



## Project Scope:

# Economic and Health Benefits of Multi-Modal Trails in Nebraska

By *Scotio Analysis*

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## Objective:

Estimate the economic and health impacts of trails in Nebraska.

## Background:

Advocates for multimodal trails in Nebraska are working hard to ensure cyclists, hikers, and runners have trails to travel on for leisure and transportation purposes. A stumbling block to developing intercity trails in Nebraska has been lack of local knowledge about the economic impact of multimodal trails in the state.

## The Tasks & Timeline:

- **Estimate the Economic Impact (May-August):** Scotio Analysis will use RIMS II modeling from the Bureau of Economic Analysis to project the economic impact of multimodal trail use statewide and in select regions of interest (e.g. Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island) disaggregated by industry. This analysis will also include an analysis of the return on investment of trails in Nebraska and an investigation
- **Estimate the Health Impact (May):** Utilizing public health data, Scotio Analysis will estimate the impact of trail use on Nebraskan's health. This will include examining incidences of breast cancer, colorectal cancer, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and mental health in relation to proximity of trails and additional factors.
- **Author Case Studies (June):** The final study will include four, one-page case studies diving deeper into specific trail systems across the state. The case studies for this study include The Cowboy Trail (Norfolk to O'Neill), West Papio Trail, Billy Wolff Trail and Platte River State Park.
- **Analyze Funding Streams (June - July):** Scotio Analysis will examine funding streams and identify alternatives for potential funding sources for multimodal trails in Nebraska.
- **Report Generation (Fall 2026):** The results of the economic impact analysis will be formatted into a report that can be shared with the public, policymakers and stakeholders.

