

Other Community Benefits of Trails and Greenways

Social Benefits

- Trails are the community's front porch
- Everyone is welcome
- Connect segments of communities together, provide a place for neighbors to meet and interact
- Diversity in trail uses/users promotes tolerance
- Common positive interest in the welfare of trail
- Different motivations for trail use
- Trails are a link, not a barrier compared to some infrastructure
- Trails allow people to re-reconnect with nature



Psychological Benefits

- Confidence from competence
- Trail users choose how they want to use trail, some walk, some skate, some ride bike, some use adaptive mobility device, etc
- Opportunity to develop skills, voluntary activity
- Family/group friendly setting
- Facilitates individuality while part of a group
- Opportunity to volunteer/give back
 - Safety patrol
 - Friends group
 - Maintenance, fund raising, special projects

Knowledge Benefits

- Environmental knowledge
 - Use interpretive signage/brochures to promote discovery learning about diverse habitats and unique ecosystems
- Relate trail connectivity to environmental interdependence
- Community awareness
- Better acquaintance with businesses, neighborhoods, etc.
- Historical sense - Most trails and greenways use former railroads, waterways, Native American foot trails, etc.
 - Interpretive signage/brochures/historic sites make history come alive



Create safer neighborhoods – Neighborhoods that provide trails, greenways, parks, sidewalks, neighborhoods increase opportunities to be out and active, connect and interact - Indiana Trails Study provides examples

- 85.5% of trail users responding to the IN Trails Study viewed the trail as safe.
 - An average of 61% of trail neighbors felt the trail was a better neighbor than expected.
 - An average of 69% indicated that the trail IMPROVED their neighborhood.
- (Summary of Indiana Trails Study can be found at www.in.gov/dot/projects/trails)