



**VVMTA**

Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance

# 2021 VVMTA Trails Survey Results

**300**

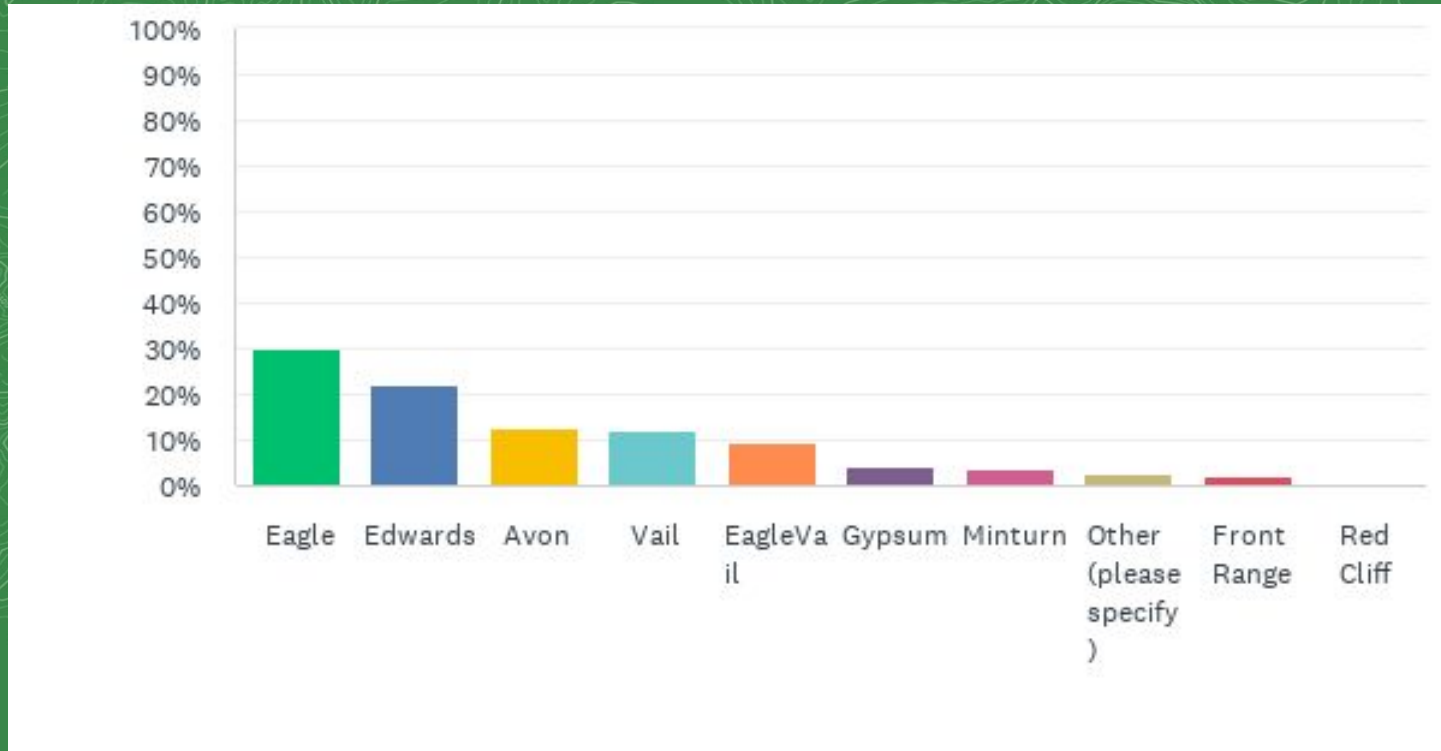
**Total Responses**

Date Opened: October 1, 2021

Date Closed: November 1, 2021

# Q1: Where do you live?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



# Q1: Where do you live?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

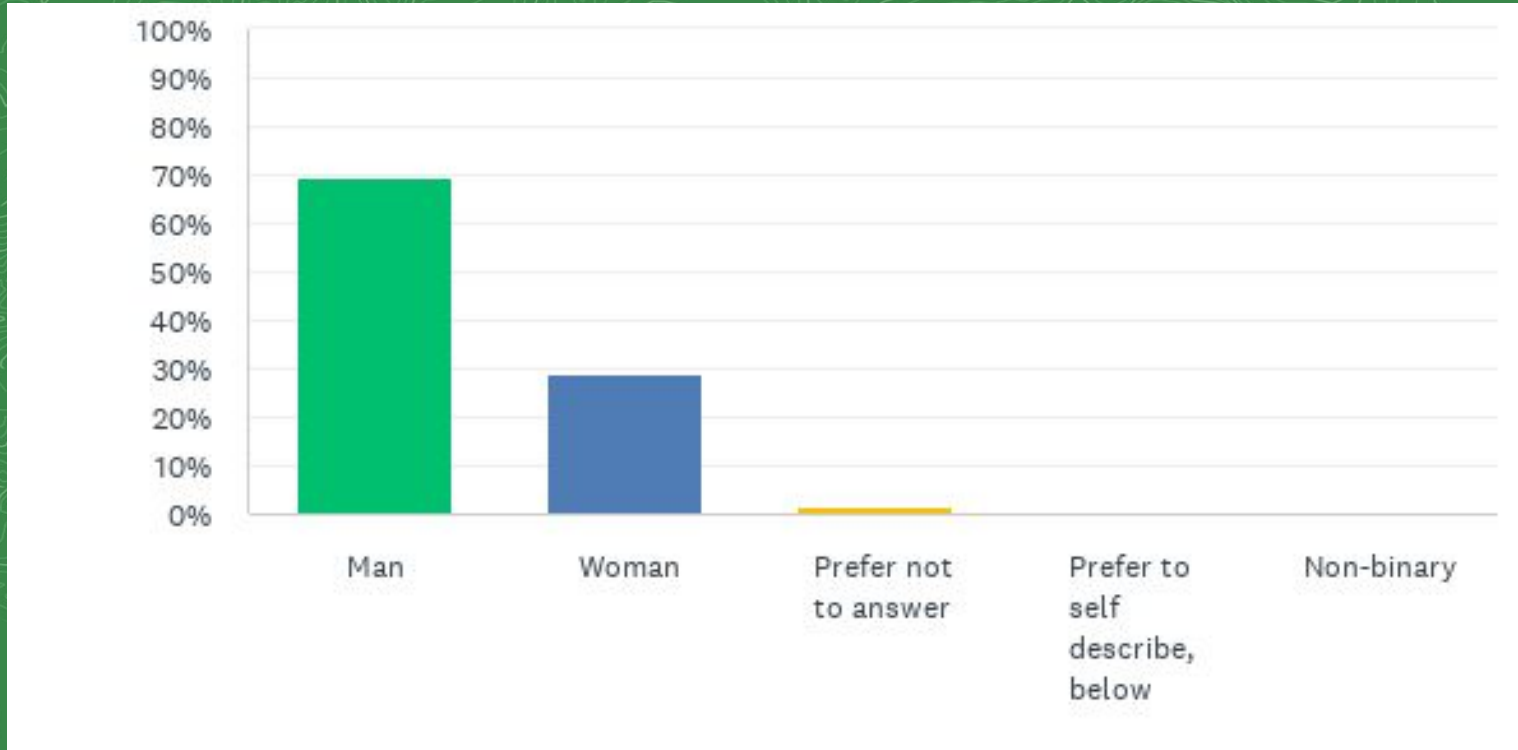
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Eagle	30.00%	90
Edwards	22.33%	67
Avon	12.67%	38
Vail	12.00%	36
EagleVail	9.67%	29
Gypsum	4.33%	13
Minturn	3.67%	11
Other (please specify)	2.67%	8
Front Range	2.00%	6
Red Cliff	0.67%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>300</b>

## Highlights:

- Most populated areas in Eagle County had the most respondents
- “Other” included: Arrowhead, Wolcott, Summit County, Glenwood and New Castle

## Q2: Gender: How do you identify?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



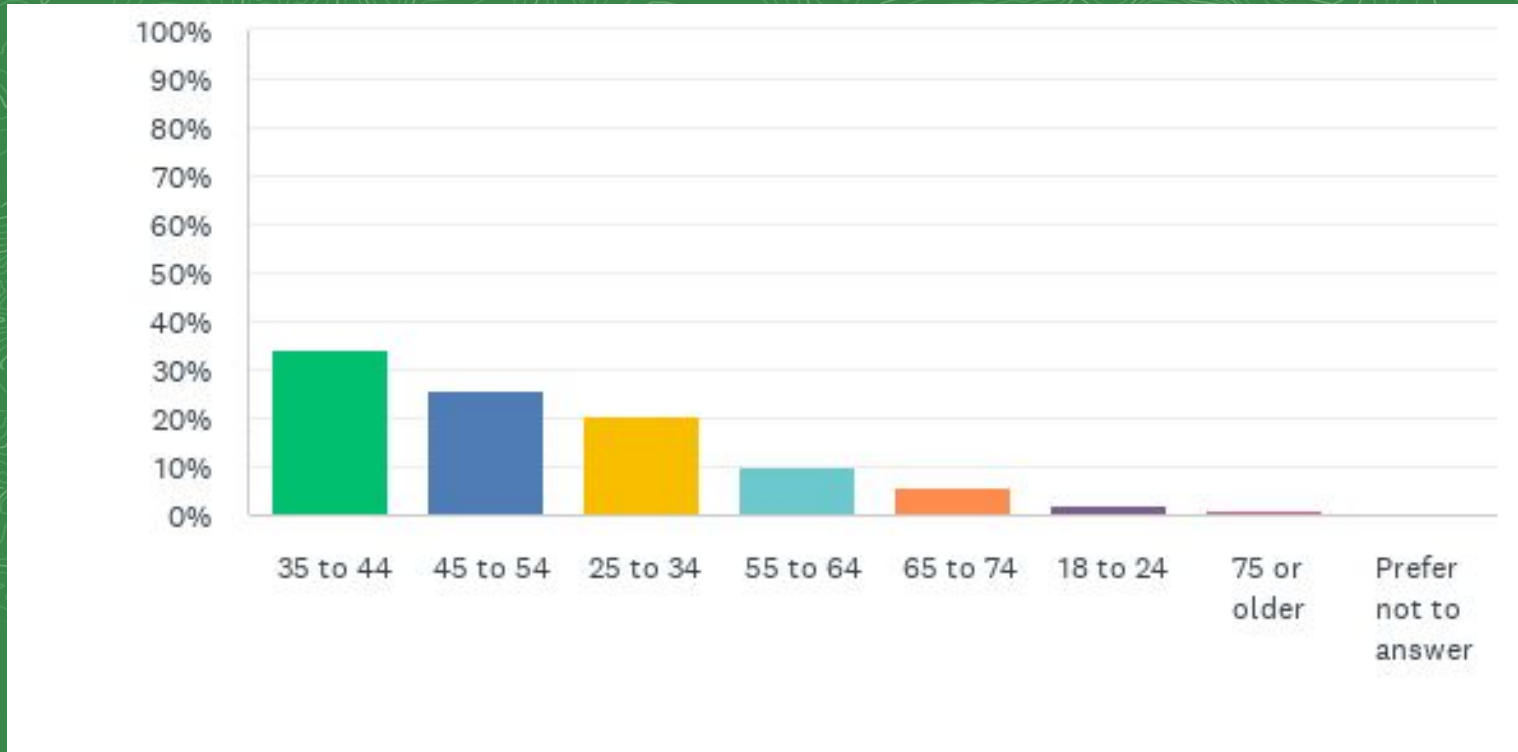
## Q2: Gender: How do you identify?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Man	69.33%	208
Woman	29.00%	87
Prefer not to answer	1.33%	4
Prefer to self describe, below	0.33%	1
Non-binary	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>300</b>

# Q3: What is your age?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



## Q3: What is your age?

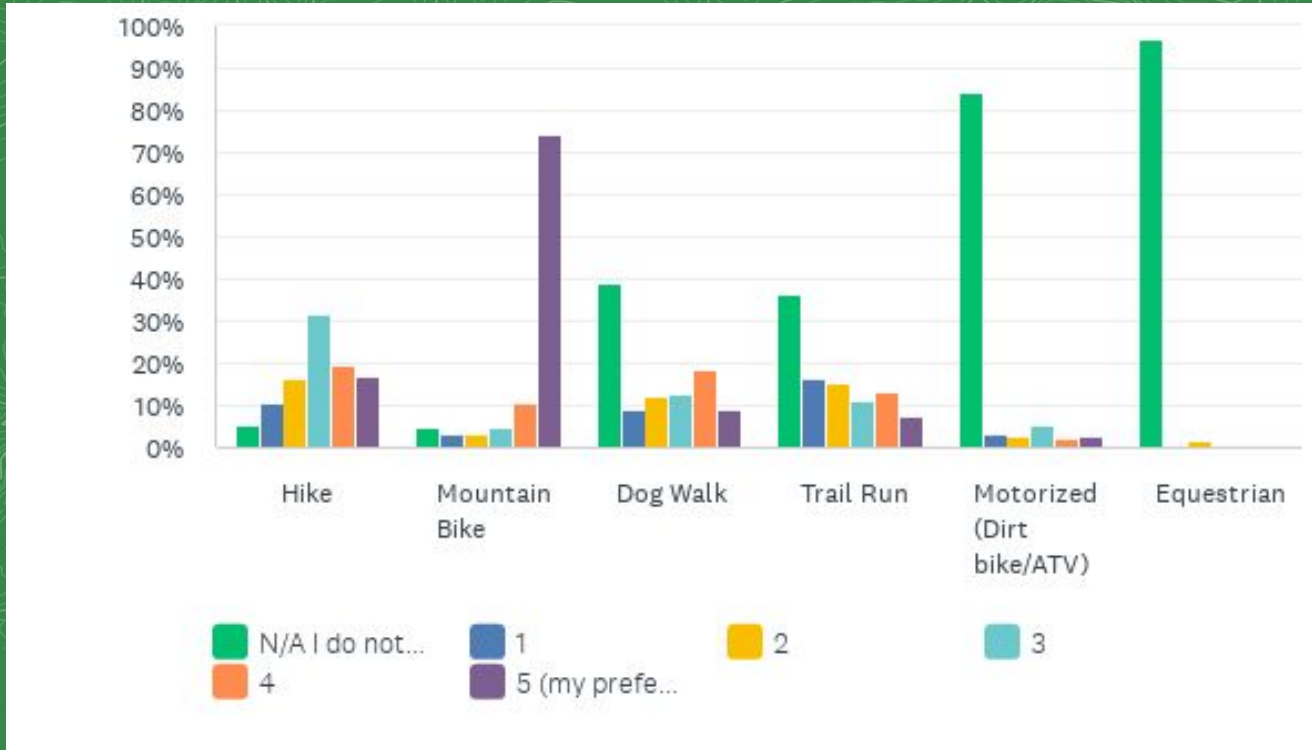
Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
35 to 44	34.33%	103
45 to 54	25.67%	77
25 to 34	20.33%	61
55 to 64	10.00%	30
65 to 74	6.00%	18
18 to 24	2.00%	6
75 or older	1.00%	3
Prefer not to answer	0.67%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>300</b>



# Q4: How do you recreate on trails? 1. being the least and 5. being the most (N/A if you don't use the trails that way)

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



# Q4: How do you recreate on trails? 1. being the least and 5. being the most (N/A if you don't use the trails that way)



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

	N/A I DO NOT USE THE TRAILS THIS WAY	1	2	3	4	5 (MY PREFERRED CHOICE)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Hike	5.52% 16	10.69% 31	16.21% 47	31.38% 91	19.31% 56	16.90% 49	290	2.58
Mountain Bike	4.70% 14	3.02% 9	3.02% 9	4.70% 14	10.40% 31	74.16% 221	298	2.51
Dog Walk	39.05% 107	9.12% 25	12.04% 33	12.77% 35	18.25% 50	8.76% 24	274	1.58
Trail Run	36.33% 101	16.55% 46	15.11% 42	11.15% 31	13.31% 37	7.55% 21	278	1.44
Motorized (Dirt bike/ATV)	84.01% 226	3.35% 9	2.60% 7	5.20% 14	2.23% 6	2.60% 7	269	0.34
Equestrian	96.65% 260	0.37% 1	1.49% 4	0.00% 0	0.74% 2	0.74% 2	269	0.06

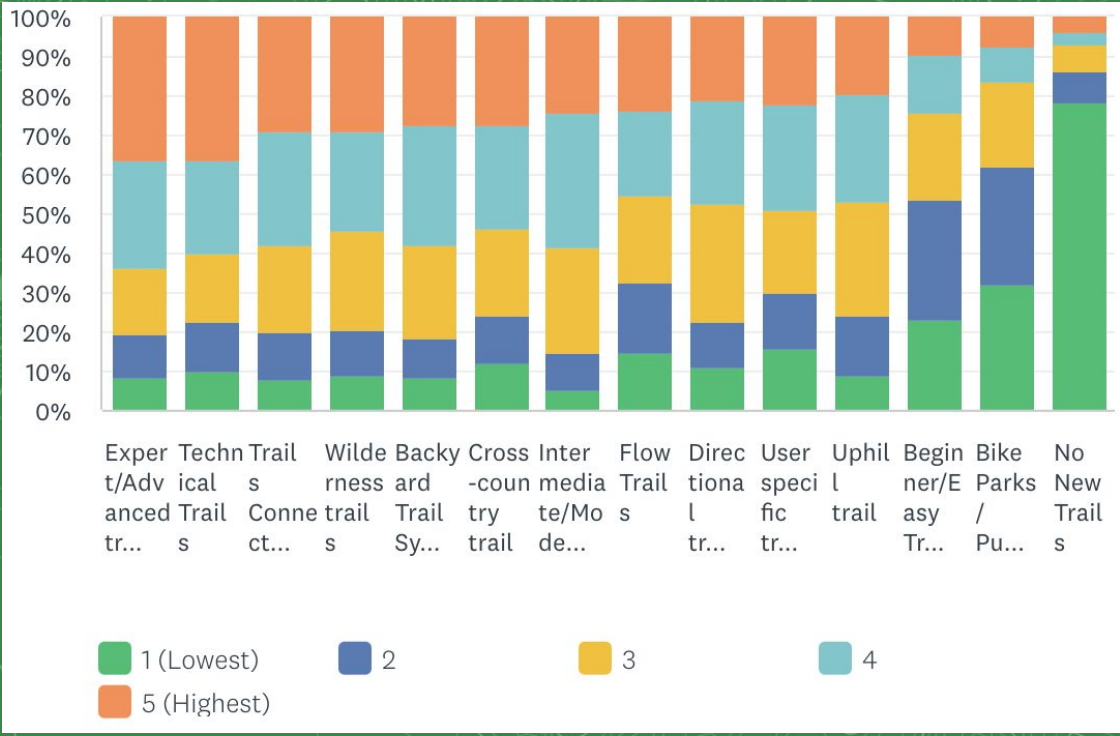
## Highlights:

- Mountain biking is the highest priority use from the respondent audience (74%)
- Hiking had the highest weighted average
- Comments Included: 3 e-bikers, 2 fat bikers, 3 snowshoers, 3 skinning/ski touring, and 1 snowmobile

# Q5: What type of trail(s) experiences do you want in Eagle County?



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



## Highlights:

- Respondents want more challenging technical trails
- High desire for connectors to create more comprehensive trail systems
- “Wilderness” trails definition may not be understood correctly.

# Q5: What type of trail(s) experiences do you want in Eagle County?



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

	1 (LOWEST)	2	3	4	5 (HIGHEST)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Expert/Advanced trails	8.50% 25	10.88% 32	16.67% 49	27.89% 82	36.05% 106	294	3.72
Technical Trails	10.20% 30	12.24% 36	17.69% 52	23.81% 70	36.05% 106	294	3.63
Trails Connecting Communities	7.77% 23	12.16% 36	21.96% 65	29.05% 86	29.05% 86	296	3.59
Wilderness trails	8.90% 26	11.64% 34	25.00% 73	25.68% 75	28.77% 84	292	3.54
Backyard Trail System	8.42% 25	9.76% 29	23.91% 71	30.30% 90	27.61% 82	297	3.59
Cross-country trail	12.29% 36	11.95% 35	22.18% 65	26.28% 77	27.30% 80	293	3.44
Intermediate/Moderate trails	5.39% 16	9.43% 28	26.60% 79	34.34% 102	24.24% 72	297	3.63
Flow Trails	14.63% 43	18.03% 53	22.11% 65	21.43% 63	23.81% 70	294	3.22
Directional trails	11.30% 33	11.30% 33	30.14% 88	26.03% 76	21.23% 62	292	3.35
User specific trails	15.69% 43	14.23% 39	21.17% 58	27.01% 74	21.90% 60	274	3.25
Uphill trail	9.12% 27	15.20% 45	28.72% 85	27.70% 82	19.26% 57	296	3.33
Beginner/Easy Trails	23.10% 67	30.34% 88	22.41% 65	14.48% 42	9.66% 28	290	2.57
Bike Parks / Pump Tracks	31.96% 93	30.24% 88	21.31% 62	9.28% 27	7.22% 21	291	2.30
No New Trails	78.52% 223	7.75% 22	6.69% 19	3.17% 9	3.87% 11	284	1.46

## Comments:

- “We need more trails, all these trails in Vail valley are too easy. We need some problem solving tech and multiple options for a down route in West Avon preserve, lees way is great, would be great if there was a tech trail down parallel to the flow lees way”
- “Plan for use and conflicts to increase. Within reason (land is limited) directional trails and separation of uses will be needed for safety and positive experiences.”
- “Connectors that connect different trail systems. Whether by singletrack or forest road.”
- “Natural features such as rocks and roots give trails character, not every trail should be groomed to “flow”
- “Hike/Run only trails. We have enough bike trails, and are turning too many existing trails into bike specific trails.”
- “Stop turning every trail into a dog walking sidewalk wide trail. build new trails but leave the old trails tf alone. PLease review trail associations Teton pass and Squamish areas. We dont need one more flow trail or carpath built in this valley. Bikes get better every year but trails continue to get dumbed down every year.”
- “All trails should allow Class 1 e-Mtb use without restrictions”
- “No ebike trails”

## Q6: What is your favorite trail in Eagle County? (Please name one trail)



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

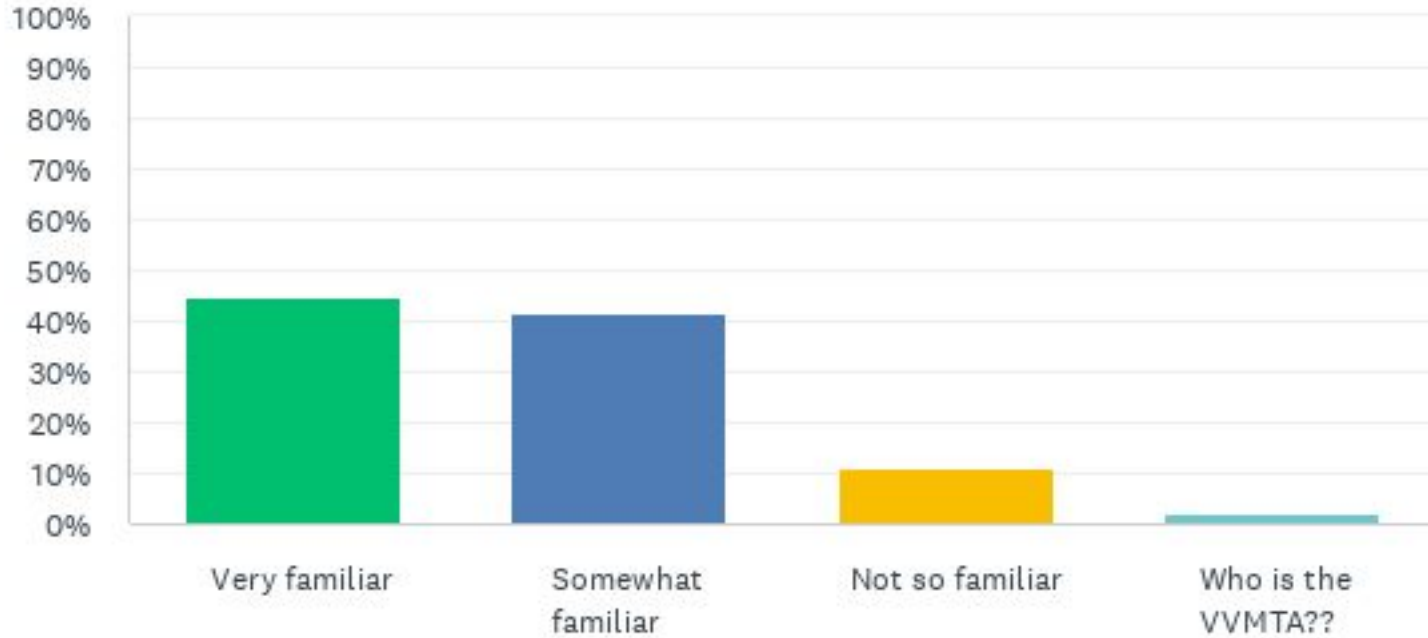
### Top 10 Answers:

\*Many respondents answered with “Meadow Mountain Loop” or just generally “Meadow Mountain”. These answers were counted towards Everkrisp, Meadow Mountain, and Whiskey Creek.

<b>Everkrisp</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Meadow Mountain</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Whiskey Creek</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Two Elk East</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Paulie’s Plunge</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Boneyard</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Two Elk West</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Pool &amp; Ice</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Lee’s Way</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Son of Middle Creek</b>	<b>11</b>

# Q7: How familiar are you with VVMTA's mission of being the leading trail advocates in Eagle County? Our Mission and Vision

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



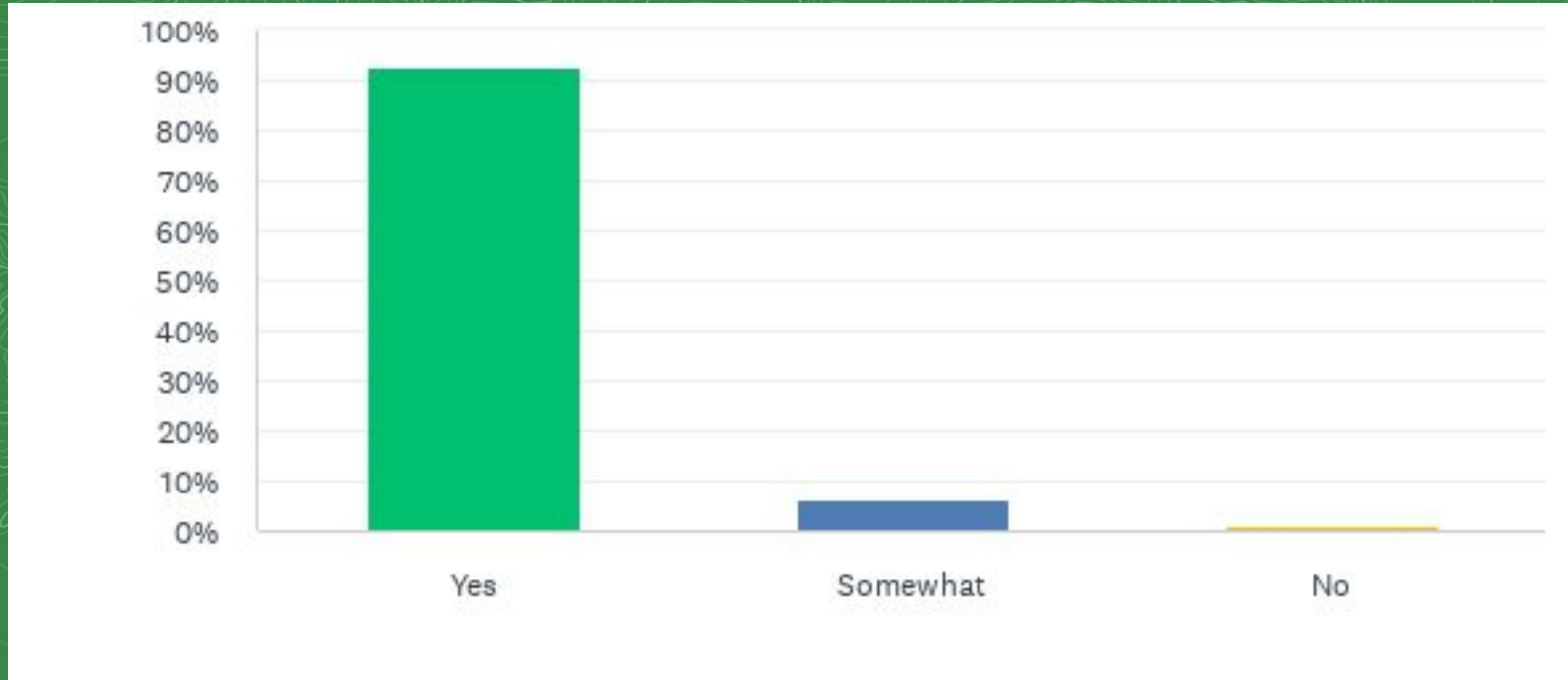
## Q7: How familiar are you with VVMTA's mission of being the leading trail advocates in Eagle County? Our Mission and Vision

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very familiar	45.00%	135
Somewhat familiar	41.67%	125
Not so familiar	11.00%	33
Who is the VVMTA??	2.33%	7
TOTAL		300

## Q8: Are you aware of Seasonal Wildlife Closures why they exist, where, and when?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0





## Q8: Are you aware of Seasonal Wildlife Closures why they exist, where, and when? Full list of closures here



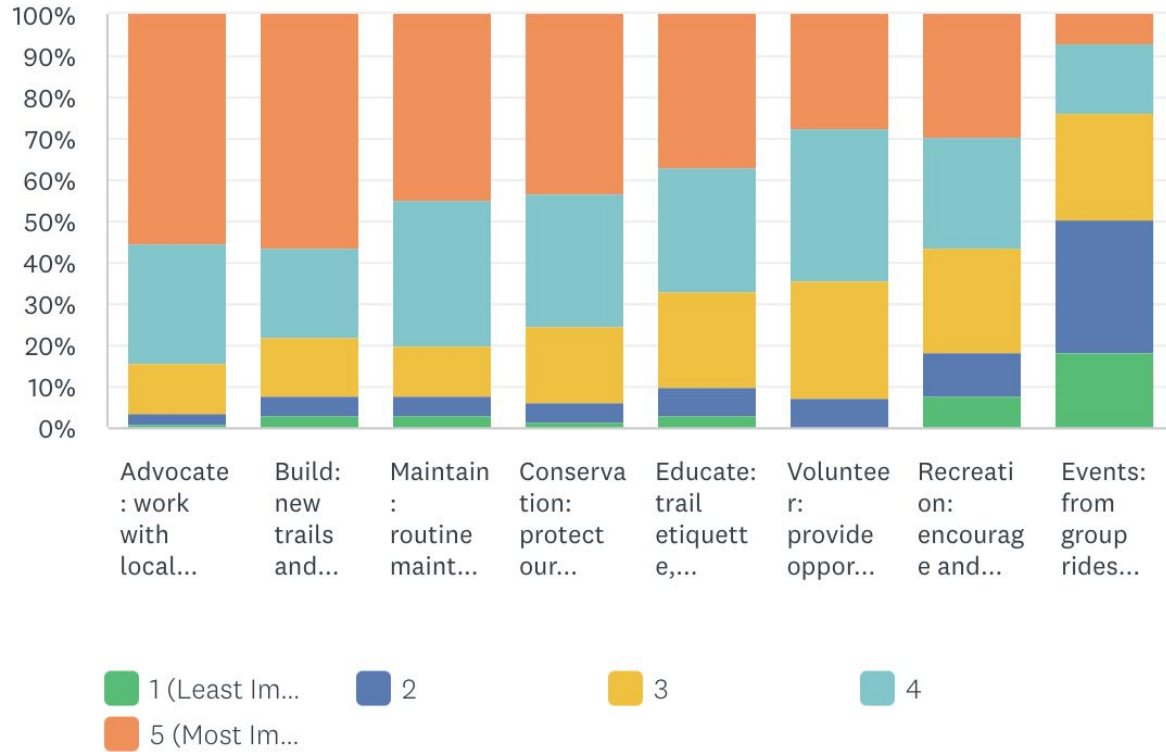
Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	92.67%	278
Somewhat	6.33%	19
No	1.00%	3
TOTAL		300

# Q9: Please rank the importance of VVMTA's main initiatives to you: 1 = Least Important 5 = Most Important



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



## Highlights:

- The community relies on us to advocate for an improved trail system which includes building and maintaining trails
- Great to see the community's desire for our initiative to balance conservation and recreation!

# Q9: Please rank the importance of VVMTA's main initiatives to you: 1 = Least Important 5 = Most Important



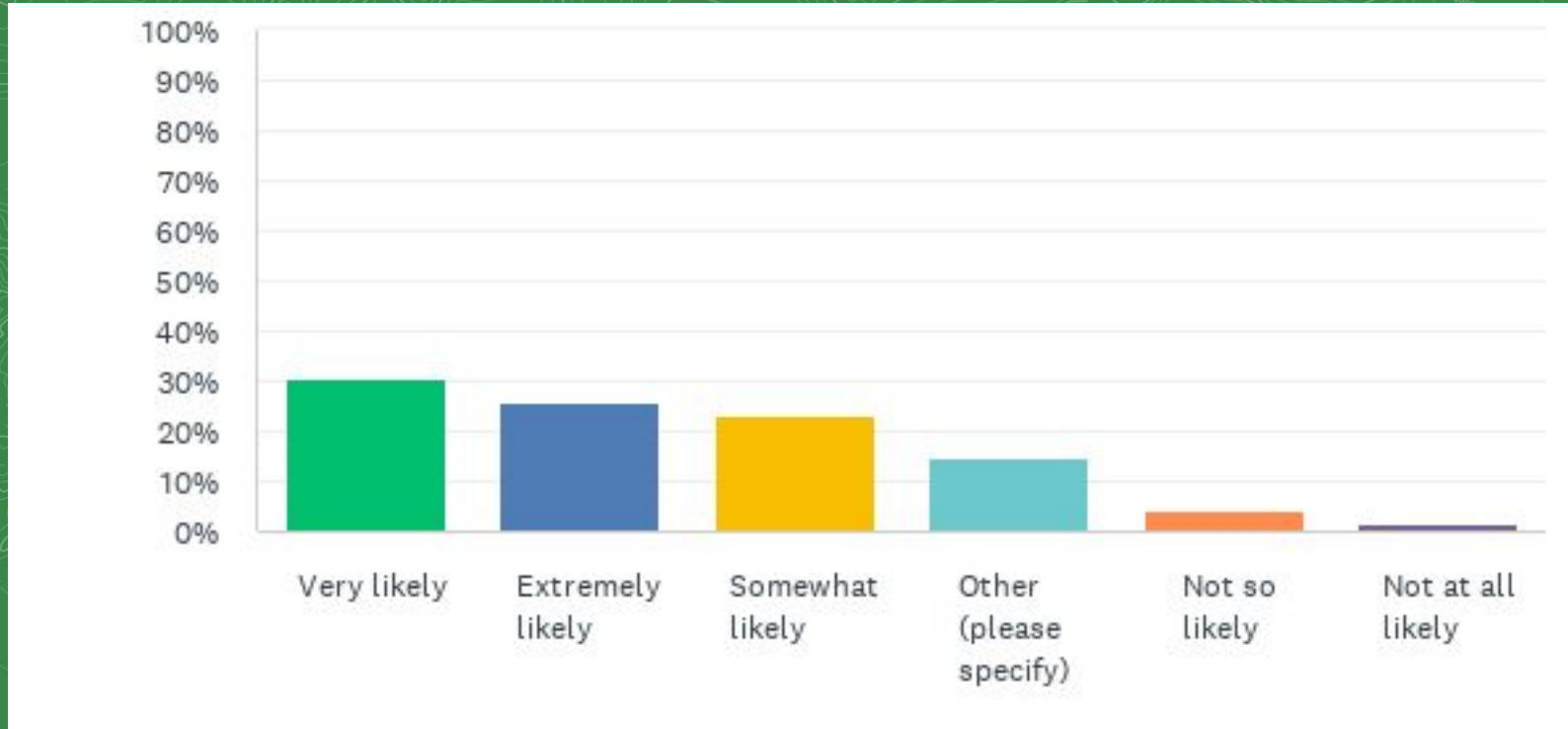
Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

	1 (LEAST IMPORTANT)	2	3	4	5 (MOST IMPORTANT)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Advocate: work with local land managers and government agencies to improve our trail systems	1.02% 3	2.71% 8	11.86% 35	29.15% 86	55.25% 163	295	4.35
Build: new trails and trail systems	3.02% 9	5.03% 15	14.09% 42	21.48% 64	56.38% 168	298	4.23
Maintain: routine maintenance and reroutes of old trails	3.01% 9	4.68% 14	12.37% 37	35.45% 106	44.48% 133	299	4.14
Conservation: protect our natural resources for our current and future generations	1.68% 5	4.70% 14	18.12% 54	32.55% 97	42.95% 128	298	4.10
Educate: trail etiquette, seasonal wildlife closures, Leave No Trace Principles	3.33% 10	6.67% 20	23.00% 69	30.33% 91	36.67% 110	300	3.90
Volunteer: provide opportunities to give back and become stewards of our trails	0.68% 2	6.44% 19	28.81% 85	36.95% 109	27.12% 80	295	3.83
Recreation: encourage and provide opportunities to get outside on our trails	7.77% 23	10.81% 32	25.00% 74	26.69% 79	29.73% 88	296	3.60
Events: from group rides/hikes to local races to social networking opportunities	18.18% 54	32.32% 96	25.93% 77	16.84% 50	6.73% 20	297	2.62

# Q10: If not already a VVMTA supporter, how likely are you to join/donate to our organization?



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



# Q10: If not already a VVMTA supporter, how likely are you to join/donate to our organization?



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very likely	30.67%	92
Extremely likely	25.67%	77
Somewhat likely	23.00%	69
Other (please specify)	14.67%	44
Not so likely	4.33%	13
Not at all likely	1.67%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>300</b>

# Q11: In your words, what could the VVMTA do to improve your likelihood of supporting our organization?



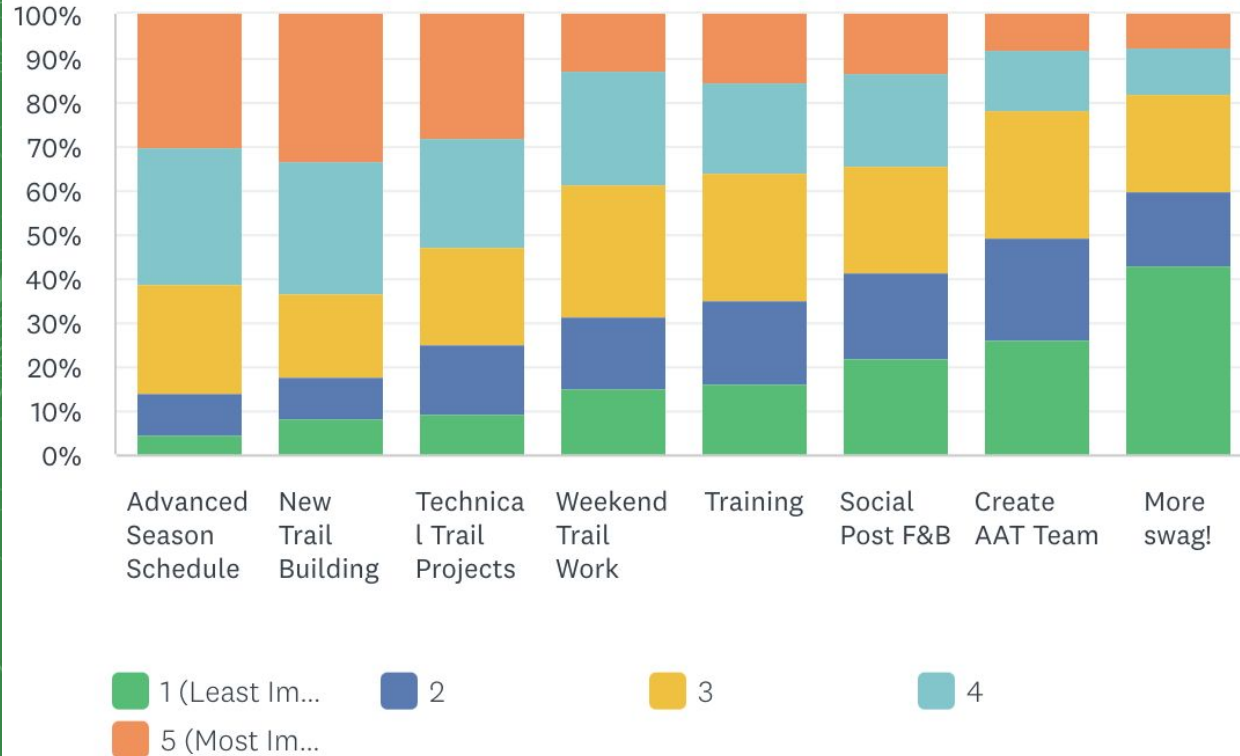
Answered: 222 Skipped: 0

## Comments (Themes): Communication, New technical trails, and No Changes to Existing Trails

- “VVMTA is doing a great job creating sustainable trails, by decommissioning old roads into flowy single tracks with proper drainage resulting in a much more enjoyable user experience. More focus on sustainable USE of our natural resources (i.e. wildlife closure, mitigating overuse, education) would improve the likelihood of my supporting your organization.”
- “Would love to see trail condition updates more frequently. (better crowd sourcing). Also would benefit from improved communication and chat boards (forum on website? Instagram?)”
- “Create more opportunity for people to connect and be a part of the community”
- “No more trail sanitizing, we like rocks!”
- “Include all user groups beyond bikes and hiking. Motorized, equestrian ...”
- “Clearer understanding of what they need (time, money, etc)”
- “More newspaper articles on what VVMTA is accomplishing. A Eagle County Trails Podcast incorporating all uses, ECO updates, hiking, biking and OHV's, ALL trail uses.”
- “Keep building new and more technical trails in the county”
- “Build more trails and stop rerouting already great trails. Work with forest service to create new sustainable trails. Maintenance of trails like Mike’s night and World’s Greatest DH”
- “Better advertising on how to volunteer for trail restoration”
- “Continue to advocate and collaborate with local organizations and businesses.”
- “Perhaps a little less emphasis on new trail building and more work in maintaining the great systems we have.”
- “Have more social events (rides, meetings, etc.) that create energy around volunteering a contributing money.”
- “Get the word out so folks learn more about what you do. Social media is good but vail daily is great”
- “Send plans on what could be coming up next. More likely to support if I can see the plan I’m supporting.”
- “I used to donate but will no longer with recent practice of destroying natural trails and replacing with man made flow.”

# Q12: What would encourage you to participate in volunteer trail days? (1 = Least Important 5 = Most Important)

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



## Highlights:

- Create and communicate a schedule that is set for the entire summer or at a minimum that month.

# Q12: What would encourage you to participate in volunteer trail days? (1 = Least Important 5 = Most Important)



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

	1 (LOWEST)	2	3	4	5 (HIGHEST)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Advanced Season Schedule	4.76% 14	9.52% 28	24.49% 72	31.29% 92	29.93% 88	294	3.72
New Trail Building	8.25% 24	9.62% 28	18.90% 55	30.24% 88	32.99% 96	291	3.70
Technical Trail Projects	9.25% 27	16.10% 47	22.26% 65	24.66% 72	27.74% 81	292	3.46
Weekend Trail Work	15.17% 44	16.55% 48	30.00% 87	25.86% 75	12.41% 36	290	3.04
Training	16.49% 48	18.56% 54	29.21% 85	20.62% 60	15.12% 44	291	2.99
Social Post F&B	22.18% 65	19.45% 57	23.89% 70	21.16% 62	13.31% 39	293	2.84
Create AAT Team	26.39% 76	22.92% 66	29.17% 84	13.89% 40	7.64% 22	288	2.53
More swag!	43.25% 125	16.96% 49	21.80% 63	10.38% 30	7.61% 22	289	2.22



# Q13: In your opinion, what does VVMTA do really well?



Answered: 233 Skipped: 67

## Comments (Themes): Advocacy, Community, Maintenance, Volunteerism, Trail Building

- “The VVMTA does a great job at creating awareness for mountain biking/recreation in the Vail Valley. VVMTA has succeeded in creating a fun culture surrounding trail work days. Your collaboration with state and federal agencies is apparent in numerous new projects throughout the valley. You have also organized an all-star staff that is knowledgeable and passionate.”
- “Advocacy, working with the stakeholders in the community, trail maintenance”
- “Re-routes. The meadow mountain one was brilliant! I was so excited to see you begin work on Benchmark road”
- “Advocate for locals!”
- “Proactive about taking on projects and covering the entire valley. Good branding as well.”
- “Create awareness and provide the voice of hike and bike community”
- “Gets things done! Very impressed with the projects that have been completed in the last two years.”
- “Trail maintenance and community outreach”
- “Community outreach and education. Great trail maintenance and construction for such a small group.”
- “Lots of volunteer opportunities and lots of new trails!!!”
- “Bring together community, maintain current trails and work to build new trails to get people out recreating.”
- “Outreach and education, advocacy, trail building and maintenance, WTA program”
- “The recent re routes on cougar and game creek are great.”
- “The re-routes on Cougar Ridge and Meadow are amazing. VVMTA also excels at organizing people and working with all the various government agencies and private land owners to get trails approved and built.”
- “Fundraising, getting volunteers on board to work on trails, building new trails to add to the existing network. Re-route around or remove existing technical features on challenging trails.”
- “Inspire volunteerism and community support of trails”
- “Educate the public about closures, maintenance, and the why behind trail modifications and re-routes.”

# Q14: In your opinion, what does VVMTA need to improve upon?



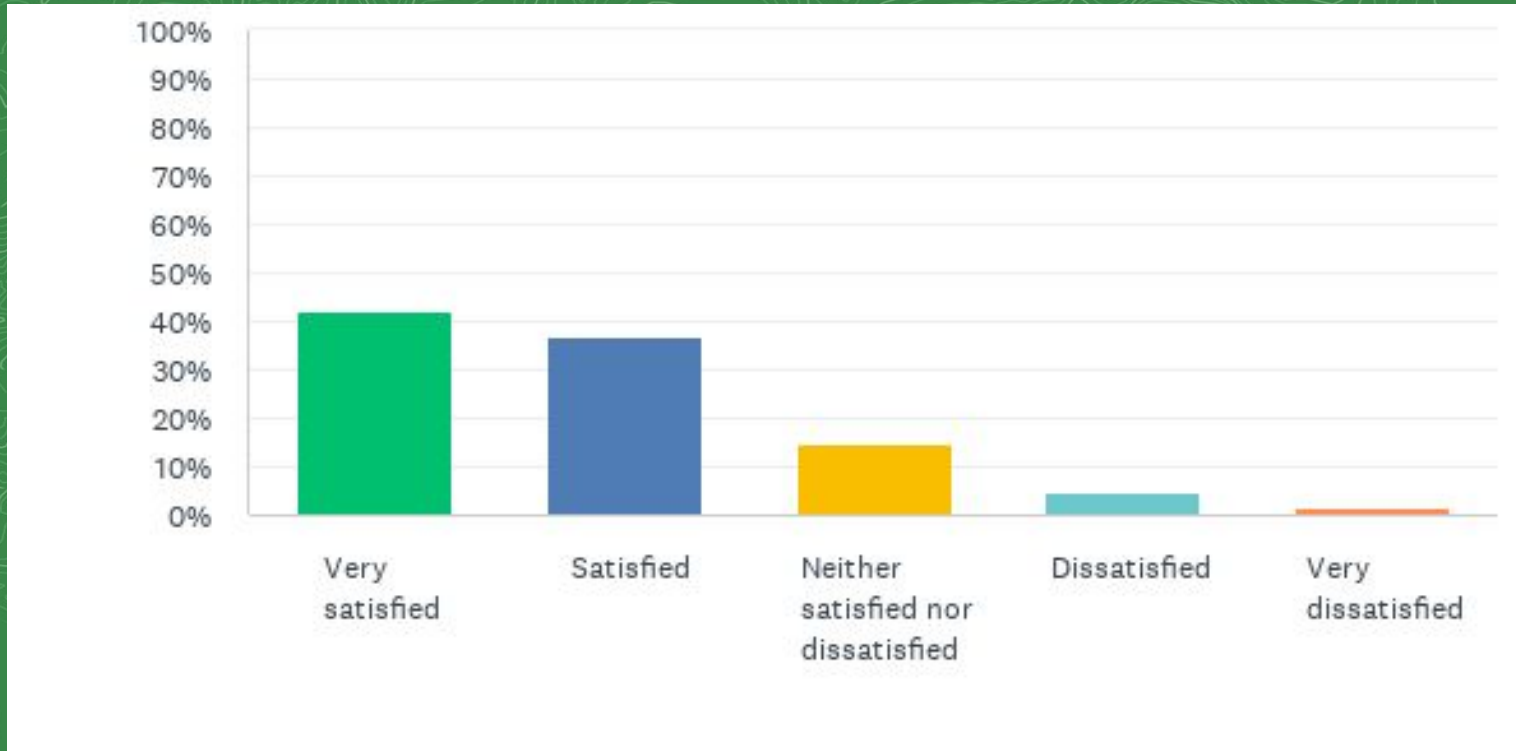
Answered: 223 Skipped: 77

## Comments: Communication, Trail Style Diversity, Natural/Technical Trails

- “Since the explosion of the VVMTA, it is my opinion that trails in the area have become vanilla. Rocks have been removed, trails widened, berms introduced, rollers and gaps built. It’s possible these are techniques promoted by IMBA as I’ve ridden in multiple other communities and the trails are built identically. The diversity of trails in the area was unique and I feel like we are losing the diversity. Unfortunately, local groups will continue to build rogue trails without permission to obtain that lost diversity. Oso, which was declassified, is already back in the mix. If we don’t create diverse trails, or make arrangements to keep, these rogue builds will continue to be an issue. I’m also concerned about the quid pro quo deals between agencies that have decommissioned popular trails in the community. I do believe the community is deeply invested in their Summer outdoor recreation opportunities and that is a lot for one non-profit to bear.”
- “Balancing resource management (ie. protection of wildlife and ensuring sustainable use of our trails as to avoid over use as Eagle County population increase occurs)”
- “Provide a voice for all user groups”
- “Pushing out information as to a strategic plan (1 yr, 3 yr, 5 yr, 10 yr) for trail development and maintenance”
- “Group ride options for all levels - weekend trail work volunteer opportunities”
- “More public awareness of what VVMTA contributes to the community. More news stories and presentations to public groups.”
- “Unless someone is really dialed in, it’s hard to really understand what VVMTA is up to. Seems like better marketing of finished projects would raise your profile.”
- “Not sure if this is VVMTA’s fault, but I would love more technical trails. Everything is getting groomed and there’s nowhere for me to progress my technical skills as a biker”
- “Education for people using the trails, courtesy, when to ride, etiquette”
- “Creating a more narrow trail corridor in both tread width and tree clearing for new trails.”
- “Educating the public on why trails are built the way they are and perhaps the process with all the scientists to build more trails. I think a lot of people don’t understand all the background work that goes into it”
- “Offering opportunities for community input for project planning.”
- “Maybe send out ideas of new trails or trail proposals to the land use authorities to get us excited about / start advocating for or you could also send out polls on which trail should be rerouted or fixed up next?”

# Q15: Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the VVMTA?

Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



# Q15: Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the VVMTA?



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	42.33%	127
Satisfied	37.00%	111
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	14.67%	44
Dissatisfied	4.67%	14
Very dissatisfied	1.33%	4
TOTAL		300

# Q16: What are you most satisfied with our current trail opportunities in Eagle County?



Answered: 226 Skipped: 74

## Comments (Themes): Access, Variety, New Trails, Improved Trails

- “How much trail you can connect together with touching very little pavement or double track.”
- “The Minturn Bike Park is a Grand Slam! I didn't know I needed that park in my life. We have so many opportunities to ride, thank you for the hard work, dedication and passion!”
- “The easy access, the ride-ability, the fact that most are not too technical”
- “How many great options we have across the valley. And, Improvements made to older trails”
- “We have enough trail that it never feels overly busy. This may change as population continues to grow. More people hopefully = more funding opportunities and more trail!”
- “The continuing of continuity between the neighborhoods.”
- “There has been a noticeable improvement in trail maintenance over the past year. Thank you!”
- “The fact that you are out there planning, coordinating and executing projects to improve life in the valley”
- “Accessibility within Eagle county - lots of trails available right out each town's backyard.”
- “Neighborhood access points, variety of up and down valley trails.”
- “After 10 years of work, Our trails are now maintained and well looked after.”
- “New trails being put in and community stewardship.”
- “I like the wildlife closures and LNT education”

# Q17: What are you least satisfied with our current trail opportunities in Eagle County?



Answered: 216 Skipped: 84

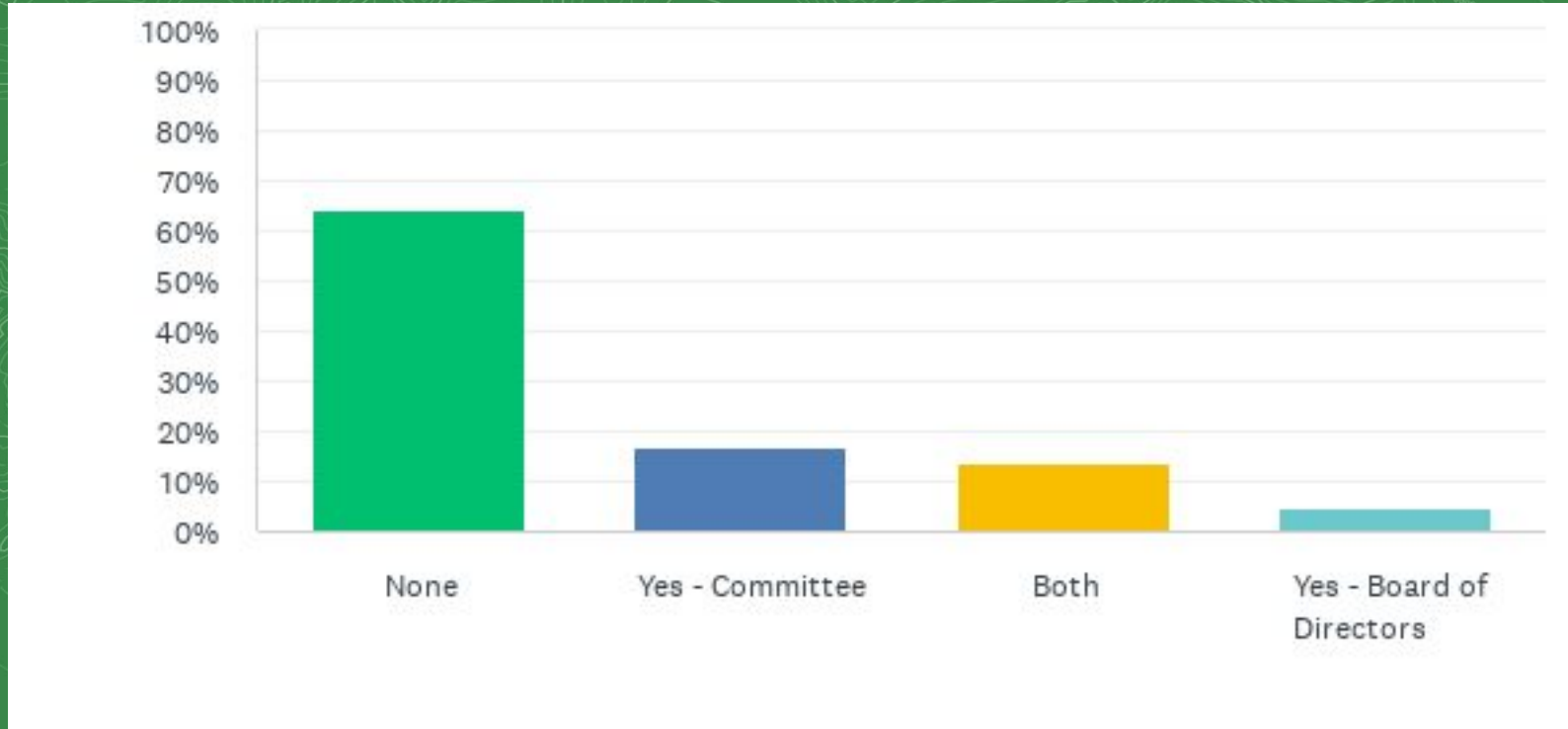
## Comments (Themes): Lack of Technical/Natural Trails, Overuse/Crowding, Beginner Trails

- “I would like to see all gypsum connected with other trails in Eagle County mountain biking trails specifically”
- “Limited access to motorized trails. Motorized trails are being removed/transferred to other user groups”
- “More traffic on trails”
- “I would love to see more technical riding available in the valley.”
- “The lack of new trails and lack of difficult trails”
- “I think lack of diversity of trails. I understand the need for all levels of trail difficulties but it feels like we just build flow trails or trails for everyone. It would be nice to have trails that have A lines and B lines so you can have the opportunity to challenge yourself and get better. I think people want more trails all the time because they master the ones we have so quickly and easily. If we build trails that keep people coming back to conquer that new feature it turns it into a motivational thing to go faster, or clean all obstacles, etc”
- “User etiquette - illegal use, skidding (holy brake checks!!), overuse of trails. Marketing/promotion to draw more tourists and residents needs to consider and provide funding for responsible recreation opportunities!”
- “Wish there were more beginner trails for kids or adults that want rolling trails so that technical or hard uphill.”
- “Lack of features on trails. We don’t necessarily need more trails, just more hits/options/features on the trails we have”
- “Trail closures in the winter—can’t do anything about it, Want to respect the wildlife”
- “Lack of advanced trail options. Seems all new projects are very General Admission. Would like to see a ratio like 1 advanced trail for every 5 pedestrian trails”
- “Not enough trails connecting different trail networks (ie. West Avon to Vail, Minturn to Beaver Creek). We have many good trail networks but connecting them to put together a larger ride can involve lots of road/bike path miles.”
- “The forest services opposition to more trails and user/directional specific trails. These sorts of trails would greatly reduce user conflicts and increase user enjoyment and experience.”
- “Unmanageable and out of control public use levels”
- “Need more beginner and youth options up valley.”
- “Gaps in trail network that would link communities”

# Q18: Would you be interested in joining a VVMTA committee or Board of Directors?



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



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Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

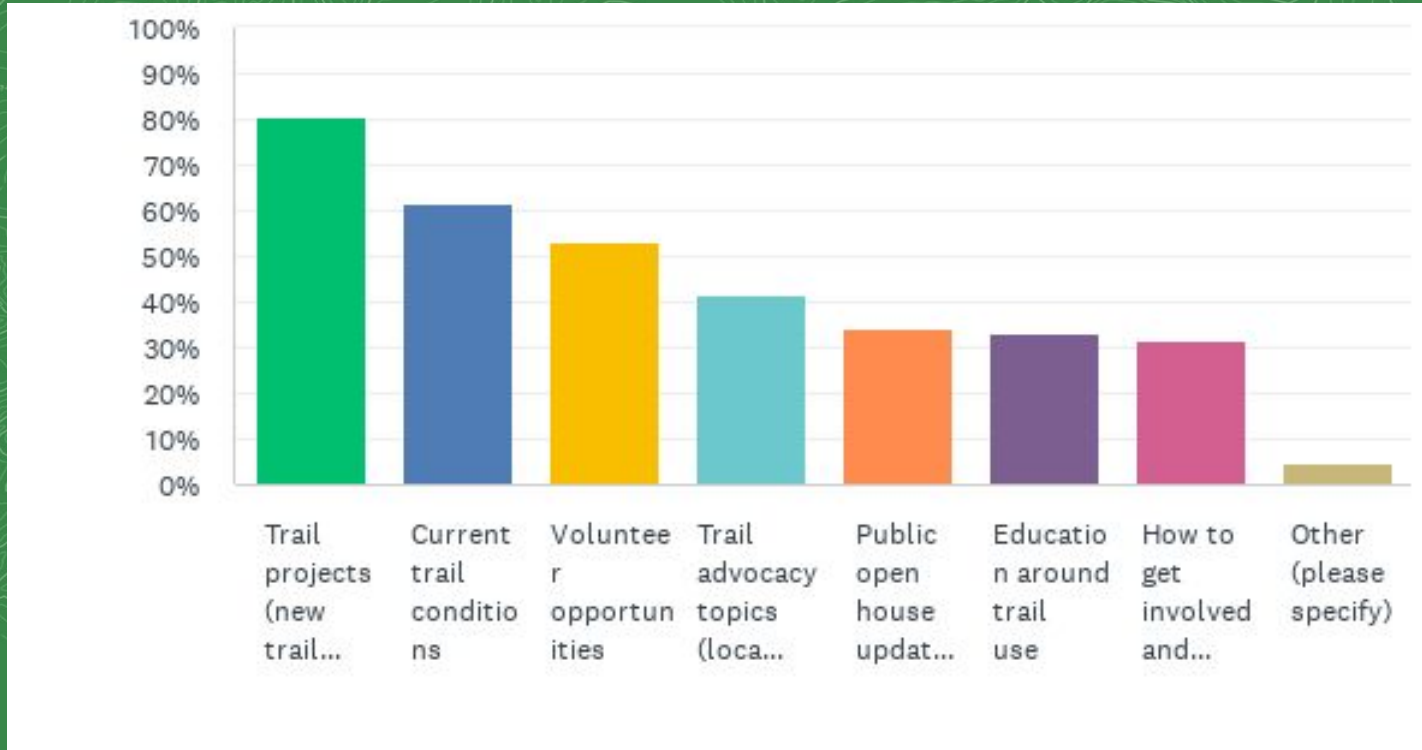
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	64.33%	193
Yes - Committee	17.00%	51
Both	13.67%	41
Yes - Board of Directors	5.00%	15
TOTAL		300



# Q19: What topics would you like to hear more about from the VVMTA?



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



# Q19: What topics would you like to hear more about from the VVMTA?



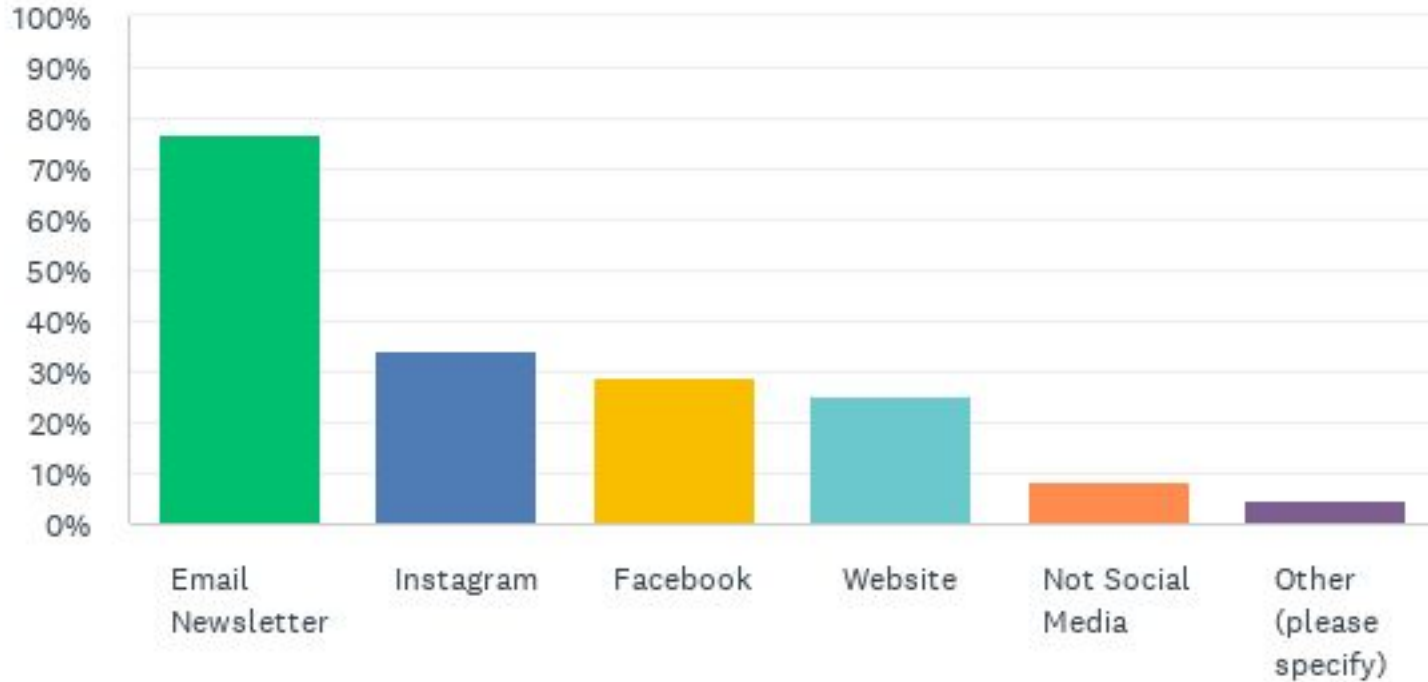
Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Trail projects (new trails, trail maintenance, projects, etc.)	80.33%	241
Current trail conditions	61.33%	184
Volunteer opportunities	53.00%	159
Trail advocacy topics (local, state, and national ballots, bills, and government decisions)	41.67%	125
Public open house updates on our trails and plans	34.33%	103
Education around trail use	33.00%	99
How to get involved and support	31.33%	94
Other (please specify)	5.00%	15
Total Respondents: 300		

## Q20: What are the best ways for VVMTA to communicate with you? (Choose all that apply)



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0



## Q20: What are the best ways for VVMTA to communicate with you? (Choose all that apply)



Answered: 300 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Email Newsletter	77.00%	231
Instagram	34.33%	103
Facebook	29.00%	87
Website	25.33%	76
Not Social Media	8.67%	26
Other (please specify)	4.67%	14
Total Respondents: 300		