

Appendix H

Existing Trail Use Data



Existing Fremont Trail Use Data

Trail Counts

Trail use is typically measured by using trail counters positioned at key points along trails in question. These counters are a reliable method of determining existing trail use and analyzing trends over time. Information from trail counts can help agencies prioritize improvements and modifications to trail systems.

In Fremont, trail usage data was available at two locations along the Alameda Creek Trail (Alameda Creek Trail & Ardenwood Boulevard and Alameda Creek Trail & Isherwood Way) and at one location along the Central Park Trail adjacent to the railroad (Central Park Trail & Fremont Golf Course). Weekday counts were conducted over a 14-hour period in June 2017 and weekend counts on a day in October 2019. In general, there were a much higher number of users on the weekends than on the weekdays. However, there is still a substantial number of weekday users. Near Quarry Lakes Regional Recreational Area, the weekday count captured all park users on the south side of Isherwood Way while the weekend count only

captured trail users on the north side of Isherwood Way. Similarly, the Central Park Trail weekend count captured high volumes of internal park users along the trail. **Table 1** summarizes the total numbers of trail users for all trails with count data collected in Fremont.

For reference, in 2017 the trail counts on the Guadalupe River Trail in San Jose ranged from 724 to 2,325. That same year, counts on the Los Gatos Creek Trail in San Jose ranged from 160 to 1,135. Counts on both trails were held over a 12 hour period on a weekday in September.

Based on the San Jose and Fremont trail count numbers, we can see that the existing Fremont trail network is heavily used on the weekends, but the weekday use is lighter than what might be expected for a significant regional trail. The numbers, however, could be skewed due to the proximity to the parks and the time of year the counts were conducted.

Table 1. Trail Usage Data

Location	Trail Location	Surface Material	Weekday Counts			Weekend Counts		
			Bicyclists	Pedestrians	Total Weekday Count	Bicyclists	Pedestrians	Total Weekend Count
Alameda Creek Trail & Ardenwood Boulevard (Near Coyote Hills Regional Park)	North side	Gravel	40	64	104¹	428	446	874⁴
	South side	Paved	282	76	358¹	551	399	950⁴
Alameda Creek Trail & Isherwood Way (Near Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area)	East side	Gravel	76	1086	1162²	115	904	1019⁴
	West side	Paved	221	124	345²	88	377	465⁴
Central Park Trail & Fremont Golf Course (Near rail crossing)	-	Paved	29	250	279³	254	3139	3393⁴

Note: (1) Counts conducted on Friday, June 23, 2017 for 14 hours; (2) Counts conducted on Wednesday, June 28, 2017 for 14.5 hours adjacent to the park on the south side of Isherwood Way and may represent park users rather than through trail users; (3) Counts conducted on Friday, June 30, 2017 for 14.5 hours; (4) & (5) Counts conducted on Sunday, August 19, 2018 for approximately 14 hour period.

Strava Data Bicycle and Pedestrian Use Maps

Strava is a phone app that is popular with recreational cyclists, runners, and hikers to record the routes that they ride, run, or walk. These maps can be helpful in understanding the relative popularity of routes, as well as identifying unofficial routes that might benefit from improvement.

Strava aggregates the user-recorded route data and uses the data to generate "heat maps" that show route popularity. These heat maps are then made available to transportation agencies for planning purposes. The spectrum of higher use is from red to purple, and lower use is from yellow to orange. The actual user counts are not available — only the relative levels of use on routes. The data shown is for the two-year period from October 2018 through September 2020.

Note that the data shows use of both official and non-designated unofficial routes and connections. Note also that the maps presented below only show use from Strava App users. This is not necessarily reflective of overall demand for walking or biking.

Bicycle Map Routes Relative to Trail Network

The map on the following page shows the bicycle route heat map for Fremont and the surrounding vicinity. The south side of the Alameda Creek Trail is the most popular bike route that lines up with an existing trail. The north side is less popular because parts are not paved. Other popular trails include: trails in the Coyote Hills Regional Preserve and the adjacent parts of the Bay Trail; the trail segment in Ardenwood Regional Preserve (accessed by on-street routes); the existing portion of the East Bay Greenway in the former UPRR right-of-way; trails in Fremont Central Park around Lake Elizabeth; trails in Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area; and the Sabercat Trail.

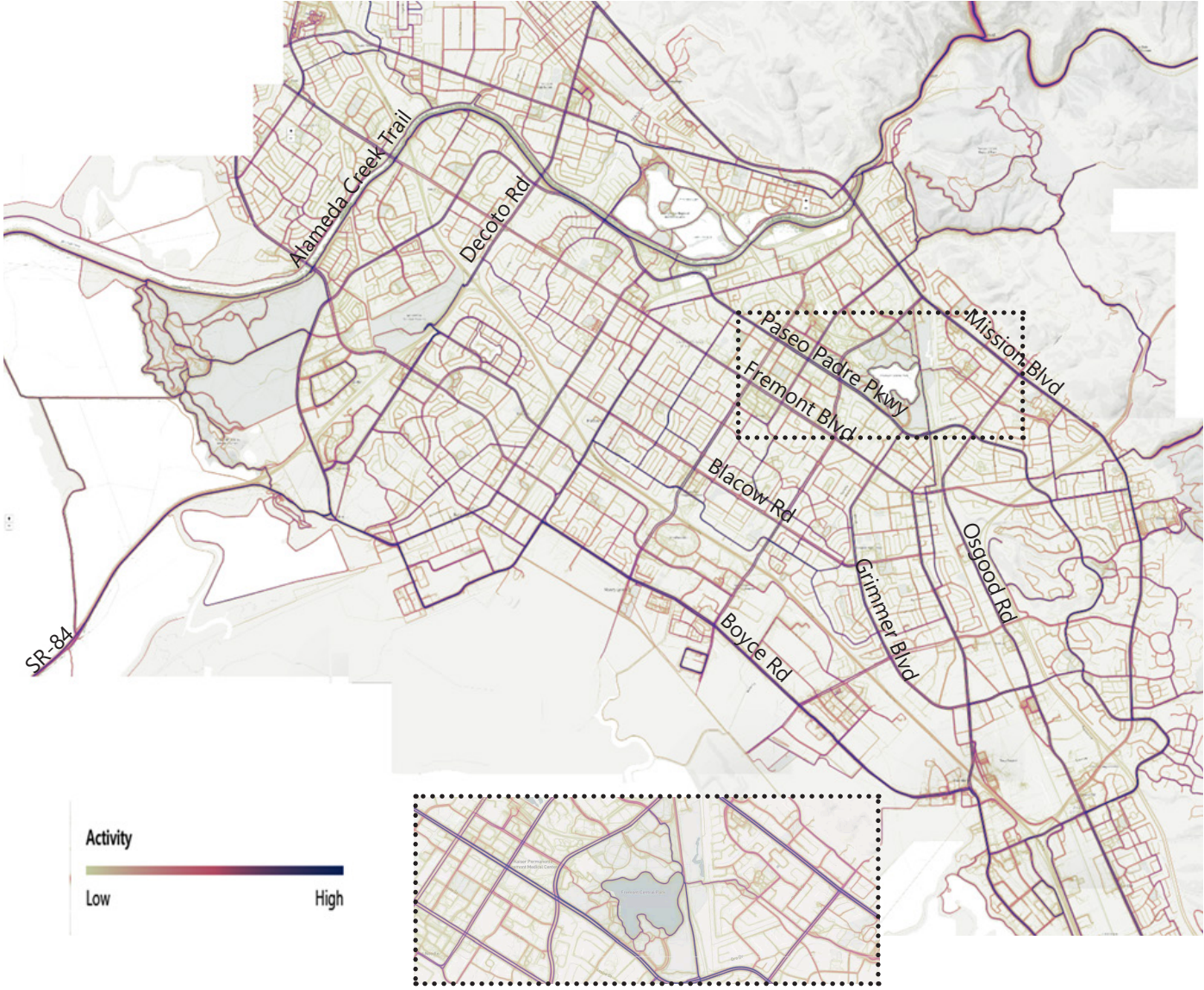
On-street routes that see very high levels of bicycle use include Mission Boulevard/Highway 238, Alvarado-Niles Road, Farwell Drive, and the on-street portions of the Bay Trail along Boyce Road, Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont Boulevard, Central Avenue, Eggers Drive, and Thornton Avenue/Highway 84. Also popular are Quarry Lakes Drive/Isherwood Way, Grimmer Boulevard, and Osgood Road.

One notable non-designated route that sees high bicycle use (and nearly as high pedestrian use) is the route through the Fremont park Golf Club. This is a proposed route, but not yet a designated route (see above).

Based on the popular on-street routes, the completion of the East Bay Greenway, the Richmond Avenue Channel Trail, the Hetch Hetchy East-West Trail, and the Hetch Hetchy North – South Trail would promote bicycle travel.

Routes in the hills that see high levels of bicycle use include Niles Canyon/Highway 84, Morrison Canyon Road, Vargas Road, trails up into Vargas Plateau Regional Park, and Mill Creek Road.

Strava Bicycle Route Heat Map



Excerpt from Strava Bicycle Heat Map

Strava Pedestrian Route Heat Map



Pedestrian Routes Relative to the Trail Network

The map below shows the pedestrian route heat map. For pedestrians, both sides of the Alameda Creek Trail are popular, particularly east of the Nimitz/I-880 Freeway. Trails in Coyote Hills Regional Park, Quarry Lakes Regional Recreation Area, and Fremont Central Park, particularly the loop around Lake Elizabeth, are popular with walkers. The Mission Creek, Sabercat and Brookvale, Cabrillo and Patterson Park trails, and Farwell Pathway are frequently-used.

Popular on-street routes include Commerce Drive, which leads to Coyote Hills Regional Park; Ridgewood Drive, which is adjacent to Ardenwood Regional Preserve; Thornton Avenue and Marshlands Road, which lead to trails in the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Preserve and are part of the Bay Trail; and Palm Avenue, which connects to the Mission Creek Trail. Paseo Padre Parkway,

Eggers Drive, Blacow Road, Stevenson Boulevard, and Grimmer Boulevard are also popular pedestrian routes.

Based on these popular on-street routes the completion of the Dumbarton Bridge to Quarry Lakes Trail, the East Bay Greenway, the Richmond Avenue Channel Trail, the Hetch Hetchy East-West Trail, the Hetch Hetchy North - South Trail, the gap closure in the Mission Creek Trail, and the bridge over I-680 connecting to the Sabercat Trail would particularly facilitate pedestrian travel.

In the hills, Mill Creek Road connecting to the Ohlone Trail and Ohlone College is a popular route, as are the trails into Vargas Plateau Regional Park and Mission Peak Regional Preserve.