



To: MRV Trails Collaborative

From: Joshua Schwartz, Executive Director
Sam Robinson, Community Planner

CC: Keith Cubbon, CVRPC
Bob Kogut, Mad River Riders
Misha Golfman, Mad River Path
Annie Decker-Dell'Isola, Town of Waitsfield
MRV Recreation District
MRV Transportation Advisory Committee

Date: October 5, 2023

Re: Mad River Valley 2023 Trail Use Data

Eight automated trail counters (Eco-Counter) were deployed at Mad River Valley trails and sidewalks for two-week periods between 8/8/2023-10/2/2023 to assess trail traffic volumes and provide a comparison to previous count efforts.

Trail counter locations and dates:

1. Blueberry Lake Trails, 8/8-8/22/23
2. Revolution Trail @ Lareau Farm/American Flatbread, 8/8-8/22/23
3. Chase Brook Town Forest, 8/21-9/4/23
4. Hosford Heart of the Valley Boardwalk, 8/21-9/4/23
5. MRP West Greenway, 9/4-9/18/23¹
6. Waitsfield Village Sidewalk @ Joslin Memorial Library, 9/4-9/18/23
7. Kingsbury Greenway @ Sugarbush Snowmaking Pond, 9/18-10/2/23
8. Warren Path, 9/18-10/2/23

These counts were facilitated by Keith Cubbon of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission (CVRPC). All but one location, the Warren Path, are updates from previous counts.

Several graphs and tables can be found below detailing the 2023 Average Daily Trail User Count for each location and time period, as well as the total rainfall amount recorded during each two-week study period. Comparisons to previous counts are provided where available. This memo and individual trail count sheets can be downloaded at <https://mrvpd.org/plans/>.

¹ MRP West Greenway was excluded from analysis due to a malfunction experienced by the trail counter at this location.

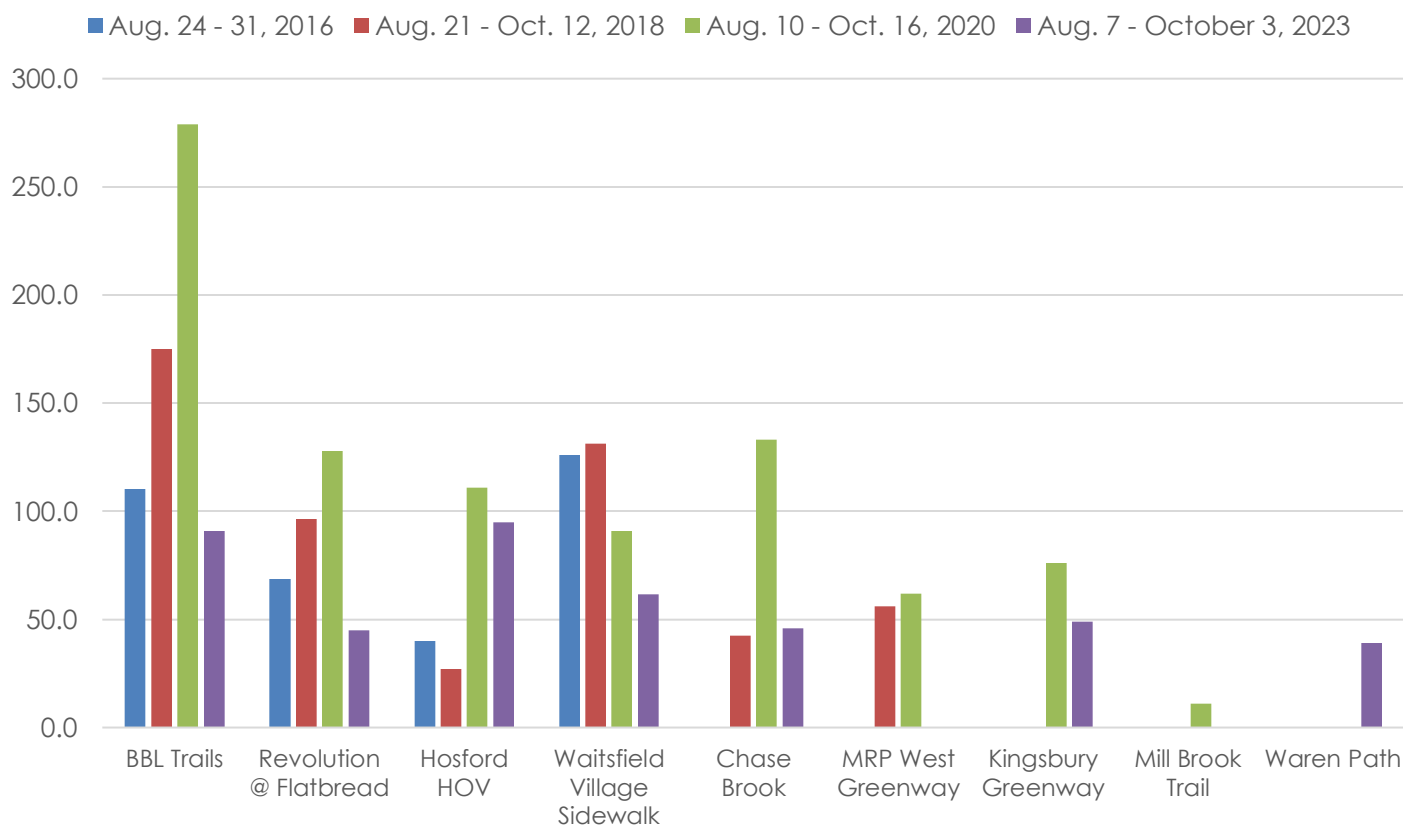
Additional data is available for each location, including Total Traffic for each period, Weekday/Weekend Averages, Busiest Day of the Week, and Distribution by Direction. Feel free to reach out to MRVPD for these or any additional info (joshua@mrvpd.org or 496-7173).

It is likely that 2023 trail use data was affected by heavy rains experienced in the Mad River Valley during the time that trail counters were installed. Several graphs within this memo illustrate how trail use responded to periods of inclement weather.

To provide some context, during the timeframe that trail counters were installed at the Blueberry Lake and Revolution trail systems, 64% of days received some amount of rain, while 29% of the days received over a quarter-inch of rain. In the two-week period that trail counters were installed at Hosford Heart of the Valley and Chase Brook Town Forest, 50% of the days experienced some amount of rain, while 21% of the days experienced over a quarter-inch of rain. While counts were being collected at Waitsfield Village Sidewalk, 54% of days experienced some amount of rain while 31% of the days experienced over a quarter-inch of rain. The Warren Path and Kingsbury Greenway were the only locations to receive rain less than 50% of the days that trail counters were installed (14%). Throughout the entire 2023 collection period (8/8 – 10/2/2023), 42% of days experienced some amount of rain. Total rainfall amounts by time period can be found below.

	Time Period			
	8/8 - 8/22/23	8/21 - 9/4/23	9/5 - 9/18/23	9/18 - 10/2/23
Total Rainfall (in.)	3.33	1.86	2.77	0.49

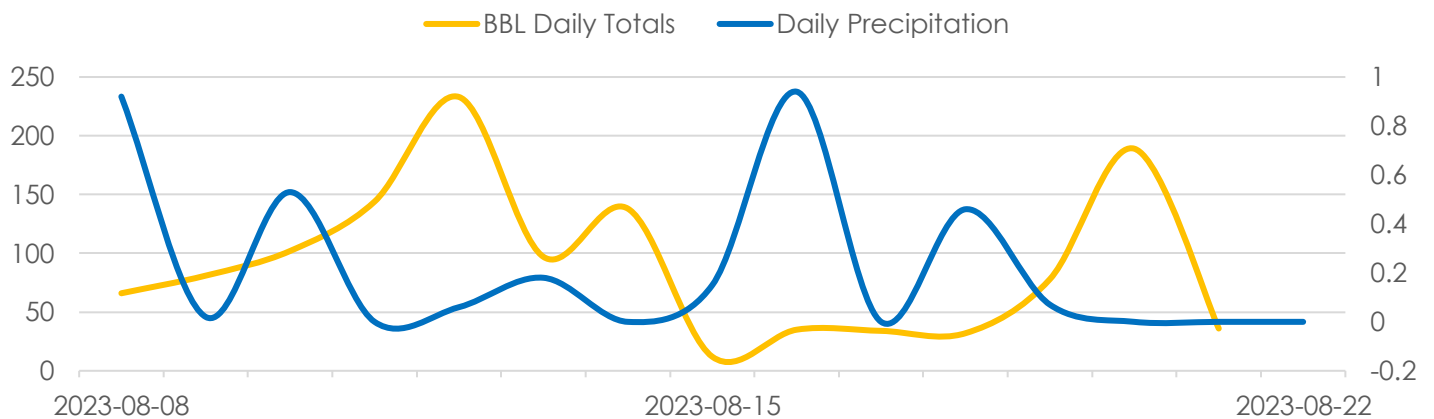
Average Daily MRV Trail User Count, 2016 - 2023



Trail	Fall Period Avg. Daily User Count				% Change		
	8/24-10/13/16	8/21-10/12/18	8/10-10/16/20	8/8-10/3/23	2018 - 2020	2020 - 2023	2016 - 2023
BBL Trails	110.3	175.1	279	91.0	59%	-67%	-17%
Revolution @ Flatbread	68.6	96.4	128	45.0	33%	-65%	-34%
Hosford HOV	40.1	27	111	95.0	311%	-14%	137%
Waitsfield Village Sidewalk	126.1	131.3	91	61.6	-31%	-32%	-51%
Chase Brook		42.6	133	46.0	212%	-65%	
MRP West Greenway		56.1	62		11%		
Kingsbury Greenway			76	49.0		-36%	
Mill Brook Trail			11				
Warren Path				39.0			

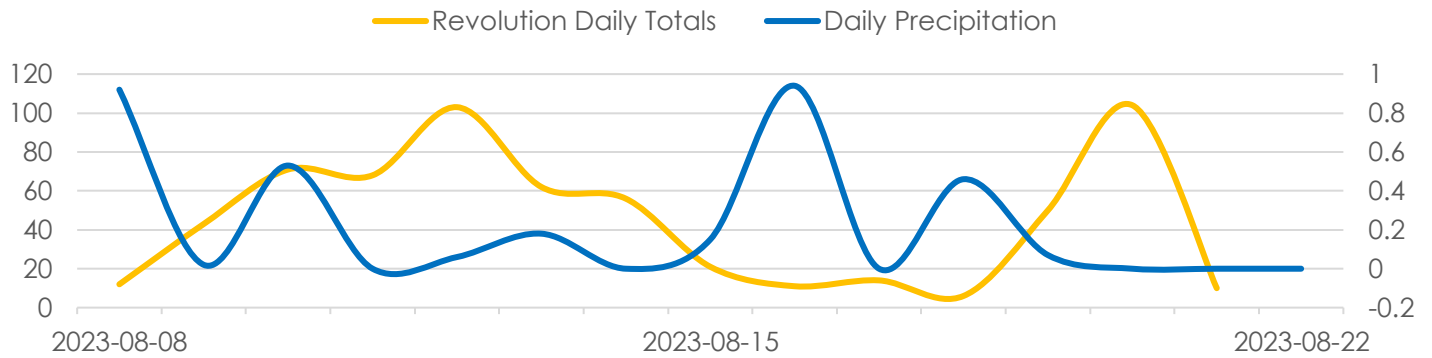
The following graphs illustrate the total daily visits and total daily precipitation² by location for the 2023 fall observation periods:

Blueberry Lake Daily Total Visits vs. Daily Total Precipitation, 8/8 - 8/22/23

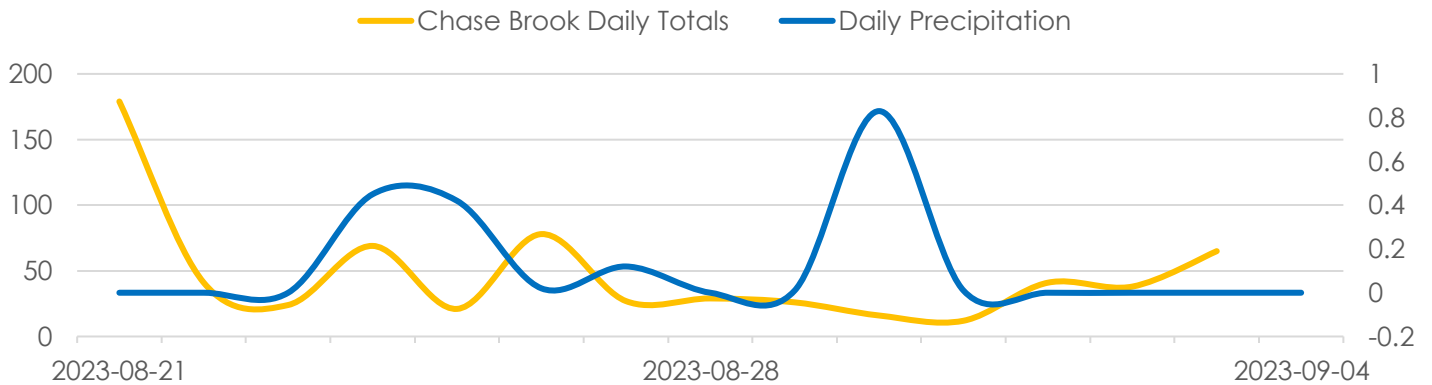


² Rainfall data was collected via a [USGS weather station](#) located in Moretown, Vermont.

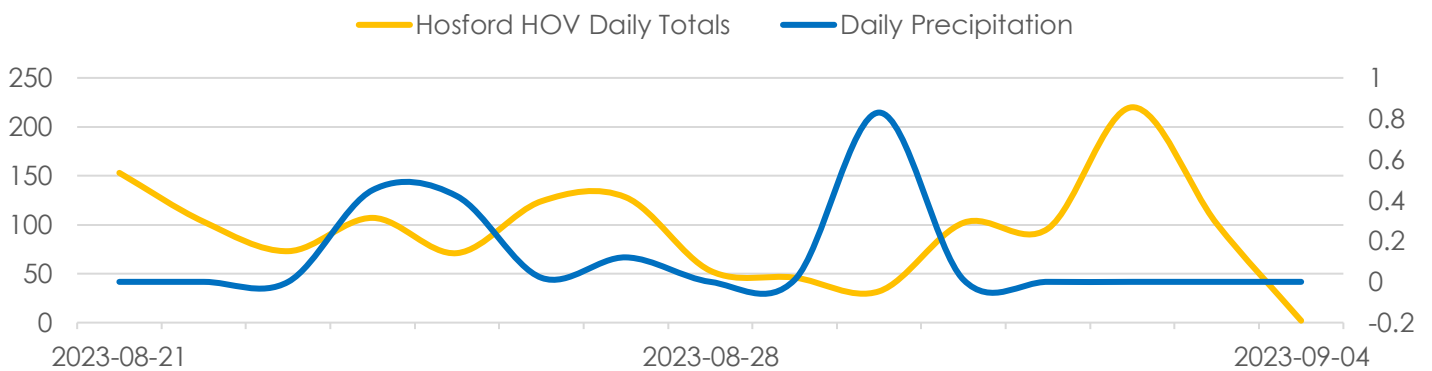
Revolution Daily Total Visits vs. Daily Total Precipitation, 8/8 - 8/22/23



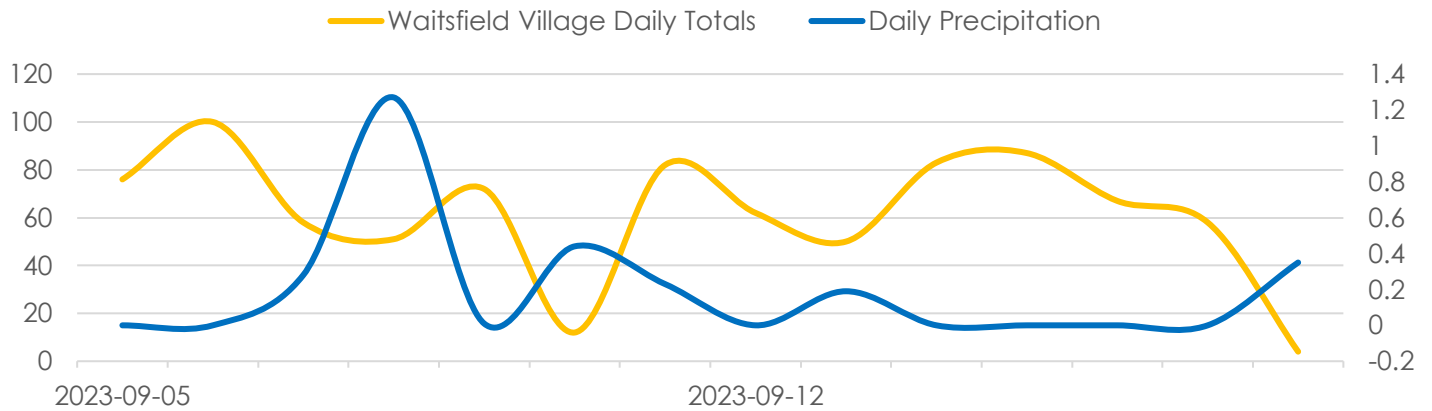
Chase Brook Town Forest Daily Total Visits vs. Daily Total Precipitation, 8/21 - 9/4/23



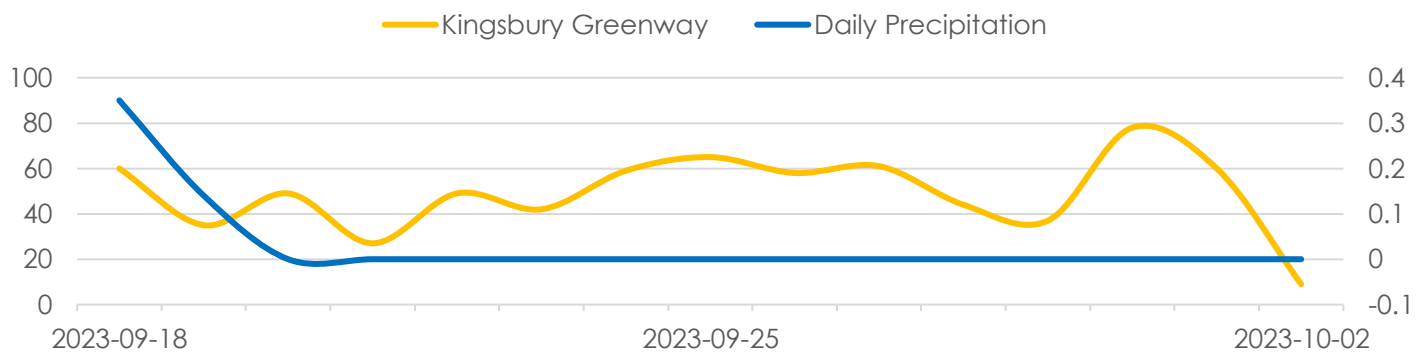
Hosford HOV Daily Total Visits vs. Daily Total Precipitation, 8/21 - 9/4/23



Waitsfield Village Daily Total Visits vs. Daily Total Precipitation, 9/5 - 9/18/23



Kingsbury Greenway Daily Total Visits vs. Daily Total Precipitation, 9/18 - 10/2/23



Warren Path Daily Total Visits vs. Daily Total Precipitation, 9/18 - 10/2/23

