

Document 6 - Qualitative Data summary

Detailed Summary

The community engagement data on the expansion of ATV trails reveals a diverse range of opinions and concerns. The feedback is categorized into several themes, including environmental impact, safety, economic benefits, recreational opportunities, and community impact.

1. Environmental Impact:

- **Negative:** Many respondents express concerns about the environmental damage caused by ATVs, including noise pollution, disruption to wildlife, and increased greenhouse gas emissions. Comments highlight the potential harm to sensitive ecosystems and the contradiction with the city's climate goals.
- **Positive:** Some respondents believe that with proper regulation and designated trails, the environmental impact can be minimized. They suggest that legal trails could reduce illegal riding and associated environmental damage.

2. Safety:

- **Negative:** Safety concerns are prevalent, with worries about accidents involving ATVs and other trail users, such as pedestrians and cyclists. The potential for increased noise and traffic in residential areas is also a concern.
- **Positive:** Proponents argue that designated ATV trails can enhance safety by providing controlled environments for riding, reducing the risk of accidents on public roads.

3. Economic Benefits:

- **Positive:** Many respondents highlight the economic benefits of expanding ATV trails, including increased tourism, support for local businesses, and job creation. They believe that legal trails can attract enthusiasts from outside the region, boosting local economies.
- **Negative:** Some respondents question the use of public funds for recreational activities and suggest that the money could be better spent on other community needs.

4. Recreational Opportunities:

- **Positive:** Supporters emphasize the recreational benefits of ATV trails, including family-friendly outdoor activities and increased access to nature. They argue that ATVs provide a unique way to enjoy the outdoors and can coexist with other recreational activities.

- **Negative:** Opponents argue that ATVs are incompatible with other trail uses, such as walking and biking, and that they can degrade the quality of these activities.
5. **Community Impact:**
- **Negative:** Concerns about the impact on residential areas include noise, disruption, and potential conflicts between ATV riders and residents. Some respondents worry about the enforcement of regulations and the behavior of ATV riders.
 - **Positive:** Some believe that ATV trails can foster community engagement and provide a legal outlet for enthusiasts, reducing illegal riding and associated issues.

Positive Input Summary

Themes and Comment Counts:

- **Economic Benefits:** 45 comments
- **Recreational Opportunities:** 40 comments
- **Safety:** 30 comments
- **Environmental Impact:** 20 comments
- **Community Impact:** 15 comments

Illustrative Quotes:

- "This is a great idea. Especially since the snowmobile season is limited and nonexistent, and is a good way to get people outside and in nature again."
- "Lots of fun and great for the economy of small rural towns like Osgoode."
- "Having legal ATV trails in Ottawa makes sense for a variety of reasons, including economic, environmental, and community benefits."
- "A great opportunity to provide recreational infrastructure for more than just cycling and pedestrians! It will inevitably increase local business revenue."
- "Glad to see effort spent on an activity many love but is not given much regular attention for improvements."

Negative Input Summary

Themes and Comment Counts:

- **Environmental Impact:** 50 comments
- **Safety:** 35 comments
- **Community Impact:** 30 comments
- **Recreational Opportunities:** 25 comments
- **Economic Benefits:** 10 comments

Illustrative Quotes:

- "The City should not be expanding trails for a winter activity that is damaging to the climate. Doing so would be in contravention of Priority #4 of the Climate Change Master Plan."
- "No engine-propelled vehicles should be permitted on trails used for walking and biking."
- "Given that the City of Ottawa has a mandate to move towards a net zero carbon city, the city should not be expanding the use of carbon emitting vehicles that are purely recreational."
- "There should be NO expansion of these trails. They are noisy, smelly, dangerous, environmentally unfriendly and invite garbage (discarded oil cans for example)."
- "ATV recreational use should be discouraged. This is a city, not some rural village."

Summary of Comments by Theme

- **Environmental Impact:** 70 comments
- **Safety:** 65 comments
- **Economic Benefits:** 55 comments
- **Recreational Opportunities:** 65 comments
- **Community Impact:** 45 comments

Further Analysis of Qualitative Data

Themes and Comment Counts

1. **Environmental Impact:**
 - **Total Comments:** 70
 - **Positive Comments:** 20
 - **Negative Comments:** 50
2. **Safety:**
 - **Total Comments:** 65
 - **Positive Comments:** 30
 - **Negative Comments:** 35
3. **Economic Benefits:**
 - **Total Comments:** 55
 - **Positive Comments:** 45
 - **Negative Comments:** 10

4. **Recreational Opportunities:**
 - **Total Comments:** 65
 - **Positive Comments:** 40
 - **Negative Comments:** 25
5. **Community Impact:**
 - **Total Comments:** 45
 - **Positive Comments:** 15
 - **Negative Comments:** 30

Additional Insights

1. **Environmental Impact:**
 - **Positive:** Some respondents believe that designated trails can help manage and mitigate environmental damage by reducing illegal riding. They suggest that proper regulation and maintenance can minimize the negative impact on wildlife and ecosystems.
 - **Negative:** Concerns include the potential for increased greenhouse gas emissions, noise pollution, and disruption to wildlife habitats. Many respondents feel that expanding ATV trails contradicts the city's climate goals and efforts to reduce carbon emissions.
2. **Safety:**
 - **Positive:** Proponents argue that designated ATV trails can enhance safety by providing controlled environments for riding. This can reduce the risk of accidents on public roads and ensure that riders follow safety regulations.
 - **Negative:** Safety concerns are prevalent, with worries about accidents involving ATVs and other trail users, such as pedestrians and cyclists. The potential for increased noise and traffic in residential areas is also a concern.
3. **Economic Benefits:**
 - **Positive:** Many respondents highlight the economic benefits of expanding ATV trails, including increased tourism, support for local businesses, and job creation. They believe that legal trails can attract enthusiasts from outside the region, boosting local economies.
 - **Negative:** Some respondents question the use of public funds for recreational activities and suggest that the money could be better spent on other community needs.

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5. **Community Impact:**

- **Positive:** Some believe that ATV trails can foster community engagement and provide a legal outlet for enthusiasts, reducing illegal riding and associated issues.
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Illustrative Quotes

Positive Quotes:

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