

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES
REFERENCE GUIDE FOR GIS CODING, MAPPING, AND TRACKING EXISTING FACILITIES BY
FACILITY TYPE



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

**REFERENCE GUIDE FOR GIS CODING, MAPPING, AND TRACKING
EXISTING FACILITIES BY FACILITY TYPE**

Prepared by:

Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC)

The Bicycle Coalition of the Ozarks (BCO)

Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies (CAST)

Northwest Arkansas Council

November 18, 2014

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this document is to inform GIS professionals and trail data managers on the nomenclature of trails that the Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission, the Bicycle Coalition of the Ozarks and the Northwest Arkansas Council staff developed for the **Northwest Arkansas Trails Online Map and supporting geodatabase**.

The document follows the guidance of the *“Northwest Arkansas Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan”* ([see full report here](#)) and the Appendix of the Plan ([which can be found here](#)). The Plan was prepared by **ALTA Planning and Design for Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission**.

The database structure below will be used in collecting, maintaining and mapping the trails in Northwest Arkansas. The pictures on the following pages are included to illustrate the feature types and should be used as examples in identifying the appropriate type of trails.

Trail Database Structure Example:

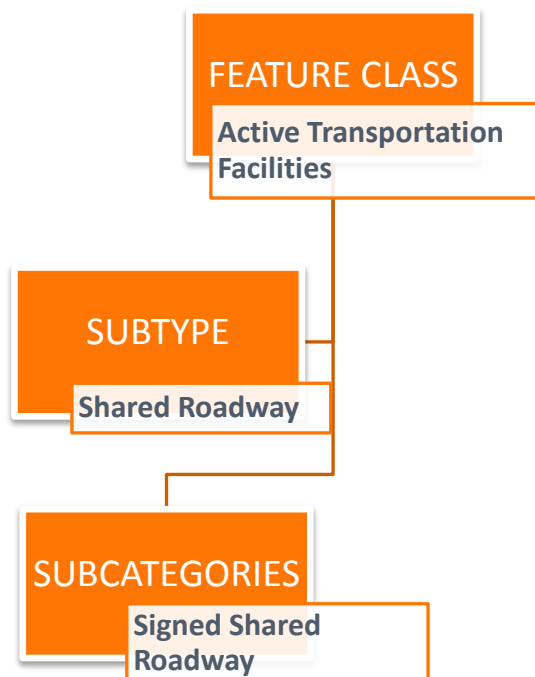


TABLE OF CONTENTS:

FEATURE CLASS: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

SUBTYPES:

1. SHARED ROADWAY

SUBCATEGORIES:

- 1A – SIGNED SHARED ROADWAY
- 1B – MARKED SHARED ROADWAY
- 1C – SHOULDER BIKEWAY

2. BIKE LANE

3. PROTECTED BIKE LANE

SUBCATEGORIES:

- 3A – BUFFERED BIKE LANE
- 3B – CYCLE TRACK

4. SHARED USE PAVED TRAIL

SUBCATEGORIES:

- 4A – OFF-STREET TRAIL
- 4B – SIDEPATH TRAIL

5. SIDEWALK

6. NEIGHBORHOOD/PARK PAVED TRAIL

7. NATURAL SURFACE TRAIL

FEATURE CLASS: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

SUBTYPES:

1. SHARED ROADWAY¹

SUBCATEGORIES:

1A – SIGNED SHARED ROADWAY:

A shared roadway with bike route signage indicating the presence of bicycles (A-57).



¹ NWA Bike/Ped Plan includes under the “**Shared Roadway**” subtype **Rural Roads, Main Streets, and Bicycle Boulevard** facility types. Due to overlapping characteristics with other facilities, we are proposing to use an attribute to denote these facilities instead of subcategories.

1B – MARKED SHARED ROADWAY:

A shared roadway with pavement markings (sharrows) designating the presence of bikes. There may or may not be bike route signage (A-58).



1C – SHOULDER BIKEWAY

A roadway with a striped shoulder, having a minimum 4ft. width to allow bike travel. Recommended to have bike route signage. Similar to bike lane, but often-found in less dense or rural areas (A-62).



2. BIKE LANE²

A roadway with a dedicated lane for bikes that must have a painted line separating cars from bikes and pavement markings (sharrows). There may or may not be bike route signage. (A-63)



3. PROTECTED BIKE LANE

SUBCATEGORIES:

3A – BUFFERED BIKE LANE

Bike lane separated by painted buffer to vehicle travel lanes or parking lanes. Must have pavement markings (sharrows) designating it as a bike route. There may or may not be bike route signage.



² We are dividing the “**Separated Bikeway**” category into two subtypes called “**Bike Lane**” and “**Protected Bike Lane**.” The justification is that the presence of a painted buffer or physical barrier between a cyclist and vehicular traffic significantly increases the real and perceived safety of the user to a degree that these should be displayed on maps and reported separately.

3B – CYCLE TRACK

Bike lane physically separated (plastic bollards, concrete divider, etc.) from vehicle traffic or parking lanes. Bike traffic could be one or two way. Must have pavement markings (sharrows) designating it as a bike route. There may or may not be bike route signage.



4. SHARED USE PAVED TRAIL

Shared Use Paved Trail Guidance - Width:

- 8 feet is the minimum allowed for a two-way bicycle path and is only recommended for low traffic situations.
- 10 feet is recommended in most situations and will be adequate for moderate to heavy use.
- 12 feet is recommended for heavy use situations with high concentrations of multiple users. A separate track (5' minimum) can be provided for pedestrian use.

SUBCATEGORIES:

4A – OFF-STREET TRAIL

A shared use paved trail that is not located along a street.



4B – SIDEPATH TRAIL

A shared use paved trail located adjacent to a street, but separated from the roadway by a physical barrier such as a curb, green space, plastic bollards, or concrete barriers (A-22).



5. SIDEWALK

Paved or concrete surface, adjacent to the street (A-33).



6. NEIGHBORHOOD/PARK TRAIL

A trail located in a park, residential neighborhood, or commercial development. Trails may have mixed widths and are not associated with a connected existing (or planned) system.



7. NATURAL SURFACE TRAIL

Natural Surface Trail Guidance:

- Trails can vary in width from 18 inches to 6 feet or greater; vertical clearance should be maintained at nine-feet above grade.
- Mountain bike trails are typically 18-24 inches wide and have compacted bare earth or leaf litter surfacing.
- Base preparation varies from machine-worked surfaces to those worn only by usage.
- Trail surface can be made of dirt, rock, soil, forest litter, or other native materials. Some trails use crushed stone (a.k.a. “crush and run”) that contains about 4% fines by weight, and compacts with use.
- Provide positive drainage for trail tread without extensive removal of existing vegetation; maximum slope is five percent (typical).



ATTRIBUTES (grouped by similar features)

- Bicycles Allowed – Yes/No
- Pedestrians Allowed – Yes/No
- Equestrians Allowed – Yes/No
- Motorized Vehicles Allowed – Yes/No
- Skateboards Allowed – Yes/No

- Razorback Greenway – Yes/No
- Heritage Trail – Yes/No
- Catalyst Project – Yes/No
- Regional Network – Yes/No

- Facility Status – Existing/Planned/Under Construction
- Facility Description- Razorback Greenway/Heritage Trail/Catalyst Project/Regional Network/Bicycle Blvd./MAIN Street/ADA Field Checked/Build Year/QAQC In Progress

- Single Track – Yes/No
- Double Track – Yes/No
- Difficulty Rating – To be determined using IMBA or other ratings
- Width – Rounded to nearest foot
- Lights – Yes/No (lit at night)

- Surface Type – Hard Surface / Soft Surface
- Surface Material – Concrete/Asphalt/Dirt/Other
- Condition – the condition of the facility

- Maintenance Owner – Name of entity responsible of maintenance
- Adopt Cleanup – name of group who adopted cleanup of facility

Notes: Note to every subtype and/or subcategory
NA will be used when “Not Applicable”

For contact and more information:

Tim Conklin (NWARPC) – tconklin@nwarpc.org

John McLarty (NWARPC) – jmcalrty@nwarpc.org

Cristina Scarlat (NWARPC) - cscarlat@nwarpc.org

Paxton Roberts (BCO) – paxton@bconwa.com

Misty Murphy (Northwest Arkansas Council) – misty@nwacouncil.org

Brian Culpepper (CAST) – brian@cast.uark.edu
