

# **Cheasty Mountain Bike Trail Monitoring – South Loop**

## **Year 2 2024 Quarter 1 Monitoring Report**

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Prepared for: Kelly Stamm, PE

Planning and Capital Development Branch

City of Seattle

Seattle Parks and Recreation

206-584-1690

[Kellina.stamm@seattle.gov](mailto:Kellina.stamm@seattle.gov)

**Prepared by:**

Nelson Salisbury, Ecologist



**Seattle**  
Parks & Recreation



**EarthCorps**

6310 NE 74<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 201E

Seattle, WA 98115

April 2024

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## 1. Introduction

Seattle Parks and Recreation contracted with EarthCorps in 2020 to develop and implement a monitoring plan prior to the construction associated with the [Cheasty Mountain Bike/Pedestrian Trail Pilot Project](#) at the Cheasty Natural Area in South Seattle. This report summarizes the findings for the Year 2 Quarter 1 monitoring period (January - March, 2024).

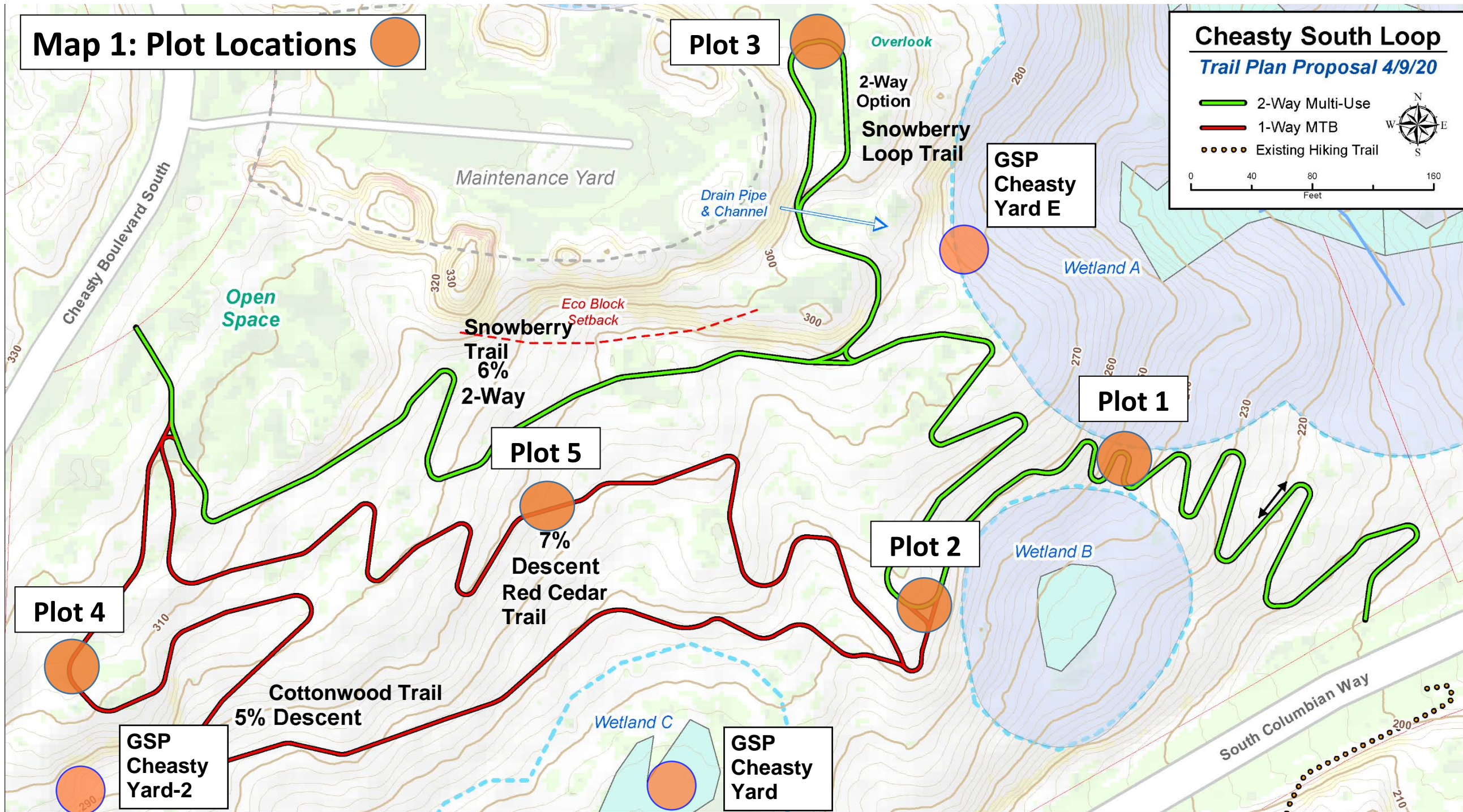
EarthCorps performed the following monitoring tasks for Quarter 1 on March 28, 2024:

- Cheasty Boulevard Car Parking Monitoring
- Plot Level Observational Vegetation Monitoring
- Plot Level Photo Monitoring

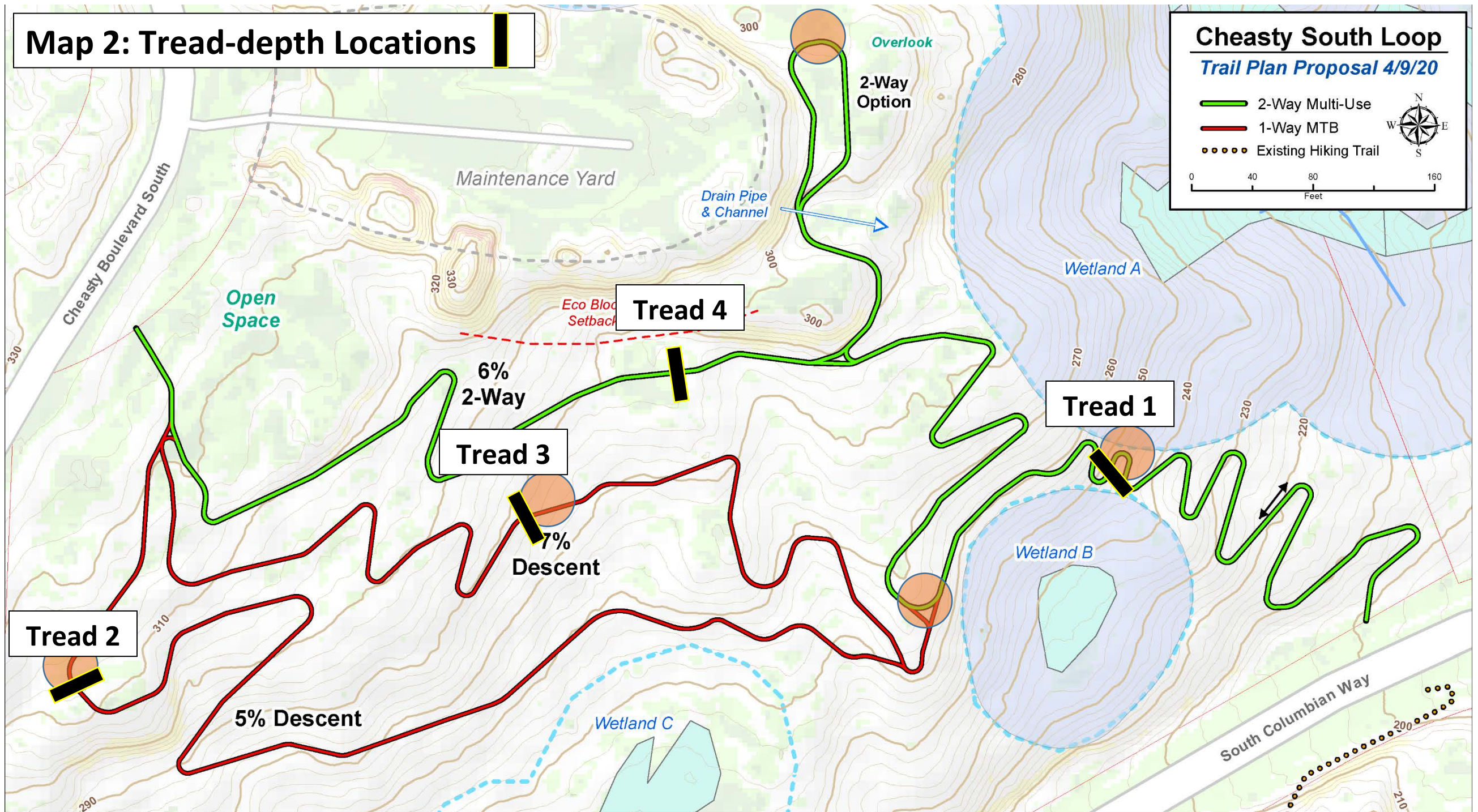
The Upper 2-way Option Loop trail was complete and open to riders at the time of the Q1 2024 survey. The following table describes the proposed monitoring year designations for this three-year reporting period:

Baseline (pre-construction):	2020
Trail construction:	2021
Trail construction continued:	2022
Year 1 monitoring:	2023
Year 2 monitoring:	2024
Year 3 monitoring:	2025

See Maps below for plot locations.



# Map 2: Tread-depth Locations



## 2. Cheasty Boulevard Car Parking Monitoring

EarthCorps performed an observational survey for illegal or improperly parked cars along Cheasty Boulevard between Beacon Ave S and S Andover Street following trail monitoring. During the site visit on March 28, 2024, there were no improperly parked vehicles along the monitored road segment (see photos below). No other parking issues were observed at this time. In addition, there were no occupied homeless encampments noted near or within the Mountain Bike South Loop



## 3. Plot Level Linear Observational Vegetation Monitoring

Qualitative observations of vegetation conditions were noted along the linear trail edges within each plot. These observations are intended to identify and document general conditions and note any damage or decline to the native vegetation along the trail edges and to note any issues or concerns with non-native species within the plot. These observations will be updated at each quarterly visit and compliment the photo monitoring. Trends can be compared over time. The following observations were noted during the site monitoring visit on March 28, 2024:

Plot 1: No substantial changes to vegetation in plot 1 notes from last visit (Q3 2023). Relatively sparse native vegetation appears healthy. One western red cedar tree near plot center is dead, another younger cedar appeared healthy. Some low Oregon grape and fringe cup are becoming well established in the NE quadrant. Non-native English ivy and common blackberry persist in some areas of the plot, with blackberry encroaching onto the trail in a few places. All transplanted sword ferns appear to have not been successful. A dead raccoon was noted in the center of the plot between bends in the trail, it was not evident how the animal had died.

Plot 2: No major changes noted since last monitoring (Q3 2023). Native vegetation appears healthy, a large osoberry bush is beginning to encroach on the trail near plot center to the south. Dead sword fern still noted, most appear to be failed transplants. Blackberry and ivy persist in plot and the area should be considered for general stewardship to reduce the spread of these species.

Plot 3: No substantial changes noted from Q4 2023. Ivy continues to establish in areas of disturbance. Plot tread is very muddy in this vicinity and signs of erosion and rutted tire tracks are evident. Herb bennet (*Geum herbanum*), a non-native invasive species, is present and well established along the trail in the north quadrants. It is recommended that this species is targeted for control to reduce spread. Drainage holes (3) have been dug at several location along the trail to reduce ponding in the relatively flat portion of the site and were full at the time of monitoring. No damage to trailside native vegetation was noted.

Plot 4: Trail corridor generally free of vegetation, native vegetation appears healthy. Native plants that were noted to be heavily pruned during last monitoring are resprouting and will require ongoing pruning. A larger western red cedar that was heavily pruned during trail construction in the NW quadrant is now dead. Low Oregon grape beginning to encroach in places, along with conifer tree encroachment in the NE quadrant that will require ongoing pruning. Minor amounts of common blackberry and poison hemlock are present in the plot, with much more poison hemlock noted up-trail towards the entryway. Some substantial water ponding was noted on the trail in plot 4, especially in the NE quadrant (see pic below left). Some dead plantings were noted to the south of the trail. An old pile of garbage and debris is present just south of the plot indicating past human use in the area. A small constructed ramp made of concrete was noted just outside the plot in the NE quadrant (see pic below right), and additional trail modifications were noted further down trail including dirt ramps and hills.



Plot 5: No substantial changes to the vegetation as noted in previous monitoring period (Q3 2023). Trailing blackberry continues to flourish although area of bare ground in the center of the plot trail right is still present. Moderate amounts of English ivy and common blackberry are still present. A relatively small bigleaf maple tree fell from the west edge of the plot across the trail and had been cleared at the time of the monitoring visit. Small western red cedar trees very close to trail edge **show** signs of minor impact damage.

#### 4. Trail Plot Level Photo Monitoring

Photos were taken at each plot in the same manner previously established. Generally, photos were taken at the edge of the 1/10 acre plot looking along the trail corridor(s) towards the center of the plot. These photos can be compared to previous photo monitoring (and future iterations) to show change over time. Photos are included in Appendix A.

# Cheasty Greenspace Mountainbike/Pedestrian Trail – South Loop

## Photo monitoring Year 2, Q1 2024

### Contents

1. APPENDIX A: PLOT PHOTO MONITORING – MAR 28, 2024..... 10



Appendix A Plot Photo Monitoring – Year 2, Q1 2024

Plot	# of Photos
1	4
3 photo points at: #1 top of trail looking NE (1 photo), #2 southern switchback looking NW and NE (2 photos), and #3 bottom of trail looking N (1 photo)	

Plot 1 Photo Point 1 (NE)



Plot 1 Photo Point 2a (NW)



Appendix A Plot Photo Monitoring – Year 2, Q1 2024  
Plot 1 Photo Point 2b (NE)



Plot 1 Photo Point 3 (N)



# Appendix A Plot Photo Monitoring – Year 2, Q1 2024

Plot	# of Photos
2	4
4 photos at each of the individual trail legs that enter or exit the plot (3 looking downhill and 1 looking uphill) starting at NW trail and continuing clockwise. #1 top of south leg looking SE. #2 at top of north leg looking SW. #3 at top of 2-way looking S. #4 at bottom of 2-way looking SW	

Plot 2 Photo Point 1 (SE)



Plot 2 Photo Point 2 (SW)



Appendix A Plot Photo Monitoring – Year 2, Q1 2024  
Plot 2 Photo Point 3 (S)



Plot 2 Photo Point 4 (SW)



Appendix A Plot Photo Monitoring – Year 2, Q1 2024

Plot	# of Photos
3	2
2 photo points at: #1 looking N (1 photo) along trail from entering plot from the S, #2 looking NW (1 photo) along trail entering plot from the E.	

Plot 3 Photo Point 1 (N)



Plot 3 Photo Point 2 (NW) – Lost Picture, this one looking other direction (SE) from trail bend at fence



Appendix A Plot Photo Monitoring – Year 2, Q1 2024

Plot	# of Photos
4	4
3 photo points at: #1 top of trail looking SW (1 photo), #2 at end of line-intercept transect looking N and E (2 photos), and #3 bottom of trail looking SW (1 photo)	

Plot 4 Photo Point 1 (SW)



Plot 4 Photo Point 2a (N)



Plot 4 Photo Point 2b (E)



Plot 4 Photo Point 3 (SW)



Appendix A Plot Photo Monitoring – Year 2, Q1 2024

Plot	# of Photos
5	2
2 photo points at: #1 top of trail looking NE (1 photo) and #2 bottom of trail looking SW (1 photo)	

Plot 5 Photo Point 1 (NE)



Plot 5 Photo Point 2 (SW)



## Appendix B: SPR Cheasty Quarterly Monitoring:

Q1, 2024 Date: 03/29/2024- 10 AM

SPR Representative: Amir Williams Other

Attendees: None

### 1. Illegal parking on Cheasty Boulevard

There were no vehicles parked on Cheasty Blvd observed. Kelly Stamm received an email that multiple "No Bikes" signs along Cheasty Boulevard were graffiti'd, the request was sent to FindItFixIt to remove.

### 2. Wildlife observed

There were several squirrels and crows seen and a handful of stellar jays and robins. I saw a lot of smaller birds on the ground, in shrubs and in trees head high and lower. I heard woodpeckers and a half dozen other bird sounds. The Merlin app registered song sparrows, wrens, chickadees, juncos, woodpeckers, finches, and crows.

### 3. Camping/homeless encampment activity

There were no signs of any encampments past or present observed.

### 4. Use/disuse of social trails

There were no new social trails seen and the one at the bottom of the 2<sup>nd</sup> switchback isn't visible anymore. The fencing that was installed on the Cottonwood Trail where the new mountain bike hill/ diversion trail looked to be removed and that trail is being used again (Sorry, no photo of this path/ trail).

### 5. Damage and degradation to wetlands not protected by fencing

No damage or degradation to wetlands was observed.

### 6. Trash and dumping

There was quite a bit of netting from the straw waddles left behind that was removed and left in piles along the Snowberry and Cottonwood Trails as well as an old couch or something near the middle Cottonwood Trail.

There was a lot of silt fencing still installed that is getting grown over below SPR's Cheasty yard as well as a lot of straw waddles with the non-photo degrading net on them along all 3 trails in multiple areas.





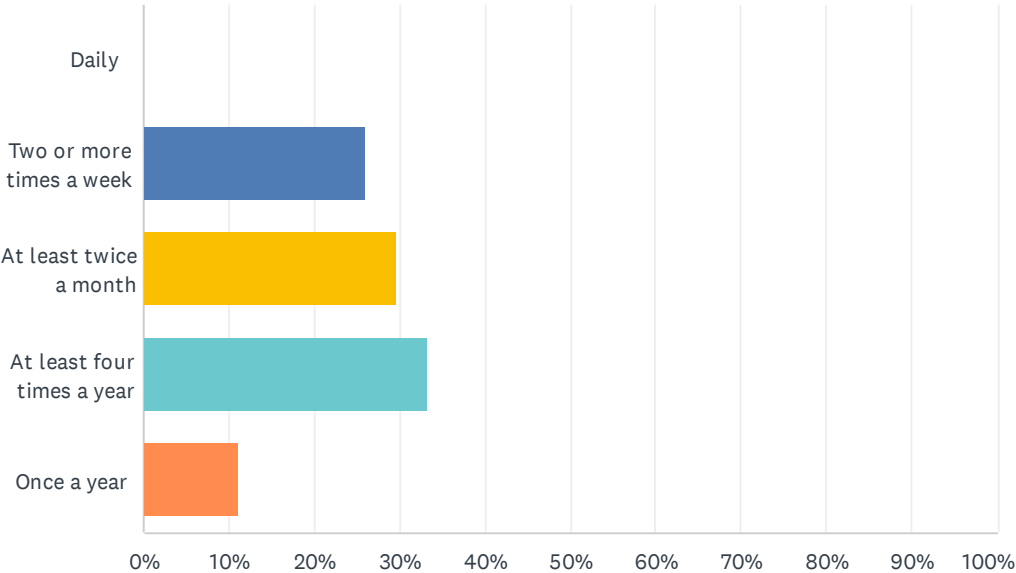
### Corrective Actions this Quarter

There were some dead trees along the trail as well as some trees that have been poorly pruned that are close to the trail edge that may become hazards as they grow bigger. There is blackberry and other weeds beginning to emerge as we get more sun, warmth, and water. There were a lot of straw logs and silt fence left behind observed as well as piles of netting that has been removed by people. Some weed management, pruning, tree removal/ re location would be good to look at before it gets out of hand and becomes a bigger task.



# Q1 How often do you visit the Cheasty Pedestrian and Mountain Bike Trail?

Answered: 27    Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Daily	0.00%	0
Two or more times a week	25.93%	7
At least twice a month	29.63%	8
At least four times a year	33.33%	9
Once a year	11.11%	3
TOTAL		27

Q2 In what ZIP code is your home located? (enter 5-digit ZIP code; for example, 00544 or 94305)

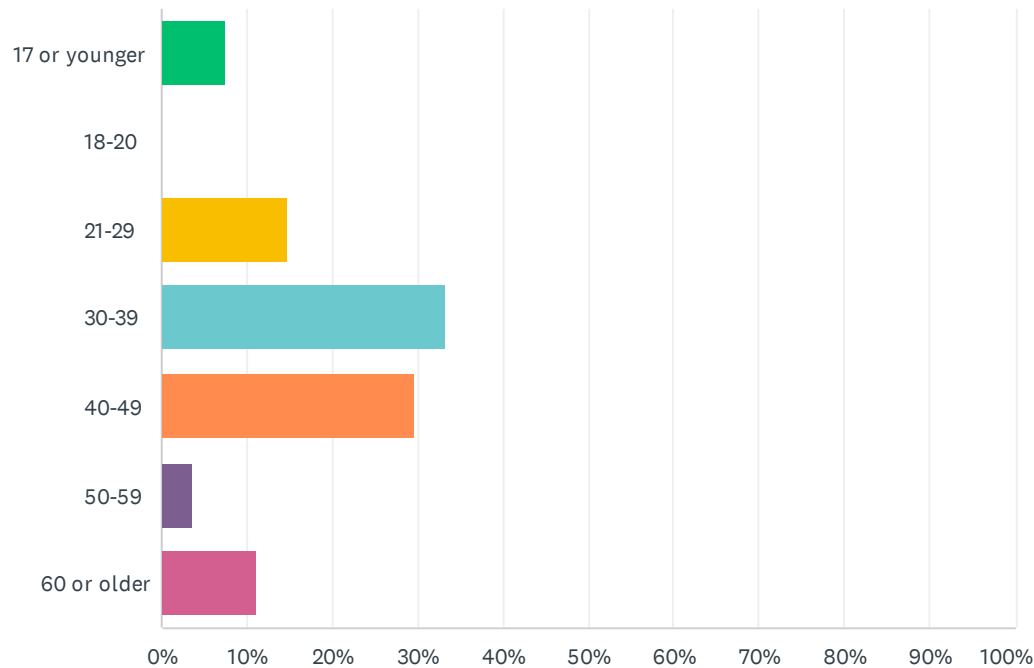
Answered: 27   Skipped: 0

Tags

98108	98108	<div><div></div></div>	11.11%	3
98118	98118	<div><div></div></div>	29.63%	8
98144	98144	<div><div></div></div>	40.74%	11
Untagged		<div><div></div></div>	18.52%	5

Q3 What is your age?

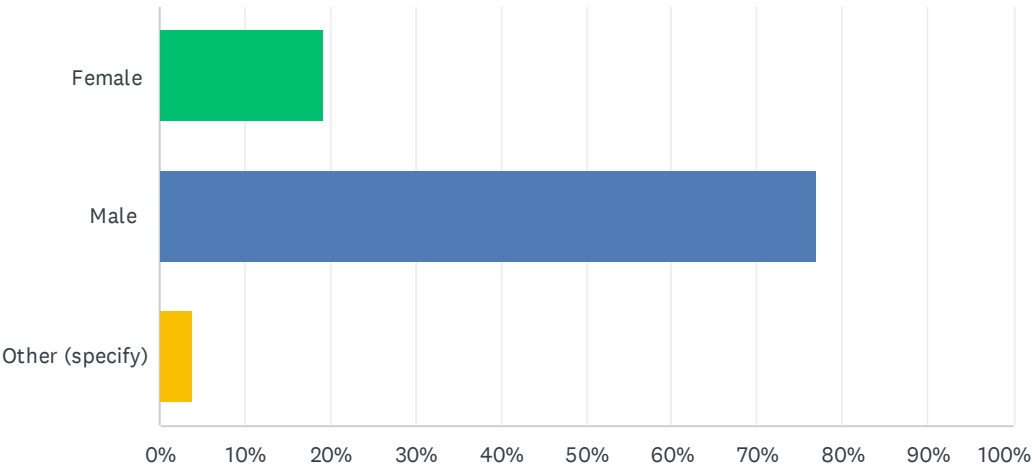
Answered: 27    Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
17 or younger	7.41%	2
18-20	0.00%	0
21-29	14.81%	4
30-39	33.33%	9
40-49	29.63%	8
50-59	3.70%	1
60 or older	11.11%	3
TOTAL		27

Q4 What is your gender?

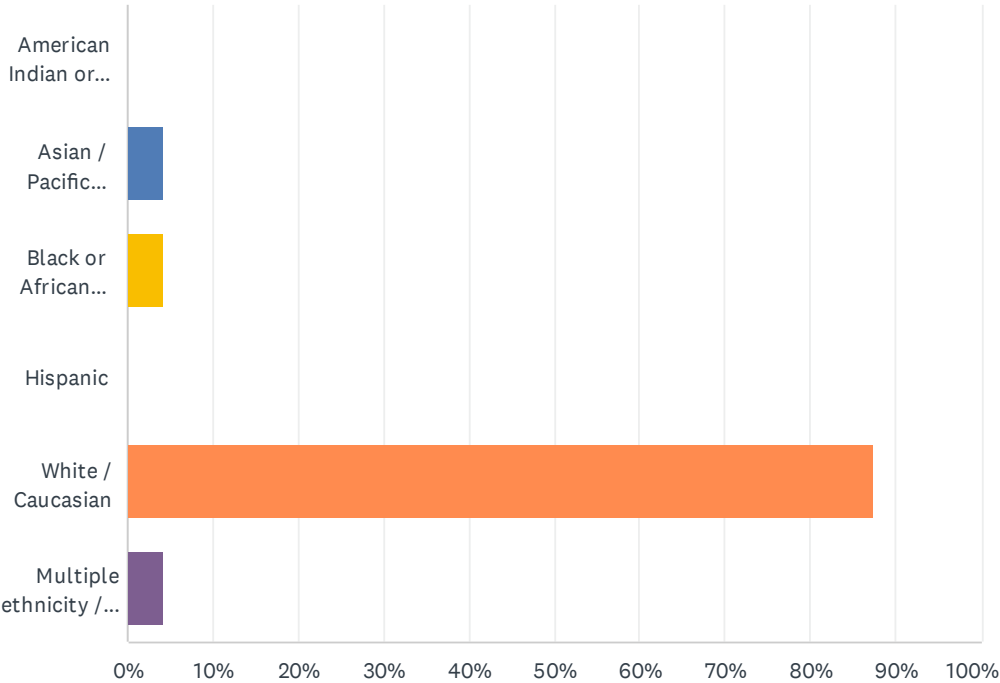
Answered: 26    Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	19.23%	5
Male	76.92%	20
Other (specify)	3.85%	1
TOTAL		26

Q5 Which race/ethnicity best describes you? (Please choose only one.)

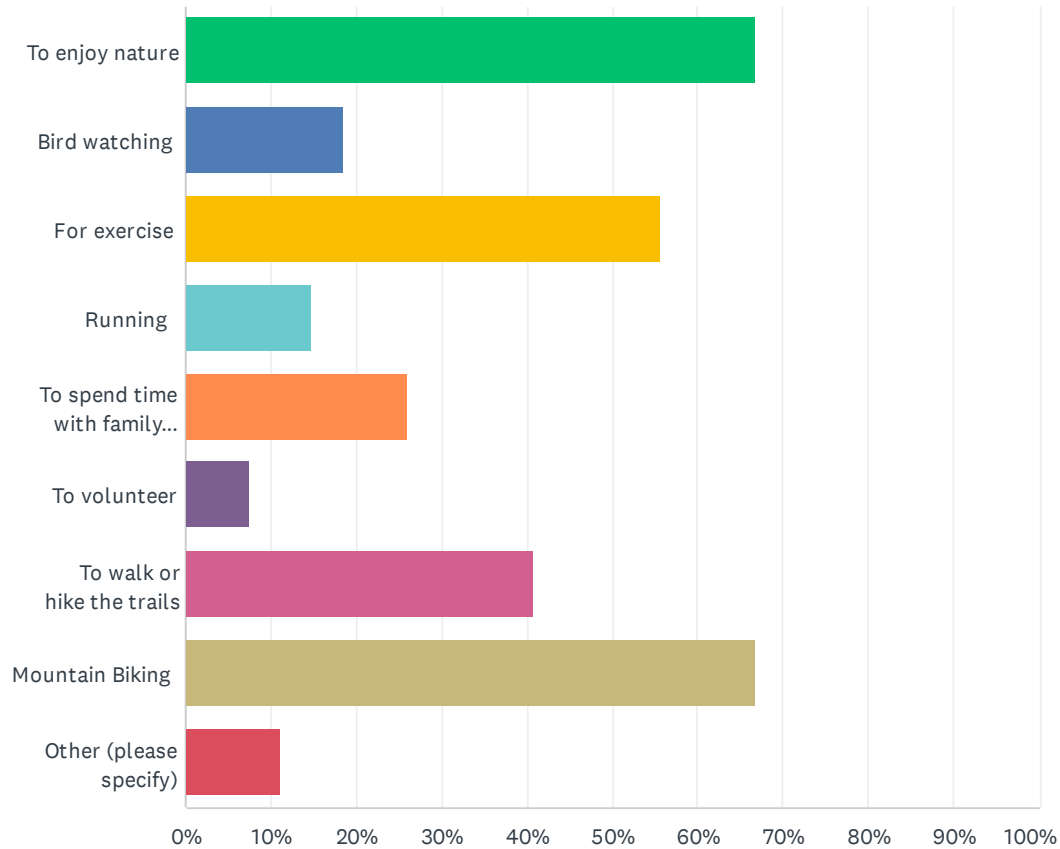
Answered: 24    Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.00%	0
Asian / Pacific Islander	4.17%	1
Black or African American	4.17%	1
Hispanic	0.00%	0
White / Caucasian	87.50%	21
Multiple ethnicity / Other (please specify)	4.17%	1
TOTAL		24

## Q6 Why do you visit the Cheasty Pedestrian and Mountain Bike Trail? (check all that apply)

Answered: 27 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
To enjoy nature	66.67%	18
Bird watching	18.52%	5
For exercise	55.56%	15
Running	14.81%	4
To spend time with family and/or friends	25.93%	7
To volunteer	7.41%	2
To walk or hike the trails	40.74%	11
Mountain Biking	66.67%	18
Other (please specify)	11.11%	3
Total Respondents: 27		

Q7 Rate your experience of the trail

Answered: 26    Skipped: 1

4.5★  
average rating



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
☆	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.85% 1	38.46% 10	57.69% 15	26	4.54

## Appendix D: Cheasty Boulevard FindIt FixIt Data Summary

10/1/22-03/31/23

Report Type							
	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	20	0	0	0	2	1	0
Other parts of Blvd	7	0	3	2	0	0	0
On Trails	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	27	1	3	2	2	1	0

04/01/23-06/30/23

Report Type							
	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	10	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other parts of Blvd	7	1	1	1	0	5	0
On Trails	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18	1	1	1	0	5	2

7/1/23-09/30/23

Report Type							
	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Other parts of Blvd	7	1	0	1	1	0	0
On Trails	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Total	8	1	0	1	2	2	0

10/1/23-12/31/23

Report Type							
	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	6	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other parts of Blvd	6	1	1	0	1	1	3
On Trails	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	12	1	1	0	1	2	4

1/1/24-3/31/24

Report Type							
	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	7	0	0	0	1	0	0
Other parts of Blvd	9	1	1	1	0	1	1
On Trails	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	16	1	1	1	1	1	1

\*Defined as between 4310 Cheasty Blvd and 25th Ave S

# Appendix E: Counter Data

## City of Seattle Parks & Recreation

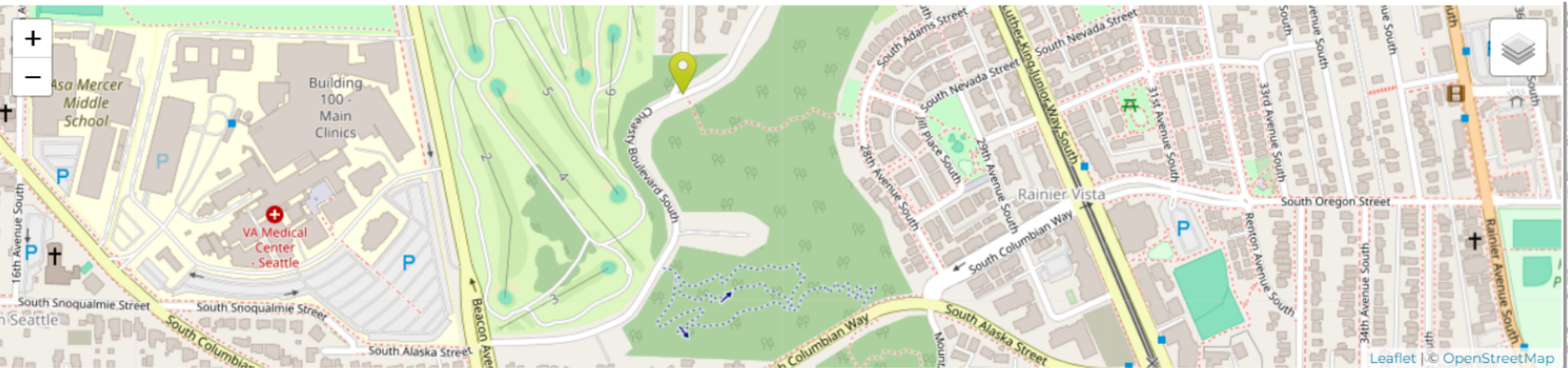


Kelly Stamm  
05/03/2024

# Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- N. of 24th Pl

January 1, 2024 12:00 AM → March 31, 2024 12:00 AM

## Location



**Daily Average Bicyclists**  
📅 01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024

Daily Average

0

**Daily Average Peds**  
📅 01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024

Daily Average

402

**Peak Day Bicyclists**  
📅 01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024

Peak Day

Thursday  
Feb 15, 2024

1

**Peak Day Peds**  
📅 01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024

Peak Day

Friday  
Mar 29, 2024

721

**Daily Avg. - Week Ped&Bike**  
📅 01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024

Daily Average

430

**Daily Avg. - Weekend Ped&...**  
📅 01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024

Daily Average

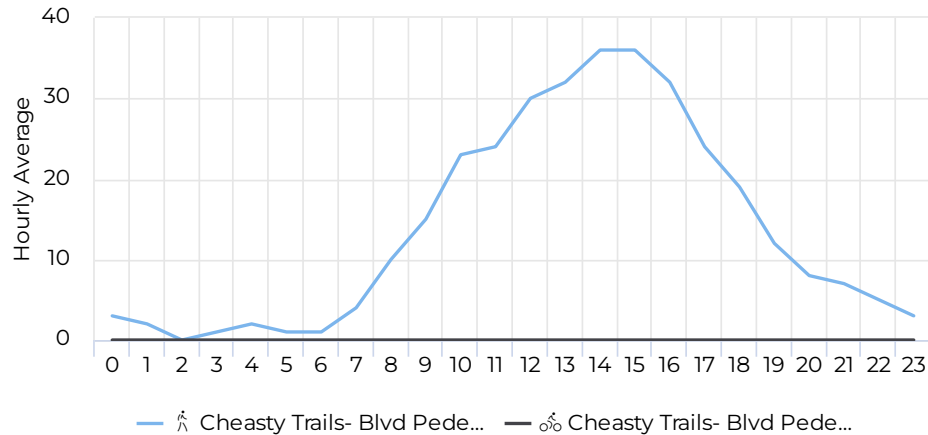
331

# Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- N. of 24th PI

January 1, 2024 12:00 AM → March 31, 2024 12:00 AM

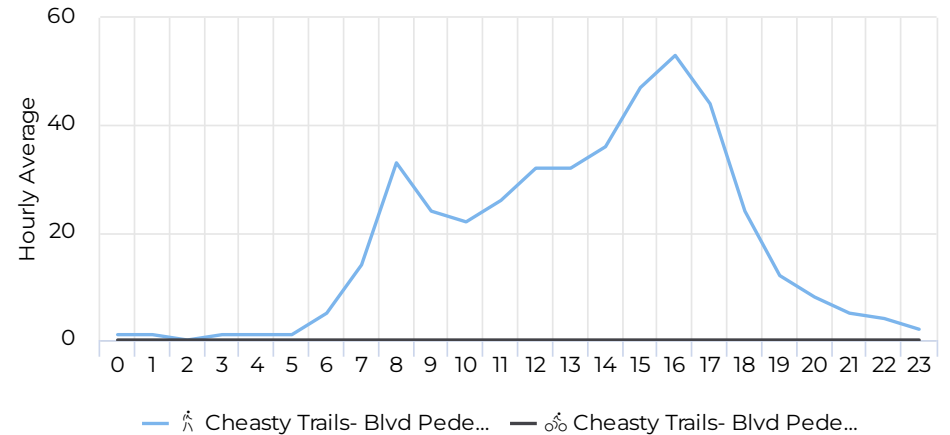
## Hourly Profile - Weekend

01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024



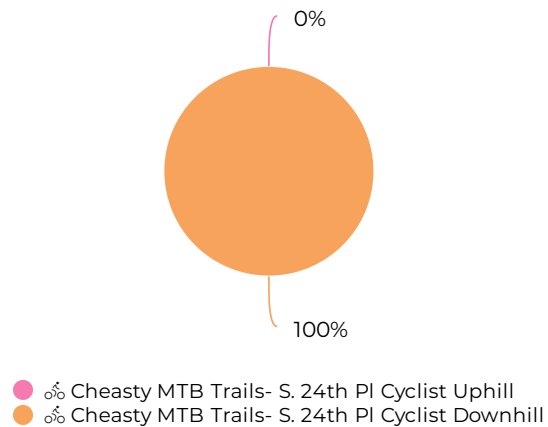
## Hourly Profile - Weekdays

01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024

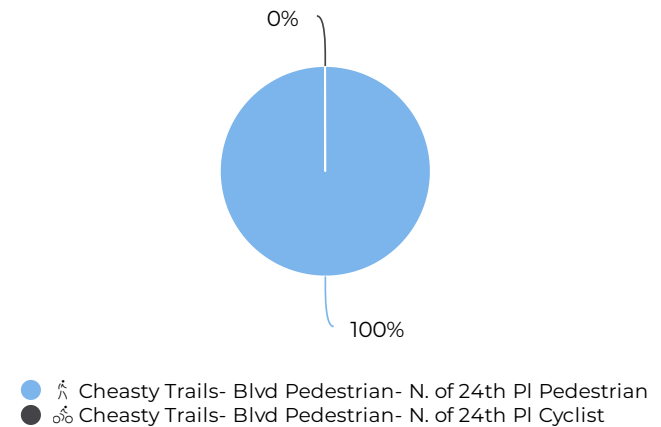


## Downhill Vs Uphill Cyclists

01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024



## Bike/Ped Distribution

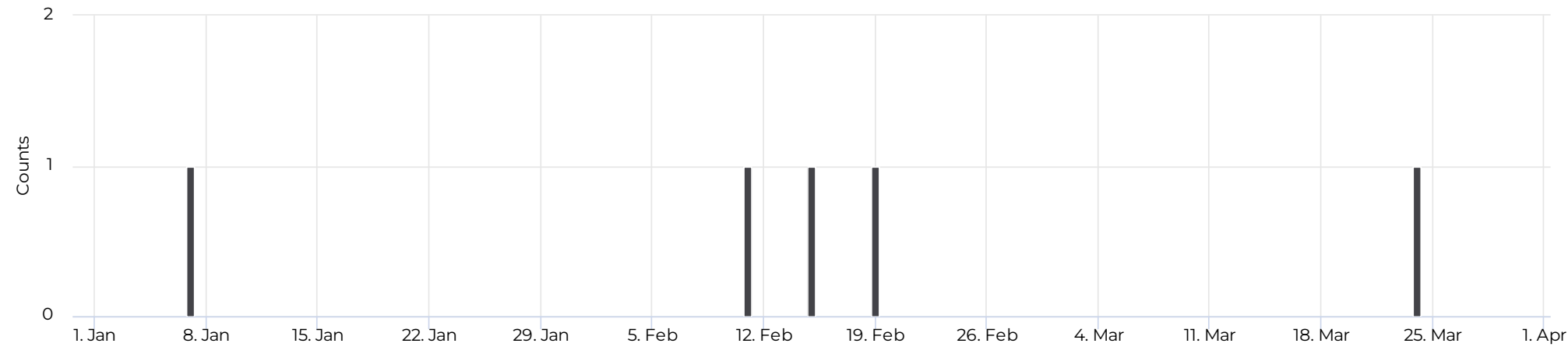


# Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- N. of 24th Pl

January 1, 2024 12:00 AM → March 31, 2024 12:00 AM

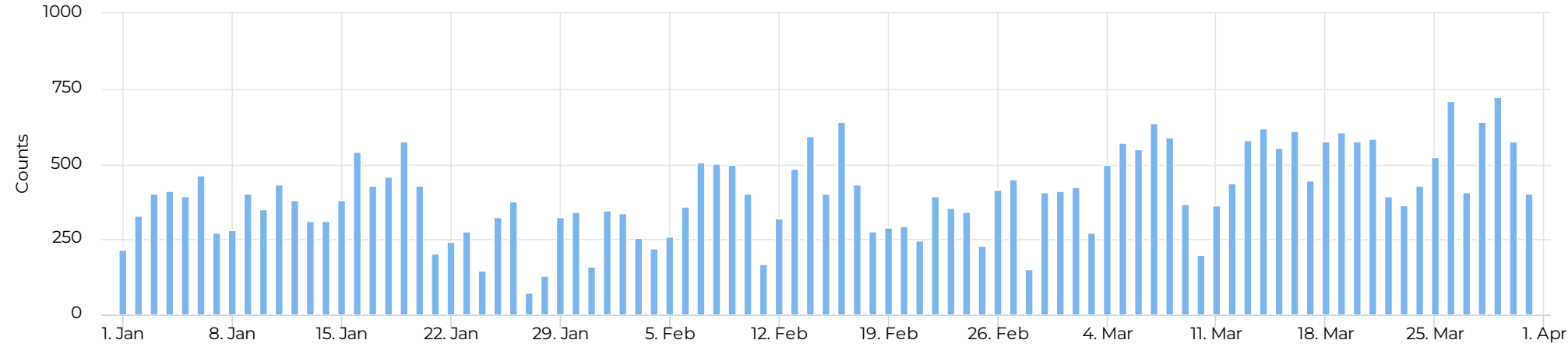
## Daily Cyclists

01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024



## Daily Pedestrians

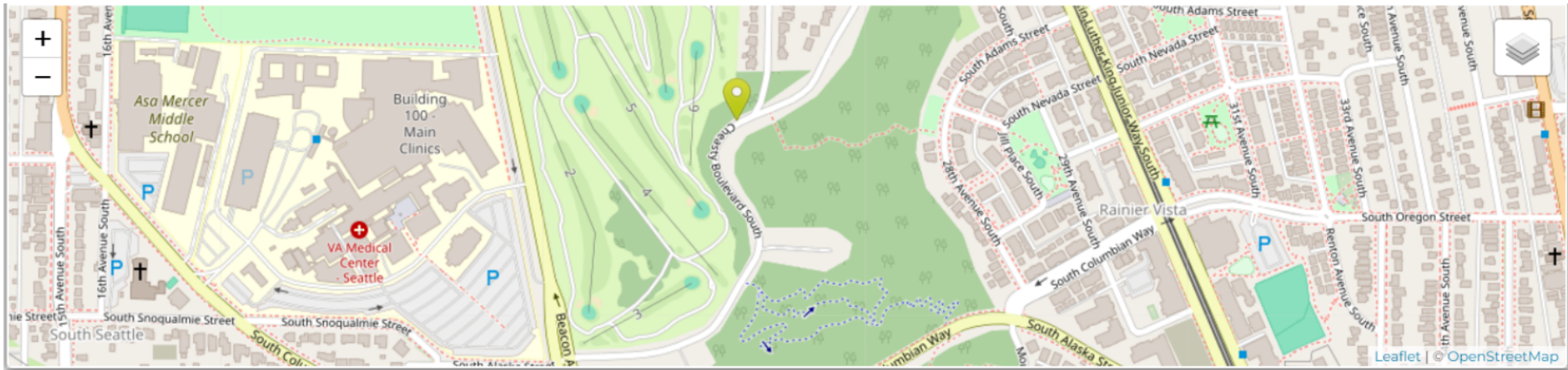
01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024



# Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- S. of 24th Pl

January 1, 2024 12:00 AM → March 31, 2024 12:00 AM

## Location



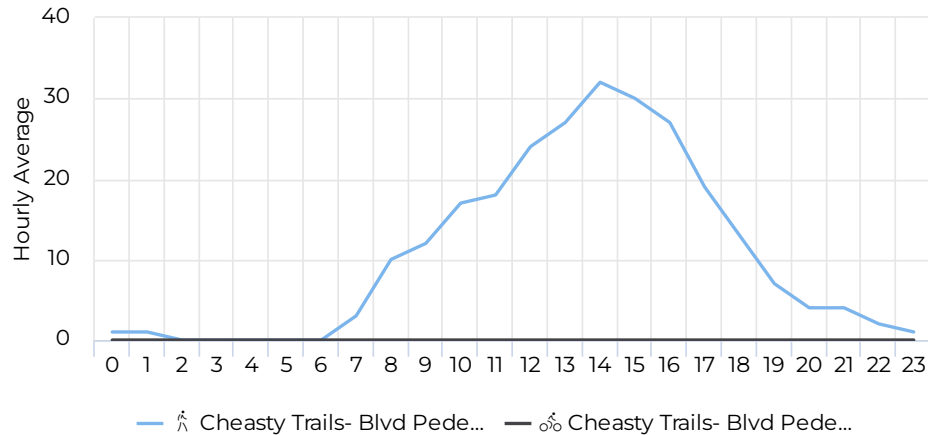
<div>Daily Average Bicyclists</div> <div>📅 01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024</div> <div>Daily Average</div> <div>0</div>	<div>Daily Average Peds</div> <div>📅 01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024</div> <div>Daily Average</div> <div>293</div>	<div>Peak Day Bicyclists</div> <div>📅 01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024</div> <div>Peak Day</div> <div>Saturday Mar 16, 2024</div> <div>6</div>	<div>Peak Day Peds</div> <div>📅 01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024</div> <div>Peak Day</div> <div>Friday Mar 29, 2024</div> <div>665</div>
<div>Daily Avg. - Week Ped&amp;Bike</div> <div>📅 01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024</div> <div>Daily Average</div> <div>311</div>	<div>Daily Avg. - Weekend Ped&amp;...</div> <div>📅 01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024</div> <div>Daily Average</div> <div>252</div>		

# Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- S. of 24th Pl

January 1, 2024 12:00 AM → March 31, 2024 12:00 AM

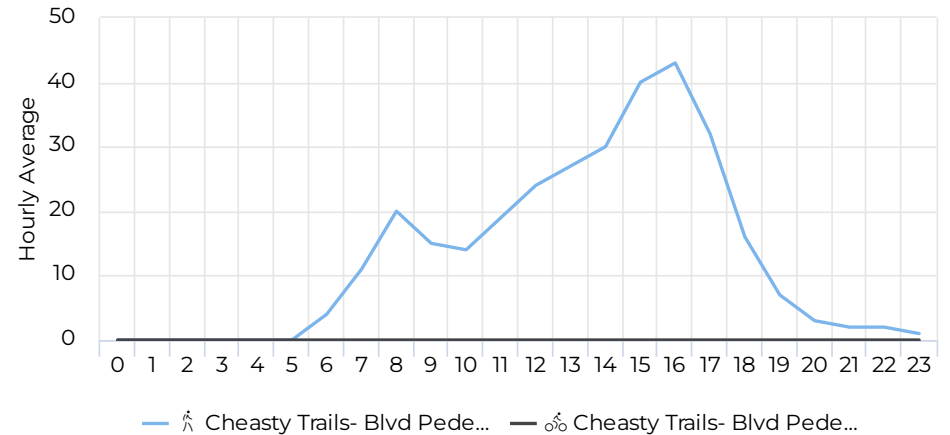
## Hourly Profile - Weekend

01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024



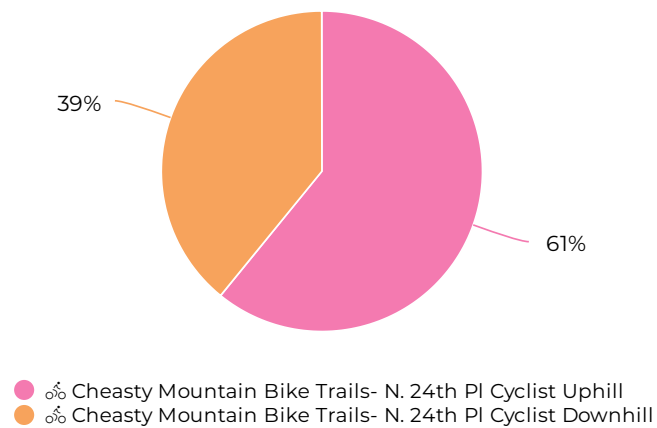
## Hourly Profile - Weekdays

01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024

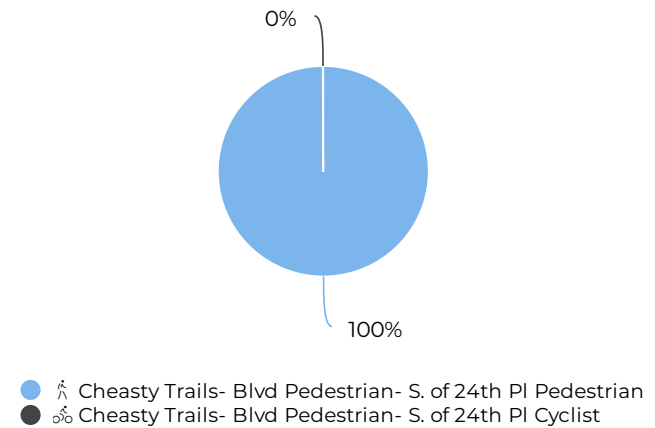


## Downhill Vs Uphill Cyclists

01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024



## Bike/Ped Distribution

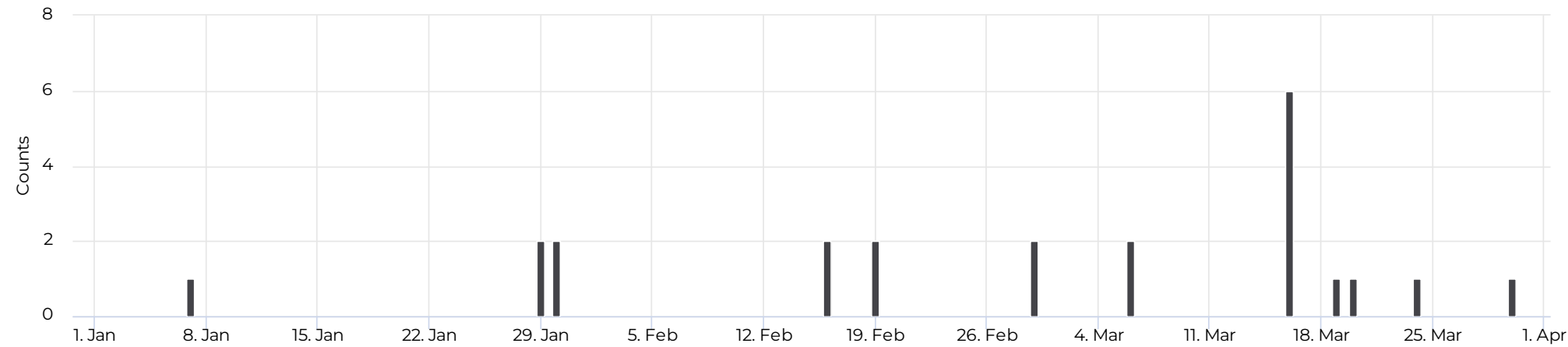


# Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- S. of 24th Pl

January 1, 2024 12:00 AM → March 31, 2024 12:00 AM

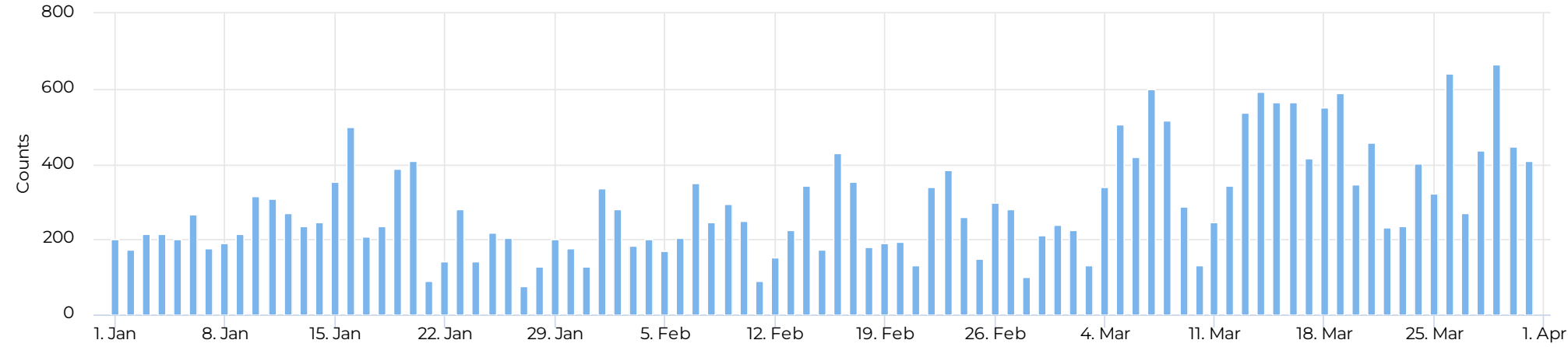
## Daily Cyclists

01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024



## Daily Pedestrians

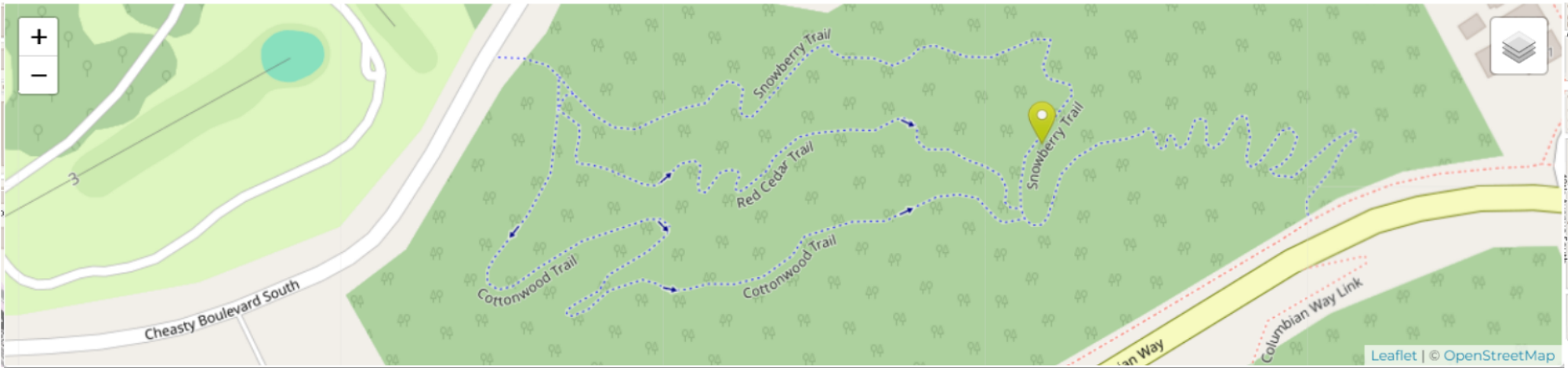
01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024



# Cheasty Trails- Multi-Use Snowberry Trail

January 1, 2024 12:00 AM → March 31, 2024 12:00 AM

## Location



### Daily Average Bicyclists

01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024

Daily Average

26

### Daily Average Peds

01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024

Daily Average

31

### Peak Day Bicyclists

01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024

Peak Day

Wednesday  
Mar 6, 2024

129

### Peak Day Peds

01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024

Peak Day

Saturday  
Mar 16, 2024

98

### Daily Avg. - Week Ped&Bike

01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024

Daily Average

52

### Daily Avg. - Weekend Ped&...

01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024

Daily Average

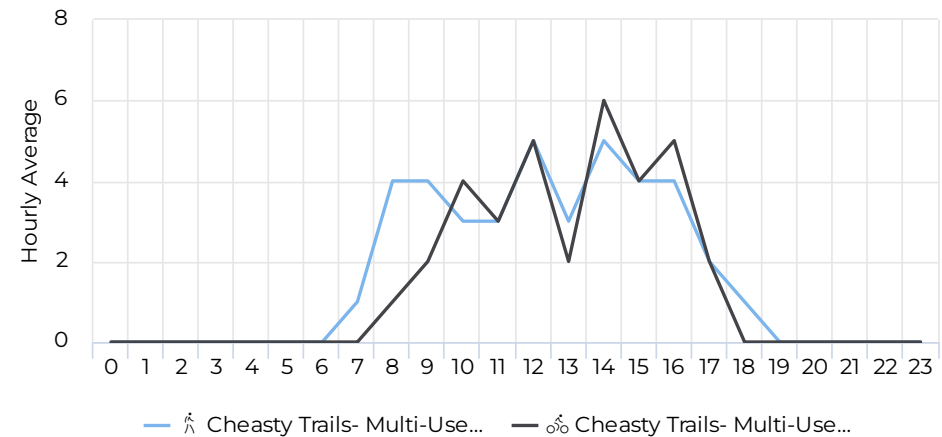
73

# Cheasty Trails- Multi-Use Snowberry Trail

January 1, 2024 12:00 AM → March 31, 2024 12:00 AM

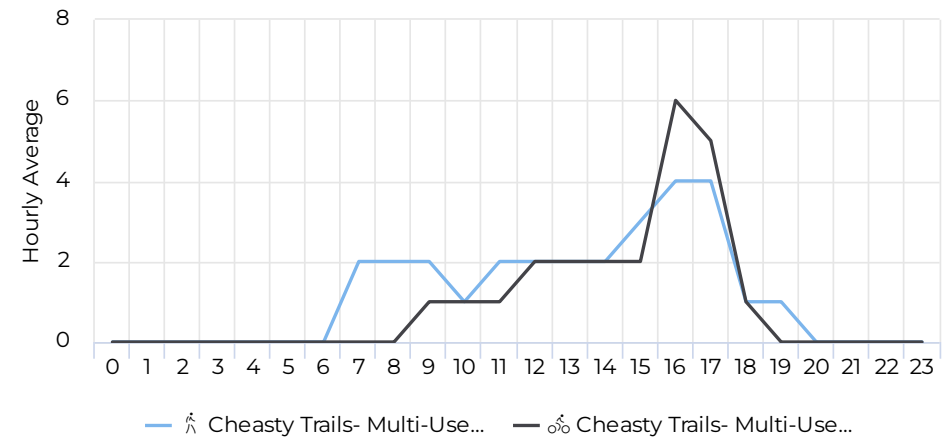
## Hourly Profile - Weekend

01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024



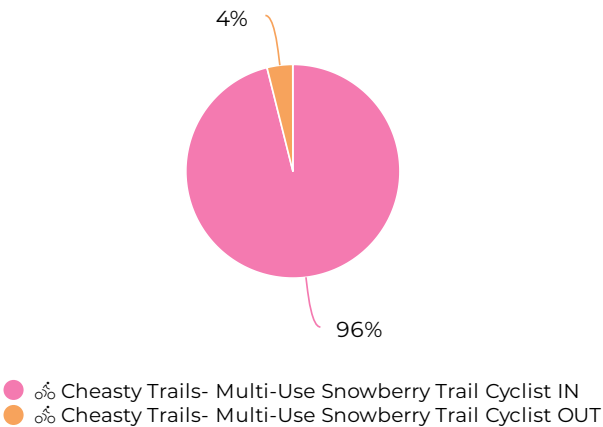
## Hourly Profile - Weekdays

01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024

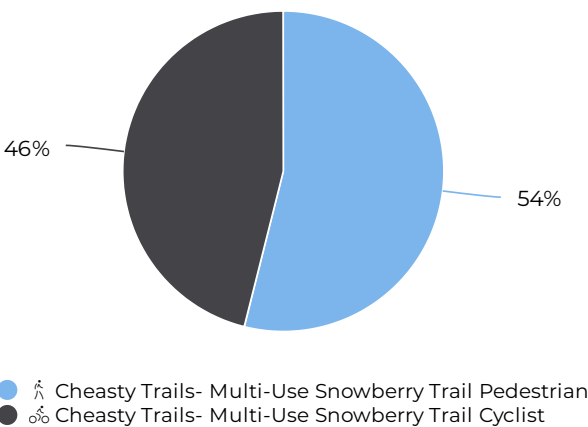


## Downhill Vs Uphill Cyclists

01/01/2024 → 03/30/2024



## Bike/Ped Distribution

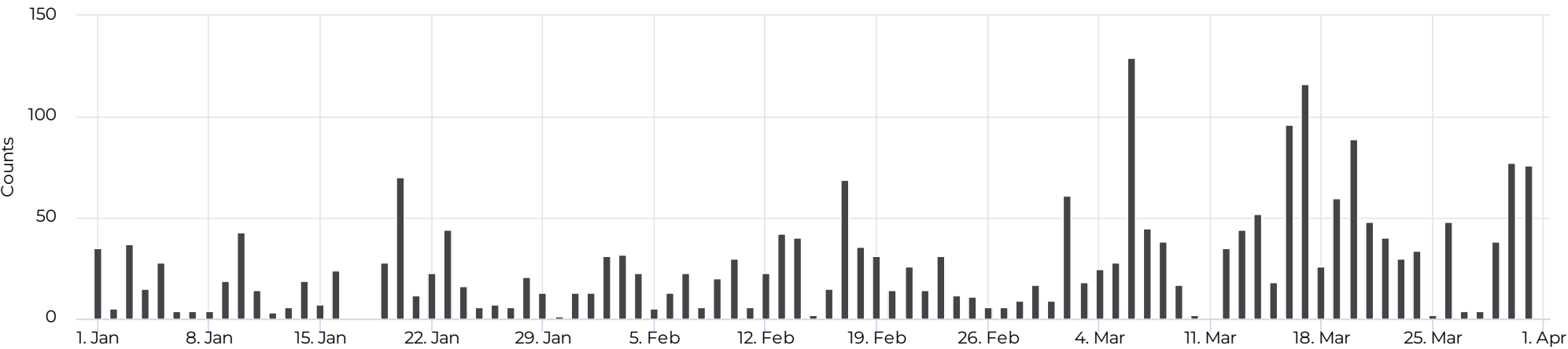


# Cheasty Trails- Multi-Use Snowberry Trail

January 1, 2024 12:00 AM → March 31, 2024 12:00 AM

## Daily Cyclists

01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024



## Daily Pedestrians

01/01/2024 → 03/31/2024

