Portland Trail Count
Volunteer Training

Instructions for counting people walking, biking, & rolling

WE KEEP PORTLAND MOVING.

TINYURL.COM/PDXTRAILCOUNTS
Portland Trail Count Dates 2018

Tuesday, September 11 (5-7pm)

Wednesday, September 12 (5-7pm)

Thursday, September 13 (5-7pm)

Saturday, September 15 (9-11am)

Sunday, September 16 (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/pdxtrailcounts2018
Where are we counting?

Click image to view the interactive map
People on bikes compose a large portion of trail users in Portland.

### Bikes & Pedestrians by Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bikes</th>
<th>Pedestrians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>5,739</td>
<td>8,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>13,362</td>
<td>7,604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>10,643</td>
<td>10,112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>12,121</td>
<td>7,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>9,741</td>
<td>9,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>9,477</td>
<td>8,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>10,096</td>
<td>8,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>13,412</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Less than half of all trail users are female.
Volume can vary widely between sites and count periods.

Weekday vs Weekend Counts, select sites 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>Weekend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorne Bridge @ South Side</td>
<td>1233</td>
<td>739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springwater Trail @ Oaks Bottom</td>
<td>371</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW Leif Erikson Dr @ NW Thurman Trailhead</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>493</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Electric Trail @ SW Bertha &amp; Vermont</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tilikum Crossing @ North Side</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>985</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
City of Portland
Instructions for Using the Pathway Count Form

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

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 paths 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 bikes and pedestrians on the paths.

2) Determine your screening, the 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 path
screenline by making tally marks in the tally boxes for male and female.

- 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 of 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
bike, both adult and child should be counted as bicyclists.
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.
Confirm your count location, and complete the blank info.

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

**location:** general location along the trail/street (not counted) – see screenline placement image

**weather:** Yes, we count in the rain!

**time period:** evening during the week, morning on the weekend

**STANDARDIZED TRAIL COUNT FORM**

- **Site ID:** 7
- **Trail Name:** NW Willamette Greenway
- **Location:** McCormick Pier access path to Union
- **Date:** ______/_____/_____
- **Time Period (circle one):** Weekday 5-7 PM; Weekend 9-11 AM
- **Name of Data Collector:**
- **Weather (circle one):**
  - Good (50-90°, dry)
  - Fair (light rain, <50°, 90-95°)
  - Extreme (heavy rain, snow, freezing, >95°)
Site map on back of count form

The back of your count form will have a satellite image to indicate the approximate location for the screenline.

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

Click here to find a custom form for each count site!
Use the screenline method

Draw an imaginary line across the trail and count everyone who crosses it in either direction.
Use the screenline method

Do not include traffic on the cross-streets.
Make one tick mark for **type of user and gender**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Bicycles</strong></th>
<th><strong>Pedestrians</strong></th>
<th><strong>Wheelchairs</strong></th>
<th><strong>Others</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>00:15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘Other’ can include people using skateboards, roller blades, or other non-motorized transportation.

For gender, make your best guess.
Include passengers – count each one as a bike or pedestrian.

For small children, you may have to guess the gender.
Remember to count in 15 minute increments.

Consider setting an alarm on your watch or phone.
At the end, total each box and sum each column.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:00-:15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:15-:30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:30-:45</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>:45-:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-:15</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15-:30</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30-:45</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45-:00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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?

2 trips!

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.
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.

screenline
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
send scan or photo 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