

# TRAIL COUNT

# 2009

3rd Annual Count of Trail Users in San José



Count Station: Guadalupe River Trail at Park Avenue

## HOW MANY PEOPLE USE SAN JOSE TRAILS?

A count and survey of trail users occurred on Wednesday, September 23. Consistent with national guidelines, counts at 5 stations occurred during the morning (7:00 to 9:00 am) and afternoon (4:00 to 6:00 pm) peak travel periods. The Guadalupe River-Coleman Avenue station had a 12-hour count in order to compare with 2007 and 2008 data.

Two data collection methods were used, 1) count all

## MOTIVATING FACTORS

82.1% - exercise/fitness/health  
29.6% - environmental concern  
30.0% - saving money  
(count exceeds 100% because more than one than one answer was permitted)

pedestrians and bicyclists, and 2) users complete an on-line survey.

Count stations along the Guadalupe River saw increases in both AM and PM Peak periods. The Coleman Avenue station's 12-hour count documented a **24% increase**. This increase is substantial particularly since this same station documented an 86% the prior year due to a nearby gap closure at Airport Parkway.

Count stations along Highway 87 Bikeway and Los Gatos Creek/Auzerais Avenue also saw increased bicycle/pedestrian traffic (28% and 63%).

This year's survey questions focused on user safety:

- 68.3% reported feeling very safe and 31.3% felt somewhat safe. One respondent reported feeling not safe along the trails.
- No respondents indicated ever using an Emergency Call Box.
- 76.8% carry a cellular phone

- 48.7% would participate in a volunteer "Trail Watch" program, with 37.2% indicating possible participation.

Asked what one thing could make them feel safer, respondents answered:

- **26.5%** - Lighting
- **17.1%** - Patrols
- **14.5%** - Less vagrancy/related crimes
- **12.8%** - Improved maintenance
- **11.1%** - More users

## GUADALUPE RIVER

24% - increased usage (Coleman Avenue)

58.7% - commuting or errands

## OVERALL

COMBINED: 6 COUNT STATIONS

9.6% - increased usage (during AM, PM periods)

51.2% - commuting or errands

Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition



Guadalupe  
River Park & Gardens  
*A park for many reasons... A park for all seasons*



Trail Program  
[www.sjpark.org/trails](http://www.sjpark.org/trails)