

Cheasty Mountain Bike Trail Monitoring

Year 1 - 2023 Quarter 2 Monitoring Report

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Parks & Recreation



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<i>All photos and maps in this report by Nelson Salisbury - © EarthCorps, 2023.</i>	
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1. Introduction

Seattle Parks and Recreation contracted with EarthCorps in 2020 to develop and implement a monitoring plan prior to the construction associated with the [Cheasty Mountain Bike/Pedestrian Trail Pilot Project](#) at the Cheasty Natural Area in South Seattle. This report summarizes the findings for the Year 1 Quarter 2 monitoring period (April-June, 2023).

EarthCorps performed the following monitoring tasks for Quarter2 (actual site visit occurred in the beginning of Q3 (July 06, 2023) due to extenuating circumstances experienced by EarthCorps' Senior Ecologist):

- Full-trail Rapid Monitoring
- Cheasty Boulevard Car Parking Monitoring
- Plot-level Photo Monitoring

Note that the Upper 2-way Option Loop trail was still under construction at the time of the survey. This section was not included in the full-trail rapid monitoring and Plot three as-built monitoring has not occurred. The following table describes the proposed monitoring year designations for this three-year reporting period:

Baseline (pre-construction):	2020
Trail construction:	2021
Trail construction continued:	2022
Year 1 monitoring:	2023
Year 2 monitoring:	2024
Year 3 monitoring:	2025

2. Full-Trail Rapid Monitoring

EarthCorps Ecologist and Habitat Specialist performed a whole-trail walkthrough to note and demarcate any damages or management concerns along the entire trail network. Locations were mapped using GPS and are included on an interactive web-based mapping platform.

The following attributes were considered:

- Substantial damage to vegetation;
- Substantial areas of cleared or bare ground;
- Substantial evidence of ponding or trail erosion;
- Evidence of bikes or pedestrians leaving the path;
- Specific maintenance issues or other concerns
- Damages to wetland or other fencing
- Evidence of homeless encampments or illegal dumping

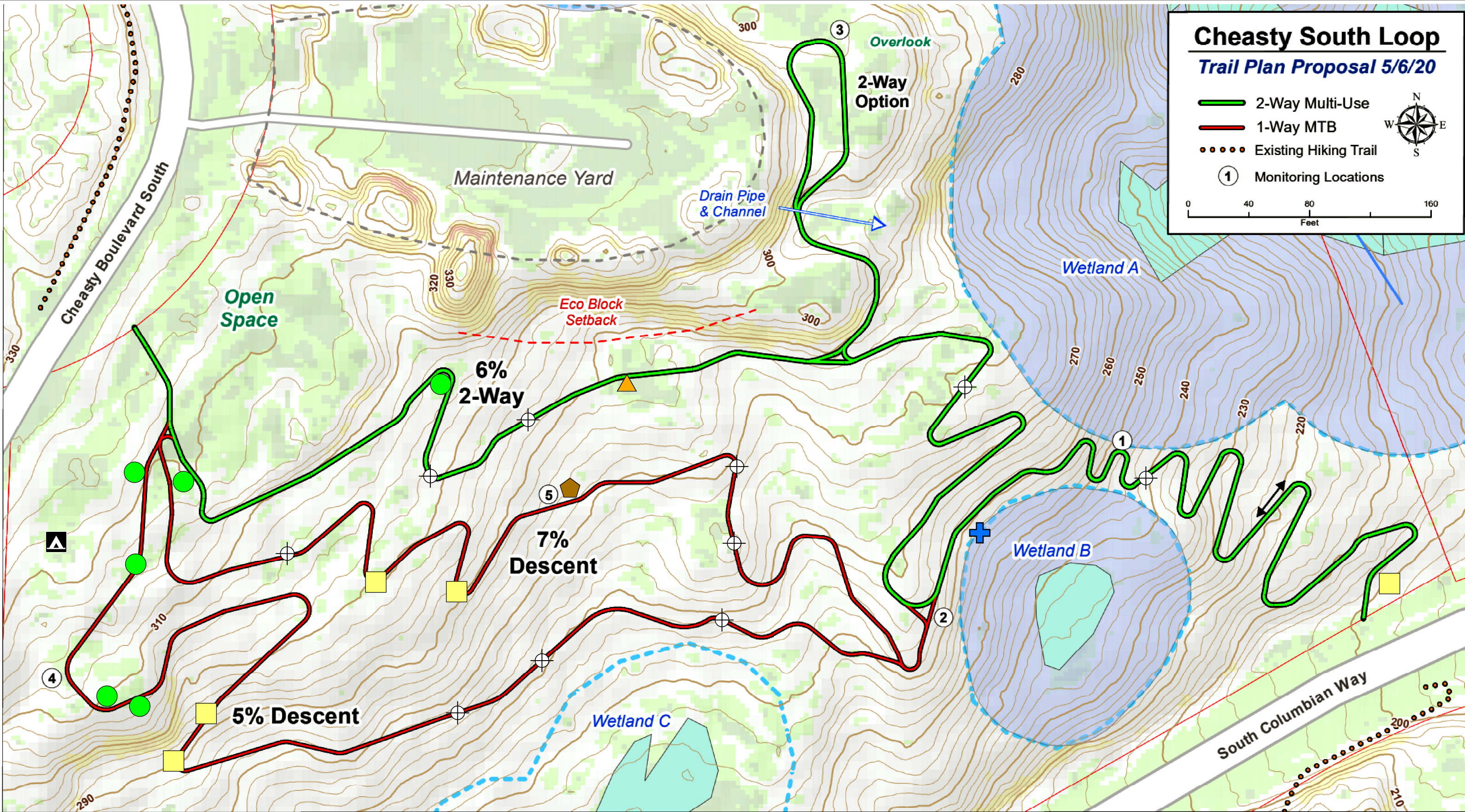
Overall issues were generally moderate and included pruning of vegetation, minor erosion issues, and some indication of unauthorized trail construction. NO damages to existing wetland fencing were observed although a more thorough inventory will be done in Q3. Below is a map showing the general locations and types of issues encountered. For photo documentation, please visit the interactive mapping application: [Cheasty Full-Trail Rapid Monitoring \(arcgis.com\)](#).

Cheasty South Loop

Trail Plan Proposal 5/6/20

— 2-Way Multi-Use
— 1-Way MTB
⋯ Existing Hiking Trail
1 Monitoring Locations

0 40 80 160 Feet



Cheasty Mountain Bike Trail

Q2 Monitoring - 07/06/2023

Conditions	Erosion	Fence
Vegetation	Leaving Trail	Encampment
Bare Ground	Maintenance	



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3. Cheasty Boulevard Car Parking Monitoring

Any illegal or improperly parked cars were observed along Cheasty Boulevard between Beacon Ave S and S Andover Street. During the site visit on July 6, 2023, there was one improperly parked vehicle on the east side of Cheasty Boulevard just north of the entrance to the yard (see photos below). No other parking issues were observed at this time.



4. Plot-level Photo Monitoring

Photos were taken at each plot in the same manner as 2022 Q4. Generally, photos were taken at the edge of the 1/10 acre plot looking along the trail corridor(s) towards the center of the plot. These photos can be compared to 2022 Q4 photo monitoring (and future iterations) to show change over time. Photos are included in Appendix A.

Cheasty Greenspace Mountainbike/Pedestrian Trail – South Loop

Photo monitoring Year 1, Q2 2023

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Plot	# of Photos
1	4
3 photo points at: #1 top of trail looking NE (1 photo), #2 southern switchback looking NW and NE (2 photos), and #3 bottom of trail looking N (1 photo)	

Plot 1 Photo Point 1 (NE)



Plot 1 Photo Point 2a (NW)



Plot 1 Photo Point 2b (NE)



Plot 1 Photo Point 3 (N)



Plot	# of Photos
2	8
4 photos at each of the individual trail legs that enter or exit the plot (3 looking downhill and 1 looking uphill) starting at NW trail and continuing clockwise. #1 top of south leg looking SE. #2 at top of north leg looking SW. #3 at top of 2-way looking S. #4 at bottom of 2-way looking SW.	

Plot 2 Photo Point 1 (SE)



Plot 2 Photo Point 2 (SW)



Plot 2 Photo Point 3 (S)



Plot 2 Photo Point 4 (SW)



Plot	# of Photos
4	4
3 photo points at: #1 top of trail looking SW (1 photo), #2 at end of line-intercept transect looking N and E (2 photos), and #3 bottom of trail looking SW (1 photo)	

Plot 4 Photo Point 1 (SW)



Plot 4 Photo Point 2a (N)



Plot 4 Photo Point 2b (E)



Plot 4 Photo Point 3 (SW)

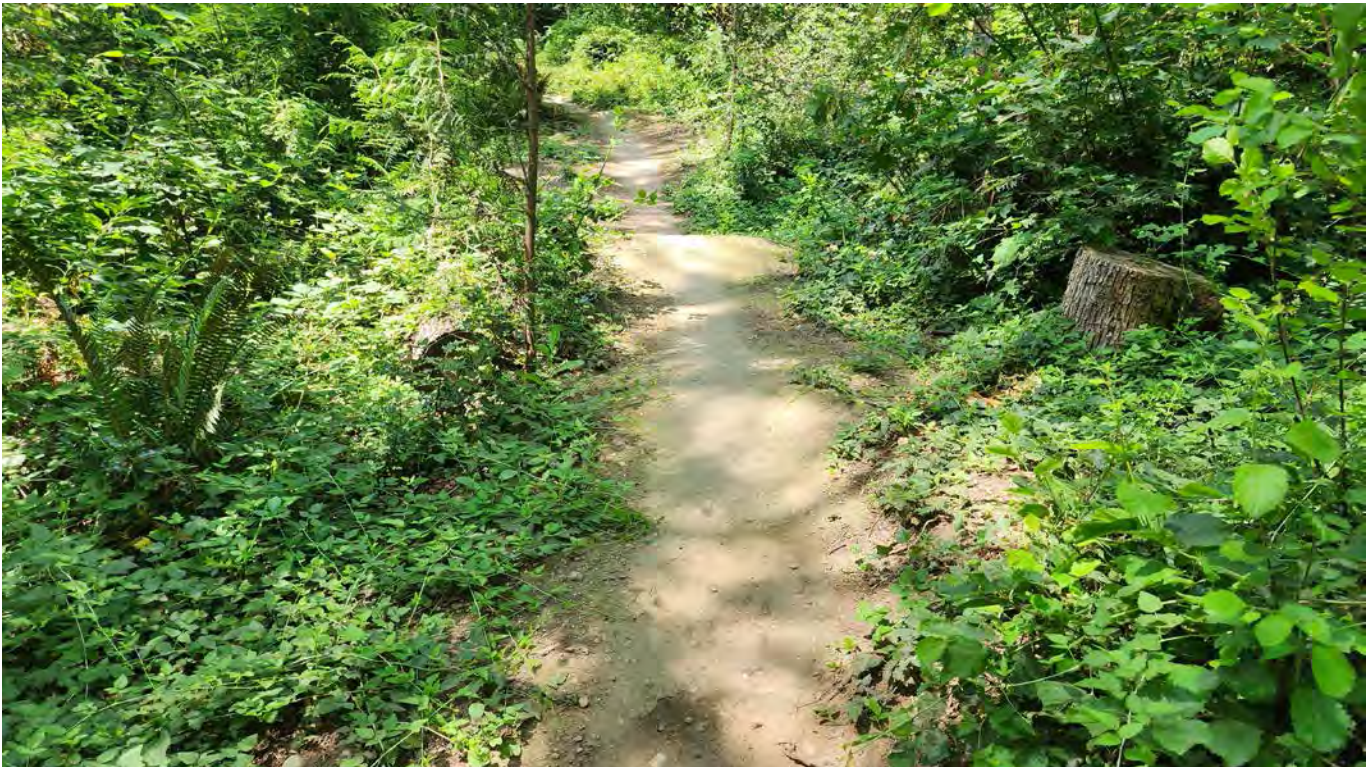


Plot	# of Photos
5	2
2 photo points at: #1 top of trail looking NE (1 photo) and #2 bottom of trail looking SW (1 photo)	

Plot 5 Photo Point 1 (NE)



Plot 5 Photo Point 2 (SW)



Cheasty Quarterly Monitoring: Q2, 2023

Date: 6/28/23, 8:00 AM-9:15 AM

SPR Representative: Kelly Stamm

Other Attendees: None

1. Illegal parking on Cheasty Boulevard

No vehicles observed parking on Cheasty Boulevard.

2. Wildlife observed

Three squirrels, one rabbit and one dead mole were seen. Birds were seen but not identified. Merlin App sound identified Song Sparrow, Northern Flicker and Black-capped Chickadee. No other wildlife was observed.

3. Camping/homeless encampment activity

No active encampments were seen. Two apparent previous encampments were seen near Cheasty Boulevard at the top of the Cottonwood Trail. Some trash/debris remained after cleanup at the lower previous encampment site but no new trash or debris was seen at either location.



Figure 1: Previous encampment at top of Cottonwood Trail



Figure 2: Debris from encampment at first switchback on Cottonwood Trail

4. Use/disuse of social trails

Active social trails were observed near 24th and Cheasty, at the bottom of the multi-use trail near Columbian Way and between the multi-use trail and meadow near Cheasty Boulevard. A previous social trail off the 2nd switch back on the Cottonwood Trail appears to be in disuse. The new social trail that appeared between the multi-use trail and the Red Cedar trail near the top appears to have started to regrow, but there is a new social trail between the Cottonwood Trail and the Red Cedar Trail.

Notably, someone appears to have built a new mountain bike hill along the Cottonwood Trail. SPR to follow up with forest steward regarding removal.



Figure 3 New social trail on Cottonwood Trail



Figure 4: Social trail at Columbian Way



Figure 5: Social trail at meadow

5. Damage and degradation to wetlands not protected by fencing

No damage or degradation to wetlands was observed.



Figure 6 Wetland fencing

6. Trash and dumping

SDOT was performing debris removal from Cheasty Boulevard during the site walk, and some minor trash was seen along the trails, mainly on the Snowberry Trail within 100' of Cheasty Boulevard and Columbian Way. Old couch is still in place along Cottonwood Trail.



Figure 7: Old debris along Cottonwood Trail



Figure 8: Trash along Snowberry Trail

Corrective Actions this Quarter

Including but not limited to re-building or re-alignment of trail segments, new signage, new fencing, drainage modifications etc.

Some new “Peds/No-Bikes” signs were added along Cheasty Blvd per FOC request. Construction sign for South Loop was removed and a new North Loop construction sign installed along Cheasty Blvd.

Rerouting of the Red Cedar trail is ongoing per the SDCI permit revision.



Figure 9 Red Cedar reroute under construction

City of Seattle Parks & Recreation



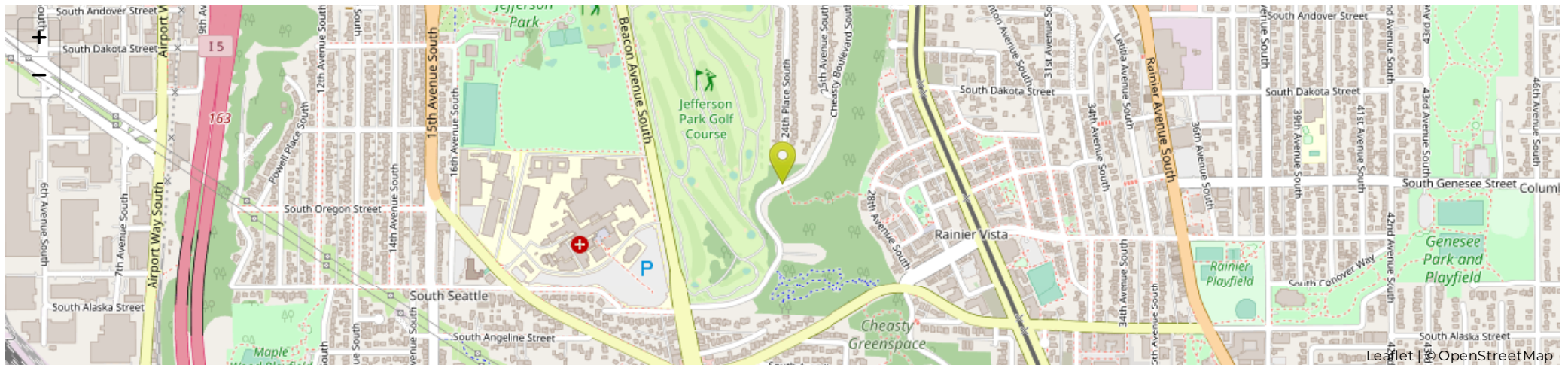
Seattle
Parks & Recreation

Mike Schwindeller
06/28/2023

Cheasty Trails- Pedestrian- N. of 24th Pl

March 6, 2023 12:00 AM → June 28, 2023 12:00 AM

Location



Daily Average Bicyclists

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023

Daily Average

0

Daily Average Peds

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023

Daily Average

588

Peak Day Bicyclists

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023

Peak Day

6

Wednesday
May 10, 2023

Peak Day Peds

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023

Peak Day

895

Thursday
May 11, 2023

Daily Avg. - Week Ped&Bike

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023

Daily Average

636

Daily Avg. - Weekend Ped&Bike

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023

Daily Average

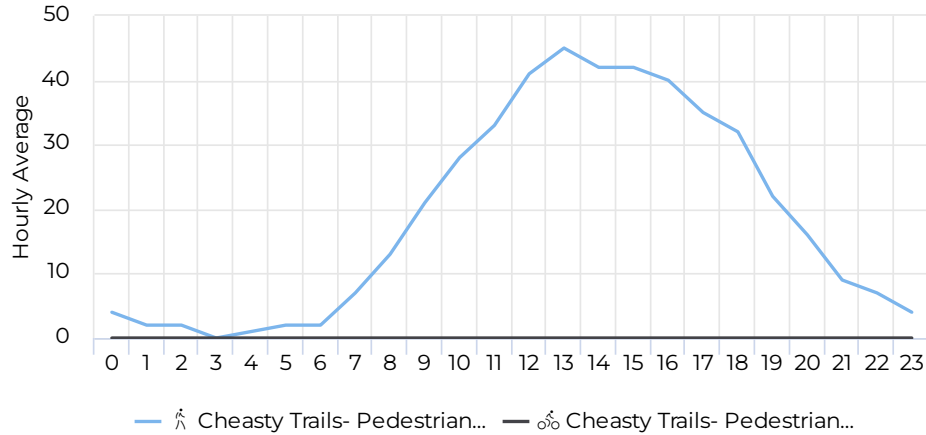
450

Cheasty Trails- Pedestrian- N. of 24th Pl

March 6, 2023 12:00 AM → June 28, 2023 12:00 AM

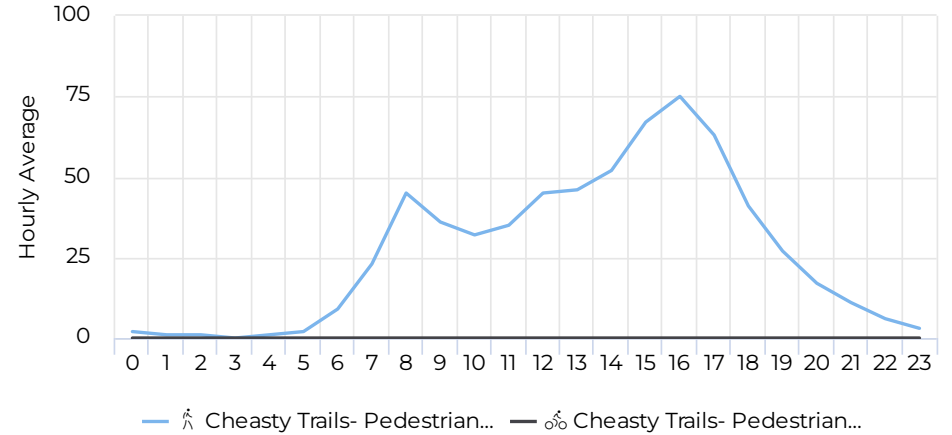
Hourly Profile - Weekend

03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023



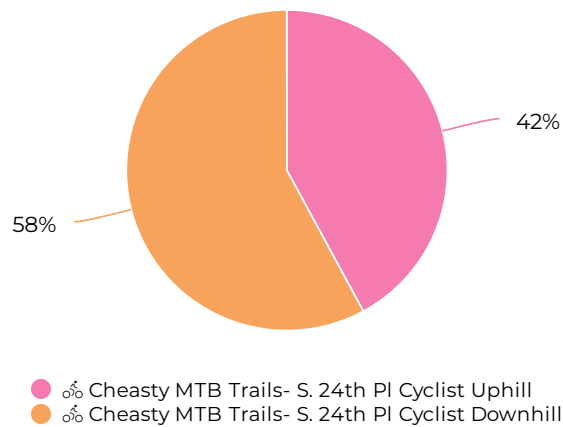
Hourly Profile - Weekdays

03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023

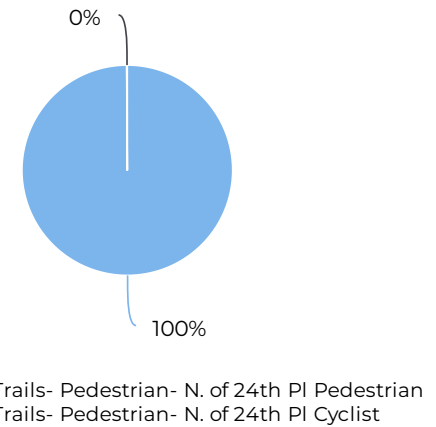


Downhill Vs Uphill Cyclists

03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023



Bike/Ped Distribution

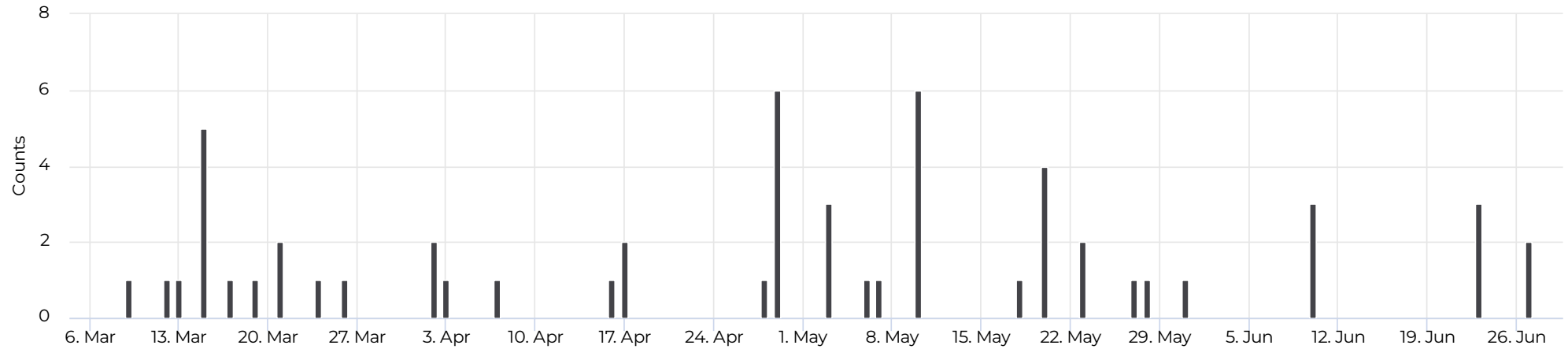


Cheasty Trails- Pedestrian- N. of 24th Pl

March 6, 2023 12:00 AM → June 28, 2023 12:00 AM

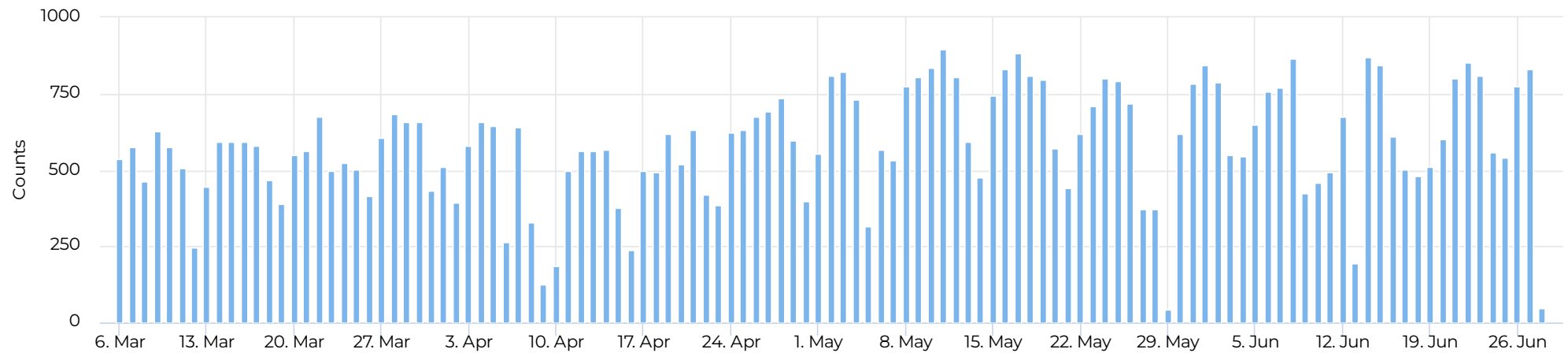
Daily Cyclists

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023



Daily Pedestrians

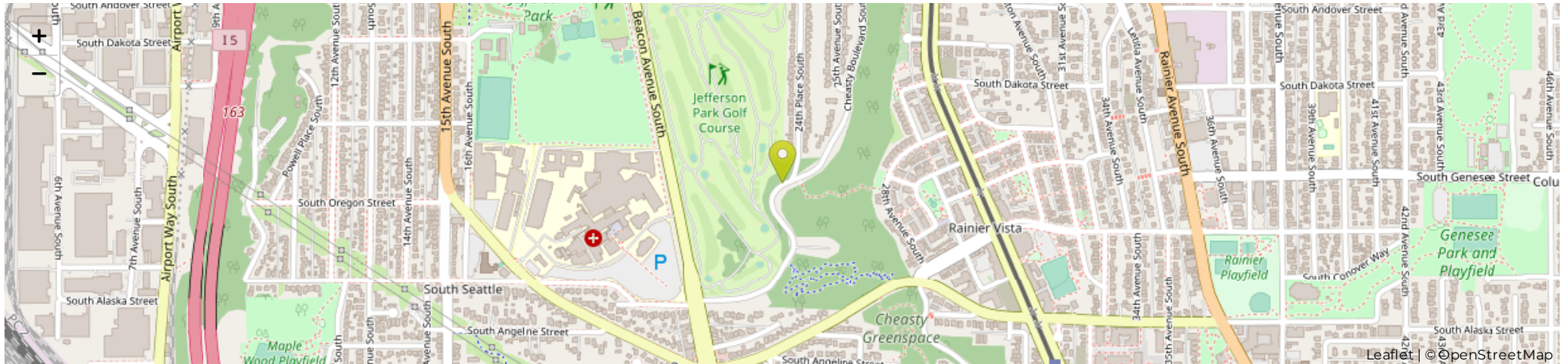
📅 03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023



Cheasty Trails- Pedestrian- S. of 24th Pl

March 6, 2023 12:00 AM → June 28, 2023 12:00 AM

Location



Daily Average Bicyclists

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023

Daily Average

3

Daily Average Peds

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023

Daily Average

473

Peak Day Bicyclists

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023

Peak Day

15

Saturday
Jun 3, 2023

Peak Day Peds

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023

Peak Day

871

Thursday
May 25, 2023

Daily Avg. - Week Ped&Bike

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023

Daily Average

518

Daily Avg. - Weekend Ped&Bike

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023

Daily Average

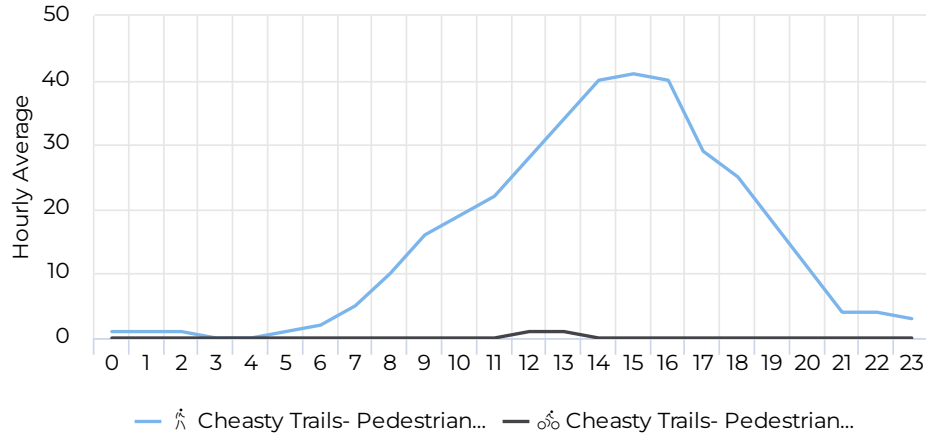
358

Cheasty Trails- Pedestrian- S. of 24th PI

March 6, 2023 12:00 AM → June 28, 2023 12:00 AM

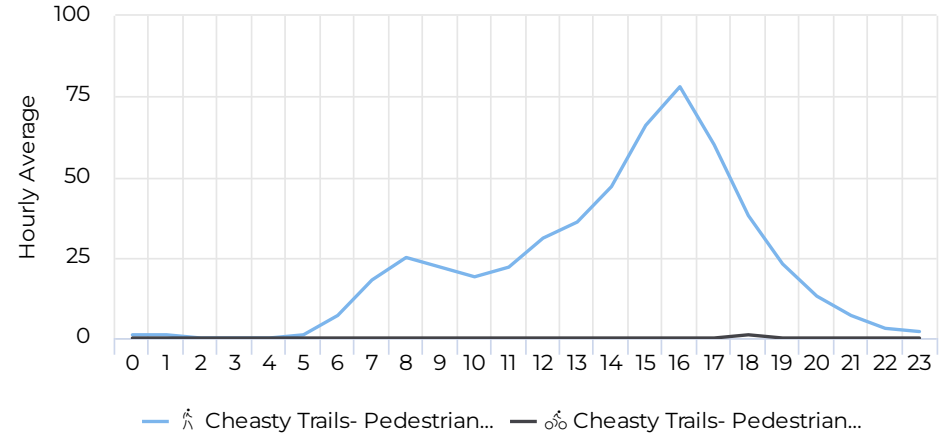
Hourly Profile - Weekend

03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023



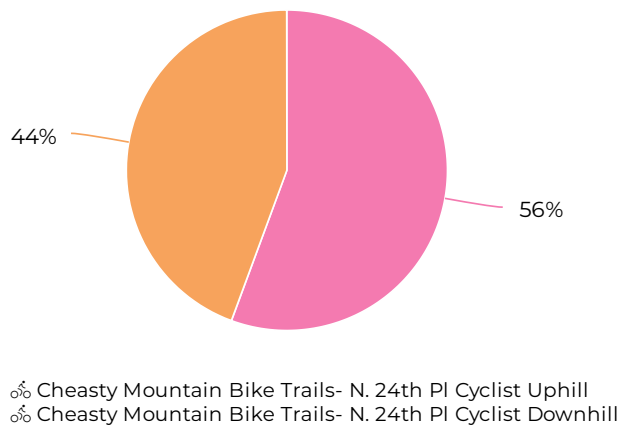
Hourly Profile - Weekdays

03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023

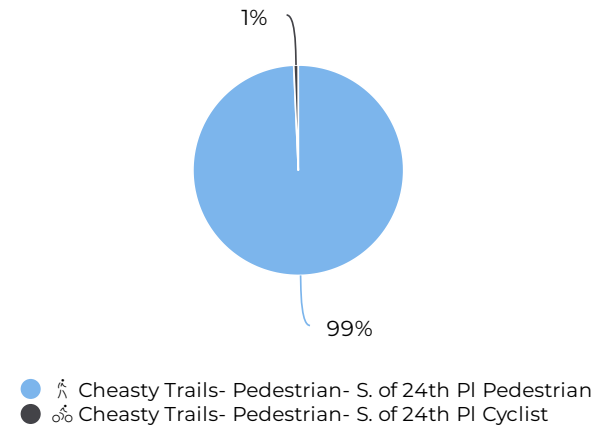


Downhill Vs Uphill Cyclists

03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023



Bike/Ped Distribution

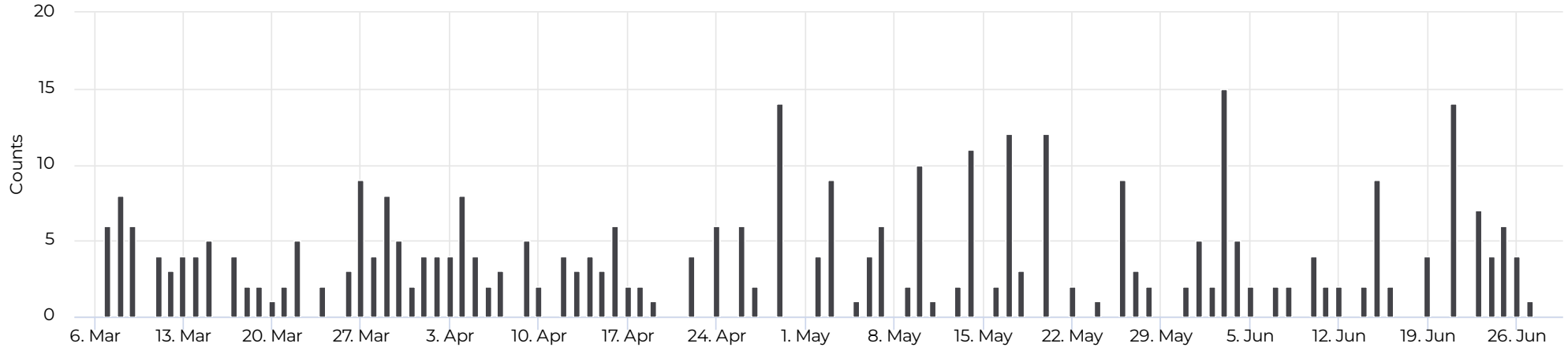


Cheasty Trails- Pedestrian- S. of 24th Pl

March 6, 2023 12:00 AM → June 28, 2023 12:00 AM

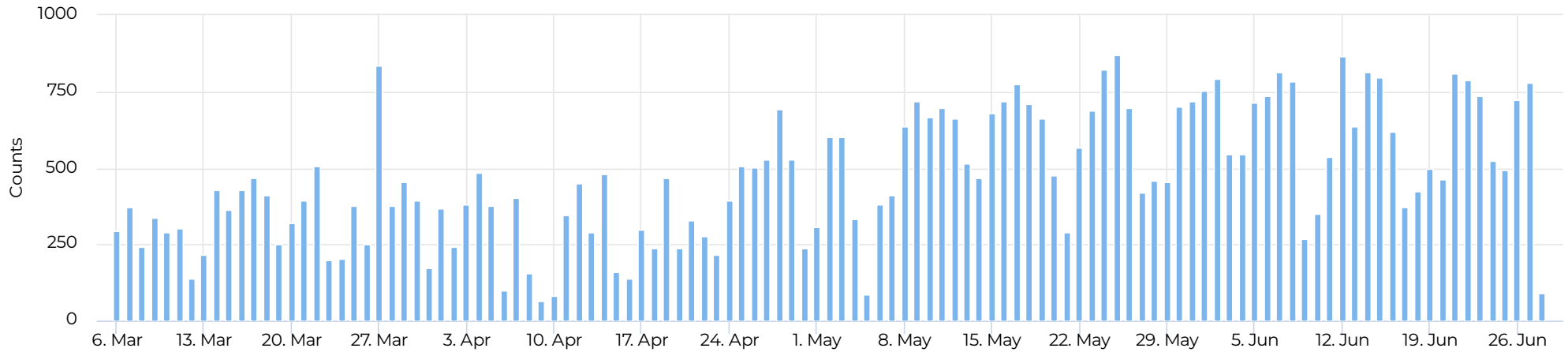
Daily Cyclists

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023



Daily Pedestrians

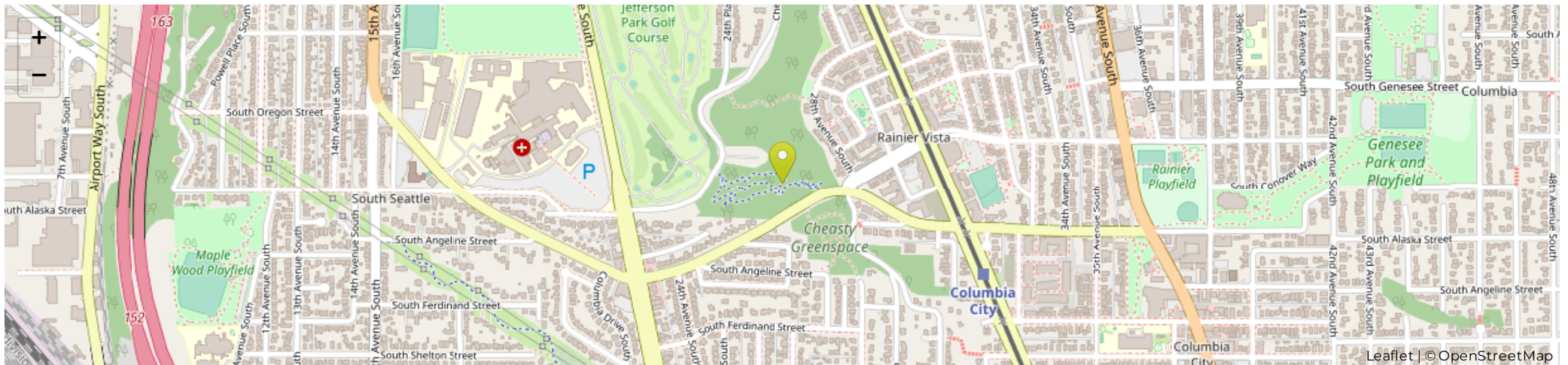
📅 03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023



Cheasty Trails- Snowberry Trail

March 6, 2023 12:00 AM → June 28, 2023 12:00 AM

Location



Daily Average Bicyclists

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023

Daily Average

46

Daily Average Peds

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023

Daily Average

45

Peak Day Bicyclists

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023

Peak Day

157

Saturday
Mar 18, 2023

Peak Day Peds

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023

Peak Day

121

Saturday
May 13, 2023

Daily Avg. - Week Ped&Bike

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023

Daily Average

89

Daily Avg. - Weekend Ped&...

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023

Daily Average

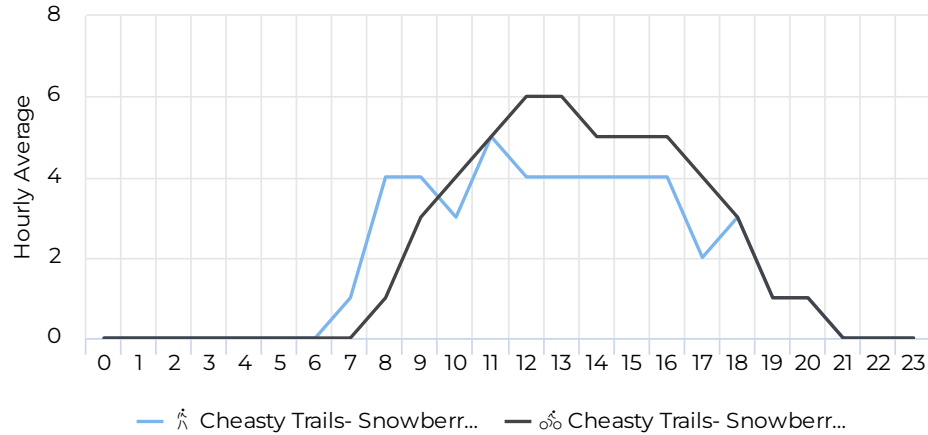
93

Cheasty Trails- Snowberry Trail

March 6, 2023 12:00 AM → June 28, 2023 12:00 AM

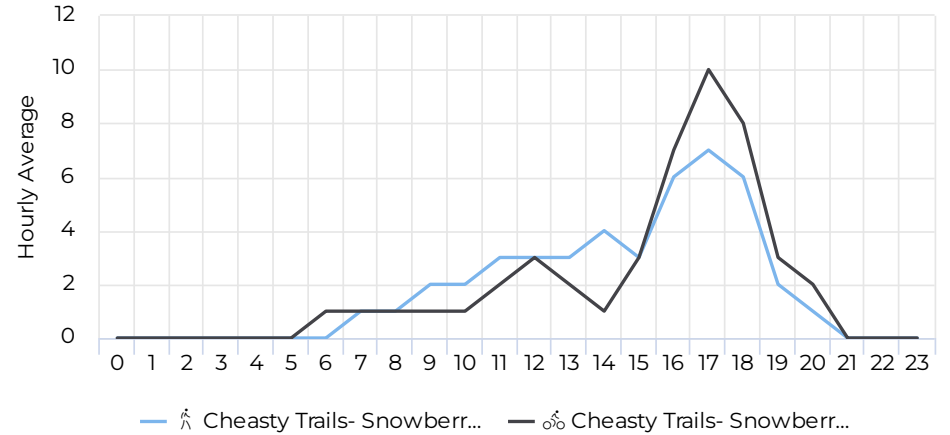
Hourly Profile - Weekend

03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023



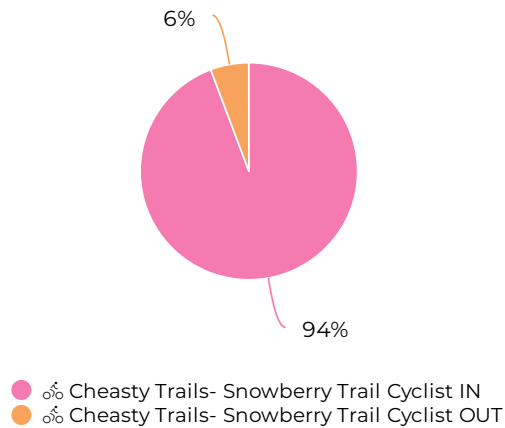
Hourly Profile - Weekdays

03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023

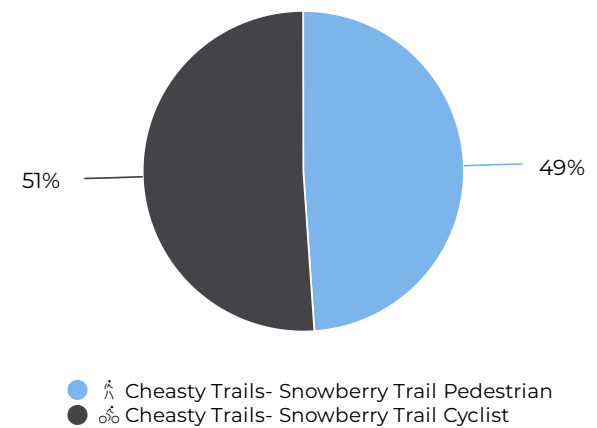


Downhill Vs Uphill Cyclists

03/06/2023 → 06/27/2023



Bike/Ped Distribution

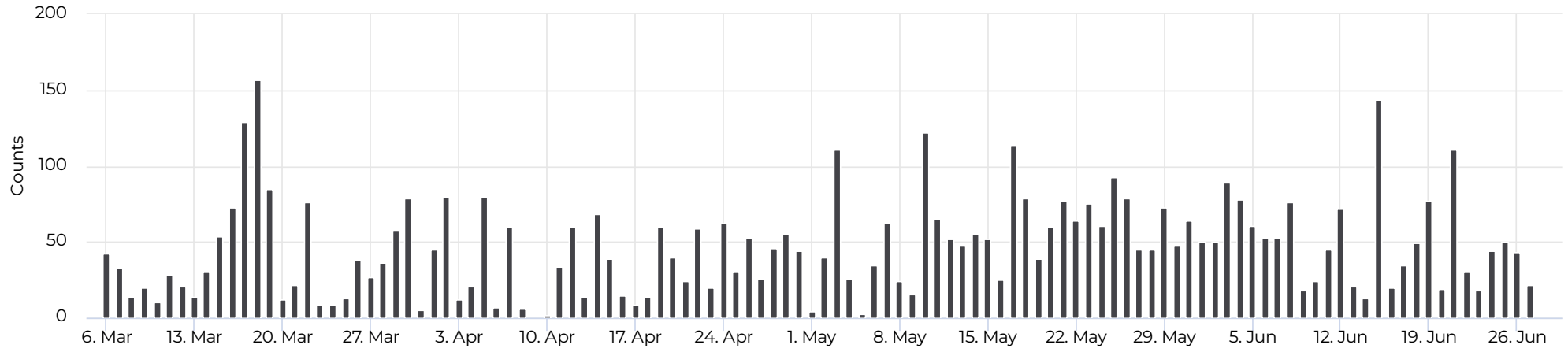


Cheasty Trails- Snowberry Trail

March 6, 2023 12:00 AM → June 28, 2023 12:00 AM

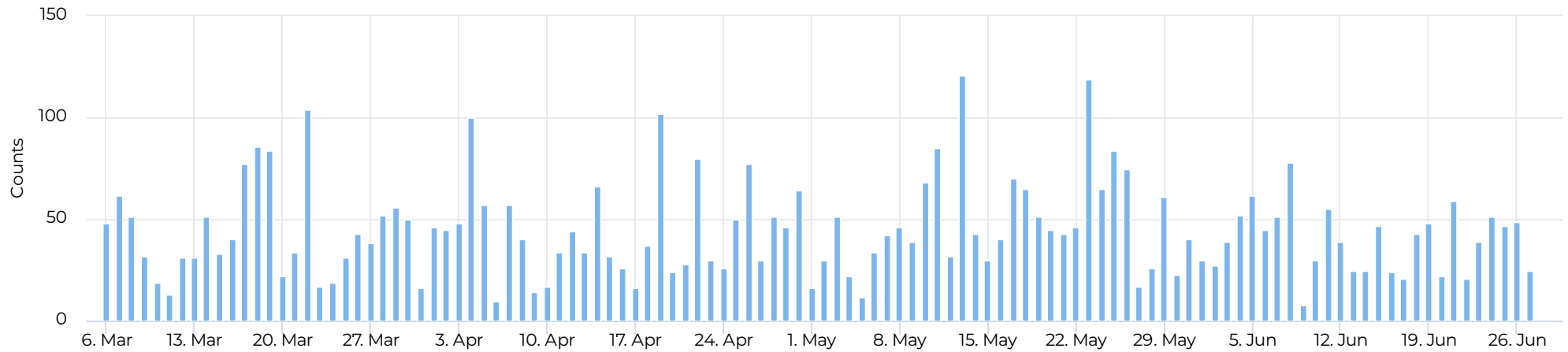
Daily Cyclists

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023



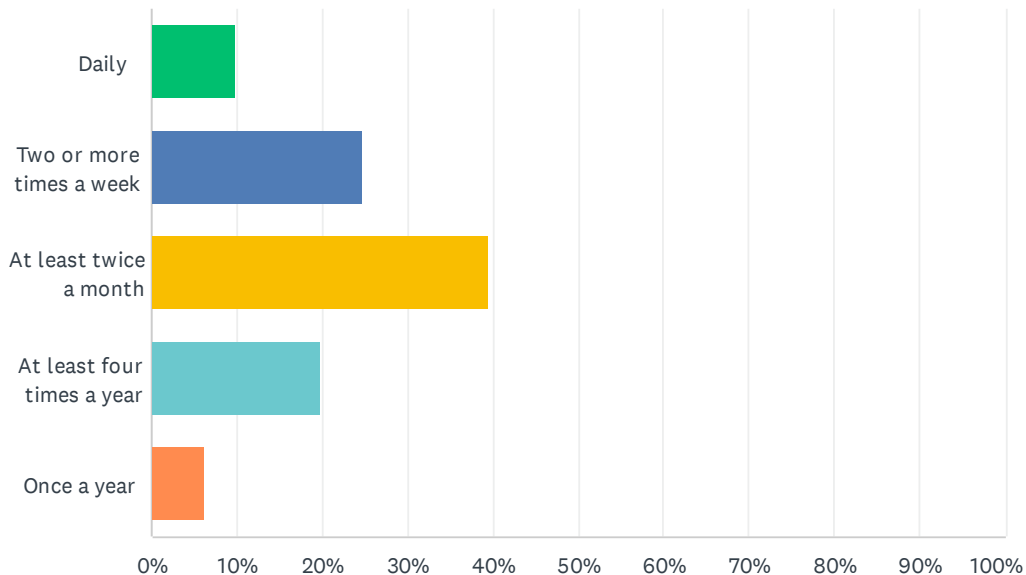
Daily Pedestrians

📅 03/06/2023 → 06/28/2023



Q1 How often do you visit the Cheasty Pedestrian and Mountain Bike Trail?

Answered: 81 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	9.88%	8
Two or more times a week	24.69%	20
At least twice a month	39.51%	32
At least four times a year	19.75%	16
Once a year	6.17%	5
TOTAL		81

Q2 In what ZIP code is your home located? (enter 5-digit ZIP code; for example, 00544 or 94305)

Answered: 81 Skipped: 0





RESPONSES (81)

WORD CLOUD

TAGS (3)

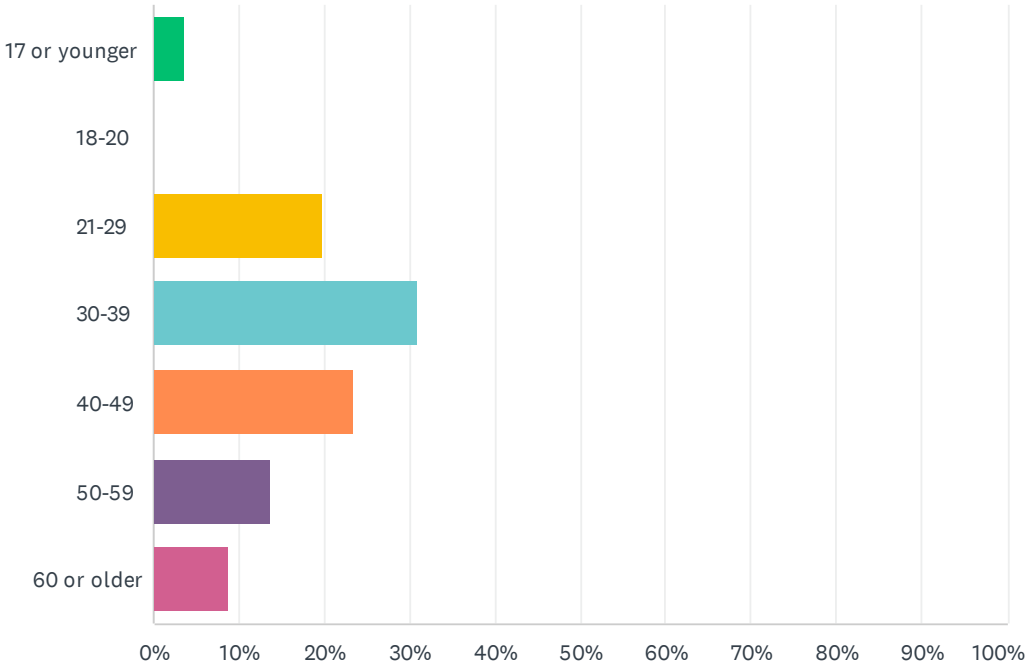
Tags

+ New Tag

98108	98108		32.1%	26	View all	Edit	Delete
98118	98118		24.69%	20	View all	Edit	Delete
98144	98144		23.46%	19	View all	Edit	Delete
Untagged			19.75%	16	View all		

Q3 What is your age?

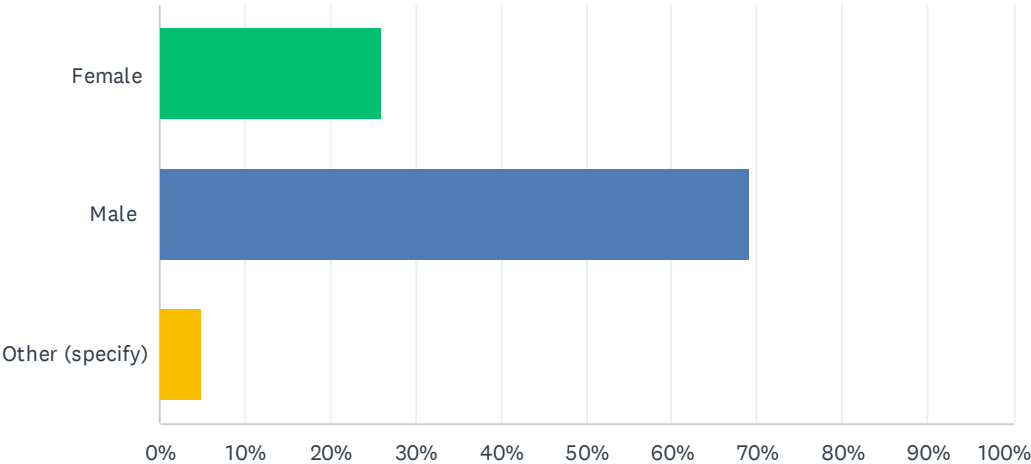
Answered: 81 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
17 or younger	3.70%	3
18-20	0.00%	0
21-29	19.75%	16
30-39	30.86%	25
40-49	23.46%	19
50-59	13.58%	11
60 or older	8.64%	7
TOTAL		81

Q4 What is your gender?

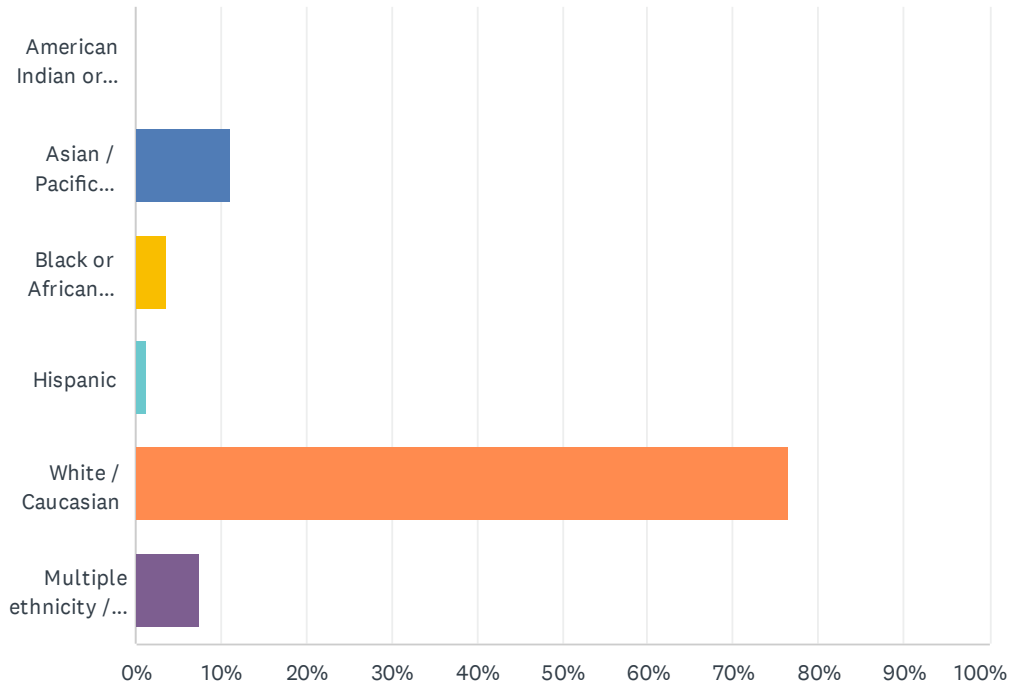
Answered: 81 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	25.93%	21
Male	69.14%	56
Other (specify)	4.94%	4
TOTAL		81

Q5 Which race/ethnicity best describes you? (Please choose only one.)

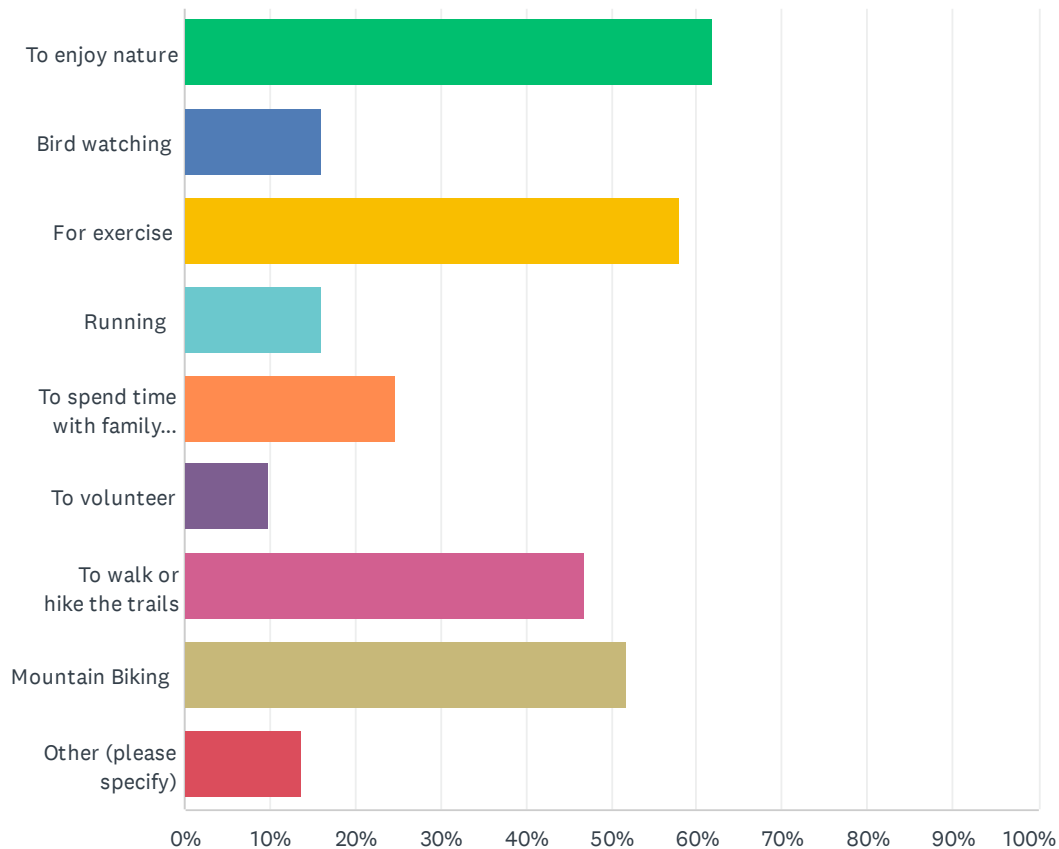
Answered: 81 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.00%	0
Asian / Pacific Islander	11.11%	9
Black or African American	3.70%	3
Hispanic	1.23%	1
White / Caucasian	76.54%	62
Multiple ethnicity / Other (please specify)	7.41%	6
TOTAL		81

Q6 Why do you visit the Cheasty Pedestrian and Mountain Bike Trail? (check all that apply)

Answered: 81 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
To enjoy nature	61.73%	50
Bird watching	16.05%	13
For exercise	58.02%	47
Running	16.05%	13
To spend time with family and/or friends	24.69%	20
To volunteer	9.88%	8
To walk or hike the trails	46.91%	38
Mountain Biking	51.85%	42
Other (please specify)	13.58%	11
Total Respondents: 81		

Q7 Rate your experience of the trail

Answered: 80 Skipped: 1

4.7★
average rating



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6.25% 5	20.00% 16	73.75% 59	80	4.67

Cheasty Boulevard FindIt FixIt Data Summary

10/1/22-03/31/23

Report Type

	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails	20	0	0	0	2	1	0
Other part	7	0	3	2	0	0	0
On Trails	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	27	1	3	2	2	1	0

04/01/23-06/30/23

Report Type

	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails	10	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other part	7	1	1	1	0	5	0
On Trails	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18	1	1	1	0	5	2

*Defined as between 4310 Cheasty Blvd and 25th Ave S