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June 2022

The "Ride with Gratitude" credo was created for the Bike Borderlands initiative to instill a strong code of ethics within the mountain biking community. It calls on riders to respect the privilege of using trails, care for others, and to protect the land itself. This same ethos is true for all trail users, which brings us to our recent Recreational Activities Survey.

Initiatives from the Survey

The idea for a town-wide survey arose from a meeting of "recreational stakeholders," a group of local charities and event organizers. The survey was sent to the grand list of homeowners in March. Feedback from the Recreational Survey was overwhelmingly positive and appreciative of the breadth of activities and the vitality that they bring to Brownsville. We also heard that it's important to have a balance between events and preserving the special character of our Town. We agree!

Like "Ride with Gratitude", one of the most important undertakings of the stakeholder's group now is an educational initiative to encourage trail etiquette, including the importance of obeying the rules of the road and traffic management during events, the respect of private property, and how a

(electronically) and at event registration. Other outlets for the brochure will include the AOC, BB&P, and local bike shops.

We also are working with the Town on a plan to improve advance notice of events. Elements include signage, improved event calendars, and coordinating social media posts between our organizations.



Highlights of the Survey

The response to the Survey was terrific – 225 respondents – and we followed up with a community meeting on April 2nd. The highlights of the Survey are summarized below. If you're interested in seeing all the results, please click [here](#).

Do you or your family participate in recreational or other activities around town? As expected, hiking/running/snowshoeing is most popular, followed by alpine skiing, community events (4th July, private parties), and bike riding. Other popular activities include educational programs on the mountain, large race events, equestrian, snowmobiling, and paragliding.

Are you satisfied with the breadth of activities and events? We were delighted to see that 75% said “very and extremely”, 10% “mostly or somewhat”, and 15% gave qualified answers, divided between wanting “less or more” events and activities.

Have you encountered problems with events? “None” was far and away

glowsticks).

What do you think we can do to improve these issues? Three themes stood out: (1) better advance notice of upcoming events (routes and schedule); (2) education on trail etiquette and mutual respect, and on obeying the rules of the road; (3) better signage during events, and permanently on certain trails and roads.

Suggestions for other activities? One suggestion stood out - “more music, concerts, cultural events”. With a full plate of recreational events (6 spread out over 5 months), we too would like to have more cultural offerings on the mountain.



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