

## THE RES USER SURVEY – TAKEAWAYS

Date: 10.17.2018

**Respondents care about The Res.** It's a popular property for walking/hiking, mountain biking, nature observation, and swimming (and lots of other uses). Some of the things that people like about the property include:

- Experience of being in nature/peace and quiet, etc.
- The variety, and quality, of different recreational opportunities
- Provides habitat for birds and other wildlife
- The Res is safe and family friendly

**Respondents use The Res in different ways.**

- The majority of respondents indicated that they hiked/walked, mountain biked, or used the swimming area, but many also mentioned other recreational activities.
- People who use The Res include those from town, but also people who live elsewhere and travel to Hallowell to use The Res.
- Most people use the property in the summer/spring/fall, but some respondents indicated they also visit in the winter.
- People visit by themselves, with friends, or with family – a number of people said they visit with their family, suggesting that The Res should be “kid-friendly.”
- A majority of respondents visit The Res once a month or more, suggesting that we primarily heard from regular users.

**Respondents had specific suggestions for what should change at The Res.** In general people like The Res and what it has to offer, but mentioned specific things that should change to make their experience better:

- Conflicts between recreational users occur (e.g., dogs vs. bikes, bikes vs. humans, dogs vs. humans, dogs vs. dogs, families vs. people partying at the beach). This is probably because the rules are unclear. The absence of trail signage, maps, or rules-of-the-road for users also makes conflict more likely and makes it hard for people to know what to expect.
- Lots of suggestions for how to fix, add to, or otherwise change the trail system (e.g., adding new trails and creating better connections between trails and between The Res and other places).
- The buildings/facilities generally are dilapidated or otherwise inadequate and need to be repaired/enhanced
- The permitting system for parking feels unfair and/or confusing to some respondents. Having one lot that is free and another for residents or pay-to-play users may be confusing, and it is not always clear how one obtains a permit.