

## Appendix B: Methodology



**Research Protocol****Trail Use Counts**

Trail counts will be conducted using infrared trail counters placed at various locations on each trail throughout the months of July, August and September. Trail counter distribution is defined as below:

	Pensey Trail	Prairie Duneland Trail	Cardinal Trail	Monon Trail	Maple City Trail	Fort Wayne River Trail
Trail length <i>in miles</i>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>
Counter locations	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Rotate counter to new location	<b>n/a</b>	<b>10 days</b>	<b>10 days</b>	<b>10 days</b>	<b>10 days</b>	<b>10 days</b>
Intercept survey locations	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

**Locations:** Trail counter locations will be determined in consultation with the local agency responsible for the trail. To compensate for trail users not crossing trail counter locations, a series of passes with bicycle riders and access point observers will be used to create a 100% trail count during these weeks. This process will compensate for the varying use levels on different sections of the trails.

**Counters:** One (1) type of infrared reflective counter will be used in the study with downloadable data capacity to count 8,000 events. Staff and volunteers will need to download data from the counters to download units throughout the study months. Counters will be validated by observation to determine any error rate in the infrared technology.

**Use Levels:** Longer trails will be instrumented completely in October by installing more than one trail counter along the length of the trail for one week.

## Summary Report

### Survey Intercepts/Stops

An assumption that varying use levels are based on location is made for each trail. As such, the survey of users through intercepts/stops will be completed during *one week each* in July and August, in four locations (L<sup>1</sup>-L<sup>4</sup>) on each trail over 3 time frames in a day. The intercept survey will be a two-stage survey where every *n*th adult user will be asked if they would participate in a short interview followed up by a more extensive mail survey. Stop rotations on each trail will be scheduled as below.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7-11 a.m.	L <sup>1</sup>	L <sup>4</sup>	L <sup>3</sup>	L <sup>2</sup>	L <sup>1</sup>	L <sup>1</sup> L <sup>2</sup> L <sup>3</sup> L <sup>4</sup>	L <sup>1</sup> L <sup>2</sup> L <sup>3</sup> L <sup>4</sup>
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.	L <sup>2</sup>	L <sup>1</sup>	L <sup>4</sup>	L <sup>3</sup>	L <sup>2</sup>	L <sup>1</sup> L <sup>2</sup> L <sup>3</sup> L <sup>4</sup>	L <sup>1</sup> L <sup>2</sup> L <sup>3</sup> L <sup>4</sup>
3-7 p.m.	L <sup>3</sup>	L <sup>2</sup>	L <sup>1</sup>	L <sup>4</sup>	L <sup>3</sup>	L <sup>1</sup> L <sup>2</sup> L <sup>3</sup> L <sup>4</sup>	L <sup>1</sup> L <sup>2</sup> L <sup>3</sup> L <sup>4</sup>

Stop Protocol: Stop every *n*th adult and ask subject to participate in short 3-minute survey with follow-up mail survey.

Decline Bias: If *n*th adult by observation station declines to participate, survey staff will ask the next adult to participate and begin counting for the *n*th adult passing by after acceptance by a trail user.

Mail Survey: Mailed out at end of August using Dillman Technique of reminder card, new survey and reminder card at 2-week intervals. (8-week process)

Survey Number: A target of 250 trail user survey responses has been established. A random sampling of trail users who indicated they would participate in the mail survey will be needed if the number of mail survey participants exceeds 500.

### Trail Neighbor Survey

Trail neighbors will be mailed a survey asking them to reflect on management issues and their experiences with the trails in their area. The definition of a trail neighbor will follow a 3-stage protocol for each geographic area as follows:

- Stage 1: Use an agency's pre-existing neighbor list updated as necessary; or
- Stage 2: Use a manual collection of trail neighbors within 150' and visually abutted to the trail as gathered from the assessors parcel list; or
- Stage 3: Use GIS to develop a trail neighbors user list based on line of site and 150'.

Note that all apartment buildings containing trail neighbors will be enumerated by review of names/addresses on mailboxes.

Mailing lists will be developed in June for July mailing and follow up using the Dillman technique.

## Impacts to Property Value

Property value impacts will be determined using focus groups composed of realtors to discuss trail pros and cons and estimated impacts to the land value of neighboring properties. Letters to area realtors in each trail vicinity will be mailed requesting their participation in a 1-hour focus group meeting to discuss trail issues. Realtors will self-select themselves based on preliminary questions regarding arranging for sale or purchase of property near a trail in the past 12 months. A recorder and facilitator will lead discussion on various issues and attempt to gain consensus on the impact of the trail on neighboring property values. This research will be conducted in fall 2000.

<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
<b><i>Obtain counters and orient to their use</i></b>	Place counters and rotate along trails	Continue trail counter rotation	Continue trail counter rotation
<b><i>Meet with agencies, orient them on mailings, use of volunteers, survey protocol, and study details</i></b>	Conduct one week of counts using volunteers and/or paid staff	Conduct one week of counts using volunteers and/or paid staff	Mail out trail user surveys and complete Dillman follow-up process.
<b><i>Finalize trail intercepts protocol and instruments</i></b>	Implement trail intercepts and surveys	Continue trail intercepts and surveys	Mail out focus group letters to area realtors
<b><i>Begin compiling trail neighbor mailing list</i></b>	Mail trail neighbor survey using Dillman technique	Follow up trail neighbor survey	Finish inputting trail neighbor survey and analyze data
<b><i>Field check counters and locations for each trail</i></b>	Input preliminary trail intercepts data	Input preliminary trail intercepts data	Input trail user survey responses in data bank
<b><i>Train volunteers and p/t staff at each agency on trail stops</i></b>	Perform 100% user count on each trail and validate counters	Continue 100% user count on each trail as needed	Start to summarize trail count data