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Trails For The Twenty-First Century

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Ryan, Karen-Lee, editor, *Trails For The Twenty-First Century*. Washington, DC, Island Press, 1993, 213 pp.  
US\$24.95 paper

ISBN: 1-55963-238-0. Recycled acid-free paper. Across the nation thousands of miles of former railways, canals, and roadways are being converted into multi-use trails. Through the efforts of the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, the National Park Service, and hundreds of state and local citizen groups, abandoned transportation corridors are undergoing transformation to become public recreation and transportation pathways. The ultimate goal is the creation of a nationwide network of non-motorized multi-use trails -- local, regional, and national systems -- that will allow walkers, hikers, joggers, people with disabilities, bicyclists, skiers, equestrians, and others to enjoy the natural features and cultural heritage of their environment.

The information provided in this work represents the collective experience of hundreds of trail users and managers. *Trails For The Twenty-First Century* is intended to be a step-by-step resource manual for the planning, design, and management of multi-use trails. It provides guidelines for every part of the process. The authors offer suggestions for the careful consideration of sites, ideas for generation of ample local interest and funding, and strategies for working with individuals and agencies. Specifics of the physical construction of the trail to serve local users' needs is addressed at length. Legal and safety issues are also discussed. The final chapters are devoted to ongoing maintenance and management of the trail after completion. Numerous examples, illustrations, and photographs enhance the text.

This manual contains an excellent table of contents and index which facilitate its use. Another aspect of *Trails For The Twenty-First Century* is an "Annotated Resource Directory" which provides additional references related to multi-use trail planning, design, and management.

*Trails For The Twenty-First Century* makes a positive literary contribution to the effort of those who wish to recycle transportation corridors for the preservation and enhancement of our environment and our quality of life.