

Appendix A

Community Attitude & Interest Survey

Community Attitude and Interest Survey

Executive Summary of Citizen Survey Results

Overview of the Methodology

The City of Durango conducted a Community Attitude and Interest Survey during the winter and spring of 2009 to establish priorities for the future development of parks, trails, recreation facilities and programs and the preservation of open space in the community. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the City of Durango. The survey was administered by a combination of mail and phone.

Leisure Vision worked extensively with City of Durango officials, as well as members of the PROS Consulting project team in the development of the survey questionnaire. This work allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future system.

Leisure Vision mailed surveys to a random sample of 1,650 households throughout the City of Durango. Approximately three days after the surveys were mailed, each household that received a survey also received an automated voice message encouraging them to complete the survey. In addition, about two weeks after the surveys were mailed, Leisure Vision began contacting households by phone. Those who indicated they had not returned the survey were given the option of completing it by phone.

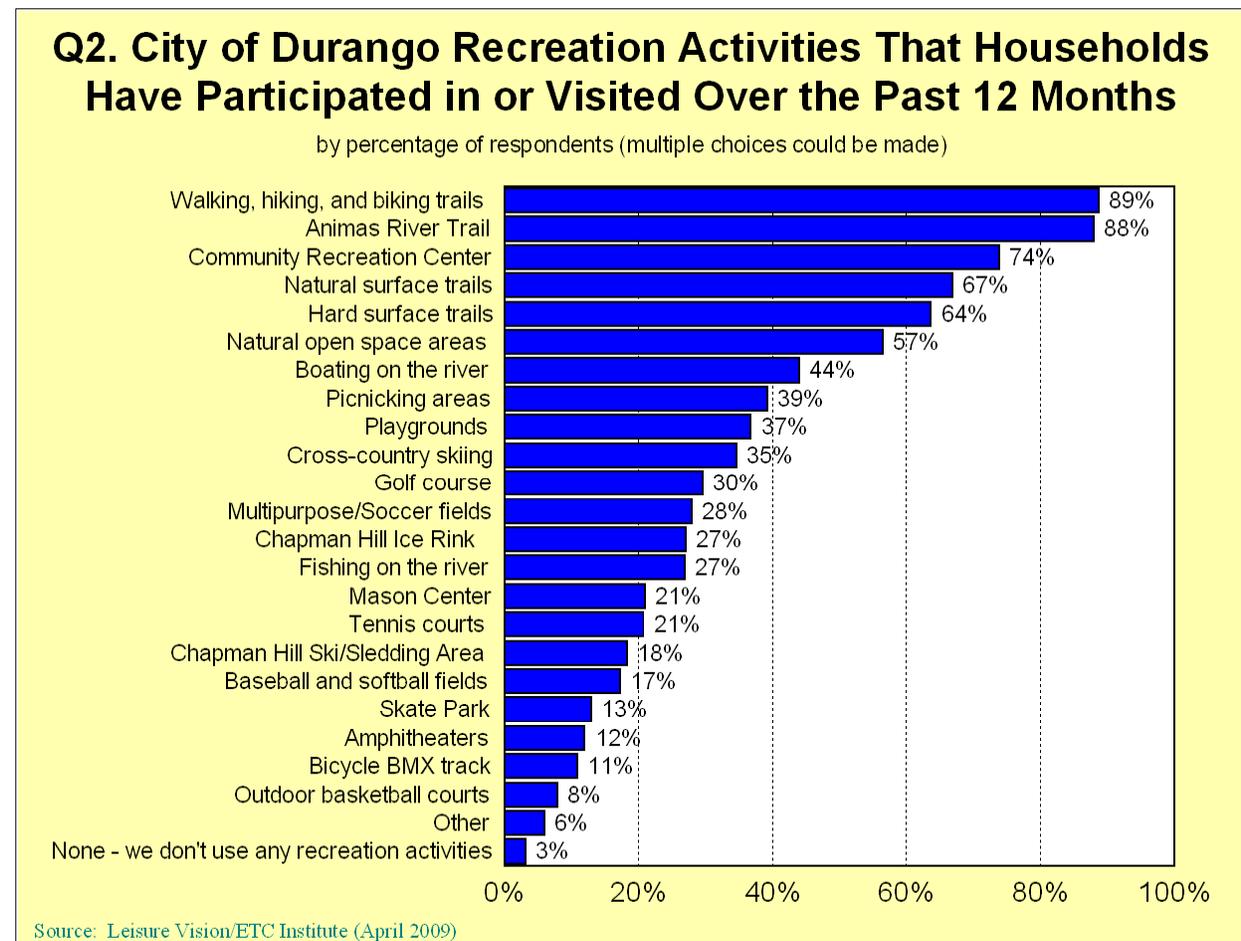
The goal was to obtain a total of at least 325 completed surveys. This goal was far exceeded, with a total of 568 surveys having been completed. The results of the random sample of 568 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision of at least +/-4.1%.

The following pages summarize major survey findings:

Participation in City Recreation Activities

From a list of 22 options, respondents were asked to indicate all of the City of Durango recreation activities their household has participated in over the past 12 months. The following summarizes key findings:

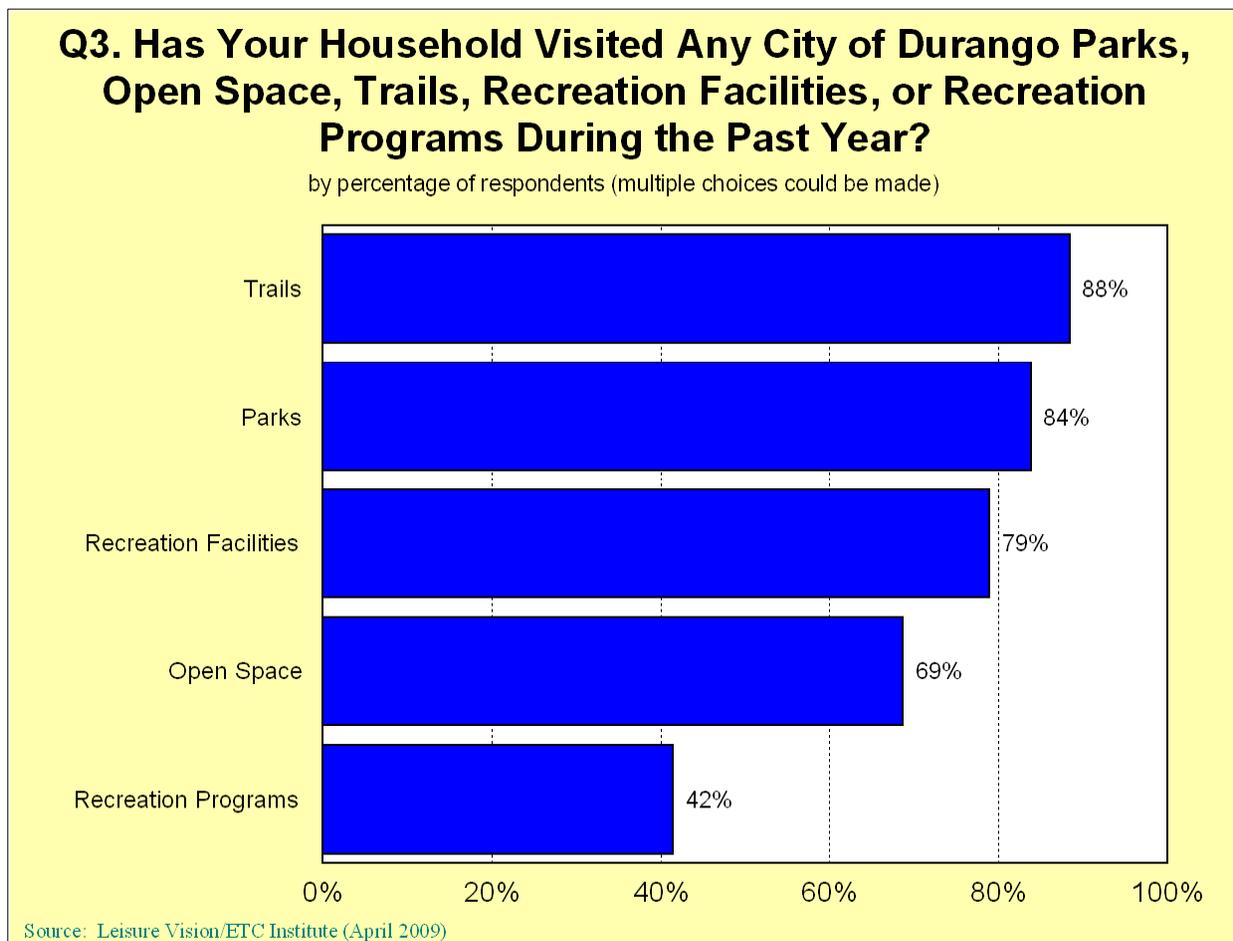
- **Eighty-nine percent (89%) of households have used walking, hiking, and biking trails over the past 12 months, and 88% have used the Animas River Trail.** The other most frequently used City recreation activities include: community recreation center (74%), natural surface trails (67%), hard surface trails (64%), and natural open space areas (57%).



Use of Parks, Open Space, Trails, Recreation Facilities and Programs

Respondents were asked to indicate how often their household has used City of Durango parks, open space, trails, recreation facilities, or recreation programs during the past year. The following summarizes key findings:

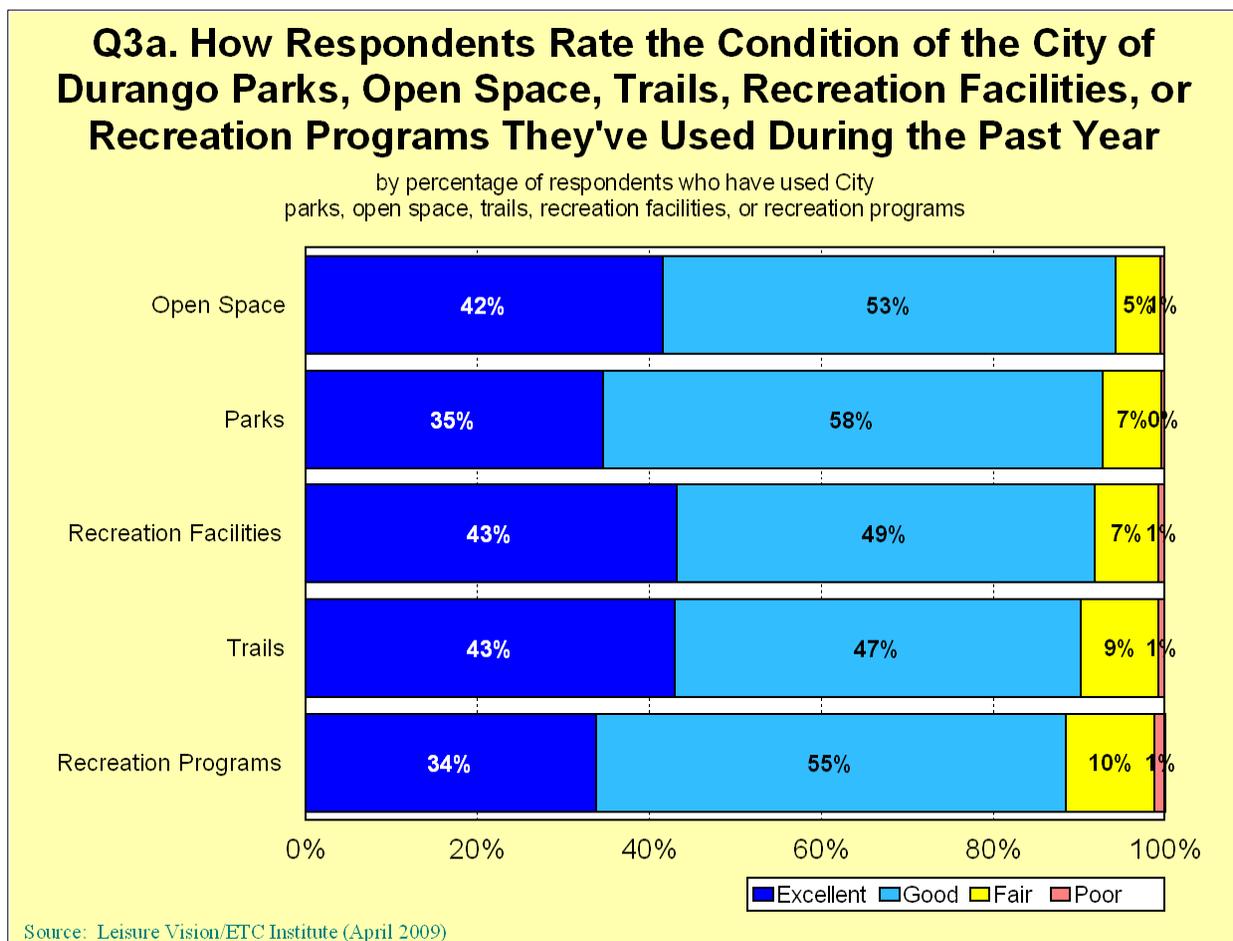
- **Eighty-eight percent (88%) of households have used trails during the past year, and 84% have used parks during the past year.** Seventy-nine percent (79%) of households have used recreation facilities during the past year, 69% have used open space, and 42% have used recreation programs.



Quality of Parks, Open Space, Trails, Recreation Facilities and Programs

Respondent households that have used City of Durango parks, open space, trails, recreation facilities, or recreation programs during the past year were asked to rate the physical condition/quality of the parks, open space, trails, recreation facilities or recreation programs they have used. The following summarizes key findings:

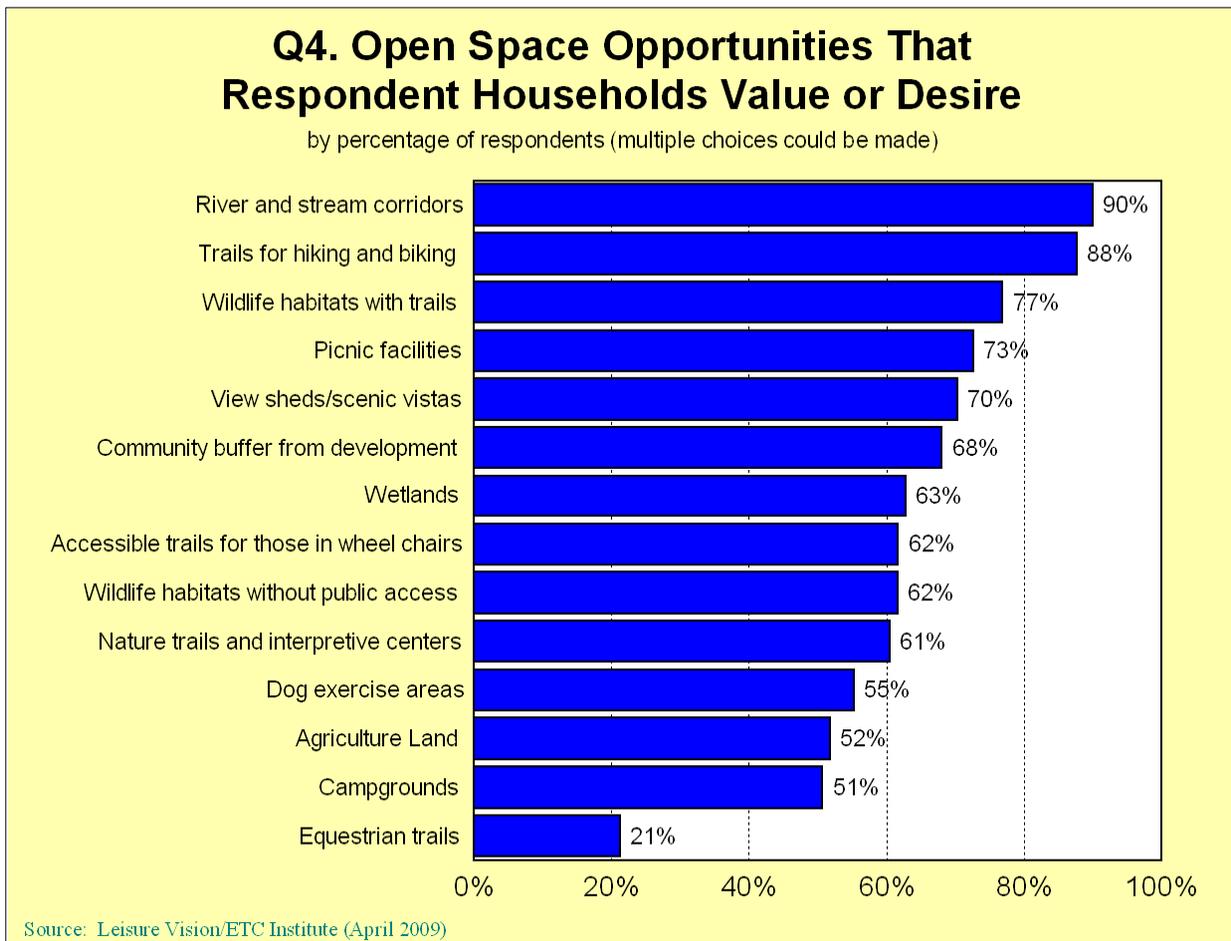
- **Parks, open space, trails, recreation facilities and recreation programs each had between 89% - 95% of respondent households rate their physical condition/quality as either excellent or good.**



Open Space Opportunities Valued/Desired

From a list of 14 open space opportunities, respondents were asked to indicate all of the ones their household values or desires. The following summarizes key findings:

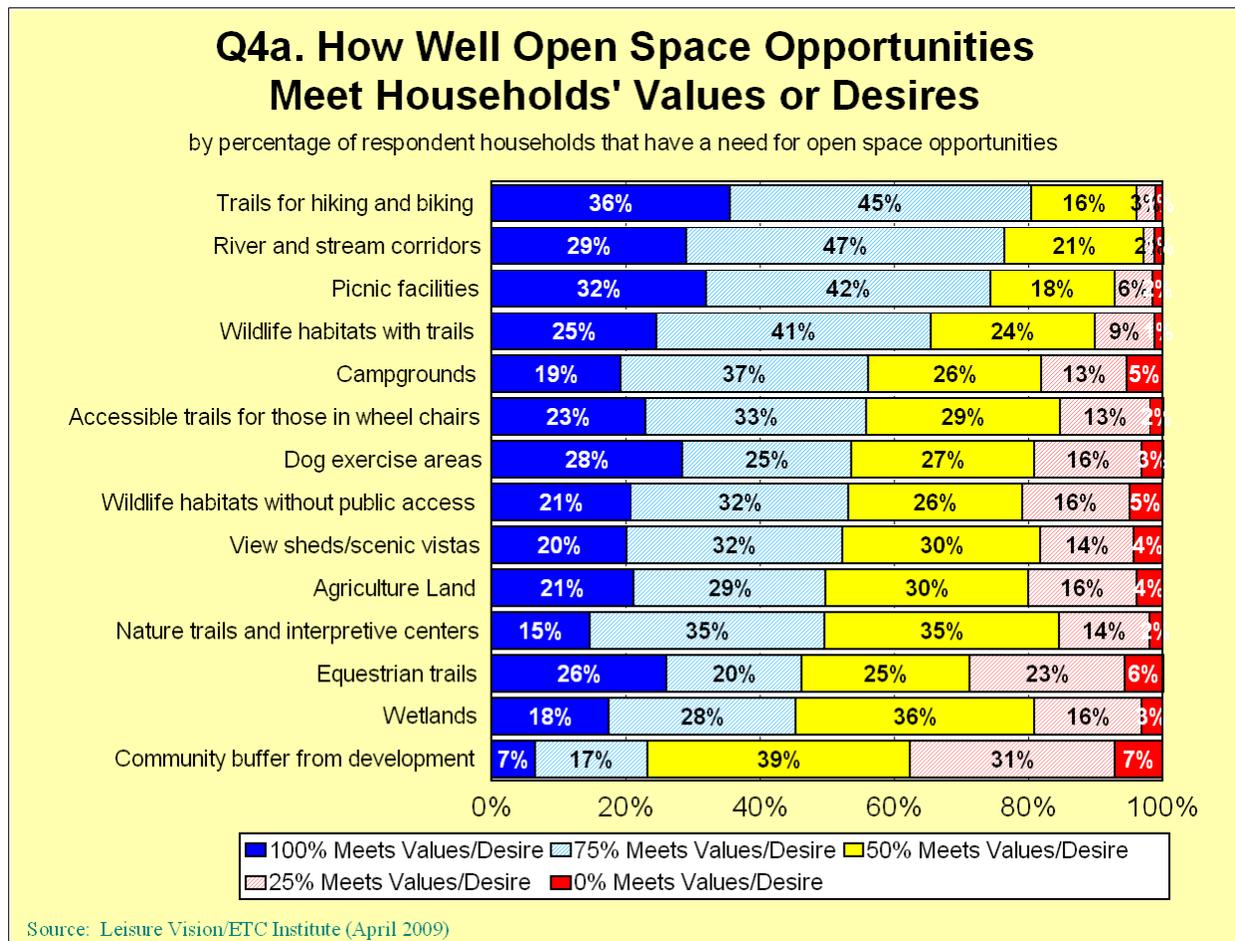
- **The open space opportunities that the highest percentage of households value or desire include: river and stream corridors (90%), trails for hiking and biking (88%), wildlife habitats with trails (77%), picnic facilities (73%), and view sheds/scenic vistas (70%).**



How Well Open Space Opportunities Meet Households' Values/Desires

From a list of 14 open space opportunities, respondent households that value or desire open space opportunities were asked to indicate how well their values/desires are being met. The following summarizes key findings:

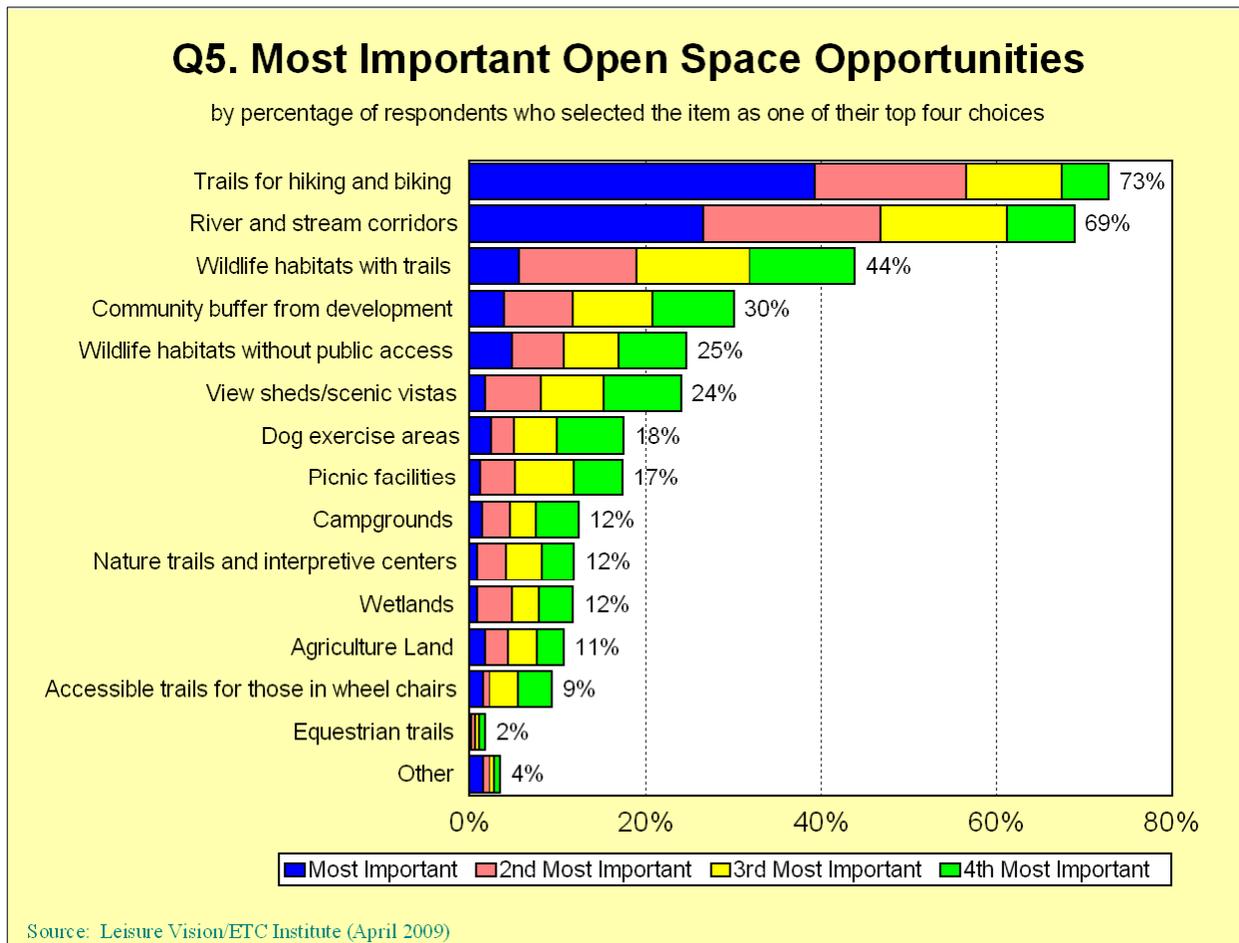
- The open space opportunities that meet the values/desires of the highest percentage of households includes: trails for hiking and biking, river and stream corridors, picnic facilities, and wildlife habitats with trails.



Most Important Open Space Opportunities

From a list of 14 open space opportunities, respondents were asked to select the four that are most important to their household. The following summarizes key findings:

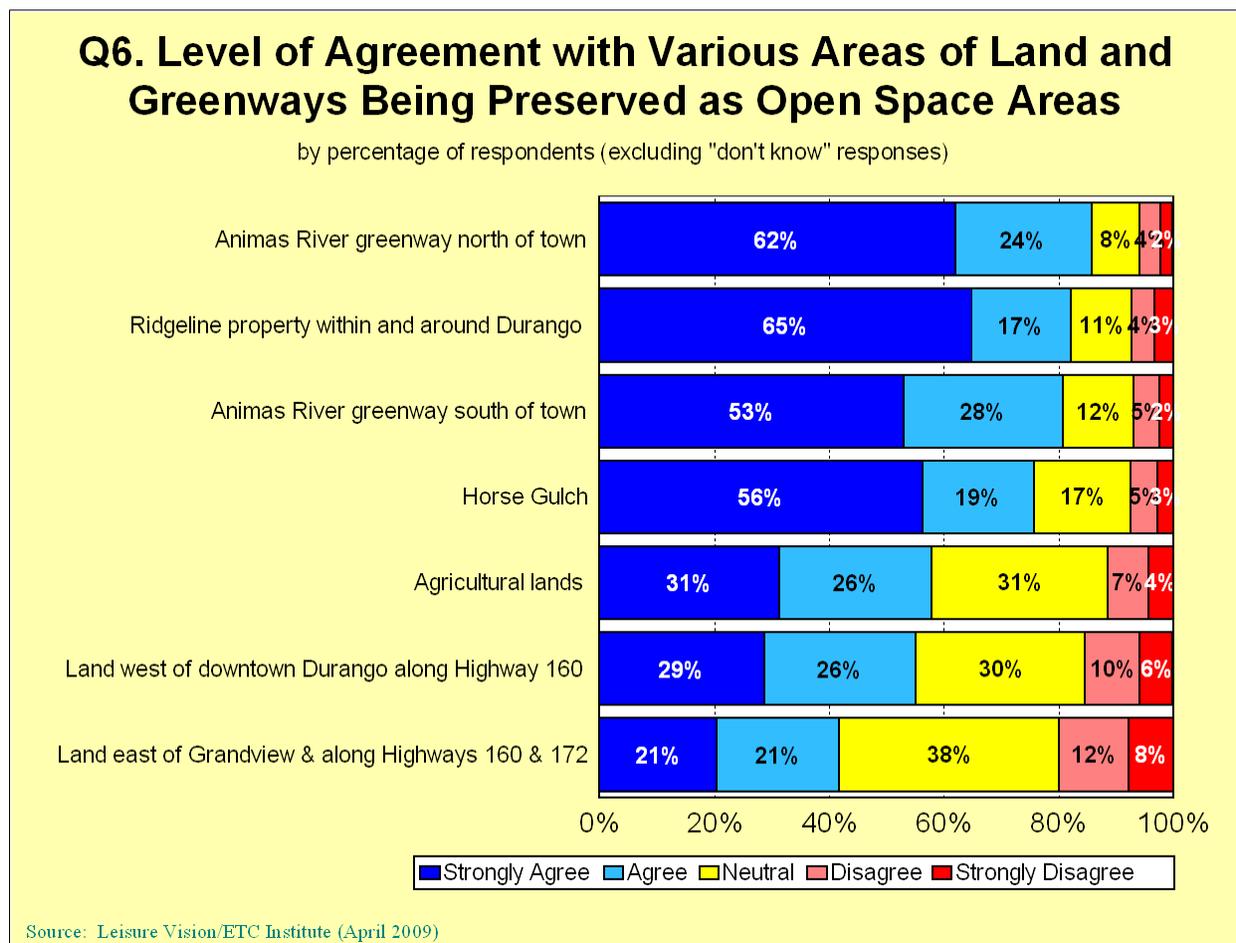
- Based on the sum of their top four choices, the open space opportunities that are most important to respondent households are: trails for hiking and biking (73%), river and stream corridors (69%), and wildlife habitats with trails (44%).



Preserving Areas of Land and Greenways for Open Space

From a list of seven areas of land and greenways, respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement with each area being preserved for open space. The following summarizes key findings:

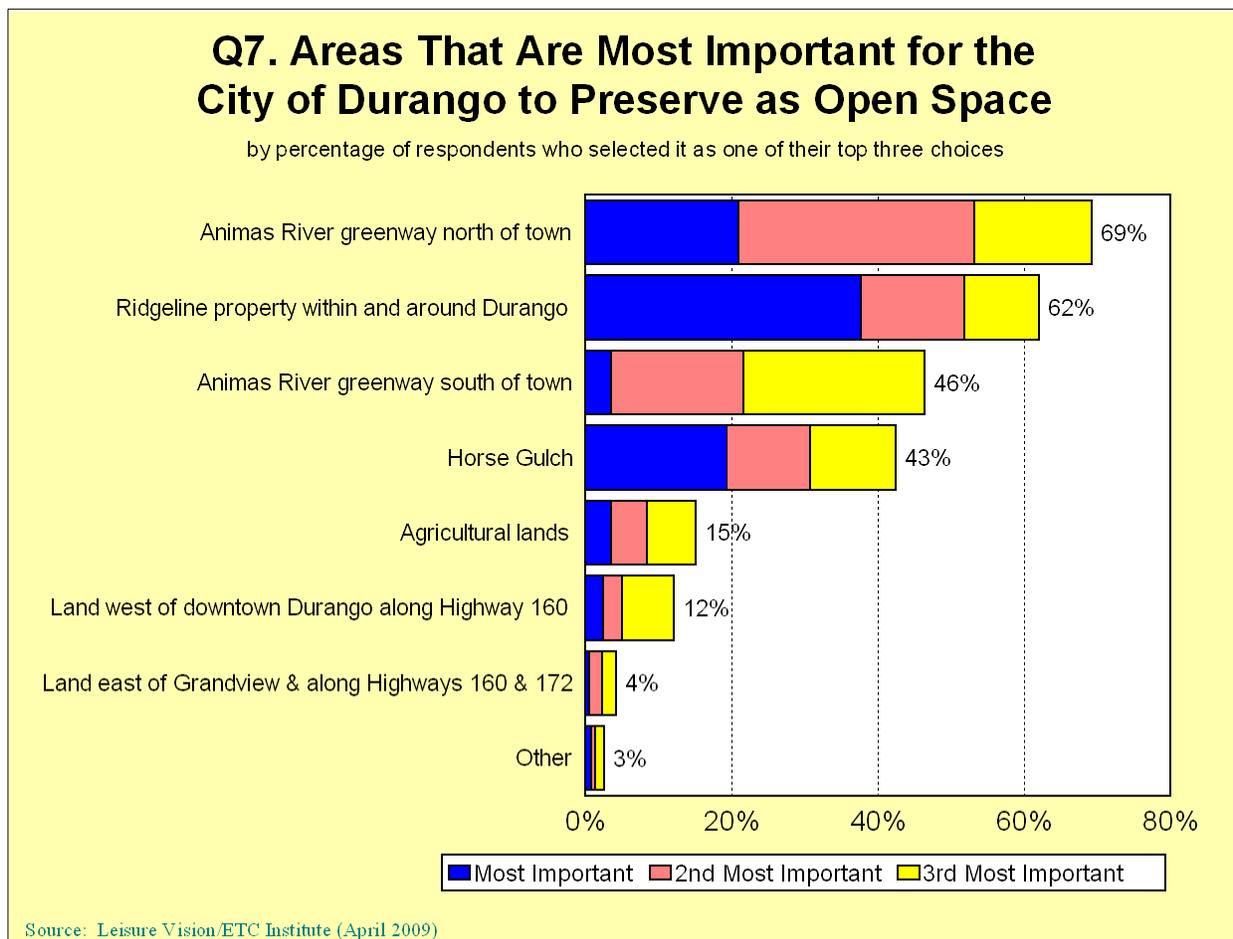
- There are four the areas that over 50% of respondents strongly agree should be preserved for open space: Ridgeline property within and around Durango (65%), Animas River greenway north of town (62%), Horse Gulch (56%), and Animas River greenway south of town (53%).



Most Important Areas to Preserve as Open Space

From a list of seven areas of land and greenways, respondents were asked to select the three areas that are most important for the City to preserve as open space. The following summarizes key findings:

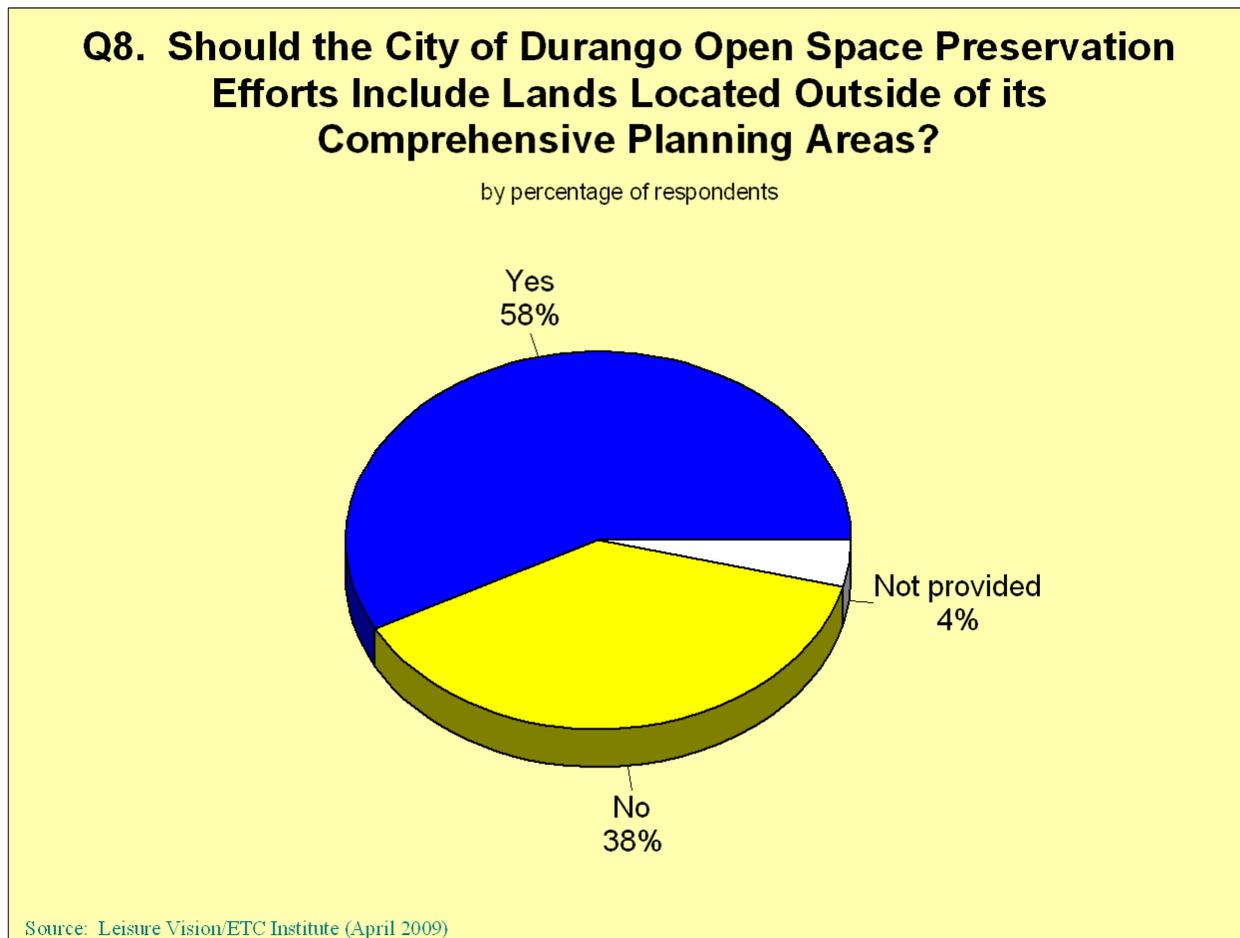
- Based on the sum of their top three choices, the areas that respondents feel are most important to preserve as open space include: **Animas River greenway north of town (69%), Ridgeline property within and around Durango (62%), Animas River greenway south of town (46%), and Horse Gulch (43%).** It should also be noted that Ridgeline property within and around Durango had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice as the area they feel is more important for the City to preserve as open space.



Open Space Preservation Efforts

Respondents were asked if they felt the City of Durango open space preservation efforts should include lands located outside of its comprehensive planning areas. The following summarizes key findings:

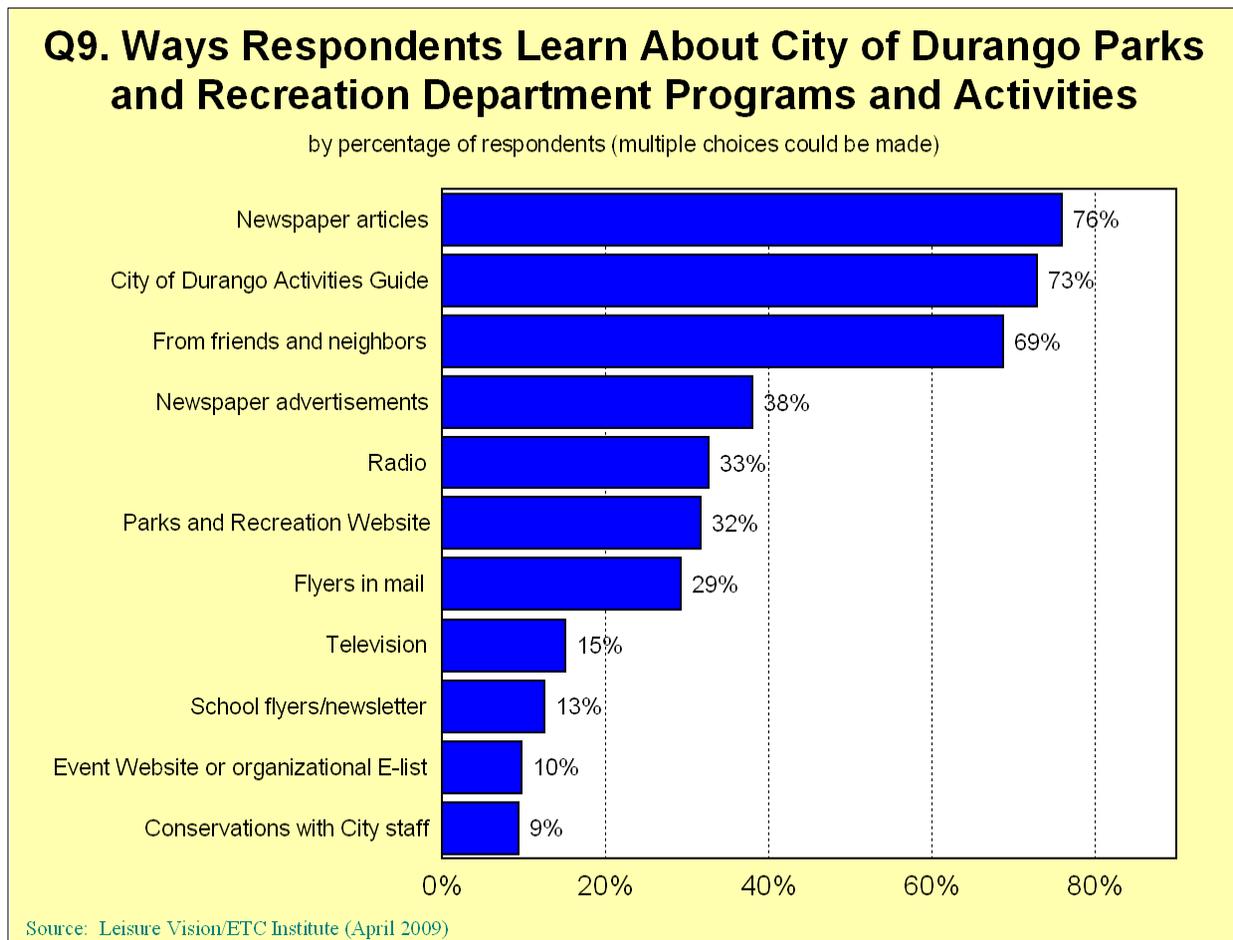
- **Fifty-eight percent (58%) of respondents feel the City of Durango open space preservation efforts should include lands located outside of its comprehensive planning areas.**



Ways Respondents Learn About City Recreation Programs and Activities

From a list of 11 options, respondents were asked to indicate all the ways they learn about City of Durango recreation programs and activities. The following summarizes key findings:

- The most frequently mentioned ways respondents learn about City recreation programs and activities include: newspaper articles (76%), City of Durango Activities Guide (73%), and from friends and neighbors (69%).**



Parks and Recreation Facilities That Households Support or Desire

From a list of 28 parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate all of the ones their household supports or has a desire for. The following summarizes key findings:

- **The parks and recreation facilities that the highest percentage of households support or desire include: neighborhood parks (89%), bike and pedestrian hard surface trails (87%), hiking and biking natural surface trails (85%), indoor fitness and exercise facilities (80%), and indoor recreation centers with aquatic areas (77%).**

