

2024 Trail Use Counter Annual Report

Blazing New Trail Use Counters!

In 2024, the City installed 12 infrared trail use counters to better understand pedestrian activity across Sammamish's trails and parks. During this first year, efforts focused on establishing the program and refining the data collection process. We've learned a lot and are excited to build on this foundation as we gather more data in the program's second year.

2024 Trail Use Counter Locations:

- **Evans Creek Preserve** – 4 counters
Counters are placed within the Preserve and on adjacent City-owned properties to the south. These locations help track current trail use and monitor changes as new trail connections are introduced in 2025–2026.
- **Sammamish Commons** – 2 counters
Positioned on the east and west sides of the Commons, these counters provide baseline data on visitor trends. This information will offer valuable comparisons as the Town Center continues to develop.
- **Beaton Hill Park & Big Rock Park** – 3 counters
With master plans recently adopted for Beaton Hill Park and Big Rock Park South, and the soft opening of Big Rock Park South in the fall of 2024, these counters will help assess how visitors are using these newly accessible areas.
- **Inglewood Hill Road** – 1 counter
This counter tracks pedestrian activity along existing east-west routes, helping to evaluate sidewalk use and connectivity across the City.
- **Ebright Creek Park (west location)** – 1 counter
Placed at the western edge of the park, this counter measures how often this area is visited and its role in overall park use.
- **SE 24th Street** – 1 counter
Without formal sidewalks, SE 24th Street provides a unique opportunity to understand pedestrian activity on less-developed routes and assess the need for future improvements.

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Lessons from Year One

As with any new program, the first year brought a few challenges. Staff experienced a learning curve with setting up and maintaining the counters, which were installed at different times throughout the year. Some devices needed adjustments, while others were briefly obstructed by debris or even occupied by bees and spiders! Despite these hurdles, the program has already provided valuable insights, and refinements in year two will improve data consistency and accuracy.



Lesson 1: Watch out for spiders and bees!



Lesson 2: Sometimes it's best to look down



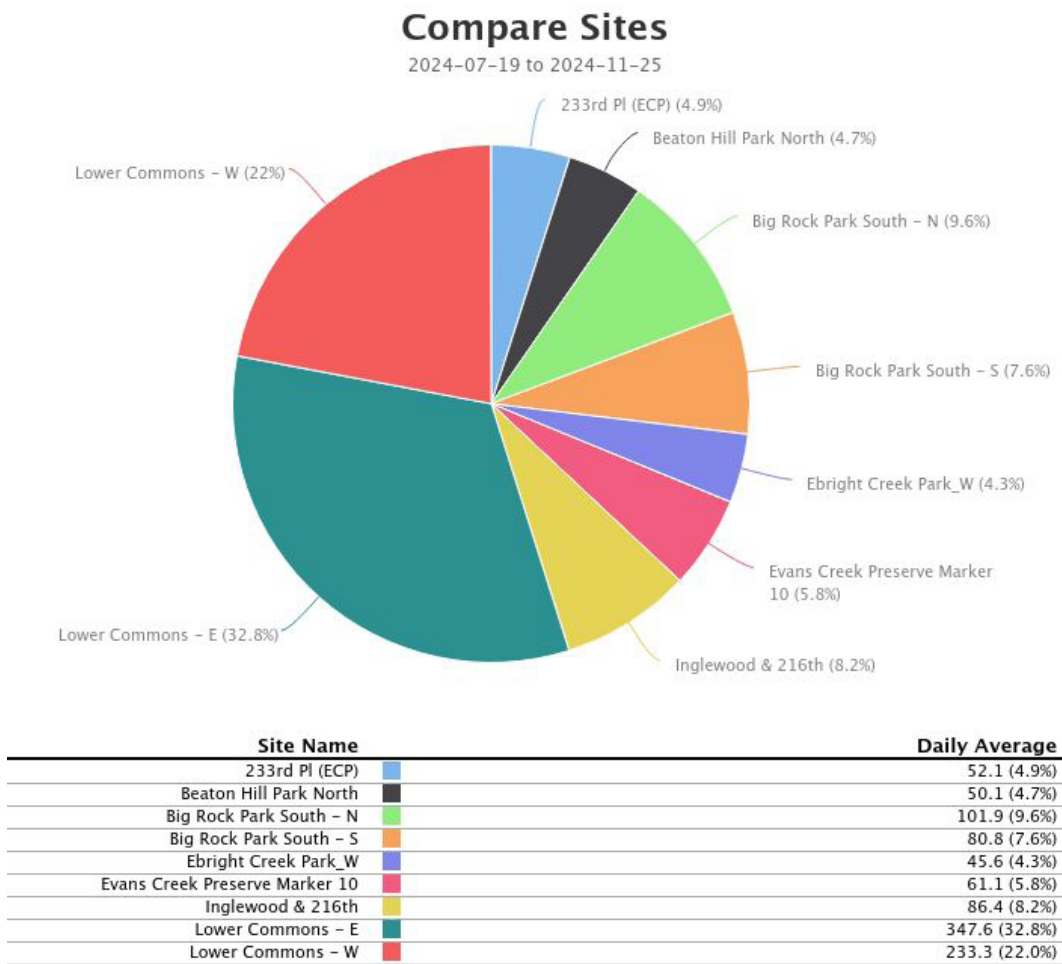
Lesson 3: Keep it simple - no issues here

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Interesting Trends

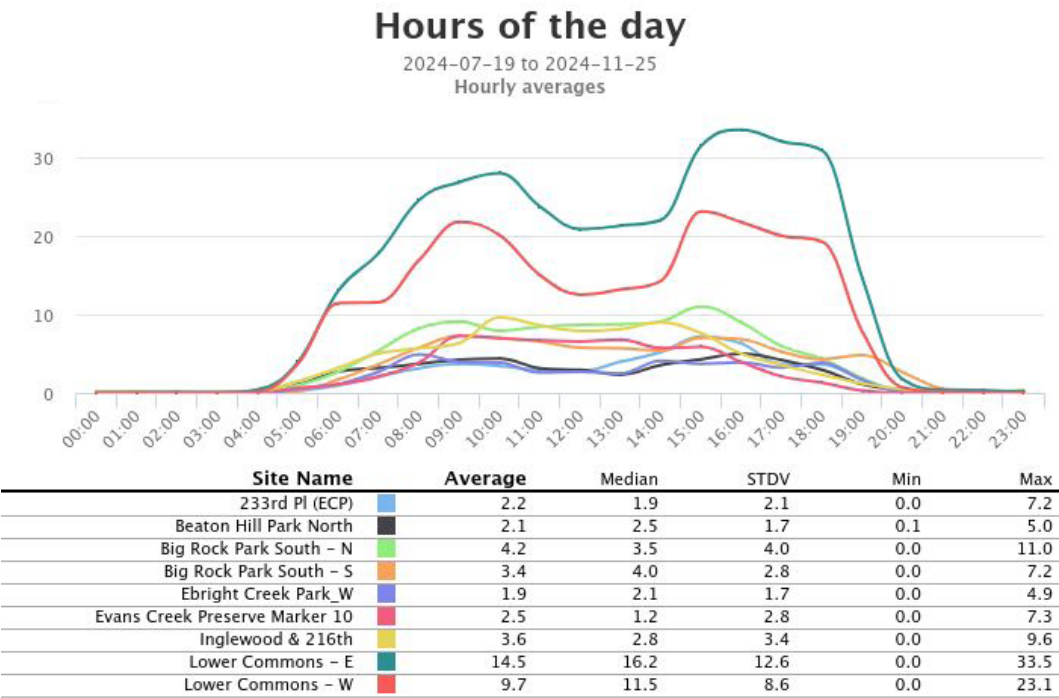
While the data is still preliminary, some patterns are emerging. It’s important to note that differences between counter locations can affect these findings. Here are some trends we’re beginning to observe:

- Trail and park usage remains fairly consistent throughout the week.
- Sammamish Commons stands out as the most visited park, with peak visits from 9:00 am to 11:30 am and again from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
- Fridays tend to be the least popular day to visit parks.
- As expected, summer sees the highest levels of trail and park activity.

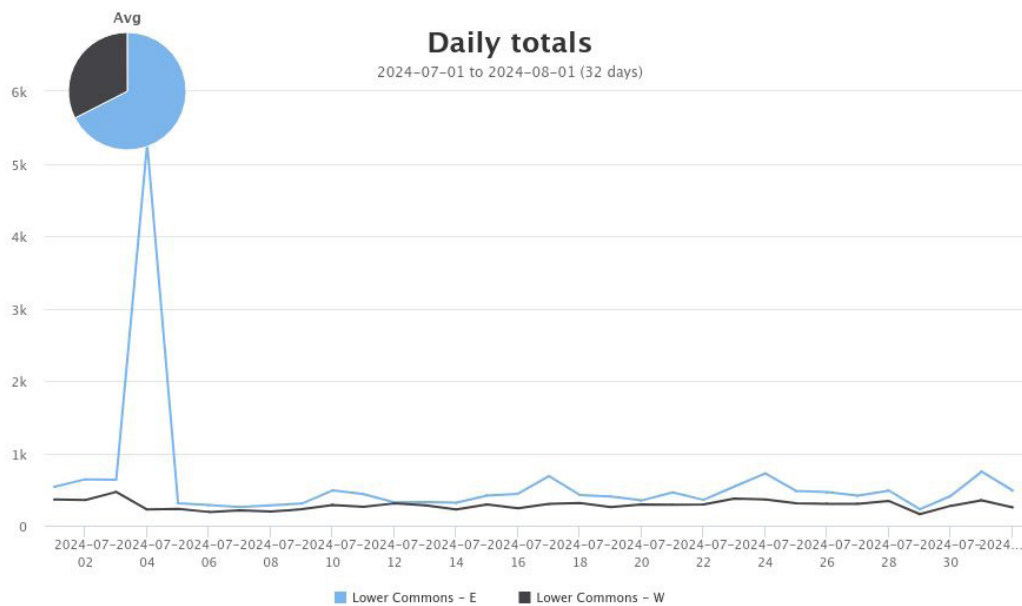


Site use during a period of constant data for nine locations.

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Peak visits at Sammamish Commons are from 9:00 am to 11:30 am and 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm.



Trail use counters are useful for showing trends, though not precise counts. For example, this Sammamish Commons counter site recorded over 5,000 visitors on the 4th of July — fewer than the 12,000+ estimated to be on site, but still a clear indicator of heavy park use and strong turnout.

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The Path Ahead for 2025

As trail counters are a new addition to the City of Sammamish, more data is needed to identify long-term trends. In 2025, staff will focus on tracking usage patterns, enhancing data accuracy, and improving how this information is shared with the public. Other goals for 2025:

- Following a review of the 2024 locations, one counter will be relocated. The Ebright Creek Park counter will be moved to a new location, which will be determined in the coming months.
- To expand coverage and enhance understanding of trail activity, the City will install three additional counters at locations yet to be finalized.

2024 was just the beginning of our trailblazing journey! In 2025, we'll keep moving forward, fine-tuning the data, and adding more counters to help us stay on track for better trails and connections in Sammamish.

