Pathwatch 2002

Interview Report

Prepared by: Community Strategies Policy & Planning Business & Market Research

In Partnership with: Parks Public Education & Programs Pathways

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Executive Summary

Introduction

With more than 550 km of pathways, The City of Calgary's pathway system is the most extensive urban pathway network in North America. In the spring of 2002, Parks initiated a partnership with Community Strategies to conduct extensive observation and on-site interview research on the urban pathways.

Conducted in the summer of 2002, the research resulted in **Pathwatch 2002**, a comprehensive two-part report designed to assist Parks in planning, development, and operations of The City of Calgary's pathway system. The report consists of:

- The Pathwatch Use Profiles component is presented in two parts: (1) 2002 Site Profiles and (2) 2002 Summary Report. The Site
 Profiles provide comprehensive hourly observation data on pathway use at thirty-nine sites along the pathways. It includes demographic
 information, activities on the pathways, direction travelled, and bylaw compliance. This report also incorporates comparisons to fifteen
 comparable sites observed in 1994. The Summary Report provides an overall summary of the thirty-nine sites presented in the Site
 Profiles, along with a detailed synopsis of the 1994 2002 comparisons.
- The Pathwatch Interview Report, presented herein, provides the results of intercept interviews conducted with pathway users at various locations on the pathways. This component looked at pathway users' familiarity with pathway regulations, perceptions of safety; frequency of use, reasons for using the pathways, and perceptions of pathway quality and value.

Methodology

The data collection for the **Pathwatch Interview Report** was conducted between August and September 2002 using two complimentary research methodologies, intercept interviews and mail-in questionnaires. Availability or convenience sampling procedures were used to conduct interviews with every third person on the pathway. Those who did not have the time or interest in completing an on-site interview, were given a questionnaire with a business reply envelope to mail in their comments. These two data collection methods resulted in a combined total of 1031 participants.

It is important to note that because a convenience sample was used, it is not possible to generalize the findings in this report to *all* pathway users. What this means is, *the findings reported herein apply only to those who were interviewed on-site and those who completed a mail-in questionnaire*. This report is not intended to replace statistical documents. Because it offers valuable insight into the views of those who were interviewed and those who completed a mail-in questionnaire, this report can provide direction for future planning and service development of pathways in Calgary.

Pathwatch Interview Report: 2002 Survey Results

Key Findings

Pathway Users' Awareness of Pathway Regulations

The majority of participants were "somewhat familiar" to "very familiar" with pathway bylaws (62%).

Top Three Pathway Bylaws to Follow

- 1. Following the speed limit
- 2. Using bells on bikes
- 3. Keeping to the right of the pathway

Of the total participants (N=1031), 57.2% indicated that pathway bylaws need to be enforced.

Perceptions of Safety from Accidents on the Pathways

When looking at those who reported feeling "somewhat safe" to "very safe", overall perceptions of safety from accidents on the pathways were high. Those who were cycling (96% of 841 cyclists), running/jogging (95% of 585 runners), walking (93% of 953 walkers), and inline skating (82% of 359 inline skaters) reported feeling "somewhat safe" to "very safe".

However, when looking at the same participants and the category of "very safe" alone, a different picture emerged. Among those who were inline skating, only 38% indicated feeling "very safe", compared to those who were cycling (60%), running/jogging (59%) and walking (57%).

Number of Pathway Trips per Week

- Overall, 97.6% of participants (N=931) said they made between 1 and 15 trips per week.
- Of these participants, 47.2% made 1 to 5 trips per week.
- The most frequent response was 10 trips per week, followed by 3 trips per week.

Top Three Reasons for Using the Pathways

Of the participants (N=1026), the most common reasons for using the pathways were:

- 1. Exercise (40.6%)
- 2. Commuting (38.3%)
- 3. Recreation (20.9%).

Top Three Months for Using the Pathways

Of the participants (N=1027), the greatest percentage of use occurred during:

- 1. August (96.9%)
- 2. July (96.2%)
- 3. June (93.1%)

There were 421 participants (41%) who indicated that they used the pathways all year long.

Pathway Quality:

Overall, 83% of participants rated the quality of The City of Calgary's pathway system as "very good" to "excellent".

Top Three Reasons for Liking the Pathways:

- 1. Extensiveness (550 kms throughout the city and it's everywhere)
- 2. Scenery /nature /green spaces /close to river
- 3. Well maintained /quality of the pathway system

Conclusion and Recommendations

- Increased educational programming to raise levels of awareness of pathway bylaws should be considered. The top three ways to educate the public on pathway bylaws indicated by participants were to list them on the pathway/bike map, brochures, or a pathside information booth.
- Increased promotion of the Pathway Hotline and the Pathway Hub may also increase awareness of pathway regulations.
- In addition to educating the public on pathway bylaws, enforcement of pathway bylaws should be considered. The majority of the participants in this study indicated that warnings, fines and tickets were acceptable means of dealing with violators. Other participants indicated that there should be varying consequences, depending on the violation. In addition, other participants indicated that an increased presence of bylaw officers and/or police would increase adherence to the pathway bylaws.
- Since participants indicated that the three reasons they use the pathways are for exercise, commuting and recreation, separation of pathways for commuter use verses recreational use should be considered where possible.

Pathwatch 2002 *Interview Report*

I. Introduction

1. Background

Calgary Parks is proud of all that has been done to make the pathways such an important part of Calgary. Knowing that it was important to continue to meet the level of excellence that Calgarians have come to expect, Parks initiated a partnership with Community Strategies to conduct extensive research on The City of Calgary's regional pathways. With more than 550 km of pathways, The City of Calgary's pathway system is the most extensive urban pathway network in North America.

Conducted in the summer of 2002, the research resulted in **Pathwatch 2002**, a comprehensive two-part report designed to assist Parks in planning, development, and operations of The City of Calgary's pathway system. The report consists of:

- The *Pathwatch Use Profiles* is presented in two parts: (1) **2002 Site Profiles** and (2) **2002 Summary Report**. The **Site Profiles** provide comprehensive hourly observation data on pathway use at thirty-nine sites along the pathways. It includes demographic information, activities on the pathways, direction travelled, and bylaw compliance. This report also incorporates comparisons to fifteen comparable sites observed in 1994. The **Summary Report** provides an overall summary of the thirty-nine sites presented in the **Site Profiles**, along with a detailed synopsis of the 1994 2002 comparisons.
- The *Pathwatch Interview Report*, presented herein, provides the results of intercept interviews conducted with pathway users at various locations on the pathways.

2. Purpose and Objectives

The *Pathwatch Interview* was implemented to be used in conjunction with the hourly observation data to assist Parks in the management and operations of the pathway system. This component was designed to meet four objectives:

- To determine pathway users' awareness of, and attitudes toward, pathway regulations and safety
- To explore how safe from accidents pathway users felt while using the pathways
- To determine pathway users' frequency of use and reasons for using the pathways
- · To explore perceptions of pathway quality and value

3. Methodology

Information was gathered from users of Calgary's regional pathway system between August and September 2002 using two complimentary research methodologies, intercept interviews and mail-in questionnaires. Availability or convenience sampling procedures were used to conduct interviews with as many pathway users as possible. To reduce bias in selecting participants, opinion surveyors were instructed to intercept or approach every third person and ask if they would be willing to take part in an interview. If the person did not have the time or interest in completing an on-site interview, they were given a questionnaire with a business reply envelope to mail in their comments. To encourage participation, those who were interviewed were given a 2002 Pathway Map.

Using this approach, 565 on-site interviews were obtained by opinion surveyors and 466 mail-in questionnaires were returned. These two data collection methods resulted in a combined total of 1031 participants.

To facilitate reporting, the results of the on-site interviews and mail-in questionnaires were quantified and combined and presented as overall averages or percentages. Overall averages were calculated using weighted averages to account for differences. Qualitative analysis was used to code responses to open-ended questions into themes. Themes were quantified and are presented in descending order.

It is important to note that because a convenience sample was used, it is not possible to generalize the findings in this report to *all* pathway users. What this means is, *the findings reported herein apply only to those who were interviewed on-site and those who completed a mail-in questionnaire*. This report is not intended to replace statistical documents. Because it offers valuable insight into the views of those who were interviewed and those who completed a mail-in questionnaire, this report can provide direction for future planning and service development of pathways in Calgary.

The profile of the participants begins on the next page.

II. Profile of Participants

1. Demographics

A total of 1031 participants either completed the mail-in questionnaire or were interviewed on the pathway. Since each participant did not answer every question, the overall total varies for each question.

Residents of Calgary

Participants were asked whether they lived in Calgary. Chart 1 shows that, the majority of participants were residents of Calgary (97.4%).



Gender

As shown in Chart 2, overall, the majority of participants were male (59.0%). These results are similar to the *Pathway Use Profiles* component of Pathwatch 2002, where it was found that the overall average was 58.4% male and 39.5% female¹.



¹ The overall average was calculated using weighted averages for each site to account for the different volumes of use at each site.

Overall, the majority of participants were between the ages of 25 - 54 years of age (76.5%). Table 1 provide details of the participants' ages from both the intercept interviews and the mail-in questionnaires.

Age ²	Number	Percentage
Under 14 ³	6	0.6
15-19	13	1.3
20-24	44	4.3
25-34	215	21.0
35-44	291	28.4
45-54	277	27.1
55-64	107	10.5
65-74	47	4.6
75 Plus	23	2.2
Total Responses	1023	100.0
Missing	8	
Overall	1031	

Table 1: Age of Participants

When grouping the above age categories into the categories of *children* (14 years and under), *youth* (15 - 19 years), *adults* (20 - 64 years), and *seniors* (65 years and over), the following results were obtained. Overall, 91.3% of participants were adults, 6.8% were seniors, 1.3% were youth, and 0.6% were children. By comparison, the overall averages for *observed* age in the *Pathway Use Profiles* were, 83.5% adult, 5.9% youth, 5.7% children and 4.1% seniors.

Chart 3 on the next page provides a visual representation of the age categories of all participants.

Pathwatch Interview Report: 2002 Survey Results

Age

² In the *Pathway Use Profiles*, age is understood as *observed age* since age categories were estimates based on the individual observers' determination of a pathway user's age. In this report, participants were asked for their date of birth.

³ Children under ten years old were not interviewed.



Community

Participants were asked to identify in which community they lived. Of the 804 participants who answered this question, the most frequently identified communities were Sunnyside, Mount Pleasant and Lakeview.

Communities with five or more participants included:

Sunnyside (N=45), Mount Pleasant (33), Lakeview (30), Bowness (27), Parkdale (26), Crescent Heights (25), Varsity (24), Douglasdale Estates (23), Silver Springs (22), Eau Claire (19), Hillhurst (19), Downtown (17), Killarney (17), Rosedale (17), West Hillhurst (16), Wildwood (16), Connaught (14), Edgemont (14), Montgomery (14), Kensington (12), Point McKay (12), Renfrew (12), Riverbend (12), Hawkwood (11), Highland Park (11), Dalhousie (10), Scenic Acres (10), Capitol Hill (9), Signal Hill (8), Spruce Cliff (8), Tuscany (8), Highwood (8), Huntington Hills (8), Cambrian Heights (7), Glamorgan (7), McKenzie (7), Oakridge (7), Thorncliffe (7), Capitol Hill (6), Beddington Heights (6), Bridgeland (6), Harvest Hills (6), Inglewood (6), Tuxedo Park (6), St. Andrews Heights (5), Coach Hill (5), Haysboro (5), Patterson Heights (5), Rosemont (5), Sandstone Valley (5), Springbank Hill (5), Woodbine (5).

Communities with less than five participants included (listed in descending order of the number of participants):

Brentwood, Dover, Elbow Park, Mission, University Heights, Briar Hill, Cedarbrae, Collingwood, Diamond Cove, Forest Lawn, Marlborough, Somerset, Vista Heights, Whitehorn, Acadia, Altadore, Bankview, Braeside, Charleswood, Deer Ridge, Falconridge, Glenbrook, Greenview, Hidden Valley, Kingsland, MacEwan, Marborough Park, Mayland Heights, Pumphill, Queensland, Radisson Heights, Ranchlands, Richmond, Rocky Ridge, Rundle, Rutland Park, Shaganappi, Southview, Strathcona Park, Westgate, Abbeydale, Albert Park, Applewood Park, Aspen Woods, Banff Trail, Bonavista Downs, Bridlewood, Canyon Meadows, Castleridge, Coral Springs, Cougar Ridge, Elboya, Erin Woods, Fairview, Glendale, Glengarry, Lower Mount Royal, Maple Ridge, Mayfair, Mount Royal, North Glenmore Park, North Haven, Ogden, Palliser, Panorama Hills, Parkhill, Pineridge, Ramsay, Rosscarrock, Royal Oak, Scarboro, South Calgary, Southwood, Sundance, Valley Ridge, Willow Park, Woodlands.

2. Interview / Mail-In Distribution Sites

In order to obtain a variety of responses from various locations throughout Calgary, participants were interviewed or given a mail-in questionnaire at thirteen different locations. The majority of those interviewed were at Confederation Park (19.8%), North Bow Pathway at Edworthy Park (19.8%) and Weaselhead (15.6%).

The majority of those who mailed in a questionnaire picked it up at Crowchild Trail South of Bow River (27.5%), North Bow Pathway at Edworthy Park (21.0%) and South of Bow River at 10th Street SW (20.8%).

Table 2 on the next page, shows the site location of the intercept interviews. Table 3 shows the sites where participants elected to use the mail-in questionnaire.

Table 2: Interview Sites

Site	Number	Percentage
Confederation Park	112	19.8
North Bow Pathway at Edworthy Park	95	16.8
Weaselhead	88	15.6
Crowchild Trail South of Bow River	73	12.9
Eau Claire	51	9.0
Other*	48	8.5
Nose Creek Bow River Junction	44	7.8
Southland Natural Area	13	2.3
Carburn Park	11	1.9
South Bow River at 10th Street SW	11	1.9
Sandy Beach	10	1.8
McKenzie Bridge	9	1.6
Total Responses	565	100.0
Missing	0	
Total Interviews	565	

*Other includes Nose Hill, Confluence Park and Woods Park on Elbow.

Table 3: Mail-in Distribution Sites

Site	Number	Percentage
Crowchild Trail South of Bow River	119	27.5
North Bow Pathway at Edworthy Park	91	21.0
South of Bow River at 10th Street SW	90	20.8
Eau Claire	84	19.4
Other*	23	5.3
Nose Creek Bow River Junction	6	1.4
McKenzie Bridge	6	1.4
Weaselhead	6	1.4
Confederation Park	6	1.4
Southland Natural Area	1	0.2
Sandy Beach	1	0.2
Total Responses	433	100.0
Missing	33	
Total Interviews	466	

*Other includes Nose Hill, Confluence Park and Woods Park on Elbow.

The next section presents the findings of the study.

Pathwatch Interview Report: 2002 Survey Results

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III. Findings

1. Activity

Overall, the majority of participants were cycling (43.3%) and walking (43.1%), followed by running (7.2%), inline skating (5.2%), skateboarding (0.5%) and using a scooter (0.1%); "other" (0.6%) includes wheelchairs, city vehicles, etc. (see Chart 4)

These results vary somewhat to the Pathway Use Profiles component of Pathwatch 2002 where, on average, 43.4% were walking, 37.9% were cycling, 11.3% were running, 6.3% were inline skating, 0.2% were skateboarding and 0.2% were using a scooter (0.2% were using a wheelchair, 0.3% were "other" and 0.1% were unrecorded).



Chart 4

2. Pathway Users with a Dog

Not surprisingly, compared to those who opted for the mail-in questionnaire, a higher percentage of participants interviewed on-site were with a dog. Of the 831 participants who answered this question, nine participants (2.2%) indicated they were with their dog when they picked up the questionnaire, whereas 58 participants (13.8%) were with a dog when they were interviewed. Overall, 8.1% or 67 participants were with a dog (see Chart 5).

Compared to the *Pathway User Profiles*, pathway users with a dog ranged from 40.7% (n=1691) at the Southland Natural Area to 0.7% (n=78) at Fort Calgary.



3. Top Three Reasons for Using the Pathways

Participants were asked what was the main reason they used the pathway. Overall, the top three reasons for using the pathways were for:

- 1. Exercise (40.6%)
- 2. Commuting (38.3%)
- 3. Recreation (20.9%).

Table 4 enumerates the main reasons for using the pathways cited by participants who answered this question (N=1026).

Table 4: Main Reasons for Pathway Use

Reason for Pathway Use	Number	Percentage
Exercise	417	40.6
Commuting	393	38.3
Recreation	214	20.9
Walking Dog/Pet	65	6.3
Enjoying Nature	63	6.1
Other*	11	1.1
Environmentally Friendly to Use Pathway	9	0.9
Convenience	4	0.4

*Other included answers such as looking for wildlife, all of the above, meditation/being alone, photography and time with family.

Percentages do not add to 100 because participants were allowed more than one answer, resulting in 1176 responses from 1026 participants. Number = number of responses Percentage = percentage of participants

4. Top Three Months the Pathways are Used

When asked **during which month(s) they used the pathway most often,** the top three months overall, were:

- 1. August (96.9%)
- 2. July (96.2%)
- 3. June (93.1%)

Pathway use was also high in September and May at 86.6% and 85.1% respectively. There were 421 participants (41%) who indicated that they used the pathways all year long. Responses for those who answered this question (N=1031) are detailed in descending order in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Pathway Use by Month

Months	Number	Percentage
August	999	96.9%
July	992	96.2%
June	960	93.1%
September	893	86.6%
May	877	85.1%
October	726	70.4%
April	688	66.7%
March	529	51.3%
November	516	50.0%
December	445	43.2%
February	443	43.0%
January	436	42.3%

Percentages do not add to 100 because participants were allowed more than one answer, resulting in 8504 responses from 1031 participants.

Number = number of responses Percentage = percentage of participants

5. Pathway Trips per Week

Participants were asked to indicate **how many trips per week they used the pathways**. "Trips" were defined as "any time you use the pathway system. For example, pathway commuters make two trips a day".

Overall, 97.6% of the participants who responded to this question (N=931), said they made between 1 and 15 trips per week. The breakdown of the percentage of participants who made these 1 - 15 trips is as follows:

- 47.2% made 1 to 5 trips per week
- 41.6% made 6 to 10 trips per week
- 8.8% made 11 to 15 trips per week
- 1.7% made 16 to 20 trips per week
- 0.8% made more than 20 trips per week

Table 6 on the next page, shows the number of trips made per week, in descending order, for the overall total of participants who answered this question (N=931). Also included, is the number of trips per week reported by those who used the mail-in questionnaire and those who were interviewed on-site. As shown in the table, those who completed the mail-in questionnaire reported more trips per week than those who participated in the on-site interview. Overall, the most frequent response was 10 trips per week (n=185), followed by 3 trips per week (n=111).

Trips per Week	Number from Mail-in	Number from Interviews	Overall Number of Participants
	Questionnaires		
60	0	1	1
38	1	0	1
30	1	0	1
28	0	1	1
24	2	0	2
23	1	0	1
20	8	1	9
18	4	0	4
17	2	0	2
16	1	0	1
15	6	2	8
14	20	8	28
13	4	0	4
12	26	7	33
11	9	0	9
10	149	36	185
9	6	0	6
8	38	4	42
7	13	85	98
6	29	27	56
5	33	62	95
4	24	64	88
3	26	85	111
2	17	63	80
1	7	58	65
Sub-Total	427	504	931
Missing	39	61	100
Total	466	565	1031

Table 6: Number of Pathway Trips per Week

Missing = the number of participants who did not answer the question.

6. Off Leash Area Use

When asked if the participants used any off leash areas in the city, the results are as follows (N=1031):

- 53.2% do not use off leash areas in the city
- 28.9% use off leash areas in the city
- 17.1% indicated not applicable
- 0.8% did not answer

7. Pathway Hotline

When asked if the participants were aware of the Pathway Hotline, the results are as follows (N=1031):

- 91.0% said no, they were not aware of the Pathway Hotline
- 4.8% said yes, they were aware of the Pathway Hotline
- 2.9% did not answer
- 1.4% said not applicable

8. Pathway Hub

When asked if the participants were aware of the Pathway Hub, the results are as follows (N=1031):

- 81.5% said no, they were not aware of the Pathway Hub
- 14.5% said yes, they were aware of the Pathway Hub
- 2.9% did not answer
- 1.1% said not applicable

9. Pathway Bylaws

Familiarity

Participants were asked **how familiar they were with pathway bylaws**. The majority of participants (62.0%, N=1031) were "somewhat familiar" to "very familiar" with pathway bylaws. The overall responses are detailed below.

- 12.1% very familiar
- 49.9% somewhat familiar
- 23.8% not very familiar
- 14.2% not at all familiar

Importance

Participants were then asked **which bylaws/regulations do you feel are important to follow** when using the pathways. Table 7 on the next page presents the responses to this question. Note that a list was not read in the interview nor included on the mail-in questionnaire. A pre-coded list was used (but not read) for the intercept interview only. Since it was an open-ended question, various responses were obtained and are detailed in the table.

The most frequently mentioned bylaws participants felt were important to follow were:

- Following the speed limit
- Using a bell
- Keeping to the right of the pathway

It is interesting to note that several non-bylaws were listed which may indicate that some participants were not aware of, or could not name a particular bylaw. These are also included in Table 7.

Bylaws	Overall Number of Responses
Following the speed limit/slowing down	408
Using a bell	248
Keeping to the Right	218
Yielding	166
Keeping Dogs on Leash	164
Signaling to pass (Non-bell related)	113
Using proper path (wheels and heels)	112
Wearing a helmet	63
Picking up after dog	57
Using light on bikes at night /Wearing reflectors/Reflective clothing	41
Staying on established trails	20
No littering	13
Controlling dog	12
All bylaws are important to follow	11
Not using headphones	8
Cyclists dismounting /walking bike	4
Getting dogs off path	1
Non-Bylaws /Other	
Courtesy /Respect	30
Other (Did not fit into any category)	28
Don't Know /Unsure	11
Safety	10
None are important	6
Protecting the environment	4
Having rules for cyclists and those on wheels	4
Prohibiting inline skating, biking or skateboarding with pet	3
Supervising children	3
Signs	3
All are important	2
Passing too close	2
Other dog issue	1
Using bell when inline skating	1
Total Number of Responses	1767

Note: 511 participants answered this question. The response "all of them" was not distributed among the various bylaws because this response may indicate that the respondent could not name a particular pathway bylaw.

Enforcement

When asked do you feel that pathway regulations need to be enforced, the majority of the participants said "yes" (57.2%, N=1031).

- 57.2% said Yes
- 33.8% said No
- 5.3% said Not Applicable
- 3.7% did not answer the question

Dealing with Violators

Participants were asked **how should violators be dealt with**. Note that a list was not read in the interview nor included on the mail-in questionnaire. A pre-coded check-list was used by the interviewer to facilitate the process for the intercept interview only. Since it was an open-ended question, there was a variety of responses.

The majority of the 381 participants who answered this question said that pathway bylaws should be enforced (57.2%).

The most frequently mentioned ways of dealing with violators of pathway bylaws were to issue:

- Fines
- Warnings
- Warnings first, then fines

Table 8 on the next page presents the responses to this question. On the whole, it appears that depending on the violation, participants favour a combination of fines, warnings, and education to deal with violators.

Table 8: Ways to Deal with Violators

How should violators be dealt with?	Overall Number of responses
Fines only	300
Warnings only	139
Warning first then Fine	80
Other ideas (did not fit into any other category)	42
Tickets only	23
Education only	20
Depends on the Violation	13
Education and Fines	11
Fines Depending on the Violation	10
Bylaw Officers /Police Presence	8
Community Service	8
Education and Warnings	7
Education and Warnings and Fines	6
Fines and Public Service	4
Awareness /Communication	3
Enforcement of Bylaws	3
Unsure /Don't Know	3
Pathway Upkeep	3
Impound Bikes	2
Depends on Age	2
Do Nothing	2
Public Regulation	2
Total Number of Responses	691

Note: 381 participants answered this question. Multiple responses were allowed.

Educating the Public

Participants were provided a list **of possible ways to educate the public about pathway regulations and safety**, with an option of writing in their own ideas. The top three ways to educate the public on pathway bylaws indicated by participants were to list them on the pathway/bike map, brochures, or a pathside information booth. These choices were followed by media (radio, television and newspaper) and the internet. Table 9 details the responses.

Table 9: Ways to Educate the Public

Convenient Ways to Educate the Public	Overall Number of Responses
On Pathway/Bike Map	498
Brochure	431
Pathside Information Booth	316
Radio	287
Television	284
Newspaper	280
Internet	271
Shopping Centre Displays	100
City-run Program	56
Signs on Pathways and in Parks	27
None Wanted	11
Other (did not fit into any other category)	8
Mail-outs	7
School	5
Bill Inserts	3
People on Pathways	3
Pathway Handouts	3
Bus /Transit	2
Pathway Hub	1
Total Number of Responses	2593

Note: 1008 participants answered this question. Multiple responses were allowed.

10. Safety on the Pathways

Perceptions of Safety by Activity

Participants were asked to rate **how safe from accidents they felt when using the pathway system** for various activities. The majority of participants in all activity categories, except inline skating, reported that they felt "very safe" from accidents. Among those who were inline skating (N=359), only 38% indicated that they felt "very safe", compared to those who were cycling (60%), running/jogging (59%) and walking (57%). Table 10 highlights the responses.

Table 10: Perceptions of Safety on the Pathways by Activity

Activity	Not At All Safe	Not Very Safe	Somewhat Safe	Very Safe
Cycling (N=841)	1%	3%	36%	60%
Running/Jogging (N=585)	1%	5%	36%	59%
Walking (N=953)	1%	6%	36%	57%
Inline (N=359)	1%	17%	44%	38%
Other (N=98)	2%	10%	29%	59%

When the categories of "somewhat safe" and "very safe" in Table 10 are combined, perceptions of safety on the pathways are high in all categories, including inline skating. However, those who were inline skating still felt less safe than the others, as shown below.

- Cycling (96%)
- Running/Jogging (95%)
- Walking (93%)
- Other (88%)
- Inline Skating (82%)

Safety Improvements

Participants were asked an open-ended question (i.e. they could write freely), how do you feel that the safety of the pathway could be improved? On the next two pages, Table 11 outlines their suggestions for safety improvements according to themes. The top four themed suggestions for improving safety on the pathways were to:

- Increase/maintain current levels of maintenance
- Increase education/awareness of bylaws
- Improve/increase signage
- Separate/twin more paths

Table 11: Suggestions for Improving Pathway Safety

Themed Suggestions	Total Number of Responses
Increase/Maintain Current Levels of Maintenance	200500000
(more/maintain snow removal, re-pave, repair bumps, re-paint	
dividing lines, remove tree roots)	149
Increase Education/Awareness of Bylaws	117
Improve/Increase Signage	
(warnings, more signs to inform bylaws and directions)	112
Separate/Twin more Paths	91
Enforce Bylaws	77
Widen Paths	74
Increase Presence of Bylaw Officers/Police/Patrollers on Pathways	71
Slow Down Bikes and Inline Skaters	60
Improve Lighting /Mirrors /Increase Visibility	48
Other (did not fit into any other category)	36
It is Safe /Nothing to be done	32
Use Bells /Warn to Pass	27
Keep Dogs on Leash/Under control	24
More Courtesy/Respect	14
Keep to the Right	12
Increase Helmet Use	11
Prohibit Headphones	11
Increase Personal Safety (dangerous people on pathways)	10
Expand/More Pathways	9
Install Emergency Phones/Help Phones	9
Eliminate Blind Corners	8
Install Guardrails	7
Give Fines	5
Individual's Responsibility to Follow Rules	4
Increase Speed Limit	4
Build More Over/Under Passes	4

Table 11 continued on next page.

 Table 11: Suggestions for Improving Pathway Safety (continued from previous page)

Themed Suggestions for Improving Pathway Safety	Total Number of Responses
Attend to Dogs (other issues)	3
Use Proper Path	3
Promote Lights on Bikes at Night	3
Provide Bags for Dog Droppings	2
Move Paths Away from Roads and Off Leash Areas	2
Promote Safety Equipment for Inline Skaters	2
Promote Yielding/Attending to Right of Way	1
Have More Pedestrian Only Paths	1
Use Established Trails	1
Total Number of Responses	1044

Note: 775 participants answered this question. Multiple responses were allowed.

11. Pathway Quality and Value

Quality

Participants were asked to **rate the quality of Calgary's pathway system in general**. Of those who answered this question (N=1025), 83.1% rated the general quality of the pathway system as "very good" to "excellent". Table 12 shows the overall results.

Table 12: Quality Ratings of Calgary's Pathways

Quality Ratings of Calgary's Pathways	Number	Percent
Excellent	419	40.9%
Very Good	433	42.2%
Good	153	14.9%
Fair	19	1.9%
Poor	1	0.1%
Sub-Total	1025	100.0%
Missing	6	
Total	1031	

Value

Participants were then asked an open-ended question, what do you like most about the pathway system? A list was not read in the interview nor was one included on the mail-in questionnaire. A pre-coded check-list was used by the interviewer to facilitate the process for the intercept interview only. Table 13 outlines the themed responses of the 517 participants who answered this question.

Table 13: Valued Attributes of the Pathways

Themed Attributes	_Total Number of Responses_
Extensiveness (550 kms throughout city/everywhere)	428
Nature/Close to river/Scenery/Green spaces	318
Well maintained/Quality	213
User-friendly for everyone	179
Commuting/No cars/Alternative transportation	101
Easy access to home	92
Location	90
They are paved	45
Convenience in general	26
Recreation/Exercise/Health	25
Twinned/Separate paths for wheels and heels	15
They exist	13
Other	12
Variety/Diversity	11
Accessibility to downtown	10
Positive for Calgary	9
Convenient for commuters	8
Defines Calgary/Sense of Community	7
Free	5
Quiet/Peaceful	5
It is safe/Safety	5
Relaxing/Quiet	5
Can do activity of choice	4
Width of paths	4
Off leash areas	4
Bike maps	3
Organized	2
Accessible bathrooms	1
Total Number of Responses	1640

12. Pathway Improvements

When asked, **are there any general pathway improvements you would like to suggest**, the following themes and issues were derived from the data. Note that a list was not read in the interview nor included on the mail-in questionnaire. A pre-coded check-list was used by the interviewer to facilitate the process for the intercept interview only.

The top three recommended pathway improvements were to:

- Maintain and repair the pathways
- Add more pathways and connections
- Widen the paths

Table 14 provides themed suggestions for general pathway improvements.

Table 14: Suggestions for Improving the Pathways

Themed Suggestions	Total Number of Responses
Maintain and repair the paths (repave, remove tree roots, cleaner, more yellow lines)	395
Add more pathways and connections	133
Widen the paths	109
Twin the paths	98
Improve/add signs and maps	74
Remove snow	47
Other	43
Provide more/better fountains	32
Provide bike only paths/paths for commuters only	33
Add more lights/improve lighting	25
Enforce bylaws (speed limits, keep to right)	24
Provide more bathrooms	21
Keep up the good work/no improvements necessary	20
Increase the speed limit	12
Increase presence of police/ bylaw officers	11
Improve safety of downtown pathways and areas	7
Provide more overpasses, underpasses, bridges	9

Table 14 continued on next page.

 Table 14: Suggestions for Improving the Pathways (continued from previous page)

Themed Suggestions	Total Number of Responses
Provide more benches	6
Provide more bylaw education and information	6
Install help phones/emergency system	5
Eliminate roads (through parks)	5
Remove blind corners	5
Improve access from the north/across Deerfoot Trail	4
Provide more off leash areas	4
Plant more trees	3
Improve congestion on busy paths	3
Enforce dogs on leash /control of dogs	3
Provide bags for dogs/pick up after dog	3
Provide more garbage cans/recycle bins	2
Install guardrails	2
Do not allow headphones	2
Promote courtesy and respect	1
Dog other issue	1
Total Number of Responses	1148

Note: 639 participants answered this question. Multiple responses were allowed.

13. Relative Importance of the Pathways

Participants were asked **how important the pathway system is compared to other parks and recreation features and facilities**. Among participants overall, slightly more than half of the participants considered pathways to be more important than swimming pools (55.4%), arenas (53.2%), and festivals and cultural events (50.5%). Over three quarters of participants thought the pathway system was equal in importance to parks, open spaces and natural areas (77.1%). Table 15 highlights the relative importance of the pathways compared to other parks and recreation features and facilities.

Other	Percentage of All Responses		
	Less Important	Equal Importance	More Important
Swimming pools (N=831)	2.0%	42.6%	55.4%
Arenas (N=784)	5.2%	41.6%	53.2%
Leisure Centres (N=819)	5.5%	49.0%	45.5%
Parks, open spaces and natural areas (N=954)	11.2%	77.1%	11.6%
Festivals and cultural events (N=911)	6.8%	42.7%	50.5%
Parks and Recreation classes, programs and workshops (N=868)	6.2%	45.5%	48.3%

Table 15: Relative Importance of the Pathway

Note: participants were allowed to rate importance levels for more than one feature or facility.

14. Conclusion and Recommendations

- Increased educational programming to raise levels of awareness of pathway bylaws should be considered. The top three ways to educate the public on pathway bylaws indicated by participants were to list them on the pathway/bike map, brochures, or a pathside information booth.
- · Increased promotion of the Pathway Hotline and the Pathway Hub may also increase awareness of pathway regulations.
- In addition to educating the public on pathway bylaws, enforcement of pathway bylaws should be considered. The majority of the participants in this study indicated that warnings, fines and tickets were acceptable means of dealing with violators. Other participants indicated that there should be varying consequences, depending on the violation. In addition, other participants indicated that an increased presence of bylaw officers and/or police would increase adherence to the pathway bylaws.
- Since participants indicated that the three reasons they use the pathways are for exercise, commuting and recreation, separation of pathways for commuter use verses recreational use should be considered where possible.

Based on the results of the Pathwatch 2002: Pathway User Survey, it is recommended that:

- The results are used as one part of the planning process for future pathway development.
- The results are used in conjunction with the Pathwatch 2002: Use Profiles.
- Further studies are conducted on The City of Calgary's pathways to augment the findings of this report
- A plan for regular pathway studies is considered to identify trends and key areas of concern.

Appendix A

Data Collection Instruments

Pathway User Interview & Mailback Form

(Note: User Interview has been resized to fit page)

Instructions Identify every third pathway user. Approach the user and i user does not wish to participate, thank the user and re-co agrees to participate, read each question aloud but do not respondents to answer the question and check off the bes the interview, thank the respondent and complete the obse observation station and begin to re-count to the third user ** If a user is under ten years of age, conduct the interview falls in a group, stop the entire group and proceed to inter- birthday, as long as she/he is over ten years of age.	bunt to the third user. If the user Code Code Code Code Code Code Code Code
Hello, my name is I'm with the City of Calgary. We're surveying pathway users this summer to find out how you feel about pathway safety, the quality of the pathways, and other pathway issues. Do you have a few minutes to participate in our study? Pathway Use First I would like to ask you a few questions on your	Q4b (if response is 2, 3 or 4) Which by-laws/regulations do you feel are important to follow when using the pathways? O Speed Limits O Bell on bikes O Staying in right hand lane O Right of way for slower traffic
own use of the pathway system. Q1 What is your main reason for using the pathway today? O Exercise O Walk dog/pet O Commuting O Environmentally friendly O Recreation O Convenience O Enjoy nature O Other	 Warning when passing Staying on proper path (wheeled or walking) Dogs on leash Yield / intersection Single file Use of Cell/headphone Charge anth (arthblick of trails
O2 In general, what is your <u>most common</u> reason for using the pathway? O Exercise O Walk dog/pet O Commuting O Environmentally friendly O Recreation O Convenience	O Stay on path/ established trails Lights at night/ reflector [Please detail other) OSa Do you feel that pathway regulations need to be enforced?
O Enjoy nature O Other O3a During which month or months do you use the pathway most often? (multiple choices are allowed) O Jan O June O Nov O Feb O July O Dec O March O Aug O Year long	 ○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A Q5b (<i>if yes</i>) How should violators be dealt with? <i>[Please detail other</i>) ○ Fines ○ Warnings ○ Other
April April May Oct PROBE IF NECESSARY** When you say winter what months are you referring to? When you say year round does that include all twelve months?	Q6 I have here a list of possible ways to educate the public about pathway regulations and safety. Which of the following would be the most convenient for you to rect such information? (more than one response is accepta [read choices]
Q3b During this period, approximately how many times per week do you use the pathways? O Per Week O Per Week O Per Month Q3c Do you use any off leash areas in the city?	Newspaper City run program Internet Rotate Radio
 ○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A Q3d Are you aware of the Pathway Hotline? ○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A Q3e Are you aware of the Pathway Hub? ○ Yes ○ No ○ N/A 	 T.V. On Pathway / Bike Map Pathside info booth Shopping centre displays Other
Pathway Regulations, By-Laws and Safety Q4a There are a number of regulations and by-laws to guide safe use of the pathway. How familiar are you with the bylaws? Are you [read choices] Not At All Not Very Familiar Familiar 0 1 0 2 0 3 4	[Please detail other)

7474446949 07 Please rate how safe from accidents you feel when you are using the pathway system for the following activities. Do you feel [read choices then read individual options a through e and record the response for each] Not At All Not Very Somewhat Very Do not do Safe Safe Safe Safe Activity a) Cycling? 1 2 3 4 N b) Walking? 1 2 3 4 N c) Running/ 1 2 3 4 N c) Running/ 1 2 3 4 N c) Bunding On 1 2 3 4 N Bunding On 1	C11 Are there any general pathway improvements you would like to suggest? (Please record specific details about themes and other issues) (Widen Paths Accessible Extend Pathways More posted signs More fountains More benches Other No answer C12 Please indicate how important you feel that the pathway system is compared to other parks and recreation features and facilities listed. Pathways are less - equally or more important than: [read individual options a through f and record the
be improved? Pathway Quality and Value I now have a few questions about your opinion of the pathways and their value. Q9 How would you rate the quality of Calgary's pathway system in general? Would you say the pathway system	response for each] Do not do Less Equal More Use a) swimming pools? 1 2 3 NA b) arenas 1 2 3 NA c) leisure centers? 1 2 3 NA c) leisure centers? 1 2 3 NA Are pathways less- equally or more important than: d) parks, open spaces 1 2 3 NA d) parks, open spaces 1 2 3 NA e) festivals and cultural areas 1 2 3 NA f) Parks and Recreation classes, programs and 0 1 2 3 NA workshops 1 2 3 NA
is [read choices] Poor Fair Good Very Excellent O 1 O 2 O 3 O 4 O 5	Respondent Profile The next questions are for our statistics and your answers are confidential.
Q10 What do you like the most about the pathway system? [Please record specific details about themes and other issues] Extensiveness Scenery Location Accessible Convenient/ Close to home Well Maintained (generally) Paved No cars Other	Q13 Do you live in Calgary? Yes No Q14 What are the first three digits of your postal code?
Comments on Survey Delivery	(Please give the respondent a bike /pathway map)
PLEASE MAKE SURE THIS S [Record - Do not Ask] Skateboa Female Oraling Skateboa Male Oraling Scooter Running With dog In-line Skating Other Weekday III / III / IIII	ECTION IS FILLED IN FOR EVERY COMPLETED SURVEY rd Carburn Park Crowchild trail south side of Bow River Southland Dog Walk Confederation Park McKenzie Bridge 16th Ave NW Sandy Beach Nose Hill Weaslehead Confluence Park Woods Park along Elbow Other North Bow Pathway at Edworthy Park Volunteer



9069001151 User Profile Con't	Pathway Regulations, By-Laws and Safety
Q6 What is, or was, your main reason for using the pathway on the day you picked up the survey ?	Q9a There are a number of regulations and by-laws to guide safe use of the pathway. How familiar are you with the bylaws? Q12 Please rate how safe from accidents you feel when you are using the pathway system for the following activities. Not At All Not Very Somewhat Very
O Commuting O Environmentally friendly O Recreation O Convenience O Enjoy nature	Familiar Familiar Familiar Familiar 0 1 0 2 0 3 0 4
Q7 In general, what is your most common reason for using the pathway?	O9b Which bylaws/ regulations do you feel are important to follow when using the pathways? a) Cycling? 1 0 2 3 0 4 N/A b) Walking? 0 1 0 2 0 3 0 4 N/A
O Exercise O Walk dog/pet O Commuting O Environmentally friendly	c) Running/ Jogging? O 1 O 2 O 3 O 4 O N/A d) In Line O 0 0 0 0 0
O Recreation O Convenience O Enjoy nature	Q10a Do you feel that pathway regulations need to be enforced? Skating? 1 O 2 O 3 O 4 N/A
Q8a During which month or months do you use the pathway most often? (select all that apply) O January O May O September	O Yes O No O N/A Q10b (<i>if yes</i>) How should violators be dealt with? [Please define your other activity]
O February O June O October O March O July O November	Q11 L have here a list of possible ways to educate the pathway could be improved?
April August O December Q8b During this period, approximately how many trips per week or month do you use the pathways	public about pathway regulations and safety. Which of the following would be the most convenient for
for? A trip is defined as any time you use the pathway system. For example pathway commuters make two trips a day.	O Brochure O Pathway Hub O Brochure at bike shops O Pathside info booth O Newspaper O Shopping centre displays O City run program O Other
Q8c Do you use any off leash areas in the city? \bigcirc Yes \bigcirc No \bigcirc N/A Q8d Are you aware of the Pathway Hotline? \bigcirc Yes \bigcirc No \bigcirc N/A	O Internet O Radio O T.V. O On Pathway Map
Q8e Are you aware of the Pathway Hub? O Yes O No O N/A	(Please detail other)