

Results *: 2005 Survey of State Trail Plans & Inventories

Respondents: **29 States**

Alabama	Kentucky	Minnesota snowmble. <i>not included in this report</i>	Ohio
Alaska	Louisiana	Mississippi	Pennsylvania
Arizona	Maine	Montana	South Carolina
Connecticut	Michigan	Nebraska	Washington
Delaware	Michigan motorized <i>not included in this report</i>	Nevada	West Virginia
Hawaii	Minnesota	New Jersey	Wisconsin
Illinois		New York	Wyoming
Indiana		North Carolina	
Kansas			

Questions about State Trails Plans:

1. Has your state completed a statewide trails plan?

- | | |
|----|---|
| 6 | Yes, it was a part of this state's SCORP |
| 16 | Yes, it is a 'stand-alone' plan |
| 3 | Currently working on one |
| 0 | No, but we have completed a trail inventory |
| 5 | No trail plan, No trail inventory |

2. Has your state completed a 'stand-alone' statewide *motorized* trails plan?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 4 | Yes
Yes, and all the following answers pertain only to our motorized plan (Motorized Plan Responses received: 2)
No |
|---|---|

3. Was your trails plan done in-house or by a consultant?

- | | |
|----|--|
| 17 | In-house |
| 4 | Consultant |
| 6 | Other: Combined effort; consultant/state; University (n=2); Foundation |

4. What was the impetus for doing a trails plan for your state? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|----|---|
| 8 | Requested by constituents |
| 7 | State legislative requirement |
| 14 | To provide guidance for grant decisions |
| 13 | Other reason: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st plan done 1992, updated twice, needs additional update• Farm Bureau Criticism• Assist DNR to ID, Plan, & Promote use of MI trails• RTP funding eligibility (n=4)• To provide policy and program direction.• Blueprint for action to improve trail opportunity• NPS encouragement• Trail groups saw a need• Increase level of interest/growth in trails progress |

* Survey results represent an informal and anecdotal look at state trail planning, and are not statistically valid.

5. Year trails plan was completed.

- 14 Plans completed or updated since 2000:
- 2 Plans completed or updated 1996 through 1999
- 5 Plans completed 10 or more years ago

6. How long did it take to complete your trails plan?

- Range: 3 months to 5 + years
- Average: 26 months

7. What was the approximate cost to complete your trails plan?

Seven respondents said 'unknown' (many plans were done in-house).
The eleven figures given ranged from \$100,000 to \$1,000, with an average of \$47,000.

8. Is this the first statewide trails plan that your state has undertaken?

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">7 Yes8 No, but the previous trail plan is extremely out of date.6 No (of these, 3 plans were a part of SCORP) |
|---|

9. Please check each statement that describes your trails plan.

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">17 Plan includes both non-motorized trails and motorized trails1 Plan includes only non-motorized trails0 Plan includes only motorized trails16 Plan addresses a variety of non-motorized use types, such as equestrian, mountain biking, hiking, bicycle trails, etc.11 Plan includes water trails8 Plan will be regularly updated. If yes, how often? Every 5 yrs (n=6), Every 10 years (n=1) |
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10. Which of the following types of trails are included in your trails plan?

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">10 Existing/proposed trails with interstate connections.16 Existing/proposed trails that cross the state (Two state's plans include only these trails.)15 Existing/proposed trails that cross multiple counties and/or link communities11 Existing/proposed trails located entirely within one community8 Existing/proposed loop trails located entirely within one park/recreation area. (One western state's plan includes only these trails.)8 Existing/proposed on-road trails such as bike lines and shared road routes (Two respondents noted that these trails are included only if they are connector trails.)6 Other:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific corridors not ID'd, but all types addressed.• Trail issues & methods to address these issues.• Connections to scenic byways• Inventory of state park trails |
|---|

11. Is your completed trails plan available on the web? Yes (n=11)

www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/plans/scorp/2004scorpweb.pdf

www.ohiodnr.com/trailsplan

www.IN.gov/dnr/outdoor/planning/scorp

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/gwplan.pdf

www.fwp.mt.gov/parks/grants

www.sctrails.net

www.ngpc.state.ne.us/parks/programs/trailplan/trailplan.asp

www.iac.wa.gov/iac/docs.htm

www.parks.nv.gov/trail/plan.htm

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/parks/reports/trails/index.html

www.NYSPARKS.COM (SCORP only)

12. What tools did you employ to obtain public participation in your planning process? Check all that apply.

- 10 Focus groups
- 10 Mail out survey
- 7 Open houses
- 15 Public meetings
- 5 Online comments/website
- 4 Telephone survey
- 1 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment (NSRE) data for your state
- 6 Personal interviews
- 10 Our State Recreational Trails Advisory Board played a significant role in the planning process.
- 10 Some other group/organization played a significant role in the planning process.
 - Name of organization/group:
 - Connecticut user group organizations, DEP staff
 - KS State Univ. & KU Geologic Survey
 - Technical Advisory Committee for State Trails Plan
 - PA Greenways Partnership Commission
 - Palmetto Conservation Foundation
 - All major users groups
- 7 Other, please describe:
 - Public review of draft
 - Facility data collected both in house & by local trail partners
 - Trails Plan Workbook - public suggested solutions to trail issues - at 1st round of scoping
 - Statewide survey through UNL - broader subject matter, some trail questions
 - Draft plan available at libraries throughout the state
 - Small ad hoc steering committee/planning team
 - University research studies

13. How has your trails plan been received by stakeholders in your state?

- 2 Extremely positive
- 14 Overall positive response
- 1 Mixed response
- 1 Not much interest in plan
- 0 Negative response
- 1 Too difficult to determine
- 2 Plan was just completed; too early to tell.

14. What were three important issues identified in your trails plan?

- **Lack of funding** (n=6)
- **More money** for urban trail development & backcountry maintenance
- **Funding**; trail availability & competing uses
- Need for more bicycle & pedestrian trails across state
- Implementation of what was then a new State Trail & Access Program
- Not enough public land available for trail use

Important issues identified in trails plans continued...

- Loss of public **access** to trails

- Need more **motorized** trails
- Need for **motorized** area (CT has none)
- Trail opportunities near **population centers** need to be improved
- **Close to home** trails
- **Community** recreation needs
- 5-7 Year **vision** identified for each of 9 user groups
- New **vision** for Nebraska Trails - updating what we have
- **Vision**/goal/action based not issue based although the actions address issues
- Issues identified in previous strategic plan
- Priority and demonstration trails to be addressed by the new program
- Obstacles to accomplishing the **vision** for nine user groups
- Identified areas where trail needs are not being met - Priority Regional Trail Corridors
- Created specific recommendations on how to improve on State Trails, including administrative & legislative changes.
- 2-3 Yr. strategies identified for **nine user groups**
- Need for more **multi-use** trails
- Trail networks are needed for **multiple uses** & to promote alternative transportation.
- **Multiple use** and compatibility
- Need for more trails for a **variety of users**
- Need to accommodate **all types of recreational users**:
- Need to protect/save threatened corridors
- Need to map county/municipal greenways, to build a Geographic Information System (GIS) base map, and to facilitate regional **coordination** and cooperation among municipalities:
- **Connections**
- Establish **connections/linkages** to other trails and other features/resources
- Vandalism, trespass, privacy
- Address issues & concerns of adjacent private property owners
- Liability
- **Coordination** & Education
- Need for more public education about greenways and their benefits, and broad-based education and training. Also a need for dedicated funding sources for long-term support of greenways, and for the **coordination** of funding programs:
- Construction, maintenance & volunteers
- **Coordination**
- Strengthen user groups and volunteer programs
- Need more **collaboration**
- Trailways will be operated by various agencies & there will be a need to **coordinate** these activities.
- Methods to manage; design and management criteria; other government agencies to work with
- Need more equestrian trails and campgrounds
- There is a need for trail design, construction and **maintenance** standards
- **Maintenance (n=2)**
- Make a strong effort to convert unused/abandoned RR corridors to rail trails
- Closure of roads and trails
- Development

15. What were three important recommendations of your trails plan?

- Increase **funding** (n=2)
- Develop long term state **funding** sources
- Focus **resources**
- Seek new sources of **funding** for trailway acquisition, development, & maintenance
- Maintain existing / establish new sources of **funding** for trails
- Implement **more trails** to meet the public's growing demand for linear activities
- **More urban trails** close to home & work - don't let back country trail close due to poor maintenance
- Acquire **more trails**
- Additional **urban trails**
- Provide public areas for the legal operation of **ATVs, motorcycles, and off highway vehicles.**
- Buy an area specific for **motorized**
- Form a trails and outdoor recreation **coalition**
- Establish **partnerships** to provide more trails, better manage existing trails.
- Trail providers **work together** to provide a **system** of trails statewide
- **Cooperation** between levels of government including local partnerships and regional partnership as well as preserving future corridors for trail development
- **Partnerships**
- **Interagency** efforts
- Improve statewide **coordination**
- Linking historical, recreational, educational elements together into trail **system**
- Develop a **network** of existing roads for recreational use and alternative transportation
- **Connect** communities
- **Connectivity** between developed and developing communities
- Plan and Establish Greenways **Connections**
- ID potential and update existing trail **connection** opportunities
- **Develop management plans** for trails and state trails in the State Trails System
- Methods to **implement new trail program**
- The 2003 SCORP update identified a **vision, 9 goals** and **53 actions**. It would be inappropriate to identify a few goals or actions more important than the other.
- Create a **state program**
- Create a Greenways **Organizational Framework**
- DNR **technical & financial assist** for planning
- Provide Greenways **Funding AND** Provide Greenways **Technical Assistance & Outreach**
- Provide **technical** trailway **assistance** to local governments & organizations
- Designating **eligible trails** to the **State Trails System**
- Design criteria for **multi use trails** (hiking, biking, equestrian, 4-wheel drive)
- Complete significant **multi use trails** in CT and protect existing trail corridors
- Build **sustainable trails**
- **Promote** sustainable trails reducing Maintenance & Operations
- **Provide more info to public** about trail availability, regulations, etc
- **Promote** the multiple benefits of trails
- Provide for a **Governor's summit** on trails and outdoor recreation

16. What positive (or negative) outcomes have come about as a result of your trails plan, and were any of these unexpected?

Positive Outcomes:

- Provided very good initial guidance on how to implement a Hawaii Trail Program.
- Indiana opened its 1st state public OHV facility and is working on a 2nd. SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED OUTCOME
- Interagency OHV workgroup developed a common policy for managed OHV use on all public lands in MT
- More input from motorized trail users-we had 150 participants at a specific meeting for motorized users! UNEXPECTED OUTCOME
- Trail user groups working together.
- Legislature allowing state parks to become more active in RT
- Legislative approval to complete state parks phase 3 Prairie Spirit RT
- The initiative enabled the RTP section to add staff support.
- Trails in the State Trails System (or proposed for the system) are taken into consideration when acquiring lands for extending trails, buffer, facilities, etc. UNEXPECTED OUTCOME
- The 2003 SCORP update was accomplished with considerable input by the statewide trails council. The council was able to focus and be supported of broader statewide actions. This included motorized and non-motorized users on the council.
- Have established statewide coordinator to implement plan
- Identification of interest groups
- More interest from those that don't have nearby trails, but did in this network plan and now have a corridor identified as a potential trail nearby.
- Multi county regional trail planning efforts are beginning to take place. UNEXPECTED OUTCOME
- Working w/ RR company on inactive corridor to convert to 95 mi. trail & hosting railtrail training w/help from Rails to Trails Conservancy
- Innovative concepts of connectivity throughout State
- Trails in the State Trails System are included as part of statewide greenway and land use planning, including county and municipal level planning.
- Have established a permanent Greenway Advisory Committee
- Educating policy makers about the importance of trails

Positive Outcomes continued

- Indiana now has an up to date & accurate inventory of all known trails in the state.
- Improved collaboration between groups and agencies UNEXPECTED OUTCOME
- Will assess economic impacts of trail in MT next FY
- Better connections to Scenic Byway Committees - didn't expect them to be such team players for trails! UNEXPECTED OUTCOME
- Have established a program to have every county do a greenway and open space plan
- Identify priorities for grant distribution
- Plan just published, difficult to determine at this time (n=2)

Negative Outcomes:

- Expectation that all of the recommendations in plan be met since it's been available
- Still do not have an inventory
- Communities wanted specific suggestions for each community's trail system (533 in state) UNEXPECTED OUTCOME
- Too early to tell

17. Does your state incorporate the trails plan recommendations into the scoring process for trail grant programs?

17 Yes - If yes, what grant program(s): RTP (n=13); LWCF (n=4); state grant programs (n=6)

18. If you could start the trails planning process over, what would you do differently?

- Current plan & in-process plan are somewhat lacking in vision. Next trail plan will go beyond issues & begin to ID specific corridors for a statewide trail network.
- Might identify uses or potential uses for corridors.
- Started w/ private contractor. Turned out to be a mistake - contractor entered the project w/ biases & wanted to change plan format. Terminated contract & completed plan in-house. If we had started in-house we could have completed the plan in 2 years
- Used GIS to create Plan's maps. Added more marketing strategies to let more people know about Plan & what we're trying to accomplish. Worked harder for a more complete list of trails. Involved more people in planning process, for ED reasons.
- Will not be updating the plan in-house because of staff reductions. Our Department of Environmental Protection is working with the NJ DOT, in conjunction with our New Jersey Trails Council, & using an outside consultant on next plan update.
- The next update of the stand alone plan will involve greater input from the trail users and providers. It will also initiate the process of developing a statewide trails inventory.
- Would address 4 current and disparate mgmt issues:
RTP: (Grant, Multi-use Trail & access roads mgmt)
Ancient/historic Hawaiian Trails & Old Government Roads-Ownership disposition, survey requirements, coordination w/ pertinent Government divisions, legal issues.

Would Do Differently continued

Placement, Development)
Environmental Risks Assessment & Warning Signs (Sign documentation & maintenance program)

- Provide more time. Incorporate more permanent GIS capabilities.
- Do the plan in-house in a state agency
- Would not do anything differently. (n=3)

20. What response best characterizes trail planning in your state? (Please skip this question if your state has, or is currently working on a Trails Plan.)

8	The state assists with regional planning efforts
6	Trail planning is left to local units of government and others

Questions about Trail Inventories:

21. Has your state completed a trail inventory in database format?

8	Yes, as a stand alone effort
4	Yes, as a component of our Trails Plan
7	We are in the process of creating a trail inventory in my state.
7	No, but we plan to create a trail inventory in the future.
4	No trail inventory and no plans for an inventory.

22. Is your trail inventory information in GIS format?

13 Yes

23. Is your trail inventory information available on the web?

6	Yes; Web address: See List Below Not yet, but we plan to post it on our website:
6	No

www.datamil.delaware.gov
www.hawaiitrails.org (only trails that program manages) All other trails in another GIS file
www.IN.gov/dnr/outdoor/trails
www.NYSPARKS.COM
www.sctrails.net

24. Do you plan to regularly update this inventory information?

16 Yes - If yes, how often?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every 5 yrs • Every 2 yrs • Annually. • Quarterly goal, but at least yearly • Daily - as time allows with a part time website coordinator • All the time - but need to reconcile 1800 map data w/ ground truth for inventory of ancient/historic trails for GIS purposes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing • As needed. Currently updating • Plan to post - frequency unknown • To be determined by staff levels • As funding permits (n=2) • As info is received • Not sure yet
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25. Is there a way constituents can provide you with updated trail information via your website?

5 Yes - If yes, please describe how:

- Online form that is completed then faxed/mailed to IDNR
- It is housed on the KS Geologic Tables and updated by K State students from hard copy and/or email attachments
- Plan for a tool to allow people to report new, wrong, missinf info about exist / new trails. Info will be submitted to trail's managing agency. If agency concurs, trail database will be updated.
- Submit to website administrator
- Via email

26. What trail terms are used in your state to describe trail development status for mapping, database and planning purposes? Please check all that apply **and provide a short definition of terms you use in your state**. Please add any terms you use that are not listed.

Check if you use term	Classification Term	How is this term defined in your state? (Definitions may vary state to state.)
13	Existing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the ground and used (n=5) Current managed or unmanaged trails & access roads on the ground Trail exists Open for public use (n=3) Built Trails or currently being built On ground usable trail On ground, marked, in use
11	Proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding in place, in design or early construction Trails that could be located in an area, but details have not been defined. Certain trail to be constructed Trails being discussed for possible development Trails that communities are considering developing within 3 yrs Definite plans, strategy to designate, planned route Identified in concept A vision trail, has potential to be a trail in the future Conceptual or idea - not necessarily expected to move past discussion stage. Purchased but not open
9	Planned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trails whose details have been defined, but not yet constructed. Trails routes that may combine existing or to be built trails Trail proposed Trail corridor has been acquired and/or is included in some type of formal planning doc. Or grant application that demonstrates significant public support. Trails with written plans and specifications Trails that are included on a Master Trails Plan but have yet to be built and are future connections to the existing trail system Route assessment conducted Not yet open for use, but in formal stage of planning or being considered for development Community or organization actively working on trail development
3	Certified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Historic Trail (Ala Kahakai) Applies only to the North Country National Scenic Trail Certified by NPS - only used for Nat'l Scenic and Nat'l Recreation Trails
0	Temporary	
4	Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a perfect world this would be done Private trails that are not managed or subject to authorized use at this time Recommended routes, very preliminary planning Corridor identified as one to possibly buy
0	Envisioned	

7	Other term:	Ancient Hawaii Trails: regardless of adjacent land tenure - may be owned in fee by State of Hawaii
		OPEN: Trail is open for public use.
		Legislatively authorized: Authorized in statute, not developed yet
		Designated: Recognized by Legislation
		Historic Trails & Old Government Roads: regardless of adjacent land tenure - may be owned in fee by State of Hawaii
		Commercial Trails: Public trails where commercial trail tours are allowed and regulated.
		UNDER DEVELOPMENT: Trail is under construction or funded for acquisition & development.

27. Have you encountered difficulties in data collection for your database and/or mapping due to any of the following? Check all that apply.

10	Trails have multiple names
11	Trails travel through a variety of jurisdictions
10	The same trail may have a wide range of designated uses
12	The same trail may be intermittently existing, planned and/or possible
11	Difficulty in locating reliable information
5	Other reason:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of time and money to do the inventory • Old 1800's maps show trail, but determining location on ground may be impossible - physically destroyed but still owned by Government. • Staff time required, extremely rapid pace of trail planning and development across the state, reliability of info over time. • Difficulty in maintaining mapping capabilities. • Cost to collect reliable data

Comments?

Seeking guidance on how to do a state trail plan. Cities & counties are developing trails; a state trail plan would make things more efficient. Have often spoken about trail plan and/or trail inventory, guidance would be appreciated.

Inventory info will be part of a brochure generated with the Trails Plan update. Inventory info in GIS partially.

NC needs an inventory of existing trails and planned trails. This information would be very helpful in planning trails & in providing needed info to trail users.

We did a statewide Greenway Plan; it was more of a policy document w/ recommendations, but not trails inventory. Completed 2001.

Have a trails network plan and strategic plan. Have answered this survey for the network plan - most up to date and used of the two. Plan is by corridor; (RE issues) uses are not addressed.

Hawaii was once a Kingdom w/ trail related laws that don't exist in other states. (!)