









# Who Uses Rail Trails and Why?

-  Predominant user group is cyclists, ranging from elderly people, to baby boomers, young couples, family groups with children, teenagers and young children.
-  Walkers and horse riders are also attracted to rail trails, but in far lesser numbers.
-  Rail trails appeal to individuals, to couples, and to groups. A significant proportion of trail users on the Otago Central Rail Trail (South Island, New Zealand) are groups (sporting clubs, work groups, service clubs, social clubs, Over 50's clubs and organised tour groups).
-  Some use rail trails for team-building, some use it for fitness training, others for a social club outing. Others cycle and walk a rail trail simply for the outstanding beauty and scenery that it provides.
-  Users enjoy routes free from motor vehicles, routes that are away from the noise and smell of roads, and away from trucks and cars.
-  All railway formations (through cuttings and along embankments) provide a gentle gradient and sweeping bends, suitable for all types of cyclists, walkers and horse riders.
-  All rail trails offer safety for users compared with urban shared pathways which have driveways, light poles, blind corners and poor sightlines.
-  Many users are attracted because of the railway heritage artifacts that remain (such as station buildings, bridges, signals and other signage, cuttings and embankments).