Buffalo Bayou Natural Trails

21st Sept 2022

Tracy Dorrington
Brad Moore

BACKGROUND

- Unique area
- Good that GHORBA has done
  - ✓Houston region
  - ✓~pre-2019 for Anthills

ISSUE since 2019

- Loss of Habitat and reduced natural beauty (Terry Hershey)
- Discouraging Multi-use (safety concerns)
- TROE not understood

SOLUTION

Discussions with HCFCD, Precinct 4 and GHORBA

- Sustainable (Social, Environmental, Economic (liability)
- Multi-use
- Trust and Transparency

Natural Trails at Risk

cement on jumps dig pits painted trees equipment

Cement used on jumps

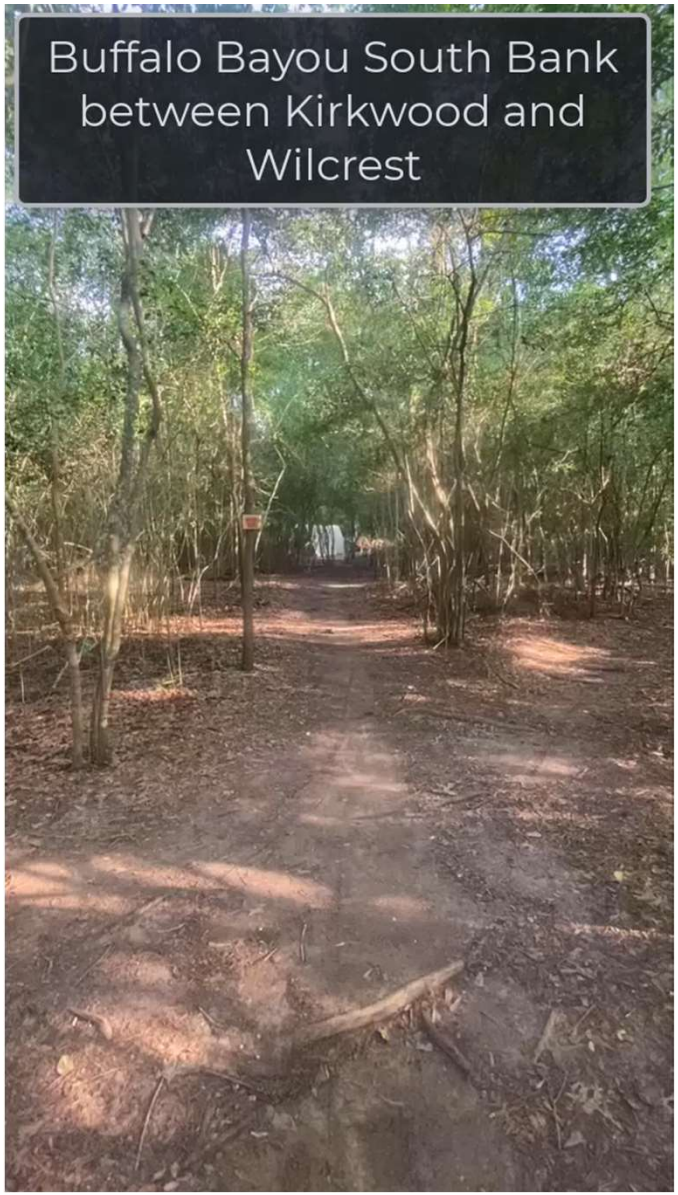
Nov 6, 2021

Dig pits

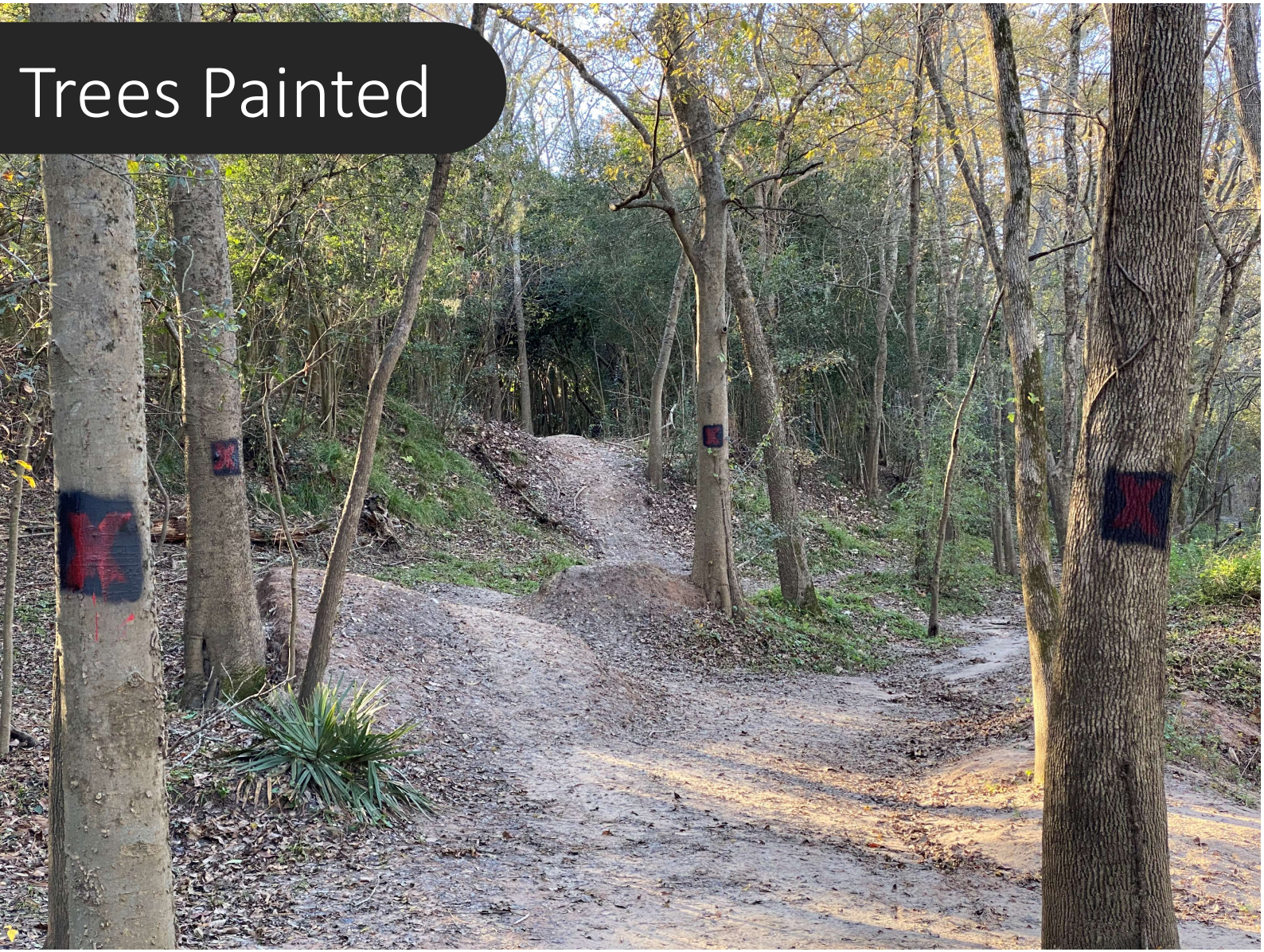
Apr 11, 2021

Cut Roots

Trees Cut



Trees Painted



TROE

Authority for permanent construction or modification of all trails, technical features, and appurtenances upon the District's Lands other than restorative or for safety-related purposes is not permitted.

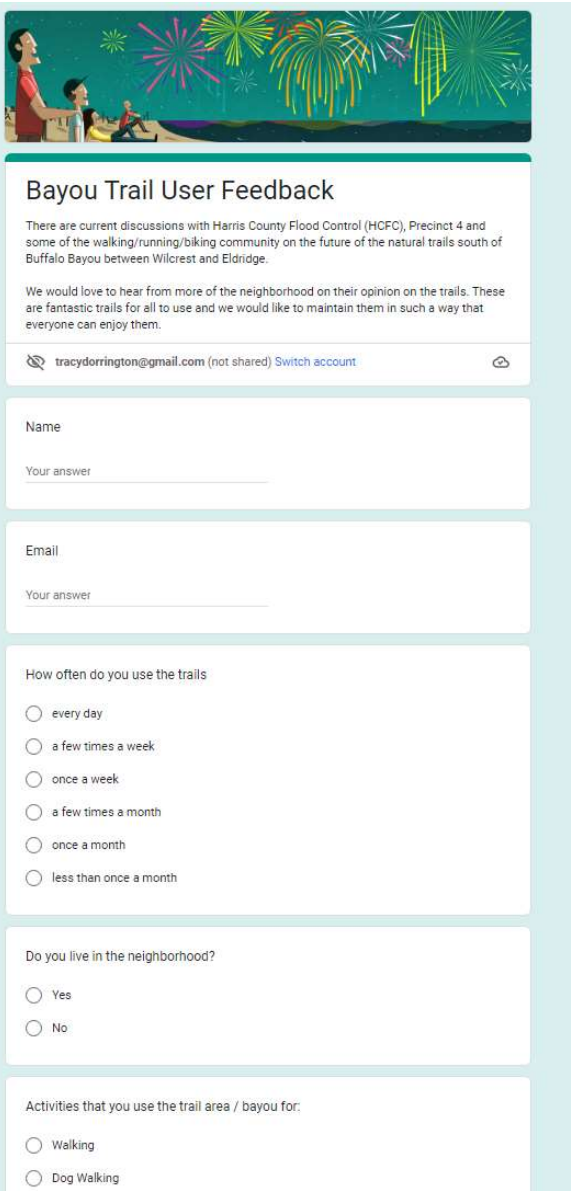
Aug 3, 2022

Modifications

Cement added to jumps

Violation of TROE

- Permanent construction of wooden sides on jumps
- Modification of trail



Bayou Trail User Feedback

There are current discussions with Harris County Flood Control (HCFC), Precinct 4 and some of the walking/running/biking community on the future of the natural trails south of Buffalo Bayou between Wilcrest and Eldridge.

We would love to hear from more of the neighborhood on their opinion on the trails. These are fantastic trails for all to use and we would like to maintain them in such a way that everyone can enjoy them.

tracydorrington@gmail.com (not shared) Switch account

Name

Your answer

Email

Your answer

How often do you use the trails

- every day
- a few times a week
- once a week
- a few times a month
- once a month
- less than once a month

Do you live in the neighborhood?

- Yes
- No

Activities that you use the trail area / bayou for:

- Walking
- Dog Walking

- 78% love the natural trails
- 68% mention nature as reason why they love them

I love the trails. I love the animals I can see. I wish people would not leave their trash behind. Maybe a few more trash cans would be helpful! There should not been anymore bike jumps been built.

I like them as is , I'm afraid if they pave the area it will attract more people. There is a paved trail on the north side so I don't see a need for any paving on the south side

Want to keep them as natural as possible

I love the trails, please don't destroy them! I hate the high-speed biking jumps that have been installed pretty much everywhere on the trails. These are very dangerous to pedestrians.

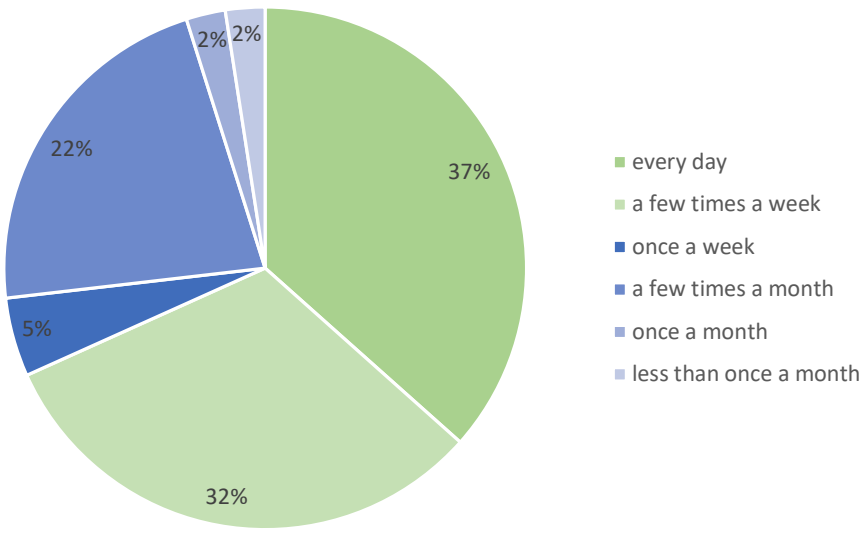
Like the easy access - Bicyclists tent to be careless with pedestrian

Love the ruggedness and pure nature feel. The only area in Houston easily accessible without hearing traffic and great small hikes for kids. I hate the high usage, both people and bikes on weekends. We avoid visiting the area on weekends or holidays and go in the mornings.

Feedback from Residents

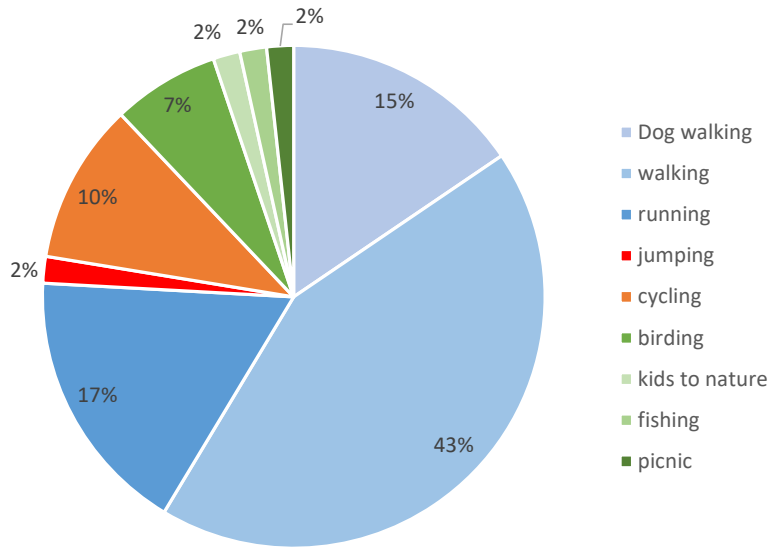
Activity

Frequency of Use



69% on the trails a few times a week/every day

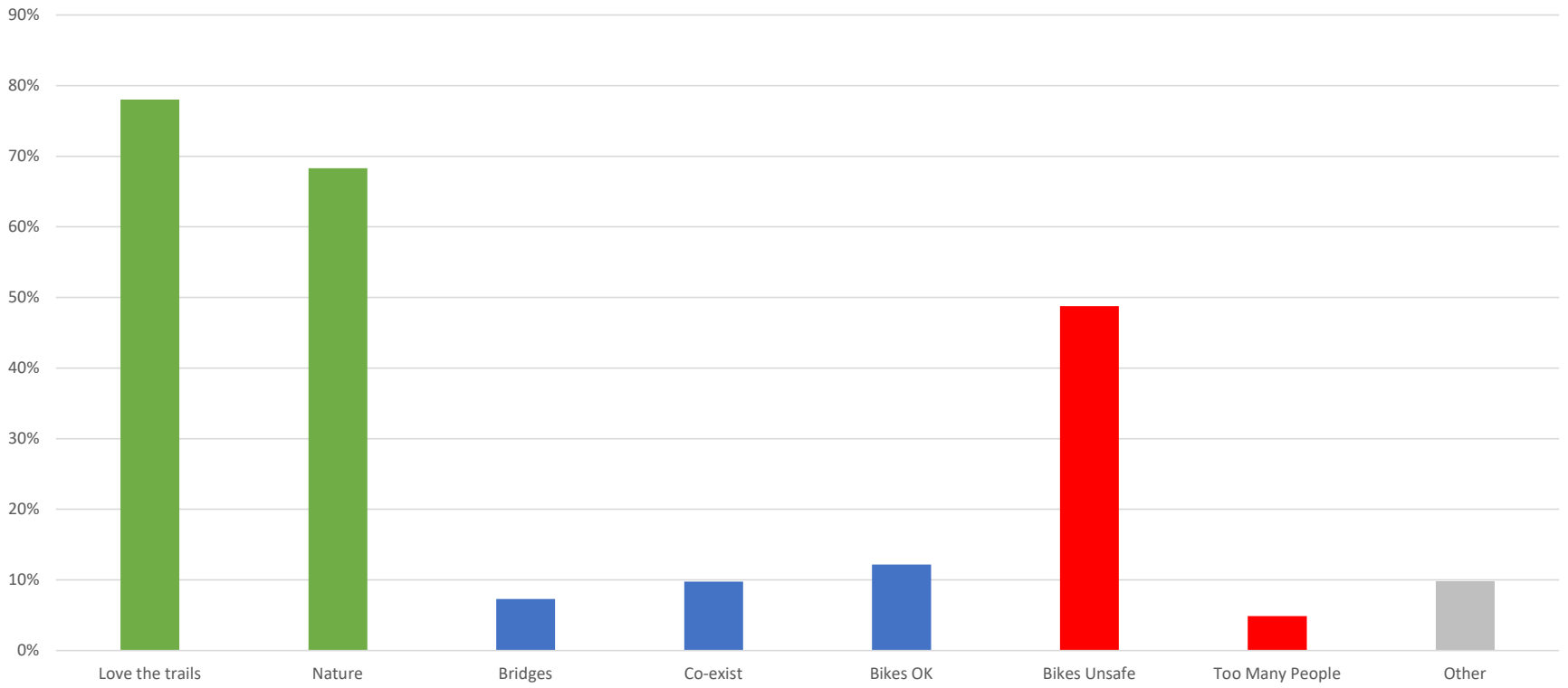
Type of Use



76% walking/running
12% nature
12% biking

Feedback from Residents

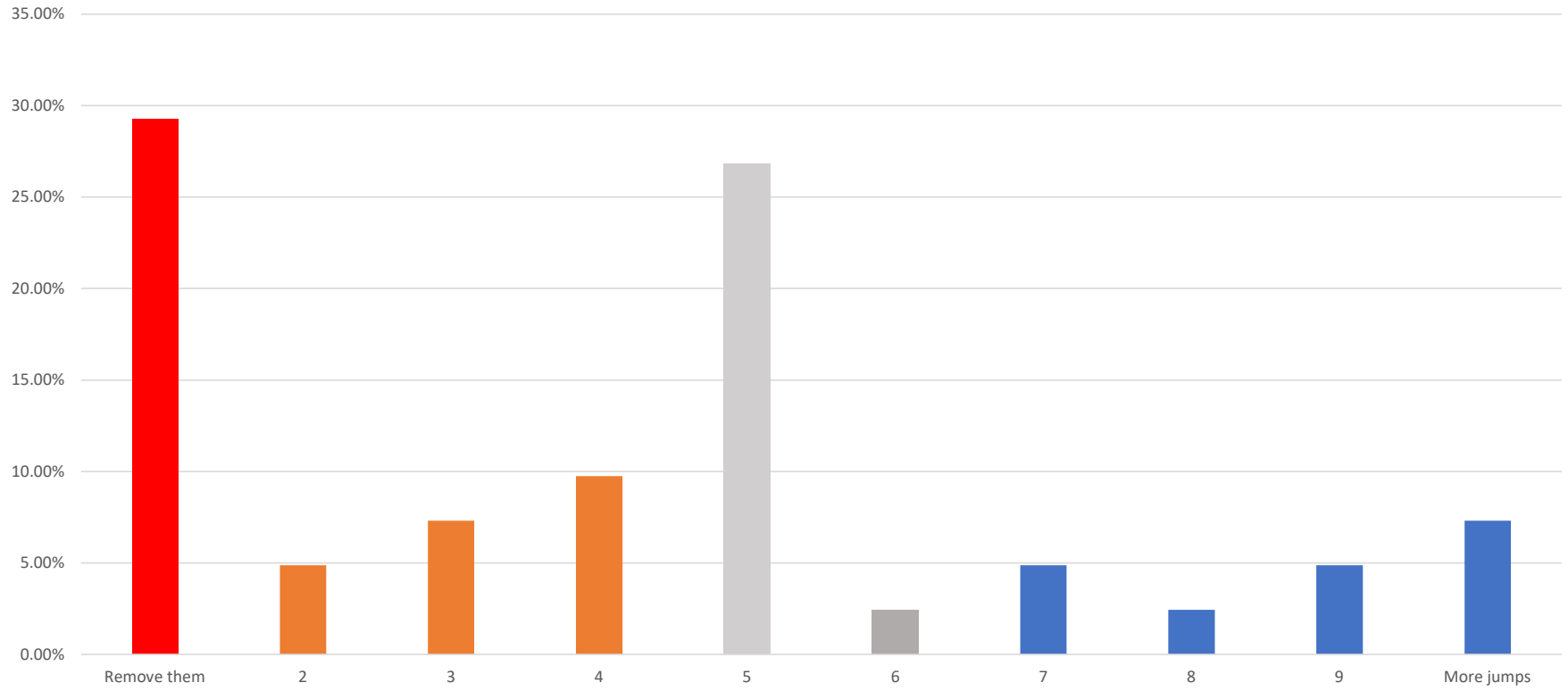
What do you love / hate?



Feedback from Residents

Technical Features

51.2% remove
29.3% as is
19.5% more



Feedback from Residents

Growing Concern about bikes

- I've seen too many near misses with children and other trail runners and walkers with bikers who adopt a "get out of my way " attitude as the come barreling off the jumps. I don't mind having one area for this type of biking but not along the whole trail. It's dangerous.
- I cannot have a fun walk with my granddaughters there any more for fear of them getting run over by bikers who don't even announce that they are approaching.
- I have also witnessed at least 5 rescues by the paramedics of bikers that fell and could not move. Lots of these men are not experienced and I have seen many children under 12 doing these jumps, some even without helmets.
- It is more dangerous to walk with bikers on the path, than on the highway with cars.
- I do not understand why officials allow construction in a flood control managed area. They should be removed.
- The bike jumps have become hurdles make it difficult to walk even when bikers are around. You always have to look out for bikers raising down the trails wanting to jump over crossing paths and be ready to jump behind a tree when they come racing

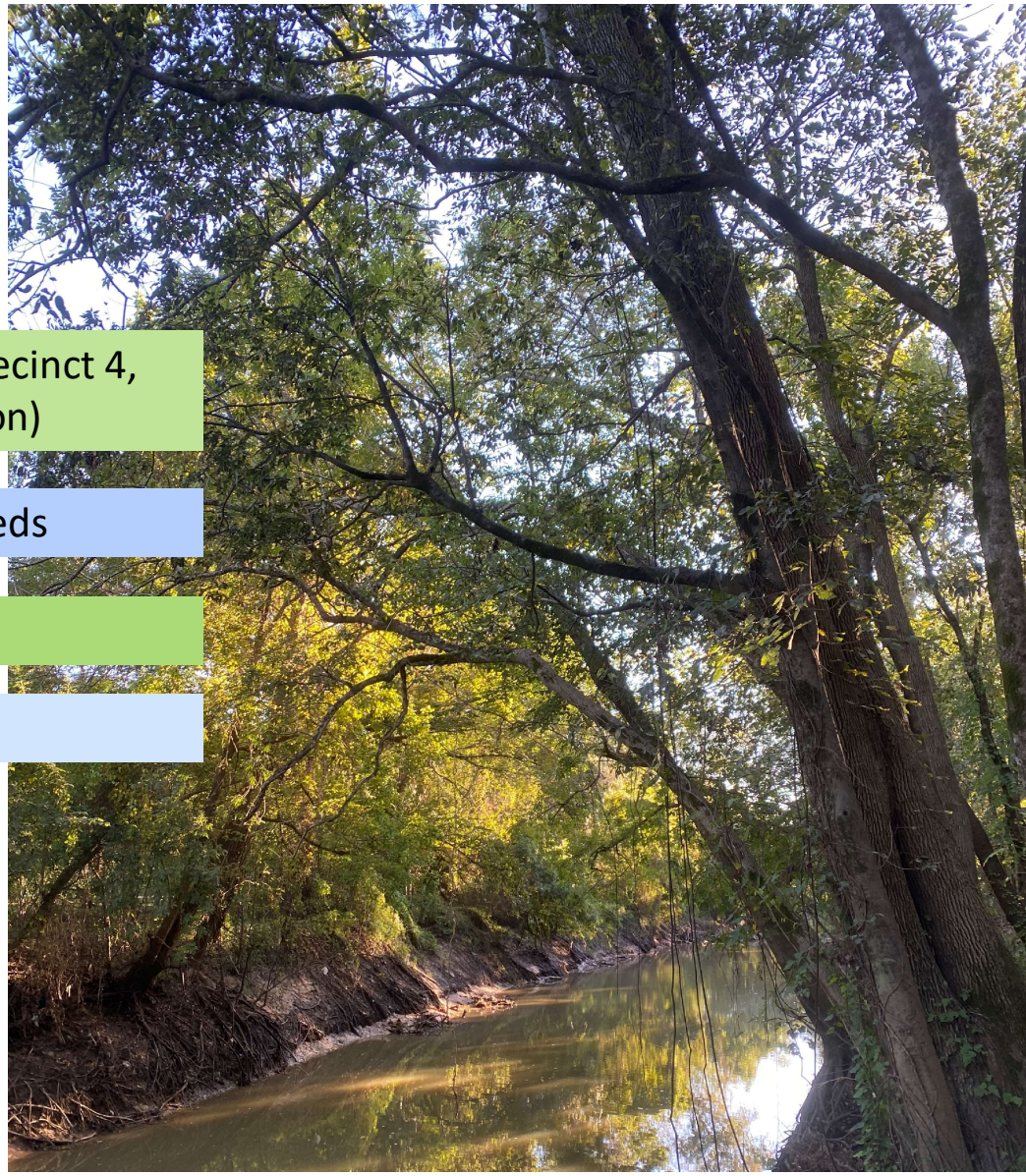
Way forward …

Continued discussions with GHORBA, HCFCD, Precinct 4, Residents (Brad Moore and Tracy Dorrington)

Anthills needs a solution to fit it unique needs

TROE until agreement can be reached

Please provide feedback to us

Scan me!

https://www.buffalobayoutrailcoalition.org/