

Cheasty Mountain Bike Trail Monitoring – South Loop

Year 2 2024 Quarter 4 Monitoring Report

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Seattle
Parks & Recreation

EarthCorps

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February 2025



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1. **Introduction**

Seattle Parks and Recreation contracted with EarthCorps in 2020 to develop and implement a monitoring plan prior to the construction associated with the [Cheasty Mountain Bike/Pedestrian Trail Pilot Project](#) at the Cheasty Natural Area in South Seattle. This report summarizes the findings for the Year 2 Quarter 4 monitoring period (October-December, 2024).

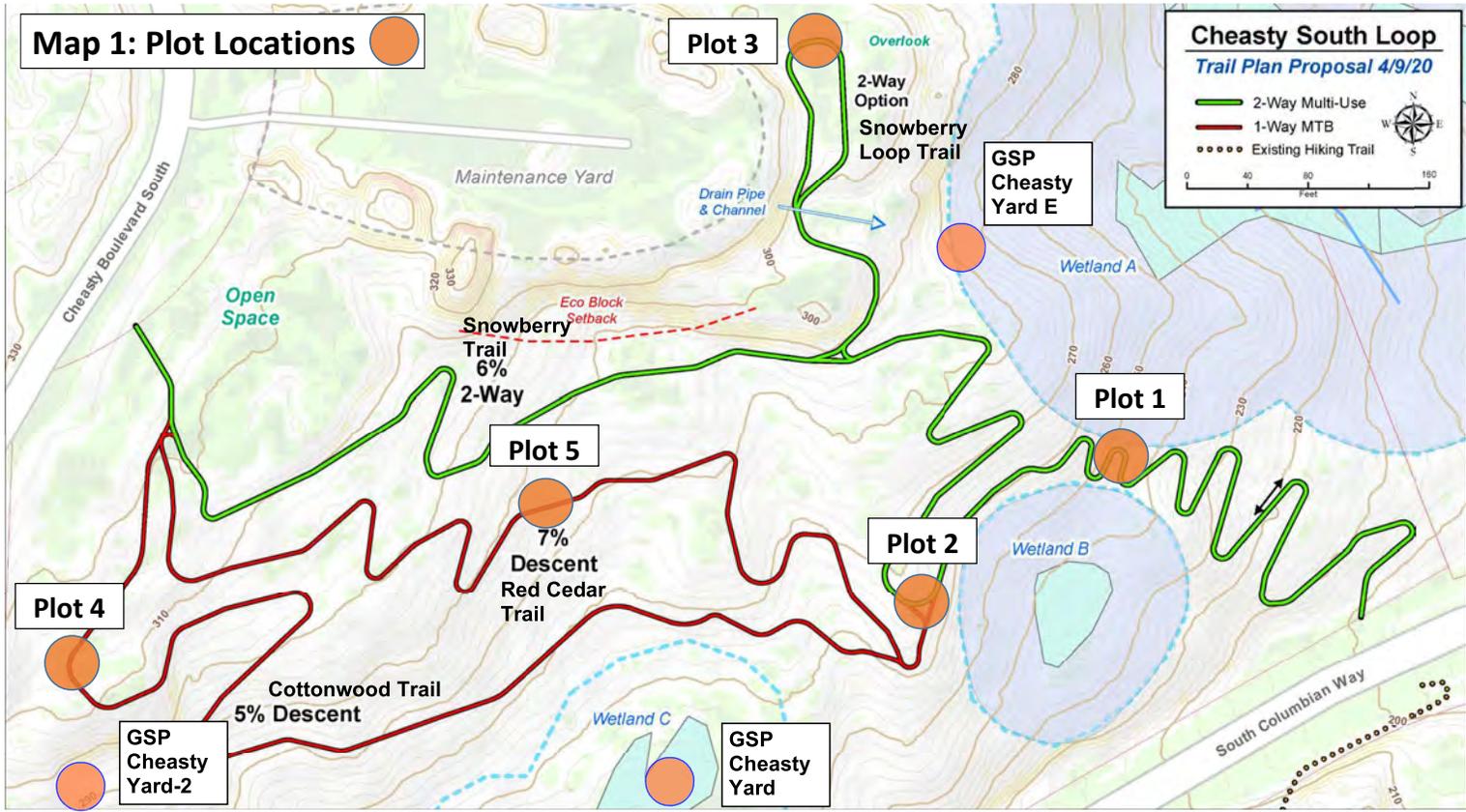
EarthCorps performed the following monitoring tasks for Quarter 4 on December 18, 2024:

- Cheasty Boulevard Car Parking Monitoring
- Plot Level Observational Vegetation Monitoring
- Plot Level Photo Monitoring
- Full Trail Monitoring
- Forest Monitoring Plot Photo Monitoring

The following table describes the proposed monitoring year designations for this three-year reporting period:

Baseline (pre-construction):	2020
Trail construction:	2021
Trail construction continued:	2022
Year 1 monitoring:	2023
Year 2 monitoring:	2024
Year 3 monitoring:	2025

See Map 1 below for plot locations.



Map 1: Plot Locations

Cheasty South Loop
Trail Plan Proposal 4/9/20

- 2-Way Multi-Use
- 1-Way MTB
- ⋯ Existing Hiking Trail

0 40 80 120 150
Feet

2. Cheasty Boulevard Car Parking Monitoring

EarthCorps performed an observational survey for illegal or improperly parked cars along Cheasty Boulevard between Beacon Ave S and S Andover. During the site visit on December 18 2024, there were no improperly parked vehicles along the monitored road segment (see photos below). No other parking issues were observed at this time. In addition, there were no occupied homeless encampments noted near or within the Mountain Bike South Loop.



3. Plot Level Linear Observational Vegetation Monitoring

Qualitative observations of vegetation conditions were noted along the linear trail edges within each plot. These observations are intended to identify and document general conditions and note any damage or decline to the native vegetation along the trail edges and to note any issues or concerns with non-native species within the plot. These observations will be updated at each quarterly visit and compliment the photo monitoring. Trends can be compared over time. The following observations were noted during the site monitoring visit on December 18, 2024. Overall, no substantial changes to vegetation were noted within any of the plots.

Plot #1: The plot contains no substantial changes to vegetation. Non-native English ivy and common blackberry continue to establish throughout the plot. General invasive plant management is recommended in the vicinity of plot #1.

Plot #2: No substantial changes in vegetation were noted in plot 2. Common ivy and blackberry continue to establish within the plot and should be targeted for control.

Plot #3: No substantial changes in vegetation were noted. Invasive species including ivy are encroaching onto native trees and it is recommended to target these species for control before they become more established. Herb bennet (*Geum herbanum*), a non-native invasive species, requires control before it continues to spread.

Plot #4: No substantial changes to vegetation were noted. Common blackberry is spreading in the south portion of the plot. Some native vegetation continues to require pruning to keep from encroaching into the trail corridor.

Plot #5: Trail construction in plot 5 (first noted in Q2) continues and appears to have generally stabilized. Vegetation in the remaining plot is healthy and continues to establish in areas adjacent to the trail.

4. Trail Plot Level Photo Monitoring

Photos were taken at each plot in the same manner established in 2022 Q4. Generally, photos were taken at the edge of the 1/10 acre plot looking along the trail corridor(s) towards the center of the plot. These photos can be compared to previous photo monitoring (and future iterations) to show change over time. Photos are included in Appendix A.

5. Full-Trail Rapid Monitoring

An EarthCorps Ecologist performed a whole-trail walkthrough to note and demarcate any damages or management concerns along the entire trail network. Locations were mapped using GPS and are included on an interactive web-based mapping platform. Monitoring took place on December 18, 2024.

The following attributes were considered:

- Substantial damage to vegetation;
- Substantial areas of cleared or bare ground;
- Substantial evidence of ponding or trail erosion;
- Evidence of bikes or pedestrians leaving the path;
- Specific maintenance issues or other concerns
- Damages to wetland or other fencing
- Evidence of homeless encampments or illegal dumping

Overall, there were no major concerns noted during the monitoring period. There are continued signs of minor erosion in several places and some minor trail hazards were noted, including instances of exposed roots in the trail tread. Some locations along the trail continue to see improvements or the addition of trail features. All notable instances were mapped using GPS, photographed, and are included on the web map available here: [Cheasty South Loop Full-Trail Dec 2024](#). A pdf of mapped locations is included in Appendix C.

6. Forest Monitoring Plot Photo Monitoring

Photos were taken from the center of each of the three Forest Monitoring Plots located in the vicinity of the South Loop. Four photos were taken at each plot center looking in each cardinal direction. These photos can be used to compare change over time. Photos are included in Appendix B.

Cheasty Greenspace Mountainbike/Pedestrian Trail – South Loop

Photo monitoring Year 2, Q4 2024

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Plot	# of Photos
1	4
3 photo points at: #1 top of trail looking NE (1 photo), #2 southern switchback looking NW and NE (2 photos), and #3 bottom of trail looking N (1 photo)	

Plot 1 Photo Point 1 (NE)



Plot 1 Photo Point 2a (NW)



Plot 1 Photo Point 2b (NE)



Plot 1 Photo Point 3 (N)



Plot	# of Photos
2	8

4 photos at each of the individual trail legs that enter or exit the plot (3 looking downhill and 1 looking uphill) starting at NW trail and continuing clockwise. #1 top of south leg looking SE. #2 at top of north leg looking SW. #3 at top of 2-way looking S. #4 at bottom of 2-way looking SW.

Plot 2 Photo Point 1 (SE)



Plot 2 Photo Point 2 (SW)





Plot 2 Photo Point 4 (SW)



Plot	# of Photos
3	4
4 photo points at: #1 looking N (1 photo) along trail from entering plot from the S, #2 looking SW and SE (2 photos) from the trail bend, and #3 looking NE along trail entering plot from the E.	

NOTE: Only 2 photos taken this quarter. Photos 2a and 2b were inadvertently omitted.

Plot 3 Photo Point 1 (N)



Plot 3 Photo Point 2a (SW) – displayed photo is from Q3 2024



Plot 3 Photo Point 2b (SE) – displayed photo is from Q3 2024



Plot 3 Photo Point 3 (NE)



Plot	# of Photos
4	4
3 photo points at: #1 top of trail looking SW (1 photo), #2 at end of line-intercept transect looking N and E (2 photos), and #3 bottom of trail looking SW (1 photo)	

Plot 4 Photo Point 1 (SW)



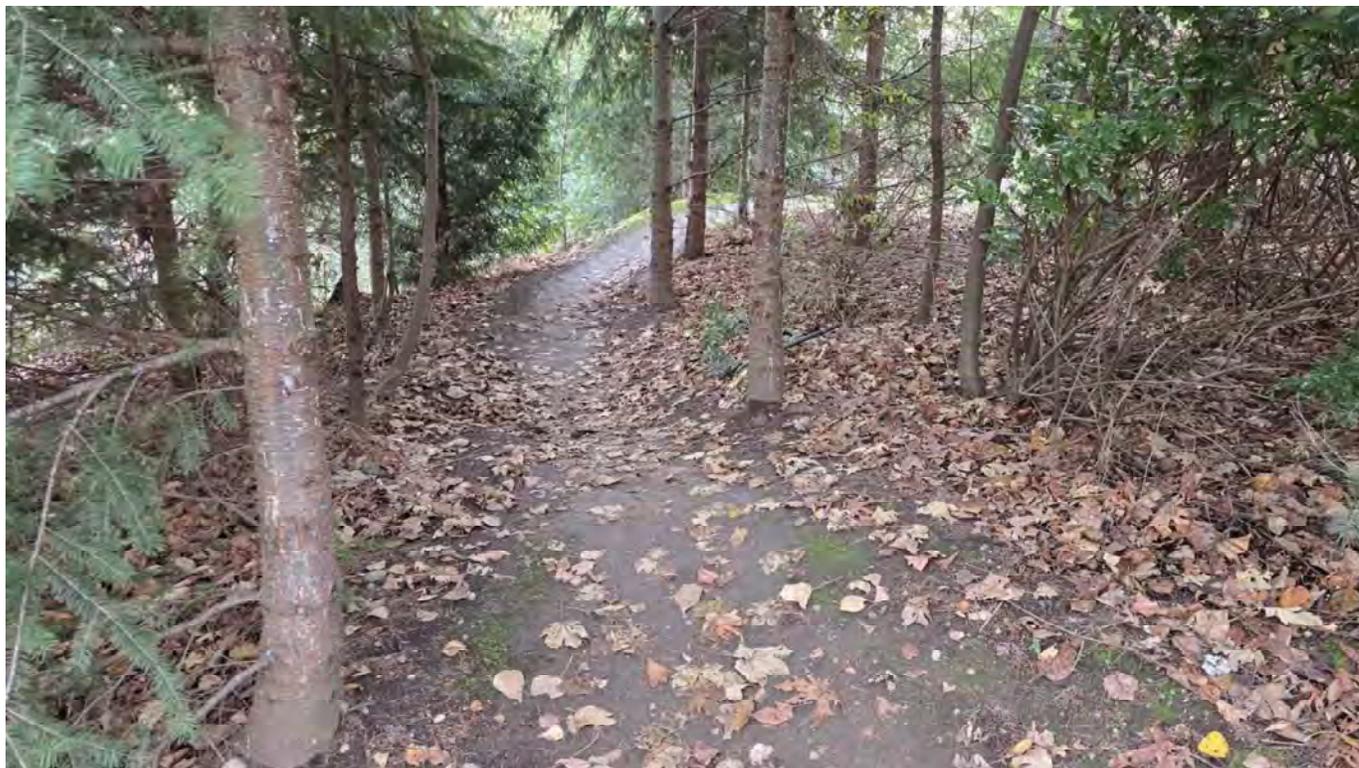
Plot 4 Photo Point 2a (N)



Plot 4 Photo Point 2b (E)



Plot 4 Photo Point 3 (SW)



Plot	# of Photos
5	2

2 photo points at: #1 top of trail looking NE (1 photo) and #2 bottom of trail looking SW (1 photo)

Plot 5 Photo Point 1 (NE)



Plot 5 Photo Point 2 (SW)



APPENDIX B: FOREST MONITORING PLOT PHOTO MONITORING – Dec 18, 2024



Cheasty Yard East (N)



Cheasty Yard East (E)



Cheasty Yard East (S)



Cheasty Yard East (W)



Cheasty Yard (N)



Cheasty Yard (E)



Cheasty Yard (S)



Cheasty Yard (W)



Cheasty Yard-2 (N)



Cheasty Yard-2 (E)



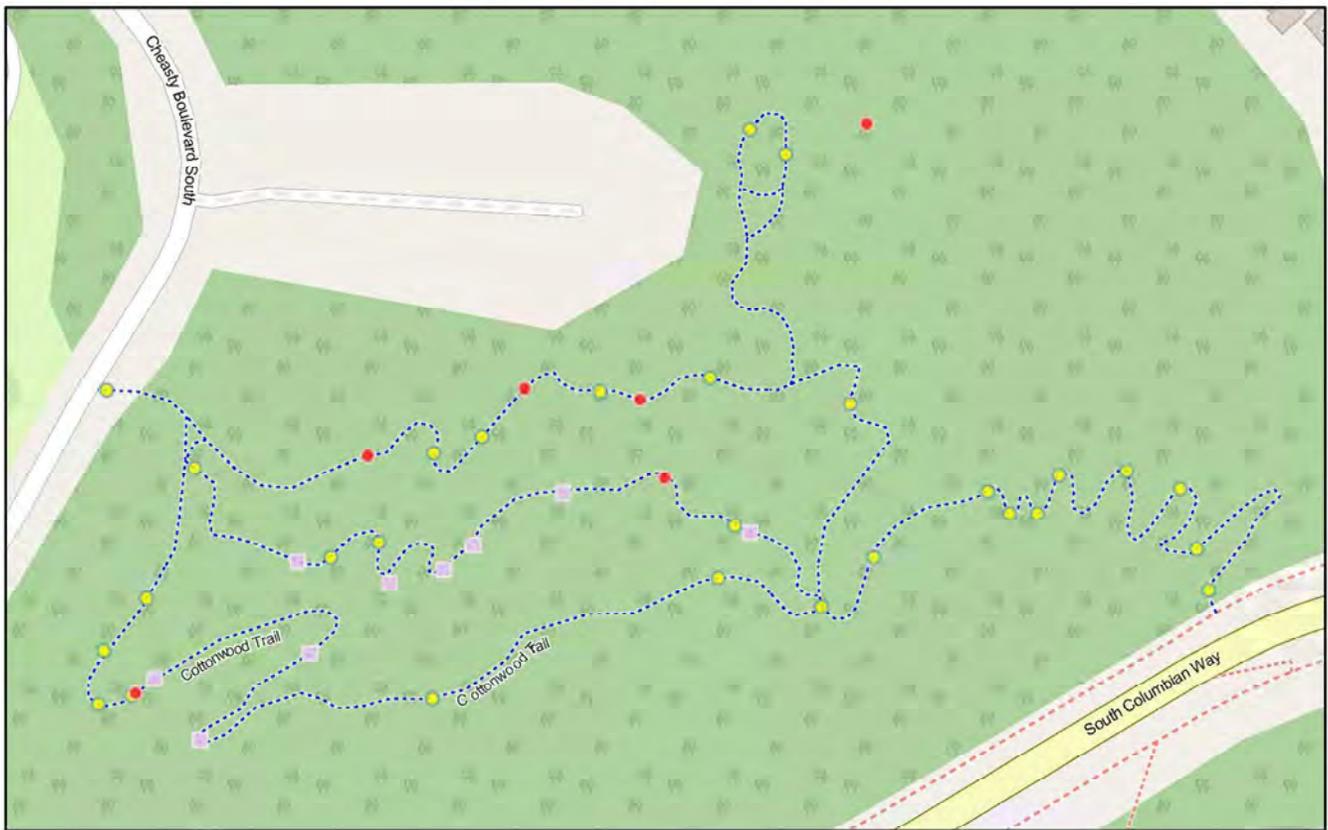
Cheasty Yard-2 (S)



Cheasty Yard-2 (W)



Cheasty South Loop Full-Trail Dec 2024

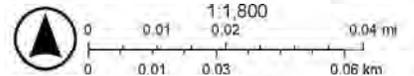


12/18/2024

Trail Points 2024

● Drainage Issue ● Trail Hazard

■ Trail Structure



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri

EarthCorps

Appendix D

Cheasty Quarterly Monitoring: Q4, 2024

South Loop

Date: 12/31/2024- 10:30 AM

SPR Representative: Kellina Stamm

Other Attendees: Matt Blossom, EMBA

1. Illegal parking on Cheasty Boulevard

One parked vehicle observed by Cheasty Yard. All “No Bikes” signs on the Boulevard trail were legible and installed.

2. Wildlife observed

Some crows observed, along with other small birds. The Merlin App identified song sparrow by auditory recording.

3. Camping/homeless encampment activity

No active encampments. Previous encampment locations along the downhill bike trails and Snowberry Loop trail are no longer there and vegetation has filled in bare spots.

4. Use/disuse of social trails

Lots of vegetation has filled in many previous social trails. Some trees that fell in the wind storm and were removed from the trail were placed to block the Columbian Way social trail. The fencing on the Cottonwood Trail is in place and vegetation is growing into the social trail.



Figure 1 Cottonwood social trail



Figure 2 Columbian Way social trail

5. Damage and degradation to wetlands not protected by fencing

No damage or degradation to wetlands was observed, and construction silt fencing and straw wattles have been removed.

6. Trash and dumping

Minimal trash was observed on the trail system, though it appeared to be new since last quarter.



Figure 3 Trash on multi-use trail

7. Corrective Actions this Quarter

Sections of trail tread and berms continue to be maintained by volunteers. Volunteers have added a tabletop feature on the downhill Red Cedar trail. SPR will be contacting volunteers regarding importance of maintaining access to trails for all users, along with maintaining trail width. Down trees and limbs from the wind storms in November have been cleared.

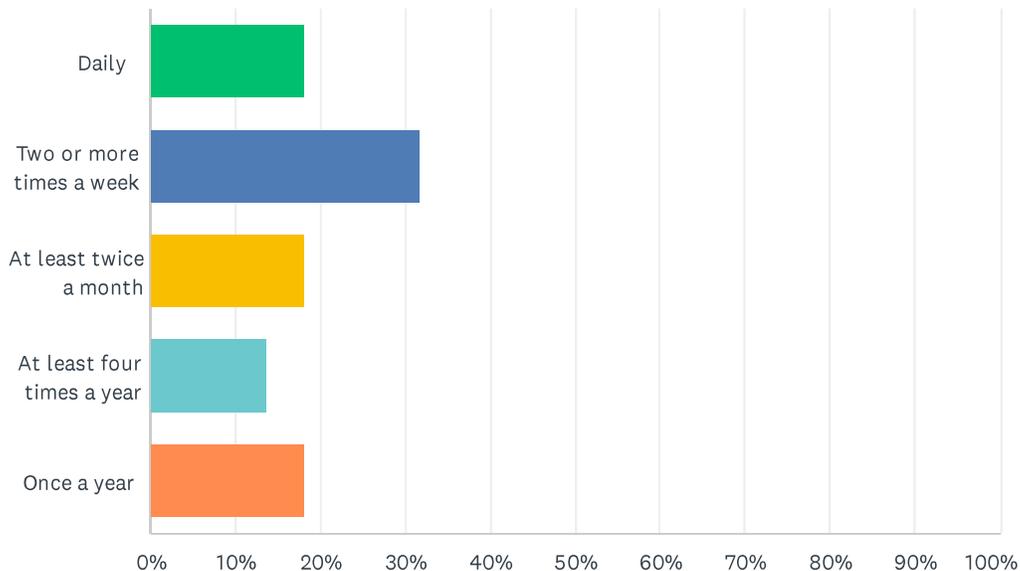


Figure 4 Trail tread maintenance

Appendix E

Q1 How often do you visit the Cheasty Pedestrian and Mountain Bike Trail?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	18.18%	4
Two or more times a week	31.82%	7
At least twice a month	18.18%	4
At least four times a year	13.64%	3
Once a year	18.18%	4
TOTAL		22

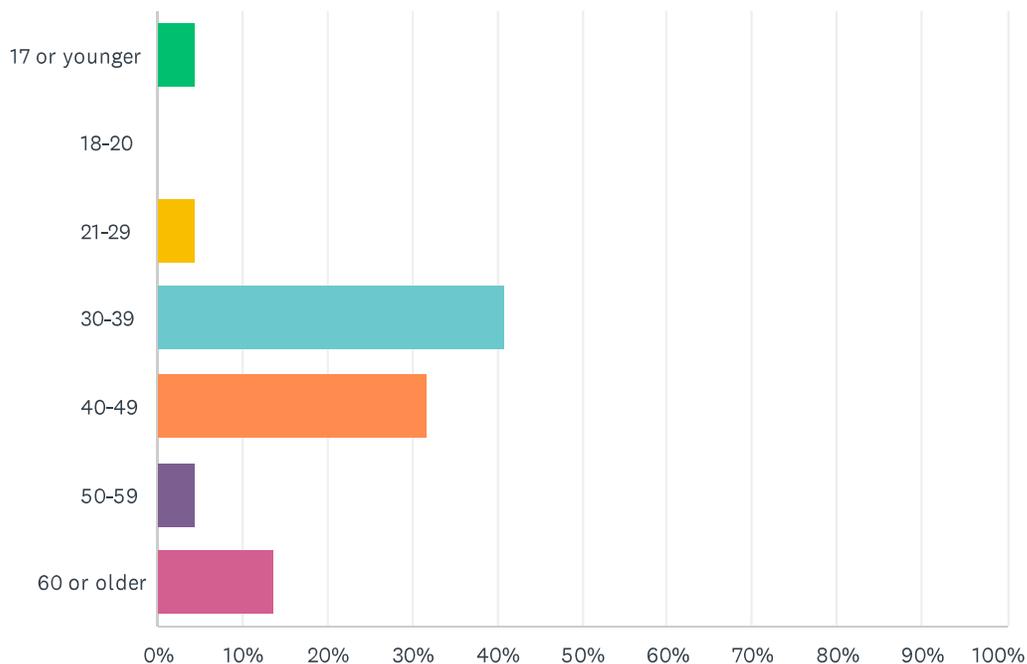
Q2 In what ZIP code is your home located? (enter 5-digit ZIP code; for example, 00544 or 94305)

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0

Tag	Quantity	Percentage
98108	9	41%
98118	4	18%
98144	6	27%
Other	3	14%

Q3 What is your age?

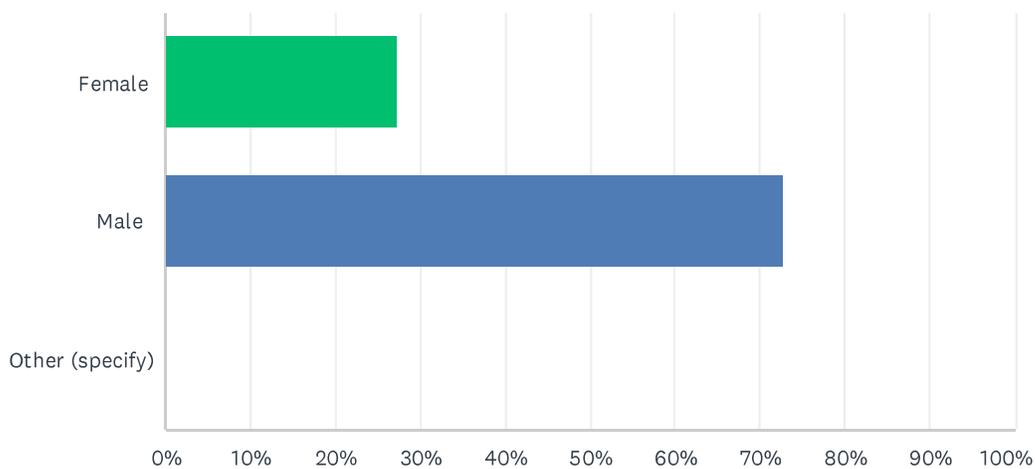
Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
17 or younger	4.55%	1
18-20	0.00%	0
21-29	4.55%	1
30-39	40.91%	9
40-49	31.82%	7
50-59	4.55%	1
60 or older	13.64%	3
TOTAL		22

Q4 What is your gender?

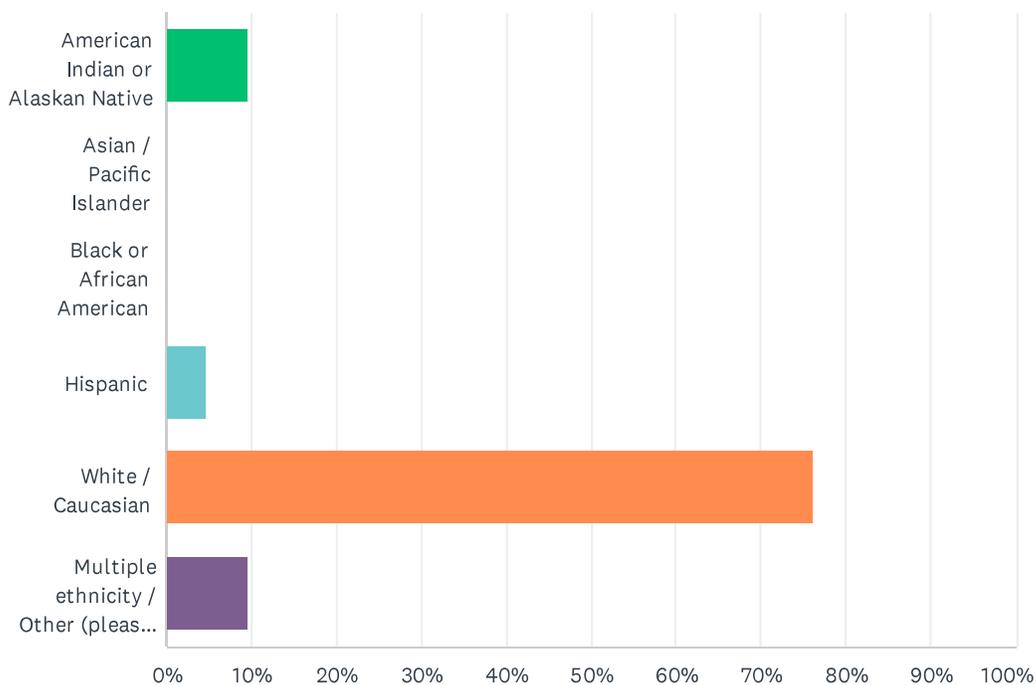
Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	27.27%	6
Male	72.73%	16
Other (specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		22

Q5 Which race/ethnicity best describes you? (Please choose only one.)

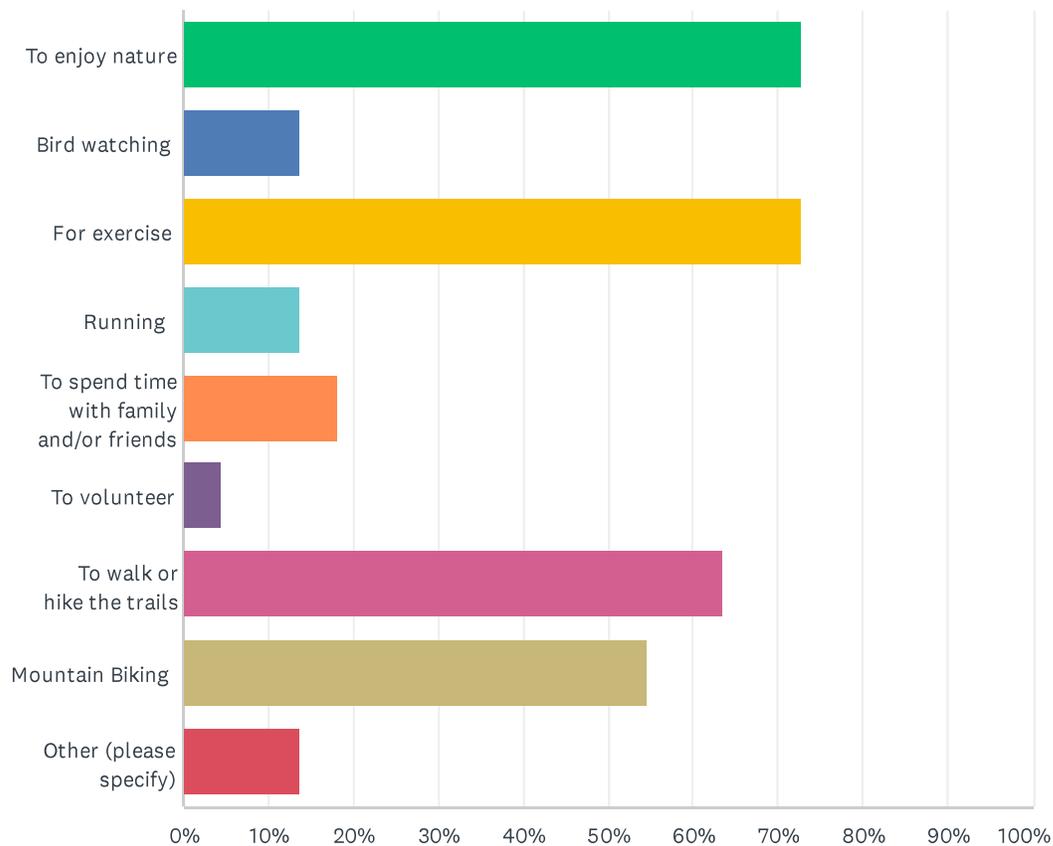
Answered: 21 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	9.52%	2
Asian / Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
Black or African American	0.00%	0
Hispanic	4.76%	1
White / Caucasian	76.19%	16
Multiple ethnicity / Other (please specify)	9.52%	2
TOTAL		21

Q6 Why do you visit the Cheasty Pedestrian and Mountain Bike Trail? (check all that apply)

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
To enjoy nature	72.73%	16
Bird watching	13.64%	3
For exercise	72.73%	16
Running	13.64%	3
To spend time with family and/or friends	18.18%	4
To volunteer	4.55%	1
To walk or hike the trails	63.64%	14
Mountain Biking	54.55%	12
Other (please specify)	13.64%	3
Total Respondents: 22		

Q7 Rate your experience of the trail

Answered: 22 Skipped: 0

4.2★
average rating



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	0.00% 0	9.09% 2	13.64% 3	22.73% 5	54.55% 12	22	4.23

Appendix F

Cheasty Boulevard Findit Fixit Data Summary

10/1/22-03/31/23

Report Type

	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	20	0	0	0	2	1	0
Other parts of Blvd	7	0	3	2	0	0	0
On Trails	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	27	1	3	2	2	1	0

04/01/23-06/30/23

Report Type

	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	10	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other parts of Blvd	7	1	1	1	0	5	0
On Trails	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18	1	1	1	0	5	2

7/1/23-09/30/23

Report Type

	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Other parts of Blvd	7	1	0	1	1	0	0
On Trails	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Total	8	1	0	1	2	2	0

10/1/23-12/31/23

Report Type

	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	6	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other parts of Blvd	6	1	1	0	1	1	3
On Trails	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	12	1	1	0	1	2	4

1/1/24-3/31/24

Report Type

	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	7	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other parts of Blvd	9	1	1	1	0	1	1
On Trails	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	16	1	1	1	1	1	1

4/1/24-7/30/24

Report Type

	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other parts of Blvd	7	1	4	0	0	0	2
On Trails	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	12	2	4	0	1	0	2

*Defined as between 4310 Cheasty Blvd and 25th Ave S

7/1/24-9/30/24

Report Type

	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	8	1		1	1	1	2
Other parts of Blvd	10	2	1		1		4
On Trails							
Total	18	3	1	1	2	1	6

*Defined as between 4310 Cheasty Blvd and 25th Ave S

10/1/24-12/31/24

Report Type

	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	12	0	0	0	0	4	2
Other parts of Blvd	4	1	0	1	0	1	1
On Trails	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	16	1	0	1	0	5	3

*Defined as between 4310 Cheasty Blvd and S Bradford St (expanded this quarter with North Loop opening)

City of Seattle Parks & Recreation

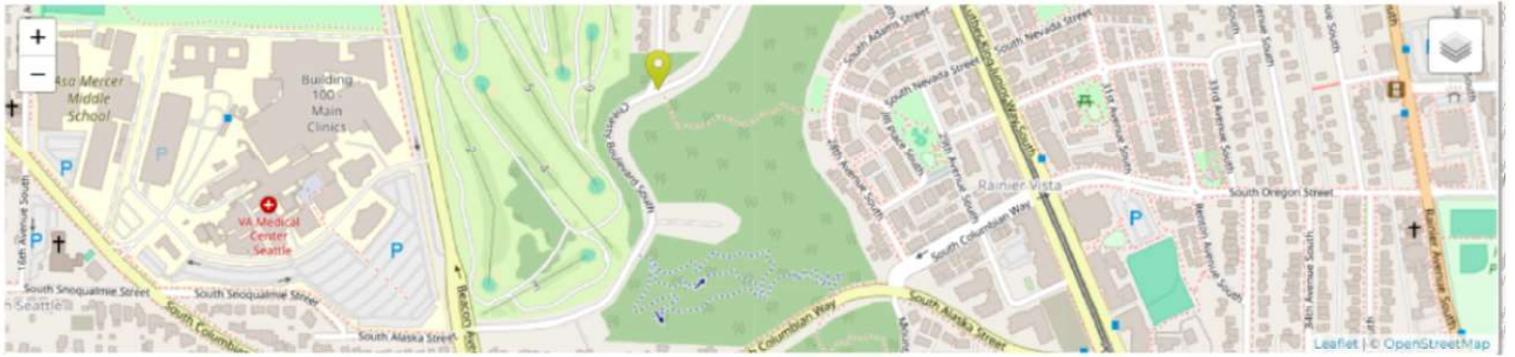


Kellina Stamm
12/31/24

Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- N. of 24th Pl

October 1, 2024 12:00 AM → December 31, 2024 12:00 AM

Location



Daily Average Bicyclists

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024

Daily Average

0

Daily Average Peds

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024

Daily Average

5

Peak Day Bicyclists

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024

Peak Day

2

Tuesday
Nov 19, 2024

Peak Day Peds

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024

Peak Day

106

Thursday
Oct 3, 2024

Daily Avg. - Week Ped&Bike

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024

Daily Average

6

Daily Avg. - Weekend Ped&...

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024

Daily Average

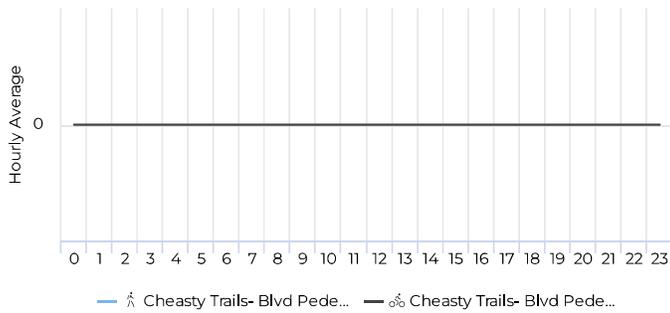
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Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- N. of 24th Pl

October 1, 2024 12:00 AM → December 31, 2024 12:00 AM

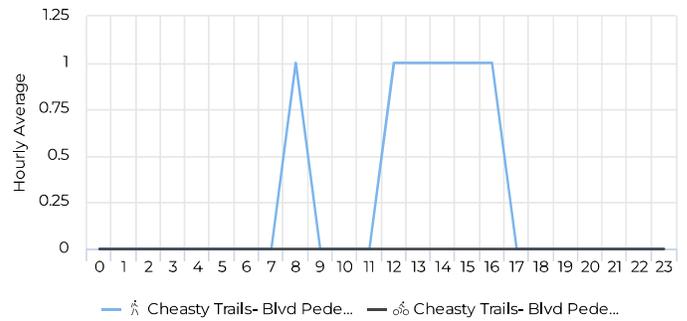
Hourly Profile - Weekend

10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024



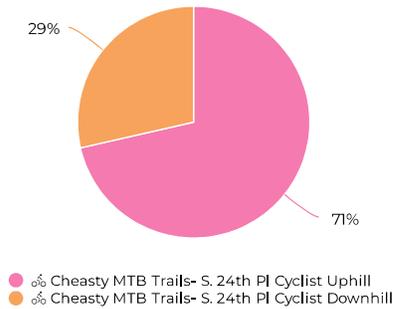
Hourly Profile - Weekdays

10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024

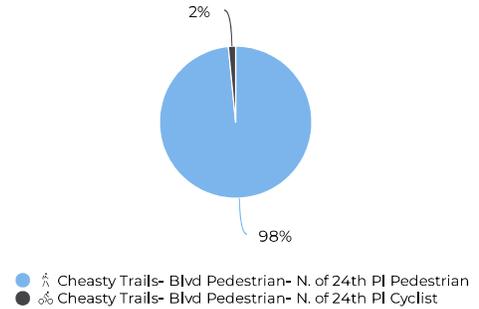


Downhill Vs Uphill Cyclists

10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024



Bike/Ped Distribution

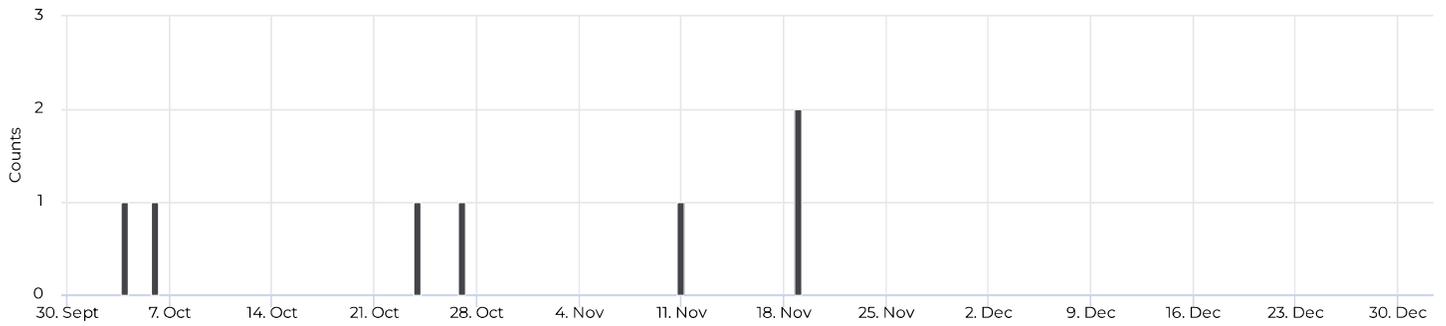


Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- N. of 24th Pl

October 1, 2024 12:00 AM → December 31, 2024 12:00 AM

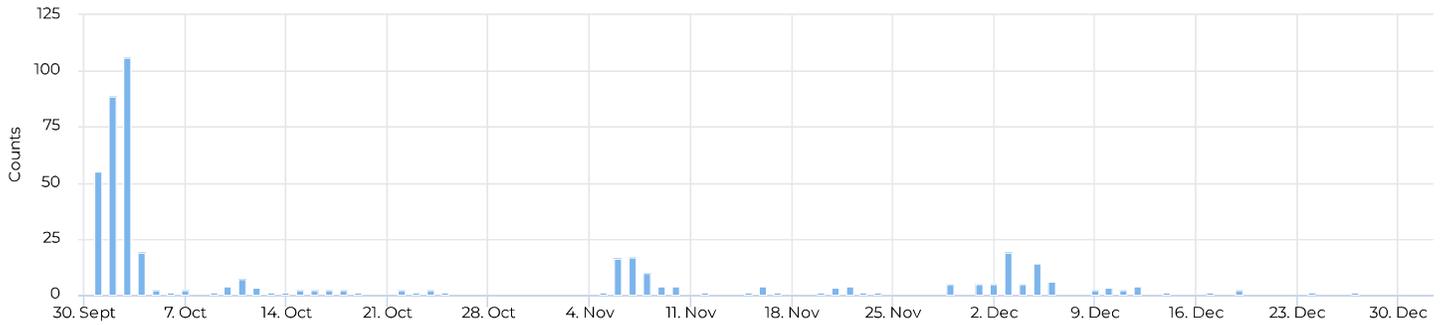
Daily Cyclists

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024



Daily Pedestrians

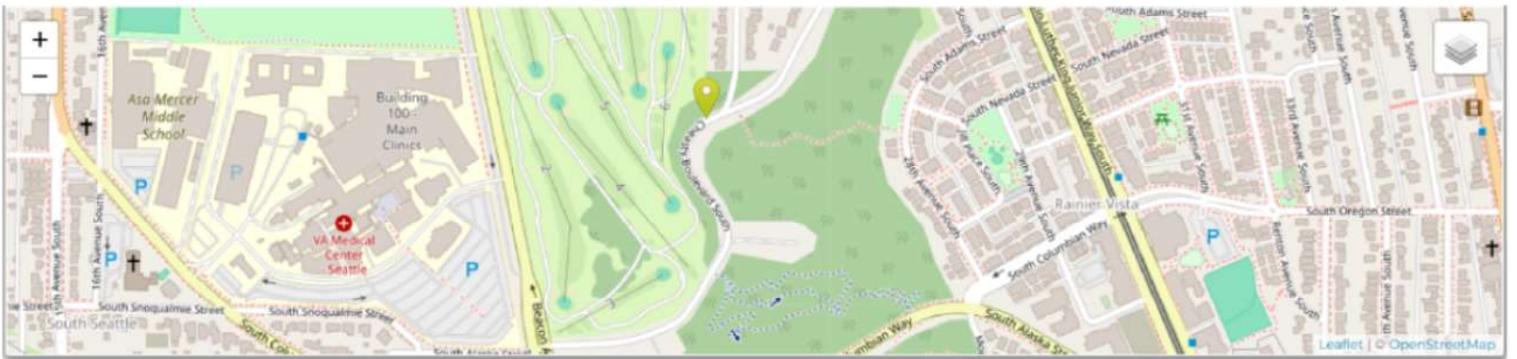
📅 10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024



Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- S. of 24th Pl

October 1, 2024 12:00 AM → December 31, 2024 12:00 AM

Location



Daily Average Bicyclists

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024

Daily Average

0

Daily Average Peds

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024

Daily Average

357

Peak Day Bicyclists

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024

Peak Day

3

Monday
Nov 11, 2024

Peak Day Peds

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024

Peak Day

667

Friday
Nov 8, 2024

Daily Avg. - Week Ped&Bike

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024

Daily Average

398

Daily Avg. - Weekend Ped&...

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024

Daily Average

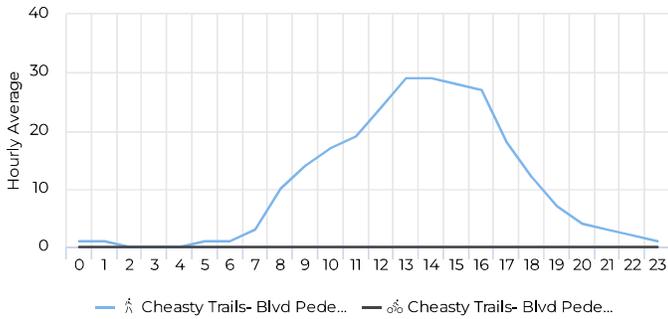
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Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- S. of 24th PI

October 1, 2024 12:00 AM → December 31, 2024 12:00 AM

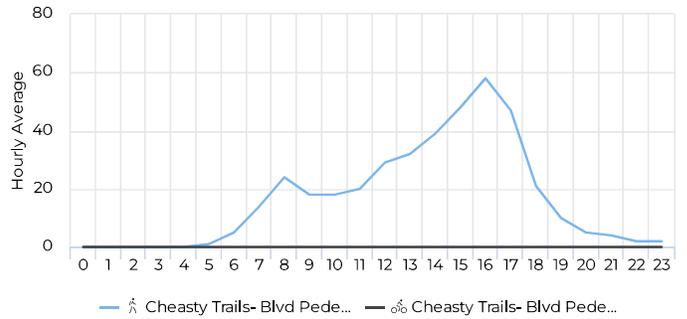
Hourly Profile - Weekend

10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024



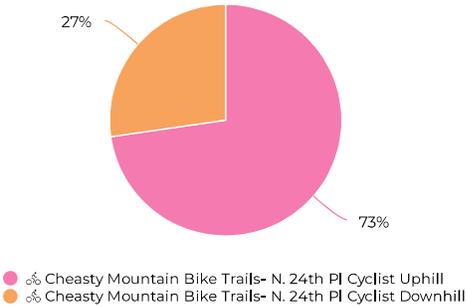
Hourly Profile - Weekdays

10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024

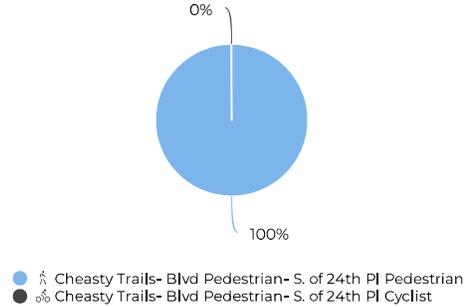


Downhill Vs Uphill Cyclists

10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024



Bike/Ped Distribution

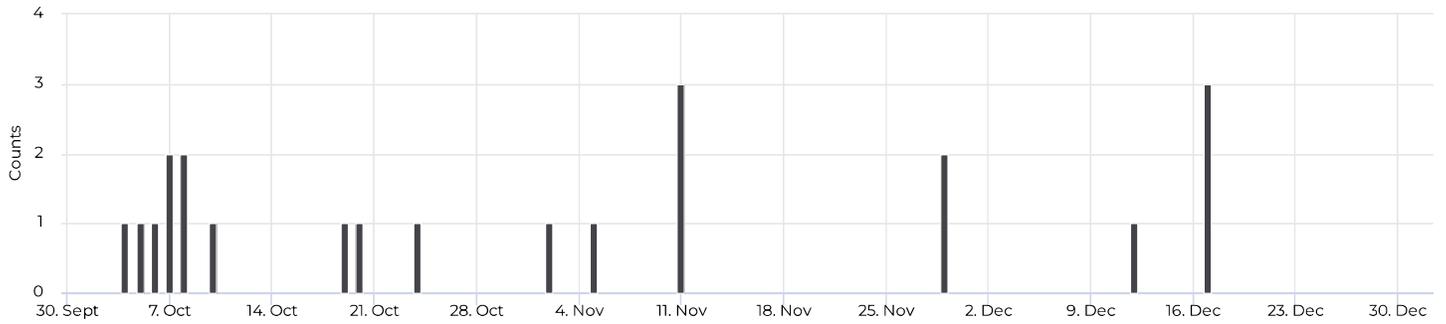


Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- S. of 24th Pl

October 1, 2024 12:00 AM → December 31, 2024 12:00 AM

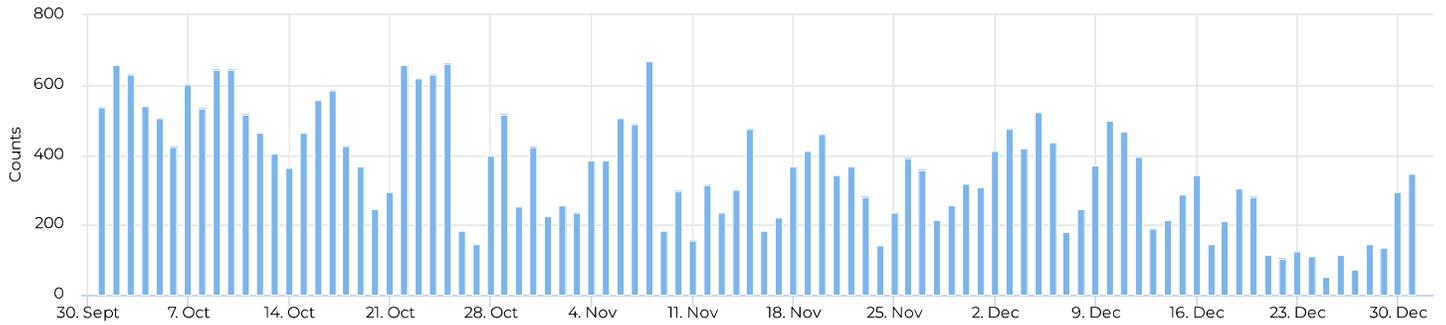
Daily Cyclists

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024



Daily Pedestrians

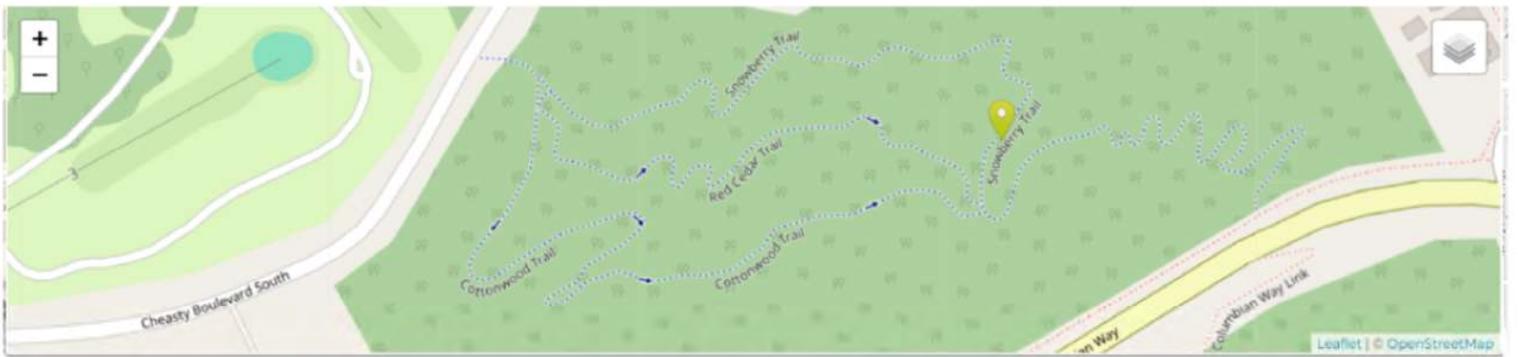
📅 10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024



Cheasty Trails- Multi-Use Snowberry Trail

October 1, 2024 12:00 AM → December 31, 2024 12:00 AM

Location



Daily Average Bicyclists

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024

Daily Average

25

Daily Average Peds

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024

Daily Average

23

Peak Day Bicyclists

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024

Peak Day

71

Friday
Nov 8, 2024

Peak Day Peds

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024

Peak Day

79

Sunday
Nov 3, 2024

Daily Avg. - Week Ped&Bike

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024

Daily Average

45

Daily Avg. - Weekend Ped&...

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024

Daily Average

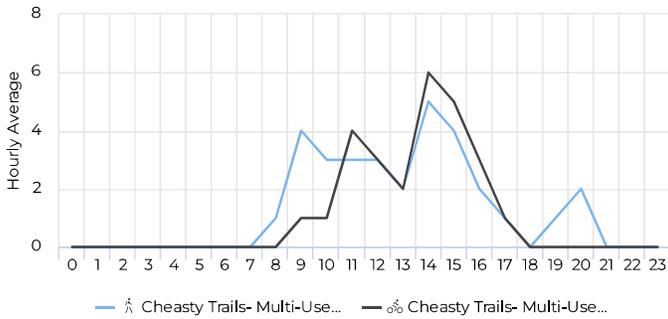
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Cheasty Trails- Multi-Use Snowberry Trail

October 1, 2024 12:00 AM → December 31, 2024 12:00 AM

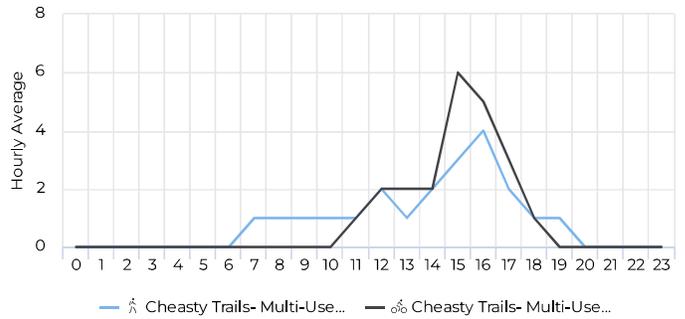
Hourly Profile - Weekend

10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024



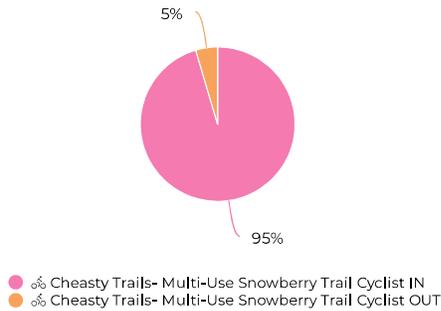
Hourly Profile - Weekdays

10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024

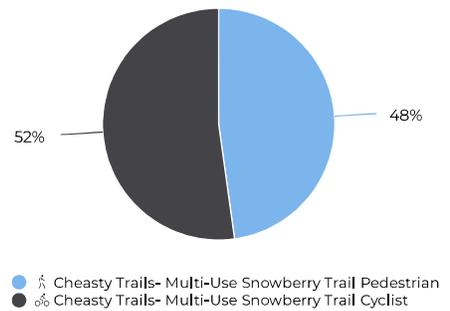


Downhill Vs Uphill Cyclists

10/01/2024 → 12/30/2024



Bike/Ped Distribution

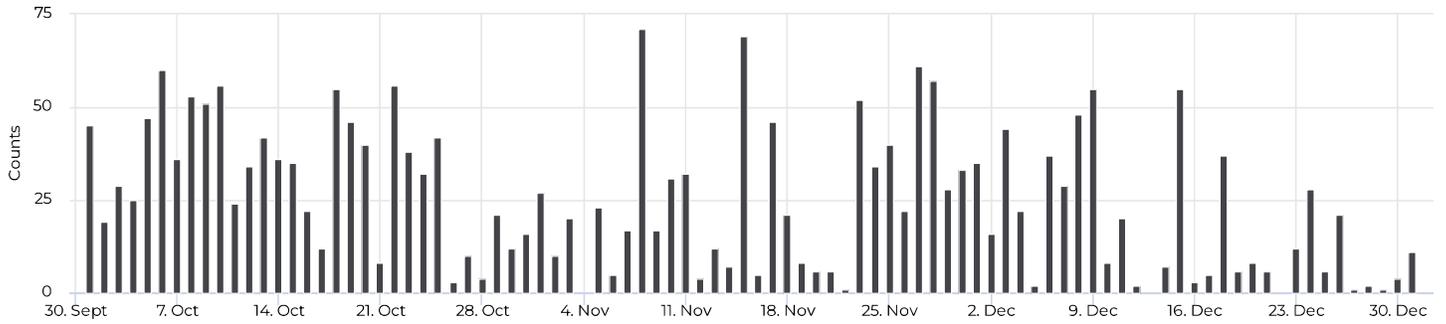


Cheasty Trails- Multi-Use Snowberry Trail

October 1, 2024 12:00 AM → December 31, 2024 12:00 AM

Daily Cyclists

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024



Daily Pedestrians

📅 10/01/2024 → 12/31/2024

