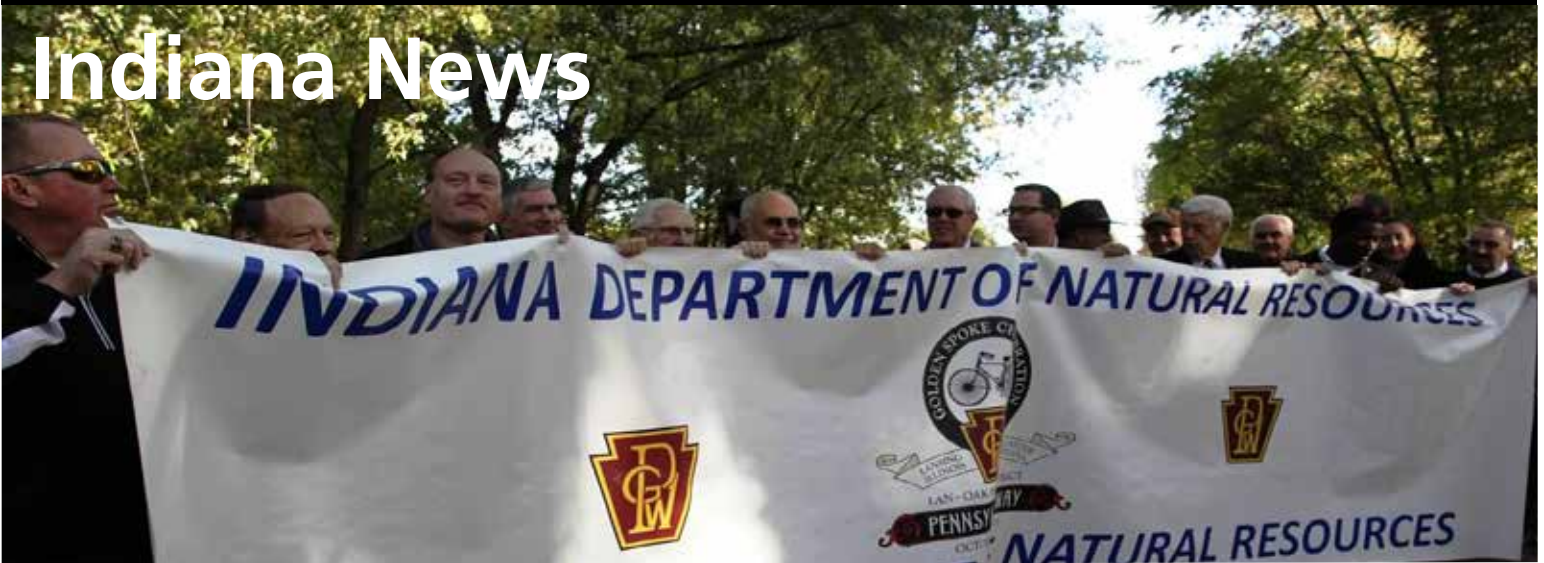




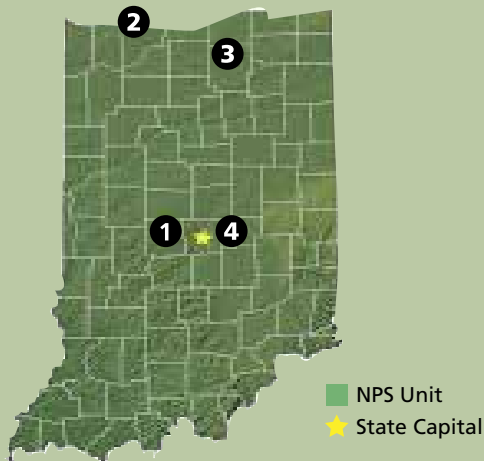
Indiana News



Celebrating the Pensy Greenway opening at the Indiana/Illinois border.

Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Indianapolis Groundwork Trust**
City of Indianapolis, Office of Sustainability
- 2. Lake Michigan Trails**
Lake Michigan Water Trail Association
- 3. Northern Indiana Trails**
NW Indiana Regional Planning Commission
- 4. Reconnecting to Our Waterways (ROW)**
Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc.

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

Recent Successes

Pensy Greenway Connects Indiana and Illinois

In late 2004, the NPS helped to form the Illiana Citizens for the Pennsy (ICP) as “a coalition of advocates supporting the regional commitment to enhanced health, economics, and quality of life through the development of accessible non-motorized transportation...” along the Pennsy Greenway.

“The NPS has been instrumental in helping communities in Illinois and Indiana to keep the focus on developing the first cross-state connection.”

- Mitch Barloga, Non-motorized Transportation Manager, Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission

The 15-mile trail will run along Beaver Dam Ditch in Crown Point and pass northwest through unincorporated Lake County, Schererville, Dyer, and Munster before reaching Illinois in the city of Lansing.

continued on page 4

ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Current Projects

1. Indianapolis Groundwork Trust

Project Partners: City of Indianapolis,
Office of Sustainability
NPS Contact: Rory Robinson
Location: Indianapolis
Congressional District: IN - 5

Project Goal

Groundwork Indianapolis will serve as a catalyst for brownfield redevelopment for green uses initially in the United Northwest Area neighborhood. Success in this neighborhood will be a model for additional efforts in other parts of Indianapolis.

NPS Role

Establish Groundwork Indianapolis as a self-sufficient organization that uses the best talents of its citizens to reclaim, enhance, develop and maintain urban green space and reuse brown fields while raising awareness and appreciation of such spaces. Assist with a feasibility study which aims to help the Groundwork Steering Committee with: defining a vision, goals, and objectives for its new trust to undertake; identifying and prioritizing a slate of short-term and long-term projects and programs for the trust to pursue; and planning for the trust's initial launch phase in the community.



City of Indianapolis is undertaking a feasibility study to become a Groundwork Trust.
Photo: Groundwork USA



Lake Michigan Water Trail advocates. Photo: NPS

2. Lake Michigan Trails

Project Partner: Lake Michigan Water Trail Association
NPS Contact: Diane Banta
Location: IL, IN, MI, WI
Congressional District: IN – 2

Project Goal

The Lake Michigan Water Trail will provide access to Lake Michigan in four states through numerous landings and access points and market the trail for increased tourism and economic development opportunities.

NPS Role

Convene quad state paddler organizations and local and state governments to set a vision, mission, goals, and outcomes that work towards the designation of the 200-mile Lake Michigan Water Trail as a National Recreational Trail.

linking trails in a cross-state system from Illinois to Ohio. There is also an opportunity to connect this route to trail efforts in Michigan in at least two locations. The development of a continuous trail across northern Indiana supports local and regional goals with much of the possible route being a priority vision trail in the Indiana State Trails Plan.

NPS Role

The biggest challenge and need for this effort is a continued focus on the opportunity to connect the pieces into a cross state trail. The NPS will assist with defining the cross-state vision

3. Northern Indiana Trails

Project Partner: Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission
NPS Contact: Rory Robinson
Location: Northern Indiana, 11 Counties
Congressional District: IN - 1, 2, 3

Project Goal

Trail development across northern Indiana has been so successful at the regional and local level, that there is now an opportunity to begin



The recent opening of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail in Middlebury, Indiana adds another piece to Northern Indiana Trails. Photo: NPS

Current Projects cont.

and goals and help to keep that in the minds of other partners. The NPS has worked individually with many of the partners at the local and regional level and brings the ability to help them see the bigger opportunity in light of their successes.

4. Reconnecting to Our Waterways (ROW)

Project Partner: Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc.

NPS Contact: Rory Robinson

Location: Indianapolis

Congressional District: IN - 5, 7

Project Goal

Reconnecting to Our Waterways (ROW) is a grassroots movement with a goal to help neighbors strengthen waterways, and help waterways strengthen neighborhoods. ROW is housed at Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. and includes key players from the City of Indianapolis, anchor institutions from across the city, and local neighborhood organizations that serve as a steering committee. The effort is focused on six primary elements for each waterway: aesthetics, economy, ecology, connectivity, education, and well-being.



Pogue's Run near downtown Indianapolis. Photo: NPS

NPS Role

Provide a national perspective and guidance related to best practices for the waterway initiative. It is anticipated that the NPS will participate in ROW steering committee meetings and provide guidance in regards to economic and connectivity elements between the waterway

and the local communities. Provide assistance to Keep Indiana Beautiful staff as needed and as it relates to ROW. The NPS will help Keep Indiana Beautiful choose projects, engage partners, and anticipate unrealized opportunities.



Reconnecting to Our Waterways logo. Photo: Reconnecting to Our Waterways



Pogue's Run Basin and Trail in Indianapolis. Photo: NPS

We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



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2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at
www.nps.gov/rtca



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Recent Successes cont.

ICP included representation from regional organizations including the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission and South Shore Trails (formerly Calumet Citizens for Connecting Communities); the Indiana communities of Crown Point, Schererville, Dyer, and Munster; and Lake County and Lansing, Illinois. One of the early decisions was an agreement to use the Pennsy Greenway name and a common logo the length of the trail in both states. Together, ICP defined strategies, approaches, agreements, and public support for this project.

The signing of an Interlocal Agreement, in 2007, between the Indiana communities defined a regional commitment and approach to development of the trail. Work began with the first three miles of trail completed in Lansing in 2006. On the Indiana side, the communities of Schererville and Munster opened 2 miles of trail each in 2011.

On October 27, 2013, nearly 100 state and local officials and other partners gathered at the Indiana/Illinois state line to celebrate the completion of a one-half mile section of trail in the community of Munster that connected the Pennsy across the state line.

With funding in place it is anticipated that the 2-mile gap between the existing trail in Schererville and Munster will be completed by 2015, resulting in 10 continuous miles of the Pennsy. On the Illinois side, the Pennsy Greenway will eventually connect with the 450-mile Burnham Greenway and Grand Illinois trail systems and on the Indiana side will connect to the Erie-Lackawanna Trail and Veterans Memorial Trail at Crown Point, Indiana. This route will also link to the cross-country American Discovery Trail.

Ribbon Cutting Celebrated the Opening of Three Sections of the Pumpkinvine Nature Trail

The Pumpkinvine Nature Trail celebrated a major accomplishment on October 9th, 2013 with a ribbon cutting ceremony for three new sections of the trail connecting Goshen, Middlebury, and Shipshewana. John Yoder, president of the Friends of the Pumpkinvine group, said that this is a major milestone in the long-running project. He asked, "what is it that has kept the vision alive for the trail?...The one key, I think, is the generosity of our communities of Goshen, Middlebury, and Shipshewana."

Yoder pointed out that there is a large Amish community in the area that often uses the trail. "It's a very practical transportation route for that group, and of course for the people in Middlebury, it gives them a walking and biking route out of the city going south as well as one going east that they had before," Yoder said. "We discovered huge numbers of people who believed that recycling this railroad corridor would improve the quality of life by creating shared public space." The NPS has been involved with this effort since the mid-90's providing assistance with adjacent landowner cooperation, locating funding, trail design, operational development, and more.



Pumpkinvine Nature Trail. Photo: NPS