Converging Infrastructures

Contemporary planning strives to shift public perceptions of streets-as-infrastructure towards streets-as-open-space.

This study attempts to do the inverse with regard to multi-use trails, merging notions of Landscape Urbanism with that of Complete Streets to shift public notions of greenways-as-open-space to greenways-as-infrastructure. The shift begins at translating the multi-use trail from asset to necessity by focusing its purpose on a multi-purpose recreation corridor to an infrastructural corridor, providing a variety of layered services for the surrounding communities.

Strategies

Strategies can be adopted from several infrastructural theories, primarily green infrastructure and the notion of complete streets.

Shared and hierarchical relationships between uses, as well as scaling the appropriate infrastructures for the different levels of intensities and temporal uses are the primary strategies to be adopted.

Case Studies

Green Infrastructure
Space allocated along the path system can be designed to accommodate storm-water runoff. Extensive green systems such as these can provide low maintenance opportunities for off-setting hard infrastructure which are cost and maintenance intensive.

Adaptive Reuse
Utilizing existing infrastructure as two primary benefits: In addition to being an existing economic asset to the surrounding communities, the transition in uses and ownership provide access for ecosystem, utilities and adjacent communities no previously allowed.

Utilities
As a multi-use trail, site coverage should be minimized in order to allow for greener systems, but also to allow for underground utilities and services to provide access to areas difficult to reach: an opportunity to update aging infrastructures and set up a system that will be easier to maintain in the future.

Healthy Living
The corridor as a recreational node can be further augmented by a variety of fitness nodes that reinforce the core purpose of the greenway as infrastructure for healthy living.