



Economic Impact of Trails: Grand History Trail and Gettysburg Inner Loop

Below are excerpted statements from studies by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy regarding economic benefits of trails and greenways, mainly from their study "Trails and Economic Development." Other sources are cited, as noted.

1. Trails and greenways can increase perceived quality of life in a community, and consequently attract new businesses.
2. Former Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy, testifying at a Congressional hearing, credited trail construction for contributing significantly to a dramatic downtown revitalization.
3. The Great Allegheny Passage Economic Impact Study (Campos, 2009) attributed 2008 revenue of \$40,677,299 and it was projected that businesses distributed \$7,500,798 in wages.
4. In the months following the opening of the Mineral Belt Trail in Leadville, Colorado, the city reported a 19 percent increase in sales tax revenues.
5. As a result of their recent new trail system, Indianapolis, IN has experienced an 11% trail side property value increase as the properties are purchased, rehabbed or developed. -Rails to Trails 2015 Winter Issue
6. Trails, according to a National Association of Homebuilders study cited by *The New York Times*, are the number one amenity potential homeowners cite when they are looking at moving into a new community.
7. In Minneapolis, the Midtown Greenway has spurred development of new housing and businesses to take advantage of the desirable location adjacent to the trail.
8. Lindsey et al (2003) found that proximity to a greenway generally has a statistically significant, positive effect on property values.
9. A 1993 survey of 38 businesses along the Cape Cod Rail Trail in Massachusetts found that 24 percent of the business owners cited the rail-trail as one reason they opened or acquired their business
10. The Heritage Rail Trail County Park (21 miles) in York County, PA cost \$4.5 million dollars to construct (1990-1999). On average over the past 15 years 37% of trail users come from outside of York County. Average annual spending by trail users on consumable goods is \$2.3 million or \$35 million over the past 15 years. -Carl Knoch, Chairperson York County Rail Trail Authority.

Extras: personal health, less pollution, convenient transportation, recreation.... www.habpi.org