

# Winter Trails Maintenance: What We Heard- summary report

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Report prepared by Communications  
May 2022



The Winter Maintenance Policy is due for review in 2022. Transportation and Agriculture Services is reviewing trail clearing priorities and timelines to ensure they are meeting community needs.

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## Engagement / Survey Results

This spring, the public was invited to complete a survey about winter maintenance on County-maintained trails/pathways. We received 1,163 survey responses with 85% of respondents from urban areas and 15% rural areas. The survey invited input about how and where residents use trails and pathways, satisfaction with current priorities/practices and where improvements can be made.

### Trail/pathway usage

- 83% of respondents use County maintained trails/pathways at least a few times a month through the winter
- 96% use the trails/pathways for recreation (including dog walking)
- 73% use pathways that connect my neighbourhood
- 74% have used the pathways less in winter because of ice/snow
- 58% say they would use destination trails in the winter if the County created more

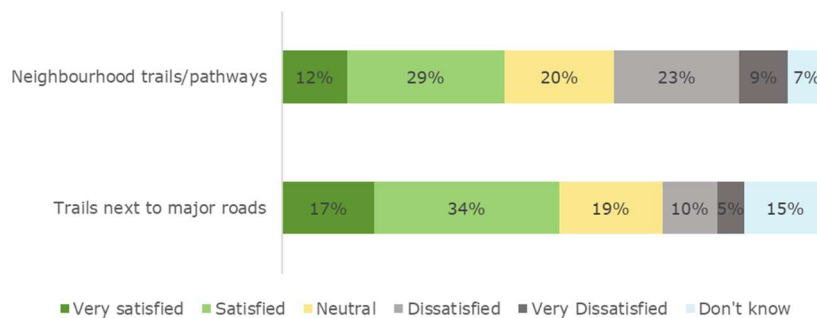
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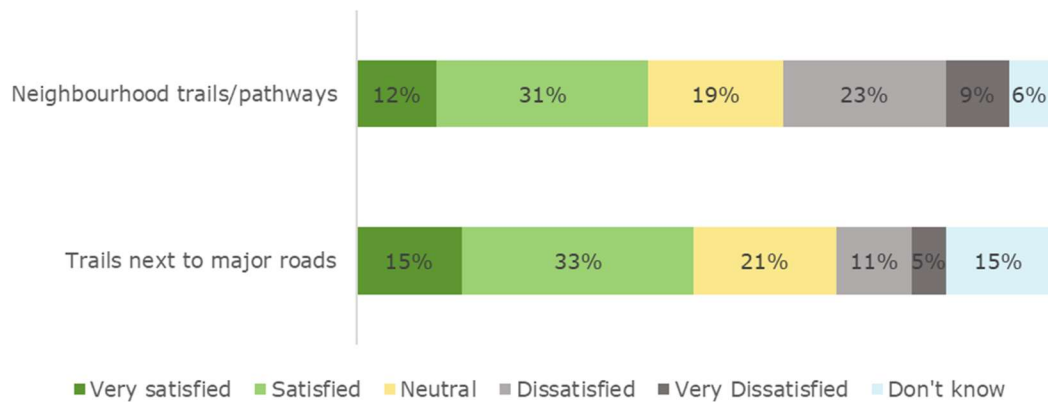
### Satisfaction

Overall, most residents reported they were very satisfied/satisfied/neutral with timing and quality of clearing of trails and pathways. Satisfaction with neighbourhood trails/pathways was lower than for those along major roads.

Satisfaction with the amount of time taken for clearing:



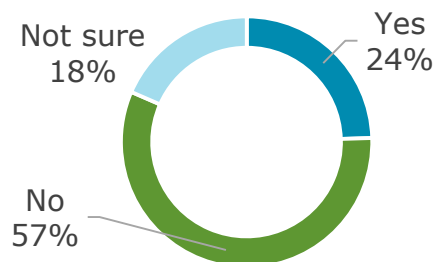
## Satisfaction with the quality of snow clearing/ice control



## Perspectives on current and future priorities

- 62% of respondents agree/strongly agree with the County's current priority approach to winter maintenance of trails/pathways
- Respondents expressed the highest preference for improving quality of ice control, clearing pathways in a shorter timeline and educating/encouraging residents to clear privately maintained sidewalks.

## Support for a tax increase to improve trail/pathway clearing



## What's Next?

Input from residents and stakeholders will be used to update the Winter Maintenance Policy and inform potential changes. Feedback will be used alongside technical and financial information to ensure efficiency, accessibility, safety, and value for tax dollars are all considered in final decision-making for this project.

## More Information

Transportation and Agriculture Services

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Website: <https://www.strathcona.ca/transportation-roads/winter-roads/trail-clearing/>

Read the Full Report: <https://www.strathcona.ca/council-county/public-engagement/completed-consultations/>