



Capital Crescent Trail

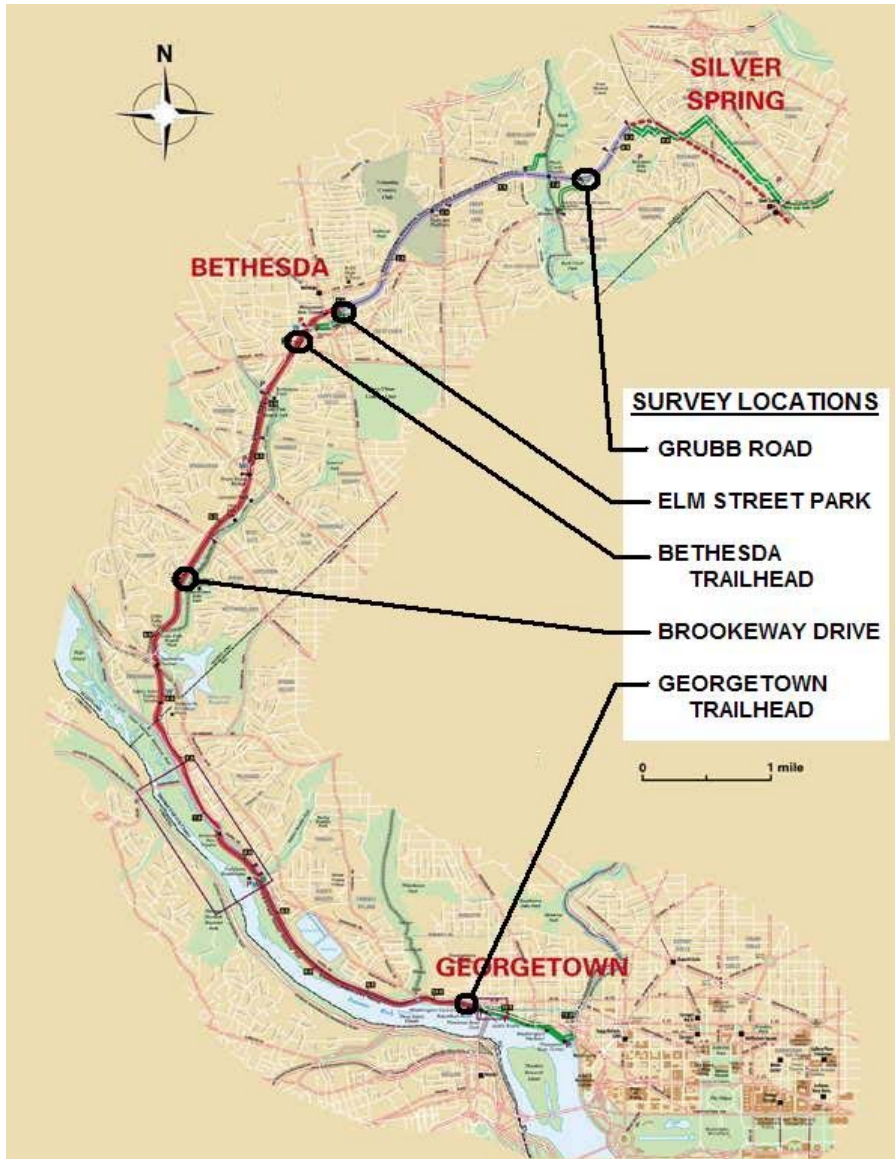
2006 Trail Use Survey

CCCT Preliminary Analysis

October 11, 2006

SURVEY BACKGROUND

- **The Montgomery County Parks Dept. asked the Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail (CCCT) to perform a trail use survey.**
- **The Parks Dept. requested four locations within Montgomery County be surveyed.**
- **The CCCT added the Georgetown Trailhead in D.C. to the list of survey locations.**
- **The CCCT recruited volunteers, distributed instructions and survey forms, and coordinated volunteer schedules.**
- **The same Parks Department protocol was used as was used for the joint Parks Dept./CCCT year 2000 survey.**
- **All data was collected from Sept. 5, 2006 through Oct. 4, 2006 by CCCT volunteers.**



TRAIL SURVEY LOCATIONS

**Grubb Road Access Path
(near milepost 1.0)**

**Elm Street Park Access
Path (near milepost 3.0)**

**Bethesda Trailhead
(near milepost 3.5)**

**Brookway Drive Access
(at milepost 5.5)**

**Georgetown Trailhead
(near milepost 10.0)**

SURVEY PROTOCOL

- **Volunteers counted trail uses for one hour periods.**
- **Any person passing by the observation point in either direction counted as a “use”.**
- **A person returning on a round trip during the survey hour was counted as another use.**
- **Volunteers counted the uses by mode (cyclists, walkers, joggers, in-line skaters, and infants and small children).**
- **Volunteers also estimated the age group for all users (0-14, 15-24, 25-59, 60+).**

SURVEY PROTOCOL (Continued)

- **A minimum of 20 one hour long counts were required for each location surveyed, distributed among four general time periods:**
 - **Weekday, 7 a.m. to noon, 3 counts**
 - **Weekday, noon to 5 p.m., 3 counts**
 - **Weekday, 5 p.m. to Dusk, 7 counts**
 - **Weekend, any daylight hour, 7 counts**
- **Counts could be taken on any day and time within the general time period.**
- **Counts were to be taken during fair weather.**

SURVEY RESULTS

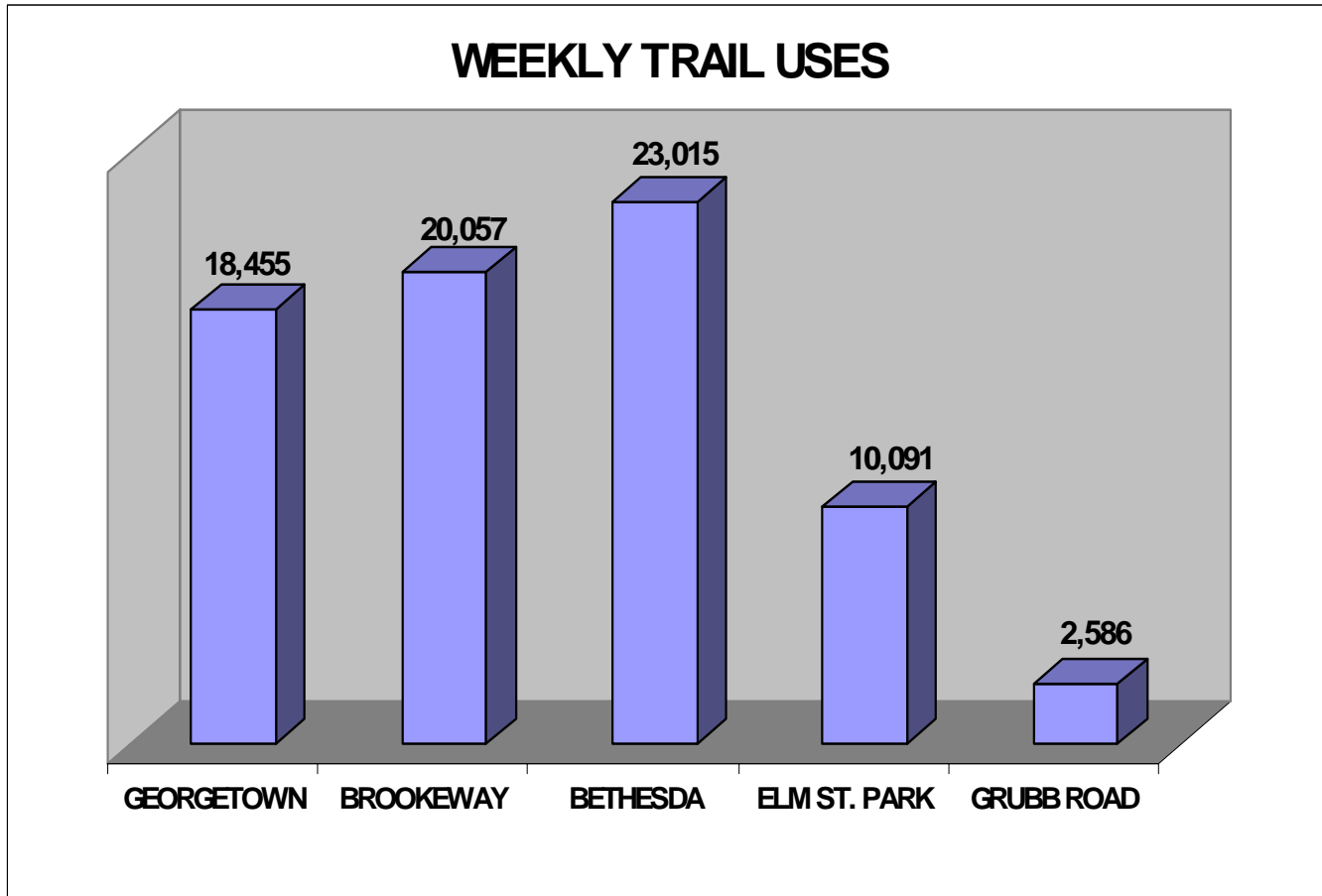
- **92 volunteers submitted over 150 one hour long use counts.**
- **Protocol requirements were met or exceeded at all survey locations for all general time periods.**
- **The CCCT performed a preliminary analysis with a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.**
- **All survey data has been given to the Montgomery County Parks Department for final analysis and formal reporting.**

TRAIL USE DATA

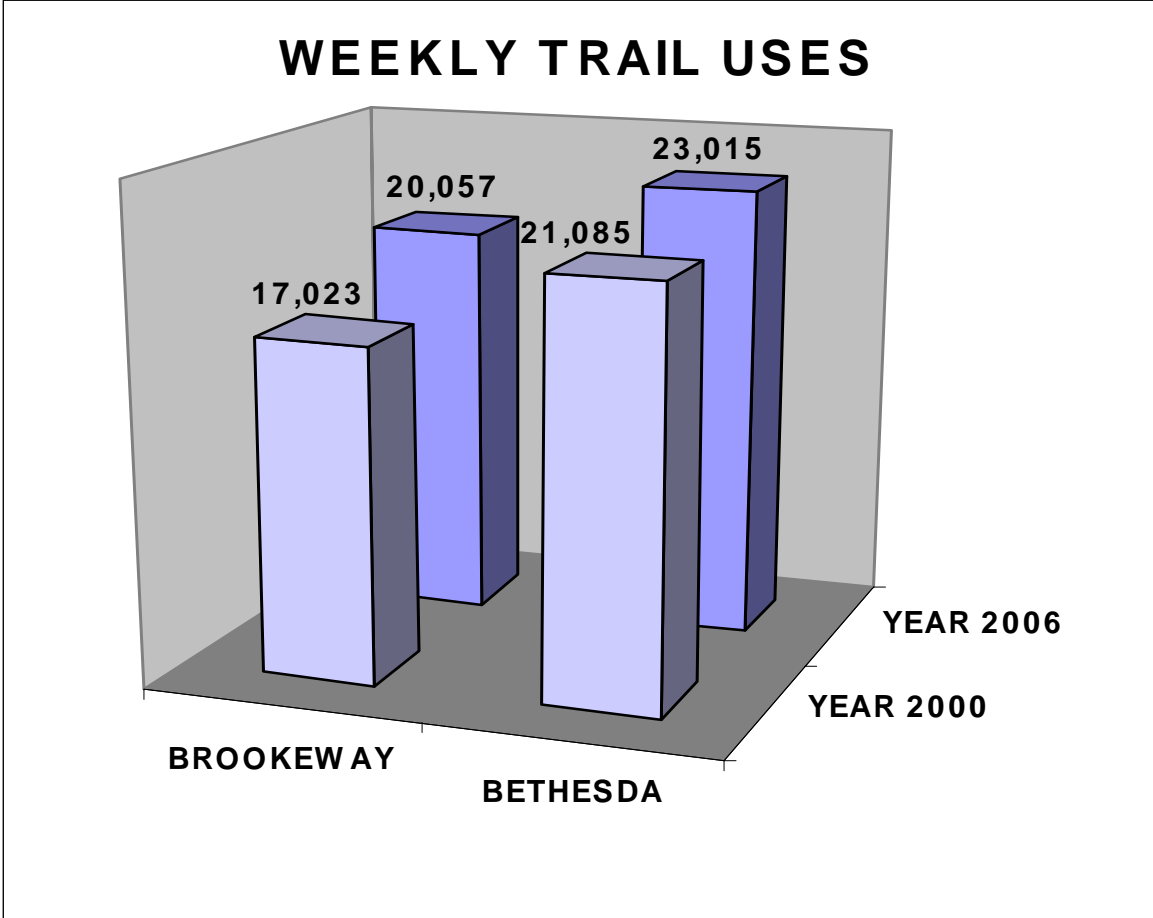
Number of one hour long use counts

	Weekday 7:00 a.m.- Noon	Weekday Noon – 5 p.m.	Weekday 5 p.m.- Dusk	Weekend	TOTAL
Georgetown Trailhead	10	5	7	11	33
Brookeway Access	5	4	7	9	25
Bethesda Trailhead	5	6	7	8	26
Elm Street Park Access	6	4	9	8	27
Grubb Road Access	5	4	7	7	23

CAPITAL CRESCENT TRAIL 2006 USE SURVEY



CCT TRAIL USE GROWTH SINCE YEAR 2000

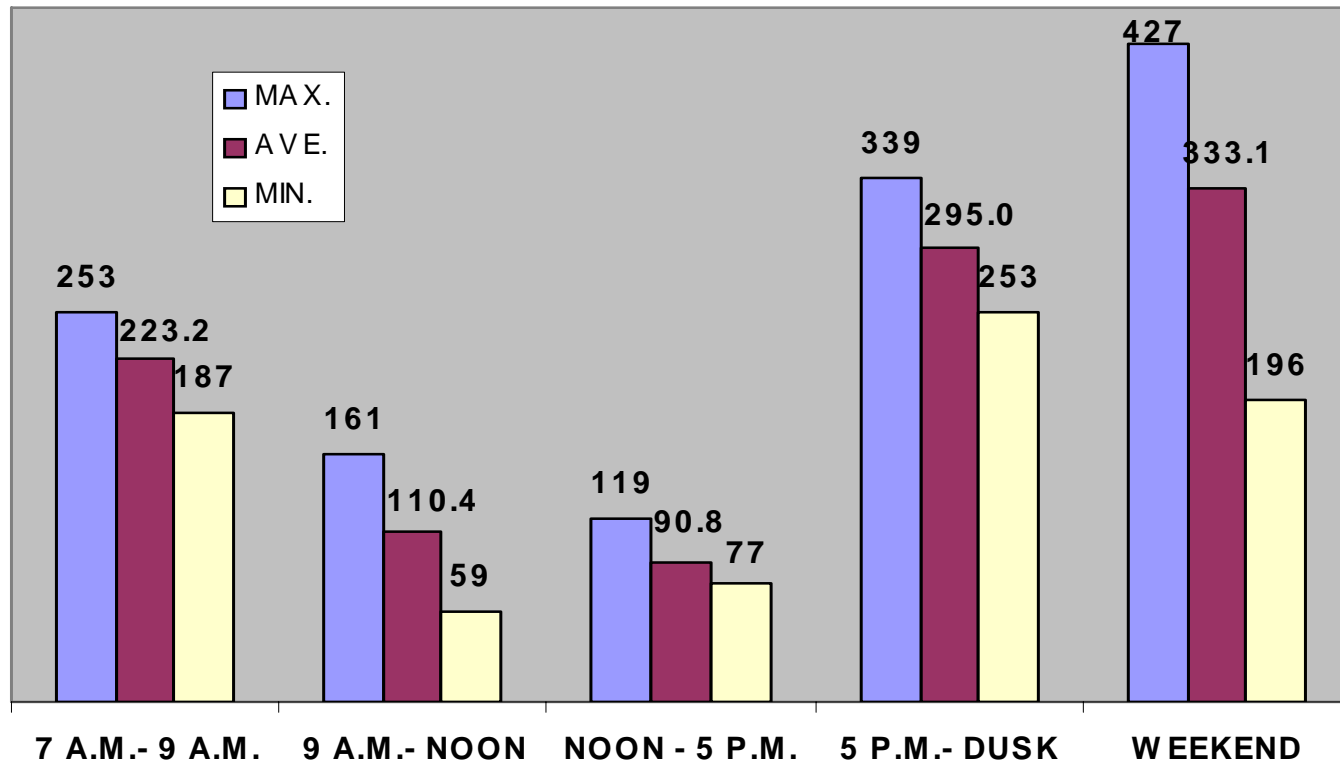


ABOUT THE CALCULATIONS.....

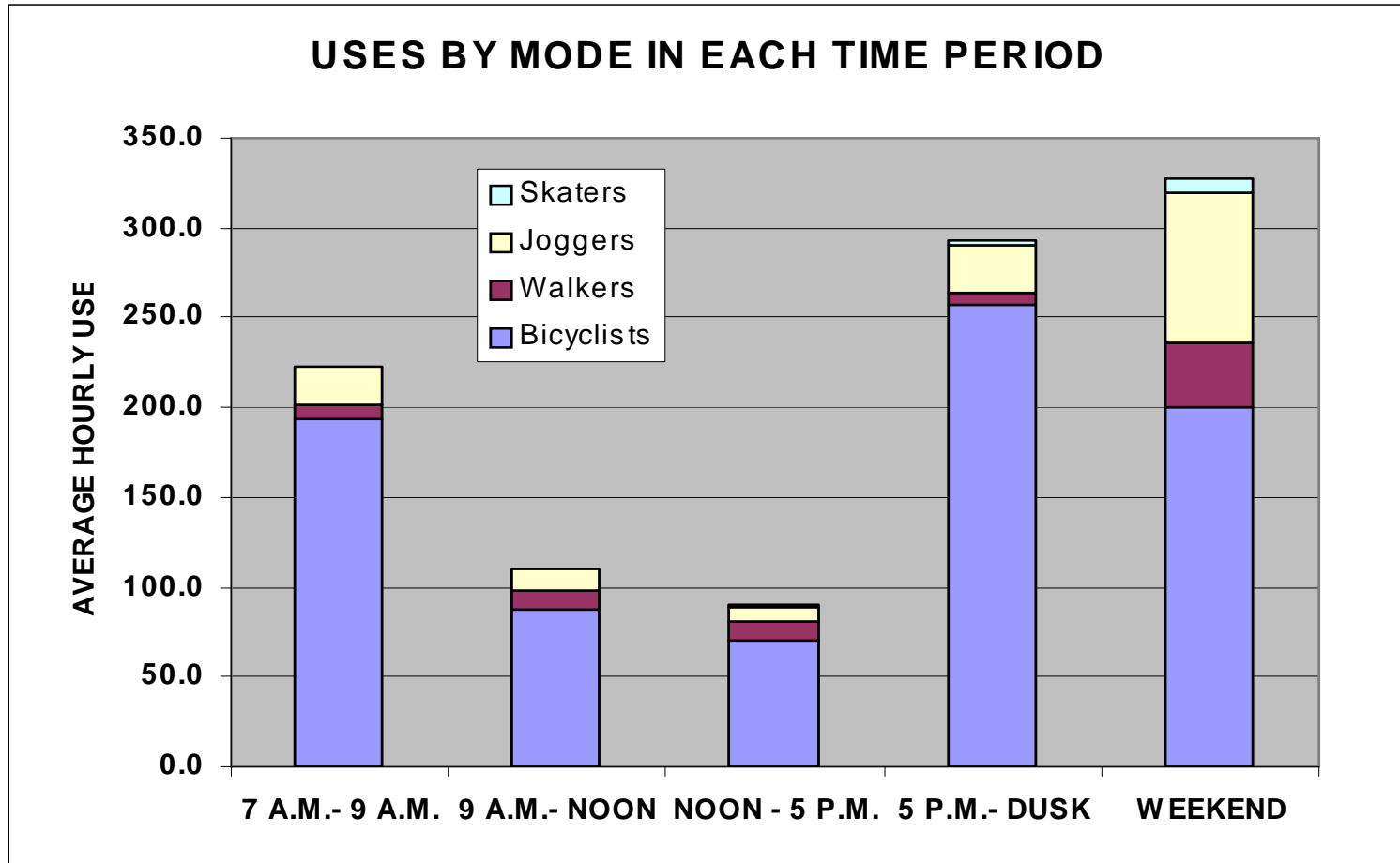
- **All counts within the same general time period are given equal weight for the hourly use averages.**
- **For WEEKLY TRAIL USE estimates:**
 - **Assume each day begins at 7 a.m. and ends at Dusk, at 7:30 p.m.**
 - **Multiply the average for each time period by the number of hours that time period has in one week**
 - **Sum the products for all time periods to get the total weekly use**

CCT AT THE GEORGETOWN TRAILHEAD

HOURLY USES IN EACH TIME PERIOD

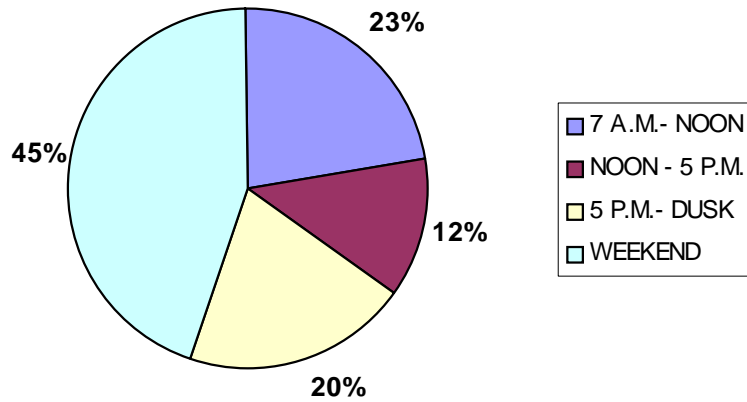


CCT AT THE GEORGETOWN TRAILHEAD

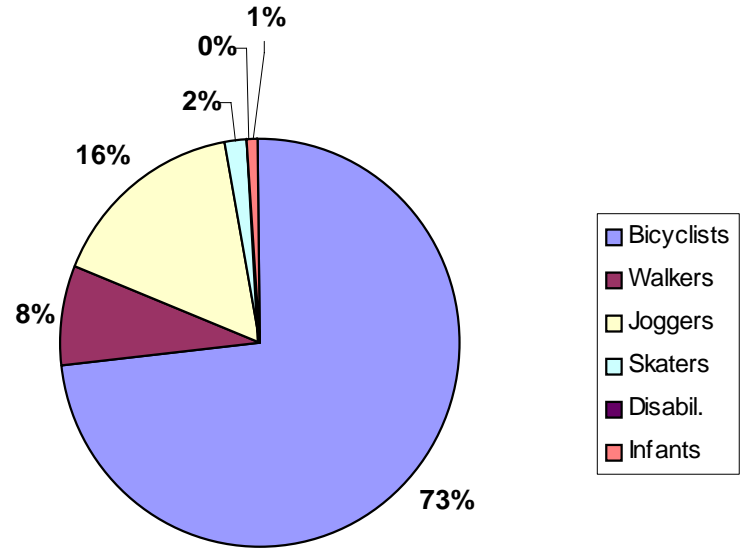


CCT AT THE GEORGETOWN TRAILHEAD

WEEKLY USES BY TIME PERIOD



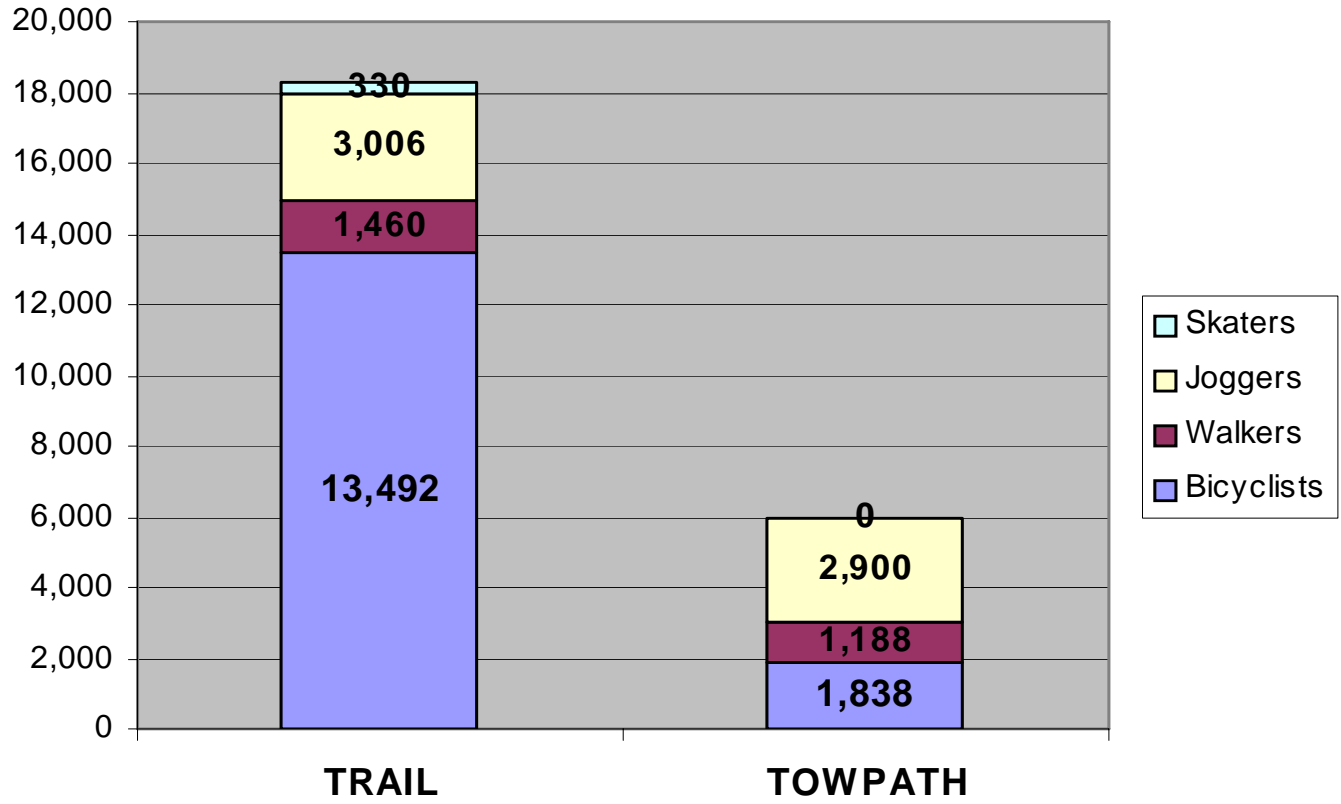
WEEKLY USES BY MODE



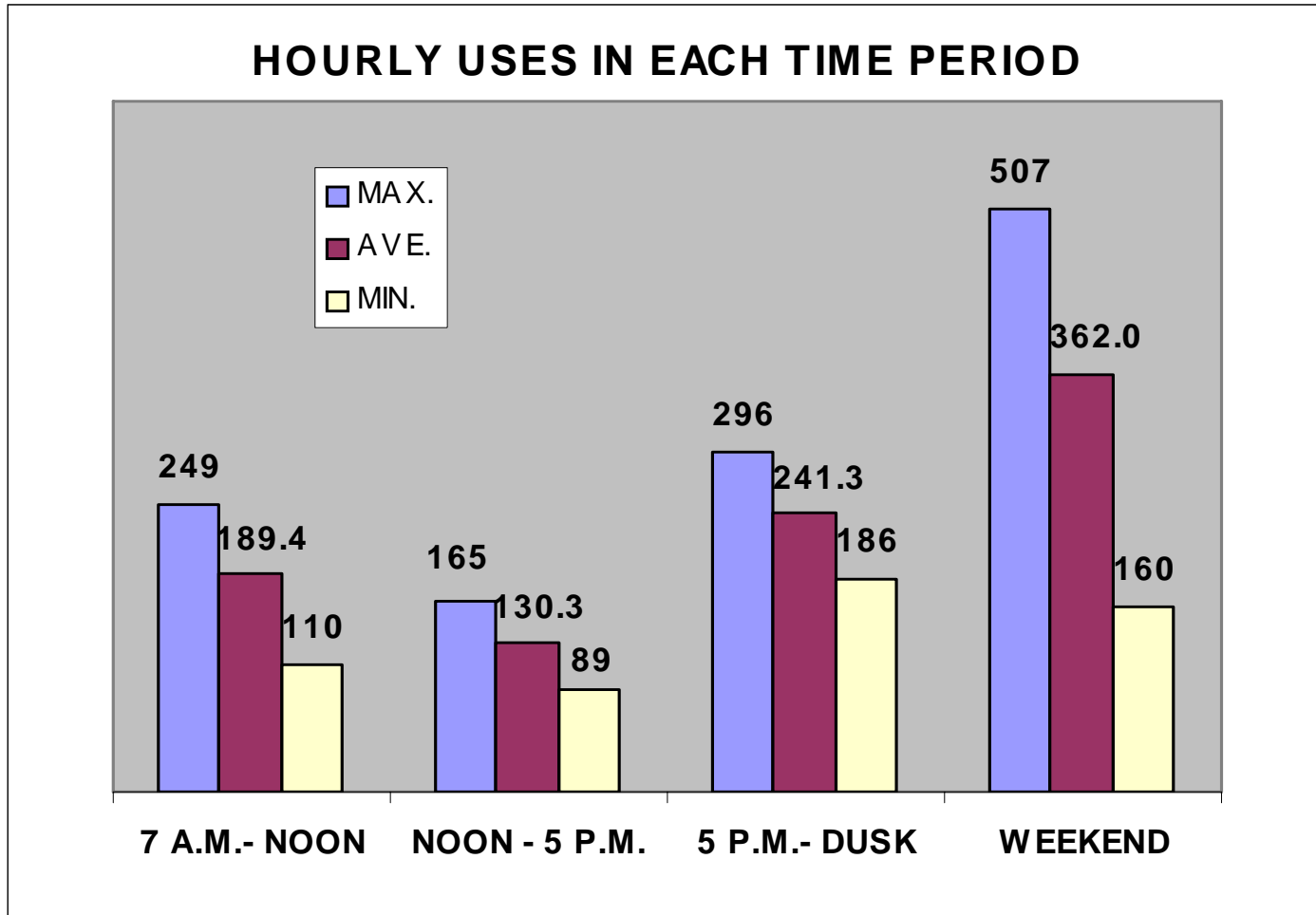
C&O CANAL TOWPATH USES

- **The canal towpath is adjacent to the Capital Crescent Trail at the Georgetown trailhead, and impacts trail use there.**
- **A limited “side study” was performed to compare towpath and trail use:**
 - **7 one hour long use counts were taken on the towpath adjacent to the CCT trailhead**
 - **the 7 towpath counts were timed to be proportionate among time periods:**
 - **Weekday, 7 a.m. to noon, 2 counts**
 - **Weekday, noon to 5 p.m., 2 counts**
 - **Weekday, 5 p.m. to Dusk, 1 counts**
 - **Weekend, any daylight hour, 2 counts**

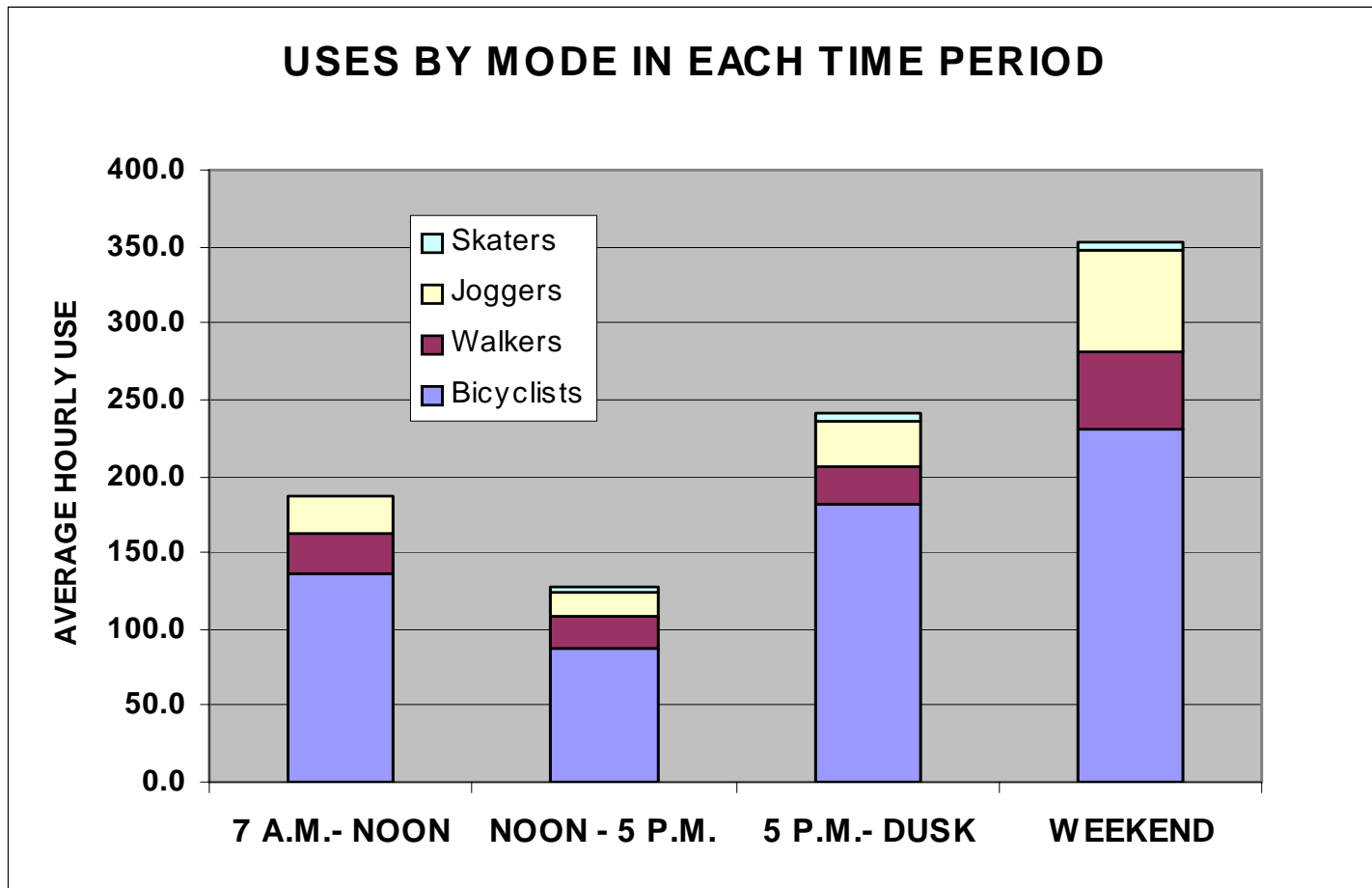
TRAIL/TOWPATH WEEKLY USES COMPARISON (BASED ON ONLY 7 TOWPATH COUNTS)



CCT AT THE BROOKWAY DRIVE ACCESS

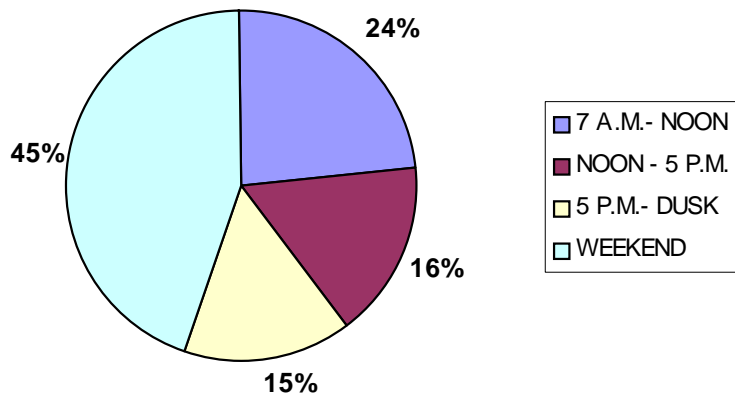


CCT AT THE BROOKWAY DRIVE ACCESS

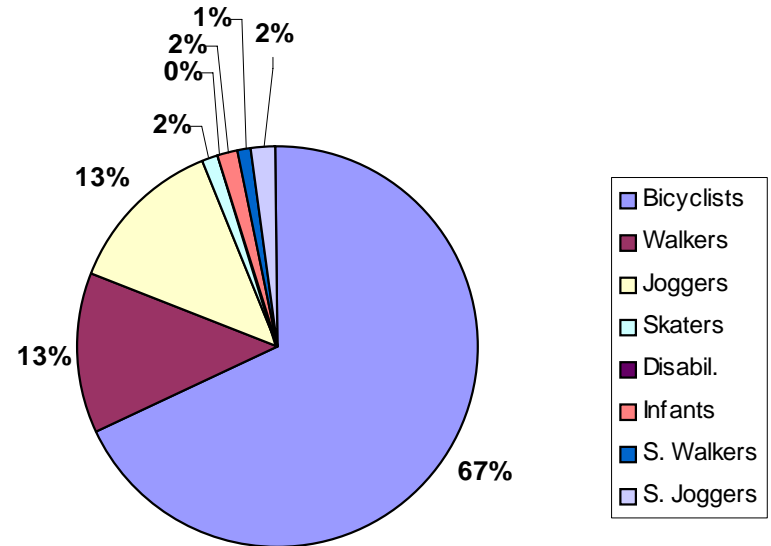


CCT AT THE BROOKWAY DRIVE ACCESS

WEEKLY USES BY TIME PERIOD

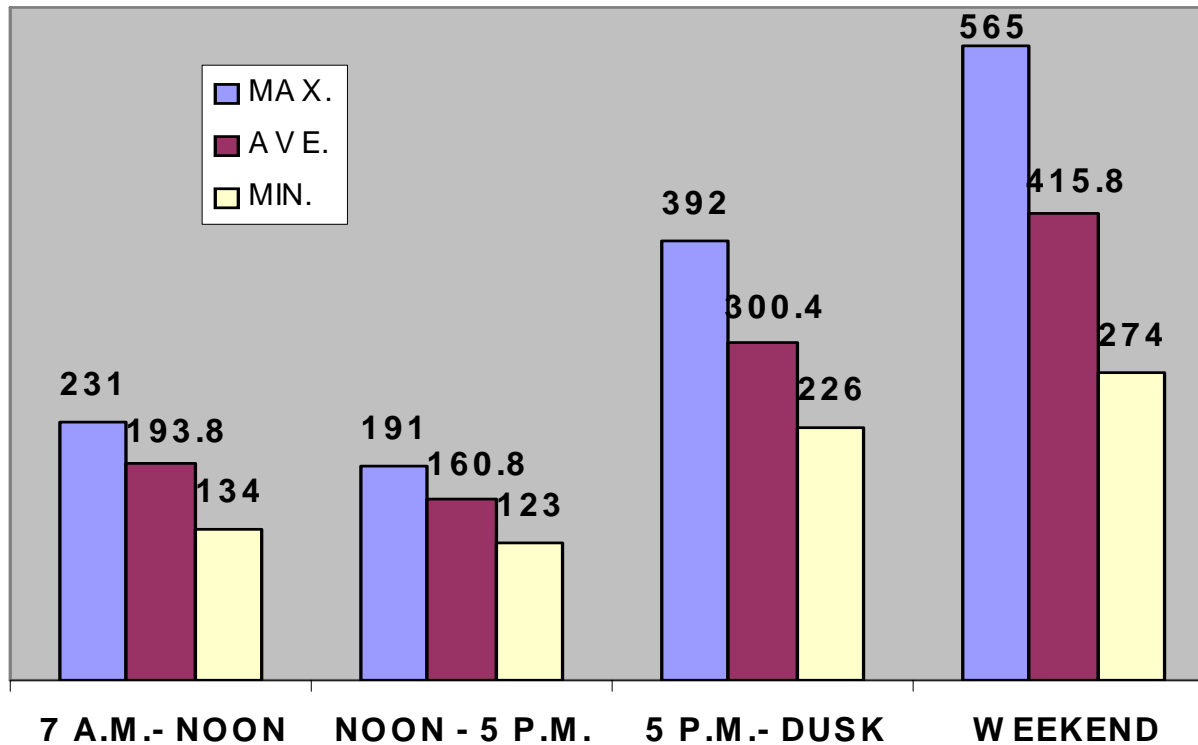


WEEKLY USES BY MODE



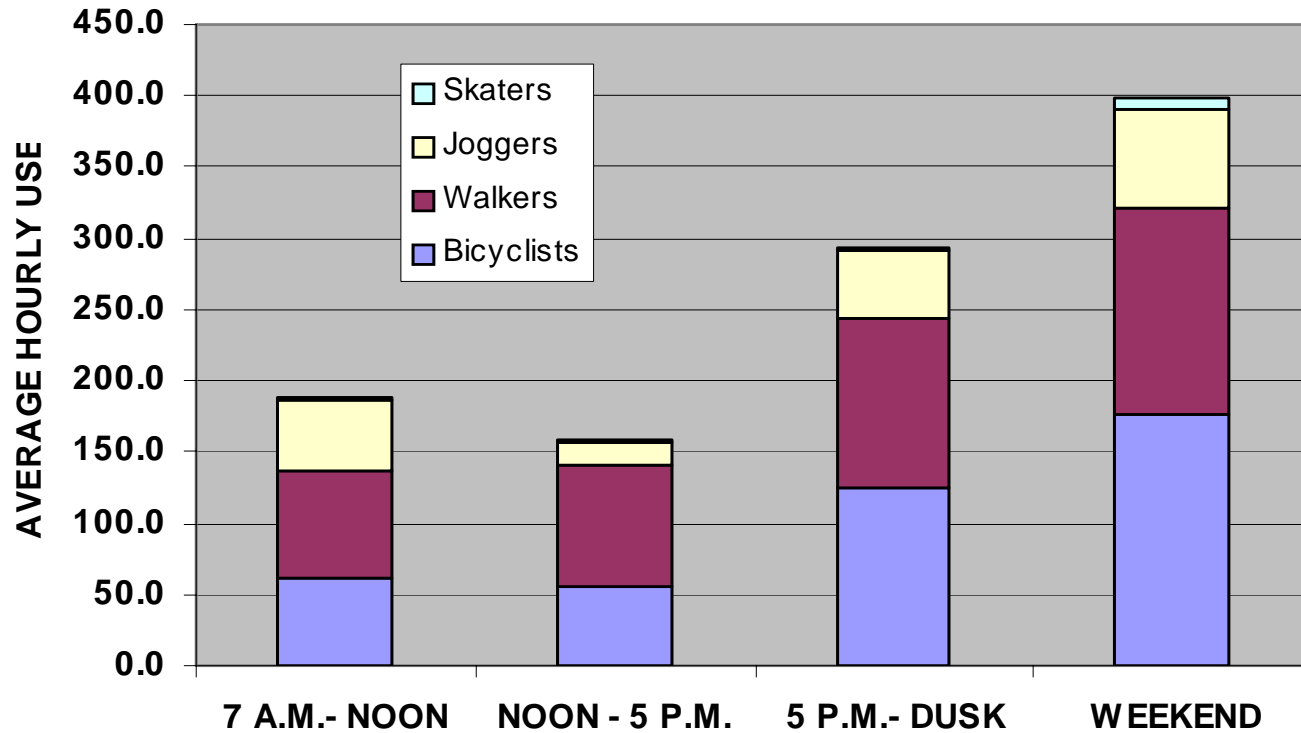
CCT AT THE BETHESDA TRAILHEAD

HOURLY USES IN EACH TIME PERIOD



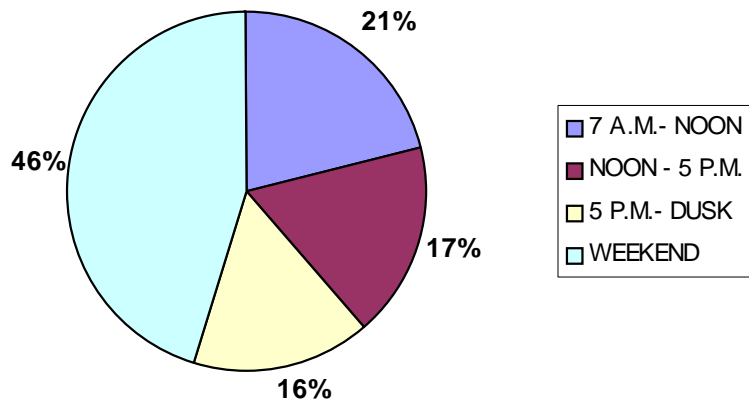
CCT AT THE BETHESDA TRAILHEAD

USES BY MODE IN EACH TIME PERIOD

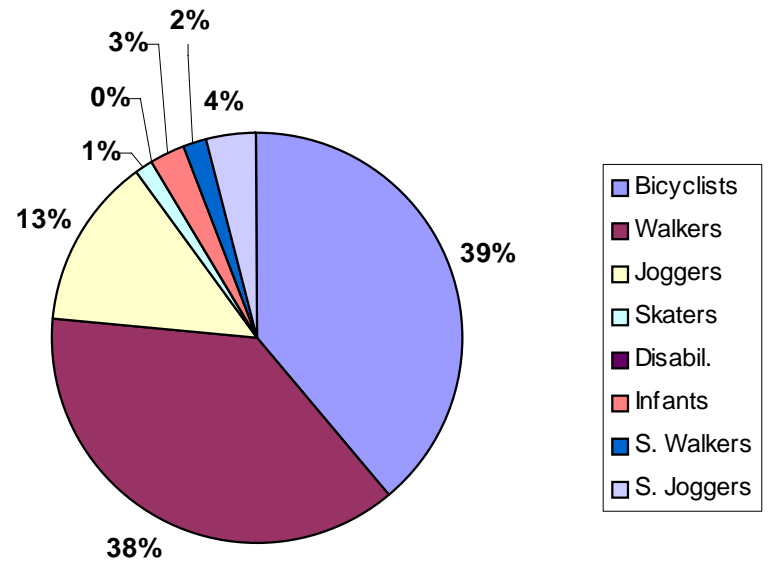


CCT AT THE BETHESDA TRAILHEAD

WEEKLY USES BY TIME PERIOD

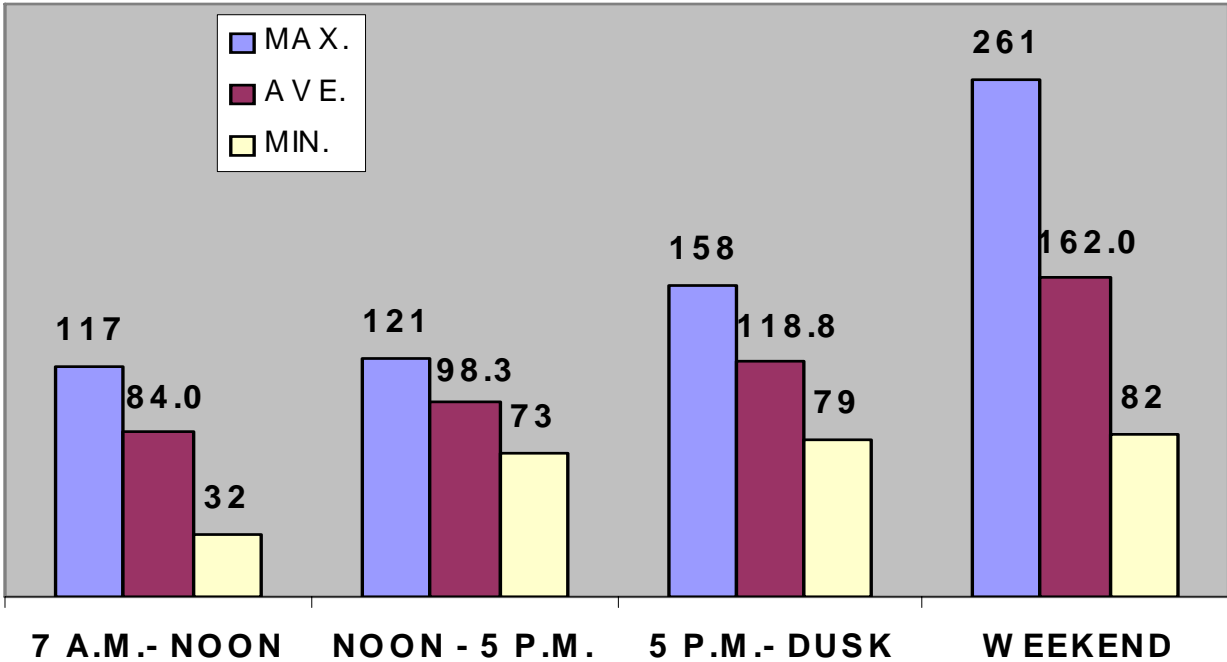


WEEKLY USES BY MODE



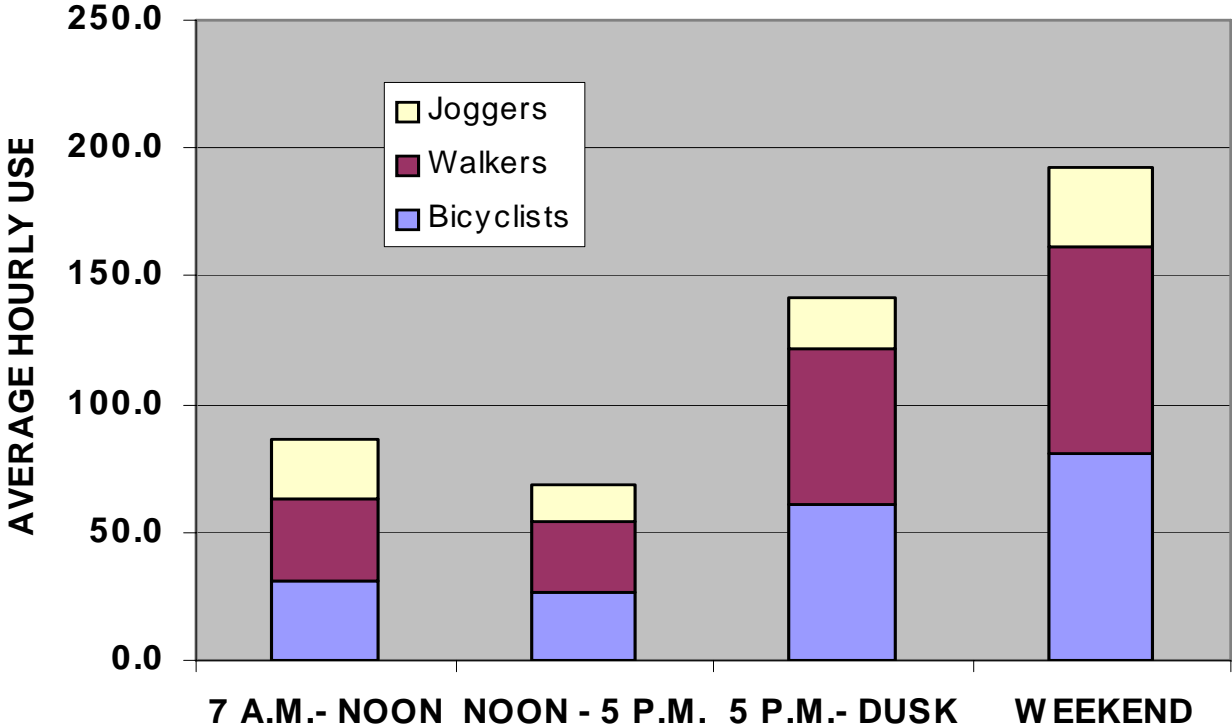
GEORGETOWN BRANCH TRAIL (Interim CCT) AT THE ELM STREET PARK ACCESS

HOURLY USES IN EACH TIME PERIOD



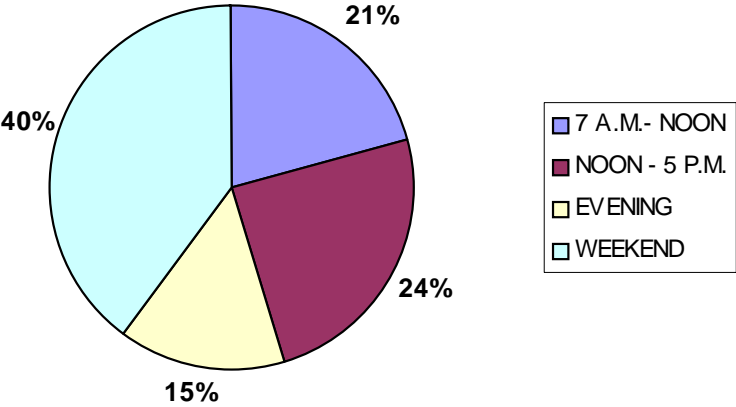
GEORGETOWN BRANCH TRAIL (Interim CCT) AT THE ELM STREET PARK ACCESS

USES BY MODE IN EACH TIME PERIOD

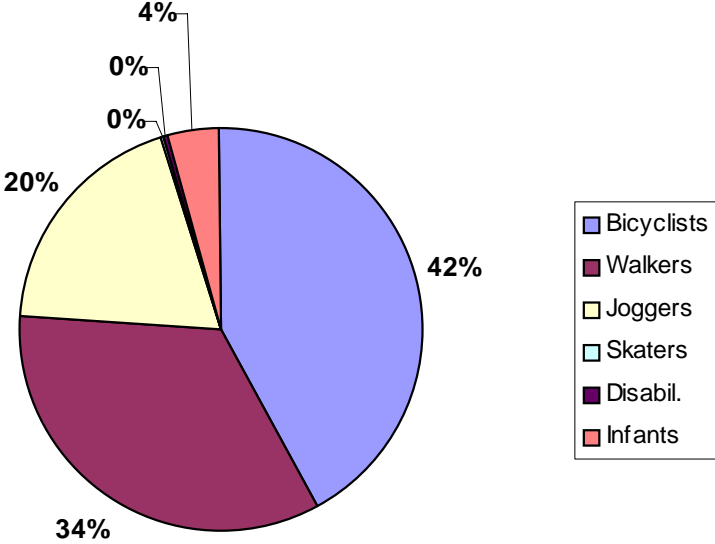


GEORGETOWN BRANCH TRAIL (Interim CCT) AT THE ELM STREET PARK ACCESS

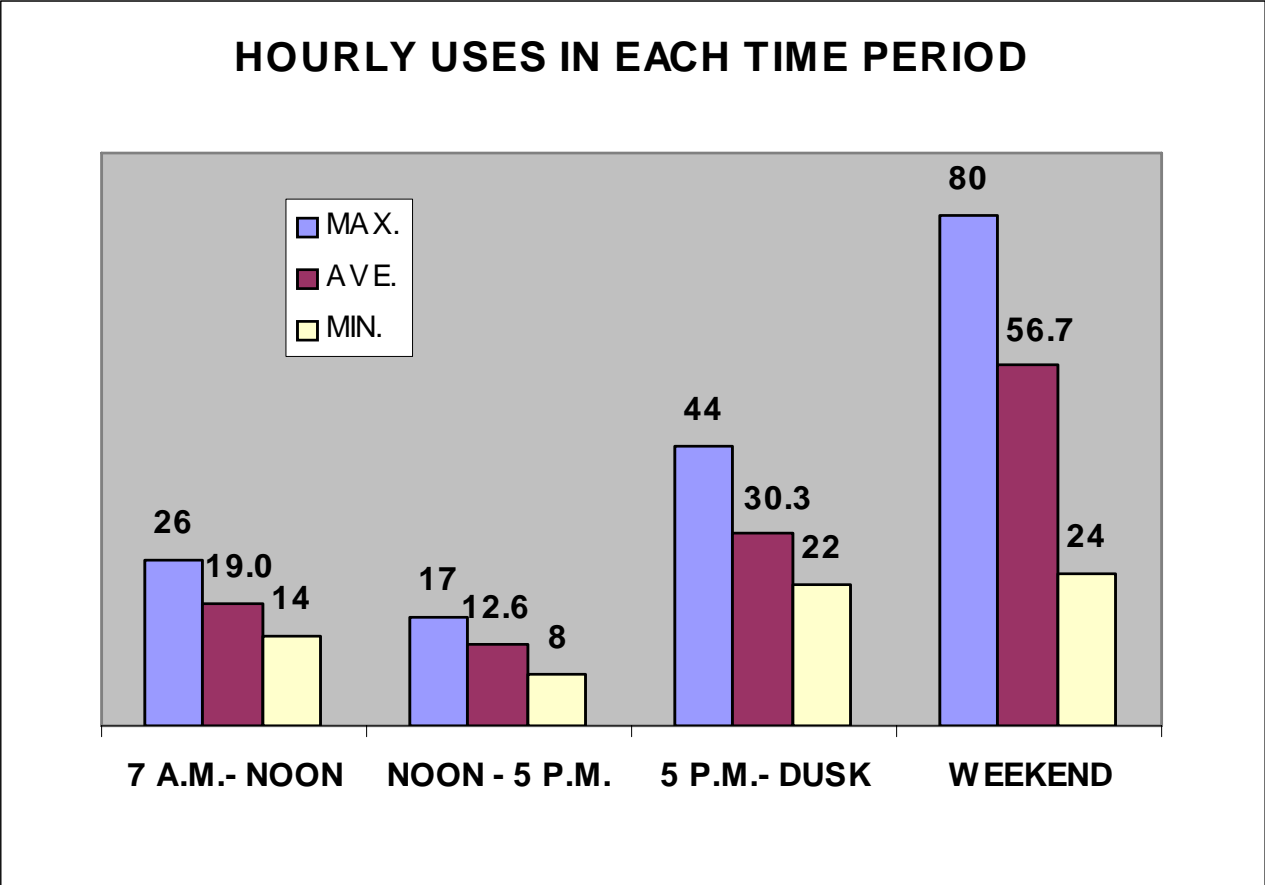
WEEKLY USES BY TIME PERIOD



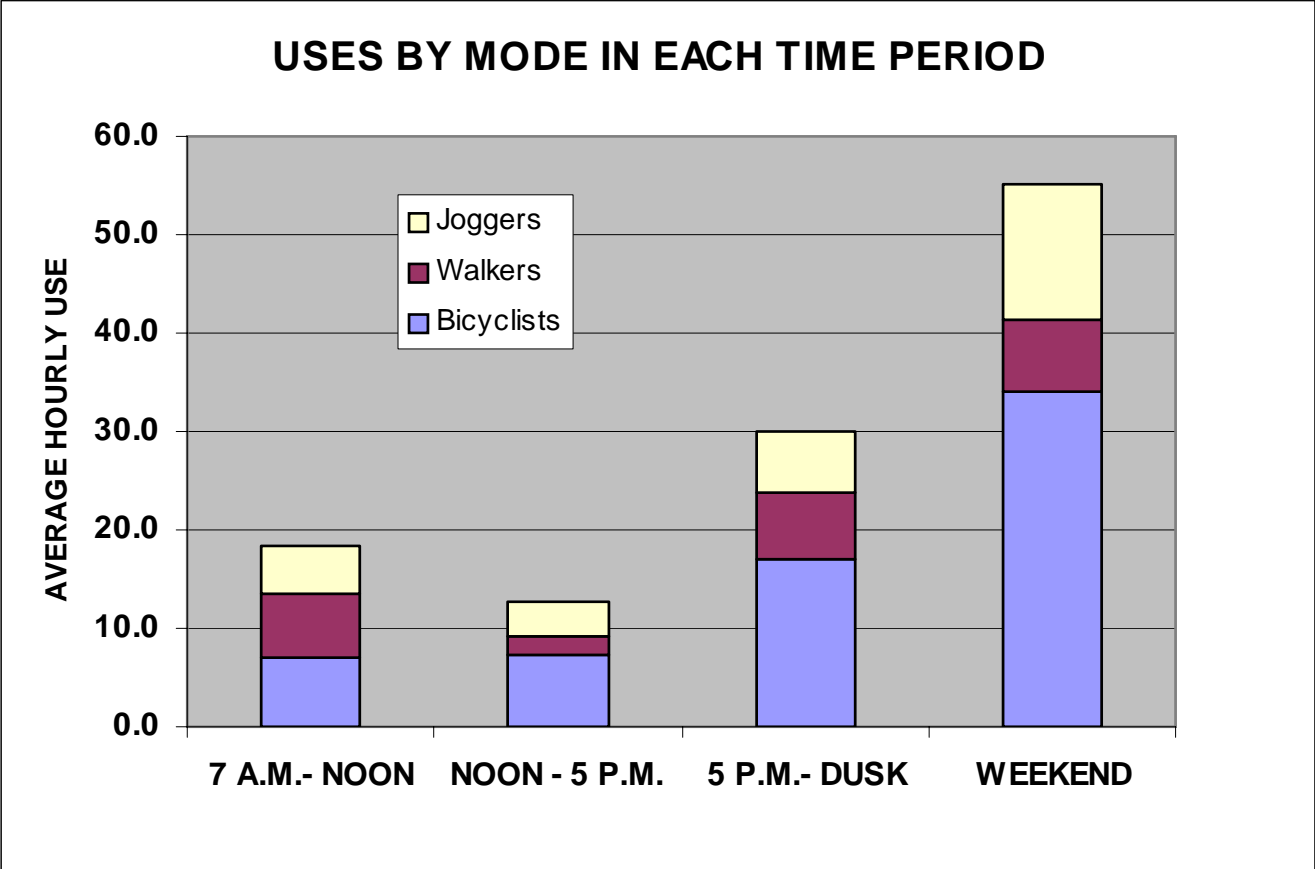
WEEKLY USES BY MODE



GEORGETOWN BRANCH TRAIL (Interim CCT) AT THE GRUBB ROAD ACCESS

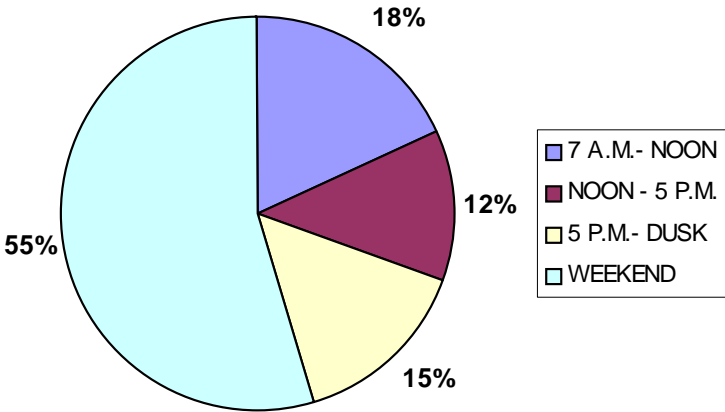


GEORGETOWN BRANCH TRAIL (Interim CCT) AT THE GRUBB ROAD ACCESS

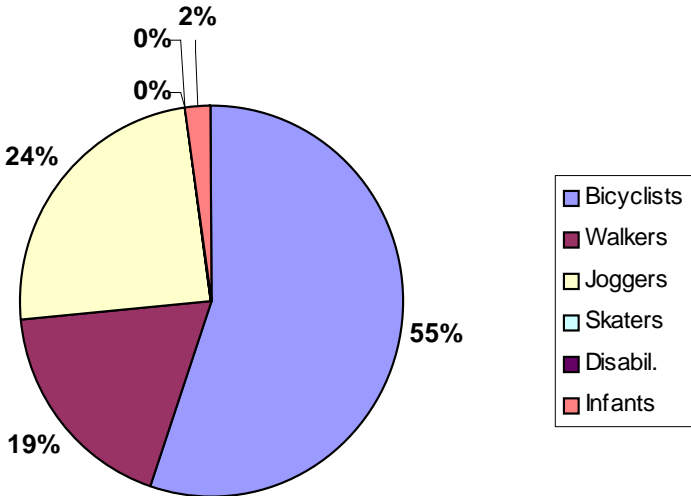


GEORGETOWN BRANCH TRAIL (Interim CCT) AT THE GRUBB ROAD ACCESS

WEEKLY USES BY TIME PERIOD



WEEKLY USES BY MODE



SUMMARY OBSERVATIONS

- The CCT has extremely high use levels overall.
- Trail use is most intense in Bethesda where trail traffic regularly exceeds 400 uses/hr and peaks as high as 565 uses/hr., with cyclists and walkers using the trail in about equal numbers there.
- There is a very strong bicycle commuting use of the trail, most evident in the “bicycle rush hour” seen at the Georgetown Trailhead on weekdays when over 200 cyclists/hr. is common.
- A great majority of cyclists and a significant proportion of walkers and joggers choose the paved CCT over the gravel C&O Canal Towpath where they have a choice, at Georgetown.
- Trail use on the Interim CCT east of Rock Creek is a small fraction of the use elsewhere, and the CCT still falls short of its potential to be a regional trail connecting Bethesda and Silver Spring.