

**Survey of Kent County Residents Living Next to the
White Pine Trail**

*Sponsored by Michigan State University, Michigan Agriculture
Experiment Station and Michigan Dept. of Transportation*

Instructions

Thank you for agreeing to complete this survey about living next to the White Pine Trail. Your responses are very important to Kent County and will also help other communities understand rail-trails. Please read each question carefully before responding. Answer to the best of your ability and save any additional comments for the end.

The first set of questions asks about your property.

1. How would you describe your property in relation to the White Pine Trail? (please one)
 ADJACENT OR RIGHT NEXT TO THE TRAIL
 TRAIL INTERSECTS PROPERTY

2. How far is your house from the actual trail? (fill in a number in yards or miles)
_____ YARDS OR _____ PORTION OF A MILE

3. How would you classify your property and dwelling that is near the White Pine Trail? (please all that apply)
 RESIDENTIAL HOME
 APARTMENT OR MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING
 BUSINESS OPERATIONS
 AGRICULTURAL USE
 UNDEVELOPED LAND
 SOMETHING ELSE (PLEASE DESCRIBE) _____

4. During the summer, can you see the White Pine Trail from your house?(circle one)

Not at all	Partial view	Full view
1	2	3

5. How long have you occupied the property near the White Pine Trail? (fill in number of years)
_____ NUMBER OF YEARS OCCUPIED PROPERTY

6. Was your property near the rail-trail purchased or occupied before or during/after that section of the trail was built? (please no or yes and then continue with second part)
 BEFORE, CONTINUE TO QUESTION 7
 DURING/AFTER, how much did the proximity to the trail influence buying your house over other houses? (one)
 NO INFLUENCE
 POSITIVE INFLUENCE, EXPLAIN HOW? _____

 NEGATIVE INFLUENCE, EXPLAIN HOW? _____

The next questions ask about any involvement you or members of your household might have had in the development of the White Pine Trail.

7. Did you or members of your household attend any of the planning meetings for the White Pine Trail? *(please one)*

- NO YES NOT SURE NOT HERE DURING THAT TIME

8. How informed would you say you and your household were at the time of design and construction of the rail-trail? *(please circle one)*

- Not informed at all** **Minimally informed** **Moderately informed** **Fully informed**
1 **2** **3** **4**

9. Have you or a household member been involved in the planning, development or maintenance of the trail? *(please one and describe if your answer is "yes")*

- NO, CONTINUE TO QUESTION 10 YES, PLEASE DESCRIBE _____

10. Are you a member of the Friends of the White Pine Trail? *(please one)*

- NEVER NO LONGER YES, CURRENTLY A MEMBER

11. How would you rate your level of support of the following items related to the White Pine Trail? *(please circle a response for each statement)*

	Very opposed	Mode- rately opposed	Neu- tral	Mode- rately support- ive	Very support- ive
IDEA OF TRAIL BEFORE IT WAS BUILT	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
TRAIL PLANNING AND DESIGN PROCESS	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PROCESS	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
TRAIL SHORTLY AFTER IT WAS BUILT	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
TRAIL TODAY	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>

The next questions ask about how the White Pine Trail might influence your property value, neighborhood and community.

12. If you were to sell your property in the near future, what influence do you think the trail would have? (please one for each statement)

- SPEED AT WHICH PROPERTY WOULD SELL SLOWER FASTER NO DIFFERENCE
- AMOUNT AT WHICH PROPERTY WOULD SELL LESS MONEY MORE MONEY NO DIFFERENCE

13. How would you rate the influence of the White Pine Trail on the following? (please circle a response for each statement)

	Very negative influence	Moderate negative influence	Neutral	Moderate positive influence	Very positive influence
OWN PERSONAL LIFE	1	2	3	4	5
OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS' LIVES	1	2	3	4	5
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD	1	2	3	4	5
YOUR COMMUNITY	1	2	3	4	5
KENT COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5

14. Overall, would you say living near the White Pine Trail is worse or better than living near the abandoned railroad right-of-way before it was converted into a rail-trail? (circle one response)

Much worse	Moderately worse	Neutral	Moderately better	Much better
1	2	3	4	5

Could you please explain why you selected your response? _____

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15. Overall, how satisfied are you with having the White Pine Trail in your neighborhood? (please circle one response)

Very dissatisfied	Moderately dissatisfied	Neutral	Moderately satisfied	Very satisfied
1	2	3	4	5

16. Please describe in your own words how the White Pine Trail has affected the quality of your neighborhood?

The next set of questions are about your involvement in outdoor recreation and usage of the White Pine Trail.

17. People recreate outdoors for many reasons and in many different ways. How important are the following reasons for outdoor recreation to you and your household? (please circle a response for each statement)

<u>We recreate to:</u>	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
EXERCISE	1	2	3	4	5
BE OUTSIDE	1	2	3	4	5
ENJOY NATURE	1	2	3	4	5
PROMOTE HEALTH	1	2	3	4	5
RELAX	1	2	3	4	5
BE WITH OTHERS	1	2	3	4	5
BE ALONE	1	2	3	4	5
SPEND FREE TIME	1	2	3	4	5
TRAIN FOR SPORTS	1	2	3	4	5
CULTURAL STUDY AND EDUCATION	1	2	3	4	5
FUN AND ENJOYMENT	1	2	3	4	5
EXPLORE AREAS OF COUNTY	1	2	3	4	5

18. Do you or members of your family use the White Pine Trail? (one)

NO, SKIP TO QUESTION 20

YES, WHAT ONE REASON IN THE LIST ABOVE BEST DESCRIBES WHY YOU USE THE TRAIL? _____

CONTINUE TO QUESTION 19

19. How often do you and members of your household use the White Pine Trail? (one for each person in household)

	Few times a year	Once a month	Couple times a month	Weekly	Daily
YOURSELF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPOUSE OR ANOTHER ADULT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHILDREN (#1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHILDREN (#2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHILDREN (#3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHILDREN (#4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

20. Do you or members of your household recreate on any other rail-trails? (please one)

NO YES, WHICH ONES? _____

The next set of questions asks about your opinions about the use and maintenance of the White Pine Trail.

21. How would you rate the following conditions of the White Pine Trail? (please circle a response for each statement)

	Very poor	Poor	OK	Good	Very Good
REMOVAL OF TRASH FROM CONTAINERS	1	2	3	4	5
PRESENCE OF LITTER ALONG TRAIL	1	2	3	4	5
OVERALL MAINTENANCE OF THE TRAIL	1	2	3	4	5
SENSE OF SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR TRAILSIDE RESIDENTS	1	2	3	4	5
PRIVACY OF TRAILSIDE RESIDENTS	1	2	3	4	5

22. How has the White Pine Trail influenced your household on the following items? (please a response for each statement)

<u>The White Pine Trail has caused an:</u>	Increase of.....	Decrease of.....	No change	Not sure
VANDALISM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AESTHETIC VALUE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PRIVACY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HEALTH AND FITNESS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
THEFTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAMAGE TO FARM CROPS/LIVESTOCK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PERSONAL ENJOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TRESPASSING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POSITIVE SOCIAL INTERACTIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ACTUAL LIABILITY SUITS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ILLEGAL PARKING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ILLEGAL MOTOR VEHICLE USE ON TRAIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NOISE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NATURE AND CULTURAL EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
UNLEASHED AND ROAMING PETS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DISCOURTEOUS OR RUDE USERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LOITERING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DRAINAGE PROBLEMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION WITHIN THE COUNTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COMMUNITY PRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE/ NATURAL AREAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

23. Have you had any specific trail-related problems with your property? *(please describe)*

NO, CONTINUE
TO QUESTION 24

YES, PLEASE DESCRIBE _____

This final section of the survey asks for descriptive information on your household. This information will be kept in the strictest confidence and used for statistical purposes only.

24. What is your gender? MALE FEMALE

25. What are the ages of adults and children in your household? *(fill in age for each person)*

ADULT AGES: _____
CHILDREN AGES: _____

26. How many years have you lived in Kent County? _____ YEARS IN LIFETIME

27. What is your present employment status? *(please one)*

EMPLOYED, FULL-TIME RETIRED UNEMPLOYED STUDENT
 EMPLOYED, PART-TIME SELF-EMPLOYED HOMEMAKER OTHER

28. What was the highest grade or number of years you completed in school or college?
(please circle a number)

8 9 10 11 12	13 14 15 16	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
Thru High School	College/Tech. School	Graduate School

29. Which statement best describes your total 2005 annual household income (from all sources and before taxes)? *(please one)*

LESS THAN \$60,000 \$60,000 OR MORE CHOOSE NOT TO ANSWER

Thank you for completing this survey. Please return it in the envelope or to C. Vogt, Michigan State Univ., 131 Natural Resources Bldg., East Lansing, MI. 48824-1222. If there is anything else to add, please include it on an additional sheet. Thank you.