**Central Iowa Trail Count Program**

In October 2011, the MPO began the Central Iowa Trail Count Program with 40 infrared trail counters from TRAFx Research Ltd. to provide a consistent method for collecting trail user data across central Iowa. The purpose of this program is to implement Chapter Seven, Objective 3, Action 3.1, Benchmark 3.1.1 of the Central Iowa Bicycle and Pedestrian Action Plan, which states, “Administer bicycle/pedestrian counts and user survey’s annually”.

The trail counters became available for Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance (CIRTPA) member governments to checkout in January 2012 and the first counters were placed in the field in April, 2012.* As of July 2013, 39 different locations have been counted (some of which are still in the process of being counted). A count is recorded each time someone passes by. Therefore, one count is equal to one trip.

The MPO and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Roundtable will use data collected from the trail counters to set a baseline against which future trail usage can be compared. The information helps the MPO and Bike-Pedestrian Roundtable understand where future trail investments may be needed.

*Some trail count data was collected outside of the Trail Count Program from sources other than the MPO and began prior to April, 2012.

**Top 5 in 2012**

- 1. High Trestle Bridge (East Side) 473
- 2. North Walnut Creek (Urbandale) 256
- 3. High Trestle Trail (Slater) 255
- 4. Walnut Creek Trail (I-235) 244
- 5. Lakeview Park Trail (Urbandale) 231

The Annual Average Daily Trips (AADT) in 2012 for the entire trail system was 130. Listed above are the top 5 trail counter locations with the highest AADT values in 2012.
Selected Trail Counters:
- Raccoon River Valley Trail
  - Adel
  - Dallas Center
  - Dawson
  - Minburn
  - Redfield
  - Waukee Northwest
  - Waukee West
- North Walnut Creek Trail
  - Colby Woods
  - Walker Johnson Park
- Urbandale Trails
  - Lakeview Park (began June '12)
  - Walnut Creek Park

A total of 11 trail counters were used to analyze monthly trends occurring within the trail system during the past year. These 11 trail counters had continuous counts from April of 2012 to June of 2013 (with the exception of Lakeview Park).

### Daily Averages

- Sun, 21%
- Mon, 14%
- Tue, 12%
- Wed, 11%
- Thu, 11%
- Fri, 12%
- Sat, 19%

*Daily averages calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT)*

### Monthly Totals

![Monthly Totals chart]

### Trends

Based off of one full year of counting, central Iowa has seen increases in trail usage. When comparing June of 2012 to June of 2013, there was an increase of nearly 24,000 counts on the trails being measured. This one-year analysis tells us that trail usage may be on the rise in central Iowa.

Continued analysis of the trail counters will allow for a better understanding of the trends taking place on central Iowa trails. This will result in a more efficient and successful way of planning for trails in the region. Further analysis will include looking at annual trends to estimate the number of users along a given trail segment. These annual counts will also display more accurate trends that are taking place.

### Hourly Averages

- Percent of Total Daily Counts
  - 7.8%

Pulling together data from the MPO’s trail counters, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Perry, daily and hourly averages for trail usage were calculated. Trail usage during the day peaks between 4 and 5 PM, when 7.8% of the total trips take place. However, the distribution remains somewhat consistent from around 10 AM to 6 PM. The most common days to use the trail system are Saturdays and Sundays, but the overall distribution is fairly proportionate throughout the week.
Appendix

Neal Smith Trail
North Polk City

Owner: Army Corps of Engineers
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:38:45 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
**Neal Smith Trail**  
East of Johnston

Owner: Army Corps of Engineers  
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:38:23 (UTC -06:00)  
Made with: TRAFx DataNet ([http://www.trafx.net/](http://www.trafx.net/))  
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

---

**Weekly totals**

---

**Daily**

- Sat (18.7%)
- Fri (16.0%)
- Thu (11.2%)
- Mon (13.2%)
- Wed (11.8%)
- Tue (14.5%)

Avg. daily traffic: 181.17

---

**Hourly**

---

**Monthly**

---

**Yearly**

---

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.*
High Trestle Trail
Ankeny

Owner: Army Corps of Engineers
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:39:01 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

Weekly totals

![Weekly totals chart]

Daily

![Daily chart]

Hourly

![Hourly chart]

Monthly

![Monthly chart]

Yearly

![Yearly chart]

*Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Adel

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:39:43 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

---

Weekly totals

![Weekly totals graph]

Daily

- Sun: 15.4%
- Sat: 15.4%
- Mon: 15.2%
- Tue: 16.9%
- Wed: 14.4%
- Thu: 12.4%
- Fri: 13.3%

Avg. daily traffic: 90.78

Hourly

- 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM: Highest traffic
- 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM: Lowest traffic

Monthly

- January: 124.4
- February: 105.8
- March: 138.2
- April: 140.1
- May: 127.6
- June: 121.4
- July: 113.7
- August: 118.9
- September: 110.3
- October: 122.8
- November: 117.4
- December: 112.0

Yearly

- 2013: 115.7
- 2012: 120.1

---

*Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Dallas Center

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:39:57 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Dawson

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:40:57 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Forest Park

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:41:07 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Linden

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:41:21 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

Weekly totals*

Daily*

Hourly

Monthly*

Yearly*

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Minburn

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:41:41 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

Weekly totals

Hourly

Monthly

Yearly

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Redfield

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:41:56 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

Weekly totals

Daily

Hourly

Monthly

Yearly

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Waukee – East of NW 182nd Ave

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:42:09 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 [No]; Filter (0)

Weekly totals*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan '12</th>
<th>Jan '13</th>
<th>Jul '13</th>
<th>Jan '14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Hourly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan '12</th>
<th>Jan '13</th>
<th>Jul '13</th>
<th>Jan '14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Monthly*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Yearly*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>48.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Waukee – West of NW 182nd Ave

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:42:25 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT); Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
High Trestle Trail
Oasis

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:42:59 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

Weekly totals*

Hourly

Monthly*

Yearly*

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT); Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
High Trestle Trail
East side of bridge

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:43:35 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1): Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
High Trestle Trail
West side of bridge

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:44:14 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet [http://www.trafx.net/]
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
High Trestle Trail
Heart of Iowa

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:44:45 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
High Trestle Trail
Madrid

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:45:05 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
High Trestle Trail
Slater

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:45:22 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

Weekly totals*

![Weekly traffic chart]

Daily*

Sat (22.1%)
Sun (25.0%)
Fri (10.8%)
Thu (8.3%)
Wed (8.1%)
Mon (17.5%)
Tue (8.2%)

Avg. daily traffic: 255.40

Hourly

26
24
22
20
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0

![Hourly traffic chart]

Monthly*

![Monthly traffic chart]

Yearly*

2013
2012

![Yearly traffic chart]

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
High Trestle Trail
Woodward Depot

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:45:35 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Perry – North of bypass

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:46:09 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT); Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Perry – South of bypass

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:46:23 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Perry – near Tyson

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:46:37 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Perry – near Walt’s

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:47:02 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

Weekly totals

Hourly

Daily

Monthly

Yearly

Avg. daily traffic: 26.59

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT); Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Beaver Creek Trail
Urbandale

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:47:15 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
North Walnut Creek Trail
Urbandale

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:47:29 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

Weekly totals*

Daily*

Hourly

Avg. daily traffic: 227.49

Monthly*

Yearly*

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Lakeview Park Trail
Urbandale

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:47:40 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT); Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
Raccoon River Valley Trail
Urbandale

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:47:52 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

Weekly totals

Daily
Avg. daily traffic: 119.11

Hourly

Monthly

Yearly

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT); Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
North Walnut Creek Trail
Urbandale – Walker Johnson Park

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:48:08 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
**Walnut Creek Park Trail**  
*Urbandale*

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO  
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:48:24 (UTC -06:00)  
Made with: TRAFx DataNet ([http://www.trafx.net/](http://www.trafx.net/))  
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

---

**Weekly totals**

![Weekly totals chart](chart-weekly.png)

**Daily**

- Sat (15.5%)
- Fri (10.9%)
- Thu (11.3%)
- Wed (12.5%)
- Tue (14.0%)
- Mon (16.0%)
- Sun (20.0%)

Avg. daily traffic: 85.72

**Hourly**

![Hourly chart](chart-hourly.png)

**Monthly**

![Monthly chart](chart-monthly.png)

**Yearly**

![Yearly chart](chart-yearly.png)

---

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT); Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
North Walnut Creek Trail
Windsor Heights – Near College Dr.

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:49:06 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 (No); Filter (0)

Weekly totals*

Daily*

Hourly

Monthly*

Yearly*

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.
North Walnut Creek Trail
Windsor Heights – I-235

Owner: Des Moines Area MPO
Made on: 2013-07-17 08:49:06 (UTC -06:00)
Made with: TRAFx DataNet (http://www.trafx.net/)
Adjust factor (1); Divide 2 [No]; Filter [0]

Weekly totals*

Daily*

Hourly

Avg. daily traffic: 244.23

Monthly*

Yearly*

* Weekly and Daily are calculated from Average Daily Traffic (ADT). Monthly and Yearly show ADT values.