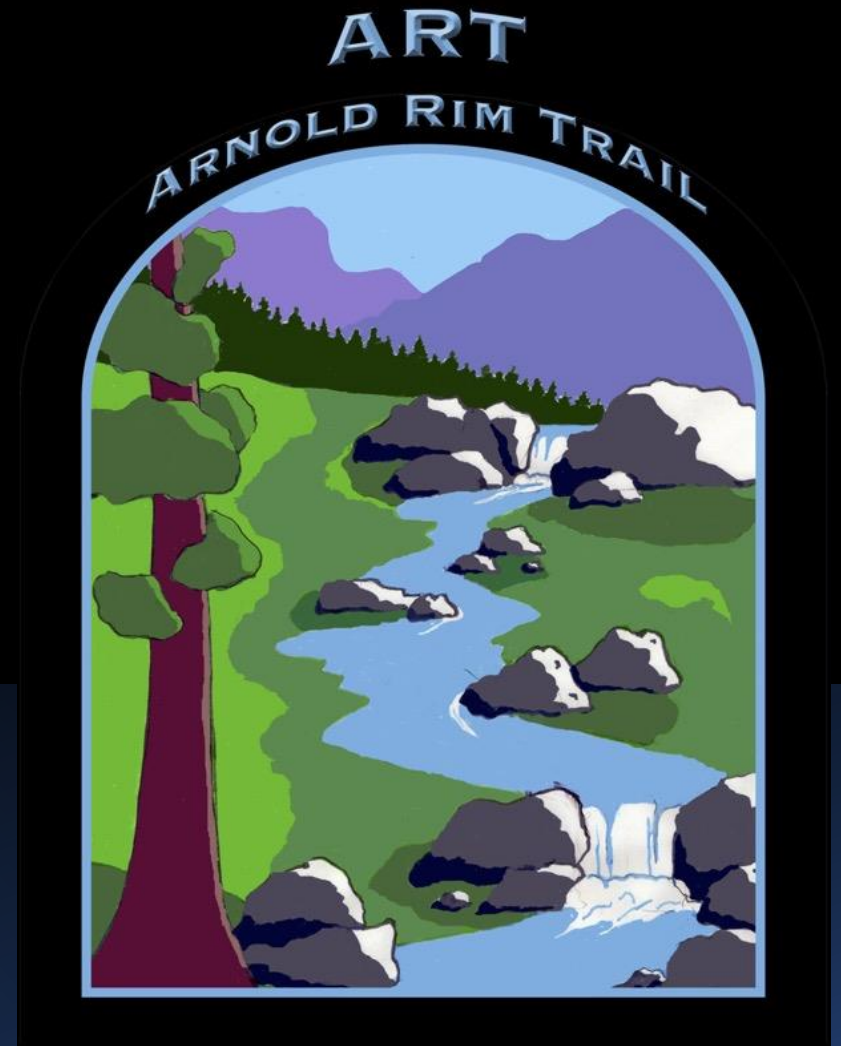


Arnold Rim Trail Community Survey 2024

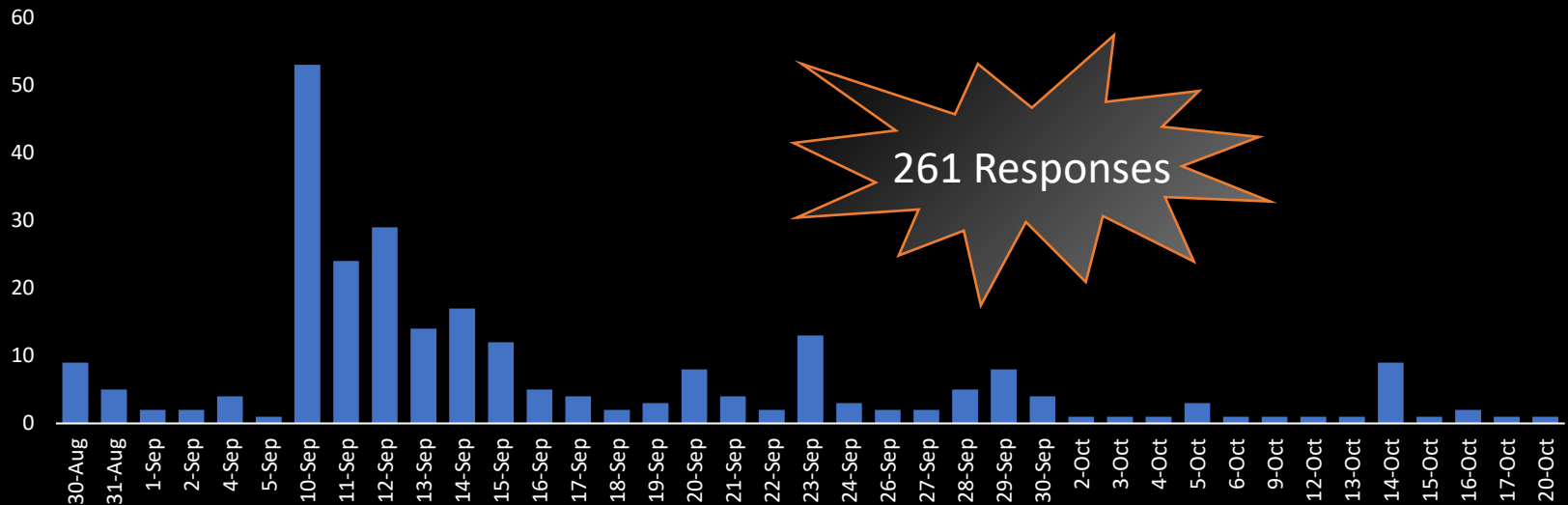
Arnold Rim Trail
Association





2

Community Survey Responses



- Community survey and associated outreach was conducted by Arnold Rim Trail Association for the purpose of drafting a community-driven master plan that will guide continued development of the ART.
- The survey consisted of a total of 46 possible questions linked with a branching logic that took less than five minutes for the user to complete.
- The survey was sent to an existing distribution list of ARTA followers (~750 email accounts). Notices were also posted on social media (Facebook and NextDoor) and press releases were sent to local media.
- The survey was active for 50 days between August 30 and October 20, 2024, inclusive.
- 261 responses were recorded.
- Sampling was not considered random, and analysis is not intended to be statistically significant.

What do the survey responses tell us?

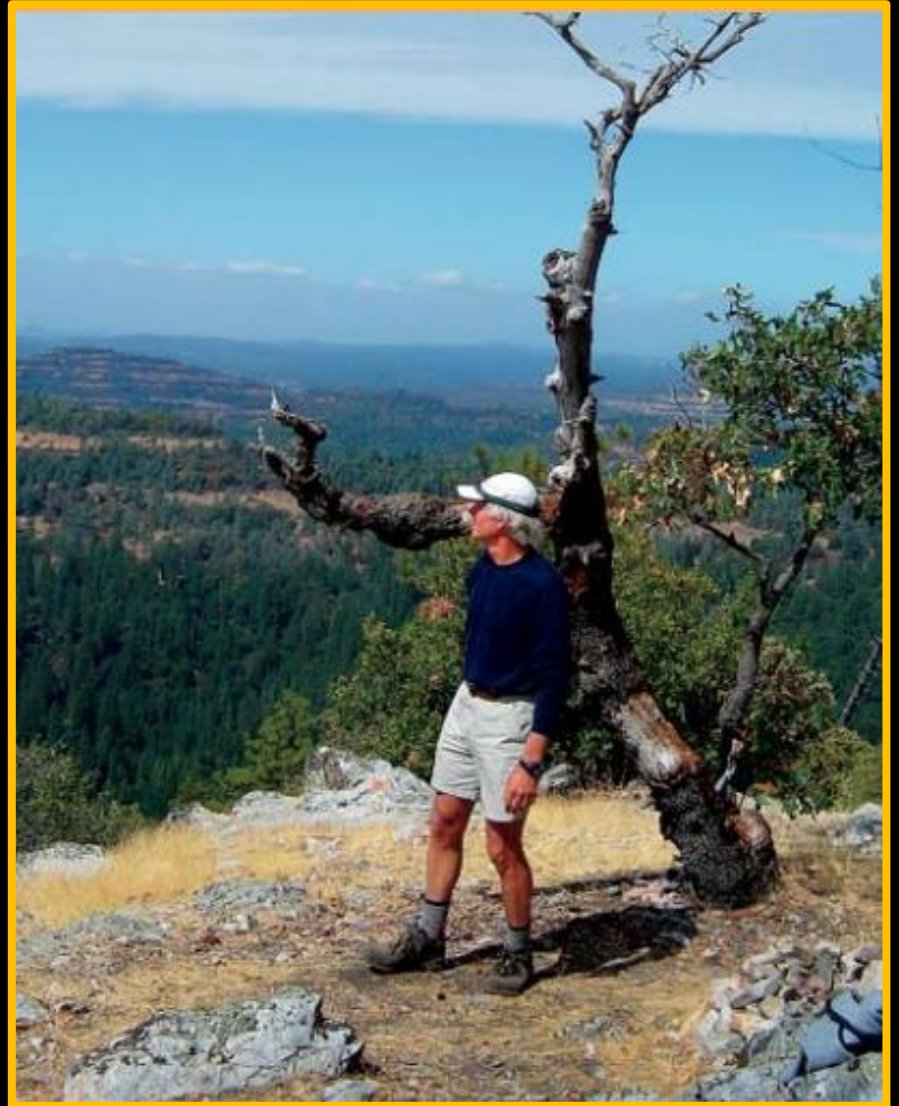
Who, what, when, where, why and how?

Charts are consistently color-coded by mode of travel, where applicable:

■ Foot ■ Bike ■ Horse

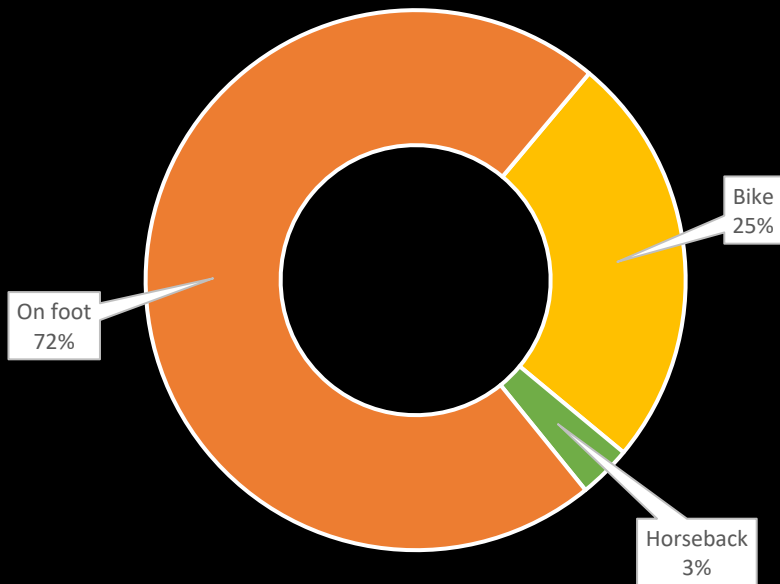
The Big Picture

Arnold Rim Trail became a galvanizing concept for non-motorized trail development and in 2003 was officially documented in an agency record of decision.

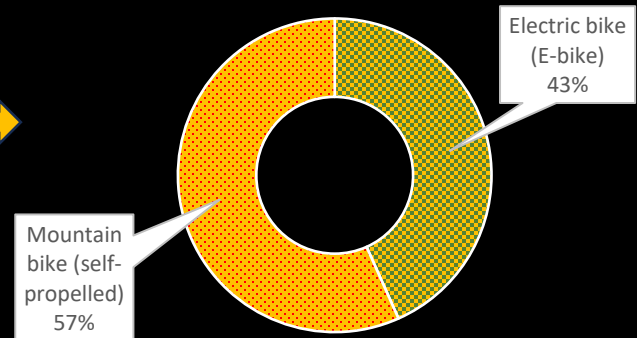


How do we move on ART?

What is your mode of travel on the trail?

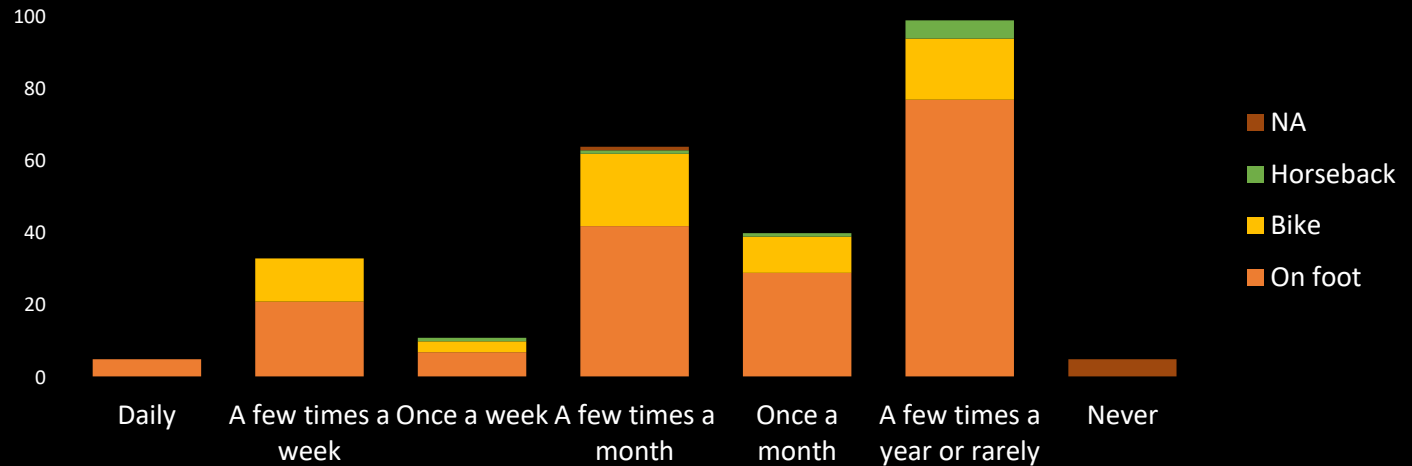


What type of cycle do you ride?

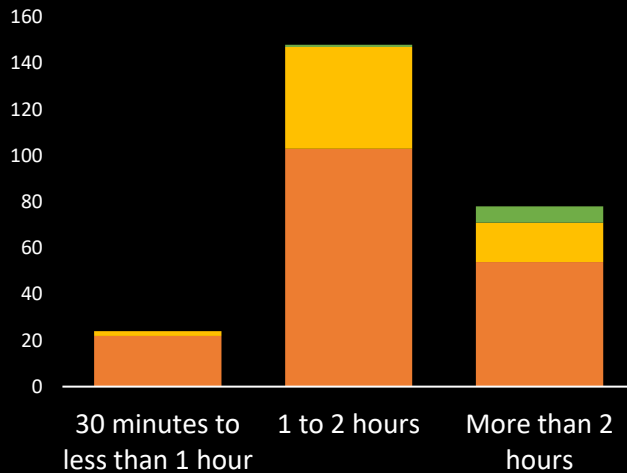


Trail Engagement

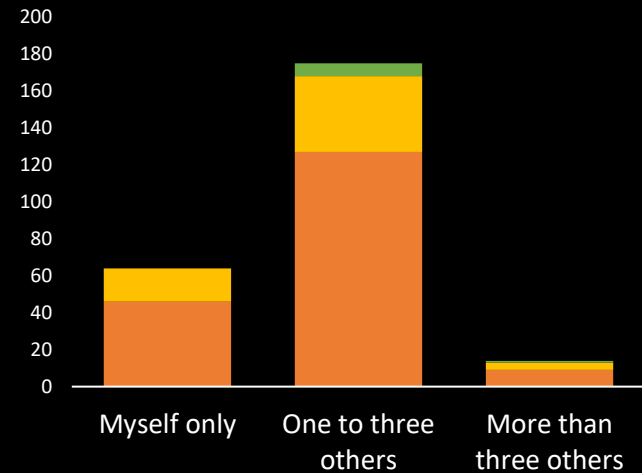
How often do we visit ART?



How long are your visits?



Do you travel with others?

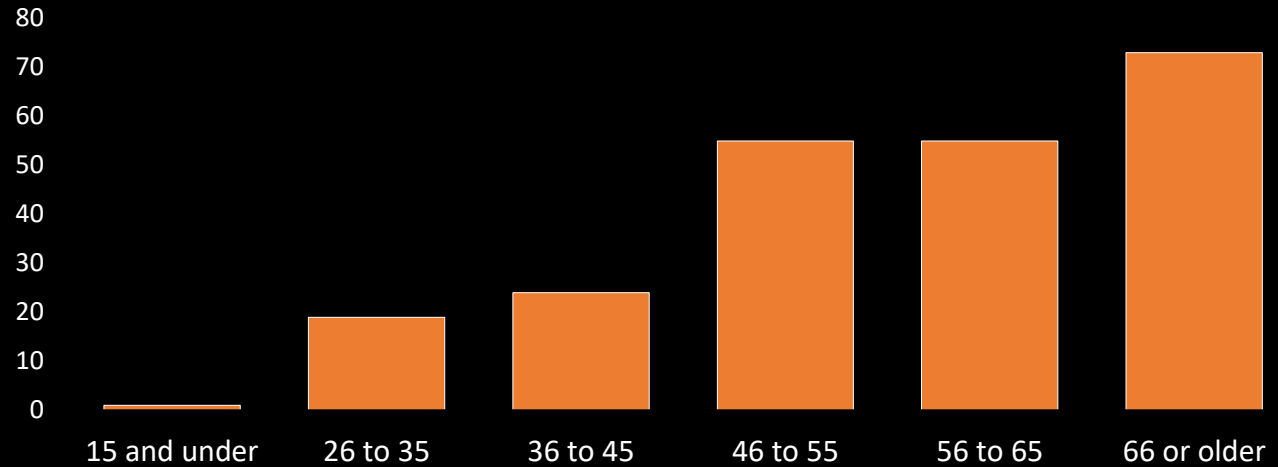




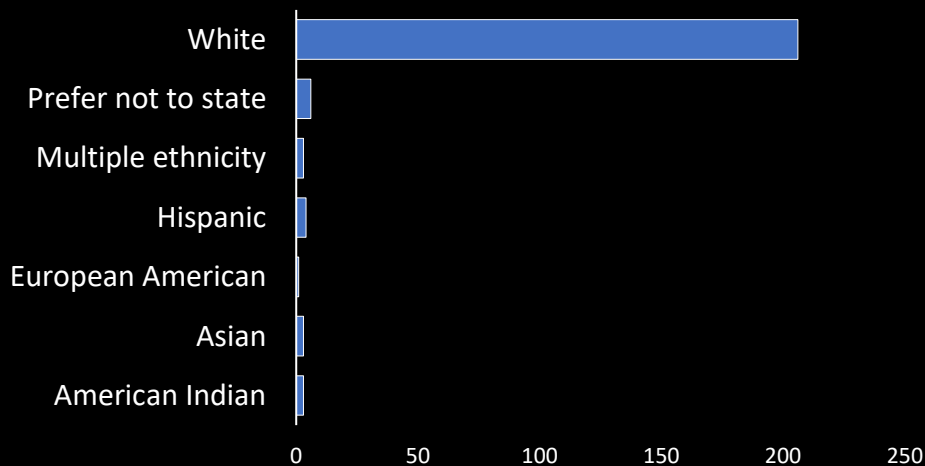
The Community Story

Who are we?

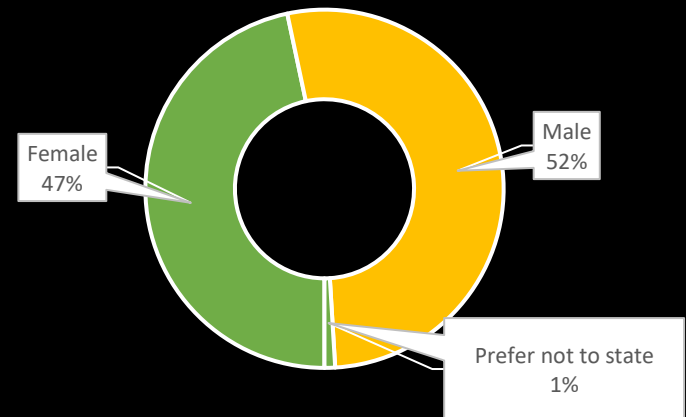
What is your age group?



What is your ethnicity?



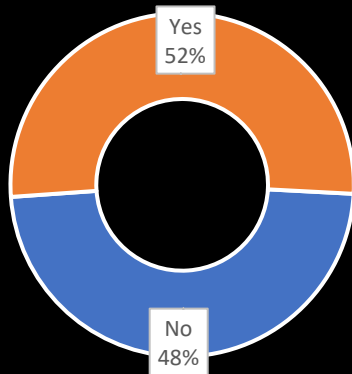
What is your gender?



Who? (part 2)

In what zip code is
your primary
residence?

Is your primary residence in Calaveras County?



Where do you stay when visiting ART?

0 20 40 60 80 100 120

Second home nearby



Day trip



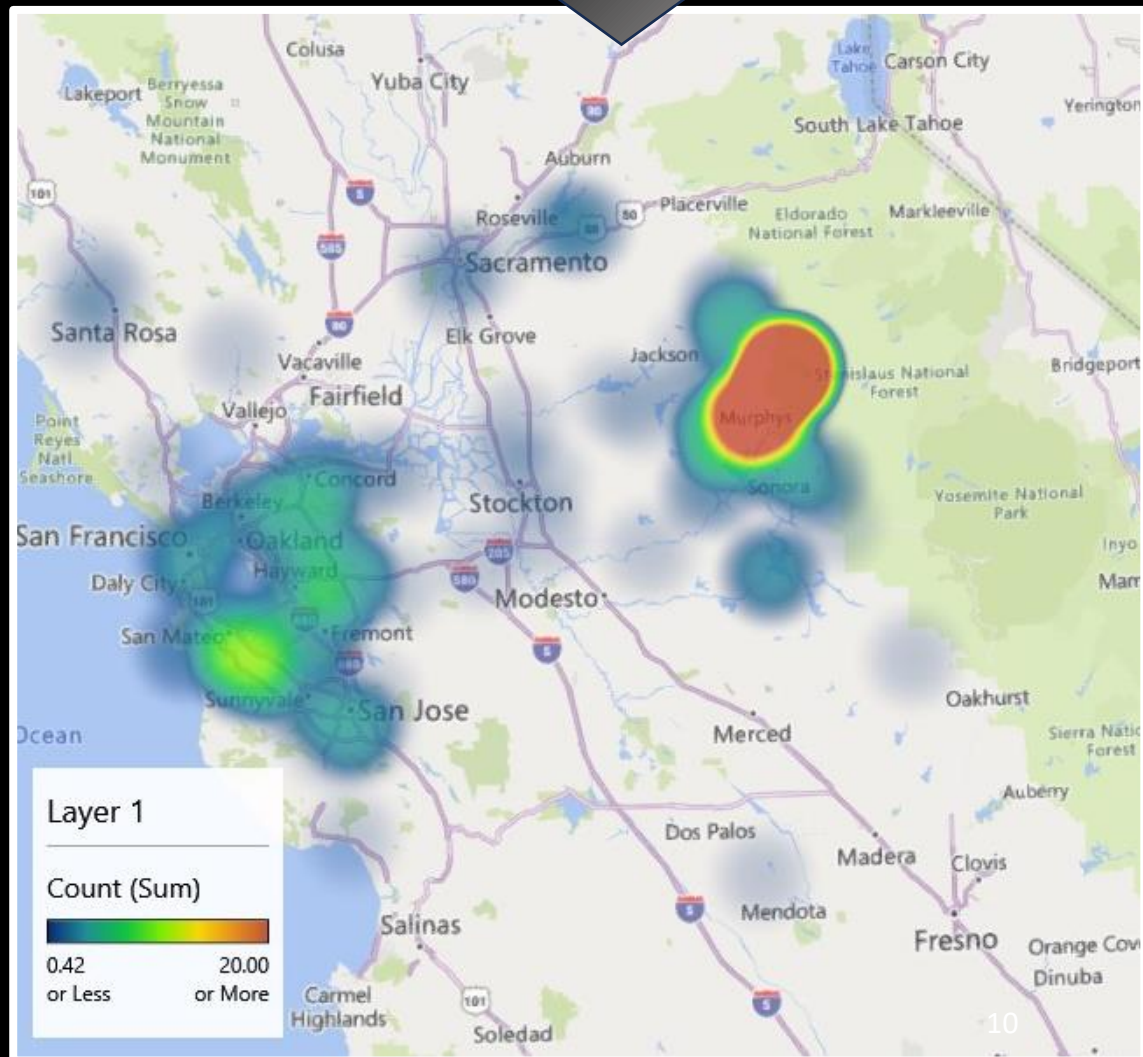
With friends or family



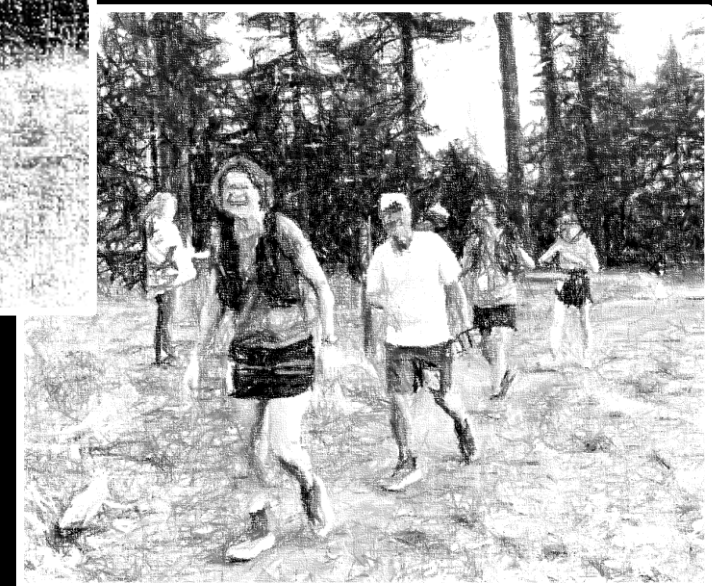
Short-term rental



Hotel/motel

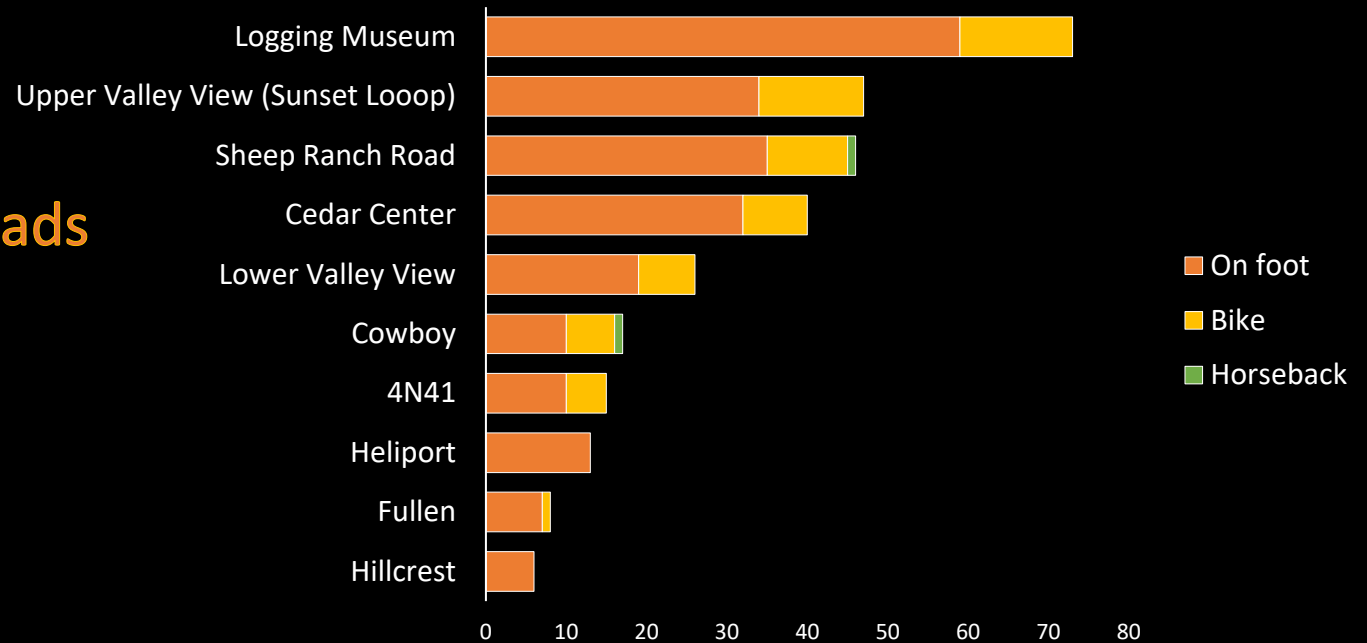


Use

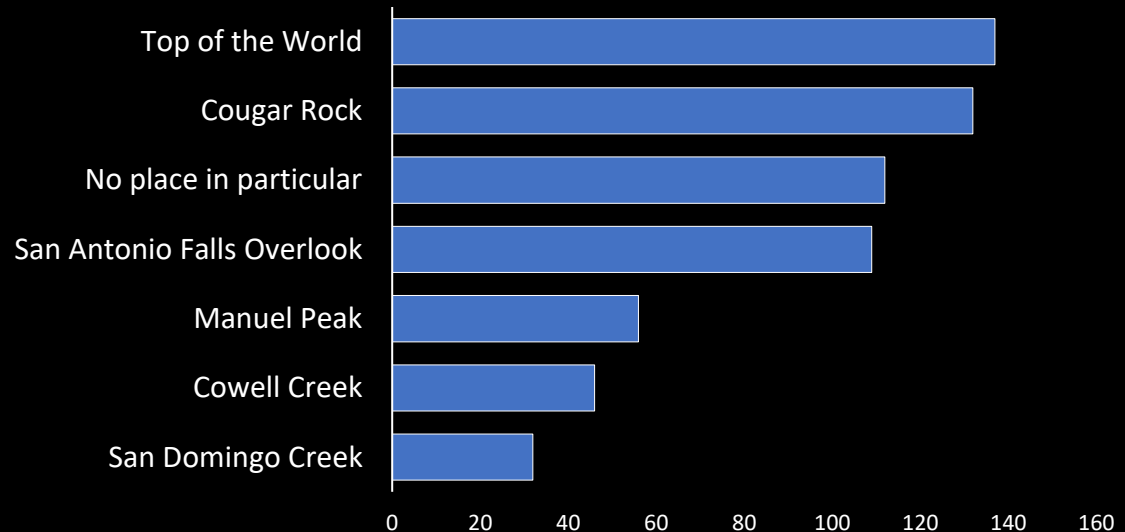


What's popular?

Trailheads



Destinations

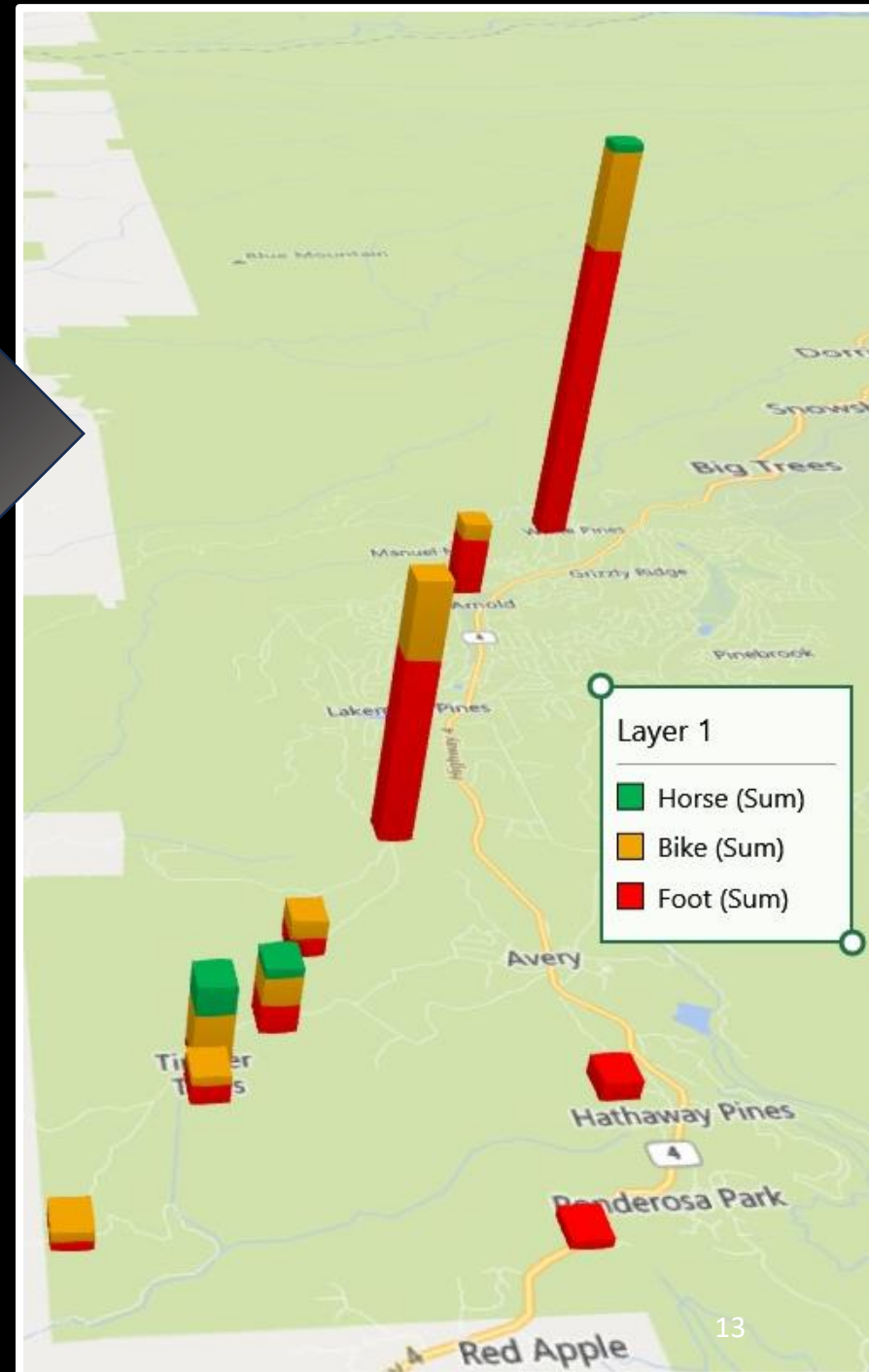


Favorite trailhead by mode of travel

Column heights show trailhead popularity; colors show mode of travel (see legend).

What is your favorite trailhead?	How do you travel on the trail?			
	Foot	Bike	Horse	Sum
Logging Museum	36	11	1	48
Neighborhood*	35	10		45
Upper Valley View (Sunset Loop)	20	8		28
Cedar Center	8	2		10
Sheep Ranch Road	1	5	3	9
Lower Valley View (Sheep Ranch Rd)	3	3	1	7
Middle Valley View (Cowboy Loop)	2	2		4
Forest Road 4N41Y	2	1		3
Heliport	1			1
Hillcrest	2			2
Fullen Road	1	1		2
Total	111	43	5	159

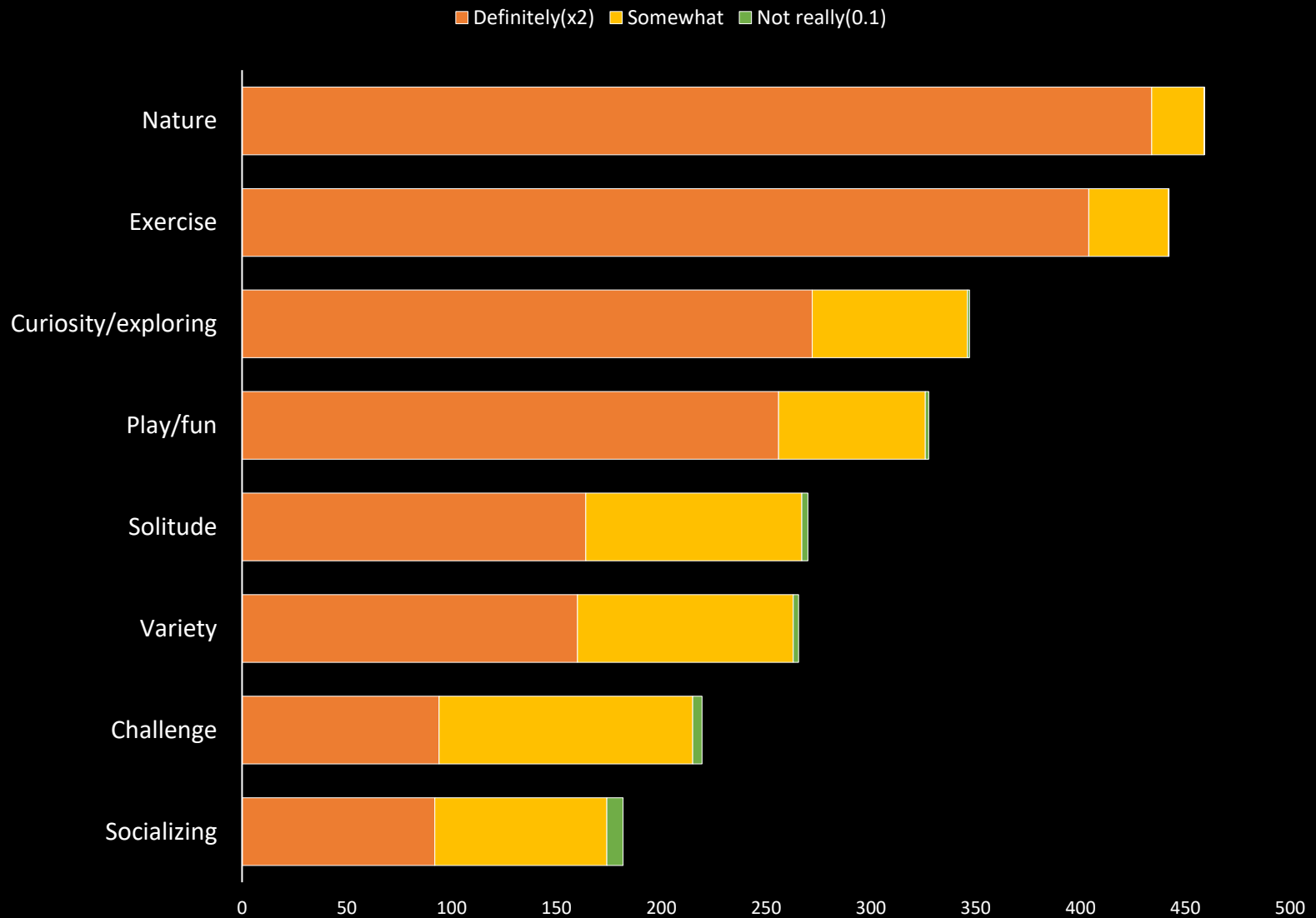
* Graph does not show access from various neighborhoods, which are numerous and dispersed.



Motivations

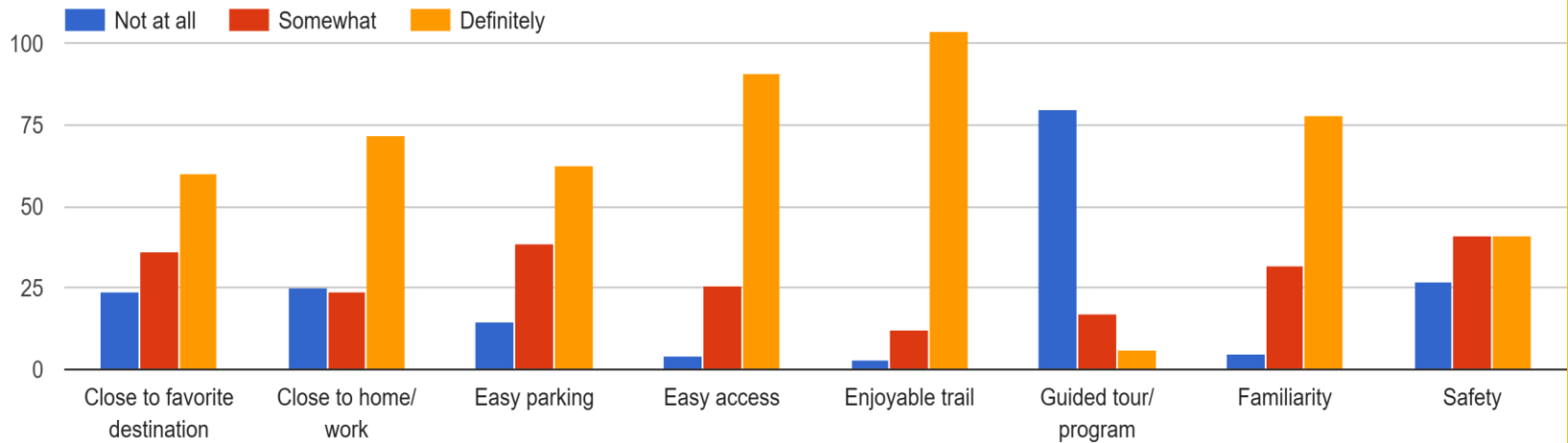


Why do we use ART?

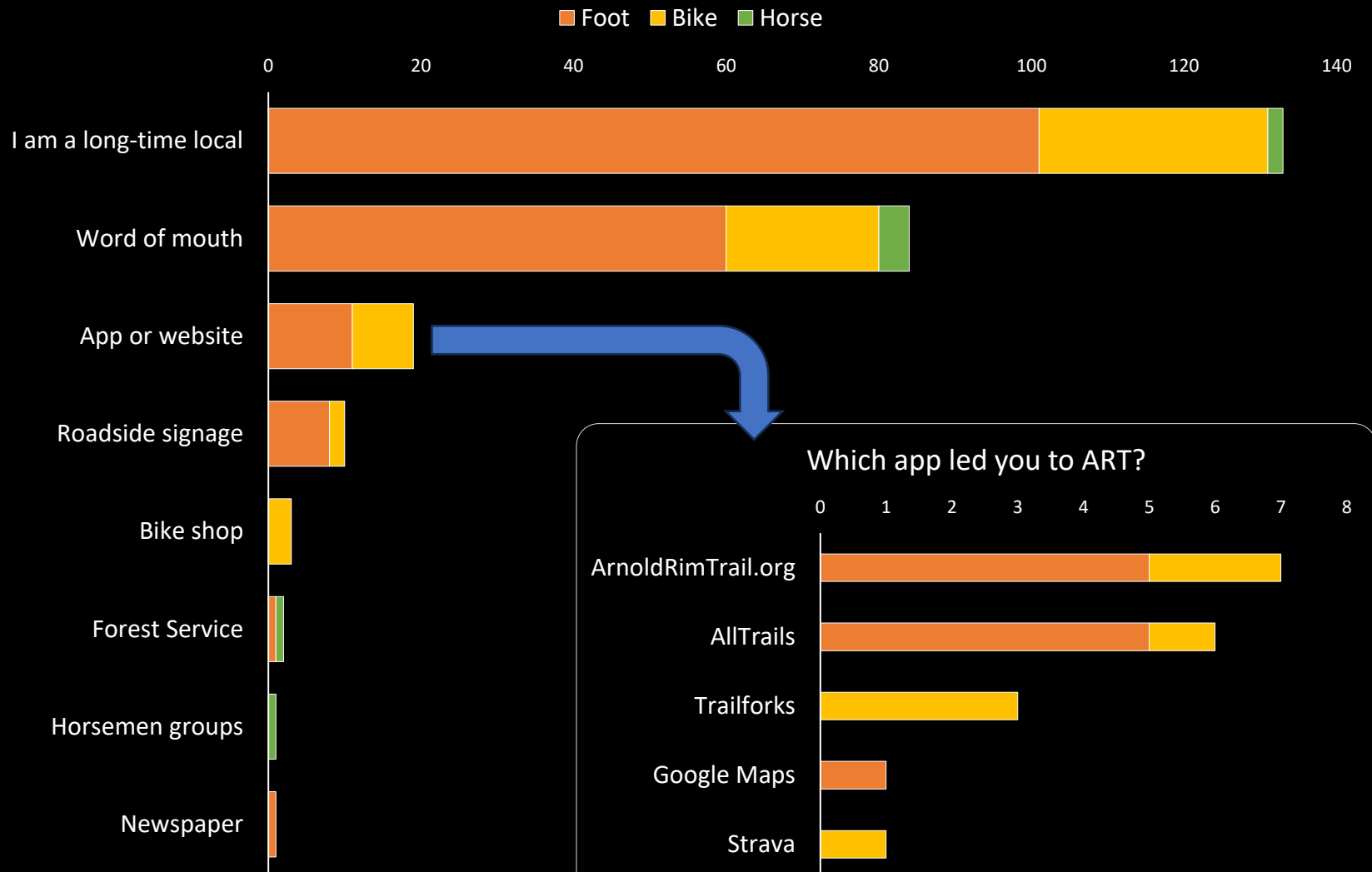


What attracts you to your favorite trailhead?

What attracts you to that trailhead?



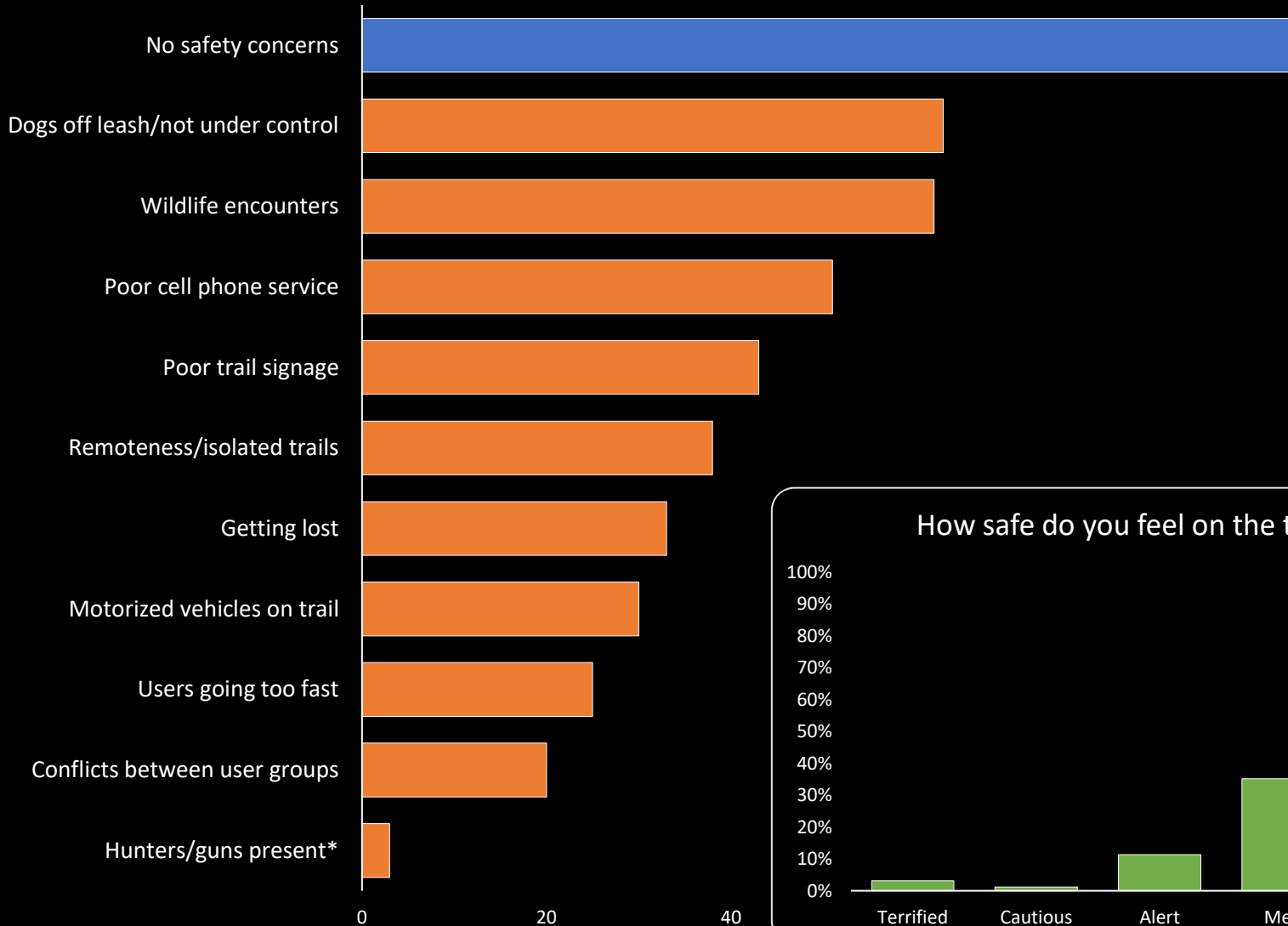
How do you know about ART?



Challenges and Opportunities

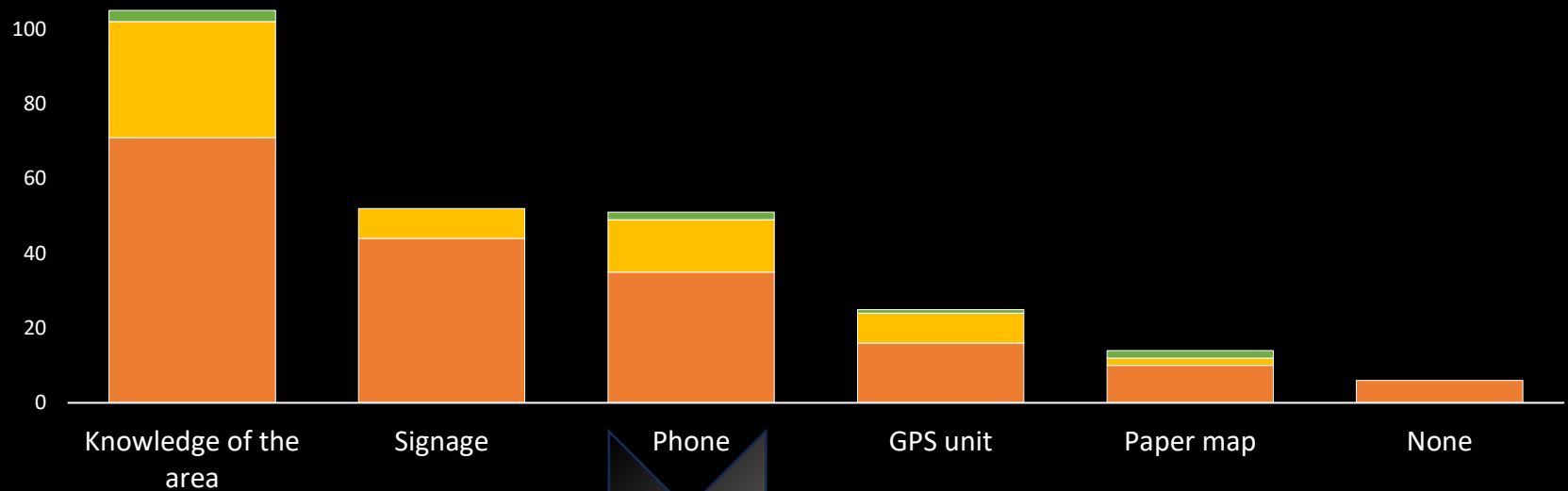


What makes you feel unsafe on the trail?

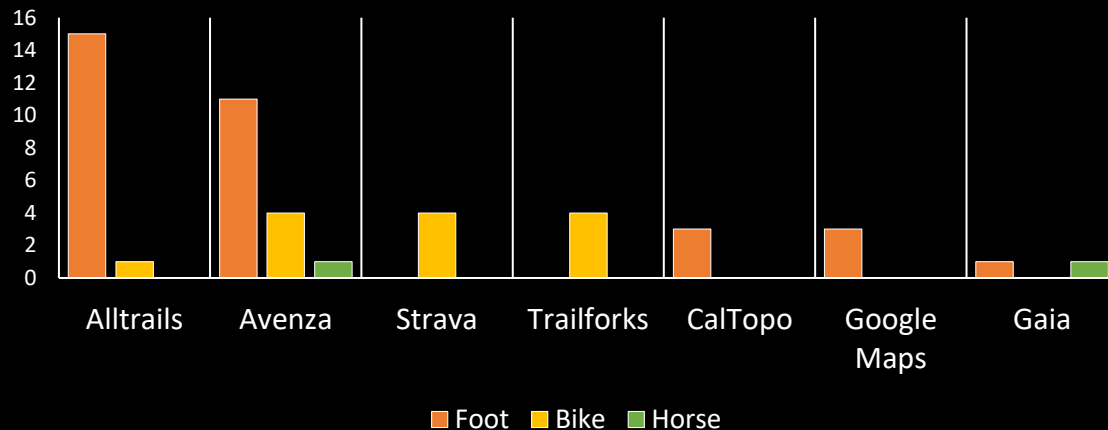


*Write in response

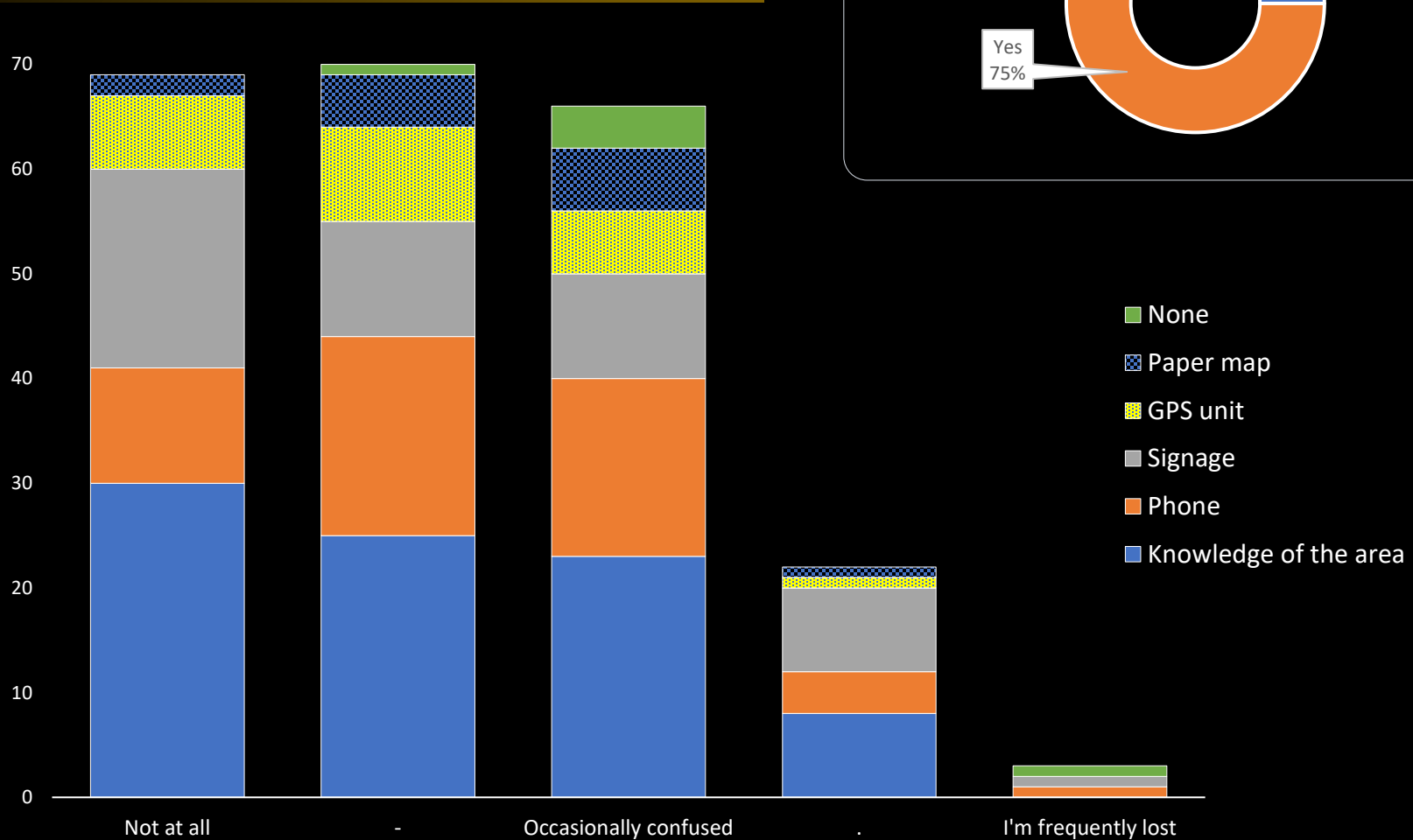
How do you find your way on the trail?



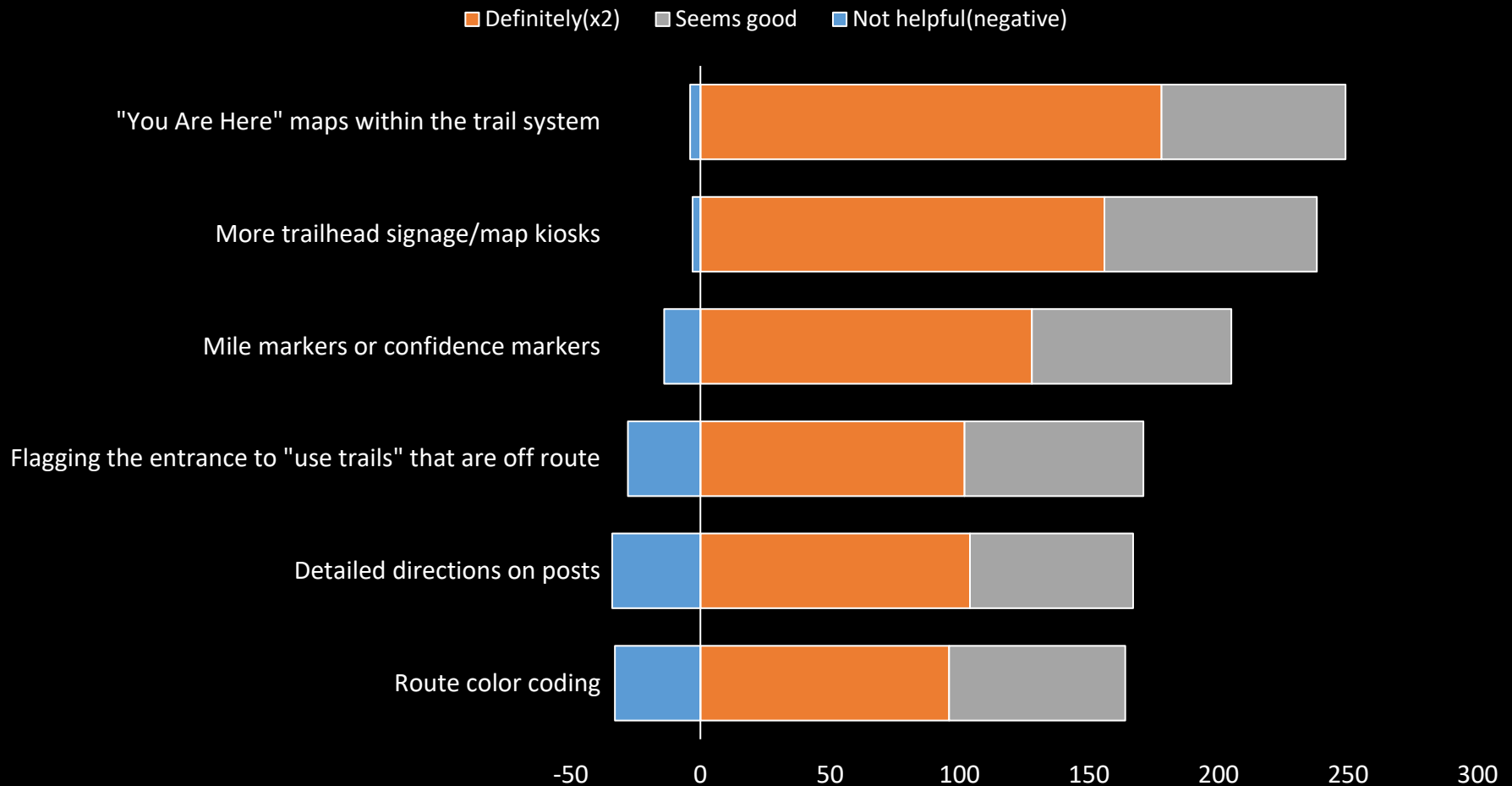
Which app do you use for trail navigation?



How challenging is wayfinding on ART?

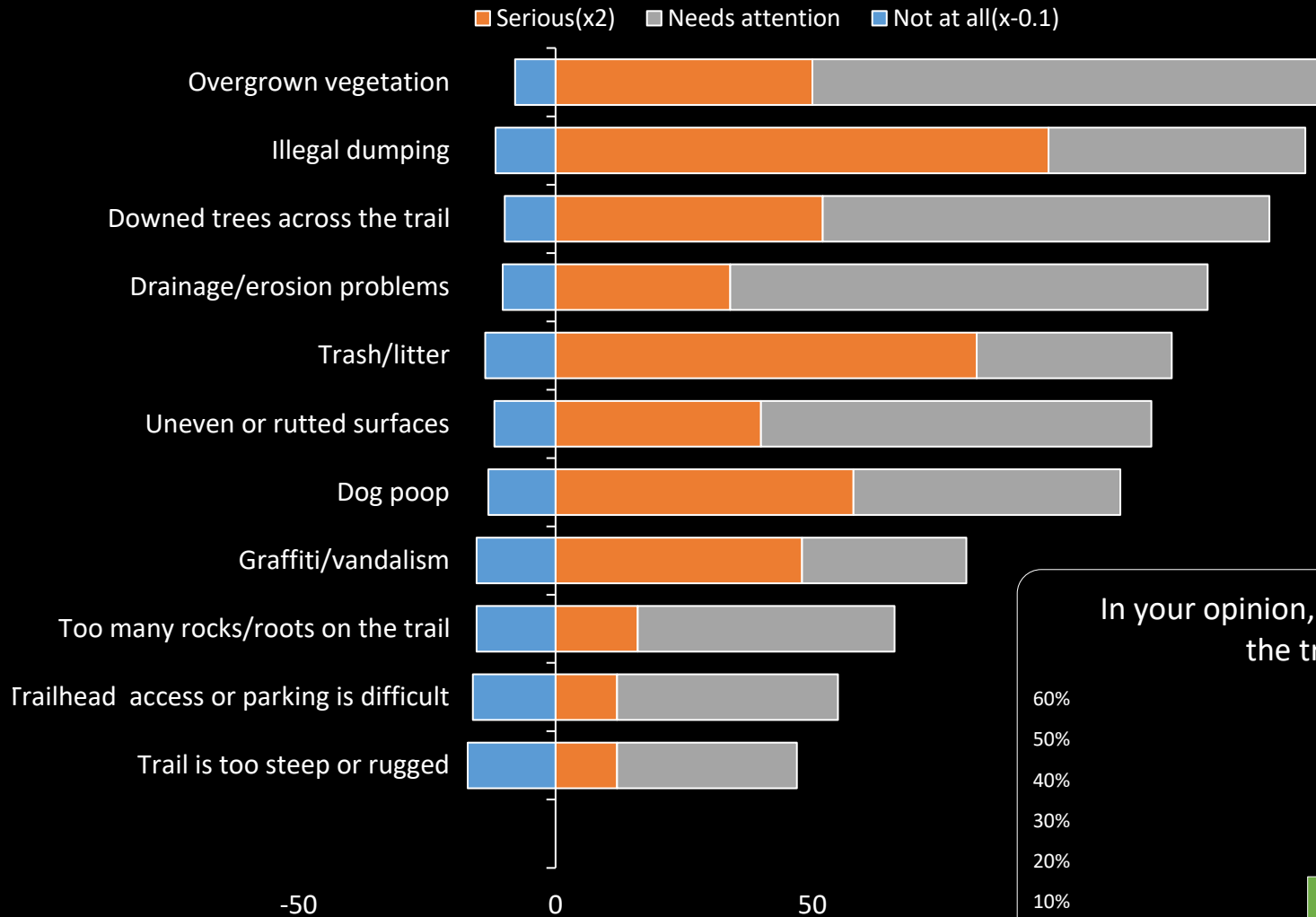


What type of signage would you find helpful?

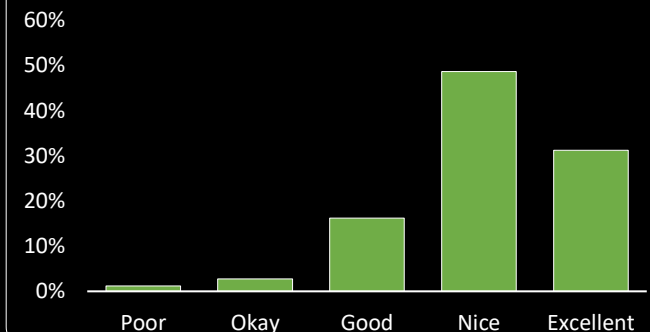


Responses are weighted to reflect valence and magnitude of response as indicated by legend.

What are your maintenance concerns?



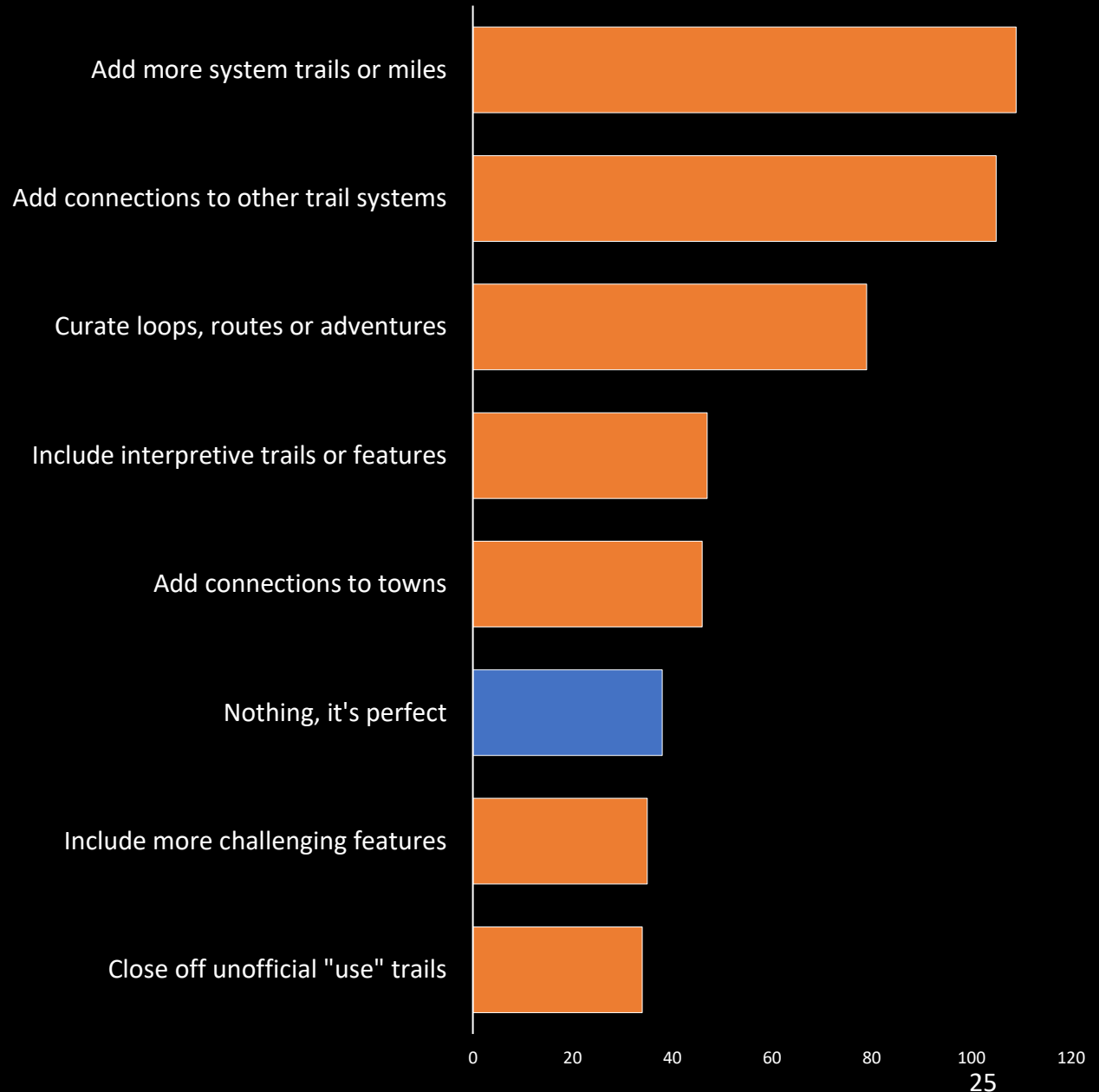
In your opinion, maintenance of the trail is:



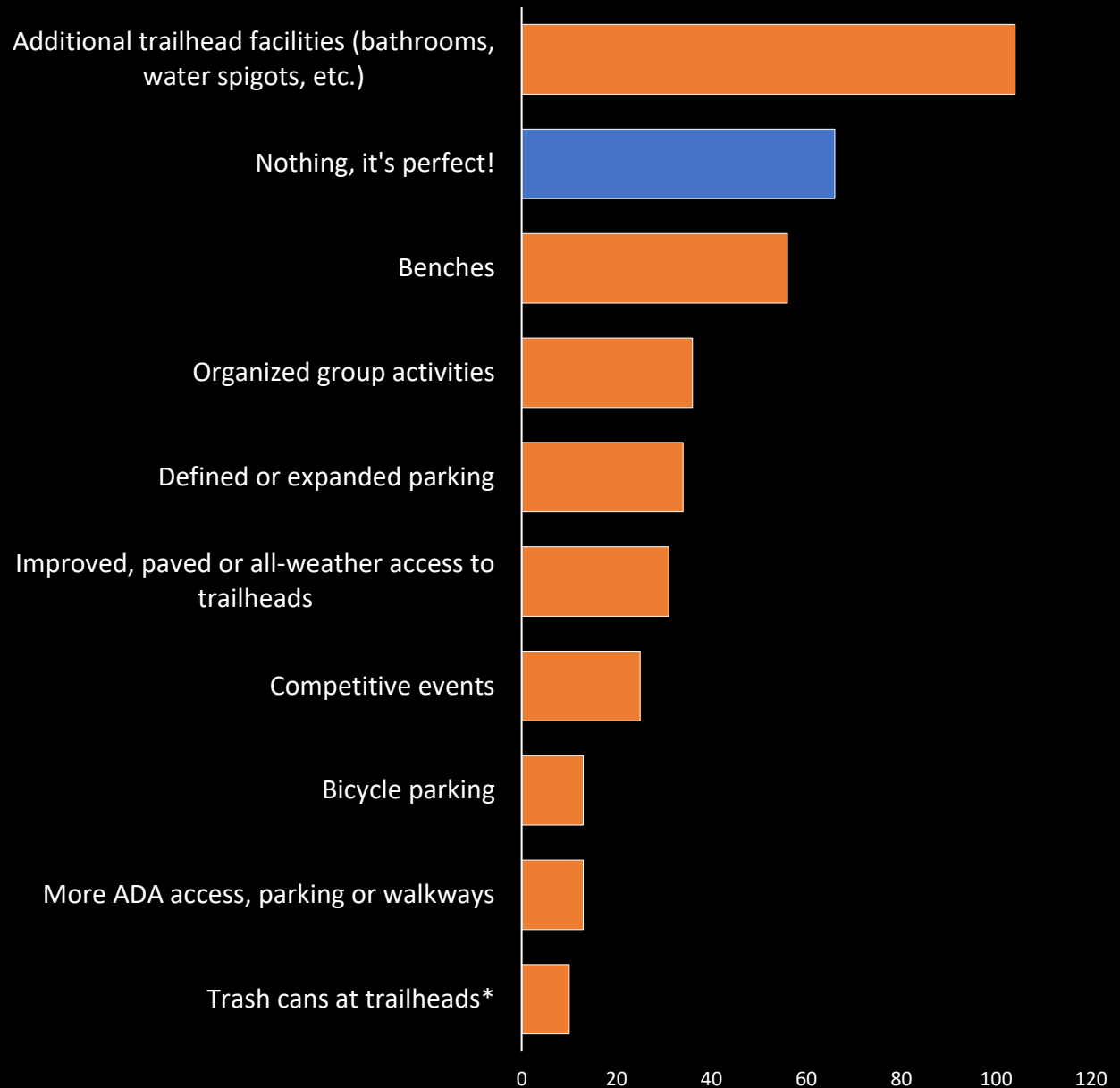
Moving Forward



What improvements would you like to see?

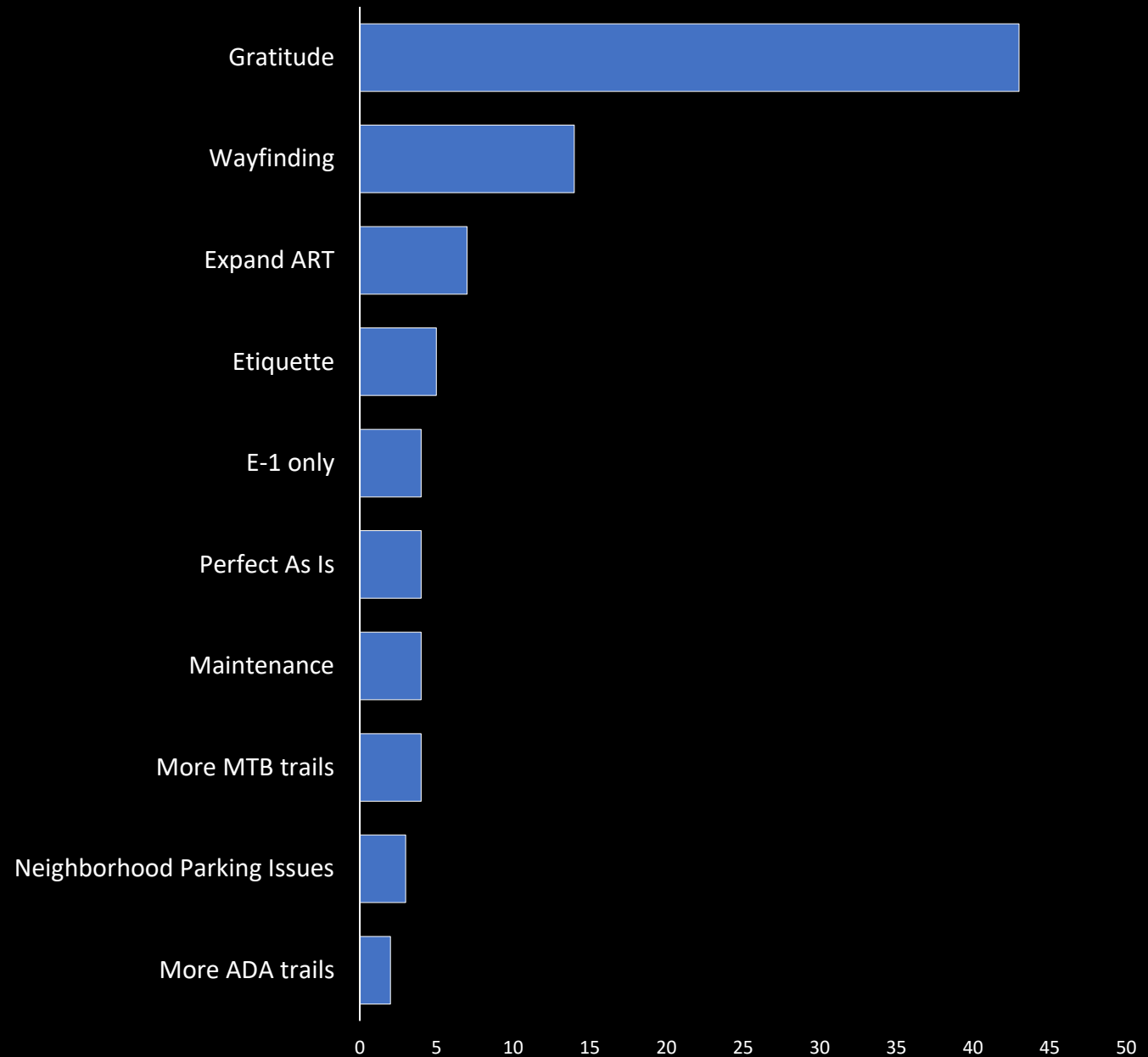


What amenities would you like to see added?



• Write-in responses

**Is there
anything
else that
you would
like to
share about
your ART
experience?**



Key Takeaways

Our proto-typical respondent is a middle-aged hiker who lives in Calaveras County or has a vacation home nearby. This hiker typically travels in a group of two to four people that will spend one to two hours on the trail. Most likely they will leave from the Upper Valley View trailhead (Sunset Loop) and head toward one of ART's landmarks, Top of the World. They do this a few times a year for the love of nature and to get some exercise. They are comfortable out on the trail and typically navigate without assistance (e.g., no maps or apps) but not without some confusion. They feel generally safe on the trail but are alert to encounters with wildlife or uncontrolled dogs. While these hikers express gratitude for ART, they acknowledge that there is room for improvement.

- The survey results highlight the importance of the ART to the community and its visitors. Recognizing that a decades-old pipedream has become an integral part of our community. Case in point: *"We got engaged at the Overlook. These trails have a special place in our heart."* (anonymous respondent)
- ART lovers are attracted from miles around. More than half of the survey respondents live outside Calaveras County, although most of those have a vacation home nearby.
- ART is multi-use, drawing hikers, bikers, equestrians and pets alike.
- Challenges to overcome:
 - Wayfinding and navigation: Many users, even frequent ones, find the current signage confusing. This is highlighted by the fact that 75% of survey respondents desire better signage on the ART.
 - Safety: Most users feel comfortable out on the trail; however, some users expressed concern about wildlife encounters and unleashed/uncontrolled dogs.
 - Parking: Limited parking and its associated issues, such as visitors parking on private property or blocking driveways, are problematic at certain trailheads.
 - Maintenance: Most users were generally satisfied with trail maintenance; however, overgrown vegetation, downed trees, illegal dumping and trash/litter were significant maintenance concerns for some users.

Looking Ahead: A Community-Driven Vision for the Future

- Preserve nature!
- Improve signage by installing trailhead kiosks, adding more signage with “You Are Here” maps, making paper maps available, providing clear and consistent trail identification and naming, and moderating crowd-sourced apps.
- Prioritize trail maintenance through the growth and development of volunteer corps.
- Enhance safety by highlighting trail etiquette and emphasizing user preparedness. Inform trail etiquette with education and outreach, especially concerning “leave no trace” principles, firearm safety, rights of way, private property, ATV use, and leashing/controlling dogs.
- Coordinate with impacted neighborhoods to resolve parking concerns.
- Explore and pursue opportunities for trail expansion and connectivity
- Explore and pursue opportunities for trailhead amenities.
- Consider developing more loop trails and trails specifically designed for mountain biking, incorporating features that cater to different skill levels.
- Evaluate the possibility of incorporating interpretive trails or features, providing educational opportunities for users about the local environment and history.

An eye to the future

Survey responses support a narrative that not only celebrates the successes of the ART but also recognizes the areas that require attention. The information gathered by the survey will lay a strong foundation for the development of a comprehensive and community-driven Master Plan that meets the diverse interests and needs of our community and promotes enjoyment of the ART for the foreseeable future. This is a story about a community asset coming of age. The master planning process isn't just about fixing problems - it's about guiding ART into its next chapter while preserving what makes it special.



Next Steps in the ART Planning Process

- Trailhead counts
- Intercept surveys
- Trail inventory and assessment