



WABASH RIVER GREENWAY



GREENWAY SAFETY ATTRACTS A VARIETY OF TRAIL USERS

Regionally and nationally significant greenways provide local communities with new sources of merchant activity as recreational tourists come to experience the variety of cultural, historic and entertainment offerings of communities and venues up and down the corridor. These merchant activities range from: dining, shopping, and beverage services; to overnight lodging in hotels, bed and breakfast venues, and camping; from performing arts to movies; from vineyard tours to microbreweries; from explorations augmented by canoe and kayak liveries to enjoying museum collections.



Credit: Nickel Plate Trail Crossing, nickelplatetrail.org

Successfully executed destination recreation trails employ multiple levels of safety measures to attract a variety of users that stay in the area for differing periods of time and with differing recreation/experience intentions. Those traveling some distance to experience the greenway typically fall into one of these categories: Long distance self-supporting bicycle tourists, organized festival cycling tours, destination cyclists, bicycling overnights, and backpacking hikers. Many area residents will choose to participate in greenway staged events and tours. These same area residents will also be found using the greenway for daily recreation of biking, jogging, and walking, as well as commuting.

Credit: Arrow Head River Rafting, Pharos Tribune



SAFETY FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

Greenway safety is a critically important greenway design parameter that is valued by all greenway user types. Safety, and the perception of safety, have been identified as meaningful determinants of greenway success and use. Some aspects of safety are entirely dependent upon trail use. For instance, as greenway use increases, more eyes are on the trail and risks of personal harm decreases, whether real or perceived.

Trail safety can also be physically obvious. For example, **cycle tracks** are separated from automobile traffic with vertical elements such as curbs, bollards and/or vertical posts within a dedicated lane alongside street travel lanes.

Bike Lanes are defined as a portion of the roadway that has been designated by striping, signage, and pavement markings for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists. A bike lane is distinguished from a cycle track in that it has no physical barrier (bollards, medians, raised curbs, etc.) that restricts the encroachment of motorized traffic.

Designs for **safety at transportation intersections** strive to reduce conflict between vehicles and cyclists, walkers, and joggers by heightening the level of visibility, denoting a clear right-of-way, and facilitating eye contact and awareness with competing transportation modes. Intersection treatments can resolve both queuing and merging maneuvers for cyclists and those on foot, and are often coordinated with timed, flashing, or specialized signals.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Please take this brief community survey focused on safety. We are interested in knowing which safety measures are most important to you and what trail design elements can increase your comfort and trail use.

[TAKE THE SURVEY!](#)

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