

# 2025 Trail Use Counter Annual Report

## Finding Our Footing

Following the inaugural year of trail use counters in 2024, the City entered year two with a focus on refining the program to provide more meaningful and consistent data. Lessons learned in the first year informed adjustments to counter locations, maintenance practices, and data collection methods. In 2025, Parks expanded the system by adding three new trail use counters and replacing one that was stolen, for a total of 15 Parks counters. Public Works also installed one additional counter, which is not included in this annual summary.

To improve data quality and better understand patterns of use, the City removed single counters from locations including Inglewood Hill Road, Ebright Creek Park (west location), and SE 24th Street. Experience has shown that multiple counters within a park or study area provide more meaningful insights into how spaces are used.

## 2025 Trail Use Counter Locations:

- **Evans Creek Preserve** – 3 counters  
Counters are placed within the Preserve and on adjacent City-owned properties to the south. These locations continue to track trail use and monitor changes as new trail connections are introduced in the coming years. Data this year may also reflect volunteer work parties and restoration efforts in the area.
- **Williams Pipeline Trail (North)** – 3 counters  
To better understand use of this informal trail, three counters have been installed along the northern portion, from Illahee Pond to NE 25th Way. These locations help assess how frequently the trail is used and how it functions as a connection within the community.
- **Sammamish Commons** – 2 counters  
Positioned on the east and west sides of the Commons, these counters continue to provide baseline data on visitor trends. This information remains valuable as development within the Town Center progresses.
- **Beaton Hill Park & Big Rock Park** – 3 counters  
With master plans recently adopted and Big Rock Park South opening in fall 2024, these counters help assess how visitors are using these newly accessible areas.

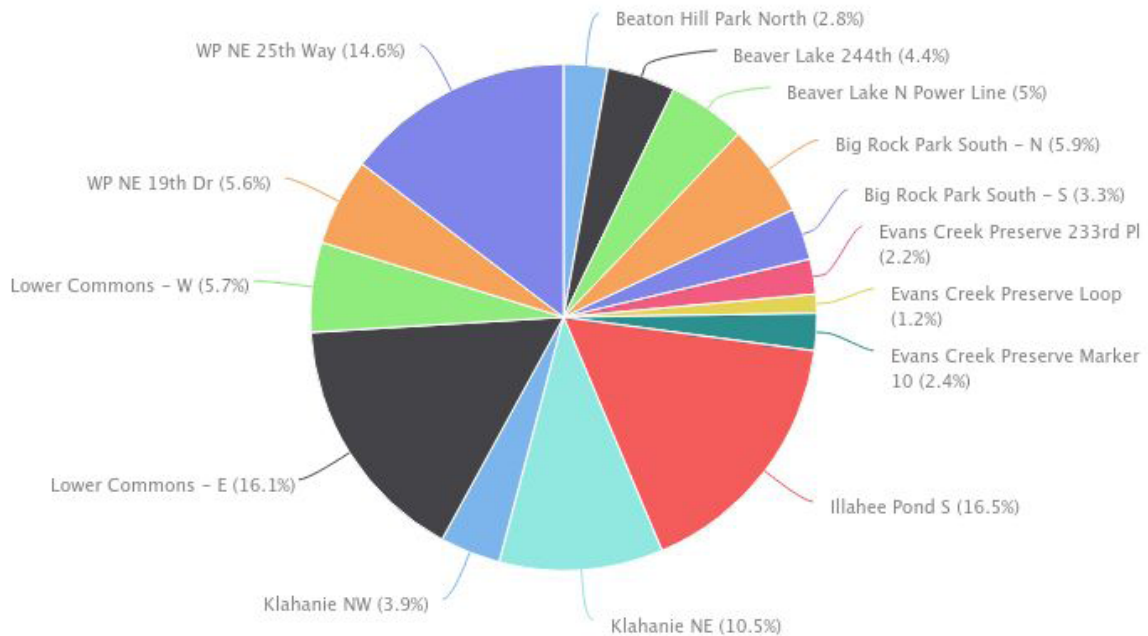
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## 2025 Trail Use Counter Locations Continued:

- Beaver Lake Park – 2 counters**  
 Located near both the utility corridor and the Williams Pipeline Trail, these counters help compare how each route is being used.
- Klahanee Park – 2 counters**  
 Similar to Beaver Lake Park, counters are positioned to better understand usage patterns between the utility corridor and the Williams Pipeline Trail.

### Compare Sites

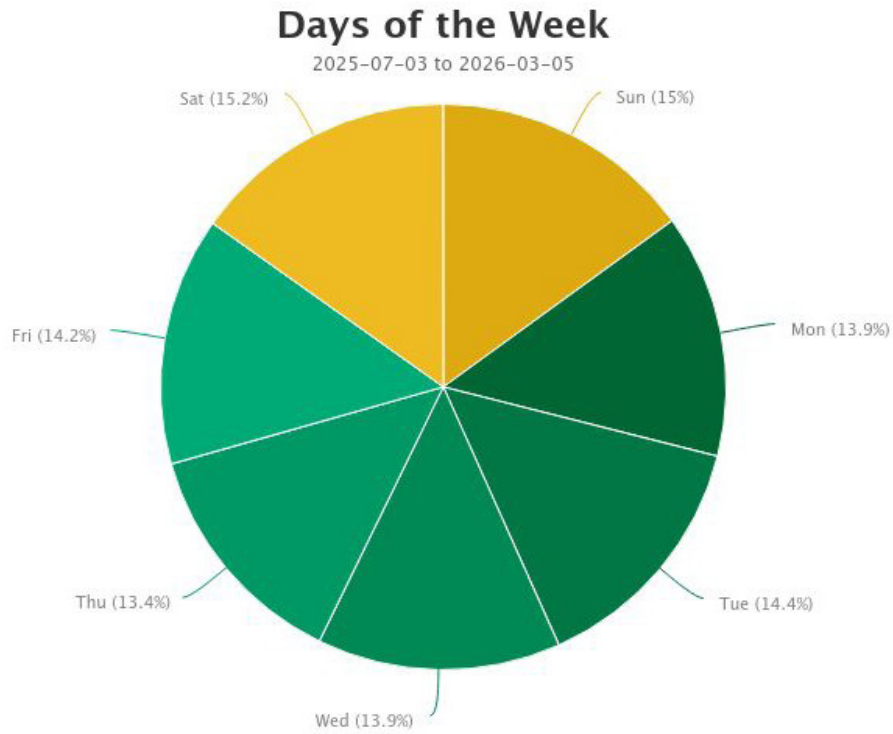
2025-07-03 to 2026-03-05



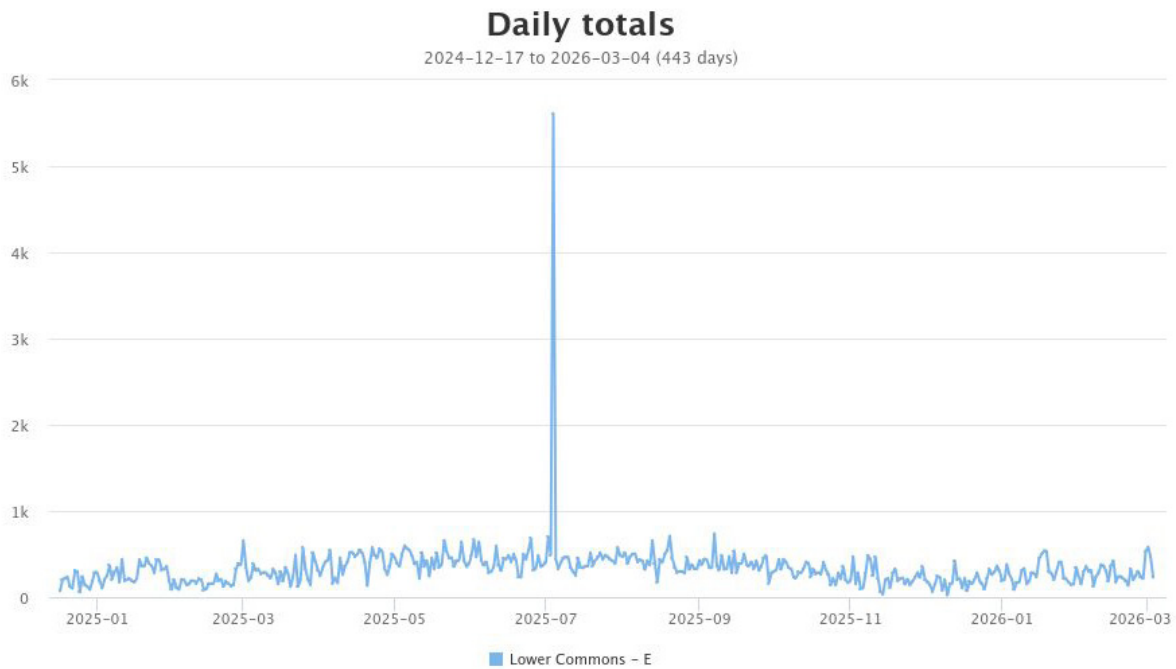
Site Name	Daily Average
Beaton Hill Park North	58.6 (2.8%)
Beaver Lake 244th	90.8 (4.4%)
Beaver Lake N Power Line	103.3 (5.0%)
Big Rock Park South - N	123.1 (5.9%)
Big Rock Park South - S	68.9 (3.3%)
Evans Creek Preserve 233rd Pl	46.2 (2.2%)
Evans Creek Preserve Loop	25.4 (1.2%)
Evans Creek Preserve Marker 10	49.6 (2.4%)
Illahee Pond S	344.2 (16.5%)
Klahanie NE	218.1 (10.5%)
Klahanie NW	80.8 (3.9%)
Lower Commons - E	335 (16.1%)
Lower Commons - W	119.5 (5.7%)
WP NE 19th Dr	116.2 (5.6%)
WP NE 25th Way	305.3 (14.6%)

Site use from July 2025 through early March 2026 for park counter locations.

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Average daily use across all trail counters remains fairly consistent throughout the week, with slightly lower use from Tuesday through Wednesday.



Trail use counters are useful for showing trends, though they do not provide precise counts. For example, the Sammamish Commons counter recorded nearly 6,000 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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## Lessons from Year Two

The second year of the program focused on improving consistency and reliability. Counter relocations during the first half of the year improved our ability to understand usage patterns within parks and along key corridors. Parks staff, along with a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, collected data monthly to ensure regular monitoring and maintenance. These refinements have strengthened the program and are helping to build a more reliable dataset for future analysis.

## Interesting Trends

While the data remains preliminary, several patterns are beginning to emerge, with some trends consistent with 2024 and others newly observed:

- Trail and park usage remains fairly consistent throughout the week, although Tuesday through Wednesday tend to see slightly fewer visitors.
- Sammamish Commons, Illahee Pond, and the Williams Pipeline Trail at NE 25th Street are among the most visited locations.

## The Path Ahead for 2026

With updated counter locations now in place, the City will maintain the current system in 2026 and focus on collecting consistent, high-quality data. As the dataset grows, staff will be better equipped to identify long-term trends and make meaningful comparisons across years.

The continued expansion of this program will support informed decision-making and help guide future investments in trails, parks, and connections throughout Sammamish.

