



PINELLAS TRAIL SECURITY TASK FORCE (PTSTF) MEETING AGENDA

July 12, 2022 - 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

FACE MASKS WILL BE ENCOURAGED BUT NOT REQUIRED

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 12, 2022**
3. **PINELLAS COUNTY E-BIKE SURVEY**
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 Angela Ryan at 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 11, 2022

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 – July 12, 2022

2. Approval of Minutes – April 12, 2022



SUMMARY

The summary minutes of the April 12, 2022 Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting are attached.

ATTACHMENTS: Pinellas Trail Security Task Force Summary Minutes – April 12, 2022

ACTION: Approval of the April Meeting Summary

**PINELLAS TRAIL SECURITY TASK FORCE
MEETING SUMMARY
APRIL 12, 2022**

The following is a summary of the April 12, 2022 Forward Pinellas - Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting, which was held virtually, via Zoom platform. The Security Task Force meets at least quarterly during the year.

IN ATTENDANCE

Officer Ron Wolfson, Chairman	St. Petersburg Police Department & Volunteer Coord.
Officer Michael Hughbanks	St. Petersburg Police Department
Officer Osvaldo Sicairos	St. Petersburg Police Department
Officer Anthony Alli	St. Petersburg Police Department
Officer Keith Bowling	Largo Police Department
Deputy Eric Gibson	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Terrance Fallahee	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
Lynn Abbott	Pinellas County Public Safety Services
Vanessa Boback	Pinellas County Animal Control
William Hartwell	Pinellas County Animal Control
Chief Ranger Carol Gray	Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources
Ranger Will Sever	Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources
Lyle Fowler	Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources
Lucas Cruse	City of St. Petersburg
James Abaka	Pinellas County Risk Management
Joan Rice	Pinellas County Public Works Traffic Division
Jim Wedlake	Pinellas Trail Auxiliary Ranger
Scott Daniels	Friends of the Pinellas Trail
Stuart Schwartzreich	Pinellas Trail Auxiliary Ranger
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 9:05 a.m. and asked members to introduce themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY – January 11, 2022

The summary from the January 11, 2022, meeting was approved with no corrections.

3. PRESENTATION: PINELLAS TRAIL SPEED STUDY

Ms. Angela Ryan, Forward Pinellas staff, shared a presentation on the Pinellas Trail Speed Study. In 2016, the Trail Counter Program was initiated and through funding from the Center of Disease Control, eight fixed electromagnetic and infrared sensors were installed along the Pinellas Trail. The data counts trail users, differentiating between pedestrians and bicyclists and also logs the day, time and direction traveled. In 2021, there were almost two million people who visited the Pinellas Trail. Due to technical troubles with a couple of the counters, there were approximately 90 days of missing data, and with that missing data, there were likely 2.1 to 2.2 million trail users. Since the counter program started, there has been a gradual increase in users, and this trend is expected to continue. Trail data is important to proactively plan efforts in enforcement, construction and long range planning, to address the increasing number of people that

continually use the Pinellas Trail. As the County works diligently to create the Pinellas Trail Loop, new users from different parts of the county will have increased use of the trail network. In 2019, a large trail survey was conducted, and the data demonstrates that people predominantly use the Pinellas Trail for recreational and exercise purposes. Other findings from the survey found that over 70% of users were cyclists and the average cyclist is a male between the ages of 50-64. Conversely, it is expected that the 100% increase in overall use of the Pinellas Trail during the COVID-19 pandemic has also increased the diversity of trail users. Specifically, trail data has demonstrated a higher use in areas such as the City of St. Petersburg during commuting hours, suggesting trail use for students and workers. The increase in diversity of use on the Pinellas Trail is a positive trend as the purpose of the multiuse trail is multi-faceted and includes use for commuting by active transportation to basic necessities such as work, school and medical care.

As the agency plans for the next trail survey, the questions will need to include the addition of e-scooters and e-bike users as there has been a high amount of visual observation of these users on the Pinellas Trail since 2019. Furthermore, the agency stays apprised on new trends and changes to the active transportation environment. With new data on e-bike use from national studies it is important to consider the increasing use of micromobility in trail planning. Studies have shown that e-bike users choose the e-bikes due to topography that makes it difficult for just biking, destinations being too far for just biking and physical limitations such as age or other disabilities. Using e-bikes is environmentally conscientious and a cost-effective form of transportation for low-income households. New trends show more women on e-bikes and younger people with e-bike and e-scooters using active transportation networks. As such, embracing these new people on the Pinellas Trail and helping everyone operate safely is an important path forward. The agency intends to continue collaboration with its partners to gain a better understanding of trail use and the evolving diversity of users to help everyone share use the resources together.

Ms. Joan Rice shared that Pinellas County is seeking more feedback from residents about electric bicycles, and Pinellas County Public Works is conducting a survey to ask about resident's feelings toward e-bikes. It can be found on the Pinellas Trail website and take about 10 minutes to complete it. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

4. QUARTERLY REPORT FROM PINELLAS TRAIL PARK RANGER

Chief Ranger Carol Gray, Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR) provided the following report. On January 7th, February 16th, March 6th and March 9th, March 28, 2022, Rangers responded to graffiti reports at the Alt. 19 and the West Bay overpass locations. On March 7th, Rangers responded to a citizen report of a metal box that had fallen from the cell tower between the 113th Street and Seminole Boulevard overpasses. The tower company responded and retrieved the metal box. Rangers responded to transient activity where Largo PD assisted. Rangers responded to an accident involving a bicyclist and vehicle at 8th Avenue SW. Largo Fire and Rescue responded. Only the incident report was submitted since this was not actually on County property.

5. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND AGENCY REPORTS

A. Sheriff's Office

Deputy Terrance Fallahee reported that since last year there has been an increase in calls to the Sheriff's office for concerns on the Pinellas Trail. In 2020, there were 235 total calls and in 2021, there were 378 calls received. The biggest change as a result of this trend is increased directive patrols. In 2020, there were 43 directive patrols and in 2021, there were 77 directive patrols conducted. The other notable change has been to increase traffic stops at trail crossings. In 2020 there were 34 traffic stops and in 2021, there were 91 traffic stops. In the first quarter of 2022, the Sheriff's office responded to 110 individual events on the Trail, of which 41 were directive patrols and a vast majority of those occurred at Skinner and the Trail. With the new addition of the 4-way signal at Skinner and the Trail, it is assumed that the second quarter numbers will increase again. Of the three crashes associated with the Trail, two were at the Skinner Blvd. and the Pinellas Trail intersection. The third crash was at Walsingham and the Pinellas Trail.

B. Belleair

Belleair PD submitted a report that was shared with the members for the past quarter. Specifically, there was a report of vehicle vs. pedestrian and one First Information Report (FIR).

C. Clearwater

No representatives attended from Clearwater.

D. Gulfport

Gulfport PD submitted a report that was shared with the members for the past quarter. Only one incident on the Trail was reported which was a misdemeanor criminal mischief in which unknown subjects kicked holes in a white PVC fence surrounding a mobile home park that borders the Trail. It occurred on March 15th at 4:00 pm, at 6th Place South and the damage was estimated at \$500.00.

E. Largo

Officer Keith Bowling submitted a report that Largo PD had 22 calls in the first quarter, with a majority being traffic stops. There were two crashes at 8th Avenue SW and the Trail with one fatality. Individual reports shared someone sleeping on a bench who was asked to relocate. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office sent out a report of shots fired on the Trail, but the response team found nothing and patrol checks on the Trail were conducted. Additionally, there was a human fatality reported in an intersection of the Pinellas Trail. There were two different witnesses for the fatality crash where one witness said the bicyclist ran the stop sign and the other witness said the bicyclist stopped.

F. St. Petersburg

Officer Hughbanks and Officer Sicairos attended the meeting and reported there were 31 calls for service on the Trail. One arrest was made on the Trail, two were reports of vehicle burglaries, two citizen contacts. There were a few crashes, one was a hit and run

on 38th Street and the Trail and one was a DUI on 16th Street and the Trail. The arrest were juveniles on 58th Street and the Trail.

G. Tarpon Springs

Officer Anthony Boone was not in attendance.

H. Animal Services

Sergeant Vanessa Boback reported one incident on March 9th, of an injured cat at the 700 block of 40th Street S, but they were unable to locate the cat when they responded.

I. Public Safety Services

Ms. Lynn Abbott, Pinellas County EMS & Fire Administration, provided a quarterly incident report for the members. There were 39 incidents on or near the Pinellas Trail. There were three no-fault pedestrian falls, five non-traumatic illnesses, ten no-fault bike falls, one mental illness/attempted suicide, one overdose, two homeless events (sleeping on the park bench), seven motor vehicle collisions involving bikes, one bike fall where the tire was caught in a trap, and a possible safety issue at Court Street and Pinellas Trail at 1:17 pm.

J. Pinellas County Risk Management

James Abaka was in attendance but had no updates to report.

K. Friends of the Pinellas Trail

Mr. Scott Daniels shared that Friends of the Pinellas Trail held their annual "Thank You" picnic for the Auxiliary Rangers and Pinellas Trail volunteers at the Wall Springs Park in Palm Harbor. Bob Porter with the Palm Harbor Historic Museum spoke at the event, and the event was well received. County Communications has produced Courtesy on the Trail Campaign posters, that are being put up in local bike shops, please look for them. Friends of The Pinellas Trail is currently looking for more volunteers to help and if there are any questions or concerns to share, please send an email to friendsofthepinellastrail@gmail.com.

L. Volunteer Patrol Programs and Updates

Chair Wolfson stated that the volunteers are returning, 17 total with three new volunteers doing ride-a-longs currently.

Chief Ranger Gray shared that long-term volunteers have returned to full participation. The overall numbers are down from pre-COVID, but that it is good to have them back.

Jim Wedlake shared that he had a meeting with the Sheriff's Office to request the Sheriff's Office have their volunteer patrol to patrol on the Trail either on bicycles or carts, and the request was well received and under consideration.

6. AUTOMATIC TRAIL COUNTERS

Ms. Ryan, Forward Pinellas staff, reviewed the counter reports for January and February 2022. Questions were taken and appropriately answered.

7. REPORT ON TRAIL CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Ms. Rice provided an update to the construction activity on the Pinellas Trail. The North Loop from John Chesnut Park to Enterprise Road, is nearing completion as they have some mast arms going up this week on SR580 and Countryside Boulevard at the signalized crossings. The crossing at the Lake Tarpon Outfall Canal has been postponed due to costs and PCPW is rebidding the construction which should be finished in 2023. The North Gap Loop detour is needed during construction. The South Loop is just starting design from the section from Whitney Road to 126th Avenue. There is a stall in the design for the section between Haines Bayshore and Whitney due to the residents' concerns. Additionally, along Skinner Blvd. and the Trail in Dunedin there is a temporary traffic signal where everyone must come to a stop on red. It is temporary because in a couple of years Skinner will go through a Complete Streets transformation resulting in a reducing the four lanes to two lanes, which will make it easier to do the crossing.

Lucas Cruse with St. Petersburg added that at the intersection of 2nd Street and the Pinellas Trail, construction will begin to turn the bike way to green paint for the crossing and some changes to slow down turning motorists. Part of the work for this intersection was through collaboration with Forward Pinellas; whereby, there was a study of motorist turning speeds and conflicts for this intersection. St. Petersburg will be doing a post-construction study as well to monitor the area to determine design effectiveness.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Rice shared that Pinellas County Public Works received an award for the Trail Courtesy Campaign, from the American Public Works Association under the Technical Innovation category. Also, that the new bike shop posters are a composite of all the signs used during the Courtesy Campaign.

Mr. Daniels shared that the National Rails to Trails Conservancy publishes a magazine where they have recognized the Pinellas Trail with a four page spread about what we do in Pinellas County. People in other counties reach out to hear our success story.

Chair Wolfson shared that the 2022 Torch Run will begin at the St. Petersburg Police Department to Safety Harbor.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Wolfson adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m. The next PTSTF meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2022.

Pinellas Trail Security Task Force – July 12, 2022

3. Pinellas Trail E-bike Survey



Summary

Pinellas County conducted a 3-week online survey in April of this year. The survey focused on safety, user conflict, and clarifications of facts vs. myths regarding electric bicycles in Pinellas County. The over 2,000 survey participants received specific questions for traditional bicycle users, e-bike users, users of both traditional and e-bikes, and non-bicycle users. Pinellas County staff will share the survey results at the PTSTF meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None Required, Informational Item Only

Pinellas Trail Security Task Force – July 12, 2022

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. Each Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting, the Park Ranger provides an overview of any security topics which arise during the previous quarter. The information helps everyone attending understand any concerning behavior on the Pinellas Trail which can be addressed by the appropriate parties in attendance.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None Required, Informational Item Only

- **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. East Lake/Tarpon & Bay Pines counts for April were excluded due to trail counter technical difficulties. The counter for East Lake/Tarpon was repaired and these counts are included in May's trail counts, however Bay Pines counter is still having technical difficulties and these counts were not included in May.

ATTACHMENT: Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary Reports:

- March 2022
- April 2022
- May 2022

ACTION: No Action Required, informational item only

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

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

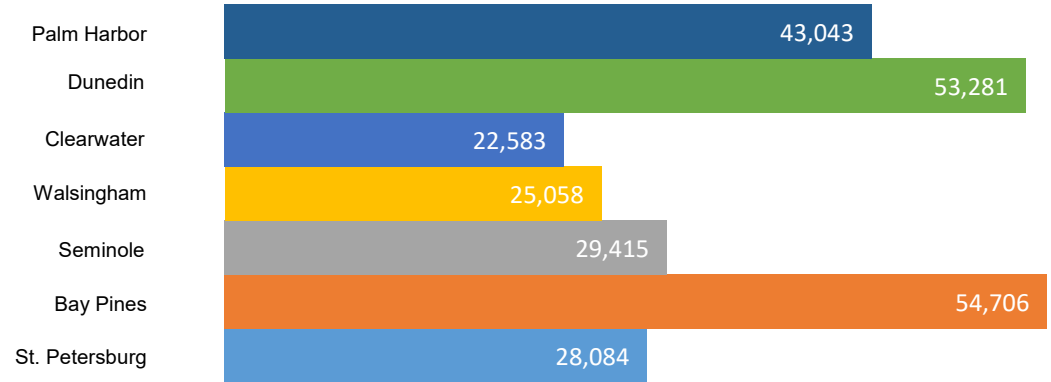
March 2022

31-Day Count Total: **256,170***
Daily Average Users: **8,263**

Highest Daily Totals:

- #1 – Saturday, March 26th (Bay Pines – 6,067)
- #2 – Saturday, March 26th (Dunedin– 3,071)
- #3 – Saturday, March 26th (Palm Harbor – 2,408)

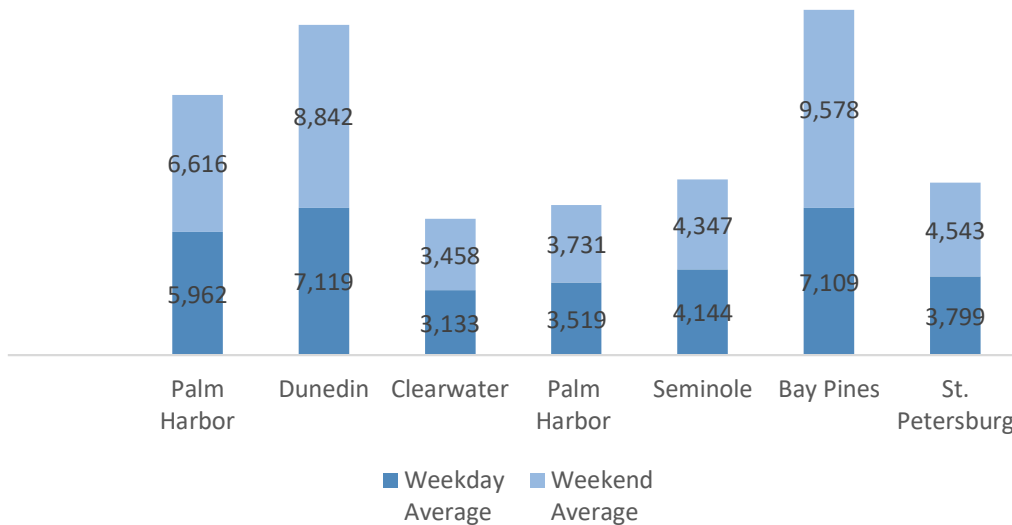
March Trail Users by Counter Location



Counter Locations



Weekday & Weekend Profile



Trail User Mode Split

Counter Location	Walking	Bicycling
Palm Harbor	22%	78%
Dunedin	15%	85%
Clearwater	26%	74%
Walsingham	19%	81%
Seminole	28%	72%
Bay Pines	52%	48%
St. Petersburg	27%	73%

Source: Forward Pinellas March 2021
National Weather Service: [March 2022](#)

*Technical issues with East Lake / Tarpon counter in March. 2022.

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection

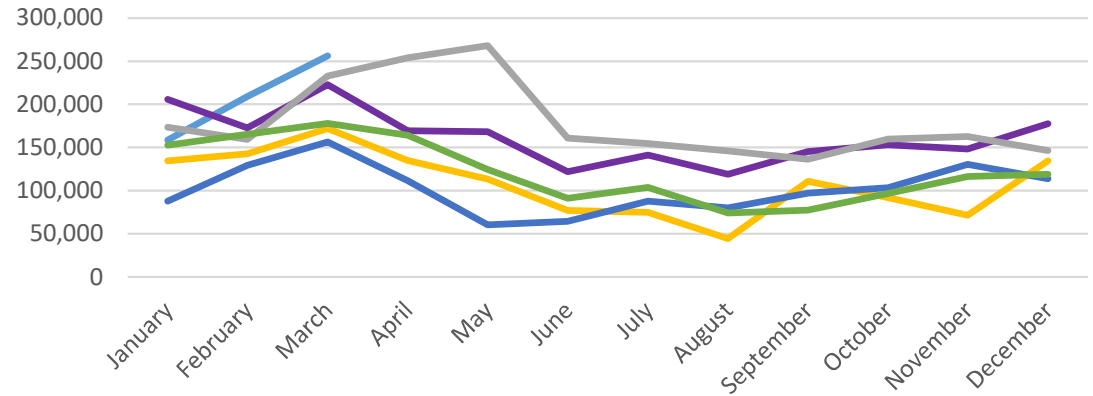
Period: January – March, 2022 Data*



**Jan-March 2022 Total Count:
623,725**

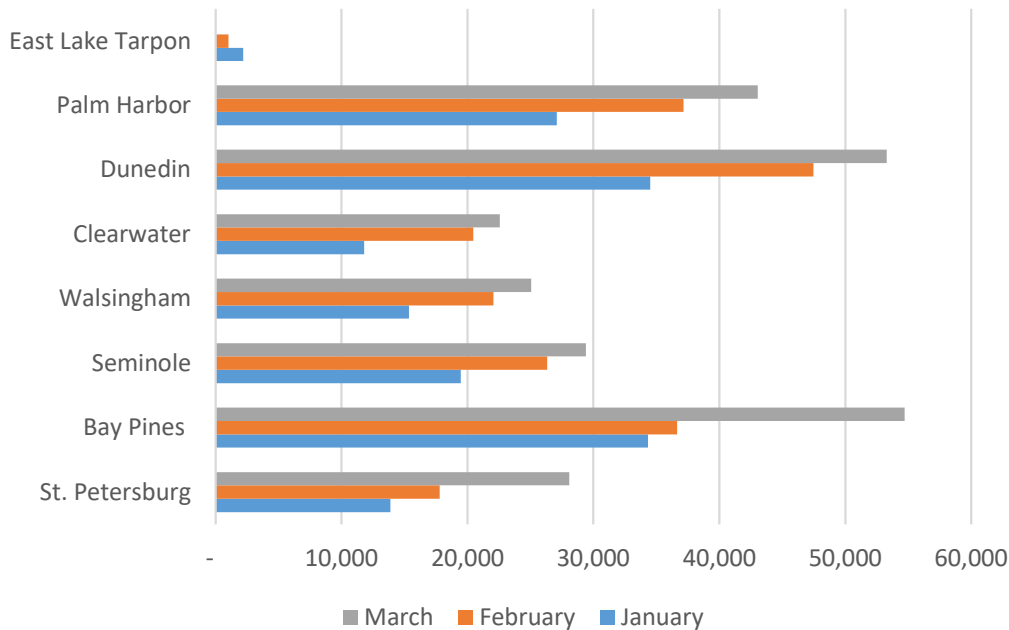
**Technical issues with East Lake / Tarpon counter in Feb.-March 2022*

Monthly Trail Counts 2017 - 2022

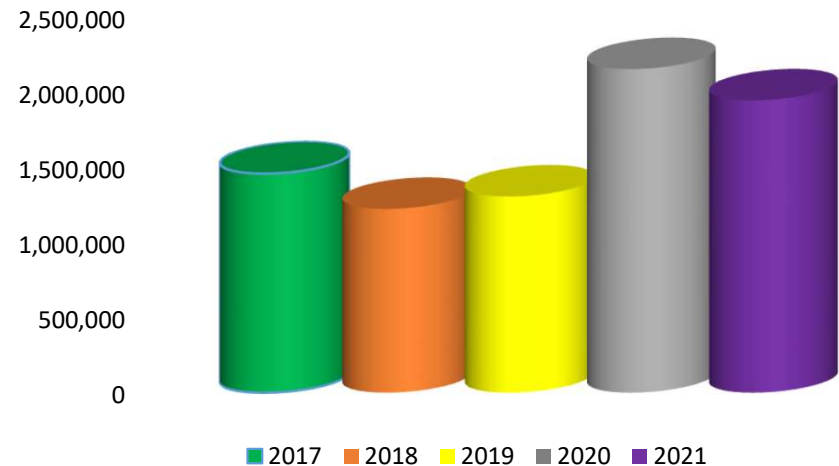


— 2022 Monthly Trail Count — 2021 Monthly Trail Count
— 2020 Monthly Trail Count — 2019 Monthly Trail Count
— 2018 Monthly Trail Count — 2017 Monthly Trail Count

Year to Date Data Per Location



Pinellas Trail Use 2017 – 2021



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

**Technical issues with East Lake / Tarpon counter in Feb-March, 2022.*

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection Period:
April 1st-30th (30 days)

April 2022

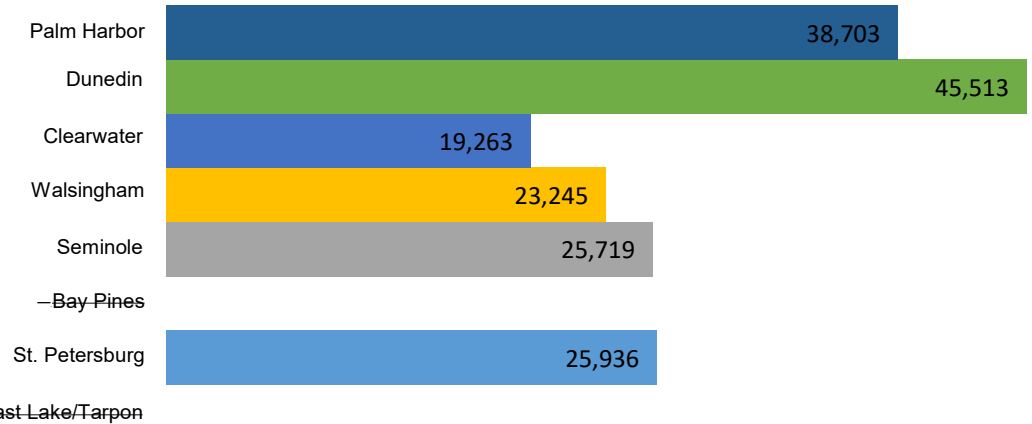
30-Day Count Total: **178,379***
Daily Average Users: **5,946**

Highest Daily Totals:

- #1 – Sunday, April 24th (Palm Harbor – 2,968)
- #2 – Sunday, April 3rd (Dunedin– 2,415)
- #3 – Saturday, April 16th (St. Petersburg– 1,454)

**East Lake/Tarpon and Bay Pines counters not included due to technical issues*

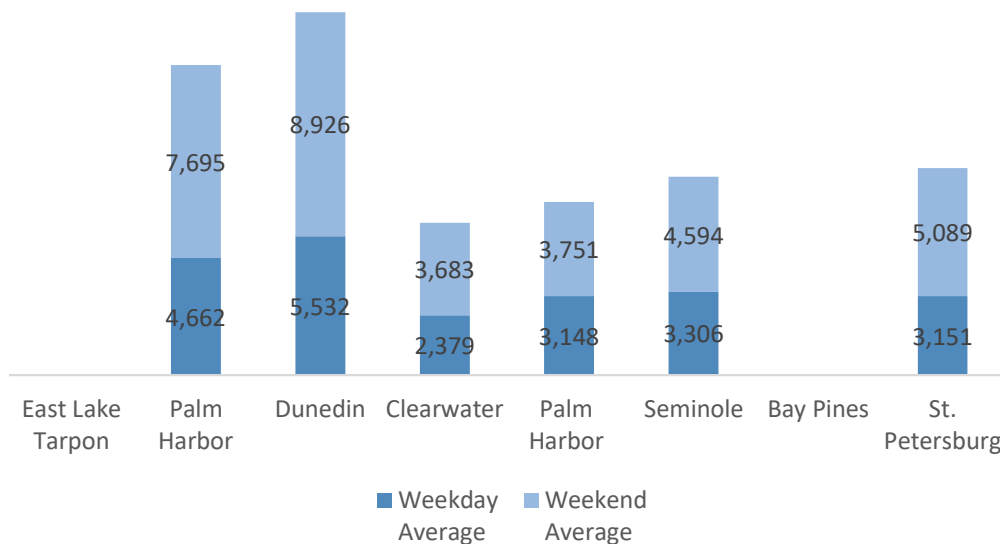
April Trail Users by Counter Location



Counter Locations



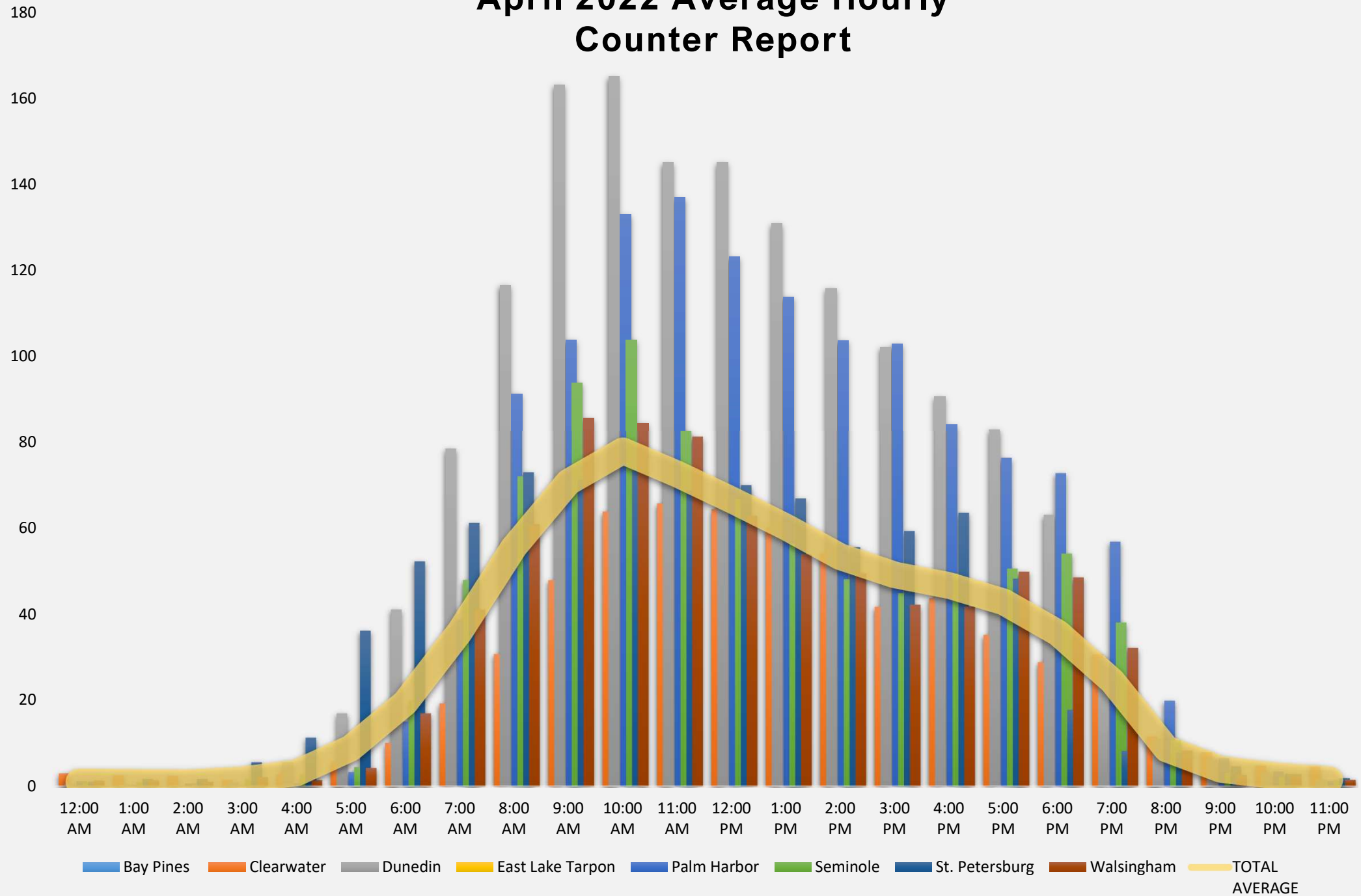
Weekday & Weekend Profile



Trail User Mode Split

Counter Location	Walking (Pedestrian)	Bicycling (Bicycle)
Palm Harbor	26%	74%
Dunedin	16%	84%
Clearwater	29%	71%
Walsingham	22%	78%
Seminole	30%	70%
Bay Pines		
St. Petersburg	26%	74%
East Lake/Tarpon		

April 2022 Average Hourly Counter Report



Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection

Period: January – April, 2022 Data*

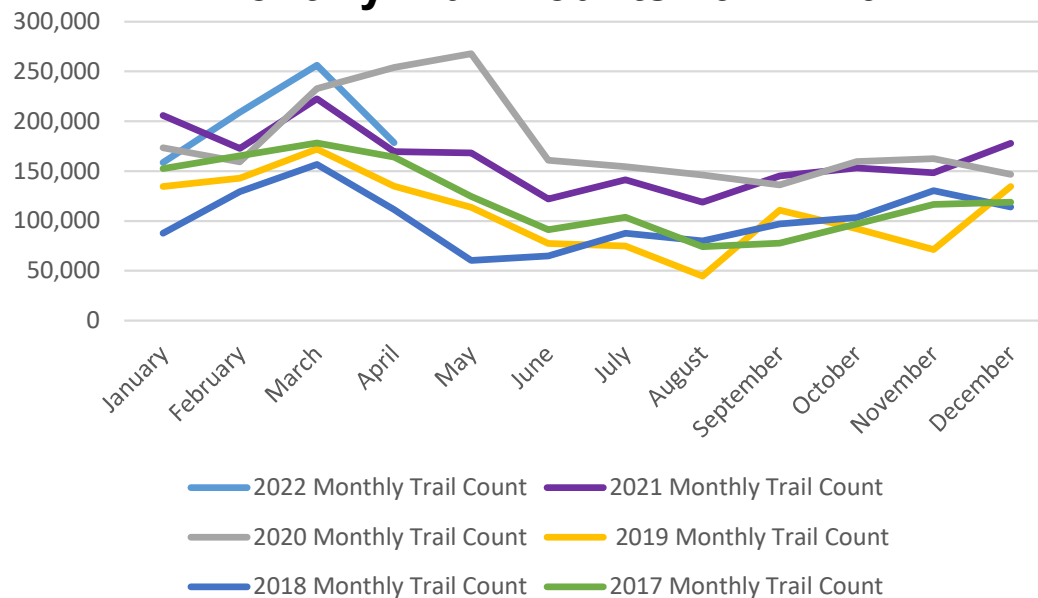


**Jan-April 2022 Total Count:
802,104**

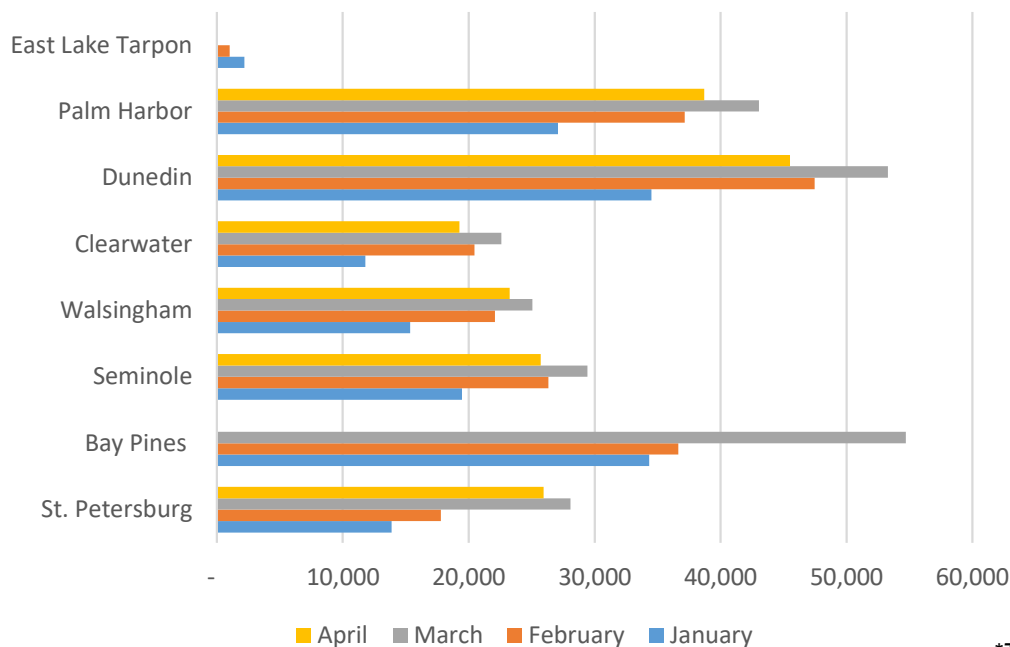
**Technical issues with East Lake / Tarpon counter beginning in Feb 2022; data not included in March or April 2022*

**Technical issues with Bay Pines counter; not included in April 2022*

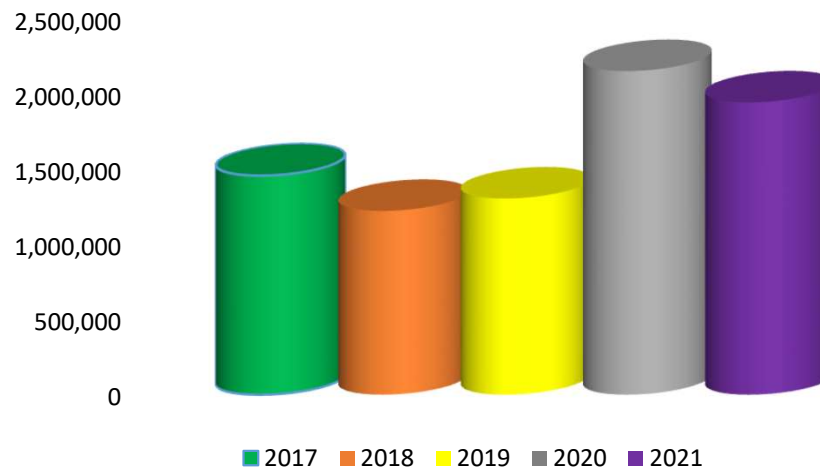
Monthly Trail Counts 2017 - 2022



Year to Date Data Per Location



Pinellas Trail Use 2017 – 2021



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

**Technical issues with East Lake / Tarpon counter in Feb-March, 2022.*

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

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

May 2022

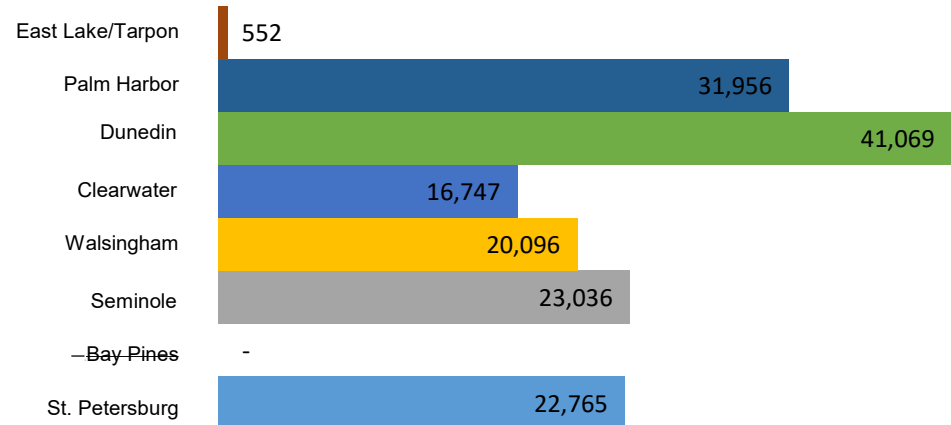
30-Day Count Total: **156,221***
Daily Average Users: **5,039**

Highest Daily Totals:

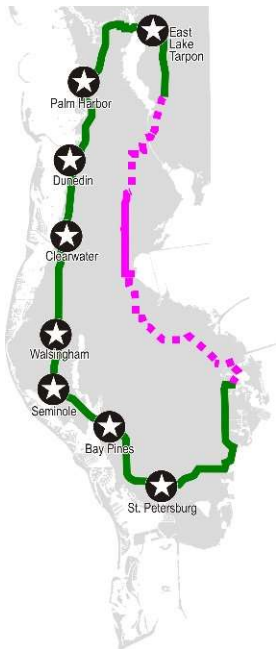
- #1 – Sunday, May 1st (Dunedin – 2,033)
- #2 – Saturday, May 14th (Palm Harbor– 1,522)
- #3 – Saturday, May 14th (St. Petersburg– 1,165)

**Bay Pines counter not included due to technical issues*

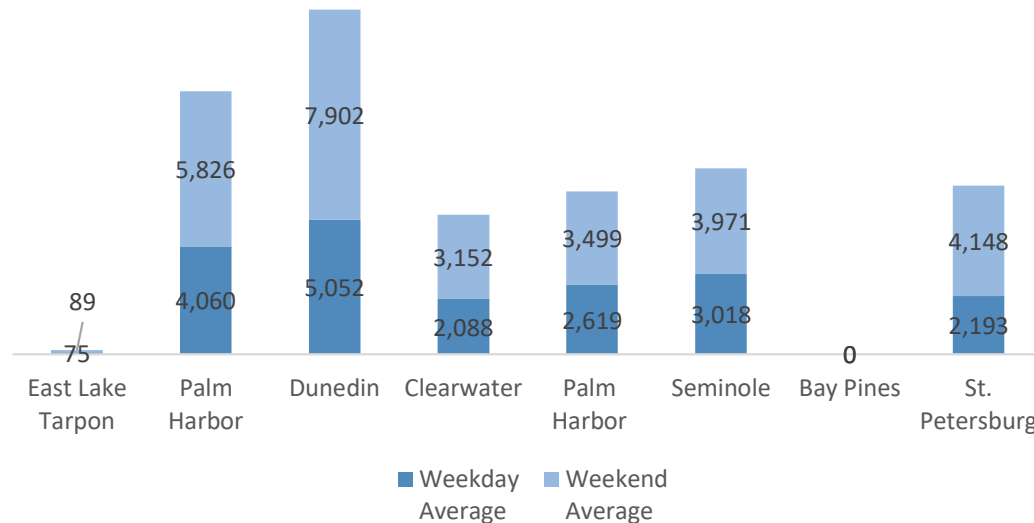
May Trail Users by Counter Location



Counter Locations



Weekday & Weekend Profile



Trail User Mode Split

Counter Location	Walking (Pedestrian)	Bicycling (Bicycle)
Palm Harbor	24%	76%
Dunedin	17%	83%
Clearwater	29%	71%
Walsingham	19%	81%
Seminole	27%	73%
Bay Pines	-	-
St. Petersburg	23%	77%
East Lake/Tarpon	92%	8%

Pinellas Trail User Count Data Summary

Automated Trail Counter Data Collection

Period: January – May, 2022 Data*

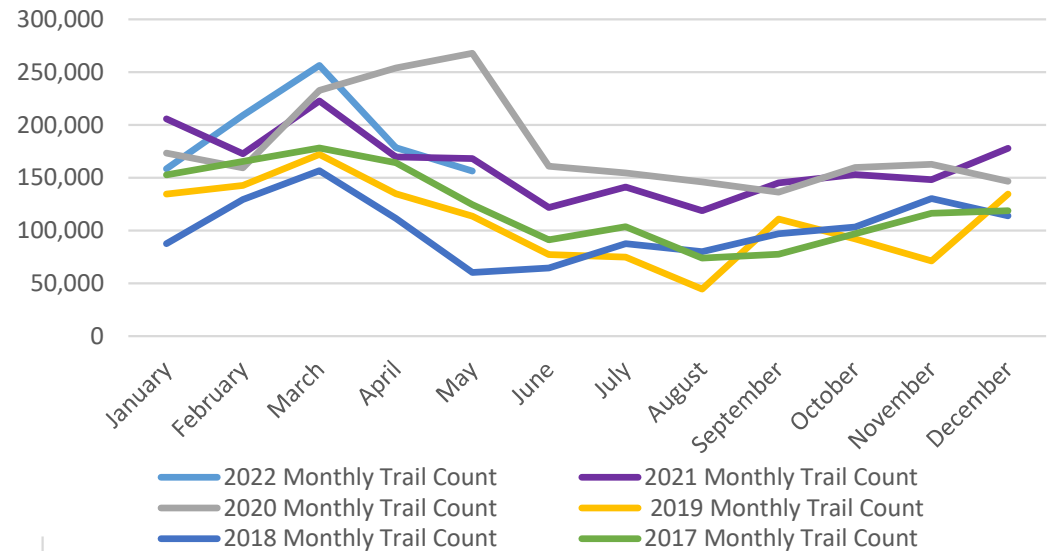


**Jan-May 2022 Total Count:
958,325***

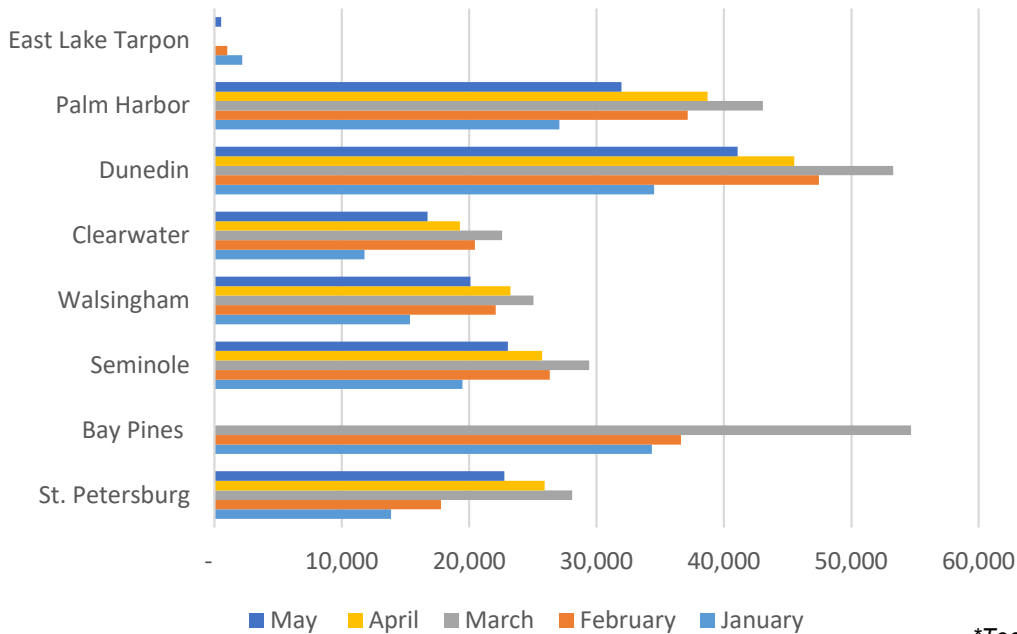
**Technical issues with East Lake / Tarpon counter beginning in Feb 2022; data not included in March or April 2022*

**Technical issues with Bay Pines counter; not included in April –May 2022*

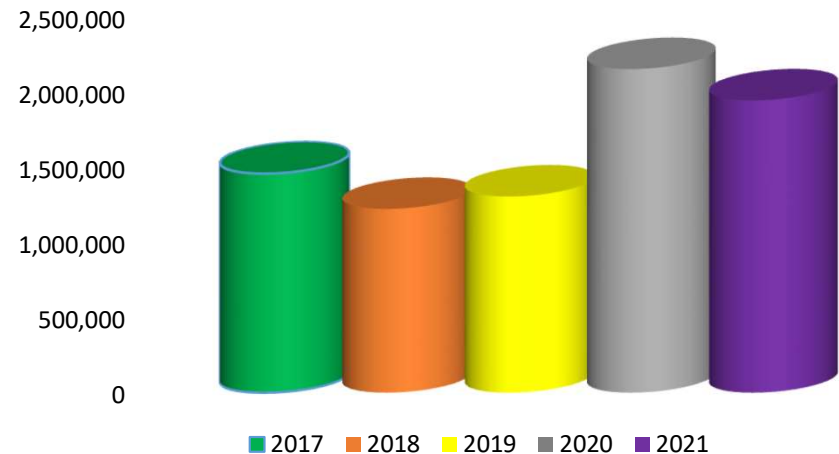
Monthly Trail Counts 2017 - 2022



Year to Date Data Per Location



Pinellas Trail Use 2017 – 2021



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

TRAIL CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS JANUARY 2022

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. Suggestions for Future Agenda Topics

- Trail Planning
- Trail Operations
- Trail Enhancements
- Electric Bikes and Electric Scooters

B. Other

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