TRAIL COUNTS 2016

DES MOINES AREA MPO
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

April 2017

Central Iowa Trails

Central Iowa is home to over 600 miles of trails connecting dense, urban cores to natural, rural landscapes. There are trails for all types of uses, including walking, biking, running, cross country skiing and horseback riding. Trails range from loops through parks to long-distance regionally designated routes.

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) annually provides federal funding to regional trail projects through its Surface Transportation Program Set-Aside (STP Set-Aside). This program has helped fund some major trails in the region, including the High Trestle, Gay Lea Wilson, and Chichaqua Valley Trails, among others.

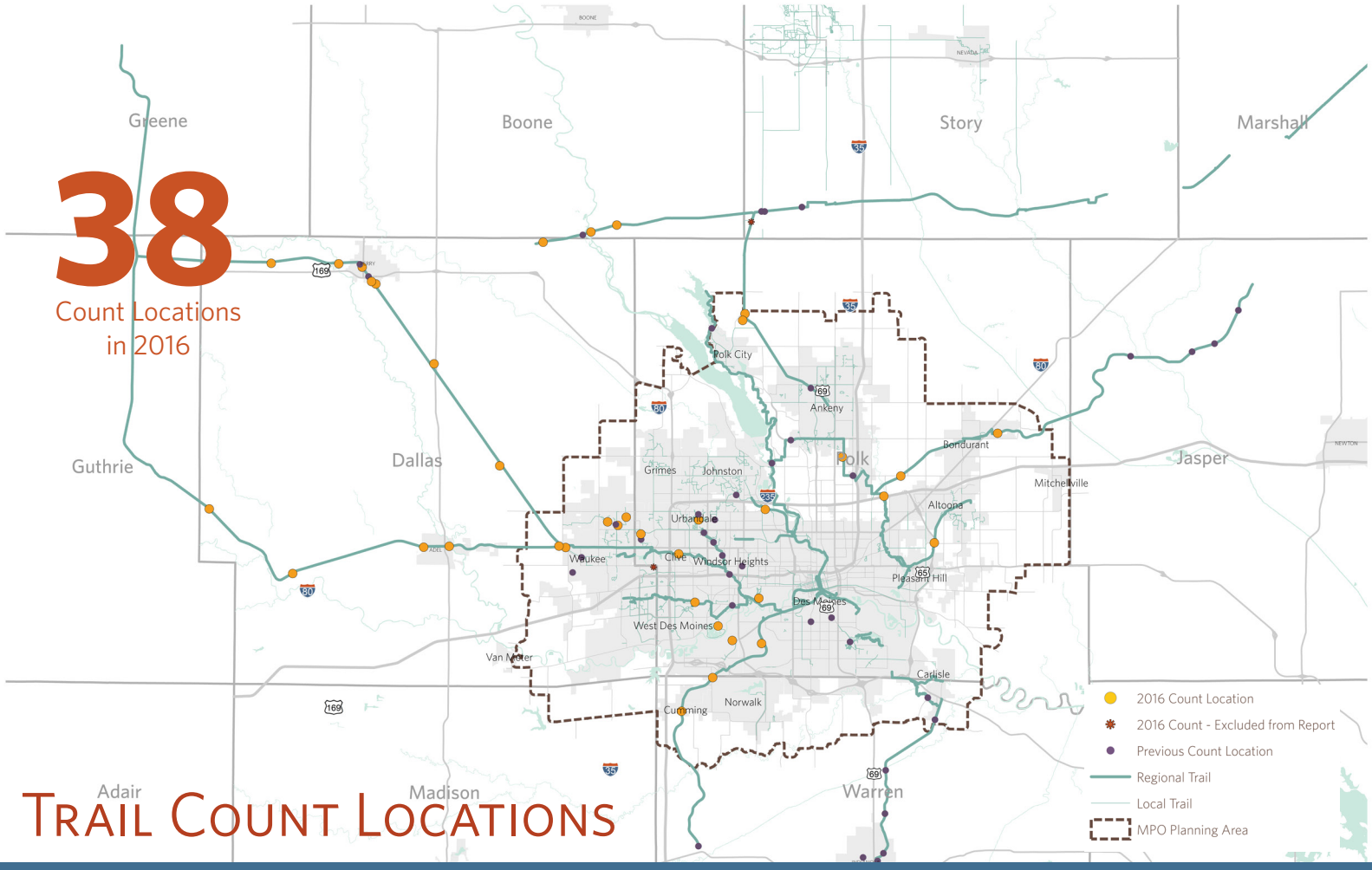
2016 Trail Counts

In 2016, the MPO continued the Central Iowa Trail Count Program with counters located at 38 sites selected by communities throughout Central Iowa and reported to the MPO. Counts were conducted for between 25 and 366 days, depending on the site location. The MPO and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Roundtable will use the data to help determine where future trail investments may be needed.

1,326,000
Approximate number of uses at trail locations during 2016

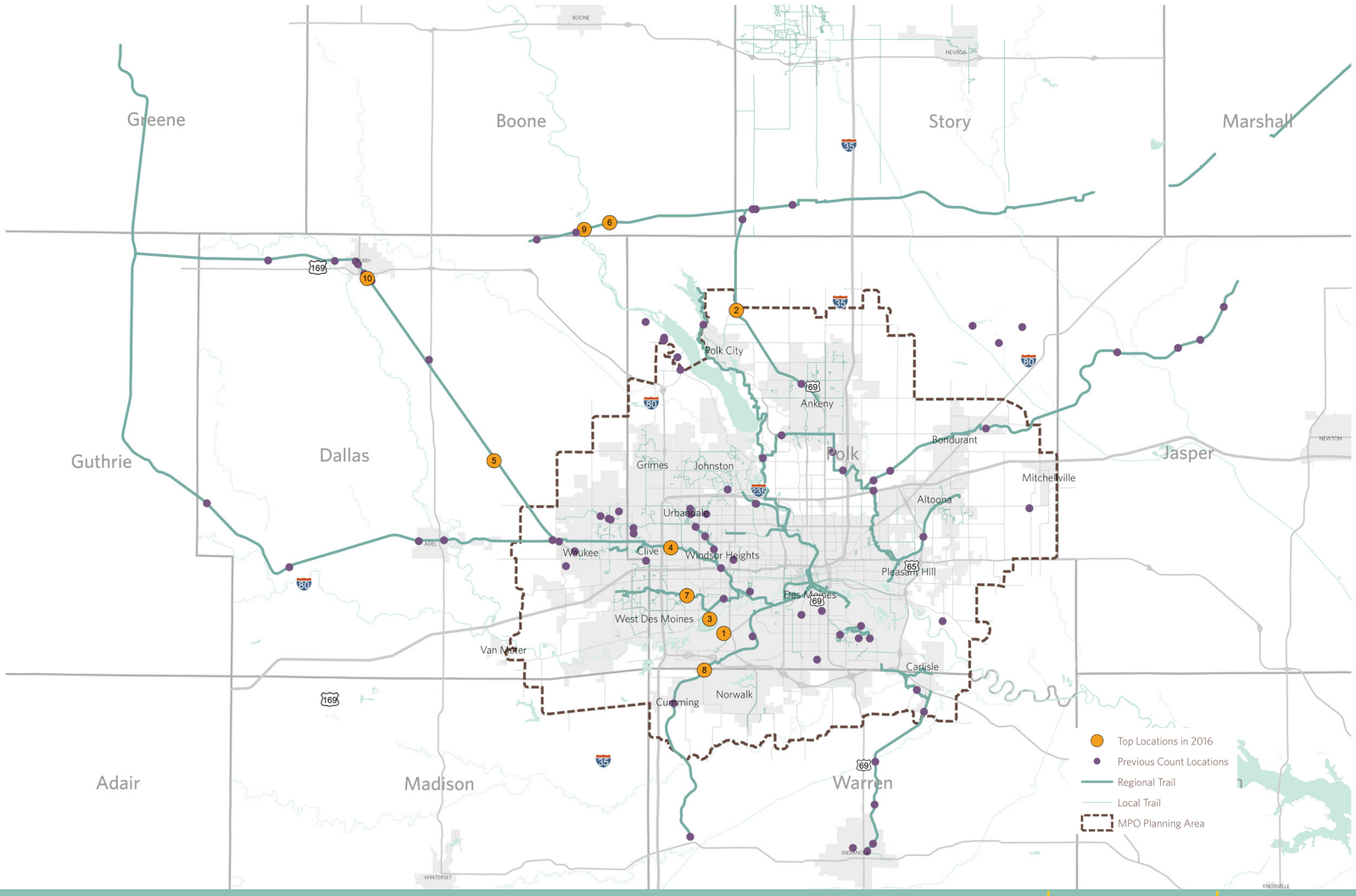
Trail counters are available to all members of the MPO and the Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance (CIRTPA). To request the use of a trail counter please contact the MPO.

38
Count Locations in 2016



Trail Count Locations

Rank by Average Daily Traffic (ADT)



TOP 10 COUNT LOCATIONS IN 2016

		Count	Days Active	ADT
1.	Brown's Woods (Trail Head)	105,105	249	422.1
2.	High Trestle Trail (Ankeny Oasis)	48,769	172	283.5
3.	Raccoon River Park Loop (West Des Moines)	59,230	221	268.0
4.	Clive Greenbelt (Chautauqua Grounds)	84,514	366	230.9
5.	Raccoon River Valley Trail (Dallas Center)	36,917	230	160.5
6.	High Trestle Trail (Madrid Trailhead)	48,653	310	156.9
7.	Jordan Creek Trail (West Des Moines)	56,364	366	154.0
8.	Great Western Trail (SE Orilla Rd)	13,712	105	130.6
9.	High Trestle Trail (Bridge East)	36,255	311	126.2
10.	Raccoon River Valley Trail (Perry)	8,000	68	117.6

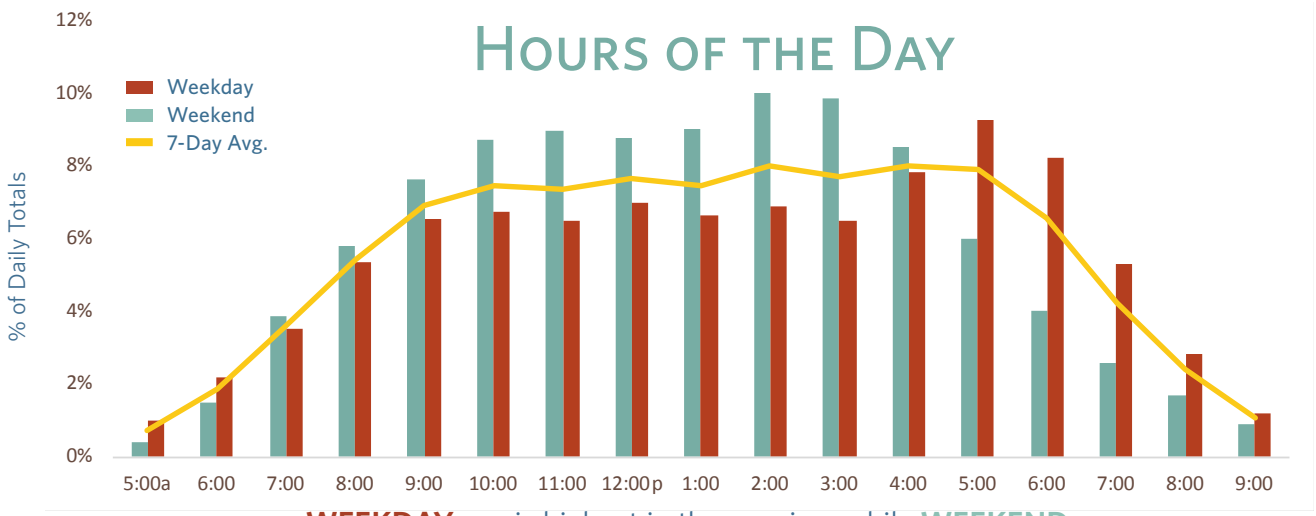
Based on count locations chosen by requesting communities and reported to the MPO in 2016

TRAIL STATISTICS

Regional Averages

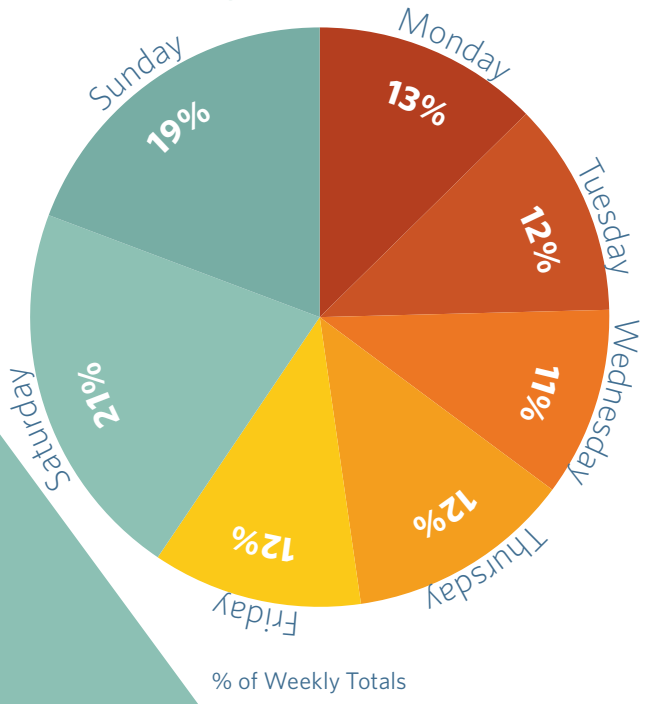
Using trail counters placed at sites in 2016 and reported to the MPO, data was pulled to find hourly, daily, and monthly averages for trail usage in the region. The charts below display breakdowns of these averages.

Hours of the Day



WEEKDAY use is highest in the evening, while **WEEKEND** use is spread more evenly between 10:00am and 4:00pm. Typically, weekends see more traffic than weekdays.

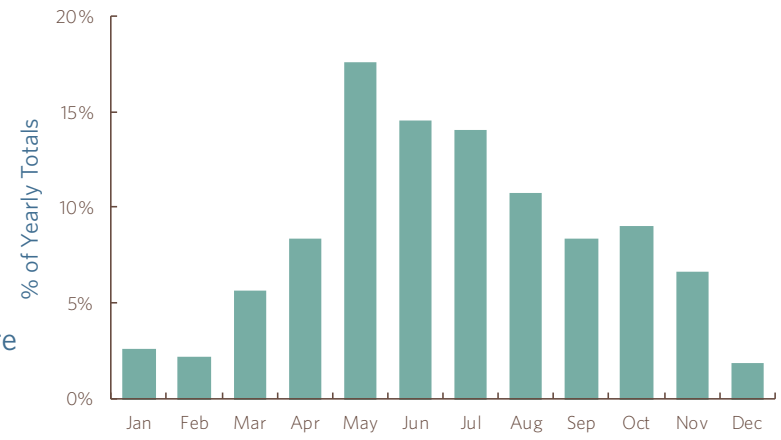
Days of the Week



% of Weekly Totals

EACH LOCATION SAW AN AVERAGE OF 95 TRAIL USES PER DAY IN 2016

Months of the Year



In 2016, **MAY** saw more traffic than any other month.

TRAIL COUNTS 2016

City of Des Moines

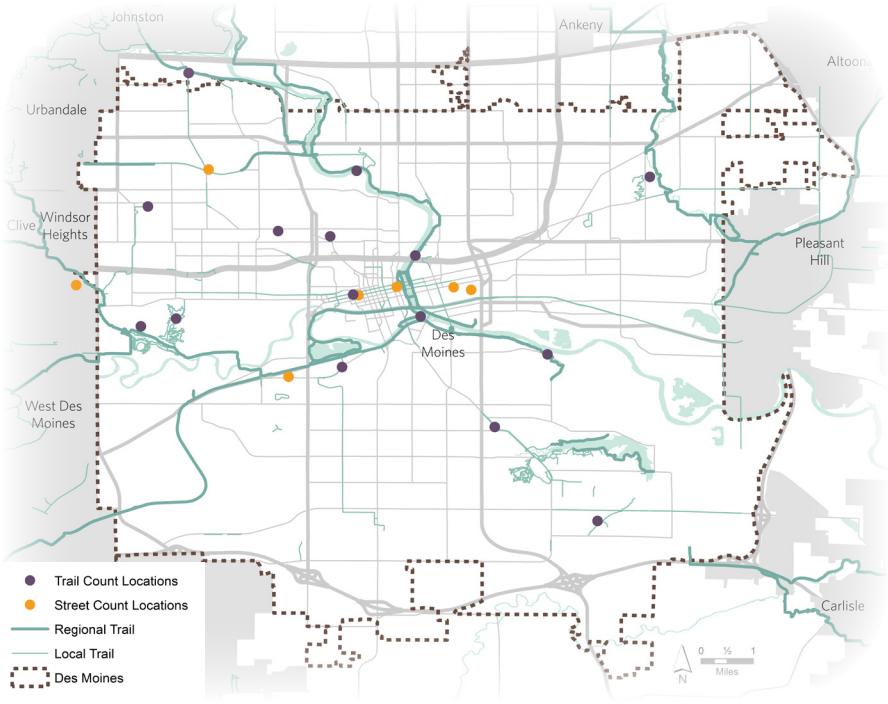
The City of Des Mones has counted trail users annually since 2011 as part of the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project. In 2016, volunteers counted uses at 28 location on trails and streets. Counts are collected over three days and extrapolated using a standardized methodology to estimate the annual trail usage on trail segments within the City of Des Moines.

More information on the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project and the City of Des Moines trails can be found here:

http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/Parks/Pages/Trails.aspx

5,516,489

Estimated number of trail uses at trail locations counted during 2016



CITY OF DES MOINES COUNT LOCATIONS

TRAIL PAVEMENT CONDITION

The Data Bike is a proof-of-concept initiative by the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization in parternership with the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Using an app that senses the roughness of pavement, the Data Bike will generate data scoring the condition of trails.

Additionally, the Data Bike will be equipped with two cameras to collect imagery of the trails. One camera will geo-reference photos of the pavement to assist in trail inspections. A second camera will capture 360 degree imagery along trails for Google Street View.

Trails condition data will be collected during the summer of 2017.