

Trails are essential to any active transportation system.

Where trails have been prioritized, surrounding communities have benefited greatly from the economic benefits they provide. People of every ability lead richer, fuller lives and governments at all levels are assured of a significant return on their investment. Most importantly, trails are guaranteed to make us happier, which many might say is priceless.



Crow Wing Trail, St.Malo, MB

To share your ideas or ask questions, contact us:

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Physical Activity Coalition of Manitoba

PACM is a broad coalition of organizations interested in facilitating an increase in physical activity among Manitobans of all ages. PACM's mission is to support increased physical activity among Manitobans through collaboration, promotion, and education.

Current members include professional associations, community groups, not-for-profit and private sector groups, educational institutions, municipalities and government departments and agencies.

To get involved please visit:
www.pacm.ca



A Popular Short Cut in Thompson, MB

Dirt Cheap? The Economic Benefits of Building Trails



Physical Activity Coalition of Manitoba

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"Researchers found that bicycle infrastructure creates the most jobs for a given level of spending. For every \$1 million spent, cycling projects created an average of 11.4 jobs ... where the project was located ... road-only projects created the least, with a total of 7.8 jobs per \$1 million." Political Economy Research Institute in Amherst, Massachusetts, titled "Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure: A National Study of Employment Impacts"

Trails cost less to build

Whether in boom times or tough times, governments have to make the most of every tax dollar spent. That's where active transportation projects excel.

Active transportation infrastructure (e.g. a trail, an asphalt path, a bike lane, a sidewalk) costs less to build than a road and creates more jobs. Once the infrastructure is built, it lasts longer and is much cheaper to maintain. Such improvements can also be integrated with road or bridge projects, further reducing the cost of building them new.

Property values are higher near trails

Active transportation infrastructure is a valuable community asset. People are willing to pay more for real estate that is located near or on a trail or path. In a 2002 survey of home buyers, trails ranked 2nd among 18 community amenities people valued the most.

(Consumer's Survey on Smart Choices for Home Buyers, National Association of Realtors and the National Association of Home Builders, April 2002)

Good for the local economy

The unassuming little trail pictured below might look plain enough, but some say that it, and others like it, are paved with gold. Once an abandoned railway, the Little Miami Scenic Trail in Ohio attracted 350,000 visitors in 2005.



The Little Miami Scenic Trail, Ohio

Visitors to the trail spend an average of \$13.54 per visit on food and transportation in the surrounding communities. They also spend an estimated \$277 each year on clothing, equipment and accessories during these trips.

After investing \$191,893 in Maryland's Northern Central Rail Trail, state revenues increased by \$303,750 that same year as a direct result to the local economy through increased sales, property and income taxes. (Analysis of Economic Impacts of the Northern Central Rail-Trail, Maryland Department of Transportation, 1994.)



A railbed near Miami, MB

Research by planning Professor Rainer vom Hofe and economics professor Olivier Parent found that home buyers were willing to pay a premium of \$9,000 to be within 1,000 feet of access to the trail on the left.