

Urban Trail Design Standards for Multi-use Trails in Colorado Springs

For both Tier 1 and 2 trails, the following design guidelines are recommended for user safety:

- Design with a minimum sight distance of 125 feet; if unattainable, provide adequate signage.
- Use handrails or fencing along steep drops within five feet of the trail.
- Provide center lane striping.
- Provide a minimum tunnel or underpass width of ten feet and height of twelve feet, if feasible.
- Separate the trail from adjacent roadways by at least twelve feet where feasible.
- Design with a minimum turning radius of forty feet.
- Avoid sharp curves and low head room; if unavoidable, provide appropriate signage.
- Avoid the use of surface grates or depressions that could catch bicycle tires.
- Cross-slope at two percent to allow for proper drainage.
- Restrict grades of five percent to a distance of 500 feet.
- Avoid any grade steeper than eight percent.

Tier 3 trails have the following guidelines:

- Design with a minimum turning radius of twelve feet.
- Use handrails or fencing along steep drops within five feet of trail.
- Avoid sharp curves and low head room; if unavoidable, provide appropriate signage.
- Cross-slope at two percent to allow for proper drainage.
- Allow for pruning and mowing opportunities of five feet on either side of the trail, where feasible.

For all trails, the following amenities should be included in the design, with a greater amount of these services provided along Tier 1 and 2 trails:

- Provide clearly illustrated and properly located signage with informational, interpretive and regulatory messages.
- Incorporate picnic tables, benches and landscaping.
- Provide trailheads that include parking and signage at appropriate locations.
- Comply with ADA requirements where possible in trail design as well as in the design of restrooms, picnic benches, and trailhead parking areas.
- For all trails, the following measures should be taken, where feasible, to minimize short-term and long-term impacts to adjacent natural resources:
- Locate trails in scenic locations, but not within or immediately adjacent to sensitive vegetation or significant wildlife habitat.
- Provide an adequate buffer up to 100 feet between trail development and wetland areas.
- Revegetate upland areas disturbed by trail development as appropriate for continuity with the surrounding natural vegetation communities.
- Minimize cut and fill slopes adjacent to the trail.