

# Bike Recreation Sub-Committee Meeting



July 18, 2022

# Goal 1: Evaluate community preferences around bike recreation



- PROS Plan Survey data
- PROS Plan focus group

# Online Survey

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1. Not a statistically valid survey as it was available to anyone who wanted to take it. Still provides useful community feedback.
2. Survey was open for two months from April to June.
3. Over 2,300 survey responses which is over double previous plan response rates.





# Initial Survey Feedback

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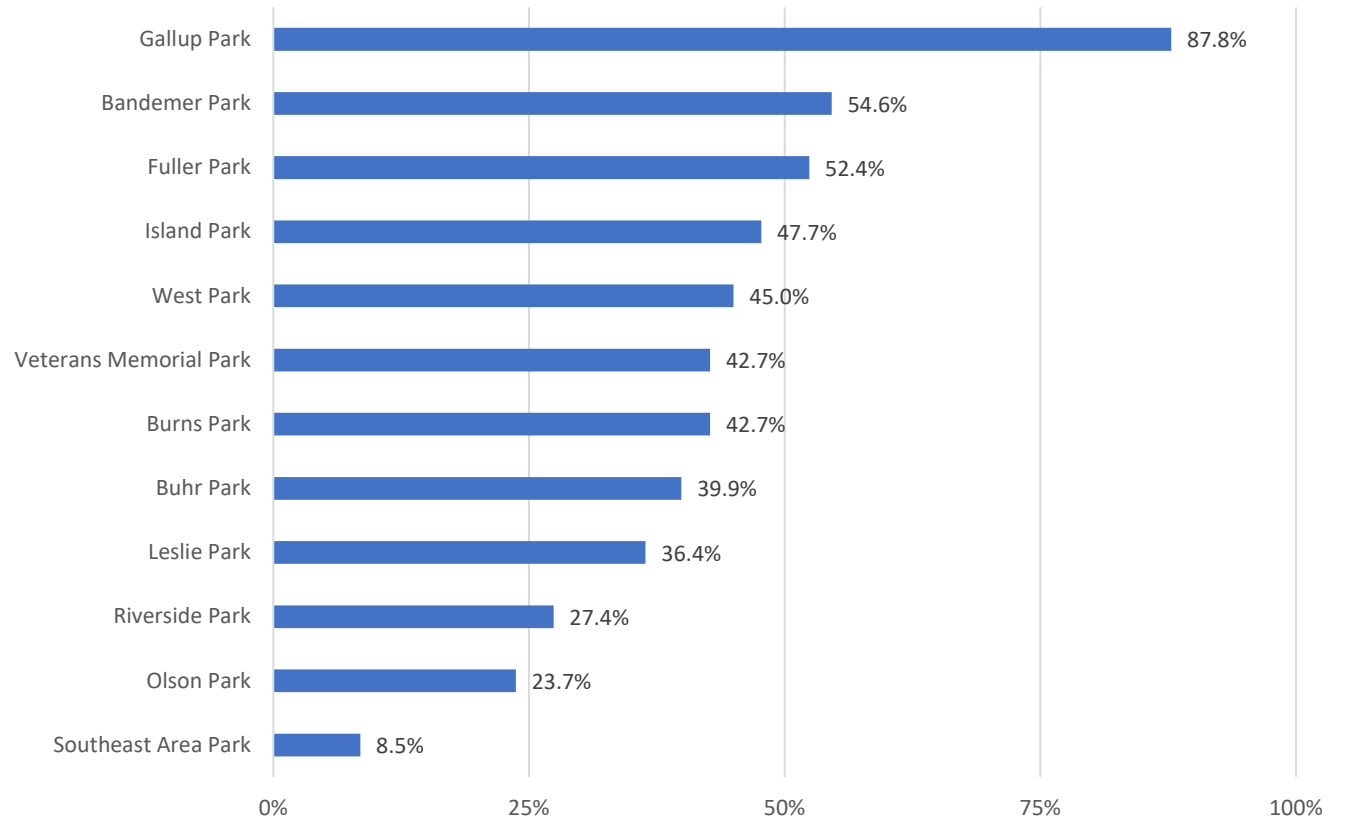
- Survey results helped reveal and confirm parks with high community usage, as well as identifying underused parks. Helpful in location of new amenities.
- Initial responses show a community preference to improve our existing parks and amenities, rather than invest in adding new parks, facilities or amenities.
- Bike recreation and facilities are both popular (B2B), and unknown (BMX).





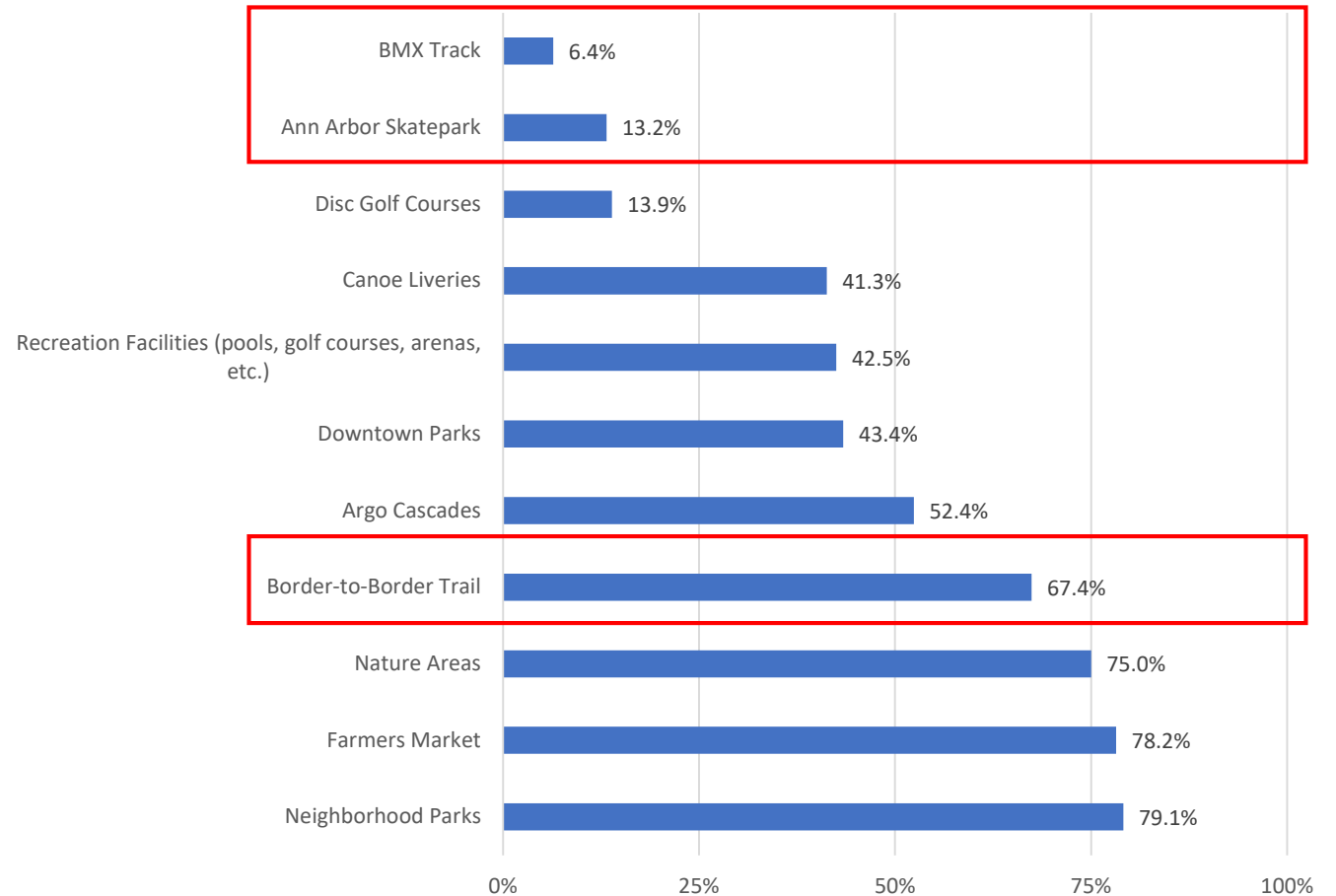
# Survey Results – Question 1

Please CHECK ALL of the community-wide parks that you or members of your household have visited over the past year.



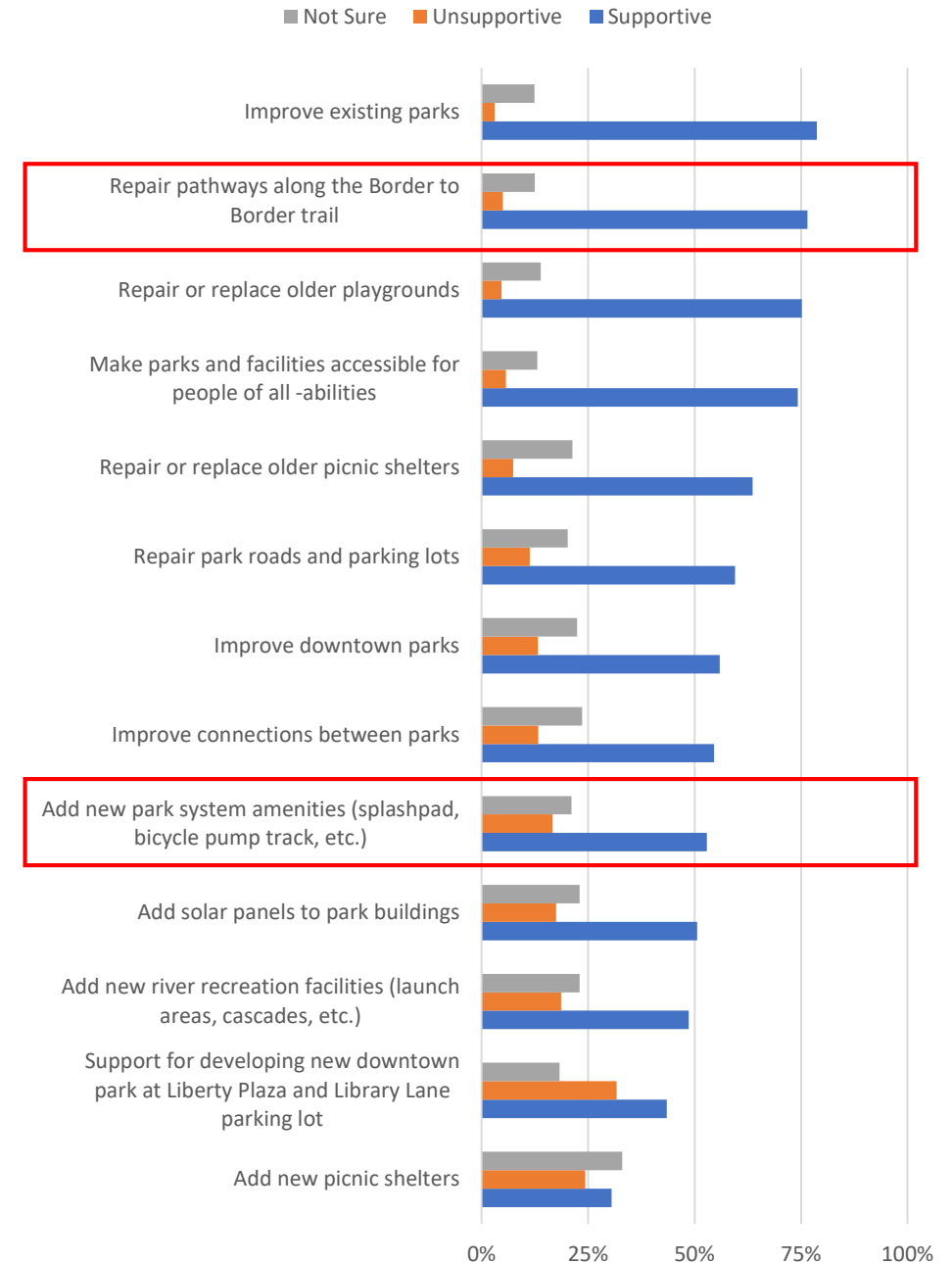
# Survey Results – Question 2

Please CHECK ALL of the other amenities and park facilities that you or members of your household have visited over the past 12 months.



# Survey Results – Question 3

Select which park improvements you would support Ann Arbor funding with your tax dollars.



# Survey Results – Question 7

Please rate the quality and condition of the Ann Arbor park amenities you have used.

*Additional: Do you have any comments about the quality of specific park amenities?*





## Goal 2 – Provide guidelines for the development and maintenance of Pump Track



- Develop criteria for site locations
- Develop criteria for site design

## SITE CRITERIA

- Near public transit
- Near low-income/section-8 housing
- Approx. 30,000 square feet of available land
- Use-ready. (i.e. not a flood plain, etc. Not needing substantial landscape architecture and drainage infrastructure)
- Pre-existing parking if possible, or room for parking if not)
- Pre-existing water fountain and restroom if possible, or room for these amenities if not)



### **Next Steps:**

- Solidify Criteria, suggest prioritization (setup meeting to discuss)
- Provide Criteria to staff for further exploration and vetting
- Site selection will not be part of report (barrier for potential partnerships / funding opportunities)

## TO DO:

- Review International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) Design Guide Book (Garret)
- Identify 5-6 Precedent Tracks
- Identify Pump Track Design Firms

## DESIGN CRITERIA



## Next Steps:

- Solidify Criteria, suggest prioritization (setup meeting to discuss)
- Provide Criteria to staff for further exploration and vetting

## Goal 3-Develop Best Management practices and policies for bike recreation amenities and activities

- Staffing
- Risk Management
  - Safety standards for bike park features and jumps
  - Rules and enforcement
  - Signage and communication



## Last meeting goal recap...

## Goal 4- Provide guidelines for community involvement and volunteer stewardship of bike recreation amenities

- Develop framework, protocols, and structure for volunteer maintenance of bike trails and bike amenities
- Establish trail inspection and maintenance policy for staff and volunteers
- Identify avenues for community input and influence on bike recreation goals and issues moving forward







# Bike Recreation & Risk Management



# **Risk Management Plan**

Risk management is a systemized approach to incorporating safety into the trail riding experience. The two industry standard trail-related risk management goals:

1. Manage the risks on trails and bike recreation elements
2. Minimize the losses from lawsuits

# **Our Risk Management Objectives**

1. Design and build trails and bike amenities appropriately
2. Manage and maintain them consistently and responsibly
3. Establish understanding of liability and governmental immunity

# 8 Recommendations

1. Identify Risk Management point person
2. Write a philosophy statement
3. Inventory existing trail system
4. Establish trail design and construction policy
5. Develop an effective signage system
6. Develop an emergency plan
7. Establish trail inspection and maintenance policy
8. Maintain trail system consistent with policy



# 1. Identify Risk Management Leader

Establish a person responsible for making sure the risk management program is developed, implemented and documented.

- Parks staff member who coordinates and collaborates with bike recreation interest groups, volunteers, and the public
- Participates or engages with Vision Zero subcommittee with Ann Arbor Transportation
- This person serves as a trail professional who stays up on current trends, professional standards, and attends trail related workshops to ensure best practices. Gathers resources from existing associations/industry experts:
  - [Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance https://www.michigantrails.org/](https://www.michigantrails.org/)
  - [MDNR Trails Plan](#)
  - [Potawatomi Mountain Biking Association](#)
  - [International Mountain Bicycling Association](#)

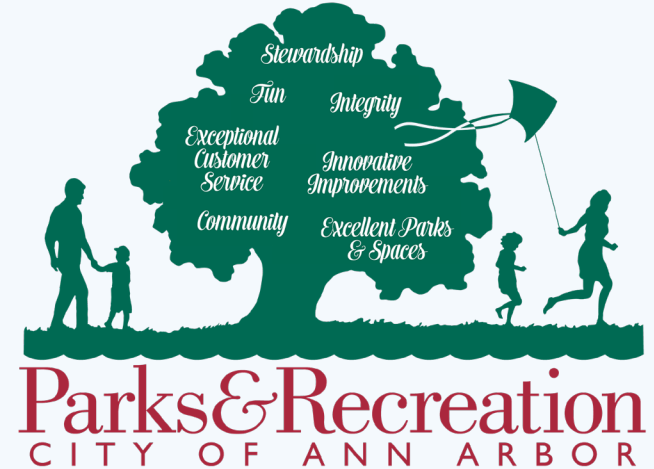
## 2. Write a Risk Management Philosophy Statement

- What is this?
- Example...

*The inherent risks in bike recreation activities are in large part what makes them fun and exciting. It is not possible, or desirable, to eliminate all risk from a recreation experience as risk is a fundamental part of play, essential to human growth, health, and wellness.*

*Recognizing the inherent risks in bike recreation activities that occur in unsupervised park and natural areas, Ann Arbor Parks aims to manage risk through responsible and proactive measures as outlined in our bike recreation risk management plan.*

*"Together, we enrich life by cultivating exceptional experiences."*



**STEWARDSHIP:** We responsibly manage and care for our natural, cultural, and physical resources for current and future generations.

**EXCEPTIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE:** We interact with all people in a professional, friendly and respectful manner, while striving to exceed expectations.

**INNOVATIVE IMPROVEMENTS:** We foster an environment that supports and encourages innovation and dynamic creative solutions.

**INTEGRITY:** We build trust and maintain accountability by doing the right thing.

**COMMUNITY:** We work collaboratively to include and engage the full diversity of our community.

**EXCELLENT PARKS AND SPACES:** We provide safe environments, beautiful spaces, and a welcoming atmosphere.

**FUN:** Have fun!



# 3. Inventory Existing Trail System

- Identify comprehensive list of trails available within the Ann Arbor Park system—with short description about each trail (distance/terrain/difficulty/etc) and which are best for biking and connecting to longer rides
- Identify connection challenges – private property/railroads, larger loop
- Evaluate trail system and eliminate unreasonable hazards and/or post warning signs
- Assign trail difficulty rating in line with best practices

## **4. Establish trail design and construction**


- Park staff attend workshops to develop trail design and construction guidelines and/or establish industry consultants to assist
- Identify/establish ADA and accessibility goals




# 5. Develop an Effective Signage System

- ✓ Rules for bike course—approved by legal!
- Develop consistent, simple, and clean signage templates as related to bike trails throughout the park system:
  - Trail map boards
  - Trail difficulty markers
  - Trail rules/responsible riding/etiquette; regulations/policies





**TUEBINGEN BIKE PARK**

This is an unsupervised bike park. Use at your own risk. Know your abilities. Bike park riding is a high-risk activity, please be advised that in using the bike park you are doing so at your own risk.

Do not attempt these features unless you have sufficient ability and experience to do so. Inspect all features before riding them. Use of jumps, features and airborne maneuvers can cause equipment failure and substantially increase the risk of serious injury or death. Ride at your own risk. The City of Ann Arbor assumes no liability for any injury or damage to you or your property resulting from your voluntary use of the bike park. Pursuant to Michigan's Governmental Tort Liability Act (MCL 691.1401), the City of Ann Arbor is immune from liability for death, injuries, or damages associated with the voluntary use of this bike park.

**BIKE PARK RULES**

1. All general regulations for Parks within Chapter 39 of Ann Arbor City Code apply.
2. Helmets and personal protective equipment are highly recommended. Know your ability and ride accordingly.
3. Stay in control. You are responsible for avoiding objects and people.
4. Do not stop where you obstruct a trail or feature. Ride in the direction indicated.
5. Motorized vehicles, scooters, electric bikes, remote control devices and dogs are **NOT** allowed in the bike park.
6. Tandem bicycles, child transports and child carriers are not allowed on bike park trails or features.
7. Bike Park hours are dawn to dusk.
8. The following items and activities are prohibited: - Littering - Glass Containers - Alcoholic Beverages - Vending - Smoking.


**BEST PRACTICES**

You are entering a multi-terrain environment that requires each user's alertness, common sense, and caution. Read and obey all signs.

By entering the bike park you agree to assume all risks listed on this sign. Helmets and personal protective equipment are highly recommended.

1. Inspect each feature before riding. Features can change due to use, weather or maintenance.
2. Ride in control and within your ability. Be aware of other users and be sure features are clear before riding.
3. Rest away from trails and features. Rest where you are visible and non-obstructive.
4. Avoid riders ahead of you. They have the right of way. Watch and yield to other riders when merging, entering a trail, starting, or returning.
5. Wet weather conditions are perfect for doing work to improve the bike park. Otherwise, protect the bike park by staying off of the dirt when it is wet.

**For medical assistance call 911. Bike park riding involves a risk of death, serious injury and damage to equipment.**

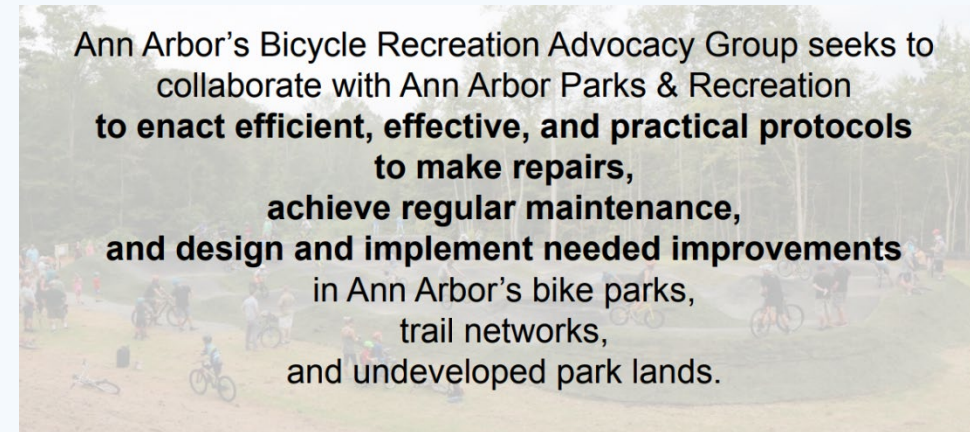


## **6. Develop an Emergency Plan**

- Have a specific EAP for Bandemer and Tuebigen bike parks
- Establish trail action plan

# 7. Establish Trail Inspection and Maintenance Policy

- Outline best practices in the industry
- Provide guidelines for community involvement and volunteer stewardship of bike recreation amenities
- Develop framework, protocols, and structure for volunteer maintenance
- Provide guidelines for special events



## **8. Maintain Trail System Consistent with Trail Inspection and Maintenance Policy**

- Develop long term plan
- Create record keeping system



# Governmental Tort Liability Act MCL 691.1401

*“The City of Ann Arbor is immune from liability for death, injuries, or damages associated with the voluntary use of this bike park”.*

As a general rule, when a person is injured due to the negligent, wrongful, or unlawful conduct of a government entity or one (1) of its employees, the law prevents a lawsuit which attempts to hold the government entity accountable for the injury. This concept is typically known as “**sovereign immunity**” or “**governmental immunity**,” and is contained in the Government Tort Liability Act, MCL 691.1401 et seq. However, the Government Tort Liability Act contains three (3) exceptions to governmental immunity, which include: (1) claims for defective highways; (2) defective public buildings; and (3) negligently driven government motor vehicles. Accordingly, if a cyclist is injured due to a government agency’s failure to adequately maintain a roadway or sidewalk, they may have a cause of action, provided the facts and circumstances of their injury fit within the highway exception to Michigan’s Governmental Immunity Act. [Michigan Bicycle Law.com](http://MichiganBicycleLaw.com)

There are understood risks associated with cycling. By having a risk management plan as outlined, Ann Arbor Parks and staff can confidently encourage and support bike recreation interests, amenities, and activities

# Next steps

- Timeframes
- Needed resources
- Staffing best practices recommendation

# Sub-Committee Timeline



- **May 16** - Confirm Goals, Assign Tasks
- **June 27** - Progress Update - Questions - Challenges
- **July 18** - Progress Update - Questions - Challenges
- **August 15** - Share and Discuss Recommendations - Share all information week prior so we can discuss
- **September 19** - Rough Draft of report - share before meeting for feedback. Review Presentation for Sept PAC
- **September 20** - PAC Update - What direction are we going, comments from PAC
- **October 17** -Final Draft Discussion - Email Report week prior - review for comments (minor) / Prep for PAC
- **October 18** - PAC - Share Final Report
- **November 21** - Debrief - Next Steps