

Appendix K

Trail Evaluation Form

Directions for Use of the Trail Evaluation Form

Reviewers utilizing the Trail Evaluation Form to screen a proposed trail should score the proposal for each of the “benefits” according to a numeric scheme of 0 to 2. A zero score corresponds to “not applicable” or “does not support this use.” A two corresponds to “strongly supports this use.” The scores for the individual criteria can then be totaled into a single numeric score for the trail proposal.

The four criteria listed under Possible Concerns are not to be scored numerically, but described or commented on by the reviewer in sentence format. It is vital that the trail proponents reveal any possible concerns fully, and the reviewers understand and consider them in making their decision.

A review panel may consider some criteria to be of more importance than others. In this case, they should agree on weights for the numeric scores of the criteria, and enter the weights on the Trail Evaluation sheet, multiplying each score accordingly. A range of weights from 1 to 3 would signify that the most important factors are considered three times more vital than the least important ones.

It is not intended that the numeric ranking scheme serve in lieu of reviewer judgment. Its purpose is to compel the developers and the reviewers of trail proposals to carefully consider each of the possible benefits and disadvantages of a particular trail design. The numeric scores for trail proposals should serve as the springboard for discussion among reviewers, not as the final review.

Trail Evaluation Form

The applicability of each siting criterion should be scored as High, Low or None. The score for each criterion (2, 1, and 0) is then multiplied by the optional weight, entered in the right hand column and added up to provide a siting score for the trail.

Trail Name: _____

Trail Tag: _____

	High	Low	None	Weight	Score
Human/Cultural Benefits					
Enhances Non-Motorized Transportation	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Supports Non-Motorized Recreation	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Interfaces with Transportation Plans and Networks	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Provides Connections to Community Amenities	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Improves Safety	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Supports Educational Uses	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Provides Handicap Access	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Makes Use of Existing Corridors	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Public Support/Demand	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Seizes Available Opportunity	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Ecological Benefits					
Protects Natural/Landscape/Environmental Features	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Connects Fragmented Natural Lands	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Provides Critical Buffering Function	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Diminishes Air/Water Pollution	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Economic Benefits					
Easily Secures Easements/Rights-of-way	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Construction Funds Exist	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Easily Maintained	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Maintenance Mechanism Exists	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Provides Best-Cost Alternative	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Stimulates Economic Development	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Available Trailhead Parking	2	1	0	x _____	_____
Total score:					_____

Possible Concerns

Safety Concerns/Constraints

Local Opposition

Impact on Natural/Landscape Features

Construction Hindrances
