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Estimated trail costs* – September 2008

Trail type	Cost per mile- Acquisition	Cost per mile- Development	Considerations	Cost per mile- Maintenance (annual)**	Considerations
Rail Trails:					
• Rail trail (paved)	Urban: \$800,000 - \$1,000,000	\$50,000 - \$130,000	Bridges, drainage issues, market, material location add to cost	\$2,000	Need to be re- paved every ~15 years
• Rail trail (unpaved)	Rural: \$135,000 - \$300,000	\$25,500 - \$60,000		\$2,200	Ongoing need for surfacing material
Non-rail trails:					
• Native surface trail	NA	\$15,000 - \$25,000	Should be contour trail	\$500- \$700	Low maintenance
• Paved trail	NA	\$141,000 (rural) – \$735,000 (urban)	<i>A trail doesn't have to be paved to be accessible!</i>	\$1,000	Need to be re- paved every ~15 years
• Non-native surface trail (e.g. gravel, wood chips)	NA	\$12,000 - \$45,000	Surfacing is on- site (wood chips) or purchased (rock screenings)? Using an existing corridor?	\$1,500 - \$2,000	High maintenance, need additional material every ~3 years
• Ice Age/North Country Trail (native surface trail)	\$17,400	\$20,000 - \$25,000	Should be contour trail, must be constructed to National Park Service stds	\$0 - \$500	Supplemented by volunteer labor and National Park Service funding

*All costs are approximates – estimates based on department records, internal studies, and experience – these are my educated guesses!

**Factors such as grooming for cross-country skiing, snow removal (plowing), and a need for re-surfacing (e.g. bringing in rock that has to be graded and compacted) can significantly increase this cost but are not consistent year-to-year.

This document should be considered draft.

State Trails Coordinator, Bureau of Parks and Recreation - 9/24/2008