GALLUP PARK: BRIDGE, ROAD AND TRAIL SCHEMATIC DESIGN

City of Ann Arbor
Parks and Recreation

Community Engagement Report
September 2, 2020

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

B. INITIAL PUBLIC INFORMATION GATHERING

Project Purpose and Drivers

The Gallup Park Bridge, Road and Trail Schematic Design project explores options and develops design solutions to improve the vehicular bridge and adjacent segments of park road and trails. This project is driven by a required bridge replacement, park popularity, additional playground and watercraft programs and the new B2B regional trail.

Vehicular Bridge
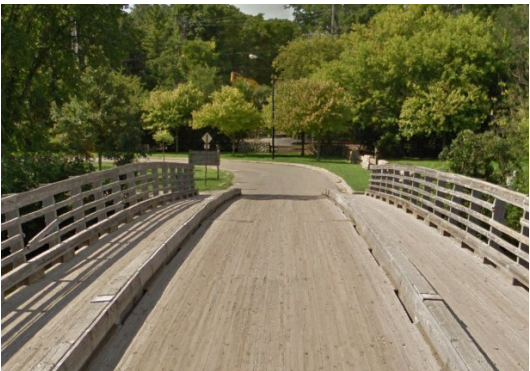
Park Road and Trail

Community Survey Summary

The community survey was open from July 25, 2020 to August 13, 2020 and was disbursed online through the A2 Open City Hall portal. Signs were also posted at Gallup Park along the B2B trail in order to reach a wide demographic of Park users. The initial public information gathering focused on generating overall themes about different project elements and was used to inform design options. The survey had 569 responses.

Project Goals

The following recommendations were derived from the Initial Public Information Gathering:

1. The new bridge should have a park like aesthetic similar to the existing bridge.
2. Encourage slow speeds on the vehicular bridge and park road.
3. Reduce congestion overall on the site:
   - At the intersection of the B2B trail and the bridge
   - On the bridge
   - On the B2B trail
4. Improve pedestrian and non-motorized experience along the trail and park road. (ie. Shade and views)
5. Reduce conflicts between parking spaces and pedestrians/non-motorized.

Response Demographic

RESPONDENT AGE
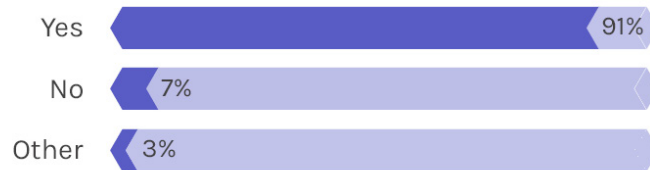
The below graph displays the average age of respondents taking the community survey. The largest respondent groups were 50-59 (23%) and 60-69 (23%).

Age	Percentage
15-19 years	<1%
20-29 years	8%
30-39 years	16%
40-49 years	16%
50-59 years	23%
60-69 years	23%
70 years or older	14%
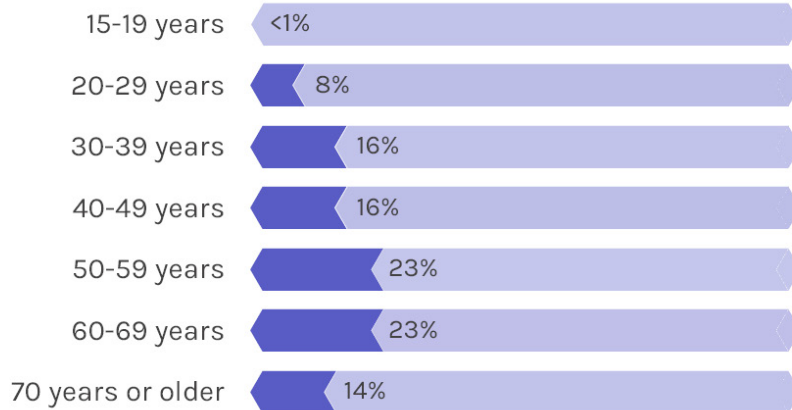
LIVE IN ANN ARBOR

The graph below shows that 91% of respondents live in the City of Ann Arbor.

Response	Percentage
Yes	91%
No	7%
Other	3%

WORK IN ANN ARBOR

65% of respondents work in the City of Ann Arbor and 22% are retired.

Response	Percentage
Yes	65%
No	13%
Retired	22%
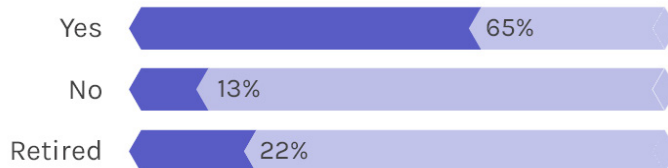
ZIP CODES

The graph below displays respondents zip codes. The largest zip code group was 48103 (33%) followed by 48104 (30%) and 48105 (26%).

Zip Code	Percentage
48103	31%
48104	30%
48105	26%
48108	5%
48197	4%
48176	1%
48198	1%
48130	<1%
48106	<1%
48111	<1%
48184	<1%
77845	<1%
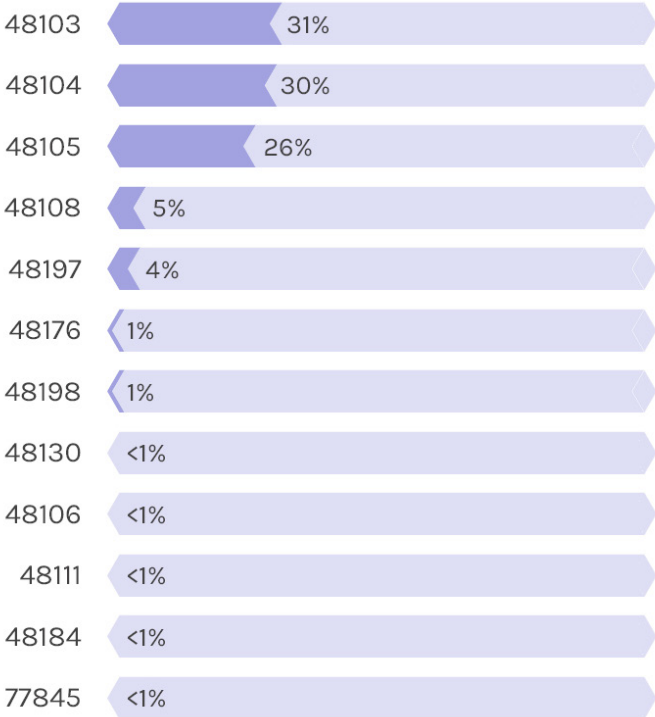
General

TRAVEL TO PARK

When asked, "Think of the past few times you've visited Gallup Park. How did you get to the park?", most respondents answered drive (47%), but over half of the respondents did not drive to the park. Bicycling was the second most popular mode of transportation (37%).
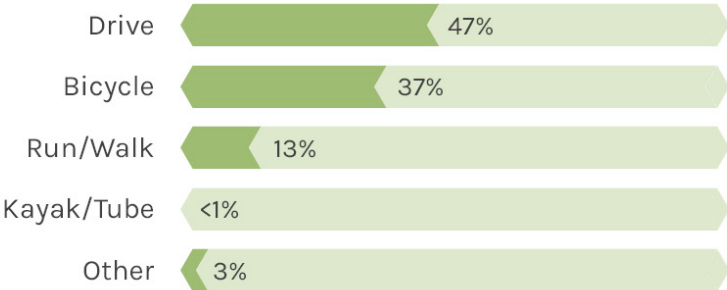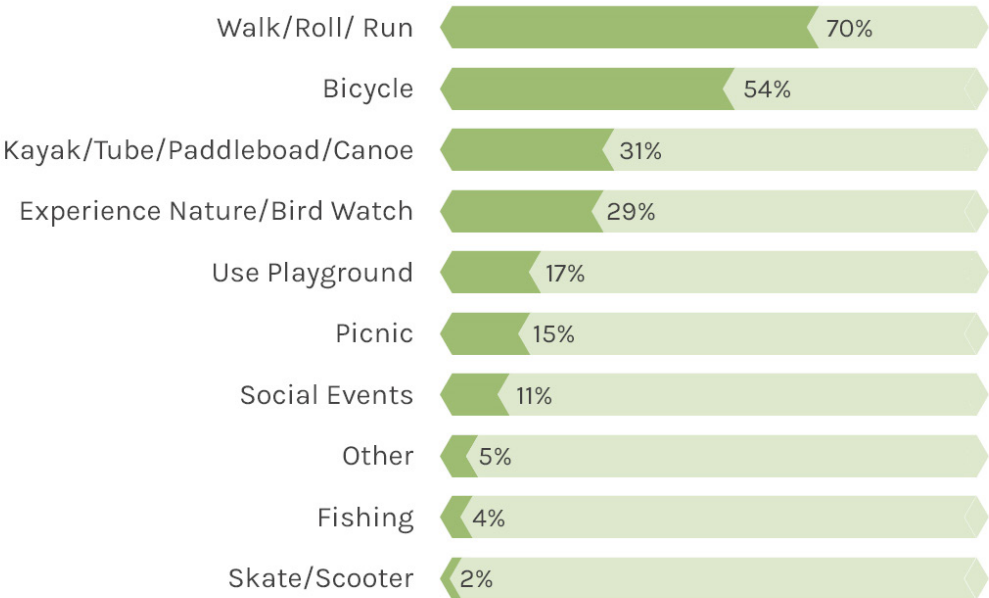
Drive	47%
Bicycle	37%
Run/Walk	13%
Kayak/Tube	<1%
Other	3%

PARK USE

When asked, "Why do you typically visit Gallup Park?", Walk/Roll/Run was the top answer (70%) followed by Bicycle (54%). This is strong evidence that most respondents are coming to use the B2B and Gallup Park trails. (Respondents could choose more than one answer.)

Walk/Roll/ Run	70%
Bicycle	54%
Kayak/Tube/Paddleboad/Canoe	31%
Experience Nature/Bird Watch	29%
Use Playground	17%
Picnic	15%
Social Events	11%
Other	5%
Fishing	4%
Skate/Scooter	2%

Vehicle Bridge

LIKE

When asked, "What do you like about the existing bridge?", most of the responses mentioned the existing park-like aesthetics (about 89%). About 44% of respondents like the slow speeds of the current bridge.
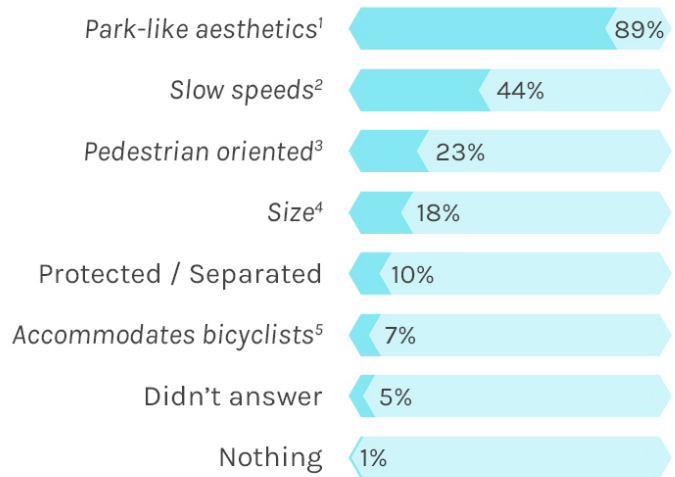
Park-like aesthetics[1]	89%
Slow speeds[2]	44%
Pedestrian oriented[3]	23%
Size[4]	18%
Protected / Separated	10%
Accommodates bicyclists[5]	7%
Didn't answer	5%
Nothing	1%

Percentages are qualitative in nature and were deduced from repondent answers including the words below:

1. charm, aesthetics, natural, character, feel, unique, quaint, look, park, rustic, wood
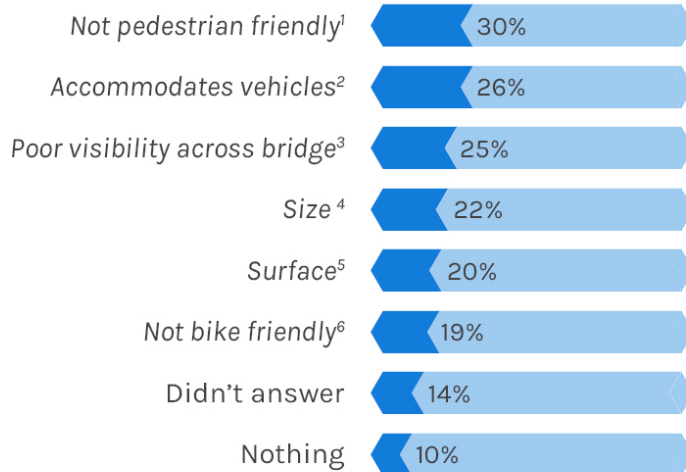
2. speed, slow, traffic

3. pedestrian, walk, path

4. small, size, single lane, one lane, narrow

5. bike, bicycle

DON'T LIKE

When asked, "What don't you like about the existing bridge?", about 30% of respondents answered that it's not pedestrian friendly. Respondents also didn't like that the bridge accommodates vehicles (about 26%) and the poor visibility across the bridge (about 25%).

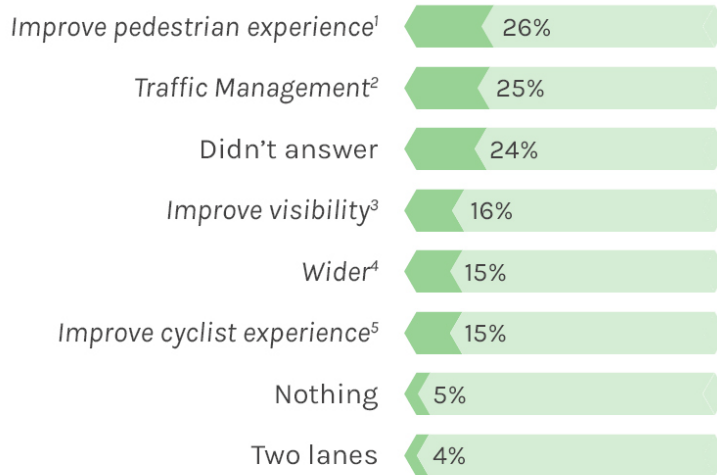| Category	
Not pedestrian friendly[1]	30%
Accommodates vehicles[2]	26%
Poor visibility across bridge[3]	25%
Size[4]	22%
Surface[5]	20%
Not bike friendly[6]	19%
Didn't answer	14%
Nothing	10%

Percentages are qualitative in nature and were deduced from repondent answers including the words below:

1. pedestrian, walk, path

2. car, vehicle, traffic

3. see, cross, visibility

4. small, size, single lane, one lane, narrow

5. surface, repair, boards, slip, wood

6. bike, bicycle

MORE ENJOYABLE

When asked, "Think about the last time you crossed over the Gallup Bridge. What would make it more enjoyable?", the top responses were to improve the pedestrian experience (about 26%) and better traffic management (about 25%).

|	
Improve pedestrian experience[1]	26%
Traffic Management[2]	25%
Didn't answer	24%
Improve visibility[3]	16%
Wider[4]	15%
Improve cyclist experience[5]	15%
Nothing	5%
Two lanes	4%

Percentages are qualitative in nature and were deduced from repondent answers including the words below:

1. pedestrian, walk, path

2. car, vehicle, traffic

3. see, cross, visibility

4. wide, space, room

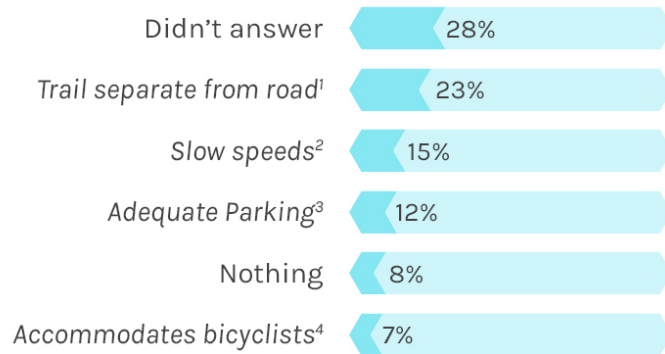5. bike, bicycle

PREFERENCE

66% of respondents would prefer if the new bridge blended in with nature. Only 7% prefer the new bridge to be eye catching.

Was eye-catching	7%
Blended in with nature	66%
Other	27%
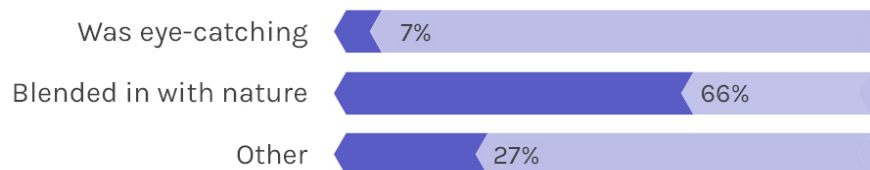
Park Road

LIKE

When asked, "What do you like about the adjacent park road?", about 23% of respondents mentioned that it's separated from the trail. Slow speeds were the next mentioned response (about 15%).

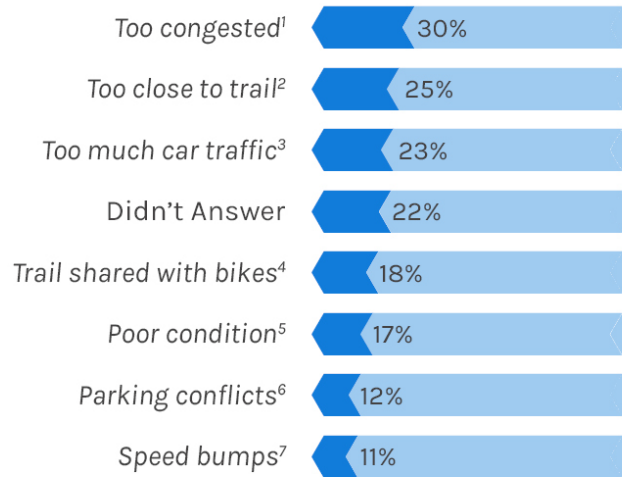|	
Didn't answer	28%
Trail separate from road[1]	23%
Slow speeds[2]	15%
Adequate Parking[3]	12%
Nothing	8%
Accommodates bicyclists[4]	7%

Percentages are qualitative in nature and were deduced from repondent answers including the words below:

1. pedestrian, walk, path, trail, B2B

2. car, vehicle, traffic, speed bump

3. parking

4. bike, bicycle

DON'T LIKE

When asked, "What don't you like about the adjacent park road?", about 30% respondents answered that it's too congested. Respondents also mentioned it is too close to the trail (about 25%) and that there is too much car traffic (about 23%).

Too congested[1]	30%
Too close to trail[2]	25%
Too much car traffic[3]	23%
Didn't Answer	22%
Trail shared with bikes[4]	18%
Poor condition[5]	17%
Parking conflicts[6]	12%
Speed bumps[7]	11%

Percentages are qualitative in nature and were deduced from repondent answers including the words below:

1. wide, space, room, congested, narrow, people, pedestrian

2. walk, path, trail

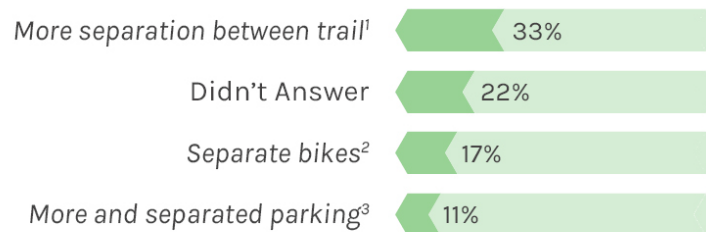3. car, vehicle, traffic

4. bike, bicycle

5. potholes, condition, pavement

6. parking

7. speed, slow

MORE ENJOYABLE

When asked, "What would make this section of the park road more enjoyable?", the top responses mentioned more separation between the trail (about 33%). Separation between bikes and pedestrians would also make the park road more enjoyable (about 22%).

More separation between trail[1] **33%**

Didn't Answer **22%**

Separate bikes[2] **17%**

More and separated parking[3] **11%**

Percentages are qualitative in nature and were deduced from repondent answers including the words below:

1. walk, path, trail, pedestrian

2. bike, bicycle

3. parking

B2B Trail

LIKE

When asked, "What do you like about this section of the Border-to-Border trail?", the top answer was being adjacent to the river (about 37%). About 15% of respondents like that the trail connects to the B2B and the park loop.

Adjacent to the river[1] **37%**

Didn't answer **24%**

Connects to B2B trail and park loop[2] **15%**

Walking experience[3] **6%**

Biking experience[4] **5%**

Percentages are qualitative in nature and were deduced from repondent answers including the words below:

1. river, water, view

2. path, trail

3. walk

4. bike, bicycle

DON'T LIKE

When asked, "What don't you like about this section of the Border-to-Border trail?", about 43% of respondents answered that the trail is too narrow. Answers also reflected the trail is too close to the road (about 30%).
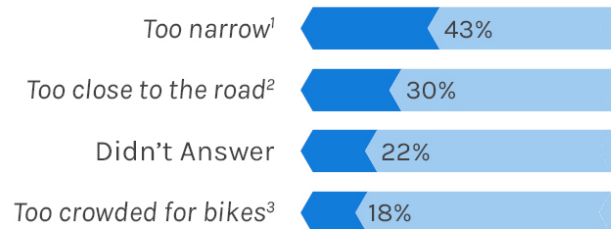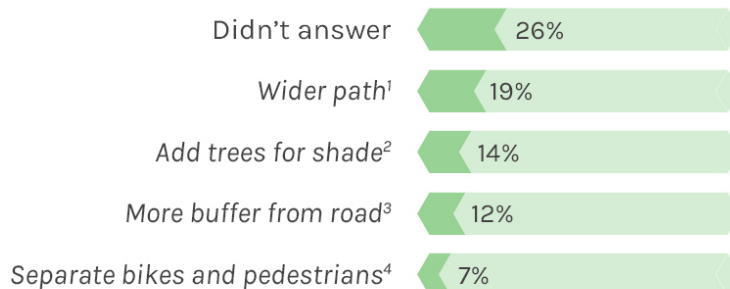
Too narrow[1]   43%
Too close to the road[2]   30%
Didn't Answer   22%
Too crowded for bikes[3] 18%

Percentages are qualitative in nature and were deduced from repondent answers including the words below:

1. congested, crowded, pedestrians, narrow, walking

2. road, car

3. bike, bicycle,

MORE ENJOYABLE

When asked, "Think about the last time you were on this section of the Border-to-Border trail. What would make it more enjoyable?", about 19% of respondents mentioned a wider path. Trees and shade were also included in about 14% of the responses. 26% of respondents didn't answer the question but this could be due to that it was the last one in the survey.

Didn't answer   26%
Wider path[1]   19%
Add trees for shade[2]   14%
More buffer from road[3]   12%
Separate bikes and pedestrians[4] 7%

Percentages are qualitative in nature and were deduced from repondent answers including the words below:

1. wider

2. trees, shade

3. road

4. separate

Mapping

LIKES/CONCERNS

Respondents were asked to participate in a mapping exercise where they placed a green or red dot for places in the project area that they like and are concerned about and comment why. A total of xxx concerns were placed in the project area and a total of xxx likes were placed.
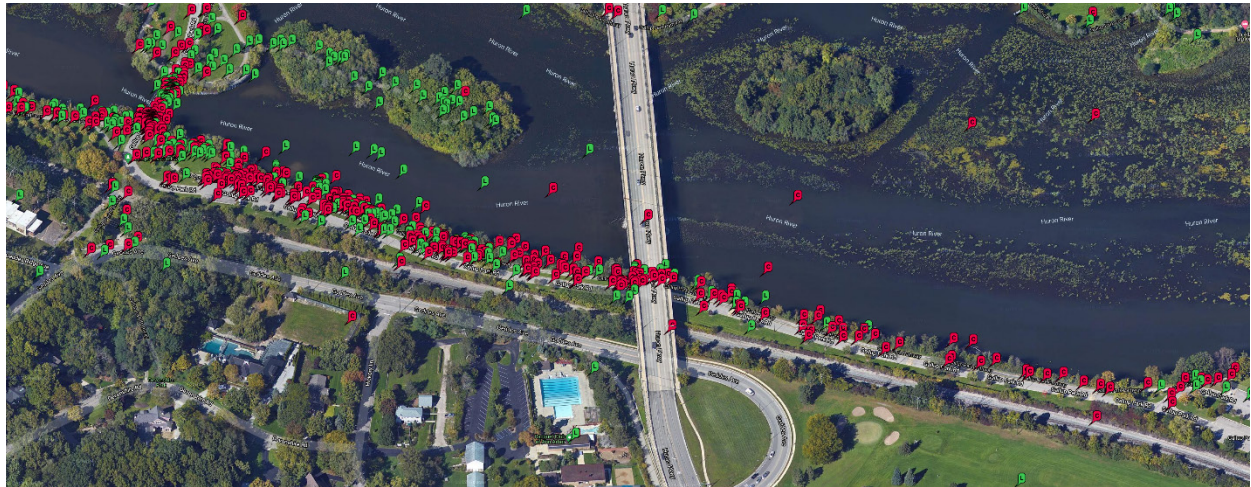
LIKES

- The aesthetics of the bridge and the view it provides
- Open space near the parking area
- The proximity of the trail to the river
- Crossing under the Huron Parkway bridge

CONCERNS

- The visibility of the trail crossing from the vehicular bridge
- Congestion and crossing at parking areas
- Condition of the park road
- Not enough room on the trail
- No shade

Conclusions

Respondents really enjoy the park-like nature of the existing bridge. They mostly come to the park to use the trails because of the proximity of the river. Respondents favor slow speeds and traffic calming on the bridge and park road and when asked what would make the bridge more enjoyable, only 24 respondents mentioned a two way or two lane bridge. Overall, respondents are concerned about congestion and traffic on the site caused by all modes of travel. The condition of the park road is also a concern. Lastly, the respondents voiced concerns about the lack of trees, shade and a natural park identity in this area.