KEEP
LEFT | RIGHT
There are many issues surrounding trails that both users and managers must face when it comes to using, developing and maintaining trails in Indiana. Depending on the point of view, the issues fall into five general categories: economics, development, safety, management and liability.

Trail providers, trail neighbors and trail users all are stakeholders in the success or failure of any trail project. Some issues are dealt with on the trail. Other issues must be addressed through larger, broader based strategies implemented by trail managing entities and at various levels of government.

Trail providers are concerned about funding, developing and managing trails. Trail management entails resolving user conflicts, developing a maintenance plan and working with trail user groups to keep the trails in peak condition. Trail users are concerned with locating and accessing trails suitable to their chosen activity. Interactions with other trail users, trail conditions and appropriate trail amenities are more examples of issues that concern trail users.

Trail neighbors are often the most vocal in calling for their issues to be addressed. Impact on local communities and land values, safety and trail management often concern people who live next door to a trail. An open approach and careful attention to detail throughout a given trail project from start to finish will satisfy the concerns of those lucky few who have the opportunity to have a trail for a neighbor.

By working together, the combined forces of local, state and federal governments with private interest can provide solutions to the issues that affect trails in Indiana. This public-private partnership approach will ultimately provide a comprehensive trail network in Indiana.

**TRAILS MANAGEMENT ISSUES SURVEY**

The purpose of the Trails Management Issues Study was to identify current trail management issues that relate to the availability and use of trails; the availability of trail information; the planning and development of trails; trail design; funding for trail maintenance and develop-
### Entities responding to the Indiana Trails Management Issues survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Responded %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US Forest Service</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wabash Heritage Corridor Commission</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails Advisory Board</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO Trails Managing Entities</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Groups</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council of Foundations</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Park Managers</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC &amp; D Members</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and Building Agencies</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Board Presidents</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Parks Service</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Trusts</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Park and Recreation Directors</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDOT</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana M.P.O's</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Off-Road Clubs</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Hiking Clubs</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRAC Members</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Forest Managers</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bike Clubs</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APA/IPA Members</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What is your organization’s view toward land acquisition for trail development?

![Bar chart showing percentages of respondents for different views on land acquisition.]

Standardized signs and symbols should be used throughout the state to designate trail activities.

![Bar chart showing percentages of respondents for different levels of agreement on standardized signs and symbols.]

[99x126] THE INDIANA STATE TRAILS, GREENWAYS & BIKEWAYS PLAN

CHAPTER 6
Trail developments and renovations must comply with the latest ADA accessibility standards.

Is your community included in a regional trails plan that includes connections to other communities?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent Responding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No regional plan for trails/trail networks</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No funds for a regional trail</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No interest in regional trails</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do not know</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Interpretive signage along trails are important.

When planning and designing trails, do you try to connect community destinations such as schools, recreation facilities, commercial districts and cultural/historic sites?
Adjoining landowners and businesses must be involved in planning for trail development.

In terms of need for your service population, trail development is less important than other facility development.
Do you use volunteers for any of the following activities?

- No response: 2.8%
- Other: 2.5%
- Not applicable: 30.9%
- Do not use volunteers: 9.4%
- Trail safety and security: 0.6%
- Trail maintenance: 16.0%
- Trail construction projects: 14.6%
- Trail design: 23.2%

Are health and wellness professionals closely involved in the planning of your trails?

- Yes: 14.6%
- No, health and wellness professionals in community are not interested: 2.5%
- No time to involve them: 3.0%
- No, had not previously considered: 25.4%
- No, do not consider it necessary: 10.8%
- No, do not know how to involve them: 4.7%
- Not applicable: 30.4%
- Other: 5.8%
- No answer: 2.8%
What media do you use to promote your trail system?

- Web site: 45.3%
- Informational booklet / brochure: 11.0%
- Radio/television: 1.7%
- Presentations at schools, Rotary, scouts, etc.: 2.5%
- Special events (fairs, festivals, etc.): 0.6%
- Newspapers/magazines: 1.7%
- None: 8.8%
- Not applicable: 24.6%
- Other: 1.7%
- No response: 2.2%

Does your organization coordinate with other agencies and organizations for trail system development and management?

- State government: 36.7%
- City: 17.1%
- County: 6.4%
- Township: 1.4%
- Federal government: 0.3%
- Non-governmental organizations: 3.3%
- Do not coordinate with other agencies: 9.9%
- Not applicable: 19.3%
- Other: 3.3%
- No answer: 2.2%
Do you provide information on the benefits of trail use?

- Do not provide trail benefit information: 27.3%
- Flyers/brochures/newsletters: 26.8%
- Web site: 4.4%
- Presentations at schools, Rotary, scouts, etc.: 5.2%
- Newspapers/magazines/professional journals: 1.9%
- Not applicable: 29.8%
- Other: 3.0%
- No response: 1.4%

Do you feel legislative action will assist in the further development of multi-use trail networks?

- Definitely will not help: 1.7%
- Probably will not help: 7.2%
- No opinion: 21.3%
- Probably will help: 40.1%
- Definitely will help: 28.2%
- No response: 1.7%
There should be state legislation that supports the acquisition of former railroad corridors for the development of trails.

Does your community have ordinances and regulations that facilitate trail development?

- Yes, trail impact fees: 3.90%
- Yes, land use zoning: 11.00%
- Yes, land development: 5.50%
- No: 48.60%
- Not applicable: 18.80%
- Other: 5.20%
- No response: 6.90%
Developing trails that serve high-density populations should be a higher priority than developing trails that serve less dense populations.

There is adequate information available describing how to determine optimal construction materials and essential trail features.
There is a need for research to identify common problems and possible solutions to trail development, planning and maintenance.

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### Does your organization use a specific set of guidelines for its day-to-day trail maintenance?

- **Yes**: 8.8%
- **No time to implement**: 4.1%
- **Do not consider it necessary**: 8.0%
- **No funds available**: 3.0%
- **Not aware of UTAP assessment program**: 27.3%
- **In future plans**: 8.3%
- **Not applicable**: 37.0%
- **No response**: 3.3%
Are you using Universal Trail Assessment Program to evaluate trail difficulty and accessibility?

- Yes: 8.6%
- No time to implement: 4.1%
- Do not consider it necessary: 8.0%
- No funds available: 3.0%
- Not aware of UTAP assessment program: 27.3%
- In future plans: 8.3%
- Not applicable: 37.0%
- No response: 3.3%

TRAIL ISSUES IN INDIANA

Based on trail user and manager survey research, discussions with trail providers and input from trail users, the following trail issues need to be addressed in order to...
provide a comprehensive network of trails that are accessible and available for Hoosier residents.

- Efforts in trail development, planning and design need to be better coordinated at local, state and federal levels.
- Trail opportunities are not considered when making decisions regarding road right-of-way projects, bridge development and expansion projects, and road abandonment.
- Members of the healthcare community are not players in providing trails.
- Landowners, not-for-profits, and businesses are not encouraged to participate in all phases from initiation of the trail’s concept to its final completion.
- Trails are not considered in the planning, development and design of public transit systems, nor are public transit systems considered when developing trails.
- Engineers, architects and planners are often not consulted in various phases of the trail development process to ensure natural resource preservation and ADA compliance.

- Trail funds to build and maintain trails do not adequately meet the demand for acquiring, developing and maintaining trails.
- There is a misconception that federal and local mechanisms only fund non-motorized trails in Indiana.
- There is no state funding mechanism to augment annual operating budgets and capital expenditure for acquiring and developing both motorized and non-motorized trails.
- Impact fees are not used consistently for trail funding.
- There are few incentives to use private sources of funding from entities such as foundations and corporations who have interests in trails and the health benefits derived from trail use.
- Current funding restrictions are prohibitive for not-for-profits to acquire and develop trails.
- Current funding mechanisms do not get trails (on the ground) built in a timely fashion.
- Land is becoming unavailable for trail use.
- State legislation does not support the acquisition of former railroad corridors for trail development in a
timely manner.
• Trails are not generally considered or included in land use planning.
• The size and number of areas for the legal operation of ATVs, motorcycles, off-road bicycles, equestrian use and off-highway vehicles is inadequate.
• Current state properties for the legal operation of ATVs, motorcycles, off-road bicycles and off-highway vehicles are understaffed.
• Information on the location and availability of trails is often difficult for the user to find and often does not provide information on trail conditions, level of difficulty or information regarding ADA accessibility.
• There is a distinct lack of research on trails and trail related issues in Indiana.
• Information on the benefits of trail use and the economic benefits of trails in Indiana is lacking and not available to the public.
• The use of educational materials about trail use and environmental ethics/etiquette needs to be developed and promoted.
• Interpretation of the natural, historical and cultural features of trails is not encouraged nor supported.
• Multilingual signage where appropriate to accommodate a more diverse citizenship is not provided.
• There is not general use of standardized signs and symbols to designate trail activities, explain trail conditions and facilitate trail navigation.
• There is no mechanism in place to manage trails on a regional basis.
• A clear picture of the role of the state in acquiring, developing and managing trails in Indiana is lacking.