## What Are Respondents' Beliefs, Desires and Priorities for a Trail System?

Respondents were asked if they strongly agreed, agreed, were neutral, disagreed, or strongly disagreed with numerous statements related to trail systems. Table 2 shows respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with statements about the trail systems.

**Table 2. Respondents who Agreed or Strongly Agreed with Statements about Trails Systems**

	Agreed	Strongly Agreed	% (#) of Respondents who Agreed or Strongly Agreed*
<b>Potential Use of Trail System</b>			
I believe that a trail system is important to the quality of life in North Kitsap.	114	540	94% (654)
I would use a trail system if one were built in my community.	114	532	93% (646)
I would use a trail system to exercise more.	135	468	87% (603)
I would use a trail system to access public transit.	94	143	35% (237)
I would use a trail system to commute to work.	95	136	35% (231)
I would use a trail system to access stores, restaurants or other businesses.	210	214	62% (424)
I would use a trail system to get to and from school.**	67	121	29% (188)
<b>Desired Trail Location</b>			
I would like trails within my immediate neighborhood.	156	421	83% (577)
I would like trails that connect my neighborhood to other communities & destinations such as schools, parks, transit, work or retail stores/businesses.	160	443	87% (603)
I would like trails that connect all North Kitsap communities.	171	408	84% (579)
I would like trails that connect to all of Kitsap County and other regional trails.	155	406	81% (561)
<b>Characteristics of a Water Trail System</b>			
I would like more public access sites for launching and landing kayaks, canoes and other non-motorized watercraft in my community.	227	214	66% (441)
I think it is important that shore access points are well-marked from the land and the water.	287	241	79% (528)
I would like shore access points for launching or beaching my kayak or canoe.	219	199	63% (418)
I think water trails are important to the quality of life in North Kitsap.	266	254	78% (520)
I would use a water trail if there was access to a launch site in my community.	189	203	59% (392)
I would use a water trail as a way to get more exercise.	177	198	56% (375)
<b>Value of Trail System</b>			
I believe that paved shared-use paths that are separated from cars would be an important addition to the North Kitsap community.	135	464	89% (599)
If paved shared-use paths were built in North Kitsap, I would use them.	143	458	89% (601)

\*not all survey respondents answered each question, \*\*66% of respondents under the age of 18 agreed or strongly agreed with this statement

- Almost all respondents (94%) agreed that a trail system is important to the quality of life in North Kitsap and that they would use a trail system if one were built in their community.
- Almost 90% of respondents agreed they would use a trail system to exercise more. The other most popular use of a trail system would be to access stores, restaurants, or other businesses.

- The creation of paved, shared-use paths in North Kitsap is valued among survey respondents. Almost 90% of respondents agreed these paths would be an important addition to the community and that they would use the paths if built.
- The majority of respondents, over 80%, agreed that they would like trails to not only be in their neighborhood and connecting their neighborhood to other locations but would also like trails to connect all North Kitsap communities and to connect North Kitsap communities to the rest of Kitsap/other regional trails.
- Over three-quarters of respondents (78%) agreed that water trails are important to the quality of life in North Kitsap. About two-thirds of respondents agreed that they would like more public access sites for launching and landing kayaks, canoes and other non-motorized watercraft in their community (66%) and that they would like shore access points for launching or beaching a kayak or canoe (63%). Over one-half (56%) of respondents agreed that they would use a water trail as a way to get more exercise.

Table 3 shows respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with selected statements about trails systems by reported area of residence.

**Table 3. Respondents who Agreed or Strongly Agreed with Trail Location Statements by Community\***

	Bainbridge Island	Eglon	Hansville	Indianola	Kingston	Lofall	Port Gamble	Poulsbo	Suquamish	Other Kitsap
I would like trails within my immediate neighborhood.	91%	59%	87%	88%	83%	85%	83%	80%	85%	90%
I would like trails that connect my neighborhood to other communities and destinations such as schools, parks, transit, work or retail stores and businesses.	94%	70%	76%	86%	84%	90%	86%	89%	85%	93%
I would like trails that connect all North Kitsap communities	85%	64%	69%	83%	81%	90%	87%	87%	85%	88%
I would like trails that connect to all of Kitsap County and other regional trails.	91%	48%	67%	73%	78%	80%	80%	85%	81%	93%

\*areas of residence that had ten or less respondents are not included (other North Kitsap and Out of County); Eglon had only 22 respondents and results should be interpreted with caution

- All of the communities except for Eglon had 80 to 90% agreeing that they would like trails within their immediate neighborhood.
- Similarly, 87% agreed that they would like trails to connect to other communities and destinations with Eglon having the lowest level of support but still with 70% agreement.
- 84% agreed they would like trails that connect all N. Kitsap communities, with Eglon (64%) and Hansville (69%) at lower levels of agreement, and Poulsbo (87%), Bainbridge Island (85%) and Port Gamble (87%) having the highest levels of agreement.

## How Safe and Comfortable do Respondents Feel While Doing Certain Activities?

Respondents were asked if they strongly agreed, agreed, were neutral, disagreed, or strongly disagreed with several statements related to safety and comfort when walking, running, and biking. Table 4 shows respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with statements about safety and comfort.

**Table 4. Respondents' Current Safety and Comfort when Walking, Running and Biking**

	Agreed	Strongly Agreed	% (#) of Respondents who Agreed or Strongly Agreed*
<b>Safety and Comfort in Community When Walking, Running, Biking</b>			
There are safe places to walk, hike and/or run in my community.	306	161	67% (467)
There are safe places to bike on the roads in my community.	134	37	25% (171)
There are safe places for off-road biking in my community.	233	110	50% (343)
I am comfortable cycling on a road with no shoulder in moderate traffic.	40	11	8% (51)
I am comfortable biking on a 2-foot-wide road shoulder in moderate traffic.	162	29	29% (191)
I am comfortable biking on a 5-foot-wide bike lane in moderate traffic.	296	180	71% (476)
I am comfortable biking on a paved path separated from motorized traffic.	110	504	92% (614)

\*not all survey respondents answered each question

- Almost all respondents (92%) indicated that they would feel comfortable biking on a paved path separated from motorized traffic. This level of comfort quickly decreased as the space available to a bicyclist decreased. A total of 71% agreed they would feel comfortable biking on a 5-foot wide bike lane in moderate traffic, only 29% of respondents agreed they would feel comfortable biking on a 2-foot wide shoulder in moderate traffic and only 8% of respondents agreed they would feel comfortable biking on a road with no shoulder in moderate traffic.
- Approximately two-thirds of respondents (67%) agreed that there are safe places to walk/hike/run in their community, while one-half (50%) agreed there are safe places for off-road biking and only one-quarter (25%) agreed there are safe places for biking on the roads.

Table 5 shows respondents who agreed or strongly agreed with selected statements about safety and comfort by reported area of residence.

**Table 5. Respondents who Agreed or Strongly Agreed with Safety/Comfort Statements by Community**

	Bainbridge Island	Eglon	Hansville	Indianola	Kingston	Lofall	Port Gamble	Poulsbo	Suquamish	Other Kitsap
There are safe places to walk, hike and/or run in my community.	85%	82%	89%	78%	72%	75%	54%	59%	36%	67%
There are safe places to bike on the roads in my community.	56%	32%	35%	24%	19%	35%	17%	22%	12%	22%
There are safe places for off-road biking in my community.	69%	43%	61%	54%	54%	60%	68%	44%	18%	51%
I am comfortable cycling on a road with no shoulder in moderate traffic.	19%	10%	4%	3%	3%	10%	3%	10%	0%	13%
I am comfortable biking on a 2-foot-wide road shoulder in moderate traffic.	41%	21%	25%	41%	22%	40%	23%	28%	16%	39%
I am comfortable biking on a 5-foot-wide bike lane in moderate traffic.	84%	80%	75%	83%	69%	75%	63%	64%	77%	75%
I am comfortable biking on a paved path that is separated from motorized traffic.	94%	90%	85%	93%	93%	95%	90%	90%	90%	96%

- There was large variation in the perception of safety between communities. 67% of respondents agreed that there are safe places to walk, hike, or run in the community with a low of 36% agreement by Suquamish residents compared to 89% agreement by Hansville residents. Port Gamble and Poulsbo were also lower than other communities, at 54% and 59% respectively.
- Only 25% of respondents agreed that there are safe places to bike on the roads in the community. Suquamish had the lowest percentage of respondents agreeing at 12%. Other communities that had low percentages were Port Gamble (17%), Kingston (19%), Poulsbo (22%), and Indianola (24%), while Bainbridge Island had 56% agreement.

## What are the Top Considerations for a Trails Plan?

Respondents were asked to select their top three choices for what they thought should be considered in the trails plan. As the question asked for the “first, second and third choice” but not for a ranking of the choices, the analysis is an aggregate of the first, second, and third choice counts for each activity. Table 6 shows ranked priority considerations for the trails plan by community and for all respondents.

**Table 6. Priority Considerations for Trails Plan by Community and for All Respondents**

Bainbridge Island	Eglon	Hansville	Indianola	Kingston	Lofall	Port Gamble	Poulsbo	Suquamish	Other Kitsap	All Respondents
Walking or Hiking (n=23)	Walking or Hiking (n=18)	Walking or Hiking (n=46)	Walking or Hiking (n=52)	Walking or Hiking (n=104)	Walking or Hiking (n=16)	Walking or Hiking (n=24)	Walking or Hiking (n=200)	Walking or Hiking (n=30)	Walking or Hiking (n=35)	Walking or Hiking (n=562)
Biking on dirt or gravel surfaces (n=19)	Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=10)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=23)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=36)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=74)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=15)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=18)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=154)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=21)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=30)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=408)
Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=15)	Biking on dirt or gravel surfaces (n=6)	Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=22)	Biking on dirt or gravel surfaces (n=26)	Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=49)	Biking on dirt or gravel surfaces (n=9)	Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=13)	Running (n=84)	Running (n=13)	Biking on dirt or gravel surfaces (n=22)	Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=233)
Biking on continuous road shoulders (n=14)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=6)	Biking on dirt or gravel surfaces (n=16)	Biking on continuous road shoulders (n=21)	Biking on dirt or gravel surfaces (n=36)	Biking on continuous road shoulders (n=9)	Horseback Riding (n=11)	Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=72)	Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=10)	Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=21)	Biking on dirt or gravel surfaces (n=218)
Running (n=10)	Horseback Riding (n=6)	Running (n=13)	Running (n=15)	Running (n=30)	Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=5)	Running (n=8)	Biking on dirt or gravel surfaces (n=66)	Biking on dirt or gravel surfaces (n=7)	Running (n=17)	Running (n=197)
Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=9)	Biking on continuous road shoulders (n=5)	Biking on continuous road shoulders (n=11)	Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=13)	Biking on continuous road shoulders (n=26)	Horseback Riding (n=4)	Biking on dirt or gravel surfaces (n=7)	Biking on continuous road shoulders (n=60)	Biking on continuous road shoulders (n=7)	Biking on continuous road shoulders (n=14)	Biking on continuous road shoulders (n=178)
Horseback Riding (n=3)	Running (n=3)	Horseback Riding (n=8)	Using a wheelchair/other assistive device or pushing a stroller (n=4)	Horseback Riding (n=16)	Running (n=1)	Biking on continuous road shoulders (n=7)	Horseback Riding (n=34)	Other (n=3)	Horseback Riding (n=13)	Horseback Riding (n=99)
Using a wheelchair/other assistive device or pushing a stroller (n=2)	Other (n=2)	Other (n=8)	Horseback Riding (n=2)	Using a wheelchair/other assistive device or pushing a stroller (n=8)	Rollerblading/ skating or skateboarding (n=1)	Using a wheelchair/other assistive device or pushing a stroller (n=1)	Using a wheelchair/other assistive device or pushing a stroller (n=15)	Horseback Riding (n=1)	Using a wheelchair/other assistive device or pushing a stroller (n=5)	Using a wheelchair/other assistive device or pushing a stroller (n=43)
Other (n=1)	Using a wheelchair/other assistive device or pushing a stroller (n=1)	Using a wheelchair/other assistive device or pushing a stroller (n=3)	Rollerblading/ skating or skateboarding (n=2)	Other (n=6)			Other (n=13)	Using a wheelchair/other assistive device or pushing a stroller (n=1)	Other (n=5)	Other (n=38)
		Rollerblading/ skating or skateboarding (n=3)		Rollerblading/ skating or skateboarding (n=5)			Rollerblading/ skating or skateboarding (n=8)			Rollerblading/ skating or skateboarding (n=19)

- Walking or Hiking was the activity that respondents in all communities indicated should receive the most consideration.
- Biking on paved trails separated from roadways was the second most popular activity for most communities.
- In the overall results, kayaking, canoeing, and other non-motorized watercraft; biking on dirt or gravel surfaces; and running were close in total counts for activities that should be considered next.
- Other activities that were written in by respondents for consideration included: dog walking, off-leash dog areas, having walking trails only, safe routes to school, ATV use, birding, wildflower viewing, free riding/mountain biking, beach access, non-paved nature/wildlife preserve, overnight camping, Burke-Gilman-like trails, fishing and surfing.

Table 7 shows the top priorities for consideration of a trails plan by age group.

**Table 7. Top Priority Considerations for Trails Plan by Age Group**

<b>Under 18</b>	<b>18 to 29</b>	<b>30 to 39</b>	<b>40 to 49</b>	<b>50 to 59</b>	<b>60+</b>
Walking or Hiking (n=33)	Walking or Hiking (n=29)	Walking or Hiking (n=67)	Walking or Hiking (n=169)	Walking or Hiking (n=153)	Walking or Hiking (n=109)
Running (n=28)	Running (n=21)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=60)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=140)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=107)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=56)
Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=23)	Biking on paved trails separated from roadways (n=20)	Running (n=41)	Biking on dirt or gravel surfaces (n=83)	Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=65)	Kayaking, Canoeing, other non-motorized watercraft (n=52)

- Walking or Hiking remains the activity that respondents in all age groups indicated should receive the most consideration.
- Running was second choice for ages 29 and younger, but biking on paved trails separated from roadways was second for all ages 30 and older.
- Kayaking, canoeing, and other non-motorized watercraft was the third most popular choice for adults age 50 and older.

## Summary

The survey was completed online using Survey Monkey. Respondents were encouraged to participate via email lists from NKTA, user groups, individual emails, blanket emails through the North Kitsap School District, or respondents read about the survey in newspaper articles in the Kitsap Sun and North Kitsap Herald, came to NKTA presentations or saw the survey on the NKTA website.

The following conclusions can be made from the results:

- There are current safety concerns for community residents that may be preventing people from exercising outside. Only 2 out of 3 people feel there are safe places in their community to walk or run, and only 1 out of 4 people feel there are safe places to bike on the roads. Proximity to traffic is a major concern for bicycling; while only 8% feel comfortable bicycling in moderate traffic with no shoulder, 29% are comfortable with a 2' shoulder, 71% are comfortable with a 5' bike lane and 92% are comfortable on a paved path separate from traffic. There is variability in the current level of safety for walking/running and for bicycling by individual community.
- Walking was identified as the most important consideration in creating a trail system by respondents in all communities and in all age groups. Bicycling was the second most important consideration for respondents of all ages. For younger people running was identified as a top consideration, and for older people water activity was identified as a top consideration.
- Almost all respondents agreed that a trail system is important to the quality of life in North Kitsap and that they would use a trail system if one were built in their community. About 9 out of 10 respondents agreed they would use a trail system to exercise more. Two out of 3 youth respondents agreed they would use trails to get to school, and almost 2 out of 3 total respondents agreed they would use trails to access stores, restaurants or other businesses.