



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Village Hall – 400 Park Ave., River Forest, IL

You may submit your written public comments via email in advance of the meeting to: sjansen@vrf.us
You may listen to the meeting by participating in a Zoom conference call as follows: dial-in number: 312-626-6799 with meeting ID: 816 4491 8569 or by clicking [here](#). If you would like to speak during public comment, please email sjansen@vrf.us by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Public Comment
3. Adoption of Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2025
4. Commissioner Updates
5. Bird City Illinois Update
6. Native Plants Discussion
7. Communications and Staff Reports
 - a. Solar Guide
 - b. EV Charging Report
 - c. Project Updates
 - d. Communications
8. Recycling
9. Schedule Next Meeting – November 11, 2025
10. Adjournment

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Sustainability Commission was held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Avalos, Hoyt, and Marti

Absent: Commissioner Hayley, Student Commissioner Stierwalt

Also Present: Staff Liaison Seth Jansen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Marti made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to approve the meeting minutes from August 12, 2025, with the Correction identified by Commissioner Kadlec.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Avalos, Hoyt, and Marti

Absent: Commissioner Hayley

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

4. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

Commissioner Marti was introduced as the most recently appointed Commissioner. Commissioner Avalos noted the upcoming Illinois Environmental Council Gala event. Co-Chair Charrette mentioned the passage of the new EV Charging Station fees for the Village with the new fees to take effect soon. Co-Chair Charrette also suggested follow up outreach regarding the Styrofoam food ware ordinance, noting that Trinity High School just learned of the ordinance and made the switch and a food truck a Forest Preserve event was also using Styrofoam recently.

Commissioner Hoyt discussed the Roosevelt Middle School Native Plant Sale from 9 am to 11 am on Saturday October 4th. Commissioner Hoyt noted that the funds raised from the sale will go to Forest Preserve habitat restoration projects.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Jansen outlined the planned newsletter and social media posts for the coming weeks. Commissioner Hoyt offered to write a post on International Migratory Bird Day in October and suggested a Leave the Leaves article for a week in October as well.

Mr. Jansen outlined his memo on Community Solar enrollment. The Commission agreed that the program needs to be further promoted to residents in easy-to-understand ways.

Mr. Jansen summarized the recommendations provided to the Village through the Village's participation in the America In Bloom program as part of the grant from CN Railway.

6. MIGRATORY BIRD DISCUSSION

Mr. Jansen briefly summarized the Bird City Illinois Program and its requirements. Co-Chair Lennon suggested looking across various programs, including the Bird City Illinois Program, the America In Bloom recommendations, and other similar programs to identify actions that can be undertaken to achieve requirements for multiple programs.

Commissioner Hoyt outlined his plan to pursue Bird City Illinois designation, providing audio of the Common Nighthawk nesting in River Forest. Commissioner Hoyt outlined how a plan aimed at raising awareness of the bird and its habitat could be used to achieve Bird City designation while focusing on promoting bird habitats for a specific species, noting that Support of a Focal Species is an action item within the program. He noted the Common Nighthawk is a bird in steep decline in urban environments. The bird prefers flat gravel rooftops for nesting and that many larger properties within the Village, such as Dominican or Concordia, may be suitable nesting habitats. The Commission discussed the topic and ways to raise awareness for residents. The Commission agreed to continue to revisit the topic, and staff would provide support as needed. Commissioner Hoyt and Co-Chair Charrette indicated they would continue to work on the issue.

7. NATIVE PLANTS AND GREEN SPACES PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION

Mr. Jansen summarized the memo and UIC Climate Plan recommendations relating to native plants. Commissioner Hoyt suggested taking a comprehensive look at Village and Park District property which may be suitable. The Commission agreed to discuss the topic in further detail at the October meeting.

8. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 14, 2025

The Commission reached a consensus to hold its next meeting Tuesday, October 14, 2025.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hoyt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kadlec, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Co-Chair Charrette, Co-Chair Lennon, Commissioners Kadlec, Avalos, Hoyt, and Marti

Absent: Commissioner Hayley

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Seth Jansen, Secretary

Guide to Solar Energy

There are many ways to go green with solar energy. The number of options and types of program can be confusing. The River Forest Sustainability Commission has developed the below table to help you navigate the various existing solar programs. Residents can also sign up to receive a free Guide to Solar from the Illinois Citizens Utility Board [here](#).

Rooftop Solar	Community Solar	Green Electric Aggregation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panels installed on your roof (or ground mounted in your yard). • You hire a contractor. • Permit required from the Building Department. • You own the panels. • You receive credit on your electricity bill for the electricity the panels produce. • Info on permit process found here. • Cook County Switch Together is a solar group buy program where vetted solar installers compete against each other to offer their best price. Learn more here. • Nonresidential properties can find low-cost, long-term financing options for solar installations through the Cook County Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program found here. • Illinois Citizens Utility Board offers further information in their Rooftop Solar Fact Sheet found here. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opt-in Program where you sign-up. • Administered by MC2, but a separate program from the Green Electric Aggregation program. • You subscribe to a portion of a large, offsite solar project. • No need to install equipment on your property. • You receive credits on the electricity supply portion of your ComEd bill. • MC2 then separately bills you for 90% of the net metering credits. • You save a net 10% of the community solar credits on the supply portion of their electricity bill. • You can learn more and sign up to participate here. • The Illinois Citizens Utility Board explains how community solar programs work here. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opt-out program where you are notified and automatically enrolled. • You are not required to participate and may opt-out at any time with no fee. • Administered by MC2, but a separate program from the Community Solar program. • Provides residents and small businesses with electricity that supports renewable energy projects and offsets CO2 emissions. • You pay the same rate as the standard ComEd rate and continue to receive their monthly electricity bills through ComEd. • Learn more about the program here.

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

- [Electric Vehicle Readiness](#)
- [Guide to Heat Pumps](#)
- [Guide to Induction Stoves](#)

Waste Less

Create a Green Ecosystem

Conserve and Manage Water

River Forest and Regional Goals

River Forest Sustainability Scorecard



Village of River Forest
Public Works and Engineering

400 Park Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305
Tel: 708-366-8500

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 13, 2025

To: Sustainability Commission

From: Seth Jansen, Assistant to the Director of Public Works

Subj: Quarterly Charging Station and Electric Vehicle Report

The below and attached report provides the following Charging and Electric Vehicle Metrics for Quarter 3: July through September 2025:

- EVs and hybrid vehicles registered within the Village
- EV charging station installation permits during the reporting quarter
- Usage data for the Village-owned EVCS, including:
 - o Number of charging sessions
 - o Number of unique users
 - o Length of charging sessions histogram

Due to the recent change in charging fee structure, three additional attachments are included. A second charging session length histogram is included to show the charging lengths after the new fee was implemented on September 15th; this shows that the average charging session is still approximately 2 hours. An additional charge illustrates the total number of charging sessions by day for the month of September. There is a noticeable dip in daily number of charging sessions and in daily number of unique drivers after the new fee was put into place; this indicates many drivers were making use of the two free charging hours.

River Forest Vehicle Registration
Statistics as of June 2025

Electric Vehicles	354
Hybrid Vehicles	770

Electric Vehicle Charging Station
Installation Permits – By Quarter

Q1	1
Q2	3
Q3	3
Q4	

2025 Quarterly Metrics

Quarter	Sessions	Unique Drivers
Q1	761	67
Q2	730	89
Q3	866	78
Q4		

2025 Monthly Metrics

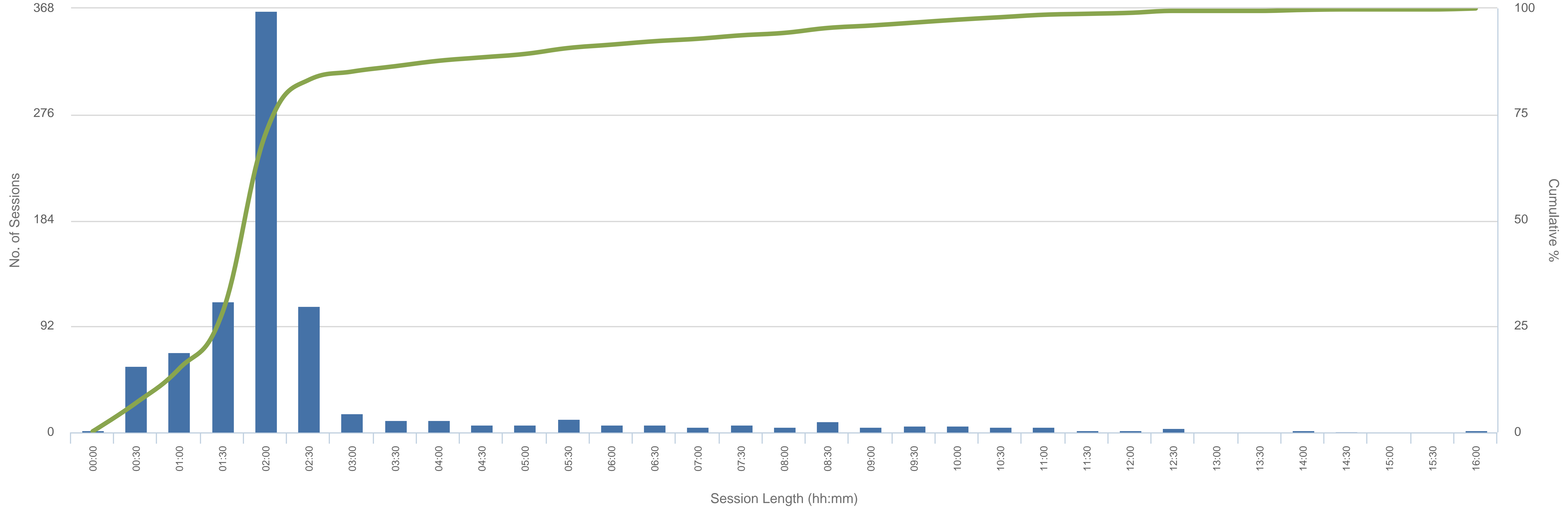
Month	Sessions	Unique Drivers
January	293	37
February	236	39
March	232	42
April	221	51
May	262	43
June	247	54
July	303	48
August	321	44
September	242	46
October		
November		
December		

Attachment:

- Charging Session Length Histogram: July-September
- Charging Session Length Histogram: Sept 15 – Sept 30 (after pricing change)
- Charging Sessions Per Day: September
- Unique Drivers Per Day: September

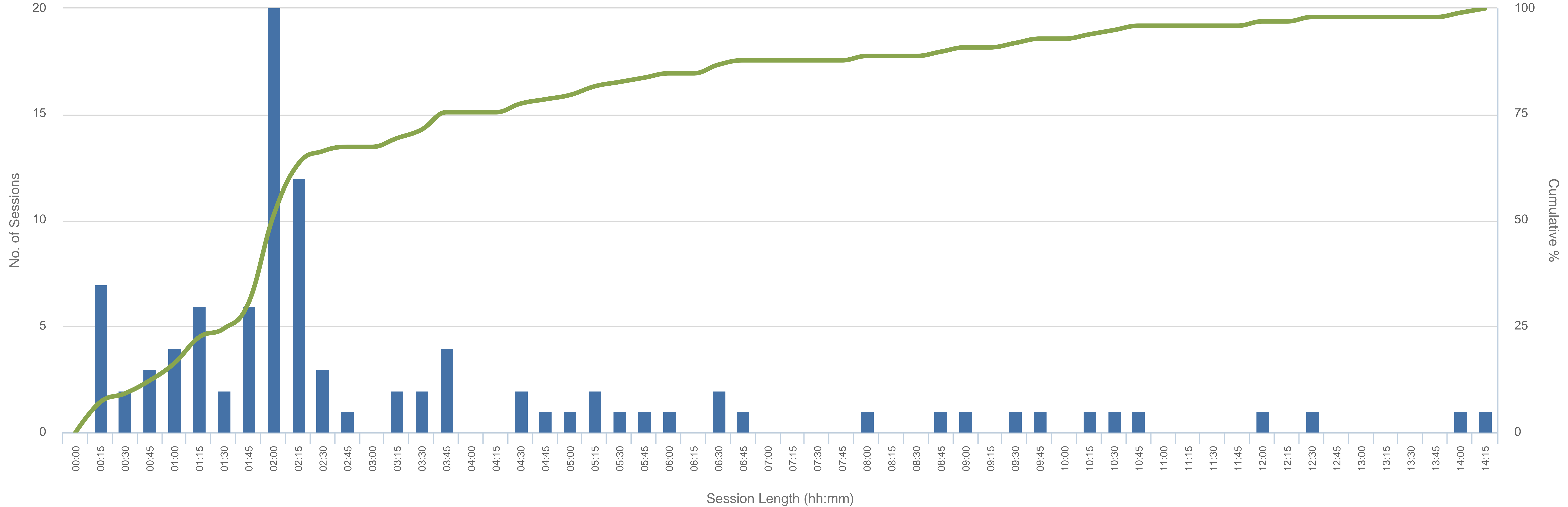
Session Length Histogram Custom

No. of Sessions
Cumulative %



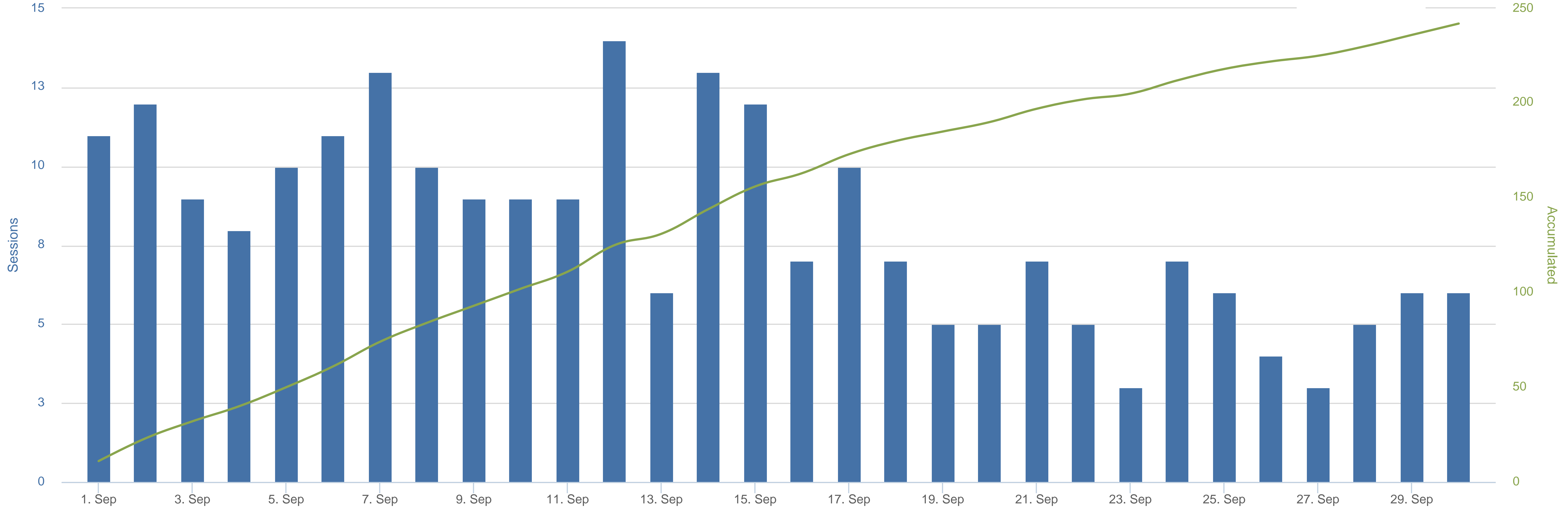
Session Length Histogram Custom

No. of Sessions
Cumulative %



Sessions Custom

Sessions
Accumulated



Unique Drivers Custom

Unique Drivers
No. of Ports

