

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

## **Year 2 2024 Quarter 3 Monitoring Report**

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**Seattle**  
Parks & Recreation

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September, 2024



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*All photos and maps in this report by Nelson Salisbury - © EarthCorps, 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 3 monitoring period (July-September, 2024).

EarthCorps performed the following monitoring tasks for Quarter 3 on September 19, 2024:

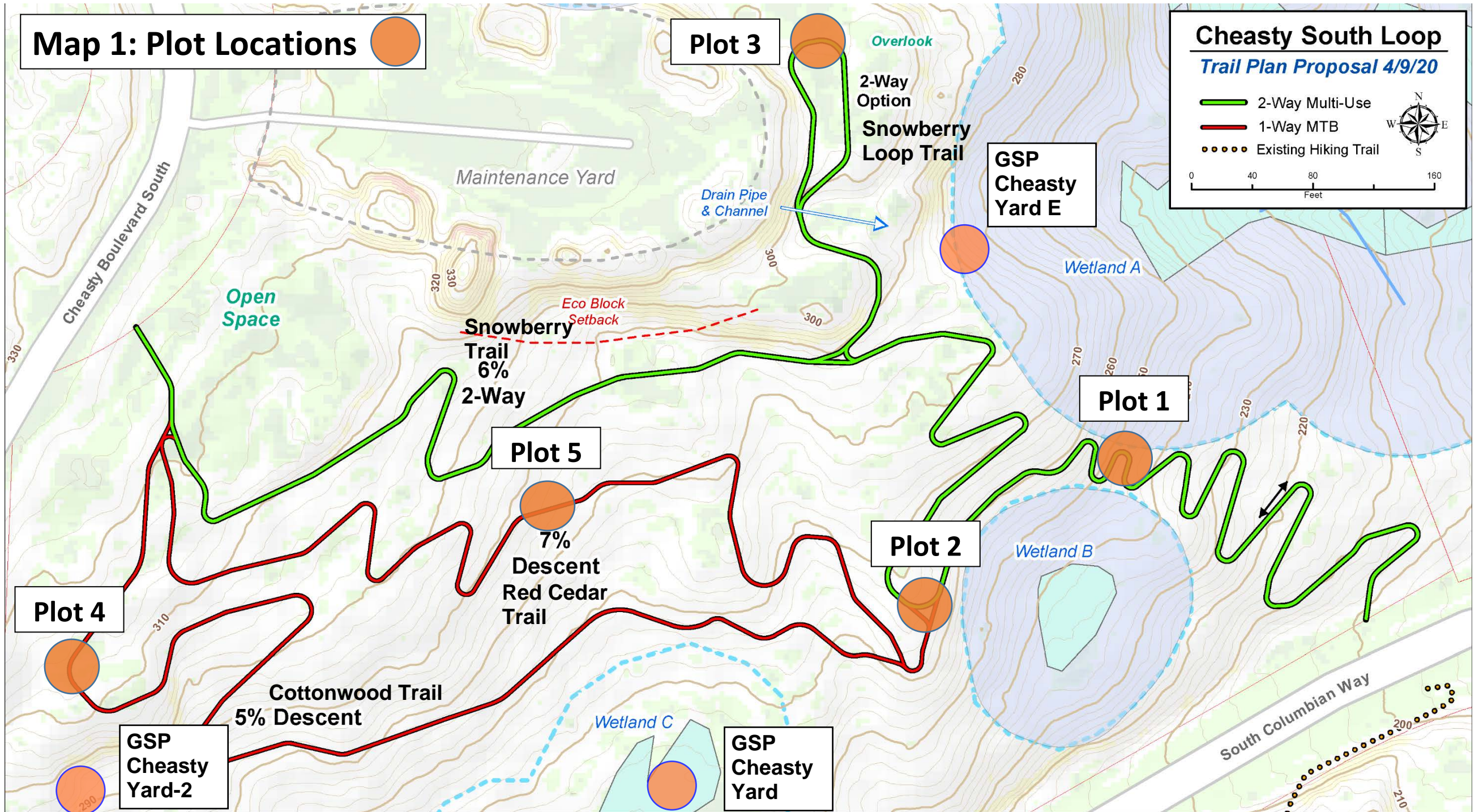
- Cheasty Boulevard Car Parking Monitoring
- Plot Level Observational Vegetation Monitoring
- Plot Level Photo Monitoring

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 Map 1 below for plot 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. During the site visit on September 19, 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 September 19, 2024.

Plot #1: The plot contains no substantial changes to vegetation. Sparse native vegetation continues to become established within plot and western red cedar trees continue to appear healthy. Non-native English ivy and common blackberry continue to establish throughout the plot and are encroaching onto the trail in some places. Minor trail erosion was noted. Some debris was found outside of the plot and off trail nearby. General invasive plant management is recommended in the vicinity of plot #1.

Plot #2: No substantial changes in vegetation were noted in plot 2. Native species continue to establish on edges of plot, especially trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), effectively filling in areas of previous bare ground. Common ivy and blackberry continue to establish within the plot and should be targeted for control.

Plot #3: Trail tread continues to show cracks from dried clay in many areas throughout the loop. Native vegetation appears healthy. Invasive species such as ivy and bindweed are encroaching onto native trees and it is recommended to target these species for control before they become more established. Ivy is increasing on the eastern plot edge and bindweed has

become well established in the center of the plot. Herb bennet (*Geum herbanum*), a non-native invasive species, requires control before it continues to spread.

Plot #4: No substantial changes to vegetation were noted. Previously pruned shrubs (red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), beaked hazelnut, and tall Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)) continue to regrow and will likely require additional pruning. Common blackberry is spreading in the south portion of the plot and encroaching onto the trail in several locations.

Plot #5: Further expansion of the new (see Q2 report) trail features were noted in the southwestern portion of the plot, including a new trail hump leading into the plot and a relatively major addition to the turning embankment (see pic below and in photo monitoring). Otherwise, the vegetation in the remaining plot is healthy and continues to establish in previously bare areas.

Plot 5 looking up trail (WSW) from the end of the new embankment in the western portion of the plot.



#### 4. Trail Plot Level Photo Monitoring

Photos were taken at each plot in the same manner established in 2022 Q4. 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, Q3 2024

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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)





Plot 1 Photo Point 2b (NE)



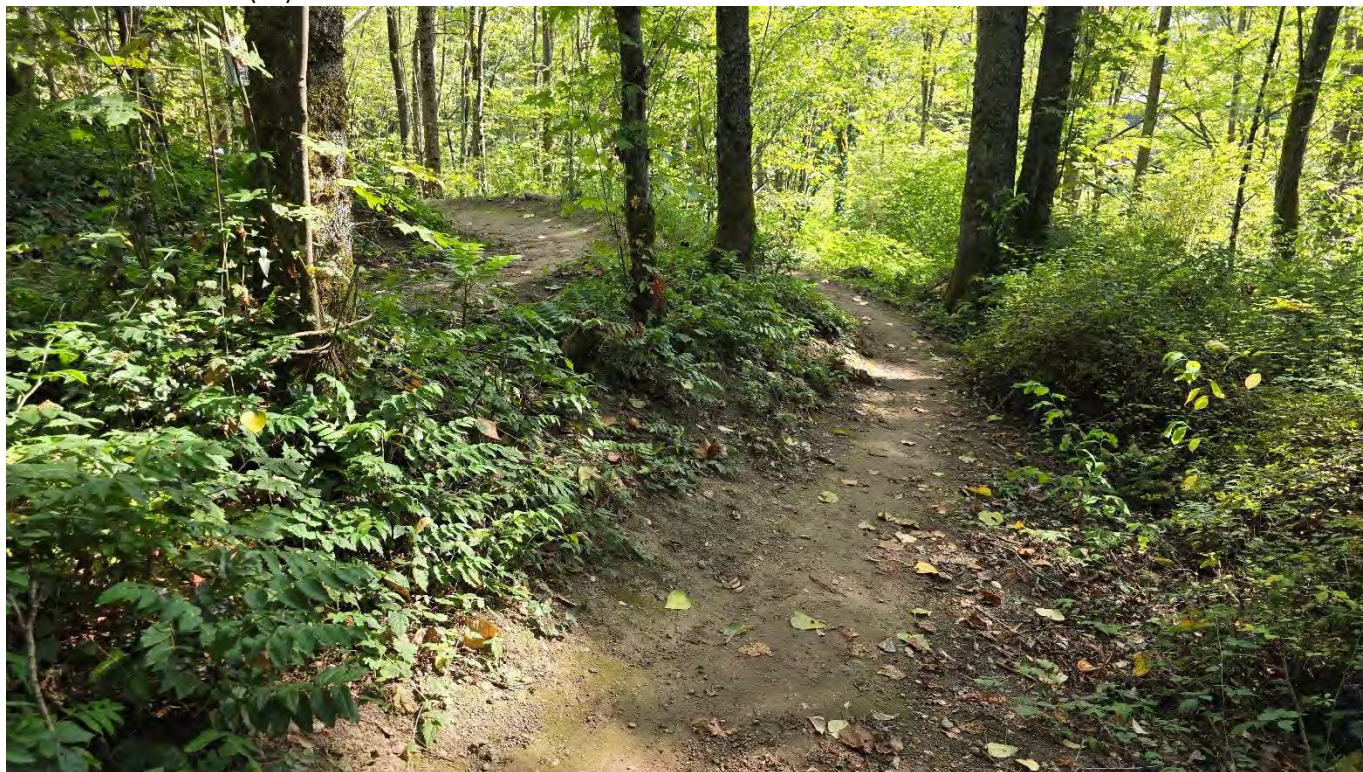
Plot 1 Photo Point 3 (N)





Plot	# of Photos
2	8
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)







Plot 2 Photo Point 4 (SW)





Plot	# of Photos
3	4
4 photo points at: #1 looking N (1 photo) along trail from entering plot from the S, #2 looking SW and SE (2 photos) from the trail bend, and #3 looking NE along trail entering plot from the E.	

Plot 3 Photo Point 1 (N)



Plot 3 Photo Point 2a (SW)





Plot 3 Photo Point 2b (SE)



Plot 3 Photo Point 3 (NE)





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)





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)





## **Cheasty Quarterly Monitoring: Q3, 2024**

**Date: 09/30/2024- 1 PM**

**SPR Representative: Kellina Stamm, Ben Johnson**

**Other Attendees: None**

### **1. Illegal parking on Cheasty Boulevard**

No parked vehicles observed. All “No Bikes” signs on the Boulevard trail were legible and installed.

### **2. Wildlife observed**

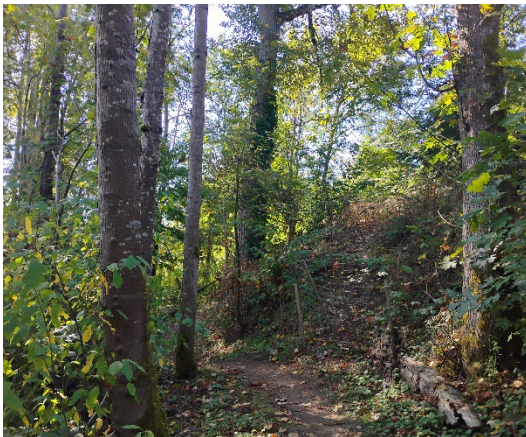
One rabbit, one hawk, one hummingbird and one squirrel, along with many small birds. The Merlin App identified, spotted towhee, chestnut-backed chickadee and black-capped chickadee and song sparrow by auditory recording.

### **3. Camping/homeless encampment activity**

No active encampments. Previous encampment locations along the downhill bike trails and Snowberry Loop trail are no longer there and vegetation has filled in bare spots.

### **4. Use/disuse of social trails**

Lots of vegetation has filled in many previous social trails. The fencing blocking the social trail at Columbian Way is down and the trail is being used. The fencing on the Cottonwood Trail is in place and vegetation is growing into the social trail.



*Figure 1 Cottonwood social trail*



*Figure 2 Columbian Way social trail*

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

No damage or degradation to wetlands was observed, and construction silt fencing and straw wattles have been removed.

### **6. Trash and dumping**

Minimal trash was observed on the trail system, with only one trash back observed.

#### **7. Corrective Actions this Quarter**

Meadow has been mowed. Sections of trail tread continue to be maintained by volunteers.



*Figure 3 Trail tread maintenance*

# Appendix C: SPR Survey Results

Start Date	How often do you visit the Cheasty Pedestrian and Mountain Bike Trail?	In what ZIP code is your home located? (enter 5-digit ZIP code; for example, 00544 or 94305)	What is your age?	What is your gender?	Which race/ethnicity best describes you? (Please choose only one.)
	Response	Open-Ended Response	Response	Response	Response
7/30/2024	At least twice a month	98144	40-49	Female	White / Caucasian
7/30/2024	At least twice a month	98144	30-39	Female	White / Caucasian
7/27/2024	At least four times a year	98118	21-29	Male	White / Caucasian
7/24/2024	At least four times a year	98122	40-49	Male	White / Caucasian
7/16/2024	Two or more times a week	98118	40-49	Male	Black or African American
7/7/2024	Once a year	98118	30-39	Female	White / Caucasian



Why do you visit the Cheasty Pedestrian and Mountain Bike Trail? (check all that apply)									Rate your experience of the trail
To enjoy nature	Bird watching	For exercise	Running	To spend time with family and/or friends	To volunteer	To walk or jog	Mountain Biking	Other (please specify)	Response
		For exercise		To spend time with family and/or friends			Mountain Biking		5
To enjoy nature		For exercise			To volunteer		Mountain Biking		5
		For exercise					Mountain Biking		4
To enjoy nature		For exercise					Mountain Biking	Commuting	5
				To spend time with family and/or friends			Mountain Biking		5
							Mountain Biking	Kids trail biking	

## 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

4/1/24-7/30/24

	Report Type						
	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other parts of Blvd	7	1	4	0	0	0	2
On Trails	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	12	2	4	0	1	0	2

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

7/1/24-9/30/24

	Report Type						
	Illegal Dumping	Encampment	Pothole	Electrical	Signage	Vegetation	Parking
Near Trails*	8	1		1	1	1	2
Other parts of Blvd	10	2	1		1		4
On Trails							
Total	18	3	1	1	2	1	6

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

# City of Seattle Parks & Recreation

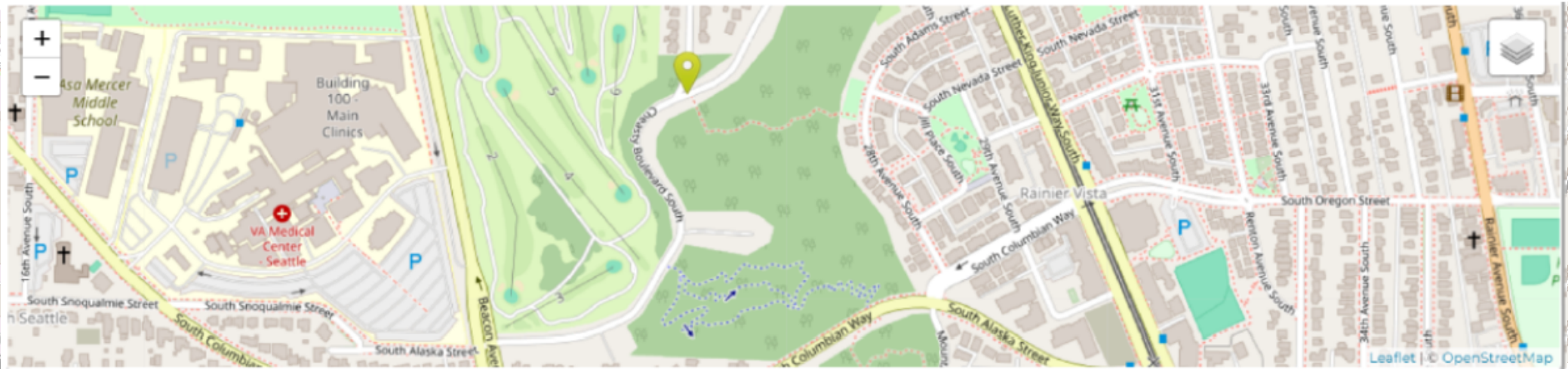


Kellina Stamm  
9/30/24

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

July 1, 2024 12:00 AM → September 30, 2024 12:00 AM

## Location



### Daily Average Bicyclists

07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024

Daily Average

0

### Daily Average Peds

07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024

Daily Average

41

### Peak Day Bicyclists

07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024

Peak Day

4

Thursday  
Aug 22, 2024

### Peak Day Peds

07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024

Peak Day

133

Wednesday  
Jul 3, 2024

### Daily Avg. - Week Ped&Bike

07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024

Daily Average

47

### Daily Avg. - Weekend Ped&Bike

07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024

Daily Average

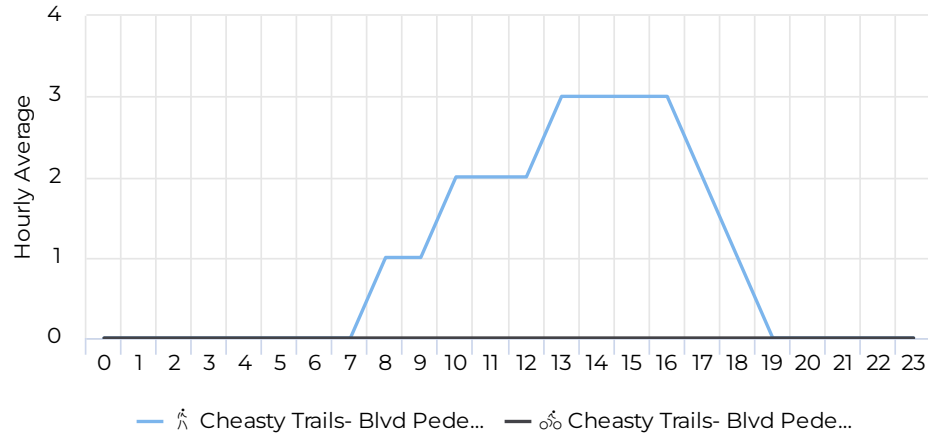
24

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

July 1, 2024 12:00 AM → September 30, 2024 12:00 AM

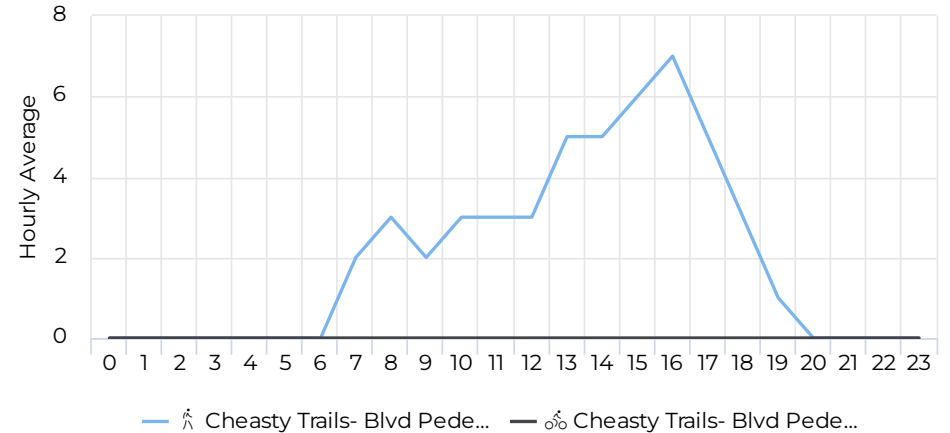
## Hourly Profile - Weekend

07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024



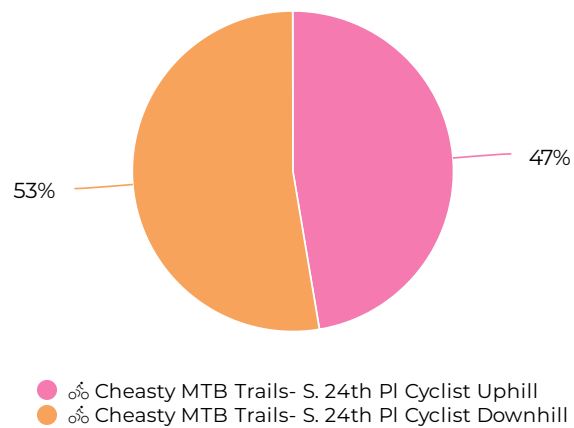
## Hourly Profile - Weekdays

07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024

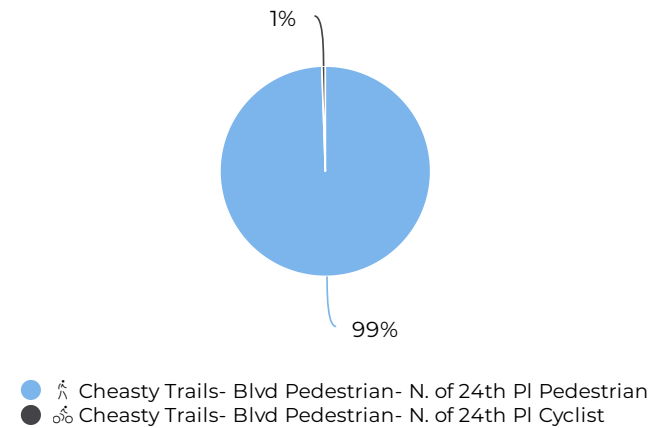


## Downhill Vs Uphill Cyclists

07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024



## Bike/Ped Distribution

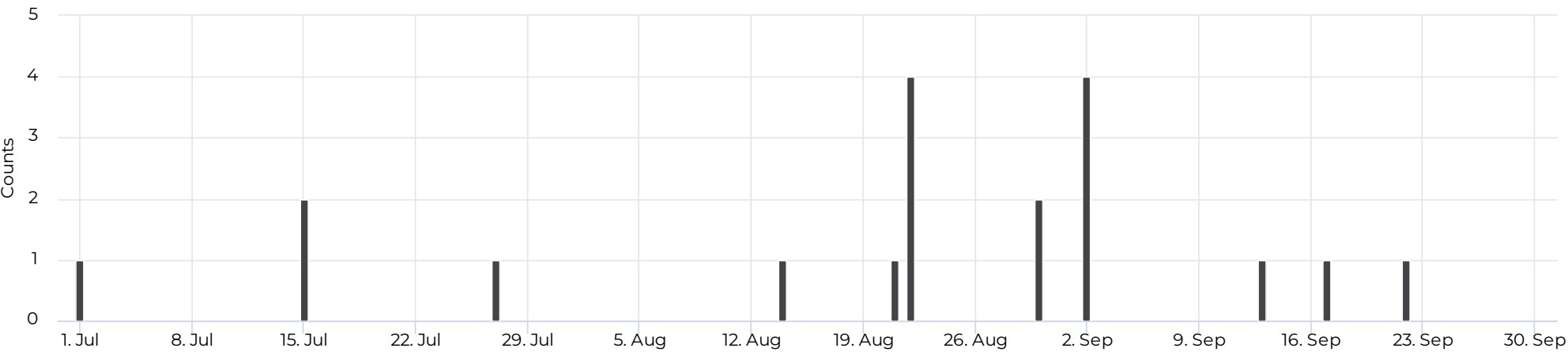


# Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- N. of 24th Pl

July 1, 2024 12:00 AM → September 30, 2024 12:00 AM

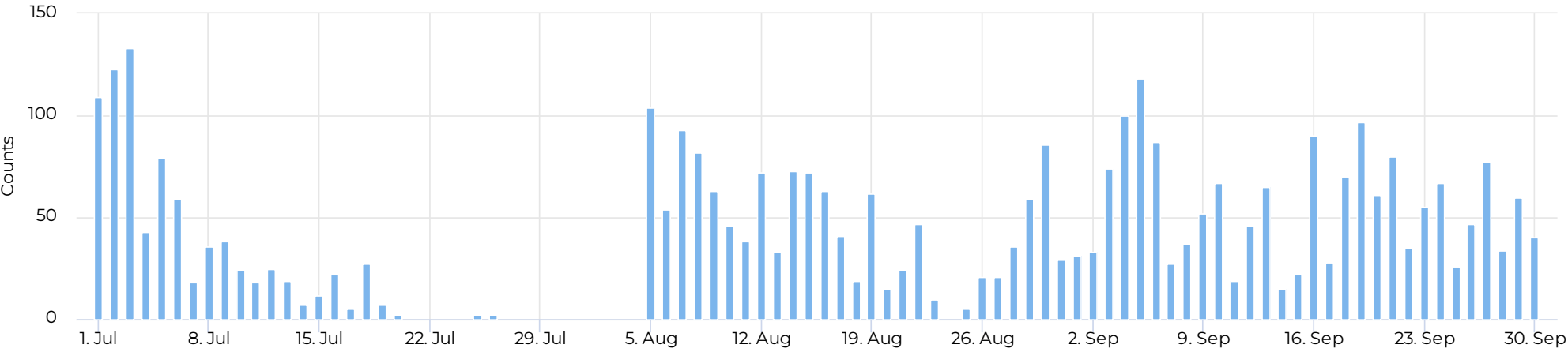
## Daily Cyclists

07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024



## Daily Pedestrians

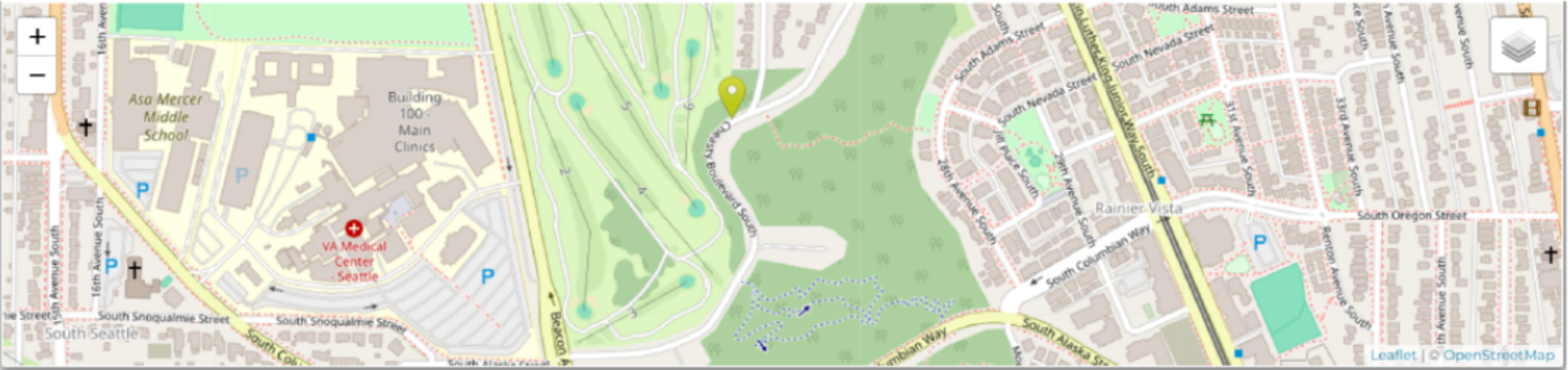
07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024



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

July 1, 2024 12:00 AM → September 30, 2024 12:00 AM

## Location



### Daily Average Bicyclists

📅 07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024

Daily Average

0

### Daily Average Peds

📅 07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024

Daily Average

593

### Peak Day Bicyclists

📅 07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024

Peak Day

Monday  
Sep 2, 2024

4

### Peak Day Peds

📅 07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024

Peak Day

Friday  
Aug 2, 2024

941

### Daily Avg. - Week Ped&Bike

📅 07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024

Daily Average

631

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

📅 07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024

Daily Average

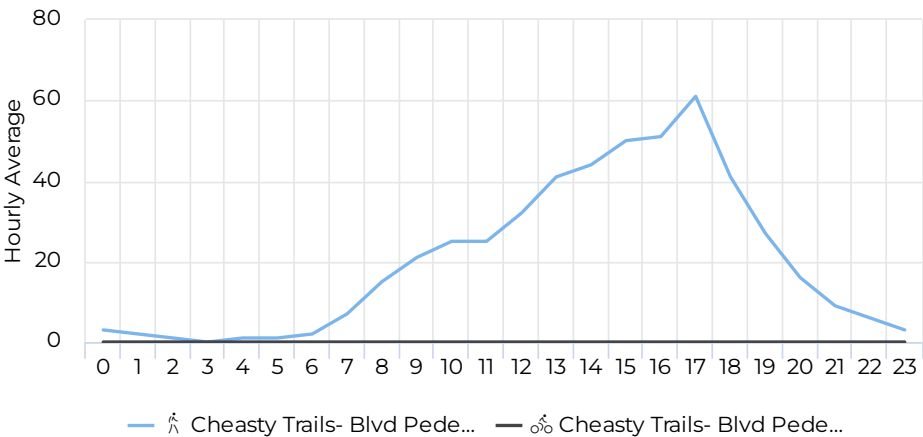
484

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

July 1, 2024 12:00 AM → September 30, 2024 12:00 AM

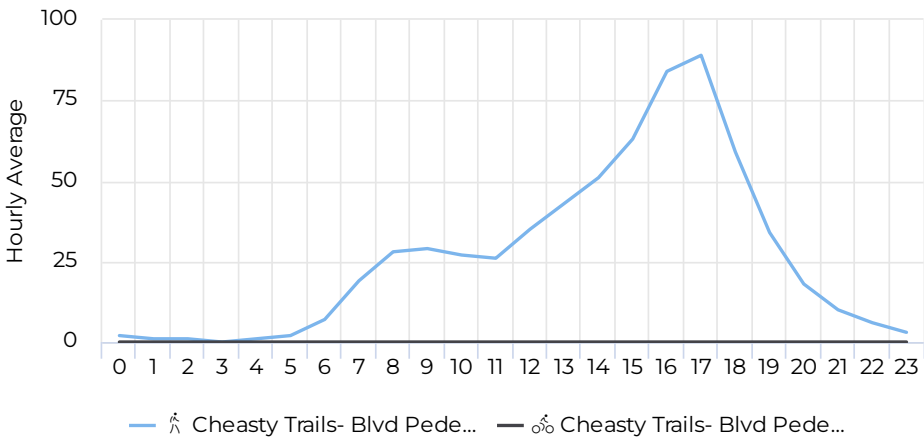
## Hourly Profile - Weekend

07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024



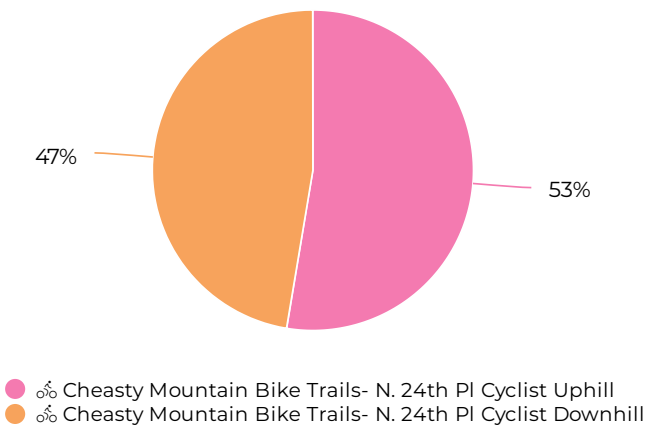
## Hourly Profile - Weekdays

07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024

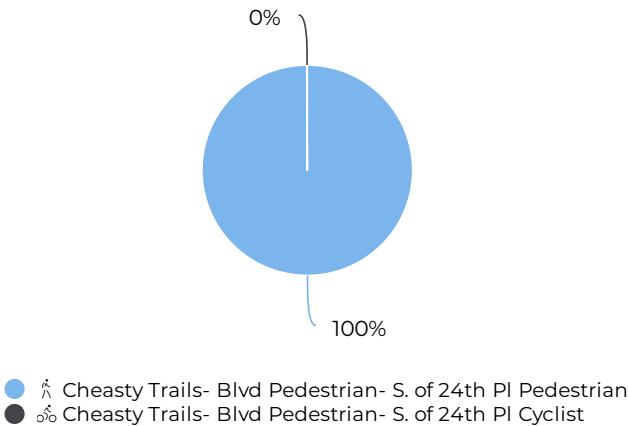


## Downhill Vs Uphill Cyclists

07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024



## Bike/Ped Distribution



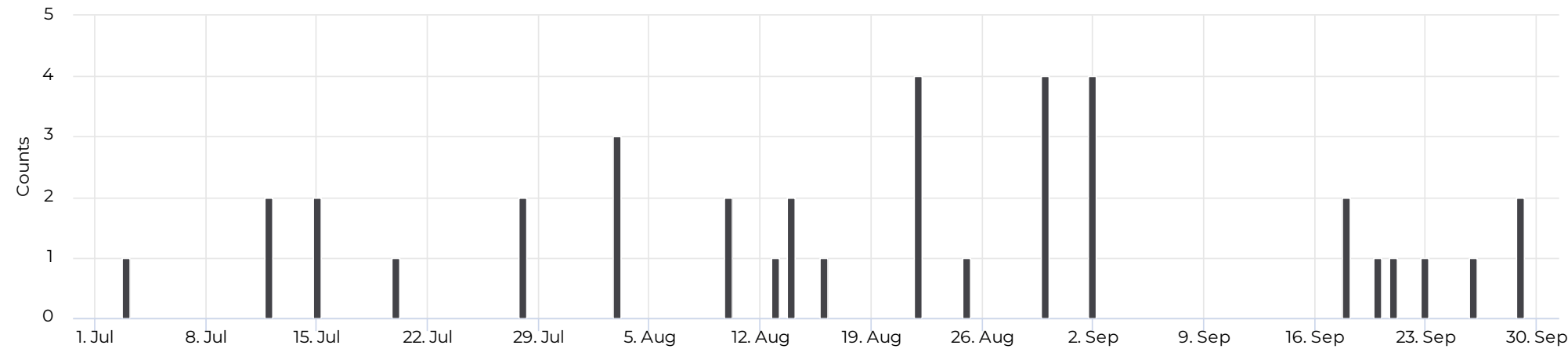


# Cheasty Trails- Blvd Pedestrian- S. of 24th Pl

July 1, 2024 12:00 AM → September 30, 2024 12:00 AM

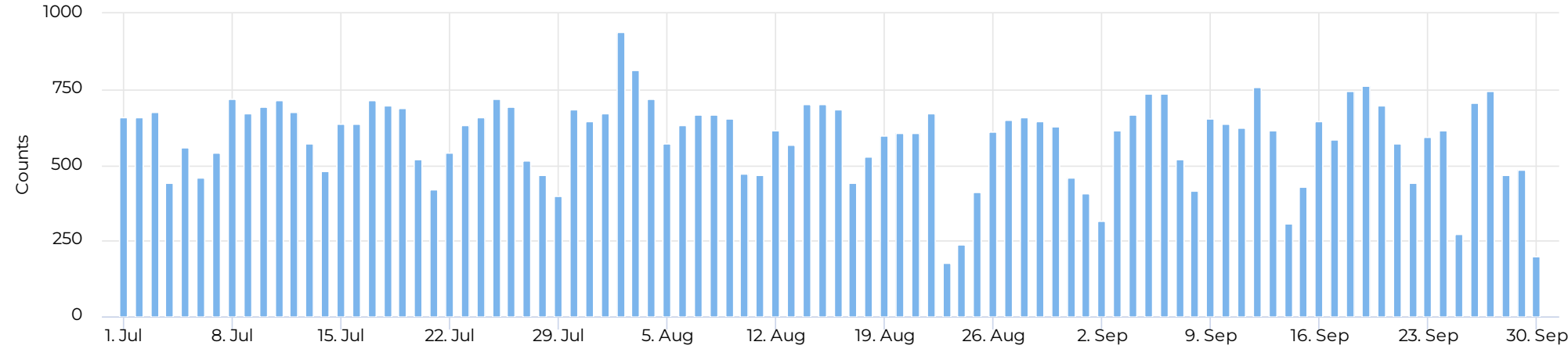
## Daily Cyclists

07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024



## Daily Pedestrians

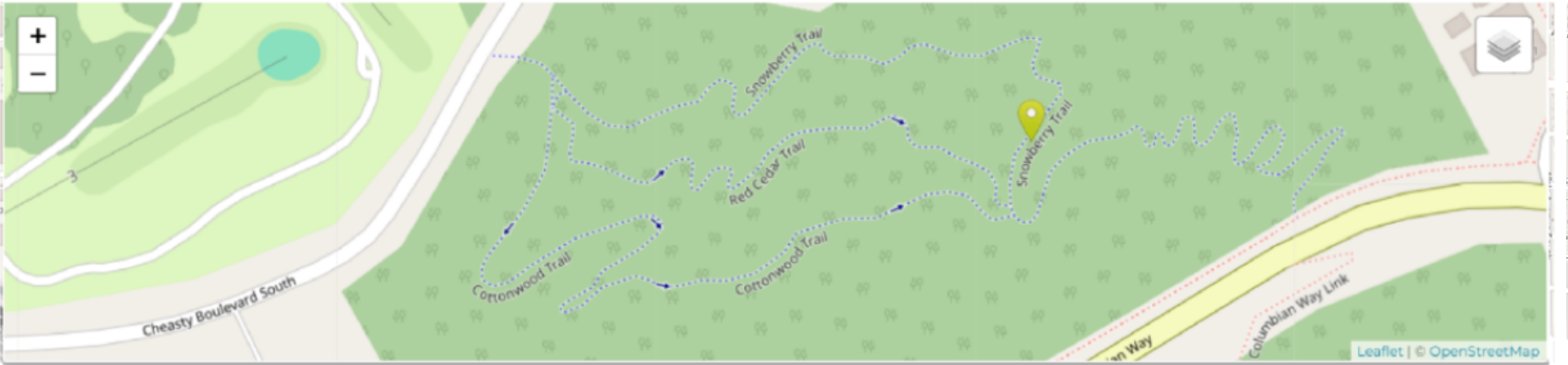
07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024



# Cheasty Trails- Multi-Use Snowberry Trail

July 1, 2024 12:00 AM → September 30, 2024 12:00 AM

## Location



### Daily Average Bicyclists

📅 07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024

Daily Average

**35**

### Daily Average Peds

📅 07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024

Daily Average

**30**

### Peak Day Bicyclists

📅 07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024

Peak Day

Sunday  
Sep 29, 2024

**110**

### Peak Day Peds

📅 07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024

Peak Day

Friday  
Jul 19, 2024

**80**

### Daily Avg. - Week Ped&Bike

📅 07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024

Daily Average

**66**

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

📅 07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024

Daily Average

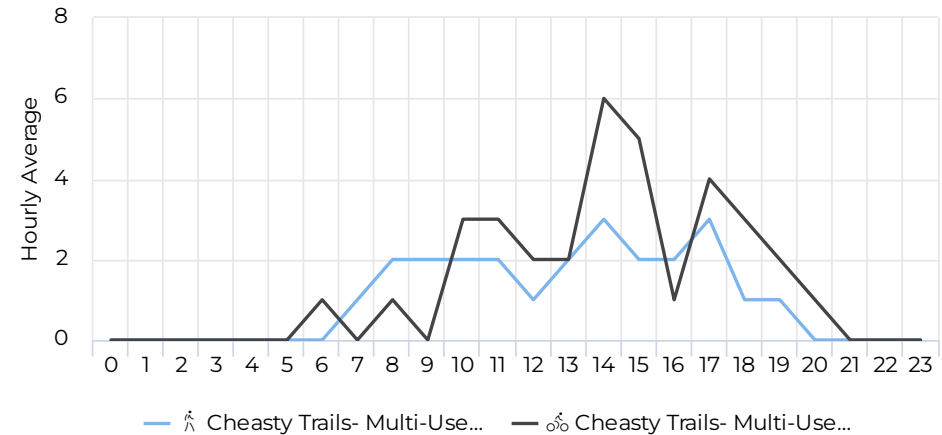
**60**

# Cheasty Trails- Multi-Use Snowberry Trail

July 1, 2024 12:00 AM → September 30, 2024 12:00 AM

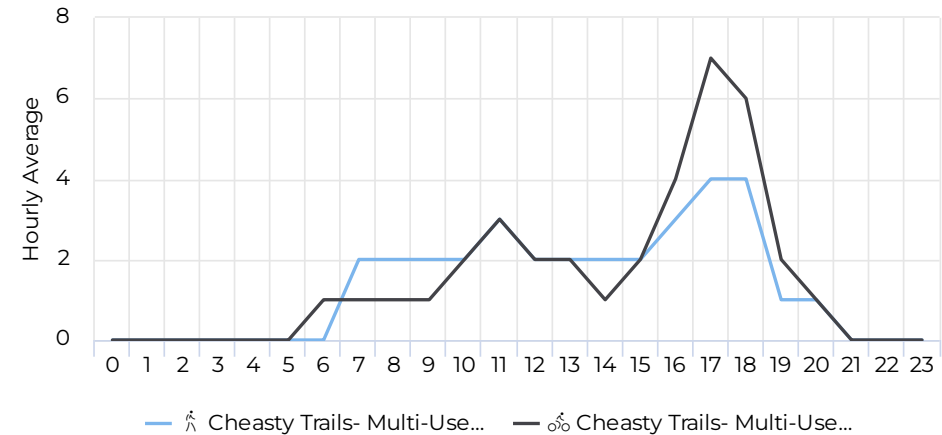
## Hourly Profile - Weekend

07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024



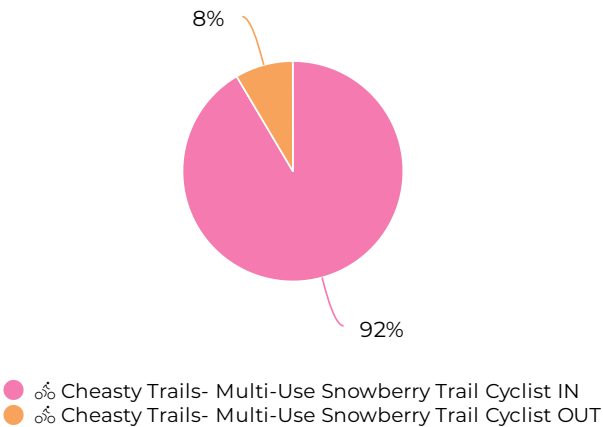
## Hourly Profile - Weekdays

07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024

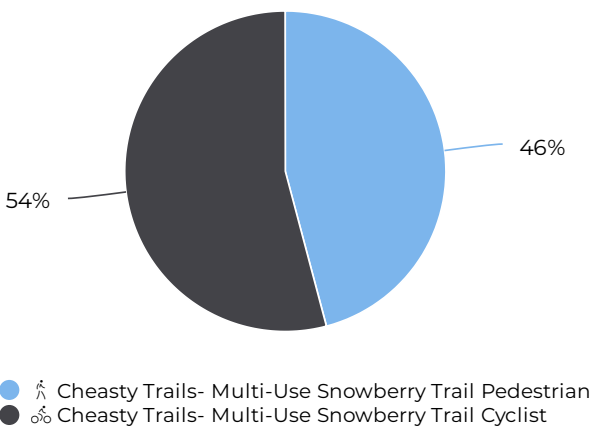


## Downhill Vs Uphill Cyclists

07/01/2024 → 09/29/2024



## Bike/Ped Distribution

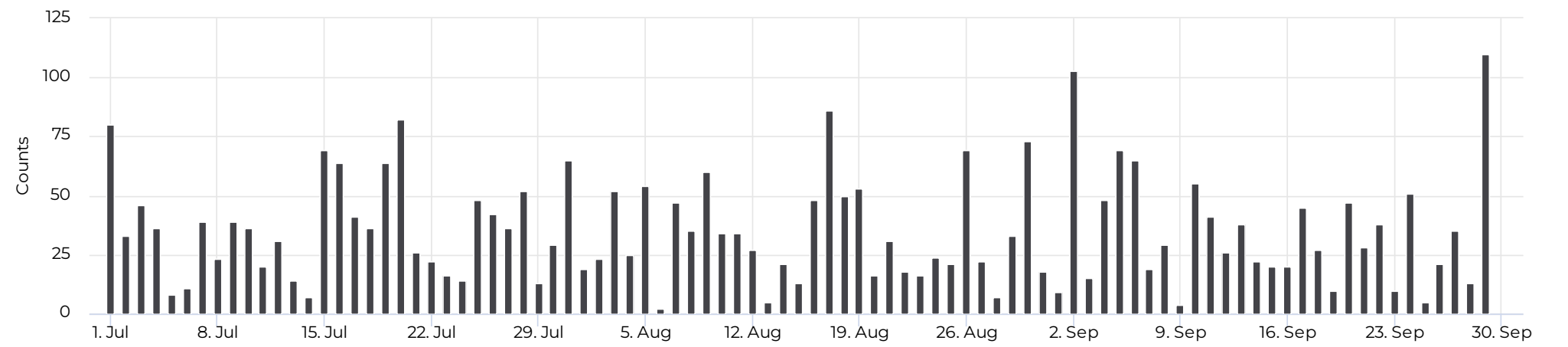


# Cheasty Trails- Multi-Use Snowberry Trail

July 1, 2024 12:00 AM → September 30, 2024 12:00 AM

## Daily Cyclists

07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024



## Daily Pedestrians

07/01/2024 → 09/30/2024

