

5. Shared Use Path System Uses and Users



“When I see an adult on a bicycle, I don’t despair for the future of the human race.”

H. G. Wells

“An early morning walk is a blessing for the whole day.”

Henry David Thoreau

The following is a summary of the historical diversity of Shared Use Path Users and Usage as noted by the Sanibel Bicycle Club, Inc. and the City of Sanibel. The summary is intended to provide a snapshot or profile of the existing daily and seasonal composition of users and uses that can be encountered along Sanibel’s Shared Use Path system. Together with existing Path and Island conditions, the summary also provides an important basis for the Shared Use Path Master Plan’s recommendations and implementation strategies.

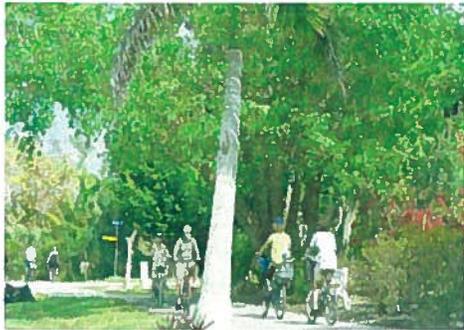
In addition to the summary of Shared Use Path users and usage, a survey of Shared Use Path users was conducted as part of the planning process. The Sanibel community was also invited to provide ideas and comments regarding the Shared Use Path system. The results of the survey and community outreach efforts are also summarized below.

The diversity of Path users is highly unusual and unique for a city of Sanibel’s size, yet all users share a common interest in having the Path system be safe, functional and well maintained.

Profile of Shared Use Path Users and Usage

The following outlines the range of current Shared Use Path users on Sanibel.

- **Bicycle Users**
 - Novice and first-time bike riders
 - Recreational cyclists
 - Experienced, hard-core cyclists
 - Children on tricycles or two wheelers with training wheels
 - Children on bikes that are too big and hard to control
 - Parents carrying children in front or rear bicycle seats
 - Children being pulled in bike trailers
 - Recumbent cyclists
 - Three wheel cyclists
 - Tandem cyclists (two riders on one bike)



- Cyclists pulling cargo trailers or kayak trailers
- Cyclists using I-pods which restrict hearing
- Cyclists who have hearing, vision or other physical challenges
- Solo riders traveling independently
- Groups riding together and talking as they ride, often side by side

- **Pedestrians**

- Single walkers
- Groups of walkers who are side by side
- Joggers
- Dog walkers with one or multiple dogs on leashes
- Parents pushing strollers (single and double-wide)
- People using wheelchairs
- Walkers who have hearing, vision or other physical challenges
- Walkers and joggers using I-pods which restrict hearing



- **Other Non-Motorized Users**

- Surreys
- Kick scooters (Razor)
- Roller bladers
- Roller skaters
- Skate boarders
- Trikes (operator propels device by weaving back and forth on path)

- **Limited Motorized Users**

- Segway Tours along limited Path segments (pursuant to Conditional Use Permit)
- Motorized wheel chairs and similar vehicles



These diverse users employ the Shared Use Path for a variety of purposes:

- Sight seeing
- Exercise
- Recreation
- Shopping
- Travel to and from beach
- Travel to and from park, recreation, library and conservation areas and facilities

Examples of Shared Use Path Users



- Birding and wildlife observation
- Health and rehabilitation
- Travel to and from special events and meetings

A more complete outline of current Shared Use Path users is provided in *Appendix G*.

Summary of Shared Use Path User Survey and Community Outreach

In April 2006 several forms of outreach were conducted during the preparation of the Shared Use Path Master Plan to identify ideas, issues and opportunities as expressed by Path users and the Sanibel community.

The following primary activities were conducted to obtain user and community ideas and comments:

- An intercept survey of Path users;
- A community open house workshop; and
- Public e-mail comment period.



The methodologies and approaches associated with the intercept survey, community open house and e-mail comment period as well as a complete compilation of the ideas and comments expressed are described in *Appendix G*. A summary of the intercept survey, open house results and public comments is as follows.

The intercept survey was conducted at six strategic locations along the Shared Use Path system on Thursday, April 20, 2006, from 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM, and on Saturday, April 22, 2006, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. A total of 4007 Path users were observed crossing the six intercept locations. A total of 442 questionnaires were completed. Characteristics of survey respondents are as follows:

- 36% named Sanibel as their primary residence, 4% Lee County outside Sanibel, 1% Florida outside Lee County, 53% United States outside Florida, and 6% international;



Examples of Shared Use Path Users



Examples of Shared Use Path Users

- Among residents, the average number of months residing on the island is 9.67;
- Among visitors, the majority were visiting Sanibel for longer than one week but less than one month;
- For those riding a bicycle or other conveyance, 62% owned the conveyance while the remainder were rented or provided by a rental property;
- The most common trip purpose was recreation (45%), followed by fitness (29%), shopping/errands (19%), commuting to or from work (3%), walking the dog (1%), and school (1%); the remaining 2% of trip purposes did not fit into these categories;
- Among bicyclists, 37% were wearing helmets;
- The average group size was 1.97;
- The average daily miles of travel on the days of the survey, regardless of mode, was 10.95;
- The average distance of a bicycling trip (including recumbents and tandems) was 22.1 miles; the average walking trip was 3.6 miles; and
- The respondents were 59% male; 41% female.

Figure 18 compares the results of the 2007 user counts that were performed on Sanibel with similar counts performed for other Shared Use Paths around the State of Florida.

A total of 242 of the completed questionnaires included comments regarding the existing Shared Use Path system and recommendations for future improvements. Over 250 unique comments and over 1000 total comments were provided by respondents. These comments and recommendations are broken down into fourteen general categories and presented in a pie chart format in *Figure 19*. The most commonly cited comment types were focused on maintenance issues, resurfacing, vegetation trimming and Path widening needs.

Shared Use Path User Counts in Florida

Path Facility	County	Count Date	Bicyclists	Pedestrians
Archer Rd.	Alachua	3/3/2004	9	5
Black Creek Trail	Clay	3/10/2004	25	3
Six-Mile Cypress Pkwy.	Lee	3/11/2004	14	2
U.S. 98	Walton	3/17/2004	31	32
Suncoast Trail	Pasco	3/18/2004	71	31
S.R. 84	Broward	3/24/2004	5	0
Bruce B. Downs Blvd.	Hillsborough	5/17/2006	10	3
Pinellas Trail	Pinellas	5/23/2006	92	108
St. Marks Trail	Wakulla	11/13/2006	15	8
Spring-to-Spring Trail	Volusia	11/14/2006	3	1
20 th St.	Hillsborough	11/15/2006	21	3
Upper Tampa Bay Trail	Hillsborough	11/16/2006	22	24
M-Path	Miami-Dade	11/16/2006	32	46
West Orange Trail	Orange	11/20/2006	16	6
Average	N/A	N/A	26	19
Sanibel average	Lee	4/20/2007	274	68

COMPARISON OF 2006 SANIBEL SHARED USE PATH COUNTS WITH OTHER FLORIDA CITIES



Figure No. 18

Sanibel Path Survey Comment Types

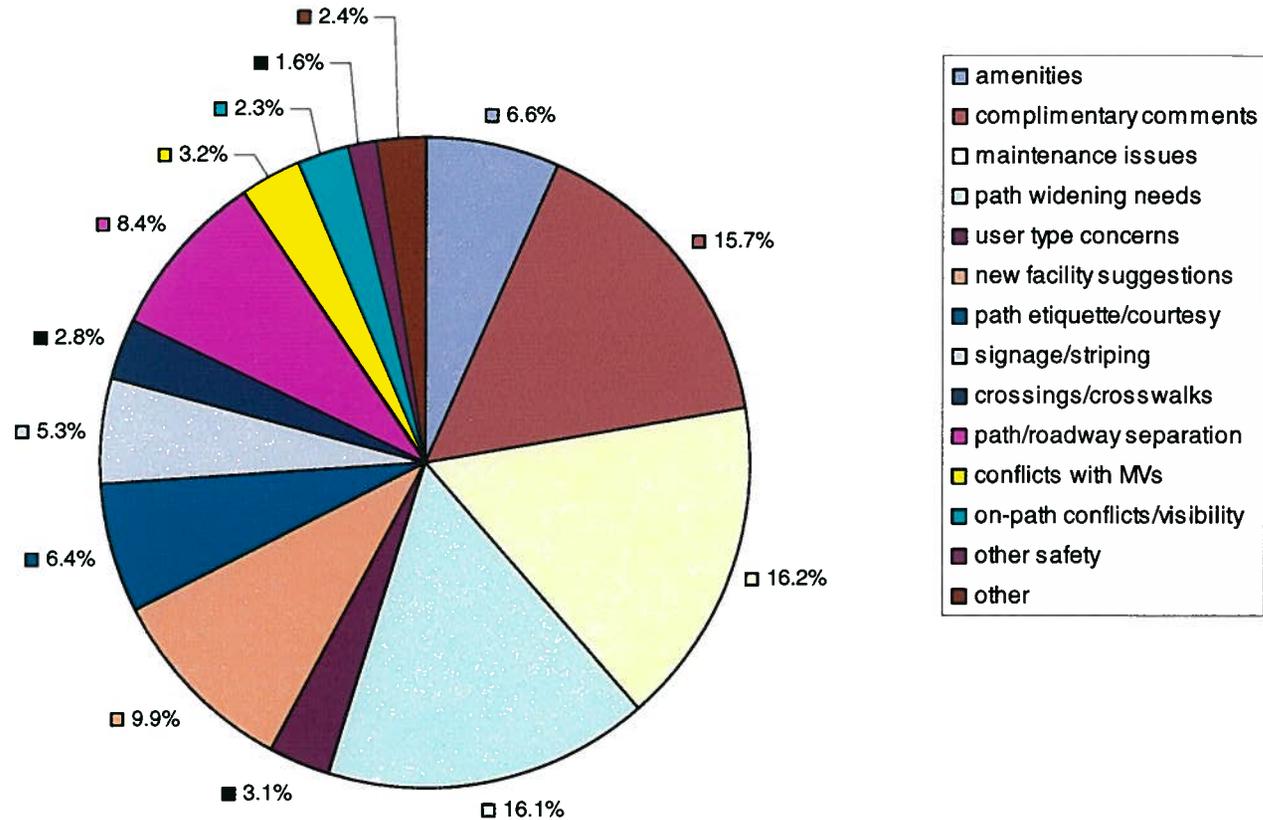


Figure H.4 Relative Prevalence of Comment Types

SUMMARY OF SHARED USE PATH QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS



In addition to the intercept survey, a day long community open house was conducted at BIG Arts. Participants interacted with both consultant and City staff at a series of topic stations that were structured as follows: consider and comment on the results of the intercept survey; expand upon the assessment of existing conditions; define potential Shared Use Path improvement and expansion areas; and review draft conceptual plans for specific Shared Use Paths.

As a follow-up to the intercept survey and open house, the City established an e-mail address to enable the submission of additional comments. The e-mail address appeared on the City's web site and in local Island newspapers.