

Jackson County Water Trail Plan

Survey Results Report



Jackson County, Iowa
2021

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the results of the Jackson County Water Trails survey that was conducted by East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) as part of the development of the Jackson County Water Trails Plan. The results are based on a total of 333 responses collected between January 24, 2021 and February 26, 2021. Survey responses were collected through a Survey Monkey online questionnaire. The report includes into two sections. Section 1 provides an overview of the survey methods summary results of all thirty survey questions.

Survey Methods

The survey was completed as part of the public engagement process for the Jackson County Water Trail Plan. The survey included twenty questions related to existing and desired future conditions on the Maquoketa River and the North Fork of the Maquoketa River in Jackson County, Iowa. The questions were developed by ECIA in consultation with the Jackson County Water Trail Plan Steering Committee and Iowa Department of Natural Resources staff.

ECIA and the project steering committee used various communications channels to publicize the survey including word of mouth, online, and local media. The survey was announced in a press release that was distributed to local media outlets including the Maquoketa Sentinel-Press, Bellevue Herald Leader, and KMAQ Radio. The survey announcement was also published on the project website and project Facebook page. The announcement was shared with several email distribution lists including the Iowa DNR's paddle craft registration list. The survey announcement was also shared on Facebook by Jackson County Conservation and a number of conservation and recreation groups.

The online survey questionnaire was published on the project website jacksoncountywatertrails.org. The survey page on the website included a link to the Survey Monkey questionnaire and instructions on how to fill it out. Jackson County Conservation made paper questionnaires available at the Hurstville Interpretive Center. The Survey was opened on January 26, 2021 and closed on February 25, 2021.

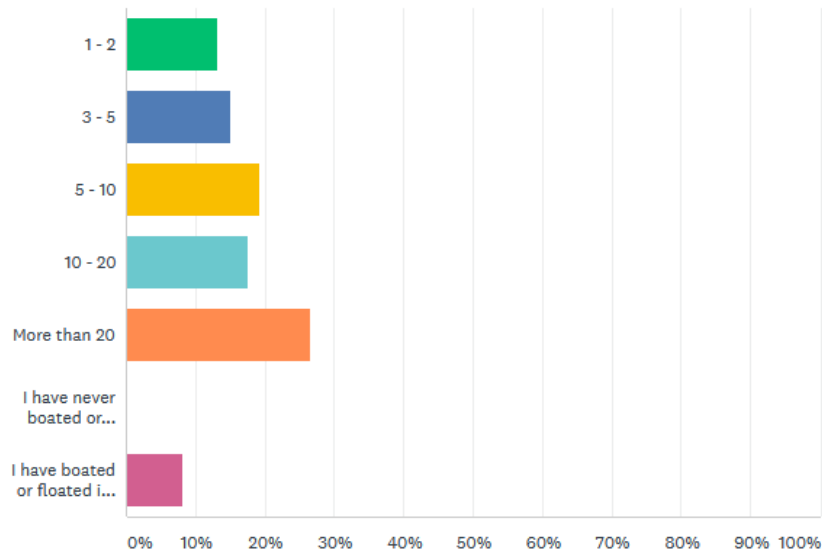
Survey Results

The questionnaire included a total of twenty questions. The following summarizes the responses provided for each question.

Question 1

On average, how many times per year do you boat or float on a river, stream, lake or pond? (i.e. raft, kayak, innertube, canoe, etc)?

Answered: 332 Skipped: 1



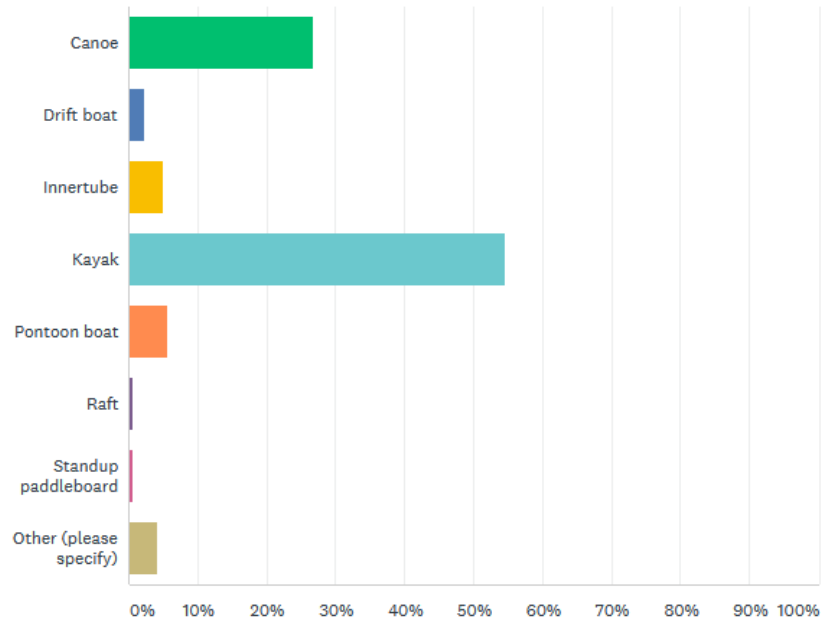
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ 1 - 2	13.25% 44
▼ 3 - 5	15.06% 50
▼ 5 - 10	19.28% 64
▼ 10 - 20	17.47% 58
▼ More than 20	26.51% 88
▼ I have never boated or floated on a river, stream, lake, or pond.	0.30% 1
▼ I have boated or floated in the past, but do not do it on a regular basis.	8.13% 27
TOTAL	332

Responses to question one indicated that many of the survey participants were experienced paddlers. 26% of participants boat or float more than 20 times per year.

Question 2

What is your preferred craft?

Answered: 313 Skipped: 20



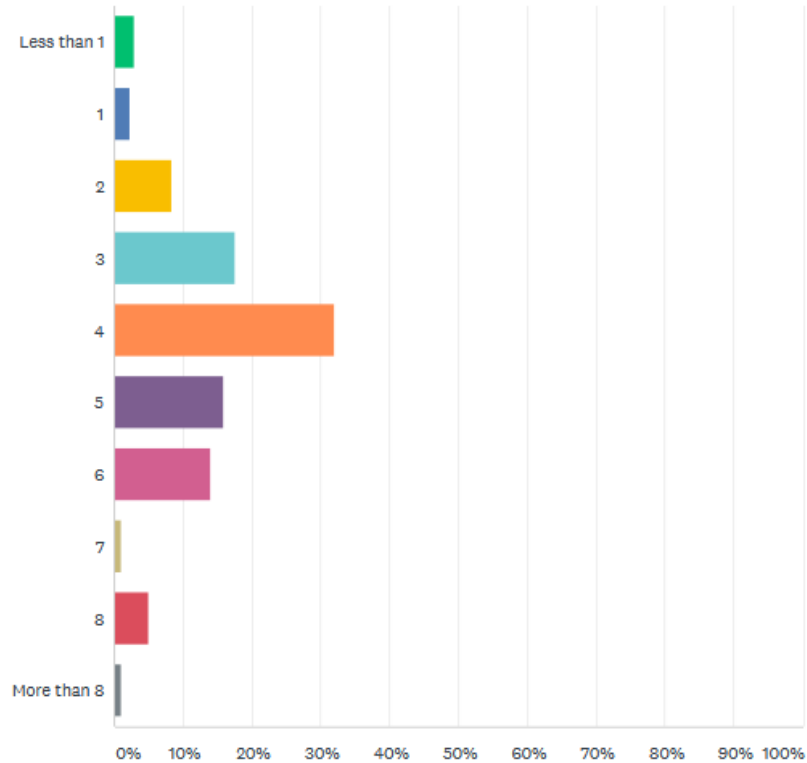
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Canoe	26.84% 84
▼ Drift boat	2.24% 7
▼ Innertube	5.11% 16
▼ Kayak	54.63% 171
▼ Pontoon boat	5.75% 18
▼ Raft	0.64% 2
▼ Standup paddleboard	0.64% 2
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 4.15% 13
TOTAL	313

Canoes and kayaks were the most popular vessels for survey participants.

Question 3

How many hours do you like to paddle or float in one day?

Answered: 313 Skipped: 20



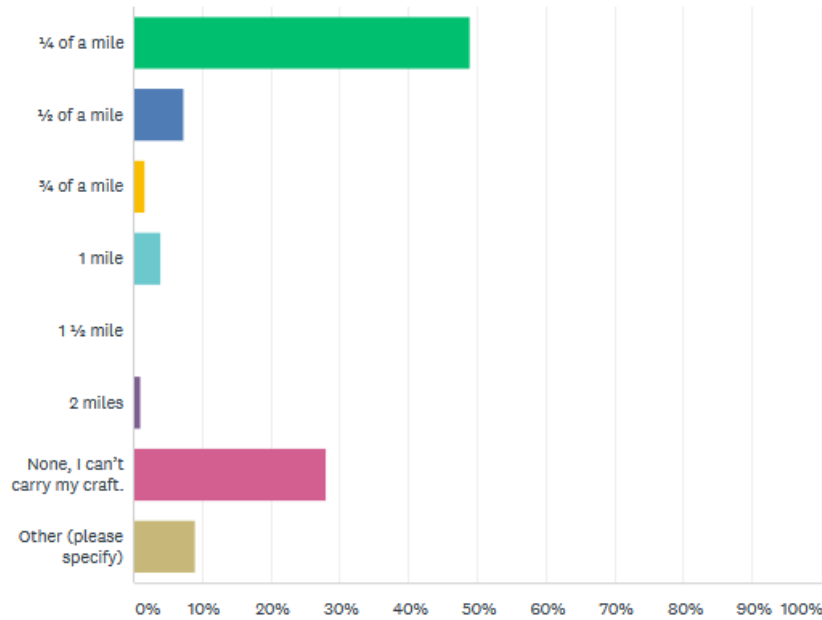
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than 1	2.88% 9
1	2.24% 7
2	8.31% 26
3	17.57% 55
4	31.95% 100
5	15.97% 50
6	14.06% 44
7	0.96% 3
8	5.11% 16
More than 8	0.96% 3
TOTAL	313

Paddling trips that take about four hours were most popular with survey respondents. Responses indicate that trips of 3 -5 hours would be the most popular.

Question 4

How far are you willing to carry your craft?

Answered: 310 Skipped: 23



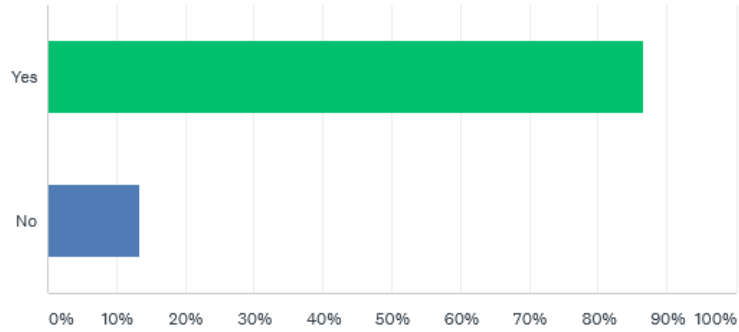
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ ¼ of a mile	49.03% 152
▼ ½ of a mile	7.42% 23
▼ ¾ of a mile	1.61% 5
▼ 1 mile	3.87% 12
▼ 1 ½ mile	0.00% 0
▼ 2 miles	0.97% 3
▼ None, I can't carry my craft.	28.06% 87
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 9.03% 28
TOTAL	310

Responses to the question indicate that most paddlers are only willing to carry their craft a short distance. Almost 50 percent said they would only carry tier craft ¼ mile. Another large portion, 28 percent, said they are un able to carry their craft.

Question 5

Have you ever visited the Maquoketa River or the North Fork of the Maquoketa River in Jackson County?

Answered: 316 Skipped: 17



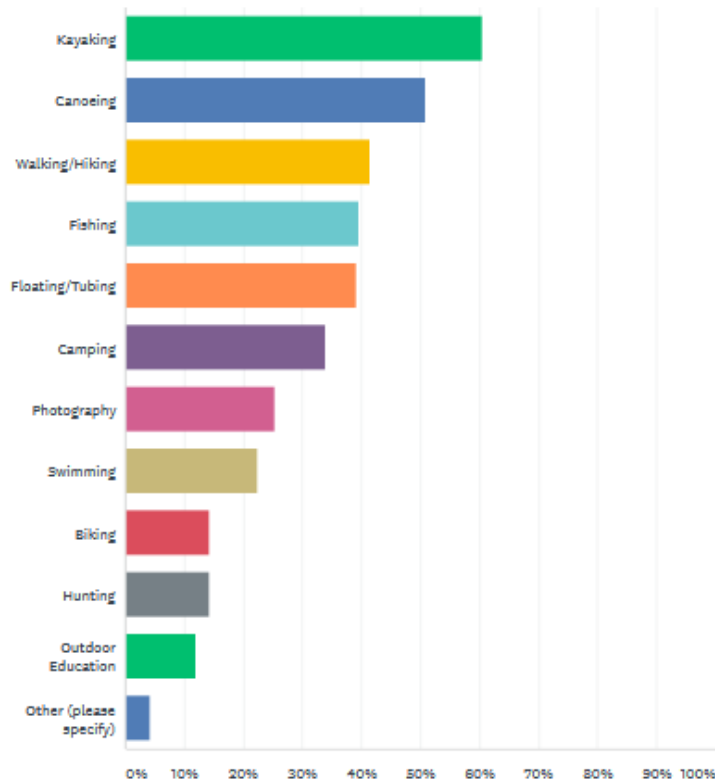
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	86.71% 274
No	13.29% 42
TOTAL	316

Most survey participants, 86 percent, had visited the Maquoketa and North Fork of the Maquoketa in the past.

Question 6

What type of activities did you participate in during your visit(s) to the Maquoketa River and the North Fork of the Maquoketa River in Jackson County? Please mark all that apply.

Answered: 268 Skipped: 65



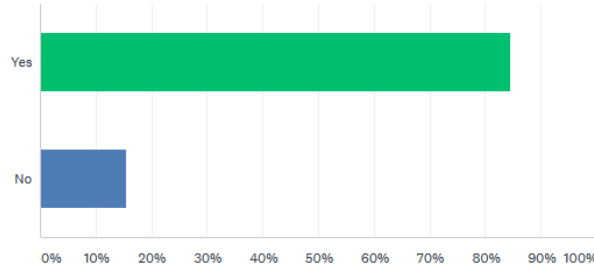
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Kayaking	60.45% 162
▼ Canoeing	50.75% 136
▼ Walking/Hiking	41.42% 111
▼ Fishing	39.55% 106
▼ Floating/Tubing	39.18% 106
▼ Camping	33.96% 91
▼ Photography	25.37% 68
▼ Swimming	22.39% 60
▼ Biking	14.18% 38
▼ Hunting	14.18% 38
▼ Outdoor Education	11.94% 32
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 4.10% 11
Total Respondents: 268	

In addition to canoeing and kayaking, survey participants reported enjoying a variety of other outdoor recreational activities when visiting the Maquoketa River and North Fork of the Maquoketa River. The most popular non-paddling activities include: walking and hiking, fishing, and floating/tubing.

Question 7

Have you ever boated or floated the Maquoketa or the North Fork of the Maquoketa River (i.e. raft, kayak, innertube, canoe, etc)?

Answered: 309 Skipped: 24



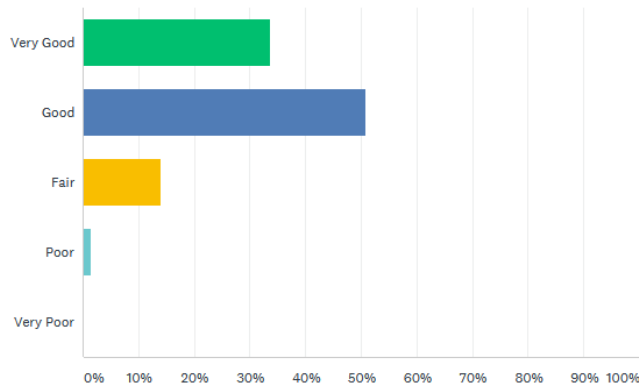
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	84.47%	261
No	15.53%	48
TOTAL		309

A strong majority of participants, 84 percent, have boated or floated the Maquoketa River and North Fork of the Maquoketa river in the past.

Question 8

How would you describe the Maquoketa River and the North Fork of the Maquoketa River as paddling destinations?

Answered: 220 Skipped: 113



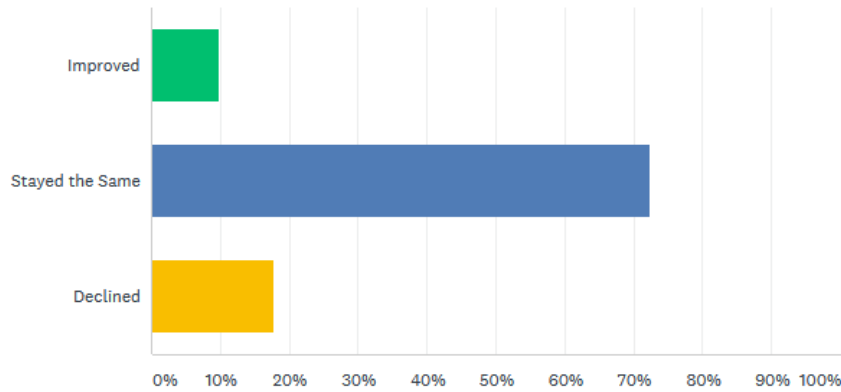
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Good	33.64%	74
Good	50.91%	112
Fair	14.09%	31
Poor	1.36%	3
Very Poor	0.00%	0
TOTAL		220

Of the participants who reported floating or boating the rivers in the past, a strong majority, 84 percent, the rivers as good or very good paddling destinations.

Question 9

How would you say paddling conditions on the Maquoketa River and the North Fork of the Maquoketa River have changed over the past five years?

Answered: 213 Skipped: 120



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Improved	9.86% 21
Stayed the Same	72.30% 154
Declined	17.84% 38
TOTAL	213

Of the participants who reported floating or boating the rivers in the past, 72 percent said paddling conditions had remained the same over the last five years.

Question 10

What is your favorite stretch of the Maquoketa River to paddle or float?

Answered: 191 Skipped: 142

Canton Bridge to	43
Canton Bridge to Royertown Bridge	36
Iron Bridge to	10
Spragueville to	10
Canton Bridge to Chennelworth Bridge	9
Canton Bridge to Joinerville Park	9
Maquoketa City Access to	6
Canton Bridge to Maquoketa City Access	4
Canton Bridge to Morehead Bridge	4
Royertown Bridge to	4
Spragueville to Highway 52	4
Bridgeport Bridge to	3
Damon Birdge to	3
Joinerville Park to	3
Royertown Bridge to Joinerville Park	3
Canton Bridge to Iron Bridge	2
Canton Bridge to Mississippi River	2
Chennelworth Bridge to Joinerville Park	2
Highway 52 to	2
Iron Bridge to Damon Birdge	2
Iron Bridge to Highway 52	2
Iron Bridge to Mississippi River	2
Iron Bridge to Spragueville	2
Maquoketa City Access to Bridgeport Bridge	2
Millertown Bridge to	2
Millertown Bridge to Joinerville Park	2
Millertown Bridge to Morehead Bridge	2
Morehead Bridge to Joinerville Park	2
to Chennelworth Bridge	1
to Royertown Bridge	1
Bridgeport Bridge to Iron Bridge	1
Canton Bridge to Millertown Bridge	1
Chennelworth Bridge to	1
Chennelworth Bridge to Bridgeport Bridge	1
Highway 52 to Mississippi River	1
Joinerville Park to Highway 52	1
Maquoketa City Access to Highway 52	1
Maquoketa City Access to Iron Bridge	1
Millertown Bridge to Maquoketa City Access	1
Millertown Bridge to Royertown Bridge	1
Morehead Bridge to	1
Royertown Bridge to Chennelworth Bridge	1

Question 11

What is your favorite stretch of the North Fork of the Maquoketa River to paddle or float?

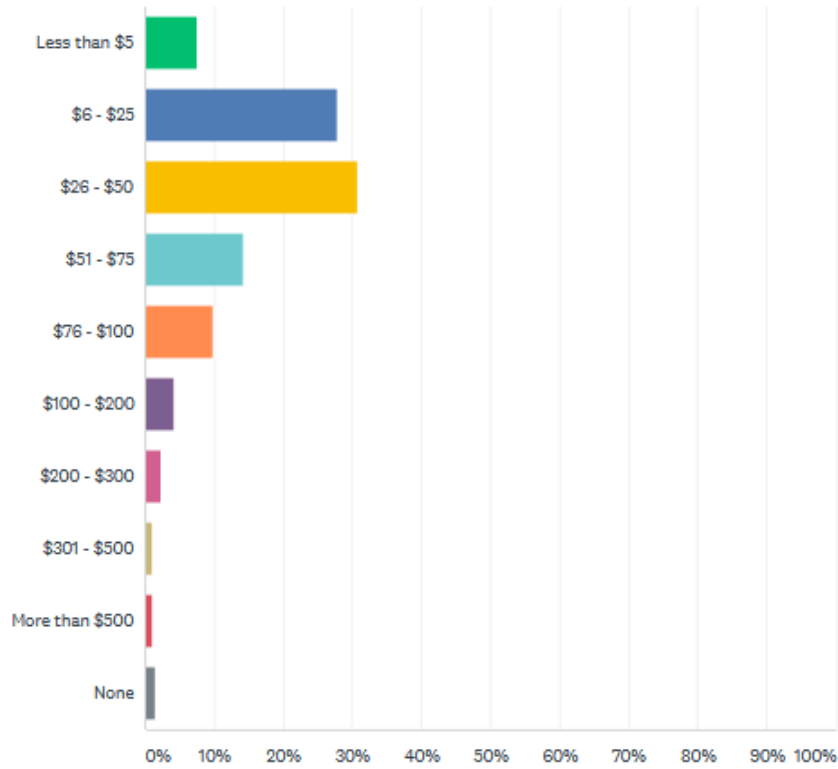
Answered: 191 Skipped: 142

Caven Bridge to	18
Iron Bridge to	14
Bridgeport Bridge to	12
Spragueville to	9
Highway 52 to	8
Iron Bridge to Highway 52	8
Iron Bridge to Spragueville	6
Caven Bridge to Bridgeport Bridge	5
Caven Bridge to Iron Bridge	5
Davision Bridge to	4
Spragueville to Highway 52	4
to Caaven Bridge	3
Davision Bridge to Bridgeport Bridge	3
Caven Bridge to Highway 52	2
Damon Bridge to	2
Davision Bridge to Spragueville	2
Iron Bridge to Damon Bridge	2
Iron Bridge to Mississippi River	2
Spragueville to Damon Bridge	2
Spragueville to Iron Bridge	2
to Davision Bridge	1
to Spragueville	1
Bridgeport Bridge to Damon Bridge	1
Bridgeport Bridge to Spragueville	1
Caven Bridge to Craven Bridge	1
Caven Bridge to Mississippi River	1
Caven Bridge to Spragueville	1
Damon Bridge to Spragueville	1
Davision Bridge to Damon Bridge	1
Highway 52 to Damon Bridge	1
Highway 52 to Mississippi River	1
Highway 52 to Spragueville	1

Question 12

How much money do you estimate you spent on your last trip to the Maquoketa River or the North Fork of the Maquoketa River in Jackson County? Please include transportation, gas, boat rentals, parking food, shuttle, lodging, equipment purchases etc.

Answered: 212 Skipped: 121



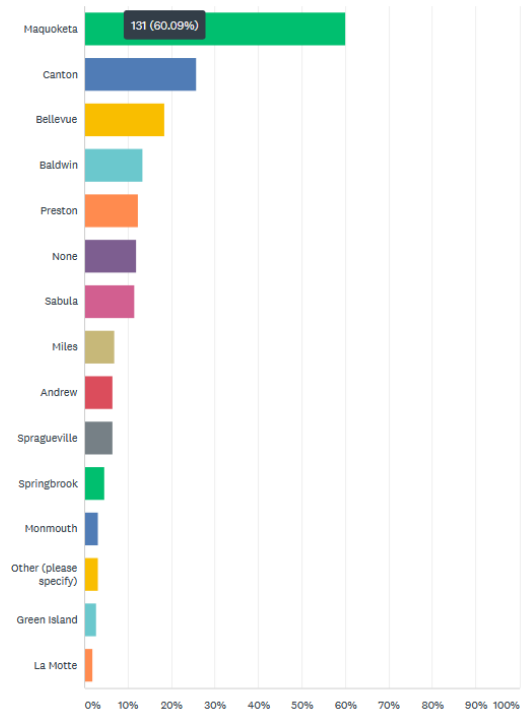
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than \$5	7.55% 16
\$6 - \$25	27.83% 69
\$26 - \$50	30.66% 65
\$51 - \$75	14.15% 30
\$76 - \$100	9.91% 21
\$100 - \$200	4.25% 9
\$200 - \$300	2.36% 5
\$301 - \$500	0.94% 2
More than \$500	0.94% 2
None	1.42% 3
TOTAL	212

Most participants spent less than \$50 on their last trip to the rivers.

Question 13

Which Jackson County communities did you stop to spend money in on your last trip to the Maquoketa River or the North Fork of the Maquoketa River? Mark all that apply.

Answered: 218 Skipped: 115



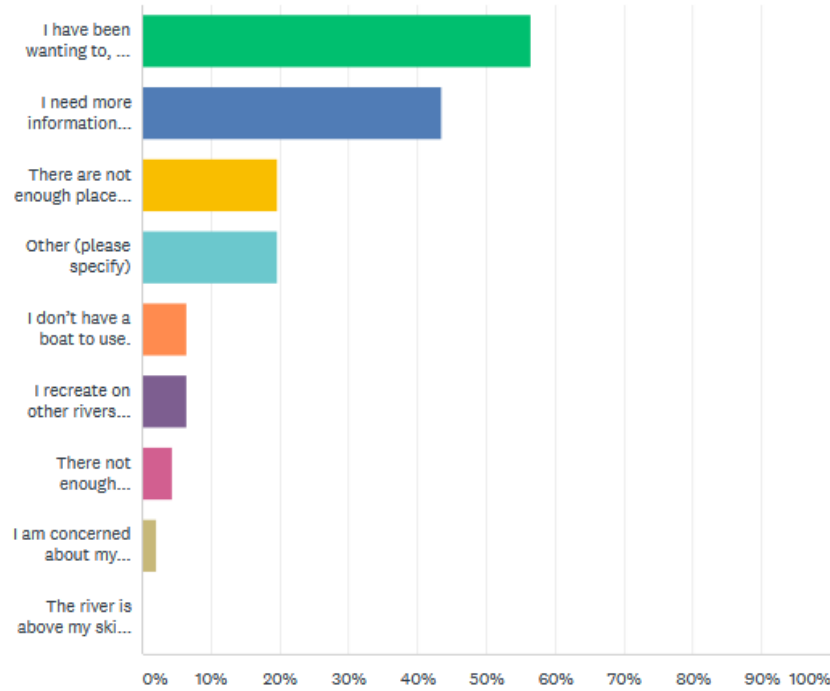
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Maquoketa	60.09%	131
▼ Canton	25.69%	56
▼ Bellevue	18.35%	40
▼ Baldwin	13.30%	29
▼ Preston	12.39%	27
▼ None	11.93%	26
▼ Sabula	11.47%	25
▼ Miles	6.88%	15
▼ Andrew	6.42%	14
▼ Spragueville	6.42%	14
▼ Springbrook	4.59%	10
▼ Monmouth	3.21%	7
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 3.21%	7
▼ Green Island	2.75%	6
▼ La Motte	1.83%	4
Total Respondents: 218		

Participants reported spending money across Jackson County, but most people who spent money on their trip, spent it in Maquoketa.

Question 14

If you don't float or boat the Maquoketa River or the North Fork of the Maquoketa River, why not? Mark all that apply.

Answered: 46 Skipped: 287



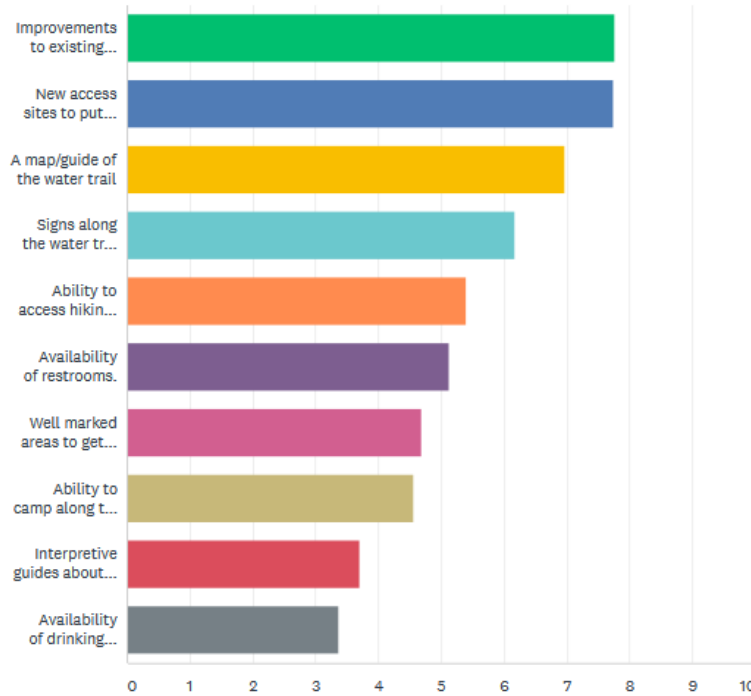
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ I have been wanting to, but have not done it yet.	56.52%	26
▼ I need more information about floating and boating opportunities.	43.48%	20
▼ There are not enough places to access the river.	19.57%	9
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 19.57%	9
▼ I don't have a boat to use.	6.52%	3
▼ I recreate on other rivers and am not interested in this river.	6.52%	3
▼ There not enough restrooms.	4.35%	2
▼ I am concerned about my safety.	2.17%	1
▼ The river is above my skill level	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 46		

Most participants who haven't boated or floated the rivers would like to but haven't done it yet. Some also reported needing more information about boating or floating opportunities.

Question 15

Looking into the future, what water trail features are most valuable to you?
Please rank the following options from most important to least important.

Answered: 244 Skipped: 89



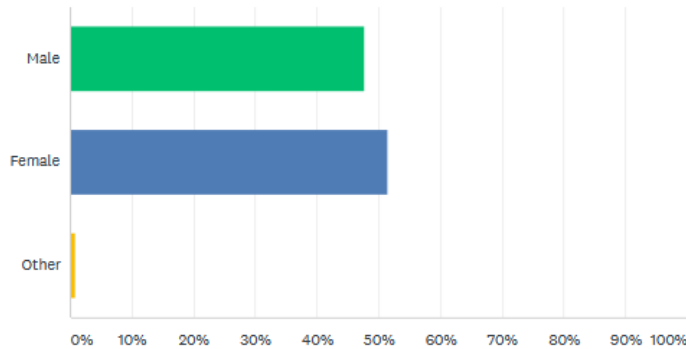
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	Score
Improvements to existing access sites (i.e. boat ramps, parking, and other amenities)	26.09%	23.48%	14.35%	10.87%	10.87%	3.91%	4.35%	2.17%	1.30%	2.61%	230	7.77
New access sites to put in/take out boats.	37.83%	17.83%	10.00%	9.13%	5.22%	6.09%	2.61%	3.48%	2.17%	5.65%	230	7.75
A map/guide of the water trail	12.83%	21.24%	21.24%	11.06%	7.08%	6.19%	7.96%	5.31%	2.21%	4.87%	226	6.97
Signs along the water trail that identify access sites and hazards.	5.86%	9.46%	12.16%	20.72%	18.02%	11.71%	8.56%	7.21%	3.60%	2.70%	222	6.18
Ability to access hiking trails along the water trail.	6.82%	8.18%	10.91%	14.09%	10.45%	10.00%	10.91%	7.73%	12.27%	8.64%	220	5.40
Availability of restrooms.	3.13%	5.36%	7.14%	8.48%	18.75%	20.98%	14.73%	4.91%	9.82%	6.70%	224	5.13
Well marked areas to get out of boats to stretch or eat.	2.20%	3.96%	11.01%	7.05%	11.01%	12.33%	10.13%	26.87%	9.69%	5.73%	227	4.69
Ability to camp along the water trail.	3.52%	9.25%	7.93%	9.69%	7.93%	7.93%	4.41%	13.22%	26.43%	9.69%	227	4.57
Interpretive guides about natural resources and history of the area.	1.81%	0.90%	3.17%	2.71%	6.79%	12.22%	26.70%	15.38%	14.48%	15.84%	221	3.70
Availability of drinking water.	2.69%	3.14%	4.04%	6.28%	6.28%	7.17%	7.17%	12.11%	14.80%	36.32%	223	3.36

The improvements most valued by survey participants were: Improvements to existing accesses, New access sites, and a map/guide of the water trail.

Question 16

What is your gender?

Answered: 249 Skipped: 84

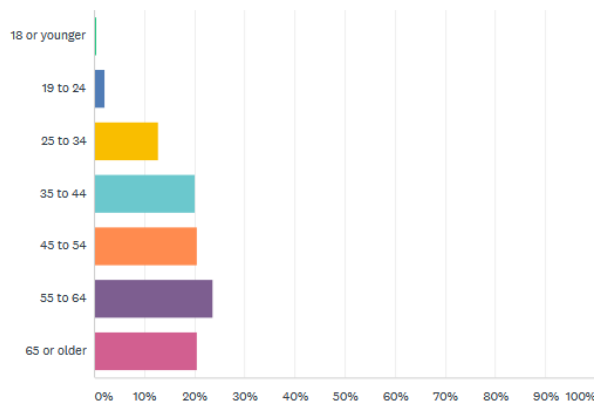


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Male	47.79%	119
▼ Female	51.41%	128
▼ Other	Responses 0.80%	2
TOTAL		249

Question 17

Which of the following categories includes your age?

Answered: 249 Skipped: 84

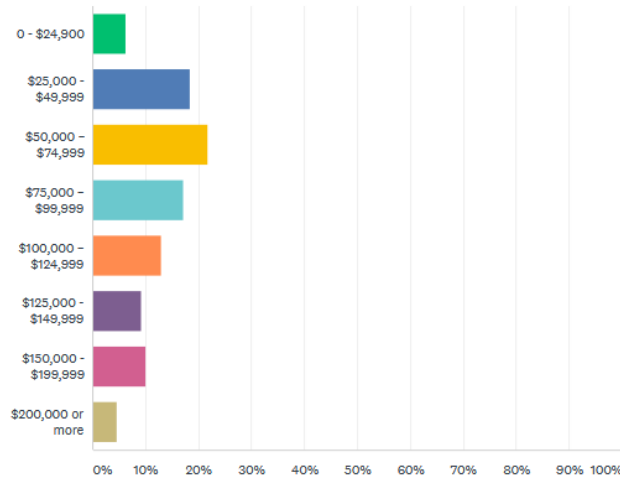


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ 18 or younger	0.40%	1
▼ 19 to 24	2.01%	5
▼ 25 to 34	12.85%	32
▼ 35 to 44	20.08%	50
▼ 45 to 54	20.48%	51
▼ 55 to 64	23.69%	59
▼ 65 or older	20.48%	51
TOTAL		249

Question 18

Which of the following categories includes your total annual household income before taxes?

Answered: 240 Skipped: 93



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ 0 - \$24,900	6.25% 15
▼ \$25,000 - \$49,999	18.33% 44
▼ \$50,000 - \$74,999	21.67% 52
▼ \$75,000 - \$99,999	17.08% 41
▼ \$100,000 - \$124,999	12.92% 31
▼ \$125,000 - \$149,999	9.17% 22
▼ \$150,000 - \$199,999	10.00% 24
▼ \$200,000 or more	4.58% 11
TOTAL	240