



Alternative Transportation

Objective:

Meet the growing need for transportation services and facilities throughout the county

Strategy:

Enhance bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure as alternative transportation options

Why is this strategy important?

Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure are becoming increasingly common transportation options. These options improve health, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save money, and provide recreational opportunities.

How is our performance?

King County's Regional Trails System is 300 miles of paved and unpaved greenways. In 2011, consistent with previous years, 69 percent of county residents live within 1.5 miles of the Regional Trails System. This is just below the target of 70 percent.

King County Parks Division considers 4 priorities when allocating resources towards trail projects

- Access and proximity to population
- Closing existing gaps in the network
- Redevelopment or upgrading older existing trails
- Ensuring safe trail bridges

Moving forward

King County continues to improve the Regional Trail System by addressing system distribution, gaps, redevelopment, and bridge resiliency. Redevelopment and upgrading trail segments enhance the network by adding capacity and improving safety. Often the missing links in the system require expensive elements such as bridges over roads or waterways, or navigation around sensitive areas such as wetlands. Additionally, in urban areas, existing build-out presents substantial challenges to creating new trail corridors do to the lack of readily available land. King County Parks Division will balance resource availability with the need to address missing links

Measuring the percent of our regional trails that meet standard is challenging, as these standards have evolved as we have been building out the regional trail network. King County has used .

current guidelines available when trails were designed and developed. As the guidelines have evolved, so have our trails project design standards. AASHTO just released a new edition of the Guide for the Development Bicycle Facilities this year, and some practices previously recommended have changed slightly. Based on a system-wide assessment of compliance with standards, King County's regional trail network is 88 percent compliant with appropriate trail design standards.

Related Links

[Regional Trail Network](#)

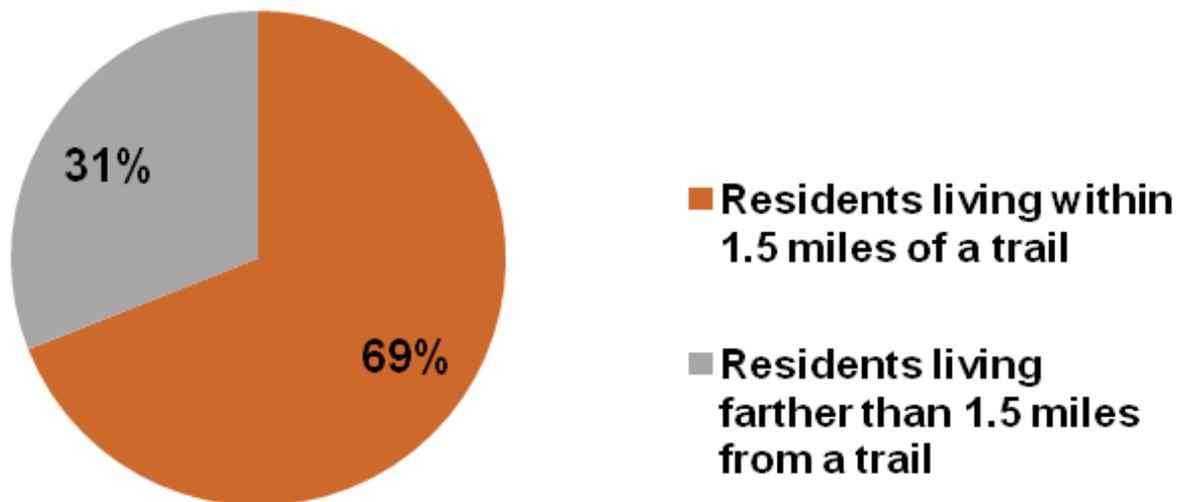
[Regional Trail Access Performance Measure](#)

Technical Notes

AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) is a nonprofit, non-partisan association representing highway and transportation departments in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

Charts and Maps

2011 Regional Trail Access



Target: 70%

Data from King County Department of Natural Resources