

TRAIL CENSUS 2009

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2009 7am-9pm

Weather Conditions: Partly cloudy, cool, and windy in afternoon
Cooled off in the evening with storm clouds and rainy after 8 pm
High in the 60's but cooled down in evening with storm clouds and some rain.

Locations on Hard Surface Trail: Descro Park Trail (by bridge), **Big Ditch** (38th St. W, east of Shiloh underpass, in line with Colton Blvd.), **Kiwanis Trail** (by Bitterroot School access), **Metra Trail** (by Frasier Bridge over Alkali Creek), and **Swords Park Trail** (by parking lot)

DESCRO (by bridge)

Total Count: **566**

Bikers:	127 (23%) (61 wore helmets 48%)
Runners:	15 (2%)
Walkers:	411 (73%)
Skaters:	1 (<1%)
Passengers:	5 (<1%)
Misc:	7 (<1%)
Dogs:	26 (not included in the total count of users)

Highest Usage was from 5-7 pm with 133 (23%)

BIG DITCH (38th St. W, east of Shiloh underpass, in line with Colton Blvd.)

Total Count: **253**

Bikers:	80 (32%) (67 wore helmets 84%)
Runners:	47 (19%)
Walkers:	115 (45%)
Skaters:	3 (1%)
Passengers:	4 (1.5%)
Misc:	4 (1.5%) (wheelchair & roller skier)
Dogs:	30 (not included in the total count of users)

Highest Usage from 5-7 pm 67 (26%)

KIWANIS (by Bitterroot School access)

Total Count: **276**

Bikers:	114 (41%) (53 wore helmets 46%)
Runners:	12 (4%)

Walkers: 129 (47%)
Skaters: 10 (4%)
Passengers: 9 (4%)
Misc. 2 (<1%) (wheel chair and skate board)
Dogs: 36 (not included in the total count of users)

Highest Usage from 1-3pm 65 (24%) with a close second from 3-5pm 59 (21%)

METRA (by Willard Frasier Bridge over Alkali Creek)

Total Count: **224**

Bikers: 106 (47%) (56 wore helmets 53%)
Runners: 7 (3%)
Walkers: 97 (43%)
Skaters: 1 (<1%)
Passengers: 5 (2%)
Misc. 8 (4%)
Dog: 15 (not included in the total count of users)

Highest Usage from 1-3pm & 5-7 pm 49 each session (22%)

SWORDS PARK TRAIL (by trailhead parking lot) Airport Road Construction and motorist discouraged from using Airport Road as delays

Total Count: **138**

Bikers: 16 (12%) (9 wore helmets 56%)
Runners: 20 (14%)
Walkers: 93 (67%)
Scooters: 2 (1%)
Passengers: 7 (5%)
Dog: 33 (not included in the total count of users)

Highest Usage from 9-11 am 30 (22%)

Date: Sunday, May 17, 2009 7am-9pm

Weather Conditions: Sunny, warm and breezy in the afternoon, beautiful day in the 70's and 80's

Locations: Descro Park Trail (by bridge), **Big Ditch** (Larchwood, west of Shiloh underpass, in line with Coulton Blvd.), **Kiwanis/Metra/Coulson Trail** (by Two Moon Park) **Swords Park Trail**, (by trailhead parking lot)

Also Counting **Soft surface users** into **Two Moon Park** and by **Norm's Island** by Riverfront Park

DESCRO (by bridge)

Total Count: **425**

Bikers:	178 (42%) (86 wore helmets 48%)
Runners:	25 (6%)
Walkers:	192 (45%)
Skaters:	10 (2%)
Passengers:	20 (5%)
Dogs:	30 (not included in the total count of users)

Highest Usage from 5-7 pm 133 (32%)

BIG DITCH (Larchwood, west of Shiloh underpass, in line with Coulton Blvd.)

Total Count: **400**

Bikers:	165 (41%) (121 wore helmets 73%)
Runners:	21 (5%)
Walkers:	181 (45%)
Skaters/Scooters:	9 (2%)
Passengers:	24 (6%)
Dogs:	38 (not included in the total count of users)

Highest Usage from 9-11 am 94 (21%)

KIWANIS/METRA/COULSON (by Two Moon Park)

Total Count: **407**

Bikers:	267 (66%) (100 wore helmets 37%)
Runners:	7 (1%)
Walkers:	109 (27%)
Skaters:	8 (2%)
Passengers:	16 (4%)
Dogs:	47 dogs and 3 Deer (not included in the total count of users)

Highest Usage from 3-5 pm 80 (20%)

SWORDS PARK TRAIL (by trailhead parking lot)

Total Count: **420**

Bikers:	45 (11%) (23 wore helmets 51%)
Runners:	50 (12%)
Walkers:	289 (69%)

Skaters: 9 (2%)
Passengers: 27 (6%)
Dogs: 63 (not included in the total count of users)

Highest Usage from 7-9 pm 80 (19%) Close second 11am-1pm 77 (18%)

SOFT SURFACE TRAILS (Sunday only)

TWO MOON PARK

Total Count: **389**

Did not differentiate user types

NORM'S ISLAND

Total Count: 826

Bikers: 101 (12%) (58 wore helmets 57%)
Runners: 33 (4%)
Walkers: 659 (79%)
Passengers: 24 (3%)
Dogs: 314 (not included in the total count of users)

Highest Usage from 3-5 pm 206 (25%)

OVERALL RESULTS

DESCRO for 5/14/09 & 5/17/09

Total Count: **991**

Bikers: 305 (31%) (147 wore helmets 48%)
Runners: 40 (4%)
Walkers: 603 (61%)
Skater: 11 (1%)
Passengers: 25 (3%)
Misc: 7 (<1%)

KIWANIS/METRA/COULSON for 5/14/09 & 5/17/09

Total Count: **907**

Bikers: 487 (54%) (209 wore helmets 43%)
Runners: 26 (3%)
Walkers: 335 (37%)
Skaters: 19 (2%)

Passengers: 30 (3%)
Misc: 10 (1%)
BIG DITCH for 5/14/09 & 5/17/09

Total Count: **653**

Bikers: 245 (38%) (188 wore helmets 77%)
Runners: 68 (10%)
Walkers: 296 (45%)
Skaters: 12 (5%)
Passengers: 28 (2%)
Misc: 4 (<1%)

SWORDS PARK for 5/14/09 & 5/17/09

Total Count: **558**

Bikers: 61 (11%) (32 wore helmets 52%)
Runners: 70 (13%)
Walkers: 382 (68%)
Skaters: 11 (2%)
Passengers: 34 (6%)

HARD SURFACE TRAIL TOTALS (Both Days 2009) - 3,109

Dominant Users

Bikers: 1,098 (35%) 576 with helmets (52%)
Walkers: 1,616 (52%)

COMPARISONS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

2003 1,953
2005 2,750 41% increase from 2003 with Big Ditch Trail added
2007 2,877 5% increase from 2005 with Swords Park Trail added
2009 3,109 8% increase from 2007 Same trails counted in 2007

Totals from Soft Surface Trails (Two Moon and Norm's Island) on Sunday, May 17

2009 Total count 1215
2007 Total count 744
2005 Total count 786

CONCLUSIONS:

In 2009, we again had more walkers, whereas in 2003, bikers were dominant. This is probably due to the fact that the Big Ditch Trail and Descro Park are both short trails and more conducive to walkers and are in existing neighborhoods. Swords Park Trail is also only a 2 mile segment, which also seems to draw the walkers. Three of the trails, the Big Ditch Trail, Descro Park and the Kiwanis Trail are also used by school age children to walk and bike to school which is why

we conducted the trail census while school was still in session. Since constructing the Stewart Park Trail which provides a connection to Descro Park Trail and with construction this summer of the continuation of that trail to the south, it will be more conducive to bikers as well. The infrared trail counter will give us additional opportunities to do random counts along various trail segments throughout the year.

It also should be noted that in 2007, we conducted the trail census on the weekend on Saturday instead of Sunday, since the Magic City Trail Trek was being held on Sunday and in 2009 we went back to the trail census on Sunday which might bring out more people to the trails. The trail census is very dependent on the weather and with the cooler, windy and rainy conditions on Thursday; it definitely showed with lower census numbers on Thursday. Since Airport Road is under construction, traffic is being discouraged to use this roadway which plays into the usage of Swords Park Trail since it is only accessible by Airport Road. It appears that on Sunday when road construction crews were not working, more people accessed Swords Park Trail. The soft surface trails are very popular and this year we saw a big increase in the amount of use around Norm's Island.

Many of the folks that helped with the census on the Descro and Big Ditch Trail were from the neighborhood and are using the trail. They have been pleased with the trail development and are anxious for it to continue to expand. In fact, the West End Neighborhood Task Force is very interested in a crossing at Broadwater to provide a safe access from Descro Park to Lillis Park which should be constructed this summer as well as the expansion of the trail to south through Lampman Parkway and the trail south of King. Many trail users that talked with the census takers expressed their interest and support of the trails.

THANKS:

We especially want to thank everyone that helped with this year's census. It was a great effort by these folks: Marge McArthur, Jenny Moellendorf, Kit Nilson, Lori Trump, Jean Smith, Carolyn Smith,, Jim Bonsal, Nash Emrich, Dick Spalding, Mildred & Bill Reinke, Kathy Breshears, Betty Brotzel, Doris Olson, Robin Cormier, Noel Hawke, Don Worth, Billy Hicks, Mary Lou Fundingsland, Mick Ohnstad, Tina & Ed Whitfield, Bruce Chessen, Anna Wessel, Kelly Martinson, Shery Berthoud, Kelly Bustell, Rusty Hansen, Chris Schmechel, Scott Walker, Woody Woodbury, M.J. Monroe, Jens Selvig, Terri Walters, Gary Hafer, Don Jore, Diane & Vonnie Fries, Carol Perman, Chris Grey, Karen Schneider, Laura Estes, Cheryl Hoover, Judy Spooner, Lauri Miron, Sue Nord, Pam & Stu Briggs, Stella Fong, Mavis Curry, Ginny Jensen, Anna Wessell, Theresa Keaveny, Scott Walker, Darlene Tussing, Peggy Good, Kathy Reinhardt, Marlene Tetrault, Paul Chinberg, Sharon Shanon, Kyle Forman, Kate Novakavich, Rachel Cox, Lee & Carla Stadtmiller, Lynda Rivinius, Ronda Vukasin, Jeff Bollman and Wyeth, Donna & Parker Friday.