

MONROE RESEARCH TEAM

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HEALTH BENEFITS OF TRAILS

- Provides citizens of all ages with safe, accessible places to walk, jog, bike, hike or skate
- Healthy alternative form of transportation
- Offers a low-cost alternative for exercise instead of high-priced indoor gyms and health clubs
- People are more likely to be physically active if they have recreational opportunities close to their homes



CONNECTIVITY

- Allows pedestrians and cyclists the option to bypass Highway 2
- Lessens the demands for automobiles
- Serves multiple purposes and audiences
 - Visitors at Fairgrounds
 - Residents in nearby developments



CONNECTIVITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue proposed trail across Chain Lake Road and Highway 2 to Al Borin Park.
- Continue proposed trail past 179th Avenue to residential area near Roosevelt Road.
- Provides a destination for trail users.
- Connects existing trails.

“Monroe citizens expressed a need for a trails system, which includes trails of various classifications linking parks, the river, the downtown area, schools and providing recreation opportunities in open space/natural areas.” (Cascade, 2015)

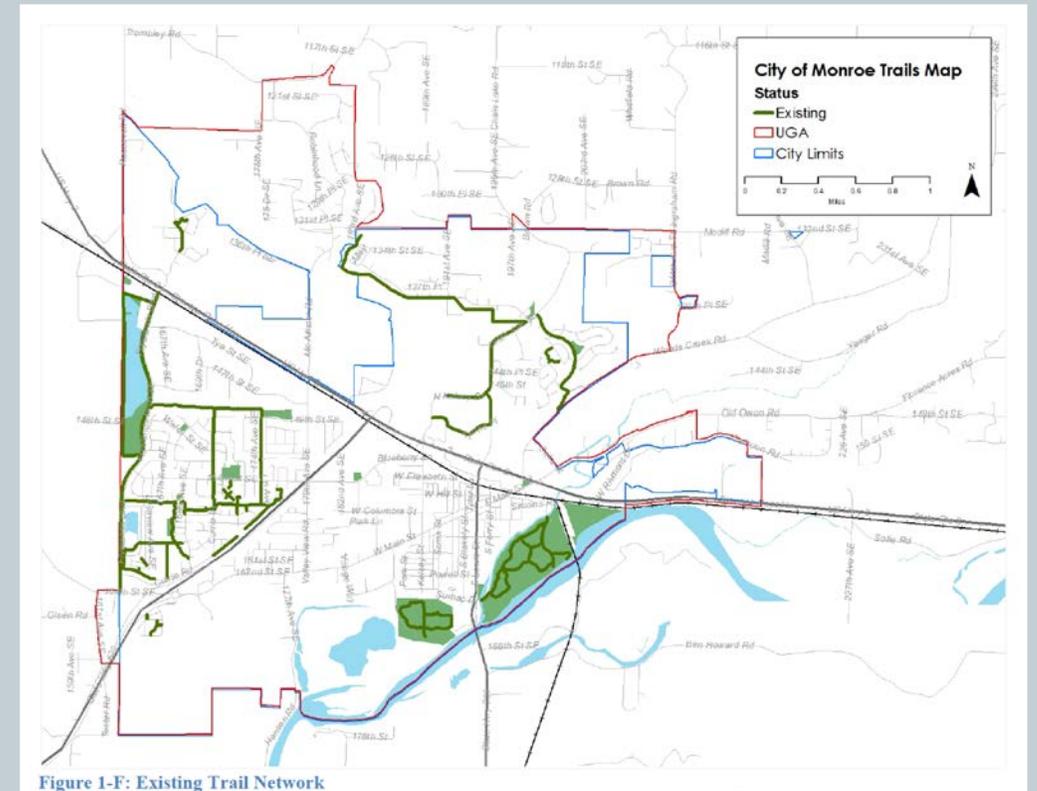


Figure 1-F: Existing Trail Network

TRAIL IMPACTS

PHYSICAL

- Soil Erosion/Runoff
- Trail Widening
- Weed Seed Dispersal
- Habitat Damage

SOCIAL

- Interaction/Conflict
- Aesthetic Loss

EQUESTRIAN IMPACT: FINDINGS

- Low Impact (similar impact as Ped/Bike)
- Unlikely to pollute waterways
- Possibility of Vegetation Damage on side of Trail
- Horses easily scared by fast moving objects
- Aesthetic Loss



RECOMMENDATIONS

Ideal:

- Create single-use trails for every mode
- Use of arterial that mix Bike and Pedestrian Traffic
- Allows each type to have own space

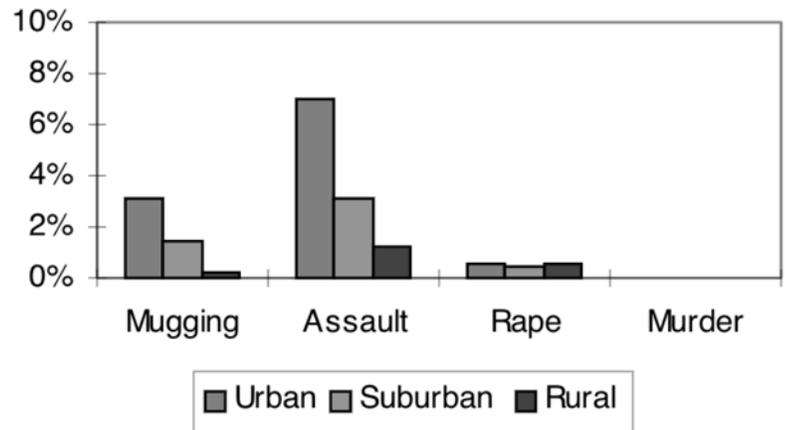
Second-Best:

- Create equestrian trail separate from bike and pedestrian trail
- Reduces chance of dangerous interactions



CRIME AND SAFETY

Percent of Trails Reporting Major Crimes
1996



- Lighting, Density of Vegetation, Visibility, Maintenance, Litter
- "Eyes on the street"
- 1995-96 study of 372 trails:
 - Minor crime: <25%
 - Major crime: \approx 6%
- Participation in patrolling:
 - 69% Urban
 - 67% Suburban
 - 63% Rural

City of Monroe
Public Parks &
Pedestrian Trails

— Park Trails
■ City Parks



0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000
Feet

CRIME AND SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider volunteer or professional patrolling of the trail
- Allow for substantial visibility and lighting in design
- Design around wants and needs of the community to establish a trail they find valuable

HOMELESSNESS

-2012 statistics showed that 10.4 percent residents of Snohomish County live in poverty.

-The tendency for homeless persons to gather in parks provides an opportunity for local agencies to collaborate and connect individuals with needed social services

-Ex: Snohomish County Office of Community and Homelessness Service (OCHS)



HOME VALUE

- **increase** in home value of properties over 50m in proximity to trail
- “urban trails are regarded as an **amenity** that helps to **attract buyers** and to **sell property**”.

Results of interviewed real estate agents:

- ❖ **73%** believed that a home adjacent to a trail would be **easier to sell**
- ❖ **55%** agreed that the home would **sell for more than a comparable home from a different neighborhood**
- ❖ **82%** of real estate agents **used the trail as a selling point**





TRENDS & RECOMMENDATIONS



- **Positive relatively small**
- reality of real estate
- Minimal research showed a **slight initial decrease** in property value
 - **Speculation**
- ❖ Some subjects that initially opposed construction of community trails came to be "very happy" with the trail
- ❖ Relationship between use & value

ECONOMICS

- 4 types of measured economic effects
 - Direct
 - Indirect
 - Induced
 - Dynamic

Requires initial direct public investment and maintenance costs

Economic cost and benefit analysis of an urban trail is dependent on 3 questions:

1. Does the trail connect nodes of economic activity to consumers?
2. Does the trail accommodate uses associated with market stimulation?
3. What is the overall public perception of the trails uses and benefits?

MOTIVATIONS & BARRIERS

With an emphasis on bonding and making memories with their friends and family, outdoor consumer's top motivators for getting outside are emotionally driven. Lack of exposure and family-friendly outdoor accessibility creates significant barriers for their participation.



Retrieved from the Outdoor Industry Association, 2014.



The city of Monroe would positively benefit from the multi-modal trail

As the city of Monroe continues its efforts to implement a multi-modal trail, these areas of inquiry and recommendations should be taken into account.