

MISSISSQUOI VALLEY RAIL TRAIL COUNTING

Three TrafX automated trail counters were placed along the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail (MVRT) in Franklin County to understand trail use and economic impact. These counters were placed on 10/01/19 and removed on 10/10/19.

Trail counters were placed at the following locations:

1. St. Albans, just north of where Seymour Road and MVRT intersect.
2. Sheldon Junction, east of the Missisquoi River bridge.
3. Richford, at the entrance to the MVRT.

In 2018, three counters were placed along the MVRT in Enosburg Falls during both the fall (9/15/18-10/23/18) and winter (12/19/18-2/11/19) as part of the Vital Village project. The counter data from the counter placed just west of Enosburg Falls on the MVRT was utilized for this project to demonstrate use in this area of the trail.

Estimates for Average Daily Traffic (ADT), Peak Day Trail Traffic, Annual Trail Traffic Volume, Trail Traffic Volume by Day of the Week, and Trail Traffic Volume by Hour of the Day are provided in the charts below. Estimates of Trail Traffic Volume by Day of the Week, Trail Traffic Volume by Hour of the Day, and Peak Day Trail Traffic are directly calculated from the trail count data, while Average Daily Traffic and Annual Trail Traffic Volume are estimated based on the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project methodology, which uses a standard extrapolation algorithm that accounts for seasonal variations to estimate annual usage.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Busiest Day of the Week and Hour of the Day

At the Richford MVRT access point and in St. Albans, Tuesday is the busiest day of the week. At Sheldon Junction bridge, the busiest day is Saturday and weekend use is generally higher than weekday use. At Enosburg Falls, Friday is the busiest day of the week, followed closely by Sunday and Saturday. In the winter at Enosburg Falls, Saturday is the busiest day of the week.

The busiest hour varies by location. In Richford, the busiest time was 4 PM. At St. Albans MVRT, 5PM is the busiest time. In Sheldon Junction, early morning to midday sees the most usage, with 1 PM being the busiest time followed by 12 PM. At Enosburg Falls, the 8 AM and 4 PM were both peak times. In the winter, the peak time at Enosburg Falls is 2 PM.

The variability in the results across locations suggests that the current trail activity is focused primarily on local use that stays relatively contained to the immediate areas of the trail surrounding each community, as opposed to being predominated by longer distance, regional visitors riding longer segments or the whole trail on weekends.

Peak Use

The peak day for the Richford and St. Albans MVRT counter was on Tuesday October 8, when 47 and 164 trail users were recorded, respectively. At Sheldon Junction, the peak day during the counting period was Saturday October 5 when 43 users were recorded. In Enosburg Falls, the peak day was on Sunday, February 2 when 162 trail users were recorded.

Average Daily Visitation

Average daily visitation is 84 at St. Albans, 68 at Richford, 36 at Sheldon Junction bridge, 48 at Enosburg Falls in the fall, and 27 in the winter at Enosburg Falls. Average Saturday visitation is 103 at St. Albans MVRT, 35 at Richford, 43 at Sheldon Junction bridge, 48 at Enosburg Falls, and 71 in the winter at Enosburg Falls. Average Sunday visitation is 108 at St. Albans MVRT, 11 at Richford, 24 at Sheldon Junction bridge, 58 at Enosburg Falls, and 38 in the winter at Enosburg falls.

Days of the Week Balance

In Sheldon Junction, over 57% of use occurred over the weekend compared to 33% at St. Albans. In Richford, only about 21% of use occurred on the weekends with high use mainly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. In Enosburg Falls, weekend traffic made up about 31% of use in the fall and 57% of use in the winter.

Winter vs Summer Volumes

The MVRT is a four-season trail that allows snowmobile use. In Enosburg Falls, the peak trail count is higher in February than in September, although the average daily trail use is higher in the summer months. Snowmobile trips are typically longer trips that may include whole trail rides and more activities along the trail.

Total Trail Traffic Volume

Richford + St. Albans + Enosburg Falls + Sheldon Junction = Total Trail Use

(Total Trail Use * .15 = Adjusted Trail User Total)

The extrapolated data from each of the counter locations suggests that total annual trail use is around 93,897 trail users. As some of the users were likely counted twice as they traversed the trail, the total trail use count needs to be adjusted. Assuming 15% of those users are traveling the whole length of the trail, the total annual trail use estimate was adjusted to 79,813 total users.

ST. ALBANS

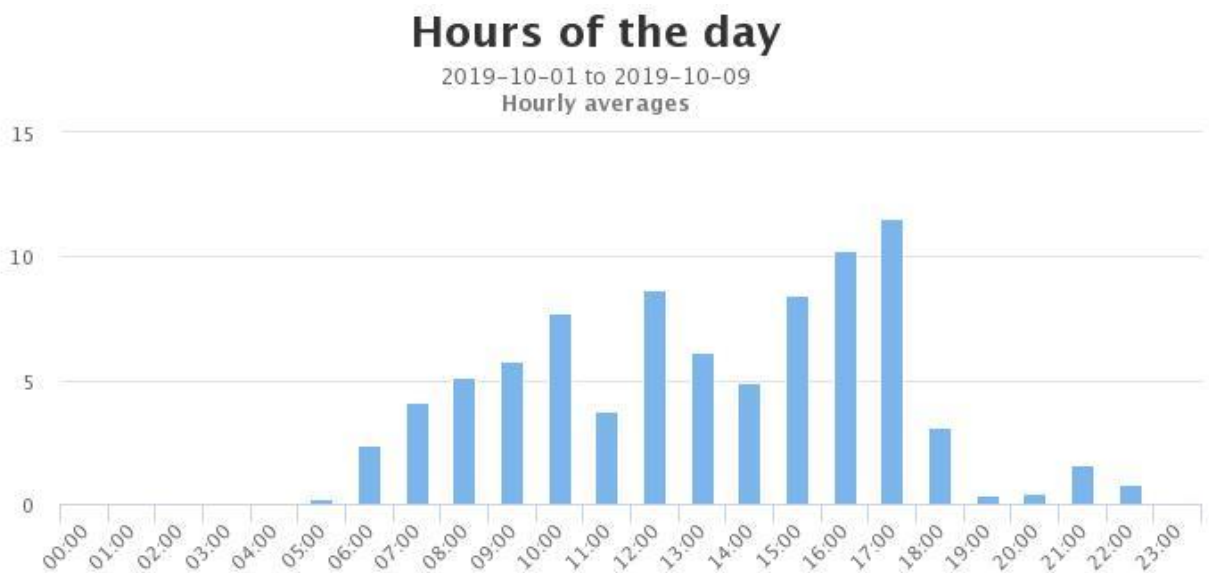
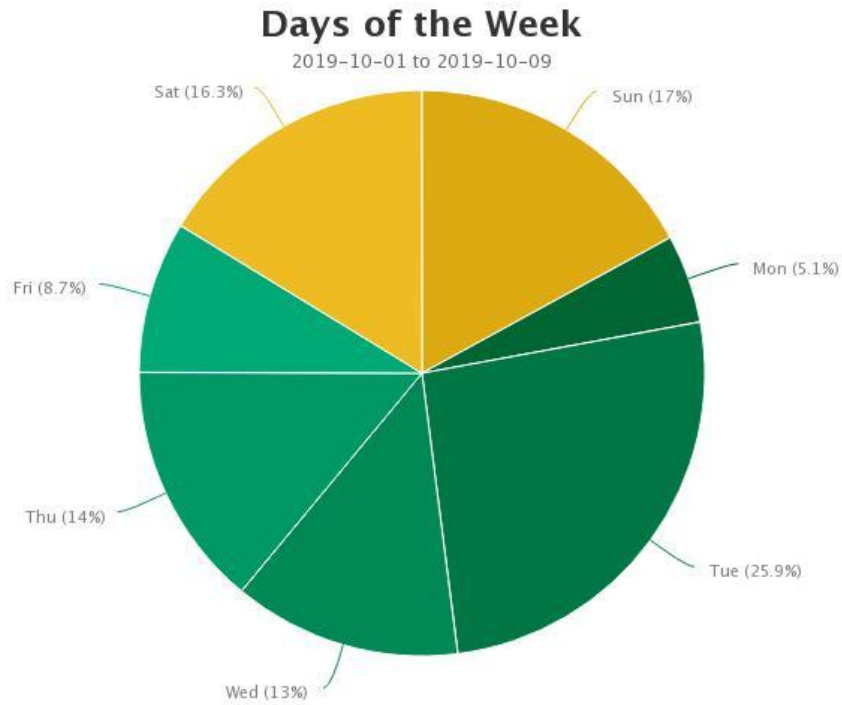
Average Daily Traffic: 84 trail users per day

Average Saturday Daily Traffic: 103 trail users per day

Average Sunday Daily Traffic: 108 trail users per day

Peak Daily Trail Traffic: 164 trail users (10/08/2019)

Annual Trail Traffic Volume: 46,758 trail users



RICHFORD

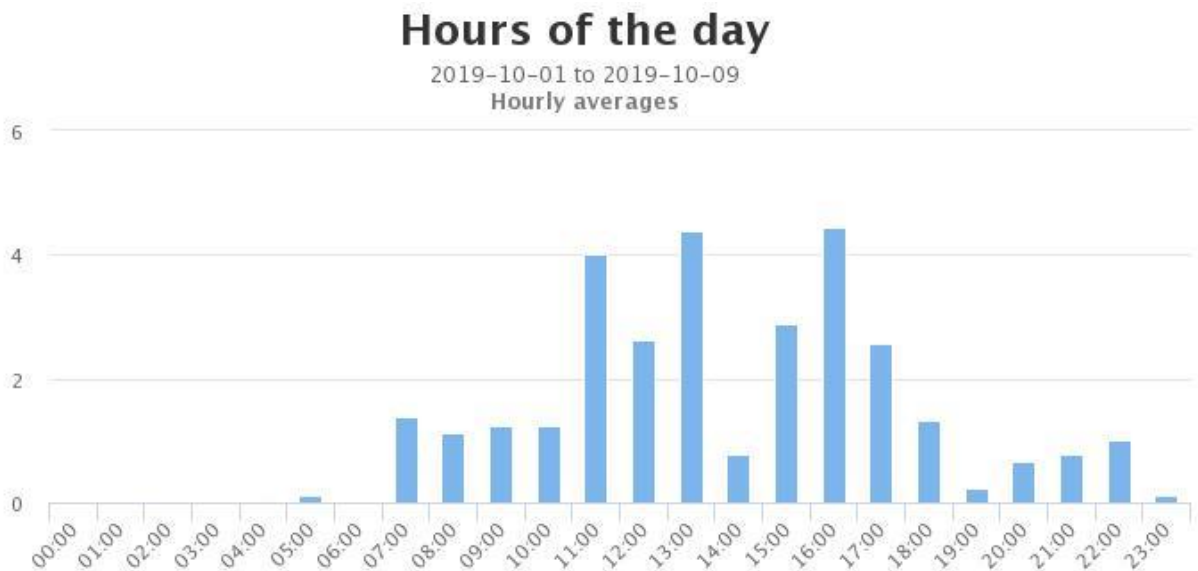
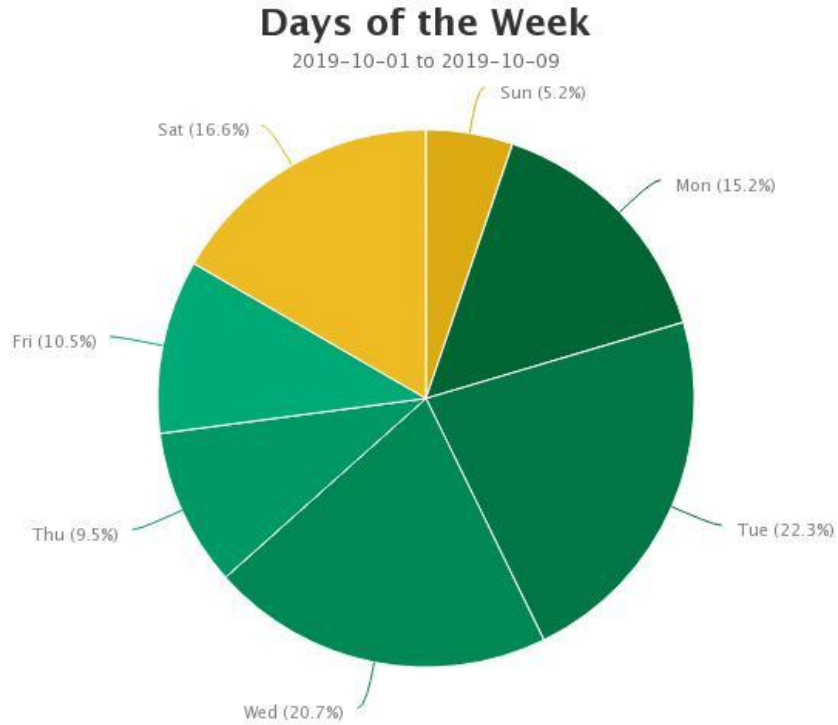
Average Daily Traffic: 51 trail users per day

Average Saturday Daily Traffic: 35 trail users per day

Average Sunday Daily Traffic: 11 trail users per day

Peak Daily Trail Traffic: 47 trail users (10/08/2019)

Annual Trail Traffic Volume: 18,748 trail users



SHELDON JUNCTION

Average Daily Traffic: 27 trail users/day

Average Saturday Daily Traffic: 43 trail users per day

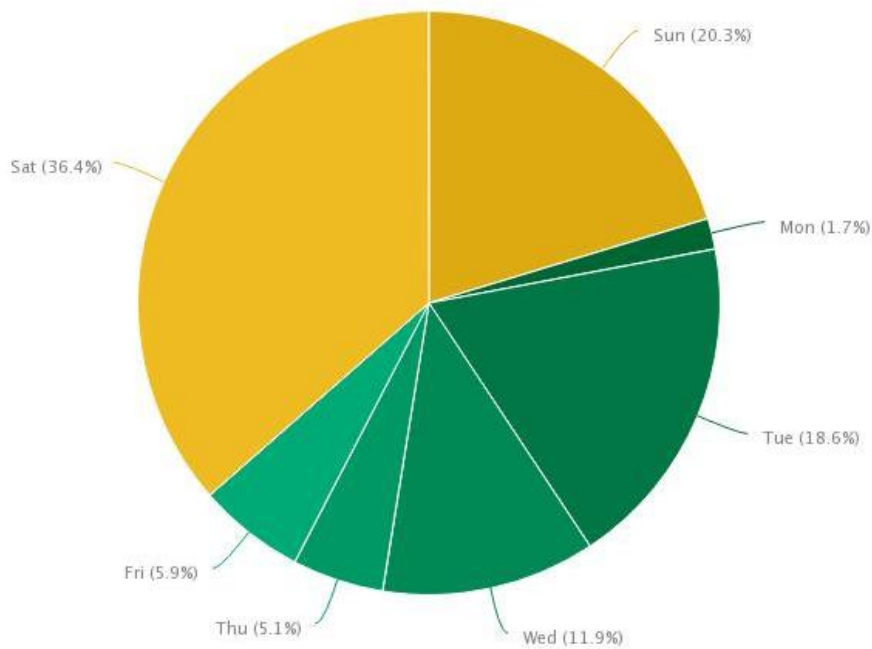
Average Sunday Daily Traffic: 24 trail users per day

Peak Daily Trail Traffic: 43 trail users (10/05/2019)

Annual Trail Traffic Volume: 9,743 trail users

Days of the Week

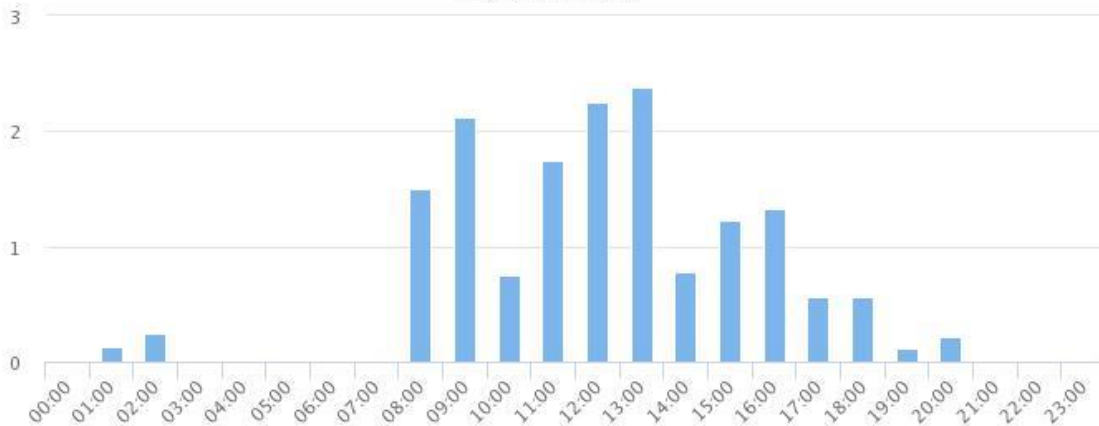
2019-10-01 to 2019-10-09



Hours of the day

2019-10-01 to 2019-10-09

Hourly averages



ENOSBURG FALLS

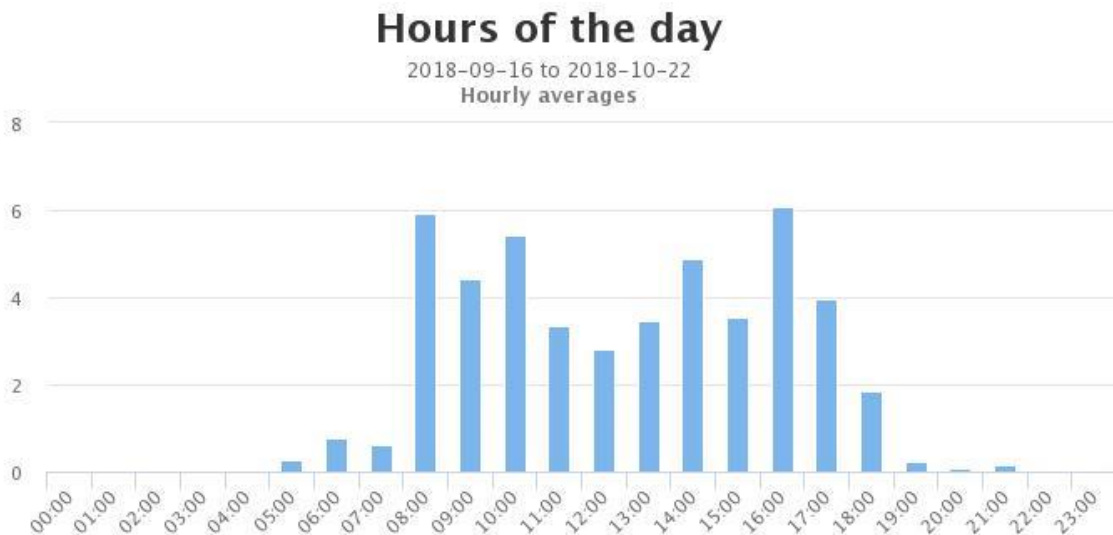
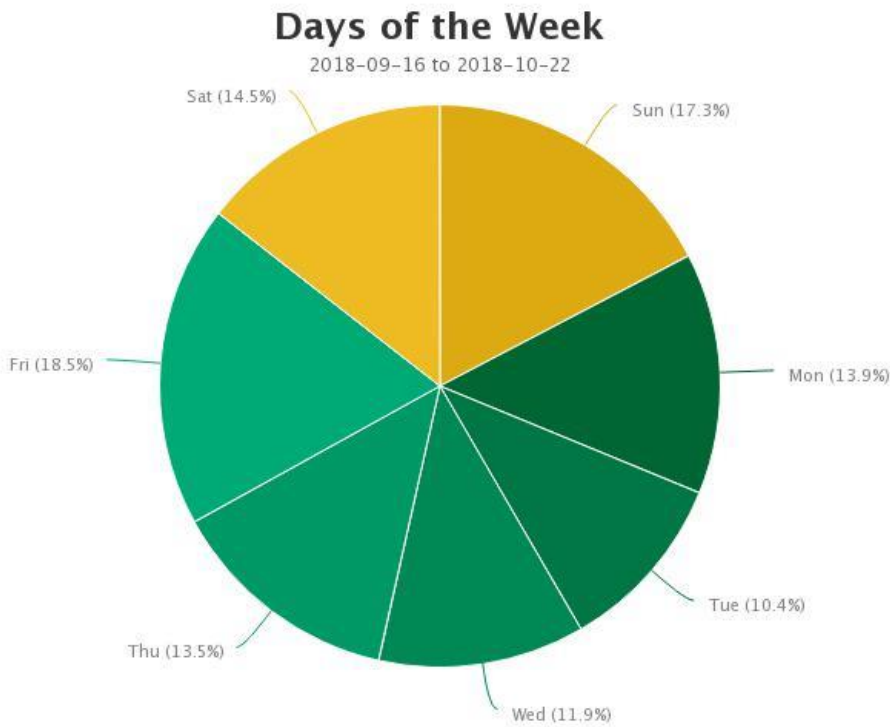
Average Daily Traffic: 51 trail users per day

Average Saturday Daily Traffic: 48.4 trail users per day

Average Sunday Daily Traffic: 58.0 trail users per day

Peak Daily Trail Traffic: 118 trail users (09/16/2018)

Annual Trail Traffic Volume: 18,468 trail users



ENOSBURG FALLS – WINTER COUNT

Average Daily Traffic: 27 trail users/day

Average Saturday Daily Traffic: 71.3 trail users per day

Average Sunday Daily Traffic: 38.5 trail users per day

Peak Daily Trail Traffic: 162 trail users (02/02/19)

