

Benefits of Trails

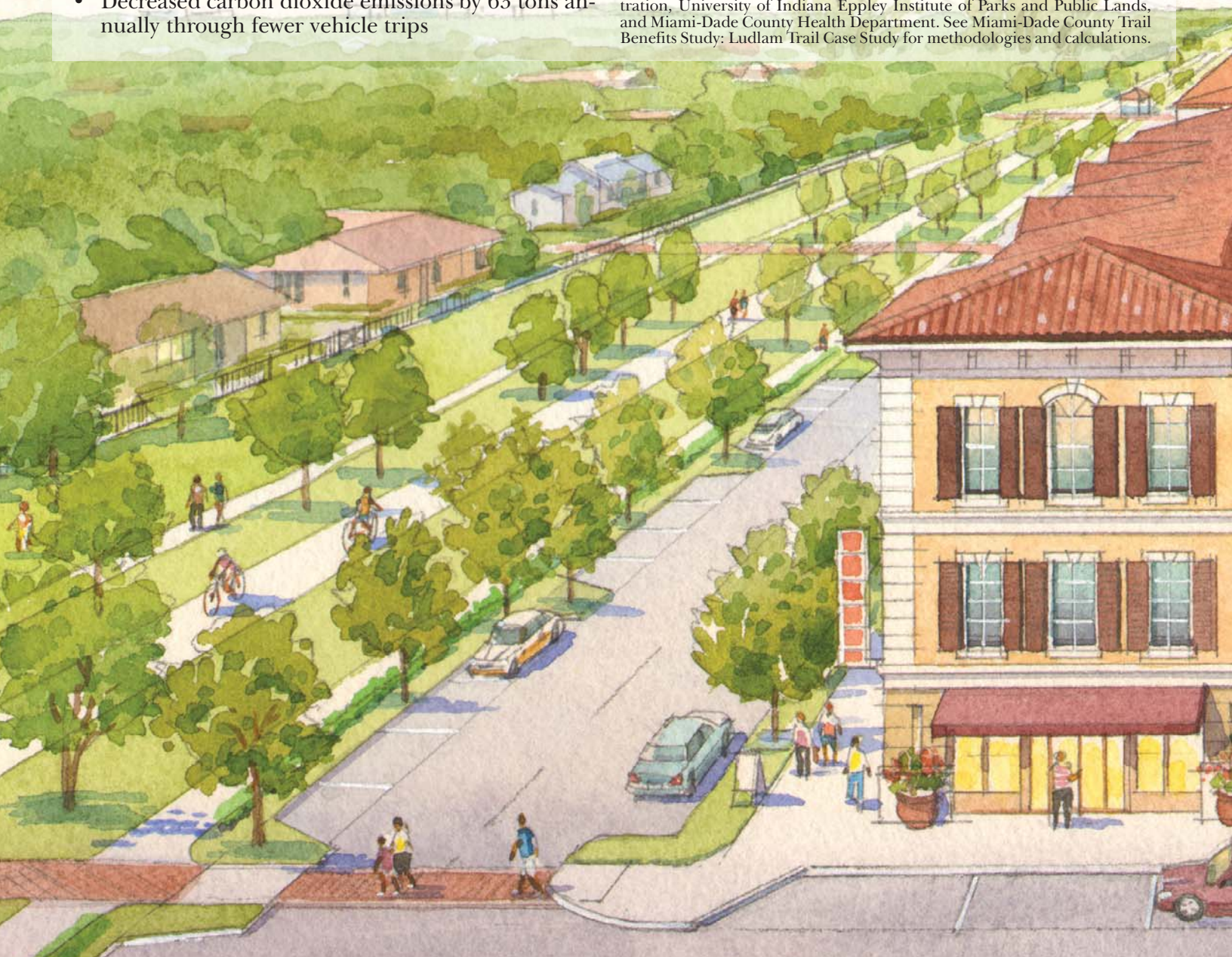
Building a livable, sustainable community one green space at a time.

Development of trails, paths and linear parks offer extensive opportunities to bring significant positive change to communities. Many benefits associated with trails are interconnected and lead to positive change throughout the community.

On average, for each mile of an urban trail developed in Miami-Dade County, the surrounding community can experience the following benefits:*

- Enhanced accessibility to schools, parks, transit stations and bus stops for approximately 5,000 people
- Reduction in direct medical costs for residents by as much as \$365,000 annually
- Reduction in motorized vehicle trips on area streets by approximately 140,000 trips each year
- Decreased carbon dioxide emissions by 63 tons annually through fewer vehicle trips
- Saving approximately 6,000 gallons of fuel from being consumed annually per mile of trail
- \$27 million in pollution control savings from new tree canopies
- Carbon sequestration of nearly 850 tons over a 50 year life span from new vegetation
- Increased property values by as much as \$45 million within twenty-five years, leading to nearly \$1 million in additional property tax revenues
- Increased retail sales of as much as \$1.3 million for area businesses
- Additional state and local retail sales tax revenue of approximately \$90,000 annually
- The creation of approximately 11 new retail jobs

* Estimates are based on information provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Energy Information Administration, University of Indiana Eppley Institute of Parks and Public Lands, and Miami-Dade County Health Department. See Miami-Dade County Trail Benefits Study: Ludlam Trail Case Study for methodologies and calculations.



Benefits of Trails



Connecting neighborhoods, creating livable communities

Residences of many cities and counties around the country have experienced benefits associated with trails and linear park spaces. The benefits of trails and open spaces on social, environmental and economic conditions for all residents can be profound and has been documented from Pinellas County, Florida to Portland, Oregon.

Trails and linear parks can have significant positive impacts to achieving social, environmental and economic goals and can be an important step in providing for a more livable and sustainable community. While there is not a standard methodology to documenting these positive impacts, several quantitative techniques exist and have been utilized in the Miami-Dade County Trail Benefits Study.

Overall, trails increase accessibility to schools, parks, transit and employment for residents while providing recreation opportunities. Trails can also help stabilize or increase property values of nearby homes and businesses, and create new retail sales and jobs.



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