

Black Mountain -- The Oaks Trail Pedestrian Count

Time Period: Monday April 8, 2024, to Sunday April 14, 2024

Location: Into the Oaks Greenway – Veterans Park to Vance Avenue East of Pulliam Stadium for Warren Wilson College.



(Image: Google Maps)

Equipment: EcoCounter Pyro Counter. Placed 4/4/2024 and retrieved 4/15/2024. RPO 1 Counter was mounted at the eastern end of the trail near Vance Avenue. RPO 2 Counter was mounted on a sign at the west end of the trail in Veterans Park.

The Pyro Counter can count bicyclists, pedestrians, skateboarders, rollerbladers, or anyone who passes within approximately 16.5 feet of the equipment. However, the device is unable to differentiate between the different users and simply counts them as general users.

Possible sources of error include facility-users walking side-by-side or close to each other; this is likely to include people walking or running side-by-side, children being held by a parent or walking along side of them, or dense groups of users. It is unclear the number of users who were likely to have been missed due to these circumstances and there has been no effort to make up for this discrepancy.

As with all these surveys, this is just a snapshot of time for activity in the study area. There can be differences in activity due to the time of year the survey is conducted. Weather can have an impact on the results of the survey. Efforts will be made to repeat the survey during different seasons and during the same time of the year during future years.

Results

This study was done in advance of proposed upgrades to the trail system in Black Mountain. Project EB-5547A is planned to connect Black Mountain Avenue to the Flat Creek Greenway. This survey can set a baseline for the Flat Creek Greenway. Project EB-5547B is planned to connect Black Mountain Avenue to the “The Oaks Trail.”

The Oaks Trail (East)

Total Users	946
Users/Hour	5.6
Peak 24-Hour Usage	208
Peak Day	Sunday April 14th, 2024
Peak 2-Hour Usage Period	81
Peak 2-Hour Date and Time	Monday April 8, 2024 -- 4PM to 6PM

The Oaks Trail (West)

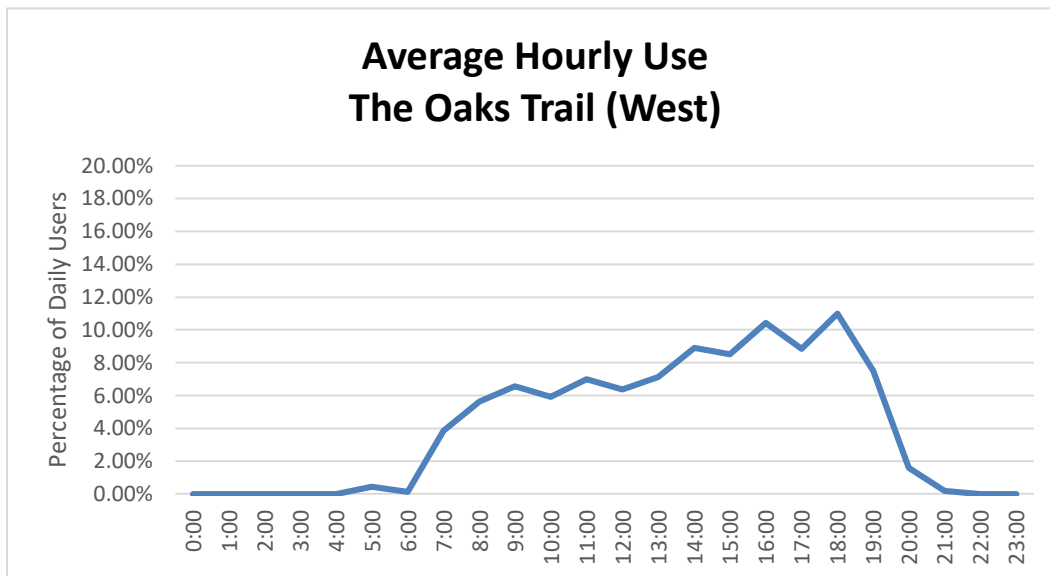
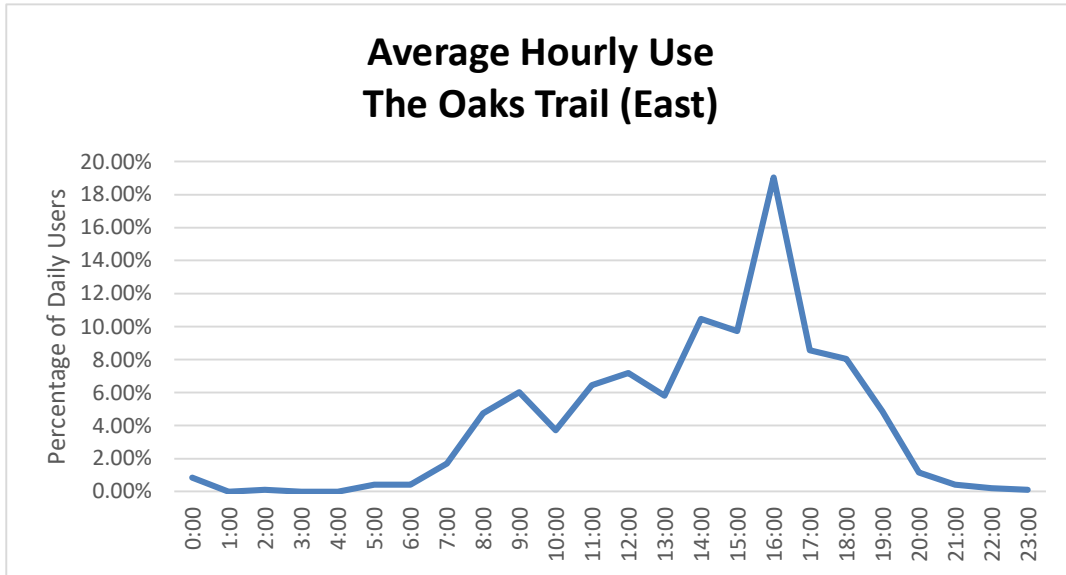
Total Users	1,584
Users/Hour	9.4
Peak 24-Hour Usage	447
Peak Day	Sunday April 14, 2024
Peak 2-Hour Usage Period	100
Peak 2-Hour Date and Time	Sunday April 14, 2024 -- 5PM to 7PM

According to the [Black Mountain Greenways Website](#) “(the Oaks Trail) connects Black Mountain Veterans Park to the sidewalk network and downtown Black Mountain. This paved trail is approximately .5 miles in length, crossing the Swannanoa River at the West end and bordering the South edge of "In the Oaks", now the Black Mountain Campus of Montreat College. The trail moves along through a shady pine forest and includes hill with a steep grade. Plans for this greenway's future include connecting it with the Riverwalk Trail.”

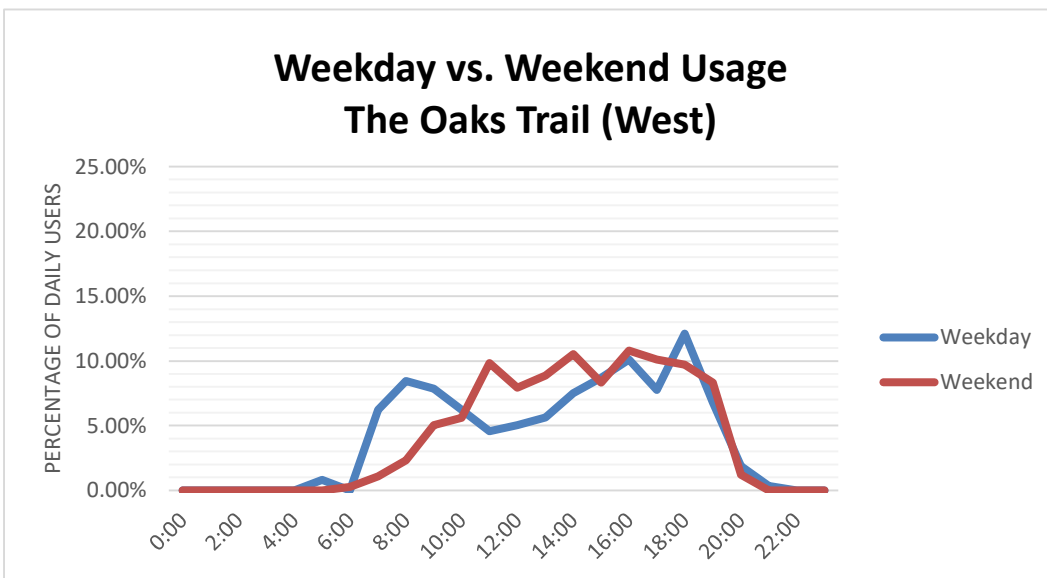
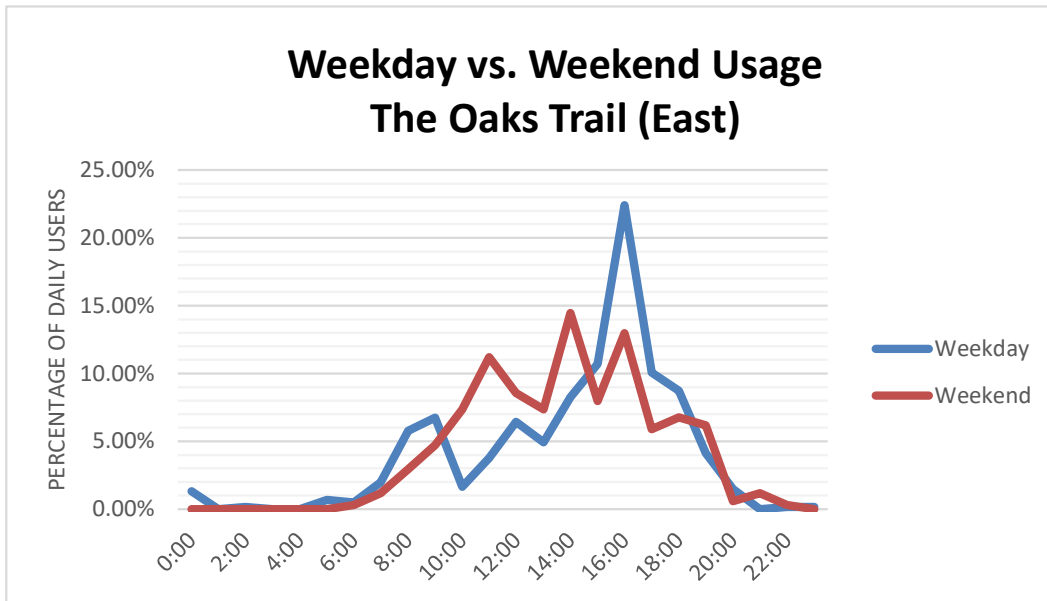
This is a follow-on study to the [Flat Creek Survey](#) that was just completed this month. Tuesday and Thursday were rainy days during this time period. This appears to have “dampened” activity on both days. The Veterans Park location consistently had more activity than the eastern location. Activity at Veterans park saw a steady increase in activity from the beginning of the day to the end of the day. Activity at the eastern location at Vance Avenue spiked at 4 PM. The hourly activity at the Veterans park location saw an early start to the day during the week than on the weekend. The presence of the parking lot in the park, or the absence of parking on Vance Avenue, most likely influence the activity. A similar patten was noted at the Flat Creek Greenway where the activity was highest at he southern end of the trail where there is parking. The northern top of the Flat Creek Greenway is in a subdivision.

Patterns of Use

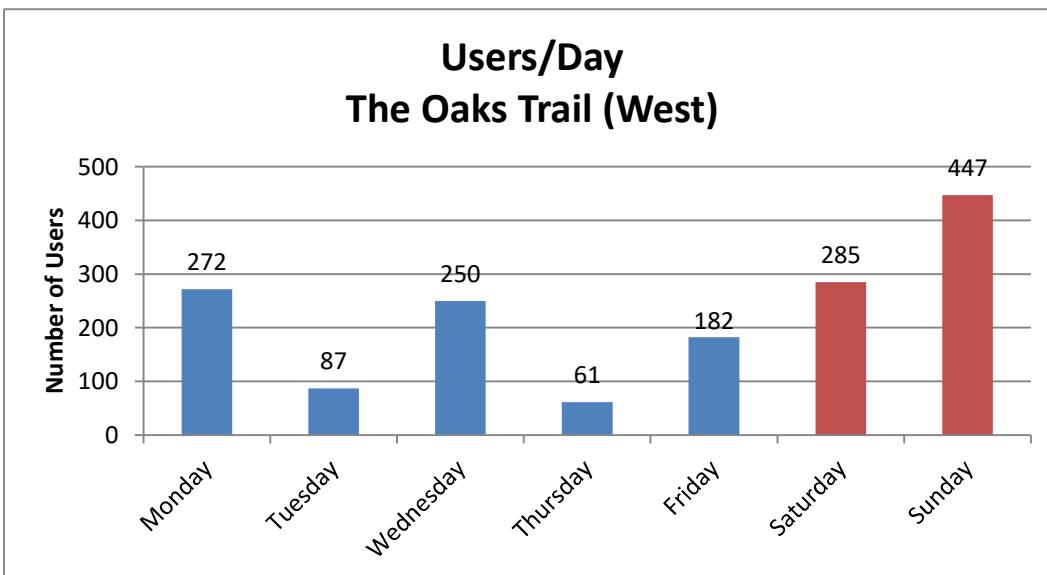
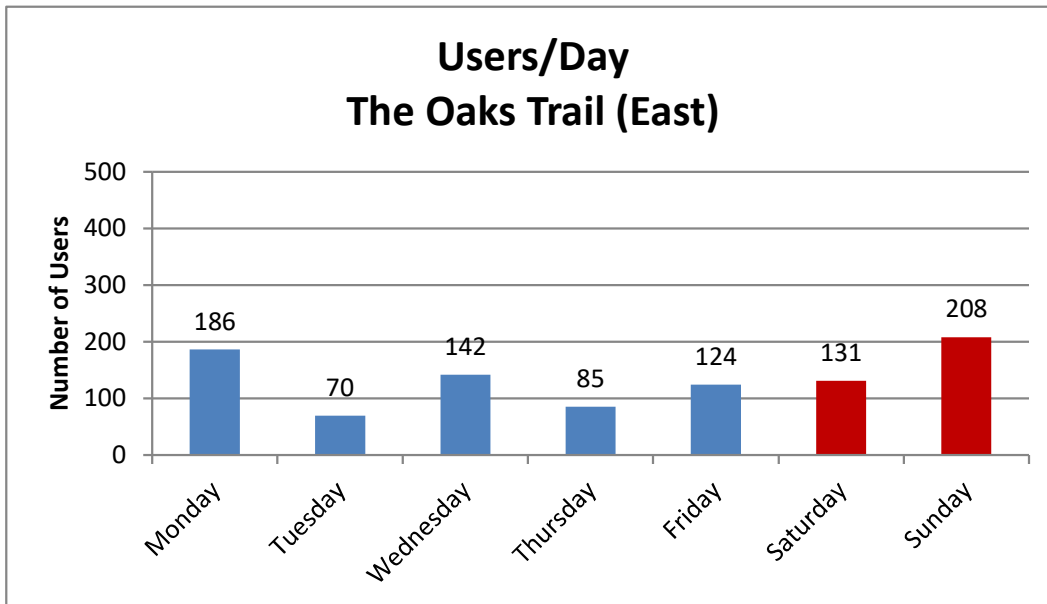
The following chart illustrates the average use of the trail at the location.



The second chart illustrates the different pattern of usage between the weekday and weekend. The western counter was placed near the parking lot on a sign. The eastern location was at the entrance to the trail on a cul-de-sac where no street parking is allowed.



The third chart shows users/day. The eastern location has reduced traffic compared to the west location, except Wednesday. Activity at the Veterans Park location (west) is double the foot traffic on Saturday and Sunday compared to the eastern location.



Notes:



Date	Minimum Temperature	Maximum Temperature	Average Temperature	Precipitation	Ave. Wind Speed
4/8/2024	42.4 °F	74.5 °F	56.9 °F	0.00 in	0.7 mph
4/9/2024	51.6 °F	58.6 °F	54.5 °F	0.64 in	0.3 mph
4/10/2024	52.5 °F	65.3 °F	57.0 °F	0.17 in	0.6 mph
4/11/2024	50.5 °F	66.2 °F	59.7 °F	0.85 in	1.6 mph
4/12/2024	44.6 °F	61.3 °F	50.8 °F	0.04 in	3.6 mph
4/13/2024	44.1 °F	68.0 °F	55.7 °F	0.06 in	2.6 mph
4/14/2024	42.6 °F	81.9 °F	64.5 °F	0.00 in	1.1 mph

<https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KNCBLACK7/table/2024-03-4/2024-03-4/monthly>

