Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail

The Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail (MHBHT) is the longest continuous multi-use trail in the Capital Region, stretching from the City of Albany through the Town of Rotterdam. It is part of the 360-mile Erie Canalway Trail that ends in Buffalo, NY. There are 35 miles of off-road trail within the CDTC area, which continues to grow and expand as new trails and infrastructure connect to it. There are also a significant number of signed, on-road miles that connect gaps along the trail.
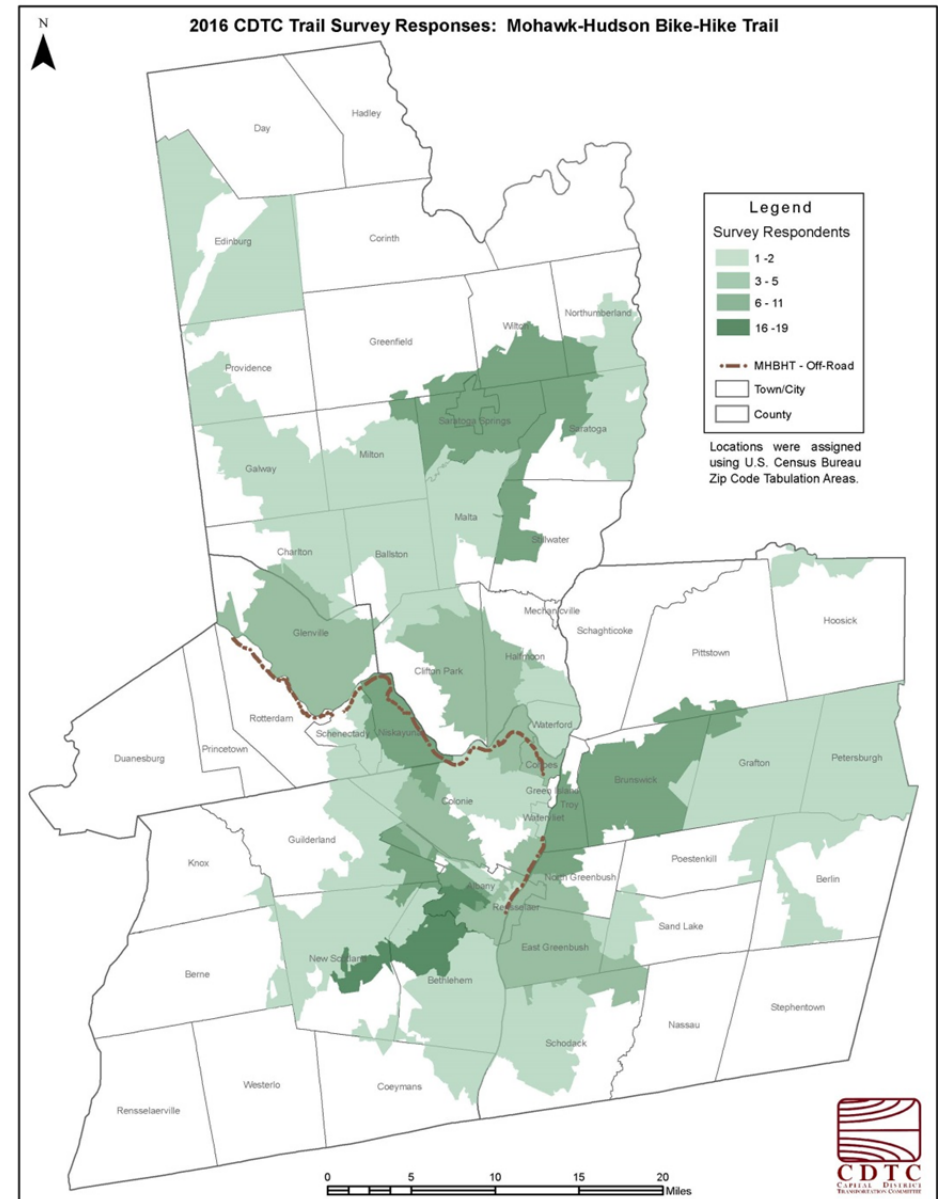
Volunteers collected 135 surveys at locations along the trail and 99 trail users indicated using the MHBHT on the online survey. Of the 269 surveys mailed to adjacent residential landowners, 56 were returned.

The MHBHT is adjacent to almost every type of land use in the Capital Region and connects urban as well as suburban and rural neighborhoods and towns. There are several parks along the trail that also serve as trailheads. Annual use is highest at three locations along the trail – Lions Park in Niskayuna, the Barge Restaurant at the Corning Riverfront Park in Albany and the Boat Launch at the Corning Riverfront Park in Albany.
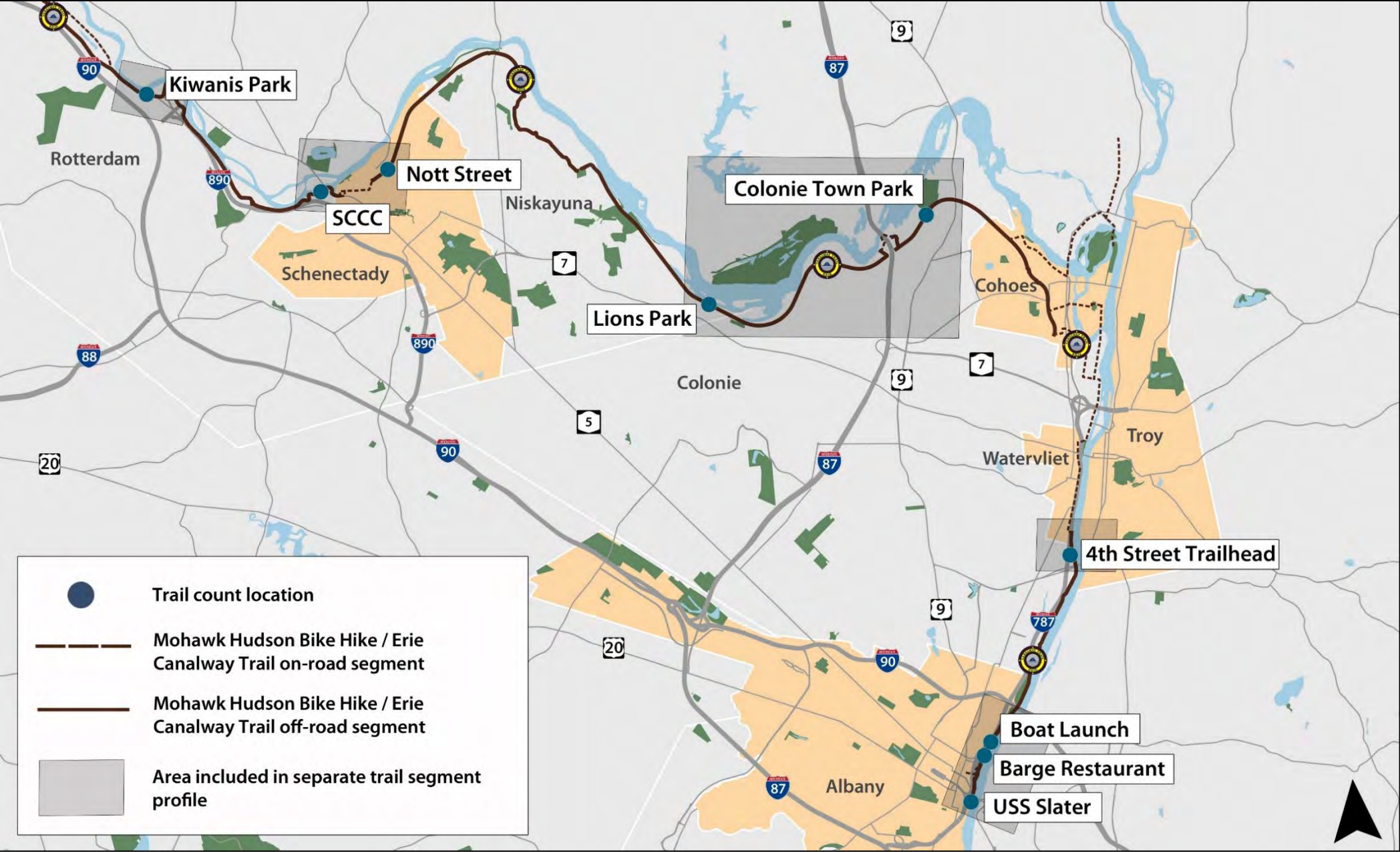
Both trail count and survey data show a close to 50/50 split of bicyclists and walkers/joggers on the trail. The surveys also show approximately the same gender split, with more males than females using the trail.

Trail use increased at all count locations since 2006. The MHBHT attracts trail users from 45 different zip codes, with use extending throughout the region and beyond. Based on survey data, the trail attracted the most users from Delmar, Albany, Niskayuna, Troy and Saratoga Springs. The MHBHT also had the highest number of overnight rail user survey respondents, likely capturing visitors traveling the Erie Canalway Trail from Albany to Buffalo or portions in between.

2016 CDTC Trail Survey Responses: Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail

Legend
Survey Respondents
1 - 2
3 - 5
6 - 11
16 - 19
MHBHT - Off-Road
Town/City
County

Locations were assigned using U.S. Census Bureau Zip Code Tabulation Areas.

Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail

Kiwanis Park

Nott Street

SCCC

Colonie Town Park

Lions Park

Cohoes

4th Street Trailhead

Boat Launch

Barge Restaurant

USS Slater

Rotterdam

Schenectady

Niskayuna

Colonie

Troy

Watervliet

Albany

Legend:

● Trail count location

— — Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike / Erie Canalway Trail on-road segment

— Mohawk Hudson Bike Hike / Erie Canalway Trail off-road segment

▢ Area included in separate trail segment profile

Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail

Trail length – 35 miles (Rotterdam to Albany); part of 360-mile Erie Canalway Trail (Buffalo to Albany)

Estimated annual usage	
Kiwanis Park	95,121
Schenectady County Community College (SCCC)	99,372
Nott Street	41,730
Lions Park	263,757
Colonie Town Park	95,394
4th Street Trailhead	128,388
Corning Riverfront Park – South (USS Slater)	98,943
Corning Riverfront Park – Central (Barge Restaurant)	202,839
Corning Riverfront Park – North (Boat Launch)	184,509

Estimated seasonal usage	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
Kiwanis Park	11,110	30,772	36,460	16,779
SCCC	11,607	32,147	38,089	17,529
Nott Street	4,874	13,500	15,995	7,361
Lions Park	30,807	85,325	101,098	46,527
Colonie Town Park	11,142	35,334	36,565	16,828
4th Street Trailhead	14,996	41,534	49,211	22,648
USS Slater	11,557	32,008	37,925	17,454
Barge Restaurant	23,692	65,618	77,748	35,781
Boat Launch	21,551	59,689	70,722	32,547

Daily Usage
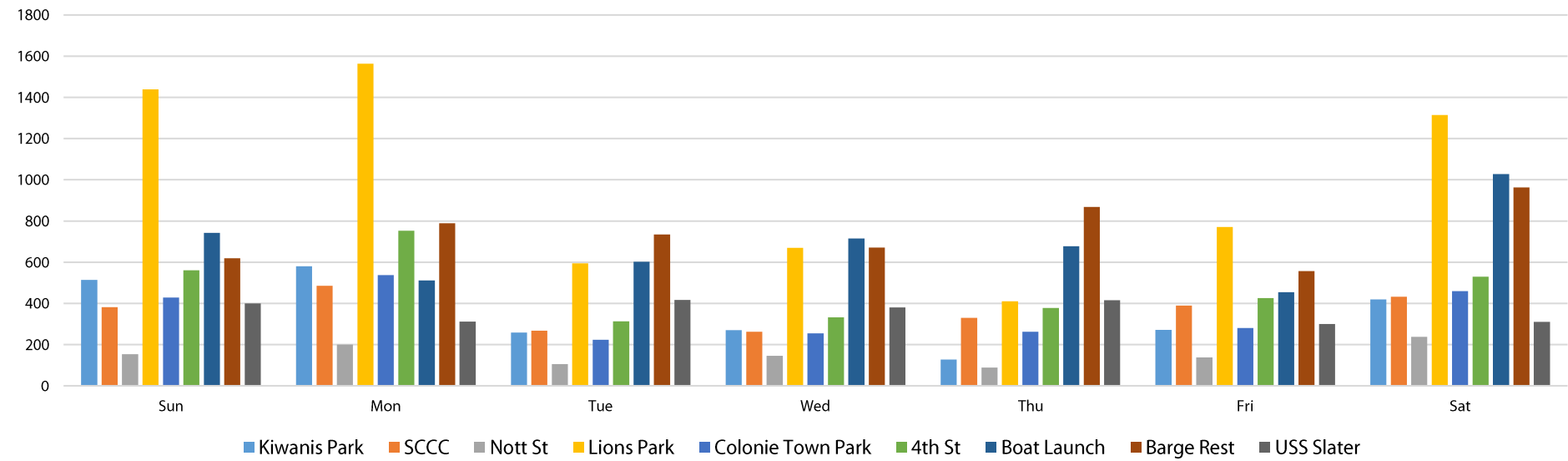
Usage Mode Split

	Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail
Bicyclists	51%
Pedestrians	48%
Other	1%

Usage Gender Split

	Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail	
	Female	Male
Bicyclists	17%	34%
Pedestrians	25%	24%
Overall	42%	58%

Hourly Usage

Kiwanis Park — SCCC — Nott St — Lions Park — Colonie Town Park — 4th St — USS Slater — Barge Rest — Boat Launch

Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail

Rotterdam

Estimated Annual Usage	
Kiwanis Park	95,121

Estimated Seasonal Usage	
	Kiwanis Park
Winter	11,110
Spring	30,772
Summer	36,460
Fall	16,779

Usage Mode Split	
	Kiwanis Park
Bicyclists	83%
Pedestrians	17%
Other	0%

Daily Usage

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	514	580	258	270	127	271	419
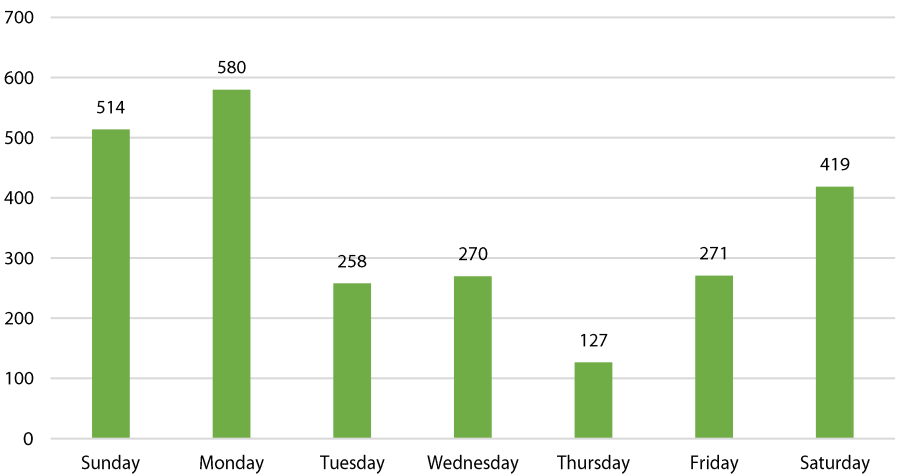
Daily Usage Profile	
	Kiwanis Park
Average weekday	301
Average weekend	348
Maximum weekday	Monday
Maximum weekend	Sunday
Peak weekday usage	Monday, 10 AM–12 PM
Peak weekend usage	Sunday, 12 PM–2 PM

Estimated Monthly Usage

	Kiwanis Park
January	2,854
February	2,854
March	6,658
April	10,463
May	10,463
June	11,415
July	12,366
August	13,317
September	10,463
October	5,707
November	5,707
December	2,854
Annual	**95,121**

Usage Gender Split

	Kiwanis Park	
	Female	Male
Bicyclists	27%	56%
Pedestrians	7%	9%
Overall	35%	65%

Hourly Usage
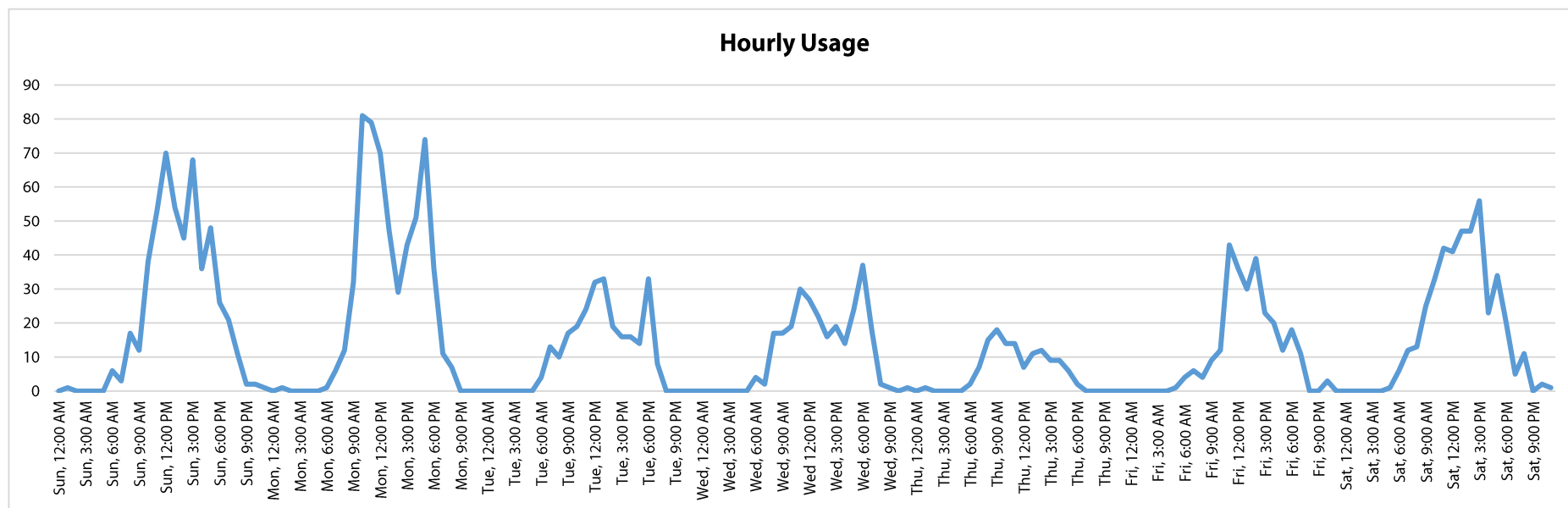
Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail

Rotterdam and Schenectady

Estimated Annual Usage		
Schenectady County Community College (SCCC)	99,372	
Nott Street	41,730	
Estimated Seasonal Usage		
	SCCC	Nott Street
Winter	11,607	4,874
Spring	32,147	13,500
Summer	38,089	15,995
Fall	17,529	7,361
Usage Mode Split		
	SCCC	Nott Street
Bicyclists	59%	66%
Pedestrians	38%	34%
Other	2%	0%

Daily Usage

| Daily Usage Profile		
	SCCC	Nott Street
Average weekday	347	136
Average weekend	407	196
Maximum weekday	Monday	Monday
Maximum weekend	Saturday	Saturday
Peak weekday usage	Thursday, 2-4 PM	Monday, 11 AM–1 PM
Peak weekend usage	Saturday, 12-2 PM	Saturday, 1-3 PM
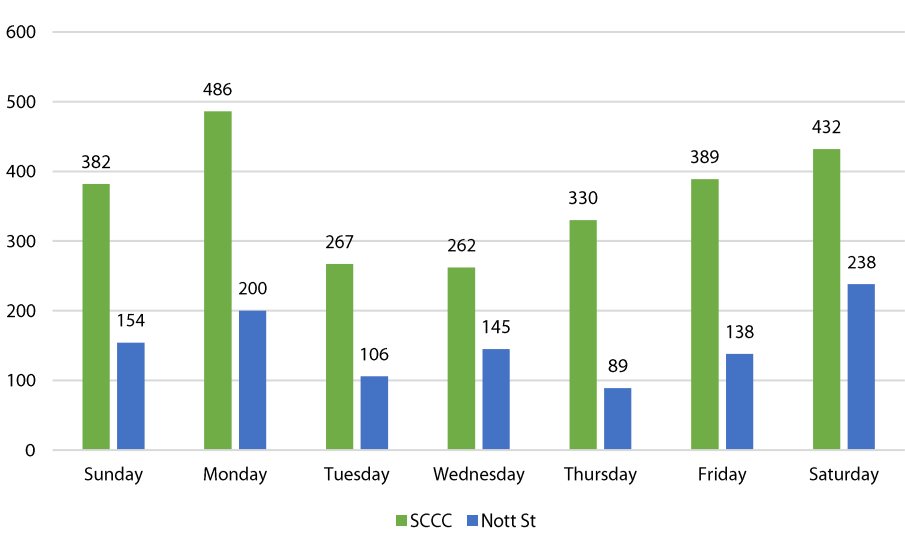
Estimated Monthly Usage

	SCCC	Nott Street
January	2,981	1,252
February	2,981	1,252
March	6,956	2,921
April	10,931	4,590
May	10,931	4,590
June	11,925	5,008
July	12,918	5,425
August	13,912	5,842
September	10,931	4,590
October	5,962	2,504
November	5,962	2,504
December	2,981	1,252
Annual	**99,372**	**41,730**

Usage Gender Split

	SCCC		Nott Street	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Bicyclists	19%	42%	28%	38%
Pedestrians	20%	20%	8%	26%
Overall	39%	61%	36%	64%

Hourly Usage
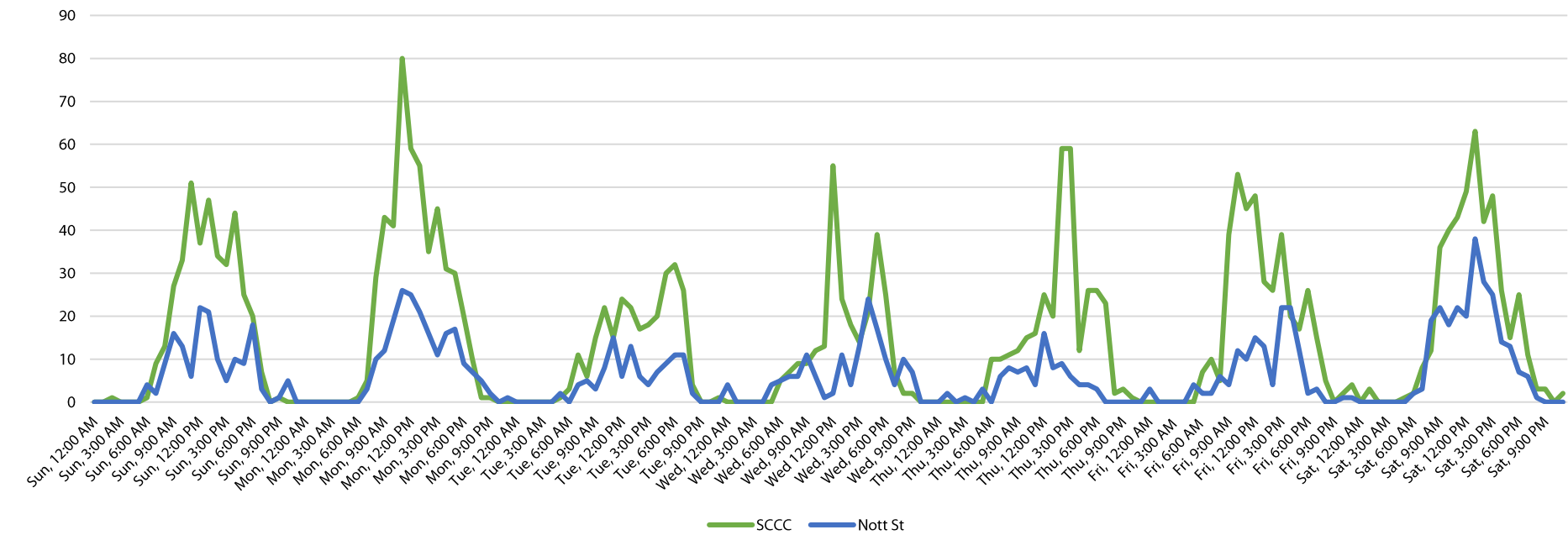
Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail

Niskayuna and Colonie

Estimated Annual Usage	
Lions Park	263,757
Colonie Town Park	95,394

Estimated Seasonal Usage		
	Lions Park	Colonie Town Park
Winter	30,807	11,142
Spring	85,325	35,334
Summer	101,098	36,565
Fall	46,527	16,828

Usage Mode Split		
	Lions Park	Colonie Town Park
Bicyclists	46%	65%
Pedestrians	53%	33%
Other	1%	2%
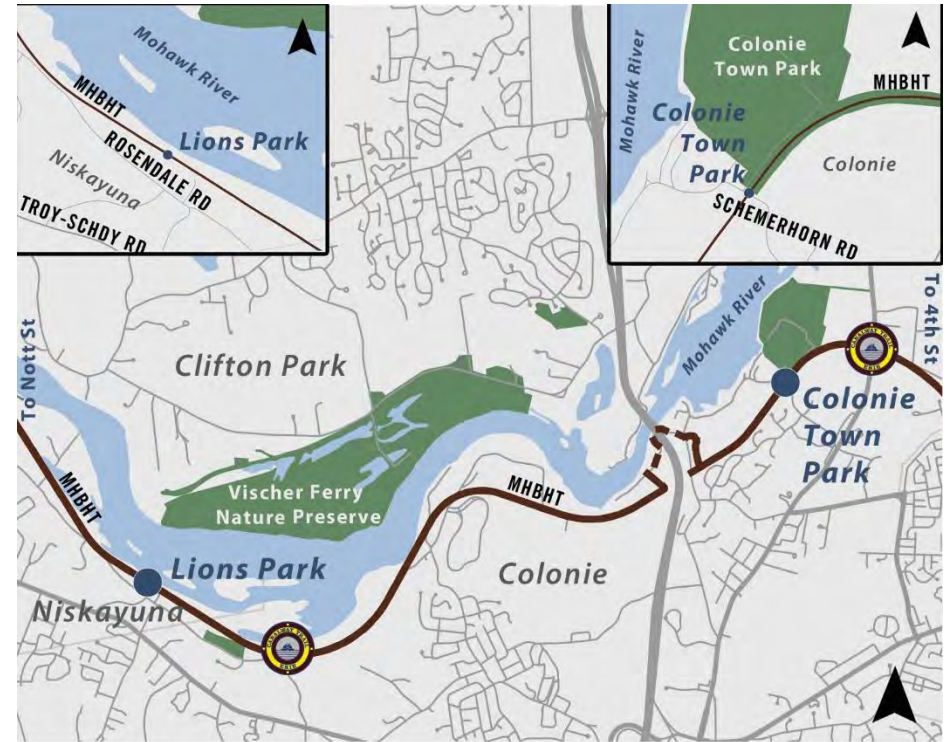
Daily Usage
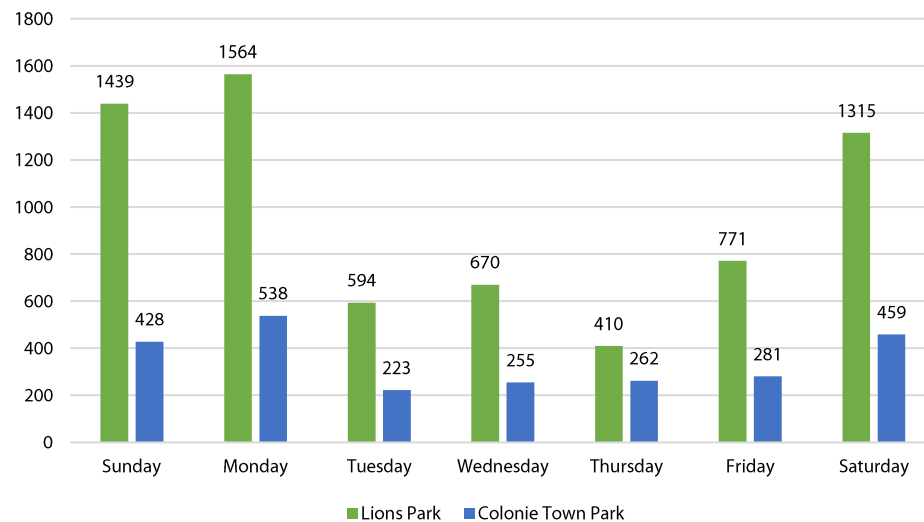
Daily Usage Profile		
	Lions Park	Colonie Town Park
Average weekday	802	312
Average weekend	1,377	444
Maximum weekday	Monday	Monday
Maximum weekend	Sunday	Saturday
Peak weekday usage	Friday, 6-8 AM	Thursday, 6-8 AM
Peak weekend usage	Sunday, 9-11 AM	Saturday, 9-11 AM

Estimated Monthly Usage

	Lions Park	Colonie Town Park
January	7,913	2,862
February	7,913	2,862
March	18,463	6,678
April	29,013	10,493
May	29,013	10,493
June	31,651	11,447
July	34,288	12,401
August	36,926	13,355
September	29,013	10,493
October	15,825	5,724
November	15,825	5,724
December	7,913	2,862
Annual	**263,757**	**95,394**

Usage Gender Split

	Lions Park		Colonie Town Park	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Bicyclists	17%	29%	22%	45%
Pedestrians	30%	24%	19%	15%
Overall	47%	53%	40%	60%

Hourly Usage
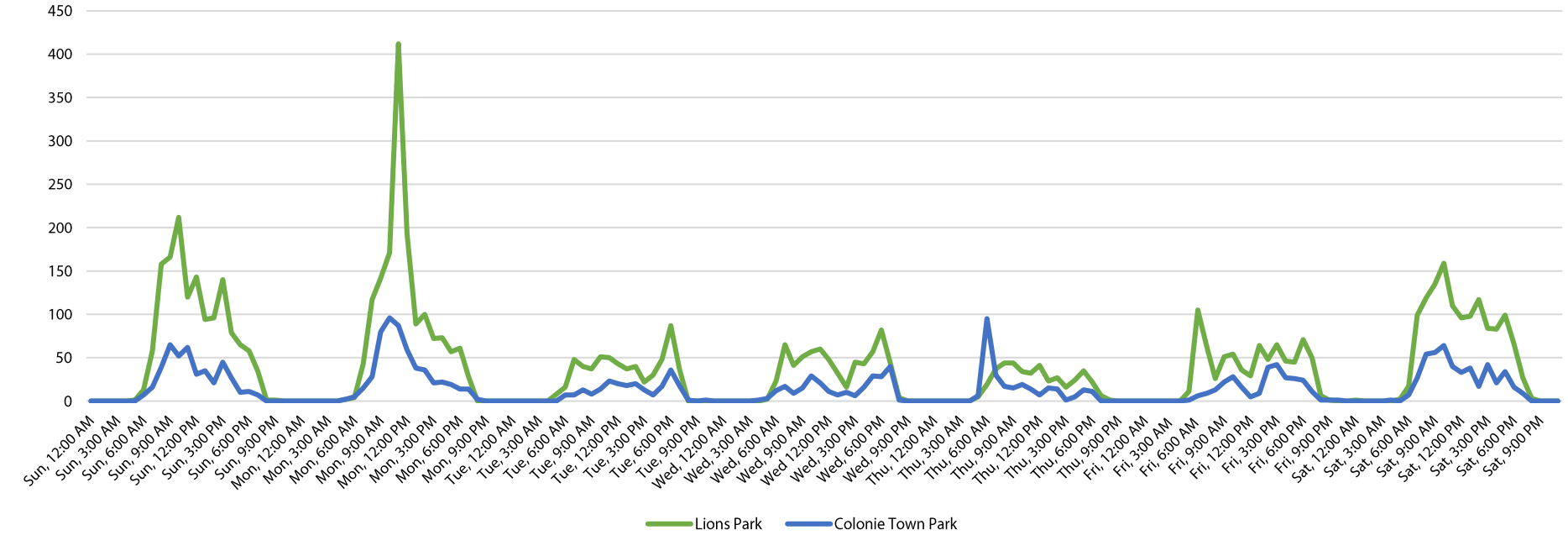
Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail

Watervliet

Estimated Annual Usage

4th Street Trailhead	128,388

Estimated Seasonal Usage

	4th Street Trailhead
Winter	14,996
Spring	41,534
Summer	49,211
Fall	22,648

Usage Mode Split

	4th Street Trailhead
Bicyclists	73%
Pedestrians	26%
Other	1%

Daily Usage

Day	Usage
Sunday	561
Monday	753
Tuesday	313
Wednesday	332
Thursday	378
Friday	426
Saturday	529
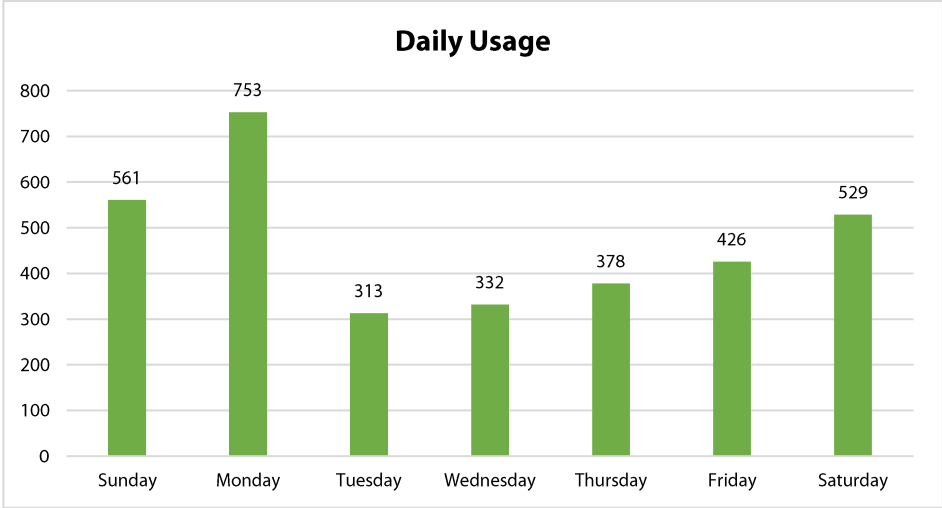
Daily Usage Profile

	4th Street Trailhead
Average weekday	440
Average weekend	545
Maximum weekday	Monday
Maximum weekend	Sunday
Peak weekday usage	Monday, 12-2 PM
Peak weekend usage	Sunday, 10 AM-12 PM

Estimated Monthly Usage

	4th Street Trailhead
January	3,852
February	3,852
March	8,987
April	14,123
May	14,123
June	15,407
July	16,690
August	17,974
September	14,123
October	7,703
November	7,703
December	3,852
Annual	**128,388**

Usage Gender Split

	4th Street Trailhead	
	Female	Male
Bicyclists	26%	48%
Pedestrians	13%	13%
Overall	38%	62%

Hourly Usage
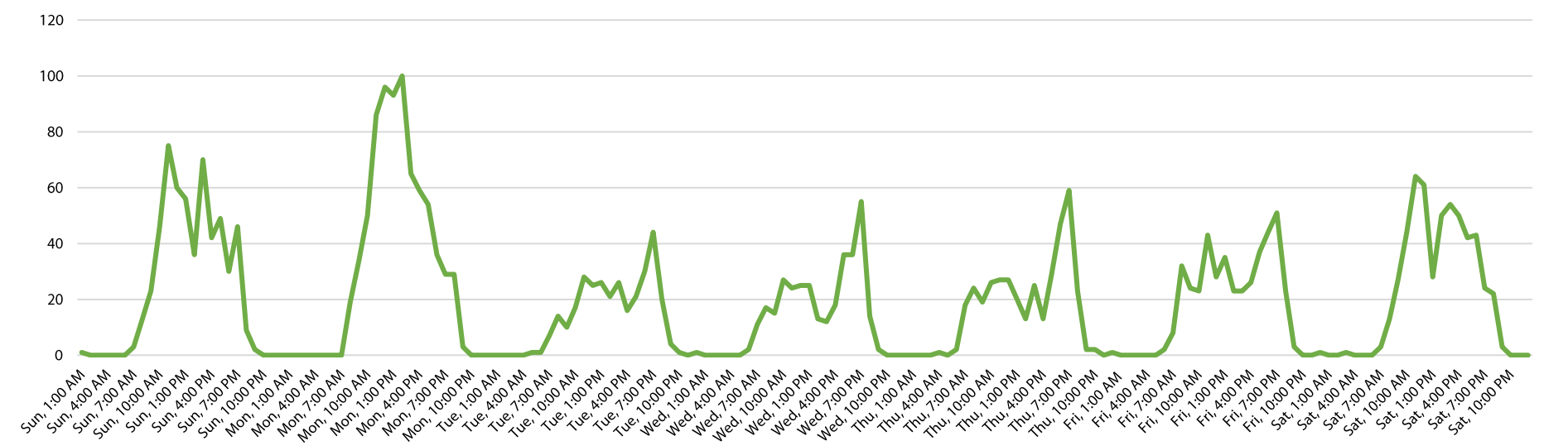
Mohawk Hudson Bike-Hike Trail

Albany

Estimated Annual Usage

Corning Riverfront Park – South (USS Slater)	98,943
Corning Riverfront Park- Central (Barge Restaurant)	202,839
Corning Riverfront Park – North (Boat Launch)	184,509

Estimated Seasonal Usage

	USS Slater	Barge Restaurant	Boat Launch
Winter	11,557	23,692	21,551
Spring	32,008	65,618	59,689
Summer	37,925	77,748	70,722
Fall	17,454	35,781	32,547

Usage Mode Split

	USS Slater	Barge Restaurant	Boat Launch
Bicyclists	32%	37%	28%
Pedestrians	68%	63%	70%
Other	0%	0%	3%

Daily Usage

Daily Usage chart — values by day:
- Sunday: Corning Riverfront Park - South 400, Central 619, North 742
- Monday: South 312, Central 789, North 511
- Tuesday: South 417, Central 734, North 602
- Wednesday: South 381, Central 671, North 715
- Thursday: South 416, Central 868, North 678
- Friday: South 300, Central 557, North 455
- Saturday: South 311, Central 963, North 1028

Legend: ■ Corning Riverfront Park - South ■ Corning Riverfront Park - Central ■ Corning Riverfront Park - North

Daily Usage Profile

	USS Slater	Barge Restaurant	Boat Launch
Average weekday	365	724	592
Average weekend	356	791	885
Maximum weekday	Tuesday	Thursday	Wednesday
Maximum weekend	Sunday	Sunday	Saturday
Peak weekday usage	Tuesday, 12-2 PM	Monday, 5-7 PM	Wednesday, 5-7 PM
Peak weekend usage	Sunday, 2-4 PM	Saturday, 10 AM-12 PM	Saturday, 9-11 AM

Estimated Monthly Usage

	USS Slater	Barge Restaurant	Boat Launch
January	2,968	6,085	5,535
February	2,968	6,085	5,535
March	6,926	14,199	12,916
April	10,884	22,312	20,296
May	10,884	22,312	20,296
June	11,873	24,341	22,141
July	12,863	26,369	23,986
August	13,852	28,397	25,831
September	10,884	22,312	20,296
October	5,937	12,170	11,071
November	5,937	12,170	11,071
December	2,968	60,85	5,535
Annual	**98,943**	**202,839**	**184,509**

Usage Gender Split

	USS Slater		Barge Restaurant		Boat Launch	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Bicyclists	8%	25%	12%	25%	9%	20%
Pedestrians	34%	33%	38%	25%	31%	41%
Overall	42%	58%	50%	50%	40%	60%

Hourly Usage

Corning Riverfront Park - South Corning Riverfront Park - Central Corning Riverfront Park - North
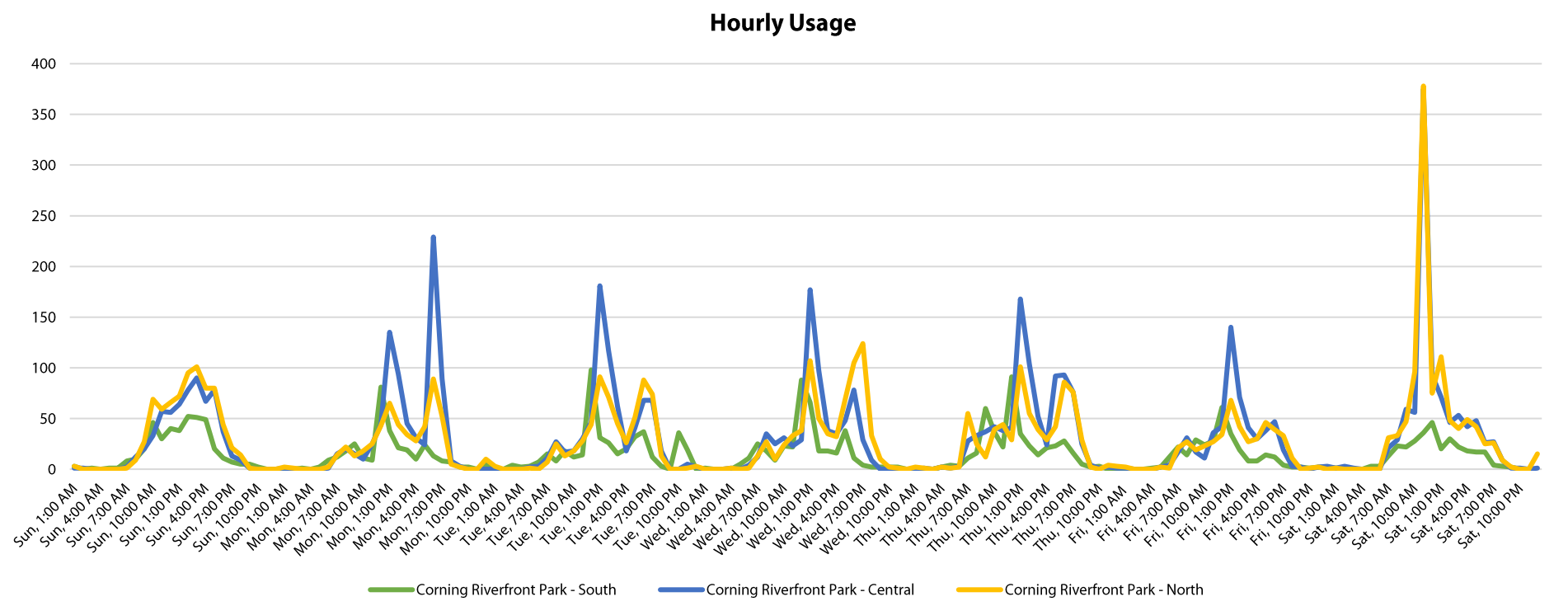
Trail User Survey Summary

Gender		
Male	76	56.3%
Female	56	41.5%
Skipped	3	2.2%
Age		
Under 16	2	1.5%
16-24	10	7.4%
25-44	36	26.7%
45-64	49	36.3%
65 or over	36	26.7%
How did you get to the trail today?		
Drove	80	59.3%
Bicycle	40	29.6%
Walk/Run	13	9.6%
Other	2	1.5%
What activity did you engage in while on the trail today?		
Walking	51	34.5%
Running/Jogging	13	8.8%
Bicycling	77	52.0%
In-line Skating	3	2.0%
Other	4	2.7%
What is your primary purpose for using this trail?		
Recreation	66	36.7%
Health/Exercise	98	54.4%
Commute to school/work	8	4.4%
Other	8	4.4%

About how many times have you used the trail during the past twelve months?		
Less than 5 days	46	34.1%
5-10 days	18	13.3%
11-24 days	22	16.3%
25-49 days	17	12.6%
50-100 days	15	11.1%
More than 100 days	16	11.9%
No answer	1	0.7%
Are there sections of the trail that you avoid due to poor trail conditions or general concerns about trail maintenance?		
Yes	25	18.5%
No	95	70.4%
No answer	15	11.1%
Is your visit to this trail part of an overnight trip away from home?		
Yes	14	10.4%
No	113	83.7%
No answer	8	5.9%
How would you rate your current health status		
Excellent	39	28.9%
Very Good	62	45.9%
Good	20	14.8%
Fair	6	4.4%
Poor	2	1.5%
No answer	6	4.4%

On a scale of 1-5, to what extent do you feel the following items are problems on the MHBHT?

Legend:
- ■ 1 — Not a problem
- ■ 2
- ■ 3 — No opinion
- ■ 4
- ■ 5 — Major problem

Categories (top to bottom):
- parking and/or access
- Lack of services (restrooms, etc.)
- Personal safety (crime)
- Directional signage
- Dangerous road intersections
- Litter, glass & debris
- Pets off leashes/animal waste
- Trail width
- Trail surface conditions
- Behavior of trail users
- Conflicts with other trail activities
- Too crowded

X-axis: 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140

Adjacent Residential Survey Summary

Which of the following most accurately describes how you use your property near the Trail?		
It is my primary residence	53	94.6%
I rent to a tenant, and do not occupy the residence	0	0.0%
It is my second home	1	1.8%
It is unoccupied	1	1.8%
Other	0	0.0%
No answer	1	1.8%
Where is the trail in relation to your property line?		
The trail runs through my property	2	3.6%
the trail runs along the edge of my property	36	64.3%
The trail is near my property but not touching it	17	30.4%
Don't know	0	0.0%
No answer	1	1.8%
Approximately how far (in feet) is the rail trail from your house?		
Less than 100 ft.	28	50.0%
100 ft. to 199 ft.	9	16.1%
200 ft. to 499 ft.	13	23.2%
500 ft. or more	5	8.9%
No answer	1	1.8%
Approximately how large is your property?		
Less than 1/2 acre	20	35.7%
Between 1/2 and 1 acre	16	28.6%
Between 1 and 3 acres	12	21.4%
3 acres or more	7	12.5%
No answer	1	1.8%

What is the approximate current value of your property?		
Less than $99,999	1	1.8%
$100,000-199,999	19	33.9%
$200,000-299,999	19	33.9%
$300,000-399,999	3	5.4%
$400,000-$499,999	6	10.7%
$500,000 or more	0	0.0%
No answer	1	1.8%
How would you describe the setting of your house near the trail?		
Urban	8	14.3%
Suburban	37	66.1%
Rural	7	12.5%
No answer	1	1.8%
When did you acquire your house?		
After the trail was built	38	67.9%
Before the Trail was built	17	30.4%
No answer	1	1.8%
Compare your initial reaction to the idea of living near the trail to how you feel about living near the trail today. Would you say that living near the trail is better or worse than you expected it to be?		
Much better	8	14.3%
Better	15	26.8%
Same	28	50.0%
Worse	4	7.1%
Much worse	1	1.8%

Do you feel the trail poses a risk to your own or your family's safety due to the activities of trail users?		
Yes	12	21.4%
No	39	69.6%
No opinion	4	7.1%
No answer	1	1.8%

If you were to try and sell your property, do you think being near the trail will make it harder or easier to sell?		
Much easier	3	5.4%
Easier	20	35.7%
Same	26	46.4%
Harder	4	7.1%
Much harder	1	1.8%
No answer	2	3.6%

How do you think being located near the trail has affected the resale value of this property?		
Lowered the resale value	4	7.1%
Increased the resale value	9	16.1%
No effect on the resale value	24	42.9%
No opinion	17	30.4%
No answer	2	3.6%

Overall, how satisfied are you with having the trail as a neighbor?		
Very satisfied	17	30.4%
Satisfied	18	32.1%
Indifferent	14	25.0%
Unsatisfied	6	10.7%
Very unsatisfied	0	0.0%
No answer	1	1.8%

How do you feel the trail has affected the quality of your neighborhood?		
Highly improved	8	14.3%
Improved	12	21.4%
No impact	28	50.0%
Worsened	7	12.5%
Completely deteriorated	0	0.0%
No answer	1	1.8%

Do you feel your proximity to the trail has improved your physical activity levels?		
Yes	30	53.6%
No	19	33.9%
Not sure	5	8.9%
No answer	2	3.6%

Do you feel that the development and management of trail is a good use of public funds?		
Yes	47	83.9%
No	5	8.9%
No opinion	3	5.4%
No answer	1	1.8%

How often do the members of your household use the trail?		
Daily	9	16.1%
Frequently	19	33.9%
Occasionally	10	17.9%
Rarely	9	16.1%
Never	7	12.5%
No answer	2	3.6%

To what extent do you feel the following items are problems for your household as a result of the trail and its users?

Legend: 1 (Not a problem) · 2 · 3 (No opinion) · 4 · 5 (Major problem)

- Disruptive noise from the trail
- Burglary of my property
- Discourteous, rude users
- Unleashed and roaming pets
- Pet waste on/near my property
- Cars parking on/near my property
- Vandalism of my property
- Users harass my pets
- Trespassing onto my property
- Loitering on/near my property
- Litter on/near my property
- Illegal motor vehicle use

(x-axis: 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60)

To what extent do you feel that the trail is important in providing the following benefits to the surrounding community?

Legend: 1 (Not important · 2 · 3 (No opinion) · 4 · 5 (Very important)

- Locaion for special events
- Transportation alternatives
- Environmental education opportunities
- Open space conservation
- Waterfront access/revitalization
- Toursim & related economic benefits
- Safe opportunitis for health and fitness
- Safe opportunities for public recreation

(x-axis: 0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60)