

Who's on the Trail

The 2018 Canalway Trail User Count



February 2019



**Canal
Corporation**

Prepared by Parks & Trails New York for the New York State Canal Corporation.

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Executive Summary

The 524-mile Canalway Trail system is one of New York State's premier outdoor destinations. The trail gives millions of New Yorkers in more than 200 canalside communities a dedicated place to walk, jog, and bike right from their doorsteps. Since 2005, Parks & Trails New York and the New York State Canal Corporation have been at the forefront of quantifying the trail's popularity through annual Canalway Trail counts.

The Canalway Trail counts analyzed in the Who's on the Trail reports give trail managers, municipalities, planners, and members of the public answers to important questions about trail use, including: how many people are using the trail, when is use occurring, and how are people using the trail? Over the years, the answers to these questions have helped to justify millions of dollars in public investment for maintenance and construction across the Canalway Trail system. Decisions regarding design, funding, operation, maintenance, and promotion of the Canalway Trail system are based in large part on understanding the level and type of trail usage. Estimates of annual trail traffic volume inform current and future expenditures for construction and maintenance.

The Canalway Trail counts have also been used to help assess the impact of trail usage on New York's economy. According to PTNY's 2014 Economic Impact Study of the Erie Canalway Trail, more than 1.6 million visits to the trail support more than 3,400 jobs and create \$250 million in economic impact. Since then, subsequent Who's on the Trail reports have demonstrated that the popularity of the Erie Canalway Trail remains high.

In 2018, PTNY and our partners measured usage at nine locations along the Erie Canalway and Feeder Canal Trails. Electronic counters along the 360-mile Erie Canalway Trail recorded usage at Spencerport (Monroe County), Rochester (Monroe County), Fairport (Monroe County), Colonie (Albany County), and Albany (Albany County), while a counter in Glens Falls (Warren County) measured usage along the seven-mile Feeder Canal Trail. Additionally, observational counts were conducted in Pendleton (Niagara County) and Camillus (Onondaga County).

In January 2017, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the creation of the Empire State Trail, which when completed in 2020, will result in a 750-mile trail network that incorporates the Erie and Champlain Canalway Trails and the Hudson River Valley Greenway. The Empire State Trail will also connect to regional trails, including the Feeder Canalway Trail. The Canalway Trail user counts will serve as a reliable measure of usage both before and after the development of the Empire State Trail.

The 2018 Who's on the Trail report reveals some impressive usage trends across the corridor. The counts range from just over 28,000 annual visits in Glens Falls to more than 176,000 visits in Fairport. Locations in Rochester and Albany also show strong usage levels, with more than 100,000 visits occurring during the 12-month count period. Usage at all locations is strongest on weekends and holidays, suggesting the trail is very popular for recreational activities. Peak usage for all locations occurs between June and September, though the busiest month varies by location.

Starting in 2017, "Who's on the Trail?" included analysis of 12 months' worth of count data across multiple locations. This large amount of data not only provides unprecedented insight into Canalway Trail usage, but allows PTNY to make more accurate usage estimates in the future.

Background

Parks & Trails New York (PTNY) and the New York State Canal Corporation (NYSCC) began using trail counts in 2005 to support anecdotal claims of the Erie Canalway Trail's popularity among walkers and cyclists with more objective evidence. In 2010, PTNY and the NYSCC began using the current protocol and methodology developed for the National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project (NBPD). The NBPD is a nationwide effort designed to provide consistent data collection and adjustment factors to estimate annual trail usage. The adjustment factors account for season (April to September or October to March), type of facility (multi-use path or high-density pedestrian and entertainment area), day of the week and month when the count was conducted, and type of climate. Since NBPD methodology is becoming the national standard for trail count studies, it allows the Canalway Trail data to be compared with annual usage estimates from trails across the country. The adjustment factors PTNY and NYSCC use for the Canalway Trail can be found in the accompanying *Who's on the Trail Methodology* report.

Since 2005, Canalway Trail counts have been conducted by volunteers in Erie, Orleans, Monroe, Wayne, Cayuga, Onondaga, Madison, Oneida, Herkimer, Montgomery, Schenectady, Albany, Saratoga, Washington, and Warren Counties. Observational counts were conducted on the Champlain Canalway and Feeder Canalway Trails in 2012, which was the first year when counts were conducted on a segment of the Canalway Trail system other than the Erie.

2014 marked the first year that an electronic trail counter was installed for a full year at a location to obtain trail use data for the annual count. Since 2014, PTNY and the NYSCC have continued to use electronic counters as a major component of counting trail usage.

Methodology

See our *Who's on the Trail Methodology Report* for a detailed explanation of the methodology used in developing this report.

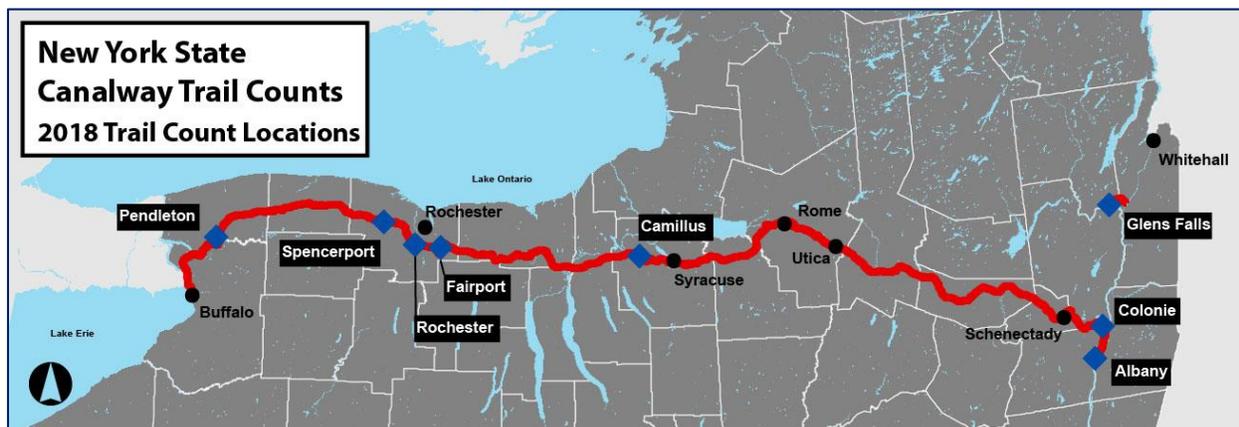


Location

Electronic counters measured trail usage along the Erie Canalway Trail in Spencerport (Monroe County), Rochester (Monroe County), Fairport (Monroe County), Colonie (Albany County), and Albany (Albany County), as is shown in Figure 1. An additional count in Glens Falls (Warren County) measured usage along the seven-mile Feeder Canal Trail. The 2018 Who's on the Trail report analyzes 365 continuous days of trail usage for Spencerport, Colonie, and Glens Falls. Spencerport and Glens Falls were analyzed in the 2017 Who's on the Trail report, however, a full year's worth of data was not yet available. Partial data measured over several months is included for Fairport, Rochester, Colonie and Albany.

Observational counts occurred in Pendleton (Niagara County) and Camillus (Onondaga County). As in past years, the observational counts were completed during summer months, with at least two hours of usage counted on at least two separate occasions at each site.

FIGURE 1 - 2018 CANALWAY TRAIL COUNT LOCATIONS



The 2018 Canalway Trail count locations represent geographic and environmental diversity. Pendleton, Spencerport and Fairport are located in Western New York, Camillus is located in Central New York, Colonie and Albany are located in the Capital District, and Glens Falls is located in the Southern Adirondacks. The Pendleton, Rochester, Camillus, and Colonie trail count locations are rural or suburban, suggesting that many trail users at these four locations arrived by car. The Spencerport, Fairport, Albany, and Glens Falls trail count locations are integrated into communities where many users can access the trail by foot or bicycle. The counter locations and results listed below are ordered from West to East along the Canalway Trail, with Glens Falls, located along the Feeder Canal, listed at the end.

Results

PTNY's observed trail usage volume at each location is presented in Table 1. For the observational counts conducted at Warners Road in Camillus, the estimated monthly and annual usage figures are calculated using the NBPD methodology. The process for doing this estimate is outlined in the PTNY Who's on the Trail Methodology Report.

The results from the electronic counts ranged from 55,361 visits in Spencerport (Erie Canalway Trail) to 176,255 visits in Fairport (Erie Canalway Trail). PTNY calculated the annual estimate for the Sims Store in Camillus (Erie Canalway Trail) to be 250,665 visits.

TABLE 1 – TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL VOLUME, ALL SITES (2018)

<i>Location</i>	<i>Estimated Annual Usage</i>
Pendleton	98,228
Spencerport	52,454
Rochester	128,129
Fairport	176,255
Camillus	250,665
Colonie	62,889
Albany	123,432
Glens Falls	56,405

Pendleton

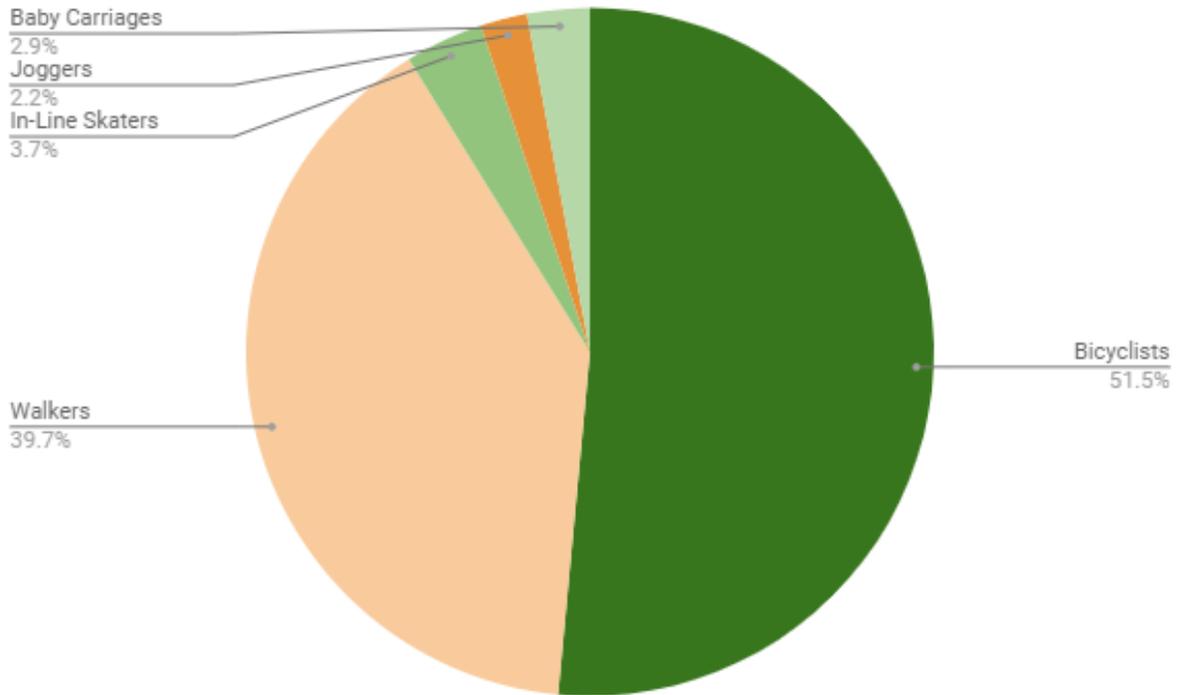
Observational counts were completed by trail volunteers in Pendleton at the end of August, 2018. The counts were conducted at the Robinson Road Trail Head in the Town of Pendleton in Niagara County, just south of the City of Lockport (west along the trail). The counts occurred at a major trail access point that features a parking lot, benches, and a kiosk. The Pendleton trail segment surface is asphalt and connects Lockport and the Tonawandas, communities with many trail user amenities such as bike shops, restaurants, and bed and breakfasts. While the surrounding area is largely rural, the nearby communities of North Tonawanda, Amherst, and Lockport likely generate a significant amount of usage. Counts were conducted in the evening of Thursday, August 23 and the afternoon of Sunday, August 26. For both counts, the weather was sunny and seasonably warm. PTNY had previously installed an electronic counter at this location between July 2016 and July 2017.

Results

The annual usage estimate for Pendleton is 98,228 visits. This estimate places Pendleton in the middle of locations along the Erie Canalway Trail in terms of usage. The electronic counter installed at this location in 2016-2017 recorded 52,454 visits, so the 98,228 visits represents an 87% increase over a one-year stretch. There are no clear factors that would have driven such a large increase in year-to-year usage; rather, the higher value recorded in 2018 is likely an overestimate of usage at this location. To account for this discrepancy in future reports, PTNY hopes to develop adjustment factors that reflect actual recorded usage along the Canalway Trail in past Who's on the Trail reports.

The afternoon weekend usage in Pendleton was 13% higher than the weekday usage. Among trail users in Pendleton, bicyclists accounted for 51% of those observed, the highest share at this location. Pedestrians were 40% of those observed, with a relatively small number of in-line skaters, joggers, and baby carriages also observed.

FIGURE 2 – OBSERVED TRAIL USER BY TYPE, ROBINSON ROAD, PENDLETON (2018)



Spencerport

In July 2017, PTNY installed an electronic counter along the Erie Canalway Trail in the village of Spencerport in Monroe County. The counter is located near the Spencerport village center and Towpath Park, which features a picnic shelter and visitor information for trail and Canal users. The counter was installed just east of these amenities, however, to ensure that trail user traffic and not park visitation was measured. The Spencerport count location lies within a segment of stonedust trail that is part of a long stretch of uninterrupted trail that extends approximately 50 miles to the west to Lockport and 47 miles east to Newark. The counter remained in Spencerport for a full year and the data reflects usage between July 11, 2017 and July 10, 2018. PTNY estimated annual usage using 141 days of usage in last year's Who's on the Trail report.

Results

Over the course of 12 months, the counter measured 55,361 visits to the trail in Spencerport. This level of usage is the lowest measured along the Erie Canalway Trail included in the 2018 Who's on the Trail report. Among historic count locations, usage at Spencerport is in the bottom-quarter, though it sees similar usage to other locations in less populated areas and small villages such as Robinson Road, Pendleton (52,454), Lakeport Road, Chittenango (52,021), and Lock 20 Canal Park, Marcy (49,424).

TABLE 2 – TRAIL USAGE BY MONTH, SPENCERPORT (MONROE COUNTY), JULY 2017 – JULY 2018

<i>Month</i>	<i>Visits</i>
July, 2017 (part)	5,568
August, 2017	7,671
September, 2017	6,287
October, 2017	6,094
November, 2017	1,290
December, 2017	704
January, 2018	517
February, 2018	737
March, 2018	760
April, 2018	2,000
May, 2018	5,958
June, 2018	11,456
July, 2018 (part)	6,319
12-Month Total	55,361

As Table 2 demonstrates, usage varies substantially throughout the year, with the highest levels of usage, as would be expected, in the summer months, especially in June and July, both of which exceed 10,000 total visits per month. Unsurprisingly, during the winter months, usage is much reduced.

The busiest day the counter recorded was Friday, June 29, 2018, when 2,136 visits were recorded. It is unclear what drove the high attendance on this day, but it appears to have occurred during a period of consistently high usage, as the second busiest day record was the following Sunday, July 1, when 1,432 visits occurred. That Saturday, June 30, also received more than 1,000 visits, as did Friday, October 20, 2017; Monday, June 25, 2018; and Monday, July 9, 2018, when PTNY’s Cycle the Erie Canal tour passed through Spencerport. Overall, Sundays were the busiest day of the week, when over 18% of usage occurs. Surprisingly, Monday is the second busiest day on the trail, followed by Saturday and the remainder of the weekdays. This suggests that trail usage at this location may be driven by longer distance cyclists or more avid trail users, and less by casual recreational weekend users.

Table 3 demonstrates usage characteristics over the course of the year and compares it to summer (June-September) usage. During the summer, the peak usage periods on both weekdays and weekends occur later in the day than during the rest of the year.

TABLE 3 – TRAIL USAGE CHARACTERISTICS, SPENCERPORT (MONROE COUNTY), JULY 2017 – JULY 2018

SUMMER (June – September)	
Weekday average	282
Weekend average	365
Busiest day of the week	Sunday
Peak weekday period	3 – 5 PM
Peak weekend period	2 – 4 PM
FALL/WINTER/SPRING (October – May)	
Weekday average	72
Weekend average	80
Busiest day of the week	Sunday
Peak weekday period	2 – 4 PM
Peak weekend period	12 – 2 PM

Rochester

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Rochester area, the Genesee Transportation Council (GTC), installed an electronic counter along the Canalway Trail under the New York State Route 15/West Henrietta Road overpass. The counter was located along the suburban fringes of the City of Rochester, just east of the University of Rochester. The trail location is part of the same long stretch of uninterrupted trail extending between Lockport and Newark. The counter was installed in Rochester for the entire months of September and August 2018; full year count data is estimated using the NBPD methodology. GTC shared the data recorded by this counter with PTNY.

Results

Over the two months the counter was installed in Rochester, 21,782 visits were recorded. Rochester's counter was unique among counts included in the Who's on the Trail report in that it electronically recorded mode share between cyclists and pedestrians. This was done through means of the installation of a tube counter that lays across the trail and records when a cyclist rolls over the tube; the number of pedestrians recorded is the difference between the total number recorded by the traditional electronic counter and the cyclists counted by the tube counter.

The period used represents 17% of the annual usage according to NBPD methodology for the Long Winter, Short Summer climate region. Based on the data obtained from the counter and the adjustment using the NBPD criteria, the estimated annual usage for this location is 128,129. This is the second highest value based on electronic counts among those sites included in this year's report. The most similar recorded historical usage was that in DeWitt in last year's Who's on the Trail report (122,689).

TABLE 4 – TRAIL USAGE BY MONTH, ROCHESTER (MONROE COUNTY), SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2018

<i>Month</i>	<i>Pedestrians</i>	<i>Cyclists</i>	<i>Total</i>
September, 2018	2,891	11,931	14,822
October, 2018	1,873	5,087	6,960
2-month total	4,764	17,018	21,782
12-month estimate	28,024	100,106	128,129
Weekday average	72	260	332
Weekend average	93	325	418
Busiest day of the week	Saturday	Sunday	Sunday

The busiest day the counter recorded was the first day the counter was installed, Saturday, September 1, 2018 (Labor Day weekend), when 800 visits were recorded. The second and third highest usage days were both Sundays, September 16 and September 23, 2018. Sundays were the busiest day of the week overall followed closely by Saturdays, as the weekends combined to make up 33% of total usage.

Fairport

In July 2018, PTNY installed a counter in Perinton Park, a community park at the western edge of the Village of Fairport. The trail follows the northern bank of the canal and is paved in this location. To the west of the park are suburban residential homes and to the east of the park are village businesses. This location is also within the roughly 100-mile stretch of uninterrupted trail between Lockport and Newark. The counter has been in Fairport since July 11, 2018, and the data reflects usage between that date and December 1, 2018. The counter will remain in Fairport for a full year, and full-year data will be analyzed in next year's report.

Results

Over the four-plus months (143 days) between when the counter was installed in Fairport and when data was retrieved, 80,736 visits were recorded. This was easily the highest recorded usage of any site along the trail for this period of time. Based on NBPD methodology, the period the counter was installed represents 46% of the expected total annual usage at this site. Using the NBPD adjustment, the total annual visitation was calculated to be 176,255. Among historic electronic count locations, the usage at Fairport is similar to the highest recorded values, Lions Park in Niskayuna (182,325) and Niawanda Park in Tonawanda (183,419).

TABLE 5 – TRAIL USAGE BY MONTH, FAIRPORT (MONROE COUNTY), JULY– NOVEMBER 2018

<i>Month</i>	<i>Visits</i>
July, 2018 (part)	17,958
August, 2018	23,607
September, 2018	22,603
October, 2018	11,233
November, 2018	5,335
4.5-month total	80,736
12-month estimate	176,255

As Table 5 demonstrates, usage in the summer months is much higher than that in the autumn months, with August and September almost three times as many visits as did October and November. August and September 2018 at Fairport were the two highest usage months recorded as part of this year's trail count report; even the partial month record for July saw more visits than any full month at any other location recorded in 2018.

The busiest day recorded by the counter was Sunday, September 29, 2018, when 2,874 visits were recorded. This usage appears to coincide with the hosting of a regatta race on the adjacent canal, with Perinton Park serving as the finish line. Other high usage days were found on pretty much every weekend day during late July and August, with at least 1,000 visits recorded on nine of fourteen weekend days in those months.

Table 6 demonstrates usage characteristics during the summer months and compares it to autumn usage. During the summer, the weekend usage is much higher in relation to weekday usage than it is during the autumn. This suggests that the summer months attracts more casual users who may only use the trail in this location on the weekend, while the autumn months retain a larger number of regular users who are more likely to use the trail on a daily basis.

TABLE 6 – TRAIL USAGE CHARACTERISTICS, FAIRPORT (MONROE COUNTY), JULY – NOVEMBER 2018

SUMMER (July – September)	
Weekday average	654
Weekend average	1,092
Busiest day of the week	Sunday
Peak weekday period	6 – 8 PM
Peak weekend period	9 – 11 AM
FALL (October – November)	
Weekday average	254
Weekend average	321
Busiest day of the week	Sunday
Peak weekday period	3 – 5 PM
Peak weekend period	11 AM – 1 PM

Camillus

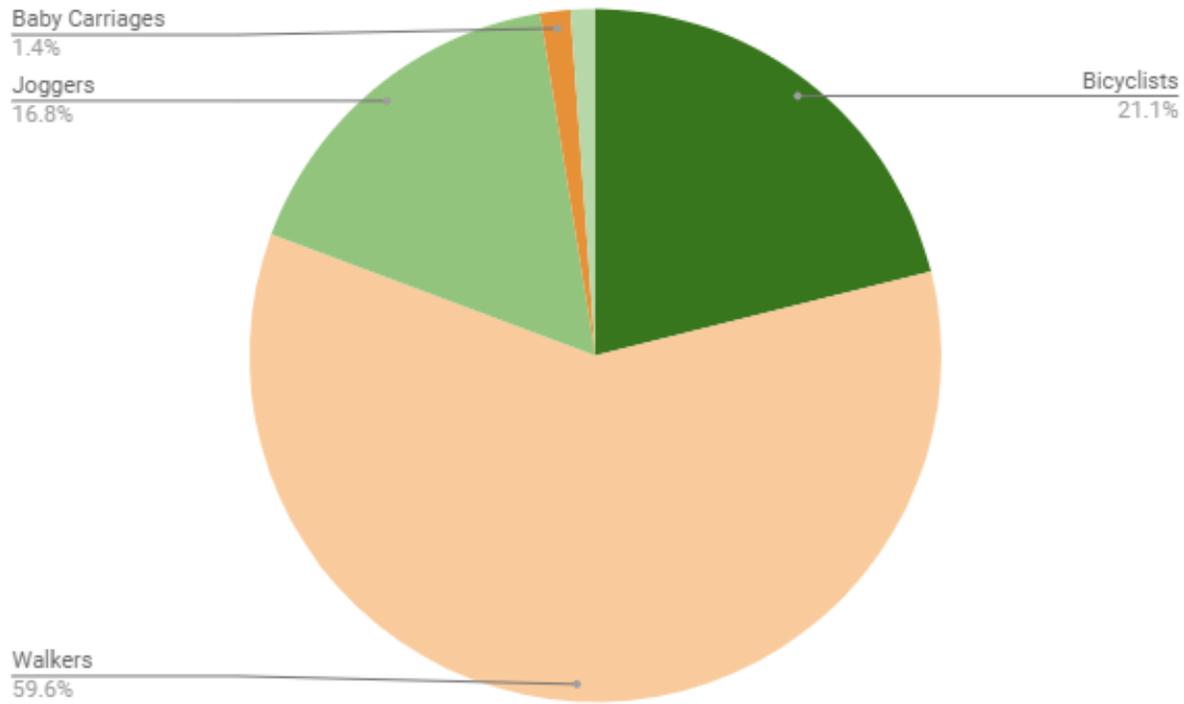
Volunteers from the Erie Canal Park conducted observational counts at the Sims Store along the trail in Camillus, West of Syracuse. The Sims Store, a popular museum that recreates a general store from the mid-19th-century heyday of the original Erie Canal, is located within the Erie Canal Park. The Sims Store also serves as a visitor’s center and comfort station for the Erie Canalway Trail. The Erie Canal Park serves as an important trailhead and anchor for the 20 miles of stonedust trail stretching to Port Byron in Cayuga County. The fact that it is located almost exactly midway between Buffalo and Albany also suggests it is a significant stopping point for long-distance trail travelers. Counts were conducted on September 16, 18, 20, 23, 25, and 27. PTNY had previously installed an electronic counter at this location between June 2016 and June 2017, and estimated usage with observational counts at nearby locations in Camillus in 2010 and 2011.

Results

The annual usage estimate for Camillus is 250,665 visits, one of the higher usage estimates recorded along the Canalway Trail. The electronic counter installed at this location in 2016-2017 recorded 108,026 visits, so the visit total based on the calculated values represent an 132% increase in yearly usage. As is the case at Pendleton, this is likely an overestimate of usage at this location driven by the use of national adjustment figures and not adjustments that reflect Canalway Trail usage trends. To account for this discrepancy in future reports, PTNY hopes to develop adjustment factors that reflect actual recorded usage along the Canalway Trail in past Who’s on the Trail reports.

The weekday evening usage in Camillus was 38% higher than the weekend usage. Among trail users in Camillus, pedestrians were almost 60% of those observed, the highest share at this location. Cyclists were only 21% of those observed and 17% were joggers. Relatively small numbers of other uses were also recorded. It is perhaps unsurprising that pedestrian use is higher than bicycle use at this location, given that the trail has a stonedust surface in this location.

FIGURE 2 – OBSERVED TRAIL USER BY TYPE, SIMS STORE, CAMILLUS (2018)



Colonie

An electronic counter was installed at the Schermerhorn Road trailhead and parking area in the Colonie Town Park in Colonie, Albany County, in December 2017. This popular town park includes a swimming pool, bath house, picnic facilities, tennis courts, nature trails and various other recreational amenities. The park's trailhead is just east of where the trail has a short on-road stretch to pass underneath the Adirondack Northway (Interstate 87). Running to the east from the town park, the trail runs for roughly four miles to the Alexander Street trailhead in Cohoes. Counts were previously performed at this location in 2009. The counter remained in Colonie for a full year and the data reflects usage between December 21, 2017 and December 20, 2018. The counter remains installed in Colonie, next year's report will analyze two years of data.

Results

Over the course of 12 months, the counter measured 62,889 visits to the trail in Colonie. This level is less than would have been expected, given that nearby Lions Park in Niskayuna received over 180,000 visits recorded in the previous year. Among historic count locations, usage at Colonie Town Park is roughly in the middle of sites recorded, although it receives less usage than other similar large suburban towns such as Tonawanda (183,419), Fairport (176,255), and DeWitt (122,689).

TABLE 7 – TRAIL USAGE BY MONTH, COLONIE (ALBANY COUNTY), DECEMBER 2017 – DECEMBER 2018

<i>Month</i>	<i>Visits</i>
December, 2017 (part)	276
January, 2018	668
February, 2018	1,209
March, 2018	1,376
April, 2018	4,370
May, 2018	8,202
June, 2018	8,833
July, 2018	9,518
August, 2018	9,032
September, 2018	9,471
October, 2018	6,677
November, 2018	1,979
December, 2018 (part)	1,278
12-Month Total	62,889

Table 7 shows trail usage by month at Colonie Town Park to fall into one of three broad buckets. Usage in the summer months, May through September, is remarkably consistent by month, with between 8,200 and 9,500 visits recorded per month. April and October are clearly transitional months, with between 4,000 and 7,000 visits recorded. Finally, the usage in the winter months is low, running from 668 visits in January to just under 2,000 visits in November 2018.

The busiest day the counter recorded was Friday, September 7, 2018, when 1,109 visits were recorded. No other day exceeded 1,000 visits at this location; however, two other days - Sunday, October 7 and Friday, October 19 both had more than 900 visits. Sunday, July 15, 2018 was the fourth busiest day at this location, when PTNY’s Cycle the Erie Canal tour passed through Colonie. Overall, Sundays were the busiest day of the week, when over 20% of usage occurs.

Table 8 demonstrates usage characteristics over the course of the year and compares it to summer (June-September) usage. During the summer, the peak usage period on weekdays occurs later in the day than during the rest of the year.

TABLE 8 – TRAIL USAGE CHARACTERISTICS, COLONIE (ALBANY COUNTY), DECEMBER 2017 – DECEMBER 2018

<i>SUMMER (May – September)</i>	
Weekday average	258
Weekend average	385
Busiest day of the week	Sunday
Peak weekday period	5 – 7 PM
Peak weekend period	9 – 11 AM
<i>FALL/WINTER/SPRING (October – April)</i>	
Weekday average	67
Weekend average	128
Busiest day of the week	Sunday
Peak weekday period	4– 6 PM
Peak weekend period	9 – 11 AM

Albany

On July 31, a counter was installed along the trail just north of Corning Riverfront Park in Albany, at the trail's extreme eastern end. The trail in this location leads out of Corning Riverfront Park, Albany's downtown waterfront park, up to Watervliet between the Hudson River and Interstate 787. At the northern end of the park, a large parking area is located underneath the Interstate viaduct, and a boat launch allows for access to the river. The counter was installed along the trail just north of the parking area and boat launch. The counter has been installed since July 31, 2018, and the data reflects usage between that date and December 23, 2018. The counter will remain in Albany for a full year; however, the data analyzed in this report reflects four months' worth of usage. Full-year data will be analyzed in next year's report.

Results

Over the almost five months (146 days) between when the counter was installed in Albany and when data was retrieved, 48,935 visits were recorded. Based on NBPD methodology, the period the counter was installed represents 40% of the expected total annual usage at this site. Using the NBPD adjustment, the total annual visitation was calculated to be 123,432. Among historic count locations, the usage at Albany is in the middle of recorded values, closest to the usage recorded at Cedar Bay Park in DeWitt in 2017 (122,689)

TABLE 9 – TRAIL USAGE BY MONTH, ALBANY (ALBANY COUNTY), JULY 2018 – DECEMBER 2018

<i>Month</i>	<i>Visits</i>
July, 2018 (part)	838
August, 2018	15,394
September, 2018	14,883
October, 2018	11,225
November, 2018	4,067
December, 2018 (part)	2,528
Part year total	48,935
12-Month Estimate	123,432

As Table 9 demonstrates, usage in the summer months is much higher than that in the autumn months, with August and September recording many more visits as did October and November. The busiest day recorded by the counter was Sunday, October 7, 2018, when 2,149 visits were recorded. This high number was driven by the Mohawk Hudson River Marathon running race, held that day along the trail in Corning Preserve. Only one other day recorded more than 1,000 visits (Saturday, August 25), with two others recording more than 900 (Saturday, August 19 and Saturday, September 29).

Table 10 demonstrates usage characteristics during the summer months and compares it to autumn usage. For both the summer and the winter, the peak weekend usage is in mid-morning, while the summer weekday usage peaks in the evening. By contrast, winter weekday usage peaks just after noon, likely a result of temperatures warming during the day and local office workers using the trail during their lunch breaks.

**TABLE 10 – TRAIL USAGE CHARACTERISTICS, ALBANY (ALBANY COUNTY),
DECEMBER 2017 – DECEMBER 2018**

<i>SUMMER (July – September)</i>	
Weekday average	438
Weekend average	659
Busiest day of the week	Sunday
Peak weekday period	5 – 7 PM
Peak weekend period	9 – 11 AM
<i>FALL/WINTER (October – December)</i>	
Weekday average	186
Weekend average	277
Busiest day of the week	Sunday
Peak weekday period	12 – 2 PM
Peak weekend period	9 – 11 AM



Glens Falls

In May 2017 PTNY installed an electronic trail counter at Haviland Cove Park in Glens Falls along the Feeder Canal Trail. At seven miles, the Feeder Canal Trail is one of the shorter NYS Canalway Trails, however, it is an important connection between the Champlain Canalway Trail and the Warren County Bikeway, two other trails important to the Southern Adirondacks region. The trail surface at Haviland Cove Park is stonedust. The counter was installed along the trail to the west of the park entrance near Bush Street. In addition to hosting an important trailhead, Haviland Cove Park is home to a public beach and restrooms. This location is also easily accessible by walking or biking from nearby neighborhoods. The counter remained in Glens Falls for a full year and the data reflects usage between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018. PTNY estimated annual usage using six months of usage in last year's Who's on the Trail report, and had previously estimated usage at this location in 2012.

Results

Over the course of 12 months, the counter measured 56,405 visits in Glens Falls. This level of usage is similar to other comparatively low usage sites measured along the Canalway Trail system, such as Spencerport (55,361), Pendleton (52,454), Chittenango (52,021), and Marcy (49,424). Glens Falls also marks the first time that a counter was installed for one of the NYS Canalway Trails other than the Erie. Previous estimates of trail usage at other non-Erie sites include Waterford in 2016 (33,080).

TABLE 11 – TRAIL USAGE BY MONTH, GLENS FALLS (WARREN COUNTY), JUNE 2017 – MAY 2018

<i>Month</i>	<i>Visits</i>
June, 2017	6,773
July, 2017	17,025
August, 2017	12,602
September, 2017	3,887
October, 2017	3,236
November, 2017	1,904
December, 2017	918
January, 2018	657
February, 2018	705
March, 2018	1,199
April, 2018	2,543
May, 2018	4,956
12-Month Total	56,405

As Table 11 demonstrates, usage varies substantially throughout the year, with the highest levels of usage recorded during the summer months and notably less usage during the fall and spring. The four busiest days recorded were all in July, and included three Sundays - July 2, July 9, and July 29, which had 943, 1011, and 945 visits respectively. The July 4 holiday saw 994 visits to the trail, the second highest single day today.

Overall, Sundays were the busiest day of the week, when almost 20% of usage occurs. Weekday usage averages are lower than weekend usage averages. Table 14 demonstrates usage characteristics over the course of the year and compares it to summer (May-September) usage. The peak usage is between 2:00 and 4:00 PM during the entire year, however, the weekday usage during the summer tends to be earlier in the day than during the rest of the year. This may be driven by use of the trail by children, who are in school on weekdays during the school year until about 3:00 PM.

TABLE 12 – TRAIL USAGE CHARACTERISTICS, GLENS FALLS (WARREN COUNTY), JUNE 2017 – MAY 2018

SUMMER (May – September)	
Weekday average	259
Weekend average	390
Busiest day of the week	Sunday
Peak weekday period	12 – 2 PM
Peak weekend period	2 – 4 PM
FALL/WINTER/SPRING (October – April)	
Weekday average	49
Weekend average	62
Busiest day of the week	Saturday
Peak weekday period	3 – 5 PM
Peak weekend period	2 – 4 PM



Conclusion

The 2018 Who's on the Trail report is the twelfth edition of this report. The findings of this report support previous reports and strengthen the conclusions reached in those reports. Sunday is clearly the most popular day for trail usage across the state, followed closely by Saturday. Almost 20% of total recorded trail usage occurred on Sundays, with Saturday seeing 17% of usage. Peak usage times vary greatly across Canalway Trail corridor locations and by time of the year. At most locations, peak usage during the summer was either early in the morning or later in the evening, suggesting that users tried to avoid the hottest part of the day. Days with the highest recorded usage tended to be either during major trail-oriented events or holidays.

While usage varies greatly by season, all locations with 12-month data saw fairly strong usage throughout the year, demonstrating the use of the Canalway Trail as a four-season destination for the more than 200 Canalside communities. At many of the locations recorded, trail usage is clearly a central part of enjoying the assets a community has to offer. In many Canalway Trail communities, the trail runs through a major community park, such as Perinton Park in Fairport, Colonie Town Park, or Haviland Cove Park in Glens Falls. The Canalway Trail system is clearly a major recreational asset for communities across the Canal corridor, and it is essential to care for and highlight the ongoing value of these trails.

Appendix One – Historic Trail Use by Location, 2009-2018

Annual usage based on Electronic Counters				
Location	County	Year	Full Year /Part Year*	Annual Usage
Niawanda Park, Tonawanda	Erie	2014-15	Full	183,419
Lyons Park, Niskayuna	Schenectady	2016-17	Full	182,325
Perinton Park, Fairport	Monroe	2018	Part	176,255
Bushnell's Basin, Perinton	Monroe	2015-16	Part	157,236
West Henrietta Road, Rochester	Monroe	2018	Part	128,129
Corning Riverfront Park, Albany	Albany	2018	Part	123,432
Cedar Bay Park, DeWitt	Onondaga	2016-17	Full	122,689
Erie Canal Historical Park, Camillus	Onondaga	2016-17	Full	108,025
Colonie Town Park, Colonie	Albany	2017-18	Full	62,889
Haviland Cove Park, Glens Falls	Warren	2017-18	Full	56,405
Towpath Park, Spencerport	Monroe	2017-18	Full	55,361
Robinson Road, Pendleton	Niagara	2016-17	Full	52,454
Lock 20 Canal Park, Marcy	Oneida	2015	Part	49,424
Rause Road, Fort Plain	Montgomery	2015	Part	15,607

*Full-year figures are pulled from 12 months of continuous counter operation. Part-year figures are extrapolations based on data collected from less than a full year.

Annual usage based on Observational Counts			
Location	County	Year	Annual Usage
Niawanda Park, Tonawanda	Erie	2011	605,033
Cedar Bay Park, DeWitt	Onondaga	2016	454,643
Erie Canal Historical Park, Camillus	Onondaga	2018	250,665
Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct, Camillus	Onondaga	2010	237,834
Warners Road, Camillus	Onondaga	2017	233,090
Old Erie Canal State Park, DeWitt	Onondaga	2010	223,732
Erie Canal Historical Park, Camillus	Onondaga	2011	207,381
Nine Mile Creek Aqueduct, Camillus	Onondaga	2011	198,270
Erie Canal Historical Park, Camillus	Onondaga	2010	174,663
Lyons Park, Niskayuna	Schenectady	2009	173,927
Warners Road, Camillus	Onondaga	2010	165,333
Corning Riverfront Park, Albany	Albany	2015	156,714
Cedar Bay Park, DeWitt	Onondaga	2015	155,602
Henpeck Park, Greece	Monroe	2011	107,143
Schenectady Co. Community College, Schenectady	Schenectady	2009	105,869
Robinson Road, Pendleton	Niagara	2018	98,228
Colonie Town Park, Colonie	Albany	2009	95,471
Main Street Bridge, Brockport	Monroe	2013	72,390
Newport Road, Camillus	Onondaga	2010	68,264
Park Avenue Bridge, Brockport	Monroe	2013	63,874
Lyman Street, Brockport	Monroe	2013	62,700
Kiwanis Park, Rotterdam	Schenectady	2009	56,715
Lakeport Road, Chittenango	Madison	2014	52,021
Haviland Cove Park, Glens Falls	Warren	2012	51,209
South Chuctanunda Creek, Amsterdam	Montgomery	2016	51,077
The Five Combines, Kingsbury	Washington	2012	38,610

Division Street Bridge, Waterford	Saratoga	2016	33,080
Erie Canal Marina, Palmyra	Wayne	2015	31,711
Albion Canal Park, Albion	Orleans	2013	31,024
The Silos, Hudson Falls	Washington	2012	25,246
Centerport Aqueduct Park, Brutus	Cayuga	2010	19,453
Lake Road, Oneida	Madison	2014	8,063

Appendix Two: Electronic Count Data

Month	Spencerport		Rochester		Fairport		Colonie		Albany		Glens Falls	
	Total	Daily Avg										
May 2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	676	135
June 2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,773	226
July 2017	5,568	265	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,025	549
August 2017	7,671	247	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,602	407
September 2017	6,287	210	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,887	130
October 2017	6,094	197	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,236	104
November 2017	1,290	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,904	63
December 2017	704	23	-	-	-	-	276	25	-	-	918	30
January 2018	517	17	-	-	-	-	668	22	-	-	657	21
February 2018	737	26	-	-	-	-	1,209	43	-	-	705	25
March 2018	760	25	-	-	-	-	1,376	44	-	-	1,199	40
April 2018	2,000	67	-	-	-	-	4,370	146	-	-	2,543	85
May 2018	5,958	192	-	-	-	-	8,202	265	-	-	4,956	160
June 2018	11,456	382	-	-	-	-	8,833	294	-	-	-	-
July 2018	6,319	632	-	-	17,958	855	9,518	307	838	838	-	-
August 2018	-	-	-	-	23,607	762	9,032	291	15,394	497	-	-
September 2018	-	-	14,822	494	22,603	753	9,471	316	14,883	496	-	-
October 2018	-	-	6,960	225	11,233	362	6,677	215	11,225	362	-	-
November 2018	-	-	-	-	5,335	178	1,979	66	4,067	136	-	-
December 2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,278	64	2,528	110	-	-
Total	55,361	153	21,782	357	80,736	565	62,889	172	48,935	335	57,081	155

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