

The Chenango, Delaware, Susquehanna and Tioughnioga Rivers:
A Citizen Survey for Vestal's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

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Introduction

In 2009 the Town of Vestal, in cooperation with 22 regional municipalities and Broome County, received a New York State Environmental Assistance Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Project (LWRP) grant. In March 2010 the town approached the Center for Applied Community Research & Development for assistance with the citizen input portion of a project being managed by Peter J. Smith & Company of Buffalo, New York, the contracted consulting firm.

Over the next several months the CARCD, in collaboration with the LWRP project partners, designed an online survey to gauge public opinion about development along local waterways. The web-based survey opened on August 2, 2011 and closed on September 11, 2011. Due to the potential for biased responses after Tropical Storm Lee affected Broome and Tioga Counties, seven surveys received after September 7 were omitted from the analysis.

Survey Respondents

- 254 respondents
- 91% completion rate

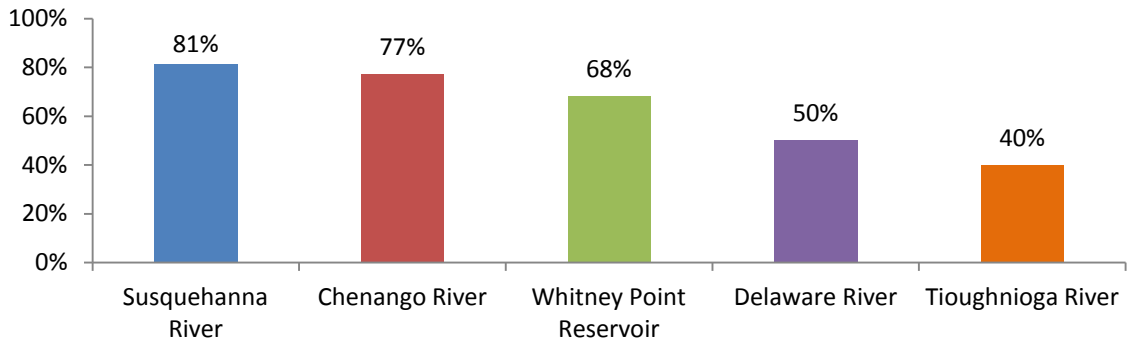
Respondent Profile

Most respondents (66%) were over 41 years of age, the median age of Broome County residents. They have had a formal education, with more than half reporting 4 years or more of college; half earn over \$50,000/year. Representation was nearly equal between genders, and 68% reported having no children under 18 at home.

A large majority (82%) of respondents reside in Broome County, 20% of whom live in the Town of Binghamton. Outside of Broome County, Tioga County residents had the greatest response rate at 37%.

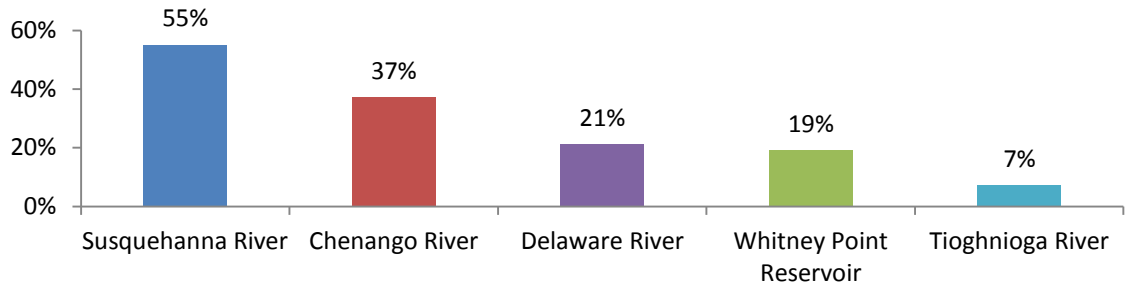
Survey Results

Rivers and reservoirs used for recreation



n=254

Rivers and reservoirs used more than six times each year

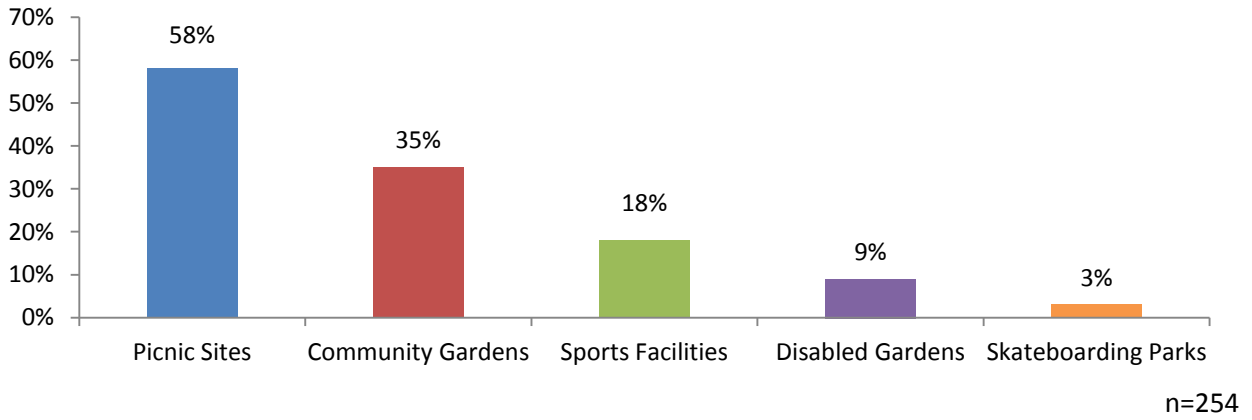


n=254

Recreational Activities on the Rivers and Reservoirs

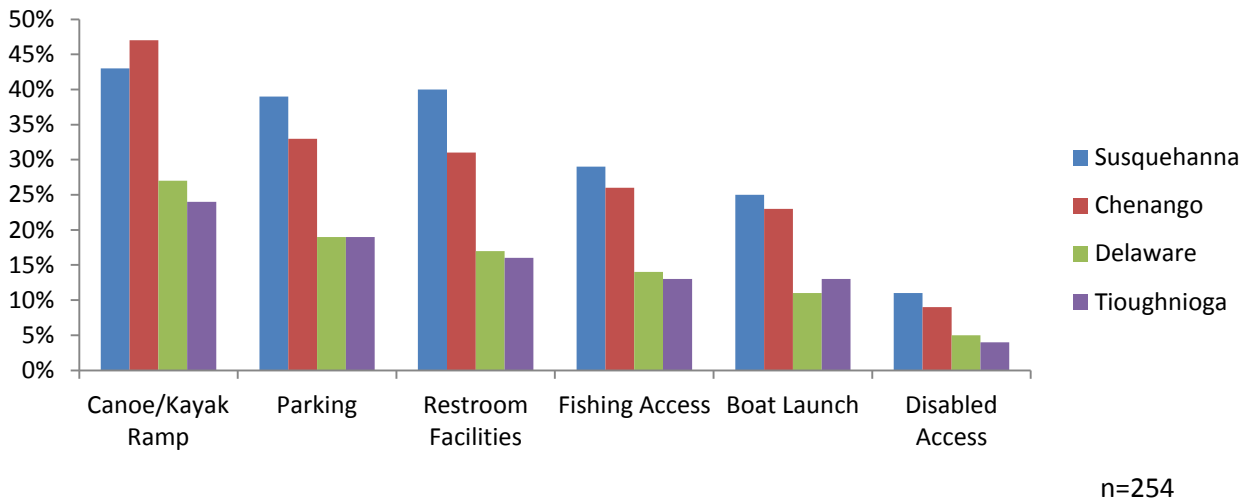
	Chenango River	Delaware River	Susquehanna River	Tioughnioga River	Whitney Point Reservoir
Biking	22%	4%	17%	3%	8%
Bank Fishing	22%	19%	26%	11%	21%
Boat Fishing	11%	8%	16%	6%	17%
Bird Watching	30%	17%	34%	11%	20%
Camping	5%	9%	6%	2%	NA
Canoeing	26%	22%	26%	18%	19%
Kayaking	23%	13%	29%	17%	24%
Picnicking	21%	7%	18%	6%	33%
Swimming	11%	9%	16%	7%	28%
Tubing	5%	6%	6%	2%	NA
Walking	56%	21%	52%	11%	32%

Likely Use of Open Space Improvements

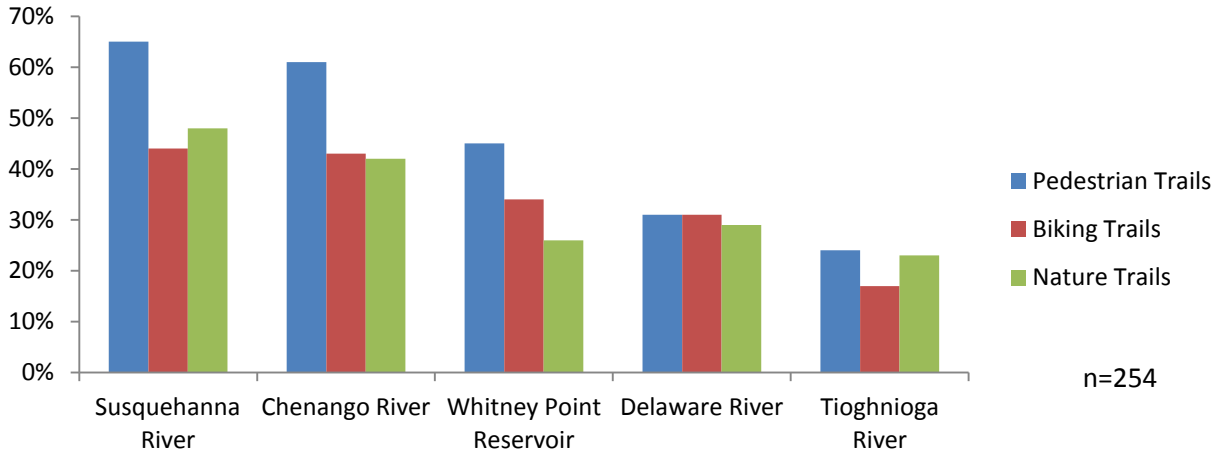


Most visited parks	Least visited parks
Otsiningo Park, Binghamton	William Hill Park, Town of Union
Port Dickinson Community Park, Port Dickinson	Boland Park, Johnson City
Binghamton Riverwalk, Binghamton	Castle Gardens Park, Vestal

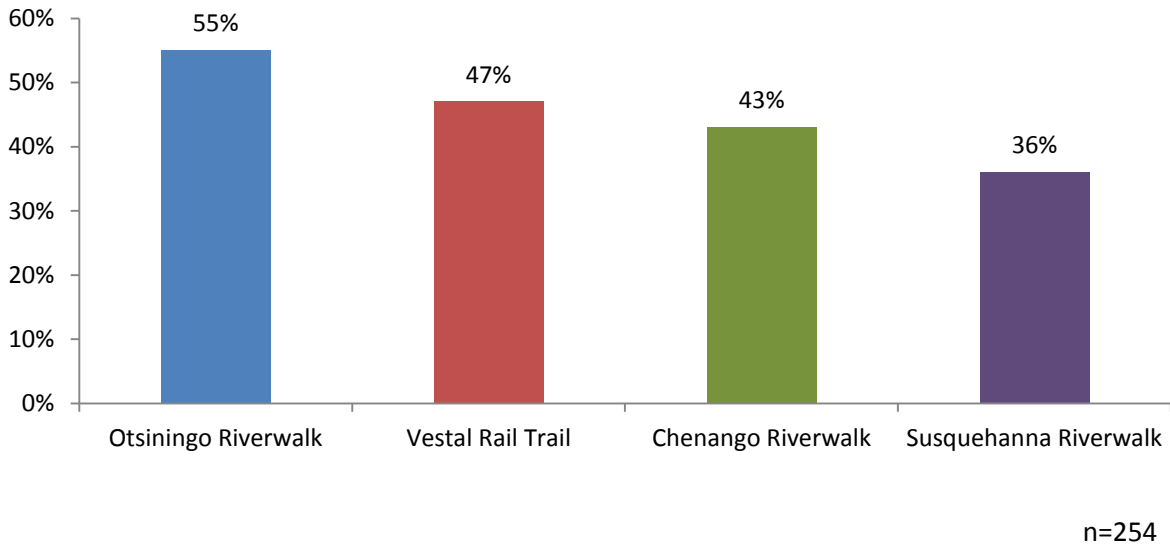
Priorities for River Access Improvements



Top three choices for river trail improvements



Most Frequently-Used Walking/Biking Trails

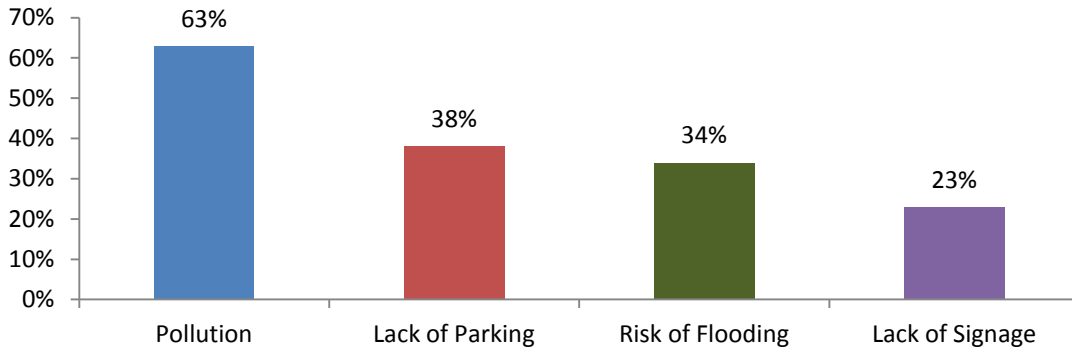


Which of the following environmental improvements are needed at which rivers in the study?

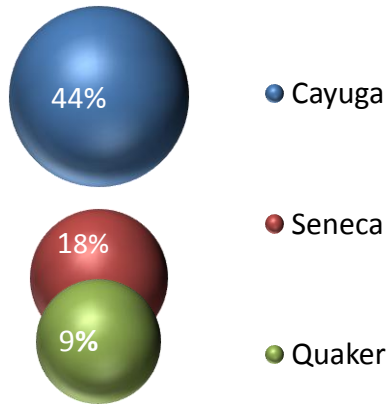
Flood Control	
Susquehanna	39%
Chenango	32%
Delaware	18%
Tioughnioga	17%
Conservatorship/Land Trusts	
Susquehanna	40%
Chenango	39%
Delaware	34%
Tioughnioga	34%
Watershed Management	
Susquehanna	44%
Chenango	40%
Delaware	34%
Tioughnioga	33%
Pollution Reduction	
Susquehanna	62%
Chenango	51%
Tioughnioga	37%
Delaware	36%
Responses to "Other" (not specific to a body of water)	
Hydrofracking/Water use from gas drilling	4%
Sewer discharge	2%

Prioritizing Improvements at Existing Riverfront Parks	
Directional Signage	44%
Scenic Overlooks	30%
Interpretive Signage	26%

What would inhibit you from participating in a river-based activity?



Which lakes do you regularly use for recreational purposes?



Preferences for Commercial Riverfront Development

