

## Stewarding a Resilient Trail Network

Mathieu Roy, CEO of Trans Canada Trail





### **About the Trans Canada Trail**

- Longest recreational trail in the world: over 28,000 km (17,500 miles)
- 4 out of 5 Canadians live within 30 minutes of the Trail
- The Trail connects 15,000 communities across every province and territory
- We act as stewards with 600+ local partners











What is our role?

#### Our role

Trans Canada Trail advocates, stewards and champions for Canada's nationwide trail system, providing leadership and guidance, funding and resources, outreach and engagement.

#### A multi-facet approach to trail sustainability Transportation, Historic / Cultural Recreation and Protection, Social Tourism... Reconciliation... Physical / Mental Health Education DEIA... Economic Resources Culture, Community, Local Business. Employment... Nature... Managerial Governance, Partnerships Conservation, Cost Efficient, Knowledge, Expertise... Protection, Funding... Infrastructure Adaptation...

### The longest outdoor lab - Examples



#### **More severe local storms**

- Increased severity in local storms
- Generally not covered by disaster assistance
- Extensive volunteer hours to re-open



#### **Increased forest fires**

- Wide-spread trail closures
- Increased health risks outdoors
- Loss of tourism revenue
- Biodiversity loss



**Flood events** 

- Trail erosion and surface damage
- Structural damage to infrastructure
- Funding burdens on volunteer trail groups

### Research and consultation













# A gateway to Canada's natural environments

The Trail is an important resource for:

- physical activity
- social connection
- connection to nature

01

#### **Physical wellbeing**

 More than 2.6 million people use the Trail for physical activity every year

02

#### Mental wellbeing

 94% of trail users access the Trail to enhance their mental health

03

#### **Connection to nature**

 97% of Trail users access the Trail to connect with nature and enjoy the landscape

04

#### **Added value**

 89% of Trail users believe the Trail adds value to their community

## The Benefits of Connecting Canadians

- Data to demonstrate benefits are essential
- The Trail is a guardian for green spaces, particularly in urban settings
- Tool for flood mitigation, carbon sequestration, and protection against extreme weather events

- 220,000 jobs
- \$23 billion of economic impact along the Trail
- \$1.7 billion in healthcare savings/year
- \$62.6 million in mental healthcare savings/year
- \$82 million in equivalent of environmental services / year

# Mobile ID data to understand trail use trends

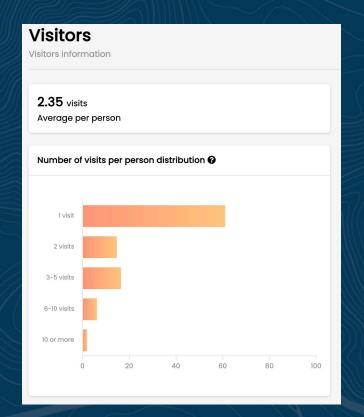
We've partnered with an ethical data firm to access and share trail visitation for local trails and the entire Trail

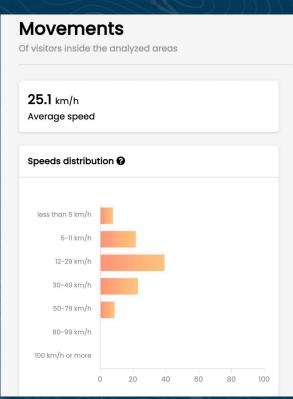


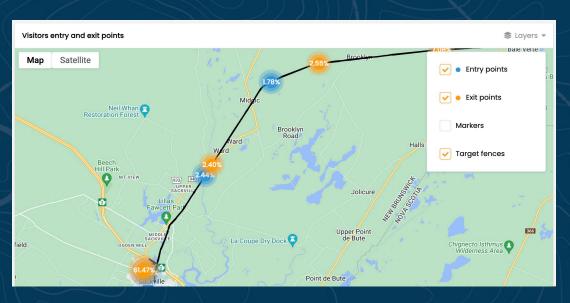
The preliminary results show that in 2022, Trans Canada Trail received:

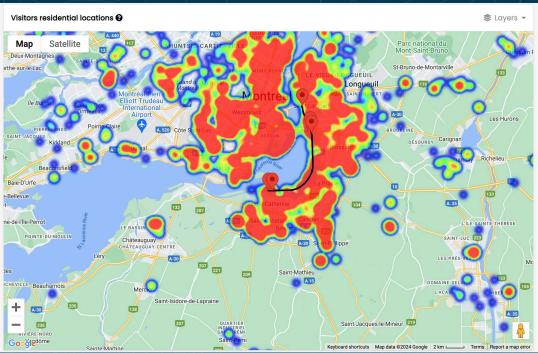
- A total for 2022, 240 million daily visits
- 12.5 million unique visitors











### WORLD TRAILS CONFERENCE

Ottawa 2024











### Register for the World Trails Conference

- September 30 October 3, 2024
- Keynote speakers include Carol Ritchie, Harvey Locke and Dianne Whelan
- Hosted in Canada's capital for the first time ever
- Visit worldtrailsconference.org to register today



# Email mroy@tctrail.ca to learn more about the Trail