



PINELLAS TRAIL SECURITY TASK FORCE (PTSTF) MEETING AGENGA

April 11, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

Pinellas County Emergency Services Center
12490 Ulmerton Road, Room 130
Largo, FL 33774
(Telephone: 727-582-2000)

THE PLANNING COUNCIL AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
3. **TRAIL SPEED LIMIT ENFORCEMENT**
4. **QUARTERLY REPORT FROM PINELLAS TRAIL PARK RANGER**
5. **LAW ENFORCEMENT AND AGENCY REPORTS**
 - Sheriff's Office
 - Belleair
 - Clearwater
 - Gulfport
 - Largo
 - St. Petersburg
 - Tarpon Springs
 - Animal Services
 - Public Safety Services
 - Pinellas County Risk Management
 - Friends of the Pinellas Trail
 - Volunteer Patrol Programs and Updates
6. **REPORT ON TRAIL USER COUNT DATA**
7. **REPORT ON TRAIL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY**
8. **OTHER BUSINESS**
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

- **Notice to Law Enforcement Representatives – If you are unable to attend the meeting, please e-mail your Incident/Offense Report to Kyle Simpson at ksimpson@forwardpinellas.org. If you would prefer, you can fax the report to the Pinellas County MPO at (727) 464-8212. *Thank You***

NEXT PTSTF MEETING – JULY 11, 2023

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Office of Human Rights, 400 South Fort Harrison Avenue, Suite 300, Clearwater, Florida 33756; [(727) 464-4062 (V/TDD)] at least three days prior to the meeting.

Appeals: Certain public meetings result in actions taken by the public board, commission or agency that may be appealed; in such case persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at a public meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purposes, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

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Pinellas Trail Security Task Force – April 11, 2023

2. Approval of Minutes



SUMMARY

The summary minutes of the January 10, 2023, Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting are attached.

ATTACHMENTS: Pinellas Trail Security Task Force Summary Minutes – January 10, 2023

ACTION: Approval of the January Meeting Summary

**PINELLAS TRAIL SECURITY TASK FORCE
MEETING SUMMARY
JANUARY 13, 2023**

The following is a summary of the January 10, 2023 Forward Pinellas - Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting, which was held in person in Largo. The Security Task Force meets at least quarterly during the year.

IN ATTENDANCE

Officer Ron Wolfson, Chairman	St. Petersburg Police Department & Volunteer Coord.
Officer Osvaldo Sicairos	St. Petersburg Police Department
Officer Anthony Boone	Tarpon Springs Police Department
Officer Jarred Stiff	Clearwater Police Department
Deputy Brian Camadeca	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Jacob Laboy	Pinellas County Animal Control
Carol Gray, Chief Ranger	Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources
Lynn Abbott	Pinellas County Public Safety Service
Lyle Fowler	Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources
Scott Rintz	Pinellas County Risk Management
Scott Daniels	Friends of the Pinellas Trail
Elisabeth Staten	City of St. Petersburg - Transportation
Stuart Schwartzreich	Pinellas Trail Parks Volunteer
Bill Romanski	Pinellas Trail Parks Volunteer
Phyllis Romanski	Pinellas Trail Parks Volunteer
Donovan Nickell	Guest - Seminole
Kyle Simpson	Forward Pinellas Staff
Rodney Chatman	Forward Pinellas Staff
Maria Kelly	Forward Pinellas Staff

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Ronald Wolfson, St. Petersburg Police Officer, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked members to introduce themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY

The summary from the October 11, 2022, meeting was approved with one mis-spelling correction, Item 5L, shared vs shard.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR 2023

Chair Wolfson shared that since he had one more year on the force, he would be happy to chair for 2023. Scott Daniels made a motion that Chair Wolfson preside for 2023. This was seconded by Lynn Abbott and passed with a unanimous vote.

4. PRESENTATION: SUNSET POINT ROAD TRAIL CROSSING

Rodney Chatman, Forward Pinellas staff, shared a presentation with the committee of the before-after study of the Sunset Point Road Trail Crossing. Due to the Vision Zero program for Pinellas County, Safe Streets Pinellas, adopted by the Forward Pinellas Board in March 2021, is taking a data driven approach to address top risk factors and

mitigating treatments to reduce potential crashes and lessen crash severity. To date, 22 of 25 local governments have adopted resolutions committing to support the implementation of the plan's recommendations. The Pinellas Trail segment in the Sunset Point Road area of Clearwater was opened in early 2020. In partnership with AECOM, Forward Pinellas consulting firm, data collection was conducted at the Pinellas Trail and Sunset Point Road crossing. The before conditions data collection was done from June 17, 2021 through June 20, 2021 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The after conditions data collection was done February 17, 2022 to February 20, 2022 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Data Collection included: Pinellas Trail Counts, Sunset Point Road Counts, Pedestrian Movements and Field Observations. Additional traffic control elements to make the trail crossing safer were installed with the help of Pinellas County, as well as additional signage, restriping directional travel on the Pinellas Trail, second activation poles on each side and new advanced warning RRFB's. Findings showed that pedestrians were more likely to activate the RRFB regardless of light or heavy traffic, pedestrians often paused in the center median to visually check traffic, cyclists activated the RRFB if no visible break in the traffic was evident and they were more interested in maintaining motion when crossing, but would stop if necessary; for vehicles, based on visual observations, distracted driving appeared to be a significant factor in near misses, occurring at different times of the day; eastbound traffic backed up at times, but generally did not impede the ability to cross and were more aware of the crossing as they were approaching the signal on the side of the Pinellas Trail. The findings will be used to determine future trail intersection crossing design decisions. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

5. QUARTERLY REPORT FROM PINELLAS TRAIL PARK RANGER

Chief Ranger Carol Gray, Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR) reported from October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022, on October 11th, there was a report of fallen tree limb on a private property fence, from hurricane Ian, the tree was removed. October 24th, report of damaged to metal bollards in the parking lot barricade at the Sunset Point Trail parking lot. November 28th, dog off leash report at trail marker 250, warning was issued by the Ranger. On December 2nd, possible vandalism of fire damage to the trash can holder at Walsingham Road. The holder was demolished and had to be removed. December 19th, report of suspected public intoxication at the Dunedin Oasis, PCSO was notified but subject moved on prior to their arrival. December 19th, two subjects were camping overnight at the Westbay overpass where Largo PD was contacted, and the subjects were moved on. December 21st, report of a golf cart on the trail on the section adjacent to Orange Street and Shore Drive. A verbal warning was issued. January 3, 2023, injury as the result of an Ebike and pedestrian crash. Injury to the pedestrian, unknown if the Ebike operator sustained any injury.

6. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND AGENCY REPORTS

A. Sheriff's Office

Deputy Brian Camadeca reported from October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022, there were 53 documented incidences of which a majority were directed patrols, self-initiated by the deputies. Outside of that, there was one report of afterhours trespassing and one arrest on the trail that was initiated by a Dunedin Patrol Deputy that led to fentanyl recovery.

B. Belleair

Officer Allison Daniels with Belleair PD was not in attendance, however emailed in a report from October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 sharing there were no incidents, other than persons on the trail after dark.

C. Clearwater

Officer Jarred Stiff reported from October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022, there were 255 calls, where many of those calls were directed patrols or park walk and talks that were initiated by the officers who work the area or the bike teams on patrol. There was one arrest for battery between two subjects and one drug arrest North of Drew Street in the Maple and Myrtle area where many of the homeless hang out. A majority of issues being reported are mainly coming from between Drew Street to Eldridge Street, where a lot of the directed patrols are happening.

D. Gulfport

Gulfport PD submitted a report from October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022 sharing there were no incidents.

E. Largo

Officer Keith Bowling was not in attendance, however emailed in a report from October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022, sharing a welfare check, a traffic stop, a few trespasses and three citizen contacts.

F. St. Petersburg

Officer Osvaldo Sicairos reported from October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022, there were four drug related calls resulting in arrests, one after hours call at 34th and 40th, one armed robbery of a transient's bike, resulting in an arrest. One camping incident under the pedestrian overpass.

G. Tarpon Springs

Officer Anthony Boone reported from October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022, 1 medical call near Mears Blvd. He shared that they are understaffed, but will request additional checks to the trail especially in the Elfers Spur area of the trail.

H. Animal Services

Jacob Laboy of Animal Services reported there were no incidents in the last quarter.

I. Public Safety Services

Ms. Lynn Abbott, Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration reported from October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022, there were 39 total incidents on or near the trail, noting all were non-condition related events: 10 bike falls, 2 scooter falls; 8 pedestrian falls, 1 dog bite, 1 deer crash into a pedestrian (Keystone Road and the Pinellas Trail), 5 sick persons, 2 wheelchair falls (Trail & Skinner Blvd., trails marker 0358), 3 motor vehicle collisions and 1 overdose. 8 no patient found/cancelled calls.

J. Pinellas County Risk Management

Mr. Scott Rintz shared that risk management completed the second yearly safety inspection and found no major issues. He also shared the department feels the inspection results have greatly improved over the last several years. The next inspection is scheduled for March 2023.

K. Friends of the Pinellas Trail

Scott Daniels shared it is vital to the Pinellas Trail for law enforcement members who do not attend, to send us their reports for up to date information. Mr. Daniels shared a news article sharing the perspective of the writer on how unsafe the trail is. The marking dividing the walkers from the bikers should be redefined, speeders should be fined, and it is important that we continue the efforts to keep up with the safety and security of the Pinellas Trail.

L. Volunteer Patrol Programs and Updates

Chair Wolfson shared that his volunteers are still active. They helped the Park Ranger with some cleanup of abandon property.

Chief Gray shares that the Ranger volunteers are trickling back after Covid.

Aux. Ranger Stuart Schwartzreich did a patrol following the hurricane and observed debris already cleaned up. He shared pictures to trail users who responded favorably with appreciation to the county workers for quick action clean up. He also mentioned the increase in graffiti from the Trop, along the Pinellas Trail and to the new apartment building on 17th Street S. See-Click-Fix has been extremely instrumental in helping to clean up the graffiti.

7. AUTOMATIC TRAIL COUNTERS

Mr. Simpson shared there are still issues with the East Lake counter and those counts were not included in the chart. August showed just under 130,000 users with more bike than pedestrians. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

8. REPORT ON TRAIL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Joan Rice was not in attendance but has updated the Trail Construction Activity report included in the agenda packet.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wolfson adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m. The next PTSTF meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2023.

Summary

Forward Pinellas has received an increasing number of complaints about speeding on the Pinellas Trail. Although the Pinellas Trail Speed Study conducted in early 2022 did not find significant speeding issues on the Pinellas Trail, there is public perception that speeding is a growing issue. This discussion will cover any existing speed-related enforcement on the Pinellas Trail and opportunities or challenges that exist with future speed-related enforcement.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None Required, Informational Item Only

Pinellas Trail Security Task Force – April 11, 2023

4. Quarterly Report from the Pinellas Trail Park Ranger



Summary

Pinellas County Park System is responsible for the care and maintenance of the County-owned parks and preserves, trails, campgrounds, boat ramps, rights of way and roads. This department also provides maintenance, operations, and oversight for the Pinellas Trail. Their role is vital to keeping people using the Pinellas Trail safe and informed. At each Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting, the Park Ranger provides an overview of any security topics which arose during the previous quarter. The information helps everyone attending understand any concerning behavior on the Pinellas Trail that can be addressed by the appropriate parties in attendance.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None Required; Informational Item Only

5. Law Enforcement and Agency Reports



- **Sheriff's Office**
- **Belleair**
- **Clearwater**
- **Gulfport**
- **Largo**
- **St. Petersburg**
- **Tarpon Springs**
- **Animal Services**
- **Public Safety Services**
- **Pinellas County Risk Management**
- **Friends of the Pinellas Trail**
- **Volunteer Patrol Programs and Updates**

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None Required; Informational Item Only

SUMMARY

This item will include the monthly data summary reports for the automatic trail counters along the Pinellas Trail. Note that average hourly data has been included with the reports.

ATTACHMENT: Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary Reports:

- December 2022
- January 2023
- February 2023

ACTION: No Action Required, informational item only

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period:
December 1st-31st (31 days)

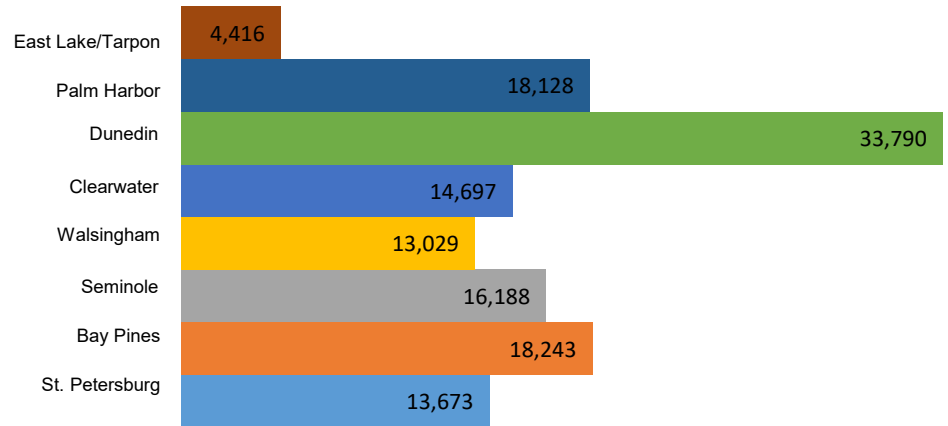
December 2022

31-Day Count Total: 132,164
Daily Average Users: 4,263

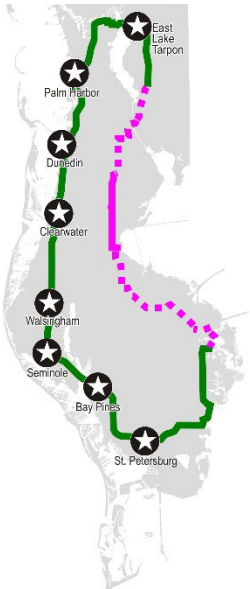
Highest Daily Totals:

- #1 – Saturday, December 17th (Dunedin – 2,110)
- #2 – Saturday, December 3rd (Palm Harbor – 1,431)
- #3 – Thursday, December 29th (Bay Pines – 1,080)

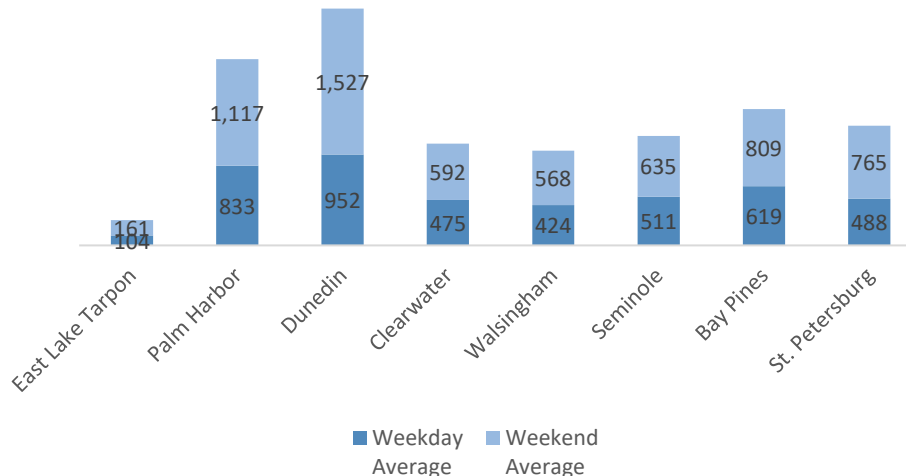
December Trail Users by Counter Location



Counter Locations



Weekday & Weekend Profile



Trail User Mode Split

Counter Location	Walking (Pedestrian)	Bicycling (Bicycle)
Palm Harbor	19%	81%
Dunedin	19%	81%
Clearwater	24%	76%
Walsingham	18%	82%
Seminole	30%	70%
Bay Pines	22%	78%
St. Petersburg	13%	87%
East Lake/Tarpon	38%	62%

Source: Forward Pinellas December 2022

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection

Period: January – December 2022 Data*



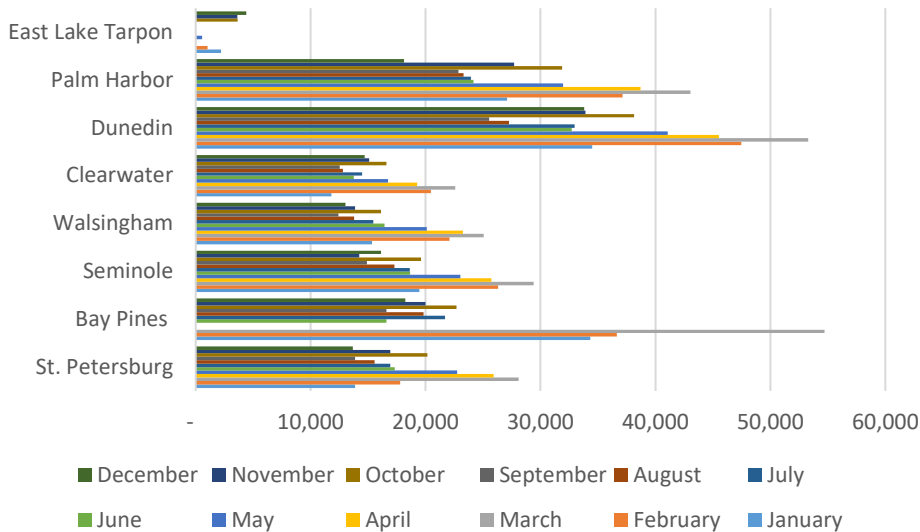
Jan-December 2022 Total Count:
1,937,145*

**Technical issues with East Lake / Tarpon counter beginning in Feb 2022; data not included in March-April or June 1 - December 5, 2022*

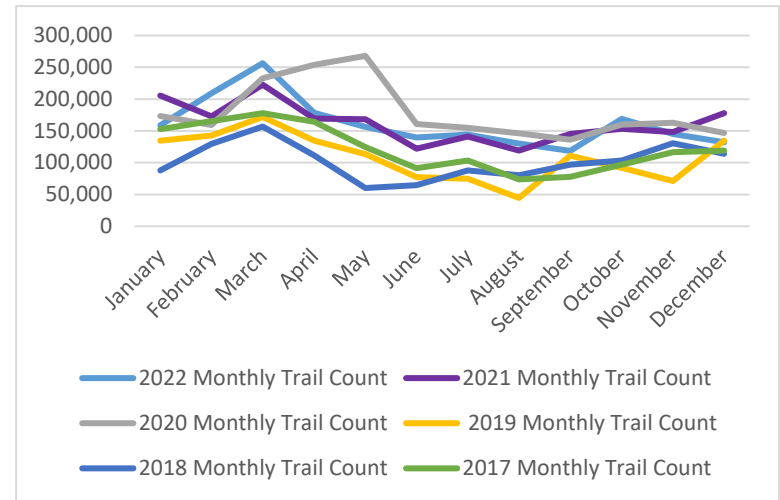
**Technical issues with Bay Pines counter; not included in April –May, June 1-6 2022*

**Technical Issues with Palm Harbor counter December 18-31, 2022, complete data not included*

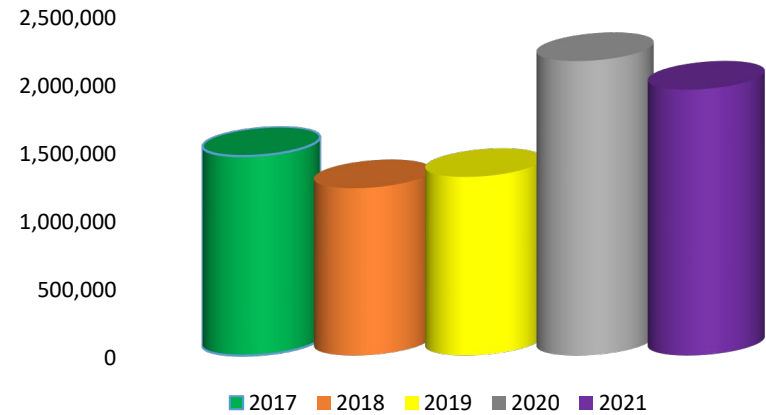
Year to Date Data Per Location



Monthly Trail Counts 2017 - 2022



Pinellas Trail Use 2017 – 2021



**Technical issues with several counters in 2019 resulting in several missing days of data during 2019.*

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period:
January 1st-31st (31 days)

January 2023*

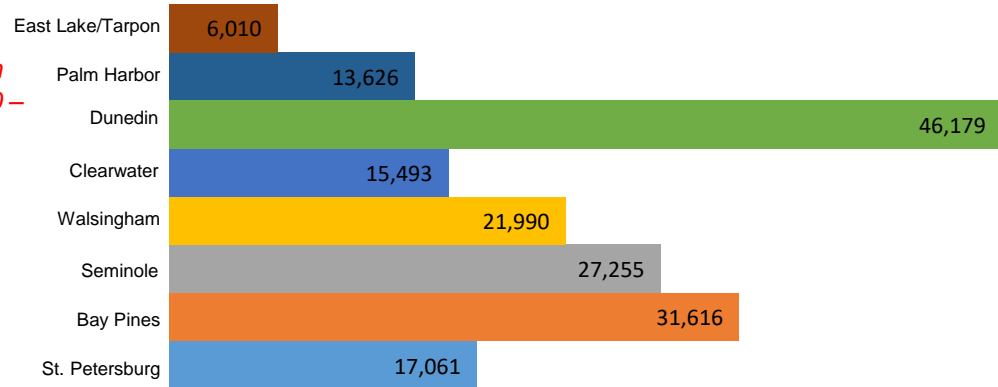
31-Day Count Total: 179,230
Daily Average Users: 5,782

Due to technical issues, data from the St. Petersburg counter from 1/28 – 1/31 and the Palm Harbor counter from 1/1 – 1/17 and 1/30 – 1/31 is not included.

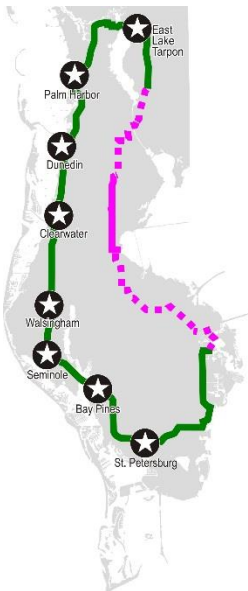
Highest Daily Totals:

- #1 – Sunday, January 29th (Dunedin – 2,874)
- #2 – Sunday, January 29th (Palm Harbor – 2,060)
- #3 – Sunday, January 29th (Bay Pines – 1,789)

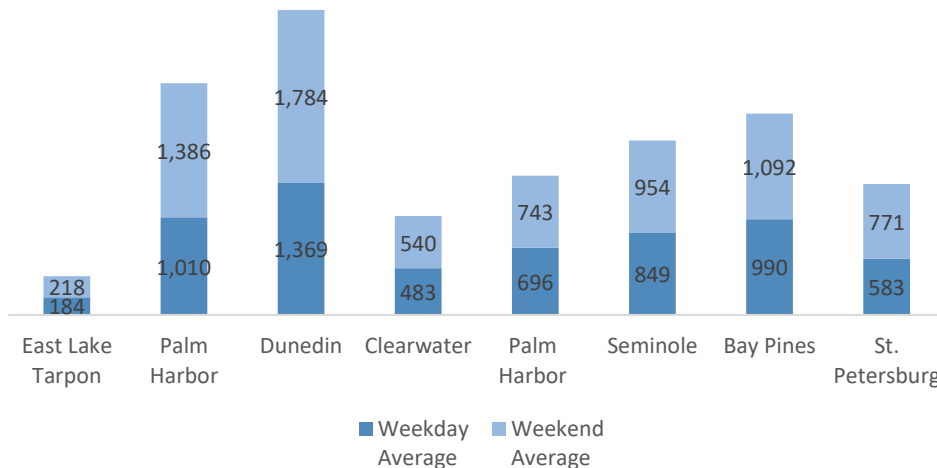
January Trail Users by Counter Location



Counter Locations



Weekday & Weekend Profile



Trail User Mode Split

Counter Location	Walking (Pedestrian)	Bicycling (Bicycle)
Palm Harbor	21%	79%
Dunedin	17%	83%
Clearwater	40%	60%
Walsingham	18%	82%
Seminole	31%	69%
Bay Pines	28%	72%
St. Petersburg	9%	91%
East Lake/Tarpon	17%	83%

Source: Forward Pinellas January 2023

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection

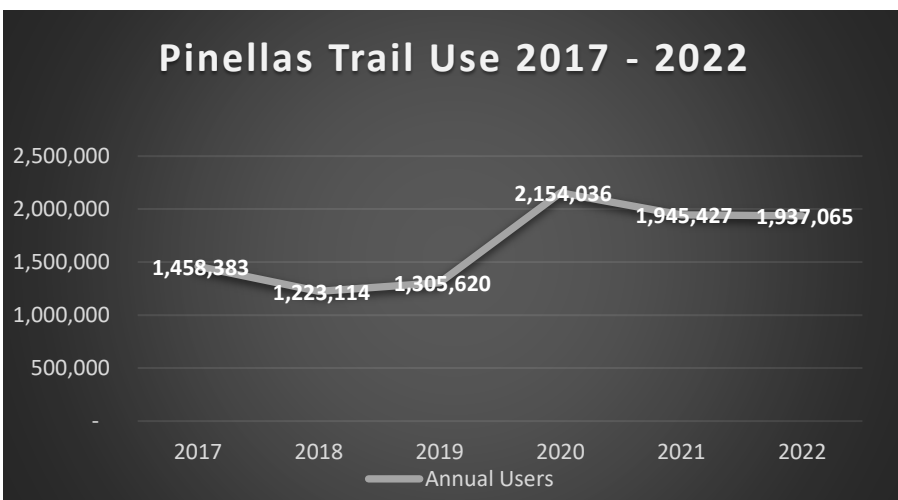
Period: January 2017 - January 2023 Data*



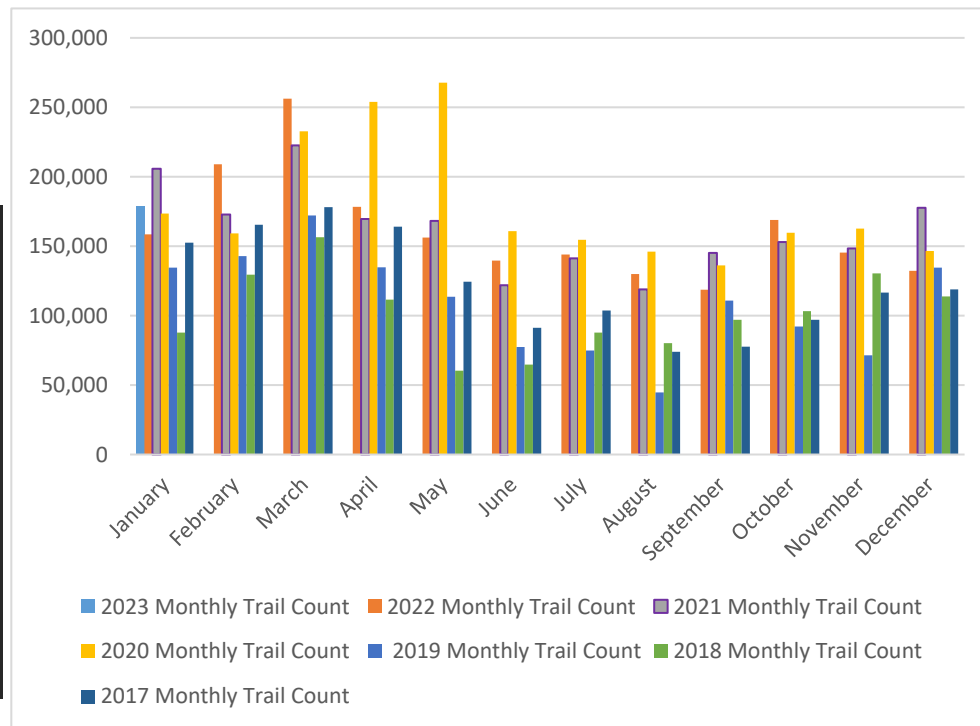
**January 2023 Total Count:
179,230***

**Due to technical issues, data from the St. Petersburg counter from 1/28 – 1/31 and the Palm Harbor counter from 1/1 – 1/17 and 1/30 – 1/31 is not included.*

Pinellas Trail Use 2017 - 2022



Monthly Trail Counts 2017 - 2023



**Technical issues with counters result in periods of missing data. Numbers presented in this report are the raw data and have not been adjusted to account for missing data segments.*

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period:
February 1st-28th (28 days)

February 2023*

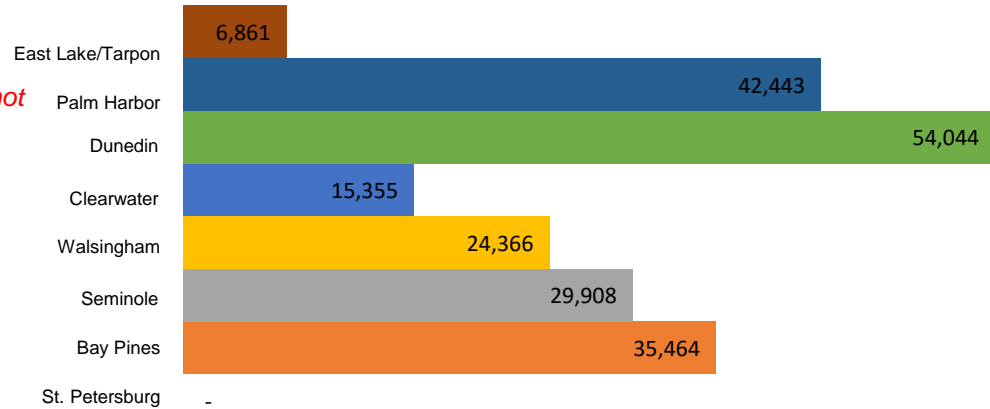
28-Day Count Total: 208,441
Daily Average Users: 7,444

**Due to technical issues, data from the St. Petersburg counter is not included.*

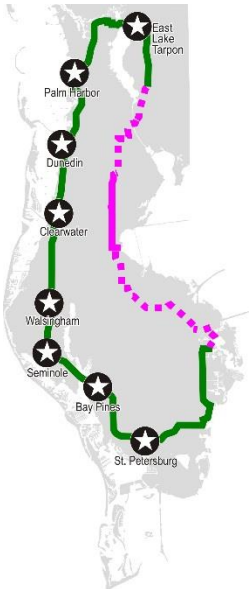
Highest Daily Totals:

- #1 – Saturday, February 25th (Dunedin – 2,916)
- #2 – Saturday, February 25th (Palm Harbor – 2,067)
- #3 – Sunday, February 5th (Bay Pines – 1,517)

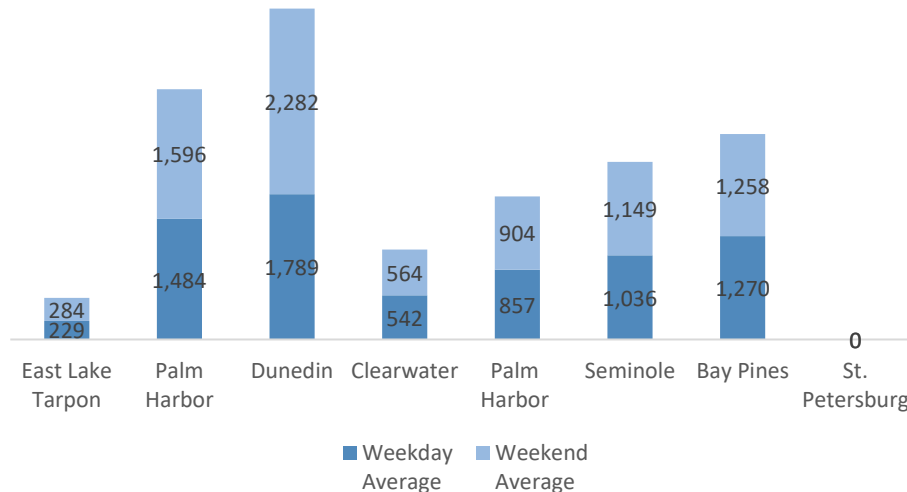
February Trail Users by Counter Location



Counter Locations



Weekday & Weekend Profile



Trail User Mode Split

Counter Location	Walking (Pedestrian Icon)	Bicycling (Bicycle Icon)
Palm Harbor	18%	82%
Dunedin	15%	85%
Clearwater	34%	66%
Walsingham	16%	84%
Seminole	28%	72%
Bay Pines	21%	79%
St. Petersburg	N/A	N/A
East Lake/Tarpon	14%	86%

Source: Forward Pinellas February 2023

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection

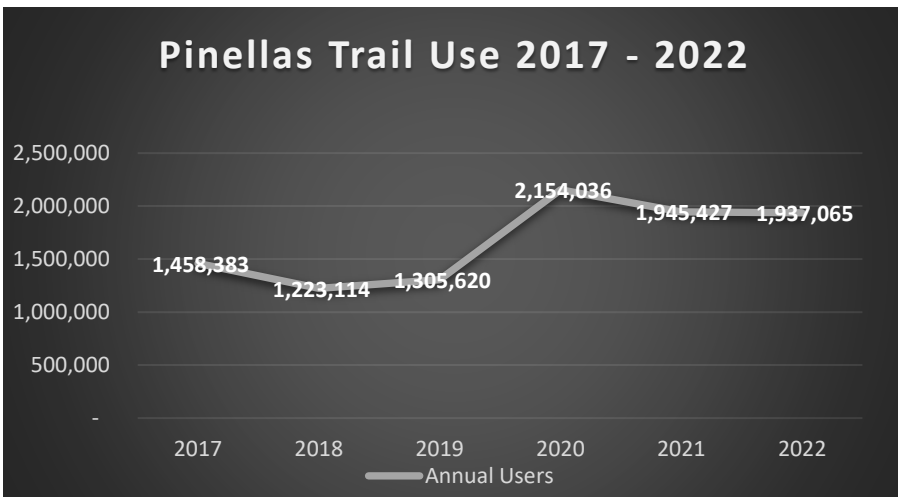
Period: February 2017 - February 2023 Data*



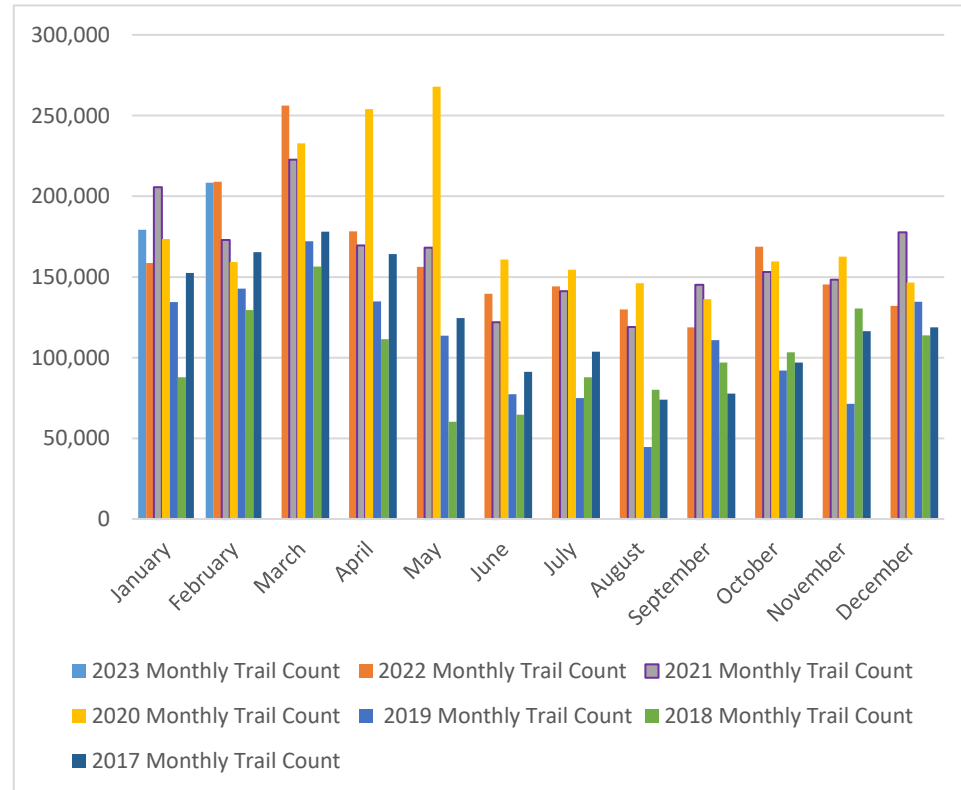
**February 2023 Total Count:
387,671***

**Due to technical issues, data from the St. Petersburg counter from 1/28 – 2/28 and the Palm Harbor counter from 1/1 – 1/17 and 1/30 – 1/31 is not included.*

Pinellas Trail Use 2017 - 2022



Monthly Trail Counts 2017 - 2023



**Technical issues with counters result in periods of missing data. Numbers presented in this report are the raw data and have not been adjusted to account for missing data segments.*

Pinellas Trail Security Task Force – April 11, 2023

7. Trail Construction Activity Report



TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS JANUARY 2023

Pinellas Trail North Loop Gap Countryside	Enterprise Rd to Chesnut Sr. Park; SUN Trail; Construction underway, Est. Complete Fall 2022 (link)
Pinellas Trail South Loop Phase 3 & 4	Haines Bayshore to Ulmerton Rd to 126th Ave; Segment of South Loop has will receive SUN Trail and FDOT Funding; Design in 2022; Construction 2024
71st Street Trail Connector	Pinellas Trail to 38th Avenue N; Design 2022, Construction 2024
San Martin Bridge & Trail connection	Bridge Replacement; Design 2022; Construction 2024
Courtney Campbell Trail Overpass	Trail Overpass at S.R. 60/Bayshore Blvd; SUN Trail; Design Underway; Construction 2024
Howard Frankland Bridge Trail	FDOT include trail with new bridge construction; Design-Build Project; Construction underway; Est. late completion 2025 (link)
Gandy Bridge Trail	FDOT to include trail with new bridge construction; PD&E Study Underway
Harn Boulevard Overpass	Pedestrian Overpass; Construction Underway; Est. Completion 2023 (link)
Bayway Trail South	SR 679/Pinellas Bayway from north of Bunces Bridge to north of Madeira Circle. New two-way bicycle lane. Design underway; Est. construction start 2022
Oldsmar Trail Phase 6	Douglas Rd (Stevens Avenue to Race Track Rd) Design complete; Est. Construction end of 2020; section from Hayes Rd to Stevens Avenue postponed.

8. Other Business

A. Pinellas Trail Survey

B. Correspondence, Publications, Articles of Interest

C. Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics

- Trail Planning
- Trail Operations
- Trail Enhancements

D. Other

If any member has other business to discuss, they may address it under this item.