

Tower Area Trails Survey Findings Summary

ARDC Planning administered a public survey about Tower Area trails from August 16 to September 15, 2021. The survey asked respondents to provide demographic information, feelings about existing trails, and any additional thoughts about the trails in Tower. 201 respondents participated in the survey. Summary findings are outlined below.

Demographics

The average respondent was from the 55790 (Tower, MN) ZIP code, used existing trails at least once per month throughout the year, and used trails primarily for walking/hiking.

When asked about desired trail destinations, respondents identified the following as top area destinations (number of “votes” are listed in parentheses):

1. Lake Vermilion (38)
2. Lake Vermilion State Park (30)
3. Ely (27)
4. Hoodoo Point (24)
5. Restaurant/Bar (24)
6. Tower (20)
7. Soudan (19)
8. Y Store (19)
9. Cook (18)
10. Trails (13)
11. Fortune Bay Casino (12)
12. McKinley Park (12)
13. Babbitt (10)
14. Ski Trails (10)

Questions About Trails

When asked about the maintenance of existing trails, 27% of respondents felt maintenance of trails was “poor” or “very poor”, and 42% of respondents felt it was “good” or “very good”.

When asked about the connections of existing trails, 31% of respondents felt trail connections were “poor” or “very poor”, and 35% of respondents felt they were “good” or “very good”.

When asked about issues users face on the trails, respondents expressed the following:

- 1) trail maintenance (e.g., pavement quality of walk/bike trails to Hoodoo Point, Mesabi Trail between Tower and Soudan, Taconite Trail, trail bridge just west of Junction Road, lack of mowing snowmobile trails for “all seasons use” and along the edge of paved trails during summer, lack of plowing paved trails for walking and biking during winter),

2) trail connections (e.g., lack of designated ATV connections [Hoodoo Point to Soudan, direct access to Prospector Trail from Soudan], uncompleted paved trail connections [Hoodoo Point loop, connection from Tower Harbor to trailhead, westward and southward intercity connections], lacking connections to scenic views, desire to longer trails [2-4 miles] and trails that loop back to town [instead of requiring users to backtrack on the same route]),

3) unclear communication about trail use (i.e., permitted use of each trail not communicated well, difficult to access information or maps, lacking roadway signage at trail crossings), and

4) trail user accommodations (e.g., lack of lighting on ski trails, lack of direct trail connection to overnight accommodations, lack of access to washrooms, lack of trash cans and benches).

Other responses expressed praise for the presence of trails in the community, a desire for a trail system that was more intuitive for people to use, and concern that ATV use on trails not designated for their use worsens the trail experience for intended users.

When asked about trail activities desired but not currently available in the area, respondents mentioned (in no order):

- Rollerblading, skate skiing, inline skating – Pavement of existing trails is not maintained well enough, some trails are built with curves that are too sharp.
- Mountain biking/winter fat biking – Existing trails restrictions are unclear about ability for bikes to use them, and trails in the area are not built specifically for this use.
- Skijouring – Acceptance/welcoming of animals on ski trails is unclear.
- UTVing – Existing trails don't allow for side-by-sides.
- Skiing – Desire to see ski trails in Lake Vermilion State Park
- Bogwalking (boardwalk trail)

Full Survey Results

A full survey report is included on the following pages.

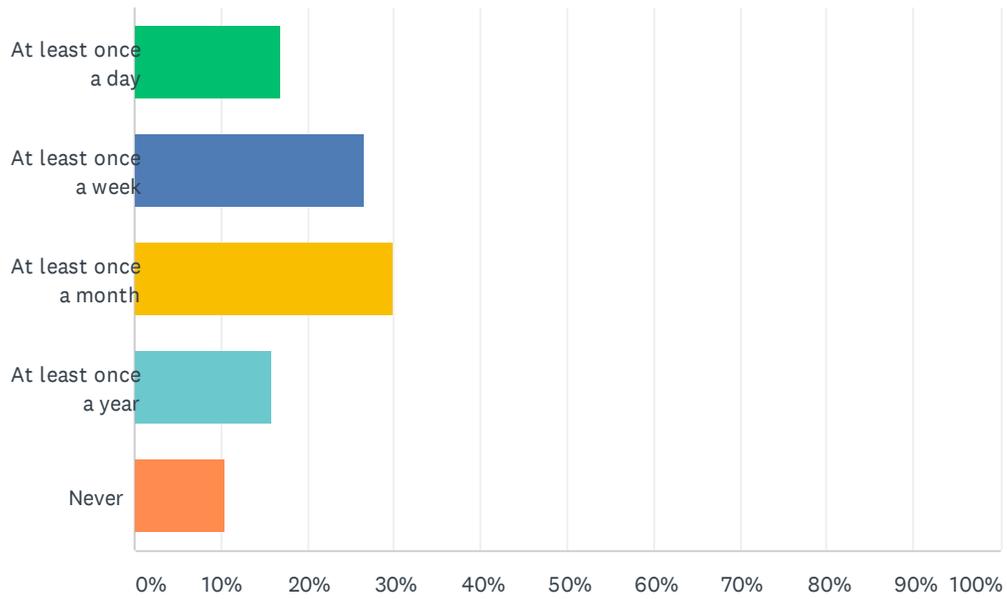
Q1 What is your ZIP code of residence?

Answered: 195 Skipped: 5

#	RESPONSES	FREQUENCY
1	55790	70
2	55782	18
3	55723	14
4	55731	8
5	55732	7
6	55792	6
7	55811	4
8	55044	3
9	55423	3
10	55442	3
11	55746	3
12	55347	2
13	55369	2
14	55734	2
15	55758	2
16	34113, 51012, 51334, 53711, 54002, 54830, 54853, 55016, 55025, 55042, 55060, 55068, 55079, 55082, 55092, 55104, 55107, 55112, 55115, 55304, 55330, 55337, 55386, 55406, 55409, 55411, 55419, 55703, 55706, 55708, 55709, 55710, 55720, 55721, 55722, 55768, 55807, 56011, 56081, 56285, 56301, 56320, 56373, 56401, 58047, 80908, 55063	1 Each

Q2 How often do you generally use existing trails in the Tower area during summer months?

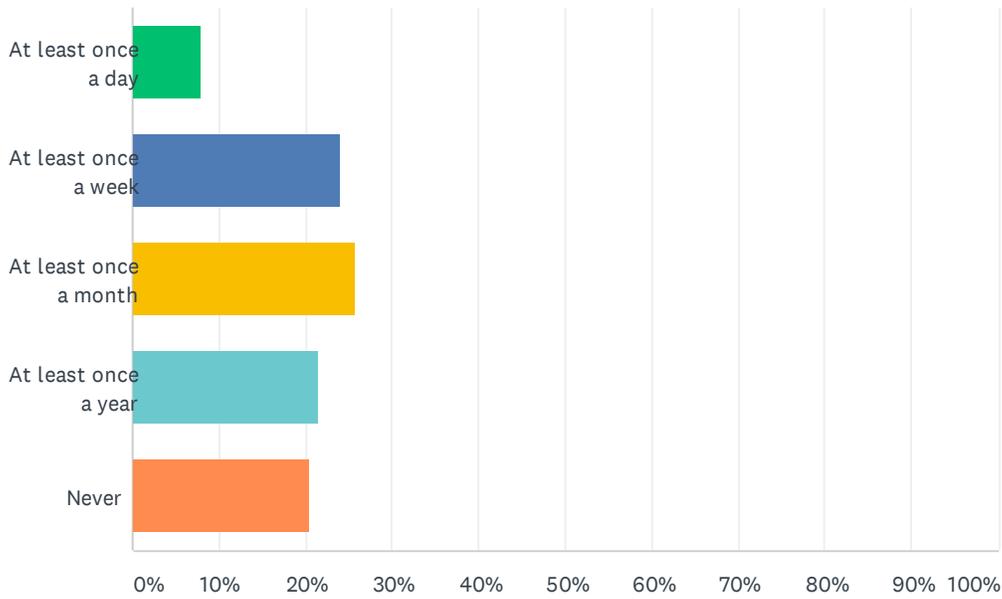
Answered: 200 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
At least once a day	17.00%	34
At least once a week	26.50%	53
At least once a month	30.00%	60
At least once a year	16.00%	32
Never	10.50%	21
TOTAL		200

Q3 How often do you generally use existing trails in the Tower area during winter months?

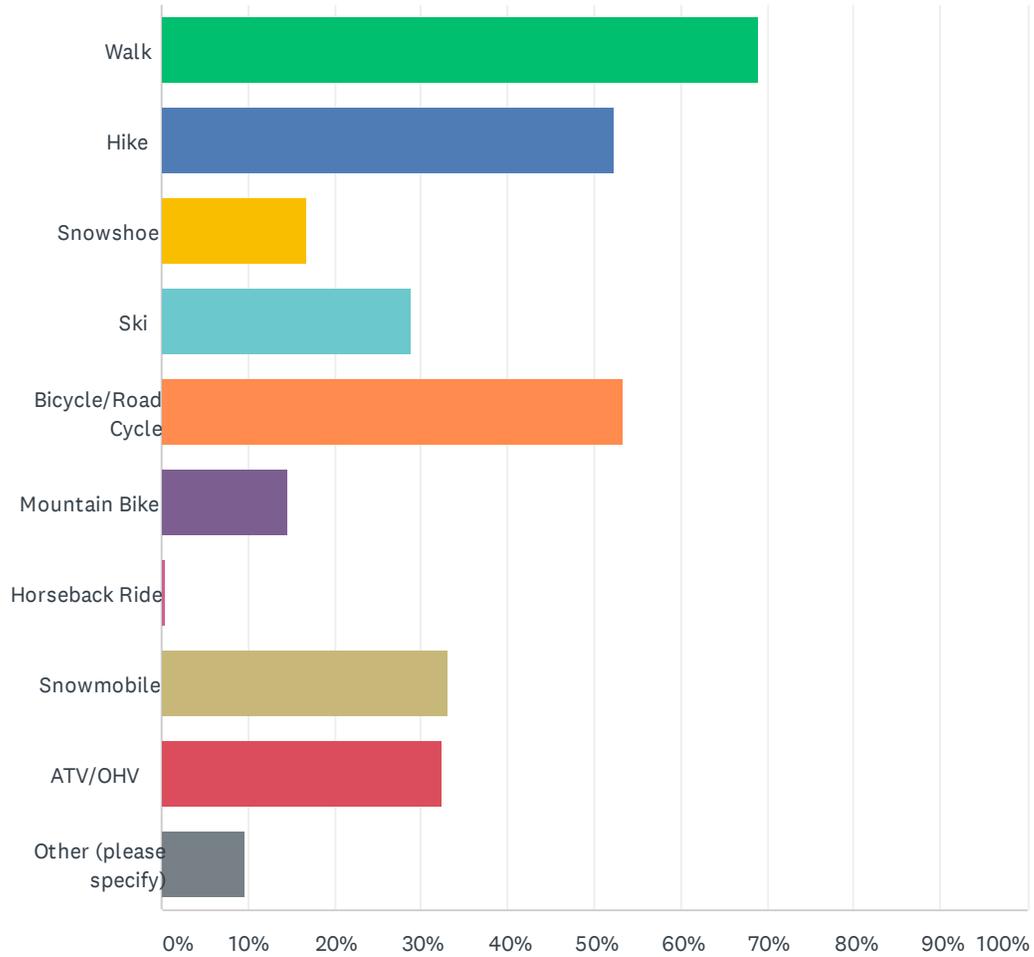
Answered: 199 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
At least once a day	8.04%	16
At least once a week	24.12%	48
At least once a month	25.63%	51
At least once a year	21.61%	43
Never	20.60%	41
TOTAL		199

Q4 What do you currently use trails in the Tower area to do?

Answered: 197 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walk	69.04%	136
Hike	52.28%	103
Snowshoe	16.75%	33
Ski	28.93%	57
Bicycle/Road Cycle	53.30%	105
Mountain Bike	14.72%	29
Horseback Ride	0.51%	1
Snowmobile	32.99%	65
ATV/OHV	32.49%	64
Other (please specify)	9.64%	19
Total Respondents: 197		

Tower Area Trails Survey

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Hunt grouse!	9/11/2021 11:33 AM
2	Run	8/30/2021 9:11 PM
3	Run	8/30/2021 7:49 PM
4	run	8/30/2021 7:15 PM
5	Run	8/30/2021 12:19 PM
6	Jog	8/30/2021 9:17 AM
7	Inlike skate	8/28/2021 6:59 PM
8	Hunting access	8/27/2021 7:58 AM
9	nature observation: birds, flowers, insects	8/26/2021 5:29 PM
10	Run and run/walk with strollers	8/25/2021 3:37 PM
11	none	8/25/2021 3:08 PM
12	Don't feel they are safe	8/22/2021 8:07 PM
13	don"t	8/19/2021 5:18 PM
14	I don't waste of money	8/18/2021 3:17 PM
15	Child in wheelchair	8/17/2021 7:29 AM
16	Mushing (bikejoring, skijoring, & dogsled)	8/16/2021 11:48 PM
17	Side-by-side	8/16/2021 3:19 PM
18	Take dog for walk	8/12/2021 3:23 PM
19	Take dog for walk	8/12/2021 3:21 PM

Tower Area Trails Survey

Q5 What are the top three destinations you want to get to in the Tower area? (Note: A desired destination does not need to be within city limits.)

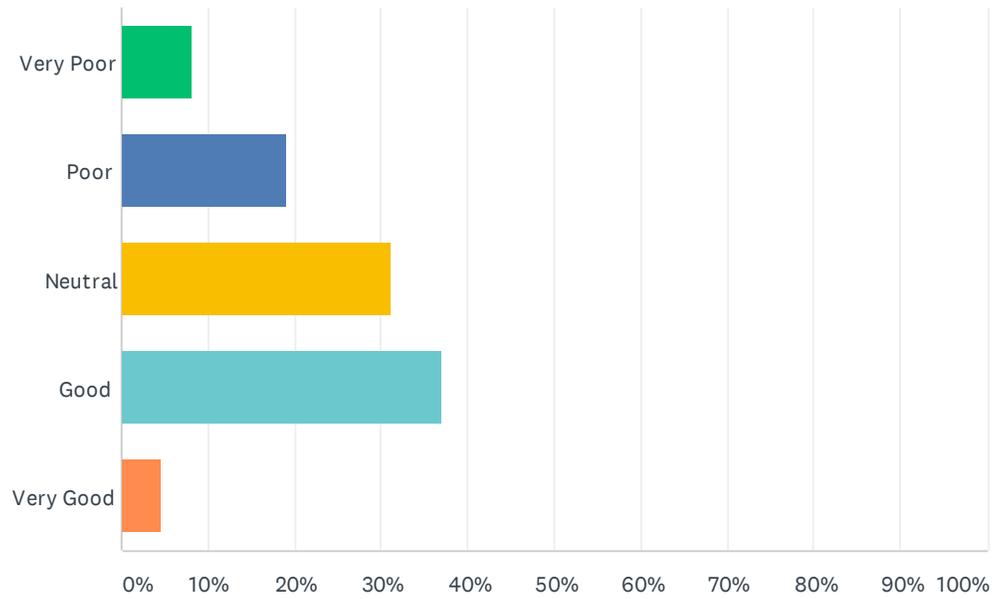
Answered: 161 Skipped: 39

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Destination 1	100.00% 161
Destination 2	85.09% 137
Destination 3	67.70% 109

#	DESTINATION	FREQUENCY
1	Lake Vermilion	38
2	Lake Vermilion State Park	30
3	Ely	27
4	Hoodoo Point	24
5	Restaurant/Bar	24
6	Tower	20
7	Soudan	19
8	Y Store	19
9	Cook	18
10	Trails	13
11	Fortune Bay Casino	12
12	McKinley Park	12
13	Babbitt	10
14	Ski Trails	10
15	Ancient Cedars Trail	9
16	Gas Station	9
17	Embarrass	6
18	Grocery Store	6
19	Mesabi Trail	6
20	North Hill	6
21	Vermilion Club	6
22	Bear Head Lake State Park, Train Depot	5 Each
23	Overnight Accommodations, Swimming Beach	4 Each
24	Eagle's Nest, Greenwood Town Hall, Jasper Peak, Marina, Soudan Mine	3 Each
25	Dam, East Two River, Giants Ridge, Kugler Ridge, Soudan Ice Rink, Stuntz Bay	2 Each
26	Aurora, Fectos Point Area, Fraser Bay, Harbor, Historical Sites, Iron Mountain, Iron Ore Trail, Lake Superior, Lake Vermilion Trail, Lee Mine Site, Mini Golf, Moccasin Point, Prospector Trail, Sewage Ponds, Taconite Trail, Tennis Courts, Tower Park, Trygg Road, Virginia	1 Each

Q6 How would you describe the general quality of trail maintenance in the Tower area?

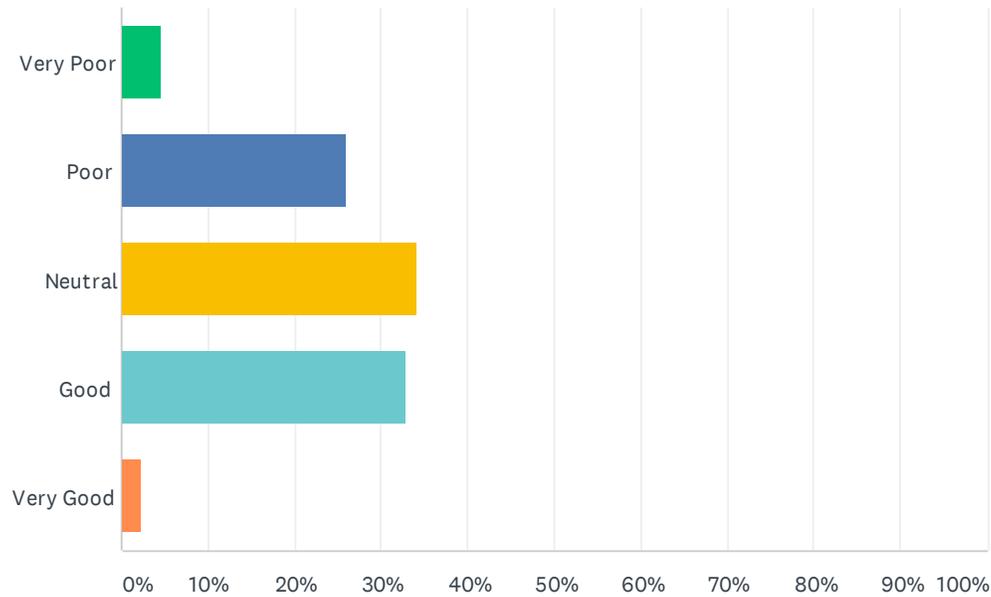
Answered: 173 Skipped: 27



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Poor	8.09%	14
Poor	19.08%	33
Neutral	31.21%	54
Good	36.99%	64
Very Good	4.62%	8
TOTAL		173

Q7 How would you describe the general quality of trail connections in the Tower area?

Answered: 173 Skipped: 27



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Poor	4.62%	8
Poor	26.01%	45
Neutral	34.10%	59
Good	32.95%	57
Very Good	2.31%	4
TOTAL		173

Tower Area Trails Survey

Q8 What issues are there on existing trails in the Tower area? Be specific about the trail or location of the issue in your answer, if possible.

Answered: 121 Skipped: 79

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	It would be nice to have the trail connect between the end near Puncher Point and the trail to town at Hoodoo Point near the airport runway	9/15/2021 5:11 PM
2	Badly worn	9/14/2021 8:44 AM
3	None.	9/11/2021 11:34 AM
4	Direct access to prospector trail from soudan, going east to Murray forest and Ely without having to go to Tower	9/10/2021 10:56 PM
5	better maps	9/9/2021 8:07 PM
6	No connection from hoodoo point to the Soudan trail from the airport east	9/6/2021 10:26 PM
7	They do not facilitate travel smoothly around town. For people with kids or animals they can be concerning with motorized vehicles rate of speed. Potholes and poor drainage, slope of trail to drain excess water away from trail and mitigate erosion near trail shoulders. Lack of information/advertisement of trail use and destination, marked parking and general information to tourists who might use the trails as alternative access to area destinations, possible scooter/bike rentals similar to other lake area tourist destinations.	9/2/2021 9:05 PM
8	Want more walking trails around Lake Vermilion, especially Greenwood Township and Birch Point Road	9/1/2021 1:08 PM
9	Aging asphalt with cracks and bumps (from tree roots)	8/31/2021 10:29 PM
10	Bike path behind tower, and from Mckinney to Soudan	8/31/2021 8:05 PM
11	trail from tower to soudan very poor condition. trails to and thru state park are good. would be nice to extend paved trails to the west or virginia	8/31/2021 9:51 AM
12	Na	8/31/2021 9:05 AM
13	Bike trail from mckinley park to hoodoo point requires walking on the road, want full connection with trails	8/31/2021 7:50 AM
14	Uneven asphalt and cracks	8/31/2021 5:26 AM
15	Cracks, tree roots, tar repair is sticky	8/30/2021 9:14 PM
16	McKinley Park and Hoodoo Point trails need to connect	8/30/2021 8:23 PM
17	Not easy to navigate to restaurants or stores in the winter. There are also no trails along 169 making walking into town from the Y store (77) very dangerous. If there was a trail along 169 going into Tower, it would be highly used!!	8/30/2021 7:58 PM
18	The trails from the sos store to eagles nest are great. The trails around the hoodoo point/airport/McKinley park need attention. No smooth, lots of break in pavement	8/30/2021 7:53 PM
19	very rough pavement...	8/30/2021 7:17 PM
20	Nothing from Greenwood into tower for walk, bike, ATV	8/30/2021 6:11 PM
21	Trails south of town a little rough	8/30/2021 6:08 PM
22	Not knowing where they are	8/30/2021 6:02 PM
23	Rocky	8/30/2021 4:49 PM
24	Horrible pavement on bike trials.	8/30/2021 4:14 PM

Tower Area Trails Survey

25	Pot holes and many don't connect.	8/30/2021 3:58 PM
26	south side of towers "mesabi trail" pavement is poorly paved. Also a way to get to the same spots as the mesabi trail on a four wheeler would be nice. Its perfect spot for atv drivers to get from one side of town to the other without having to drive through town and disturb the it with loud noise and traffic. Thank you :)	8/30/2021 3:36 PM
27	Hoo doo point does not fully connect all around. Bike trail from tower to Sudan is poor condition. ATV trails need expansion	8/30/2021 2:06 PM
28	Lack of connectivity to other rail systems; some sections of the Mesabi Trail are in very poor condition; gaps in sections of the trails, forcing you to use area roadways	8/30/2021 2:05 PM
29	Mesabi Trail from Tower to Soudan is in terrible shape.	8/30/2021 1:30 PM
30	The bridges is un cross able is in serious disrepair. I would t even let both of my children cross the thing at the same time. The trail has not been maintained in twenty years the ground hea ing from the winter frost has destroyed many portions of it.	8/30/2021 1:30 PM
31	Grooming of ski trails could improve.	8/30/2021 12:20 PM
32	The bike/walk trail between Tower and Soudan on the south side of Tower needs to be repaired. Would be nice to see the trail connected with a path from the airport to the start of the trail further up the road by mckinley for safety purposes and keep people off the shoulder of the road.	8/30/2021 12:01 PM
33	lots of potholes and ruts	8/30/2021 11:54 AM
34	I do not know much about them honestly	8/30/2021 11:36 AM
35	ATV encroachments on the Tower Ski Trails	8/30/2021 11:36 AM
36	large cracks in pavement, settling, tree/root growth causing... All of these causing tripping hazards or difficulty riding a bike	8/30/2021 11:19 AM
37	The Mesabi Trail isn't completely connected.	8/30/2021 11:14 AM
38	They are in good condition currently	8/30/2021 10:55 AM
39	Bike trail is extremely rough, hard to find way thru town.	8/30/2021 10:43 AM
40	On the Taconite trail (I think that's the one that goes by Hoodoo Point and continues around by Soudan?), there are a lot of roots breaking up the path. Not so bad when I run or walk, but makes it harder to bike on. Also, it would be awesome if this trail was finished by the airport. I Like the trail that goes to the boat harbor but it would be nice if it connected with something else. I really think the amount of trails in Tower are wonderful, but trail maintenance in general could be improved and there is a ton of potential to make some great trail connections. I'm not a snowmobiler or ATVer so running, walking, biking, and skiing are my biggest uses.	8/30/2021 9:24 AM
41	more signage	8/29/2021 7:38 PM
42	I'm not informed of locations. Are there trail maps? Where?	8/29/2021 11:16 AM
43	The Mesabi Trail behind town is in horrible condition, as is the paved trial going to Hoodoo Point. Also, ATV use is getting to be a problem on the Mesabi Bike Trail again	8/28/2021 7:01 PM
44	Bike/walk trail behind Tower towards Soudan is in rough shape. Disappointing to have seen the number of ATVs using it. Difficult to know of trails around the area for hiking; no "one place to go" for information	8/28/2021 4:39 PM
45	lack of trail signs, connections to segments of existing trails. No trail to tower from the west on 169 corridor	8/28/2021 9:35 AM
46	Trail leaving the Tower train depot is in dangerous condition for bikers. Better signage and a Tower website of trails. We accidentally discovered a hiking trail off the paved trail which leads from Soudan to Vermilion State park.	8/27/2021 8:36 PM
47	Trail from the Tower train depot/park to the small creek bridge (about 3/4 of a mile) is absolutely terrible. Difficult for running and very uncomfortable for biking, and downright dangerous for biking with a trailer with little ones. The rest of the trail around HooDoo Point is ok, but still plenty of bumps, roots pushing up through the trail, etc. and is still bumpy enough	8/27/2021 9:42 AM

Tower Area Trails Survey

that it's very difficult to do with a bike trailer with young kids. I also wish the trail would connect rather than needing to use the road between McKinley Park and Hoodoo Point (maybe a mile to a mile and a half).

48	Mesabi trail south of town is in need of resurfacing, terrible on a bike. Atv trails north of town are maintained well.	8/27/2021 8:00 AM
49	bike trails are all in poor condition between tower and soudan also poor between soudan and McKinley park	8/26/2021 7:46 PM
50	trails could be better mowed in summer to avoid morning dew at hip level	8/26/2021 5:31 PM
51	No issues	8/26/2021 4:14 PM
52	Xc ski trail not easily used/allowed/accessible for mtn biking. Plus have to ride on hwy to get to the trails from outside of town.	8/26/2021 12:44 PM
53	Between Tower and Soudan the trail is so bumpy and in repair. Makes bike riding very hard. Also from The SOS in Soudan down to Mckinley Park is terrible	8/26/2021 10:46 AM
54	Mesabi Trail between Tower depot and Soudan store needs immediate replacement/repair...very poor conditions make it dangerous for bicycles	8/25/2021 9:52 PM
55	No issues. The current trails are usually maintained.	8/25/2021 9:12 PM
56	Taconite Trail needs resurfacing and Ancient Cedars Trail is too narrow.	8/25/2021 7:18 PM
57	ATV traffic on walking trails	8/25/2021 4:53 PM
58	Not enough trails with scenic views. Not enough trails with varying terrain and varying elevation. Need to get usage up so existing trails don't get overgrown. Need trails that lead to ideal lunch spots with a view.	8/25/2021 3:39 PM
59	Non connection from Tower Hoodoo Pt to McKinley park trail. Trails in Tower tar buckling ripped up due to ATVs	8/25/2021 3:17 PM
60	The trail to Soudan is in very poor condition	8/25/2021 2:26 PM
61	The Tower to Soudan Trail is becoming very poor for walking and bicycling.	8/25/2021 2:20 PM
62	1) The Wagoner/City of Tower ski trail system has great potential to be snow-free season hiking or mt biking, but it would need some mowing and short reroutes around a couple wet areas. 2) Mesabi Trail from depot to Soudan is in terrible shape for bikers, but I believe it will be reconstructed next year. 3) Atv use on the Mesabi, Wagoner trails is a growing problem now that the Prospectors ATV trail has come through. The ski trails - other than the one collaborative share-the-trails leg from Tower to the Skala Rd - should be RE-dedicated to non-motorized (emphasis on hiking, biking, hunter-hiker trail). It was established as such some 40 years ago when grants and volunteers helped build the trails. But now, given use over the decades, most believe it to be open - or at least freely use it. Again, with Propsectors bringing so many more people to town, the trails should be codified as non-moto. 4) lack of publicity for hiking trails or other hiking opportunities in the Soudan-Tower area. We have fantastic trails, but they are little known. As the Ancient Cedars has become popular one can see the demand and the need for the new northside trails. Then there should be a map that shows the hiking "ecosystem". 5) adequate volunteers - presuming that the City cant take on trail maintenance.	8/25/2021 2:19 PM
63	Mesabi Trail between Tower and Soudan is in terrible condition, has no trail head or restrooms in Soudan. That trail needs better signage at the iron ore bridge location. The current sign is faded. The trail parking lot by the civic center needs a restroom facility (more than just the civic center on certain days and hours). Signage needs to be improved coming into Tower as to the location for the Mesabi Trail and city trails. A crosswalk imprinted on the highway 169 so that bikers coming from the north side to the civic center driveway can cross safely. The Hoodoo Point Road needs signs in several areas to alert drivers of a vehicle that there is a trail crossing as currently there are none. The Harbor Trail needs a connection to the Mesabi Trail through the city playground along the river.	8/25/2021 1:35 PM
64	Trails do not connect - in the McKinley Park area, in the harbor area, access to the ski trails.	8/25/2021 9:23 AM
65	Snowmobile trails are good, don't spoil them with ATV traffic.	8/24/2021 9:43 AM
66	Between Tower and Soudan Store - the trail is actually dangerous with ruts, tree roots, pot	8/22/2021 8:08 PM

Tower Area Trails Survey

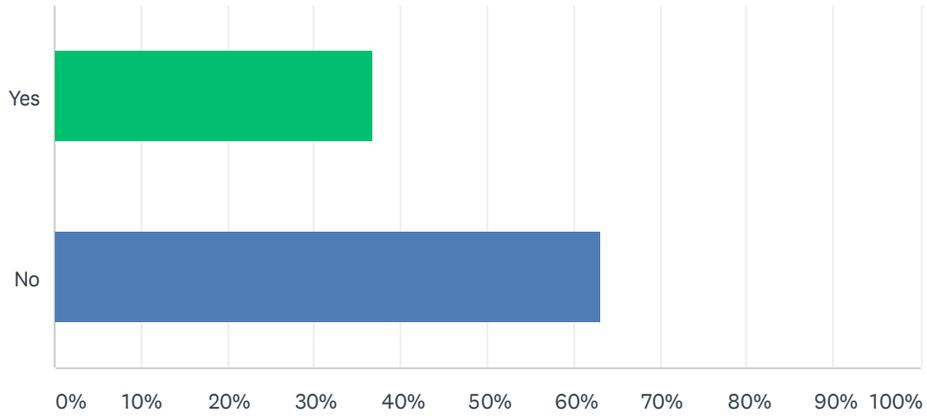
	holes, etc.	
67	No access with side by sides, ATV	8/21/2021 12:53 PM
68	Mesabi Trail South of 169 broken up and heaved pavement. Mesabi Trail near the sewage lagoons has a couple significant bumps.	8/21/2021 8:23 AM
69	There are miles of existing trails in the new state park, it would be nice if they were mowed/maintained several times a summer so that all could enjoy hiking/biking throughout these trails. The main trail is maintained nicely in Soudan, but there are many other trails that are unusable due to no maintenance in the summer.	8/21/2021 7:47 AM
70	They need to be kept up. They do not allow for handicapped access. Would like to use a small motorized scooter but was told it was against the law.	8/20/2021 7:34 AM
71	to many using private property and trespassing	8/19/2021 5:21 PM
72	ATV's on paved bike trail is creating ruts	8/19/2021 1:26 PM
73	None known off hand	8/19/2021 9:33 AM
74	Trail behind tower has more holes than road	8/18/2021 11:26 AM
75	Need to go around Lake Vermilion to Cook	8/17/2021 10:53 PM
76	Mowing arrowhead trail Signage improvements	8/17/2021 9:20 PM
77	Very poor upkeep	8/17/2021 4:04 PM
78	Need a repave job along the south end to Hwy 169 by Soudan. Tower is too cheap to do that. Can't even fix the streets in town.	8/17/2021 3:47 PM
79	The walking/bike trail is a joke! I love going rollerblading but cannot do that with the condition of the trail by the train park. Also to have a connection with the four wheeler trail to Ely or Greenwood township would be nice.	8/17/2021 1:41 PM
80	Some parts of the loop biking trail needs improving. I'm looking forward to finishing the, Mesabi bike trails to Ely and Giants Ridge.	8/17/2021 11:47 AM
81	Shares use with snowmobiles have greatly degraded the trails around Tower.	8/17/2021 10:49 AM
82	Not well marked	8/17/2021 10:44 AM
83	Connection of trail off of Sunset Road	8/17/2021 10:27 AM
84	Not really any trails nearby our cabin location in Daisy Bay to use for walking/running	8/17/2021 10:25 AM
85	Snowmobile connections and maintenance are great. Bike trail connections to west of Tower are non-existent.	8/17/2021 10:01 AM
86	Maintenance	8/17/2021 10:00 AM
87	Connecting to other trails	8/17/2021 9:04 AM
88	The trail is very rough, pavement has some bad frost heaves and is breaking up between Tower & Soudan Also the McKinley Park trail.	8/17/2021 8:59 AM
89	overgrown, cracks, potholes, etc.	8/17/2021 7:53 AM
90	Mesabi trail is getting rough in spots. Lake Vermilion trail needs to be built.	8/17/2021 7:27 AM
91	Rough	8/17/2021 7:23 AM
92	Not enough information out there for visitors!	8/17/2021 6:44 AM
93	Want McKinley and Hoodoo connected with no walking/riding on the dangerous. Curved, no shoulder road. Trail by trains is in very poor condition and running from Soudan to Tower.	8/17/2021 6:13 AM
94	None encountered	8/17/2021 2:17 AM
95	Summer maintenance/condition of trails primarily marketed for snowmobiling can be iffy in terms of mowing and wetness.	8/16/2021 11:50 PM
96	The trail from train to Soudan is old and needs to be replaced	8/16/2021 11:23 PM

Tower Area Trails Survey

97	The trail between tower and Soudan is awful, can't ride a bike on there, it's too rough. Also there should be a trail all the way around the horn so you don't have to ride on the road.	8/16/2021 8:20 PM
98	It's broken up and heaved, very uneven makes it tough to run or rollerblade on	8/16/2021 7:52 PM
99	None	8/16/2021 7:01 PM
100	Bike trail needs work, four wheeler trails need more routes	8/16/2021 5:25 PM
101	The paved bike/snowmobile trail starting by the train is in poor shape and is unpleasant to ride.	8/16/2021 4:44 PM
102	A few branches on the trail between tower and hoo doo point	8/16/2021 4:07 PM
103	Pavement is horrible between Tower and the Junction Rd	8/16/2021 4:01 PM
104	Would be great to get the Mesabi trail fully connected in the area	8/16/2021 3:20 PM
105	More signage and provisions for pets	8/16/2021 2:31 PM
106	The condition of the Mesabi Trail in Tower is poor.	8/16/2021 1:36 PM
107	David Dill Trail needs maintenance	8/16/2021 1:22 PM
108	Mesabi Trail in poor condition- but scheduled to repair in 2022 also, hoping to see the trails on the hillside north of Tower mapped and signed for greater public access	8/16/2021 1:10 PM
109	Not enough trails	8/16/2021 12:32 PM
110	longer trails would be nice for bike rides. I think people can, or will soon be able to ride toward Ely. We need to be able to ride west also. A substantial trail network is essential to attract tourism.	8/16/2021 12:22 PM
111	Trails not.fully.connected with other trail systems	8/16/2021 12:16 PM
112	None	8/16/2021 12:08 PM
113	Pooling water	8/16/2021 11:37 AM
114	Water drainage seems to be an issue in several places.	8/16/2021 11:37 AM
115	All the paved parts are crumbling (between train park and soudan) or, the terrain is pretty rough (up the hill behind the school has huge rocks that could damage atv's right in the path all the way up) *don't get me wrong, I love the paths and trails, they're just falling apart, and you asked so... ☹️	8/16/2021 11:19 AM
116	Connect with Bois Forte	8/16/2021 11:13 AM
117	Paved trail on the Taconite Trail between Tower and Soudan needs to be resurfaced. Need better ATV trail connection going west from Town. Also need a more direct ATV connection to the east connecting to existing trail system at the Murray Forest Road.	8/16/2021 10:58 AM
118	Not enough trails to get around on atv	8/16/2021 10:54 AM
119	Trails near Tower are run down, makes it difficult to bike or rollerblade or walk with a stroller.	8/13/2021 8:20 AM
120	Signage or lack of directional signs	8/13/2021 7:50 AM
121	I only know about one or two of the trails near Tower. I'd love to learn more information about other ones.	8/12/2021 3:24 PM

Q9 Is there a trail activity you would like to do (but do not currently do) in the Tower area?

Answered: 168 Skipped: 32



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	36.90%	62
No	63.10%	106
TOTAL		168

Q10 If you answered YES to Question 9, please share your desired trail activity and the barrier that prevents you from that activity below. If you answered NO to Question 9, skip this question.

Answered: 61 Skipped: 139

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Exercise events along the trail.	9/14/2021 9:31 AM
2	Rentals	9/2/2021 9:05 PM
3	Walking. Want more walking trails around Lake Vermilion, especially Greenwood Township and Birch Point Road	9/1/2021 1:08 PM
4	Nordic ski trails	8/31/2021 10:29 PM
5	Biking	8/31/2021 8:48 PM
6	picnic	8/31/2021 7:10 AM
7	Cross country ski	8/30/2021 9:14 PM
8	Walk or bike into Tower from 77 (Y Store). Too dangerous along the shoulder. We would enter Tower more if it was safer.	8/30/2021 7:58 PM
9	would roller blade if not so rough...	8/30/2021 7:17 PM
10	ATV	8/30/2021 6:11 PM
11	To finish the trail from Tower to Ely	8/30/2021 6:02 PM
12	More mountain biking close to Tower. The new trails around the old Iron World in Chisolm is such a great model.	8/30/2021 12:26 PM
13	Bike connection from Tower to Ely	8/30/2021 11:36 AM
14	Cross country skiing. I didn't know there were trails. I like variety that isn't always available where I live. I don't mind traveling for good trails. I also prefer skijouring with my dog and not a lot of trails allow dogs.	8/30/2021 11:14 AM
15	atv	8/30/2021 10:34 AM
16	4-wheel from Greenwood to Tower	8/29/2021 7:38 PM
17	As stated previously, I don't know how to access trails	8/29/2021 11:16 AM
18	Skate skiing, inline skating (the current trails are too rough, or the hills/curves too severe.	8/28/2021 7:01 PM
19	Ride ATV's from Pike bay area on 169 to ELY or Babbit	8/28/2021 9:35 AM
20	Possibly an ATV/UTV trail.	8/27/2021 8:36 PM
21	I would like to be able to bike with my kids in the bike trailer from the Tower Park all the way around the HooDoo Point loop, but the lower section of the trail, mentioned above, is just too bumpy and not safe for my youngest in the trailer.	8/27/2021 9:42 AM
22	a more extensive boardwalk through bogs in the area	8/26/2021 5:31 PM
23	Mountain biking	8/26/2021 12:44 PM
24	4-wheeling. Not many trails accessible from my home. I have to trailer 4-wheeler	8/26/2021 10:46 AM
25	see above	8/25/2021 9:52 PM
26	We have heard there are trails on the hill above Tower. Would love to see some trails there.	8/25/2021 9:12 PM

Tower Area Trails Survey

27	Bike on Taconite Trail.	8/25/2021 7:18 PM
28	Need more trails with scenic views. Need more trail options that are 2 to 4 miles long. Need more trails with ideal spots for lunch breaks with a view.	8/25/2021 3:39 PM
29	Be able to walk and bike safely	8/22/2021 8:08 PM
30	No trail access	8/21/2021 12:53 PM
31	Avoid backtracking	8/20/2021 2:20 PM
32	Ride around tower to Soudan	8/18/2021 11:26 AM
33	Ride to Cook	8/17/2021 10:53 PM
34	Mountain biking	8/17/2021 9:20 PM
35	Mountain Bike trails would be awesome! Also getting places from town easily would be great without riding roads. A connection to Vermilion and Cook would be great.	8/17/2021 4:13 PM
36	There is limited ATV access in the Tower area	8/17/2021 4:04 PM
37	Rollerblading. Cannot currently do due to conditions of trail	8/17/2021 1:41 PM
38	I wish the bike trail to hoodoo point was plowed in the winter for walking	8/17/2021 11:47 AM
39	Would love to see a connection from cook to tower to Ely	8/17/2021 10:49 AM
40	Run, walk, bike	8/17/2021 10:25 AM
41	Biking in the area between Cook and Tower	8/17/2021 10:01 AM
42	More biking	8/17/2021 10:00 AM
43	Single track mountain bike trails	8/17/2021 7:27 AM
44	ATV, connecting to other trails	8/17/2021 7:06 AM
45	No road riding from mckinley to hoo doo. I ride 3- 6 miles around so as not to be on the road	8/17/2021 6:13 AM
46	Fat bike in winter	8/16/2021 11:23 PM
47	I currently work on snowmobile, atv,ski, and hiking trails and would like to see more volunteers	8/16/2021 5:25 PM
48	I would love to be able to ride the Mesabi trail to Ely or Virginia starting in Tower! The highway shoulders are too dangerous.	8/16/2021 4:44 PM
49	More atv access Time.	8/16/2021 4:07 PM
50	Allowing Side-by-side/Commanders on the trails.	8/16/2021 3:20 PM
51	I would like to be able to connect to more trails and also have additional trails created like the future Lake Vermilion Trail	8/16/2021 3:11 PM
52	Night time skis, need a lit trail	8/16/2021 2:31 PM
53	Mountain bike	8/16/2021 2:21 PM
54	mountain biking	8/16/2021 1:10 PM
55	More four wheeling trails	8/16/2021 12:32 PM
56	Long bike rides	8/16/2021 12:22 PM
57	CC ski	8/16/2021 12:08 PM
58	Reservation Connection	8/16/2021 11:13 AM
59	Have access to camper cabin type facilities from, or on, the ATV trail system. Currently can't legally access the motel in town from an ATV.	8/16/2021 10:58 AM
60	Rollerblade - trails need resurfacing ATV - lack of trails connecting outside the city	8/13/2021 8:20 AM
61	Go from Hoodoo Pt to McKinley Park via trail.	8/12/2021 3:20 PM

Tower Area Trails Survey

Q11 Please share additional comments you have about trails in the Tower area below.

Answered: 78 Skipped: 122

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	There are always rocks thrown on the blacktop path at the top of the hill going up from McKinley Park Campground due to ATV/UTV. Extend the blacktop where they cut the corner to eliminate / reduce the amount of rocks that end up on the walk/bike path.	9/15/2021 5:14 PM
2	I find just having trails a benefit that I don't get in the winter place that I live.	9/14/2021 9:32 AM
3	I miss the condition it used to be in. Somewhat treacherous	9/14/2021 8:45 AM
4	I absolutely love the Tower Ski Trails for hiking and hunting grouse in the fall and for XC skiing in the winter months.	9/11/2021 11:35 AM
5	Would love ATV trail from tower to Soudan so we don't have to drive on hoodoo pt road	9/6/2021 10:28 PM
6	Thank you to the snowmobile clubs who do a good job of maintaining snowmobile trails.	9/1/2021 1:09 PM
7	happy to have them	8/31/2021 8:55 PM
8	Nice they are building more trails, but there needs to be a plan to keep them smooth and maintained.	8/31/2021 8:07 PM
9	Need better policing of ATV traffic on walking paths especially from mckinkey park to soudan and nearby dumpster. They dont drive carefully on the bike trail where they dont belong, dont use ATV trail provided	8/31/2021 7:52 AM
10	Trail to Cook from tower.	8/30/2021 9:15 PM
11	Love the trails for running in particular!! So glad they exist! Thank you	8/30/2021 8:35 PM
12	We love Tower and think it would grow if boating options, and docking and snowmobile and walking trails were more user friendly along 169 or other major areas.	8/30/2021 7:59 PM
13	I am very appreciative of the trails in the area. They are a great asset and I would like to see them expanded and improved upon. Not all communities have this type of resource and we should be appreciative of it	8/30/2021 7:55 PM
14	This seems to be a controversial subject, especially for some wealthy land owners. They don't want their hunting interfered with apparently.	8/30/2021 7:04 PM
15	Trail fully along 697 from boat access to trails to McKinley park would be nice	8/30/2021 6:09 PM
16	More trails approved for UTVs	8/30/2021 4:00 PM
17	the trails are very beautiful and scenic. more trails near bodies of water (without disturbing them of course) would be amazing	8/30/2021 3:37 PM
18	Would to see the Tower trails connected to the Mesabi trail system and to a trail system that connects to the Cook end of the lake, including Greenwood township area.	8/30/2021 2:06 PM
19	Looking forward to the day when the Mesabi Trail is complete to Ely...	8/30/2021 1:30 PM
20	Just fix the darn thing already.	8/30/2021 1:30 PM
21	Separate bike trails instead of sharing road with vehicles would be great	8/30/2021 1:18 PM
22	I would love, love, love, love if there were bike trails that would go from the Y-Store or the casino, all the way to Tower. It would making biking and waking into town amazing. And also make such a huge biking, walking connection all the way to Ely when complete.	8/30/2021 12:27 PM
23	It is wonderful to have the trails! Thank you!	8/30/2021 11:55 AM

Tower Area Trails Survey

24	I have a cabin on Lake Vermilion. I would like to see Tower offer more things to do while we are up there	8/30/2021 11:37 AM
25	thank you for looking into this and completing the work	8/30/2021 11:19 AM
26	Connecting the hiking trail from Lake vermilion state park to the soudan mile section. See it on map but haven't been able to follow it.	8/30/2021 10:45 AM
27	I encourage Tower to focus on keeping and expanding ATV/ORV and Snowmobile trails in the future. These bring in a lot more \$ than non-motorized use.	8/30/2021 10:37 AM
28	See previous comments	8/30/2021 9:25 AM
29	We stay on an island so I need the exercise	8/29/2021 11:18 AM
30	Short ATV loops that are not connected will not draw riders. I would prefer to trailer the ATV'S and ride the longer routes elsewhere. Snowmobile trails are very good in the Tower area.	8/28/2021 9:41 AM
31	More signage, advertising and trails could make Tower a destination rather than a pass-through to Ely.	8/27/2021 8:38 PM
32	I do love that there ARE trails and I use them many times per week and throughout the year for both short and distance runs. I appreciate how nice/new the trail is from Soudan to/through Vermilion State Park; this is the route I take for long runs. I do wish trails could be plowed in the fall and spring when there is just a small amount of snow - it would extend the usable trail time by a month or so - but I understand why this would be difficult to maintain.	8/27/2021 9:44 AM
33	More atv and snowmobile. We don't need more bike or ski trails in tower. Need to maintain what we have.	8/27/2021 8:02 AM
34	instead of building new bike trails fix the ones we currently use	8/26/2021 7:47 PM
35	Would love to have xc ski trails at the new state park.	8/26/2021 12:45 PM
36	Signage as to where you are and where the trail takes you	8/26/2021 10:46 AM
37	I am just becoming familiar with the walking and hiking trail system in Tower and looking forward to learning more.	8/26/2021 7:15 AM
38	We would, of course, love to see the bike trail from Tower to Ely completed. We see some progress and that is great.	8/25/2021 9:13 PM
39	Maintenance on the older part of the trail would be a good thing. Completion of a trail between Hoodoo Point campground and McKinley Park would also be good. The road is subpar to walk on the small existing shoulder. The Ancient Cedars Trail is very nice and beautiful to walk.	8/25/2021 5:00 PM
40	Need to get usage up so existing trails don't get overgrown. Really need more trails with scenic views of the lake if at all possible. Need more trails that have great spots for lunches with a view.	8/25/2021 3:39 PM
41	Trails need updates & schedled maintenance.	8/25/2021 3:18 PM
42	I really enjoy the Ancient Cedar Trail. We also enjoy the Soudan State Park trails	8/25/2021 2:28 PM
43	I share the vision of my friends who help with Ski trail and Ancient Cedars and Prospectors that we can be a destination all-trails-lead to Tower-Soudan hiking, biking and motorized rec vehicles place. We need to put out kiosks with newly designed area maps that show all the opportunities. (Kiosks - like ones at Mesabi-Taconite & ancient Cedars trailhead - needed in harbor, out at Hoodoo Pt and Mckinley campgrounds, perhaps in a pocket park in center of Tower next to Fire Hall or Civic Center in Soudan.	8/25/2021 2:23 PM
44	Amenities and signage to support all current trails and future trails and connections is important.	8/25/2021 1:36 PM
45	I question the viability and potential usage of a non motorized trail between the DNR bldg and the Y Store. The terrain is too difficult. It would get little use. I am a bike rider also, the trails from Tower, through Soudan and toward Ely are very good.	8/24/2021 9:47 AM
46	It is challenging to know what trails are open for walking, biking, e-biking, snowmobiling, 4-wheeling ... Could a master map be created? Using color-coding, it would make it so much easier to know where the trails are and what they can be used for.	8/22/2021 8:09 PM

Tower Area Trails Survey

47	Trails around town have never been well maintained. Although some connections and additional trails would be good more effort should be put into maintaining what is currently available. Many of the good hiking trails that used to be near town have either been made into ATV trails, paved, or are gone altogether.	8/21/2021 1:35 PM
48	Would like a through access for ATV, side by side	8/21/2021 12:54 PM
49	I am anxious for the Mesabi Trail completion.	8/21/2021 8:24 AM
50	Again, the already existing trails would be a huge attraction for people to use throughout the new state park. You could hike them or use a mountain bike on them. There are miles of trails that could be promoted and used. They are usable in the winter for snowshoeing, but really can't use them any other time of year due to the long grass.	8/21/2021 7:49 AM
51	With the continuing development of Vermilion State Park and extensive snowmobile trails and ATV trails the area has the opportunity to become a world class destination.	8/20/2021 2:23 PM
52	It is confusing with the number and different types of trails. For example - snowmobile only, skiing, walking. Can't the same trail be used in the summer for one activity and something else in the winter? Also, then you have the Mesabi trail, Prospector's trail, etc. So many trail names. So many trail restrictions - it is confusing. Why not create a map and naming system much like a subway system (red line, blue line, etc..)	8/20/2021 7:37 AM
53	Loop to Soudan from McKinley park needs replaced	8/18/2021 11:27 AM
54	Anxious to see construction begin on Lake Vermilion Trail so it can soon connect with the Mesabi Trail	8/18/2021 9:49 AM
55	Connect to Cook	8/17/2021 10:53 PM
56	Tower could really be a trail hub destination. There is a large diversity of trail types	8/17/2021 9:22 PM
57	The cross country ski trails are great! I would also like to know more about the other trails. I don't know what is already there and it is hard to find info.	8/17/2021 4:14 PM
58	Would like to see more trails of all types in the Tower-Ely-Cook areas	8/17/2021 4:07 PM
59	The short two-mile trail from Tower to Soudan is in such poor condition that it is nearly impossible to walk without tripping or bike without falling. With little ones, it used to be the perfect path for just that.	8/17/2021 7:54 AM
60	Keep up the good work with the mesabi trail and grooming sled trails	8/17/2021 7:29 AM
61	Please do not pave the snowmobile trails for bicycles. New bike trails are being built everywhere, not so much for snowmobile trails. Snowmobiles in general, and snowmobile registration is expensive, bikes not so much. With the money spent to be able to use the snowmobile trails we deserve to keep the existing trails and have new ones built.	8/17/2021 7:04 AM
62	As a somewhat limited user, the trails in the Tower area have been adequate for my needs and interests in the short time I've lived here. Would very much like to see future development of more options for hike/bike trails to access areas along Lake Vermilion to the west.	8/17/2021 2:21 AM
63	Not easy to find camping spots or in the winter decent hotels non-casino based	8/16/2021 9:39 PM
64	DON'T TAKE THE SNOWMOBILE TRAIL AWAY OR REROUTE IT TO MAKE A BIKE TRAIL.	8/16/2021 7:05 PM
65	I really enjoy the trails that exist. The Howard Wagoner ski trails are fantastic and the paved bike trail starting in Soudan and going towards Ely is as well. Thank you for working to expand the trails!	8/16/2021 4:46 PM
66	We would like to see more trails and easier access	8/16/2021 4:08 PM
67	The trail opportunities are excellent but more could be done to promote them. More connecting trails on the northside hill would be an improvement. So would a connecting trail between the harbor and the marina.	8/16/2021 1:38 PM
68	Our trails are getting more and more use. As a regular trail user, I have seen more people out on our trails this year than EVERY BEFORE. Also, want to make sure we keep ATV users on ATV trails, and not on walking/biking trails, this is not a huge problem now, but will be with greater ATV use in the area	8/16/2021 1:11 PM

Tower Area Trails Survey

69	This survey was worded in a confusing way. I am not sure what is possible for trails in Tower so it would be helpful to share any specific ideas or possibilities and ask for feedback on those, too	8/16/2021 12:34 PM
70	Connection to Cook is very important	8/16/2021 12:23 PM
71	Trash cans or benches might be nice	8/16/2021 11:37 AM
72	Trash cans or benches could help encourage people to get out more	8/16/2021 11:37 AM
73	That bridge by junction road is a scary shambles I hate taking my kids near.	8/16/2021 11:20 AM
74	ATV trails can be shared with hiking, mt. bike and equestrian use but everyone must know and understand it is shared use in the same season. Maintenance is an issue with all trail use so shared use does make sense.	8/16/2021 11:03 AM
75	As the coordinator for Lake Vermilion Resort & Tourism Association. Our visitors to the area are always inquiring about local trails. The more the trails connect to local businesses and attraction, the more interested the visitors are. Rest stops and restrooms are also a bonus to the trail system.	8/16/2021 10:57 AM
76	I would love to see better maintained trails as well as expanding existing trails, especially for walking/hiking and ATV.	8/13/2021 8:21 AM
77	Tower has some very scenic areas that are fun to hike to. I like seeing informational signs on the trails.	8/12/2021 3:24 PM
78	A link from harbor to other side of Main Street	8/12/2021 3:20 PM

Q12 If you want to receive email updates about the Tower Area Trails Plan project, please provide your email address below. (Optional)

Answered: 57 Skipped: 143