

Reasons Why Trails Are A Benefit:

Kids

Trails improve opportunities for children:

- Providing “quality time” with family in a safe and close to home environment
- Encouraging and facilitating opportunities for exercise
- Providing access to “outdoor” classrooms for learning and community service
- Creating positive life- long experiences
- Teaching respect and stewardship of the environment
- Increasing educational experiences

The Environment

Trails promote natural resource management strategies that ensure environmental preservation, quality of life and economic development:

- Providing a “buffer” between the built and natural environments
- Allowing passive recreational use and educational access to protected areas
- Protection of habitat and the environment
- Providing corridors for people and wildlife
- Increasing the value open space to the public by providing access
- Enhancing property values of communities by connecting them to open space areas
- Providing an alternative mode of transportation
- Encouraging cleaner air by decreasing air pollution by automobiles
- Supporting communities and businesses through eco-tourism
- Preserving culturally and historically valuable areas

Safe and Livable Communities

Trails promote safe and livable communities:

- Providing convenient, safe, non-motorized travel throughout the community
- Reducing crime and illegal activity through regular use and high visibility of users
- Connecting communities to parks, schools, shopping and other recreational facilities
- Providing affordable exercise and recreational opportunities within the community
- Encouraging opportunities to meet and interact with neighbors
- Increasing property values

Community Wide Benefits

- Promotion of healthy lifestyles by encouraging physical fitness, increasing recreational opportunities and improving air and water quality
- Provide opportunities for physical activity to improve fitness and mental health
- Preservation of cultural and historic areas
- Improve the economy through tourism and civic improvements