Vermont Bike and Pedestrian Data

Jessica Savage – VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
1,500 MILES OF TRAILS
227,500 ACRES OF LAND

- Hiking
- Snowmobiling
- XC ski
- Mountain bike
- Handicapped accessible
Visitor Count Data Collection

Methods:

• State Parks Entrance Data
• Trailhead Register Boxes
• Trail Counters
• Parking Lot Counts
• Trail Features

Assessment:

• Collector App
Vermont State Parks Attendance Data
Trailhead Register Boxes

Register Sheet Sign-in Data
1988-2019
Parking Lot Counts/Intercept Surveys

- VYCC Assessment Crews
- Questions about crowding perception
- Questions about facilities conditions
Perry Hill

Perry Hill has become a major Vermont mountain biking destination promoted by the Waterbury Area Trails Alliance (WATA), the town of Waterbury, and area businesses. The network contains approximately 10-miles of endorsed trail. The trails are designed and maintained for mountain biking although runners, hikers, and dog walkers utilize the corridors as well.

Perry Hill currently has a trailhead parking area with an approximately 30-vehicle maximum capacity. Based on a .58 vehicle to user ratio we have determined that a trailhead parking area with 50 stalls available would exceed capacity 5% of the year.

![Perry Hill Overall Trail Feature Condition](image)

![Percentage of time the parking area would be over capacity for a spectrum of parking area sizes](chart)
Our Overall Goal is to bring sustainability and user expectations/experience into the best balance we can with the resources we have. A secondary goal is to use data to bring more resources to our trail/recreation assets for maintenance/improvements and/or new assets to help disperse visitors.
Visitor Use Monitoring Plan 2020

2020 Season Goal: use this summer to create protocols, best practices and create recommendations for how to pursue visitor use monitoring. Each district will select one high use trailhead for this purpose, where we will set up and calibrate infrared counters that will count trail users. Register sheets provide additional information such as party size, geographical demographics, comments and other.
COVID-19 and Trail Use in Vermont

For more information please go to:
frp.vermont.gov/recreation/outdoor-recreation-and-covid-19
healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19
QUESTIONS?
Non-motorized Counts at VTrans

June 3, 2020 – Bike Ped Data Collection and Monitoring Workgroup – Jon Kaplan, VTrans Bike/Ped Program
Statewide Count Program

• Early 2000s - First N. American customer of Eco-Counter (counter manufacturer)
Collaboration with RPCs

- Regular element of annual work program
- Equipment lending and tech support
- Data shared with Vtrans
- Encouraged to repeat counts at same location annually
Long-term Sidewalk Counts

- Eco-Counter installed on a sidewalk in Montpelier for 10+ years
Data Analysis by UVM TRC

- Hired UVM Transportation Research Center 2016-2017
- Analyzed and organized count data
- Developed on-line portal
Online Portal Open for Public Use

- Click on a count site for more info
- Count type
- Avg. and peak
- How many hours counted at the site
- Map
On-road Bicycle Counts

- Eco-counter develops bicycle tube counter
- Obtains bi-directional data
- Need to develop an overall plan
Counts on state Rail Trails

- Permanent sites to get seasonal variation
- Could tie counts to economic data
Challenges with NMT Counts

- Adequate permanent count locations
- Good distribution of short-term counts
- Longevity of data
- Count technology – esp. on-road bike
- Data organization
Future of Count program at VTrans

• Embedded in the traffic monitoring section
• More permanent count sites
• Regular funding in budget
• More before/after counts to check on impact of new facilities
• Counts in support of projects e.g. construction impacts
QUESTIONS?