

MAKING A GREAT PLACE



Regional Trail Counts Partners

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Clackamas County
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Oregon State Parks
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Portland
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Tigard
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Vancouver Parks
West Linn
Wilsonville / SMART

Learn more:
www.oregonmetro.gov/trailcounts

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Regional Trails Coordinator
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Regional Trail Counts: 2014

Get involved with an ongoing project to collect important data on bicycle and pedestrian activity

Sept. 9-14, 2014, 5-7 p.m. weekdays & 9-11 a.m. weekends

Ready, set, count!

Each September, volunteers from throughout the region gather along trails to count and survey people biking and walking on the Intertwine – the Portland metropolitan area's system of trails, parks and natural areas. The count is part of the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project's ongoing effort to gather accurate trail use data to help decide where and when to build new trails and respond to the needs of trail users.

Partners and volunteers are critical to the project's success

The Intertwine trail counts and surveys project could not be accomplished without the help of local partners and volunteers. In 2013, 100 volunteers along with partners from 20 different cities and agencies counted at 109 unique sites. Across the country more than 93 cities and regions conduct the trail counts each September. Each shift consists of two hours at one count location. Volunteers will be trained and receive maps/aerial photos and specific instructions on how to do the counts. A count form example is located on our website at www.oregonmetro.gov/trailcounts.

Why count?

Walking is the number one recreational activity in the State of Oregon, and bicycling is quickly becoming a key mode of commuting in the city of Portland, with about 10 percent of daily weekday commuters using bikes or walking. The Portland metropolitan area is supported by a system of regional trails that connect people to natural areas and wildlife, transit, schools, shopping and jobs. The growing network of bicycle and pedestrian pathways supports active transportation, offers recreational opportunities and helps the region grow in a way that improves livability and reduces energy dependence. The Intertwine trail counts and surveys project helps maintain and increase these benefits by tracking usage, trail conditions and future demand.

Counting automobiles and transit users has been a well-established practice for years, but until now there has been no consistent effort to do the same for bikers and walkers. The lack of data is part of the reason why bike lanes, sidewalks and trails receive less transportation funding.

The data gathered is used to support funding requests, grant applications, planning and development and to better understand the region's overall feelings and values about trails. Trail count data leads to more funding for trails!

Volunteers use nationally standardized methods for surveying and data recording in order to ensure consistent responses. To learn more about the project and last year's results, visit our webpage at www.oregonmetro.gov/trailcounts.

Metro will lead the seventh annual Intertwine trail count Sept. 9-14, 2014, with new and returning partners. Sites selected for the project will be tied to current or future trail projects.

Most Used Trails – annual estimates

Trail Name	Trips per year
Tom McCall Waterfront	3.5 million
Park Trail	
Eastbank Esplanade	2.1 million
South Waterfront Trail	1.3 million
Springwater on the Willamette	1.2 million
Columbia Renaissance	700,000

To become a trail counts volunteer, contact:

Mel Huie, Regional Trails Coordinator
mel.huie@oregonmetro.gov

For more information on Metro's parks and trails program, contact:

Carrie Belding, Program Assistant
carrie.belding@oregonmetro.gov

Volunteer Training Sessions

Thursday, September 4, 2014
4 to 5 p.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Metro Regional Center, Room 270

