

INTRODUCTION

The Clark County Trails Coalitions initiated a *Clark County Trails & Greenways Plan* in 2005. The outcomes of this plan are intended to aid in the:

- development of a Vision Plan as a tool for trail & greenway initiatives
- increase awareness of the value of trails and greenways among the community
- increase support from community, agencies & organizations

The *Clark County Trails & Greenways Plan* is a vision document striving towards creating a network that will be an integrated, diverse, and efficient system that provides multi-modal access to all Clark County residents and visitors, resulting in cross-jurisdictional coordination, additional economic development, tourism and recreation opportunities, improved environmental conditions, and sustainable communities.

It is intended that this plan be adopted and used in daily and long-term decision-making by County officials and staff. The trails and greenways vision articulated in this document is the basis for the plan concepts, goals and objectives, opportunities, and priority strategies. This vision and subsequent supporting recommendations from this plan should be widely promoted, with a long-term goal of making trails and greenways a way of life for many Clark County residents. This plan also provides a foundation and reference for funding applications, such as the Transportation Enhancement program through Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). This plan is designed to be flexible and allow changes and modifications when situations change. This plan should be reviewed and updated regularly in order to remain relevant and effective.



Trails and greenways, like the National Road Heritage Trail in Terre Haute, provide a source of alternative transportation as well as recreation. Alternative transportation is defined as modes of travel other than private automobiles, such as walking or biking. Photo courtesy NRHT, Inc.

DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

This document is organized into five sections, including:

- Section 1, “Executive Summary”
- Section 2, “Context & Framework” which describes the *Trails & Greenways Plan* planning process along with the Clark County demographic, physical, and economic conditions.
- Section 3, “Vision Plan” articulates the benefits of trails and greenways and prefaces the plan recommendations. The plan recommendations begin with three overarching plan concepts, the plan vision statement, and nine goals with supporting objectives, and conclude with the identification of trail and greenway opportunity classifications and design guidelines for recommended facilities within each of these identified classifications.
- Section 4, “Action Steps” outlines recommended strategies to continue to make progress in implement this plan. This implementation includes three strategic approaches to alternative transportation system development, a recommended plan with suggested policies, potential partnerships, and possible project funding sources.
- Section 5, “Appendix” contains supporting documentation collected and created throughout the planning process.

This plan identifies the opportunities to create a comprehensive recreation and alternative transportation network in Clark County. The overall intent of this plan is to state the County’s vision, define specific goals and measurable objectives to achieve this vision, document the possibilities and opportunities (conceptually, physically, and organizationally), and then outline a framework for project decision-making.

Ultimately, the outcomes of this planning process are anticipated to further enhance the County’s image, promote healthier lifestyles for citizens, expand tourism opportunities, advance

**Clark County Trails & Greenways Plan
Vision Statement**

The Clark County trails and greenways network will be an integrated, diverse, and efficient system that provides multi-modal access to all Clark County residents and visitors, resulting in cross-jurisdictional coordination, additional economic development, tourism and recreation opportunities, improved environmental conditions, and sustainable communities.

the local economy, provide additional transportation and recreation options, and enhance Clark County's quality of life. It is with this direction and intentions in mind, that this plan was developed.

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