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Forward Pinellas is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Pinellas Trail Security Task Force

Time: Jul 14, 2020 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86729784026?pwd=SU9SYVZZVkdKb0lzLOF3Ly9TK1plQT09>

Meeting ID: 867 2978 4026

Password: 238919

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86729784026#,,,,0#,,238919# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,86729784026#,,,,0#,,238919# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

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**PINELLAS TRAIL SECURITY TASK FORCE
(PTSTF) MEETING AGENDA
July 14, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

THE PLANNING COUNCIL AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

- 1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 14, 2020**
- 3. PRESENTATION: SAFE STREETS PINELLAS**
- 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
 - Volunteer Patrol Programs and Updates
- 6. REPORT ON TRAIL USER COUNT DATA**
- 7. REPORT ON TRAIL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY**
- 8. REPORT ON TRAIL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES**
- 9. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**
 - **NOTICE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT REPRESENTATIVES - IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE E-MAIL YOUR INCIDENT/OFFENSE REPORT TO ANGELA RYAN, aryan@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 – OCTOBER 13, 2020

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 seven 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.

Pinellas Trail Security Task Force – July 14, 2020

2. Approval of Minutes – January 14, 2020



SUMMARY

The summary minutes of the January 14, 2020 Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting are attached.

ATTACHMENTS: Pinellas Trail Security Task Force Summary Minutes – January 14, 2020

ACTION: Approval of the January Meeting Summary

PINELLAS TRAIL SECURITY TASK FORCE
MEETING Summary
January 14, 2020

The following is a summary of the January 14, 2020 Forward Pinellas - Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting, which was held in the Pinellas County Public Safety Services Department, Room 130, 12490 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida 33774. The Security Task Force meets at least quarterly during the year.

IN ATTENDANCE

Officer Ron Wolfson, Chairman	St. Petersburg Police Department & Volunteer Coordinator
Officer Zachary Cissell	St. Petersburg Police Department
Officer Raniel Heredia	Clearwater Police Department
Officer Allison Daniels	Belleair Police Department
Carol Gray	Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources Chief Ranger
Lyle Fowler	Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources
Caroline Lanford	Pinellas County Planning
Gary Brown	Pinellas County Animal Services
James Abaka	Pinellas County Risk Management
Lynn Abbott	Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration
Joan Rice	Pinellas County Public Works Traffic Division
Richard Cody	Pinellas County SES Regional 911 GIS
Bill Romanski	Pinellas Trail Auxiliary Ranger
Phyllis Romanski	Pinellas Trail Auxiliary Ranger
Debra Kramer	Pinellas Trail Auxiliary Ranger
Robert Feigel	Forward Pinellas Staff
Al Bartolotta	Forward Pinellas Staff
Angela Ryan	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. Self-introductions were provided.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY – October 8, 2019

The summary from the October 8, 2019 meeting was approved with one correction. Section 5i, regarding the accident involving Caroline Lanford, the accident occurred on July 23rd and not September 23rd as originally stated.

3. PRESENTATION: TRENDS AND CONDITIONS REPORT

Mr. Al Bartolotta, Forward Pinellas Staff, took a moment to introduce Angela Ryan as the new Active Transportation Planner and indicated that he and Angela will be conducting future meetings. The Countywide Trends and Conditions Report is produced annually. One of Forward Pinellas' main responsibilities is to serve as a resource for local governments, providing them data on roadway conditions and trends, congestion levels, crash incidents, socioeconomic conditions and population. This report serves as part of the agency's Congestion Management Process, a systematic approach that guides the management and monitoring of the county's multimodal transportation system. The Trends and Conditions Report also provides a means of measuring various performance metrics tied to the goals, objectives and policies of the LRTP and Countywide Plans and identifies where the transportation system is functioning well and where improvements are needed. This report will also

be used to help inform the Vision Zero initiative (Safe Streets Pinellas) currently underway. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

4. A. QUARTERLY REPORT FROM PINELLAS TRAIL PARK RANGER

Chief Ranger Carol Gray, Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR), reported several incidents related to the trail over the last quarter. On October 20th, emergency management services were dispatched to help a female bicyclist that fell in the area of Tampa Road and Virginia Avenue. No other information was available. On October 30th, St. Petersburg police responded to some after hour activities and camping south of the 30th Avenue overpass on the Trail right-of-way. On November 20th, a Trail Ranger responded to an incident at trail marker no. 323, south of Walsingham and north of 102nd Avenue. There was a smoldering log or tree root behind a privacy fence. The ranger was able to get some water and extinguish the smoldering. On December 5th, a potential encroachment issue was reported to the public works division from right-of-way inspectors at the Tarpon Glen Mobile Home Park, just east of the US19 Underpass at PT684. On December 21st, illicit discharge was reported to the Pinellas County Public Works Right-of-Way Inspectors coming from a drainage pipe adjacent to Thurston Groves, north of 102nd Avenue and south of Walsingham. It caused some erosion on the side of the Trail. Additionally, Chief Gray shared renderings of new park signs with the committee at the last meeting and reported that they have been installed where needed along the Trail. These were requested by local jurisdictions in an effort to help law enforcement and park rangers enforce County park rules.

5. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND AGENCY REPORTS

A. Sheriff's Office

No one attended from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department.

B. Belleair

Officer Allison Daniels from the Belleair Police Department reported there were 8 subjects on the Trail after dark, one was arrested. There was one AOA with Sunstar and an intoxicated subject who wrecked his bike.

C. Clearwater

Officer Raniel Heredia from the Clearwater Police Department reported 30 incidents in and around the area, none that resulted in law enforcement action. With regards to Stephenson's Creek issues discussed at the last meeting, Officer Heredia was able to get ahold of the evening and daytime sergeants and they have been sending someone to the area for about 15 minutes once a week and that seems to have curbed the reported problems.

D. Gulfport

No one attended from the Gulfport Police Department, but a report was received by Forward Pinellas staff. On December 16th, criminal mischief graffiti was painted on the fence that separates the trail from the mobile home park between 52nd Street S and 55th Street S.

E. Largo

No one attended from the Largo Police Department

F. St. Petersburg

St. Petersburg Police Officer Zack Cissell reported there were 36 calls that originated on or near the Trail resulting in one law enforcement action related to an ordinance violation for an open container. The subject was arrested.

G. Tarpon Springs

No one attended from the Tarpon Springs Police Department.

H. Animal Services

Mr. Gary Brown, Pinellas County Animal Services, reported there were no reported calls for service on the Trail.

I. Public Safety Services

Ms. Lynn Abbott, Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration, reported there were 36 calls in the fourth quarter in which over 1/3 were incidences involving bicycles. These included bicycle/vehicle collisions with distracted bicycle riders and one dog attack. At the last meeting it was reported that an emergency call may have been miscategorized as a hit and run. In these situations, 911 will initially categorize the call when it originates with them, and it is up to the reporting officer to correct it, if it is miscategorized. Fire & EMS will change a miscategorized call as well.

J. Pinellas County Risk Management

Mr. James Abaka, Pinellas County Risk Management, reported that Risk Management is getting ready to conduct their walk audit of the Trail.

K. Volunteer Patrol Programs and Updates

Chair Wolfson stated that the volunteers are good and there is nothing to report. Chief Ranger Gray stated the Rangers are moving right along, the snow birds are back, and all is good.

6. AUTOMATIC TRAIL COUNTERS

Ms. Angela Ryan, Forward Pinellas staff, reviewed the counter reports for September and October which are included in the agenda packet. Dunedin and Palm Harbor counters were not fully functional during this time frame, resulting in some missing data that prevented a full accounting for this period. This has been corrected.

7. REPORT ON TRAIL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

The link to the online agenda has been updated to show additional construction information. Ms. Joan Rice, Pinellas County Public Works (PCPW), shared maps of the Pinellas Trail, with numbers identifying areas under design and construction. Specific attention was directed to the North Gap and the South Gap sections of the Pinellas Trail Loop (items 3, 4 & 5). Regarding the North Loop Gap at Countryside, it is unknown at this time what will happen with the alignment, but PCPW will omit this segment for the time being as it moves forward with the project. The rest of the North Gap project is ready to go before the Board of County Commissioners for approval before moving into the construction phase. Item 7, Old Coachman Bridge, has been successfully completed and the bridge has been replaced.

8. REPORT ON TRAIL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

The 30th Anniversary of the Pinellas Trail is being planned for December 5, 2020.

The Pinellas Trail, Inc. name has been officially changed to the "Friends of the Pinellas Trail".

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Richard Cody Pinellas County Safety and Emergency Services GIS Manager discussed the Trail Safety Markers. Mr. Cody inquired about whether and where new markers would be installed so he could geocode them. This information is entered into the 911 CAT system and once that is done the markers can be installed. There are currently four segments where markers need to be installed. These segments include the Dunedin Causeway Trail from the Pinellas Trail to the Dunedin Causeway to Honeymoon Island State Park; Elfers Spur from the very north end which is just west of the US19 underpass; the Coast to Coast section from the East Lake-Keystone Road intersection east to the Pasco County line; and from the East Lake Road section that runs south to Chesnut Park. Prefixes have been selected. Lyle Fowler requested these gaps be put on a map to spatially identify them for the 911 system, then the prefixes can be assigned to those gaps on the map with linear feet estimates to determine how many markers are needed.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wolfson adjourned the meeting at 10:01 a.m. The next PTSTF meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2020.

SUMMARY

Earlier this year, Forward Pinellas launched a local vision zero initiative called Safe Streets Pinellas. Vision Zero is a safety strategy employed by communities across the world based on the fundamental concept that no one should be killed or seriously injured while using public roadways. Safe Streets Pinellas brings together people from a range of disciplines and perspectives to analyze collision data, test countermeasures, conduct demonstration projects and ultimately develop an Action Plan that will help Pinellas County get to zero deaths on its roadway network. As part of this effort, a 16-member task force that includes a representative from each of the Forward Pinellas advisory committees, the business community, Pinellas County Schools, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and others has been put together to guide the effort.

Forward Pinellas staff will present information on Safe Streets Pinellas, including some initial analysis and current outreach efforts.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None required; informational item only

Pinellas Trail Security Task Force – July 14, 2020

6. Report on Monthly Trail User Count Data



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:

- Recap 2019
- January 2020
- February 2020
- March 2020
- April 2020
- May 2020

ACTION: No Action Required, informational item only

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection

Period: January – December, 2019 Data*

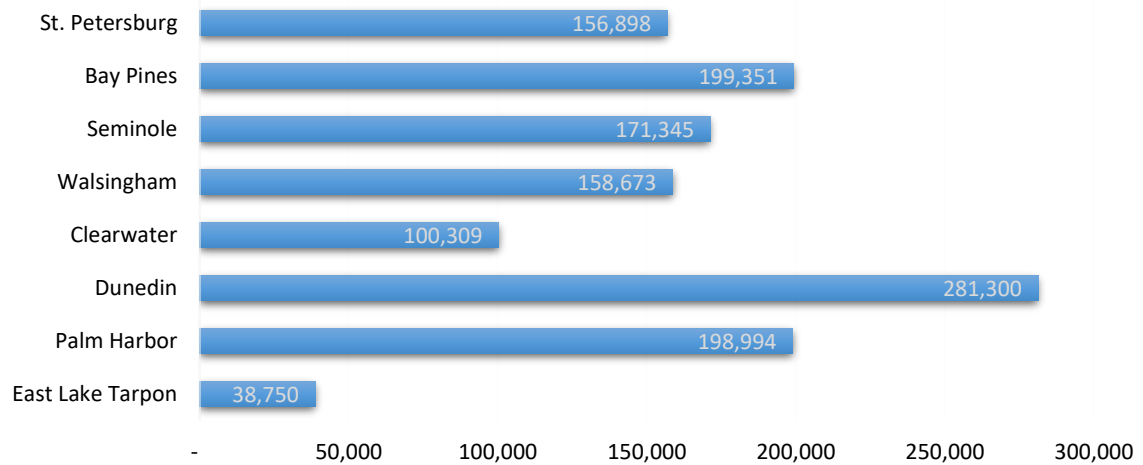


**Jan-Dec, 2019 Total Count:
1,305,620**

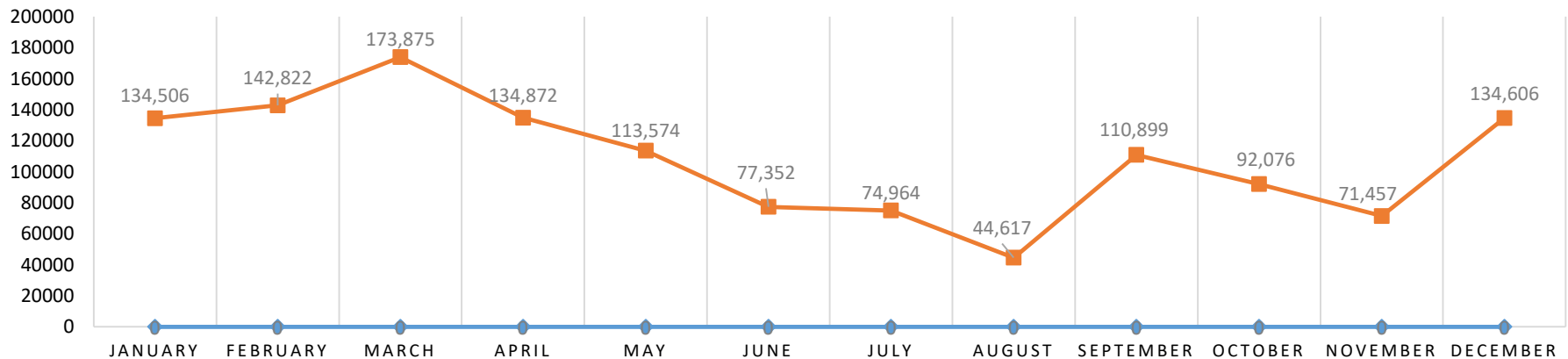
Highest Daily Totals:

- #1 - Saturday, January 19th (Dunedin - 2,153)
- #2 - Saturday, March 9th (Dunedin - 2,414)
- #3 - Saturday, September 28th (Walsingham – 2,182)

2019 Trail Count Per Location



2019 Trail Count Per Month



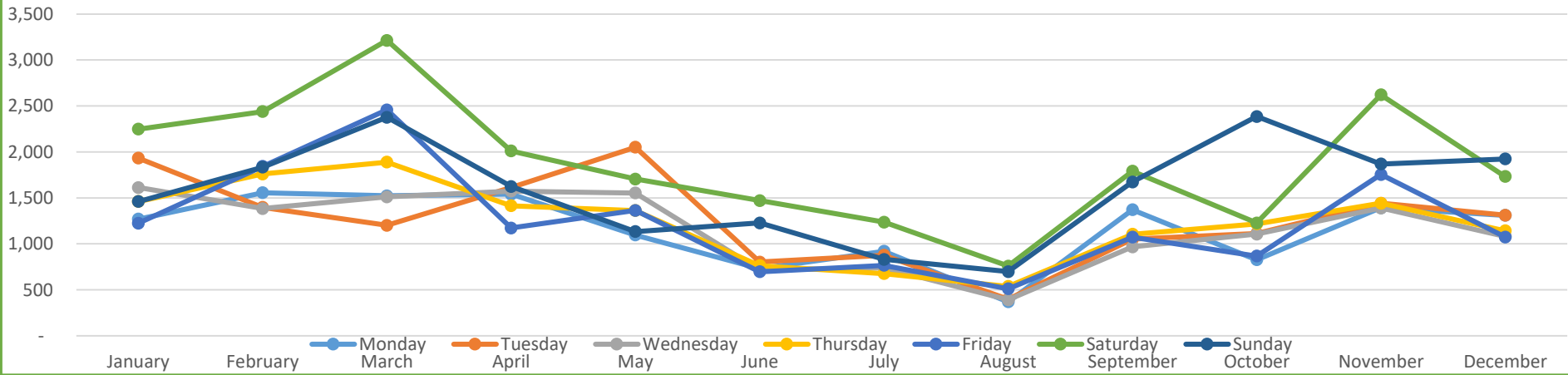
* Technical issues with the Palm Harbor, Dunedin and Walsingham Counters resulting in several missing days of data during 2019.

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection

Period: January – December, 2019 Data*

2019 Overall Daily Average



Trail User Mode Split

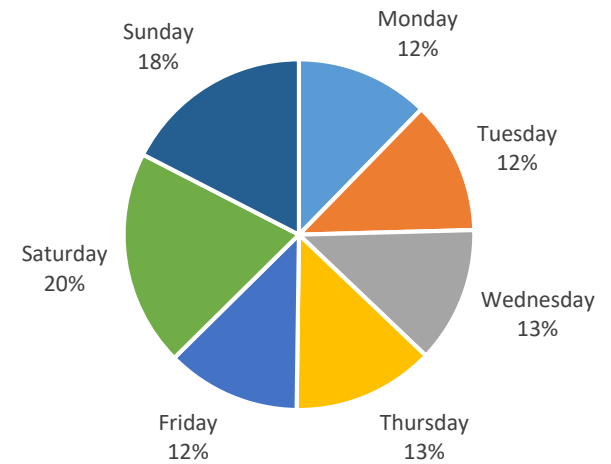


East Lake Tarpon:	8%	95%
Palm Harbor:	14%	86%
Dunedin:	18%	81%
Clearwater:	21%	79%
Walsingham:	19%	81%
Seminole:	29%	71%
Bay Pines:	24%	76%
St. Petersburg:	27%	73%

Counter Locations



2019 Overall Daily Percentage



Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

* Technical issues with the Palm Harbor, Dunedin and Walsingham Counters resulting in several missing days of data during 2019.

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period:
January 1 – January 31, 2020 (31 days)

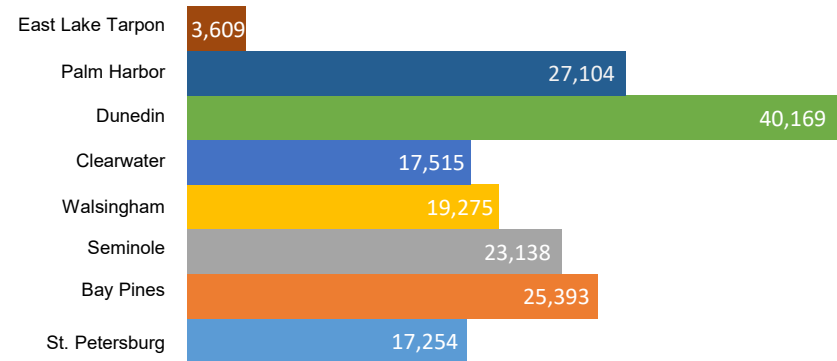
January 2020

31-Day Count Total: 173,457
Daily Average Users: 5,595

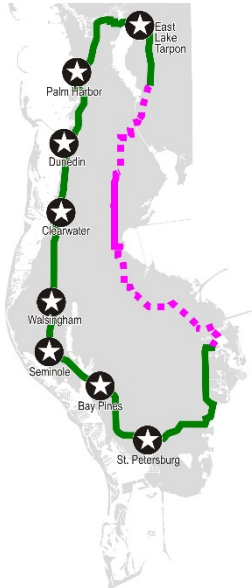
Highest Daily Totals:

- #1 – Saturday, January 18th (Dunedin - 2,534)
- #2 – Saturday, January 11th (Dunedin - 2,289)
- #3 – Sunday, January 12th (Dunedin - 2,089)

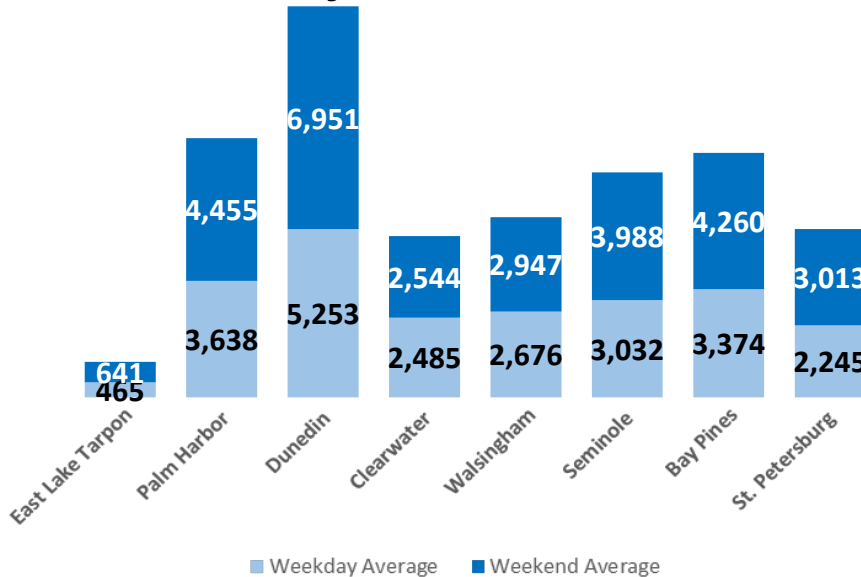
January Trail Users by Counter Location



Counter Locations



Weekday & Weekend Profile



Trail User Mode Split

Counter Location	Walking (Pedestrian)	Bicycling (Bicycle)
East Lake Tarpon:	7%	93%
Palm Harbor:	16%	84%
Dunedin:	22%	78%
Clearwater:	30%	70%
Walsingham:	28%	72%
Seminole:	35%	65%
Bay Pines:	29%	71%
St. Petersburg:	25%	75%

Source: Forward Pinellas January 2020
National Weather Service: [January 2020](#)

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period:
February 1 – February 29, 2020 (29 days)

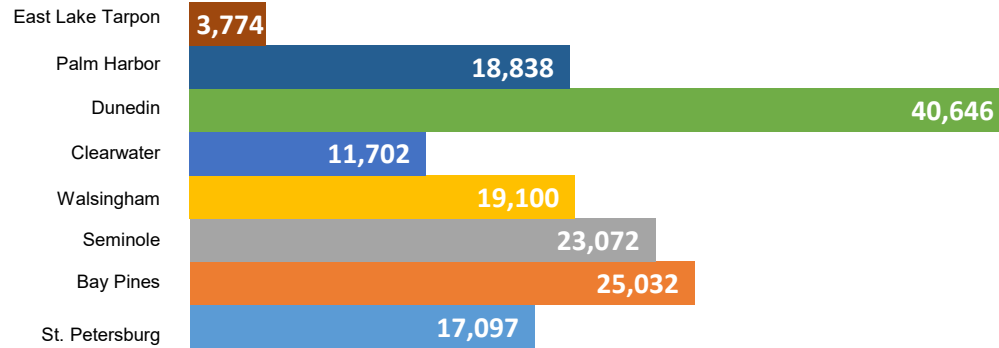
February 2020

29-Day Count Total: **159,261**
Daily Average Users: **5,137**

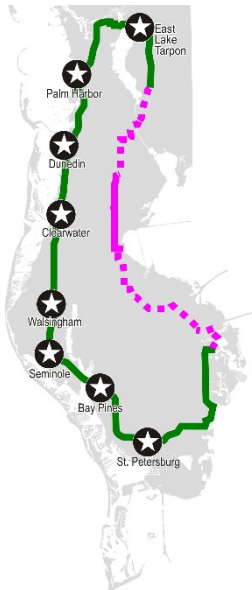
Highest Daily Totals:

- #1 – Sunday, February 16th (Dunedin - 2,578)
- #2 – Saturday, February 15th (Palm Harbor - 1,157)
- #3 – Sunday, February 23rd (Bay Pines – 1,476)

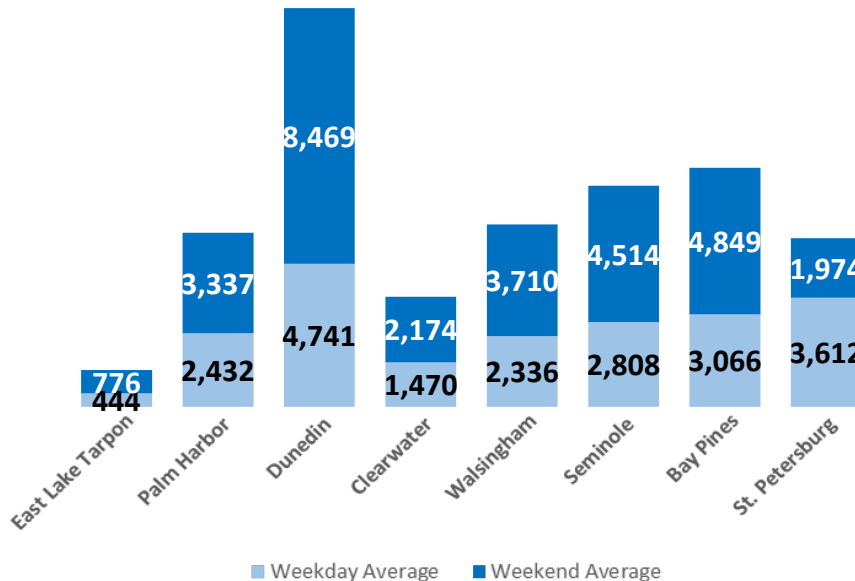
February Trail Users by Counter Location



Counter Locations



Weekday & Weekend Profile

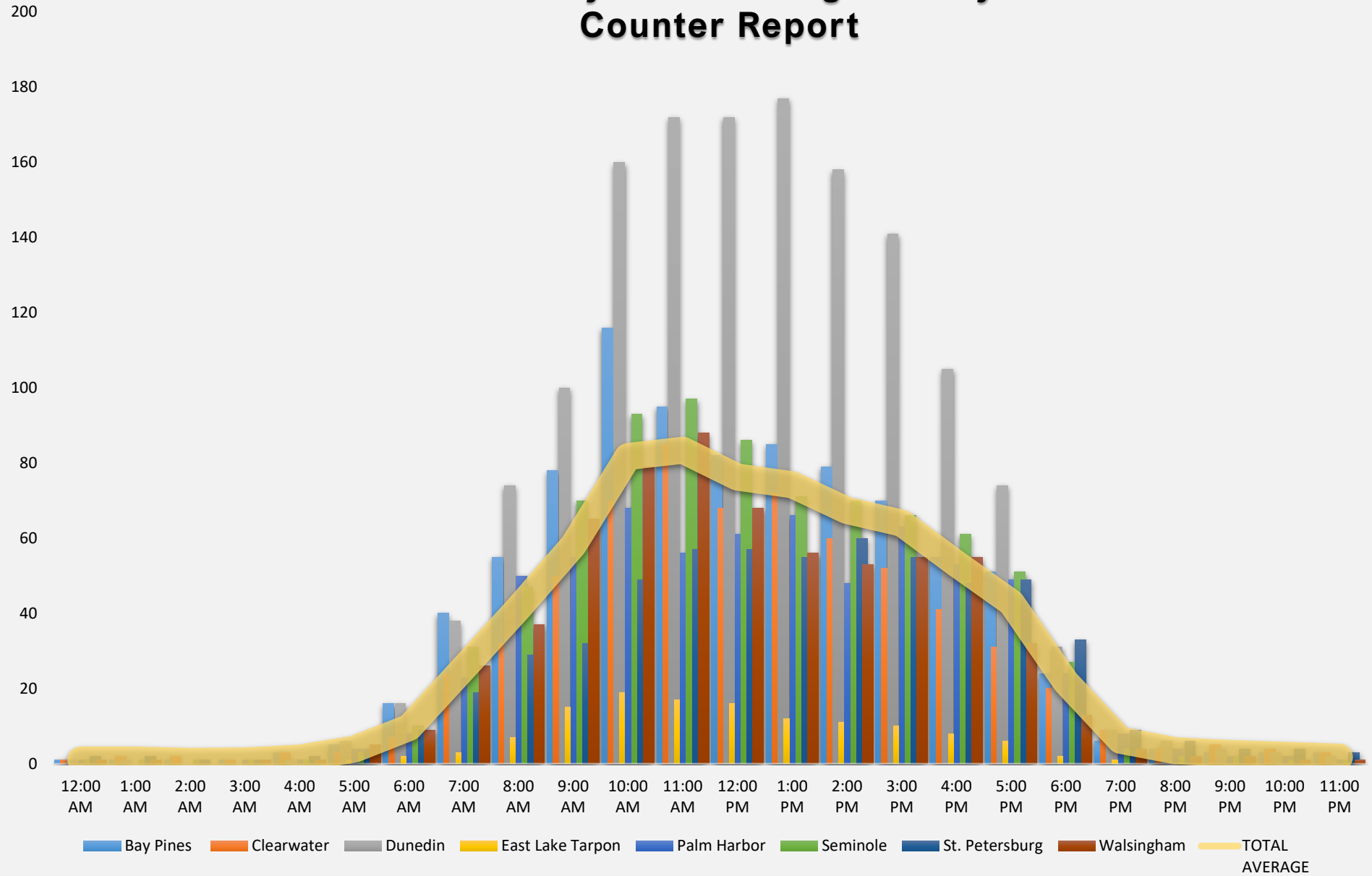


Trail User Mode Split

Counter Location	Walking (Pedestrian)	Bicycling (Bicycle)
East Lake Tarpon:	3%	97%
Palm Harbor:	16%	84%
Dunedin:	21%	79%
Clearwater:	26%	74%
Walsingham:	29%	71%
Seminole:	37%	63%
Bay Pines:	28%	72%
St. Petersburg:	26%	74%

Source: Forward Pinellas February 2020
National Weather Service: [February 2020](#)

February 2020 Average Hourly Counter Report



Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection

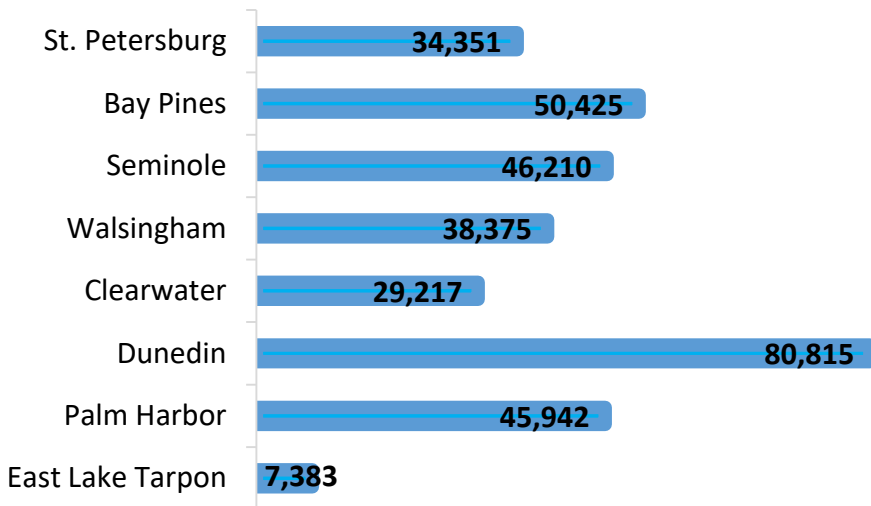
Period: January – February, 2020 Data*



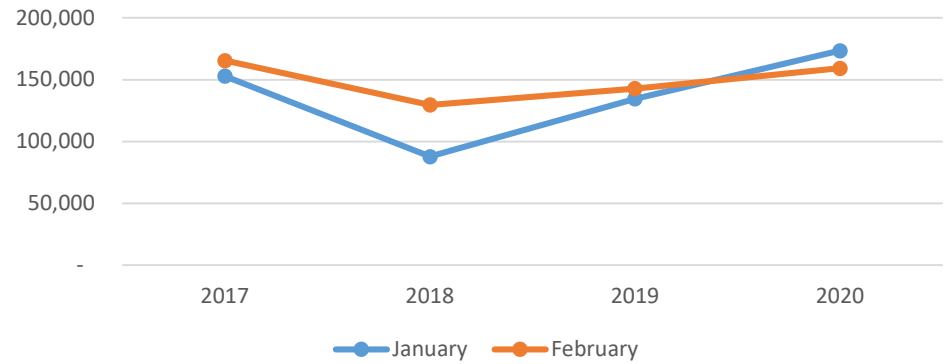
**Jan-Feb, 2020 Total Count:
332,718**

** Technical issues with the Clearwater Counter resulting in several missing days of data during 2020.*

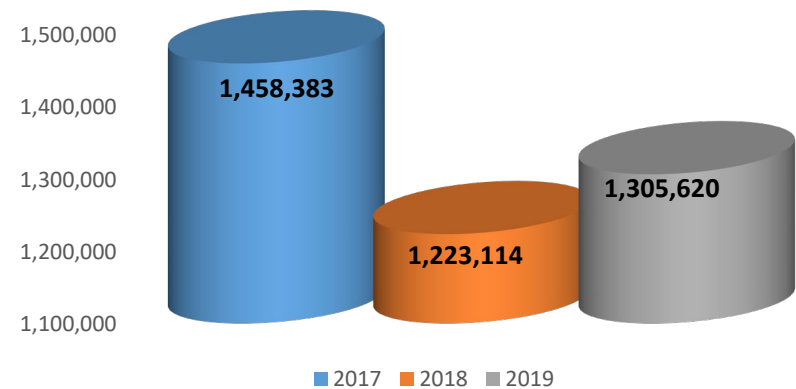
Year to Date Data Per Location



Monthly Trail Counts 2017-2020



Pinellas Trail Use 2017 - 2019



* 2010 – 2016 Survey Data & 2017-2019 Counter Data. 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:
April 1 – April 30, 2020 (30 days)

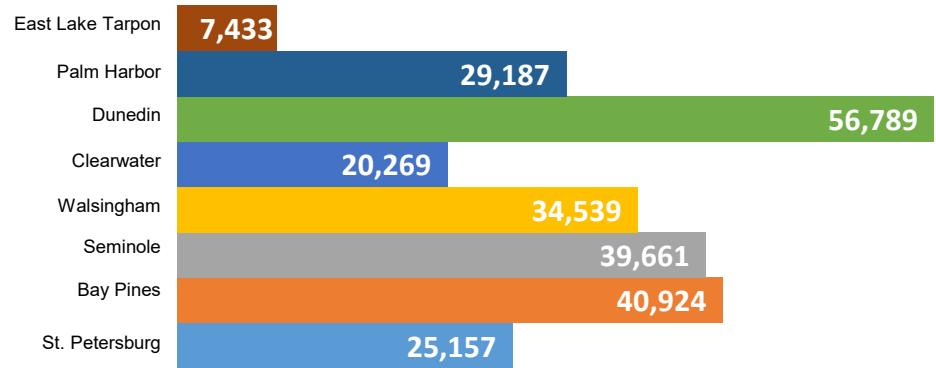
April 2020

30-Day Count Total: **253,959**
Daily Average Users: **4,801**

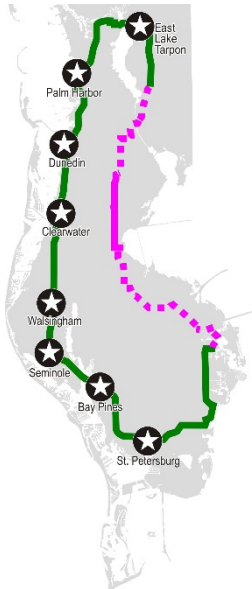
Highest Daily Totals:

- #1 – Saturday, April 4th (Dunedin - 3,130)
- #2 – Sunday, April 26th (Palm Harbor - 1,749)
- #3 – Saturday, April 11th (St. Petersburg – 1,688)

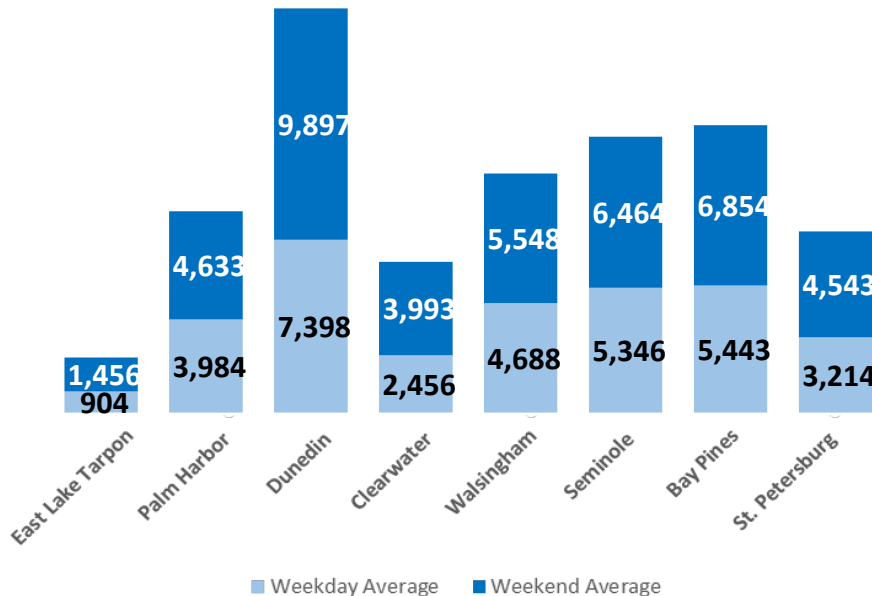
April Trail Users by Counter Location



Counter Locations



Weekday & Weekend Profile



Trail User Mode Split

Counter Location	Pedestrian (%)	Bicyclist (%)
East Lake Tarpon:	5%	95%
Palm Harbor:	13%	87%
Dunedin:	16%	84%
Clearwater:	20%	80%
Walsingham:	27%	73%
Seminole:	29%	71%
Bay Pines:	15%	85%
St. Petersburg:	13%	87%
Average:	17%	83%

Source: Forward Pinellas April 2020
National Weather Service: [April 2020](#)

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period:
May 1 – May 31, 2020 (31 days)

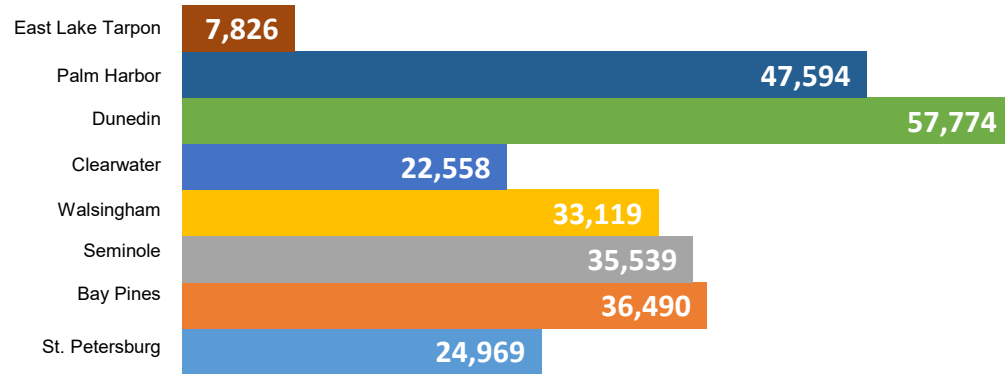
May 2020

31-Day Count Total: **265,869**
Daily Average Users: **8,576**

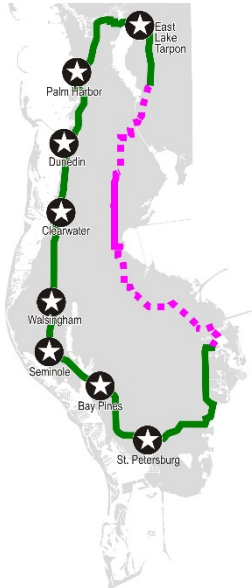
Highest Daily Totals:

- #1 – Saturday, May 2nd (Dunedin - 3,296)
- #2 – Saturday, May 16th (Palm Harbor - 2,366)
- #3 – Saturday, May 2nd (Bay Pines - 2,213)

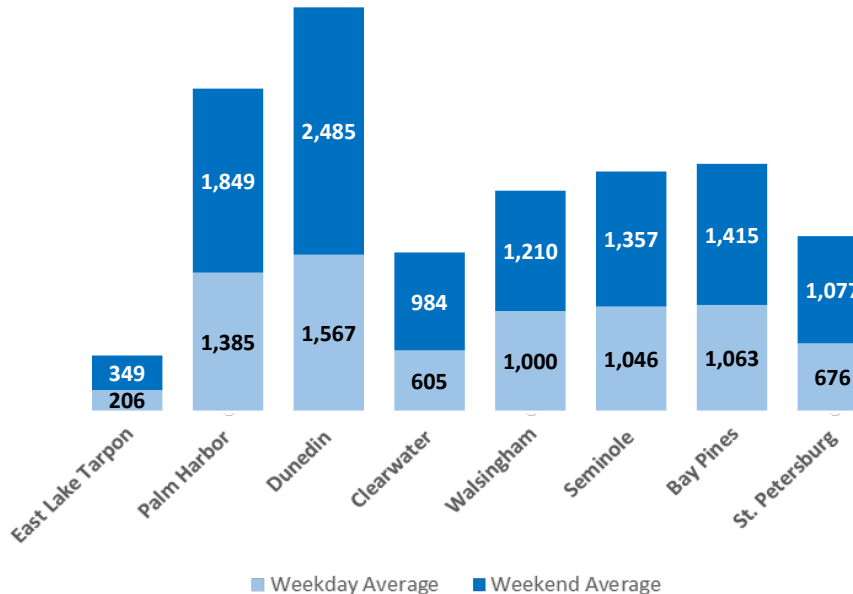
May Trail Users by Counter Location



Counter Locations



Weekday & Weekend Profile

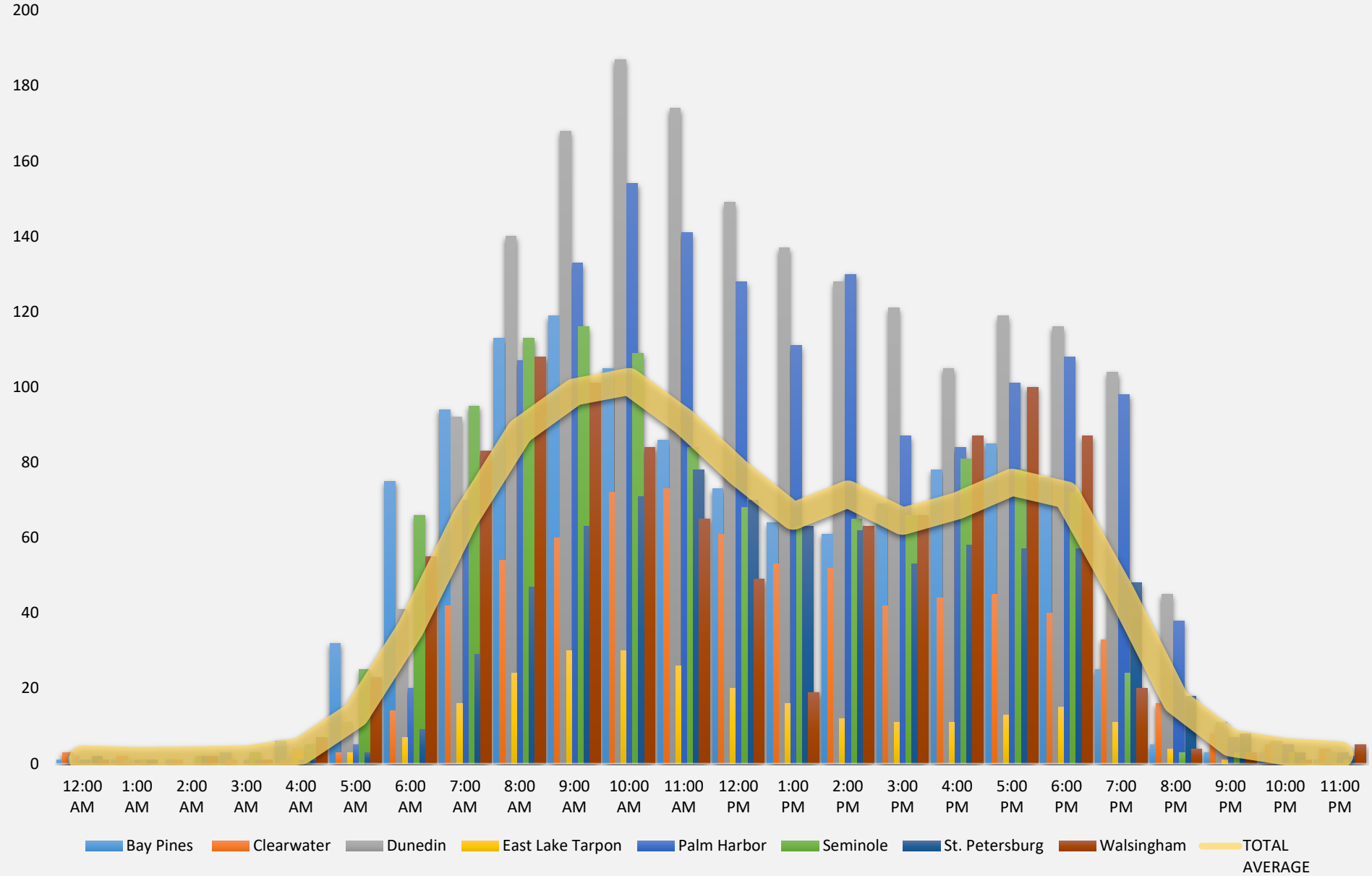


Trail User Mode Split

Counter Location	Walking (Pedestrian)	Bicycling (Bicycle)
East Lake Tarpon:	7%	93%
Palm Harbor:	21%	79%
Dunedin:	14%	86%
Clearwater:	23%	78%
Walsingham:	25%	75%
Seminole:	26%	74%
Bay Pines:	13%	87%
St. Petersburg:	9%	91%

Source: Forward Pinellas May 2020
National Weather Service: [May 2020](#)

May 2020 Average Hourly Counter Report



Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection

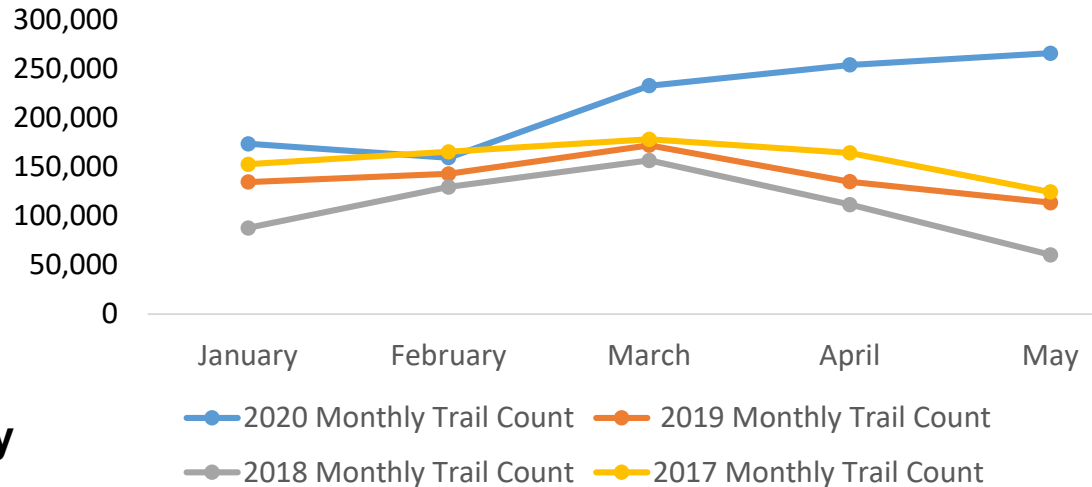
Period: January – May, 2020 Data*



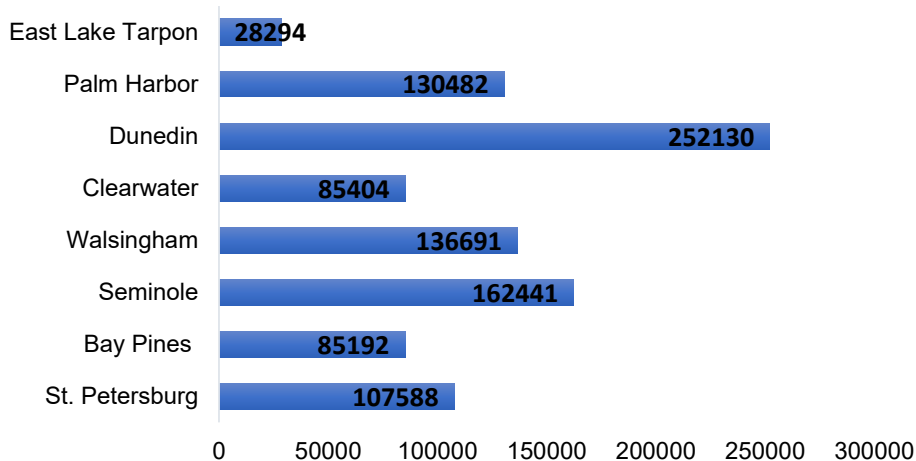
**Jan-May, 2020 Total Count:
1,085,324**

** Technical issues with the Clearwater Counter resulting in several missing days of data during February and March.*

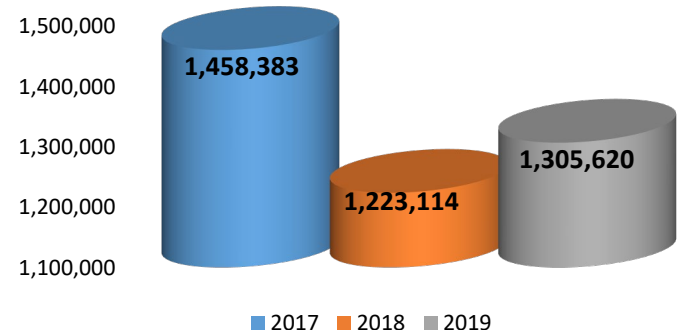
Monthly Trail Counts 2017 - 2020



Counter Data Year to Date by Location



Pinellas Trail Use 2017 - 2019



** 2010 – 2016 Survey Data & 2017-2019 Counter Data. Technical issues with several counters in 2019 resulting in several missing days of data during 2019.*

7. Trail Construction Activity Report

**TRAIL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
JANUARY 2020**

Pinellas Trail North Loop Gap Countryside	Enterprise Rd to Chesnut Sr. Park; SUN Trail; Proposed Alignment Change Not Completed, Construction to begin end of 2020, Est. Complete 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 Funding; Design in 2022; Construction 2024
Pinellas Trail Loop - Ream Wilson Connection (Old Coachman Bridge)	Trail widening and bridge improvements over Alligator Creek; Completed (link)
Pinellas Trail Loop – Duke Energy Trail	NE Coachman to Sunset Point; Penny for Pinellas funded; Construction Est. Complete November 2020 (link)
71st Street Trail Connector	Pinellas Trail to 38th Avenue N; Design 2022, Construction 2024
San Martin Bridge & Trail connection	PD&E Study for Detailed Analysis of approved alignment Public Hearing postponed due to COVID-19 (link) Sharrows were installed summer 2019
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; Est. Construction start 2020 and completed 2024 (link)
Gandy Bridge Trail	FDOT to include trail with new bridge construction; PD&E Study Underway
Harn Boulevard Overpass	Pedestrian Overpass; Design Underway; Construction 2021 (link)
Bayway Trail South	SR 679 & Tierra Verde Bridge Replacement Est. Complete 2021 (link)
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.

9. Other Business

A. Correspondence, Publications, Articles of Interest

Email from Parks – Fred Howard Park Correspondence

B. Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics

This item is provided to allow committee members to suggest topics for future PTSTF agendas.

C. Other

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

From: [Bartolotta, Al](#)
To: [Kelly, Maria](#)
Cc: [Ryan, Angela](#)
Subject: FW: Fred Howard Park :)
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 8:53:56 AM
Attachments:

Al Bartolotta
Division Manager
727-464-5641
forwardpinellas.org

*Forward Pinellas serves as the planning council and metropolitan planning organization for Pinellas County.
All government correspondence is subject to the public records law.*

From: Fowler, Lyle <lfowler@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 8:33 AM
To: Blanton, Whit <wblanton@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Chatman, Rodney S <rschatman@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Cc: Bartolotta, Al <abartolotta@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Ryan, Angela <aryan@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Subject: FW: Fred Howard Park :)

Hi Whit/Rodney,

Please see the below correspondence between Mr. Cozzie and a concerned citizen. The response mentions that the subject would be brought up at the BPAC and Trail Security Task Force. I don't perceive that this is a situation reserved just to Parks and probably would be a broader "reminder" to follow the rules of the road. Could it be stated for the record at the upcoming two meetings?

Lyle Fowler
Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources
(727) 582-2503
lfowler@pinellascounty.org
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From: Cozzie, Paul A <pcozzie@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 8:19 AM
To: Curtis, Robert S <scurtis@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Cc: Fowler, Lyle <lfowler@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Subject: FW: Fred Howard Park :)

fyi

Paul Cozzie

Director

Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources

12520 Ulmerton Road

Largo, FL 33774

Phone (727) 582-2502

Fax (727) 582-2505

pcozzie@pinellascounty.org

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From: Linda H <lindahuntley1@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2020 3:32 PM

To: Cozzie, Paul A <pcozzie@co.pinellas.fl.us>

Subject: Re: Fred Howard Park :)

Dear. Mr Cozzie,

Thank you for your efforts in addressing this issue. It is much appreciated.

Jim and Linda Huntley

On Sun, Jan 19, 2020 at 11:25 AM Cozzie, Paul A <pcozzie@co.pinellas.fl.us> wrote:

Hello Mr. and Mrs. Huntley,

Thank you for your email concerning improper actions by cyclists at Fred Howard Park. I appreciate your concern for all involved. Although we have no traffic enforcement authority, we are reaching out to add this issue to our conversation with the Tarpon Springs Police Department to include this behavior in their enhanced traffic enforcement activities on the causeway. In addition, the issue will be brought forward at the next Trail Security Task Force and Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee meetings to get the word out to cycling groups that use Pinellas County parks for their riding activities. We've also asked our Park Rangers to step up education of riders when they observe this type of behavior.

Sincerely,

Paul Cozzie

Director

Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources
12520 Ulmerton Road
Largo, FL 33774
Phone (727) 582-2502
Fax (727) 582-2505
pcozzie@pinellascounty.org

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From: Linda H <lindahuntley1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 10:51 AM
To: Cozzie, Paul A <pcozzie@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Subject: Fred Howard Park :)

-

Dear Mr. Cozzie,

I am writing to express my concern for the safety of Fred Howard Park visitors. Over the past four years I have witnessed groups of bicyclists often failing to obey traffic safety laws and using common sense while riding in the park. I have witnessed groups of bicyclists failing to stop at stop signs, crossing double yellow lines to pass, failing to ride single file or announce their approach to walkers, joggers and people pushing children in strollers or walking dogs. I have seen groups of bicyclists demonstrate a total disregard for the safety of others. I might add, often this is done while riding at a high rate of speed relative to the speed limit and in the presence of numerous people.

Specifically, on January 11th at approximately 8:30 am, I witnessed this reckless behavior by a large group of bicyclists once again. I was riding my bike exiting the park near the entrance. A group of approximately 20-25 bicyclists were entering the park. In front of this group was an SUV moving slowing as it entered the park. The bicyclists were traveling faster than the SUV as they approached the vehicle quickly. Once near the SUV they all began to cross a double yellow line passing the vehicle. The group of bicyclists are now riding spread across the opposite lane. I was exiting the park in that lane as they rode past me, forcing me to the far edge of the lane onto the shoulder and grass to avoid colliding with the group.

My wife and I both enjoy biking and follow the rules of the road, being respectful of

pedestrians and other bicyclists. Possibly some form of education to the leaders of these groups (i.e., meetings, flyers) and reminders to them of the importance of safety, particularly traveling in large groups would be helpful. Placing signs at the entrance to the park and along the causeway reminding bicyclists of single file riding, following speed limits and stop signs, sharing the roadway with pedestrians, etc. might serve as a reminder. Rules of the road are not only for the safety of pedestrians and other motorists, but for the safety of the groups of bicyclists. We personally have a neighbor who severely injured her shoulder riding in a pack and colliding with other bicyclists, who no longer rides her bicycle.

Thank you, Mr. Cossie, for maintaining our beautiful parks and for your ongoing concern for the safety of all visitors. As residents of Tarpon Springs we visit Fred Howard Park almost every day and have seen huge improvements over the years and consider Fred Howard Park a treasure in our area.

Respectfully,

James and Linda Huntley
607-727-8382

PS: I no longer have a personal e-mail, this is our joint email. Thanks again for all you do. Jim