



Indiana News



Big Four Bridge crosses the Ohio River toward Jeffersonville, IN.
Photo: NPS

PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015

- NPS Unit
- ★ State Capital



CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Greater Cincinnati Regional Trails
2. Indianapolis Groundwork Trust
3. Lake Michigan Trails Network
4. Northern Indiana Trails
5. Wolf Lake Bi-State Task Force

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

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.

Recent Successes

Big Four Bridge Is Open—Indiana and Kentucky Trails Connected

The 119-year-old Big Four Bridge opened to rail traffic in 1895 but it lives on as a pedestrian bridge crossing the Ohio River and linking the Louisville Waterfront Trail in Kentucky to the Ohio River Greenway in Jeffersonville, Indiana. The two cities are now connected through the opening of the non-motorized connection that has been a boon for businesses on both sides of the Ohio River.

With the idea of economic development driving planning on both sides of the river, many partners had to share a vision of what this connection would provide. “I love it. It gives us good business. We make money. I love that it brings together Jeffersonville and Louisville,” said Tabitha Hurst, with Red Yeti Brewing in Jeffersonville. Even though the two cities were just a short drive over the Ohio River, many people who live in Louisville had never been to Jeffersonville before the bridge opened.

Kentucky created the Waterfront Development Corporation, through an inter-local agreement between Jefferson County, the Louisville Metro area, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky to oversee redevelopment of the waterfront from a blighted and underutilized area into a vibrant, active area. The Park took three planning phases and totals 85 acres. The last phase was completed in February, 2013 with the opening of the Big Four Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge, which enjoyed more than a million visits in its first year of operation.

Current Projects

1. Greater Cincinnati Regional Trails

Project Partner: Green Umbrella
Regional Sustainability Alliance
NPS Contact: Andrea Irland
Location: Greater Cincinnati in nine counties of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana
Congressional District: IN - 6

Project Goal

Create a connected regional trails vision for the Greater Cincinnati Area by developing the capacity of the Green Umbrella Regional Trails Alliance and refining the Regional Trails map. Plan a third regional trails summit to highlight the regional trails vision and progress with implementation.

NPS Role

Convene partners and seek support in the development of a regional trails strategy. Assist the Regional Trails Alliance to identify and implement an interconnected system of trails.

2. Indianapolis Groundwork Trust

Project Partner: City of Indianapolis, Office of Sustainability
NPS Contact: Rory Robinson
Location: Indianapolis
Congressional Districts: IN - 5, IN - 7

Project Goal

Plan and implement brownfield redevelopment for green uses in the United Northwest Area neighborhood. Groundwork Indianapolis will use success in this neighborhood as a model for additional efforts in other parts of Indianapolis.

NPS Role

Establish Groundwork Indianapolis as a self-sufficient organization that uses the talents of its citizens to reclaim, enhance, develop, and maintain urban green space and reuse brownfields while raising awareness and appreciation of such spaces.



Revising the Indiana Visionary Trails System to Include the Northern Indiana Trail. Photo: NPS

3. Lake Michigan Trails Network

Project Partner: Lake Michigan Water Trail Association
NPS Contact: Diane Banta
Location: IL, IN, MI, WI along Lake Michigan
Congressional Districts: IN - 1, IN - 2

Project Goal

Provide access to Lake Michigan in four states through planning recreation travel modes while marketing the trail for increased tourism and economic development opportunities.

NPS Role

Convene quad state regional planning organizations, local governments, and state governments to implement vision, mission, and goals/outcomes leading to the development of land and water trails, US Bike Routes, and enhancement of the Lake Michigan Circle Route.

“With a great partnership we’re linking all these trails together and making a first-class trail system.”

- Hammond Mayor, Thomas McDermott Jr.

Current Projects



Wolf Lake combines a wealth of natural resources amidst an industrial background. Photo: NPS

5. Wolf Lake Bi-State Task Force

Project Partner: William Powers State Wildlife and Recreation Area

NPS Contact: Diane Banta

Location: Hammond

Congressional District: IN - 1

Project Goal

Build a bi-state conversation on natural resources, water quality, and recreation opportunities and enhance strategic planning.

NPS Role

Convene stakeholders and form a partnership to address planning issues for Wolf Lake. Plan strategically to develop cohesive actions to improve the lake area.

4. Northern Indiana Trails

Project Partner: Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

NPS Contact: Rory Robinson

Location: 11 Counties in Northern Indiana

Congressional Districts: IN - 1, IN - 2, IN - 3

Project Goal

Link the successfully completed regional and local trails into a cross-state trail and connect this route to trails in two or more locations in Michigan, with most trails being a Priority Vision Trail in the Indiana State Trails Plan.

NPS Role

Assist in defining and maintaining the vision and goals needed to connect individual trails into a cross-state trail. Convene partners and encourage them to focus on that goal.



The Marquette Greenway in Whiting, part of the Northern Indiana Trail. Photo: NPS

We're Here For You.

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



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2014 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,278.74 Miles of Trail Developed

2,046.25 Miles of River Conserved

9,411.06 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

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



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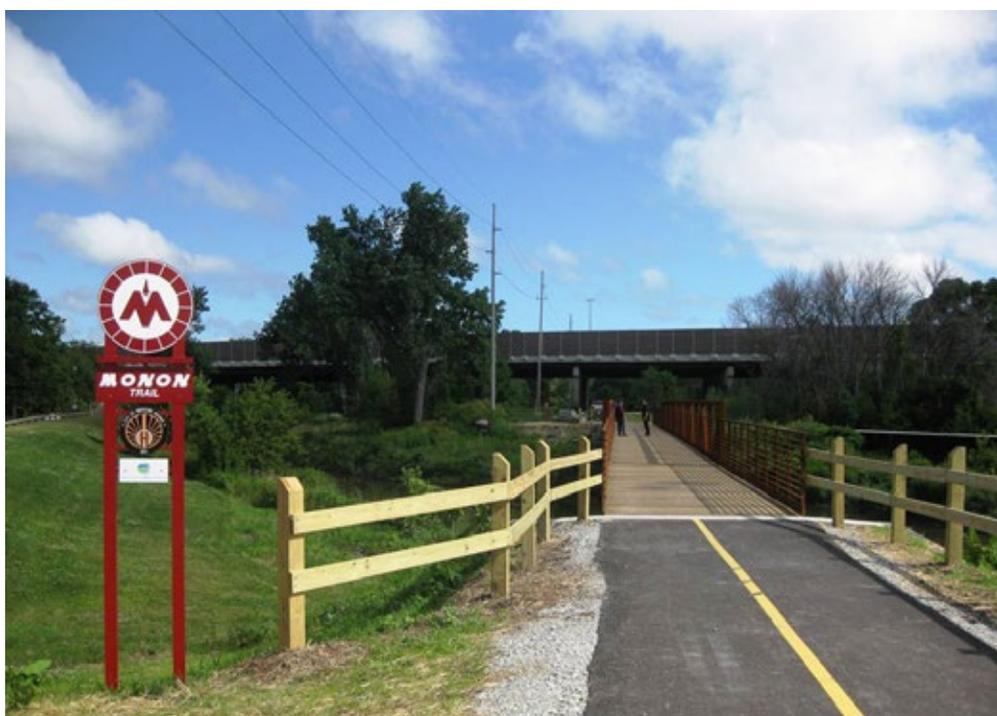
Recent Successes cont.

In Indiana, the Department of Transportation was in charge of the bridge project but the City of Jeffersonville owns and maintains the ramp up to the Big Four Bridge. The state and the city, working with Jeffersonville's Redevelopment Commission, created a conceptual design plan and a full construction plan that provided historic downtown Jeffersonville with the Big Four Station. Featuring lots of green space, fountains, a pavilion, and a playground, it is a place that people enjoy for everyday recreation and special events. Jeffersonville Main Street Inc., a nonprofit organization, continues the revitalization of the commercial and residential districts of downtown Jeffersonville that surround the Station.

Monon Trail Now Connects Hammond and Munster

A new bridge over the Little Calumet River ends the construction of the Monon Trail, an important piece of the trail system that covers the Northwest Region of Indiana. The Monon Trail connects Munster with Hammond and the Pennsy Greenway in Munster with the Erie Lackawanna Trail. This opens the way for an uninterrupted ride on trails from Michigan City to Illinois. With this bridge open, the Monon Trail is now nearly 4 miles long, forming a key connection in northwest Indiana.

Walkers, runners, and cyclists can enjoy using two trails in the city without the concern of crossing busy streets. "This makes Hammond a more bicycle friendly city," Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott said of the Erie Lackawanna Trail Bridge. "Not only is it safe, it promotes a healthy lifestyle. Bike trails are the future." McDermott said it's a blessing that abandoned rail lines can be converted into bike trails in communities like Hammond, East Chicago, and Gary.



Monon Trail's New Bridge over the Little Calumet River. Photo: NPS