Portland Trail Count Volunteer Training

Instructions for counting people walking, biking, & rolling

WE KEEP PORTLAND MOVING.

TINYURL.COM/PDXTRAILCOUNTS
Portland Trail Count Dates 2017

Tuesday, September 12 (5-7pm)
Wednesday, September 13 (5-7pm)
Thursday, September 14 (5-7pm)
Saturday, September 16 (9-11am)
Sunday, September 17 (9-11am)
Volunteers are needed for two-hour shifts.

Each site is counted on one weekday evening (5-7pm) and one weekend morning (9-11am).

Volunteers are encouraged to count on multiple days at different sites!

See what’s available at tinyurl.com/pdxtrailcounts2017
Where are we counting?

Click image to view the interactive map
Two types of locations:

1. off-street trail counts
   recreation & commute routes like Springwater Corridor, Willamette Greenway, I-205 Trail
Two types of locations:

2. on-street counts
streets with major destinations or transit connections such as SE Powell
More than half of all trail users in Portland are people on bikes.
About two out of five trail users are female.
Volume can vary widely between sites and count periods.

Weekday vs Weekend Counts, select sites 2015

- Hawthorne Bridge @ South Side
- Springwater Trail @ Oaks Bottom
- NW Leif Erikson Dr @ NW Thurman Trailhead
- Red Electric Trail @ SW Bertha & Vermont
- Tilikum Crossing @ North Side

- weekday
- weekend
Download instructions at tinyurl.com/pdxtrailcounts

City of Portland
Instructions for Using the Pathway Count Form

Collect pedestrian and bicycle counts from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM on weekdays
and 9:11 AM on weekends. Arrive at count location at least 5 minutes
before count time (4:55 PM or 8:55 AM) to prepare your count
forms:

1) Count forms are customized for a particular site. If you do not have this form,
use a supplied generic blank form and fill in information that best describes
the location where you will be counting (typically names of intersecting
gardens or streets).

- Weather information is general. Note if it’s cold, warm, or hot, sunny, raining,
overcast...
- Note anything unusual you observe. For example, nearby construction that
might be impacting path users, or lots of conflicts between bikers and pedestrians on
the paths.

2) Determine your screening line which a path user must cross to be counted. We are
not counting full intersections, only single segments along a street or path.

3) Count each pedestrian, cyclist, wheelchair user, or other user passing through
the pathway screening line by making tally marks in the tally boxes for mode and gender.

- Begin counts precisely at the beginning of the 15-minute period and end promptly at
the end of the 15-minute period. Setting a stopwatch or multiple alarms on your phone
can be helpful in tracking time.

- Count pedestrians once, after they have completed travel if crossing multiple legs of
the intersection.

- Count all people as individual users, including children in strollers or bike trailers.

4) After the end of each 15-minute period, move to the next row in the count form and count
the next 15 minutes’ pathway users.

5) After counting for two hours, total your counts in each category and column. Record the
number of cyclists, pedestrians, etc. by gender in the table. See the example on the
reverse side.

6) Write the total number of pathway users over the whole time period in the box in the lower
left-hand corner of the table.

Counting Tips:

- Make tally marks on the sheet only after pathway users have passed through the
screenline, i.e., do not mark them in advance anticipating the movement they will make.

- If working in teams, and especially on busy pathways, one person can record the directional
information and another the gender and mode information on a separate form. Transfer the
gender/mode information to the count form after the 2-hour count.

- Do not try to tally count information after each 15-minute period. Do it following the complete 2-
hour count.

- Count children (or other users) being assisted by adults as the mode of the adult. For example if
a child is being pushed in a stroller by an adult, both adult and child should be counted as a
pedestrian; if a child is riding on the back of a bicycle, or is being pulled in a trailer behind the
biker, both adult and child should be counted as bicyclists.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bicycles</th>
<th>Pedestrians</th>
<th>Wheelchair</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00-15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-45</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-1:00</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-1:15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15-1:30</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30-1:45</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45-2:00</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

T I N Y U R L . C O M / P D X T R A I L C O U N T S
The standard trail count form:
The standard trail count form:

Count all non-motorized trail users and gender: bicycles, pedestrians, wheelchairs, skateboards, roller blades, etc.

Count in 15-minute increments.
Fill in all the information at the top of your form.

**trail name:** trail or street to be counted

**location:** general location along the trail/street (not counted)

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**STANDARDIZED TRAIL COUNT FORM**

- **Site ID:** 012
- **Trail Name:** Morrison Bridge path
- **Location:** west tower

**Date:** _____/_____/____  **Day of Week:** _______________  **Time Period:** _______________ am/pm

**Weather:** ______________________________________  **Name of Data Collector:** ________________________________

Yes, we count in the rain!
Remember to count in 15 minute increments.

Consider setting an alarm on your watch or phone.
Use the screenline method

Draw an imaginary line across the trail/street and count 2-way traffic that crosses it.
Use the screenline method

Draw an imaginary line across the trail/street and count 2-way traffic that crosses it.

Do not include traffic on the cross-street.
Trail: Screenline Count

Include everyone who passes in both directions

Draw an imaginary line across the trail

Do not include traffic on the cross-street
Customized site form map

If you receive a form customized for your count site, a satellite image on the back of the form shows the approximate location for the screenline.

When there are intersecting paths, pay particular attention to which side the screenline is placed.

For a customized count form, contact Taylor Sutton at PBOT.
Make one tick mark for **type of user** and **gender**.

For gender, make your best guess.

‘Other’ can include people using skateboards, roller blades, or other non-motorized transportation.
Include passengers on bikes and in strollers.

For small children, you may have to guess the gender.
At the end, total each box and sum each column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bicycles</th>
<th>Pedestrians</th>
<th>Wheelchairs</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
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<tr>
<td>00:15</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45:59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For on-street locations, use a combined screenline & crossing count form:

Use this form when counting at these sites:
- #90 - #96 (SW Portland)
- #171 - #173 (NE & Outer NE Portland)
- #180 - #186 (SE & Outer SE Portland)
- #190 - #192 (SW Portland)
- #198 (NE Portland)

You do not need to use this form on off-street trails or bridges.

Not sure which form to use? Check the list at tinyurl.com/pdxtrailcounts2017 and look for the ‘count form’ column.
On-street count form:
SE Powell and select northeast & southwest locations

### Screenline Count
Same as the standard trail count form

### Crossing Count
Includes *pedestrians* that cross the street but may not cross the screenline.
**On-Street: Screenline & Crossing Count**

**Screenline Count:** include everyone who passes in both directions across the screenline.

**Crossing Count:** tally pedestrians (including wheelchairs & other non-motorized users) crossing either street within 100 ft (about half a block) of your site; do not include people on bikes.

Draw an imaginary line across the street.

Include traffic on the cross-street.
Screenline vs Crossing Count

*Pedestrian Crossing counts should be marked for all non-bike riders that cross the street within 100 feet (about half a block) of the count location. This includes crossings at marked or unmarked crosswalks, midblock crossings, as well as at unauthorized crossings. **Depending on their direction of travel, users included in the crossing count may or may not be included in the screenline count.**

- This pedestrian crossed the street, but did not cross your screenline. They are counted on the crossing count only.
- This bicyclist passed your screenline and should be counted in the bicycles column. Do not include bicyclists in the crossing column.
- This wheelchair user crossed the street, but did not cross your screenline. They are counted on the crossing count only.
- This pedestrian passed your screenline and crossed the street, They are counted in both sections.
Plan ahead for your count:

- Scope out your site before you count
- Find a shady spot or bring a hat or umbrella
- **Conduct your count rain or shine**
- Bring snacks and water
- Use a clipboard or other hard surface to write on
- Bring an extra writing utensil
- **Don’t forget your count form!**
- **Be safe** – if you ever feel uncomfortable, leave your site
Pop Quiz!
How would you count this?

5 bikes!
Include the child in the trailer
How would you count this?

4 pedestrians!
The bike turned before your screenline, kids in strollers count as pedestrians
How would you count this?

1 other!
Rollerbladers count too
How would you count this?

Even if it’s the same person, count the number of trips that cross the screenline: #1 trip to the mailbox, #2 trip leaving the mailbox.

2 trips!

screenline
How would you count this?

2 trips!

Count trips on both sides of the trail/street, regardless of direction of travel: #1 trip from corner store to coffee shop, #2 trip crossing screenline on other side of street.
Return forms ASAP after completing your count

By mail:
Taylor Sutton
PBOT, Active Transportation
1120 SW 5th Ave, Ste 800
Portland, Oregon 97204

By e-mail
scan & send to taylor.sutton@portlandoregon.gov
Thank you!
We couldn’t do it without you.

Taylor Sutton
taylor.sutton@portlandoregon.gov
503-823-4533
tinyurl.com/pdxtrailcounts