



Trails

Trails are off-street facilities that can enhance network connectivity, filling in gaps where the street network is not complete or cannot accommodate bike facilities. Trails are often associated with preserved open space and recreational use, though they can and do serve transportation purposes. Typically, trails have fewer at-grade roadway crossings than shared-use paths. Trails should meet the same design criteria as shared-use paths. They function best on exclusive rights-of-way, over significant distances, such as along waterways, utility corridors, or railroad corridors. Although trails are more expensive to build than on-street facilities, they provide important connections to regional trail systems.

Images (clockwise from main image):

Trail in Wheeling, IL.

Source: Active Transportation Alliance.

Additional images:

Sources: Laura Sandt; Lyubov Zuyeva; Charles Hamlett.