

Trail Design Types

The following table provides a quick reference chart for the various types of trails and the accepted standards.

| | Regional Trail | Community Trail | | Local Trail | | | |
|---------------|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | On-street | Off-street | City Trail | Natural Trail | Accessway | |
| Facility Type | Shared use path | Sidewalk/pathway | Shared use path | Shared use path | Soft surface trail | Shared use path | Stairs, elevator, incline, bridge, alley, etc. |
| | | Bicycle lane | | | | | |
| | | Shared roadway | | | | | |
| Users | bicyclists pedestrians wheelchairs baby strollers equestrians skaters | bicyclists pedestrians wheelchairs baby strollers skaters | bicyclists pedestrians wheelchairs baby strollers equestrians skaters* | bicyclists pedestrians wheelchairs*** baby strollers equestrians skaters**** | bicyclists** pedestrians equestrians | bicyclists pedestrians wheelchairs baby strollers equestrians skaters | depends on facility type |
| Width | 10' - 12' 2' soft shoulders | 5' - 12' sidewalk | 8' - 12' | 6' - 12' | 2' - 12' | 7' | depends on facility type |
| | | 5' - 6' bicycle lanes | | | | 4' shoulders 5' in greenways | |
| Surface | Paved or other smooth-rolling surface to accommodate all trail users | Concrete | Paved or other smooth-rolling surface to accommodate all trail users | Paved or other smooth-rolling surface to accommodate all trail users | Earth, gravel, wood shavers, or other soft surface material | Concrete | depends on facility type |
| | | Asphalt | | | | Gravel in greenways | |

* Depends upon chosen trail surface -- inline skates and skateboards will not roll well on surfaces other than asphalt or concrete.

** Mountain bikes, if allowed.

*** Paved park trails may still be too steep to safely accommodate wheelchair and other disabled users.

**** Depends upon chosen trail surface -- inline skates and skateboards will not roll well on surfaces other than asphalt or concrete.

Table 1. Trail Design Types and Standards

