

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
ONLINE TRAILS STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESULTS

APPENDIX D

Please indicate your opinion of the following items.

Answer Options	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	No Opinion	Agree	Strongly Agree	Response Count
There should be state legislation that actively supports the acquisition of former railroad corridors for development of trails	9	9	35	160	274	487
Standardized signs and symbols should be used statewide to designate trail activities	3	9	47	179	241	479
Roadway improvements that incorporate bike/pedestrian facilities are important for trail expansion and providing modes of alternative transportation	6	19	52	172	239	488
There is a need for research to identify common problems and possible solutions to trail development, planning and maintenance	6	20	69	210	178	483
Adjoining landowners and businesses must be involved in planning for trail development and management	7	34	60	253	132	486
There is adequate information on how to determine specific optimal trails construction materials and essential features	24	129	198	97	33	481
Current funding of trails maintenance and operations is adequate	167	223	70	15	10	485
Answered Questions						489
Skipped Questions						4

Does your community have ordinances and regulations that facilitate trail development? (choose all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No	39.8%	131
Yes, land use zoning	17.3%	57
Yes, land developer requirements	11.9%	39
Yes, trail impact fees	6.7%	22
Not applicable	28.0%	92
Answered Questions		329
Skipped Questions		164

How important do you feel the following trail issues are? (choose one response per issue)

Answer Options	Not Important	Somewhat Important	No Opinion	Important	Very Important	Response Count
Building more trails	6	13	4	127	335	485
Linking together existing trails	11	18	16	167	274	486
Designating a state funding source for trails	6	9	24	186	261	486
Building long distance trails	12	25	22	174	255	488
Designating a state funding source for trail maintenance per Indiana Code 14-19-10	5	12	74	179	212	482
Acquiring more land for trails	8	15	35	215	210	483
Developing trails close to home	12	39	43	185	206	485
Publishing trails maps and guides	5	26	26	231	200	485
Developing bike commuting trails	23	47	51	186	179	486
Developing mountain bike trails	46	77	76	123	162	484
Developing equestrian trails	86	80	97	83	144	490
Changing the state's railbanking policy on easement acquisition	5	10	250	118	88	471
Developing water trails	45	66	137	162	74	484
Improving trails for people with disabilities	18	99	81	216	72	486
Making changes to state law: Indiana Code 8-4.5	5	7	330	69	45	456
Developing trails for motorized use	274	80	64	36	35	489
Answered Questions						493
Skipped Questions						0

What approximate percentage of your total annual budget is used for trails maintenance?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0 - 5 percent	17.5%	78
6 - 10 percent	2.7%	12
11 - 15 percent	1.3%	6
16 - 20 percent	1.3%	6
21-25 percent	0.9%	4
Between 26 - 50 percent	1.8%	8
Over 50 percent	6.5%	29
Do not know	67.9%	303
Answered Questions		446
Skipped Questions		47

What is the percentage of the local tax base that goes to developing local trails?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Less than 1 percent	19.4%	87
1 - 2 percent	2.5%	11
2 - 5 percent	1.3%	6
Greater than 5 percent	0.7%	3
Do not know	76.1%	341
Answered Questions		448
Skipped Questions		45

What type of trail uses do your trails provide? (choose all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Pedestrian (all uses: such as run, jog, skate, walk, etc)	62.0%	227
Natural surface trail use (all uses: such as Mtn Bike, Hike, Equestrian, etc)	59.8%	219
Hardened surface trail use (bicycle and pedestrian)	47.5%	174
Equestrian	30.1%	110
Road Bicycle	29.5%	108
Hardened surface trail use (pedestrian only)	15.8%	58
Water-based (canoe/kayak)	8.7%	32
Motorized	6.0%	22
Answered Questions		366
Skipped Questions		127

Is your organization/community included in a regional trails plan that includes connections to other communities? (choose all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	37.3%	137
No regional plan for trails/trail networks	12.8%	47
No funds for a regional trail	10.9%	40
No interest in regional trails	0.8%	3
Do not know	38.7%	142
Not applicable	7.9%	29
Answered Questions		367
Skipped Questions		126

When planning and designing trails, do you try to connect community destinations such as schools, recreational facilities, commercial districts and cultural/historic sites? (choose all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	44.9%	158
No funding	12.5%	44
No, community destinations are too spread out to consider	5.1%	18
No time to plan and design trails for connecting community destinations	4.8%	17
The community has no interest in connecting community destinations	1.4%	5
Not applicable	37.8%	133
Answered Questions		352
Skipped Questions		141

Are health and wellness professionals closely involved in the planning of your trails? (choose all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, they are involved	25.3%	88
No, had not previously considered	14.1%	49
No, do not know how to involve them	9.2%	32
No, health and wellness professionals in my community are not interested	6.6%	23
No, do not consider it necessary	6.0%	21
No time to involve them	2.6%	9
Not applicable	34.2	119
Answered Questions		348
Skipped Questions		145

Does your organization coordinate with other agencies and organizations for trail system development and management? (choose all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
State government	52.0%	179
Non-governmental organizations (such as non-profits/friends groups)	42.4%	146
County	41.6%	143
City	38.1%	131
Town	26.7%	92
Federal government	25.9%	89
Township	19.8%	68
Do not coordinate with other agencies	3.8%	13
Not applicable	19.2%	66
Answered Questions		344
Skipped Questions		149

Please indicate any funding/fiscal management methods you have utilized for trails in the past five years. (choose all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Applied for grants	62.0%	168
Received donations	59.4%	161
Did fundraising	46.9%	127
Worked with a foundation	33.6%	91
Asked local business for funding	31.0%	84
Pursued public-private partnership	21.4%	58
Sold advertising space to local businesses (sponsorships)	8.9%	24
Private funding in exchange for naming rights to facilities/events/programs	7.0%	19
We did not use any of these methods in the last five years, but plan to do so in the future	6.6%	18
Levied taxes	5.2%	14
We did not/do not plan to seek additional funding	4.8%	13
Passed a bond	2.2%	6
Closed facilities	0.7%	2
	Answered Questions	271
	Skipped Questions	222

What is your community or organizations primary source of funding for trails?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Donations	28.9%	98
Grants	26.3%	89
General fund taxes	11.8%	40
User fees/gate fee	5.6%	19
Dedicated fund taxes/fees	1.5%	5
Not applicable	16.5%	56
Other (please specify)	9.4%	32
	Answered Questions	339
	Skipped Questions	154

Number	Other (please specify)	Categories
1	Tax increment finance district funds	
2	Volunteers	
4	Users do everything themselves and pay for it themselves	
6	Membership dues	
9	Shirt and sticker sales, trail guides, general donations	
10	I don't know	
12	Non-profit group	
14	Working on horse trails ourselves	
17	Private money	
22	We raise money through a race series	
23	Both donations and grants equally	
24	Membership dues and national fund raising	
25	Club dues and local bike shops	
26	Mixture of private donations, and state and federal money	
28	Parks or Streets Budgets	
32	Community Economic Development Income Tax	

How does your community or organization view its role in relation to trails? (choose all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Building new trails	75.3%	238
Maintaining existing trails	74.7%	236
Promoting trails/health	64.6%	204
Buying land for trails	23.4%	74
Other (please specify)	6.6%	21
Answered Questions		316
Skipped Questions		177

Number	Other (please specify)	Categories
2	Develop a master plan which includes trails as part of a park system	
3	Fundraising	
5	Would like to see more involvement/development	
6	Indianapolis spends the bare minimum on parks	
7	We use to build and maintain trails, hold night ride events, but was told that our service and presents was no longer required.	
9	Funding trail development	
11	We partner with community organizations to help them build and maintain trails	
13	Advocating in the community for trails	
15	Putting horse trails alone side walking and riding trails	
17	Not on the radar of officials	
18	They are only focused on the paved trails	
20	Considering establishing 5-10K walks and runs and just getting the community out side and enjoying the trail features.	
21	Economic development and environmental restoration	

Please indicate any methods you have used in the last five years to address staffing challenges for trails? (choose all that apply)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Used or increased use of volunteers	76.9%	206
Worked with 'friends of trail' groups	48.5%	130
Partnered with local non-profits	31.3%	84
Partnered with government agencies	31.0%	83
Partnered with local FOR-profit agencies/businesses	16.0%	43
Other (please specify)	10.1%	27
Answered Questions		268
Skipped Questions		225

Number	Other (please specify)	Categories
1	Community corrections	
3	Wrote articles in local paper explaining our mission	
4	Added staff	
5	Volunteers	
6	Users do everything themselves and that is fine	
9	Were told services were no longer needed that the trails would take care of themselves	
11	Assigned staff to maintain trails	
12	Have not started yet. Almost there	
13	All volunteer membership-based organization	
16	Not enough horse riders involved so we were asked to leave	
18	Partnered with National Non Profits	
19	We use an adopt a mile program for maintenance	
24	Partnered with NIMBA to develop and maintain mountain bike trail	

Please indicate from the list below which measures you have taken/used in the past five years to address the need for land for trails in your community.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant	50.9%	113
Cooperation with private landowners	35.1%	78
Funding programs through INDOT (all types)	24.8%	55
Indiana DNR Heritage Trust or Bicentennial Nature Trust Funding Programs	19.4%	43
Utility corridors	18.0%	40
Land trust or other non-profit landowners	16.2%	36
Conservation easement with other landowners	9.9%	22
Partnered with local schools for public use of their land or recreational facilities	9.0%	20
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant	7.2%	16
Other (please specify)	17.6%	39
Answered Questions		222
Skipped Questions		271

Number	Other (please specify)	Categories
2	LWCF/RTP in past; TIF funds	
3	sponsored our own bike ride for donations and fund raising	
4	funding through OCRA	
7	Helped when trail group needed volunteers and fundraisers	
13	IN DNR with no luck	
14	Federal grants	
15	County parks dept partnership	
17	We work with DNR to use existing public land to build new trails	
22	Proposed Equestrian Trails for Prophetstown State Park	
24	partnered with parks departments to build mountain bike trails	
30	2008 State Trail Grant	
35	Rail corridor acquisition and conversion	
36	Not sure what the county or city has in mind to develop any future trails	
38	FHWA Funding	
39	Dedicated use of EDIT funds for remediation and trail development	