



CITY OF
MINNETONKA

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

January 8, 2018

PROCESS TO DATE



Imagine
Minnetonka

Interested
Residents &
Students

Park Board
directed to
examine
possibilities

Trail Source
Mountain
Biking Study
(2017)

Concerns
raised,
specifically
Big Willow
Park

Two focus
groups
established to
collect input

Community
Convening to
bring ideas
together

PURPOSE OF TONIGHT'S MEETING

- What is Mountain Biking/Mountain Biking Trails?
- Present what we have heard
- Gather feedback on criteria that will be used to determine project feasibility
- Collect additional criteria to be considered



WHAT IS MOUNTAIN BIKING/MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS?

They are not:

- Motorized
- Racetracks
- Paved



WHAT IS MOUNTAIN BIKING/MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS?

Typically:

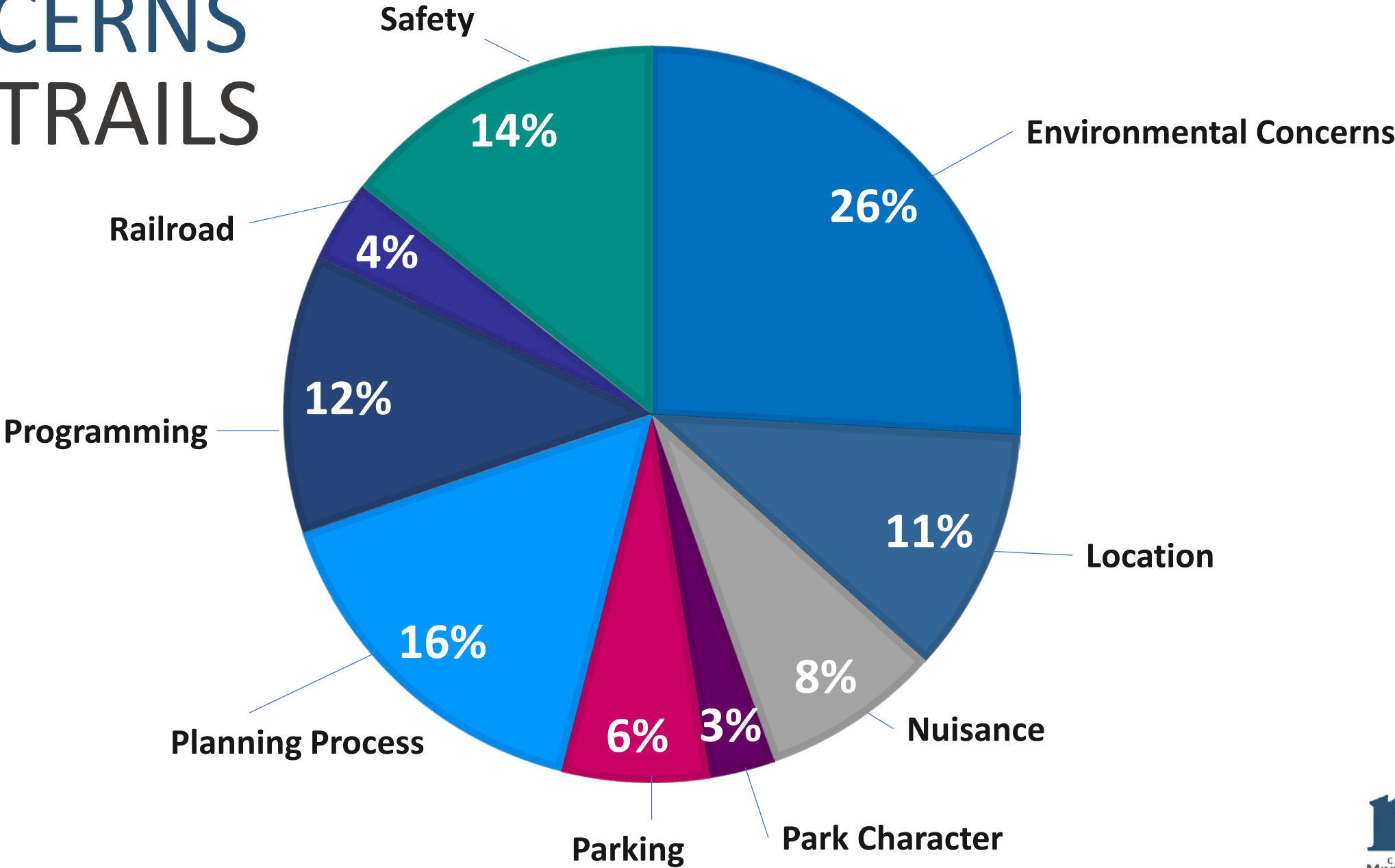
- Narrow, less than 2-feet wide
- One way
- Closed during wet conditions
- Winding, with elevation change
- Built using natural contours
- Multi-use, shared trails (over 90% of Twin Cities trails are multi-use)

Things that vary:

- Length
- Level of difficulty
- Features



CONCERNS FOR TRAILS



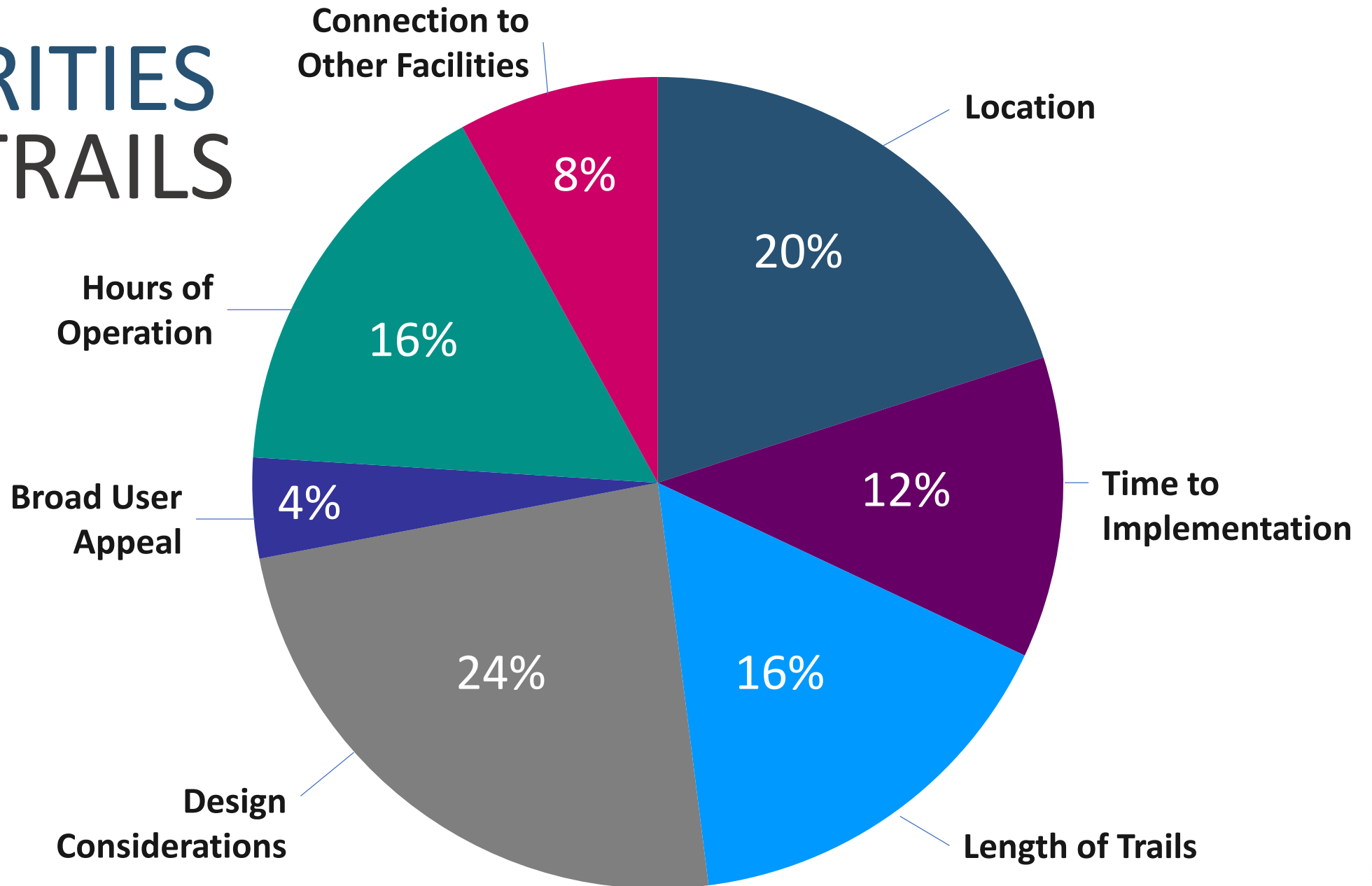
“Mountain bike trails will cause damage to nature, animals, plant life, erosion.”

“Trails will radically change the character of the park.”

“There may be dangers for walkers at common trail segments.”

“The trails could cause disruption, noise and ruin solitude.”

PRIORITIES FOR TRAILS



“Users don’t want to have to drive to trails. Local kids need outdoor activities.”

“Separating walkers from bikers will increase safety.”

“The trails will encourage physical activity.”

“Park programming should cater to a diverse array of community interests.”

OPTION A

Build trails - including Big Willow, and other parks

PRO

- Big Willow is close to potential trail users, they would not have to drive to the park
- Big Willow is connected to the Regional Trail
- Big Willow's terrain is variable and suitable for mountain biking
- Trails at Big Willow would help local businesses

CON

- There is not enough parking at Big Willow
- There may be conflict between bikers and walkers at trail intersections and on the bridge
- The neighborhood would be disrupted
- Big Willow is not a large enough park to support additional trails

OPTION B

Build Trails, but not in Big Willow

PRO

- Other parks in Minnetonka are bigger and better able to accommodate trails
- Less controversy at other locations
- If there are trails at multiple parks, the impact would be lessened and dispersed
- There may be fewer environmental concerns at other locations

CON

- Other locations would be farther from Hopkins high school
- Other sites would be less accessible/central for users
- Less connectivity to regional trail system
- Other parks are flat – would not make for good mountain biking

OPTION C

Do not build Mountain Biking Trails

PRO

- Current parks would not be disrupted
- No money would be spent
- Less influx of non-Minnetonka residents to use the parks

CON

- Makes Minnetonka less appealing to young families
- Does not support mountain bike community
- Unsanctioned use of trails for biking will continue

MUTUAL INTERESTS



- Environmental Protection
- A Fair and Open Process
- Minimize User Conflicts/ Maximize Safety
- Adequate Space

PROPOSED CRITERIA

Environmental Protection



01

Use Sustainable Trail Guidelines if developing trails

02

Avoid areas of uncommon plant and high quality restoration

03

Trail width is limited to approximately 24 inches

04

Minimize tree impact and removal

PROPOSED CRITERIA

*Minimize User
Conflict &
Maximize
Safety*



01

One-way

02

Minimize intersections with existing maintained and high-use informal foot paths

03

Do not displace existing maintained trails and high-use informal foot paths

04

Trails should be multi-use

05

Adequate parking available

PROPOSED CRITERIA

Adequate Space



01

Space for minimum of four miles of trails total
(could include a circuit in several locations)

02

Space for a minimum of two miles in
any one location

03

If circuit, a park should be located
within one mile of another

04

Located within one mile of regional trail

05

Minimum of 20 usable acres per location

EXISTING TWIN CITIES MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS



ACREAGE

Park Name	Total	Usable	Acres Per Mile	Trail Mileage	Distance from MTKA
<i>Lake Rebecca</i>	2577	300	21.28	14.1	22 mile (Rockford)
<i>Bertram Chain of Lakes</i>	1200	398	30.38	13.1	38 miles (Monticello)
<i>Elm Creek</i>	5315	184	14.84	12.4	22 miles (Champlin)
<i>Lebanon Hills</i>	2000	190	15.83	12	24 miles (Eagan)
<i>Murphy-Hanrehan</i>	2786	140	14.29	9.8	22 miles (Savage)
<i>Battle Creek</i>	840	289	30.42	9.5	27 miles (St. Paul)
<i>Theodore Wirth</i>	743	87	12.79	6.8	10 miles (Minneapolis)
<i>Carver Lake Park</i>	150	51	9.71	5.25	31 miles (Woodbury)
<i>Hillside</i>	80	68	13.6	5	29 miles (Elm River)
<i>Salem Hills / Harmon Park</i>	84	82	18.64	4.4	25 (Inver Grove Heights)
<i>Terrace Oaks</i>	230	57	25.91	2.2	22 miles (Burnsville)

PARKS IN MINNETONKA

*Usable = undeveloped acreage that could be used to build mountain bike trails. Acreage that does not include wetlands, creeks, ponds, etc.

PARK NAME	ACREAGE			
	UNDEVELOPED	DEVELOPED	TOTAL	USABLE*
494 CORRIDOR	34	0	34	25.6
BIG WILLOW	50	45	95	29.1
CIVIC CENTER	98	48	146	15.2
COVINGTON	20.5	7.8	28.3	7.5
CRANE LAKE	86	2	88	4
HILLOWAY	29.3	2	31.3	23
JIDANA	55.5	4	59.5	15.5
LAKE ROSE	31.8	2	33.8	3.3
LONE LAKE	132	14	146	52.3
MEADOW	101	10	111	4.4
MOONEY	96	1	97	6
PURGATORY	134	24	158	37
VICTORIA-EVERGREEN	22	3	25	21

WHAT'S NEXT? FUTURE PLANS

01

PARK BOARD REVIEW

February 7, 2018



02

CITY COUNCIL

*If Park Board advances the issue - 2018