

# TRAIL CENSUS 2011

**Date: Thursday, June 2, 2011 7am-9pm**

Weather Conditions: Sunny and beautiful in the morning 55-65 degrees  
Afternoon wind picks up and warm. Winds really strong in evening with  
temperatures cooling down, so chilly.

**Locations on Hard Surface Trail: Descro Park Trail** (by bridge), **Big Ditch** (38<sup>th</sup> 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 & shelter)

Total Count: **781**

Bikers:	163 (21%) (94 wore helmets 57%)
Runners:	9 (1%)
Walkers:	562 (72%)
Skaters:	26 (3%) (includes skateboarders)
Passengers:	20 (3%)

Highest Usage was from 1-3 pm with 175 (22%)

**BIG DITCH** (38<sup>th</sup> St. W, east of Shiloh underpass, in line with Colton Blvd.)

Total Count: 579 (includes Arrowhead students on field trip geo caching on the trail. Count of 210 as students back and forth on the trail)

Bikers:	137 (24%) (97 wore helmets 71%)
Runners:	62 (11%)
Walkers:	366 (63%) (includes 210 counts from students geo-cacheing)
Skaters:	2 (<1%)
Passengers:	8 (1 %)
Misc:	4 (<1%) (scooters & electric skate boards)

Highest Usage from 11-1 pm 162 (26%)

**KIWANIS** (by Bitterroot School access)

Total Count: **251**

Bikers:	153 (61%) (64 wore helmets 42%)
Runners:	11 (4%)
Walkers:	73 (29%)
Skaters:	6 (2.5%)

Passengers: 6 (2.5%)  
Misc. 2 (<1%) (scooters)  
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: **241**

Bikers: 103 (43%) (50 wore helmets 49%)  
Runners: 5 (2%)  
Walkers: 124 (51%)  
Skaters: 0 (0%)  
Passengers: 7 (3%)  
Misc. 2 (<1%)

Highest Usage from 11-1pm 71 (29%)

**SWORDS PARK TRAIL** (by trailhead parking lot)

Total Count: **347**

Bikers: 33 (10%) (12 wore helmets 36%)  
Runners: 57 (16%)  
Walkers: 212 (62%)  
Skaters: 38 (11%) (includes skateboarders)  
Passengers: 1 (<1%)

Highest Usage from 11-1 pm 73 (22%)

**Date: Sunday, June 5, 2011 7am-9pm**

Weather Conditions: Sunny, warm and calm, beautiful day, Warmer in afternoon in the upper 80's with slight breeze,

**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: **535**

Bikers:	257 (48%) (90 wore helmets 35%)
Runners:	19 (4%)
Walkers:	190 (36%)
Skaters:	40 (7%)
Passengers:	20 (4%)
Misc:	9 (1%)

Highest Usage from 7-9 pm 100 (19%)

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

Total Count: **471**

Bikers:	230 (49%) (167 wore helmets 73%)
Runners:	54 (11%)
Walkers:	145 (31%)
Skaters:	11 (2%) (Includes skateboarders)
Passengers:	18 (4%)
Misc:	13 (3%) (Includes wheelchair and electric & regular scooters)
Dogs:	40 (not included in the total count of users)

Highest Usage from 11-1 am 91 (19%)

**KIWANIS/METRA/COULSON** (by Two Moon Park)

Total Count: **459**

Bikers:	272 (60%) (110 wore helmets 40%)
Runners:	22 (5%)
Walkers:	134 (29%)
Skaters:	29 (6%)

Highest Usage from 1-3 pm 116 (25%)

**SWORDS PARK TRAIL** (by trailhead parking lot)

Total Count: **743**

Bikers:	133 (18%) (83 wore helmets 62%)
Runners:	74 (10%)
Walkers:	501 (67%)
Skaters:	12 (2%)
Passengers:	22 (3%)

Highest Usage from 1-3pm 179 (24%)

**SOFT SURFACE TRAILS** on Sunday only

**TWO MOON PARK**

Total Count: **450**

Did not differentiate user types

**NORM'S ISLAND**

Total Count: 420

Bikers:	48 (11%) (15wore helmets 31%)
Runners:	25 (6%)
Walkers:	340 (81%)
Passengers:	7 (2%)

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

**OVERALL RESULTS**

**DESCRO** for 6/2/11 & 6/5/11

Total Count: **1316**

Bikers:	420 (32%) (187 wore helmets 45%)
Runners:	28 (2%)
Walkers:	752 (57%)
Skater	66 (5%)
Passengers	41 (3%)
Misc:	9 (<1%)

**KIWANIS/METRA/COULSON** for 6/2/11 & 6/5/11

Total Count: **951**

Bikers:	528 (56%) (224 wore helmets 42%)
Runners:	38 (4%)
Walkers:	331 (35%)
Skaters:	35 (4%)
Passengers:	13 (1%)
Misc:	4 (<1%)

**BIG DITCH** for 6/2/11 & 6/5/11

Total Count: **1050 with geo-cache students, 840 without**

Bikers:	367 (34%) (264 wore helmets 72%)
Runners:	116 (11%)
Walkers:	556 (52%)
Skaters:	13 (<1%)
Passengers:	26 (1%)
Misc:	17 (2%)

**SWORDS PARK for 6/2/11 & 6/5/11**

Total Count: **1090**

Bikers:	166 (15%) (115 wore helmets 69%)
Runners:	127 (12%)
Walkers:	713 (66%)
Skaters:	50 (5%)
Passengers:	23 (2%)

**Totals from all Hard Surface Trails on Both Days (2011) 4363**

**Dominant Users**

Bikers: 1481 (35%) 790 with helmets (53%)  
 Walkers: 2392 (54%)

**COMPARISONS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS**

<b>2003</b>	<b>1953</b>	
<b>2005</b>	<b>2750</b>	<b>41% increase from 2003 with Big Ditch Trail added</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>2877</b>	<b>5% increase from 2005 with Swords Park Trail added</b>
<b>2009</b>	<b>3109</b>	<b>8% increase from 2007 Same trails counted in 2007</b>
<b>2011</b>	<b>4363</b>	<b>40% increase from 2009 Same trails counted in 07 &amp; 09</b>

**If use totals without geo-cache students 4153 with 34% increase**

**Totals from Soft Surface Trails (Two Moon and Norm's Island) on Sunday, June 5**

**2011 Total count 870**  
**2009 Total count 1215**  
**2007 Total count 744**  
**2005 Total count 786**

**CONCLUSIONS:**

In 2011, we tried to do the trail census in May, but because of the heavy rains and cold weather, we rescheduled for the first week in June while school was still in session. We again had more walkers, whereas in 2003, bikers were dominant. The Kiwanis/Metra/Coulson Trail was the only trail with more bikers which may be due to the fact that it is the longest continuous trail of the ones we counted. 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. We saw a huge increase in trail usage from previous years. Part of it might be due to the fact we finally were getting some

nice weather, but may also be that more people have discovered the trails and are trying to live a healthier lifestyle. We did have an influx on the Big Ditch Trail on Thursday as the older students at Arrowhead had a field day and had several geo-cache stations set up along the trail so they walked back and forth by the census volunteers several times and accounted for about 120 counts. The infrared trail counter will give us additional opportunities to do random counts along various trail segments throughout the year. We also noted that we continue to see more people using bike helmets.

We did have some construction blockages on the trail by the Metra with the Bench Road and bridge project being worked on in that area. It appeared on the main section of trail by Alkali Creek Bridge that users were just going around or moving the barricades and we still saw an increase in usage from 2009. Despite the very strong winds and cooling temperatures on Thursday evening, we still saw quite a bit of activity on the trails. Since we did not count dogs consistently and since they are not part of the total trail count, we did not record those results except at the Big Ditch on Sunday when all of the volunteers tracked the dogs.

The soft surface trails are very popular but this year we saw a decrease in the amount of use around Norm's Island which may be due to all the rains and flooding along the Yellowstone River and the island still had some water and damage from the flooding. However, we did see an increase in usage on the soft surface trails in Two Moon.

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.

### **THANKS:**

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