

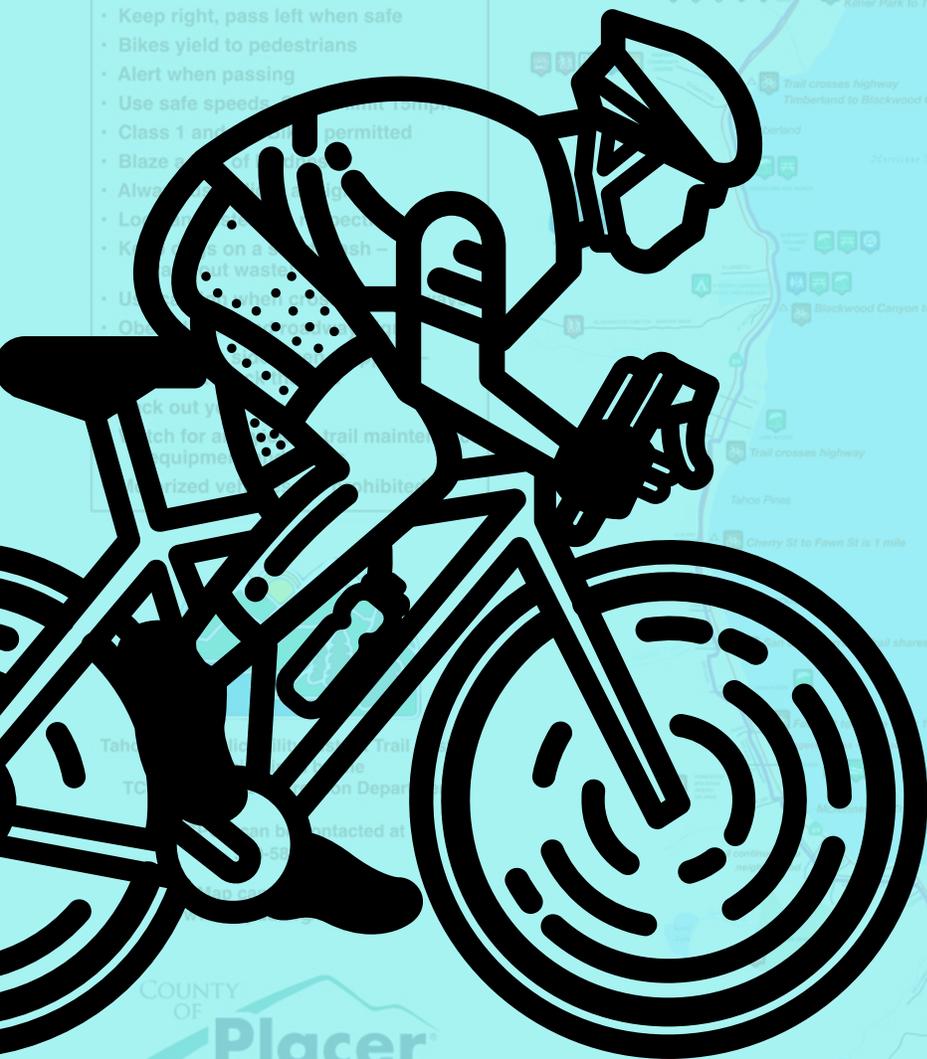
# NORTH LAKE TAHOE Multi-Use Trail System

## Tahoe City Public Utility District Multi-Use Trail System Annual Survey and User Counts Summary Report 2019

Share the Path.  
Be kind. Be safe.  
Take care.

This is a multi-use trail system  
enjoyed by bicyclists, pedestrians,  
skateboarders, joggers,  
and dog walkers alike.

- Keep right, pass left when safe
- Bikes yield to pedestrians
- Alert when passing
- Use safe speeds
- Class 1 and 2 e-bikes permitted
- Blaze a path if necessary
- Always wear your seat belt
- Lock your bike
- Keep your bike on a paved surface - no off-road use
- Use proper bike repair techniques
- Obey all posted signs and regulations



### LEGEND

- TOPUD TRAIL SYSTEM
- PLACER COUNTY TRAIL SYSTEM
- ▲ DISTANCE MARKERS
- STATE HIGHWAY
- HIGHWAY ROUNDABOUT
- LOCAL ROADWAY
- 🏖️ BEACH / LAKE ACCESS
- 🔧 BIKE REPAIR STATION
- 🚤 BOAT LAUNCH
- 🏕️ CAMPGROUND
- 🏠 EMERGENCY MEDICINE
- 👤 HIKING / TRAILHEAD
- 📖 LIBRARY
- 🏠 MULTI-USE RECREATION SITE
- 🏠 RESTAURANT
- 🏠 TRAIL
- 🏠 TRAILHEAD

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Tahoe City Public Utility District  
Parks & Recreation

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## *Introduction*

The Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) has conducted user counts and intercept surveys (Trail Survey) on its Multi-Use Trail System since 2005. The user counts and surveys are conducted during the same time of August each year, the first Wednesday and Thursday of the month in order to provide consistent and comparable data year over year. This report represents a summary of the information gathered from the user counts and surveys conducted August 7 and August 8, 2019, and also highlights a comparison of 2019 survey results to those conducted in recent years. A total of 301 participants responded to the 2019 Trail Survey and all findings and graphical representations are derived from these results. Additionally, a total of 4,098 trail users were counted over the two day period.

The purpose of the 17-question Trail Survey is to document trail usage, the volume of trail usage, and user characteristics. Additionally, the survey provides the TCPUD with an analysis of:

- trail users' opinions with regards to trail conditions, maintenance and signage;
- improvements desired by trail users, as well as concerns and general feedback;
- the importance of the trail system to the community and visitors;
- support for future funding opportunities to finance new trails, trail connections, and trail improvements; and
- the impact of each new trail project to the community and funding partners

Two new questions were added to the 2019 Trail Survey to address current user characteristics. The additional questions included the following:

1. Are you using an electric-assisted bicycle today?
2. Have you, or would you, consider using the trail system in the winter?

The addition of question #1 was included to capture the increasing popularity of electric-assisted bicycles (E-bikes) and to provide trail users with rules and codes of conduct regarding allowable uses of Class 1 and 2 E-bikes on the trail system. Question #2 was included to gauge the current and future interest of winter use and access. This information helps the TCPUD plan for increases or decreases in winter snow removal operations within the trail system.

## *Survey Methodology and Locations*

User counts and surveys were conducted by a team of TCPUD staff, partner agencies, and community volunteers at four locations along different trail segments within the TCPUD Multi-Use Trail System (Figure 1). User counts were recorded in 15 minute intervals within a 12-hour period. User counts and surveys were taken on two consecutive days, and at different times of day, to record as many types of users as possible.

The intercept survey locations include:

1. Truckee River Trail, just south of River Ranch
2. North Lake Blvd., immediately north of the Lighthouse Center adjacent to Hwy 89
3. 64 Acres Park, just south of the Tahoe City Wye at the Transit Center
4. West Shore Trail, corner of Cherry St. and Hwy 89



Figure 1: 2019 TCPUD Multi-Use Trail Survey Locations

## Multi-Use Trail Improvement Projects

One of the primary goals of the on-going Trail Survey is to ensure the TCPUD adequately addresses and responds to improvement opportunities that further the public's enjoyment of the trail system. Over the past several years, three significant trail improvement projects were completed, providing new trail segments and trail rehabilitation to existing trail segments within the trail system. In 2016, the Homewood Bike Trail project was opened to the public. This 1-mile trail segment was important to construct as it created a safe trail alignment along the west shore through Homewood, CA. The Meeks Bay Trail project was completed in 2018 and provides a new .7-mile trail segment connecting Sugar Pine Point State Park southward to Meeks Bay Resort along Hwy 89. With these two new completed trail segments, a continuous multi-use trail system now exists between Squaw Valley and Meeks Bay following the popular Truckee River on the north shore down along Lake Tahoe's west shore. Also in 2018, the TCPUD celebrated the grand re-opening of the newly rehabilitated Truckee River Trail. Originally constructed in 1980, the Truckee River Trail experienced deterioration as a result of age, wear, and natural weathering. In total, approximately 4 miles of trail was reconstructed to address this deterioration as well as improving erosion control and drainage features. Additionally, two projects completed in 2019 serve the users directly by adding bike repair stations and wayfinding signage throughout the trail system. The TCPUD partnered with the North Tahoe Public Utility District to install 8 bicycle repair stations throughout each agency's trail networks. Each station is equipped with a selection of secured tools, a stand, and a pump to aid users with routine and minor repairs. The TCPUD installed 29 new wayfinding signs within the trail system. The updated signs include new trail segments, bike repair station locations, and new code of conduct rules. These five completed projects were the result of many years of planning, public outreach, and funding coordination with multiple partners.

## *2019 Highlighted Findings for the Multi-Use Trail System*

- ❖ Nearly all respondents (91%) claim the trails play a significant positive role in their enjoyment of North Lake Tahoe. (Extremely or Very Much)
- ❖ 72% of the respondents were visitors or part time residents. This percentage has been relatively consistent, within 2% since 2014. However, in 2019 the visitor/part-time percentage was reduced by 6% compared to 2018.
- ❖ 68% of the respondents who drove to the trail did so because of safety concerns or because riding or walking on the road is not enjoyable, this number is up 21% from 2018.
- ❖ 48% of the respondents would have used a car for their trip had they not been using the trail, representing a 1% increase from 2018 and 13% increase from 2017.
- ❖ The ratio of pedestrians to cyclists was 1.4:2, in 2018 that ratio was 1:2, and in 2017 that ratio was 1:3.
- ❖ 39% of the trail use was for recreation and sightseeing, 32% of use was purely for exercise, 25% of use was transportation to shopping/dining/activities, 5% of use was transportation to work.
- ❖ 49% of all survey respondents were staying or live in Tahoe City or West Shore. (TCPUD service area)
- ❖ 11% of survey respondents reported using Electric “E-bikes” – which are allowed on the trails.
- ❖ 76% of survey respondents reported that they have, or would consider, using the trails in the winter.
- ❖ Total trail users counted increased by over 1,000 in 2019. (4,098 in 2019 vs. 3,024 in 2018)
- ❖ Total intercept surveys increased by 34 in 2019. (301 in 2019 vs. 268 in 2018)

## *2019 Highlighted Trail Survey Comments*

**(Of the 301 Trail Surveys collected, 150 user comments were recorded.)**

- ❖ 41% of comments expressed appreciation for the multi-use trails. (Thank you, Great, Love it)
- ❖ 19% of comments expressed concerns over signage.
  - Lack of trail signage
  - Inconsistent and/or confusing messaging (biking, walking, passing)
- ❖ 14% of comments requested more trails to be built.
  - A number of comments requested to continue the trail connection around Lake Tahoe.
- ❖ 10% of comments requested better highway crossings.
  - A number of comments identified safety concerns at the West Shore / Sequoia Trail crossing.
- ❖ 9% of comments requested continued repairs needed on trails, including:
  - Dollar Hill to Tahoe City Trail section
  - West Shore Trail section
- ❖ A number of comments expressed appreciation of recent TCPUD Multi-Use Trail System improvement projects.
  - Truckee River Trail Rehabilitation
  - Meeks Bay Trail Extension
  - New Bike Repair Stations

## *Multi-Use Trail Survey Results by Survey Location*

### *Truckee River*

User counts were conducted on the Truckee River Multi-Use Trail segment approximately 100 yards south of River Ranch and along Highway 89 between 7am and 1pm on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 and between 1pm and 7pm Thursday, August 8, 2019. Over the course of the 12 hour counting period, 66 surveys were completed (17 less than 2018) and reported 1,799 users, of which 45% were pedestrians and 55% were cyclists. Compared to 2018, the percent of pedestrians increased by 22%. Over the two days, peak usage occurred on Thursday, August 8, between 3:15pm-3:45pm, followed closely by 1:15pm-1:45pm on the same day. This varied as compared to the consistent 12:30pm-1:30pm peak times of previous years. This change might be attributed to warm weather and rafting in session in 2019.

### *North Lake Blvd.*

User counts were conducted on the North Shore Multi-Use Trail segment near the north entrance to Tahoe City, adjacent to the east of Safeway and just behind the bus stop between 7am and 1pm on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 and between 1pm and 7pm Thursday, August 8, 2019. Over the course of the 12 hour counting period, 81 surveys were completed (10 more than 2018) and reported 595 users, of which 42% were pedestrians and 58% were cyclists. Compared to 2018, the percent of cyclists increased 4%. Over the two days, peak usage occurred on Wednesday, August 7, between 8:30am and 9am.

### *64 Acres*

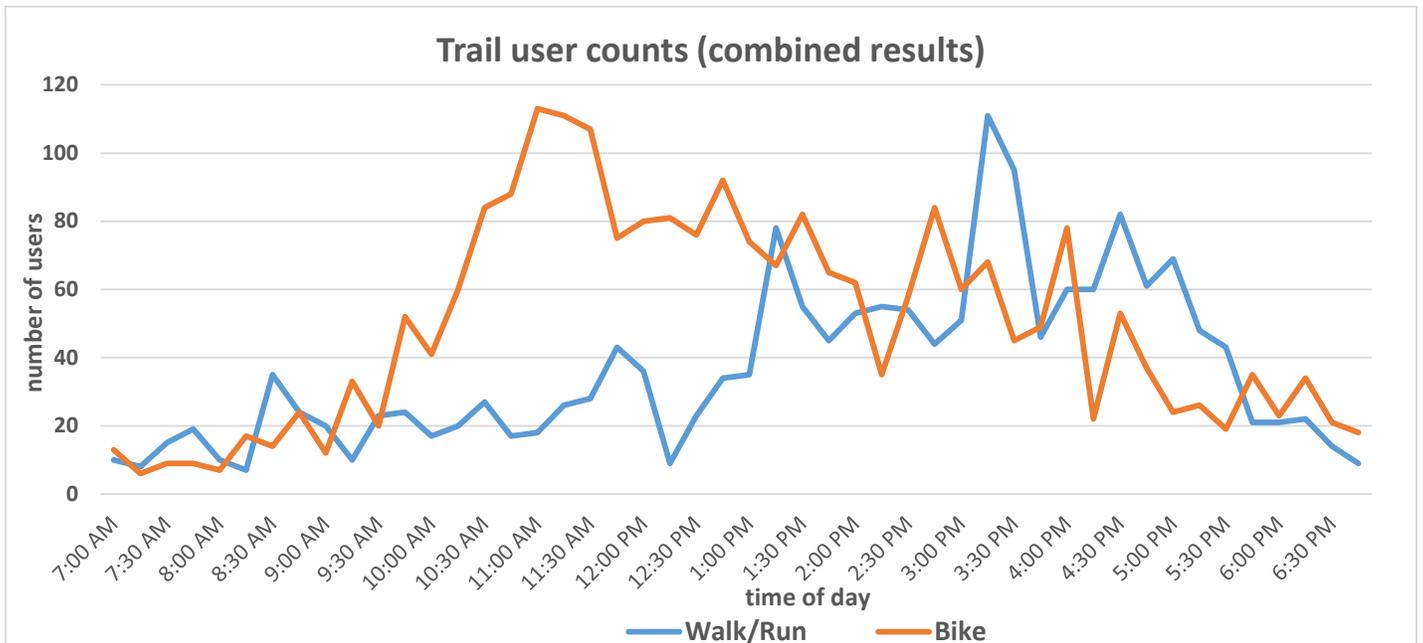
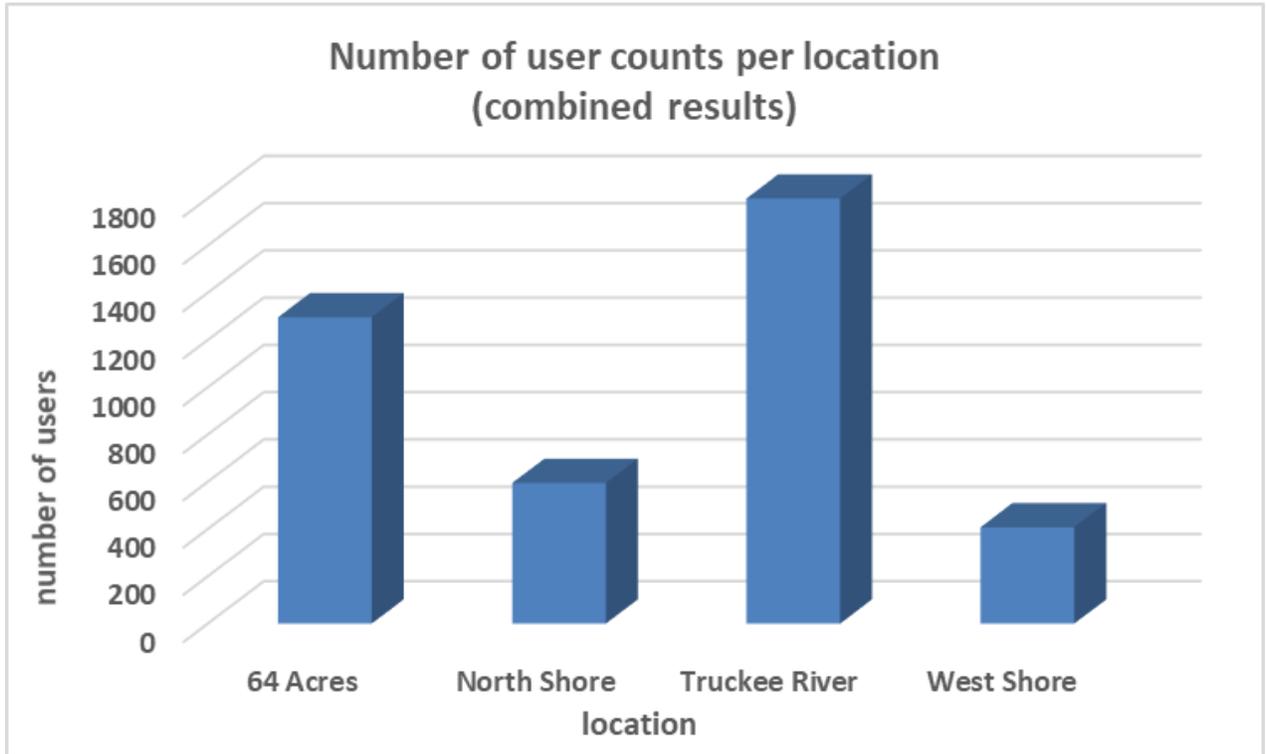
User counts were conducted on the 64 Acres Multi-Use Trail segment just south of the Tahoe City Wye, at 64 Acres between 7am and 1pm on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 and between 1pm and 7pm Thursday, August 8, 2019. Over the course of the 12 hour counting period, 87 surveys were completed (21 more than 2018) and reported 1,296 users, of which 44% were pedestrians and 56% were cyclists. Compared to 2018, the ratio of cyclists to pedestrians remained constant (cyclists increased by 1 percent). Over the two days, peak usage occurred on Wednesday, August 7, between 12:30pm and 1pm.

### *West Shore*

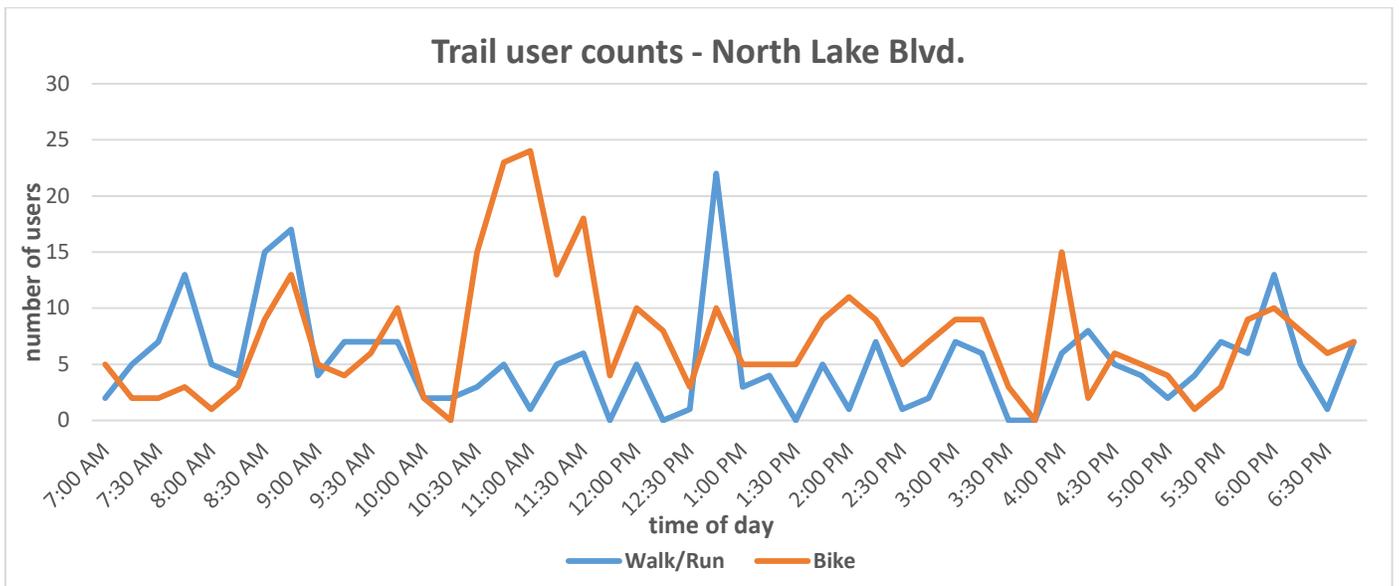
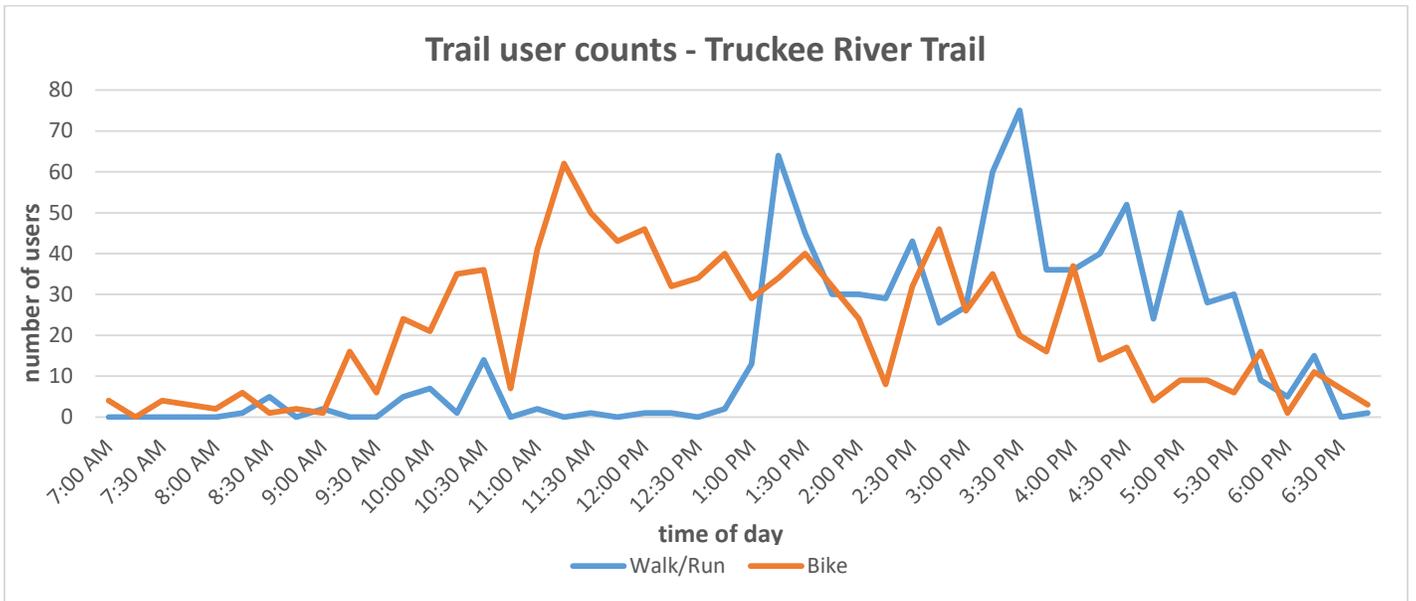
User counts were conducted on the West Shore Multi-Use Trail segment, at the corner of Cherry Street and Highway 89 between 7am and 1pm on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 and between 1pm and 7pm Thursday, August 8, 2019. Over the course of the 12 hour counting period, 67 surveys were completed (20 more than 2018) and reported 408 users, of which 28% were pedestrians and 72% were cyclists. Compared to 2018, the percent of pedestrians increased 4%. Over the two days, peak usage occurred on Wednesday, August 7, between 10:30am and 11am.

EXHIBIT A: TRAIL NETWORK USER COUNTS RESULTS

Trail Network User Counts Results



**EXHIBIT A: TRAIL NETWORK USER COUNTS RESULTS**



**EXHIBIT A: TRAIL NETWORK USER COUNTS RESULTS**

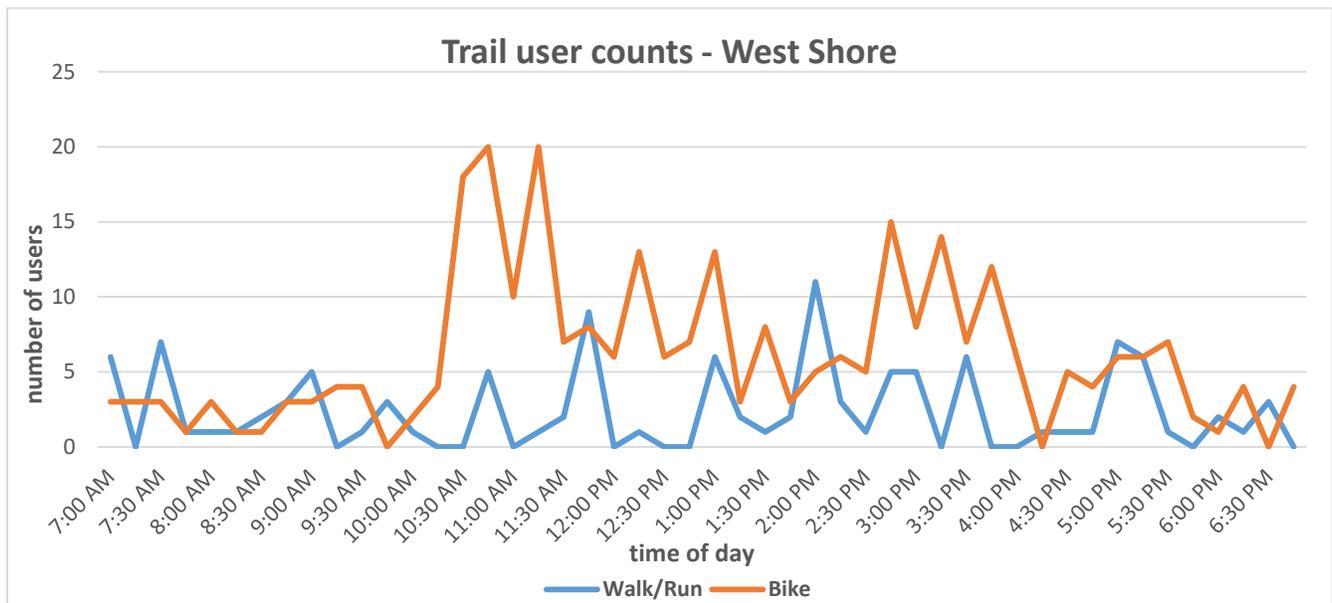
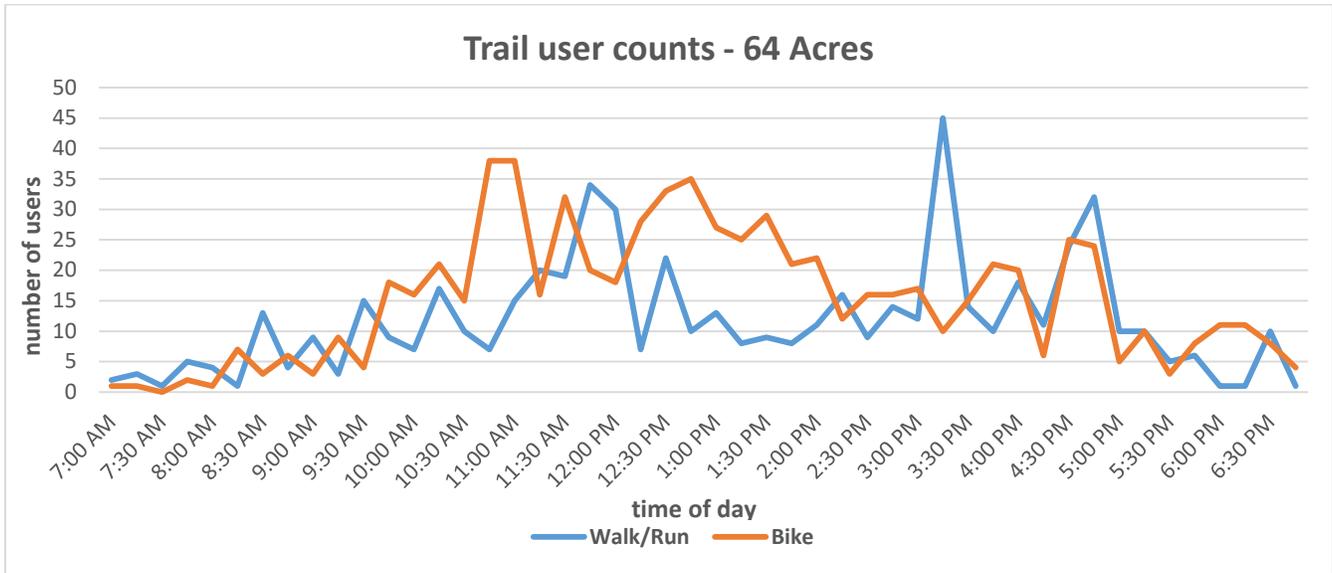


EXHIBIT B: TRAIL NETWORK SURVEY RESULTS

Trail Network Survey Results

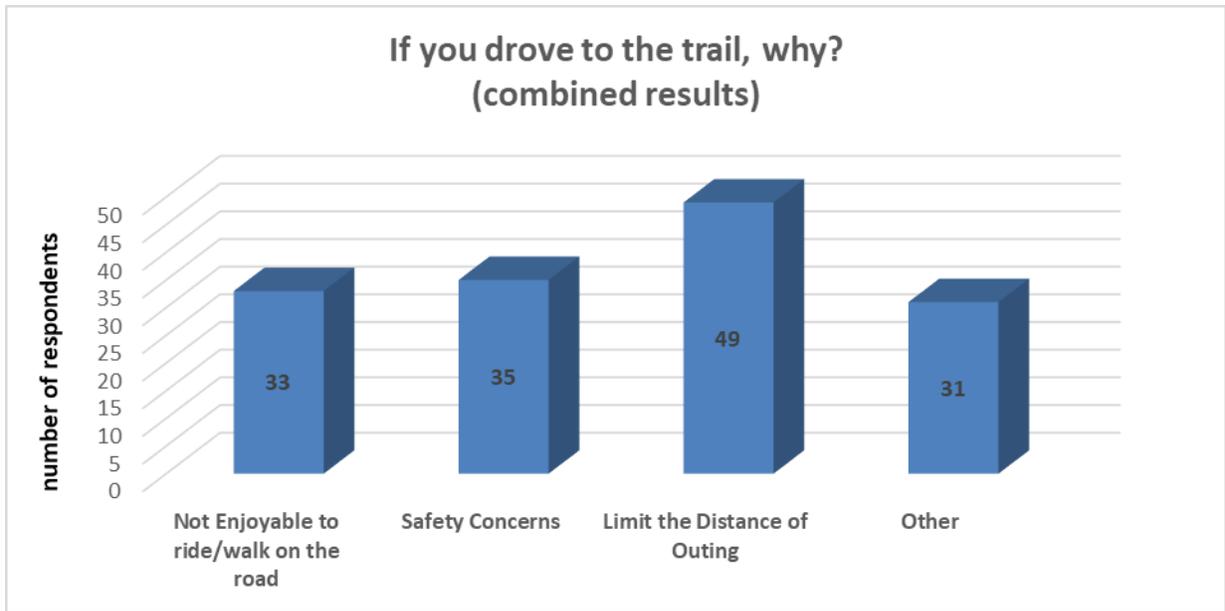
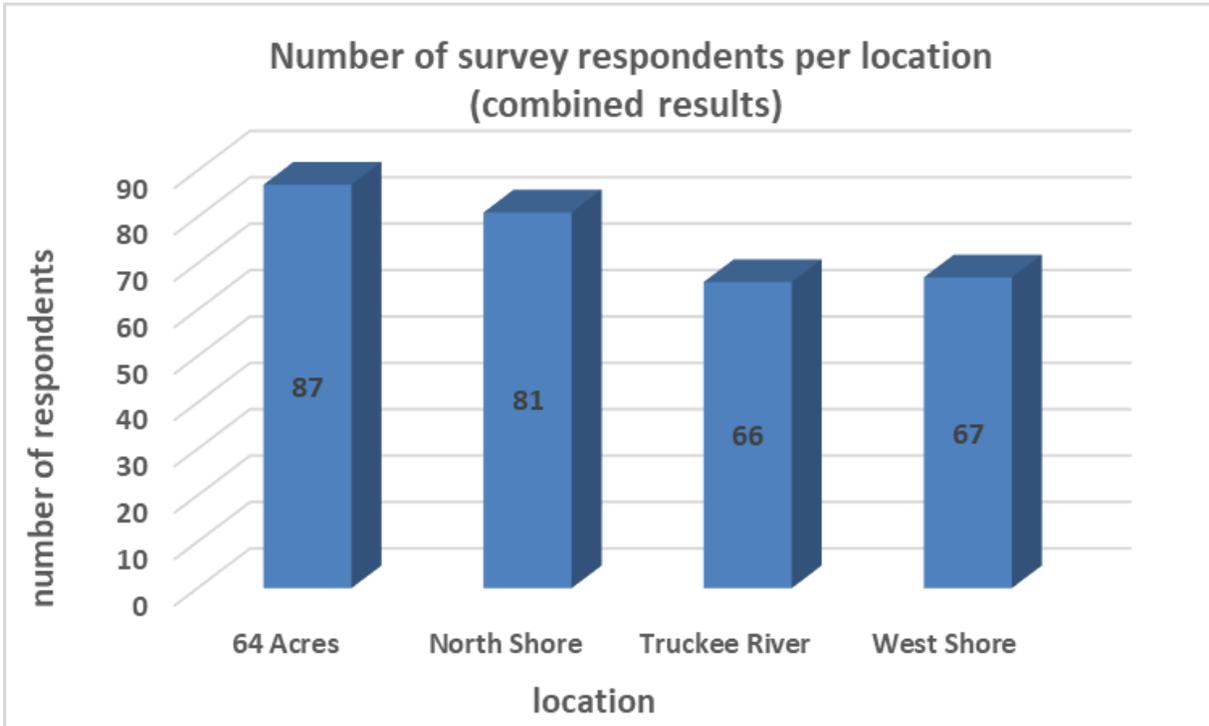
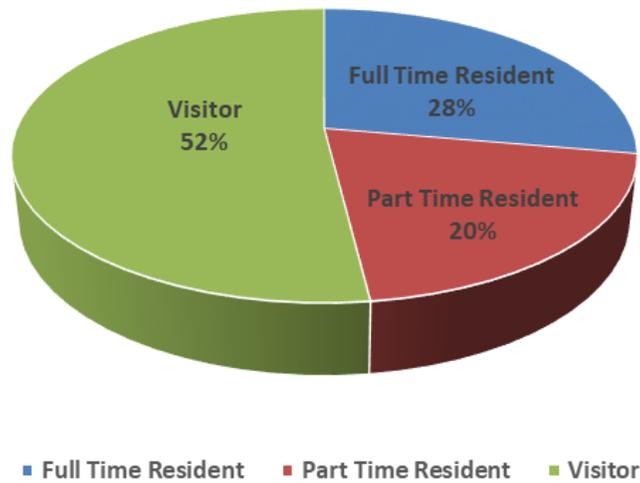
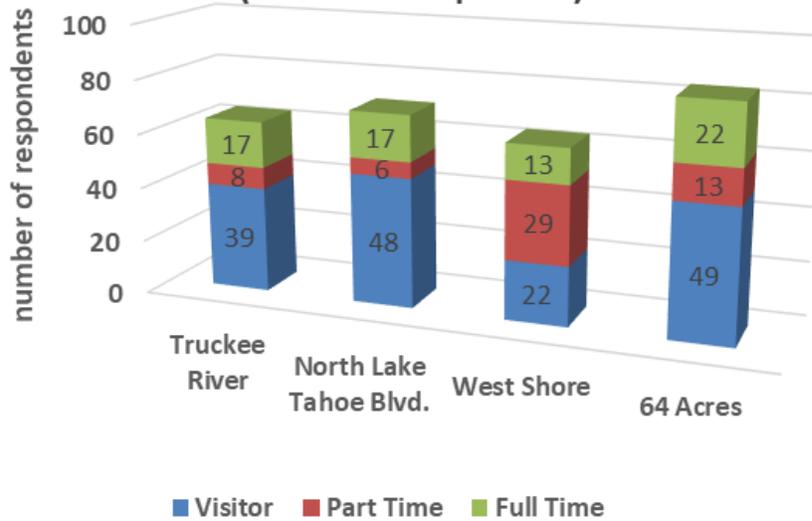


EXHIBIT B: TRAIL NETWORK SURVEY RESULTS

Who is using the multi-use trails?  
(combined results)

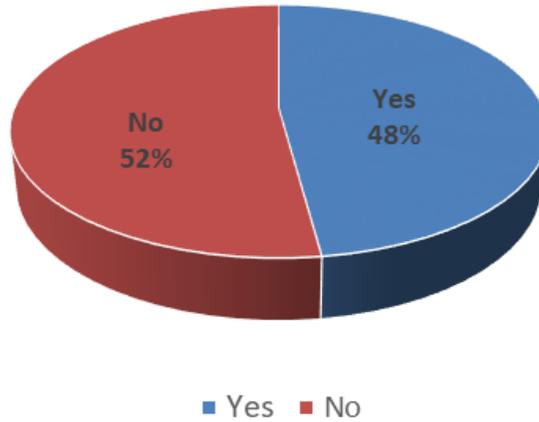


Who is using the multi-use trails?  
(location comparison)

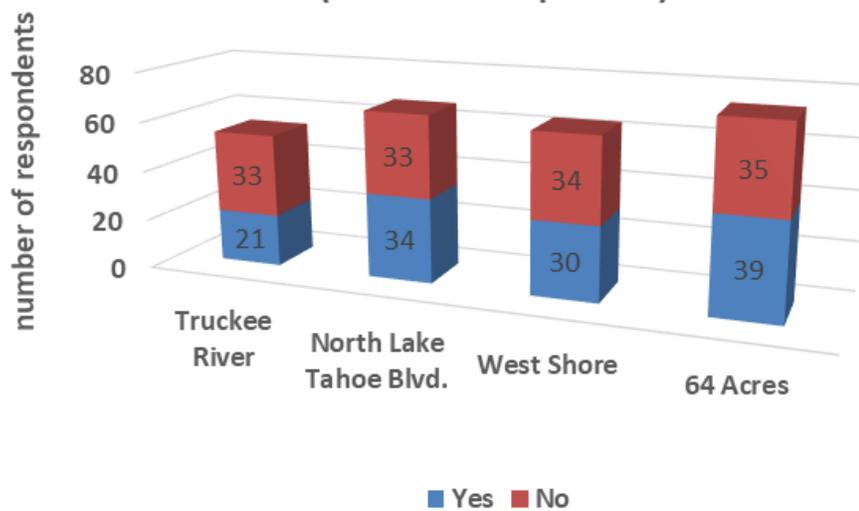


**EXHIBIT B: TRAIL NETWORK SURVEY RESULTS**

**If you weren't on the trail, would you be using your car for your trip?  
(combined results)**

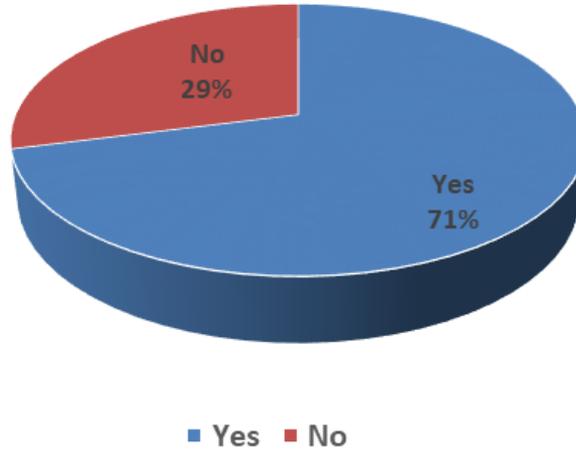


**If you weren't on the trail, would you be using your car to complete your trip?  
(location comparison)**

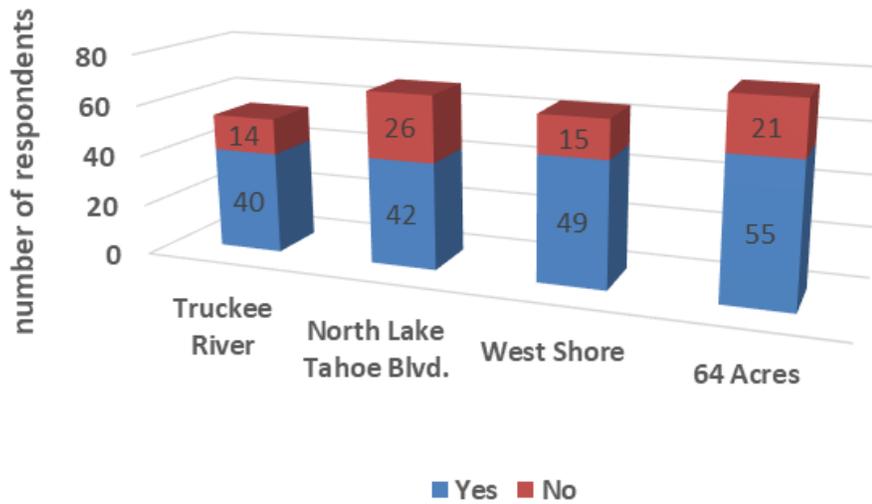


**EXHIBIT B: TRAIL NETWORK SURVEY RESULTS**

**Have you, or would you,  
consider using the trail system in the winter?  
(combined results)**



**Have you, or would you,  
consider using the trail system in the winter?  
(location comparison)**



## EXHIBIT B: TRAIL NETWORK SURVEY RESULTS

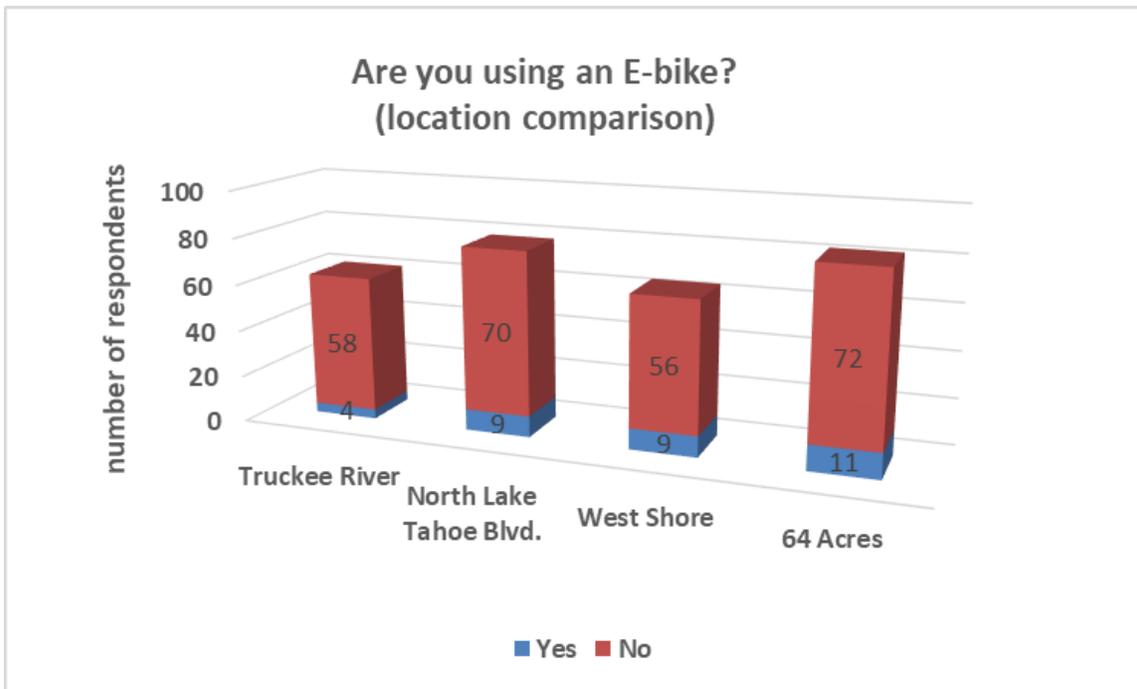
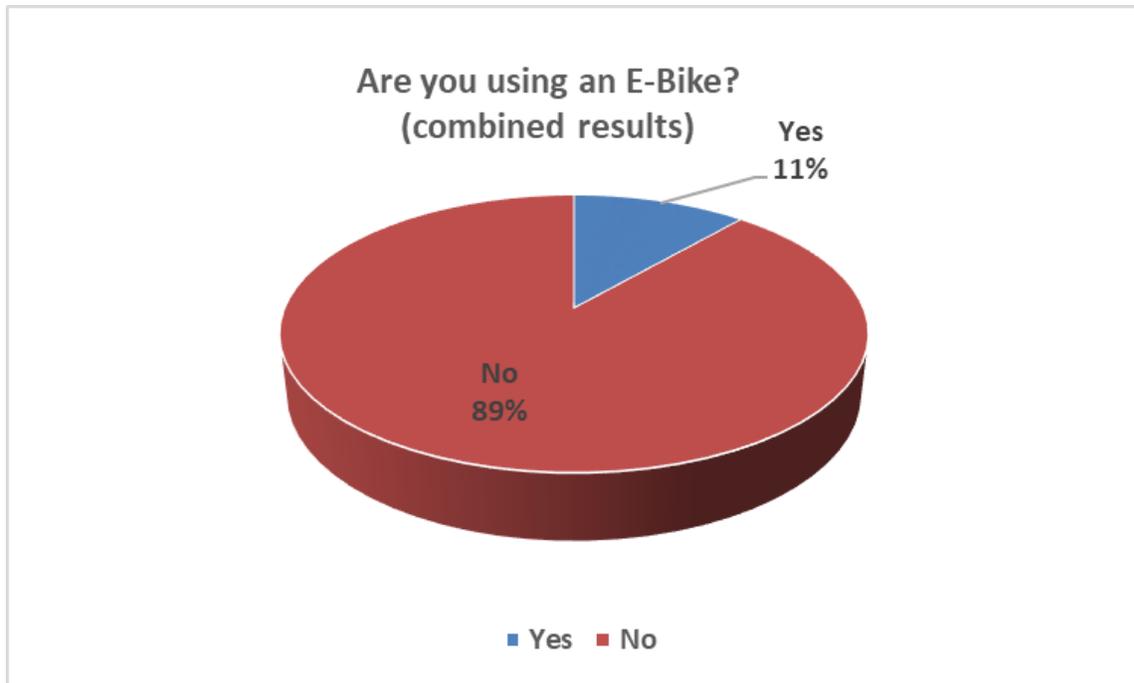


EXHIBIT C: EXAMPLE SURVEY

## 2019 TCPUD Multi-Use Trail Survey

**1. Date?**

8/7/19       8/8/19

**2. Time?**

7-7:59am       8-8:59am       9-9:59am       10-10:59am       11-11:59am       12-12:59pm  
 1-1:59pm       2-2:59pm       3-3:59pm       4-4:59pm       5-5:59pm       6-6:59pm

**3. Survey Location?**

Hwy 28/N. Lake Blvd       Truckee River       64 Acres       West Shore/Homewood

**4. Are you a full time resident, part time resident or visitor?**

Full time       Part time       Visitor

**5. Where do you live or where are you staying in Tahoe?**

Squaw Valley  
 Alpine Meadows  
 Tahoe City/Lake Forest/Dollar Point  
 West Shore to Emerald Bay (Sunnyside, Homewood, Tahoma, Meeks Bay)  
 East of Dollar Hill thru Kings Beach (Old County, Cedar Flat, Carnelian Bay, Tahoe Vista, Crystal Bay)  
 Incline Village  
 Truckee (Martis, Lahontan, Northstar)  
 Truckee (Donner Lake, Glenshire, Olympic Heights, Prosser, Tahoe Donner)  
 South Shore  
 Reno  
 Day Trip from outside area

**6. If you drove to the trail, why? (check all that apply)**

Safety concerns       Not enjoyable to ride on the road       To limit the distance of outing

**7. Are you using an electric-assisted bicycle today?**

Yes       No

• **7a. If yes to question 7, do you know the maximum speed limit is 15 mph on the trails?**

Yes       No

**8. What is your primary activity on these trails? (check all that apply)**

Walking       Biking       Rollerblading/Skateboarding  
 Jogging/Running       Walking Pet       Other

**9. How are you using the trail today? (check all that apply)**

Access to Activities       Go to Work/Appointment/School (Transportation)  
 Shopping/Errands/Dining       Recreation/Sightseeing       Purely Exercise       Other

**10. If you weren't on the trail today, would you be using a car to complete your trip?**

Yes       No

**11. How much do the trails affect your enjoyment of North Lake Tahoe?**

Not at all       Somewhat       Very much       Extremely

**EXHIBIT C: EXAMPLE SURVEY**

**12. How many people are in your group (on multi-use trail) today?**

- 1       2       3       4       5       More than 5

**13. Please rate the trail based on the following factors:**

	Poor	Average	Good	Excellent	N/A
Cleanliness & Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Surface Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Signage	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Access	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Trail Congestion (high congestion = poor)	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Users Generally Following Rules	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Trail Crossings	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Overall Experience	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**14. The Trail Code of Conduct includes the following rules. For each, do you feel people generally follow them on the TCPUD multi-use trails?**

- Keep right, pass on left when safe.  All the time  Most the time  Some of the time  Rarely  Never  
 Blaze a trail of kindness.  All the time  Most the time  Some of the time  Rarely  Never  
 Alert when passing.  All the time  Most the time  Some of the time  Rarely  Never  
 Use safe speeds.  All the time  Most the time  Some of the time  Rarely  Never  
 Always use a light at night.  All the time  Most the time  Some of the time  Rarely  Never  
 Look and listen, be respectful.  All the time  Most the time  Some of the time  Rarely  Never  
 Speed limit is 15 mph.  All the time  Most the time  Some of the time  Rarely  Never  
 Class 1 and 2 E-bikes permitted.  All the time  Most the time  Some of the time  Rarely  Never  
 Bikes yield to pedestrians.  All the time  Most the time  Some of the time  Rarely  Never  
 Keep dogs on a short lease.  All the time  Most the time  Some of the time  Rarely  Never

**15. Have you, or would you, consider using the trail system in the winter?**

- Yes       No

**16. How important is stewardship of the region’s recreation and natural resources?**

- Not at all       Somewhat       Very much       Extremely

**17. Do you have any comments or suggestions about our trails?**

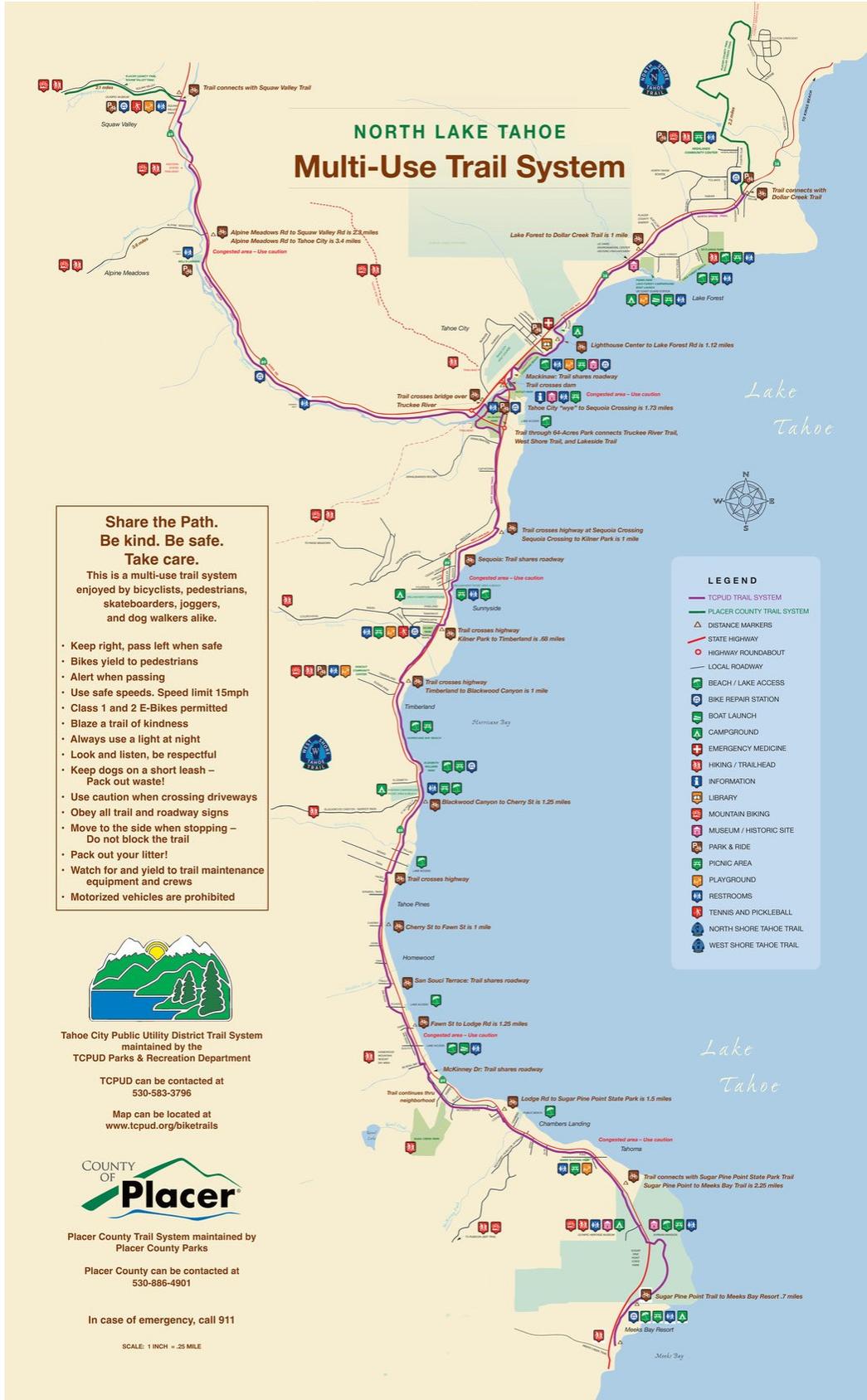
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**Thank You!**

# 2019 TCPUD Multi-use Trail System Map



# 2019 TCPUD Multi-use Trail System Code of Conduct

# Share the Path

be kind. be safe.  
take care.



LAKE TAHOE  
Pathway Partnership



*Keep right, pass left when safe.*



*Blaze a trail of kindness.*



*Alert when passing.*



*Use safe speeds.*



*Always use a light at night.*



*Look and listen, be respectful.*



*Speed limit 15 mph.*



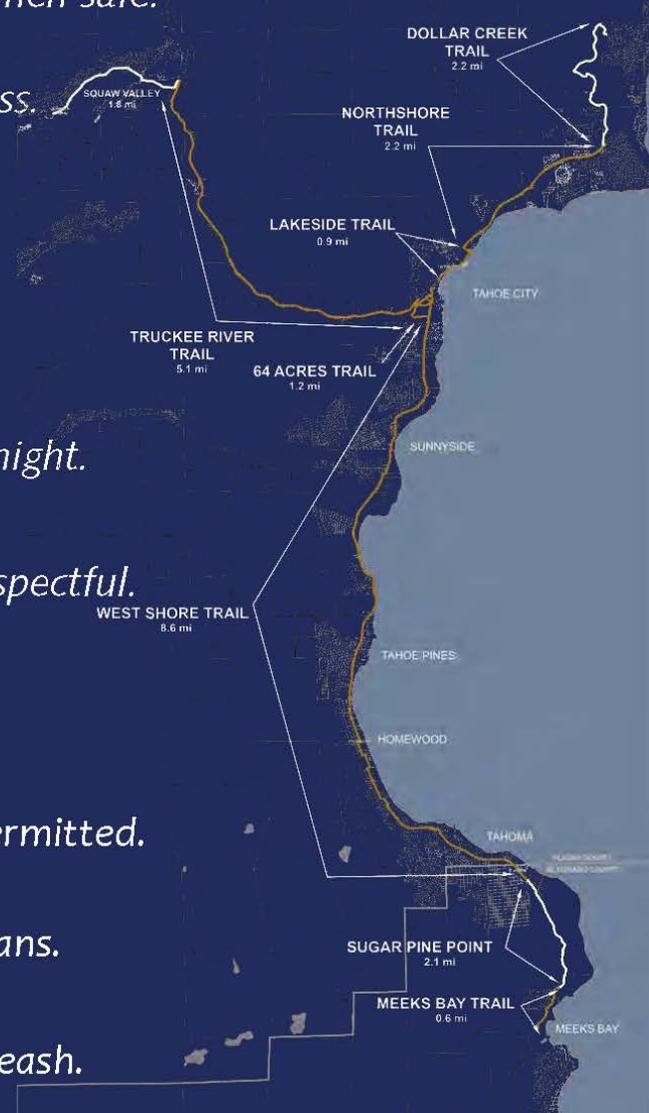
*Class 1 and 2 E-Bikes permitted.*



*Bikes yield to pedestrians.*



*Keep dogs on a short leash.*



[www.tcpud.org/biketrails](http://www.tcpud.org/biketrails)

Trails marked as yellow are not operated by the TCPUD. Other trail rules may apply.