



Social Science Program  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Visitor Services Project



# Fire Island National Seashore Resident Study

Spring 2008



University of Idaho

Park Studies Unit  
Visitor Services Project  
Report 202



**Social Science Program  
National Park Service  
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Report 202**

June 2009

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**Visitor Services Project  
Fire Island National Seashore Resident  
Report Summary**

- This report describes the results of a study of Fire Island National Seashore (NS) residents and homeowners, mailed on May 16, 2008, with a pre-notification sent on May 9, 2008. A total of 672 questionnaires were sent to a random sample of people who own or live in homes that lie within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore. Addresses were taken from the Town of Brookhaven and Town of Islip tax rolls for owners of homes on Fire Island, or who were identified as year-round residents on Fire Island. Additional addresses came from a list of the homeowners with full-time or part-time driving permits. Of those 672 addresses, 13 were not deliverable, reducing the usable sample size to 659. A total of 258 questionnaires were returned resulting in a 39.2% response rate.
- This report profiles a systematic random sample of homeowners within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore. Most results are presented in graphs and frequency tables. Summaries of comments are included in the report and complete comments are included in the Comments Appendix.
- Thirty-one percent (31%) of respondents were in groups of five or more and 27% were in groups of two. Thirty-nine percent (39%) were in groups of family and friends.
- United States residents comprised nearly 100% of the respondents, from New York (84%) and 13 other states and Washington, D.C. International respondents represented less than 1% of the total sample population, but this data should be viewed with caution, due to a low number of respondents that answered this question.
- Forty percent (40%) of respondents were ages 41-60 years, 26% were 61 years or older, and 15% were ages 15 years or younger. Six percent (6%) of groups reported physical conditions that made it difficult to access or participate in park services or activities.
- One percent (1%) of the respondents were Hispanic or Latino and 99% were White.
- Thirty-nine percent (39%) of respondents were seasonal residents of Fire Island, staying 3-6 months a year, while 17% live on Fire Island all year round.
- Most respondents (67%) used the Fire Island properties and/or facilities during the last 12 months. Fifty-six percent (56%) of groups occasionally used the park properties/facilities. The months during which respondents most commonly used the park properties/facilities were August 2007 (76%) and July 2007 (74%).
- Most respondents obtained or updated their information about Fire Island NS through friends/relatives/word of mouth (64%) and newspapers/magazine articles (61%). Thirty percent (30%) of respondents did not stay updated on information about the park activities/rules and regulations.
- Of the sites operated by the National Park Service, beaches were used by 76% of respondents, and 51% visited the Fire Island Lighthouse.
- Of the activities in which respondents engaged on *previous* trips to Fire Island NS, beach activities was the most common (75%), followed by spending time with family and friends (65%). The most common activities on *this* trip were also beach activities (79%) and spending time with family and friends (65%).
- Most respondents (67%) rated the overall quality of services, facilities, and recreational opportunities at Fire Island NS as “very good” or “good.” fewer than one percent of rated the overall quality as “very poor” or “poor.”

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho at (208) 885-7863 or the following website <http://www.psu.uidaho.edu>.

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## INTRODUCTION

“Rhythmic waves, high dunes, ancient maritime forests, historic landmarks and glimpses of wildlife— Fire Island has been a special place for diverse plants, animals and people for centuries. Far from the sounds and pressures of nearby big-city life, Fire Island National Seashore’s dynamic barrier island beaches offer solitude and camaraderie, and spiritual renewal to civilization-weary people.” (Fire Island National Seashore, National Park Service, Department of the Interior website: [www.nps.gov/fiis](http://www.nps.gov/fiis) January, 2009)

A unique aspect of Fire Island National Seashore is its permanent communities, which pre-date the park’s establishment. As stated in the park website: “There are 17 different communities on Fire Island within the boundaries the national seashore. When Fire Island National Seashore was established in 1964, its enabling legislation stated that these communities and preexisting commercial uses would be allowed to remain, as long as development was consistent with zoning ordinances established by the Secretary of the Interior. Some of the Fire Island communities consist of only a few homes while others have hundreds of houses, with restaurants, small grocery and retail stores, and other businesses. There is one elementary school on Fire Island. There are rental properties, summer homes, and year-round residences on the island. Several hundred people reside in the communities within the boundaries of Fire Island National Seashore during the winter months, while that number swells during the summer.” (Fire Island National Seashore, National Park Service, Department of the Interior website: [www.nps.gov/fiis](http://www.nps.gov/fiis) January, 2009)

This report describes the results of a study of Fire Island National Seashore residents on May 16, 2008 by the National Park Service (NPS) Visitor Services Project (VSP), part of the Park Studies Unit (PSU) at the University of Idaho.

### **Organization of the report**

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The report is organized into three sections.

**Section 1: Methods.** This section discusses the procedures, limitations, and special conditions that may affect the results of the study.

**Section 2: Results.** This section provides summary information for each question in the questionnaire and includes a summary of respondents’ comments. The presentation of the results of this study does not follow the same order of questions in the questionnaire.

#### **Section 3: Appendices**

Appendix 1: The *Questionnaire*. A copy of the questionnaire distributed to groups.

Appendix 2: *Additional Analysis*. A list of options for cross-references and cross comparisons. These comparisons can be analyzed within park or between parks. Results of additional analyses are not included in this report as they may only be requested after the results of this study have been published.

Appendix 4: *Visitor Services Project Publications*. A complete list of publications by the PSU. Copies of these reports can be obtained by visiting the website:

<http://www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp/reports.htm> or contacting the PSU office at (208) 885-7863.

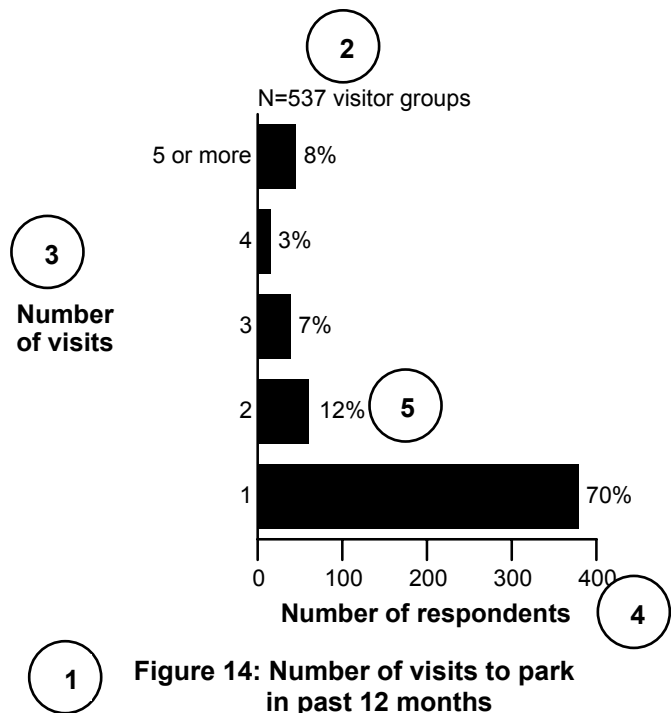
Comments Appendix: A separate appendix provides responses to open-ended questions. It is bound separately from this report due to its size.

## Presentation of the results

Results are represented in the form of graphs (see example below), scatter plots, pie charts, tables, or text.

### SAMPLE ONLY

- 1: The figure title describes the graph's information.
- 2: Listed above the graph, the "N" shows the number of individuals or groups responding to the question. If "N" is less than 30, "**CAUTION!**" is shown on the graph to indicate the results may be unreliable.
- \* appears when total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.
- \*\* appears when total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer choice.
- 3: Vertical information describes the response categories.
- 4: Horizontal information shows the number or proportions of responses in each category.
- 5: In most graphs, percentages provide additional information.



## METHODS

### Survey Design

#### Sample size and sampling plan

Lists of property owners were obtained via Town of Brookhaven and Town of Islip tax rolls, Fire Island driving permit list, Fire Island General Management Plan (GMP) mailing list, and a list of year-round residents provided by the Fire Island Homeowners Association. The survey population included 1,511 addresses from the Brookhaven tax roll, 2,274 addresses from the Islip tax roll and 200 from the driving permit list. Obvious business addresses (such as a rental company, national park, state park, etc.) were removed from the list. Vacant addresses (empty properties with no houses) were also removed from the list. Owners of more than one property were consolidated into one address per owner. The Fire Island GMP mailing list also included non-homeowners, which were not considered as part of the survey population. Addresses for year-round residents were already included in the Brookhaven and Islip list. Thus the GMP and resident lists were only used to verify some of the homeowner addresses. Among 200 addresses in the driving permit list, 91 were already included in Brookhaven and Islip list. After removing redundant addresses and consolidating owners with multiple properties, the sampling frame contained 1,255 addresses from the Brookhaven list, 1,851 from the Islip list, and 109 from the driving permit list. The total sampling frame contained 3,215 homeowners' addresses. It was assumed that the sampling frame included actual homeowners, although this was not verifiable.

Don A. Dillman's method of estimating sample size in *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method* (2007) was utilized. Using this methodology, the sample size was calculated based on the number of homeowners on Fire Island. The samples were systematically drawn from the sampling frame of addresses sorted in ascending order of tax ID number. Starting with a random number, every 5<sup>th</sup> address was selected resulting in a sample size of 672 addresses. With 95% confidence interval, the coverage error was calculated to be between  $\pm 3.7\%$ . The calculation was based on a conservative assumption that respondents would have the most diverse opinion about issues at the park.

#### Questionnaire design

The Fire Island National Seashore Resident questionnaire was developed at a workshop held with park staff to design and prioritize the questions. Some of the questions were comparable with VSP studies conducted at other parks while others were customized for Fire Island National Seashore. Many questions asked respondents to choose answers from a list of responses, often with an open-ended option, while others were completely open-ended.

No pilot study was conducted to test the Fire Island National Seashore Resident questionnaire. However, all questions followed OMB guidelines and/or were used in previous surveys. Thus, the clarity and consistency of the survey instrument have been tested and supported.



## **Survey procedure**

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A pre-notification postcard was sent on May 9, 2008 to 672 residents to inform them about the survey. The actual survey questionnaire was sent one week after the notification postcard on May 16, 2008. Two weeks after the mailing of the questionnaire, a reminder/thank you postcard was mailed to all participants. Replacement questionnaires were mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires four weeks after the mailing of the first questionnaire. A second round of replacement questionnaires was mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires seven weeks after the mailing of the first questionnaire. Due to a low response rate, a third round of replacement questionnaires was mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires almost three months days after the mailing of the first questionnaire. Of the 672 original addresses, 13 were either non-deliverable, or the person no longer owned the property, or had not visited Fire Island recently, which reduced the usable sample size to 659. There may have been other residents who did not visit the park between June 2007 and May 2008, or no longer owned property. It was not possible to identify this group, and this may have been another factor in the low response rate.

|                      |
|----------------------|
| <b>Data Analysis</b> |
|----------------------|

Returned questionnaires were coded and the information was entered into a computer using custom and standard statistical software applications—Statistical Analysis Software ® (SAS) and a custom designed FileMaker Pro ® application. Descriptive statistics and cross-tabulations were calculated for the coded data and responses to open-ended questions were categorized and summarized. The data were entered twice—by two independent data entry staff—and validated by a third staff member.

**Limitations**

Like all surveys, this study has limitations that should be considered when interpreting the results.

1. This was a self-administered survey. Respondents completed the questionnaire after their most recent visit, which may have resulted in poor recall. Thus, it is not possible to know whether responses reflected actual behavior.
2. Caution is advised when interpreting any data with a sample size of less than 30, as the results may be unreliable. Whenever the sample size is less than 30, the word "CAUTION!" is included in the graph, figure, table, or text.
3. Occasionally, there may be inconsistencies in the results. Inconsistencies arise from missing data or incorrect answers (due to misunderstood directions, carelessness, or poor recall of information). Therefore, refer to both the percentage and N (number of individuals or groups) when interpreting the results.

**Special Conditions**

This was a mail survey. No face-to-face contact was made with participants. The questionnaire was designed to obtain information from the resident's most recent visit. Therefore, respondents' opinions/experience may not reflect evaluation of park services and facilities at the same period of time.

### Checking Non-response Bias

Initially 672 residents on Fire Island were contacted by mail. Of those 13 addresses were non-deliverable due to incorrect addresses or the persons no longer used the property or had not visited Fire Island recently. That reduced the actual sample size to 659. Questionnaires were completed and returned by 258 residents, resulting in a 39.2% response rate for this study.

Since none of the resident demographic characteristics were obtainable prior to the survey, the results were compared with demographic information of the area from the 2000 census of Fire Island CDP (Census Designated Place). The Fire Island CDP as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau included all communities on the island and on a separate island adjacent to West Hampton Dunes. It does not include the Village of Saltaire (population = 43 in 2000) or the Village of Ocean Beach (population = 138 in 2000).

**Table 1: Race/ethnicity comparison**

| Race or Ethnicity                          | Respondent | 2000 Census |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Hispanic/Latino (of all races)             | 1.1%       | 2.9%        |
| White                                      | 98.2%      | 96.8%       |
| Black or African American                  | 0.5%       | 0%          |
| American Indian and Alaska Native          | 0.3%       | 0%          |
| Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander | 0%         | 0.3%        |
| Asian                                      | 0.6%       | 0.6%        |
| Some other race                            | n/a        | 0.6%        |
| Two or more races                          | 0.4%       | 1.6%        |

The actual population of Fire Island may have changed since the 2000 census. In addition, the census encompassed a slightly larger area than the communities on Fire Island. Based on the comparison shown above, the Hispanic/Latino population may be under-represented. There was not a significant bias toward any race in the survey results.

**RESULTS**

**Individual and Group Characteristics**

**Group size**

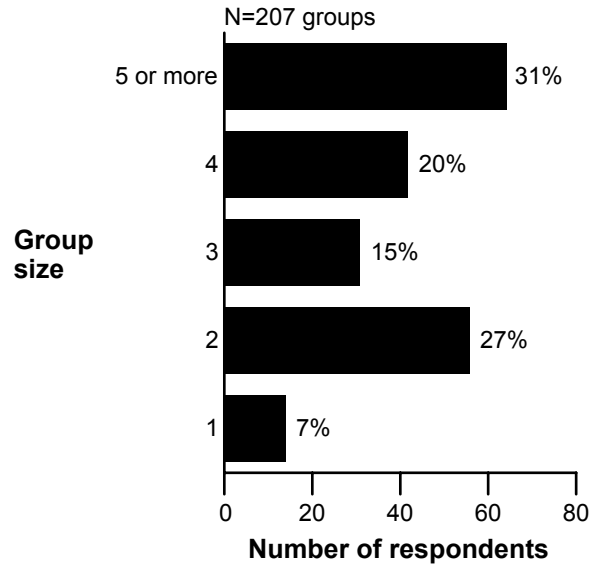
**Question 18**

During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself?

**Results**

- 31% were in groups of five or more (see Figure 1).
- 27% were in groups of two.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 7 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.



**Figure 1: Group size**

**Group type**

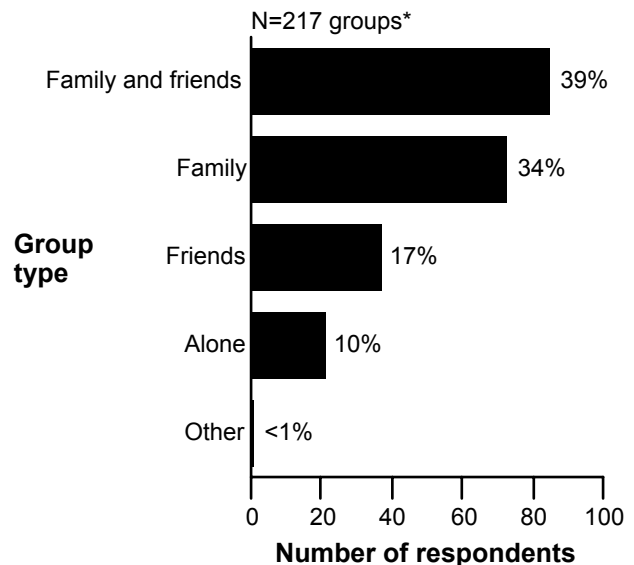
**Question 17**

During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, what kind of personal group (not guided tour/school/other organized group) were you with?

**Results**

- 39% of groups were made up of family members and friends (see Figure 2).
- 34% were with family.
- “Other” groups (<1%) were:

Walking group



**Figure 2: Group type**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 7 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

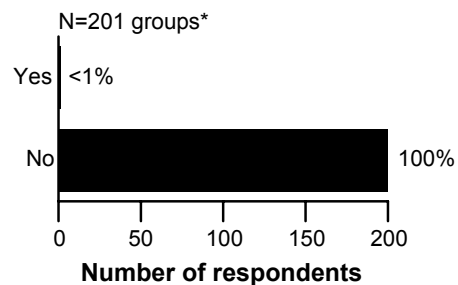
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Organized groups

### Question 16a

During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, were you and your personal group with a commercial guided tour group?

**With commercial guided group?**



### Results

- Less than 1% of groups were part of a commercial guided tour group (see Figure 3).

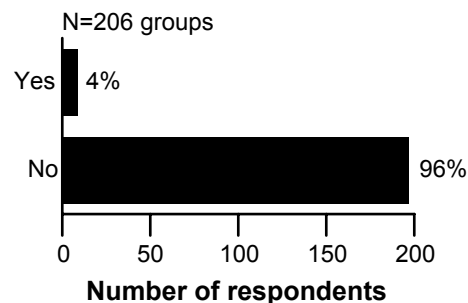
**Figure 3: Groups with a commercial guided tour group**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 8 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

### Question 16b

During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, were you and your personal group with a school/educational group?

**With school/educational group?**



### Results

- 4% of groups were part of a school/educational group (see Figure 4).

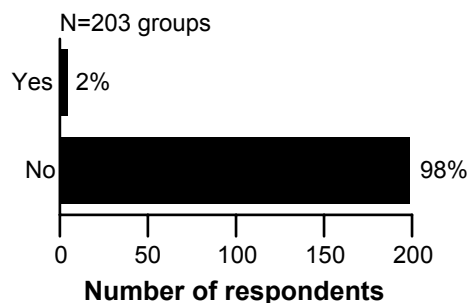
**Figure 4: Groups with a school/educational group**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 8 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

### Question 16c

During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, were you and your personal group with an other organized group (such as business group, scout group, etc.)?

**With other organized group?**



### Results

- 2% of groups were part of an other organized group (see Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Groups with an other organized group**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 8 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**United States respondents by state of residence**

Question 19b

For you and your personal group during your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, what is your state of residence?

**Table 2: United States residents by state of residence\***

| State                               | Number of individuals | Percent of U.S. visitors N=630 individuals | Percent of total visitors N=633 individuals |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| New York                            | 527                   | 84   | 83  |
| Connecticut                         | 20                    | 3  | 3   |
| New Jersey                          | 19                    | 3  | 3   |
| Florida                             | 14                    | 2  | 2   |
| California                          | 14                    | 2  | 2   |
| Pennsylvania                        | 10                    | 2  | 2   |
| Massachusetts                       | 7                     | 1  | 1   |
| Rhode Island                        | 5                     | 1  | 1   |
| 6 other states and Washington, D.C. | 14                    | 2  | 2   |

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each group.

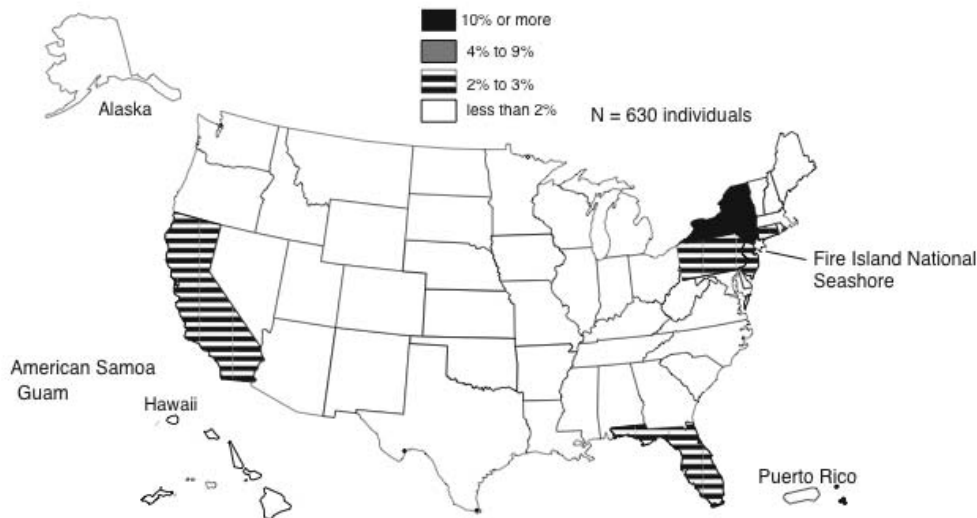
Results

During the most recent use of Fire Island NS properties, respondents and their groups were from 14 states and Washington, D.C. and comprised nearly 100% of total during the survey period.

84% of U.S. respondents came from New York (see Table 2 and Map 1).

Smaller proportions of U.S. respondents came from 13 other states and Washington

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 9 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.



**Map 1: Proportions of United States respondents by state of residence**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**International respondents by country of residence**

Question 19b  
 For you and your personal group, during your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, what is your country of residence?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each group.

Results – Interpret results with **CAUTION!**  
 Not enough respondents responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Table 3).

**Table 3: International residents by country of residence \*  
 CAUTION!**

| Country        | Number of individuals | Percent of international respondents<br>N=3<br>individuals | Percent of total respondents<br>N=633<br>individuals |
|----------------|-----------------------|--|--|
| United Kingdom | 2                     | 67   | <1   |
| Germany        | 1                     | 33   | <1   |

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 10 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

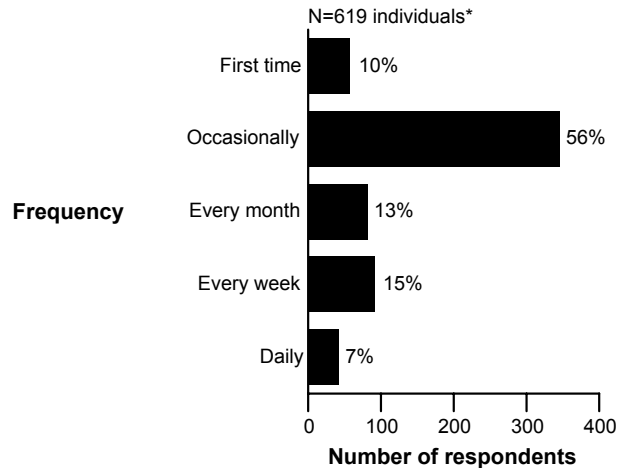
**Frequency of use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities**

Question 19c  
 For you and your personal group, how frequently did you use Fire Island NS properties/facilities during the past 12 months?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each group.

Results

- 56% of respondents used the park properties and facilities occasionally (see Figure 6).
- 15% of respondents used the park properties and facilities every week.



**Figure 6: Frequency of park use**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

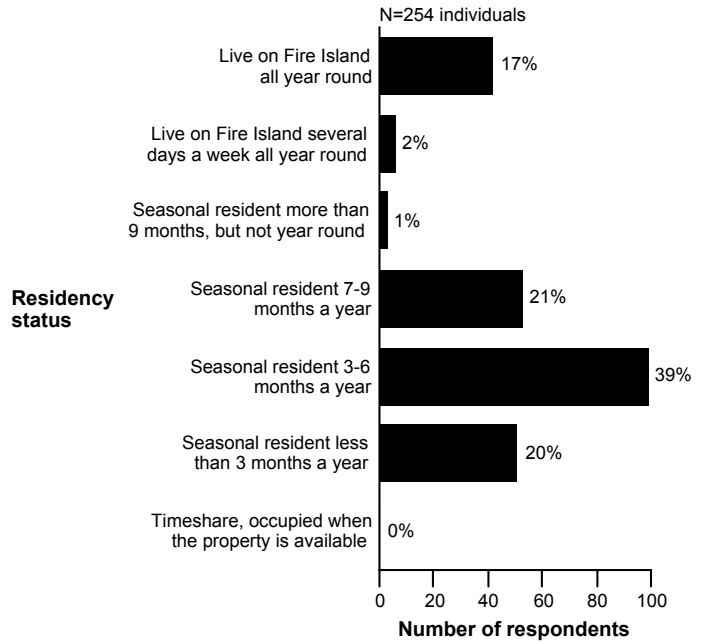
**Residency status**

**Question 1**

What is your residency status on Fire Island?

**Results**

- 39% of respondents were seasonal residents staying 3-6 months a year (see Figure 7).
- 21% were seasonal residents staying 7-9 months a year.
- 20% were seasonal residents staying less than 3 months a year.
- 17% were full time residents.



**Figure 7: Residency status on Fire Island**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Months of residence during the last 12 months**

**Question 2**

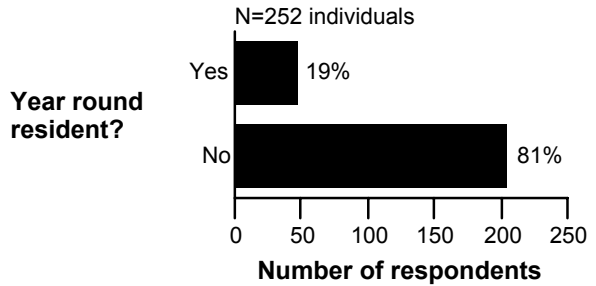
During the last 12 months (between May 2008 and June 2007), which months did you live on the island?

**Results**

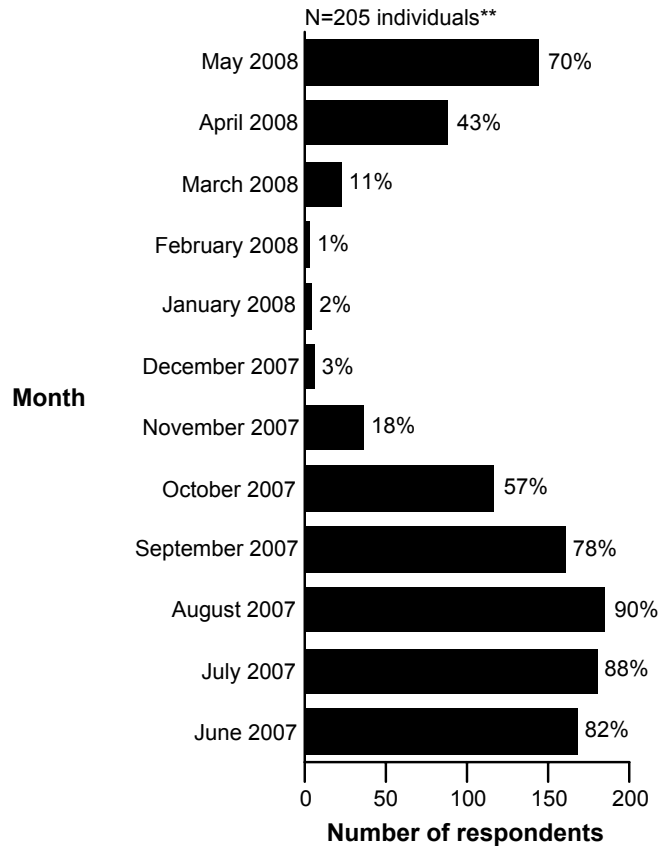
19% of respondents lived on Fire Island all 12 months (see Figure 8).

As shown in Figure 9, the most common months of residency for respondents who were not year-round residents were:

- 90% August 2007
- 88% July 2007
- 82% June 2007
- 78% September 2007



**Figure 8: Year round residents**



**Figure 9: Months of residency**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

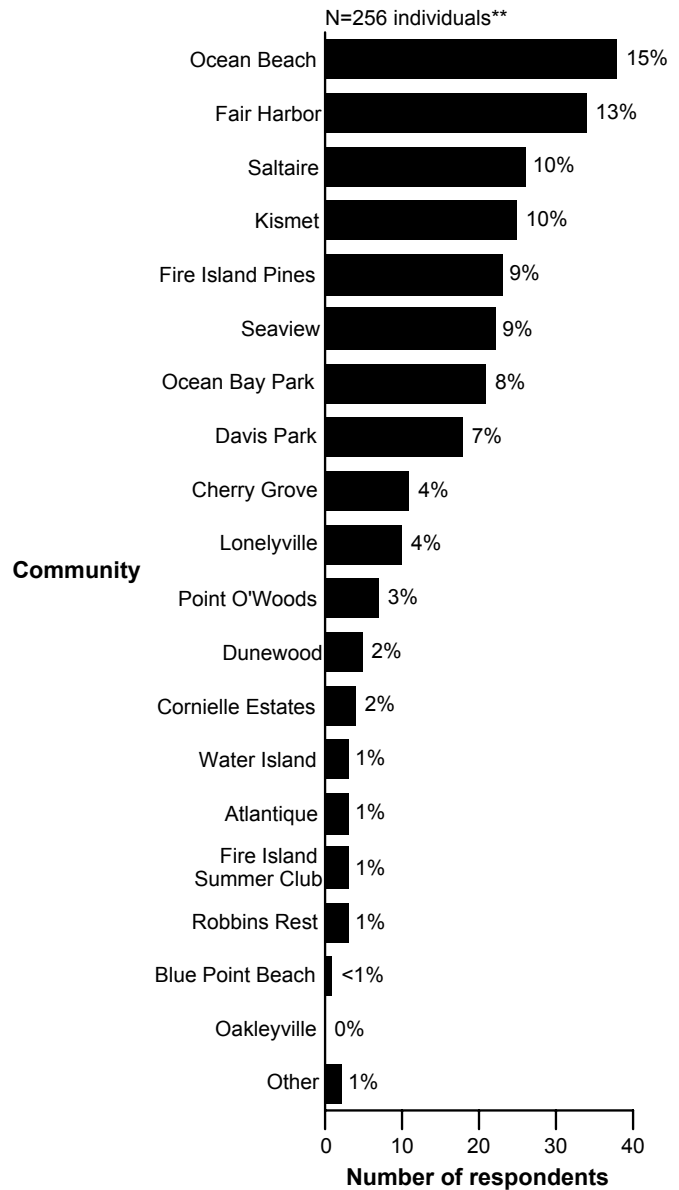
**Community of residence**

Question 5  
In which Fire Island community(ies) do you live?

Results  
As shown in Figure 10, the communities in which respondents lived included:

- 15% Ocean Beach
- 13% Fair Harbor
- 10% Saltaire
- 10% Kismet

NOTE: The questionnaire did not ask residents to specify an “other” community.



**Figure 10: Community of residency**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Age**

**Question 19a**

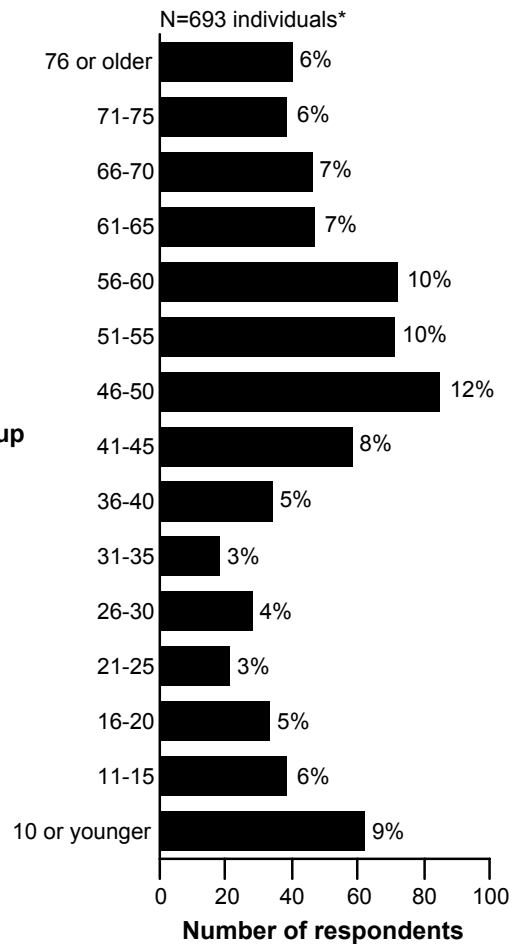
For you and your personal group, during your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/ facilities, what is your current age?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each group.

**Results**

- Respondents' ages ranged from 1 to 91 years.
- 47% were between 41-65 years of age (see Figure 11).
- 15% were 15 years or younger.
- 19% were 66 or older.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 12 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.



**Figure 11: Age**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Ethnicity

### Question 21a

Are you Hispanic or Latino? During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, were any other members of your personal group Hispanic or Latino?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each group.

### Results

- 1% of respondents were Hispanic or Latino (see Figure 12).

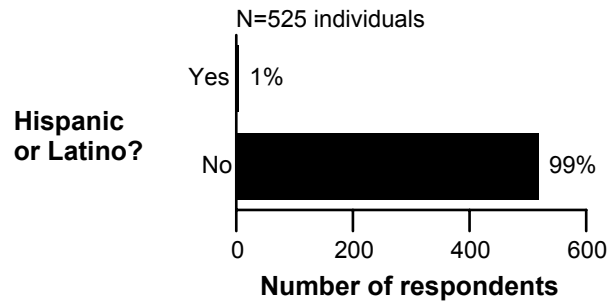


Figure 12: Hispanic or Latino ethnicity

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 13 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

## Race

### Question 21b

What is your race? During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, what was the race of other members of your personal group?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each group.

### Results

- 99% of respondents were White (see Figure 13).

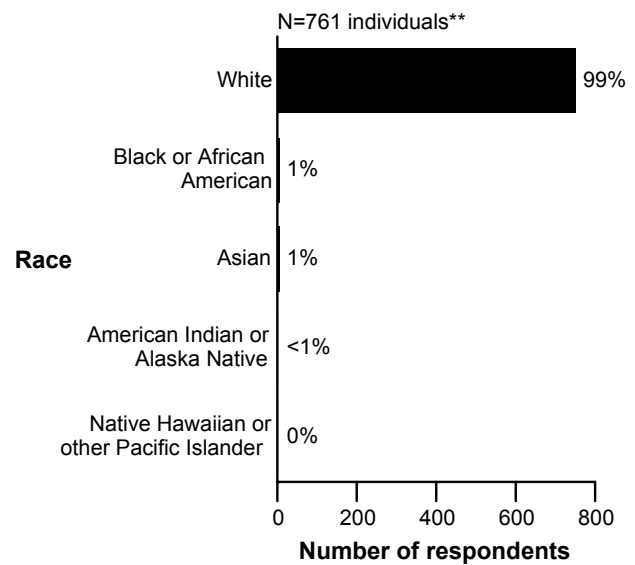


Figure 13: Race

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Language used for speaking

### Question 20a

When using an area such as Fire Island NS, which one language do you and most members of your personal group prefer to use for speaking?

### Results

- 96% of groups preferred to use English for speaking (see Figure 14).
- Of the groups that listed an “other” language for speaking (4%), only one specified the language, i.e., Spanish.

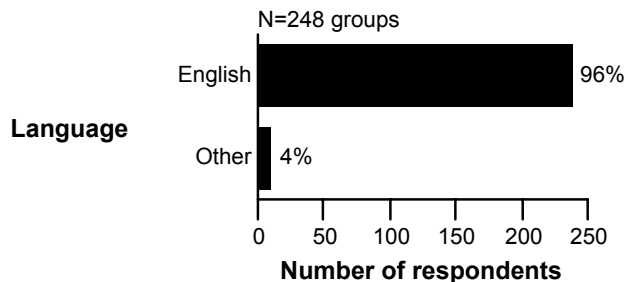


Figure 14: Preferred language for speaking

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 16 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

## Language used for reading

### Question 20b

When using an area such as Fire Island NS, which one language do you and most members of your personal group prefer to use for reading?

### Results

- 96% of groups preferred to use English for reading (see Figure 15).
- Of the groups that listed an “other” language for reading (4%), none specified the language used.

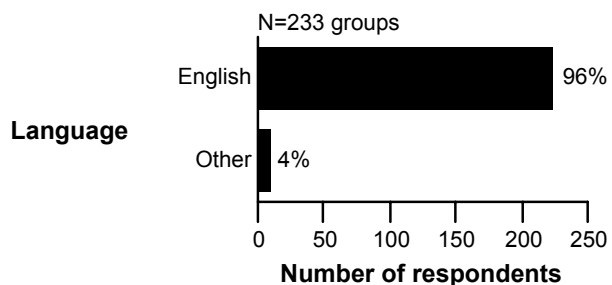


Figure 15: Preferred language for reading

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 16 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

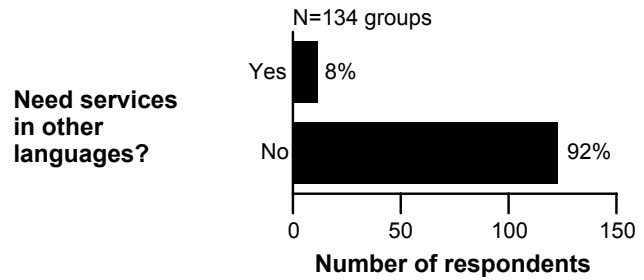
**Services needed in other languages**

Question 20c

In your opinion, what services in the park need to be provided in languages other than English?

Results

- 8% of groups needed services in languages other than English (see Figure 16).
- Eleven respondents answered this question.
- Table 4 shows the services needed in other languages. Interpret results with **CAUTION!**



**Figure 16: Need for services in other languages**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 16 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

**Table 4: Services needed in languages other than English**

N=15 comments;

some respondents made more than one comment.

**CAUTION!**

| Service                    | Number of times mentioned |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Directional signs          | 5                         |
| Restroom information       | 4                         |
| Interpretive signs         | 2                         |
| All services               | 1                         |
| Emergency information      | 1                         |
| Transportation information | 1                         |
| Swimming rules             | 1                         |

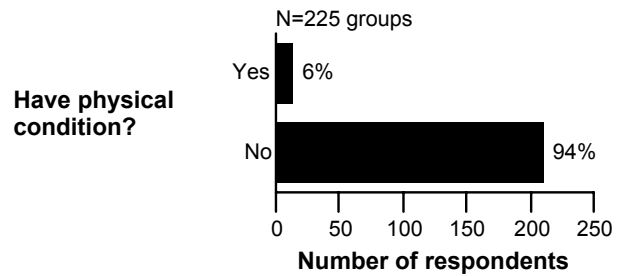
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Respondents with physical conditions/impairments

### Question 22a

On your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, did anyone in your personal group have a physical condition that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services?



### Results

- 6% of groups had members with physical conditions that made it difficult to access or participate in park activities or services (see Figure 17).

**Figure 17: Groups having members with physical conditions**

### Question 22b

If YES, what services or activities were difficult to access/participate in?

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 18 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

### Results – Interpret results with **CAUTION!**

- Thirteen groups answered this question.
- Activities or services that groups with physical conditions had difficulty accessing/ participating in were:

- All activities
- Biking from Field 5 to Kismet
- Cannot use wheelchair on dirt road
- Climbing tower at Lighthouse
- Problems with hearing
- Walking on boardwalks
- Walking
- Walking in communities because of broken concrete
- Walking in sand
- Walking with a walker

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Park Use Characteristics and Preferences**

**Use of park properties/facilities during past 12 months**

**Question 3a**

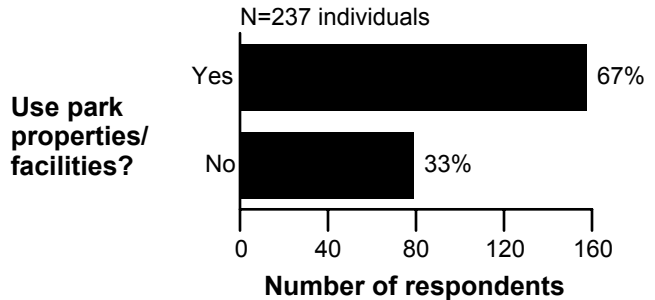
During which months of the last 12 months did you use Fire Island National Seashore (NS) properties/facilities, whether recreational or non-recreational?

**Results**

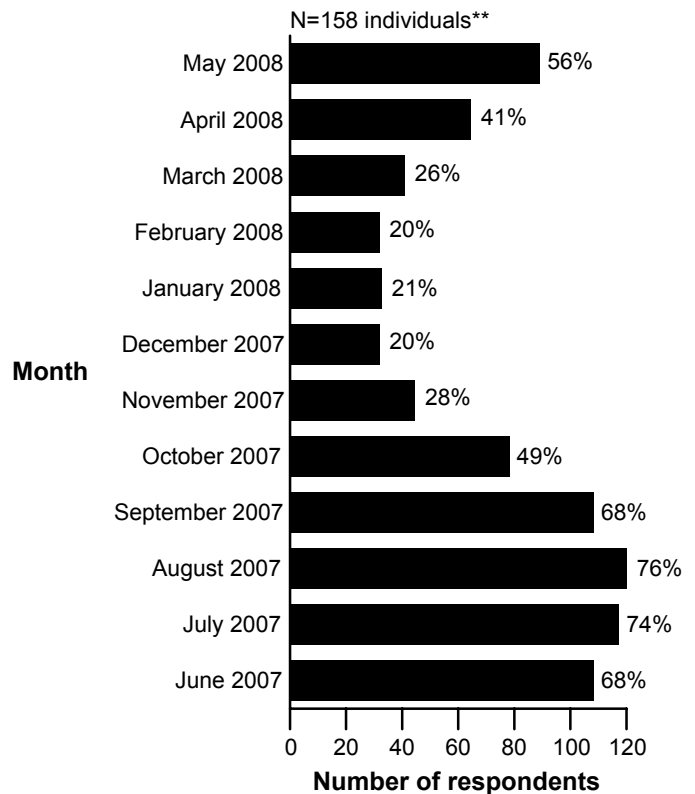
67% of respondents used the Fire Island NS properties and/or facilities in the last 12 months (see Figure 18).

As shown in Figure 19, the months that respondents most often used Fire Island properties and/or facilities were:

- 76% August 2007
- 74% July 2007
- 68% June 2007
- 68% September 2007



**Figure 18: Respondents who used park properties/facilities, past 12 months**



**Figure 19: Months in which park properties/facilities were used**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



Question 3b

If you did not use the park during the last 12 months, during what month and year did you use it most recently?

Results – Interpret results with **CAUTION!**

- Table 5 shows the other time periods during which respondents used Fire Island properties/facilities in the past years.

**Table 5: Date of most recent visit**  
N=25 respondents – **CAUTION!**

| Time          | Number of times mentioned | Percentage |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------|
| Prior to 2005 | 7                         | 28         |
| 2005          | 2                         | 8          |
| 2006          | 16                        | 64         |

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

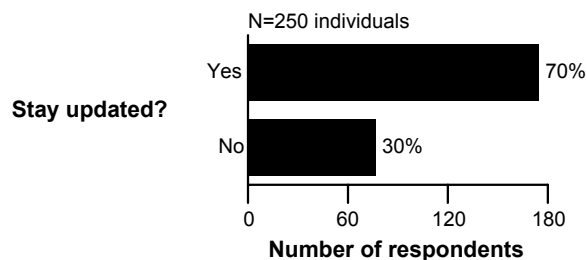
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Question 9a**

In addition to what you already know about Fire Island NS, do you stay updated on information about park activities/rules and regulations?

**Results**

- 70% of respondents stay updated about park activities/rules and regulations (see Figure 20).



**Figure 20: Respondents that received information about park activities/rules and regulations**

**Question 9b**

If YES, what source did you use to obtain or update information about the park during the last 12 months?

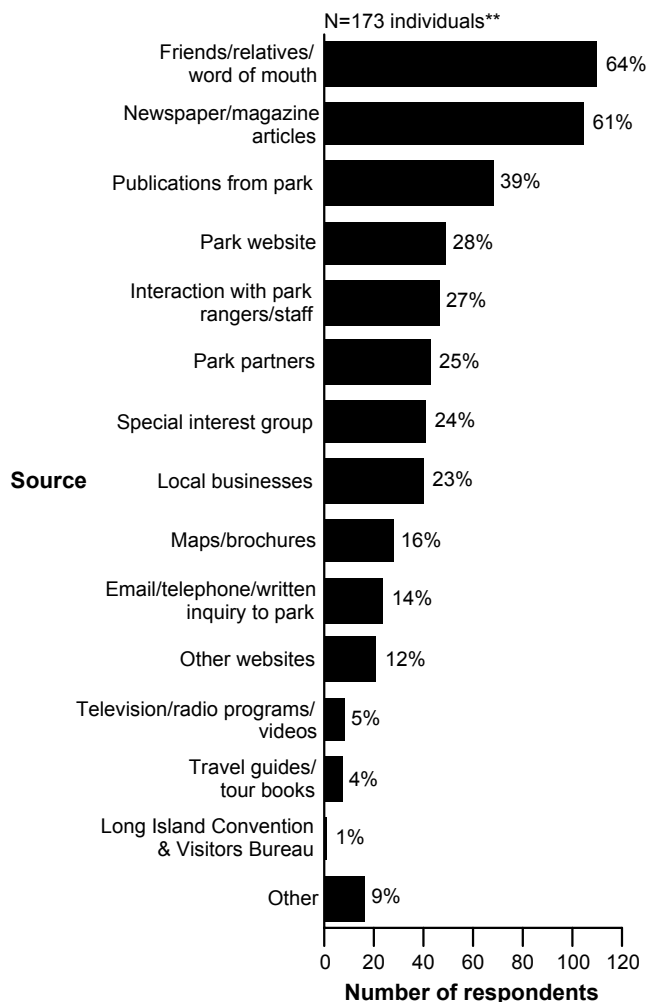
**Results**

- As shown in Figure 21, the most commonly used sources of information were:

64% Friends/relatives/word of mouth  
 61% Newspaper/magazine articles  
 39% Publications from park

- Park partners (25%) from which respondents obtained information were:

Fire Island Association  
 Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society  
 Davis Park Association  
 Federal Emergency Management Agency  
 Fire Island National Seashore newsletter and reports  
 Fire Island National Seashore Fire Island National Seashore Advisory Board  
 Fire Island Year Round Resident Association  
 Friends of Fire Island National Seashore  
 Ocean Beach Board of Trustee meetings  
 Ocean Beach Village Newsletters  
 Seaview Association



**Figure 21: Sources of park information used during last 12 months**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

- Special interest groups (24%) from which information was obtained were:

Fire Island Association  
 Fire Island Year Round Residents Association  
 Fair Harbor Community Association  
 Davis Park Association  
 Fire Island Pines Property Owners Association  
 Saltaire Citizens Advisory Association  
 Community meetings  
 Contractors Association  
 Dunewood Community Association  
 Fair Harbor Property Association  
 Fire Island National Seashore  
 Fire Island National Seashore Advisory Board  
 Fire Island Wildlife Foundation  
 Fire Service  
 FNFO  
 Kismet Association  
 Kismet Community Association  
 Land Trust  
 Local village  
 Ocean Bay Park Fire Department  
 Ocean Bay Park Association  
 Ocean Beach Environmental Commission  
 Ocean Beach Historical  
 Rotary Club  
 Western Fire Island Year Round Residents, Inc.

- “Other” sources of information (9%) included:

Homeowners Association  
 Community news  
 Community organizations  
 Concessionaires  
 Fair Harbor Community Association  
 Fire Island Association  
 Fire Island Contractors Association  
 Fire Island News  
 Fire Island Pines Property Owners' Association  
 General Management Plan  
 Kismet Community Association  
 OBD  
 Ocean Bay Park Fire Island Association  
 Outer Banks Village Hall Meetings  
 Seaview Association updates  
 Village of Saltaire Meetings

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

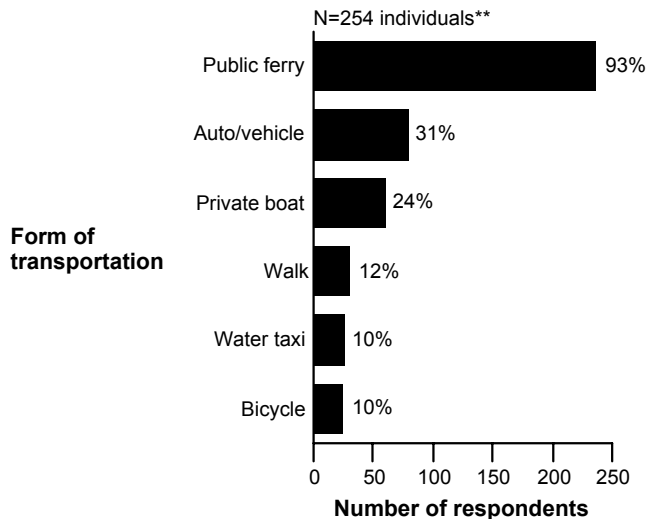
**Forms of transportation**

**Question 4a**

During the last 12 months, what forms of transportation have you used to get to Fire Island?

**Results**

- 93% of respondents used the public ferry to get to Fire Island (see Figure 22).
- 31% used an auto/vehicle.



**Figure 22: Forms of transportation used to get to Fire Island**

**Question 4b**

For the forms of transportation that you used, what percent of the time did you use the following forms of transportation as your final mode of transportation to reach the island?

**Results**

- Table 6 shows the proportion of time that each form of transportation was used as a final mode to reach the island.

**Table 6: Percentage of time forms of transportation were used\***  
N=211 respondents

| Form of transportation | Percentage |       |        |        |         |
|------------------------|------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
|                        | 0%         | 1-25% | 26-50% | 51-75% | 76-100% |
| Public ferry           | 7          | 21    | 8      | 4      | 60      |
| Water taxi             | 90         | 10    | <1     | 0      | 0       |
| Walk                   | 88         | 9     | 2      | 0      | 1       |
| Private boat           | 76         | 10    | 3      | 3      | 7       |
| Bicycle                | 89         | 9     | 2      | 0      | 0       |
| Auto/vehicle           | 65         | 11    | 5      | 10     | 8       |

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Question 6a

Which of the following statements best describe your means of getting around the island?

Results

- 29% of respondents did not need or desire to travel to places further than biking or walking (see Figure 23).
- 66% used a water taxi to get around the island (see Figure 24).
- 49% would like to travel to other parts of the island but have no means to travel.

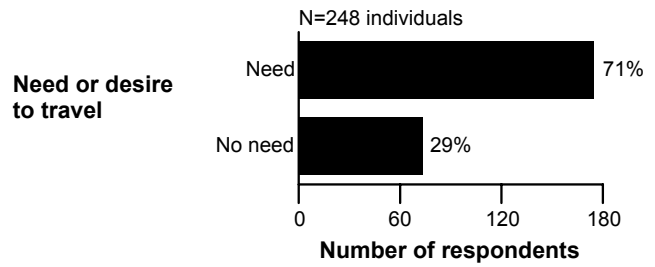


Figure 23: Respondents that need or desire to travel to places further than biking or walking distance

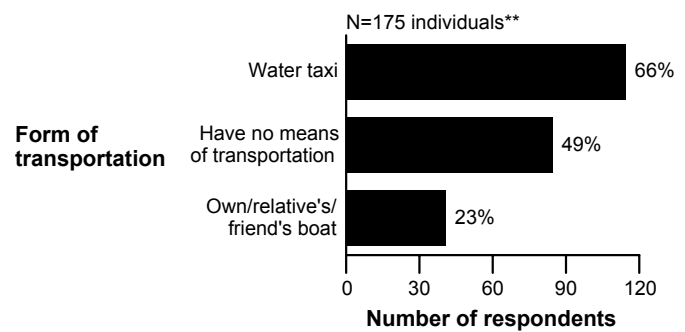


Figure 24: Forms of transportation used to get around the island

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Question 6b

How frequently do you use the water taxi?

Results

- 99% of respondents use the water taxi less than once a week (see Figure 25).

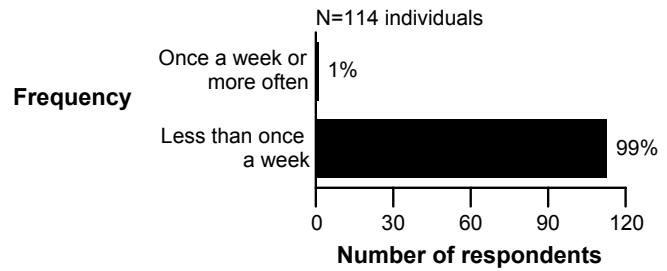


Figure 25: Frequency of water taxi use

Question 6c

If they were available, which of the following transportation methods would you use?

Results

- 82% of respondents would like to use a designated bike trail (see Figure 26).
- Other means of transportation (33%) were:

- Lateral ferry
- Water taxi
- Boat
- Walking trails
- Car
- ATV
- Bike
- Drive off season
- Ferry
- Fire Island National Seashore vehicle permit
- Public ferry
- Rental boat

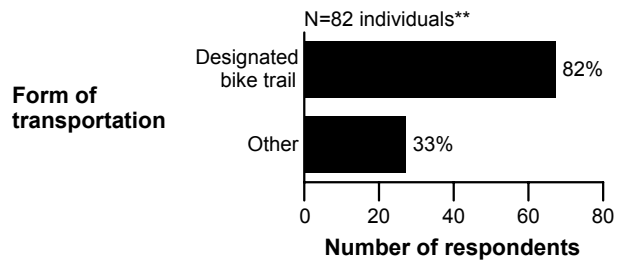


Figure 26: Forms of transportation that would be used if available

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

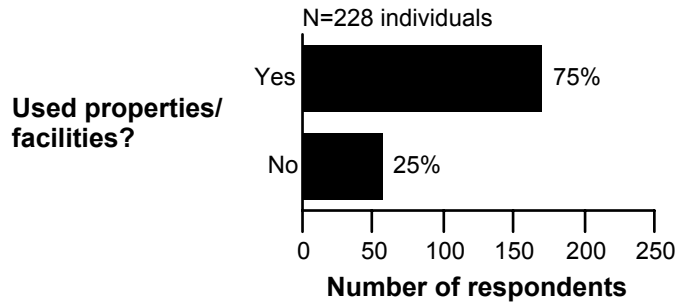
**Properties/facilities used**

**Question 7a**

During the last 12 months, which of the following Fire Island NS properties/facilities did you use?

**Results**

- 75% of respondents used the Fire Island NS and state park properties/facilities during the last 12 months (see Figure 27).

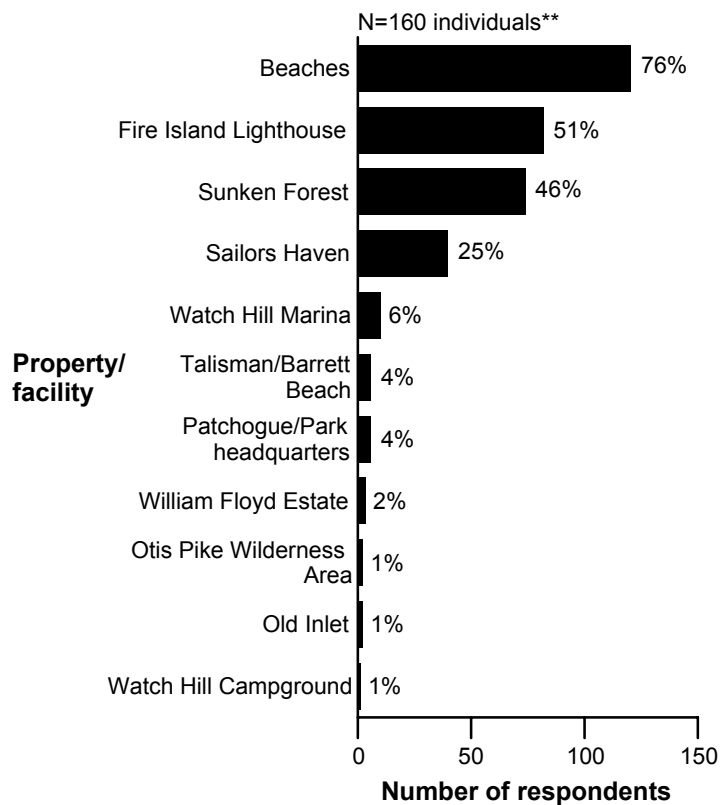


**Figure 27: Respondents who used Fire Island properties/facilities (NPS and state park)**

Sites operated by the National Park Service

As shown in Figure 28, the most commonly used National Park Service properties/facilities were:

- 76% Beaches
- 51% Fire Island Lighthouse
- 46% Sunken Forest



**Figure 28: National Park Service properties/facilities used**

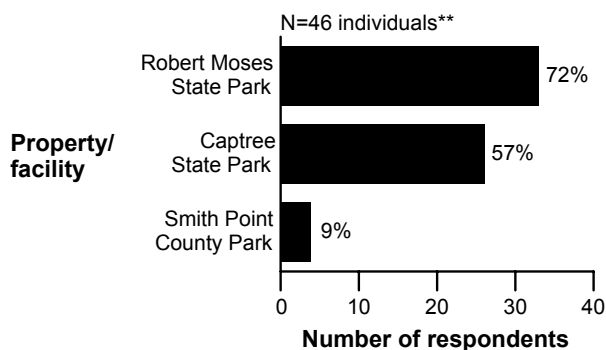
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Sites not operated by the National Park Service

- As shown in Figure 29, the most commonly used properties/facilities at sites not operated by the National Park Service were:

72% Robert Moses State Park  
57% Captree State Park



To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 27 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

**Figure 29: Non-National Park Service properties/facilities used**

Question 7b

Only for the properties/facilities that you used, how many times did you use each of them during the last 12 months?

Results

- Table 7 shows the number of times each property/facility was used.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 41 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

**Table 7: Use of properties/facilities**  
N=number of respondents

| Location (NPS site)                           | N  | Number of times used (%)* |     |    |           |
|---|----|---------------------------|-----|----|-----------|
|   |    | Up to 1                   | 2   | 3  | 4 or more |
| Patchogue/Park headquarters – <b>CAUTION!</b> | 5  | 20                        | 20  | 40 | 20        |
| Fire Island Lighthouse                        | 72 | 47                        | 18  | 14 | 21        |
| Sailors Haven                                 | 34 | 47                        | 24  | 6  | 24        |
| Sunken Forest                                 | 62 | 42                        | 29  | 8  | 21        |
| Talisman/Barrett Beach – <b>CAUTION!</b>      | 6  | 33                        | 17  | 17 | 33        |
| Watch Hill Marina – <b>CAUTION!</b>           | 8  | 13                        | 25  | 13 | 50        |
| Watch Hill Campground – <b>CAUTION</b>        | 1  | 0                         | 0   | 0  | 100       |
| Beaches                                       | 89 | 1                         | 1   | 4  | 93        |
| Old Inlet – <b>CAUTION!</b>                   | 1  | 100                       | 0   | 0  | 0         |
| Otis Pike Wilderness Area – <b>CAUTION!</b>   | 2  | 50                        | 0   | 0  | 50        |
| William Floyd Estate – <b>CAUTION!</b>        | 1  | 0                         | 100 | 0  | 0         |
| Location (non-NPS operated site)              |    |                           |     |    |           |
| Robert Moses State Park – <b>CAUTION!</b>     | 26 | 8                         | 23  | 8  | 62        |
| Smith Point County Park – <b>CAUTION!</b>     | 3  | 67                        | 33  | 0  | 0         |
| Captree State Park – <b>CAUTION!</b>          | 21 | 24                        | 10  | 14 | 52        |

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



Question 7c

During the most recent use, how many hours did you spend at the properties/facilities that you used during the last 12 months?

Results

- Table 8 shows the hours spent at each property/facility.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 41 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

**Table 8: Hours spent at properties/facilities**  
N=number of respondents

| Location (NPS site)                           | N  | Hours used (%)* |     |    |           |
|---|----|-----------------|-----|----|-----------|
|   |    | Up to 1         | 2   | 3  | 4 or more |
| Patchogue/Park headquarters – <b>CAUTION!</b> | 6  | 67              | 17  | 17 | 0         |
| Fire Island Lighthouse                        | 67 | 36              | 30  | 16 | 18        |
| Sailors Haven – <b>CAUTION!</b>               | 29 | 21              | 38  | 14 | 28        |
| Sunken Forest                                 | 57 | 25              | 32  | 16 | 28        |
| Talisman/Barrett Beach – <b>CAUTION!</b>      | 6  | 33              | 17  | 0  | 50        |
| Watch Hill Marina – <b>CAUTION!</b>           | 7  | 43              | 43  | 0  | 14        |
| Watch Hill Campground – <b>CAUTION</b>        | 1  | 0               | 100 | 0  | 0         |
| Beaches                                       | 88 | 14              | 19  | 14 | 53        |
| Old Inlet – <b>CAUTION!</b>                   | 1  | 0               | 100 | 0  | 0         |
| Otis Pike Wilderness Area – <b>CAUTION!</b>   | 2  | 0               | 0   | 0  | 100       |
| William Floyd Estate – <b>CAUTION!</b>        | 1  | 0               | 0   | 0  | 100       |
| Location (non-NPS operated site)              |    |                 |     |    |           |
| Robert Moses State Park – <b>CAUTION!</b>     | 19 | 16              | 16  | 11 | 58        |
| Smith Point County Park – <b>CAUTION!</b>     | 3  | 33              | 33  | 0  | 33        |
| Captree State Park – <b>CAUTION!</b>          | 17 | 29              | 29  | 18 | 24        |

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Activities on previous trips**

**Question 8b**

On previous trips, what activities or experiences did you and your group participate in while using Fire Island NS properties/facilities?

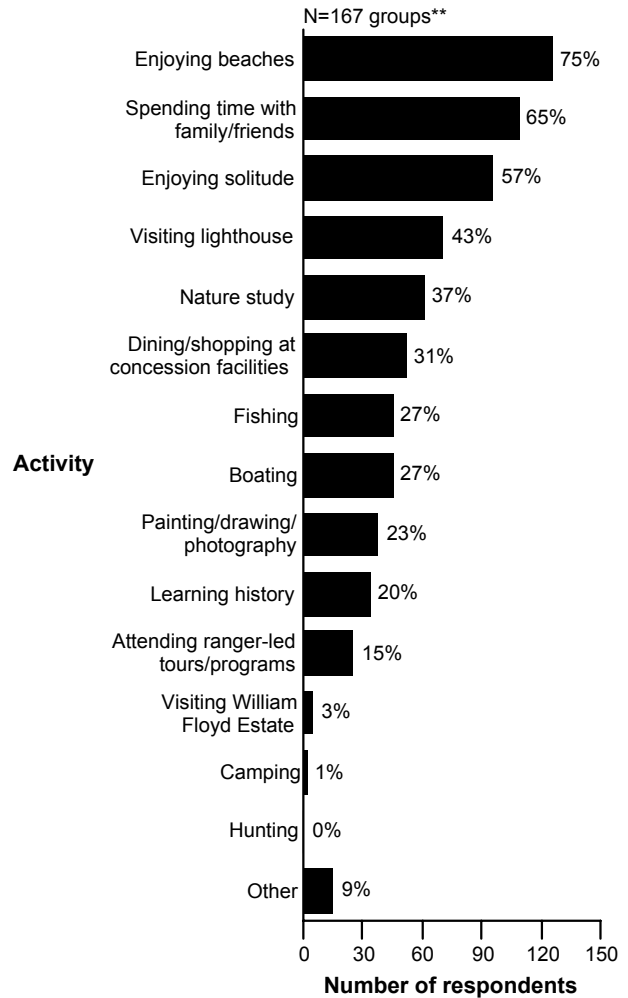
**Results**

- As shown in Figure 30, the most common activities in which groups participated on previous trips were:

- 75% Enjoying beaches
- 65% Spending time with family/friends
- 57% Enjoying solitude

- “Other” activities (9%) in which groups participated were:

- Being there
- Enjoying nature
- Using the bathrooms
- Visiting Sailors Haven
- Visiting the Sunken Forest
- Visiting Watch Hill Marina
- Walking for exercise
- Windsurfing
- Working



To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 43 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

**Figure 30: Activities on previous trips**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Activities on most recent use**

**Question 8a**

On your most recent use of a Fire Island NS property/facility, what activities or experiences did you and your group participate in while using the park?

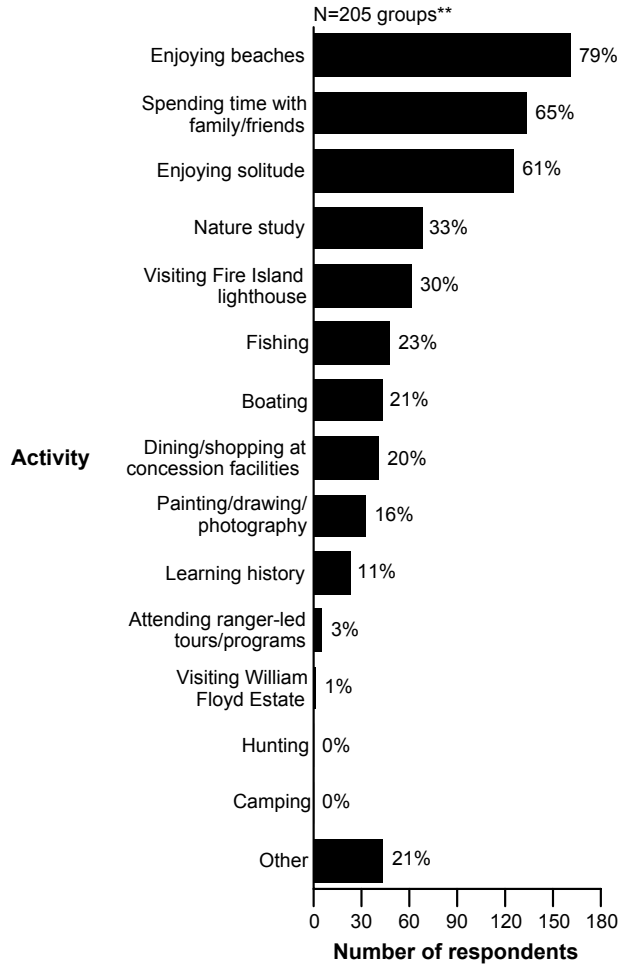
**Results**

- As shown in Figure 31, the most common activities in which groups participated on this trip were:

- 79% Enjoying beaches
- 65% Spending time with family/friends
- 61% Enjoying solitude

- “Other” activities (21%) in which groups participated were:

- Attending a party at Lighthouse
- Being there
- Counting wildlife
- Doing repairs
- Enjoying nature
- Enjoying Water Island
- Exercising
- Have a home on the island
- Passing through
- Relaxing
- Road to and from home
- Robert Moses parking Field #5
- Sightseeing with friends
- Taking visitors/guests to lighthouse
- To live and make a living
- Using nature trails
- Vacation
- Visiting different places
- Visiting Sailors Haven
- Visiting Sunken Forest
- Visiting the gift shop
- Visiting West Fire Island
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Working



**Figure 31: Activities during most recent use**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 44 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Primary reasons for park use**

Question 8c

Which one activity above was your primary reason for using Fire Island NS properties/facilities when you were there most recently?

Results

- As shown in Figure 32, the primary reasons for using park properties/facilities were:

37% Enjoying beaches  
17% Spending time with family/friends

- “Other” reasons (21%) were:

- Attend a party at Lighthouse
- Enjoying Water Island
- Exercising
- Exercise walks
- Passing though on the way home
- Relaxing
- Seeing Sunken Forest
- Sightseeing with friends
- To live and make a living
- Using nature trails
- Vacation
- Visiting different places
- Visiting Robert Moses Park and Field #5
- Visiting the gift shop
- Visiting West Fire Island
- Walking
- Working

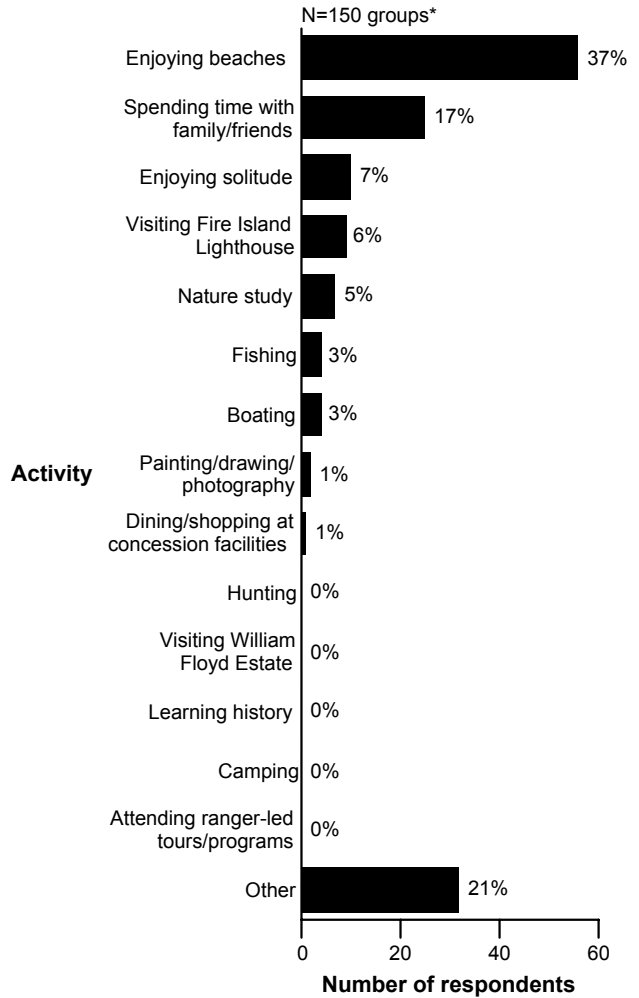


Figure 32: Primary activities

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Ratings of Services and Facilities**

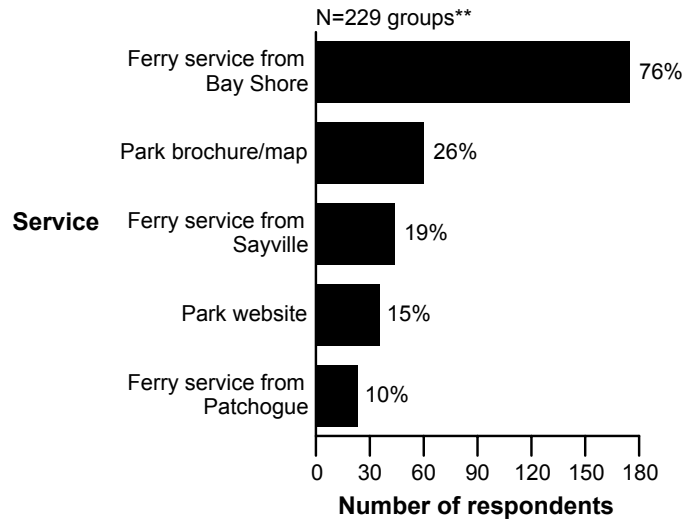
**Ferry services and park information services used**

**Question 12b**

Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

**Results**

- As shown in Figure 33, the most commonly used ferry services and park information services were:
  - 76% Ferry service from Bay Shore
  - 26% Park brochure/map
- The least used service was:
  - 10% Ferry service from Patchogue



Note: Ferry service from Bay Shore provides access to the majority of Fire Island communities.

**Figure 33: Ferry services and park information services used**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 46 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Importance ratings of ferry services and park information services**

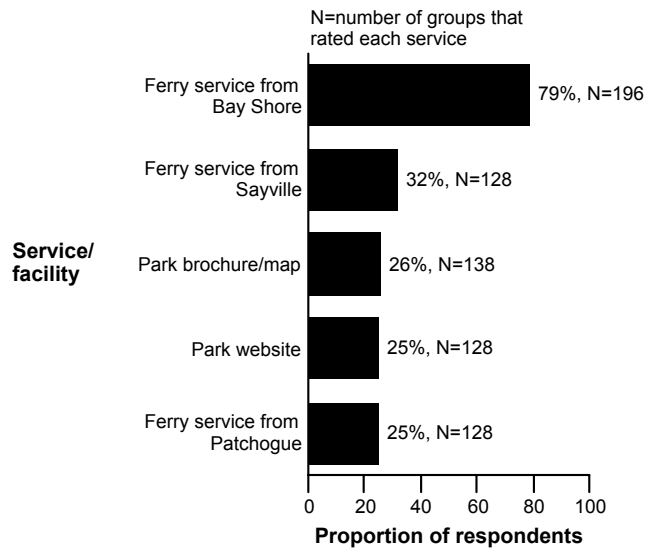
**Question 12a**

Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance from 1-5, of the following Fire Island NS services and facilities to you and your group.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

**Results**

- Figure 34 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for the ferry services and park information services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more groups.
- The services and facilities that were rated by 30 or more groups were:
  - 79% Ferry from Bay Shore
  - 32% Ferry service from Sayville
- Figures 35 to 39 show the importance ratings for each service.
- Of the services rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:
  - 55% Ferry service from Patchogue



**Figure 34: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings of ferry services and park information services**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 47 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

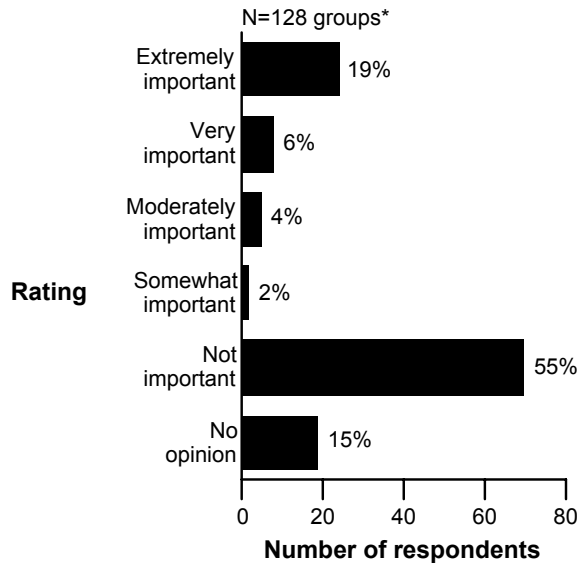


Figure 35: Importance of ferry service from Patachogue

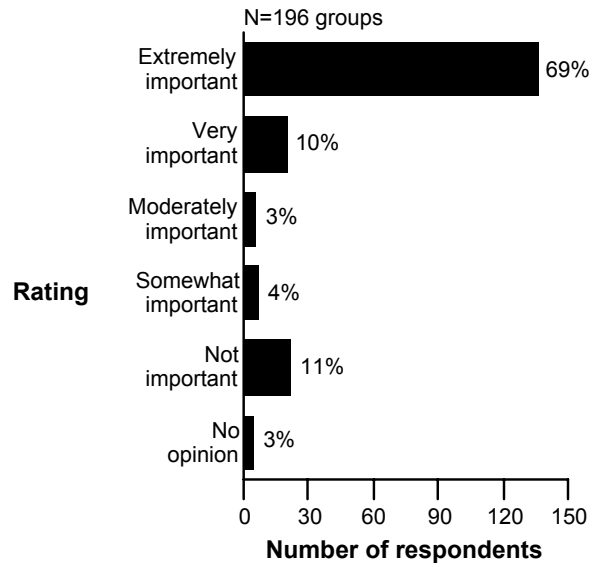


Figure 36: Importance of ferry service from Bay Shore

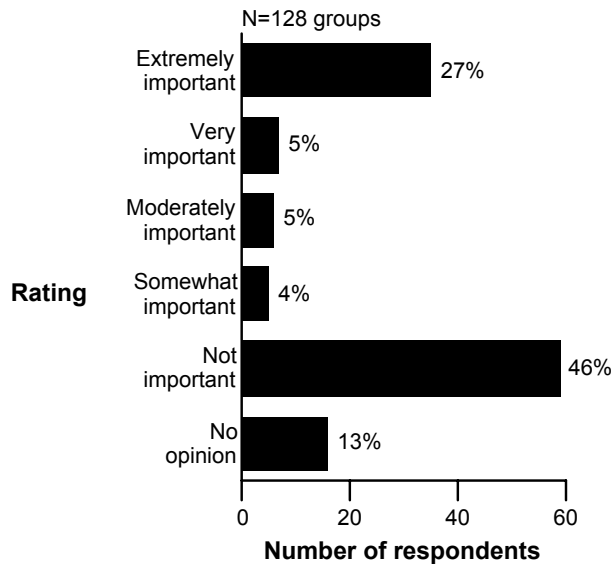


Figure 37: Importance of ferry service from Sayville

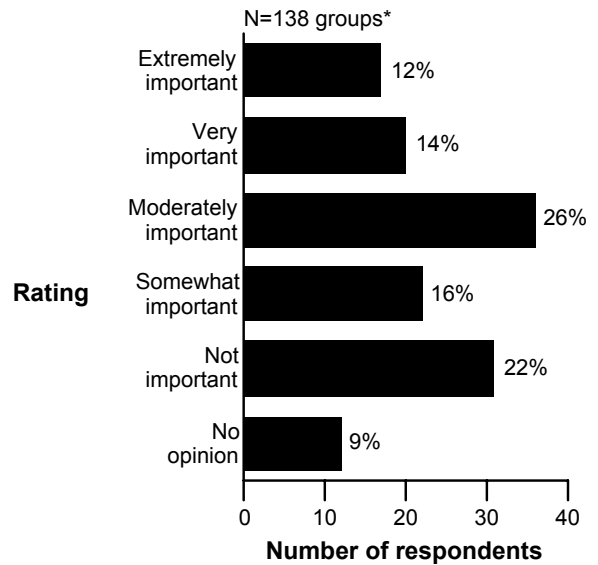
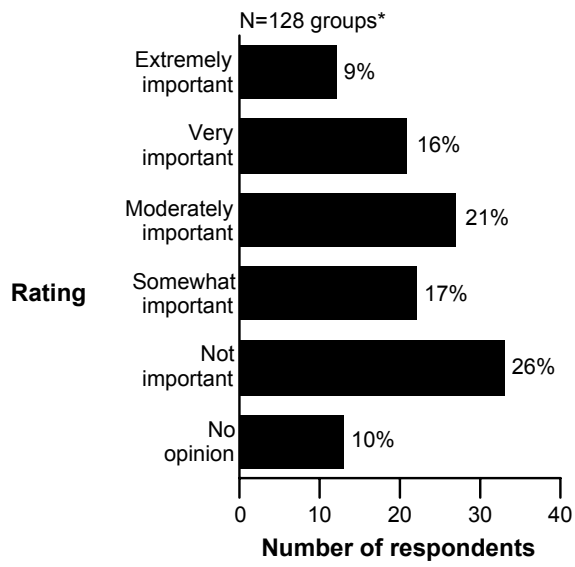


Figure 38: Importance of park brochure/map

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Figure 39: Importance of park website:  
www.nps.gov/fiis**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Quality ratings of ferry services and park information services**

Question 12c

Finally, for only those services/facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

- 1=Very poor
- 2=Poor
- 3=Average
- 4=Good
- 5=Very good

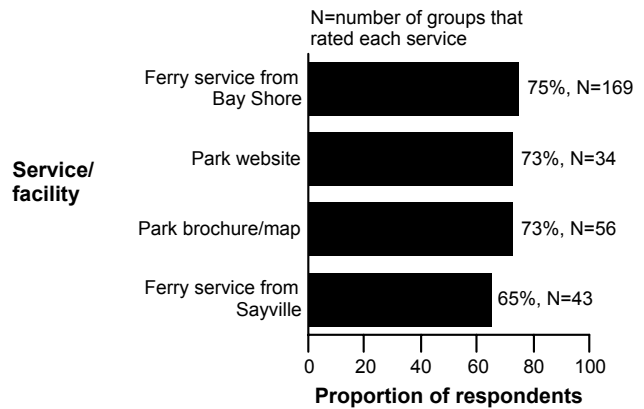
Results

- Figure 40 shows the combined proportions of “very good” and “good” ratings for the ferry and park information services that were rated by 30 or more groups.
- The services receiving the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” ratings were:

- 75% Ferry service from Bay Shore
- 73% Park website
- 73% Park brochure/map

- Figures 41 to 45 show the importance ratings for each service.
- Of the services rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “very poor” rating was:

- 5% Ferry service from Sayville



**Figure 40: Combined proportions of “very good” and “good” ratings of ferry services and park information services**

Note: Quality ratings of the ferry service from Patchogue were not included because fewer than 30 visitor groups rated that service.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 50 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

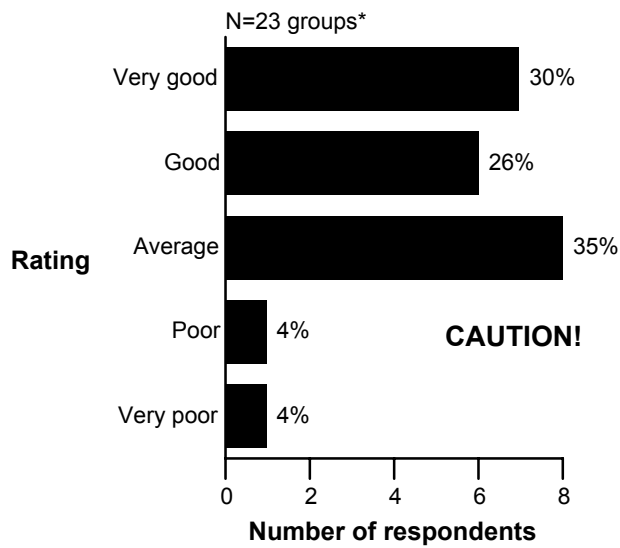


Figure 41: Quality of ferry service from Patachogue

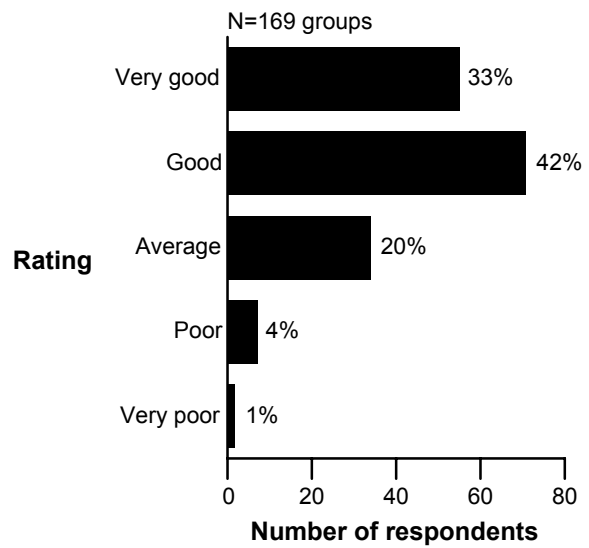


Figure 42: Quality of ferry service from Bay Shore

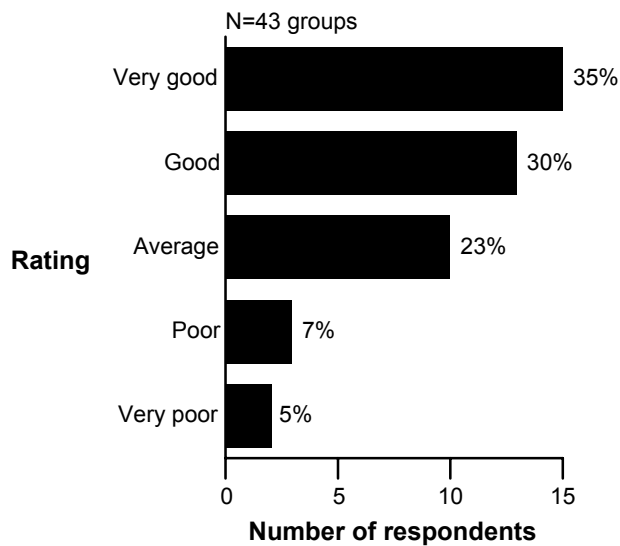


Figure 43: Quality of ferry service from Sayville

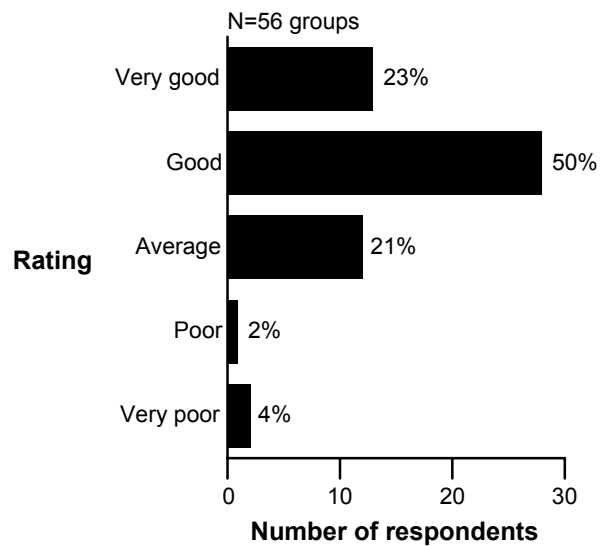
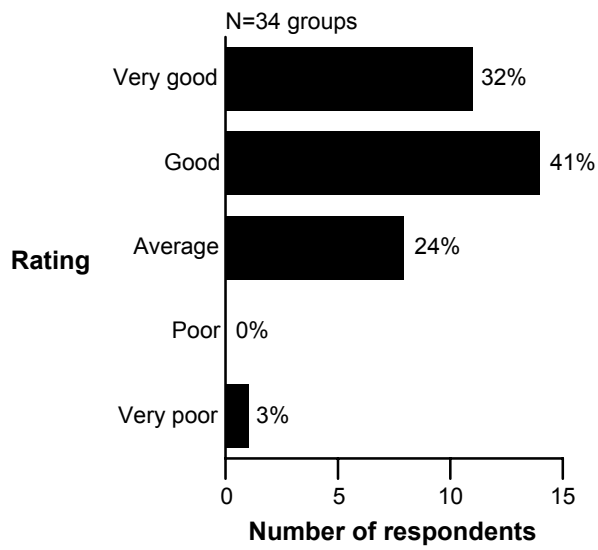


Figure 44: Quality of park brochure/map

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Figure 45: Quality of park website:  
www.nps.gov/fiis**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Services and facilities used at Fire Island Lighthouse**

**Question 13b**

Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

**Results**

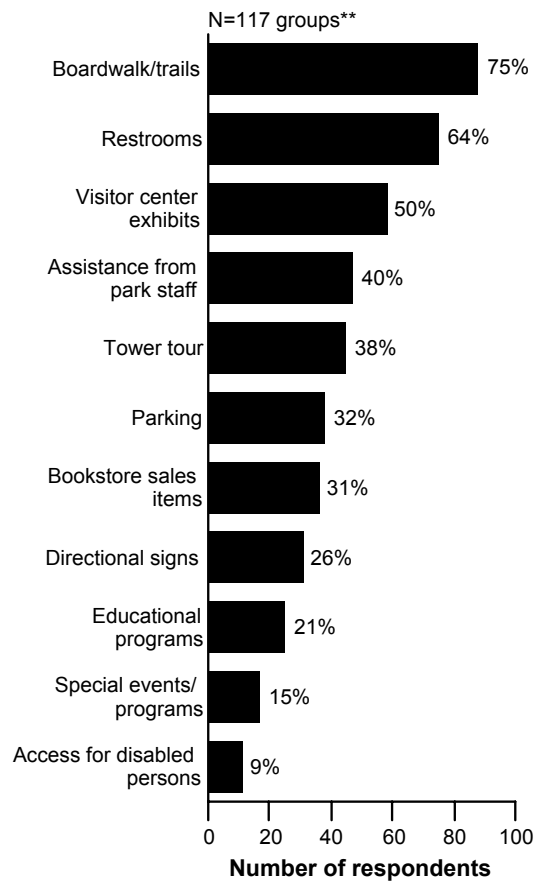
- As shown in Figure 46, the most commonly used services and facilities at the Fire Island Lighthouse were:

75% Boardwalk/trails  
64% Restrooms

- The least used service/facility was:

9% Access for disabled persons

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 53 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.



**Figure 46: Services and facilities used at Fire Island Lighthouse**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Importance ratings of services and facilities at Fire Island Lighthouse

### Question 12a

Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance from 1-5, of the following Fire Island NS services and facilities to you and your personal group.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

### Results

- Figure 47 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for the services and facilities at Fire Island Lighthouse that were rated by 30 or more groups.

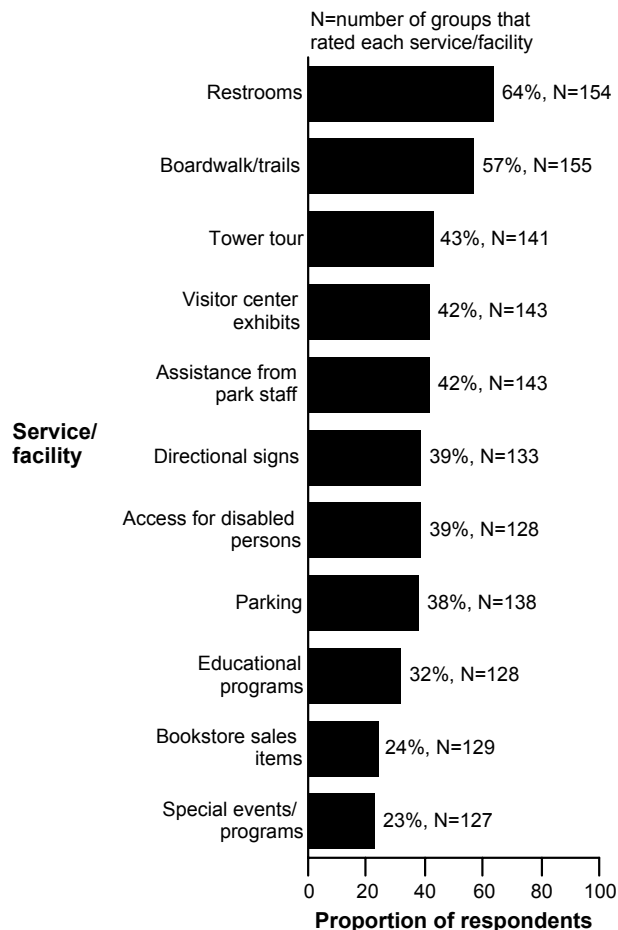
- The services and facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:

64% Restrooms  
57% Boardwalk/trails

- Figures 48 to 58 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.

- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:

33% Parking

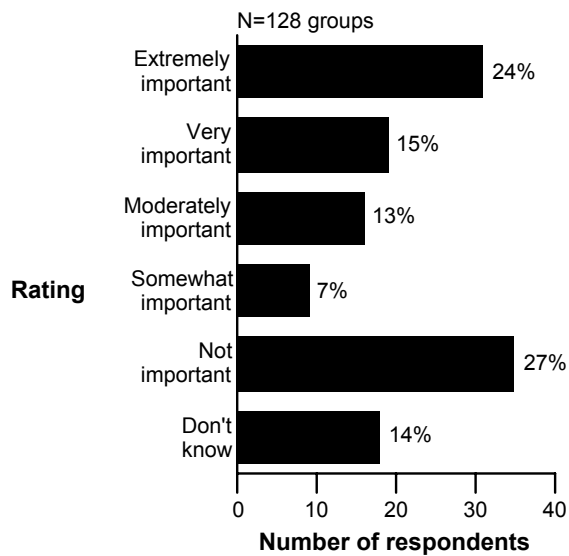


**Figure 47: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings of services/facilities at Fire Island Lighthouse**

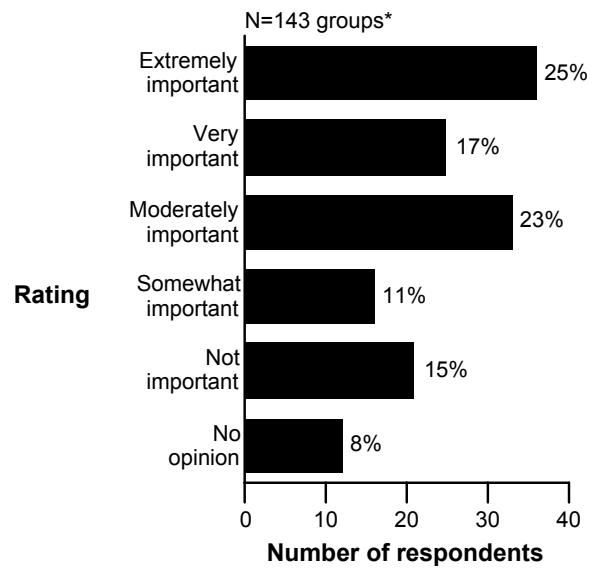
To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 54 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

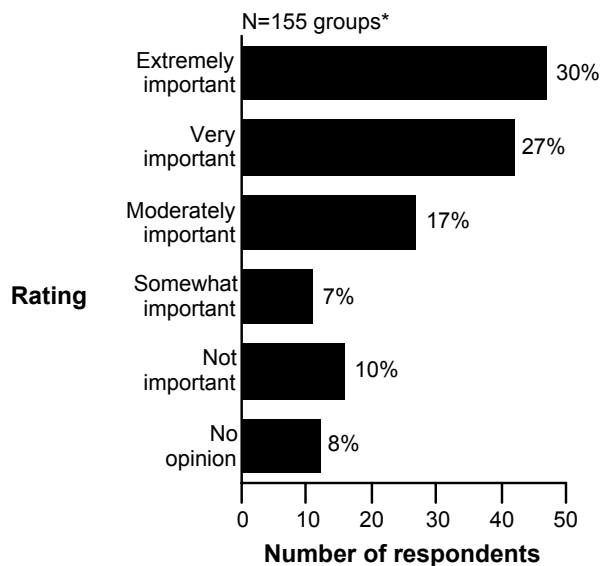
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



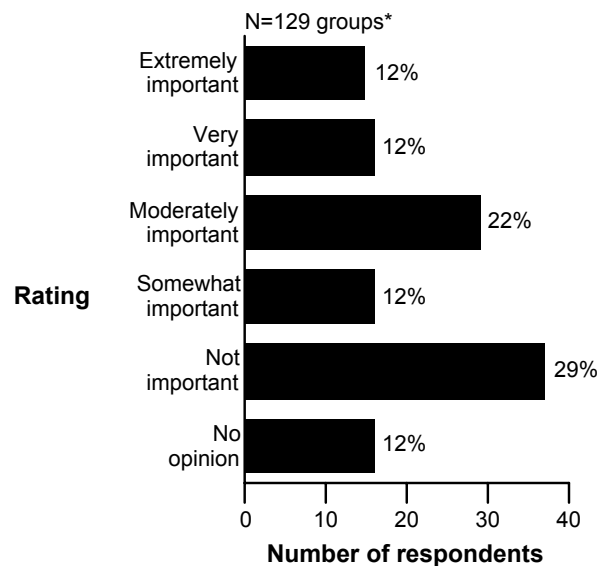
**Figure 48: Importance of access for disabled persons**



**Figure 49: Importance of assistance from park staff**



**Figure 50: Importance of boardwalk/trails**



**Figure 51: Importance of bookstore sales items (selection, price, etc.)**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

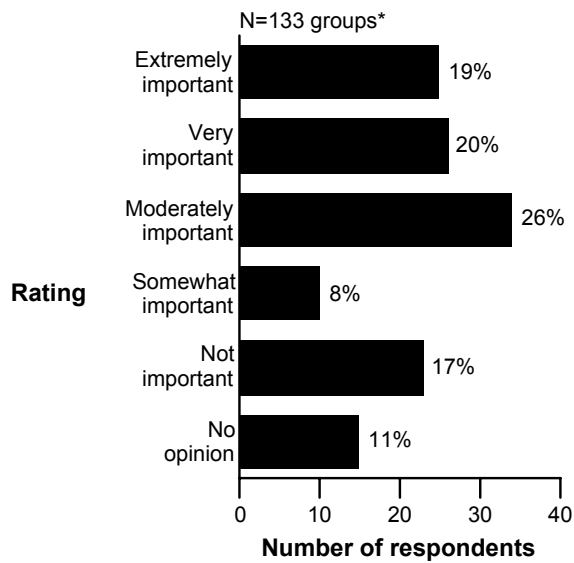


Figure 52: Importance of directional signs

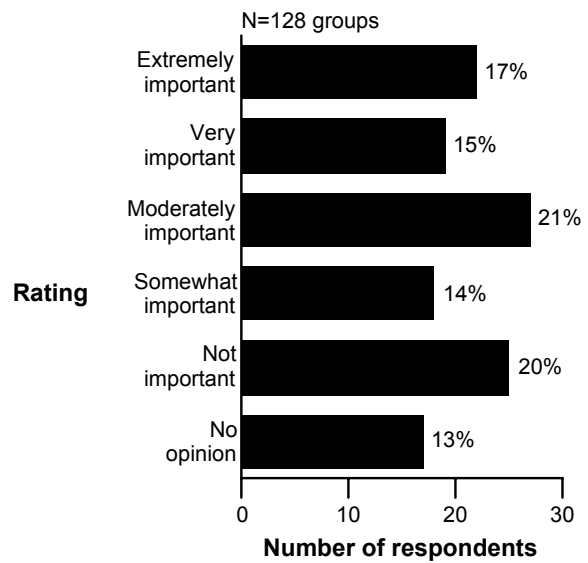


Figure 53: Importance of educational programs

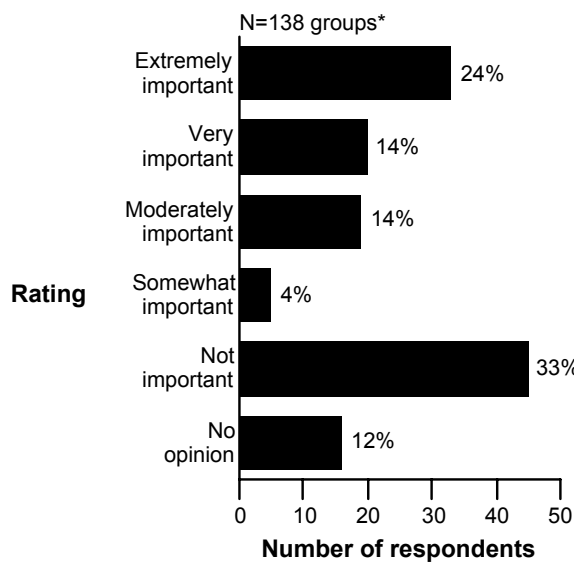


Figure 54: Importance of parking

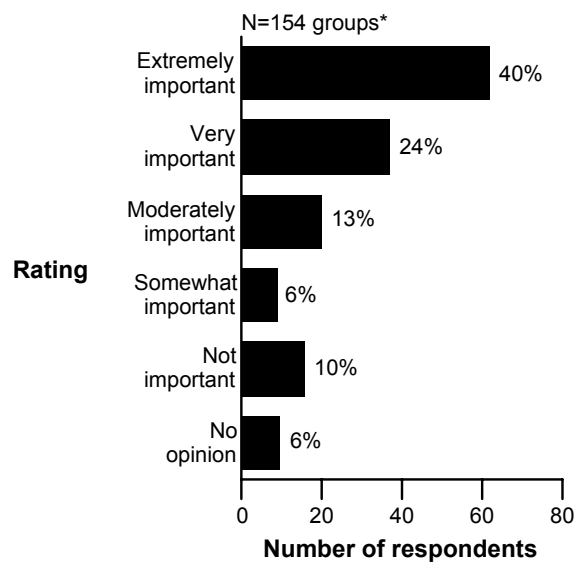
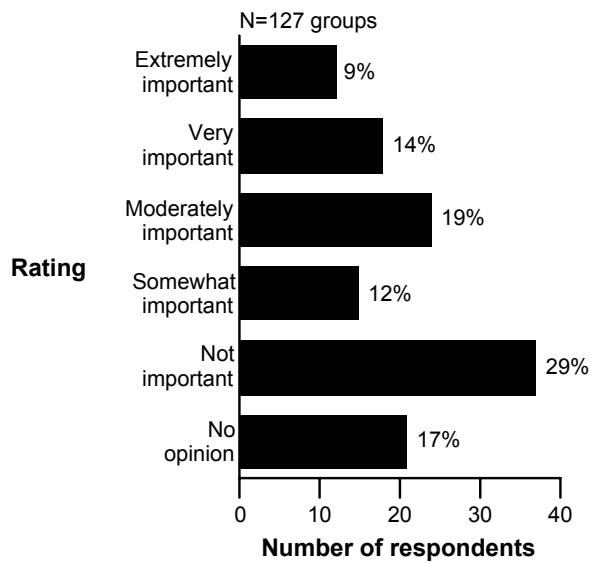


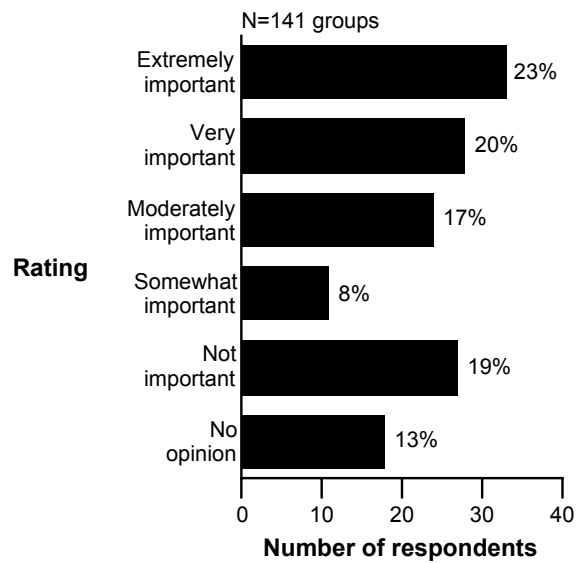
Figure 55: Importance of restrooms

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

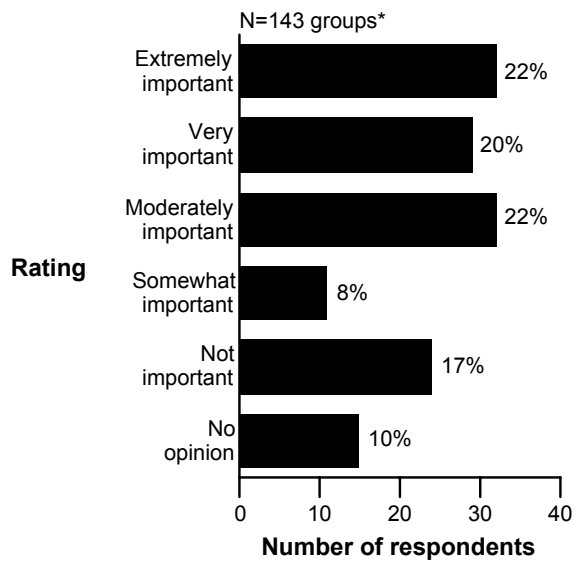
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Figure 56: Importance of special events/programs**



**Figure 57: Importance of tower tour**



**Figure 58: Importance of visitor center exhibits**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



### Quality ratings of services and facilities at Fire Island Lighthouse

**Question 12c**

Finally, for only those services/facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

- 1=Very poor
- 2=Poor
- 3=Average
- 4=Good
- 5=Very good

**Results**

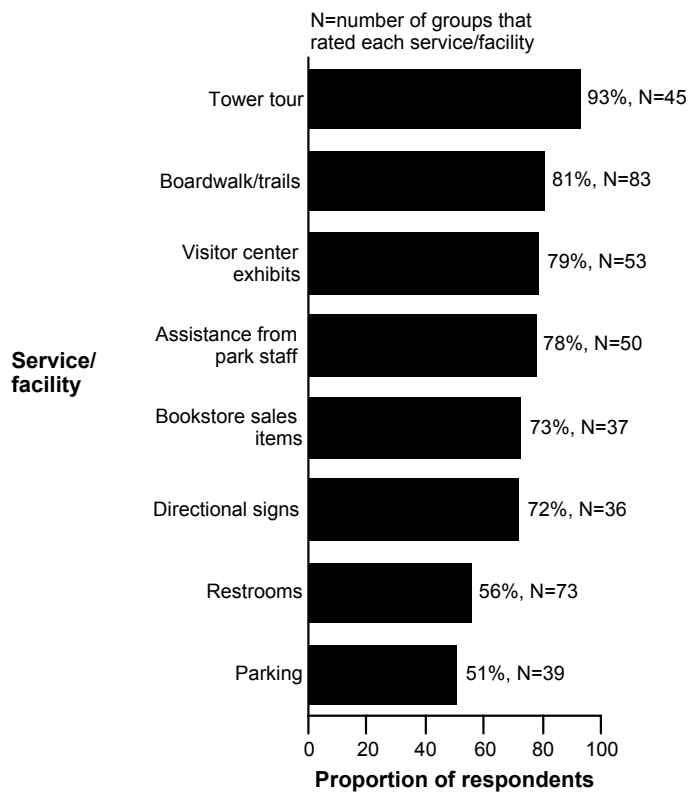
- Figure 59 shows the combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for services and facilities at Fire Island Lighthouse that were rated by 30 or more groups.

- The services/facilities that received the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings were:

- 93% Tower tour
- 81% Boardwalk/trails
- 79% Visitor center exhibits
- 78% Assistance from park staff

- Figures 60 to 70 show the quality ratings for each service/facility.
- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “very poor” quality rating was:

15% Parking

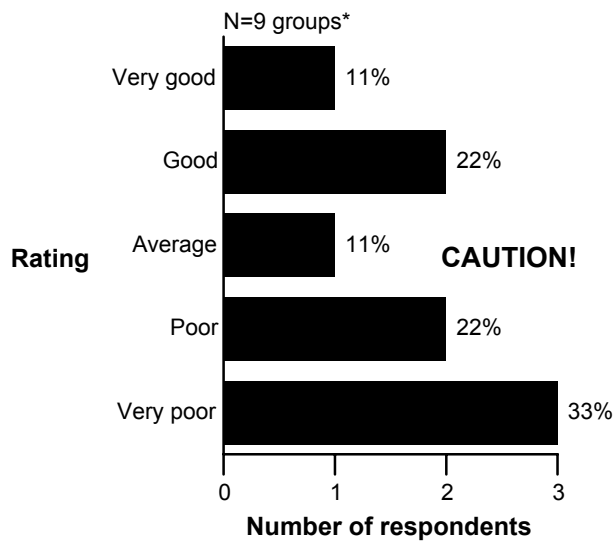


**Figure 59: Combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings of services/facilities at Fire Island Lighthouse**

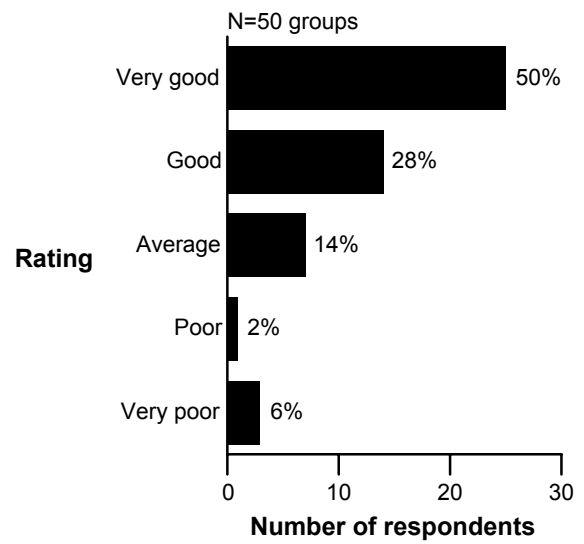
To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 58 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

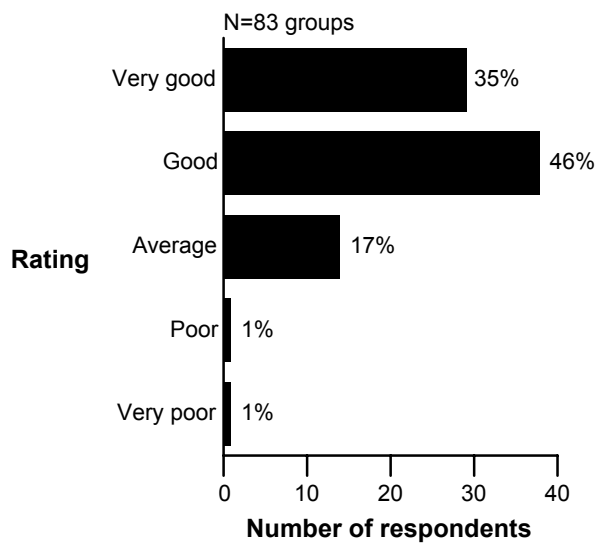
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



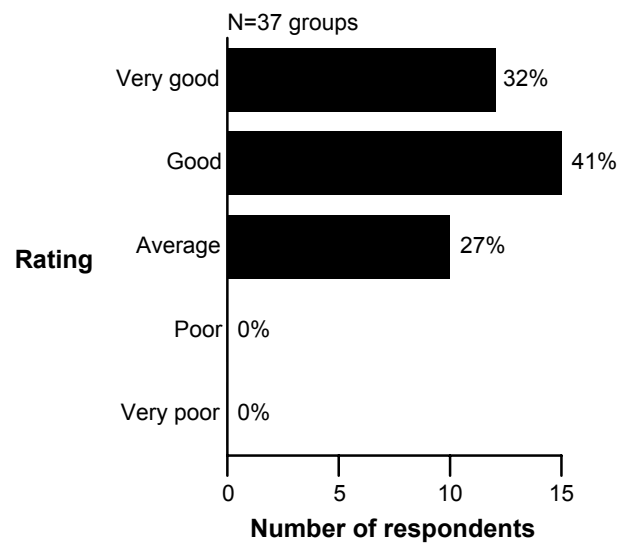
**Figure 60: Quality of access for disabled persons**



**Figure 61: Quality of assistance from park staff**



**Figure 62: Quality of boardwalk/trails**



**Figure 63: Quality of bookstore sales items (selection, price, etc.)**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

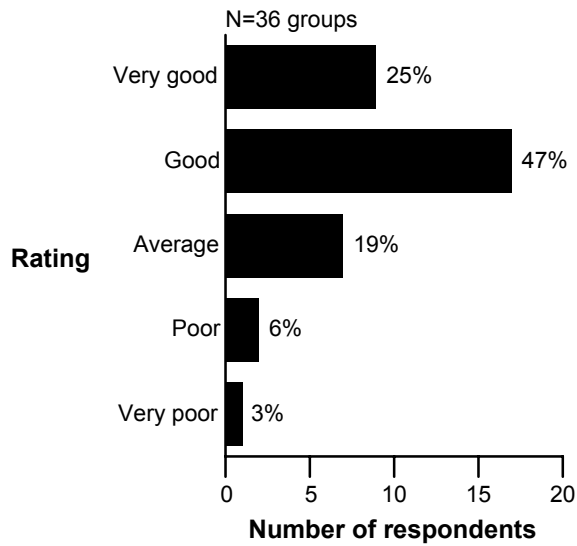


Figure 64: Quality of directional signs

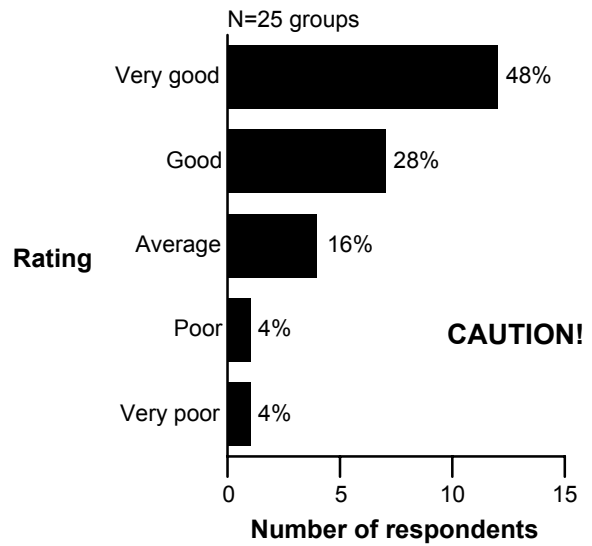


Figure 65: Quality of educational programs

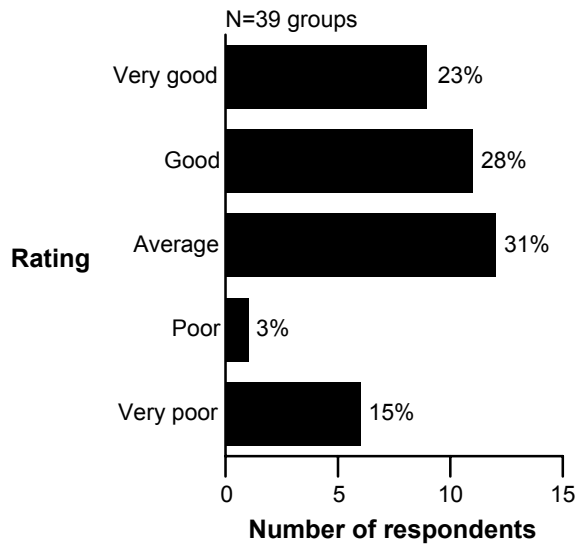


Figure 66: Quality of parking

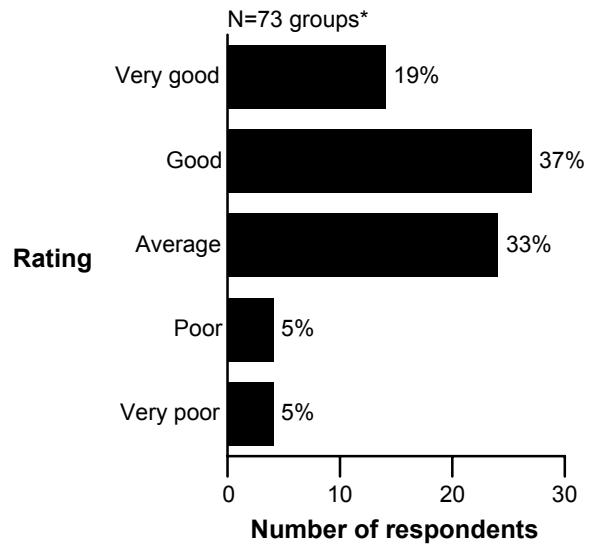


Figure 67: Quality of restrooms

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

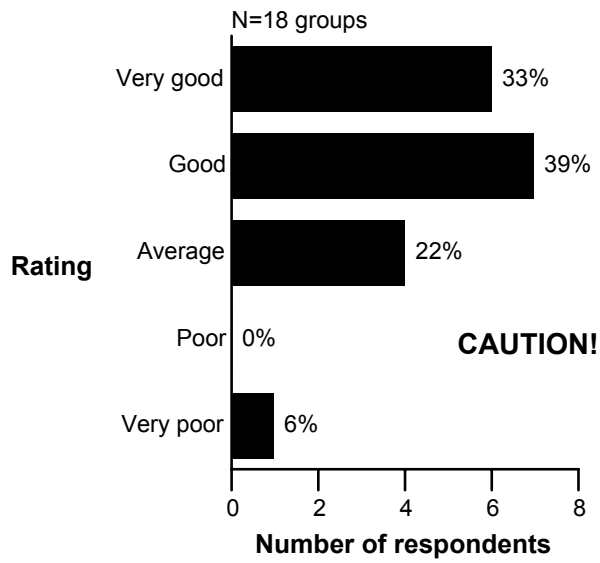


Figure 68: Quality of special events/programs

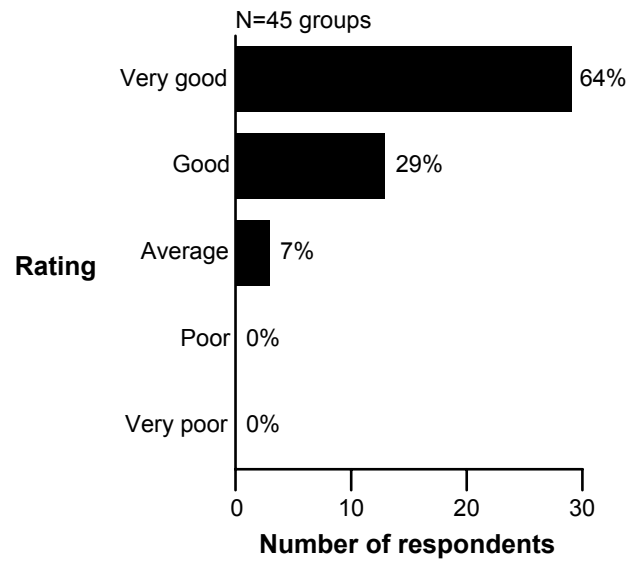


Figure 69: Quality of tower tour

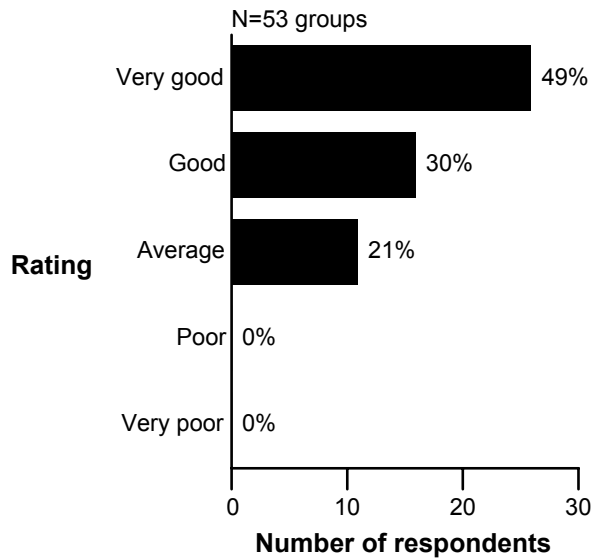


Figure 70: Quality of visitor center exhibits

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Services and facilities used at Sailors Haven**

**Question 13b**

Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

**Results**

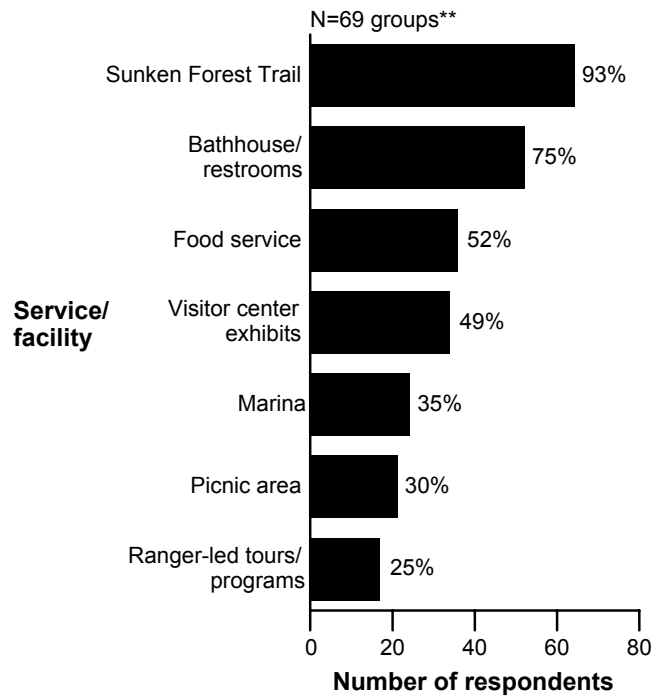
- As shown in Figure 71, the most commonly used services and facilities at Sailors Haven were:

93% Sunken Forest Trail  
 75% Bathhouse/restrooms  
 52% Food service

- The least used service/facility was:

25% Ranger-led tours/programs

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 62 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.



**Figure 71: Services and facilities used at Sailors Haven**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Importance ratings of services and facilities at Sailors Haven**

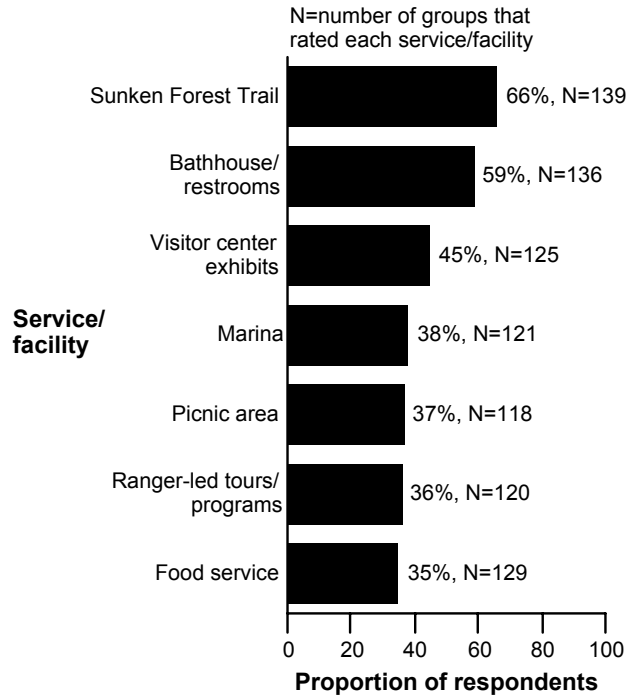
Question 13a

Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance from 1-5, of the following Fire Island NS services and facilities to you and your group.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

Results

- Figure 72 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for services and facilities at Sailors Haven that were rated by 30 or more groups.
- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:
  - 66% Sunken Forest Trail
  - 59% Bathhouse/restrooms
- Figures 73 to 79 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.
- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:
  - 31% Marina



**Figure 72: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings of services/facilities at Sailors Haven**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 63 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

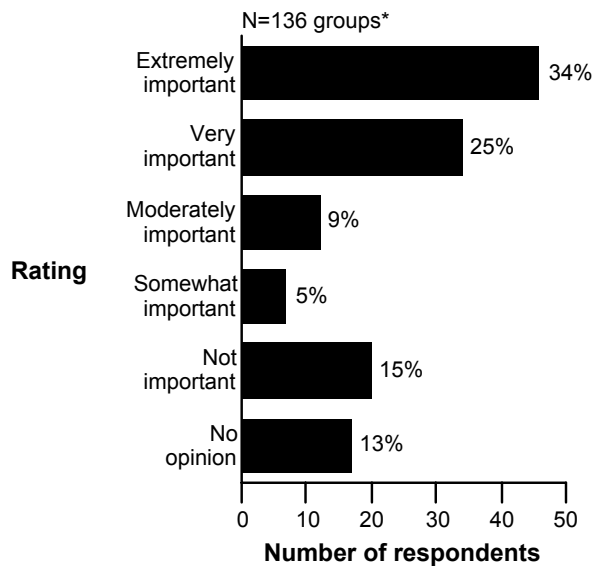


Figure 73: Importance of bathhouse/restrooms

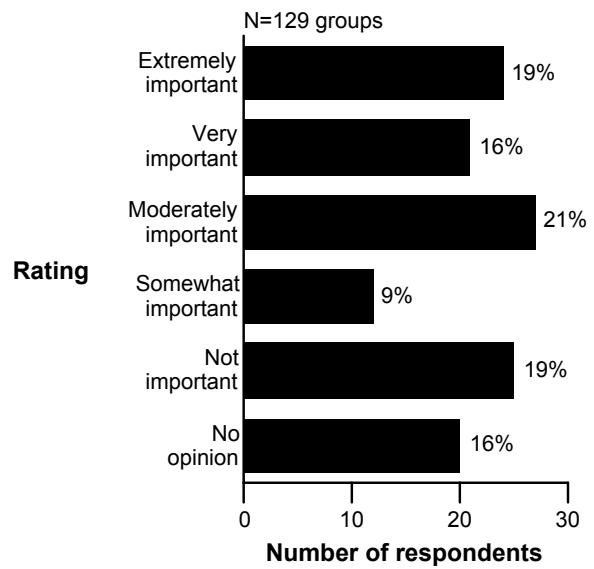


Figure 74: Importance of food service

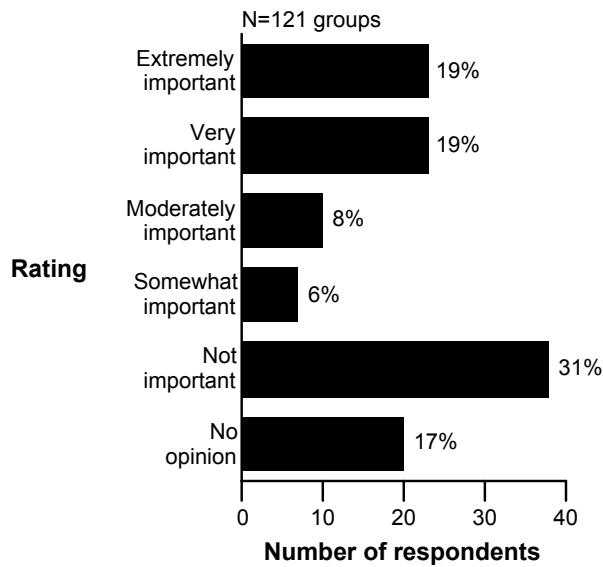


Figure 75: Importance of marina

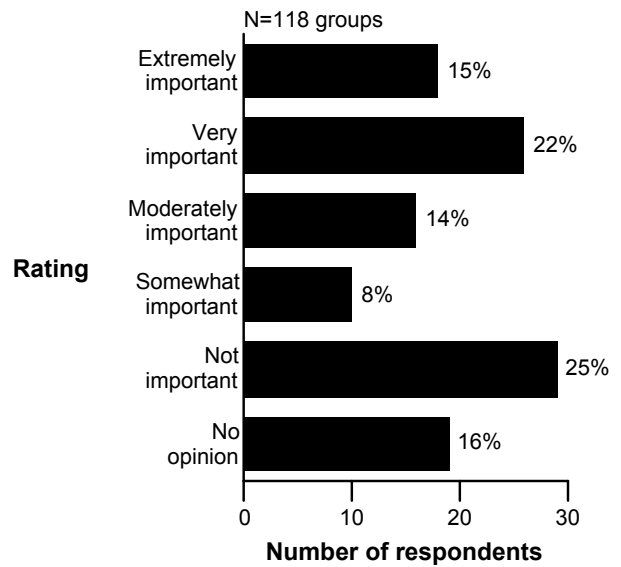
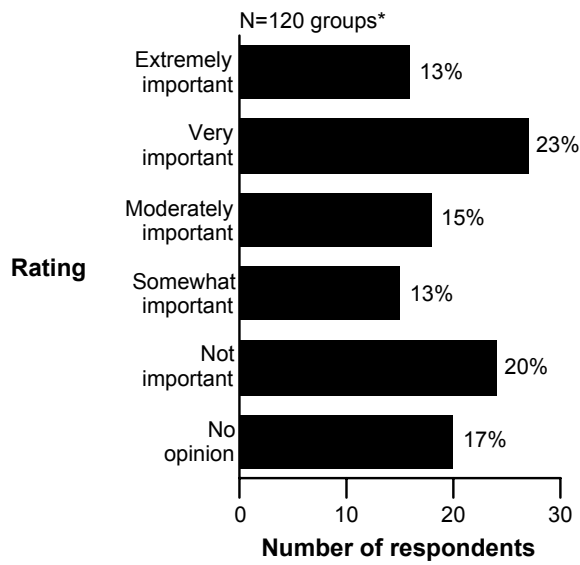


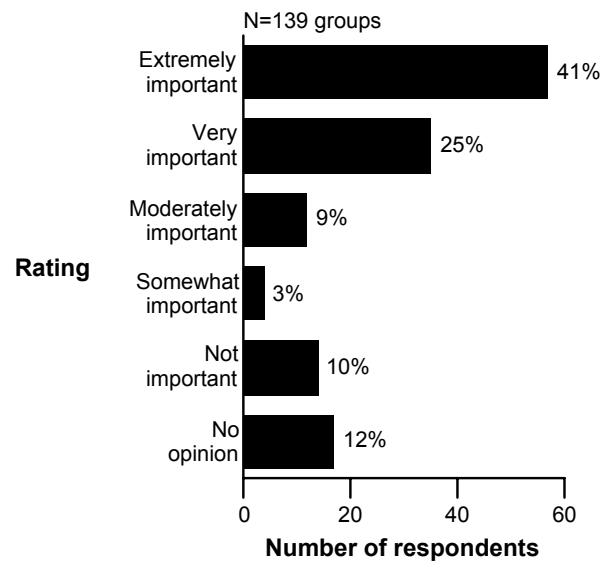
Figure 76: Importance of picnic area

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

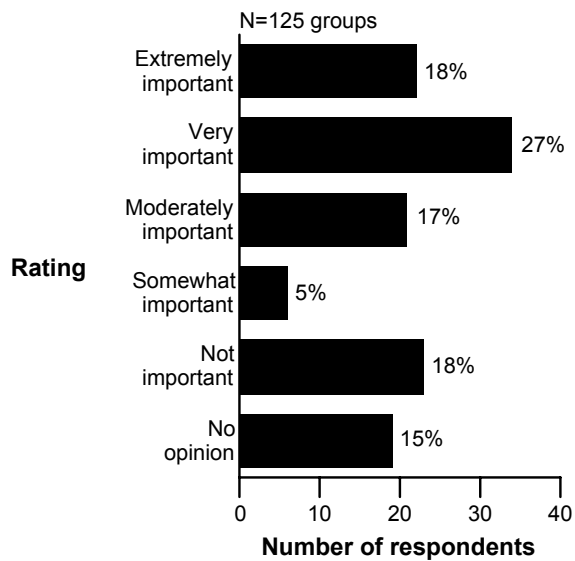
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Figure 77: Importance of ranger-led tours/ programs**



**Figure 78: Importance of Sunken Forest Trail**



**Figure 79: Importance of visitor center exhibits**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Quality ratings of services and facilities at Sailors Haven**

**Question 13c**

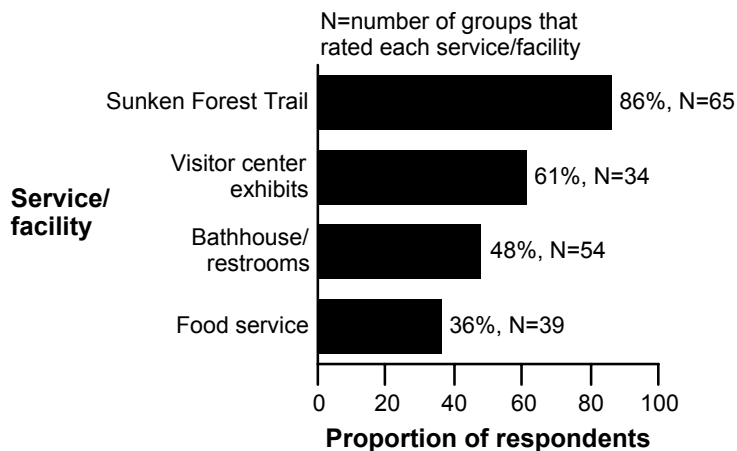
Finally, for only those services/facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

- 1=Very poor
- 2=Poor
- 3=Average
- 4=Good
- 5=Very good

**Results**

- Figure 80 shows the combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings for services and facilities at Sailors Haven that were rated by 30 or more groups.
- The services/facilities that received the highest combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings were:
  - 86% Sunken Forest Trail
  - 61% Visitor center exhibits
- Figures 81 to 87 show the quality ratings for each service/facility.
- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “very poor” quality rating was:

3% Visitor center exhibits



**Figure 80: Combined proportions of “very good” and “good” quality ratings of services/facilities at Sailors Haven**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 66 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

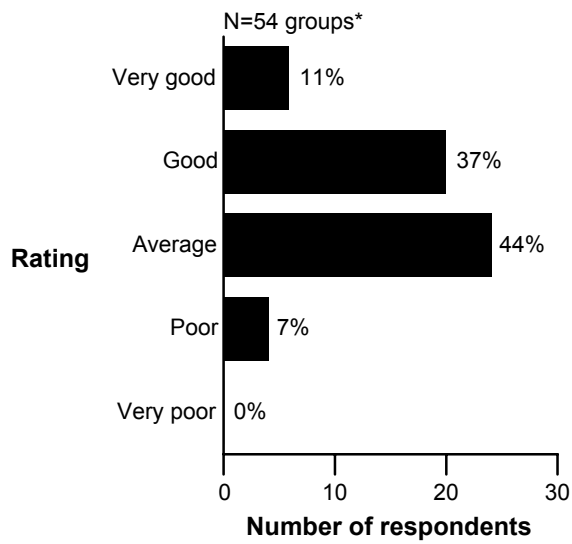


Figure 81: Quality of bathhouse/restrooms

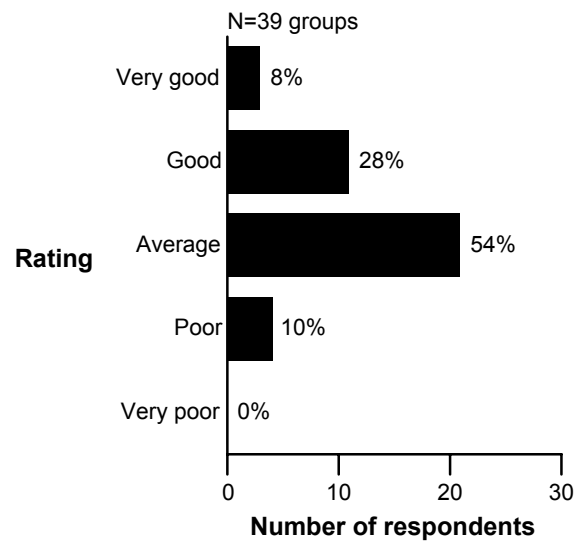


Figure 82: Quality of food service

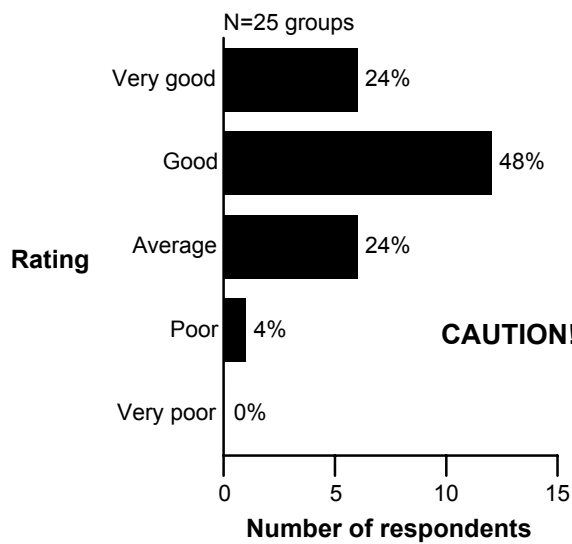


Figure 83: Quality of marina

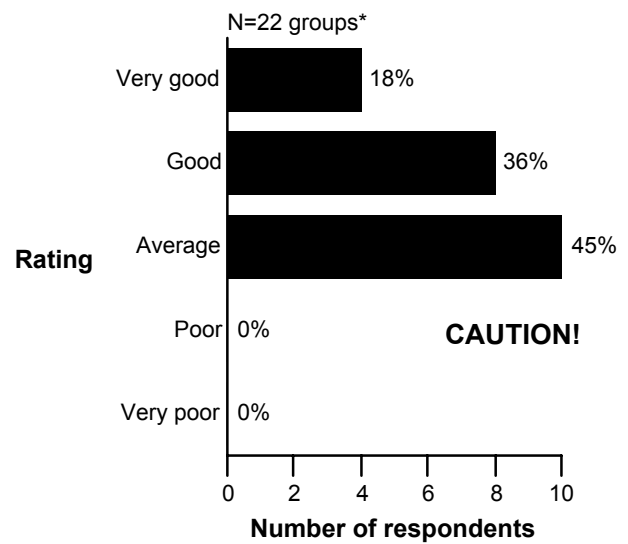


Figure 84: Quality of picnic area

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

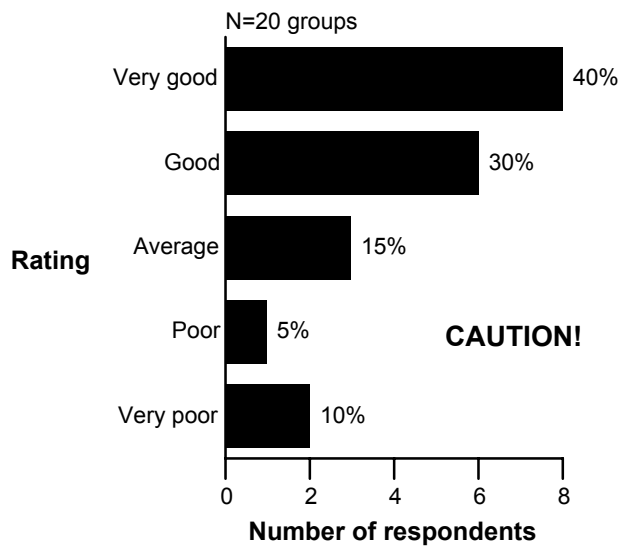


Figure 85: Quality of ranger-led tours/ programs

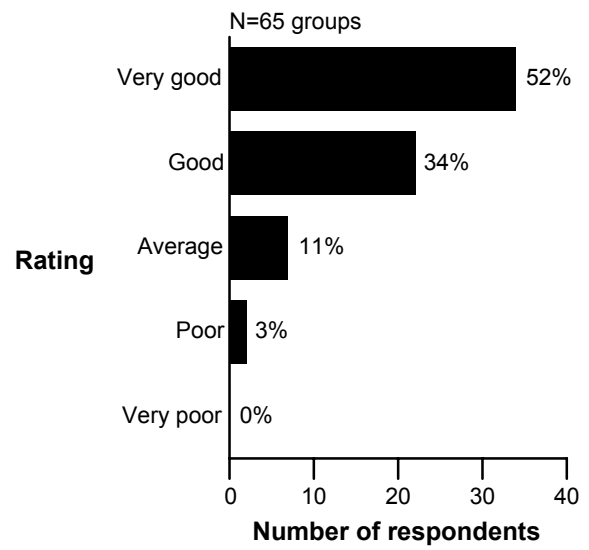


Figure 86: Quality of Sunken Forest Trail

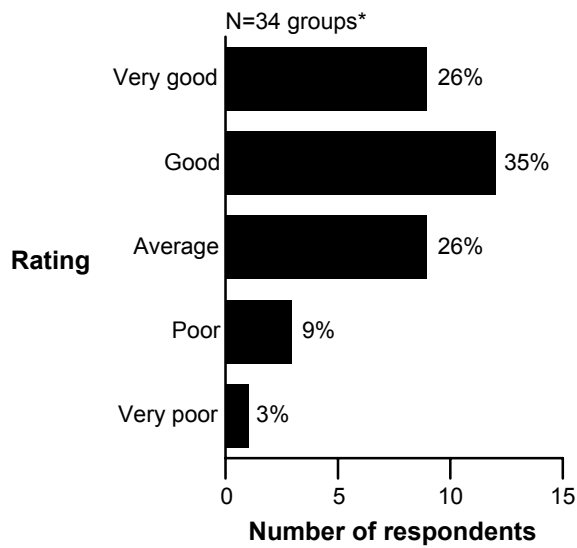


Figure 87: Quality of visitor center exhibits

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Services and facilities used at Watch Hill**

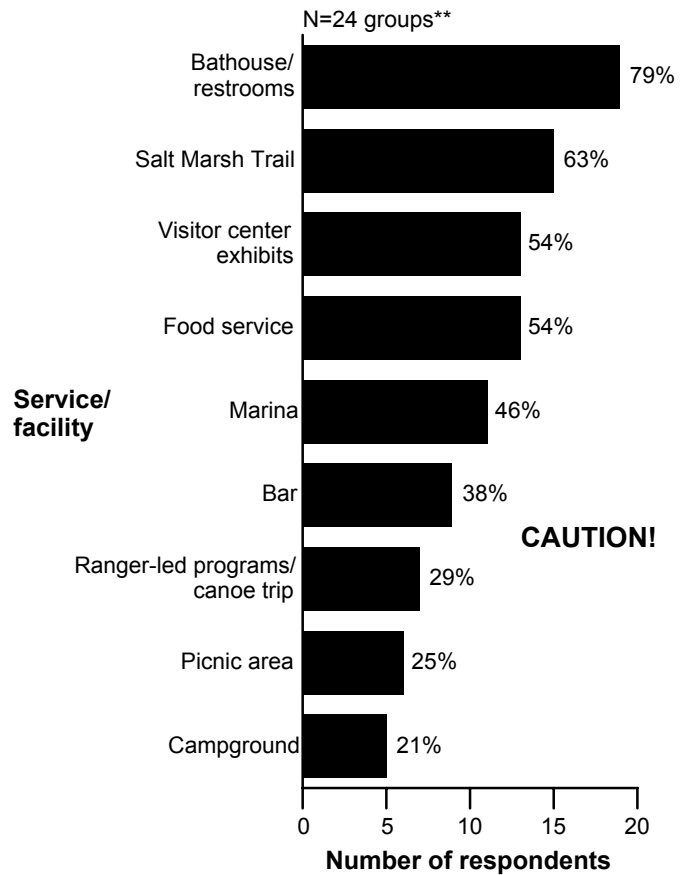
Question 13b

Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

Results - Interpret results with **CAUTION!**

- Not enough groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 88).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 69 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.



**Figure 88: Services and facilities used at Watch Hill**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Importance ratings of services and facilities at Watch Hill**

Question 13a

Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance, from 1-5, of the following Fire Island NS services and facilities to you and your group.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

Results

- Figure 89 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for services and facilities at Watch Hill that were rated by 30 or more groups.

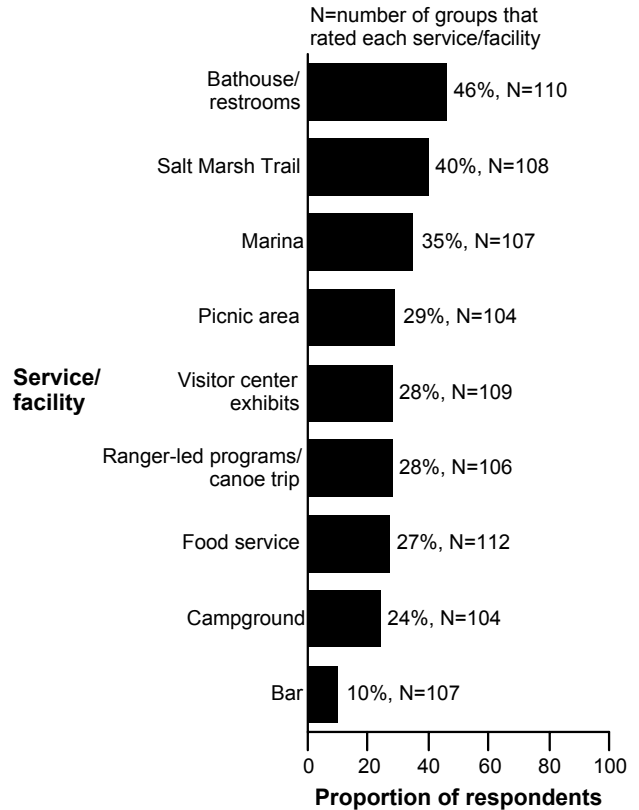
- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:

- 46% Bathhouse/restrooms
- 40% Salt Marsh Trail
- 35% Marina

- Figures 90 to 98 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.

- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:

- 44% Bar



**Figure 89: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings of services/facilities at Watch Hill**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 70 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

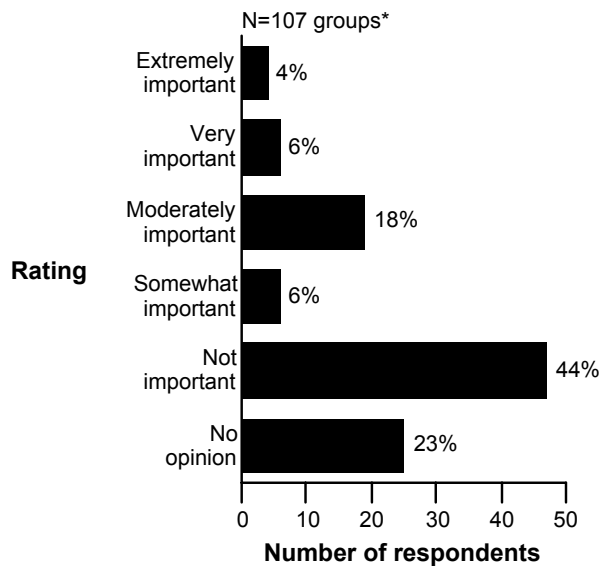


Figure 90: Importance of bar

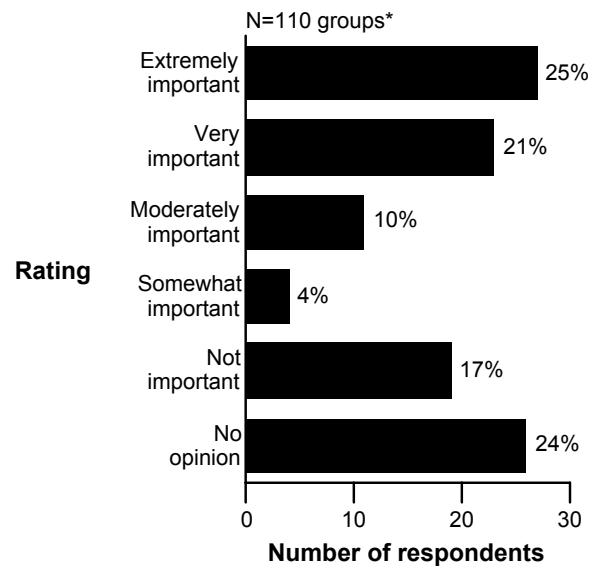


Figure 91: Importance of bathhouse/restrooms

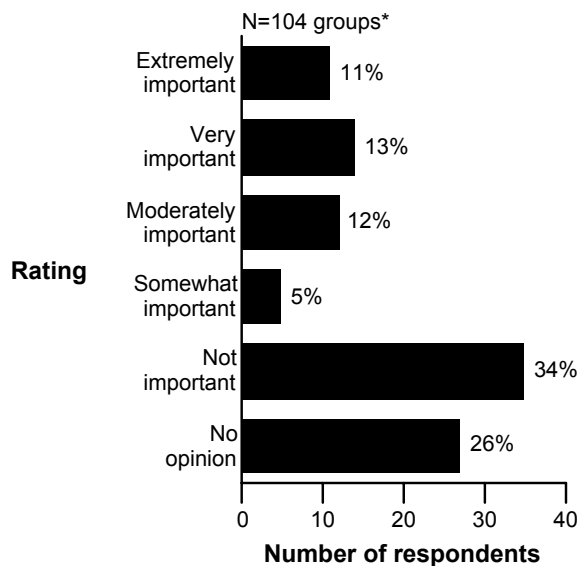


Figure 92: Importance of campground

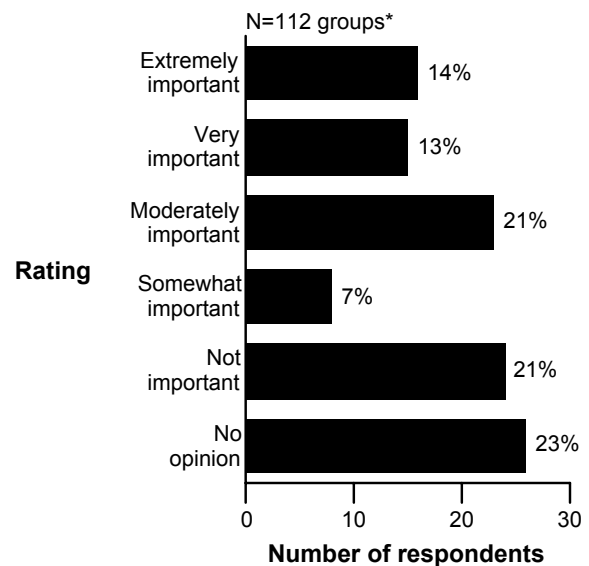


Figure 93: Importance of food service

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

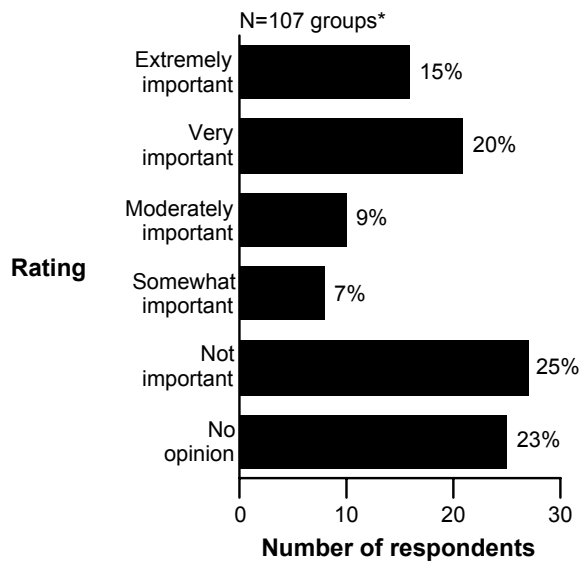


Figure 94: Importance of marina

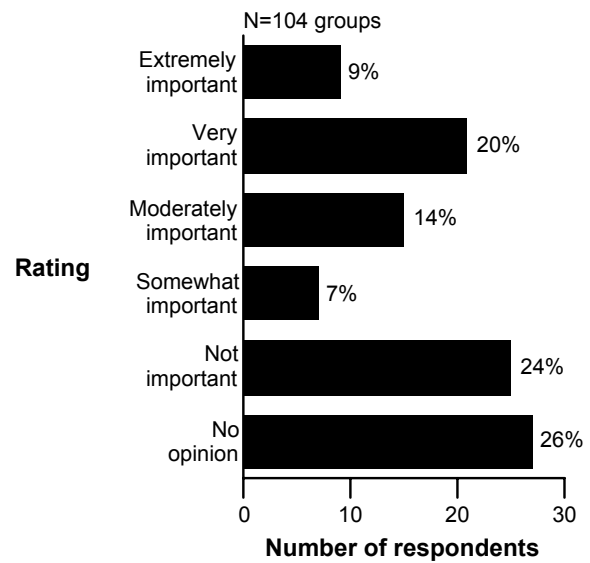


Figure 95: Importance of picnic area

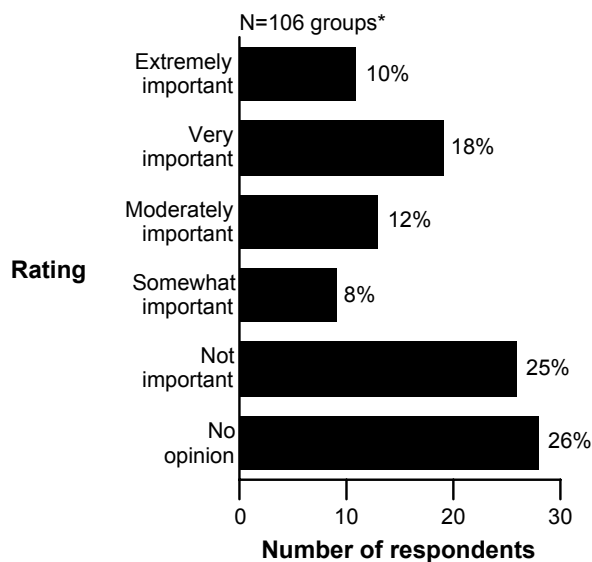


Figure 96: Importance of ranger-led programs/canoe trip

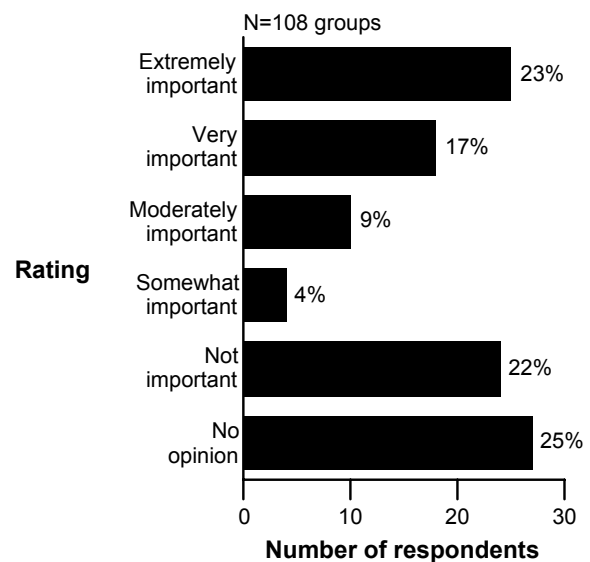
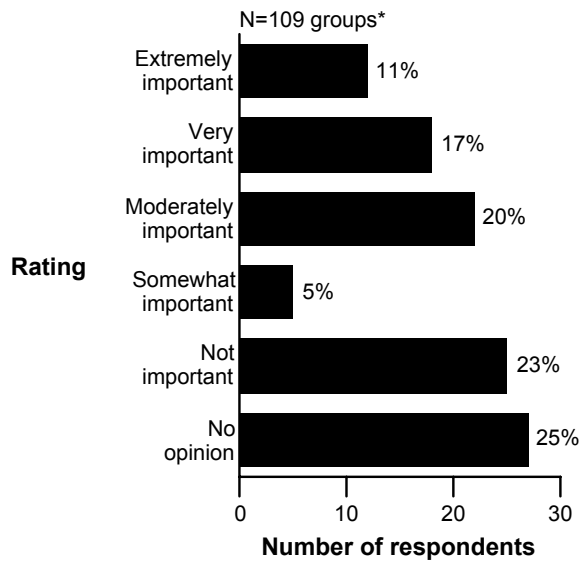


Figure 97: Importance of Salt Marsh Trail

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Figure 98: Importance of visitor center exhibits**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Quality ratings of services and facilities at Watch Hill**

Question 13c

Finally, for only those services/facilities that you and your personal group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

- 1=Very poor
- 2=Poor
- 3=Average
- 4=Good
- 5=Very good

Results – Interpret results with **CAUTION!**

- The combined proportions of quality ratings of services/facilities at Watch Hill is not included since too few groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figures 99 – 107).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 74 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

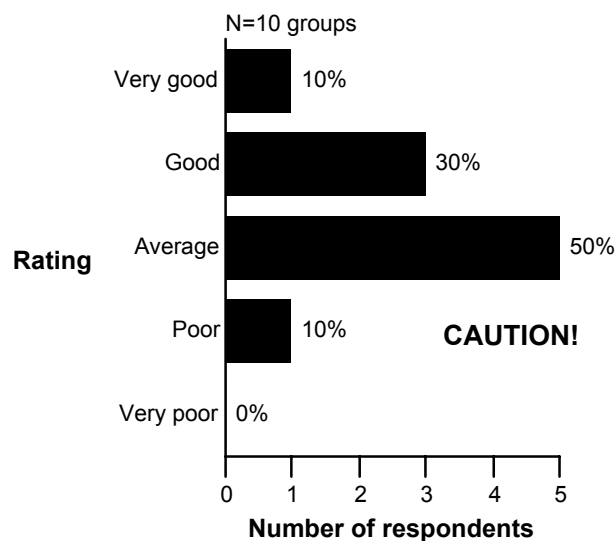


Figure 99: Quality of bar

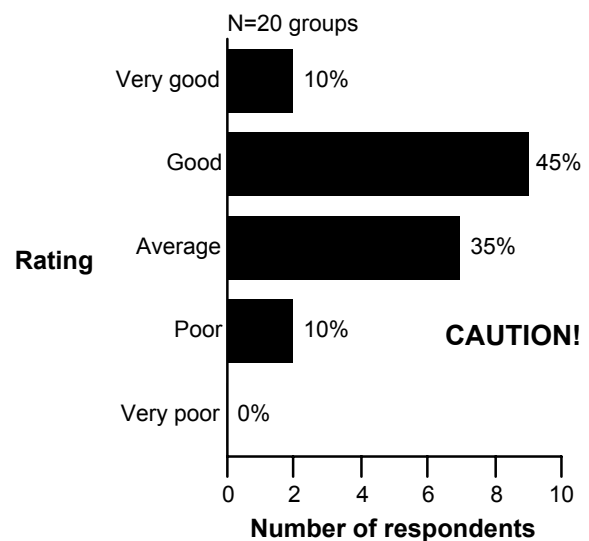


Figure 100: Quality of bathhouse/restrooms

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

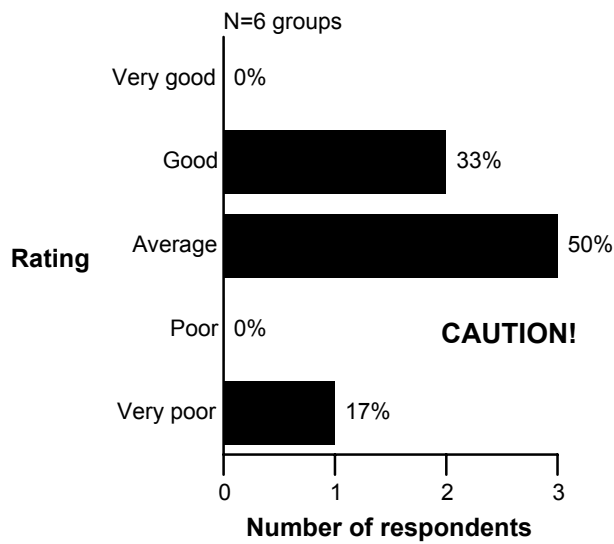


Figure 101: Quality of campground

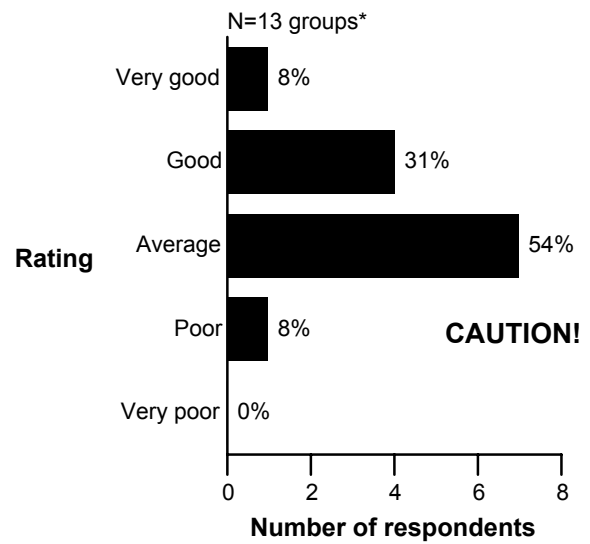


Figure 102: Quality of food service

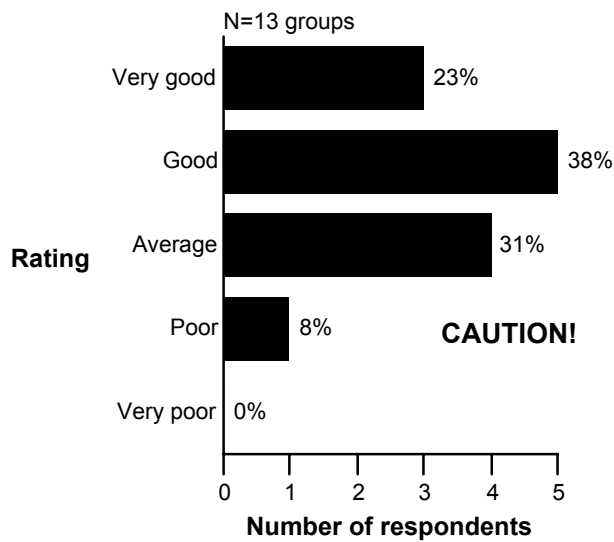


Figure 103: Quality of marina

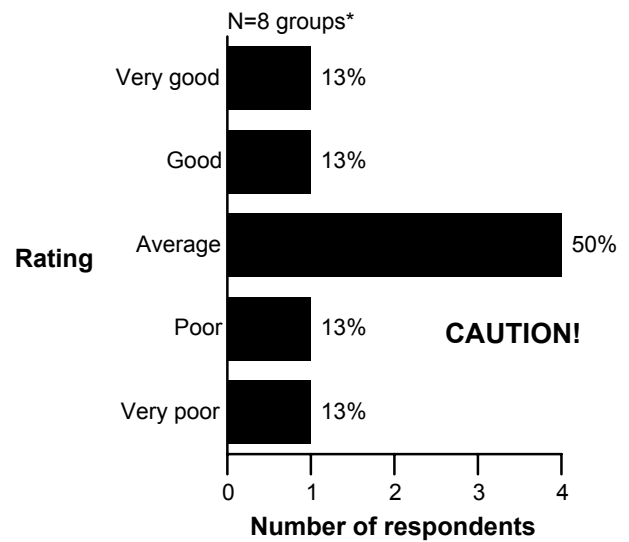


Figure 104: Quality of picnic area

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

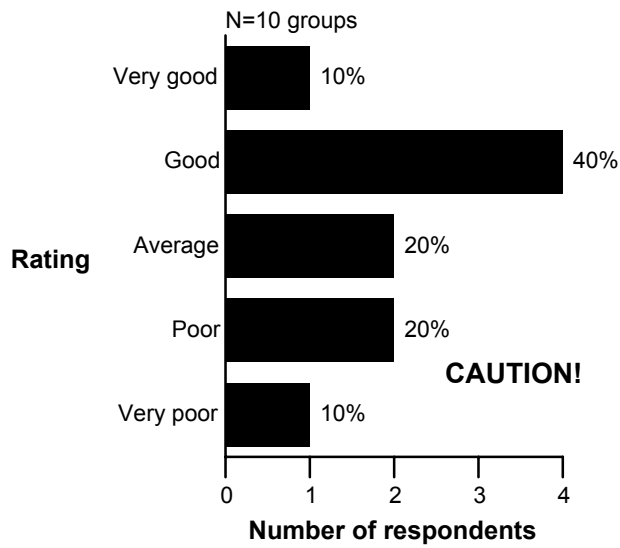


Figure 105: Quality of ranger-led programs/ canoe trip

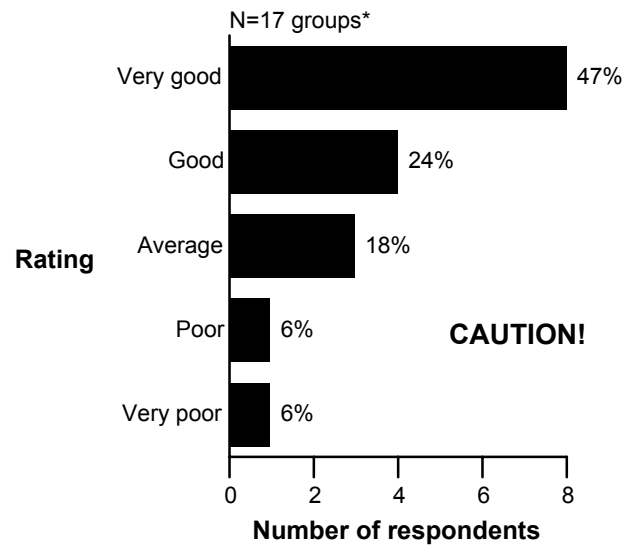


Figure 106: Quality of Salt Marsh Trail

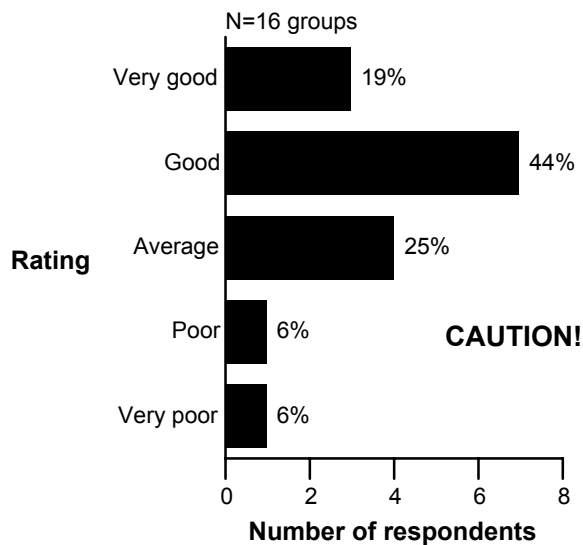


Figure 107: Quality of visitor center exhibits

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Services and facilities used at Barrett Beach/Talisman**

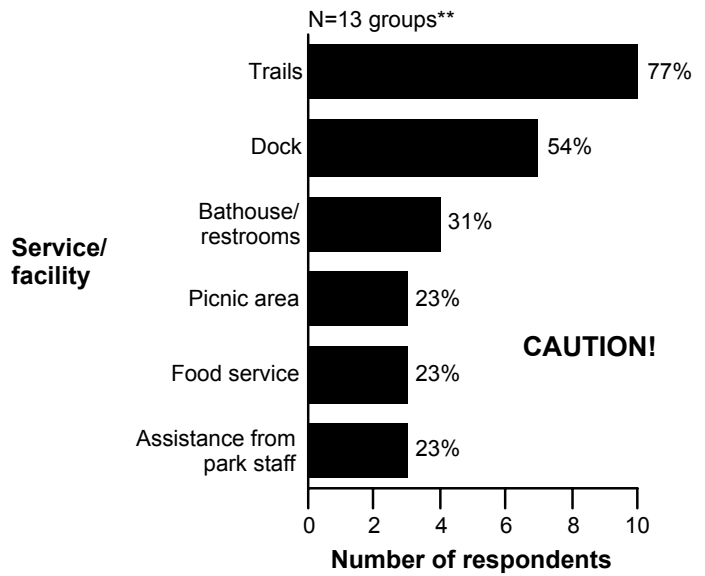
Question 14b

Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

Results - Interpret results with **CAUTION!**

- Not enough groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 108).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 78 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.



**Figure 108: Services and facilities used at Barrett Beach**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Importance ratings of services and facilities at Barrett Beach/Talisman**

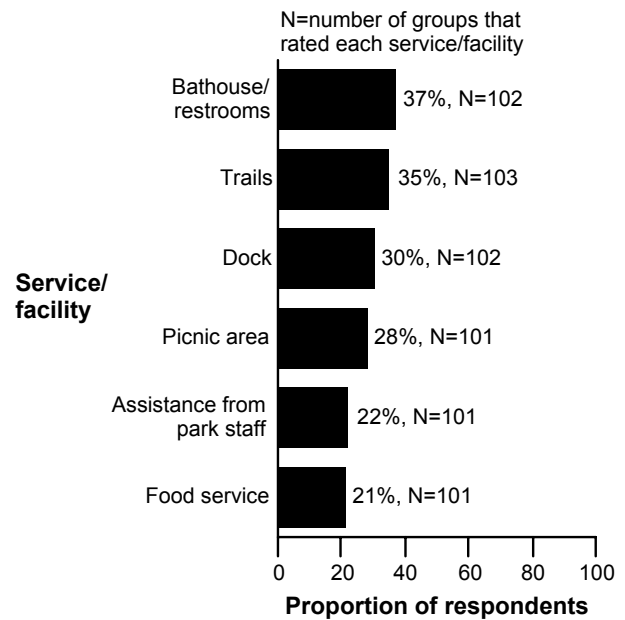
**Question 14a**

Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance, from 1-5, of the following Fire Island NS services and facilities to you and your group.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

**Results**

- Figure 109 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for services and facilities at Barrett Beach/Talisman that were rated by 30 or more groups.
- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:
  - 37% Bathhouse/restrooms
  - 35% Trails
  - 30% Dock
- Figures 110 to 115 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.
- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:
  - 28% Picnic area



**Figure 109: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings of services/facilities at Barrett Beach/Talisman**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 79 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

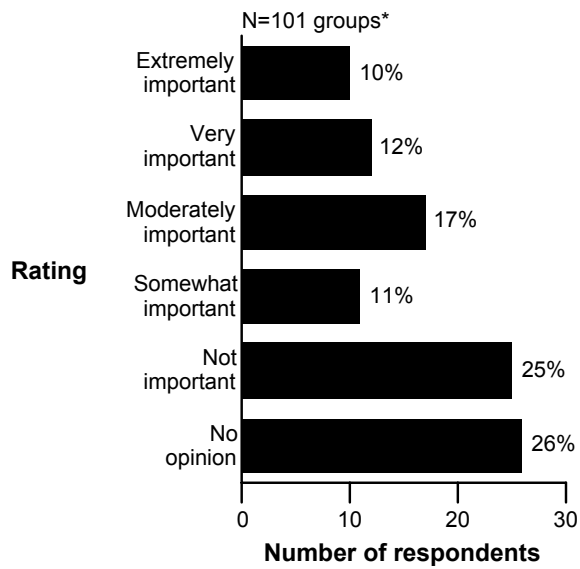


Figure 110: Importance of assistance from park staff

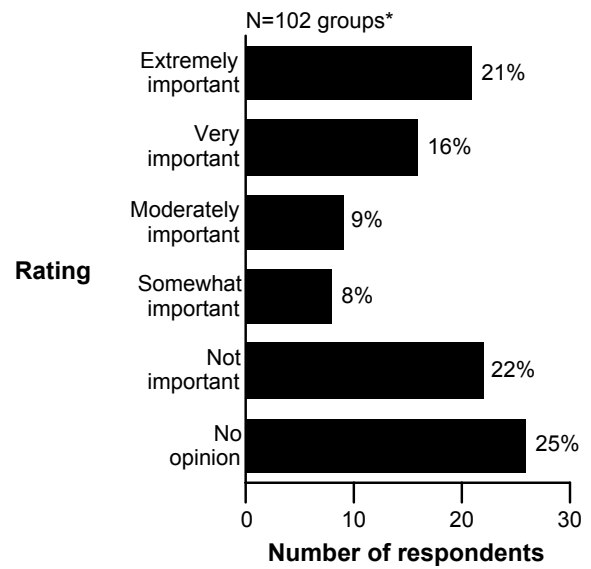


Figure 111: Importance of bathhouse/restrooms

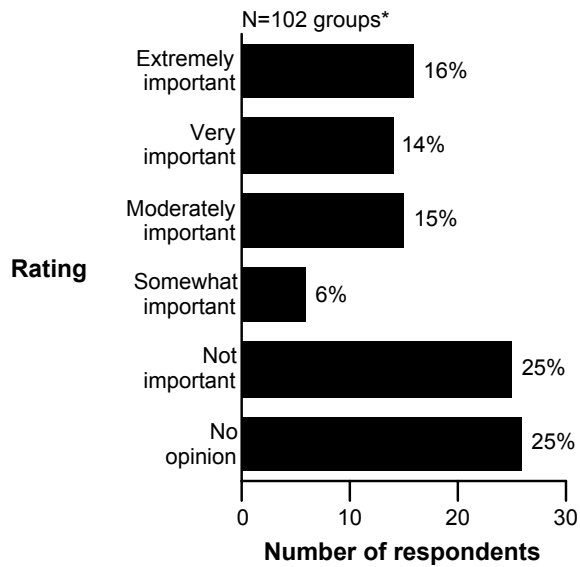


Figure 112: Importance of dock

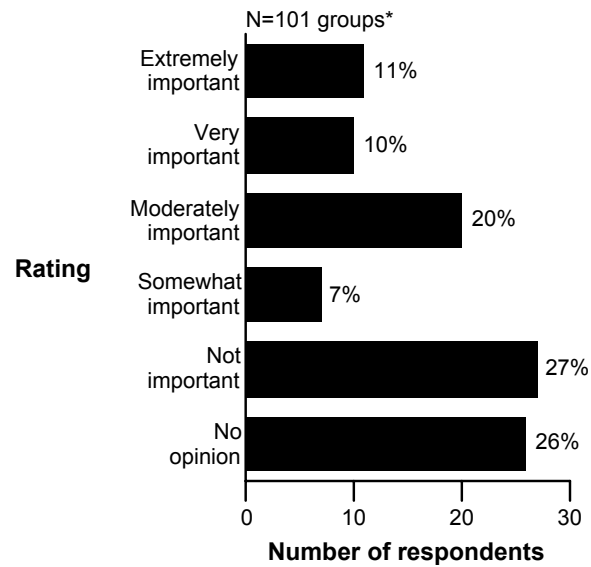


Figure 113: Importance of food service

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

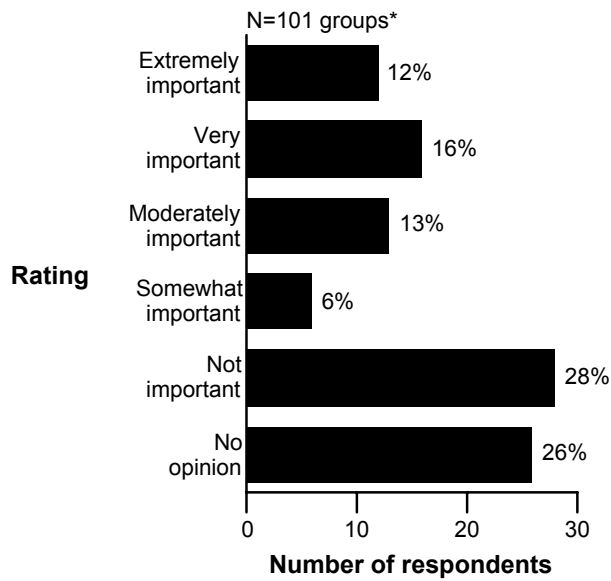


Figure 114: Importance of picnic area

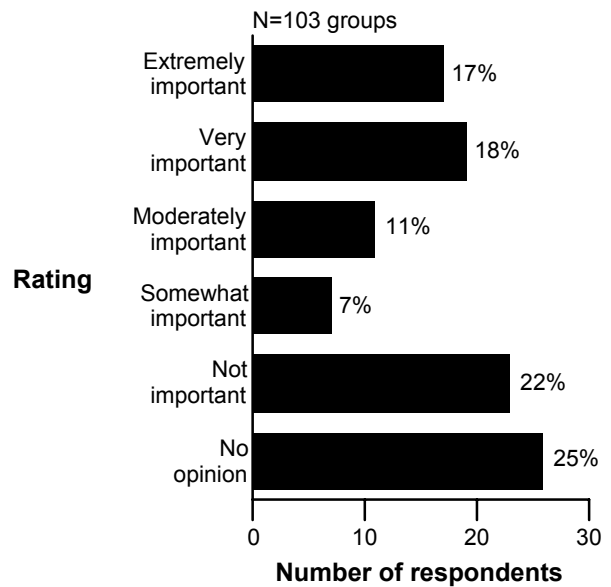


Figure 115: Importance of trails

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Quality ratings of services and facilities at Barrett Beach/Talisman**

Question 14c

Finally, for only those services and facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

- 1=Very poor
- 2=Poor
- 3=Average
- 4=Good
- 5=Very good

Results – Interpret results with **CAUTION!**

- The combined proportions of quality ratings of services/facilities at Barrett Beach/Talisman is not included since too few groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figures 116-121).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 82 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

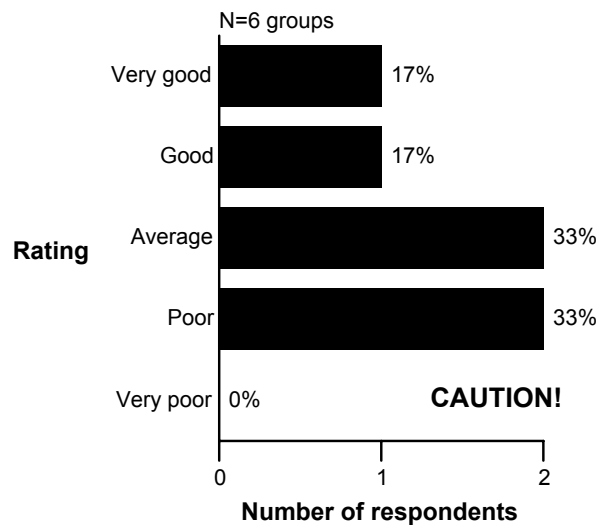


Figure 116: Quality of assistance from park staff

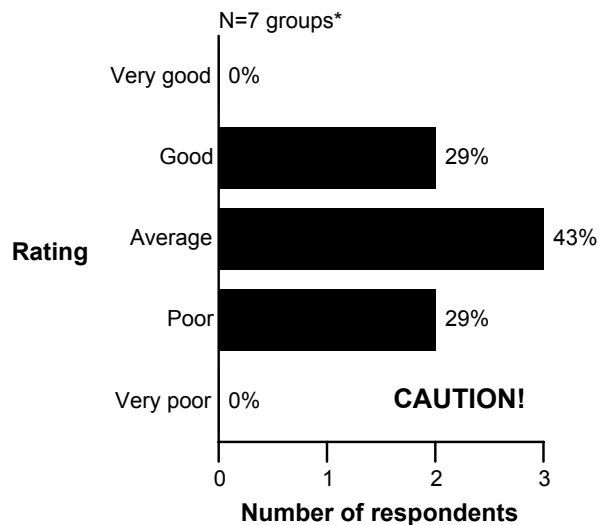


Figure 117: Quality of bathhouse/restrooms

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



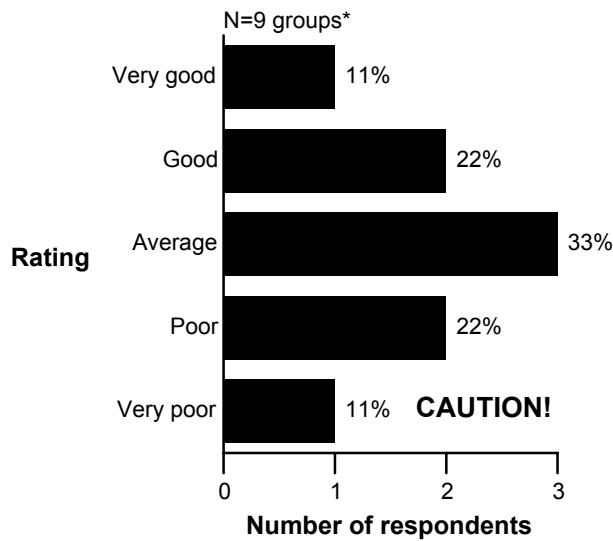


Figure 118: Quality of dock

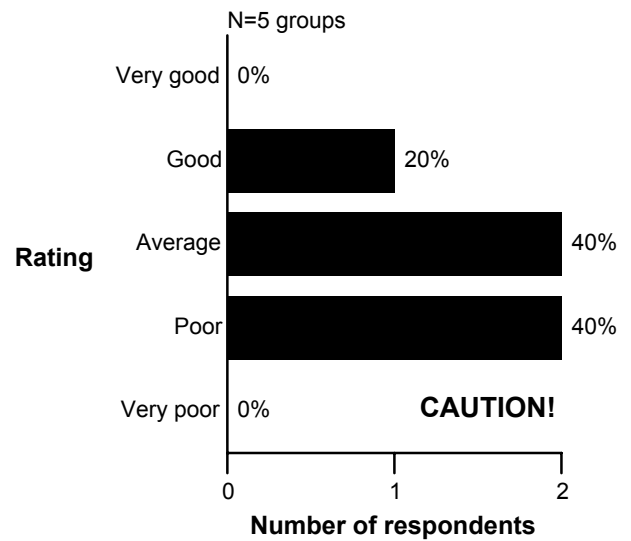


Figure 119: Quality of food service

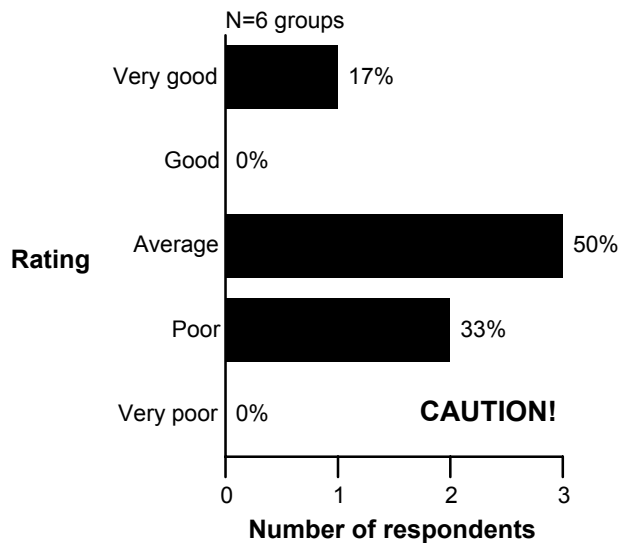


Figure 120: Quality of picnic area

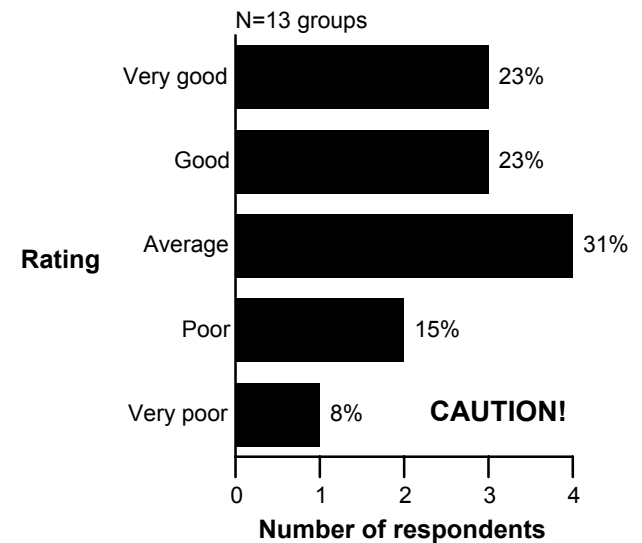


Figure 121: Quality of trails

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Services and facilities used at Fire Island Wilderness Area**

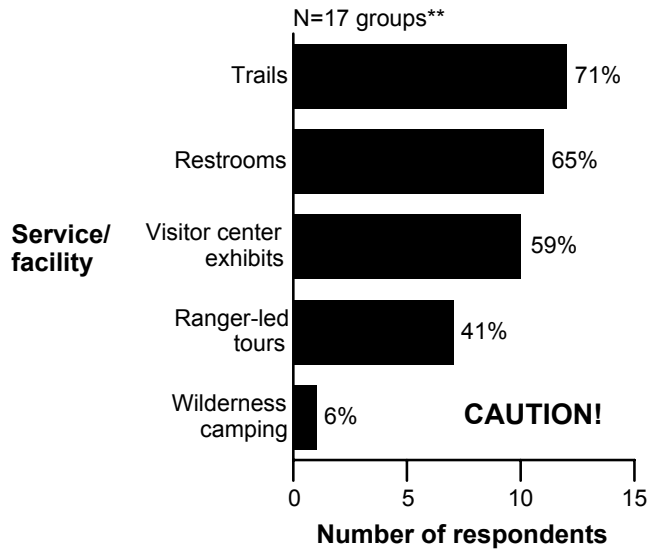
Question 14b

Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

Results – Interpret results with **CAUTION!**

- Not enough groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 122).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 84 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.



**Figure 122: Services and facilities used at Fire Island Wilderness Area**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Importance ratings of services and facilities at Fire Island Wilderness Area**

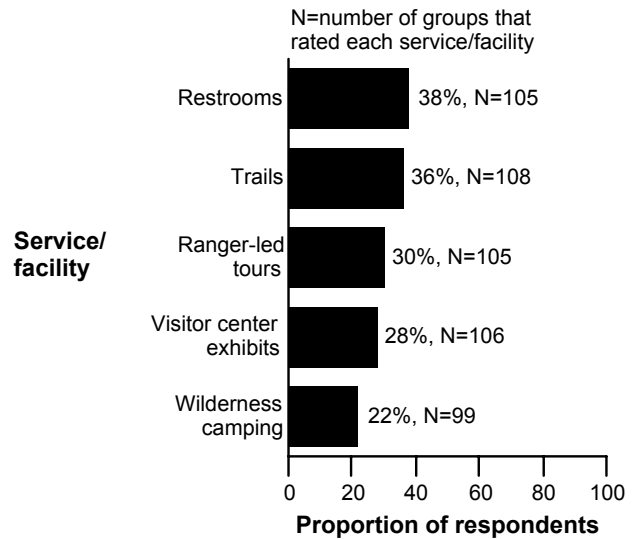
Question 14a

Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance from 1-5 of the following Fire Island NS services to you and your group.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

Results

- Figure 123 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for services and facilities at Fire Island Wilderness Area that were rated by 30 or more groups.
- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:
  - 38% Restrooms
  - 36% Trails
- Figures 124 to 128 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.
- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:
  - 34% Wilderness camping



**Figure 123: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings of services/facilities at Fire Island Wilderness Area**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 85 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

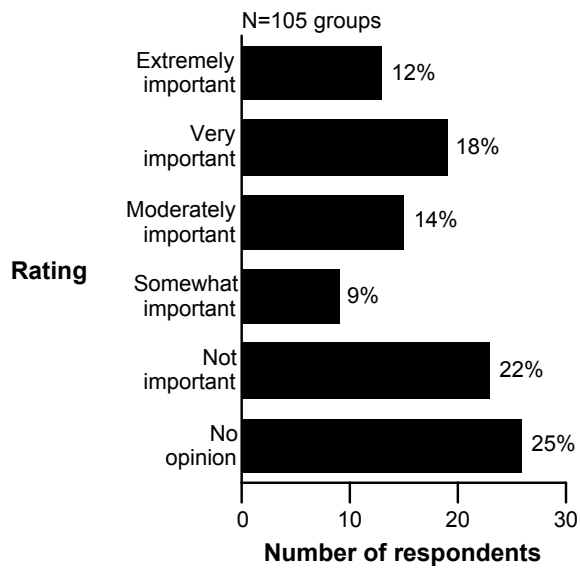


Figure 124: Importance of ranger-led tours/ programs

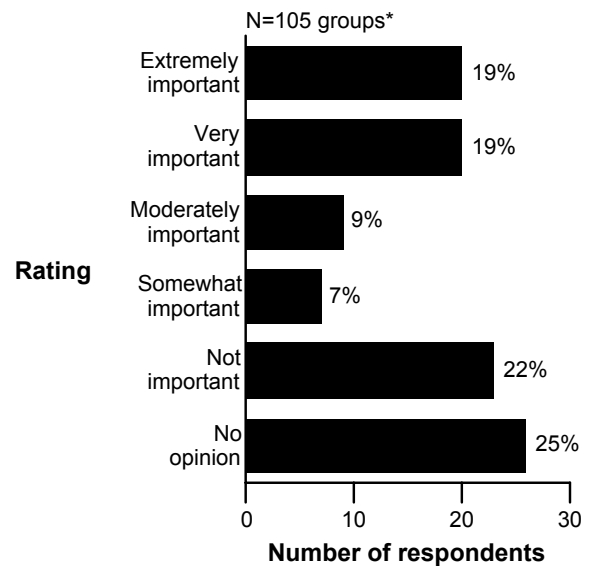


Figure 125: Importance of restrooms

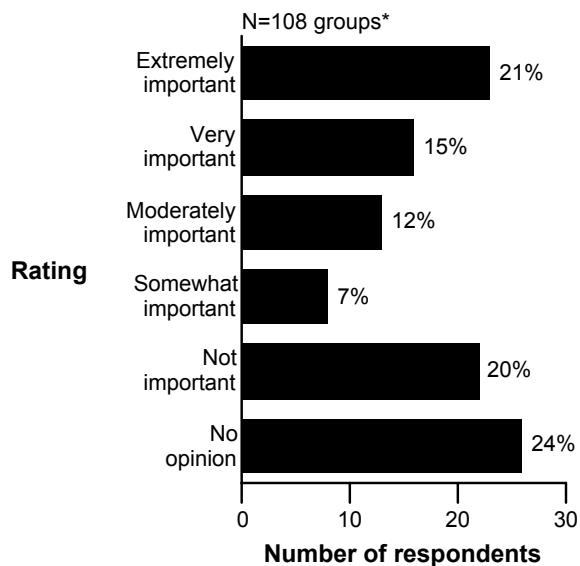


Figure 126: Importance of trails

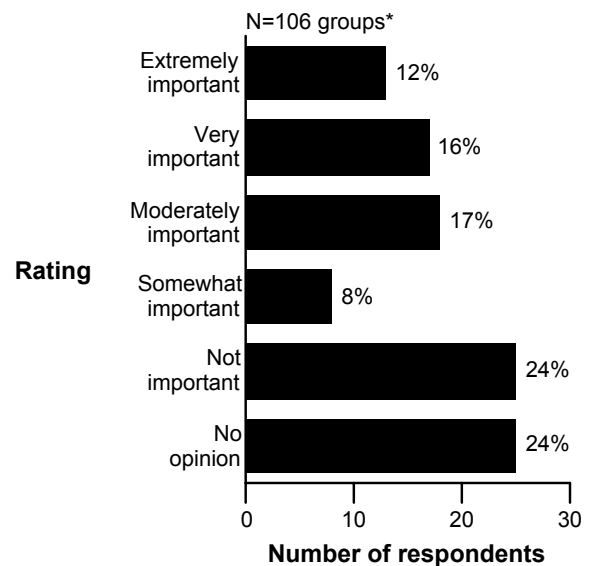
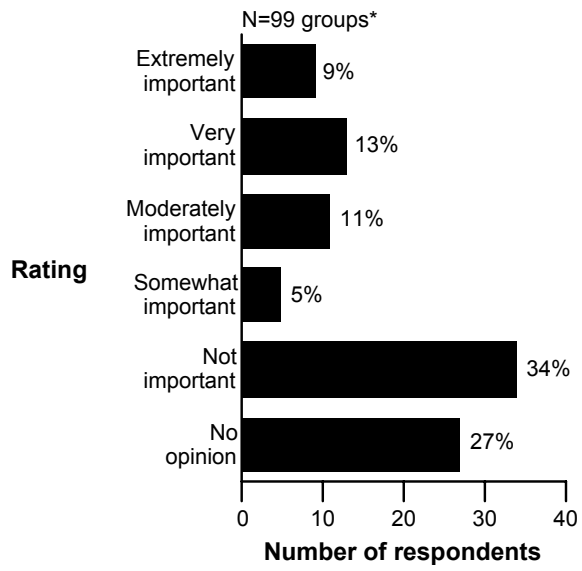


Figure 127: Importance of visitor center exhibits/observation room

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Figure 128: Importance of wilderness camping**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Quality ratings of services and facilities at Fire Island Wilderness Area**

Question 14c

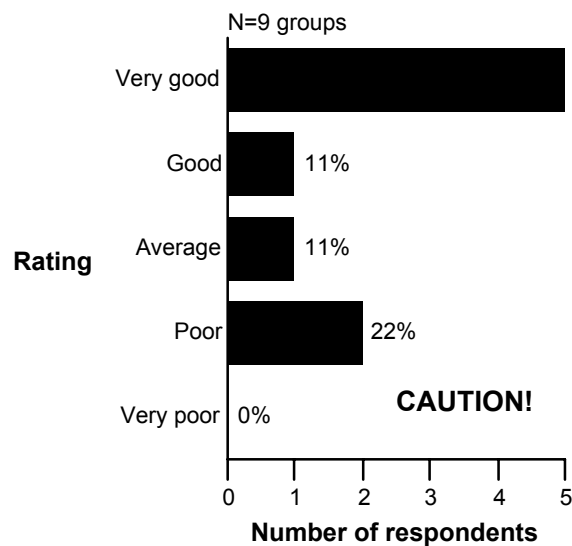
Finally, for only those services and facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

- 1=Very poor
- 2=Poor
- 3=Average
- 4=Good
- 5=Very good

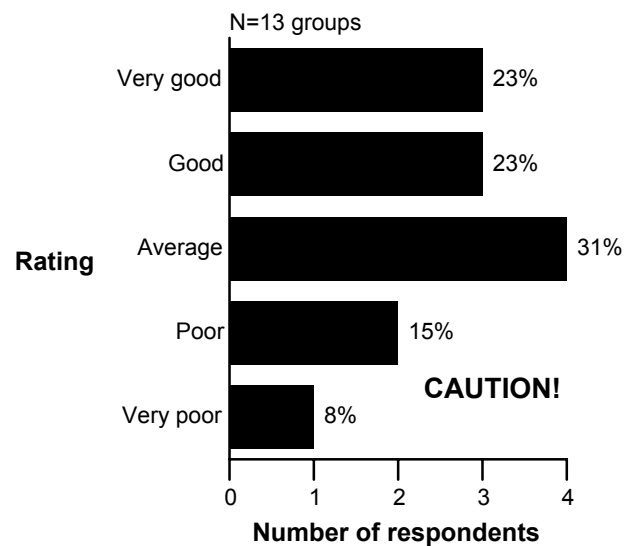
Results – Interpret results with **CAUTION!**

- The combined proportions of quality ratings of the services/facilities at Fire Island Wilderness Area is not included since too few groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figures 129 – 133).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 88 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.



**Figure 129: Quality of ranger-led tours/ programs**



**Figure 130: Quality of restrooms**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

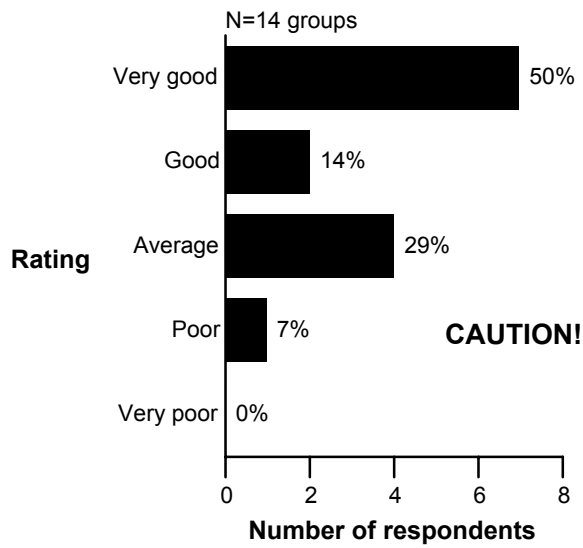


Figure 131: Quality of trails

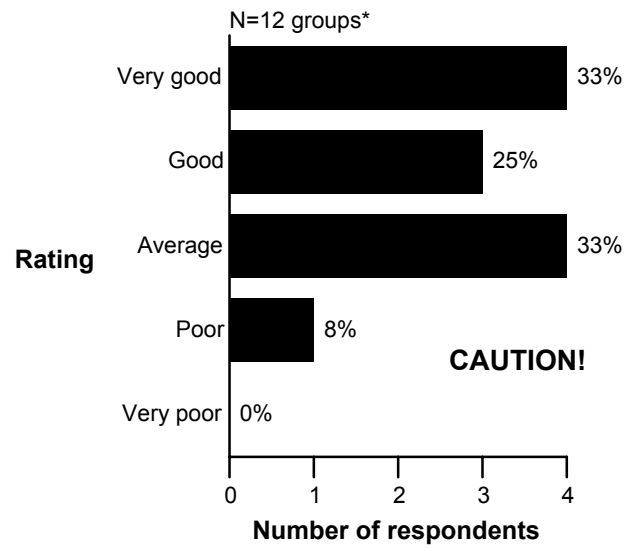


Figure 132: Quality of visitor center exhibits/ observation room

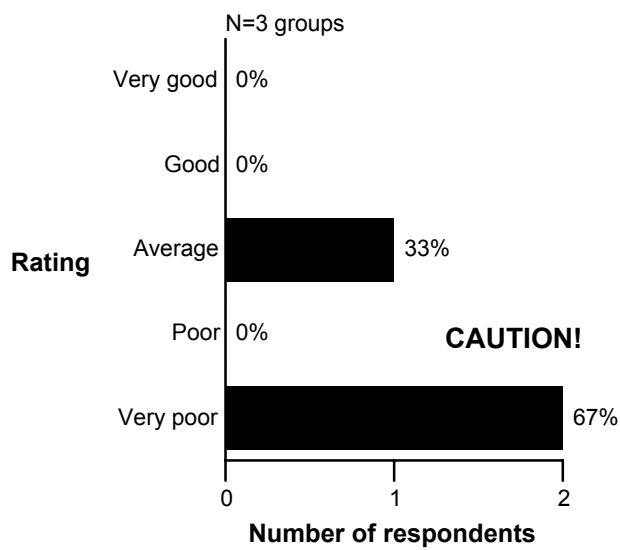


Figure 133: Quality of wilderness camping

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Services and facilities used at William Floyd Estate**

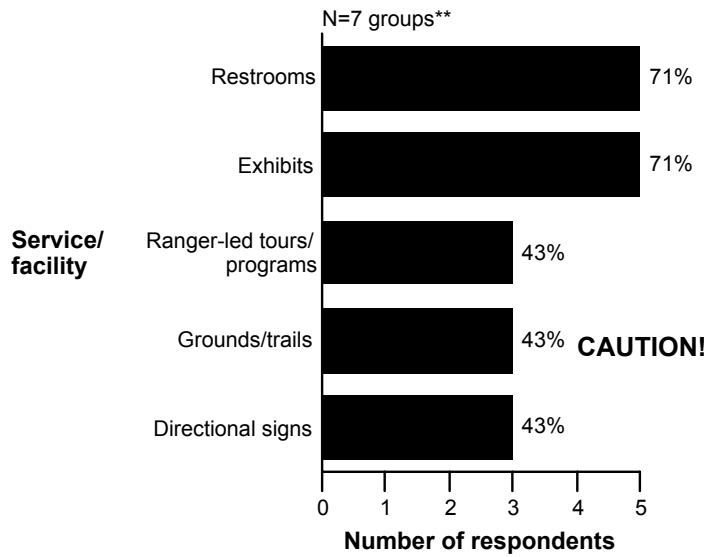
Question 14b

Please mark all of the services/facilities that you and your group used during your most recent use of Fire Island NS.

Results – Interpret results with **CAUTION!**

- Not enough groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 134).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 91 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.



**Figure 134: Services and facilities used at William Floyd Estate**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



### Importance ratings of services and facilities at William Floyd Estate

**Question 14a**

Whether or not you used them on your most recent use, please rate the importance from 1-5 of the following Fire Island NS services and facilities to you and your group.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

**Results**

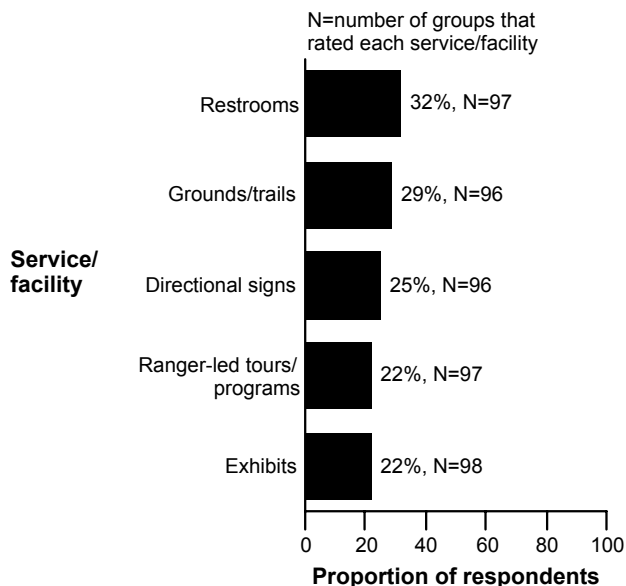
- Figure 135 shows the combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings for services and facilities at William Floyd Estate that were rated by 30 or more groups.

- The services/facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings were:

32% Restrooms  
29% Grounds/trails

- Figures 136 to 140 show the importance ratings for each service/facility.
- Of the services/facilities rated by 30 or more groups, the one receiving the highest “not important” rating was:

29% Ranger-led tours/programs  
29% Exhibits



**Figure 135: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings of services/facilities at William Floyd Estate**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 92 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

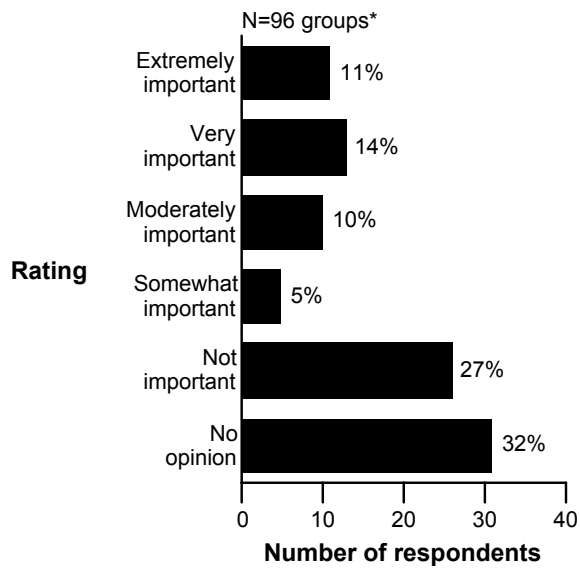


Figure 136: Importance of directional signs

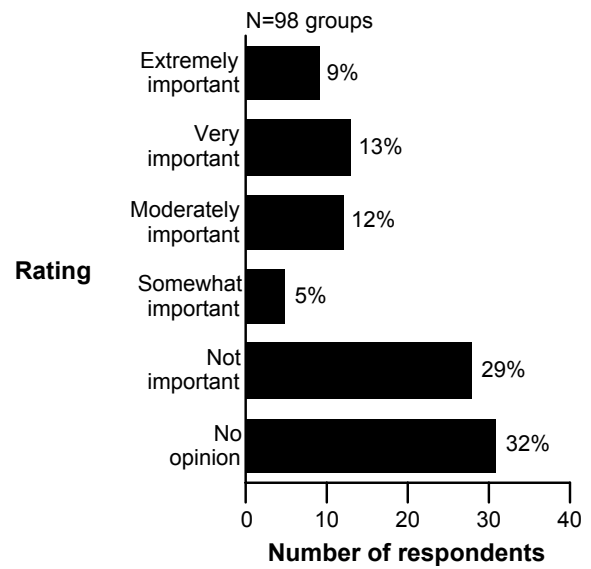


Figure 137: Importance of exhibits

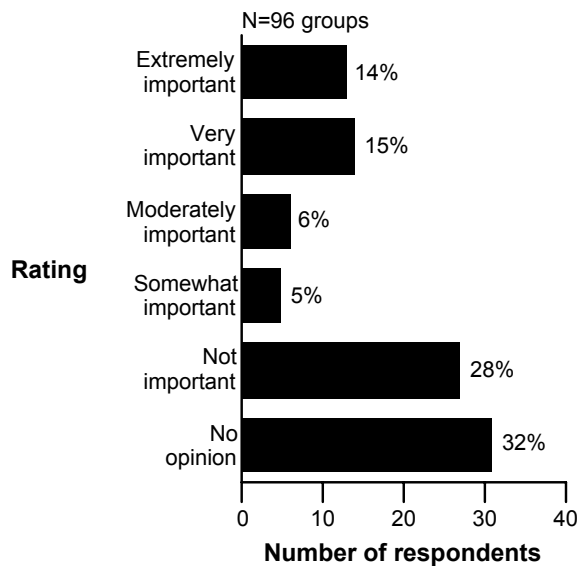


Figure 138: Importance of grounds/trails

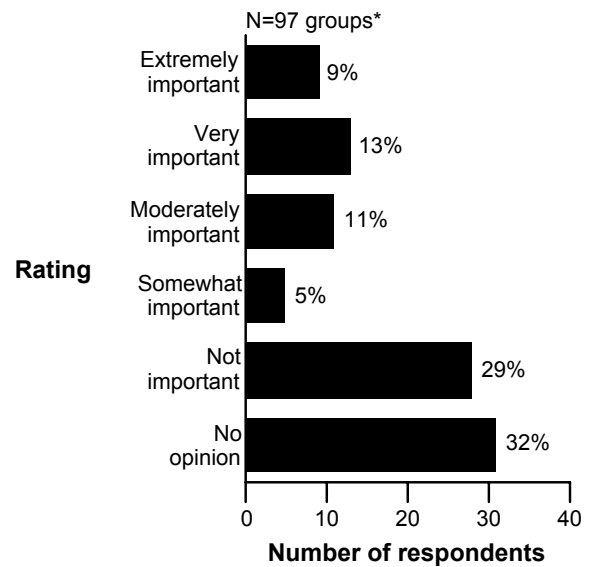


Figure 139: Importance of ranger-led tours/programs

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

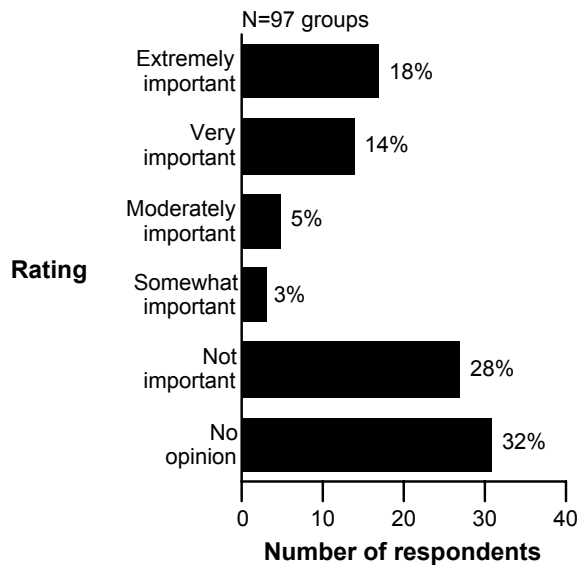


Figure 140: Importance of restrooms

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Quality ratings of services and facilities at William Floyd Estate**

Question 14c

Finally, for only those services/facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

- 1=Very poor
- 2=Poor
- 3=Average
- 4=Good
- 5=Very good

Results – Interpret results with **CAUTION!**

- The combined proportions of quality ratings of the services/facilities at William Floyd Estate is not included since too few groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figures 141 – 145).

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 95 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

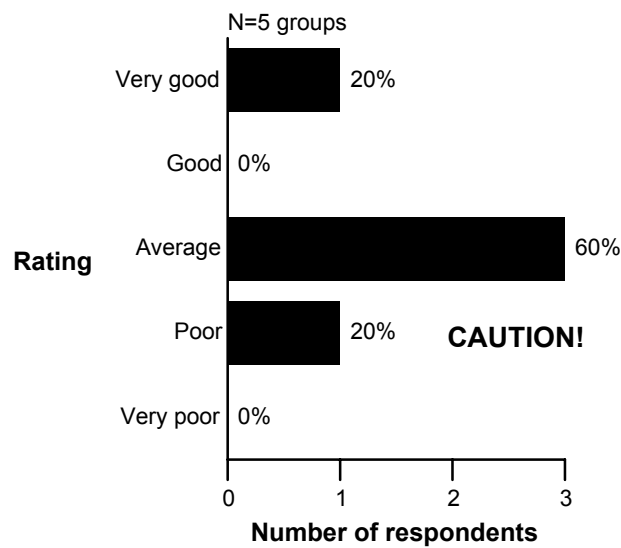


Figure 141: Quality of directional signs

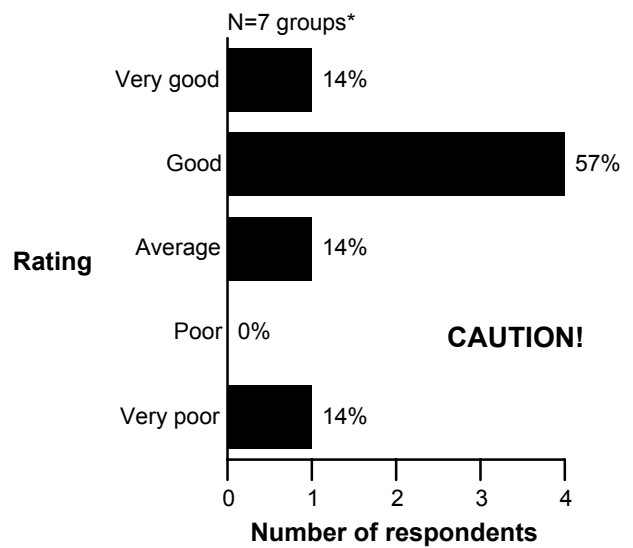


Figure 142: Quality of exhibits

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

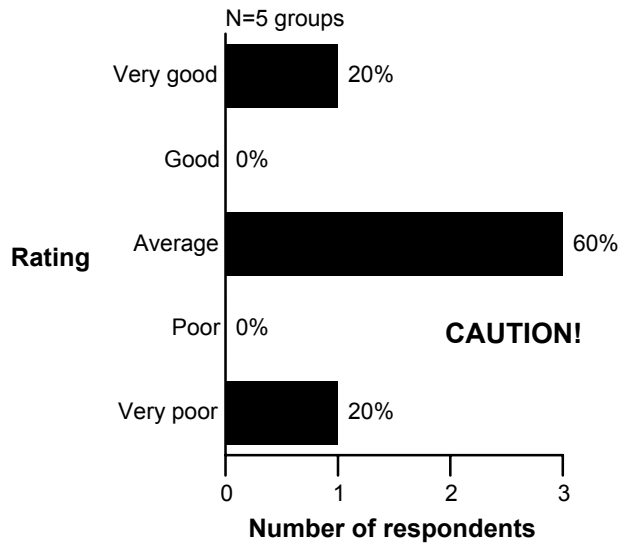


Figure 143: Quality of grounds/trails

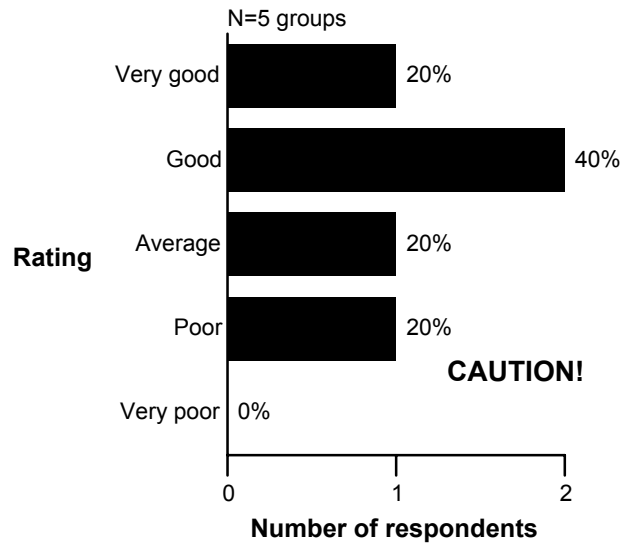


Figure 144: Quality of ranger-led tours/ programs

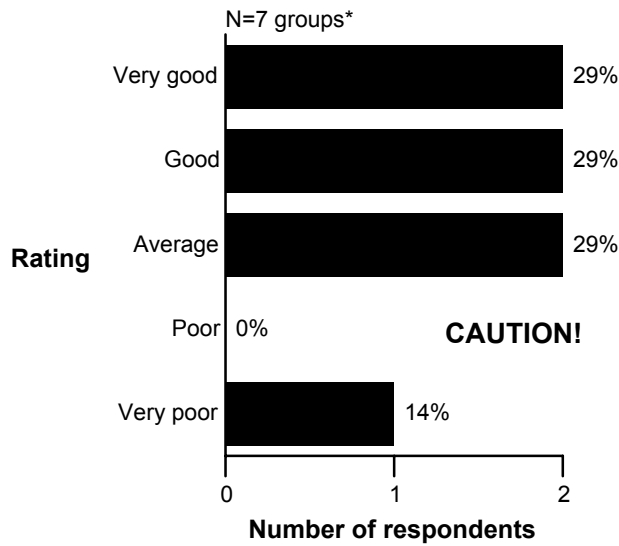


Figure 145: Quality of restrooms

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

### Importance of protecting park qualities/resources

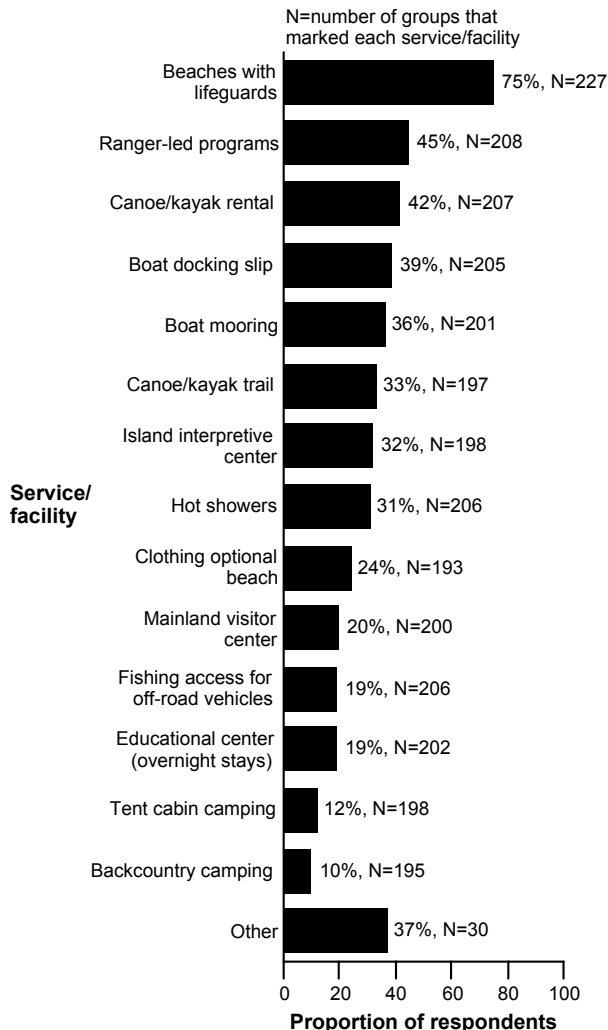
**Question 23**

It is the National Park Service’s responsibility to protect Fire Island NS’s natural, scenic, and cultural resources, while at the same time providing public enjoyment. Please rate the importance of each of the following qualities/resources to you.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

**Results**

- As shown in Figure 146, the highest combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings included:
  - 98% Beaches and dunes
  - 98% Clean water
  - 95% Safe, crime-free environment
  - 95% Clean air
- The quality/resource that received the highest “not important” rating was:
  - 37% William Floyd Estate
- Table 9 shows the importance ratings of park qualities/resources.



**Figure 146: Combined proportions of “extremely important” and “very important” ratings of park qualities/resources**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Table 9: Ratings of importance of protecting park qualities/resources**

N=number of respondents that rated each quality/resource

| Quality/resource               | N   | Rating (%)    |                    |                      |                |                     |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|
|                                |     | Not important | Somewhat important | Moderately important | Very important | Extremely important |
| Beaches and dunes              | 253 | <1            | <1                 | 1                    | 8              | 90                  |
| Car-free environment           | 249 | 10            | 6                  | 5                    | 18             | 62                  |
| Clean air                      | 251 | <1            | 2                  | 3                    | 16             | 79                  |
| Clean water                    | 248 | 0             | 0                  | 2                    | 13             | 85                  |
| Educational opportunities      | 243 | 19            | 17                 | 34                   | 23             | 7                   |
| Fire Island Lighthouse         | 244 | 7             | 9                  | 26                   | 32             | 27                  |
| Natural quiet/sounds of nature | 251 | 1             | 3                  | 12                   | 30             | 54                  |
| Recreational opportunities     | 244 | 9             | 17                 | 34                   | 20             | 19                  |
| Safe, crime free environment   | 252 | 1             | 1                  | 3                    | 15             | 80                  |
| Scenic views                   | 250 | 1             | 1                  | 10                   | 24             | 64                  |
| Vehicle-free beach             | 246 | 13            | 6                  | 11                   | 20             | 50                  |
| Wilderness area                | 246 | 4             | 9                  | 20                   | 27             | 41                  |
| William Floyd Estate           | 212 | 37            | 21                 | 26                   | 9              | 6                   |
| Natural environment            | 242 | 1             | 5                  | 11                   | 26             | 57                  |
| Island communities             | 247 | <1            | 2                  | 6                    | 15             | 77                  |

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Effect of elements on park experience

### Question 10

During your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, please indicate how the following elements may have affected your park experience.

### Results

- 41% of groups felt close contact with deer and other wildlife “added to” their park experience (see Table 10).
- 73% indicated that ticks and Lyme disease “detracted from” their experience.
- Table 10 shows the effects of elements on park experience.

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 98 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

**Table 10: Effects of elements on park experience\***

N=number of respondents who rated each element

| Element  | N   | Rating (%) |           |                |                    |
|--|-----|------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------|
|  |     | Added to   | No effect | Detracted from | Did not experience |
| Beach/shoreline changes                            | 228 | 21         | 34        | 39             | 7                  |
| Bicycle use through communities to park facilities | 220 | 27         | 40        | 9              | 24                 |
| Close contact with deer or other wildlife          | 233 | 41         | 30        | 24             | 5                  |
| Closed park facilities                             | 211 | 1          | 27        | 17             | 55                 |
| Clothing optional use of beach/nude sunbathing     | 224 | 16         | 42        | 9              | 34                 |
| Dogs on beach                                      | 229 | 17         | 35        | 42             | 5                  |
| Mosquitoes   | 235 | 1          | 23        | 70             | 7                  |
| Ticks and Lyme disease                             | 233 | 1          | 17        | 73             | 9                  |
| Vehicles on beach                                  | 232 | 4          | 40        | 52             | 4                  |
| Vehicles passing through communities               | 229 | 3          | 40        | 54             | 3                  |

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer



**Preferences for Future Visit**

**Question 11**

On a future use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities, which of the following services/facilities would you and your personal group be likely to use?

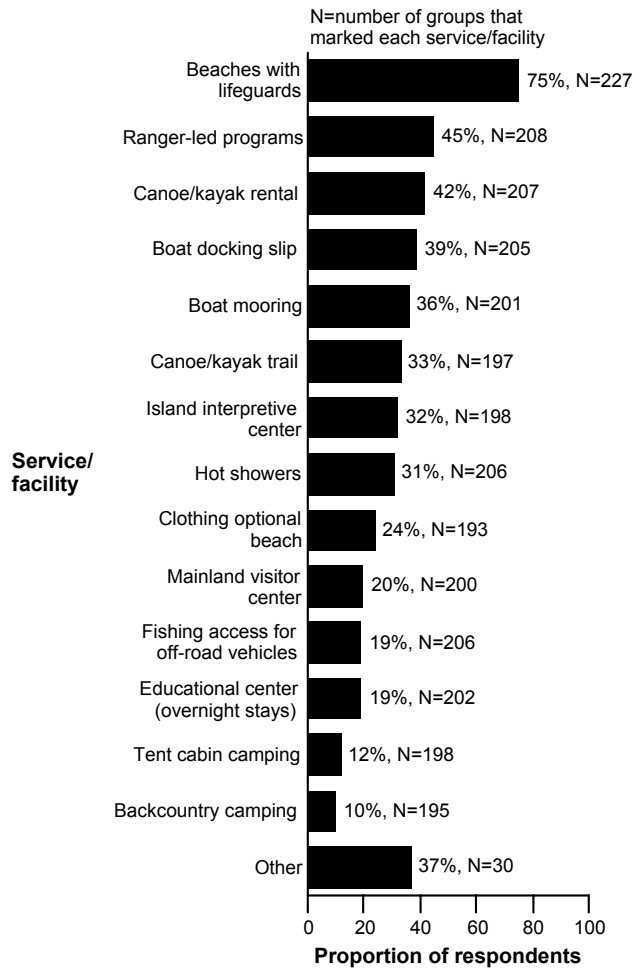
**Results**

- As shown in Figure 147, the services/facilities that groups would be most likely to use in the future if they were available were:

- 75% Beaches with lifeguards
- 45% Ranger-led programs
- 42% Canoe/kayak rental

- “Other” services/facilities (37%) were:

- Bicycle trails
- Bathroom/restroom
- Beach
- Boating safety course
- Children's events
- Food centers
- Hiking trails
- Lighthouse events
- Surfing beach



To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 99 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

**Figure 147: Preferred services/facilities for future visit**

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Overall Quality**

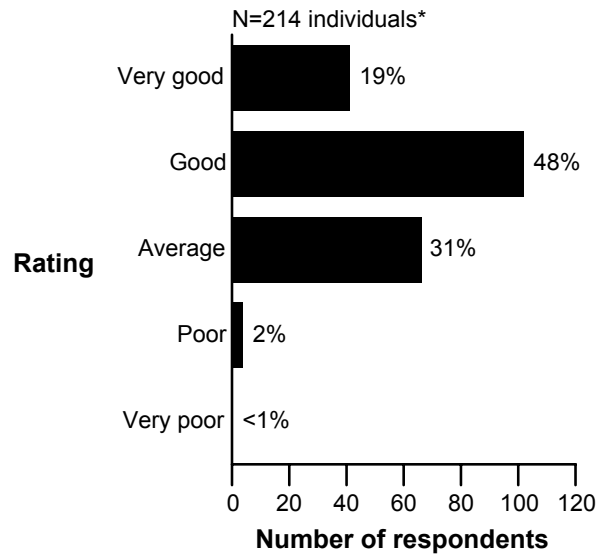
**Question 15**

Overall, how would you rate the quality of the facilities, services, and recreational opportunities at Fire Island NS during the past 12 months?

**Results**

- 67% of respondents rated the overall quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities as “very good” or “good” (see Figure 148).

Fewer than 3% of respondents rated the quality as “very poor” or “poor.”



**Figure 148: Overall quality rating of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities**

To compare Fire Island NS residents to Fire Island NS visitors, see page 100 of the Fire Island National Seashore Visitor Study.

\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

**Comments**

**Additional comments**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Question 24<br/>Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your most recent use of Fire Island NS properties/facilities? Please include any changes in services or facilities that you would like to see.</p> | <p>Results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40% of respondents (N=100) responded to this question.</li> <li>• Table 11 shows a summary of respondents' comments. A complete copy of hand-written comments is included in the Comments Appendix.</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**Table 11: Additional comments**  
N=173 comments;  
some respondents made more than one comment.

| Comment   | Number of times mentioned |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>PERSONNEL</b>  |                           |
| Comment   | 1                         |
| <b>FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE</b>                             |                           |
| Would like more bike trails                               | 6                         |
| Add a bike trail through Fire Island communities          | 2                         |
| Need more trash cans                                      | 2                         |
| Pick up garbage   | 2                         |
| Other comments  | 16                        |
| <b>CONCESSION SERVICES</b>                                |                           |
| Comments  | 4                         |
| <b>INTERPRETIVE SERVICES</b>                              |                           |
| Comments  | 4                         |
| <b>POLICIES/MANAGEMENT</b>                                |                           |
| Park should establish good relations with the communities | 8                         |
| Allow vehicle access for residents                        | 6                         |
| The survey was not appropriate for residents              | 5                         |
| There are too many vehicles on the beach                  | 5                         |
| Allow vehicle access during off season                    | 4                         |
| Improve patrolling  | 3                         |
| Better control of dogs on the beach                       | 2                         |
| Do not change vehicle access regulations                  | 2                         |
| Restrict vehicle use on the island                        | 2                         |
| Other comments  | 45                        |

---

**Table 11: Additional comments**  
(continued)

| Comment                                      | Number of times mentioned |
|--|---------------------------|
| <b>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>                   |                           |
| Restore the beaches and the dunes            | 10                        |
| Protect beaches from erosion                 | 5                         |
| Control the deer population                  | 3                         |
| Control the mosquitoes                       | 2                         |
| Protect the natural resources of Fire Island | 2                         |
| Protect wildlife                             | 2                         |
| Other comments                               | 6                         |
| <b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>                      |                           |
| Frequent visitor of the island               | 9                         |
| Keep the park as it is                       | 3                         |
| There are too many vehicles on the beach     | 2                         |
| Other comments                               | 10                        |

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## **APPENDICES**

|                                      |
|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Appendix 1: The Questionnaire</b> |
|--------------------------------------|



## Appendix 2: Additional Analysis

The Visitor Services Project (VSP) offers the opportunity to learn more from VSP visitor study data. Additional analysis can be done using the park's VSP study data that was collected and entered into the computer. Two-way and three-way cross tabulations can be made of any of the characteristics listed below. Be as specific as possible—you may select a single program/service/facility instead of all that were listed in the questionnaire. Include your name, address and phone number in the request.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residency status</li> <li>• Months of residency</li> <li>• Use of park properties/facilities</li> <li>• Months of use</li> <li>• Forms of transportation used</li> <li>• Percentage of time using forms of transportation</li> <li>• Community of residence</li> <li>• Desire/need to travel around the island</li> <li>• Means of getting around the island</li> <li>• Frequency of water taxi use</li> <li>• Use of other forms of transportation</li> <li>• Properties/facilities used during the last 12 months</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of times used properties/facilities</li> <li>• Number of hours stayed</li> <li>• Activities on most recent use</li> <li>• Activities on previous use</li> <li>• Primary activity</li> <li>• Stay updated on information about park activities/rules?</li> <li>• Sources of information used</li> <li>• Effect of elements on use</li> <li>• Services/facilities preferred on future visit</li> <li>• Importance of services/facilities used</li> <li>• Services/facilities used</li> <li>• Quality of services/facilities</li> <li>• Overall quality of facilities, services and recreational opportunities</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With commercial guided tour group</li> <li>• With school/educational group</li> <li>• With other organized group</li> <li>• Group type</li> <li>• Group size</li> <li>• Age</li> <li>• State of residence</li> <li>• Country of residence</li> <li>• Frequency of use</li> <li>• Language used (speaking/reading)</li> <li>• Ethnicity</li> <li>• Race</li> <li>• Group member with physical condition making access/participation difficult?</li> <li>• Importance of park qualities/resources</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|

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### Appendix 3: Visitor Services Project Publications

All VSP reports are available on the Park Studies Unit website at [www.psu.uidaho.edu.vsp.reports.htm](http://www.psu.uidaho.edu.vsp.reports.htm). All studies were conducted in summer unless otherwise noted.

#### 1982

1. Mapping interpretive services: A pilot study at Grand Teton National Park.

#### 1983

2. Mapping interpretive services: Identifying barriers to adoption and diffusion of the method.
3. Mapping interpretive services: A follow-up study at Yellowstone National Park and Mt Rushmore National Memorial.
4. Mapping visitor populations: A pilot study at Yellowstone National Park.

#### 1985

5. North Cascades National Park Service Complex
6. Crater Lake National Park

#### 1986

7. Gettysburg National Military Park
8. Independence National Historical Park
9. Valley Forge National Historical Park

#### 1987

10. Colonial National Historical Park (summer & fall)
11. Grand Teton National Park
12. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
13. Mesa Verde National Park
14. Shenandoah National Park (summer & fall)
15. Yellowstone National Park
16. Independence National Historical Park: Four Seasons Study

#### 1988

17. Glen Canyon National Recreational Area
18. Denali National Park and Preserve
19. Bryce Canyon National Park
20. Craters of the Moon National Monument

#### 1989

21. Everglades National Park (winter)
22. Statue of Liberty National Monument
23. The White House Tours, President's Park

#### 1989 (continued)

24. Lincoln Home National Historic Site
25. Yellowstone National Park
26. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
27. Muir Woods National Monument

#### 1990

28. Canyonlands National Park (spring)
29. White Sands National Monument
30. National Monuments & Memorials, Washington, D.C.
31. Kenai Fjords National Park
32. Gateway National Recreation Area
33. Petersburg National Battlefield
34. Death Valley National Monument
35. Glacier National Park
36. Scott's Bluff National Monument
37. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

#### 1991

38. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (spring)
39. Joshua Tree National Monument (spring)
40. The White House Tours, President's Park (spring)
41. Natchez Trace Parkway (spring)
42. Stehekin-North Cascades NP/Lake Chelan NRA
43. City of Rocks National Reserve
44. The White House Tours, President's Park (fall)

#### 1992

45. Big Bend National Park (spring)
46. Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (spring)
47. Glen Echo Park (spring)
48. Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
49. Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
50. Zion National Park
51. New River Gorge National River
52. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, AK
53. Arlington House-The Robert E. Lee Memorial

**Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)****1993**

- 54. Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Park (spring)
- 55. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (spring)
- 56. Whitman Mission National Historic Site
- 57. Sitka National Historical Park
- 58. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- 59. Redwood National Park
- 60. Channel Islands National Park
- 61. Pecos National Historical Park
- 62. Canyon de Chelly National Monument
- 63. Bryce Canyon National Park (fall)

**1994**

- 64. Death Valley National Monument Backcountry (winter)
- 65. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (spring)
- 66. Anchorage Alaska Public Lands Information Center
- 67. Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts
- 68. Nez Perce National Historical Park
- 69. Edison National Historic Site
- 70. San Juan Island National Historical Park
- 71. Canaveral National Seashore
- 72. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (fall)
- 73. Gettysburg National Military Park/ Eisenhower National Historic Site (fall)

**1995**

- 74. Grand Teton National Park (winter)
- 75. Yellowstone National Park (winter)
- 76. Bandelier National Monument
- 77. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
- 78. Adams National Historic Site
- 79. Devils Tower National Monument
- 80. Manassas National Battlefield Park
- 81. Booker T. Washington National Monument
- 82. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
- 83. Dry Tortugas National Park

**1996**

- 84. Everglades National Park (spring)
- 85. Chiricahua National Monument (spring)

**1996 (continued)**

- 86. Fort Bowie National Historic Site (spring)
- 87. Great Falls Park, Virginia (spring)
- 88. Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- 89. Chamizal National Memorial
- 90. Death Valley National Park (fall)
- 91. Prince William Forest Park (fall)
- 92. Great Smoky Mountains National Park (fall and summer)

**1997**

- 93. Virgin Islands National Park (winter)
- 94. Mojave National Preserve (spring)
- 95. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site (spring)
- 96. Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
- 97. Grand Teton National Park
- 98. Bryce Canyon National Park
- 99. Voyageurs National Park
- 100. Lowell National Historical Park

**1998**

- 101. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Park (spring)
- 102. Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (spring)
- 103. Cumberland Island National Seashore (spring)
- 104. Iwo Jima/Netherlands Carillon Memorials
- 105. National Monuments & Memorials, Washington, D.C.
- 106. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, AK
- 107. Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
- 108. Acadia National Park

**1999**

- 109. Big Cypress National Preserve (winter)
- 110. San Juan National Historic Site, Puerto Rico (winter)
- 111. St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- 112. Rock Creek Park
- 113. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
- 114. Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
- 115. Kenai Fjords National Park
- 116. Lassen Volcanic National Park
- 117. Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (fall)

**Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)****2000**

- 118. Haleakala National Park (spring)
- 119. White House Tour and White House Visitor Center (spring)
- 120. USS Arizona Memorial
- 121. Olympic National Park
- 122. Eisenhower National Historic Site
- 123. Badlands National Park
- 124. Mount Rainier National Park

**2001**

- 125. Biscayne National Park (spring)
- 126. Colonial National Historical Park (Jamestown)
- 127. Shenandoah National Park
- 128. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
- 129. Crater Lake National Park
- 130. Valley Forge National Historical Park

**2002**

- 131. Everglades National Park (spring)
- 132. Dry Tortugas National Park (spring)
- 133. Pinnacles National Monument (spring)
- 134. Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
- 135. Pipestone National Monument
- 136. Outer Banks Group (Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Ft. Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial)
- 137. Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and Sequoia National Forest
- 138. Catoctin Mountain Park
- 139. Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site
- 140. Stones River National Battlefield (fall)

**2003**

- 141. Gateway National Recreation Area: Floyd Bennett Field (spring)
- 142. Cowpens National Battlefield (spring)
- 143. Grand Canyon National Park – North Rim
- 144. Grand Canyon National Park – South Rim
- 145. C&O Canal National Historical Park
- 146. Capulin Volcano National Monument
- 147. Oregon Caves National Monument
- 148. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
- 149. Fort Stanwix National Monument
- 150. Arches National Park

**2003 continued**

- 151. Mojave National Preserve (fall)

**2004**

- 152. Joshua Tree National Park (spring)
- 153. New River Gorge National River
- 154. George Washington Birthplace National Monument
- 155. Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve
- 156. Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
- 157. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
- 158. Keweenaw National Historical Park
- 159. Effigy Mounds National Monument
- 160. Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site
- 161. Manzanar National Historic Site
- 162. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

**2005**

- 163. Congaree National Park (spring)
- 164. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (spring)
- 165. Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- 166. Chickasaw National Recreation Area
- 167. Timpanogos Cave National Monument
- 168. Yosemite National Park
- 169. Fort Sumter National Monument
- 170. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- 171. Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- 172. Johnstown Flood National Memorial
- 173. Nicodemus National Historic Site

**2006**

- 174. Kings Mountain National Military Park (spring)
- 175. John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site
- 176. Devils Postpile National Monument
- 177. Mammoth Cave National Park
- 178. Yellowstone National Park
- 179. Monocacy National Battlefield
- 180. Denali National Park & Preserve
- 181. Golden Spike National Historic Site
- 182. Katmai National Park and Preserve
- 183. Zion National Park (spring and fall)

**Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)**

**2007**

- 184.1. Big Cypress National Preserve (spring)
- 184.2. Big Cypress National Preserve (ORV Permit Holder/Camp Owner)
- 185. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (spring)
- 186. Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (spring and summer)
- 187. Lava Beds National Monument
- 188. John Muir National Historic Site
- 189. Fort Union Trading Post NHS
- 190. Fort Donelson National Battlefield
- 191. Agate Fossil Beds National Monument
- 192. Mount Rushmore National Memorial
- 193. Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve
- 194. Rainbow Bridge National Monument
- 195. Independence National Historical Park
- 196. Minute Man National Historical Park

**2008**

- 197. Blue Ridge Parkway (fall and summer)
- 198. Yosemite National Park
- 199. Everglades National Park (winter and spring)
- 200. Horseshoe Bend National Military Park (spring)
- 201. Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site (spring)
- 202. Fire Island National Seashore resident (spring)
- 203. Fire Island National Seashore visitor

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit, website: [www.psu.uidaho.edu](http://www.psu.uidaho.edu) or phone (208) 885-7863.

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| <b>Visitor Comments Appendix</b> |
|----------------------------------|

This section contains complete visitor comments of all open-ended questions and is bound separately from this report due to its size.

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