



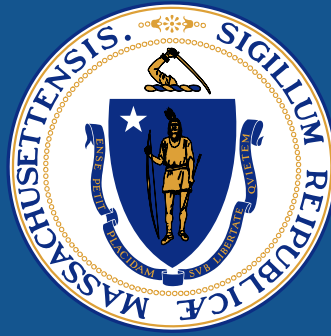
# Cutler Park Reservation

## Trail Master Plan

Public Meeting – November 5<sup>th</sup> 2025







# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor  
**Maura T. Healey**

Lieutenant Governor  
**Kimberley Driscoll**

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary  
**Rebecca L. Tepper**

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner  
**Nicole LaChapelle**

# Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)

## MISSION

To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all.

# DCR Core Principles

## Our Core Principles:

**Provide access to a diversity of outdoor recreational experiences & unique landscapes**

that is equitable, inclusive, and welcoming



2



**Conserve lands, water, and forests**

by integrating science, research, and technical expertise into the management of our natural resources

**Advance climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts**

by implementing sustainable practices & advancing resiliency across our infrastructure, assets, & resources



4



**Support healthy communities**

by providing places for people to connect with nature and each other

**Inspire generations of stewards**

by recognizing and honoring our legacy through partnerships, public engagement, and education





# Meeting Logistics



Blue Heron Trail (Newton)

## ► During the meeting:

- Use the Q&A feature – comments go to the moderator
- Raise your hand using the Zoom function, and you will be given permissions to unmute and speak

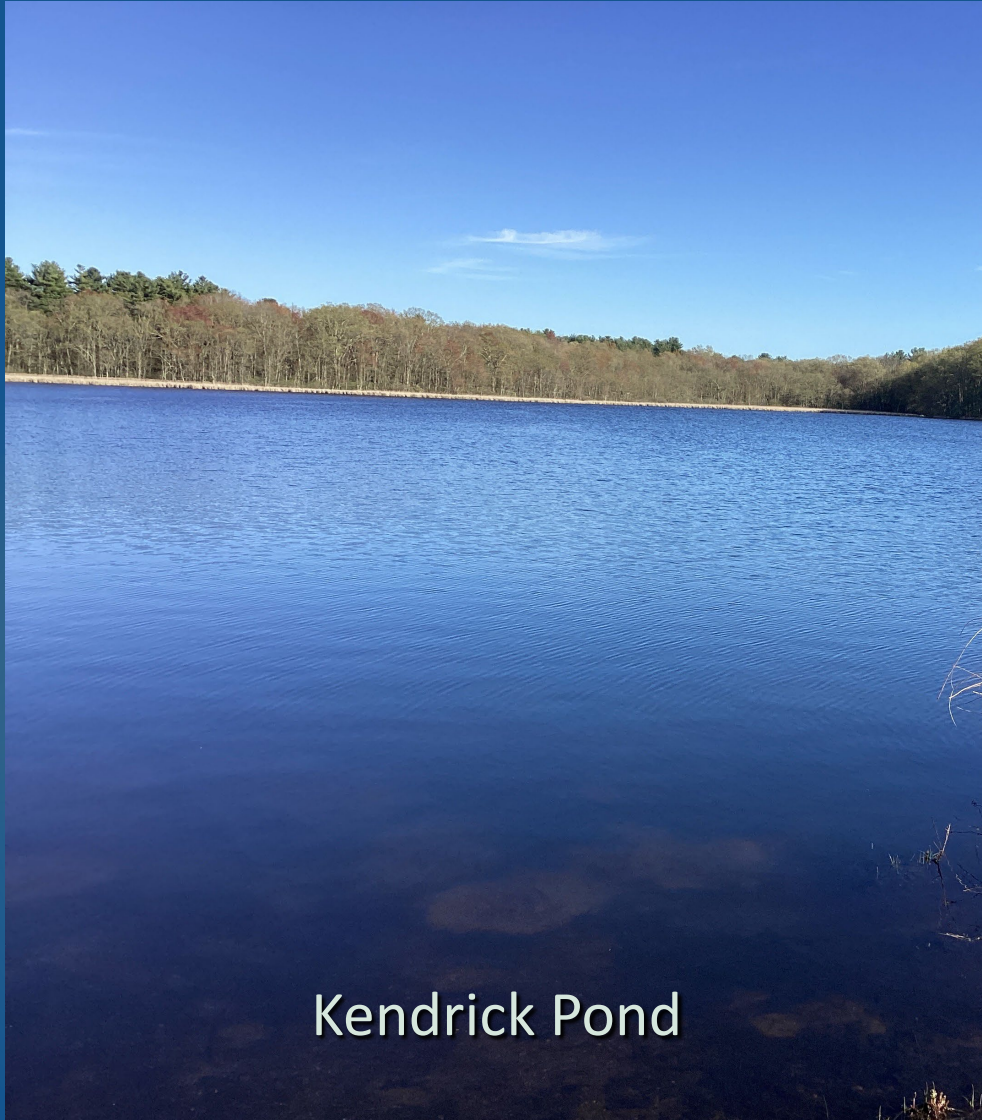
## ► After the meeting, through November 19th:

- DCR Public Comments
  - <https://www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments>

*Please note that this public meeting is being recorded; the recording will be public record*



# Agenda



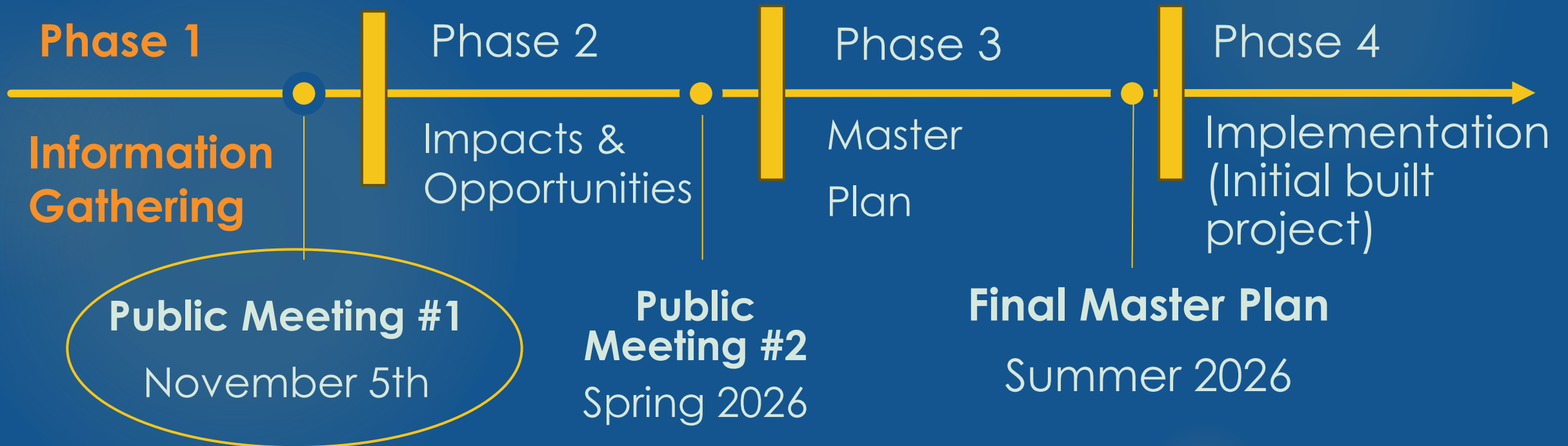
Kendrick Pond

- ▶ Presentation (~ 20 min)
  - ▶ Trail Planning Process & Guidelines
  - ▶ Goals
  - ▶ Existing Conditions
  - ▶ Feedback to date
- ▶ Public Comment (~40 min)
- ▶ Additional Information



# Trails Master Plan Process – Phase 1

- ▶ The planning process provides a forum for communication and cooperation with park visitors, stakeholders, and the surrounding communities to ensure transparency in DCR's stewardship efforts.



# Trails Master Plan Process - Phase 1

## ▶ Get to Know the Property

- ▶ Trail Inventory
- ▶ Resource Area Mapping
- ▶ Identify Critical Management Roads
- ▶ Assess Use Patterns and Demand
- ▶ Involve Trail Collaborators/Partners

## ▶ Identify Points of Interest and Experiences

- ▶ Identify Main Parking and Access Points
- ▶ Identify Critical Connections
- ▶ Survey Users to Understand Desired Recreational Experiences
- ▶ **Mountain bike assessment (Tulip Trails)**

## ▶ Identify Constraints, Issues and Problem Areas

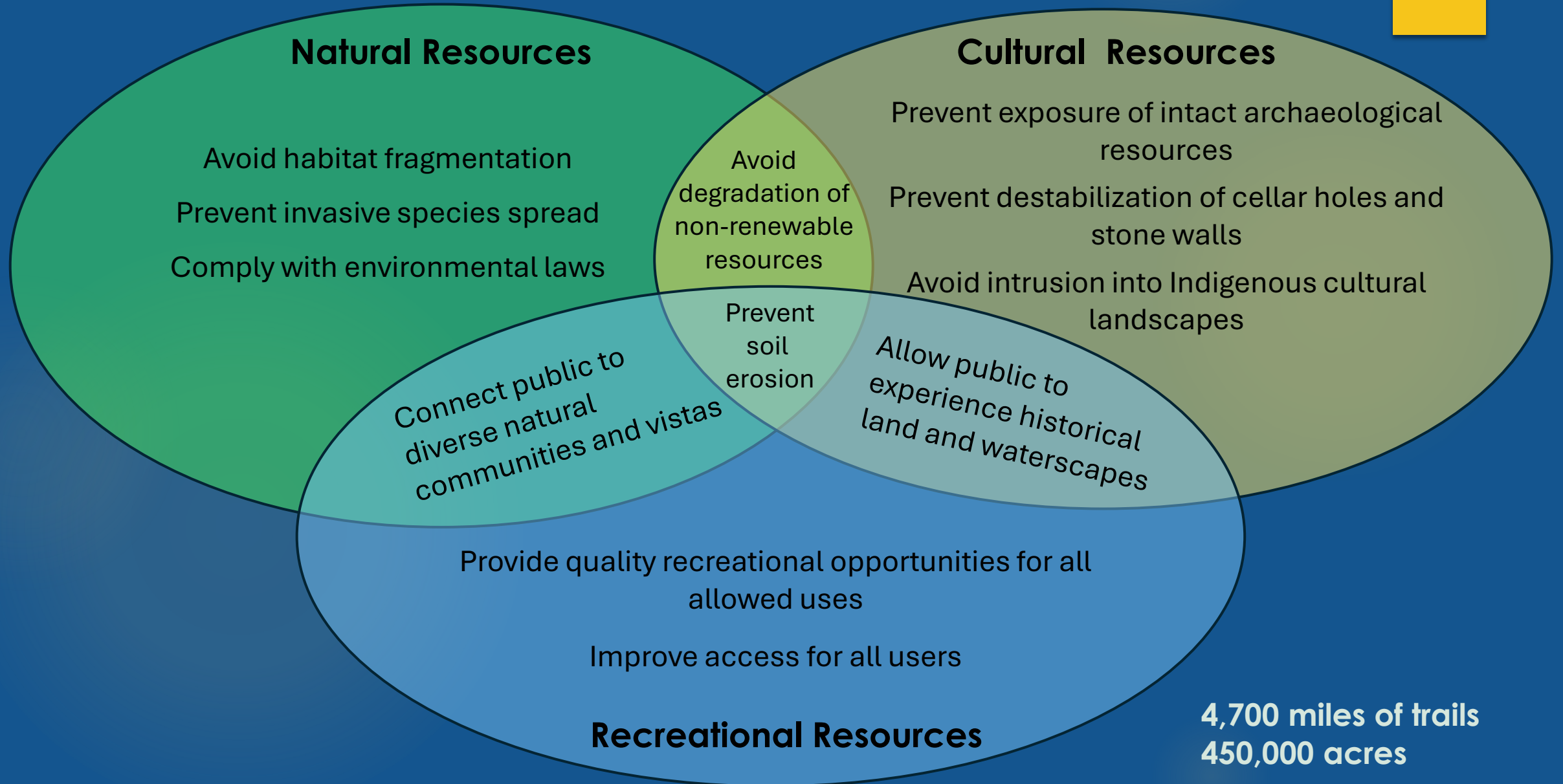
- ▶ Highlight Trail Problem Areas
- ▶ Identify Redundant Trails
- ▶ Identify Ecologically Sensitive Areas
- ▶ **Identify Culturally Sensitive Areas (PAL)**

## ▶ Develop a Plan (Phase 2 & 3)

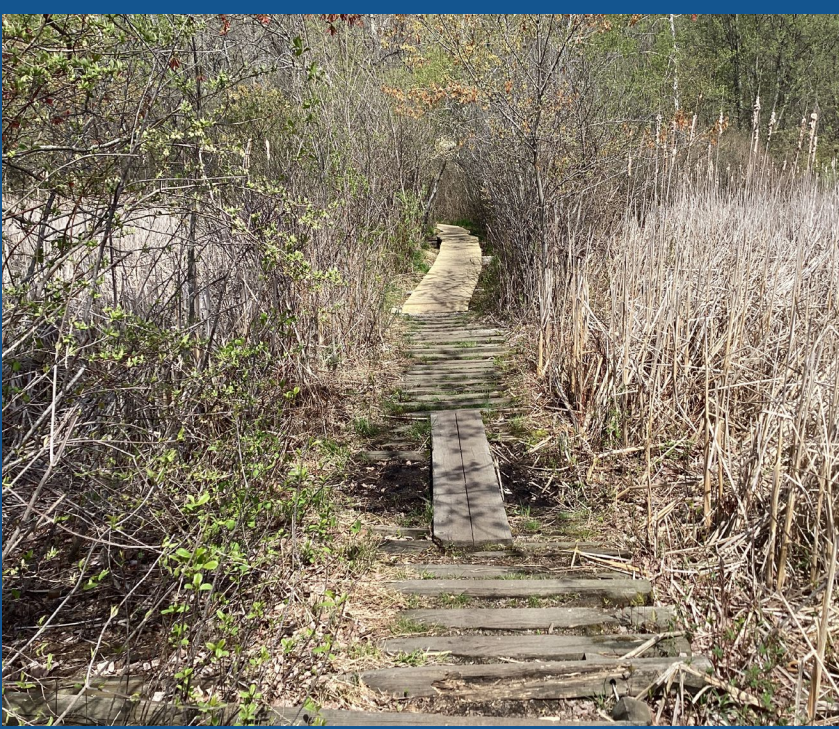
- ▶ Assess impacts and opportunities
- ▶ Establish a sustainable trail system/network for the park
- ▶ Re-route and Restore Problem Trails
- ▶ Identify Stewardship Partners and Opportunities
- ▶ Identify Necessary Trail Use Policies
- ▶ Develop Education and Enforcement Strategies



# Trail Network Planning with DCR's Mission in Mind



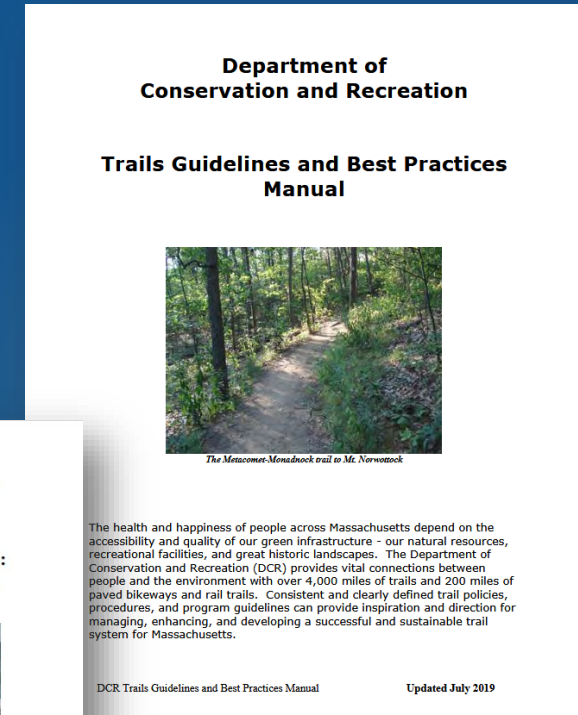
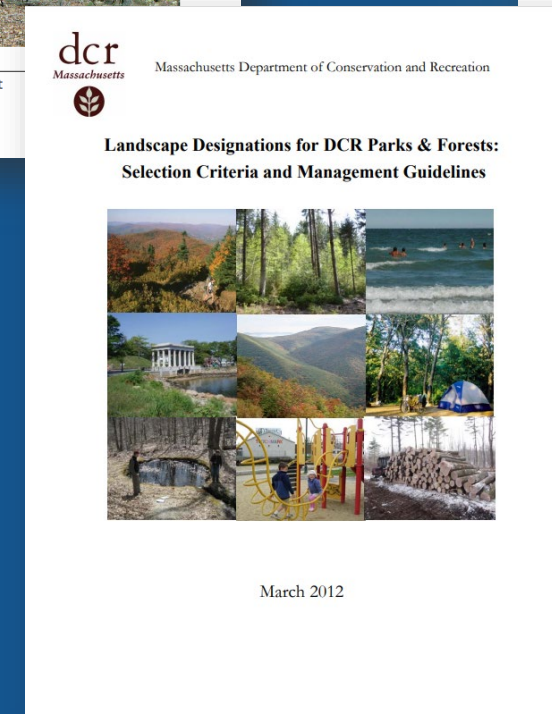
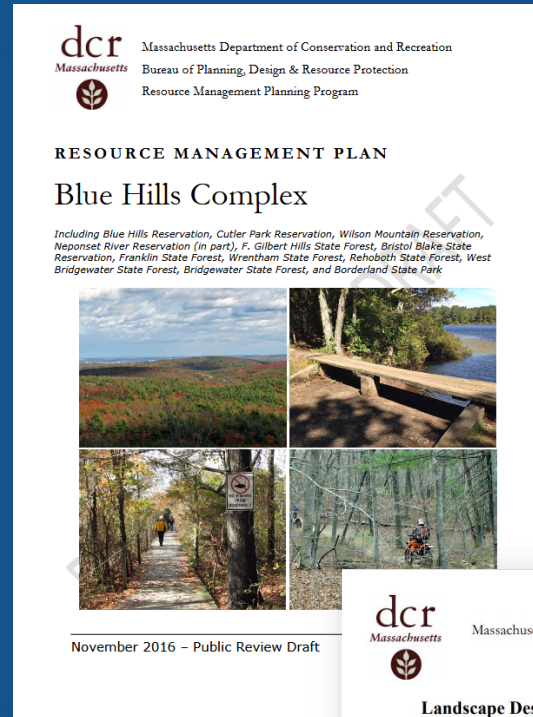






# Guidelines

- ▶ The Trail network needs to:
  - ▶ Meet trail density guidelines.
  - ▶ Provide multi-use trails with varied experiences.
  - ▶ Promote sustainable trail design within the context of natural and cultural resources.
  - ▶ Create a safe environment.
  - ▶ Be maintainable.





# Goals & Outcomes

- ▶ Develop a set of working documents for setting priorities.
- ▶ Enhance collaboration between partners and stewards.
- ▶ Guide the management of trails within the context of natural and cultural resources.
- ▶ Allocating resources and adapting to changing fiscal, social, and environmental conditions.





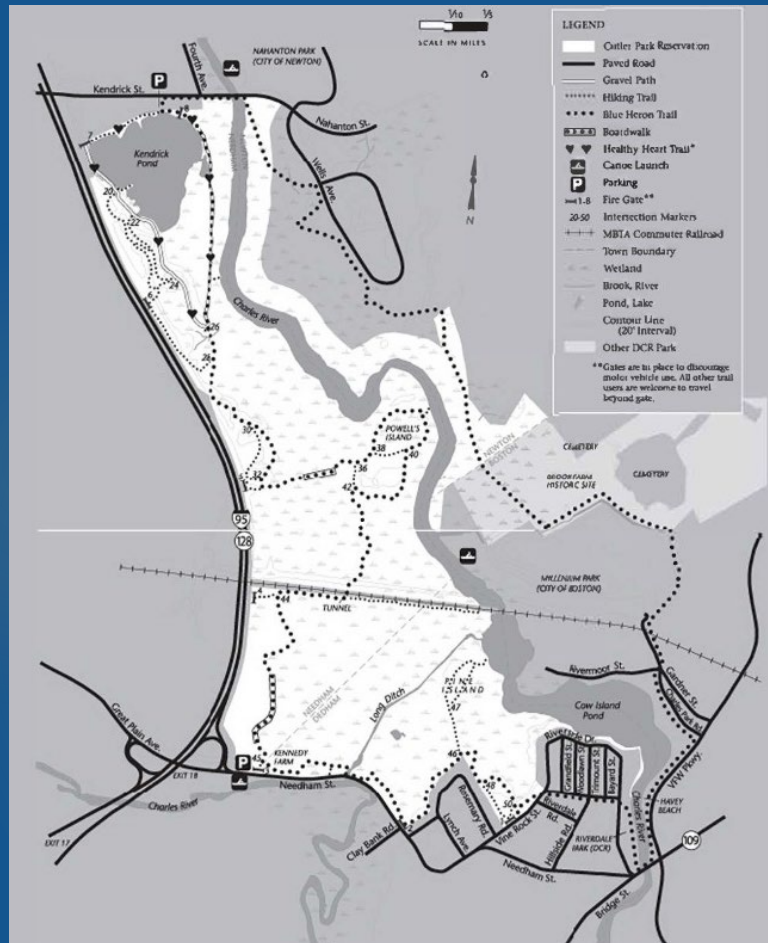
# Existing Conditions

## Location

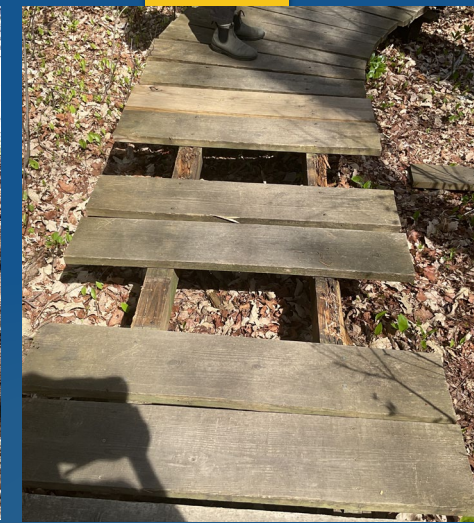




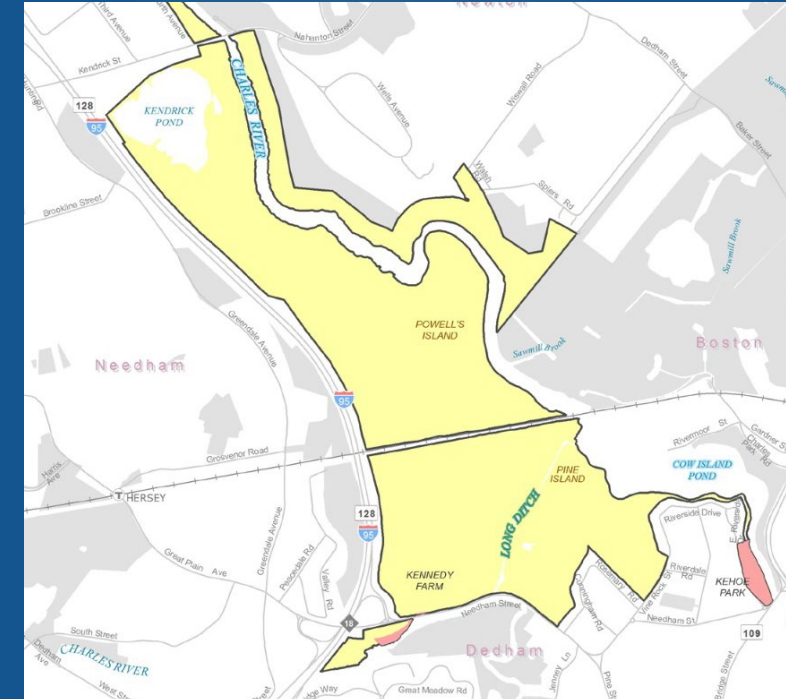
# Existing Conditions Site Inventory



Existing Map



Data Collection Sample



Parkland, Zone 2



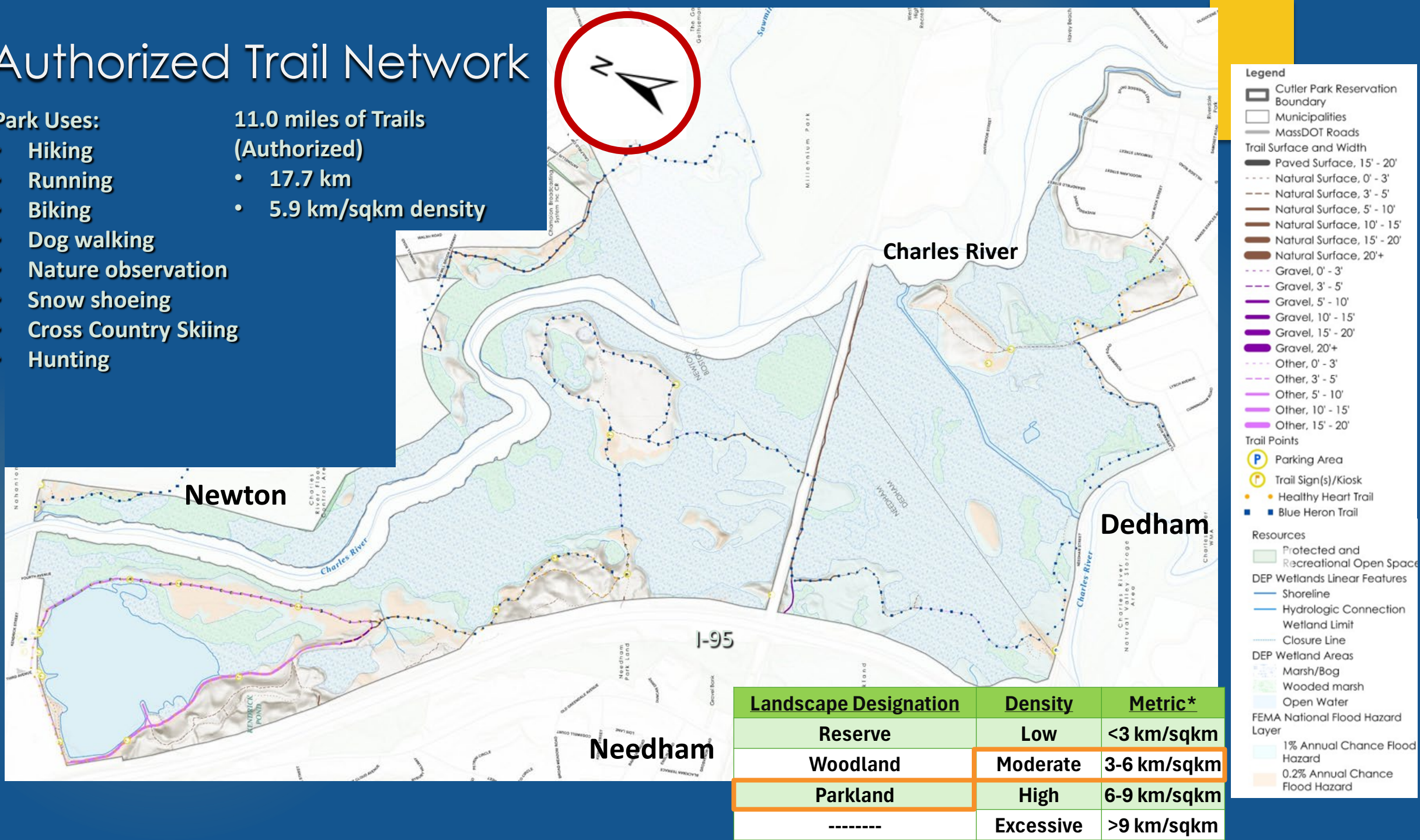
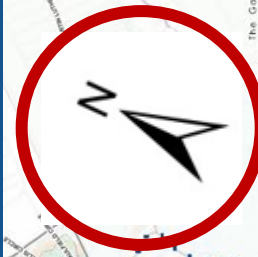
# Authorized Trail Network

## Park Uses:

- Hiking
- Running
- Biking
- Dog walking
- Nature observation
- Snow shoeing
- Cross Country Skiing
- Hunting

11.0 miles of Trails  
(Authorized)

- 17.7 km
- 5.9 km/sqkm density



Landscape Designation	Density	Metric*
Reserve	Low	<3 km/sqkm
Woodland	Moderate	3-6 km/sqkm
Parkland	High	6-9 km/sqkm
-----	Excessive	>9 km/sqkm

## Legend

- Cutler Park Reservation Boundary
- Municipalities
- MassDOT Roads

- Trail Surface and Width
- Paved Surface, 15' - 20'
  - Natural Surface, 0' - 3'
  - Natural Surface, 3' - 5'
  - Natural Surface, 5' - 10'
  - Natural Surface, 10' - 15'
  - Natural Surface, 15' - 20'
  - Natural Surface, 20' +

- Gravel, 0' - 3'
- Gravel, 3' - 5'
- Gravel, 5' - 10'
- Gravel, 10' - 15'
- Gravel, 15' - 20'
- Gravel, 20' +
- Other, 0' - 3'
- Other, 3' - 5'
- Other, 5' - 10'
- Other, 10' - 15'
- Other, 15' - 20'

## Trail Points

- Parking Area
- Trail Sign(s)/Kiosk
- Healthy Heart Trail
- Blue Heron Trail

## Resources

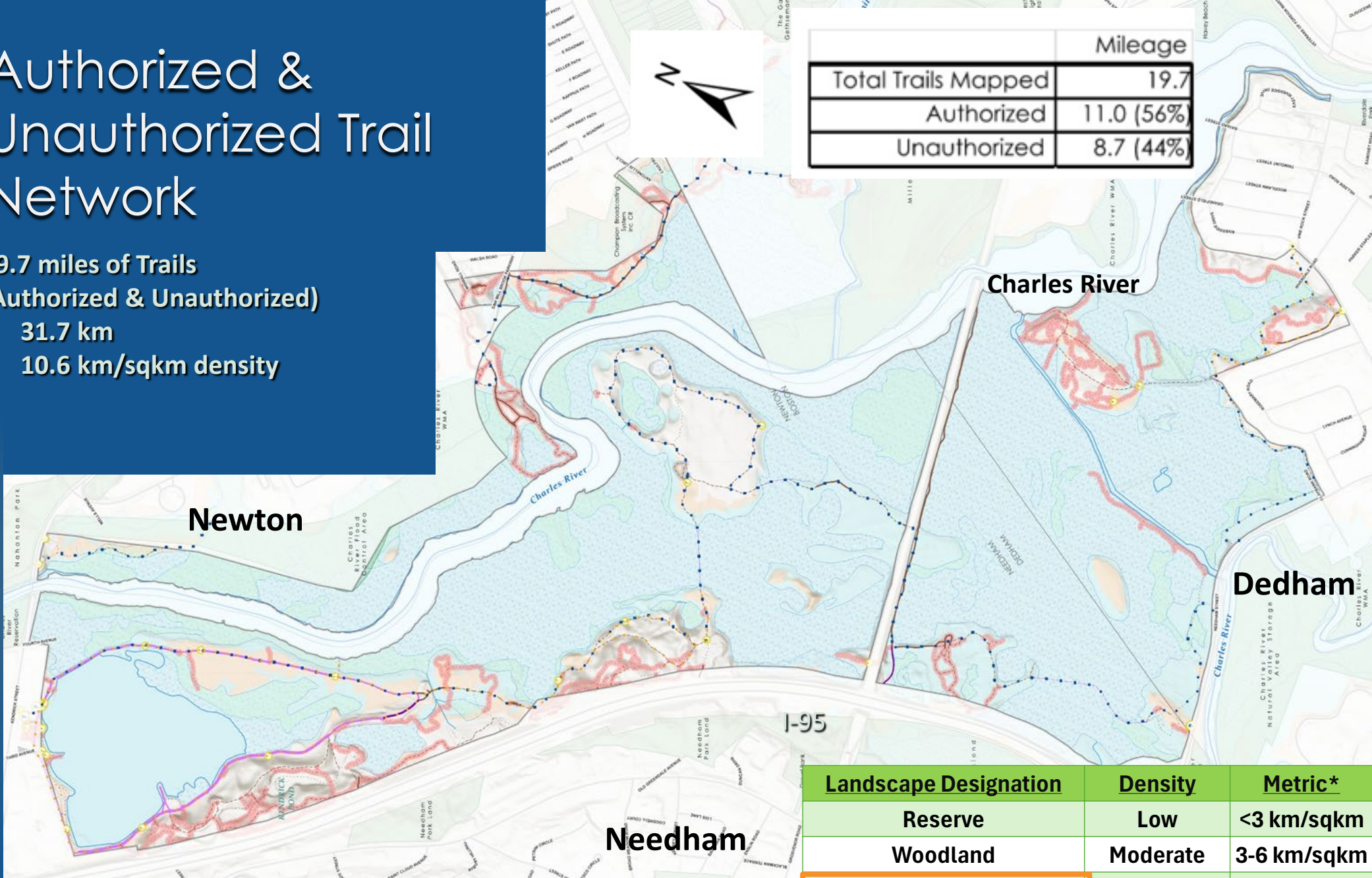
- Protected and Recreational Open Space
- DEP Wetlands Linear Features
  - Shoreline
  - Hydrologic Connection
  - Wetland Limit
  - Closure Line
- DEP Wetland Areas
  - Marsh/Bog
  - Wooded marsh
  - Open Water
- FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer
  - 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  - 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard



# Authorized & Unauthorized Trail Network

19.7 miles of Trails  
(Authorized & Unauthorized)

- 31.7 km
- 10.6 km/sqkm density



Landscape Designation	Density	Metric*
Reserve	Low	<3 km/sqkm
Woodland	Moderate	3-6 km/sqkm
Parkland	High	6-9 km/sqkm
-----	Excessive	>9 km/sqkm

**Legend**

Cutler Park Reservation Boundary

Municipalities

MassDOT Roads

**Trail Surface and Width**

Paved Surface, 15' - 20'

Natural Surface, 0' - 3'

Natural Surface, 3' - 5'

Natural Surface, 5' - 10'

Natural Surface, 10' - 15'

Gravel, 0' - 3'

Gravel, 3' - 5'

Gravel, 5' - 10'

Gravel, 10' - 15'

Other, 0' - 3'

Other, 3' - 5'

Other, 5' - 10'

Other, 10' - 15'

Other, 15' - 20'

**Authorization Status**

Previously Authorized, No Longer in Use

Unauthorized

**Trail Points**

Parking Area

Trail Sign(s)/Kiosk

Healthy Heart Trail

Blue Heron Trail

**Resources**

Protected and Recreational Open Space

**DEP Wetlands Linear Features**

Shoreline

Hydrologic Connection

Wetland Limit

Closure Line

**DEP Wetland Areas**

Marsh/Bog

Wooded marsh

Open Water

**FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer**

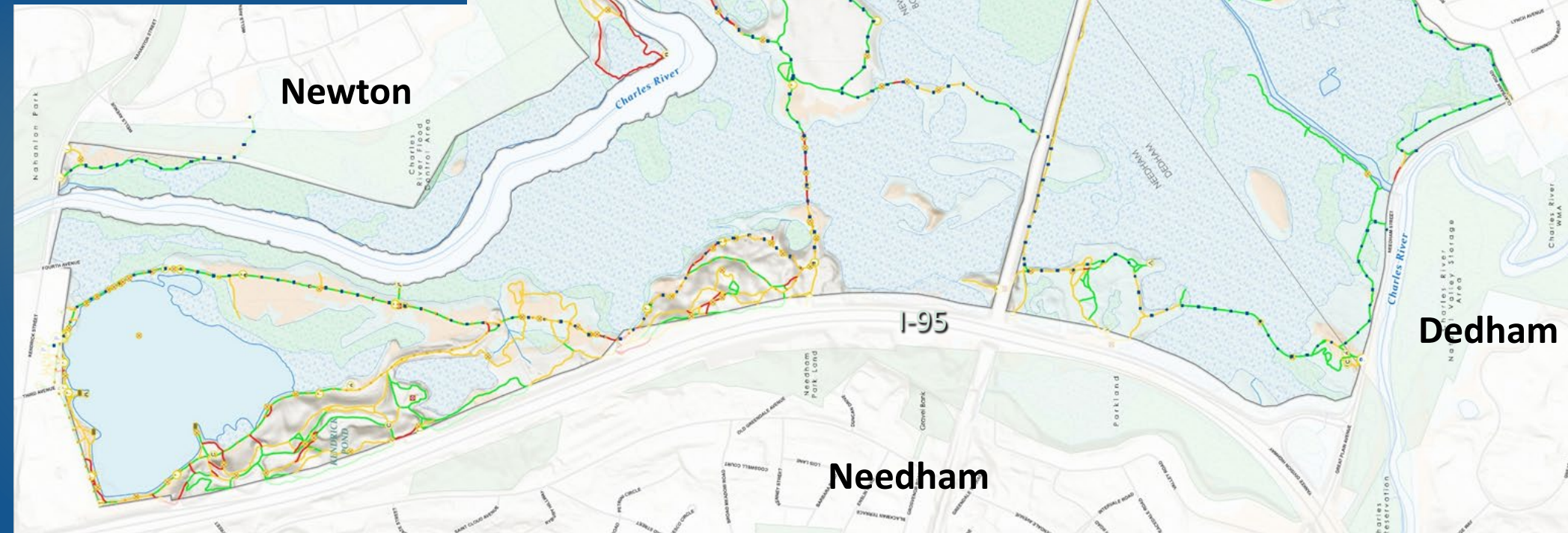
1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard

0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard



# Trail Network Conditions

Total Trails Mapped	19.7
Condition	Mileage
Good	9.9 (50%)
Fair	7.8 (40%)
Poor	2.0 (10%)



**Legend**

- Cutler Park Reservation Boundary
- Municipalities
- MassDOT Roads
- Healthy Heart Trail
- Blue Heron Trail

**Trail Condition**

- Good
- Fair
- Poor

**Trail Points**

- Parking Area
- Gate
- Road Culvert
- Road Drainage Dip
- Road Sign
- Trail Sign(s)/Kiosk
- Bench(es)
- Building
- Campsite
- Historic/Cultural Site
- Vista
- Encroachment Issue
- Trail Damage

**Resources**

- Protected and Recreational Open Space
- DEP Wetlands Linear Features
  - Shoreline
  - Hydrologic Connection
  - Wetland Limit
  - Closure Line
- DEP Wetland Areas
  - Marsh/Bog
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# Natural Resources



For more information on how trails impact wildlife, visit:  
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a205281cfc004dfc80055503c9c8befe>



- Resources**
- Protected and Recreational Open Space
  - DEP Wetland 100ft Buffer
  - DEP Wetland 100m Buffer
  - Vernal Pool 100ft Buffer
  - NHESP Certified Vernal Pool
  - NHESP Potential Vernal Pool
  - NHESP Priority Habitat
  - DEP Wetlands Linear Features
  - Shoreline
  - Hydrologic Connection
  - Wetland Limit
  - Closure Line
  - DEP Wetland Areas
  - Marsh/Bog
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# Sensitive Resource Areas



- ▶ 40+ documented structures, buildings, objects, and archaeology resource points
  - ▶ Buildings, structures, objects, landscapes, and archaeological sites
  - ▶ Inventory and field review by PAL
  - ▶ Most of the upland area designated as archeologically significant lands.

The First Peoples First Stewards Partnership works to build reciprocal relationships between the DCR and Tribal Governments and Indigenous Community Stakeholders. These relationships will enhance DCR's work through providing an additional lens of culturally responsive stewardship while providing access and opportunities for Native people to connect with the land, water, and our natural world.



# Public Survey Results To-Date

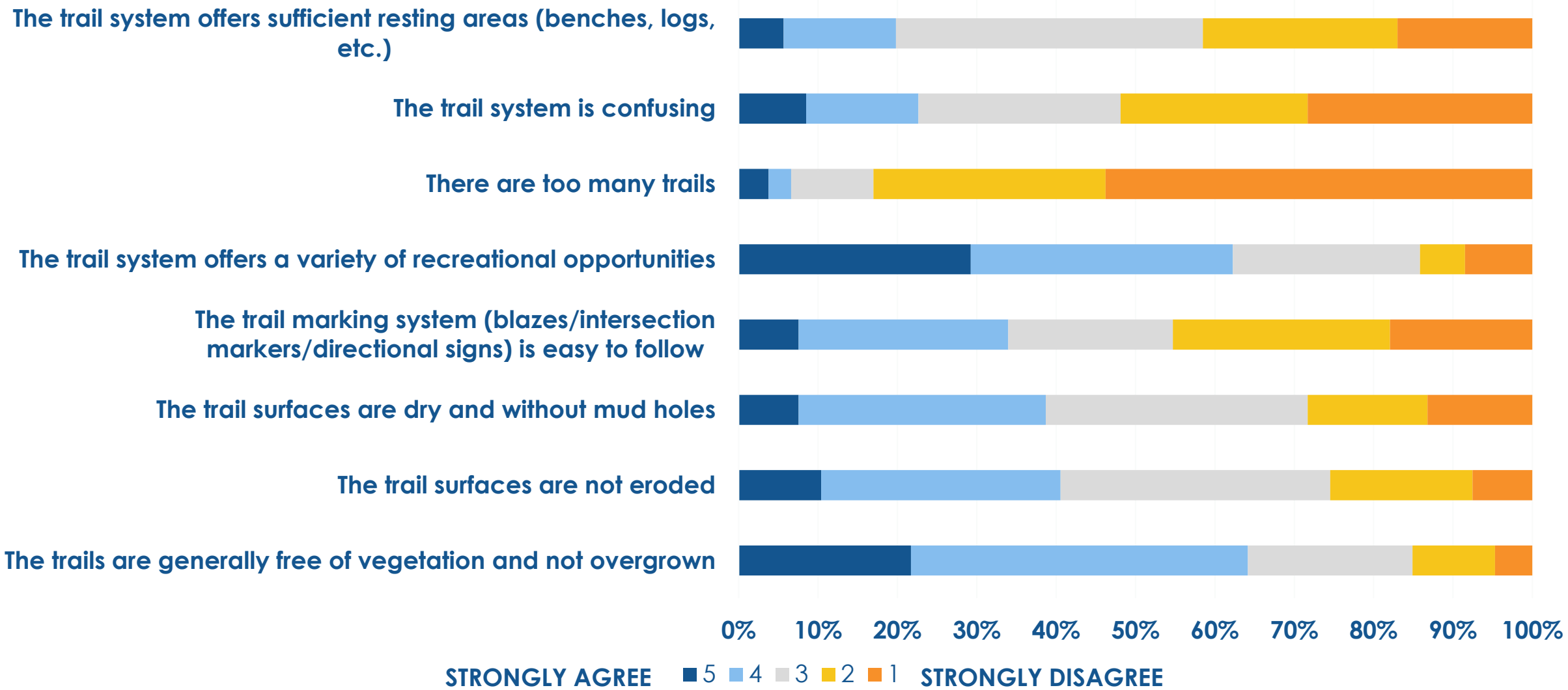
- ▶ 108 responses (from April to Oct 20<sup>th</sup>)
- ▶ Responses are on a scale of 1 to 5 where:
  - ▶ 1 equals STRONGLY DISAGREE
  - ▶ 5 equals STRONGLY AGREE





# Public Survey Results To-Date

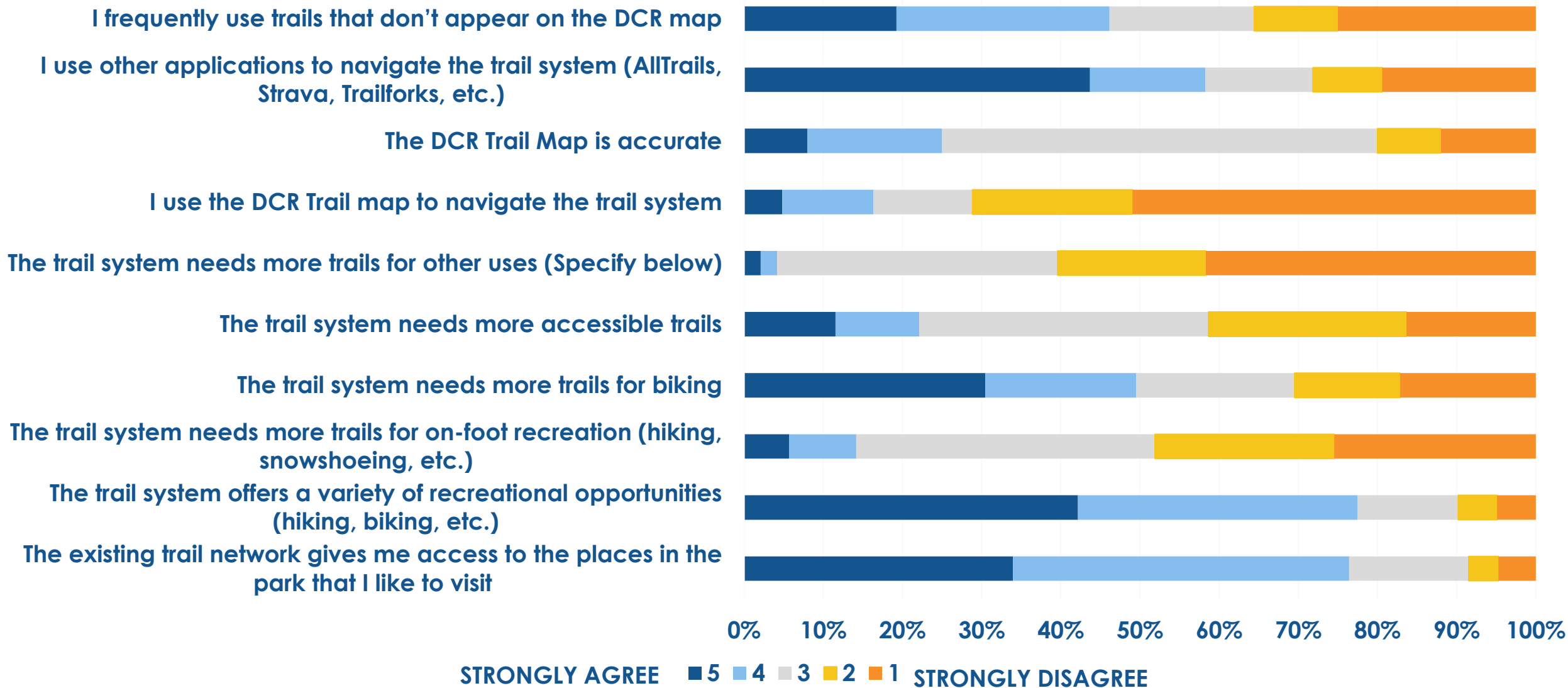
## Trail Condition and Navigability





# Public Survey Results To-Date

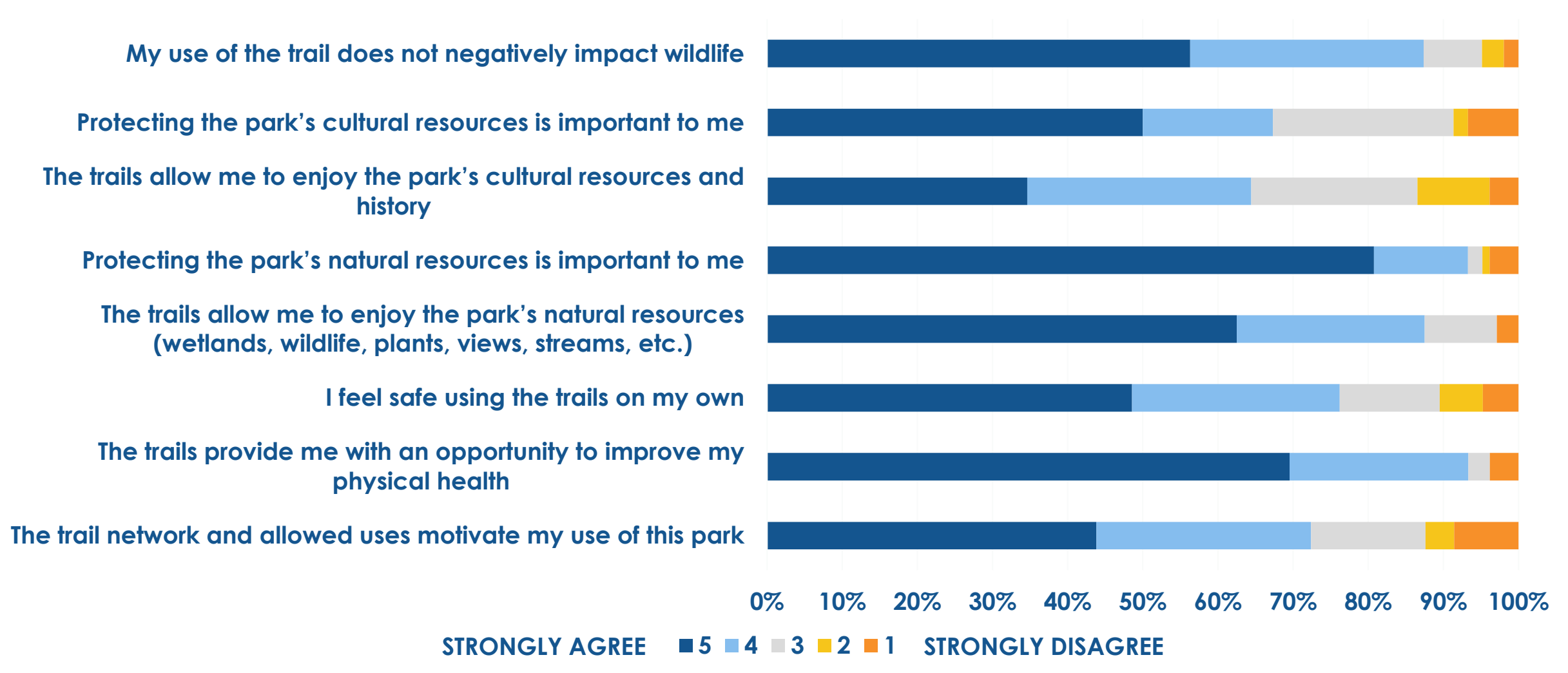
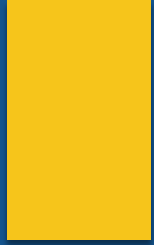
## Site Access and Recreational Opportunities





# Public Survey Results To-Date

## Trail Use Motivation





# Public Comment



- ▶ Use the Q&A feature – comments go to the moderator
- ▶ Raise your hand using the Zoom function, and you will be given permissions to unmute and speak



# Discussion Questions



- ▶ How do you use Cutler Park?
- ▶ What is your favorite trail at this park and why?
- ▶ What is your least favorite trail and why?
- ▶ What, if anything, prevents you from fully enjoying the trails at this park?
- ▶ What activities, facilities, or services would make you feel more welcome or more satisfied with your trail experience in this park?
- ▶ What is the biggest challenge facing this park's trails?
- ▶ Any other information about this park's trails that you think is important for us to know



# Public Comment

- ▶ **Recording and tonight's slide deck will be available at:** <https://www.mass.gov/dcr-public-meetings-information>
- ▶ If you have comments on this project:
  - ▶ Submit online: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments>
  - ▶ Deadline: November 19, 2025  
Please note: the contents of comments submitted to DCR, including your name, town and zip code, will be posted on DCR's website. Additional contact information provided, notably email address, will only be used for outreach on future updates to the subject project or property.
- ▶ If you wish to subscribe to a DCR general information or project-related listserv: contact DCR's Office of Community Relations via email at [mass.parks@mass.gov](mailto:mass.parks@mass.gov)





# Thank you!

