Recreational Trails

Recreational trails provide children safe routes to school, add value to property, and encourage companies to establish their business nearby. Converting abandoned railroad corridors to trails can also connect communities and help them thrive. Centrally located throughout Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin, Snyder & Associates, Inc. assists communities across the Midwest with the planning and construction of trails that have far reaching impacts. We work with you to design trail systems that establish community identity, increase economic development, revitalize urban and rural areas, and improve the quality of life for local residents.

Preserving the history within corridors that transcend the past and present is given special consideration. Snyder & Associates, Inc. is experienced in the restoration of historic bridges, platforms and scenic pathways to explore the natural environment. Our professionals excel at thinking beyond engineering by recommending low-maintenance options and integrating sustainable solutions. We have collectively designed more than 100 pedestrian bridges and over 200 miles of paved trail across 70 public improvement projects.

Services Offered
- Funding Guidance
- Public Involvement
- Comprehensive Trail Plans
- Trail Design & Construction
- Maintenance Plans
- Liability Assessments
- Trail Rehabilitation & Repair
- Pavement Management
- ADA Compliance
- Safe Routes to School
- Complete Streets (Multimodal Accommodations)
- Entrance Access & Parking
- Trail & Pedestrian Structures

Snyder & Associates
Engineers and Planners
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Trail Planning & Economic Development
Trails serve as pedestrian transportation corridors, and can encourage businesses to expand or relocate to areas near trail systems. Snyder & Associates, Inc. partners with clients to explore the economic impact trails can have by connecting people to places of interest. Communities with well-connected trails receive name recognition in regional and national trail marketing publications, facilitating business and tourism growth.

Public Involvement & Funding
The public involvement process can be a significant undertaking whether the project is a trail proposed in an existing right-of-way, or a new trail that requires property acquisition to create a lawful route. Snyder & Associates, Inc. excels in guiding public discussions and facilitating proceedings on behalf of our clients. Our team brings together supportive groups of individuals, businesses, organizations, and agencies to create local ownership of trails. Snyder & Associates, Inc. assists clients in writing compelling, successful grant requests and offers extensive experience obtaining local, state, and federal funding for trail projects. We also offer a strong understanding of matching fund requirements to fully leverage available dollars and minimize the local funding burden.

Multi-use Trail Design & Construction
Whether you desire to develop a new multi-use trail or convert an abandoned railroad corridor, Snyder & Associates, Inc. provides a strong understanding of design specifications. We help clients address paved or gravel road crossings and various ground materials to identify the best pavement solution. Our experience includes skewed intersection realignments, railroad structure rehabilitations, and pedestrian tunnels and bridges. Much of our experience has involved trails with an average length of five miles, typically including at least one railroad structure. Shuck-Britson, Inc., our structural engineering subsidiary, assists in designing and rehabilitating existing railroad bridges and culverts with lengths ranging from 15 feet to 2,560 feet.

Pavement Management
Once a new trail has been established, it’s only a matter of time before the quality of the pavement starts to break down, show signs of wear and the effects of natural elements. The longer pavement sits in need of repair, the more expensive it can be to fix. Snyder & Associates, Inc. assists clients with pavement management plans that extend trail life and maintain steady conditions. We help communities manage their investment and reduce complaints and injury claims by overseeing contracts for crack sealing, patching, pavement overlays, drainage improvements and other repairs. You can count on Snyder & Associates, Inc. to recommend the most cost-effective plan to keep maintenance at a manageable level.

Safety & Liability
Understanding your liability and the steps you can take to improve the safety of recreational enthusiasts can reduce accident claims and protect you from litigation. Snyder & Associates, Inc. assists clients with trail assessments, establishing regularly scheduled safety and maintenance checks and compliance with design criteria standards. Our professionals identify water drainage and surface condition issues, address send, silt and other loose materials, and recommend options for improvement. Snyder & Associates, Inc. can recommend the safest design options for hills and steep grades or review the accident history and liability concerns for existing trails. We also assist clients with risk assessments and provide recommendations for adequate visibility and signage at intersections.

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