

Connecting Downtowns with Trails for Economic Vibrancy



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Extension

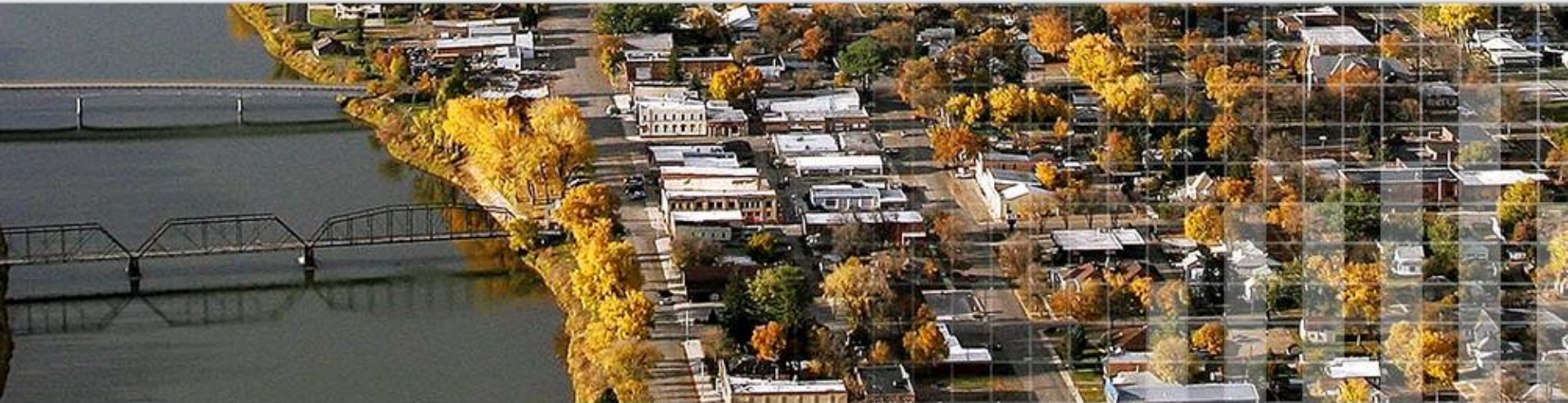


THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
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Benefits of Trails



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Trails & Pathways

Trails can bring a wide range of benefits to communities, including increased business, higher property values, and improved public health. The [Trails Library](#) has more than 130 studies on trails, searchable by impact, use, year, and region.



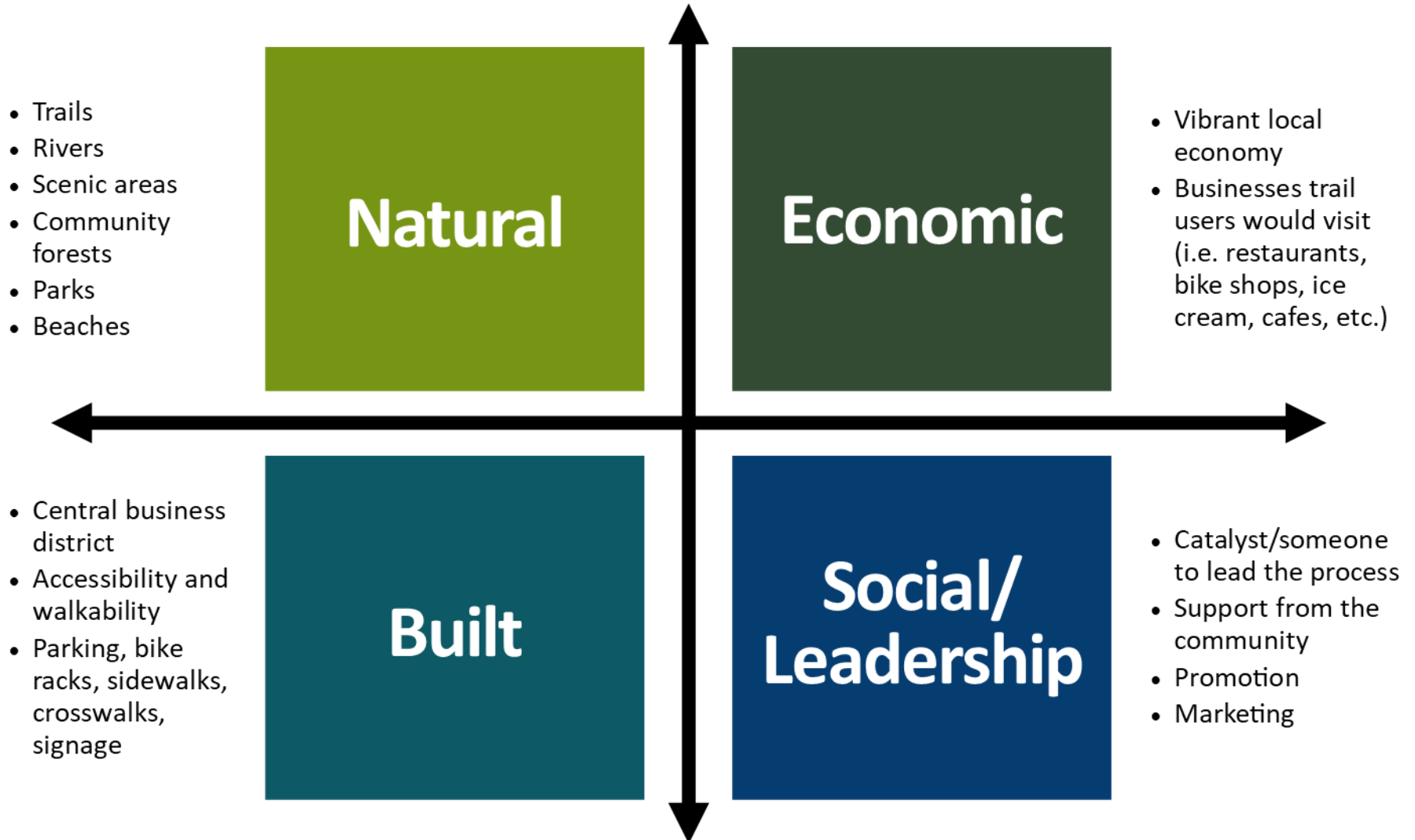
NE RCRD



Train the Trainer Trip to Kentucky CEDIK & Trail Town Program



Elements for Trail Town Success



Building Connections between a Downtown & a Trail in Bristol, NH

1

Reviewing the importance of, and opportunities for, linking downtowns and trails

2

Assessing the downtown area, linkage area and appropriate trails using Esri Collector for ArcGIS mobile application

3

Developing and training volunteers to complete interviews with businesses, residents, and community leaders on their interest in this initiative.

4

Developing and training volunteers to administer an intercept survey for those using the trails to determine their interest and use of downtown.

5

Engaging the larger community to gather information and learn about the results of the assessment. This will help determine community support and interest going forward. This engagement may take the form of a community forum and/or discussions, posters, social media etc. to gather information from different groups in town.



Downtowns & Trails Assessment Characteristics

Critical to Assess:



Trailhead:

Point where a trail begins. Is the trailhead well marked? Is there a kiosk, maps, community information, parking, restrooms?



Pathway:

Path leading people from the trail to the downtown area.



Downtown Entrance:

Where people enter the downtown. Is it clear where the entrance is? Is the entrance attractive and welcoming?



Overnight Accommodations:

Hotels, motels, campgrounds.



Public Restrooms:

Availability of public restrooms near trail and around the downtown area.



Business:

Especially businesses relevant to trail users – casual restaurants, coffee shop, drugstore, bike shop, grocery store, local shops.



Community Art:

Murals, artwork, musicians, concerts, street performers.



Displays & Signage:

Pedestrian signs, wayfinding signs, parking signs, business signs, municipal signs.



Landscaping:

Flowers, trees, green spaces.



Lighting:

Availability and quality of lighting on streets, in parking lots, in parking garages.



Natural Feature:

Rivers, lakes, community forests.



Park:

Parks, parklets, pocket parks.



Point of Interest:

Historical homes & buildings, architecture, fountains, memorials, statues, museums, plaques.



Public Facility:

School, library, town/city hall, post office.



Seating:

Benches, stoops, chairs, lawns, place people gather that are not considered a park, outdoor seating, outdoor dining, benches.



Sidewalks & Crosswalks:

Pedestrian safety, sidewalks, crosswalks, quality, connectivity, usability for a range of abilities.



Streets & Transportation:

Streets, bicycle lanes, bicycle racks, shared bicycles, buses, cars, taxis, ridesharing, street parking, public and private lots, traffic lights



Waste & Recycling:

Availability and quality of waste and recycling receptacles.



Other:

Other characteristics you wish to capture but do not fit into any of the existing categories.



Download Downtowns and Trails Guide:

<https://extension.unh.edu/tags/downtowns-trails>



MUSIC
NIGHT
MOVIE AT DUSK



Creative commons Photo Credit: ActiveSteve, Ottawa Canada

Recreation Economy





Arts Economy



Accessible and Affordable Housing

Concord Monitor Photo: Riverbend Mill Building

