How important is accessibility in Vermont's natural spaces?

Audrey Homan, MA, CPACC Ariana Cano-Gomez, PhD Bridget Butler

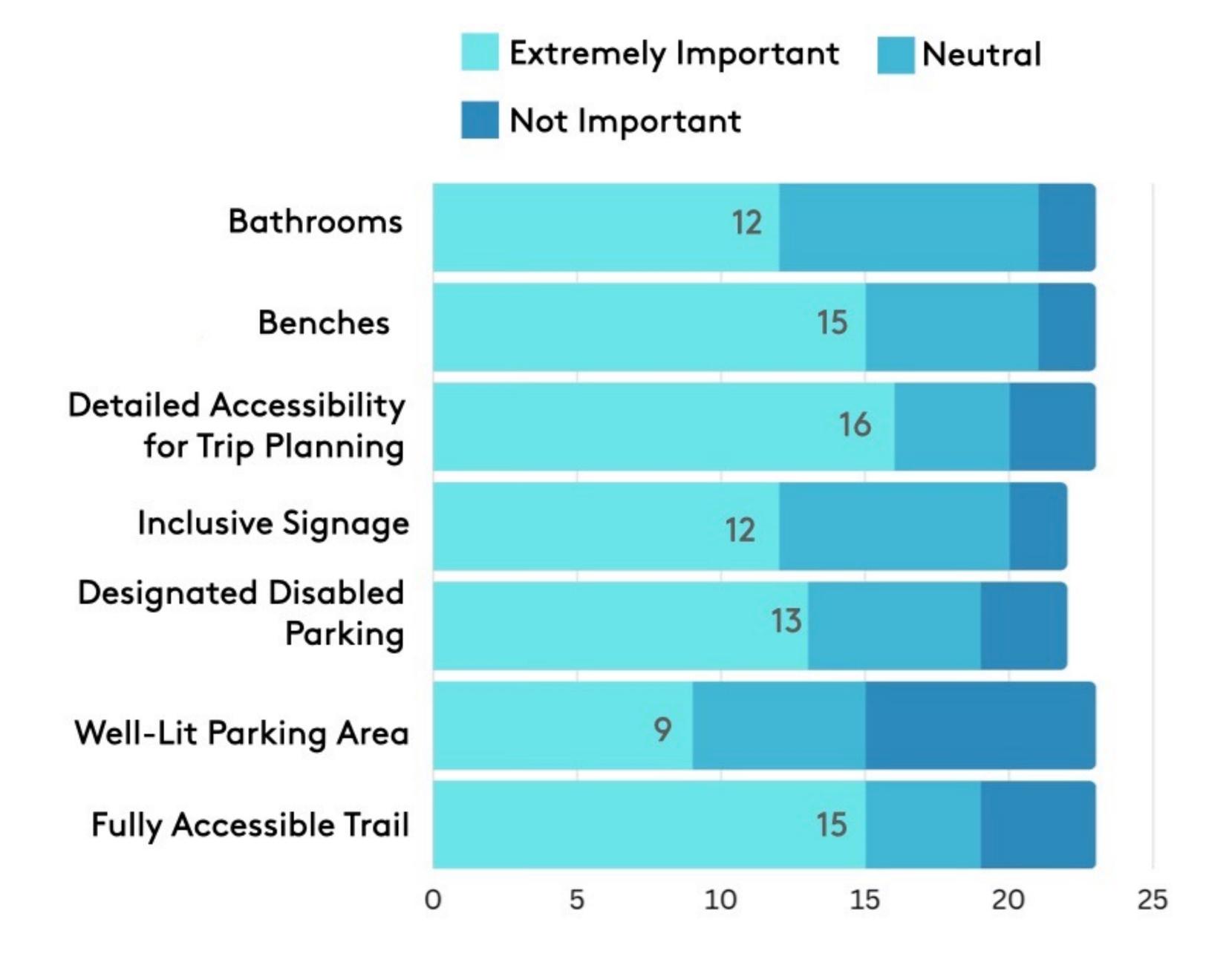
TELL US: What's important to you in a natural outdoor area?





In Fall 2022, we sent out a short survey asking about people's accessibility needs in Vermont's natural outdoor spaces.

"When thinking of visiting a natural area, how important is it..."



But most compelling were some of the stories from the survey:

I use a wheelchair and access to natural and wild spaces is so limited.

It's such a gift to find a place I can access. It's more memorable to me because I think able-bodied people may take access to nature for granted. It's sacred and special.

If it isn't flat, I am probably not going to be safe and I don't want to hold back others.

I don't think a lot about visiting natural areas because I always assume that they may not be accessible.

I have somewhat limited mobility and chronic pain and worry that I won't be able to easily and safely stop and rest or exit if needed.