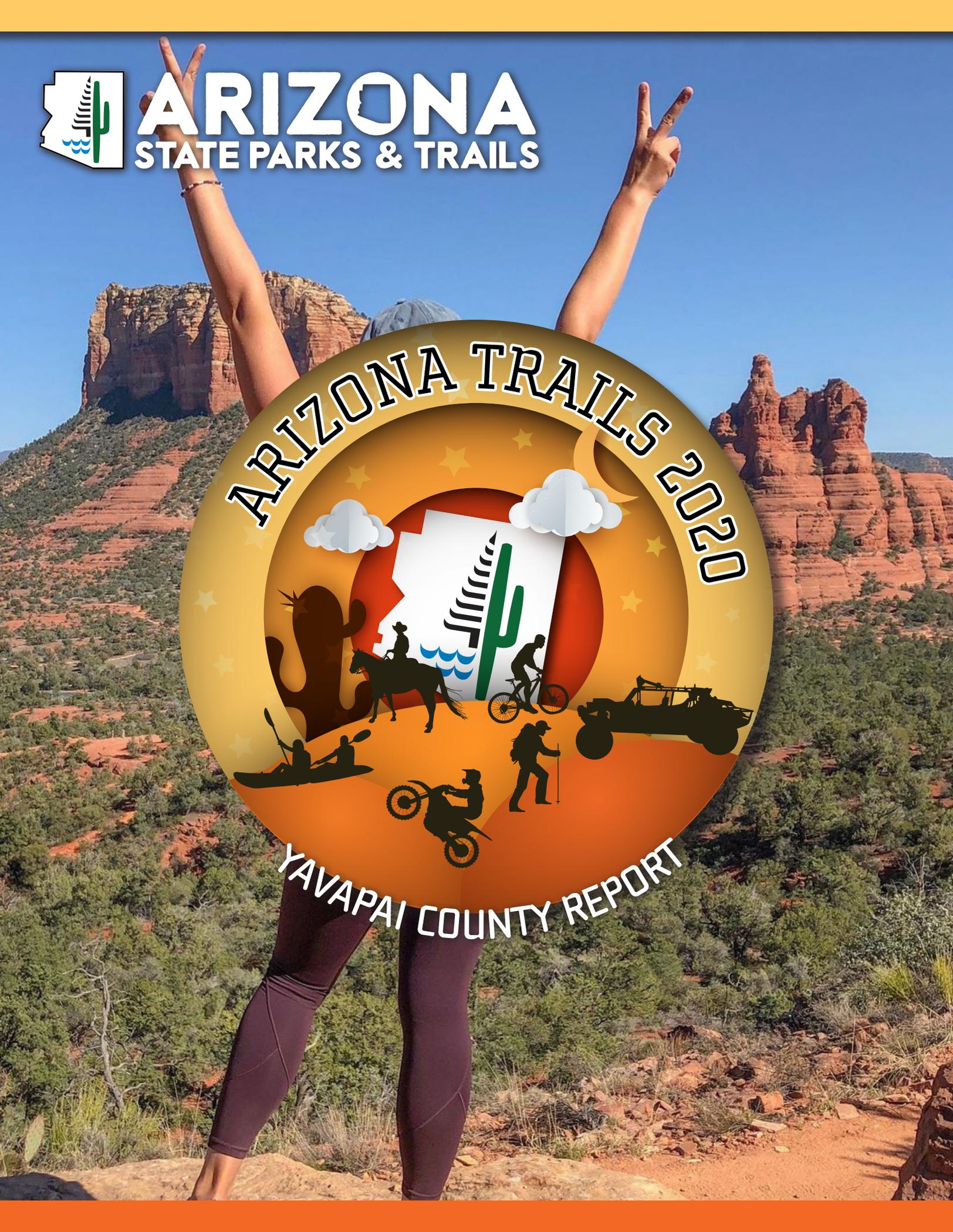




ARIZONA

STATE PARKS & TRAILS





Arizona Trails Plan 2020

Yavapai County Report

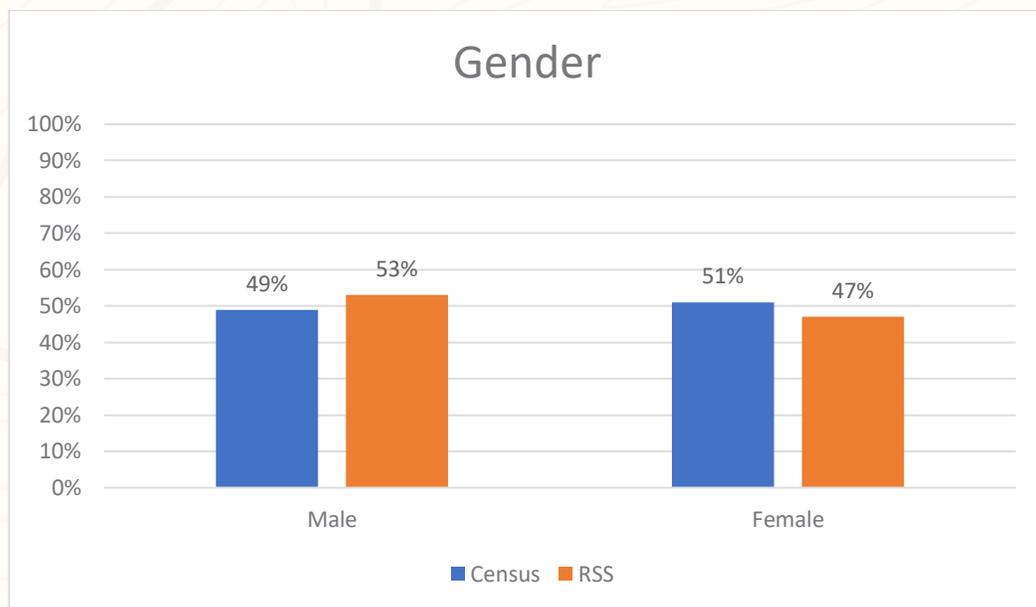
Introduction:

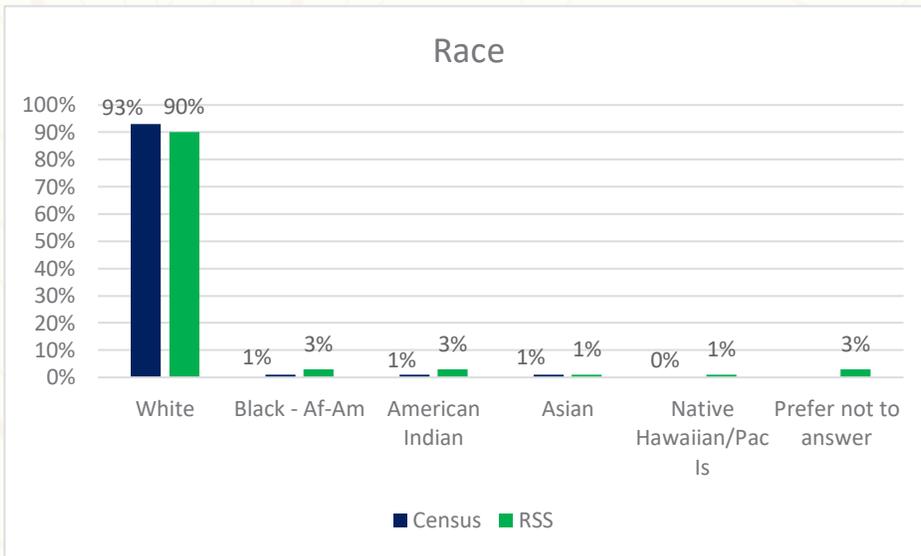
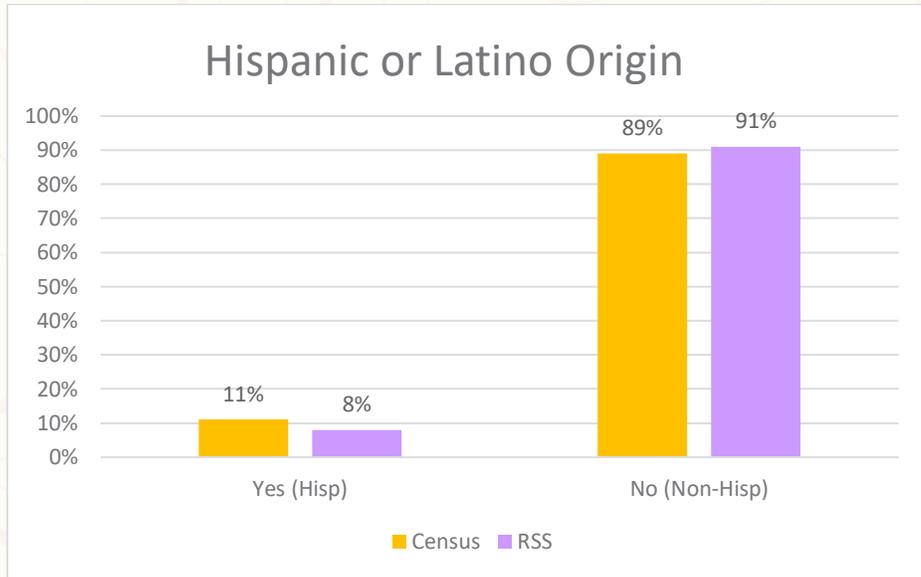
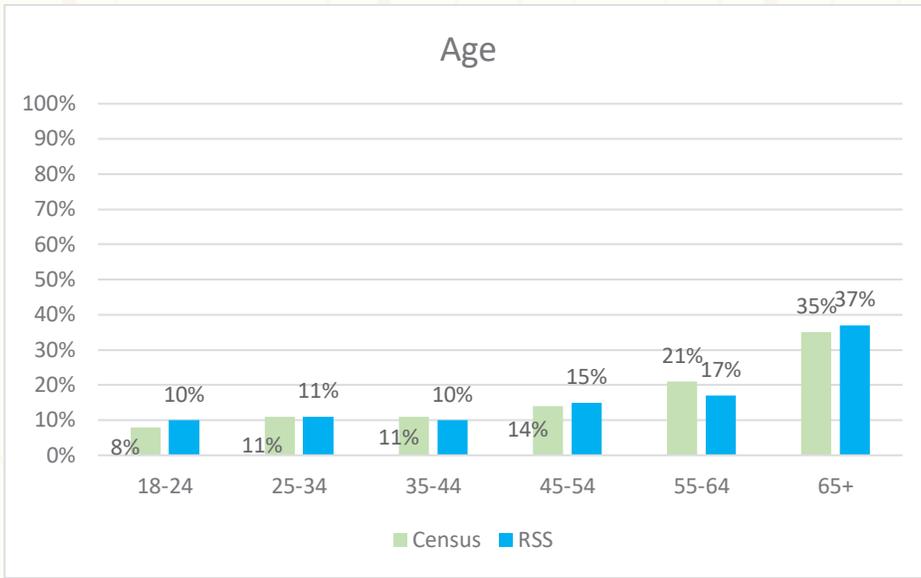
Arizona State Parks and Trails, in partnership with Partners in Brainstorm, conducted a statewide random sample survey (RSS) that is representative of the Arizona population at the state and county or regional levels. This survey informs the Arizona Trails 2020 Plan, which is completed every five years per statute (A.R.S. § 41-511.22 and A.R.S. § 41-511.04 [20]). This is an opportunity to understand the use, concerns and priorities of Arizona's motorized and non-motorized trail users. These data, in conjunction with two other surveys and qualitative material formed the basis of the Plan, which provides analyses at the state level. This supplementary document contains analyses at the county level for Yavapai County. The following information may be used to inform recreation planning efforts, recreation initiatives and requests for additional funding to support trail opportunities and infrastructure renewal.

Demographics:

The figures below illustrate a comparison of the 2018 Yavapai County Census data estimates with the demographic profile of 399 Yavapai County RSS respondents (including motorized, non-motorized and non-users). Data were weighted on two demographic variables: gender and Hispanic or Latino origin to better represent the proportion of these groups relative to state and county populations.

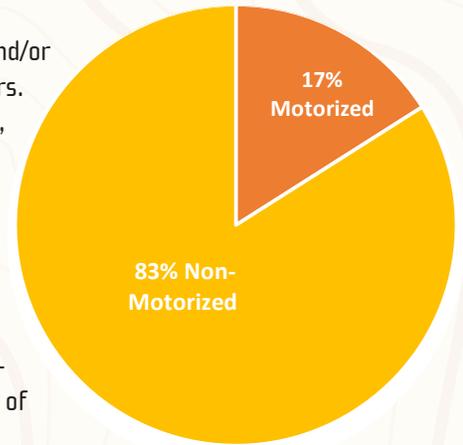
Y1





Yavapai County User Profile:

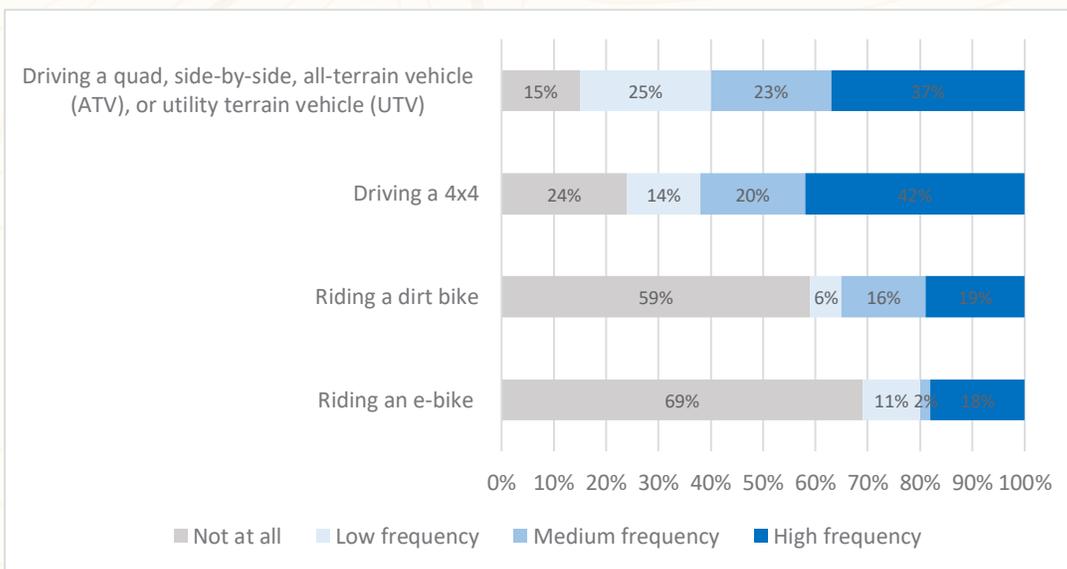
The figures in this report are separated by motorized (such as driving ATVs, 4x4s, dirt bikes and/or e-bikes) and non-motorized (such as hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, kayakers) trail users. Data below has been rounded to the nearest percentile. For the figures in the rest of the report, data are shown as all trail users (motorized and non-motorized users combined) or all users of a specific type (all motorized users or all non-motorized users). In the R55 for Yavapai County, nearly two-thirds of residents (64%) reported participating in either motorized or non-motorized trail activities within the last 12 months. In the R55 for Yavapai County, there were 40 survey respondents who reported engaging in motorized activities on trails within the last 12 months (17% of trail users), and 201 survey respondents who participated in non-motorized activities on trails (83% of all trail users). Survey respondents categorized as non-users either had never used trails for motorized or non-motorized activities in Arizona (19% of sample) or had not used trails within the last 12 months (18%).



Please note that comparisons to the state plan must consider that county reports include all users (any respondent who spent any time within the last 12 months on motorized or non-motorized trail activities), whereas the state trails plan focuses on “core” users. “Core” respondents reported their trail use was primarily motorized or non-motorized (defined as half or more of their time spent on trails is spent on motorized/non-motorized types of activities). This strategy could not be employed in county or region reports due to smaller sample sizes.

Y3

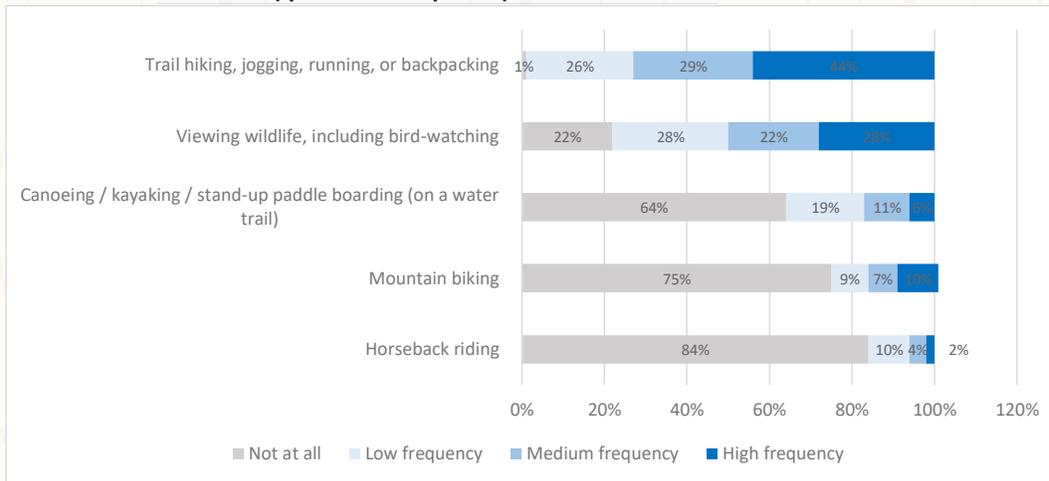
Motorized Use Type and Frequency



“During the past 12 months, how often have you used trails on public or private lands in Arizona for the following types of motorized recreational activities?”



Non-Motorized Use Type and Frequency



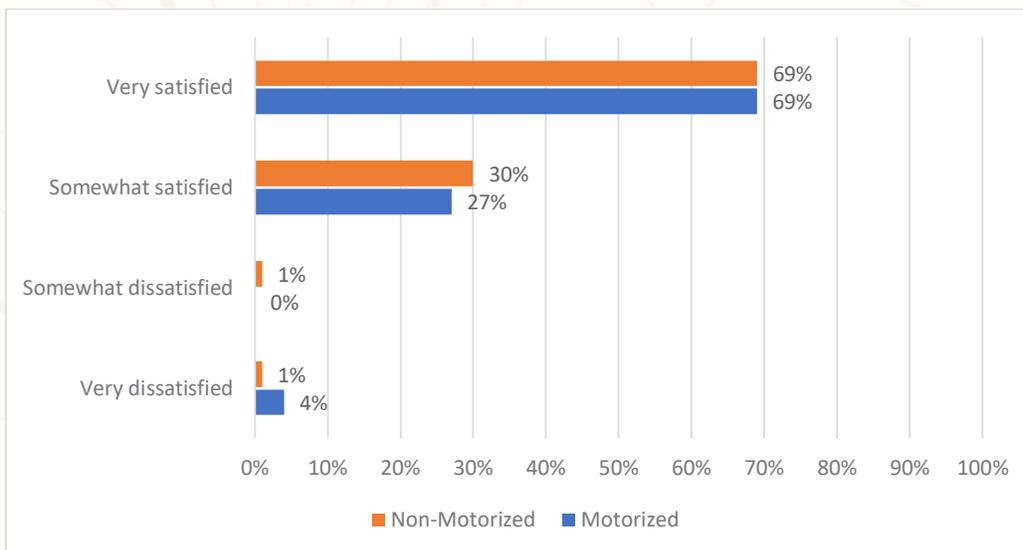
“During the past 12 months, how often have you used trails on public or private lands in Arizona for the following types of non-motorized recreational activities?”

The figures above are Yavapai County’s motorized and non-motorized trail use within the last 12 months by type and frequency of activities. High frequency contains the responses: “More often than once a week,” “Once a week” and “Every few weeks.” Medium frequency contains the responses: “Once a month” and “Every couple of months” and low frequency contains the responses “A few times” and “Once.” The “Not at all” category depicts the percent of respondents who reported that they had not participated in a particular activity within the last 12 months.

As seen in the figures above, driving a quad, side-by-side, ATV or UTV was the most popular motorized activity with 85% of motorized users participating in this activity at least once a year. Riding an e-bike was the least cited use type in the motorized category, but 31% of motorized users still used an e-bike at least once in the last year. This type of recreation is growing, so this number may increase in the coming years. In addition, definitions of e-bike use as motorized or non-motorized and permissions to use e-bikes on trails will likely continue to be a hot topic for land managing agencies and users.

Hiking, jogging, backpacking and running are by far the most popular non-motorized activities with only 1% of non-motorized users not participating in one of them. Viewing wildlife is another popular non-motorized activity with more than three quarters (78%) participating. More than one-third (36%) of non-motorized survey respondents said they have used water trails in the past year, one-quarter had used a mountain bike on trails and 16% engaged in equestrian activities on trails.

Satisfaction with Trails in Arizona

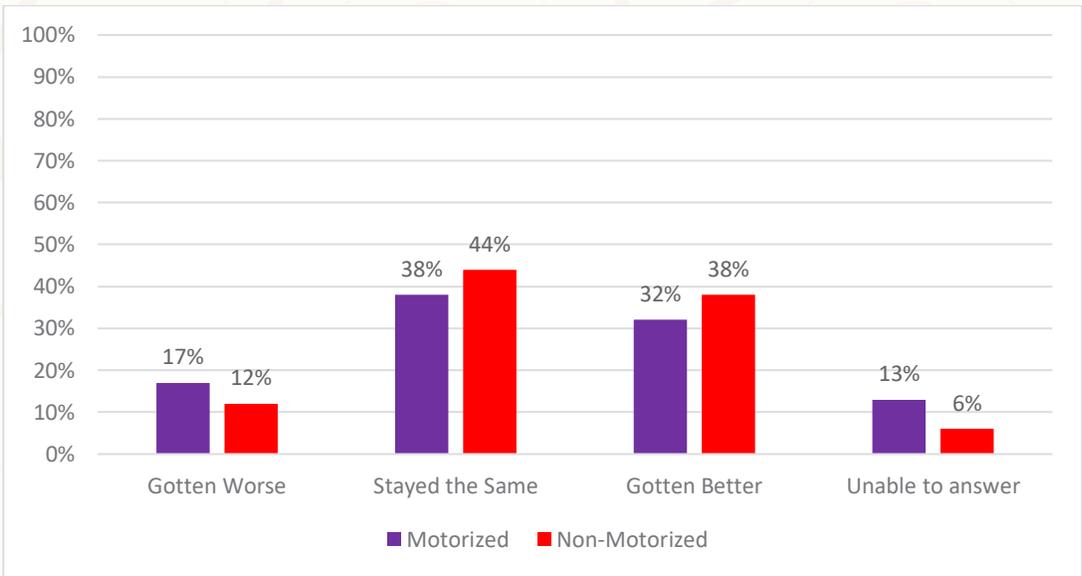


“Overall, how satisfied are you with (motorized/ non-motorized) trails in Arizona?”



The figure on the previous page depicts Yavapai County's motorized and non-motorized trail users' satisfaction with the trails they use statewide. Nearly all users of both types are either somewhat satisfied or very satisfied (96% of motorized and 99% of non-motorized).

Access to Motorized and Non-Motorized Recreation

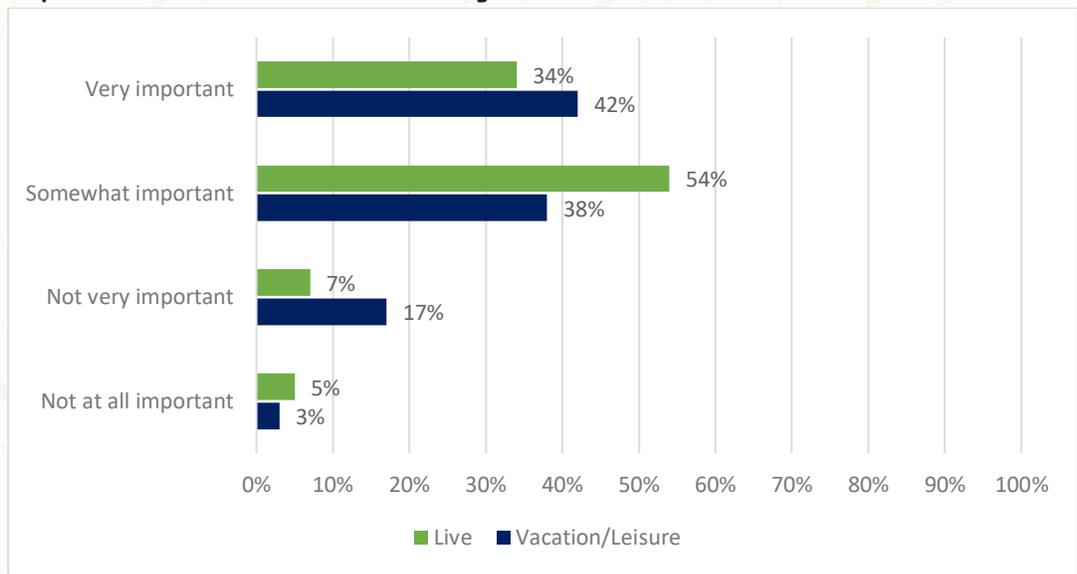


"In the past 5 years, has access to (non-motorized/motorized) recreation gotten better, stayed the same, or gotten worse?"

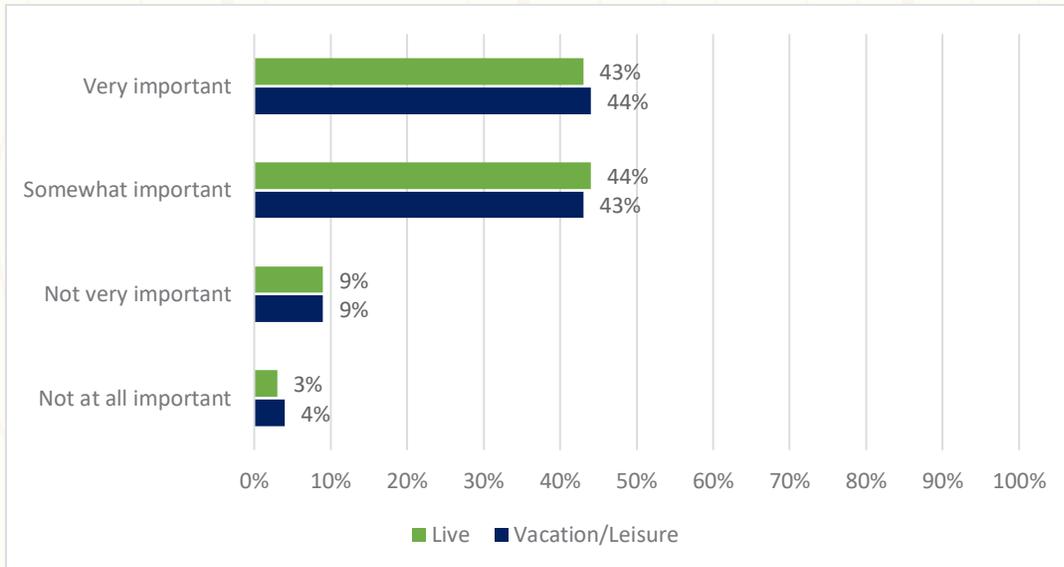


Each trail user surveyed was asked if they thought access to the trail type that they use has declined, stayed the same, or improved. Access refers to trails in the entire state that the respondent uses, not just trails in Yavapai County. As seen above, nearly two in ten motorized trail users (17%) and more than one in ten (12%) non-motorized trail users stated that access to trails had gotten worse in the last five years. However, nearly one-third (32%) of motorized users and more than two in five (42%) of non-motorized users reported that access to trails has improved.

Importance of Trails in Leisure/Living Destinations - Motorized



Importance of Trails in Leisure/Living Destinations - Non-Motorized



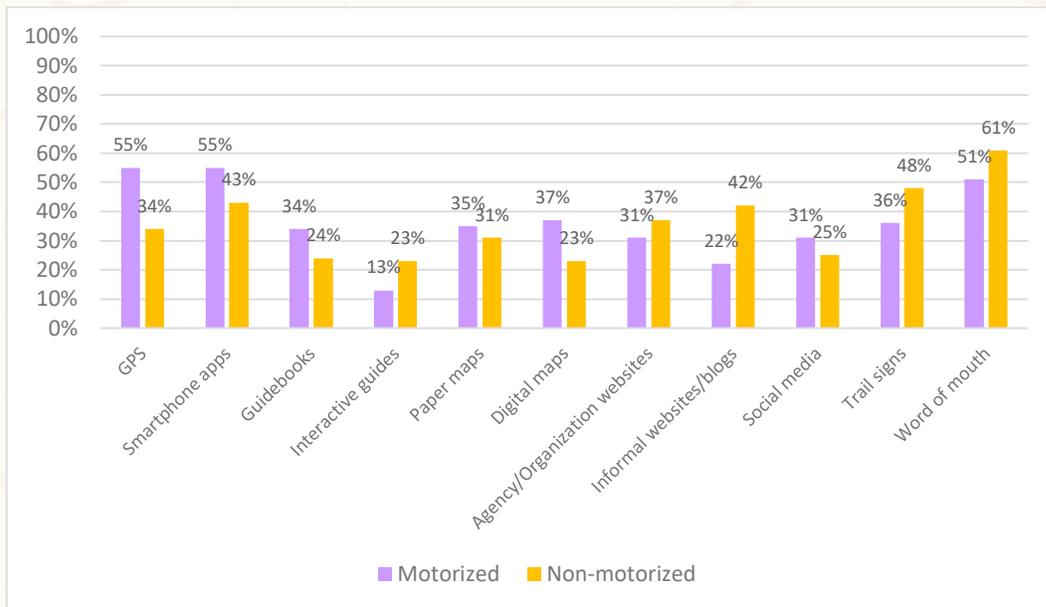
Navy Blue: "How important is it to have trails nearby when deciding where to live in AZ?"

Green: "How important is it to have trails nearby when choosing a destination for vacation or leisure travel in AZ?"

The figures above depict all of Yavapai County's users' (both motorized and non-motorized) views on the importance of trails when deciding on a place to live or travel to for leisure in Arizona. The data shows that trails are an important factor in making these decisions. Between 12% and 20% of both types of users do not find trails important in deciding on where to or vacation/spend leisure time. This means that a majority of trail users use trail availability as a factor when making these types of decisions, with a slightly higher importance on vacation/leisure destinations having trails.



How Trail Users Find Trails



"Which of the following tools do you use to find and use trails in Arizona?"

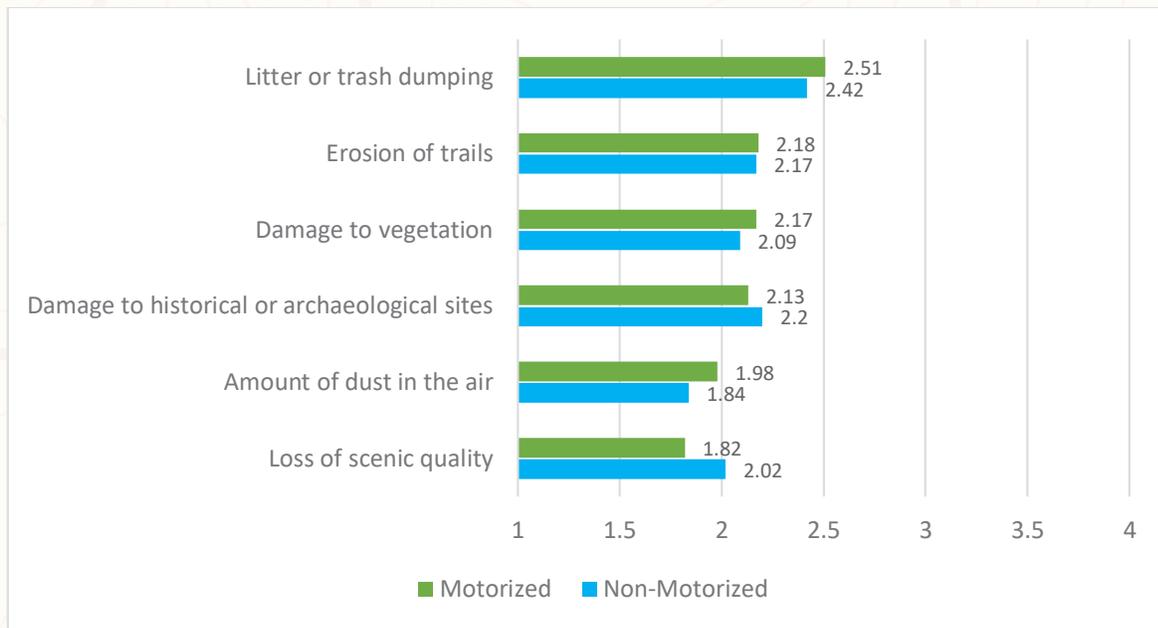


As seen above, both motorized and non-motorized users use a host of tools to find and use trails. More than one-half of motorized users in Yavapai County use GPS (55%) and smartphone apps (55%). Word of mouth (51%), digital maps (37%) and trail signs (36%) are other popular tools. Non-motorized users (61% of those surveyed) rely heavily on word of mouth and other popular tools a little less such as trail signs (48%), smartphone apps (43%), and informal websites/blogs (42%). This information can help understand users in order to reach them on platforms that they frequently use..

User Concerns and Management Priorities:

The next three figures compare all of Yavapai County’s motorized and non-motorized trail users’ mean ratings of trail-related issues on a 4-point scale ranging from 1 equals “not a problem” to 4 equals a “serious problem” for environmental and social concerns and 1 equals “not important” to 4 equals “very important” for trail management priorities. The concerns and priorities are in order from highest (top of figure) to lowest (bottom of figure) importance to motorized users. Finally, because the number of respondents in a given category continues to decrease as the original sample is divided into subgroups, please note that findings below may not reflect a sufficient number of cases to make a statement that is generalizable to the experiences of all users within the county.

Environmental Concerns of Trail Users

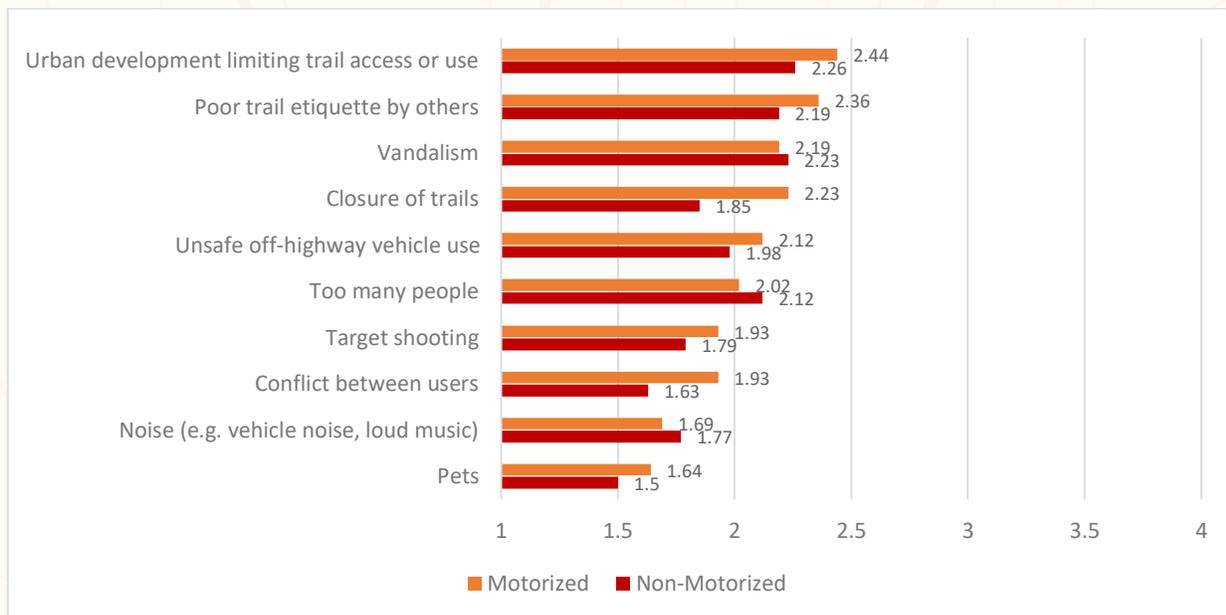


“Thinking about possible environmental and cultural conditions that might negatively affect your trail experience, how much of a problem is each of the following on the Arizona trails you use most for recreation activities?”

As seen above, the environmental concerns of both non-motorized and motorized trail users are very similar. Mean ratings indicate that the number one concern for both groups is litter/trash dumping. The second highest mean for motorized users is erosion of trails, whereas this issue was the third-highest mean for non-motorized users. The second highest-mean for non-motorized users was damage to historical or archaeological sites and the third-highest mean for motorized users is damage to vegetation.



Social Concerns of Trail Users

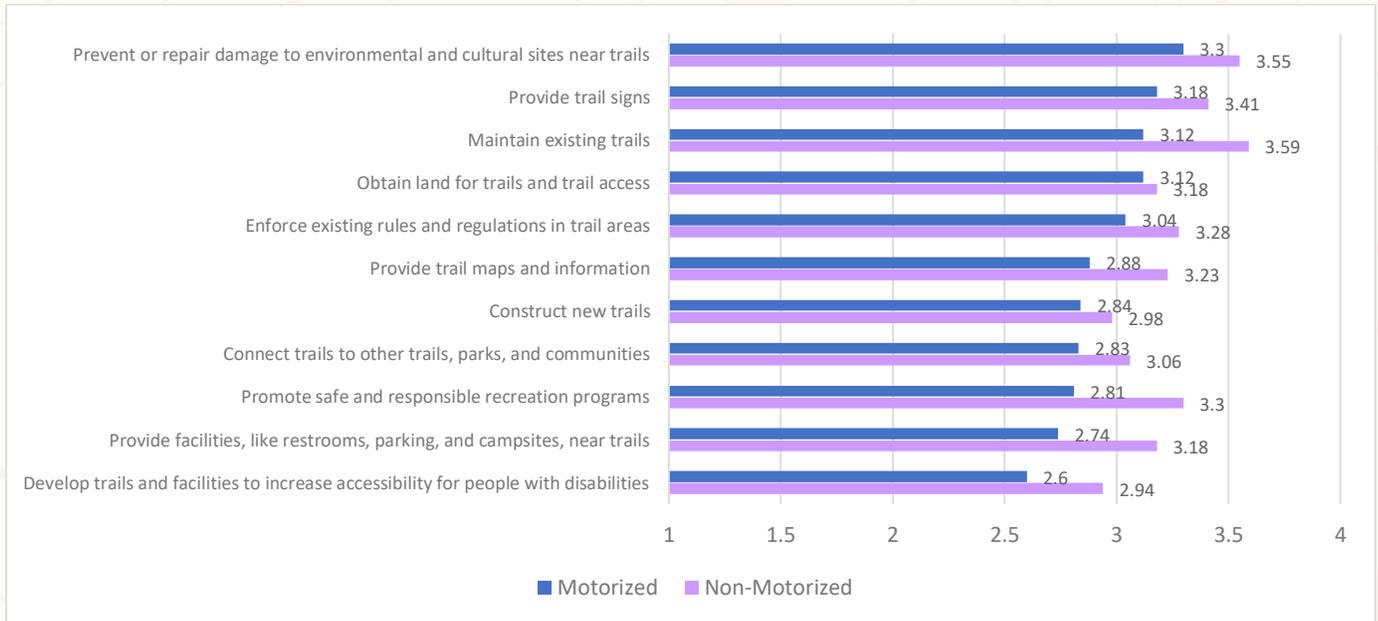


“Thinking about possible social conditions that might negatively affect your trail experience, how much of a problem is each of the following on the Arizona trails you use most for recreation activities?”

The above figure shows the rankings of social issues on trails by non-motorized and motorized users. Both motorized and non-motorized users' top social concern based on mean rankings is urban development limiting trail access or use. Vandalism is the issue with the second highest mean rating for non-motorized users. Though the second and third highest means for both groups are for the same concerns, non-motorized finds vandalism slightly more of a concern than poor trail etiquette by others while motorized users' mean rankings are the opposite.



Management Priorities of Trails Users



“How important to you are the following trail management priorities?”

The above figure depicts the management priorities of each user group. Non-motorized users' mean ratings are almost all higher than the motorized group, suggesting that this group may feel that these issues are more important on average, than motorized users. Though the order of means is different, each user group's means shows the same three preferred management priorities: prevent or repair damage to environmental and cultural sites near trails, maintain existing trails and providing trail signs.

The findings above can help counties and regions to plan, seek and allocate resources for motorized and non-motorized trail recreation. However, it must be noted that the data for this plan was collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, which is likely to have impacted the incidence of recreation participation on trails within the state. The information from this and the statewide plan may then be used as a baseline for future studies to identify impacts of COVID-19 on trail-related recreation.





CANYON TR ↑
MESCAL TR

This Trail Is Open To:

TO PROVIDE A NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION EXPERIENCE

TRAIL COUNTESS



Please Do The Land and These Trails No Harm!
Stay on the Trail and Protect Fine Soils and Plants.



Upper Dry Creek Area Trails

- BEGINNER
- INTERMEDIATE
- ◆ ADVANCED
- Ⓟ PARKING

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